

# WILD FAMILIES



Illustration: Rhyl Plant & Jess McGeachin

## Enjoying, learning and looking after nature with the family

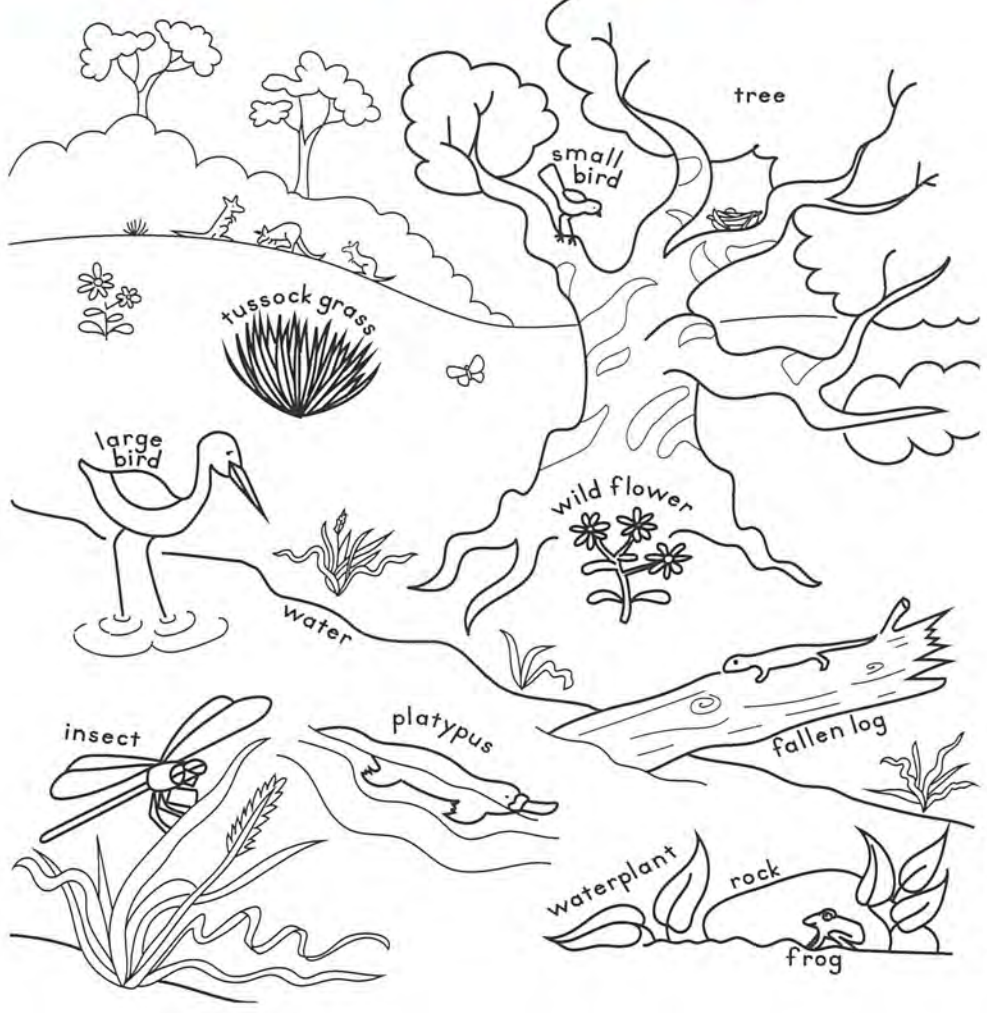
### WILD WATERWAY DISCOVERY

Rivers, creeks and wetlands are an important part of our landscape, they:

- Carry water from land to the sea.
- Are a part of our water cycle.
- Are very important habitat and water for birds, fish, frogs, bugs and mammals.
- Are special places for relaxation and recreation.

### Waterway spotto

On your next adventure by a waterway, try this 'spotto' activity. When you see or hear the animals, plants or micro-habitats (such as fallen logs) at your chosen location by a river, creek or wetland, you can colour it in. You may see all or just some of these things along your waterway. You might wish to think about what it means if all of these things are present or some of them are missing.



