

Rodney Anderson

Reducing Weeds in the Urana Shire



Aaron Sandral, Matthew Sutcliffe,
Stephanie Munro and Olive Russell

Oaklands Central 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 PeekKdesigns, 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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School: Oaklands Central 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



The Urana Shire has lots of weeds and we need someone to get rid of them. Rodney Anderson better known as Rocket, was born on the 28th of April in 1967. He started working as a farm hand and now works on the council. He applied for his position on the council because he loves working outdoors.



Rodney Anderson is currently the Environmental Officer at the Urana Shire Council. Before this he was the Noxious Weed Inspector for 25 years. As the Environmental Officer he has a number of roles. This includes weed control programs, direct seeding of native plants, assessing water quality and water licensing. Generally he has anything to do with native vegetation and the environment.





The Urana Shire has many weeds but the main ones we have in our community are the Spiny Burr Grass, Khaki Weed, African boxthorn (above), Black willow, Blackberry, Galvanised Burr, Mesquite and Horehound (left). All of these weeds can cause problems for our environment.



The worst weed Rodney has dealt with is 'Spiny Burr Grass' and it's a big problem. The main areas Rodney deals with are the Council's roadsides, Local Lands Services and individual farm properties. He goes to various properties to help manage the weeds. The main chemicals he uses to kill weeds are Round Up, Ally and MCPA.





Rodney Anderson uses chemicals, spray units, cutters, chainsaws, ploughs and manual hoes to get rid of weeds that we have in our local shire. When someone brings in a sample of a weed he might not know, he uses his identification book or the internet to work it out and see how he can manage it. He finds the spray unit the most useful.



Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*) is a weed that looks a like mint but it's a weed. One way to manage this weed is to use bio-control on it. For example, they introduced the 'Plume Moth' and the caterpillar eats the leaves which defoliates the plant. This means the plant dies. Otherwise, they spray the weed if it is away from waterways.





The African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) is a problem because it mainly grows around and under other trees and is a prolific seeder. It sucks up a lot of nutrients and water out of the soil. To reduce this weed, the council uses spray to kill it or they pull it out with a loader and then spray the roots from the bottom. Finally they use the cut and paste method, where you cut the branch and apply poison.





Spiny Burr grass is a weed that spreads quickly because they can cling to shoes and car tyres. Spiny Burr Grass mainly grows in summer, from October to April. One way of dealing with Spiny Burr Grass is by planting Consol Lovegrass. The Consol Lovegrass spreads and chokes the Spiny Burr Grass. It also releases a toxin to stop the Spiny Burr Grass growing. A successful trial was conducted near Oaklands.





The Red Guide Post Program targets the spread of weeds along road sides. If you run into an area with red guide posts and you are looking to slash or grade you have to contact the local council. They will tell you if you can go in there and do your job. After you finish your job you have to clean your machinery thoroughly before you go anywhere else. This will help stop the spread of weeds.



The hope for the future for the Urana Shire is to reduce the number of general weeds on the sides of roads and inside towns. They would like to eradicate some weeds from the Urana Shire altogether. They also hope to stop new weeds coming into our area and spreading.



Weed Fact File

- A weed is a plant not native to the area.
- Some weeds have effective defense systems that protect them from being eaten by animals or picked by people, for example, stinging nettles.
- Some weeds can cause losses to crops and livestock, threaten the environment and harm human health.
- Noxious weeds can be classified into 5 control classes.
- Integrated weed management includes- physical control, chemical control, biological control and cultural control.





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2015 Year 5-6, Oaklands Central 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

