



The Wondertrail

A curious pathway
of discovery

and magic

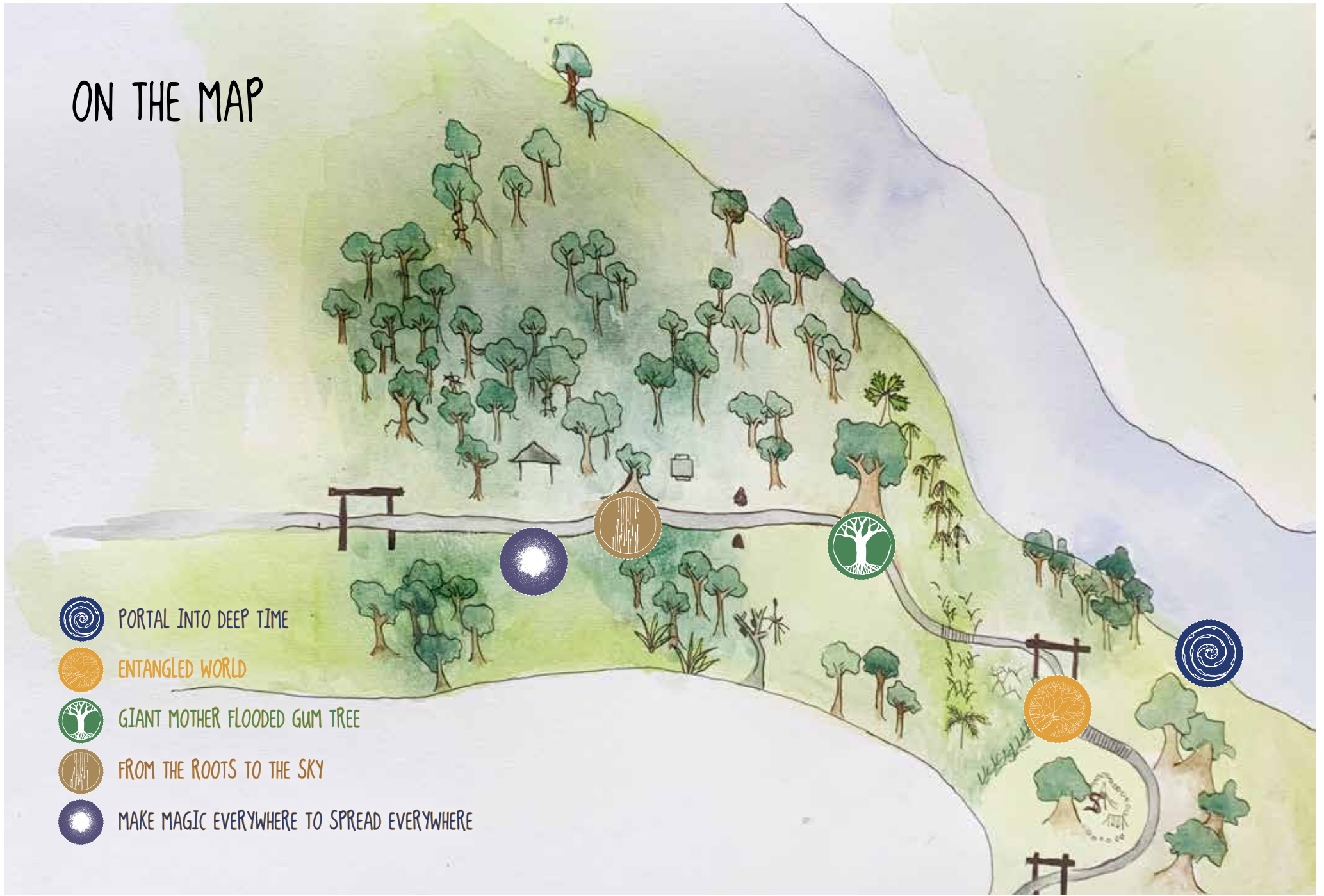
for young

hearts



A trail guide and accompanying
soundtrack to inspire ecological
imagination throughout Heritage
Park and the Maslen Arboretum.

