

# RICE ADVICE



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## *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/](http://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](http://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](http://www.envirostories.com.au)**

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**School:** St. Michael's Catholic Primary School, Deniliquin

## *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.





Deniliquin is part of the Riverina rice growing area. Our climate is too dry to grow rice with rain alone, so farmers irrigate their crops. Clay based soils suit rice as irrigation water is held near the surface where it stops weeds and protects the rice from weather changes. Our area is the most efficient rice growing area in the world.



Rice is planted in three ways. Seed is sown into uncultivated pasture. This is called sod seeding. Combine sowing is when seed is sown into a cultivated seed bed. There is also a lot of aerial sowing. Rice is sown from October to early November.

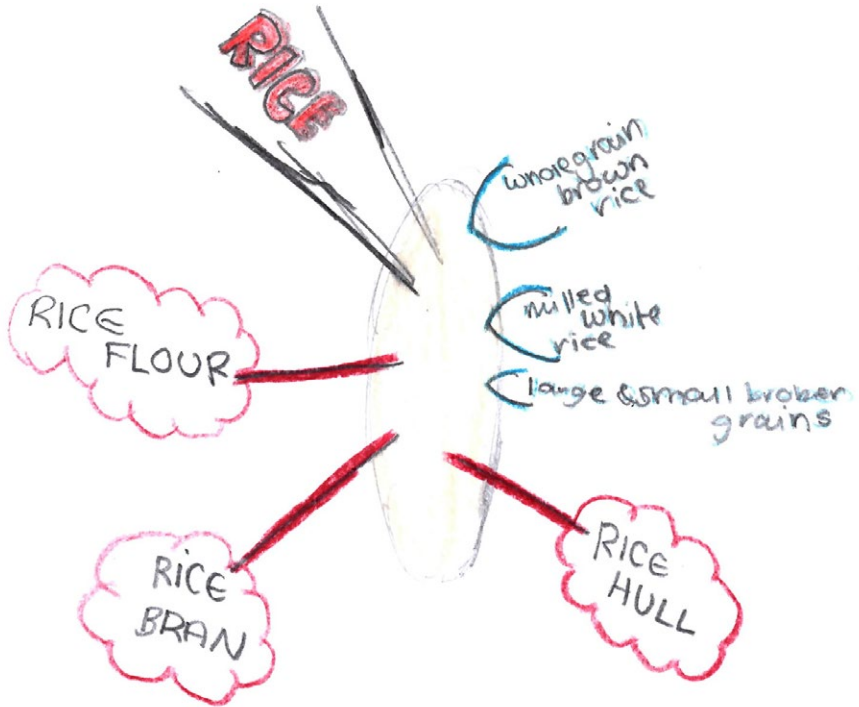
Rice seeds grow over a five month period. As it grows, rice looks like reeds, and grows to about one metre tall. When the rice heads turn golden, the plant is ready for harvesting. This takes place from March to May.





Rice is harvested at 22% moisture. It is left to dry in storage sheds until it has 14% moisture.

There are 17 storage sites around the Riverina, where rice can be stored for one to twelve months. Then it goes to the Rice Mill for processing.

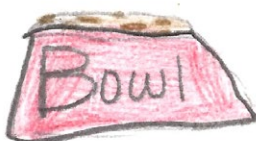


The Deniliquin Rice Mill is the biggest in the Southern Hemisphere. When the rice arrives at the mill the hull is removed and that leaves brown rice.

Then the grains are polished to make white rice. None of the rice is wasted. The hulls are used in stock food and in potting mixes. The bran which is polished off the rice is used for stock feed.

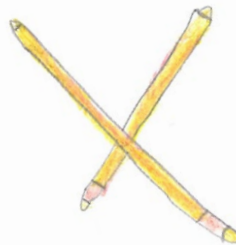


At the mill each grain of rice is photographed for quality control purposes. Broken grains are separated and are used to make rice flour, cereals, pet food and snack foods like Twisties.





Twenty million people eat the Sunrice company's rice every day. Rice is a great food for your body. It is low in fat and has no salt, sugar or gluten. Rice grown in the Deniliquin area is exported mainly to the Middle East and also to Asia and other places.

