



Kimberley Schools Wrap

Volume 4, Issue 4

Term 4, 2015

2016 dates

- 19/2 Waste Wise Recycling Workshop, Broome
- 19-21/2 Kimberley Bush Rangers Conference, Broome
- 21/2 Waste Wise Wicking Beds and Worms Workshop, Broome
- 1/3 [Tidy Towns Registrations Due](#)
- 4/3 [Schools Clean Up Day](#)
- 22-26/8 Kimberley Bush Rangers Region Camp, West Kimberley



The Fitzroy Valley Bush Rangers record new turtle nest sites with Parks and Wildlife's Sara McAllister.

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Turtle reward for Fitzroy Valley girls

Five Yr 8 girls and two instructors from the Fitzroy Valley District High Bush Ranger unit were the lucky participants in the inaugural Eighty Mile Beach Turtle Reward Camp. The cadets saw dozens of flatback turtles arriving on the beach at sunset to nest and, under the guidance of Parks and Wildlife marine interpretation officer Sara McAllister were able to get up close enough to see eggs being laid into a nest's inner chamber.

The cadets assisted Sara and marine park ranger Erina Young in marking new nests with stakes so they can be monitored for signs of predators until the hatchlings emerge in around six weeks' time, they also a go at recording nesting data using an electronic data collection process. As the camp coincided with the launch of Parks and Wildlife's annual Eighty Mile Beach volunteer turtle monitoring program, the

cadets accompanied Sara and Erina on their evening visits around the caravan park to invite people to take part in the project, to inform beachgoers of the rules for safe turtle watching, and to answer questions about the marine park.

In their free time, the Bush Rangers tried their luck fishing for threadfin salmon (and the shark that got away), learnt about how Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park is managed with a presentation from Sara that included an introduction to other species found in the park. They also painted reusable shopping bags as a reminder that litter remains a key threat to marine life.

The first of its kind to be offered in the Kimberley, the Reward Camps provide Bush Ranger cadet units with the opportunity to engage small groups of committed cadets in conservation projects where they can gain experience working alongside Parks and Wildlife staff.



Department of Parks and Wildlife





Working with Kimberley schools: DFES Natural Hazards Education

Kimberley communities are vulnerable to a range of natural hazards including fire, floods and cyclones. Educating students about how to prepare and respond is an essential element to improving community safety.

As the responsible hazard management agency, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has prepared a range of lesson plans and resources regarding natural hazards and is currently designing a bushfire education package for the Kimberley and Pilbara.

To view current resources please see dfes.wa.gov.au/educationandheritage/teachersandschools/. For further information contact Ruth Noonan, DFES School Aged Education Program Coordinator on 9395 9460 or ruth.noonan@dfes.com.au.

For any other enquiries or to discuss how DFES can work with your school or community please contact Catriona Webster, DFES community engagement officer for the Kimberley, on 9158 3218 or catriona.webster@dfes.wa.gov.au.

October Holiday Fun

Parks and Wildlife ran two activities for Kununurra kids during the October school holidays. A compass treasure trail in Celebrity Tree Park challenged older students, while the 'Snakes of the Kimberley' workshop provided fun for all ages with reptile handling, snakebite first aid and snake-themed games.



Out and about

After the dry season rush things have started to get a bit quieter, and we have been spending time writing resources and planning for next year rather than being out and about.

It was great to catch up with Kimberley teachers at the recent STAWA conference in Perth. We

also had the opportunity to present our work with Kimberley schools at the SPICE-Shell Kimberley Science Program workshops.

You may have already seen that we are conducting a review of our Kimberley education programs, if you haven't already filled in the survey you can access it [here](#). We value your feedback to ensure our programs are meeting the needs of Kimberley teachers. If you have any questions about the survey or additional feedback, please get in touch with [Sally](#).

We look forward to getting out and visiting you all again next year, but for now wish you and your families all the best for a well-deserved break.

Cane toad update



Toad info packs for visitor centres

With the arrival of the rain, the toads are on the move again. At present, toads are approximately 100km west of Halls Creek, and are moving westward at about 50km per year. Toad information packs, including a stuffed leather toad, posters, brochures and a list of Frequently Asked Questions, have been distributed to visitor centres in Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing and Broome. If you have never seen a toad up close, drop in and have a look. Many native frogs look similar to toads, although toads can be identified by their distinctive 'm'-shaped bony brow ridge, dry, warty skin, and poison glands on their shoulders. If you would like cane toad brochures or posters for your classroom, staffroom, new teacher info packs, or community events, email the Parks and Wildlife [cane toad team](#) or call 9168 4200.



Kimberley science teachers were keen to hear about Parks and Wildlife programs and resources at the 2015 SPICE-Shell Kimberley Science Program





Bush Rangers WA

Broome Bush Rangers garden back on track and Instructor Award for Broome teacher

Those who attended the 2013 Kimberley *Bush Rangers* Conference will remember seeing how the Broome *Bush Rangers*' garden area had been relocated twice in the previous year to make way for a new Year 7 block. It is great to see their garden now flourishing, a visit in November revealed a number of crops such as beans and chillies ready for an end-of-term harvest.

