

Our River Story

Both the Georges River & The Parramatta River have a similar story. They begin in forested parts in the outer West of Sydney with fresh water flowing downwards towards the ocean. Both rivers run through farms, acreage, densely populated suburbs and picnic, communal areas. These areas are home to diverse ecosystems that rely on clean water to survive. This story will help explain the impact of humans on the river systems and how we can all play a part in protecting the flora and fauna by keeping our rivers clean.

NARRATIVE

Our story begins way out west where a power station produces electricity using coal. In charge of the Electricity plant is _____ & _____ who manage the pollutant gases from this plant are released into the atmosphere where they combine with moisture and produce acids. Rainfall carries these acids back to the earth's surface and can pollute the very source of the river.

As the river makes its way towards the ocean it gathers speed as it meanders through farmland. Lama farmer _____ has a large amount of manure that washes into the river. Next it passes _____ Tomato patch where he uses an unfriendly fertiliser to help them grow, some of these passes into the water. _____ Orange

Orchard has a broken sewage pipe, Ewe, some of the untreated sewage passes down into the river.

_____ & _____ have built a hobby farm and built vegetable trays that have busted and leaked soil with containments into the waterways. This happened because they cleared away all the trees and plants that help trap the soil before it washes away.

The poor river is starting to look a little different from the start. The water clarity is now very murky around the next bend we come to a picnic and recreational parkland. Here _____ & _____ and their families are picnicking on the banks of the river. Oh dear! _____ & _____ just drop their rubbish, and it floats on top of the water.

Slowly the river makes its way into Lugarno along the ferry foreshore where families are fishing off the jetty. A group of boys _____, _____, & _____ are not paying attention to their bait packets and a big gust of wind blows it into the river.

Reference

Adapted from *A catchment Story* Harrison, T. & Clark J. (2000).
Kookaburras and polluted streams.

Investigating: Australian Primary and Junior Science Journal, 16,(2)20-28.

