

Mystery of the Bush Banquet

Kosciuszko National Park

Location

Kosciuszko National Park straddles the highest part of the Great Dividing Range and protects tableland and montane, sub alpine and alpine ecosystems, glacial landforms, limestone caves, the headwaters of major rivers, most of the NSW snow country and Australia's highest peak, Mt Kosciuszko. The park is home to rare, endangered and endemic plants and animals including the Mountain pygmy possum and Corroboree frog.

About this program

The students receive an invitation, which is partly in code, to visit the scene of a bush banquet. When they arrive at the park the children go on a sensory awareness forest walk and participate in activities and games that teach and reinforce the ecological concept of energy flow through food chains. The successful completion of each activity is rewarded with a clue that enables them to break the code and decipher the coded message on the invitation.

Objectives

Students will:

- discuss rules and minimal impact codes of behaviour relating to national parks
- collect, sort and count living things found in the forest
- organise living things into food chains
- observe the forest environment using the senses

Program outline

Meet at Kosciuszko Education Centre

Introduction, safety briefing, morning tea	30 mins
Sensory awareness walk and environmental games	60 mins
Munchline Monitor – a food web activity in the forest	60 mins
Lunch	30 mins
Visit the Banquet Scene & decipher the message	40 mins
Flycatchers – a running food chain game	40 mins
Magic Spot – quiet reflective time in the forest	20 mins
Conclusion, pack up and departure	20 mins

Program

Levels:

Stage 2 & 3

Key learning areas:

HSIE - Australia – You're standing in It
Science & Technology – Our Australia

Key outcomes:

ENS2.5 Describe places in the local area and other parts of Australia and explain their significance
ENS2.6 Describes people's interactions with environments and identifies responsible ways of interacting with environments
LT S2.3 Identifies and describes the structure and function of living things and ways in which living things interact with other living things about their environment
LT S2.3 Observes a local environment and describes how plants and animals rely on each other
LT S3.3 Identifies describes and evaluates the interactions between living things and their effects on the environment.

Location:

Kosciuszko Education Centre, Kosciuszko Road, Sawpit Creek
The centre is located 14 km from Jindabyne towards Perisher.

Duration:

5 hours including lunch break

Availability:

Week days / October to May

Cost:

\$7.00 per student (Minimum fee \$140.00)

Equipment provided:

All environmental games equipment is provided.

Resources

The teacher will be provided with a resource pack containing ideas for follow through activities. Students will be provided with all necessary resources on the day.

Additional references

www.wilderquest.nsw.gov.au
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/education/NationalParkTeachersGuide.pdf
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bioregions/AustralianAlpsBioregion.htm
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/animals/NativeAnimalFactSheetsByTitle.htm
www.backyardbuddies.net.au//Meet_Backyard_buddies.html
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkHome.aspx?id=N0018
www.abc.net.au/acedayjobs/cooljobs/profiles/s2442990.htm

