

RATIONALE
Bot Goss 1: Aussie Survivors
Category A: Free Self-guided activity

- a free, A5 Self-Guide booklet taking you along the Main Path
- Subliminal science! Learn about how Australian plants have adapted to different conditions while having fun and honing your observation and logical skills.
- supported by teacher notes with suggested answers, explanations and ideas for extension work

What is it?

This free Self-Guide, Main Path walk introduces the visitor to some of the adaptations of Australian plants to their different conditions. The walk takes about one hour, and is supported by teacher notes.

The “look” of the A5 student booklet is that of a Victorian era newspaper, with an intentionally “busy” feel – varied font styles and sizes and a lot of information, questions and comments crammed into each page. Users are intended to enjoy their experience, so the overall tone is frivolous and racy. Under this, however, is a serious scientific message – that of plant adaptations in different habitats.

To facilitate this “friendly” feel, questions are open-ended, requiring an extended response. The requirement for written answers is minimal. The questions are intended to provoke thought rather than simply be “busy work”. Many of the suggested investigations and activities are intended to be carried out after the visit.

The teacher notes consist of an A4 booklet with the student A5 booklet embedded. Extra information, suggested answers and investigative activities are closely linked to the relevant section of the student booklet because of this design.

Who’s it for?

- Years 6-12+
- younger students will need help
- many adults will also enjoy this program
- for school groups with a focus on Australian plant adaptations
- for school groups with no specific focus
- or groups and individuals wanting a self-guided, general introduction to the Gardens
- also suitable as a School Holiday Program

Why do it?

- to give your visit a focus
- allows student-directed learning rather than teacher-directed learning
- to learn about adaptations of some Australian plants in a fun way
- it’s fun, entertaining, challenging, with subliminal botanical messages
- written in an open-ended question style that doesn’t require a “correct” response
- booklet designed to take home or back to school to provide further challenges to the participant and others
- curriculum links: students will practise many skills, including observation, description, making comparisons, recording, critical analysis, cooperative group activities and word play

What do you get?

- a Self-Guide booklet: exciting, Victorian era, newspaper-style A5 booklet. Download for your students
- supported by A4 teacher notes (with student booklet embedded). Download.

When?

- about 60 mins
- single booklet available for individual visitors: 9.30 am – 4.30 pm daily from the Visitor Centre

Where?

- Main Path

How Much?

