

Longneck Lagoon Environmental Education Centre



Information for Visiting Teachers

Phone: (02) 4573 6323 **Fax:** (02) 4573 6534

Website: www.longneck-e.schools.nsw.edu.au

Email: longneck-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Postal Address: Longneck Lagoon Environmental Education Centre
Whitmore Road
Maraylya NSW 2765

Index

Staff at Longneck Lagoon EEC	page 2
How to make a booking	page 2
About Longneck Lagoon EEC	page 3
Preparing for a visit	pages 4 - 5
Programs	pages 6 - 7
Travel Information	pages 8 - 9

Staff at Longneck Lagoon EEC

Vicky Whitehead	Principal
Corina Walker	Teacher
Julie Field	School Administrative Manager
Chris Perkins	General Assistant

How to make a booking

Phone bookings are accepted at any time but plan early to ensure your preferred date.

Please have the following details ready:

- name of school
- organising teacher
- year or stage of students
- number of students
- any special requirements of the students
- focus for excursion e.g. Life cycles, Year 11 Biology, Leadership

About Longneck Lagoon

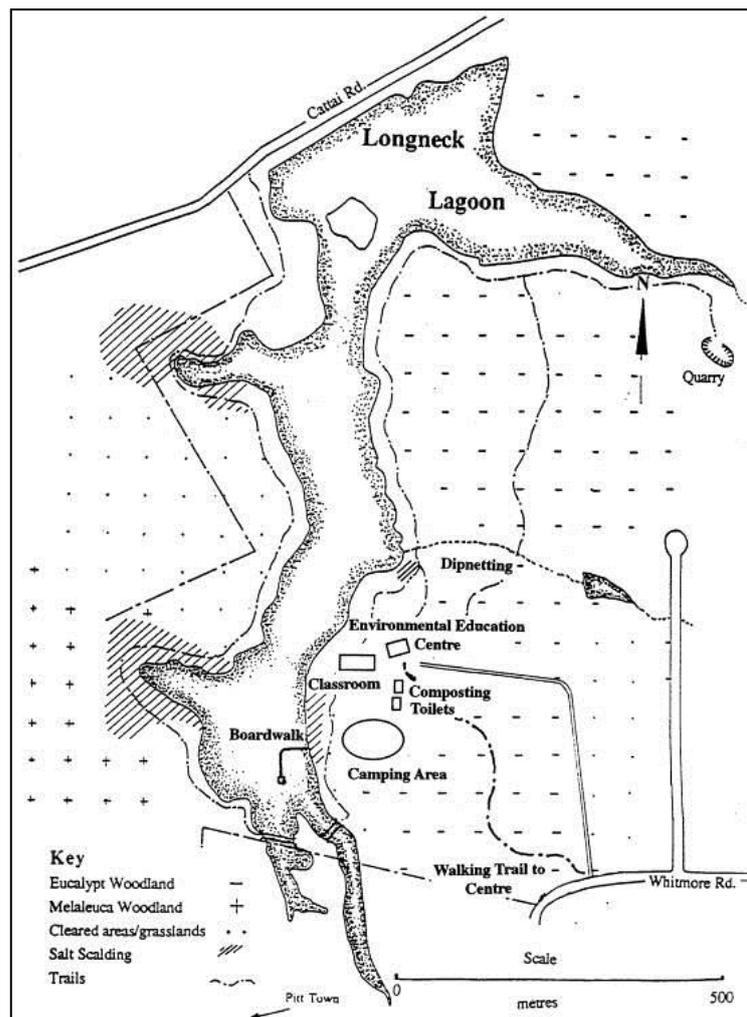
Longneck Lagoon Environmental Education Centre is located in Scheyville National Park, 12km north of Windsor. The National Park comprises 952 hectares of remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland and includes a seventeen hectare freshwater lagoon.

There are three endangered species of flora and fauna and over 160 species of birds recorded in the park, making it a significant conservation area for flora and fauna in the Sydney basin.

Scheyville National Park has a significant Aboriginal and European heritage. There are several Aboriginal sites located around the lagoon including middens and camp sites. European history dates back to 1794 when the area formed part of the Nelson Common. Impacts from this land use can be observed around the Longneck Lagoon catchment.

The lagoon and surrounding woodland provide opportunities for students K-12, TAFE, University and community groups to experience a freshwater ecosystem. The majority of the Centre's programs are based on studies of the wetland as a fragile and dynamic environment.

Facilities at our centre include an office, classroom, a kitchen equipped for catering, staff and student toilets and a range of low ropes elements.



Preparing for a Visit

Student numbers

Curriculum based programs

Curriculum based programs are delivered in groups (usually class groups) with a maximum group size of 30 students. Centre teaching staff lead all teaching and learning activities. ***Numbers above 60 can be negotiated and incur an additional staffing fee to enable experienced and trained centre staff to lead a third group (total maximum number of students is 90 per day).***

Leadership and team building programs

Leadership and team building programs are delivered in groups with a maximum group size of 12 students. Centre teaching staff lead all activities. ***Numbers above 24 can be negotiated and incur an additional staffing fee to enable experienced and trained centre staff to lead a third group (total maximum number of students is 36 per day).***

Pre-visit communication

A timetable, teachers' notes and risk management information will be sent several weeks before the visit. Student worksheets can be downloaded from our website (if applicable). Please contact us if you would like any further information or guidance.

