

La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary Education Experiences

Science in the Bush

Can you imagine finding 100 animals in a tussock of native grass? Students will be amazed and feel as if they are deep in the Australian bush at the La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary. They will explore our extensive network of wetlands, investigate our lizard lounges and native grasslands and have a 'birds-eye' view of possums, bats and other animals that live in hollows.

Taking a stroll through our sanctuary is the best way to appreciate the diverse nature of Australian habitats. Imagine standing at the base of a 400 year old River Red Gum that is home to over 20 different animals. We will investigate some of these homes and discover the ways we can encourage some of our birds and mammals back into the suburbs of Melbourne. We will look at some of the artificial hollows that have video cameras and can be viewed from the internet (www.latrobe.edu.au/wildlife)



Your educational experience at the Sanctuary is designed to stimulate the imagination and curiosity of your students and provide them with ways to safely explore, learn about and look after their environment.

An Engaging Experience

The La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary offers a range of engaging activities to fulfil our Science in the Bush experience.

1. Dip Netting Activity / Wetlands
 - Students use dip nets to catch a range of aquatic animals. Invertebrate surveying can be used to identify a healthy wetland ecosystem.
2. Maths in the Bush
 - Maths can be used to better understand the nature of our ecosystems. We will demonstrate a number of ways to measure tree height and put this to use in mapping an ecosystem.
3. Possum Cam!
 - A visit to our learning centre will provide students with time to reflect on their experiences. We will take a look at our nesting box web cameras and discuss the types of habitat that Australian animals require in order to sleep, feed and survive.
 - Nesting Box Puzzle – Students use team skills to construct their own Nesting Box.
4. Chemistry, Physics and much more
 - We also use chemistry to determine the health of wetlands. We describe and demonstrate the benefits of understanding PH, Turbidity, Flocculation and a number of chemical tests on water samples.
 - Using the natural properties of a number of plants we will demonstrate the strength of natural fibre, the properties of air pockets and a wide variety of uses for plant materials.



A Standard Experience

As with all our standard experiences, the Science in the bush experience is designed to go for 2 hours. These incur a cost of \$10.00 per student (minimum charge = \$185.00). For an additional charge the experience can be extended with a number of other activities.

Please call **9479 1206** or email wildlife@latrobe.edu.au for bookings and more information.