

Dear Teacher,

Western Shield is the name of a new program by the Department of Conservation and Land Management to conserve our native wildlife from the ravages of introduced predators such as European foxes and feral cats. The tragedy is that these two animals have been major contributors to the extinction of 10 native mammal species in WA alone. A further 31 mammals are on the brink.

It also is a sad fact that most people in WA are more aware of African or American wildlife than our own. Yet, Western Australia's native wildlife is not only among the most biologically diverse on Earth, many of our species are found nowhere else.

This *Western Shield* Action Pack has been produced because of our belief that conservation efforts can be greatly enhanced if people understand the nature of our wildlife, including the partnerships - or synergies - our flora and fauna have developed.

This Action Pack aims to raise awareness and understanding of our threatened animal species and to familiarise students with other conservation initiatives to prevent further extinctions.

It has been designed for upper primary teachers and students but can be adapted for other year levels.

The pack covers four or more lessons in the classroom and includes suggestions for extension activities.

The pack links with the primary school curriculum subjects, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics and Language and supports the aims of the Student Outcome Statements. 'First Steps' and 'Stepping Out' concepts also have been used within a framework of an integrated curriculum approach that encourages collaborative group work of your students.

To encourage students to take part in the activities, CALM is offering two lucky classes in the Perth area a free night's camping and visit to the new animal viewing hide in The Hills Forest, Mundaring. To enter, do the activities and simply complete the form included with this pack and return it to us.

The contents of this action pack are:

Teachers Notes, Resource Sheets, Activity Sheets and a list of references

Six copies of the *Western Shield* poster

Reprints from *LANDSCOPE* Magazine:

- ◆ It's Back - the return of the Woylie
- ◆ *Western Shield* - Bringing wildlife back from the brink of extinction
- ◆ A form to enter a draw for a free camp and visit to The Hills Forest

I am sure you and your students will find the *Western Shield* Activity Pack is as rewarding and fulfilling an experience as CALM staff find the actual implementation of programs to conserve our wildlife for today's and future generations.

Regards,



Syd Shea

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Department of Conservation and Land Management

Western Shield Action Pack

Activities on Threatened Species for Upper Primary School