

## Welcome to Term 1 2021

Just when we thought the stresses of 2020, COVID-19 and interruptions to the school term were behind us... along comes 2021! At least this time teachers and students were gifted with an extra week of holidays and I was given another week to collate all of the fabulous environmental activities on offer for this newsletter!

Once you start the new year of schooling I am sure you will be looking for some interesting incursions, excursions, resources and fundraising ideas for your classes to participate in and we have some great ideas for you.

Canning River Eco Education Centre is hosting the Earth Day Expo on March 26th and still has a few spots remaining for classes keen to participate in a full day excursion with a focus on STEM, HaSS, the Arts and Aboriginal culture.

There are a number of Waste Wise Professional Learning days coming up and Nearer to Nature has a host of new incursions on offer (as well as old favourites), so check them out on the next few pages.

And as always, SERCUL's Phosphorus Awareness Project can offer your class incursions, excursions, resources and even plants so be sure to catch up on what we have available as well.

Enjoy Term 1!

Regards,

Natasha Bowden

Phosphorus Awareness Project

### SERCUL Educators Newsletter

If you would like to receive our newsletter sign up here

[www.sercul.org.au/signup/](http://www.sercul.org.au/signup/)



## PAP Incursions for Northern Suburbs Schools

SERCUL has been providing schools within the Swan Canning Catchment (see map) with free or low-cost environmental incursions for the past 17 years through the Phosphorus Awareness Project (PAP) grant we receive from the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). The PAP is an education campaign aimed at educating people about the impact of too many nutrients entering our Swan and Canning River and wetland systems and how to reduce those levels.

As these issues affect all waterways including lakes, wetlands and creeks, we want to see all schools across the Perth metro area have access to our resources. So we are offering incursions at a very inexpensive rate to schools along the northern corridor from Mosman Park up to Yanchep. The first incursion (see PAP Incursions for Schools on next page) on a particular day will cost \$165 incl GST, with any additional incursions on the same day costing \$110 incl GST each. Please contact Natasha on 9458 5664 or at [natashabowden@sercul.org.au](mailto:natashabowden@sercul.org.au) to make a booking!



Algae Busters - A Catchment Story



Macroinvertebrates & Minibeasts



Clean Drains River Gains

## PAP FREE Plant Grant

The Phosphorus Awareness Project has free plants available for schools wishing to engage their students in a planting event. The plants will be available from May this year and can be used to revegetate native bushland on or near your school grounds, beautify your school gardens, create a bush tucker (or Noongar use) garden or establish a frog bog. The only requirements to receiving these plants is that the students plant them and you record how many students participated in the planting event and for how long and pass that information on to me. If you can take some beautiful shots of your students getting out in nature and promote the PAP program in your school newsletter or on social media even better! To be considered for a plant grant all you need to do is contact me at [natashabowden@sercul.com.au](mailto:natashabowden@sercul.com.au) with the following details:

- School name,
- What the plants will be used for (ie. revegetation, school garden, Noongar use garden or frog bog),
- Approximate number of students who will be involved,
- Number of plants requested (the number you receive will be based on availability).

I will then let you know how many plants you will receive and when you are able to pick them up from SERCUL's offices in Beckenham. So if you want to get your kids out in nature contact me ASAP!



## PAP Incursions for Schools

The Phosphorus Awareness Project (PAP) is concerned about the high levels of nutrients that are causing algal blooms in the Swan and Canning Rivers and associated wetlands. PAP offers incursions, excursions and resources to school and community groups concerning this issue and how we can look after our waterways and the animals and plants that live there, including:

- **Algae Buster Incursions** are interactive, fun programs where students learn about catchments, nutrients and algae through a catchment story or river food web.

- **Building a Frog Habitat** is a must have incursion if a school is considering building a frog habitat. Students learn about the frogs of the Perth Region and listen to their calls. All the essential elements in constructing a frog habitat are also covered.



