



Kimberley Schools Wrap

Volume 3, Issue 3

Term 3, 2014

2014 Dates

- 1/9-16/10 Perth Zoo's [Night Stalk](#)
- 12-14/9 Keep Australia Beautiful's [Great Northern Clean Up](#)
- 23/9 Spring Equinox
- 11-12/10 Tangaroa Blue's 10th Anniversary [WA Beach Clean Up](#)
- 19-25/10 [National Water Week](#)
- 20-26/10 [National Bird Week](#)



Learning to read maps and use radios were just some of the practical skills cadets gained on camp

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Hands-on learning at cadet camp

Bush Ranger cadets from six Kimberley schools came together at Manning Gorge in Week 6 for the 2014 Kimberley *Bush Rangers* Region Camp. This annual event offers cadets the opportunity to work with their peers to complete a range of challenging and fun activities, while learning more about the Kimberley environment.

Navigation skills were put to the test with an orienteering course at Barnett River Gorge, and leadership skills were developed through an exploratory hike along the Manning River. Working in teams with cadets from each of the attending schools, students took responsibility for camp duties

including cooking for the 86 participants. A highlight was an evening presentation from Australian Wildlife Conservancy staff based at Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary, who shared their knowledge and experience in fauna monitoring and explained some of the threats facing the central Kimberley environment with a great slideshow projected onto a humungous boab.

Next year's camp will return to the East Kimberley, and we look forward to seeing all of our Kimberley *Bush Ranger* units represented again at what the Wyndham *Bush Rangers* are already promising to be a 'Region Camp Extravaganza.'



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School holiday fun

To kick off the July school holidays, Parks and Wildlife education staff spent three days at Purnululu National Park teaching visitors about native wildlife and some of the threats they face. Children were invited to handle some of the reptiles known to inhabit the park, including blue tongue lizards and a black-headed python. After gaining an appreciation for these amazing animals, participants learnt about cane toads and their impact on the local ecosystem before taking part in a 'toadbust' around the campgrounds.

Meanwhile at Eighty Mile Beach more than 180 participants enjoyed a series of activities with highlights including



Yawuru Ranger Anthony Richardson gives some tips on throwing boomerangs

NAIDOC Week celebrations with the Nyangumarta traditional owners, and an outdoor movie night.

Back in Broome, around 200 children took part in activities, which included a special boomerang workshop designed for out-of-school-hours and

childcare centres.

These holidays the action returns to Kununurra with a water science day and reptile workshop at the Kununurra Community Library on 1-2 October, followed by a morning of activities in Mirima National Park on 7 October. Bookings are essential for all sessions, contact [Sean](#) on 9168 4200.



NAIDOC Week at Eighty Mile Beach

Out and about

It was great to see so many of our Waste Wise and *Bush Rangers* teachers stopping in at the Parks and Wildlife tent for a chat at the Kununurra Ag Show, we're always interested in hearing what you've been up to.

Hundreds of visitors streamed through our stall at Broome's Shinju Matsuri Mardi Gras, all keen to learn more about Kimberley Marine Parks and Yawuru Joint Management. The star of the show was definitely our Stimsons python, 'Antoni', who drew in kids and adults alike for a close encounter with one of the Kimberley's native reptiles!

To finish the term we headed down to KTI's Kununurra Careers Day, and next week we're off to help Wyndham students sort their worms in time for the holidays.



Brooke Hawley in the Parks and Wildlife tent at Kununurra Ag Show

Cane toad update

Adolphus Island is located in the channel of the Ord River north of Wyndham, less than 2km from the mainland at its



nearest point. Cane toads are believed to have rafted to Adolphus on floodwaters over the past few wet seasons. Parks and Wildlife staff have identified that although toads are present in almost all of the island's creeklines, goannas are still found in high numbers, and the population of quolls appears to be present in small numbers.

Further research will be carried out on Adolphus Island in coming months that will shape future toad management on other Kimberley islands. Some of the upcoming projects include surveying quoll, snake, and goanna numbers and trialling if they can be taught not to eat toads, and testing toad pheromones that are thought to reduce breeding success and attract tadpoles into traps.



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Bush Rangers WA

Snapshots of the 2014 Kimberley Region Camp



Above: Cadets had to choose their own path as they explored Manning Gorge.

Top right: Excited to be a part of it, the Kalumburu Bush Rangers ready for their first Region Camp.

Above: Knowing how to take a bearing using a compass was essential for those who wanted to be competitive in this year's orienteering challenge.

Left: Cadets were split into three teams for the week, with groups made up of students from each of the six participating schools. They got to know each other through ice breakers and team-building games..





Waste Wise Schools Corner



Term 3 winners!

We are pleased to announce the following winners of recent Waste Wise competitions:

- ⇒ Claire Blackwell's pre-primary class from Cable Beach Primary School have won a set of reusable sandwich wraps for their Plastic Free July pledges;
- ⇒ Sandra Wooltorton from Muludja Remote Community School has won a copy of *Trash to Treasure- a kid's upcycling guide to crafts* for completing our recent survey;
- ⇒ Wyndham District High School was one of four finalists in the Waste Wise category for this year's [Infinity Awards](#), and was highly commended for their efforts.

Congratulations to all the winners! Join our [mailing list](#) to hear about future competitions.

Waste Wise the Wananami way

Wananami Remote Community School is located on the Gibb River Road near Mount Barnett Roadhouse. This year in science Years 2-7 have been working towards becoming a Waste Wise School. A waste audit found that most of the school's waste was food scraps and paper. To combat this the school has converted an old unused storage shed into a recycling shed, and started composting.

This term, groups of students have built recycled scarecrows for the gardens, using old pallets, sheets and clothes, and shredded paper from the recycling shed.

Next on the list of projects is a worm farm to convert all that extra waste into a product to be used on our school garden.



Scarecrows keep watch over the veggie garden



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An interview with... AJ Aiken

Anthony (AJ) Aiken is the senior ranger at Geikie Gorge National Park. In addition to his usual duties, AJ finds time to help out the Fitzroy Valley Bush Rangers when they work on projects in the park.



Tell us about a typical day at work. Doing a few boat tours, working out in the park on a project and finishing the day with office duties.

What do you like most about your job? Working in the beautiful Geikie Gorge and showing off Bunuba culture and country.

What is most challenging? The whole job is challenging as things are always changing with new ways of doing things.

What is your favourite part of working in the Kimberley? My favourite part of working in the Kimberley would have to be being here at Geikie Gorge.

What three things would you want with you if you were stranded on a desert island?

A knife, a mirror and water.

