

Paddy on Patrol



Bylee Allison, Chloe Hayes, Ryan Gofton
and Sebastian O'Toole

Corowa 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

Paddy on Patrol

Authors: Bylee Allison, Chloe Hayes,
Ryan Gofton and Sebastian O'Toole

Teacher: Angela Stanton

School: Corowa 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



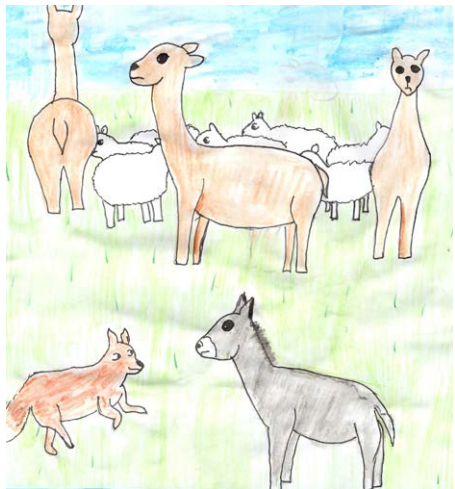
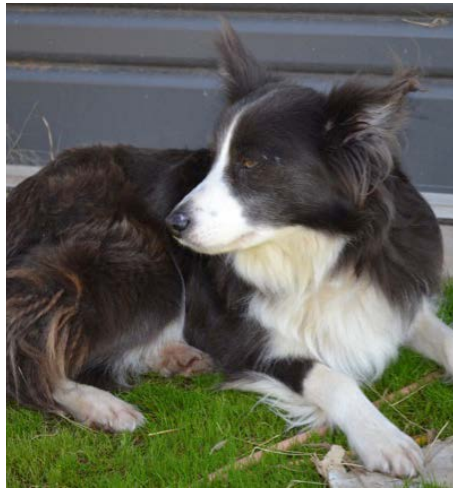
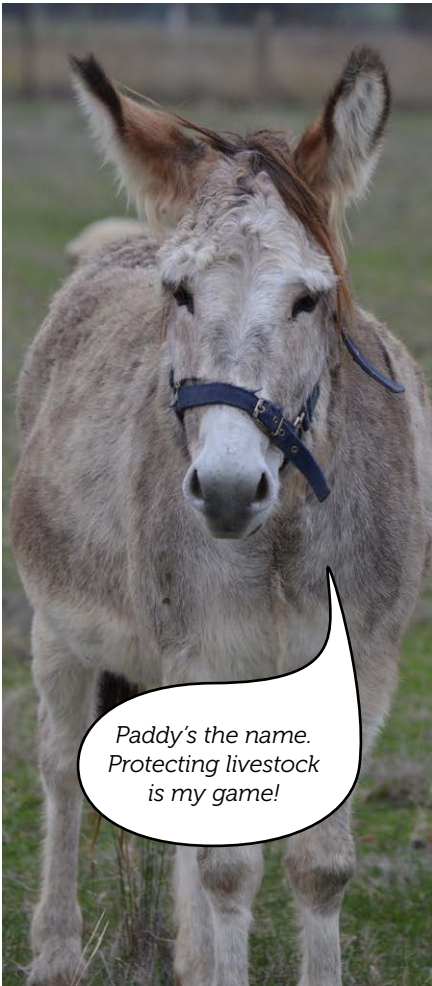
Australian Government



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Hello everyone, I'm Paddy. I'm the only donkey on Cornwall Farm. With the help of my alpaca friends, I get rid of the disgusting wild dogs and sneaky foxes.

I was adopted by Sue Wallace at the age of four. Before she got me, Sue had to use her dogs and guns to control pests. Sometimes they dug out the fox burrows in the hope that they would move away.

