



# Kimberley Schools Wrap

Volume 6, Issue 2

Term 2, 2017

## 2017 dates

- 1-31/7 [Plastic Free July](#)
- 2-9/7 [NAIDOC Week](#)
- 27/7 Film Competition entries due (see p3)
- 28/7 Turtle name suggestions due (see p2)
- 28/7 [Schools Tree Day](#)
- 21-25/9 Kimberley Bush Rangers Region Camp—Windjana Gorge
- 23-29/10 National Bird Week ([Aussie Backyard Bird Count](#))



River Rangers enjoy the cool shade of Echidna Chasm with Purnululu National Park ranger William Edwards

## Mulan River Rangers explore Purnululu

Six River Ranger cadets from John Pujajangka-Piyirn School in Mulan, south of Halls Creek, enjoyed a weekend exploring the secrets of Purnululu National Park with rangers Vincent and William Edwards.

With a full day's drive there and back, Vincent and William packed as many different experiences as they could into the program for the two-night camp.

After a relaxing first evening exploring the creek by the Volunteer Centre where the group camped, everyone was up early the next morning to jump back in the cars for a tour of the park. Vincent started by taking the group to a number of rock-art sites, a short hike off the beaten track, and shared stories of visiting the sites with his family as a boy.

Next stop was Echidna Chasm, where students encountered a small snake under the steps as they headed into the narrowest part of the gorge.

After lunch, the group explored Cathedral Gorge and the beehive domes of the southern end of the park

and heard of the challenges of maintaining walk trails after such a big wet season.

Getting close to 'knock-off time', Vincent and William took everyone to one of their favourite places away from the tourist trail, a fishing spot on the Ord River located on the park boundary. This was a highlight for the cadets (and accompanying staff); a vast contrast from their home in the desert and, for many, the first time they had caught a fish big enough to eat. The rangers talked about the consequences of overfishing and after the cadets had one fish each to take home, the group headed back to camp.

The evening was spent learning about the impact of cane toads on species found around the park and the cadets took part in a quick toadbust around camp.

The next morning, the cadets had time for a tour of the visitor centre, ranger station and workshops before it was time for the long trip back to Mulan.

The camp will be on offer to cadet units again in 2018.

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Department of Parks and Wildlife





## T-shirt design competition winner

The new Purnululu World Heritage Area souvenir t-shirt has been launched, based on a design by former Halls Creek DHS student, Breanna Bedford.

Thank you to all East Kimberley students who submitted entries and to their teachers for sending them through to us.



## Names needed for tracked turtles

Parks and Wildlife's marine science team is calling on Kimberley students to name five wild flatback turtles, which will be tagged and tracked as part of an ongoing monitoring program.

The researchers study the turtles nesting at Cape Dommett, north of Kununurra, each year and take measurements and record data about the species before releasing them back into the wild. Five turtles are fitted with radio transmitters and their movements are tracked online on [a public website](#). If your class would like to name a turtle to track, please get in touch with [Sally](#) by 28 July.

## School holiday fun

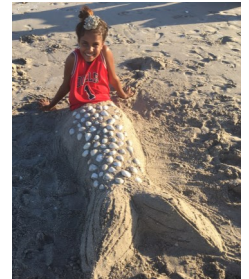
Look out for the posters or contact the Broome Parks and Wildlife office on 9195 5500 for more information:

3-6 July from 9am – 3pm, Broome Boulevard Shopping Centre. Come and say hi, we'll have a different free activity each day.

10-14 July around Broome. Sand sculpture competition, mangrove walk, whale watching and sea grass monitoring.

10-12 July Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park. Learn about turtles and the marine environment, heaps of fun games, movie night.

10-11 July Windjana Gorge National Park. Learn about crocodiles and their life cycle, how to identify cane toads and what to do when you find one, and participate in a biodiversity treasure hunt.



*The annual sand sculpture competition is a lot of fun*

## Out and about

A recent trip down the Tanami Rd to visit schools at Billiluna, Balgo and Mulan has been a highlight of the year so far.

Parks and Wildlife staff teamed up with ecologist Rebecca Dobbs from UWA to assist the Paruku Rangers and the Mulan River Rangers with their ongoing water

monitoring program.

The rangers and their junior counterparts sampled sites around Lake Gregory, a RAMSAR wetland in the Paruku Indigenous Protected Area, which was looking stunning after the big wet. They learnt how to conduct vegetation transects and caught fish to dissect and check for parasites.

Students at Balgo and Billiluna also got their hands dirty, dissecting cane toads and learning how to identify and manage them as the toads move into their area down the Sturt Creek.

If your school is interested in starting a water monitoring project or would like more information on cane toads, get in touch with [Dee](#) or [Sally](#).



*Giant burrowing frogs, or 'Lirrajapal', are common in the desert, but are often mistaken for cane toads*

## Cane toad update



*All toad reports need to include clear photos of the animal's front and side.*

### Toad sightings in Fitzroy Valley

As the wet season drew to a close, a number of reports were received of cane toads in new locations across the Fitzroy Valley, including in Muludja, just east of Fitzroy Crossing. A recent evening toad hunt with Muludja students didn't reveal any toads, but as the weather cools off they are becoming less active, so they may still be present in small numbers.

To accurately map the toad frontline, Parks and Wildlife is calling on communities to report any new toad sightings through the cane toad email address [canetoads@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:canetoads@dpaw.wa.gov.au) or by text to 0400 693 807. Please keep the animal alive in a secure container (with air holes and a damp cloth) until you are advised to either release it or euthanase it by Parks and Wildlife staff.





