

Nearer to Nature South West Region



Annual Report 2014



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Nearer to Nature
South West Region

Overview of 2014

Centres

The South West Region continued operation of Nearer to Nature programs at two Centres during 2014; namely the Wellington Discovery Forest Centre (WDF) and Wharncliffe Mill (WM). *Sustainable forests* excursions were also run from the Dwellingup Forest Heritage Centre (DFHC). Special programs also took place at Leschenault Peninsular Conservation Park and Maiden's Park reserve in Bunbury.

Mobile education centre

The Nearer to Nature trailer was used extensively during 2014 for a range of school-based, community and professional learning events and has proved to be very popular and engaging for all participants.

The display of taxidermies provides an excellent platform to engage in discussion with a range of audiences about our native fauna and the role of Parks and Wildlife in fauna conservation, as well as raising awareness of the impacts of urbanisation on native wildlife.

The mobile touch table provides an interactive experience for children to introduce them to ideas such as biodiversity and interdependency within ecosystems.

In addition to specific school based programs, the use of this trailer at a range of events throughout the year has allowed us to engage with thousands of children and members of the wider community on key issues such as biodiversity conservation, Western Shield and fire management. Some excursion bookings have also resulted from interaction with teachers at these events.

Events at which the trailer has been deployed include:

- Dunsborough Primary School Bay OK Day, an annual event involving a range of providers to raise awareness of issues surrounding human impacts on catchments and marine environments.
- Balingup Small Farm Field Day. Once again, our joint stand with the Department of Food and Agriculture, Land for Wildlife and the WA Wildlife and Rehabilitation Council proved to be hugely popular with children and adults alike.
- The Ocean Forest Lutheran College Science Spectacular Day.
- The Scitech Science Festival at the South Bunbury football oval had visits over 2 days from approximately 650 primary and secondary schools from Bunbury, Harvey and Waroona. In addition to our display John Anderson delivered a talk on science career pathways within the Department to smaller groups of students.
- The Bunbury Primary School Sustainability Day was a round robin event for teachers with a number of providers including Nearer to Nature explaining their educational programs to primary school teachers from throughout the Greater Bunbury area.



- The Eaton Foreshore Festival. This provides a similar platform to the BSFFD and was attended by our trailer and staff for the second year (our location with a taxidermy display adjacent to the Greyhound Rescue group provided a practical demonstration of the success of greyhound rehabilitation).
- Mandurah Stretch Festival Environment and Heritage event. Students in this special display area, shared with 19 other providers, were asked to identify a range of artefacts from our touch table and taxidermy display to earn a sticker for a “passport”.

Incursions

During 2014 Nearer to Nature continued to deliver incursions to schools in the region, both as a means of introducing concepts of biodiversity and conservation to a wider audience of students and also as a way of raising the profile of Nearer to Nature programs amongst teachers.

Staffing

John Anderson continued in the position of Project Officer Nearer to Nature (Level 4 permanent, full-time). Julie-Anne Oliver continued to act in the role of Administrative Assistant – Nearer to Nature (Level 2 permanent, 0.8FTE) until September, continuing to lead excursions at both centres as well as incursions. From September, Bonnie Patience returned from long term leave one day per week, with Julie-Anne moving to 0.6FTE on a casual basis.

Trapping programs in 2014 were conducted by John Anderson. Trap success rates were noticeably lower than in 2013, in particular very few Mardo, whose numbers have been increasing over previous years, were caught. The last night of trapping suggested an explanation when a feral cat was photographed on one of the motion sensing cameras set up on the trail. Discussions have been entered into with Wellington District to discuss possibilities to either trap the cat or bait the area using the recently approved Eradicat.

Inge Meurs has been taken on as a casual Nearer to Nature Officer for Wellington Discovery Forest. She began training in term 1 and has helped to conduct a number of primary school excursions throughout the year. Lauren Scanlon has continued to be available on an ad-hoc basis for excursions at Wharncliffe Mill.

Extra duty

At WDF, the cleaning of the Centre has been carried out by Julie-Anne Oliver and John Anderson during 2014. These extra duties have not incurred any additional costs in 2014 since both staff members are currently paid out of recurrent funding.

Western Shield holiday displays

During the October school holidays, Julie-Anne Oliver teamed up with Australind and Harvey libraries to present a number of school holiday sessions about wildlife recovery. The hands on sessions included a taxidermy display and trap setting activities to inform children and parents about Parks and Wildlife's Western Shield program and what individuals can do to help our native animals. The sessions were very popular and appreciated by all involved.



New programs

Following yet another iteration of the Australian Curriculum in Geography a new excursion for Year 10 students, *Environmental change and management* was developed at the request of teachers and successfully trialled with 4 classes in 2014. This new excursion will be offered from 2015. Changes to the West Australian curriculum in response to the Year 11/12 Australian curriculum updates mean that *Sustainable forestry* is no longer applicable in its current format and this program will be restructured for 2015 to address forest products as a globalised commodity.

Newsletter

Two editions of the South West Region's 'Nearer to Nature News' newsletter were written and circulated to a wide distribution list in 2014, in February and August. 'Nearer to Nature News SW' has been redesigned as an HTML newsletter and will continue to be circulated by email and printed for distribution to teachers attending excursions.

Flyers and Website

Flyers continued to be a successful method of promoting Nearer to Nature activities. A single brochure covering all South West excursions and incursions was emailed to teachers and printed copies are provided in teacher packs, during Professional Learning events and in brochure holders at both centres.

John Anderson continued in an active role as administrator of the Nearer to Nature website. After significant work in November and December, the new Nearer to Nature site went live as part of the main Parks and Wildlife website. An icon on the main page linking to Education and Activities gives the program a high level of prominence and makes it easy for teachers to locate. The new website can be reached at www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/n2n.

Program promotions

A number of incursions have been conducted which give us the opportunity to address the staff body of the school and have resulted in bookings for excursions during 2014.

Nearer to Nature South West has been involved in a number of professional learning events during 2014:

- A teacher workshop at the Scitech Science Festival focused on primary science and biodiversity education which was very well received, attended by over 30 teachers and resulted in a number of forward bookings;

- Presentations to the staff body at Eaton and Dunsborough primary schools during PL days;
- A workshop on sustainable forestry at the GAWA conference in August;
- A display at Bunbury Primary School's Sustainability Day.

Community events which assisted in raising the profile of Nearer to Nature included:

- A Western Shield and biodiversity display at the Ocean Forest Lutheran College Science Spectacular Day;
- A joint display at the Balingup Small Farm Field Day which attracted several thousand visitors;
- School holiday Western Shield displays at Harvey and Australind libraries.

Word of mouth remains very effective in spreading the word of programs with over half of new teachers hearing from friends or colleagues. Flyers and newsletters were also effective at informing teachers of opportunities.

Program Evaluation

Both formal and informal evaluation of all Nearer to Nature programs and professional learning events continued to be very positive. Feedback is now collected using Survey Monkey. Entry into a draw for \$100 gift voucher for Parks and Wildlife publications was used to promote the new feedback tool and this resulted in a better than usual response rate. Results are included in Appendix 5.

A strategic plan has been drafted for Nearer to Nature South-West Region. This strategic plan will be reviewed in 2014. The following is reported against the Strategic Plan 2010 – 2012 Performance Indicators:

Awareness

It is the intention of the South West Region Nearer to Nature program to increase awareness in school communities for the biological and physical diversity of the Region, as well as the management of Conservation Parks and National Parks.

Level of participation of school communities in programs offered by Nearer to Nature

Total participation for 2014 for the entire South West region has increased on 2013 by around 13%. Some of the increase has been due to an increase in incursions, which we have been actively promoting during 2014. Incursions are not all classroom based, since the Nearer to Nature trailer which was set up in early 2014 has allowed us to present hands-on "in-field" incursions at a number of venues.

There was a noticeable drop in the number of primary school groups attending Wharncliffe Mill which may be in part due to ongoing uncertainty regarding the status of the centre and in particular "sole use" capability. The operators continue to promote their venue and our programs to schools.

There was also a noticeable drop in senior school groups (Year 11 and 12) across all centres which may be due to uncertainty around changes to the senior Geography curriculum.

Transport costs and an ever-increasing duty-of-care compliance burden to take students on excursions continue to be an issue for many teachers.

Level of participation in Wellington District

The total number of visitors to Wellington Discovery Forest for Nearer to Nature excursion programs and for professional learning within Wellington District was 1908, a 4% increase on 2013 participation.

There was very low attendance at overnight camps at Wellington Discovery Forest in comparison to previous years. This was likely due to the operators of the cottages closing bookings for school groups during the week, ostensibly due to liquor license conditions. It is likely that the impact of this decision will have some ongoing impact in coming years.

Table 1: Number of visitors to Wellington District

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
2389	1965	1676	2133	1855	1769	2369	1828	1897	1976

Level of participation in Blackwood District

The total number of visitors at Wharncliffe Mill for the Nearer to Nature program was 668; a significant decrease on previous years. There is a significant period during what would normally be our busy time that Wharncliffe is now hired out to schools on an exclusive use basis, limiting our options to take bookings. There has, however, been a corresponding increase in the number of students participating in incursions in the district.

Table 2: Number of visitors to Blackwood District

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1010	1310	1209	1300	1869	1257	1431	838	813	668

Level of participation in Incursions

During 2014 we have been actively promoting incursions via newsletters and word of mouth and these are becoming increasingly popular. Around 60% have been classroom based, with the remainder field based incursions.

Table 3: Number of participants in incursions

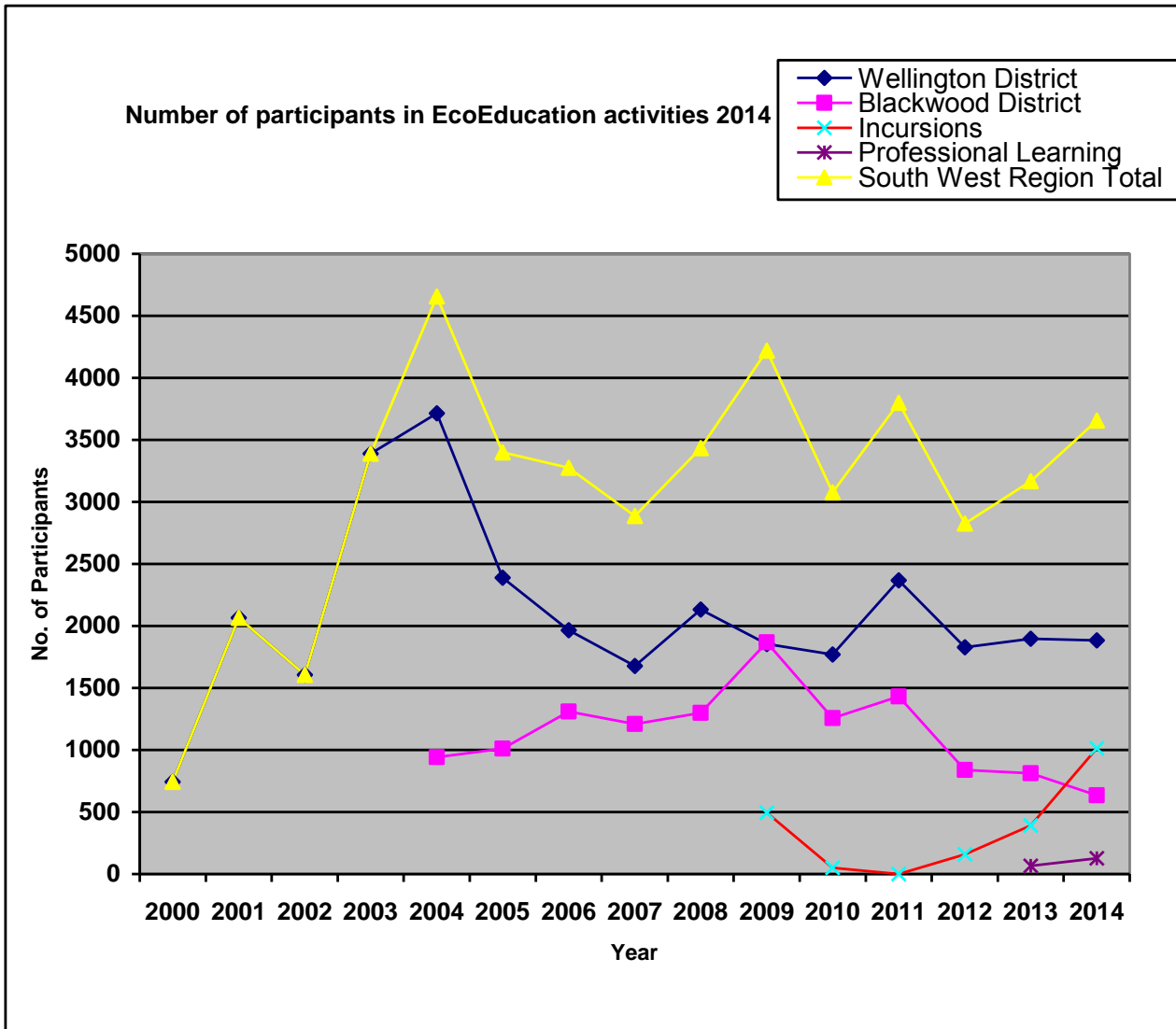
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
496	51	0	160	391	1012

Total participation in Southwest Region

For 2014 total participants was 3656. This is an increase of 15% on 2013.

