

Gordon Close

The passionate farming hero



Abbey Marshall, Jade Selwood,
Sarah Orro and Bree Knowles

Finley 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: Abbey Marshall, Jade Selwood, Sarah Orro and Bree Knowles

Teacher: Jess Seco

School: Finley 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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This is the story of Gordon Close the quiet achiever from Finley. He has had many achievements during his life but the one he is most proud of is his children. Gordon has two children, Charlotte and Tom, and a wife Nicole. He was born in Finley Hospital and attended Tuppal Public School until year 6. He then went to Finley Public School and Finley High School.



As one of Gordon's jobs, he works at Finley High School looking after all of the animals in the Agricultural Farm. His favourite part of farming is lambing time and he loves taking care of the new baby triplets at the high school. Both Gordon and his wife Nicole work at Finley High School and share a love of animals.



Gordon's farm has well over 100 Poll Dorset sheep, cattle and crops. The crops are only grown to feed the animals. He makes sure that his sheep have the best barley from his farm.

Gordon grew up on a farm and his absolute favourite thing to do was to drive a tractor. He left school in Year 10 and went straight into farming.

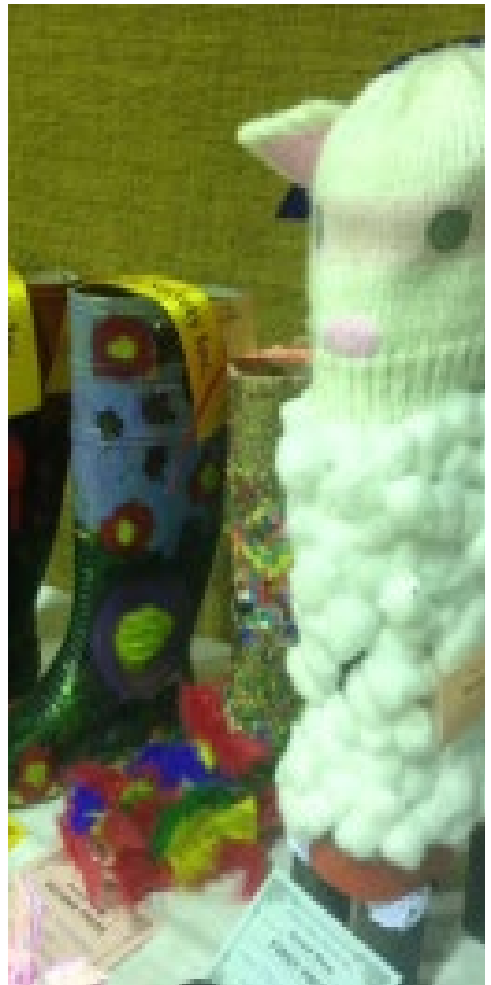




Gordon is the President of the Finley Show Society. Finley Show is a one-day show held every year on the first Sunday of September, Father's Day. It showcases local talent as well as the talent of those who have travelled large distances to participate. Gordon ensures that the Finley Show runs smoothly and everyone is doing their job properly.



Mr. J.T. Close (Gordon's great grandfather) was the founder of the Finley Show and President from 1913-1921. Gordon has carried on this tradition by becoming the President of the Finley Show in 2005-2007 and 2013 to this day. He has enjoyed working with the whole town and community, bringing together a successful show each year for Finley and the wider community.



Gordon works closely with the Finley High School students to prepare and show the sheep and cows at the Finley Show. He works every day at the Finley High School taking care of the animals in the agricultural area. Gordon loves working with the students and teaching them the proper ways to treat and care for the animals.





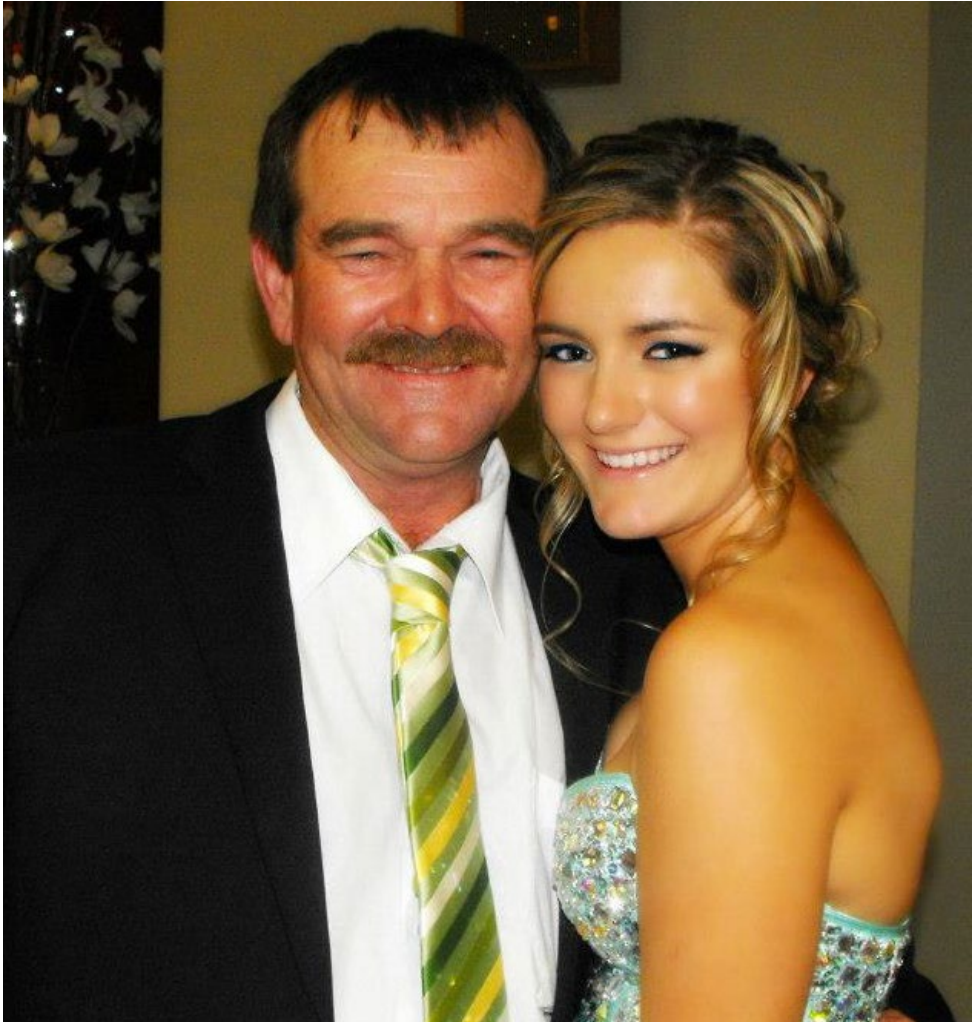
Gordon is the Chairman of the Australian Poll Dorset Association's NSW State Committee. He promotes the buying and farming of Poll Dorset sheep to people around Australia, particularly in regional NSW. He farms Poll Dorset sheep on his own land and assists in the farming of Poll Dorset sheep at Finley High School.