ON THE MAP



PORTAL INTO DEEP TIME



ENTANGLED WORLD



GIANT MOTHER FLOODED GUM TREE



FROM THE ROOTS TO THE SKY



MAKE MAGIC EVERYWHERE TO SPREAD EVERYWHERE



The Wondertrail

Prepare yourself for at least an hour of messy, creative and adventurous fun outdoors.

WE SUGGEST YOU BRING:

- **Paper and crayons/coloured pencils**
- **A device (with internet) dedicated to this experience**


TO START

Find the beginning of the trail at the Heritage park sign on Mill Street, Mullumbimby (near the playground).

Pause for a moment and take a deep breath
Offer thanks to the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung Nation who have been the custodians of this land for many thousands of years.

Find the QR code at the beginning of the trail which will take you to a webpage of stories.

Listen to the story
that matches the symbol at each listening station along the trail and then complete the activity in your guide.

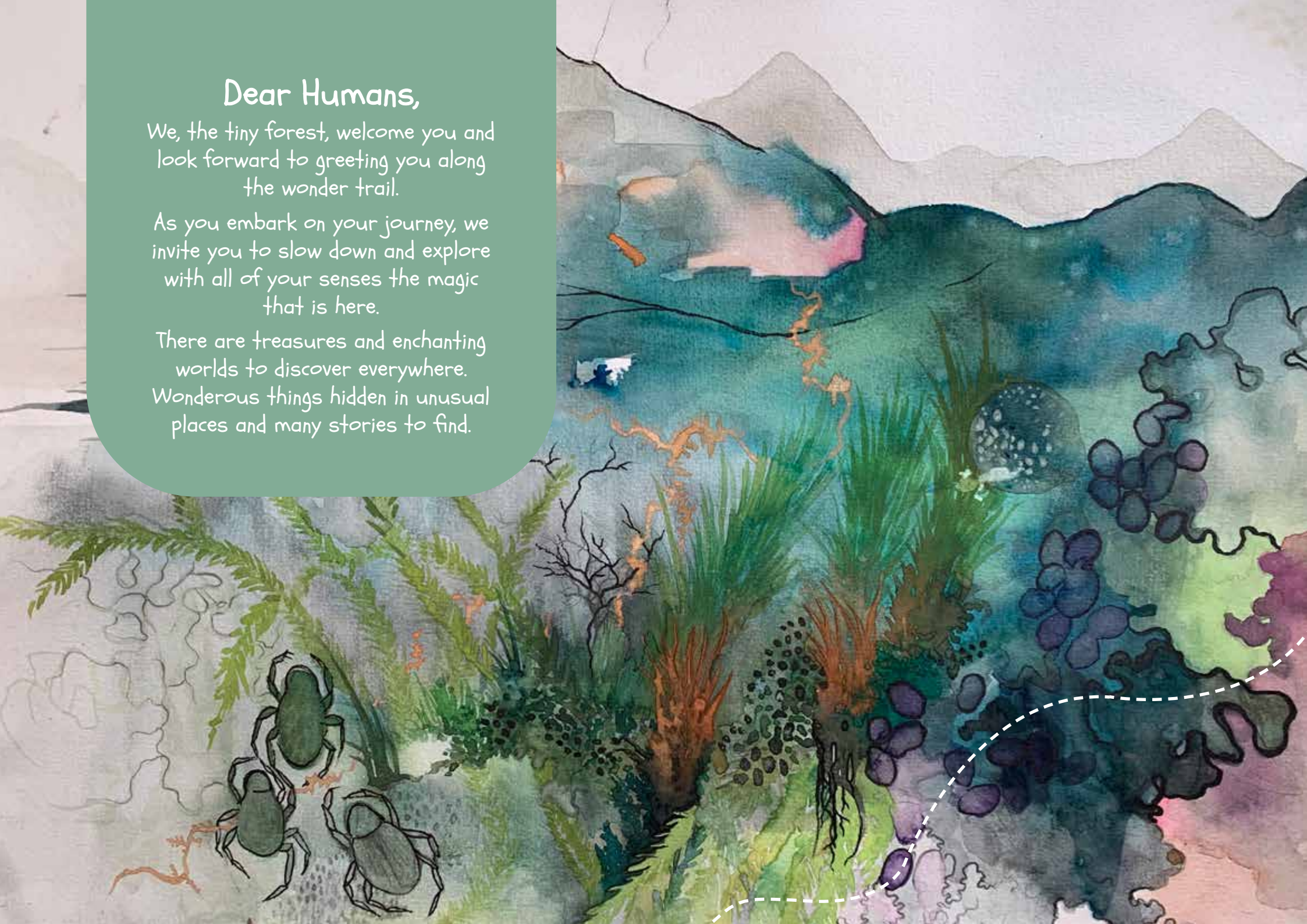


Dear Humans,

We, the tiny forest, welcome you and look forward to greeting you along the wonder trail.

As you embark on your journey, we invite you to slow down and explore with all of your senses the magic that is here.

There are treasures and enchanting worlds to discover everywhere. Wondrous things hidden in unusual places and many stories to find.





PORTAL INTO DEEP TIME

Find a **comfortable spot** to sit on the **river bank**. Watch the **water flow to the sea** as you listen to the **river's story**.

ACTIVITY

CREATE A THANK YOU GIFT

Everything in this tiny forest is giving you gifts. Gifts of beautiful smells, gentle breezes, cooling shade, warming sunshine, sweet songs, soft surfaces to lie on, warm rocks to sit on, water to paddle in.

Spend some time making a special thank you gift from the natural elements around you. Something never seen before, created by your unique human hands and imagination.

Thank you river • Thank you sun • Thank you wind
Thank you trees • Thank you water • Thank you birds
Thank you grass • Thank you flowers • Thank you clouds...

