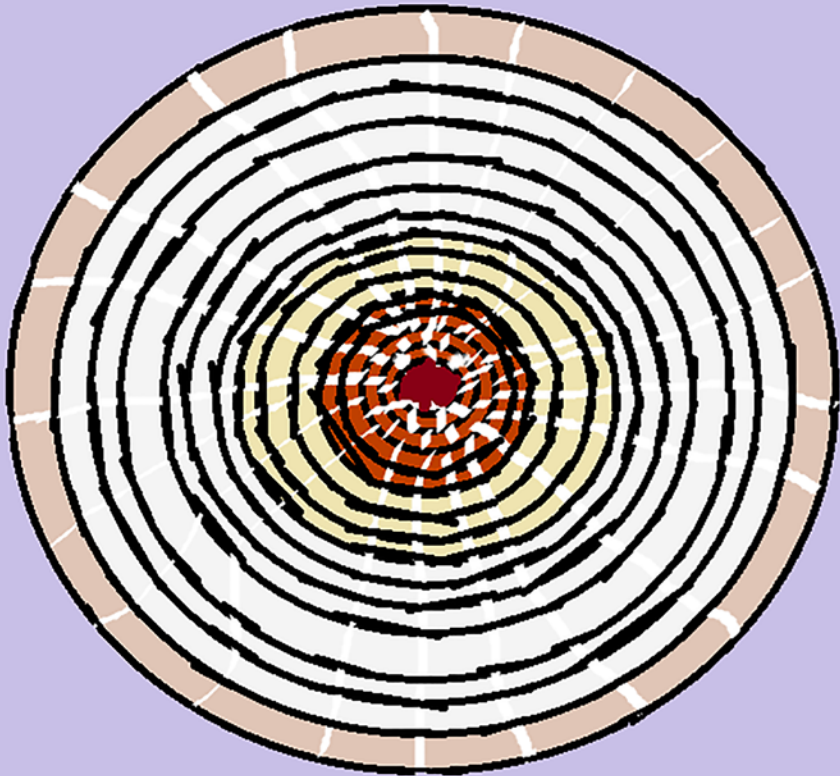


HANDS ON WEAVERS



Rylan McWilliams, Jackson Haycock,
Olivia Walker and Skylah Rankin

Kapooka 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

HANDS ON WEAVERS

Authors: Rylan McWilliams, Jackson Haycock,
Olivia Walker and Skylah Rankin

Teacher: Lyn Eacott

School: Kapooka Public School

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 Culture is part of Enviro-Stories, a Peekdesigns education program.



Visiting the Hands on Weavers Group

We visited the **Hands On Weavers** on the 30th of May, 2016. We got to the Hub (or '**Ngurra**' in the Wiradjuri language) and introduced ourselves to the group.

We were there for nearly two hours talking and were taught how to use some of the weaving techniques. The techniques that they taught us were twining and basket weaving. The easier of the two techniques was twining.





About Hands on Weavers

Aunty Lorraine said that the weaving community has been around for six years.

Hands on Weavers started at a place called the Hub. Anyone is allowed to join. The newest members are not Wiradjuri people. They saw the weaving at the Marketplace and thought that they would like to do it so they joined and now they too are weavers.

You can choose when you come and go with the group. You do not have to go every week.



Keeping the Culture Alive

Aunty Lorraine said, “we need to keep our culture alive in today’s society.” This means that by weaving they are stopping the weaving from being forgotten forever.

These are some of the things the ***Hands on Weavers*** do to keep culture alive and spread it within the community:

- They weave using traditional techniques.
- They set up exhibitions for weaving.
- They teach others to weave.
- They use original materials.

The fact that the ***Hands on Weavers*** are keeping the culture alive is excellent and they should keep it up for as long as they can.



Spreading the Weaving Culture

Exhibitions

The ***Hands on Weavers*** exhibit their work in different places in and out of the Wiradjuri region. They work really hard to get all the weaving done.

Where they Exhibit

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Australian Museum in Sydney, Museum Victoria and they are going to Dubbo soon.

Exhibitions at the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery include:

- Wuurran, an open doorway exhibition 2012
- Gilangbang Bangamalanha, which means sharing stories 2013
- Yalbalinya Ngurral, learning side by side 2013
- Marrambidya Dabaamalang, a work of art 2014

Exhibiting and Welcoming at the Wagga Wagga Airport

The **Hands on Weavers** wove special things for display at Wagga Wagga Airport. Some of these became hand-stained, sandblasted images on glass in the airport lounge. It's a special way of greeting you to the Wiradjuri region.

Uncle Stan Grant Senior and the **Hands on Weavers** did the artworks that you can see in the airport and it is amazing. The artworks welcome you to Wagga Wagga and Wiradjuri Country with messages that provide you with a happy feeling.





