

Statewide

December 2006 No 16

The time to relax is just around the corner and all those who have supported and contributed to our EcoEducation programs in 2006 deserve a well-earned rest! A big thank you to teachers, parents and adult carers who have attended our Professional Learning (PL) days around the State and accompanied students to our centres. All the pre- and post-visit work you direct in the classroom and at home contribute to young people taking part in biodiversity conservation.

A special thank you to the Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC's) South West Region EcoEducation team with Sue Miller as Project Officer, who picked up the baton part way through the year. The Perth Hills EcoEducation team, under the leadership of Lorita, coordination of Bel and marvellous Meg (who has ably proved that it is possible to do 10 things at once) has again delivered a successful suite of programs to thousands of students.

Next year EcoEducation will offer a wealth of new resources, PL opportunities, funding for teacher relief and much more. Details are given below so please read on and do not hesitate to contact us if we can help you add some useful content to your 2007 curriculum program.

Have a relaxing break with best wishes from the EcoEducation Team.

Liz Moore, Senior EcoEducation Officer, DEC



One of the many highlights of the year: students Stephanie Baumgartel, Max Clifford and Katelyn Baumgartel from Holy Rosary School celebrating World Environment Day at the Henderson Environmental Centre. Photo: Liz Moore

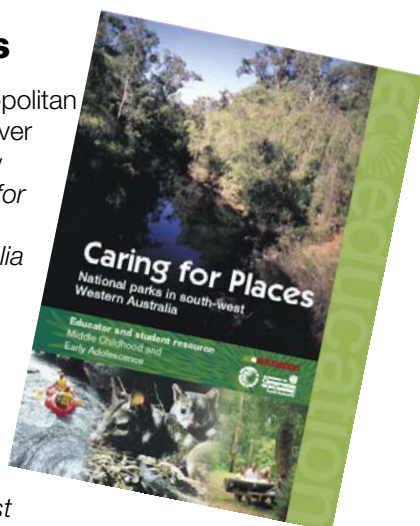
What's new in 2007?

Caring for places

Many teachers in the metropolitan area, Bunbury, Margaret River and Manjimup have already been introduced to *Caring for Places – national parks of south-west Western Australia* and are planning to use it next year. Book soon for a session or you may miss out on a chance to receive a copy in Term 1 next year.

Caring for Places – national parks of south-west Western Australia for Middle Childhood and Early Adolescence is more than just a printed document! Discover its versatility by coming along to a PL day with teacher relief offered or request an introductory session at your school.

Caring for Places excursions are available at John Forrest National Park and Wellington National Park. See the contacts box for bookings.



Incursions for Year 9 Science students

Possum pelts, hair tubes, Sheffield traps, ear tag callipers and other props and hands-on activities will capture the interest of the most challenging students! These incursions contribute to *Life and Living* outcomes and will focus on DEC's *Western Shield* threatened species recovery program. A limited number will be offered in the metropolitan area and in the South West Region so enquire and book early.

**western
shield**

Tuart woodland resources

Interactive CDs with virtual field trips and teacher and student guides, a poster and tuart prop boxes to run your own excursion will be available next year. These are suitable for Early Adolescence in Science and Society and Environment, as well as for the Geography, Biology and Earth and Environmental Science new courses of study.

For enquiries please contact Liz Moore.

News from Perth Hills National Parks Centre

Groups galore descend on centre

Despite the brevity of Term 4 there has been plenty of action at the centre with our final event, a PL day for all staff of Our Lady of Mercy School, booked for 11 December. More than 100 groups have headed for the hills this term and there are still more to come.

In October we welcomed 206 students and 31 adults from Beldon Primary School who took part in several excursions. This was a special experience for everyone and a great way to embed the concept of conservation in the school culture.

Farewell Bel

We are sorry to say goodbye to Bel and her financial wizardry in her role as Coordinator of our programs this year. She will be missed by all of us and we wish her good luck on her return to her substantive position.

