

# Tractors and Chooks!



Buronga 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, cooperative activities that encourage students to learn about and respond to, natural resource management and the importance of agricultural production.

**[wirraminna.org.au/petaurus/creative-catchment-kids/](http://wirraminna.org.au/petaurus/creative-catchment-kids/)**

## *Petaurus Education Group*

Petaurus Education Group identifies, develops and delivers a range of learning and curriculum experiences, resources and initiatives for schools and community groups to connect with land, water, productive farming, sustainability and cultural issues at the local level. The group was established by Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre in late-2014 to support its operations and education activities.

**[wirraminna.org.au/petaurus](http://wirraminna.org.au/petaurus)**

## *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.

**[envirostories.com.au](http://envirostories.com.au)**

## *Western Local Land Services*

Established in 2014, Western Local Land Services delivers agricultural advice, natural resource management, biosecurity and emergency management in western NSW. Western Local Land Services is proud to support the Creative Catchment Kids book series. The program gives school students the opportunity to learn about natural resource management issues and engage with their local community. We hope you enjoy this book and promote it to your friends, family and community.

**[western.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://western.lls.nsw.gov.au)**

# Tractors and Chooks!

**Authors:** Hayley Baker, Zack Boundy, Maddison Brennan, Colby Downing, Sarah Evans, Tahlia Haigh, Tyson Harriss, Jorja In'tven, Delisa Johnson, Sam Noble, Jacob Schellnegger, Brandon Sobkowiak, Ahlia Spence, Iesha Blight, Skye Haigh, Jake Harriss, Lleyton Johnson, Tyler Johnson, Orion Leech, Nicholas Nau, Pheonix-Mari Parker-O'Farrell and Casey Slade.

**Teacher:** Leanne Hunt

**School:** Buronga Public School

## *Land, Water & Community*

In 2017, students from western NSW involved in the Creative Catchment Kids program researched and wrote stories about their local community. These stories highlight actions that local community members have taken to look after their land and water resources for conservation, agriculture or cultural heritage purposes. The program was generously funded by Western Local Land Services and the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Creative Catchment Kids - Land, Water & Community is part of Enviro-Stories, a PeeKdesigns education program.





## Woorlong Poultry Farm

The Woorlong Poultry Farm is a chicken farm situated in Merbein South and is owned by Elaine and Robin Hentschke. Elaine and Robin have been farming chickens on their farm for four and a half years. Prior to that, they had been farming citrus.

There are many jobs to be completed on the farm and Robin and Elaine both have different roles.

Robin collects the eggs. If the eggs are dirty, she cleans them. The eggs are put into a special machine that looks similar to a small bin. It has a special solution in it that recoats the eggs for protection. If the eggs are broken, Robin takes them to the pit, which is at the back of their farm.



Elaine packs the eggs. Before they go into the egg cartons, she puts them on a grading machine that weighs the eggs into their sizes. Elaine then wipes the eggs, stamps them and packs them ready for deliveries on a Monday and Thursday.





Robin and Elaine have the chickens sorted into their own age groups. They do this because it stops fighting. The chickens are all kept in sheds with fenced yards for them to walk around in.

To protect their chickens, Robin and Elaine have fences that go into the ground so foxes cannot dig under them. They are also high enough and angled so foxes cannot climb or jump over them.



Robin and Elaine need egg production 365 days a year. To keep their chickens laying they have lights that turn on in their sheds at 3.00am. This keeps the chickens laying all year round. They also feed the chickens a special pellet that is high in protein that also helps them to lay.

Robin and Elaine are about to retire at the end of this year. They have enjoyed being poultry farmers but are looking forward to not having to collect and pack eggs all year round.



## Hunt Pastoral

Hunt Pastoral is a dryland farm situated in Wargan, near Mildura. The farm is run by Chris, Colin and Anthony Hunt. They farm wheat, barley, lentils, canola, oats, field peas and chick peas. They also have cows and sheep. Chris has been back on the farm for seven years, Anthony returned home to farm this year and Colin has had the family farm for about 40 years.

In April and May each year, they sow the crops. Then during the year, they spread fertiliser to help the crops grow. They also spray chemicals to kill the weeds that helps to keep the moisture levels up in the soil. This year in early September, they needed to spread mouse bait across their canola crop by an aeroplane to control the mice.





At Hunt Pastoral, they use lots of machinery. To sow the crops they use an air seeder, a seed box and a large tractor. They work long hours and can be on the tractor for up to 16 hours a day! To spread fertiliser they use a spreader attached to a tractor that puts the fertiliser evenly over the crops.



On the farm, they have two sprayers. One is connected to the back of the tractor and the other is a self-propelled sprayer. They use them to apply chemicals on the crops. The chemicals get rid of the aphids and other bugs and control diseases in the crops.





Towards the end of September, the hay baler and tractors are pulled out of the shed to bale hay. Chris, Colin and Anthony use their tractor and baler to make large round hay bales. They then get in a hay contractor to bale the large squares that are exported to Asia.





In November, they have the header ready to go so they can harvest all the crops. This normally takes about six to eight weeks. Once the crops are harvested, they are either stored in the silos or sent to storage sites to be sold. Chris, Colin and Anthony enjoy being farmers and they think that it is a great way of life!





# Buronga Public School



2017

Principal: Mrs Jodie Treverrow Teachers: Mrs Leanne Hunt & Mr Greg Stewart



Class 5 - 6



Absent: Clayton Johnson

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## Congratulations!

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



Australian Government

National Landcare Program

