



Postal: C/- Baldyvis Primary School
214 Fifty Road, Baldyvis 6171
Western Australia

Baldyvis Children's Forest
1399 Mandurah Road,
Baldyvis 6171

Phone: 9524 1150 Tue–Wed

Fax: 9524 1143

Email: jo.tregonning@det.wa.edu.au

Mobile: 0410 341 087

Website: www.baldyvis-childrens-forest.com.au

ABN: 89 465 657 145

Conservation through Education

2010 Educational activity program

Since 2006 BHP Billiton Nickel West have been subsidising the cost for students participating in the schools activity days at the Forest. This year BHP will contribute a \$5 subsidy per student for the first 1000 visiting students. The costings below already take into account the student subsidy.



The majority of the activity program is held in terms 2 and 3 when the weather is mild and the soil moist for planting seedlings.

The age of your students, timeframe, your educational needs and budget will determine whether you choose a:

- **½ day** (2 activities);
- **¾ day** (3 activities), ~60-70 students divided into 3 groups is ideal; or
- **full day** (4 activities) ~80 students divided into 4 groups is ideal.

Student numbers are negotiable. Teachers will need to divide students into groups with a designated supervising teacher and volunteer helper(s) (ie. parent or teacher assistant). Parent/carer volunteers are always welcome, at no additional charge.

Cost

Excursions to the Forest will range in price according to the activities chosen, the number of students and duration of your excursion. AS A GUIDE a full day of four activities will cost each student approximately \$8–\$10. Our Administration Officer will discuss your day with you to work out the best possible program and pricing.

AS A GUIDE activities will cost:

- **Section A** – no cost. (Fully subsidised by BHP Billiton, a DEC Environmental Community grant, Peel Landcare and a NRM Caring for our Country grant.)
- **Section B** – \$100 (Partially subsidised by BHP Billiton). Additional activities booked from this section are \$175.
- **Section C** – \$50 (Fire safety) or \$150 (Bird watching).
- **Section D** – \$250 per activity.
- **Section E** – \$240–\$330 per activity.



'Kids making a difference'

Everyone visiting the forest spends some time contributing to conservation of the 49-acre reserve through activities such as planting, weeding, irrigation, fencing, walk trail mulching, installing signs, seed collection, surveys or nest box maintenance / construction. Children visiting the forest look after this special place and collectively we have made a big difference.

SECTION A – all students

In 2010 all children will be involved in planting seedlings in the Forest as it usually takes us many weeks to complete. This activity will contribute to 'making a difference'.



A-1 Planting and maintenance with Nicholas Hall

Most children love getting their hands dirty! Each year children and the community plant 3000-4000 seedlings and are slowly transforming the degraded bushland back into beautiful tuart woodland. Children look after last years seedlings as part of this activity to help ensure the continuation of our high survival rates, our 2008 planting year was a record 90% survival. Suitable for Kindy-Year 12.

SECTION B – all students

Jo Tregonning is the BCF Project Officer and is qualified in biology and environmental management. Jo teaches the lessons in this section. Jo is able to adapt or create a lesson to suit your needs and other topics can be arranged - please phone to discuss your needs. Nicholas Hall or Betty Davies (C6 early childhood) can also teach these lessons if you would like to book more than one from this section.

B-1: Soils of the Swan Coastal Plain

Discover how geology and landforms, soils and vegetation are interrelated. Build a soil diorama of the Swan Coastal Plain. Suitable for Years 4-10.

B-2: Towering Tuarths

Take a look at the biology of the beautiful tuart trees in the forest. Students will use maths and forestry techniques to age the trees using girth measurements. Suitable for Years 4-10.

B-3: Treasure the Tuart

Take a closer look at the ecology of the beautiful tuart trees in the forest – soil, fungi, animal and plant partners. (Supporting text: *Tuart Dwellers* by Jan Ramage (2008). Suitable for Years 1-7.

B-4: Flora

What plant is that? How to create a herbarium, what can we learn from flora surveys and how scientists use this information. Suitable for Years 4–10.

B-5: Insects

Insects - their characteristics, classification and a hands-on comparison of who lives in different habitats (tree foliage, fallen logs, grasses/leaf litter) in the forest. Suitable for Kindy-Year 10.

B-6: Life-cycles

A focus on the world of frogs or butterflies and the intrigue of metamorphosis - a hands-on look at tadpoles and/or chrysalis (seasonal). A frog treasure hunt explores habitat preferences and craft activities consolidate practical observations. Suitable for Kindy-Year 3.

B-7: Focus on Frogs

Five frog species live in the forest. This lesson looks at breeding, calling, environmental and habitat needs, frogs as indicator species and the problems with cane toads living in Australia. Includes a guided walk through Outridge Swamp. Suitable for Years 4–10.



