

# JINDERA WETLANDS

A place for people, plants and water bugs



St. John's Lutheran School Jindera  
Jindera Public School

St. Mary McKillop College  
Friends of Jindera Wetlands



## 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/](http://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](http://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](http://www.envirostories.com.au)**

# Jindera Wetlands

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### Wetlands

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 have then told the story of their local wetland, the landholder or community members involved and how the wetland is being conserved. 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.



The Jindera Wetlands are located on the south-west corner of Jindera's Recreation Ground. One hundred and fifty years ago, this site was originally used by school children to graze their horse whilst at school. Football and netball was played nearby; and a 'pond with an island in the middle' was envisaged by the community.

Although the large dam near the current wetlands dates from this time, the Jindera Wetlands were not developed until the 1960s. Hume Shire Council, in conjunction with the NSW government, developed the present channel, 'island' and reed bed system as a stormwater run-off reduction and cleansing facility.





Jindera Wetlands 2007 - Stacey Bell



Jindera Wetlands 2013 - Robert Done

Stormwater run-off from Jindera's urban areas is a significant source of nutrient input. The Jindera Wetlands were built to trap the nutrients in the stormwater before it reaches the local creeks, which run into Bowna Creek then eventually to the Hume Weir. The wetland plants slow the movement of water, trap the silt, improve the microbial activity and absorb nutrients as they grow. The wetland also provides habitat for frogs, turtles and water birds.



In 2009, a small number of people interested in enhancing and developing the area formed the Friends of Jindera Wetlands Group. Although little has been attempted in the actual wetlands, extensive planting of native shrubs and grasses have taken place in the adjoining woodland area. Pathways and bridges have made public access easier. Nesting boxes for birds and mammals, including Squirrel gliders, have been erected. Signs erected on the Urana and Dight streets point people in the right direction for access.





Funds for the works at the Jindera Wetlands have come from grants from the Greater Hume Shire Council and Murray Local Land Services. These funds are administered for the group by St. John's Lutheran School Jindera. The Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Ltd., Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre and Holbrook Landcare Network have provided helpful advice and assistance when needed. Partnerships with all these groups have allowed for positive works at the wetland. In developing the site for wetland enhancement, it has then created an area in the town for people to enjoy for recreational uses.



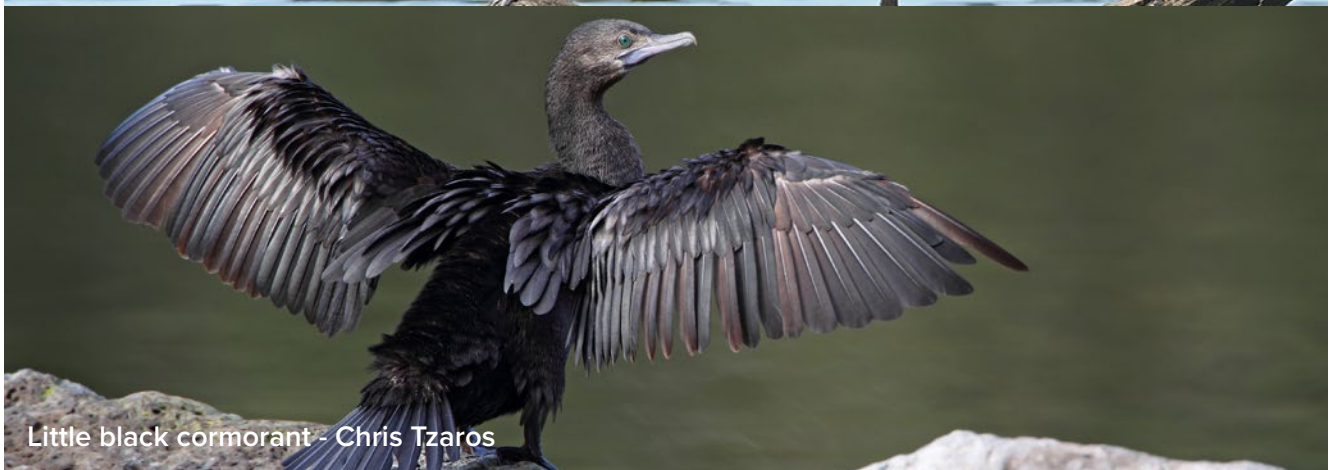
White-necked heron - Chris Tzaros

Some of the **BIRDS** found at the Jindera Wetlands:

- Dusky woodswallow
- White-plumed honeyeater
- White-winged chough
- Restless flycatcher
- Masked lapwing
- Australian magpie
- Wattlebird
- Red-rumped parrot
- Australian white ibis
- Sacred kingfisher
- Pacific black duck
- Hoary headed grebe
- Grey teal
- Grey shrike-thrush
- Dollar bird
- Clamorous reed warbler
- Australian wood duck
- White-necked heron
- Little black cormorant
- ... and many more!



