



## INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL VISITS TO COCKBURN WETLANDS EDUCATION CENTRE, BIBRA LAKE

COCKBURN WETLANDS EDUCATION CENTRE is a community-based, not for profit organisation. It was established in 1993 with funding from the City of Cockburn to provide information to the community about wetlands and their management. The Centre is home to the Wetlands Conservation Society, Friends of the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre and the 1<sup>st</sup> Bibra Lake Scout Group. The Centre offers a broad range of environmental education and training programs to schools, the community and wetland professionals. The education programs are enhanced by the practical involvement of staff and a team of enthusiastic volunteers who help manage the surrounding wetland and bushland areas. A Wetlands Officer, Denise Crosbie, currently conducts the educational program on a part-time basis. HISMelt sponsors the education program for schools.

### ABOUT BIBRA LAKE

Bibra Lake and the surrounding bushland is an A-Class Conservation Reserve and is located in the heart of the Beeliar Regional Park. The Bibra Lake wetland is a permanent water body and provides an important drought refuge for waterbirds when other wetlands dry out during the summer months.

### CARING FOR WETLANDS

Over 70% of wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain have been lost. Therefore, it is very important for us to conserve, restore and manage the wetland habitats that remain as they are home to a wide variety of plants and animals including birds, frogs and reptiles. Staff and volunteers have established wetland and bushland seed production areas for the sustainable supply of native seed. Volunteers collect local seed and grow plants in the Wetlands Centre nursery. The seedlings are planted in degraded areas within the park. Ongoing weed control and watering are necessary during the establishment phase. A variety of other Landcare and environmental work is conducted by volunteers on a daily basis.



The Wetlands Centre is reliant on sponsorships and donations for the ongoing management of these wetland and bushland areas. Tax-deductible donations are welcome and allow the centre to continue this vital work.

## LOCATION

The Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre is located on Hope Road, Bibra Lake; approximately 30 minutes from Perth City via the Freeway.

If coming from:

- the north, exit at Farrington Road.
- the east, use Roe Highway and then Freeway South to the Berrigan Drive exit.
- the south, take the Berrigan Drive Freeway exit.

**ABOUT THE VISIT** - *What the students will see and do*  
Excursions usually run from 9.30am to 1.30pm. This includes an introductory talk in the Wetland Centre and then a 1.3km, guided walk from the centre through the bushland to Bibra Lake. Students will learn about the different plants and animals that can be found in the various habitats along the way.

At the lake, students may have the opportunity to do bird watching and collect macro-invertebrates from the wetland, which will then be taken back to the centre to be viewed under stereoscopes. The macro-invertebrates will be returned to the wetland at the completion of the activity.

## COST

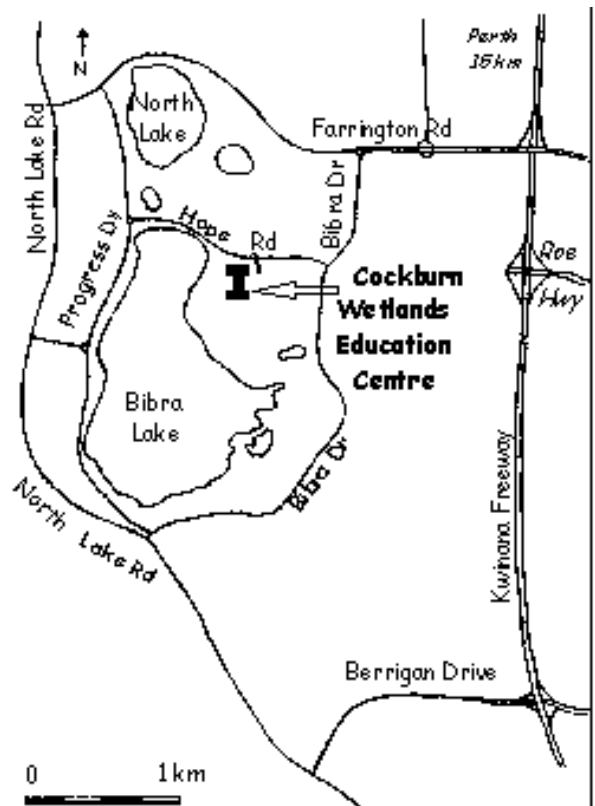
**PRIMARY:** \$3 per student plus bus fare. **SECONDARY:** \$5 per student plus bus fare. Minimum charge: \$50 per group. The bus must be arranged by the school. Please ensure the bus company allows you to postpone your excursion if the weather is wet and/or windy.

## PLEASE NOTE

Educational visits are available on Tuesdays and Fridays only, unless a special arrangement is made. One class maximises learning opportunities during the visit. However, larger numbers can be considered.

## WHAT TO WEAR AND BRING

- Long pants and closed-in shoes
- Sunscreen, hat and a water bottle
- Raincoat (if the weather is uncertain)
- Gumboots or binoculars (optional).
- Change of clothes (in case students get wet or hot).
- Pencil and clipboard (if doing worksheets).
- Morning tea and lunch



## IDENTIFIED RISKS AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

There are a certain number of risks associated with doing outdoor activities. The identified risks at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre and ways to avoid them are:

RISKS	HOW TO AVOID THEM
Snake bite	Stay behind leader, look ahead, and watch where you are walking. <i>(See below for more information on snakes)</i>
Cuts and bruises from falling over or brushing against plants	Listen to instructions and stay behind the leader, look ahead for overhanging or prickly vegetation, watch where you are walking.
Dehydration, exhaustion, sunburn	Carry a water bottle and drink regularly, wear sunburn cream, a hat and a long sleeved shirt.
Getting cold and wet	Wear warm clothing and carry a waterproof jacket in winter. Bring a change of clothes and socks in case students accidentally get wet while taking water samples at the wetland.
Falling over logs or uneven ground in the wetland	Depending on the weather and lake conditions, the Wetlands Education Officer will determine whether it is safe for the students to use the gumboots to wade into the water and collect water samples. Tread slowly and carefully as the bottom of the wetland can be uneven and visibility in the wetland at times is low. <i>(See below for more information on water).</i>

## FURTHER SAFETY INFORMATION

### SNAKES

During the visit, students will be required to stay on the paths and behind the Wetlands Officer. Visitors should be aware that wetlands and bushland areas are home to many plants and animals including venomous tiger snakes and dugites. For this reason, students will need to look ahead and be alert. Snakes are occasionally found basking on paths in the sun or seen passing through in their search for food. While on the bushland trail it is recommended that all visitors wear closed-in shoes, such as boots or sandshoes and long pants. The Wetlands Officer carries a First Aid Kit, mobile phone and snake bandage.

### WATER

The Bibra Lake foreshore is accessed by a 100m boardwalk, which is the focus for a variety of activities. The boardwalk has rails and students are advised to remain within the railings. Depending on the lake conditions, students may collect samples from the waters edge. The maximum depth of the water at the boardwalk is 1m but students will only go up to gum boot level. The Water Safety Office from the Department of Education has confirmed there is no requirement for teachers to have a Bronze Medallion or Life Saving because it is not considered a water-based activity.

## SUPERVISION

Your assistance in supervising the students is expected at all times. For Year 1's to Year 4's, at least 1 adult per 6 students will be required to attend the excursion.



## INSURANCE

Schools are required to provide their own insurance for their students. The Wetlands Education Centre has public liability insurance to the value of \$10,000,000.

## EMERGENCIES

The Wetlands Officer has a Senior First Aid Certificate and a Federal Police Clearance. The Officer carries a mobile phone and a First Aid Kit and during the guided walk, a vehicle is located near the Bibra Lake foreshore. First Aid is however, primarily the responsibility of the teacher/school.

## FACILITIES

The Centre has a meeting room, education room, hall, kitchen area and toilet facilities.

Free tea and coffee is available for parents and teachers.

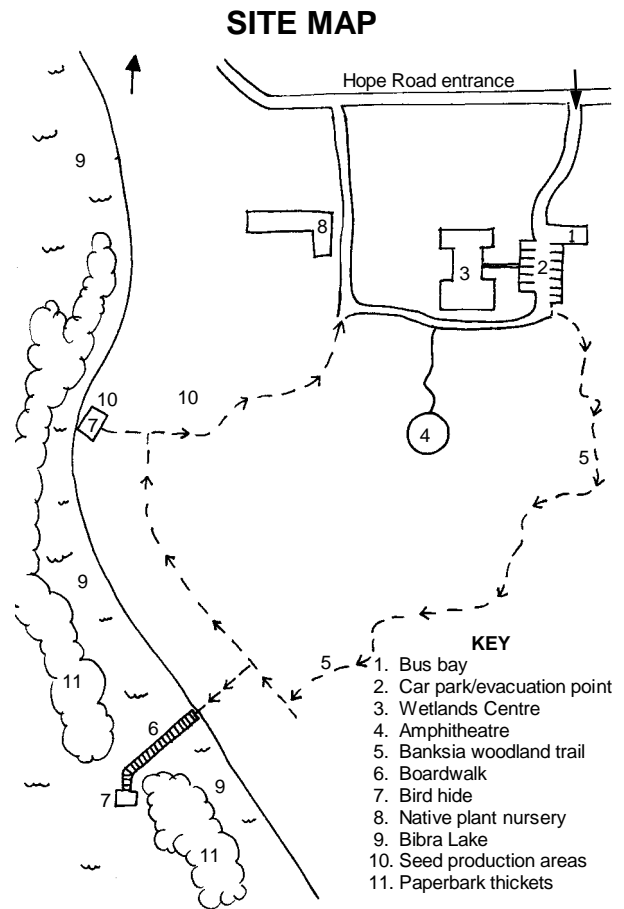
Outdoor facilities include a gazebo, picnic tables, BBQ and amphitheatre.

## WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

Disabled parking, toilet facilities and access are available at the Centre. Wheelchair access for the bushland trail is along a limestone track. Adult assistance may be required.

## EVACUATION PROCEDURES

The Evacuation point for the Centre is the eastern carpark. For emergencies arising in the bushland area, the Wetlands Officer will assess the risks and decide on the safest place to assemble.



## PRE/POST INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

To gain maximum benefit from your classes visit, it is recommended that you do some pre and post activities with your class.

A video on wetlands is available for loan for high school classes and booklets on 'Exploring Coastal Wetlands' or frogs can be supplied for primary classes. In addition, various worksheets on plants, birds, frogs and macro-invertebrates are available.

## BOOKING A VISIT

If you are interested in visiting the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre, please fill in the attached Schools Booking Form. Please note: The Centre's office is unattended when our Wetland Officers are carrying out education and landcare activities. Telephone contact may be difficult and your patience and understanding is requested.

## CONTACTS

Wetlands Officer: Denise Crosbie  
Telephone/Fax/Answering machine: 9417 8460  
Email: [cwec@wetlands-education.org](mailto:cwec@wetlands-education.org)  
Address: 184 Hope Road  
BIBRA LAKE WA 6163

*Thank you, we hope to see you at the wetland!*



Cockburn Wetlands  
Education Centre Inc

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