Table 4: Total number of visitors to Southwest Region Nearer to Nature

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
4657	3399	3275	2885	3433	4220	3077	3800	2826	3166	3656



The period from mid-term 2 until the end of term 3 remains the most popular time for excursions, particularly August and September. This coincides with generally good weather for excursions and flowering of many plant species. November was also busy with primary groups. Please refer to Appendix 3 for further details.

During the 2014 school year 41 schools and 4 other groups were involved in Nearer to Nature activities. Of these, 10 of the groups/schools participated with only one class in one activity. All other schools either booked 2 classes at once, more than one excursion as a camp or booked more activities with different students later in the year. All Year levels (PP to 12) were represented. The schools attending were represented by classes from year levels as below.

Table 5: Number of activities at each school year level

Year	PP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2013	12	12	12	9	6	10	6	4	1	3	4	44	9
2014	13	17	12	10	13	6	2	4	3	4	8	28	5

Note: This does not represent the number of individual groups since some excursions had multiple year levels in a single class, particularly for smaller schools

Uptake of available programs was greatest by Year 11 and early childhood groups.

Attendance was similar in both districts for primary and secondary students. There were around 70% primary students, reflecting the reduced number of year 11 groups. Please refer to Appendices 1, 2 and 3 for further details.

In addition there were 2 tertiary groups, 3 Bush Ranger groups and 4 groups from school holiday programs.

Level of participation of 'new' teachers in programs offered by Nearer to Nature

During 2014, Nearer to Nature South West conducted or was involved with a range of Professional Learning events to promote our education programs. These included:

- Presentations to staff bodies during incursions.
- A professional learning session at the annual GAWA conference
- A workshop for primary teachers at the Scitech Science Fair PL day
- Professional learning days at a number of primary schools in the region

In total, 126 teachers participated in Nearer to Nature PL opportunities in 2014, almost double the previous year.

Level of promotion of Nearer to Nature and coverage of events and programs in the media

The programs, professional learning events and newsletters have all been promoted on the DEC website.

Two flyers and the Nearer to Nature Brochure were produced at the beginning of the year. These were distributed by mail, placed in PL packs and emailed to our mailing lists. Leaders have been encouraged to help promote the programs and other Centres during lunch and morning tea with visiting teachers. Flyers have been given out with teacher resource packs and evaluation sheets.

Nearer to Nature events received media coverage in 3 regional papers for school incursions and school holiday programs. Please see Appendix 6.

Education

During 2014, Nearer to Nature offered 16 different excursions at our centres. The number of excursions has been reduced from previous years in response to teacher demand and curriculum changes. They were divided into standard day excursions (10am to 2pm) and excursions students could participate in whilst on camp. Of the camp-based excursions, 'Monitoring Marsupials' was offered for two weeks (effectively eight nights) at WDF, during which three nights of trapping were actually conducted.

Excursions offered for 2014 at both centres were as follows:

Standard excursions, WDF and MREDC

- Back from the Brink
- Biodiversity's Base
- Biology
- Busy in the Forest
- Caring for Places
- Discovering the Forest
- Environmental change and management
- Fire – a force of life
- Geography
- Investigating the Forest
- Living with Fire
- Marvellous Macroinvertebrates
- Sustainable Forests

WDF only

- Monitoring marsupials (Western Shield trapping)
- The Nyoongar Way

Camp based excursions, WDF and MREDC

- Sense-ational Nightlife

In addition, Sustainable Forests and Fire were offered at Dwellingup (for metropolitan schools which cannot manage a day trip to Wellington Discovery Forest). Investigating the Tuarts continued to be offered at Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park with one primary group participating in a modified program.

Each excursion is targeted to particular year levels within the school system. The excursion popularity has been ranked. Please refer to Appendix 4.

The following standard incursions were offered in 2014:

- The forest is a busy place (Years PP-2)
- Biodiversity's base (Years 3-5)
- Living with fire (Years 5 and 6)
- Back from the brink (Years 5-10)
- Biodiversity quiz (Years 7-11)
- Conservation strategies (Biology Stage 3)

The number of secondary schools participating in 2014 was 18 and the number of primary schools was 25. In addition, 2 homeschool co-operatives participated.

In 2014 there were initially 4 sessions booked out of a possible 8 trapping nights. Unfortunately only 3 nights of trapping took place since one group had to cancel due to small student numbers.

Level of recurrent participation of school communities in programs offered by Nearer to Nature

During 2014, 43 schools, 1 tertiary institution and 4 other groups were involved with Nearer to Nature in the South West Region. Of the 48 communities involved, 5 had not participated in Nearer to Nature activities before. Of the 43 recurrent schools participating in 2014, 40 attended in the last 2 years.

The number of schools from outside the South West region participating in the programs was 11.

Please refer to Appendix 2.

Number of classes of school communities involved in programs offered by Nearer to Nature

Appendix 1 shows the year levels of the schools involved with Nearer to Nature at MREDC and WDF. Of the 43 schools attending around half (22) booked more than one year level during 2014, consistent with previous years.

The most popular excursion at MREDC was again ‘Sense-ational Nightlife’, which is promoted for Years 6 to 12 and is a favourite camp activity, followed by ‘Biology’ (reflecting the reduction in the number of primary schools attending). Third was ‘Investigating the forest’.

At WDF the most popular excursion was ‘Busy in the forest’ followed by ‘Investigating the forest’. Third was ‘Biodiversity’s base’. The ranking of secondary programs dropped due to small class sizes. Please refer to Appendix 4.

Level of recurrent participation of teachers in programs offered by Nearer to Nature

Of the 62 teachers that booked excursions in 2014, 32 teachers had been on excursions with Nearer to Nature in previous years.

Responses from evaluation of excursion activities

Formal and informal evaluation of all Nearer to Nature programs and professional learning events were very positive. Feedback has been very valuable in assessing and improving new incursions and excursions introduced in 2014.

During 2014, 113 programs were conducted. Each teacher attending an excursion or incursion received link by email to an evaluation on Survey Monkey. There were 33 evaluations returned, or about 30% which is a significant increase on written evaluations received in previous years. Some of these evaluations covered more than one excursion though many teachers rely on verbal feedback and do not complete evaluations.

Responses from evaluation of professional learning events

From evaluation of professional learning all respondents felt that the aims of the session had been achieved and all gave very positive feedback on the experience. All professional learning events resulted in excursion bookings.

Action

It is the intention to provide school communities with opportunities to engage in participatory experiences relating to sustainable use of forests and their resources and biodiversity conservation.

Level of involvement of school communities in activities that benefit the biodiversity conservation of, and enjoyment of visitors to, WDF and MREDC

Three school groups participated in Western Shield trapping at WDF in 2014.

Both the John Forrest SHS and the Mt Lawley Bush Ranger cadets camped at Potters Gorge and assisted with conservation activities in the area. They spent several hours clearing rubbish around Potters Gorge and Wellington Dam and carried out weeding and fire control work at the Wellington Discovery Forest. Students from Adam Rd Primary School, in addition to Western Shield trapping and other Nearer to Nature activities took part in revegetation work at the Wellington Mill Community Park in conjunction with Nearer to Nature officers and members of the Wellington Mill Community Association.

Networks and Partnerships

Nearer to Nature has collaborated with the South West Catchment Council to provide a number of informative and interactive displays at community engagement events throughout 2014 and this partnership is set to continue into 2015.

Other collaborators have included the Leschenault Catchment Council, Brunswick River Restoration Group, Ngalang Wongi Cultural Tours, Land for Wildlife and the WA Wildlife and Rehabilitation Council and the Wellington Mill Community Association.

The Wellington Mill Bush Fire Brigade has continued to support Nearer to Nature in 2014 by allowing the use of its fire appliance during Fire excursions at WDF which enhances the students' experience as well as raising awareness of the role of volunteer BFB's in fire management in the South West.

John Anderson
Project Officer Nearer to Nature South West Region
December 2014

Appendix One

Attending schools, year levels and program participation in Blackwood District

School	Excursion	Year
Cornerstone Christian College (Primary)	IF	3
Dunsborough PS	BITF, LWF, Incursions	1-7
Georgiana Molloy Anglican School	BIOL	11
MacKillop Catholic College	Fire	11
Manea Senior College	BIOL, FIRE, NW	11
Margaret River Home School Co-op	IF, NW, Macros	1-5
Newton Moore SHS	NW, BIOL	10,11
Ocean Forest Lutheran	BB, NW, IF	4
Vasse PS	BB	3-4

Number of school programs in Blackwood District

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
0	7	3	13	6	0	0

This is 5 more programs than in 2013

Attending schools, year levels and program participation in Wellington District, including Dwellingup

Adam Road PS	BITF, IF, CFP, BB, NW, MM	1-5
All Saints College (Dwell)	SF	11
Amaroo PS	BITF	PP
Australind Library	WSInc	K-7
Bunbury Cathedral Grammar	BITF, Fire	1,11
Bunbury Catholic College	Fire, GEOG, ECM	10, 11
Busselton Homeschool Co-op	MM, ST, BB	PP-9
Dalyellup College	Incursion	7-10
Dwellingup PS	BITF	PP-2
Eaton Community College	Macros	11
Eaton PS	IF, BB, Nyoongar	2-4
Foundation Christian College (Dwell)	Fire	11
Frederick Irwin Anglican School	Macros, BIOL	11
Grace Christian School	SF	11
Harvey Library	WSInc	K-7
Hope Christian College	BITF, LWF	PP/1,5
Iona Presentation College	SF, NW, MM	11
John Forrest SHS	CFP, Nyoongar, BFTB, Fire	8-12
Kingston PS	IF	3
Leschenault Catholic PS	BFTBJr	4
Maidens Park PS	BBInc	4-7
Mt Lawley SHS	CFP	8/9
Online Childcare Centre	BITF	PP
Our Lady of Lourdes PS	BITF,IF,BBInc	1,2
Parkfield Primary School	BB	2/3
Peter Moyes Anglican College	Fire	11
River Valley PS	FBPInc	PP-2
Sacred Heart Sorrento	Fire, NW	11
Servite College	SF, NW	11
St Annes PS	FBPInc	PP/1
St Michaels Catholic PS	Incursions	PP-7
SWIT	Geog	Tertiary
Treendale PS	ITLesch	3-4

Number of programs in Wellington District (including Dwellingup)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
22	17	21	18	12	0	1

This is 3 more programs than 2013.

Appendix Two

South West Region Annual Report – 2014

Sacred Heart Catholic School											
Santa Maria College											
Servite College											
Singleton Primary School											
South Bunbury (Ed Supt)											
South Bunbury Primary School											
St Anne's School Harvey											
St Bridgids School											
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School											
St Joseph's College Albany											
St Joseph's Waroona											
St Mark's Anglican Community School											
St Mary's Anglican Girls School											
St Mary's Catholic Primary School											
St Michael's Catholic PS Brunswick											
St Patricks Primary School (Katanning)											
South Fremantle SHS											
South West College of TAFE											
South West Institute of Technology											
South West Sports Centre											
The Kings College											
Tincurrin Primary School											
Tranby College											
Tuart College Primary School											
Unity Christian School											
Wagin District High School											
West Busselton Primary Schol											
Wilson Park Primary School											

School attendance history at Dwellingup Forest Heritage Centre (pink), LPCP (grey) and incursions (orange).

