



Kimberley Schools Wrap

Term 4, 2013

Volume 2, Issue 4

2014 Dates

- 21-23/2 Kimberley Bush Rangers Conference (Broome)
- 2/3 Clean Up Australia Day
- 22/3 World Day for Water
- 4-5/6 Bush Rangers WA State Conference (Perth)
- 22/4 Earth Day
- 3-4/5 North West Expo
- Term 3, Week 6 Kimberley Bush Rangers Region Camp (Central Kimberley)



It's Turtle Time!

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From October to March each year, beaches around the Kimberley play host to one of our most popular reptiles, the sea turtle. The Department of Parks and Wildlife, with the help of a team of volunteers, monitor the nesting habits of these animals along Cable Beach through non-invasive track monitoring. DPaW also conducts a more extensive monitoring program south of Broome at 80 Mile Beach, and several other locations around the state.

There are six kinds of sea turtle found along the Western Australian coastline, all of which are considered either vulnerable or endangered. Flatback turtles are the most common to nest on Cable Beach, although there have also been reports of the threatened green turtle.

Teams of observers set out early every morning on

Cable Beach to look for evidence of turtle activity such as tracks, nests, or hatchlings. This information is then recorded on a statewide database, and a summary report is produced at the end of the season to inform the broader community and guide management strategies.

Anyone can sign up to become a volunteer, formal training sessions are offered at the start of each turtle season or you can tag along with an experienced team and learn on the job. This December, Bush Rangers from Broome, Fitzroy Valley, and Derby have all completed turtle training and assisted with monitoring along Cable Beach. Children are welcome to take part, but they must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, or to get involved, email yawuru.rangers@dpaw.wa.gov.au.



Department of Parks and Wildlife



DEC → DPaW + DER

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

2013 School Holiday Highlights

Whilst we won't be offering formal holiday programs over the Christmas break, you can find out about suggested activities and volunteer opportunities by emailing yawuru.rangers@dpaw.wa.gov.au for Broome, or contacting [Sally](#) for other areas across the Kimberley.



Fishing in Yawuru country.(above).
Spearmaking workshops in
Minyirr Park (below)



A hands on approach to learning about
Kimberley reptiles (above)



Having a go at being a waterway scientist (above),
Learning how barra are farmed (below)



Out and About

As it's almost the end of the year. We thought we would recapture some of the great moments of 2013.

Back in Semester 1 we focused on toadbusting, helping students from Halls Creek start off on the right foot with some toadbusting and biodiversity activities as part of their camps and visiting schools across the East Kimberley. We were also amazed at all our students' artistic talent and research skills with their entries

to the Kimberley Frog Poster Competition. Our National Parks got a bit of attention with schools groups visiting and helping out in both Purnululu and Windjana Gorge National Parks.

Semester 2 saw this flurry of activity continue with clean-ups, career expos, and more camps, not to mention the jam-packed school holiday programs.

With the warmer weather, we've been doing a few more incursions this term, with an information session about turtle monitoring at Broome SHS, a discussion about laws protecting the environment and why they are necessary with the Year 4s at Kununurra DHS, and a talk about reptiles at Kununurra Neighbourhood House. We look forward to seeing you all again next year, don't forget to get in early if you want us to visit your school or join you for a camp or excursion.



Check out our mural when you're next at the Kununurra Youth Hub

Cane Toad Update

Each year, under DPaW's State Cane Toad Initiative, a series of biodiversity surveys are conducted at key locations across the Kimberley. These fauna trapping programs assist in developing an inventory of all species found in each different habitat.

Once this list has been established, future surveys can identify any changes in populations and reasons for this variation. Threats such as fire, introduced species, for example cane toads or cats, and nearby development may impact upon our native species. Through gaining an understanding of an area's biodiversity, management strategies can be developed to protect these species in the future.

Volunteers, including school groups, are invited to assist with these surveys. Whilst we limit numbers to 6 students at a time, and you need to come prepared for some hard work, the opportunity to see our native animals up close and work alongside DPaW's researchers makes this an unforgettable opportunity. In the last week of Term 3, a group of Year 5-6s from Kalumburu RCS joined us for a survey on nearby Carson River Station. Not only did the students learn a lot, but they also provided valuable assistance to the DPaW team. If you're interested in helping out with future surveys, contact [Sally](#).



Students from Kalumburu RCS learn
how an Elliot trap works.

Bush Rangers

Instructor Excellence Award for Wyndham Teacher



DPAW Regional Manager Daryl Moncrieff (left) with Cameron Hart after the award ceremony.

