



Nearer to Nature Schools

at
CREEC

2019 Education Program for Years K – 12

Getting students Nearer to Nature

Nearer to Nature Schools provide 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 programs are linked to State and National Curriculum.

The Canning River Eco Education Centre (CREEC) is ideally located on the banks of the Canning River within the Canning River Regional Park.

Natural and built environments co-exist to provide a unique outdoor classroom for K-12 students.



For teachers and students we offer:

- excursions at the purpose-built education centre
- educational resources to use in the classroom
- professional learning for educators.

Bookings and enquiries

Phone: 9295 2244

Email: n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au

Web: dbca.wa.gov.au/nearertonature

Bookings	3	Special events	17
Kindergarten to Year 2	5	Earth Day Expo	17
Creepy crawlies in the Canning	5	A Day in the Park	18
Pobblebonk swamp	6	Self-guided (FREE)	19
Bush detective	7	A bird's eye view	19
Years 3 – 6	8	'I Spy' sensory walk	20
Weir-d science	8	Canning River Regional Park Trail	20
Doug the darter	9	Professional learning for teachers	21
Take a dip	10	Djarlgarra Yarning	21
From Range to River	11	Canoeing on the Canning	22
River diaries	12	Resources for schools	23
Years 7 – 12	13	Where is CREEC	24
Rivers at risk	13		
Testing Testing H2O	14		
SIGNALs in the stream	15		
Multi-level programs	16		
Djarlgarra Yarning	16		

Make a booking

1. Visit the website for more information on planning your excursion or incursion.
dbca.wa.gov.au/nearertonature
2. Complete an online booking request or contact the *Nearer to Nature* Booking Officer
Email: n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au
Phone: 9295 2244 (Mon – Fri 8.30 to 4.30)
3. The Booking Officer will respond to your request via email.
4. Please check the confirmation email to ensure your booking details are correct.
All changes must be requested in writing.

Costs

Prices vary according to program. See details with each program description.
All prices include GST.

Payment

Credit card payment is preferred. Cheques are to be made payable to Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
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 15 students. Maximum class size is 30 students.

Cancellations and changes to bookings

Please confirm any cancellation in writing at least one week before your visit; otherwise we apply a cancellation fee (note, cancellation fees do not apply due to cancellations when a severe weather warning is issued). Once confirmed, your booking can be changed (subject to availability) up to two further times. After that an administration fee of \$50 will be charged.

Adapting to suit your needs

Programs can be adapted for Education Support Units, English as an Additional Language and Dialect, *River Rangers* cadets and home school groups.

CREEC events

For workshops that are part of the City of Canning's **Community Sustainability Learning Program**, contact CREEC on creec@canning.wa.gov.au or call 9461 7160.

Creepy crawlies in the Canning

Exploring life underwater

Investigate what lives in the Canning River without even getting wet! Students access the riverbank to sample river life. The fascinating features of aquatic invertebrates are viewed using our 'larger than life' projector. Students also consider the importance of caring for our river system and what they can do to help.

\$7 per student

1.5 hours

Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust



Early childhood K-2



Pobblebonk swamp

Frog features, lifecycles and habitats

Join us down at Pobblebonk Swamp to meet our local frogs. Learn about frogs that sound like motorbikes and frogs that do not develop from tadpoles – astonishing! Discover how your school can help protect frogs by creating a frog friendly hangout at your school.

\$7 per student

1.5 hours

Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust



Motorbike frog



Pobblebonk (banjo) frog

Early childhood K-2

Bush detective

Investigating local animals and places

Many of our native animals are very secretive and can be difficult to find! Students use puzzles and examples of animal evidence such as skulls, feathers and nests to investigate what lives in and around the Canning River Regional Park. Students apply their detective skills on a nature walk and record their observations by making a model of their own to take home.

\$7 per student

1.5 hours

Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust



Weir-D Science

How living things adapt to changes in the physical environment.

The Kent Street Weir on the Canning River has been in place for nearly 100 years. Students have the opportunity to investigate the role of the Weir, how it has altered the river system and how plants and animals have adapted to changes in the physical environment. Students compare fresh and salt water ecosystems by conducting salinity tests on either side of the Weir and map changes in vegetation along the River.