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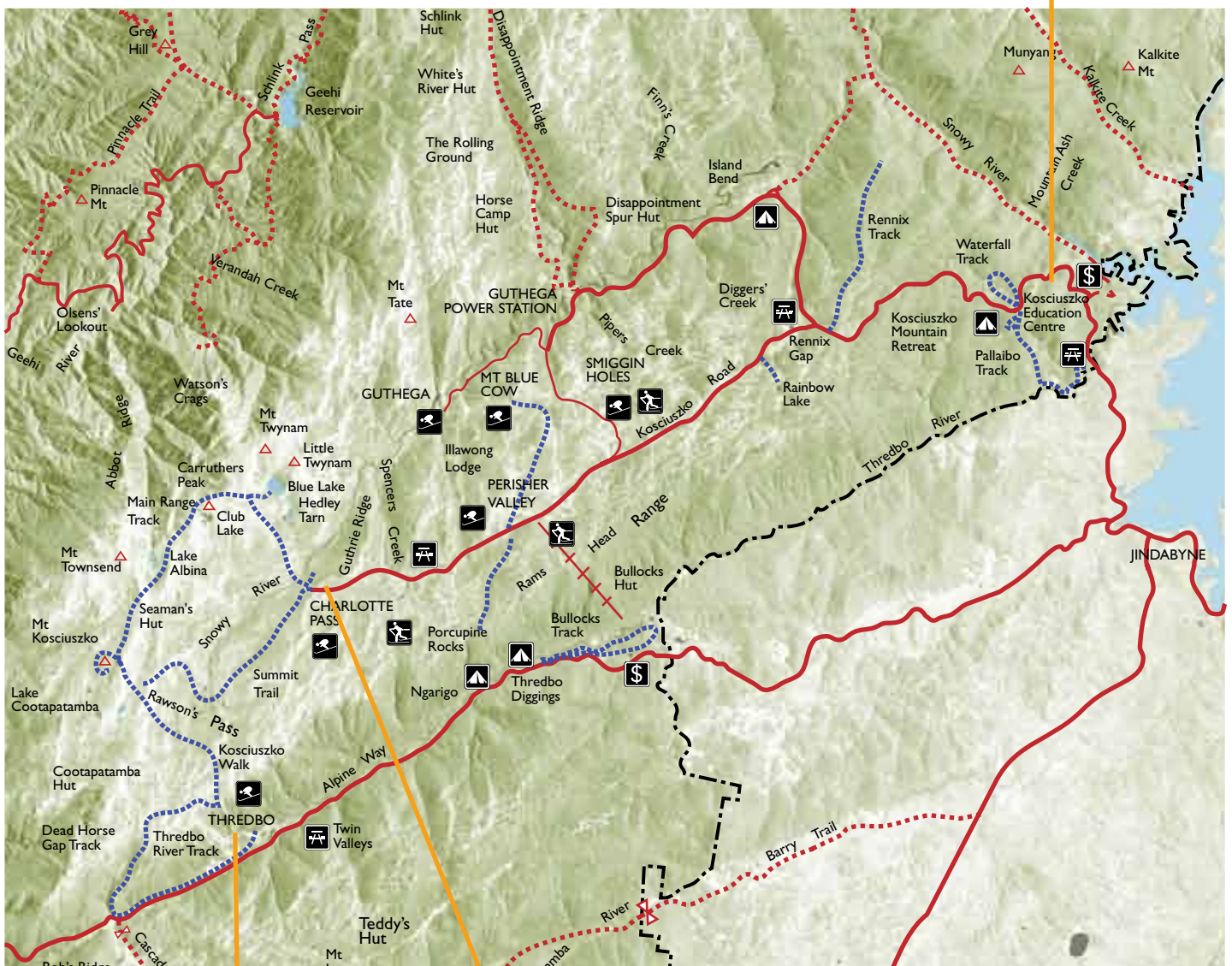
Kosciuszko National Park

Location map

Kosciuszko Education Centre...

Located on Kosciuszko Road at Sawpit Creek 14 km from Jindabyne towards Perisher. The centre is immersed in a mature montane forest, delivers quality educational experiences that help meet school syllabus learning outcomes. Kosciuszko Education Centre has interactive displays, coach and car parking, toilets, lecture room and picnic tables.

Kosciuszko Education Centre



Thredbo Village

Charlotte Pass

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Level of difficulty

Easy - Short walk on and off tracks. Environmental games are in a picnic area.

Access

Wheelchair accessible car park, picnic area, displays and toilets but please let us know in advance if you are bringing someone with special needs so that we can plan accordingly.

Cost

The fee is \$7.00 per student including park use fee while you are with a Discovery Ranger. The minimum fee is \$140.00 (based on 20 students). A tax invoice will be forwarded to your school or excursion organiser after your visit. Teachers and parents free of charge.

Park facilities

Kosciuszko Education Centre, immersed in a mature montane forest has interactive displays, coach and car parking, toilets, lecture room, picnic tables and tea and coffee making facilities for teachers and coach drivers.

