

ARBURY PARK OUTDOOR SCHOOL

*Making connections with our environment
Living and learning together*

Bridgewater, South Australia

www.arburypark.sa.edu.au



Arbury Park Outdoor School is a purpose built residential facility, situated on 32 hectares near Bridgewater in the Mt Lofty Ranges, 23 km from Adelaide. It is a state-wide service of the Department for Education that commenced operation in March 1976.

Learning in the outdoors

The unique natural environment of Arbury Park is a rich classroom full of things to explore and discover. Learning at Arbury Park is guided by our three core values:

CURIOSITY is an eagerness to discover new things, to wonder and to learn. When we are curious we explore the mysteries of our world.

COMMUNITY is about the connections in our lives; connections between each other, with places and with things. Our community is the web of our relationships. It gives us a sense of belonging.

CARE means giving love and attention to people and things that matter. When we care about something or someone we try to give our best.





Dormitories sleep up to 16 people in double bunks.



Toilet

Dormitory 3

Each dormitory has an attached toilet.



Male and female shower blocks each have five individual shower cubicles.



The dining room caters for up to 100 people at a time. Trained catering staff prepare special diets on request.



There is a large gym for day and night activities



Curriculum

Arbury Park offers a range of activities. These activities are grouped according to the themes below.

[Exploring ecology](#)

Freshwater life, Bird ecology, Animal survival, Looking for evidence, Nature's recyclers, Catchment walk, Weather trail, Web of life game, Hidden world

[Taking action](#)

Landcare, Bushcare, Nesting boxes, Bee hotel, Plant propagation

[Group development](#)

Cooperation games, Team challenge, Bush survival, Mission survival, Shelter building, Drumming

[Creativity and imagination](#)

Earth art, Earth walk, Appy Arbury, Magic spot

[Outdoor recreation](#)

Maps and symbols, Orienteering, Hiking, Campfire cooking

[Aboriginal cultural studies](#)

Ochre painting, tools and artefacts, dreaming stories.

Exploring Ecology



Freshwater Life

Students collect samples of invertebrates using nets and observe them using magnifiers, microscopes and video camera. They explore feeding relationships, adaptations for survival and habitat requirements of freshwater life.





The
Microscope
Room

VBSA

M-SCOPE
RM





Animal Survival

Students learn about animal adaptations and interrelationships using living and preserved animals in our Ecocentre.



Bird Ecology

Students practise the skills of bird watching and identification. They observe bird behaviour and discuss how different species fit into the overall ecology of different habitats. A collection of stuffed bird specimens allows close examination.

Nature's Recyclers

Students look for fungi and leaf litter invertebrates and observe them using magnifiers and microscopes.



Looking for Evidence

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a light-colored t-shirt and dark shorts, is crouching on the ground in a forest. He is looking down at a clear plastic tray with multiple compartments. The tray contains various small objects, including what appears to be a small insect, a piece of wood, and other natural debris. The boy is holding a small object in his hand, examining it closely. The ground is covered with dry leaves and twigs, and there are trees in the background.

Students become 'bush detectives' as they search for evidence of animal life in the stringybark forest.



Weather Trail

A trail leads students to investigate how local features can create microclimates.





Catchment Walk

With the aid of maps and a 3D model, students walk through the school property to experience the features of a catchment. They explore how land use affects drainage and water quality and compare this to their local catchment.

Web of Life

A simulation game in which students play the roles of predator and prey animals. To 'survive' they must locate 'water' and 'food' that is hidden in an open woodland habitat.





