



Phosphorus Awareness Project

South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

Resources for Schools & Youth Groups

Incursions and Excursions

All incursions/excursions are linked to the National Curriculum Framework. Curriculum linked program planning documents are available for each incursion/excursion. Incursions **may** be **FREE** or incur a charge. Find out if your school is in the zone to receive one free day of incursions by going to www.sercul.org.au/for-educators/incursions-and-excursions/. If your school is not within the FREE Zone or if they are but want additional incursions on other days, the first incursion on a given day will be charged at \$214.50 inc. GST and additional incursions on the same day will be charged at \$170 inc. GST. Planting sessions are **FREE**. Excursions to SERCUL are \$9.90 inc. GST/student/half day and \$12.10 inc. GST/student/full day, with a minimum of 25 students. Excursions take place at SERCUL, which is located near the Canning River and Yule Brook in Beckenham and can include the presentation of up to 4 of the sessions outlined below.

• **Algae Busters – Catchment Story (K – Yr 6)** | approx 1 hr

Interactive presentation where students learn about catchments, nutrients and algae. Students participate in a fun catchment story about nutrient sources and see first hand what happens when nutrients enter our river and wetland systems. Students also learn how to save our rivers and wetlands.

• **Turtle-ology! (K – Yr 6)** | approx 1 hr

Students study the life cycle of the Long-Necked turtle and discover the various impacts humans have on these special creatures at each stage.

• **Macroinvertebrates and Minibeasts (All Years)** | approx 1 hr

Students have the opportunity to observe the little creatures which live in our waterways up close and personal. Using information and knowledge gained, students help to identify the health of the waterway.

If macros are unavailable, students seek out minibeasts which live on land by undertaking a special 'Minibeast Hunt'.

• **Life Cycles: Frogs, Mistletoe or Dragonflies (Yr 3 – Yr 12)** | approx 1 hr

Students are always interested to learn about the life processes of some of our favourite plants and animals. Select one and participate in activities and a discussion about key stages and interesting factors in it's success.

• **River Food Web (Yr 3 – Yr 12)** | approx 1 hr

Students not only learn about catchments, nutrients and algae but also how complex river and wetland ecosystems are. Students learn how animals and plants interact with other animals in the system. They will discover just how reliant they are on each other when an algal bloom occurs!

• **Go Fish! (Yr 3 – Yr 12)** | approx 1 hr

Students go 'fishing' and discover what fish are found in the freshwater sections of the rivers and other waterways around Perth. What affects our native fish is discussed and students help to create healthy fish habitat. What we can all do to look after our native fish and our waterways is also covered.



• **Clean Drains River Gains (Yr 3 – Yr 12)** | time may vary according to site

Students learn about catchments, pollution and algae with an emphasis on stormwater drains. Students will locate drains in the school grounds and then the Clean Drains River Gains message will be painted on them. Students will learn in detail how to keep our rivers healthy.

• **Building a Frog Habitat (All Years)** | approx 1 hr



A must have presentation if a school is considering building a frog pond/bog. Students learn about the frogs of the Perth Region and listen to their calls then a frog pond is constructed in the classroom.

All the essential elements in constructing frog habitat are covered in detail.

• **Planting Opportunities (All Years)** | (Available June – October) time may vary according to site

Students get a chance to get dirty at a local rehabilitation site where they will plant local native species! The benefits of planting these species will be covered in detail including increasing biodiversity and improving the health of rivers and wetlands.

• **Bush Tucker! (All Years)** | approx 1 hr

Students get hands-on with a range of local native plants to learn about growth, features and traditional uses; whether it is for medicine, tools or food. Students also learn about the Noongar seasons and how the traditional landowners used the various plants at different times of the year.

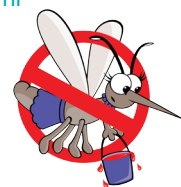


• **River Friendly Cleaning (All Years)** | approx 1 hr

Students learn that there are alternatives to toxic cleaning products which are better for our health and the environment. Students clean with these alternatives which were used by our great grandparents.

• **Being Mozzie Wise (All Years)** | approx 1 hr

Students learn about mosquitoes, their lifecycle, their role in the food chain, where they breed, how to stop them breeding at home and school and how to protect themselves from mosquitoes. Teachers will receive a 'Mozzie Wise: A Teacher's Guide to Mosquito Education' booklet for their year level.



