

Welcome to the first issue of *EcoEducation News* for participants of our programs. Through your excursions and education programs, you directly and indirectly contribute to biodiversity conservation and *EcoEducation News* will provide you with information about up-coming events, resources and news of our work. You will receive this newsletter each term and we encourage your feedback, comments and photographs for inclusion in future issues.

2003 was a landmark year and saw us celebrate 10 years of growth. Our fledgling programs began in 1992 at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre with one program. We now offer students, teachers and school communities resources for the classroom, camps, excursions and Professional Development (PD) programs at six centres around the State. The CALM Bush Ranger program, part of the Government's broader program Cadets WA for secondary schools, has been in operation for five years now and has Units throughout WA.

Thank you for your interest in, and support for, our programs in 2003. Enjoy a relaxing break and we look forward to working with you in 2004.

Regards

Liz Moore

Senior Project Officer, EcoEducation, CALM

## Highlights of 2003

### Exploring The Hills Forest

Our programs at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre in Mundaring, continued to grow in 2003 and catered for more than 20,000 visitors who enjoyed a choice of 23 excursions and activities for groups from early childhood to late adolescent stages. The programs were coordinated by Jill Francis and the EcoEducation team led by Louise Austen.

### CALM Bush Rangers

With 30 Units around the State, students have spent thousands of volunteer hours studying nature conservation and taking part in community service projects. The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) Bush Ranger program received a number of awards in 2003 and was a finalist in the Education section of the United Nations World Environment Day Awards in June.

Coordinated by Bronwyn Humphreys, Bush Rangers continued to forge partnerships with communities to work together to conserve WA's biodiversity.



*Exploring The Hills Forest Team Leader, Louise Austen (left), and Coordinator, Jill Francis (right) enjoy a moment of quiet at the centre. Photo - M. Corsini*

### Wellington Discovery Forest and CALM's SW Region

CALM's EcoEducation team welcomed Janet Date in 2003. Janet is based in Bunbury and is responsible for EcoEducation in CALM's South West Region. She has a wealth of experience working with schools and will drive the programs at Wellington Discovery Forest, implement the EcoEducation strategic plan and promote new curriculum linked activities for the region.

For schools in the Cape to Cape Region we will be offering programs at the Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre (Wharncliffe Mill) in 2004. Contact Janet Date – see 'Contacts' box.

## Threatened Species Program

In 2003 our inaugural Professional Development (PD) weekend camp for teachers in the World Heritage Area at Shark Bay coincided with Threatened Species Day and was a special experience for all who attended. The teachers had many close encounters with rare native animals, handled a bearded dragon, weighed small mammals, set a pit trap line, met a bilby and had discussions with CALM scientists. Monkey Mia dolphin feeding was part of it too!

Teachers returned to their schools armed with curriculum resources, an understanding of the science behind conservation management decisions and ideas for camp activities in the area. Thanks to the World Wide Fund for Nature who contributed to the cost of the camp.

western  
shield



Colleen Sims, Manager of CALM's Project Eden (left), with Kristi-Lee Bejah, Geraldton Secondary College Science Teacher (right), examine a find during the PD weekend at Shark Bay.  
Photo L. Moore

For teachers further south there were other exciting opportunities including PD camps at Two Peoples Bay near Albany, Dryandra Woodland (including a night walk through CALM's new Barna Mia animal sanctuary), Wellington Discovery Forest and The Hills Forest Discovery Centre. Teachers gained knowledge and resources to prepare their students for our popular *Back from the Brink* excursions at all these sites.

**Congratulations** to Year 4/5 students of Capel Primary School and Year 8 students of Lynwood Senior High School who won the draw for a free *Back from the Brink* excursion.

## Epic Energy Wildlife Conservation Challenge

This challenge promoted community involvement in, and understanding of, the conservation of WA's native fauna.

Floreat Park Primary School students won the challenge, a Wildlife Adventure and \$5000 to go towards a school conservation project for their excellent entry. Catherine Mah from Lynwood Senior High School was awarded a special prize (\$1000) for her outstanding entry. Shark Bay Primary School and Lesmurdie Senior High School were runners up.

## Science Week

Senior students from Esperance, Jurien, Manjimup, Busselton and Perth were given hands-on experience under the guidance of CALM scientists through our "Day with a Scientist" program during National Science Week. Thanks to teachers who made this possible.

