2019 Education Program for Years PP to 6

Getting students Nearer to Nature

The Nearer to Nature Schools program provides opportunities for students of all ages to take part in hands-on, experiential learning in the natural environment. The excursions build concepts, skills, values and the ability to make environmentally responsible decisions. All excursions are linked to the Western Australian Curriculum.

For teachers and students we offer:

- excursions or camp activities at a variety of locations across the Perth metropolitan area and Dwellingup
- incursions at your school
- educational resources to use in the classroom
- professional learning for educators

Outcomes of Nearer to Nature Schools programs support the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions objective to ensure that the nature of Western Australia is conserved for its intrinsic values and to sustain and enrich people's lives.

More information on what is on offer and available resources is located at dbca.wa.gov.au/nearertonature

Bookings and enquiries

Phone: 9295 2244
Email: n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au
Web: dbca.wa.gov.au/nearertonature
Make a booking
1. Visit the website for more information on planning your excursion or incursion.
   dbca.wa.gov.au/neareretonature
2. Complete an online booking request or contact the Nearer to Nature Booking Officer
   Email: n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au
   Phone: 9295 2244 (Mon – Fri 8.30 to 4.30)
3. The Booking Officer will respond to your request via email.
4. Please check the enquiry notification email to ensure your booking details are correct.
   All changes must be requested in writing.

Costs
Excursions: $16 per student for a four-hour program, with the minimum charge being for a
   group of 20 students. The largest class size is 30 students. multiple groups can be accomodated.
Incursions: Perth metropolitan area, one class (up to 30 students) is $200 per hour or part
   thereof, second class (on the same day), $180 per hour or part thereof.
Short programs: prices vary according to program. See details with each program description.
   All prices include GST.

Timing
Full day excursions run from 10am – 2pm, including 30 minutes for morning tea and lunch.
   Start and finish times can be adjusted to your needs, please discuss with the booking officer
   when making a booking.

Payment
Credit card payment is preferred. Cheques are to be made payable to Department of Biodiversity,
   Conservation and Attractions.
Charges for programs will be made on a per student basis dependent upon the number of
   students booked, however we require a minimum payment for 20 students. Maximum class size
   is 30 students. Multiple classes can be accommodated.

Cancellations and changes to bookings
Please confirm any cancellation in writing at least one week before your visit; otherwise we apply
   a cancellation fee (note, cancellation fees do not apply when a severe weather warning is issued).
   Once confirmed, your booking can be changed (subject to availability) up to two further times.
   After that an administration fee of $50 will be charged.

Adapting to suit your needs
Programs can be adapted for Education Support Units, English as an Additional Language and
   Dialect, River Rangers cadets and home school groups.
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Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perth Hills Discovery Centre</td>
<td>PHDC</td>
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<tr>
<td>380 Allen Road, Mundaring 6073</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canning River Eco Education Centre</td>
<td>CREEC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cnr Kent St and Queens Park Rd, Wilson 6107</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Discovery Centre</td>
<td>FDC</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Acacia Rd, Dwellingup 6213</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henderson Environmental Centre</td>
<td>HEC</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of Groat St, North Beach 6020</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Point Walter Reserve</td>
<td>PW</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Honour Ave, Bicton 6157</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside Gardens</td>
<td>RG</td>
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<td>118 Milne St, Bayswater 6053</td>
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Moodjitch binar nyorps and yorgas

As an Indigenous child for the day, students will be introduced to the family structure of Aboriginal people and the traditional use of land across the seasons. Students will experience Aboriginal culture through hunting and gathering, as well as traditional singing, dancing, face painting and jewellery making. By appreciating the importance of taking only what is needed, students will see Aboriginal culture is sustainability in practice.

Science, HASS, Priorities – A&TSI, Sust
Venue: PHDC, FDC

Wildlife wonders

Go on a bushland adventure hunting for evidence of our native animals and explore the different places they call home. Learn about some of the unique features that they use to help them survive in the bushland and get an up close experience with an animal encounter. Play the habitat game and find out what you can do to help keep the bushland healthy for our local wildlife.

Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust
Venue: PHDC
Years PP to 2

Bush detective (1.5 hours)

Investigating local animals and places

Many of our native animals are very secretive and can be difficult to find! Students use puzzles and examples of animal evidence such as skulls, feathers and nests to investigate what lives in and around our bushland and wetland areas. Students apply their detective skills on a nature walk and record their observations.

$7.70 per student 1.5 hours

Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust

Venue: PHDC, CREEC

Years 3 to 6

Koolangars, corroborees and kaleeps

An excursion which takes students on a Nyoongar cultural journey through traditional language, ceremony, hunting and fishing. By role-playing a day in the life of a traditional Aboriginal person, students will learn how Aboriginal people survived using natural resources sustainably. Through traditional land management, Nyoongar people took only what they needed while taking responsibility for shaping the environment so it provided for the future.

Science, HASS, Priorities – A&TSI, Sust

Venue: PHDC
Habitat heroes

Many species of our unique native animals are in a struggle for survival and may be on the brink of extinction. This excursion explores, through a habitat game, how habitats sustain those species and what needs to be done to counter introduced predators. We examine how science is monitoring our native animals to see if we can bring them ‘back from the brink’. Students also get to meet some of our fantastic fauna in an animal encounter.

