



# Network Notes

Fortnightly newsletter for the Natural Resource Management (NRM) network

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment

8 July 2005

## Special Interest Articles

- *Central Australian Water Information Day*
- *Community Water Grants*
- *Cultural Awareness and Engagement Training at Pine Creek hosted by Wagiman Aboriginal Corporation*



### *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 below.

1. Sustainable management of wetlands and waterways
2. Sustainable management of water supply and wastewater
3. Developing good governance of water resources

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.rodriigo@nt.gov.au](mailto:michelle.rodriigo@nt.gov.au) or [felicity.forth@nt.gov.au](mailto:felicity.forth@nt.gov.au). Numbers are required for catering.

### *Industry Workshop: Environmental Management Systems, Darwin*

**10am - 4pm - 12<sup>th</sup> July 2005**

Seafood Services Australia is hosting a free workshop for seafood industry members on how to develop an EMS (Environmental Management System).

This workshop has been designed to assist participants to decide on the appropriate Environmental Management System for their organization. Industry enthusiasts /leaders will be present at the workshop to share their knowledge and experiences of the EMS process.

Further Information: Mr Adam Knapp, Seafood Services Australia, (07) 3633 6777, 0438 336 715



## *Getting agency NRM data to on-ground managers - a Central Australian experience.*

In order to make sustainable use of natural resources, you need to be able to measure and monitor those resources. One of the goals of the Central Australian pastoral industry Environmental Management Systems pilot project has been to determine what NRM data are available within government agencies and how they can be provided to land managers in relevant formats. Dionne Walsh has summarised a process for doing this, including the costs to the agencies of providing the information. The report might be of use to agencies, landcare groups and individuals seeking to understand the costs and processes involved in accessing government NRM data for land managers. For a copy of the report, email Dionne at [ems@clma.com.au](mailto:ems@clma.com.au) or call the CLMA on 8953 4230.

## *2003-04 NAP/NHT Regional Programs report*

The 2003-04 NAP/NHT Regional Programs report can be accessed at [www.nrm.gov.au/publications/regional-report/03-04/](http://www.nrm.gov.au/publications/regional-report/03-04/)

## *LandLearn - environmental education in schools website for teachers*

*LandLearn* is a website developed in Victoria to support teachers in environmental education. The site includes information on resources, teacher support & PD, fieldwork and a newsletter. The web address is <http://landlearn.netc.net.au>

## *Environmental publications website*

A variety of publications, fact sheets and more can be accessed on a vast range of topics at the Ordering Department of the Environment and Heritage publications website [www.deh.gov.au/about/publications/list.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/about/publications/list.html)

## *New Exploration Tool could Save Mining Industry Millions*

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200506/s1388197.htm>

A team of scientists at the CSIRO has developed a new tool to take the guess work out of finding oil and gas deposits. Researchers have found by combining several different geological techniques they can predict where pools of oil and gas are trapped beneath the ocean floor. Project leader Doctor Anthony Gartrell says the tool could save oil and gas companies hundreds of millions of dollars spent on exploration.

Dr Gartrell says of the 64 Timor Sea prospects scientists have investigated with the tool, they would have advised oil and gas companies against drilling 42 of them. "Based on an average of about \$10 million per well that could have saved companies around \$400 million in wasted exploration money," he said.

Dr Gartrell says the tool is taking the guess work out of finding deposits. "In some places you've had fault movements that have caused oil and gas to leak out to the surface," Dr Gartrell said. "The explorers come along and look at these structures but you drill a hole in them and they contain no oil and gas so you've wasted potentially tens of millions of dollars."

## *More Funds Sought to Fight 'Ghost' Nets*

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200506/s1399536.htm>

There has been a call for more funding to combat problems caused by discarded fishing nets in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Meetings have been held this week to discuss the Carpentaria "ghost nets" program, which aims to find ways to stop environmental damage caused by the nets drifting with the tides. Coordinator Ricki Gunn says they are still a huge problem in the region. "Well, each of the communities have written their own work plans, so they sort of have it worked out, they have sat down with the project officers and said, 'okay, we can clean up this bit of country first because we can get there, but to get to over here...it's going to be a bit harder', so, yes, they have worked out their own strategies," he said.

## *Territory greenhouse gas study*

A Darwin-based research centre has been given \$400,000 to study the greenhouse gas impact of northern Australia's bushfires. It is estimated the fires release the greenhouse equivalent of more than six million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year in the NT alone. DR Jeremy Russel-Smith of the Bush Fires Council of Australia talks about a new study on greenhouse gases due to bushfires in the NT. Russel-Smith talks about the study. There are more grass fires in the NT than any other state. Russel-Smith also talks about the burning off by Aboriginal communities.

