

# LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.



## Nearer to Nature Schools



# 2020 Education Program for Years K – 12

## 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.



The Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC) is ideally located on the banks of the Canning River within the Canning River Regional Park and is run by the City of Canning.

Natural and built environments co-exist to provide a unique outdoor classroom for K-12 students.

For teachers and students we offer:

- excursions at the purpose-built education centre
- educational resources to use in the classroom
- professional learning for educators.

## Bookings and enquiries

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)



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



Getting students <i>Nearer to Nature</i> Bookings	3
<b>Kindergarten to Year 2</b>	<b>5</b>
Creepy crawlies in the Canning	5
Pobblebonk swamp	6
Bush detective	7
Doug the darter	8
<b>Years 3 to 6</b>	<b>9</b>
Take a dip	9
From range to river	10
River diaries	11
Weir-D science	12
<b>Years 7–12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Lower secondary</b>	
Take a dip	13
From range to river	14
<b>Upper secondary</b>	<b>15</b>
Rivers at risk	15
Testing testing H2O	16
SIGNALs in the stream	17
Aquatic ecosystems	18
Western Shield Fauna Biology	19

<b>Multi-level programs</b>	<b>20</b>
Djarlgarra Yarning	21
<b>Special events</b>	<b>21</b>
Earth Day expo	21
A day in the park	21
<b>Self-guided (FREE)</b>	<b>22</b>
A bird's eye view	22
'I Spy' sensory walk	23
Canning River Regional Park Trail	23
<b>Professional learning for teachers</b>	<b>24</b>
Djarlgarra Yarning	24
Canoeing on the Canning	25
<b>Resources for schools</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Where is CREEC?</b>	<b>28</b>

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)

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)

The Booking Officer will respond to your request via email.

Please check the confirmation email to ensure your booking details are correct. All changes must be requested in writing.

For further information on your excursion and for insurance and risk management documents see the [Planning your visit](#) pages on our website.

## Costs

Prices vary according to program. See details with each program description.

All prices include GST.

## 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 booked, 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/Bush Rangers* cadets and home school groups.







## Creepy crawlies in the Canning

### Exploring life underwater

Investigate what lives in the Canning River without even getting wet! Students access the riverbank to sample river life. The fascinating features of aquatic invertebrates are viewed using our 'larger than life' projector. Students also consider the importance of caring for our river system and what they can do to help.

**\$8.00 per student**

**1.5 hours**

**Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust**







## Pobblebonk swamp

### Frog features, lifecycles and habitats

Join us down at Pobblebonk Swamp to meet our local frogs. Learn about frogs that sound like motorbikes and frogs that do not develop from tadpoles – astonishing! Discover how your school can help protect frogs by creating a frog friendly hangout at your school.

**\$8.00 per student**

**1.5 hours**

**Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust**



## Bush detective

### 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 the Canning River Regional Park. Students apply their detective skills on a nature walk and record their observations by making a model of their own to take home.

**\$8.00 per student**

**1.5 hours**

**Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust**







## Doug the darter

### A local waterbird's dice with death

Hear the 'real life' rescue story of Doug the darter, a waterbird who became entangled in rubbish. This story highlights how waste enters our waterways and the impacts it can have on wildlife. Students participate in a rubbish survey and create their own waste net to display in their classroom.

**\$8.00 per student**

**1.5 hours**

**Suitable for Years 1 – 3**

**Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust**



## Take a dip

### Exploring river ecosystems

This popular, interactive program provides students with the opportunity to sample and record the amazing and diverse macroinvertebrate communities that live in the Canning River. Students utilise field equipment to investigate the critical role of aquatic life in maintaining the health of wetland ecosystems.

\*Classification, adaptations or food webs can be a focus on request.

\*Also suitable for Yr 7 – Biological Sciences

**\$8.00 per student**

**1.5 hours**

**Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust**





# Years 3 to 6

## From range to river

### The story of our catchment

Where does the Canning River come from and where does it flow to? A big picture view of our waterways is presented as students interact with a 3-D model to consider the human impacts on the Swan-Canning River catchment, the consequences for living things and action people can take for sustainable change.

**\$8.00 per student**

**1.5 hours**

**Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust**



## River diaries

### Revealing the river's past

Students glimpse into the past lives of those who lived and settled around the Canning River by investigating historical records such as maps, photos and diaries. Students participate in team games that highlight different community perspectives and how they have shaped the river over time.

