

WILD FAMILIES



Discover, learn about and look after nature with the family

WILD FUN: TAKE OUR ALPHABET WALK

Discover the letters of the alphabet while you walk (letters of the alphabet could be changed to shapes for younger children).

This activity is a great way to encourage close observation, exploration, creativity and literacy. If nature is unfamiliar, this is a fun way to find familiarity in new surrounds.

Get started

1. While walking with the family look for the letters of the alphabet in the bush or beach around you. For example a tree might be growing in the shape of a 'Y', a leaf might be curled into an 'e' or an imprint in the rock would be the shape of a 'K'. Look for just capital letters, little letters or both. You could even look for punctuation marks!
 2. Tick the letters off on the checklist provided as you see them. Can you find all 26 letters? You may even like to take a photo of your letters to make a 'bush alphabet poster'.
 3. Please send in photos of your letters to vnpa@vnpa.org.au so we can share your discoveries with other families.
- Activity courtesy of Bushwalking Leader Julia Pickwick.



I found the letter 'G'!
For more Wild Families fun visit www.vnpa.org.au

ALPHABET CHECKLIST

Aa	Bb	Cc	Dd	Ee
Ff	Gg	Hh	Ii	Jj
Kk	Ll	Mm	Nn	Oo
Pp	Qq	Rr	Ss	Tt
Uu	Vv	Ww	Xx	Yy
Zz	.	,	?	"





EXPLORE & LEARN

WILD SPOT: MACEDON RANGES

The Macedon Ranges are full of amazing places to enjoy and discover nature with the family. There are tall forests, grasslands, waterfalls, mountains to climb and one of Victoria's most iconic places - Hanging Rock.

Try exploring some of the council reserves - www.mrsc.vic.gov.au.

- Climb through a cave on Black Hill near Kyneton.
- Capture a view of the city and Lerderderg Gorge from the top of Mt Gisborne.
- Head for iconic Hanging Rock and hang out with kangaroos, hike up this extinct volcano to discover amazing rock formations or enjoy a family picnic.
- Enjoy wildflowers during spring at Barrm Birrm Nature Reserve in Riddells Creek.

EXPLORE MORE

Check out the Mount Macedon Regional Park at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au.

Find a walk or picnic spot that's just right for you. With more than 30km of walking tracks you can choose from a range of experiences including:

- Take a picnic and walk to Sanatorium Lake to look for koalas on Mount Macedon.
- Enjoy forests, views and rocky surrounds on a walk to the peak of the Camel's Hump.



WILD CREATURE: SUGAR GLIDER

Sugar Gliders are a unique gliding possum that live in the tree canopy along the east coast and northern Australia, including the Macedon Ranges.

These highly social marsupials live in small families of up to

seven adults. Sugar Gliders sleep in tree hollows, with families sleeping together in a bed of soft fresh eucalyptus leaves. Huddled together, they are able to keep warm during cold winter weather.

Sugar Gliders make a number of different calls including a soft dog-like bark to warn of potential predators.

Spending time in nature can help improve self-esteem and mood for children and adults!



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SUGAR GLIDER FAMILY

COLOUR US IN AND CREATE A SHORT STORY OR POEM ABOUT WHAT WE ARE UP TO!

