

“We have such a brief opportunity to pass on to our children our love for this Earth, and to tell our stories. These are the moments when the world is made whole. In [our] children's memories, the adventures we've had together in nature will always exist.”

Richard Louv

Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder



World Parks Congress, Sydney 2014

Inspiring a New Generation



Bush Trackers
explore the bush
with guides for kids by kids

'Investing in Children'

Schools, Families and Communities: It All Comes Together

Monday 17 November 2014

Welcome to Bush Trackers!

We acknowledge and pay our deep respect to Country
and the Elders of this place, both past and present



**Jacqueline Reid, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and
Daisy McGarry, Blue Mountains Grammar School
Jess Reid, Springwood Public School
Alice Ridley, Katoomba Public School
Jasper Tobin, Mt Victoria Public School**

Our presentation

- 🔔 YouTube
- 🔔 Why Bush Trackers?
- 🔔 Bush Trackers grew from....
- 🔔 What is Bush Trackers?
- 🔔 How we do Bush Trackers
- 🔔 How can you do Bush Trackers?

YouTube

Stream 8 Inspiring a new generation

Reconnecting Kids With Nature

Bush Trackers Program, Blue Mountains

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7qIEIKNNRw>

Why Bush Trackers?

- **‘Nature Deficit-Disorder’— thanks to Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods***
- **Fear and uncertainty of families to safely explore and enjoy our local bushland (nature strip, parks, woods, commons, forests....)**
- **Helps create a child friendly community**
- **Allows children to interpret their experiences through their own eyes, not through an adult’s lens. This validates their perspectives and experiences, gives value to their responses to the natural environment, and allows them to express freely and without agenda, their feelings and thoughts.**

Bush Trackers grew from....

...the inspiration and support of the Stronger Families Alliance and its commitment to creating more child-friendly programs and spaces in the Blue Mountains.

The success of the Bush Trackers project is in its partners:

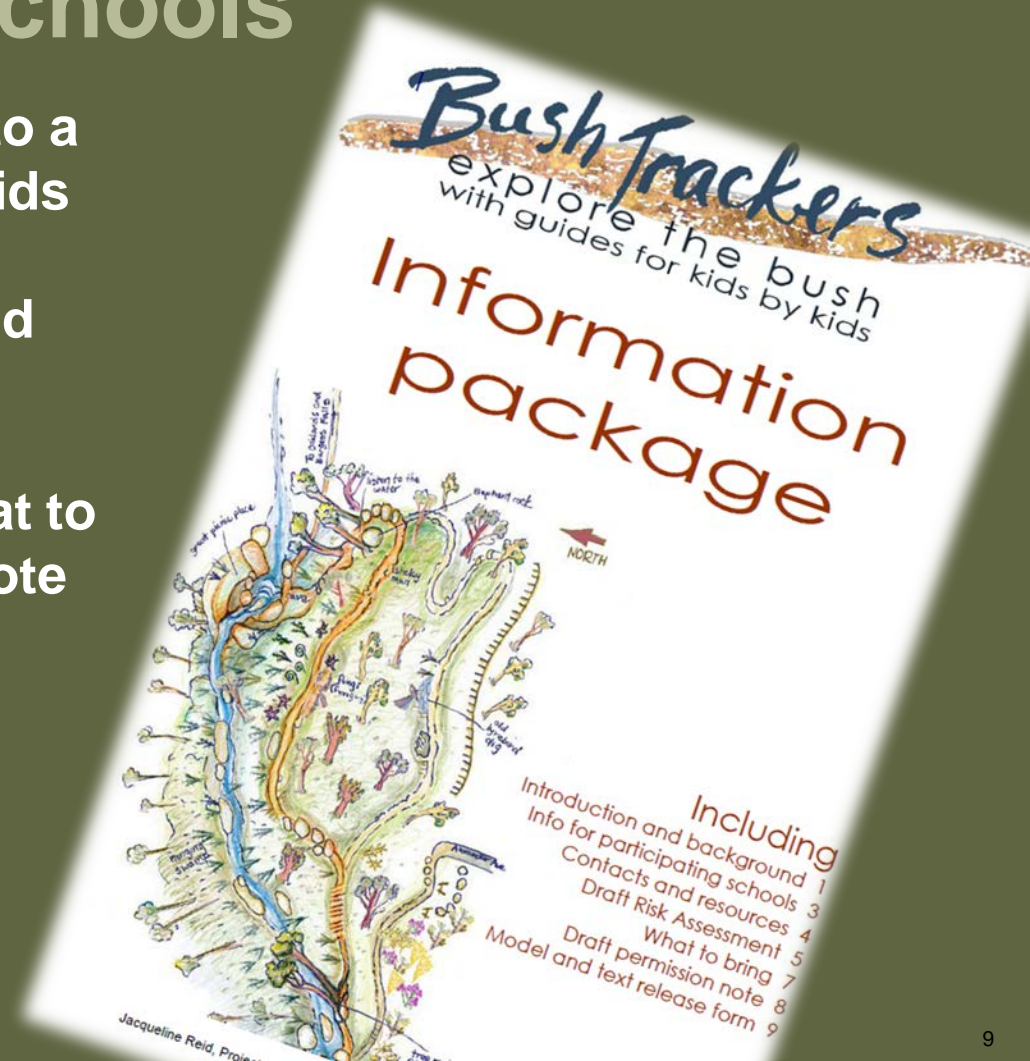
-  **Blue Mountains Lithgow Oberon Tourism Limited**
-  **NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Discovery Program**
-  **Blue Mountains City Council**
-  **local Aboriginal organisations**
-  **Blue Mountains Conservation Society**
-  **Performing Design**
-  **Over the Moon Photography**
-  **Springwood Printing**
-  **and of course, local primary schools, parents and our great kids!**

