



Kimberley Schools Wrap

Volume 6, Issue 1

Term 1, 2017

2017 dates

- 22/4 [Earth Day](#)
- 23/5 [World Turtle Day](#)
- 5/6 [World Environment Day](#)
- 1-31/7 [Plastic Free July](#)
- 2-9/7 [NAIDOC Week](#)
- 28/7 [Schools Tree Day](#)
- 21-25/9 [Kimberley Bush Rangers Region Camp—location TBA](#)
- 23-29/10 [National Bird Week \(\[Aussie Backyard Bird Count\]\(#\)\)](#)



Kimberley Bush Rangers instructors explore Mirima National Park on an interpretive walk

Inside this issue:

- Toad sausages to protect northern quolls 2
- Out and about, despite the big wet 2
- Broome Bush Rangers dissect cane toads 3
- Waste Wise Schools workshops welcomed 4
- How to... turn your rubbish into flowers 4
- An interview with... marine ranger Adrian Lane 4

Cadet instructors on track for 2017

The seventh annual Kimberley Ranger Cadet Conference returned to Kununurra in February, following a run of three conferences in Broome. Instructors made the most of the new environment, exploring Mirima National Park, dissecting cane toads and taking a day trip to Wyndham to participate in Waste Wise Schools workshops.

Bush Rangers WA and *Cadets WA* program staff flew up from Perth for the event, providing an orientation for new teachers and answering questions about paperwork, funding and unit organisation.

With the formalities out of the way and all instructors feeling more confident in their abilities to meet program requirements, participants engaged in a series of workshops designed to introduce activities they could take back to their cadets. Cane toad dissections and a toad bust (collecting toads for toad sausages, see p2) were a highlight for many, with

instructors using skills developed in an earlier film-making workshop to capture their antics on camera.

Cadet instructors were joined by local teachers for a tour of Wyndham District High School's gardens and Waste Wise projects, before taking part in a recycled art workshop. Creative energies flowed, with some teachers getting quite competitive in their efforts to create the perfect flower (see p4). Waste Wise regional schools coordinator, Jen Weston, was pleased to finally make it to Wyndham, after supporting a series of enthusiastic teachers with grants from each of the program's three tiers over recent years.

The conference also provided the opportunity to farewell Amber Kennedy, who had been filling in as Bush Rangers Regional Coordinator while Sally Johnston was on maternity leave, and to welcome aboard new education project officer, Dee Fogarty, who joined the cane toad team at the end of 2016.



Department of
Parks and Wildlife





Teacher resources now available

A series of *Kimberley Education Manuals* are now available to all Kimberley teachers, covering Kimberley-specific topics including cane toads and the marine environment. The manuals are written for Kimberley classrooms, so teachers can just pick them up and run a lesson or a unit that is aligned to curriculum outcomes with minimal preparation. Parks and Wildlife staff can deliver a manual to your school on request, and can also provide incursions related to the lessons in the manual. The team is currently working on more resources, including biodiversity and fire, so let [Sally](#) know if you are interested in trialling any of the new lessons with your class. Get in touch with [Dee](#) for a copy of the manuals, or to request a visit. The 'Cane Toad' [Yr 1-3](#) and [4-6](#) resources are also [available online](#).



If you think your school may already have a copy, this is what you're looking for



School holiday fun

Jesse and Dee from Parks and Wildlife will be at Eighty Mile Beach and Pardoo Caravan Parks in the upcoming school holidays, from 11-13 April. The fun will kick off with a barbecue and cinema under the stars, followed by a day of hands-on educational activities focussing on protecting the marine environment. Everyone is welcome. Contact [Jesse](#) for more information.

Parks and Wildlife will also be running activities in Warmun for the Gija Youth Program on 21 April. Contact [Sally](#) for details.

Out and about

The big wet season has kept us checking for road closures, but it hasn't stopped Parks and Wildlife's education team from getting out and about. The team has been to the Dampier Peninsula, Looma, Frog Hollow, and Doon Doon, and back to Broome and Kununurra.

Students at Frog Hollow loved learning about cane toads and how they are different from native frogs. They produced posters to show people how to identify a cane toad and made clay models of cane toads with all the key distinguishing features. The senior kids also dissected cane toads in their classroom.

Dawul students were very excited to learn more about cane toads and frogs, and have been knocking on their teacher's door to go toad busting every night since their incursion.

It's been great to see everyone getting involved during school visits. With all of these budding conservationists and scientists, we are confident that the Kimberley's future is in good hands.



