

As we head into the wettest part of the year and it's less busy at the Wellington Discovery Forest (WDF) and the Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre (MREDC), we can stop, catch our breath and plan for the rest of the year. This break also gives us a chance to get out and visit schools. Give me a call or send me an email, and I will be happy to make a time to visit your schools after hours or at a staff meeting to discuss spring PD and excursion opportunities.

Please contact me if you would like a copy of the EcoEducation Wellington Discovery Forest Strategic Plan 2004-2006, which was launched by Environment Minister, Dr Judy Edwards, as part of her tour of the Wellington District.

Keep in mind that September is Biodiversity Month; a very busy time of the year for us especially with the discounts we're offering! (See below). Book early to avoid missing out. I look forward to seeing you in the forest.

Janet Date, Project Officer, EcoEducation, CALM

Competition within a competition!

You are more than likely working on your project for the Biodiversity Conservation Campaigners, wanting to share in \$8000 of prizes generously sponsored by Epic Energy. (For more information, visit the 'For Schools' section on CALM's NatureBase website at www.naturebase.net/schools or call 9334 0319.)

Well, here's a tip to help you along. Have you considered using CALM's online flora database, FloraBase, as a reference tool to find the location and type of weeds or rare plants in the CALM-managed area you are working on? You could use this information in your management plan.

If you use FloraBase and want an opportunity to win another prize, here is another challenge. Can your class locate the family and genus of rare flora in the South-West on the Swan Coastal Plain and in the jarrah forest with the greatest number of species?

Be the first to email the correct answer to janetD@calm.wa.gov.au after 8.30 am Monday 12 September stating the (a) family, (b) genus, (c) number and (d) what your class thinks the reason is for its rarity. The first correct answer will receive a voucher worth \$50 to redeem on your next visit to either WDF or MREDC during 2004.

Threatened Species Day Tuesday 7 September

Each year during Biodiversity Month, we recognise the importance of biological diversity by remembering the death of the last surviving Tasmanian tiger (*Thylacine*) at Hobart Zoo in 1936. Human activity has had considerable and damaging effects on the natural environment throughout the world. In WA, many native flora and fauna species are threatened. CALM's wildlife recovery program, *Western Shield*, assists in native fauna recovery. Its strategies include the control of feral predatory fauna, captive breeding programs and translocation of viable family groups of native fauna.

Western Shield sponsors the *Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night PD* (see over for details) and the *Back from the Brink* excursion, which gives students a thorough insight to CALM's work on threatened species and raises their awareness of *Western Shield*. The *Back from the Brink* excursion is discounted on Threatened Species Day (see over for details).

NAIDOC Week Celebration

On a hot November day in 2003, Adam Road Primary School helped CALM staff create a pond at WDF. The pond site now stands as the central focus for our excursion, *Djildjit the Nyoongar way*. During this year's NAIDOC week, 5 to 9 July, 54 students from Adam Road Primary School came to WDF to celebrate the site's creation and take part in activities of the excursion, active citizenship work and enjoy a barbeque lunch. CALM district manager, Drew Griffiths, presented the school with a certificate of appreciation for its work in 2003. A Ngalang Boodja representative also spoke to the students about Aboriginal culture and significance of the area.

Adam Road Primary School students create a water-bar system to manage runoff with CALM's Scott Hunter at Wellington Discovery Forest. Photo L Moore.



Adam Road Primary School head boy and girl accept a Certificate of Appreciation for community works performed at the Wellington Discovery Forest. Photo J Date.

Term 3 Professional Development (PD) Activities

Day PD at MREDC

Experience the new setting of our four popular day excursions. Come along to this PD day that supports all excursions and will help you address learning area outcomes and core values in a fun and supportive environment.

When: 9 am to 3:30 pm Monday 16 August.

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

Whole school development

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

Special excursion prices

Threatened Species Day Tuesday 7 September: *Back from the Brink* (BftB) excursions on this day are discounted by \$50.

September is Biodiversity Month: All standard day excursions are \$5.50 per student (except BftB on 7 September)

Overnight PD WDF – Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night Not to be missed!

There are still places for the Overnight PD at WDF, *Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night*. Come along and you will receive a free action pack, take part in hands-on science, learn of case studies and data for Biology, meet CALM's *Western Shield* scientists and have close encounters with unique animals!

Who: Upper primary and secondary teachers, especially of science

When: 5 pm Friday 17 September to 3:30 pm Saturday 18 September

Cost: \$55 (includes cottage accommodation, meals, activities and resources)

This PD is subsidised by the *Western Shield* program and is open to all teachers who have a commitment to encouraging a nature conservation ethic in their students.

Contact Kristy for bookings or enquires.



New CALM Bush Ranger unit a Sense-ation!

The newest CALM Bush Ranger unit, Geographe Education Support Centre took part in a Sense-ational Nightwalk at MREDC in May. The unit camped at the Wharnccliffe Mill Forest Camp and 20 students, along with their teachers and adult helpers, walked the forest tracks in the cold evening. We tested out our new red spotlight, which is kinder to the animal's nocturnal vision and spotted a barn owl blinking at us from a jarrah tree beside the trail!



Bush Ranger unit from Geographe Education Support Centre prepare for a Sense-ational Nightwalk at Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre. Photo Bronwen Worthington.

Contacting EcoEducation in the South West

For any bookings, excursions or PD, please contact: Kristy Pengelly at the CALM Wellington District Office.

Ph: **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.

Ph: **9725 4300** Mobile: 0427 980 306

Email: janetD@calm.wa.gov.au

Further resources and information are available from CALM's NatureBase website at www.naturebase.net