

Semester two is set to be hectic for EcoEducation with three *Western Shield* camps being offered and bookings for spring excursions at our field centres keeping our coordinators on their toes as enquiries come in. The Shark Bay camp is booked out but there are places in both camps in the Department of Conservation and Land Management's (CALM's) South West Regions. If you plan to bring your students out be sure to book soon so that we can give you a choice of dates.

As we in the south rejoice over the much-needed winter rain, spare a thought for those in the north as their wet season approaches. The 'Wet' creates ideal breeding conditions for that insidious invader, the cane toad, which is already close to our northern border. As a major threat to biodiversity, it is now CALM's role to lead the fight to keep the cane toad from reaching WA and the EcoEducation team will be playing its part. Much has already been done by the Department of Agriculture, other organisations and CALM's staff in the Kimberley area but there are opportunities for every concerned citizen to contribute.

There is no better time or learning environment than our forests, parks and reserves in spring. Please read on for the details or contacts for our programs, special offers, resources and camps.

Liz Moore, Senior EcoEducation Officer, CALM



Cane toads have reached the Victoria River 200 kilometres from WA's border inside the Northern Territory. If they cross the border, cane toads will threaten the Kimberley's unique biodiversity.

Unwanted cane toad cargo has already arrived and been destroyed in the Perth metropolitan area.

For an information pack about these invaders and to find out what you can do phone 9334 0437.

Special offers

National Science Week (13 to 21 August)

Book in for the *Forest Detective Trail* (Years 5, 6 and 7) at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre during National Science Week and the cost will only be \$6.60 per student (inc GST). This challenging and fun program comes with Science curriculum linked activities for the classroom and a mystery to solve on the excursion day.

Biodiversity month *Special offer!*

Classes booked into our *Bushcare* excursion during September's Biodiversity Month will receive a set of *Bush Books* for their library. *Bush Books* are handy, pocket-sized field guides about our native plants and animals.

EcoEducation contacts

Statewide

Liz Moore, Senior EcoEducation Officer, (ph 9334 0387, mobile 0407196 626, fax 9334 0498, email lizm@calm.wa.gov.au).

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

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

South West

Janet Date, EcoEducation Project Officer, (ph 9725 4300, mobile 0427 980 306, email janetD@calm.wa.gov.au).

Kristy Pengelly, Coordinator bookings Wellington Discovery Forest and Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre, (ph 9735 1909, fax 9734 4539, email wdf@calm.wa.gov.au).

Know your animals?

Your class could win \$50

Take a close look at this animal's tail tip and answer these questions:

- Which species is it?
- How is it associated with *Western Shield*?

The first class to email the correct answer to ecoeducation@calm.wa.gov.au after 8.30am on Wednesday 10 August will receive a \$50 discount voucher for its next excursion to either The Hills Forest Discovery Centre or the Henderson Environmental Centre. This must be redeemed in 2005.



News from The Hills Forest Discovery Centre

Forest full of life for Falls Road Primary School

On their annual camp, Year 7 students from Falls Road Primary School assisted CALM with its *Western Shield* monitoring of local fauna and found nine of the 10 cage traps they set had an animal in it, including six possums and three chuditch. One female chuditch had five young in her pouch and another had four! For many of the students, this was their first close encounter with chuditch.



A possum's foot was held up for students to get a closer look.



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

New EcoEducation Officer

We are delighted to have the energy, skills and enthusiasm of leader Liz McGuire. Liz has been working with the Nearer to Nature summer program and has joined the EcoEducation team for Terms 2 and 3 this year. She comes with a wealth of experience in leading groups in the natural environment and, as a CALM graduate recruit, has a great understanding of biodiversity and its importance. We look forward to having Liz with us in the longer term.

Book for our new *Fire for Life* excursion

Our new excursion, which focuses on the ecology and management of fire has been trialed and is now being offered. The excursion is an excellent opportunity for lower secondary students to do cross-curricular work through Science and Society & Environment. So, if you are planning an excursion enquire about details from Jill Francis The Hills Forest Discovery Centre.



Two pre-service teachers from Edith Cowan University, Kristine Upston and Christina Rumble (pictured), joined us for their practicum and were a real bonus for EcoEducation.

Both students gained fantastic experience and learned various teaching methods and strategies, and about Nyoongar culture and our local forest from the staff and leaders.

World Environment Day and Arbour Day celebrations

EcoEducation, in conjunction with CALM's Nearer to Nature program, hosted special activities, which helped students from Mt Helena and Mary McKillop Catholic primary schools understand the importance of biodiversity conservation. These programs included encounters with reptiles, marsupials, raptors, tree planting as well as Aboriginal culture activities.

Semester 2 Professional Development opportunities

We encourage teachers to attend a Professional Development (PD) opportunity before booking an excursion. This will familiarise you with the centres' facilities, the excursion activities and provide you with resources to prepare your students for an excursion.

Henderson Environmental Centre **FREE!**

Find out about activities and resources that focus on the conservation of native animals and tuart woodlands at Star Swamp, City of Stirling.

When: Friday 19 August, 3.45 to 5.30pm

Who: Primary and Secondary teachers – all learning areas

Florabase
Plant of the Month

Templetonia retusa
cockies' tongues

See what's flowering each month:

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



PDs in CALM's South West Region

Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night

For those who could not make it to The Hills Forest Discovery Centre, we have two similar opportunities.

Wellington Discovery Forest

When: 5pm Friday 9 September to 3.30pm Saturday 10 September.

Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre

When: 5pm Thursday 3 November to 3.30pm Friday 4 November.

Cost: \$55 per teacher, \$44 for STAWA members (includes GST, accommodation, meals, resources)

Who: Primary and Secondary teachers all learning areas

Whole school staff PDs and Inservices

These are also available for your school on request.