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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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## Forest Detective Trail

A new EcoEducation program for Middle Childhood  
Focus on Year 4 and 5 students

### Program overview

This program, which comprises a professional development day at The Hill Forest, a *Training Manual* and an excursion, contributes to outcomes of the Curriculum Framework in the Learning Areas of *Science, Society and Environment, Technology and Enterprise, Mathematics and English*. It addresses the core values of *Environmental Responsibility* and *Civic and Social Responsibility*.

Teachers and students participating in the Forest Detective Trail (FDT) will gain an understanding of the importance of forest and biodiversity conservation. Students are introduced to the concept of scientific research. They learn how to analyse evidence and the value of scientific tools.

- Teachers are encouraged to attend a professional development day at The Hills Forest to gain an overview of the program.
- On booking an excursion teachers will receive an *FDT Training Manual*. This provides information for pre and post-visit activities, which prepare students for the excursion and extend their learning back in the classroom.
- During the excursion students role-play as **Forest Private Detectives**. They participate in an investigation and assist the Department's **Detectives (Researchers)** to solve the mystery of a missing woylie and some strange radio tracking maps!

## Stages of Learning

- Five sequential stages appropriate for students working in small groups
- Stages 1 to 4 are completed at school using the *Training Manual*
- The excursion follows completion of stage four
- Stage five includes post-excursion activities that will complete **Forest Private Detectives'** training.

## Excursion Outline

### Forest Detective Trail

The one-day field-training trip to The Hills Forest includes:

- **Case Briefing Session** - students are assigned a field investigation and a mystery to solve.
- **Woylie Encounter** - students meet Brushtail Bettong, the animal that is the focus of the mystery.
- **On the Trail** - students investigate established trails. They use evidence (skulls, scats, tracks, diggings and home sites) and a basic, scientific key to identify animals. In groups they develop profiles of a range of local animals from clues of their physical features and habitats.
- **Where's Woylie?** - whole class activity where students use a radio tracking device to track an animal. They find the prime suspect and solve the mystery!

## FDT Excursion requirements

<b>Student numbers:</b>	Minimum 25 students per class, one or two classes
<b>Time:</b>	10.00 am to 2.00 pm
<b>When:</b>	Weekdays
<b>Where:</b>	The Hills Forest Discovery Centre, Mundaring
<b>Cost:</b>	\$7.70 per student



**Enquiries, Excursion and PD Bookings:** Advanced booking required

**Phone:** (08) 9295 6149 or (08) 9295 6300, **Fax:** (08) 9295 3247  
**E-mail:** [jillf@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:jillf@calm.wa.gov.au)