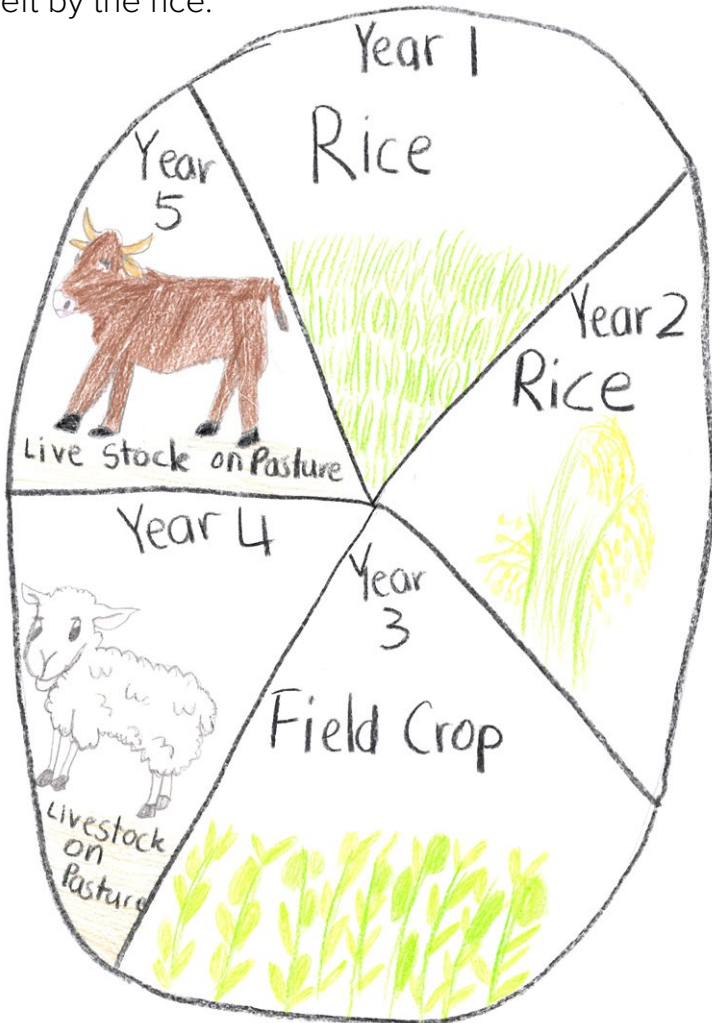


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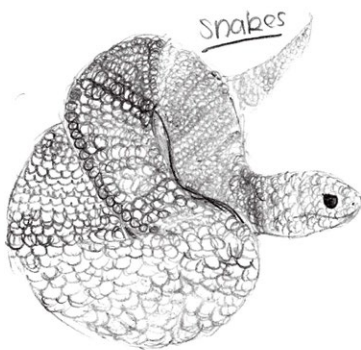


Riverina rice farmers use the latest computer technology and research to get the maximum amount of rice from their land and water.

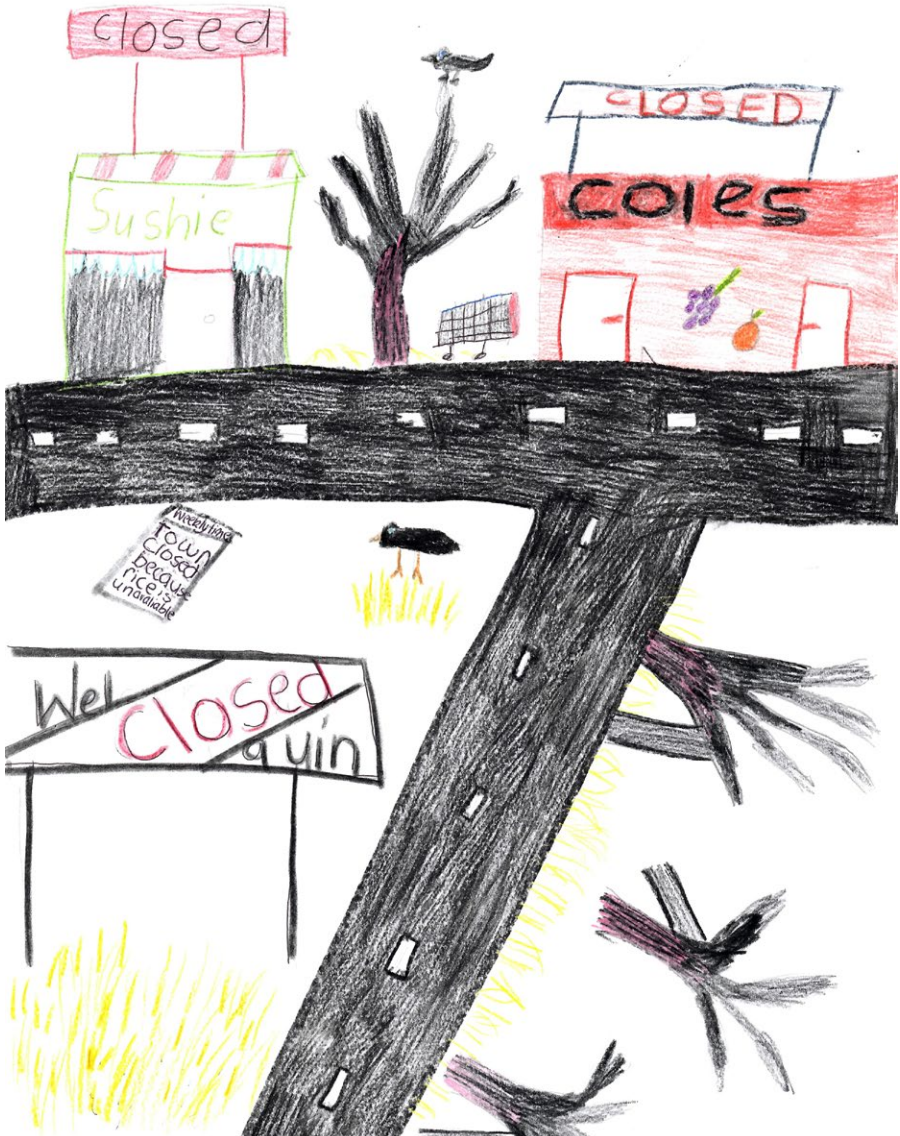
Rice crops are rotated with a cereal crop and grazing animals to make sure that the water is put to its best use. When water is drained off the rice crop before harvest, it is recycled. Cereal crops do well as they are sown into the damp ground left by the rice.

