

International Year of Farming Families

Cullinan's,
the Best of Both World's



Montana Norris, Jaxon McInnes,
Summer Halls and Matthew Hancock

Wentworth 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 Western 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 in western New South Wales. The program was generously funded by the Western Local Land Services.

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



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



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Introduction

This story is about Hayden Cullinan and his family. Hayden and his wife Fiona with their two children Jane, 9 and Lucy, 7 live out on 'Nindethana Station'. Hayden has lived on a property all of his life and in 1997 left the family property and moved to 'Nindethana Station'. The family have recently purchased a house in town which Fiona and the girls live in during the week to attend school.

About Hayden

Hayden grew up on Trelega Station which is 72 kilometres north of Wentworth, NSW. Hayden's childhood was lonely because he only had his brother and sister to keep him company. The roads weren't as good as they are now and he only ever went to town when his Dad played cricket. The kids at cricket were his only other friends. Hayden was home schooled through correspondence until Year 3, School of the Air in Year 4 and attended Wentworth Public School from Year 5.





The Farm

Fiona and Hayden have been farming for 16 years on their own station called 'Nindethana'. They are dry land farmers, who initially farmed merino sheep before moving to breed and farm Damara cross Dorpers. The Cullinan's farm is 74 kilometres out of Wentworth on the Broken Hill road. Their farm is 38,000 acres, which is not that massive in this area.



Local Industries

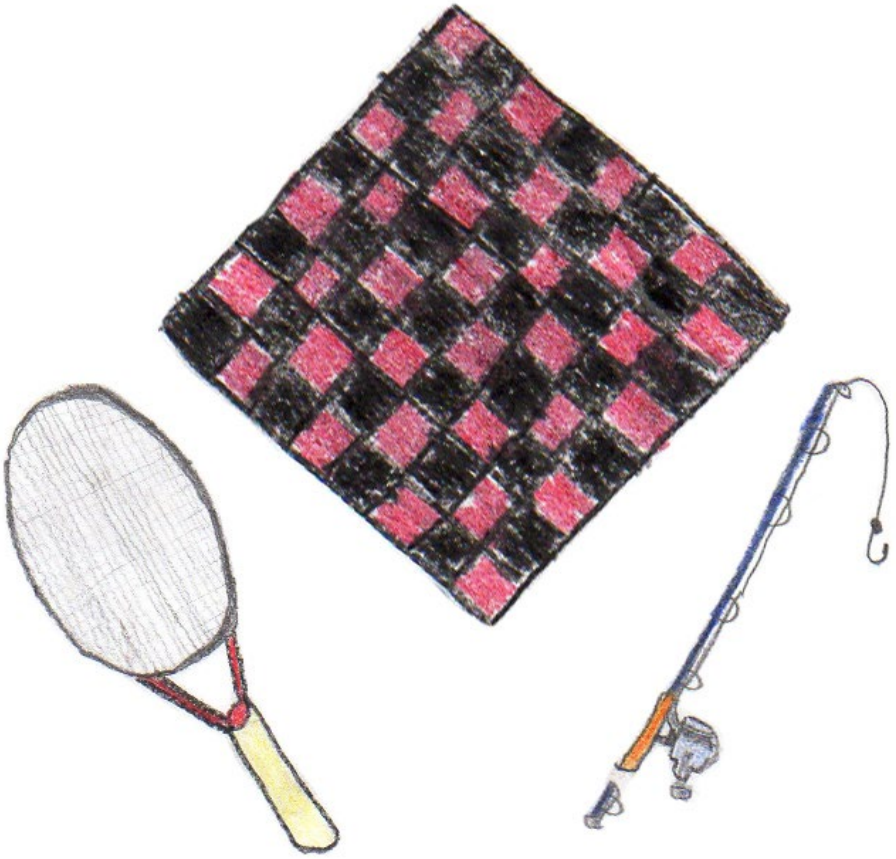
Hayden and his family contribute to the local economy by supporting local industries. They support local trucking companies, stock agents, they purchase merchandise such as chemicals and ear tags through the local Landmark store. They also support the local IGA supermarket in Wentworth.

Big Change

Over the years Hayden and his family have made many changes to their farming practices. Their most recent change was the type of sheep that they farmed. They changed from merinos (a wool sheep) to a Damara/Dorper cross sheep (a meat sheep). They made this big change because of the expense of shearing and the shrinking returns from selling wool.







Family Fun

The Cullinan family have lots of interests outside of farming. Their interests include playing tennis in Wentworth and at the Anabranh Hall. They also enjoy just spending time together as a family fishing, playing board games and travelling to Adelaide for weekends to spend time with other family members.

A little about Fiona

Fiona is a local girl. Her parents' names are Bill and Cheryl Vines, she has two brothers Tim and Mark. Fiona's first job was working in the office at the Wentworth Services Club where she worked for 11 years. Fiona currently works as a Teacher's Aide at Wentworth Public School and is studying to become a teacher. Fiona likes living in the country because it's a peaceful lifestyle. The only thing she likes about living in town is the socialising.





Lucy

Lucy goes to Wentworth Public School and is in Year 1. When we interviewed Lucy about what she likes about living in both town and on the farm, she said that she enjoys her farm life because she gets to ride the motorbike with her Dad. However she also likes her town life because of the lack of travel and being able to have friends over.





Jane

Jane attends Wentworth Public School and is in Year 3. Jane enjoys going to school because she loves learning new things, reading and playing with her friends. Jane likes her farm life because she gets to have lots of pets. She also enjoys her town life because she does not like to get up early to travel. She also loves going to dance lessons and playing tennis.





To be or not to be?

Hayden and Fiona are neither encouraging nor discouraging Jane and Lucy to be involved in agriculture, although they are encouraging the girls to get a good education. Then it is the girl's choice to either return to the farm or follow their own interests. Hayden and Fiona will happily support the girls in whatever they choose to do in the future.



Back: Fiona and Hayden Cullinan
Front: Montana Norris, Summer Halls, Jane Cullinan,
Lucy Cullinan, Matthew Hancock and Jaxon McInnes

2014 Year 5, Wentworth Public School

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Local Land
Services
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Australian Government