

Daryll Morris

The Weed Warrior

Securing
Our Region



Tom Barker, Rose Chamberlain,
Sascha Jones and Harvey White

Tocumwal 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

Daryll Morris

The Weed Warrior

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School: Tocumwal 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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Daryll Morris is our local land hero. He is the Noxious Weeds Inspector for the Central Murray County Council based in Finley, New South Wales. His job is to stop the spread of weeds across all the private, public and shire owned properties in the area. Daryll wants to keep new weeds out!

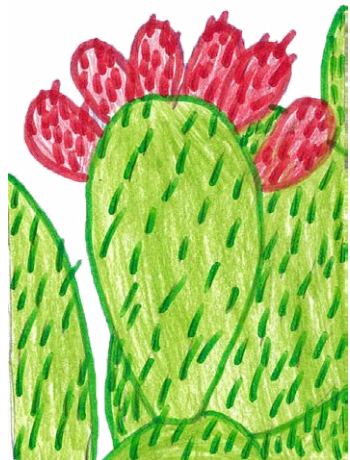
Daryll Morris is a local. He was born in the Southern NSW town of Deniliquin and he has spent his whole life in this district. He knows and understands this region like the back of his hand which helps him to identify problem areas.

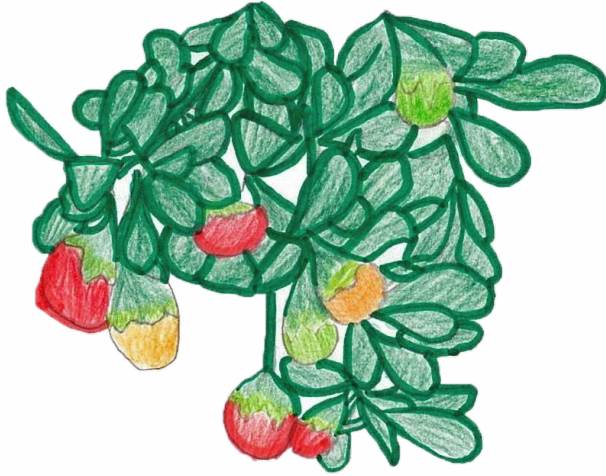




Weeds are a major pest to our environment. They injure and kill animals, prevent the growth of native grasses and affect recreation.

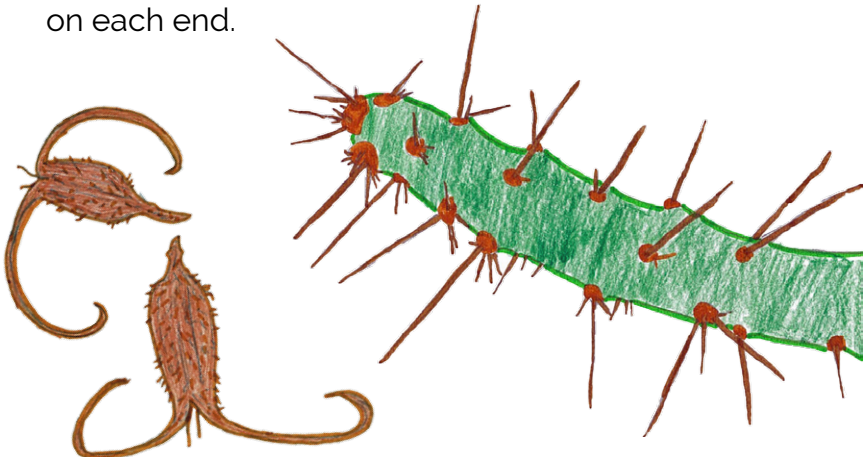
There are about 100 declared noxious weeds in NSW. Some of the worst ones are Patterson's Curse (above right), Bathurst Burr, Hore Hound, Devil's Claw, Prickly Pear (right), Thorne Apple (above left) and Boxthorn.





Animals are greatly affected by weeds. Boxthorn (above) prevents animals from getting to water and Devil's Claw (below left) gets caught in sheep's wool and eyes.

Sometimes Daryll can help smaller animals out of situations like this but bigger animals are harder to handle. Tiger Pear (below right) is a particularly nasty weed because of the sharp, pointed barbs on each end.





Weeds destroy natural habitats such as forests and grasslands. They invade crops and reduce yields. Weeds choke natural systems like rivers, forests and fields. Weeds cost Australian farmers \$1.5 billion a year in weed control and a further \$2.5 billion is lost each year in agricultural production.

Daryll Morris and his staff have many different solutions to get rid of the wild weeds in the Berrigan Shire. He uses lots of different types of chemicals and burns off the weeds with fire. Daryll also uses mechanical removal which means that he uses big machines to dig them up.



Another way Daryll fights the problem is through the Weed Warrior Program. It is a program that started up in 2002.

Daryll and his team of nine workers hope to solve the problem of weeds by creating interest, and generating knowledge, of the local weed issues. It links school students with community groups, farmers and workers to plan, implement and evaluate a weed biological control program.





School children are involved in the Weed Warrior Program.

Weeds rate as one of the most serious threats to primary production and the environment in Australia. Education and awareness is critical. The Weed Warrior Program is educating children about how weeds affect the environment and how to stop them. It gets the students involved with biological control where you use natural enemies of the weeds to exterminate them.



The Weed Warrior Program highlights that weeds are everyone's problem and provides opportunities for the community of NSW to become part of the solution. Early detection of weeds is the best way to limit their spread and impact.

The Weed Warrior Program also aims for people to develop a commitment to and responsibility for the control of noxious weeds in their area.

Weeds are a major pest, not only in the Berrigan Shire but all over Australia. Daryll Morris is our local land hero; he is fighting the weeds to protect our native land, plants and animals.





Weedy Facts

- Boxthorn was introduced as a garden or hedge plant in the mid 1800s.
- Boxthorn is most commonly found on neglected land in arid and temperate Australia.
- Devil's Claw is native to South Africa and still is used in folk remedies today.
- Patterson's Curse is considered a weed because it reduces pasture productivity and is toxic to livestock.



Tom Barker, Rose Chamberlain, Sascha Jones and Harvey White

2015 Year 6, Tocumwal 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

