

## MARINE DISCOVERY CENTRE

The Marine Discovery Centre aims to provide inspirational discovery learning experiences whilst empowering students to actively protect South Australia's iconic coastal and marine environments.



## OUR CENTRE

We are the only coastal and marine educational facility for school students and the broader community in South Australia.

The Marine Discovery Centre features interactive learning stations covering topics such as sustainable fishing, applying sustainable practices at home, Aboriginal culture and the importance of preserving our unique marine environments.

Our aquariums feature local marine wildlife species and we provide engaging beachside marine trails to complement the Centre's indoor educational facilities.

## EDUCATION

Our team at the Marine Discovery Centre hope to connect you and your students with the marine world through our interactive excursions and classroom activities. Learning experiences at the Marine Discovery Centre are facilitated by qualified marine scientists and a cultural educator.

The Marine Discovery Centre is closely aligned with ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) particularly the cross-curriculum priorities of Sustainability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures.

Before or after your visit to the centre, students can commence or continue their marine journey with our activity sheets, lesson ideas and puzzles. Teachers and educators can download and print these resources to use as part of lesson plans, or simply engage students further with the marine and coastal environment.

Teaching resources: <https://www.marinediscoverycentre.com.au/education/teachers-educators>

### MDC EXCURSION SAMPLE ITINERARY

9.45 – 10am	Arrival, welcome and briefing
10 – 10.30am	Recess and optional play on the courts (sports equipment welcome)
10.30am – 12pm	Guided beach marine trail on Henley Beach (options available)
12 – 12.30pm	Lunch and free time on the Nature Play playground
12.30 – 2pm	The class(es) are divided into four groups and spend an allocated time in the aquarium, Kurna Education room, Beach Discovery room and Catchment to Coast room
2pm	Departure

**Numbers:** from 15 to 60 (please contact us if your numbers are outside of these parameters to discuss options)

**Cost:** \$15 per student (plus GST)

OSHC/Vacation Care available during school holidays

Supervising adults free of charge

Incursions from \$6 (plus GST) per student (options available)



Educational FAQ's: <https://www.marinediscoverycentre.com.au/education/educational-faqs>

## Excursions



### **BEACH MARINE TRAIL**

The marine trail is the focus for the Marine Discovery Centre excursions, as students and adults can become engaged and learn so much more when they get hands-on with the marine and coastal environment.

Depending on the age group and focus of our visiting classes, we can base our marine trail on:

- Beachcombing and discovering the shells, plants and animals the tide has left
- Marine debris and a survey of the types of litter we find along the beach
- Coastal plants and discussion of the importance of the sand dunes

A beachcombing detective sheet is given to each class group, that can then be taken back to the classroom following the excursion for further discovery.

Common objects found on Henley Beach during the Marine Trail include cuttle bones, fibre balls, crab shells, sand cockles, sausage jelly, angels wings, sea sponges and more.

### **INSIDE THE MARINE DISCOVERY CENTRE**

In addition to the Marine Trail, the excursion includes a visit into the Marine Discovery Centre which encompasses a multitude of interactive activities appropriate for a wide range of ages. In addition to a full time Marine Scientist and Cultural Educator, our volunteers are a wealth of knowledge and come from a wide variety of backgrounds including teaching, marine science, and environmental science just to name a few.

We want to make a difference in educating the young minds of today, so we have developed several interactive models that create a truly captivating, memorable and educational experience for all.



## BEACH DISCOVERY ROOM

The Beach Discovery room hosts a range of activities and is our main room that can also host the whole class group.

Interactive models in the Beach Discovery room include but are not limited to:

The **Virtual Reality Headsets** are the highlight for visitors. Students can explore under the sea without getting wet. We have three videos filmed in South Australia in which students can meet Australian Sea Lions and a Leafy Sea Dragon, as well as comparing different underwater views by swimming under Henley Beach Jetty. There is also an encounter with a Great White Shark.

The **Marine Habitat Model** allows visitors to explore 3 different habitats including the rocky shore, the sandy shore and the intertidal zone between low tide and high tide.

The **Touchscreen** allows 6 students at a time to interact and explore 360-degree videos and games based on sustainable choices.

**Microscopes** gives visitors the opportunity to look at specimens up close.

The **collection of specimen samples and whale bones** invite students to compare marine creatures both great and small. A wide variety of shells, plants and animal specimens provides the chance to continue beach combing discovery, and investigate the characteristics and features shared by different groups of animals.





### HUMAN IMPACT EDUCATION

We have a strong educational component that empowers and educates our visitors with their understanding of sustainability and the part they can play in looking after and preserving our environment.

We have a room dedicated to Catchment to Coast education, with interactive models that have been created for the Marine Discovery Centre to demonstrate how land processes are connected to the marine environment. These models include:

The ***Oceanography model*** shows the importance of seagrass, sea beds and beach management concepts, demonstrating the importance of coastal management and its association with climate change.

The ***Climate Change interactive model*** challenges the user to discover better behaviours to reduce climate change, along with panels visually showing what would happen if we have .75m or 2m rise in sea-level.

The ***Marine Debris interactive model*** gives the user choices to make about disposing a plastic bottle and what happens on its journey depending on the choices made.

The ***Stormwater and Litter model*** highlights stormwater and littering issues, promoting a better understanding of pollution and how to make better choices in day to day life.

