

# Girraween Flat Public School

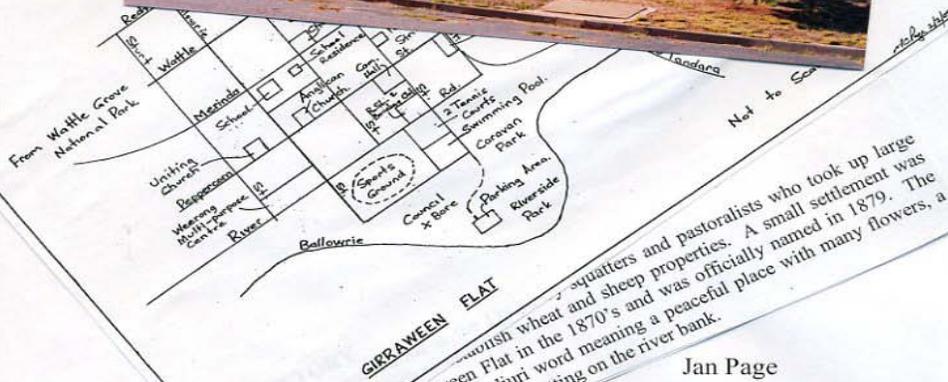
A rural school simulation

## LOCATION

Girraween Flat is situated on the banks of the Ballowrie River which support wheat and sheep properties.

The population of the district is 70 kilometers, providing shopping, medical and ambulance services.

Average temperature  
Average rainfall



...quatters and pastoralists who took up large  
at Girraween Flat in the 1870's and was officially named in 1879. The  
name comes from a Wiradjuri word meaning a peaceful place with many flowers, a  
description of the picturesque setting on the river bank.

Jan Page

## **Preface**

Girraween Flat is not based on any existing place. Rather, it is a composite picture designed to introduce preservice primary teachers to teaching in rural and remote areas.

This material has been prepared by Jan Page for use by students studying ESR404 Education in Rural Places at Charles Sturt University – Bathurst. It is based on the *Nimbinda school and community* material and the following are acknowledged:

- Alan Smith and Don Squires, the authors of *Nimbinda- school and community: a source book for rural education*
- John Carroll, formerly Senior Lecturer in Education, Mitchell College of advanced Education, who created the original Nimbinda, and gave it its name and who can therefore really be looked upon as “the father of Nimbinda”.

2010. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form by any means of electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise without the prior consent of the author.

## Introduction

### **Congratulations!**

**You have been appointed as a teacher at Girraween Flat Public School.**

On contacting the principal you discover that Girraween Flat Public School is a small P5 school of two teachers and that you will be teaching a Stage 2/3 class. To help you prepare for your class the principal has sent you the following information:

- locality map and a map of the town
- information about Girraween Flat and the school
- a class list
- family profiles

## **Welcome to Girraween Flat**

*a peaceful place of many flowers*



Rural scene on the Tandara Road

### **LOCATION**

Girraween Flat is situated in south western NSW, 784 kilometres from Sydney, on the banks of the Ballowrie River. The area is characterized by gently undulating plains which support wheat and sheep farming.

The population of the town is 311. The nearest town is Tandara, population 3,000, which is 70 kilometres to the south. Tandara is the service centre for the area providing

shopping and banking facilities, secondary schooling, community hospital, medical and ambulance services. There is also a daily Countrylink bus service.

Average temperatures: Summer 34 degrees C; Winter 17 degrees C.

Average annual rainfall is 330mm which is typically spread throughout the year.

## **HISTORY**

The area was settled in the 1840's by squatters and pastoralists who took up large holdings on which to establish wheat and sheep properties. A small settlement was established at Girraween Flat in the 1870's and was officially named in 1879. The name comes from a Wiradjuri word meaning a peaceful place with many flowers, a description of its picturesque setting on the river bank.

