



# Kimberley Schools Wrap

Volume 3, Issue 4

Term 4, 2014

## 2015 Dates

- 2/2—2/3 [World Wetlands Day Photo Competition](#)
- 20-22/2 Kimberley *Bush Rangers* Conference, Habitat Resort, Broome,
- 27/2 [Schools Clean Up](#)
- 9-15/3 [Parks Week](#)
- 13/3 [Ride2School Day](#)
- 19/3 [Close the Gap Day](#)
- 21/3 [Harmony Day](#)
- 22/3 [World Water Day](#),
- 28/3 [Earth Hour](#)
- 24-28/8 Kimberley *Bush Rangers* Region Camp, East Kimberley



Unit Leader Huby Vink helps the Bush Rangers install a newly made picnic bench

## Picnic time for Derby cadets

The Derby *Bush Rangers* have been working hard this year to provide facilities for walkers and birdwatchers at the Joon Joo Botanical Trail on Derby's outskirts. The popular recreation area is now even more inviting with the addition of five new picnic tables.

After visiting the trail back in Term One and learning about significant plants and other points of interest from Derby local Peter Kneebone, the *Bush Rangers* committed to doing their bit to help improve the trail. Meeting every Tuesday after school, the cadets worked on cutting and painting the material required for three picnic tables, assembling the frames and, finally, putting together the completed tables. The work didn't end there, as the cadets had to design and build a trailer that could carry the

tables around the narrow track to their designated locations. At the end of Term One the cadets installed the tables on site ready for use.

The benches were so well-received that the cadets were asked to build more. Another two tables were built and put together by the Derby District High School construction students and installed by the *Bush Rangers* in November.

The dedication of two Derby *Bush Rangers* instructors has been recognised this year with nominations for recent awards. Unit Leader Huby Vink was a finalist for the 2014 WA Regional Achievement Teaching Excellence Award, and Instructor Barbara Sing (see p4) was the 2014 WA State Finalist for the Australian Association of Environmental Educators Award for Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Education.

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Department of  
Parks and Wildlife







## School holiday fun

Shoppers in Broome were entertained last school holidays by a Parks and Wildlife Marine Parks display in the Boulevard Shopping Centre. In addition to information on the Kimberley Marine Parks, Yawuru Conservation Estate, and volunteering opportunities, visitors were encouraged to check out a turtle shell and eggs, a crocodile skull, and lots more. A kids table provided loads of fun with colouring in, stickers, and *Marine Park Activity Books*. The team will be back there on the 11-12 December, this time joined by our friends from Fisheries.



Learning about marine parks at the Boulevard

Over in the East Kimberley, Kununurra kids had a go at being water scientists, testing different samples with a variety of instruments to determine where each bottle of water had come from. The reptiles were back again, this time we were looking at adaptations, and learnt about animal tracks and trapping techniques. The program finished with a vegetation study and photo treasure trail in Mirima National Park. Give us a call on 9168 4200 for details of our January program.

If you're looking for places to take the kids these holidays and need information on which parks are open, give the Parks and Wildlife team a call on 9195 5500 for the West Kimberley or 9168 4200 for the East. A few ideas to keep active kids occupied:

- work your way through Nature Play WA's [Passport](#) or try to check off their [51 Things to do before you are 12](#);
- earn points for every bird you see, practice your photo skills, or set a new challenge for you and your friends with [QuestaBird](#);
- [clean up](#) a local park with your mates, if you're doing this at the beach you can fill out and submit a [Tangaroa Blue data sheet](#);
- [plant some seeds](#) in the garden (see p4 for wet season planting ideas), [establish a compost heap](#), or build a [frog bog](#);
- for something indoors, play a game and learn cool facts at [Marine Parks WA](#), or just see who's the best at [predicting the rain](#).

## Out and about

Year 5-7s at Roebuck Primary have been learning about the importance of Roebuck Bay's seagrass meadows this semester, with visits from the Yawuru Rangers and EnvironsKimberley. Students looked at different critters that live in the seagrass, and conducted a mock seagrass survey on the school lawn before

coming up with some things they and their families can do to protect the seagrass and its inhabitants.

More than 100 volunteers descended on Eighty Mile Beach between 15-21 November to assist the Nyangumarta Rangers and the Parks and Wildlife Marine Park Team with flatback turtle monitoring. Volunteers watched flatback turtles lay their eggs and then staked their nests for the installation of sensor cameras.

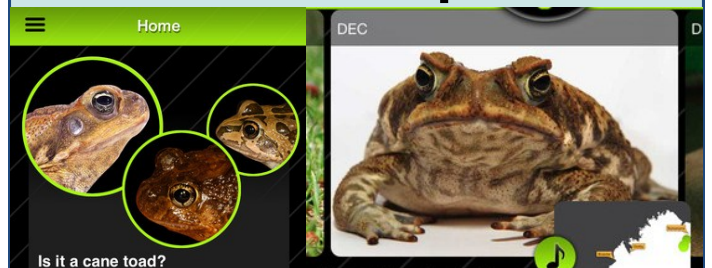
The Cable Beach Community Turtle Monitoring Program continues, coordinated by the Yawuru Rangers. The Rangers are looking forward to the Derby *Bush Rangers* assisting them this weekend. If you want get involved as a volunteer, send an email to [the Yawuru Rangers](#).



