

Boree Creek's Wool Artist

The Story of Doris Golder

Securing
Our Region



K-6 Students

Boree Creek Public School



Creative Catchment Kids

Creative Catchment Kids is an initiative of Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre. It aims to improve engagement between our funding partners 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.

www.wirraminna.org/creative-catchment-kids/

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

Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by PeekKdesigns, 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

Boree Creek's Wool Artist

The Story of Doris Golder

Authors: Clare Ratcliffe, Luke Westblade, Hannah Patey, Martin Steele,
Jock Ratcliffe, Michael Barker-Smith, Lachlan Routley

Teacher: Elissa Routley

School: : Boree Creek Public School

Local Land Heroes - Securing Our Region

In 2015, students involved in the Creative Catchment Kids program researched and wrote stories about their 'Local Land Heroes' who are involved in pest management in the Murray and Murrumbidgee regions. These heroes are local individuals, couples, a business or industries that have made a difference in their local community by contributing to the management of pest animals and plants. The program was generously funded by Murray Local Land Services and Riverina Local Land Services.

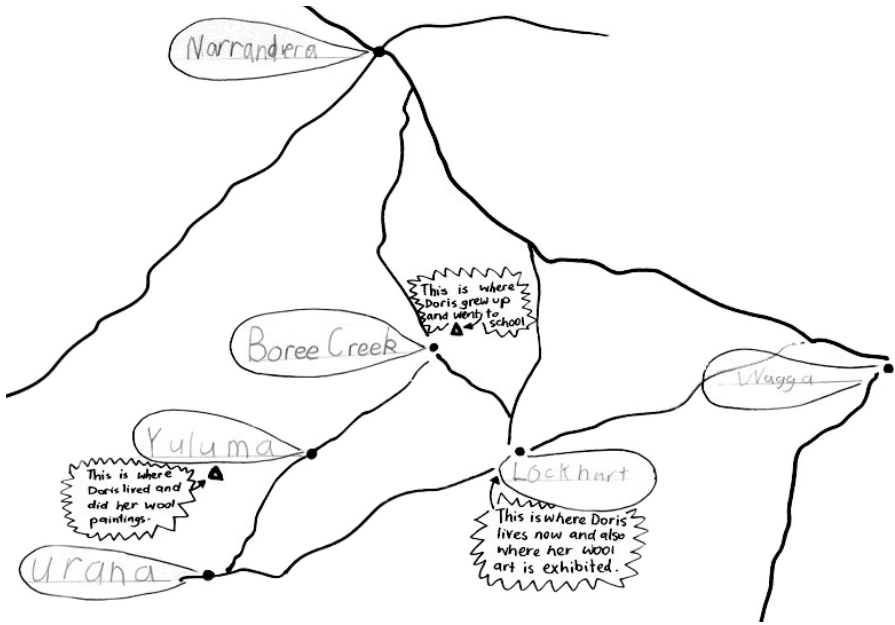
Local Land Heroes is part of Enviro-Stories, a PeekDesigns education program.



Local Land Services



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Early Life

Doris Golder (nee Scott / Hopwood) was born in the year of 1925. She grew up on a farm near Boree Creek, New South Wales. She attended Faithful Public School for her primary years and Wagga Wagga High School for three years.





Doris married Geoff Hopwood, who was tragically killed by a piece of wood from a 'Hagen' saw. She was pregnant with her son at the time. Unfortunately many years later, Doris's son was also killed, ironically, while flying over Mount Hagen in Papua New Guinea.



Doris then married George Golder of Yuluma, near Boree Creek. She enjoyed the farm life and had a passion for art at an early age. She first joined the Boree Creek Art Group in 1969.



She further developed her skills by taking art classes with Heather Bell in Wagga Wagga. She enjoyed painting with oils and fine pencil drawings. It was by sheer accident she started using wool as an art medium.

Doris began creating wool pictures of landscapes when she was 45 years old. Doris is now 90 years old and lives at Wood Haven Retirement Village, Lockhart.



Doris's Artwork

Doris was first inspired to create wool paintings when her friend sent her a newspaper clipping of a little wool painting.

Doris's first wool artwork was a landscape. It took her 1 week. She did landscapes and animals for 3 years before moving into portraits. Over 14 years Doris created over 30 portraits.



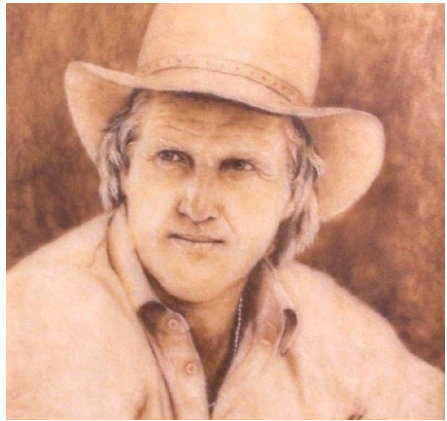
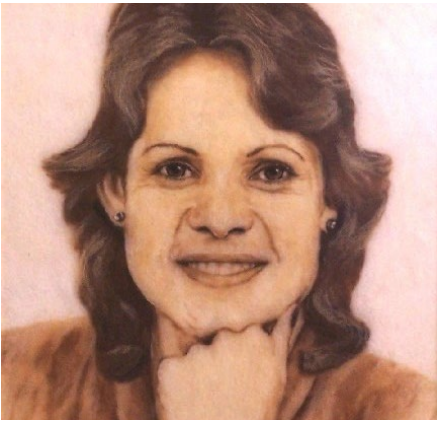
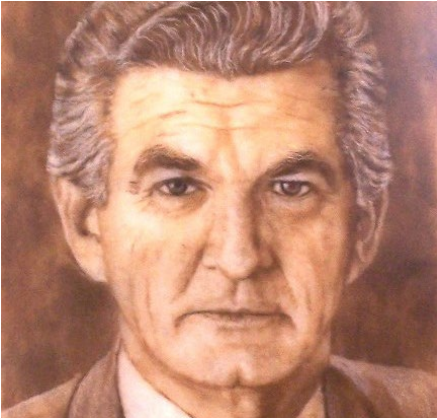