What is Bush Trackers?

- **Bush Trackers is an environmental and cultural education project which encourages and enables locals and visitors to explore our natural, cultural and historic heritage with guides created by kids for kids.**
- **Bush Trackers creates the opportunity for more children and their families to seek and build an evolving relationship with nature.**
- **The project provides an opportunity for our local kids to engage with, and learn more about, their local history and environment and to collaborate in the production of an educational and unique guide from a child's perspective, to inform other locals and visitors to the region.**

How we do Bush Trackers engaging with schools

- We introduce the project to a local primary school for kids usually 8-10 years old presenting map, safety and minimal impact info
- We provide a background with risk assessment, what to bring, draft permission note and model/text release



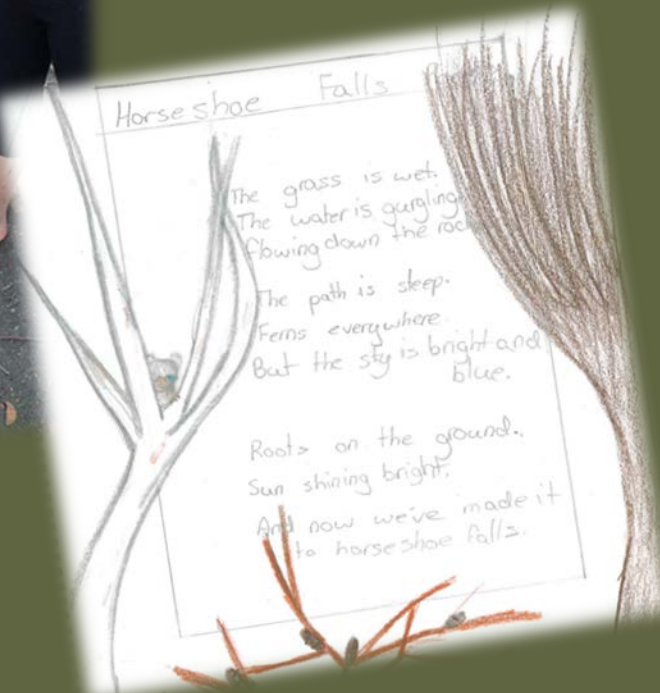
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Discovery Rangers guide the students on a local walk of natural and cultural significance.

