

Biodiversity Month (September) is over and what a month it was! Students and teachers took part in EcoEducation programs from Broome to Albany and from Margaret River to Northam. They visited parks, the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) discovery centres, took part in Threatened Species Day activities and professional development camps. We also received some wonderful entries for the Biodiversity Conservation Campaign—a challenge for the judges. Winners will be announced on Monday 25 October.

If you are looking for a stress-free and fantastic way to end a busy school year with your students, why not check out our new curriculum linked 'Healthy Parks, Healthy People' excursion at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre. Or, you may be planning your program for 2005 and want to know how we can help you through a visit to your school by one of our Education Officers. Read on for more details.

Liz Moore, Senior Project Officer, EcoEducation, CALM



Morley Primary School students and teacher Georgina Mitchell help CALM scientist Mike Stukely plant dieback-resistant jarrah trees supplied by Alcoa World Alumina.
Photo - Liz Moore

Sponsored by 

Win a 'Back from the Brink' excursion

The deadline to register has been extended to 29 October.

If you have completed the activities in the *Western Shield* Action Pack with your class this year, you can register for the draw to win a free excursion in November. All expenses, including your bus travel, are covered for schools in the Perth, Bunbury and Narrogin areas.

Call Liz on (08) 9334 0387 for details.

Know your parks?

Congratulations to Morley Primary School Year 7 students who won a \$50 discount for their excursion to The Hills Forest Discovery Centre.

John Forrest National Park was indeed the first national park to be established in Western Australia. An area of 1500 hectares was proclaimed as a national park in 1900.



Shark Bay lives up to expectations

For the second year in a row, the *Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Weekend* attracted a full house at the Peron Homestead.

Twenty-two teachers explored the Shark Bay World Heritage Area and were provided with curriculum resources and ideas for the classroom. A team of CALM scientists, park and field staff gave their time so teachers could learn, first hand, about monitoring techniques and breeding programs of threatened fauna as well as research into dolphins at Monkey Mia. Close encounters with rare wallabies, bandicoots, a bilby, numerous reptiles and a misguided dunnart (that leapt back into its pitfall trap!) added to the interest of the weekend.

Book now for your place on this camp in 2005!

Mike Casley, Rossmoyne Senior High School, makes eye contact with a dunnart (marsupial mouse) caught in a pitfall trap, held by CALM scientist Kathy Himbeck.
Photo - Liz Moore

News from The Hills Forest Discovery Centre

Thanks to student teachers

Edith Cowan University Bachelor of Education students, Trent Sherbourne and Amy Robertson, provided welcome support to our EcoEducation Officers at The Hills Forest during our busiest times in September.

This practicum experience will be invaluable to their future teaching careers. Thanks to them, our programs were expertly displayed at the ECU Community Education Expo where they generated great interest.

NEW end of year excursion - Healthy Parks, Healthy People

Leave the stress of the school year behind and, together with your students, come and explore our jarrah forest trails along the Bibbulmun Track to the picnic area at Mundaring Weir.

Take in the spectacular views, enjoy the peace and take part in hands-on activities that promote bushcare and safety in the natural environment for your health and the health of the park.

Contact EcoEducation at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre for more information.

Plan for 2005 Camps and excursions

We have a record number of school camps booked for Term 4 at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre. Word is getting out about the fantastic facilities and safe environment of our campsite, as well as the activities we can offer for your camp.

We are already booked out for the 2005 *Monitoring Marsupials* sessions but still have many other activities on offer.

Professional Development (PD)

Let us deliver a Professional Development (PD) activity on a date to suit you, at your school.

Or, attend a PD (9am to 3pm) at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre on Wednesday 20 April or Friday 5 August 2005.

Or, attend an overnight *Be a Nature Conservation Officer for A Night* camp on Friday 20 May and Saturday 21 May 2005.



Thanks to Alcoa World Alumina Australia for continuing to sponsor our EcoEducation programs at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre.

New online resource for Geography teachers!

The *Tuart Woodlands Atlas* and a related 'task' for students, prepared by curriculum writer Rosemary Cawley, generated a great deal of interest at the GAWA Conference. The Atlas has now been made available on NatureBase at http://www.naturebase.net/forest_facts/tuart/tuart_atlas_contents.html.

The mapping presented in the atlas represents the most up-to-date and accurate assessment of tuart woodlands over their natural range. Also on line, is the *Status Report on the Conservation and Protection of Tuart*, which summarises the current information about the conservation and protection of tuart trees and ecosystems. This is an excellent case study of topical interest for your Geography students. Contact Liz Moore if you would like a copy of the Geography task associated with this atlas.

FloraBase
Plant of the Month

Tall mulla mulla
Ptilotus exaltatus

See what's flowering each month:
www.naturebase.net/florabase



Biodiversity Conservation Campaign

The overall winners' *Wildlife Adventure* will take place during November. Schools will share \$8000 of prize money thanks to sponsors Epic Energy.

EcoEducation contacts

Statewide

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