

Library

From: Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Biodiversity Conservations and Attractions <no-reply@newsletters.dbca.wa.gov.au>
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To: Library
Subject: Summer 2026 - Nearer to Nature Perth and Surrounds



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

Nearer to Nature

Providing opportunities for schools, families, community groups, overseas and interstate visitors to take part in fun, hands-on activities in the natural environment.

Issue 17 - December 2025



PERTH NEWS



Get Nearer to Nature this Summer

WHAT A YEAR 2025

Thank you for an incredible 2025! We're thrilled to celebrate an amazing year and extend our heartfelt thanks to all the schools, families, and community groups who joined us along the way.

Our Nearer to Nature schools team had a standout year—delivering **over 220 programs** to nearly **6,500 students**, while also contributing to conferences and school-based activity days.

Our Nearer to Nature community team brought people together through **63 community activities**, reaching more than **2,594 participants**. They also built strong partnerships with local businesses, councils, not-for-profits, universities and scientific institutions, community groups, and volunteers.

Here's to another year of learning, connecting, and exploring nature together!

SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Summer is here – and so is our amazing School Holiday Program!

Looking for fun ways to connect with nature these holidays? We've got plenty of adventures waiting for you!

This summer, come along and:

Discover reptiles, marine mammals, and fish

Explore the forest after dark to spot nocturnal wildlife

Create habitats, play Bush Bingo, and get crafty with nature

Beat the heat and join us this summer as we get nearer to nature.

To keep updated on our community programs you can find more info and book below.

[Summer School Holiday Programs](#)

TOP ACTIVITY PICKS

Science Beneath the Waves: Marine Mammals

WA

Discover the wonders of WA's amazing marine mammals at the WA Maritime Museum! Join DBCA scientists and marine rangers as they share their knowledge and stories about whales, dolphins, and sea lions. Discover fascinating facts about these animals and take part in some fun activities to learn how we can all help protect these incredible animals.



This activity welcomes participants of all ages; however, the session will feature some detailed scientific information intended for older children and adults. Therefore, it may not be ideal for children under 6 years of age.

Where: WA Maritime Museum, Fremantle

When: Wed 7th January 2026

Time: 9.30-11am

Ages: All ages (families with children aged 6+yrs)

Cost: \$8 per participant

[Learn more](#)



Creatures of the Night

Where: Perth Hills Discovery Centre, Mundaring

When: Thursday 8th January 2026

Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm

Ages: Families with children 10+yrs

Cost: **FREE Registration essential**

Experience the bush after dark! Join Nearer to Nature and the Shire of Mundaring in the beautiful Beelu National Park for a FREE evening filled with nocturnal adventure. Begin with an up-close animal

encounter to meet some creatures of the night, then head out on a guided night walk to discover our amazing nocturnal wildlife. What creatures will emerge after dark? Bring your family, curiosity and sense of wonder for this memorable, family-friendly experience!

[Learn more](#)



Creating Habitat

Join Nearer to Nature for a hands-on workshop where we will explore the fascinating world of animal homes and hideaways. Discover why wildlife needs safe spaces and learn practical ways to support them in your own garden. Together, we'll create a variety of habitats —from drinking water stations to cozy hides and bird nest providers—helping local wildlife thrive. Perfect for nature lovers and families who want to make a difference in our local environment!

Where: City of Melville Eco Hub, Piney Lakes, Winthrop

When: Wednesday 14th January 2026

Time: 9.30-11am

Ages: 6-12yrs

Cost: \$7 per child

[Learn more](#)



Nature Art

Get ready to explore, create, and have fun! Join us at the Perth hills Discovery Centre, for a nature art adventure where you'll meet some of our amazing bushland friends. Then, roll up your sleeves and turn leaves, gumnuts, and other natural treasures into your very own masterpiece! Print, stamp, mold and design with the wonders of the forest! Perfect for curious kids who love getting creative outdoors! Come and enjoy some FREE activities at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre throughout the day.

