

# How Nick and Susie: Reduce-Reuse-Recycle



Ellen Lavis, Dougal Robb, Alex Lavis, Ryan Good,  
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Lowesdale 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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School: Lowesdale 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/](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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## *Introduction*

Nick Hogan and Susie Scott are part of the Lowesdale Public School community. They own and operate a business that collects unsaleable food from various suppliers and turns it into useful animal feed.



## *Getting Started*

In 2001, during the drought, Nick Hogan started the business. In 2006, Nick bought the Daysdale property that they are living on now. They started off feeding their animals with mostly bread and rice crackers. Then they started selling liquid feed.





Nick and Susie needed to feed the cattle because the drought made the feed dry up. They also wanted to help recycle food. So they started getting the food and turning it into new food to feed their animals.





## *The Processing Plant*

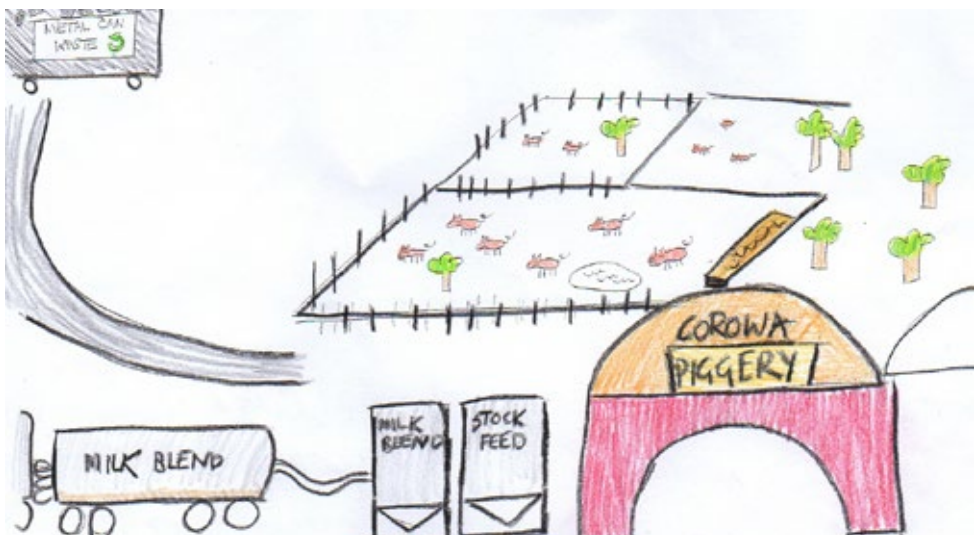
The processing plant is in the industrial part of Corowa. All the food is collected and transported from the suppliers to the plant. It is then opened and processed using a variety of machines Nick Hogan devised.







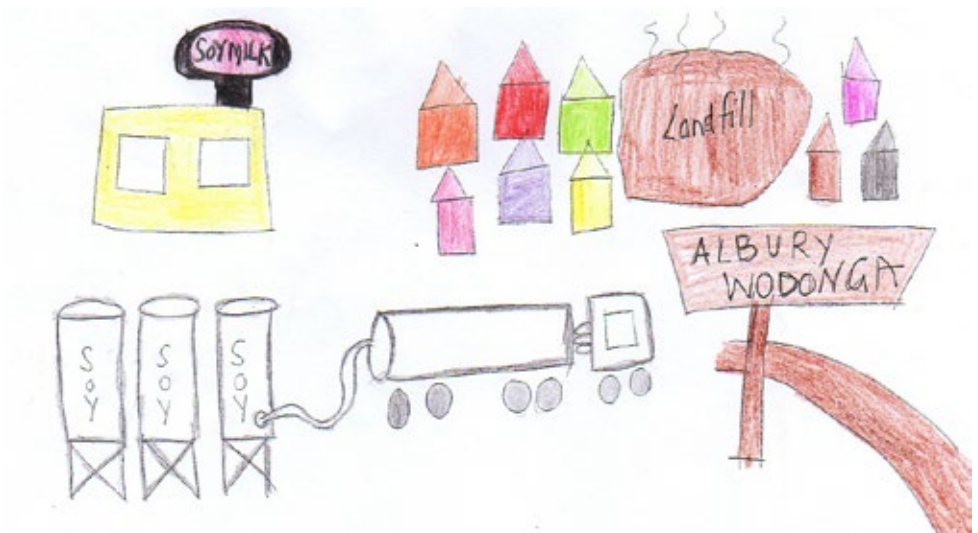
After being mixed, some is fed to stock at their farm, some is sold to a local piggery. It is transported in bulk in one of their trucks. The packaging is sorted and as much as possible recycled.





## *Environmental Benefits*

There are many benefits to recycling food. The food and waste were being put in a landfill close to a residential area in Wodonga. Nick and Susie have helped reduce the smell and excess food there. The Hogans are using the waste usefully.





### *Link to Lowesdale*

Nick and Susie are connected to Lowesdale Public School because two of their kids are students who attend here. Susie works at our school as an art teacher, and lots of students in our school know Nick.



Photos: (bottom) Nick and Susie with their children Lachie, Sommers, Indi and Will; (right) Lachie and Sommers.





## *Improvements*

The Hogan's processing project has improved in many different ways. They made machines for unpackaging different products. They use trucks to collect the food and deliver the animal feed. They currently employ ten people and are planning to employ more.





## *Future Directions*

Future directions include upgrading equipment and improving the industry.

Most of the waste gets recycled, but some (like tetrapacks) is unrecyclable here. If the Hogan family business continues, they plan to export some waste to China where it can be fully recycled.





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Australian Government