

Controlling Pests at KIA-ORA



Caitlin Rodham, Ashleigh Finch, Holly Hennessy,
Olivia Graham and Tanis Menzies-Bartlett



Uranquinty 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 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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Teacher: Jessica Fuller

School: Uranquinty Public School

WARNING: This book contains images that may be distressing to some readers.

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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KIA-ORA is a New Zealand word meaning "good health".

The property of KIA-ORA is a farm located at Maxwell, which is 8 kilometres out of Uranquinty, New South Wales.

It is run by Craig Rodham, with the assistance of his father John and contracted shooter Conrad. The property is divided by Sandy Creek.



John Rodham was born on the 1st of April, 1947. He married his wife Barbra in 1971 and they had three children; Craig, Stacey and Benjamin.

John grew up on his family farm "Weemont".

In 1972, John bought a property in Uranquinty known as "Wyrilla" and remained there for 42 years. John and Barbra now live on a small property close to KIA-ORA.



Craig Rodham was born on the 5th of November, 1973. He grew up on the family farm "Wyrilla" in Uranquinty. Craig married Katherine Lang in 2001 and they had three children; Caitlin, Imogen and Jack. Craig purchased the property KIA-ORA in 2012.





What pests affect KIA-ORA?

There are many pests that make life difficult for farmers at KIA-ORA. The three main pests that pose a threat to KIA-ORA are; foxes, rabbits and weevils. The property is also affected by mice, rats and flies.

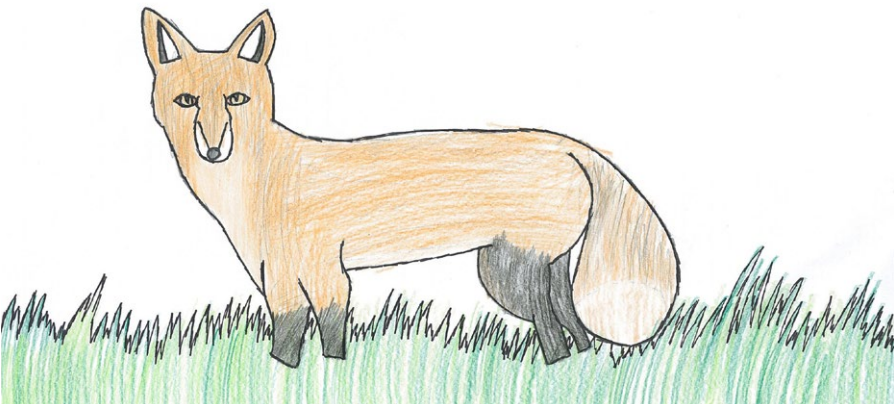


The Fox

Foxes are members of the dog family. They were introduced to Australia at the time of European settlement.

Female foxes are called vixens, male foxes are called a fox or todd, and baby foxes are called pups.

Foxes are the only species of dog capable of retracting their claws like cats do.



The Rabbit

A female rabbit is called a doe, a male rabbit is called a buck and a young rabbit is called a kit or kitten.

Most rabbits live in a group that is why you rarely see rabbits alone. They can breed from a young age and have large litters.





The Weevil

Weevils are actually beetles. There are over 60,000 species of weevils. They are typically small only reaching about six millimetres when fully grown. Weevils are herbivores and often feed on farmers crops.

The damage caused by pests at KIA-ORA

Foxes kill lambs and sheep, which affects the farms income due of loss of stock.

Rabbits are fast breeders and compete with sheep and cattle for food. Rabbits can destroy an entire paddock in two weeks.

Weevils eat and destroy the wheat grain, which is stored in the silos. This makes the wheat unsalable, also affecting income.



How are pests managed at KIA-ORA

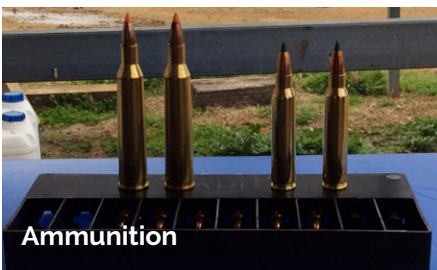
Foxes and rabbits are controlled through baits, spotlighting with dogs, shooting, fumigation and poison.

Foxes are also controlled using fox lights. These are placed throughout the paddock and a light flashes at random to replicate a spotlight.

Weevils are controlled through pesticides.



Rifle



Ammunition



Fumigation Poison



Fox Light



Long term management plan at KIA-ORA

Fox baits are put out annually. Foxes travel long distances, so wide spread baiting in our local area is needed to reduce fox numbers successfully. Rabbits are a rapid breeder and need to be fumigated or shot regularly. A contractor/ professional shooter is employed to manage rabbits and foxes.

Kia-Ora Quiz

1. What is a female fox called?
 - a. Vixen
 - b. Dog
 - c. Pups
2. How many species of weevils are there?
 - a. 70,000
 - b. 80,000
 - c. 60,000
3. What is a male rabbit called?
 - a. Doe
 - b. Buck
 - c. Hare
4. Who runs the farm?
 - a. Peter Rodham
 - b. Harry Rodham
 - c. Craig Rodham
5. What does Kia-Ora mean in New Zealand?
 - a. Good luck
 - b. Good health
 - c. Good being



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2015 Year 6, Uranquinty 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

