

David Wolfenden: Local Land Hero



Hayden Wardius, Yasmine Lieschke,
Harry Seidel and Jake Thomas

Walbundrie 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

David Wolfenden: Local Land Hero

Authors: Hayden Wardius, Yasmine Lieschke, Harry Seidel and Jake Thomas

Teacher: Renee Foran

School: Walbundrie 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.



Local Land Services
Murray



Local Land Services
Riverina



Australian Government

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David's Childhood

David grew up on the farm he is living on today with his Mum, Dad and sisters. His house was newly built when he came home from the hospital as a baby. As a child, David enjoyed working with wood and wire, and being active. David liked making and fixing things, but in the process often lost his father's tools.



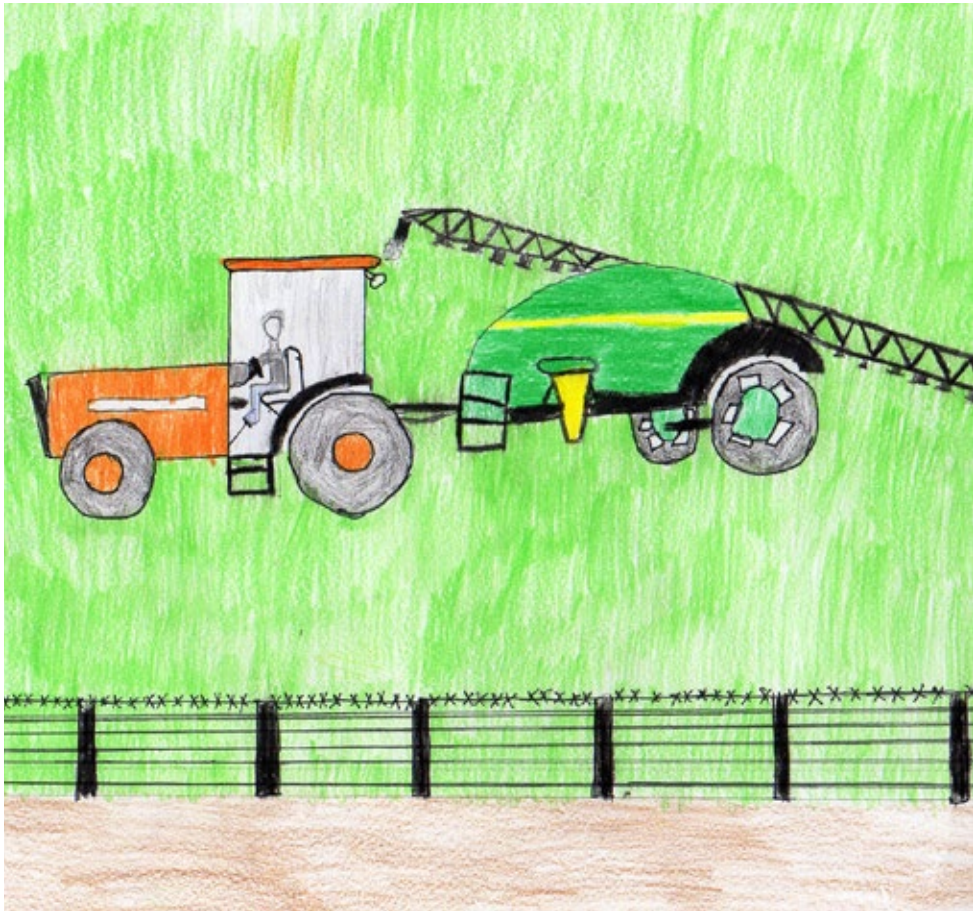
David's Family

David has two sons, Bede and Rhys. Bede is studying to be an engineer and Rhys is an aeronautical engineer for Boeing in Melbourne. David has two sisters, but they don't live around Rand anymore. One of his sisters, Lianne, owns a hobby farm near Canberra. David also has some cousins that live in Melbourne who he went to visit a lot when he was younger.



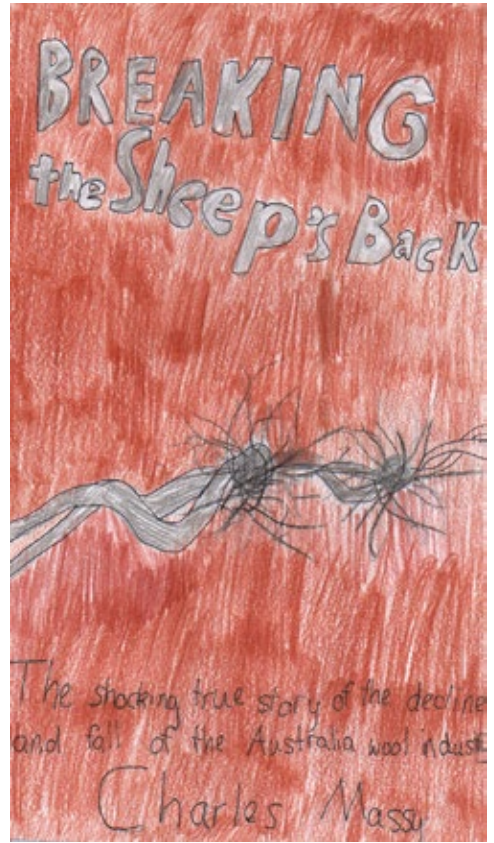
David's Education

David went to Rand Public School until Year 6 then onto Albury Grammar School, where he boarded during the week and came home on the weekends. After he completed his HSC, he studied Agriculture Economics at Sydney University.



