



Kimberley Schools Wrap

Volume 7, Issue 1

Term 1, 2018

Term 2 dates

- [Earth Day](#) 22/4
- [International Compost Awareness Week](#) 6-12/5
- [Waste Wise Schools grant round closes](#) 11/5
- [World Migratory Bird Day](#) 12/5
- [International Day for Biological Diversity](#) 22/5
- [World Turtle Day](#) 23/5
- [World Oceans Day](#) 8/6
- [World Environment Day](#) 5/6
- [NAIDOC Week](#) 8-15/7



Hands-on activities, such as this one using isoscopes, engaged participants between presentations

Inside this issue:

- [North West Bushfire Patrol now available](#) 2
- [Be Crocwise Kimberley schools road trip](#) 2
- [Kimberley Ranger Cadet Conference in pictures](#) 3
- [Broome schools target canteen waste](#) 4
- [How to make paper](#) 4
- [An interview with... Brooke Hawley](#) 4

Sustainability in focus for Kimberley schools

Teachers from across the Kimberley gathered in Broome at the start of term to take part in a Sustainable Schools workshop with staff from Waste Wise Schools, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (formerly Fisheries) and Parks and Wildlife Service. Cyclone Kelvin delayed the event by a week, and kept some teachers away with road closures, but the event was well-attended with teachers wanting to integrate sustainability activities into their classrooms and their schools more broadly.

The day's events began with teachers ranking their school's sustainability efforts and pinpointing where they were on their sustainability journeys. It was great to see a mix of teachers and schools, ranging from those who were just starting to talk about sustainability, to those with integrated sustainability actions well established in their school community. All participants were able to identify actions they

would like to take to increase their social handprint and decrease their ecological footprint, and to start making plans to achieve these in their schools.

Waste Wise Schools presented on a number of projects undertaken by schools around the State, including Kimberley schools, and introduced participants to their accreditation and grants processes.

The event also saw the launch of *North West Bushfire Patrol* (see p2), DFES and DBCA's new teacher guide for Pre Primary to Year 3 and Year 4-6, with teachers taking part in activities from the resource and getting a sneak peek of the soon-to-be-released videos.

With education staff based in the Kimberley and a number of incursion programs and teacher resources, Parks and Wildlife Service and Fisheries (DPIRD) presented on the activities they can deliver and support they can provide to individual schools.

We wish all schools well on their sustainability journey.



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions





Kimberley fire resource now available to all teachers



Bush Rangers instructors learn to conduct vegetation transects to monitor and predict impacts of fire

North West Bushfire Patrol, a jointly produced resource from DFES and DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service, is now available online for all Kimberley teachers. The curriculum-linked modules, written for Kimberley students in Pre Primary-Year 3 and Years 4-6, cover the following topics:

- How fire works and the causes of bushfire;
- Fire weather, danger ratings and warning systems;
- What students can do to prepare for a bushfire;
- Who manages fire in the Kimberley;
- The impacts of bushfire on the community and the natural environment.

Two videos, featuring Kimberley fire managers including Aboriginal rangers, volunteer fire fighters, DFES and DBCA staff and community members, will be launched early next term to accompany the package.

The teacher guides and modules can be accessed online at:

[Pre Primary - Year 3](#)

[Year 4-6](#)

They are also available on USB, contact [Sally](#) for more details or to request one for your school.

Out and about

The *Be Crocwise* campaign kicked off at St. Mary's College in Broome with an entire croc day and a visit from Chis Croc, Sara and Dee from Parks and Wildlife Service, and a couple of snappy friends!

Junior primary students learnt about the differences between estuarine crocodiles and freshwater crocodiles and received

some important safety messages about being *Crocwise* in croc country.

Students dressed up in their best crocodile themed outfits and had the chance to touch a real live saltwater crocodile.

The *Be Crocwise* roadshow continued on to Muludja and Baylulu remote community schools, reminding students that, with all of the water around after the wet, it's not just coastal communities that need to be aware of saltwater crocodiles. To book a *Be Crocwise* incursion for your school, contact [Sara](#).

The Easter Bilby was sighted in Broome last week at Broome North and Roebuck primary schools, with students learning about bilby behaviour and habitat before a visit from the Easter Bilby himself (or herself).



