

The water that saved the farmers crop

Mr
Horman



Mr
Grace

By ISAbella Grace and Mali Horman

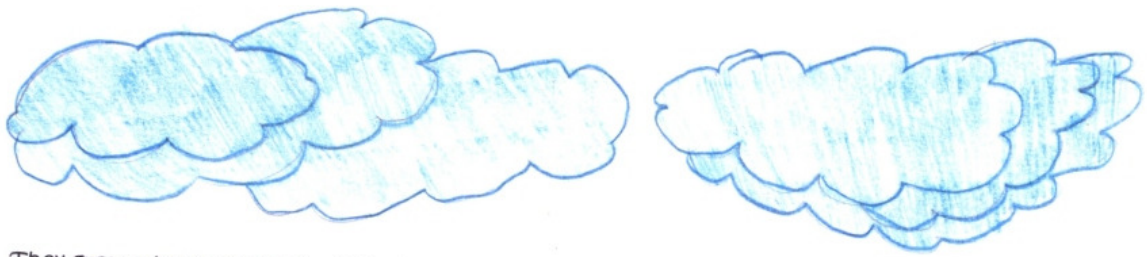
Mr Grace's
Farm

Down near Turiff West there were low flat hilly farms that were owned by the Horman and Grace families. They both had a creek running down a hill. They had planted native pine on the hills in case of drought. The native pines would stop the hills from blowing away in a drought.

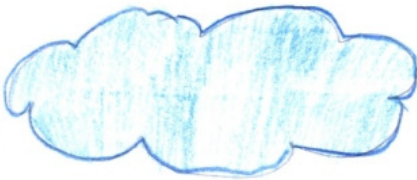
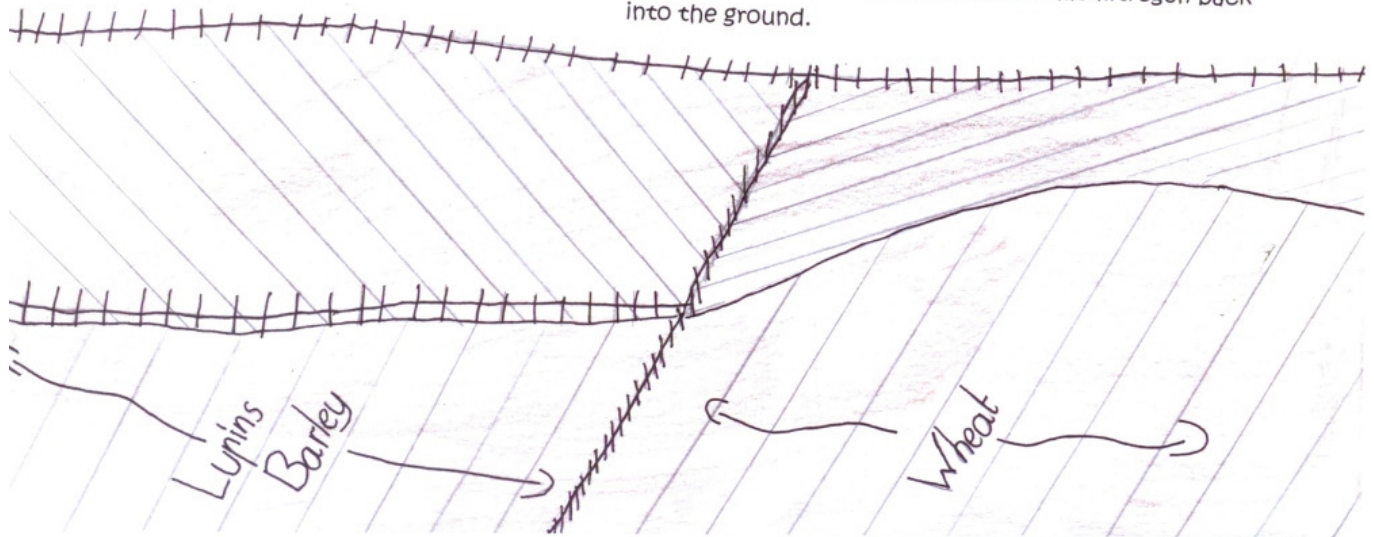