School	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
All Saints College						
Australind Senior High School						
Bunbury Catholic College						
Chisholm Catholic College						
Dalyellup College						
Dunsborough PS						
Dwellingup Primary School						
Foundation Christian College						
Frederick Irwin College						
John Forrest BR						
Maidens Park PS						
Newman College						
Our Lady of Lourdes						
St Annes PS						
St Michaels Catholic PS						
Treendale PS						
Warnbro Community College						

Appendix Three

Table: Analysis of days available, school groups and excursion uptake

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
No. of school days	0	20	20	12	22	21	12	21	20	15	20	15	198
No. of school days booked	-	0	9	3	2	6	3	12	13	4	10	0	62
No. of excursions on school days	-	0	12	4	3	8	5	25	23	5	21	0	106
No. of excursions on non-school days	-	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	7
Term													
	1		2			3			4			TOTAL	
No. of schools from outside district	3		1			8			0			12	
PL days	2		0			3			0			5	

Current uptake is 31% of school days available, a small decrease on 2013.

Considerations to remember when reading this table are:

- A number of cancellations were required in October due to prescribed burning in Davis block
- Teachers require approximately six weeks to plan and implement an excursion, effectively reducing the use of the Centres in February to zero days and in March to 13 at best, unless the teacher/s have been to the Centres previously and book excursions in advance. In addition, DET rules prohibit forest based excursions on days of extreme fire danger.
- At the beginning and end of each year it is usually very hot and although the WDF Centre has refrigerated air-conditioning, all programs have forest-based activities and MREDC is not air-conditioned. Term 4 was noticeably busier this year, though terms 2 and 3 were quieter than past years.
- End of year schedules for teachers are extremely hectic with functions, reports and often swimming lessons and senior students have examinations and finish the term early, therefore the use of the Centres is once again reduced for Nearer to Nature excursions and bookings are mostly for primary and pre-primary groups.
- August and September remain the most popular months at both centres.

Appendix Four

Table 1: Uptake of Nearer to Nature Opportunities in 2014 in Blackwood District.

Excursion	Year range	N° conducted	N° attending	2014 ranking	2013 ranking	2012 ranking	2011 ranking	2010 ranking	2009 ranking	2008 ranking	2007 ranking
Sense-ational Nightlife	1 – 11	7	173	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Biodiversity's Base	3 – 4	3	79	2	9	6	3	4	2	3	2
Investigating the Forest	1 – 5	3	63	3	3	3	6	6	4		8
Living with fire	5	2	60	4	10		9				
Biology	10 – 11	3	59	5	2	4	5	5	7	5	6
Busy in the Forest	PP	2	45	6		2	2	3	5	9	5
Fire A Force of Life	11	2	29	7	6	8	7		10	9	9
Marvellous Macros	1 – 5	1	17	8	4		8		11		
Back from the Brink		0	0		5	9	4	2	3	2	3
Caring For Places		0	0		8	6		7		8	
Discovering the Forest		0	0		7	5			12		
Biodiversity Quiz		0	0		11		10	9			
Sense-ational Trail		0	0						9		10
Geography		0	0						13	7	4
Sustainable Forestry		0	0			10					
Incursions	1 – 7	4	711								

Attendance	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Primary school	70%	50%	70%	52%	50%	53%	40%	54%	64%	76%
Secondary school	30%	50%	30%	48%	50%	47%	60%	46%	36%	24%

Table 1a: Attendance figures in Blackwood District 2014

EXCURSION	PRIMARY				SECONDARY				TAFE/UNI/STUDENT TEACHERS				PROGRAM TOTAL
	Students	Teachers	Others	Total	Students	Teachers	Others	Total	Students	Teachers	Others	Total	
Back from the Brink	0	0	0	0	0	0		0				0	0
Biodiversity's Base	79	6	7	92	0	0		0				0	92
Biodiversity Quiz				0	0	0		0				0	0
Biology				0	59	6	2	67				0	67
Busy in the Forest	45	4	9	58				0				0	58
Caring for Places				0				0				0	0
Discovering the Forest				0				0				0	0
Ecosystem Explorers				0				0				0	0
Fire - A Force for Life				0	29	4	0	33				0	33
Forest Walk/Sense-ational Trail				0				0				0	0
Geography				0				0				0	0
Investigating the Forest	63	4	15	82				0				0	82
Living with fire	60	3	3	66				0				0	66
Marvellous Macroinvertebrates	17	0	12	29	0	0		0				0	29
Sustainable forests				0	6	1		7				0	7
Sense-ational Nightlife	40	3	14	57	133	10	0	143				0	200
Excursion Total	304	20	60	384	227	21	2	250	0	0	0	0	634
Incursions	711	29		740									740
Dunsborough PS PL Day		34											34
Professional Learning Total	0	34	0	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34
GRAND TOTAL	1408												

Total Visitors to the Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre for 2012

1408

Table 2: Uptake of Nearer to Nature Excursions in 2014 in Wellington District.

Excursion	Year range	N ^o . conducted	N ^o . attending	2014 ranking	2013 ranking	2012 ranking	2011 ranking	2010 ranking	2009 ranking	2008 ranking	2007 ranking
Biodiversity's Base	PP – 9	11	267	1	3	9	3	1	1	2	4
Busy in the Forest	PP – 2	12	242	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1
Investigating the Forest	2 – 3	10	193	3	2	7	5	5	13		15
Fire – a force of life	7 – 12	6	96	4	5	4	13	6	14		
Caring for Places	4 – 12	3	92	5	8	14				16	
Geography	11 – 12+	4	83	6	11	12	10	8	9	4	2
Back from the Brink	4 – 12	3	68	7	12	6	11	4	4	6	5
Monitoring Marsupials	4 – 11	3	64	=8	7	8	7	13	12	11	12
Sense-ational Nightlife	5 – 12	4	64	=8	4	2	6	3	3	5	3
The Nyoongar Way	3 – 12	3	63	10	14	5	4			13	8
Sustainable forests	11	4	58	11	6	3	2	8	11		
Tuarts	3 – 4	2	54	12			16	16	16	15	
Env. Change and Mgmt	9 – 10	2	51	13							
Forest Walk/Sense Trail	4 – 9	2	49	14	16	16	9	12	5	10	14
Marvellous Macros	11	2	27	15	17	15	15	14	10	1	13
Living with fire	5	1	14	=16	14						
Biology	11	1	14	=16	9	10	12	15	6	8	9
Discovering the Forest		0	0		13	11	8	7	8	7	7
Biodiversity Quiz		0	0		10						
Incursions	PP – 10	10	255								

Attendance	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Primary school	70%	60%	52%	46%	53%	55%	63%	64%	72%	87%
Secondary school	30%	40%	48%	54%	47%	45%	37%	36%	28%	13%

Notes : Monitoring Marsupials was only offered for two weeks of the year.

Figures include programs at Dwellingup Forest Heritage Centre

Table 2a: Attendance figures in Wellington District 2014

EXCURSION	PRIMARY				SECONDARY				TAFE/UNI/STUDENT TEACHERS				PROGRAM
	Students	Teachers	Others	Total	Students	Teachers	Others	Total	Students	Teachers	Others	Total	TOTAL
Back from the Brink	50	4	6	60	18	4		22				0	82
Biodiversity's Base	267	23	53	343				0				0	343
Biodiversity Quiz				0	0	0	0	0				0	0
Biology				0	14	2	0	16				0	16
Busy in the Forest	242	28	37	307				0				0	307
Caring for Places				0	63	4	0	67				0	67
Discovering the Forest	0	0		0				0				0	0
Environmental Change and Management				0	105	6		111				0	111
Fire - A Force for Life	0	0	0	0	96	12		108				0	108
Geography				0				0	29	4		33	33
Investigating the Forest	193	14	24	231				0				0	231
Living with fire	14	2	2	18				0				0	18
Marvellous Macroinvertebrates				0	27	4	0	31				0	31
Monitoring Marsupials	114	2	32	148	14	4	0	18				0	166
Sense-ational Nightlife	49	1	13	63	35	6	0	41				0	104
Sustainable Forests				0	58	7	0	65				0	65
The Nyoongar Way	45	3	4	52	18	4		22				0	74
Tuarts	54	2	4	60				0				0	60
Excursion Total	1028	79	175	1282	448	53	0	501	29	4	0	33	1816
Incursions	215	10	3	228	40	4		44					272
GAWA conference						13		13	0	0	0	0	13
Eaton PS PL Day		24		24					0		0	0	24
Bunbury PS Sustainability Day		20		20								0	20
Scitech teachers workshop		35		35								0	35
Professional Learning Total	0	79	0	79	0	13	0	13	0	0	0	0	92
GRAND TOTAL	2248												

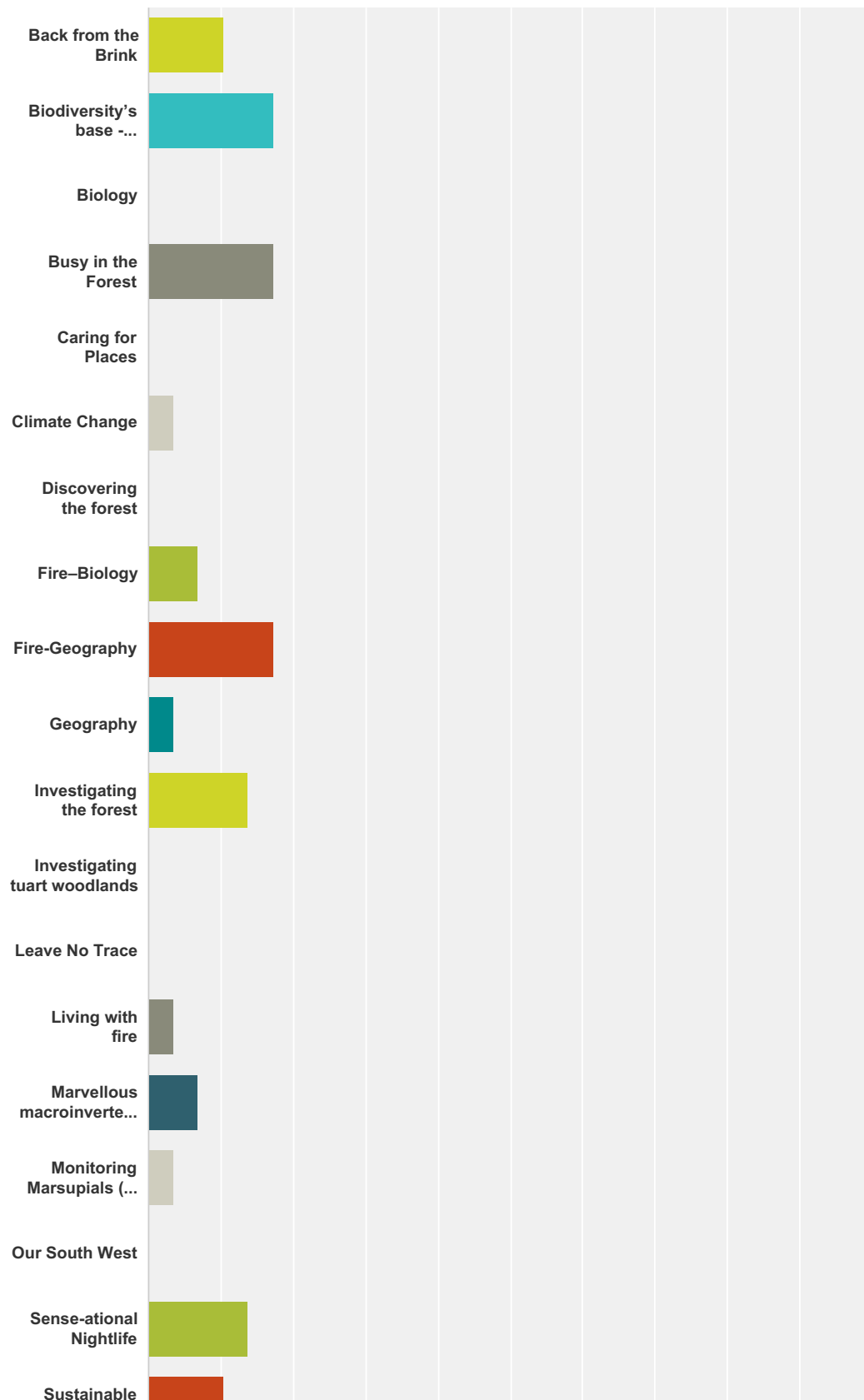
Total Attendance in Wellington District for 2013

