

mosaic descriptions

1 PURPLE SWAMP HEN MOSAIC

Designed and made by students of Newport Primary School.
 Bird Facts: Swamp hen eggs are creamy-brown with purple-brown spots laid in nests of reeds. The hens rarely swim, but use their feet to eat grass, aquatic plants and molluscs.
 Surrounding Species: Fragrant Saltbush (*Rhagodia parabolica*), Coast Saltbush (*Atriplex cineria*), Wallaby Grass (*Danthonia* spp).
 Point of Interest: Each year 5000 trees, shrubs and grasses are planted in the Newport Lakes park. The Ranger works from a plan to know what local species to plant and where. All these seedlings are watered by hand until they establish - that's a lot of work and only one of the Ranger's tasks. The Friends of Newport Lakes hold two planting days on the third Sunday of May and October. Please join us at 11 AM.

8 BLACK SWAN MOSAIC

Designed and made by students of the Bayside Secondary College, Millers Road, Altona.
 Bird Facts: Swans mate for life and make their grass and reed nests on the island in the middle of the Lakes. Swan eggs are green. Swans eat aquatic plants and animals and a swan call sounds like a trumpet.
 Surrounding Species: Black Wattle (*Acacia Mearnsii*), Coast Saltbush (*Atriplex cineria*), River She-Oak (*Allocasuarina cunninghamiana*).
 Point of Interest: One of greatest challenges for the visitors, local residents, Friends and the Council is the difficulty in combining different uses of the park. In order for the lakes area to provide a sanctuary for waterbirds, dogs are not allowed in the North and South Lakes or Amphitheatre. However dogs are allowed, off-lead in the western half of the park.

2 BELL FROG MOSAIC

Designed and made by students of Bayside Secondary College, Millers Road, Altona.
 Frog Facts: The Southern Bell Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) can change from green to brown in 10 minutes, depending on environmental conditions.
 Surrounding Species: Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), She-Oak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*), Tussock Grass (*Poa labillardieri*)
 Point of Interest: The Amphitheatre is not a natural feature but the shape of the former bluestone quarry. On wet days there is a waterfall over the side of the cliff. The park's designer laid pipes to collect storm water from the western edge of the park to form this feature. In the centre of the Amphitheatre, partially hidden by vegetation, you'll see a metal box. This is the bore

that draws up water from 120 metres underground to supply the Lakes and keep them topped up. When you cross the stepping-stones, look for metal poles on either side. The Ranger uses these as a gauge to turn the bore on or off overnight.

7 NEW HOLLAND HONEY EATER & FAIRY WREN MOSAIC

Designed and made by students of the Spotswood Primary School.
 Bird Facts: These honey eaters are a common sight in this park; listen for their sharp, shrill call and watch for their acrobatic flight displays. They eat insects and nectar and nest in cup-shaped nests 1-2 metres off the ground.
 Wrens live in cooperative family groups of females, young and one bright blue male in dome-shaped nests in shrubs or grass near the ground. The young males and the adult females are both brown. Listen for their pretty, reeling song.
 Surrounding Species: Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*), Lightwood Wattle (*Acacia implexa*), Ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*).
 Point of Interest: The cliffs form the main feature of this forested trail, however they are not a natural feature but were formed as the area was quarried for bluestone between 1885 and 1968. Up to 300 tradespeople were employed here. The stone provided ballast for ships returning to Europe and building material in Melbourne. Locally, stone was used in roads, gutters, the Williamstown sea wall and a freezing plant (demolished).

4 RAINBOW LORIKEET MOSAIC

Designed and made by students of the Spotswood Primary School.
 Bird Facts: This is the largest, brightest and noisiest of the Lorikeets; they feed in chattering, squabbling groups in the tops of blossom-laden trees. They have hairy tongues to collect nectar from blossom. They nest in tree holes so they can only use old trees for their homes.
 Surrounding Species: Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*), Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) and Greybox (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*).
 Point of Interest: Virtually all land between here and South Australia was formed in volcanic eruptions four and a half million years ago. Eruptions occurred as recently as four thousand years ago. The lava cooled to form a dense rock called Basalt, what we call Bluestone. Over this a thin, clay soil slowly accumulated.
 For thousands of years this area was flat, grassland scattered with bluestone. These were Bunjil or Eagle Clan lands, the park was the site of an ancient hill used by the local tribes. You might find shells scattered indicating a higher sea level than today or middens left from foraging for food.

3 MAGPIE MOSAIC

Designed by Linda Cottrell and made by participants at workshops held at the South Kingsville Community Centre and the Newport Lakes Native Nursery.
 Bird Facts: Their 'caroling' singing can be heard at dawn and dusk, however in breeding season they may swoop and attack. Magpies eat insects, worms, carrion and even snake. They make untidy nests of sticks in the forks of trees between 5-20 metres off the ground.
 Surrounding Species: River She-Oak (*Allocasuarina cunninghamiana*), Tree Violet (*Hymenantha dentata*), Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*)
 Point of Interest: When you emerge from this young forest, you'll see two contrasting areas. To your right there is an undeveloped area and your left the Arboretum. The area to the right, once a quarry, was used as a tip until the end of the 1980's. Since then, it was capped with clay but its final use within the park is still to be decided. The Arboretum (as well as Pavey's Park beside the car park) was also a quarry and the first area to be redeveloped in the 1970's by Community Workers. An Arboretum is like a Botanical Garden and contains trees from other countries.

6 DARTER MOSAIC

Designed and made by students of Newport Primary School.
 Bird Facts: Darters sound like a 'winding clock with a broken spring'. They dive for fish and then sit for long periods on trees, usually dead ones, near the water. They hold their wings open to dry their feathers.
 Surrounding Species: Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*)
 Point of Interest: If you go back to the lakeside and look to your right you'll see a group of dead trees. These are a favourite perch for Darters. The park designer purposely 'planted' these trees for birds as well as fitting the stepping-stones. The stepping stones were made possible by partially raising the adjacent lake bed as a safety measure (if you look either side you can see how shallow the water is). The park's cliffs are sculpted as another safety measure.

5 CRAKE'S CORNER MOSAIC

Designed and made by students of Bayside Secondary College, Millers Road, Altona
 Bird Fact: Crakes are shy birds that are often difficult to see before they disappear into the reeds. They feed on aquatic insects and plants and nest at the base of grass tussocks in the water.
 Surrounding Species: Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Wirilda Wattle (*Acacia retinoides*).
 Point of Interest: Apart from the stepping-stones, the lakeside area in front of you is a popular bird feeding spot. Try feeding the birds on land rather than in the water because the nutrients from their droppings and uneaten food help to create banks of algae in the summer. These are both unattractive and take oxygen from the water.



- PATH 1
- PATH 2
- PATH 3
- · - · - PATH 4

- DOGS PROHIBITED
- DOGS PERMITTED OFF LEASH