



### **Helpful Information for Your Excursion**

Dear Educator,

We are very excited to welcome you to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary for your upcoming excursion. Please take the time to read these pre-excursion notes, to ensure a safe and successful trip.

The Sanctuary offers a large range of wonderful experiences through self-guided exploration. For an extra special visit, check out our range of Australian Curriculum linked education programs. These are available to support your excursion, and teach students to make a positive change to our environment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Nature Ed team on 07 5534 0895 or [education@cws.org.au](mailto:education@cws.org.au)

We look forward to welcoming you, and your students, to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary

#### **External Provider Information**

All Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary staff, who conduct education experiences, hold a Blue Card for working with children and young people. Our Education Officers hold a variety of tertiary qualifications, and are experienced environmental educators.

#### **Public Liability**

Insurer: XL Insurance Company SE

Amount: Public Liability \$50,000,000 Any One Occurrence

#### **Transport**

It is the responsibility of the school to organise their own transport to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. Chartered buses and coaches can proceed to the drop off zone at the front entrance of Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary to allow children to disembark safely.

Bus parking bays are clearly marked on the opposite side of the street from the front entrance on Tomewin Street.

#### **Facilities**

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, located near Southern Queensland's coastal beaches, is spread over 27 hectares, and houses over 1000 animals. Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary also has a wildlife hospital which treats over 10,000 wild animals a year, and manages conservation and breeding programs for many endangered animals. Please ensure you download a copy of the map from our website prior to coming on your excursion as we are moving to a paperless operation.

#### **Toilets**

Toilet facilities are clearly marked on our Sanctuary Map. Toilets are accessible to the general public, and are checked regularly by our cleaners.

#### **Student Lunches**

We suggest that students bring a small back pack (this may be shared between 2-3



students), with their lunch and a water bottle, which they can carry during the day. We do not have a location for lunches to be left during the day. Please have students bring water, as there are limited places to refill bottles during the day. Please ensure all rubbish is put into the bins provided.

### **Where to Eat and Meeting Locations**

Schools that bring their own lunch can eat at a range of locations:

- Australian Sheep Shearing Show seating at X7 on the western side of the Sanctuary (shaded)\*.
- Aboriginal Dance Ground seating at P14 in the centre of the Sanctuary – available before 3:00pm (partly shaded)\*.
- Picnic tables located at Melaleuca Green (map location 013)

### **Weather**

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is primarily an outdoor venue, with some enclosed learning spaces. It is suggested students bring a rain jacket, if showers are predicted. Schools may reschedule bookings due to weather. Please ensure that the Education Department is notified no later than 9am on the day of the visit, if you wish to reschedule.

#### **Important Note**

Please refrain from gathering underneath the Koala Photos undercover area for any reason. It is important to keep noise to a minimum, to reduce the stress on our Koalas. We understand that our Sanctuary is largely without shelter, particularly during rainfall, so during wet weather, schools may gather at the undercover stands of the Lorikeet Arena located at the Sanctuary entrance (map location H16).

### **Special Needs**

Please advise if your students have any special needs, so we can accommodate for these during your visit. Our staff ratio for special needs students includes one free of charge teacher/adult/carer for two paying students.

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary offers the use of wheelchairs at no cost (ID held until the wheelchair is returned). Please note any requirements for this on your booking form.

### **Health and Safety**

In areas where students are given the opportunity to touch animals, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary provides toilets and hand sanitizing stations. Please ensure your students wash their hands after touching or feeding animals.

It is particularly important that visitors do not feed or interfere with captive animals, or wild animals within the Sanctuary (feeding and patting of kangaroos is permitted in the designated area only).

Should first aid be required, please go directly to a Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary staff member or volunteer for assistance.

Many Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary staff hold first aid certificates, and can utilise the radio for immediate communication should the safety or welfare of a student be at risk.



