

Nicole Wreford

From: Nearer to Nature <no-reply@newsletters.dbca.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 March 2025 11:15 AM
To: Library
Subject: Nearer to Nature Perth and Surrounds - Autumn 2025

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

[View this email in your browser](#)



Hi Nicole Wreford

Issue No. 15

Wanju (welcome)

Wednesday, 26 March 2025



Nearer to Nature Schools

Wanju (welcome)

How fast is term one flying by? Soon it'll be cold and rainy, and we'll be missing this warmer weather. We have had such a great start to 2025 and can't wait to see more of you throughout the year.

In this issue,

2025 Schools Program

Autumn School Holiday Program

Zippy's Bush Kindy returns in May

Cultural Programs are back

Camp at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre with your Class

Staff Updates

River Guardians Festival Saturday 5th April, South Perth

2025 Schools Program

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 an increase to our program prices this year for the first time in a long time, and 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 also meet curriculum requirements. We continually work hard to provide you with up-to-date curriculum linked exciting hands-on programs.

Please note:

- All programs are now charged as a set fee, capped at 30 students, schools may wish to share the total group 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 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



Nearer to Nature Community

Autumn School Holiday Program 2025

Get ready for some fun these April school holidays in the Noongar season of Djeran. We say goodbye to the hot weather and are looking forward to cooling down!

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. Make sure you don't miss out, book now!



Nearer to Nature



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



DJERAN APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES PERTH AND SURROUNDS

For information and bookings
exploreparcs.dbca.wa.gov.au/get-inspired/nearer-nature-activities-community

MONDAY 14 APRIL

Egg-cellent Adventure

9.30am - 11am
Ages 4 - 7yrs

Bardon Park,
Maylands

City of Bayswater



TUESDAY 15 APRIL

Basic Wildlife Rescue* #Drop off activity

10am - 12pm
Ages 12 - 17yrs

Perth Hills Discovery
Centre

Shire of Mundaring



WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL

Dolphin Discovery 9.30am - 11am Ages 4 - 7yrs Matilda Bay City of Perth/ Nedlands



Kings Park Autumn
Day Camp*
#Drop off activity
9am - 3pm
Ages 8 - 14yrs
Rio Tinto Naturescape
Kings Park



THURSDAY 17 APRIL

Bush Buddies

9.30am - 10.30am
Ages 3 - 6yrs

Canning River Eco
Education Centre

City of Canning



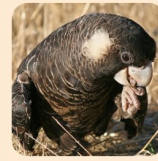
TUESDAY 22 APRIL

Cockatoo Carers*

9.30am - 11.30am
Families ages 4+

City of Melville Eco
Hub

City of Melville



WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL

Junior Wildlife Ranger

12pm - 1.30pm
Families ages 4+

Forest Discovery
Centre

Shire of Murray
Dwellingup



*Activity has an animal encounter

#drop and leave activity

Find the full program here: <https://exploreparcs.dbca.wa.gov.au/get-inspired/nearer-nature-activities-community>

April School Holiday - Top Picks



Cockatoo Carers

Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/cockatoo-carers-tickets-1278913618059?aff=oddtcreator>

When: 22/04/2025

Where: City of Melville Eco Hub (Formerly Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre)

Time: 9.30 - 11.30am

Ages: Families with children aged 4+

Cost: Children \$7 supervising adults free

Our black cockatoos need our help! Join us to discover why these incredible birds are at risk and what we can do to protect their future. Learn how small changes in our backyards can make a big difference. Meet some black cockatoos up close, explore the cockatoo habitat restoration site at Piney Lakes and take-home special cockatoo-food plants to grow in your garden. Become a Cockatoo Carer and help make a difference.



Bush Buddies

Book here: <https://bit.ly/4kYueB6>

When: 17/04/2025

Where: Canning River Eco Education Centre

Time: 9.30 - 10.30am

Ages: 3 - 6yrs

Cost: Children \$15, supervising adults free

Bring your little ones to the Canning River Eco Education Centre for a fun and interactive introduction to some of our native wildlife! Through engaging play, movement and hands on exploration, children will discover the unique features of our native wildlife. This program fosters a love for nature, sense of adventure and appreciation for the unique wildlife of Western Australia.



