Excursion Programs at Barambah Environmental Education Centre

All programs at Barambah EEC are designed to meet the learning needs of our visiting students. Pre-visits are conducted with classroom teachers to discuss their current curriculum and ensure that the developed timetable is going to provide enjoyable learning opportunities.
We have listed below some of the pre-developed programs that may meet the needs of some classes. This list is not prescriptive and some programs may be able to be blended together. Please contact our teaching staff if you would like more information about possible programs at Barambah EEC.

"Look, Listen and Learn"
Prep to Year Three - Day or Multi-day Excursion Program
Year Four to Year Seven - Multi-day Excursion Program

Students are encouraged to engage all of their senses to appreciate their immediate environment. The excursion involves a wide range of sensory awareness activities, where the students discuss and explore how we use our five senses.
The activities undertaken during this program may include: feely feet, meet a tree, rainbow chips, sound boxes, caterpillar walk, feely bags, photo trail, photo orienteering, tree identification, bird watching, adapt-an-animal, animal camouflage, damper making, or even bush tucker identification. The varieties of habitats that surround the Centre provide excellent venues for students to focus on activities relating to each particular sense. During an overnight stay, students may visit the Nocturnal Feed station to observe local native animals, experience a nightwalk through the bush or may use the microscope learning centre.
This program can be modified to focus on one specific key learning area. Eg. English, Art or Technology.

"When Cultures Meet"
Year Three - Day or Multi-day Excursion Program
Year Four to Year Ten - Day or Multi-day Excursion Program

This program provides opportunities for students to investigate the traditional indigenous groups who inhabited the area around Barambah. To set the scene, students may undertake a simulation activity, comparing traditional and modern cultures, identifying similarities and differences. A discussion about the local area from our One Tree Hill vantage point, and an opportunity to examine indigenous artefacts provide students with information about how the land was used by the traditional people.
Students participate in hands-on experiences in hunting and tracking techniques, use of traditional weapons, identification and sampling of bush foods, use traditional materials to build shelters and weaving using natural, hand-made fibres. A debriefing session then allows students to reflect upon these experiences and share their knowledge and ideas with others.
On the first evening of an overnight program, students may also undertake an astronomy activity where information about constellations can reflect both European and indigenous stories based on star patterns.

"Monsters, Beasts and Other Small Things"
Year One to Year Three - Day Excursion Program

Students investigate the world of terrestrial (land) invertebrates during this day visit. The program begins with a story about animal camouflage techniques. This is followed with an exploration of forest area surrounding the Centre, to locate and identify terrestrial mini beasts. Students use hand lenses and 'peek-a-boo" pots, which enable the creatures to be viewed up close quite safely. Where possible, some creatures may be brought back to the Centre for view under the digital microscopes, allowing students to identify insect body features and characteristics.
After investigating the mini beasts in their own habitats, students create their own versions of the creatures using coloured modelling clay.

"What is a Catchment"
Year Two to Year Three - Multi-day Excursion Program

"The Catchment Story" sets the scene for the students, by involving them as characters in a story about how people use a catchment. From the story, students should begin to identify the importance of maintaining healthy catchments.
Students walk down to permanent waterholes on A Flat Creek, where they scoop in the ponds for aquatic invertebrates to determine the quality of the water supply. A sample of the aquatic invertebrates may be selected to take back to the Centre, to allow for further investigation under microscopes.
The students analyse their results and make a judgment on the water quality. The students participate in a bushcare project to conclude the excursion.
This program may be modified to suit an offsite day or half-day program, involving students assessing a locally situated creek or pond.

"Catchment Crawl"
Year Four to Year Ten - Multi-day Excursion Program

The Catchment Crawl program assists students to investigate the concept of a water catchment. "The Catchment Story" sets the scene for the students, by involving them as characters in a story about how people use a catchment. From the story, students should begin to identify the importance of maintaining healthy catchments. A walk up onto One Tree Hill gives students a birds-eye view of the local section of the Burnett catchment.
The second part of the program involves investigating the condition of the catchment area around Barambah. Students walk through an area of the catchment, down to A Flat Creek, where they perform water quality tests and aquatic invertebrate sampling to determine the quality of the water supply. A sample of the aquatic invertebrates may be selected to take back to the Centre, to allow for further investigation under microscopes.
The students analyse their results and make a judgment on the water quality and overall health of the local catchment area. Based on these decisions, students make recommendations on how to improve the conditions. To finalise the experience, student identify an area of degradation along A Flat Creek and participate in revegetating the site.

