

**Nicole Wreford**

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**From:** Nearer to Nature <no-reply@newsletters.dbca.wa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 13 December 2024 10:44 AM  
**To:** Library  
**Subject:** Nearer to Nature Perth and Surrounds - Summer 2024

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

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Hi Nicole Wreford

Issue No. 15

**Wanju (welcome)**

Friday, 13 December 2024



# Nearer to Nature Schools

Our team can't believe how fast this year has flown by! With the weather warming up and Christmas just around the corner, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in our school and community programs this year. We're passionate about delivering environmental education and the positive conservation outcomes it brings. Next year, we are excited to launch some new programs, and we can't wait to see you all again in 2025!

## **2025 Schools Program**

Bookings for our 2025 Nearer to Nature School programs are now open!

We are designing a new and easier to use website, but in the meantime, you are able to make your

booking enquiries here: [Nearer to Nature Schools | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions](#) Program dates can book out early, make sure you get the date you need by making an enquiry online and chat to our bookings officer to secure dates!

You may notice a few changes as we streamline our programs and include new ones. There is also an increase to our program prices. The above link is now updated with new fees. We understand that schools are on very tight budgets and as teachers, we appreciate the need to meet curriculum requirements. We continually work hard to provide you with up-to-date curriculum linked exciting hands-on programs. Suggestions below,

- All programs are now charged as a set fee, capped at 30 students, schools may want to share that cost with another school/class.
- There are also several self-guided options, with a minimal equipment hire fee, and
- We offer incursions as an option to reduce travel costs to the school.

We are committed to ensuring the best possible experience for your students and appreciate your understanding.

Please email us if you have any questions, queries or feedback at [n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au)

## Program Updates

**\*\*NEW\*\***

**Nocturnal Fauna Monitoring** program: Come and stay the night at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre campground and go on an adventure through the forest exploring non-invasive monitoring techniques to assess the biodiversity in the jarrah forest. Set and collect cameras, set sand pads for track observations and light traps for invertebrates.

Schools can keep the pictures from the cameras and view them at school, just bring a USB 😊 Book this exciting new program [here](#).



**\*\*NEW\*\***

**Forests for Our Future:** take a closer look at what the Forest Management Plan outlines to help combat the effects of climate change on our forests. Aimed at primary and secondary school students. During this program your students will learn how we are changing the way we care for the forest and how we can help the forest survive climate change. Act as a conservationist and engage in field work that will help you learn how to care for the forest for the benefit of all who visit them.

Book it [here](#) for primary schools and [here](#) for secondary schools.



**\*\*NEW\*\***

**Culture in the Forest Discovery Days:** Bring the whole school, multiple classes or year levels to an exciting day of cultural discovery in nature! Immerse your students in holistic activities learning together with Traditional Owners and our Nearer to Nature education leaders. Don't miss these engaging hands on cultural activities set in nature! This activity depends on provider availability but may include music, art, plants and their uses, animals and their significance to Aboriginal people. Includes an Animal encounter with native species and an Animal evidence activity where you discover the animals that call the Beelu National Park home by looking for evidence of them in the forest including tracks and scats and learn their Noongar name.

[Grants for WA schools to promote and advance reconciliation](#) Partnership Acceptance Learning Sharing (PALS)

Click [here](#) to book





**\*\*NEW\*\***

**Incursions:** To complement our [Saving threatened Species](#) incursion, we have developed an artificial habitat building program called **Quenda Cabins**, after our cute quendas of the Southwest. Aimed at either primary or secondary schools, this program looks at why habitats are important and how we can help protect our native species that [live in urban environments](#). Students get to design their own habitat, depending on the animals around your school and upper primary and secondary students even get to make and place one.

Book it [here](#) for primary schools and [here](#) for secondary schools.



