

Biodiversity Conservation at 'The Yanko'



Written by Year 5/6 students from
St. Joseph's Primary School, Jerilderie



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/

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

Biodiversity Conservation Trust

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust works in partnership with landholders to establish private land conservation agreements to conserve and manage high-value biodiversity on private land.

bct.nsw.gov.au

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

Biodiversity Conservation at ‘The Yanko’

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School: St. Joseph’s Primary School, Jerilderie

Biodiversity Conservation

In 2018, students from St. Joseph’s Primary School, Jerilderie, participated in creating a book as part of the Creative Catchment Kids program. This case study is about the property ‘The Yanko’ that is part of NSW’s private land conservation network. The program was generously funded by NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

Creative Catchment Kids is partnered with Enviro-Stories, a PeekKdesigns education program.

Traditional Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land and pay respect to their Elders – past, present and future.





'The Yanko' is a 13,000 hectare property, just 30 kilometres north of Jerilderie along the Yanco Creek. It is owned by Hugh and Heather Cameron. They live on the property with their son Ian.

The Camerons have owned this property for 42 years, since Ian Cameron (senior) and his wife Margaret purchased 'The Yanko' in 1976.





They have over 6000 merino sheep and as many as 400 Angus bulls and cows. Heather enjoys shearing time and she helps with mustering. She likes to see all the beautiful white fleeces as they come off the sheep.



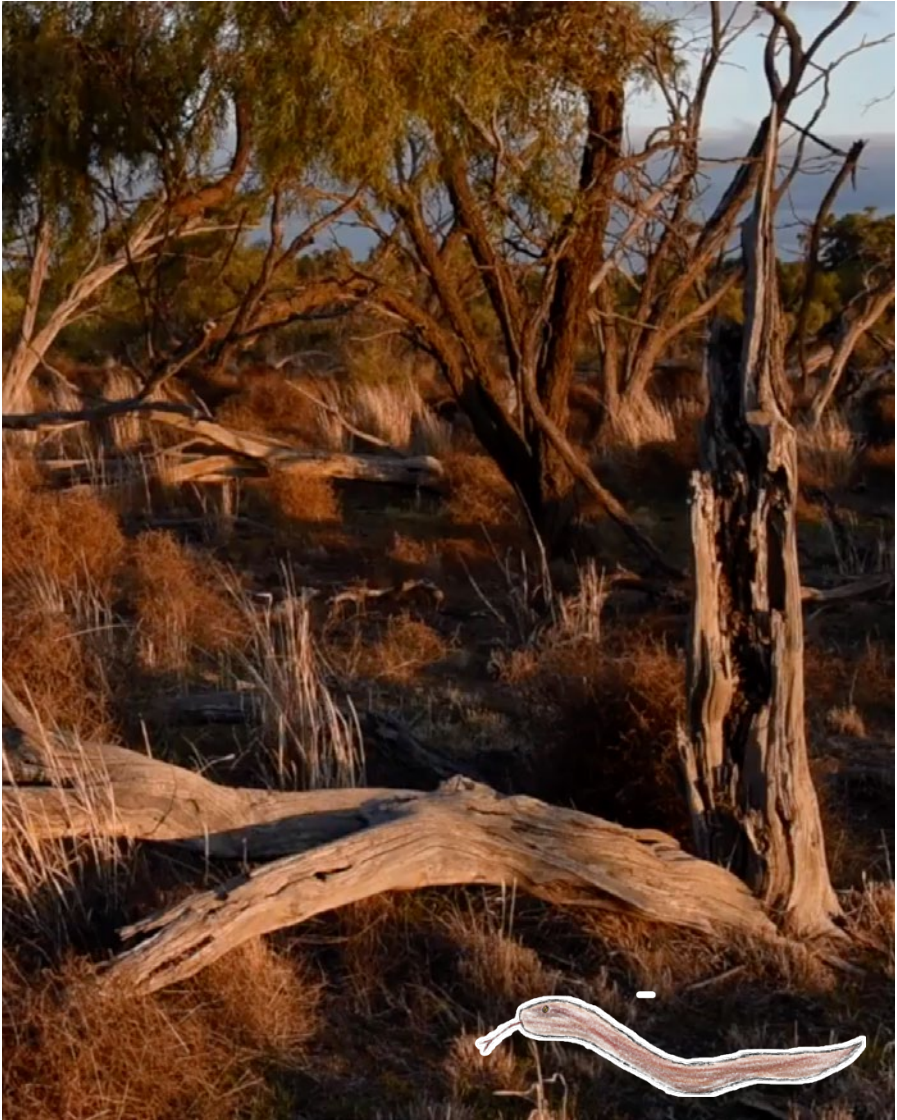
'The Yanko' has many special human-made buildings. Both the shearing shed and the old store at the homestead are unique.

The shed was burnt down in about 1922 and was rebuilt using Murray pine trees. The store at the homestead was built around the 1880s and is being renovated so people and students can visit 'The Yanko'.