The town experienced a period of prosperity as the result of a brief gold rush in the early 1890's and several buildings remain from this period. At this time the township was serviced by Cobb and Co. and an old Cobb and Co. inn near Bundarie is now a private residence. Following the gold rush many miners remained to either work as farm labourers or in the township itself. With changes in farming technologies the role of Girraween Flat declined in the 1940's as properties were amalgamated and many rural services, including the sale yards, were concentrated in Tandara. The establishment of the Wattle Grove National Park in 1985 and the recent Ballowrie rural subdivision at the end of River Road have led to a revival of interest in the township. A reticulated water scheme, supplied by the Council bore in Riverside Park, was installed in 2001 replacing the need for the residents to rely on tank water.

## **SERVICES**

The Girraween Flat Wheat Depot, located on the railway line adjacent to Bundarie Road, is a hive of activity during the wheat season when bulk grain is delivered before being transported by rail to the coast. The railway line, once a main passenger and freight line, is now only used for the grain. Rural supplies are available from the Tandara Farming Centre opposite the Shell Service Station which employs a full-time mechanic.

The General Store incorporates a supermarket and newsagency and also sells take-away food. A bakery/café and butcher are both located in Tandara Street. There are no banks in the town but the Post Office is an agency for the Commonwealth Bank and there is a Flexiteller at the Shell Service Station. Full banking and shopping facilities are available in Tandara.



Girraween Flat General Store

Accommodation and meals are also available at the Royal Mail Hotel and the RSL-Bowling Club is also a licensed venue with a Chinese restaurant that opens on Friday and Saturday nights. The recently refurbished Riverside Caravan Park offers comfortable accommodation in six modern self-contained cabins whilst the former Bank of NSW is a private home and family-run B&B.



Royal Mail Hotel

Girraween Flat boasts a vibrant arts community with many artists taking their inspiration from the local area. The Old School of Arts Gallery, located in the former School of Arts

building, is a community arts and crafts centre that hosts workshops and exhibitions throughout the year. The main exhibition is held in conjunction with the annual festival.



The community hall at the corner of Peppercorn and Oxley Streets is the centre of community activities at Girraween Flat. It provides meeting rooms for the CWA, Red Cross, Lions Club and sporting groups and is a popular venue for concerts and parties. A mobile library from Tandara services the school and community on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Adjacent to the hall is War Memorial Park, an attractive, shady park which features the town's war memorial. The newly opened Weerong Centre is a multi-purpose centre that provides medical rooms, a six-bed hospital and four aged-care units. It is staffed by full-time nursing and paramedic staff and a doctor visits the centre from Tandara on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Girraween Flat has an active Rural Fire Service, a depot of the Tandara Shire Council and a police station. There are three churches: the Pioneer Memorial Anglican Church and Uniting Church are located in Peppercorn Street and the Catholic Church is on the corner of Mitchell and Merinda Streets. All churches hold monthly services and service times are posted on the church notice boards.



Pioneer Memorial Church

Girraween Flat has a range of sporting facilities, active Pony, Tennis and Fishing Clubs and the Cricket Club and AFL Emus sponsor teams in the district competitions. The RSL-Bowling Club has a bowling green, there is a community swimming pool and the sports ground provides two tennis courts and facilities for football, netball and cricket. Nearby is the picturesque Riverside Park which has a small but well maintained caravan park, BBQ and picnic facilities. The park is also the venue of the monthly Farmers' Market that is held from 8am – midday on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month.

The Girraween Flat Festival is held annually in the second week of September to capture the beauty of the wildflowers that in full flower at that time. The “Oakbrook” Merino Stud sale, field day and sheep dog trials are also held at this time. These are the main events on the Girraween Flat calendar and they attract many visitors to the area.

### **SCHOOL**

Girraween Flat Public School was established in 1896 following the consolidation of two part time schools in the district. The current building was built next to the schoolteacher's residence which also housed the original school. Two demountable classrooms were installed in 1998 when the school was upgraded to a two teacher school. The school caters for children from K-6 and is very well supported by an active P&C Association which meets in the school library at 8pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. After leaving Girraween Flat children either attend Tandara High School, St Joseph's Central School in Tandara or a boarding school in either Sydney or a provincial centre.