Healthy Parks, Healthy People special excursion

Notre Dame Primary School students discovered the health benefits of being in a park when they attended a sponsored excursion this term. Students discovered techniques for safe bushwalking and bushcare, compass navigation and safety and signals, while observing EcoEducation's Forest Code of Conduct.

Healthy Parks
Healthy People



Twenty-six keen educators attended our Fire – A force of life PL in November. Here DEC Regional Fire Coordinator, Rob Towers, uses a leaf litter gauge to gather data for fire management. Everyone went away with a better understanding of the complexity of managing fire and its importance to biodiversity. Photo: Rhianna King



Thanks to Alcoa World Alumina Australia for continuing to sponsor EcoEducation programs at the Perth Hills National Parks Centre.

Keep your eyes open for the Invertebrate of the Month Dryandra moth, *Carthaea saturnioides* (Lepidoptera: Carthaeidae)

This exquisite moth, commonly known as the dryandra moth, is endemic to south-west WA.

The distinctive eye-spots are used in defence (probably against bird predation) and when disturbed the moth shows its hind wings and rhythmically vibrates them. This results in a startling display. Adults come to lights, generally in the later part of the night and early morning and usually fly from October to December.



Thanks to Dr Janet Farr from DEC's Manjimup Science Division for this information.

Congratulations to our tuart competition winners!

Holy Spirit School students in Floreat correctly identified the barn owl pictured in our October newsletter and identified land clearing and urbanisation as the major cause of the loss and decline of tuart woodlands on the Swan Coastal Plain.



Well done!

Term 1 PL opportunities

PL days – Fire and EcoEducation resources – \$100 teacher relief

- 9am to 3pm Thursday 8 March at Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre
- 9am to 3pm Friday 23 March at The Perth Hills National Parks Centre.

Explore the complexities of fire management, take a tour of wildfire affected areas and get an introduction to *Caring for Places*. Free classroom resources for Science and Society and Environment.

Introductory session – *Caring for Places* Free, refreshments provided!

- 4pm–5.30pm Thursday 1 March at The Perth Hills National Parks Centre.
- 4pm–5.30pm Tuesday 13 March at DEC's State Operations Headquarters in Kensington.

For enquiries please contact Liz Moore.

Whole-school staff PL

Conduct a whole-school PL at a time and date to suit you at The Perth Hills National Parks Centre, Henderson Environmental Centre or at one of our centres in the South West Region.

PL session at your school!

We will visit your school at a time and date that suits you to give you an overview of our resources and programs.

For bookings or enquiries for PLs contact EcoEducation.



Staff from Gidgegannup Primary School enjoying a PL day run by EcoEducation Team leader Lorita Schmitz (right) at The Perth Hills National Parks Centre.

Fire – A force of life

Updated activities for use in school by Science and Society and Environment students. Contact EcoEducation for how to get a copy. These are now available on booking an excursion.



EcoEducation contacts

Statewide

Liz Moore, Senior EcoEducation Officer
Phone: 9334 0387
Mobile: 0407 196 626
Fax: 9334 0498
Email: Liz.Moore@dec.wa.gov.au

Bronwyn Humphreys, Bush Rangers Coordinator
Phone: 9334 0137
Fax: 9334 0498
Email: Bronwyn.Humphreys@dec.wa.gov.au

Customer Services Officer, The Perth Hills National Parks Centre and The Henderson Environmental Centre programs
Ph: 9295 6149 or 6300
Fax: 9295 3247
Email: ecoeducation@dec.wa.gov.au

South West

Sue Miller, EcoEducation Project Officer, South West
Phone: 9725 4300
Mobile: 0427 980 306
Email: Sue.Miller@dec.wa.gov.au

Kristy Pengelly, Coordinator bookings Wellington Discovery Forest and Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre
Phone: 9734 1988
Fax: 9734 4539
Email: wdf@dec.wa.gov.au

Visit the 'For Schools' section of NatureBase at www.naturebase.net for resources and more information about EcoEducation.