



Hi <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>

Issue No. 14

Wanju (welcome)

Wednesday, 6 March 2024

Welcome to *Nearer to Nature News* - Perth edition.

We are pleased to be reinstating our newsletter in 2024 and these will be sent quarterly.

You can find nature-based education news and events for Perth and surrounds from Parks and Wildlife Service inside.

We are excited to combine the schools and community programs right here in the one place and we welcome our Know your Patch subscribers to this new 'one stop shop' for all things environmental education.

Nearer to Nature School programs cover a range of curriculum-linked topics.

Click on this link to see what's on offer this year from [Nearer to Nature Perth School Programs](#)

School Holiday Program - Summer Wrap Up



Our summer school holiday program was full of fun activities, we explored some new places and discovered some amazing local wildlife. Spaces filled up quickly, due to the popularity of the programs, so please book early to avoid disappointment. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing you all throughout the school holidays and are excited to bring you our Autumn program.

Autumn School Holiday Calendar 2024

Nearer to Nature

AUTUMN SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

[exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/get-inspired/know-your-patch](https://www.parks.wa.gov.au/get-inspired/know-your-patch)

For information and bookings

WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL	THURSDAY 4 APRIL	SATURDAY 6 APRIL	MONDAY 8 APRIL	WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL	FRIDAY 12 APRIL
<p>Splash Quest: Water for Wildlife @ Baigup Wetlands</p> <p>#Drop off activity</p> <p>9am - 11am Ages 8 - 15yrs</p> <p>A.P Hinds Reserve</p> <p>City of Bayswater</p>	<p>Turtley Awesome Wetlands</p> <p>9.30am - 11am Ages 4 - 7yrs</p> <p>Canning River Eco Education Centre</p> <p>City of Canning</p>	<p>Wild Wonders - Explore, Encounter, Quiz</p> <p>* including an animal encounter</p> <p>9am - 11am Ages 6+</p> <p>Margaret Forest Centre</p> <p>John Forest National Park</p>	<p>Eco Eyes: Wildlife Monitoring</p> <p># Drop off activity</p> <p>9am - 11am Ages 8 - 15yrs</p> <p>Neil Hawkins Park</p> <p>City of Joondalup</p>	<p>Wonderful Waterbirds</p> <p>9.30am - 11am Ages 3 - 7yrs</p> <p>Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary</p> <p>City of Bayswater</p>	<p>Dolphin Discovery</p> <p>9.30am - 11am Ages 4 - 7yrs</p> <p>South Perth Foreshore</p> <p>City of South Perth</p>

*Activity has an animal encounter
#drop and leave activity

Our Autumn April school holiday program is now available [here](#).

Take a look at our fun nature based school holiday program in various locations around the greater Perth metro area.

Splash Quest is back by popular demand, ['Splash Quest @ Baigup Wetlands'](#) in Bayswater.

We are also heading to John Forrest National Park for some family fun, ['Wild Wonders: Explore, Encounter, Quiz'](#).

The River Guardians will be delivering some great programs on the river, ['Turtley Awesome Wetlands'](#), ['Wonderful Waterbirds'](#), and ['Dolphin Discovery'](#).

Get your kids to join Nearer to Nature in Joondalup for some wildlife monitoring with Birdlife in ['Eco Eyes: Wildlife Monitoring'](#).



Featured Activity - 'Wild Wonders' Family Fun!

Get your family together as we embark on a nature exploration, with a guided walk, animal encounter followed by a fun quiz at John Forrest National Park.

Join us on a scenic walk through John Forrest National Park exploring the flora and fauna, collecting fun facts along the way. After our walk we will return to the Margaret Forrest Centre for an animal encounter collecting more fun facts while meeting some native wildlife. Then, get ready to put your heads together for our lively quiz which will test your knowledge and skills, with plenty of prizes up for grabs!

Please note this experience is for the whole family but children must be ages 6+ years to participate.

Tickets must be purchased for all attending participants.

The ages for each activity are in place for all participants to get the most out of their activity. In most cases, these age limits are in place due to activity content, recommendations by outside providers or for safety reasons. We appreciate your understanding in booking only children who are age appropriate into activities.

When: Saturday 6th April 2024

Where: John Forrest National Park

Time: 9am - 11am
Cost: \$25 per person

[**BOOK HERE**](#)

Please note there is an animal encounter included in this activity.

Big adventures for little nature lovers aged 3 to 5 years!

COMING SOON THIS APRIL - ZIPPY'S BUSH KINDY



Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park's ZIPPY'S BUSH KINDY is coming to the Perth Hills Discovery Centre starting Mondays from 29th April - 24th June 2024.

Join Zippy Dragonfly on an early learning adventure at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre. With 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.

Program dates 2024

Term 2 - 'My bushland friends' :

29th April - 24th June 2024

Lesson times:

9.30am - 10.15am or

10.30am - 11.15am

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

Term 4 - 'I am a bushland superhero' - coming soon

[BOOK HERE](#)

Forests Forever - A brand new Nearer to Nature offering!



Are you a primary school teacher?

Do you want to get your students out and into the bush more?