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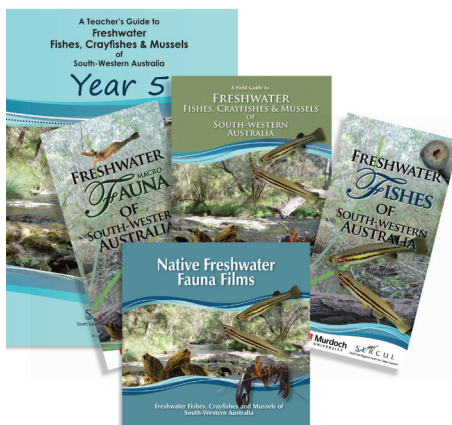
Aquatic Weeds

(Yr 3 - Yr 12) | approx 1 hr

The Aquatic Weeds incursion educates students about the environmental problems that occur when plants from ponds and aquariums are released into drains and waterways to become weeds! A number of Perth's aquatic weeds are discussed, but the focus is on Amazon frogbit, a lily-pod-like plant that can completely cover a wetland! Students learn about why these plants are considered weeds, the problems they cause, how to identify them and what to do when they spot them!



Freshwater Fauna Project



SERCUL, in partnership with Murdoch University's Freshwater Fish Group, have produced an education package on freshwater fauna of South-western Australia. Two brochures, a field guide, three short films and a National Science Curriculum-linked program for years 1 to 10 has been produced. Go to www.sercul.org.au/for-educators/ffteacherguide/

Nutrient Display

A colourful display which explains the problem, cause and solutions to nutrients and algal blooms in our rivers. This display is available to be borrowed.

Resource Kits

There are a number of resource kits and files available to borrow from SERCUL. This includes a frog kit containing preserved frogs and information sheets, a junior frog kit for children aged 3 – 7, macroinvertebrate kit and files including the Swan River Education Kit, Our Bushland Classroom and many, many more.

For a full list of kits go to www.sercul.org.au/for-educators/kits-and-files/



SERCUL's School's Catchment Education Newsletter

In the first week of every term this newsletter is distributed to teachers in Perth. The newsletter contains teacher PL opportunities and provides ideas and highlights opportunities to get students and schools involved in environmental and catchment education. If you would like to be included on the distribution list go to www.sercul.org.au/signup/



Canoeing on the Canning – Teacher Professional Learning

Canoeing on the Canning is a full day PL opportunity, held during National Water Week in October. Learn about the Indigenous connections to the river, explore the local biodiversity, learn about the fresh water and salt water ecosystems of the area, and hear about the key environmental issues that threaten the Canning River ecosystem while canoeing and on foot. Canoeing on the Canning can also be tailored to an all school PL day or team building session.

Resource Sheets

- **Our Rivers Need You** – A fun four-page activity worksheet for middle-to-upper primary students that explains where nutrients come from, how it affects our rivers and what we can do about it.
- **Where Does the Water Go?** – A maze which shows where water from our houses and our street drains flow to.
- **Please Don't Feed Us** – A fun colouring sheet about why we should not feed bread to water birds.
- **Clean Drains River/Wetland Gains** – Another fun colouring sheet about drains and frogs.
- **Go Fish!-How I Can Protect our Native Fish** – A worksheet to help students think about what activities they and their families do which may affect native fish and what they can do to protect them.
- **How You Can Fertilise Wise** – A fun colouring sheet that gives tips on how we can Fertilise Wise in our gardens.
- **Detergents We Use In My Home** – A worksheet to be completed at home with the help of parents. Take a close look at the types of detergents used at home.
- **Questionnaire: Phosphorus Use Around The Home** – Another worksheet to be completed at home with the help of parents. Directs families to think about how much phosphorus they may be contributing to the environment.
- **Buyer Beware – Read the Labels!** – A worksheet designed to make the student think about how different products are marketed.
- **The Great Algae Growing Exercise** – A fun scientific activity where students discover what makes algae grow.
- **Our Waterways Need You To Help Stop Algal Blooms** – A worksheet to help students think about what activities they and their families do that may contribute to algal blooms and what they can do to prevent them.
- **Creative Activities** – Suggestions for students to participate in a fun phosphorus activity!

Contact Information

For further information, to book an excursion to SERCUL, an incursion at your school or to get involved in planting opportunities please contact:

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