B-8: Fungi Foray

Did you know that 85% of our native plants partner with mycorrhizal fungi underground so they can survive? A winter activity to discover the fascinating, varied and colourful world of fungi. Explore the Forest, photograph fungi and write survey notes. Suitable for Years 4–10.

B-9: Wetlands and Macro-invertebrates

Have a look at the features of a wetland during a walk in Outridge Swamp and listen to frog calls. Students discover the hidden world of many insects by sorting macro-invertebrates which help us assess water quality. (Available following winter rains when Outridge Swamp fills with water). Suitable for Years 4-10.

B-10: Create a Sensory Obstacle Course

A team-building exercise for students to build their own ropes obstacle course with sensory stations then experience the course blind-folded. Suitable for Years 3–12.

SECTION C – optional activities

C-1: Fire Safety with Singleton Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Volunteer fire fighters discuss the nature of fire, bush fires and what to do in an emergency. Highly recommended for first-time schools and visitors to the forest as part of our 'Emergency Response' plan. Activity includes a demonstration using their miniature fire fighting unit "Squirt" and free student information bags. Suitable for Kindy–Yr 10

C-2: Feathered Friends with Birds Australia

Children use binoculars and bird identification books to survey birds during a guided walk at the forest. Fifty-eight species of birds have been observed at the forest and this is used as an indicator for bushland health and management. Suitable for Years 4–10. An **optional school incursion** prior to your visit to the forest teaches children bird identification (size, markings and bird calls) and binocular use. This maximises learning outcomes for this activity.

SECTION D – optional activities

D-1: Fauna Detective with Nicolas Hall

Learn the theory of why and how to conduct a fauna survey, required licenses and what you can learn from a survey. 'Get your hands dirty' setting your own pitfall traps and sand pads. Look for clues (scats, casts, fur, tracks, bones) of Forest inhabitants. Years 3–10

D-2: What's that bone? with Nicolas Hall

For those with an interest in palaeontology (fossils) and getting dirty, this hands-on dig for bones is a must. Learn how to identify what animal the bone may have come from and how teeth can tell us about the animal's diet. Which two plants in the Forest are millions of years old? What is a fossil? Program adapted to suit: Kindy–Yr 10

D-3: Art / Sculpture / Puppetry with Rachel Wyder

Bush art – a creation for students to either take home or leave in the forest. Each year our artist has a different theme to explore with students. Kindy–Yr 10



D-4: Orienteering Treasure Hunt with Joe Tonga

Learn to read a map and use a compass or GPS to discover the Forest. Children will use riddles/clues to find each waypoint/station, answer the riddle, collect a stamp, find the 'critter'. Two programs adapted according to age: Kindy-4 or Years 4-11.

D-5: Native Animal Conservation with Joe Tonga

What does it mean to be threatened or endangered? What is being done to help threatened species? Discover some of the initiatives underway in the forest to help our fauna and to manage ferals (foxes, bees, weeds). Check out the cockatoo tubes, bat and possum boxes at the Forest. Years 3-10

SECTION E - optional activities

The following commercial eco-education businesses will come to the forest to run lessons. Due to the cost of these lessons, groups may be combined for the presentation(s). These commercial presentations are available to those schools that have the student numbers to cover costs. E-4 and E-5 are longer in-depth workshops that could be incorporated into a day visit or stand alone.

E-1: Australian Animal Icons with Marapana Wildlife World

Two staff from Marapana bring three animals to the Forest to interact with the children – a koala, black-headed python, kangaroo, wombat or crocodile. Informative talk about the animals and their conservation, and an opportunity to have a pat. Suitable for K-Year 10



E-2: Radical Reptiles with Karen from Radical Reptiles

An informative and fun talk plus the opportunity to handle reptiles such as bearded dragons, bluetongues, SW carpet python, barking gecko, black-tailed monitor or frogs. Suitable for Years K-10

E-3: Aboriginal Culture

Walk through the forest with an Aboriginal Elder from DEC 's Aboriginal Heritage Unit. Listen to stories and songs about country, tools, culture and childhood memories. Paint a boomerang, make string, build a mia or cook and eat damper. This program is very varied and depends upon which Elder you have-discuss your needs when booking. Suitable for Kindy-Year 12

E-4: Bush Survival Skills with Bob Cooper Outback Survival Pty Ltd

Vanessa Paget will take you on a journey to discover the basic requirements for surviving in the bush, how to procure water, alternative direction finding, discovering edible/useful plants and modern survival kits. A 1½ – 2 hour lesson. Number of participants ~25. Suitable for Years 4-10. Requires a minimum of 2 adult supervisors.

E-5: Snake Encounters with Bob Cooper Outback Survival Pty Ltd

Vanessa Paget teaches students about the history of snakes, correct approach techniques, first aid for snake bites, strategies to overcome a fear of snakes and the opportunity to interact with live animals. A 1½ hour lesson. Number of participants ~25. Suitable for Years 4-10. Requires a minimum of 2 adult supervisors.