

Getting teens nearer to nature



Brave students who are standing from left to right and holding a Bobtail Carpet Python and a Stimson's Python are: Abigail, William, Ryley, Gracie, Brianna, Ben, Zachary and Zachary.

A UNIQUE new program will allow 11-15 year olds to get their hands on a few different reptile species up at the Kanyana Wildlife Centre's facilities in Lesmurdie.

The first group to enrol in Kanyana's five-week course – created to give teens closer contact with and deeper understanding of our local wildlife – is getting ready to experience nature first hand.

Kanyana Wildlife

volunteers care for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife which are brought to them mainly from caring people in the community, and its facilities in Lesmurdie are among the best in Australia.

Kanyana Teens course coordinator Chris Todd said the course was a great way to provide hands-on knowledge for smart and enquiring minds, and the first group were all from hills high schools.

“Each week the group digs into a new subject and new animals from Kanyana's suite of resident education animals,” he said.

“One of the most popular so far has been the encounter with Elle, our Echidna.”

Kanyana's Chairman and Founder June Butcher said teenagers were a critical age-group for the wild life centre.

“They are at an age where information can turn into inspiration very

quickly and shape careers and life paths, and if they are really keen they can become volunteers at Kanyana from age 16.”

Kanyana also runs work experience programmes for high school students from around the Perth metro area.

Anyone interested in enrolling for the teens group can call 9291 3900. The next five-week course starts after the school holidays.