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# Field trips

## FIELD TRIP 2 | A DAY OUT WEST

Wednesday 10 November 2021, 8:30am - 4:30pm

This field trip will head to the west to view two internationally significant sites – the Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain and the Werribee Open Range Zoo.

### ECOLOGY OF THE NATURAL TEMPERATE GRASSLANDS

The Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain is a complex and inherently variable ecological community. Once widespread throughout western Victoria, it has now declined to around 1 per cent of its original distribution and is listed as critically endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This trip will show you some of the higher quality remnants of this community in western Melbourne and Werribee and discuss current conservation initiatives and management challenges.

### WERRIBEE OPEN RANGE ZOO

The Werribee Zoo is a 225 hectare site approximately 30 km southwest of Melbourne. On the Safari Tour, you will be transported through the open plains of Asia, North America and Africa to learn about some of the world's most endangered species and the zoo's conservation efforts. This includes the work of the zoo in contributing to the recovery of 27 threatened native species.

The trip will include presentations from zoo staff on conservation, sustainability and cultural heritage. There will also be an opportunity to view some of the zoo's exhibits in your own time.

### TRIP DETAILS

The bus will depart the Grand Hyatt at 8:30am sharp to travel to the Victorian Volcanic Plain. We will then make the short trip to the Werribee Zoo for lunch. The bus will depart the zoo at 3:30pm and return to the Grand Hyatt by 4:30pm. The return trip will go via the Skybus Terminal at Southern Cross Station for those who need to travel to the airport.