



Director's Report:

If you've ever had concerns about fracking, now is the time to act.

Martin Pritchard



The McGowan Labor Government promised to ban fracking in the South West, Peel and Metropolitan regions of Western Australia as part of their election platform. As many people have asked me, "If it's not safe down there, why haven't they banned it in the Kimberley?" This is a question the government hasn't answered. There are obviously many more votes in these regions than in the Kimberley and communities have been strong in showing their opposition to fracking there.

We know that Kimberley residents are just as concerned about fracking; a Department of Mines and Petroleum survey showed this to be the case and our own polling prior to the last election demonstrated even stronger concern.

EK's position is firm; we are calling for a ban on fracking in the Kimberley. We know Traditional Owner groups are also opposed to fracking but cannot veto it owing to the weaknesses of the Native Title Act. The McGowan government promised such a veto at the last election but has yet to deliver. The official government position is that they are waiting on the results of the inquiry into fracking, which is due to report in August this year. This is why it was so refreshing to see the statement made by Ms Josie Farrer, Member for the Kimberley, at the end of June, calling for a ban on fracking and for support for her position. This was a brave and inspiring move.

At the beginning of July the community responded and 180 people turned out, at short notice, to show support for Josie at her office. This was when the Premier, Mark McGowan, was in the Kimberley. I printed out the photo of the gathering on canvas, with Josie's statement, and handed it to the Premier to make sure he was aware of the depth of feeling against fracking. As a follow up, what would be powerful right now is people writing to him and copying in Josie and Minister for the Environment Stephen Dawson, who also happens to be Labor's Upper House Member for the Mining and Pastoral electorate, which covers the Kimberley. This is a critical time for people to take action if we are to ban fracking in the region.

Buru Energy, Mitsubishi and Squadron Resources (largely owned by Andrew Forrest, who is the Chair) have access to huge amounts of capital and will undoubtedly be lobbying hard to open up the Kimberley to fracking.

We need to mobilise now so that this doesn't escalate to a James Price Point situation. Please take the time to do so by writing to the Premier (wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au), Josie Farrer (Josie.Farrer@mp.wa.gov.au) and Minister for the Environment (Minister.Dawson@dpc.wa.gov.au), tell them who you are, why you're opposed to fracking and that you support Josie, and ask if fracking is too risky in the South West, why would it be ok here.

"I urge all my Kimberley mob and the people of Western Australia to join me in keeping the pressure on the State Government until we see a full ban on fracking in the Kimberley and all of Western Australia."

Josie Farrer, Member for the Kimberley, June 25 2018



Broome community, Josie Farrer's office, show of support for her call to ban fracking, July 5, 2018



Kate Golson

Report From The Chair

Hello all,

Recently, EK received an invitation from the WA Government to participate in its process to establish a Container Deposit Recycling (CDR) scheme in Western Australia by 2020. This will see a 10c refund for plastic and glass bottles, paper-board cartons and steel and aluminium cans that are returned. We congratulate the McGowan Government for its commitment to reduce waste and support recycling.

The world over, CDR schemes are providing effective incentives for container reuse and recycling and have reduced not only the levels of drink container wastage but the overall volumes of rubbish. In the US, recovery rates for aluminium, plastic and glass drink containers in the 11 CDR states are 84%, 48% and 65% respectively, compared with 39%, 20% and 25% in non-CDR states.¹

Such action is long overdue in Australia; in 2016, for every 1,000 square metres (or about four tennis courts), we threw away about 49 types of rubbish, and drink containers comprised five of the top nine recorded pieces of litter by volume.²

The South Australian CDR scheme is one of the longest running in the world, begun in 1977. The recovery rates in SA in 2016-17 for cans, plastic and glass were respectively 84%, 74% and 85%, compared with the national averages of 63%, 36% and 36%. There, in the same year, about 580 million drink containers were recycled, and \$58 million was refunded to the community.³

This far-sighted Dunstan Government reform began when the beverage industry was still re-using bottles and the scheme has long outlived the industry's transition to single-use plastic and non-reusable bottles. This concurs with the pattern seen internationally: that once CDR schemes are established they are long-lived.⁴

It is in the efforts by governments to establish CDR schemes that they face their main challenges – at least in Australia. The Northern Territory's experience is revealing as to why governments here have been slow to adopt these measures or are refusing to act at all.

When, in 2012, the then NT Labor Government set up its scheme, manufacturers Coke, Schweppes and Lion Pty Ltd mounted a successful legal challenge. That forced the government to amend the law to ensure the scheme's continuation. The drinks industry also campaigned hard against the introduction of a scheme in NSW, successfully delaying this until 2017. Once NSW's scheme was up, the ACT was able to follow, and Queensland is committed to a November 2018 start date for the introduction of its scheme.

