

La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary Education Experiences

Wildlife CSI...



Your students will feel as if they are deep in the Australian bush at the La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary. With over 150 years of changes, brought about by the use of man, the Wildlife Sanctuary is the perfect place to investigate the impacts we have on the natural environment and to investigate ways in which we can be more sustainable in the future.

Students will explore our extensive network of wetlands, **the worlds' first man made natural filtration system!** Students will be excited when their nets capture curious creatures that have bizarre shapes and fascinating ways of moving around in their watery world.

In a first for Melbourne, students can investigate a **real wildlife crime scene** and come up with great theories for "who dunnit", adding to their skills of becoming CSI Agents.

Our expert presenters will take full advantage of anything your class might bump into. There may be a mob of kangaroos, an orb weaver spinning an intricate web, a swamp-hen with gangly feet or a flock of ducks landing on the water. Then in the Learning Centre we use microscopes so students can get up close to the evidence they have collected.

Along the way students will see how our environment is damaged. We will learn how we can all help to protect our environment and discuss ways in which we can help to make the world a better place. Using a mathematical method we can calculate how natural an area is. Compare this with your schools natural score, and you can start to determine how to make your school more sustainable.

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.

Your school ground

The La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary is able to assist your school with school ground projects. We have an excellent Indigenous Plant Nursery that can provide plant and tips for developing Australian habitat gardens - including wetlands. Some of our other experiences can show you how easy it can be to create Australian wildlife habitat in school grounds.



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Education Experiences

An Engaging and Authentic Learning Experience

The La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary offers a range of engaging activities to fulfil the two hours. A standard CSI experience will consist of 3 or 4 activities as well as walks around the 30 hectare site.

1. Dip Netting Activity
 - Using dip nets to locate small moving animals.
 - Name and describe some of the animal features.
2. Wildlife CSI
 - Using a range of tools to collect and explore evidence in a wildlife crime scene.
 - Using a number of guides to identify and categorise different animal evidence like tracks, scratchings and footprints
3. Close Encounters II
 - Using microscopes to investigate and further understand the evidence
4. How Natural?
 - Building on the concepts of tracks and traces, we look at the ways in which humans' impact on the natural environment.

The number of activities is dependant on the number of class groups that attend a single two hour session. For five or more class groups we will run extra activities and shorten the length of time for each activity. Additional activities that can be included in a CSI experience are:

1. Energy
 - A session that focuses on the various types of energy we use and how we can start to ensure energy use is sustainable.
2. DIY garden
 - We can show your students how easy it is to create a small indigenous garden. Providing you with the resources to start creating your own habitat patches at school
3. My Footprint
 - Extending on the concepts of our impact on the environment we can start to calculate our ecological footprint and discuss ways in which we can minimise our impact.
4. Constructing a Frog Bog
 - A demonstration of how to construct your own small 'frog bog' or wetland at home or at school.

Program Extension

Engage your students further by extending the education experience to include one or more extra activities. You could come for the day and include a morning and afternoon component and create your own mix of activities. You could also inquire about our range of other experiences, including our incursions, and give your students the benefit of a well rounded education program. Contact our bookings office for details regarding extending or tailoring programs.

Resources

Melbourne Water – www.melbournewater.com.au

Amphibian Research Centre – www.frogs.org.au

La Trobe University – La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary – www.latrobe.edu.au/wildlife

Gould League Victoria – www.gould.edu.au