This saltwater crocodile skull was almost as big as some of the students

Cane toad update



Cane toad sausage drop continues

Since December, DBCA's cane toad team has dropped approximately 2000 cane toad sausages in the North Kimberley as part of a 'conditioned taste aversion' trial. The project aims to minimise the impact of cane toads on the threatened northern quoll. It works by enticing the quolls to eat a cane toad sausage laced with a nausea inducing chemical (not toad toxin). The quolls eat it and feel sick, and are then put off eating anything that smells like cane toad in the future. Results look promising, with plans to continue drops of sausages ahead of the toad front line. Researchers are also trialling the use of live metamorph cane toads (small toads that have just transformed from tadpoles and have only small amounts of toxin) to target goanna species. Thanks to everyone who has helped to collect toads for sausage meat, the cane toad team always needs more so get in touch if you would like to organise a toad bust.



Bush Rangers and River Rangers

Cadet conference inspires teachers to launch into new projects



Clockwise from top left: Making bee hotels; Visiting the Broome North Community Garden; Proudly showing off a shopping bag made from an old t-shirt; Making paper with the Waste Wise Schools team.

After a last-minute date change due to Cyclone Kelvin, *Bush Rangers* instructors gathered in Broome at the end of Week 4 for the annual Kimberley Ranger Cadet Conference. As well as meeting program coordinator Richard Olive and receiving an induction into the program, instructors took part in a number of sessions to learn new skills that they could bring back to their schools and run as projects for their cadet units. The opportunity to get together once a year also provides instructors with the chance to network and put names to faces, and plan joint activities with other Kimberley schools.

Two Fitzroy Valley *Bush Rangers* Instructors made it down to Perth in March to take part in the *Bush Rangers WA 20th Anniversary Conference*, joining with 120 instructors from schools across the State.





Waste Wise Schools Corner



How to.... make paper

Paper waste is found in abundance at most schools, so why not use it to make something new? [Handmade paper](#) is great for gift cards and craft projects and can be used to celebrate events or even start a student business.



1. Collect used paper and shred, then soak in water overnight.
2. Squeeze out the paper and blend, adding water as required to reach a 'thick soup' consistency.
3. Fill a large, flat tray 1/3 way up with water, then add a couple of cups of your 'paper soup' (you can vary how much you add for thicker or thinner paper).
4. Slide your [deckle and mould](#) into the bottom of the tray, shuffle around a bit, then lift out horizontally.
5. Remove the deckle, then smoothly roll the mould face down onto a blanket or towel and press down.
6. Carefully peel off the mould and leave paper to dry (see above). At this stage, you can press petals, seeds or other decorations into your paper as desired.

Broome schools target canteen waste



Wyndham DHS's dishwasher system is a model schools may seek to replicate (Archive photo)

The Broome Schools Sustainability Cluster is lining up school canteens as their next target. Representatives from most Broome schools took part in a planning session to implement change in their school canteens. After auditing their waste, it was obvious that a lot of rubbish was generated by the canteen and, with a few changes, they could help make canteens more sustainable by reducing waste, using local suppliers, and providing healthier food at the same time! The aim is to support school canteens in becoming waste free, with many looking to the example of Wyndham District High School, whose canteen sports an industrial dishwasher and reusable lunchboxes and cutlery. Check out the [Growing Green Minds](#) Facebook page if your school would like to get involved in the campaign.



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An interview with... Brooke Hawley

Brooke is DBCA's Business and Finance Coordinator for the Kimberley Region. She has worked in the Kununurra office for nine years in a number of roles and enjoys the variety of working with so many diverse programs. In her spare time she likes to explore the region, play netball, and spend time with her dogs.



Tell us about a typical day at work I'm responsible for maintaining and managing our budget. My role varies at different times throughout the financial year, but basically I make sure everything's on track.

What do you like most about your job? I work with a good team, we're constantly thrown new challenges which keeps the work diverse.

What is most challenging? Working with so many different programs which all have their own reporting requirements and deadlines.

What is your favourite part of working in the Kimberley? There have been lots of big projects happening in the Kimberley Region in the past few years, like the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy and Royalties for Regions. It keeps things interesting as there's always something new to get your hands into.

What 3 things would you want when stranded on a desert island? My dogs, a book, and a good supply of food.

