

Fred the Fergie



Ellie Vines, Lucy Cullinan, Sky Janson,
Michael McDermott, Max Baird, Charlie Baird,
Neomai Burton and Olive Watson-Kiely.

Wentworth 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/

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

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

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

Fred the Fergie

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Teacher: Christine Larwood

School: Wentworth Public School

Acknowledgements:

Bob and Marj Jolley, for their information and stories.

Deb Bennett, Library Technician/Local Studies.

Jenny McLeod, President of the Wentworth Historical Society who provided us with the historical photos.

Geoffrey Heuzenroeder, who talked to us about his Ferguson Tractor.

“By God and by Fergie...we beat the flood”,
edited by Carmel Chapman.

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.



My name is Fred the Fergie and I was owned by a farmer who used me for picking oranges.

I lived in a small town called Wentworth, which was surrounded by two rivers, the Murray and the Darling.

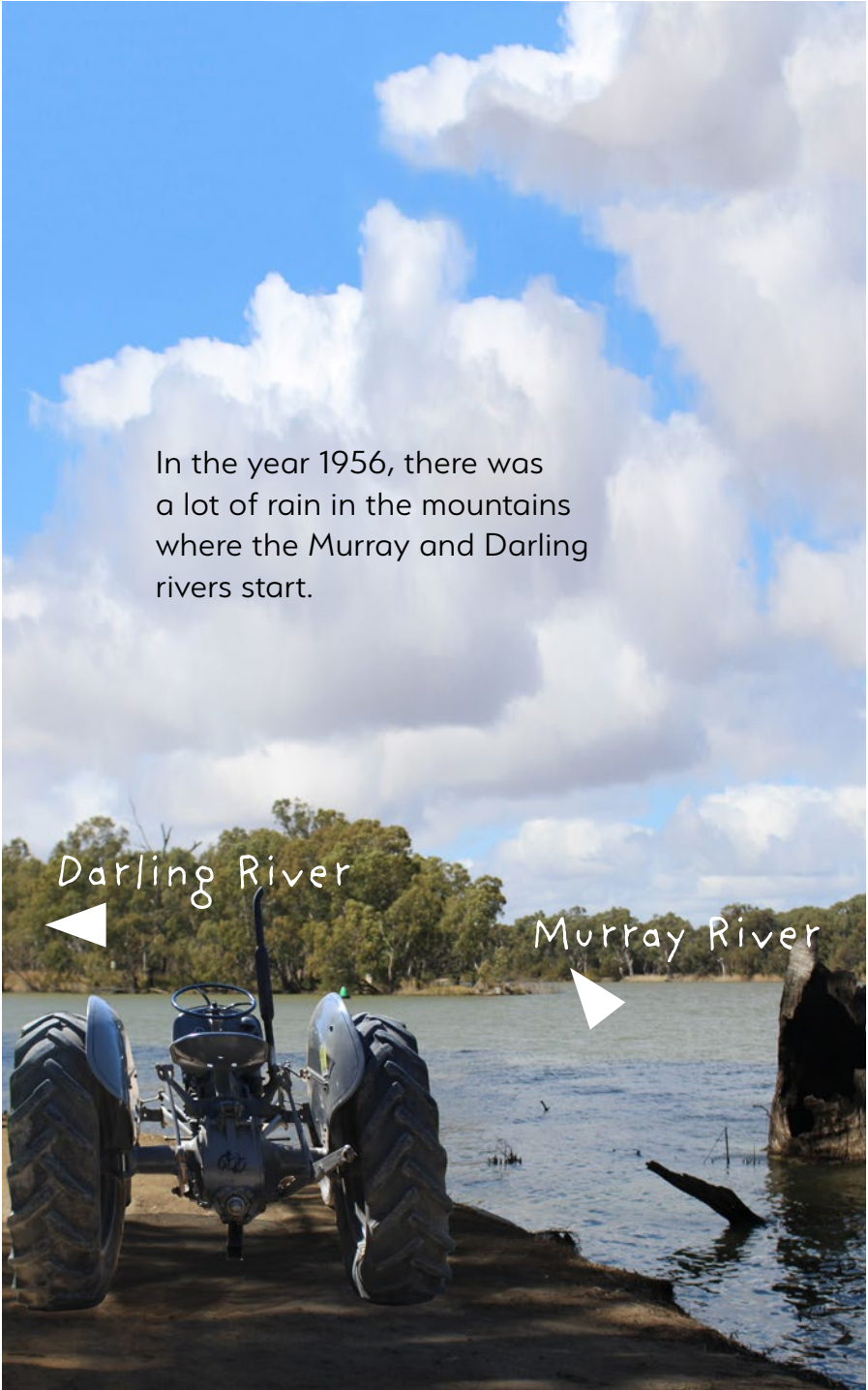


In the year 1956, there was a lot of rain in the mountains where the Murray and Darling rivers start.