Surely, as the benefits of these measures extend and grow, and in the face of overwhelming community support for them, the Victoria and Tasmanian governments will not be able to delay for much longer, whatever pressures drink manufacturers bring to bear?

In closing, I would like to farewell EK's marine campaigner Jason Fowler and to thank him for his valuable contributions in this capacity and as a former long-standing EK Board member. He will be greatly missed.

All the best,

Kate

1 <https://theconversation.com/container-deposit-schemes-work-so-why-is-industry-still-opposed-59599>

2 Planet Ark

3 http://kab.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/NLI-Summary_2015_web.pdf

4 <https://theconversation.com/container-deposit-schemes-work-so-why-is-industry-still-opposed-59599>

Contact

PO Box 2281 Broome WA 6725
P: 08 9192 1922
web: envirokimberley.org.au
email: admin@envirokimberley.org.au

Staff

Director: Martin Pritchard
Kimberley Nature Project:
Louise Beames, Jess Miller, Malcolm Lindsay,
Ayesha Moss & Kylie Weatherall
Finance: Christine Elsasser
Community Projects and Events Coordinator:
Tessa Mossop
Seagrass Project Coordinator: Fiona West
Marine Project Officer: Jason Fowler

Board

Chairperson: Kate Golson
Deputy Chair: Shaun Clark
Secretary: Jan Lewis
Treasurer: Laurel Sutcliffe
Members: Carmel Leahy, Alex
Mountford, Nik Wevers, Sean Salmon
Peter Mitchell, Kat Taylor, Craig Phillips

Acknowledgements

Newsletter design: Iannello Design
Original logo: Rose Cox
Artwork: Robyn Wells

Letters To The Editor

Enviro Kimberley welcomes letters to the Editor. We accept comment and criticism, and print all letters that are not obscene, offensive or libellous. If you have a bone to pick, pick it with us.

 @EnviroKimberley
 [envirokimberley](http://envirokimberley.org.au)
 @envirokimberley

Thanks for helping us to protect the Kimberley environment





Concert for the Kimberley 2018

Tessa Mossop

This year's EK Concert for the Kimberley was another huge success – but what else would you expect when you have friends like Missy Higgins, The Mexicans, The Nomadics, Charlie McGee, Tanya Ransom, Wil Thomas and their friends?

People flocked from all over for this very special opportunity to celebrate the Kimberley with Missy Higgins and a host of top quality local and visiting musicians, right here in Broome.

With tickets sold out at the Convention Centre, over 74,000 people across the world joined us online to hear about the work of EK and watch a live stream of Missy's Set.

EK sends the biggest thank-you to Missy and all the other musicians for donating their time and talents. As well, special thanks go to Mick Connolly and the Broome Chinatown Convention Centre, Chris Maher, Damian Kelly and to everyone else who helped out to make this annual event fantastic once again.

Our appreciation also goes out to everyone who supported this event by joining us on the night, in person or online, as well as to everyone who became an EK member, or generously donated – with all your help we were able to raise over \$20,000 to support the work of EK – Thank you!

Missy's support for the protecting the Kimberley has been solid for 10 years now and this is what she said about EK: "The Kimberley holds a special place in my heart so I'm always happy to help EK out to help protect it. I want my kids and grandkids to experience the same wonder and magic of this country, as I have."

If you'd like to make a tax-deductible donation to our work to protect the please go on to our website, or call us on 08 9192 1922.



The Mexicans. Photo: Damian Kelly



Missy Higgins. Photo: Damian Kelly



Left to Right: Paul Boon, Wil Thomas, Tanya Ransom, Dave Mann, Bec Schofield and Tilly. Photo: Damian Kelly.

20 YEARS PROTECTING ONE OF THE GREAT NATURAL REGIONS ON EARTH

THE KIMBERLEY

"If you love the Kimberley, become a member of Environs Kimberley, please support their work to protect this precious place"

Bob Brown
President, Bob Brown Foundation and former Senator and Leader of the Australian Greens



www.environskimberley.org.au

More tips to improve the sustainability of our daily lives without too much effort.

SUPERMARKET SABOTAGE

What a fiasco this 'single-use plastic bag' saga has become. It seemed for a mad moment that the supermarkets were heeding the call to get rid of plastic bags — having been forced into it through legislation. It was a half-hearted effort at best, when the bags on rolls that we are in the habit of putting our fruit and veggies into were staying put. And were the ubiquitous grey plastic bags replaced by bags made from a non-plastic material? Not on your life.

