Getting students Nearer to Nature

The Nearer to Nature Schools program provides opportunities for students of all ages to take part in hands-on, experiential learning in the natural environment. The excursions build concepts, skills, values and the ability to make environmentally responsible decisions. All excursions are linked to the National Curriculum.

For teachers and students we offer:

- excursions or camp activities at a variety of locations across the Perth metropolitan area and Dwellingup
- incursions at your school
- educational resources to use in the classroom
- professional learning for educators

All programs run for a duration of four hours unless otherwise stated.

Outcomes of Nearer to Nature Schools programs support the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions objective to ensure that the nature of Western Australia is conserved for its intrinsic values and to sustain and enrich people’s lives.

More information on what is on offer and available resources is located at dbca.wa.gov.au/nearerntonature

Bookings and enquiries

Phone: 9295 6149 or 9295 2244
Email n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au
Web: dbca.wa.gov.au/nearerntonature
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Program can be adapted to suit

**ESU** Education Support Unit

**EALD** English as Additional Language and Dialect

**HS** Home School groups

**RR** River Rangers
Our centres

**PHDC – Perth Hills Discovery Centre**
The Perth Hills Discovery Centre, on Allen Road (off Mundaring Weir Road), is set in the beautiful Beelu National Park, and located 7km south of the Mundaring township.

**FHC – Forest Heritage Centre**
The Forest Heritage Centre is located on Acacia Road in Dwellingup and is ideal for schools in the Peel region and on the south side of Perth. The centre includes walk trails and a treetop viewing platform.

### Overview

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Busy in the forest

Through a discovery walk, students identify and compare the needs and features of plants and animals. An animal encounter reinforces the day’s learning. A blindfold trail guides students through a sensory encounter with nature.

Outcomes:

- Recognise that different living things live in different places
- Identify common features of plants
- Explore different habitats in jarrah forest
- Learn about WA native animals
- Science involves exploring and observing the world using senses
- Understand the connectedness between living things

A teacher’s book, *Busy in the bushland*, is available on the website.

- **Science (F–1), Priorities – Sust**

Venue: PHDC $16
Moodjitch binar nyorps and yorgas
An introduction to traditional Aboriginal culture through the role of an Indigenous child. Students will be engaged in hunting and gathering using traditional singing, dancing, face painting and jewellery making.

Outcomes:

- Understand the family structure of Aboriginal people.
- Learn about traditional use of the land
- Appreciate the importance of only taking what is needed and practicing sustainability principles

Venue: FHC $16

• Science (F–3), Priorities – A&TSI, Sust
Incredible invertebrates

Students explore, collect and examine invertebrates. The role of body parts will be discussed and how characteristics determine habitat. This day of exploring will look at different habitats, relationship with other animals and plants, and why invertebrates are important for a healthy environment.

Outcomes:

• Recognise common features of invertebrates
• Learn the role of body parts and this influences the habitat shown
• Understand the relationships that invertebrates have with other animals and plants
• Understand the role invertebrates play in a healthy environment

Venue: PHDC $16, FHC $16

Science (1, 3, 4), Priorities – Sust
Koolangars, corroborees and kaleeps

An excursion which takes students on a Noongar cultural journey through traditional language, ceremony, hunting and fishing. Students will learn how Aboriginal people survived using natural resources sustainably while caring for the environment.

Outcomes:

- Students role-play a day in the life of an Aboriginal person.
- Learn about traditional and sustainable use of land
- Compare how Aboriginal people do traded with how trade is done today
- Learn the importance of ceremony and dance

Venue: PHDC $16
Threatened species

On this excursion students will learn more about Western Australia’s unique native animals and the threats they face. Discover how wildlife is being monitored, the efforts to control introduced species and what is being done to create a sustainable future for our native animals. Students practice techniques used to monitor wildlife including trapping and data collection.

Outcomes:

• Recognise Western Australian native wildlife
• Understand the factors that contributed to the decline of our native species
• Learn about the importance of data collection and how to monitor wildlife and
• What you can do to help threatened species

The Western Shield action pack is available to download online.

Science (4–6), Geography (4), Priorities – Sust

Venue: PHDC $16
Wetlands alive

Our wetlands are alive with a large variety of birds, bugs and plants. Students investigate how they depend on each other by surveying the plant, animal and invertebrate communities then do simple tests of water quality to relate that to the non-living environment. They also consider how these creatures are adapted to this unique environment and how people hold the key to their future.

