

Jindera Vet Clinic

Protecting Our Animals



Indi Ziebarth, Lucy Ennis, Doug Cameron,
Morgan Mitsch and Jacques Kabore

Burrumbuttock 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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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



Australian Government



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Who is Brigit?

Brigit is a mixed practice vet who works at Jindera Veterinary Clinic. They treat up to 30 animals a day. She worked for a vet for 1 year in Albury, and then at an equine centre. Later she became the Local Lands Services district vet. She has been a vet since 1983, which is 22 years. She says working as a vet is rewarding



Brigit the Vet

Brigit can go through stressful times, like when she has to tell the owner that their animal has cancer. There are also times that are happy and exciting. She does vaccinations, examinations and routine health checks. She also helps Daryl with operations and x-rays.

Brigit does a lot of outstanding things throughout her day.



Animals that come into the vet

The animals that Brigit Pitman deals with are working animals and pets so it is called a mixed practice because they treat large and small animals. She helps pets like ferrets, rabbits, mice, rats, guinea pigs, snakes and lizards.

The farm animals she treats could include cows, sheep, goats, dogs and cats. Horses are treated at Hume Equine centre.

Tick



Source: Tick and Louse, Wikipedia. Flea, Kat Masback, Flickr. Shared under Creative Commons Licence



Flea



Louse

The most common diseases

Parasites infect cattle, sheep and goats. They include internal parasites, such as worms, flukes and protozoa, and external parasites, such as flies, ticks, fleas, lice and mites. The vet would recommend a drench or treatment and a change in farm management.

Obesity in pets is another really common thing that Brigit has to deal with.



Johnes disease in cattle and sheep is an incurable infection which causes wasting and diarrhoea because it stops the body from absorbing the nutrients from the food, so the animals can eventually starve to death.

Prevention by vaccination is extremely important because these diseases have no cure.



Animal diseases that affect humans

Zoonoses are diseases that can be passed between animals and humans.

Anthrax is a life threatening infectious disease that can attack your skin, stomach or lungs.

Ringworm can affect anyone worldwide. It is a fungal infection on your skin.

Leptospirosis, hydatids (tapeworm), Hendra in horses and brucellosis in pigs are some other zoonoses.

A way to avoid these diseases is to be hygienic.



Exotic Diseases

Diseases from foreign countries are called exotic diseases. These diseases have to be notified to the government.

Horse flu is one of the most widespread infectious horse diseases in the world and there is no cure

Sheep scab is an itchy disease caused by mites living in fleeces. It causes the sheep to rub and bite themselves



Pharmacy

Brigit and Daryl are pharmacists as well as doctors because they have a wide variety of prescription drugs, restricted drugs, cleaning chemicals, and disinfectants. Daryl and Brigit can write prescriptions just like pharmacists but for animals. Some drugs they use can be used by humans. Some of the antibiotics they use have to be kept in the refrigerator.



Biosecurity

Biosecurity is used every day. It's a way of keeping things clean, and not letting germs infect anything. Biosecurity can be from the simplest things like washing your hands properly after handling animals, to the most serious methods like quarantine and counter measures.

Quarantine is isolating animals so they don't infect anything else while the infection goes away or until you can be sure that they have no diseases.



Biosecurity is when the government reduces the chance of a new virus being introduced. They ensure that viruses and diseases don't go out of control. The government has to contain the sickness and develop a cure.

When a vet like Brigit discovers a reportable disease, she has to immediately report it to the Department of Agriculture



Jindera Vet Clinic



Interesting facts

- Two of the most common diseases are parasites, like worms.
- Humans can get ring worms from kittens and cats.
- Around 30 animals come through the Jindera Vet Clinic each day.
- Only 2 out of every 100 animals treated at the vet don't survive.
- Of the animals that come into the vet, half are injured and half have diseases.
- Daryl goes to properties about 3-5 days a week.
- Very young and very old animals don't recover as easily.
- Some of the drugs vets use on animals are also used for humans.



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2015 Year 6, Burrumbuttock 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

