

WA employees take Earthwatch challenge

Three WA employees – Melanie Norman (Booragoon), Andrew Paton (Wagerup) and Melinda Bolt (Pinjarra) - are participating in Earthwatch expeditions around the world later this year.

Expeditioners are all volunteers who nominate themselves for selection. Earthwatch and Alcoa select the expeditioners on merit, and Earthwatch pays all travel and accommodation costs. The expeditioners use their available holiday time for participation.

Melanie will be studying killer whales in Puget Sound, northwest USA; Melinda will be in the Bahamas studying the dolphins and whales of Abaco Island, and Andrew will be in the Czech Republic helping with headwater rehabilitation.

Melanie was very excited about being selected. "I nearly fell off my chair! I read it in disbelief before

jumping up from my chair and running to tell my work colleagues," she said.

Andrew said that he couldn't wipe the smile off his face, and still can't. "At present I'm trying to find out all I can about the Czech Republic. I've made contact with a fellow Alcoa who will be on the same expedition from the Netherlands."

"It was hard to believe that the email was meant for me until I opened a link that listed all the 2005 Alcoa Expeditioners – and yes **my name** was on that list!" said Melinda. "It's a dream come true!"

While helping add to the knowledge needed to build a sustainable future,



Earthwatch Expeditioners L-R: Melanie Norman, Andrew Paton and Melinda Bolt are all excited about their forthcoming adventures.

this hands-on support for scientific field research offers a rich opportunity for personal development, nurtures relationships between environmental and business organisations, and helps raise awareness and appreciation of the Earth's ecosystems.