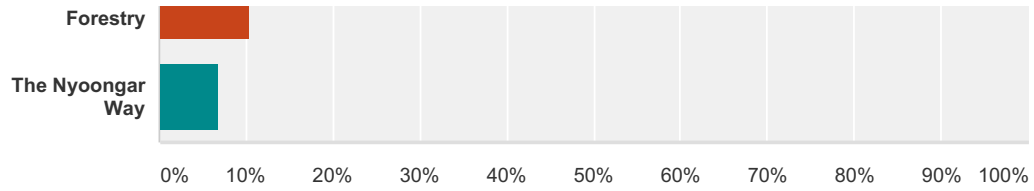
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Appendix Five
Evaluations

Q1 Which Nearer to Nature Schools program(s) did you do?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 3



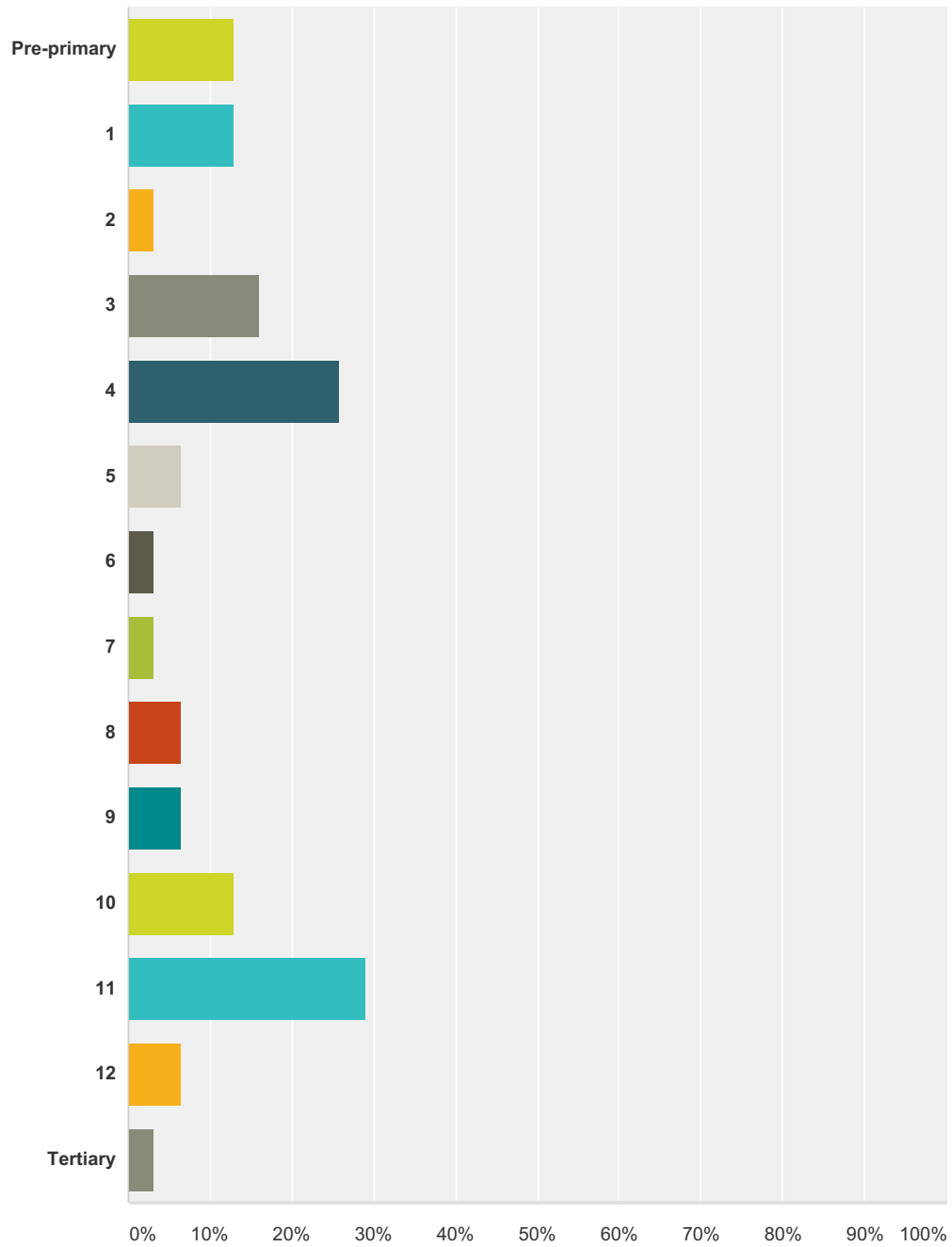


Answer Choices	Responses
Back from the Brink	10.34% 3
Biodiversity's base - incredible invertebrates	17.24% 5
Biology	0.00% 0
Busy in the Forest	17.24% 5
Caring for Places	0.00% 0
Climate Change	3.45% 1
Discovering the forest	0.00% 0
Fire-Biology	6.90% 2
Fire-Geography	17.24% 5
Geography	3.45% 1
Investigating the forest	13.79% 4
Investigating tuart woodlands	0.00% 0
Leave No Trace	0.00% 0
Living with fire	3.45% 1
Marvellous macroinvertebrates	6.90% 2
Monitoring Marsupials (WS trapping)	3.45% 1
Our South West	0.00% 0
Sense-ational Nightlife	13.79% 4
Sustainable Forestry	10.34% 3
The Nyoongar Way	6.90% 2
Total Respondents: 29	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Nightwalk	11/20/2014 3:26 PM
2	Bioquiz	8/28/2014 5:03 PM
3	Sampling and Measurement	8/26/2014 1:24 PM
4	Environmental Management	4/8/2014 2:40 PM
5	Environmental Change and Management	4/4/2014 11:27 AM

Q2 What year level was your class?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 1



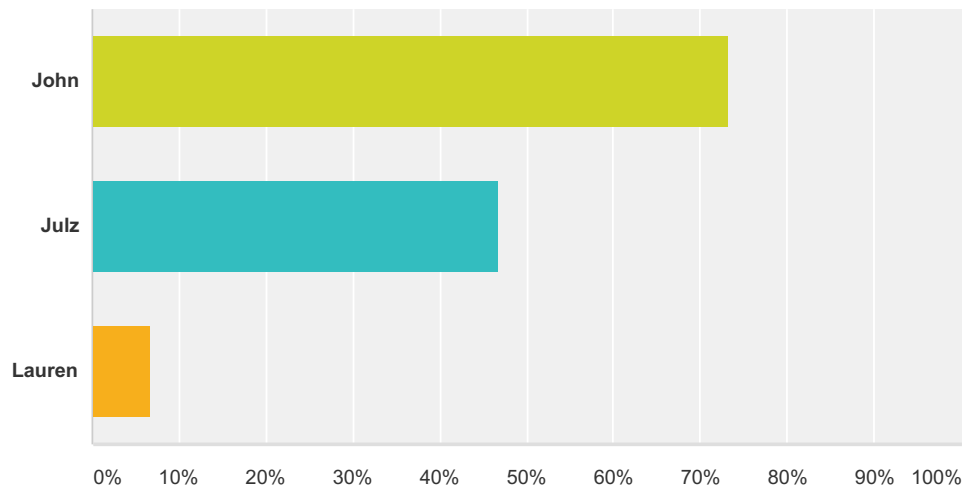
Answer Choices	Responses
Pre-primary	12.90% 4
1	12.90% 4
2	3.23% 1
3	16.13% 5

4	25.81%	8
5	6.45%	2
6	3.23%	1
7	3.23%	1
8	6.45%	2
9	6.45%	2
10	12.90%	4
11	29.03%	9
12	6.45%	2
Tertiary	3.23%	1
Total Respondents: 31		

#	Comments	Date
1	mixed group of homeschooling children	11/20/2014 2:12 PM
2	Various ages from about 17 - onwards	8/26/2014 1:24 PM

Q3 Who was your Nearer to Nature excursion leader?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 2

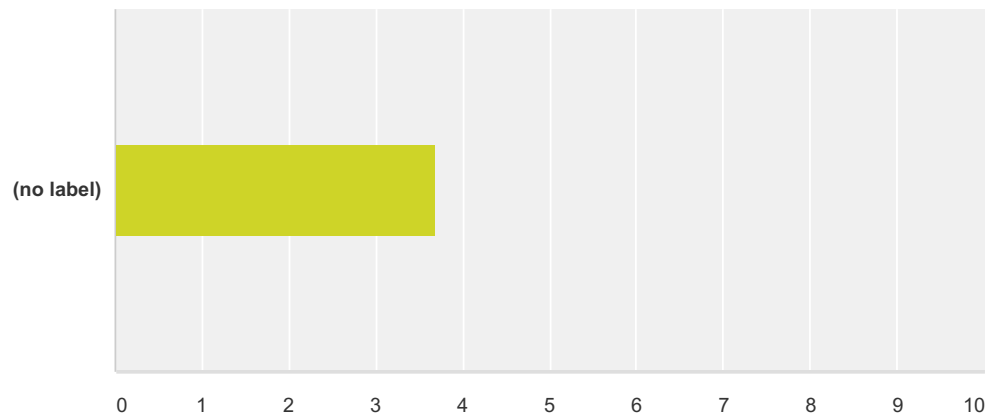


Answer Choices	Responses
John	73.33% 22
Julz	46.67% 14
Lauren	6.67% 2
Total Respondents: 30	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
	There are no responses.	

Q4 How would you rate the delivery of the excursion by Nearer to Nature staff?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 3



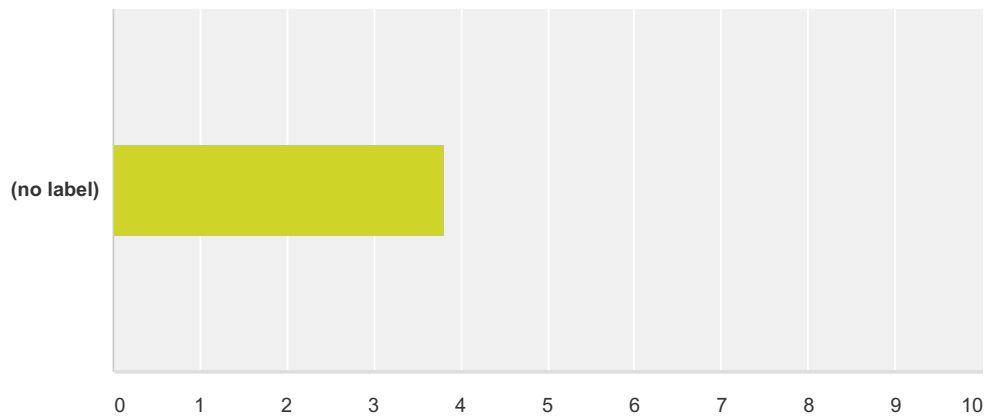
	Poor	Room for improvement	Pretty good	Excellent	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	0.00% 0	3.45% 1	24.14% 7	72.41% 21	29	3.69

#	Please add further comments	Date
1	The only suggestion we could think of is that there was too much talking and not a lot of doing. The content seemed to be a lot to remember for year 3/4s.	11/27/2014 2:18 PM
2	This is my third time with Julz and each time has been absolutely fantastic.	11/27/2014 10:01 AM
3	Delivery of information was pitched appropriately for our students. Well done.	11/24/2014 10:18 PM
4	John is very passionate about what he does and it shows	11/20/2014 2:12 PM
5	We need to shorten our work for the age group.	11/7/2014 12:02 PM
6	John and Julz were fantastic as always and really know their content. For the age group they probably needed to move a little more for some parts of the day and do some more hands-on tasks. The forest walk was brilliant and they would have been more switched onto the task but they probably needed a lunch break first as they were losing concentration and not taking all the wonderful information in.	11/6/2014 7:05 PM
7	The talk session was very interesting, but I wonder if it's possible to include more visual aids? Maybe even things the kids can actually handle and examine? It was quite a lot of talking. Don't get me wrong tho, July presentation was excellent, enthusiastic, excited, informative and she handled the kids brilliantly. I just think they'd get more out of it if they could see more 'stuff'!	11/6/2014 2:52 PM
8	Well done considering the sudden staff changes	10/16/2014 1:11 PM
9	John is a great facilitator. His presentation is pitched at the right level for senior students. He is familiar with the WACE Geography course and therefore provides information that is relevant and directly related to the course.	8/28/2014 5:07 PM
10	We had Julz and also a trainee, she was good but I think with experience she will improve, we were the first group she had taken so for that I believe she did a great job. She just need to work on projection on her voice but overall I think she did a great job	7/22/2014 10:42 AM
11	It wasn't easy to keep young children still and listening in the forest setting where they were keen to be from wanting to be 'hands on'	5/21/2014 3:19 PM
12	The addition of Troy Bennell to the excursion and his insights were a high light	4/8/2014 2:40 PM

