

Ecolinc welcomes the following new teaching staff members:

Carolanne Glynne - Ecolinc Outreach Education Officer

Nicole Mason - Ecolinc Online Outreach Education Officer

David Tait - Ecolinc Education Officer

Ecolinc is currently developing a range of outreach curriculum programs, both face-to-face and online, to complement current Ecolinc onsite programs. DEECD funding currently provides an opportunity for rural government primary schools, which have booked an Ecolinc program, to access a free pre or post Ecolinc outreach program. Any rural government school interested in accessing an Ecolinc outreach program is invited to contact Ecolinc for further details.

Ecolinc's new online outreach program 'Discovering Wetlands' is currently being developed in conjunction with Education Services Australia (ESA). This online outreach program will feature ten learning objects including a Macroinvertebrate ID tool, designed as an iPad app, a virtual wetland trail, and a 'Talk with the Experts', featuring a panel of wetland experts on video. The entire program will be featured at an Ecolinc teacher professional learning day on Friday 2 December 2011.

The very popular and useful Ecolinc Weatherwall is currently being incorporated into a new Ecolinc online outreach program. This curriculum program will provide a range of student and teacher resources to complement the existing Ecolinc Weatherwall. All Ecolinc online outreach programs will be targeted initially at Years 5-8.



Dr Stephen Carey (University of Ballarat) about to launch the Ecolinc Geological Trail on 20 May 2011.

Ecolinc conducted a very successful teacher professional learning day 'Digging up the Diprotodon' on Friday 20 May, with Dr Stephen Carey (University of Ballarat) providing the opening address, and formally opening the Ecolinc Geological Trail. Participants trialled a Geological Trail activity using iPads and explored the world of the megafauna by investigating casts of actual footprints of the Diprotodon, giant wombats and giant kangaroos, in addition to a fossil 'dig'. All of these activities form part of the current 'Digging up the Diprotodon' program (Years 1-8).

Ecolinc's next teacher professional learning day 'An Introduction to Nanotechnology' will be held on **Friday 9 September 2011**. All teachers attending this PLD will receive a kit of nano materials which can be used in the classroom back at school to demonstrate a range of nanotechnology applications. This program is being repeated due to demand.

 **A Victorian Government initiative**  
The Place To Be

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## TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

**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. Mr Jason Major, Manager TechNyou, will present the latest research and ethical considerations of the use of nanotechnology, followed by a range of activities presented by Ecolinc staff.

**FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 2011**

### Discovering Wetlands Online (suitable for Years 5-8)

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, and a full curriculum package. All participants will receive a VIT approved certificate of course completion.

## ECOLINC PROGRAM EVALUATION

In order to continue to monitor Ecolinc's program development and delivery, a teacher online survey is now available for teachers to complete following their visit to Ecolinc. Any teachers who have visited Ecolinc in 2011 are welcome to complete the survey. Survey completion time is ~5-10 minutes.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ecolincpostvisit>