

Dr. Dave Enviro Legend



Catchment Champion

Sazia Khan, Laura Fellows, Maddie
Heathcote, Taleia Thorne, Jessica
Wilson and Josephine Mannall

Thurgoona 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

Dr. Dave, Enviro Legend

Authors: Sazia Khan, Laura Fellows, Maddie Heathcote, Taleia Thorne, Jessica Wilson and Josephine Mannall

Teacher: Jacob Storey

School: Thurgoona 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



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY



Catchment Management Authority
Murrumbidgee

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Some of our class had watched the '***What have we got here? with Dr. Dave***' DVDs. This sparked our interest to interview this legend and tell his story.

What have we got here



Dr Dave and primary school students explore the wonderful world of Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands



DVD
VIDEO

An initiative of the Murray Darling Association and Burrumbuttock Public School © August 2011

As a child, Dr. Dave lived in Melbourne and made many trips to the country with his parents. These trips developed his keen interest in the bush. At the age of five, he announced to his family that he would go to university and become a biologist to study animals.

When he visits the city these days for more than four hours, he gets twitchy.



At school he was known as 'Dr. Watson'. Whenever somebody found something they would ask him what it was. If he didn't know, he would find out.

Dr. Dave said he would struggle to think of a day when he has not done something to help an animal. Even during his childhood he would free animals trapped in fences or help wildlife hit by cars.



When Dr. Dave became old enough, he moved to the country. He currently lives on a farm in Burrumbuttock. He has about 200 birds on his farm that are raised for their meat, including chickens and ducks. He prefers not to keep animals as pets because he thinks of all the good things they could be doing in the wild.



Dr. Dave lives with his wife Maggie and 3 boys; Douglas (13), Jack (11) and Charlie (4). Although it is not forced upon them, all his children are also crazy about the environment. Maggie also works as a biologist and is crazy about the environment.





Dr. Dave works as an associate professor in biology at Charles Sturt University. He goes on many research trips for his work. On a field trip to Mexico he discovered a new species of toad. Somebody suggested he name the toad after himself, but he refused and it was named after a local indigenous tribe.



Dr. Dave has been bitten by many weird and wonderful animals over the years. He once got rattle snake venom in a screwdriver scratch on his hand while in America. This made him very sick and his arm become red and swollen. He has also contracted rabies after being bitten by a vampire bat in Mexico.



If for some reason Dr. Dave could no longer work as a biologist, he would become a carpenter or cabinet maker. In his spare time he makes his own furniture and renovates his 140 year old house. This work helps him to think about any problems he has during his research.



Dr. Dave does not see himself as an environmentalist who protests for change. Instead, he might spend six years working on research to inform people about a topic. Then people are more informed to make their own choices. Whatever the title you give him, there is no doubt he is an Enviro Legend.



We would like to thank Dr. Dave for being our Catchment Champion.

We would also like to acknowledge all stage 3 Sandalwood students at Thurgoona who helped to Interview Dr. Dave, draw illustrations and write the text for this book.



Top (L-R): Dr. Dave, Laura Fellows, Maddie Heathcote and Taleia Thorne.
 Bottom (L-R): Josie Mannall and Sazia Khan. Jessica Wilson was away.

2013 Year 5/6, Thurgoona 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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