

CALM's South West Region

October 2005 No 10

Hi everyone,

Due to the late storms in September, this term is commencing at a hectic pace. We are catching up with excursions that were rescheduled and receiving even more bookings to finish off the year.

Once again, pre-service teachers from Edith Cowan University's South West Campus in Bunbury have taken the opportunity to come to Wellington Discovery Forest (WDF) to learn about our programs. If you are hosting a pre-service teacher perhaps they could assist with making arrangements to come out to one of our centres in the forest.

Last term we completed a very successful overnight professional learning *Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night*. There is just one more opportunity this year to take part in this popular program and gain first-hand knowledge of opportunities with EcoEducation in the Department of Conservation and Land Management's (CALM's) South West Region. It will be held at Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre (MREDC) so read on for more information.

I hope Term 4 is a good one as the 2005 school year draws to a close.

Cheers, Janet Date
Project Officer, EcoEducation, CALM

The name *Acacia* has been saved for Australia

Breaking news fresh from our research division. Australia's national floral emblem the *Acacia*, or wattle, which graces the Order of Australia and Commonwealth crest, was—until recently—facing an identity crisis, with other countries being in line to receive the name *Acacia* for their species.

But, on 16 July the Nomenclature Section of the XVII International Botanical Congress in Vienna, voted to accept the Spermatophyta Committee's recommendation to conserve the name *Acacia* by retypifying it with a new type as proposed by CSIRO's Tony Orchard and CALM's Bruce Maslin in 2003. This decision was ratified at the Plenary Session of the Congress on 23 July.

The botanic difference of opinion, which had waged for several years, could have seen Australia's 1200 *Acacia* species renamed as *Racosperma*. The decision means that when the worldwide genus *Acacia* is formally split, the new type will be the Australian species, *A. penninervis*, and the name *Acacia* will be retained for most of Australia's wattles. This is not only an excellent outcome for this country but also for the hundreds of people around the world who use our species for a wide variety of purposes.

For more information, visit World Wide Wattle's website at www.worldwidewattle.com.

Wattle they think of next?!

The forest is coming alive with wildflowers

It's a wonderful time of year to visit us. The wildflowers are blooming, the weather is warming, the male birds are in colour and the frogs are singing! Living in one of the world's biodiversity hotspots is being a lucky Australian.

There are so many opportunities to see and experience our special and unique forest environment. Junior Primary students can look at the wildflowers and get to know the plants. Middle Primary

students can go minibeasts hunting. Senior Primary students can try their hand at an ancient fishing practice. Junior High students learn about how we use the forest everyday of our lives, or our successful breeding programs taking three animals from the endangered species list!

Year 11s and 12s, we wish you good luck in your exams and hopefully we'll see you again soon.



If you know the botanical name for prickly moses and are the first to email your answer to janetD@calm.wa.gov.au after 8am on 26 October, you will win a \$50 discount on your cost of excursion to either WDF or MREDC in either Term 4 2005 or Term 1 2006.

Hints: If you don't know the botanical name look it up on www.naturebase.net/florabase and command your email to 'delay send' your email. Do it now!



Professional Learning

There is only one opportunity left to be part of an EcoEducation's Professional Learning (PL) for 2005 - *Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night*.

This PL is offered at MREDC on the afternoon of Thursday 3 November and all day Friday 4 November. The camp cost (\$55 per person or \$44 per STAWA member) includes accommodation and meals and is subsidised by *Western Shield*, CALM's wildlife recovery program, which aims to bring wildlife back from the brink of extinction. There are a limited number of places still available, so book with Kristy early to avoid disappointment.

The September *Be a Conservation Officer for a Night* PL was an overwhelming success after such wet, stormy weather during the lead-up week. After their early morning rise and brisk walk to the transect to check traps set the previous evening, participants were delighted to find three brush tail possums and a quenda (bandicoot) in the Sheffield cages. The quenda and possum were new captures and needed to be tagged as well as measured.



A PL participant weighing a quenda. Photo by Kristy Pengelly.

Whole school Professional Development

Do you have new members of staff? They may not know about CALM's EcoEducation programs. So, 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.

Special learning opportunity

The *Monitoring Marsupials* program will be held at MREDC during the week of 31 October to 4 November. There are two nights still available for Years 7 to 12 to be involved with this *Western Shield* monitoring program. Call Kristy now for the last spots!

Special excursion prices

'December Price Decimation'
December 1-8: All standard day excursions \$6.05 per student (class size limits apply).

Competition winners

Congratulations to Denmark Primary School's Year 6/7s for sending the first correct entry to our 'Did you know?' competition. The correct answer was an emu scat and the class won a \$50 discount off their next excursion. We look forward to seeing you on camp in November!

Last edition I forgot to congratulate Dardanup Primary School teacher, Chris Smith, who won a place on our *Christmas in July* PD. Chris correctly identified the white striped mastiff bat from the 'oddties' section of 'Get to know WA's Plants and Animals' on CALM's NatureBase website.

Camps in 2006 - Our great venues

Wharnclyffe Mill Forest Camp (co-located with MREDC)

Situated among beautiful karri, jarrah and marri forest, this bunkhouse-style accommodation has 42 beds and camping sites for up to 100 people. Facilities include an ablution block, kitchen with gas cook top and two refrigerators, electric barbecues, picnic benches with chairs and designated fire rings.

Contact Shan at CALM's Busselton Office on 9752 5555 to book your 2006 camp accommodation.

Wellington Forest Cottages (adjacent to WDF)

Wellington Forest Cottages Managers Heather and Rob welcome your enquiries about the hire of their eight cottages, which can each comfortably accommodate up to eight people. These cottages have undergone many upgrades and refurbishments during the latter half of 2005 and are definitely worth considering for your next camp in 2006. There are even special accommodation offers for teachers and their families over the summer break. Heather and Rob also specialise in camp catering so contact them for menu plans and all other enquiries by phone 9728 3043 or fax 9728 3315.

Contacting EcoEducation in the South West

For any enquiries, bookings for excursions or PLs, please contact Kristy Pengelly at CALM's Wellington District Office.

Ph: 9735 1909

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 office.

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Resources and information are available from CALM's NatureBase website at www.naturebase.net/schools.