Making a model toad is a great way to learn about key identifying features

Cane toad update



Toad sausages on the menu

As you receive this newsletter, the first batch of industrially-produced cane toad sausages is being served up to northern quoll populations across the Kimberley. Research has shown that native species, such as quolls and goannas, have the ability to learn to avoid toads, provided an individual's first experience is with a small toad, not a highly toxic adult toad. The toad mince sausages contain a nausea-inducing drug, which discourages the animals from eating any future toads that they encounter. Rolling out taste aversion trials across large areas poses logistical problems, such as getting enough toads to make the sausages, ensuring they are attractive to native wildlife, transporting them to remote areas and then distributing them in challenging weather. Huge thanks go to the Kununurra residents who assisted in collecting the toads used in the sausages.





Bush Rangers and River Rangers

Broome Bush Rangers take a closer look inside a cane toad

The Broome *Bush Rangers* dived right in when they dissected cane toads earlier this term. Students got to see the internal structure of an amphibian, identifying the internal organs and exploring how they are connected. Cadets located the stomach and dissected it to find what each cane toad had been eating. There were big differences between individual stomach contents, with beetles, flies, worms and grubs being identified. Some cadets even found rocks in their toads' stomachs! Everyone did a great job participating - there might be a couple of future surgeons or veterinarians amongst the Broome *Bush Rangers*.



Broome Bush Rangers dissected cane toads and analysed their stomach contents



From the regional coordinator

I didn't manage to catch up with everyone at the Kimberley conference this year, as the wet weather had left many of our units stranded. Luckily, we have other forms of communication and it's been great to hear about everyone's busy start to the year.

Those who did make it to the conference contributed to a discussion on the future of our Kimberley Region Camp, which will now be held every second year. Responsibility for planning and running activity sessions will be shared between all attending units. This year's camp will be held in Term 3, Week 6. The location is yet to be confirmed, but Windjana Gorge National Park is looking like a popular contender.

We will also be running a film competition in Term 2, so look out for flyers early in the term.

Our Purnululu Reward Camp was postponed due to the wet weather, we hope to see the John Pujangka-Piyirn River Rangers out at the park in Term 2. [Sally](#)

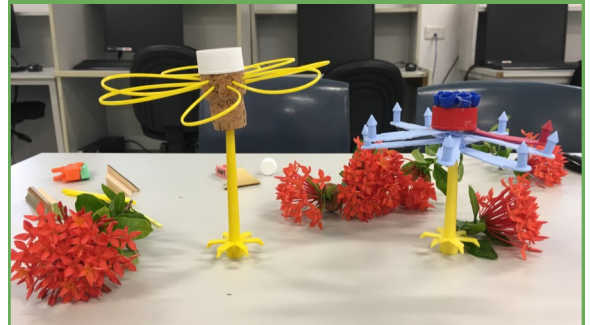




Waste Wise Schools Corner



How to.... turn your rubbish into flowers



1. Collect an assortment of materials. Corks, bits of colourful fabric, wood, milk bottle lids...anything colourful that looks like it could be part of a flower.
2. Instead of glue, reuse stickers and old labels to attach the pieces together. Pieces of wire also work well to bind things together, or use a drill and screws for larger pieces.
3. You don't need to use a template, encourage students to be creative and explore the materials as they work.
4. Display around the school, or take your creations apart and use the materials in another reuse art project.

Broome workshop inspires teachers



St Mary's College students conduct a waste audit to discover the make-up of their rubbish.

Teachers from Derby, Yakanarra and Broome attended a Waste Wise Schools workshop at St Mary's College in Broome in February. Guests from Incredible Edible Broome talked about composting and gardening and Tox Free gave an interesting presentation about recycling and the educational incursions and tours they offer. Participants learnt how to make eco-friendly food wraps from banana leaves, then the teachers made the most out of this valuable networking experience to share ideas and support each other in developing Waste Wise projects to suit the different school contexts. Waste Wise grants are available to all schools, with support provided to teachers keen to get involved.



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An interview with... Adrian Lane

Adrian has been a marine ranger for the Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park for the past two years. He previously worked in the offshore industry with the Maersk/Svitzer shipping company for 10 years.



Tell us about a typical day at work. I drive the tender for Danny, the head ranger. We carry out a healthy country plan with the Dambimangari traditional owners. We bring traditional owners and rangers on board and share links between western science and traditional knowledge, blending ideas together to look after the aspirations of traditional owners for future generations.

What do you like most about your job? Going back out on country and sharing knowledge, and working with a group of other marine rangers who share the one common goal to manage and look after the marine park.

What is most challenging? Not getting eaten by crocs and coming home safely to my children after being away at sea for 10 days.

What is your favourite part of working in the Kimberley? Educating tourists and giving them a bit of insight into the life of a marine ranger and traditional owner. Working on country and giving tourists the knowledge of our history and for us to preserve the Kimberley coastline for everybody around the world.

What three things would you want when stranded on a desert island? Wisdom of the old people, traditional hunting and gathering skills, mangrove raft.

