

ECOLINC CELEBRATES SCIENCE WEEK

National Science Week (13-21 August) was celebrated at Ecolinc with the development of a new environmental program—'Investigating Salinity and Water Quality Issues'.

415 P-10 students from a range of schools have participated in this program to date, investigating a number of land management issues in the Balliang and Werribee River areas.

Students completed a special trail sheet during the bus trip to the field site and were then given a specialised 'tool kit' containing a range of sampling equipment. At each field site students were involved in sampling creek water, ground water, river water and local soils, testing salinity and pH, identifying salt tolerant plants and then completing follow up analysis of plants, soils and water at Ecolinc.

This FREE program will continue into Term 4. Schools wishing to make a booking should contact Ecolinc as soon as possible.

Ecolinc staff are currently preparing new curriculum programs for 2006. These link to the new Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) and the newly accredited VCE Biology, Environmental Science and Outdoor and Environmental Studies study designs. A teacher professional development workshop will be held at Ecolinc as part of the 2005 Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Conference (STAVCON) to showcase Ecolinc and its programs.

Our resident pair of masked lapwings are currently raising two chicks. Their nest was constructed on the 'island' of the Ecolinc wetland beneath a remnant eucalypt.



Nest of masked lapwings—Ecolinc wetland

Sponsorship

Thank you to the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development (DIIRD) for providing funding of \$12,000 for all Ecolinc 2005 National Science Week activities.



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SEMESTER 2 PROGRAMS

BOOK NOW!

P-10 Hands on environmental programs focusing on Sustainable Energy, Water and Horticulture including micro propagation.

VCE

Biology-Unit 2

Plants-Requirements for life, Plant reproduction & development including micro propagation.

Biology-Unit 4

Plants-DNA structure, extraction, electrophoresis, gene technology.

Chemistry-Unit 2

Acids in the Environment-measure and investigate aquatic pH.

The Atmosphere-explore the CSIRO Weatherwall.

Environmental Science-Unit 2

Monitoring the Environment-identify

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