

OUR PLACE - MAYRUNG



Taylah Gow, Fletcher Maher, Tomas Learmonth,
Max Langford, Christopher Moore and Beth Lavery

Mayrung 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

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School: Mayrung 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.

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



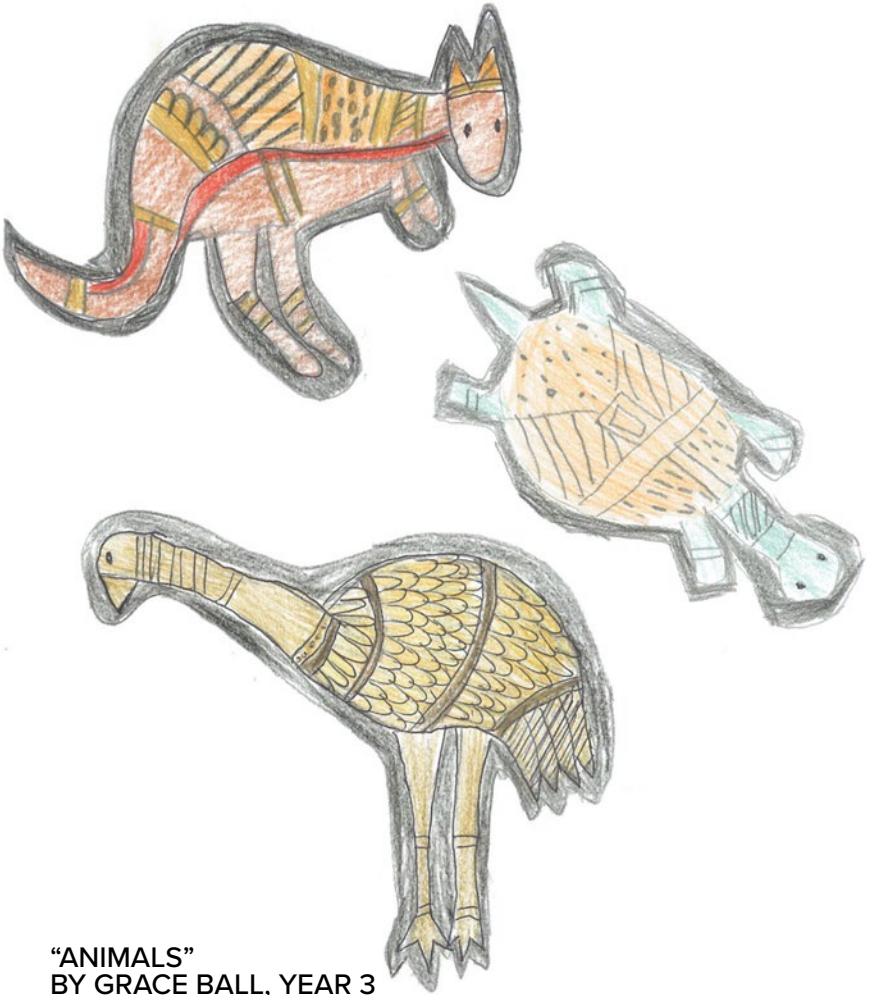
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Our community has been known by many names, Carratha, Pine Hills, Narrama and now it is called Mayrung. The Europeans first settled in Carratha around 1870 because of the good water supply.

In traditional Aboriginal language, the area Carratha means 'place of many pines.' Local Aboriginal Elder, Fred Egan, explained to us the importance of the Mayrung area to the indigenous community.





**“ANIMALS”
BY GRACE BALL, YEAR 3**

The land attracted people because of the many creeks such as Forest Creek, Box Creek, Wonga Wonga Creek and the Billabong. Indigenous people used this area as a highway.

