



Network Notes

Fortnightly newsletter for the Natural Resource Management (NRM) network

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment

25-29 March 2005



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.

Special Interest Articles:

- Water for Life in Central Australia
- Promoting Indigenous NRM Projects

Water For Life in Central Australia

G'day, my name is Peter Barker. I have just started working as the Water For Life Coordinator in Central Australia. Previously I was managing the Sandover weeds project with the Centralian Land Management Association (CLMA).

The Water for Life (WFL) program is an evolution of Waterwatch, with a more strategic and catchment-based approach to water and watercourse management throughout the NT. In Central Australia the program will be working south from the Barkly and aims to increase the capability of land managers working in arid and semi-arid environments to assess, manage, and monitor the condition of watercourses, wetlands, waterholes, salt lakes and riparian flora and fauna.

WFL in Central Australia aims to adapt its approach to the needs of arid and semi-arid environments. We will ensure that threats to these areas like feral animals, invasive plants, uncontrolled excessive grazing, inappropriate adjacent development, erosion and water pollution are monitored, assessed and managed appropriately.

We will be working with pastoralists through the CLMA, Indigenous communities through the CLC and with the NT Parks and Wildlife Service. We will be assisting these individuals and groups with land management and the establishment of ongoing and viable monitoring programs for areas being rehabilitated or protected by fencing.

Waterwatch activities will continue wherever there is community interest in maintaining them. We will however be changing the focus of these activities to make them more relevant to monitoring the health of arid zone watercourses and their surrounding landscape. This will mean broadening the focus of monitoring to include observations on erosion, flora and fauna. Monitoring activities will be determined based on the skill of the individuals/groups that are undertaking the surveys but may include the use of photo points, bird observations, scat and track identification, vegetation surveying and in some cases fauna trapping.

For more information about Water for Life in Central Australia, contact:

Peter Barker
 Water for Life
 Central Australia Coordinator
 Ph: (08) 8953 2882
peter.barker@nt.greeningaustralia.org.au

Paul Lloyd
 OR Water for Life Coordinator
 Ph: (08) 8981 1344
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Promoting Indigenous NRM Projects

Keep sending in your good news stories highlighting the great NRM work Indigenous groups are undertaking in your region.

The Department of the Environment and Heritage Indigenous Policy area (Australian Govt.) is producing a series of factsheets to demonstrate clearly to indigenous communities and individuals a) the sort of projects that they could undertake, and b) how they go about getting funding

In addition to being used for these factsheets, stories may appear in publications such as the Natural Heritage Journal, Natural Resource Management In Focus (the new national NRM Newsletter) and on the national NRM web site.

Abstracts including:

- Project title
- Project ID
- Funding source, year and amount
- Proponent contact details
- Brief description

can be forwarded to mali.stanton@deh.gov.au and belinda.hellyer@deh.gov.au. The Dept. will then contact your group and draft the stories.

If you would like some assistance please contact either Kath (Top End), Madonna (Katherine) or Michelle (Alice Springs) depending on where you are based.

NRM Jobs

Exciting New Position in the Centre

A new role will soon be advertised for a Project Officer with the COOLmob/Centre for Sustainable Arid Towns, 30hrs/week (or 4 days), \$38K pro rata plus superannuation and leave loading, from mid April to June 2006.

The role will be based in the Arid Lands Environment Centre working with a fabulous, dynamic and supportive team of staff. Work involves contracts for water, waste, and energy improvements.

Are you interested? Do you want to ask a few questions? Contact Glenn Marshall on <mailto:csat@ozemail.com.au>

General News

CALL FOR COMMENT ON INDIGENOUS DUGONG AND TURTLE HARVESTING

Senator Campbell and Fisheries and Conservation Minister Senator Ian Macdonald have invited public comment on a draft document aimed at ensuring that all traditional harvest of marine turtles and dugongs in Australia is sustainable and legal.

The draft report, *Sustainable and Legal Indigenous Harvest of Marine Turtles and Dugongs in Australia - A National Approach* is available on the DEH web site at www.deh.gov.au/coasts/species/turtles/national-approach.html.

Comments on the draft National Approach must be received by **close of business Friday 13 May 2005**.



RESOURCES FOR UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

The educational officer for the CRC for Australian Weed Management has developed a unit of work suited to upper primary teachers. The activities in the unit are linked to curriculum documents nationwide. A limited release (following a pilot program), to involve the first 45 interested teachers, is being organised in March 2005 for Term 2 (Tasmania) and Term 3 (other states). Please advise upper primary teachers who may be interested, that unit information and details about the limited release can be obtained from Susanna Greig - Ph: 02 6773 2809 or email susanna.greig@une.edu.au

GUIDING INDIGENOUS INVOLVEMENT IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Mr Greg Hunt, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage has announced new *Guidelines for Indigenous Participation in Natural Resource Management* to encourage Indigenous communities across Australia to get involved in regional natural resource management planning and activities. The publication was part of a two-year \$711,000 package under the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust. For more information and for a copy of the Guidelines visit <http://nrm.gov.au/indigenous/index.html>.

Funding



NEW AUSTRALIAN WATER FUND COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

As part of the Australian Government's \$2 billion Australian Water Fund, \$200 million will be available over the next 5 years for community grants of up to \$50,000 to save and protect water resources through practical on-ground work.

What sorts of projects will be funded?

It will be important that projects:

- are community orientated and have public benefits;
- involve practical on-ground works to save or protect water resources; and
- comply with relevant planning, health and environmental regulations and or guidelines.

Examples of projects that may be funded include:

Water savings/efficiency

- Projects that will improve the water efficiency of community buildings, such as schools.
- Improvements to town water supply infrastructure to reduce losses from evaporation or leakage.
- Capping disused or unnecessary bores that tap into groundwater.

Water reuse/recycling

- Using rainwater, greywater, treated effluent or stormwater to maintain community grounds and sporting fields.

Surface and Groundwater Health

- Projects that improve surface or groundwater health, such as erosion control, creek and riverbank repair, or cleaning up a local creek or wetland.
- Projects that reduce pollution in rivers, groundwater or coastal areas.

Demonstration projects provide actual examples of projects and organisations the Community Water Grants programme will support. These projects demonstrate how communities can make a big difference by employing simple but clever solutions to save water or improve the health of their local waterways.

Who will be eligible to apply?

Grant recipients may include community groups, schools, local government and non-government organisations.

How can I apply for a grant?

The programme guidelines and a communication campaign to launch the programme are currently being developed. Proposals for demonstration projects have been invited. The first open call for grant applications is expected in June 2005. Grants will be assessed on a nationally competitive basis.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Round 1 Guidelines and Application Form as soon as they become available, you can register your postal details via the [online registration form](#) at awfcp@deh.gov.au, or on free call 1800 780 730.

Further information will be made available on the Australian Government Natural Resource Management web site (www.nrm.gov.au) as it becomes available.

Community groups, schools, local government and non-government organisations can apply.

Funding Cont.

NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAM NLP COMMUNITY GRANTS

An early reminder the NLP community grants will be advertised in April 2005 and will close in May. Stay tuned to this newsletter for more information as it comes to hand.

THREATENED SPECIES NETWORK GRANTS

Another early reminder that the Threatened Species Network Grants will be available again this year. It is anticipated that they will be officially opened on April 1st, with applications closing 27th May.

The total amount of money a group can apply for this round has been increased to \$50 000. The TSN Grant criteria are relatively similar to those for Envirofund, except that weed management work on privately managed land is eligible if the work benefits a nationally threatened species.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any ideas, contact:
Jarrad Holmes
Threatened Species Network Coordinator - Northern Savannas
Level 1, 82 Smith St, Darwin
Tel: (08) 8941 7554

Email: jholmes@wwf.org.au

TOURISM AND CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE APPLICATIONS 2005/06

The Tourism and Conservation Initiative aims to boost nature-based tourism for the economic benefit of communities while increasing capacity to protect and conserve the environment for future generations. Expressions of Interest for the 2005 Tourism and Conservation Partnership Initiative are invited from private sector incorporated businesses, national/peak body tourism associations, regional organisations, and not-for-profit and indigenous organisations including catchment and landcare/NRM networks/groups. Information, including access to the guidelines, links to applications forms and frequently asked questions, can be accessed at www.industry.gov.au/TourismAndConservation

If you have questions about your eligibility or other requirements, please call Jacqui Jeffery Ph 02 6276 1861 or email jaclyn.jeffery@industry.gov.au OR Carrie Steffen Ph 02 6213 7029 or email carrie.steffen@industry.gov.au. The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 6th April 2005.

*Threatened Species
Network Grants open 1st
April 2005 and close
27th May 2005*

Courses/Events

HUNTER LOVINS BRINGS SUSTAINABILITY CONCEPTS TO ALICE SPRINGS

Friday April 1 - Saturday April 2

Hunter Lovins is a world-class speaker and thinker on the subject of sustainability. She is touring Australia's capital cities and typically draws audiences of 500-1500 people. The Arid Lands Environment Centre has organised for her to visit Alice Springs and deliver keynote speeches at several events aimed at distinct audiences. Hunter's message in Alice Springs will be generally on the theme of smart, profitable sustainability expressed in appropriate terms to each of the main audience groups in the events as proposed in the schedule below.

