



Kimberley Schools Wrap

Volume 5, Issue 1

Term 2, 2016

Semester 2 dates

- 1-31/7 [Plastic Free July](#)
- 3-10/7 [NAIDOC Week](#)
- 29/7 [Schools Tree Day](#)
- 22-26/8 Kimberley Bush Rangers Region Camp, Dampier Peninsula
- 5-9/9 [Kids Teaching Kids](#)
- Sept-Oct (various dates) [Great Northern Clean Up](#)
- 18-20/11 Eighty Mile Beach Turtle Reward Camp



John Pujajangka-Piyirn River Rangers test water quality at Lake Gregory with the Paruku Rangers.

Inside this issue:

- Kimberley Marine Environment teacher guide 2
- New Ranger Cane Toad Handbook 2
- Kalumburu Bush Rangers prepare for camp 3
- Worm farm upgrade for Broome SHS 4
- How to... make a mini wicking bed 4
- An interview with... Jess from Fisheries 4

Desert students become *River Rangers*

Students at John Pujajangka-Piyirn (JPP) Catholic School in Mulan, 300km south of Halls Creek on the edge of the Tanami and Great Sandy Deserts, have become the first Kimberley *River Ranger* cadets.

“*River Rangers* has, for the past five years, provided primary schools in the Perth metro area with the opportunity to take part in environmental projects around local rivers and waterways,” said program coordinator Linley Brown. “I was excited to get the green light to expand into the Kimberley this year. It is vital that young people in remote communities are provided with opportunities that allow them to connect with their local environment and reach their full potential. I look forward to seeing it expand further in the future.”

The JPP cadets are working with local rangers and community elders on a number of projects in and around the Paruku Indigenous Protected Area.

Paruku (Lake Gregory) is a wetland habitat encompassing a series of lakes and is renowned internationally for the variety and abundance of migratory shorebirds that visit the lake each year to feed and rest. A number of resident waterbirds also remain within the wetland year-round.

The initial project for the ‘Paruku Junior Rangers’ (as they are known) focused on water quality testing at key sites around the lake. The cadets, and accompanying senior rangers, were pleased to find the lake had healthy oxygen, phosphate, and pH levels.

Back at school, the cadets and their instructors have been busy establishing a garden for propagating bush foods and ceremonial plants, using seed collected with local elders, as well as a variety of fruits and vegetables.

Next term, the cadets hope to hold their first overnight camp at the lake with the help of the Paruku Rangers.

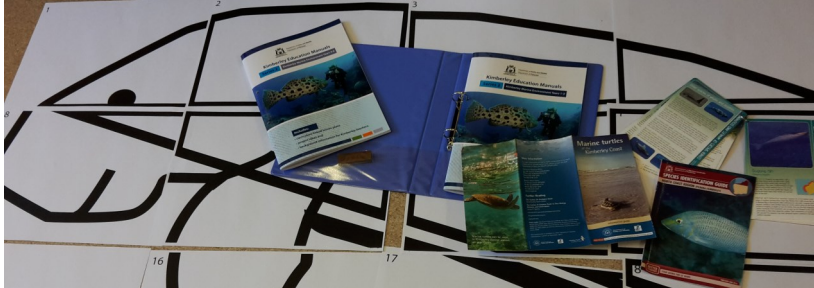


Department of
Parks and Wildlife





Kimberley Marine Environment teacher guides now available!



Create a life-sized dugong and much more with the new marine teacher guides

The second series of *Kimberley Education Manuals*, 'Kimberley Marine Environment', is now available for Kimberley schools. This companion to 'Series I: Cane Toads' is a set of two teacher guides, featuring comprehensive background information alongside six curriculum-linked lesson plans for Years 1-3 and 4-6, and an accompanying USB with electronic resources. Produced in conjunction with the Department of Fisheries, the package can also be adapted to suit freshwater environments. To request a copy of the resource or a local PD contact [Sally](#).

July holiday fun

Parks and Wildlife will be running a number of activities in Broome, Eighty Mile Beach, and Kununurra these holidays. Broome families are invited to learn about mangroves with the Yawuru Rangers, create a plastic bag monster showing just how many plastic bags we use in an average year, and take part in our annual sand sculpture competition. Contact the [Yawuru team](#) to book.

Those travelling to Eighty Mile Beach can take part in craft activities, another sand sculpture comp, or stay entertained with marine bingo and a movie night. Contact [Jesse](#) for further details.

Come down to the Kununurra Ag Show to learn more about Kimberley marine parks.



Out and about

After a quiet start to the term, the Parks and Wildlife education team has been visiting a number of east and central Kimberley schools.

A trip up to Kalumburu to meet with *Bush Rangers* instructors led to the opportunity to provide cane toad incursions to all students



Kalumburu students learnt how to identify and handle cane toads

from Year 2 up. Students learnt how to identify and handle a toad, and discovered how easy it can be to confuse cane toads with native frogs.

A highlight from our recent visit to John Pujajangka-Piyirn Catholic School in Mulan was seeing their new bush food garden and hearing from students about their plan to convert an old water tank into a community garden.

St Joseph's School in Kununurra are finishing the term with a series of NAIDOC activities, including an incursion looking at local bush food and medicine plants.

Parks and Wildlife will be visiting Broome and Dampier Peninsula schools in Week One next term, contact [Sally](#) for a visit.

