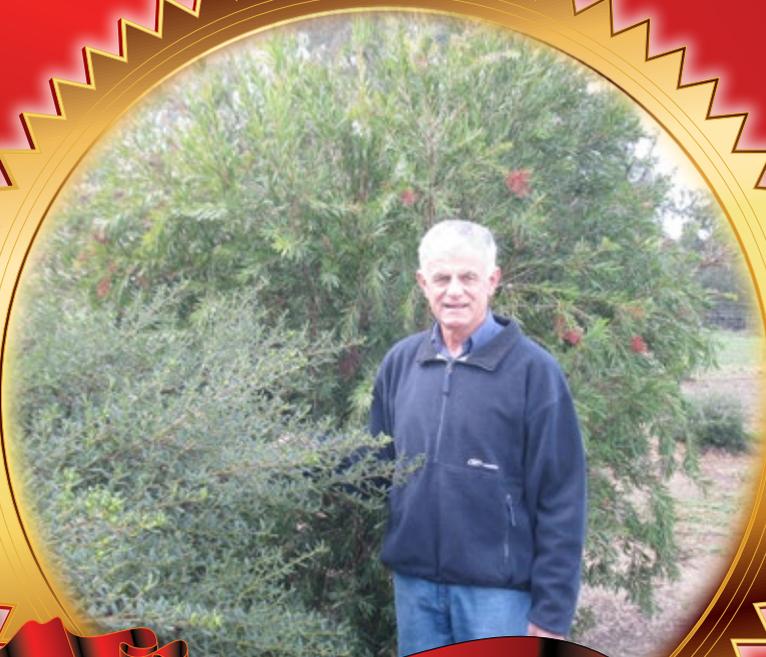


# Mr. Paul Hoffmann: Our Catchment Champion



*Catchment Champion*

George Leov, Leilani Feagaiga,  
Stefanie Cook and Cassandra Body

Culcairn 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)

# Mr. Paul Hoffmann: Our Catchment Champion

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Teacher: Robyn Batson

School: Culcairn 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



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Murrumbidgee

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Paul Hoffmann is an everyday farmer who has had an incredible life in both the environment and in the community where he lives.