Where: Perth Hills Discovery Centre, Mundaring

When: Tuesday 13th January 2026

Time: 3-4.30pm

Ages: 4-12yrs

[Learn more](#)

Fins to Gills: Dissection Detectives

Ready to get hands-on? In this amazing fish dissection workshop with WA Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories, you'll uncover the secrets of what makes fish tick! Learn why scientists use dissections to unlock the mysteries of marine life and discover the incredible adaptations that help fish survive. You'll get to dissect a real bony fish, explore its internal organs, and see first-hand how science comes alive!



Where: WA Fisheries and Marine Research Laboratories, Hillary's

When: Thursday 15th January 2026

Time: 9.30-11am

Ages: 12-17yrs

Cost: \$20 per participant

This is a "Drop off " activity

[Learn more](#)

More School Holiday Activities

[Scales and Tales \(6-12yrs\) - Canning River Eco Education Centre, Wilson](#)

[Scaly Friends \(Families 4+yrs\) - Perth Hills Discovery Centre](#)

[Bush Bingo \(7-12yrs\) - Perth Hills Discovery Centre, Mundaring](#)

Zippy's Bush Kindy - Perth Hills 2025 Wrap



What an amazing year at Zippy's Bush Kindy - Perth Hills!

This week marked our final session for 2025, and what a journey it's been! This term we've had so much fun learning about wildlife care, weather, bush walking, exploring animal homes, fire safety, and even becoming bushland superheroes—plus so much more.

Zippy's Bush Kindy Perth Hills will be back in **April 2026**, and we can't wait to share more nature adventures with you!

You and your little ones can join Zippy the Dragonfly on an early learning adventure at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre next year. The program has one hour session per week over an 8-week term, this interactive program will ignite your child's curiosity and strengthen their connection to nature.

Zippy's Bush Kindy will be available in February 2026 for Term 1 at Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park and at Mangrove Cove, in Bunbury.

Please Note: Due to high fire danger ratings in the Mundaring district during summer—including Beelu National Park (Perth Hills Discovery Centre), where Zippy's Bush Kindy is based—there will be **no sessions in Term 1**. We'll be back in April 2026 for more nature adventures, and we can't wait to see you then!

Term 2 - 'My Bushland Friends'

Tuesdays April 28th - 16th June 2026

Bookings for term 2 - Perth Hills available [here](#).

For more information about Zippy's Bush Kindy please visit the website on the button below.

Brought to you by Kings Park and Botanic Garden and DBCA Parks and Wildlife's Nearer to Nature teams. Supported by Rio Tinto.

[Zippy's Bush Kindy](#)

School Bookings 2026

Lock in Your 2026 Nearer to Nature school or community program today!

Nearer to Nature (DBCA) offers exceptional, curriculum-linked experiences that bring learning to life in WA's stunning natural environments. These programs foster curiosity, environmental stewardship, and hands-on engagement—perfect for meeting STEM and sustainability goals.

2026 school bookings are filling fast, and once dates are gone, they're gone! Don't risk missing out on these sought-after excursions that students love and teachers trust.

Act now:

✓ Visit [Nearer to Nature Schools | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation](#)

✓ Email n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au to request a booking

Secure your preferred dates early and guarantee your class an unforgettable outdoor learning experience.

Plan ahead—book today!

Program in focus:

Quenda Cabins

Be a 'quenda protector' and keep quendas safe!



Did you know you can create safe havens for one of WA's most charming native mammals—the quenda (*Isoodon fusciventer*)?

These small, ground-dwelling marsupials play a vital role in our ecosystems by turning soil and spreading seeds. Habitat loss and predators mean they need our help and should be monitored as they are now listed as priority 4 species - (ecological communities that are adequately known, rare but not threatened or meet criteria for Near Threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened list. These communities require regular monitoring).



Quenda Cabins are artificial refuges designed by scientists to provide shelter and protection for these shy creatures. Building one is a fantastic hands-on project that teaches students about biodiversity, conservation, and the importance of native species.

Your students will also be invited to monitor the cabins and collect data as citizen scientists, providing researchers with important information about these animals using refuges in the environment.



The best part?

