

Our Local Fishing Hero: Dr. John Conallin



Catchment Champion

Chelsea Fishlock, Kaitlynn Emery,
Lizzie Penney and Marzahn Schoeman

Deniliquin North 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 PeekKdesigns, 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**

Our Local Fishing Hero: Dr. John Conallin

Authors: Chelsea Fishlock, Kaitlynn Emery, Lizzie Penney and Marzahn Schoeman

Teacher: Cynthia Smith

School: Deniliquin North 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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Murrumbidgee

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A Place to Call Home

Deniliquin is a small country town in southern NSW. It is located on the Edward River, which branches off the Murray River.

Dr. John Conallin is the local Murray 'Catchment Management Authority' Catchment Water Officer. His job consists of catching, tagging and tracking fish to monitor and improve their environment.



Anthony, Paul and a young Dr John Conallin



John loved to drive tractors as a young boy on his family farm

A Fisherman is Born

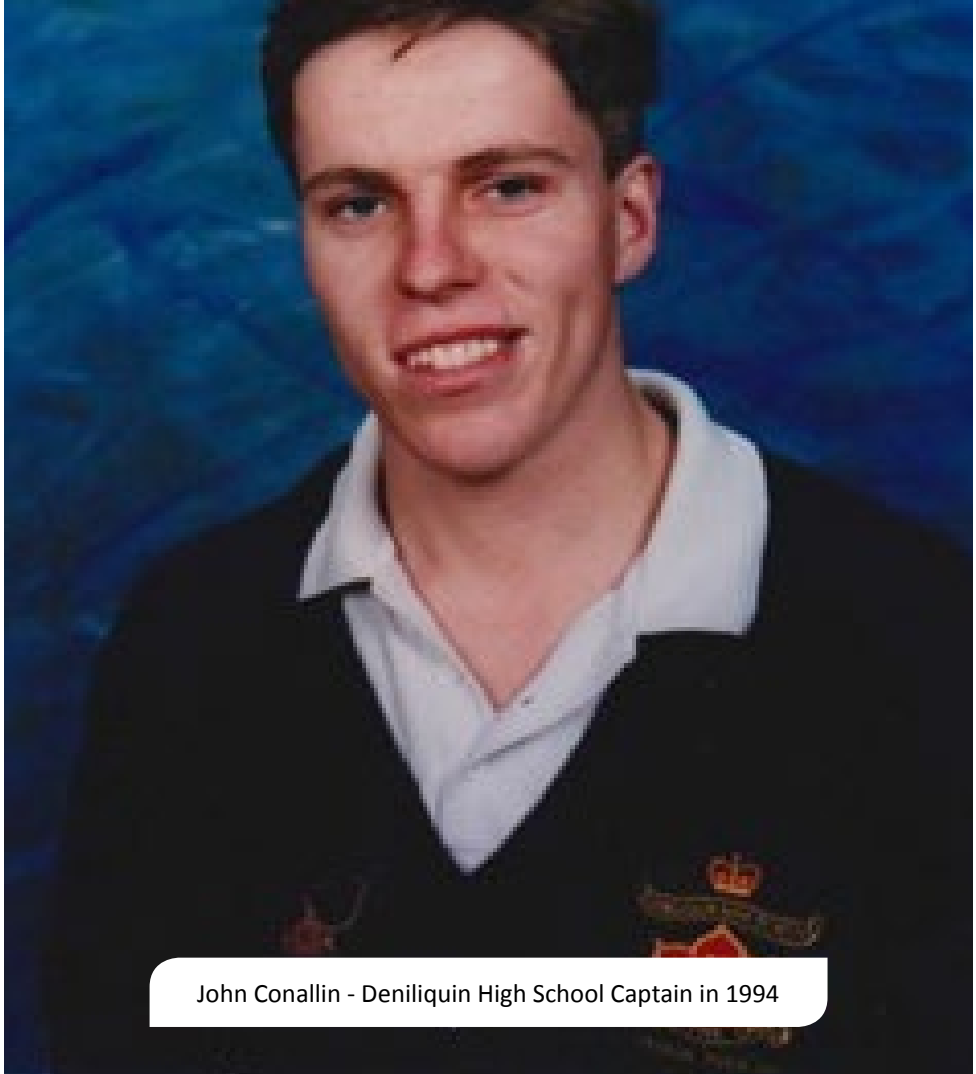
John Campbell Conallin was born on the 28th of December, 1975 in Deniliquin. John is also known as 'Johnny Boy' and 'John-o' to his close friends.