Outcomes:

• Recognise that wetlands are highly diverse ecosystems
• Understand that wetlands have been vastly modified by human action; human impact extends far beyond the wetland to the whole catchment
• Recognise that everyone can play a role in wetland health; through their actions in daily life or through direct action at the wetlands

ESU HS RR

• Science (4–6), Priorities – Sust

Venues: Lake Joondalup $16; Star Swamp $16. Please note this can be done at a wetland close to your school subject to confirmation by our program coordinator.
Living with fire

Bushfires are a natural part of our environment. They can have a major impact on communities and the environment but are also important in maintaining biodiversity. In this program, students learn about the impacts of bushfires and how we can respond to them and mitigate their effects. Students learn when, where and why bushfires occur and the impact they have on native plants, animals and human communities. Students are introduced to methods of bushfire prevention, mitigation and suppression and learn the importance of being prepared. The excursion includes hands-on experience with a range of firefighting tools and equipment.

Outcomes:

- Understand that fire is a natural part of the jarrah forest ecosystem.
- Understand that fire is important in maintaining biodiversity
- Understand that prescribed burning is used to mitigate the impact of bushfires
- Understand that the response by fire-fighting personnel is very important for community safety
- Have an awareness that the impact of bushfires can be minimised through good planning and preparation

Venue: PHDC $16, FHC $16
Nearer to Nature Discovery Day

Bring the whole school, multiple classes or year levels to a day of discovery in the forest. Components of the activities featured in this brochure can be combined to suit your learning area.

Venue: PHDC $16, FHC $16 Please note cost may vary depending on the activities chosen
Incursions

Catchment model
Years PP to 6

Our three-dimensional, hands-on, interactive catchment models provide students with the opportunity to learn about catchment land uses, the pollutants commonly derived from these land uses and how they affect our waterways. Choose from either the Swan Canning catchment model, which allows students to better understand how water moves through their local catchment, or the alternative generic catchment model.

Totem yarning
Years PP to 6

This incursion has been developed to introduce students to Aboriginal culture and totems. The totem concept allows students to understand how Aboriginal people connected to the environment and lived sustainably.

Saving threatened species
Years 4 to 6

This incursion focuses on the Western Shield threatened species recovery program. Hair tubes, Sheffield traps, measuring equipment and hands-on activities will capture the interest of the most challenging students! The content is varied according to ability of the students.

Incursion costs

Perth metro cost: one class (up to 30) $200 per hour or part thereof, second class $180 per hour or part thereof
Animal encounters
Get up close to some unique native animals and learn about their special adaptations to the harsh climate. Choose from the following: marsupials, reptiles, raptors or a mix of animals.

Venues: PHDC $8.80 Duration: 1 hour

Eco walks
Enjoy guided ecology walks through the forest, with the theme tailored to suit your needs.

Venues: PHDC $7.70, FHC $7.70 (or if booking with another program $6.60) Duration: 1 hour

Night walk
Recognise the interdependence of life as the forest comes alive after dark.

Venues: PHDC $7.70, FHC $7.70 Duration: 1 hour

Sense-ational Trail
Students engage sensory skills as they explore the forest using blindfolds along a 200m rope walk trail.

Venues: PHDC $7.70 Duration: 1 hour

Bush tucker (Years 5 & 6)
Enjoy a session, learning about traditional nutrition, and make and eat a damper and kangaroo supper. The food is a sample amount only and not a full meal.

Venues: PHDC $14, FHC $14 Duration: 2 hours
**Bookings and enquiries**

**Phone:** 9295 6149 or 9295 2244  
**Email:** n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au  
**Web:** dbca.wa.gov.au/nearerntonature

**Duration**

Excursions, unless otherwise indicated, run for four hours from 10am to 2pm.

**Costs**

All costs quoted include GST. As all programs and activities are curriculum-linked, the GST component can be reclaimed.

Charges for programs will be made on a per student basis dependent upon the number of students booked however we require a minimum payment for 20 students. Maximum class size is 30 students. Multiple class sizes can be accommodated.

Cheques are to be made payable to Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

**Confirmations**

A confirmation letter will be forwarded to you on finalisation of your booking.

**Cancellations**

Please confirm any cancellation in writing at least one week before your visit; otherwise we request a cancellation fee.