

Connections

Environmental Education introduces students to the connections between people, their culture and their environment.

Learning experiences in the natural environment help students to develop positive attitudes and skills for sustainable living.

The Wetlands Environmental Education Centre (WEEC) is located at the Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia, and is part of an internationally significant Ramsar site within the Hunter Estuary providing habitat for over 200 species of birds.

Wetlands Environmental Education Centre provides:

- Environmental excursions for students from Kindergarten to Year 12
- Customised programs for T.A.F.E. and University
- Special events through the year
- Support to schools in the implementation of the NSW DET Environmental Education Policy

Facilities at the centre include a classroom, theatre, display area, walking trails, bird hides and observation decks. Canoeing is available through the Wetlands Centre.

Bookings

All excursions are based at the Hunter Wetlands Centre, Australia. **Bookings are essential.** For all excursions contact the Wetlands Environmental Education Centre during school hours: 8.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Tel: (02) 4955 8673

Fax: (02) 4950 0497

E-mail: wetlands-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website: <http://www.wetlands.eec.education.nsw.gov.au>

Excursion Costs: \$6 per student

Risk assessment Information is provided with all bookings.



The Wetlands Environmental Education Centre is a NSW Department of School Education Facility staffed by teachers with specialisation in environmental education for schools.



Field work in a natural setting... a hands-on experience!



Excursions

All excursions begin with a presentation suitable to the relevant stage of schooling.

Lower primary (early stage 1, stages 1 and 2)

- Living Things (HSIE)
- Earth and Its Surroundings (HSIE)
- Wet and Dry Environments (S&T)

Upper primary (Stage 3)

Environments (HSIE)

- Wetlands and Rivers
- Habitat Assessment Program

Junior secondary (stages 4 and 5)

Assessing the health of wetlands

- Habitat Assessment Program
- Geography in the Wetlands
- Year 10: Investigating Australia's Physical Environments



Senior secondary (Stages 5 and 6)

Year 11

Geography: Biophysical interactions

Biology: Local Ecosystem

Senior Science: A Local Environment

Earth and Environmental Sciences: Local Environment

Year 12

Geography: Ecosystems at risk

Each senior program involves student investigation of an aquatic ecosystem. Studies can include the measurement of abiotic factors, collection of organisms, analysis of human impacts and management issues and interpretation of data.

Excursions include an introductory PowerPoint presentation related to the field of study and the collection of data using field equipment such as thermometers, wind speed indicators, metre rules, turbidity tubes, quadrats, transects, microscopes, data loggers, computers and GPS.



Special events and programs

Envirothon

A regional competition for Year 11 students. Schools enter a team of four to solve an environmental challenge and propose solutions for a current environmental issue in the local area.



Wet and Wild

An internet-based competition designed around specified themes. It is suitable for years 3–7. Clues are placed on the website for schools to solve the puzzles and submit their answers by e-mail.