We hope to empower children by teaching them about bush safety and minimal impact and encourage the kids to map, investigate, photograph and find fun things on their journey





The children learn about the intrinsic and functional value of nature and have fun! They take photos, produce art and poetry about their experience and favourite places on the walk.



We ask the kids to do a quick survey at the end of their walk, how they felt:





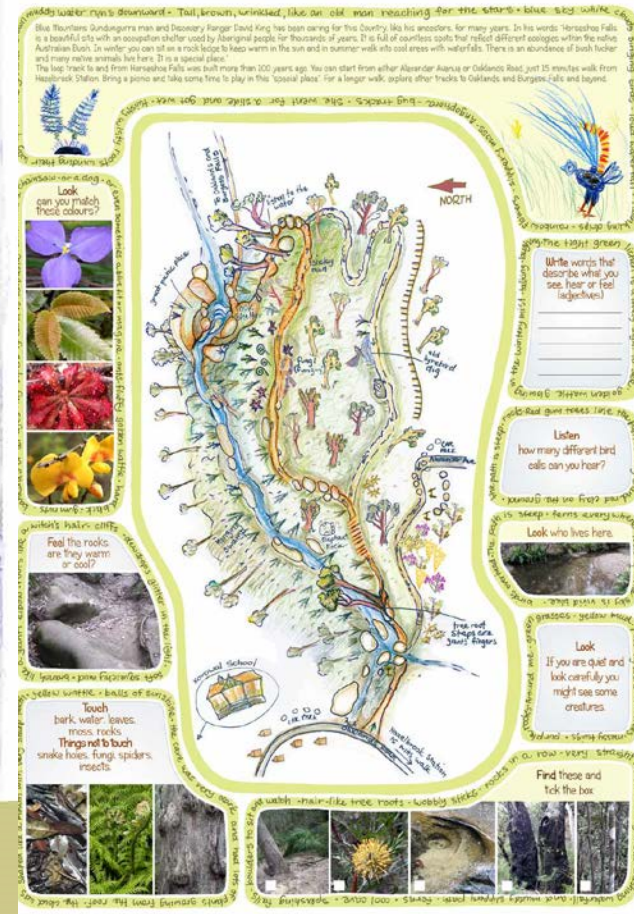
Bush Trackers design

Paula and Greg from Performing Design use these hundreds of pieces of artwork to create beautifully designed, delightfully authentic maps and guides which include bush safety and minimal impact messages, distributed throughout the community and available online:

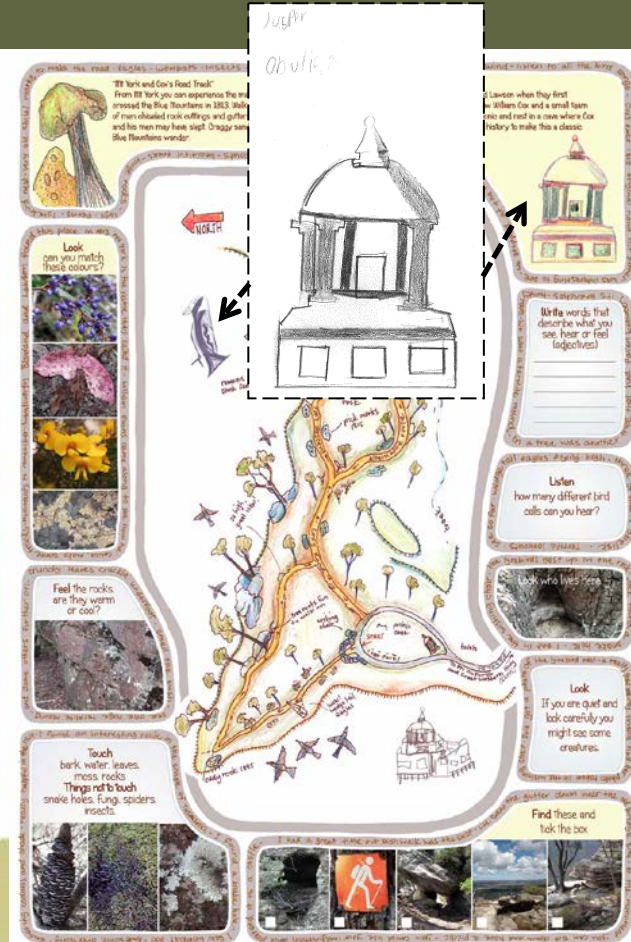
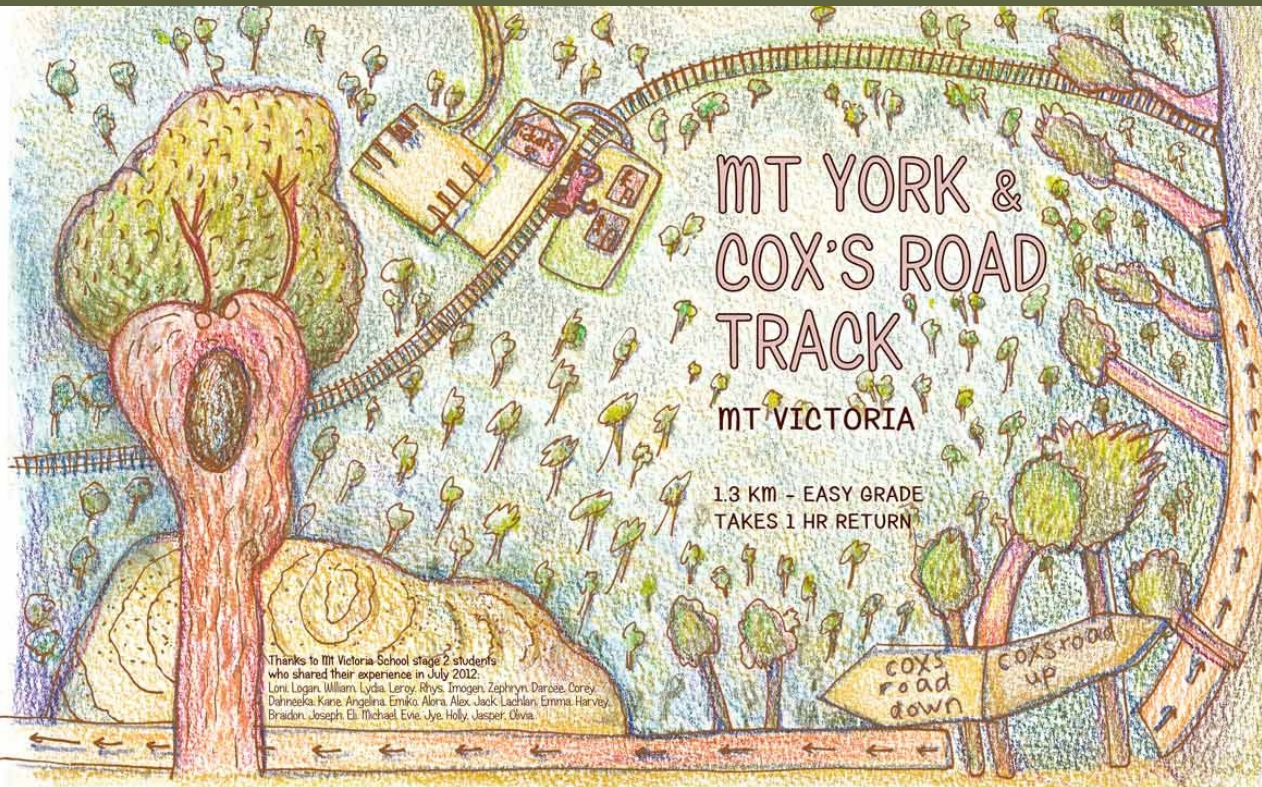
www.bushtrackers.com.au







Mt York and Cox's Road Track by Mt Victoria Public School



Katoomba Public School and the Prince Henry Cliff Walk

Thanks to Katoomba Public School stage 2 students who shared their experience in March 2014:

Ky, Henry, Isaac, Janine, Elise, Matilda, Jasmine, Colt, Jackson C.F., Dominic, Gryffyn, Jackson H., Abigail, Zoe, Holly, River, Elyssia, James, Gabriel, Josh R.S., Eddie, Jack, Pang, Shianna, Trisden, Vicki, Zahra, Jemmiah, Josh R. Luca, Joshua, Akira, Alana, Elliott, Luke, Ava S., Bama, Joseph, Ava A., Lana, Julian, Bonnie M., Christie, Ella, Imogen, Jackson G., Cressida, Davey, Lucy, Chloe, Eleanor, Mia, Tobey, Nathalie, Olie, Bonnie R., Smith, Bonny, Caitlin, Charlotte, Sofia, Alice, Siona, Tami, Arliah, Seth W., Portia, Riley, Ashton, Will, Seth R.K., Tiannah, Shane, William, Ashley, Tom, Owen, Andrew.

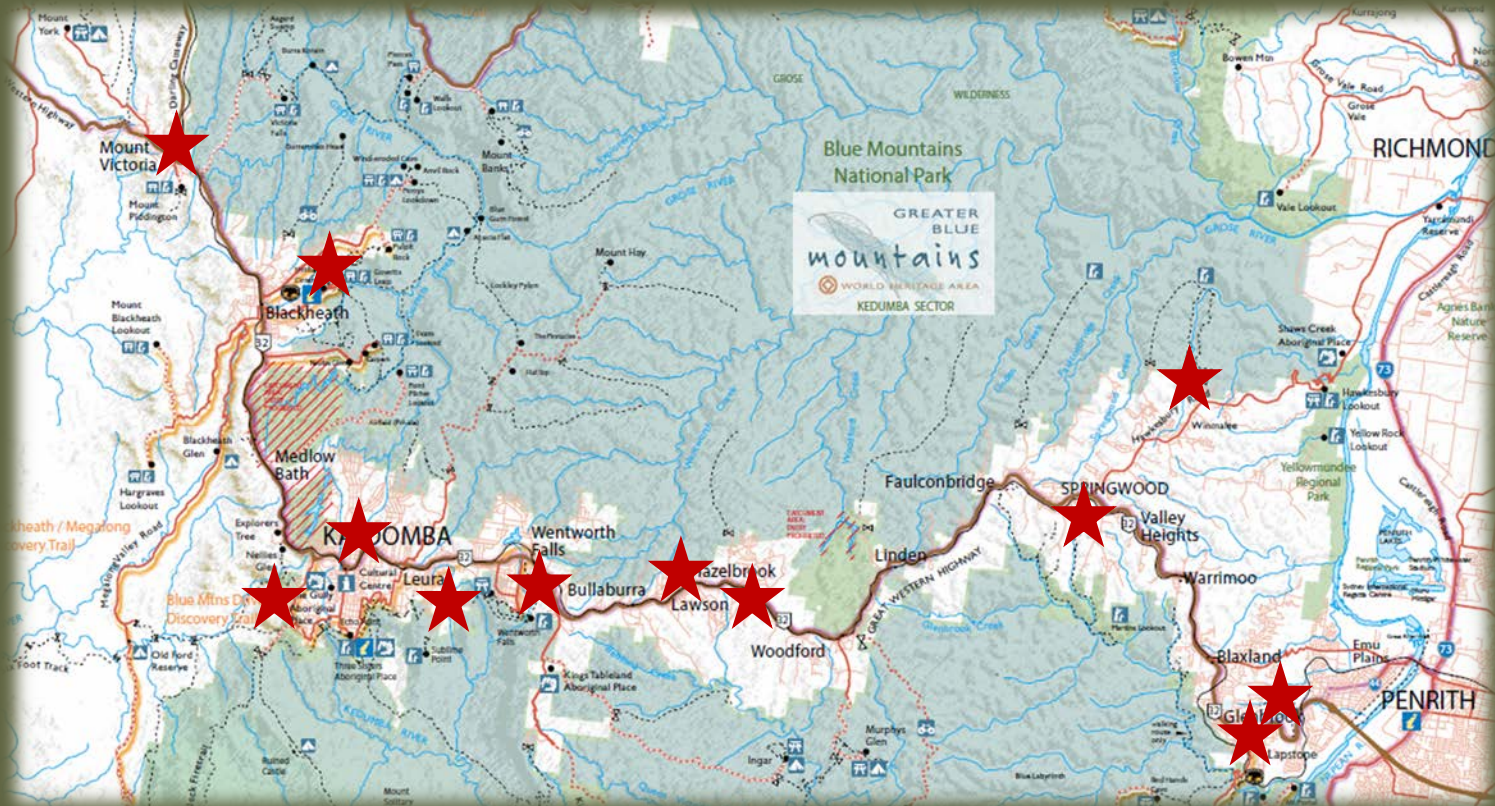
PRINCE HENRY CLIFF WALK

CARRINGTON PARK to ECHO POINT
KATOOMBA

2.4 KM - MEDIUM GRADE
2 HR EITHER WAY



Since May 2012, over a dozen schools and 100's of children across the Blue Mountains, from Glenbrook to Mt Victoria, have helped grow the project.



How can you do Bush Trackers?

- Introduce why we as adults feel its so important for the 'new generation' to explore and learn to love nature (share your experience growing up to protect it!)



