

# Jim Pratley's Life in Agriculture



Lily Watkins, Victoria Kean,  
Ashley Gardiner and Cassie Baker

Kapooka 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.



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*Jim and his family*

Jim Pratley is a Professor of Agriculture and he has worked at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga for 40 years. Jim loves his career very much and he encourages people to become a professor.

Jim is married with three children, two girls and one boy. Jim's first date with his wife (then girlfriend) was at the Royal Easter Show. But instead of taking her on the rides, he took her to the chickens! The other love of his life.



*Jim feeds the chickens*

# Jim's hobbies



Jim's hobbies include agriculture (of course) but also cricket, rugby, squash, tennis and being on the farm. He started most of these hobbies when he was young.

# Farm animals

Jim has enjoyed the whole time he has been working.  
He says he has always had agriculture in his life, which is  
why he loves it so much.



# Farm land

The person who gave Jim his interest in his job was his father. He was very passionate about farming and working with animals. Jim loves working on the farm with plants and animals because he grew up around them his whole life.





# Wheat



Jim loves what he does. Agriculture saves lives by growing crops to feed everyone. "Luckily in Australia we can have what we want, when we want it. Some countries barely eat but what we want to do is feed everyone around the world."



*Sharing his knowledge*

Jim is looking forward to people following in his footsteps and fulfilling his dream, because he helps people and animals survive.

This is an important job to do because we would not have food without agriculture.

Jim is all about making a difference. He says it is important to choose a job you enjoy.

"As a teacher, I love teaching young people to go out into the work force and make a difference."



*Teaching a student about crops*

# Jim's weed medal

Jim has won many awards and medals for his work over the years. One of these awards is the Council of Australasian Weed Societies medal.



# The Allelopathy Award

He has also been awarded the Allelopathy Award. It is for creating allelochemicals (biochemical) that influence the survival and reproduction of other plants. Jim was very proud when he won this.



# *Jim enjoying agriculture*

Jim is a very happy man all because of his family and his agriculture. He doesn't mind taking time to teach, help and learn. Jim has and always will have agriculture in his life.







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2014 Year 5 and 6, Kapooka Public School

peek  
designs 



Local Land  
Services  
Murray



Local Land  
Services  
Riverina



Australian Government