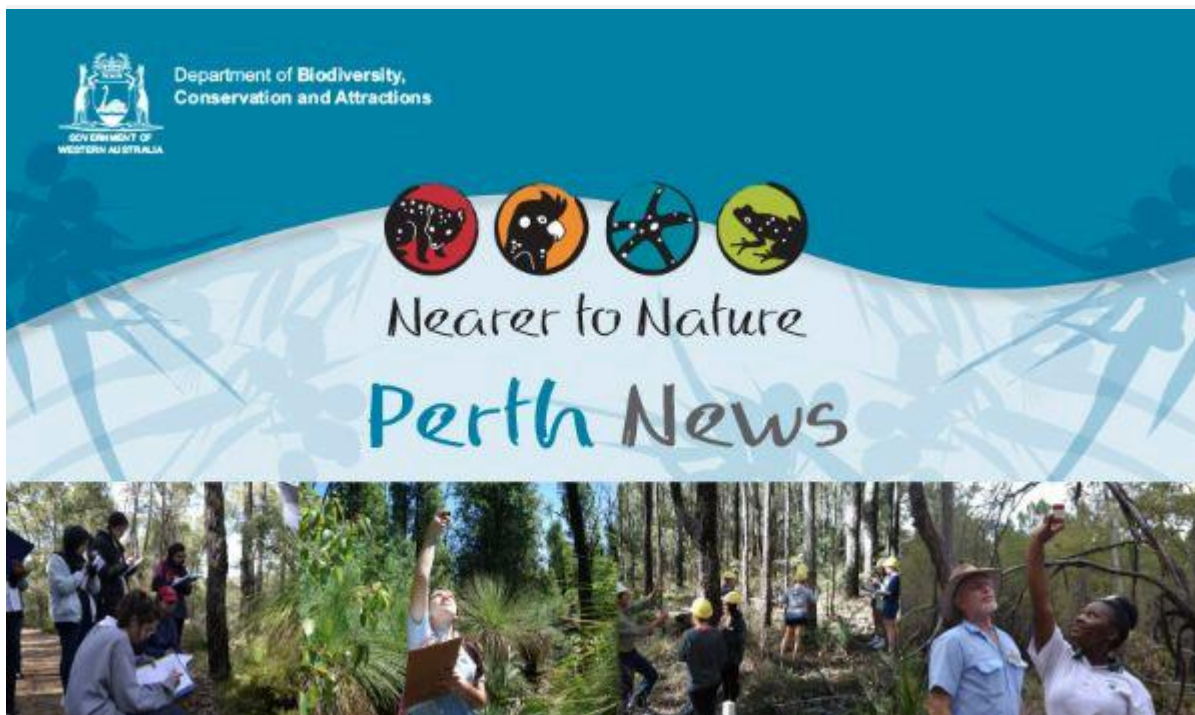


The latest news from your friendly *Nearer to Nature* team.

[View this email in your browser](#)



Hi Nicole Wreford

Issue No. 14

Wanju (welcome)

Friday, 19 July 2024

Welcome to *Nearer to Nature News-term 3!*

Nearer to Nature School programs cover a range of curriculum-linked topics.

Click on this link to see what's on offer this year: [Nearer to Nature Perth School Programs](#)

School Holiday Program - Winter Wrap Up



We can't believe how quickly the July school holidays have flown by! We had an amazing time exploring parks, wetlands, marine parks and the Aquarium of Western Australian (AQWA). Along the way, we discovered fascinating facts about our native wildlife, celebrated NAIDOC week, and turned trash into treasure.

Our plastic pirates (see image below) made a significant impact by collecting plastic and rubbish, preventing it from entering the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park. We collaborated with the Coastal Waste Warriors who catalog the rubbish and enter the data into the Tangaroa Blue database. The marine debris data is crucial for driving decisions to enhance systems and processes, aiming to stop litter at its source. DBCA Marine Rangers Matt and Mahina also came along to lend a helping hand.

If you didn't get a chance to make it to these school holidays, check out our spring program which comes out a month before the next school holidays.



A collaboration with Nearer to Nature's conversation education program and the Dieback Working Group



Dieback is a deadly disease wreaking havoc in our beautiful Jarrah forest, caused by the spread of the microorganism *Phytophthora cinnamomi* through the soil. Thankfully, we have our incredible team of forest saviours working together to stop Dieback in its tracks!

Nearer to Nature has recently been working with the Dieback Working Group (DWG), a local organisation in the Perth hills area, to provide Dieback education and management programs to students at Perth Hills Discovery Centre. At the close of Term 2, DWG assisted us with our educational Dieback treatment program led by N2N and carried out by students from Kalamunda Senior High School. A large section of our grounds was tackled by students, staff, and the DWG, injecting at least 50 trees in the area with Phosphite, the miracle disease-inhibitor.

To book a Dieback excursion with Nearer to Nature today, visit this link: <https://parksandwildlife.rezdy.com/264508/dieback-bulldozing-our-biodiversity-perth-metro>

Zippy's Bush Kindy - Term 3

Big adventures for little nature lovers aged 3 to 5 years!



Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park's ZIPPY'S BUSH KINDY is returning to the Perth Hills Discovery Centre for term 3 Mondays from the 22nd of July to the 9th of September 2024.

Join Zippy the Dragonfly on an early learning adventure at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre. With one 45-minute session per week over an 8-week term, this interactive program will ignite your child's curiosity and strengthen their connection to nature.

Each term provides new experiences that nurture children's confidence to explore, question and make discoveries. The program is also designed to reflect different themes, the changing seasons, and introduce new skills through nature play activities. Watch your child bloom as they learn at their own pace and grow in confidence and knowledge, with time to play, create, share stories and care for the natural world.

Program dates 2024

Term 3 - 'Caring for the land I play on'

July 22nd - September 9th

9:30am to 10:15am

[BOOK HERE](#)

Term 4 - 'I am a bushland superhero' - coming soon

School Excursions



Fire Geography Package program changes



As some of you may already know, we have made a change to our Fire Geography Package excursion. This program no longer contains the in-class incursion prior to the excursion at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre. Alternatively, we now have a pre-excursion workbook that you can complete in class with your students before the excursion.

NEW
Nocturnal Fauna Monitoring program!



Quenda caught on camera in our bespoke 'Quenda Cabins' - refuges from introduced predators at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre

For the time being we have had to say good-bye to our Monitoring Marsupials excursion, but we are introducing an exciting new Nocturnal Fauna Monitoring program!

This excursion takes place at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre and will engage your students in some alternative and fauna monitoring techniques using scientific equipment in the Beelu National Park!

Students will have the opportunity to install motion sensor cameras and sand pads in the forest and complete an interactive invertebrate survey once the sun goes down. In the morning, students will assess any tracks found in the sand pads to identify nocturnal fauna, and retrieve the cameras, view the footage and identify fauna caught on camera!

Head to our [Schools Website](#) to discover our exciting excursions on offer.

Biodiversity Bio
The White-bellied Frog



Photo Credit: Brad Maryan

The White-bellied Frog *Anstisia alba* is a small frog only reaching 2.5cms in length. As its name suggests, it has a white stomach with a yellow tinge, while the rest of it is a brown/grey colour.

They are the only frog in Western Australia to be listed as critically endangered, with threats such as fires, habitat loss and introduced feral predators.

These frogs, as well as other endangered species are getting a helping hand thanks to Perth Zoo's breeding programs. This program involves collecting eggs from the wild and raising them in a safe, predator free environment before being released.

You can read more about Perth Zoo's frog breeding program [here](#).

Distribution: South-west Western Australia

Common Name: White-bellied Frog

Scientific name: *Anstisia alba*

Conservation Status: Critically Endangered

Important booking information for teachers

You may have noticed a slight change to our school excursion confirmation emails, you are now required to reply to them to confirm the details on the confirmation are correct and that you have received it. This is due to an increase in schools not

It is also important that excursion details are passed on to other appropriate teachers. We are experiencing an increase in teachers booking excursion before going on leave or switching classes. If this is the case, please make sure relief teachers are aware of excursion dates, times etc.

We thank you for your cooperation.

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

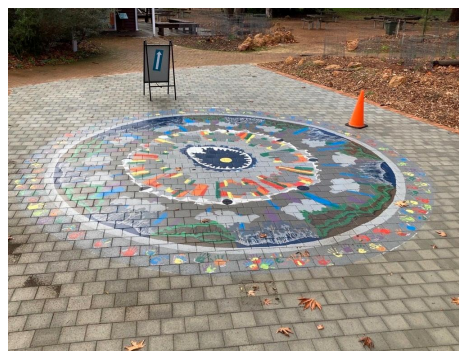
- Participating in one of our Western Shield programs, for details visit [Nearer to Nature Schools | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions \(dbca.wa.gov.au\)](#)
- Downloading the Western Shield Action Pack for Years 4 to 6, a curriculum-linked resource about threatened species for teachers to use in the classroom: [Nearer to Nature Schools | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions \(dbca.wa.gov.au\)](#)

For everyone

Are you interested in native wildlife and keen to help out from the comfort of your own home?

- To find out how, visit Western Shield Camera Watch: [Western Shield — Camera Watch — Zooniverse](#)

Kooyar (frog) Courtyard update!



MaOchre Artists Warrajirri -Yarra & Rod Hedlam are currently working in the Kooyar (frog) Courtyard at Perth Hills Discovery Centre in the Beelu National Park on a bespoke forest mural.

The artwork depicts the elements of nature such as the six Noongar seasons, moon phases, and the incredible biodiversity of the surrounding jarrah forest.

The Minister for Youth the Hon. Hannah Beazley and Bush and River Rangers cadet coordinators from around the state recently added their handprints to this artwork celebrating 30 years of environmental education at Perth Hills Discovery Centre.

With thanks to Midland Brick and Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions' Forest Management Plan for funding this beautiful cultural art project.

Did you know you can hire our Kooyar Courtyard as well as other areas at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre? Head to our [facility hire](#) page to find out more information.



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Nearer to Nature in the Perth Hills and surrounds is generously supported by Alcoa and the *Western Shield* program.

