

'Wyola' and Adrian



Campbell Smith and Freddy Simpson
Mullengandra 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 Local Land Services and school students by providing opportunities for positive and authentic ventures that encourage students to develop creative solutions to agriculture and natural resource management issues.

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

'Wyola' and Adrian

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School: Mullengandra Public School

Local Land Heroes

In 2014, students involved in the **Creative Catchment Kids** program researched and wrote stories about 'Local Land Heroes' - people, businesses or industries who contribute to productive agriculture and healthy environments along the Murray and Murrumbidgee rivers. The program was generously funded by Murray Local Land Services and Riverina Local Land Services.

Local Land Heroes acknowledges the United Nations 2014 International Year of Family Farming.
www.fao.org/family-farming-2014/en/



Local Land Heroes is part of Enviro-Stories, a Peekdesigns education program.



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Adrian ‘Pud’ Keogh is a farmer in Mullengandra. Adrian is the youngest of seven children to Mary and Ed Keogh. The family farm of approximately 1800 acres is named ‘Wyola’ and is about three kilometres north of the Mullengandra Public School. It is a mixed farm with cropping, sheep and cattle. ‘Wyola’ is owned by Adrian and Libby Keogh. It is managed by Adrian and his brother Gerard as part of their farming business.



Family

Adrian loved growing up on the farm with his four brothers and two sisters. His nickname is 'Pud'. He attended primary school in Holbrook and high school in Albury.

He met his wife Libby at the farm's woolshed when she was visiting with some preschoolers. Adrian and Libby married in 1996. They have three children named Nick, Jack and Leticia.



Farming on 'Wyola'

Cropping is one of the three main practices on 'Wyola'. Adrian farms fodder crops for the stock to eat. Fodder crops are when the stock eats the crop before it turns to grain. This fattens up the stock, especially if they are going to be sold. Sometimes, Adrian will leave the crops to go to seed for harvest.





Sheep farming is another practice. Most of the sheep on 'Wyola' are merino but some are crossbred. The merinos are farmed for their wool and the crossbreds are for their meat. The crossbreds are a merino crossed with a Border Leicester ram. The lamb from this cross is called a first cross ewe and then it is put over a Dorset ram.

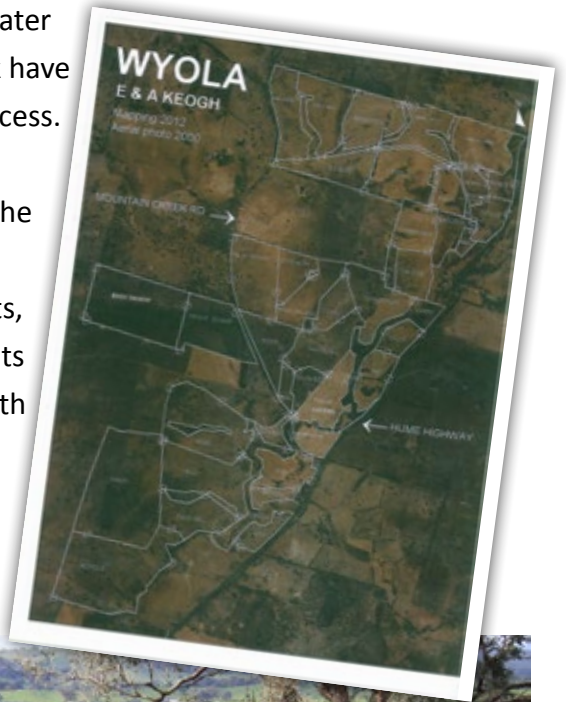


Adrian also farms cattle on 'Wyola'. Adrian breeds Angus cattle. They are bred especially for their meat. Angus cattle don't have any horns and can be either black or red.



The environment on 'Wyola'

Adrian has helped the environment by fencing off the creek lines on his farm to reduce the erosion of the creek banks and stop muddy water downstream, as his stock have limited and controlled access. Adrian has also created wildlife corridors to link the hills and the creek lines. This helps kangaroos, bats, birds, gliders and wombats move around his farm with minimal interference to crop and stock.



Changes in farming at 'Wyola'

Adrian says that one of the big changes in farming has been automation. When Adrian started farming everything was lifted by hand and now we have tractors that can do many lifting jobs. Today a lot of things are done in bulk, especially fertilizer which comes by the truck load and is tipped off and not by bags.





Another change is ploughing. They used to plough most paddocks but today they hardly make a mark by direct drilling or minimum tillage.

There are also a lot of changes in the genetics of animals. Today, Adrian buys in animals that grow quickly and have good genetics. Also, the animals are monitored for disease and worms and can be drenched accordingly.



There are also changes in shearing, with different yard designs which makes shearing time a lot easier. Another change Adrian sees is the amount of people working on the farm. When his mum was a child, there were lots of men needed to work the farm as everything was done by hand. Now with machinery, we need 1 man per 8,000 to 10,000 sheep equivalent.



Best thing about his farm

The best thing for Adrian is being able to raise his family on 'Wyola'.

Adrian also is proud that his siblings have supported him and allowed him to farm 'Wyola'. His siblings have helped Adrian by leasing him and Gerard other parts of the family farm.



The future of farming on 'Wyola'

As long as Adrian can keep producing cheaply and efficiently, farming has a future. By keeping costs down and sourcing more knowledge from around the world, Adrian sees a bright future in farming. Adrian hopes his children will one day be involved in 'Wyola' and farming in some way.

We would like to thank Adrian for taking the time to share his story with us. Farming and the environment are lucky to be in the hands of such caring and capable people as our 'Land Hero', Adrian Keogh.





Adrian Keogh, Campbell Smith and Freddy Simpson

2014 Year 5, Mullengandra Public School

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