What to bring and wear

Everyone should wear long pants, closed comfortable shoes and bring a sun hat, sun cream, jumper, raincoat with hood, adequate food and water and any necessary medications.

Supervision

Discovery Rangers will guide and encourage students as they participate in activities. The control and supervision of students remains the responsibility of the teacher. It is the responsibility of the school to ensure an adequate number of adult supervisors are present.

Excursion planner



Summer classrooms at the Kosciuszko Education Centre



Echidna found throughout Kosciuszko National Park

National Park code of behaviour

- All features in the park are protected and nothing may be damaged or removed
- Stay on the walking tracks
- Light fires only in the fireplaces provided
- No pets are allowed
- Respect the rights of others and keep noise to a minimum
- Please take all litter home

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Safety information - This document provides background information to assist teachers in their risk management planning. Please make your own risk assessment based on the information provided.

Activity description - Discovery Ranger guided walk and activities on bush tracks and in a picnic area. Return distance is approx 4 km from Kosciuszko Education Centre.

Pre activity briefing - Teachers will be advised of appropriate clothes, shoes and personal equipment that everyone should wear or carry before the visit. Participants will be briefed on expected conditions, potential hazards, appropriate behaviour, recommended clothing / shoes and emergency procedures at the start of the activity / day.

Safety equipment - Discovery Rangers carry radios and first aid kits, hold current first aid certificates and are aware of emergency procedures.

Safety information

Location:

Kosciuszko Education Centre to
Charlotte Pass
Kosciuszko Rd
Kosciuszko National Park

Staff Accreditation:

Discovery Rangers have current Senior First Aid accreditation. They are competent in the activity they are leading, experienced working with groups of students in the natural environment and have excellent knowledge of the specific areas they are visiting including being aware of the potential hazards of the location. Discovery Rangers have been screened for child-related employment and have completed a Prohibited Employment Declaration

Emergencies:

Discovery Rangers are trained to deal with emergencies and emergency procedures are in place. Discovery Rangers have been instructed to call an ambulance whenever there is any doubt as to the continued well-being of a student or other visitor. Ongoing supervision of a student following first aid treatment will be the responsibility of the visiting school.

Contact details:

Kosciuszko Education Centre
PO Box 2228 Jindabyne. NSW 2627
Ph: (02) 6451 3700
Fax: (02) 6456 2324
Email: kosci.education@environment.nsw.gov.au

Potential risks	Suggested control strategies
Pre-existing medical conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Teachers will notify Discovery Coordinator of pre-existing medical / mobility conditions at least 24 hours before the visit ie return the "Pre-existing medical Information" form.Students susceptible to asthma, allergies or other conditions to carry personal medication and the teacher will be aware of their individual health plan.High risk students to be identified and monitored by teachers and carers.
Exposure to heat or cold	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information re appropriate protective clothes forwarded to schools prior to visit.Ensure participants have adequate drinking water, food and shelter.
Severe weather conditions including strong winds, snow, hail, lightning strikes, very high bushfire risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Check weather forecasts prior to the activity, monitor throughout the visit and adjust activity according to weather conditions eg stay indoors
Bites and stings (insects, spiders, snakes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students briefed on appropriate behaviour at start of activity/day
Allergic reactions eg ants, nuts, plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">High risk students to be identified and monitored by teachers/carers. Students at risk of anaphylactic shock to have access to own EpiPen or other medication according to individual health plan.
Students lost or separated from group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Brief teachers and carers on route and procedure for waiting at all track intersections.Bushwalking group management practices eg buddy system, regular head counts and 'Tail end Charley' with regular stops are adopted
Variations in track surfaces (trip hazards)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Discovery Ranger is familiar with activity site. Continue to assess for hazards eg ice on tracks
Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Discovery Rangers will meet and greet children as they arrive and instruct them to wait in a safe location.Avoid crossing roads but if this is necessary then ensure everyone crosses the road under direction of teachers or NPWS staff.
Sticks, rocks & stones	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Brief children to leave sticks & stones on ground at all times and to avoid climbing on rock boulders or large logs.