Mr Horman's
Farm





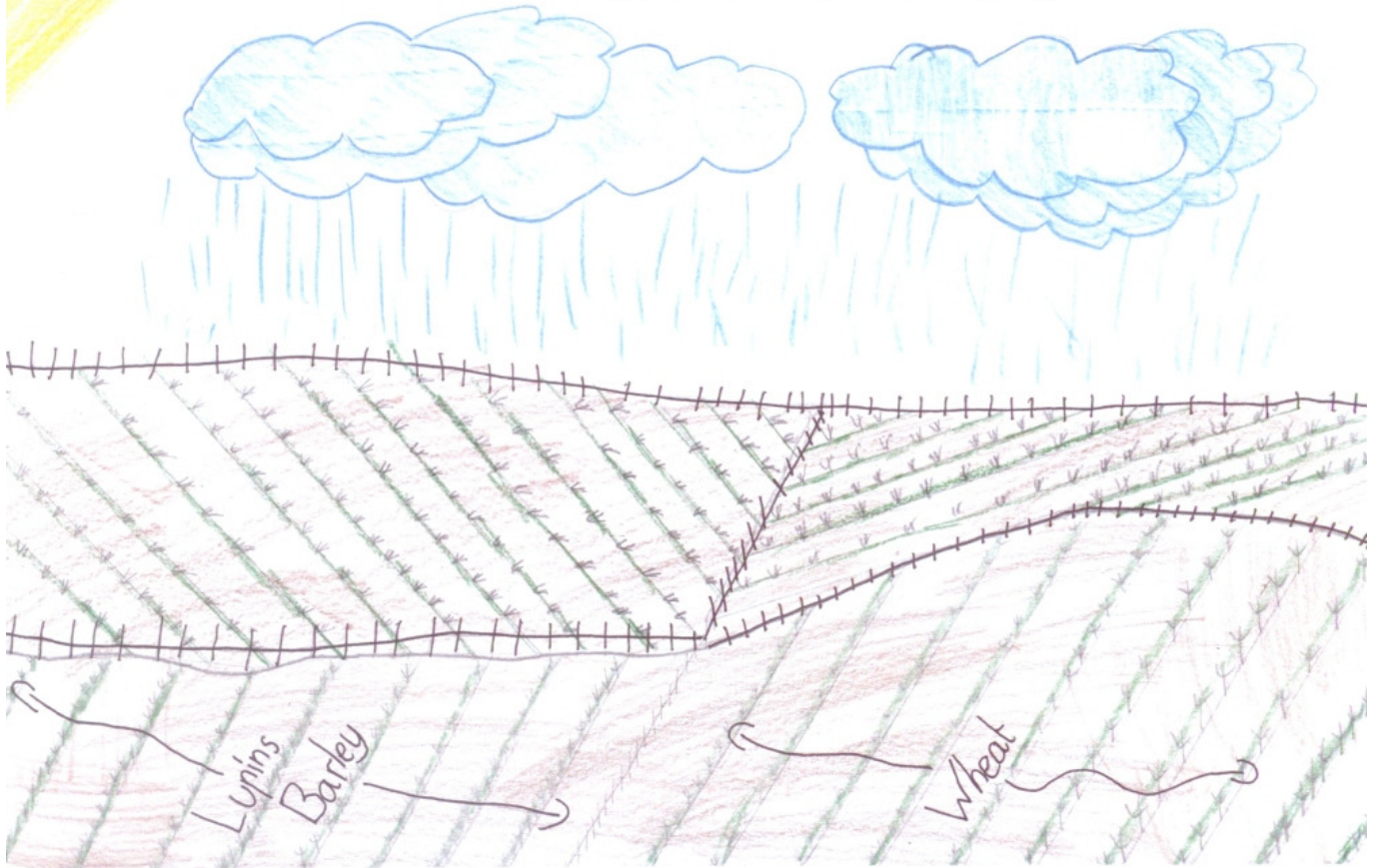
They grow wheat on the small hills because wheat grows well in sandy soils. Last year they grew a lot of barley on the flats but this year they have also planted lupins to put some nitrogen back into the ground.