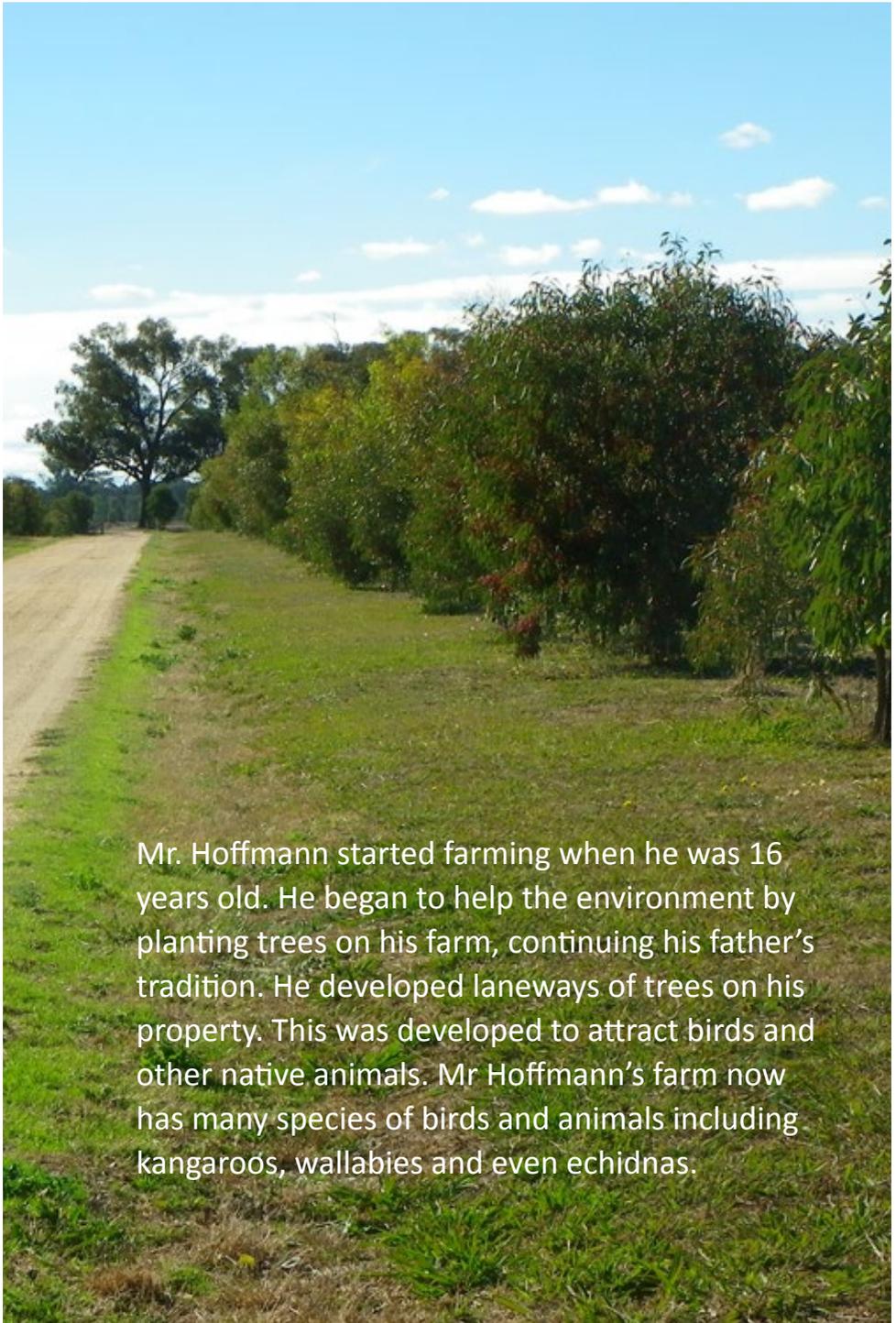




Mr. Hoffmann was born on the 15th of October 1950. When he was growing up he lived on the same farm he lives on now 'Dalriado', Culcairn. He was expected to become a farmer from a young age, being the only boy in a farming family.

When Mr. Hoffmann was growing up his father taught him to respect the environment. When trees died on his farm he would plant new ones. This was the beginning of his environmental awareness. Planting trees at this time was an unusual practice as “trees took up valuable farming space.”





