



# Network Notes

Fortnightly newsletter for the Natural Resource Management (NRM) network

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment

27 June 2005

## Special Interest Articles

- *\$21 Million, 3 year Regional Investment Strategy RIS, signed off by NT Govt. and Australian Govt. Ministers*
- *Community Water Grants*
- *Threatened Species Art and Photography Competition*



## From the Chairman... Landcare Council of the NT

### Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) Update



I am pleased to be able to announce that the three year investment package (2004/2005 - 2006/2007) has been endorsed by NT and Commonwealth Ministers. My congratulations and thanks go to members of the Landcare Council of the Northern Territory for the tremendous effort they put into the development of this Strategy. We expect to advertise the first project briefs in July. The full Regional Investment Strategy will be placed on the website [www.inrm.nt.gov.au](http://www.inrm.nt.gov.au) by the end of the week.

There was a good attendance at the Regional Investment Strategy workshops that were held in Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin last week. It was a chance to distribute the latest information on the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan and Investment Strategy and get feedback on the investment proposal application form. I urge anyone who still has questions on timelines and processes to contact their Regional or Indigenous Land Management Facilitators for clarification.

In closing I urge readers to nominate for the NT Landcare Awards and the McKell Medal.



### *NT Landcare Awards*

**Reminder 2005 Northern Territory Landcare Awards - Entries close 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2005**

The Northern Territory Landcare Awards recognise and reward the efforts of individuals, community groups, indigenous communities and organisations for efforts in sustainable natural resource management and in caring for country. Enter yourself or nominate someone who has displayed excellence in caring for our land. Entry forms and further information are available by telephoning **8973 8106** or by visiting the website:

<http://www.ipe.nt.gov.au/whatwedo/landcare/awards/index.html>

Please send all entries to Madonna Mackay, P. O. Box 123, Katherine, 0852 or [maddona.mackay@nt.gov.au](mailto:maddona.mackay@nt.gov.au), not Ian Lancaster as printed on Landcare Awards Entry Forms.

### *Individual Highlights:*

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## *Defeating the Weed Menace Program projects announced*

The Australian Government's Minister for Environment & Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell, and Minister for Conservation, Senator Ian McDonald, announced \$1.82 million for 25 projects under the 2004-05 'Defeating the Weed Menace Program'. Media releases and information on successful multi-regional and national projects can be accessed at [www.deh.gov.au/minister/env/2005/index.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/minister/env/2005/index.html) Arrangements for the 2005-06 funding round will be announced shortly.

## *National Weeds Advisory Group announced*

Representatives of agriculture, conservation bodies, local and State government, landcare and the plant nursery industry have been brought together to advise the Australian Government how best to tackle Australia's multi-billion-dollar weed problem.

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell and the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation, Senator Ian Macdonald, announced the membership of the National Weeds Advisory Group.

The group will advise the Ministers on the management and direction of the Government's new \$40 million Defeating the Weed Menace Program, which aims to reduce the impact of weeds on the sustainability of Australia's productive capacity and natural ecosystems.

## *States and Territories to ban and enforce plant nurseries and other outlets from selling Weeds of National Significance*

Australian Conservation Minister, Senator Ian Macdonald, has called on the States and Territories to ban and enforce plant nurseries and other outlets from selling Weeds of National Significance.

Senator Macdonald said there were increasing incidents being reported of nurseries across the country selling weeds like Rubbervine and Lantana, often to consumers unaware of the danger of the plants.

"There are plant species on sale in nurseries at the moment that are serious threats to agriculture and the environment, including, according to the CSIRO, Weeds of National Significance," Senator Macdonald said.

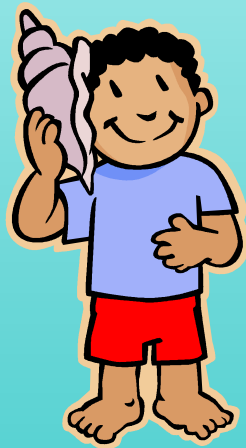
The 20 Weeds of National Significance, agreed to by all governments, include plants such as lantana, salvinia, bridal creeper and bitou bush.

