



Network Notes

Fortnightly newsletter for the Natural Resource Management (NRM) network

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts

2 September 2005

Special Interest Articles

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From the Chairman... Landcare Council of the NT

Closing Date for all NHT/NAP Investment Proposals Extended

The Landcare Council of the NT has extended the closing date for all NHT/NAP Investment Proposals to Thursday November the 10th. The closure of investment proposals for first round project briefs has been extended by two months following public comment that the application period was too short. The majority of project briefs will be released progressively between September the 7th and October the 10th. There will be five weeks between the release of the last project brief and the closing date of November the 10th.

Anyone interested in a particular project and looking to lodge a grant application can contact the Regional facilitators in Darwin (8999 3493), Katherine: (8973 8106) and Alice Springs (8951 9255).

Project briefs will be posted on the website as they become available at www.ipe.nt.gov.au/whatwedo/inrm/investmentstrategy/round1/index.htm. Applicants will be notified of the result of their proposal(s) by December 16.



2005 NT Landcare Award Winners

Congratulations to the 2005 NT Landcare Award Winners.

[2005 NT Landcare Award Winners](#)

(Winners & Details will be posted on the web soon)

Murray Darling Basin Commission Rivercare Award – Combined group of Katherine Catchment Landcare Group, Katherine Town Council and Greening Australia for their efforts at Katherine Hot Springs.

Australian Government Bushcare Nature Conservation Award – Tiwi Land Council – Cane Toad Action Plan

Alcan Landcare Indigenous Community Award – Wagiman-Guwardagen Rangers

Westpac Landcare Education Award – Year 7, St Josephs College, Katherine

Australian Government Coastcare Community Award – Pularumpi School, Melville Island.

Rural Press Landcare Primary Producer Award – Dick and Ann Cadzow, Mount Riddock Station

Alcoa Landcare Community Group Award – Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association

National Landcare Program Individual Landcarer Award – Mr Bruce Garnett, Coomalie Landcare Group

Jim Forwood

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Katherine Catchment Landcare Group Update

Katherine Catchment Landcare Group is now holding regular meetings on the **first Monday of every month**.

Time: 5:00pm
Dates: 5th Sept, 3rd October, 7th November, 5th December and so on.....
Venue: Katherine Catchment Landcare Group office (near the Greening Australia office), Katherine Training Centre, 19 Second Street, Katherine.

Please contact [Madonna Mackay \(8973 8106\)](tel:89738106) or [John ETTY \(8975 4935\)](tel:89754935) if you have any queries regarding this.

EnvironmentNT Grants awarded

The recipients for the second round NT Government's EnvironmentNT Grants have been announced for 2005-06. NT Government's EnvironmentNT Grants will see \$460 000 awarded to Territorians for various community environment projects.

In the operational grants component of this Round of EnvironmentNT Grants, \$190,000 will be provided to support the operations of Territory environment groups such as Keep Australia Beautiful, Environment Centre, Arid Lands Environment Centre and the Environment Defenders Office NT.

NT Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Marion Scrymgour MLA said, "These are groups that work hard to raise community awareness of environmental issues and encourage community action to fix problems"

Funding has also been granted for 25 individual environmental projects this year. Some examples of individual environmental projects funded in this round of EnvironmentNT funding include:

- \$10 000 to the Local Government Association to conduct a gamba grass publicity campaign;
- \$26 000 to Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association to eradicate feral goats on West Island;
- \$20 000 to the Motor Traders Association to assist their GreenStamp program which will help mechanic workshops to put in place better environmental practices and recognise their achievements.

