

ECOLINC UPDATE



Ecolinc outlet pool—February 2010

Ecolinc welcomes John Patterson to the Ecolinc teaching team. John is currently replacing Sophie Pritchard who is travelling overseas.

Ecolinc proudly hosted Professor David de Kretser, Governor of Victoria, and his wife Mrs de Kretser on a tour of Ecolinc during March.

Ecolinc's 'Introduction to Nanotechnology' professional learning day was fully subscribed. Due to demand, this session will be repeated on Friday 3 December 2010. Please book early if interested.

Ecolinc's next professional learning day in September offers teachers the experience of investigating the unique features of the 'Hidden Flora', mosses, liverworts, hornworts and lichens. Ecolinc is very pleased to be working with botanists from the Royal Botanic Gardens to produce this fascinating professional learning day which builds on a recent touring exhibition organized by the RBG.

Ecolinc bookings are now open for 2011. Please contact Ecolinc to secure your booking to avoid disappointment. Please note that a small number of vacancies remain for 2010.

Details of all Ecolinc programs can be found in the 2010 Curriculum brochure available on the Ecolinc website.

VCE PROGRAMS—Semester 2 2010

Ecolinc is once again conducting Unit 2 Environmental Chemistry (Water and Atmosphere), Units 2 & 4 Biology SAC programs, Unit 2 Physics (Alternate Energy) and Units 2 & 4 Environmental Science SAC programs in Semester 2. Enquire now for remaining booking times.

The Ecolinc wetland has experienced fluctuating water levels throughout 2010. Over 76mm rainfall fell during one rain event in February, resulting in the wetland overflowing. Following this event, numerous frogs were heard calling, with hundreds of tadpoles visible in the wetland. Due to rapid evaporation, the wetland quickly diminished. A number of tadpoles were relocated safely to an indoor tank, in order to complete their development to adult frogs, before returning to the wetland environment.



Developing frogs at Ecolinc

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 and lichens.

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 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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