Girraween Flat Public School

### **WATTLE GROVE NATIONAL PARK**

Wattle Grove National Park is located in the Merinda Hills 25 kilometres to the west of Girraween Flat. It is the only area of remnant vegetation in the district and features a diversity of wildflower species, especially wattles, and wildlife. The park also contains Aboriginal stenciled hand paintings. It is a popular camping, picnic and bushwalking area and a mecca for bird watchers. Information about the park can be obtained at the Ranger Station near the park entrance.

### **BUNDARIE**

The locality of Bundarie, 45 kilometres to the NE, has a nominal population. It was originally a Cobb and Co. change station and the old Cobb and Co. inn remains as a private residence. Bundarie has a small general store and Bundarie Public School is a one-teacher school which caters for rural students in the area.

### **TANDARA**

Tandara is situated 70 kms south of Girraween Flat on the banks of the Calare River. The landscape is characterised by gently undulating plains that are broken by the Oxley Range to the east.

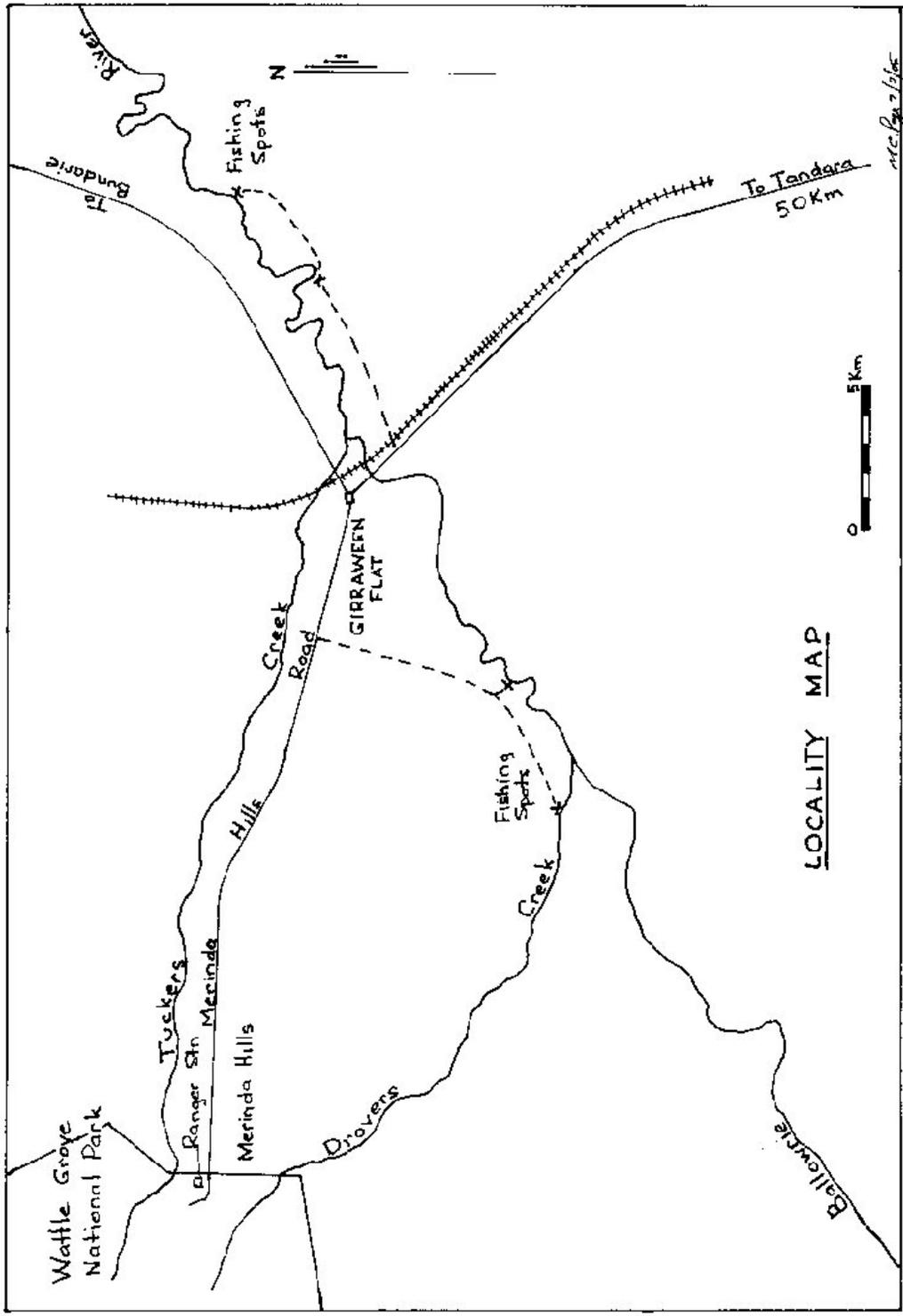
With a population of 3000 Tandara is a thriving town, the service centre for a rich pastoral industry based primarily on wool and wheat. Market gardening is conducted on a large scale along the rich river flats and Tandara is also a mining centre based around a rich open-cut copper mine. The town provides commercial, educational and medical

