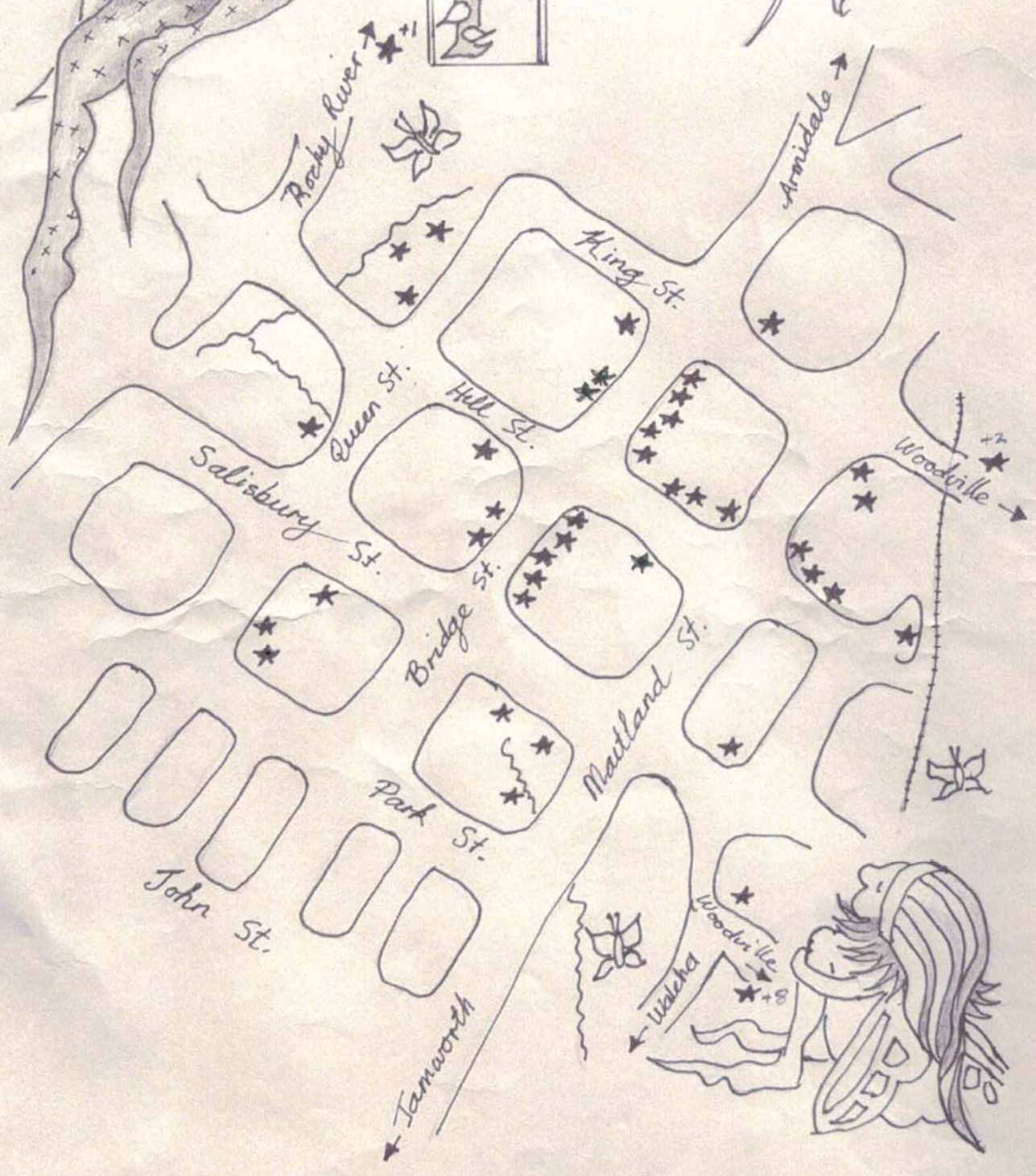




# WIRALLA FAIRY MAP



# *The Flying Rider Races*

By Sophie Masson

All the fairies in town were excited. Today was a big day. The famous Flying Rider Races were about to start! The Fairy Council of Australia had decided the Races would be held in Uralla that year. While everything was quiet as the humans stayed home, the local fairy families had been busy getting ready.

Riders had been chosen and the very best dragonflies and butterflies selected for training. This year, because the rain had come at last and turned everything so green and flowery, there were lots and lots of fabulous butterflies and dragonflies to choose from! And of course there were lots of riders keen to take part.

Fairy doors were decorated, fairy doorsteps swept, fairy tailors had made wonderful outfits for the Riders, fairy saddlers had made splendid saddles for the butterfly and dragonfly teams, and fairy children had made lots of colourful bunting to welcome the visitors from far away. Everyone knew it was going to be the best Flying Rider Races ever!

The races were about to start. It was the turn of the Junior Butterfly Riders first. They all lined up, looking amazing in their shimmering outfits and cobweb lace Invisibility Cloaks, while their butterflies flapped delicate wings. Dandelion's sister Fernseed was one of the Riders, and Thistledown's uncle had trained the butterfly she rode on, so all their friends were cheering like mad as the race started. And guess what--Fernseed came first in her age group! Didn't everyone yell and throw their fairy caps in the air! It was almost loud enough to be heard by the humans who looked puzzled and said, 'Wow, aren't there a lot of butterflies around today!'

Next came the turn of the Junior Dragonfly Riders. Pinch and Patch's mum owned the biggest dragonfly stable in the region. How they and all their friends cheered when one of their favourite dragonflies broke the record for speed! And the humans looked even more puzzled and said, 'I don't think I've ever spotted so many dragonflies in one place!'

But of course they couldn't spot the Riders—because of the Invisibility Cloaks!

The Open Butterfly and Open Dragonfly Races were about to start when suddenly out of the sky came a flock of hungry crows! They had heard about the crowds of butterflies and dragonflies gathered for the races and rather fancied a tasty snack or two of dragonfly steak with butterfly sauce.

But they didn't know about the Riders—or about fairy children, and those pesky crows soon got much more than they bargained for as all the fairy children of Uralla, led by Fernseed, rose up into the air to chase them off, yelling and shouting so the birds were almost deafened. Birds have much better hearing than humans, you see.

Hurrah! shouted everyone as the crows, missing a few tail feathers, flew away as fast and as far as they could. Hurrah for the fearless fairy children of Uralla, who saved the big day!



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*Also to Uralla Visitor Information Centre for printing.*

*And all the generous people who donated money to help the project prosper.*

Some fairy doors are off the map. Look in these places:

- ★ Gostwyck Road
- ★ Somewhere else
- ★ King Street over the railway line
- ★ And maybe another place



*If you would like to make a donation to the project visit Uralla Fairies on GoFundMe, or call at the bookshop.*