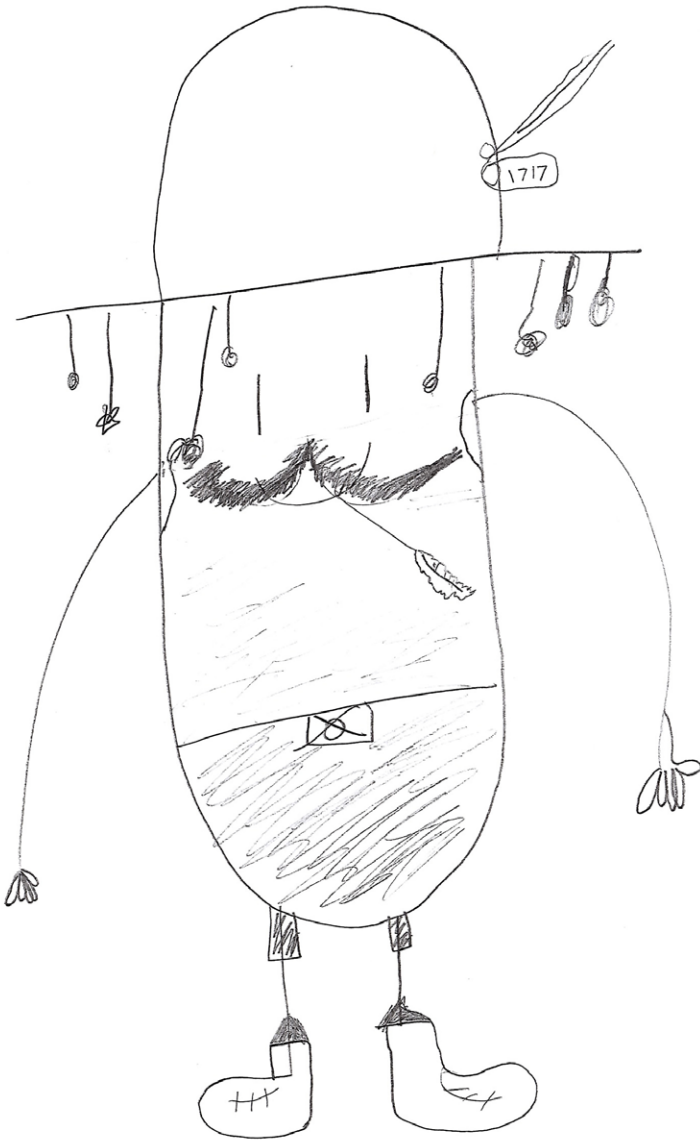


Rice farms are home to many birds, reptiles, frogs, mammals and insects. They include the increasingly rare Brolgas and bitterns. The largest known breeding population of bitterns in the world is in the Riverina rice fields.



The rice industry is very important to Deniliquin. When water is scarce and the rice mill is not in full production, this is felt by the whole community. Farmers, transport operators, rice mill employees, as well as local shopkeepers are all affected when not much rice can be grown.





We are very proud of our rice industry and would like to thank Paul Scoullar who told us all about the mill, Shelley Scoullar for the photos, and everyone else who took part in the making of this book.





Chloe Brown, Mia Jennings and James Cleary

2016 Year 6, St. Michael's Catholic Primary School, Deniliquin

## Congratulations!

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