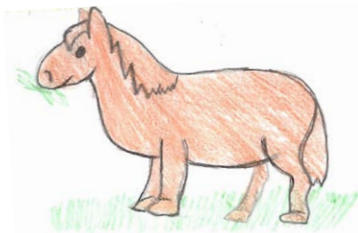
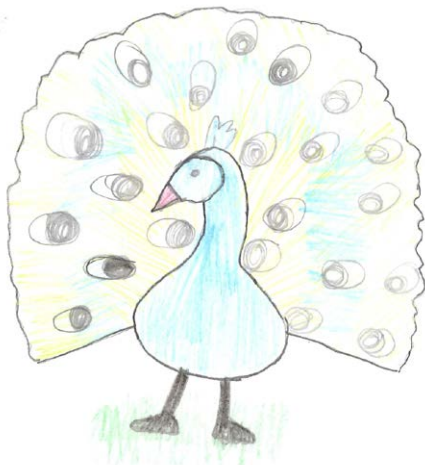


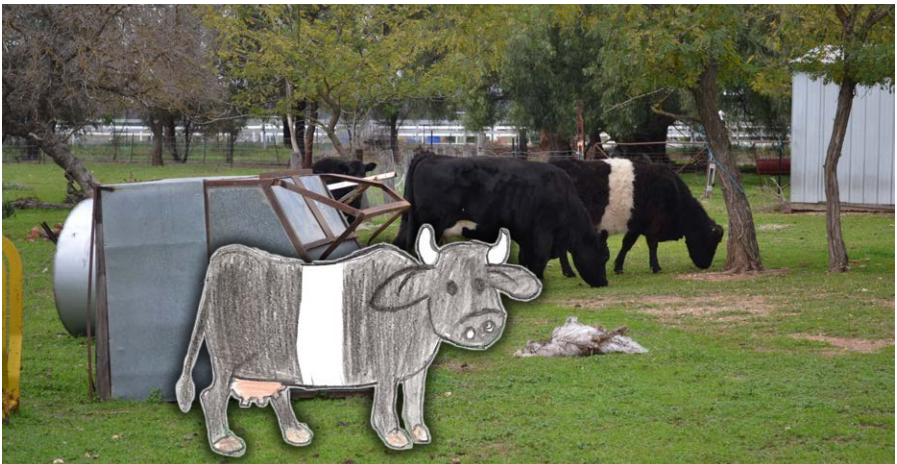


I live on Cornwall Farm with Sue Wallace.

During a chat with Sue I found out that she has lived on farms all of her life. When she was a child she lived near Benalla but now she can be found on our farm just out of Chiltern.

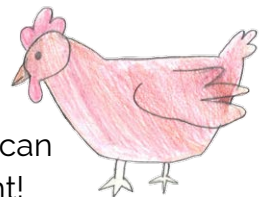
She has cows, sheep, chooks, alpacas, peacocks, a blind Shetland pony and me!





Sue has owned this 41 hectare farm for over ten years. She also leases 60 hectares.

There are peacocks here - they protect the hens and their chickens. They are really pretty but, wow, they can be noisy if something is not quite right!



Most of the cows are black angus but some of them have some white bits too. They are fairly quiet but I still keep an eye on them when there are calves around.



I have seen foxes cause a lot of damage and some of it is particularly ugly after they have finished their attack. When foxes attack they bite the lamb's bottom or its tongue. It's not only the foxes – sometimes wild dogs worry the sheep by chasing and killing them.

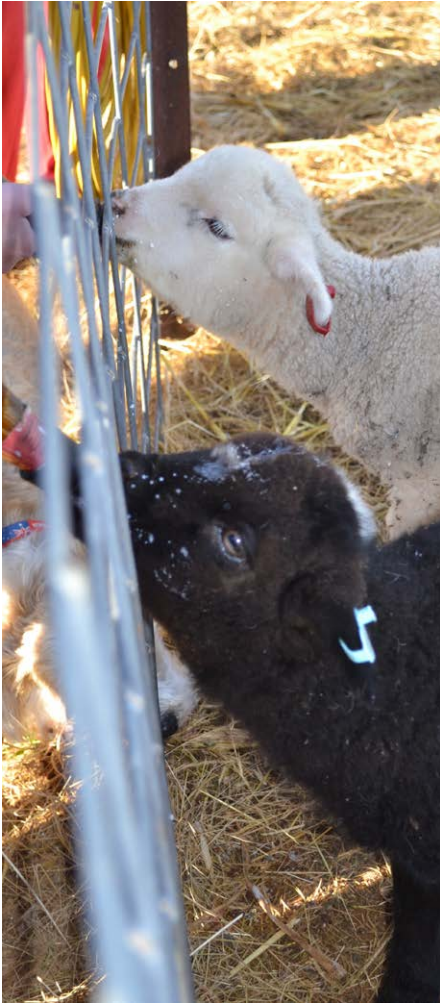
There are fox dens everywhere. They sleep all day and sneak out at night to attack the lambs.





