

Bogandillan



Chloe Kuhne, Joshua Williams
and Jazmine Collier

Rand 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 PeekKdesigns, 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

Bogandillan

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School: Rand Public School

Murray Wetland Carbon Storage Project

In 2017, students involved in the Creative Catchment Kids program participated in a field day at a local wetland as part of the Murray Wetland Carbon Storage project. Students spent time with community members who were involved in the project to find out about them and what makes their wetland special. They then developed these stories into a series of books aimed at teaching other kids about the importance of wetlands. This program is supported by Murray Local Land Services and the Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Ltd. with funding from the Australian Government.

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

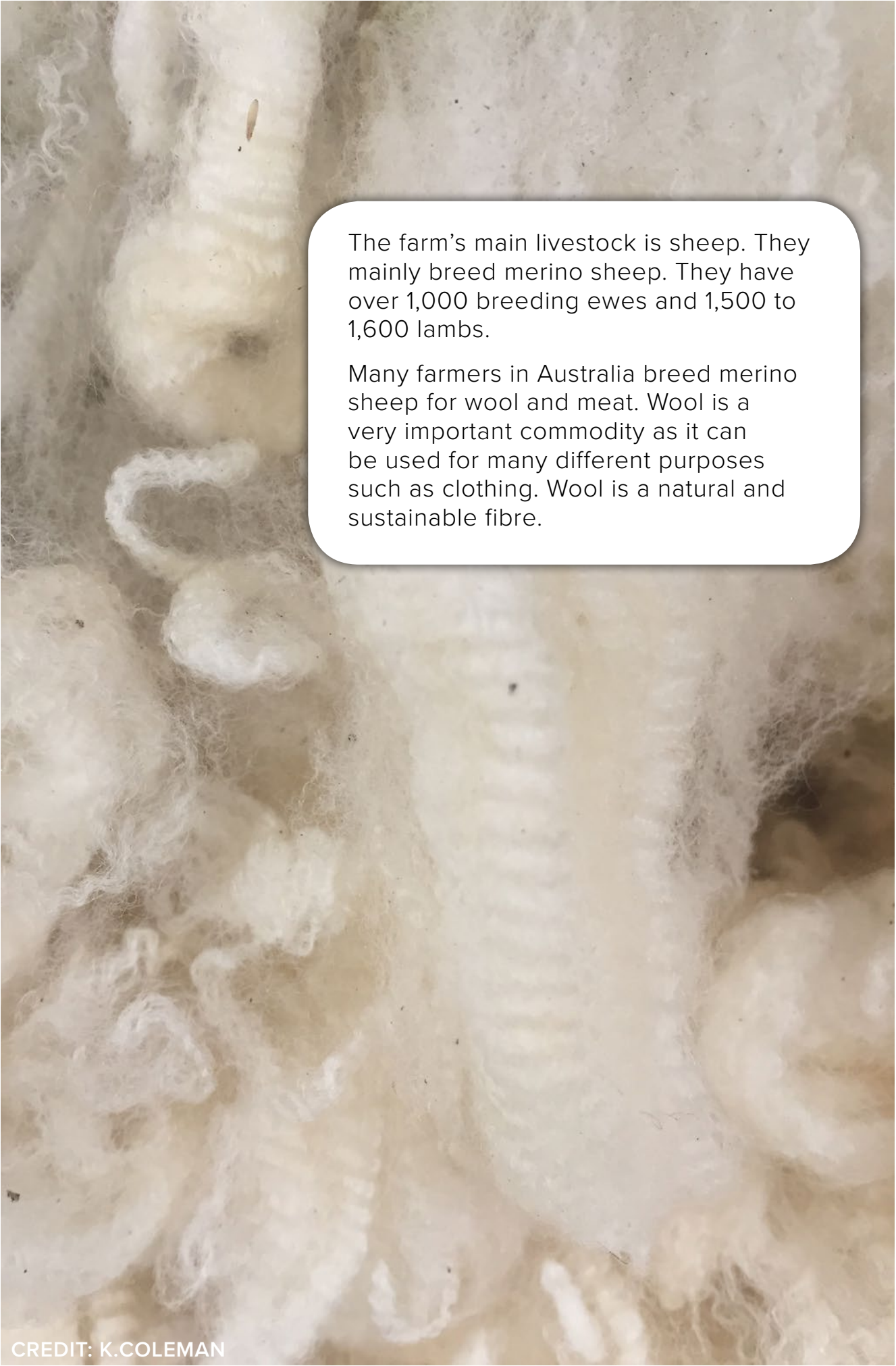




Sandy, Sara, Bonnie, Archie, Roy and Leanne Hamilton live on a farm called 'Bogandillan', which is situated in New South Wales near the town of Rand. Roy has lived there all his life and is the owner of the farm.

