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Walgun Walk and Talk (Stage 4 – Stage 6) Cape Byron State Conservation Area

About this program

Join an Arakwal Aboriginal Discovery Guide to learn more about Arakwal Bundjalung people and their ongoing connection to culture in their local area. Explore the special connection to the Cape Byron State Conservation Area known as *Walgun* and other sites of significance. Rangers discuss traditional and contemporary culture, using Aboriginal tools, weapons and artefacts. Find about joint management between Arakwal (Bundjalung) people and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The activity concludes by walking the iconic Cape Byron Walking Track, hearing traditional stories and local history along the way.

Location

Cape Byron Lighthouse stands on the most easterly point of the Australian mainland Cape Byron Lighthouse, 2km east of the Byron Bay town centre. To get there, take Lawson Street (which becomes Lighthouse Road) and follow it to the lighthouse. The NPWS and Arakwal traditional custodians jointly manage the reserve.

Objectives

- discover traditional and contemporary Aboriginal culture with Aboriginal Discovery Rangers
- explore how the environment is important to Aboriginal people
- explore natural resources, bush tucker and bush medicine on a guided walk
- listen to stories of Aboriginal families and their heritage
- listen to Dreaming stories
- understand ways of caring for sites, features, places and environments to which they can contribute
- recognise that Aboriginal people have interacted positively with the environment for a long time
- identify customs, practices, languages and traditions of Aboriginal people

Program outline:

Introduction and safety talk	5min
Activity 1 – Welcome and introduction to Bundjalung language	10min
Activity 2 – Show and tell: Tools, weapons and artefacts	25min
Activity 3 – Discuss local history and significant sites. Includes a walk around lighthouse precinct.	20min
Activity 4 – Dreaming story	15min
Activity 5 – Traditional game	15min
Activity 6 – Guided walk to Wategos Beach	30min
Finish: Wategos Beach (west end picnic shelters)	
Total time	2 hours

Park facilities: The Cape Café offers coffee, icecreams and snacks.

Supervision: Discovery Rangers will guide and encourage students to participate in activities. The supervision of the students is the responsibility of the teachers and the school must ensure that an adequate number of supervisors are present.

Equipment provided: All equipment provided.

What to bring: Hat, sunscreen, adequate food and drinking water. Fresh water bubblers are available at Wategos and The Lighthouse.

Transport: This activity is undertaken at the Cape Byron State Conservation Area, beginning at the Lighthouse precinct and concluding at Wategos Beach. Buses transporting students on approved programs are free. Private vehicle passes are also available if buses are not used. Other vehicles are required to pay appropriate fees. Parking is limited at excursion venues. A \$8.00 car entry fee applies at the Lighthouse. A \$4.00/hr parking fee applies at The Pass, Captain Cook and Tallow Beach car park. NPWS Park passes apply.

Safety information:

Pre activity briefing: Participants will be briefed on expected conditions, potential hazards, appropriate behaviour, recommended clothing and emergency procedures at the start of the activity/day.

Safety equipment: Discovery staff carry mobile phone and first aid kits, hold current first aid certificates and are aware of emergency procedures. *Staff accreditation:* Discovery staff have current Senior First Aid accreditation. They are competent in the activity they are leading, experienced in working with groups of students in the natural environment and have excellent knowledge of the specific areas they are visiting including being aware of the potential hazards of the location. OEH is committed to a Child Safe and Friendly Environment. Discovery staff have been screened for child-related employment and have completed a Working with Children Check. *Emergencies:* Discovery staff are trained to deal with emergencies and emergency procedures are in place. Discovery staff have been instructed to call an ambulance whenever there is any doubt as to the continued well-being of a student or other visitor. Ongoing supervision of a student following first aid treatment will be the responsibility of the visiting school.

Meeting place: Northern verandah of the Head Lighthouse Keepers Cottage.

Cost: \$8.00 + GST per person. Minimum fee of \$160.00 +GST. Teachers and other staff are free.

Difficulty: Easy.

Description: Guided activities in a national park, on formed and uneven bush walking tracks and on a grassed picnic area. The walking track from the lighthouse to Wategos Beach is approximately 720m.

Wheelchair access level: NA

Access: NA

Duration: 2 hours

Curriculum:

Stage 4 History

4.2 - Describes significant features of Aboriginal and indigenous cultures, prior to colonisation

4.3 - Explains the ways indigenous and non-indigenous peoples of the world have responded to contact with each other

Stage 5 Geography

5.5 - Demonstrates a sense of place about Australian environments

5.7 - Analyse the impacts of different perspectives on geographical issues at local, national and global scales

Stage 6 Aboriginal Studies

This program meets the NSW Stage 6 Aboriginal Studies Syllabus outcomes (i.e. Aboriginal Community Study) as well as the following

P1.2 explains the consequences of invasion and colonisation for Aboriginal and other Indigenous peoples on social justice and human rights

P2.2 explains the importance of interrelationship between country, culture, economic life and social systems for Aboriginal and other indigenous peoples

P3.2 explains the impact of key government policies, legislation and legal decisions in relation to land and water rights and heritage and identity

P3.3 explains the responses and initiative of Aboriginal and other indigenous peoples to key government policies, legislation and legal decisions.

Contact:

If you would like to organise a NPWS school excursion in the Byron area, please contact the Byron Coast Area office.

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