

WILD FAMILIES

A great way to enjoy Victoria's wild places with the family



WILD SPOT: DANDENONG RANGES NATIONAL PARK

Dandenong Ranges National Park is a great place to enjoy family-based nature activities.

It has a number of family walks, picnic grounds, waterfalls, ferny gullies, the tallest flowering plants in the world (Mountain Ash) and spectacular forests to experience. For those who live in Melbourne, this national park is right on your doorstep.

Head for an adventure:

- Discover hidden sculptures in the bush at William Ricketts Sanctuary.
- Go back to the time of the dinosaurs on Hardy Gully Nature Walk.
- Listen to the splash of waterfalls at Sherbrooke Falls.
- Picnic and play games with the family at a range of picnic sites across the park.

MORE INFO

- Visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au and look for Dandenong Ranges National Park to find the right adventure for you.

WILD CREATURE: SUPERB LYREBIRD

The Superb Lyrebird lives in the Dandenong Ranges and is well known for the wonderfully long tail feathers of the male.

Did you know:

- Superb Lyrebirds can mimic the sounds of other birds and even machinery such as cameras. Check them out with David Attenborough at bit.ly/bbcllybird
- They eat small insects

and worms in leaf litter or fallen rotting logs.

- The feathers of Superb Lyrebirds were once fashionable for ladies hats.
- There are 16 tail feathers on the male.
- They build a soft domed nest on the ground that they often camouflage with ferns or moss.
- Take a look at the back of a 10c coin, what do you see?



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WILD ACTIVITIES

FALLEN LOG DISCOVERY

A great activity for the family and a fun way to explore how things break down, the cyclic nature of life and mini habitats.

You don't need specialist knowledge, just a keenness to observe and discuss. It is more important to explore the answers than worry about the 'correct answer'.

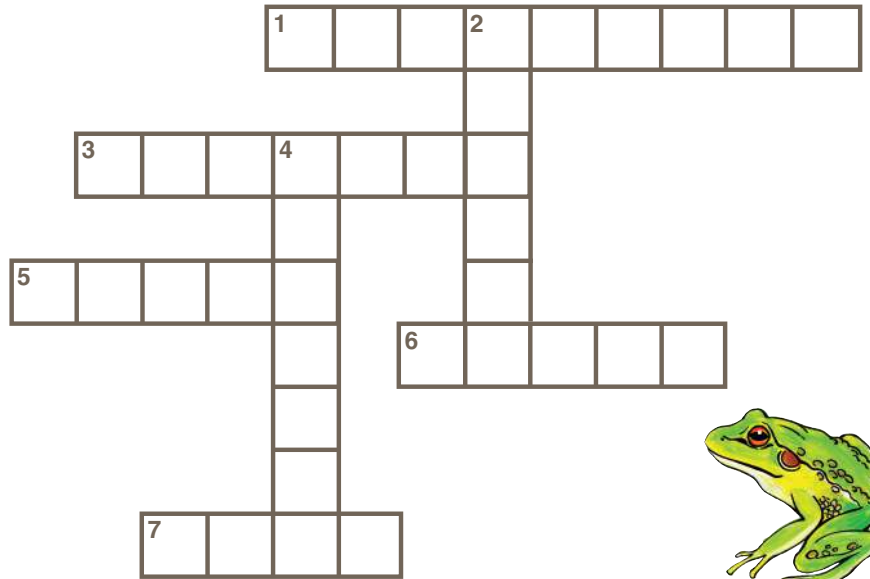
STAYING SAFE

Get a grown up! An adult needs to be responsible for ensuring this activity is done safely. Here are some safety tips:

- An adult must check for dangers such as snakes and spiders before starting.
- Keep hands and fingers where you can see them - don't put them in holes!
- Don't touch the animals or any fungi.
- Leave the log in its place.
- Work as a family with adults and kids.

GIVE IT A GO

1. Find a fallen log.
2. Look closely - what is living on the log? Plants, animals, fungi, lichen.
3. Try some of these discussion starters:
 - What colours can you see?
 - What does it feel like?
 - How did this log end up here?
 - Is it alive or dead?
 - Why do you think these things live on the log? If nothing lives on the log can you think of any reasons why not?
 - What might eat things that live on this log?
4. Use photos, drawings or writing to record your observations.
5. Feel free to send your observations to us at vnpa@vnpa.org.au



WILD CROSSWORD

Across

1. When we go on an adventure looking for new things we are exp_____.
3. Homes for animals. It could be a hole in a tree or under a log.
5. We like the dark, we eat soil and we have no legs.

6. Our roots dig deep, our branches stretch high.

7. I am an ancient soft green plant that can make a log very comfortable to sit on.

Down

2. It's not rubbish, it's fallen leaves on the forest floor.
4. We are small and have six legs.

A WILD READ

A great picture book to learn more about lyrebirds is 'Lyrebird! A true story' by Jackie Kerin. It's the true and delightful story of Edith, who befriended a Superb Lyrebird. The Superb Lyrebird visited her and sang to her for many years at her home in the Dandenong Ranges.

Across: 1 Explorers, 3 Habitat, 5 Worms, 6 Trees, 7 Moss, Down: 2 Litter, 4 Insects.

