

# Droughts and Flooding Rains



Luke Litzow  
Narrabri West Public School

## Enviro-Stories Education Program

Enviro-Stories is a competition based education program for primary schools that was developed by PeeKdesigns.



[www.envirostories.com.au](http://www.envirostories.com.au)

This program provides an education and learning experience for kids through their active engagement with natural resource and catchment management issues. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

In 2012, the “Our Farmers, Our Future” Enviro-Stories Education Program provided local kids with the opportunity to write and illustrate stories about life on the farm. This program was sponsored by the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, Australian Government’s Caring for our Country, Central West and Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authorities and Cotton Australia.

### **Cotton Catchment Communities CRC**

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC is an industry partnership leading research, education and commercialisation in the Australian cotton industry.

[www.cottoncrc.org.au](http://www.cottoncrc.org.au)

### **Australian Government’s Caring for our Country**

Caring for our Country is one way the Australian Government funds environmental management of our natural resources by supporting communities, farmers and other land managers to protect Australia’s natural environment and sustainability.

[www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au)

### **Central West CMA**

The Central West CMA is committed to work with the community to conserve, improve and manage natural and cultural resources. The catchment is located in central western New South Wales.

[www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au)

### **Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA**

The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA strives for balanced production and conservation within resilient landscapes. The catchment is located in northern New South Wales, just west of the Great Diving Range.

[www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.brg.cma.nsw.gov.au)

### **Cotton Australia**

Cotton Australia is the peak body for Australia’s cotton growing industry, supporting over 1500 cotton farming families in New South Wales and Queensland.

[www.cottonaustralia.com.au](http://www.cottonaustralia.com.au)

# Droughts and Flooding Rains

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The “Our Farmers, Our Future” Enviro-Stories Education Program consists of the following books:

## **Sponsored by Cotton Catchment Communities CRC and Caring for our Country**

- Fluffy’s Getting Shorn
- A Great Turnaround
- The New Farm
- The Farmer Changes His Ways
- I Own it All
- Drought and Flooding Rains

## **Sponsored by Central West CMA**

- My Life on a Sheep Farm
- A Weekend on our Farm
- Farm Animals
- Life on the Farm

## **Sponsored by both the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC and the Central West CMA**

- Euchareena School Gardening

## **Sponsored by Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA**

- Hoot the Owl Saves the Day
- Our Farms are Our Future
- Life as a Sheep
- What we have on Farms

## **Sponsored by Cotton Australia**

- Cotton on ‘Koramba’

ISBN: 978-0-9872308-4-3

The Enviro-Stories Education Program is a PeeKdesigns initiative.

Graphic design by PeeKdesigns, [www.peekdesigns.com.au](http://www.peekdesigns.com.au)

Printed by Greenridge Press, [www.greenridgepress.com.au](http://www.greenridgepress.com.au)

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Citation: Litzow, L. 2012. *Droughts and Flooding Rains*. Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, Narrabri NSW.

Our family's farm 'The Mulgate' is found 10 kilometres out of Edgeroi. The Namoi River, which nearly always has water in it, goes through the back of our farm.

The farm has a picture-perfect view of Mount Kaputar with a lot of trees and wildlife in and around our property. We have huge paddocks for our livestock and crops.

My sister Susan and I love all of the animals on our farm.





On our farm we have two hundred sheep, which are fun when it is time to mark lambs. There are one hundred and fifty cows and five bulls. I don't like going in the bull pens, as they are a bit scary. We also have four horses that are fun to ride.

We have a blue cattle dog called Rusty and a puppy border collie named Lola. Susan and I play with the two dogs everyday.

