



Kimberley Schools Wrap

Term 1, 2014

Volume 3, Issue 1

2014 Dates

- 4-5/4 Bush Rangers WA State Conference (Perth)
- 14-25/4 School Holidays
- 22/4 Earth Day
- 3-4/5 North West Expo
- 5/6 World Environment Day
- 12/6 Arbor Day
- 25-29/8 Kimberley Bush Rangers Region Camp (Manning Gorge)



St Joseph's teacher Emily Farrel explains how she integrates learning about waste into her classes

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Waste Wise Workshops

Schools across the Kimberley have been learning how to minimise their waste with visits from the Waste Wise Schools program. 14 schools took part in events in Kununurra, Broome, the Fitzroy Valley, and One Arm Point, and are now looking at ways they can reduce, reuse and recycle in their own communities.

Jen Weston, the Waste Wise Regional Schools Coordinator for the North-West, explained that avoiding waste through reducing packaging and reusing shopping bags and water bottles was the key for cutting down on single-use plastics. Organic waste, including paper and food scraps, can then be recycled through composting, worm farming, and shredding to use on gardens. Where curbside recycling collections are available, such as in Broome, it is important students know what items can be placed in each bin for recycling effective. Even where regular recycling is not available, schools can join nationwide initiatives to

recycle items such as mobile phones, batteries, and printer cartridges by holding collection days or establishing a collection point in their office or library.

Some examples of innovative Waste Wise projects already up and running in the Kimberley include Wyndham's minimum waste canteen, with a dishwasher and reusable dishes, and the lunchtime food scrap collections for composting and worm farming already operating in many Broome and Kununurra schools. Following on from the workshops, teachers are investigating making paper fire bricks to sell to campers, investing in hand dryers to reduce paper towel waste in early childhood classrooms, setting up reuse centres for craft materials, and expanding on existing garden projects. Student leadership groups, or 'green teams', play a vital role in maintaining student engagement and ensuring the longevity of these activities. To find out how your school can get involved, contact [Sally](#) or [Jen](#).



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School Holiday Fun

There's more to these April holidays than just hot cross buns and chocolate. Parks and Wildlife and community partners in both Kununurra and Broome are offering a comprehensive program of activities ensuring there's something for everyone.

Families are invited to come along to the Kununurra Community Library on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday before Easter, for a series of displays, information sessions, and hands-on activities. Investigate macroinvertebrates, the bugs that live in our waterways, learn how to distinguish a cane toad from our native frogs, and get up close and personal with some Kimberley reptiles.

Meanwhile in Broome, you can try your hand at sustainable fishing, learn about the creatures found in rock pools with a marine biologist, or brush up on your Yawuru language skills with Mabu Yawuru Ngan-ga (Yawuru



Looking for bush tucker with the Yawuru Rangers

Language Centre). Throughout the holidays you can check out the results of Parks and Wildlife's 2013-14 turtle monitoring season at the Boulevard Shopping Centre and enter our turtle colouring competition. If you've over-indulged over Easter, you may like to join the Yawuru Rangers at either Minyirr Park or a secret bush location to learn about the

healthy bush tucker found in Marrul season. The program is rounded off with a Saturday morning trip to the Broome Bird Observatory, where you can learn all about the shorebirds of Roebuck Bay and get into a new hobby for the new term.

Parks and Wildlife will also be at Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park during the second week of school holidays educating visitors about the new marine park and marine wildlife! Activities include a marine themed quiz night, reuse bag painting, intertidal creature creation and a presentation evening.

See attached flyers for Kununurra and Broome event details. For further information on Kununurra activities contact [Sean](#) on 9168 4200, and to book for Broome activities contact [Melanie](#) on 9195 5500. For details of the Eighty Mile Beach activities contact [Sara](#) on 9195 5574.