- **Go Fish!** allows students to learn about the diversity of fish that live in our local waterways and what we can do to protect our native fish.
- **Turtle-ology!** teaches students about the life cycle of the Long-Necked Turtle and the various impacts humans have on them at each stage.
- **Macroinvertebrates and Minibeasts** gives students the opportunity to observe the little creatures that live in our waterways or on land up close and personal.
- **Bush Tucker** allows students to learn about the Noongar seasons and how the traditional owners used a range of native plants at different times of the year.
- **Life Cycles: Frogs, Mistletoe or Dragonflies** gives students the opportunity to learn about the life processes of these plants and animals.
- **Aquatic Weeds** informs students about the environmental problems that occur when plants from ponds and aquariums are released into drains and waterways to become weeds!

To find out if your incursion is free go to <https://www.sercul.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/SERCUL-PAPSchool-Charge-Map.pdf>

**For further information or to book an incursion to your school please contact: Natasha Bowden on 9458 5664 or email [natashabowden@sercul.org.au](mailto:natashabowden@sercul.org.au)**



## SERCUL Noongar Posters

SERCUL worked with Marie Taylor from Yelakitj Moort Nyungar Association to develop a set of six A2 sized Noongar Symbol and Language Posters (shown above) based around the themes of the Sky, Land, Tools, Tracks, Plant & Animals and People. The posters showcase some of the words (in both English and Noongar) and symbols associated with these themes and would be a valuable teaching resource in any classroom. They complement the Noongar Seasons poster (shown at left).



The posters are available from the SERCUL website [www.sercul.org.au/noongarposters/](http://www.sercul.org.au/noongarposters/) and can be purchased for \$5 each (incl GST) or as a set of 6 Noongar Symbol and Language posters for \$26 (incl GST) plus postage, or alternatively they can be picked up from SERCUL's offices which are located at 1 Horley Road, Beckenham (cash only).

## Freshwater Fauna Teacher Guides and Resources

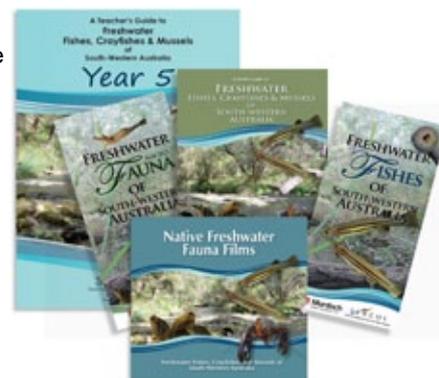
*Order Yours Today!*

SERCUL has a number of education resources available relating to the freshwater fishes, crayfishes and mussels of South-Western Australia. Resources include the *Teacher's Guide to Freshwater Fishes, Crayfishes and Mussels of South-Western Australia*, which has separate booklets for each year level from Years 1 - 10; A *Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes, Crayfishes and Mussels of South-Western Australia*; and the *Native Freshwater Fauna Films* DVD which are available for purchase individually or as a package online at <http://www.sercul.org.au/for-educators/ffteacherguide/>.

The Teacher's Resource was written to provide teachers with activities which link directly to the National Science Curriculum and have a local focus. The activities provided within each booklet are designed to suit the specific year level. Each booklet also contains teacher notes and student information pages with detailed information about the specific freshwater fauna species highlighted. For each of these species, the page where it can be found in the Field Guide and whether film footage is available to view is also included.

A number of brochures and posters relating to the freshwater macro-fauna, mussels, fishes and turtles of South-West Australia are also available for free from SERCUL or online at <http://www.sercul.org.au/our-projects/ffp/>.

These resources enable students to develop an understanding of the importance of our native fish and other fauna and the problems they face in our waterways.



## FREE Drainage to Rivers Incursions

During Term 1, schools located within the City of Armadale can receive an extra day of free PAP incursions courtesy of Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group's Drainage to Rivers Program.

On their extra free day they can choose from the Algae Busters, River Food Web, Clean Drains River Gains, Aquatic Weeds or Go Fish incursions. To find out if your school is eligible email Natasha Bowden at [natashabowden@sercul.org.au](mailto:natashabowden@sercul.org.au).



## FREE Waste Wise Schools Workshops

Waste Wise Schools have the following events coming up soon:

### **TeachMeet: Waste Wise and Sustainability in Primary and Secondary Schools**

Hear from primary and secondary Waste Wise schools about successful waste management practices they have implemented at their school. They will share ideas and experiences about how they have created a successful program including set up, maintenance, engaging students and other areas of the school such as the canteen.

When: Wednesday 17th February 2021 4 – 6pm

Where: Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre, Leach Hwy, Winthrop

Contact: [kate.macrae@dwer.wa.gov.au](mailto:kate.macrae@dwer.wa.gov.au)

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/teachmeet-waste-wise-and-sustainability-in-primary-and-secondary-schools-tickets-136538699927>

### **Waste Wise Schools skills workshop**

Join the team from Waste Wise Schools for a hands-on look at sorting your school waste.

The workshop will include:

- The new WWS 10 steps to getting your WasteSorted
- New tools for assessing your school waste
- Setting up your waste sorting stations at school
- Containers for change and how to do it at your school
- How to engage students
- Behaviour change in schools



The workshop is suitable for school staff including teachers, principals, administration staff and parents. It is FREE and teacher relief payments are available for two staff from each school.

When: Tuesday 9th March 2021 9:30am – 3:30pm

Where: Canning River Eco Education Centre, Kent St, Wilson

Contact: [kate.macrae@dwer.wa.gov.au](mailto:kate.macrae@dwer.wa.gov.au)

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/waste-wise-schools-skills-workshop-tickets-137371603163>

### **Clean Schools Workshop**

Keep Australia Beautiful WA and the City of Kalamunda is holding a Clean Schools workshop with Waste Wise Schools. This workshop will show you how to inspire students to reduce waste and litter. It includes:

- a step-by-step guide on running a whole school waste and litter prevention campaign
- loads of resources to take back to your school—USBs, posters, booklets
- laws relating to litter, social and environmental impacts and behaviour change
- how to get started with waste avoidance and resource recovery projects
- tools for getting your school Waste Sorted.
- information on becoming a Waste Wise School and applying for grant funding
- a tour of the Walliston Transfer Station so enclosed shoes are essential.

The workshop is suitable for principals, teachers, EAs, gardeners and parents. It is FREE and teacher relief subsidies can be paid for up to two teachers per school to attend.

When: Tuesday 16 March 2021 9am - 3pm

Where: City of Kalamunda, 2 Railway Road, Kalamunda, WA 6076

Contact: [samantha.culbertson@kabc.wa.gov.au](mailto:samantha.culbertson@kabc.wa.gov.au)

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/how-to-be-litter-free-and-waste-wise-kalamunda-registration-132192400027>

## Fundraising Opportunity

Is your school's P&C looking for a fundraising activity? If so, they can register for a scheme ID at the Containers for Change [website](https://www.containersforchange.org.au). October 2020 marked the start of WA's new container deposit scheme that allows you to cash in eligible drink containers for 10 cents each and either pocket the money or donate it to a charity or community group of your choice! Most aluminium, glass, plastic, steel and liquid paperboard drink containers between 150ml and 3L that display the refund mark are eligible. This incentive is a great way to raise cash for your school so start collecting your containers NOW!! Alternatively, you can help the environment by donating them to SERCUL using the scheme ID C10338415.



The City of Canning is partnering with DBCA's Nearer to Nature to deliver the CREEC school programs. CREEC offers a number of K-Yr 12 programs which allow students to learn about the local natural environment in interactive ways.

### **Early Childhood Bush Detective**

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 hrs)

### **Middle Childhood Weir-d Science**

The Kent Street Weir on the Canning River provides a unique location to compare two river ecosystems. 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.

\$7 per student (1.5 hrs)

### **Early Adolescence Rivers at Risk**

Students are introduced to natural and ecological hazards associated with river systems within an urban catchment such as drought, introduced species and eutrophication.

