



# Network Notes

Fortnightly newsletter for the Natural Resource Management (NRM) network

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts

17 January 2006

## Special Interest Articles

- *Update from the NRMB Chairman - Page 1*
- *NLP projects announced - Page 2*



### Update from the Chairman of the NRM Board

I'd like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe 2006. I hope you have all had the chance to relax and enjoy time with family and friends over the holiday season.

I'd also like to thank you for the hard work you have put in over the past year. This has been a new and difficult process for all of us and we are hopeful that 2006 will run more smoothly now that we have an INRM Plan, an Investment Strategy and have processed the first round of funding.

The NRM Board met in mid-December to decide on funding on the basis of NHT applications received. Most of the applications were excellent and it is unfortunate that there are insufficient funds at the moment to get more of these great projects going. Many of the 134 applications received were from community groups or community partnerships. An initial group of 21 successful projects have been announced and contracts are being drawn up for those this week. For more information go to [www.nt.gov.au/nreta/naturalresources/plans/media/pdf/nrmb\\_media\\_release.pdf](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/naturalresources/plans/media/pdf/nrmb_media_release.pdf)

Our staff are sorting out the fine detail of the remaining funding decisions and will be contacting other successful and unsuccessful proponents as soon as possible in the next few weeks. In the remaining successful cases the Board has made recommendations that they would like to discuss with proponents on an individual basis. Our funding decisions then need to be formally ratified by the Australian Government / NT Government Joint Steering Committee (JSC) before funds are committed and contracts written.

Thank you for all working so hard to make sure your communities and groups proposed solid, working projects in your NHT2 applications. The current NHT2 process has seen major changes in the way that projects including facilitators are funded. It's great to see that this has been successfully embraced by the NRM community with existing facilitators being funded through projects. As we recently announced in the media the jobs of all existing facilitators are therefore secure under the current project funding.

The NRM board will be meeting regularly with the next meeting in early February. Amongst our key strategic issues in the next few months are:

- finalising any outstanding issues from the recent funding round
- reviewing the recent report on the existing facilitator network
- reviewing the past year and improving the process and the system where we can, and
- planning how to best focus our limited resources and funds in the coming year.

Sue van-Cuylenburg

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# NLP Funding

## National Landcare Program (NLP)

Well Done! to all those who were successful with gaining a NLP grant, the successful applicants include:

**Best practice for sustainable land use in the Northern Territory (\$119 565)**  
Contact: Tracey Leo, Northern Territory Horticultural Association (08) 8983 3233

**Development and implementation of integrated weed management planning processes for the pastoral industry, Top End Floodplains (\$200 000)**  
Contact: Stuart Kenny, Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association (08) 8981 5976

**Adaptive management of ecologically sustainable development in the Douglas-Daly region (\$210 000)**  
Contact: Stuart Kenny, Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association (08) 8981 5976

**Creating small-scale enterprises based upon the utilisation of wildlife to achieve employment and natural resource management outcomes (\$123 800)**  
Contact: Sean Kerins, Northern Land Council (08) 8920 5186

**Improved community awareness of biodiversity through the creation of a flora field guide of the Barkly region (\$10 450)**  
Contact: Colleen Westover, Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association (08) 8962 4479

**Grazing land management (\$124 500)**  
Contact: Stuart Kenny, Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association (08) 8981 5976

**Best practice erosion control in the Roper Catchment (\$44 000)**  
Contact: Ian Rowbottom, Roper River Landcare Group (08) 8971 1775

**NRM Links: Linking people, knowledge and action in NRM (\$53 500)**  
Contact: Ian Rowbottom, Roper River Landcare Group (08) 8971 1775

**Healthy, diverse and productive grasslands in the Semi-arid Tropics of the Northern Territory (\$118 450)**  
Contact: Mike Clark, Greening Australia NT, (08) 8981 1344

**Vegetation management training resources for remote Aboriginal communities (\$40 000)**  
Contact: Lesley Alford, Greening Australia NT, (08) 8981 1344

