

OUR COMMUNITY HENTY



Written and Illustrated by Year 6 students
from Henty 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

Hume Bank

At Hume Bank, community is something we know a lot about, we're a bank for locals and believe money should be kept locally. That's why we are proud to support Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre. By working together, we are able to give back to the community and help build a stronger future for generations to come.

www.humebank.com.au

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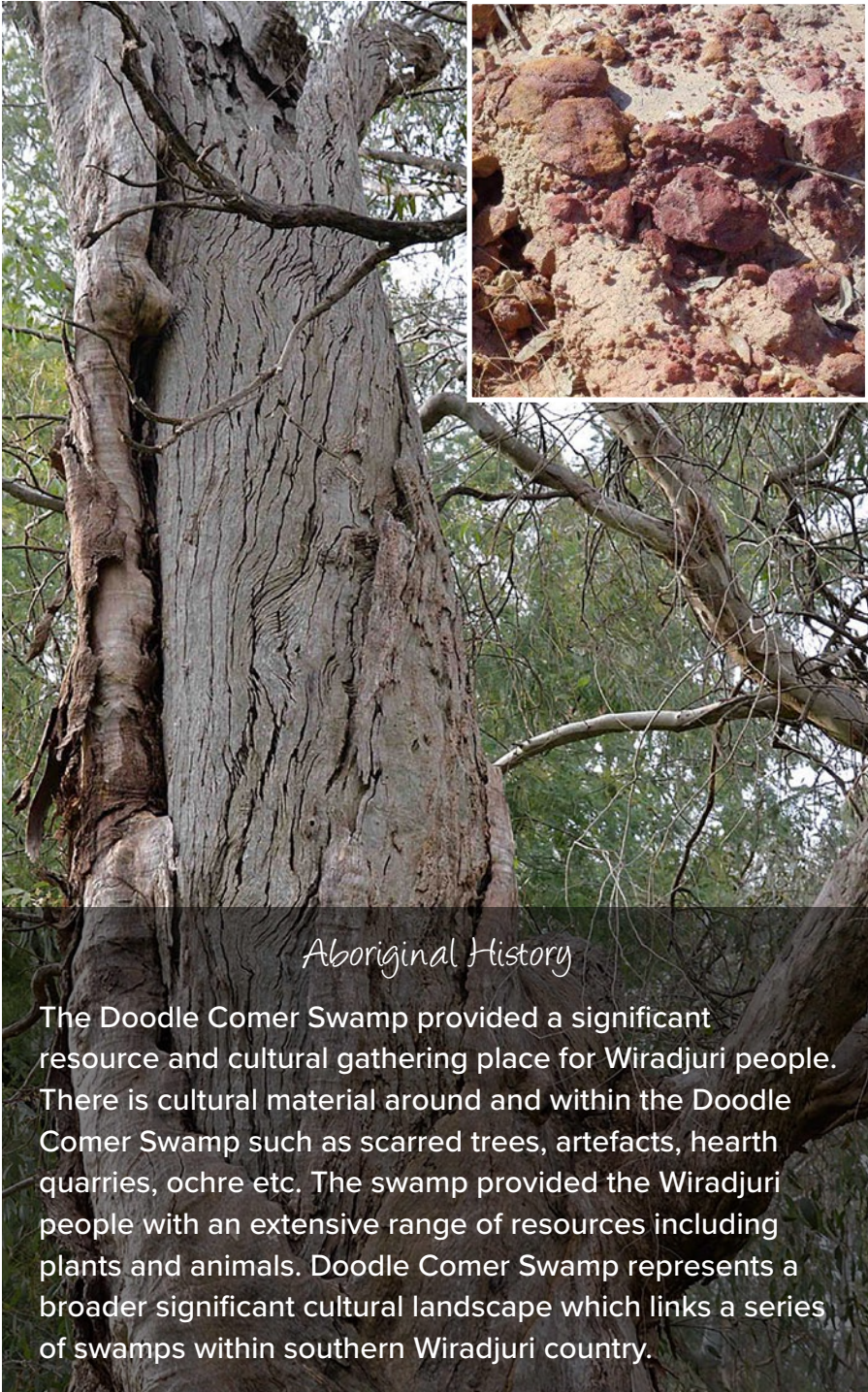
School: Henty Public School

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, the Australian government's National Landcare Programme and Hume Bank.

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





Aboriginal History

The Doodle Comer Swamp provided a significant resource and cultural gathering place for Wiradjuri people. There is cultural material around and within the Doodle Comer Swamp such as scarred trees, artefacts, hearth quarries, ochre etc. The swamp provided the Wiradjuri people with an extensive range of resources including plants and animals. Doodle Comer Swamp represents a broader significant cultural landscape which links a series of swamps within southern Wiradjuri country.

European History of Henty

Before the beginning of the Henty township the Wiradjuri people occupied the land. In 1885 the town of Henty began when a man named John Herman Rosler built a general store for passers-by. Back then it was called 'Dudal Comer' or 'Doodle Cooma'. The Doodle Cooma (Comer) swamp was one of the most popular places of the whole town of Doodle Cooma. Local children would spend hours and hours swimming, canoeing, walking on the jetty and just having fun altogether around the 1900s to the 1950s.





Henty was originally called Doodle Cooma (Doodle Comer) but changed its name to 'Henty' because the residents' mail was getting mixed up with Cooma in NSW. Ten years before Doodle Cooma was given this name, James Henty and Company owned a large station connecting to a farm called Doodle Cooma. A survey was conducted to find a new name and 'Henty' won.



