

Statewide

May 2007 No 18

Term 1 is generally a quieter time for EcoEducation but this year has been busy especially with the demand for the *Caring for Places – National parks in south-west Western Australia* resource from many country schools in Manjimup, Brookton, Pingelly, Pemberton, Mandurah and Bunbury. We will continue to offer introductory sessions at schools in the metropolitan and Bunbury areas – so keep those requests coming in.

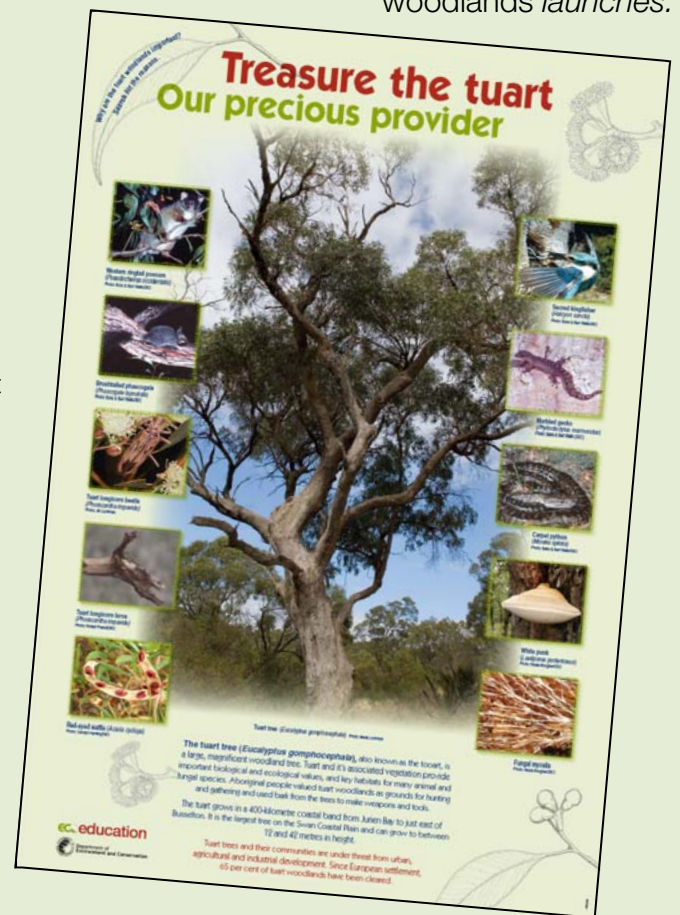
The month of May harbours a very important date on the international calendar – Tuesday 22 May is World Biodiversity Day. Before you groan at yet another day to celebrate, let me remind you that it is a UN-sanctioned international holiday for the promotion of biodiversity issues. EcoEducation is offering you a that supports your curriculum at the Henderson Environmental Centre, North Beach, in tuart woodland away from your class, with a \$200 bonus for teacher relief. Check out the details on page 3 of this newsletter under Term 2 professional learning opportunities. It might not surprise you that the UN's focus for this year's day is Biodiversity and Climate Change so we will spend part of the day considering the impact of climate change on our already declining woodlands and threatened fauna species.

Term 2 will be packed with opportunities for you to obtain our new *Investigating tuart woodlands* resources so read on for a chance to win a sponsored excursion to remnant woodlands at one of the launches.

We welcome your continued interest and involvement in our programs and encourage you to contribute content for this newsletter. We like to hear how you are using our resources at school.

Liz Moore, Senior EcoEducation Officer, DEC

*Hot off the press! Free copies when you attend one of the Investigating tuart woodlands launches.*



## Field ecologist for a day

Woodvale Senior High School Science students and teacher Mark Soraru test out new equipment provided in the tuart fieldwork kit.

## Investigating tuart woodlands launch

### What's on offer?

Educators are invited to meet managers and scientists involved in tuart protection, encounter animals found in the woodlands, win door prizes (including a free excursion to a tuart woodland), enjoy refreshments, plant a tuart and go away with some fantastic new resources.

### Time

4.30pm to 7.30pm

### When and where

- Busselton Yacht Club - Wednesday 16 May, or
- The Atrium, Mandurah - Tuesday 29 May.

To reserve your place phone 9334 0481, fax 9334 0498 or email [customer.service@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:customer.service@dec.wa.gov.au).

More than 100 keen educators have already enjoyed launches at Cabaret Cave in Yanchep National Park and Naragebup, Rockingham Regional Environment Centre and the Henderson Environmental Centre.



