

Sowing the Seeds with Sue: The Story of Sue Rose



Catchment Champion

Eddy Ziebarth, Rhys Mitsch, Nyah Eddy
and Maddison Frohling

Burrumbuttock 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

Sowing the Seeds with Sue

The Story of Sue Rose

Authors: Eddy Ziebarth, Rhys Mitsch, Nyah Eddy and Maddison Frohling

Teacher: Stacey Staunton-Latimer

School: Burrumbuttock 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

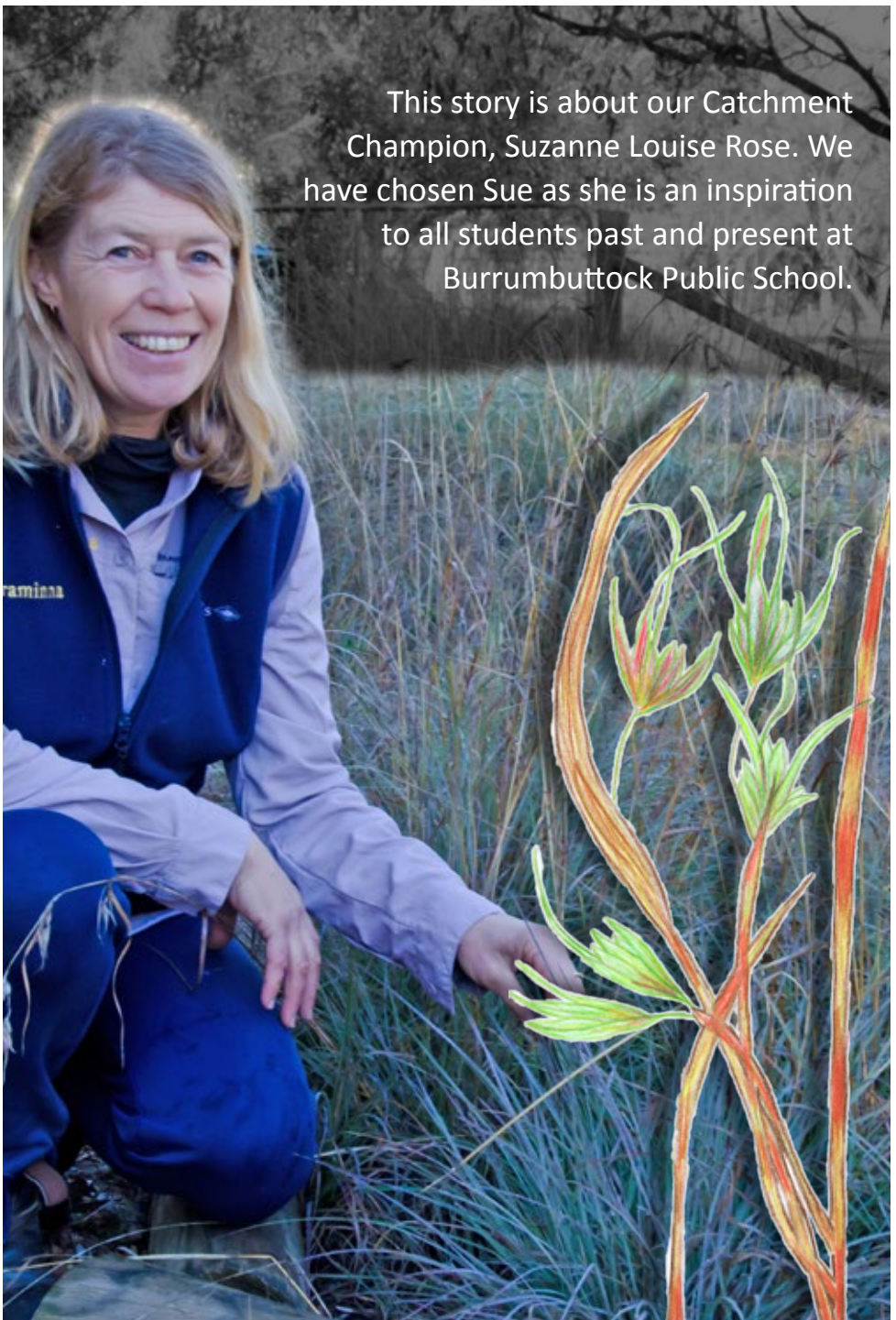


Catchment Management Authority
Murrumbidgee

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This story is about our Catchment Champion, Suzanne Louise Rose. We have chosen Sue as she is an inspiration to all students past and present at Burrumbuttock Public School.





