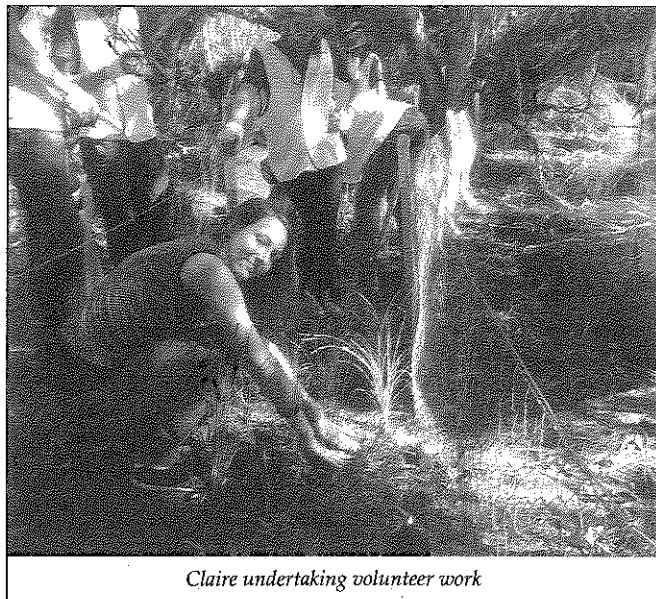


French Tourism Student Links With National Trust and FACET

My name is Claire Cellier. I come from the south west of France, 100km from Bordeaux. I'm in my third university year, studying sustainable tourism development, in Toulon.

To complete my studies I require a professional experience and this is gained through an internship of three months in a tourism-related enterprise. During this year at university, I undertook a project: "Environmental study of the impact of tourism on the bay St Cyr - La Ciotat", supported by WWF organisation. This project made me aware of tourism's environmental impacts. This encouraged me to choose an organisation, for my internship, involving environmental conservation. I am particularly interested in heritage interpretation and through an internet search, found The National Trust of Australia. I applied and have been accepted by the National Trust based in Perth to undertake my internship.



Claire undertaking volunteer work

Within the National Trust, my mission is to develop a Sustainable Tourism Strategy. For this, I will need to understand the "spirit" of the Trust. I will visit a selection of Trust properties and sites and research its aim and objectives, memberships, partnerships and general relationships with other organisations.

To develop this strategy I will begin with documenting what good sustainable tourism development is and identify which area (National Trust properties) suit sustainable tourism development. Then I will focus on a suitable site to develop as an example.

This plan will be developed in association with a cross-section of Trust members and also with some of the partners of the Trust. I also look forward to further discussions with FACET members to gain an insight into sustainable tourism in Western Australia.

I am very pleased to have found the National Trust through my internet searches and for being accepted as a volunteer tourism student to undertake this study.

Thanks to the National Trust, I have been integrated within the Trust's professional "life": conferences, meetings, support of other organisations as a volunteer. All of this has allowed me to travel around Western Australia. The National Trust has provided me with excellent opportunities to make contacts for my project, as well as meeting my wishes; a mix between a professional project and personal interests.

To date I have been to Margaret River to attend a conference on caves. I have spent two days in Pemberton to visit the historic Pemberton Pool, a National Trust interest. I also took time to climb the Gloucester tree....amazing! A morning was also dedicated to visit a discovery farm in Beverley, a proposed National Trust property.

I met with Prof. Ross Dowling to discuss my sustainable tourism project and gain his overview of the project before visiting one of his classes at Edith Cowan University to listen to his students speaking about different Western Australian tourism development strategies.

For the next few weeks, many things are planned, including a visit to Pinjarra, Tranby House, and attending other conferences and meetings to assist in my development of the sustainable tourism strategy for the National Trust.

At the end of my course, I will present this strategy to the National Trust staff and Council before taking the month of August to travel the north west of the State. In September I will return to my University in France.

Two weeks passed, and I have already learned a lot. I'm glad to be considered as a member of the National Trust and I'll do my best to realise a relevant sustainable tourism strategy, utilising my university knowledge and what I'll learn within the National Trust. All factors are present to build a new experience thanks to this internship!

Contributed by Claire Cellier



Claire with members of the FACET Executive Committee

Footnote: Alan Briggs, as Claire's Supervisor, advised that Claire is part of a formal student exchange program encouraged by Tom Perrigo (CEO). Claire has opened the door for future international student exchanges. Claire will also receive guidance in constructing the Sustainable Tourism Strategy by Prof. Ross Dowling, Edith Cowan University.