

THIS IS OUR LAKE, LAKE MULWALA



Hannah Riches, Lilah Ornsby, Francis Martin,
Jett Peters, Jaxen Wheeler and Olivia Quinn

Mulwala 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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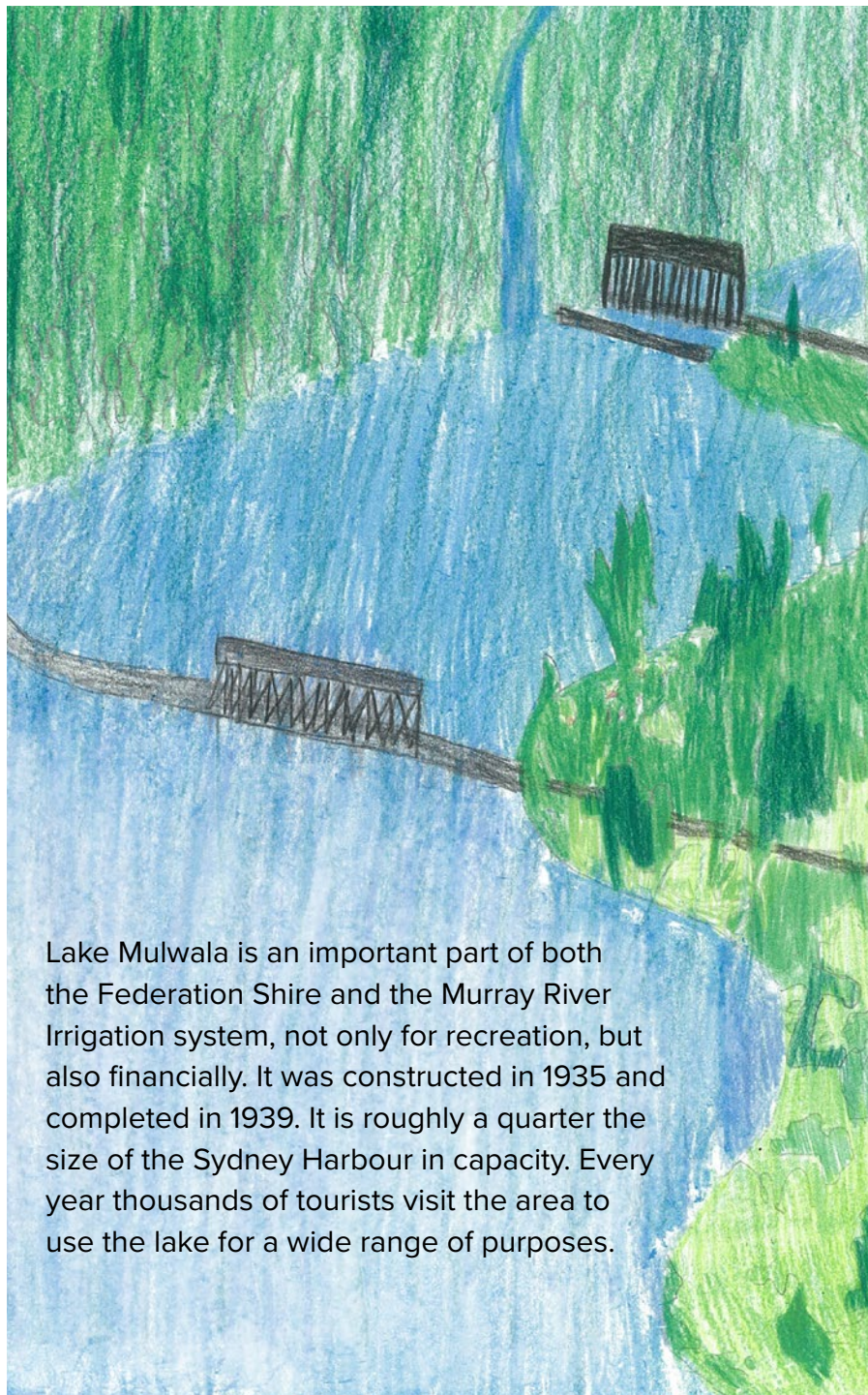
School: Mulwala Public School

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 Peekdesigns education program.



