

# Humewood

## Goat mustering on the Hay plains



Olivia Joyce, Darnelle Filmer, Claire Booth,  
Harrison Dowling, Delilah Crighton, Brigitte Watkin,  
Jack Turner and Chloe Arandt



Hay School of the Air, Hay 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/](http://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](http://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](http://www.envirostories.com.au)**

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**Authors:** Olivia Joyce, Darnelle Filmer, Claire Booth, Harrison Dowling, Delilah Crighton, Brigitte Watkin, Jack Turner and Chloe Arandt

**Teachers:** Kate Murphy and Fleur Cullenward

**School:** Hay School of the Air, Hay 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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Humewood Station is owned by Simon and Caroline Booth; father and mother of Alice, Ryan, Oscar and Claire. They have run Humewood for 15 years and Simon has lived on Humewood all his life. Humewood is located about 100 kilometres from Hay. It has been through drought for many years and has also seen greenness and water. The property has channel country and irrigation. It is quite dry and in need of a good rain.





Caroline grew up on the Monaro, completely opposite country to Humewood but still harsh. She went to boarding school and university where she did Agricultural Science. Her main focus was sheep and cattle. She and Simon think that animals are the best things you can run. Animals produce food and fibre for her family and for the country.





Humewood Station is 45,000 acres (18,107 hectares). Humewood is open flat country. In some parts of the property it has lignum, saltbush and creek areas. That is where animals like sheep and goats run, rest and camp.

Lignum is a bush that grows in wetter country and creeks. Saltbush is a plant that has been around for centuries. Goats also like to graze on this country.





Claire, Ryan, Oscar and Alice are the four children of Simon and Caroline. They help out on the farm by mustering the many animals, de-silting tanks and helping with other activities. Although they help in the paddock often most of their time is taken up by their schooling, which takes up to 7 hours of every day. One of their favourite jobs is that of goat mustering which often takes place during the holidays.





The Booth family are educated through School of the Air. This means that they do school at home in their own classroom. They get taught by Caroline or a governess. They do IDL (Interactive Distance Learning) on the computer. This allows them to see and talk to their teachers in Hay. The Booths go into Hay once every term for mini-school. The Booths also integrate into Hay Public School.







Everyone knows about pests, well one of the pests on Humewood are goats. They eat the grass that the livestock eat. They can spread disease and also destroy fences. When the drought hit around the Hay plains, everything turned to dust, not a bit of green was on Humewood except for a patch which was on their lawn. Goats were harder to find on Humewood as the goats headed North West near Ivanhoe to the more timbered country with some feed.



After the drought the numbers of goats built up on Humewood. Simon and Caroline needed to reduce the number because the goats were eating the feed. Do you know what the most popular meat is in the world? Well, it is goat meat. The Booths realised that mustering the goats was an efficient way to control these pests and make money. It was a win/win situation.





