

EcoEducation was off to a busy start in 2005. The year began with more than 35 keen teachers, landcare officers and others immersing themselves in the best of environmental education through the Catchments, Corridors and Coasts (CCC) course. Under 'cool' conditions they got a taste of our programs at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre, camped overnight and assisted in CALM's *Western Shield* fauna monitoring program.

The Hills Forest Discovery Centre had a close call earlier this year. Fortunately, the fire in the Perth Hills during the third week of January did not affect the centre in Mundaring, or its surrounding forest so we can all continue to enjoy and learn about this amazing ecosystem. The fire, which burnt 28,000 hectares, caused the evacuation of the centre. However, visiting Geography and Biology students now have an opportunity to help monitor the recovery of the wildfire-affected areas, even though some distance away.

Our team of EcoEducation Officers are ready for action, operating out of our two South West centres—the Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre and the Wellington Discovery Forest—and the two in the metropolitan area—The Hills Forest Discovery Centre and the Henderson Environmental Centre in the City of Stirling.

Our newsletters will come to you by email at the start of each school term giving you news of new resources for use at school, excursions, camps and competitions. I welcome your feedback and contributions to this newsletter. Look out for our fliers and brochure, containing more details, posted to your school during Term 1.

We look forward to working with you to promote awareness and action for biodiversity conservation. Welcome back!

**Liz Moore** Senior EcoEducation Officer, CALM



*Chris Morton, Lesmurdie Primary School Vice Principal, and Steve May from South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare, test our Geography students' leaf litter gauges, used to assess the risk of wildfires in our forests at the CCC course.*

*Photo - L. Moore*

## What's in the bag?

Win a free place on our Dryandra weekend professional development (PD).

Simply email the correct answer to Robyn Weir (robynweir@calm.wa.gov.au) on 21 February. The first correct response received will win a place on our camp valued at \$55.

Here are some clues: This animal, weighing one kilogram, was captured in a cage trap during the CCC course. The species is classified as endangered and is our largest carnivorous marsupial. *(Apologies to the CCC course participants who are excluded from this challenge!)*



*Kellie Ker, newly qualified teacher, has got it in the bag!*

*Photo - L. Moore*

## An invitation to an unforgettable, nocturnal PD experience...

You are invited to *Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Weekend* at the Dryandra Woodland Ecology Centre and visit Barna Mia Animal Sanctuary, near Narrogin. Take part in CALM's threatened species monitoring program, *Western Shield*, and enjoy a nocturnal, guided walk through Barna Mia—a tranquil sanctuary for bilbies, burrowing bettongs, rufous hare-wallabies and others.

**When:** 3.30pm Saturday 19 March to 12.30pm Sunday 20 March

**Cost:** \$55 (\$44 STAWA members) prices include GST, accommodation, meals, activities and resources.

**Bookings:** ph 9881 9200, fax 9881 1645 or email (tricias@calm.wa.gov.au).

## News from The Hills Forest Discovery Centre

### New Team Leader

We welcome Maree Morisey as our new Team Leader in the Metropolitan area. Maree has had extensive involvement in environmental education and years of teaching experience. And, as you can see, she is a strong advocate for the hands-on approach!



### New excursions in 2005!

*Caring for Places*, for Years 6 and 7, will be offered in John Forrest National Park from Term 2. This is a chance to visit WA's first national park, explore the park with its wonderful walks and fascinating history, and study the effects of human impact on the health of WA's oldest national park. This excursion is part of an exciting program, which investigates national parks and provides a context for understanding sustainability and the role schools can play in sustaining our natural environment. **Special price for the first five classes to book:** \$6.60 per student (usually \$8.80).

*Healthy Parks Healthy People*, for Year 5, 6 and 7 offered at The Hills Forest from Term 2. The Hills Forest, now part of a national park, provides the perfect setting for our excursion promoting the importance of safe, regular exercise. Links to the *Health and Physical Education* Learning Area. **Special price for the first five classes to book:** \$6.60 per student (usually \$8.80).



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

### Special offers

All day excursions at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre and Henderson Environmental Centre during the first and last week of each term will be discounted from \$8.80 to \$7.70 per student. All *Back from the Brink* excursions, sponsored by *Western Shield*, during 2005 will be discounted from \$8.80 to \$6.60 per student. Book early to avoid missing out!

## FloraBase Plant of the Month

Marri  
*Corymbia calophylla*

See what's flowering each month:

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



## Term 1 PDs

We encourage teachers to attend a PD before booking an excursion. You will have the opportunity to familiarise yourself with the centres' facilities, the excursion activities and will be provided with resources to prepare your students for an excursion.

### PD at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre

Spend a day in the delightful setting of the centre. Take part in hands-on activities in the natural environment. Discover how our programs assist your students achieve curriculum framework outcomes. *Do the PD and receive a \$50 discount voucher; reimbursed against a day excursion!*

**When:** 9am–3pm Friday 18 March

**Cost:** \$55 (\$33 per student teacher), includes lunch, resources and much more!

### PD at The Henderson Environmental Centre **FREE!**

Take advantage of this free late afternoon PD designed to introduce you to our threatened animals and ecosystems program and excursion for Years 5, 6 and 7 students, exploring Star Swamp and tuart woodlands.

**When:** 3.45–5.30pm Friday 11 March

### Whole school staff PD

Enjoy the benefits of having a staff PD session (full or part day), off-site, in a beautiful forest setting. The PDs can be tailored to your special needs, or focus on our Aboriginal culture programs, led by experienced Aboriginal EcoEducation Officers, or on our general biodiversity programs.

### PDs in the South West Region

For Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre camp PD

**When:** 5.30pm Friday 18 March to 3pm Saturday 19 March

**Cost:** \$66, includes GST, dormitory accommodation, meals, activities and resources.

## EcoEducation contacts

### Statewide

Liz Moore, Senior EcoEducation Officer,  
(ph 9334 0387, mobile 0407 196 626, fax 9334 0498  
email [lizm@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:lizm@calm.wa.gov.au)).

Bronwyn Humphreys, CALM Bush Rangers Coordinator,  
(ph 9334 0137, fax 9334 0498,  
email [bronwynh@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:bronwynh@calm.wa.gov.au)).

Jill Francis, EcoEducation Coordinator for The Hills Forest  
Discovery and The Henderson Environmental centres,  
(ph 9295 6149 or 6300, fax 9295 3247,  
email [ecoeducation@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:ecoeducation@calm.wa.gov.au)).

### South West

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Kristy Pengelly, Coordinator bookings Wellington Dis-  
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