

GRANDAD'S STORY



Brayden Hincksman, Sky Kyter and Nick Scarlett

Humula 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 Culture

In 2016, students involved in the Creative Catchment Kids program researched and wrote stories about Aboriginal culture in their local communities. The program was generously funded by Riverina Local Land Services and the Australian government's National Landcare Programme.

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



One day a little platypus was lazing in the water. He wondered how the land had changed over time.

He decided to ask Grandad. “What was the land like when you were a puggle, Grandad?”

‘Well,’ Grandad replied. “I wondered that too. My Grandad passed down stories about it to me.”

“Will you tell me what it was like?”



“This is the story of the changes that passed down to me. The countryside around was open woodland back then.

The humans of the land, the first peoples, were called Wiradjuri. They were hunters and gatherers. They hunted emu, kangaroo, and possums and gathered seeds and grasses. They travelled the land following the food sources as the seasons changed.”



“One day my great, great grandfather was playing by the bank of a creek when he heard footsteps. Strange humans appeared.

He thought they were spirits because they had white skin. It was the first of the Europeans to come to the land. With them were strange looking animals he had never seen before.”





“Tell me some more Grandad,”
pleaded the little platypus.

“Soon came more of these
strange humans and their
animals came. There were
more and more every day. The
animals ate all the grass and
dirtied the water holes.

The Wiradjuri thought they were for everyone
to hunt. Their culture was to share. But the
Europeans didn't like the Wiradjuri killing their
animals.”

“The Europeans built fences and yards. They cut timber to build houses. Muraguldrie, Humula, Shockeroo and Carabost were large sheep stations. The Wiradjuri could not travel the land without conflict.”

“What did they do?” asked the little platypus.

“They began to take on the European ways. Some became stockmen. Others moved to the edge of towns.”



“Were rabbits, foxes and pigs here all the time, Grandad?”

“No,” he replied. “The Europeans introduced those animals. They became pests. They ate all the native plants, dug holes and caused erosion.”

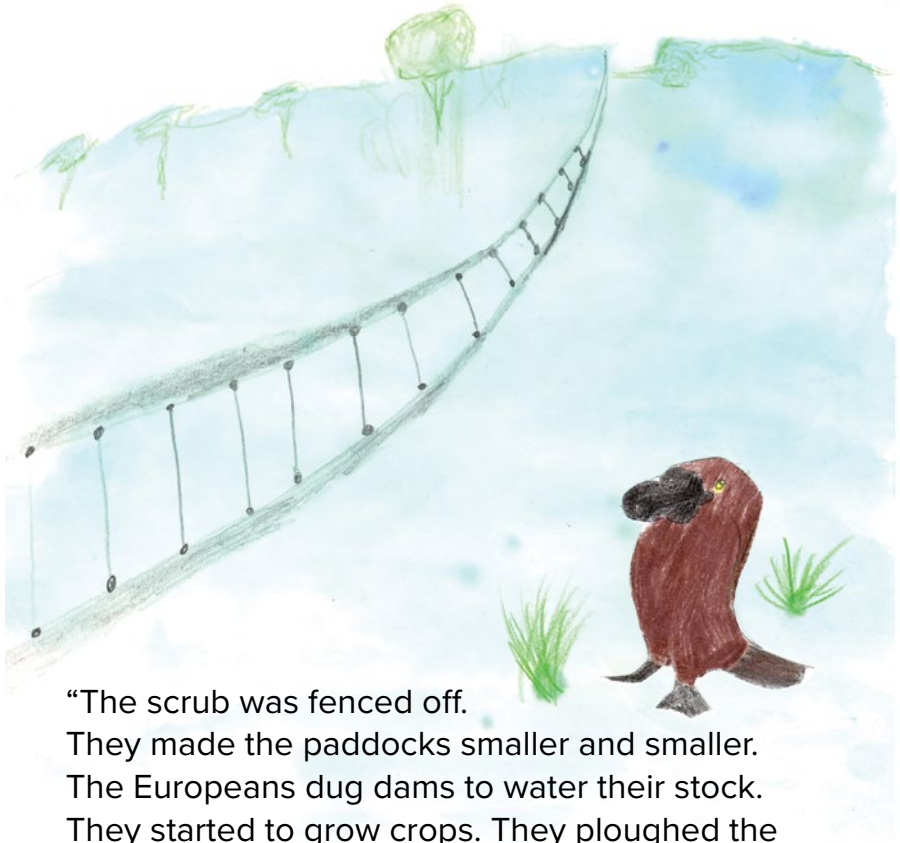
The rabbits became an industry. The station hands trapped and shot them, sold the skins and carcasses to buyers who picked them up in a horse and sulky.



“Gold was discovered at American Yards and many miners came. Most of them were Chinese. They mined for gold and tin. They used sluice boxes and pans.

This eroded the creek banks. It destroyed the burrows. We had to leave and find a new home. We were all very sad.”





“The scrub was fenced off.
They made the paddocks smaller and smaller.
The Europeans dug dams to water their stock.
They started to grow crops. They ploughed the
ground. A lot of our animal friends moved away.

For a long time, there was a big, black noisy
thing called a train that whooshed past with
smoke and noise.”





Grandad continued, “After World War 2 the stations were divided into Soldier Settlement blocks. The humans built strange trees they called electricity poles. There were more farms and lots of buildings and motor cars in the towns. Places called schools, garages, post offices and shops were built.”





“Then we began to see many farms being planted with pine trees. There was a hardwood mill in the town but it closed when they couldn’t source any more wood. Many of the humans moved away.

Now some farmers have planted orchards and truffles as well as growing sheep and cattle.”



“Now the humans are looking after the environment. The ‘Landcare’ movement helps people to look after the land.

Trees have been planted to bring back the natural habitats and the animals. I have also seen children learning Wiradjuri culture again. “

“We are lucky to laze in our little creek and live in peace aren’t we Grandad?”

“Yes we are Grandson, yes we are.”





Nick Scarlett, Brayden Hincksman and Sky Kyter

2016 Year 4, 5 and 6, Humula 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
Riverina

