

Parker's

waterway friends



Parker's waterway friends
Central Coast Council
June 2019

2 Hely Street, Wyong
49 Mann Street, Gosford
ABN 73 149 644 003
(c) Central Coast Council 2019



Paint Central Coast REaD is part of the Paint the Town REaD initiative, an Early Literacy Community Capacity Building Program aimed at educating parents, carers and the community about the importance of reading, singing, playing drawing and talking with children every day from birth.

The aim of the program is to encourage all levels of the community to support the development of children's early literacy skills from birth, so they are prepared for learning when they start school.

Each time you talk, hug, sing and read with your child, new brain connections are formed and strengthened.

These daily activities lay the foundation for language development and communication skills to grow.

Literacy is a key success in life. Research shows that foundational skills learnt from ages 0-5 years are critical for developing literacy skills at school.





Parker lives in the beautiful waterways of the Central Coast.

1 Many of Parker's friends live along the creeks and rivers.



Our waterways provide food and a home to all kinds of animals. They also provide water for people to drink and use for farming. 2



3 Parker loves exploring all the winding creeks and having adventures with his friends.



“Hello Parker” says Freddy the Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog.
“Let’s go find some friends to play with.” “Great idea” says Parker.4



Parker doesn't go far before he finds his friend Vanessa
5 the ecologist near Central Coast Wetlands.



Vanessa shows him how to look for bugs in the water and how to tell if the waterway is healthy.



The animals in our waterways eat bugs, so lots of bugs
7 means lots of food and a healthy waterway.



Parker swims down Wyong River and finds his next friend, Wilbur the Water Dragon sunning himself on a rock.



Wilbur joins Parker and Freddy for lunch.

9 Can you guess what's on the menu? Bugs!



Next Parker finds local farmer Nick.



Nick is planting trees and tells Parker that planting trees
11 helps keep the water healthy.



Parker learns that plants help to filter water and keep it clean. Healthy water is important for everyone.



A little further down the creek Parker finds his friend
13 Willy Wagtail eating bugs and insects.



Parker and his friends walk along the creek towards the mountains.



On the way, Parker finds Penny the purple swamp hen
15 looking for food. "Hi Penny" they call.



Simone the sugar glider and Tim the tawny frogmouth have just woken up and fly down to join Parker.



Parker loves living in the waterways of the Central Coast
17 and playing with all his friends.

HOW CAN YOU HELP



What can you do to help take care of our waterways and Parkers home?



Things you can do to help Parker protect his waterway home

- Plant Australian plants in your garden to provide habitat for native animals
- Reduce fertiliser use in your garden to keep our creeks and rivers healthy
- Build an insect hotel for shelter for bees and other insects
- Put your rubbish in the bin and collect any rubbish you see
- Build a lizard lounge in your garden using rocks and logs
- Keep your pets inside at night to protect native animals
- Provide a bird bath in your garden
- Volunteer with a local bushland group
- Place a nest box in a tree in your garden as a home for native animals
- Pick up your pets poo, this will help to keep our creeks and rivers healthy
- If you find a hurt native animal contact Wildlife ARC (02) 43250666 (24 hours) or 13 000 WIRES or 1300 0947.

Further Information

To learn more about the Central Coast's amazing waterways and steps you can take to protect Parkers home visit www.loveourlivinglakes.com.au

Or download the [Early Childhood Editions Wetlands Multi-Touch](http://www.loveourlivinglakes.com.au) book at itunes.com



Wyong Office: 2 Hely St / PO Box 20 Wyong NSW 2259
Gosford Office: 49 Mann St / PO Box 21 Gosford NSW 2250
P 1300 463 954



E ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au | **W** centralcoast.nsw.gov.au | ABN 73 149 644 003