

Ear to the Ground

Landcare Education Newsletter

Issue 14

August 2005

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.

With Spring on the horizon now is a great time to start planning for the burst of life in our environment. Plants and animals galore! Make sure you head out into your local bush patch and take some time to appreciate the wonderful diversity of life we have on our doorstep.

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 Dames

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2005 Adventures in Landcare

Landcare Education Field Study Courses

Special offer!!

Practical courses are offered to people who have a passion about landcare. Using hands-on activities and a variety of site visits this course provides insight into landcare practices being used in wheatbelt Western Australia to address a range of environmental issues. Courses are residential with accommodation, catering, field transport and resources provided for a cost of \$77 per person (including GST).

Remaining dates for 2005: August 18-20, September 15-16 and October 13-14

Special Offer! Teachers can attend for **FREE!** Book your spot at any one of these workshops **before 31st August 2005** and pay absolutely nothing (teaching staff only) or **only \$55** (including GST) for non-teaching staff and community members.

One days-worth of teacher relief provide per teacher participant.

Location: Tammin Alcoa Landcare Education Centre - Tammin, Western Australia.

For further information and bookings contact: Patricia Dames, Phone: 9622 0200, Fax: 9622 3996, Email: Patricia.Dames@det.wa.edu.au, or Web: <http://www.eddept.wa.edu.au/deo/midlands/landcare/index.htm>

Community Water Grants

The Australian Government Community Water Grants Programme was recently announced with grants of up to \$50,000 available to individual community groups. Regional community subgroups or networks may be eligible for larger amounts. Grants are primarily for on-ground works and they operate on similar principles to the Australian Government Envirofund. Applications close on 4th October 2005. Further details including guidelines and application forms can be accessed at www.communitywatergrants.gov.au/

Information sessions (roadshows) on Community Water Grants are currently being delivered across the states and territories. Please check papers or contact your local regional NRM facilitator for details.

Sustainable September

During September, WA will celebrate the wide range of initiatives helping to create a just and sustainable Western Australia.

Sustainable September is an opportunity to see and experience sustainability in practice. We would love for YOU and your group to join the celebrations and highlight your contribution to a more sustainable WA!

How you can get involved?

- Have you got an event happening in September that is demonstrating an aspect of sustainability?
- Think about organising a sustainability themed event for September?

Get in touch with us NOW to include your event on promotional material and the online Sustainable September calendar of events.

Email info@sustainableseptember.net.au or call 9420 7295 for more information.

SGSL Pride in Saltland Management Photography Competition

Sustainable Grazing on Saline Lands (SGSL), invites entries in their *Pride in Saltland Management* photography competition. More than \$30,000 in prizes is on offer, with five entry categories; Farmers in Action; Science in Saltland; Productive Saltland Pastures; Before and After; and Saltland Humour.

Entries close on 19 August 2005. For more information and entry forms check out www.landwaterwool.gov.au or contact your local Landmark office.

Water in Agriculture Art Competition

Avondale Harvest Festival invites school age students to enter this year's Art Competition. Works are to reflect the spirit of water in agriculture. The subject can be water at work, rural scenes, machinery, farm animals or the artists interpretation of 'water in agriculture'. 12 categories with great prizes to be won. Entries close on Friday 14 October 2005. For conditions of entry and entry forms contact the Avondale Project Committee Inc. on 9646 1004 or dbarrett@agric.wa.gov.au.

The Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk

Perth Zoo's *Night Stalk* provides a snapshot of species diversity throughout WA between 1-16 September. To be involved, all you need to do is organise a spotlight survey in your local area and record the marsupials, other native animals and exotic pests you observe. For more information visit Perth Zoo's website at www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au/nightstalk.

