



Kimberley Schools Wrap

Volume 6, Issue 4

Term 4, 2017

2018 Term 1 dates

- [How to run a whole school sustainability program](#)
Broome 16/2
- Kimberley Ranger Cadet Conference 16-18/2
- [Schools Clean Up Day](#) 22/3
- World Water Day 22/3
- Bush Rangers State Conference Perth 22-23/3
- [Ride2School Day](#) 23/3
- [Earth Hour](#) 24/3
- Easter 30/3-2/4
- [Earth Day](#) 22/4



The cane toad education team set up an interactive display for students at Muludja Remote Community School

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Fitzroy Valley cane toad road trip

With a number of reports of cane toad sightings in communities close to Fitzroy Crossing, the Parks and Wildlife Service's cane toad education team set out to ensure students knew how to distinguish cane toads from native frogs and what to do if they found a toad.

Incursion activities included a role play toadbus, a 'frog or toad' leapfrog teambuilding game, and the chance to learn about Kimberley native frogs using the free Cane Toad app.

Schools visited included Fitzroy Valley District High School, Kulkarriya Community School, and Muludja, Bayulu and Wananami remote community schools.

Many students had encountered cane toads before on trips to Halls Creek, Warmun, Kununurra and the Northern Territory, but others had never had the opportunity to see a cane toad up close and were keen to take a look at the stuffed toads brought in by the team. By the end of each session, all students could point out the three unique features of a cane

toad; the 'm'-shaped bony brow ridge, poison glands on the shoulder, and dry, warty skin.

Students were encouraged to report sightings of toads in new locations to their teachers, so the information could be fed back to Parks and Wildlife Service's cane toad staff. Students were also taught how to humanely euthanase toads that had been positively identified through cooling (putting in the fridge for four hours) followed by freezing (putting in the freezer overnight).

A workshop for the Ngurrara, Bunuba and Gooniyandi rangers was held in Fitzroy Crossing as part of the trip. These ranger groups play a critical role in monitoring the distribution of cane toads and working with researchers to reduce the impact of toads on native species such as goannas and northern quolls.

The trip also provided the opportunity for *Bush Rangers* and *River Rangers* state coordinator Richard Olive to learn more about delivering education programs in remote areas and visit the Fitzroy Valley *Bush Rangers* (see an interview with Richard on p4).



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions





2018 incursions and PD



The following incursions are available to all Kimberley schools in Semester One 2018. Get in touch with [Dee](#) for a flyer or to book a session for your class. If you are in a remote location, visits need to be scheduled well in advance as some parts of the Kimberley are only visited once a year. All incursions are curriculum-linked and tie in directly to the *Kimberley Education Manuals* or *Waste Wise Schools Program*.

- **Cane Toad Capers - All years - 1 hour** How to identify a toad and what to do if you find one.
- **Crocs are Deadly - All years - 1 hour** Saltwater crocodiles and how to stay safe around waterways.
- **Waste Free Lunches and Waste Audits - All years - 1.5 hours plus follow up**
- **Bilby Banter - Yr 1-2 - 1 hour** Keeping bilby habitat healthy and keeping bilbies safe from threats.
- **Turtley Awesome - Yr 3-4 - 1 hour** Turtles and humans cross paths on the beach in nesting season.
- **Bugs, Beaks and Birds - Yr 5-6 - 1 hour** The shape of a shorebird's beak dictates what they can eat.

Cane Toad Capers at Purnululu School

The following professional development workshops for Kimberley teachers will be held in Term 1, 2018:

⇒ **[How to run a whole school sustainability program](#) - Broome - Friday 16 February - Teacher relief payments available**

Learn how the Sustainable Schools Initiative works and join staff from Waste Wise Schools, Parks and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) to learn how to integrate hands on sustainability projects into Kimberley classrooms.

⇒ **Kimberley Ranger Cadet Conference - Broome - Saturday 17 - Sunday 18 February**

Interactive workshops building the skills to run practical conservation projects in your local community. Open to all interested teachers.

Out and about

With the weather heating up and the year winding down, teachers have been inviting the Parks and Wildlife Service into their classrooms to finish the year on a high.

A number of incursions, such as 'Bilby Banter', 'Turtley Awesome' (see above) and a high school bioplastics workshop have been tested ready for next year, while the requests for cane toad

incursions and waste audits keep on rolling in as classes finish these units of work.