## Special announcement

Cheryl Tonts, Project Officer, now provides administrative support with her excellent organisational skills for our EcoEducation programs. She can be contacted on phone 9334 0319.

## Contacts for EcoEducation

Liz Moore, Senior EcoEducation Officer  
(phone: 9334 0387, email: lizm@calm.wa.gov.au).

Bronwyn Humphreys, CALM Bush Rangers Coordinator  
(phone: 9334 0137, email: bronwynh@calm.wa.gov.au).

Janet Date, EcoEducation Project Officer, South West  
(phone: 9725 5944, email: janetD@calm.wa.gov.au).

Jill Francis, Coordinator, Exploring The Hills Forest  
(phone: 9295 6149 or 9295 6300,  
email: jillf@calm.wa.gov.au).

Kristy Pengelly, Schools Coordinator, Wellington  
Discovery Forest (phone: 9734 1988,  
email: wdf@calm.wa.gov.au)



## 2004 Looking ahead

### EcoEducation at Star Swamp

For schools in the City of Stirling we will be offering programs closer to home in 2004 at the Henderson Centre! For more information, contact Jill Francis at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre on 9295 6149.

### New resource for the classroom

Middle School students and teachers are currently trialing a new national parks package that is set to be in schools next year. This cross-curricular package focuses on Society & Environment but also relates to other Learning Areas.

### Professional Development

For resources, camps, and excursions that link to the Curriculum Framework. Book early to avoid missing out!

#### The Hills Forest Discovery Centre

##### Primary

When: Friday 5 March and Friday 6 August (9am - 3.30pm) Cost: \$55

**Whole school staff PDs** focusing on all programs or on Aboriginal culture at your school are also available.

##### Primary and Secondary - PD overnight

*Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night.*  
Thursday 13 May - Friday 14 May.

Contact Jill Francis by email: [jillf@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:jillf@calm.wa.gov.au);  
phone: 9295 6149 or 9295 6300; or fax: 9295 3247.



*North Beach Primary School students monitoring a "threatened species" on our first excursion at Star Swamp. Photo L. Moore*

### Dryandra Woodland and Barna Mia animal sanctuary Primary and Secondary - PD overnight

*Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night.*

Thursday 22 April - Thursday 23 April Contact Tricia Sprigg by email: [tricias@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:tricias@calm.wa.gov.au);  
phone: 9881 9200; or fax: 9881 1645.

### Shark Bay World Heritage Area and Wellington Discovery Forest.

For details about PDs in September, see next issue.

### Free Introduction to Henderson Centre/Star Swamp program

**Primary:** Tuesday 16 March (3.45pm-5.30pm).

Contact Jill Francis by email: [jillf@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:jillf@calm.wa.gov.au);  
phone: 9295 6149 or 9295 6300; or fax: 9295 3247.

### Free introductory PD to Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre

Wednesday 10 March (3:30 - 5:00 pm)

Contact Shan Fry, Schools Coordinator by phone: 9752 5555, fax: 9752 1432 or  
email: [shanf@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:shanf@calm.wa.gov.au)

## Partnerships

### Alcoa World Alumina Australia

maintains its generous support for our programs at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre. This valuable partnership enables us to offer excursions to those who otherwise could not afford a visit, expand our programs and promote the many values of our forests.



Thanks to **Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre** and their volunteers for providing so many students and teachers with special encounters with the State's unique fauna.

Our long-standing relationship with **Applecross Primary School** continued this year with their Year 6 camp and fund raising contributions to our conservation and threatened species projects.

**STAWA** and EcoEducation are encouraging Science teachers to escape the winter, take a holiday in Shark Bay and help run our Monkey Mia activity programs. Benefits include free accommodation, discovering the science behind our fauna breeding programs and resources for school use. Contact Monkey Mia's Education Officer, Daniella Hanf by phone: 99481366 or email: [daniellah@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:daniellah@calm.wa.gov.au).

## NatureBase News

CALM's NatureBase website has much to offer students of all ages and our education packs can be downloaded. We are currently upgrading and including more of interest for all ages and families as well. Check out our 'For Schools' site  
<http://www.naturebase.net/schools/index.html>