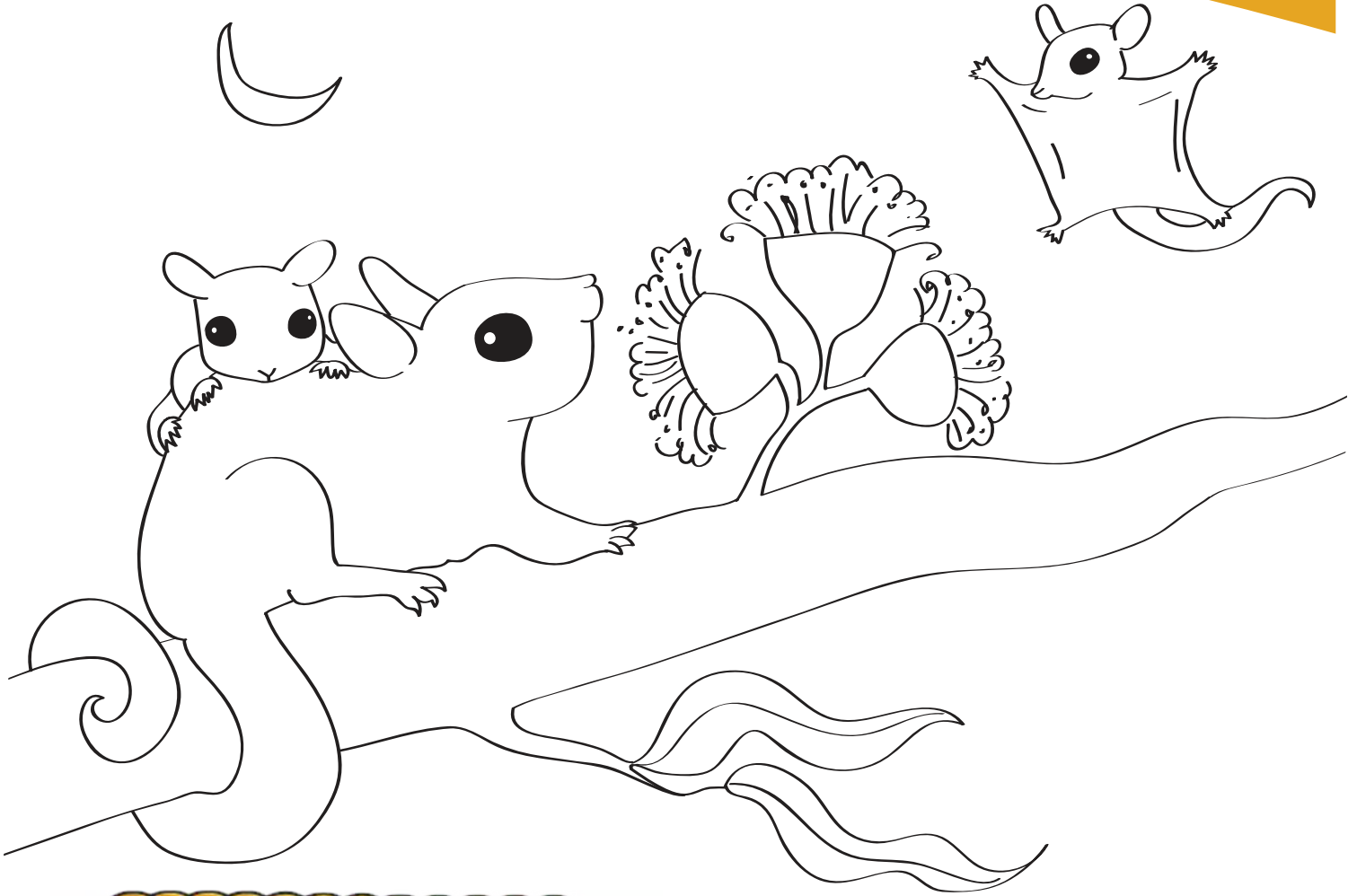




Photo: courtesy Woodend Landcare

LOOKING AFTER NATURE: PLANTING TREES

Tree planting is a great way to look after nature - it creates homes for birds, insects, mammals and other animals. Trees also help keep our air clean. It is an engaging family activity and provides opportunities to do something positive together.

Different jobs, such as digging holes, planting and watering, can be done by a wide age range. It can also be an enjoyable way to share the environmental message that there is an enthusiastic community working together to solve local environmental problems.

WOODEND LANDCARE

Woodend Landcare is a local community environment group that looks after precious natural places and species in Woodend such as Five Mile Creek, Lake Earnshaw and Black Gums. Local families are regularly seen at the group's monthly working bees.



Photo: Kim Selby Photography

TREES FOR MUM

Mother's Day each year has a special family focus for Woodend Landcare. People plant a tree with their Mum or for their Mum. These trees grow as a tribute to mothers and provide homes for families of other species.

You and your family can find out more or get involved with Woodend

Landcare at www.woodendlandcare.wordpress.com.

For other landcare groups in the Macedon Ranges see www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Waste_Environment/Get_Involved/Landcare_Friends_Groups.

To find landcare groups in other regions search www.landcarevic.net.au.

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