



ecoeducation news

Statewide

August 2010 Number 30

2010 International Year of Biodiversity and EcoEducation's 250,000th learner

Hello colleagues,

Eureka Science Awards finalist

EcoEducation was selected as a finalist in the national Eureka Science Awards in the category of 'Promoting Understanding of Science'. This is a prestigious award and recognises the quality of DEC's experiential education programs in the environment offered by EcoEducation.

Thank you all for your support. Particular thanks to EcoEducation staff and DEC officers who have worked hard to make the program a success. EcoEducation would not have happened without the vision and energy of Liz Moore and the dedicated support of Ron Kawallilak.



EcoEducation Senior Project Officer Elaine Horne, with centre coordinators Stephen Crane and Hannah Hampson, and Director Ron Kawallilak



Liz Moore

Next event in the IYB series – Sir David Read

Sir David Read from the UK will be our guest speaker in the International Year of Biodiversity series, speaking on October 7 at 4pm at the Chemistry Precinct, Curtin University. Please express your interest with EcoEducation on 9295 6149.

EcoEducation Teachers' Symposium in Kununurra

Chief Scientist Professor Lyn Beazley AO, accompanied the teachers that attended the EcoEducation Kununurra Symposium. She was supported by DEC's Fire Management Services and EcoEducation.

Lyn and the teachers enthusiastically participated in:

- a cane toad hunting evening, also observing many spiders and insect life
- a full day seminar on the critical issues of fire and cane toads
- animal spotting on Lake Argyle
- exploring the Great Fossil Devonian Reef and understanding the importance of the biodiverse rich springs nearby
- discussing agricultural practices with a pastoralist and a prominent seed producer
- giving ideas on future DEC's resource topics including cane toads and fire.



Chief Scientist Lyn Beazley capturing a Cane Toad

Local Kununurra DEC officer Corrin Everitt organised the agenda and was supported by Manager Daryl Moncreiff, Tracey Robbins, Rhiannon Hill and Nathan Connor. Perth-based Melissa Patterson organised the delegates and Elaine led the symposium. Thanks to the Fire Management Branch for their great support.

Best wishes from Elaine Horne



ecoeducation news

News from the Perth Hills

Lisa Ingram

As the weather in term two cooled down, participation in EcoEducation programs heated up!

Over 3,200 students visited the Perth Hills National Park and Henderson centres engaging in curriculum linked, hands on activities, this was an increase of 20 per cent compared to term two, 2009.

Strong numbers were recorded for our *Fire – A force of life*, *Aboriginal culture (A.C.E.)* and *Moodjitch Binar* excursions, catering for pre-primary to secondary students.



EcoEducation Leader Leonard Thorne teaches a student how to make a traditional Nyoongar tool. Photo Lisa Ingram

You will be hearing a new voice on the phone this term as Juliet Rushton joins the EcoEducation team as our new customer service officer. Juliet is a former teacher and comes to the department with a wealth of knowledge and experience. Welcome Juliet!

Your comments – *Karen and I would just like to say how fabulous today's excursion was. A comment heard from one of the parents on the bus was "That was the best excursion I've ever been on in my life". The kids loved it, we loved it and we have raved to the other teachers about your programs, BRAVO! What was so great about the experience is that it totally represented what education should be about – interactive and hands-on, real life learning. Your presenters were professional and the activities were highly engaging and linked fantastically well with the outcomes in the Curriculum Framework. Special mention must go to Mr. T and Mr. Walker. What motivated and knowledgeable presenters they are! (Clifton Hills Year 3 and Year 2/3 classes)*

News from the South West

John Anderson

As the wildflowers start to bloom and a bit of long-awaited rain brings new life to the forest, we are looking forward to a great and busy term three. Julie-Anne Oliver, a favourite with the younger kids, is currently doing some work with nature conservation in Bunbury so that will give her some great experience and stories to share with students about wildlife incidents reported by the public. Fortunately she is still available as a leader to us so the children will not have to miss out on her irrepressible antics.

At the end of term two, a team of guides from the Valley of the Giants came to observe an Ecosystems Explorer excursion which they have adapted to suit the tingle forest near Walpole. It is great to see opportunities for students to take part in EcoEducation programs in new locations in the South West.



Julz in action



Christie Mahony (Frankland District Interpretation Officer), Claudia Simpson and Charmaine Brown (Visitor Services Assistants – Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk) at WDF learning about Ecosystem Explorers.



Department of
Environment and Conservation



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Professional learning for teachers and educators coming up:

A Night with Nature

10 and 11 September (Friday night and Saturday)
Perth Hills National Park Centre, Mundaring Weir for primary and secondary teachers
Start at 4pm after school
Trapping, night walk, Aboriginal program, tastings of EcoEducation
Contact: ecoeducation@dec.wa.gov.au or 9295 6149

Trapping in the South West

Places for teachers and classes in trapping
Contact: EcoEducation, Bunbury 9725 5900 or 9725 5944

Biology teachers seminar

5 October
Perth Hills National Park Centre, Mundaring Weir
Curtin University/STAWA and EcoEducation Seminar
Contact: STAWA 9244 1987 or EcoEducation 9295 6149

International Year of Biodiversity lecture series

7 October at 4pm
Education/STAWA at the Chemistry Precinct, Curtin University
Contact: STAWA on 9244 1987 or EcoEducation 9295 6149

FIRE – Fire – A force of life

October 11
Perth Hills National Park Centre, Mundaring Weir
Contact: EcoEducation 9295 6149
\$100 teacher relief per school

TUART ecosystems

Investigating Tuart Woodlands

October 11 – evening
Wonnerup House, Ludlow, Busselton. Night walk in tuarts with possum spotting
Primary and secondary teachers
Contact: EcoEducation, Bunbury 9725 5900 or 9725 5944



Teachers Danielle and Barbara discussing Kimberley issues with Corrin Everett, DEC

Florabase Plant of the Month



Sturt pea
Swainsona formosa

See what's flowering each month
www.dec.wa.gov.au/florabase

Statewide

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EcoEducation in the South West Region

For enquiries, bookings for excursions or PLs contact DEC Bunbury District Office on 9725 5900 and ask for EcoEducation or contact the EcoEducation project officer on 9725 5944 or email wdf@dec.wa.gov.au.

Visit DEC's website at www.dec.wa.gov.au.

Sponsors of the *Western Shield* schools program:

