Wetlands Environmental Education Centre
Stage 6
Geography: Biophysical Interactions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KLA</th>
<th>Geography</th>
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<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>Geography, Preliminary Course - Biophysical Interactions (P1, P2, P3, P8, P9, P11, P12)</td>
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<td>Content</td>
<td>Ecosystems, interactions, distribution and abundance, and management issues</td>
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<td>Location</td>
<td>Hunter Wetlands Centre, 412 Sandgate Rd, Shortland, Newcastle</td>
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<td>Site Description</td>
<td>Wetlands EEC is located at Hunter Wetlands Centre, a managed wetland reserve with both artificial and natural water features accessed by decks and established walking tracks. WEEC has a purpose built education centre including theatre, wet room and classroom. The site is classified as part of the Hunter Estuary Ramsar Site under the International Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar). The Wetlands EEC is a school and staff are trained teachers specialising in Environmental Education. Wetlands EEC have a purpose built education centre including theatre, wet room and classroom.</td>
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| Program Description | Students will investigate an aquatic ecosystem and calculate some of the factors which affect plant and animal life, identify some aspects of water flow, and analyse and summarise those aspects of the wetlands habitat which have been affected by people. PowerPoint Introduction Fieldwork including:  
  Biophysical factors: water and air temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction water depth, pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen. Use Data Loggers to test including salinity.  
  Distribution and abundance of pond animals and plants: Fixed transect, Quadrats and dip nets  
  Management Issues are investigated during a site walk. Conclusion: Issues balancing the management of tourism and conservation. This program is usually delivered over 4hrs. The basic program will be changed to suit larger groups or weather conditions. Wetlands EEC teachers rely on the participation of visiting teachers to meet recommended supervision levels. Visiting teachers are ultimately responsible for behaviour of students, students with existing medical conditions or special needs. |
| Excursion information | What to bring: Clipboard and pencils, recess and lunch, refillable water bottle, hat, sunscreen, comfortable, covered walking shoes plus any special requirements of the group. (Wet weather gear when necessary). Non-aerosol insect repellent is advisable. Pre-ordered light lunches only are available for purchase in The Wetlands Centre's café. |
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