When John was born, he already had two older brothers- Paul, 4 and Anthony, 2. Catherine was born two years later. He lived on a farm for most of his childhood life. John enjoyed fishing and driving tractors from a very early age.

School Life

John attended Deniliquin South Primary School, and was School Captain in Year 6. He then went to Deniliquin High school and became School Captain in Year 12.

John moved away to Albury to study when he was 18 after completing High School in 1994.



John Conallin - Deniliquin High School Captain in 1994



Dr. John surveying the quality of the water

Our Local Catchment Management Authority

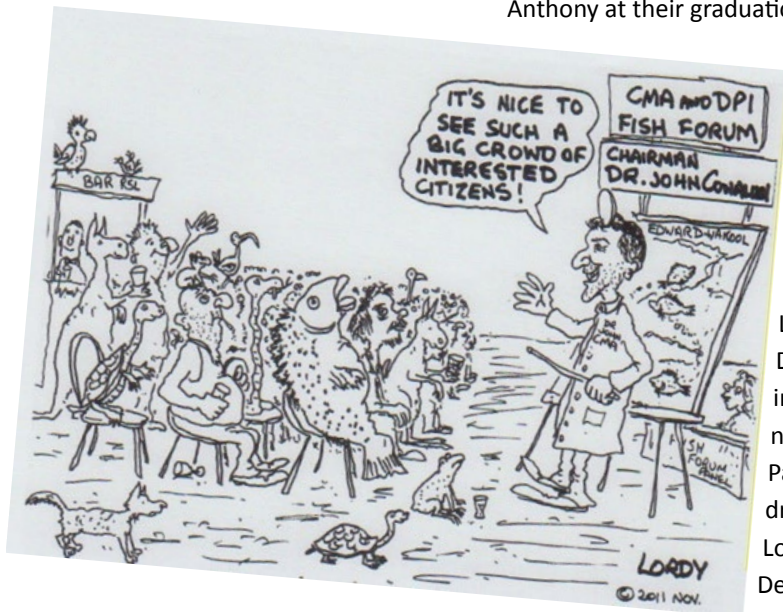
The local Murray 'Catchment Management Authority' plays an important role in water quality monitoring, using scientific data to support water management decisions. The CMA encourages community involvement and relies on government funding to support this.

How John Became Doctor John

John attended university in Albury and also Denmark (a country in northern Europe). In the space of 10 years he obtained two masters degrees (in Denmark), one PhD and one Bachelor of Science (in Albury).



