

# Kimberley Schools Wrap

Term 4, 2012

Volume 1, Issue 1

## 2013 Dates

- 1/3 Schools Clean Up Day
- 22-24/3 Kimberley Bush Rangers Conference (Kununurra)
- 19-21/4 Bush Rangers WA State Conference (Perth)
- 19-24/5 The Gibb Challenge
- 9-14/9 Bush Rangers Kimberley Region Camp (West Kimberley, Location TBA)



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## Broome Bush Rangers 'Young Legends'

The Broome Bush Rangers have been recognised at the 2012 Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities awards, winning the newly introduced Young Legends award. Broome Bush Ranger Brooke Whiteside and Instructors Sally Murkin and Lauren Johnson collected the award at a ceremony held in Fremantle on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

"It was honestly a huge shock!! When our name was called we couldn't believe it," said Sally. "Tidy Towns is a reputed award program that acknowledges regional communities, we were so proud to be part of such an auspicious event."

"The most fantastic thing was that we won the award without any extra effort," said Lauren. "It

was such a confirmation that our team was on track with all the programs we run. We have future plans incorporating ideas received from involvement in the Tidy Towns award program, and from fellow award nominees and winners."

To become 'Young Legends', the Broome Bush Rangers 'engaged innovative methods and leadership to encourage young people to participate in their community' and demonstrated 'successful outcomes from youth-initiated or youth-led social or environmental action'.

To find out how your school can get involved visit <http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au/> and click on the 'Tidy Towns' link.



Department of Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



# School Holiday Fun

DEC organised a range of activities for eight to twelve year olds in and around Kununurra during the October school holidays.

The holiday program kicked off with a reptile display at the Youth Hub, provided by Kimberley Reptiles. "The kids were hesitant at first, but after getting used to the snakes they were all very enthusiastic," said Communication Education Officer Jasper Kruse.

Other activities included a biodiversity treasure trail in Celebrity Tree Park, a bush cooking trip to Lake Argyle, and the highlight of every school holiday program, a Triple J boat tour.

These activities were supported by staff from Save the Children and volunteers



Kununurra kids spotting wildlife on a Triple J boat ride

from Bond University.

Meanwhile in Broome, kids had the opportunity to get to know the Yawuru Rangers, and learn about the Yawuru Conservation Estate. They practiced being a ranger for a morning in Minyirr Park, helping out with

typical ranger duties.

The holidays culminated with a clean up at Town Beach, assisted by the Yawuru Rangers and Department of Fisheries, as part of the Tangaroa Blue Great Northern Beach Cleanup. Well done to all who took part!

In the upcoming summer holidays DEC will be organising more exciting activities, weather permitting.

To find out more about what's happening in Kununurra contact [Jasper Kruse](#), and in Broome, [Jason Richardson](#). Contact details can be found on the back of this newsletter.

## Out and About

Semester Two has been a busy one across the Kimberley.

We started out with the Waste Wise Organic Gardening Workshop in Broome, presented by Emma Brindal and Pat Hamil. Thanks to our wonderful hosts at Broome Primary School. Teachers at schools further afield then had the chance to meet with Emma on her trip across to Kununurra.

You may have also seen DEC stalls at a number of events such as the Kimberley Training Institute Careers Day, and the Kununurra District High School Fete.

Students and adults alike had the opportunity to examine crocodile skulls, snake skins, and seed pods, and take a look at invertebrates under a microscope. DEC staff from a variety of fields were on hand to talk to students about their roles, and answer the broad range of questions put to them.

Term Four has seen visits to schools across the Kimberley promoting our new cane toad resources (see the Cane Toad Update), which will be followed up with Terrible Toad incursions at a number of East Kimberley schools before the end of the year.



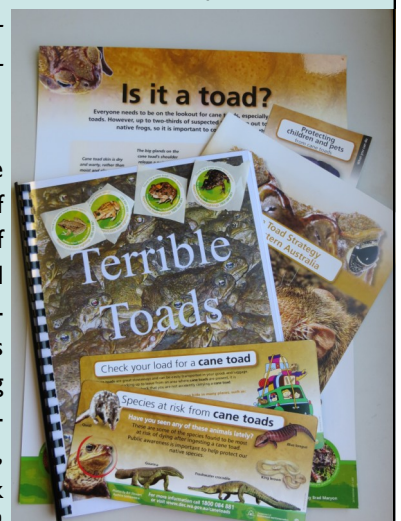
Checking out the veggie garden at Broome Primary School

## Cane Toad Update

Many of you will have received copies of our new teacher manual, *Terrible Toads*. It contains background information on cane toads as well as classroom activities aimed at middle-upper primary students. Curriculum links are available on request for Section I of the resource. *Terrible Toads* will be part of a greater Kimberley manual, which will also include modules on fire, feral animals and weeds.

For more toad information, electronic or hardcopies of *Terrible Toads*, or to deliver feedback on this draft publication, contact [Jasper Kruse](#).

We are starting to see more toads coming out of hiding with the arrival of the rain. The cane toad front line is currently between Warmun and Halls Creek. If you are travelling across the Kimberley during the summer holidays, always remember to check your load for a cane toad! Let us know if you find any toads in unusual places.



