



Kimberley Schools Wrap

Volume 4, Issue 1

Term 1, 2015

2015 Dates

- 28/3 [Earth Hour](#)
- 10-19/4 [Youth Week](#)
- 22/4 [Earth Day](#)
- 30/5 [Tidy Towns submissions due](#)
- 5/6 [World Environment Day](#)
- 8/6 [World Oceans Day](#)
- 1-31/7 [Plastic Free July](#)
- 5-12/7 [NAIDOC Week](#)
- 24/7 [Schools Tree Day](#)
- 24-28/8 Kimberley Bush Rangers Region Camp, East Kimberley



Instructors refined their drill technique with Broome's Australian Navy Cadets

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Intro to *Bush Rangers* for new instructors

Fishing workshops, bird identification seminars and a drill lesson with Broome's Australian Navy Cadets were all part of the program for participants in the fifth annual Kimberley *Bush Rangers* Conference, held in Broome in February.

The professional development weekend offered Kimberley teachers, education assistants and volunteers involved in Parks and Wildlife's *Bush Rangers* WA cadet program an opportunity to network and share ideas whilst planning the coming year's activities for their cadets.

Parks and Wildlife's Kimberley *Bush Rangers* Coordinator, Sally Johnston, said over half of this year's conference participants were new to the program.

"We hold this event at the start of the school

year to provide an induction for new staff," said Sally. "It's great to see participants gain the confidence and enthusiasm to start running projects in their local communities."

Visiting the Kimberley for the first time, Parks and Wildlife *Bush Rangers* State Coordinator, Richard Olive, was keen to meet the eight Kimberley schools involved in the program.

"The conference was a huge benefit for me. Every *Bush Rangers* unit is different and being able to meet unit leaders from places I would never have the opportunity to visit was invaluable," Richard said.

Kimberley *Bush Ranger* units will meet again later this year for the annual Kimberley *Bush Rangers* Region Camp, to be held in the East Kimberley in August.



Department of
Parks and Wildlife





School holiday fun

During the January school holidays the Yawuru Rangers ran a series of three activities for the Broome Juvenile Justice and drop-in centre kids. This new initiative took kids-at-risk out on country with the Rangers to learn about the importance of caring for country. The Yawuru Rangers trialled a new fire education workshop, 'Funatic Fires', which gives young people an introduction to safe fire management whilst testing out some of the equipment on the fire truck. Other activities included mud crabbing, a litter cleanup and a bushtucker walk.

East Kimberley students flocked to Kununurra Community Library in the last week of the holidays for a series of back-to-school activities offered by Parks and Wildlife. As well as the ever-popular reptile display, younger students had a chance to make bubble snakes and paper-plate frogs, whilst older students tried their hand at animal origami and planted boab seeds to take home.

This school holidays, the reptile display will be touring to Warmun on 14 April and Wyndham on 16 April. Learn about some of our amazing Kimberley critters and have a go at some animal crafts and games. Contact [Sean](#) on 9168 4200 for more information.

Kununurra kids are invited along to a Mirima culture day on 10 April in Mirima National Park. Go on a guided bushwalk, try your hand at traditional painting, and learn the Miriuwung words for some of the local plants and animals. Bookings essential, contact [Sean](#) on 9168 4200.

Over in Broome the Yawuru Rangers will again be working with childcare and out-of-school-hours care centres to keep kids occupied. During Youth Week, the second week of the holidays, all local children are invited to a bushtucker walk and boomerang workshop in Minyirr Park. Contact the [Yawuru team](#) on 9195 5500 for more information.



Funatic fires with the Yawuru Rangers

Out and about

What a great start to the year! We've loved hearing from all the classes learning about cane toads this term. Sean and Andrew from the cane toad team had lots of fun teaching the Yr 2 class at St Joseph's

class all about toads last week, and it was great to hear cane toads mentioned in the persuasive writing sample at the Kununurra District High Assembly on Friday.

Our Marine Parks stall at the Broome Fishing Club Open Day last weekend gave us a chance to meet lots of new families (and pick up a few fishing tips).

If you're looking for ideas for a class topic for next term, or are interested in having Parks and Wildlife staff visit your school, don't hesitate to get in touch. Our contact details are on the back page.

See you next term!



St Joseph's students learn how to identify a cane toad

Cane toad update



This Eurasian hoopoe was caught on camera on Adolphus Island

Who is this hoopoe?