Yawuru Ranger Jason Richardson explains how seagrass is monitored.

Photo: EnvironsKimberley

## Cane toad update



The cane toad app teaches how to identify toads and native frogs

### Toads on the move

Cane toads are on the hop again and are expected to move another 50km west this wet season. If you live between Halls Creek and Fitzroy Crossing, make sure you give the Parks and Wildlife cane toad team a call on 9168 4200 and our education officer will come out and 'talk toads' with you. We've enjoyed meeting with the Savannah Guides, Kununurra Rotary Club, and Kimberley Pilbara Environmental Health Forum over the past few months, and look forward to meeting even more of you next year.

Remember, too, if you are on the move, "Check your load for a cane toad." Toads love hiding in small places including among luggage, pallets, camping gear and caravans. If you're not sure if what you've found is a frog or a toad, download the free [cane toad app](#).







# Bush Rangers WA

## Broome Bush Rangers restore Minyirr Park Base Camp



*Yawuru Ranger Preston Manado works with the Bush Rangers to make a table and explains other jobs rangers undertake in the park*

As part of their Semester Two program, Level One *Bush Rangers* from Broome Senior High School conducted a risk assessment of the Minyirr Park Base Camp at the southern end of Cable Beach. Following visitor risk management protocols used by Parks and Wildlife staff, the cadets identified potential hazards and brainstormed solutions to make the park a safer and more enjoyable place for visitors.

The project culminated in a three-day camp at Minyirr Park where the *Bush Rangers* worked with Yawuru Rangers and other Parks and Wildlife staff to implement some of their ideas. Their key aim was to repair, restore and repaint the bushcraft chairs, tables and rotundas.

The Yawuru Rangers were very impressed by the cadets' efforts and were grateful for their assistance in revitalising this area of the park. They hope the *Bush Rangers* have gained a greater understanding and appreciation of the variety of work undertaken by rangers.

For this and other projects in their local area, the Broome *Bush Rangers* have been recognised as the 2014 Kimberley finalist in the Tidy Towns 'Natural Environment Conservation' category.



*Cadets repair and repaint furniture for visitors to use at the Minyirr Park Base Camp as part of a three-day camp*

## Wyndham cadets uncover biodiversity

The Wyndham *Bush Rangers* rounded off the year with a Kununurra camp and biodiversity study. After a relaxed afternoon and dinner at the local Chinese restaurant, the cadets were up early to visit nearby Cave Springs in Goomig Conservation Park.

Armed with torches and identification books, the *Bush Rangers* discovered 24 different vertebrate and invertebrate species. Some highlights included an echidna, lots of snakes including a huge olive python, numerous frogs, bats, butterflies and spiders. The *Bush Rangers* were keen to compare their results with data from Parks and Wildlife surveys to learn more about the area.



*Cadets learn about biodiversity at Cave Springs*





## Waste Wise Schools Corner



### How to.... prep your garden for the summer holidays

It's hot, the rain is coming, and no one is going to be around. What to do with your garden? With these tips we hope to save you from coming back to an unruly jungle at the start of 2015.

- Weed and mulch all garden beds, especially those that will be left empty over the break.
- In areas susceptible to cyclones, prune fruit trees and pack away loose items in the shed.
- Plant wet season crops such as sweet potatoes, water spinach, snake beans, luffa, gourds, pumpkins and chillies. Check irrigation systems where you can't rely on rain.
- Give your worm farm plenty of shredded paper, and cover with a damp 'blanket' that is regularly moistened by sprinklers. If you can't ensure this, consider giving away worms to teachers or families with their own gardens and ordering more next dry season.

### Jungdranung get gardening

After taking steps to become an accredited Waste Wise School in Semester One, Jungdranung Remote Community School has been putting their plans into action this semester. The school now composts all food scraps, lawn cuttings, garden waste, and shredded paper, which are then used to fill the garden beds in combination with manure from a local station. Students have enjoyed many lunches made from their produce, which included a lot of mixed Chinese vegetables, beans, pumpkins, tomatoes and basil.

Some challenges they have faced, aside from the blazing Kimberley sun, include bulls getting into the schoolyard and eating all of the leaves from their mulberry tree, and a friendly kangaroo deciding to make their veggie patch his local snack shop and eating all the plants back to a stump. The school already has plans to work around these issues for next year.



Keeping an eye on the produce

Jungdranung RCS was awarded 'Most Improved Garden' in the 2014 Kimberley Health Challenge.



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### An interview with... Barbara Sing

Barbara is a primary science teacher at Derby District High School and was instrumental in setting up their Bush Rangers Unit. Barbara has presented on many of their programs at national conferences.



Barbara is the 2014 WA Environmental Educator of the Year

#### Tell us about a typical day at work.

Currently I teach a wonderful class of Year 3s who are passionate about helping endangered species. I integrate science and environmental education into Maths and Literacy.

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

Taking students on field trips.

#### What is most challenging?

The administration and paperwork.

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

The freedom to visit the wetland, river or botanical park as the school has its own bus and I drive.

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

Matches, notebook (with pencils) and a big tarp.