Darling River



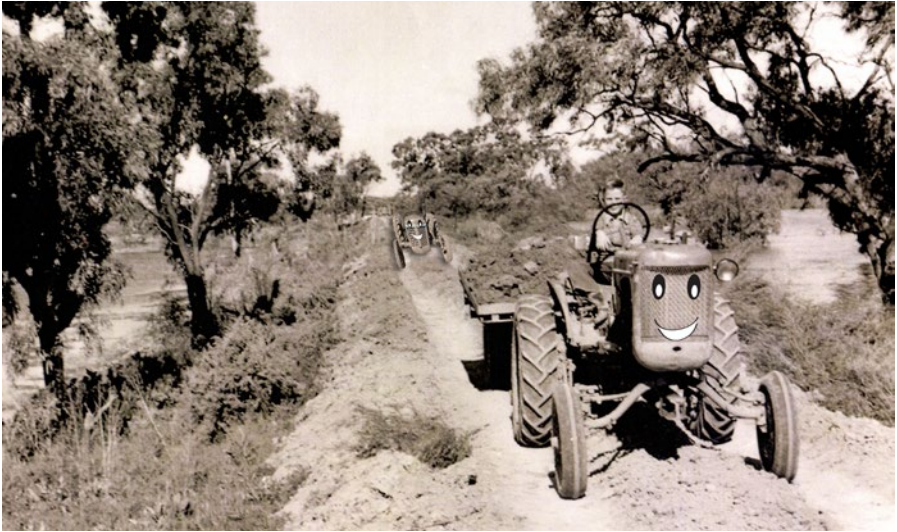
Murray River





It rained and rained. The heavy rain filled the Murray and Darling rivers and they rose higher and higher, creating a flood.

When the flood was rising, I called a town meeting of my Ferguson friends. To save the town, we started getting bags and filling them with sand.



The Fergie team would drive along the top of the levee banks to drop sand, before the water got too high. Sometimes we had to pull animals out of the murky, flowing water before they were washed away.

They are not the only things that had to be pulled out. Our Fergie tractors had to be rescued sometimes too!





The water was getting higher. I saw a big tin boat called an "Army Duck". It is called that because it works mainly in the army and floats like a duck. Army Ducks can drive on the road and on the water.