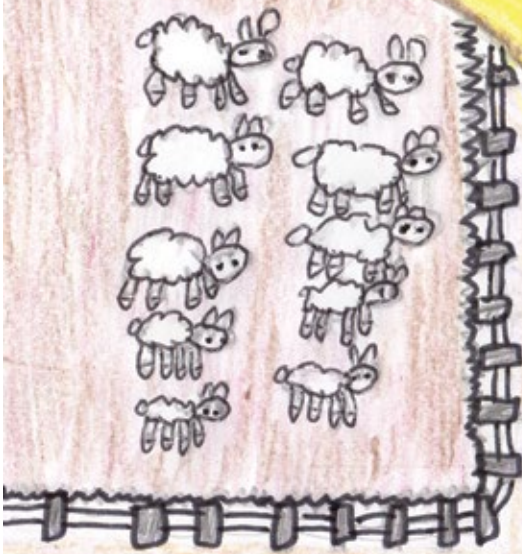
The wildlife on our property includes numerous native birds, reptiles, insects, fish and mammals.

The kangaroos are my favourite to watch as they jump around in the paddocks. Dad doesn't like some birds because they get into our crops, particularly the Galahs. The Red-bellied black snakes are very scary when I meet them face to face. Frill-necked lizards love to bask on the huge boulders in the paddocks.





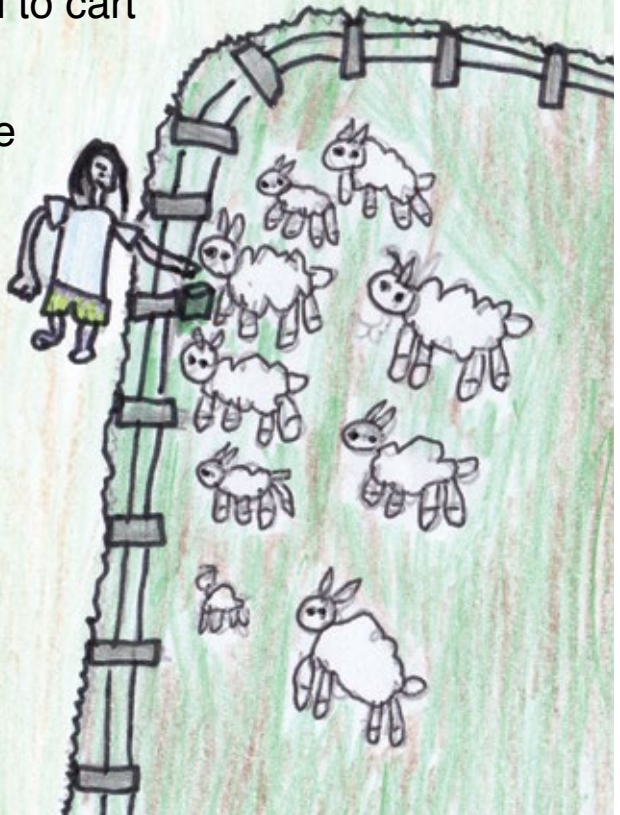
Sadly the Namoi River, which nearly always has water in it, ran dry. It is just a big, long sand bank.



It hasn't rained one millimetre in eight months. There isn't one blade of grass in the paddock. Our livestock are starving. Each day you can see them getting slimmer and slimmer.



We have to cart water and hand feed all of our animals except for Rusty and Lola. They have a water bowl near the house. We need to cart the water so the animals don't die of thirst.





All of my family were wondering when it was going to rain. If we didn't get some rain soon we would have to sell our animals. That would be very sad because we have named our dogs and horses and even a few sheep, cows and bulls. To make it even worse it is wintertime, so the frosts are stopping the grass growing as well.

