

Ballarat Botanikids

Educating Friends

BotaniKIDS, a 'growing' group of the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens

Planting Ideas for Growing Minds

This group was established to support, encourage and resource the young (and their grown ups) to explore, enjoy, appreciate and learn in and about the Gardens.

The BotaniKIDS group utilises the natural beauty and cultural aspects of the Gardens precinct to provide an exciting engaging array of opportunities that enriches the experience and learning possibilities.

This walk was created by one of the Botanikids Team

'Heather' grew up quite close by Fairyland and spent many happy hours as a child playing imagining, listening, watching and picnicking in Fairyland. Please enjoy and know this 'walk' was shared as a special gesture to those that wish to enjoy and discover the magic of Fairyland too!



Ballarat Botanikids

Facebook link:

facebook.com/ballaratbotanikIDS



Friends of the
Ballarat Botanical Gardens

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Snacks the children can help with?

Fruit Sticks

Thread pieces of fruit eg: banana, strawberries, pineapple, mandarin, grapes, cantaloupe, marshmallows onto toothpicks.

Fairy Bread

Spread slices of bread with butter and sprinkle with hundreds and thousands. Cut in triangles.

Banana Muffins

3 large ripe bananas
¾ cup sugar
1 egg
1 teasp. Bicarb soda
1/3 cup melted butter
1 ½ cups SR flour

Mash the bananas, add sugar and egg and mix. Add melted butter. Add dry ingredients and mix. Spoon into muffin tins and bake 180c for 20 mins.

Nice with choc bits too!

Drop Scones

1 cup SR flour
1 egg
1 tabs. Sugar
1 tabs. Golden syrup
½ cup milk
Beat egg and sugar, add golden syrup, milk then flour.
Let stand for a few minutes. Drop spoonfuls of mix into a hot frypan. Turn when bubbles appear.