Professional Development Opportunities

Nyungar Know How - A cultural experience in the customs and language of the Nyungar people of the Southwest of WA - A 3-day course designed for both the PD of Teachers of Aboriginal Studies/SOSE/The Arts/Special Ed/English and indigenous and non-indigenous members of the community. **Where:** on traditional Nyungar land, at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, Wembley. The Course also includes a tour (on Saturday) of significant Nyungar sites. **When:** August 25th, 26th and 27th, 9.00 am - 3.30 pm. **How Much:** \$350 - includes resource file, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea on Thursday, Friday and Saturday with a traditional Nyungar meal at Graduation on Saturday. **Contact:** Gould League on fax: 9387 3492, phone: 9387 6079, e-mail: jenny@wagouldleague.com.au

Getting to know Groundwater - Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch WA, Tammin ALCOA Landcare Education Centre and Whiteman Park invite you to attend a course designed for those who would like to know more about groundwater and its importance to people and the environment. Topics include: What groundwater is and why it is important, groundwater pollution, protecting groundwater, how surface water and groundwater interact, and the water table. Participate in groundwater modelling, monitoring demonstrations and take a tour of Whiteman Park's pump house and learn how groundwater is treated for human use. **Date:** Wednesday, 24 August 2005. **Time:** 9.00 am - 3.30 pm **Venue:** Whiteman Park. **Cost** \$15.00 including GST (There is no charge for teachers/schools attending the 2005 Children's Groundwater Festival as cost is included in Festival admission price). For more information call Trish Dames on 9622 0200 or email Patricia.Dames@det.wa.edu.au

Be a Nature Conservation Officer for a Night - Visit Shark Bay World Heritage Area - A chance of a lifetime to meet scientists, Rangers, reptiles, the Monkey Mia Dolphins and much more! Resources that contribute to CF outcomes. Target audience: Secondary Science and S&E teachers and Primary teachers. Limited places for other environmental educators. **When:** 13 & 14 August. **Where:** Peron Peninsular. **Cost:** \$55 (incl GST) or \$44 (incl GST) for STAWA members. Includes accommodation, meals and resources. For information and bookings contact 9948 1208 or davidc@calm.wa.gov.au

Fire: Facts, Fiction and Fun Tour - FREE workshop - Attention teachers all learning areas! Want to educate students about the effects of wildfires, the Perth Hills January wildfire, and the complex nature of fire management, prescribed burning and the use of geographical information systems (GIS) to fight fires? Classroom resources and lunch provided. When Saturday 30 July from 9am - 3pm. For enquiries and bookings phone 9295 6149, fax 9295 3247 or email ecoeducation@calm.wa.gov.au.

State NRM Conference 2005 Sustainability Side by Side

For the latest details about this conference check out the website at www.wanrmconf2005.org. Held in Denmark, WA, from the 3rd to the 6th of October 2005 this is a conference not to be missed!

Early Bird Registrations close on August 5th. Early Bird rates for the whole conference are: Community: \$270, Corporate: \$395, Student/Farming partner: \$195.

Landcare on the Web

Grants Register

Comprehensive funding database detailing opportunities from all sectors with sources of financial support for study, travel, research, business, the arts, sport and community projects.

<http://www.dlgrd.wa.gov.au/grantsDir/default.asp>

Swan River Trust Website

This website provides information on the management and monitoring of the Swan-Canning River system.

<http://www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au>

National Chemical Reference Guide

Provides a collation of all national documents for chemicals in our environment, including air, water, soil, sediment and biota.

<http://www.deh.gov.au/chemicals-guide>

WA Environment Awards

Get your nominations in now for the 2005 WA Environment Awards. The Awards recognise environmental achievement in WA in 14 categories.

Applicants have the opportunity to showcase their initiative and organisation, network with key groups, and provide an example of environment excellence to the WA Australian Community. Submissions must be received by **Friday 29 July**. For categories, application guidelines and other information, please visit <http://awards.environment.wa.gov.au>

Dates to Remember

- ◆ **31 July** National Tree Day
- ◆ **13-21 August** National Science Week
- ◆ **1-30 September** Biodiversity Month
- ◆ **1 September** Wattle Day
- ◆ **1-7 September** Landcare Week
- ◆ **7 September** National Threatened Species Day

The Tammin Alcoa Landcare Education Program is proudly supported by~



Department of Agriculture
Department of Education and Training



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