

What Can We Do About It?

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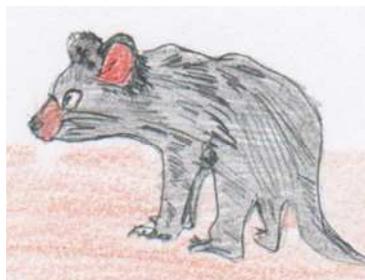
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The Australian political party of animals realized that global warming was threatening not only them but also all the living creatures. To fight this monster, worse than international terrorism, they had to start by convincing people, the so-called 'rational animals'. Therefore some members of this party decided to hold a Climate Conference at the top of Anzac Hill in Alice Springs.



They introduced themselves:

-“I come from Tasmania. I used to live near Scamander on the eastern coast but my former house was lost in a bushfire. So I moved to Mount Barrow”, said the Tasmanian Devil.



-“I come from Melbourne and I have lived in the Botanic Gardens since I was a baby but recently my blue feathers have turned into a dull grey”, complained the kookaburra. “The air I breathe has tons of carbon dioxide! I can’t laugh anymore”, it continued.



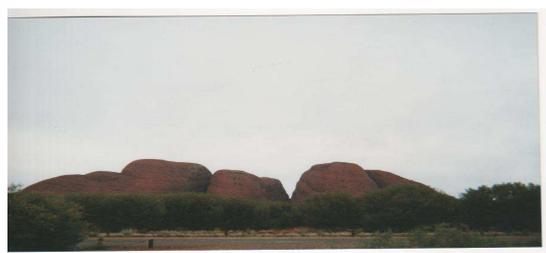
-“I live in the Blue Mountains, not far from Sydney”, started the koala, “but eucalyptus leaves are not as juicy as they used to be”, she declared. “Droughts worry me because if there is not enough rainfall to support suitable forests, our food will become scarce”, she added.



-“That’s enough!”, cried the kookaburra.

-“I think we should talk to the Aboriginal tribe of Anangu, here in Uluru-Kata Tjuta, since they may give us a piece of advice on this matter”, suggested the Tasmanian Devil.

-“I agree with you. They have always respected the land and have taken care of nature”, said the koala.



Then the three of them went to meet the Anangu and listened to their sensible words:

-“We must always protect the land and the living beings that dwell in it. If land continues to be regarded as a mere source of economic productivity, our children won’t even see the frogs which store water in their bodies during severe droughts. It will be too late”, began an Anangu old man. “Even billabongs are drying up these days”.

An Anangu young woman who had read about this issue said: “The richest are giving preference to their economic benefit over the preservation of the environment. Politicians are tied hand and foot by multinational companies. The latter seem to pay political leaders for their silence. We’re killing our children and grandchildren. What will become of them?”

The silence broke and an Anangu child began to play the didgeridoo. It was a deep melody that could be heard all through the valley.



An old Anangu woman who was cooking some bush tucker told the koala: “You, my sweet koala, despite your name meaning *he who doesn’t need water*, don’t forget that thanks to the rainwater, eucalyptus leaves are enough for you, fluffy baby, to feel satiated.”

-“I guess you’re right, grandma”, admitted the koala.

The setting sun was disappearing behind the Valley of the Winds and the three friends returned to Anzac Hill before dark.

That night they all had a strange dream. When they got up the following morning, everyone explained their dream to the rest of the group.

-“I dreamt that an American squirrel and I ratified the Kyoto protocol and everybody was congratulating us on our gesture”, said the kookaburra.



-“I dreamt that I was lying down on a comfortable carpet made of eucalyptus leaves. Then the sunbeams became so intense and strong that I started sweating buckets. What was the worst of all is the fact I couldn’t get out of that place”, cried out the koala. “What a nightmare!”



-“You’re not going to believe what I dreamt!”, said the Tasmanian Devil very excited.

-“Tell us, we are all ears!”, the others responded.

-“Can you imagine the three of us singing on a video clip which was released on YOU-TUNE website?”



-“Really?”, laughed the kookaburra

-“And what were the lyrics about?”, asked the koala, “I’m getting hungry with such excitement!”

-“Well I’ll try to remember some words: ummmm...what does..., what does...”, he muttered. “Oh yes, If I/Let me recall the lyrics correctly... I think the song went like this”, started the Tasmanian Devil:

What does well-being mean?

What does prosperity mean?

Life does not make sense

If you can’t feel the rain.

Ride a bike,

Take the train,

Go by bus

Not so much plane.

Life does not make sense

If you can’t feel the rain.

What does well-being mean?

What does prosperity mean?

Life does not make sense

If you can’t breathe clean air.

Buy your food from local shops,

Try to avoid imported goods,

Trucks and planes bringing in stuff,

They use huge amounts of gas.

Life does not make sense

If you can't breathe clean air.

What does well-being mean?

What does prosperity mean?

Life does not make sense

If plants are in bad health.

Send less trash,

Recycle bags,

'cos plastic goods

Make poor the land.

Life does not make sense

If plants are in bad health.

Then the koala and the kookaburra joined the Tasmanian Devil and sang along for a while.

Some months later, their song became a hit at home and overseas. The beauty of it is that some people started paying attention to the real message of this song and followed not only its rhythm and music but also what it recommended.



References

The animals were drawn by Elena Xampeny i Solaní and coloured by Caty Ribas Segura.

The pictures of Uluru and Kata Tjuta and Anzac Hill were taken by Caty Ribas Segura in 2001 and 2005 and she holds all rights for them. Caty Ribas Segura also drew and coloured the picture of the Indigenous boy playing the didgeridoo.