Artwork by Renee Troml

Waterway spotto - colour in the things you see or hear.

### Some more questions to explore

- Is the water clear or murky?
- How fast is the water flowing?
- Where has the water come from and where is the water going? (look at some maps to find out)

- What sounds can you hear?
- Thinking about recent and forecast weather do you think the water level will be the same, higher or lower when you come back?

Always consider safety on outdoor adventures and remember to supervise children safely around water.



## Distances

From Jeffrey's St to:

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Memorial Walk            | 0.34km |
| Lions Reserve            | 0.45km |
| Information Centre       | 0.63km |
| Campasse Park            | 0.85km |
| Thomas Court turn off    | 1.67km |
| Woodend Primary planting | 1.73km |
| St. Ambrose planting     | 2.05km |
| Five Mile Creek Reserve  | 2.20km |
| Ruby Mckenzie Park       | 2.57km |
| Weir                     | 2.80km |
| Seat                     | 3.17km |
| Romsey Rd                | 3.40km |

## Woodend and Five Mile Creek Landcare

Since about 1983, this group has been working to save the Black Gum and to restore indigenous vegetation along the creek west of the old stone bridge. Over the last 4 years, the group has received private and public funding to work on the creek banks east of the bridge, towards Mt Macedon. The walking trail was commenced in the 1980's. The new stage, funded by the Federal Government, takes the trail as far as Romsey Road.

# Five Mile Creek Walk in Woodend



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This brochure is one of a series promoting the Macedon Ranges. To view the full range of brochures please speak to a volunteer at the Visitor Information Centres or call 1800 244 711.  
May 2019



**MACEDON RANGES**  
NATURALLY COOL





# History of the Five Mile Creek

Collecting water flows from the North Western slopes of Mt. Macedon, the Five Mile Creek becomes one of the tributaries of the Campaspe River, entering the Campaspe at Carlsruhe. Woodend's early name was "Five Mile" due to its situation astride the Creek. This name changed as weary travelers to the goldfields emerged from the boggy tracks and rigors of the Black Forest and heaved a sigh of relief at reaching the "End of the Wood". In early days of development there were Chinese market gardens adjoining the creek in the Woodend area.

## Walking the track

Whether you are going for a pleasant stroll or a vigorous walk, the Five Mile Creek Track offers an interesting course through areas of unique native vegetation, with adjoining picnic grounds, reserves, and recreational facilities.

The track commences at the northern end of Jeffrey's St and finishes at Romsey Rd, covering a total distance of 3.4km. Note that in following the path over the footbridge behind the Visitor Information Centre you may find the route under the High St Bridge to be inaccessible due to raised creek levels. If this is the case it will be necessary to cross High St (with caution) and return to the track on the East side of the bridge.

Continuing along the way, you will see ample evidence of activity by the Woodend Landcare group in the clearance of noxious weeds, removal or unsuitable vegetation and extensive replanting with native flora.



## Picnic grounds, reserves & points of interest

1. is the Black Gum Reserve containing specimens of the rare Black Gum (Eucalyptus Aggregata), which is unique to this area of Victoria. Examples of these flaky barked, graceful trees can also be seen along the Creek, especially near Ruby McKenzie Reserve.
2. indicates the Woodend & District Heritage Society's Memorial Walk commemorating early pioneers, community identities and those who have contributed to the development of Woodend. The bridge carrying High St over the creek was built in 1862 and has since been widened.
3. shows the location of the Lions Reserve with electric barbeque, playground and covered seating.
4. indicates the Woodend Children's Park in a treed setting with outdoor and covered seating, toilets and playground facilities. An adjoining feature is a tennis court for public use.
5. shows an area of planting carried out by Woodend Primary School students as a contribution to the re-vegetation project. The area is marked by a plaque adjacent to the track.
6. is similar to above but in this case the planting was done by St. Ambrose Primary School students. This also has an indicating plaque.
7. relates to the Ruby McKenzie reserve with playground and some seating. This reserve is named in honour of a former Councilor in the Shire of Newham & Woodend.
8. reveals a weir across the creek established by Shirley Park Stud to contribute to water supplies for their equestrian activities. In its heyday Shirley Park was a leading thoroughbred horse stud and training facility operated by the Nicholas family. Along the remainder of the track you will notice sections of the old fencing around Shirley Park with an extremely heavy cable along the fence top. This cable came from the old cable tram system in Melbourne at the time of its conversion to electric trams.
9. David Currie Bridge named after a former Woodend resident, who was a keen advocate for a walking trail to Hanging Rock.