Quenda (*Isoodon fusciventer*)



A quenda cabin - refuge from predators made from recycled materials and based on a scientific research project

# 25th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals



DBCA staff, Rachel Nixon (Albany Secondary - Education Support Centre Bush Rangers) Professor Lyn Beazley and Professor Chandra Salgado Kent and Barabara Sing (John Tonkin Bush Rangers)

## 32 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions



Rockingham Senior High School Education Support Centre - Bush Rangers - showcasing our Saving Sea Lions project!

DBCA staff and Bush Ranger instructors (teachers) and cadets (students) showcased two DBCA marine mammal conservation education projects at the 25th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals in Perth in November! This is the first time this conference has been held in Australia and Bush Rangers teachers and [@nearer to nature](#) education staff engaged with scientists, educators and students from all over the world about nature conservation and specifically marine mammal

## Staff Updates

2024 saw many staff changes; Liz and Mr C retired, Salleigh and Caitlin have moved on to fulltime opportunities in the city, and we have welcomed Andrea, Kate and Sade as new recruits. There will be more exciting additions to our team soon!

Let's learn a little more about them.

**Andrea** I joined Nearer to Nature last winter but I have been working in Environmental Education for about 15 years. What I love most about my role is seeing our students getting involved in hands-on, nature-based activities like bushwalking, collecting samples, and identifying plants and animals in the field. It's wonderful to see the students connecting with the natural world and adopting a sense of responsibility for protecting our environment



**Kate:** I am currently studying environmental science, conservation and wildlife biology at Murdoch University. I began at N2N as a volunteer, helping out around the discovery centre and aiding in community and school holiday programs. Through my time as a volunteer, I got to witness the passion the team has for conservation and sharing environmental knowledge. Being able to be a part of this team in a leader and volunteer capacity has been amazing, as well as being able to inspire younger generations and spread important conservation knowledge by giving them an experience to remember!



**Sade:** I joined the Nearer to Nature team whilst completing my studies in environmental management and sustainability and have loved every minute of it. My favourite thing about N2N is the curiosity of the students and community. To spread the message about conservation of our natural environment I like to just start the conversation and relate it to a more personal level because our actions do have an impact - both big and small. I really enjoy all N2N programs, especially the aquatic programs. I have been so lucky to join the N2N team, full of amazing environmental educators.



In November our N2N coordinator, **Michelle**, embarked on the crazy journey that is Fauna Management through the Department's annual Fauna Management Course in Dryandra NP. Under the guidance of several fauna experts across the state and department, Michelle undertook several fauna monitoring and management activities, including cage trapping, sand pad and camera arrays, pitfall and Elliot trapping. She learnt more about the Western Shield program and the great lengths the team goes to help our native fauna, especially through feral animal control and data collection. Michelle hopes the course will lead her to further opportunities in the Department and a step closer to re-instating our mammal monitoring program at PHDC.

© Jordan Vos




# Nearer to Nature Community


## Summer School Holiday Program 2025


Get ready for some fun this summer as we explore everything from forests, wetlands and beaches

during these school holidays! Our nature-packed program will spark your child's curiosity, get them moving and help them discover a love for the environment across the greater Perth metropolitan area. They'll learn about our unique wildlife, and enjoy two weeks filled with fun and discovery. Make sure you don't miss out, book now!




# Nearer to Nature













Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES PERTH AND SURROUNDS

For information and bookings  
<https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/get-inspired/nearer-nature-activities-community>

