



The Discovery Centre Sunlight in Schools Environmental Education at the Wollongong Botanic Garden in 2012





www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/botanicgarden

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Early Childhood 0-5 Years

<p>Senses Working Overtime</p> <p>Children will explore the herb, citrus and myrtle gardens with an emphasis on the use of their very own senses</p>	<p>The Jungle and the Desert</p> <p>Take a journey through the jungle and desert plant houses to discover the differences between various plant communities</p>	<p>Compost Creatures and Captain Compost</p> <p>Captain Compost will take children on a exploration to uncover the little inhabitants of the compost, bugs, beetles and other creepy crawlies, through song and dance and hands on activities</p>
<p>Magic Leaf Hunt</p> <p>Children observe close details of plants as they match specific leaves to those found along their journey</p>	<p>Growing Plants from Seeds</p> <p>Children will undertake a short hunt for seeds within the garden. They then learn how to plant and care for their growing plant</p>	<p>Wiggly Worms</p> <p>Meet the miners of the compost heap. These are nature's workers turning our food scraps into magic fertiliser</p>
<p>Mischievous Critters</p> <p>Take a magical journey through the English rose garden, the flowering trees and shrubs and into the woodland area on a search for hidden critters</p>		



Primary School Programs K-4

Schools can choose to come during one of the days of the programs, or combined activities from one or multiple programs and come on a day of their choice

Programs/ Play	Activities	Activity Description
<p>Water</p> <p>Every Drop Counts</p> <p>Term one Daily program from Monday March 5th-Friday March 9th</p> <p>Play Clean up your act with the giant water bugs</p>	Life in the aquatic environment	Discover all about living things, their needs and cycles in our world by exploring the pond and middle creek.
	Wet and Dry Environments	Discover the diversity of living things in our environment in two very distinct landscapes, the wet and the dry
	Dr H ₂ O	Meet these intriguing characters who will open your eyes to the blue planet.
	The Journey of the Water Drop through the garden	Follow Wilfred the water drop and all of his friends as they take a wild and exciting ride through the amazing water cycle!
<p>Waste and Food</p> <p>The Worlds Biggest Compost</p> <p>Term two Daily program from Monday 7th May- Friday 11th May</p> <p>Play Ziggy and the Incredible Time Machine</p>	Captain Compost	The captain will entertain and inform the children about the magic of composting through music and dance
	Wiggly worms and compost creatures	Get up close and personal with some of the worlds most small and valuable creatures that often don't get the credit that they deserve. Wiggly worms!
	No dig gardening/ growing herbs to take home	Children get the chance to get their hands dirty in the garden by building their very own mini herb gardens
	History of Waste	A theatrical role play activity taking students on a journey through the history of waste
<p>Biodiversity & Aboriginal Culture</p> <p>The Spice of Life</p> <p>Term three Daily program from Monday 23rd July-Friday 27th July</p> <p>Play Fun Loving Feral</p>	Growing native plants	Learn about the diversity of native plants and experience different methods of growing them from seed to cuttings
	Bush tucker walk	Come and experience the new bush tucker garden and learn all about the many different food and medicinal native plants from the Illawarra
	Flowers and bees	Children will learn about the interesting relationships between flowers and insects, and why they are so important to each other
	Art in the environment	Get creative with natural materials you find around the garden and create some ephemeral sculptures for other visitors to the garden to enjoy
<p>Human and nature interactions</p> <p>Footprints</p> <p>Term four Daily program from Monday 15th October-Friday 19th October</p> <p>Play Big Foot Detectives</p>	Animal footprints	Who does that footprint belong to? Learn about the different traces that animals leave behind
	Traditional shelter building	Children work in teams to build traditional Aboriginal shelters, described within an Aboriginal legend
	Discovering natural habitats, Earth Walks	This lesson takes you on a journey through the senses while uncovering the secret and unique habitats within the garden
	State and National Parks	What are State and National Parks? Come on a journey to learn about their importance and conservation through games and explorations



Primary Schools Years 5-6

Activity	Details
Aboriginal Perspectives in the Bush Tucker Garden	<p>Indigenous plant use: explore the bush tucker garden to learn about native plants and their traditional Aboriginal uses in bush medicine and bush tucker. This is an interactive session where children are able to taste, smell touch and experience the garden in full life</p> <p>Traditional Shelter Building: work in teams to build traditional Aboriginal gunyas. This interactive session involves hands on team building activities, as children work as one to learn and build their shelter</p> <p>Dreamtime Legend: learn about traditional communication, whilst taking part in an interactive and colourful Dreamtime story</p>
Fungi Plants and Animal Species	This lesson explores the adaption's, roles and relationships amongst fungi, plants and animal species and their physical environment and our species place within this system
Packaging vs. the environment	In a world that is being inundated by overuse and excessive packaging, this interactive games allows student to discover the problems with trying to find the balance between the economy and the environment
Story Threads	Revisit the past and uncover the history of waste and recycling with this interactive role play activity where students will act out the roles of local school children from 1947 and discover the evolution, and future of human waste problems
Jewels of the Rainforests	Discover the diverse stories of the importance of the rainforest, the amazing plant adaptations and learn about conservation efforts and how we can help protect these unique environments
Water bug Detectives	Looking at the life cycles of mini-beast in the freshwater aquatic environment, determining pollution indicators by the presence of certain species, and key components of the food chain
Spaceship Earth	Viewing planet earth as a spaceship that we are all passengers aboard that depend on it's well maintained systems, this interactive activity gives a different perspective of the earth we share with many other species
Growing plants from plants	Exploring various ways to propagate plants from cuttings, division, and grafting



Primary Schools Years 6-10

Activity	Details	Location
Aquatic interactions with terrestrial environments	Puckeys estate is a unique combination of hydrological and terrestrial processes interacting together. This lesson will look at these aquatic and marine systems and how they work together to provide key ecosystem functions. Features of these aquatic and terrestrial environments, their changes over time and the indicators of the health of the environment	Puckey's Estate
Investigating Ecosystems	Learn about the biotic and abiotic components of an ecosystem while undertaking scientific survey work at Mt Keira. Students will look at the variety of life from the five different kingdoms and assess what impact, influence they have in the system	Mt Keira
To Dinosaurs and Beyond The Diversity and Ages of Plants	The Botanic Garden has plants on display from all ages and eras including the primitive algae to the sophisticated and successful flowering plants. Students take themselves on journey through the history and diversity of plants. It's a challenge. It's a team game. It's fun and educational.	Wollongong Botanic Garden
Bush Story Aboriginal Culture and the Environment	Students are invited into the fascinating world of traditional Aboriginal culture. With a focus on the indigenous interacting with the natural environment. Uncover the knowledge of traditional plant uses, shelter building artefacts and hear timely stories of our local culture	Wollongong Botanic Garden Bush Garden or Mount Keira
The Ghost of Courtney Puckey	Have you ever wanted to meet an important ghost? Now's your chance. Courtney Puckey the original owner of Puckey's Estate in the early part of 20 th Century is ready to share his memories about his wonderful salt making experiments at Puckey's and his memoirs of his life in historic Wollongong	Puckey's Estate



Come and share in the sunshine and magic of the Wollongong Botanic Garden with the Discovery Centre Team in 2012!