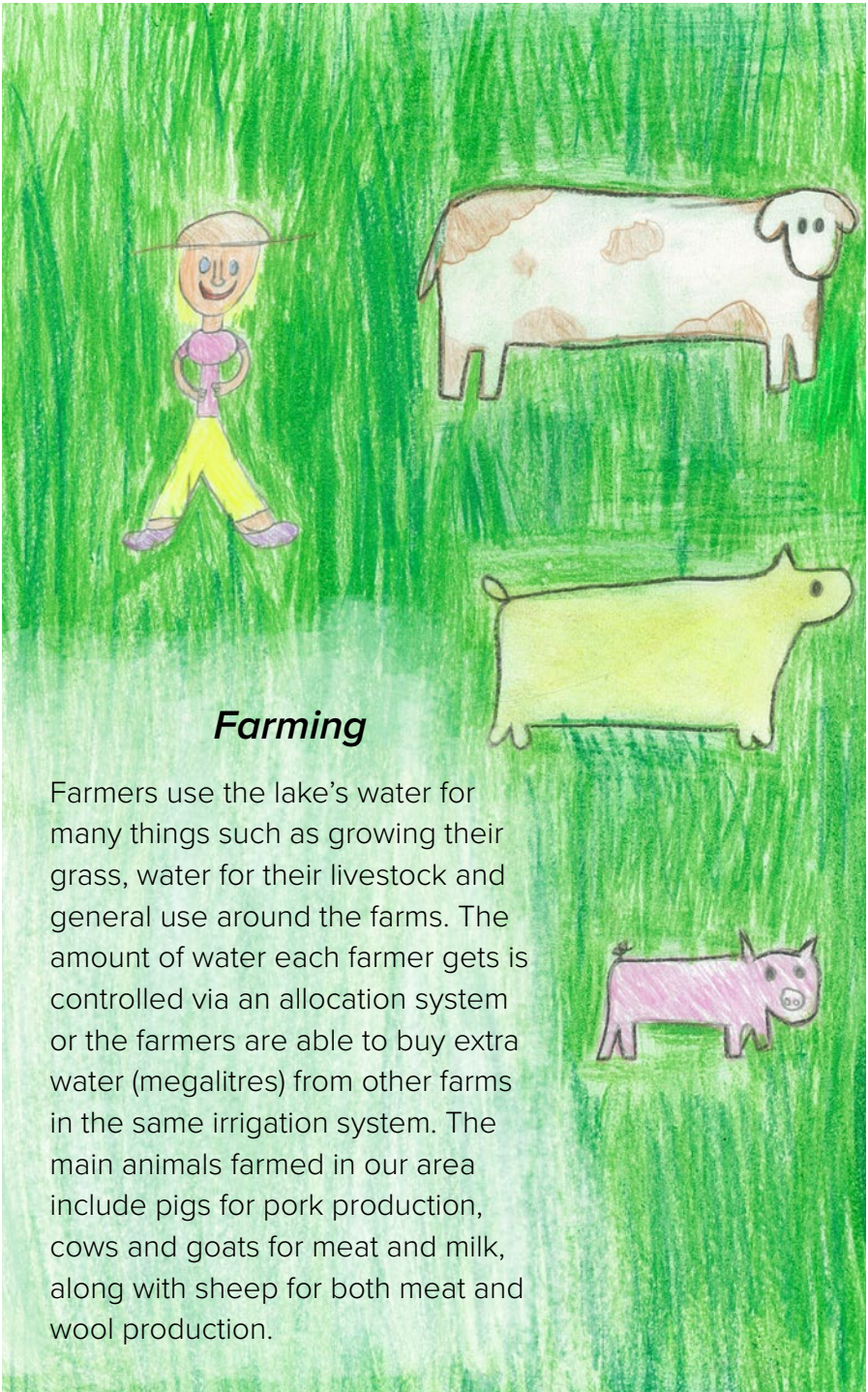


Lake Mulwala is an important part of both the Federation Shire and the Murray River Irrigation system, not only for recreation, but also financially. It was constructed in 1935 and completed in 1939. It is roughly a quarter the size of the Sydney Harbour in capacity. Every year thousands of tourists visit the area to use the lake for a wide range of purposes.



Irrigation

The water in the lake is used mainly for irrigation for the farmers. Although it is also used to help control flooding and for recreational use. The water is sent to farms by the Mulwala and Cobram channels. The amount of water released from the lake is controlled to ensure that none is wasted. The main crops grown in the area are wheat, canola, corn, barley as well as hay for use domestically and for sale to other areas.



