

JOURNEY TO RESPECT



Thomas Clarke
Ladysmith 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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Author: Thomas Clarke

Teachers: Helen Sturman and James Morris

School: Ladysmith 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 Community is part of Enviro-Stories, a Peekdesigns education program.



*I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians
of this land where we meet today.*

*I would also like to pay respect to Elders past and present
and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present.*



My story is about Mr. Tony Rudd who is the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer for the Department of Education and Communities based in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales.



My Inspiration

Mr. Tony Rudd inspires people to learn more about Aboriginal culture and to show respect to the land and its people. During our visit with all Ladysmith school students to the Riverina Environmental Education Centre (REEC), Tony showed us how to build a gunya and grind stones to make stone axes. We learnt about the land and the environment.

Tony told us this saying *'look after the land and the rivers and the land and rivers will look after you. Only take what you need.'*

Family

Tony was born at Crown Street Women’s Hospital in Surry Hills, Sydney on 19th September, 1960. Tony’s mum was born at Coonabarabran and his dad was born at West Wyalong, NSW.

Tony’s mum was raised on the Burra Bee Dee mission 10 kilometres north of Coonabarabran. Tony has a younger brother and three sisters, they were all raised in Seven Hills. Tony is married to Thelmerie they have two boys aged 17 and 19. Tony also has two step-children and sixteen grandchildren.

Tony is a Kamilaroi man. Tony’s mum is Aboriginal and his dad is non-Aboriginal. Tony takes his heritage from his mother’s side.

Tony as a baby



Thelmerie as a baby



Tony and his mum



Journey

In 1999, Tony and his family moved down to the Riverina. In 2010, Tony started work with the NSW Department of Education and Communities as the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO). The main role of his job is to support students, parents and to be the link to the community and schools all over the Riverina.



Tony is a dedicated coach in ruby league and touch football in Wagga Wagga. He is also a representative coach for group 9 ruby league which has helped to introduce the BAGARAYAGAN MAWANG boys Aboriginal leadership teams.





Programs

The BRO-SPEAK Cultural Program is a 10-week program for boys to learn more about their country and their culture. It aims to help the boys decide on a goal either personal, cultural or academic. The program also helps the boys become strong in their hearts, be proud of their identity and strong in their community. BRO-SPEAK also links young Aboriginal men with local Aboriginal role models to help the boys to achieve their life long goals.

Programs like this provide Aboriginal boys with skills and strategies to engage in learning. They gain an understanding of where they come from and to show the respect to their family and their friends. Boys in the program come from a variety of backgrounds of low socio-economic and public or private housing.



The Importance of Culture

Culture is to understand who you are and where you come from. It is to connect with country and to become an individual. You learn to show respect to the elders and traditional owners of the land and to show the respect to their family and friends. It's very important to learn about culture so it can be passed down to the next generations. You gain the knowledge of the elders and it can't be lost.



Teaching respect

It's important to teach respect to help in life and to become a good person, this can lead to being a role model. If you don't show respect you're not going to get very far in life. If you don't respect the land and its rivers in future generations, it will become dirty and will not be clean.





Challenges

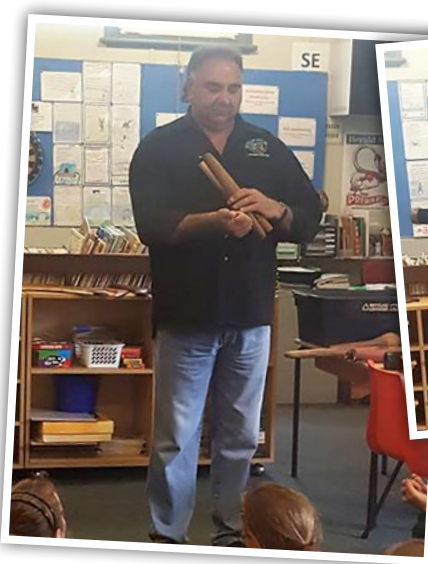
Tony had to overcome lots of challenges in his life. When he was young he had Perthe's disease (like polio). He spent most of his young life in hospital until the age of 12. In 2007, he had to have a hip replacement because of this disease. It has not stopped Tony achieve his goals in life.

Despite these setbacks, Tony is widely respected in the Riverina for his role as the ACLO in education and for his rugby league coaching. Tony can bring young boys together, develop their skills and show respect to each other.

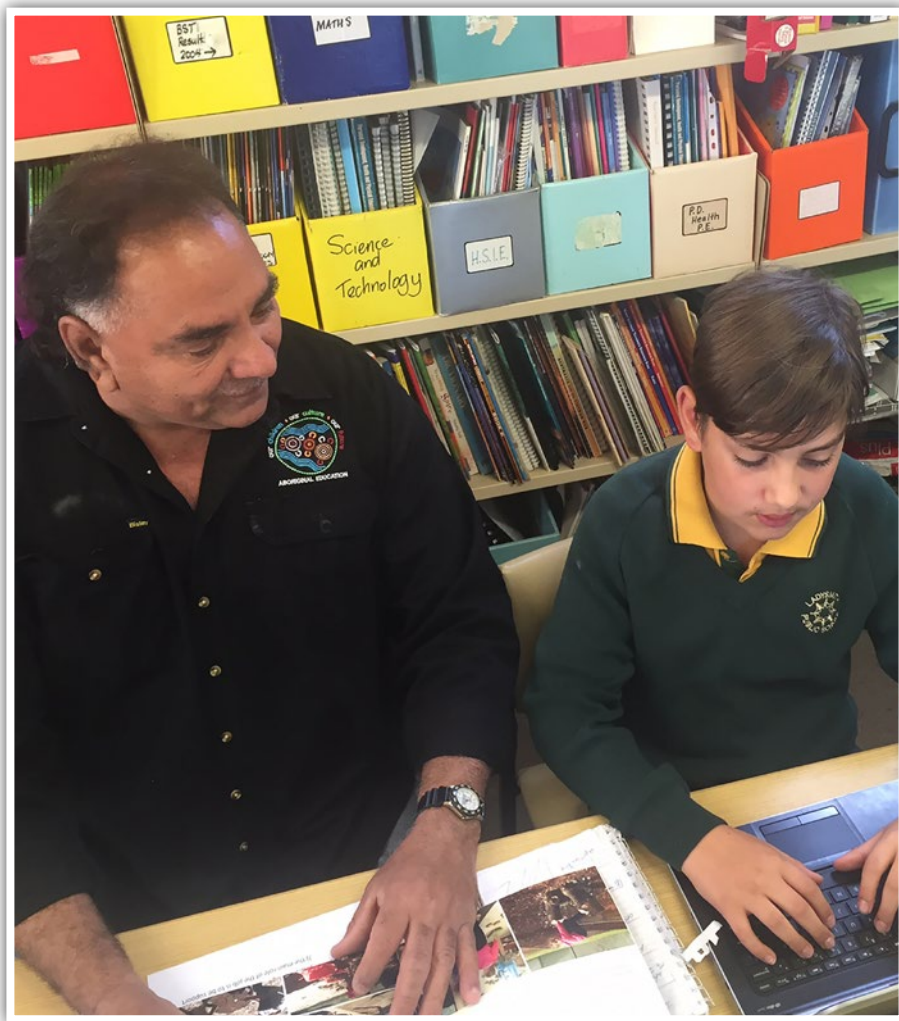


My school cultural day

Tony came to visit our school. He showed us about the tools and artefacts that came from the land. He showed us all the things you can see in a tree. We played some traditional games and threw some spears at targets and boomerangs.







By working with Tony, we will be friends for life. Tony will help me with my life journey and may even help me get a job one day. We are going to do wood burning and make a boomerang and didgeridoo. Meeting Tony has made me feel proud of myself and I hope this will inspire others to get in and learn about Aboriginal culture and to show respect.



Thomas Clarke

2016 Year 6, Ladysmith 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



Australian Government

