



## Programs

The following are a selection of VELS and VCE programs offered at Serendip Sanctuary.

### Ranger walks with worksheets

Ranger guided nature walks show students through a variety of habitats found in the Western Plains including Serendip's wetland observation hides and animal enclosures. Ranger guided walks can be tailored to meet specific class requirements.

Below are some programs with accompanying worksheets for use during Ranger Guided Walks.

## VELS

### 'I Spy With My Little Eye'

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VELS Level 1, Science and Humanities

Discover the special animals who live at Serendip Sanctuary and look at what these animals need to survive.



*Eastern Grey Kangaroos are one of many species of free range animals who live at Serendip Sanctuary.*

### 'The Living World'

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VELS Level 2, Science and Humanities

Students discover the unique animals that live at Serendip and learn about their behaviour and habitats.

### 'All the Better for Seeing You With'

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VELS Level 2, Science and Humanities

Explore Serendip Sanctuary's Wetland Walk and discover why birds and mammals are shaped like they are.

### A Wild Place

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VELS Level 3, Science and Humanities

Walk through Serendip's Wetland Walk and explore the habitats some of our special animals need to survive.

### 'Nothing But Stinking Swamps'

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VELS Level 3, Science and Humanities

Students learn about how attitudes towards wetlands have changed over time while they explore Serendip Sanctuary's Wetland Walk.

### 'Wonderful Water'

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VELS Level 3, Science and Humanities

Water is very important to life especially in wetlands. Students learn about the importance of water to Victorian animals and wetlands and how they cope when there's a drought.

### 'Connected Communities'

#### VELS Level 3

*Science and Humanities*

Discover the special animals living at Serendip Sanctuary and how they are connected to, and rely on their environments.

### 'Mini-Beast Observation Walk'

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VELS Level 1, 2&3

Explore the world of minibeasts who live at Serendip Sanctuary. Students find their own samples as well as using pre-prepared minibeast examples.

### 'Caught in the Web'

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VELS Level 4, Science

Learn about wetland food chains while discovering the amazing animals at Serendip Sanctuary.

### 'Changing Plains'

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VELS Level 4, Humanities – Geography

Look at some of the changes to Victoria's Western Plains and meet some of the animals who have had to cope with the more recent changes.

### 'Going Going Gone'

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VELS Level 5, Science

Serendip is home to many endangered Victorian birds and animals. Discover what has happened to make them endangered and how we can help.

### 'The Evolving Plains'

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VELS Level 5, Science

Discover some of the amazing animals who have evolved to live in Victoria's Grasslands and Wetlands.

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**'Wetlands'**

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VELS Level 6, Science

Students explore Serendip's wetlands and discover their characteristics and importance.

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**'The Spark of Life'**

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VELS Level 6, Science

Students follow energy flow through grassland and wetland habitats and learn about the plants and animals who live in them.

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**'What on Earth is That!'**

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VELS Level 6, Science

Explore Serendip Sanctuary and discover a variety of plants and animals that are adapted for life in Victoria's grasslands and wetlands and learn how to classify them.

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**'Upsetting the Applectart'**

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VELS Level 6, Science

While discovering the plants and animals who are adapted for life in Victoria's grasslands and wetlands students learn about their natural cycles and how changes can disrupt them.

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**VCE**

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**'Bizarre Beaks'**

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VCE Biology, Unit 2

Students investigate the different adaptations to bird's beaks that enable them to take advantage of the resources in their particular ecological niche.

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**'Woodland and Wetlands: Dynamic Ecosystems'**

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VCE Biology, Unit 2

Discover some of Victoria's diverse plants and animals. Learn about their complex interactions and the changes they have had to cope with.

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**'Wetland Walk'**

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VCE Environmental Science, Unit 1

Students explore different types of wetlands and look for their similarities and differences and the special characteristics that determine how each functions.

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**'Wetlands – a function and impact analysis'**

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VCE Environmental Science, Unit 2

Students discover Serendip's Wetland habitats and using practical analysis techniques determine the health of a wetland.

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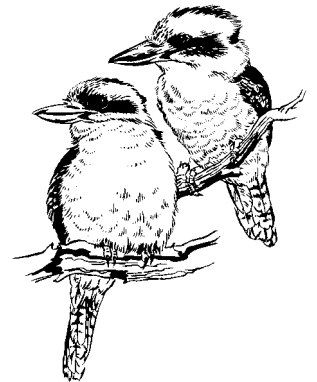
**'Biodiversity Decline'**

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VCE Environmental Science, Unit 3

Students learn about the endangered plants, animals and habitats and look at how each has become endangered, their current management and what their outlook is for the future.

*Serendip's aviaries are home to many Victorian native birds including the Kookaburra.*



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**Other activities**

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**'Ponding for Mini-beasts'**

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All levels

Discover the world of aquatic minibeasts using dip nets and microscopes at a fully equipped ponding site. Ponding is complimented with a Ranger led video microscope activity studying the invertebrates the students have collected.

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**'Duck Feeding Behaviour'**

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VELS Level 5

Observe the ducks on Serendip's wetlands and use the stuffed specimens to work out what each duck eats and how they obtain their food.

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**Water Bird Behaviour and Observation**

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VELS Level 5&6

Water birds exhibit many types of behaviour. Observe the birds at Serendip and discover the importance of these behaviours.

## Serendip Sanctuary

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# education

## Making the most of your visit

- Contact the Education Ranger when planning or preparing your visit.
- Ensure students are prepared for all weather conditions, bring a drink bottle. Wear sunscreen, suitable clothing and footwear.
- The healthiest food for wild animals occurs in nature. Do not feed or encourage animals to take any human food.
- Recycle your rubbish at the waste station situated in the main picnic area or alternatively 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.
- Leave the park in better condition than you found.

## Costs

### Option A: Ranger Led Activities \$5.00 per student

Ranger led activities, all facilities, equipment and curriculum based activities available. Bookings essential.

### Option B: Teacher Guided Activities \$3.20 per student

Teacher led activities, all facilities and equipment available. VELs activities and sheets included.

Bookings required.

### Option C:

Free entry. No additional facilities or VELs based materials supplied. Bookings required.

## What happens if...?

- **Wet weather** – in the event of wet or foul weather please contact the Education Ranger as soon as possible on the day. Under cover programs may be feasible with small groups. Visits can be rescheduled without additional costs.
- **Emergencies** – The Education Ranger holds a Level 2 First Aid qualification and carries a communication device on walks. Teachers and associated leaders are encouraged to carry first aid kits, mobile phones and a list of their schools key contact telephone numbers when out in the park.
- **Wildfire** – Rangers delivering this education program are professional fire fighters and may be required to attend wildfire suppression at short notice. All care is taken to avoid any possible cancellations.
- **Postponements/Cancellations** – Please contact the Education Ranger at least seven days prior to your booking date or with as much notice as is possible.

Explore Serendip and find some of Victoria unique animals who live there. Including Growling Grass Frog: in the Frog Room.



## Information and Bookings

- **SCHOOL BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.**
- For information on Serendip Sanctuary Education Program or education opportunities at the You Yangs Regional Park contact the Education Ranger, Lauren Kelly by telephone on (03) 5282 1584 or email lkelly@parks.vic.gov.au
- For information about other Parks Victoria education programs call the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or visit [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)