

The Trevethan Family Farm



Tahlia Winter-Weidner, Ella Clarke,
Cheyenne Kells and Rorey McNamara

Howlong 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: Tahlia Winter-Weidner, Ella Clarke,
Cheyenne Kells and Rorey McNamara

Teacher: Cindy Rebbechi

School: Howlong 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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Ian Stuart Trevethan

Ian and his family work on several farms near Howlong, Brocklesby and Corowa. He was born in Albury and grew up on a farm between Howlong and Burrumbuttock. 'Trevie', as his mates call him, has a passion for farming and enjoys going to work every day.



The family farms

The four Trevethan family farms are known by the names of Tara, Benuick, Argyle and Dunoon. Ian and his family also manage share farms and lease farms. Together, the Trevethan family manages about 5500 acres. Ian is the second generation on the farm, with his parents being the first. His parents bought their first full time working farm in 1982.





The Trevethan Family

Ian believes his number one job is being a husband and a father. His family consists of his wife Mel, daughters Mikayla 11, Olivia 2 and son Jed 8. He has an extremely busy life but feels farming is something he has always wanted to be involved in and he couldn't imagine not working on the farm.

Changes in farming

Ian has seen massive changes in farming throughout the years. He has had to learn many new things and change his techniques in performing some of the simple tasks around the farm. Some changes have been through technology. Farmers have gone from having tractors that have no windows or air conditioning, to having tractors that can steer themselves!



The use of computers in everyday farming

Computers organise the amount of grain planted, the amount of fertiliser applied and the depth of its application. Computers control the length and width of grain rows. The tractor can drive the length of rows with the farmer only needing to turn the tractor around at the end of the line.



Lots of work to be done

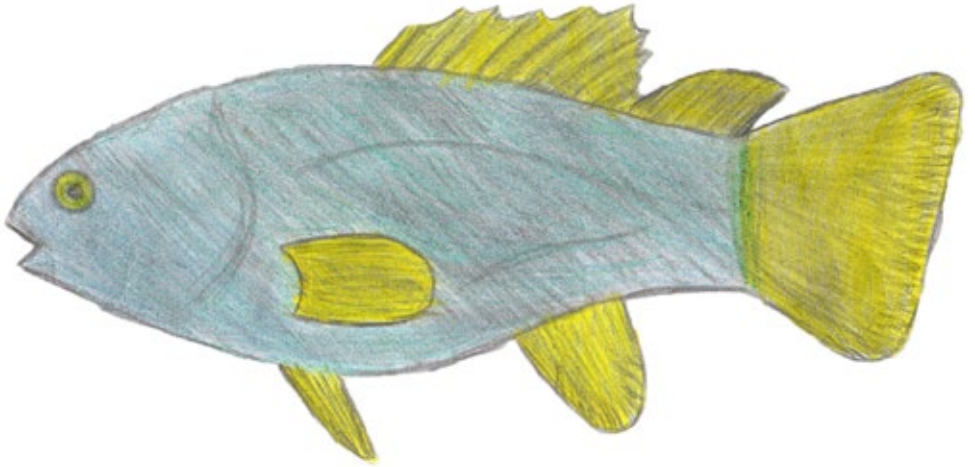
A variety of jobs need to be done on the farm. The farm consists of a range of enterprises including sheep, wheat, barley and lucerne crops, fish farming and olive groves. Sowing, spraying and harvesting all take a large amount of time and Ian finds he has to work long hours to complete all the tasks that need to be done.



The family fish farm

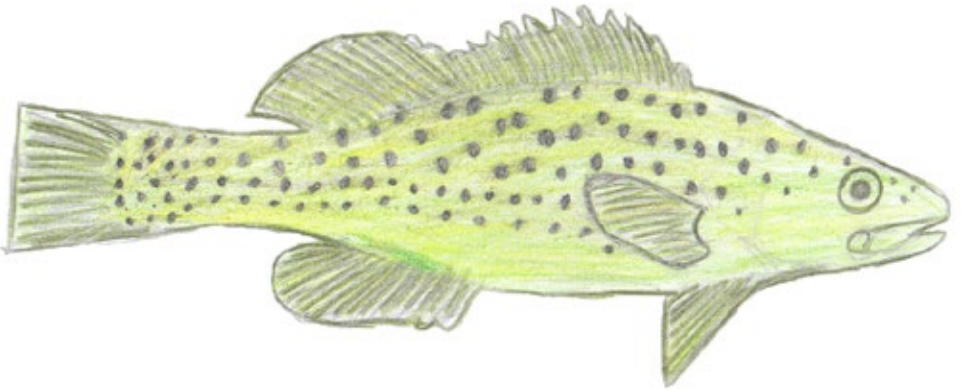
At Tara, one of the family farms, they also have a fish farm. Ian breeds fish in man-made channels and sends his fish to the Chilled Fish Markets and the Sydney Live Fish Market. The fish are purchased by the public and sold to restaurants. The main species of fish on Ian's farm are Murray cod and Silver perch.





Silver perch

Murray cod



“Cropping Farmer Of The Year”

Trevethan Family Farms proudly won the Weekly Times “Cropping Farmer Of The Year” in 2012. Ian is determined to increase productivity and be an efficient farmer. His use of technology has made him a leader in the farming sector.





A bright future

Ian looks forward to a positive view of farming in the future. He believes his life on the farm is terrific and his job is one full of variety. He sees himself as a farmer, truck driver and a researcher. Ian feels that farming in the future will be constantly changing due to further advances in technology and changes in farming practices.





Ian Trevethan with Rorey McNamara, Tahlia Winter-Weidner,
Ella Clarke and Cheyenne Kells
2014 Year 6, Howlong Public School

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Local Land
Services
Murray



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