

# Ear to the Ground

## Landcare Education Newsletter

Issue 10

August 2004

*Welcome to Ear to the Ground, the Department of Education and Training's Landcare Education newsletter. Ear to the Ground will provide you with information about up-coming events, resources and issues in landcare and landcare education.*

*The winter wet provides a great opportunity to undertake the in-class work that is a background to the many and varied opportunities available for study in the great outdoors once spring is upon us. For information on a variety of landcare topics, visit the landcare education web pages at <http://www.eddept.wa.edu.au/deo/midlands/landcare/index>*

*Please pass this newsletter on to any teachers in the learning areas of Society and Environment, Science, or any staff member interested in the environment and environmental education.*

*Patricia Janssen*

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## New Salinity Resource launched!

The seeds of what will likely become a very productive partnership have been sown with the launch of a salinity education kit for school students in the Avon River Basin.

The Avon Catchment Council and Department of Education and Training's *Landcare Education Program* unveiled the **Avon Salinity Education Kit** at Tammin ALCOA Landcare Education Centre on Tuesday, June 29.

The kit aims to teach students about local salinity issues within the Avon River Basin, and has been developed to increase awareness and understanding about an environmental problem that is of high priority not only throughout the Avon River Basin, but also for the whole of Western Australia.

A copy of the Avon Salinity Education Kit will be distributed to all schools within the Avon River Basin during the first week of Term 3 and will soon be available on the Avon Catchment Council's website <http://www.avoncm.org.au> or on the Department of Education and Training's Landcare Education web pages at <http://www.eddept.wa.edu.au/deo/MIDLANDS/Landcare/index.htm>.

For further information about this education kit please contact Patricia Janssen, Landcare Education Officer on 9622 0200 or at [Patricia.Janssen@det.wa.edu.au](mailto:Patricia.Janssen@det.wa.edu.au)

# Landcare is our Future!

## Learn how you can make a difference

### Wanted!

People who like to have fun, while learning in a practical hands-on environment.

Visit the Tammin ALCOA Landcare Education Centre and experience landcare in action!

Learn how you can make a difference that counts!

We provide you with all meals, accommodation, field transport, expertise and resources for the low cost of \$77.00 (including GST).

Take part in a variety of hands-on field activities that are designed to teach you about the wheatbelt environment and increase your awareness of the landcare movement.

Course dates remaining for 2004 are 12-14 August, 16-17 September and 21-23 October.

Book now to avoid disappointment!

For further information and to register your interest contact Patricia Janssen on 9622 0200 or email [Patricia.Janssen@det.wa.edu.au](mailto:Patricia.Janssen@det.wa.edu.au)

One day of teacher relief is available for teachers who attend the course.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Avondale Harvest Festival

Saturday 21 November 2004

10am-4pm

\$5 per car entry

Come out to Beverley and take a look at shearing, harvesting, working dogs, vintage machinery and Clydesdale horses. Country craft stalls and Devonshire teas are also available. For further information contact Avondale Discovery Farm on 9646 1004.

## State of the Environment Reporting Program

### Environmental Themes & Issues

Have your say about the issues that concern you. This paper will enable you or your organisation to have a say about what key environmental issues should be addressed in the 2006 State of the Environment Report.

Copies of the paper can be obtained from [http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/docs/SoE\\_DiscussionPaper3.pdf](http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/docs/SoE_DiscussionPaper3.pdf), phone 9222 8312, or e-mail [soe@environment.wa.gov.au](mailto:soe@environment.wa.gov.au). The comment period closes 8th September 2004. For more information visit [www.epa.wa.gov.au](http://www.epa.wa.gov.au).

## Competitions

**Avondale Harvest Festival Art Competition** Avondale Discovery Farm is inviting entries from students in their 2004 Art Competition. Works are to reflect the spirit of rural WA from Foundation to today. Prizes of \$20, \$15 and \$5 will be awarded in each of the 11 age categories. For further information contact the Avondale Project Committee Inc on 9646 1004 or email [dbarrett@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:dbarrett@agric.wa.gov.au). Competition closes Friday 1 October 2004.