13	John is an amazing source of knowledge. The delivery and pace of his presentation was excellent. Good variety too. My students gained so much from this excursion :)	4/3/2014 4:58 PM
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Q5 How would you describe the organisation of your excursion?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 3

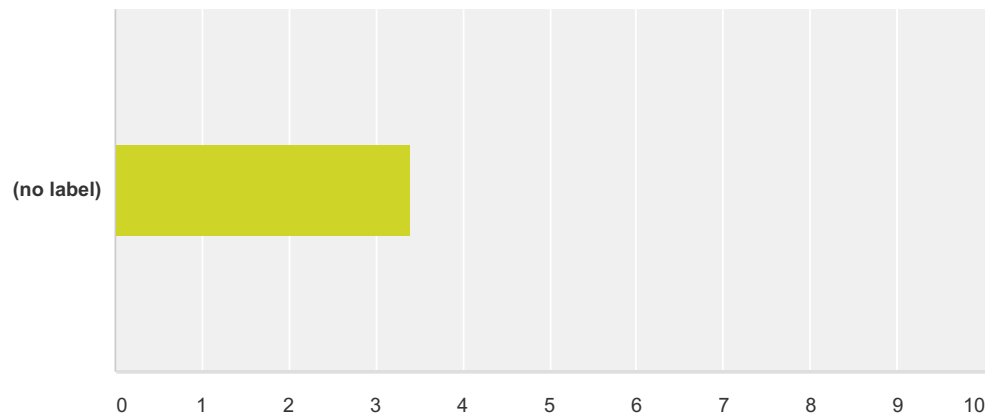


	Poor	So-so	Pretty good	Excellent	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	17.24% 5	82.76% 24	0.00% 0	29	3.83

#	Please add further comments	Date
1	Thank you for a very informative and engaging day for our Year 4 students.	11/24/2014 10:18 PM
2	We were more disorganised than John...he was always on time and did a wonderful job of sorting us out!!	11/20/2014 2:12 PM
3	The way the classes were divided was great, the 3 components of the talk, walk and fire truck kept it interesting. Time wise we needed to shorten the activities though.	11/6/2014 7:05 PM
4	The early emails I received were very comprehensive and included all of the information that I needed. All of the equipment needed was available and in perfect order and the sessions started and finished on time.	8/28/2014 5:07 PM
5	We had a great day. We enjoyed the enthusiasm and the activities	4/9/2014 11:34 AM

Q6 How useful were the pre-excursion activities and information?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 2

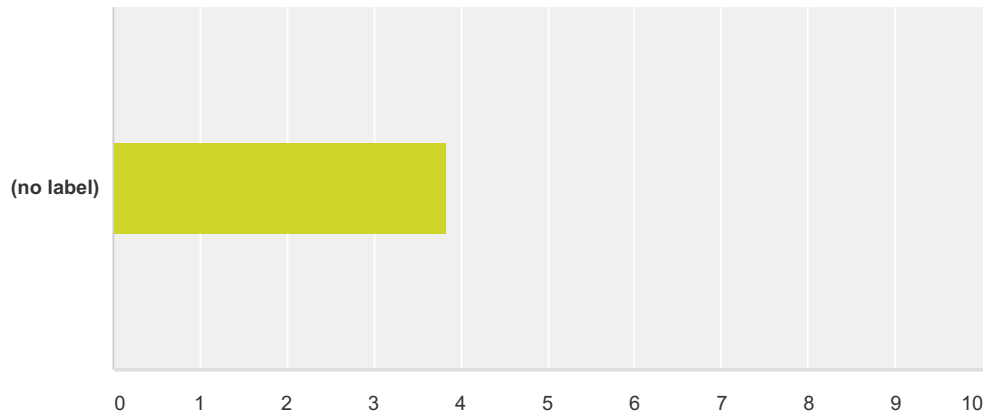


	Not all all useful	Somewhat useful	Quite useful	Extremely useful	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	0.00% 0	6.67% 2	46.67% 14	46.67% 14	0.00% 0	30	3.40

#	Please explain your answer	Date
1	I used the resources to use as a threatened species based project for the students to complete prior to the excursion. They learnt a lot about their species from the fact sheets and researched further to complete their reports.	11/24/2014 10:24 PM
2	We didn't really use all that we were sent but that is no worries I'd rather have too much info than not enough	11/20/2014 2:14 PM
3	I used some of them, particularly the DVDs but used mainly the year 5 Geography work we had been doing from the Australian Curriculum.	11/6/2014 7:07 PM
4	The booklet with activities is very well presented and easy to use within the class room. We enjoy the creativity and relevance to curriculum.	10/16/2014 1:13 PM
5	We completed the pre-excursion booklet and the Dieback PPoint before the excursion.	8/28/2014 5:09 PM
6	it allowed the children immerce into the wha they were going to be doing	7/22/2014 12:25 PM
7	Interesting information!	5/21/2014 3:20 PM
8	Mainly to inform me	4/8/2014 6:32 PM
9	I was there as a extra helper.	4/8/2014 2:41 PM
10	good breadth of information allowed me to see what we would be covered so I didn't repeat any content in my teaching	4/7/2014 2:17 PM
11	These could be modernised a little as the articles are somewhat dated. However, the readings set were applicable.	4/3/2014 4:59 PM

Q7 How necessary was the introductory session for this excursion?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 3

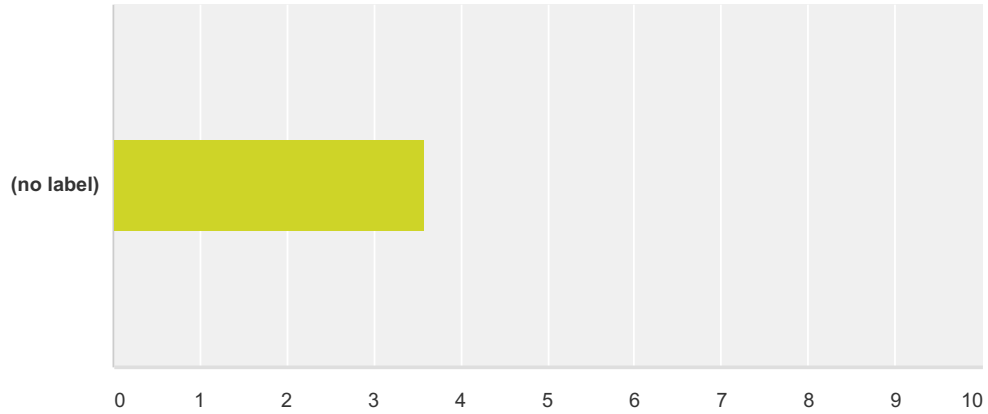


	Not at all	So-so	OK but could be improved	Very - set the scene for the activities	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	13.79% 4	75.86% 22	10.34% 3	29	3.85

#	Please explain your answer	Date
1	It was important but went for too long.	11/27/2014 2:19 PM
2	The students had the opportunity to investigate the types and workings of the supplied traps.	11/24/2014 10:24 PM
3	Excellent!	11/7/2014 12:03 PM
4	Not quite sure which part of the day this refers to	11/6/2014 7:07 PM
5	More emphasis on the actual activities the students would be doing.	8/26/2014 1:27 PM
6	Rules were explained and it set the students up for the day	7/22/2014 12:25 PM
7	Use of plastic animals and questioning of students was also well done. Setting was excellent.	4/8/2014 6:32 PM
8	no PowerPoint so jumped around the booklet sequence a little	4/7/2014 2:17 PM

Q8 How relevant was the content of the excursion to your studies and the curriculum?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 2

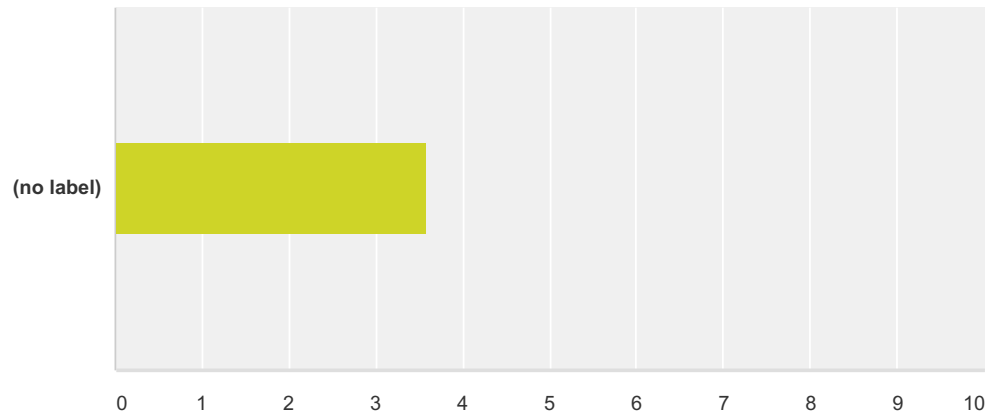


	Not at all	Some was relevant, but a lot wasn't	Mostly relevant	Spot on - hit curriculum perfectly	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	40.00% 12	56.67% 17	3.33% 1	30	3.59

#	Please explain your answer	Date
1	Just what we were all wanting for our kids	11/20/2014 2:14 PM
2	Some of it was a little beyond the year 5 students	11/6/2014 7:07 PM
3	See earlier comment.	8/28/2014 5:09 PM
4	Students are mainly interested in sampling techniques.	8/26/2014 1:27 PM
5	With all the props along the way it kept the students interacted and with the decision to move each group to the front of the group it allowed every student to have a go at answering questions and to be involved	7/22/2014 12:25 PM
6	Not a teacher	4/8/2014 2:41 PM

Q9 How well did the conclusion session reinforce the day's concepts and round off the excursion?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 4

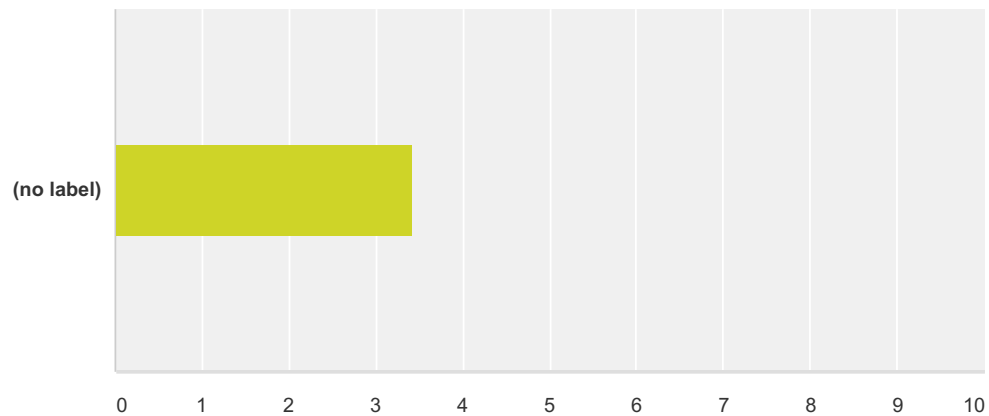


	Not at all	A bit	OK but could have been better	Perfectly summarised the day's learning.	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	3.57% 1	0.00% 0	28.57% 8	64.29% 18	3.57% 1	28	3.59

#	Please explain your answer	Date
1	Again, it went for quite a while and the kids were getting a bit ratty.	11/27/2014 2:19 PM
2	We ran out of time because we were having so much fun!	11/6/2014 3:01 PM
3	Ran out of time	10/15/2014 1:19 PM
4	We were rushed due to bad weather!	9/1/2014 1:20 PM
5	No conclusion session held	8/26/2014 1:27 PM
6	students had the opportunity to get questions answered and everything that had been learnt was reinforced	7/22/2014 12:25 PM
7	We did run out of time, but I was 20 min late.	5/5/2014 11:13 AM
8	Good but we ran out of time. Which wasn't the presenters fault we need to go earlier in the day.	4/8/2014 6:32 PM
9	Rushed timeline to be back in Australind by 2:50pm for school bus pick up.	4/7/2014 3:19 PM