## Bush Rangers and River Rangers

### Wyndham Bush Rangers test water at popular swimming hole The Grotto

2017 has seen the Wyndham Bush Rangers embark on a new ongoing monitoring project, testing water each term at local swimming spot The Grotto. The group was inspired to see how the water changes throughout the year, from a gushing waterfall with raging river below in the wet, to a slow trickle and stagnant pool at the end of the dry. Cadets recently collected water on their second monitoring trip, to be tested back at school.

Other activities for the Bush Rangers this term have included a day of conservation field work with Rio Tinto Earth Assist and 'Trangia Masterchef', with teams of students cooking recipes of their choice on the small methylated spirit burners. Perhaps they'll let us sample their winning dishes at the Region Camp next term!



Left: Cadets get their hand dirty with Earth Assist; Centre: Trangia Masterchef; Right: Teamwork at The Grotto



### Filmmaking in full swing across the region

A recent trip to visit cadet units in the West Kimberley has revealed many are in full swing creating entries for the film competition. Some units were in the middle of script-writing, whereas others are following the tried and tested 'photo slideshow with backing music and captions' method.

Entries are due 27 July. Contact [Sally](#) for entry forms and instructions. Prizes will be awarded for each of the following categories, so don't be scared off by a lack of experience or technical know-how:

- Slideshow (group/individual entry)
- Slideshow (group entry with instructor assistance)
- Live action documentary or drama (group/individual entry)
- Live action documentary or drama (group entry with instructor assistance)
- Animation (we won't split this one unless we have enough entries to do so)





## Waste Wise Schools Corner

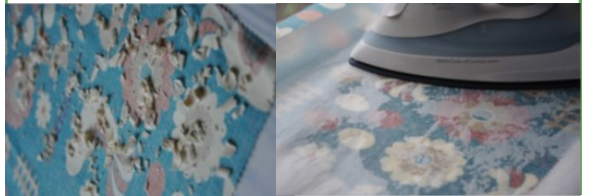


### How to.... make beeswax wraps for the kitchen

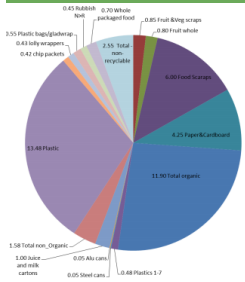
Beeswax wraps are becoming a popular alternative to cling wrap for covering and storing food. Long-lasting and easy to make, they are a good way to get into the swing of things in the lead up to Plastic Free July.

1. Cut a 30 x 30cm square of cotton fabric using pinking shears.
2. Place a sheet of baking paper on an ironing board, and top with the fabric square.
3. Cover the fabric with grated beeswax (less is better), then top with another layer of baking paper.
4. Iron the 'sandwich' on medium heat, watching the wax melt. Add extra wax to dry spots, if required. Peel off the paper and hang to dry.

Other methods include using an oven instead of an iron.



### Cable Beach Primary back on board



BROOME ECOEDUCATION

**WASTE WISE**  
**Wipe out Waste**

Every piece from landfill School is h to focus on landfill.

When planning lunches for this day, and food and packaging waste by packing a

**TIP:** Cut up fruit and vegetables and pa and save the rest for later. For exar save the rest for lunchtime. It's eas A rubber band around sliced apple

Mapping waste, a Facebook community and a regular newsletter column are all part of the plan Cable Beach Primary School has resurrected its Waste Wise program with a dedicated Waste Wise Committee, spearheaded by Kalinda Sheils and Michael Crawford. The staff and students have worked hard to build a vegetable garden, with some classes taking ownership over individual garden beds. They have big plans to develop students' gardening skills and hope to create a Yawuru garden in the future. They have also been reading up on composting, worm farming and chicken keeping in order to introduce these new activities. After a successful waste audit and excursions and incursions with Tox Free, the Waste Wise team have purchased coloured bins to help sort their waste and start recycling, and have introduced 'nude food Fridays', including tips for parents in each newsletter.

We want to congratulate Cable Beach Primary on their enthusiasm and encourage other teachers to join Kal's Facebook page, 'Growing Green Minds', for useful tips and to share ideas about environmental education in the Kimberley.



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### An interview with... Kalinda Sheils

Cable Beach Primary School teacher, Waste Wise champion and creator of Broome's 'Growing Green Minds' Facebook page, Kalinda seeks to inspire a passion for the natural environment in her students and all others around her.



Kalinda enjoying time out

**Tell us about a typical day at work.** It begins at day break. It's gloriously quiet and I spend a few hours preparing for the day. Then the beautiful chaos of learning begins! A thousand things happen at once but my favourite part, in an overflowing curriculum, is the spontaneity and wonder found in everyday moments.

**What do you like most about your job?** To teach is a privilege and I am so excited to be a part of such positive change. I love to travel and am deeply moved by the immense beauty of the natural world. Working with children to create a brighter, more sustainable future and sharing with them in the wonders of nature.

**What is most challenging?** Mindfulness. Teaching has taught me to stay in the present; to respond whole-heartedly to the people and situations around me. It's an extraordinarily rewarding occupation because it's highly demanding and it can be challenging to give your best self each and every moment.

**What is your favourite part of working in the Kimberley?** Definitely being on country; the Kimberley is magnificent! I am blessed to work here and share in some amazing experiences!

**What three things would you want when stranded on a desert island?** A surf board, scuba gear and a mojito for good luck!

