

Ear to the Ground

Landcare Education Newsletter

Issue 11

October 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.

As we approach the middle of spring, we are surrounded by an astounding variety of brilliant flora and fauna that can provide endless opportunities to encourage involvement in environmental education projects. 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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Riparian Plants of the Avon Catchment: A field guide

This fantastic new field guide, produced by the Department of Environment, gives a brief pictorial and textual description of native plant species found in riparian areas of the Avon River Basin. Species have been catalogued by genus and family. For each species there is a close-up photo of defining parts of the species, along with a photo of the whole plant.

Accompanying this is useful information on how to identify the plant, where it is commonly found and points on its use in a revegetation program. It is hoped that this guide will allow easier identification of riparian species as well as assisting with choosing the best plants for riparian revegetation within your area.

For more information about this resource contact Brendan at the Department of Environment on 9690 2629 or e-mail brendan.oversby@environment.wa.gov.au

The publication can be purchased for \$25.00 for the hardcover book and \$10.00 for the CD.

ALL orders to be placed through The Avon Catchment Council, PO Box 311 Northam WA 6401, Ph. 9690 2250.

Payments can be made by cash, money order or cheque made payable to the "Avon Catchment Council"

View Australia from Space!

The Australian Greenhouse Office, in collaboration with CSIRO and Geoscience Australia has developed a web-based resource that provides satellite imagery of changes to the Australian landscape over the past 30 years.

Launched by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell, *Australia 1972-2002: A Thirty Year View from Space* provides information which tracks changes to the Australian environment, focusing on themes such as deforestation, revegetation, urban expansion and the effects of drought.

In addition to satellite imagery, this website provides a range of facts and figures relating to clearing and greenhouse emissions, all which are available for a wide range of environmental monitoring, management and planning activities.

Check out this exciting new resource at www.deh.gov.au/ncas/aspace

10th Avondale Harvest Festival

Saturday 21 November 2004

Head 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. Festival opens from 10am-4pm. Cost is \$5 per car entry. For further information contact Avondale Discovery Farm on 9646 1004.

Avon Salinity Education Kit

Check out this fantastic new resource at www.eddept.wa.edu.au/deo/midlands/landcare/index.htm This education kit provides background information on salinity issues and management options, case studies and classroom activities.

Free Salinity Library

The National Dryland Salinity Program has produced a range of materials relevant to salinity education throughout Australia.

With the close of the program, a range of resources including a website (<http://www.ndsp.gov.au>), three hard copy reports, plus a great interactive CD-ROM including all reports and additional research information are now available.

The package incorporates research information on salinity management from all available sources. Copies of the 'instant salinity library' CD are available through Bob Nulsen at the Department of Agriculture at bnulsen@agric.wa.gov.au.

Competition

Education for Sustainability Competition - Who Decides?

The Department of Environment, in conjunction with the Department of Premier and Cabinet, is offering primary and secondary students in WA the chance to learn more about living in a sustainable world.

Entrants are required to complete an environmental education activity (Who Decides?) and then prepare a report to be submitted for the competition.

Contestants could win a share of \$7000!

Entrants will need to register their interest in the competition with the Department of Environment by the 8th of October 2004.

Entries close on Friday 5th November.

For further information about the competition and to register, contact Anna Hester on 9278 0686 or e-mail anna.hester@environment.wa.gov.au

Professional Development Opportunities

Naragebup's Quality Living Spring Program - Mini courses on fauna-friendly garden design, worm farming, strawbale building, and renewable energy for boats and caravans, held from now till the end of November. Book now!!! For further information check out <http://www.rockinghamgateway.com/modules.php?name=naragebup>

Overnight Camp PD at Margaret River Eco Discovery Centre - Prepare for 2005. Know what you are getting into at this fantastic new venue. Introducing new excursions for 2005. You will receive free resource materials, participate in hands-on activities, observe the monitoring of our unique animals and much more! When: 5:30pm 11 Nov - 3:30pm 12 Nov 2004. Cost: \$66 (includes camp fees, meals, activities and resources). Contact Kristy on 9734 1988 or email wdf@calm.wa.gov.au.

Rottnest Island Authority Environmental Awareness Courses - These two-day courses aim to introduce teachers, community group leaders and Island visitors to the culture and natural environment of the Island. Bike riding, snorkeling and beach walking are included in these rewarding and enjoyable weekends. Course date: November 12-13 2004. For further information and to register your interest contact Education Services on 9372 9777 or E-mail education@rotnest.wa.gov.au

Minibeasts - Skills for Nature Conservation in conjunction with Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA present a workshop where participants can learn about the role of insects in urban bushland and wetlands. Course date: Sat 30 October from 1-5pm. Venue: Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre, Winthrop. Please RSVP to 9374 3333.

Renewable Energy for Dummies! - A one-day seminar on Saturday 20 November at Naragebup - the Rockingham Regional Environment Centre. Everything for businesses and householders on setting up wind and solar energy systems, as well as simple ways to slash your energy bills, and the latest on Government Rebates. For further information check out <http://www.rockinghamgateway.com/modules.php?name=naragebup>

2005 Catchments, Corridors and Coasts Program - A 5 day professional development program which will run weekdays from Wed January 12 to Tues January 18 2005. CCC is presented by the Western Australian chapter of the Australian Association for Environmental Education. It is highly interactive with a focus on field trips and hands-on learning. Participants will be provided with information, contacts and support materials. Themed days include: understanding our ecological footprint, design, getting close up and personal with our native fauna, biodiversity, broad acre agriculture, river health, waste reduction and coastcare. For more information contact Monica Durcan on 9291 8249 or email mdurcan@iinet.net.au. Costs for the full five day program: Unwaged: \$165, Waged: \$195 and Local and State government: \$230 (GST does not apply).

Giveaways

I have limited copies of the booklet "Protecting Natural Heritage - Using the Australian Natural Heritage Charter" to give away.

If you would like a copy please contact me at Patricia.Janssen@det.wa.edu.au.

Landcare on the Web

World Recycling Games

This website is designed to help students and the community broaden their awareness and understanding of recycling as a community issue. The website offers a range of fun activities that focus on the different aspects of recycling.

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

EPA Environmental Education Resources

This site provides secondary students with information about air and water issues, waste and recycling, conservation, ecosystems, community environmental conditions and much more.

<http://www.epa.gov/highschool/>

The Worm Shed

Find out all you need to know about recycling using worms. This site includes facts and information about vermiculture, as well as information about school excursions and school incursions.

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

The Tammin Alcoa Landcare Education Program is proudly supported by ~



Attitude or Eco'tude? How big is your school's footprint?

Eco'tude is a new on-line calculator that has been introduced by the Powerhouse Museum in NSW to provide an opportunity for students to measure the size of their school's ecological footprint.

This site aims to promote understanding about the impact your school has on the natural environment, empower students and community members to take action and change your school's ecological attitude.

Log on to find out what other schools are doing to change their attitudes.

www.powerhousemuseum.com/education/teachersnotes.asp

Dates to Remember

- ◆ **16-24 October** National Weedbuster Week
- ◆ **17-23 October** National Water Week
- ◆ **19 October** World Solar Challenge
- ◆ **10 November** National Recycling Day
- ◆ **1-7 December** Coastcare Week

For further information contact...

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