Friday 1st April - dinner at the Convention Centre: \$50pp + cash bar, on the theme of a Sustainable Future for Alice Springs. Limited places, book immediately. Ph: 8952 2497 or mailto:info@alec.org.au

Saturday 2nd April: Small Businessperson's Breakfast (sponsored by DBIRD), 0730-1000 at Campfire in the Heart. Free to first 50 RSVPs. Hosted by Glenn Marshall. RSVP to the Chamber of Commerce at 08 8952 4377.

Saturday 2nd April: Smart Living Fair. 1200-1430. Free Public Event at Witchetty's with Peter Toyne opening the show and keynote address by Hunter Lovins.

GAMBA GRASS, GLYPHOSATE AND LIFE - INFORMATION DAY

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, Thursday 28 April 2005, 9am - 3.30pm

Speakers from:

Charles Darwin /University, CSIRO
CRC tropical Savannas
Landcare
Greening Australia NT
NT Government Departments

plus representatives from the cattle industry and organic growers.

RSVP to 8976 0246, John or Chris no later than April 15.

DESIGN AND BUILD A GREEN HOUSE COMPETITION - WINNING HOUSE OPEN

The winners of the Design and Build a Green House Competition, Bennett Design and Overlander Homes, have completed construction of their house at **9 Darla Place, Rosebery, Palmerston**. The house will be open to the public from 10am - 4pm on Sat 2 April & Sun 3 April. The competition was run as part of the Year of the Built Environment 2004.

NORTH AUSTRALIAN REMOTE SENSING & GIS (NARGIS) CONFERENCE

4TH - 7TH JULY 2005

This conference is being held at Charles Darwin University's Casuarina Campus and is for all those interested in the spatial sciences as they apply to Northern Australia.

The conference aims to review what has gone before, discuss current research and applications, and to come up with a set of future directions for the spatial sciences in Northern Australia, allowing people to share ideas and understand the different applications.

If you are interested in attending, a registration form can be found at <http://www.nargis05.cdu.edu.au/>

Early Bird Registration closes *COB Friday 29th April 2005*

Courses/Events cont.

3rd ANNUAL GIS 2005, 16th & 17th MAY 2005, SWISSOTEL SYDNEY

The management of Australia's unique environment, agricultural and natural resources has always been challenging, and is made all the more so by the country's complicated geography and climate. Despite an abundance of useful data from a wide range of different sources, it has always been difficult to incorporate this information into a digestible and easily accessible format, in a way that clearly displays how each piece of information relates to another. In recent years however, this challenge has been made more achievable through the use of technology - especially, GIS technology - which helps make sense of chaotic mountains of disparate data, by placing the information in a spatial or temporal context.

Building on the success of previous years, GIS 2005 will focus on how the technology is being used to achieve unprecedented levels of efficiency, versatility and innovation in agricultural, environmental and natural resource management.

This conference will present valuable and timely information to allow delegates the opportunity to make contact with industry specialists. It is recommended for GIS Managers, Data Managers, IT Managers, Land Information Managers, Environmental Managers, GIS Information Managers, IT strategy & Project Managers, Mapping specialists, GIS Coordinators, Academics, GIS Developers, Business Information Managers and Surveyors.

To register contact Simon McCartney at Marcus Evans, (02) 9238 7200 or www.marcusevans.com.

NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT & LOCAL LIVELIHOODS SHORT COURSE AND PUBLIC SEMINARS

Short course on natural resource-based enterprise development delivered by Charles Darwin University and the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

A two day public seminar on May 17 & 18 will be included in the short course, with keynote presentations from visiting International experts and a forum for discussion and advice with regard to NRM ventures in the Northern Territory.

Date: 9 - 20 May 2005

Venue: Casuarina Campus, Charles Darwin University

Cost: \$700 (includes course materials, field trip)

Registration by: 31st March 2005

Register with: Patricia.Butler@cdu.edu.au,
(08) 8946-6574

Contact: Julian.Gorman@cdu.edu.au, (08) 8946-6732

Courses/Events cont.

Chemcert Courses 2005

DARWIN

April 28, 29/ May 26, 27/ June 23, 24/ July 28, 29/ Aug 25, 26/ Sept 29, 30/ Oct 27, 28/ Nov 24, 25
For bookings phone Tanya Paul 8946 6176 or Scott MacDonald 89467254

ALICE SPRINGS

Contact Kath Watson 8959 5268 for CDU course dates.

Environmental Events and Theme Weeks For 2005

Environmental events and theme weeks can be accessed at the DEH website www.deh.gov.au, click on environmental events calendar.



Websites & Other Newsletters

✚ NATIVE VEGETATION UPDATE, AUTUMN 2005/1

The 'Native Vegetation Update' is an occasional email bulletin from the Native Vegetation R&D Program individually distributed to editors and communicators. It aims to bring the latest news in native vegetation research to people working in policy, extension and on-ground management of native vegetation. TO RECEIVE THIS UPDATE: subscribe by phoning Julie Hinchliffe on 07 3277 0961 or email juliehinchliffe@bigpond.com.