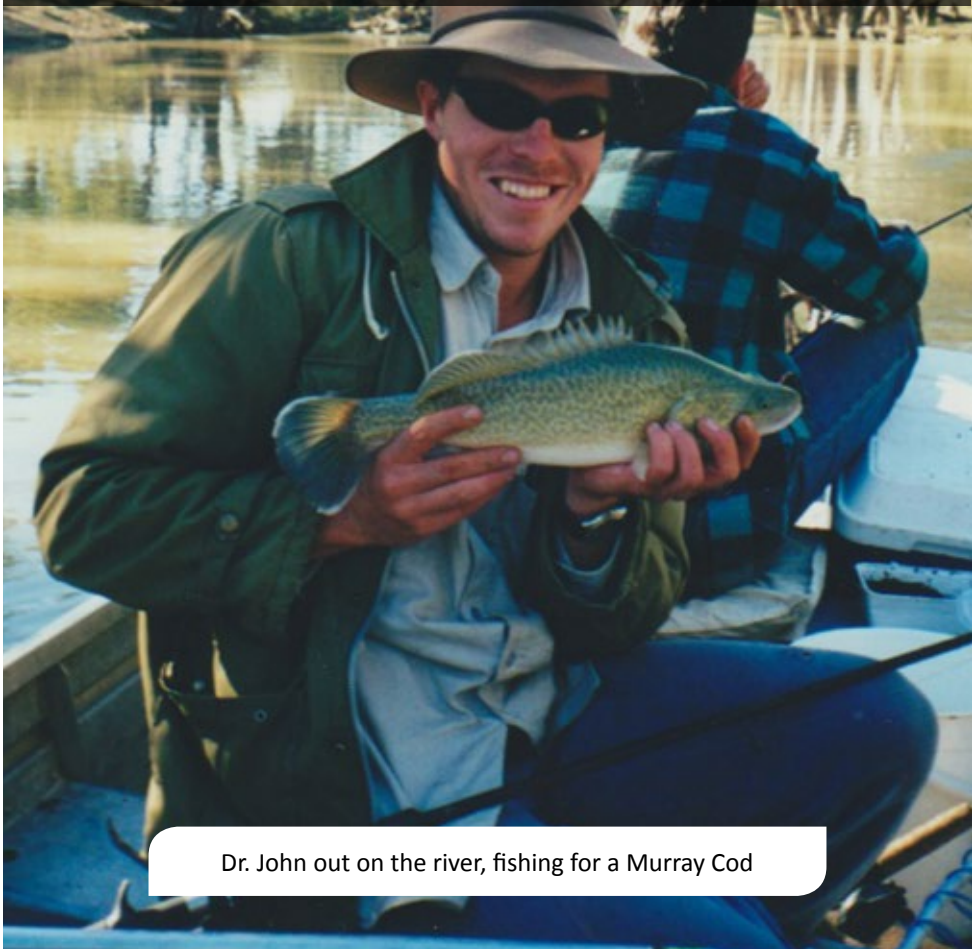
Above: Dr. John (right) and his brother, Anthony at their graduation.



Left: A cartoon of Dr. John features in the local newspaper, 'The Pastoral Times', drawn by Alan Lord, also of Deniliquin.

John's Job

Dr. John's job consists mainly of working with fish and helping people understand about the local catchment area. He works with primary and high school kids. He also works with indigenous groups and the RSL Fishing Club. John interacts with people from all around the world, teaching them about our local catchment area. John believes our generation will change the environment for the better.