The Western Shield action pack is available to download online.

Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust
Venue: PHDC

Living with fire

Bushfires are a natural part of our environment. They can have a major impact on our communities and the environment but are also important in maintaining biodiversity. In this program students learn about the impacts of bushfires and how we can respond to them and mitigate their effects. Students learn when, where and why bushfires occur and the impact they have on our native plants, animals and human communities. Students are introduced to methods of bushfire prevention and learn the importance of being prepared. The excursion includes hands-on experience with a range of firefighting tools and equipment.

Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust, A&TSI
Venue: PHDC, FDC
Incredible invertebrates (1.5 hours)

Students explore, collect and examine invertebrates. The role of body parts will be discussed and how their features are related to habitat. We explore different habitats, relationships with other animals and plants, and why invertebrates are important for a healthy environment.

$7.70 per student 1.5 hours

Science, Priorities – Sust

Venue: PHDC, HEC

Dolphin defenders – how you can make a difference

Our rivers and estuaries are home to a diverse range of organisms, including our iconic dolphins. Students explore river food chains and consider the dolphin’s role in the ecosystem. By testing water quality and examining other elements of the environment, students assess if the river is a healthy environment for dolphins and consider how negative impacts can be minimised in the future.

Science, Priorities – Sust

Venue: PW, RG or an approved river site close to your school
Nearer to Nature Discovery Day

Bring the whole school, multiple classes or year levels to a day of discovery in the forest. Components of the activities featured in this brochure can be combined to suit your learning area.

Venue: PHDC, FDC

Please note, cost may vary depending on the activities chosen.

Incursions

Totem yarning – Years 3 to 6

Discover how Indigenous Australians connected to the environment and practised sustainable use of resources. Learn about totems and how they are important for the survival of species.

The river is our home – Years PP to 2

How lucky are we to have dolphins that call our river home? Learn all about these dolphins, how to identify them by name and recognise behaviours. Hear the story of Daniel, a boy with an enquiring mind, and learn what you can do to keep our rivers healthy.

Photo – Chandra Salgado Kent
**Incursions**

**Junior Dolphin Watch - Years 3 to 6**

Junior Dolphin Watch gives young people an opportunity to be involved in citizen science by monitoring dolphins in Western Australia. This incursion provides an introduction to Dolphin Watch techniques and engages students in critical thinking activities that explore the science, impacts, adaptations and actions relating to the dolphins living specifically within the Swan Canning Riverpark.

![Junior Dolphin Watch](image)

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**Flames, fuels and forests - Years 3 to 6**

**Bushfire in our landscape**

Bushfires are a natural part of our environment. Students learn when, where and why bushfires occur and the impact they have on our native plants, animals and human communities. Students are introduced to methods of bushfire prevention and learn the importance of being prepared. The incursion includes a hands-on assessment of the school buildings for fire preparedness.

**Saving threatened species - Years 3 to 6**

The Gilbert’s potoroo, numbat or woylie may not be household names, but they are among the most threatened mammals on our planet. Students will explore the features of our native fauna and examine why they are under threat. They will then look at how Western Shield is bringing them back from the brink of extinction and use some of the tools scientists use to monitor fauna populations; including cage traps, hair tubes and measuring equipment.

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![Western Shield](image)
Animal encounters

Enjoy a close-up encounter with some of our unique native animals. Learn about their special features and how these help them survive in the Western Australian environment. Choose from the following: marsupials, reptiles, raptors, or a mix of animals.

Venues: PHDC $8.80 (cost may vary according to animals provided)
Duration: 1 hour

Sense-ational trail

Students engage sensory skills as they explore the forest using blindfolds along a 200m rope walk trail.

Venues: PHDC $7.70
Duration: 1 hour
**Short Programs**

**Eco walks**

Enjoy guided ecology walks through the forest, with the theme tailored to suit your needs. The duration can be varied and cost depends on your requirements.

Venues: PHDC $7.70, FDC $7.70, or if booking with another program $6.60  
**Duration:** 1 hour

**Night walk**

Experience the forest in darkness and chance an encounter with some of our amazing creatures of the night. What secrets will you discover as you explore the forest by torchlight?

Venues: PHDC $7.70, FDC $7.70  
**Duration:** 1 hour

**Bush Tucker (Years 4 – 6)**

Explore seasonal native bush foods and discover how they were traditionally used by Aboriginal people. Make and eat a damper and kangaroo supper.  
Please note the food is a sampler amount only and not a full meal.

Venues: PHDC $14, FDC $14  
**Duration:** 2 hours

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**FREE**

**Weir View Loop Walk (Years 3 to 6)**

This self-guided walk trail is a 1.5 km loop through our beautiful forest. Stop off at the lookout for a view of Mundaring Wier not many people get to see.  
Laminated maps, teacher’s commentary and a resource bag are provided.

**‘I Spy’ Sensory Walk (Years PP – 2)**

Use your super senses to investigate the forest!  
This self-guided walk encourages little eyes, ears and noses to observe and record the natural wonders of the Perth Hills Discovery Centre forest. Class set of magnifying glasses, checklist, clipboards and pencils provided. Bring your cameras!  
**Duration:** 1 hour, approx
Venue locations

Note: In this brochure SSBR is called Henderson Environment Centre (HEC).