



Caring for our World

a promise to Bunjil

from Albert Park Preschool

a little Kindergarten with a big heart

The butterfly effect

we can make a BIG difference

The idea that small causes can have a big impact is called the “butterfly effect”.

There are lots of ways we can all work together to help our planet by reducing our carbon footprint.

From turning off our appliances at the wall to using green power, all the little things we do together will make a BIG difference.



Earth

our beautiful planet

Our home planet is called Earth.

It is the third planet from the Sun.

We have one moon, liquid water and life!

Earth is the only planet we know that is suitable for life and we need to take care of it.

Earth day is every day at Kinder.



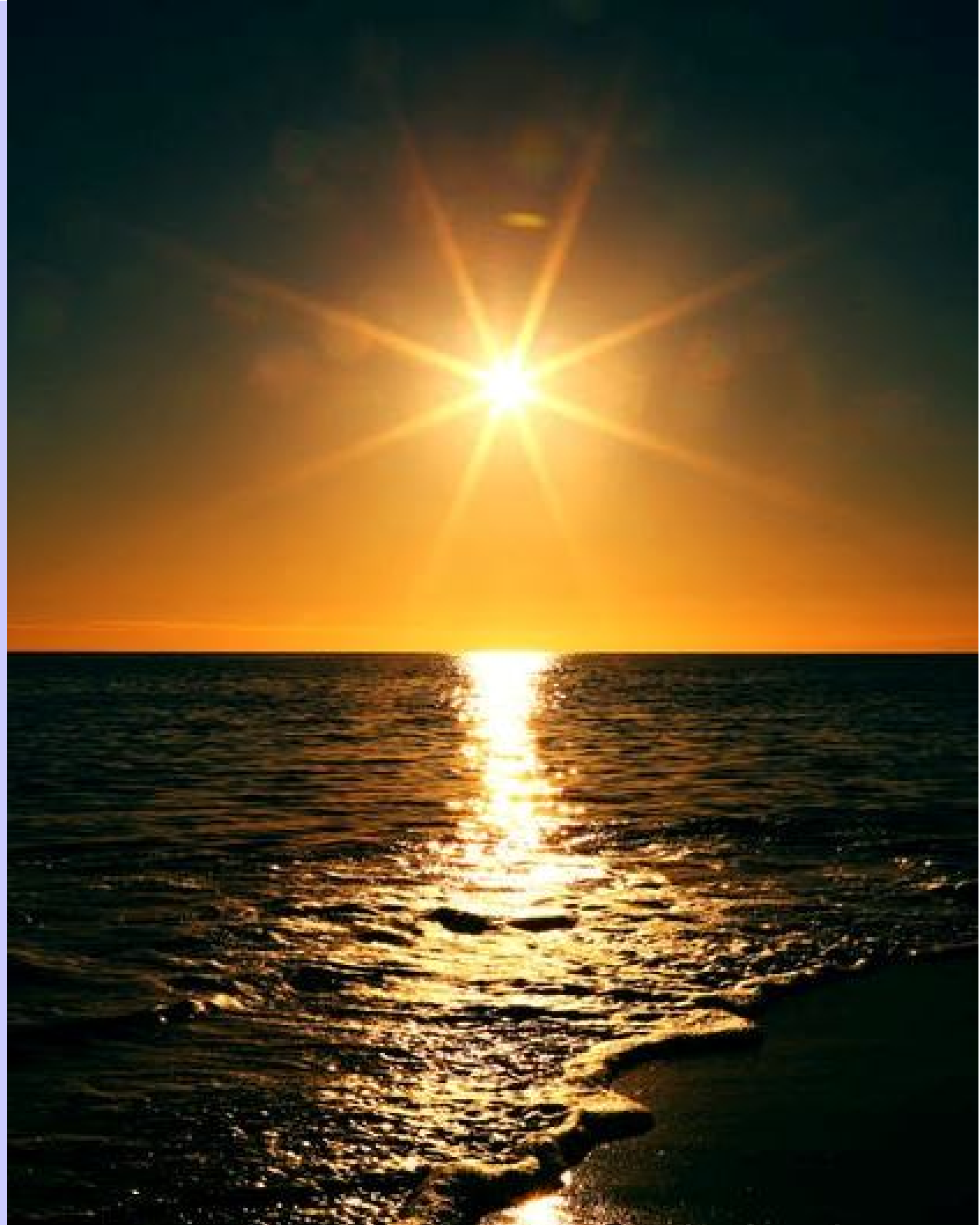
The Sun

is a super star

The Sun is the most important source of energy for life on Earth.

