

Statewide

February 2006 No 12

A **warm** welcome to you all from our EcoEducation Team in this International Year of Deserts and Desertification. We look forward to providing special and challenging opportunities for you and your students relating to this topic and many others.

2006 is shaping up to be a year of new EcoEducation resources and as they come to fruition we will keep you posted on their availability through our fliers and newsletters. One will come to you by email at the start of each school term giving you news of resources for use at school, excursions, camps and competitions. I welcome your feedback and contributions.

Our fliers and brochure for metropolitan area activities were posted in November last year. Yes, we tried to help you plan in advance! Please contact us if you missed out.

Our EcoEducation Officers have prepared for a busy year, operating out of two centres in the South West: Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre and Wellington Discovery Forest and two in the Metropolitan area: The Hills Forest Discovery Centre in Mundaring and the Henderson Environmental Centre in the City of Stirling.

I look forward to working with you again in 2006 to raise awareness and action for biodiversity conservation.

Liz Moore Senior EcoEducation Officer, CALM



EcoEducation Officer, Anne Taylor, explains the revival of a grass tree after a fire to Kent Street Senior High School students attending the new EcoEducation Fire for Life program.

Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night – Professional Learning (PL) at its most stimulating

You are invited to the Dryandra Woodland Ecology Centre, near Narrogin, to take part in CALM's threatened species monitoring program, *Western Shield*. Enjoy a nocturnal, guided walk through Barna Mia Animal Sanctuary – a tranquil sanctuary where you can observe bilbies, burrowing bet-tongs, rufous hare-wallabies and others.

When: 3.30pm Saturday 25 March to 12.30pm Sunday 26 March

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

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

Win a free place at one of our programs

Why is this plant called 'Poverty Bush'?

Win a free place on one of our *Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night camps*: Dryandra weekend, 25 to 26 March, or The Hills Forest Discovery Centre 19 to 20 May.

Simply email the correct answer to Jill Francis on jillf@calm.wa.gov.au on Tuesday 28 February. The first correct response received will win a place on our camp valued at \$55.

FloraBase
Plant of the Month
Poverty bush
Eremophila alternifolia

See what's flowering each month:

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



Special offers and special events

\$50 discount on excursions

Attend the Professional Learning Day at The Hills Forest Discovery Centre on 17 March and receive a discount on your first booking!

Henderson Environmental Centre Specials

\$100 travel subsidy: first 10 bookings for **Threatened species and ecosystems:** excursion for Years 5, 6 and 7 students. **Free attendance plus \$100 teacher relief:** first 10 bookings for the **Professional Learning Day** on Friday 26 May. Joint CALM and Greening WA event.

World Environment Day

Celebrate with us on Friday 2 June through a series of special biodiversity conservation activities at our metropolitan centres. Contact EcoEducation for details.

Win a free place on our Dryandra weekend or Hills Forest professional learning camp. See next page for FloraBase question!

News from The Hills Forest Discovery Centre

New EcoEducation Officer joins the team



Hannah Hampson is a new member of our team. We know your students will all benefit from her strong science background, an Honours degree in Biology and experience in giving presentations to schools and industry groups. As a volunteer for Kanyana Fauna Rehabilitation Centre, Hannah has good skills in animal handling and knowledge of fauna recovery programs. Welcome Hannah!

Hannah shows off one of her charges. Photo: Kanyana Fauna Rehabilitation Centre.

New program for 2006 - Fire for Life

This new program for **Science and Society and Environment** students and teachers offers a PL day for teachers (see PL details below), resources for use in the classroom and an excursion. The program is ideal for cross-curricular work. Attending the PL is not compulsory but recommended as it gives teachers a broad understanding of the complexity of fire management and the role of fire and its impact on biodiversity. On booking an excursion teachers receive a package of resources for pre- and post-visit work. The excursion includes an overview of the impacts of wildfire compared with prescribed burns, and hands-on analyses and comparisons of plant and animal life.



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

Semester 1 PL opportunities

We encourage you to attend a PL before booking an excursion to familiarise you with the centres' facilities, the excursion activities, curriculum links and resources to prepare your students for an excursion.

The Hills Forest Discovery Centre

PL in the delightful setting of the centre.

When: 9am–3pm Friday 17 March

Cost: \$55 (\$33 – pre-service teachers) attending this PL gives you a \$50 discount on your first excursion.

Fire for Life

When: 9am to 3pm Saturday 6 May

Who: Primary and secondary teachers (all learning areas)

FREE!

Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night

When: 5pm Friday 19 May to 12.30pm Saturday 20 May

Cost: \$55 (\$33 pre-service teachers, \$44 STAWA members)

Henderson Environmental Centre, Star Swamp

Activities and resources that focus on threatened native animals and tuart woodlands .

When: 3.45pm to 5.30pm Friday 10 March

Who: Primary and secondary teachers (all learning areas)

FREE!

Greening Australia and CALM joint PL

When: 8.30am–3pm Friday 26 May

Who: Primary and secondary teachers (all learning areas)
Cost: \$55 (\$33 – pre-service teachers). Free plus \$100 teacher relief for first 10 teachers who book.

PDs in the South West Region

Our centres have many great PLs and program opportunities. For enquiries see contacts box.

Enquire about whole school staff PLs at a centre or at school.

SPECIAL OFFER!

Sustainable Schools Initiative

In 2005 the energy and enthusiasm of the 20 pilot schools for the SSI is an indication of its potential and success. The pilot will roll out to a further 100 schools this year. Many 'new' schools have already registered and are keen to take up a whole-school approach to sustainability as a context for learning.

An understanding of the importance of biodiversity conservation and involvement of students in meaningful projects that contribute to sustaining our unique natural environment is a corner stone of this initiative.

EcoEducation will continue to support this element of the SSI. Register your interest or for more information about the initiative, please contact Howard Flinders at: howard.flinders@def.wa.wedu.au.

EcoEducation contacts

Statewide

Liz Moore, Senior EcoEducation Officer
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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 Centre 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, South West
(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 9734 1988, fax 9734 4539, email wdf@calm.wa.gov.au).