**Land & learning resources extension (\$57 000)**  
Contact: Meg Mooney, Tangentyere Council, (08) 8953 3120

**Sustainable development of the Wagiman cattle and plant harvesting businesses (\$144 000)**  
Contact: Melissa Bentivoglio, Pine Creek Aboriginal Advancement Association, (08) 8976 1292

**Production of education media for erosion prevention, control and rehabilitation (\$37 316)**  
Contact: Chrissy Joll, Victoria River District Conservation Association, (08) 8971 0368

For more information go to:

[www.daff.gov.au/content/output.cfm?ObjectID=94998953-288A-4D93-846833FD62EECC30](http://www.daff.gov.au/content/output.cfm?ObjectID=94998953-288A-4D93-846833FD62EECC30)

## On Ground ☺ Natural Resource Management (NRM) in Action

### COASTCARE - Board and Chain at Picnic Beach, Umbakumba - Groote Eylandt, Northern Territory.

In August this year I had the great pleasure of assisting Andy Lauder – Coastcare to oversee the stabilising of a dune road with board and chain on the road to picnic beach at Umbakumba.

Phillip Mamarika one of Rangers living at Umbakumba was instrumental in getting the project off the ground. He had observed the increased use of the road and was keen to see something done to try and stabilise the dunes.

Coastcare made an assessment of the area early in 2005 and an Envirofund application was prepared by the Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC), the ALC received the Envirofund grant to assist with the implementation of the project in April 2005, the project is also jointly funded by the, Umbakumba Council, Angurugu Community Government Council, GEMCO and the ALC

There are 7 Rangers who work with the Anindilyakwa Land Council, five are based at the ALC office in Alyangula, and there is one Ranger at both Umbakumba and Milyakburra on Bickerton Island. Simon Hartley has been coordinating the group since May 2005, and the team face many and varied challenges on a day-to-day basis.



Andy Lauder – Coastcare, yarning to Phillip and Simeon about the proposed project

Their current list of projects include; community liaison and education, threatened species surveys, feral animal control, weed control, marine debris and ghost net cleanups, routine patrols to check for illegal trespassers and alcohol use and the dune rehabilitation work being discussed here.

The board and chain track was constructed using star pickets as anchors, to which a galvanized chain was attached and hardwood planks are then bolted onto the base. The project took some prior preparation and planning (“7 p principle – if you don’t know the 7 p principle you should – it’s a gooden”) what with the ordering of goods which had to be barged out to Umbakumba. When on site; the first challenge was to drill all the boards, which didn’t take long, once we got into the groove;



## On Ground 😊 Natural Resource Management (NRM) in Action

The boards and chain then had to be taken on site;



Then the fun began;



The Rangers worked really well as a team and it's been a great project to be involved in. As of December 2005, over 300 metres of road had been constructed, involving 19 people and over 600 hrs of work. Assisting the rangers from time-to-time are community service participants, trainee rangers and other interested aboriginal people. If you would like to find out more you can contact, Andy, Simon or myself.

**Simon Hartley**  
Co-coordinator Ranger Program  
Anindilyakwa Land Council  
Ph: 08 89874 040  
[simon@anindilyakwa.org](mailto:simon@anindilyakwa.org)

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[anderson.Lauder@nt.gov.au](mailto:anderson.Lauder@nt.gov.au)

*Kath Nash, Natural Resource Management (NRM) Facilitator, with attention to detail from Simon Hartley*

## Courses and Events

### CVA Risk Assessment Workshop - Darwin 22<sup>nd</sup> March

The **Risk Assessment Training Workshop** will provide community leaders of community groups with simple but effective strategies for assessing and controlling risks associated with their activities.

The Workshops are free to attend and the training provided will assume no previous knowledge in this area but may be customised, where possible, to meet participants' needs and situations.

[www.cva.org.au/assisting-projects/RAWorkshopdates.htm](http://www.cva.org.au/assisting-projects/RAWorkshopdates.htm)

### GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN/ LAKE EYRE BASIN/ REGIONAL BODIES TO MEET

A joint workshop between the Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee (GABCC), the Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Council (LEBCAC) and the Natural Resource Management Regional Bodies associated with these regions is being proposed for Alice Springs in April 2006. The primary aim of the meeting would be to explore opportunities for greater coordination between each of the groups.