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">WEDNESDAY 8 JAN</p> <hr/> <p><b>Bats, BBQ and Brushies</b> 6 - 8.30pm 6+ yrs Family Perth Hills Discovery Centre Mundaring</p> 	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">THURSDAY 9 JAN</p> <hr/> <p><b>Jarrah Joeys *</b> 9.30 - 10.30am 3 - 6 yrs Perth Hills Discovery Centre Mundaring</p> <p><b>Pouch Patrol **</b> 11am - 12.30pm 7 - 12 yrs Perth Hills Discovery Centre Mundaring</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">MONDAY 13 JAN</p> <hr/> <p><b>Tree Hotel *</b> 9.30 - 11am 4 - 7 yrs Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre (EcoHub) Winthrop</p> <p><b>Reptile Rockstars **</b> 12 - 2pm 7 - 12 yrs Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre (EcoHub) Winthrop</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">TUESDAY 14 JAN</p> <hr/> <p><b>Kings Park Summer Day Camp #*</b> 9 - 3pm 8 - 14 yrs Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park Perth</p> <p><b>Dolphin Discovery</b> 9 - 10.30am 4 - 7 yrs Point Walter Bicton</p> 	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">WEDNESDAY 15 JAN</p> <hr/> <p><b>Basic Wildlife Rescue #*</b> 12 - 2pm 8 - 15 yrs Bayswater Civic Centre Embleton room</p> 
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">THURSDAY 16 JAN</p> <hr/> <p><b>Hide and Seek #*</b> 9.30 - 11.30am 7-12yrs Canning River Eco Education Centre Wilson</p> <p><b>Buzzy Bee</b> 12.30 - 2pm 4-7 yrs Canning River Eco Education Centre Wilson</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">FRIDAY 17 JAN</p> <hr/> <p><b>Dolphin Discovery</b> 9 - 10.30am 4 - 7yrs Village Beach Wannanup Mandurah</p> <p><b>Life on the Reef</b> 8.30 - 11am 12 - 17 yrs Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre Watermans Bay</p>  	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">TUESDAY 21 JAN</p> <hr/> <p><b>Whats the Buzz #</b> 10 - 11.30am 7 - 12 yrs Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre (EcoHub) Winthrop</p> 	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">WEDNESDAY 22 JAN</p> <hr/> <p><b>Kings Park Summer Day Camp #*</b> 9 - 3pm 8 - 14 yrs Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park Perth</p> 	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">FRIDAY 24 JAN</p> <hr/> <p><b>Who's there? Birds of the Night: Lightning Swamp *</b> 6:30 - 8.30pm 6+ yrs Family Lightning Swamp Bayswater</p> 

\*Activity has an animal encounter #drop and leave activity

<https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/get-inspired/nearer-nature-activities-community>

## Summer School Holiday - Top Picks





**\* FAMILY EVENT \***

## **Bats, BBQ and Brushies**

<https://parksandwildlife.rezdy.com/678011/bats-bbq-and-brushies>

**When:** 08/01/2025

**Where:** Perth Hills Discovery Centre

**Time:** 6 - 8.30pm

**Ages:** 6+

**Cost:** From \$20 Child under 15yrs \$29 - Adult

Join Nearer to Nature this summer for a wildlife night walk at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre! Venture into the forest with our bat expert from the WA Conservation Council and Australasian Bat Society to learn about the

different species of bats that live in the Jarrah Forest. We will also uncover arachnids that glow in the dark and look for other nocturnal creatures including Brush-tailed possums. Participate as a citizen scientist with the WA chapter of the Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA WA). Enjoy a BBQ dinner under the stars and gear up for an unforgettable night adventure!



## Life on the Reef: Meet the Scientists (12-17yrs)

<https://parksandwildlife.rezdy.com/681024/life-on-the-reef-meet-the-scientists>

When: 17/01/2025

Where: Waterman's Bay and Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre

Time: 8.30 - 11am

Ages: 12-17yrs

Cost: \$30

Get ready for an unforgettable day on the reef and at the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre! Join us for some hands-on science, find the hidden species of the Waterman's Reef as we explore and discover the fascinating creatures that call it home. Meet the incredible scientists and rangers working to protect our oceans and get an exclusive look behind the scenes at this amazing facility. Situated within the Marmion Marine Park, you are sure to find creatures you have never seen before on this reef! From tiny crabs to sea stars, who knows what we will find? Keep your eyes peeled - we might even spot one of our marine rangers in action on the beach! Don't miss this chance to learn, explore and have fun!



