

Frank Old: The Organic Farmer



Samuel Simmons, Keely Gaston,
William Scott and Sarah Grant

Balranald Central 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

Frank Old: The Organic Farmer

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Teacher: Bruce Scott

School: Balranald Central 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 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 Peekdesigns education program.



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Frank Old is an intelligent man who owns 'Emu Park' floodplain. He is an organic wheat farmer who loves working on his farm. Some of the things he does involving work are planting the seeds, flooding the paddocks and draining the paddocks before slashing the weeds.





Frank was born in Kyalite, NSW. His family lived at Mascotte and moved to Tooleybuc in 1956.

In 1959, Frank moved to a farm called 'Myall'. He attended Balranald Central School and Yanco Agricultural High School.





THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Frank didn't know that he wanted to be a farmer as a child. Although he loved sport, Frank knew that he had to be really good to make a job out of it.

Frank went to the University of Sydney but didn't enjoy it; he only stayed for a brief time.



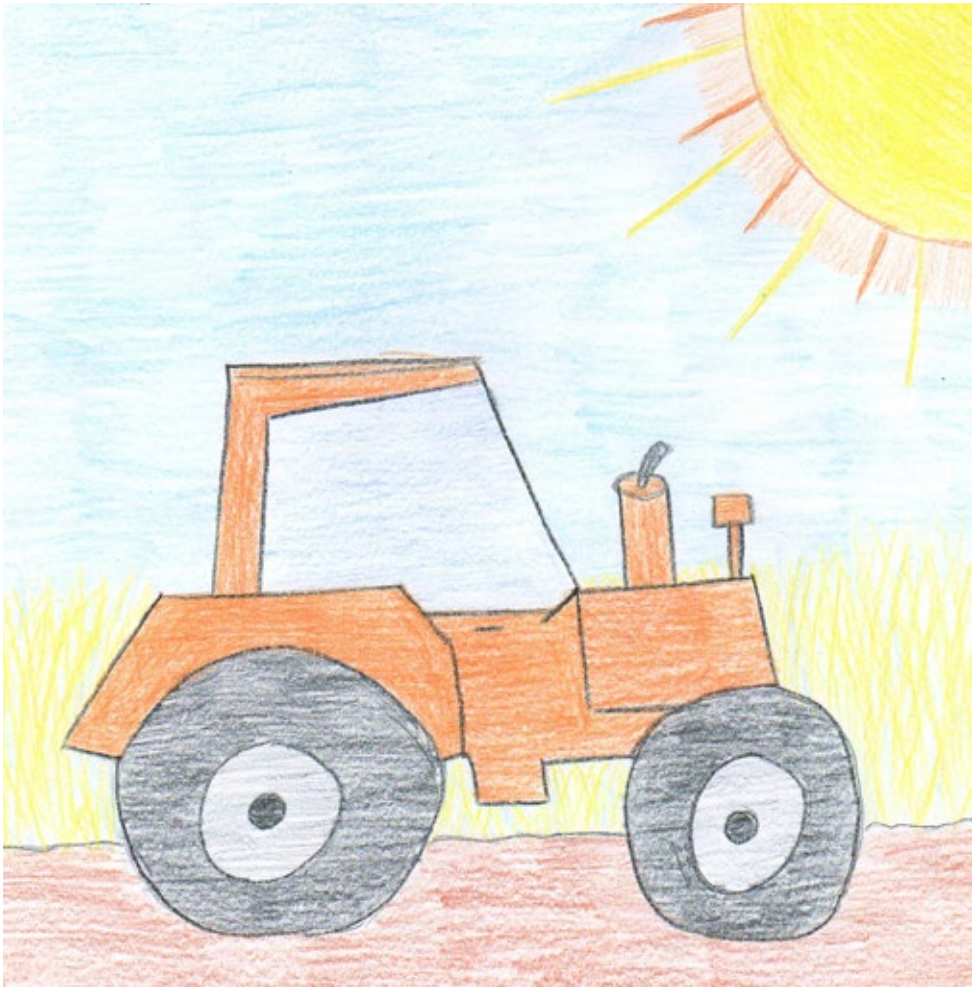
Frank married Robin Brown in 1979; they had three children - Dustin, Lincoln and Valley. Frank believes that farming is a family operation. "It's more we, than me," he explained. All of his children and siblings help out on the farm.



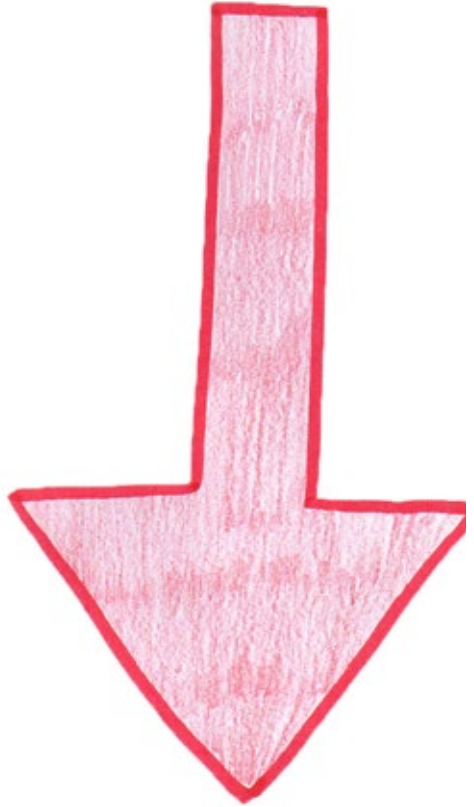
Frank sells his organic wheat overseas. He sells his produce to New Zealand, Switzerland, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, Hungary, Europe, Canada and Japan. He has been certified organic through NASAA (National Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Australia).



In Frank's time, he has owned cattle, Dorper sheep and wild billy goats. He explains that most of the troubles he has had in the past was keeping feed and water up to the animals. Another trouble (especially with Dorpers) is keeping them in your own property and making sure they don't escape!



Frank has been involved in farming for approximately 35 years. Frank was the co-founder of Balranald Inc. He also helped out the Balranald Race Club. When Frank went to university he also did odd jobs for twelve months.



Most of the tough times Frank has had have been in droughts, bushfires and poor commodity prices. But Frank said to us, “One of life’s greatest rewards is having three meals a day and having a loving family to fall upon in hard times.”



Frank talked to us about when he was living with his family, his parents would always help and support him. Above all, they would always be there for him. Frank is a man who would go out of his way to help anyone in need of it.



Being a father of three and having one brother and one sister, Frank tries his best to help every one of them no matter what. He is passionate about his family and does not like to see people try so hard to only give up.



Frank farms in a unique way that inspires people to follow in his footsteps and farm the way he does. As an organic farmer, Frank has inspired many people by his farming and intelligent personality. We thank him very much for allowing us to write this book about him.



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2014 Year 6, Balranald Central School

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