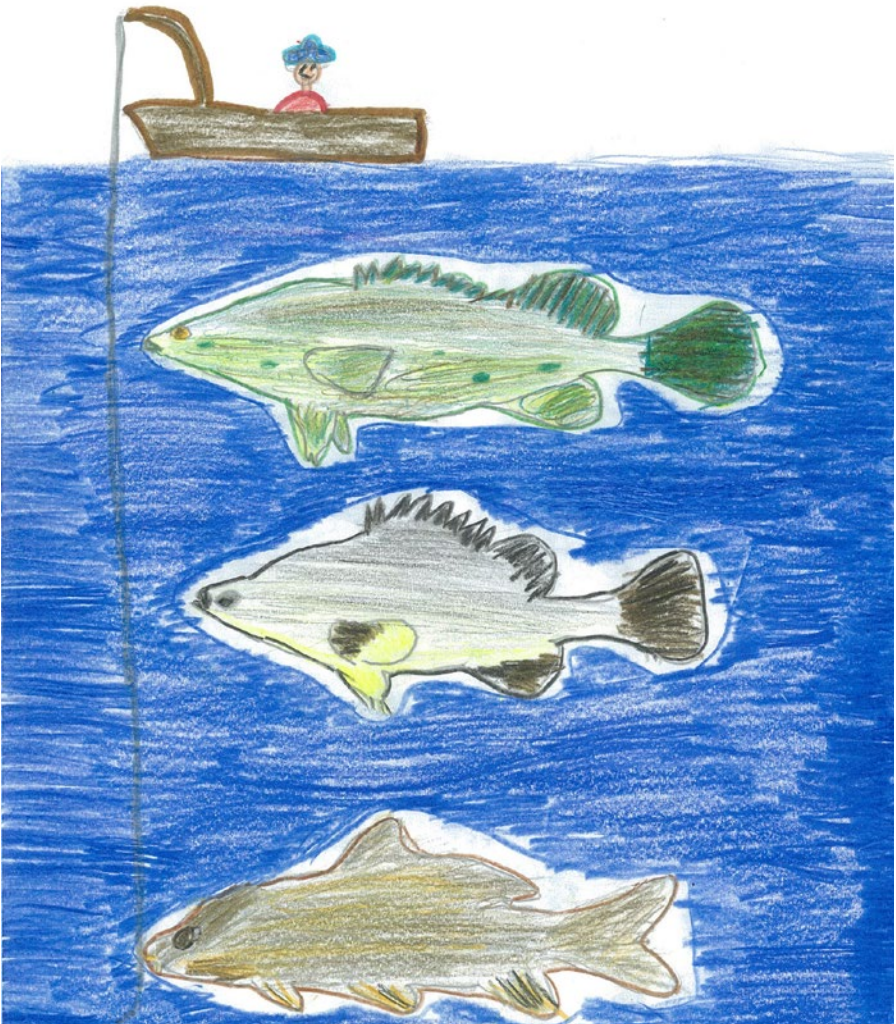
Farming

Farmers use the lake’s water for many things such as growing their grass, water for their livestock and general use around the farms. The amount of water each farmer gets is controlled via an allocation system or the farmers are able to buy extra water (megalitres) from other farms in the same irrigation system. The main animals farmed in our area include pigs for pork production, cows and goats for meat and milk, along with sheep for both meat and wool production.

Fishing

Fishing is a huge draw card for our town. The most common fish caught in our lake are: Murray cod, Yellowbelly and the European carp. It is illegal to let carp go back into the water.

The biggest fishing competition is the Cod Classic which is held in December. The fish are so important to the environment that there is a fish lift in the weir to allow fish to move along their traditional breeding areas of the river.



Boating

Lots of people use our lake for sailing and tourism. There are several boats that people can hire to sail or leisurely explore the lake. The Cumberoona, constructed in 1906, is an old paddle steamer that takes people on tours around the lake. It is also a floating restaurant. The paddle steamer has been restored and was actually moved here from Albury in early 2015. It takes tourists out on the lake to experience the beauty of wildlife and the scenery.





Mulwala Water Ski Club

The skiing here is amazing. The Mulwala Water Ski Club has some of the best skiers in the world. They practice all the time - even through winter. Our skiers compete in the world championships all over the world. The facilities are so good that other states such as South Australia have held their state titles here. We even have a student in our class, Tessa Ryan, who has competed at the World Water Ski Show Tournament, along with many other members of the Mulwala Water Ski Show Team.

