

Walk
Yan

Listen
Wurring

Look
Mirr

Feel
Comugeen

Learn
Ngarwa

Allen Noble Children's Nature Walk

INSTRUCTIONS QUESTIONS INFORMATION

Look, Listen, Touch.

Begin at the Owl



1. The Owl

What bird is this? Why does it have big feet and sharp claws? It catches mice and other small animals such as Swamp Rats, in its sharp claws.

Why does the owl need such big eyes? The owl can see its prey at night.

Where do you think Swamp Rats may feel safe? Long grass and rushes.

Look up over the rushes. Can you see something with a red roof and tall white walls? What is it used for? It is a lighthouse to warn ships of danger such as rocks. Sometimes rocks are hidden in the water.



2. Lichen walk

Can you see some plant look-alikes growing on the boardwalk? These are either white and flat and sometimes green and fluffy. These are Lichen. They live in fresh clean air and sometimes on damp trees, fallen logs or rocks. They use water, air and sunlight to make their food. Find more Lichen along the boardwalk.

Listen Can you hear frogs? Where are they?



Feel the long hollow stems of the Tall Spike-rush. Why do they have hollow stems? They are hollow so that the air can get down into the roots. Do roots need air? All living things need air.

Can you see other plants in the water? The plant with pink flowers is called Slender Knotweed. May be difficult to find one flowering in winter.

Look for birds on the water. Are there any Coots in the Tall Spike-rush? Why do they like it there? They can hide in the rushes keeping themselves safe while searching for food. They also nest in there.



3. Prickly Teatree and Mat-rush



Look on the left of the path for the Prickly Teatree. Carefully feel the prickly leaves. Can you see any seed pods? They look like hot cross buns.

Look for the tall, strappy leaves of the Mat-rush. The ends of the leaves are spiky and look like they have been chewed.

4. Scented Paperbark and Hop Goodenia



On the right is the Scented Paperbark, it sometimes has sweet smelling creamy yellow bottlebrush flowers. Look closely at the leaves. They are in pairs. What is different about them? (Alternating pairs)

Look for the yellow flowers and green leaves of the Hop Goodenia growing on both sides of the path. Flowers may not always be present. A good flowering example of Hop Goodenia is in the carpark opposite the Bunyip. The flowers have five petals - twins at the top and triplets at the bottom.

5. Dead tree

This looks like a dead wattle tree.



Can you see something missing on the trunk? The bark is missing. What do you think happened? The bark has died because grubs have eaten the part of the tree that makes the bark grow.

Can you find holes in the trunk? How did they get there? Grubs, the young of the beetles, eat the wood. Behind the bark you can see sawdust. Where did the sawdust come from? It is common for the adults to lay their eggs under the bark, the eggs develop into the grubs (larvae). The sawdust has probably come from the grubs as they eat the wood. The adults generally eat the leaves.

6. Super plants and a Special Bunyip



Look for fleshy leaves of Karkalla which is growing along the ground, sometimes it has bright purple flowers with white centres. Feel the leaves. How many sides do the leaves have? Why are the leaves fleshy? The leaves store water to keep the plant alive in the dry times.

On the left look for the pink flowers of the Slender Velvet-bush. Sometimes there are no flowers, just slender soft leaves. Feel the leaves.

Look for the small, purple, papery flowers with the dark centre. They belong to the Paper Flower. Do you know what is in the centre of this flower? It is the female part of the flower which produces seeds.

6. Super plants and a Special Bunyip (cont.)



Further along the path look for the tiny heart-shaped leaves on the Rough Bush Pea. Continue along the trail until you reach the Bunyip on the left.

What kind of bird is on its head? A magpie. Look for other animals on the bunyip.

Can you find a man with a beard? This is William Buckley. You will find out about him later (in the hut).



7. The jetty

Walk carefully along the jetty. Count the birds you can see. Can you see any Black Swans, Coots, Pacific Black Ducks? Check the bird pictures on the sign. Are there any Purple Swamphens? Look for Egrets and Cormorants. Egrets may be on the jetty. Why do the Egrets visit? Food source

Listen to the birds talking. Do they all make the same sounds? What else can you hear?

Look in the water. Can you see some plants with dark green shiny leaves? What do they look like? These are called Water Ribbons.

8. The canopy



Walk along the path to the left, past the picnic table. You will come to the Blackwood Wattles that make a roof or canopy over the track. Look for their curly seed pods that sometimes fall on the path.

Look right. Can you still see the water and the birds?



9. Animals



The Birds like to hide in this canopy, just like they hide in the reeds. Can you see or hear any birds? Would there be ducks in these trees? Both the Wood Duck and the Pacific Black Duck nest in trees.

Do other animals besides birds hide in the tree canopy? Ringtail Possum, Sugar Glider.

Look for the bright red berries of Ruby Saltbush, Parrots love to eat them.



10. Plants Dead and Alive



Look for a pile of dead leaves and bark in this area. How did it get there? Dead plants are left on the ground to help create healthy soil. They also provide habitat for small animals.

Look on the right. Can you see the Sea Box with its oval shaped shiny dark green leaves? It sometimes has flowers that smell nice. Be a detective. See if you can find another Sea Box further along the path.

On the left is a Correa with bell-shaped flowers. Why do some birds poke their beaks into the flowers? They drink the sweet nectar. Eastern Spinebills get their food this way.



11. The Bark Hut



Follow the path to the bark hut.

This is a copy of a bark hut that people used to live in. Touch the walls. What do you think they are made of? Slabs of bark from trees. Look at the chimney. What is it made of? Bricks.

Would you like to live in this hut?

Go inside.



Can you find a picture of William Buckley, the man with a beard you saw at the Bunyip? Here you can read information about his interesting life.



12. The playground

Walk behind the Bark Hut to the playground.

How many different types of plants can you name that grow here?

How many birds can you see?



We hope you enjoyed exploring
Allen Noble Reserve Sanctuary