The land that he currently lives on began being farmed in 1926. Their farm is approximately 4,000 hectares. Eighty-eight percent of their land is currently used for cropping while the rest of the land is used for livestock. They have a natural wetland area on the farm. There is a 14 kilometre creek frontage that runs on the southern boundary.

Roy does most of the machinery work on the farm while Sandy, Roy's son, is in charge of their sheep livestock work. The Hamilton's have a farmhand, Brice Swift, who is also available to assist with many farm jobs on their property.

A close-up photograph of wool fibers, showing their characteristic crimp and texture. The fibers are light beige and appear soft and fibrous. A white text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

The farm's main livestock is sheep. They mainly breed merino sheep. They have over 1,000 breeding ewes and 1,500 to 1,600 lambs.

Many farmers in Australia breed merino sheep for wool and meat. Wool is a very important commodity as it can be used for many different purposes such as clothing. Wool is a natural and sustainable fibre.



The Hamilton's have a wetland on their property. This is an important ecosystem that must be sustained and protected. Roy's grandchild enjoys visiting the wetland on the farm.

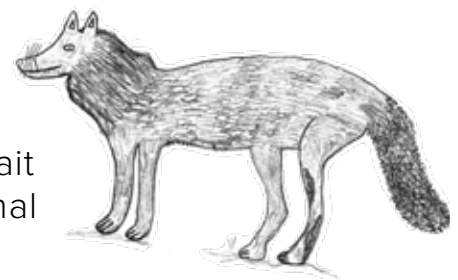
Their wetland is fenced off to stop their sheep from getting in and eating the young plants that are growing in the area. Recently the wetland has been affected by dry conditions and lack of rain.





The Hamilton's have had their crops and their wetland damaged by many pests such as foxes, rabbits and kangaroos. Although they dislike the pests eating their crops, they still like them as animals.

Roy sometimes manages the pests by putting out bait to kill the foxes and he sometimes gets a professional shooter to shoot the foxes.



CREDIT: K. COLEMAN



ABOVE: Jazmine’s sketch of the wetland area on ‘Bogandillan’.

BELOW: Roy and Leanne’s natural wetland area that they have restored on their farm.





Some farmers in Australia restore their own wetland area to help protect the environment. Building artificial wetlands on farms can help filter our waterways by filtering pollutants such as nitrogen, ammonia and phosphorus. It can also help farmers to use fertilisers efficiently.

The Hamilton's went through a few different processes to restore the wetland on their farm. Seeds have been directly planted into the soil by the Hamilton's with a grant they received from the Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group and Murray Local Land Services. Tube stock planting was not successful at first but the Hamilton's persevered with direct seeding of plants to increase the vegetation and transform the area into a natural and sheltered habitat.

The Hamilton's mainly have native plants such as eucalypts and wattle. They have lots of gum tree saplings too but these are not good for the wetland because they crowd together and make a thick forest of trees.

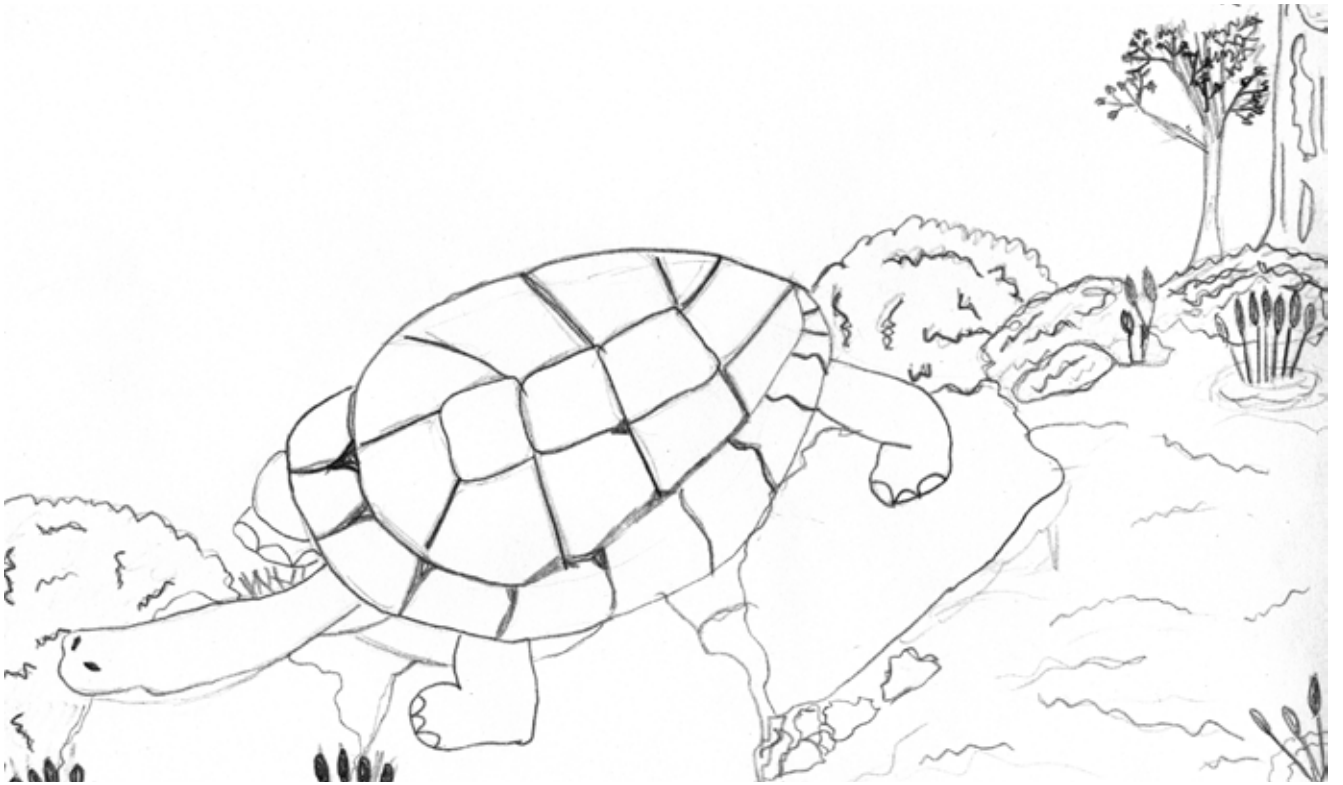
Having a wetland on the farm has benefited both the farm itself and the environment.



There are many different types of plants that are on the Hamilton's property and their wetland area. These photos show the different varieties of eucalypt trees and a few animal species in the wetland.

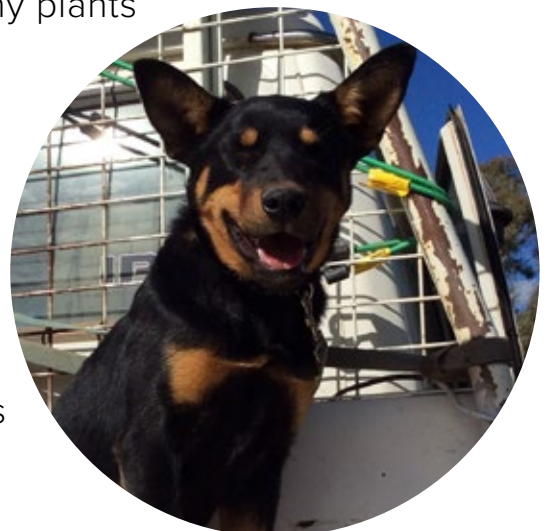
There a few plant species that are not wanted in the wetland area.





The wetland provides a natural habitat for many plants and animals on the farm. Some of the animals that live in the Hamilton's wetland include; the Freckled duck, Pacific black duck, Australian wood duck, kangaroos, Squirrel gliders, Water rats and Swamp wallabies. They are all unique species to the area where the Hamilton's farm was established.

Roy's dog is an important animal on their farm. He is an excellent farm dog and provides great company to the Hamilton family.



What are wetlands?

Wetlands are water-based areas such as swamps, billabongs, lakes and coral reefs.

Why are wetlands important?

Wetlands are important to our landscape because they filter the waterways, help breed animals and allow people in communities to enjoy many different recreational activities.

Different types of wetlands

There are three types of wetlands; coastal, inland and man-made wetlands.

Coastal wetlands include; mangroves and coral reefs. Billabongs and swamps are inland wetlands. Man-made wetlands include fish ponds and reservoirs.

Pictured below is an example of an inland wetland in Rand.







Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following people for their support and assistance in the development of this book.

Roy, Leanne and Sandy Hamilton, who provided the inspiration for this book, kindly let us visit their farm and have provided us with interesting information about their wetland and farm.

Stacee Bell and Owen Dunlop, who assisted in organising the interview with the Hamilton's and transporting students to the farm.

Chloe, Joshua and Jazmine currently attend Rand Public School. Each student and their families have a strong connection to the farming and agricultural industry in Rand.

- Chloe's family manages sheep livestock around many farms in the area.
- Joshua's family owns and manages their own farm just outside Rand.
- Jazmine's family co-owns a fertilising business in Rand.

Resources we referred to when creating this book include:
abc.net.au and wetlandcare.com.au





Jazmine Collier, Chloe Kuhne and Joshua Williams
2017 Stage 3, Rand Public School

Congratulations!

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