**Kyneton Visitor Information Centre**

High Street, Kyneton

**Woodend Visitor Information Centre**

High Street, Woodend

For more information, please contact the Visitor Information Centres on 1800 244 711  
Open 7 days, 9.00am-5.00pm. Email [vic@mrcs.vic.gov.au](mailto:vic@mrcs.vic.gov.au), or visit [www.visitmacedonranges.com](http://www.visitmacedonranges.com)



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Phone no \_\_\_\_\_

Library card number \_\_\_\_\_



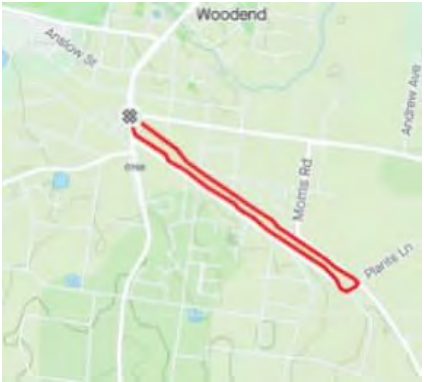
## Quarry Road Wildflower Hunt

Take a walk along Quarry Road in Woodend. A lovely option is to walk down one side of the railway line and return on the other.

Quarry Road Rail Reserve is one of the best remaining natural areas in town – and at this time of year you will see many amazing wildflowers.

How many flowers can you see? Can you name them?

- Put a circle around the native flowers
- Put a cross through the weeds





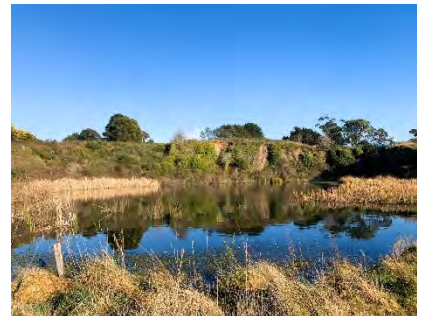


Did you see any birds or feathers? List what you saw here

You will see some signs along the way.  
Why are these signs here? \_\_\_\_\_  
Who put them there? \_\_\_\_\_



