

# John Jacob's Inspiring Life



*Catchment Champion*

Jordan Browne, Jackson Lezius, Nathaniel  
Wenke, Chelsea Hall and Joshua Lieschke

Walla Walla 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](http://www.murray.cma.nsw.gov.au/creative-catchment-kids.html)

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## *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](http://www.wirraminna.org)

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## *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](http://www.mda.asn.au)

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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](http://www.envirostories.com.au)

# John Jacob's Inspiring Life

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School: Walla Walla 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  
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Murrumbidgee

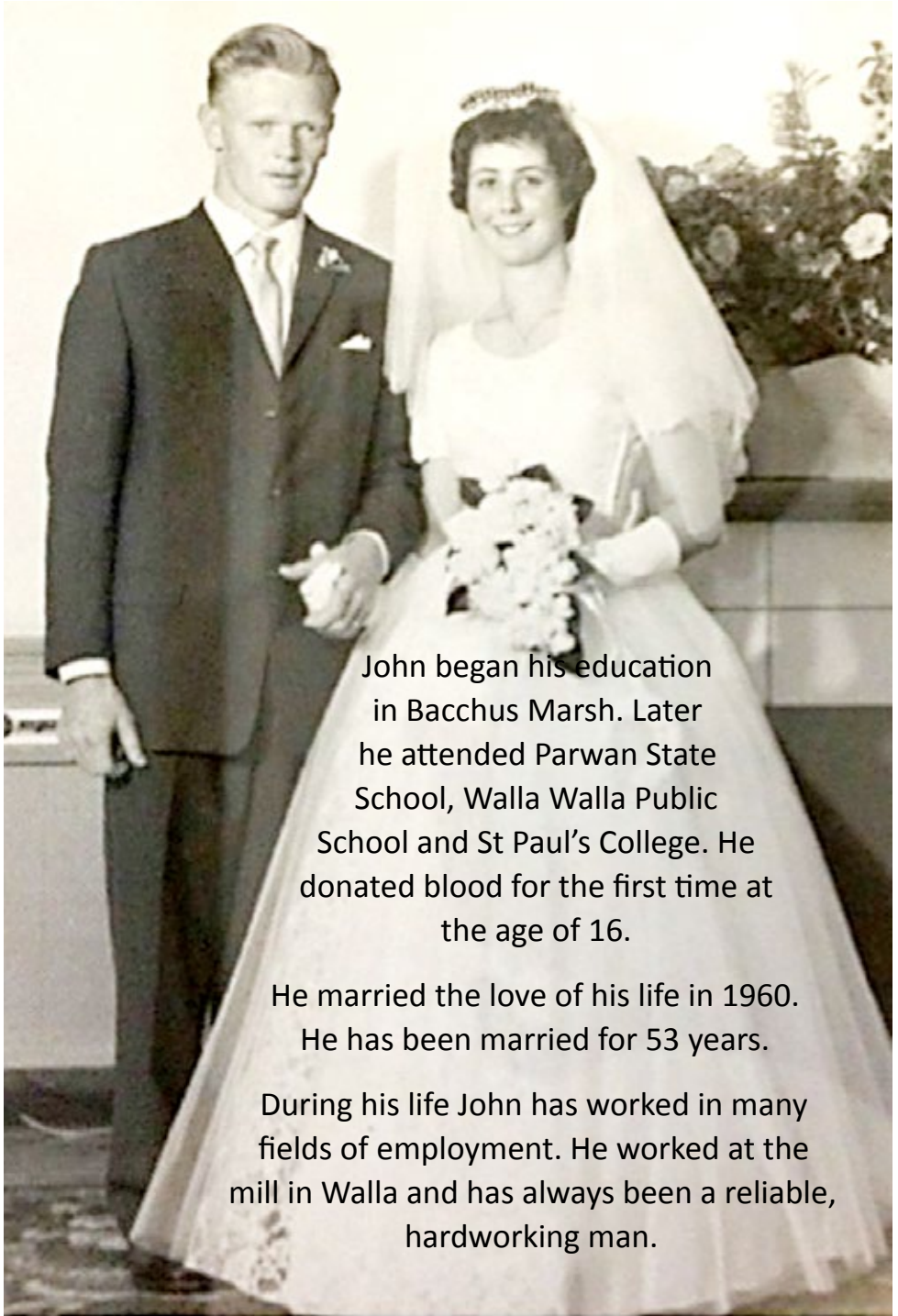
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This is a story about John Jacob's inspiring life. He was born in Corowa in 1938 and has nine brothers and sisters.

John has achieved much throughout his life and has had the opportunity to do many interesting things. He is a great support to his family, Walla Walla Public School, the Walla Walla Community and to the environment. I'm sure you'll enjoy reading this book about this amazing man.



John began his education in Bacchus Marsh. Later he attended Parwan State School, Walla Walla Public School and St Paul's College. He donated blood for the first time at the age of 16.

He married the love of his life in 1960. He has been married for 53 years.

During his life John has worked in many fields of employment. He worked at the mill in Walla and has always been a reliable, hardworking man.





John was the supervisor at Jacob's Oat Mill, Walla Walla for 39 years. He then worked at Elders for 2 years. This was followed by 19 years as a supervisor at Uncle Toby's.

In 1952 he joined the Walla Walla Fire Brigade. He played sports in his early years including football and tennis.

John's family has always been very important to him. He has four children, Ken, Michelle, Shane and Bronwyn.



John Jacob has achieved many things. He has donated blood 273 times, which is an amazing achievement. John encourages other people to start donating blood.