Taking Action



Plant Propagation

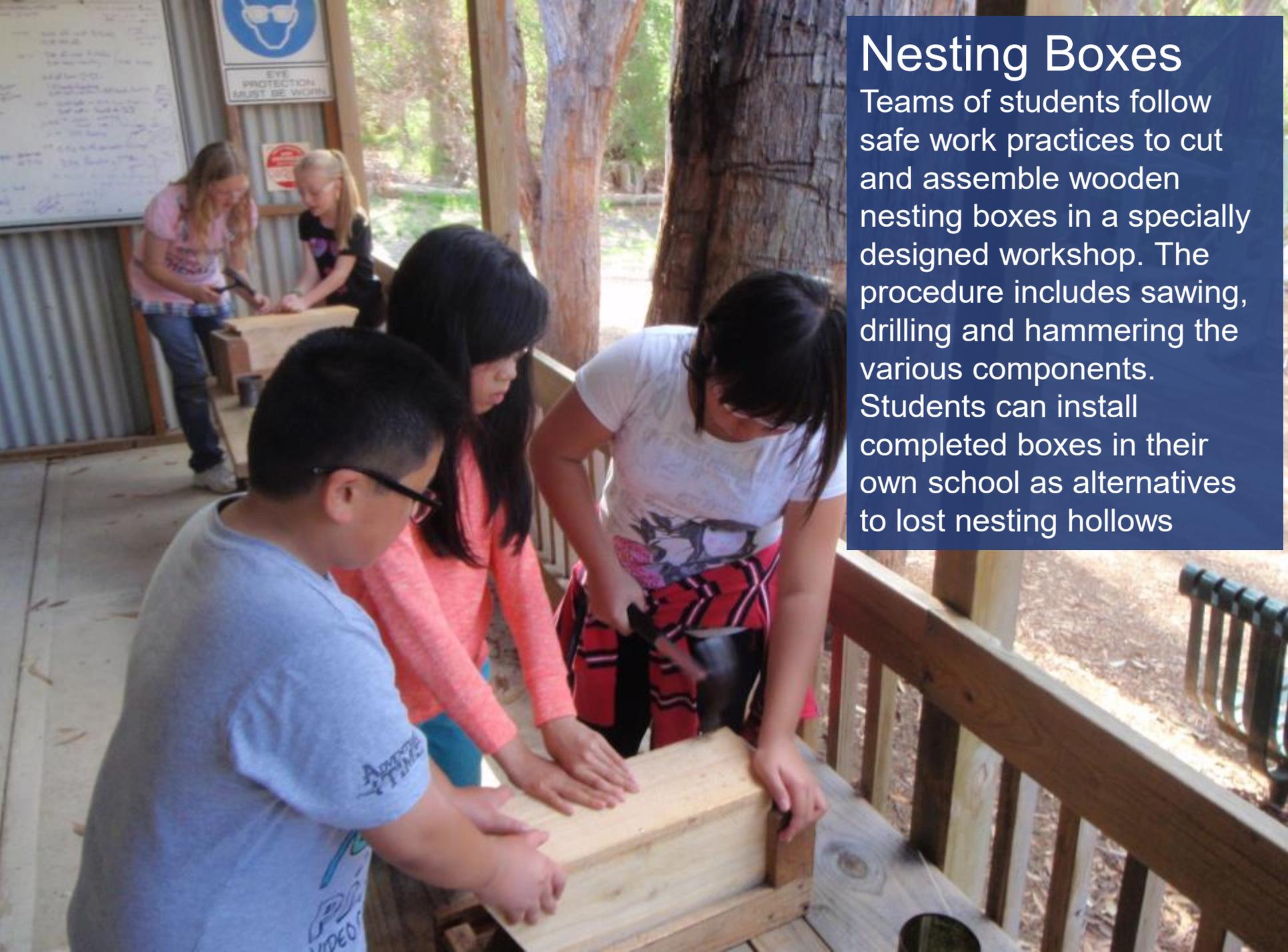
In the school's plant nursery, students learn basic nursery procedure to propagate local species from seed. This follows an exploration of flowering plant reproduction and diversity, including flowers, seeds, seed "containers", and survival features of local plant groups.



Landcare/Bushcare

Students get their hands dirty working on rehabilitation projects using local species propagated in the school's nursery. They explore the benefits of regeneration and caring for remnant bushland.





Nesting Boxes

Teams of students follow safe work practices to cut and assemble wooden nesting boxes in a specially designed workshop. The procedure includes sawing, drilling and hammering the various components. Students can install completed boxes in their own school as alternatives to lost nesting hollows

Bee Hotel

Students create 'bee bundles' and 'bee blocks' to provide habitat for native bee species. They explore the importance of native bees and the differences between native bees and European honeybees.



Outdoor Recreation



Hiking

Hikes include the school boundary, half day circuits of Mt George Conservation Park, an historic loop into the township of Bridgewater, and day hikes along sections of the Heysen Trail. Students learn about preparing for a safe hike.



Orienteering

Arbury Park has a number of permanent orienteering courses that use colour, scale orienteering maps. The courses become sequentially more challenging in distance and navigation.



Campfire Cooking

In groups of three to five, students learn about and create small fires then cook and eat simple camp food.



Group Development



Cooperation Games

Students play a sequence of games that help them practice the skills of cooperation: joining in, listening carefully, talking calmly and including others.





Team Challenge

Students solve group challenges by working cooperatively in small teams. The challenges reinforce the skills of concentrating, persisting, encouraging others, sharing ideas and learning from mistakes.



Mission Survival

Following instructions on a secret recorded message, students carry a container of toxic waste through a series of challenges. To survive this dangerous mission they need to use all of their communication, thinking and teamwork skills.

Bush Survival

Students participate in a half-day simulation/role play team survival challenge in a secluded bush setting. They explore their skills in emergency shelter building, simple cooking on an open fire, problem solving and working cooperatively with others. Term 2 and 3 only.





Drumming

Students use djembe drums and other percussive instruments to explore rhythm patterns and their own creative energy. The focus of this activity is to build a sense of group success and achievement using music as a means of communication and expression.

Creativity and imagination



Earth art

Using only earth materials such as leaves, bark, rocks and water, to create art pieces.





Earth walk

Students engage in a range of short imagination activities designed to heighten their senses.





Appy Arbury

A mysterious character "Appy Arbury" lives in the forest. He leaves a trail and recorded message for younger students to follow.

Magic Spot

Sitting alone and silently for a few minutes in their chosen spot, students experience sounds sights and smells of the bush. They have space and time to reflect on their experiences at camp, and their individual connection to the natural world.





Aboriginal Cultural Studies

Students learn about the traditional lifestyles of Aboriginal peoples through using tools and hearing stories.

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