Professor Gordon Duff, Tropical Savannas CRC, discusses his research into better ways to manage fire. Duff states that they are looking at the effect of fires on green house gas emissions. Gastin questions how fires effect the air quality. Duff explains the different reasons why fires are lit at this time of year. Gastin asks how we can better manage fire, specifically in relation to the creation of fire breaks. Duff states that Gamba grass is still a large concern for it contributes to hot and destructive fires.

## *Hunt is on for Siam weed*

A major national survey of one of the world's most invasive tropical weeds is set to start with nationwide backing. The Department of Natural Resources and Mines (NR&M), with the support of other state governments and the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, will coordinate a new pest plant survey to establish the full extent of Siam weed (*Chromolaena odorata*) within Australia.

Siam weed infestations are currently known to exist in the Tully, Townsville and Thuringowa areas of north Queensland. At present these infestations are being controlled with an aim to eradication.

Survey coordinator, NR&M Principal Project Officer, Frank Fox, said Siam weed had the potential to spread into northern New South Wales up the entire Queensland coast through Cape York, across to the Northern Territory, north west of Western Australia and down along most of the west coast of Australia.

If you think you have Siam weed on your property or suspect you have seen it in any location, please report by calling toll free **1800 084 881** or report on line at

[www.weeds.org.au](http://www.weeds.org.au)

Further identification materials can be viewed online at [www.nrm.qld.gov.au/pests](http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/pests) and [www.weeds.org.au](http://www.weeds.org.au)

## *Rangeland Biology and Ecology Seminars*

### Principles of animal behaviour in grazing management

July 19, Tuesday, 3.30pm. CSIRO Conference Room.

**Dr Fred Provenza**, Department of Forest, Range & Wildlife Sciences,  
Utah State University, USA.

(Fred is also running a workshop at AZRI on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 4. Contact Dionne Walsh or Marg Friedel for info.)

### Biodiversity Consequences of Buffel Grass; Long-term Evidence from Central Australia.

July 22, Friday, 3.30pm. CSIRO Conference Room.

**Peter Clarke, Peter Latz, Dave Albrecht.**

**UNE, Armidale, and P&W, Alice Springs**

30 yrs of monitoring biodiversity and Buffel Grass at Simpsons Gap.

#### Coming Seminars Opportunities available.

Aug 17<sup>th</sup> Wed. Prof Eudald Carbonell and Prof Carlos Diez. Atapuerca: 1 million years of human technology. (Any archaeologists in Alice Springs interested in meeting these people contact Jocelyn Davies, CSIRO)

Aug 19<sup>th</sup>. Prof Bego Pego, effects of livestock removal on grassland dynamics.

Sept. mid (date to be set) 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, P.O.Box 3130, Alice Springs; Phone/Fax 89 555 222, Fax 89 555 722; Email: [LowEcol@LowEcol.com.au](mailto: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](mailto:LowEcol@LowEcol.com.au).

**Seminar notices are available on:** <http://www.cse.csiro.au/news/seminars.htm>

## *'Diversity and Innovation' - 4th National Environmental Management Systems (EMS) in Agriculture Conference*

The 4th National EMS Conference will be held from 17 to 20 October 2005 at LaTrobe University, Beechworth, Victoria. The theme for this year's conference is "DIVERSITY AND INNOVATION".

To view the conference registration brochure and to register on-line go to the conference web site at [www.cdesign.com.au/ems2005](http://www.cdesign.com.au/ems2005) or contact Eloise Seymour (Conference Convenor) at DPI Rutherglen (ph. 02 6030 4577) email: [eloise.seymour@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:eloise.seymour@dpi.vic.gov.au)

## *Principles of animal behaviour in grazing management - FREE Workshop*

*(by Dr Fred Provenza, Dept of Forest, Range & Wildlife Sciences, Utah State University, USA.)*

**Wednesday July 20, 2005, 9am to 4pm, AZRI Conference Room - LUNCH IS PROVIDED!**

Topics to be covered in the workshop:

- Causes of dietary preference, influences on food and habitat selection and implications for dispersing grazing across landscapes
- Palatability, the roles of nutrients and toxins, and implication for supplementation and poisonous plants
- The importance of dietary variety, interactions among nutrients and toxins, and implications for managing animals on rangelands.

To register for the workshop:

Dionne Walsh - CLMA 8953 4230

Email: [ems@clma.com.au](mailto:ems@clma.com.au)

More information can be found on <http://www.behave.net>

## *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"

**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*

**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.

**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](mailto:savannas@wwf.org.au) or in Alice Springs on (08) 89521541, [rangelands@wwf.org.au](mailto:rangelands@wwf.org.au)

## *National Young Farmers Forum*

Nominations are open for young farmers aged between 18-35 who are interested in discussing opportunities in agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries. Further information and registration forms can be accessed at [www.yarn.gov.au](http://www.yarn.gov.au) Ph 02 8204 3856 or email [Young\\_Farmers\\_Forum@coxinall.com.au](mailto:Young_Farmers_Forum@coxinall.com.au)

## *National Asparagus Weeds Management Workshop*

November 10 and 11, 2005, Adelaide.