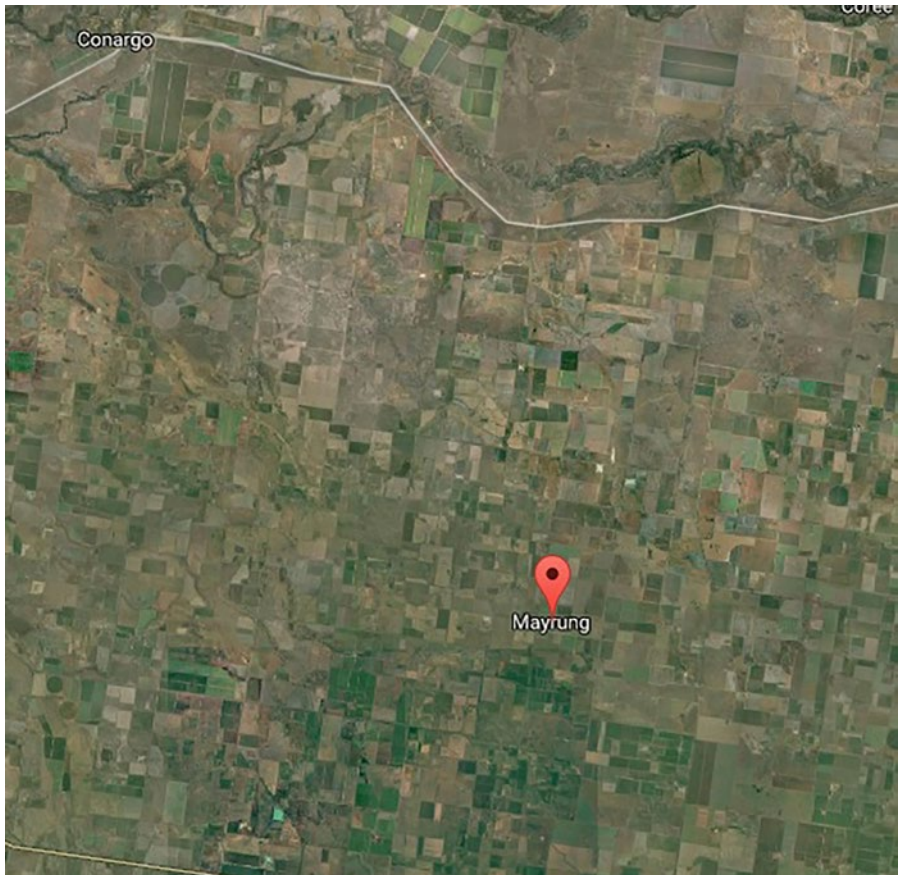
The original European settlers were mostly sheep and wheat farmers and the area was known for its dryland farming. There were four large main stations along the creeks.



Mayrung has gone by many names throughout its time. Mayrung was first called Carratha by the Indigenous people that lived in the area. European settlers named the property that Mayrung is located on as Pine Hills. The school was named Narrama but was then changed to Mayrung due to the similarity and confusion with Narooma on the coast.



At the turn of the 20th century Mayrung was a half-day trip by horse or buggy to Deniliquin. Travellers would have to pass through 27 gates to get to town as there were no fenced roads. The Conargo Shire was formed in 1906 and they become responsible for creating public roads. The Farmers and Settlers Association wrote a letter asking for a fenced road from Mayrung to Deniliquin.



After the Second World War, Mayrung became a 'soldier settlement area'. Farms were subdivided to create smaller farms for returned soldiers.

The station 'Lara' was subdivided into 5 farms, 'Lara' was originally 6500 acres and the property became 1100 acres after subdivision. The property 'Pine Hills' was subdivided into 4 farms.



The soldier settlement scheme saw the Mayrung area change. The scheme brought more families into the area and the population grew. This was seen mostly at the school. The school went from 10 students to 32. This population growth developed the idea of irrigation in the local area.

Mayrunga started to see irrigation in the area; this changed the traditional dryland farming used in the area. Dairies became more common and less wheat and sheep farming was seen. These dairies were mostly small and milked 10-20 cows per day. The exception was Mr.

Gordon Ball's family dairy, which milked 100 cows a day.



MR. GORDON BALL AND BALL'S IRRIGATION CHANNEL

School was held at the 'Pine Hills' hall from February, 1946, until the hall burnt down on the 26th of April, 1951. Two students were asked to clean the embers out of the open fire. That night, the embers blew in the wind and ignited a pile of kerosene soaked sawdust from a dance, this ignited the hall.

"FIRE" BY TAYLAH GOW

The 'Pine Hills' hall was rebuilt and opened on the 26th of April, 1953. This time, it was built out of bricks to be more fire resistant. The hall can still be seen on the Mayrung community grounds and is still used by the community.



With the introduction of machinery and irrigation to farms in the area, Mayrung has changed from its beginning as dryland farming to dairy farming and rice crops. Rice was first seen on 'Mataranka' around 1968. This, along with the soldier settlement scheme, has shaped Mayrung to the community it is today.



Today Mayrunga is a growing community; the school educates 32 students with the majority from families in the Mayrunga community. Mayrunga is no longer a half-day trip to Deniliquin, it now takes 35 minutes.

Mr. Gordon Ball came to the school and informed us about our community's history. Mr. Ball's granddaughters are fourth generation in the Mayrunga community.



We wish to thank the Mayrunga students and families who provided information that contributed to this publication.



Taylah Gow, Fletcher Maher, Tomas Learmonth, Max Langford,
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2016 Year 6, Mayrung Public School

Congratulations!

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

