

ECOEDUCATION: BREEDING CONSERVATION CONSCIOUSNESS

Launched in 1993, the Department of Conservation and Land Management's EcoEducation programs for school students are producing a new generation with sound conservation values. The programs have catered for more than 110,000 participants and have influenced children, their teachers and families.

The profound success of the programs is largely owed to their ability to appeal to students of all ages, and encourage them to look at nature in a new light. As well as learning from their hands-on bush experiences about how people depend on natural systems, children are also empowered to contribute personally to nature conservation. This augurs well for the future management of the environment, by encouraging recognition of the need for all sections of the community to share responsibility in conserving Western Australia's natural heritage.

The programs are based at the department's Hills Forest Discovery Centre in Mundaring and offer students practical, hands-on lessons through excursions and camp activities. They also provide teachers with professional development, and schools with curriculum-linked resources.

In 2001, EcoEducation programs were launched at the Wellington Discovery Forest, and through the programs, students from the Bunbury, Collie and Harvey areas have developed a sense of ownership of Wellington National Park



and the jarrah forest. To date, more than 3000 students, teachers and other adults have been involved.

Meanwhile, other EcoEducation initiatives continue to grow, with schools from all over the State taking part in the CALM Bush Rangers cadet program and the Western Shield schools program, which involves them in the department's wildlife recovery program. Through this program, more than 67,000 students and teachers have been made aware of the plight of our small mammal species and they have been shown how they can each help to save threatened species.

Many schools have participated year after year in the EcoEducation programs and deserve acknowledgement for their

assistance in the development of the programs. These include Applecross Primary School—which has raised \$6000 over the past six years for conservation projects—and Walliston, Willetton and Falls Road primary schools; Penrhos College and Helena College; Perth Modern School; and John Forrest and Lynwood senior high schools.

Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre managers and volunteers have provided animal encounters that are integral to the programs and also deserve thanks. Volunteers and small businesses from the Mundaring community have also made an important contribution to all the programs, facilities and resources at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre.

Students Sarah Zuzzolo and Rhys Sharrett measure evidence to help solve a mystery on the 'forest detective trail'.

Photo – Tony Nathan

Invaluable partnerships have also been forged with the Department of Education's Aboriginal Education section, the Water Corporation and Alcoa World Alumina Australia. These partnerships have generously sponsored the programs for four years.

For further information about EcoEducation programs contact the department's Senior EcoEducation Officer, Liz Moore, by phone (08) 9334 0387, fax (08) 9334 0498 or by email (lizm@calm.wa.gov.au).

Winner of the 1998 Alex Harris Medal for excellence in science and environment reporting.

LANDSCOPE



VOLUME EIGHTEEN, NUMBER 3, AUTUMN 2003



Cane toads are poisonous, prolific breeders and are getting closer to the WA border. Hop to page 10.

Once thought to be extinct, Gilbert's potoroo has overcome many obstacles. What is being done to improve its chances of survival? See page 28.



The tuart once typified the coastal strip north and south of Perth. Why should we cherish this majestic tree? See page 16.



Discover some of the prehistoric megafauna that once roamed the State in 'Walking with WA giants' on page 23.



Lichens decorate Lake Muir, near Manjimup, with varying colours and shapes. Turn to page 43 to learn more about these fascinating life forms.

F E A T U R E S

POISON IN PARADISE: CANE TOADS HOP WEST TONY START AND CHRIS DONE.....	10
CHERISH THE TUARTS ROBERT POWELL AND BRONWEN KEIGHERY.....	16
WALKING WITH WA GIANTS JOHN LONG.....	23
GILBERT'S POTOROO—EIGHT YEARS ON TONY FRIEND.....	28
BOTANIC GUARDIAN NEVILLE MARCHANT.....	36
LICHENS—THE POOR LITTLE PEASANTS OF LAKE MUIR NATURE RESERVE RAY CRANFIELD AND RICHARD ROBINSON.....	43
IN SEARCH OF THE WESTERN FLAT ANDREW WILLIAMS AND MATTHEW WILLIAMS.....	48

R E G U L A R S

BUSH TELEGRAPH	4
ENDANGERED WESTERN GROUND PARROT.....	35
URBAN ANTICS A SAUCERFUL OF SECRETS.....	54

Executive editor: Ron Kawalilak.
Editors: David Gough, Carolyn Thomson-Dans.
Bush Telegraph editor: Verna Costello.
Story editor: Rhianna Mooney.
Scientific/technical advice: Keith Morris, Kevin Kenneally, Paul Jones, Alan Danks.
Design and production: Tiffany Aberin, Maria Duthie, Gooitzen van der Meer.
Illustration: Gooitzen van der Meer.
Cartography: Promaco Geodraft.
Marketing: Estelle de San Miguel ☎ (08) 9334 0296 Fax: (08) 9334 0498.
Subscription enquiries: ☎ (08) 9334 0481 or (08) 9334 0437.
 Colour Separation by Colourbox Digital.
 Printed in Western Australia by Lamb Print.
 © ISSN 0815-4465. All material copyright. No part of the contents of the publication may be reproduced without the consent of the publishers.
 Please do not send unsolicited material to LANDSCOPE, but feel free to telephone the editors.
 Visit NatureBase at www.naturebase.net
 Published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington, Western Australia.

C O V E R

Royal hakea rises above the surrounding heath, straight and column-like. When sunlit from above or below, its unusual large variegated leaves appear to glow like lanterns, so the shrub is also known as the Chinese lantern bush. Among the birds that obtain nectar from its flowers (hidden at the base of the leaves) is the western spinebill.

Royal hakea grows almost exclusively in Fitzgerald River National Park, an area that was reserved on the recommendation of then Government Botanist Charles Gardner (see 'Botanic Guardian' on page 36).

Cover illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky

