

Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre



Primary Programs 2014

Marine Discovery Program (Stage 1)

Our Stage 1 program is focused on discovery. Students use their senses to explore the marine world including touching marine and beach specimens, listening to marine sounds and observing features of marine environments. The day involves play and marine crafts – increasing awareness of marine environments and issues around impacts. The day can include a walk in the remnant wetland and / or a visit to Terrigal Beach to create marine masterpieces in the sand. (Options for ½ day program)



Marine Discovery Program (Stage 2)

We begin at the Marine Discovery Centre (Terrigal) where students investigate the sea life in our live aquaria, touch preserved specimens and discover more about our marine world and local ecosystems in our displays. Students use recycled & household materials to create marine crafts & learn about some of the issues related to marine debris. The remainder of the day may include a visit to Terrigal Beach, Terrigal Lagoon or through the wetlands to investigate the local environment. Students identify the vegetation and animals we find living in these ecosystems and may undertake water quality testing, water bug surveys and/or beachcombing activities.



Marine Studies (Stage 3)

This program has a greater focus on students collecting data to investigate interactions between living things and their environment. The day begins at the Centre with a round robin of activities, including a tour of the centre and completion of our Junior Marine Scientist Quiz. Following this, students investigate the local ecosystems surrounding the MDC which may include the wetlands, mangroves & lagoon. Students will have the opportunity to use scientific equipment to collect data on the physical characteristics of these ecosystems and undertake surveys to identify the plants and animals living there. This program provides your students with a fun and educational look into the wonders of the marine world.



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Coastal Studies (Stage 2/3)

(Bateau Bay Beach)

Students study this local coastal environment through exciting and hands on activities to gain an understanding of how beaches are formed, what is living (and non-living) on beaches and rock platforms and why we need to protect them. The day begins with a short walk through the National Park from Crackneck Lookout to Bateau Bay.

Activities include:

- Beachcombing - discover the marine environment from items washed up on the shore
- Hands on experiments to investigate how beaches are formed
- A close look at sand dune plants – how do they survive & why do we need them?
- Exploration of the rock platform and identification of living things found there
- Marine themed games & activities

Catchment Study (Stage 3)*

Students undertake a study of the catchment of a local Central Coast creek or river system, sites may include Kincumber, Narara, Wyong or Mangrove Creek. The day will involve travelling from the top of the catchment to the bottom – with stops along the way to test water quality, investigate habitat, sample water bugs and discover local issues. Students will use a variety of scientific equipment to gather first hand data. Workbooks will be provided and a bus is required for the whole day. Mangrove program can be arranged to include a visit to Mangrove dam.

**schools need to organise and pay for bus separately*

Estuary Waterwatch (Stage 3)

Our Estuary Waterwatch program investigates the health of an estuary by looking specifically at vegetation (mangroves / saltmarsh), fauna, habitat values and water quality. Students gain valuable field skills by using a range of scientific equipment to collect data and deduce why it is so important to look after their local environment. Locations include Tuggerah Lakes, Brisbane Water or one of Gosford's coastal lagoons.



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