It gives us light and warmth and has a special super power.

When the Sun shines on solar panels, its energy is turned into electricity. This is called “clean energy” because it does not take from our Earth. Because it doesn’t make harmful greenhouse gas, we also call it “green power”.



Australia

our island home

The first people to live in Australia were the Aborigines.

They have been here for more than 60,000 years and that is a very long time.

According to the traditions of the local Boon Wurrung, the land our Kindergarten is built upon is protected by Bunjil who travels as an eagle.



Caring for Country

learning from the Boon Wurrung

Bunjil asks us to make a special promise not to harm the children or the land.

This promise is very important to us at Kinder.

We have a lot to learn from the Boon Wurrung about caring for Country as they have been living sustainably in connection with the land for thousands of years.



Bunjil's Book

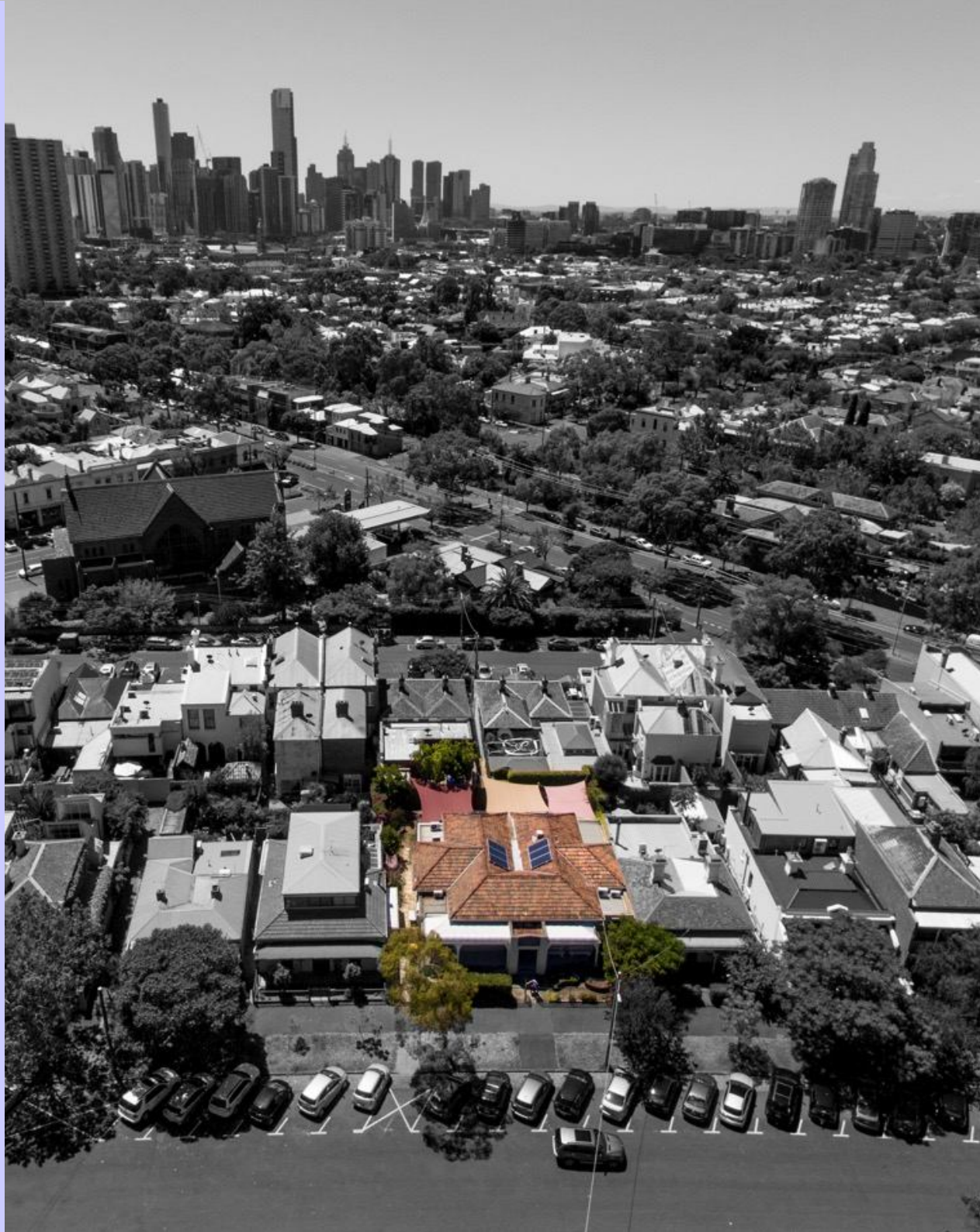
Caring for Kinder

18 Dundas Place Albert Park

Our Kinder is a very special place.

It opened a long time ago in 1948 because a small group of parents wanted to make a difference in their community to help it recover from a World War.

We play and learn in a Council building which means the Kindergarten belongs to the whole community. So we all take care of it by working together to reduce waste and our use of water and energy.



We dream

about making a difference

Our big dream is to be a carbon neutral Kindergarten.

This is our goal because we know that by reducing our carbon footprint, we will be helping to take care of our planet and keeping our promise to Bunjil.

We learned that the most important step for us to take was to install solar panels.



Community

means we are not alone

Installing solar panels was a big dream that was a long way away until a special team of people worked together to help make it happen.

This is Jan from Community Carbon Cops. She knows that each and every one of us can make a difference in the world.

Community Carbon Cops donated us the money we needed to pay for the first stage of our solar panel installation.



Our friends

help make our dreams come true

We have lots of people to thank for helping us achieve our dreams.

This is Brett. He is a Sustainability Officer from our local Council. Brett has been visiting us for more than 5 years to guide and support us and celebrate our success.

This is a picture of Brett with a plan we made together. Our plans are about a shared future that cares for our planet.



