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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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# Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre EcoEducation Opportunities 2008



Department of  
Environment and Conservation  
*Our environment, our future*

## ecoeducation

Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre

The Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre's EcoEducation programs help to fulfil outcomes of the Curriculum Framework across all learning areas, particularly Society and Environment, Science, English, and Technology and Enterprise. EcoEducation programs address the cluster of core values of Environmental Responsibility and Social and Civic Responsibility.

We recommend you attend one of our professional learning (PL) days scheduled throughout the year to allow you to become familiar with excursion content and cover all aspects of the Department of Education and Training's Excursions Policy.

PL dates and pre-visit support materials and resource packages can be downloaded from the Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC's) 'Community' section on the NatureBase website ([www.naturebase.net](http://www.naturebase.net)).

### Standard day excursions from 10am to 2pm

#### Fire – A force of life

Recommended for Years 10 to 12

This field study explores the impact of fire on the conservation of biodiversity in the dry sclerophyllous forest ecosystem, the interrelationships of fire, flora and fauna, and the role of science and fire in sustainable forest management. Students will examine the responses and adaptations of plants and animals to fire, compare the impacts of a wildfire and a prescribed burn using biological and geographical field techniques, and gain an insight into the burn practices of Aboriginal people.

Per student cost: \$8.25

#### Busy in the Forest

Recommended for Years PP to 3

The forest is alive with a wealth of interrelated plants and animals. Students discover the homes and associations of plants and animals in an adventurous way on our Sense-ational and Treasure trails.

Young students love this excursion!

Per student cost: \$7.15

#### Investigating the Forest

Recommended for Years 2 to 5

Once your students have been busy in the forest graduate them to this investigative program where they learn detailed information about key species in the jarrah forest and learn it is a very colourful place indeed! They participate in the Sense-ational Trail and an exciting new Treasure Trail full of activities and experiences.

Per student cost: \$7.15

#### Biodiversity's Base

Recommended for Years 3 to 5

This excursion aims to raise awareness of terrestrial invertebrates and their importance to the health and biodiversity of the forest. Students investigate the invertebrate communities living in leaf-litter, topsoil, on fallen logs and on plants.

Per student cost: \$7.15

#### Ecosystem Explorers

Recommended for Years 6 to 8

Discover processes of environmental change. Students investigate these processes in the forest and attribute them to being either natural or human causes. Through studying the history of the local area and Wharcliffe Mill mural, students understand how attitudes towards the forest, and hence the use of forest resources, have changed over time.

Per student cost: \$7.15

## Back from the Brink

Recommended for Years 6 to 12

Find out about *Western Shield* threatened species recovery programs. Students work cooperatively in groups to assemble traps, participate in research methods and gain greater understanding and appreciation of the impacts of the modern practices on the natural environment.

Per student cost: \$7.15 (\$8.25 senior students)



## Geography

Recommended for Years 10 to 12

Explore the jarrah forest sclerophyllous ecosystem through a field study of the landform, its plants and evidence of animals. Students will survey a 50 metre transect, to make associations between the plant communities and soils, the slope and canopy density and abundance of plants at differing levels of the forest. And so much more!

Per student cost: \$8.25

## Biology

Recommended for Years 10 to 12

Fieldwork, the key component of biological study, is undertaken in surveying quadrats for floral communities and evidence of our unique animals through observing tracks, scats and traces. Students will undertake a variety of biotic and abiotic observations and tests to become familiar with the nature of representative community monitoring.

Per student cost: \$8.25

### Special rates for special dates:

- **The last week of Term 1 and 4:** All standard day excursions \$6.05 per student.
- **World Environment Day 5 June:** All standard day excursions booked for Tuesday 5 June receive a \$50 discount per group.
- **Threatened Species Day 7 September:** *Back from the Brink* excursions booked for Friday 7 September receive a \$50 discount per group.
- **September is Biodiversity Month:** All standard day excursions, (except *Back from the Brink* for 7 September see above) \$6.05 per student.



## Extra special activities while on camp

### Monitoring Marsupials

Recommended for Years 10 to 12

A unique opportunity to be part of *Western Shield* research! In the afternoon a nature conservation officer will provide the background and context for the monitoring program. In the early morning students will go to the transect to measure and release the marsupials, reptiles and amphibians. The split session lasts for 2.5 hours in the morning and 45 minutes in the afternoon.

FREE plus \$150 bus sponsorship

Dates available: during October



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### Sense-ational Nightlife

Recommended for Years 6 to 12

Experience the nocturnal habits of local fauna with a guided walk through the forest. Be challenged by the Sense-ational trail in the quiet of night! This session takes about 2.5 hours and starts after 6.30pm.

Per student cost: \$5.50

### Caves

While you're camping and taking part in the EcoEducation opportunities, see if you can fit in a trip to one of the caves 15 km south-west of Margaret River. Calgardup Cave's self-guided tour (with helmets and torches provided) caters to all ages and has interpretive signage. For more adventurous students, recommended for Year 7 and above, book for Giants Cave. Again self-guided, you will walk, climb vertical ladders and scramble over rocks as part of this adventure.

Bookings/enquiries please phone 9757 7422.

## Camp at Wharncliffe Mill Forest Camp

DEC's Blackwood District Office welcomes your enquiries about the accommodation at Wharncliffe Mill Forest Camp, on site at Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre. Both bunkhouse style (38 bed) and camping site accommodation is available. Facilities on the site include a large undercover area, a kitchen, barbecues, a new universal access ablution block (both showers and toilets) and a large grassed area adjacent to the karri forest.

### Bookings/enquiries for camps

Please contact Julie or Holly at the DEC Blackwood District Office.  
Phone: 9731 6232 or Fax: 9731 6366.

NB In order to cover some of our costs we request a minimum of 25 students per group (23 students for Early Childhood) or equivalent payment. Group size and required ratio of adults to students varies according to the type of activity. Consult with the bookings officer. All costs quoted include 10 per cent GST, which may be claimed for curriculum-based activities.

Visit NatureBase at [www.naturebase.net/community/ecoeducation](http://www.naturebase.net/community/ecoeducation)



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### Bookings/enquiries for activities:

Please contact Kristy at the DEC Wellington District Office.

Ph: 9735 1909,

Fax: 9734 4539,

Email: [wdf@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:wdf@dec.wa.gov.au)

Office hours: 9am to 5pm