

While Liz Moore is off having her well-deserved long service leave, the Department of Conservation and Land Management's (CALM's) EcoEducation programs continue to offer students and teachers exciting and unique learning and professional development opportunities.

A weekend in August proved to be 'very informative, full-on and a lot of fun' for 20 enthusiastic participants who ventured to Shark Bay – WA's first World Heritage Listed Area – to experience life as a Nature Conservation Officer. Members of the group came from Independent Schools, Government schools and universities from Perth and the Mid-West Region.

The weekend consisted of various activities related to the Shark Bay World Heritage Area and its important threatened species program, *Project Eden*. Participants were involved in fauna trapping and release activities and visited the project's breeding pens and Monkey Mia. Curriculum resources, ideas and stories were also discussed and shared. An up-close reptile encounter with CALM Senior Ranger, Mark True, and plant research activities with Technical Officer, Rob Davis from the WA Herbarium were highlights of the trip. Planning has already started for next year's visit!

Robyn Weir Project Officer, EcoEducation, CALM



Mark True (above) and Rob Davis (left) discussing the area's reptiles and plants with our weekend Nature Conservation Officers' Photo by Liz Moore.

Your class could win a \$50 discount voucher

Seeing is believing! You can see (if you're lucky) this protected species in our forests. What is it? The first class to email the correct answer to ecoeducation@calm.wa.gov.au after 8.30am on Wednesday 26 October will receive a \$50 discount voucher for their next excursion to either The Hills Forest Discovery Centre or the Henderson Environmental Centre.



Know your animals?

What species did the tail in the last issue of *EcoEducation News* belong to? It was a bilby's! Thanks to all the classes that sent in a response to this question. The first correct entry received was Yr 1/2 from Thornlie Primary School.



Pooters, lupes, fur and spikes!

Pooters, lupes, fur and spikes were all part of EcoEducation's *Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night* professional development (PD) opportunity at the Wellington Discovery Forest during September. Participants enjoyed a variety of interactive activities, which focused on CALM's *Western Shield* fauna program, flora of the jarrah forest and excursions for schools.

If you missed this PD, you haven't missed out entirely, you still have an opportunity to apply for a place in the next *Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night* PD at Margaret River on the Thursday 3 and Friday 4 November! (see details in 'Semester 2 PDs').

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

News from The Hills Forest Discovery Centre

National Threatened Species Day

The *Western Shield* program's 'Back from the Brink' excursion and an overnight trapping session were on the agenda for 25 students of the Swan District PEAC group when they visited The Hills Forest Discovery Centre to celebrate National Threatened Species Day.

Following a full day of *Western Shield* research activities, Year 4 to 7 students were involved in overnight trapping with CALM Nature Conservation Officer, Stefan de Haan.

The lucky students encountered several marsupials including a chuditch with six young. Teacher, Lucy Mandyczewsky said the real life experience was something they would treasure and remember forever.



Students from Swan District PEAC with Education Officer Liz McGuire trapping at The Hills Forest.

"The conclusions drawn will form the basis of their thinking into the future," Lucy said.

Welcome to Jackie Simpkin-Brown

We are pleased to welcome Jackie Simpkin-Brown to the team. Jackie joins us from Perth Zoo and brings with her a wealth of experience in environmental education. A former teacher at Eastern Hills Senior High School, Jackie enjoys working with students and has an interest in the natural environment.



ECU visit to The Hills Forest

The Hills Forest Discovery Centre hosted yet another successful professional development day for Bachelor of Education students in their fourth year from Edith Cowan University, Mount Lawley.



Mikah Delamotte and Donna Paice 'investigating' during ECU's professional development day.

Lecturer, Les House said the day provided student teachers with a wonderful opportunity to learn about how environmental education could be incorporated into the classroom.

At the end of the day, the students left with many resources and ideas, which they look forward to using as qualified teachers, both in the classroom and on excursions with EcoEducation.

Totally Wild

Local Perth hills school, Parkerville Primary, recently won the State, Upper Primary, Hands on for Habitat, award.

Staff from EcoEducation were proud to be involved in the research undertaken by the year 4/5 students for their submission. Jill Francis from The Hills Forest Discovery Centre and Bob Huston from CALM's Perth Hills District office along with June Butcher from Kanyana Rehabilitation Centre presented environment-based talks about threatened flora and fauna. Channel 10 filmed the winning classes in action for a segment that was aired on the junior science program *Totally Wild* on 7 September – National Threatened Species Day.



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

PDs in the CALM's South West Region

Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night

For those who couldn't make it to The Hills Forest Discovery Centre or Wellington Discovery centre a similar opportunity is offered at Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre.

When: 5pm Thursday 3 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

Contact: Kristy Pengelly, Schools' Coordinator, ph 9735 1909, fax 9734 4539, (email wdf@calm.wa.gov.au).

Other events in the south west

Monitoring Marsupials for Years 7 to 12 at Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre (Years 7-12)

Places are still available for students to be part of *Western Shield* research. A CALM Nature Conservation Officer will provide the background and context for the monitoring program in the afternoon of the first day and then, early the next morning, students will go to the transect to measure and release the marsupials, reptiles and amphibians. This split session is about 45 minutes in the afternoon and two-and-a-half hours in the morning.

Dates available: 31 October to 4 November

Cost per student: \$5.50