

**From:** Nearer to Nature, Parks and Wildlife Service <no-reply@newsletters.dbca.wa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 September 2024 12:00 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wright  
**Subject:** Nearer to Nature South West - Term 3, 2024

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Term 3, 2024



Dear colleagues,

The South-West Nearer to Nature education team have had a busy 2024 so far, including delivering programs further afield at Dwellingup and extending our offerings to younger audiences, as well as planning for an exciting program of school holiday programs.

In the south-west we have had a very late, wet winter following the dry and hot summer and we are now halfway through the Noongar season of djilba (the season of conception) which is the time of year when everything is having a good drink and preparing for the growth burst of spring. The first obvious indicator of this time is the blooming of the wattles (*Acacia* spp.) and buttercups, covering the forests in a blanket of yellow. You may also notice large families of emus (weitch), one of the traditional food sources of the season.

As always, we are offering families and the community a range of spring-inspired school holiday programs beginning after the King's Birthday public holiday (on Monday, 23 September). Check

out the great range of programs! There really is something for everyone.

In 2024 we are also expanding our programs into the pre-school space as well as delivering more excursions in Dwellingup, a great location for southern metropolitan schools. We look forward to learning with you.

Regards,

John Anderson

Project Officer, Nearer to Nature South West



**Above:** This is sometimes called the yellow season as the wattles and buttercups bloom.

Credit: H Bowler & A Ireland.

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## Spring school holiday activities in the South West

Spring is a beautiful time to get out to explore nature with the warmer days and the wildflowers and orchids blooming. The Nearer to Nature (N2N) South West team are making it easy for you to get nearer to nature these spring school holidays with some fun and exciting programs on offer. School holiday activities are available for families, adults and kids at several locations including:

- Wellington Discovery Forest

- RAC Margaret River Nature Park and Rotary Park
- various Bunbury locations.

Check out the [calendar](#) of exciting activities for more information.

**Nearer to Nature South West Region SPRING SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions | PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For information and bookings: [explore.parks.dbca.wa.gov.au/get-inspired/school-holiday-activities-south-west](https://explore.parks.dbca.wa.gov.au/get-inspired/school-holiday-activities-south-west)

TUESDAY 24 SEPT	WEDNESDAY 25 SEPT	THURSDAY 26 SEPT	FRIDAY 27 SEPT	SATURDAY 28 SEPT
<b>Creepy Crawlies @ RAC MRNP</b> 9.00 - 10.30 am 5+ RAC	<b>What Bird Is That? @ Maidens Reserve</b> 9 - 10.30am All Ages BY <b>About Bush Fires</b> 2 - 3 pm 6+ CO - book through Collie Library	<b>Wild About Wildflowers @ WDF</b> 10 - 11.30am 4+ WDF <b>Sense-ational Nightlife @ RAC MRNP</b> 6.00 - 8.30 pm Family Event 5+ RAC	<b>All the Small Things @ WDF</b> 10.30-12 noon All Ages WDF <b>Forest Detectives @ RAC MRNP</b> 9.00 - 10.30 am 5+ RAC	<b>Macro Photography @ Manea Park</b> 9.30-12 noon All Ages BY
MONDAY 30 SEPT	TUESDAY 1 OCT	WEDNESDAY 2 OCT	THURSDAY 3 OCT	FRIDAY 4 OCT
<b>Creepy Crawlies @ RAC MRNP</b> 9.00 - 10.30 am 5+ RAC <b>Sense-ational Nightlife @ RAC MRNP</b> 6.00 - 8.30 pm Family Event 5+ RAC	<b>Creepy Crawlies @ WDF</b> 10.00 - 11.30 am 5+ WDF	<b>Dolphin Discovers @ Bunbury</b> 10.30 - 12.00 am 4 - 7 yrs BY <b>Forest Detectives @ RAC MRNP</b> 9.00 - 10.30 am 5+ RAC	<b>Nature's Kaleidoscope @ WDF</b> 10.00 - 12.00 noon 5+ WDF	<b>Forest Detectives @ WDF</b> 10.00 - 12.00 noon 5+ WDF <b>Who's Who? @ Rotary Park</b> 5.30 - 7.00 pm Family Event ROT

