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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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NEW!



# Biology Excursion

## Investigating the jarrah forest ecosystem

### The Hills Forest Discovery Centre

The Hills Forest  
Discovery Centre  
Nature's base Centre

### The excursion at a glance...

This one-day field study explores the adaptations of flora and fauna in dry sclerophyllous forest, the dominant ecosystem of WA's South West, and the scientific methods used to measure and monitor the recovery of threatened animal species through *Western Shield*.

#### The excursion includes:

- an overview of *Western Shield* and scientific method, hands-on trapping techniques and discussion of non-trapping methods, the conservation status of fauna;
- the establishment and comparison of flora quadrats measuring vegetation, height, foliage cover (identifying sclerophyllous adaptations) and interrelationships with fauna;
- consideration of human impact and sustainability – introduced flora and fauna, erosion, salinity and dieback including the management of fire and the impact of wildfire on fauna; and
- an encounter with WA's unique marsupials and their interrelationships with flora.

#### Students:

- use scientific methods to safely investigate and compare diversity of flora and fauna;
- consider adaptations and specialised structure of species surviving in this environment;
- gain experience of the hands-on work of *Western Shield* biologists;
- recognise the challenge to Australian biota posed by introduced species; and
- discover ways to act locally to address this challenge.

**Student Numbers:** Minimum 15 per class (or equivalent payment), maximum of two classes.

**When:** Throughout the year

**Where:** The Hills Forest Discovery Centre, Mundaring

**Time:** 10am to 2pm

**Cost:** \$11.00 (including GST) per student

NB: 10 percent GST can be claimed for all curriculum-based activities

A confirmation letter, map, worksheets and pre-excursion activities will be sent to you on booking.

### Curriculum links

This excursion can contribute to the following outcomes of the Science Learning Area:

**Working Scientifically:** Investigating, Acting Responsibly, Science in Society,

**Understanding Concepts:** Life and Living

**Values:** Social and Civic Responsibility, and Environmental Responsibility

western  
shield

Printed on chlorine-free paper from plantation trees.

#### BOOKINGS/ENQUIRIES:

Ph: 9295 6149 or 9295 6300, Fax: 9295 3247,

Email: [ecoeducation@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:ecoeducation@calm.wa.gov.au)

Office hours: 8.30am to 3.30pm



ecoeducation



DEPARTMENT OF  
Conservation  
AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Conserving the nature of WA

# Threatened Species program Back from the Brink Excursion

The Hills Forest Discovery Centre

Secondary Students  
Years 8 and 9

The Hills Forest  
Discovery Centre  
Nature's base Centre

This threatened species program raises awareness and encourages action to conserve Western Australia's threatened fauna. The focus is on the Department of Conservation and Land Management's (CALM) *Western Shield* fauna recovery program working to bring native fauna species back from the brink of extinction by controlling introduced predators, the fox and feral cat.

## The program includes:

- CALM written and Internet resources and a *Deadly Protectors* video for use at school;
- a *Back from the Brink* excursion; and
- a PD camp – Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night (optional).

## A Back from the Brink excursion encourages:

- participation in scientific methods and fieldwork used to monitor wildlife (includes live trapping and data collection for biodiversity conservation);
- investigation of habitats and the forest ecosystem;
- identifying adaptations for survival of fauna during an animal encounter; and
- development of skills and knowledge to equip students to be better active citizens in conservation.



**Student Numbers:** Minimum 25 per class (or equivalent payment), maximum of two classes.

**When:** Throughout the year

**Where:** The Hills Forest Discovery Centre, Mundaring

**Time:** 10am to 2pm

**Cost:** \$6.60 (including GST) per student

NB: 10 percent GST can be claimed for all curriculum-based activities

## Learning outcomes include:

- identifying key issues impacting on our flora and fauna;
- understanding the need for positive action such as recovery programs;
- gaining skills in the procedures of live trapping and data collection for nature conservation;
- recognising the importance of maintaining habitats/homes for native animals; and
- learning to visually identify native animals during a contact session and developing empathy for the conservation of these animals.

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