Q10 Overall, how well did the program meet your expectations?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 4



	Not at all	A bit below what I expected	About what I expected	Met all expectations and beyond. Wow!	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	0.00% 0	3.57% 1	50.00% 14	46.43% 13	28	3.43

#	Comment, please explain your answer.	Date
1	We found that it was very difficult to remember all the roles of the invertebrates. Perhaps all the information from the board could be typed up and laminated so the kids could refer to it while they were out and about?	11/27/2014 2:22 PM
2	Perfect	11/20/2014 2:16 PM
3	We need to be a bit briefer.	11/7/2014 12:07 PM
4	It was what we expected however this is about our third visit because we get so much out of it.	10/16/2014 1:18 PM
5	Have been several times. Always great.	10/15/2014 1:24 PM
6	Very happy with the program. We came back again this year knowing the quality of the program offered.	8/28/2014 5:12 PM
7	it was fantastic to be out in nature and for the students to be able to see it first hand it was especially great when we did the sensory walk	7/22/2014 12:30 PM
8	We have been before and have always had great days	4/9/2014 11:37 AM
9	Students and parent helpers are still raving about what a great day it was. I also learnt a lot and will use some of the activities we did back at school.	4/8/2014 6:35 PM
10	John and Julz were fantastic, really know their stuff and interacted and engaged the students and staff. Having Troy Bennell along was a great addition.	4/8/2014 2:45 PM

Q11 What was the best thing about your excursion with Nearer to Nature Schools?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 5

#	Responses	Date
1	Getting outside. Julz delivered the information really well.	11/27/2014 2:22 PM
2	Julz has an amazing knowledge of the bush and everything in it. She is so passionate about it when sharing with the students.	11/27/2014 10:04 AM
3	Hands on activités, where students had the opportunity to investigate, set traps, look at signs of certain species and collect and analyse data.	11/24/2014 10:32 PM
4	John was great with kids	11/20/2014 3:30 PM
5	That we were able to get someone else to handle this as their area of expertise. We do so much as homeschooling parents it's nice to have someone else use hands on education with our children and we loved begin there to learn it all as well.	11/20/2014 2:16 PM
6	Going on the treasure hunt with Julz. The children lived Julz impersonations of the animals.	11/18/2014 7:38 PM
7	Getting out of the classroom	11/7/2014 12:07 PM
8	Being outdoors in such a beautiful environment	11/6/2014 7:09 PM
9	They really loved the trapping experience	11/6/2014 3:09 PM
10	Being in nature	10/16/2014 1:18 PM
11	Exposing students to a differing environment, facilitator and having them see a real world example of their learning.	10/15/2014 1:24 PM
12	John's knowledge	10/6/2014 1:48 PM
13	Activities were well organised and all equipment used worked for the students	10/2/2014 4:42 PM
14	Walking into the forest to find and discover so many amazing invertebrates.	9/2/2014 11:45 AM
15	Local knowledge...flexible approach...	9/1/2014 1:25 PM
16	Seeing the forest first hand versus reading about it in a textbook and taking part in the various activities.	8/28/2014 5:12 PM
17	I personally liked the sensory walk and when the children got to use the magnifying glasses to explore different things out in nature.	7/22/2014 12:30 PM
18	Dynamic presentation. Good materials. It's tricky to keep 3,4,5 yr olds listening for long. It was well controlled.	5/21/2014 3:23 PM
19	Introduction delivery.	5/5/2014 11:15 AM
20	The forest and the opportunity to take kids out of the class	4/9/2014 11:37 AM
21	Weather, site and activities we did on the day.	4/8/2014 6:35 PM
22	Seeing the students enjoy the out doors.	4/8/2014 2:45 PM
23	I was there as a support teacher. Accessible to the people who knew and who didn't know the curriculum.	4/8/2014 2:40 PM
24	Hand on nature of the natural environment that students have little knowledge about and the diversity that it holds.	4/7/2014 3:22 PM
25	hands on activities, real life examples	4/7/2014 2:18 PM
26	Being on site.	4/4/2014 11:31 AM
27	Taking our students into the forest to conduct fieldwork and to see the impact of fire first hand.	4/3/2014 5:00 PM

Q12 What was not so good about your excursion with Nearer to Nature Schools?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 9

#	Responses	Date
1	The timeline didnt match up with both leaders meaning one group had an hours lunch break while the other had about 10-15minutes.	11/27/2014 2:22 PM
2	N/A	11/27/2014 10:04 AM
3	Nothing.	11/24/2014 10:32 PM
4	Night walk. Was a long walk for such little kids after a big day. Impossible to keep 30 people quiet enough to see anything.	11/20/2014 3:30 PM
5	The silly cold weather :-)	11/20/2014 2:16 PM
6	There wasnt another team leader for the other half of the excursion (senses blind fold walk), there fore I just took my class through this part, while Julz took the other class on the treasure bush walk.	11/18/2014 7:38 PM
7	We will learn to focus more at the age group before us.	11/7/2014 12:07 PM
8	Timing, it ran a bit long and we were late back to school	11/6/2014 7:09 PM
9	Not enough time!!	11/6/2014 3:09 PM
10	We had to leave!	10/16/2014 1:18 PM
11	Little repetative in afternoon session.	10/15/2014 1:24 PM
12	Nothing	10/6/2014 1:48 PM
13	All good just the weather prevented us from going into the forest at night	10/2/2014 4:42 PM
14	N/A	9/2/2014 11:45 AM
15	Maybe add a bit more background on features of trees...	9/1/2014 1:25 PM
16	Nil	8/28/2014 5:12 PM
17	I do think the nature walk was a little too long to keep some of the students engaged.	7/22/2014 12:30 PM
18	Introduction was a ittle long.	5/5/2014 11:15 AM
19	We need to plan to be there longer to allow things to not be so rushed.	4/8/2014 6:35 PM
20	Nothing, was all a success and enjoyable day	4/8/2014 2:45 PM
21	Speaking points could be shorter but more frequent. Longer walks, shorter info, long walk, short info covering the same amount but spread for those students who find concentrating for more than five minutes difficult.	4/7/2014 3:22 PM
22	not knowing about needing the bus to transfer kids to different sites	4/7/2014 2:18 PM
23	We need to work on our timings.	4/4/2014 11:31 AM

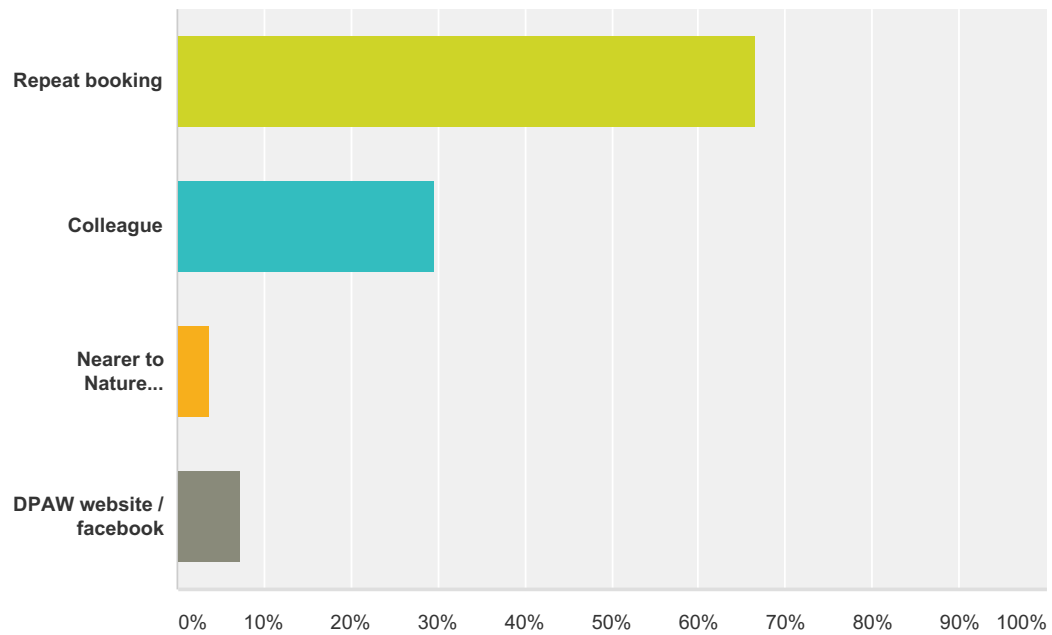
Q13 Please tell us what else you think we could do to provide a fantastic excursion experience for students and teachers.

Answered: 16 Skipped: 16

#	Responses	Date
1	More hands on action.	11/27/2014 2:22 PM
2	Perhaps some videos on the species local to the area and perhaps an exhibition of the lifecycle of each species in diagrammatic form suitable for primary aged students.	11/24/2014 10:32 PM
3	nothing	11/20/2014 2:16 PM
4	Perhaps have another leader, so that Julz wasn't stressed on getting through everything on her own.	11/18/2014 7:38 PM
5	More breaks, less science...more 'fun' tasks...remembering the kids in front of us.	11/7/2014 12:07 PM
6	Keep the activities really hands-on for the primary school aged students	11/6/2014 7:09 PM
7	As explained earlier	11/6/2014 3:09 PM
8	Nothing, we like it as it is.	10/16/2014 1:18 PM
9	Have hands on objects or displays that students can "play" with during their break times after eating.	10/15/2014 1:24 PM
10	Break it up a bit more.	10/6/2014 1:48 PM
11	Nothing else really	10/2/2014 4:42 PM
12	Bring in the human/environmental interactions...a few more stats/data on impact of fire on people...housing, infrastructure, etc.	9/1/2014 1:25 PM
13	I think it would be good to send the students still on a nature walk but instead of doing it as a whole group have smaller groups were they are sent on more a of treasure hunt to find things	7/22/2014 12:30 PM
14	Maybe more hands on things	4/8/2014 2:45 PM
15	The more hands on, the better.	4/7/2014 3:22 PM
16	See if we can have more 'hands on' activities.	4/4/2014 11:31 AM

Q14 How did you find out about this excursion?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 5

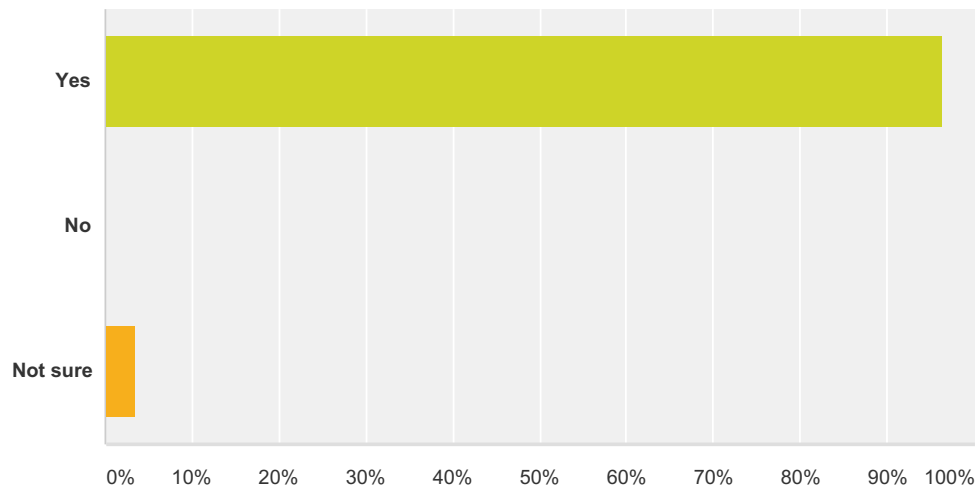


Answer Choices	Responses
Repeat booking	66.67% 18
Colleague	29.63% 8
Nearer to Nature newsletter	3.70% 1
DPAW website / facebook	7.41% 2
Total Respondents: 27	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	About to book again for next year.	11/27/2014 10:04 AM
2	Recently, promoted at Australind library.	11/24/2014 10:32 PM
3	Contact with DPaw	11/7/2014 12:07 PM
4	Originally...I rang up!	9/1/2014 1:25 PM
5	through school and being told a day before I was going!	4/8/2014 2:40 PM

Q15 Would you consider doing further programs with Nearer to Nature Schools?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	96.55% 28
No	0.00% 0
Not sure	3.45% 1
Total	29

#	If no, please explain why.	Date
1	You are a great resource and I would recommend the DPaW excursions to all and sundry!	11/7/2014 12:07 PM
2	It is close to the school I teach at and cost wise it is reasonable.	4/8/2014 6:35 PM

Q16 If you would like to be entered into our draw for \$100 worth of fantastic Department of Parks and Wildlife publications, please provide your name and at least one way of contacting you.

