



## Meet our Education & Heritage Centre Education Officers, Peta and Paige!



Photo: Peta (L) Paige (R)

If you and your students have taken part in an excursion at the [Education and Heritage Centre](#) in Perth then you would have been lucky enough to meet our wonderful Education Officers, Peta and Paige. Both Education Officers are qualified and experienced teachers who are able to provide your students with the best possible experience at our centre, ensuring your students not only enjoy their visit but leave with the knowledge and skills to assist them in reducing their risks to hazards.

Peta splits her work days between DFES and Perth Zoo, where she works as part of the education team. Peta loves all animals, in particular birds, owning over

30 cockatoos! This probably explains why she is such a huge West Coast Eagles Supporter. Paige has a teaching background in performing arts and special needs and when not working at the centre, she volunteers at Fairbridge Museum, teaches dance to people with Parkinsons and spends time with her 3 children. She loves working from the Centre, as it is one of the most beautiful heritage buildings in Perth. Both Peta and Paige love to see the students and visitors engage with the history while learning about Natural Hazards and how to be safe.

To meet Peta and Paige, book one of our two primary school excursions that we offer students at the centre.

### Pre-Primary to Year 2 Excursion - Emergency Helpers in the Community and Me!

### Year 2 – 6 Excursion – Home Fire Safety

To find out more or book an excursion email: [educationandheritage@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:educationandheritage@dfes.wa.gov.au)

## Recognising Unsafe Behaviours - The Key to Preventing House Fires



Would your students recognise an unsafe situation that could potentially start a home fire and know what to do to make it safe? These two images are both unsafe. Charging devices on soft furnishings can cause them to overheat and start a fire. Matches and lighters left lying around can be picked up by children curious to play with them.

So what could children do to make these situations safe? The answer to this question can be found in the Home Fire Safety Primary School Program. Newly developed

and recently launched, this program is aimed at year 3 students, focusses on fire prevention and how to respond when there is a fire and includes a **FREE** firefighter incursion from your local fire station.

The Teachers Guide to this program is now available for download on the DFES [website](#) and will provide further details on how to get involved in the program and how to book your free firefighter incursion.

## Perth in a Haze – All in the Name of Bushfire Mitigation



Photo: Jen Elliot – Parks & Wildlife

If you live in the greater Perth region you will have noticed the thick haze of smoke that blanketed the region throughout the recent months of June and July. The majority of this smoke came from prescribed burns in the Perth Hills by the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (formerly Parks and Wildlife), local government Bush Fire Brigades (supported by DFES) and other landholders.

Since July 1 last year the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions has completed 91 burns in national parks, conservation reserves and State forests throughout the state. During this time, the department has achieved more than 240,000 hectares of prescribed burning - the best outcome in 29 years.'

Prescribed burning reduces the amount of ground vegetation during cooler months to decrease risk of bushfires that could cause greater damage later in the season. Prescribed burning also helps to maintain biodiversity and assists with vegetation management.

Discussing bushfire mitigation is an important part of increasing student awareness and understanding of bushfire preparedness. The following two videos are useful resources to assist you in this task.

[Video One](#): Parks & Wildlife detail how a prescribed burn helped stop two bushfires in February 2017

[Video Two](#): Footage of a recent prescribed burn where a drone was used to keep watch on the fire

## Are your Students Storm Smart?



Dangerous storms are the most common natural hazard in Australia and on average, cause more damage and destruction than cyclones, earthquakes, floods and bushfires. The storm season in the southern half of WA, typically runs from May to October each year and can include, thunder, lightning, hail, flash flooding and gale force winds. Storms not only cause damage to homes,

property and businesses, they also pose a threat to people, animals and the environment.

If your school is in the southern half of WA, now is the time to teach your students about the risks of a dangerous storm and how to be better prepared to reduce those risks. The following resources will assist you with this task.

[Brochure](#): Preparing for Storms (DFES publication)

[Lesson Plan](#): Severe Storms (Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience)

## **Save the Date: Teacher Professional Development**

**24 October 2017**

Department of Fire and Emergency Services School Aged Education

Location: Education and Heritage Centre

Time: 12:00 – 16:00

**Have you been involved in Disaster Resilience Education recently and wish to share your stories and successes?**

Email us at [educationandheritage@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:educationandheritage@dfes.wa.gov.au)

### **Contacts**

For excursion bookings at DFES' Education and Heritage Centre phone: (08) 9395 9866

For all other school enquiries call: (08) 9395 9816

Website: <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/schooleducation/Pages/default.aspx>

Email: [educationandheritage@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:educationandheritage@dfes.wa.gov.au)



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Fire & Emergency Services**