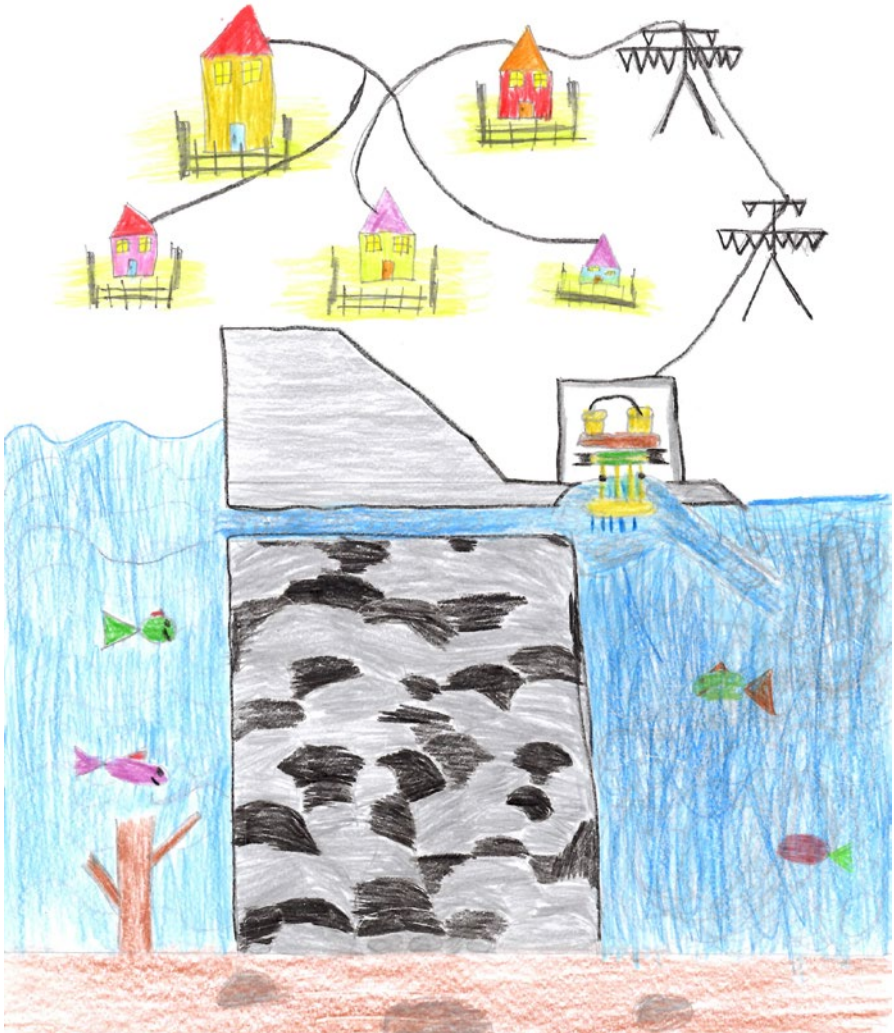
Recreational use

Originally, when the lake was being constructed the trees were going to be left in place. However, a group of locals had the foresight to see the potential for tourism. So before the lake was finished they started to fell the trees- they used broad axes and two-man saws to fell down as many trees as they could. As a result, there are great open areas that allow for excellent skiing and sailing. Many stumps are still just below the water so it's important to ski only where it's safe.



Power Plant

Did you know... hydroelectricity is produced when moving water spins a turbine. This movement creates electricity and the generator runs the electricity through the power lines and into the electricity grid. In 1994 a privately owned power station was built in the wall of the Yarrowonga Weir. When running at capacity the power plant can produce just over 9 megawatts of electricity that help power the houses and businesses in the local area.





Bridge

The current bridge links the border towns of Yarrawonga, Victoria, and Mulwala, NSW. The bridge was designed by Mr. Percy Allan and opened in 1924. It is a truss bridge in design. The problem is that when it was built it wasn't built in a straight line and so as a result it is narrow and dips in the middle. There are plans to replace the bridge and construction on its replacement is hoped to start within two years.



Markets

A popular use of our lake's foreshore is the regular Farmers' Markets. Here you can choose from a wide range of great fresh fruit and vegetables to feed everyone but also at the same time you are supporting local producers. Once a year there are massive markets that have stalls from all over the state. The choice of merchandise is simply amazing.



Chinamans Island

Chinamans Island isn't an island but it's actually a promontory. The Island was used by the local Aboriginal people for thousands of years to hunt for food (kangaroos and wallabies) as well as to gather seeds and fruit.

When first settled by Europeans the area was used as market gardens, farmed by Chinese immigrants. Now it's a tourist place where you can watch the birds, ride bikes and simply enjoy the scenery.



Beauty of the Lake

Our lake really is the heart of our great community. People love to swim, ski or fish in it, to name just a few ways we use our lake. The foreshore is a great place to play with the family, shop, eat fish 'n' chips or simply sit back and watch the sunset. Lake Mulwala is a great place to spend any time. As a school we enjoy having lunch on the foreshore as it's only 200 metres from our front gate.



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2016 Year 4/5/6, Mulwala 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



Australian Government

