

The Darebin Creek Education Program (DCEP) seeks to engage schools and the community in valuing and protecting their local waterways. We run creek education activities that are locally based, hands-on and engaging. Our creek education excursions and incursions are free thanks to funding from your local council. Contact us to arrange a visit to your school or an excursion to your local creek or river, or to the Darebin Parklands in Alphington. The DCEP is run by Darebin Creek Management Committee.

## What is that Waterbug?

Students investigate waterbugs (freshwater macroinvertebrates) that live in the Darebin Creek. They use spoons to catch waterbugs from creek water in trays, and identify bugs using supplied charts. The type and number of bugs identified will give the students clues about the health of the wetland or creek. A very popular activity!



## Water Quality Testing

Students become real life water scientists by investigating the health of water from the creek. They get their own samples of water straight from the creek and conduct a number of different tests including temperature, pH, salinity and turbidity using a scientific testing kit. Students discuss their results and the effects of water pollution.



## Litter Audits

Students conduct an environmental clean-up of the school grounds or creek bushland using supplied gloves, bags and tongs. They record the items found and can investigate the data, potentially creating a Source Reduction Plan to target most numerous litter items. A hands-on activity with real world outcomes!

## DCEP Goes Online!

NEW! A necessity during COVID-19 lockdowns, we are now offering ongoing online presentations on a number of topics. Teacher to host and provide link, using school's preferred platform e.g. WebEx. Follow-up online resources and curriculum links available. Topics include: Frogs, Waterbugs, Threats to the Creek, Citizen Science, Platypus, Eels and Rakali.

In 2019 thirty-six school and community groups, including over 2,400 students, took part in our free education program. This is what they said:

*You made fieldwork come alive for our students and I am sure they will have a different perspective and appreciate more the life in and around the creek.*

Teacher, Reservoir High School.

It's been a pleasure working with DCMC. It's wonderful to have a real local connection to our students learning and has assisted their engagement. We look forward to calling upon DCMC again! St Raphael's School, Preston.

## Did You Know?

Your students can do free Smartphone Orienteering at Darebin Parklands in Alphington? Students just need to download the free app to do the Darebin Parklands Orienteering Course. It is great for fitness, heaps of fun and a great crash course in geography. Ask Peter for more information.

Call Peter on  
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