Out and About

Broome's Yawuru Rangers have received a lot of help from Broome Senior High School students this term. Both the Bush Rangers and students undertaking Indigenous Ranger Cadetships have assisted with projects ranging from installing a new crocodile trap to maintaining trails in Minyirr Park to helping out with seagrass monitoring. Plans are afoot for more revegetation work and the installation of matting along walk trails next term. The Beagle Bay Bush

Rangers had hoped to help out the Yawuru Rangers with mud-sampling on Roebuck Bay, but unfortunately due to transport issues this has been postponed to Term 2.

It was great to catch up with so many schools as part of the Waste Wise workshops and visits. Please keep us updated with the progress of your Waste Wise projects, we're always looking for stories to share and are happy to provide assistance where needed.

The kindy kids at Kununurra District High School are going to finish off their first term of school with an animal day. With parents bringing in rabbits and chicks, and Parks and Wildlife officers bringing in reptiles, students will practice using their senses and oral language skills to describe these different creatures. Students at nearby St Joseph's won't miss out either, with a visit from some friendly reptiles at the end of Week 8.

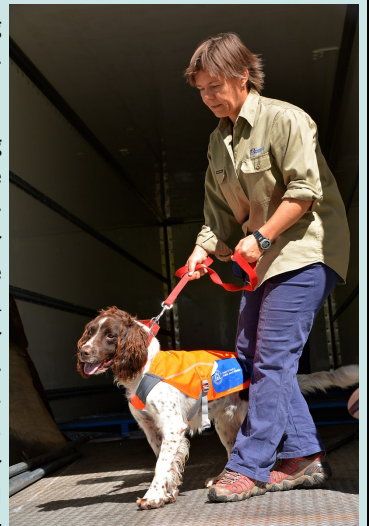


The Broome Bush Rangers help prepare a new croc trap

Cane Toad Update

Reggie, Parks and Wildlife's newest canine recruit, joined the Cane Toad Team early this year. After 3 months of training, Reggie is now ready to start work in Kununurra, searching warehouses, distribution points and trucks for any toads that might have found their way into pallets or farm produce. Each year, Parks and Wildlife officers are alerted to an average of 3 'hitchhiker' toads, found outside the toads' current range. Most of these incidents involve single toads, but should a breeding pair be transported to a suitable habitat there is potential for new toad populations to establish. Cane toads are presently found from Wyndham to Halls Creek, and are moving westward at a rate of approximately 50km a year.

Whilst Reggie will be searching high priority freight, everyone travelling from the East Kimberley is encouraged to check their load for a toad. In 2013 the Broome Bush Rangers found a cane toad hiding in a camper trailer during a car wash fundraiser. If you do find a toad outside their usual range it's important to isolate the toad, for example in a bucket with a small amount of water, and contact Parks and Wildlife on 1800 44 WILD (9453).



Reggie and handler, Jackie, search a truck for toads

Bush Rangers

Introducing... the Beagle Bay Bush Rangers!

The secondary students at Sacred Heart School Beagle Bay have recently joined the Bush Ranger Cadets program, with class teacher Nicole Burrows and ATA Tristan Sarah taking on the challenge as Instructors. Over Term One the students have had classroom discussions on what to expect with the Cadet program, who we can get involved and what are the expectations of the students. The students and parents are excited about the program including working with the local Nyul Nyul Rangers and elders.

We have made several bush walks where we observed wet season animals and habitats around the Beagle Bay area, upon our walks we sighted a number of animals and birdlife around the waterways outside of the Community. During this time we observed occupational health and safety issues regarding the Bush Rangers program and when we go on bush trips. In class the students then discussed safety concerns and hazards we may encounter in the field, and we created posters to help us.



From the Regional Coordinator

After welcoming two new units, Beagle Bay and Kalumburu, to the program, and starting out with our conference in Broome, it's been a busy first term. It was great to see everyone's ideas for how to work through the Bush Ranger Modules at the conference, and to learn what projects each of the units are taking on this year.