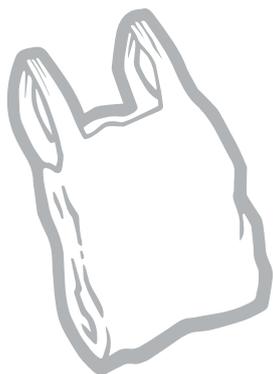
Behold thicker plastic bags, which are said to be 'reusable'. The only thing in the new bags' favour was the 15-cent price tag, which was supposed to encourage shoppers to use them again and again, or, better, to bring their own bags. And now Coles has completely undermined that benefit and sabotaged the legislation by doing away with the 15 cents! So what we are left with is a worst-case scenario: single-use flimsy plastic bags replaced by single-use thick ones, with even greater potential to wreck our environment. Oh yes, they carry a message about re-use, but I've already seen several of them littering my local park and the beach. Coles said they were fed up with complaints from customers who didn't like paying the 15 cents. Well, they've heard nothing yet; prepare for complaints from everyone else.

Bizarrely, Coles said it will continue to give out the thicker bags free 'until shoppers get used to bringing their own bags'. That's never going to happen while plastic bags are free.

Of course, the old grey bags were reusable as well — that's what many of us have those sock things hanging in their kitchen for; you stuff bags in at the top and pull them out one by one at the bottom. A lot of people just used the bags for their rubbish, and no doubt will use the free thick ones for the same purpose. The veggie ones are reusable too — add them to the sock with the others. You don't have to take them when you go shopping; you put your fruit and vegetables loose into your shopping bag, and store items that need protection in the plastic ones at home.

True environmentalists provide themselves with their own bags made of a natural fibre. Most op shops are full of sturdy old bags — and I don't mean the clientèle. There are also Boomerang Bags, made of recycled fabric by a group of volunteers in Broome. You borrow a bag, use it and return it when you remember to bring your own. Some people keep their Boomerang Bags — I think they can be forgiven for doing that so long as they use them over and over again.

As for bin bags — who needs them? Most dry rubbish can be thrown into the bin as it is. Wet rubbish — food scraps and the like — is compostable, or can be turned into eggs via the digestive tracts of chooks. Chook owners are always grateful for extra food for their girls, and may give you a few eggs in return.



Ruminating with MAD COW



The film *Bladerunner* is set in a dystopia where few living animals besides human beings remain. They have been replaced by 'replicants' — copies that are hard to tell from the originals. A power-mad scientist has created a number of adult human replicants, whom he has provided with 'memories', so that they believe they have a past, like normal members of the human race. These replicants are highly intelligent, they develop unprogrammed emotions, and they become aware of their lot — which is to become obsolete (that is, they die) after only four years. They confront their creator to demand that he extend their span of existence, but he tells them he is unable to reverse his obsolescence programme.

Their story is an allegory of human life — we have a much longer life expectancy than the replicants, but it is still finite, and we become more aware of its limits as we approach our own end.

These days, doctors have become so good at curing or, more often, palliating disease that many of us will still be alive long after our use-by date. Most people express a horror of ending up helpless and demented in 'care', with our mobility, our freedom and our choices severely curtailed. Unlike the replicants, such people, amongst whom Mad Cow counts herself, may be faced with the question, not 'How long can I live?' but 'How soon can I die?'

Philip Nitschke offers one solution: go to Switzerland for suicide assistance. That's all very well, but it costs money not everyone can muster, an infirm person may need help that isn't available to get there and going all that way just to die does seem extreme, not to say environmentally unsound. There must be simpler ways to end one's life, preferably in one's own comfy bed. And you do have to wonder about a doctor who devotes his practice to killing his patients.

In contrast to the Swiss solution, Shakespeare's Hamlet suggests applying a 'bare bodkin', but that would be painful, methinks. A needle in the arm or a handful of soporifics is far preferable, though not yet legal in Australia.

Meanwhile, I'm sick of hearing what a burden older people are to the younger generation, when it looks to me as if the care of the aged has morphed from a family affair into a lucrative business. But if we are such a burden, why make strenuous efforts to keep us alive even when we are clearly moribund? People talk piously about the sacredness of human life, while half the world is in mortal combat and Australia has been implicated in several wars. Doctors are in the most difficult position — damned if they do, damned if they don't. While the topic of euthanasia arouses far more angst than I think it merits, if governments don't allow assisted suicide, how about providing us with do-it-yourself kits? Funded by Medibank, of course.