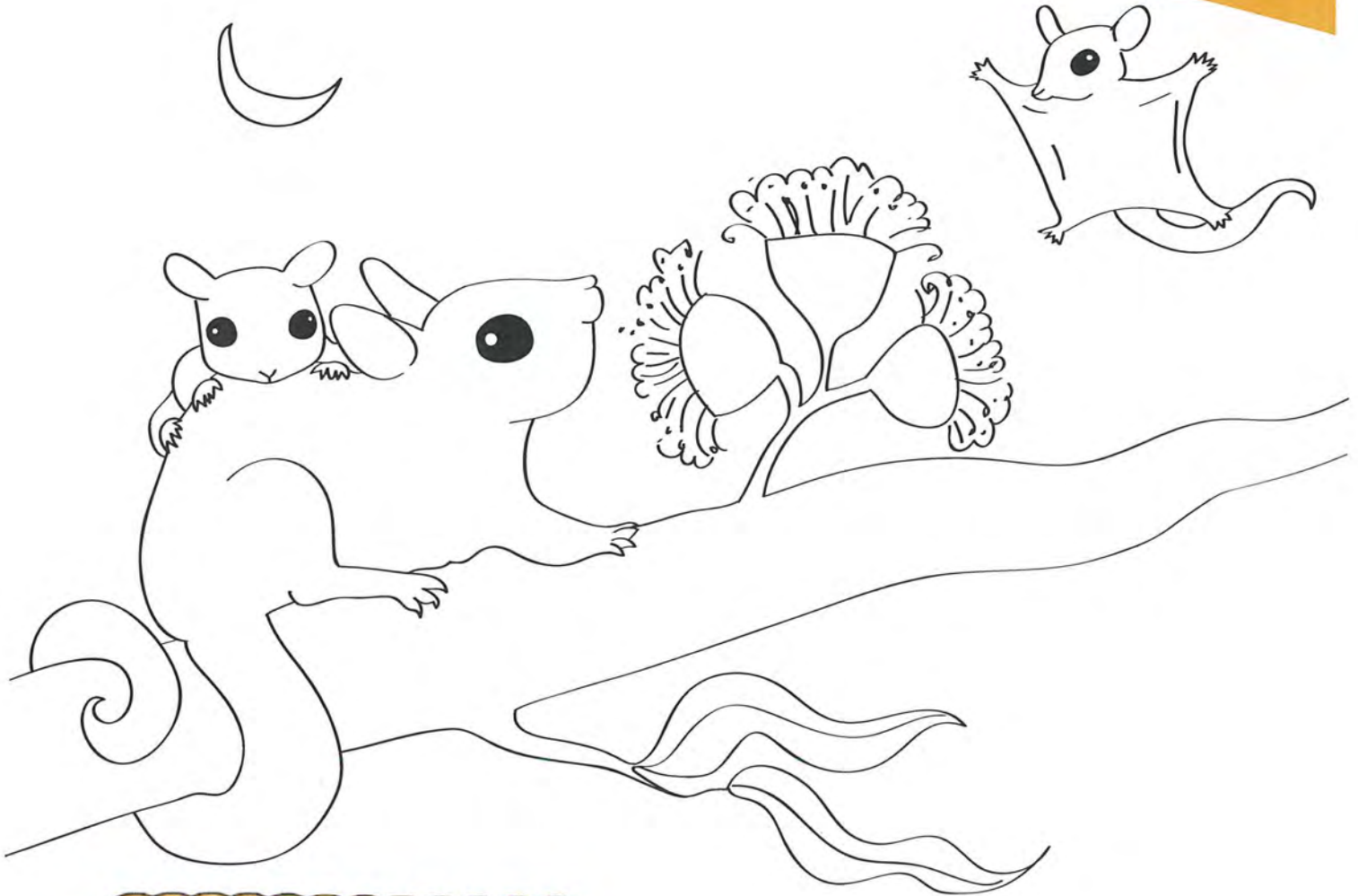
Tick some of the other things you might have seen on your walk...





# SUGAR GLIDER FAMILY

COLOUR US IN AND CREATE A SHORT STORY OR POEM ABOUT WHAT WE ARE UP TO!



# WILD FAMILIES

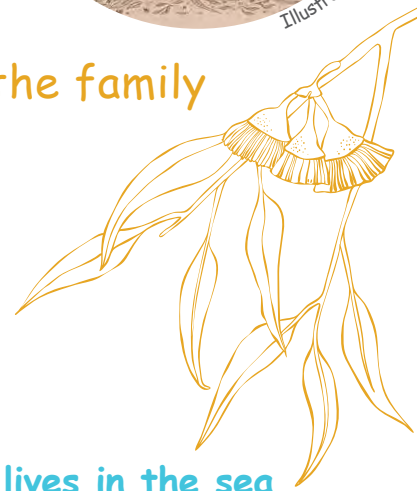


Enjoying, learning and looking after nature with the family

## GET TO KNOW VICTORIA'S SPECIAL TREES

Trees are an important part of Victoria's natural areas. They provide us with clean air, habitat for wildlife, shelter, shade, cooling and places to play!

