

FLOWING FACTS ABOUT THE EDWARD RIVER



Written by students from 4/5 Barton,
Deniliquin South 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

FLOWING FACTS ABOUT THE EDWARD RIVER

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School: Deniliquin South Public School

Our Community

In 2016, students involved in the Creative Catchment Kids program researched and wrote stories about their local community and how local individuals, couples, businesses or industries have made a difference. The program was generously funded by Murray Local Land Services and the Australian government's National Landcare Programme.

Creative Catchment Kids - Our Community is part of Enviro-Stories, a PeekKdesigns education program.

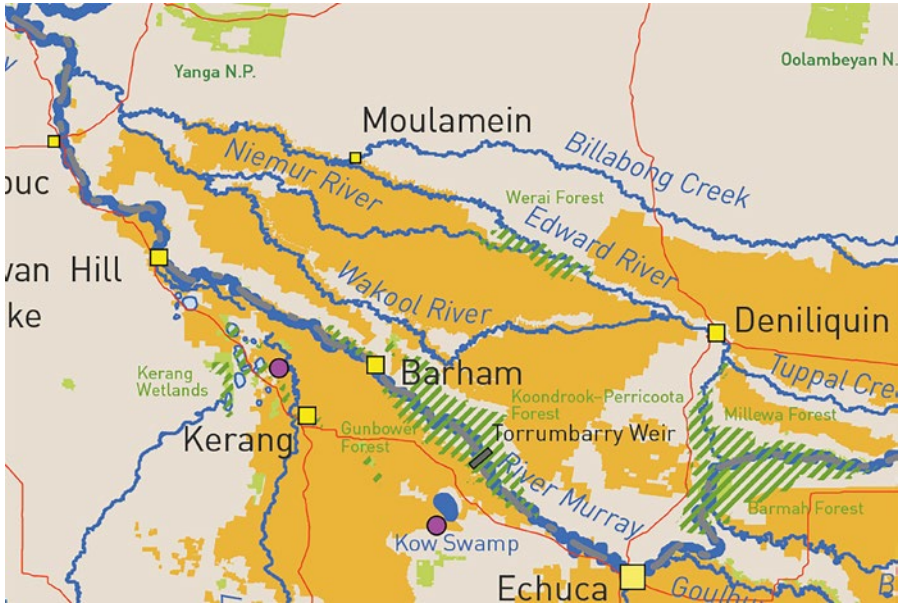


Welcome to the Edward River, the heart of Deniliquin!

Our town is the largest rural town in south western New South Wales with a population of 8000. We rely on the Edward River every day for drinking water, irrigation and tourism!

The 'Wamba Wamba - Berapa Berapa' people use the word 'Kolety' (pronounced kol-etch) as the traditional Aboriginal name for the Edward River.





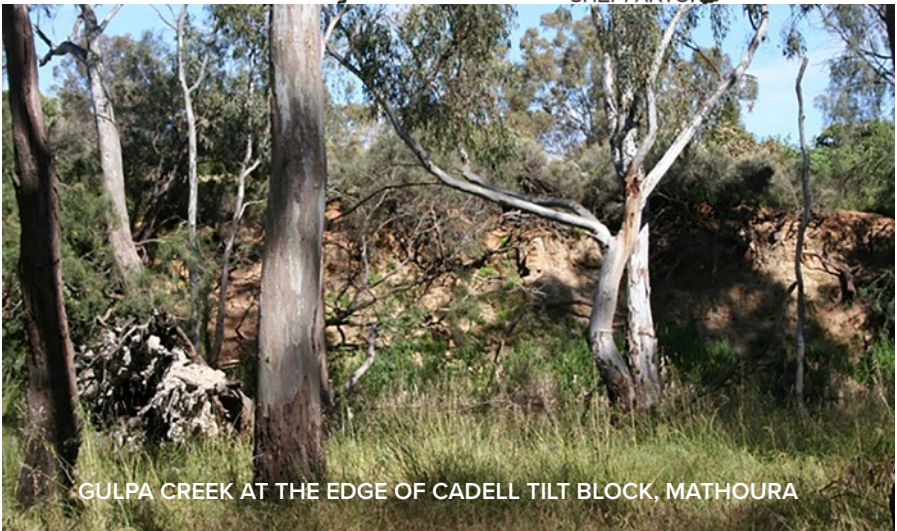
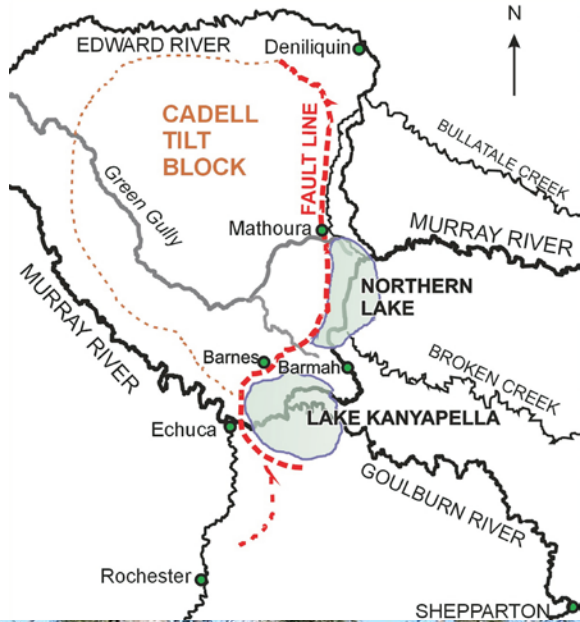
The mighty Edward River runs for 383 kilometres! It splits from the Murray River at Picnic Point (east of Mathoura), travels north to Deniliquin, then west to Moulamein, before re-joining the Murray River at Kyalite.

