

# Wilsons Promontory National Park

## Education Program – Semester 1, 2022

Wilsons Promontory, or the Prom as it's affectionately known, is the southernmost tip of the Australian mainland. From sun-drenched summer beaches to secluded winter walks among rainforest, the Prom has something for everyone. The Prom provides fantastic opportunities for students of all ages to learn about the intertidal zone, adaptations and ecosystems, park management and local history.

### Ranger-led activities

#### Theme: Reading sea and land

##### Tracks and Traces

Levels: 3 - 6

Key Learning areas: Science, Geography

Location: Tidal River or Wildlife Walk (Yanakie Isthmus)

Time: 60 minutes

Students tune in through a series of self-inquiry exercises exploring a variety of interesting and unusual local natural artefacts. Moving into their surrounds, students will observe signs of animal presence by discovering tracks and scats, feeding signs and homes. These observational skills inform readability and connections with living environments. Levels 5-6 record the animal presence data and reflect on factors that influence their investigations.

##### Living on the Edge

Levels: 3 - 6

Key Learning areas: Science, Geography

Location: Picnic Bay (subject to tide times)

Time: 60 minutes

Exploring the intertidal zone of Picnic Bay, students become familiar with Victoria's unique southern waters. They will discover creatures that live on the edge of the sea, identify and discuss a variety of species and their features. Students consider environmental factors and the difficult conditions that impact growth and survival of plants and animals in the intertidal zone.

##### The Daily Wash Up

Levels: 3 - 6

Key learning areas: Science, Geography

Location: Norman Bay or Whisky Bay

Time: 60 minutes

Initial interaction in this activity is through an inquiry-based exercise where students explore interesting and unusual beachcombed objects. A walk into the beachscape follows, involving observation of living species and a close examination of recently washed up gifts on the high tide line. These on-the-day findings set the angle of discussion and may include, identifying tracks in the sand, observing the behaviours of scavenger birds, the presence of marine debris and threats to endangered Hooded Plovers.



#### Theme: Healing sea and land

##### Love the Prom!

Levels: 7 – Tertiary

Key learning areas: Science, Geography

Location: Various

Time: 60 minutes

Help the Prom by participating in a **FREE** care activity. This offers students the opportunity to be active and informed citizens, while contributing to the health of the environment.

- **Marine Debris:** Students gain insight into the impacts of waste on marine and coastal life and assist rangers with cleaning up our coastlines.
- **Planting or maintenance:** Students engage in habitat restoration activities. Where possible, they are introduced to plant identification, seed collection/propagation, and planting techniques by the Friends of the Prom.
- **Coastal Weed Removal:** Students recognise the presence of an invasive coastal weed and identify how it contributes to ecological imbalance on the Prom's coastline whilst assisting rangers in its management.

#### Theme: Past stories of sea and land

##### Past Uses of the Prom

Level: VCE Outdoor and Environmental Studies

Key Learning areas: Unit 3 AOS1

Location: Wildlife Walk (Yanakie Isthmus) or Darby River

Time: 90 minutes per session

The Prom has a varied history of land use from the earliest indigenous inhabitants to present-day visitors. A comprehensive VCE unit of study resource supports teachers and students to explore the key knowledge points of Unit 3 AOS1 in relation to seven locations throughout the national park. Two VCE aligned Ranger-led sessions engage students specifically in nation building at Darby River and increasing populations at the Wildlife Walk (Yanakie Isthmus).



## Theme: Caring for sea and land

### Park Management

Level: VCE Outdoor and Environmental Studies

Key Learning areas: Unit 4 AOS2

Location: Tidal River, Yanakie Isthmus or webinar

Time: 90 minutes

Students gain an insight into Parks Victoria's management strategies for healthy and sustainable environments at the Prom. They consider the characteristics of healthy habitats and the impacts of environmental threats. Students participate in a management program and use scientific monitoring methods to assess the health of a habitat (Coastal Dunes or Coastal Grassy Woodlands) and examine the conditions, threats and strategies.

### On the Job

Level: VCAL

Key Learning outcomes: Work related skills, personal development skills

Topic: Career pathways in conservation management Location: Various

Time: 90 minutes

This unique opportunity provides students with an insight into the workplace operations of Parks Victoria staff in Wilsons Promontory National Park. They will gain practical knowledge, procedural awareness and understanding of the skills required to work in a large park management setting.

## Tertiary Groups

Ask us to tailor a Ranger-led engagement specific to your educational focus.

## Digital Nature Education resources

Ask us about the range of pre- and post-visit classroom resources available to complement your in-park experience.

## Planning your excursion

To book and to discuss your school needs, please email [wpromeduction@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:wpromeduction@parks.vic.gov.au) or contact the Wilsons Promontory Visitor Centre on 8427 2122.

## Costs

The current cost for a Ranger-led activity is \$6.40 per student, with a minimum charge of \$64 per session. Supervising teachers attend for free. An invoice will be sent via email after your visit to the park.

*Love the Prom!* activities are **FREE**.

Parks Victoria

Phone 13 1963

[www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

## Teacher/Student Ratios

School staff participate in the sessions provided and are expected to supervise and manage student behaviour. Parks Victoria recommends the following school staff-to-student ratios:

- 1:1 for specific needs
- 1:2 for under 5 years
- 1:5 for Years Prep – 2
- 1:10 for Years 3 – 12

## Accessibility & inclusion

Please inform education staff at the time of booking if students have specific access or other requirements.

Outdoor components of activities may take place on unsealed tracks with uneven surfaces. All-terrain TrailRider wheelchairs and beach wheelchairs are available for use by students with restricted mobility (free of charge, advance bookings essential). TrailRiders and beach wheelchairs can be used on surfaces that are not accessible using conventional wheelchairs. School staff are responsible for the safe transfer of the user.



A social script is available for participants on the autism spectrum. Using plain text and images, the social script describes what children may see and experience during their visit to the Prom. View this resource here -

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/all-abilities-access/autism-friendly-visits>

## On the day

- Ensure students bring sunscreen, a drink bottle and pens/clipboard. Gloves and safety goggles are required for *Love the Prom!* activities.
- Students must wear suitable clothing and sturdy covered footwear (no thongs or crocs).
- All education sessions will run in strict accordance with current DHHS guidelines.
- Local weather may vary from regional forecasts. Check the local weather and dress accordingly.