Since the conference everyone's been busy putting these plans into action. We've had news of the Wyndham Bush Rangers leading a community toadbus, with 81 toads caught in just half an hour, whilst the Broome Bush Rangers have been learning about crocodile surveillance and tracking with the Yawuru Rangers.

Term Two is set to be even busier still with the cooler, drier weather. We look forward to the One Arm Point Bush Rangers helping out with a biodiversity survey at Wire Springs in June. Plans are on track for the Region Camp in Term 3, with the location set as Manning Gorge on Mt Barnett Station.

2014 Kimberley Conference

At the end of Week 3, 20 Bush Rangers Instructors came together in Broome for the fourth annual Kimberley Bush Rangers Conference. With a focus on networking and sharing ideas, instructors took part in guest workshops and presented projects and activities they had undertaken with their cadets. One of the key messages instructors took away from the weekend was the importance of presenting theoretical concepts through hands-on projects. Highlights included a lesson in drill with the Broome Navy Cadets, and a mud-sampling and bird identification workshop with Parks and Wildlife and Broome Bird Observatory.



BUSH RANGERS
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Department of Parks and Wildlife

Cadets WA
Government of Western Australia



Waste Wise Schools Corner

Get Enthusiastic about Waste!

Becoming interested in waste isn't something that happens automatically. Luckily, there are plenty of people willing to share their experience to help you get started. The videos listed below are chosen to engage and educate staff members, parents, and students, and inspire change in your community:

[The Story of Stuff](#)

[Surfing for Change](#)

[Bag it! \(Movie Trailer\)](#)

[The Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#)

[Change the World in 5 Minutes](#)

Some schools prefer to start out with a litter campaign. Resources from Keep Australia Beautiful's Clean Schools program engage the whole school over the course of a term through student-led assemblies, poster competitions, clean-ups. If being a part of a national campaign would better engage your students, you could work your way up to taking part in Plastic Free July.

[Plastic Free July](#)

[Keep Australia Beautiful - Clean Schools](#)

If after all of that you are still struggling to find supporters for your projects, remember that you can always start with something small and manageable, such as setting up a reuse shelf in your classroom or holding a book or toy swap for your class. As others see you celebrating your success, they're more likely to get involved. Don't underestimate the value of student involvement, an engaged 'green team' or student leadership committee will see that your actions get carried out and encourage the rest of your school community to join you.

How to.... recycle paper into 'firewood'

A popular project for Waste Wise Schools in the south-west is 'paper brick making.' Used paper, newspaper, sawdust, and even lint from your washing machine are recycled to use as fire fuel. Kimberley schools have taken note with many hoping to reduce their waste and cash in on tourists wanting firewood at the same time.

1. Get yourself a brickmaker. These can be purchased ready-made, or made from recycled materials. A quick internet search will reveal your options.
2. Shred or tear up your paper and soak in water overnight.
3. Line your brickmaker with a few large sheets of newspaper, then fill it with your paper pulp, a few long twists of paper, and any other materials you wish to add. Fold the sheets of paper over the top.
4. Press - squeeze out as much water as possible.



5. Dry completely before use (this may take up to a week).

Have fun making your own fuel for your next camping trip!



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An Interview with...

Sean McGee

Sean joined us at the start of the year as our Regional Education Officer. After living in the Kimberley since 1996, and teaching in schools right across the east Kimberley, he's well placed to take on this challenge.



Sean at work in the cane toad office

Tell us about a typical day at work. Very first thing on the agenda is to get a coffee. Fire up the computer and get started on the education program lessons for the cane toad manual.

What do you think you'll like most about your job? I will like to see the finished cane toad manual lessons used by the teachers. I will then enjoy working in the classrooms to show the students what a special place the Kimberley is and how to help look after it.

What will be most challenging? The biggest challenge will be to educate people about the cane toad, so that we protect all our native animals.

What is your favourite part of working in the Kimberley? The Kimberley landscape.

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

Wife, kids and a boat (with fishing gear).



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Check out our website:

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