For information about EnvironmentNT Grants or on how to acquire a successful project list please contact: Sharman Lewis, EnvironmentNT Grants Project Officer, Office of Environment & Heritage, Phone: 8924 4525 or email: sharman.lewis@nt.gov.au

Community Grants

General News

The Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk, 7th September Alice Springs Telegraph Station

Alice Springs residents have the opportunity on Wednesday the 7th September to take part in the Night Stalk at the Telegraph Station. The Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk is a nationwide survey designed to raise community awareness of marsupials, their ecology and major threats to their survival. The surveys are undertaken by members of the public who spend an evening conducting a 'spotlight' survey of marsupials and feral animals in their local area. Parks and Wildlife Service's Community Education's, Senior Ranger, Emily Findlay, encouraged residents to get involved in the Night Stalk.

"Apart from having a great night out, participants learn about their local wildlife, including which species are present and where they are likely to be found," Ms Findlay said.

The Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk is an important initiative, documenting the state of marsupial fauna and the prevalence of introduced pest species across all land tenures. In 2004, over 140 surveys took place within the allotted six week period and surveys were held in all states of Australia, with 1,741 spot-lighters surveying 683km of track. Night Stalkers across Australia recorded 27 different marsupial species or subspecies and 11 introduced species. Representatives from a diverse range of groups including schools, scouts, guides, environmental groups, mining companies and the general community clocked up 2,570 hours of spotlighting fun.

The results of the 2004 Night Stalk were collated by Perth Zoo according to the habitat zone of Australia in which each survey occurred. Each zone was checked for sightings of threatened and feral species.

Bookings for the Alice Springs Night Stalk activity are **essential** and **numbers are limited**.

For more information or to make a booking call Emily Findlay on 8951 8247

Gamba Grass Management in Coomalie Shire

Coomalie Community Government Council is reintroducing cattle grazing to unmanaged lands in an effort to slow the spread of Gamba Grass. Bruce Garnett, Land Care Coordinator, said intensive grazing on small blocks, combined with flattening of the grass will create mulch and keep soil temperatures down as well as reduce the impact of Gamba Grass. The Coomalie Community Government Council will be holding a Gamba Grass Information Day on October 15 at the Bachelor General Store. About two-thirds of Coomalie Shire is currently infected with Gamba Grass.



Box Jellyfish Take a Siesta (Northern Australia)

Source: www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/s1444257.htm 24 August 2005



Box jellyfish or *Chironex fleckeri* nap in the afternoon, according to Australian research. Marine biologist and PhD student Matthew Gordon says scientists at James Cook University in Cairns have found that the animals are extremely active most of the day. But in the afternoon they "tilt their bodies down and rest on the bottom of the sea with their tentacles spread out".

As part of a three-year study that could help to manage the country's northern coastline, the university's Tropical Australian Stinger Research Centre has been tracking the movements of box jellyfish using ultrasound tags, for 24 hours at a time. Gordon says researchers don't know much about the animals' movements. But the centre has tracked one in particular that swam up and down 5 kilometres of the coast, for around 20 hours continuously. It was also thought that box jellyfish swim up creeks towards the end of the season to reproduce, but there was no concrete evidence of this until late April when one jellyfish was followed up an estuary.

The centre plans to build a computer model to identify their movements, and this information would then be used to warn councils, lifesavers and beach-goers. This could also help plan resorts and tourist attractions, and even where jet skis are located. "The aim is to make the coastline safer," Gordon says. "[Box jellyfish are] part of the ecosystem. I'd like to develop a way to live with them." Gordon, who presented his information at the recent Fresh Science forum in Melbourne, says his team plans to submit the research for publication.

Courses/Events

2005 NT Threatened Species Art and Photography Exhibition NT, 7th September 2005 (National Threatened Species Day), Darwin Entertainment Centre Gallery, 6pm - 7:30pm

Official opening and winners of exhibition announced at 6:30pm by the NT Minister for Environment and Heritage, Ms Marion Scrymgour followed by a guest speaker from FrogWatch North.

The exhibition will be on display between 12- 5pm until Saturday the 10th September. Central Australian entries (and a selection of winning art works) will be on display at the Alice Springs Library, 16-30th September.

