

Welcome to the third edition of *EcoEducation News*. I trust it will find you and your students settled into another term having survived what, for many, was a very eventful Term 1.

Hot weather, fires, many excursions and teacher Professional Development days meant there was never a dull moment in the South West Region. And, with our bookings diary filling up, this term looks like it will be a busy one too.

This issue contains the details of many excursions and Professional Development opportunities. We hope you'll take advantage of these activities and we'll see you at the Wellington Discovery Forest or the Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre during the term.

Kind regards,
Janet Date, Project Officer, EcoEducation, CALM

Sense-ational volunteers

Clearing paths, digging in posts and (trying) to sleep among energetic nocturnal possums were just some of the adventures embarked on by a dedicated team at the Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre last term.

The team, made up of six Brits, one Canadian and one Aussie from Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and led by Matt Warnock, spent a week at the centre setting up the Sense-ational trail and trail resources for the *Back from the Brink* program.

The trails were initiated by CALM's Blackwood District staff and Paperlinx sponsored CVA's involvement as part of the Making Tracks program – a partnership between Paperlinx and CVA that provides track managers with practical resources.

The Making Tracks program adds to the support provided by local groups and volunteers. For more information about CVA's activities visit the website www.cva.org.au or call their toll free number (1800 032 501). Thank you Paperlinx and CVA!



Team members Philly Brough, Joe Ward, Sophie Praeger, Gary Kelsey, Bronwyn Edney, Ben Cull, Mary Philpot, Dave Smith and Matt Warnock at the Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre. Photo: Janet Date.



Sense-ational trail being developed. Photo: Janet Date.

'Do you know your plants?'

Congratulations to Dardanup Primary School's Year 6 students for their winning answer in the February 'Do you know your plants?' competition. The plant was Snottygobble or *Persoonia longifolia*. The students used the 'Interactive Identification' section of CALM's FloraBase website to correctly identify the plant by selecting key words to match the description: Flower colour – yellow; Habit – tree; Flowers in – December; Southwest – Jarrah Forest. This search rendered 41 species, the students then looked through each photograph until they came to the correct match: Snottygobble!

The winning class received a \$50 discount voucher to use on their next trip to either the Wellington Discovery Forest (WDF) or Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre (MREDC). We'll see you in the forest!

Term 2 and 3 Professional Development (PD) activities

Day PD at WDF

Come along to either of these PD days that promise to support all excursions, including the new *Djildjit the Nyoongar Way* excursion that will help you address Aboriginal cultural outcomes for Society & Environment, Science and Technology & Enterprise.

When: 9am to 3:30pm
 Monday 14 June (for Primary teachers)
 Tuesday 15 June (for Secondary teachers)

Cost: \$42 (includes morning tea, lunch, activities and resources). Remember the 10 per cent GST can be claimed for all curriculum-based activities.

Overnight PD at WDF

Timed with the end of the school holidays, this PD is an ideal way to rejuvenate your enthusiasm for the natural environment, learn more about the experiences offered at Wellington Discovery Forest and prepare yourself for an excursion or camp.

Who: all teachers and pre-service teachers
When: 4pm Friday 23 July to 3pm Saturday 24 July
Cost: \$66 (includes cottage accommodation, meals, activities and resources)

Special excursion prices

To celebrate World Environment Day, all standard day excursions will receive a \$50 discount per group booked at WDF on Friday 4 June or at MREDC on Tuesday 8 June.

Biodiversity Conservation Campaigners

See the inserted brochure for information about this year's competition and how you could win a share of \$8,000 and help protect a local CALM-managed area such as Wellington National Park, St John Brook Conservation Park, Haddleton Nature Reserve or Leeuwin-Naturalist National Park. There are two categories for the competition and plenty of time to research, develop and submit an entry before the closing date (5pm 30 September 2004). For more information, visit the 'For Schools' section of CALM's NatureBase website at www.naturebase.net/schools or call (08) 9334 0319.

Day PD at MREDC

Get in early (Term 2) and book our PD day at MREDC for Term 3 to receive a half price discount for bringing a colleague (total cost for you and your colleague is only \$63!). Experience the new setting of our four popular day excursions.

Who: all teachers
When: 9am to 3.30pm Monday 16 August

Cost: \$42 (includes morning tea, lunch, activities and resources)

Contact Kristy for bookings or enquires.



Tailored learning

Please contact Janet if your school or learning area department would like to organise an exclusive day or overnight PD tailored to your individual needs.

Special opportunity

Book now to take advantage of the fabulous opportunities offered to Year 11 and 12 Biology students during National Science Week (14 to 22 August). One or two special Biology students from each school can work with a CALM scientist as part of the *Be a scientist for a day* program. Please contact Liz Moore on (08) 9334 0387 or by email (lizm@calm.wa.gov.au) in Term 2 for more information.

Contacting EcoEducation in the South West

For bookings, excursions or professional development please contact:
 Kristy Pengelly at the CALM Wellington District Office.
 Phone: **9734 1988** Fax: 9734 4539
 Email: wdf@calm.wa.gov.au

For the development of programs and educational liaison, please contact:
 Janet Date at the CALM South West Regional Office.
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Further resources and information are available from CALM's NatureBase website at www.naturebase.net/schools.