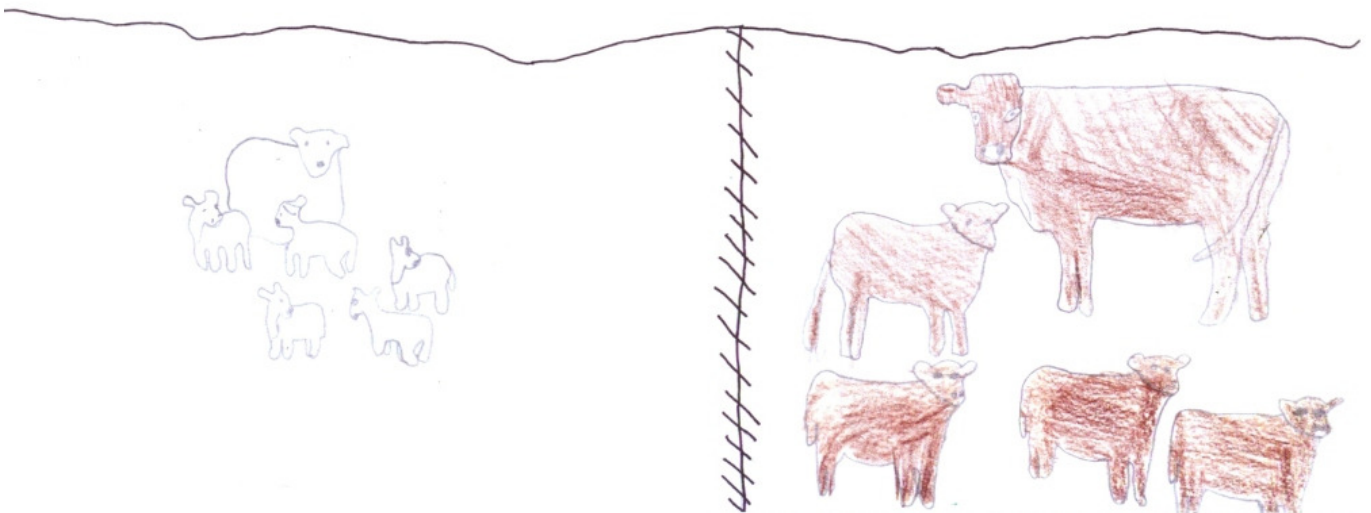
There were lots of birds living in the trees, such as kookaburras and magpies. They drank the water from the dam.



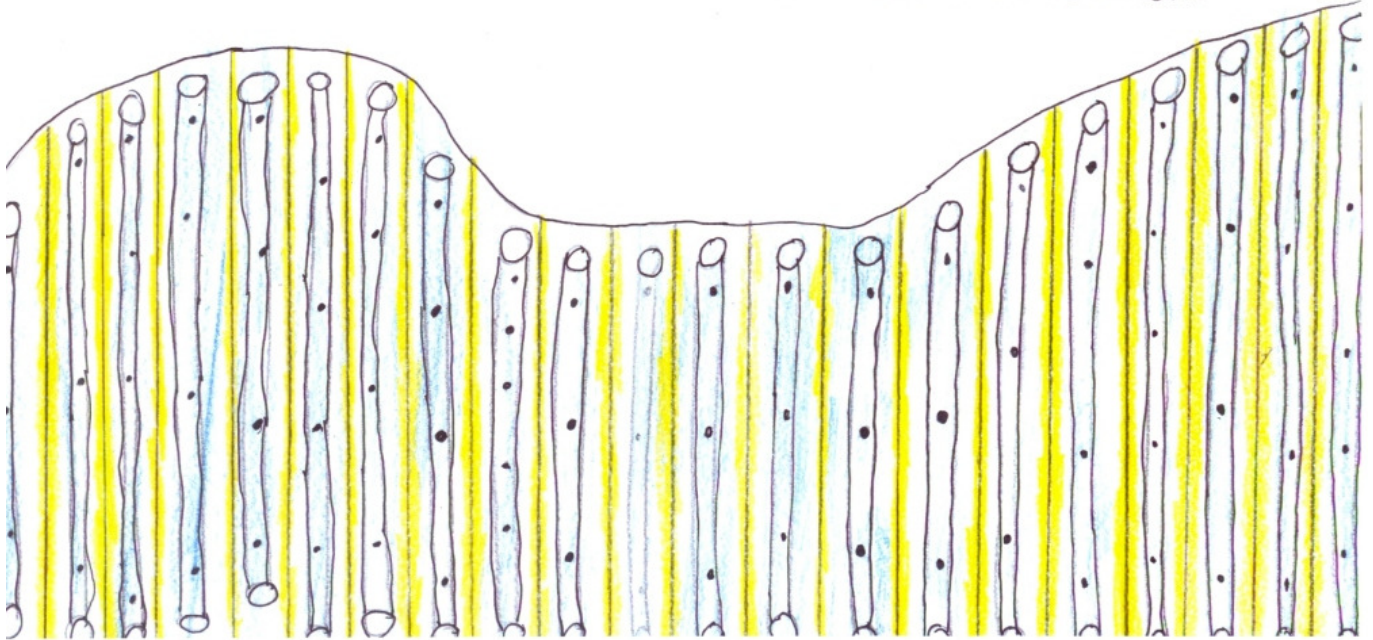
After the crop was sown, rain fell so the crops started to grow. The sun shone brightly and the farmers were happy that their crops were growing well.