The *Bush Rangers* have settled into a new classroom now that all the building projects have been completed and with a bigger room, an attached kitchen, and a courtyard garden there is plenty of room for undertaking new projects. We are told their aquaponics area is almost complete, and look forward to a tour as part of the 2016 Kimberley *Bush Rangers* Conference program.

The hard work of Broome Unit Leader Sandi Passmore was recently recognised with a *Bush Rangers* WA Instructor Award for Excellence. This was awarded for her dedication to the program and providing the best opportunities for her cadets. Turn to page 4 for an interview with Sandi.



Top right - a mural adorns the outside of the *Bush Rangers* room; Bottom right - harvest time in the **Bush Rangers** garden; Bottom centre - Yawuru Ranger Jason Fong presents Unit Leader Sandi Passmore with a *Bush Rangers* WA Instructor Award for Excellence



Two Reward Camps available in 2016

After the recent success of the Eighty Mile Beach Turtle Reward Camp (see page 1), two Reward Camps will be made available to Kimberley *Bush Rangers* in 2016. The Turtle Reward will be repeated at the end of Term Four, and a new Purnululu Conservation Reward is being developed for either the end of Term One or start of Term Two.

Units interested in attending either of these camps will need to apply at the start of the year, further information regarding the application process will be provided at the February Kimberley *Bush Rangers* Conference in Broome. Each camp is limited to a small number of participants, to allow cadets the opportunity to take an active role in the projects on offer and to reward cadets who have demonstrated an interest in developing their practical conservation skills.

As the Purnululu camp is still under development, we welcome your feedback as to when would be an ideal time to hold the camp, and whether your unit would prefer a weekend or mid-week camp. Contact [Sally](#) with your suggestions or to find out more about either camp.





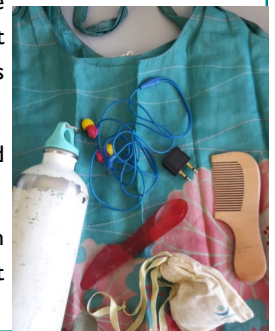
Waste Wise Schools Corner



How to.... be Waste Wise on holiday

Most of us are already conscious of minimising waste in our homes, but sometimes on holidays it just seems easier to go with the flow. Follow these six tips to reduce waste, and have a great time while doing it:

1. Bring your own water bottle. If tap water isn't safe, bring a Steripen, filter bottle or purification tablets.
2. Keep a shopping bag in your handbag or backpack.
3. If you're going on a road trip, make sure you bring along your reusable coffee cup, a set of cutlery, and a fridge or esky for snacks, picnics and leftovers.
4. Dine in rather than take away. If you do get takeaway, choose items served in paper or card.
5. Save boarding passes and tickets to your phone.
6. Spend your money on experiences, not souvenirs.



Wananami celebrates 25 years



A visiting student from Wanilirri School investigates Wananami's 'Worm City'. Visitors from across the Kimberley gathered at Wananami Remote Community School at the end of Term Three to celebrate the school's 25th anniversary. Students and their families were treated to a Health and Wellbeing Expo before gathering for the official opening of the school's Wandjina Meeting Place, paved with local stones to form an entrance to the school's vegetable garden. The school's gardens were looking great with colourful paintings on all of the garden beds and compost tubes, and an elaborately decorated 'worm city' made from an old fridge. The school has just received their second Waste Wise grant, which they will use for a new project seeking to divert waste such as food scraps from nearby Mt Barnett Roadhouse back into compost and worm farms,



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An interview with... Sandi Passmore

Sandi is the Head of Learning for Students with Educational Needs and Disability at Broome Senior High School, and the Broome Bush Rangers Unit Leader. Sandi was awarded a 2015 Bush Rangers WA Instructor Excellence Award for her dedication and commitment to the program since establishing the unit in



Sandi shares her unit's projects at the 2014 Kimberley Bush Rangers Conference.

Tell us about a typical day at work. My day starts very early with phone calls and texts. I'm the luckiest teacher in the world because every day is different.

What do you like most about your job? I enjoy every class I teach throughout the day and my afternoons and evenings are filled with *Bush Ranger* activities or meetings. I have a large family who have always been very supportive of my career and get involved in the programs I run.

What is most challenging? Trying to meet all the needs of my students with disability on a very tight budget. *Bush Rangers* plays an integral part of our students' learning by providing extracurricular funding for social engagement, conservation opportunities, environmental awareness, and leadership skills.

What is your favourite part of working in the Kimberley? The cultural and environmental diversity of the Kimberley always inspires me to push myself further and provide greater learning experiences for my students.

What 3 things would you want when stranded on a desert island? I'd want Viber conversations with my family, but I'd need a fishing line, an axe and a flint.