Our goals

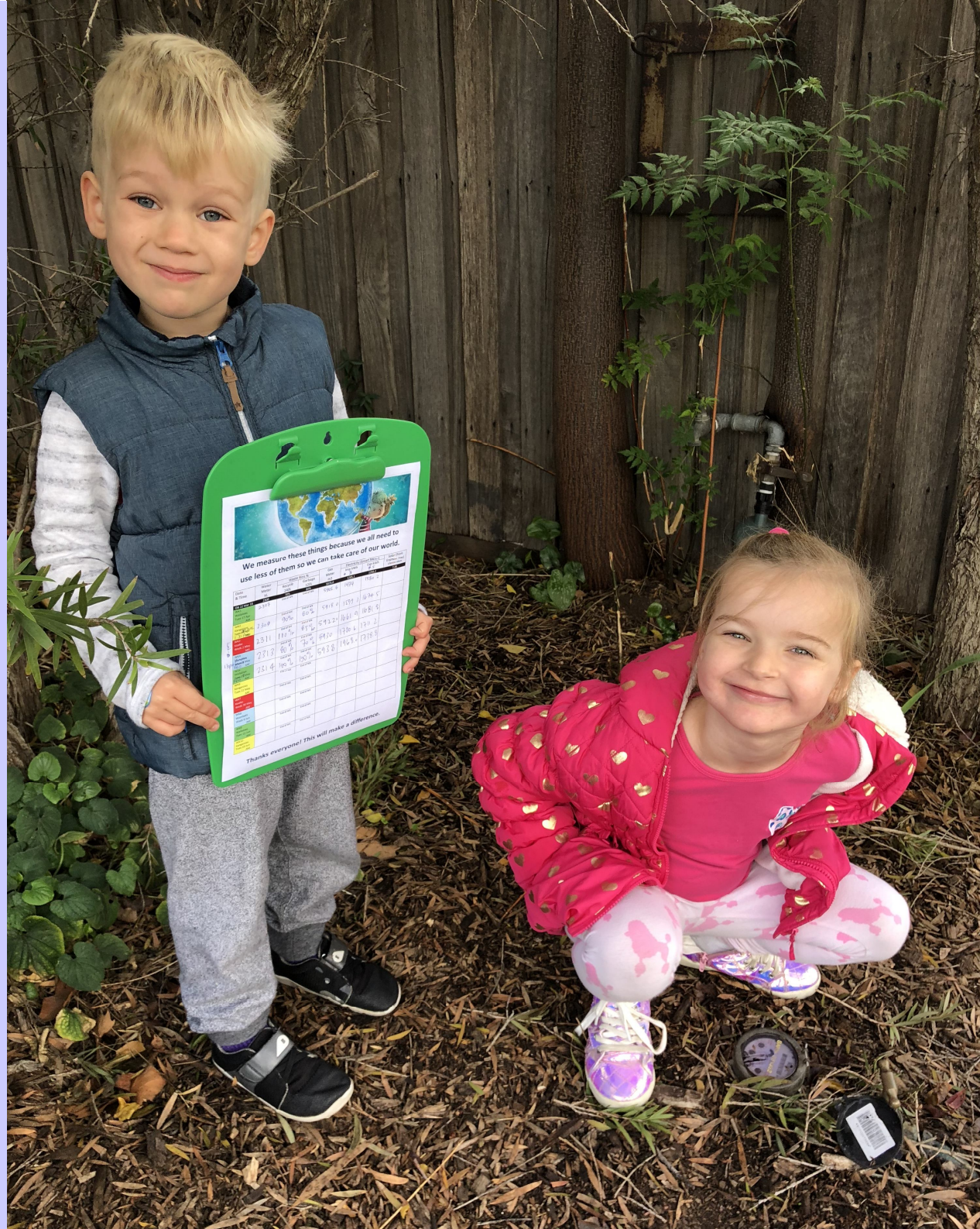
are our dreams on paper

We like to know if we are achieving our dreams by measuring things.

This is a picture of us reading our water meter. We all take turns reading the numbers.

By doing this we know that in 2017 we reduced:

