

La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary

A Framework and Philosophy for Education for Sustainability

The La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary has been engaging students from Primary and Secondary Schools for over 20 years and has developed a range of hands-on authentic learning experiences that link to the Victorian Essential Learning Standards and can support a schools journey to becoming sustainable in the ResourceSmart AussiVic Framework.

The University has a strong commitment to community engagement and utilises the sanctuary as a 'hub' for the education of students, volunteers and staff. The Wildlife Sanctuary develops, delivers and maintains it's education Experiences according to a philosophy of engaging students in a natural setting to deliver disciplinary and interdisciplinary student outcomes. Our four E's guide the development and delivery and provide opportunity to:

Engage

Students and staff engage in the Environment using a variety of techniques, activities and sessions. We develop our experiences to ensure that students are engaged in a variety of activities. Staff will develop an understanding of student needs and level and deliver their sessions with engagement as a primary objective.

Encourage

Students are encouraged express their understandings of the natural world and how we relate to it. They are further encouraged to develop a deeper understanding of the principals of ecology, conservation and biodiversity and they are provided with the opportunity to express their developed learnings.

Empower

Sanctuary experiences are designed to empower students to create their own behaviour changes, in school, in community and within themselves.

Everlasting

Experiences are also designed so that visual imagery, engaging activities, exciting presentations and an interdisciplinary approach provide the maximum potential for an experience that remains cognitive throughout a students life.



The Sustainability Leadership Kite

The Wildlife Sanctuary experiences are also developed by utilising a planning matrix that is designed to encourage creative thinking towards project development.

This 'kite' is used extensively in the Wildlife Sanctuary sustainability leaders experience to encourage students to develop deep understandings of aspects of sustainability and then produce their own learning pathways towards sustainable development in their schools and wider community.