services for the area. Tandara is the site of the regional saleyards and the main wheat depot for the area.

Tandara is an attractive town situated on a small lake created by a weir. This is surrounded by parklands and the town's sporting facilities are located adjacent to the lake. Two kilometres downstream from Tandara is a billabong that is home to many species of birds and animals, a popular spot of birdwatchers and naturalists who visit from around the state. Tandara has an excellent museum which traces its rural and mining history and it is also the home of several well-known artists whose work features the outback.

Primary and secondary schooling are well catered for in Tandara with Tandara Public School, Tandara High School and St Mary's Central School. There is also the Gumnut Pre-school and a TAFE campus which offers courses associated with rural and mining industries.





### Early Stage 1/Stage 1

Name	Age at 1/1/	Rel	Address	Parent/Guardian
CHEUNG Lily	5.1	Bud.	River Road, Girraween Flat	Bill and Lii Cheung
DANIELS Skye	5.4		Old School of Arts Gallery, Oxley Street, Girraween Flat	Christine Daniels
EASTON Jack	7.4	RC	Lot 6, Ballowrie Rural Estate, River Road, Girraween Flat	Ross and Lisa Easton
EVANS Zac	6.5	OD	Mitchell Street, Girraween Flat	Mick and Johanna Evans
GRAINGER Sunshine	6.6		“Shalom”, Drovers Creek, via. Girraween Flat	Jason Grainger and Melody Winter
JOHNSON Charlie	7.8	EC	Wattle Stret, Girraween Flat	Graham Johnson
JONES Peter	6.0	UC	River Road, Girraween Flat	David and Sioban Jones
McKENZIE Michaela	7.3	UC	Ranger Station, Wattle Grove National Park.	Michael and Mary McKenzie
MORGAN Jeffrey	7.1	UC	Oxley Street, Girraween Flat	Amy Perkins
MORGAN Sarah	4.10	UC	Oxley Street, Girraween Flat	Amy Perkins
ROBERTSON Christine	6.2	EC	“Far Horizons” Tandara Rd, Girraween Flat	Paul and Catherine Robertson
THOMPSON Ben	5.1	RC	Riverside Caravan Park, Girraween Flat	Greg and Karen Thompson
WATSON Angie	5.3	EC	Police Residence, Oxley Street, Girraween Flat	Andy and Leanne Watson