Europeans John Webster and James McLaurin discovered the Edward River in 1840 while droving cattle. They named it after their employer Edward Howe.

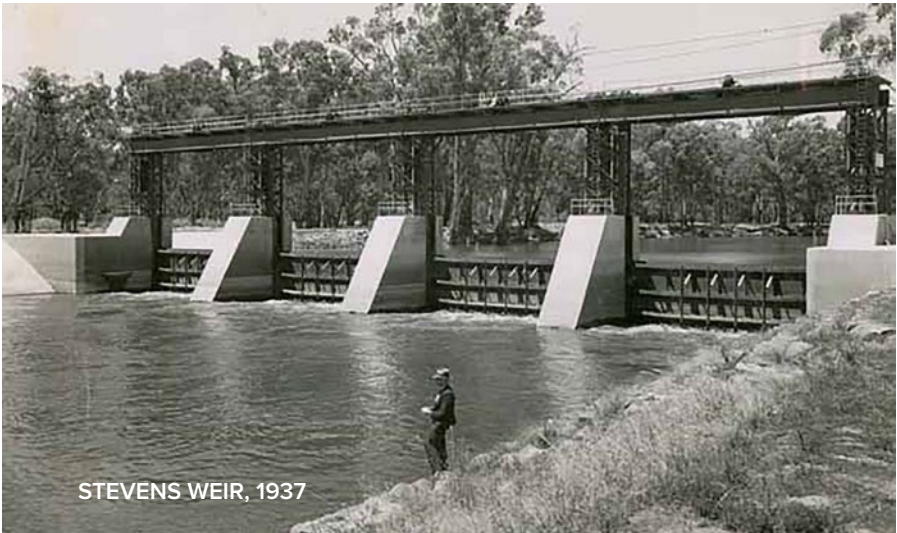


During the last 60,000 years, a major earthquake-like event occurred, pushing up the land between Echuca and Deniliquin. This made the Murray River change course and head south towards Echuca, instead of west where it had flowed before!

This allowed for the smaller Edward River to be formed, flowing north-west from the point now called the Cadell fault or tilt.



GULPA CREEK AT THE EDGE OF CADELL TILT BLOCK, MATHOURA



One of the main uses of the Edward River is irrigation. This is the regular supply of water to farms, for their crops and livestock.

‘Stevens Weir’ was built in 1935, as a way of controlling the water level for irrigation. This ensures there is enough water to be pumped into the MANY channels around the Deniliquin area.





We interviewed Mr. Vince Kelly from Water NSW and learnt about Stevens Weir, irrigation, and also how the Edward River supports the environment (trees, fish, birds, plants, etc). He came with us to Stevens Weir and taught us about the importance of managing the gates to control the water level.



Stevens Weir ensures there is enough water in the Deniliquin section of the river for irrigation to be possible.

When there is too much rain and when the snow melts, water levels rise in the dams, lakes and rivers. When this happens, Vince and his team are able to adjust the gates and let more water pass through the weir.



Deniliquin's irrigation system also receives water from the Mulwala Canal. This large water system runs 160 kilometres west from Lake Mulwala to Deniliquin. The canal is often referred to by irrigators as their 'man-made river'.

The Mulwala Canal meets up with the Edward River at Deniliquin and crosses UNDERNEATH the river using a syphon. This is called the Lawson Syphon.