The ***From Catchment to Coast model*** shows steps to reduce our impact on the marine environment, the model shows pollution going down the river and stormwater into our oceans and how to make the correct choices.

The ***Wetlands Board Game*** is a game including catchment management, biodiversity and ecosystem restoration where players are made aware of they can themselves do inside and outside of the home to play a part in their preservation.

The ***Climate Change model*** promotes a better understanding of climate change. The interactive model allows the student to both see and feel that climate change is the heating of the earth caused by increasing levels of Greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere.

The ***Rain Garden model*** shows how specifically chosen plants and layers of selected soil filter out and absorb pollution as the stormwater soaks down. The clean stormwater flows out of the bottom of the rain garden and into the local creek or drain that leads to the coast.



### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MARINE CREATURES

Our aquarium room features many temperate marine species that can be found on our doorstep here in South Australia. Our Marine tanks give visiting students the chance to get up close and personal with a Port Jackson Shark, Shaw's Cowfish, Western Smooth Boxfish, Spiny-Tail Leatherjacket, Globefish, Big-Bellied Seahorses, and Western Slate-Pencil Sea Urchin. A Zebra Moray eel and Snowflake Moray eel allow students to compare temperate and tropical marine species, while fish and yabbies in our freshwater tanks reinforce the need to keep both our rivers and oceans clean.

There are also a couple of interactive models in the Marine room which include but are not limited to:

The ***"Sustainable Fishing in SA"*** Interactive Model enables MDC visitors to learn about the species of fish caught in our local waters, and their specific bag limits. Once they catch the fish. They can then measure it on our ***fish measuring station*** and decide whether it is legal size or should be returned to the ocean to grow.

***Murray River pinball machine*** is a game for visitors to play and learn at the same time with a range of questions about the Murray River and surrounding environments that need to be answered correctly for the player to win.





### **KAURNA LEARNING STATION**

In late 2018, The Wodli (Kurna Learning Station), was developed as an interactive room which highlights the relationship that Kurna people have with the Adelaide Plains and the coast. It includes significant, relevant information that reflects the deep relationship Kurna people have with the land and coast. It features rules for living and Dreaming Story reflections e.g. Tjilbruke, and importantly, an increased respect for our native flora and fauna and coastal wildlife will result. We currently employ a cultural educator who shares his perspective passed on from his uncle, and Marine Discovery Centre patron, Karl Telfer.



### **NATURE PLAY**

During the lunch break, our visitors have free time on our Nature Play playground.

Nature Play is a part of our culture where students have the opportunity to explore, construct and play with natural objects – logs, beach sand, rocks, water play etc in our natural play area.

Nature Play enables our visitors to use their imagination and creativity, to tinker, play in the mud kitchen, create cubbies and explore water. This fosters a connection with Creation and awareness of how to manage and take care of our natural world and how and when to take measured risks in play.

### For the teachers and support officers

A teacher resource pack will be sent to you upon confirmation of your booking, there are also a number of resources that are available in the centre. A Beachcombing Detective sheet is sent home with each class.

We have coffee and tea facilities PLUS a coffee machine with the option to purchase. We additionally have a small kitchen that you are welcome to make use of.

A risk assessment can be emailed prior to all excursion upon request.

There are no bins on the premises at the Marine Discovery Centre as we are a 'Zero Waste' excursion destination. Please encourage your students to bring nude food. Any rubbish generated will need to be taken home with you at the end of the day.

### Enquiries

For all enquiries, please contact Carmen Bishop at the Marine Discovery Centre on 08 8115 7402 or email [cbishop@marinediscoverycentre.com.au](mailto:cbishop@marinediscoverycentre.com.au)

**Online Bookings:** <https://www.marinediscoverycentre.com.au/visit-the-centre/book-online>



## **INCURSIONS**

The Marine Discovery Centre can bring an educational and exciting range of activities to you, for your students to experience in their classroom, performing centre or local beach. We love it when you come and see us, but sometimes it's easier and cheaper if we come to you, therefore we have developed a few programs to suit a range of ages and interests.

### **Option 1: MDC experience in your class/school**

With Marine Scientist Georgie and Cultural Educator Karno

We can bring the beach to schools & Vacation Care Groups

Visits may include activities focused on:

- Aboriginal Artefacts - history
- Virtual Reality Headsets
- Marine Food Chains
- Marine Litter
- Ocean Currents
- Recycled Art
- Creature Features
- Sustainable Fishing Practices
- Beachcombing at your local beach or exploring provided sand boxes school

These learning experiences allow students to discover the wonders of our local marine environment through interactive and hands on activities linked to ACARA.

**Session Time:** 45 minutes or 90 minutes

**Cost:** \$6 (multiple classes) or \$10 plus GST per student – minimum cost \$300 plus GST

**Bookings:** 8115 7402 or email: [info@marinediscoverycentre.com.au](mailto:info@marinediscoverycentre.com.au)

### **Option 2: Down the Drain by HeapsGood Productions**

Information: <http://www.heapsgood.com.au/Heapsgood-Performances.html>

Performance and Q&A session in your School Hall: approximately 1 hour & 15 mins in duration.

**Cost:** \$6.60 per child with 200 – 300 students

\$7.70 per child with 150 – 200 students

Minimum charge: \$1,155

**Bookings:** 8115 7402 or email: [info@marinediscoverycentre.com.au](mailto:info@marinediscoverycentre.com.au)