WDF Wellington Discovery Forest | RAC RAC Margaret River Nature Park | ROT Rotary Park Margaret River  
BY Various Bunbury Locations | CO Collie Public Library

**Above:** Exciting activities available these school holidays.

## National Science Week 2024

With the National Science Week 2024 theme being 'Species survival; more than sustainability', the N2N South West team and our impressive collection of taxidermies were in high demand. The team enjoyed sharing National Science Week with a number of schools and organisations. We started the week off at Bunbury High School with a stall and incursions at Cornerstone Christian College, Kingston Primary visiting two of their Year 4 classes, then to the College Community Childcare Centre, Collie Public Library and Manea Senior College. We also welcomed Japanese visitors to the Wellington Discovery Forest and finished the week at the City of Bunbury South West Science Fair and glow in the dark disco. It didn't stop there though, with a busy day at Newton Moore Senior High School's Science Fair the following week.

We are keen to come out to your school for incursions any time of the year and we have excursions on offer at numerous locations. Contact details for enquiries and bookings can be found below.



**Above left:** Science week stall at Bunbury Senior High School.



**Above right:** Taxidermy display at the SW Science Fair.

## Sharing the conservation message with pre-kindy kids

The N2N South West team have been enjoying opportunities to share in some early learning fun with two to four year old pre-kindy children at local childcare centres over the last 12 or so months.

Together, we have explored the habitats of our native animals and made some possum dreys, explored the garden for bugs and learnt about different jobs bugs have, learnt some Noongar language and songs with Parks and Wildlife national park rangers Ryley and Jonnie, made clay echidnas and heard about their snot bubbles and belly-flops for cooling down, used our listening skills to identify different frog calls and learnt about the life cycle of frogs.

We have a few more exciting adventures coming up to finish off the year, including a bird watching expedition after making our own binoculars, a scavenger hunt and leaf painting and learning all about our faunal State emblem, the numbat (whilst trying to pick up sprinkles with a party whistle). At the end of October, we are looking forward to celebrating Children's Week with Hudson Road Family Centre.





**Top:** Build your own echidna!

**Above left:** Making fauna habitats for a day care centre.

**Above right:** Hands on activities for young and old.

# Western Shield trapping at Dwellingup

The N2N South West team are also delivering Western Shield fauna trapping programs at Lane Poole Reserve near Dwellingup. This activity is available up to 10 nights in autumn and spring and can be run in conjunction with other N2N excursions out of the Dwellingup Forest Discovery Centre. Accommodation options include the Jarrah Forest Lodge adjacent to the Discovery Centre, bush camping sites such as the Nanga Bush Camp, and true bush camping at any of the sites within the Lane Poole Reserve. Day excursions at the Forest Discovery Centre can also be arranged. Please contact us for availability and itinerary suggestions.



**Above:** The Forest Discovery Centre has a range of indoor and outdoor learning spaces.

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## Contacting Nearer to Nature in the South West region

For any **enquiries and bookings for excursions or professional learning opportunities**, please contact Nearer to Nature South West at the Parks and Wildlife Service South West Regional Office:

**Online bookings:** [parksandwildlife.rezdy.com/catalog/458491/n2n-schools-south-west-region](https://parksandwildlife.rezdy.com/catalog/458491/n2n-schools-south-west-region)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/NearertoNatureWA>

**Phone:** 9725 4300

**Email:** [swecoed@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:swecoed@dbca.wa.gov.au)

For the **development of programs and educational liaison** please contact John Anderson, Project Officer at the Parks and Wildlife Service South West Regional Office:

**Phone:** 9725 5944

**Mobile:** 0427 980 306

**Email:** [john.anderson@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:john.anderson@dbca.wa.gov.au)

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