## *New Coastcare Campaign*

A new Coastcare campaign '*Water: Let's make the most, from catchment to coast!*' has been launched coinciding with World Environment Day (5th June) and World Oceans Day (8th June). The initiative, which is targeted at bringing the community, business and government together to protect the coastline, is funded through the Natural Heritage Trust. For further information about the new campaign contact Tim Cronin, Landcare Australia Ltd, Ph 02 9412 1040 or email [tim@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:tim@landcareaustralia.com.au) If you are interested in becoming involved with Coastcare call 1800 151 105 or go to the website at [www.coastcare.com.au](http://www.coastcare.com.au)

## *Agriculture & Food Policy Reference Group calling for submissions*

Submissions have been called by the Agriculture & Food Policy Reference Group to comment on the future directions for Australian Government policies and programs affecting the food and agricultural sector. Information on making submissions, including a downloadable submission pack containing the **issues paper**, terms of reference and submission guidelines, is available on the Reference Group's web site [www.agfoodgroup.gov.au](http://www.agfoodgroup.gov.au) , or FreeCall 1800 427 978 or email [secretariat@agfoodgroup.gov.au](mailto:secretariat@agfoodgroup.gov.au) Submissions are due by Monday 18th July.



## *Cabomba Field Day – 29th June*

DIPE Weeds Branch is organizing a field day to increase awareness of cabomba, the aquatic weed of national significance that was found in Darwin River in 2004. The day will be held on **Wednesday the 29th of June between 10am and 12 noon at Darwin River** (directions below). The day will involve a short talk by Steve Wingrave (Regional Weeds Officer), who will outline what has happened since cabomba was discovered in Darwin River. This will be followed with a short talk from Andrew Petreoshevsky (National Aquatic Weeds Coordinator), who will outline the status of cabomba management in other states. The remainder of the morning will be spent helping people familiarize themselves with cabomba. This includes comparing specimens with native species, and taking people onto the river in a boat so they can observe its habit, flowers and other key features.

This field day is targeted towards people who are spending a significant amount of time working on freshwater-bodies. Our aim is to increase awareness amongst these people so that any new incursions can be identified and reported to Weeds Branch immediately. I am hoping that you can attend and also invite other relevant people in your Department. As there is limited room on the boat, we need to keep numbers relatively low. Each person attending will also need to complete a permit to enter a quarantine area, which will be provided on the day.

Directions: From Stuart Hwy, turn down Cox Peninsula Road towards Berry Springs. Go past the Territory Wildlife Park and Berry Springs Primary School. Turn left at Reedbeds Road, which is found just after the speed limit increases as you leave Berry Springs Village (turn back if you reach Darwin River Road). Follow Reedbeds Road until you reach a gate which will be open. Continue straight ahead down a short gravel road to the river.

For further information and to provide a RSVP contact:

Peter Clifton  
Aquatic Weeds Officer  
DIPE Weeds Management Branch  
Ph: 8999 2315  
Mob: 0428280098

## *Central Australian Water Information Day*

*12<sup>th</sup> July 2005 - CSIRO Conference Room*

The aims of the *Central Australian Water Information Day* are:

- to increase awareness of water based projects and programs currently being undertaken in the Central Australian region
- and to facilitate greater collaboration and information exchange in the water field.

The day will include a series of 10 minute presentations on local water projects, programs and issues under the three major themes above. Each presentation will be followed by 5 minutes of questions. At the end of each theme will be a 20-30 minute facilitated forum highlighting commonalities, opportunities for future collaboration and information gaps that need to be addressed.

If you are interested in attending please contact Felicity Forth or Michelle Rodrigo on 8951 9225 or [michelle.rodrigo@nt.gov.au](mailto:michelle.rodrigo@nt.gov.au) or [felicity.forth@nt.gov.au](mailto:felicity.forth@nt.gov.au). Numbers are required for catering.

## *Managing for Safe Drinking Water an International Conference on the Challenges of Smaller Water Systems*

**When:** Monday 18 July 2005

**Where:** Crowne Plaza Alice Springs

**Time:** 9.00 am - 4.00 pm Followed by a unique "Desert Dinner"

### **Keynote speaker**

Dr Jamie Bartram

(World Health Organisation)

### **Who should attend?**

- Drinking water specialists, plant engineers, scientists
- Regulators, public health & safety officers
- Local government planners and managers, consultants
- Researchers

**Background** Providing safe drinking water is a high public health priority. The majority of the population lives in our major cities, with the remaining population dispersed on the urban fringe and in rural and remote communities. These smaller communities form the backbone of Australia and have unique challenges in the provision of safe drinking water. In smaller water supplies there are greater challenges with water quality, microbial and radiological, less options for diversity of supply and limited capacity. There has been considerable focus on the development of tools and assistance in the implementation of management plans and programs within the context of smaller water systems.

The conference will provide practitioners in the industry with a unique opportunity to hear the latest developments, issues, challenges and experiences in the management of smaller drinking water systems from internationally recognised experts.

### **Enquiries:**

AWA, PO Box 388 Fax: (02) 9413 1047 Phone: (02) 9413 1288

Artarmon NSW 1570 [matherton@awa.asn.au](mailto:matherton@awa.asn.au)

## *NT Threatened Species Art & Photography Competition - 2005*

**THEME:** Threatened species, their habitats and their threats in the Northern Territory.

**PURPOSE:** National Threatened Species Day is held each year on September 7th, the day the last Tasmanian Tiger died in captivity at Hobart Zoo. This event is being held to raise awareness of threatened species in the NT.

**ENTRIES:** Close 26th August 2005. Anyone regardless of age, gender, religion, state/territory of residence, nationality, professional or amateur status can enter. School and community groups encouraged.

**MEDIUM:** Anything! Works can include but are not limited to sculptures, screen printing, photographs, paintings, drawings, weaving, posters and banners.

**CATEGORIES:** Adult (18+) and youth (up to 18)

- Best photograph - adult and youth
- Best drawing - adult and youth
- Best painting - adult and youth
- Best other medium - adult and youth
- Best overall adult work
- Best overall school or community group
- People's choice

**PRIZES:** Prizes include sketch set, book vouchers, tickets to Territory Wildlife & Desert Parks, MP3 player, \$150 gift voucher from Hang It picture framing, + others will be awarded to winners of each of the above categories.

**\$1000**, donated by the NT Government, will be awarded to the overall best adult work. A significant prize of computer equipment will be awarded to the best overall school or community group effort.

**JUDGING:** On original, educational, relevance to theme, and aesthetically pleasing aspects. A 3 member judging panel will be convened.

**DATE & VENUE:** Entries will be on display at the Darwin Entertainment Centre Gallery from 7 - 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 2005 (12 - 5pm). Official opening (by NT Minister) and winners announced at 6.30pm, 7th Sept 2005. All welcome to attend.

For further information on the threatened animal and plant species in the NT, conditions of entry or to make an expression of interest contact: Threatened Species Network in Darwin on (08) 89417554, savannas@wwf.org.au or in Alice Springs on (08) 89521541, rangelands@wwf.org.au

## Cultural Awareness and Engagement Training at Pine Creek hosted by Wagiman Aboriginal Corporation

Just to let you all know that the cultural awareness and engagement training we had down for the 28th to the 30th of June is postponed. It is now confirmed for the **23rd to the 25th of August**. There were only six people able to attend the June dates, we have places for up to 15 people.

The change has been necessary due to the workload of people wishing to attend, and overlap with community meetings/workshops for the roll out of the INRM and RIS, and the water programs meeting.

Please contact Dave Munday, if you have any queries or wish to attend the training.

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NRM Landcare Facilitator Northern Territory  
Department Infrastructure, Planning and Environment  
PO BOX 529 Palmerston NT 0831  
P 08 89994573 f 08 89994445  
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## Postgraduate Study

The University of Western Australia is having a second semester intake for postgraduate degrees in Sustainable Regional Development. These are delivered fully online with no need to attend campus. The emphasis in the postgraduate courses is on the integration of environmental, economic and social perspectives. The courses have units in Regional Governance and Responsive government, Sustainable Natural Resource Management Systems, Sustainable Economic Systems and Sustainable Socio-cultural systems. Master level students also do case study projects or research.

If any one is interested contact the course coordinator on [ird@fnas.uwa.edu.au](mailto:ird@fnas.uwa.edu.au) or see <http://www.fnas.uwa.edu.au/for/postgraduates/coursework> for further information

## Community Water Grants

The Australian Government Water Fund is investing a total of \$2 billion over the next five years in practical, on-the-ground water solutions. \$200 million of this funding will be directed towards the Australian Government's Community Water Grants program, where grants of up to \$50 000 will be provided to community organisations for community oriented, on ground works projects that have clear public benefits and:

- Increase water saving and efficiency
- Recycle and reuse water
- Surface and groundwater health

The call to apply for round 1 of the Community Water Grants is expected toward the end of June/early July

### *Examples of projects that might be funded*

#### Water savings/efficiency

- Improving the water efficiency of buildings such as schools by installing water-saving devices.
- Improving water supply infrastructure to reduce losses from evaporation or leakage.
- Capping disused or unnecessary bores.

#### Water reuse/recycling

- Using rainwater, greywater, treated effluent or stormwater to maintain open space and sporting fields or as components of water sensitive urban design along creeks and parks and in buildings.

#### Surface and groundwater health

- Improving surface or groundwater health, such as erosion and sediment control and catchment and riverbank maintenance.
- Cleaning up a waterway or wetland.
- Reducing pollution in rivers, groundwater or coastal waterways.

### *Who is eligible to apply?*

All forms of community groups may apply eg. Service clubs, sporting associations, environment groups including landcare, rivercare, coastcare and 'friends of' societies. Indigenous and multicultural groups, universities, church groups, local government, the community care sector (ie. Hospitals, nursing homes, childcare centres) and non-government organisations are also eligible.

Where potential applicants are not an incorporated group they may apply by obtaining the support of a sponsor organisation such as the local council.

- Applicants must show evidence of how their project complies with relevant planning, health and environmental regulations and/or guidelines. They will need to have secured, or be in the process of obtaining any necessary permits.

***What are some of the particular features of Community Water Grants?***

- Dollar for dollar matching is not a condition, although applicants are expected to contribute towards the total cost of the project in cash and/or in-kind as a sign of their commitment.
- While it is not mandatory, applicants are encouraged to show a link to relevant natural resource management plans.
- Projects may be part of a larger integrated initiative.
- Applicants must show evidence of how their project complies with relevant planning, health and environmental regulations and/or guidelines. They will need to have secured, or be in the process of obtaining any necessary permits.

***How can I apply for a grant?***

If you would like to receive a copy of the Round 1 guidelines and application form when they are released you can register your postal details via the on-line registration form at <http://www.nrm.gov.au/water-fund/form.html> or on freecall 1800 780 730. Over 2000 groups have already done so.

