

## South West Region

### New-look website

NatureBase has been updated! EcoEducation can now be found under the 'Community' menu at [www.naturebase.net](http://www.naturebase.net).



Dear colleagues,

Welcome back! I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable break.

The EcoEducation team encourages you to visit the best learning environment for your students – the natural environment – in 2007. We are launching new resources that will help your students achieve curriculum outcomes in your local and tuart bushland, parks, reserves and school grounds. We will also be offering a new incursion, a Science investigation for Year 9 students – *Saving Threatened Fauna* – starting in Term 2. Call us to find out about this and the \$150 subsidy available for a limited number of Year 10, 11 or 12 Science students to take part in trapping native fauna through the *Western Shield* program. With climate change and its impact on fire so topical why not join us for our fire professional learning (PL) opportunity on 8 March at the Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre (MREDC)?

We will be sending out flyers in the next couple of weeks to update you on our PL and excursion opportunities

We hope to see you in the forest soon!

**Liz Moore**, Senior EcoEducation Officer, DEC

## Fantastic new teaching resource! *Out on a Limb – Investigating tuart woodlands*

Tuart woodlands once covered more than 111,600 hectares but now, due to clearing for urban development and agriculture, only an estimated 35 per cent of this valuable woodland remains. Of this, some areas are small scattered remnants and others are in severe decline.

On an interactive CD, *Out on a Limb – Investigating tuart woodlands*, students are presented with an activity that is broken down into a number of tasks they can use to research and investigate the issues around the conservation and management of tuart woodlands. The resource offers rich interactive multimedia learning materials such as 'Take a Hike', a virtual guided tour of a tuart woodland; 'Digging Deep', a virtual tour of Yalgorup National Park; and 'Biological Keys', an interactive learning object.

There are two CDs available. One provides a context for learning to Geography and/or Society and Environment students and the other has been developed for students of Biological Sciences and/or Earth and Environmental Science in Late Adolescence, and Science (Life and Living) in Early Adolescence students. These resources are particularly valuable for students who are not able to access fieldwork in a local area. The resources are accompanied by a comprehensive teachers' guide and other supporting materials, such as a guide to mapping the activities to Outcomes in Biological Sciences, Earth and Environmental Science and Geography Courses of Study in Unit 1A.

This resource will be provided to teachers who attend the PL session on Thursday 15 March. Read on for further details.





## Professional Learning opportunities for Term 1 2007

You are invited to attend PL sessions offered in February and March. Valuable teaching resources will be distributed at each of the sessions so book early with Kristy to avoid disappointment!

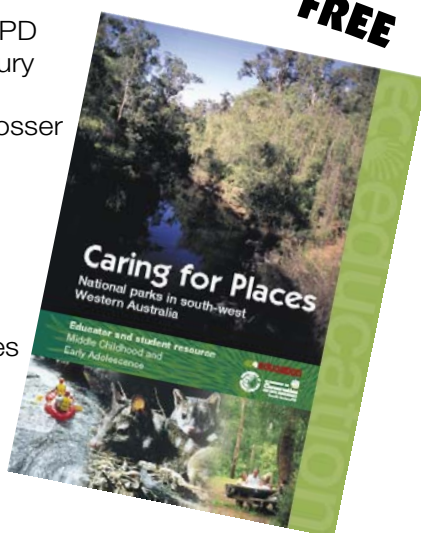
### Introduction to new resource

**Location:** Bunbury PD Centre, South Bunbury Primary School, Queen Street (off Prosser Street), Bunbury

**Date:** Tuesday 27 February

**Time:** 4 to 5:30pm

This PL session will introduce the features of the new resource *Caring for Places – National parks in south-west Western Australia*.



The session and new resource cover the challenges for national park management such as wildfires, vandalism, introduced animals, weeds, erosion and dieback disease. You will receive the resource that includes background notes for educators, reference sheets, student guides; curriculum activities for the classroom, school grounds, local bushland, excursions and camps; EcoEducation guided activities to our field centres; DVDs about the 1961 Dwellingup fire and threatened native fauna species; *LANDSCOPE* articles; and a World Wildlife Fund booklet on *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, which causes dieback disease. Although the main focus of the resource is Society and Environment, the content covers all learning areas, including English, Science and Outdoor Education, with opportunities for lower secondary and upper primary students.

## New resources for tuart conservation

**Location:** South Bunbury Primary School, Queen Street (off Prosser Street), Bunbury

**Date:** Thursday 15 March

**Time:** 1:30pm to 3:30pm

**FREE** plus \$100 teacher relief per school

This PL session will introduce and provide free copies to teachers of the new interactive CD *Out on a Limb – Investigating tuart woodlands*. See previous page for more information.

## New fire resources at MREDC

**Location:** MREDC

**Date:** Thursday 8 March

**Time:** 9am to 3pm

**FREE** plus \$100 teacher relief per school

This day session will introduce the new *Fire – A force of life* excursion for Years 10, 11 and 12 Geography, Biology, Science and Society and Environment students that will be conducted at MREDC. The aim of the fire program is to develop awareness of the impact of fire on forests in the south-west of Western Australia, the response of government agencies and communities in managing bushfires and the importance of fire in biodiversity conservation. The PL will give teachers background information and a hands-on experience of the activities that will be run as part of the excursion, show them the field site and introduce them to the other EcoEducation opportunities offered to schools. Also included will be an overview and free copies of the *Caring for places – National parks in south-west Western Australia*.

Lunch, resources and refreshments included.

## Contacting EcoEducation in the South West Region

For any enquiries, bookings for excursions or PLs, please contact Kristy Pengelly, Administrative Assistant – EcoEducation, at DEC's Wellington District Office.

Phone: 9735 1909

Fax: 9734 4539

Email: [wdf@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:wdf@dec.wa.gov.au)

For the development of programs and educational liaison, please contact the EcoEducation Project Officer, at DEC's South West Regional Office.  
Phone: 9725 4300

Resources and other information are available from the 'Community' section of DEC's website at [www.naturebase.net](http://www.naturebase.net).