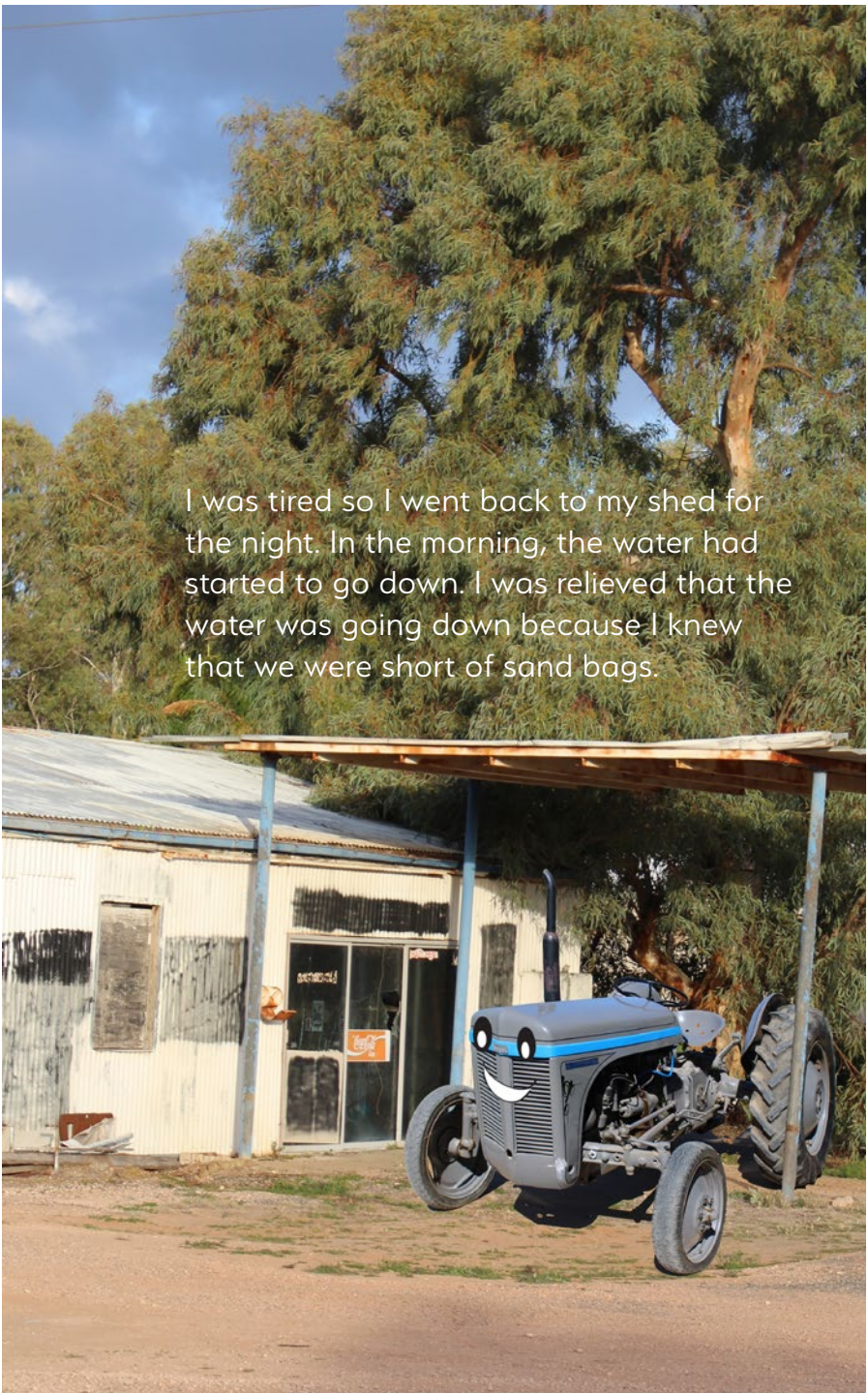


The Army Ducks helped to take sand bags around the town where the water was getting higher. Then their job was to collect food and deliver it to the ladies in the town hall, to cook meals for the people.

After a days work, I could see the steam coming out of the windows and smell a roast cooking. In the town hall there were people preparing food all day and into the night to feed the people working on the levee banks.



I was tired so I went back to my shed for the night. In the morning, the water had started to go down. I was relieved that the water was going down because I knew that we were short of sand bags.



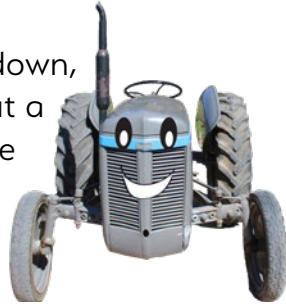


Later in the afternoon I drove to the garage. All my friends were there, lined up to get cleaned and some new paint.

Everyone in the town went into the Royal Hotel where the bartender gave me a free cup of oil. I looked funny when I got oil all over my face.



After the flood water went down, the people of Wentworth put a marker to show how high the water came. Wentworth didn't get washed out.



When the water levels had gone down, the people put up a monument of me and my friends for helping to save the town of Wentworth. I felt so proud of myself and everyone who helped save Wentworth from the flood.



THIS CAIRN WAS UNVEILED ON APRIL 20, 1959
BY MR L.T. RITCHIE, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF
MASSEY-FERGUSON (AUSTRALIA) LIMITED,
TO COMMEMORATE THE EPIC FIGHT BY THE
PEOPLE OF WENTWORTH AND DISTRICT
AGAINST THE RECORD FLOOD OF 1956 AND
THE MAJOR PART PLAYED BY FERGUSON
TRACTORS AND IMPLEMENTS IN SAVING
THE TOWN FROM COMPLETE INUNDATION.

E.W.WHYTE
(SHIRE PRESIDENT)

C.W.RYDER
(SHIRE CLERK)

WENTWORTH CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS



Ellie Vines, Lucy Cullinan, Sky Janson, Michael McDermott,
Max Baird, Charlie Baird, Neomai Burton and Olive Watson-Kiely.

2017 Year 4, Wentworth Public School

Congratulations!

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