There are hundreds of native tree species in Victoria including many species of gum trees, banksias with big cone flowers, rainforest trees, and wattles with their puffy yellow flower heads.



Majestic stands of Mountain Ash.

### Mountain Ash - the tallest tree

The Mountain Ash is not only Victoria's tallest tree, but the tallest flowering tree in the world! The Ada tree near Powelltown, west of Melbourne is a Mountain Ash that is 76 metres tall, 15 metres around and is thought to be nearly 400 years old! When big old trees such as these lose branches, hollows start to form, which provide homes for wildlife such as possums, owls and parrots. See [www.greatforestnationalpark.com.au/ada-tree.html](http://www.greatforestnationalpark.com.au/ada-tree.html)

### A tree that lives in the sea

There is a species of tree in Victoria that provides habitat for fish and crabs! The White Mangrove is a tree that lives on the coast between low and high tide and has special roots that stick up above the ground and water. A great place to see these trees is on the Barwon Estuary in Barwon Heads or Corner Inlet at Wilsons Promontory National Park.

Roots of mangroves pop up above the ground.



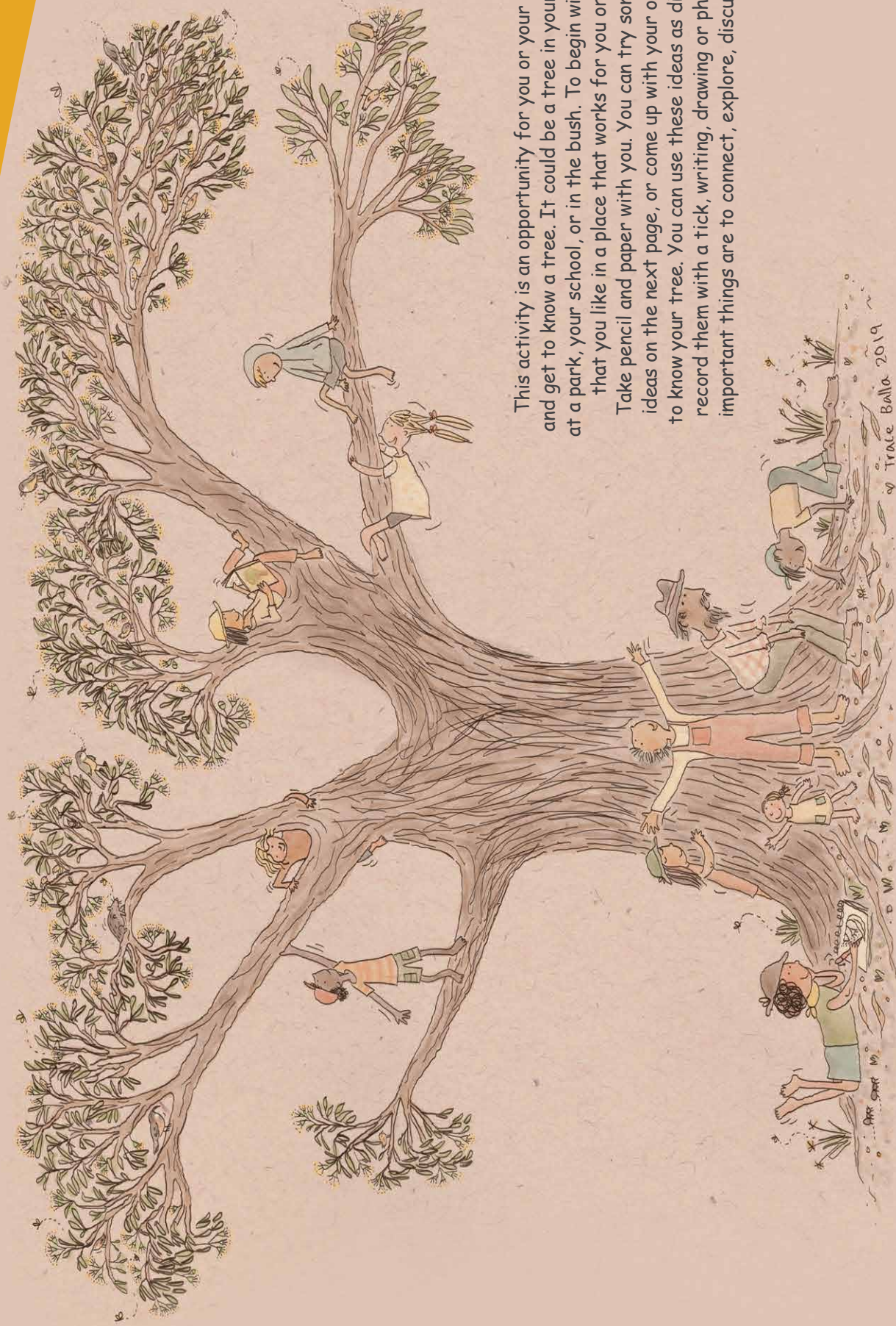
Photo by Martin Griffith

Photo by Krista Paterson-Majoor





# It's nice to meet you tree



This activity is an opportunity for you or your family to meet and get to know a tree. It could be a tree in your neighbourhood, at a park, your school, or in the bush. To begin with, choose a tree that you like in a place that works for you or your family.

Take pencil and paper with you. You can try some or all of the ideas on the next page, or come up with your own ways to get to know your tree. You can use these ideas as discussion points, record them with a tick, writing, drawing or photos. The most important things are to connect, explore, discuss, and reflect.



# It's nice to meet you tree

1 Take some time to breathe deeply. You may be breathing in oxygen created by your tree, and it may breathe in the carbon dioxide that you are breathing out.

6

Describe the shapes of the leaves with as many words as you can. What do they smell like if you crumple them up in your hand?

12

What sorts of things may have happened around this tree over its lifetime? Maybe bushwalkers leaning on it, birds nesting in its branches, children climbing it, or even fire. You may wish to write a creative story about what your tree could have experienced.