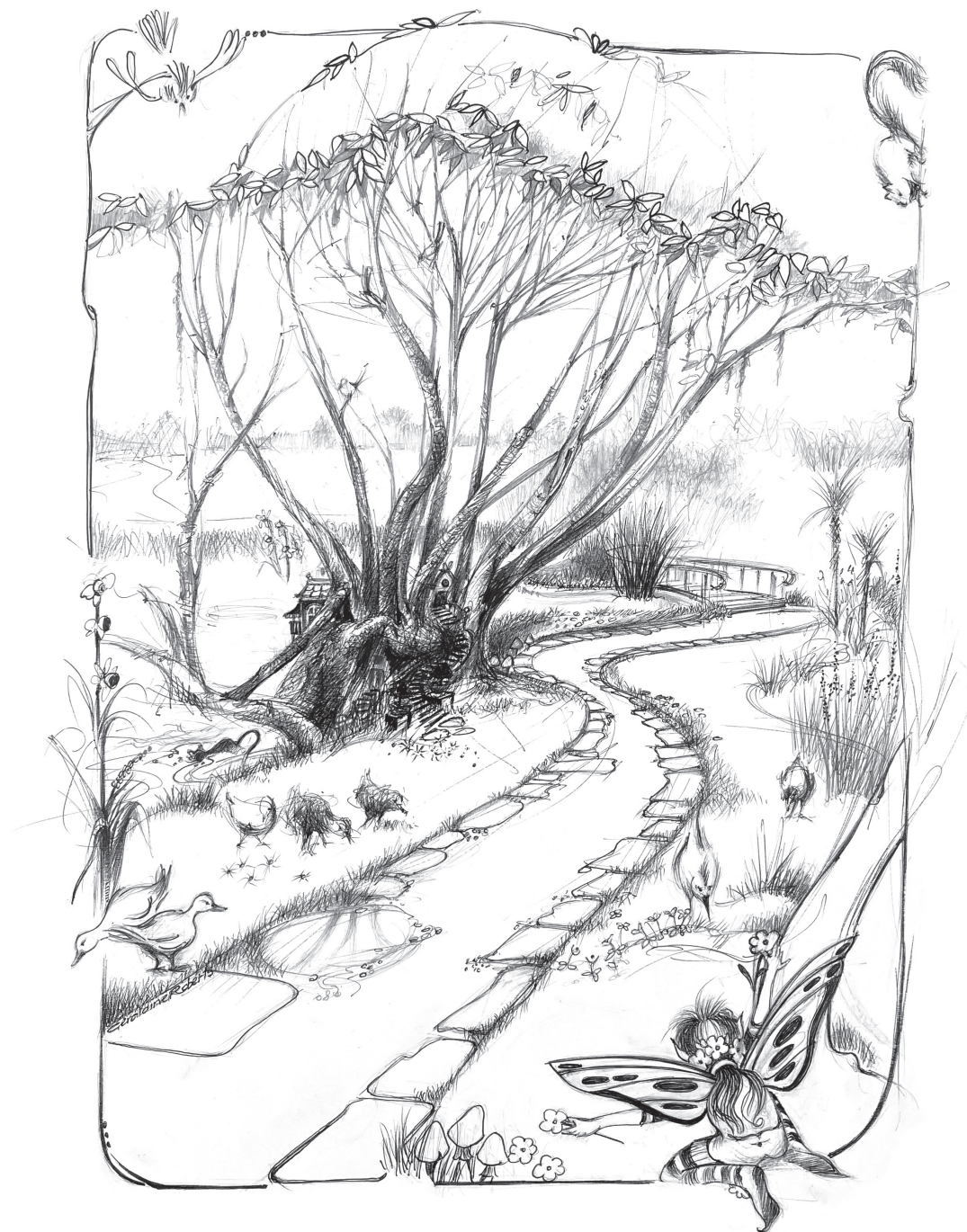
Patty Cakes

Break 2 eggs into a cup.
Fill the cup up with cream
½ cup sugar
1 cup SR flour
Mix all together in a bowl with a handbeater or spoon. Spoon into patty pans in tin and bake moderate oven 10-15 mins. Ice with colour of your choice and sprinkles!

A helpful hint

Instead of giving children spoons to transfer mix into patty pans, use an ice cream scoop!

