

## New environmental kit to educate students launched

A new resource to educate Tasmanian students about the environment was officially launched by the Minister for Education, David Bartlett, today.

*EucaFlip*, designed for students from grade 4-12, enables the easy identification of all 29 native Tasmanian eucalypt species.

An all-weather field identification kit for bushwalkers was also launched and is for sale at retail outlets across Tasmania from this week.

“Tasmania has 15 unique species of eucalypts and 29 species overall. These trees provide homes to a huge diversity of animals and insects,” author Rob Wiltshire said today.

“Eucalypts are found from the coast to the subalpine, and from the wettest to the driest of sites,” he said.

“Each of these species has a characteristic distribution that can inform us of the nature of the associated vegetation, rainfall, soil type, and temperature extremes,” Dr Wiltshire said.

Eucalypts dominate the Tasmanian landscape, covering 2.5 million hectares (37 per cent) of the Tasmanian land area, or 68 per cent of the Tasmanian forested area.

This large distribution results in an enormous range of variation in eucalypts - from the tallest flowering hardwood in the world (*Eucalyptus regnans*, greater than 90 metres) to the smallest eucalypt (the shrub-like, *E. vernicosa* smaller than 0.5 metre). Eucalypts also dominate the Tasmanian economy, with the forestry industry contributing in the order of \$1 billion per year and 20 per cent of manufacturing employment.

Copies of the all-weather field identification kit for bushwalkers are available from the Tasmanian Map Centre, Dismal Swamp, Mt Field National Park Visitor Centre, Freycinet National Park and the Queen Victoria Museum for the recommended retail price of \$9.95.

Thirty one high schools, 26 district schools and eight colleges have signed up for copies of the education kit.

Pre-release sales have already exceeded expectations and a second print run of 10,000 copies is underway.

Contact: Dr Rob Wiltshire (author)  
University of Tasmania (School of Plant Science) and CRC for Forestry  
Email [Rob.Wiltshire@utas.edu.au](mailto:Rob.Wiltshire@utas.edu.au) phone 03 6226 2690.