Work on the Lawson Syphon began in 1939, but because of World War II its construction had to be put on hold. It was finally completed in April, 1955, with modifications continuing until 1964.

Today the Mulwala Canal, with the help of the Lawson Syphon, provides water to more than 2,400 properties which equals 740,000 hectares of farmland!

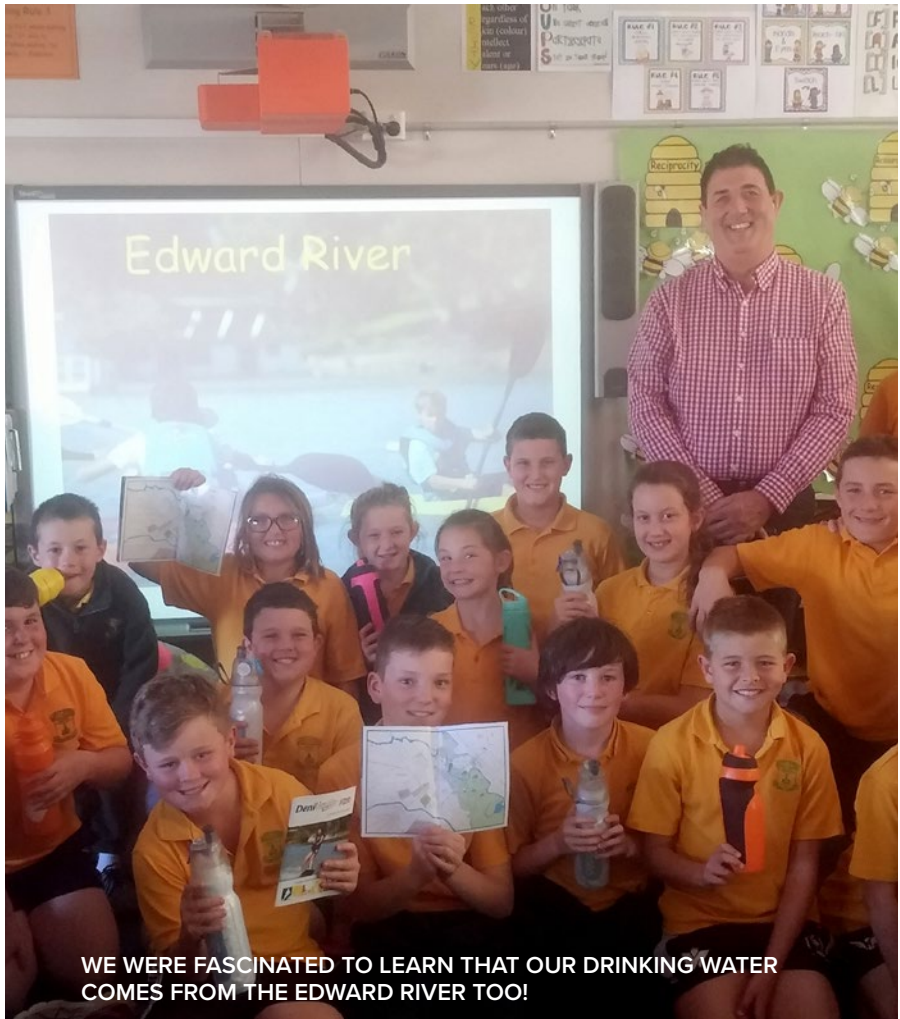


Another major use of the Edward River is tourism!

People particularly love using the river for enjoyment, whether they are locals living in Deniliquin, or visitors travelling here on holidays. People love fishing, relaxing on the beach, travelling down the river on houseboats, and engaging in water sports such as skiing, wake boarding, and kayaking.

We interviewed Mr. John Harvie, from Edward River Council, about the many uses of the river and learnt how our town relies on tourism to survive.

When people visit Deniliquin, they spend money at our restaurants, shops, hotels and caravan parks etc. Having the Edward River run through Deniliquin makes us more appealing to visitors!



WE WERE FASCINATED TO LEARN THAT OUR DRINKING WATER COMES FROM THE EDWARD RIVER TOO!



We thoroughly enjoyed researching the Edward River and particularly learning about its history, irrigation and tourism.

Conducting interviews and going on local excursions helped us to understand what we were learning and make connections to our local environment!

We love our Edward River... we hope you do now too!



4/5 Barton 2016

Deniliquin South Public School

Congratulations!

Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre and
the Creative Catchment Kids Program won the
National 2016 Yates Junior Landcare Team Award.



Local Land
Services
Murray

