

TOCUMWAL ON THE MURRAY



Angus Bouchier, Chase Hardwidge,
Jane Hatty and Amelia Locke

Tocumwal 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

TOCUMWAL ON THE MURRAY

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School: Tocumwal 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 PeekKdesigns education program.



Tocumwal is a small town located on the border of NSW and Victoria. It has many tourist attractions such as the Murray River, sporting venues, water sports, bush walking and flying. The current population of Tocumwal is approximately 2300 and growing steadily. Tocumwal is full of character and old world charm combined with its agricultural heritage and country lifestyle.



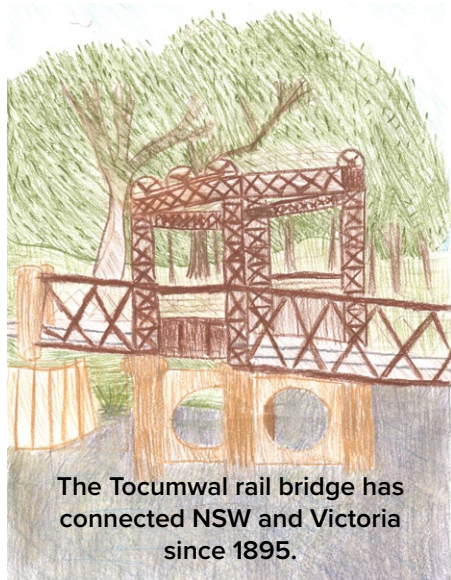
The Big Cod at the Tocumwal Foreshore was commissioned in 1967.

One of the first influential settlers of Tocomwal was Edward Hillson. People called him “The King of Toc,” because he was a great developer of the town in the 1860s. He built Hillson’s General Store (now Tocomwal Antiques), Tocomwal Hotel, Hillson’s Hall (now Aunty Marge’s and Miss Daisy’s Gift shop), and the Murray River Punt which connected NSW and Victoria together, just to name a few.



Tocomwal Antiques Shop exists on the site of the original Hillson’s General Store.

A large railway station was built in Tocumwal in 1893, connecting NSW and Victoria. It was expanded in 1941 to accommodate the increased number of supplies being transported to the airbase. Since then, it has shrunk to a small station with four trains coming in weekly. These trains are important in moving agricultural products to Melbourne and then overseas.

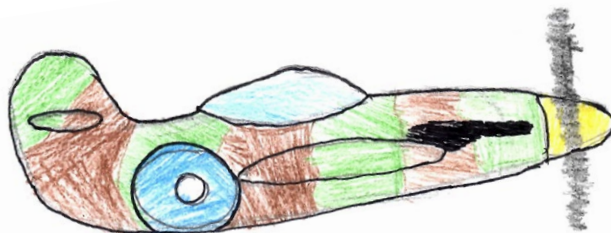


The Tocumwal rail bridge has connected NSW and Victoria since 1895.



Large freight trains still run four times a week transporting agricultural products to the world.

A RAAF base was established in Tocumwal in 1942. It was the largest aerodrome in the Southern hemisphere with servicemen and women from Australia and overseas. It was so large that it housed up to 54 Liberators, 11 Vultee Vengeance, 5 Kittyhawks and one airspeed Oxford, as well as 50 other planes.



A kittyhawk plane similar to those stationed at the RAAF base during World War 2.



One of the enormous hangers still standing at the site of the RAAF base in Tocumwal.

Tocumwal was named after an Aboriginal word meaning ‘deep hole’. The large granite depression known as the ‘Blow Hole’ was a spiritual symbol to surrounding tribes. There’s a legend saying it was home to a native spirit that moved underground via a subterranean passage from the river to the blow hole. The Yorta Yorta tribe lived around Tocumwal for thousands of years.

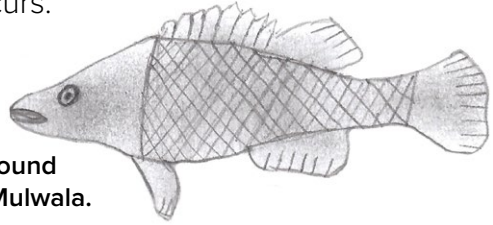


The “Blow Hole” at Tocumwal has many legends attached to it.

Tocumwal has a fantastic environment that is suitable for a wide range of native species. Koalas are abundant because they mainly live off red gums and gum trees in general that line the Murray River. The surrounding area also is home to kangaroos, possums, Sugar gliders, over 150 different species of birds and many other native animals.



The Murray River is home to many types of fish including the Trout cod, which can only be found between Tocumwal and Mulwala. Other fish living in the river include: Murray cod, European carp, Silver perch and Yellow belly. Regular re-stocking of the river still occurs.



The Trout cod is only found between Tocumwal and Mulwala.



The Murray River – home to native species of fish and a water supply for an abundance of wildlife.

Tocumwal exports a lot of grain, meat and wool. The grains grown around Tocumwal include wheat, canola, oats, rice, barley and there are crops of cotton to the north of Tocumwal. Most of the grain goes to the grain sheds on the outskirts of Tocumwal.

Soil types here in Tocumwal are red and grey loams, and river clays to rising sands. These support the variety of crops grown in the district.



**Wheat growing west of Tocumwal,
one of the many crops grown in the district.**

Many farmers around Tocomwal use irrigation to grow their crops when there isn't enough rain. It also can be used to increase the yield of crops. This irrigation water comes through channels from Lake Mulwala. A variety of livestock is also grown around the area including cattle, sheep and pigs. These animals provide us with meat, wool and skins.



Angus cattle are one of the many varieties of livestock that are successfully bred in the Tocomwal district.

There are a wide range of sporting venues in Tocumwal that attract tourists and locals alike. Some of these include the Tocumwal Football Netball Club which was established in 1891, the Tocumwal Golf Club with its 36-hole Championship course, the Tocumwal Bowls Club as well as the local Gliding Club which attracts local, national and international flyers.



Gliding is very popular with international competitions being regularly held in Tocumwal.



The Tocumwal Football Netball Club and the Tocumwal Golf Club attract locals and visitors every year.

Tocumwal on the Murray is a great town with a rich Aboriginal and European history. It has a strong business community which aims to deliver a bright future for generations to come. The river on which the town is situated has provided us with many opportunities for agriculture, entertainment and tourism, as well being the lifeblood for a large number of native species. Tocumwal is a fantastic community in which to live.



The main street of Tocumwal has many thriving businesses.



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2016 Year 6, Tocumwal 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