Dr. John out on the river, fishing for a Murray Cod



Lagoon Project

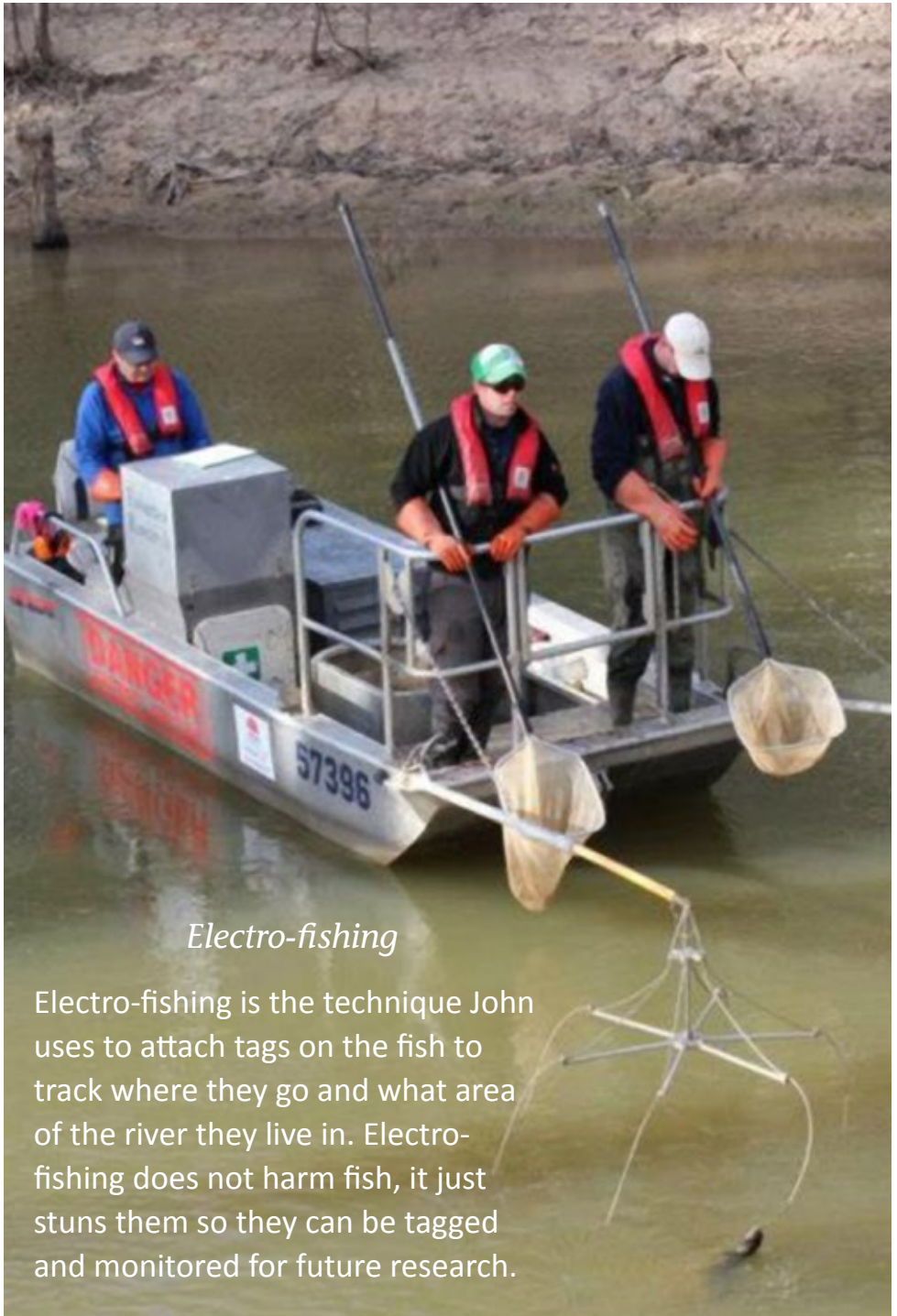
In 2012, The Murray CMA worked in conjunction with Deniliquin primary schools to conduct monitoring as part of the Deniliquin 'Lagoons Community Restoration Project'. The Deniliquin Lagoons Project was launched on Tuesday, 3rd April at the Waring Gardens and involved the release of the Southern Pygmy Perch into the lagoon to improve the water quality.



Fishing Events

Dr. John likes to participate in many fishing events. He makes time to attend the annual fishing competition in Deniliquin where he demonstrates electro-fishing technologies and helps run the overall competition. John also hosts the Wakool fishing competition.

As well as all the paper work he needs to complete in order to do his job successfully, John manages to go out for a good afternoon of fishing.



Electro-fishing

Electro-fishing is the technique John uses to attach tags on the fish to track where they go and what area of the river they live in. Electro-fishing does not harm fish, it just stuns them so they can be tagged and monitored for future research.

Always a Fisherman

John has favourite fish all around the world. In Australia it is the Murray Cod. In the U.S.A. it is the Wide Mouth Bass. In Europe it is the Northern Pike and in New Zealand it is the Brown Trout. John knows a lot of information about fishing, for instance, that the Murray Cod lives on the same snag for most of its life next to its lady friend.



Dr. John, assessing the water quality of the local river



His Recent Life

John recently got married to his beautiful wife, Jemmah on the 8th of December 2012. John and Jemmah are planning to move to Kenya and work around Africa.

John really enjoys his job. He explains, "To do what you love, and have a job that allows this, is great."

The Creative Catchment Kids from Deniliquin
North Public School would like to thank Doctor
John for his wonderful stories and for letting
them investigate and write about his life.



Dr. John Conallin, Kaitlynn Emery, Marzahn Schoeman, Chelsea Fishlock and Lizzie Penney

2013 Year 6, Deniliquin North 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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