

Wrong Place at the Wrong Time



Thurgoona 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

Wrong Place at the Wrong Time

Authors: Tyler Creek, Benjamin Armstrong, Jack Vogel,
Maddi Gyoles, Samara Wynn, Nikita Doubleday,
Asherah Campbell, Shelby Orzegowski and Ethan Rahaley

Teacher: Emma Flower

School: Thurgoona 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

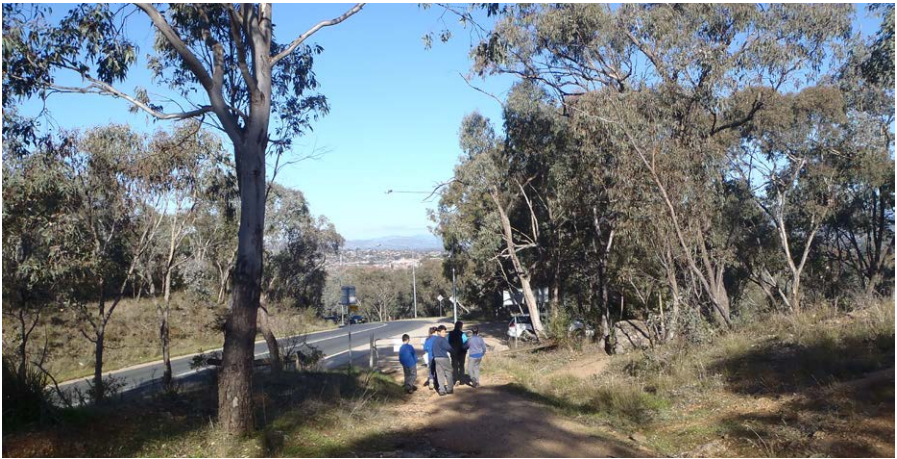


About Sue

Sue Brunskill is a Natural Resource Management teacher at Thurgoona TAFE NSW. She grew up on a farm in Borambola, near Wagga Wagga. She began her career as a school teacher.

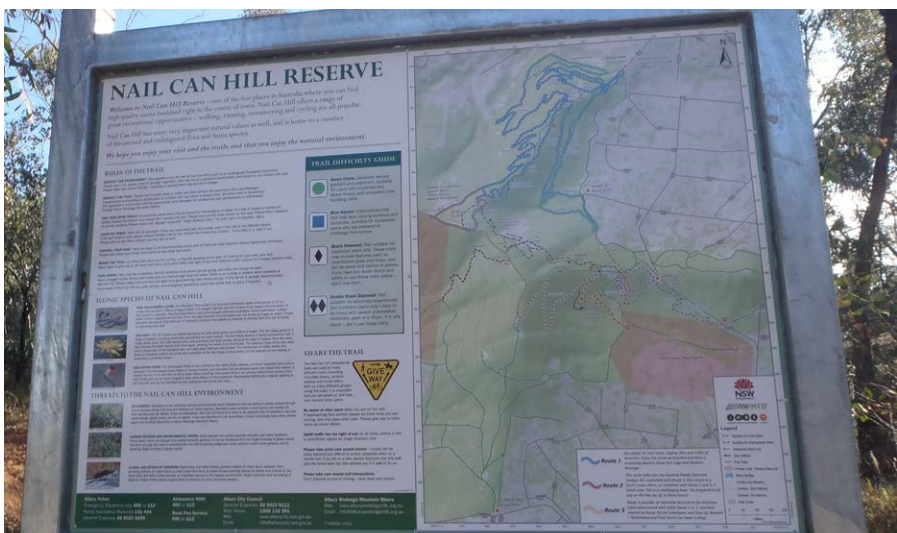
Sue spent time travelling around Australia and overseas and as a result, realised how unique and precious the Australian landscape is and why we should protect it. When she returned to Australia she changed careers and became a bush regenerator.





Nail Can Hill

Nail Can Hill is a nature reserve on the outskirts of Albury. It is home to many native plants and animals. People visit the area for a number of reasons including bush walking, jogging, mountain biking, bird watching and nature studies. Nail Can is a place that Sue knows lots about and is passionate about protecting.





Environmental Weeds

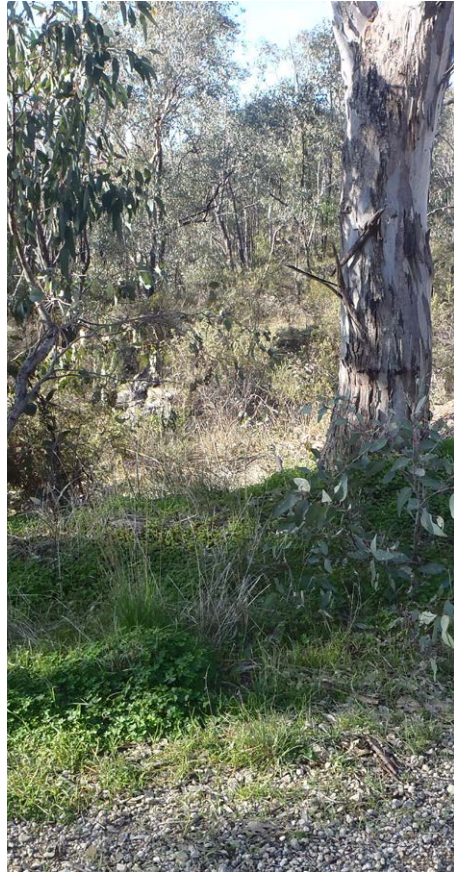
One threat to Nail Can Hill is environmental weeds. Environmental weeds are plants that invade bushland and don't belong in a particular area. There are many environmental weeds all over Nail Can, taking the space of the local native plants and upsetting the biodiversity of the area.

They are growing in the wrong place at the wrong time.



How do weeds spread?

Weeds are spread by birds and other animals (through their droppings), people dumping garden waste or planting shrubs in the bush. They are also transported by the wind, water and vehicles. Some weeds can be managed by removing them by hand, or poisoning their roots. It is not a good idea to blanket spray the plant because it may kill native plants in the area.



Cootamundra Wattle

(*Acacia baileyana*)

Cootamundra Wattle is a species of wattle native to the Cootamundra region, it can grow up to six metres tall. It usually grows in well-drained sites and also rivers edges. The seeds are spread by bird droppings, water and ants. Cootamundra wattles are a problem around Nail Can Hill because it is not native to the area, and spreads into the bush and takes over from the local native plants that belong there. They can be managed by pulling the small ones or injecting poison into the stump of larger trees.





Briar Rose

(*Rosa rubiginosa*)

The Briar Rose can grow up to three metres tall and is identified by its pink colour. It grows in dry sclerophyll forests and lowland grasslands. While it is a weed it can provide a useful habitat for small birds if no other shrubs are present, because it has thorns.

Briar Rose is spread by birds and animals that eat the seeds and spread the seeds in their droppings. They can be dug up or cut and poisoned. It is a noxious plant in New South Wales and Victoria.

St. John's Wort

(*Hypericum perforatum*)

St. John's Wort has a yellow flower and grows up to 80 centimetres high. It was introduced to Australia because a nurse said it was a cure for human depression. St. John's Wort is found in Turkey, Ukraine, Russia, the Middle East, India, Canada, the United States and China. This plant is spread on the coats of animals, by water, wind and vehicles. It is harmful to wallabies, when they run into it, it can make them blind. It is also harmful for farm animals with light coats. It is a noxious weed in New South Wales and Victoria.





Succulent

A succulent is an ornamental plant, which is low growing. It requires very little water to survive. Succulent plants may store water in various structures, such as leaves and stems.

Even if a small part of the plant is broken off it will grow, it is a very resilient plant. It can be controlled by pulling it all out by hand.

Bridal Creeper

(*Asparagus asparagoides*)

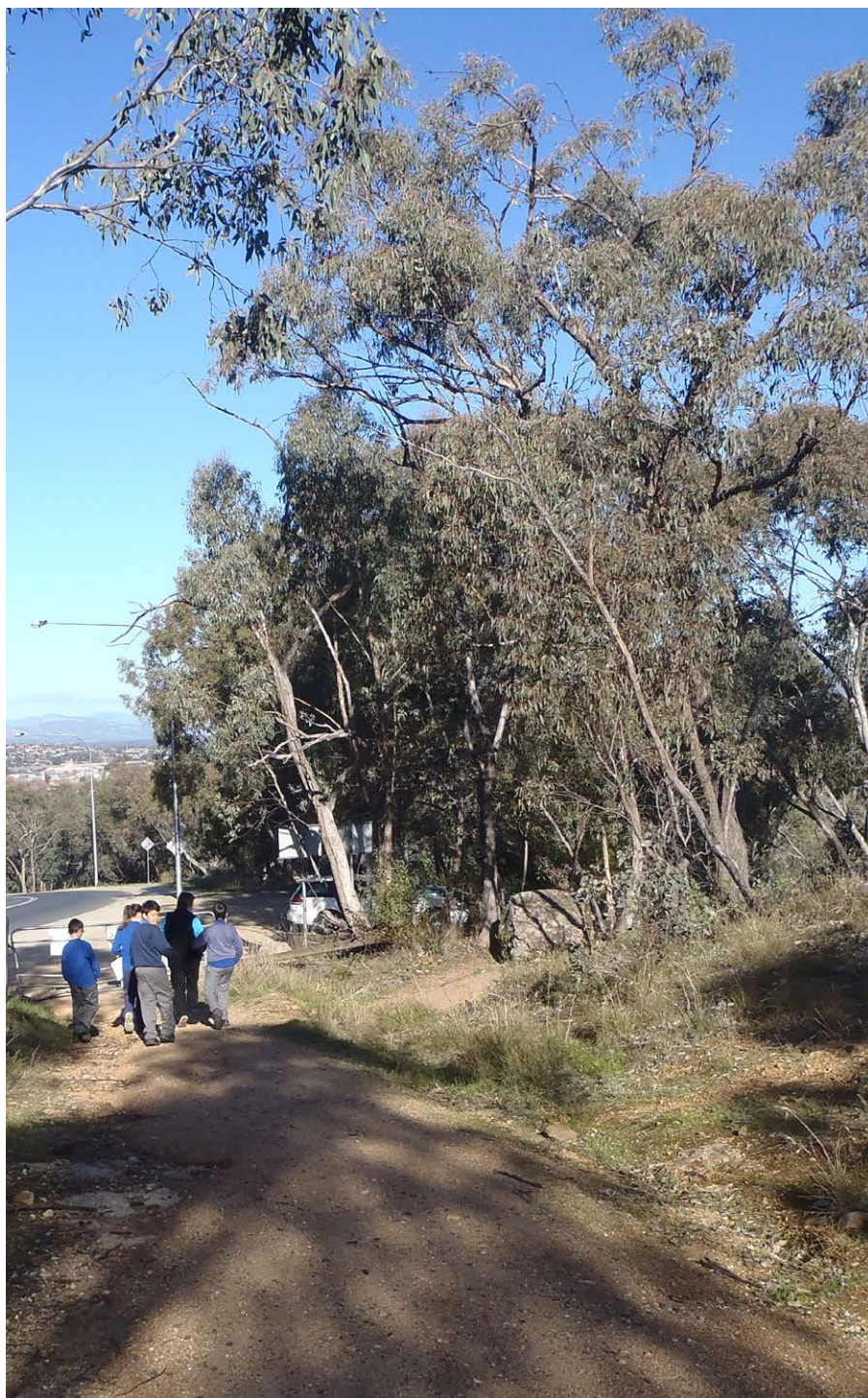
Bridal Creeper is a creeping herb that can grow up to three metres high. It grows in woodlands and forests. It can invade undisturbed bushland. Birds eat the fruit and spread the seeds in droppings. It is declared a 'Weed of National Significance' and is difficult to control.





What can be done?

There are practical things that everyone can do to stop the spread of environmental weeds. It is important that people don't grow environmental weeds in their garden and don't dump cuttings in Nail Can Hill or any nature reserve, as they can spread and take over. Don't take native plants from the bush or pick the bush flowers. You can also get involved in tree planting days in your local community.





Back Row: Asherah Campbell, Nikita Doubleday, Ethan Rahaley, Benjamin Armstrong. Middle Row: Shelby Orzegowski, Jack Vogel, Tyler Creek. Front Row: Samara Wynn, Maddi Gyoles

2015 Year 6, Thurgoona 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

