

# Serendip Sanctuary

## Education Program

Serendip Sanctuary's guided education program enables students to engage with wetland and grassy woodland habitats and get up close to native wildlife of Victoria's Western Plains. Students are inspired to become citizen scientists and can take part in hands-on science activities.

Home to over 150 species of birds and other animals, Serendip Sanctuary contributes to the conservation of vulnerable and endangered Victorian animals, including the Eastern Barred Bandicoot, through dedicated breeding programs. Serendip is also an important site for University Of Melbourne to research the sanctuary's resident fauna.

## What we offer

Serendip Sanctuary's program covers the Victorian Curriculum for Science for all levels. VCE programs are offered across a range of subjects including Biology, Environmental Science and Outdoor and Environmental Studies.

Serendip's program includes a wildlife walk and a science program. The programs are designed to complement each other and can be adjusted to suit your study objectives.



## Wildlife Walk:

The Wildlife Walk takes in the wetland and grassy woodland habitats of Serendip Sanctuary and gives students an opportunity to engage with wildlife indigenous to the Western Volcanic Plains.

### Habitat discovery

Levels: Foundation and 1 - 4

Students explore and discover the diversity within wetland and grassy woodland habitats.

### Animal adaptations

Levels: 5 – 6

Students study animals native to the Western Plains of Victoria and identify the adaptations that help them to survive in their environment.

### Food webs

Levels : 7 – 8

Students study the interactions between animals native to the Western Plains of Victoria and experience firsthand who eats who in wetland and grassy woodland ecosystems.

### Ecosystems

Levels: 9 – 10

Students learn about the ins and outs of grassy woodland and wetland ecosystems.

### Threatened species

Levels: 9 – 10

Students learn about the threats facing animals native to the Western Plains of Victoria and what is being done to protect these species.

### Dynamic ecosystems

VCE: Biology and Outdoor and Environmental Studies

Students learn about animal adaptations and examine the interactions of organisms within grassland and wetland ecosystems. Students study how Serendip's environment has changed over time and how this has impacted on Victoria's Western Plains species.

### Biodiversity decline

VCE: Environmental Science

Students learn about the concept of biodiversity and the threats facing animals indigenous to the Western Plains of Victoria. Students learn about management strategies that help protect threatened species and take a closer look at Serendip's captive breeding programs.



## Science programs:

The science programs involve hands-on science activities at various locations in the park. The students are encouraged to take part in citizen science programs.

### Ponding

Levels: Foundation and 1 – 6

Students collect aquatic invertebrates at one of Serendip's wetlands and explore the adaptations of these organisms.

### Waterwatch

Levels: 5 – 10

VCE: Biology and Environmental Science

Students assess the health of one of Serendip's wetlands by testing the water for turbidity, pH, phosphorous, electronic conductivity and temperature. They learn that testing the water is essential for maintaining or improving water quality.

### Habitat Assessment

Levels: 7 – 10

VCE: Biology and Environmental Science

Students learn that to conserve an area, they must first know what the habitat quality of their area is. Students take a closer look at a grassy woodland ecosystem by undertaking a habitat quality assessment. They measure the number of trees, canopy cover, understorey, weediness, logs and organic litter.

### Climate Connections

Levels: 5 – VCE

Science and Geography

Students explore the different adaptations of plants and animals and the interconnections between people and the environment by becoming citizen scientists for a day. Walking our ClimateWatch trail, students can use our data collection sheets and mobile app to make observations of the local plants and animals, their behaviours and where they are found in the park. Data is collated and uploaded to the Atlas of Living database using the ClimateWatch app or Website

## Planning your school visit

For current prices, to book and to discuss your needs please contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or email [education@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:education@parks.vic.gov.au).

## On the day

- Ensure students are prepared for all weather conditions. Bring sunscreen, a drink bottle, suitable clothing and sturdy footwear.
- The healthiest food for wild animals occurs in nature. Do not feed or encourage animals to take any human food.
- Please take your rubbish home.
- For the safety of your students and to protect our natural environment, keep to existing walking tracks.
- Encourage students to respect the park and other visitors by 'treading lightly and quietly' while visiting.

