

"Kotzur" A Walla Walla Tradition



Connor Bruckmann, Khiana Goltz-Wharton,
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Walla Walla 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

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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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Andrew Kotzur owns and operates Kotzur. Kotzur is a family owned, material handling projects, K-Rail fencing, silo manufacturing and sales business.





Andrew Kotzur grew up in the town of Walla Walla, NSW with his mother, father and two sisters.

Andrew attended Walla Walla Public School and St Pauls College, Walla Walla as a child.

Whilst growing up, Andrew's father owned and operated the Kotzur business. This was how Andrew became interested in the field of agriculture.



Later in life, Andrew married Michelle and they have two children Ben and Jessica. They live on a small property, which is located on the outskirts of Walla Walla. Andrew enjoys working on the farm because it is fun and relaxing.

If Andrew hadn't decided to become the owner and operator of the Kotzur business he probably would have taken up a career as a pilot and fly aeroplanes.

The Kotzur business was started in 1953 by Andrew's father, Raymond, in a small shed where the factory is still located today.

The first Kotzur grain silo was manufactured in 1962.

In the early 1990's Kotzur diversified and began to produce Bulk Materials Handling Facilities.

Today, it has become one of the leading manufacturers of grain and bulk storage handling facilities, ensuring their clients are getting the latest technology in their products.





Andrew has been working at Kotzur since 1981 (32 years) and has subsequently owned the business since 1997 (17 years). Andrew has a busy job, he provides quotes for his clients, he also assists with the design process and is the overall manager of everything associated with the business.



The Kotzur businesses are located in Toowoomba, QLD and Walla Walla, NSW. The Walla Walla business employs 85 people and in Toowoomba there are 25 employees. The Kotzur business has manufactured and sold around 22,000 silos.



Kotzur also manufacture silos for overseas clients in countries such as Indonesia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Fiji, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Africa and Congo.

Previously, the biggest silo made held 50 tonnes of wheat and there were only fifteen Kotzur employees in Walla Walla.

Now the buildings have expanded, they employ more people and they are able to manufacture more silos. The biggest silo that Kotzur have manufactured holds 10 000 tonnes of wheat.

Andrew enjoys working with his customers and employees. One of his favourite parts about the job is being able to fly around the country meeting new people and working with clients on projects.







Andrew Kotzur's business contributes to farming in the local area through the manufacture of silos, which make it easier for the farmers to store their harvested crops.

The Kotzur business has also won a number of awards including an award for grain storage design.

Andrew Kotzur has helped and supported the community by sponsoring local football clubs and employing local people. He also volunteers as a member of the Community Development Committee in Walla Walla.



Andrew plans to expand the business in the future, through the purchase of some new machinery. He also believes that farming will continue to go a long way in the local area.

At the moment Andrew's son, Ben, is studying engineering and may own and operate the Kotzur business one day.



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