



Stage 6

Geography: Biophysical Interactions

Geography outcomes

Geography, Preliminary Course - Biophysical Interactions (P1, P2, P3, P8, P9, P11, P12)

Content

Ecosystems, interactions, distribution and abundance, and management issues

Program Description

Students will investigate an aquatic ecosystem and calculate some of the factors which affect plant and animal life, identify some aspects of water flow, and analyse and summarise those aspects of the wetlands habitat which have been affected by human activity.

PowerPoint Introduction

Fieldwork including:

- Biophysical factors: water and air temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction water depth, pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and salinity. Use of data loggers.
- Distribution and abundance of pond animals and plants: fixed transect, quadrats and dip netting.
- Management issues are investigated during a site walk.

Conclusion: Issues balancing the management of tourism and conservation.

This program is delivered over 4hrs.

The basic program will be changed to suit larger groups or weather conditions.

Location

Wetlands Environmental Education Centre (WEEC) located at Hunter Wetlands Centre, 412 Sandgate Rd, Shortland, Newcastle
Please use School entry.

Site Description

Wetlands Environmental Education Centre is located at Hunter Wetlands Centre, a managed wetland reserve with both artificial and natural water features accessed by decks and established walking tracks.

WEEC has a purpose built education centre including theatre, wet room and classroom.

The site is classified as part of the Hunter Estuary Ramsar Site under the International Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar).

The WEEC is a NSW Department school and staff are trained DoE teachers specialising in Environmental Education.

Excursion information

What to bring: Printed student workbook, clipboard and pencils, recess and lunch, refillable water bottle, hat, sunscreen, comfortable, covered walking shoes plus any special requirements of the group. (Wet weather gear when necessary). Non-aerosol insect repellent is advisable.

WEEC teachers rely on the participation of visiting teachers to meet recommended supervision levels. Visiting teachers are ultimately responsible for behaviour of students, students with existing medical conditions and special needs.