

The Great Garden Escape

Securing
Our Region



Sonali Kagithala, Rachael Burton, Emily Kluver,
Hayley Gillbee and Monica Drumgold

James Fallon High 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

The Great Garden Escape

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School: James Fallon High 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

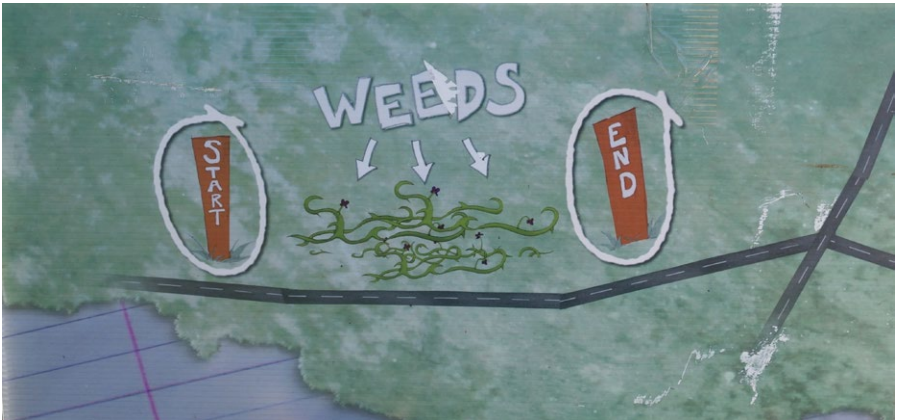


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In 2010, a group of six Noxious Weed Officers were teamed up by the Albury City Council to help prevent the spread of weeds and protect our environment. Some of the members of this team have many different qualifications including, Certificate 3 in Conservation and Land Management, and Certificate 2 and 3 in Horticulture.

Two members of this team are Vince and Jess. Vince and Jess are experts in identifying weeds, and controlling and managing the noxious weeds. They specialise in weed management in parklands and native environments. They also monitor any potential escapees on private properties.





Weed control authorities around NSW have many different ways to manage the weeds affecting our local area. Some management strategies include chemicals control, flame throwers, and red guide posts at the 'start' and 'end' of weed invested areas. These posts identify the site and an awareness campaign will advise that there is to be no works between the posts without a local weed officer's permission. The post project has been funded by the NSW Weeds Action Program since 2013 and has distributed over 2000 red posts to 33 councils across the Riverina and Central Western NSW.



Classes of weeds

Vince and Jess have to refer to the NSW classes of weeds when it comes to identifying and removing weeds from our environment.

Class one is the highest threat to the environment and must be immediately eradicated from the land.

Class two poses a potentially serious threat to the environment and must also be eradicated from the land.

Class three poses a potentially serious threat to the environment and must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.

Class four could be a potential serious threat to primary production or the environment.

Class five are likely to spread in the State or outside the State and there are no requirements to control them.





Burning Prickly Pear

Noxious Weed Act 1993

The *Noxious Weed Act 1993* No. 11 was created by the administration of New South Wales. This act was created to provide and inform others of identification, classification and control of noxious weeds.

The object of the Act is to remove the negative impact of weeds on the economy, community and environment of New South Wales and to provide information on the effectiveness of the management of weeds in New South Wales.



Noxious Weeds

Past generations have chosen to plant their garden with introduced ornamental species. They were unaware that these plants could become weeds if they escaped into the local native environment. Some of the weeds have now escaped out into areas of native vegetation, including Nail Can Hill.

The noxious weeds in the local area include Privet, Hawthorn, Willow, Tree Lucerne, African Olives, Californian Date Palm, Cherry Plum, Broom, Cotoneaster, Freesia, Watsonia, Agapanthus, Lavender and Cootamundra Wattle.

The Escapees

These are examples of the escapees that Vince and Jess control and remove from the local environment.



Common Name: **PRIVET BROADLEAF**

Scientific Name: *Ligustrum lucidum*

Privet Broadleaf was introduced for ornamental reasons and can be found in many older gardens. The plant can grow in moist, nutrient-rich sites like creeks and gullies. Birds like Currawongs, Blackbirds and Rosellas eat fruit and spread seeds in droppings.

Vince and Jess hand pull seedlings, and cut and inject poison into Privet Broadleaf to manage its spread.



Common name: **HAWTHORN**

Scientific name: *Crataegus monogyna*

Hawthorn was introduced for ornamental reasons and used in herbal medicine. It can grow in forests and riparian areas like creek and river banks. Birds eat berries and spread seed in droppings.

Vince and Jess control Hawthorn by cutting into the tree and injecting poison.



Common name: **CHERRY PLUM**

Scientific Name: *Prunus cerasifera*

Cherry Plum was introduced for ornamental reasons and still is widely used in domestic gardens. It grows along roadsides and disturbed bush. Foxes and birds eat the fruit and spread it through the form of their droppings.

Vince and Jess manage the Cherry Plum by using tree injection (when in full leaf), or by cutting and poisoning it.



Common Name: **AGAPANTHUS**

Scientific Name: *Agapanthus praecox*

The agapanthus was introduced to Australia from South Africa as an ornamental plant. They are often found in old established gardens . Many have escaped and become naturalised along roadsides, rail reserves and other disturbed areas. Agapanthus seeds are carried by the wind allowing them to spread over a large area.

Vince and Jess prevent the spread of Agapanthus by removing spent flower heads.



Common Name: **LAVENDER**

Scientific Name: *Lavandula stoechas*

Lavender was introduced as an ornamental plant. It grows in dry sclerophyll forests, woodlands, lowlands, grasslands, roadsides as well as past mining areas. Lavender seeds travel in the mud on tyres, boots and machinery. They can also move by wind and in water ways.

Vince and Jess must carefully remove the Lavender by hand, making sure not to leave any woody roots. They also cut and poison established plants.

STOP

START

**NO WORKS
BETWEEN
POSTS**

END

Contact Local Council Weed Officer

WEEDS

Thank you to Jess and Vince for coming to James Fallon High School and giving us a presentation about the local weeds that surround Albury and how they are trying to remove them.

Further information

Albury City Council

Weekdays 8.30am to 5pm: 02 6023 8111

After hours: 1300 133 391

Department of Primary Industries

Exotic Plant Pest Hotline for reporting suspect exotic plant pests and diseases: 1800 084 881

Invasive Plants and Animals Enquiries

For general enquiries for weed and vertebrate pest related matters: 1800 680 244



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2015 Year 9, James Fallon High 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

