



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

Nearer to Nature

Providing opportunities for schools, families, community groups, overseas and interstate visitors to take part in fun, hands-on activities in the natural environment.

Issue 18 - March 2026

PARKS AND WILDLIFE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NEARER TO NATURE

PERTH NEWS

Get Nearer to Nature this Autumn

Welcome Back

Welcome back to the first edition of the Nearer to Nature newsletter for 2026! We've kicked off the year with great energy - our school programs are already underway, and we're busily preparing for an exciting April School Holiday Program.

In this edition, you'll find:

- [Autumn School Holiday Program](#)
- [Zippy's Bush Kindy](#) is back in the Perth Hills this April
- N2N School program updates Term 1
- [Opportunity for Youth Working Group at Perth Zoo](#)
- [Earth Expo Day 2026](#)
- [SeaWeek](#)
- [World Environmental Education Conference \(WEEC\) 2026](#)
- Perth Hills Discovery Centre Camp Hosting

Autumn School Holiday Program

Autumn is here – and so is our amazing School Holiday Program!

Looking for fun ways to connect with nature these holidays? We've got plenty of adventures waiting for you! These April school holidays, come along and:

- **Learn about turtle conservation and career pathways.**
- **Explore and connect with the Jarrah forest and its biodiversity.**
- **Find out which creatures lay eggs, learn about our river dolphins, birds of prey and much more.**

The heat is passing and nature is transforming - making it the ideal time to explore outside. Join us for hands-on activities that will bring you nearer to nature this season. To keep updated on our community programs you can find more info and book below.



NEARER TO NATURE

PERTH

AUTUMN SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2026



For more information or online bookings limited spots!



<p>Turtle Awesome Ages: 4-7yrs When: 10 - 11.30am Wednesday 8 April Where: Canning River Eco Education Centre Wilson</p>  	<p>Egg-cellent Adventure Ages: 4-7yrs When: 10 - 11.30am Wednesday 8 April Where: Forest Discovery Centre Dwellingup</p>  	<p>Dolphin Discovery Ages: 4-7yrs When: 10-11.30am Thursday 9 April Where: WA Maritime Museum Fremantle</p>  	<p>Turtle Conservation Ages: 12-17yrs When: 12.30-2.30pm Thursday 9 April Where: WA Maritime Museum Fremantle</p>  	<p>Wildlife Monitoring Ages: 7-12yrs When: 12.30-2.30pm Monday 13 April Where: Perth Hills Discovery Centre Mundaring</p>  
<p>Pathways to Conservation NextGen Ages: 14-25yrs When: 10am-12pm Tuesday 14 April Where: Perth Hills Discovery Centre Mundaring</p>  	<p>Egg-cellent Adventure Ages: 4-7yrs When: 10-11.30am Wednesday 15 April Where: City of Melville Eco Hub Winthrop</p>  	<p>Dolphin Discovery Ages: 4-7yrs When: 10-11.30am Thursday 16 April Where: South Perth Foreshore (near Douglas Ave)</p>  	<p>Seize and Capture Ages: 7-12yrs When: 2-3.30pm Thursday 16 April Where: Canning River Eco Education Centre Wilson</p>  	<p>EnviroFEST 2026 Ages: FREE Family event When: 10am-3pm Saturday 21 March Where: Village West Whiteman Park</p>  

Autumn Program
2026

Zippy's Bush Kindy - Perth Hills Returns



We had so much fun adventuring and exploring with our Zippy's Bush Kindy families last year, and we can't wait to jump back into the forest with all our little explorers this April, term 2.

You and your little ones can join Zippy the Dragonfly for another year of early learning adventures at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre in 2026. With one-hour sessions each week across an 8-week term, this interactive program sparks curiosity, encourages exploration and helps children strengthen their connection with nature.

Term 2 - 'My Bushland Friends' - Tuesdays April 28th - 16th June 2026

Term 3 - 'Caring for the Land I Play On' - Coming soon

Term 4 - 'I am a Bushland Superhero' - Coming soon

Bookings for term 2 - Perth Hills Discovery Centre available [HERE](#)

For more information about Zippy's Bush Kindy please visit the website on the button below.

Brought to you by Kings Park and Botanic Garden and DBCA Parks and Wildlife's Nearer to Nature education teams. **Supported by Rio Tinto.**

Zippy's Bush Kindy

School Program Updates

Term 1 is off to a great start, and we can't wait for even more schools to get Nearer to Nature throughout 2026.

Did you know our Nearer to Nature programs cover the following key themes

Forest - Explore WA's forest ecosystems and native wildlife, while learning how sustainable forest management supports biodiversity, climate resilience, and reduces human impact.

Threatened Species - Help monitor and measure what's at stake for conservation through DBCA's Western Shield program, and discover how we can take action to manage introduced species and protect WA's unique native wildlife.

Fire - Learn about traditional burning practices, operate a real fire truck and carry out fieldwork to understand and predict bushfire impacts intensity, and behaviour.

Aboriginal Culture – Nearer to Nature partners with local Aboriginal groups and small businesses to provide opportunities for traditional owners to share their knowledge with schools. Wander through the forest and explore themes including music, art, plant uses, native animals and their cultural significance to Aboriginal people.

River and Wetlands – actively explore and assess the health of a local aquatic ecosystem. Covering topics such as water quality, macroinvertebrate diversity, birdlife, human impacts and management strategies.

For school bookings and community enquiries

Nearer to Nature Perth Metro

n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au

(08) 9295 2244 (Mon-Fri 8am-4pm)

Nearer to Nature South-West

n2nsw@dbca.wa.gov.au


(08) 9725 4300 (Mon-Fri 8am-4pm)

Nearer to Nature Valley of the Giants

(08) 977 17915 (Mon-Fri 9am-4pm)

ttw@dbca.wa.gov.au / www.treetopwalk.com.au

Learn More about N2N



New Opportunity for Secondary Students at Perth Zoo!

by Naomi Adamczyk

Naomi Adamczyk is the Community Education Coordinator at Perth Zoo

Perth Zoo is launching a brand-new Youth Program, and they're looking for passionate young people aged 13–19 to join a Youth Working Group and help shape it from the ground up. This is a unique chance for your students to have a real voice in the creation of a major youth initiative at Perth Zoo, while developing leadership skills and gaining hands-on experience in conservation. Applications to join the Working Group are open now!

Youth Working Group members will:

- Co-create the Youth Program by sharing ideas on structure and activities.
- Design and deliver activities during the program's pilot phase.
- Help develop promotional materials, including messaging and visuals.
- Contribute to creative elements such as branding and uniform design.
- Support evaluation and feedback processes to measure program success.

Youth Working Group members will gain:

- Behind-the-scenes insights into Perth Zoo's conservation work.
- Opportunities to contribute to real-world conservation projects.
- Skill development in leadership, teamwork, communication, and advocacy.
- Hands-on experience in zoology and conservation science.
- A meaningful extracurricular experience that can support school portfolios, resumes, or tertiary pathways.

The Working Group is an 8-month commitment, with monthly meetings scheduled. All of this, and the how to apply is on our webpage:
[Youth Acting for Perth Zoo | Perth Zoo](https://perthzoo.wa.gov.au/conservation/youth-at-perth-zoo)
<https://perthzoo.wa.gov.au/conservation/youth-at-perth-zoo>

16.

Youth At Perth Zoo

EARTH DAY EXPO 2026

A full day of 'down to earth' fun!



Primary Students Year 2 - 6
Friday 27th March (Week 8) | 9.30am - 2pm
Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC), Wilson

What is the Earth Day Expo?

The Earth Day Expo is a whole day excursion filled with fun, interactive activities that empower young people to think creatively and critically about how to generate sustainable change. The activities are provided by education for sustainability (EFS) organisations from government and community sectors. Each class is scheduled into four hours of dynamic, 'hands on' activities with environmental and sustainability themes.

Why celebrate Earth Day?

Earth Day is celebrated by more than 190 countries around the world. This day reminds us to take responsibility for what we use and how we use it. It is a day to think of the environmental challenges we face and how to solve them. Internationally, Earth Day is held on 22 April each year. We celebrate it on a different date to provide the opportunity for primary school students to participate.

How does the Earth Day Expo link with the WA Curriculum?

The Earth Day Expo offers integrated, hands-on experiences that address Science, HASS and the Arts, and embed the cross-curriculum priorities of Sustainability and A&TSI Histories and Cultures.



'Brilliant day, presenters were excellent and the students had a fantastic experience.'
Hayley L, Riverton PS

'A great opportunity for students to get a snapshot of all the different aspects of sustainability.'
Matt A, Bassendean PS



Book now by email or phone:

\$13 per student (inc GST) | Teachers and parents FREE

Limit of three classes per school.

Minimum fee per class is \$260

Contact:

9461 7160

creec@canning.wa.gov.au



Earth Day Expo 2026



SEAWEEK AUSTRALIA

2026

28 February – 8 March

Caring for Planet Water

The ocean makes the Earth habitable.

Ocean Literacy Principle 4

Investigate how the ocean supports life on Earth through climate regulation, currents and cycles, oxygen production, biodiversity, resources and essential ecosystem services.



aeee.org.au/seaweed



SeaWeek



13TH WEEC
WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONGRESS
GONDWANA
RECONNECTING RESILIENT CULTURES
MILGEBAR KOORA-KOORA BOODJAR KWELKEN YEVI
21-25 SEPTEMBER 2026 | PERTH, AUSTRALIA

FIND OUT MORE >

The 13th World Environmental Education Congress (13th WEEC) returns in 2026, bringing together educators, researchers, and changemakers in the dynamic city of Perth, Western Australia. This global gathering is a unique opportunity to exchange knowledge, explore innovative strategies, and strengthen the role of environmental education in shaping a more sustainable future.

Join us as we collaborate, inspire action, and build pathways toward meaningful change. Together, we can make a difference.

WEEC 2026

Campground Hosting at Perth Hills Discovery Centre in Mundaring

Volunteering as a Campground Host is a great way to explore the beauty and diversity of Western Australia's national and marine parks while helping others to also enjoy spending time in nature. The program is perfect for self-reliant experienced campers, who enjoy meeting people and love being outdoors. It is not suitable for pet owners as most campsites are located in national parks.

The Perth Hills Discovery Centre is located in the Jarrah forest in the **Beelu National Park** in Mundaring. Our small campground (12 tent campsites only) is close to the Mundaring Weir and is open for **public camping Friday to Sunday** nights and during the Western Australia public school holidays.

Many families use the campground as a practice camping space to trial the experience before they head out into more wild places. We also have hot showers.

The centre is also an environmental education facility where school and community groups visit regularly for programs and camp during the week.

We are looking for some new camp hosts to fill some gaps in our calendar this year. You must have a **Working with Children Check** and experience engaging with children and families preferred.

Please express your interest by contacting n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au

If you are interested in hiring the facilities at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre, please also email n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au



Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season.



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If you would like to contact us, provide feedback or are experiencing problems opening stories please email the *Nearer to Nature* team at n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au.

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

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