

Beckom Farming Legends



Harry Collis, Jaymee-Lee Booth,
Jordan Booth, Oscar Day, Jim Griffin,
Emma Collis and Ben Grinter

Beckom 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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Authors: Harry Collis, Jaymee-Lee Booth, Jordan Booth,
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School: Beckom 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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An inspirational woman

Doreen Collis “Glenhope”, Beckom

Doreen has been a solo farmer since the death of her husband. She continues to live in the same house she was born in at “Glenhope” Beckom.

Doreen reflects on how farming is a whole different way of life nowadays. Things used to be a lot slower and a harder way to make a living.





Farming was really different mainly due to the technology that we have today.

When Doreen was little girl she loved working with her dad and is why she became a farmer. In those days they used horses to pull the plough to work up the ground but now we have tractors with self-steering. It used to take three weeks to harvest a 500 acre paddock but now with the technology, it takes three days.





Years ago with limited technology, Doreen used to store grain in grain sheds. Buyers would come to the farm and buy it straight from the shed.

Farming was really hard back in those days. Doreen said one of the hardest things was looking after all the horses. They used to grow wheat and oats. They grew wheat to sell and oats to feed the horses.





Another downside to farming were the rodents. In the grain sheds, once 3000 dead mice were found in a bathtub, which had been set up as a trap. They also had bugs in the crops which was really hard to deal with because they had no crop dusters to spray chemicals on the crops.

Doreen Collis is an inspiration to all women in a tough industry during times when things were not easy.



Mr. Leo Griffin

A true Beckom Farming Legend

Leo Griffin lived on the farm in the Beckom area for all his life and always wanted to be a farmer. He had two brothers and grew up in the homestead. He went to Beckom Public School.





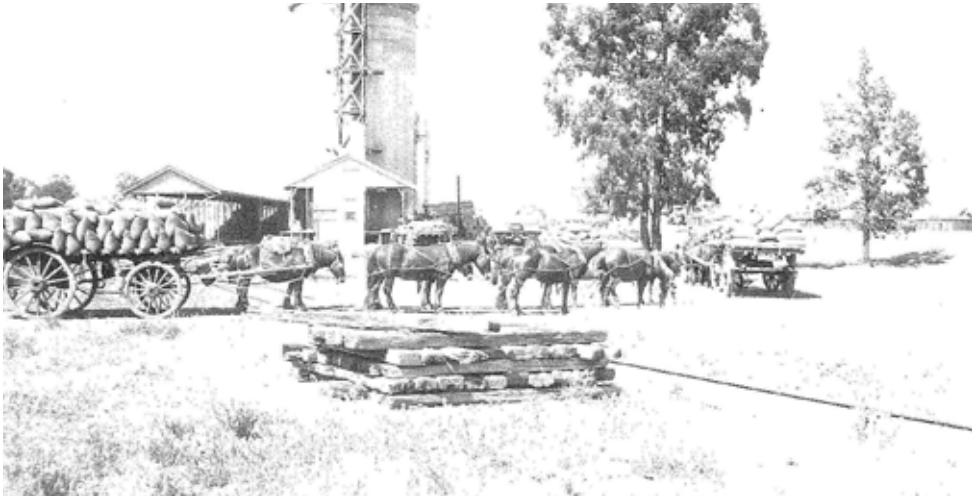
Mr Leo Griffin's dad used this old machinery to plough the crops; he had to sit on the uncomfortable old seat and the horses had to pull it along. If he wanted to make the plough go deeper into the ground he would have to pull the lever which was extremely hard. The first tractors had steel wheels and as soon as they came in, the horses started to go.





Back when Leo was a boy, he had a bridge from his back door to the other side of the creek. Unlike today, the creek was full of water so you could not drive through the creek. Due to dams being built and water being diverted out of the main creek, today the creek is dry most of the time.





Originally, horse and drays transported the wheat to Beckom Silo; nowadays large semi-trailers transport the wheat. The comparison between the tractor Mr. Griffin used to use and a tractor he uses today is evident. It would take at least twice as long to sow the crop with the old tractor. A lot has changed since Mr. Griffin was a boy but Leo Griffin and his family are still leaders in farming in the Beckom area today.



Beckom Farm Heroes

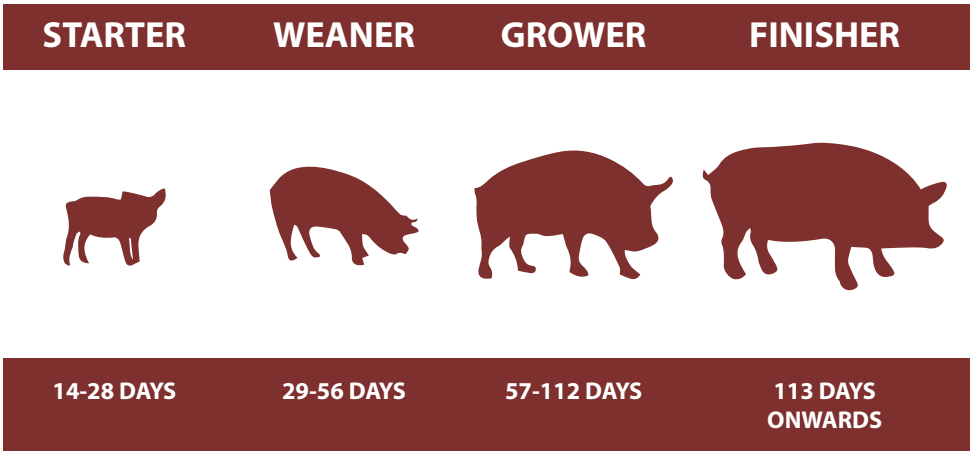
Phil and Linda Grinter, "Strathbogie"

Twenty years ago Phil bought a farm on which he built his piggery. He met and married Linda four years later. The piggery now runs 120 sows, farrow to finish, in total the piggery has approximately 1100 pigs.





Piglets stay with their mothers for approximately 28 days. They are sold to market at 23-24 weeks of age. Gilts (females that have not had a litter) are selected at this stage to enter their breeding herd. Sows/gilts are artificially inseminated or mated naturally by boars at mating times. Strathbogie runs on a 5 week cycle.





The quality of pigs has improved over the years with better feed and an industry based Quality Assurance Program, which ensures a first rate product for the market.

A pregnancy scanner is a modern gadget that helps Linda detect whether the sow is pregnant.





These pigs eat weaner food.

There are many different feeds in the piggery that are used for different ages of pigs. They are Lac Sow, Dry Sow, Creep, Weaner, Grower and Finisher feed. Feed is mixed on the farm using diets formulated from an animal based nutritional company.

Phil and Linda Grinter are innovative local farmers in this field.



These machines mix and make the food for the pigs.



Jordan Booth, Harry Collis, Ben Grinter, Jim Griffin,
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2014 Year 4, 5 and 6, Beckom Public School

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designs 



Local Land
Services
Murray



Local Land
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Riverina



Australian Government