A FREE additional guided tour of historical Woodloes Homestead may be booked with this program subject to availability.

**\$8.00 per student**

**1.5 hours**

**Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust**





## Weir-D science

### How living things adapt to changes in the physical environment.

The Kent Street Weir on the Canning River has been in place for nearly 100 years. Students have the opportunity to investigate the role of the Weir, how it has altered the river system and how plants and animals have adapted to changes in the physical environment. Students compare fresh and salt water ecosystems by conducting salinity tests on either side of the Weir and map changes in vegetation along the River.

\* Suitable for Yr 5 onwards ONLY

**\$8.00 per student**

**1.5 hours**

**Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust**



## Take a dip

### Exploring river ecosystems

This popular, interactive program provides students with the opportunity to sample and record the amazing and diverse macroinvertebrate communities that live in the Canning River. Students utilise field equipment to investigate the critical role of aquatic life in maintaining the health of wetland ecosystems.

\*Classification, adaptations or food webs can be a focus on request.

**\$8.00 per student**

**1.5 hours**

**Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust**





## From range to river

### The story of our catchment

Where does the Canning River come from and where does it flow to? A big picture view of our waterways is presented as students interact with a 3-D model to consider the human impacts on the Swan-Canning River catchment, the consequences for living things and action people can take for sustainable change.

**\$8.00 per student**

**1.5 hours**

**Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust**



## Rivers at risk

### Identifying hazards and risks to natural ecosystems

Students are introduced to natural and ecological hazards associated with river systems within an urban catchment such as drought, introduced species and eutrophication. Students take a guided walk through the Canning River Regional Park to consider the risks associated with these hazards and how they may be sustainably managed at a local level.

**\$8.00 per student**

**1.5 hours**

**Geography ATAR Unit 1, General Unit 1, EES ATAR Unit 4, General Unit 4**





# Years 11 to 12 Upper Secondary

## Testing testing H<sub>2</sub>O

### A comparison of water quality

The Kent Street Weir on the Canning River provides a unique location to compare two river systems. Students utilise field equipment to assess abiotic features such as pH, salinity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and nutrient levels both upstream and downstream of the Weir. Water quality data is compared and discussed in terms of the impacts on aquatic life and the long-term management of the Canning River.

**\$8.00 per student**

**1.5 hours**

**Biology ATAR Unit 1/General Unit 4, Integrated Science ATAR Unit 2/General Unit 1, Geography ATAR Unit 3/General Unit 1.**

*\*Can be adapted for Yr 9 – Biological Sciences*



## SIGNALs in the stream

### An ecological snapshot of river health

Using the SIGNAL model as an assessment tool, students gain an indication of water quality in the Canning River by sampling and classifying aquatic macroinvertebrates. Results are discussed within a broader framework of sustainable water management within the Swan-Canning River catchment. The role of the recently installed fishway at the Kent St Weir will also be considered.

**\$9 per student**

**2 hours**

**Biology ATAR Unit 1/General Unit 4, Integrated Science ATAR Unit 2/ General Unit 1, Geography ATAR Unit 3/General Unit 1.**





# Years 11 to 12 Upper secondary



## Aquatic ecosystems

### Investigate connections within a wetland ecosystem

Investigate how the river ecosystem functions by conducting a range of field tasks on its biotic and abiotic components. Conduct tests on water quality, sample the macroinvertebrate community and identify the ecological role of the organisms. The role of humans in modifying the ecosystem is considered and students will discuss how the river can be managed sustainably into the future. This excursion can be done with either a Biology or Geography focus and students are encouraged to formulate research questions, which their data collection will help answer.

Geography ATAR Unit 3, Geography General Unit 1, Biology ATAR Unit 1, Biology General Unit 4, Integrated Science ATAR Unit 2, Integrated Science General Unit 1

\$16.50 per student

4 hours: 10am–2pm



## Western Shield fauna biology

### Back from the brink – investigate scientific techniques to re-establish native animals

*Western Shield* is one of the biggest wildlife conservation programs ever undertaken in Australia and aims to return the balance and mix of native animals in selected areas of WA's environment to levels comparable to pre-European settlement. Learn about the control of introduced animals and how native species are being re-established under the *Western Shield* program. Discover the process required to eradicate feral animals and re-introduce natives. Investigate and compare a range of invasive and non-invasive fauna monitoring techniques that help determine if the program is achieving its goals.