15

Draw a picture of your tree or a part of your tree, such as a leaf or branch. Include as much detail as you like.

2

What shapes can you see in the tree? Are there twisted branches, light and shadow patterns, or markings on the trunk?

7

What wildlife could be living in or eating the tree? Remember to look for tiny insects and big creatures.

8

Does your tree have flowers? Describe their shape and colour. Do they smell nice?

13

How is this tree like me/us? Take some time to consider things about the tree that are similar to you, for example it is growing, or it lives in the same street.

16

Return to your tree at different times of the day or year as a chance to get to know it better or observe any changes.

3

How old do you think the tree is? Is it older or younger than you? Your family members?

4

How many colours and shades are there on the tree?

9

Are there any plants, lichen or moss growing on the tree? Describe them.

10

What sort of environment does this tree live in? Is it a dry forest, a school yard, a riverside, a farm, a mountain top?

14

Give your tree a name. You could make up a name like 'The Magic Flowering Gum' or 'The Grey Ribbon Bark Tree' or use a field guide to identify what type it is.

5

Describe the feel of the bark with as many words as you can.

11

What parts of the tree can you see at your feet? Are there leaves, fallen branches, seeds/nuts, flowers or roots poking through the soil?

## WILD FAMILIES



VICTORIAN  
NATIONAL PARKS  
ASSOCIATION  
*Be part of nature*

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





## Caring for our trees – use recycled

Trees are a valuable part of our environment. They provide us with clean air, habitat for wildlife, shelter, shade, cooling and places to play!

You can show you are grateful to trees by buying and using toilet paper and printer paper made from recycled 'post-consumer waste' and encouraging your family, friends and school to do the same.

Otherwise, your toilet paper may be made from forests that have been cut down especially so we can wipe our bottoms.

Buying and using recycled toilet paper and office paper means we leave more forest for wildlife habitat and stop trees from being flushed down the loo and run through the printer.

