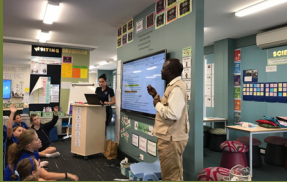


# OUR LEARNING JOURNEY THROUGH THIS PROJECT...



In Term 1, to mark the beginning of Lent, we had a visit from Mr Super Dube. Mr Dube works for Caritas in Hwange, Zimbabwe, and he came to talk to us about the children who live near Hwange and the struggle that they have had to get to school each day due to a lack of clean water nearby. Thandolwayo was one of the children who appeared in this year's Caritas Lenten Challenge and we were all happy to hear that her village in the Msuna Hills ended up having a clean water system put in thanks to money raised by Project Compassion. This meant that Thandolwayo and her friends and family could have hope for the future of their village.

We became interested in finding out more about Hwange and through our research we found out that it is very difficult to grow crops in Hwange due to the very sandy soil there.

## Science and Technology

In Science and Technology, we have been learning about heat energy and in this we learnt about different types of heat as well as materials that conduct or insulate heat. We connected our learning in Science and Technology, where we were learning about bushfires.

## Geography

In Geography, we have been learning about the conditions needed for a bushfire. We learnt about the elements of a fire (the Fire Triangle) and how when the elements of heat, oxygen and fuel come together, they create a chemical reaction which causes a fire. We learnt about the layers of the Australian bush and we also went on a local bush-walk through the Manly Dam area with Indigenous expert, Mr Dave Ella, from the Catholic Schools Office. Mr Ella told us all about how Aboriginal people used fire stick farming and that this was such an effective land management practice, that in those days there were no catastrophic bushfires. One thing that really stood out to us was the Mr Ella said that the bush floor was completely tidy and free from leaf litter so that they could prevent these big fires.

## English

In English, we have been exploring informative texts in jigsaw groups and many of us learnt about a substance that the Aztecs used to keep their soil fertile. This substance was called terra preta and in the places where the Aztecs used terra preta, the soil is still extremely fertile thousands of years later. We began researching this substance and found that there is a substance called biochar which is like a modern day version of terra preta. It is made by pyrolysing organic waste.

We wondered if a substance like biochar could be used to amend (or 'fix') the sandy soils of Hwange and we wondered if we might be able to harvest leaf litter from the Australian bush to do this so that we could reduce the risk of bushfires by removing one of the elements from the fire triangle.

# HWANGE CHALLENGE