When times were a little different than today, in Marrickville Hospital Sydney, Daphne and Bruce Rose welcomed their daughter into the world. Suzanne Louise Rose was born on the fourth day of September, 1958.

Left: Sue's parents Daphne and Bruce on their wedding day.

Below: Sue as a toddler at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney





In the 1960's, Sue's parents lived with her grandparents some of the time. As Sue's parents worked a lot, Sue spent a lot of her time with her two nans and a pop. An only child, Sue played mostly with her pet animals and a pretend broom stick horse. Sue enjoyed swinging from a willow tree in her backyard and reading.





Right from the very first day, Sue disliked school as she moved around Sydney with her parents. Attending Arncliffe for Kindergarten and Year one, she then moved to Carlton for Years Two and Three. When Sue moved to Clempton Park school, she only had the Carlton's sport uniform, so she wore this to school. The teachers loved it so much that they decided to change the whole Clempton Park uniform to hers. This caused some division in the school.





Remembering high school, Sue told us about how she lived above her family's newsagency before moving to the country. Sue got her first real horse 'Apollo' when they moved. Sue then attended the Sydney's Methodist Ladies College which took her forty-five minutes to get to by train. Her family continued to run the newsagency whilst they lived in the country.

After finishing high school, Sue went straight on to the University of New South Wales. Sue studied Applied Physical Geography where she went bushwalking and learnt about plants and rocks. Sue then went on to get Honours in Botany. Sadly during this time, Sue's father Bruce passed away from cancer. This led Sue back to the family newsagency where she helped her mother.



Months after Sue went back to the newsagency she realised she wasn't 'cut out' for it so she went back and studied Horticulture. This is where Sue realised her passions for plants.



Sue worked on John Macarthur's farm 'Camden Park Estate'. John Macarthur was the first person to bring Merino sheep into Australia. Here, Sue planted native trees and reared a baby wombat.





In 1990 Sue packed her belongings and moved south to Burrumbuttock where she started working for the West Hume Landcare Group. The landcare group started due to the rising of the water table which was causing a salinity issue. One of Sue's jobs was to plant trees which would help the water table. One planting was on 'Big Hill' just out of Burrumbuttock and this is where she met a farmer called Brian. Sue was suspicious of Brian as he kept ringing and asking lots of questions about trees.

Not long after the 'Big Hill' tree planting, Brian and Sue got married on the 14th November, 1992. They went on to have two children, Stephen in 1993 and Emma in 1995. The family resides to this day on their farm 'Freeling' just north of Burrumbuttock.



Right: Brian and Sue on their wedding day

Below: Stephen, Brian, Emma and Sue at their farm gate.





Sue and the
Wirraminna committee



Planting at Wirraminna

Next in Sue's life came the journey of Wirraminna. Wirraminna was crown land. In 1994 residents of Burrumbuttock decided to make this area an arboretum where farmers could see what native trees and shrubs would look like. Wirraminna is an aboriginal word that means 'peace-quiet near still waters'. Sue started to volunteer here and when the Burrumbuttock school got involved, Sue started teaching the students about seed collecting and the partnership grew from there.



Sue teaching students about salinity at
Burrumbuttock Public School.

After the school came onboard (or as it's told, Sue persuaded the school to be involved), Sue was instrumental in the students' environmental education. Many projects were undertaken such as the 'bird garden', roadside plantings, bird watching and most of all what Sue is renowned for, seed collecting.



Sue continues to volunteer every Tuesday at Wirraminna as well as teaching when school groups visit. Whether Sue is weeding, collecting seed or planting, her passion for plants is continuously shown.



Top: Cleaning seeds with Sue

Bottom: Eastern Yellow Robin

We would like to thank Sue for giving us her time and for all the effort she has put in for this book. Sue believes that children should experience and learn about their environment otherwise how can we expect them to care for it. We hope Sue's passion for the environment continues on for future generations to enjoy.



Eddy Ziebarth, Nyah Eddy, Sue Rose,
Maddison Frohling and Rhys Mitsch

2013 Year 5/6, Burrumbuttock 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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