Grey teal - Jill Wilson



Little black cormorant - Chris Tzaros



Other **ANIMALS** found at the wetlands:

- Brushtail possum
- Squirrel glider
- Common eastern froglet
- Banjo frog
- Peron's tree frog
- Eastern long-necked turtle

Some **PLANTS** found at the wetlands:

- Kangaroo thorn
- Small spike-rush
- Sedges
- Rushes



Small spike-rush - Damien Cook



Banjo frog - Damian Michael



Peron's tree frog - Damian Michael



In May 2017, the three local schools, Jindera Public, St. John's and St. Mary McKillop gathered at the wetlands for a gala day. They learnt all about the significance of their local wetlands and why they are so important. These are their stories and recounts...

**J**oyful day exploring  
**I**nterview a class mate  
**N**ature all around us  
**D**ucks and birds are welcome  
**E**ducational  
**R**elaxing to visit  
**A**ctivities were fun

**W**etlands are important  
**E**nvironment  
**T**ake care of our  
**L**ocal  
**A**rea  
**N**ot a place to litter  
**D**o the right thing  
**S**ustain the beauty!

By St. Mary McKillop students



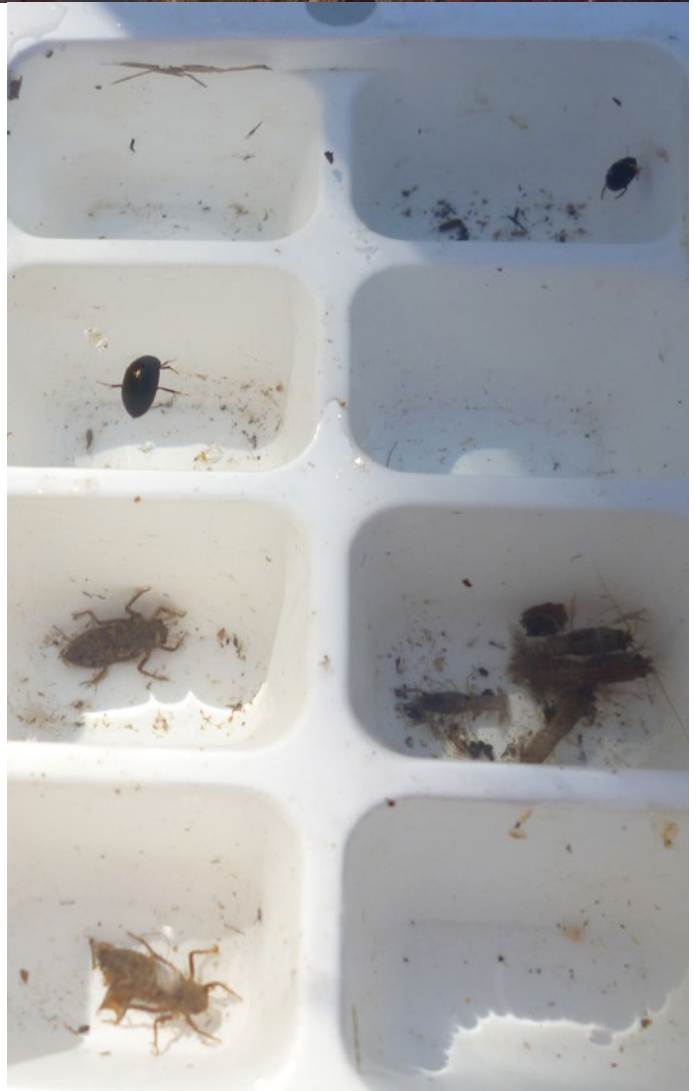


Our activity was about macro-invertebrates, otherwise known to kids as water bugs! Earlier in the day our presenter used a large dip net to scoop a sample of mud, leaves and bugs from the wetland.

We looked at the mixture to see if we could see any of the little critters moving. Spoons and pipettes were handed out so we could scoop water and bugs out of the trays and sort out what we had found. I found so many peculiar water bugs including a baby dragonfly, bloodworms, yabbies, the larvae of a mosquito and much more!