Biology General Unit 4, Biology ATAR Unit 1

\$16.50 per student

4 hours: 10am–2pm





## Djarlgarra Yarning Years K-12

### 'Canning River Stories'

The Noongar people's strong connection with the wetlands and rivers that flow across the Swan Coastal Plain forms the basis for much of their culture, spirituality, and identity. Hear from an experienced Noongar educator who demonstrates first-hand how the resources provided by the land and river were traditionally used and how the seasons dictated their availability and sustainable use. Students participate in a range of hands-on activities suited to age level.

\*This program is adapted to each year level based on WA Curriculum content.

Term 1 – April 6, 7, 8

Term 2 – May 25, 26, 27 & Teacher PD on 27th

Term 3 – August 24, 25, 26

Term 4 – November 2, 3, 4

Session times: 9.30 – 11.30am or 12.00 – 2.00pm

**\$9 per student**

**2 hours**

**Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust, A and TSI**



## Earth Day expo: Years 2-6

### A full day of 'down to earth' fun

Join CREEC and the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE-WA) in celebrating this international event that is recognised by more than 150 countries around the world. A whole day excursion filled with fun, interactive activities provided by environmental organisations that are passionate about the future of our planet.

Term 1, Week 9 – Friday 3 April

**9.30am – 2.00pm**

**\$9 per student**

**Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust, A and TSI**

To book contact CREEC on 9461 7160 or [creec@canning.wa.gov.au](mailto:creec@canning.wa.gov.au)



## A day in the park: Years 2-6

### Enjoy the great outdoors!

Finish off the school year by consolidating environmental learning and having fun at the same time! Join us in the scenic Canning River Regional Park for a day of nature-based activities that will keep your students switched on to environmental science until the end. Activities adapted to suit all year levels.

Term 4 (Week 7): November 24, 25, 26

**10.00am – 2.00pm**

**\$16.50 per student**

**Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust, and TSI**





# Self-guided Programs

## *A bird's eye view*

### **Zoom in on amazing wetland birdlife!**

Canning River Regional Park is home to a diverse range of local and migratory birds. Using binoculars and surveying techniques, students can check out waterbirds that live in and around the Park. Class set of binoculars and identification sheets provided.

**Years K-12**

**No cost**

**Duration: Approx. 50 minutes**



## *'I Spy' sensory walk*

### **Use your super senses to investigate the wetlands**

This self-guided walk encourages little eyes, ears and noses to observe and record the natural wonders of the Canning River wetlands. Class set of magnifying glasses, checklists, clipboards and pencils provided.

**Years K-2**

**No cost**

**Duration: Approx. 50 minutes**

## *Canning River Regional Park trail*

### **Touching base with your local place**

This self-guided trail traverses seven sites that highlight natural, managed and constructed features within the Canning River Regional Park. Laminated maps, teacher's commentary and a resource bag are provided.

**Years 4 -10**

**No cost**

**Duration: Approx. 60 minutes**





# Professional learning for teachers

## Djarlgarra Yarning

### Canning River stories for teachers

This is a valuable opportunity to hear from an experienced Aboriginal Educator about the importance of the Swan-Canning River to the Noongar people. Valuable resources and curriculum links provided.