### Biodiversity Conservation Campaigners

Ever wanted to save the planet? Well, now is your chance because NATURE NEEDS YOU! Epic Energy and the Department of Conservation and Land Management are offering an innovative project for Biodiversity Month that promotes action for biodiversity conservation in parks and reserves. You could win a share of \$8,000 for your school and an overnight wildlife adventure! Competition closes 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004. For further information visit [www.naturebase.net](http://www.naturebase.net) or [www.epicenergy.com.au](http://www.epicenergy.com.au)

## Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA Water Bug Snapshot

This year Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA celebrates its tenth annual Macroinvertebrate Snapshot. As in previous years, we encourage all schools and community groups registered (or those who would like to register) with Ribbons of Blue to participate by taking a "biological snapshot" of a waterbody in your community. By sampling for macroinvertebrates in a pond, creek, swamp, lake, drain, dam or river in your local area, you can investigate the many small freshwater creatures that live in the water and contribute to the health of your waterbody.

In 2004, Macroinvertebrate Snapshot Week in WA will be held during the first week of September (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> September), and incorporates *Threatened Species Day* Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup>. You can make your Macroinvertebrate Sampling Snapshot part of the many exciting activities linked to *Biodiversity Month* (run by Environment Australia), or just don your gumboots and nets, and do your usual macroinvertebrate monitoring as in previous years.

If you would like to be involved please register your interest by contacting Kelly Smith, Community Education Coordinator on 9278 0643 or email [Kelly.smith@environment.wa.gov.au](mailto:Kelly.smith@environment.wa.gov.au)

## AGMAPS Land Manager CD

An essential resource for anyone involved in land use and management in a range of WA regional areas. Provides information on soil and vegetation, advice on soil and water management and links to Farmnotes. For further information or to purchase a copy, visit <http://www.agric.wa.gov.au> or phone Jo Brown on 9368 3333.

## Professional Development

### Rottnest Island Authority Environmental Awareness Courses -

These 2-day courses aim to introduce teachers, community group leaders and Island visitors to the cultural and natural environment of the Island. Bike riding, snorkeling and beach walking are included in these rewarding and enjoyable weekends. **Course dates:** September 17-18, October 22-23 and November 12-13 2004. Contact Education Services on 9372 9777 or E-mail [education@rotnest.wa.gov.au](mailto:education@rotnest.wa.gov.au)

### Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night -

Overnight camp at CALM's Wellington Discovery Forest. A PD for secondary and upper primary teachers, providing hands-on experience of research methods, nocturnal guided walk with close encounters with Australian native animals. Includes a free *Western Shield* Action Pack, video and other resources. **When:** 5pm Fri 17 Sept -3:30pm Sat 18 September. **Cost:** \$55.00 (or \$44.00 for STAWA members). Contact Kristy on 9734 1988 or E-mail [wdf@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:wdf@calm.wa.gov.au)

### Getting to Know Groundwater -

Ribbons of Blue, North East Catchment Committee and Whiteman Park invite you to attend a one day PD for teachers who would like to know more about groundwater and its importance to people and the environment. Take a tour of Whiteman Park's groundwater treatment facility and explore the variety of groundwater education resources that are available to assist teachers in introducing groundwater topics to their students. **When:** Wed 22 Sept, 8.45 - 3.30pm. **Venue:** Whiteman Park. **Cost** \$15.00 (incl GST). Contact Trish Pedelty on 9271 7922.

# Landcare on the Web

## Carbon Neutral Program

*Men of the Trees* has a new website which contains a calculator which will calculate how many trees need to be planted to offset the emissions produced by your car. Also links to an Air Travel Calculator and a carbon calculator for your household's overall environmental impact.

<http://www.carbonneutral.com.au>

## Grow Us A Home

This innovative and interactive site, developed by *Greening Australia (WA)*, uses animation and colourful graphics to help explain the links between local soil types, plant communities and over 200 species of plants and animals which may be found on the Swan Coastal Plain and Darling Range.

<http://www.growusahome.org.au>

## WEEDeck

An electronic pocket guide for weed identification. Pools the resources of weed management organisations across Australia.

<http://www.weeds.org.au/weedek.htm>

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The Tammin Alcoa Landcare Education Program is proudly supported by ~



# Plastic Bag Famine

Go cold turkey, kick the habit,  
give 'em up...

On the **21 & 22 August** join thousands of Australians on a weekend boycott of plastic bags.

Visit <http://www.scienceweek.info.au> to find out how. Great prizes to be won courtesy of Planet Ark and National Science Week. Join in and make a real difference to our environment.

## Dates to Remember

- ◆ **14-22 August** National Science Week
- ◆ **16-22 August** Landcare Week
- ◆ **1-30 September** Biodiversity Month
- ◆ **5-11 September** Keep Australia Beautiful Week
- ◆ **7 September** National Threatened Species Day
- ◆ **1-31 October** Bushcare Month
- ◆ **10-16 October** Earth Science Week
- ◆ **17-23 October** National Water Week

## For further information contact...

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