

Welcome to the first edition of *EcoEducation News*! Each term *EcoEducation News* will be distributed electronically and/or in print. If you wish to receive this newsletter personally please contact Kristy Pengelly.

2003 has been a year of change for the Department of Conservation and Land Management's (CALM's) EcoEducation programs in the South West Region. A strategic plan has been written for the Wellington Discovery Forest (WDF) and will be implemented in January 2004. I joined the EcoEducation team as a full-time Project Officer, in October and have duties and responsibilities throughout the whole region. Lyn Tyler, our newest EcoEducation Officer, joined the team to cater to the busiest year of excursions so far at the WDF.

Our team is now made up of Kristy Pengelly, Schools Coordinator for WDF, situated in Collie; Wink Ferris and Lyn Tyler, EcoEducation Officers for WDF; and myself, situated at Bunbury.

On behalf of the team at WDF I would like to thank you for your support throughout 2003 and wish you a safe and relaxing festive season.

We look forward to working with you in 2004.

Regards
Janet Date

Project Officer, Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM)



Team members, Kristy Pengelly (left) and Wink Ferris (right) at the Bull and Barrel display in Dardanup. Photograph by L Ferris

Looking forward to 2004

Many new developments are scheduled for 2004, including new excursion options at WDF and the start of EcoEducation excursions at Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre (Wharncliffe Mill).

Professional Development (PD) 2004

PDs for primary and secondary teachers will be held separately in 2004 to accommodate the differing levels of excursion experience required by each teaching level and the new draft curriculum for Geography excursions for Years 11 and 12.

Primary and secondary teachers, in particular middle school teachers, will have a chance to get together at the planned joint overnight PD during July school holidays.

PD dates:

Primary: Wednesday 25 February, Monday 14 June and Friday 26 November.

Secondary: Tuesday 15 June and Thursday 25 November.

Overnight PD: Friday 23 July to Saturday 24 July (4pm - 4pm).

For more information, including costs, times and venues, contact Kristy Pengelly by phone: 9734 1988, fax: 9734 4539 or email: wdf@calm.wa.gov.au.

A **Western Shield** overnight PD has also been arranged for Thursday 16 September and Friday 17 September. There are only 25 places so book early to avoid any disappointment!



Special events and prices for excursions:

Wellington Week (2 - 6 March): All standard day excursions will be \$5.50 per student.

World Environment Day (5 June): All standard day excursions booked for Friday 4 June receive a \$50.00 discount per group.

Threatened Species Day (7 September): *Back from the Brink* excursions booked for 7 September receive a \$50.00 discount per group.

Biodiversity Month: All standard day excursions will be \$5.50 per student in September (except *Back from the Brink* excursions for 7 September see above).

Celebration dates:

22 – 26 March for **Wellington Week.**

All excursions this week are \$5.50 per student

Wellington Week is held in celebration of the first release of woylies in the Wellington National Park.

Due to fox predation, the woylie was locally extinct until a highly successful fox baiting program and later a translocation program from Batalling to the forest in 1999.

Working relationships/partnerships

EcoEducation, through the Wellington Discovery Forest, has forged successful working relationships with two local primary schools: Adam Road and Dardanup. Adam Road Primary School's Year 7 classes contributed to their Personal Achievement Award by completing community work at WDF. During November 2003, the students removed invasive introduced plant species, built a riffle and pond in the creek system around the centre, cleared the main trail of dead waterbush and planted native flora species in front of the centre. CALM supervised the work, provided the tools and a sausage sizzle lunch for the students.



Adam Road Primary School trail clearing team at work.
Photograph by J Date

Dardanup Primary School has a plot in the research section of the forest where they are studying plant communities. In October 2003, the Year 6 class came to the forest to map and identify the plants in their plot. They took the information back to school and compared it with the samples they collected last year and built on their photographic reference of the floral species.



One of the beautiful wildflowers on the plot – *Boronia spathulata*.
Photograph by J Date

If your school would like to develop a working partnership with EcoEducation at the WDF, please contact Janet Date.

Contacting EcoEducation in the South West

For any bookings, excursion or professional development, please contact: Kristy Pengelly at the CALM Collie office by phone: 9734 1988, fax: 9734 4539 or email: wdf@calm.wa.gov.au

For the development of programs and educational liaison, please contact:

Janet Date at the CALM Bunbury office by phone: 9725 4300, mobile: 0427 980 306 fax: 9725 4351 or email: janetD@calm.wa.gov.au

