



Kimberley Schools Wrap

Volume 4, Issue 3

Term 3, 2015

Term 4 dates

- 5/10 [World Habitat Day](#)
- 10-11/10 [WA Beach Clean Up](#)
- 19-25/10 [Aussie Backyard Bird Count](#)
- 14/10 [National Ride2Work Day](#)
- 24/10 [Garage Sale Trail](#)
- 30/10 [Waste Wise Tier 2 & 3 Grants Due](#)
- 9-15/11 [National Recycling Week](#)
- 21/11 [World Fisheries Day](#)



A half-day abseiling workshop at Homestead Falls was one of the most popular camp activities

Cadets conquer fears on Lake Argyle camp

Bush Ranger cadets from across the Kimberley gathered together at Lake Argyle in Week 6 for their fourth annual 'Region Camp'.

Cadets from Broome, Fitzroy Valley and Wyndham were joined by a group of eight Bush Rangers and two instructors from Northam Senior High, who were keen to learn how their Kimberley peers do things.

Working in mixed teams, cadets abseiled down Homestead Falls, canoed through Lake Argyle's sheltered bays, searched for cane toads, and participated in a GPS treasure hunt and botanical drawing workshops.

When asked to choose what they enjoyed most about the camp, cadets enthusiastically recalled their experiences abseiling and riding the flying fox across Bamboo Cove, while others were

drawn by the opportunity to work together with students from other schools.

This was the first camp to include cadets from outside the Kimberley. Having Northam Bush Rangers participate allowed Kimberley cadets to play host and share what they love about the region. It provided all of the Bush Ranger cadets to gain an appreciation for the remarkable diversity of Western Australia's natural environment.

The camp continues to grow each year, with many of the 2015 participants pleased to catch up with friends they made on previous camps, with one Wyndham cadet attending all four Region Camps.

Planning has already begun for the camp's fifth anniversary, to be held somewhere in the West Kimberley in Term 3, 2016.

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Department of
Parks and Wildlife





School holiday fun

Broome families made the most of their July break with the Yawuru Rangers' Kimberley Coast, Conservation and Culture program. The highlight of the program was a whale watching charter courtesy of Broome Whale Watching (Sentosa Charters), but those who get seasick or who missed out on a spot on the cruise were still able to get in on the action with a 'Whale spying from shore' session. The program culminated with a sand sculpting competition on Cable Beach. Entrants worked in teams to create a sculpture to fit with the theme of 'Marine life of the Yawuru six seasons'.



A whale watching cruise donated by Broome Whale Watching was a highlight of the July school holiday program in Broome

The Parks and Wildlife cane toad education team returned to Purnululu National Park in the July holidays, inviting visitors to take a closer look at some of the animals found in the park. About 10 families joined in each night, with sessions at each of the park's two public campgrounds. While the chance to hold a Kimberley reptile is hard to beat, others were keen to learn more about the differences between toads and frogs. Toad numbers are down since last year, with only 12 toads collected during a toadbust around Walardi campsite, whereas in 2014 a similar number of participants collected two full bags of toads.

We'll be returning to Kununurra this October break with our ever-popular reptile display and a challenging new biodiversity treasure trail. To receive more information on the program email canetoads@dpaw.wa.gov.au or call 9168 4200.

Out and about

It was great to see so many familiar faces passing through the Parks and Wildlife stall at the Kununurra Ag Show in July. As well as learning about Kimberley national parks and biodiversity, visitors were invited to hold a snake, make a native animal mask, or spray-paint an animal onto the



Wildlife mask-making was a popular activity at the Kununurra Ag Show

hessian walls using stencils.

Yawuru Rangers Preston Manado and Jason Richardson spent some time filling in for Yawuru language teacher Dalisa Pigram at Cable Beach Primary this term. The rangers led students through the nine habitats of Yawuru country, focussing on *mayingan manja balu* (monsoonal vine thickets) and threats that impact these habitats. Students played a game where they worked together to combat a weed problem, then went on a weed tour around the schoolgrounds.

This week we're off to Wananami Remote Community School to help them celebrate their 25th anniversary, even Reggie the cane toad detector dog is coming to the party.

Cane toad update



Classroom capers for primary kids

East Kimberley schools started the term with some fun with Parks and Wildlife cane toad incursions. Students at Jungdranung, Dawul, Ngalangangpum, Purnululu and Halls Creek schools got in on the action, learning how to identify a toad, how to tell the difference between toads and native frogs, and what to do if they find a toad. Upper primary students made take-home toad bookmarks while younger students made clay model toads showing the toad's three key identifying features; a bony, m-shaped brow ridge, dry, warty skin, and poison glands on their shoulders.





Bush Rangers WA

A photo diary of the 2015 Kimberley Region Camp (see story p1)



News snippets from across the region

While not all units made it to the Lake Argyle camp, it seems Bush Rangers across the region have been making the most of the cooler weather with a number of field trips.

The Yiyili Bush Ranger cadets started the term with a field trip looking for bilbies with the Gooniyandi Rangers. No bilbies were spotted, but cadets discovered quite a few tracks and burrows and unfortunately signs of possible cat attacks.

One Arm Point Bush Ranger cadets have got into the swing of things with new unit leader Brendan Dwyer. They have already been out doing some water monitoring and cultural activities with the Bardi Jawi Rangers and are looking forward to their upcoming camp.

The high school class from Kalumburu is off to Truscott this week for a culture camp. We look forward to hearing what they get up and hope they enjoy trying out some of their Bush Ranger skills.





Waste Wise Schools Corner



How to... cook with a solar oven

Warlawurru Kids Teaching Kids

Warlawurru students wrote this song to share with others for Kids Teaching Kids week:

We're the Red Hill mob from Warlawurru
And we have got a message for you
Respect our country, respect our land
It's where we live and where we stand

This is our country, this is our land
We don't want beer cans where we stand
They just look ugly and they just look bad
They make us sick and make us sad

Washing machines, fridges, rusted cars
Glass bottles, beer cans belong in bars!
Keep the rubbish in the bin,
Respect our world and we all win!

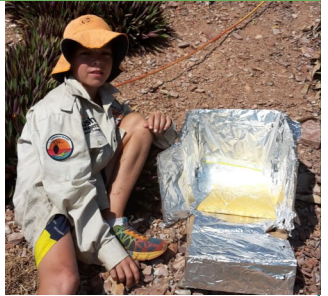
Bush tucker, konkerberries keep us strong
Leave the animals where they belong
Jaru, Kija, Walmajarri land
Respect our elders, Respect their land!!

[Check out the Red Hill mob video!](#)



Red Hill senior students led composting, gardening and nature play workshops as part of Kids Teaching Kids Week

Kimberley Bush Rangers enjoyed a lunch of noodle soup and homemade baked beans on their last day of camp, all cooked in solar ovens. You can purchase solar ovens that trap enough heat



to cook a loaf of bread or a roast dinner, but home-made ovens get hot enough to slow-cook soups and stews or melt the cheese on flatbread pizzas. Simple solar ovens are even used for sterilising drinking water in refugee camps.

1. Line a box with foil so the sun's rays will reflect inward. A single layer of foil will do.
2. Prepare your meal. Place in a thin, clear plastic container, or a thin dark pot with a clear lid.
3. Position in the sun so the shadow is square with the back of the box, then wait a few hours until your food is cooked. Take care, it will be hot!



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An interview with... Laverette Humbert-Roe

Every Friday this year, Laverette from Broome Senior High School has been shadowing the Yawuru Rangers as part of his Year 12 work placement. He has become a valuable team member, also joining the Parks and Wildlife Yawuru Joint Management Team for three week-long blocks of work experience training.



Laverette enjoys being a part of the Yawuru Rangers team

Tell us about a typical day of work experience.

Doing some chainsaw work with the boys out at Crab Creek and putting poison on the stumps so the weeds don't grow back.

What have you enjoyed the most during your placement?

Working with the boys, showing me some new stuff out in the work field.

What has been most challenging?

Working in the heat.

What is your favourite part of growing up in the Kimberley?

Playing footy, fishing and hunting.

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

Water, food, matches.

