

Conservation Through Education

Since 2000 the Baldivis Children's Forest has been a space for children to connect with their natural surrounds. We believe passionately in the power of the natural environment to enhance every child's learning and growth journey. Our excursion program provides hands-on immersive experiences in a natural native environment for children of all ages. All our activities have links into the education curriculum, but more than that they provide opportunities for children to build skills, values and knowledge in areas such as:

- Team building
- Sustainability
- Environmental awareness and conservation
- Problem solving
- Physical awareness
- Cultural awareness and respect
- Personal confidence and empowerment
- Personal responsibility
- Risk taking

The activities in this brochure are aimed at Pre-Primary to Year 7 aged children. However, all activities can be adapted for older age groups or community groups, home school groups, Bush Rangers, Ed Support Units, vacation care centres and private organisations. We also work with several other facilitators that can provide workshops in Japanese Drumming, Aboriginal cultural and traditions and environmental conservation. We work with exceptional local facilitators that share our passion for meaningful, pupil driven learning experiences that capture the essence of education and conservation of native Australian environment and culture.

General Information

Costs

- 1 external facilitator lead activity \$12/child
- 1 external facilitator lead activity & 1 add-on activity \$15/child
- 2 external facilitator lead activities \$22/child
- 2 external facilitator lead activities & add on activity \$25/child

Prices are exclusive of GST. Exploration of forest is a non-facilitated event (teacher lead) and therefore not charged.

Minimum charge is for 25 participants. Maximum 30 participants per activity session, however multiple rotations are possible. For example, 50 children would be split into two sessions of 25 each rotating through the activities.

Prices for add-on activities as stand-alone events available on request.

Cancellations

24hr cancellation policy applies.

Bad Weather

Most activities can be held under the shelter of our outdoor classroom, and a little rain never hurt anyone! However, in the case of an extreme weather conditions forecast the BCF will take the decisions to reschedule bookings.

Accessibility

Coaches and buses can park in the upper carpark to reduce walking distances to enter the site. Tracks within the forest are loose gravel and bush trails. Toilet facilities are accessible. For specific information regarding wheelchair accessibility please contact admin@baldivischidrensforest.org



Excursion Program

2019

The Baldivis Children's Forest began in 2000 and serves the community as a base for environmental education and conservation. Our motto is 'Conservation through Education' and as a not for profit organisation we work alongside facilitators and community groups to provide opportunities for people to engage with nature. The multi award winning Baldivis Children's Forest was created by children for children. We are passionate about connection children with the native natural surroundings.

Email: admin@baldivischidrensforest.org

Website: www.baldivishchildrensforest.org



Activities

All activity sessions run for an hour unless stated otherwise. Maximum 35 participants per activity. Multiple program rotations within a day are possible (i.e. two groups of 28).

Traditional Aboriginal Symbol Painting

Aboriginal artist Lea Taylor introduces participants to the art of storytelling through Aboriginal art symbols. After explaining the techniques and hearing the stories behind them, participants create their own storytelling artworks to take home. Time permitting, participants have the opportunity to share their story with the class.

Critters up Close

An up close and personal introduction to conservation of native WA wildlife. Promoting the conservation of animals and their natural environments. This session provides the information, tools and experiences to help dispel fears, create tolerance and promote positive actions from now and into the future.

Dreamtime Bushwalk

On a guided walk around the forest with an Aboriginal guide, participants will explore the importance of the land to traditional Aboriginal culture. Foraging for bush tucker, animals and insects while learning about the changing seasons, the importance of the land and spiritual acknowledgement for Nyoongar people.

Animal Wraps

A fun contemporary Aboriginal weaving style made famous by the Tjanpi Desert Weavers, where you use straw and wool to create a whimsical creature. Lea Taylor has mastered this style of weaving and will guide your student through the fun process of creating their own tiny creatures

Cubby building - Add-on activity

Through team work, planning and experimentation, participants create shelters to protect themselves from the elements using the basic materials provided and the natural surroundings. Facilitated by BCF volunteers with an emphasis on creating the space for participants to lead their own creations.

Tree Planting (tbc) - Add-on activity

Participants create a lasting living piece of the Forest through assisting in this year tree rehabilitation project. BCF volunteers will introduce participants to native tree species and the natural growing environment before everyone gets their hands dirty and plants some trees.



On Request Facilitators

The Baldvis Children's Forest is proud to work in partnership with several local Aboriginal elders and community groups who in turn support the Forest in its mission to provide a space for meaningful community connections. Our partner organisations can provide bespoke facilitations and workshops in the following areas:

- Japanese drumming circles
- Dreamtime storytelling
- Traditional Aboriginal shelters and tools
- Traditional Aboriginal Weaving
- Nightstalks
- Environment education (wildlife and ecosystem)
- Local Baldvis history



Our Facilitators

Lea Taylor is an independent award winning Aboriginal Artist and Weaver from the Wadandi/Minang/Koreng clans of the Bibbulmun Nation. Experienced with all ages, Lea shares her culture with pride and passion.
<https://www.facebook.com/Leatay27/>

Justin Martin is the founder of Djurandi Dreaming. Justin's ethos is to positively educate and showcase Aboriginal Culture in Western Australia while conserving culture, language and country. Justin's traditional lands stretch over the Perth metropolitan region and a large part of the mid-west of Western Australia. These tribes are formally identified as the Wadjuk, Ballardong, Widi and Budimia people.
<https://www.djurandi.com.au/>

Michael Smith is the owner and operator of Critters up Close and has a lifelong passion for native Australian wildlife. Critters Up Close is a mobile wildlife education company, established to encourage people from all walks of life to get up close and personal with some of Australia's most fascinating and misunderstood critters.
<https://crittersupclose.com.au/>



Our Volunteers

At the BCF we are very proud of our wonderful and knowledgeable volunteers. Our volunteers are all local to the area. From young adults that have grown up with the forest, to retired school teachers and everything in between. One thing we all have in common is our love for the forest and a keen interest in building cubbies!