In Term 3 last year we brought you a story about Parks and Wildlife research on Adolphus Island off Wyndham. The cane toad team had installed a series of motion-sensor cameras across the island to try to learn more about the island's goanna and quoll populations. Little did they know, there was a Eurasian hoopoe in their midst. Whilst these migratory birds are common across Europe, Asia and North Africa, this is only the third time a hoopoe has been spotted in Australia. Other animals caught on camera on include quolls, monitors, geckos, a number of native birds, and even a saltwater croc.





Bush Rangers WA

Broome *Bush Ranger* wins bronze at Special Olympics



Sami shows off his bronze medal

Broome Senior High School *Bush Ranger* cadet, Sami Savu, recently competed in the National Special Olympics in Melbourne. Sami's extensive training, with coach Erwan (Frenchy) Crozetiere, saw him net a bronze medal for the 50m backstroke.

Just when you thought it might be time for Sami to take a break and rest for a while he was back in the pool for the Virtual Rottneest Swim at Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre (BRAC).

The virtual Rottneest Swim team included Dave from Headspace, Brendon from KIFSA (Kimberley Individual and Family Support Association), Erwan (Frenchy) from BRAC and Sami, who was swimming for the Special Olympics. The team started the swim at 7am on the same day as the Rottneest swim in Perth.

The Broome team completed the 20 km swim in 5 hours 37 minutes, with the four swimmers completing 5 km each. The next challenge for the team will be the Lake Argyle swim in Kununurra in May, and then the real deal in Perth for next year's Rottneest swim.

The Broome Senior High School *Bush Rangers* are very proud and honoured to have Sami as a senior cadet and can't wait to cheer him on for his next event.

Good luck Sami!

New turtle reward for Kimberley cadets

Bush Ranger units looking to end the year on a high are invited to apply for the inaugural Kimberley *Bush Rangers* Turtle Reward.

Taking place at Eighty Mile Beach south of Broome on 20-22 November, cadets and their instructors will learn how turtles are monitored and protected within the marine park. Parks and Wildlife staff will guide cadets through techniques used for turtle monitoring before cadets themselves have a go at gathering this important data. It won't all be hard work, when not out looking for turtles cadets can take part in a movie night, challenge themselves with the Eighty Mile quiz, or just relax on the beach.

For your unit to get involved, email a 300 word application to Sally by 27 March to apply.



Marine Parks Education and Interpretation Officer Sara McAllister shares stories about turtle monitoring at Eighty Mile Beach





Waste Wise Schools Corner



How to.... set up a reuse centre for your school



Worms withstand the wet!



Ever since we reported on Wyndham District High School's fridge worm farm back in Term 2 last year, we have received multiple enquiries all asking the same thing. Will the worms survive the summer holidays? Many schools have been waiting to see what would happen before they take the plunge with their own worm farms. Here's the latest news from Wyndham's Di Kajma,

"Yes, the worms survived the holidays. They are thriving. Because they were kept damp the entire holidays with the automatic sprinkling system they managed to make it through. I also loaded their food up (shredded paper and food scraps) to get them through the break. I fed them again when I got back to town and went to check that they had survived the 5 weeks that I was gone. So all round a great success."

The fridge provides good insulation for the worm farm which is kept in full shade.

- Set aside a shelf, cupboard, storeroom or shed as your 'reuse centre'. Tell everyone about it.
- Keep leftover lids, bits of string, wire, foam, card, bottle tops and any other exciting-looking materials you come across. Ask students and teachers to bring in clean items in from home.
- Sort items into categories, you might do this by colour, size, material, or any way you choose.
- Use your items for reuse projects, you could make scarecrows, puppets, mobiles or anything else you fancy. For a true reuse project, limit the use of new glue or tape. Time to get creative!



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An interview with... Reggie

Reggie the springer spaniel joined Parks and Wildlife in January 2014. After completing his training early last year, he is now a full-time Parks and Wildlife cane toad detector dog, based in Kununurra.



Reggie searching for toads

Tell us about a typical day at work.

I go for a walk first thing in the morning, then it's time for some training. I have to find toads which are hidden for me around the Parks and Wildlife depot or at other locations around town. In the afternoons I visit farms and freight companies to search for 'hitchhiker' toads, we don't want any of them finding their way down to Perth.

What do you like most about your job?

Finding toads and visiting new places to search for toads.

What is most challenging?

Learning not to be distracted by kangaroos or other dogs

What is your favourite part of working in the Kimberley?

I get to search for toads every day.

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

A good bone, my paddling pool full of water and my trainer, Andrew.