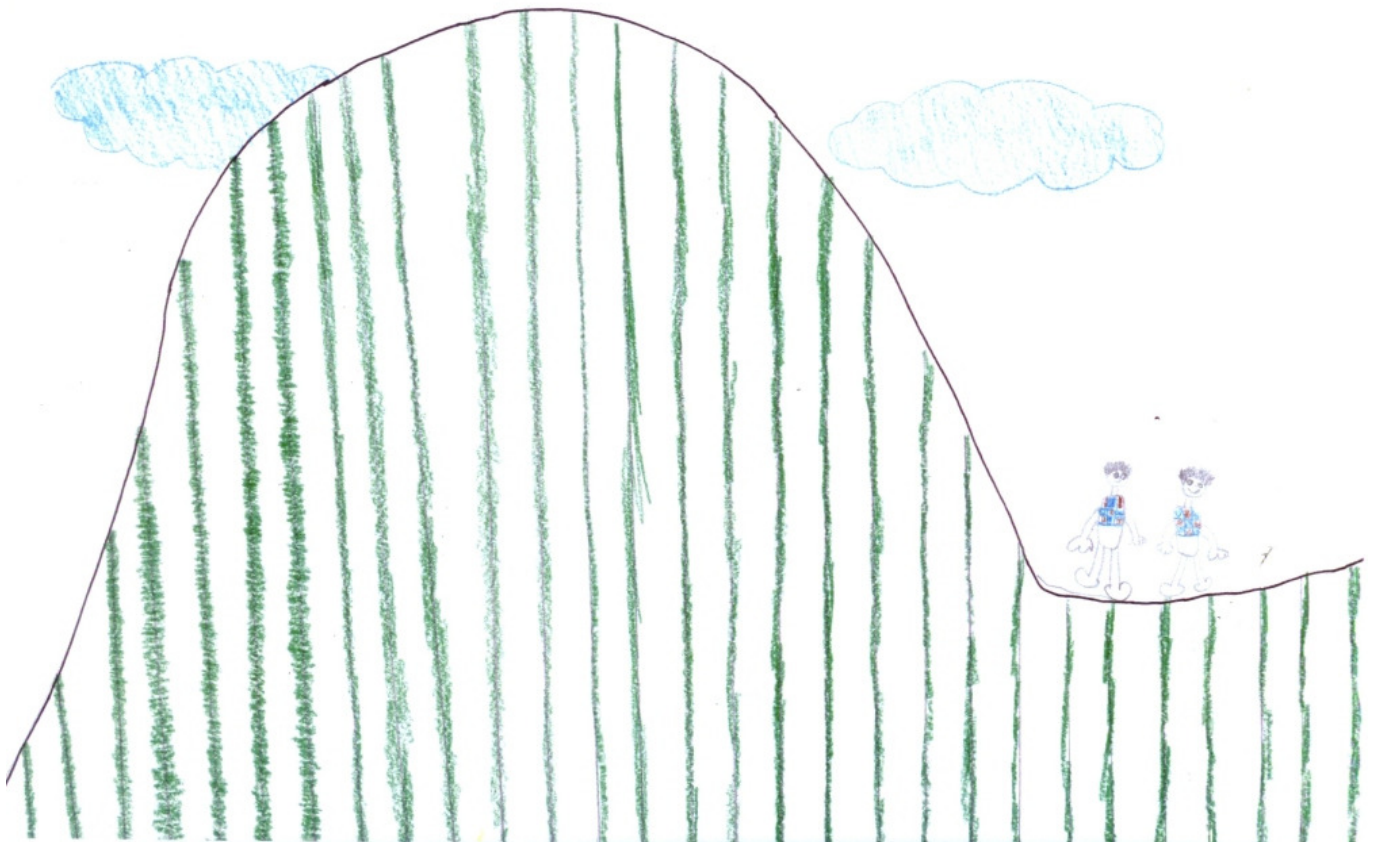
This allowed them time to check their sheep and cattle. Mr Grace found out he had 4 baby Hereford calves. They were just new-born and couldn't stand up yet. Mr Horman went out and checked his sheep. He discovered he had 5 baby lambs. He thought they were two days old as they still had a bit of yellow afterbirth on them, but it wasn't slimy.