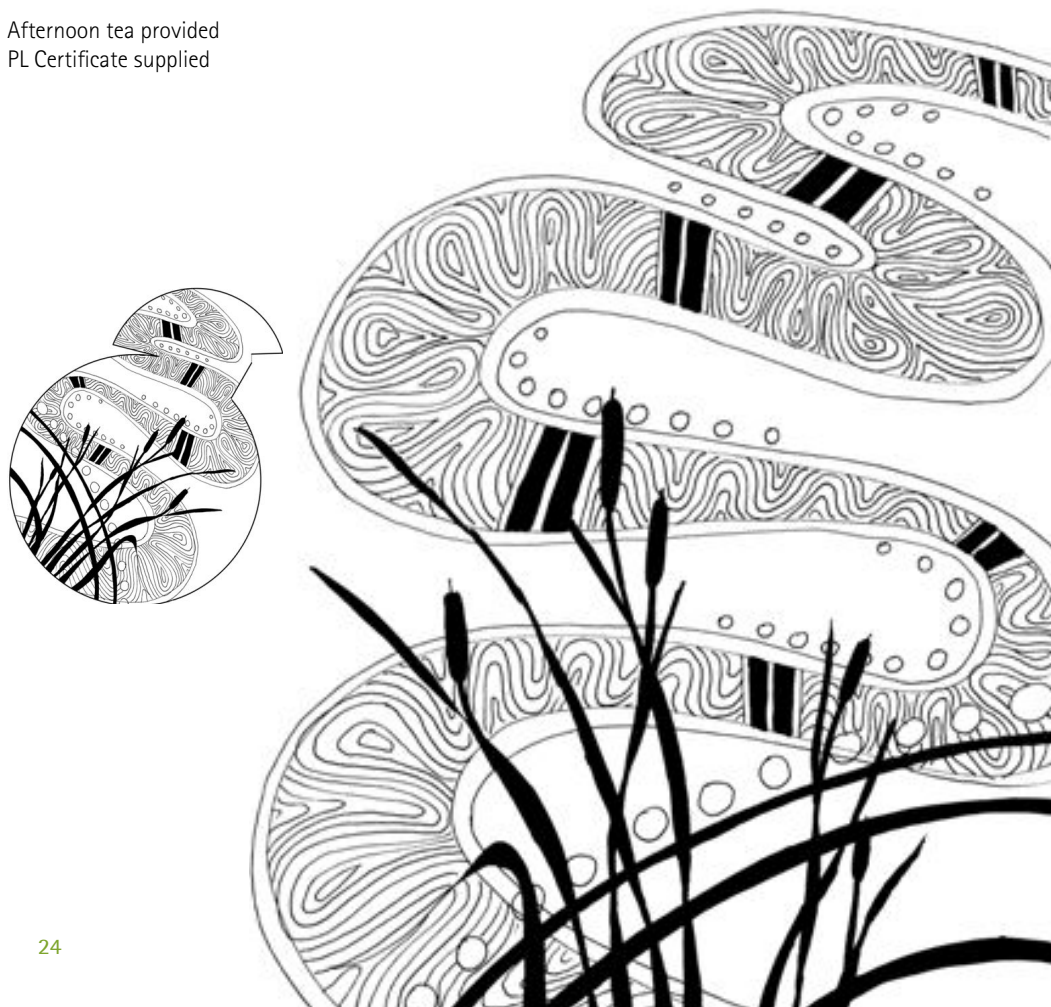
### Primary and Secondary teachers

Term 2 Week 5 – Wednesday 27 May

3.30 – 5.30pm

Cost: \$20 pp

Afternoon tea provided  
PL Certificate supplied



## Canoeing on the Canning

Come on a journey of discovery through this unique region by canoe and on foot with SERCUL. Experience the Canning River and its flood plain, learn about the Indigenous connections to this landscape and the key issues that threaten this ecosystem.

Teacher resource pack and catering provided. All canoeing equipment supplied. No previous canoeing experience required.

### Primary and Secondary School staff

Term 4 Week 2 – Friday 23 October

8.00am – 3.45pm

Cost \$55 pp

To book, contact SERCUL on 9458 5664





# Resources for schools

## CREEC as a Venue

CREEC offers modern venue facilities with views of the Canning River Regional Park that are suitable for workshops/professional learning/meetings. CREEC Education Staff can support PL sessions for teachers on request.

To book the venue contact CREEC on 9461 7160 or [creec@canning.wa.gov.au](mailto:creec@canning.wa.gov.au)

To book CREEC Educational staff contact N2N on 9295 2244 or email [n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au)

## Education for sustainability

CREEC is home to the Sustainable Schools-WA South Metro Regional Network. CREEC staff can support your school in developing a whole school approach to education for sustainability. The network meets once a term. Interested teachers always welcome.

For further information contact Joselyn – [joselyn.juraszek@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:joselyn.juraszek@dbca.wa.gov.au)



## Loan of animal specimens

Would your students know a chuditch from a quenda? Native animal specimens are available for short term loan at no cost to schools. Resources kindly donated by Alcoa of Australia.



To book contact CREEC on 9461 7160 or [creec@canning.wa.gov.au](mailto:creec@canning.wa.gov.au).

CREEC provides a range of resources that teachers can borrow. For more information [click here](#).

## Flexibility

Looking for something else? CREEC can modify student programs and tailor teacher professional learning to suit individual schools.



# Where is CREEC?

The Canning River Eco Education Centre is located in the Canning River Regional Park at the historic Kent Street Weir on the banks of the Canning River. There is ample FREE car and bus parking.

