

culture & heritage

Immerse yourself in the history and spectacular, rugged scenery of mainland Australia's tallest lighthouse – the oldest continuous weather recording station in Western Australia!

experience an interactive presentation

explore Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse

examine weather recordings and early Western Australian history

Book your school or tour group into a Culture & Heritage experience today!

Contact our Education Officer
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The Leeuwin-Naturaliste ridge sits within the land of the Wardandi Aboriginals. Their name for the southwestern tip of their land was Doogalup. The first recorded European sighting of this cape was by the Dutch in 1622; they named it "Landt van de Leeuwin" meaning Land of the Lioness.

The Wardandi are one of the fourteen Noongar tribes, or language groups, that live in the South West. They are the traditional custodians of this region and had an intimate knowledge of the land and its changing seasons. Their land was a plentiful area, well watered and with abundant natural foods. The Noongar people recognised six separate seasons of the year that governed their activities and determined where they would move to.

Cape Leeuwin is a significant geographical landmark in Australian history. Long after the 1622 sighting by the crew onboard the Dutch ship 'The Leeuwin', the British sighted the cape and it was the starting point for Matthew Flinders circumnavigation of the continent in 1801.

By 1830, this area was the site of Western Australia's third European settlement; Augusta. In 1895 construction began on the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse, situated at the most south-westerly tip of Australia where the Indian and Southern Oceans meet. This famous landmark, constructed from the local limestone, stands 39 metres high from ground level - making it the TALLEST on mainland Australia.

It is also an important collection site for meteorological data. Weather recording began here on January 1st, 1897, and the site now has the longest unbroken record of weather data recording in Western Australia. The Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse is the tallest lighthouse on the mainland of Australia; its piercing beam shines over the surrounding sea for 26 nautical miles as a warning to all about this treacherous corner of coastline.

Students participating in the Culture and Heritage Tour will experience a behind the scenes tour in one of the historical cottages and hear stories from Paul Sofilas, our very own modern-day Lighthouse Keeper! Paul will take students to the top of the Lighthouse tower and detail the importance of the site as a weather recording station while also giving an insight into the Noongar Six Seasons.

When: Every day of the year, except Christmas!

Duration: Approximately 2 hours, including lighthouse tour.

Cost: \$12.50 per student, \$13.50 per adult, School Special – 1 free adult per 10 students.

Please note: our educational packages can be tailored to suit different age groups and complement the Science and Society and Environment syllabus.

To book your tour or school group into a Culture & Heritage Discovery Tour, simply contact us on +61 8 9757 7411 or email mandy@margaretriver.com

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