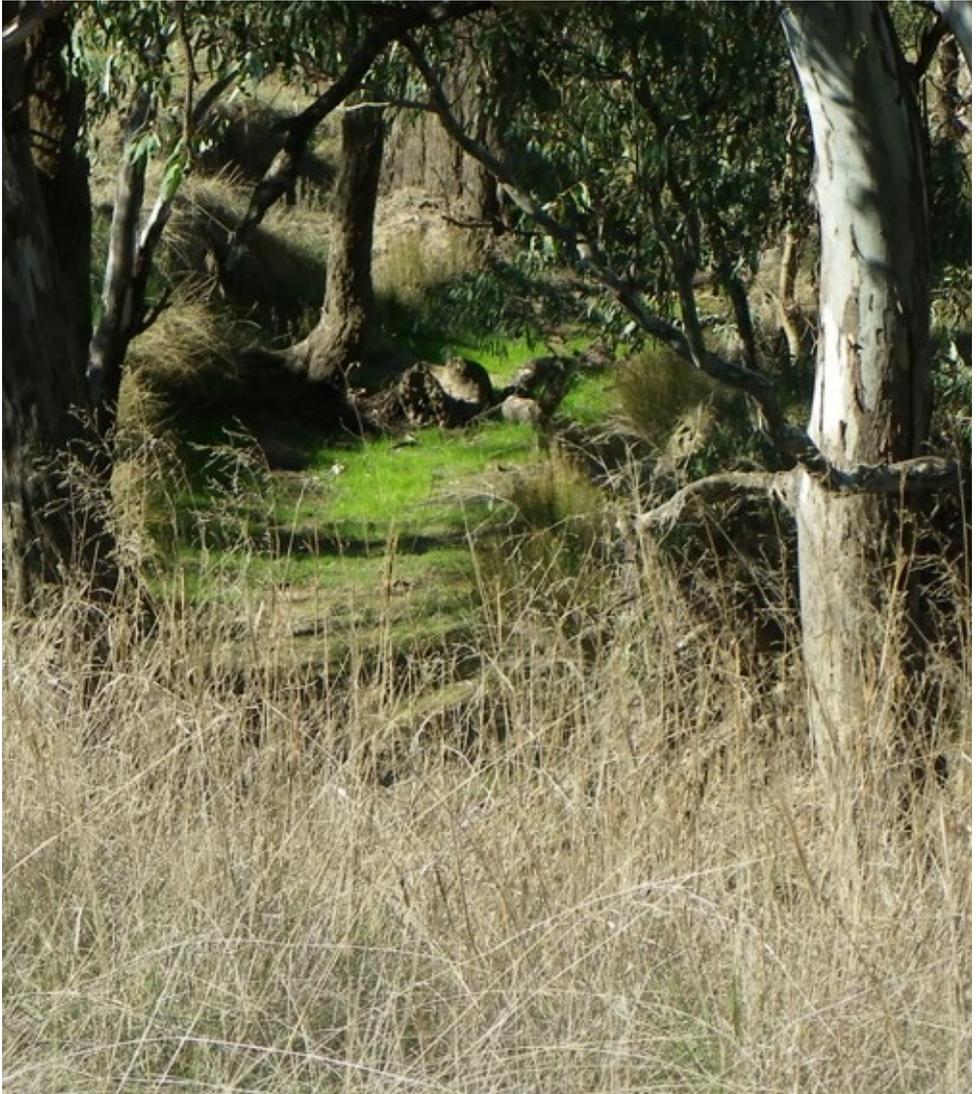
Mr. Hoffmann started farming when he was 16 years old. He began to help the environment by planting trees on his farm, continuing his father's tradition. He developed laneways of trees on his property. This was developed to attract birds and other native animals. Mr Hoffmann's farm now has many species of birds and animals including kangaroos, wallabies and even echidnas.



Mr. Hoffmann helps the environment in a number of ways. He burns the stubble in his paddocks only when he has to because it pollutes the air. He also fenced off Kangaroo Creek. These small acts of care really help our ecosystem thrive. The grasses filter the chemicals from run off to prevent it reaching the creek.



Mr. Hoffmann also contributes to a healthy environment in more significant ways. He planted an 11 hectare tree plantation as part of the *Heartlands* initiative. Mr. Hoffmann helped to start the Culcairn Landcare group and has carried out Greening Australia and Catchment Management Authority funded projects.



Some natural disasters are helpful to the environment, such as floods. They bring regrowth. It is important that there is regrowth and more trees are planted because they give wildlife shelter and shade. After a natural disaster Mr Hoffmann will leave diseased and dead trees for animal life and plant new and healthy trees.



Mr Hoffmann rarely uses pesticides because it kills all insects, even though it only targets the pests. He encourages birdlife to reduce the need for insecticides. By restraining from using these poisons he saves some of Australia's insects and wildlife.



Mr. Hoffmann treats the environment with care. Many farmers don't worry about the environment and pollute not only the air, but waterways and land as well. To stop this we should recycle and think before we act. He believes that if you take care of wildlife then you are doing something good, not just for you but for other people too.



Mr. Hoffmann has made a difference to the environment. Just planting trees can make a big difference to what happens in the future. He enjoys seeing the plants as well as the wildlife. We can make a difference by educating ourselves and others about the environment. Learning about the environment helps us to look after the planet.

Mr. Hoffmann has set up his paddocks with lane ways, shelter belts and pastures that benefit his stock and the environment. The tall grass in his paddocks is called Phalaris. This is an important grass for his farm and one he has planted throughout his farm.



Mr. Hoffmann is still planting trees and he has been an icon for our small community hopefully this will encourage others to make changes to their farming practice to benefit the environment. Mr. Hoffmann is a real environmental hero.





George Leov, Stefanie Cook, Leilani Feagaiga and Kassandra Body

2013 Year 6, Culcairn 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



Catchment Management Authority Murrumbidgee