

WALLA WALLA ALIVE WITH OPPORTUNITY



Nate Kohlhagen, Jasmin Patrick-Beale,
Jessica Phegan and Madeline Watkins

Walla Walla 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

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

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



Walla Walla

Walla Walla is a rural town in New South Wales, which has a proud history. The town is located approximately 40 kilometres north of Albury-Wodonga and has a population of around 600 people. Walla Walla has many businesses and industry which serve both the local community and surrounding areas. There are significant landmarks and points of interest located within the town and its outskirts.

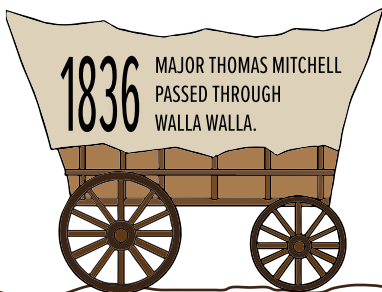




Walla Walla Station

Major Thomas Mitchell passed very close to the present site of Walla Walla late in 1836. His journal says that on 20th of October 1836, he followed Petries Creek along to the Gum Swamp Reserve and camped overnight near the Billabong Creek.

In 1839 the first licence was recorded for the Walla Walla station. It was held by Mary Larkham of Sydney, who was 80 years old when she took out the licence. Mary Larkham had heard of good lands in the south, as reported by Major Thomas Mitchell.



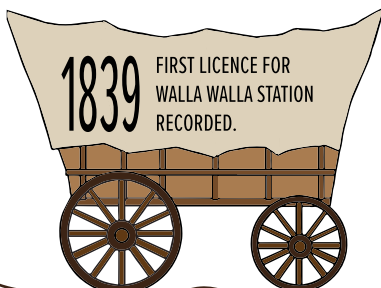
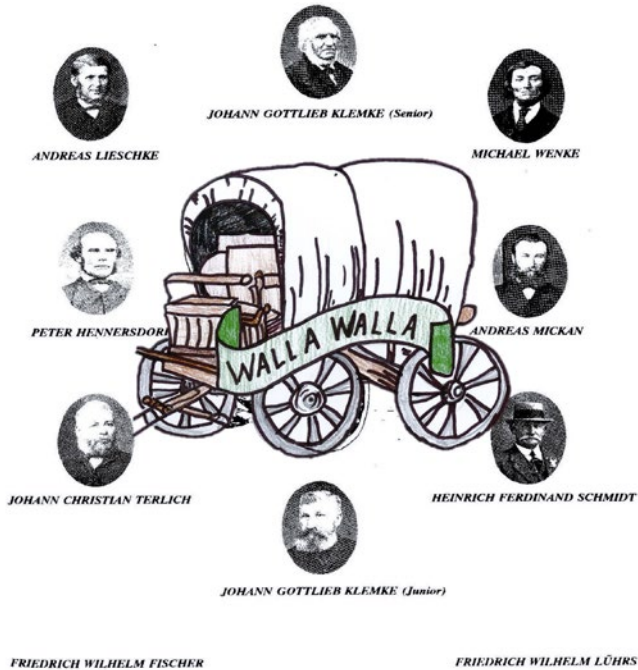
There have been several other people who have owned the Walla Walla station since Mary Larkham. Currently, it is owned by the Peach family.

The Trek

A party of 56 German Lutherans from South Australia took up the challenge to travel to New South Wales in 1868. They were hoping to purchase cheap land and farm it. It took them a whole year to prepare for the trek.

The horses played a major part as they would not just pull the wagons the 960 kilometres to Walla Walla, but they would also have to pull the ploughs for the crops in the new farmlands.

The planning of the journey was undertaken by Johann Gottlieb Klemke as he had already been to New South Wales.



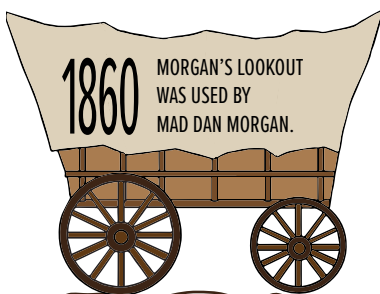


The Trek party has often been referred to as the largest group to have made the journey.

“... All beginnings are hard. No roads, no bridges, no fodder, no water... Nothing but trees and trees.”

They lived out of their wagons during the trek. Once they reached Walla Walla the first years saw difficult conditions and more hard times. There was no such material as wire and the first fences were made of brushwood. Families lived in houses made of mud and stringy bark, some had roofs made of thatched straw or wooden tiles with stone chimneys.

Many of the family names are still present in the community of Walla Walla today.



The Lutheran Churches

In 1869, the first Lutheran church was built in a paddock by a group of volunteers. The walls were made of slab and clay and the roof of straw.



As the congregation grew, it was decided in 1887 to build a larger church. Today it is used as the congregation's Sunday school and Hall.

Later, the Lutheran congregation was outgrowing its second church and plans were made in early 1914 to expand it. After the war, in 1921 it was decided that building a new church was a better idea.

