

## Kosciuszko Education Centre

### Secondary Geography & Science Programs

#### KOSCIUSZKO ALPINE AREA - A FRAGILE ENVIRONMENT

The possibility of studying the lithosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere in the fragile Kosciuszko alpine area, combined with looking at the impact people have had on this environment and how the area is now being managed makes this a popular study topic for senior high school geography and biology students.

Our programs include opportunities for students to acquire knowledge through direct observations, field measurement, recording information, drawing field sketches, asking questions and working in teams. The students identify, gather, interpret and evaluate information from a range of sources and communicate ideas and information.

#### KOSCIUSZKO - A SPECIAL PLACE

This slide / lecture presentation highlights the unique natural and cultural features of the area, interaction of the four spheres, human impact and park management. The session gives your students the opportunity to have questions answered by National Parks and Wildlife Service staff. Allow time to give students an opportunity to gather information from the Centre displays after the presentation. Consider combining this presentation with the *Going Up The Mountain* field trip.

**Junior secondary learning outcomes:** Geography 5A1, 5A2, E1 Science 4.8, 4.10, 4.16, 5.10, 5.11

**Senior secondary learning outcomes:** P1, P2, P3, P8, P9, H2, H5, H6, H9, H10, H12

**Key competencies:** 2,5

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Available:** All year at Kosciuszko Education Centre

**Cost:** \$2.20 (inc GST) per student. Min fee \$55.00

#### GOING UP THE MOUNTAIN

A field trip featuring the soil, landforms, weather, flora and fauna in montane, sub-alpine and alpine zones, the impact of grazing and ski resort development, park planning and management strategies. Information is gathered from several locations beside Kosciuszko Road between Sawpit Creek and Charlotte Pass so students will need to have transport available during the day. Worksheet masters provided.

**Junior secondary learning outcomes:** Geog 5A1, 5A2, E1

**Science** 4.2, 4.8, 4.10, 4.14, 4.15, 4.22, 5.10, 5.11, 5.15

**Senior secondary learning outcomes:** P1, P2, P3, P8, P9, P12, H1, H2, H5, H6, H7, H10, H12, H13

**Key competencies:** 1, 2, 3, 5

**Duration:** approx 5 hours

**Available:** November to May

**Cost:** \$6.60 (inc GST) per student. Min fee \$132.00

## ABOVE THE TREE LINE GUIDED WALKS

Guided walks to Blue Lake or Mt Kosciuszko give students the opportunity to observe geomorphological features, plant and animal adaptations, human impacts and learn about the interactions of the spheres and management strategies in the alpine zone. Work sheet masters provided.

**Learning outcomes:** P1, P2, P3, P6, P8, P12, H1, H2, H5, H6, H10, H12 **Key competencies:** 1, 2, 3

**Duration:** 4 to 7 hours **Available:** December to April (weather and snow permitting)

**Cost:** \$11.00 (inc GST) per student. Min fee \$220.00. NB: If the Thredbo-Mt Kosciuszko walk is chosen participants will also need to purchase a chairlift ticket.

## BIODIVERSITY SURVEY (Stage 4-5)

After an introduction to the concept of biodiversity, and the scientific equipment to be used, the students undertake a biodiversity survey in a forest environment. Their observations and measurements are recorded in a poster format.

**Learning outcomes:** Geography 5A1, 5A2

**Science** 4.2, 4.8, 4.10, 4.14, 4.15, 4.16, 4.17, 4.18, 4.19, 4.21, 4.22, 5.10, 5.11, 5.15, 5.19

**Key competencies:** Geography 1,2,3,5 **Science** 4/5.23, 4/5.24, 4/5.25, 4/5.26, 4/5.27

**Duration:** 5 hours **Available:** November to May

**Cost:** \$6.60 (inc GST) per student. Min fee \$132.00

## KOSCIUSZKO TRIVIA QUIZ (Stage 4-5)

Participants will learn about the natural and cultural heritage of the park by collecting answers for the quiz and watching a short video about the park. Competitive drive and fun is created by the offer of trivial prizes. Work sheets provided.

**Junior secondary learning outcomes:** Geography 5A1, 5A2, E1 **Science** 4.8, 4.10, 4.16, 5.10, 5.11

**Key competencies:** 2,5

**Duration:** 1 hour **Available:** All year at the Kosciuszko Education Centre only.

**Cost:** \$2.20 (inc GST) per student. Min fee \$55.00

## STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING (Stage 6 only)

This is a role play activity in which students work in teams of 'expert' soil scientists, geomorphologists, hydrologists, climatologists, botanists, biologists, historians, pest species officers, park planners and legal advisers. Their task is to gather information from a variety of sources, including audio tapes, centre displays, books and scientific papers, and report back to the group on the unique features of the alpine area and the impact of a hypothetical ski resort on the alpine area. Student presentations are video taped and the tape and all research notes are taken back to school. Work sheets provided.

