

The WIRES Lady: Hazel Cook



Catchment Champion

Grace Trebley and Ebony Trebilcock
Trinity College, Albury-Wodonga



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**

The WIRES Lady: Hazel Cook

Authors: Grace Trebley and Ebony Trebilcock

Teacher: Scott Melgaard

School: Trinity College, Albury-Wodonga

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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OUR
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Murrumbidgee

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This is the story of Hazel Cook who is part of the wonderful group, WIRES. This is a voluntary group that rescues and cares for Australian wildlife which are abandoned, injured or sick. WIRES stands for Wildlife Information Rescue Education Service.

Hazel has been part of this group for 9 years and has looked after over 405 birds and animals.



Feeding a baby flying-fox (top) and micro-bat (bottom)

Family Life

Hazel was born on the August 4, 1947 in Richmond, NSW. Hazel has three brothers and two sisters. Her father is Thomas Dixon and her mother is Joyce Smith-Dixon.

Hazel has two children, Helen Trebley and Erin Cook. She also has four grandchildren; Lewis (6) and Evie Cook (8), and Laura (10) and Grace Trebley (12).

Hazel with grandchildren, Grace and Laura Trebley





Grace Trebley with a baby kingfisher (top). Baby squirrel gliders (bottom).



School Years

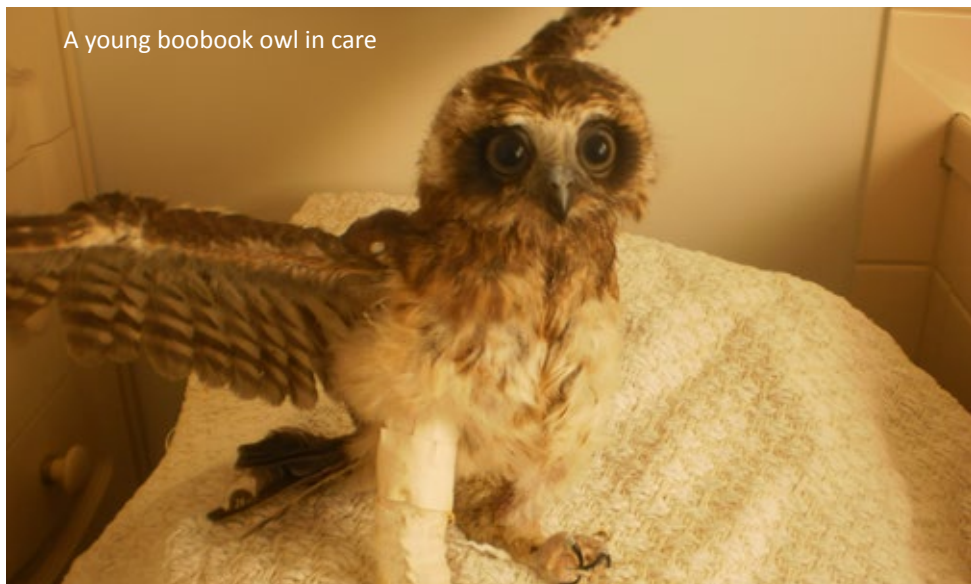
Hazel attended Bankstown Primary School and the Bankstown Girl's High School in Sydney, NSW.

WIRES Courses

The Albury area is home to a wide range of native birds and animals. To take proper care of animals which may come into WIRES care, Hazel has completed the following courses: large mammal, possum and glider, echidna, bird, raptor, reptile, snake handling, micro-bats, flying-fox and koala.

Hazel chose these courses because she had an interest in looking after those animals. In these courses you learn how to care for the animals in which the course is about. You have to redo the courses every 3 years or you are not able to care for that animal.

