

Statewide

December 2004 No 6

As we head towards the Christmas break, wind up a busy year and plan for 2005, the pace of work for EcoEducation seems to be gathering speed rather than slowing down.

The Hills Forest Discovery Centre played host to a record number of school camps in November—word is getting out about this safe and excellent resource for schools. The CALM Bush Rangers cadet program is also going from strength to strength with another eight units opening in 2005. With the completion and opening of the Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre at Wharncliffe Mill Forest Camp and the continuing popularity of Wellington Discovery Forest we are now involving schools in curriculum-linked programs throughout the South West.

The quality of our programs can be attributed to the energy and professionalism of our team of EcoEducation Officers—led Team Leader, Louise, and Coordinator, Jill, (The Hills Forest Discovery Centre) and Project Officer, Janet, and Schools Coordinator, Kristy,

(Department of Conservation and Land Management's South West Region). My thanks to all of you and to the teachers who realise the importance of students' understanding of biodiversity conservation and return year after year.

We are looking forward to 2005 and all the new opportunities available for teachers and students. Give your students a chance to be active citizens by helping CALM's park rangers in John Forrest National Park or contribute to *Health & Physical Education* with our new *Healthy Parks, Healthy People* excursion. Read on to find out about our professional development and our excursion 'specials'—we're already receiving bookings for the most popular programs, so book now to claim your preferred date.

I wish you all a restful and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you again next year.

**Liz Moore**, Senior EcoEducation Officer, CALM

## Well done winners

This year's judging panel had a tough time deciding the winners for the Biodiversity Conservation Campaign because there were so many outstanding entries. The variety of projects included research and action for marine, land-based national parks, local bushland and *Land for Wildlife* areas; tuart plantings for wildlife corridors; research into tuart decline; planting of dieback resistant trees; a 'Care for Country' game promoting Aboriginal culture; projects to protect the oblong turtle, wetlands, sea grass, fish stocks and Carnaby's cockatoos.

Congratulations to the following winners:

- Overall winners** – Jurien Bay District High School and Cervantes Primary School (Jurien Bay Marine Park)
- Second Prize** – (Category 1 Primary Schools) Bunbury Community School (tuar decline in Yalgorup National Park)
- Third prize** – (Category 1) Gnowangerup Primary School (Stirling Range National Park)
- Joint second prize** – (Category 2 Secondary Schools) Albany Senior High School Science Extension students (seagrass and marine fauna in Princess Royal Harbour and Oyster Harbour) and Emmanuel Christian College CALM Bush Rangers (oblong turtle in Thomsons Lake and Kogolup Lake)

*Above right – Winning students from Jurien Bay District High School and Cervantes Primary School test out their mia mia built under the guidance of leader, Eddie Wilkes, during their wildlife adventure.*

*Photo – L Moore*

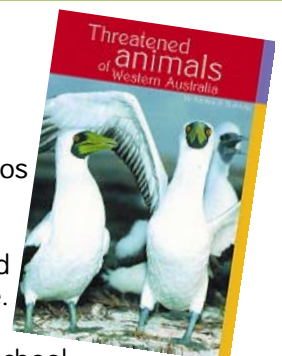
**Biodiversity Conservation Campaign sponsored by epicenergy**



## Just released!

Perfect for your students' studies on threatened species

This important book documents and illustrates, with fabulous photos and drawings, the management of the State's threatened animals, factors leading to their decline and a vision of what needs to be done. At only \$32.95 it would make a great Christmas present for your school library! Phone 9334 0333 to order your copy.



## News from The Hills Forest Discovery Centre

### Record number of camps

Teachers and students enjoyed the convenient camping facilities—hot showers, camp kitchen and resource centre—set in fabulous forest with a view of Mundaring Weir in November. They took part in a variety of programs and experienced the forest after dark! *Monitoring Marsupials* was the highlight for Applecross Primary School students, especially when a very clever possum successfully raided five traps before finally being outsmarted!

### Farewell Louise

Louise, our inspiring Team Leader, is off to greener, albeit colder, pastures in Europe next year. She has been a wonderful Team Leader and no doubt teachers, students and our team will miss her, her talents and laughter. We welcome Maree Morisey, with a wealth of experience in environmental education, as the new Team Leader.



### Back from the Brink winners

Congratulations to Coogee Primary School's Year 6 class, this year's winners of the *Western Shield* 'Win a Back from the Brink excursion'. Students were rewarded with an all expenses paid, action-packed day with hands-on research and close encounters with threatened animals.

Well-done also to Dardanup Primary School Year 6 students (winners in the South West) who enjoyed a similar day at the Wellington Discovery Forest.

### Professional Development (PD) 2005 at The Hills Forest

With the changes in Department of Education and Training policy for PDs we recommend that our Team Leader visit your school to give an overview of our programs. Give us a call if you would like a visit.

#### Term 1 all day PD - Friday 18 March

We encourage 'new' teachers to attend a PD at the centre before booking an excursion. You'll become familiar with the centre's facilities, be able to complete your risk assessment and be given resources to prepare your students. This PD is refundable as a \$50 discount on your first excursion.



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

### Professional Development 2005

#### Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night

Join us for a weekend in Dryandra Woodland's beautiful bushland and a walk through Barna Mia, a sanctuary that has become home to native animals facing extinction, during Term 1. Or, take a drive into the Mundaring Hills for a Friday night and Saturday morning camp. Each experience costs only \$44 (including GST) for STAWA members, or \$55, which includes curriculum resources.

**Dryandra and Barna Mia Animal Sanctuary, 3.30 pm**  
Saturday 30 April–12 noon Saturday 1 May. Phone 9881 9200, fax 9881 1645 or email [tricias@calm.w.gov.au](mailto:tricias@calm.w.gov.au) for more information.

**The Hills Forest Discovery Centre, Mundaring, 5pm**  
Friday 20–12 noon Saturday 21 May. See 'Contacts box' for booking contacts.

### Special excursion rates and events

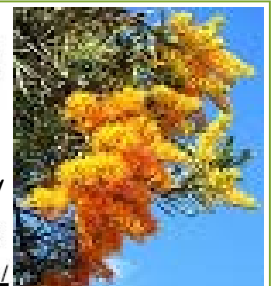
All excursions during the first week of any Term will be at the special discounted rate of \$7.70 per student. World Environment Day and Arbor Day will be celebrated on Friday 3 June with a series of special biodiversity conservation activities at The Hills Forest and Henderson Environment Centre, Star Swamp.

### FloraBase Plant of the Month

Christmas Tree  
*Nuytsia floribunda*

See what's flowering each month:

<http://florabase.calm.wa.gov.au/potm/>



### EcoEducation contacts

#### Statewide

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**Jill Francis**, EcoEducation Coordinator, for The Exploring The Hills Forest and The Henderson Environment Centre programs (ph 9295 6149, 9295 6300, email: [ecoeducation@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:ecoeducation@calm.wa.gov.au)).

#### South West

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