Wyndham Bush Rangers Unit Leader Cameron Hart is one of four 2013 recipients of Bush Rangers WA Instructor Excellence Awards. The awards provide an opportunity to publicly recognise individuals for their outstanding achievements and reward the lengths to which they will go in providing opportunities for Bush Ranger cadets under their care. The high standards set by the Wyndham Instructors are renowned amongst the Kimberley Bush Rangers, and their hard work is evident in both the amount and quality of projects, excursions, and camps undertaken by the Unit. Whilst Cameron will be sorely missed when he leaves the school at the end of the year, we can rest assured that the Unit is in good hands with Brett Gaskell at the helm. For a more detailed insight into the Wyndham Bush Rangers, be sure to watch the ABC 7pm news next week (Week 9).



Cameron on our first Region Camp (left), Wyndham Instructors Brett and Mohamed (right, L-R)



From the Regional Coordinator

The Kimberley Bush Rangers movement has continued to grow throughout 2013. Yiyili Aboriginal Community School joined us at the start of the year, and after a taster of Bush Rangers activities last term we look forward to welcoming aboard Kalumburu Remote Community School and Sacred

Heart School in Beagle Bay in 2014.

Richard Olive took over the reins as the new Bush Rangers State Coordinator during the last school holidays, and is looking forward to working with us all in the coming year. You will notice the new Bush Rangers WA logo in the bottom corner of the page. This logo has been

introduced to negate the need to change logos each time the Department changes name. Units will, however, be required to include the DPAW logo on all dress uniforms. Further details will be sent out at the start of next year. With a host of activities planned for 2014 (see front cover for dates), we're sure to be in touch soon after the new year.

Bush Ranger Cadet to DPAW Trainee



Some of Andrew's duties include making sure the shed is in order and all equipment is in good condition.

When Andrew Rethus moved to Kununurra from Victoria at the start of 2012, joining his new school's Bush Ranger Unit was an obvious choice. "I've always wanted to be a ranger, and it was good to get out of the classroom and see the country." When an opportunity to pursue a school-based traineeship with DPAW came up in 2013, Andrew jumped at the chance. During Year 11 and 12, Andrew spends 2 days a week at school studying maths, English, and outdoor education, and 3 days with DPAW completing a Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management through on the job training. Andrew's highlights for the year include, "going out on biodiversity surveys, seeing the country from a helicopter, learning snake handling skills, and driving the DPAW boat." He hopes that by the time he graduates at the end of 2014, he will be a step closer to his goal of becoming a ranger.

Andrew is one of 3 staff based at DPAW's Kununurra office who have joined us after enjoying their time as Bush Ranger cadets.



Department of Parks and Wildlife



Cadets WA
Government of Western Australia



Waste Wise Schools Corner

Project Profile - One Arm Point RCS

High school students at One Arm Point were given new classroom furniture towards the end of 2013. But what to do with the old, tired desks? The Bush Rangers decided to make the most of the good frames, and of lots of discarded wooden pallets from around the community, to make their own wooden desks.

With a lot of sanding, drilling, painting and varnishing, the finished products look fantastic. The students have taken pride in making something really good from recycled materials. For many of them this has been their first attempt at woodworking and they are looking forward to recycling more wooden pallets in 2014.



Bush Rangers in the workshop



Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation



How to...

Host a Waste Wise Christmas Party!

It's that time of year again. If you're planning a party, why not try some of these Waste Wise tips?



- Make paper chains out of used paper as decorations. After you've enjoyed them

Ask [Sally](#) for a [paper chain photo tutorial](#).

they can go in the compost bin or worm farm. Use reusable plates, cups, and cutlery. If this isn't an option look into recycled or compostable ones. Finish your table with cloth tablecloths and serviettes, and glass jar candle holders.

- Make your own dips, biscuits, and sweet treats such as truffles. Serve and store in glass bowls with lids, or give in a glass jar or decorated tin as a gift.
- Wrap gifts in scarves, tea towels, fabric scraps, or even old maps and magazines.

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An Interview with...

Sara McAllister

Sara is the Marine Visitor Interpretation Officer at DPAW's Broome office. Before moving to Broome in April 2013, she worked as an Environmental Officer on Rottnest Island. Her favourite pastimes include camping, exploring new places and anything on the water.



Sara familiarising herself with Rowley Shoals Marine Park

Tell us about a typical day at work. It depends on what time of year it is! My work ranges from living on a boat educating visitors about the new Lalang-garram Camden Sound Marine Park, to running school holiday activities in Broome, presenting to visitors of the Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park, and of course some office work! Today we have the Bush Rangers from Fitzroy and Derby visiting our office to learn more about flatback turtles.

What do you like most about your job? Spreading the word of conservation and culture, educating all ages about marine life of the Kimberley and meeting others who are passionate about the environment.

What is most challenging? Feeling like you don't have enough time to tackle everything that you would like to.....

What is your favourite part of working in the Kimberley? Being able to experience, explore and conserve a part of the world that is completely unique.

Also, the contrast between red sandstone, turquoise waters, green vegetation and blue skies.

What 3 things would you want when stranded on a desert island? Dan the Man, Ginger the Pooch and an acoustic guitar.



Department of
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Check out our website:

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