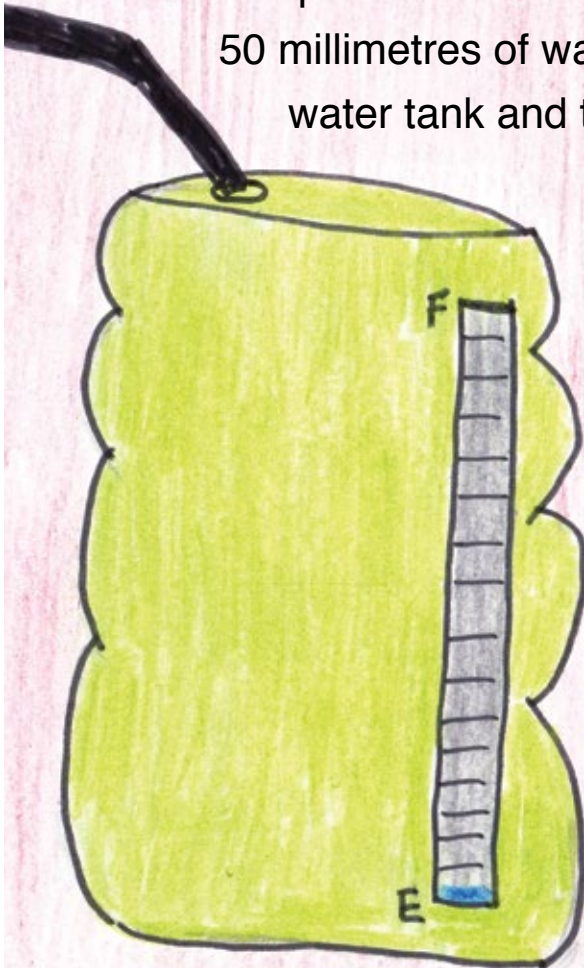
Because we haven't had any rain we are not getting any new lambs, foals or calves. All of mum's plants died ages ago. It is depressing.

They say we are going to get rain in a week or so. I hope we do because my sister and I are looking forward to swimming in the Namoi River.



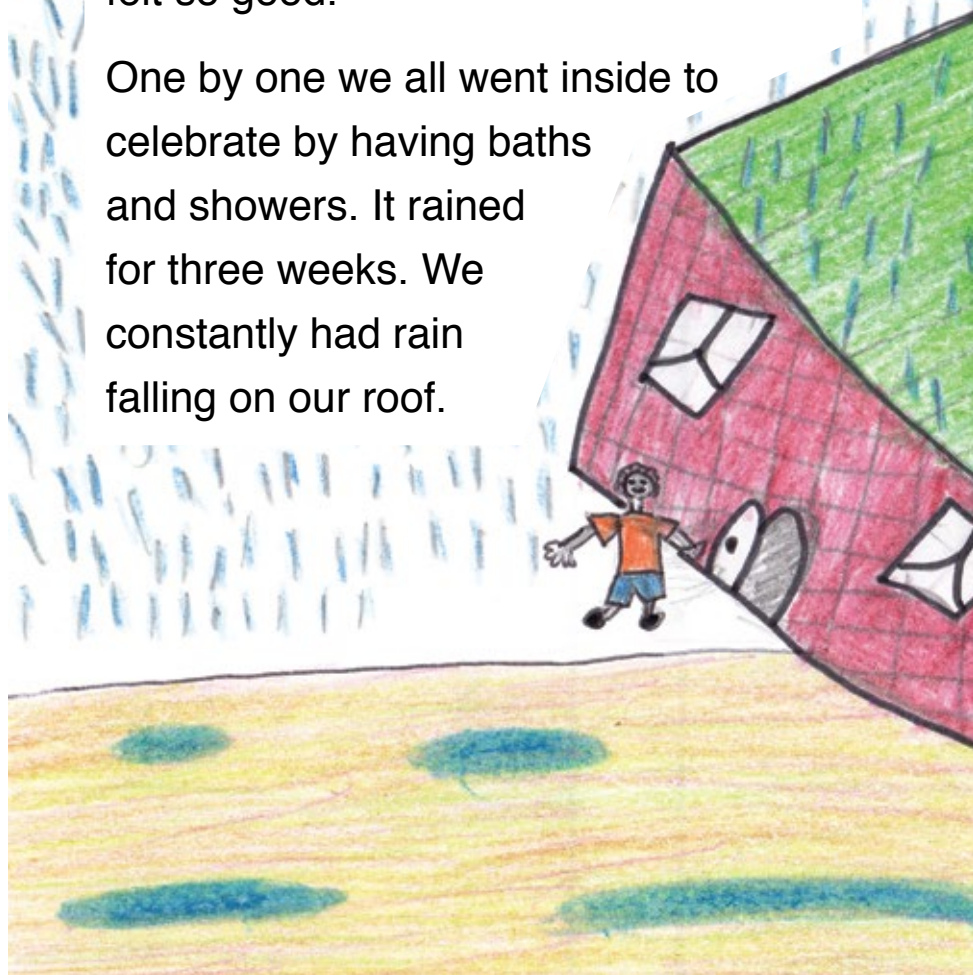
The time has come that we may have to sell all of our animals for an extremely low price. We have to sell them otherwise they are all going to die.

