



## Coogoorah Park Children's Nature Walk



Begin at the information board

### 1. Dead tree

**Look** at the dead tree. Are there any birds?

**Look** for different shaped leaves along the edge as you walk along the path.

*There are reeds, grasses, rushes other plants. These plants like wet feet.*

*Orache (dormant in winter) is a weed; it's leaves look like an arrow or goosefoot.*

**Say** Goosefoot three times very fast.

Do these plants have flowers? What colours are they?

Are they big or small?

**Listen** Can you hear frogs?



### 2. D'Helin bridge

**Look** in the water. Can you see rocks, long flat leaves, other plants living in the water?

**Look** around you. What else can you see?

*Birds – swallows, fairy-wrens, insects, ducks, swamphens*



**Stop** when you come to some bushes. Can you find a Moonah and a Teatree?

**Feel** the plant's leaves. **Look** for flowers and seed pods.

*Moonah – leaves spaced along the stem. Seed pods – fat pods like sweet corn*

*Teatree - leaves, spikey in groups. Seed pods like hot cross buns. Flowers are mostly white but sometimes have a touch of pink*



### 3. Smythe Bridge

**Count** how many bridges you can see. Can you see a chimney?

Are there trees nearby?

Why are the trees dead?

*Environmental changes affect plants and animals.*

### 4. The Corner



**What** is different?

*Away from water the plants are bigger - trees, bushes, creepers, no reeds.*

Can you **find** the lacy fronds of bracken?

*Indigenous people crushed the soft leaves to put on insect bites.*

**Look** for creepers.

Clematis - Can you **find** leaves in groups of three? Are there soft feathery seed pods?

*It's sometimes called Old Man's Beard.*

Dodder Laurel -

*Looks like tangled string. It has suckers on stems to get food from the tree. Plants that feed off other plants are called parasites.*

**What** will happen to the tree?



### 5. Listening Post

**Close your eyes**, stay very still and **listen** carefully.

What can you hear? Try to be a sound detective.

**Count** how many different sounds you can hear.

Can you **guess** what is making each sound ?



## 6. Snake Sign

**Stop** at the top of the path. **Look** for some big rocks and a snake sign.

**What** should you do if you see a snake? *Stay away, leave it alone.*

**Where** should you walk? *Always walk on the path*

**Look** for a Grasstree near the rocks.



**Why** is it called a Grasstree? **Look and feel** the leaves.

*Some grasstrees in Anglesea have leaves with three sides like a triangle others have four, in the shape of a rhomboid. How many sides do these leaves have? All Grasstree leaves are hard and tough.*

Trees have trunks. **Where** do you think the trunk of a Grasstree may be?

*Some Grasstrees take a long time to grow a trunk that we can see, other Grasstrees keep their trunk under the ground.*



**Continue to the corner and turn left**

## 7. Lichen Path

As you walk along **look** for lichen growing on (dead) tree trunks and branches on the left of the path.

**Look** for the different lichen types – flat and leafy.

*Let's call Lichen a 'plant look-alike'. They are rather special as they are made up of two living things that get on very well together. (An alga and a fungus). They grow in fresh clean air, often on damp tree trunks and together they make their own food using the air, rain and sunlight.*

*Do you think they kill the plant they are growing on? No, they are just using the plant as a place to grow.*



**Continue to the corner and turn left**

## 8. Boardwalk

**Creep quietly along the boardwalk looking and listening.**

**What** is different here?

*A lot of plants look the same. These are Common Reeds, in autumn these reeds have soft seed pods like possums' tails. In autumn we might see some wrens flying in and out of the reeds. In winter the reeds become dormant and disappear, reserving their energy for lots of spring growth.*



## 9. Duck pond

**Stand very still.** Can you **see** the water through the cracks?

**Look** for ducks on the water, swallows overhead, wrens flying from the reeds, Dotterels and Swampheens along the shoreline.

*Ducks on the pond are often well camouflaged. Swampheens have long toes.*

**Turn left at T junction**

## 10. Junction and the home stretch



**Look** in the distance. What can you **see**?

*Playground, houses, boats, sky, clouds.*

**Stop** on the boardwalk. **Kneel down.** **Look** in the water (on the left). Can you **see** any little insects, dragon flies, plants in the water, wrigglers?

**What** are wrigglers?

*Wrigglers are mosquito larvae.*



**Look** for tracks in the sand. **What** made the tracks. Kangaroos, dogs, people, water birds.

**Walk** between the bushes onto the Mousley Bridge. You are near the end.

Can you **find** the fish length ruler? Can you see any fish?



**Head to the playground!**