

Cyprinus CARPIO

Securing
Our Region



Natalie Sim, Christopher Alsop,
Blake Cochrane and Jenifer Fraser

Ladysmith 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

Cyprinus CARPIO

Authors: Natalie Sim, Christopher Alsop,
Blake Cochrane and Jenifer Fraser

Teacher: James Morris

School: Ladysmith 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.

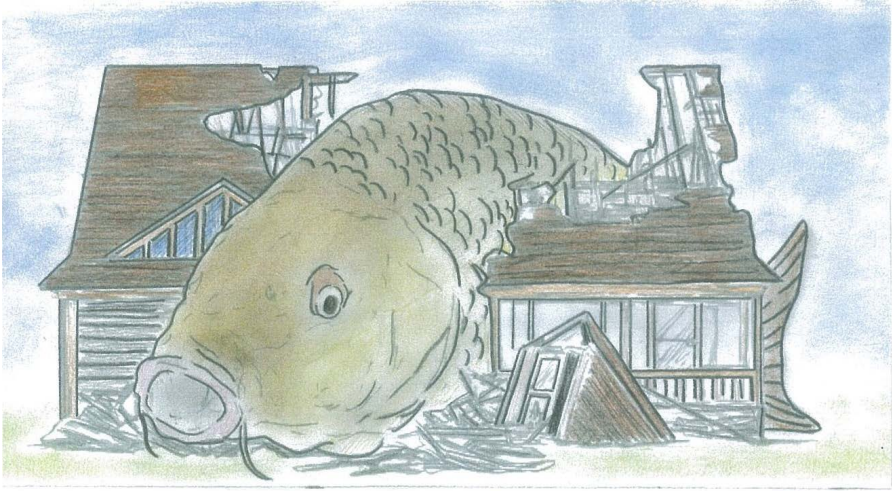
Local Land Heroes is part of Enviro-Stories, a PeekDesigns education program.



Local Land
Services

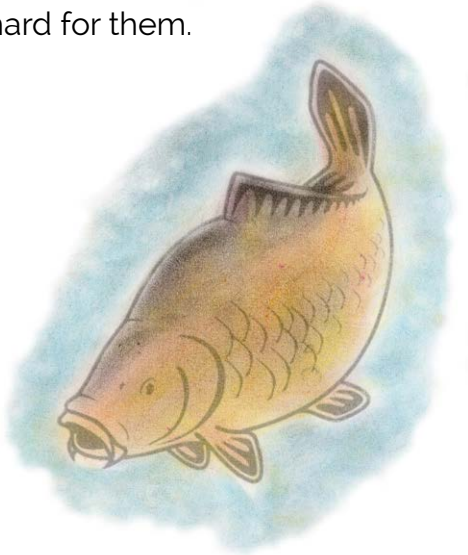


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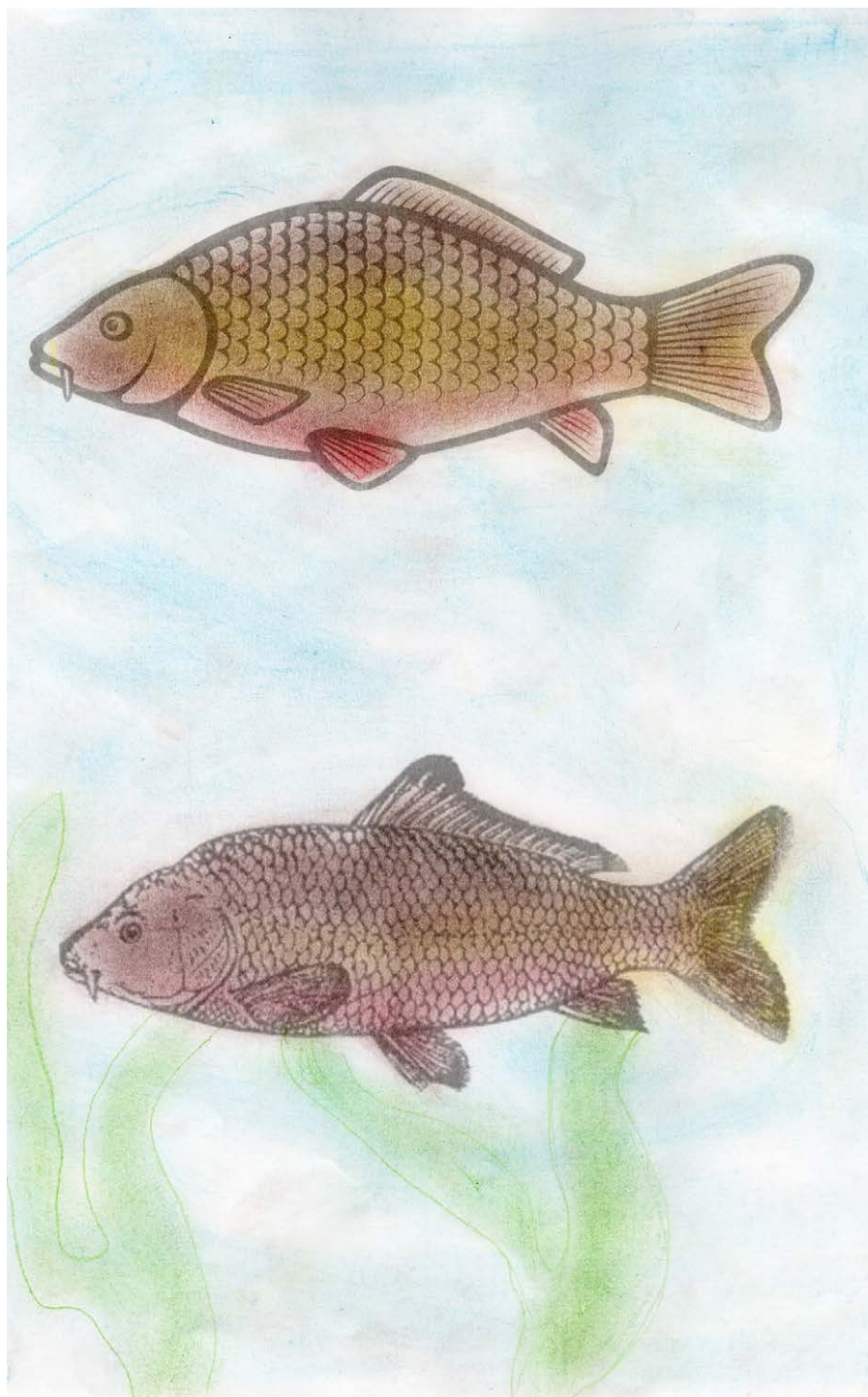
Over one hundred years ago, carp were introduced to Australia to clean out the channels, but after a while they became a huge problem. They started ruining other fish's homes such as the Murray cod, Golden perch and Silver perch. These fish are native to Australia and these carp invaders have made it hard for them.

