

2014 International Year of Family Farming

Feeding the world; Caring for the Earth

<http://www.fao.org/family-farming-2014/> <http://www.familyfarmingcampaign.net>
<https://www.facebook.com/InternationalYearOfFamilyFarmingIYFF>



Our sheep farm near Warracknabeal.

- **Our Family =**

There are three people in our family. We all live on our family farm, but it is not big enough to live off. So Dad has a full time job off- farm and does the farm work after work and at weekends.

Mum's farm roles are being 'midwife' at lambing, weeding, other as needed, and running the house and home school. Mum looks for paid work in environmental education – but does it volunteer too.

I enjoy learning about the farm as part of my schooling and being a part of anything on it, especially taking sheep to the animal nursery at the local show, and exercising the farm dog.

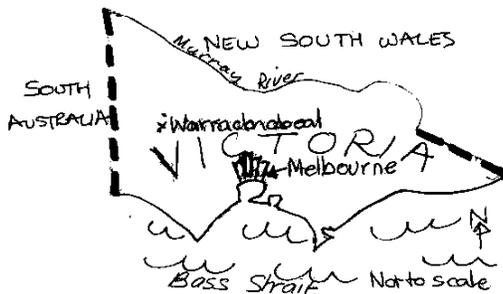
- **Our Farm =**

Our sheep farm is in the Wimmera, Victoria, about 7 km from Warracknabeal, shown on the map.

It is a small farm for the Wimmera, being less than 400 acres. This photo is one of my favourites of our farm.

You can see more about the living things on our farm at <http://enviroed4all.com.au/biodiversity-on-our-farm/>

SKETCH MAP of FARM'S LOCATION.



- **How we are 'Feeding the world' =**

We eat the meat from some sheep we produce. We mainly have a meat sheep breed, Texels, as shown in the photo. We sell most at the Warracknabeal Stock Sales. They may go to abattoirs in Victoria and on to butchers and supermarkets. Some may go to feed people overseas via the live sheep trade.

We grow some vegetables in our garden to eat too- like silver beet, zucchini, tomatoes and chives.



- **How we are 'Caring for the Earth' =**

Our land is mainly on a Black Box Woodland.

There are lots of other living things on it beside the stock and crops- some are shown in the drawing above.

Native living things of a Black Box Woodland still living on our farm are: insects (like Dragonflies, ants), birds (like Magpies, Kookaburras, Green Grass Parrots), mammals (like the possums), reptiles (like Skinks), amphibians (like Mallee Spadefoots), grasses (like Chocolate Nodding Lillies), bushes (like Ruby Saltbush) and Trees (like Black Boxes). There are introduced animals (like the dog) and plants (like the flowers), pests (like rabbits) and weeds (like Capeweed).

We look after the soils by leaving the stubble on the land after harvest and having a stock containment area.

We use our water carefully. It mostly comes from the Grampians via the Wimmera-Mallee pipeline.

Our trees help take CO₂ from the air and put O₂ back into it.

We have big, old trees with their hollows for the birds like Kookaburras to nest in, and the bark for insects and reptiles.

Our biggest challenge is when droughts occur.

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