

Henty Machinery Field Days



Sophie Bedggood, Nell Malmo,
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Nick Eddy and Thomas Newton



Henty 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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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/

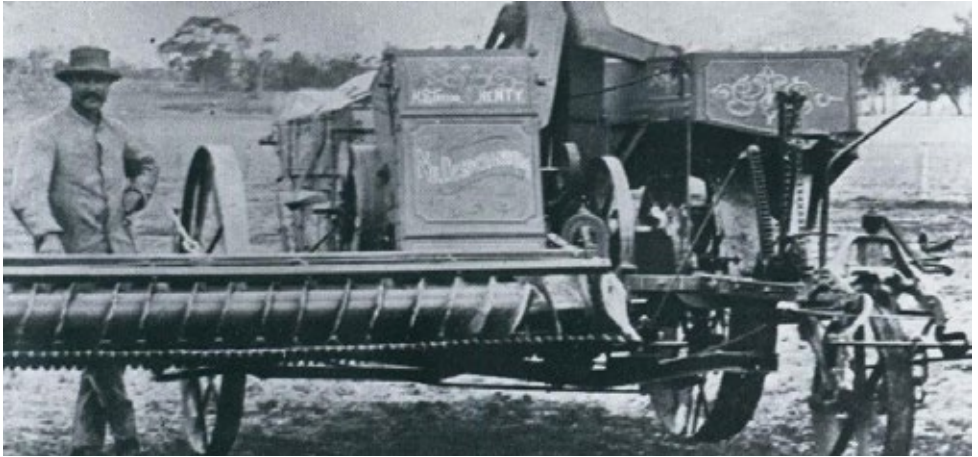


Local Land Heroes is part of Enviro-Stories, a Peekdesigns education program.



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The Beginnings

The Henty Machinery Field Days (HMFD) started at the Henty Showgrounds in 1962. It moved to several properties until it got too big, and was moved to the current site, on the Cookardinia Road, east of Henty in 1976.

The HMFD started because farmers got too much rubbish in their grain. A header school started to assist farmers to improve their grain quality.





What are the Henty Machinery Field Days?

The Henty Machinery Field Days is an agribusiness supermarket. It takes place annually in the third week of September, showcasing the latest in farming machinery, produce and agronomy.

Different companies and businesses come from all around the country and spend three days there. There are over 800 exhibitors and 1200 sites on the permanent 105 hectare site.



Lots to see and do!

At the HMFD several events take place. The idea is to have things that appeal to many different people. Farmers can purchase machinery and equipment, such as tractors, headers, trucks, trailers and motorbikes. There are shows to entertain people, new inventions, competitions and household items that are demonstrated and can be bought. Fresh produce and plants can also be purchased.



Competitions and Prizes!



The dog trials is a very popular competition and are watched by big crowds. Women can also take time out to visit the large ladies tent which offers a range of clothing, jewellery, cosmetics and much more. Students from the local high school model clothing made from wool and other natural fabrics, which is another popular competition at the field days.



How Henty Benefits

The Henty Machinery Field Days provides many benefits for Henty and surrounding districts.

Some of the money spent assists local business and groups within the town. The increase in accommodation and sales in the shops is a good boost for our local economy. Local clubs and groups, including schools and other non-profit organisations work at the site enabling annual fundraising opportunities.





Catering

Local organisations and clubs from the wider district supply the food and drinks at the site. There is a wide choice of eating areas providing everything from takeaway to sit-down meals. Volunteers provide their time over the week to work in the food sheds. Every effort is made to source supplies locally, giving business and suppliers the opportunity to benefit.





For the Young

The young are not forgotten at the HMFD. There are kids clothing stalls. Miniature toy tractors and farm equipment are sold. Craft and fun activities are available. Many environmental groups provide the opportunity to make practical household items and learn about safety. There are live animals on display for children to interact with and enjoy. Show bags are always very popular.



Future Plans

The Board of the HMF D has great plans for the future. These plans include an Events Pavilion (50 x 100m) which would be able to host events such as conventions, equestrian, truck and camping exhibitions and even music concerts. There is a beautification project underway that will increase the vegetation at the site and trees that pose a risk are being lopped and replanting is taking place.





The Song

'There was movement at the country,
For the word had gone around,
The professionals are coming to town,
For the Henty Machinery Field Days coming in from miles
around.

Bringin tractors, trailers, seeders and balers,
Trucks, 4 wheel drives and ploughs,
Bringin headers and scrapers and big cultivators,
With experts who can show a man how.

And fifty thousand people will all be coming too,
Seeing things for better or for worse,
Cause everybody knows when a farmer's going places,
He goes to Henty Field Days first.

Going to the Henty Field Days,
Lot of good people there,
See you at the Henty Field Days,
Nothing like it anywhere'.



We thank all of the people who have assisted us by providing information and photographs. Many generously donated their time to answer our questions and deepen our knowledge of the Henty Machinery Field Days history, its impact on our community and the exciting future directions. We are fortunate to live in Henty and be part of such an innovative event.





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peek
designs 



Local Land
Services
Murray



Local Land
Services
Riverina



Australian Government