

EcoEducation is off to a flying start in 2004. The year began with 39 teachers and other environmental educators braving hot weather at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre. They camped overnight, found out about CALM's *Western Shield* program, assisted in monitoring native fauna and got in touch with their 'other' senses on our Sense-ational Trail in the cool of the evening. These were just a few of the Catchments, Corridors and Coasts course activities.

As I write, staff from the South Thornlie Primary School are visiting the centre. This PD day is a great way for them to ease into the year with a wealth of curriculum linked resources and ideas for all learning areas - a stimulus for the whole school to work together effectively during the year on the values of environmental responsibility.



Weighing a chuditch (western quoll) during a teachers' Western Shield camp. Photo by L. Moore

Our team of 19 EcoEducation Officers are ready for action and looking forward to working at two new venues, The Henderson Environmental Centre, in the City of Stirling, and Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre. We have some exciting new opportunities around the State, particularly in the South West, where our Project Officer, Janet Date, will be driving the programs.

I look forward to working with you again this year as we continue to promote awareness and action for biodiversity conservation.

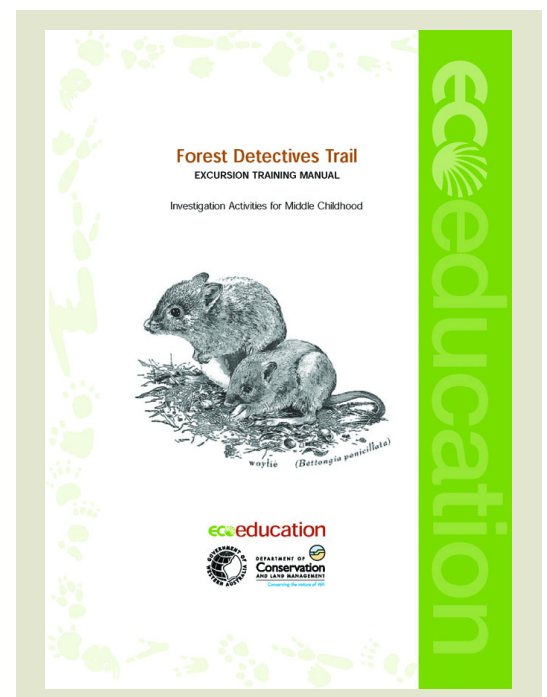
Liz Moore
Senior Project Officer, EcoEducation, CALM

Free PD – Introduction to the Henderson Environmental Centre

We invite teachers of upper primary school students to attend this PD session (3.45pm to 5.30pm) on Friday 19 March. The centre is located in the Star Swamp Bushland Reserve, off North Beach Road. Join us for afternoon tea, activities and an overview of our **'Threatened animals and ecosystems'** excursion offered at this fantastic venue. For bookings contact the Bookings Officer for EcoEducation (see the 'Contacts' box in this newsletter).

Forest Detective Trail - New resource for the classroom!

Just back from the printer and now on NatureBase, this manual is packed with great ideas for investigating skills and activities that are interactive, challenging, fun and will help your students solve the woylie mystery! Available for downloading from NatureBase www.naturebase.net/schools



Professional Development (PD) Term 1

The Hills Forest Discovery Centre

On **Friday 5 March** we are offering a PD for primary school teachers (9am to 3.30pm). This is an excellent way for you to become familiar with the facilities and range of curriculum-linked opportunities for all learning levels. The cost of \$66 includes refreshments, lunch, resources and a \$50 discount for 'new' teachers booking an excursion.

Special Offers

- PD at your school at a time and date to suit you.
- PD day with a focus on Aboriginal Culture for staff of a whole school at the centre

PDs in South West Region

Wellington Discovery Centre - **24 February**
 (9am to 3.30pm).

Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre – **10 March**
 (3.30pm to 5pm), free introductory afternoon.
 Bookings/enquiries contact Kristy. (See the 'Contacts' box in this newsletter).

PD and entry to Barna Mia Animal Sanctuary

Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night

Take the chance of a lifetime to visit Barna Mia in Dryandra Woodland and walk among bilbies, boodies and other unique WA fauna. This PD also offers resources for the classroom and is scheduled for the end of the Easter holiday break, from 5pm **Thursday 22 April** to 3pm **Friday 23 April**. The cost of \$55 includes overnight accommodation, dinner, breakfast, lunch, entry to the sanctuary, resources and GST.

For bookings contact Tricia on 9881 9200, fax 9881 1645 or email tricias@calm.wa.gov.au

Name our unique animals?



What is the Aboriginal name of this animal?

The first correct entry emailed to Jill Francis after **8am on 4 March** will **receive a \$50 discount** for the next excursion at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre. (This cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and must be redeemed during 2004.)

Check out our **Fauna Species Profiles** under the **Plants and Animals** icon on NatureBase.

Contacts for EcoEducation

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FloraBase website - Botany for Schools

Attention Biology, Geography and Technology & Enterprise teachers!

CALM's Western Australian Herbarium has recently released a new version of its innovative FloraBase website, an invaluable resource for students preparing for Geography and Biology excursions. Email EcoEducation Bookings Officer, Kristy (see the **contacts** box in this newsletter) for bookings and our online link to the main plant species students will encounter in the jarrah forest.

A new look and feel has been designed for FloraBase to enable you to find relevant information more quickly. There is a new menu system to help visitors navigate around the site. Teachers interested in a guided PD session to find out how they can best use the site to fulfil curriculum outcomes please contact Liz (see the **contacts** box in this newsletter).

FloraBase has superb images of plants and species-level descriptions.

Take a look at our plant of the month on www.naturebase.net/florabase/.



Plant of the month: *Corymbia ficifolia*