Biodiversity surveys with the Nyikina Mangala Rangers



Jess Miller

The KNP team was excited to be welcomed onto Nyikina Mangala country recently, to undertake important biodiversity survey work with the Nyikina Mangala Rangers.

The ranger team, led by Head Ranger Nathan Green, got together with Jess Miller, ecologist and project officer at Environs Kimberley, to trap animals near Mardoowarra (the Fitzroy River). Three good sites were chosen by the rangers.

The surveys are part of a project to protect freshwater places on Nyikina Mangala country, another goal being the sharing of knowledge and skills about culture, science, animals and plants.

We were lucky to be joined by David Nelson, an experienced Broome ecologist, and the indomitable Kylie Weatherall, well-known stalwart of EK's Kimberley Nature Project. Dave helped work through fauna identification tips and tricks and, as a bonus, he happens to be an ace photographer (see picture below of one of the mammals we caught during the project). But he wasn't the only one with a camera; we had Kylie working on her macro-photography skills with plants (one of her favourite subjects) and Raymond Charles helping document the survey work.



Nathan and Jess checking traps at Rockhole. Photo: Kylie Weatherall

Raymond, Richard Cox and Lezeka Millindee make up the ranger team along with Nathan. They all brought their own skills and knowledge to the project and it was great getting to know a bit about their work and other talents (Richard with his great animal-handling skills, Lezeka's off-road driving and Raymond's stories and field expertise). We were lucky to have a visit from Lezeka's Auntie Annie and some younger community members, who came out to check out some of the trap sites and share stories about the important bushtucker and medicine plants in the surrounding area.

The survey sites were in sandy creek beds or flats, most areas having been burnt early in the season with cool fires, part of the rangers' Right Way Fire management activities. We put in two 'pitfall lines' at each site, made up of low temporary fences, buckets to catch small critters and funnels to catch some of the more slithering ones. After some group discussion we decided to put our lines of small mammal traps in rocky country along the base of nearby cliffs. This turned out to be a great decision because we caught a high number of Common Rock-Rats, from night one onwards. This was a surprising result so early in the survey, and Dave commented that we had one of the highest trapping rates he's seen for this type of survey. The results of the survey work will feed in to the rangers' land management activities, training and knowledge, and help the KNP team to know how to lend a hand wherever we can.



Common Rock Rat, *Zyzomys argurus*. Photo: David Nelson

Next up, the Nyikina Mangala Rangers and the Kimberley Nature Project team will head out to do focused weed mapping and control – something the ranger team seems to have lots of experience with. Getting out on country with Nathan, Richard, Lezeka and Raymond was heaps of fun and we can't wait to do it all again!

This project is a jointly supported by Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation, State NRM, Kimberley Land Council, Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals and Environs Kimberley.



Two Years of Planning and Planting

Kylie Weatherall

Over the last couple of years, the joy of planting trees has spread far and wide on the Dampier Peninsula, from Broome in the south to Kooljaman resort to the north. This tree-planting activity was facilitated by the Kimberley Nature Project at EK and funded by a National Landcare (Federal Government) '20 Million Trees' grant.

The KNP team worked together with Bardi Jawi Oorany and Nyul Nyul Ranger teams, planning and planting over this time, to restore patches of the threatened plant community, The Monsoon Vine Thickets (MVTs) of the Dampier Peninsula. Sites were chosen using a process of prioritisation and resulted in plantings at Beagle Bay, Djarindjin and Kooljaman Resort.

Both ranger groups worked hard during this time, collecting seed, propagating plants and maintaining their nurseries, as well as getting the sites ready, seeking permissions and installing a water point, for reticulation to keep the plants alive, at each location. All this effort culminated in a flurry of tree-planting days earlier this year, within the rangers' respective communities. The rangers worked alongside school children, youth and community members, and even an EK staff and Board member, getting trees into the ground in degraded MVT areas.

Bardi Jawi Oorany and Nyul Nyul Ranger groups view this as a long-term project, far beyond the two-year grant period, and aim to work with their communities to restore their local MVTs, using the tree-planting events and the actual MVT site as an educational platform for Traditional Cultural Knowledge around plants.

Broome, Ngarlan (Beagle Bay) Djarindjin and Ardyaloon (One Arm Point), and the resort of Kooljaman are all built adjacent to or within MVTs. All these MVT sites have been impacted by urbanisation and clearing. In total, five revegetation sites were established, two in Broome and three on the Peninsula. Each site faces the physical challenges of the Kimberley environment (from flooding, exposure, weeds and vandalism and, of course, the long hot dry season).

