

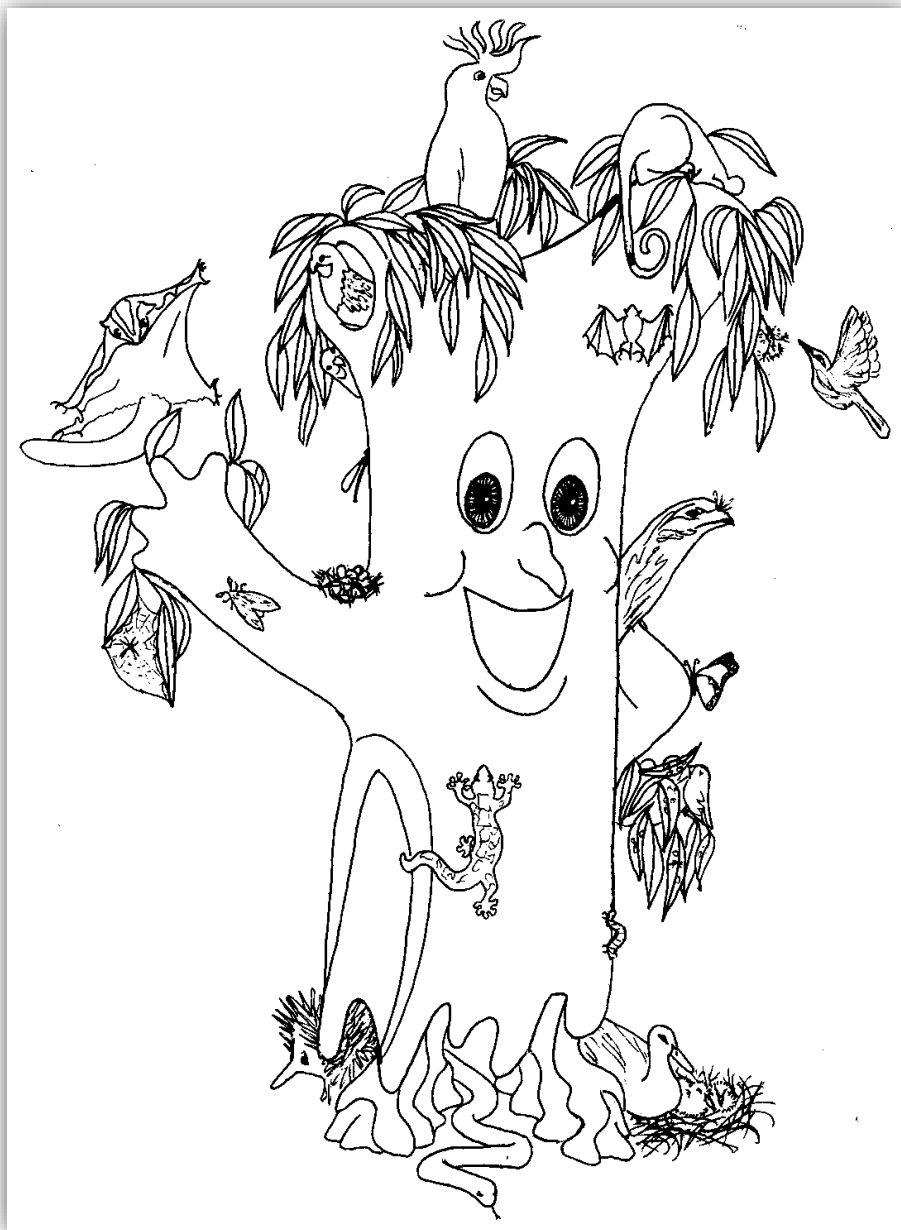
# Habitat, Hollows and Nesting Boxes: Upper Primary School Study Unit

## Background

Habitat can be defined in very basic terms as a place where animals and plants live. It can include both living (different fungi, plants and animals) and non-living (climate, geography etc).

This program will focus on habitat for local animals, also known as fauna. Fauna has three basic requirements for survival; food, water and shelter. Natural hollows play a crucial role in the survival of many animal species as they can contribute to all three basic requirements. However, the most important function of hollows is providing shelter.

Understanding the importance of hollows as shelter and how their availability has changed in the last 150 years will assist students in understanding how this impacts on native wildlife and what may be done to enhance hollow dependant fauna.



# Contents

## 1. Tree Hollows are important!

**Onsite Ranger's time travel talk: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow at Fotheringham Reserve**

Activity 1a: Map of Fotheringham – Identify the geography

Activity 1b: Imagine 400 years ago

- Onsite Ranger's activity: Fotheringham Furries & Featheries

Worksheet 1c: Scales, skin, feathers and fur comparison – possum versus echidna, blue tongue versus magpie

## 2. Habitat logs, leaf litter and freshwater macroinvertebrates

- **Creeping with the creepy crawlies**

Worksheet 2a: Leaf litter invertebrate survey

Worksheet 2b: Log invertebrate survey

- **Water Quality with Freshwater Macroinvertebrates - Observation Activity**

## 3. Healthy habitats

- Habitat Disruption and what happens

Worksheet 4a: Case File Noisy Miner

- Healthy Understory Vegetation

Activity 3a: Identifying the Study Site through an Aerial Photo – Bird's eye view

Worksheet 3b: Healthy Habitat

## 4. Wildlife

- **Onsite Ranger's talk: Birds – beaks and feet**

Activity: Bird beaks

- **Onsite Ranger's walk and talk: Birds survey at Fotheringham**

Worksheet 4a: Bird Survey

## 5. Hollows for Wildlife

- **Onsite Ranger's talk: Wildlife Need Hollows**

Worksheet 5a: Number of Large Trees & Worksheet 5b: Number of fallen logs

Activity: Monitoring Nest boxes

## 6. Nest boxes

Activity: Nest box selection and construction

## 7. Presenting Back and Legacy of Project

Activity: Installation of a Nest box

Activity: Monitoring Nest boxes

## 8. Present back wildlife project at the final session to rangers

**To find out more about this program and how to participate, contact us on 8571 1702.**

**The program is limited to two schools per year and schools must commit to the core modules of the unit and organise transport to the nominated reserve.**