



Kimberley Schools Wrap

Volume 5, Issue 1

Term 3, 2016

Semester 2 dates

- September–October (various dates) [Great Northern Clean Up](#)
- September [National Biodiversity Month](#)
- 17–23 October [Aussie Backyard Bird Count](#)
- 18–24 October [National Water Week](#)
- 7–13 November [National Recycling Week](#)
- 18–20 November [Eighty Mile Beach Turtle Reward Camp](#)



Cadets from Fitzroy, Wyndham and Broome about to undertake traditional fish trap maintenance at the Gumbanan Bush Rangers Region Camp 2016

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Gumbanan *Bush Rangers* region camp

The annual *Bush Rangers* Region camp was held from 22–26 August at Gumbanan Bush Camp on the tip of the Dampier Peninsula. It was an ideal location offering a range of cultural activities such as tasty damper, bush tucker walks, spear making, storytelling and of course some fishing.

The camp was attended by *Bush Ranger* units from all over the Kimberley, including Wyndham, Fitzroy and Broome. After team building and ice-breaking exercises, cadets moved into their groups, mixing well and forming some great friendships.

Traditional owners Frank and Maureen Davey appreciated hands-on help from the cadets to undertake maintenance on a traditional fish trap, which has been in the family for five generations.

Cadets visited the Ardyaloon Hatchery, which was an eye-opener for all with several tanks of coral, fish and

giant clams – even a crocodile and sea turtle which were being rehabilitated.

Cygnets Bay Pearl Farm demonstrated the art of cultured pearling to the *Bush Rangers* groups. One group was lucky enough to witness the discovery of an A-grade pearl worth between \$2500 and \$3000.

The Bardi Jawi Rangers opened the doors to their work centre, giving cadets a first-hand look into all aspects of the job, equipment used and the exciting activities they had been involved in. This was followed by a presentation about Bardi culture and a barbecue lunch to finish.

The Department of Fisheries attended and ran a session on sustainable fishing practices and gave all cadets the opportunity to dissect a fish.



Department of
Parks and Wildlife





Kimberley marine environment teacher guides available to all schools on request!



The new Kimberley marine environment teacher guides

The second series of the *Kimberley Education Manuals*, this time focusing on the Kimberley marine environment, is now available for Kimberley schools.

This companion to the first series on 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 [Amber](#).

School holiday fun

Parks and Wildlife will run some exciting activities in the Kimberley these school holidays. In the west, families are invited to learn about sustainable fishing, fish identification (including dissecting a fish) and substituting plastic, paint a calico bag, and come to a movie night. There will also be boomerang painting, learning about the sea turtle's life cycle and the annual sand sculpture competition. Contact [Jesse](#) for details.

Kununurra will join forces with Save the Children to get up close and personal with some Kimberley wildlife and recycle fishing equipment while testing their fishing skills. OSHC St Josephs will enjoy a morning at Mirima National Park and meet some scaly native friends.



Out and about

Students and teachers from John Pujangka Piyirn Catholic School joined the Paruku Rangers and community Elders on a trip to an archaeological dig site at Parnkupirti Creek on Walmajarri country this term.

The students were taught about the land and its use by the Paruku Rangers and Elders.

The Elders engaged the cadets with the story of two dogs and the lake's creation.

Parnkupirti is an important sacred site in the Dreaming story of this region.

Students discovered rocks used for a range of different purposes, including grinding, painting and cooking, as well as some sacred rocks.

Artefacts such as spear heads that have been dated back 50,000 years ago have been found at this site.

A great day was had by all.



Students visit an archaeological site

Cane toad update



Northern quoll tracks and mud flats on Adolphus Island

Adolphus Island

Adolphus Island is located in the mouth of the Cambridge Gulf near Wyndham. Thirty-five remote cameras checked monthly by Parks and Wildlife staff and Balangarra Rangers provided recent evidence of native species such as monitors, pythons and the endangered northern quoll. These species are persisting on the island despite the existence of the toad. Researchers are not sure why the island's native inhabitants are able to overcome the effects of the toad colonisation, but are deeming it positive. It is thought during the 2012 floods, cane toads 'rafted' 2km to the island from the mainland.





Kimberley Schools Wrap

September School Holiday Community Education Program Eighty Mile Beach

ALL
ACTIVITIES
FREE!
AND OPEN TO
ALL AGES



Get fishy

MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER, 3PM - 4.30PM

Location: Undercover area, Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park.

Bring: Old t-shirt.

From the ocean to the lab, join us for a science workshop you can really sink your teeth into! Learn all about sustainable fisheries as you conduct a fish dissection and take a look at the anatomy of a fish. Also try your hand at identifying and measuring local fish species.



Movie night

MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER, 6PM-8PM

Location: Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park oval.

Bring: Picnic blanket, pillows.

Watch the movie 'Oceans', rated G. A spectacular story about the remarkable creatures that live under the sea. Stunning images await you as you journey into the depths of a wonderland filled with mystery, beauty and power.



The life of a wayarti (sea turtle)

TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER, 10AM

Location: Undercover area, Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park.

Bring: Old t-shirt or apron.

