

Statewide

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A fiery welcome to you all from the Department of Environment and Conservation's EcoEducation Team in a year when climate change and the increased prevalence of wildfire is a focus in politics and the media. It is appropriate that education in biodiversity conservation will continue as a critical aspect of school curricular.

We have developed new EcoEducation resources, which we're offering at free introductory sessions and professional learning (PL) days supported by teacher relief. A brochure and fliers are being sent to all schools, so keep a look out for them.

EcoEducation News will come to you by email at the start of each term, giving you information about our resources, excursions and camps. I welcome your feedback and contributions.

Why not join us for our first professional learning (PL) day on Friday 23 March for an introduction to our program *Fire – A force of life* and go away with a copy of our recently launched *Caring for Places – National parks in south-west Western Australia*.

I look forward to sharing our new resources and opportunities with you in 2007.

Liz Moore, Senior EcoEducation Officer, DEC



A group of keen environmental educators visited the Perth Hills National Parks Centre in January. Here they role play as rain clouds – raining down on to a model of CY O'Connor Lake's catchment – as part of EcoEducation's Catchment Carers' Trail.
Photo: Liz Moore

Fantastic new teaching resource! ***Out on a Limb – Investigating tuart woodlands***

Tuart woodlands once covered more than 111,600 hectares but now, due to clearing for urban development and agriculture, only an estimated 35 per cent of this valuable woodland remains. Of this, some areas are small scattered remnants and others are in severe decline.

On an interactive CD, *Out on a Limb – Investigating tuart woodlands*, students are presented with an activity that is broken down into a number of tasks they can use to research and investigate the issues around the conservation and management of tuart woodlands. The resource offers rich interactive multimedia learning materials such as 'Take a Hike', a virtual guided tour of a tuart woodland; 'Digging Deep', a virtual tour of Yalgorup National Park; and 'Biological Keys', an interactive learning object.

There are two CDs available. One provides a context for learning to students of Geography and/or Society and Environment and the other has been developed for students of Biological Sciences and/or Earth and Environmental Science in Late Adolescence and Science (Life and Living) in Early Adolescence. They are particularly valuable for students who are not able to access fieldwork in a local area. The resources are accompanied by a comprehensive teacher and student guide. Tuart field ecology kits will also be available for loan to Secondary schools and a poster for Primary schools.

These resources will be provided to teachers who attend the PL on Tuesday 20 March in North Beach or on Thursday 15 March in Bunbury; also during sessions (4.30pm to 7.30pm) at Yancheep, North Beach, Rockingham, Mandurah, Bunbury and Busselton in May. Read on for more details.



News from the Perth Hills National Parks Centre

The EcoEducation Team is prepared for a busy year! Meg Corsini, our Customer Services Officer, is ready to respond to all your questions and take bookings. The phones are already running hot, so call soon to ensure your choice of days for your excursions and camps.

Our first event for this year is on Thursday 1 March. Join us for afternoon tea and a free introductory session about our new resource, *Caring for Places – National parks in south-west Western Australia*, between 4pm and 5.30pm and leave with a free copy of this excellent new resource.



We welcome our new EcoEducation Team Leader, Stephen Crane, whose passion for environmental education has brought him all the way from Queensland. He comes with new ideas and a wealth of experience working with students and teachers in a range of environments.



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

See our new pre- and post-excursion activities pack and CD that support our *Fire – A force of life* program. Call us at the Perth Hills National Parks Centre for a copy and to book your excursion.



Evening light at the centre as educators from the Catchments, Corridors and Coasts course enjoy their dinner before setting out on a night walk. Photo: Liz Moore

Term 1 PL opportunities

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

9am to 3pm Thursday 8 March, Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre

9am to 3pm Friday 23 March, 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 – National parks in south-west Western Australia*. Free classroom resources about fire for Science and Society and Environment are also available.

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

4pm to 5.30pm Thursday 1 March at Perth Hills National Parks Centre

4pm to 5.30pm Tuesday 13 March at DEC's State Operations Headquarters in Kensington.

PL days – Investigating tuart woodlands \$200 teacher relief

9am to 3pm Tuesday 20 March at Henderson Environmental Centre

Whole-school staff PL

Organise a whole-school PL at a time and date that suits 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 to suit you to give you an overview of our resources and programs.

EcoEducation contacts

Statewide

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Visit DEC's website at EcoEducation under the 'Community' section at www.naturebase.net for more information and resources.