The new church stood out like a cathedral. Built of bricks and able to seat at least 428 adults, it soon became a district landmark. The Zion Lutheran church is now a place visited by people from all over the country.



Education

In 1873 a congregational school was established within the church and Pastor Egen was the school teacher. Mr. Franz Zilius was then appointed to run a full-time school from 1875 til 1885.

In 1885 the Public School was established and operated in some of the church buildings. They had an enrolment of 29 students.

In 1914, the Education Department built a new brick school and teacher's residence on two acres of land between the old school and the Lutheran Church.

In 1983, construction started on the third school. So today, the third school and the third church, now stand next to each other. Currently, 43 students attend Walla Walla Public School and enjoy its beautiful surroundings.





Morgan's Lookout

Morgan's Lookout on the northern outskirts, is named after a famous bushranger called Mad Dan Morgan. He used it as a lookout in the 1860s to see if anyone was after him, because of the 360 degree view. Mad Dan Morgan did not have the luxury of a ladder though. The ladder was built so that the rock could be used as a fire spotting lookout for the station.

The people of Walla Walla today use Morgan's Lookout to enjoy the view, hide in the caves and climb on rocks. Murray-Darling Carpet pythons also live in the rock crevices.



Walla Walla's First Business

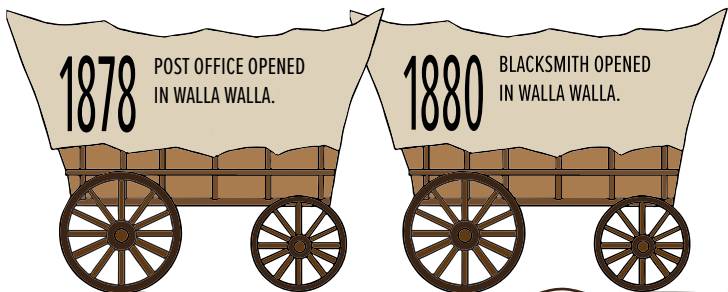
The first known business in the township of Walla Walla was a blacksmith, opened by C.J. (Joe) Wiesner in 1880. Then in about 1874, Joe's father Johann Gottlieb Wiesner opened a blacksmith's shop on his property, a short distance west of Petrie's Creek on the Burrumbuttock Road.



BUTCHERY

The first know butchery at Walla Walla was a partnership operated by Joseph Wiesner, Traugott Pannach and Ernst Mickan.

Joe Wiesner started the business around 1892 or 1893. Cattle and sheep were killed for meat. The butchery was open when the railway was still getting built. The cutting cart was used as transport, to get the meat to the railway workers on the line, as well as to different towns such as Gerogery, Brocklesby, Burrumbuttock and Jindera.

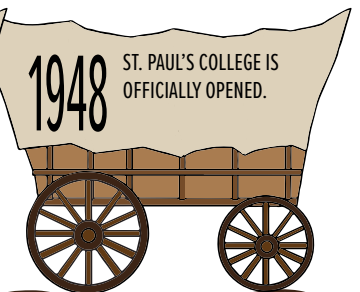
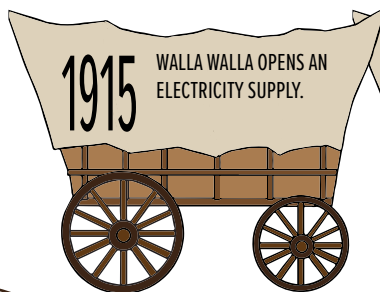


D.E. LIESCHKE & SON PTY. LTD.

Walla Walla's oldest family business is D.E. Lieschke & Son. It was founded by David Ernst Lieschke in 1923. The business has seen many changes including; further expansion, opening of a second store in Holbrook and the development of the Nissan franchise. The Lieschke family (fourth generation) still own and operate the business today.

KOTZUR

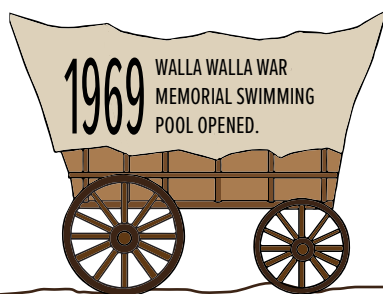
Kotzur is a silo manufacturing and sales business. The Walla Walla business employs 100 people. The business has sold around 22 thousand silos during its operation. Kotzur also manufactures silos to many other countries.





Gum Swamp

The first people who settled in Walla Walla chose Gum Swamp to be a town common. In the early days people used Gum Swamp for boating, picnics and regattas, when the water level was high enough. On January 1st, 1907 the council took over the management of Gum Swamp. A dam was also built, which provided water for travelling stock as well as the water needs of local townspeople and nearby farmers.





Aboriginal people also camped at Gum Swamp because of the water. Trees have been cut for coolamons and canoes. We know this, as the scar trees can still be seen today.

The Gum Swamp is a high conservation wetland and is home to threatened species such as the White-bellied sea eagle, fishing bats and Squirrel gliders.





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2016 Year 6, Walla Walla 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



Hume Bank