To learn more about switching to ethical paper, see [www.ethicalpaper.com.au](http://www.ethicalpaper.com.au)



Trees are my home.  
Please care for them.

Photo by Nic McCaffrey

## Which tree is which?

There are more than 160 different species of eucalypts (gum trees and similar) in Victoria, along with many other types including banksia and wattle trees.

We can identify all the different tree species by looking at their features including their bark, leaf shape, bud, flower and fruit/nut shape and looking at where they grow. When we learn to identify these trees we get to know them and their homes better.

Great resources for identifying tree species are *Trees of Victoria and adjoining areas* by Leon Costermans or the VicFlora website [vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)

Photo by It's a Wildlife

I'm a Tawny Frogmouth  
and I live in a tree.  
Caring for trees is caring  
for my home.



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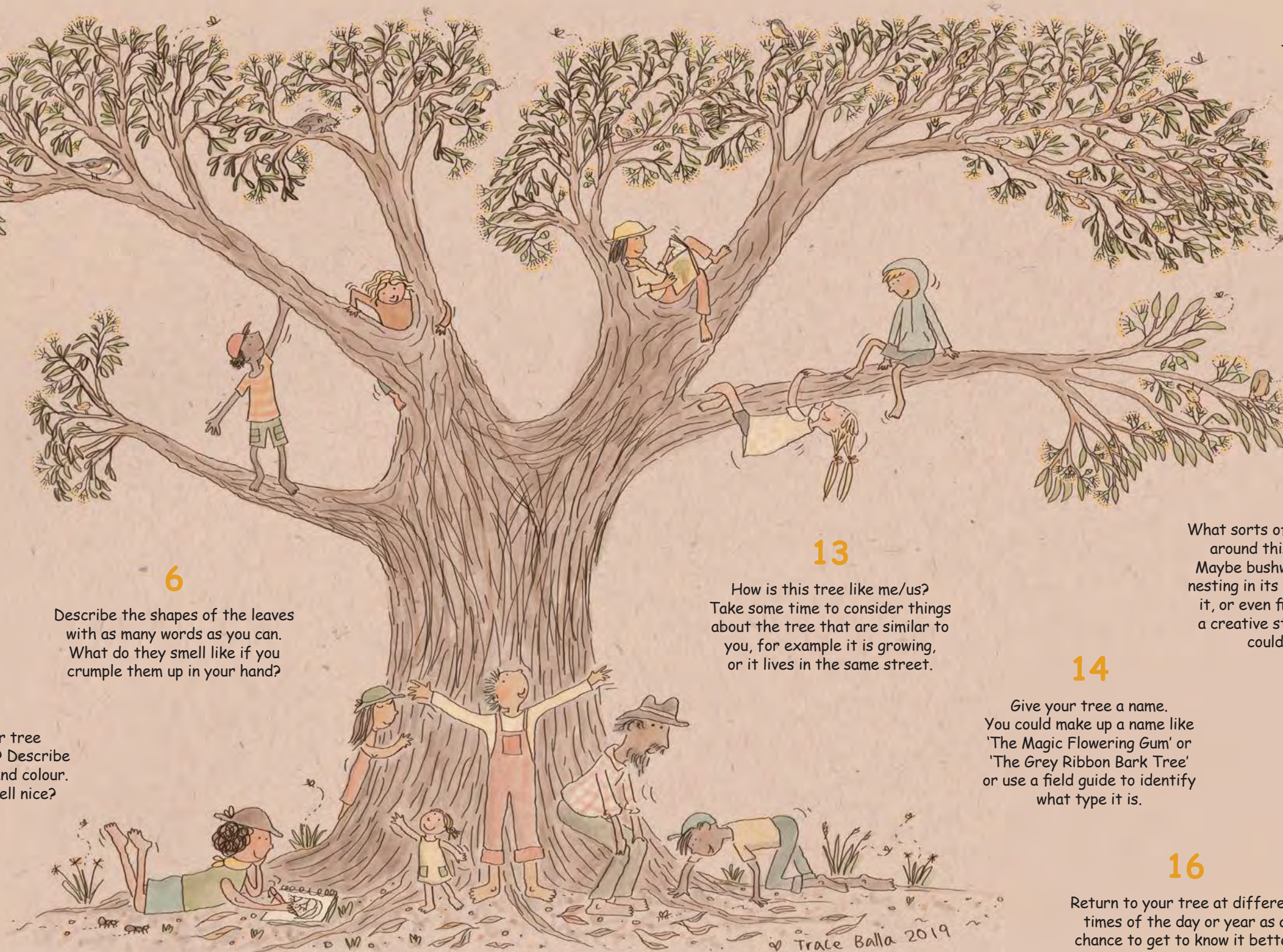
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# WILD FAMILIES



