

# Farmers of Uranquinty



Ben Lewington, Hannah Billett  
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Uranquinty 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.

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## *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](http://www.wirraminna.org)

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## *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](http://www.mda.asn.au)

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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](http://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/](http://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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There are many successful farmers in Uranquinty. One of these farmers is Bruce Harris, who was born in Wagga Wagga.

Bruce chose farming by following after his father who was also a farmer. He produces a variety of things on his farm such as cattle, sheep, barley, canola and wheat.



There have been lots of advances in technology since Bruce started farming including the introduction of the auto-steer. Now his machinery includes John Deere tractors, agro drills and sprayers.

There are other workers on Bruce's farm too. They are his two sons and two other workers.

Bruce loves being outdoors in the sun. He improves the environment by conserving soil and planting new trees.





Dale Lewington lives on a farm south of Uranquinty. He was born in Wagga and has grown up around Uranquinty on a farm. Dale is a fourth generation farmer. He produces various things like beef cattle, wheat, canola, barley, lupins, oats and hay. In the future, he wants to continue improving and refining his farming practises so that he can farm sustainably for many years to come.





He has made some improvements on his farm lately by planting trees for windbreaks and shade for the cattle he produces, as well as spreading lime to increase the pH of the soil. Things have changed since he started farming like introducing technology such as auto steer. Farm management has also changed as previously you had to plough the paddock a couple times before you could sow but now direct drilling means you can sow straight away.



Dale has a lot of machinery on his farm. He has tractors, a header, an airseeder, a boomspray, a baler, mowers, trucks and augers. He does have workers on his farm. He employs part time workers as well as seasonal workers for harvest.



His farm improves the soil with lime and direct drilling practises which keeps erosion down. He also spends time controlling weeds. Other improvements include planting more trees for birds and shade.

Dale likes farming because it means working for yourself. Farming involves lots of diversity with different jobs throughout the year. Also the constant decision making is challenging and enjoyable.





This is Pamela Bourne. She is a farmer just out of Uranquinty. Pam and Bob's farm is called 'Weemont'. Pam was born in a private hospital in Wagga Wagga. Pam comes from a long line of farmers in her family. Her family farm has not just influenced her, but also her two sisters and two brothers.



Pam and her husband, Bob, work hard every single day to produce oat crops, stock feed/hay, pasture, lucerne, clover, cattle and sheep. Bob and Pam Bourne are happy with the way things are going on their farm and they say they wouldn't change a thing.

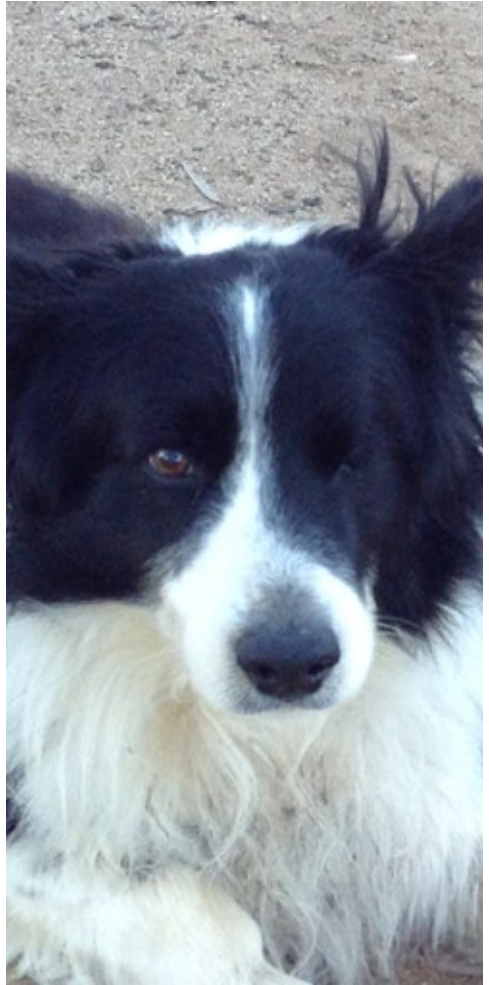


Since Pam and Bob started farming a lot of things have changed, such as technology. Pam said that everything is computerised now and much easier to use and much easier to do farm jobs.

Pam and Bob Bourne have two casual workers on their farm. These workers help with general maintenance, farm work and shearing.



Recently on their farm, they built a new hay and machinery shed so that they can store the hay without getting any moisture in it and to stop the machinery from getting wet. Mrs Bourne uses all sorts of machinery on her farm, like the tractor and the spray unit. Pamela sometimes uses the cattle truck to transport cattle to and from town.



Pam and Bob love working on the farm because they love helping the environment. Pam said that their farm improves the environment by sowing the crops. Sowing stops the soil and the seeds from blowing away. The couple have also recently planted a great big line of plantation trees. Another reason why Pam and Bob love farming, is because they love working with and helping the animals on their farm, 'Weemont'.





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Local Land Services  
Murray



Local Land Services  
Riverina



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