Cane toad update



New Toad Management Handbook

Parks and Wildlife, Rangelands NRM and the Kimberley Toadbusters recently launched a *Cane Toad Management Handbook* for Kimberley Aboriginal ranger groups. The resource introduces rangers to the history and impact of cane toads before examining management and monitoring strategies that can be implemented on a local scale. An appendix provides data sheets for various survey methods, both pre and post-cane toad arrival, along with pictorial guides explaining what to do when you find a toad and how to use the *Cane Toad* app.

Several Kimberley *Bush Ranger* units have shown an interest in undertaking cane toad monitoring projects following the techniques outlined in the *Handbook*, if you are interested in using this resource with senior students contact [Sally](#) for further information.





Bush Rangers and River Rangers

Kalumburu cadets prepare for camp

The Kalumburu *Bush Rangers* have been busy getting ready for their end of term camp to Pago. The cadets have been working through a series of rotations each Friday, focusing on teamwork, navigation and survival skills, and bush foods, in preparation for their upcoming camp. On top of this, the cadets have found the time to repaint the school's bins.

Cadets have been conducting a stocktake of the unit's camping equipment, including checking over all of their tents, sleeping bags and swags to ensure everything is ready to use on camp. A significant increase in cadet numbers this year has led to the purchase of a number of new items, so this also provided the impetus to clean out some of the damaged or otherwise unusable items lurking in the back of the shed.

A number of senior students have also been preparing for a long-distance bike trip from Kalumburu to Mitchell River National Park, which will provide inspiration for next term's project, the construction of a local mountain bike track.



Top right: Cadets practice putting up tents and check that no pieces are missing in preparation for camp.

Above left: Cadets repaint the school's bins; Above right: Cadets practice their cooking skills for camp.

BUSH RANGERS
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

RIVER RANGERS

Cadets WA
Government of Western Australia

From the regional coordinator

Following our February conference in Broome, it's been great to hear that many units are taking on water monitoring projects. If you haven't yet received the SPICE resource or are looking for suggestions regarding which test kit to purchase, please get in touch. We would also like any feedback you have from the conference, as it won't be long before we start preparing for our next conference, to be held in Kununurra in early 2017.

Preparations are well underway for next term's Region Camp, to be held on the Dampier Peninsula in Week 6. Look out for the flyer in your email this week, there will be more information sent out with registration forms at the start of next term. I won't be joining you for camp this year, as I will be taking maternity leave from Week 4 next term, but I look forward to hearing all about it and when I return in March next year. I will be in touch with details of my replacement early next term, and will hopefully catch up with you all over the phone before I leave. [Sally](#)





Waste Wise Schools Corner



How to.... make a mini wicking bed



1. Stand an 'elbow' of PVC pipe upright in a large plastic tub. Add a layer of gravel and cover with shadecloth.
2. Fill tub with soil and compost. Add plants, then water.
3. Drill a drainage hole approximately 1/3 of the way up.
4. Water plants regularly through the pipe.



Worm farm upgrade for Broome SHS



Left: The worms are receiving plenty of scraps. Right: Teachers help construct the worm farm.

Broome Bush Rangers Instructors had some help from their Kimberley colleagues in establishing a fridge worm farm as part of the 2016 Kimberley Ranger Cadet Conference. Small worm farms have been a part of the Broome *Bush Rangers'* garden for a number of years and, when an old fridge recently stopped working, it was decided that it was time to upsize. After the fridge had been degassed, it was mounted onto an old metal frame, and a drainage hole drilled in the back. The fridge was then lined with gravel and hessian, and stocked with a mix of shredded paper, compost and worm castings. Once complete, the Broome worms were relocated to their new home. They have since been joined by another batch of worms and the worm farm is operating at full capacity, making quick work of scraps from home economics classes and *Bush Rangers* cooking sessions.



Contacts:

Kununurra 9168 4200

Bush Rangers, River Rangers & Waste Wise

Sally Johnston

sally.johnston@dpaw.wa.gov.au

Cane Toad Education

canetoads@dpaw.wa.gov.au

Broome 9195 5500

Yawuru Education

yawuru.rangers@dpaw.wa.gov.au

Marine Parks Education

Jesse Murdoch

jesse.murdoch@dpaw.wa.gov.au

An interview with... [Jessamy Ham](#)

"Hi, I'm Jessamy, the Department of Fisheries Community Education Officer for the North West. I come from Perth but have been living in Broome for six months now. I am a marine scientist and love everything about the ocean; swimming, diving, boating or just walking on the beach! Give me a call sometime on 9193 8600."



Tell us about a typical day at work. My days vary a lot. Some days I am in my office in Broome emailing, attending meetings, preparing education resources or getting everything ready for an event that is coming up. I have my lunch watching the tide coming in or out of Roebuck Bay. Other days I am in schools running education activities, or representing Fisheries at community events.

What do you like most about your job? I love talking to people of all ages and cultures about the ocean and how they can fish sustainably.

What is most challenging? Not being able to be in two places at the same time. It gets very busy over the dry season.

What is your favourite part of working in the Kimberley? It is so different to my home, Perth. It is challenging and I learn something new every day. Nature is so raw up here and there is beauty everywhere I look.

What 3 things would you want when stranded on a desert island? Fruit and vegetable seeds, to grow food to eat! My partner Scott, so I have some company and someone to help grow the food. Finally, my snorkelling gear, so I could make the most of being on a tropical island and maybe catch some dinner.