Kings Park Autumn Day Camp

Book here: <https://bit.ly/4if28jq>

When: 16/04/2025

Where: Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park

Time: 9am - 3pm

Ages: 8 - 14yrs **DROP OFF** activity

Cost: \$89

Get ready for an action-packed autumn adventure at Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park! Pack your lunch, roll up your sleeves, and join us for a day filled with fun and exploration. Build awesome cubbies, learn the basics of camping, bush safety and wildlife care, and discover how to help protect incredible animals like the endangered black cockatoo. Plus enjoy a special animal encounter with some native wildlife. This **DROP OFF** activity is perfect for ages 8-15yrs who love nature, discovery and outdoor fun! 9am-3pm. Don't miss out, tickets sell out quickly!



Junior Wildlife Ranger

Book here: <https://bit.ly/4bUVkF6>

When: 23/04/2025

Where: Forest Discovery Centre, Dwellingup

Time: 12 - 1.30pm

Ages: Families with children aged 4+

Cost: Children \$15, supervising adults free

Calling all young explorers, ages 4+ and their families! Join us at the Forest Discovery Centre in Dwellingup to become a Junior Wildlife Ranger and discover the amazing animals that call the forest home. Learn how to stay safe in the bush, what to do if you find sick or injured wildlife, and even get some basic snake bite first aid lessons. Then, get creative and build your own water drinking station to help local wildlife visiting your backyard to stay refreshed and cool. A fun, hands-on experience for the whole family to connect with nature and become wildlife heroes.



Basic Wildlife Rescue

Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/1263640886909?aff=oddtcreator>

When: 15/04/2025

Where: Perth Hills Discovery Centre

Time: 10 - 12pm

Ages: 12 - 17yrs **DROP OFF** activity

Cost: Free (Shire of Mundaring Initiative)

Would you know how to help a sick or injured animal if you came across one?

Join Nearer to Nature for a basic wildlife rescue workshop at The Perth Hills Discovery Centre! Learn how to assist native animals in need and get up close with some special wildlife in an animal encounter. Plus, create your own essential rescue kit to keep in your car for animal emergencies.

Don't miss this hands-on opportunity to make a difference!



Egg-cellent Adventure

Book here: <https://bit.ly/42cRgg9>

When: 14/04/2025

Where: Bardon Park Maylands

Time: 9.30-11am

Ages: 4-7yrs

Cost: Children \$15 supervising adults free

Join us at Bardon Park, Maylands for an egg-cellent adventure these Easter holidays! Embark on a scavenger hunt through the park's wetlands searching for different types of animal eggs. Along the way, you'll learn all about these fascinating eggs and their creators. Then, get creative and craft your own clay nest to take home, perfect for using as a drinking station for wildlife in your garden. Don't miss out on this exciting and educational school holiday activity!

Zippy's Bush Kindy is back this May 2025



Zippy's Bush Kindy Perth Hills is back at the **Perth Hills Discovery Centre in Mundaring** this May 2025.

BOOKINGS NOW OPEN!

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.

Based on the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), Zippy's Bush Kindy has a strong emphasis on play-based learning, recognised as the best method for young children's learning. This program is suitable for children aged 3 - 5 years old.

Term 2 – 'My bushland friends'

Tuesdays - *6 May to 24 June 2025* - 9.30am - 10.15 am [Book here](#)

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

Dates coming soon

Term 4 - 'I am a bushland superhero'

Dates coming soon

Brought to you by Kings Park and Botanic Garden and DBCA Parks and Wildlife. Proudly supported by Rio Tinto.

For more information about **Zippy's Bush Kindy** please visit the website [here](#).



Cultural Programs are back!

Nearer to Nature are pleased to announce our new Culture in the Forest Discovery Days! These days are full of forest-based cultural activities and aim to raise awareness and increase our appreciation of Aboriginal Culture. Cultural Educator and Noongar woman Belinda Cox from Djirily Dreaming presents

a great day full fun and learning. For more information and to book, please visit [Culture in the Forest Discovery Day -Perth Metro - Parks and Wildlife Service WA Reservations](#)

These sessions have limited dates available so get in quick! Our next available date is 10th April 2025. It would be a great way to finish off term 1 wiht your students!

Some of you may recognise Belinda from her Djarlgarra Yarning sessions at Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC).



Bring your students to the Djarlgarra Yarning program at CREEC to help embed Noongar cultural understanding through hands-on activities. We still have some session dates at CREEC for 2025 available.

Djarlgarra Yarning ‘Canning River Stories’ Program - CREEC

The Noongar people’s strong connection with the wetlands and rivers that flow across the Swan Coastal Plain forms the basis for much of their culture, spirituality, and identity. Hear from an

experienced Noongar educator who demonstrates first-hand how the resources provided by the land and river were traditionally used and how the seasons dictated their availability and sustainable use. Students participate in a range of hands-on activities suited to age level. Each session suitable for 30 students, \$360 per session.

The sessions available in Term 1 are:

Monday 31 March: 9.30 – 11.30am & 12 – 2pm

Tuesday 1 April: 12 – 2.00pm

Wednesday 2 April: 9.30 – 11.30am & 12 – 2pm

Book Online: <https://parksandwildlife.rezdy.com/295037/djarlgarra-yarning-perth-metro>

Web: <https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/get-involved/education/nearer-nature-schools>

Belinda also offers a Professional Learning opportunity on Wednesday 28th May, 3:30-5:30pm.

[Djarlgarra Yarning PL-Perth Metro - Parks and Wildlife Service WA Reservations](#)

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

Click [here](#) to book

Camp with your class at Beelu National Park @ the Perth Hills Discovery Centre

Did you know you can book your school in our stunning campground here at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre? We are only a short drive from Perth, but you'll feel a million miles away as you soak up the Beelu National Park in Mundaring where we run the majority of our Nearer to Nature schools programs.

Your school can receive a discounted camp fees if you book a guided Nearer to Nature schools program and do a little volunteer work around the site with us. There are also some terrific self-guided walk trails with interpretive resources you can lead with your students too! The campground is kept solely for school groups participating in our programs during the week of term and is open to the

general public on weekends and school holidays. Email us at n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au and find out more.



Staff Updates

Our 2025 Nearer to Nature team is growing!

We would like to welcome two new team members, Rod and Ricki!

Rod has been a leader with us for a couple of years and has now stepped up to job share the Nearer to Nature Schools coordinator role with Michelle. Ricki volunteered with us and is now training to be a N2N leader!



Rod: I have a background working in industries including mining, engineering, and environmental science. More recently I have been working in teaching and education and love the opportunities this has provided. I have been working with Nearer to Nature as a school's leader since 2022, and this year in the role as the school's coordinator.

What I love about working with Nearer to Nature is the chance to encourage students to apply their thinking beyond the classroom. I particularly love working with passionate colleagues, teachers and community members to create memorable hands-on experiences for our young people. I love that each day is unique.....one day I can be learning alongside senior school students as we conduct practical investigations into real world problems such as threats to our local ecosystems and animals, climate change, biodiversity loss, and potential threats from fire or disease. The next day could be spent on my hands and knees digging in the dirt and leaves with a bunch of energetic early learners, or investigating what critters live in our waterways. Life is never dull with Nearer to Nature, and it brings me satisfaction and joy to see young people engaged, and excited by being in nature.



Ricki: I have recently completed university majoring in marine biology and environmental biology science and management. I found Nearer to Nature when I was in my second year of university when I started volunteering for the school holiday programs. After the school holidays programs, I

realized I would love to work for Nearer to Nature and as a leader share my knowledge and passion for the environment. I am super grateful to be a part of the N2N and am excited to see where this journey takes me.

River Guardians Festival South Perth - Saturday April 5th 2025

Join the River Guardians for the second edition of the River Guardians Festival at Sir James Mitchell Park (opposite the Wesley College Boatshed, South Perth) on Saturday 5th of April, 2025.



There'll be something for everyone, including the kids! We'll be joined by the River Eco Faeries, West Oz Wildlife with their koala, snakes and lizards (that you can touch and have photos with) and Carnaby's Crusaders with their pop-up aviary and educational cockatoos. There will be a bee hotel making workshop and special 'walk and talk' activities and an exciting array of 16 stall holders (8am-12pm) promoting the great conservation and volunteering work that is going on in the Swan Canning

Riverpark.



For more information, or to register for a workshop, visit the River Guardians website [River Guardians Festival – River Guardians](#)



 Department of Biodiversity,
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Nearer to Nature

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