\$7 per student

1.5 hours

Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust

* Suitable for Yr 5 onwards ONLY



Doug the Darter

A local waterbird's dice with death

Hear the 'real life' rescue story of Doug the Darter, a waterbird who became entangled in rubbish. This story highlights how waste enters our waterways and the impacts it can have on wildlife. Students participate in a rubbish survey and create their own waste net to display in their classroom.

\$7 per student

1.5 hours

Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust



Years 3 to 6

Take a Dip

Exploring river ecosystems

This popular, interactive program provides students with the opportunity to sample and record the amazing and diverse macroinvertebrate communities that live in the Canning River. Students utilise field equipment to investigate the critical role of aquatic life in maintaining the health of wetland ecosystems.

*Classification, adaptations or food webs can be a focus on request.

*Also suitable for Yr 7 – Biological Sciences

\$7 per student

1.5 hours

Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust



Years 3 to 6

From Range to River

The story of our catchment

Where does the Canning River come from and where does it flow to? A big picture view of our waterways is presented as students interact with a 3-D model to consider the human impacts on the Swan-Canning River catchment, the consequences for living things and action people can take for sustainable change.

\$7 per student

1.5 hours

Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust



Years 3 to 6

River diaries

Revealing the river's past

Students glimpse into the past lives of those who lived and settled around the Canning River by investigating historical records such as maps, photos and diaries. Students participate in team games that highlight different community perspectives and how they have shaped the river over time.

\$7 per student

1.5 hours

Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust



Years 7 to 12

Rivers at risk

Identifying hazards and risks to natural ecosystems

Students are introduced to natural and ecological hazards associated with river systems within an urban catchment such as drought, introduced species and eutrophication. Students take a guided walk through the Canning River Regional Park to consider the risks associated with these hazards and how they may be sustainably managed at a local level.

\$7 per student

1.5 hours

Geography ATAR Unit 1/General Unit 1, EES ATAR Unit 4/General Unit 4



Testing Testing H₂O

A comparison of water quality

The Kent Street Weir on the Canning River provides a unique location to compare two river systems. Students utilise field equipment to assess abiotic features such as pH, salinity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and nutrient levels both upstream and downstream of the Weir. Water quality data is compared and discussed in terms of the impacts on aquatic life and the long-term management of the Canning River.

\$7 per student

1.5 hours

Biology ATAR Unit 1/General Unit 4, Integrated Science ATAR Unit 2/General Unit 1, Geography ATAR Unit 3/General Unit 1.

*Can be adapted for Yr 9 – Biological Sciences



SIGNALs in the stream

An ecological snapshot of river health

Using the SIGNAL model as an assessment tool, students gain an indication of water quality in the Canning River by sampling and classifying aquatic macro-invertebrates. Results are discussed within a broader framework of sustainable water management within the Swan-Canning River catchment. The role of the recently installed fishway at the Kent St Weir will also be considered.

\$9 per student

2 hours

Biology ATAR Unit 1/General Unit 4, Integrated Science ATAR Unit 2/General Unit 1, Geography ATAR Unit 3/General Unit 1.



Multi-level programs

Djarlgarra Yarning Years K-12

'Canning River Stories'

The Nyoongar people's strong connection with the wetlands and rivers that flow across the Swan Coastal Plain forms the basis for much of their culture, spirituality, and identity. Hear from an experienced Nyoongar educator who demonstrates first-hand how the resources provided by the land and river were traditionally used and how the seasons dictated their availability and sustainable use. Students participate in a range of hands-on activities suited to age level.

*This program is adapted to each year level based on WA Curriculum content.

Term 1 – Week 10 April – 8, 9, 10

Term 2 – Week 5 May 27, 28, 29

Term 3 – Week 6 August 26, 27, 28

Term 4 – Week 4 November 4, 5, 6

Session times: 9.30 – 11.30am or 12.00 – 2.00pm

\$9 per student

2 hours

Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust, A&TSI



Special events

Earth Day Expo Years 2-6

A full day of 'down to earth' fun

Join CREEC and the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE-WA) in celebrating this international event that is recognised by more than 150 countries around the world. A whole day excursion filled with fun, interactive activities provided by environmental organisations that are passionate about the future of our planet.

