

## Library

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**From:** Nearer to Nature <no-reply@newsletters.dbca.wa.gov.au>  
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The latest news from your friendly *Nearer to Nature* team.

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Issue No. 14

Thursday, 2 May 2024

Perth News - Perth edition for term 2.

Things happening at the moment, in this terms newsletter you'll find:

Days wrap-up

grams cover a range of curriculum-linked topics.

's on offer this year from [Nearer to Nature Perth School Programs](#)

## Autumn School Holidays



### Holiday Wrap-Up

everyone during the Autumn school holidays. Our holiday program included kayaking to explore Baigup Wetland, our birds in Bayswater and turtles at CREEC!

everyone in the winter holidays! Keep an eye on our Nearer to Nature Facebook and Instagram page for the calendar of

### Nearer to Nature Community Parks Pass Recipient

Participants from our activities were asked to complete our feedback survey with the chance to receive a DBCA Parks Pass. Our DBCA Parks Pass gives you access to all of Australia's world-class parks and reserves for a year. Thank you for everyone that completed the survey. We have randomly selected 10 winners who will receive their pass by the mail soon.

Want to purchase a park pass for your family check out [exploreparcs.dbca.wa.gov.au/park-passes](https://exploreparcs.dbca.wa.gov.au/park-passes).

### Community Volunteers

izing volunteers who helped us during the school holiday program. From assisting with check-ins, setting up and getting  
ur volunteers contribute invaluable assistance for our community programs.

y is interested in becoming a volunteer you can contact us on [n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au). When you volunteer with us, you  
elp us with, plus we keep a record of your annual hours which will put you in the running for some great DBCA reward



## ZIPPY'S BUSH KINDY has started at the Perth Hills Discovery Center!



ed at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre, on Monday 29th April and will be continuing every Monday until the 24th June

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an early learning adventure at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre. The program has one 45-minute session per week over 10 weeks to stimulate your child's curiosity and strengthen their connection to nature.

Experiences that nurture children's confidence to explore, question and make discoveries. The program is also designed to introduce new skills through nature play activities. Watch your child bloom as they learn at their own pace and grow into confident explorers who care stories and care for the natural world.

**Friends': 29th April - 24th June 2024**

**Team**

**'and I play on' - coming soon**

**'superhero' - coming soon**

Term 2

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**Biodiversity Bio**

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Photo credit: A. Wayne/DBCA

m is an arboreal marsupial once found throughout the south-west stretching from Geraldton to the edge of the Nullarbor. It is much smaller than common brushtail possums as they are much smaller in size, darker in colour, have smaller rounded ears and the absence of a tail tuft.

It is a species that builds a nest called a 'drey' within tree canopies and thick shrubbery. They can also be found nesting in hollow logs.

They usually have one (but sometimes two or three) joeys around late autumn/winter. The joeys stay with their mothers until 8-12 months.

It is found in the south-west of Western Australia from the peppermint woodlands of Bunbury through to the Karri forest and woodlands between Denmark and Albany.

Western Brushtail Possum

*Trichosurus occidentalis*

Nationally Endangered

## Western Shield



Western Shield team are currently undertaking baiting for feral cats and foxes in our national parks. Baiting plays an important role in controlling introduced predators to allow for our native wildlife to have a better chance at survival.

One of the threats that comes from the native *Gastrolobium* genus of plants. Being a native species, our wildlife has adapted over time and is not affected the same way introduced predators are.

To learn more about this baiting technique in our year 11-12 Fauna Biology excursion, which also covers the techniques used in baiting, please visit [Nearer to Nature Fauna Biology Excursion](#).

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## 2024 Annual Cadet's Conference

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Environment Minister and Youth Minister launched a new conservation cadet scheme for WA youth – Bush Rangers.

The Bush Rangers cadet program was added to this suite of environmental education programs hosted by Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Department of Communities' Cadets WA program.

Thousands of students have been involved in the two programs and have volunteered countless hours, delivering a range of benefits to the cadets themselves.

Volunteer cadet units giving thousands of hours of time to the program, most of it voluntary in addition to their normal teaching or administrative duties.

The program successfully empowers young people in primary and secondary schools, to play an active role in the conservation of Western Australia's natural and cultural heritage through practical hands-on experiences. And to support their understanding of the need for proper management to ensure Western Australia's natural and cultural heritage is protected for future generations.

The event was a buzz with activity on the 18 and 19 April with close to 100 Cadet unit instructors from across WA attending the Instructors' Conference.

successful with the Cadet leaders coming together with scientists and staff from DBCA and the Department of Communities who provided information, support and conservation project opportunities for their cadet programs.

Ranger Cadet leaders out on the Canning River with river scientists, conservation organisations and Nearer to Nature Bush Ranger Cadet leaders spent the day in Beelu National Park learning about forests, wildlife and environmental management.

coincided with the 30-year celebration of environmental education programs at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre. To complement the Management Plan, a bespoke and collaborative on-ground forest artwork was created with MaOchre Aboriginal Art Group and Cadet leaders.

for Youth Hannah Beazley MLA for attending day 1 of the conference and presenting the 5,10 and 15 year service award and the Geoff Hurren Instructor Excellence Award for 2024.

the cadets program, visit [Bush Rangers | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions \(dbca.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/bush-rangers), and to find out more about Cadets WA visit [Cadets WA \(www.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.wa.gov.au/cadets-wa).



## For teachers

learn more about how Western Shield protects our threatened native species by:

visiting our Western Shield programs, for details visit [Nearer to Nature Schools | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions \(dbca.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/nearer-to-nature-schools)

Western Shield Action Pack for Years 4 to 6, a curriculum-linked resource about threatened species for teachers to use in their classrooms. Visit [Western Shield Action Pack for Years 4 to 6 | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions \(dbca.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/western-shield-action-pack)

## For everyone



wildlife and keen to help out from the comfort of your own home?

Western Shield Camera Watch: [Western Shield — Camera Watch — Zooniverse](#)

## Watch this space!



ects happening around the Perth Hills Discovery Centre at the moment. With a special thanks to the Forest Management  
ade for its 30th birthday celebration. Keep an eye on the Nearer to Nature instagram ([nearer\\_to\\_nature](#)) for updates a  
very soon.



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