

Ann Sloane: A Captivating Story



Catchment Champion

Peter Holgate, Edward Davis, James Hall,
Briana Morgan and Isaac Andrews

Savernake Public School



Creative Catchment Kids

Creative Catchment Kids is an initiative of the Murray Darling Association and Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre. It aims to improve engagement between the Murray Catchment Management Authority and school students by providing opportunities for positive and authentic ventures that encourage students to develop creative solutions to natural resource management issues. **www.murray.cma.nsw.gov.au/creative-catchment-kids.html**

Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre

The Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre is located in Burrumbuttock, north of Albury in southern NSW. Since 1995, the centre, which is adjacent to Burrumbuttock Public School, has provided opportunities for discovery and learning about the natural environment, the ecology of the local woodlands and the beauty of native plants. **www.wirraminna.org**

Murray Darling Association

The Murray Darling Association has membership of over 100 Local Government councils in the Murray-Darling Basin, as well as community groups, businesses and individuals with an interest in ensuring that the Basin continues as a valuable asset for all Australians. Since 1950, the Association has initiated various school and community education programs on managing the Basin's land and water resources. **www.mda.asn.au**



Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by PeeKdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area. **www.envirostories.com.au**

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School: Savernake Public School

Catchment Champions

In 2013, students involved in the Creative Catchment Kids program researched and wrote stories about 'Catchment Champions', people who have made important contributions to managing natural resources in their local community. The program was generously funded by the Murray and Murrumbidgee catchment management authorities.

The Catchment Champions books are part of the Enviro-Stories Education Program.



**Catchment Management
Authority**
Murray



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This story is about our local Savernake environmental champion Ann Sloane. Ann has been a great example at our school and this is her story.

Born in Camperdown in 1953 to parents Keith and Vola Bellis, Ann is one of three children. Ann has one brother and one sister. Ann grew up in a loving and secure family, living mostly in country towns. Ann had many adventures on their family farm in the Grampians. Ann also played the piano and played lots of different sports in her childhood.



Moving around a lot as a child, Ann went to primary school at St Arnaud, Hamilton and Birchip and then onto high school at Birchip and Cohuna. Ann then went on to further her studies at Monash University where she became a high school teacher. Ann has worked as a teacher, music teacher and even as a telephonist and checkout operator.





Ann married Alexander Sloane and this led Ann to move to Alex's farm 'Savernake Station'. Ann and Alex have four children, Teisha, James, Merridy and Hilary as well as one grandchild. It was the move to Savernake that redeveloped Ann's love and passion for the environment that she learnt as a child growing up near the Grampians.



Savernake Station is located about 20 minutes from Mulwala in rural New South Wales. The station is a rare experience for people to come and see the Sloane's family history. The family home where Alex grew up is now preserved as a museum. Ann and Alex take tours through their property and have just received Heritage Listing. The property also has a farmstay where people can come and stay the night.



Savernake Station is still a working farm. Ann and Alex have worked to achieve sustainable agriculture inclusive of native vegetation and habitat. This means they still look after the environment whilst running a productive farm. Ann and Alex try to live sustainably and produce a lot of their own food. They also run a program on their farm for people from overseas to come and work and experience Australian farming.



Ann and Alex have worked to preserve many native species on their property including native birds, squirrel gliders and they even now see wombats. Ann and Alex have also strong respect for indigenous Australians. Boat Rock is an aboriginal watering hole which is located near their farm. They help preserve this site and Ann takes guided tours through Boat Rock.





Ann is also an active member of WIRES. WIRES is an organisation that help look after native animals that are hurt or are young and lost their mothers. Ann has looked after many joeys, gliders, possums and different types of native birds. Ann has helped our school when injured birds like the Superb and Swift parrots and a magpie hit our tennis court fence.





Ann and Alex and friends are helping to eradicate pest animals on their property. They use traps to catch feral cats and go shooting for foxes. By doing this they are helping all the native wildlife on their property. They also help to get rid of plant pests too. Ann also has a direct seeding site where she collects native seed. She is growing and introducing saltbush to their farm.





Ann has been awarded for all her work at Saverlake Station. She was a finalist at the New South Wales Landcare Awards; she has done many radio and TV interviews, LFF articles as well as parts of the property being Heritage Listed. Ann has also been a part of a DVD on the Watercycle in the Murray Darling Basin filmed at Saverlake Station, as well as producing books and DVD's on the Sloane history and Saverlake Station.





For now, Ann wishes to continue her work on the station and continue to volunteer for WIRES and many other organisations. We appreciate everything Ann has done for the Savernake area and for our school. Ann is a true catchment champion.

www.savernakestation.com



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2013 Year 3-6, Savernake Public School

The 2012 and 2013 Creative
Catchment Kids writing
program was showcased
at the Seventh World
Environmental Education
Congress, held in Morocco
during June 2013.



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