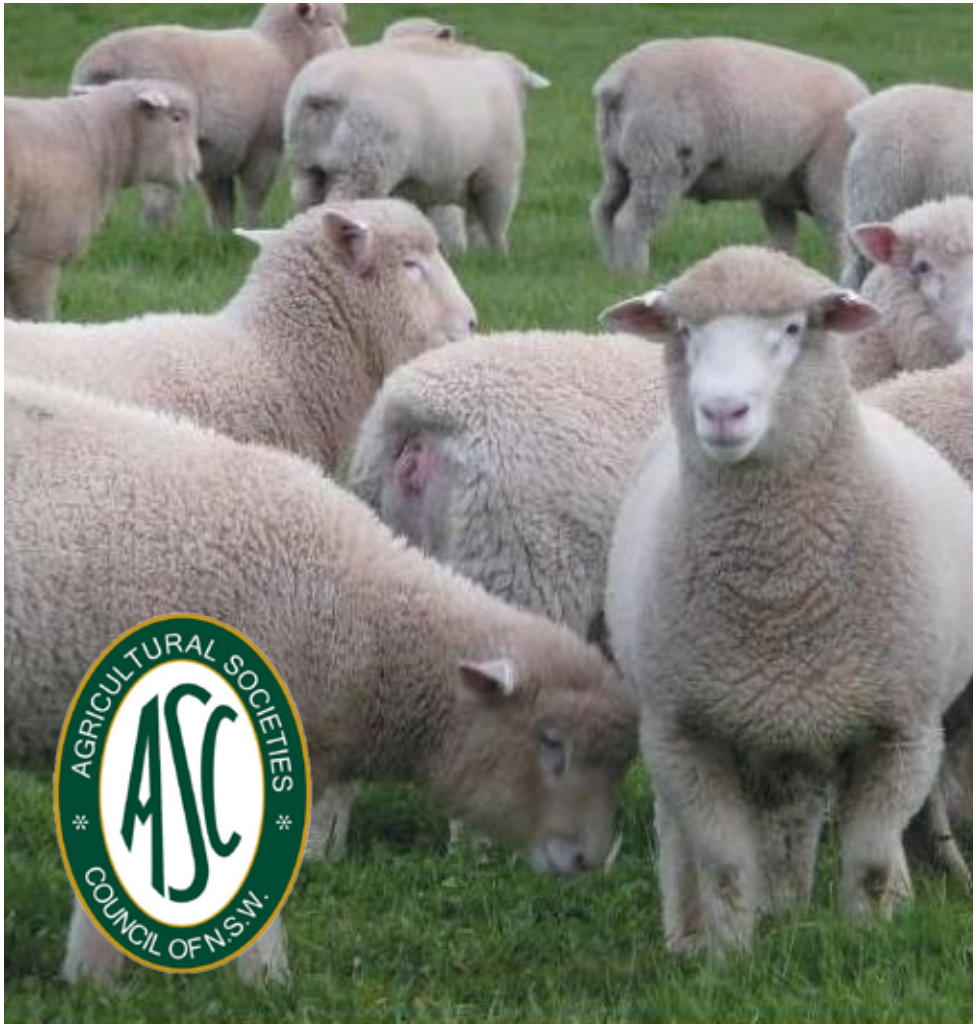
Gordon has inspired many people, especially Finley High School students. He explains how to take care of the animals, how to feed them and how to keep the animals safe from predators. His skills and expertise in sheep farming has led to many students wanting to take part in agricultural shows and care for animals in some way.



Gordon has had many achievements over the years and has worked extra hard to have the best Poll Dorset sheep in the area. He has won Best Champion Suffolk Ewe at the Bendigo Show, helping Charlotte prepare and show her sheep. He has helped Finley High School to have the best prepared sheep at the Holbrook and Canberra shows.



When Gordon is not working with sheep, he watches his daughter Charlotte play netball and watches the Jerilderie Football Club. While Charlotte was growing up, Gordon enjoyed taking her to netball games around the area. Gordon also loves spending time with his family. He enjoys listening to his kids and discussing what is happening in their lives.



Gordon has achieved a lot in his life so far but a huge future ambition of his is to win a broad ribbon at a major show such as the Australian Sheep and Wool Show and the Australasian Poll Dorset Championship Show. In order to win this he has to breed the correct type of sheep that the judges will like. Gordon Close is a true local hero.

Photos courtesy of <http://www.agshowsnsw.org.au/>



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Australian Government