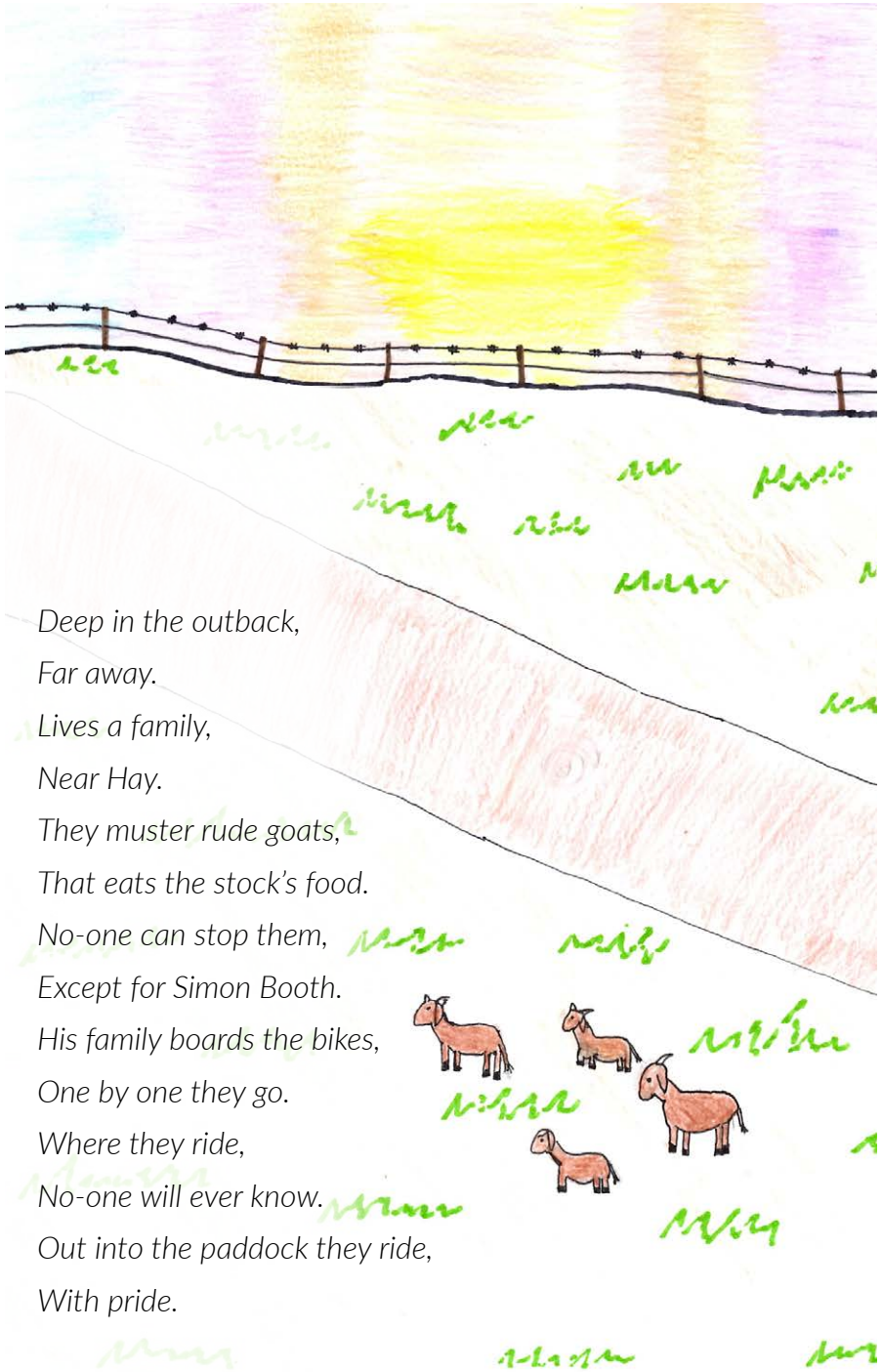
When the Booths goat muster, the four children get on their motor-bikes with their parents. In the North West near Ivanhoe the goats are mustered into a water trap that has one opening. The Booths on the other hand muster all the goats from the paddocks into a large yard in which they keep the goats until they either kill them to eat or sell them to earn money.





The goats are then loaded onto a truck. The truck takes the goats to the abattoir. Humewood goats usually go to Victoria. The goats are then killed. Most of the goat meat is taken to America and sold onto markets such as the Middle East. There are lucky goats who get to spend the rest of their lives on Humewood such as their old domestic pet Coco.





Deep in the outback,  
Far away.  
Lives a family,  
Near Hay.  
They muster rude goats,  
That eats the stock's food.  
No-one can stop them,  
Except for Simon Booth.  
His family boards the bikes,  
One by one they go.  
Where they ride,  
No-one will ever know.  
Out into the paddock they ride,  
With pride.

The goats try to escape.  
But with the Booth's Ring lock  
fences,  
The goats don't know which way  
to face.  
The goat's hair gets,  
Trapped in the saltbush.  
The little kids run,  
As far as they can go.

Their mothers call,  
Awakens them all.  
Into the yard,  
They follow.  
Rattle rattle,  
Here comes the truck.  
Up they trot  
into the crates  
they will be separated from their  
mates







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2015 Year 6, Hay School of the Air, Hay 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