Then this new primary program may be for you!

Forests Forever is aimed at year 3 - 5 students and covers content related to your HASS curriculum.

It is a 4 hour program run from 10am - 2pm at Perth Hills Discovery Centre, that engages students with the forest and its many values.

Students will explore the jarrah forest around them and discover how DBCA scientists take care of the forest. Through gameplay and hands-on activities, they will learn about how the forest is managed so that the trees, smaller plants and animals can thrive! Students will go home understanding what a habitat is and how integral forests are to animal's lives. They will then learn about artificial habitats with the Re-cyc-ology team, as they share their work with nest boxes and help the students to build their very own!

You can even take a nest box back to your school! For only a small extra cost one of the nest boxes you build could return with you to help fauna and improve your school grounds!

There are only limited dates for this course, so get in quick and don't miss out!

Book via Rezdy at [Forests Forever - Parks and Wildlife Service WA Reservations \(rezdy.com\)](https://rezdy.com)

Biodiversity Bio



The night parrot is one of Australia's rarest and most elusive birds. During the day, it seeks shelter within spinifex grass on the ground, while also foraging, nesting and roosting there.

This specimen was discovered in 2022 in the eastern Pilbara when it got caught in a fence and unfortunately passed away, now on display at the Western Australian Museum.

Distribution: North Inland - Western Australia / SW Queensland

Common Name: Night Parrot

Local name: Ngarrijirri (Manyjiijarra name)

Scientific name: *Pezoporus occidentalis*

Conservation Status: Critically Endangered

Visit the Wildlife gallery at the WA Museum Boola Bardip to see this special guy on display.

Email reception@museum.wa.gov.au to take your school or community group.

Farewell to Mr C - 2023 Environmental Education of the Year Awardee



For those of you familiar with the N2N Schools' program, Stephen Crane, or Mr C as he is affectionally known, has been a staple at Perth Hills for the last 17 years. He has decided to step back from the N2N Schools Coordinator Role to enjoy life to the fullest pursuing all those hobbies you haven't had time for. His wealth of knowledge will not be lost though, as he has chosen to continue to lead in a casual capacity for now. He has been a great mentor, colleague and friend throughout his time at N2N.

Mr C has been the champion of Mammal Monitoring, Flora, Fauna, Water and Fire Programs to name a few! Last year he was named 2023 Australian Association of Environmental Education's (WA) Environmental Educator of the Year. A massive achievement and well deserved.

Thank you for all the advice and guidance over the years. We have learned a lot from you, and your silly jokes will be missed!

Welcome Michelle

Our N2N Leader Michelle Sharp has decided to step into those big shoes left by Mr C. Michelle is a primary teacher who has been with N2N for the past 18 months. She is a passionate leader and educator, looking forward to stepping up into the N2N Schools Coordinator Role. Mr C leaves a big space, but with the team's help, Michelle hopes to be a successful team leader, keeping those N2N values and bringing some new ideas to the N2N space.



For teachers

Your students can learn more about how Western Shield protects our threatened native species by:

- Participating in one of our Western Shield programs, for details visit [Nearer to Nature Schools | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions \(dbca.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/nearer-to-nature-schools)
- Downloading the Western Shield Action Pack for Years 4 to 6, a curriculum-linked resource about threatened species for teachers to use in the classroom: [Nearer to Nature Schools | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions \(dbca.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/nearer-to-nature-schools)

For everyone

Are you interested in native wildlife and keen to help out from the comfort of your own home?

- To find out how, visit Western Shield Camera Watch: [Western Shield — Camera Watch — Zooniverse](#)

Celebrating 30 years of the Perth Hills Discovery Centre (PHDC)



The Perth Hills Discovery Centre is set in the picturesque Beelu National Park in the Perth Hills - the perfect spot to set-up camp and enjoy the many walking trails including the iconic Bibbulum Track. Beelu National Park, which used to be called Mundaring National Park, was renamed in recognition the Aboriginal people who lived here.

Just 6.5km from Mundaring, Perth Hills Discovery Centre offers a tranquil setting for functions and events. With a campground and indoor and outdoor space for hire, the centre is a multi-purpose venue where you can be immersed in nature just an hour's drive from Perth. Mix up meetings with walks through the forest along the Bibbulmun Track where you might meet some of our resident kangaroos or other wildlife.

Our centre is the base for Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Bush and River Rangers Cadets program and our schools and community Nearer to Nature programs which provide fun, nature based activities to encourage people to connect to nature.

Perth Hills Discovery Centre's charming timber buildings are original forestry offices and cottages. Some are from the Mundaring Weir Forestry Settlement established in 1924 for forestry workers. Other buildings were brought from other Forests Department locations, the Marri Building was originally an operations office at Gnangara State Forest.

Perth Hills Discovery Centre was originally known as The Hills Forest and was formally opened

in 1994. In 2024, we are celebrating 30 years of operation of this bespoke all-abilities centre providing education programs for schools and community, a stunning campground and a beautiful rest stop for hikers on the Bibbulum Track.

Contact us for more information of hiring the bespoke facilities at the centre at n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au.



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