Let's hope it rains soon. We only have 50 millimetres of water left in our water tank and that is a disaster.



One night when I was fast asleep I was woken by a noise. I was hearing raindrops falling on our tin roof. I ran out the door first and my family followed. I felt the rain on my body. It felt so good.

One by one we all went inside to celebrate by having baths and showers. It rained for three weeks. We constantly had rain falling on our roof.

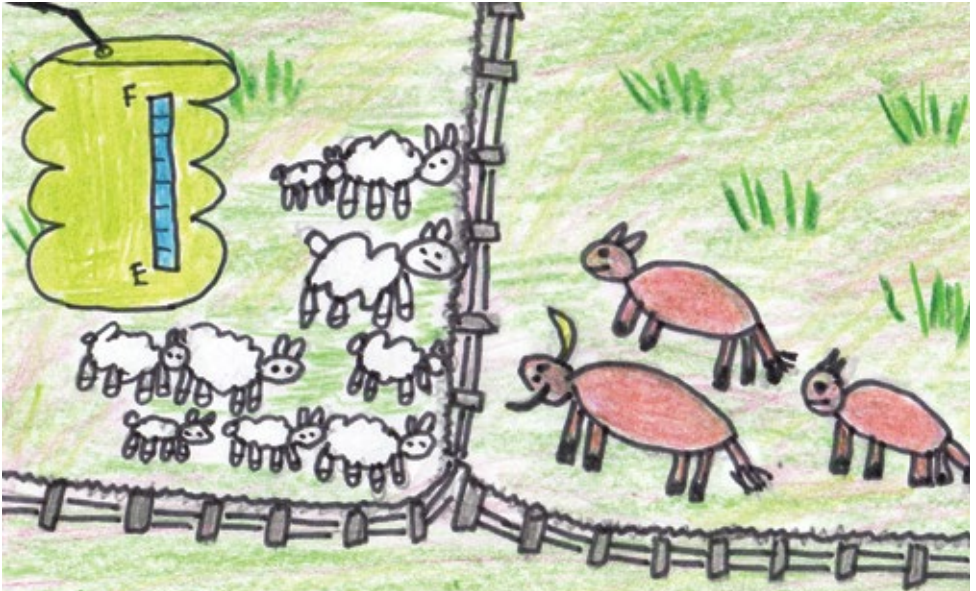






The Namoi River began to flow into our yard. Yep, you guessed it, we now had a flood on our hands.

Luckily the rain came and we didn't sell our animals. The flood has been another real struggle for Dad and his workers though. They had to move all of our animals to a hill in the middle of the night.



The rain stopped after four weeks. Sometimes nature behaves how you want it to, but sometimes it does what it likes. This is the life on a farm. You never know what will happen next. All we can do is try to plan to protect the farm from the weather.

After all that rain settled down our farm was in fantastic condition.





Luke Litzow  
Narrabri West Public School, Grade 4 2012



Australian Government  
Cotton Research and  
Development Corporation



Catchment Management  
Authority  
Central West



Catchment Management  
Authority  
Border Rivers-Gwydir



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY



National  
Year of  
Reading  
2012