**Water by 64%
Electricity by 24%
Gas by 76%**



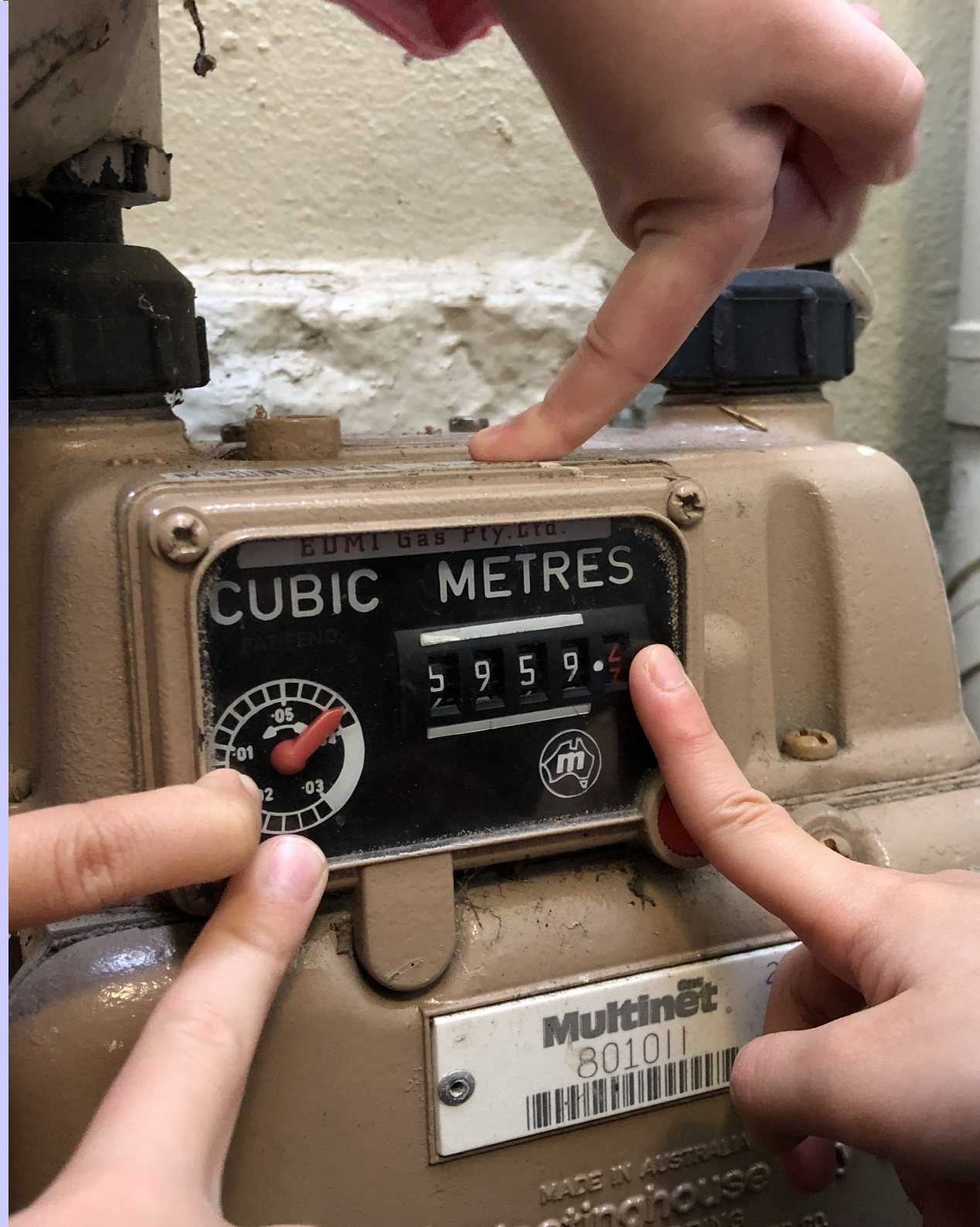
Gas

we don't use it anymore

On 7 June 2018 at 9.30am our gas meter was turned off at Kinder after replacing our gas hot water system with a solar heat pump.

This was a special day for us in pursuing our carbon neutral dream. This picture celebrates where the numbers stopped.

By no longer using gas we produce less carbon, have cleaner air, and are caring for our world.



Clean air

keeps us all healthy

Air pollution is bad for our environment and our health.

By becoming carbon neutral we will be helping to keep the air clean.

There are other things we can do too. We grow lots of plants and we make sure we don't use chemicals or toxins at Kinder.

One of the Kindergarten mums is a Pharmacist and she helped us make our own toxin free cleaner and room spray.



Water

is earth's most precious resource

We know that all living things need water for survival.

As humans, we have lots of water inside us.

Grown ups are a bit more than half full of water.

Little kids have even more water in them than that.

Little kids are 3 quarters full of water.



Water

collecting rain from our roof

Because we understand how special water is and how we depend on it for life, we use it wisely.

The Council helped us install dual flush toilets at the Kindergarten as well as taps with timers.

We gather water from the roof when it rains to fill our water tank.



Waste

targeting zero waste

We've found lots of different ways to reduce our rubbish.

We know our plans are working because we gave a bin back to Council that we didn't need anymore.

Our 4 compost worm farms take care of our organic waste. We reuse, recycle and repurpose what we can.

Boxes donated to us by our local shops turn into rocket ships.



Sharing is caring

our community garden

We love to take care of the garden at Kinder and grow plants.

We grow food to share with our community.

This is a picture of Jaeden from the local Boon Wurrung.

Jaeden is helping us to plant bush tucker in our community garden.



We are all

lifelong learners

We love to learn. This is a picture of our teacher Camille with Brett. We are talking about how solar panels work and why we have them.

We have learned lots about caring for our world but there is still lots more for us to learn.

By taking the time to read about our story you are accompanying us on our learning journey and we thank you very sincerely.



Celebrating

our supporters

Thank you to the people and organisations that have helped us to achieve and believe in our dreams.

We are truly grateful.

