Year 7 Excursion

Classification and Food webs

Program Outline

- **What is a Forest?** Students explore the abiotic and biotic features of forest ecosystems.

- **Forest Characteristics:** Investigate and record the key biotic and abiotic characteristics of Tasmanian forest environments using scientific equipment and survey records.

- **Producers:** Identify different plants found within the forest and how they are adapted to capture energy from the sun and survive within this environment.

- **Consumers:** Search for evidence of herbivores, omnivores and carnivores living within different forest types. Collect and identify scat, assess herbivore damage found on leaves and discover tracks and tree hollows.

- **Decomposers:** Discover the diversity of decomposers helping to return nutrients to the soil. Use a dichotomous key to identify some of the key species.

- **Food Webs:** Build a complex food web based on interactions between organisms found in Tasmania's forests.

- **Species List:** Explore the role of Australian scientists in the collection of important biological data and management of forest systems.

Curriculum Links:

Science

- investigate the role of classification in ordering and organising the diversity of life on Earth and use and develop classification tools including dichotomous keys (AC9S7U01)

- use models, including food webs, to represent matter and energy flow in ecosystems and predict the impact of changing abiotic and biotic factors on populations (AC9S7U02)

- examine how proposed scientific responses to contemporary issues may impact on society and explore ethical, environmental, social and economic considerations (AC9S7H03)