Perhaps you could make

A pattern arranged with brightly coloured leaves

A castle for small creatures

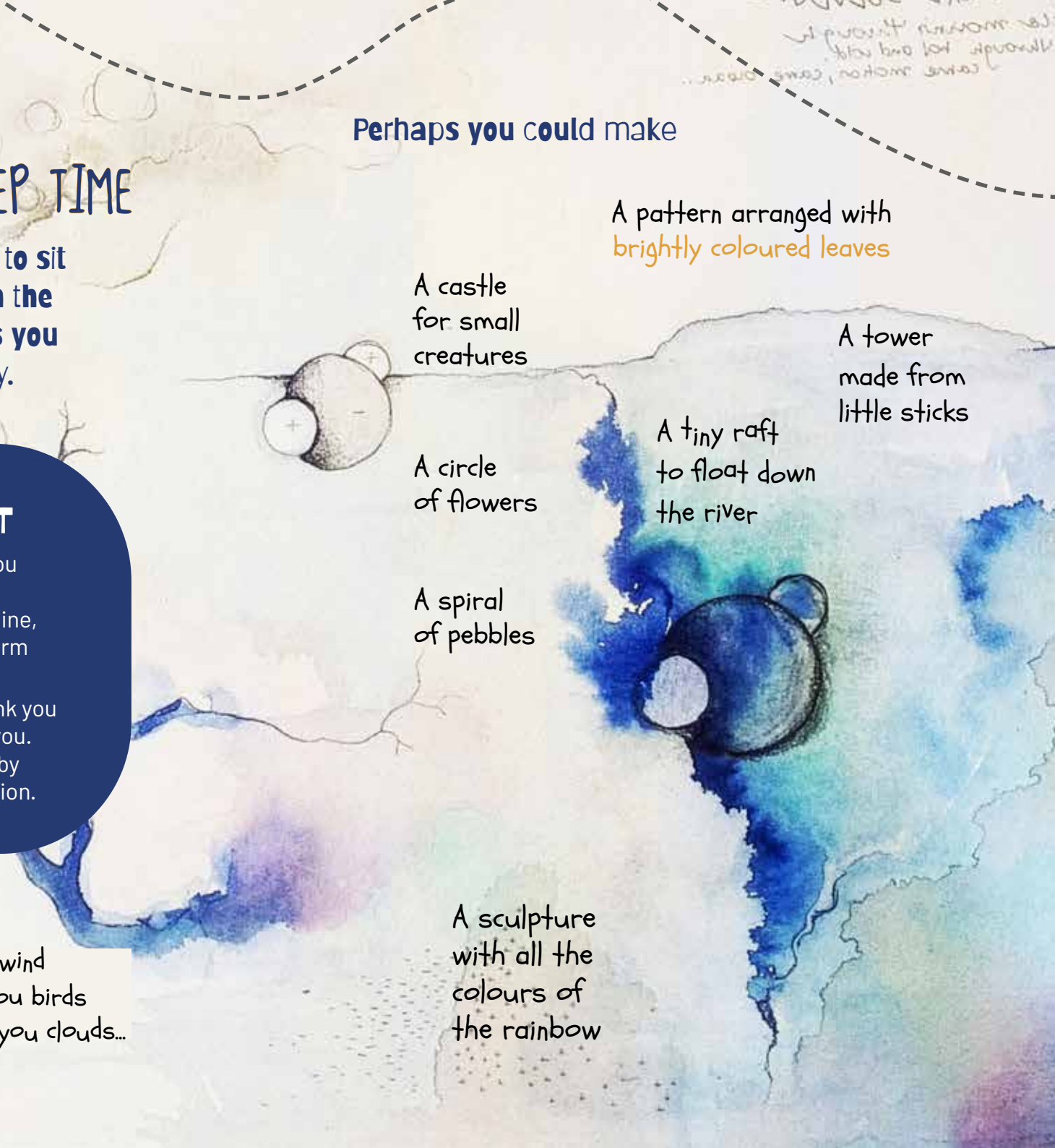
A tower made from little sticks

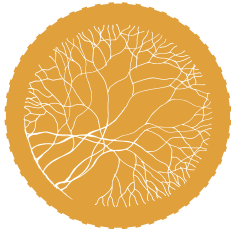
A circle of flowers

A tiny raft to float down the river

A spiral of pebbles

A sculpture with all the colours of the rainbow





ENTANGLED WORLD

Sit on the benches under the archway entrance to the Maslen Arboretum and listen to the story from the animals.

See what happens if you copy one of the calls you heard...

Was there an unusual call that you'd never heard before, or one you enjoyed listening to?

Does anyone reply back to you?

ACTIVITY

LISTENING DEEPLY

Animals have very powerful hearing and can hear many things that humans can't.

Can you develop your **listening** powers and become a sound detective?

Find a comfortable place to sit by yourself inside the Maslen Arboretum, ask your adult to set a timer for 2 minutes. In this time close your eyes and listen closely for as many different animal sounds as you can.





GIANT MOTHER FLOODED GUM TREE

Find a **spot on the grass**
where you can sit and look
into **the trees**, listen to **the**
Flooded Gum's story.

Which canopy
tree makes the
most shade?

Which tree
is the
tallest?

Can
you find a
treasure on the
forest floor?

Can you find a
tree or a shrub
exactly the same
height as you in the
understory?

ACTIVITY

EXPLORE THE TREES

There are over 300 different species of trees in the Maslen Arboretum, all different shapes, sizes and colours.

A happy forest has many layers. There are tall trees called emergent trees, there is a canopy layer, an understorey layer and a forest floor.

Spend some time exploring the different layers of this tiny forest.