For more information contact Jarrad Holmes, Threatened Species Network, Northern Savannas Coordinator, jholmes@wwf.org.au or 08 8941 7554

Rangeland Biology and Ecology Seminars, Alice Springs

September 7 at 5.00pm. CAT Display Room, Priest St, Paul Heaton, Manager Water Facilities, Power and Water Corporation, Darwin, Experiences from the field: Water and sanitation relief work in post- tsunami Sri Lanka.

Paul Heaton is Manager Water Facilities with the Power and Water Corporation and Program Leader for the CRCWQT Rural and Remote Water Supplies Program. In March this year he spent six weeks in Jaffna, Sri Lanka as a District Water and Sanitation Engineer assisting World Vision in post-tsunami assessment and reconstruction work. Paul will share his experiences of relief work and the challenges of water and sanitation reconstruction work post-tsunami.

Enquiries: please contact Nerida Beard nerida.beard@icat.org.au, 08 8951 4340.

September 9 at 3.30pm. CSIRO Conference Room, Vanessa Chewings, CSIRO, Alice Springs, DesertNet - Development of a Central Australian Information Hub.

The Desert Knowledge CRC is in the early stages of scoping the development of a framework which would provide a one-stop shop for stakeholders and the public to access information on desert Australia. To scope the DesertNet framework, potential users such as community groups and agencies are being asked to identify the kind of information they require to make informed decisions and how they would like to view this information, e.g. mapping of soils, water quality, vegetation, fires, landuse, settlements, socio-economic information, development plans, etc.

Mid September (date TBA) Grant McTainsh, Griffith Uni. Wind erosion, dust and rainfall in central Australia.



SPEAKERS and PARTICIPANTS NEEDED:

Volunteer speakers, requests for email notification: contact
Bill Low, Coordinator,
 PO Box 3130, Alice Springs; Phone/Fax 89 555 222, Fax 89 555 722; Email:
LowEcol@LowEcol.com.au

Organisational and distributional assistance from CSIRO, DIPE, DBIRD.

****Please provide me with your email address if you wish to receive individual notices.****

If you wish to have your name removed from the list, let me know: LowEcol@LowEcol.com.au.

Seminar notices are available on: www.cse.csiro.au/news/seminars.htm

Desert Garden Fair, Olive Pink Botanical Gardens, Alice Springs 10th September 2005, 8.30-12 noon

The Desert Garden Fair is an opportunity to stock up with locally grown, low water using (drought tolerant), locally endemic plants for your garden. For more information on plant availability call Simon Leadbeater at Greening Australia, Alice Springs on 8953 2882.



Gamba Grass Information Day, Bachelor General Store, Batchelor 15 October 2005

For more information call The Coomalie Community Government Council on 89760058.

Queensland Conservation Conference: The Great Barrier Reef: 30 years of Management and Future Challenges 15-17 September 2005, Townsville

The 2005 Queensland Annual State Conservation Conference will provide delegates a valuable opportunity to meet and talk about big picture issues facing the Great Barrier Reef in order to be ready for the following decades of management. The overall purpose of the conference is to promote open discussion on topics related to The Great Barrier Reef among conservation NGOs, researchers, industry representatives, natural resource managers, government departments and the general public.

Please don't hesitate to contact Aurélie if you have any further enquiries at conference@nqcc.org.au or 07 4771 6226.

WA State Natural Resource Management Conference, 'Sustainability Side by Side', Denmark, WA, 4-6th October 2005

For more information contact Debbie Rice on 0427 481 812 or debbier@denmarkwa.net.au OR Monica Durcan on 0418 934 870 or mdurcan@iinet.net.au.

National Landcare Program Innovation Grants

The 2005-06 Round of Natural Resource Innovation Grants from the National Landcare Program opened on August the 24th. The Natural Resource Innovation Grants are one-off grants to encourage people engaged in farming, food, aquaculture and forest industries to contribute to sustainable production by developing and/or adopting and promoting innovative practices, production techniques, technologies and products. New and innovative water-related activities are also encouraged.