### National Water Education Conference

The Australian Water Association's Water Education Network presents the 2nd National Water Education Conference 'From the Waters Edge to the Red Centre' 18 - 21 April 2006 Alice Springs Convention Centre.

### Catchment and Natural Resource Management 2006, 23-24 February 2006 Albury

This is a two day national conference focusing on learning to better manage our catchments. The conference has four themes -

1. policy developments and their implications for strategic direction and funding;
2. better management of water for improved environmental and social outcomes;
3. improving understanding and management of terrestrial vegetation; and
4. how to use new and emerging technologies, maximise community engagement and ensure return on investment at the regional level.

For further details and application forms visit [www.halledit.com.au/conferences/cnrm/index.htm](http://www.halledit.com.au/conferences/cnrm/index.htm)

# General News

## Job Vacancy

### Ranger Coordinator – Ramingining and Arafura Swamp Region

Ramingining Homelands Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation (RHRCAC)

#### Job Description

A vacancy exists for a qualified Ranger Coordinator within the Ramingining and Arafura swamp region, Arnhemland, based at Murwangi Station. The position is required to achieve outcomes related to the area of land management as outlined in funding contracts.

Duties include:

- Day to day operations of Ranger Groups in the region;
- Liaising with Govt., Non-Govt. and Aboriginal organizations;
- Liaising with the RHRCAC on payment of accounts and budgets relating to the land management program

The position offers an attractive salary, generous leave entitlements and housing. Applicants should note this is a “dry” area and consumption and sale of alcohol is prohibited.

Position description and selection criteria are available from Tony Ahern (08) 8979 7920.

Applications addressing the selection criteria and providing 3 referees should be sent to:

The Chairperson, Ramingining Homelands PMB 123 WINNELLIE NT 0822, ph. 8979 7920, Fax. 89797903

**Applications close 23rd January 2006**

## GREENHOUSE ACTION IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

The Australian Greenhouse Office in the Department of the Environment and Heritage has released the second Annual Prospectus under the *Greenhouse Action in Regional Australia - Strategic R&D Investment Plan* (R&D Plan). The *Annual Prospectus 2006-2007* and further information on the aims, structure and operations of the R&D Plan can be found at [www.greenhouse.gov.au/agriculture/rdplan.html](http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/agriculture/rdplan.html). A call for project proposals addressing priorities outlined in the *Annual Prospectus 2006-2007* was announced in *The Australian* on Saturday 3 December 2005.

## New Generic Email Address for Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) Administration Unit

As our Department has changed to Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts, please be advised that our email for the NT NHT Administration Unit has now changed to [NHTAdministration.DNRETA@nt.gov.au](mailto:NHTAdministration.DNRETA@nt.gov.au)

**MELANIE HOOLEY**

A/Natural Heritage Trust Coordinator

Phone: 08 8999 4834

Fax: 08 8999 4445

Website: [www.nht.nt.gov.au](http://www.nht.nt.gov.au)

# General News

Extracts from the "THE RUNNY STUFF" Water News and information - Dec 05

## WATERSMART FUNDING

Successful Watersmart applications are being announced as they are approved at [www.nwc.gov.au/water\\_fund/approved\\_projects.cfm](http://www.nwc.gov.au/water_fund/approved_projects.cfm). The National Water Commission is yet to outline how another round of Watersmart funding might be rolled out but it is rumoured that any new funding will require applicants to be more innovative and there may be specialist rounds for areas such as irrigation. So put your thinking caps on - don't leave it to the last minute.

## COMMUNITY WATER GRANTS UPDATE

There were an overwhelming 4805 applications (including 2041 on-line). The total CWG funding requested \$150m (\$253m with in kind funding). 45 applications from the NT. An assessment process has been developed and the CWG team are working very hard so that announcements can be made by March. Discussion has begun about how with process could be improved for future rounds with significant discussion about how indigenous groups might be better engaged.

## GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING RECYCLED WATER SCHEMES

The horticulture industry is set to benefit from new guidelines that will help farmers use recycled water safely and effectively. The Guidelines for Developing Recycled Water Schemes in Horticulture were produced by Land and Water Australia and Horticulture Australia Ltd as part of the Natural Heritage Trust's Water Savings Project. The project - Water Reuse and Recycling - involved surveying water authorities, producers, wholesalers, retailers and consumers, whose comments helped determine the make-up of the guidelines. Recycling water offers significant benefits, such as reducing nutrients in our rivers, freeing up higher-quality water for other productive and environmental uses, and reducing groundwater use. [www.maff.gov.au/releases/05/05015pm.html](http://www.maff.gov.au/releases/05/05015pm.html)

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER

CSIRO have won the contract (jointly funded by Australian Greenhouse Office and the National Water Commission) to undertake a scoping study to determining the current state of knowledge about the effect of climate change on water, characterise the risk and determine knowledge gaps. The Australian Greenhouse Office is requesting information that could contribute to this study which can be forwarded through me [russell.willing@nt.gov.au](mailto:russell.willing@nt.gov.au)

There will be a hydrology modelling workshop during 2006 to further the incorporation of climate change in to hydrology models. Other current water related impacts and adaptation projects include the South East Australia Climate Initiative Project (based on around the Murray Darling Basin) and a project to look at the management response to rainfall decline in southwest WA.

## WETLANDS WEBSITE

The new Wetlands Help Line is designed to help people with an interest in the conservation and wise use of wetlands to access information and seek out programs and organisations that offer expertise and help in this field. The site is focused mostly on the Oceania region (Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Island countries) but also includes information, or links to information that will be of use to wetland practitioners the world over. The site is constantly under construction as new information becomes available, and you are invited to submit information or material that may be of interest. The Wetlands Help Line can be accessed by visiting [www.wetlandshelp-line.com/](http://www.wetlandshelp-line.com/)

2nd February is celebrated as World Wetlands Day

For more Information about things related to water contact our Rivercare facilitator  
Russell Willing

Australian Government NRM Facilitator - Rivercare  
PO Box 529 Palmerston NT 0831  
Ph: 08 8999 4507  
Fax: 08 8999 4445  
Mob: 0438 089 281

## Grants

### National Heritage Investment Initiative

The National Heritage Investment Initiative is an Australian Government grants programme that provides assistance to restore and conserve Australia's most important historic heritage places. Over 2005-06 to 2008-09 \$10.5 million will be available for projects that restore and conserve Australia's most important historic heritage places. Priority will be given to places included in the National Heritage List.

- Applications for National Heritage Investment Initiative close on **20 January 2006**.

See: [www.deh.gov.au/minister/env/2005/mr02dec305.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/minister/env/2005/mr02dec305.html)

### Indigenous Heritage Programme (Australia)

The Indigenous Heritage Programme provides Indigenous organisations or not-for-profit bodies with grants up to \$100,000 (GST inclusive). Individual Indigenous applicants are generally eligible for funding up to \$5000. The Australian Government has made \$3.45 million available through the Indigenous Heritage Programme for 2006-07 to support projects that identify, conserve and promote the Indigenous heritage values of places.

The 2006-07 round of the Indigenous Heritage grants program closes on **22 February 2006**.

See: [www.deh.gov.au/minister/env/2005/mr02dec305.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/minister/env/2005/mr02dec305.html)

### **Envirofund - Round 8 to open in February 2006**

Round 8 will open for applications in February 2006 and will cover the normal range of activities funded by the Envirofund. You can [Register](#) to receive a copy of the Australian Government Envirofund Guide and Application Form for Round 8 when it becomes available, go to [www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/index.html](http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/index.html)

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We're on the Web!

*See us at:*

[Newsletters](#)

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## Newsletter Roster

Newsletter Publication Date	Editor	Submissions to editor by:
27 January	Michelle and Kath	23 January 2006



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.

**This newsletter contains a number of web links to access further information on topics. If you have difficulty downloading information, please contact your Regional NRM Facilitator (contact details on last page of newsletter) who can send/fax you a hardcopy.**