

ecoeducation news

Statewide

October 2007 No 20

Springtime highlights the richness of Western Australia's biodiversity, which underpins many of our industries and is fundamental to our health and wellbeing. WA's biodiversity is recognised internationally but, as you all know, over the past 150 years humans have drastically depleted this natural heritage.

In response to this, the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is preparing a 100-year Biodiversity Conservation Strategy that, when finalised, will provide the framework to guide action for biodiversity conservation into the future. A draft strategy was released for public comment and can be accessed on DEC's NatureBase website at www.naturebase.net.

One of the strategy's key focuses is education. EcoEducation, with all its supporters in school communities, will play an increasing role in guiding conservation. You can help by joining the many teachers who are now using our new tuart woodland, fire and parks resources, camps and excursions. If you have missed out on our launches and professional learning opportunities (PLs) this year and you would like these to help you prepare for 2008 – it is not too late! Please contact us for a free introduction at your school.

I look forward to hearing from you and, as always, welcome your contributions, photos or stories to our newsletters.

Liz Moore, Senior EcoEducation Officer, DEC

Top right: EcoEducation programs give students first-hand experience of WA's biodiversity. Centre left to right: eucalyptus blossom, mardo, sea lion. Bottom: Perth Modern College students with EcoEducation's Peter Russell. Photos – DEC, Jennifer Harrison and Mick Eidam.



Students walking along the Bibbulmun Track on a Healthy Parks, Healthy People excursion. By the end of the day they had picked up tips on safe bushwalking, signaling, compass navigation and the Forest Code of Conduct. Photo – DEC

Win a \$150 bus subsidy and a FREE *Healthy Parks, Healthy People* excursion to the Perth Hills National Parks Centre

Celebrate the end of the school year with us and contribute to Physical Education and other learning outcomes. How? Ask your students to research what year the *Healthy Parks, Healthy People* program was established in WA and write a sentence explaining why parks are important to people. The first class to email the correct answer to ecoeducation@dec.wa.gov.au after 8.30am on Thursday 1 November will receive a bus subsidy of \$150 and a free excursion. This must be redeemed in 2007.

Hint: See the 2007 spring issue of *LANDSCOPE*, WA's conservation, parks and wildlife magazine, for the answer.



News from the Perth Hills National Parks Centre and the Henderson Environmental Centre

The hills blossomed with student activity and wildflowers during Term 3, especially in September – Biodiversity Month – a time to promote the importance of protecting and conserving biodiversity within Australia and across the world. This year nearly 1500 students took part in our biodiversity-focused programs.

A 'cool' but fiery day

On Wednesday 12 September (a day when it was difficult to believe that wildfires are a constant summer threat in our forests) teachers from across Perth gathered for the *Fire – A force of life* PL day to hear from fire experts, managers and researchers and to see first-hand the impact of wildfire on biodiversity. Groups of Geography and Science students are now taking up our excursion and learning first-hand about the complexities of fire management.

West Morley Primary School's big day out

It is always a thrill for us when we're visited by all the students and teachers from one school on the same day. Having everyone engaged ensures that conservation messages reach the whole school community and makes learning so much more effective. A special thank you to West Morley Primary School teacher Kerry Roberts and her colleagues for organising the day.

Congratulations to students

Well done and thank you to the students of Corpus Christie College, Rockingham John Calvin School and Attadale Primary School for their considerate manners and interest throughout their excursions. It was a pleasure to lead you through the excursion activities.

Thanks from our Nyoongar leaders

EcoEducation's Nyoongar leaders have been working to keep up with the demand for our popular traditional Aboriginal culture excursions. We always appreciate seeing the wonderful work students do in their classrooms before and after our excursions.



Leaders Trevor Walley and Leonard Thorn display a piece of artwork that came from a Subiaco Primary School student. Photo – Lisa Ingram



Glen Forrest Primary School students test out their sense of touch on the Sense-ational Trail. Photo – Lisa Ingram

Plan ahead for 2008

If you haven't visited us for a while why not book us for your first whole staff PL next year for some wonderful resources and ideas for your curriculum?

Special offers

Win a *Healthy Parks, Healthy People* excursion. See page 1 of this newsletter.

Celebrate the end of the school year. If you and your students would like to celebrate the end of the year with a special activity, close encounters with some reptiles, have a bush tucker supper or encounter raptors or marsupials just give us a call and we will be happy to arrange an activity of your choice.

Thanks to:



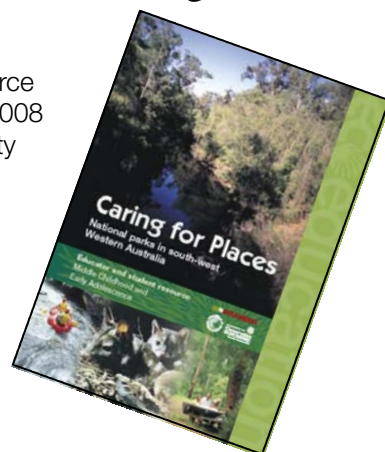
for their sponsorship of the *Western Shield* schools program.

Join EcoEducation for a free introductory session on *Caring for Places*

This cross-curricular resource will help you to plan your 2008 teaching program in Society and Environment.

When: 4pm–5.30pm
Wednesday 7 November

Where: DEC's State Operation Headquarters,
17 Dick Perry Ave,
Kensington



New kit *Field Ecologist for a Day* for loan in 2008

Science teachers: do you have tuart trees in your school grounds or tuart woodland close by? Are you looking for an opportunity to do some fieldwork with your budding scientists?

EcoEducation's *Field Ecologist for a Day* kit, ideal for Early Adolescence students, has been designed to reflect a 'real life' floristic survey. The kit contains everything you will need to complete your survey as well as pre-survey activities, field data sheets, measuring equipment such as canopy cover, soil type and pH, an atlas of tuart woodlands with some great maps, a flora reference book and our new *Out on a Limb – Investigating tuart woodlands* CDs.

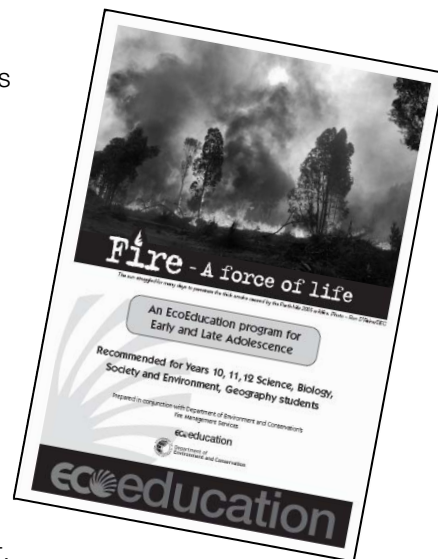
Please contact us if you would like to borrow this kit in 2008.



Fire – A force of life

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.

Resource available free of charge from the 'Community' section of DEC's NatureBase website at www.naturebase.net.



Florabase

Plant of the Month

Flannel bush
Solanum lasiophyllum

See what's flowering each month:
www.naturebase.net/florabase





Talented Armadale Primary School students helped to spread the message 'Stop the Rot' at the J Rock festival last year. The 'rot' refers to dieback disease, which attacks hundreds of plant species in many areas in the south-west.

Teachers will be introduced to the new Dieback Education Kit at a Professional Learning opportunity on 23 November. For enquiries please phone 9374 3312 or 0438 044 488.

Statewide

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South West

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