Download a copy of the flyer from :

<http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/bridalcreeper/>.

## *Calling all Sustainable Houses....*

- Do you own or know someone that owns a sustainably designed house?
- Is your home designed by a 'sustainable' architect or building designer?
- Does your house feature, solar passive design features such as, good shading, winter solar access, thermal mass, insulation and/or appropriate glazing?
- Or does your home feature active solar features such as, solar hot water or general solar technology features?

**If you answered yes to any of the following, you and your home are eligible to participate in Solar House Day 2005. ([www.solarhouseday.com](http://www.solarhouseday.com))**

General enquiries and application forms can be obtained by contacting Solar House Day's national coordinator Julien Lacave on 0431 658 969 or [julien@anzses.org](mailto:julien@anzses.org)

## **General News**

### *Northern Territory Waste Oil Project*

"The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory is pleased to announce that a grant of \$619,000 from the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage under its Product Stewardship Arrangements for Waste Oil will enable the Association to increase industry and community awareness and commitment to appropriately recycling and or re-using waste oil," Alderman Kerry Moir said.

"Waste oil can cause significant environmental damage if it is not properly collected and recycled or reused. One litre of oil has the potential to contaminate one million litres of water. The quality of under ground water in remote communities, most of which are dependant on bore water, is critical to the health of that community," said Alderman Moir.

"The program should bring to an end the bad practices of the past where waste oil has been dumped in land fill, used as a dust suppressant on roads and to kill unwanted vegetation on areas such as around airport runway markers. This project will promote and support environmentally friendly alternatives to these practices," said Alderman Moir.

**LGANT President Alderman Kerry Moir    0419 303 378**

**Manager Infrastructure Peter McLinden**

**8936 2891**

**0417 839 052**

## *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.

Dave Munday  
Australian Government  
NRM Landcare Facilitator Northern Territory  
Department Infrastructure, Planning and Environment  
PO BOX 529 Palmerston NT 0831  
P 08 89994573 f 08 89994445  
mobile 0401 110136

## *ToP™ Facilitative Leadership Module #1 - August 4 and 5th 2005 - Sydney*

The ToP™ (Technology of Participation™) Facilitative Leadership Program will develop the capacity of those whose role includes facilitative leadership, and leading effective outcome focussed participatory processes with industry, community or government groups.

The program is delivered by facilitators who are members of the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) Australia. In the 1980s the ICA developed models for providing training and consultancy in methods and perspectives of participatory change. These processes have been implemented successfully world-wide as Technology of Participation™ Programs.

Info: Tom Schwarz ph. (02) 9363 4963 ;mob. 0414 375 049;  
email: [tom.schwarz@kinnogene.com](mailto:tom.schwarz@kinnogene.com)

## *Professional Development for 'Change Agents'*

**July - Sept 2005**

### Change Facilitation & Leadership

- Change Facilitation 101 Dynamic Meetings
- Change Facilitation 102 Dynamic Strategy
- Change Facilitation 103 - Open Space Technology
- Change Leadership 101 Leadership in Action

**Contact:** Greg Jenkins P: 02 9874 0418 M: 0418 486 501 [greg@tincanlearning.com](mailto:greg@tincanlearning.com)  
[http://www.tincanlearning.com/TinCAN\\_Learnina.htm](http://www.tincanlearning.com/TinCAN_Learnina.htm)

## Community Water Grants

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
- Improve surface and groundwater health

### How can I apply for a grant?

Visit [www.communitywatergrants.gov.au](http://www.communitywatergrants.gov.au) to get a copy of the application form and guidelines. Applications close on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

### 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.

## National Feral Animal Control Program

Details on currently funded NFACP projects can be accessed at the Bureau of Rural Sciences website [www.brs.gov.au/feral](http://www.brs.gov.au/feral) or contact Quentin Hart, NFCAP Project Manager, on 0427 778 868.

## Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme

The Australian Government Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme (RFCG programme) is scheduled to commence early in 2005-06 with a call for funding proposals.

Examples of projects for which grants could be available include:

- improvements at boat ramps
- funding for volunteer marine rescue associations to provide safety for anglers
- re-stocking programmes
- re-snagging rivers and waterways to provide fish habitats
- interpretive signage
- fish-cleaning stations and boat wash-down facilities
- improvements for enhanced local boating safety measures
- youth recreational fishing camps.

Details of the RFCG programme, such as eligibility criteria and application forms, have not been finalised and consequently are not yet available.

Guidelines will be released shortly and those interested can register to receive them by emailing [fisheries@daff.gov.au](mailto:fisheries@daff.gov.au)

## *LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT Study Assistance Program*

### 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:

[Newsletters](#)

## Regional NRM Facilitators

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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.