The KNP '20 Million Trees' project brought together Aboriginal ranger groups, their local communities, Green Army participants, high school students, TAFE students and lecturers, local volunteers and many agencies such as the Shire of Broome, the Water Corporation of WA, CoAct Employment Services, KRSP, local landscapers and other private contractors. While funding is now finished, this grant has created a foundation for the long-term restoration of MVTs of the Dampier Peninsula. It has been able to connect people to their local communities and environment, spreading the joy of planting trees and love of MVTs.



Bardi Jawi Oorany Rangers, EK and TAFE staff rolling out a bale of hay (mulch) at the Kooljaman revegetation site.



Two Sacred Heart school students help Nyul Nyul ranger Zynal Cox plant a tree at Ngarlan (Beagle Bay)





ECLIPSE
COMPUTERS

20 Hunter St Broome
Ph: 9192 2832



Network Solutions Specialists
Microsoft Certified Professional Engineers
Fully Equipped Workshop & Same Day Onsite Service
Computer systems custom designed for your needs
Hewlett Packard Authorised Sales & Service

Ages for: Acer, Compaq, DELL, Epson, Fujitsu, LG, NEC
Sales.eclipse@westnet.com.au www.eclipsecomputers.com.au

Kimberley Cottages

18 Wandjina Road (last on the right)

Self-contained cottages or single rooms with shared facilities. The place to stay in Derby for comfort, peace and privacy

Close to town, just off the Gibb River Road

Tel: 9191 1114 • Email: kimzen@bigpond.com



Money Can Grow On Trees

Carmel Leahy

"A ten per cent increase in leaf canopy of street trees could increase the value of properties by an average of \$50,000," says an AECOM Brilliant Cities Report.

The AECOM research focused on three Sydney suburbs but can be extended to other urban environments, particularly those in Australia's north. Old Broome is prime real estate. What does it have? Established shady trees often touching each other to form a canopy that allows people to move around without the direct heat of the sun. The canopy cools air, shades houses and enhances the quality of life for inhabitants. Trees, bushes, scrub, parks, verge plantings and ovals make up the 'green infrastructure' of an urban area.

The value of green infrastructure

Using aerial photography and property sales information, AECOM's research found a direct relationship between tree canopy size and the price of land and property.

Suburb	Street Tree Canopy Increase	Increase in property value
Blacktown	10%	\$55,000
Willoughby	10%	\$33,152
Annandale	10%	\$60,761

Another economic benefit is the protection trees provide from extreme heat. In Annandale AECOM measured air temperature 4 degrees Celsius lower in streets with a 28% tree canopy. This means lower power bills, fewer heat-related deaths and a more pleasant living environment. At a Cooling Cities National Forum Dr Paul Osmond from the University of NSW said, "A streetscape with heavy tree canopy can enjoy up to 15°C cooler surfaces and 1.5°C cooler air temperature compared with a street with no tree canopy and shade."

Street trees also come with a cost. They can damage roads, footpaths, plumbing and other infrastructure. Across Australia councils are now using i-Tree: free software that can calculate the benefits of trees to suburbs.

Planning, Regulation and Management

Shire of Broome website provides a Street Tree Information Sheet stating, "Street Trees are an important element in the enhancement of Broome's Streetscape and the visual appeal of your street and property. Street trees provide shade, enhance the environment and create a habitat for birds and other wildlife." A list of trees suitable for verges is provided on the website and the Shire will give seedlings to homeowners for their verge.

The storm-water drains of Broome provide a great opportunity for enhancing the town's green infrastructure and improving the health of Roebuck Bay. In addition to the benefits of the shady leaf canopy, plantings help control weeds and soil erosion. Residents and SKIPA members living near these drains have planted out particular areas. Over the years this has been tolerated and even encouraged by the Shire, but the projects often conflict with the regulations of other local and state government departments. A Master Plan for Green Infrastructure across Broome would help identify conflicting regulations, bring greater consensus between the departments and reduce the incidence of frantic, pyjama-clad residents accosting alarmed council workers about to mow down their plantings. Smart management will support and encourage this army of volunteers to reduce the cost of developing and maintaining green infrastructure.

Green infrastructure is vital to a brilliant Broome of the future. Let's plan, regulate and manage our green infrastructure wisely.



Broome resident Erilys Richards watering plants established by a group of neighbours in their suburban drain.



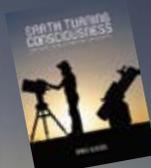
Now on the BBC and ABC 'Stargazing Live' program with Professor Brian Cox.



GREG QUICKE'S ASTRO TOURS
delivering intensely practical astronomy to humanity since 1995



Greg's new book!