Information on Science for managing native vegetation in Australian Landscapes, the Native Vegetation R&D Program managed by Land & Water Australia, can be accessed at www.lwa.gov.au/nativevegetation

✚ RURAL INDUSTRIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WEBSITE

Visit www.rirdc.gov.au

✚ AUSINDUSTRY

AusIndustry is the program delivery division of the Australian Government Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources. They deliver a range of 27 innovation grants, small business services, tax and duty concessions, industry support, and venture capital products to more than 10,000 businesses every year. To find out more

<http://ausindustry.insitec.com.au>

More Websites & Other Newsletters

✚ CSIRO SUSTAINABILITY NETWORK UPDATE

The latest CSIRO Sustainability Network Update - No 48 (520 KB) - is now available for downloading from www.bml.csiro.au/SNnewsletters.htm along with the previous 47 issues.

The updates include a range of articles relevant to Urban NRM, for example:

- An eco-home in an eco-village - the design features.
- The Hydrogen Economy - not just a matter of fuel replacement.
- An emerging trend for wastewater and sanitation.
- Children's quality of life in cities: Are we impoverishing tomorrow's leaders?
- Taking sustainability mainstream in the business world.
- Cradle to cradle for carpets and cities - sustainability in manufacturing and the built environment.
- Sustainability and the Building Code of Australia (BCA).
- The TravelSmart Household Program - reducing car trips.
- High or low density - how best to design human settlements?

✚ ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Environment News is a regular email update of news, events and publications from the Australian Government's Environment Portfolio.

<http://www.deh.gov.au/discussion-groups/environment-news/msg00099.html>

✚ LAL PULSE NEWSLETTER

Landcare Australia's Pulse newsletter is available on-line.

To subscribe - www.landcareaustralia.com.au/newsletter.asp

✚ GREENING AUSTRALIA EBULLETIN

eBulletin is a collated news and information service distributed fortnightly by Greening Australia as part of Exchange - the national vegetation knowledge service. To receive the eBulletin subscribe by emailing exchange@greeningaustralia.org.au or phone Haydn Burgess on 02 6281 8585

✚ GRANTSLINK

www.grantslink.gov.au/

✚ NETWORK NOTES AND NT NRM NEWSLETTERS

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

✚ MARINE AND COASTAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (MCCN)

Wetstuff is MCCN's weekly, electronic news service, providing marine and coastal news of international and national interest

http://www.mccn.org.au/weekly_media.php

✚ CENTRALIAN LAND MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (CLMA)

<http://www.clma.com.au/>

✚ NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN URBAN NRM NETWORK (URBNRM)

<http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/UrbNRM/>

Competitions & Awards

RIVERSYMPOSIUM 2005 AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE RIVERPRIZE



Information on the 8th International Rivers Symposium 6-9 September 2005 "Global Context" plus the International (\$150,000) and National (\$50,000) Thies Riverprize is now available. Nominations for the Riverprize close on 15 April, 2005.

For more information visit:

www.riverfestival.com.au/2005/content/standard_sym.asp?name=RiverSymposium



VEGETATION OF THE ALICE SPRINGS MUNICIPALITY

Greening Australia NT and DIPE have recently released a detailed report and accompanying map of the plant species and vegetation types found within the Alice Springs municipality.

The Vegetation and Plant Species of the Alice Springs Municipality, Northern Territory, Albrecht, D. and Pitts, B. (2004), Greening Australia NT and DIPE Alice Springs

Vegetation map of the Alice Springs municipality Albrecht, D., Pitts, B. and Briggs, N. (2004), Greening Australia NT and DIPE Alice Springs

The report reveals the rich botanical diversity of the Alice Springs municipality, comparable that of Watarrka and the West MacDonnell National Park, with 27 distinct vegetation types and about 800 species of plants identified in the 310km² municipal area.

This report is intended for use by all land managers, public and private, in the hope that greater botanical knowledge will foster better land management practices and long term conservation of floristic diversity in the municipality.

The report and map can be purchased from Greening Australia NT, Alice Springs office, Leichhardt Tce, (8953 2882) for \$50.



Books, Reports & Journals

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.ipe.nt.gov.au/whatwedo>

[/landcare/newsletters/index.html](http://www.ipe.nt.gov.au/landcare/newsletters/index.html)

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Newsletter Roster

Newsletter Publication Date	Editor	Submissions to editor by:
8 April	Madonna Mackay	5 April
22 April	Kath Nash	19 April
6 May	Michelle Rodrigo	3 May
20 May	Madonna Mackay	17 May
3 June	Kath Nash	31 May

