

Bookings for next year's programs are already coming in, so get in early to avoid disappointment.

October to November is an especially pleasant time of the year in Margaret River so teachers are encouraged to take advantage of our planned special events.

The 'Monitoring Marsupials' program has been scheduled for May and September 2005 at Wellington Discovery Forest (WDF) and October–November at the Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre (MREDC). We are giving preference to Years 7–12 classes.

We hope Term 4 will be a good one for you and your class and look forward to seeing you in the forest.

Janet Date, Project Officer, EcoEducation, CALM

Edith Cowan University (ECU), Bunbury

ECU is keeping abreast of opportunities for educational excursions in the region with 60 pre-service teachers enjoying a half-day Professional Development (PD) in the forest at the WDF during the Term 3–4 school holidays.

If your school is providing a class for a students' practicum or Assisted Teaching Practice (ATP) then suggest they prepare for an excursion to one of EcoEducation's South-West locations. Put their third year assignment into practice!

Wellington Mill Cottage Parks

Book your 2005 camp now. Managers Heather and Rob welcome your enquiries about hiring their eight cottages that each accommodates eight people. Schools also booking EcoEducation excursions receive a five per cent discount on their accommodation. Contact Heather or Rob by phone/fax on (08) 9728 3043.

New partnership forged

Following a staff Professional Development camp held on a Friday night and Saturday in March, Amaroo Primary School has decided to become a partnership school with EcoEducation at WDF. EcoEducation has allocated a 400 square metre WDF forest plot to the school for Year 4–7 environmental studies.

In November, 120 students will celebrate the beginning of the partnership when they visit their plot, take part in hands-on activities all day and enjoy a sausage sizzle.

Wharncliffe Mill Forest Camp

This camp, at MREDC, is situated in a beautiful karri, jarrah and marri forest. There is bunkhouse-style accommodation with 38 beds and camping sites for up to 100 people. Facilities include an ablution block, kitchen with gas cook top and two refrigerators, electric barbecues, trestle tables with chairs and fire rings. Contact Shan at CALM's Busselton Office to book for 2005 by phone (08) 9752 5555.

Competition within a competition

Congratulations to a home schooling group in the metropolitan area for your correct answer in the *Competition within a competition* FloraBase challenge in the last issue.

You have won a \$50 discount on your next visit to EcoEducation centres at WDF or MREDC. The correct answers from FloraBase for the rare plant was (a) family: Proteaceae, (b) genus: Grevillea, (c) species number: 13 and (d) what your class thinks the reason for the rarity is? they answered: "because all the clearing for houses and stuff and it is a prickly type of plant that people don't like". Plants like the tangled grevillea in the jarrah forest around Perth certainly display the 'prickly' leaf type.



Tangled grevillea, a rare plant in the jarrah forest around Perth. Photo courtesy FloraBase.

Term 4 Professional Development (PD) activities

Day PDs at WDF

Come along to either of these PD days to prepare for 2005 and include camps, excursions and special events in your curriculum! The PDs provide curriculum resources for use in schools and support all EcoEducation excursions. They will help you address learning area outcomes and core values in a fun and supportive environment.

When: 9am to 3:30pm Thursday 25 November (Secondary teachers)
Friday 26 November (Primary 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 camp at MREDC Not to be missed!

Bring your swag or tent and prepare for 2005 by finding out what great opportunities there are for your students at this fantastic new venue and discover more about our new excursions. Book early to receive discounts for an experience you won't forget.

You will receive free resource materials, take part in hands-on activities, meet some of CALM's district nature conservation staff, observe the monitoring of our unique animals and much more!

All teachers and pre-service teachers are welcome.

*** Please note change of date***

When: 5:30pm Thursday 11 November to 3:30pm Friday 12 November.
Cost: \$66 (includes camp fee, meals, activities and resources). Remember the 10 per cent GST can be claimed for all curriculum-based activities.

Contact Kristy for bookings or enquiries.

Whole school development

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

Special excursion prices

December special: all standard day excursions are \$5.50 per student (class size limits apply).

2005 early notice of discount

Wellington Week has been extended because of the Easter break so the specials available have been extended to include March 21 to 31. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Notice of price increase 2005

With wages and costs increasing we have had to increase the cost of all our EcoEducation opportunities. Standard full-day excursions will increase by 50 cents to \$6.50 (excluding GST). All increases will be effective from 1 January 2005 and will be detailed on the EcoEducation Opportunities fliers to be distributed next year. We endeavour to hold the new prices for as long as possible.



Brookton District High School Teacher, Barry Halls, and Gerard Ots, CALM, under the supervision of National Park Ranger, Chris Gilbert (centre), assist with measuring native fauna during the Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night 'camp' at Wellington Discovery Forest.

Contacting EcoEducation in the South-West

For any bookings, excursions or PDs, 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 or any educational liaison, please contact Janet Date at the CALM South West Regional Office.
Phone: 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/schools.