**Stage 2/Stage 3**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age at 1/1/</b>	<b>Rel</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Parent/Guardian</b>
BARKER Felicity	11.02	EC	“Oakbrook” Bundarie Rd, Girraween Flat	Peter and Melanie Barker
BARKER Robert	8.03	EC	“Oakbrook” Bundarie Rd, Girraween Flat	Peter and Melanie Barker
BROWN Jonathan	7.6	UC	Merinda Street, Girraween Flat	James and Pauline Pinson
DANIELS Amber	9.6		Old School of Arts Gallery, Oxley Street, Girraween Flat	Christine Daniels
JONES Damien	7.8	UC	River Road, Girraween Flat	David and Sioban Jones
JONES Helen	8.7	UC	River Road, Girraween Flat	David and Sioban Jones
McKENZIE Alexander	10.00	UC	Ranger Station, Wattle Grove National Park.	Michael and Mary McKenzie
MORGAN Andrew	11.0	UC	Oxley Street, Girraween Flat	Amy Perkins
PIERACCINI Giovanna	8.1	RC	“Politano” Merinda Hills Road, Girraween Flat	Sergio and Sylvanna Pieraccini
PIERACCINI Luigi	10.3	RC	“Politano” Merinda Hills Road, Girraween Flat	Sergio and Sylvanna Pieraccini
ROBERTSON Craig	10.9	EC	“Far Horizons” Tandara Rd, Girraween Flat	Paul and Catherine Robertson
ROBERTSON Mary-Anne	9.4	EC	“Far Horizons” Tandara Rd, Girraween Flat	Paul and Catherine Robertson
ROBERTSON Michael	11.06	EC	“Far Horizons” Tandara Rd, Girraween Flat	Paul and Catherine Robertson
RUSSELL Peter	8.11	OD	Girraween Flat General Store Tandara St, Girraween Flat	John and Jennifer Russell
SMITHERS Nathan	10.11	RC	Royal Mail Hotel Cnr Oxley & Merinda Streets Girraween Flat	Robert and Jocelyn Smithers
WARD Melissa	10.11		Old Bank B&B Peppercorn Street Girraween Flat	David and Julie Ward

## **FAMILY PROFILES**

### **THE BARKER FAMILY**

Father: Peter, 40  
Occupation: Farmer  
Mother: Melanie, 39  
Occupation: Sheep breeder  
Children: Penelope, 13; Felicity, 11; Robert, 8; Jonathan, 4

The property “Oakbrook” has been in the Barker family for four generations. A successful sheep and wheat property, it consists of 6000 hectares of land watered by the Ballowrie River 20 kms from Girraween Flat along Bundarie Road and is home to the renowned “Oakbrook” sheep stud. Peter is a progressive farmer who has adopted direct drilling, a practice he believes retains the quality of the soil. Melanie grew up on “Blue Hills” near Tandara where she took a keen interest in the breeding of sheep. Following her secondary schooling in Sydney, she attended agricultural college to pursue this interest and she is now in charge of the development of the “Oakbrook” stud.

Both Peter and Melanie are active members of the local community. With the annual “Oakbrook” Merino Stud sale, field day and sheep dog trials, they are active in the Girraween Flat Festival committee as the festival is held at the same time and they see potential for developing the festival into a major tourist attraction. Peter is the captain of the local Rural Fire Service and a board member of the Weerong Multi-purpose Centre. He is also active in the cricket and golf clubs. Melanie is secretary of the Girraween Flat Public School P & C Association and president of the local branch of the CWA. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Girraween Flat Pony Club and all four children are active members. Penelope now attends her mother’s old boarding school in Sydney, Felicity and Robert attend the local public school and Jonathan attends the pre-school (a travelling branch of the Tandara Pre-school) that meets in the community hall every Wednesday.

### **THE CHEUNG FAMILY**

Father: Bill, 41  
Occupation: Market gardener, cook  
Mother: Lii, 37  
Occupation: Restaurant manager  
Children: Lily, 5

Bill and Lii arrived left the Shandong province of China ten years ago, originally living with family members in Tandara where they maintained extensive market gardens. They moved to Girraween Flat with their young daughter three years ago when the opportunity arose for them to establish their own small market garden on the river flats where they now grow a variety of crops including Asian greens and herbs. On Friday and Saturday

nights the Cheungs also manage the Dragon Inn restaurant at the RSL-Bowling Club where they are gaining a reputation for their authentic Chinese dishes based on their own fresh produce. They are also popular stallholders at the Farmers' Markets.

### **THE DANIELS FAMILY**

Mother: Christine, 40  
Occupation: Artist  
Children: Summer, 15; Amber, 9, ; Skye, 5

Christine and her girls moved to Girraween Flat five years ago, attracted by the stark colours of the landscape, the community spirit and the opportunity to purchase the former School of Arts building. Christine, whose artistic talents embrace painting and other environmentally inspired arts, has renovated the building to incorporate her home and a gallery which showcases the arts and crafts of the local area. The gallery also hosts visiting artists who conduct workshops for interested locals. Christine also shares her skills with the school students.