Discover, learn about and look after nature with the family

## WILD FUN: TAKE OUR ALPHABET WALK

Discover the letters of the alphabet while you walk (letters of the alphabet could be changed to shapes for younger children).

This activity is a great way to encourage close observation, exploration, creativity and literacy. If nature is unfamiliar, this is a fun way to find familiarity in new surrounds.

### Get started

1. While walking with the family look for the letters of the alphabet in the bush or beach around you. For example a tree might be growing in the shape of a 'Y', a leaf might be curled into an 'e' or an imprint in the rock would be the shape of a 'k'. Look for just capital letters, little letters or both. You could even look for punctuation marks!
  2. Tick the letters off on the checklist provided as you see them. Can you find all 26 letters? You may even like to take a photo of your letters to make a 'bush alphabet poster'.
  3. Please send in photos of your letters to [vnpa@vnpa.org.au](mailto:vnpa@vnpa.org.au) so we can share your discoveries with other families.
- Activity courtesy of Bushwalking Leader Julia Pickwick.



I found the letter 'G'!  
For more Wild Families fun visit [www.vnpa.org.au](http://www.vnpa.org.au)

### ALPHABET CHECKLIST

|    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| Aa | Bb | Cc | Dd | Ee |
| Ff | Gg | Hh | Ii | Jj |
| Kk | Ll | Mm | Nn | Oo |
| Pp | Qq | Rr | Ss | Tt |
| Uu | Vv | Ww | Xx | Yy |
| Zz | .  | ,  | ?  | "  |







# EXPLORE & LEARN

## WILD SPOT: MACEDON RANGES

The Macedon Ranges are full of amazing places to enjoy and discover nature with the family. There are tall forests, grasslands, waterfalls, mountains to climb and one of Victoria's most iconic places - Hanging Rock.

Try exploring some of the council reserves - [www.mrsc.vic.gov.au](http://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au).

- Climb through a cave on Black Hill near Kyneton.
- Capture a view of the city and Lerderderg Gorge from the top of Mt Gisborne.
- Head for iconic Hanging Rock and hang out with kangaroos, hike up this extinct volcano to discover amazing rock formations or enjoy a family picnic.
- Enjoy wildflowers during spring at Barrm Birrm Nature Reserve in Riddells Creek.

## EXPLORE MORE

Check out the Mount Macedon Regional Park at [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au).

Find a walk or picnic spot that's just right for you. With more than 30km of walking tracks you can choose from a range of experiences including:

- Take a picnic and walk to Sanatorium Lake to look for koalas on Mount Macedon.
- Enjoy forests, views and rocky surrounds on a walk to the peak of the Camel's Hump.



## WILD CREATURE: SUGAR GLIDER

Sugar Gliders are a unique gliding possum that live in the tree canopy along the east coast and northern Australia, including the Macedon Ranges.

These highly social marsupials live in small families of up to

seven adults. Sugar Gliders sleep in tree hollows, with families sleeping together in a bed of soft fresh eucalyptus leaves. Huddled together, they are able to keep warm during cold winter weather.

Sugar Gliders make a number of different calls including a soft dog-like bark to warn of potential predators.

**Spending time in nature can help improve self-esteem and mood for children and adults!**



## WILD FAMILIES