Botanikids' Fairyland Walk



Botanikids' Fairyland Walk

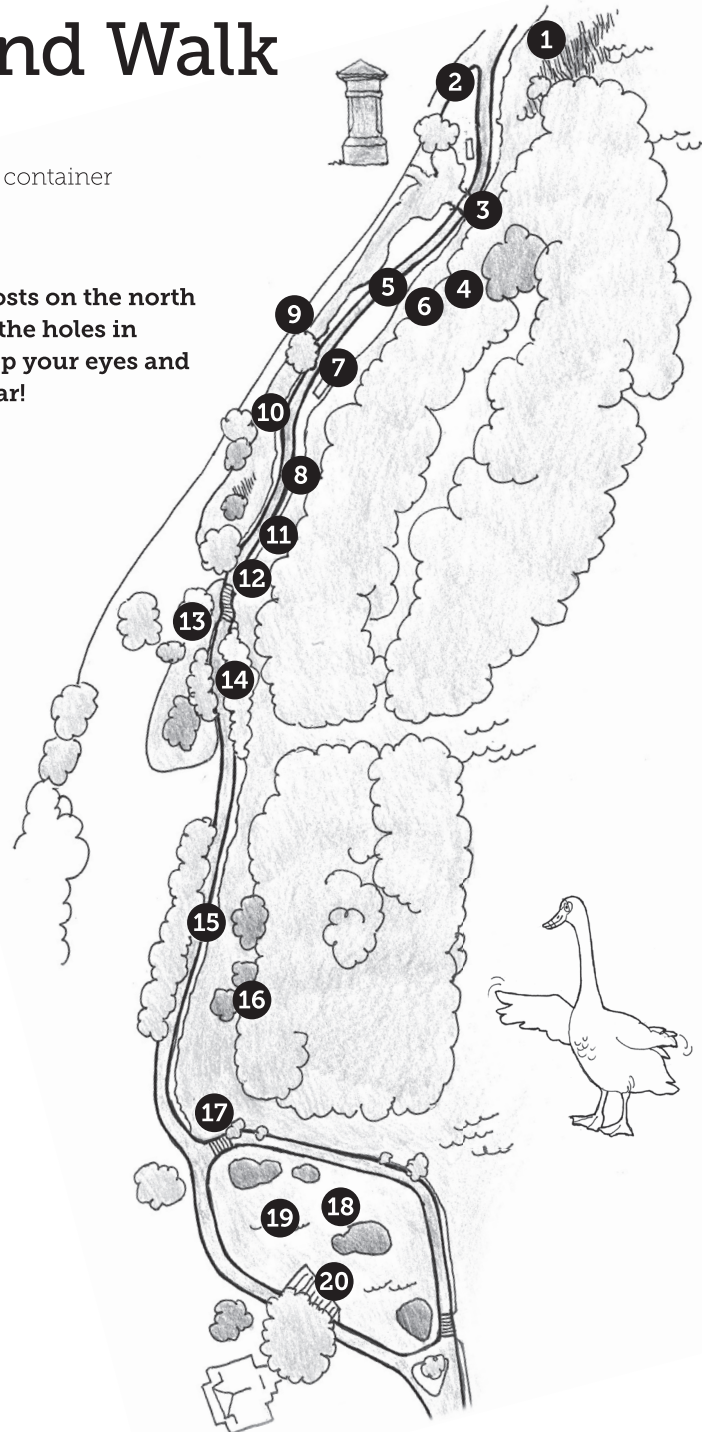


Before you leave home you might like to bring with you:

- Gumboots in case it is muddy
- A glass jar or clear plastic container
- A magnifying glass
- A snack and a drink
- Some stale bread

Start your walk at the Gardens original blue stone gate posts on the north side of the lake. Lots of birds, animals and insects live in the holes in trees, in the water and on the islands so remember to keep your eyes and ears open as you never know what you might see and hear!

- 1.** Start by looking at the reed bed in the lake at the start of Fairyland. Crested Grebes build their nests there. They are birds with white shirt fronts and carry their babies on their backs.
- 2.** Look at the tram pictures in the sheltered seat. Can you find a tram stop? What colours are the stripes?
- 3.** Follow the path over the bridge. You might count the bridges you cross.
- 4.** On the island on the left live some Black Swamp Wallabies. Did you know Wallabies can swim? Can you see them today?
- 5.** Can you see 2 big white tree trunks? These special trees are the home of Cockatoos. Knock on their door and see if they are home?
- 6.** Opposite them is a tree leaning over the water, this is the home of something too. They are small and buzzing so look very carefully. What are they?
- 7.** Have a sit on the seat and have a look around. Can you see some birds? Can you see some plants? Can you hear anything? Can you smell anything?
- 8.** Walking along the path. Can you see reflections in the water? What are they? Can you see some ripples in the water? What do you think made the ripples?
- 9.** Can you see the crocodile hiding in the reeds in the pool on the right hand side of the path?
- 10.** Just past the crocodile are some spiky plants growing in the water. Blue Wrens live here. Can you see them? Stand very quietly and watch them.



- 11.** Take your container and carefully put in some lake water. Look carefully, is anything in there? Maybe look with your magnifying glass. Tip the water back into the lake carefully and try again further on. What else did you find?
- 12.** Before the curvy bridge are 2 trees with holes in their trunks. Rainbow Lorikeets live there. Some Rakali live under the bridge. Look carefully!
- 13.** Cross over the curvy bridge and look in the waterlily pond. Can you see some waterlilies? Can you see a little house? Who do you think lives there?
- 14.** Now look on the left hand side of the path. Can you find a tree with a big trunk and low branches? This is where Ratty, Toad's friend sunbakes.
- 15.** Can you see the Twisted Willow trees beside the path? Why are they called twisted? Lorikeets and possums live in the holes in these trees. Can you see any of them or their homes?
- 16.** On the island opposite are some big birds called Ibis. Can you see them? What colour are they?
- 17.** If you walk over the waterlily bridge you might see some of Ratty's friends (Rakali) who live underneath. Walk around the swan pond and you will see lots of tree roots out of the ground.
- 18.** Can you see the swan's nests in the middle of the pond? What are they made from?
- 19.** See the big Palm tree growing in the middle of the pond. That is the home of a family of Kingfishers. Are they home?
- 20.** Walk around to the viewing platform, listen carefully! Can you hear the Reed Warblers singing? Can you find them?

Some birds that live at the lake that you might have seen:

Black Swans and Cygnets, Ducks, Grebes, Pigeons, Moorhen, Sea gulls, Coots, Ibis, Cormorants, Musk Ducks, Magpies, Thornbills, Cockatoos, Lorikeets, Blackbirds, Blue Wrens, Rosellas, Reed Warblers.

Some animals that live at the lake that you might have seen:

Black Swamp Wallabies, Possums, Rakali