

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

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Hi Nicole Wreford

Issue No. 15

**Wanju (welcome)**

Thursday, 26 June 2025

Welcome to our Winter edition of Nearer to Nature Perth News

In this issue,

**Schools Program Update**

**Winter School Holiday Program**

**NAIDOC Week Celebrations**

**Zippy's Bush Kindy Term 3 starting soon.**

**Perth Hills Discovery Centre Stories**

## 2025 Schools Program

It's been a busy and exciting start to the year for term one and two. Our school programs, with over 2,000 students, teachers, and parents participated in hands-on educational experiences at various locations including at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre in Mundaring, Canning River Eco Education Centre, Dwellingup Forest Discovery Centre, Lake Joondalup and Point Walter as well as incursions at many schools across the Perth Metro area.



Our leaders have loved guiding enthusiastic students through nature-based activities, including a recent night walk where students captured some amazing photos. While scorpions and spiders often steal the spotlight, we highlight the importance of invertebrates—creatures that make up 97% of all animal species. They play vital roles in the ecosystem, including pollination, soil health, seed dispersal, decomposition, and nutrient cycling. Without them, food webs would collapse.

One curious student discovered a native sand scorpion and photographed it under a microscope. Scorpions are ancient creatures, believed to have existed for over 300 million years—long before most dinosaurs. They glow a striking blue-green under UV or blue light, a phenomenon that fascinates students, though the reason for it remains unknown. It may help them find prey, warn predators, or serve another purpose we have yet to understand.

If you're keen to explore nature with us and learn more about local ecosystems, visit our website to book a program or contact us by phone or email for more information.

Make your booking enquiries here: [Nearer to Nature Schools | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions](#)

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

Did you know you can book your school group into 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](mailto:n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au) and find out more.





## Winter School Holiday Program 2025

Get ready to rug up and explore the wild side of winter these school holidays! From the wetlands to the forest, our action packed program will take your kids on exciting adventures across Perth's Greater Metro area.

Discover our unique wildlife, splash in muddy puddles, and warm up around the campfire with lots of hands on nature based fun. There's something for every young explorer in this July winter program!

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



**WILDLIFE WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**PERTH**

**WINTER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2025**

**Calling Kooyar**  
Ages: 4 - 7yrs  
When: 9.30 - 11am  
Monday 7 July  
Where: City of Melville Eco Hub

**Turtley Awesome**  
Ages: 4 - 7yrs  
When: 9.30 - 11am  
Tuesday 8 July  
Where: Canning River Eco Education Centre

**Beach Exploration #**  
Ages: 7 - 12yrs  
When: 9.30 - 11am  
Wednesday 9 July  
Where: Hillarys

**Feathered Friends - # Backyard Bird Builders**  
Ages: 10 - 15yrs  
When: 9.30 - 11am  
Thursday 10 July  
Where: Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary

**Dolphin Discovery**  
Ages: 4 - 7yrs  
When: 9.30 - 11am  
Friday 11 July  
Where: South Perth Foreshore

**Frog Forage \***  
Ages: Families 6+yrs  
When: 5.30 - 7.30pm  
Friday 11 July  
Where: Lightning Swamp

**Bush Babies \***  
Ages: 3 - 6yrs  
When: 9.30 - 10.30am  
Monday 14 July  
Where: Perth Hills Discovery Centre

**Bee Wild**  
Ages: 4 - 7yrs  
When: 9.30 - 11am  
Tuesday 15 July  
Where: Perth Hills Discovery Centre

**Turtle Conservation #**  
Ages: 10 - 14 yrs  
When: 9.30 - 11.30am  
Wednesday 16 July  
Where: WA Maritime Museum

**Mini Mycologist**  
Ages: 4 - 10yrs  
When: 10 - 11.30am or 1.30-3pm  
Wednesday 16 July  
Where: Dwellingup Forest Discovery Centre

**Forest Day Camp #**  
Ages: 8 - 14yrs  
When: 9.30am - 3.30pm  
Wednesday 16 July  
Where: Perth Hills Discovery Centre

**Turtley Awesome**  
Ages: 4 - 7yrs  
When: 9.30 - 11am  
Thursday 17 July  
Where: Piney Lakes Sensory Playground

**Seed to Forest #**  
Ages: 10 - 15yrs  
When: 10am - 12pm  
Thursday 17 July  
Where: Perth Hills Discovery Centre

**Wonderful Waterbirds**  
Ages: 4 - 7yrs  
When: 9.30 - 11am  
Friday 18 July  
Where: Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary

**NAIDOC Day Event**  
Ages: All ages  
When: 11 - 2pm  
Sunday 13 July  
Where: Yancep National Park

**THE NEXT GENERATION: STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY**  
6-13 JULY 2025  
National NAIDOC logo

# DROP OFF Activity \* Animal encounter included

## July School Holiday - Top Picks

### Beach Exploration

Book here: <https://parksandwildlife.rezdy.com/712940/beach-exploration-hillarys-7-12yrs>

When: 09/07/2025

Where: Hillarys DPIRD

Time: 9.30-11am

Ages: 7 – 12yrs

Cost: \$15

Discover the wonders of Perth's coastline in an interactive beach exploration guided by marine experts from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. We will embark on a guided walk along the shoreline discovering fascinating marine organisms, seaweeds and intriguing flotsam. Learn about the effects of human activities to coastal ecosystems, and collect and identify common plants, animal and algae, improving your understanding of marine biodiversity. If weather is unfavourable, we will bring the beach to you, indoors at the centre nearby.





## Bee Wild

<https://parksandwildlife.rezdy.com/713076/bee-wild-4-7yrs>

**When:** 15/07/2025

**Where:** Perth Hills Discovery Centre

**Time:** 9.30-11am

**Ages:** 4-7yrs

**Cost:** \$15

Join us and native bee scientist Dr Kit Prendergast for a buzzing adventure at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre! Discover why our native bees are so important and why they need our help. You'll lend a hand restoring bee hotels around the centre, then roll up your sleeves to build your very own bee hotel to take home - just in time for spring when the bees are ready to move in. It will be a fun hands-on experience that's all about protecting some of our smallest pollinators.



## Forest Day Camp

<https://parksandwildlife.rezdy.com/713083/forest-day-camp-8-14yrs>

**When:** 16/07/25

**Where:** Perth Hills Discovery Centre

**Time:** 9.30am - 3.30pm

**Ages:** 8-14yrs

**Cost:** \$89

Get ready for a day of discovery where science, culture and forest fun come alive! Join us at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre and meet a scientist who's working to protect our native bees and learn all about their role in keeping ecosystems healthy. You'll help restore some of our bee hotels around the centre, then pick up the tools and build your very own bee hotel to take home. Next, we'll roll up our sleeves and set up camp. Gather around the fire to learn some Noongar names for local plants and animals, then take part in a **NAIDOC** themed scavenger hunt that celebrates culture, connection and the forest. We'll cook damper over the fire, practice some bush safety and head out on a wild bush adventure to connect with nature. It's a full day of hands-on learning, cultural discovery and nature fun! This is a **DROP OFF** activity.





## Feathered Friends

Book here: <https://parksandwildlife.rezdy.com/712943/feathered-friends-backyard-bird-builders-10-15yrs>

**When:** 10/07/2025

**Where:** Environment House Bayswater

**Time:** 9.30am-11am

**Ages:** 10-15yrs

**Cost:** \$20

Join us at Enviro House in the City of Bayswater and get ready for a flaptastic adventure as we go on the lookout for the amazing birds that call Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary home. Ever wonder how birds find nesting materials to build their nests in our urban areas? We'll get hands-on and create our own bird nesting material providers to help our feathered friends prepare for spring. Then grab some binoculars and see how many different birds you can spot in the Bird Sanctuary - can you find a honey eater, parrot or maybe even a wading bird? A day of creativity, discovery and nature fun! This is a **DROP OFF** activity.



## Turtle Conservation

**Book here:** <https://parksandwildlife.rezdy.com/712264/turtle-conservation-wa-maritime-museum-10-14yrs>

**When:** 16/07/2025

**Where:** WA Maritime Museum, Maritime Theatre



**WAM** WA  
MARITIME  
MUSEUM

**Time:** 9.30-11.30am

**Ages:** 10-14yrs

**Cost:** \$7

“Would you eat turtle soup?”

Turtles are one of the world’s most beloved marine animals today, but it hasn’t always been that way. In this session, you will learn about the seven species of marine turtles and discover some of the ways humans have interacted with them over the last 300 years. From making turtle soup to protecting turtles internationally, we will explore a history of turtles being used as a resource, the impacts this has had on their populations, and what we are doing now to protect and conserve these amazing animals. This is a DROP OFF activity.





## Seed to Forest

Book here: <https://parksandwildlife.rezdy.com/713099/seed-to-forest-10-15yrs>

When: 17/01/2025

Where: Perth Hills Discovery Centre

Time: 10-12pm

Ages: 10-15yrs

Cost: \$15

Explore the incredible journey of a seed - from tiny beginnings to towering trees. Join us at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre with the **WA Wildflower Society** as we explore the science of germination, learn which seeds need special treatments to grow, and get hands-on with real techniques for collecting, cleaning, and planting seeds. Compare growing from seed vs other propagation methods and put your plant knowledge to the test to see if you can identify some larger woody fruits and gum nuts. Perfect for curious minds who love science, nature, and getting their hands dirty!



## School Holiday Program Booking links

Monday 7th July **Calling Kooyar – Wetland Walk** (4-7yrs) - <https://bit.ly/4kQ1Mk2>

Tuesday 8th July **Turtley Awesome CREEC** (4-7yrs) - <https://bit.ly/3l0KNxp>

Wednesday 9th July **Beach Exploration** (7-12yrs) - <https://bit.ly/3G6fl0b>

Thursday 10th July **Feathered Friends** (10-15yrs) - <https://bit.ly/40oCJg2>

Friday 11th July **Frog Forage** (Families 6yrs +) - <https://bit.ly/44k3hjO>

Monday 14th **Bush Babies** (3-6yrs) - <https://bit.ly/4kWfxhx>

Tuesday 15th **Bee Wild** (4-7yrs) - <https://bit.ly/4417REN>

Wednesday 16th **Turtle Conservation** (10-14yrs) - <https://bit.ly/45HGWz5>

Wednesday 16th **Mini Mycologist** (4-10yrs) - <https://bit.ly/44yf53f>

Wednesday 16th **Forest Day Camp** (8-14yrs) - <https://bit.ly/4emfrxm>

Thursday 17th **Turtley Awesome - Piney Lakes** (4-7yrs) - <https://bit.ly/4njzu3t>

Thursday 17th **Seed to Forest** (10-15yrs) - <https://bit.ly/4l0iduN>

Friday 18th **Wonderful Waterbirds** (4-7yrs) - <https://bit.ly/4emH8Gm>

## NAIDOC Week Celebrations

### Yanchep National Park

☀️ **NAIDOC Day 2025 – Sunday, July 13** ☀️

Theme: *The Next Generation – Strength, Vision & Legacy*

Come together to celebrate the enduring culture and future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at our NAIDOC Day event!



Australian bush tucker jams and relishes.

### Fun for All Ages

From creative crafts to engaging games, we've got a range of activities for children and the young at heart.

Let's honour the strength of our ancestors, the vision of today's leaders, and the legacy we're building for the next generation.

**Location:** Yanchep national Park, Yanchep Beach Rd &, Indian Ocean Dr, Yanchep WA 6035



**Zippy's Bush Kindy Term 3 Starts Tuesday July 29th**



Zippy's Bush Kindy returned in May. We have been having so much fun exploring the forest, meeting some of our bushland friends.

### **BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN FOR TERM 3 Tuesdays 29th July -16th Sept**

Join Zippy the Dragonfly on an early learning adventure at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre. The program has one hour 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 - 5years old.

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

***July 29th - September 16th from 9.30am-10.30am***

**Book now:** <https://bit.ly/444i6s5>

### **Term 4 - 'I am a bushland superhero'**

***October 21st - 9th December 2025***

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





## Perth Hills Discovery Centre Stories

### Bush Ranger and River Ranger Annual Cadets Conference 2025

In May we hosted our annual Bush Ranger and River Ranger Cadets Conference. We were honoured to have the Minister for Environment Hon Matthew Swinbourne MLA and the Minister for Youth and Disability Services Hon Hannah Beazley attend. We were also lucky enough to have Derrek Nannup from Yanchep National Park to perform the Welcome to Country.

The conference also gave units the opportunity to display their LANDSCOPE Threatened Species Art Competition entries. The competition gave them the opportunity to channel their creativity into raising awareness of a threatened species using recycled LANDSCOPE magazines now that the magazine has gone digital.





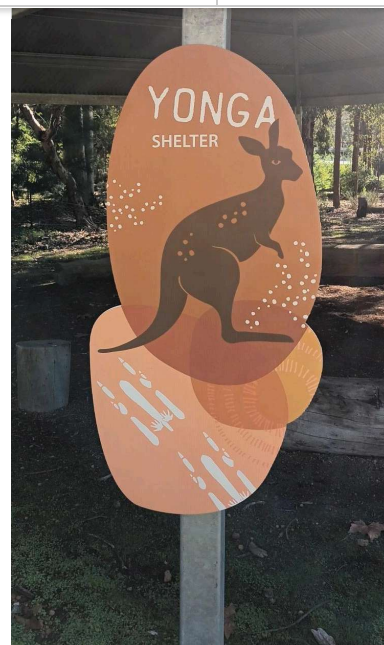
Top Left to right: Mount Lawley Bush Ranger Cadets with Critters Up Close, Wendy Corrick Cadets Regional Coordinator, Derrek Nannup DBCA Cultural Presenter, Jessica Milne from Emmanuel Christian College, Alannah Smith from Anzac Terrace Primary School, Erin Mias from Corpus Christi College.

## Perth Hills Discovery Centre NEW Signs

The Centre recently had some new signs installed to mark our shelters and spaces used for Nearer to Nature, Bush Ranger and River Ranger Cadet programs.

After speaking with a local Elder and Artist from MaOchre Gallery about the animals that frequented the spaces, Arron mentioned that the "animals have named your spaces".

In recognition of that, our spaces now have the Noongar names for the animals and an illustration of the species that are often seen in and around the spaces, giving visitors the opportunity to learn some language and understand the species in the area.



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