A young boobook owl in care



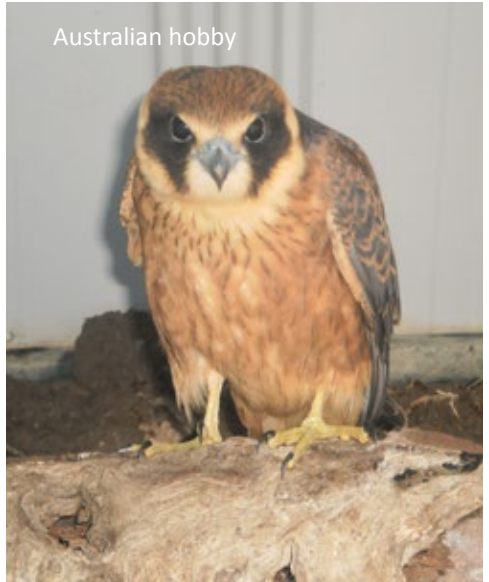
Pacific black ducklings



Barn owl

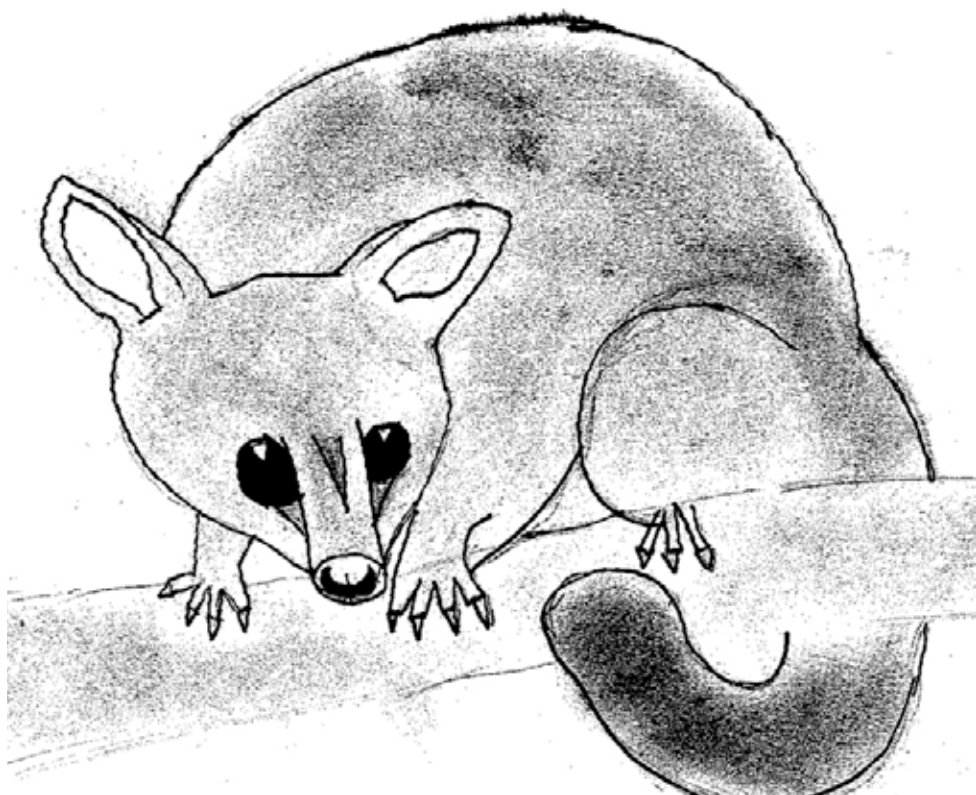


Australian hobby



Hazel's time in WIRES, Lowlights

The saddest story for Hazel was when she was looking after a baby possum. Hazel had gone on a holiday and had left the possum with a friend who was in WIRES. The day she came back home the possum unfortunately died. She had been looking after this possum for about 4 months when this happened.



Feeding the sea eagle



Hazel's time in WIRES, Highlights

Hazel has many new experiences in her time in WIRES. Her highlights include:

1. Looking after a beautiful sea eagle
2. Watching that same sea eagle fly away when it was released
3. Caring for a koala that had a Joey.



The Koala and the Joey

A mother and joey koala were found at Tocumwal after the mother was hit by a car. The Joey suffered only minor scratches, but the mother had a fracture on her face and a torn leg tendon. Hazel was chosen to look after these koalas as she had the most experience in WIRES and she had completed the koala course.

The koalas were sent to Dubbo Zoo, as the mother koala's leg could never properly heal, it is not able to be released.





The Beautiful Sea Eagle

The young sea eagle was found at the Hume Dam. People at the Hume Dam noticed the sea eagle having difficulty and called WIRES. WIRES assumed the sea eagle had back injuries because it struggled to fly. Another reason for this assumption was that when Hazel had to feed it she had to get someone to hold the sea eagle's head up as it could not lift it himself.

Hazel was the one to look after him because she had completed the raptor course. The sea eagle was sent to the Beechworth Jail Flight Aviary so that it could get its strength back before being released into the wild again.



Squirrel glider



Brown falcon being released

Hazel enjoys being in WIRES and plans to continue for a long time. She enjoys looking after the animals.

Hazel's message to you...

Remember that this is the animal's home too so, if there is a bird or lizard in your garden, leave it alone and make sure your dog or cat do too. That's its home. You could be doing more damage picking up the animal than leaving it alone. Also, if you see an injured animal or you have a question about an animal or about WIRES, just give them a call.

Enjoy the Australian animals in the bush. Respect them and care for their home.



Grace Trebley and Ebony Trebilcock

2013 Year 6, Trinity College, Albury-Wodonga

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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