'Broome's Astronomy Experience' or 'Quickies Cosmic Tuneup' is a 2 hour educational and entertaining mind bender using big telescopes, lasers and fun under some of the best stargazing skies on the planet.

From April to October when the skies are clear!

Bookings essential!

Check the online schedule and book at

www.astrotours.net
greg@astrotours.net
0417 949 958

 Greg Quicke's Astro Tours
  astrotourbroome
 @GregQuicke #spacegandalf

Letter to the editor

13th April 2018

Dear All,

I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed Noah's Paperbark!

I can't imagine Buckley's Plains flooded; have spent many sessions catching birds there — when it was its usual dusty self. Lovely pictures too, showing that anyone or anything can live side-by-side in peace, given certain circumstances!

Regards,

Mavis Russell



Notices



Save the Date

EK Aboriginal Art Auction

Gallows Gallery, Mosman Park
Thursday 29th November
More details to come...

Environs Kimberley AGM

Saturday 27th October
3–4 pm EK Achievements for 2018
4–5 pm AGM
Lotteries House

Using your will to protect the Kimberley

One of the most significant ways to leave a lasting legacy for the nature of the Kimberley is to leave a gift in your Will to Environs Kimberley.

Large or small, when you make a bequest you are helping to provide for the future of the Kimberley. You are giving Environs Kimberley the power to speak out and act for our region and ensure its protection for future generations.

Please contact us if you'd like advice on making a bequest to EK.

NBY Country Managers working with EK

Hello, my name is Daisy Walker and I am the lead Country Manager; I work alongside two other Country Managers, Mussariah Banks and Laurenzia Divilli. We were recently employed at Nyamba Buru Yawuru. We are funded to work and look after the Monsoon Vine Tickets (MVTs) in Minyirr Park. Weeding is one of the ways we help look after the MVT. We will learn to identify important plants on Yawuru country, with their Yawuru names, and share our knowledge with our community.

We are currently working with Environs Kimberley three days a fortnight. These activities include weed surveys and weed control in Minyirr Park.

Throughout the year we're completing our Cert 2 in Conservation and Land Management. One of our units is Seed Collecting. We will be using this seed to grow plants to revegetate MVTs in Broome.

We also had the opportunity to work with the Nyul Nyul Rangers, Devena Cox, Helena Williams, Tamara Sebastian and Zynal Cox, on one of the revegetation sites in Beagle Bay. We are looking forward to having a laugh and getting our hands dirty with Kylie and the team at EK.



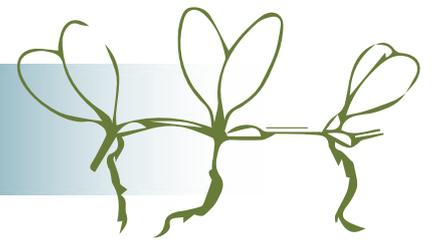
Left to right: Ayesha Moss (EK) Devena Cox (Nyul Nyul Rangers) Daisy Walker (NBY Country Manager) Helena Williams (NN Rangers), Tamara Sebastian (NN Rangers), Mussariah Banks & Laurenzia Divilli (NBY Country Managers) post tree planting at the Ngarlan Burr revegetation site.



Nyamba Buru Yawuru women Country Managers, Mussariah Banks, Daisy Walker, Laury Divilli



Change is Everywhere



Fiona West



It's a charming fact that one of the most common sounds floating across Roebuck Bay's intertidal zone during seagrass monitoring sessions is laughter. Yes, laughter — the sound of happy volunteers having fun while doing science, sharing observations about the curious behaviour of the intertidal marine life, cracking jokes and

commenting with delight on the beauty of the animals and scenery.

The weather was gorgeous in early March as we wandered out to the sites dotted around northern Roebuck Bay — thanks to the GPS-gurus Richo and Chris from DBCA for their expert navigational help. Across all sites we noticed the seagrass coverage seemed sparser than in January. Walking out to the Demco site we saw a stark difference in the sediment colour — from a pale grey in January to a rich maroon-orange in March — the changed colour is likely to have come from pindan run-off, following some tremendous rainfall events.

