

Below is a beautiful reflective ephemeral art story shared by Eden's mum Jacinda. When shared with Shona *'Great to see imagination and resources being utilised in everyday life to bring so much communal enjoyment!'*

On the 31st of January, as a family, we travelled to Uralla, for Matt to compete in a wood chopping competition. We really enjoy attending, and watching the chop, however, little people can get very bored and restless after a while. It was mid-afternoon and Eden was definitely at the stage where he had seen enough wood chopping for the day! I looked around for something he could do, we were sitting beneath some beautiful shade trees, and there were several sticks and twigs on the ground around us, I collected a small handful and started pressing them into the ground in a tee pee shape. Interest had already been taken by little eyes with 'what are you doing mum?' and 'what's that for mum?'. I personally didn't know what I was making as the attention was taken away from boredom. As it was taking shape, I told Eden and Kira that it was a fairy house, for the fairies that lived in the shade trees! This was exciting, and another child had now joined in. We collected twigs with leaves attached and draped them over the tee pee! Wow, it was exciting to look inside the opening at the front! Eden asked 'where do the fairy's sleep?' I told him he would have to find something and make them something to sleep on. He looked around for a moment, and picked up a small wood chip from the wood choppers pile of chips, and carefully placed it inside, peeking inside he noticed it would also need a pillow so he ran over and found a smaller wood chip, and placed it on top of his fairy bed! There were a few more children joining in on the curiosity, each taking a turn to look inside. The fairy house kept growing, it had a path coming out the door made out of wood chips, each child running off and choosing chips and placing them to continue the path. I asked them where the path was going to. Nobody really knew. I looked around me, there were very little sticks remaining, but I saw the big pile of wood chips! I got up and grabbed a handful of wood chips and starting building a structure at the end of the path, out of the chips. Leaning them on to each other, I created a very quick fairy house, with an opening at the front of course! There were many questions, 'What are you making?', 'what is that for?', 'how come it's different then the last fairy house?' I let their imaginations get to work and told them they had to make another path from this fairy house, and make another fairy house at the end of that path! After around an hour I had gone from one very bored little boy, to having 10 - 12 children very busily making a fairy village, ages ranging from 2 -10 years. There were shops for the fairies, some of the huts had chimneys, someone used an empty milkshake container and they poked sticks into it, and that was a ride for the fairies like the show rides we can go on (which could be seen in the distance), some houses had a fence around them, the ideas were endless. The children got many compliments from the axe men, spectators and parents. What a great afternoon we all had creating the fairy houses :)