***How can I get further information?***

Jim Derrick from the Community Water Grants team in Canberra will be giving a short presentation followed by general discussion (focussed mainly on the eligibility of any projects you may have proposed) according to the following schedule:

Darwin	6 July	9:00 - 11 am	Mirambeena Resort
Katherine	8 July	9:00 -11am	Knotts Crossing Resort
Alice Springs	12 July	after lunch session of the Central Australian Water Information Day	CSIRO conference room
Tennant Creek	13 July	1:30 - 3.30 pm	Civic Centre

There will also be opportunity for people to meet with Jim Derrick and/or NT Rivercare facilitator, Russell Willing, around the time of these presentations. Please contact Russell Willing on 8999 4507 to arrange a meeting.

The opening of the grant round will be publicly advertised in this newsletter, newspapers and on radio. Further information will be made available on the Australian Government Natural Resource Management web site [www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au).

For further information freecall 1800 780 730 or email: [cwg@deh.gov.au](mailto:cwg@deh.gov.au).



## *LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT Study Assistance Program*

### Who is funding the study assistance?

The North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) is a group of Indigenous organisations working together across north Australia on land management projects. NAILSMA is supporting Indigenous people to look after country. NAILSMA works with the land councils including Kimberley Land Council, Northern Land Council, Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation, Carpentaria Land Council and Torres Strait Regional Authority.

Tropical Savannas Cooperative Research Centre (TS-CRC) is a group of 11 organisations including universities and research organisations, working together to reach sustainable management of natural and cultural resources across north Australia. NAILSMA is a core partner in the TS-CRC. The Christensen Fund (TCF) is a charitable organisation in America that is also supporting the study assistance program.

### What is the purpose of the study assistance?

We know it can be hard for people to do training sometimes and it also costs a lot of money. We can help you by providing financial assistance. You can use this assistance for course fees, travel, books and more. We want to support Indigenous people to gain more skills in land management and have the opportunity to experience new things.

### Who can ask NAILSMA for study assistance?

Anyone who is interested in land and sea management. Study Assistance is available to Indigenous people who live in North Australia, to study land management, science, social science or related areas at TAFE or university.

- You can receive assistance to study a **certificate, diploma or degree course**.
- You don't need to have completed year 10 or 12 - you can still ask for assistance. You just need to enrol in the course you would like to study.
- If you know other people who want to do a land and sea management course you can apply for **group training** assistance.

### Application & Assessment Dates

*Round 1:* Applications close **30th June 2005** for studies beginning June 05.

*Round 2:* Applications close **31st October 2005** for studies beginning February 06.

*Round 3:* Applications close **30th April 2006** for studies beginning June 06.

*Round 4:* Applications close **31st October 2006** for studies beginning February 07.

*Round 5:* Applications close **30th April 2006** for studies beginning June 07.

.....**Study Assistance ceases June 2008**.....

For more information contact:

#### **Scholarships Officer**

North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance

Building 42, Charles Darwin University NT 0909

You can also fax your application to 08 8946 6388

Or email to [lisa.binge@cdu.edu.au](mailto:lisa.binge@cdu.edu.au).

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See us at:

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## Newsletter Roster

Newsletter Publication Date	Editor	Submissions to editor by:
8 July	Madonna Mackay	6 July
22 July	Michelle Rodrigo	20 July
5 Aug	Kath Nash	3 Aug
19 Aug	Michelle Rodrigo	17 Aug
2 September	Michelle Rodrigo	31 August
16 September	Kath Nash	14 September

## Reminders – Information in Previous Newsletters

If you would like to view information from previous newsletters, please visit the site below where you will find recent copies of Network Notes.

<http://www.ipe.nt.gov.au/whatwedo/landcare/newsletters/index.html>



This newsletter is prepared fortnightly by the Regional NRM facilitators in the Territory. It is prepared for distribution, in the first instance to the Local Level Facilitator network. The Local Level Facilitators can then forward this newsletter onto any groups, individuals that may benefit from the information contained within this publication. It is also hoped the newsletter will be a medium by which NRM information can be passed onto others in the network. SO if you have any concerns, articles, adverts or news that you wish to share, please send it into the Regional Facilitator who is listed on the newsletter roster.