



# Kimberley Schools Wrap

Term 3, 2013

Volume 2, Issue 3

## 2013 Dates

- 1/9-16/10 [Night Stalk](#)
- 22/9 [Great Northern Clean Up](#)
- 30/9-12/10 80 Mile Beach Holiday Activities
- 1-12/10 Broome Holiday Activities
- 8-10/10 Kununurra Holiday Activities
- 12-13/10 [Tangaroa Blue WA Beach Clean Up](#)



## Kimberley Region Camp

Those of you lucky enough to attend our second annual Kimberley Bush Rangers Region Camp at Middle Lagoon don't need to be told what an amazing time we all had. With 73 cadets and 20 instructors from 5 schools across the region, it's certainly the biggest event we've ever held. With Bush Rangers travelling from as far afield as Wyndham, Monday and Friday were left free for travelling, so we made the most of all the time we had for 3 action-packed days.

Cadets had the chance to work with Bush Rangers from other schools on a variety of activities based around the core objectives of the Bush Rangers program; teamwork, initiative, leadership, and environmental conservation. Participants learnt about local marine life, representing their favourites in a take-home mosaic, and tested their navigation skills in an orienteering challenge. The local Nyul Nyul Rangers gave up their time to take our cadets on a

cultural tour around the area and explain some of their work. This was a great opportunity for the Bush Rangers to see the real-life applications of many of the skills they have been learning.

We were kept occupied in the evenings taking part in Perth Zoo's Night Stalk, and running around on the beach playing a series of night games run by Brett from Wyndham. We even had a disco on the last night.

A highlight for many was the beach day on Thursday, with fishing workshops run by Dylan from the Department of Fisheries, and a beach sculpture competition. Other cadets reported their favourite part of camp being the opportunity to meet cadets from other schools, but perhaps the one that topped them all was watching whales for the first time and just spending time at the beach, especially for those from inland areas. Next year's Central Kimberley camp is bound to be even bigger and better.

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Department of Parks and Wildlife



DEC → DPaW + DER

On July 1st, DEC split into two. Bush Rangers, EcoEducation and Nearer to Nature are now part of the Dept of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW), whilst WasteWise has joined the Dept of Environment Regulation (DER).

# School Holiday Fun

With over 450 participants engaged across 10 activities last school holidays, it's hard not to get excited about developing an even greater program this time around. Whilst the July holiday program offered activities around Broome focussing on marine conservation and Yawuru culture, October activities will be offered on a whole variety of topics in Broome, Kununurra, and at 80 Mile Beach.



Exploring Broome's Magnificent Mangroves

Building on highlights from last holidays, Broome activities include a guided bush tucker walk through the mangroves and a damper making workshop in Minyirr Park. Budding anglers can learn tips and techniques from the experts in a series of sessions examining fish biology and fishing the Yawuru way, or for something a bit different why not join the Yawuru Rangers for a spear-making workshop?

Meanwhile in Kununurra, we'll be looking at amazing Kimberley creatures, both big and small, through a series of half-day activities. Become a waterway explorer at Celebrity Tree Park, and learn about creatures you never even knew existed. Get up close and personal with some of our favourite Kimberley reptiles at the Kununurra Youth Hub, or try your hand at being a ranger for a day in Mirima National Park.

We're pleased to offer for the first time ever a series of activities for holiday-makers at 80 Mile Beach. It will be easy keeping everyone occupied with our active Kimberley Coast and Culture workshops. When you're not busy turtle-monitoring, have a go at bird-watching or learn about fishing the scientific way. If you need to wind down after all that excitement take a relaxing stroll along the beach and learn about the Nyangumarta way of life.

All activities are free of charge. Participants need to be accompanied by a responsible adult, and bring a hat, shoes and a water bottle. For more information or to book for Broome and 80 Mile Beach activities, call 9195 5500. For Kununurra activities, call 9168 4200. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Out and About

I'm sure we say this every term, but this term has definitely kept us all busy. It's the time of year when roads are accessible, nights are still cool enough for camping, and we're all trying to finish off our field work before the wet. Whilst this may sound like we wouldn't have time for community activities, that's not the way we think around here. With all of these projects happening, there's no better time to engage students in practical activities.