Join us to learn about sea turtles while creating a large turtle life cycle where you will paint and decorate your own wayarti to add to the display.



Marine creature sand sculpture competition

TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER, 3.30PM-REGISTRATIONS OPEN, JUDGING 4.30PM

Location: Meet at the Eighty Mile Caravan Park beach entrance, Caravan Park side.

Bring: Sun protection, water bottle, sculpting equipment.

Get a team together, get creative and get building for the chance to win fantastic prizes! Stick around for a sausage sizzle (at the undercover area) and chat with our rangers.

September School Holiday Community Education Program Pardoo

ALL
ACTIVITIES
FREE!
AND OPEN TO
ALL AGES



Get fishy

WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER, 2PM - 3.30PM

Location: Undercover area, Pardoo Caravan Park.

Bring: Old t-shirt.

From the ocean to the lab, join us for a science workshop you can really sink your teeth into! Learn all about sustainable fisheries as you conduct a fish dissection and take a look at the anatomy of a fish. Also try your hand at identifying and measuring local fish species.



Movie night

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Un-fantastic plastic

THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER, 10AM

Location: Undercover area, Pardoo Caravan Park.

Bring: Old t-shirt, apron.

Learn about marine debris and the decomposition rates of various materials while browsing through our display. Join us in painting your own 'Kimberley Marine Park' reusable calico bag to reduce the use of plastic bags.



Join our Boomerang Gang!

THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER, 3PM

Location: Undercover area, Pardoo Caravan Park.

Bring: Old t-shirt, apron.

Join our boomerang gang! Come down to paint your own boomerang while learning about traditional hunting and art from our local Ngarla rangers. Make sure you stick around after for a sausage sizzle and a chat with our marine park rangers.

For more information, please contact Jesse at Parks and Wildlife on (08) 9195 5574 or email jesse.murdoch@dpaw.wa.gov.au.

Please note all children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Proudly brought to you by



Department of Parks and Wildlife
Department of Fisheries



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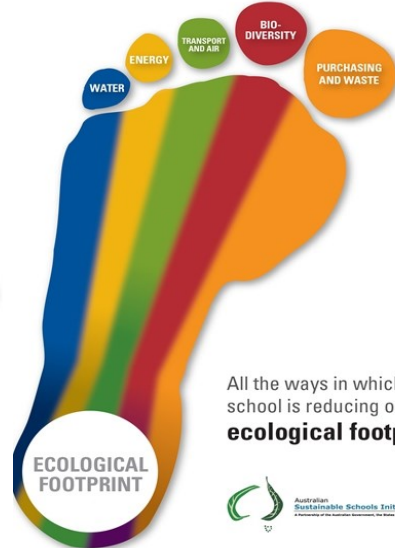


Waste Wise

Sustainable Schools Initiative



All the ways in which our school is increasing our **social handprint**



All the ways in which our school is reducing our **ecological footprint**



Waste Wise schools around WA reduce waste by implementing the 3Rs – reduce, reuse, recycle – while developing positive environmental values in students and their community. Waste Wise schools model responsible environmental behaviours through hands-on learning experiences which are linked to the Australian Curriculum. This is a great opportunity to get your school involved and plan for a better tomorrow.

For further information, contact [Amber](#).



Disturbing waste facts

How long does it take for these items to break down?

- Cigarette butt 10 to 12 years
- Plastic bag 10 to 20 years
- Disposable nappy 75 years
- Beer can 200 to 500 years
- Fishing line 600 years
- Styrofoam Never

Batteries are the most common form of hazardous waste. Australia uses three million coffee pods per day which are not being recycled.

If the plastic bags used by Australians each year were tied together, they would stretch around the world 24 times.

Sea animals are killed by ocean pollution each year including:

- 1 million sea birds
- 300,000 dolphins and porpoises entangled in nets etc
- 100,000 sea mammals.



Contacts:

Kununurra 9168 4200

Bush Rangers, River Rangers & Waste Wise

Amber Kennedy

amber.kennedy@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... Dee Fogarty

My name is Dee. I'm the new cane toad education officer based in Broome, starting on October 15. Born in South Australia, I've been in the Kimberley for two years teaching at Fitzroy Crossing. I've completed my Honours in Fresh Water Ecology and had some interesting jobs working as a tour guide, at shearing sheds and in the mines.



What you are looking forward to? I can't wait to get out to schools in the west Kimberley and teach the kids all about cane toads. I'm looking forward to meeting school staff, community members and other Parks and Wildlife staff.

What will be the best part of the new job? I think the best part of my new job will be getting to travel around visiting different schools in the Kimberley and spending time in amazing places like Windjana Gorge and Silent Grove.

The biggest challenges you believe you will face in the new role? I'll miss my 'Fitzroy family' when I move to Broome. I think I may get a few visitors seeking a Cable Beach sunset. Building new networks can be challenging, but people in the Kimberley are so warm and friendly, I hope I can make new friends!

What is your favourite part of working in the Kimberley? I love the random things that happen, when you can say "only in the Kimberley".

What three things would you want when stranded on a desert island? I'm very practical, so I would have to say clean drinking water and fishing gear (boring) and to keep me sane, my old dog, Colby.