One month later the farmers were getting worried as they hadn't had any more rain and their crops were going yellow. Mr Grace said "Yes we can farm sustainably! I will use some irrigation water before the crops get more yellow." So Mr Grace and Mr Horman pumped some water from the creek to water their crops by irrigation. That made the crops turn a lush green again.



The farmers were happy that their crops were green again and they were also happy that they farmed sustainably.



"Yes we can" said the people, "farm sustainably."

Isabella and Mali (Y 6 and 4) - Key Science Ideas

about a farm environment

A farm environment is land like dirt and grass, air like oxygen, the sun, water and living things like Plants, trees, flowers and creatures like bugs and man-made things.

about what 'sustainably farming' means

to keep something like stock alive and to keep the farm going to season to season and to grow better crops

about crops

need Sun and water and nitrogen in the ground.

about

Stock is sheep and cattle.

about

Baby lambs are born and they have yellow afterbirth on them. They ewe eats some of the afterbirth on the lamb.

about

A baby cow can not stand up when they are just born

Add more as you need:

about

written by Isabella and Mali, typed verbatim by Mrs Clark

Appendix for "Yes we can" said the people, "farm sustainably." by Isabella and Mali

Bibliography - Our resources

Each student in this class researched the farm on which they or a friend lived:

- observed and recorded its environment by drawings and a table.
- interviewed the farmer about farming sustainably.
- conducted a water and a soil salinity and a soil texture tests.
- used tables and summarised the results for each aspect researched.

These were shared and collated into individual and class references:

These are the references created by the students in their.

tick if used in story	Resources from classwork in the "Sustainability and our Farmland Environment" unit.	research type	available as a reference
✓	my farmland environment	drawing	Collated into one page for each student that follows as Reference 1 – My Farmland Environment Research
	macro-invertebrates (little creatures) seen on my farmland	drawing	
✓	my farmland – summary report of the features from each part of the environment	table	
✓	water salinity from the farm was tested (as part of the Saltwatch program) and reported for its usefulness to the farmer	water tests	
✓	soil salinity and texture tested and reported for its class (usefulness) to the farmer.	soil tests	
✓	farmer interviews meanings of sustainability and sustainable farming how to farm sustainably for crops, stock, nature and specific issues	interview with farmer	in student workbooks
✓	sustainably farming reports table of all replies to interview and summary into one class statement	table for each qn	on School website see Ref 2 below
✓	The story of our land Geological history was modelled in the sandpit and photographed, put into a timeline of stages and made into a class reference book.	landscape history	In school library see Ref 3 books

“Yes we can” said the people, “farm sustainably.”

Reference 1 – My Farmland Environment Research collected by Isabella, year 6

Drawing of the Turiff West farm environment	and its little creatures	and reporting of its features
Isabella's Water and Soil Tests		ie 28 features recorded from all parts of the environment
from spring on farm water salinity 1400 ECs = Moderate salinity soil texture = sandy loam soil salinity Class 4 = Highly saline		Isabella's interviews contributed to class reports on the school website:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definitions, • crops, • stock, • care for nature • and sustainability issues.

“Yes we can” said the people, “farm sustainably.”

Reference 1 – My Farmland Environment Research collected by Mali, year 4

Drawing of the Lascelles farm environment	and its little creatures	and reporting of its features
Mali's Water and Soil Tests		ie 23 features recorded from all parts of the environment
from the farm pipe water salinity 100 ECs = almost no salinity soil texture = sandy loam soil salinity Class 0 = not saline		Mali's interviews contributed to class reports on the school website:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definitions, • crops, • care for nature • and sustainability issues.

