



Ecolinc celebrates Children's Week in October

Ecolinc celebrates Children's Week this month with a free 'Sustainable Art' program for students up to eight years of age. Places are limited so please book early if interested in attending.

Ecolinc staff delivered a 'macro invertebrate' investigation program at the Royal Melbourne Show during September. The program was very well received, with over 300 students participating over three days.

Ecolinc's most recent teacher professional learning day, held in September, featured a range of activities featuring the 'Hidden Flora', comprising mosses, liverworts, hornworts, lichens and fungi. Participants investigated a range of bryophyte specimens using keys, and extracted a range of lichen chemicals using thin layer chromatography. Thanks to botanists Dr Josephine Milne and Ms Helen Jolley from the Royal Botanic Gardens, for their support with the presentation of this professional learning program.

2011 program development

Ecolinc staff are currently investigating a range of online program delivery methods and technologies, with support from the DEECD. Incorporation of the use of iPads into a range of Ecolinc programs will be implemented in 2011.

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



A growing grass frog *Litoria raniformis* in the Ecolinc wetland

What's growing in the wetland?

The growing grass frog (*Litoria raniformis*) has been heard calling in the wetland this month. This vulnerable species was first sighted in the Ecolinc wetland in 2007, and has been heard each year since then. As this species is the official logo for Ecolinc, it is always exciting to hear its call. Hear a growing grass frog call by accessing the link below

<http://frogs.org.au/frogs/species/Litoria/raniformis/>

Other recent visitors to the wetland have included a pair of spur winged plover chicks, actively protected by their parents, and up to twelve black ducklings with their parents.



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 DECEMBER 2010

An Introduction to Nanotechnology (suitable for Years 7—11)

Use the national Nanotechnology School Resource, AccessNano, to incorporate nanotechnology into your Year 7-11 curriculum. Following a presentation by Mr Jason Major (Manager TechNyou), 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

Investigating the Australian Senior Science Curriculum

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 Australian Senior Science Curriculum with presenters including Ms Maria James (VCAA), Mr Brian Stevenson (GTAC Director), Mr Gerry Healy (Xavier College) and Mr Bob Hogendoorn (VCAA) addressing different science areas. Participants will be updated with current information relating to the proposed new senior science curriculum, and will also participate in a range of Ecolinc VCE activities.

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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