## News from the Perth Hills National Parks Centre

### EcoEducation contributes to the spirit of Harmony Week

Term 1 has been full of action for the Perth Hills National Parks Centre's EcoEducation Team. All the staff of West Leeming Primary School enjoyed a full PL day, went away with resources for pre-visit work and are booked to bring all their students to the centre this term.

Then came Harmony Week – 15-21 March – which provided an opportunity for us to embrace our diversity and the many benefits it brings. To celebrate this special week more than 80 students and teachers from the Australian Islamic College took part in our Aboriginal excursions, *Koolangars*, *Corroborees and Kaleeps* and *Moodich binar* to learn about traditional culture from experienced Aboriginal leaders. The day was enjoyed by all and the students embraced the Nyoongar culture with enthusiasm.

Judging by the large number of bookings for the Aboriginal programs in Term 2, EcoEducation will continue to promote the spirit of harmony this semester.



*Students and teachers from the Australian Islamic College celebrate Harmony Week with EcoEducation Aboriginal leaders.*

### Catchment Carers' Trail – as popular as ever

With daily reminders of climate change the interest in our water supplies continues, as does the demand for the Catchment Carers' Trail. More than 70 students from Kensington Primary School walked the trail on just one day and took a great interest in the low water level as they crossed the weir under the watchful eye of parents and our EcoEducation Team Leader Stephen Crane.



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

### Test your knowledge and win a *Back from the Brink* excursion!

Can your students answer this question? Why is *Western Shield* important to this animal which is found in the Perth Hills National Park?

The first class to email the correct answer after 8.30am on Tuesday 29 May to [ecoeducation@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:ecoeducation@dec.wa.gov.au) will receive a \$150 bus subsidy and a free excursion to the Perth Hills National Parks Centre!

This must be redeemed in 2007.

*Photo – Alan Danks/DEC*



## Term 2 Professional learning (PL) opportunities

PL day Greening Australia, DEC and the Sustainable Schools Initiative  
\$200 Teacher relief per school.

9am to 3pm Tuesday 22 May at Henderson Environmental Centre, Star Swamp, North Beach

Suitable for teachers of Middle Childhood, Early and Late Adolescence in Science and Society and Environment. Focus on tuart woodlands at risk and *Western Shield* threatened fauna species.

### Introductory session – *Caring for Places* Free at your school

Time: Minimum of one hour at a time that suits you. At least five teachers must attend.

### Whole-school staff PL

Conducted 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 and give you an overview of our resources and programs.

## Investigate your natural heritage

You are invited to join DEC officers and scientists who will offer a wealth of EcoEducation opportunities for teachers and students in and out of the classroom.

This PL, with \$200 teacher relief, will give you ideas for hands-on activities at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve, free curriculum resources, lunch and refreshments and provide an overview of:

- Caring for Places – National parks in south-west Western Australia
- Saving threatened fauna – An Investigation for Secondary Science students.
- Biodiversity conservation, threatened species, fire resources

**When:** 9am to 3pm Thursday 24 May

**Where:** Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve Visitor Centre

**Bookings and enquiries:** Liz Moore (9334 0387, [liz.moore@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:liz.moore@dec.wa.gov.au)).

**FREE**  
Professional opportunity  
Learning opportunity  
\$200 teacher relief per school

## Special offer - book today!

World Environment Day is on Tuesday 5 June and this year we will celebrate the importance of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems at the Perth Hills National Parks Centre in Mundaring and the Henderson Environmental Centre in North Beach.

Students of Middle Childhood can meet a ranger, take part in Aboriginal culture activities, have close encounters with reptiles, raptors or marsupials, plant a tree or tune into tuarts. The cost is \$6.60 per student (includes GST) for a full day of activities.

**Florabase**  
Plant of the Month

Camphor myrtle  
*Baeckea camphorosmae*

See what's flowering each month:  
[www.naturebase.net/florabase](http://www.naturebase.net/florabase)



## EcoEducation contacts

### Statewide

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Customer Services Officer, the Perth Hills National Parks Centre and the Henderson Environmental Centre  
(ph 9295 6149 or 6300, fax 9295 3247,  
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### South West

EcoEducation Project Officer, South West  
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Kristy Pengelly, Coordinator Bookings Wellington Discovery Forest and Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre  
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Visit DEC's website at EcoEducation under the 'Community' section at [www.naturebase.net](http://www.naturebase.net)