Henty's Environment

Henty has a wonderful and broad environment. Henty's landscape is a vast area of undulating hills, grassy woodlands and a swamp. There are a variety of native, endangered and introduced animals including; Superb Parrots, Bush Stone-curlews, Grey-crowned Babblers, Brolgas, swans, cockatoos, Eastern Rosellas, black birds, kangaroos, magpies, Squirrel Gliders, wombats and Swamp Wallabies. There are two main pests found in the area, these are foxes and rabbits.





You will see a wide range of trees around Henty, including, White box, Yellow box, Grey box, Red gums and Murray pine trees. Henty's landscape is called **Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands**. Murray Local Land Services helps farmers protect native vegetation and supports them with problems such as erosion and shallow soils along with heavily cleared spaces.



Agriculture

Most farming properties in the Henty area practice mixed farming. Producers breed and sell sheep and Henty is known as good cattle country. Many types of grains and legumes can be grown in the area including: lupins, canola, wheat, oats and barley.

Agriculture brings money into the town, this is great for the community because it provides jobs and ensures that the town of Henty has services such as a hospital for its residents.

Farming benefits Australia by growing and selling crops and by breeding and producing cattle and sheep. When farming you have to take care of the land and soil which is good because that means the land and soil isn't being damaged.





Economic Impacts

The Bendigo Bank was opened in 1998 by a group of locals who could see that banks in the area were shutting down. They approached Bendigo Bank to ask if they could start a bank in Henty. Now farmers are able to borrow money from the bank, insure their property, and some of the money that the bank makes goes back into the farming community.

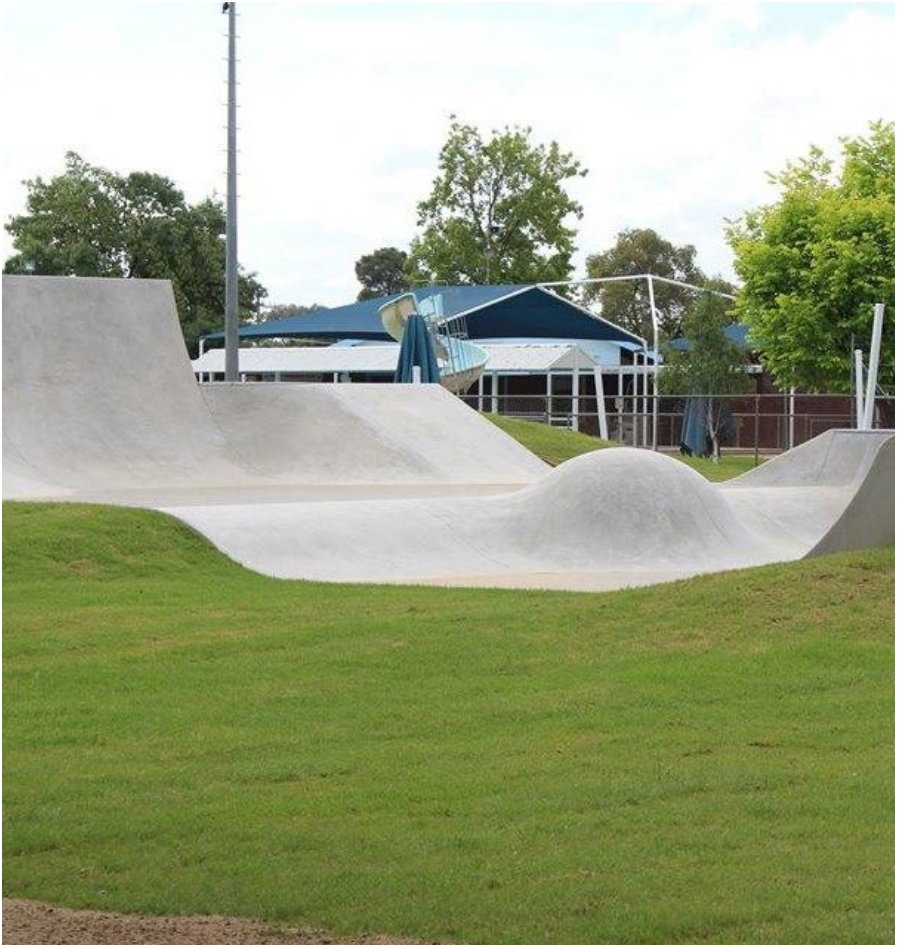


AGnVET is a business operating throughout Eastern Australia. It supplies agricultural products to the community. AGnVET employs locals and provides products and services to local farmers.

Other businesses in Henty that provide products and services to local farmers include Whitlocks, Graincorp and service stations.

Social Impacts

In 2014, some community members had an idea; they wanted to build a skate park. The community worked together to raise the money required and now we have a wonderful facility that is a place for people of all ages to enjoy.





The Henty Football and Netball Club plays an important role in the town. All age groups are able to play sport and this helps keep the locals healthy while providing them with a social hub. The club is run by volunteers.

The Rotary Club of Henty provides support to local people. The Rotary Club raises money to help the local emergency services, other organisations and people in need.

Acknowledgements

The Year 6 students of Henty Public school would like to thank the community members of Henty who have generously shared their knowledge and time during the writing of this book. We would also like to thank Mr. Bernard Clark for the beautiful photos used in this publication.



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2016 Year 6, Henty Public School

Congratulations!

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