### **THE EASTON FAMILY**

Father: Ross, 34  
Occupation: Paramedic  
Mother: Lisa, 34  
Occupation: Mother and swimming teacher  
Children: Jack, 7; Sam, 4; Cassie, 2

The Easton family arrived in Girraween Flat three years ago when Ross became a paramedic based at the Weerong Multi-purpose Centre, his first small town experience. Originally planning to stay a couple of years, Ross and Lisa soon became involved in the local community and came to realize that Girraween Flat was a wonderful place to bring up a young family so they have built a new home on 2.5 hectares in the Ballowrie rural subdivision. With two preschoolers, Lisa is very active in both the playgroup and preschool and as a qualified swimming teacher she conducts swimming lessons during the summer months. Both are active members of the school P&C.

### **THE EVANS FAMILY**

Father: Mick, 40  
Occupation: Mechanic  
Mother: Johanna, 36  
Occupation: Shop assistant  
Children: Zac, 6

Mick is the third generation of his family to live in the area although he moved from the family property near Bundarie to follow his passion for engines and machinery to work as a mechanic at the Shell service station where he is in constant demand for his skills with farm machinery. A keen footballer, Mick is an active member of the local AFL club that fields a team in the Tandara district competition. Along with other members of the club he is regularly involved in community fundraising events. His wife, Johanna, is also a keen sportswoman who has established a tennis group each Friday. Johanna, who is expecting their second child, works part time at the bakery and also helps out at the service station.

### **THE GRAINGER FAMILY**

Father: Jason, 30  
Occupation: Artist  
Mother: Melody Winter, 29  
Occupation: Artist  
Children: Sunshine, 6; Willow, 2

Jason and Melody are active members of the local arts community. Both Jason and Melody take their inspiration from the colours and natural materials of the area. Jason is establishing a reputation as an artist in wood whilst Melody is a textile artist. They regularly exhibit at the Old School of Arts Gallery where Melody works each Friday and where she coordinates the local spinners and weavers group. Jason is also an accomplished musician playing traditional and original music on the celtic harp. Together with their young daughters they live a self-sufficient lifestyle on their property at Drovers Creek where they have recently built a strawbale house.

### **THE JOHNSON FAMILY**

Father: Graham, 44  
Occupation: Gardener  
Children: Charlie, 7

Graham is a trained horticulturalist who works for the Tandara Shire Council maintaining parks and sporting facilities in Girraween Flat. He has a passion for the native plants and assists at the Wattle Grove nursery. Eighteen months ago Graham's wife Jodie and eleven year old son Tom were killed in a road accident near Bundarie leaving Graham to raise their younger son Charlie who lost his lower left leg in the accident. Despite regular long trips for specialist medical attention, Graham has remained in Girraween Flat due to the incredible support he and Charlie have received from the local community.

## **THE JONES FAMILY**

Father: David, 36  
Occupation: Grain Depot manager  
Mother: Sioban, 35  
Occupation: Mother and Family Day Care worker  
Children: Helen, 8; Damien, 7; Peter, 6; Stephanie, 3; Claire, 18 months

Both David and Sioban grew up in Girraween Flat and attended the local school. They believe that it is a wonderful community for raising children as they can enjoy the freedom of a healthy country lifestyle whilst having access to a range of facilities. David is the manager of the wheat depot during the grain season and during the off-season he undertakes casual work at the Tandara Street Farming Centre and for local farmers. As mother of young children, Sioban is happy to spend her time at home where she works as a Family Day Care mother, caring for other local youngsters along with her two young daughters. She maintains the pre-school area at the local community hall, runs a weekly playgroup at the Anglican Church Hall and is vice-president of the Girraween Flat Public School P & C Association.

## **THE McKENZIE FAMILY**

Father: Michael, 44  
Occupation: Park Ranger  
Mother: Mary, 40  
Occupation: Park Ranger  
Children: Alexander, 10; Michaela, 7;

Both Michael and Mary are rangers at Wattle Grove National Park who are passionate about the significance of the park to the local area. Mary, a trained botanist and horticulturalist, established and manages the endemic plant nursery which aims to re-establish the natural vegetation of the area that is now only seen naturally in a small section of the park. She utilises her skills as a botanical artist to record and catalogue local flora. Mary has also been responsible for the new information centre that seeks to educate visitors about the natural and cultural heritage of the area. As part of this project she is seeking to develop information leaflets that highlight the park's features. Michael maintains the park's facilities including the popular camping area and has been instrumental in the development of accessible walking tracks throughout the park.

