

Gas producer supports environment projects

by Gerry Blum

WOODSIDE is a sponsor of Earthwatch, a not-for-profit organisation that assists scientists with their research.

"Our sponsorship allows us to support the organisation as well as nominating several people to take part in an Earthwatch program itself," Enfield Project's Tony Johnson said.

This year Earthwatch supported whaleshark researcher Brad Norman with his activities off the North West Cape.

"I'm sure you are familiar with Brad's program which calls on 'eco-tourists' and visiting whale-shark watchers to take photographs of the huge giants and post them to his Ecocean database," Mr Johnson said.

Woodside also provided some financial support to Ecocean to assist with promotional material such as brochures and stickers.

These items are used to improve awareness of the research program. They were handed out during the recent Whaleshark Festival in Exmouth.

The nominees who took part in the Earthwatch program were Exmouth District High School teacher Peter Versteeg, CALM national park trainee ranger Aaron Hubert and environmental adviser with the Enfield Project team Cara Price.

"I think this is a good industry-community-environment partnership that works well on many levels – helping the science community to learn more about the environment off the North West Cape, providing knowledge back into the regional community about whalesharks and conservation, and providing an opportunity for tourists and visitors to assist in this effort." Mr Johnson said.