What a nuisance!



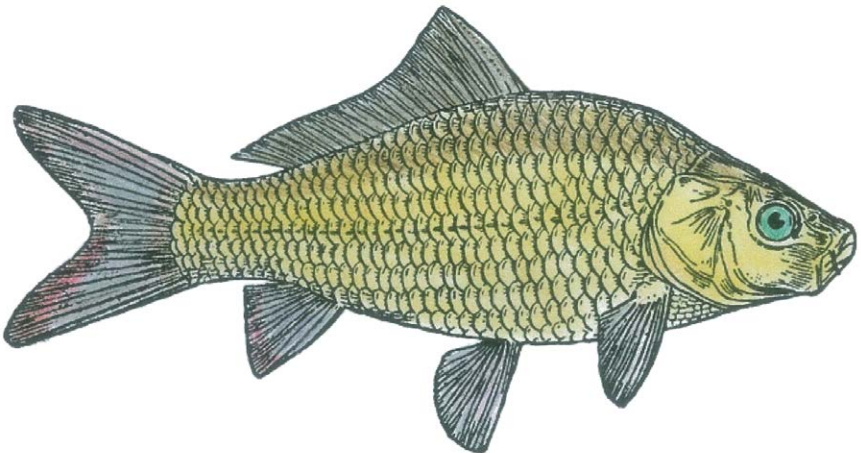


Another unofficial name for carp is 'mudsuckers'. They like to stir up the mud in search of food and also enjoy eating fish eggs that have been laid by our native fish. This decreases numbers of natives and increases the numbers of carp. Fisheries have decided when people catch carp they aren't legally allowed to return them to the water in a hope to minimise numbers.



Carp are the most widespread freshwater fish on our planet and they are a very resilient species. This means they can live in the harshest of conditions. A story from a local farmer was that he left a large carp on the bank after being captured and when he returned a day later it was still alive. Talk about being tough!

Furthermore, a large carp can lay up to 1.5 million eggs. Carp have been identified as a pest species in our waterways which means we don't want them in there anymore. So imagine how quickly carp can reproduce and continue to grow in our waterways.



Our local hero's name is Noel Penfold. He runs and owns Murray Darling Fisheries near Wagga Wagga and he knows a lot about fish. His job at the Murray Darling Fisheries is to breed native fish to help keep the population of good fish in our waterways. He currently breeds cod, Yellowbelly (Golden perch) and Silver perch.





The way Noel is helping to minimise carp in our waterways is to use the larvae (fish eggs) from the native species and grow them in special tanks and then when they are ready he will release fingerlings into waterways that require re-stocking. Noel also sends fish overseas and he recently left for a work trip to China.



Noel has a very important job and he currently has three employees helping him to breed native fish. He once managed Murray Cod Hatcheries for 10 years and then he built his own fish ponds and Murray Darling Fisheries was created. We were lucky enough to visit the fish farm and get a photo with a Golden perch that is called a breeder.



Noel has 2 amazing children and 3 wonderful grandchildren. Noel has been running the Murray Darling Fisheries for 27 years. He has loved fishing since he was young. Noel is very passionate about fish and it is great to see his business helping out our local waterways to combat what carp are doing.



So we need to give a big thank you to Noel for his time and effort to help us understand carp and native fish. We would also like to thank Leigh who gave up his time to show us around the fish farm and teaching us about what they do at Murray Darling Fisheries.





Ladysmith Carp Management Team

Here at Ladysmith Public School we have decided to start up a team to help clear our waterways of carp.

We recently started in our school holidays of making a special effort to catch carp and keep them out of the water. Some of the students at our school managed to catch quite a few and help us in our efforts.





We have decided to go fishing as a team and continue to do our part for the environment and to help our native fish. We hope that there is many people around our Ladysmith area who can jump on board and help us out by getting rid of carp from our waterways.

Mr. Morris is on board!





Natalie Sim, Christopher Alsop, Blake Cochrane and Jenifer Fraser

2015 Year 5, Ladysmith 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

