



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 20 - September 2026



Get Nearer to Nature this Spring

Welcome to the Spring edition of the *Nearer to Nature Newsletter*. Across the Southwest, we have entered the Noongar season of **Djilba**, known as the season of conception. As wildflowers begin to bloom and new life emerges throughout the landscape, it is a wonderful time to connect with nature and observe the changes that spring brings.

As Term 3 draws to a close, we reflect on the many successful school programs and experiences shared over recent months and look ahead to the exciting opportunities that term 4 will bring. We are also excited to share our Spring School Holiday Program, commencing on Tuesday 29 September.

In this edition, we share highlights from recent activities, celebrate new initiatives, and showcase upcoming opportunities to explore, learn and connect with the natural world this spring.

- **Perth Metro School Program Updates**
- **Spring School Holiday Program**
- **Spring Into Parks Feature Event**
- **Zippy's Bush Kindy - Oct-Dec**
- **Campground Hosting at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre**

Perth Metro School Program Update

It's hard to believe we're already nearing the end of Term 3. As we welcome Djilba, the season of growth and renewal, we're seeing signs of new life all around us, and plenty of exciting developments within Nearer to Nature.



A recent highlight was a visit from Megan Barnes and Kelly, a springer spaniel from Detection for Good, to Perth Hills Discovery Centre. Kelly's remarkable detection skills identified traces of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* near the campground, reinforcing the importance of ongoing dieback hygiene practices.



We're also pleased to introduce *Food for their Future*, a new program that empowers students to support WA's threatened black cockatoos. Through hands-on learning and habitat restoration, students are helping create a brighter future for these iconic birds while developing their own environmental stewardship skills.

Throughout the term, the Nearer to Nature Schools team has connected with teachers and students across our education centres, local schools, and professional learning events, including the GAWA (Geographical Association of Western Australia) Conference. We look forward to continuing these conversations at upcoming events and sharing more opportunities for curriculum-linked environmental learning.

Thank you for your continued support. If you see our team at a school or community event, please stop by and say hello. We'd love to connect with you.

N2N SCHOOLS

Spring School Holiday Program

Get outside and connect with nature these school holidays!

Our Spring School Holiday Program is packed with exciting opportunities for young adventurers to explore the natural world, learn new skills and discover local wildlife. Choose from a range of hands-on activities, including:

- **Canoeing on the Canning River** and experiencing the waterway from a new perspective.
- **Discovering local dolphins** and learning about the fascinating marine mammals that call our rivers and coastline home.

- **Exploring wetland birds** and uncovering the important role these species play in healthy ecosystems.
- **Night-time adventures** in search of nocturnal birds and creatures, revealing the hidden world that comes alive after dark.
- **Quenda cabin making**, families and children can get creative and help build predator proof shelters while learning about one of our favourite native mammals.

There's also a special **FREE Family Pollinator Picnic** at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre, bringing families together to celebrate the vital role of pollinators through fun activities, nature-based learning and time spent outdoors.

Book now and join us for a spring full of outdoor adventures, wildlife encounters and nature-based fun!

PARKS AND WILDLIFE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NEARER TO NATURE

PERTH
SPRING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2026

Dolphin Discovery Ages: 4-7yrs When: 10 - 11.30am Tuesday 29 September Where: Bardon Park Maylands	Creatures of the Night Ages: Families 8+yrs When: 6.30 - 8.30pm Tuesday 29 September Where: Perth Hills Discovery Centre Mundaring	Birds of the Night Ages: Families 8+yrs When: 6 - 8pm Wednesday 30 September Where: City of Melville EcoHub Piney Lakes	Wetland Wildlife Investigators Ages: 4-7yrs TBC When: 10 - 11.30am Thursday 1 October Where: Canning River Eco Education Centre Wilson	
Wildlife by Water - Canoe the Canning River Ages: 12 - 17yrs * When: 9 - 11am Thursday 1 October Where: Canning River Eco Education Centre *Drop off Activity	Wonderful Waterbirds Ages: 4-7yrs When: 10 - 11.30am Friday 2 October Where: Neil Hawkins Park Joondalup	Pollinator Picnic Ages: Families with children all ages When: 9am-12pm Tuesday 6 October Where: Perth Hills Discovery Centre Mundaring	Build a Quenda Cabin Ages: 7-12yrs When: 10am-12pm Wednesday 7 October Where: City of Melville EcoHub Piney Lakes	

POLLINATOR PICNIC
at Perth Hills Discovery Centre
Book Now! Book Now!

Book Here

Spring Into Parks Feature Event

Spring into Parks returns from 18 September, inviting all Western Australians to get outdoors and discover the incredible experiences waiting in our national parks, marine parks and reserves. Whether it's wandering through wildflowers, spotting wildlife, stargazing, forest bathing, exploring a new walking trail or enjoying time with family and friends, there's an adventure for everyone this spring.

This year's campaign features **Ways to be Wild**, a Wellness Challenge and the Memorable Moments in Nature Photo Competition, inspiring people of all ages to reconnect with nature while celebrating the health, wellbeing and conservation benefits of WA's extraordinary parks.

Discover events happening across Western Australia throughout Spring.

View the Spring into Parks Event Calendar here:

<https://www.ourwaparks.org.au/springintoparks/>

Join Nearer to Nature and the WA Parks Foundation for our Pollinator Picnic at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre in Mundaring as part of **Spring into Parks!** Discover your next adventure in nature and experience everything WA's parks have to offer.

Supported by Spring into Parks, a WA Parks Foundation initiative, and Lotterywest.

SPRING into PARKS
A WA PARKS FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

6th OCTOBER 2026
9am-12pm

POLLINATOR PICNIC

**@ Perth Hills Discovery Centre
Beelu National Park
Mundaring**

FREE FAMILY EVENT

WA PARKS FOUNDATION

Storytime with Dr Kit: New Bee Books!

MEET NATIVE BEE SCIENTIST DR KIT PRENDERGAST

Dress up as your favourite pollinator for our 'Pollinator Parade' **Win Prizes**

Help restore bee hotels and learn how to create habitat for wildlife

Make pollinator-inspired crafts and a habitat for local wildlife.

Follow the magical Fairy Folk & Forest Friends Trail

Guided wildflower walks with the Wildflower Society of WA

Please note while this is a **FREE** event bookings are essential

PARKS AND WILDLIFE WESTERN AUSTRALIA | **NEARER TO NATURE** | **lotterywest**

[Book Here](#)

Zippys Bush Kindy Term 4



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RioTinto

We had so much fun adventuring, exploring and learning all about our bushland friends with our Zippy's Bush Kindy families this term. We can't wait to jump back into the forest with all our little explorer's for term 4 'Im a explorer'.

You and your little ones can join Zippy the Dragonfly on our early learning adventures at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre this July. 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 4 - 'I am a Bushland Superhero' - Tuesdays 20 October - 8 December 2026

Bookings for term 4 - Perth Hills Discovery Centre available [HERE](#)

For more information about Zippy's Bush Kindy Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park or Southwest click 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.**

[Book Here](#)

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. Located in the heart of Beelu National Park, Perth Hills Discovery Centre is home to a small 12-site campground surrounded by beautiful jarrah forest and close to Mundaring Weir. The campground welcomes public campers on **Friday to Sunday** nights and **during WA school holidays**. To help preserve the natural setting, camping is limited to tents only, with rooftop tents and caravans permitted for camp hosts only.

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, or be willing to apply for a **Working with Children Check**. Experience engaging with children and families preferred.

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

Be Wild this Spring!



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