Answered: 24 Skipped: 8

Answer Choices	Responses	
Name:	100.00%	24
School:	95.83%	23
Address 1:	0.00%	0
Address 2:	0.00%	0
City/Town:	0.00%	0
State/Province:	0.00%	0
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2	Kelly Bambrick	11/27/2014 10:04 AM
3	Cathy Voak	11/24/2014 10:32 PM
4	Chelle stone	11/20/2014 3:30 PM
5	Lisa Branigan	11/20/2014 2:16 PM
6	Jessica Philpott	11/18/2014 7:38 PM
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8	Beth Harman	11/6/2014 7:09 PM
9	Monica Jessop	11/6/2014 3:09 PM
10	Claire Sorgiovanni	10/16/2014 1:18 PM
11	Teresa Collins	10/15/2014 1:24 PM
12	Daniel Lehman	10/6/2014 1:48 PM
13	Erica Perkins	9/2/2014 11:45 AM
14	Cam Samuels	9/1/2014 1:25 PM
15	Katherine Branchi	8/28/2014 5:12 PM
16	Rebecca Mifflin	7/22/2014 12:30 PM
17	Nola kinal	5/21/2014 3:23 PM

18	Anne Smart	4/8/2014 6:35 PM
19	Kelli Schmitt	4/8/2014 2:45 PM
20	Emily Egerton-Warburton	4/8/2014 2:40 PM
21	Ross Millington	4/7/2014 3:22 PM
22	Louise Bursey	4/7/2014 2:18 PM
23	Cam Samuels	4/4/2014 11:31 AM
24	Peter Byrne	4/3/2014 5:00 PM
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2	Ocean Forest Lutheran College	11/27/2014 10:04 AM
3	Leschenault Catholic Primary	11/24/2014 10:32 PM
4	Homeschool	11/20/2014 3:30 PM
5	MRHEG	11/20/2014 2:16 PM
6	Dunsborough Primary School	11/18/2014 7:38 PM
7	Dunsborough Primary School	11/6/2014 7:09 PM
8	Leschenault Catholic Primary School	11/6/2014 3:09 PM
9	Dunsborough Primary	10/16/2014 1:18 PM
10	Eaton PS	10/15/2014 1:24 PM
11	Servite College	10/6/2014 1:48 PM
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16	Dwellingup Primary School	5/21/2014 3:23 PM
17	Vasse Primary School	4/8/2014 6:35 PM
18	Bunbury Catholic College	4/8/2014 2:45 PM
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4	Chelle.stone@ymail.com	11/20/2014 3:30 PM
5	lisa@quantumcoaching.com.au	11/20/2014 2:16 PM
6	jess.philpott@angove.com.au	11/18/2014 7:38 PM
7	beth.harman@education.wa.edu.au	11/6/2014 7:09 PM
8	Jessop.monica@cathednet.wa.edu.au	11/6/2014 3:09 PM
9	claire.sorgiovanni@education.wa.edu.au	10/16/2014 1:18 PM
10	teresa.collins@education.wa.edu.au	10/15/2014 1:24 PM
11	lehman.daniel@servite.wa.edu.au	10/6/2014 1:48 PM
12	erica.perkins@education.wa.edu.au	9/2/2014 11:45 AM
13	samuels.cameroncathednet.wa.edu.au	9/1/2014 1:25 PM
14	kbranchi@iona.wa.edu.au	8/28/2014 5:12 PM
15	mifflin.rebecca@cathednet.wa.edu.au	7/22/2014 12:30 PM
16	Nola.Kinal@education.wa.edu.au	5/21/2014 3:23 PM
17	Anne.Smart@education.wa.edu.au	4/8/2014 6:35 PM
18	schmitt.kelli@cathednet.wa.edu.au	4/8/2014 2:45 PM
19	emilywarburton@yahoo.com.au	4/8/2014 2:40 PM
20	ross.millington@education.wa.edu.au	4/7/2014 3:22 PM
21	Bursey.louise@cathednet.wa.edu.au	4/7/2014 2:18 PM
22	samuels.cameron@cathednet.wa.edu.au	4/4/2014 11:31 AM
23	pbyrne@petermoyes.wa.edu.au	4/3/2014 5:00 PM
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Appendix Six

Media coverage and public relations



Nearer to Nature's Julie-Anne Oliver shows Rocky Baggetta, 4, a chuditch and Amelia Bakker, 6, a western ringtail possum. PICTURE: LINCOLN BERTELLI

Program educates the next generation

AUSTRALIND Library held a school holiday program to educate people about wildlife recovery.

The activity taught participants about the Department of Parks and Wildlife's Nearer to Nature program.

Julie-Anne Oliver ran the hands-on sessions, which informed people about the program.

"It's about people understanding that we live in Australia's only internationally-recognised biodiversity hotspot," she said.

"The program aims to return the

balance and mixture of animals in certain areas to their levels prior to European settlement, with a particular focus on threatened species.

"We're here to talk about why it's important and what people can do, such as keeping cats inside at night and not taking their dogs into national parks where areas are baited.

"Education is very important and information is a very powerful tool."

She said a number of incursions

such as this, plus school excursions, were in place to teach students about the South West's fragile native wildlife and the importance of conserving them.

"Eleven of the 21 extinct mammals in Australia are from WA," she said.

"We're trying to involve the community via education and give kids a thirst to learn about native animals."

Taxidermy displays of native animals have also been on display at the library during the holidays.

Shire of HARVEY



October 14, 2014

www.nfrcgo.com.au

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014

4 o'clock Report

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SHIRE OF HARVEY



PROPOSED DEDICATION OF LOT 66 OLD COAST ROAD, AUSTRALIND (BEING LOT 66 ON DIAGRAM 20089) AS A PUBLIC ROAD

At its meeting on 30th September 2014, Council resolved to initiate the process of dedicating Lot 66 Old Coast Road, Australind as a public road. Lot 66 is a privately owned right of way and is held in the name of Mary Grace Plunkett (now deceased). It is located immediately south of the Australind Veterinary Clinic. Dedication under Section 56 of the Land Administration Act 1997 will transfer the ownership of the right of way to the State of WA. Relevant information relating to this proposal is available from the Shire of Harvey.

The proposal requires advertising for public comment in accordance with the Land Administration Act 1997. Members of the public are invited to comment on the proposal. Any comments you may wish to make should be made in writing and lodged with the Chief Executive Officer by close of business on 3rd November 2014. Please phone the Shire if you have any queries on 9729 0341.

MICHAEL PARKER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TENDER FOR THE SALE OF LOTS 51 & 53 GEORGE STREET, BRUNSWICK JUNCTION

Tenders are invited for the purchase of 2 (two) single residential building lots located at 51 and 53, George Avenue, Brunswick Junction.

The lots are 800 m2 in size and have 20m wide frontage, connected to deep sewerage, require minimal site works to commence building and are suitable for single residential development.

Tender documents can be downloaded from Council's website at www.harvey.wa.gov.au



Helping Native Animals

Children of all ages thoroughly enjoyed the interactive presentations of Department of Parks and Wildlife Nearer to Nature Officer, Julie-Anne Oliver, who visited Australind and Harvey Libraries as part of the school holiday program last week.

Australind Library complemented the talks with a range of taxidermy native animals on display to raise awareness of the dangers posed to them by foxes and feral cats.

Ms Oliver explained the vital role of the Department's Western Shield Wildlife Recovery Program in fighting the decline of native animals through predators and explained how 1080 poison bait is used to control numbers of foxes and feral cats.

• Department of Parks and Wildlife Nearer to Nature Officer Julie-Anne Oliver captivated the audience at the Australind Library with her presentation about threatened native animals.

Planning and Development Act 2005 TOWN PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION



Department of Parks and Wildlife's Nearer to Nature officer Julie-Anne Oliver will bring taxidermy specimens to the library, such as this numbat she shows Hope Christian College students during an excursion.

Sessions shed light on native animals

HANNELORE HEPBURN

THERE is a rare opportunity during the October school holidays to find out about the declining number of native animals and the role of the Western Shield wildlife recovery program.

Australind library staff are excited to host three sessions with Department of Parks and Wildlife's Nearer to Nature officer Julie-Anne Oliver.

Throughout the two-week holidays, the library's glass cabinet will showcase a range of taxidermy specimens including a chu-

ditch, a numbat and a quenda.

Children and adults will be able to get a close look at the specimens and learn more about their habitats and needs.

Ms Oliver will also talk about the control of predators such as foxes and feral cats, and why baiting with 1080 poison can make a big difference to the survival rate of native animals.

Library officer Fran Pinfold, who organised the sessions together with senior library officer Deborah Pye, said the recovery program has been going strong for the past 12 years.

"This is the first time Western

Shield is coming to a public library," Ms Pinfold said.

"It is a one-off opportunity for children and adults to find out more about endangered native wildlife.

"Many people don't know what a numbat looks like and we hope it will motivate children to find out more about them."

Sessions are held at the Australind Library tomorrow from 2pm-4pm, on October 6 from 6pm-7.30pm and on October 8 from 2pm-4pm.

Western Shield will also be at the Harvey Library on October 6 from 2.30pm-4pm.

Saddling up for suicide prevention

A GROUP of horse lovers will saddle up for the long ride from





Julie-Ann Oliver from the Department of Parks and Wildlife visits Dunsborough Primary School on Quenda Day.

Quirky quenda a class act

Dunsborough Primary School students learnt more about a local mammal this month.

The school's sustainability committee planned a Quenda Day for July 1 to coincide with Dunsborough Primary's School's 51st birthday.

The quenda, or southern brown bandicoot, inspired the name for Quindalup, meaning "place of quenda" in the local indigenous language.

Julie-Ann Oliver from the Depart-

ment of Parks and Wildlife's Nearer to Nature program spent the day at the school to teach students about the native animal.

Children watched video clips of quendas, saw up close a quenda that had been treated by a taxidermist and learnt about quenda diets, tracks, scats and diggings.

No doubt the students will be keeping an eye out for quendas on the tracks and cycleways around town.

Share ▼

Translate

Check out the latest news from your friendly Nearer to Nature team.
Exciting new format!

[View this email in your browser](#)



Friday, 25 July 2014

Hi *|FNAME|*

Welcome to the latest issue of Nearer to Nature South West News.

Recent rains at the Wellington Discovery Forest mean the area is showing great recovery from the prescribed burn performed in October 2010 and should blossom this coming winter and spring. Those groups identifying plants as part of their excursion this year should have plenty to see around the trails!

After a hot, dry summer the bush is showing signs of drought stress. Plenty of lower and middle storey plants, which tend to be fairly shallow-rooted, didn't receive enough water over the summer and as a result, dead or very dry flora has been observed, including waterbush (*Bossaeia aquifolium*) as well as bull banksia (*Banksia grandis*), which is also highly susceptible to phytophthora dieback. The lack of rainfall means that soapbush (*Trymalium odoratissium*) plants are unable to develop the lather they are known for.

This issue of the newsletter contains a poem by a teacher from Peter Moyes Anglican College who joined us for a fire excursion during Term 1 this year. It is wonderful that we can inspire people to such flights of literary fancy.

If you have any contributions that you feel may inform or entertain your colleagues, including photos or stories about excursions or camps, please feel free to send them to us for inclusion in future newsletters.

John Anderson, Project Officer, Nearer to Nature South-West, Parks and Wildlife

In this issue:

- [A poem](#)
- [Accommodation options in Wellington District](#)
- [Environmental change and management](#)
- [Mandurah Stretch Arts Festival](#)
- [Friends of the Wellington Discovery Forest](#)
- [Book now for Western Shield trapping](#)
- [Contacting Nearer to Nature](#)

A poem

So I'm on the bus to Wellington Mill
Playing Spotto with my friend with a bit of
time to kill
Looking for cows, bikes, town halls and
signs
Stopping halfway at a clump of pines

A choice of fast food at Bunbury for dinner
Playing cards for hours, I think I was the
winner
Walking in the dark looking up at the stars
Loving the silence with no traffic or cars
(I think we saw Mars)

Mr Byrne's sleeping bag rolled under the
bus
So he slept in a towel, a bit colder than
us!
Ben and Wendy preparing pancakes and
food
Went down really well after a night of Hey Jude

Watching the film about how to fight fires
Got me revved up – I was really inspired
Admiring the wallpaper before the big walk
Taking hoops through the bush, listening to the guides talk

We measure pH, leaves and canopy cover
Looking deep below and at what was above us
Having a go on the truck and the hose
Back on the bus it was time for a doze



Dribbling out of my mouth and having a dream
Of a new world where we don't hear the scream
"My house is on fire and I didn't prepare!"
Geography camp – you should have been there....

