

Ecolinc begins its seventh year of operation in 2011

Ecolinc completed a very successful 2010, with a record 11,743 students attending Ecolinc programs. 2011 programs have now commenced. If you wish to make a booking for 2011, please contact Ecolinc as soon as possible to secure a suitable time slot. Descriptions for all 2011 curriculum programs may be found on the Ecolinc website.

www.ecolinc.vic.edu.au

Ecolinc is currently investigating the development of a range of online learning programs. One online curriculum program currently under development relates to the ecology and management of wetlands. This program will feature a range of very comprehensive and interactive learning objects for students in Years 5-8. One of the key components of this program will be the development of an iPad app. This program will be launched in Term 4 2011. An associated teacher professional learning day is planned for **Friday 2 December 2011**.

Ecolinc in conjunction with Museum Victoria, has successfully trialed the use of iPad technology with students visiting the centre. Ecolinc's first teacher professional learning day for 2011 will focus on providing teachers with the skills required to incorporate Museum Victoria's Biodiversity Snapshots program into the classroom using a mobile device. Ecolinc will model how this program can be incorporated into a range of environmental activities. This professional learning day program will be conducted at Ecolinc on **Friday 18 March 2011**.

Book now to avoid disappointment.



The Ecolinc wetland provides habitat for an increasing range of biodiversity

Education Week is always a highlight on the Ecolinc calendar. This year in Education Week, Ecolinc will feature its unique 'Digging up the Diprotodon' program. A range of activities will be available for students during the week, with a professional learning day planned for teachers on **Friday 20 May 2011**. The Ecolinc Geological Trail will be officially launched on this date with the establishment of permanent interpretive signage along the trail.

ECOLINC NATURE NOTES

Following extensive rain over the summer period, the Ecolinc wetland and surrounds are flourishing. The biodiversity of the Ecolinc wetland area continues to increase. Eastern banjo frogs or Pobblebunks (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*) have been observed laying spawn, in the form of floating rafts which are anchored to aquatic vegetation, within the wetland. In December 2010, a number of black faced cuckoo shrikes (*Coracina novaehollandiae*) were observed visiting eucalypts within the Ecolinc wetland area.



TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FRIDAY 18 MARCH 2011

Biodiversity Snapshots

(suitable for primary and secondary teachers)
Biodiversity Snapshots is a Museum Victoria online program linking the use of mobile technology with science, through the identification of a range of animal species in the field. Learn how to incorporate this program into your classroom with the aid of a mobile device. Mr Jonathan Shearer, Program Coordinator—Online Learning Museum Victoria will provide a detailed hands-on overview of the program, followed by a range of practical sessions conducted by Ecolinc staff.

FRIDAY 20 MAY 2011

Digging up the Diprotodon

(suitable for primary and secondary teachers)
Celebrate Education Week and the official opening of the Ecolinc Geological Trail with this hands-on investigation of the megafauna.

FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2011

An Introduction to Nanotechnology

(suitable for Years 7-11)
Due to popular demand, Ecolinc will once again conduct this innovative practical program using the national Nanotechnology School Resource, AccessNano.

FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 2011

Discovering Wetlands Online

Ecolinc's unique online wetlands program will be featured, with an extensive hands-on overview of the program provided.

FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 2011

VCE Science

Ecolinc's annual VCE program for teachers of Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science and Physics, incorporating the latest updates relating to the Australian 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.

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