



Programs and Booking Information

Early & Middle Years

Prep - Year 9



Amaroo Environmental Education Centre

90 Kleinton School Road
Kleinton Q 4352

Phone: (07) 4696 7140

Fax: (07) 4696 7036

Email: admin@amarooeec.eq.edu.au

Website: www.amarooeec.eq.edu.au



Queensland
Government
Education Queensland

go MAD for the environment... MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

Day Visit Programs	Year Level										Preferred Term	Venue
	P	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
A Camping We Will Go	•										2 & 3	Kleinton
Sundrops and Me	•										Late 3 & 4	Your school
The Bunyip Hunt		•									2 & 3	Kleinton
Scooby Dooby Cooby Dam		•	•	•							1 - 4	Cooby Dam
What's the Bush About?			•	•							1 - 4	Kleinton
If Trees Could Talk				•	•						1 - 4	Kleinton
Mighty Minibeasts				•	•						1, 2, 4	Kleinton
What a Waste				•	•	•					1 - 4	Kleinton
Creature Features				•	•	•					1 - 4	Kleinton
Grow Well, Eat Well					•	•	•	•			2 & 3	Kleinton
Building a Book in the Bush					•	•	•	•			4	Kleinton
Ravensbourne Rainforest Ramble					•	•	•	•	•		1 - 4	Ravensbourne National Park
Niches for Nestboxes						•	•	•			Late 2 & Early 3	Kleinton
Bush Smart							•	•			2-4	Ravensbourne National Park
Energy Efficiency							•	•			1 - 4	Kleinton
Stream Scene					•	•	•	•	•	•	1 - 4	Cooby Dam or Crow's Nest

Note: Variations or specialized programs are available by negotiation
All Amaroo programs are mapped to the Essential Learnings

A Camping We Will Go

Children actually pitch a tent. We discuss what we need to go camping and aspects of keeping safe in the bush, caring for the environment and camp safety and health are also covered in this camping theme. If you bring a damper and sausages, we'll cook them for lunch.

Sundrops and Me

The Sundrops and Me program encourages the children to engage in a real-life experience involving construction, investigation, problem solving, literacy and artistic experiences. As they help to solve the local farmers dilemma of birds eating her fruit crops, the students explore the concepts of the sun's energy flow, sun safety, healthy eating, nurturing of animals and plants, growth cycles and caring for the environment.

The Bunyip Hunt

This program is offered for single class groups only.

An invitation to help search for an elusive Bunyip roaming the bush near Amaroo, engages the students imagination and enthusiasm before visiting the Centre. Using the story, 'The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek', as a focus, the students work as junior scientists by investigating, communicating, reasoning and thinking creatively as they try to understand the concept of a bunyip and his many characteristics. The trail of clues, puzzles and notes left by the Bunyip leads them on a sensory discovery through the bush while subtly suggesting the need for stewardship for the natural environment to protect the earth and all its creatures.

A learning place project room also offers a chat room, blog and other useful information.

Scooby Dooby Cooby Dam

This program offers students the opportunity to learn more about our local environment and the importance of its care. By pond scooping they learn about freshwater creatures. As well as discovering the purpose of the rock spillway, students discover the process of soil formation. On the forest walk, students find the kinds of places where animals live. Sometimes a koala can be seen. Students learn that Cooby Dam is a place from which town water is drawn. They are encouraged to conserve water.

What's the Bush About

This program deals with the inter-relationships of living things in the Australian environment, particularly animal camouflage and food chains. Making an Australian animal from clay and a bushwalk are incorporated.

If Trees Could Talk

Students are engaged at school beforehand by the reading of a big book, 'If Trees Could Talk'. Taking on the role of biologists, they visit Amaroo to explore the importance of plants, indigenous plant use, amazing variation in seeds and leaves, the relationship between plants and animals in the environment and the importance of biodiversity. Students use the essential processes of Ways of Working to develop and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.

Mighty Minibeasts

After listening to a radio play 'Bugs Of The Range', the students are asked to be 'entomologists-in-training' and visit Amaroo to help raise their awareness and understanding of the importance of minibeasts in our ecosystems. Students actually work as scientists setting up an experiment, understanding the elements of a *fair test* and are actively involved in field work. The need for biodiversity and stewardship for the natural environment are the underlying themes.

What a Waste

Waste minimisation is the theme. The day includes an activity that highlights nature as a recycler, discussion on the 3 Rs + 1- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle + Rethink. Other activities include classifying waste, paper making composting and keeping a wormery.

Creature Features

The underlying theme for this program is to value and understand the need for biodiversity in the environment. Students engage in activities that highlight the special characteristics of animals and how these are important for them to live. This is done through the use of texts, clay animal making, a bush walk and animal classification.

Grow Well, Eat Well

This program is offered for single class groups only.

With the growing, preparation and cooking of fresh foods somewhat of a mystery to many students, this program offers an opportunity for students to help in planting, harvesting, preparing and sharing the produce grown in the Amaroo vegetable garden beds to create a healthy, nutritious lunch. Other related activities are undertaken during the day including hygiene and safety, composting and scarecrow design.

A learning place project room also offers a garden diary blog and other useful information.

Building a Book in the Bush:

Narelle Oliver, Author/Illustrator Workshop Presentation

The levy for this program is \$11.00 (inc. gst) per student.

The day will concentrate on students working through a research process used by Narelle when she is planning a book. The information gathered will be useful material as the basis for further development at school. Students are also engaged in a print making activity.