A refreshing time of relating to earth
In a way we don't usually when we are in Perth
Loving the forest in its state of pristine
Arriving at school on the bus with Christine.

Emily Egerton-Warburton, Peter Moyes Anglican College



Above: Lake views at Evedon Park Resort

Accommodation options in Wellington District

The Wellington Forest Cottages have recently been awarded a liquor license for a slow food café. This represents a great new tourist venue in the Ferguson Valley, however until a separate function facility is completed, accommodation for school groups at the cottages is limited to Sunday, Monday or Tuesday nights. There are a number of other accommodation options nearby for participants in Nearer to Nature excursions that involve an overnight stay.

For those with an adventurous spirit, camping is available at nearby Potter's Gorge on the banks of Wellington Dam, where many Bush Rangers groups have stayed in the past.

For groups of up to 24 students, another option is [Evedon Park Resort](#). This offers cottage-style accommodation about 15 minutes by bus from the Discovery Centre.

There are also two caravan parks with cabin accommodation within a 30 minute drive of the centre - [Collie River Valley Tourist Park](#) in Collie (a good alternative if you are including a coalmine tour in your itinerary), or the [Riverside Cabin Park](#) in Eaton (may be suitable if you would also like to visit the Dolphin Discovery Centre in Bunbury).

Environmental change and management

New for 2014!

In March, Nearer to Nature worked with geography teachers from Bunbury Catholic College to develop a new excursion for Year 10 students - *Environmental change and management*. This excursion addresses the requirements of the Year 10 Australian Curriculum for geography.



The theory part of the excursion asks students to consider a range of causes of environmental change in Western Australia. Students are asked how these changes may impact biodiversity and ecological services, as well as what management strategies could be used to address these issues. Some agents of change and adaptive management strategies identified during the excursion include changes to the way land is used, *Phytophthora* dieback, timber harvesting, visitor management, fauna recovery and fire management.

Students are introduced to the concept of sustainable forest management and its social, economic and environmental considerations. During the forest walk, students look for signs of change agents and consequences of environmental change, take part in some hands-on management exercises and carry out environmental monitoring fieldwork.

The program also addresses content descriptions from Years 8 and 9 geography as well as other learning areas including science, english, history and mathematics.

Mandurah Stretch Arts Festival

In May, Nearer to Nature participated in the [Mandurah Stretch Arts Festival's Environment and Heritage event](#), which brings education and the local community together in a fun way for families to enjoy.

Nearer to Nature had a display of preserved animals, which were the source of much fascination for both children and parents. The touch table was as popular as ever and staff asked children to identify a range of objects from the table and some relationships between them to earn a sticker for their Nature Play passport.

Below: A quiet moment at the event



It was another great opportunity to use our mobile education centre to raise awareness of the wonder of Western Australia's biodiversity and to discuss management challenges of our natural estate with members of the public.

Friends of the Wellington Discovery

Forest

Many participants in the popular Nearer to Nature school excursions would have visited the Ecology Zone of the Wellington Discovery Forest.

The Research and Management zones are intended for demonstrations and research into management practices such as fire management and silviculture and environmental hazards such as climate change.

The Friends of Wellington Discovery Forest, a not-for-profit organisation, have created a Research Management Committee to further these aims and oversee long term research and management projects which will integrate with other research throughout the state regarding our forests.

This will provide valuable opportunities for tourists and students to be involved in and informed about key environmental issues. If you are interested in getting involved or joining the Friends group, please contact Ian Telfer on (08) 9791 0700 or Don Spriggins on 0418 953 044.



Book now for **Western Shield** trapping

Every year, we have two opportunities to carry out live marsupial trapping over four consecutive nights at the Wellington Discovery Forest for the *Western Shield* fauna recovery program.

This is a great opportunity for students to be involved in real-life scientific research. Students are introduced to *Western Shield* through a discussion about threats to our native fauna. They bait and set the traps in the late afternoon.

Early the following morning, after a brief discussion about fauna handling techniques and taking measurements, the students check the traps and assist with emptying, measuring and recording as required.

Our spring trapping week for 2014 is:
Monday 25 August – Friday 29 August



Contacting Nearer to Nature

For any enquiries, and bookings for excursions or Professional Learning, please contact Julie-Anne Oliver, administrative assistant at Parks and Wildlife's South West Regional Office:

Phone: (08) 9725 4300

Fax: (08) 9725 4351

Email: swcoed@dpaw.wa.gov.au

For the development of programs and educational liaison please contact John Anderson, project officer at Parks and Wildlife's South West Regional Office.

Phone: (08) 9725 5944

Mobile: 0427 980 306

Email: john.anderson@dpaw.wa.gov.au



[follow us on Facebook](#)

If you would like to contact us, provide feedback or are experiencing problems opening stories please email the Nearer to Nature Team at n2n@dpaw.wa.gov.au.

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Nearer to Nature South West News

Term 1 March 2014 No.33



Nearer to Nature



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Welcome back to a new school year



*John Anderson, Project Officer,
Nearer to Nature South West,
Parks and Wildlife.*

Our popular EcoEducation programs are now branded Nearer to Nature South West. We will continue to provide the same excursions, plus new and modified programs developed in response to curriculum changes. We will also continue to expand our range of incursions to help bring the bush to your class.

With the devastating Parkerville bushfire still fresh in our minds, it is important to reflect on causes and consequences of bushfires and what we can do as individuals and communities to mitigate the risks of fires. The new *Living with Fire* excursion, developed to address the requirements of the Year 5 Australian Curriculum in Geography, gives students a valuable insight into the causes and impacts of bushfires as well as what we can do to prepare for, prevent and respond to bushfires. It also helps develop an understanding of fire and its role in our natural environment.

The team at Nearer to Nature South West look forward to seeing our regular schools in 2014 and welcome the opportunity to introduce new teachers to the great experience of fulfilling your curriculum requirements with a day in the forest. Remember, research shows that exposing children to the natural environment not only enhances their conservation ethic but also improves behaviour and performance in the classroom, so why not let us help you be the best teacher you can be!

Official opening of Wharncliffe Mill

On 16 January the Minister for Environment, the Hon Albert Jacob, opened the \$1.2million upgrade of Wharncliffe Mill site.

The bush retreat now offers four new eco-lodge rooms, each with their own key access, three fully self-contained two-bedroom cabins, five safari tents and a new café, reception and office complex. There are also 44 bush campsites with access to power and water as well as refurbished dorm rooms for budget travellers and groups. By mid-year, the new operators expect the expansion of the nature play area with a climbing forest, a second camp kitchen and the refurbishment of an additional toilet block, to have been completed.

Environmental improvements include the installation of a 32 kilowatt solar power system, a wastewater recycling system, a second 140,000 litre tank to store rainwater, a system to harvest rainwater from the large old mill roof, and the development of a bush amphitheatre and Aboriginal cultural display.

This is now an even better venue to enjoy school camps and Nearer to Nature South West excursions, as well as to see some great examples of sustainability. We will continue to offer our full range of day and camp programs, which can be booked using the contact details below. The new operators are keen to encourage school groups and are offering discounts and sustainability incentives during the off-season. For accommodation, or a complete package of camp activities, contact Claire via the online enquiries page at www.wharncliffemill.com.au to discuss the many opportunities available.



*Environment Minister Albert Jacob and Traditional Owner
Josh Whiteland at the new bush amphitheatre.*

Managing fire

Many people are unaware how prevalent fire is in the environment. During the 2012–13 bushfire season, Parks and Wildlife staff attended more than 600 bushfires throughout the State, with only half a dozen of those threatening life and property.

There can be up to 200 lightning-caused bushfires each year in the south-west forests, this is in addition to other causes such as arson. The majority of these fires are quickly contained and controlled. In most cases, bushfires only become a threat in extreme fire conditions or when multiple fires, such as those started by multiple lightning strikes, stretch available fire fighting resources.

Australia's environment has adapted to fire over many millions of years, well before any human habitation. As a consequence, fire plays a vital role in maintaining the health and biodiversity of ecosystems. Different intensities and frequencies of fire (a fire mosaic) favour different plants and animals, which maintains landscape diversity.

Nearer to Nature aims to provide information and educate the community about fire awareness and the importance of fire to the environment and ecosystems. The new *Living with Fire* excursion, is targeted at Years 5 and 6 and encourages students to discover the impact of bushfires on environments and communities. It addresses the requirements of the Australian Curriculum. Students learn when, where and why bushfires occur and the impacts they have on native plant, animal and human communities. Students are introduced to methods of bushfire prevention, mitigation and suppression, and learn the importance of being prepared. The excursion includes hands-on experience with a range of fire fighting tools and equipment.



District DPaW crews supervise a prescribed burn at Wellington Discovery Forest.

The fire triangle

Fire requires three elements, heat, fuel and oxygen – the fire triangle. Understanding the fire triangle is the key to understanding bushfire safety and suppression. An increase in any of these elements increases the intensity of a fire and reducing or removing any one of them will decrease the intensity, or extinguish, the fire. The weather (temperature, humidity and wind) affects heat and oxygen and there is no control over these. Reducing heat using water or reducing oxygen by smothering a fire is not possible with large bushfires.

The only element of the fire triangle we can effectively target is fuel. Fuel removal is our most important weapon when controlling bushfires. This is done by creating mineral earth firebreaks and, where necessary, back burning ahead of the fire. Prescribed burning is also the safest way to provide the various fire regimes our ecosystems require for good health.

Curriculum documents

Curriculum documents for our excursions are now available on our website (address below). These documents have links for each of our excursions to the Australian Curriculum across a range of subject areas. This provides the information you need to include your forest outing into your teaching program plan. For every applicable content descriptor in the curriculum, we have created elaborations to explain exactly how the outcome is met through the excursion activities and associated pre and post-excursion activities.

We are currently working on curriculum-linking documents for our incursions.

The curriculum documents are regularly reviewed and can be emailed to you on request.

Book now for Western Shield trapping

Every year, we have two opportunities to carry out live marsupial trapping over four consecutive nights at the Wellington Discovery Forest for the Western Shield fauna recovery program. This is a great opportunity for students to be involved in real-life scientific research. Students are introduced to Western Shield through a discussion about threatening processes to our native fauna. They bait and set the traps in the late afternoon. Early the following morning, after a brief discussion about fauna handling techniques and taking measurements, the students check the traps and assist with emptying, measuring and recording as required.

Trapping weeks for 2014 are:

Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May

Monday 25 August – Friday 29 August

The western swamp tortoise

(*Pseudemys umbrina*)

The western swamp tortoise, also known as the western swamp turtle (possibly more accurately) or the short-necked tortoise is Australia's most endangered reptile species. For more than 100 years they were thought to be extinct but in 1953 they were rediscovered by chance in two small areas in the Swan Valley. It is estimated there may be as few as 110 individuals in the wild.



An adult western swamp tortoise.

Their natural range is limited to specific types of ephemeral wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain, an environment that has been significantly impacted by European settlement. The clearing and draining of wetlands for housing and agriculture and the use of pesticides and fertilisers are key threatening processes, as is predation by cats, foxes and rats. Climate change is also a significant threat since reduced rainfall may mean wetlands dry out too early for them to successfully breed.

The western swamp tortoise grows up to 15cm in length and 550g in weight. It is carnivorous and feeds on small aquatic invertebrates, tadpoles and frogs. When the wetlands contain water in the winter and spring, they swim and feed. Once the wetlands dry out in summer they aestivate (summer form of hibernation) in burrows or under deep leaf litter.

The Perth Zoo has had a successful captive breeding program since 1989 and has bred more than 800 tortoises. When the captive-bred tortoises reach 100g, at about three years of age, Parks and Wildlife staff release them in suitable habitats.

If you would like to use this animal as an example to discuss endangered species with your students, more information and teaching resources can be found at www.westernswamptortoise.com.au

Contacting Nearer to Nature in the South West Region



Nearer to Nature

For enquiries and to book excursions or Professional Development please contact

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Department of
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