

Euchareena School Gardening



Abbey Cross
Euchareena Public School



Enviro-Stories Education Program

Enviro-Stories is a competition based education program for primary schools that was developed by PeeKdesigns.



www.envirostories.com.au

This program provides an education and learning experience for kids through their active engagement with natural resource and catchment management issues. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

In 2012, the “Our Farmers, Our Future” Enviro-Stories Education Program provided local kids with the opportunity to write and illustrate stories about life on the farm. This program was sponsored by the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, Australian Government’s Caring for our Country, Central West and Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authorities and Cotton Australia.

Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC is an industry partnership leading research, education and commercialisation in the Australian cotton industry.

www.cottoncrc.org.au

Australian Government’s Caring for our Country

Caring for our Country is one way the Australian Government funds environmental management of our natural resources by supporting communities, farmers and other land managers to protect Australia’s natural environment and sustainability.

www.nrm.gov.au

Central West CMA

The Central West CMA is committed to work with the community to conserve, improve and manage natural and cultural resources. The catchment is located in central western New South Wales.

www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au

Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA

The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA strives for balanced production and conservation within resilient landscapes. The catchment is located in northern New South Wales, just west of the Great Diving Range.

www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au

Cotton Australia

Cotton Australia is the peak body for Australia’s cotton growing industry, supporting over 1500 cotton farming families in New South Wales and Queensland.

www.cottonaustralia.com.au

Euchareena School Gardening

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School: Euchareena Public School

The “Our Farmers, Our Future” Enviro-Stories Education Program consists of the following books:

Sponsored by Cotton Catchment Communities CRC and Caring for our Country

- Fluffy’s Getting Shorn
- A Great Turnaround
- The New Farm
- The Farmer Changes His Ways
- I Own it All
- Drought and Flooding Rains

Sponsored by Central West CMA

- My Life on a Sheep Farm
- A Weekend on our Farm
- Farm Animals
- Life on the Farm

Sponsored by both the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC and the Central West CMA

- Euchareena School Gardening

Sponsored by Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA

- Hoot the Owl Saves the Day
- Our Farms are Our Future
- Life as a Sheep
- What we have on Farms

Sponsored by Cotton Australia

- Cotton on ‘Koramba’

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In 2010, Euchareena Public School students decided to start to make our very own vegetable garden. We were all very excited and wore old clothes and hats.

Before we got started Mr. Merriman explained what we had to do.



Mr. Merriman cut old rainwater tanks to about one metre high to use for our vegetable beds.

We cleared away the weeds on the bottom of the tanks.

We put a heap of newspaper in a wheel barrow to wet it down. The newspaper was put in veggie beds to line the bottoms.



After lining the tanks, we put piles of lucerne in, broke it up and spread it evenly through the tanks. Each bed had 12 buckets of manure put into it. We added a layer of hay on top of the manure.





After the hay, we put some more manure in to help provide nutrients. The tanks were wet down to make them nice and moist.

Finally, the tanks were filled with good, rich top soil.



By the time we made the beds it was term 4 in 2010 and we were ready to plant our summer vegetables and fruit trees.

Mr. Merriman went shopping for the plants and brought them to school. We helped carry them to the garden.



The next week we were very busy in the garden. We dug holes in the ground for the fruit trees and in tanks for the vegetables.

