

Ecolinc welcomes two new staff members

Ecolinc welcomed two new teaching staff to the Ecolinc team at the beginning of Term 3, Jean Deutscher and Jacqui Slattery, replacing John Patterson and Dianne Dudesin (maternity leave).

Term 3 and Term 4 are now booked to capacity, however there will be some opportunities for schools to book in for the DEECD funded 'Children's Week' activities to be conducted in October. This year, Ecolinc will be offering schools the opportunity to participate in 'Sustainable Art' activities to celebrate Children's Week. Please contact Ecolinc or watch out for DEECD advertisements regarding 'Children's Week' activities if you would like to book in.

In preparation for Ecolinc's next professional learning day on Friday 3 September, Ecolinc is hosting a unique curiosity cabinet, one of the exhibits featured in the recent Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne 'Hidden Flora Exhibition'. The cabinet offers teachers and students the experience of investigating many unique features of the 'Hidden Flora', mosses, liverworts, hornworts, lichens and fungi. Ecolinc is very pleased to be working with botanists from the Royal Botanic Gardens to produce this forthcoming teacher professional learning program.

Ecolinc bookings are now open for 2011. Please contact Ecolinc to secure your booking to avoid disappointment. Details of all current Ecolinc programs can be found on the Ecolinc website.



Cohuna SC students exploring the Curiosity Cabinet on loan from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

Following recent rain, the Ecolinc wetland is currently overflowing, with a pair of black ducks with ~12 young enjoying the wet conditions. The wetland provides both inlet and outlet water samples for the Year 11 Chemistry program, in addition to a wide variety of aquatic macro invertebrates and aquatic plants for students of all ages to study.

Ecolinc is pleased to inform teachers that Ms Maria James (VCAA) and Mr Gerry Healey (Xavier College) will attend and present sessions relating to the National Senior Science Curriculum and Environmental Science as part of the Ecolinc VCE professional learning day on Friday 10 December.

Bookings for all forthcoming professional learning days are now being taken.



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TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Ecolinc offers the following professional learning programs for the remainder of 2010. Please note the following dates and book early if interested.

FRIDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2010

The Forgotten Flora

This professional learning session builds on a recent exhibition from the State Botanical Collection, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. Participants will join with botanists from the RBG and Ecolinc staff to investigate the biology and chemistry of mosses, liverworts, hornworts, lichens and fungi.

FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER 2010

(DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND ECOLINC WILL CONDUCT ANOTHER NANOTECHNOLOGY PLD)

An Introduction to Nanotechnology suitable for Years 7—11

Using the national Nanotechnology School Resource, AccessNano, incorporate nanotechnology into your Year 7-11 curriculum. Discover how elemental properties change at the nanoscale by completing a range of hands on activities including; the preparation of Nanogold particles, investigation of Nitinol, a shape memory alloy, and an investigation of the properties of a magnetic 'ferrofluid'. All participants will be supplied with their own kit of materials which will enable repetition of selected investigations back at school.

FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER 2010

Ecolinc will once again conduct its annual VCE program for teachers of Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science and Physics. The program will focus on the forthcoming National Senior Curriculum.

The cost for each program is \$80 including morning tea, lunch, all refreshments and a full curriculum package. All participants will receive a VIT approved certificate of course completion.

Suzanne M Clark - Ecolinc Director
T: 03 5367 0171 F: 03 5367 0174
M: 0407 501 590



Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development