

# BIOLOGY CAMP

On Monday, 13th of August, at 8.45am, the Year 11 and 12 Biology students departed from school for their long-awaited Biology Camp, in Mundaring. Most students were quite excitable and eager to arrive, but they didn't plan for Mr. Salsano's granny driving and bad directions. After an hour of enduring the painfully slow (but funny) ordeal we arrived at the Hills National Forest Discovery Centre.



At the Centre we listened to a talk by our guide, Fiona, about the Western Shield Program, and our native fauna and flora. We then journeyed into the bush for a walk, but first did our bit for the environment by scrubbing off our shoes to prevent the spread of Dieback Disease. On our walk we stopped to get our hands dirty and in groups, carried out quadrat samples. This was quite interesting as we learnt how to recognize the different species of plants. After our adventure we went back to base for an awesome lunch. It was very healthy but tasted great (yum!). Once we'd finished eating, we had an animal encounter! We met Squeaky, the Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo; Ebony, the Ring-tailed Possum; Agro and Milo, the Tawny Frogmouths; Spikey, the Short Beaked Echidna; and Albert, the Agile Wallaby. We learnt about these wonderful animals and conservation of our native wildlife.



We then finished up at the Centre and went to the hostel. After we settled in, we embarked on an incredibly long walk around Mundaring Weir. None of us knew what we were in for, and after walking up what seemed like a million stairs, we were quite ready for dinner. Mm... dinner. It was awesome! We had pizza and pasta from the local "Little Caesar's" restaurant, and we got to try delicious dessert pizzas. After we'd stuffed ourselves, we got into our PJ's and got ready for

bed. The next morning, we packed up our things, and went to some nearby bushland to carry out a line transect. This was interesting, and it was quite entertaining to watch several members of the group work out the technical equipment (that is, compasses, ruler, and rope). We then feasted on a great BBQ lunch and unfortunately had to go on another "quick" walk. We then returned back to school. It was then time to say goodbye and go home. On behalf of the Year 11 and 12 Biology students we would like to thank Mr. Salsano, Ms Bennett, and Mrs. Henry for the excellent experiences from which we all took new skills, great memories, and delicious food.