Some examples of issues for which innovative land management practices could be implemented include:

- Restoration of productive capacity (e.g. identification of cost-effective and practical methods of enhancing soil function to improve productivity);
- Cultivation practices (e.g. demonstration of advantages of precision agriculture technologies in lower rainfall farming systems);
- Water quality (e.g. use of artificial wetlands to act as sediment and nutrient traps for water emissions from production nurseries or water-intensive industries);
- Management of organic waste (e.g. demonstration of a sustainable organic management system in horticulture);
- Salinity (e.g. cultivation of marketable seaweed in saline water evaporation basins).

The closing date for applications is the 7th of October. Further information including guidelines and application forms can be accessed at www.landcare.gov.au/nlpinnovations or call 1800 657 220.

A complete list of the projects approved in 2003-04 and 2004-05 may be found at www.landcare.gov.au/nlpinnovations

Recreational Fishing Community Grants Program - Round 1

The Australian Governments Recreational Fishing and Community Grants Program aims to maintain and enhance fish habitat through the encouragement of sustainable resource use and fishing practices by recreational anglers. Applications for Round 1 close on the 14th October 2005. Information including guidelines and application forms can be accessed at www.daff.gov.au/recfishinggrants



River research reports 2004 CD

Land and Water Australia now has available a new CD with all the publications including RipRap newsletters, Riparian Technical Guidelines Updates, Fact Sheets and Research Reports with an easy to use index. The free CD and other free Fact Sheets and CDs on river management, including the 'Dairy Farmers Going With the Flow Oral History' CD, are available from CanPrint Communications Ph 1800 776 616 and also can be accessed at www.rivers.gov.au

Northern Grasslands: An Educational Resource Kit for Primary and Junior Secondary Teachers, Greening Australia NT.

Greening Australia NT has launched a fantastic new education kit: "Northern Grasslands: an Educational Resource Kit for Primary and Junior Secondary". Funded by the Ian Potter foundation, the kit has strong links with the NT curriculum that make it easy for teachers to use. It provides activities for students to explore different types of grasses and grasslands in Northern Australia. Case studies focussing on the Gouldian Finch, Indigenous Fire Management, Termites and the Pastoral Industry provide opportunities for students to further investigate the uses of our native grasses.

The kit comes in an easy to use A4 ring binder and includes the CD's: "Grasses of the Northern Rangeland" and "Northern Grassy Landscapes Conference" and a poster: "Grasses... Northern Australia" or "Grasses take a closer look".

The first 100 kits will be given to schools for free. After this, kits can then be purchased for \$25 each. For more information on how to purchase a kit contact Liza Schenkel on 8981 1344 or liza.schenkel@nt.greeningaustralia.org.au

New Guides to Salinity Mapping Available

Community landcare groups, regional authorities and government agencies will benefit from new guides published by the Australian Government that help decide how to map, predict and monitor salinity in the Australian landscape. The two new publications and a CD-ROM offer a break-through in salinity mapping by comparing 26 satellite, airborne and ground mapping techniques. The guides were compiled after the Australian Academy of Science and Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering reviewed submissions from 36 organisations and individuals totalling 3000 pages. The reports are available at www.nrm.gov.au/publications/salinity-mapping.



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Newsletter Roster

Newsletter Publication Date	Editor	Submissions to editor by:
16 September	Kath Nash	14 September
16 September	Kath Nash	14 September
30 September	Madonna Mackay	28 September
14 October	Michelle Rodrigo	12 October
28 October	No Network Notes NRM Facilitators in Canberra	NA
4 November	Kath Nash	2 November
18 November	Madonna Mackay	16 November
2 December	Michelle Rodrigo	30 November
16 December	Kath Nash	14 December
30 December	No Network Notes - Christmas fortnight	NA



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.