### **Student Supervision**

It is the responsibility of the school to ensure students are actively and effectively supervised during their visit to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. We encourage the excursion coordinator to develop a supervisory plan that will ensure students are accompanied throughout their visit to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.

Students in Kindergarten - Year 8 must be allocated to groups with a supervising adult, for the duration of their visit to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.

We encourage senior school groups (Year 9 - 12, tertiary), to meet throughout the day at a pre-determined location around the Sanctuary. We ask that teachers maintain a visible profile to your senior students while they are at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.

To assist in supervision, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary offers schools the following supervisor / student ratios:

Special needs: 1:2 Free of Charge Adult to Student, supervision ratio

Primary Students: 1:5 Free of Charge Adult to Student, supervision ratio

Secondary Students: 1:10 Free of Charge Adult to Student, supervision ratio

Adult Students: 1:10 Free of Charge Adult to Student (supervision not required)

Areas of the park that require special supervision include:

- Wild Island (please note that secondary school students are not permitted in Wild Island, as it is designed for 0-12 year olds).
- Kangaroo Paddock (Map reference A11)
- Riding on the train (all school students must be under active and effective adult supervision on the train). Trains do not operate on a Wednesday morning due to scheduled maintenance.
- Gift shops

Misconduct may result in the immediate expulsion of students from the Sanctuary grounds. Schools or individuals may be required to pay for any damage or costs incurred.

### **Emergency response Plan**

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary has a documented emergency response plan in place. Points covered in the document:

- Evacuation and exit gate procedures
- Fire Warden protocol
- Coded alarm system for potential life threatening situations e.g. fire, serious first aid incident, dangerous animal escape, or bomb threat.

In the event of an emergency, please contact a staff member or volunteer immediately.

### **Student Behaviour**

Below are some simple reminders for your students:

1. Please be courteous to animals and other visitors (please consider your group's volume around animals and visitors).
2. Please be safe on the train, by remaining seated at all times and keeping arms, legs, and head within the train carriage. (All school students must be under active and effective adult



supervision on the train)

3. Do not feed or interfere with the wild or captive animals within Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.
4. Place all rubbish in the bins provided.
5. Random animal photo opportunities, offered after presentations, are for public guests only; therefore we ask that students are directed away from these photo areas.
6. Gift Shops: If students would like to 'go shopping' they are more than welcome to do so; however we ask that classes are divided into groups of no larger than 10, and are accompanied by a teacher/carer exercising effective supervision.
7. The Café seating areas are for café patrons only.
8. The koala photos covered area is for koala photos patrons only.

### **Photography**

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is a venue that hosts large numbers of international visitors each year. Occasionally international visitors will try to photograph Australian School students. We actively discourage this process by reminding all tour operators that photography of children is not appropriate in Australia. If you notice visitors photographing school students, please advise a staff member, and also feel free to ask the visitor to stop taking photos.

### **Wild Island Adventure Splash Zone**

Wild Island Adventure Splash Zone is a playground and water play area for children up to 12 years of age. Primary school groups are welcome to access this area and to use the playground and water play facilities.

There are 2 unisex change rooms located adjacent to the water play area for changing purposes. Bathroom facilities are located nearby at Wild Burgers Café.

The Water play area has no standing or pooling water in the designated play areas.

We ask that teachers remind children to be respectful of others using this area

### **Suggested Itinerary for the day**

9am Arrival

9.30am – Visit Repturnal facility on the way to morning tea at Melaleuca Green (map location 013)

10am – Pelican and Eel feed and show (opposite Melaleuca Green) OR explore kangaroo paddock and Lost Valley experience.

10.45am - Wild Skies Free Flight Bird Show

11.15am – Wildlife Hospital

11.45 pm – make your way back to Melaleuca Green via the koalas, dingos, wombats and Land of Parrots loop

12.15pm – Lunchtime

1pm - Kangaroo paddock and Lost Valley experience OR Repturnal facility on the East side.

2pm - Depart Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary