



# Kimberley Schools Wrap

Volume 4, Issue 2

Term 2, 2015

## Semester 2 Dates

- 1-31/7 [Plastic Free July](#)
- 5-12/7 [NAIDOC Week](#)
- 24/7 [Schools Tree Day](#)
- 24-28/8 Kimberley [Bush Rangers Region Camp, Lake Argyle](#)
- 1/9 Waste Wise [Schools webinar](#)
- 1-30/9 [Great Northern Clean Up](#)
- 1/9-16/10 [Perth Zoo Night Stalk](#)
- 7-11/9 [Kids Teaching Kids Week](#)



Environment Minister Albert Jacob answers cane toad questions from Cable Beach Primary School students

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## Toad education in Kimberley classrooms

A new primary teachers' cane toad guide is now available for Kimberley schools. Launching the resource at Cable Beach Primary School, Environment Minister Albert Jacob said it was important to raise community awareness about toads.

"These education manuals are an ideal way to introduce information about cane toads into the classroom. They aim at engaging young children in a fun and informative way about toads, their effects on native animals and what we can do to help," Mr Jacob said.

"Lessons look at topics such as identifying features of cane toads, their life cycle, impacts on native animal food chains and distinguishing toads from native frogs."

Linked to the Australian Curriculum, the *Cane Toad Kimberley Education Manuals* provide

lesson plans, project ideas and background information for teachers of Years 1-3 and 4-6. The manuals are accompanied by a resource USB and a class set of posters and brochures.

Cable Beach Primary School Year 6 class learnt just how tricky it can be to distinguish toads from native frogs as part of an incursion complementing the new resource. After looking at photos of Kimberley frogs, students had the opportunity to point out the three identifying features on a live toad before making a take-home bookmark.

For copies of the *Cane Toad Kimberley Education Manuals* or to request a visit from Parks and Wildlife's cane toad education team, contact [Sean](#) on 9168 4200. Further curriculum-linked resources covering topics such as the Kimberley marine environment are in development.



Department of  
Parks and Wildlife





## School holiday fun

After receiving a number of requests for another school holiday visit Parks and Wildlife's education team was back in Warmun and Wyndham last holidays. The team's signature reptile display was a huge hit and both big and little kids enjoyed learning about our Kimberley wildlife.

Kununurra kids weren't forgotten, with a special Mirima culture day. Families learnt about local plants and bush foods on a guided walk through Mirima National Park, older children were invited to interpret the landscape through painting while little kids made clay models of some of their favourite Kimberley creatures.

Our Youth Week celebration with the Yawuru Rangers in Broome's Minyirr Park was a huge success, with dozens of local children taking part in a guided bush tucker walk before making their own boomerangs to throw in a boomerang workshop.

These July holidays we will be running activities in Purnululu National Park on 7-8 July before heading to the Kununurra Ag Show on 10-11 July. Contact [Sean](#) on 9168 4200 for more details.

Broome families are invited to come down and see us in the Boulevard Shopping Centre on 7 July. We will also be running a series of coastal activities from 8-10 July. Contact the [Yawuru team](#) on 9195 5500 for more information.



*Yawuru Ranger Preston Manado leads a bushwalk in Minyirr Park*

## Out and about

The term got off to a flying start for students in Balgo, Mulan and Billiluna with a visit from the Parks and Wildlife education team. After facing their fears and making some new scaly friends, students learnt about cane toads and the

impact they can have on native wildlife. As a special surprise, students were treated to a quick cane toad-finding demonstration with detector dog, Reggie.

Later in the term, the team visited schools at Lundja and Yakanarra on our way to the West Kimberley, where we stopped in at One Arm Point to talk to the upper primary and high school classes before finishing up in Broome for the launch of our new cane toad manual.

If you're in Kununurra on 10-11 July, stop by our stall at the Kununurra Ag Show to learn all about the different kinds of work we do. It wouldn't be an Ag Show without animals, so we'll bring down some of our friends for you to meet, too.



*This was the first time many of the One Arm Point students had seen a live cane toad*

## Cane toad update



### Reggie out on the road

Reggie the cane toad detector dog has been out on the road reminding travellers to check their load for a toad. With the tourist season in full swing Reggie and his handler, Andrew, stopped in at rest stops from Doon Doon to Broome. Reggie inspected vehicles heading west while Andrew explained how to identify a toad and what to do if you find one.

In Broome, Reggie visited students at Cable Beach Primary School and Broome Senior High School for a toad-finding demonstration.

Reggie is now back at base in Kununurra and can't wait to resume his regular routine of visits to freight companies and packing sheds in the Ord Valley.







# Bush Rangers WA

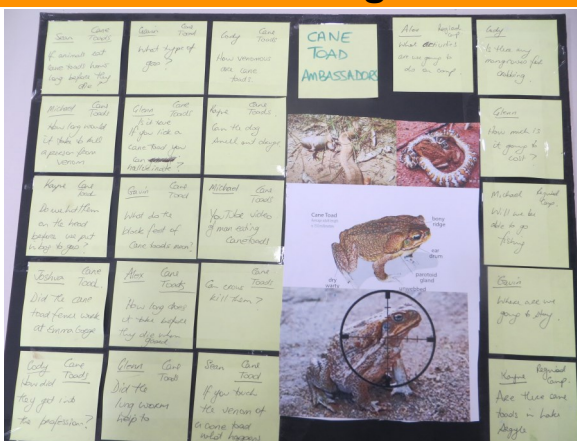
## Yiyili cadets ask visitors to clean up after themselves



On our recent road trip we came across this sign at Mary Pool rest stop, just east of Yiyili. It's always great to see *Bush Rangers* out and about, and with the amount of visitors Mary Pool receives in the dry season the cadets have definitely chosen a message worth sharing. Other projects for the Yiyili cadets this semester included making bat nesting boxes and getting ready to start their own native plant nursery.

## Toad talk for Broome Bush Rangers

The Broome *Bush Rangers* have been focussing on threatened Kimberley species this year and are keen to learn all they can about protecting Kimberley wildlife. As part of a discussion of the impact of toads on native species, the Parks and Wildlife cane toad education team spent an afternoon answering the cadets' questions. By understanding the threat posed by toads, researchers are able to investigate new methods of minimising impacts on threatened species such as the northern quoll.



*The cadets prepared a board with all of their questions*

The Broome *Bush Rangers* look forward to learning more about toads when they head to Lake Argyle to meet up with other Kimberley cadets for the annual Kimberley *Bush Rangers* Region Camp in August.







## Waste Wise Schools Corner



### How to.... apply for a Waste Wise grant

Grants of \$2000, \$4000 and \$8000 are available to schools wanting to minimise the amount of waste they send to landfill. The money can be spent on any project that aims to reduce, reuse or recycle. Some schools choose to spend their money on garden infrastructure including compost bins and worm farms, whereas others opt for a reuse shed or a dishwasher for the canteen, it's really up to you. To apply for a grant, follow these steps:

1. Attend a Waste Wise PD (webinars run each term, the next one is on 1 September)
2. Form a Waste Wise committee. You can start small, but invite teachers, parents, students, gardeners, cleaners and anyone else to join.
3. Conduct a Waste Audit. Find out just how much rubbish your school is producing. We can give you a hand with our [Waste Audit kit](#).
4. Write a Waste Wise plan and policy for your school (check out the [examples online](#)).
5. Apply for your grant. Tell us what you will spend your money on and how it will reduce waste in your school.

Any questions? Ready to start? Email [Jen](#) or [Sally](#).

### Message in a plastic bottle



Left: the new resource for high schools. Right: Waste Authority Chair Marcus Geisler makes a plastic free pledge with students at the Message in a Plastic Bottle resource launch

Have you ever wondered what the difference between tap and bottled water really is? The new Waste Wise high school curriculum guide, [Message in a Plastic Bottle](#), examines exactly that. Following the curriculum-linked lessons, students test for chemical differences between tap and bottled water with the provided test strips and calculate the difference in costs before developing their persuasive writing and leadership skills in encouraging their school to go plastic free.

If you and your students have chosen to give up plastic bottles for [Plastic Free July](#), don't forget to send in a photo of your pledges to [the Waste Wise team](#) by August 31 for a chance to win a class set of reusable sandwich wraps.



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### An interview with... Dylan Pross

Dylan Pross is the Northern Community Education Officer at the Department of Fisheries. Based out of Broome, Dylan visits schools across the Kimberley and Pilbara encouraging students to fish for the future.



Dylan dissecting a fish for a school incursion

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

One of the good things about my role is that no two days are the same. One day I might be working with a school group in Derby and the next I might be writing an article for the local paper.

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

The thing I like most about my job is that I get to meet and work with a huge variety of people with a wide range of backgrounds.

#### What is most challenging?

The most challenging part of my role would be travel. Trying to cover everywhere is hard as the Kimberley is a big area.

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

My favourite part of working in the Kimberley is the scenery. There are so many awesome places to see and the sunsets never get old.

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

Water, matches, and of course a fishing rod.