John was chosen to be the Greater Hume Shire Citizen of the Year in 2011. He achieved this great honour because of his continuing hard work and support for the community of Walla Walla.



John's volunteering is just one example of how he has supported the community. John has also been a part of the sporting community for a long time. He was involved in the Walla Walla Tennis Club and the Walla Walla Football Club. He was secretary of the Walla Walla Sports Ground Committee and during his time as a football player, he played 270 games with the Walla Walla Seniors.







One other sport John has been a part of is sky diving. Sky diving isn't a sport for most people, but because John is outgoing and brave, he took the plunge at the age of 60. The dive was a birthday present. What a great way to spend your sixtieth birthday!



John Jacob joined the Walla Walla Fire Brigade in 1952 and he is still a member. He has received a Life Member Badge which represents 60 years of service. He was also awarded a Long Service Medal which is another symbol of his commitment to the fire brigade.



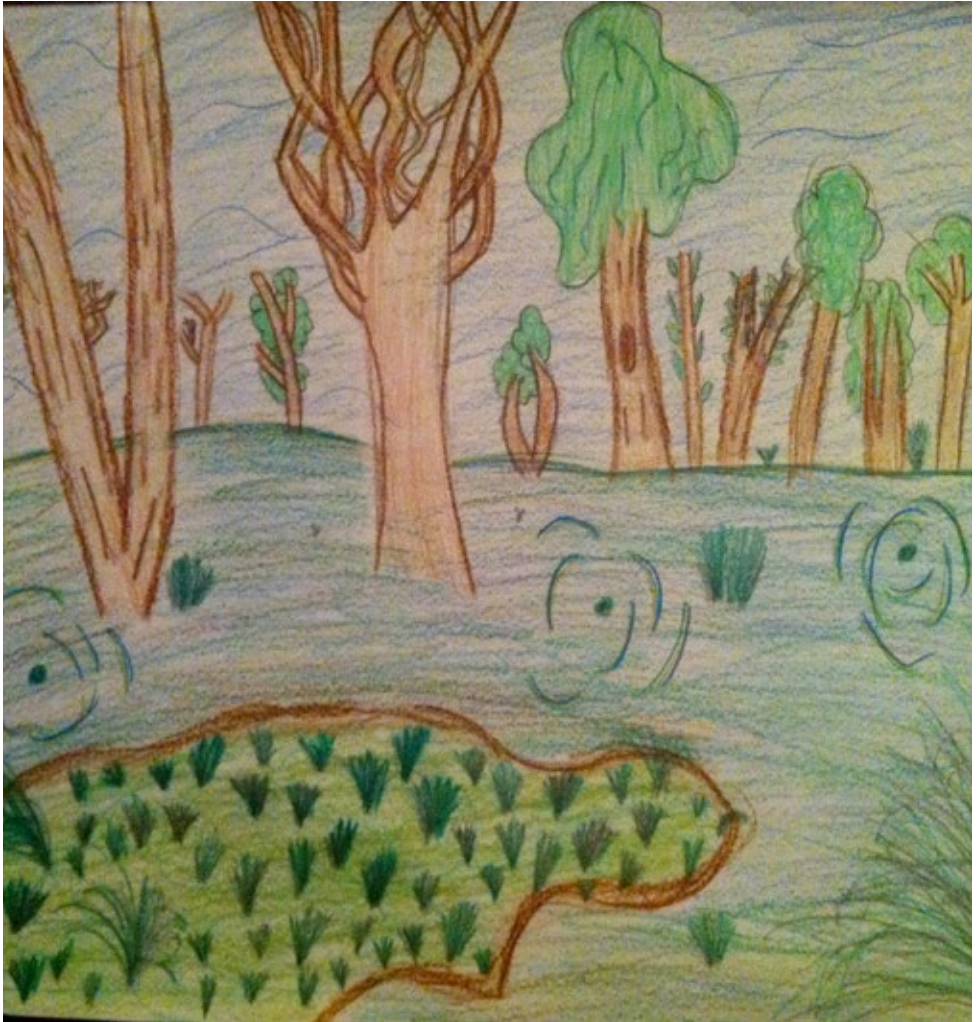
Mr Jacob also received The National Medal. This medal stands for diligent long service in organisations that protect life and property at some risk to themselves. These medals and badges are all examples of his dedication to his work and volunteering in this community.





John Jacob helps to keep the environment clean. He is Walla Walla Public School's General Assistant. Mr Jacob spends many more hours than he is paid for caring for the school grounds. He mows, weeds the garden, carries out minor repairs and is a friend and role model to all of our students. Along with maintaining the school grounds, John helps to preserve the old school house.





Another example of John's great work in the community is his volunteering at Gum Swamp, where they are trying to rehabilitate and preserve the natural environment. At Gum Swamp John helps to keep the area clean to maintain the condition of the swamp. He does this so that future generations will be able to experience and enjoy the same things as this generation. John is always thinking of others.



In John's future he would like to reach 300 blood donations. He would also like to keep volunteering in the fire brigade for as long as possible. John enjoys helping the people of Walla Walla because they can't all do it for themselves. This is something John enjoys and will continue to do for many years to come.



Thank you, John Jacob for helping the community of Walla Walla, also for sharing your inspiring life with us.

We are so lucky to have John on the staff at Walla Walla Public School and as a member of the Walla Walla community. His dedication to volunteering and various organisations makes Walla Walla a safer and happier place to live.





Jordan Browne, Jackson Lezius, Nathaniel Wenke, John Jacob, Chelsea Hall and Joshua Lieschke

2013 Year 6, Walla Walla 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.



Catchment Management Authority  
Murray



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY



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