In late October, at the end of the fire season, the Kununurra Girl Guides invited Parks and Wildlife Service Kununurra staff Tammy-Ann and Sally to talk about their role as fire fighters and what actions the girls could take to make sure they kept their own fires safe when on camp. The girls enjoyed climbing up into the fire truck and having a turn at operating the hoses. A new bushfire resource will be available for Kimberley primary teachers in 2018, a collaboration between the DFES and DBCA.

As well as visits to schools, the team has held a number of cane toad education stalls and workshops in communities likely to encounter toads this wet season, [get in touch](#) for details.



Kununurra Girl Guides learnt about safe campfires and the impact of bushfires in the Kimberley before checking out the fire truck.

Cane toad update



It's that time of year again when cane toads are on the move. Cane toads are moving westward at approximately 50km per year and are set to reach Fitzroy Crossing this wet season. If you see cane toads in a new location, where they haven't been sighted before, please send clear photos to canetoads@dbca.wa.gov.au or 0400 693 807. If you would like posters to put up in your community to help identify cane toads, get in touch (as above) and they can be sent out.



Bush Rangers and River Rangers

Fitzroy Valley Bush Rangers help out with ranger cane toad workshop



The Fitzroy Valley *Bush Rangers* helped out the Parks and Wildlife Service's cane toad team by cooking up a breakfast barbecue for participants at the recent ranger cane toad workshop in Fitzroy Crossing. The cadets already knew many of the Bunuba, Gooniyandi, and Ngurrara rangers, having volunteered with them on a number of projects in the past. The *Bush Rangers* appreciated the opportunity to be a part of the workshop, learning more about the role ranger groups play in cane toad management.

Wyndham Bush Rangers get a close look at cane toads



The Wyndham *Bush Rangers* and some guest Year 6 students enjoyed learning about cane toad anatomy, diet and management strategies during an incursion held during Science Week back in August. The toads dissected by the class later had their back legs removed to be made into cane toad sausages, part of an initiative to reduce the impact of toads by teaching native animals not to eat them.





Waste Wise Schools Corner



How to.... make bioplastic tree ornaments

Bioplastic is a type of biodegradable plastic made from a plant starch base instead of a petroleum base.



1. Measure 10ml distilled water, 1.5g corn flour, 1ml white vinegar and 0.5-1.5g glycerol (glycerine) into a saucepan. Mix well. More glycerol makes a more rubbery finished substance, less gives a harder one.
2. Heat on medium-low, stirring constantly. Bring to the boil, remove the mix when it turns clear and thickens. Heating for too long will cause lumps to form.
3. Add 1-2 drops of food colouring then spread into a thin layer on a sheet of baking paper. Shapes can be cut into the plastic with cookie cutters while it is still soft. Make a hole for your string. Alternatively, the soft plastic can be moulded.
4. Leave for 48 hours to harden, then add a string for hanging.



[Based on a process from WikiHow.](#)

Broome Primary's waste-free lunch



Students enjoyed the 'bring your own plate' canteen special and packed waste-free lunch boxes

Broome Primary School's Waste Warriors held their first waste-free lunch day in November. The Waste Warriors advertised the day with posters around the school and held a waste audit before and after the day so they could see how much waste was reduced. The canteen got behind the initiative and put on a 'bring your own bowl or plate' lunch special. They also served no waste slinky apples and ice cream in a cone for a special treat. It was great to see the kids so keen on reducing waste and getting in and sorting the rubbish to count. Everyone was shocked to see how much good food is thrown away, including packaged 'lunch box snack' items. If your school is interested in holding a waste-free lunch day or a waste audit, check out the incursions listed on p2 or contact [Dee](#).



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An interview with... Richard Olive

[Richard Olive](#) coordinates both the Bush Ranger and River Ranger cadet programs statewide, and is based at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre in Mundaring. He recently joined Kimberley education staff on a cane toad education road trip throughout the Fitzroy Valley, gaining an insight into the unique ways in which schools operate in remote communities.



Richard on the road in the Kimberley

Tell us about a typical day on the road

Driving to schools in remote communities, helping deliver cane toad lessons, driving back to Fitzroy Crossing.

What was your favourite part of the trip?

Spending time with the wonderful Kimberley education staff.

What was most challenging?

42 degrees in Fitzroy without the slightest breeze.

What was the best thing about getting out and visiting Kimberley schools?

Being able to chat to students and teachers in communities very different to mine.

What three things would you want if stranded on a desert island?

Snorkelling gear (assuming it's a tropical island free from crocodiles), binoculars, and a good pillow.