Both Michael and Mary are active members of the school P & C with Michael undertaking the role of president and Mary being responsible for the development and maintenance of the school gardens.

Alexander and Michaela are members of the local pony club. They are also keen bushwalkers with a large backyard to explore.

## **THE MORGAN FAMILY**

Guardian: Amy Perkins, 63 (grandmother)  
Occupation: Pensioner  
Children: Andrew Morgan, 11; Jeffrey Morgan, 7; Sarah Morgan, 4

Amy, a Wiradjuri woman, is a long term member of the Girraween Flat community. She has had the care of Andrew for the past four years whilst he attends the primary school. This year Andrew has been joined by his younger brother and sister. Their family live and work on an outlying property so the children have lived with their grandmother to ensure continuity of their education. Amy and the children visit the family during school holidays. Amy is actively involved in both the Wattle Grove National Park information centre and the local history group, avenues that enable her to tell the stories of her people and their country.

## **THE PIERACCINI FAMILY**

Father: Sergio, 45  
Occupation: Farmer  
Mother: Sylvanna, 43  
Occupation: Farmer  
Children: Guiseppe, 16; Katarina, 14; Luigi, 10; Giovanna, 8

Sergio and Sylvanna arrived in Australia as newly weds 20 years ago. Initially they lived in Leichardt in Sydney before buying their property "Politano" 12 years ago as a place to raise their children in a more traditional farming area. They were attracted to the Merinda Hills area for its northerly slopes, mediteranean climate and reliable groundwater supply. Originally a sheep farm, Sergio and Sylvanna have diversified the landuse to establish an extensive olive grove and vineyard in addition to orchards, vegetable gardens and poultry that enable the family to be largely self-sufficient. Their example has influenced other property owners to diversify and as a result there is an extensive range of produce available at the monthly farmers' markets held on the first Saturday of each month at Riverside Park, Girraween Flat.

Guiseppe and Katarina attend Tandara High School, boarding at the hostel in Tandara during the week and returning home for the weekend.

## **THE PINSON FAMILY**

Father: James Pinson, 47  
Occupation: Council maintenance worker  
Mother: Pauline Pinson, 35  
Occupation: Nurse  
Children: Sarah, 24; Jason, 22; Jonathan 7; Katy, 2

James and Pauline have a blended family: Sarah and Jason the children of James' first marriage, Jonathan Brown who is Pauline's son and Katy their first child together. Sarah has recently returned home after completing her teaching course and has been fortunate in gaining a term's work at Tandara High School where she is teaching music. Jason works at the Wattle Grove National Park where he is responsible for the endemic plant nursery which is growing plants for both the park and local revegetation projects.

James is a long time resident of Girraween Flat and has a passion for his job as maintenance worker with responsibility for the sports fields and Riverside Park, a beautiful shady area of gardens and recreational facilities that is popular with locals and visitors alike.

Pauline came to Girraween Flat five years ago as a nurse at the Weerong Multi-purpose Centre. Her area of expertise is with the older members of the community and she manages the retirement villas and nursing home beds.

Both James and Pauline love music. James is an accomplished guitarist and vocalist whilst Pauline plays piano and sings. They contribute to the social life of the community regularly playing at the club, at church and community functions and at Weerong.

## **THE ROBERTSON FAMILY**

Father: Paul, 44  
Occupation: Farmer  
Mother: Catherine, 38  
Occupation: Farmer  
Children: Michael, 11; Craig, 10; Mary-Anne, 9; Christine, 6; Grace, 2

Paul is a fourth generation farmer on the family farm "Far Horizons" where he grows wheat and raises sheep. Catherine was a city girl who trained as an interior decorator. When she and Paul married she moved to "Far Horizons" and has embraced the rural lifestyle. She assists Paul on the property and has been instrumental in diversification of the farm income to include the establishment of a small olive grove and flower farm where she is experimenting with wildflower, roses and lavender. Catherine and Paul are in the process of renovating the homestead and have plans to establish farmstay accommodation on the property. Catherine has ideas of establishing a business in the town but will wait until Grace starts school.