Nearer to Nature can come to your school and guide your class through building a Quenda Cabin! It's an engaging way to combine STEM learning with real-world environmental action.

Want to make a difference for WA wildlife?

Book a Quenda Cabin workshop today and give quendas a safe place to call home!

**Quenda
Cabins (Years 7-12)**

Quenda Cabins (K-6)

EARTH DAY EXPO 2026

A full day of 'down to earth' fun!



Primary Students Year 2 - 6

Friday 27th March (Week 8) | 9.30am - 2pm

Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC), Wilson

What is the Earth Day Expo?

The Earth Day Expo is a whole day excursion filled with fun, interactive activities that empower young people to think creatively and critically about how to generate sustainable change. The activities are provided by education for sustainability (EFS) organisations from government and community sectors. Each class is scheduled into four hours of dynamic, 'hands on' activities with environmental and sustainability themes.

Why celebrate Earth Day?

Earth Day is celebrated by more than 190 countries around the world. This day reminds us to take responsibility for what we use and how we use it. It is a day to think of the environmental challenges we face and how to solve them. Internationally, Earth Day is held on 22 April each year. We celebrate it on a different date to provide the opportunity for primary school students to participate.

How does the Earth Day Expo link with the WA Curriculum?

The Earth Day Expo offers integrated, hands-on experiences that address Science, HASS and the Arts, and embed the cross-curriculum priorities of Sustainability and A&TSI Histories and Cultures.



'Brilliant day, presenters were excellent and the students had a fantastic experience.'

Hayley L, Riverton PS

'A great opportunity for students to get a snapshot of all the different aspects of sustainability.'

Matt A, Bassendean PS



Book now by email or phone:

\$13 per student (inc GST) | Teachers and parents FREE

Limit of three classes per school.

Minimum fee per class is \$260

Contact:

📞 9461 7160

✉ creec@canning.wa.gov.au



Volunteer Awards 2025

On International Volunteer Day (December 5), DBCA's Volunteer Coordination Unit proudly hosted the 2025 DBCA Volunteer Awards, honouring incredible individuals who give their time, energy, and passion across a variety of programs that support DBCA's work across Western Australia. The event began with a Welcome to Country by James Webb, Elder of the Noongar First Nation community, followed by an awards presentation from Hon. Matthew Swinbourn MLC, Minister for Environment, Community Services and Homelessness, and DBCA Director General Stuart Smith.

Volunteer of the year went to Ken Stranger from the Perth Observatory.

There were also eighteen Outstanding service awards, two Young volunteer awards, five Long service awards and six 25 years of commitment awards.

Nearer to Nature volunteer Paula Hemus was honoured with an **Outstanding Service Award** in recognition of her exceptional contributions throughout 2025.

Our amazing camphosts **Albert and Patricia** also received a **Long Service Award**.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all our dedicated volunteers across Western Australia who generously contribute their time and effort to support our programs and initiatives.



Campground Hosting at Perth Hills Discovery Centre in Mundaring

Volunteering as a Campground Host is a great way to explore the beauty and diversity of Western Australia's national and marine parks while helping others to also enjoy spending time in nature. The program is perfect for self-reliant experienced campers, who enjoy meeting people and love being outdoors. It is not suitable for pet owners as most campsites are located in national parks.

The Perth Hills Discovery Centre is located in the Jarrah forest in the **Beelu National Park** in Mundaring. Our small campground (12 tent campsites only) is close to the Mundaring Weir and is open for public camping Friday to Sunday nights and during the Western Australia public school holidays.

We are looking for some new camp hosts to fill some gaps in our calendar next year for 2026. You must have a **Working with Children Check** and experience engaging with children and families preferred.

The Perth Hills Discovery Centre is also an environmental education facility where school and community groups visit regularly and camp during the week. Many families use the campground as a practice camping space to trial the experience before they head out into more wild places. We also have hot showers and a laundry.

Please express your interest by contacting n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au

If you are interested in hiring the facilities at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre, please also email n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season



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Nearer to Nature in the Perth Hills and surrounds is generously supported by Alcoa and the *Western Shield* program.

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