David's Farm

David took over the farm when he was 22 years old, after his father retired. On his farm 'Allandale' David has merino sheep but he also grows wheat, canola, and triticale. His sheep pastures are mainly lucerne and sub-clover. David employs local people to help him on the farm, especially with his cropping.



David's Hobbies

David's hobbies are farming, gardening, reading, live theatre, skiing with his sons and going to see the AFL in Melbourne. His favourite teams are Sydney because he once lived in Sydney, St Kilda because when he was younger they were on the bottom of the ladder and Essendon because his cousins lived there.



Charles Sturt
University



Local Land
Services



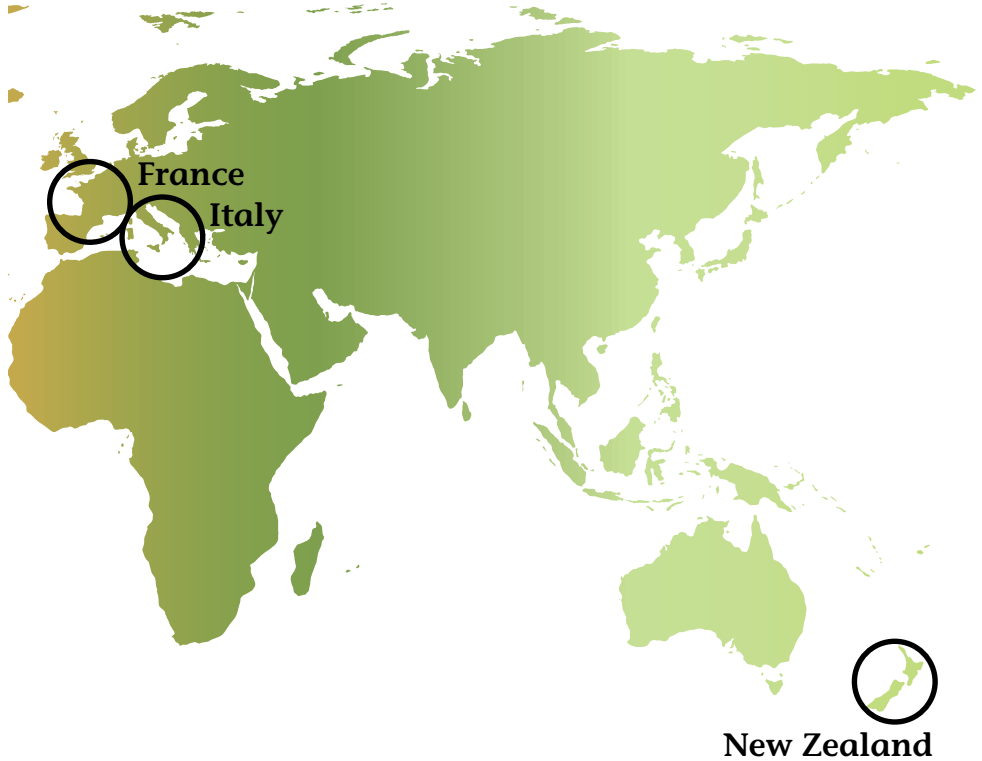
Organisations David is involved in

David loves being involved in both paid and volunteer jobs- he believes it makes life more interesting! He is on the board of the Walbundrie Co-Op and the Murray Local Land Services. David also serves on the Charles Sturt University Wagga advisory committee for agriculture courses, along with the Riverine Plains and Victoria Growers Group Alliance. He has also been involved in the NSW Farmers and Wool Council of Australia.



The best things about his job

David's favourite part of being a farmer is that farming is exciting, dynamic, ever changing, challenging and therefore fun. Some of the things he finds challenging about farming are the changing weather and market situations.



Travel

David's travels with his work have taken him to all corners of Australia, and indeed the world. He has travelled to Cannes in France, along with visits to New Zealand and Italy with the Wool Council of Australia, NSW Farmers has taken him to places like Sydney. While he's in these places he attends conferences to talk to other growers and processors and wool traders.



Striving for Improvement

David is learning about soil because soil is a farmer's factory. He says you can 'run' the factory better if you understand it. He uses an electromagnetic device to identify light and heavy soils. David also has a couple of special tree-lined laneways to help him with his sheep; David uses these laneways to make it easier and less stressful for the sheep when shifting them.



Retirement

David does not have any plans to retire. He intends to eventually scale back on his sheep and do more cropping. He is going to scale back to mostly crops because sheep are far more labour intensive and crops are a little easier to manage.



Thank you

We thank David for allowing us to write a book on his busy life and career. We really enjoyed having a tour around part of his farm. We also thank him for letting us use photos of him, his farm and his family.



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2014 Year 6, Walbundrie Public School

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