

Scilla writes eco-friendly children's book



Barry Henning the illustrator and Scilla Edmonds, the author.

GUGU shops for Planet Earth, a new children's book by Scilla Edmonds, the principal of The Birches Pre-Primary School and illustrated by Barry Henning is meant to educate young readers on the importance of being "eco-friendly".

The world is in crisis because of global warming, but ordinary people can help turn this around by being aware of their impact on the earth.

With this book, Scilla educates children on how to save the planet.

It is about a child, Gugu, who goes shopping with her mother. The shopping list includes cabbage, bananas, bread, eggs and tinned tuna. Gugu uses the outing to share with her mother many of the things she has learnt at school.

The book gives pointers to shopping in an eco-friendly manner that young children can understand.

These include walking to the shops. This is the best option in the enviro-friendly stakes.

Sharing lifts is better than one or two people using a car, as the more cars there are on the road the more fumes there are in the atmosphere which harm the ozone layer.

Some of the examples include free-range eggs which should have a free range sign as those eggs are laid by healthy, happy hens. Eggs should not be packed in polystyrene boxes.

Tinned fish must have a dolphin-friendly sign to show that the fishing was done in a way which did not harm dolphins.

The author also raises awareness on the importance of using recycled shopping bags. Cloth bags or baskets are the best options, instead of buying plastic bags.

The importance of growing a vegetable garden and to have a worm farm and a compost heap for green waste is discussed.

The book is written in isiZulu and English for children's better understanding. It is illustrated and easy to read. There are other books on the environment to follow.