

Overview

River Rangers: Year 4



Toohey Forest
**Environmental
Education
Centre**



Curriculum Intent

Science

- Living things have life cycles (ACSSU072)
- Living things depend on each other and the environment to survive (ACSSU073)
- Science knowledge helps people to understand the effect of their actions (ACSHE062)

HASS

- The importance of environments, including natural vegetation, to animals and people (ACHASSK088)

SUSTAINABILITY

- All life forms are connected through ecosystems on which they depend for their wellbeing and survival (OI.2)

River Rangers is a full day program that utilises scenario-based learning aligned to the *Australian Curriculum: Science*.

Students embark on a journey to investigate a freshwater environment. They are presented with a problem facing the Toohey Forest pond prior to their visit, which is the over-abundance of introduced cane toads in the aquatic habitat.

On the day of their excursion, students meet a 'Cane Toad Controller' who proposes poisoning the water in the pond to reduce the cane toad population. Students take on the role of Environmental Scientists to collect and analyse data, then propose alternative management strategies for the site.

Down at the pond, students make observations and learn about a variety of cane toad management strategies. They then conduct dip netting to collect macroinvertebrates. Back at the centre students use a large digital microscope to view the macroinvertebrates in detail to identify and sort them into lifecycle stages and how they feed.

Students then create food chains specific to the freshwater environment and analyse the impact of introducing an invasive species such as the cane toad. Students also identify and record the life cycle stages of the cane toad.

At the end of the day the 'Cane Toad Controller' returns and students revisit the problem statement applying their new knowledge to propose alternative strategies to manage the cane toad problem.

The program concludes with students experiencing the live animals to learn about their lifecycles and how they feed.

River Rangers has been assessed as medium risk. A Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment is available on request. A student field booklet will be provided upon confirmation of your booking.