Medical and health

Visiting teachers should be aware of any welfare concerns that may affect a student during a visit. These must be noted on the ***Student Welfare Return*** form and faxed to the Centre prior to the visit. All EEC staff have current first aid certificates and first aid kits are carried by staff during activities.

Wet weather

The decision to postpone a visit is made in consultation with the organising teacher. When a visit is postponed due to wet weather we will endeavour to find an alternative date.

Fire policy

Occasionally an extreme fire danger exists and the National Parks and Wildlife Service will close all affected parks. If this occurs we will endeavour to find an alternative date.

Waste

Please use waste minimisation as a teaching point before the visit. An ***Earth Friendly Lunch*** is one way to reduce waste and thereby protect the environment. If the students don't wish to take their rubbish back to school, there are recycling, composting and general rubbish bins available.

An ***Earth Friendly Lunch*** is one that has only recyclable or reusable containers for packaging and reduces the amount of rubbish.

An example of an ***Earth Friendly Lunch*** might be:

1. a sandwich or wrap in grease-proof paper can be composted
2. a drink in a reusable container which goes home for a wash
3. fresh fruit - Nature has provided its own compostable packaging!
4. biscuits and cake in a paper bag which can be composted.

Parent helpers

Parents and caregivers are very welcome to attend the excursion. We particularly encourage parents and caregivers to come and assist with K-2 groups.

Centre rules

We encourage the students to protect the environment during their visit. There are three important ways they can assist:

- look after the bugs they catch and replace them in their habitat after they have studied them
- keep to the trails to prevent damage to the bush
- place rubbish in the appropriate bins. Our rubbish is often harmful to native animals.

Programs

Primary

Curriculum based programs

A range of curriculum based programs are offered addressing outcomes from the Science and Technology K-6 Syllabus, Natural Environment strand and Living World substrand. Programs detailing the outcomes and teaching activities are available for download on our website.

Leadership programs

Programs are tailored to meet the needs of student leadership groups (e.g. student leaders and SRC representatives). Activities utilise a range of equipment and locations within the grounds to highlight communication, problem solving and teamwork skills.

Team building programs

Programs are tailored to meet the needs of students requiring assistance in developing interpersonal skills. Activities utilise a range of equipment and locations within the grounds to highlight communication, problem solving and teamwork skills.

Enrichment programs

Stage 2

Who Killed Kermit?

Students learn the premise of scientific method then work in small teams to conduct a series of investigations in order to solve an ecological mystery. This program is delivered with a maximum of 12 students (4 students from 3 schools) and is by invitation only.

Stage 3

Treasure Trackers

Students learn to use a compass and GPS then work in small teams to locate and solve a series of puzzling treasures. This program is delivered with a maximum of 12 students (4 students from 3 schools) and is by invitation only.

Secondary

Curriculum based programs

A range of Science based programs are offered for Stage 6 students addressing outcomes from the relevant syllabus. Resources and support materials including student work booklets are available for download on our website. Additional curriculum based programs for other stages can be negotiated with centre staff.

Stage 6 Biology (A Local Ecosystem)

Stage 6 Senior Science (Local Environment)

Stage 6 Earth and Environmental Science

Leadership programs

Programs are tailored to meet the needs of student leadership groups (e.g. student leaders and SRC representatives). Activities utilise a range of equipment and locations within the grounds to highlight communication, problem solving and teamwork skills.

Team building programs

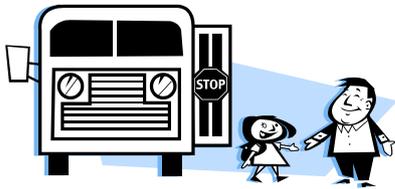
Programs are tailored to meet the needs of students requiring assistance in developing interpersonal skills. Activities utilise a range of equipment and locations within the grounds to highlight communication, problem solving and teamwork skills.

Enrichment programs

Stage 5

Bandicoots, Bugs and the Bush

This program is delivered in collaboration with the University of Western Sydney at their Richmond Campus. It provides students with the opportunity to interact with university academic staff, utilise equipment and laboratory space at UWS Richmond while conducting purposeful investigations in local endangered woodlands. This program is delivered with a maximum of 18 students from nominating schools.



Travel Information

Longneck Lagoon Environmental Education Centre is located near Pitt Town and is approximately 35km north-west of Parramatta.

The entrance to the Centre is on Whitmore Road, Maraylya (near Greenfield Place).

Access to the Centre may be made:

- a) **via McGraths Hill then Pitt Town** following Cattai Road for 1.2km out of Pitt Town and turning right onto Pitt Town Dural Road, then left into Whitmore Road.
- b) **via Windsor Road to Vineyard** turning into Boundary Road. At the 'T' intersection turn left onto Pitt Town Dural Road (this road veers right and changes name to Pebbly Hill Road) and take the second left which is Whitmore Road.

Large buses are required to park at the gate. Students and teachers can follow the driveway from the gate to the Environmental Education Centre.

Smaller vehicles may be driven down to the Environmental Education Centre but must park in the visitors parking area located near the mud brick shed.

Map

