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## Nearer to Nature Schools

# 2020 Education Program for Years PP to 6

### Getting students Nearer to Nature

*Nearer to Nature Schools* provide 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 programs are linked to State and National Curriculum.



For teachers and students we offer:

- excursions or camp activities based 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.

More information on what is on offer and available resources is located at [dbca.wa.gov.au/nearertonature](http://dbca.wa.gov.au/nearertonature)

#### Contact us

Phone: 9295 2244

Email [n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au)

Web: [dbca.wa.gov.au/nearertonature](http://dbca.wa.gov.au/nearertonature)



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# Contents



Getting students Nearer to Nature	1	<b>Nearer to Nature Discovery Day</b>	15
Bookings	4		
Locations	5	<b>Incursions</b>	16
		Totems yarning	16
<b>Pre-Primary to Year 2</b>	6	Saving threatened species	16
Moodjitch binar nyorps and yorgas	6	Flames, fuel and forests	16
Wildlife wonders	7	The river is our home	16
Bush detective	8	Junior Dolphin Watch	16
		<b>Short programs</b>	17
<b>Years 3 to 6</b>	9	Animal encounters	17
Koolangars, corroborees and kaleeps	9	Sense-ational trail	17
Habitat heroes	10	Eco walks	17
Forests forever	10	Night walk	17
Living with fire	11	Bush tucker	17
Incredible invertebrates	12		
Dolphin defenders	13	<b>Self-guided (FREE)</b>	18
Catchment carer's trail	14	Wier view walk loop	18
		'I Spy' sensory walk	19
		<b>Venue locations</b>	20





# Bookings

## Make a booking

1. Visit our website and go to the Book activities online section to make an online booking enquiry at: [dbca.wa.gov.au/nearer-to-nature/schools](http://dbca.wa.gov.au/nearer-to-nature/schools)
2. Complete the online booking enquiry or contact the Nearer to Nature Booking Officer for assistance:  
Email: [n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto: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 confirmation email to ensure your booking details are correct. All changes must be requested in writing.
5. For further information on your excursion and for insurance and risk management documents see the [Planning your visit](#) pages on our website.

## Costs

Excursions: \$16.50 per student, with the minimum charge being for a group of 20 students. The maximum group size for our programs is 30 students.

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

Excursions run from 10am – 2 pm, including breaks 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 attending, 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 due to cancellations 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.

## Curriculum links

Programs are designed to cover content in the WA Curriculum. However, due to the practical nature of most activities, they are suitable as enrichment activities if you do not have a particular curriculum focus. Curriculum information for specific programs are suggestions only and teachers can discuss their specific needs with a *Nearer to Nature* education officer if required.

## Locations

Venue	Abbreviation
Perth Hills Discovery Centre, Mundaring	PHDC
Forest Discovery Centre, Dwellingup	FDC
Canning River Eco Education Centre, Wilson	CREEC
Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre, Winthrop	PLEEC
Yanchep National Park	YNP
Star Swamp Bushland Reserve, North Beach	SSBR
Lake Joondalup, Joondalup	LJ
Point Walter Reserve, Bicton	PW
Riverside Gardens, Bayswater	RG





# Pre-Primary to Year 2

## 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





## Pre-Primary to Year 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.

**\$7.50 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 Noongar 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, Noongar 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

Forests forever



Our forests provide us with essential resources such as timber and clean water. They are also a haven for biodiversity. Students get to know the forest up-close; not only its tremendous trees, but a whole host of other amazing organisms, as well as how the forest supports us. Students will investigate all the valuable products the forest provides and how we can protect the forests forever!

Science, Priorities – Sust

Venue: PHDC, FDC



## 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,

Venue: PHDC, FDC





# Years 3 to 6

## *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.

**\$7.50 per student**

**1.5 hours**

**Science, Priorities – Sust**

**Venue: PHDC,**



# Years 3 to 6

## *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**





NEW

## Catchment carer's trail

Forests provide essential resources, including clean water. Through an inspiring activity-based walk to Mundaring Weir we examine the factors that influence the water cycle in nature, and how water flow in a catchment connects everything. We consider the impact of management issues such as salinity, dieback and erosion; as well as water quality, water security, and our water supply system. We then look at how our personal choices affect the sustainability of our forest and water resources. A highlight is a panoramic view from a secret spot!

This excursion is suitable for all Waterwise Schools

The Catchment Carers' Trail resource pack is available to [download online](#)

Science, Geography, Priorities – Sust, A&TSI

Venue: PHDC



## 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.





## Totems 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 were important for the survival of species.

## 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.



## Flames, fuel 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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**

## 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**



# Self-guided 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 Weir not many people get to see.

Laminated maps, teacher's commentary and a resource bag are provided.

**Venue:** PHDC

**Duration:** 1 hour, approx.



## 'I Spy' sensory walk (Years PP-2)

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!

**Venue:** PHDC

**Duration:** 1 hour, approx.





# Venue locations

Venue	Locations, street address
Perth Hills Discovery Centre	380 Allen Road, Mundaring 6073
Forest Discovery Centre	1 Acacia Rd, Dwellingup 6213
Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre	Leach Hwy and Murdoch Dr, Winthrop 6155
Canning River Eco Education Centre	Cnr Kent St and Queens Park Rd, Wilson 6107
Yanchep National Park	Yanchep Beach Rd and Indian Ocean Drive, Yanchep 6035
Star Swamp Bushland Reserve, Henderson Environment Centre	End of Groat St, North Beach 6020
Lake Joondalup, Neil Hawkins Park	200 Boas Ave, Joondalup 6027
Point Walter Reserve,	5 Honour Ave, Bicton 6157
Riverside Gardens	118 Milne St, Bayswater 6053