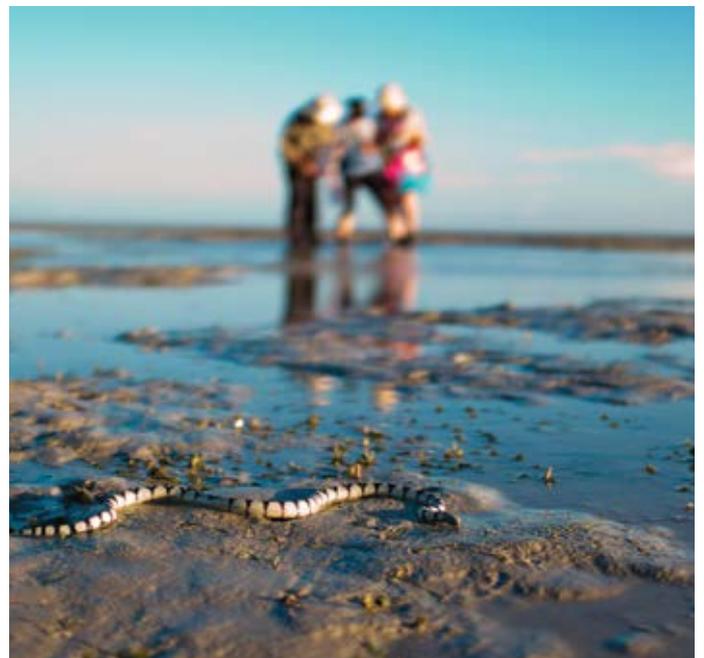
'Change' was a theme that continued during our next event in May. The first big change was the weather — after months of calm, it was suddenly so gusty! Hats went flying, data sheets went flying, the associated laughter was whipped away by the wind — there were even little waves in the shallow intertidal puddles! The second change was the oodles of baby crabs everywhere. The sediment was teeming with them. One volunteer exclaimed: "When you put your foot down, it's like an explosion of crabs!" We experienced another phenomenon at Demco when the dusk sky was flooded by thousands of low-flying bats — yes bats! The volunteers stood there transfixed at the sheer numbers of them gliding over the bay — certainly one of the perks of seagrass monitoring late into the afternoon at that time of year!

At the Port site, the change was the speed in which we had to complete our work. Tricky light conditions and nature's tide schedules meant we had one of the shortest windows of time in which to monitor the site — there was running, folks! Running! From one end of the transect to the next. Think the 'Chariots-of-Fire' running scene from the classic 1981 film. It was exactly like that. We came away feeling not only like accomplished scientists but also like track-and-field athletes.

While the seagrass itself is reduced in abundance across the sites in keeping with seasonal variation, it was no less important and fascinating to study. Thanks to all our project partners, funders and especially our long-term regular volunteers who we have now affectionately dubbed our 'Seagrass Royalty' (step aside Meghan and Harry!) — these volunteers are so experienced and knowledgeable, they are incredibly valuable to our project. Thank you everyone for helping our community to care for the bay we all love.



Demco seagrass site March 2018. Photo: Michael Tropiano



Sea snake March 2018. Photo: Michael Tropiano

The Broome Community Seagrass Monitoring Project is funded by Coastwest, Parks and Wildlife Service — Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and Kimberley Ports Authority, jointly managed by Environs Kimberley and Parks and Wildlife Service — Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and supported by project partners Nyamba Buru Yawuru and Seagrass Watch.



Wilinggin Back to Country trip — Mangurre

Ayesha Moss



In the July school holidays the Kimberley Nature Project was invited to participate in the Wilinggin Back to Country trip to Mangurre (Gibb River Crossing). The Wungurr Rangers and Wilinggin Indigenous Protected Area program support back-to-country trips in different parts of Wilinggin country

each year. The objective is to pass cultural and environmental knowledge from older to younger generations of Ngarinyin people.

The brief for the Kimberley Nature Project was to work with Ngarinyin women to record information about bush medicine. Through funding from the State NRM, the KNP team was able to make the six-hour journey to participate in the camp.

The project was a wonderful learning experience, with elders Lucy Ward, Pansy Nulgit, Dorothy Chapman and Heather Wungundin sharing their knowledge of bush medicines with four generations. Nyikina and Karajarri women from the Yiriman Project also took part in a cultural exchange, to learn of Ngarinyin bush medicines and to teach people how to make modern medicinal products using local bush resources. The bush medicine workshop was well received; samples of balm were made from the leaves of a nearby ghost gum and distributed amongst everyone at the camp.

We sat at Mangurre under Unggarrun di (Ironwood) *Erythrophleum chlorostachys*, River Fig *Ficus coronulata*, and Wild Plum *Terminalia platyphylla* to hear from Pansy and the other elders about bush medicine and how to use it. Pansy spoke in Ngarinyin and Kimberley linguist Thomas Saunders recorded the stories as we went. The next day, we took three car-loads of women up towards Plain Creek, stopping along the way to identify, take photos and samples and share knowledge of plants and their uses. Some of the bush medicines found on Ngarinyin country, such as Conkerberry *Carissa lanceolata* and Gurin (Bloodwood sap) are also found in Karajarri and Nyikina country, and the Yiriman women confirmed that they use them in similar ways.