Term 1 – Week 9 – Friday 5 April

9.30am – 2.15pm

\$9 per student

Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust, A&TSI

To book contact City of Canning at CREEC:

Phone: 9461 7160

Email: creec@canning.wa.gov.au



Special events

A Day in the Park: Years 2-6

Enjoy the great outdoors!

Finish off the school year by consolidating environmental learning and having fun at the same time! Join us in the scenic Canning River Regional Park for a day of nature-based activities that will keep your students switched on to environmental science until the end. Activities adapted to suit all year levels.

Term 4 – Week 8 – December 3, 4, 5

10.00am – 2.00pm

\$9 per student

Science, HASS, Priorities – Sust, A&TSI



Self-guided programs

A bird's eye view

Zoom in on amazing wetland birdlife!

Canning River Regional Park is home to a diverse range of local and migratory birds. Using binoculars and surveying techniques, students can check out waterbirds that live in and around the Park. Class set of binoculars and identification sheets provided.

K-12

No cost

Duration: Approx. 50 minutes



Self-guided programs

'I Spy' sensory walk

Use your super senses to investigate the wetlands

This self-guided walk encourages little eyes, ears and noses to observe and record the natural wonders of the Canning River wetlands. Class set of magnifying glasses, checklists, clipboards and pencils provided.

K-2 students

No cost

Duration: Approx. 50 minutes

Canning River Regional Park Trail

Touching base with your local place

This self-guided trail traverses seven sites that highlight natural, managed and constructed features within the Canning River Regional Park. Laminated maps, teacher's commentary and a resource bag are provided.

Years 4-10

No cost

Duration: Approx. 60 minutes

For further information or bookings contact CREEC on creec@canning.wa.gov.au or call 9461 7160.



Professional learning for teachers

Djarlgarra Yarning

Canning River stories for teachers

This is a valuable opportunity to hear from an experienced Aboriginal Educator about the importance of the Swan-Canning River to the Nyoongar people. Valuable resources and curriculum links provided.

Primary and Secondary teachers

Term 2 – Week 5 – Wednesday 29 May

3.30 – 5.30pm

Cost: \$20 pp

Afternoon tea provided PL Certificate supplied



Professional learning for teachers

Canoeing on the Canning

Come on a journey of discovery through this unique region by canoe and on foot with SERCUL.

Experience the Canning River and its flood plain, learn about the Indigenous connections to this landscape and the key issues that threaten this ecosystem.

Teacher resource pack and catering provided. All canoeing equipment supplied. No previous canoeing experience required.

Primary and Secondary School staff

Term 4 – Week 2 – Friday 25 October

8.00am – 3.45pm

Cost \$55 pp

To book, contact SERCUL on 9458 566



Resources for schools

CREEC as a venue

CREEC offers modern venue facilities with views of the Canning River Regional Park that are suitable for workshops/professional learning/meetings.

CREEC education staff can support PL sessions for teachers on request.

To book the venue contact City of Canning at CREEC on 9461 7160

To book CREEC educational staff contact N2N on 9295 2244 or email n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au

Education for Sustainability

CREEC is home to the Sustainable Schools-WA South Metro Regional Network. CREEC staff can support your school in developing a whole school approach to education for sustainability. The network meets once a term. Interested teachers always welcome.

Meeting dates for 2019

Term 1 – Tuesday 26 February

Term 2 – Tuesday 21 May

Term 3 – Tuesday 13 August

Term 4 – Tuesday 5 November

For further information contact Joselyn – joselyn.juraszek@dbca.wa.gov.au



Resources for schools

Loan of Animal Specimens

Would your students know a chuditch from a quenda? Native animal specimens are available for short term loan at no cost to schools. Resources kindly donated by Alcoa of Australia.

To book contact City of Canning at CREEC on 9461 7160



Flexibility

Looking for something else? CREEC can modify student programs and tailor teacher professional learning to suit individual schools.

Where is CREEC?

Getting there

The Canning River Eco Education Centre is located in the Canning River Regional Park at the historic Kent Street Weir on the banks of the Canning River.

There is ample FREE car and bus parking.

