NESS and VIEWS

Gulf of Carpentaria rangers reduce wildfires through early burning work
Since becoming active in fire management in 2007, the Garawa and Waanyi Garawa Rangers have reduced late season wildfires by 87% across the land they manage in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Late season wildfires account for around 3% of Australia’s annual greenhouse gas emissions, and can cause greater environmental and economic damage than early season fires.

Using a combination of onground and aerial burning, the rangers have implemented an early season mosaic burning regime across their 20,000km² land trusts, reducing emissions and protecting vital feeding and breeding habitat for the region’s native fauna.

A short video has been produced to highlight the essential role the rangers and Traditional Owners play, which is now available online.

Senior Garawa man Jack Green was instrumental in setting up the ranger groups, which manage two separate land trusts in the western section of the Gulf.

“Before 2007 there were late season wildfires which burnt in excess of 16,000km². Damage from those fires still scars the landscape today,” Mr Green said.

“You’ve got to have the right people out there managing the land, and we’ve got to teach that to our kids too so that when they grow up, they carry that knowledge forward.”

There are seven full time rangers funded by the Australian Government’s Working on Country program, and 37 Traditional Owners employed part time on a seasonal basis.
Northern Australia hub researchers have been working with the rangers and several other groups across Arnhem Land and in the Gulf to improve Indigenous governance, and government policies and programs supporting Indigenous rangers and Indigenous Protected Areas.

This research is funded by the Australian Government as part of the National Environmental Research Program. Read more about the research project, which aims to help local communities adaptively manage their natural and cultural resources and improve governance structures and institutions.

The project team is also working with the rangers to identify new opportunities for funding and support, and develop long-term sustainable livelihoods.

Dr Sean Kerins, from the Australian National University said that when Indigenous peoples’ aspirations, knowledge, cultures and skills are given priority in project development, they often succeed.

“The Garawa and Waanyi/Garawa Rangers’ fire management project is a great example of this,” Dr Kerins said.

**Photo:** Through its early burning program, the Garawa and Waanyi Garawa Rangers have reduced late season wildfires by 87% across the land they manage in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Image credit: Northern Australia hub, National Environmental Research Program

For more information, please call the Northern Australia hub on (08) 8946 7102 or email nerp.northern@cdu.edu.au

**New tool for future Indigenous story-tellers**
*By Leanne Coleman*

With the winds blowing from the East, Midawarr (end of the wet season) is time to head out and look for mud mussels and shellfish. It is also when the turtles lay their eggs and time to pick “root food” including water lily bulbs and yams.

These are the environmental cues the Gäwa community has used as part of its traditional culture for generations. Now a seasonal calendar detailing the “Gurruwilyun Yolgu seasons – Gäwa – The changing seasons in east Arnhemland” has been launched as part of a collaborative project by Charles Darwin University.

Kathy Guthadjaka (Gotha), a senior elder from Gäwa – a small family community on Elcho Island in East Arnhem Land, is passionate about not only preserving traditional knowledge, but also sharing this knowledge with the global community.

A part-time Senior Research Fellow at The Northern Institute Ms Guthadjaka said the calendar was a holistic concept.

“It is important to record traditional knowledge about what is good bush tucker at different times of the year, when certain plants fruit and what to look for when hunting,” she said. “It is also a record of ‘songlines’ and medicinal plants.

“We built the calendar as a community, working together to identify plants, write stories and take photographs,” she said. “Each category is connected and there are stories and songs for each of the photographs on the calendar.”

A transdisciplinary researcher at The Northern Institute, who also runs design company Merri Creek Productions, Trevor van Weeren has been involved with Indigenous communities in North and East Arnhem
Land since the late 1980s. He has worked with Ms Guthadjaka on several language projects and was invited to travel to Gäwa to help develop the concept of the calendar along with the school children and community members.

“Gotha wanted to develop a curriculum for the school around the seasons,” Mr van Weeren said. “The calendar represents one small part of the knowledge to be passed on to the next generation at the community school.”

The calendar is being used as a basis of curriculum in the Gäwa school and has been made available to the general public. For more information about the calendar visit W: www.cdu.edu.au/the-northern-institute.

(Charles Darwin University http://www.cdu.edu.au/enews/stories/calendar.)

RESOURCES

Native American and Indigenous Studies Journal

***Volume 1 #1 scheduled for SPRING 2014***

The CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS for the NAIS Journal is Now Open!

Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) is the journal of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, which was founded in 2008 to support the scholarly and creative work of Native studies scholars. Published by the University of Minnesota Press, NAIS features scholarly articles, research notes, commentary, and reviews on the large and growing field of Indigenous studies. The editors encourage NAISA members to further the field’s knowledge of its broad and international currents through consideration of new books, films, exhibits, and other pertinent materials.

For more information visit http://www.naisa.org/NAIS.

ICASE - October / November Newsletter

You can find ICASE - October / November Newsletter on the http://www.icaseonline.net/newsletter/icase_10_11_2013.pdf

Australian Council of Educational Research: Indigenous Education Update

Welcome to ACER’s Indigenous Education Update – a window into the work that we undertake in research and development in Indigenous education.

ACER is committed to improving learning across the life span and has identified the improvement of outcomes for Indigenous learners as an organisational priority.

Download the Indigenous Education Update PDF newsletter now.

International Journal of Environmental & Science Education

New issue of the International Journal of Environmental & Science Education is available at: http://ijese.com/currentissue.htm

Recent paper

Abstract: This article reports on a study that examined the ecological identities and philosophies of Canadian experiential environmental educators who incorporate Western and Indigenous traditions into their pedagogical praxis. Guided by the overarching question, “Can Western and Indigenous knowledge of the natural world be blended theoretically and in practice?” notable findings include the clarification of the relationship between Western and Indigenous knowledge and philosophies of Nature as one with the potential for bricolage (integration) but not absolute métissage (blending) unless Western perspectives other than science, such as deep ecology and bioregionalism, are also considered.

CONFERENCES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION IN MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (ICEMST)
16-18 May, 2014
Konya, TURKEY
http://www.icemst.com

We would like to invite you to the International Conference on Education in Mathematics, Science and Technology which will take place on May 16 - 18, 2014, at Necmettin Erbakan University in Konya, Turkey. The conference will be organized in partnership with the International Journal of Education in Mathematics, Science, and Technology (IJEMST).

The aim of the conference is to bring together scholars, students, and administrators from different countries, and to discuss theoretical and practical issues in the fields of information and communication technologies in education, science education and mathematics education.

Your prospective, valuable contributions on this field will be evaluated by the Scientific Committee and the ones approved to be presented will also be published in the Proceedings.

We will be pleased to generate an atmosphere where you can share your expertise, experience, and resources with your colleagues.

9th International Conference on Conceptual Change
University of Bologna, Italy
August 26-29, 2014
1st Call for Submissions

The 9th meeting of the Special Interest Group on Conceptual Change (SIG 3) of the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI) will be held at the University of Bologna, Italy on August 26-29, 2014. The conference organizers invite SIG 3 members, and all those interested, to submit proposals for posters, individual papers and symposia for inclusion in the conference program. Proposals may address theoretical and empirical research on any aspect of research on conceptual change or related topics. Deadline for submitting proposals is March 1st, 2014. Please mark your calendars. More information (including plenary speakers) can be found at the conference website: http://www.aub.edu.lb/FAS/SMEC/Pages/The9thInternationalConferenceonConceptualChange.aspx
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This is mostly a summary of upcoming conferences. More details may have been given in this or previous bulletins as shown. A web-based contact is usually included. Inclusion of conferences in this list is not to be read as an endorsement of the conference.

2014

March 2014
30 March – 2 April: NARST 2014 Annual International Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, USA (https://www.narst.org/annualconference/futureconf.cfm)

May 2014


July 2014


12-15 July STEM Education and Our Planet: Making Connections Across Contexts, UBC Vancouver, Canada (http://stem2014.ubc.ca/)

28-30 July: Indigenous Men & Women Conference, Pullman Cairns International Hotel, Cairns QLD (www.indigenoushealth.net) (Oct13)

August 2014

26-29 August: 9th International Conference on Conceptual Change, University of Bologna, Italy (http://www.aub.edu.lb/FAS/SMEC/Pages/The9thInternationalConferenceonConceptualChange.aspx) (Feb14)

Future Australasian Science Education Research Association (ASERA) conferences (mid-year)
2015 – Perth (host: University of Western Australia)
2016 – Canberra (host: University of Canberra)

Future National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST) conferences
11-14 April 2015 – Chicago IL