

ACTIVE FOR LIFE RECREATION STRATEGY 2010-2025

Projects in focus 2014/15

Showcasing and Activating our Parks Nature Play and Bush Kinder

✓ Ticking the Actions

Action 4.5.1

Encourage residents and particularly children to explore the natural environment through interpretative signage, community art and active programming

Action 4.6.19

Promote to residents and community groups state-wide events such as the Premier's Active Challenge, Ride To Work Day and other relevant events.

✓ Ticking Priorities

- Increasing recreation among children
- Increasing the proportion of people achieving the national physical activity guidelines
- Improving communication and promotion
- Maximising the use of existing facilities

Nature Play

Nature Play programs in Manningham have been running successfully since 2013.

The nature play programs aim to introduce families to the multitude of play opportunities that nature offers without the need for equipment or infrastructure. Manningham is host to a wide array of natural spaces and this program encourages and inspires families to spend more time outdoors to improve their health and wellbeing.

Nature play activities include:

- simple nature craft
- cubby building
- nature walk led by the nature detectives
- Currawong earth walk as part of Junior Ranger Program

Planned programs for 2015/16 include training for early years and primary school educators to encourage them to spend time in nature in Manningham as part of the curriculum.

Bush kinder in Manningham

Plans are in place for the inaugural Manningham bush kinder to be up and running in October this year.

Bush kinder is a new nationwide initiative that takes early learning into nature for approx 3 hours per week as part of a kinder program.

Planning in 2014/15 has seen Manningham Council partner with Heide Museum and Creative Play Early Learning Centre to establish a natural site in Templestowe.

The pilot project will set the scene for future bush kinder sites and programs in Manningham.



Measuring Success

- **690** people participated in nature play activities in 2014/15
- **100%** of survey respondents said they would attend a similar event in the future
- **90%** of survey respondents felt that the event had inspired them to play in

Looking Forward

- Provide nature play training for educators to encourage nature play excursions etc
- Assist the establishment of Bush Kinder in Manningham.
- Community partnerships via the Manningham Active Kids Facebook page

Explore. Play. Imagine...



Children in Nature
Autumn 2015

