

Moovin' Milk



Kieran Eady, Jake Eady
and Cameron McDougall

Ladysmith 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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School: Ladysmith 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.



Local Land Services
Murray



Local Land Services
Riverina



Australian Government

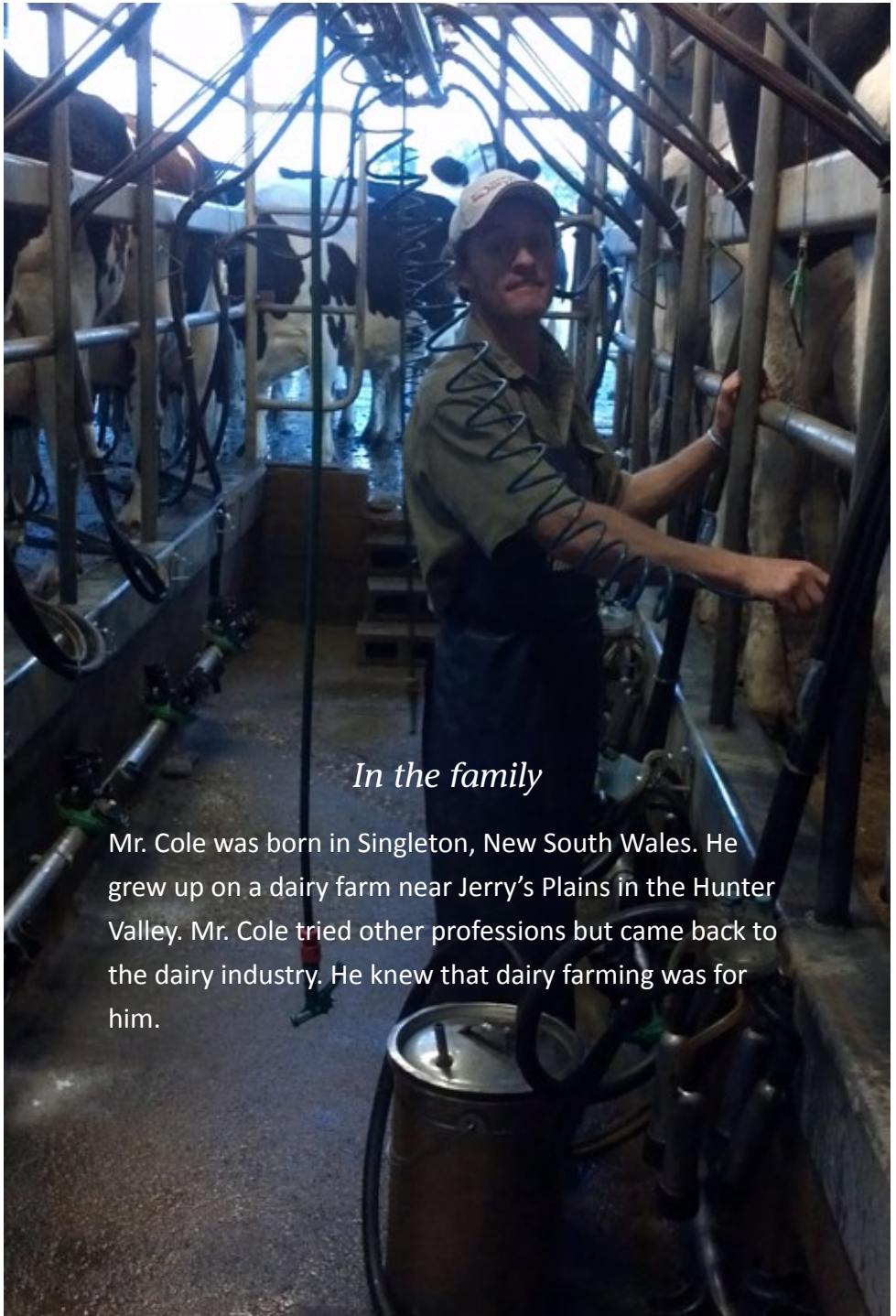
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The Cole's

This story is about the Cole's dairy farm which is situated 10 kilometres from Ladysmith and is only a short drive from Wagga Wagga, NSW. Stewart is the owner of the dairy farm along with his wife Rebecca and daughters Matilda and Indiana. Matilda attends our school at Ladysmith Public. They are a dairy farming family that has lived in the area for nearly six years.





In the family

Mr. Cole was born in Singleton, New South Wales. He grew up on a dairy farm near Jerry's Plains in the Hunter Valley. Mr. Cole tried other professions but came back to the dairy industry. He knew that dairy farming was for him.



Showing the cows

Every year the Cole family takes some cows to either the Royal Melbourne Show or the Sydney Easter show and enters them in events.

They are judged on appearance and awarded ribbons if successful. Mr. Cole's daughter, Matilda, was lucky to be on the front page of the Daily Telegraph after entering her cow in the Sydney Easter Show in 2013.



The industry

Mr. Cole has been dairy farming since he was a young boy with his parents. He provides milk for the public to drink. After the cows are milked early in the morning and later in the afternoon the milk is stored in big tanks. The milk is kept at a certain temperature until it is transported by truck to the processing plant.





Stewarts daily activities

Stewart and Rebecca get up at 5:30am and start milking the cows at 6:00am. The calves and cows are given a feed of grass and water whilst the Coles do odd jobs around the farm as well as getting Matilda off to school. The dairy is then washed down to allow for a second milking at 4:00pm.





Future of farming

Mr. Cole says, “dairy farming and farming as a whole has a bright future, we as farmers need to provide food and milk for people to consume. The country we live on has soft creek flats for us to continue our business so the future is looking good.”



Effect of the floods

Two years in a row the April floods have struck. The floods covered the majority of the farm and were a metre high up on the dairy. It was a tough time for farming around the Ladysmith and Wagga areas, making it near impossible to milk at 6.00 am and 4.00 pm every day. Livestock needed to be shifted to higher ground and away from the water.



Other commitments

Mr. Cole is a busy man. He is actively involved with daughter Matilda's school. He has brought many cows down to use at the school fete and for the pet day when he showed us some baby calves. We also played cow pad bingo with one of the Cole's favourite dairy cows.



Changes to the industry

Mr. Cole has noticed a few changes in his time at the farm. He noticed that the Murray Darling Basin Plan, to save water, has made it more costly and water is scarce. If he doesn't have enough water to grow food for his cows then the milk production will suffer. Prices of production have risen for the use of electricity and income is changing rapidly.



Encouraging his children

Mr. Cole grew up on a farm and was encouraged by his parents to work on their dairy farm. Mr. Cole now encourages his children to work on their dairy farm and give them the same opportunity he was given. His daughters are already helping on the farm at a very young age.





The future of dairy

Mr. Cole believes that farming in the Ladysmith area is strong. “We need a dairy farming industry as people won’t stop drinking milk”. We would like to thank Mr. Cole and his family for teaching and letting us write about his farm and the dairy industry.



Mr. Cole, Kieran Eady, Jake Eady and Cameron McDougall

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