

# THURGOONA, THEN AND NOW



Samantha Andrews, Lucas Cook,  
Jonny Gillespie and Tarnee Keintz

Thurgoona 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/](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)**

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

# THURGOONA, THEN AND NOW

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**School:** Thurgoona 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 Peekdesigns education program.



Local Land  
Services  
Murray



**Hume Bank**



# Thurgoona

Thurgoona is a town eight kilometres north east of Albury. Thurgoona has changed over time. It has become more populated; there are more houses, but fewer trees. However, we think that Thurgoona is still a peaceful place to live in.

The name 'Thurgoona' is believed to come from the local Wiradjuri people meaning 'emu droppings'.



In 1824, Hamilton Hume and William Hovell were the first white men to see Thurgoona. They walked through the area known as Thurgoona, when they travelled on their expedition from Yass in New South Wales to Port Phillip Bay in Victoria.





Thurgoona has changed dramatically over the last forty years. The Thurgoona environment has been impacted by the recent housing development and increased population.

Local native animals found in Thurgoona include; kangaroos, wallabies, Squirrel gliders, Regent honeyeaters, wombats, echidnas, birds, goannas and even koalas.



Thurgoona is an education hub. We have a public school, high schools, TAFE and a University.

Although Thurgoona continues to expand, we still have some local agriculture. This includes local farms that produce organic vegetables, dairy farms and livestock.



The social and economic development of Thurgoona has made a significant impact. The local area has many landmarks including; The Kinross Woolshed, Thurgoona Golf Course, Estia Health (aged care), Thurgoona Plaza, Thurgoona Public School, Riverina Institute of TAFE and Charles Sturt University.





The original Thurgoona Public School was located on Table Top Road, next to St. John's Anglican Church. The school began in 1862 with 38 students. The school was relocated to a new location in Bowna Road.

The current Thurgoona Public School is located on Bottlebrush Street with 440 enrolled students and 30 staff members.



Forty-four years ago, the current school site was farm land. It was used by the local orphanage (now Guadalupe House) as a vegetable garden. The original farm was called 'Thurgoona'.

The picture below shows a house being built in Thurgoona in 1988. It was the third house built in Corry's Wood.



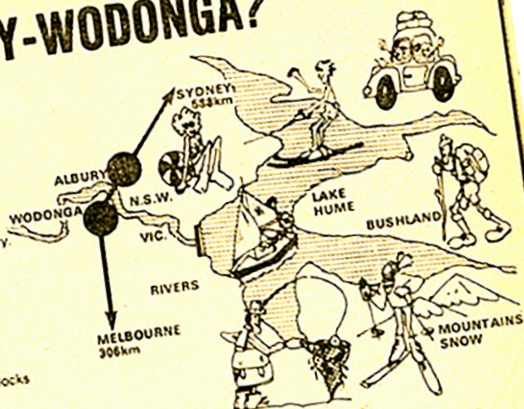
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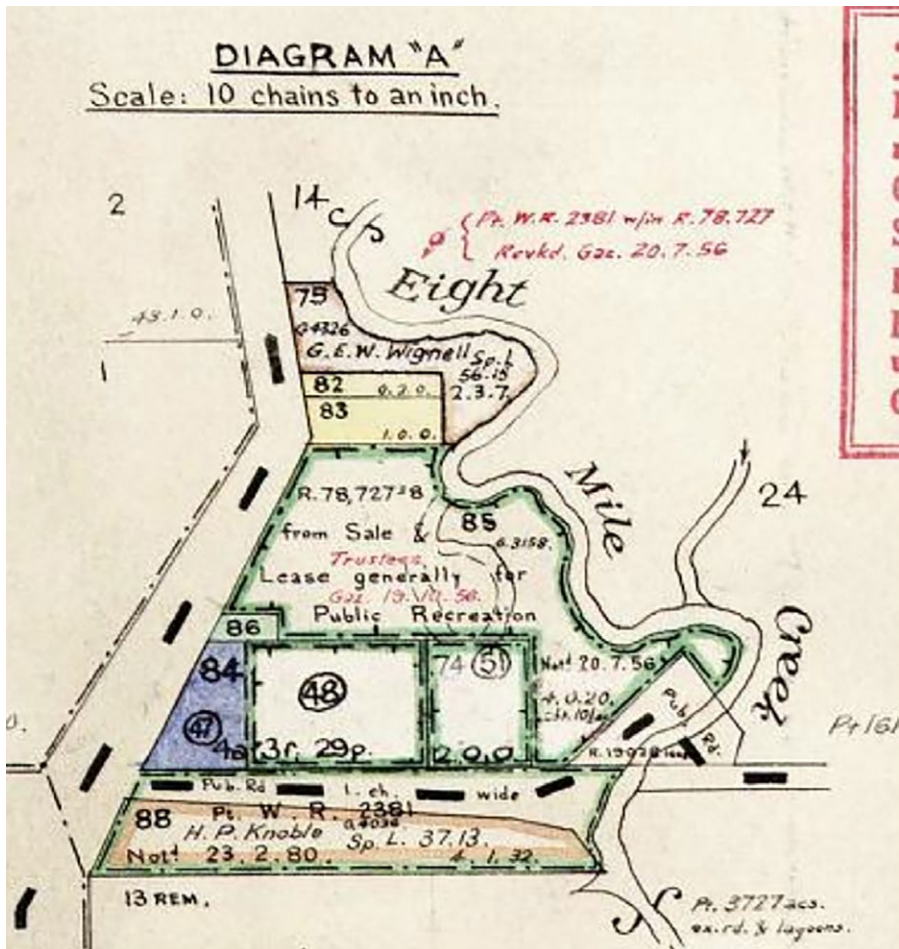
In 1975, the Whitlam government announced Thurgoona would be the biggest city between Sydney and Melbourne. The aim was to have 55,000 residents and incentives were given to people who relocated from the major cities to Thurgoona, including one year's free rent.





A community centre was built in the early 1980s, which included a swimming pool and tennis courts. There was a local shop, which was open 3 days a week and had limited opening hours. Currently, the Thurgoona Plaza, which includes approximately 13 shops, is open 7 days per week for the community.





Thurgoona will continue to change and grow. It is important to remember our history and what others before us have achieved. It is also very important that we plan for our future, so Thurgoona stays the great place it is to live in.

## *We love living in Thurgoona.*

*The streets are quiet so kids can play on the street.*

- SAMANTHA

*Even though I don't live in Thurgoona, I love the school.*

- TARNEE

*Thurgoona is always a nice place to live. It is very naturalistic and quiet, and that is what I like about Thurgoona.*

- LUCAS

*Thurgoona is nice and peaceful.*

- JONNY







Samantha Andrews, Lucas Cook, Jonny Gillespie and Tarnee Keintz

2016 Year 4, Thurgoona Public School

## Congratulations!

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



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