

What a wonderful winter of rain we've had so far, with above average falls in the south-west. However, the coming of the rains has been tempered by some destructive storms. We hope your water tanks and dams are filling and sustainable water use is a topic of discussion. Remember to consider the natural environment when talking about water requirements! Most of Western Australia's potable water dams are situated in State forest and our water quality is excellent by world standards.

Bookings for Term 3 at the Wellington Discovery Forest (WDF) rolled in at the end of last term, so your choice of dates will be a little restricted. But, we still have many days available at Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre (MREDC), so please book as soon as you have worked out your dates!

We look forward to seeing you in the forest.

Cheers,  
**Janet Date**, Project Officer, EcoEducation, CALM

## Did you know?

By using a book such as *Tracks, Scats and Other Traces*, (ISBN: 0 19 553643 6) you can identify most Australian mammals by what they've left behind. The Department of Conservation and Land Management's (CALM's) nature conservation officers use this book to aid species identification. You too can do a little detective work by looking at bones or teeth remains; scats; footprints; food leftovers or entrances to homes, nests or hollows.

Prepare for and come along to a 'Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night' professional learning opportunity in September or November.

See if you can identify what animal has been to this place by what's been left behind (pictured below).

Email your guess to [janetD@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:janetD@calm.wa.gov.au) to receive a \$50 discount on your next class trip to either South West centre in 2005. Entries accepted on 15 August (Week 4).



## Inaugural Outback Safety and Survival course SW1

CALM's Wellington District hosted its first Outback Safety and Survival course in chilly weather at the beginning of July. The Wellington Discovery Forest and Centre played host to 10 participants on the course, which was conducted by Bob Cooper from Outdoor Education Pty Ltd. The diverse group, which included CALM officers and even a gold prospector, learnt a great deal and thoroughly enjoyed the weekend.

Another course is being offered by CALM's Wellington District from 11 to 13 November. If you wish to receive details about this very popular and successful course, please contact Kristy.

*The two teams leave on a navigation exercise. We hope they will return!*  
Photos J Date



## September is Biodiversity Month

With the advent of spring, our attention is drawn to the new life appearing all around: wildflowers, including orchids, and a new generation of birds and mammals.

For EcoEducation, September focuses on our biodiversity conservation work. At WDF and MREDC there is a particular focus on CALM's *Western Shield* and *Western Everlasting* programs, which emphasise the importance of plants and animals being sustained in their correct

habitats. When you go to the nursery to buy gardening supplies, check that the 'native' plants are not introduced from other Australian States, because even these can turn into weeds in WA! *Genista monspessulana* at the entrance to MREDC is an example.

FloraBase, the authoritative source for information about WA's flora ([www.naturebase.net/florabase](http://www.naturebase.net/florabase)), has a section dedicated to the weeds of WA. It can be accessed in the 'Theme' section and is well worth checking out.

## Professional Learning (PL) in second semester

Term 3 and 4 offer the opportunity for you and your colleagues to become 'A Nature Conservation Officer for a Night'. This Professional Learning (PL) opportunity is offered at WDF on the afternoon of Friday 9 and all day Saturday



10 September and at MREDC on the afternoon of Thursday 3 November and all day Friday 4 November. Both camps include accommodation and meals and are subsidised by *Western Shield* – CALM's wildlife recovery program, which aims to bring wildlife back from the brink of extinction. The PL costs \$55 per person or \$44 per STAWA member. There is a limited number of places, so book early to avoid disappointment.



*Sheffield cage trapped echidna at WDF and student pit-trap monitoring at MREDC 2004. Photos J Date*

## Whole School PL

Do you have new staff members? They may not be familiar with EcoEducation and our programs. Why not bring all your staff to one of our idyllic locations in the forests of CALM's South West Region? Contact Janet if your school or department would like to organise an exclusive half-day, whole-day or overnight course, tailored to your individual needs.

## Special excursion prices

### Threatened Species Day 7 September

To celebrate Threatened Species Day, we are offering a \$50 discount on all 'Back from the Brink' (BFTB) excursions at either WDF or MREDC.

### Biodiversity Month

September is biodiversity month so, to celebrate, all standard day excursions will be discounted to \$6.05 per student, excluding BFTB, on Wednesday 7 September.

## 'Christmas in July' PD

We held a very successful PD at MREDC on the last Thursday and Friday of the semester break. In all 17 participants joined our team to learn about and discover the wonders of the Margaret River area and the availability of our fantastic venue for educational learning experiences. School teachers from North Dandalup to Denmark came and one school already committed to return in November for a camp to take part in activities led by CALM's EcoEducation officers. Our special night-time experience was thoroughly enjoyed, especially by those who have been on our 'traditional' Nightwalk. (Hint: look out for new activities in 2006 and Term 4 – including Night Cave!)

## Update - Gatekeeper project

Thank you to CALM Bush Ranger units from Newton Moore Senior High School and Chisholm Catholic College for their work on the Gatekeeper project. Geographe Education Support Centre Bush Rangers have worked on the project again as the 'Gate Guardians'. Phase 1, *Genista* weed eradication, is almost complete, with some follow-up spraying to be done. New targets are firmly in our sights and *watsonia* and *vinca* will now face the force of CALM Bush Ranger cadets' enthusiasm.

## Contacting EcoEducation in the South West

For any enquiries, bookings for excursions or PDs, please contact:

Kristy Pengelly at CALM's Wellington District Office.  
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For the development of programs and educational liaison, please contact:

Janet Date at CALM's South West Regional Office.  
Ph: (08) 9725 4300  
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Further resources and information are available from CALM's NatureBase website at [www.naturebase.net/schools](http://www.naturebase.net/schools).