



woodside

TeachLive 2009

Woodside Energy and Earthwatch are offering West Australian teachers the chance to be part of the innovative teaching and learning program TeachLive.

Woodside TeachLive places teachers on Earthwatch conservation research projects to gain hands on experience in scientific field research whilst their students use an interactive website and information and communication technologies (ICT) to bring the real-life scientific research project into the classroom.

WOODSIDE ENERGY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Every year Woodside Energy works with a diverse range of community-based organisations to deliver better social, environmental and cultural opportunities both in Australia and overseas. By working with reputable not for profit and community organisations Woodside Energy aims to deliver long-term community benefits.

Woodside Energy and Earthwatch have worked in partnership since 1996. This partnership has supported environmental research relevant to West Australia by providing opportunities for Woodside Energy staff and WA community members to join Earthwatch projects to increase their environmental knowledge and contribute to the sustainability of their local environment.

In 2009 Woodside Energy will support TeachLive, by offering eight fully funded fellowships on the *Whale Sharks of Ningaloo Reef* TeachLive program

WHO IS THE EARTHWATCH INSTITUTE?

Earthwatch Institute is an independent, non-profit environmental organisation. Our mission is to engage people worldwide in scientific research and education to promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable environment. Earthwatch gives people the opportunity to be involved in scientific field research by becoming a member of a research team.



As part of the team you will be working with leading field researchers to contribute to important conservation research while expanding your knowledge of the environmental issues that are shaping our natural world.

The research Earthwatch support contributes to the conservation and sustainability of some of the world's most important habitats and species. We support over 100 research projects both in Australia and around the world. Participants do not need any skills or experience in field research, rather, all they require is a passion for the environment and a willingness to share their experience on their return.

WHAT IS TEACHLIVE?

TeachLive is an experiential teaching and learning model designed to provide professional development opportunities to teachers whilst engaging students in real science. Teachers participate on an Earthwatch supported scientific research project and communicate their experiences to both their own students and those of other teacher team members using information communication technologies.

A dedicated Woodside TeachLive website is used by the team to post photos, highlights, daily journal entries and lesson plans. The website contains an interactive forum through which students can communicate in real time with the team in the field, asking questions of the team members and students from other schools.

The Woodside TeachLive team will join the Earthwatch supported *Whale Sharks of Ningaloo Reef* research project (see details below). The team will consist of teachers from Western Australia. The unique partnership is an excellent example to young people of the benefits of collaboration and cooperation to environmental problem solving.

ELIGIBILITY

- The program is open to secondary school teachers in the following subjects (at any year level):
 - Science / Senior Science / Biology
 - Earth and Environmental Science
 - Geography
 - Information Technology
- All participants must be over 18 years of age
- Demonstrated interest or knowledge in environmental conservation
- All participants must meet the fitness requirements specified by Earthwatch for the *Whale Sharks of Ningaloo Reef* project
- Some experience in updating websites desirable



WHAT IS PROVIDED

- A fully funded fellowship place on the *Whale Sharks of Ningaloo Reef* project. This includes:
 - food
 - accommodation
 - all transport in the field
 - all research permits
- Training in field research methods
- Training in website content management
- Detailed briefing materials on the research project
- Woodside TeachLive tee-shirt
- Travel to and from the rendezvous point
- Teacher replacement costs to the value of \$1,000 per teacher

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Participants will be responsible for ensuring that they have undertaken all the necessary preparation for the project, as set out in the Earthwatch briefing materials including undergoing a health check by a recognised medical practitioner.
- Participants need to be prepared to contribute fully as a member of the research team, working under the direction of the project leader for the duration of the project. This includes staying at the research site accommodations for the duration of the two week project.
- On their return participants will be required to complete an evaluation, write a detailed report about their experiences, as well as share their experience within 6 weeks.

THE RESEARCH PROJECT

There are eight teacher places available on Woodside TeachLive teams in 2009. A brief description of the project is below. Please read carefully.

WHALE SHARKS OF NINGALOO REEF



Whale Sharks are the largest and one of the oldest fish in the ocean. Despite their enormous size the Whale Shark is a relatively recent addition to the record of ocean inhabitants as it has proved to be quite elusive to humans. It is known to have a broad distribution, being found in the tropical and warm temperate seas ranging from the Gulf of Mexico to north western Africa, Australia however the global population size of the species is still unknown.

The project is collecting detailed baseline information on individual Whale Sharks via a method called photo-tagging. The Whale Shark has a natural patterning of spots occurring on its back. This spot pattern is unique for each individual and can therefore be used for identification. Brad Norman and his research team have established an interactive, web-based Whale Shark Photo-identification Library that acts as a global Whale Shark monitoring tool.

The information collected in the Photo-identification library will be used to establish management plans for the Whale Shark both at Ningaloo Reef and around the world. The implementation of best practice management will ensure the longevity of the eco-industry, economic stability for local communities and the minimisation of any negative impacts on the Whale Shark.

Principal Scientist: Brad Norman, Ecocean

Research Site: Ningaloo Reef, Exmouth, Western Australia

Team Dates: 14 – 21 May 2009

23 – 30 May 2009

Further details about this research project and the volunteer activities are available on the Earthwatch website

<http://www.earthwatchexpeditions.org/Australia/exped/norman.html>

SELECTION CRITERIA & APPLICATION PROCESS

Earthwatch will assess all applications based upon the following criteria:

- A willingness to learn both personally and professionally from the project
- Interest and ability in the use of ICT as an educational tool
- An ability to share your experience with peers and the wider community
- A willingness to work in a team to face challenges and adapt to change

To be considered for this program, applicants must complete and return the Woodside TeachLive application form to:

Earthwatch Institute
126 Bank St
South Melbourne, VIC, 3205
cbayer@earthwatch.org.au
Fax: (03) 9686 3652
Phone: (03) 9682 6828

Please contact Earthwatch if you would like any assistance in completing the application form.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE

Tuesday 31st March 2009