Resources including stickers, posters, magnets and brochures are available on request



# Bush Rangers

## Introducing..... the One Arm Point Bush Rangers



One Arm Point Bush Rangers photograph and identify the marine life of local coral reef systems with the assistance of Cygnet Bay research scientist, Ali McCarthy.

We would like to introduce you to our newest Unit, the One Arm Point Remote Community School Bush Rangers.

Unit Leader James Taylor established the One Arm Point Bush Rangers in second semester, with fourteen cadets from Years 8 to 11. The Bush Rangers meet at a different time each week, depending on activities, tides and linking in with other agencies.

After starting on wildlife surveys within the school grounds, and learning how to attract more birds to the gardens, the cadets have been finding out about the role of the Bardi Jawi Rangers, and are conducting a coral reef research project in conjunction with Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm.

"The cadets take photos of all the marine life they see, and then when we get back into the classroom we try to identify it," said James. "It's a great way to learn more about the coral reef system around One Arm Point, and the importance of it to other marine life and the surrounding areas."

We look forward to hearing about future projects from One Arm Point in 2013.

## From the Regional Coordinator

With the Region Camp over, we have had time to start thinking about our calendar for next year. An email has been sent out regarding our Kimberley Conference in March, if you did not receive it please get in touch ASAP. The dates for both our 2013 Conference and Region Camp can be found on the

front page of this newsletter. We are still taking suggestions for topics to be covered in our conference workshop, so let us know what would benefit you.

We have been making the final changes to the Kimberley Manual Supplement, thank you all for your feedback. We hope to have this pub-

lished and ready to launch at our Kimberley Conference. As always, we will continue to forward new resources on to you all as they become available.

We look forward to hearing about your 2013 plans, and will see you all next year.

## What's New - Duke of Ed

When Bush Rangers WA became a licenced operator for The Duke of Ed Award earlier this year, Derby Unit Leader Barbara Sing saw this as a great opportunity for her cadets. Open to young people aged 14 to 25, the program encourages participants to 'stretch their imaginations, try different things, set new challenges and achieve goals beyond their expectations.' To complete the award, young people develop a skill, improve physical fitness, volunteer in their community, and undertake an 'adventurous journey.'



Derby Instructor Huby Vink introduces cadets to geocaching

During Term 4, Derby Bush Rangers have had a choice of setting up geocaches in the local area or working towards their Bronze Medallion to achieve the fitness component of the Duke of Ed.

We wish all our Bush Rangers the best of luck in completing this challenging award.

<http://dukeofed.com.au/>



# Bush Rangers

## Western Australia



**Cadets WA**  
Government of Western Australia



# Waste Wise Schools Corner

## Project Profile - Wyndham

2013 will see a new-look canteen at Wyndham District High School, after they recently received approval for both their \$2000 and \$5000 Waste Wise Schools grants.

The canteen will feature an industrial dishwasher, and all meals will be served in reusable lunchboxes. "Up until now, hot lunches have been served in plastic take-away containers, which get thrown out after use," said teacher Max Alcock.

Student councillors will take it in turns to use the dishwasher, ensuring it is the students that take responsibility for the school's efforts to minimise waste.

Encouraging students to be 'kind to the environment' is part of the school's core values program, 'Six Kinds of Best'.

Food scraps will be composted for the school's vegetable garden, where students will grow produce for canteen meals. It is hoped the garden will encourage healthy eating habits and give students pride in what they have grown.

Teachers across the Kimberley are watching closely to see if this is something they could try in their own schools.



Wyndham veggie garden and 'Six Kinds of Best' banners

## How to... Make Recycled Christmas Decorations

### Punched Tin Tree Ornaments

You Need: hammer, nails, ribbon, old tin lids, workbench or board, whiteboard marker

1. Use the whiteboard marker to draw a star or snowflake pattern on each lid using dots.
2. Use the hammer and nails to make a hole in the place of each dot (place the board underneath or do this step at the workbench).
3. Make holes at the top of the lids to loop the ribbon through and hang your decorations.

### Hand Wreath

You need: old Christmas paper & cards or magazines, pencil, scissors, glue, ribbon, string



1. Trace 10 hands onto the paper and cut out.
2. Arrange hands in a ring, fingers pointing outwards, and glue together.
3. Decorate with the ribbon, and attach a string for hanging.

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## An Interview with...

## Keith Boombi (KB)

*KB started out as a Bush Ranger at Kununurra DHS before accepting a school-based traineeship with DEC. On finishing school in 2012, he was offered a position as a trainee Miriuwung Gajerrong Ranger.*



KB setting a funnel trap line

**Tell us about a typical day at work.** It's different every day.

Today I'm cutting up trees to build a bower shed (traditional shelter) for a cultural ceremony out at Mirima Community.

**What do you like most about your job?**

It's hard to choose, I like everything about this job.

**What is most challenging?** Handling snakes and cane toads!

Also trying to hold on to tiny rock rats can be difficult.

**What is your favourite part of working in the Kimberley?** I get to go out on country, and it's good to explore the Kimberley.

**What 3 things would you want on a desert island?**

A magnesium flint, a knife, and a plastic bag to make a solar still.



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### Check out our Websites:

<http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/>

<http://education.dec.wa.gov.au>