Catherine and Paul are active members of the Anglican Church and of the Girraween Flat Festival Committee. Paul and Catherine are currently exploring options for their children's secondary schooling.

## **THE RUSSELL FAMILY**

Father: John, 32  
Occupation: Storekeeper  
Mother: Jennifer, 32  
Occupation: Storekeeper  
Children: Peter, 8

John and Jennifer both grew up in Tandara. They arrived in Girraween Flat five years ago when they bought the General Store, seeing it as an opportunity to develop their own business. At the time the store was quite run down, but as a result of their hard work they have created a successful business that provides many of the town's needs: supermarket, newsagency and take away. Although they work long hours in the business, both John and Jennifer are strong supporters of the school, active in the tennis club and recently John has taken on the role of president of the local fishing club.

## **THE SMITHERS FAMILY**

Father: Robert, 42  
Occupation: Hotel owner  
Mother: Jocelyn, 41  
Occupation: Partner in hotel business  
Children: Sam, 19; Tim, 17; Jane, 15; Nathan 10

The Smithers, both of whom had grown up in Sydney, made a "tree change" eight years ago when they bought the Royal Mail Hotel and realised a long cherished dream of running a bush pub. Over the years they have restored the building and have established a successful business that includes quality accommodation and a popular bistro. Both are active members of the school P & C with Robert firmly established in the role of treasurer.

Sam, their oldest child, is keen to enter the hospitality business and is currently undertaking a TAFE course at Tandara. Tim and Jane attend Tandara High School. All three board during the week and return home on weekends. Sam is planning to buy a house in Girraween Flat and develop it as boutique accommodation, a business that he is sure will be a welcome addition to the accommodation options presently on offer in the town.

## **THE THOMPSON FAMILY**

Father: Greg, 32  
Occupation: Caravan park manager  
Mother: Karen, 34  
Occupation: Caravan park manager

Children: Ben, 5; Paul, 3

Arriving in Girraween Flat twelve months ago, Greg and Karen have undertaken the task of upgrading the Riverside Caravan Park with six new self-contained cabins and a new amenities block opened just before Christmas. Running the park is a fulltime venture for the couple although Karen finds time to involve herself in the playgroup and Friday tennis group. Greg is a keen fisherman who has become active in the fishing club. He has a particular passion for restoring native fish species to the river system and has dreams of one day establishing a fish hatchery.

### **THE WARD FAMILY**

Father: David, 36  
Occupation: Manager of the Post Office  
Mother: Julie, 35  
Occupation: Manager of the Old Bank B & B  
Children: Melissa, 10

Both David and Julie grew up in Girraween Flat and both have a fascination for local history. Although saddened to see the bank close in 2005, they were delighted to be able to purchase and restore the grand 1892 building. In addition to being their family home, they have recently opened it as B & B accommodation. David manages the Post Office which is housed in another of the town's grand old buildings. He has been advised that the service will be reduced and relocated to another established business and the building will be sold. David and Julie would love to purchase it and convert it to a local museum and visitor centre and are presently exploring their options. Julie is a keen member of the local history group that meets on a monthly basis. The group's current task is to record stories of the district from community members. Julie is also active in the local branch of the CWA where she is in charge of the craft program.

### **THE WATSON FAMILY**

Father: Andy, 30  
Occupation: Police officer  
Mother: Leanne, 29  
Occupation: Mother  
Children: Angie, 5; Kyle, 3

The Watsons moved to Girraween Flat six months ago when Andy was offered his first officer-in-charge position at the local police station. Andy runs an after school activities program which is well patronized. With a pre-schooler, Leanne is a registered daycare mum, a role she enjoys as it enables her to be fully involved in Kyle's childhood and ensures that he has regular playmates. Leanne, an accomplished musician who plays both piano and cello, is keen to be involved in musical activities in the community.