All up, we gathered information on 16 plants and are now in the process of pulling it all together, matching stories, photos and samples with Ngarinyin language, scientific and common names, and uses.

We look forward to creating resources with the Wungurr Rangers and elders for use by generations to come.



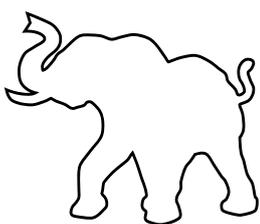
Gurin – a natural antiseptic



EK staff Ayesha Moss and Kylie Weatherall id'ing plants.



BROOME
CONVENTION
CENTRE
CHINATOWN



12 Frederick Street, Broome • Phone: 9192 6222
Mob: 0418 938 724 • Email: broomeconvention@bigpond.com

TROPPO SOUND

- Musical Instruments
- PA & Lighting Systems
- Mobile Stage
- Recording Studio

MICK CONNOLLY

Shed: 29 Hunter St. Ph: (08) 9192 2394 Fax (08) 9193 5690
Shop: 19 Frederick St (old min-golf building) Ph / Fax: (08) 9192 6222
Mobile: 0418 938 724 Email: troppo@comswest.net.au
PO Box 185, Broome Western Australia 6725



EK's Annual Art Exhibition

Tessa Mossop

EK's 15th annual Environs Kimberley Art Auction was, once again, a great success, with a record number of artists contributing and over 100 pieces sold on the night!

The standard at this year's event was exceptional and there was fierce bidding, encouraged by our indefatigable auctioneer Chris Maher, as well as lively competition in the silent auction and the chance to win a stunning piece by Balgo artist Lucy Loomoo in the Art Raffle, giving everyone an opportunity to take part in the action.

Each year the EK Auction provides a great opportunity for artists from across the Kimberley to display their work and sell pieces to a crowd of enthusiastic art buyers, and support the work of EK.

The annual Art Auction is EK's major fundraising event and preliminary estimates for this year are that we raised over \$35,000 for the work of EK.

We really appreciate everyone who has supported this event over the years and we would like to send a huge thank-you to all the artists, galleries, musicians, volunteers, local businesses and all the generous art lovers who made this great occasion possible once more.



Image: Kevin Smith Broome Photography

EK Art Raffle

Thanks to everyone for taking part

Ahead of this year's EK Art Auction we raffled a stunning piece by Balgo artist Lucy Loomoo.

The raffle was drawn at the Art Auction on 21st July and the lucky winner was Trish Haffenden (ticket #165).

EK sends a huge thank you to everyone who bought a ticket in the raffle and congratulations to the lucky winner. The sale of these tickets has raised much-needed funds for the work of EK this year.



Catch Your Share of the Kimberley Sun

Enviro Solutions



T: 9192 6145
Broome WA

Website: www.kimberleyenvirosolutions.com.au

Power Your Electricity by Solar



* Soaps * Candles * Skin Care * Essential oils

Great gift ideas all hand made with love here in Broome

Customers are welcome to our workshop showroom

2 Harriet Road, Blue Haze Ph (08) 9193 7036
Monday - Friday 9am-4pm Fax (08) 9192 3880

www.hiddenvalleyhandcrafts.com.au

Proud to be associated with Environs Kimberley

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

- 1 year for \$30.00/ Concession \$20.00 (Inc of GST)
- 3 years for \$80.00/ Concession \$50.00 (Inc of GST)
- Lifetime membership for \$500 (Inc of GST)

I would also like to make a donation of: \$ _____
(Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible)

Name _____

Postal Address _____

Suburb _____

Postcode _____

Phone () _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

- I would like to receive my quarterly EK Newsletter and other correspondence by email

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Credit card payment - please debit my  

CVV Code No:

Card No:

Cardholder's Name _____

Signature _____ Expiry Date /

CHEQUE PAYMENTS

ENVIRONS KIMBERLEY

PO Box 2281, Broome WA 6725

Phone: 08 9192 1922

Email: finance@environskimberley.org.au

Subscription is also available online at:
www.environskimberley.org.au



The EK gift fund is a public fund and is listed in the register of Environmental Organisations under item 6.1.1 subsection 30-35 (1) of the income Tax Assessment Act 1997.



PO Box 2281,
Broome WA 6725



SUPPORTING US HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER

More members and friends are choosing to give an automatic monthly donation to EK. This means you don't have to think about it and we have the security of knowing how much you want to give us through the year.

You can provide a monthly donation through our website.
Please ring Christine if you have any queries on (08) 9192 1922.