

# Leon Wright

## *A Hunter's Life*



Jordan Webb, Chris Antoniou,  
Riley Bates and Frank Martin

Mulwala 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)**

# Leon Wright

## *A Hunter's Life*

**Authors:** Jordan Webb, Chris Antoniou,  
Riley Bates and Frank Martin

**Teacher:** Lisa Linehan

**School:** Mulwala Public School

**WARNING:** This book contains images that may be distressing to some readers. Please be aware that images of dead animals shown in this book have been killed under humane conditions.

## 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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Design by PeekDesigns, [www.peekdesigns.com.au](http://www.peekdesigns.com.au)



Leon Wright was born at Yarrowonga 'Bush Nursing' Hospital in October, 1948.

Leon is one of four siblings, having one sister and two brothers. He has a very large extended family due to his mother being one of 17 children. Leon attended Yarrowonga State School and Yarrowonga High School.



There was no modern technology like TVs, iPads and mobile phones while Leon was growing up, so he had to keep himself busy with other hobbies. These hobbies included hunting, fishing, sport and philately - he had a large collection of very old Australian stamps. His interest in hunting began after being introduced to the sport/profession by his dad and grandfather.





When Leon left school, he took a position at the Commonwealth Bank in Yarrowonga. Leon has also worked as a boat builder, fruit picker, an employee for Lee Jeans and the Mulwala Ammunition Factory. However, his longest and most favourite job is as a professional shooter.

In 1971, at the age of 22, Leon married his wife Debbie. They continue to be happily married and have one son and three daughters.

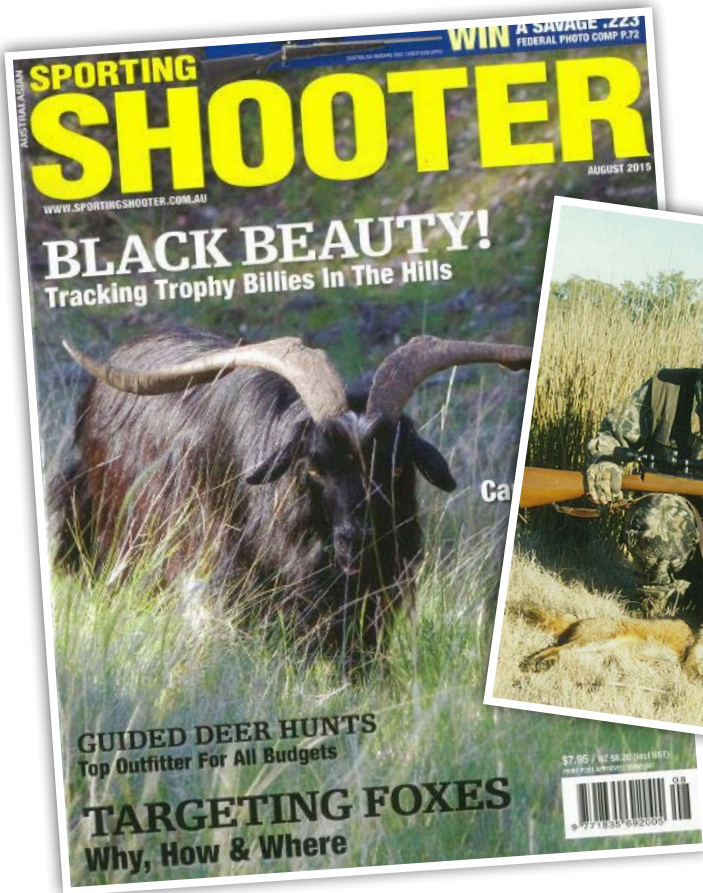




Leon's father and grandfather were avid shooters. Leon learnt the skills of tracking and identifying pest animals from them at a young age.

Leon has passed down the sport of hunting to his own children. They happily joined him on hunting adventures as children and young adults. Leon always ensured they were taught safe gun handling skills and hunting practices.

Leon has worked as a professional shooter all across Australia. He travels to deserts to shoot camels and wild dogs, and interstate to eliminate foxes, rabbits and hares. His job has also taken him to New Zealand to hunt deer and wild pigs. These experiences and knowledge led to Leon's other passion as a writer and photography for many hunting and shooting magazines.







Leon is a well-known professional shooter to many local farmers around the district. Many call on him to help eliminate pest animals on their property.

Leon uses his skill of identifying animal scat and tracks. He has generated a great sense for smelling foxes. Leon looks for other signs like dead native animals or livestock and den sites.

Professional shooters like Leon use many tools to help find foxes.

Leon uses various callers which imitate different sounds foxes are attracted to. One caller sounds like a baby rabbit squealing for help, while another sounds similar to a fox tearing apart its meal. This alerts another fox to come in and enjoy a meal.





Leon wears a large amount of camouflage clothing that makes him blend into the environment. He wears a camouflage hat, shirt, pants and boots. He also wears a mask to cover his mouth to stop the foxes hearing and smelling his scent. Leon's other equipment includes shotguns and rifles.





Leon always takes a backpack of safety equipment with him when he heads out hunting.

He carries a CB radio, first aid kit, fire lighting flint, compass and solar blanket. For emergency situations, Leon's backpack also contains a mirror and whistle which can be used to get the attention of people if he gets lost or injured and some snacks and water.



## Facts about the European Red Fox

The European Red Fox was introduced to Victoria in the 1850s. Foxes were brought out to Australia by wealthy English fox hunters who wanted to continue the hobby they did back in Europe. They would use horses and dogs to hunt the foxes. Great floods in Geelong allowed foxes to spread and colonise within Australian bushland, deserts and mountains.

Foxes are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals. Sadly, they eat many native animals, plants and farming livestock. There are many threatened native species that are at risk of becoming extinct because of foxes.



## The problem with pest animals

Australia has a lot of native animal and plant species under threat because of pest animals. Animals like the Regent honeyeater, Bilby and Malleefowl are endangered of becoming extinct.

Pest animals, like feral cats, deer, pigs, rabbits and carp, were introduced into Australia because of various reasons. However, all these animals are causing devastating effects on the native wildlife and environment.

They compete with our native animals for food and places to live. Some pest animals hunt and kill our native species for food. Pest animals also destroy the native environment by spreading weeds and diseases.

It is very important that we protect the habitats and environment of our native animals so they are around for other generations to enjoy and experience, just like Leon Wright has been doing for 50 years.







Chris Antoniou, Frank Martin, Jordan Webb and Riley Bates

2015 Year 4-6, Mulwala 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