Ravensbourne Rainforest Ramble

This day begins by discussing the purpose of national parks. This is followed by a blindfold activity where students investigate characteristics of trees. A walk in the forest occurs where students see first hand the features and characteristics of the forest. Indigenous use of the forest is included.

Niches for Nestboxes

If you have bush areas at or near your school, this is a worthwhile activity. Usually conducted during June, the program consists of a day at the centre which includes construction of nestboxes for animals such as possums, birds or microbats. Upon returning to school the nestboxes are to be placed in suitable locations around the school vicinity.

Bush Smart

This program is offered for single class groups only.

Students investigate the rainforest of Ravensbourne National Park. They have the opportunity to use GPS and digital cameras and work cooperatively to construct a shelter. During the day students are expected to work independently in small groups.

Energy Efficiency

This program is offered for single class groups only.

A hands on day that investigates energy. Students work in groups rotating through a series of activities that include the following:

- Where does energy come from, what is it and what is work?
- Using Knex to build a simple solar powered model.
- Making milkshakes, the easy way and the hard way, by using a solar panel and a human powered generator.
- Calculating how much greenhouse gas a family produces. Students are challenged to find ways to reduce energy consumption.
- PowerMate activity. Learn how to use a PowerMate meter that monitors electrical consumption of individual household appliances.


Stream Scene

By monitoring the health of the aquatic environment, students are able to learn the importance of maintaining healthy waterways and living in a catchment.

Activities include a selection from the following:

- Dam Infrastructure - inspecting/investigating the built features which make up the dam as a community water supply. Includes spillway, dam wall, intake tower and pump station. (Cooby Dam Wall only)
- Pond Scooping - investigating the creatures living in and around the pond to assess the health of the habitat.
- Water Testing (Yr 7 & above) - using instruments to test the various physical characteristics eg temperature, salinity, pH and turbidity.
- Riparian Assessment (Yr 7 & above) - this entails investigating the vegetation along the water course and determining how it may influence the health of the stream.

Earth Smart Science Program and the Queensland Environmentally Sustainable Schools Initiative

 **Darling Downs QESSI Hub** Amaroo will be facilitating the roll out of the Earth Smart Science Program from 2010 - 2012. The centre will be working with 15 schools each year. Schools who wish to work towards becoming more environmentally sustainable can join the Queensland Environmentally Sustainable Schools Initiative. Amaroo has partnered with the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee to form the Darling Downs QESSI Hub.

For more details contact Amaroo Ph (07) 4696 7140 or QMDC Ph (07) 4637 6201.



SPECIAL FOREVER PROJECT

Amaroo EEC is the local coordinator for Special Forever, an environmental communications project administered by e:Lit (Primary English Teaching Association). Special Forever runs during semester one each year. Schools visiting Amaroo can have the opportunity to use their visit as part of Special Forever. www.specialforever.org.au

Booking Procedures and Policy

How to book

1. Decide on the program that best suits your classroom needs.
2. Complete an Application Form. Forms are available from centre website.
3. Fax or post application to Amaroo.

How applications are allocated

Application forms will be accepted from October 2009.

They must be in writing and have the approval of the school principal.

Applications will be assessed from 16 November 2009. After assessment, bookings will be allocated in two rounds.

Round 1 - schools who have missed out the previous year or have not visited before.

Round 2 - schools seeking a return visit over two consecutive years.

To be considered for Round 1 bookings, schools should ensure their application is received by the centre by 16 November 2009. Schools who submit an application by 16 November 2009, will be advised of their visit dates by the second last week of school 2009. Applications will still be accepted after 16 November, however they may not necessarily be successful.

The Principal of Amaroo reserves the right to vary allocations according to specific needs, requirements, special circumstances demonstrated by schools, or departmental initiatives and priorities.

Education Queensland policy requires that state schools have first preference and then spare capacity may be allocated to non-state schools. Bookings remain open during 2010. However after the end of February, non-state schools will be offered placement should vacancies exist.

Program Venues

Kleinton

The headquarters of Amaroo is situated at the former Kleinton State School approximately 25 kilometres from Toowoomba. The centre grounds has been landscaped with native plants.

Cooby Dam

Cooby Dam is located 30 kilometres northeast of Toowoomba. Activities take place at the *Dam Wall Area and /or Loveday Cove*.

The Dam Wall Area includes the creek below the dam wall, the rock spillway, a forest area and dam wall itself.

Loveday Cove is located on the southern shore of the lake. This site is used for programs that include birdwatching.

Ravensbourne National Park

Ravensbourne National Park is situated 16 kilometres east of Hampton on the Hampton-Esk Road. The park is largely temperate rainforest with remaining areas of eucalypt. Ravensbourne has constructed walking tracks and picnic facilities.

Crow's Nest - Bullocky's Rest & Hartman Park

These sites are located in the town of Crow's Nest. Bullocky's Rest is found just past the Police Station and Hartman Park is at the eastern side of the town centre at the end of William Street.

Litterless Lunches

In an effort to minimize waste and its disposal, schools are asked to encourage students to bring a "litterless lunch".

Previsits by Centre Teachers

Amaroo staff will endeavour to visit teachers at school prior to their trip to discuss program arrangements.

Fees

State Schools: \$5.50 (inc GST) per student. Building a Book in the Bush - \$11.00 per student.

Non-State Schools: Contact the centre.