- Nil

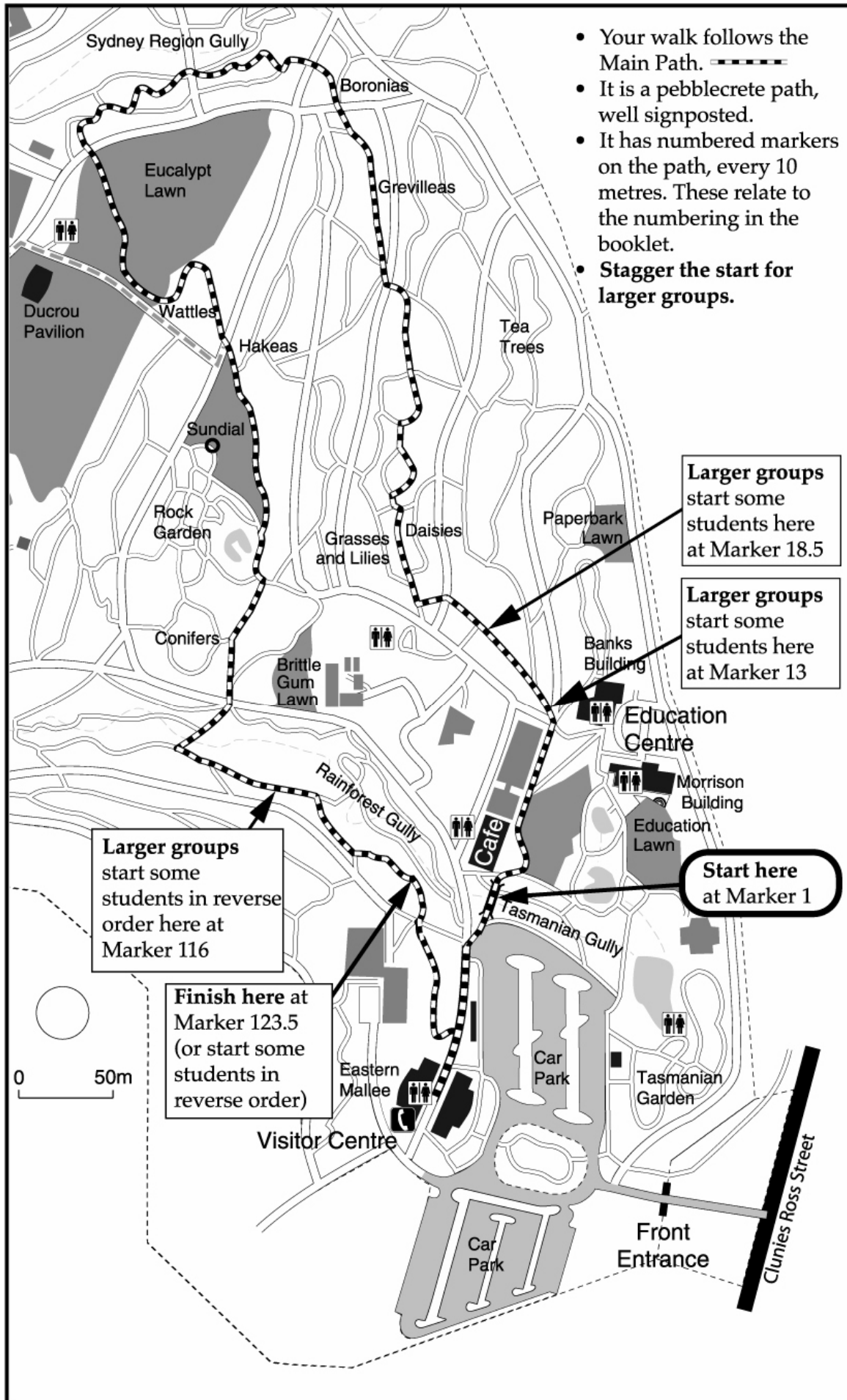
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WHAT TO DO ON THE DAY

- Provide each student with a copy of the A5 *Aussie Survivors* booklet and a pencil.
- Provide each group leader with a copy of the A4 Teacher Notes. These contain extra information, suggested answers and extension activities. Please read the Teacher Notes before your visit and spend a little time introducing the activity to students before they come to the Gardens.
- Allow about one hour. Synchronise your watches! Organise a finishing time and place with your students before you start.
- This walk follows the Main Path. See map.
- Students should be divided into groups of no more than four as larger groups find it difficult to focus on smaller items. Students can follow the course without teacher support if preferred.
- In the case of larger groups, it is advised that you organise your group in one or more of the following ways:
 - Stagger the start, sending groups off at 5 minute intervals.
 - Stagger the start by getting groups of students to start at different markers (see map for suggestions). Finish with the ones you missed.
 - As the walk is not sequential, send some groups to walk the course in reverse order (see map).
 - Use a variety of programs: *Australian Plants and People* and *Botanical Brainteasers* are alternative Main Path options.
- Please reinforce the rules:



Aussie Survivors _suggested start alternatives



- Your walk follows the Main Path. - - - - -
- It is a pebblecrete path, well signposted.
- It has numbered markers on the path, every 10 metres. These relate to the numbering in the booklet.
- **Stagger the start for larger groups.**

Larger groups start some students here at Marker 18.5

Larger groups start some students here at Marker 13

Larger groups start some students in reverse order here at Marker 116

Finish here at Marker 123.5 (or start some students in reverse order)

Start here at Marker 1