

Barmah National Park

Education Program

The Yorta Yorta people have a long association with Barmah National Park, which makes up part of the largest River Red Gum forest in the world. Scarred trees, mounds, stone artefact scatters, middens and burial sites can all be found in the park. Dharnya, on Sand Ridge Track near Barmah, is a significant place where you can see evidence of Aboriginal living as well as European settlement. This makes Barmah the perfect place for students to learn about the heritage and ecology of the forest.

Excursion topic

Exploring Traditional Storytelling

Levels: F - 2

Key Learning areas: Geography, Victorian Aboriginal Languages

Students explore the use of language and its links to culture, kinship and the environment. With Parks Victoria Rangers, they examine the many different ways a traditional culture shares information through stories, dance, art and sign language. Students gain an understanding of how for traditional cultures, stories are interwoven with and inseparable from the landscape.

A Traditional Approach to Food Security

Levels: 9 – 10

Key Learning areas: Geography

Students investigate how the first Australians sourced, cultivated and collected their food, how seasonal food availability influenced where people lived and moved across the landscape, and the importance of bush foods in present day cultural practices. They compare and contrast traditional land management practices with an increasingly globalized and industrialized food economy, including implications for the natural environment, and discover how traditional cultures continue to manage the land today.

Managing Country Together

Levels: 9 – 10

Key Learning areas: Geography

The Yorta Yorta people, along with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples, have been managing Country for thousands of years. Europeans brought with them their own knowledge and land management practices, many of which have caused significant change to the Australian landscape. Now Traditional Owners are working with Parks Victoria and other land management agencies to combine traditional knowledge with modern science to manage Country together.

Group size

Excursions can accommodate up to 100 students at a time.

Availability

Activities run throughout the school term and available upon request. The excursions take place at Dharnya Centre, Barmah National Park. Incursions may also be available on request.

Booking your visit

To find out more about the programs available, including cost and availability, please contact Parks Victoria on 13 19 63 or email education@parks.vic.gov.au.