FEATURE

NT Landcare Awards Now Open

The 2013 NT Landcare Awards are now open and Territory Natural Resource Management is seeking nominations from inspiring Territorians who work hard to improve their local environment. Jesse Carpenter, Coordinator with Land for Wildlife Alice Springs, winner of the 2011 Toshiba Community Group Award, discusses the broad range of benefits being a NT Landcare Award winner brought to the organisation; "Winning the NT Community Group Award and being a finalist in the National Landcare Awards has enabled Land for Wildlife Alice Springs to gain exposure beyond the borders of the NT. It has opened communication and networking opportunities with similar conservation and Landcare groups across the nation and heightened our capacity to generate funding for wildlife and conservation projects. This award is also well deserved recognition of the efforts of volunteers and property owners involved in Land for Wildlife in central Australia; without whom fundamental goals and outcomes of the organisation could not be achieved," he said. To read the full story and to check out the categories and criteria, click here.

OTHER STORIES

Creating Ghostnets Awareness

The Crocodile Island Rangers have been undertaking work to remove marine debris and ghost nets and to raise awareness about these threats. Simone, a volunteer with the rangers, and Gabe the Murrungga Homelands School teacher, recently presented an information session to the children and junior rangers at the Murrungga school. The children were shown photos of the impacts marine debris can have on animals, and then completed group and individual activities using workbooks. Some of the junior rangers assisted the rangers with the ghost nets and marine debris patrols, during which they found a number of ghost nets and processed them using I-Tracker.

INRM Plan Poster

TNRM has recently developed a summary version of the INRM plan which is in poster format. To view a PDF version online, click here or to get a hard copy for your wall, contact the
Gulf Land Management event

The Gulf Rivers Landcare Group got together at Heartbreak Hotel for another great field day last week. The day focused on improving coordination across a range of issues, including pigs, wild dogs and fire. Greg Mifsud, National Wild Dog Coordinator discussed the importance of integrated control of pigs and wild dogs. Greg said “You need to get the pigs under control before you start your dog baiting, otherwise the pigs will snap up your dog baits”. Felicity Watt of CDU explained how some of the more advanced features of NAFI can be used to plan for the fire season. Bushfires NT’s Steele Davies held a planning session and many of the people who attended drew their fire breaks on a map for their neighbours and Bushfires NT. This kind of coordination will hopefully lead to less severe and widespread wild fires in the region. Thanks to Carmen from NT Country Hour for coming along and covering the following stories:

- Interview with James Wright about the new group
- Interview with Greg Mifsud about coordinated control of wild dogs
- Interview with Felicity Watt about upgrades to the NAFI website

Cactus Field Trip

Alice Springs Landcare held a cactus field trip on Sunday 21st April along with the AGM. Cactus control activities commenced early and involved revisiting a previously treated site to collect any remaining coral (or boxing glove) cactus for removal. A good number of volunteers participated, which provided further control activities, ensuring the weed of national Significance (WoNS) will be eradicated from the site. Volunteers equipped with gloves, covered shoes, buckets and tongs, worked over the site for a couple of hours before the cactus was removed and disposed of in the allocated area at the local dump. When dumping weeds, especially WoNS, please notify your dump personnel and they will guide you to the area where the weeds can be buried deep down to prevent further spread.

New Committee members were elected at the AGM and new members welcomed. You can join Alice Springs Landcare here

Thanks to all volunteers involved in the cactus removal activities and for your continued support for the Landcare group.

Image of Coral Cactus (Boxing Glove Cactus) courtesy of Andrew Vinter

Douglas Daly Field Day
With a touch of Dry season finally in the air, 80 people gathered recently at the Douglas Daly Research Farm to learn about and discuss fire planning, Leuceana browsing, cell grazing, senepol crossbreeding and heifer selection, carbon farming opportunities, gamba grass management and conservation and development planning for the Daly catchment.

NT Regional Landcare Facilitator, Peter Clifton was pleased with the high levels of attendance “We were delighted with the turn out. I think it helped having a broad range of relevant topics, and a common interest among stakeholders to develop agriculture in a way that is both economically and environmentally sustainable. Hopefully we get similar engagement with our next field day in Adelaide River on May 16” he said.

New Directors for TNRM

We are happy to announce the successful new TNRM Directors; Mona Liddy and Dr Brooke Rankmore. Mona is a Wagiman woman from the Daly River region with strong cultural knowledge and land management experience; is well-networked with broad expertise in community development, and experience working in water management, planning and research, including working with western science and Indigenous Knowledge. Mona sits on the Northern Australian Indigenous Experts Forum on Sustainable Economic Development, Daly River Management Advisory Committee (DRMAC) and the Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group (DRARG).

Dr Brooke Rankmore will be profiled next month.

Pictured: Mona Liddy, One of our new Directors

Katherine Farm and Garden Day

Territory NRM’s James Wright and NT Landcare’s Peter Clifton recently shared a stand at the Katherine Farm and Garden Day. The day saw a fantastic turn out, with over 1400 people making the trip out there. The Farm and Garden Day is a great day out to showcase what is happening in the region and gets bigger and better each year. The stand had lots of visitors who were interested in weed and land management, it was a great opportunity to talk to people about how they can get involved with a local natural resource management project.

It wasn't all business though... James got involved in a few of the festivities, narrowly missing out on first prize for both the hay bale race and the hay bale toss. According to James, the image shows the result of “too much power, the strings broke just as I was about to throw the bale. My second attempt was an
awesome 8.8m but didn’t feel as good as my first attempt did, would have got 10m for sure”.
Good stuff James, the TNRM team are proud of your efforts!

*Image courtesy of Heidi Wright*

**West Top End Fire Planning**

In late April 2013, The Northern Land Council hosted The annual Western Top End Fire planning meeting which took place at Daly River community Sport and Rec hall.

After an initial presentation and general discussion of fire management activities, ranger groups and other stakeholders broke off into smaller regional groups to plan aerial/on-ground strategic burning activities for 2013 season and develop regional fire management plans. These sessions were important to ensure that all landowners and stakeholders were consulted regarding effective and collaborative fire management across land tenures. Bushfires NT and Territory NRM staff were on hand to assist with this process.

Sean Ansell discussed the successes of fire management and carbon farming at Fish River Station, followed by more general discussions about carbon farming opportunities that might arise out of strategic savannah burning.

This meeting also provided a useful opportunity to build on existing relationships with regional landowners on the subject of integrated natural resource management.

Stakeholders present included; the Indigenous Ranger groups; Asyrikarrak Kirrim (Peppimenarti), Wudicupidiyer; Fish River Station, Thamarrurr (Wadeye), Malak Malak (Daly River), Wagiman (Pine creek), Bulgul (Wagait land Trust), and Kenbi (Belyuen), as well as representatives from Territory NRM, Bushfires NT, and pastoralists from Tipperary and Elizabeth Downs Station.

**Welcome to the newst member of Katherine Landcare Group**

TNRM would like to welcome the newest member of the Katherine Landcare Group, little Lincoln. Congratulations to Paula!

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