ACTIVITY

COLLECT LEAVES

As you wander through the trees, make a collection of different leaves you find on the forest floor.

Can you find:

- A tiny leaf • A huge leaf
- A leaf for every colour of the rainbow
- Leaves with curvy edges, jagged edges and smooth edges
- Leaves with thick veins that branch out
- Leaves with veins all going in one direction

Head over to the picnic table and put the leaves you have collected on the table.

LEAF PRINTS

Cover your favourite leaves with this page in the book, or another sheet of paper, and rub a coloured pencil or crayon over the top to make leaf prints.

ACTIVITY

← YOUR SPACE →



FROM THE ROOTS TO THE SKY

Sit yourself on the giant roots of the blue fig and listen to its story. Search for a tiny animal amongst the roots of a tree in the leaf litter. When you find one, watch it for a while and follow its path.

Where is it going?

What do think it eats and drinks?

What might it's
tongue look like?

Who would want to eat it?
Birds? Lizards? Echidnas?

Can you find a spot it might
hide from its predators?

Can you find a spot it would
make its perfect little home?

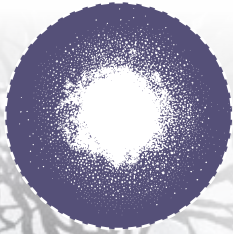
ACTIVITY

DRAWING

Imagine the life of your tiny animal and draw a picture of its world as though you were looking through its eyes.

YOUR SPACE





MAKE MAGIC EVERYWHERE TO SPREAD EVERYWHERE

**Listen to the fungi story
as you search the tiny
forest for mushrooms.**

ACTIVITY

A MUSHROOM HUNT

**Try and find as many different
mushrooms as you can in the understory.**

Did you know that a mushroom is only the visible part of a fungus? Most of it lies hidden underground as tiny threads called mycelium. These threads weave through the soil, carrying water and nutrients to plants and helping them share messages with one another.

ACTIVITY

SEND A MESSAGE

In a forest, every living thing is woven together, constantly sending and receiving messages through a giant living web.

Write, draw, or tell a mushroom a message for the forest and know it will be spread far and wide.

YOUR SPACE



Stories move everywhere riding on spores, seeds, and grains of pollen, carried by the wind and water, echoed in the calls of animals, and they also travel with you as you wander through the tiny forest.

CREATURE CHECKLIST

As you explore the wonder trail today, and in days to come, practise your noticing skills and also think about who might be noticing you.

Circle the names of these creatures when you encounter them and say a kind hello.

CAN YOU FIND THESE BIRDS?

1. Azure kingfisher
2. Willy wagtail
3. Noisy miner
4. Pied currawong



CAN YOU FIND THESE REPTILES?

5. Eastern water dragon
6. Eastern water skink



**** Some of these mammals are nocturnal and only come out at night. So maybe visit the park after dark one time?**

CAN YOU FIND THESE INSECTS?

7. Butterflies
8. Moths
9. Dragonflies
10. Beetles
11. Native bees



CAN YOU FIND THESE MAMMALS? (or perhaps traces of where they have been?)

12. A Rakali (native water rat)
13. A Grey headed flying fox
14. A Sugar glider
15. Common ring tailed possum



There must be a red eyed tree frog somewhere in this tiny forest...



Thank you for visiting and playing and
adding your special song to the tiny forest.
We are richer from your visit.

Come again and play often, come in the rain, the
sunshine, come when there are flowers everywhere,
when there are fruits and flocks of birds,
come at night and early in the morning.

The tiny forest is always changing and
there are always new adventures and gifts.
We will be waiting for you.

This book was created on Arakwal Country, in the Byron Shire. We honour and pay respect to the Arakwal people, Elders past and present—the first storytellers of this land—whose knowledge, care, and connection continue to guide the spirit of this place. We also acknowledge the Minjungbal people to the north, the Widjabal people to the west, and the wider Bundjalung peoples whose lands, waters, and stories are woven through this region.

CREDITS

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