**Learning outcomes:** P2, P3, P6, P8, P9, P12, H1, H2, H5, H6, H9, H10, H12, H13

**Key competencies:** 1, 2, 3, 5, 6

**Duration:** 2 hours **Available:** All year

**Cost:** \$5.50 (inc GST) per student. Min fee \$110.00

## EXAMPLES OF SUMMER PROGRAMS

Stage 4/5 - \$14.30 per student

Day 1 Kosciuszko ~ a special place/  
Biodiversity Survey

Day 2 Half day guided walk - Travel

Stage 6 - \$25.30 per student

Day 1 Kosciuszko ~ a special place/  
Going up the Mountain

Day 2 Above the tree line guided walk

Day 3 Strategic Planning Meeting - Travel

## Kosciuszko Education Centre

### Primary Summer Programs

#### LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE

An excursion is a learning experience and should be an integral part of the school's curriculum and the students' learning program. The Kosciuszko Education Program, which has been operating since 1989, offers programs that are designed to enhance understanding through direct observation and experience so that syllabus outcomes are achieved.

Our programs aim to give students the opportunity to observe, explore, enjoy and learn about the forest environment through structured activities in a supportive environment.

#### EXPLORING THE KOSCIARIUM

Students watch a short video "Sharing the High Country – Kosciuszko National Park" and have time to enjoy displays including the 'hands-on' displays in the *Kosciarium* while the teachers share a cuppa! Unlike the Kosciuszko Gameshow, the students are not encouraged to gather written information from the displays.

**Stage:** Stage 2 & 3

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Available:** All year

**Cost:** \$2.75 (inc GST) per student

#### KOSCIUSZKO GAMESHOW & KOSCIARIUM

Students use the information they gather from display boards to compete in a loud, outlandish Gameshow. The students enjoy the challenge of a competitive game and the opportunity to support their team by cheering. Teachers will see that their students are learning without being aware of it. The students' work sheets (Cheat Notes) are taken home by the teacher. After the Gameshow the students explore the hands-on displays in the *Kosciarium* while the teachers enjoy a cuppa!

**Stage:** Stage 3

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Available:** All year

**Cost:** \$4.40 (inc GST) per student

#### PARKS R 4 L.I.F.E.

This program is designed to meet the needs of students studying the 'State and National Parks' unit from the HSIE Stage 2 syllabus but it is also popular with Stage 3 groups. An invitation to visit the national park, a crossword and four of the sixteen clues needed to solve it are sent to the class before their visit. During their park visit the students will search for signs of life in the forest, learn how Aboriginal people use plants, find out about the roles of national parks employees and participate in an activity which will help them see the park in a new way. Participants will be rewarded with the missing clues for the crossword and will learn that parks are for **L**iving things, **I**ndigenous people, **F**orever and for **E**njoyment. Student workbooks provided.

**Stage:** 2 & 3

**Duration:** 5 hours

**Available:** Oct - May

**Cost:** \$6.60 (inc GST) per student

## MYSTERY OF THE BUSH BANQUET

The students receive an invitation (partly in code) to visit the scene of a bush banquet prior to their visit. When they arrive the children participate in a class discussion and a sensory awareness walk, search for evidence of life in the forest and play a game to reinforce the concept of food chains.

After lunch the students break a code to discover who was at the banquet, discuss how Australia's landscape has changed in the past two hundred years, develop a plan to reduce the impact their lifestyle is having on natural systems and play an active running game to discover the impacts changing natural ecosystems will have on animals. Student work sheets provided.

**Stage: 2 & 3**

**Available:** Oct - May

**Duration:** 5 hours

**Cost:** \$6.60 (inc GST) per student

## PORCUPINE ROCKS OR RAINBOW LAKE GUIDED WALKS

Although we are reluctant to encourage primary school groups to embark on long alpine walks we do enjoy leading young students on walks in lower altitudes. We will teach your students about alpine plants, animals and landforms, bush safety and bushwalking etiquette.

**Stage: 3**

**Available:** Dec to April (weather & snow permitting)

**Duration:** 4 to 7 hours

**Cost:** \$11.00 (inc GST) per student.

## GUDJAGA BARMBLI - CHILDREN'S CAMP

Students will visit the forest to learn how Aboriginal people obtained food, medicine, fibre and tools from local plants. Activities include making string from plants, grinding seed and creating Aboriginal style art using natural ochre. Whenever possible we engage Aboriginal guides for these bookings. If time permits your students will also explore the hands-on activities in our *Kosciarium*. Max 60 students.

**Stage: 3**

**Available:** October- May

**Duration:** 5 hours

**Cost:** \$6.60 (inc GST) per student

## EARTHKEEPERS™

Earthkeepers is for those teachers who genuinely want a learning adventure that will captivate and motivate their students, setting them off on a quest that must be completed later.

To become Earthkeepers students must earn four 'KEYS' and unlock four boxes representing Knowledge, Experience, Yourself and Sharing. A mysterious figure, 'E.M.' provides the motivation and magically ties together the hidden meanings behind the 'keys'. The program includes a sensory awareness walk, four concept building activities (dealing with energy flow, cycling of materials, interrelationships and change), a bushwalk following a sketch map and diary, time for solitude and much more. Almost all activities are undertaken in the natural environment and students are actively involved in all activities. Learning is reinforced through student workbooks and participation in the team based, TV styled gameshow. Work books and participant materials supplied.

**Stage:** Stage 3

**Available:** October - May

**Duration:** 3 days

**Cost:** \$27.50 (inc GST) per student