As Doris lived all her life on farms, she had a good idea where wool came from. She had often seen sheep being shorn, and all the hard work that went into it.

Doris used natural wool with no dye. To make her art, she had to wash the wool, comb it, spread the wool and let it dry. Doris believes the hardest details of her portraits were the eyes, wrinkles, hair and shadows.

Doris couldn't pick a favourite piece but says the most difficult was her last artwork - Fred Hollows, Gabby and the twins. It took her 18 months to complete. Doris always followed her 4 big P's to make her wool pictures perfect! These were Patience, Persistence, Perseverance and Prayers.





Famous people and locals were Doris's main inspiration. Some of her most famous subjects include Bob Hawke, Paul Hogan, Tim Fischer, Slim Dusty, Evonne Goolagong Cawley and Greg Norman.

She has displayed her art all over Australia including Victoria, New South Wales and at Parliament House. She often did art showings for charity, but now her wool paintings are permanently displayed at the Green's Gunyah Museum in Lockhart. Each year many people visit and appreciate her art exhibition, bringing tourism to Lockhart.

Pests that affect wool

Doris would need to collect wool samples from different farms, because her husband George did not breed coloured sheep. She needed lots of samples of wool for her artwork. She only used wool of the highest quality, and sometimes that was difficult to find.

There are many things that can damage wool. These can range from:

- Dags – which are sheep faeces interwoven into the wool.
- Prickles and burs - they contaminate and mat the wool.
- Foxes – they can bite and pull the wool which can leave behind bacteria which causes infection.
- Lice - they are little insects that live in the sheep's wool. They make the sheep want to rub their bodies on the fence, which ruins the wool.
- Blowflies – which are perhaps the most common pest that affect wool.



In Australia, blowflies pose one of the biggest health problems for sheep. During spring, blowflies get into parts of the sheep's wool that are moist because of urine (wee) and there they lay their eggs. Maggots hatch out of the eggs.

You may have seen maggots before - they are small white grubs laid by flies which wiggle madly. Maggots bite into the sheep's skin using hooks in their mouths, and as you can imagine, make nasty wounds. Not only can this ruin the sheep's fleece, but the wound can get infected and the sheep may die. This is all quite horrible so it's important to try to stop the sheep getting fly blown.

There are many ways which can help prevent fly strike:

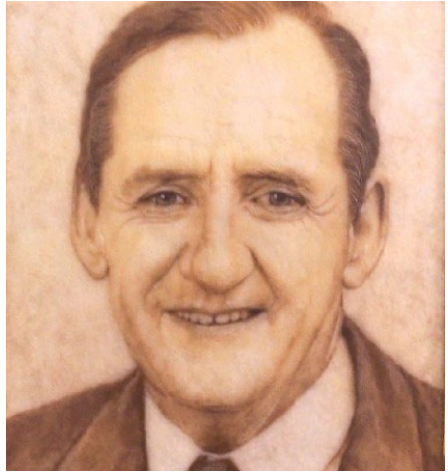
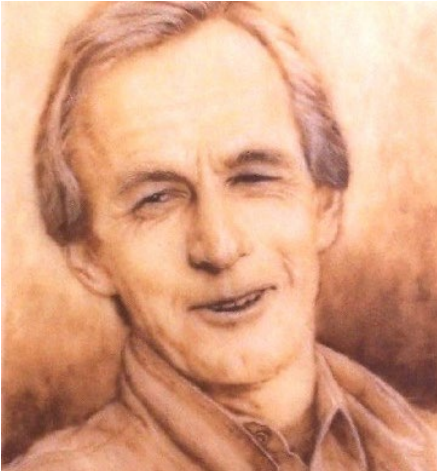
- Treat them with chemical before springtime or after flystrike
- Crutch (remove the wool from around the sheep's buttocks) the sheep before spring
- Regularly check sheep during spring and summer

A female fly lives for 7 weeks and in that time she can produce 7000 maggots!





Doris has been an active and involved citizen in both Boree Creek and Lockhart communities. She is tough but fair and sees the good in everything and everyone. She is a beautiful, warm natured, talented lady who leaves a lasting impression on all the people she meets.





Doris Golder with Boree Creek Public School students

2015 Year K-6, Boree Creek Public School

CONGRATULATIONS

Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre and the Creative Catchment Kids Program won the 2015 NSW Junior Landcare Team Award and will be competing in the 2016 National Landcare Awards.



Local Land Services