The Derby and Fitzroy Valley Bush Rangers spent some time helping out park rangers at Windjana Gorge with basic weeding and maintenance tasks. Likewise, students from the Murumbabidi community assisted our researchers with a recent biodiversity survey.

These surveys are part of a region-wide animal trapping program aiming at establishing an inventory of species found across the Kimberley. This data can be compared with future surveys to monitor any changes in populations and shape management strategies. Volunteers assist with setting up and checking traps, identifying and measuring animals, and recording data. We're looking forward to having some helpers from Kalumburu RCS at our Carson River survey in the last week of term.

When we weren't in the field you may have seen us at the Wyndham and Kununurra career expos, or the Broome NAIDOC march.



Cleaning up Town Beach in Broome. See the front cover for dates of the upcoming Tangaroa Blue and Great Northern Clean-Ups.

## Cane Toad Update

### What to do if you find a toad



#### Central & West Kimberley

1. Isolate the toad. Pick it up with gloves or a plastic bag and store it in an escape-proof container.
2. Contact your nearest DPaW office (Kununurra—9168 4200, Broome—9195 5500, Statewide—1800 44 9453). A wildlife officer will want to inspect the toad. They may ask you to send in photos if they cannot come out to you.
3. Follow the directions of DPaW staff. **DO NOT EUTHANISE THE ANIMAL YOURSELF UNLESS DIRECTED TO DO SO.**

#### East Kimberley (areas with established toad populations)

1. Collect the toad/s using gloves or a plastic bag.
2. Carefully examine each animal to [ensure they are all cane toads](#). If you are unsure, call 9168 4200 for assistance. **DO NOT EUTHANISE ANY ANIMALS YOU ARE NOT 100% SURE ABOUT**
3. Take the live toads to one of the [public cane toad drop-off points](#), or alternatively euthanise using one of DPaW's approved methods such as cooling and freezing.

For copies of our latest brochure series, with information on toad identification, safety, and euthanasia, contact [Jackie Ellis](#).



# Bush Rangers

## Derby & Fitzroy Valley Leadership Camp

In Week 6, the Fitzroy Valley and Derby Bush Rangers met up at Windjana Gorge for a 3 day leadership camp. Cadets were given the responsibility of setting up camp and preparing and cooking their own dinner on Trangeas. This was a new experience for Fitzroy but all students were successful in cooking their feed. After dinner, Dylan Andrews joined the group around the campfire for some storytelling. It was great to hear from such a respected elder, who all the students looked up to.

Tuesday morning began with an extremely early rise by both Ranger groups who were eagerly awaiting the day's activities. They set off to meet Ranger Rod to help out with some weeding around Windjana Gorge. Both units went hard at work, chopping down *Calotropis*, which is a milkweed found around the gorge. The boys were later taken to Tunnel Creek for a tour with Dylan Andrews while the girls did some fishing and made damper. A cheeky croc that tried to steal the girls' bait didn't stop them from continuing to have a go.

Our final day began with a Cultural tour to Carpenter's gap. Dylan Andrews, along with the help of Adam, smoked all of the Bush Rangers and staff before entering the cultural site. Everyone was shown Bunuba paintings. It was a great experience for both Ranger units. It was then time for both units to travel home. After farewelling Derby, Fitzroy were on their way. A sneaky stop at a spring near Yirrimalay for a swim was the very last activity before arriving back at school.

*Janique Dennis, Unit Leader, Fitzroy Valley Bush Rangers*



Our next generation of leaders

## From the Regional Coordinator

I'm sure we'll all agree that the region camp at Middle Lagoon was the highlight of Term 3, so I would just like to thank all of the Unit Leaders who helped make it happen, especially James from One Arm Point and Sandi and Sally from Broome. I had a great time and I'm pretty sure you all did, too. Thanks

also to the staff at Middle Lagoon for their amazing catering and hospitality, and to the Nyul Nyul Rangers and Dylan from Fisheries for helping out with our activities. I'm already thinking of exciting ideas for next year's camp.

On another note, you will all have heard of the upcoming changes to the Bush Rangers pro-

gram. Whilst this will not directly affect Kimberley Units, we would like to acknowledge all of the great work Arlene's put into the program over the past few years. Richard Olive, who you may know from Ribbons of Blue, will be taking over the reins on October 1<sup>st</sup> as Bush Rangers moves to its new home.