The sheep are a very happy bunch, grazing freely in a very spacious paddock whilst the alpacas and I watch over them.

On Cornwall Farm there are sheep and lambs everywhere you look: corriedale, suffolks, dorpers and more. The sheep like to scratch on the hay racks in the paddocks when the lice in their wool makes them feel itchy.



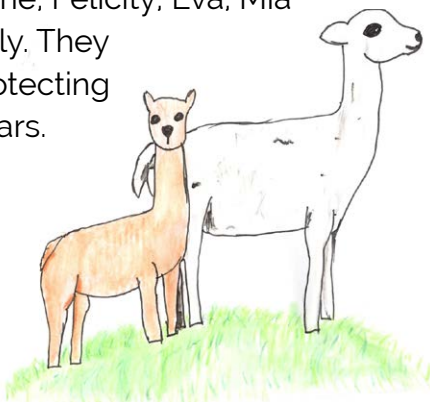
In the breeding season sheep can have triplets (three lambs) but they can only take care of two. Sue sometimes has to feed the lambs with a bottle. Their tails wriggle really fast when they suck!

If foxes or dogs come into the paddock, the sheep get really panicked. They run around bleating like mad things. Just as well the alpacas and I are here to calm them down and take them to safety.



When I arrived on the farm it looked like there was alpacas everywhere! Sue introduced me to some of them - Major, Kerrie, Felicity, Eva, Mia and Mimi were very friendly. They told me they had been protecting the sheep for over four years.


They might look cute but don't be fooled - if you annoy them, you will find yourself covered in stinky green spit!



The alpacas are very curious and observant. If they see a fox, they squeal loudly. If the fox doesn't get the hint, they chase it, kick it and stamp on it.

When wild dogs come, the alpacas round up all the sheep and take them away from the dogs while I chase them and trample on them.





I am an Irish donkey. Sue got me from a family who moved and could not longer keep me. I am really protective of the stock in my paddock, especially the lambs.

Sue doesn't have much to do with me because if I bond with her, I will look after her and not the sheep and lambs.

My feet are trimmed every 6 weeks and I have regular health checks.



I naturally, REALLY dislike dogs. I will chase them and bray loudly if they are near in my paddock and near my sheep.

I have excellent eyesight and see those sneaky pests as they creep towards the flock. I bite, I kick and I stomp until they are gone (they run as fast as they can) or they are dead.

CORNWALL FARM

Stress Free
Lamb



FROM FARM GATE TO DINNER PLATE

More Baa for your Buck

The sheep on Cornwall Farm lead a stress free life with the alpacas and I keeping an eye on them. Every Sunday they go into the yards so that they get used to it. Of course, the Sunday might come when they are put on the trailer and sent off to the butcher - they come back as chops or sausages.



ALPACAS

- There are two types of alpacas – the suri and the huacaya.
- Alpacas have been domesticated for thousands of years.
- There are no known wild alpacas.
- Alpacas don't always spit – but they can if they need to!
- Alpacas usually only spit at other alpacas if they are annoying them.
- When they are in danger, an alpaca makes a high pitched, screeching whine.
- When they are calm and friendly an alpaca makes a clucking or clicking sound.
- Alpacas like to eat grass, hay and other leafy plants.
- Their wool can be one of 22 colours, including black, silver, white and rose grey.

DONKEYS

- There are more donkeys in China than any other country.
- A male is called a jack and a female is a jenny.
- Donkeys have solid hooves.
- Donkeys can make a braying noise that goes on for many seconds.
- Donkeys are sometimes called burros.
- There are wild donkeys in Mexico and the United States.
- If a donkey thinks it is unsafe it will dig its rear hooves into the ground and refuse to move.
- A donkey's coat is not waterproof
- Donkeys have a reputation for being stubborn.



(L-R) Ryan Gofton, Bylee Allison,
Chloe Hayes and Sebastian O'Toole
2015 Year 6, Corowa Public School

Thank you Mrs Kylie Becker and Sue for photography.
Thank you Cayla Wickens, for your fox drawing.

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.

