

OPEN YOUR EYES TO OAKLANDS!



Written by Year 5/6 students from
Oaklands Central 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 PeekKdesigns, 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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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.





OUR LOCAL MUSEUM

The first community to settle was at Alexander Murray's property 'OAKLANDS'. Mrs. Murray called it Oaklands because of a group of Oak trees close to her home.

Before that Oaklands was originally called 'Clear Hills'. The name change wasn't official and the reason has never been discovered.

The current estimated population of Oaklands is 310 people.





OAKLANDS HOTEL



LOCAL PARK



THE MEN'S SHED

Oaklands is a small, farming community based in the Wiradjuri region. People come here for a quiet holiday and some like it so much they come and live here. Surrounded by equally small and sometimes larger towns, Oaklands is very, very quiet a lot of the time.



The area of Oaklands was once filled with Murray pine trees, a popular wood for building because white ants (termites) don't eat it.

Many things have changed over time including the roads being sealed. Oaklands had many shops including a butcher, bank, dress shop, garage, hardware store and two grocery shops. There was also an active railway station with a regular passenger train.



One of the interesting things about Oaklands was that for a long time it was not put on maps. This was because during the war Oaklands housed a large Commonwealth stores depot that stored redundant planes, ammunitions and chemicals. The site is now known as Pentarch where they process, pack and recycle ammunition.

Oaklands Central School currently has 82 students enrolled, from Kindergarten to Year 12. In 1992, there were 180 students and no Year 11 or 12. The uniform has remained the same.

There was a time capsule buried in 1885 under a large rock at the front of the school. It was opened in 1985.

In 1996 there was a fire in the school kitchen and science laboratory.



Oaklands' surrounding environment is mainly farmlands. Within the town area, next to the school, is a botanical garden that is home to many native plants.

Oaklands is also known for the rare and endangered plant, the 'Oaklands Orchid'. Where it grows is the only area outside of the seed bank supply.



OAKLANDS BOTANIC GARDENS



ORCHID HABITAT AREA



ORCHID SCULPTURE

The main businesses in Oaklands are trucking, farming and contracting. 'Days' are one of the trucking businesses and have been running since 1928. The owners are May and Peter Day.

Another trucking company is 'Doyle's' owned by John, Eileen and Damien Doyle. Doyle's have been going since 1952. They do contract work sowing, fertilising and harvesting.





GRAINFLOW SITE



GENERAL STORE



THE COMMUNITY GYM

During harvest time the town is very busy with two main grain collection sites, Graincorp and Grainflow.

Oaklands has a number of other facilities in town that add to its economy. There is the Oaklands Pub, Oaklands Bowling Club, Post Office and shop, Billabong Ag store and the Community Gym. These locations also provide a social outlet for many people living in Oaklands.



Before the land was cleared for farming it was covered by Murray pine, Red gum, Grey box, Yellow box and Boree trees. The Oaklands area mainly ran sheep, until it was cleared.

The soil around Oaklands ranges from sandy, red loam, grey loam and grey clay. The sandy soil is easy to work and potatoes are the main crop.





On the red and grey loam, farmers mainly grow wheat, barley and canola. There are some properties that also grow rice, corn and oats. Sheep are also bred on some local farms for wool and meat.

The grey clay is in swamps and wet areas and was originally filled with gullies.



The main sports played in Oaklands are football, tennis, netball, swimming, lawn bowls, cricket and golf.

Our netball/football club, the Hawks, ran from 1894 to 2004. We then joined Urana in 2005 to become the 'Billabong Crows'.

The Oaklands tennis club started in 1914 and people play in the Burraja tennis competition. Our Golf Club is popular on the weekends.

Oaklands may be quiet, but we are proud to call it home.



2016 Year 5/6 Class, Oaklands Central 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

