

South West Region

May 2007 No 18

Dear colleagues,

With the end of Term 1 came a change in the weather and now we are truly into *Djeran* – one of the six seasons from the Nyoongar calendar. This season brings cooler weather, lighter winds and the occasional bit of rain. It's a great time of year to experience the bush with a Nyoongar leader on a 'Djildjit the Nyoongar Way' excursion. Traditionally it was a time for the men to hunt kangaroo and fish from the rivers and for women to begin collecting native fruits as they started to appear, along with edible roots and tubers. This year's *Djeran* season can be productive for you too, as EcoEducation has a bounty of new teaching resources.



Carolina leads a group of teachers at MREDC PL.
Photo – Sue Miller

Read on to find out how to harvest the benefits of this year's resources:

- *Out on a Limb – Investigating tuart woodlands* – two CDs for Early to Late Adolescence.
- *Field ecologist for a day* – tuart investigation kits on loan for Middle Childhood to Late Adolescence.
- *Treasure the tuart* poster with activities for Middle Childhood.
- Tuart excursion activities for Middle Childhood.
- *Caring for Places – National Parks in south-west Western Australia*, a resource for teachers of Middle Childhood to Early Adolescence.

As the weather has changed, so has the EcoEducation team. Sue Miller has left to take up a posting in the Centre for Advanced Teaching and Learning at The University of Western Australia. We bid her a fond farewell and wish her the best of luck with her new position.

I will be taking on the role of EcoEducation Project Officer until the end of August. I have been leading EcoEducation activities in the metropolitan area and am looking forward to the challenges of working in the South West Region and getting to know the dedicated teams at Wellington Discovery Forest (WDF) and Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre (MREDC).

Hannah Hampson, Project Officer, EcoEducation,
Department of Environment and Conservation

NEW for 2007!

Out on a Limb – Investigating tuart woodlands

Two CDs for Early to Late Adolescence with interactive multimedia learning materials and comprehensive teachers' guide for Science, Society and Environment and Earth and Environmental Science.

Field ecologist for a day tuart kit

A scientific kit with instructions for hands-on field activities to be undertaken in school grounds or local bushland.

Treasure the tuart poster activities

This poster has some stunning images and will encourage an appreciation among Middle Childhood students for tuart woodlands.



Western Shield incursion for Year 9 Science students

Possum pelts, hair tubes, Sheffield traps and other props for hands-on activities will capture the interest of the most challenging students! The incursions contribute to Life and Living outcomes and focus on the *Western Shield* threatened species recovery program.

Camp special (Years 10–12)

Building on the great success of *Western Shield*, EcoEducation is offering a unique opportunity to take part in research. Students camp overnight, mix bait and set traps in the evening then return in the early morning to record, measure and release marsupials.

This year the *Monitoring Marsupials* program will be offered free of charge to students camping at WDF or MREDC. There will also be \$150 bus sponsorship to assist with the rising cost of excursions. Book early as places are limited.



Sleeping mardo. Photo – Jennifer Harrison

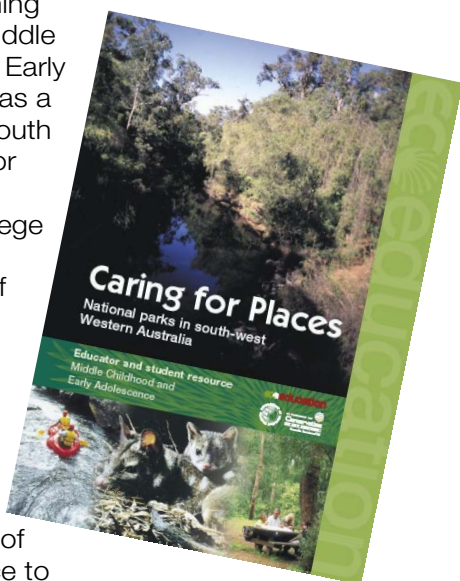
The launch of the new tuart resources in Bunbury was very well attended by primary and secondary teachers, DEC staff and interested community members. Presenters from DEC gave attendees an insight into the history, health and conservation of existing tuart woodlands. Senior EcoEducation Officer Liz Moore gave a demonstration of *Out on a Limb* – the interactive CD designed to assist students of Early to Late Adolescence to study the tuart ecosystem. Participants were taken on a virtual tour of Star Swamp and watched interviews with stakeholders to get a taste of the information and data presented on the CD. They also tried some of the activities from the *Treasure the tuart* poster designed for Middle Childhood (see page 1).

Teacher of the year Judy Hill (pictured opposite) gave an inspiring presentation about how even the little voices of children can be heard over the noise of developers. Children were instrumental in saving many mature tuarts in the Baldvis area. Participants also got to meet a boobook and barking owl and hear about the importance of mature trees with good nesting hollows for their survival.



Caring for Places – National parks in south-west Western Australia

This new teaching resource for Middle Childhood and Early Adolescence has a focus on the South West. Caring for WA's national parks is a privilege and the responsibility of every Western Australian and learning about them is an opportunity for students to develop an understanding of their importance to sustainability, the natural environment and our society. Student guides, reference notes and educators' background notes are provided to complement the five projects within the resource.



This resource is free to download from www.naturebase.net/community/ecoeducation. However, if you can't wait to get your hands on it we can bring it to you! If you have five or more teachers interested in using the resource we can arrange for one of our EcoEducation Officers to come to your school and walk you through it.

Special excursion prices – Term 2

World Environment Day – Tuesday 5 June

Help us celebrate World Environment Day with an excursion to WDF or MREDC and receive a discount of \$50.

July specials

Why not finish the term on a natural high? Book an excursion at either WDF or MREDC for the last week of term, Monday 2 July to Friday 6 July. All standard day excursions are discounted to only \$6.05 per student.

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.

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For the development of programs and educational liaison please contact Hannah Hampson, Project Officer at DEC's South West Regional Office.

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Resources and other information are available from the 'Community' section of DEC's website at www.naturebase.net.