

Making a Difference



Jaymee-Lee Booth, Bradley Field, Samuel Field,
Jordan Pethers, Alicia Alchin and Christopher Weston



Beckom 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

Making a Difference

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Local Land Heroes - Securing Our Region

In 2015, students involved in the Creative Catchment Kids program researched and wrote stories about their 'Local Land Heroes' who are involved in pest management in the Murray and Murrumbidgee regions. These heroes are local individuals, couples, a business or industries that have made a difference in their local community by contributing to the management of pest animals and plants. The program was generously funded by Murray Local Land Services and Riverina Local Land Services.

Local Land Heroes is part of Enviro-Stories, a PeekDesigns education program.



Local Land Services



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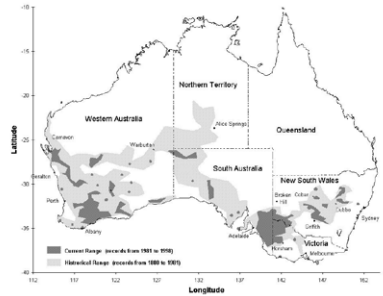


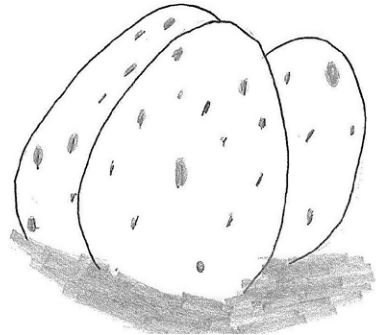
The Malleefowl is under threat in our local area and is an endangered species.

The Malleefowl is under threat from foxes, rabbits, goats, feral cats, feral pigs and native birds of prey. Its habitat is threatened by grazing, which takes away their food source, burning off paddocks for cropping, which causes the loss of the leaf litter needed to build their mounds, and salinity, which affects plant growth.

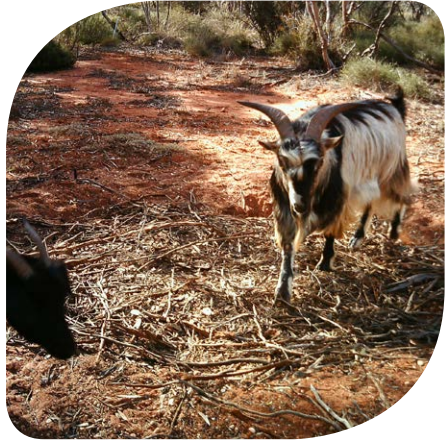


Figure 1. Current and historical range of Malleefowl across Australia





The Malleefowl is a mound building bird that lives in the semi-arid regions of southern Australia. It lays 12-25 eggs which are incubated in the mound. The young chicks often die from starvation, or fall victim to predators after leaving the mound. They eat herbs, seeds, blossoms and insects such as cockroaches and beetles. They need our help!



The Feral Threat

Feral pests impacting our local farmers include foxes, rabbits, mice, locusts and feral pigs. These are also threats to the Malleefowl. Long-term studies have shown that Malleefowl populations are probably regulated by foxes. They prey on Malleefowl of all ages and are considered their major threat.





What is being done?

Locally, Landmark Merchandise Manager Nicole Anderson is at the forefront in supporting local farmers to contain predators in our area.

Landmark has a long term plan in place to support farmers with bait and products in the shop, and Nicole ensures these are available when required.



Nicole also works with Local Land Services - Feral Fighters to give information to the farmers. Twice a year, Landmark invites Local Land Services representatives to come into the store to support local farmers in developing a biosecurity plan for farms to eradicate feral animals.





Nicole introduced us to FeralScan. FeralScan is a community website that allows you to map sightings of pest animals and record the problems they are causing in your local area. FeralScan will have direct benefits to farmers, community groups and individuals managing pest animals and their impacts. This will be great for the Malleefowl too!



The Local Land Services Officer, David Kellett is also working towards making a difference for the local Malleefowl. Local Land Services was initially approached by a local landholder who was concerned and wished to ensure the longevity of the Malleefowl in the Yalgogrin area. A plan was instigated to help the Malleefowls.





Source: PestSmart

David supports local landholders by providing fox bait and supporting landholders in baiting safely. He holds frequent meetings with landholders to support them, and sources funding for fencing and other costs related to ensuring the Malleefowl mounds and habitat are protected.



In 2014, monitoring cameras were introduced to the Yalgogrin area to gather information about the local Malleefowl mounds. This information is forwarded to the National Malleefowl Recovery Team.



Below is an example of the recorded information of a fox visiting the Malleefowl mound and stealing an egg. The National Malleefowl Recovery Team shares expert knowledge with David and Local Land Services to support their work with Malleefowls.



NATIONAL Malleefowl RECOVERY TEAM



DES Infrared and Motion Detection Camera



With local legends like Nicole and David, and the support from Landmark, Local Land Services, local landholders and the National Malleefowl Recovery Team, we are sure they will make a difference in the longevity of the Malleefowl in our local area.



We hope that these local land heroes, and their organisations, really do make a difference for the Malleefowl.

The students would like to thank all the organisations who assisted with the gathering of information and photographs for our book 'Making a Difference'.



Photos courtesy of:

- Malleefowl (Protecting the species through Education)
<http://malleefowl.net.au/index.html>
- National Malleefowl Recovery Team, Casterton Victoria
- Nest Egg Foundation, Fremantle WA
- Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo NSW
- Local Land Services Riverina, West Wyalong
- Lake Cowal Conservation Centre (LCCC)



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2015 Year 4-6, Beckom Public School

CONGRATULATIONS

Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre and
the Creative Catchment Kids Program won the
2015 NSW Junior Landcare Team Award and will be
competing in the 2016 National Landcare Awards.



Local Land
Services