- **Ensure you create an authentic space to facilitate children (school, church, holiday group etc) to discover, explore, and enjoy a safe experience exploring the local bush (nature strip, coast, woods, forest...)**



- **Connect** children with their local environment- it doesn't have to be a wilderness area or a national park to find nature to engage with.
- **Creatures** live under rocks on the side of the road and in cracks in the pavement. It's about stopping and looking, listening and learning...



- 📌 Share how to behave responsibly in nature by looking after yourself and the environment
- 📌 Allow children to point out the features and highlights of the walks through their eyes .The children become the experts, the authors, the guides!
- 📌 Help celebrate and share their valuable perspectives and information with other children and families



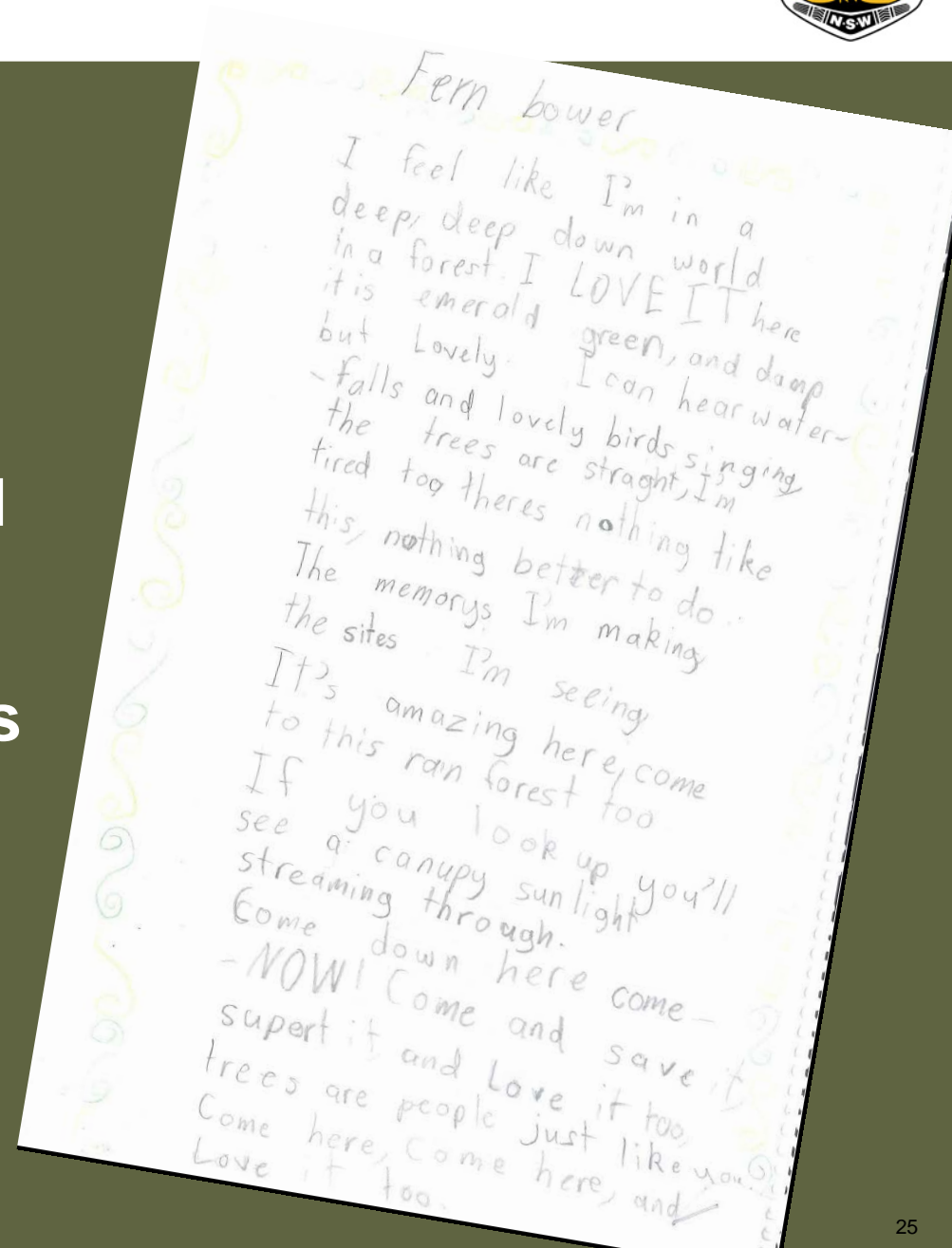
Thanks to Winmalee Public School stage 2 students who shared their experience in August 2013:

Daniel B. Emma B. Zachary. Tallyne. Danae. Brianna. Angus. Harriet. Zoe. Natasha G. Alissa. Blake H. Martin. Oliver H. Alexander. Rhys J. Piper. Bailey. Joel K. Carly. Hayley. Jasmin. Lachlan O. Corey. Holly. Liam. Chloe S. Dexter. Natalie. Jackson. Dylan. Rohan. Jye. Conor. Kallum. Ethan. Jesse. Jordan. Thisbe. Grace. Ben. Rose. Lachlan T. Emma T. Jorgia. Owen. Oliver W. Zachery. Carissa. William. Jake. Lauren. Aidan. Hannah. Noah. Evalina. Leniah. Claire. Zoe. Breanna. Sam. Stephanie. Braeden. Elodie. Amelia. Joel B. Alyssa. Emily. Mia. Lillian. Ruby. Matthew. Lauren. Renee. Brandon. Chloe J. Harry. Jake. Austin. Taliah. Isabella. Katie. Cassidy. Nicole. Marcel. Broden. Alastair. Jordan. Anna. Georgia. Sarah. Millana. Oscar. Alyssa C. Hannah. Braedyn. Keely. Ava. Jenaya. Sophie. Mitchell. Olivia. Rhys. Lachlan W. Zara.

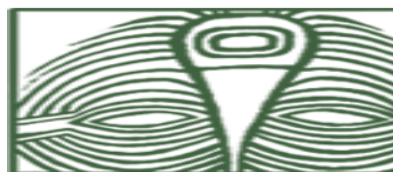


- 🔔 **Encourage the children's expression of their experience through artwork, poetry, photographs – it's their story that helps inspire other kids and families**
- 🔔 **Invite older art students to use the younger children's artwork to create the map and guide**
- 🔔 **Share, print, provide back to the school, group etc, make available online....**
- 🔔 **Please share other ideas in the workshop!**

**‘Fern Bower’ by
Josephine, 8 years old
from her experience
on the Leura Cascades
walk in the Blue
Mountains**



Special thanks to project partners:



Australian Government





Office of
Environment & Heritage
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service

A close-up photograph of a brown branch with two large, heart-shaped green leaves. The leaves show significant damage, including white, irregular holes and numerous small, reddish-brown spots, likely from insect feeding or disease. The background is a blurred natural setting with dry leaves and green foliage.

**and
thank
you!**