Weaving Techniques

There are many different weaving techniques the Aboriginal people and ***Hands on Weavers*** use.

Basket weaving is a very important weaving technique that is used to make dilly bags, baskets and blankets.

Twining is a weaving technique used for making rope, necklaces and bag straps.

Looping is used for making string bags and is one of the easiest of the three techniques.

The materials have to be used immediately or stored so that they do not dry up too much. Dryness reduces the 'bendiness' of the materials.



Things to Weave

Once you get used to weaving, you can make many different things like baskets, animals (such as birds, lizards, turtles and scorpions), table mats, scoops and bags.

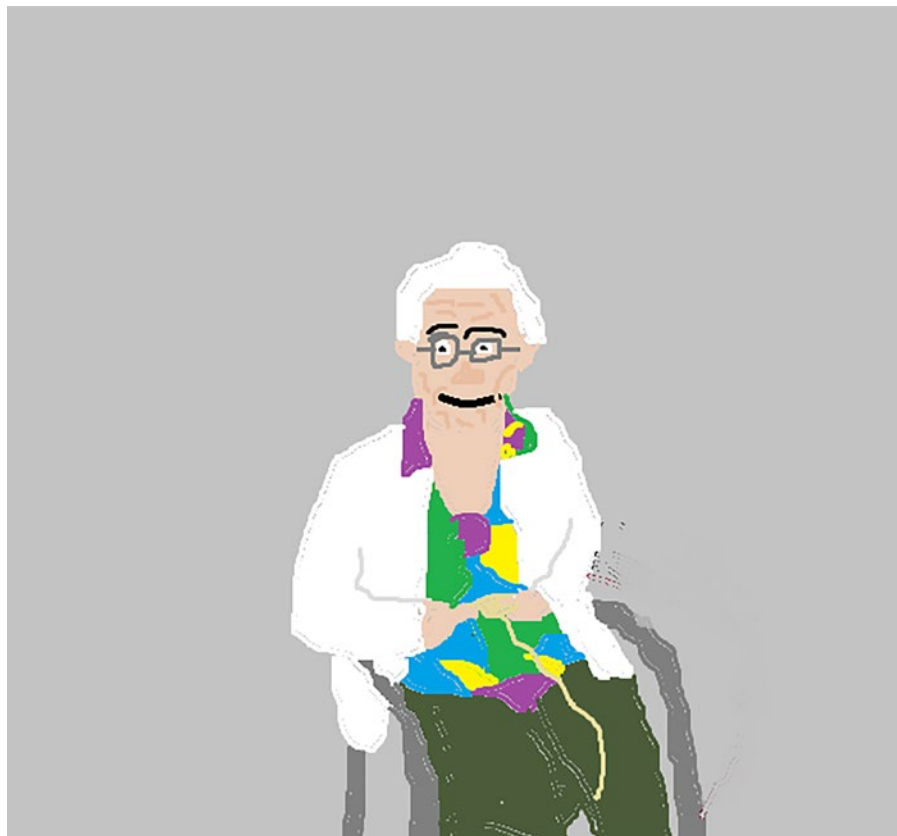
They can be used for holding things, as plates and bowls, for display and they remind you of your weaving history. Aunty Julie has a pot she wove and when she looks at it, it reminds her of how she was feeling as she wove each section.



Modern Weaving

Traditionally, the weavers use techniques that Aboriginal people have always used.

The **Hands On Weavers** weave dilly bags, fish, animals, baskets, bowls and scoops (baby holders). These things were traditionally woven items. These days, they weave them in different colours. For example, Aunty Joyce is weaving dilly bags for her son-in-laws in the colours of their favourite NRL teams.



Aunty Joyce

Aunty Joyce is one of the aunts from the ***Hands on Weavers*** group.

She lived with her grandmother when she was young on a mission, which was a town for Aboriginal people. Her family had to take a truck nine kilometres into town to buy food.

The mission was near a town called Menindee. Aunty Joyce loved school but when you were fifteen you had to leave. The school was on the mission.



Aunty Sandy

Aunty Sandy's culture is Wiradjuri. She used to live in Junee.

Aunty Sandy was never on a mission. She lived with her Nan for a few years then she got her own home.

She first learnt to loop which is a type of weaving. Aunty Sandy wove dilly bags and scoops for her Nan and brother. At the moment, she weaves large mats using up her bits and pieces.

Telling Their Story

Aunty Lorraine and Aunty Joyce are having a book written about them, they are telling their story. Bernard Sullivan is writing this book as a part of a Charles Sturt University PhD project. Aunty Joyce thinks this is a good idea.





Rylan McWilliams, Jackson Haycock, Olivia Walker and Skylah Rankin with the ***Hands on Weavers*** group
2016 Year 5 and 6, Kapooka 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

