

Welcome back!

What a very busy time we had last year with our final excursion on 10 December. Kristy and I really looked forward to the break, as I know you would have as well. Now, with the arrival of the new year, we are refreshed and geared up again ready to receive early bookings for our busiest times of the year. Read on for the chance to win a free place on one of our *Christmas in July* PDs, for special dates and prices and for information on PDs during Term 1.

We look forward to seeing you and your students in the forest in 2005.

Janet Date, Project Officer, EcoEducation, CALM

New excursions at Wellington Discovery Forest and Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre

2005 starts with a new opportunity for students in Years 2 to 4. The new excursion, called *Investigating the Forest*, follows on very well from *Busy in the Forest* (recommended for PP to Year 3).

Investigating the Forest guides young students to more detailed information about key flora species in the Jarrah forest and to discover that it's a very colourful place indeed!

Students participate in this exciting new Treasure Trail full of activities and experiences. They have the opportunity to gain further knowledge about the unique Jarrah Forest and take information back to school to share after the excursion. Students also test their skills on the Sense-ational Trail, a tried and true favourite.

Teachers trialling the excursion raved about the Treasure Trail and one teacher described it as: "Very appealing to young students. Sharon (our EcoEducation Officer) was great at explaining clearly, in suitable language, each 'treasure'. It was a great activity". Another teacher said it "was an excellent excursion and I would highly recommend it to any other school".

So, now you know why we are offering *Investigating the Forest* in 2005, come and take part yourself!

Flyers out early Term 1

Within the first few weeks of the term, you will receive the 2005 opportunities flyers for Wellington Discovery Forest and the Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre and a PD flyer for the South West Region. Please feel free to photocopy this information and distribute it amongst your colleagues.

If you intend to take part in the *Marsupial Monitoring* at either the Wellington Discovery Forest or the Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre, don't forget to book your accommodation early. (Wellington Forest Cottages book on 9728 3043 or Wharnclyffe Mill Forest Camp on 9752 5555.) Remember Terms 2 and 3 are very busy for us, so book now to secure your preferred dates!

New prices

Due to increasing operating costs, unfortunately we have had to increase our prices to assist with covering some of our expenses. All standard day excursions are now charged at \$ 7.15 per student.

On camp, *Sense-ational Nightlife* and *Monitoring Marsupials* are now \$5.50 per student and *Marvellous Macroinvertebrates* is \$4.40 per student. All prices include GST. Minimum group sizes remain the same, 23 for PP to Year 3 and 25 otherwise. Maximum group sizes 28 for PP to Year 3 and 32 otherwise.

Christmas will come early in 2005



We are offering two *Christmas in July* PDs this year: one at the Wellington Discovery Forest (WDF) on 3–4 July and the other at Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre (MREDC) on 14–15 July.

For your chance to win a free place at either of these PDs, simply identify the image and email your answer to janetD@calm.wa.gov.au on Friday 4 March. The first correct response received on or after the date will win a PD place valued at \$77.00!

Retired, working part time and want a casual job in the fresh air?

We are looking for two people to join our small team of EcoEducation Officers. The work is casual, outdoors, all school holidays are free time and there are no reports to write. If you are interested and live in Margaret River or the surrounding area or close to Wellington Mill, give Janet a call to answer all your questions and discuss options.

Professional Development opportunities—Term 1

Overnight camp PD Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre

EcoEducation encourages all teachers attend one of our PD opportunities before they book an excursion. A PD will familiarise you with the natural settings and centre facilities, excursion activities and staff, as well as provide resources to assist you in preparing your students for their excursion and learning plans.

If you already know all about us, suggest to another teacher on staff they learn about us too, then reduce your costs by sharing a bus on your next excursion to our forests!

When: 5.30pm Friday 18 to 3pm Saturday 19 March
Cost: \$66 (includes bunkhouse accommodation, meals, activities, resources and GST)

Whole school PD

Do you have new members of staff? They may not know about EcoEducation and our programs. Why not bring your whole staff to one of our idyllic locations in the south west forest?

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.

Contacting EcoEducation in the South-West

For any enquiries, bookings for excursions or PDs, please contact: Kristy Pengelly at CALM's 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 CALM's 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/schools.

Unforgettable weekend, nocturnal experience Yes it's a PD!

You are invited to *Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night* at Dryandra Woodland Ecology Centre and visit Barna Mia Animal Sanctuary, near Narrogin.

Experience CALM's threatened species recovery program, *Western Shield*, and enjoy a nocturnal, guided walk through Barna Mia—a tranquil sanctuary for bilbies, burrowing bettongs, rufous hare-wallabies and others.

When: 3.30pm Saturday 19 March to 12.30pm Sunday 20 March
Cost: \$55 (\$44 STAWA members) prices include GST, accommodation, meals, activities and resources. This PD is subsidised by *Western Shield*.
Bookings: phone (08) 9881 9200, fax (08) 9881 1645, email tricias@calm.wa.gov.au

Special excursion prices Last week Term 1

April 4–8: All standard day excursions will be \$6.05 (GST inclusive) per student.

Wellington Week (WDF)

Special prices for Wellington Week include bookings from March 21 to 31 inclusive. All standard day excursions at WDF will be \$6.05 (GST inclusive) per student.

Book now to avoid disappointment!



Illustration - Rob Fleming