## Kings Park Summer Day Camp 8-14yrs

<https://parksandwildlife.rezdy.com/681044/kings-park-summer-day-camp>

**When:** 14/01/2025

**Where:** Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park

**Time:** 9am-3pm

**Ages:** 8-14yrs

**Cost:** \$89

Get ready for an exciting summer adventure at Kings Park! Pack your lunch, roll up your sleeves, and join us for a day filled with fun and exploration. Build cubbies in Rio Tinto Naturescape, learn the basics of camping, and help set up a camp shelter for the day. We'll dive into water games to discover how to support local wildlife and participate in hands on citizen science activities. Plus, enjoy a special animal encounter to meet some local wildlife up close! This **DROP OFF** activity is perfect for ages 8-15yrs and runs from 9am-3pm. Don't miss out, tickets sell out quickly!



**Jarrah Joeys 3-6yrs**

<https://parksandwildlife.rezdy.com/678013/jarrah-joeys-3-6-yrs>

**When:** 09/01/2025

**Where:** Perth Hills Discovery Centre

**Time:** 9.30 - 10.30am

**Ages:** 4-7yrs

**Cost:** \$20

Bring your little ones (3-6yrs) to the Perth Hills Discovery Centre to meet some adorable jarrah joeys! Hidden safety in their mother's pouch, these baby Australian animals have a fascinating way of life. Can you guess how many types of joeys call the forest home? This activity includes an animal encounter.

## Summer School Holiday Program - Activity Links

Program and booking information below.

<https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/get-inspired/nearer-nature-activities-community>

**8th Jan - Wednesday:** [Bats, BBQ and Brushies](#) - 8 - 15yrs - Perth Hills Discovery Centre Mundaring

**9th Jan - Thursday:** [Jarrah Joeys](#) - 3-6 yrs - Perth hills Discovery Centre Mundaring

**9th Jan - Thursday:** [Pouch Patrol](#) - 7 - 12yrs - Perth Hills Discovery Centre Mundaring DROP OFF ACTIVITY

**13th Jan- Monday:** [Tree Hotel](#) - 4 - 7yrs - Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre Winthrop

**13th Jan - Monday:** [Reptile Rockstars](#) - 7-12yrs - Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre Winthrop DROP OFF Activity.

**14th Jan - Tuesday:** [Kings Park Summer Day Camp](#) 8 - 14yrs - Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park Perth DROP OFF Activity.

**14th Jan - Tuesday:** [Dolphin Discovery](#) 4-7yrs - Point Walter, Bicton

**15th Jan- Wednesday:** [Basic Wildlife Rescue](#)- 8 -15yrs - Bayswater Civic Centre DROP OFF Activity.

**16th Jan - Thursday:** [Hide and Seek](#) - 7-12yrs - Canning River Eco Education Centre Wilson DROP OFF Activity.

**16th Jan - Thursday:** [Buzzy Bee](#)- 4 - 7yrs - Canning River Eco Education Centre Wilson

**17th Jan- Friday:** [Life on the Reef: Meet the Scientists](#) 12- 17yrs - Waterman's Bay and Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre DROP OFF Activity.

**21st Jan - Tuesday:** [What's the Buzz](#) 7-12yrs - Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre Winthrop DROP OFF Activity.

**22nd Jan - Wednesday:** [Kings Park Summer Day Camp](#) 8 - 14yrs - Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park Perth DROP OFF Activity.

**24th Jan- Friday:** [Who's There? Birds of the Night: Lightning Swamp](#) - 6+yrs - Lightning Swamp Bayswater

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## Zippy's Bush Kindy is back in May 2025



We loved hosting Zippy's Bush Kindy from the Perth Hills Discovery Centre in Mundaring in 2024 for our bush kids and their families.

Rio Tinto Naturescape King Park's, Zippy's Bush Kindy program returns back at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre

in May 2025.

We will take a break over the Summer due to bushfire risk and warm weather, returning in May when it cools down.

When we return, Join Zippy the Dragonfly on an early learning adventure at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre. The program has 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.

Rio Tinto Naturescape will be running Zippy's Bush Kindy starting Term 1 in 2025.

**To book Zippy's Bush Kindy at Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park or to find out more information about Zippy's Bush Kindy Perth Hills book [here](#).**



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