Water bugs tell us whether water is clean and healthy, or polluted. Turns out the water from Jindera Wetlands are in pretty good condition. Turtles, fish and birds like to all eat water bugs for dinner!

**By Paige Carrigg, St. John's Lutheran School**





Who knew that Jindera has a wetland? Well I do now!

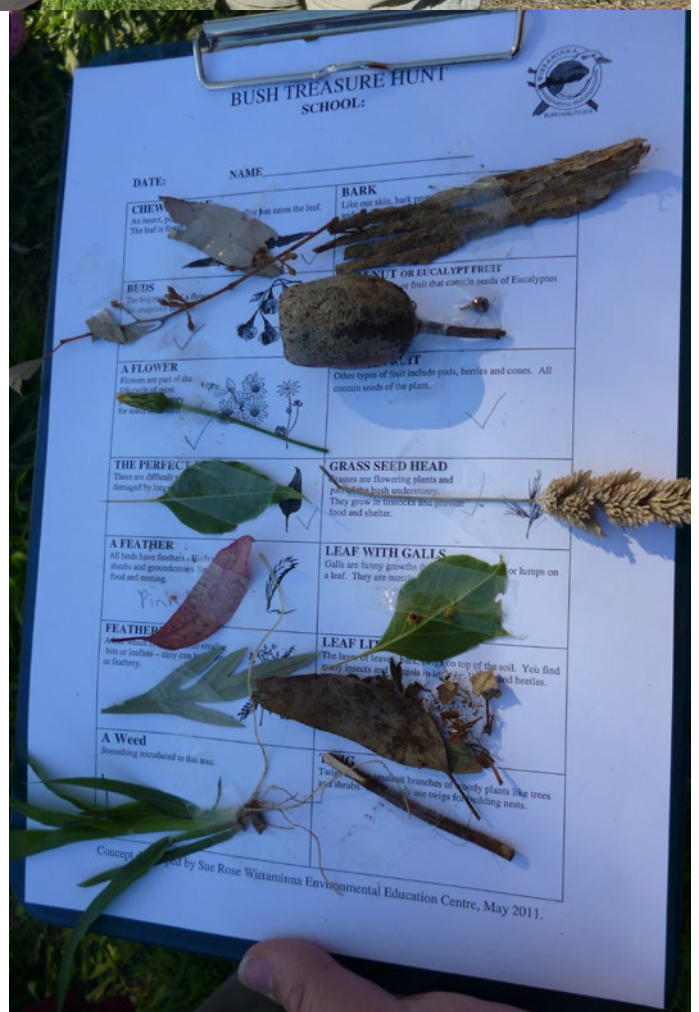
Many people have pitched in and helped to create a place where we can learn about the many animals and plants that call the Jindera Wetlands home.

I had the best time looking through books to try and find information on the local plants and animals. I had all the answers to my partner's questions. It was amazing to sit back and look at the animals and plants we have in Jindera!

**By Emily Wilson, St. John's Lutheran School**



I got to do a treasure hunt, but this wasn't your average treasure hunt! It was a hunt to find certain items that would be treasure to insects and other animals at the wetlands. I had to find a chewed leaf, bark, gum nuts, flowers, a perfect leaf, grass seed heads, a feather, a leaf with galls, a weed and a twig. The hardest thing to find was a feather! You had to look carefully on the ground. These are all treasure to animals which need these things to survive, treasure is everywhere.



By Karsha Butler, Jindera Public School



My group did a water pollution story. We were handed a container or two with a name on it. I got Garry Guzzler and Gerald Greedy. Our presenter who ran the activity told us a story about how everyone contributes to water pollution.

When our name was called out during the story, we had to go up and pour our container into one large tub of clear water. As the story went on each kid put their container into the water. It started really clean and was very yuck by the end! Each container we had was a different type of pollution like dog poo, cigarette butts, rubbish, oil and garden waste! It was terrific fun.

**P**lastic  
**O**il  
**L**oads of paper  
**L**itter  
**U**nused paper coffee cups  
**T**ea bags  
**E**ucalyptus oil



By Anna Schulz, St. John's Lutheran School



If we want a nice environment then we all need to work together to keep it clean. We are losing wetlands because of rubbish and polluted water. It is sad because people like the Friends of Jindera Wetlands are trying to save our wetlands. We hope to see you soon in our wetlands and start to save the little things we have in our community.

**By Sienna Curphey, Jindera Public School**



2017 students

St. John's Lutheran School Jindera

Jindera Public School

St. Mary McKillop College

# Congratulations!

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