\$7 per student (1.5 hrs)



For more information contact:  
**Nearer to Nature**

Phone: 9295 6149 or 9295 2244

Email: [n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:n2n@dbca.wa.gov.au)

<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/get-involved/nearer-to-nature/schools>

## Important Dates

### Term 1, 2021



8 February	First Day of Term 1
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science <a href="https://womeninscienceday.org/">https://womeninscienceday.org/</a>
3 March	World Wildlife Day <a href="https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-wildlife-day">https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-wildlife-day</a>
5 March	Youth and Schools Clean Up Day <a href="https://www.cleanup.org.au/schools">https://www.cleanup.org.au/schools</a>
6-14 March	SeaWeek <a href="http://www.aeee.org.au/events/seaweek/">http://www.aeee.org.au/events/seaweek/</a>
7 March	Clean Up Australia Day <a href="https://www.cleanup.org.au/community">https://www.cleanup.org.au/community</a>
7 - 13 March	National Groundwater Awareness Week <a href="https://www.ngwa.org/get-involved/groundwater-awareness-week/groundwater-awareness-week-2021">https://www.ngwa.org/get-involved/groundwater-awareness-week/groundwater-awareness-week-2021</a>
19 March	National Ride2School Day <a href="https://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/rides-and-events/ride2school/ride2school-day/">https://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/rides-and-events/ride2school/ride2school-day/</a>
21 March	International Day of Forests <a href="https://www.un.org/en/observances/forests-and-trees-day">https://www.un.org/en/observances/forests-and-trees-day</a>
22 March	World Water Day <a href="https://www.worldwaterday.org/">https://www.worldwaterday.org/</a>
23 March	World Meteorological Day <a href="https://public.wmo.int/en/resources/world-meteorological-day">https://public.wmo.int/en/resources/world-meteorological-day</a>
27 March	Earth Hour <a href="https://www.earthhour.org.au/">https://www.earthhour.org.au/</a>
1 April	Last Day of Term 1

## Earth Day Expo 2021



Canning River Eco Education Centre

Earth Day is celebrated by over 200 countries around the world on 22nd April. Schools can celebrate it a little earlier so that they can be involved during the school term. The Earth Day Expo is a whole day excursion held on Friday 26th March at Canning River Eco Education Centre in Wilson. It is filled with fun, interactive activities that empower young people to think creatively and critically about how to generate sustainable change. The activities address the WA Curriculum requirements of STEM, HaSS and the Arts; and embed the cross-curriculum priorities of Sustainability and A&TSI Histories and Cultures. It costs \$10 per student incl GST and schools are invited to book now by phone on 9461 7160 or email to [creec@canning.wa.gov.au](mailto:creec@canning.wa.gov.au).

## Nearer to Nature



Nearer to Nature has now released their Primary School Brochure for 2021. They have a few different excursions this year, including Fire, Fuel and Country and Junior Dolphin Watch, plus all of your old favourites. They are also in the process of engaging two cultural presenters so they can provide Aboriginal presenters for their cultural programs this year. If you are looking for a nature based excursion then check out the brochure at <https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/get-involved/nearer-to-nature/schools>.

## Water, Water Everywhere...or is it??



UN WATER  
 22 MARCH  
 WORLD  
 WATER  
 DAY

Water is important to us. We use water every day to drink, bathe, cook, wash, flush and swim in. It is equally as important ecologically and economically. The growing population, increasing demands of agriculture and industry, and the worsening impacts of climate change mean that water is under extreme threat. During March there are a day and a week dedicated to learning about and acknowledging the importance of water in our lives. World Water Day occurs on the 22nd March and this year is focused on what water means to people, its true value and how we can better protect this vital resource. Prior to that is National Groundwater Awareness Week from the 7 - 13 March. Make March the month when you discuss the importance of this vital resource with your students! Get them to share their stories, thoughts and feelings about water by joining in the conversation and using the hashtag **#water2me** on social media. More information about World Water Day can be found at <https://www.worldwaterday.org/> and National Groundwater Awareness Week at <https://www.ngwa.org/get-involved/groundwater-awareness-week/groundwater-awareness-week-2021>.

### For further information contact:

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[natashabowden@sercul.org.au](mailto:natashabowden@sercul.org.au)

P| 9458 5664  
 W| [www.sercul.org.au](http://www.sercul.org.au)

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### SERCUL is a proud member of:



SUSTAINABLE  
 SCHOOLS WA

### SERCUL's PAP program is funded by:



Department of Biodiversity,  
 Conservation and Attractions