"Endangered Species"
Year Two to Year Three - Multi-day Excursion Program
Year Four to Year Seven - Multi-day Excursion Program

This program is designed to have students investigate the local environments surrounding Barambah, in order to heighten their awareness of the plight of the endangered flora and fauna with Australia. An investigation of the relationships between plants and animals is undertaken in "Connection Inspection". In the simulation activity "Survival of the Fittest", students become the animals and face the everyday challenges to survive. During the evening the students may visit the Nocturnal Feed Station, where they have the opportunity to observe some of our local nocturnal animal species.
Using binoculars, students are able to observe the many birds that visit the Centre. The rainforest ramble activity allows students to search for evidence of two endangered animal species within our local area. Students also learn about animal camouflage and plant adaptations.
In "Adapt-an-animal" students use natural materials and their own imagination to create a collage image of an imaginary animal, that is able to survive in a given environment.
The students finish the program with a bushcare activity, where they plant some native flora species to improve our local habitat areas.

"Alien Invasion"
Year Four to Year Ten – Day or Multi-day Excursion Program

In this program students learn about landcare issues and investigate how introduced or 'feral' plants and animals have impacted upon the environment. The focus is on the local area and how it has been used in the past. Students learn how to identify some of the introduced plant species and investigate how they are impacting on the native endemic species. Once species are identified the students participate in a habitat restoration program, removing the 'feral' plants and replanting the site with appropriate local species.

"Past, Present, Future"
Year Six to Year Ten - Multi-day Excursion Program

This program undertakes an investigation of how the local environment has been used by indigenous and white Australians. Students begin with an exploration of how the land was utilized by local Indigenous people, incorporating use of traditional tools and weapons and sampling of available bush tucker.
On day two, the students investigate how gold mining, logging, hardwood forest plantations and cattle grazing have impacted upon the local ecosystems. A group debriefing session then allows the students to analyse the evidence they have collected about each user group, and reflect upon the environmental impacts.
Participation in a bushcare activity allows the students to conclude the excursion with an action for the environment - removal of invasive introduced plant species and planting of endemic native trees.

"Plants Alive"
Year Two to Year Three - Multi-day Excursion Program

In this program students investigate the importance of Australian native plants. The program begins with a comparison of some of the local forest areas, comparing the different plant features and species types. A visit to our native plant nursery demonstrates how plants grow and provides students with the opportunity to get their hands dirty when they learn how to pot-on young plant seedlings.
In the evening, the mystery of botanic names is simplified in the Barambah Botanist activity, with students creating their own new species names.
The program culminates with students participating in our ongoing bushcare project, where non-native invasive plants are eradicated and endemic native species are planted to regenerate the area.

"Plants Alive!"
Year Four to Year Ten - Multi-day Excursion Program

In this program students investigate the importance of Australian native plants. The first activity is Connection Inspection, where the students take on the role of a plant or animal in the local ecosystem. Through a series of survival connections, the students discover how the plants and animals rely on each other for survival. We then investigate some of the local forest areas, comparing the different plant features and species types.
Students learn about plant structure through experiencing the "Food Factory" – a giant leaf activity site that simulates the photosynthesis process. The mystery of botanic names is simplified in the Barambah Botanist activity, with students creating their own new species names.
Tree Id challenges the students to identify ten native tree species marked within the Centre grounds. Everyone can then get their hands dirty, learning to propagate plants in our nursery.
The program culminates with students participating in our ongoing bushcare project, where non-native invasive plants are eradicated and endemic native species are planted to regenerate the area.

"Oh, Rubbish!"
Prep to Year Three - Multi-day Excursion Program

In this program young students are introduced to waste management strategies that encourage them to reduce, reuse and recycle. The program begins with recycling, where the students learn about which products are recyclable and how they are recycled. Students then participate in making a piece of recycled paper, a mush pot and paper bricks, to demonstrate a recycling process.
Our compost activity demonstrates to students how leftover kitchen scraps and green garden waste may be easily broken down to create a wonderful garden fertilizer. The students also have the opportunity to observe how composting worms breakdown food scraps in our worm factory.
A visit the rainforest allows for the investigation of nature's recycling system, as students participate in a leaf litter study. At the end of the program, students are encouraged to think of strategies they could use at home and school to minimize the rubbish they throw away.

"What a Waste!"
Year Four to Year Ten - Multi-day Excursion Program

This is a program involving the investigation of how we use renewable and non-renewable resources at home and at school, and the consequences of this use for the future. Students are introduced to strategies that encouraging them to reduce, reuse and recycle. The activities in this program will provide students with the opportunity to:

- investigate traditional and alternative forms of power generation,
- monitor the power consumption of common household appliances,
- learn about energy efficient buildings and landscape designs,
- experience and implement waterwise practices, and
- learn how to establish recycling and composting systems.

At the end of the excursion students are encouraged to develop personal action plans for home and school.

"Use it or Lose it"
Year Six to Year Nine - Multi-day Excursion Program

The aim of this program is to provide students with a range of strategies to switch them on to a life of learning. Activities have been designed for students to:

- begin understanding some of the functions of the brain,
- discover the impacts on the brain of sleep, nutrition and exercise,
- identify personal temperament type and how it relates to learning preferences,
- develop interpersonal communication and participation skills, and
- interact with each other within a supportive natural setting.

Prior to the excursion, students complete a survey about their lifestyles and feelings toward education. After their participation in the excursion activities, the students use the data to reflected upon, and develop personal action statements and strategies to help enhance their learning abilities.

"Dreamtime Personalities"
Year Four to Year Ten – Offsite Excursion Program
Year Eleven to Year Twelve – Offsite Excursion Program

"Dreamtime Personalities" is a temperament profiling tool that has been developed especially for adolescents and young adults, to help them understand more about themselves and their learning styles. Through personal understanding, participants in Dreamtime Personalities may develop more self-confidence and, potentially, improve their ability to learn, by targeting their strengths and developing strategies to assist them when challenged.

This program involves students participating in a powerpoint workshop explaining the origins of the program, before answering a questionnaire. From the responses to the questions, students will be able to identify their personal temperament type as being Wombat, Kangaroo, Dolphin or Eagle. The session finishes with a group overview of all the types for a broad understanding of the needs and strengths of each type.

If teachers would like to know more about this program they can go to the Dreamtime Personalities website www.dreamtimepersonalities.com.au or contact Barambah EEC to discuss the program possibilities with our staff.

"Barambah Challenge"
Year Six to Year Nine - Multi-day Excursion Program

Linking technology with teamwork and leadership, the Barambah Challenge is a fun, physical program. Small teams learn the strategies and skills to co-operatively complete a GPS rogaine course. Teams must co-operatively plan out the course they believe they can achieve in the allocated time period. Opportunities are provided for students to learn skills in the use of GPS technology, two-way radios, as well as compass and map reading. By using a team criteria sheet, aerial photographs and a 3 dimensional model, students make decisions about the course they will take and the equipment they will need to carry. The course they choose may take them up hills, through vine or rainforests, across open grasslands and into pine plantations.

Groups accrue points by locating checkpoints, answering checkpoint questions, completing a scavenger hunt and through self and group evaluation of their decisions. All points accumulated are converted to 'Barambah Bucks', which may be used in the Challenge Auction, either as a group total or divided up among the team members.

To conclude the program, the teams tackle our catapult challenge, where after learning useful knot and lashing techniques, they construct large catapults. Teams then use their catapults to launch water bomb missiles at opposing teams.

"T.E.A.M."
Year Four to Year Six - Multi-day Excursion Program

Together Everyone Achieves More – this is the theme of the TEAM program. Students participate in a variety of activities that assist to develop interpersonal skills. The excursion begins with their participation in our group challenge activities, designed to encourage student communication, participation and co-operation. These activities start out with children working with a partner and progressively increase the size of the working groups.

In photo trail and photo orienteering the students use their observation skills to navigate their team through two bushland circuits.

After walking through the rainforest the class is divided into teams. Each team uses available natural materials to construct a shelter large enough for their group. Students then support one another to succeed on the low ropes challenge. The day ends with group involvement in the bushcare project, where students work together on the "Lantana Tug-of-War".

The excursion is concluded with our Barambah Pentathlon, a series of five events requiring group co-operation, communication and participation.

"Astronomy"
Year Two to Year Three - Offsite Excursion Program
Year Four to Year Ten – Offsite Excursion Program
Year Eleven to Year Twelve – Offsite Excursion Program

This program is conducted within your own school grounds. The program begins with a powerpoint presentation and discussion investigating aspects of the Solar System and other features in space. (Classes have the option of completing this part of the program during the day. Students will be required to return to school in the evening for the second part of the program.)

Using a purpose-built starboard, students learn how to locate constellations in the southern sky, and compare European and Aboriginal star patterns and stories. Students may also have the opportunity to use our telescopes to view some of the objects that can be seen in the sky on that evening. Objects may include: planets, moon, globular clusters, comets, or galaxies.

This evening program is dependent on clear weather and moon phases. Teachers wishing to book an Astronomy evening will need to contact Barambah EEC to discuss possible excursion dates.

The astronomy activity may be incorporated into any overnight excursion undertaken at Barambah EEC.