## A letter from the Wyndham Bush Rangers



Welcoming the Governor

In other Bush Ranger news, Week 2 saw us walking with visiting students from Kyabram out onto the marsh for an evening of hamburgers, sitting around a fire listening to stories, and playing running games in the dark. We also managed to pick up some of the rubbish out there.

Meanwhile back at school, we have put the final touches on the extension to the veggie garden, and helped a little with the new bush food garden on National Tree Day in Week 1. Also, the Governor's visit in Week 4 saw us showing off our uniforms and some drill by presenting a guard of honour. As always, we're keeping busy. Wish us luck!

*The Wyndham Bush Rangers*

23/8/2013

As you read this in late Week 5 it is most likely that the WDHS cadets are somewhere near Mt Wells, 1.5 hours off the highway towards Halls Creek on Bedford Downs Station. Why climb Mt Wells you might ask. Hopefully I'm not muttering the same thing as we climb it, but at 982m Mt Wells is the highest point in the Kimberley. Only a few kilometres to the west lies the origin of the Fitzroy River system, while immediately to the east is the Ord, and in the north the Chamberlain.

**Bush Rangers**  
Western Australia

15 CELEBRATING YEARS IN 2013

**Cadets WA**  
Government of Western Australia



# Waste Wise Schools Corner

## How to... compost successfully!

### Project Profile - Derby DHS



Recycling bins for the school grounds

Over the past year, the Derby Bush Rangers have been introducing their fellow students to the concept of recycling. Only recently introduced to the town, residents are now invited to recycle a variety of paper, plastic, glass and metal products. As this is the first time most students have been exposed to recycling, getting them to think about which rubbish goes in which bin has proved quite a challenge.

The Bush Rangers sought to resolve this issue by creating recycling bins in the shape of giant milk cartons and drink cans, with slots shaped to receive only these items. They have installed recycling bins around the school but say it is a slow process getting everyone used to separating their rubbish.

We wish them luck with their efforts to divert waste from landfill, and although it may take time to get everyone on board, we're sure with continued effort and education programs it's bound to be a success. In the future we hope they can look back on this difficult stage and can be proud of the difference they are making.

**ADAM teaches us the key features of good compost:**

**A = Aliveness** Compost needs bacteria, fungi and other compost creatures to function. If you have a compost bin, bury the base in the soil to allow the creatures in. For tumblers, add a shovelful of your own compost to start.

**D = Diversity** You need a mixture of 'green' (nitrogen rich) and 'brown' (carbon rich) materials to achieve good quality compost. Examples of 'green' ingredients are: food scraps, green grass clippings or prunings. Examples of 'brown' ingredients are: dry leaves, hay, straw and newspaper. Each time you add green materials, add at least twice the volume of brown materials.

**A = Air** Aerate your compost 2-3 times per week by tumbling/turning with a garden fork.

**M = Moisture** Water your compost to avoid it drying out – it should be as wet as a wrung-out sponge.



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Environment Regulation



## An Interview with...

## Jackie Ellis

Jackie is the new Kimberley Education Officer based in DPaW's Kununurra office. With a varied background and lots of time spent living in the Kimberley, she's a great addition to our education team..



Jackie (centre) helping out in the field.

### Tell us about a typical day at work

I haven't gotten a hold of what my typical day is likely to be. At the moment we are developing an education resource for teachers on Cane Toads. The best part is I get to think creatively, put some humour into it and create cartoons.

### What do you think you'll like most about your job?

Good people to work with who are passionate about nature and grounded. I like being able to contribute to something important, and I consider our wonderful wilderness to be the absolute pinnacle of importance.

### What will be most challenging?

I'm too new to have come across this but I can foresee problems with bureaucracy and short term thinking, and perhaps resourcing.

### What is your favourite part of working in the Kimberley?

I get to live here. That's amazing. It's a very unique community. On top of that the backyard is world's best. It truly offers the great outdoors lifestyle.

### What 3 things would you want when stranded on a desert island

The husband, OK my family... and friends. Well, maybe not all of them at once. Good food, medicines, the capacity to paint.... three things you say?

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Department of Parks and Wildlife



Check out our Website:

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