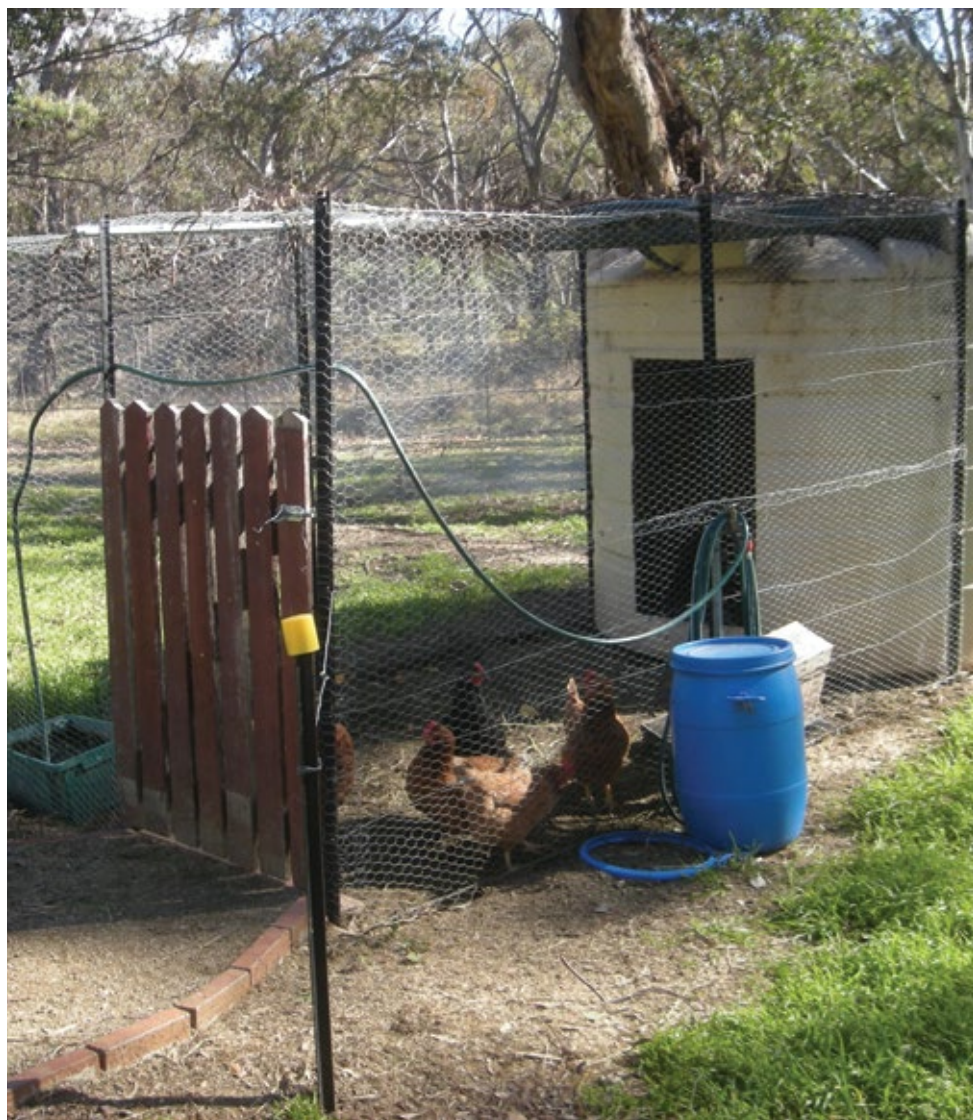


Mr. Merriman showed us how to plant the trees properly. We took the fruit trees out of the plastic pots and planted them into the ground. We also planted all of our vegetables in the tanks.

Each week with Mrs. Smithers we went to water the garden and document the plant growth. It was very interesting watching how our plants grew.

Our class decided to get some chooks from a family at school.





Mr. Merriman busily built a chook yard. For the chook yard he used a small tank, chook wire, wood, normal wire and nesting boxes. Alan helped build the chook yard.



We were all waiting with anticipation for the chooks to arrive. At last the chooks arrived at school. We had 4 brown hens!

After the holidays we came back to school and the garden was looking great. All the corn was about two metres tall. Our apricot trees were even starting to flower.

Mr. Merriman explained to us how to pick corn.

“You twist it then pull the cob off the plant.”

All of us take turns in picking the veggies to send home. Alan, Jess and I like to pick and give out the veggies at recess time.

Each family gets a variety of vegetables.



Some of the veggies we grew were corn, broccoli, lettuce, Tuscan cabbage, tomatoes and lots more.

Each week Mrs. Smithers liked to ask us what we used the veggies for. Most people used them for their dinners but some even brought them for their lunch at school.

In term 2 we planted the winter vegetables. We planted cauliflower, broccoli, celery, carrots, spinach and lots more.

There are lots of different things that grow best if planted in cooler weather.

After the winter holidays we came back to a big mess. The vegetables were very overgrown. We worked hard cutting them down and cleaning up our beds.





Mrs. Cross told us she had a big surprise for us. We were getting fertilised eggs for one of the chooks to sit on. We hoped that one day the eggs might hatch.

Eventually one egg did hatch. We had one baby chick who we named Lenny. This matched our other chooks because they were named Henny, Benny, Jenny and Penny. They are all Lenny's mothers.

We have enjoyed growing our vegetables. It is fun to plant and grow new things all the time.

The best bit is that we get to harvest the plants and take some home.





Abbey Cross
Euchareena Public School, Grade 6 2012



Cotton Catchment Communities CRC



Australian Government

Cotton Research and
Development Corporation



Catchment Management
Authority
Central West



Catchment Management
Authority
Border Rivers-Gwydir



CARING
FOR
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COUNTRY



National
Year of
Reading
2012