Tick if used for your story	Reference 2 - Bibliography for Web sites
	The following is the list of the website references that were created by the children for this project from their interviews
	<i>Dates and time of access have been left off as all students helped create these resources and they were uploaded on 13 June 2012 to the school website as part of participating in the Australian Year of the Farmer.</i>
✓	"What does sustainability mean?", by St Josephs PS Senior class, 13 June 2012, sourced as sts_sustainability.pdf at http://www3.sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au/sts-resources-2012.html
✓	"What does sustainable farming mean?" by St Josephs PS Senior class, 13 June 2012, sourced as sts_sustainablefarming.pdf at http://www3.sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au/sts-resources-2012.html
✓	"What does sustainability mean?" by St Josephs PS Senior class, 13 June 2012 sourced as sts_crops.pdf at http://www3.sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au/sts-resources-2012.html
✓	"What does sustainability mean for stock?" by St Josephs PS Senior class, 13 June 2012, sourced as sts_stock.pfd at http://www3.sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au/sts-resources-2012.html
✓	"What does sustainability mean for caring for nature?" by St Josephs PS Senior class, 13 June 2012, sourced as sts_nature.pdf at http://www3.sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au/sts-resources-2012.html
✓	"What problems does sustainable farming have here?" by St Josephs PS Senior class, 13 June 2012, sourced as sts_issues.pdf at http://www3.sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au/sts-resources-2012.html
✓	"The Landscape of Hopetoun – how it was made over a long time" by Jeanie Clark, 28 June 2012, sourced as sts_landhistory.pdf at http://www3.sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au/sts-resources-2012.html
✓	"Our Mallee Farmlands – environmental features" by St Joseph's PS Senior class, 28 June 2012, sourced as sts_ourfarmlands.pdf at http://www3.sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au/sts-resources-2012.html

J. Clark , Science Talent Search, Bibliography Proforma, 2012

Tick if used for your story	Reference 3 - Bibliography for Books
	The following is the list of the book references that were available to the children for this project.
	<i>If you only use a part of these books, add the page numbers at the end</i>
✓	Clark, Jeanie (2012), "The Landscape of Hopetoun - how it was made over a long time", St Joseph's Primary School class room publication, Hopetoun.
	Crocombe, Angela (2006) <i>Farming Australia- Grain Farming</i> Binara Publishing P/L
	Dalglish, Sharon (2005) <i>Farm animals- Cattle</i> , MacMillan Education Australia
	Hamilton, Fiona (1994) <i>The Workboot Series – Wheat</i> , The Kondinin Group
✓	Pelusey, Michael & Jane, (2003) <i>Outback Australia - Life on a Sheep Station</i> Macmillan Education Australia
	Pyers, Greg (2001) <i>Australia's Introduced Plants and Animals – Book4 Mesquite to Rubber</i> . Vine Reed International Books P/L
	Thomas, Ann (1998) <i>Farms – Sheep and Cattle Farms</i> , Macmillan Education Australia
	Thomas, Ron, & Stutchbury, Jan (1996) <i>Feral Animals – Pigs and Goats</i> , Macmillan Education Australia
	Wykeham, Nicholas (1979) <i>Farm Machines</i> . Raintree Children's Books
	Isham, Marion & Steve (2004) <i>Draw Australian Animals</i> . Bandicoot Books, Margate. Tas

J. Clark , Science Talent Search, Bibliography Proforma, 2012

Tick if used for your story	Reference 4 - Bibliography of Class Lessons
	The following is the list of topics in class lessons that could be used as references for their stories:
✓	the Environment and its Features
✓	Sustainability
✓	Story of our land
✓	Lunettes – landform, Native Pines and ‘Snow Drifts’
	Salinity in Water
	Saltwatch - Water Salinity in our Area
✓	Soil Salinity and texture
✓	Rain coming - clouds and processes
	Shinglebacks/Stumpy Tailed Lizards and Blue-Tongue Lizards
	Bats especially Micro-bats
	Minibugs – helpers, threats and passers by – including what worms do
	Wild Melons – Afghan and Paddy Melons
✓	Our Crops and what we use them for.
✓	Keeping Stubble, trees and shelter belts- sustainable farming for dry times.

J. Clark , Science Talent Search, Bibliography Proforma, 2012

WORD COUNT for our story =296..... words

Acknowledgements

Thank you to those who have helped us in this project by:

✓ if helped	doing what	by whom
	answering our farm interview and other questions for research for our story	Adi, Horman (Dad) Austin Grace
	scribing our words for us	see the note at the end of the story
✓	typing our draft words for us	Mrs Clark
✓	suggesting better spelling and grammar	Miss Maiden, Mrs Clark
✓	Teaching us how to format our pages	Miss Maiden
✓	teaching us about ‘Sustainability and our Farmland Environment’	Mrs Clark Michael Grace

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