'The Yanko' Farm is very special because it has the Yanco Creek running through the middle of the property. Lots of animals, like birds and fish and turtles, use the creek for food and water and habitat. Lots of native plants and red gums grow there. It is also an important water source for the farm and livestock.



There is a lot of biodiversity on 'The Yanko' property. This means there are a lot of different native plants and animals that live there. Some of these are endangered like the southern bell frog and the plains wanderer.



Southern bell frogs are endemic to south eastern Australia; this means that you can only find them here. They live in water habitats and are very good at camouflage. The southern bell frog is endangered and needs connected and healthy water habitats to survive.



The Cameron family works with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust to conserve and protect the biodiversity on 'The Yanko'. Controlling weeds and pests are helping the Cameron family to enhance their special and unique property even more.



The Camerons are working hard at 'The Yanko' to conserve the biodiversity on their farm. They fence off areas of their farm so that the sheep aren't always grazing on native plants and this helps native trees and grasses and shrubs to grow back. They also plant seeds to reintroduce native plants back to Jerilderie.



The creek is also fenced off in some places to keep the banks healthy and improve the water quality. This is important for all of the unique animals that use the creek for habitat.





Swainson pea or red darling pea
(A. O'Brien / Atlas of Living Australia)

The Cameron family takes care of the native plants on the property such as boree trees, river red gums, lots of different saltbush, swainson pea, button and matt grasses. They do not overstock areas, and they control weeds so that native plants can grow. Taking care of these plants also helps the farm. Heather explains that roots help protect the fragile soils from blowing away and it means that the farm is productive.

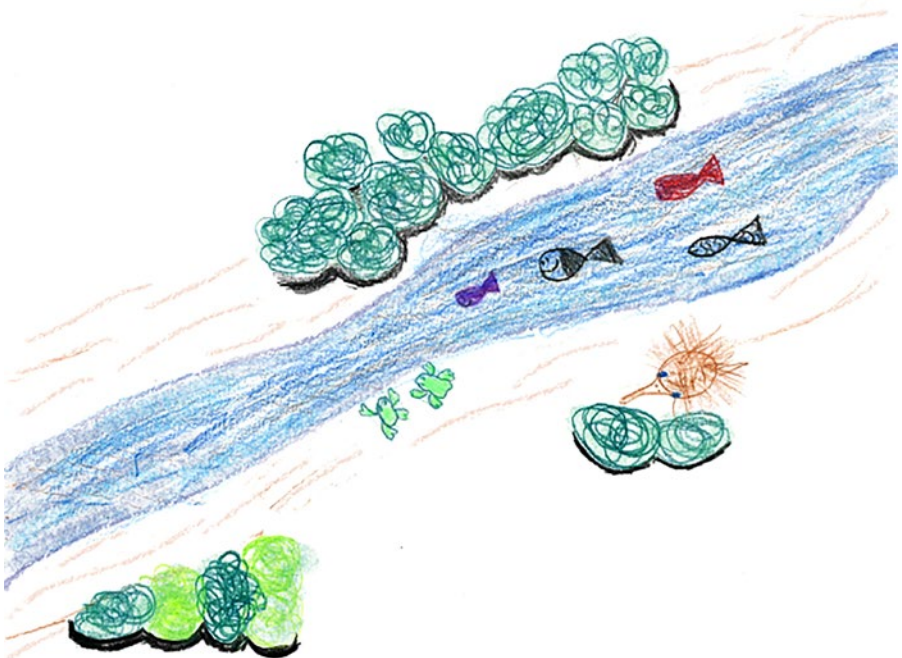


We worked with Caitlin to make southern bell frogs from clay and learn about biodiversity conservation. Caitlin taught us about why it is important to conserve biodiversity on farms and properties and how you can take care of the environment and still take care of your farm. We learnt about how some programs can help farmers take care of their farm and the environment.





Heather says that while the family is living on 'The Yanko' farm, they all want to look after the land and the country as well as the animals and plants so that it is a healthy and productive place for the next generation.





“Conserving biodiversity is important because we need to keep our native animals and plants safe and protected. This will help our land by keeping the topsoil in the ground which will make it easier for the plants to grow.”

-TEX

“I think it is important to conserve it so we can have our native animals and beautiful plants.”

- ANGUS



"I think it is important to conserve biodiversity because all the plants and animals make Australia and that's why conserving biodiversity is important."

- MARKO



"Biodiversity means living things and living animals. I think we need to keep encouraging biodiversity because if we don't, the trees will die and the soil will be bad for the farmers."

- HUGH



“Conserving biodiversity is very important for the environment because animals need plants to survive and plants need water to survive. That is why we need to protect all of Australia’s beautiful land.”

- NICOLA

“Biodiversity is about the differences between all living things. I think it is important to conserve biodiversity because just like we respect the differences in people, we also should in plants and other animals.”

- RACH





2018 Year 5-6,

St. Joseph's Primary School, Jerilderie

