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IN SHORT

NRM Jobs

Ranger Facilitator, Yirralka Rangers, Laynhapuy

Ranger Group Coordinators, CLC

Specialist Keeper Nature Theatre, AS Desert Park

Land Resource Information Officer, CLC

Land Management Officer, Darwin

Environmental Scientist, Darwin

Environmental Officer - NT Government

Supervisor, Parks and Gardens, AS Town Council

Funding Opportunities

Applications are now open for the \$64 million Carbon Farming Futures Extension and Outreach Program. Individuals and organisations can apply for grants to assist farmers and land managers to adopt technologies and practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and participate in the Carbon

FEATURE

TNRM Annual Forum

The Territory NRM Annual forum, recently held in Darwin, showcased a variety of exciting NRM projects and activities that have been happening across the regions. Over 150 people came along to our event to hear a huge number of speakers (including Indigenous Ranger Groups, Pastoralists, Conservation groups, Peak Industry body representatives, Landcare groups, researchers and other NRM professionals) share their NRM stories ranging from weed management, feral control, fire management and community engagement.



You can catch some of the presenters speaking about their projects [here](#) (thanks from all of us at Territory NRM to Matt Brann at the ABC for coming along and broadcasting live at the event)

Here is some of the feedback we received:

"Thanks for supporting us to go to the NRM forum. We really enjoyed it and I think it was a great experience for the Rangers to be part of and get an appreciation of how interested people are in their work."

"Great event, well done to all those involved. I'm really sorry I couldn't stay for the full day."

Thanks to everyone who came along to the event, especially to the presenters who shared their knowledge and stories and thanks to everyone who joined us on the day via twitter.

A huge thanks in particular to those who facilitated the well-received workshops on the second day of the event and we hope that everyone enjoyed themselves.

OTHER STORIES

Landscape Literacy in the Red Centre

Last month TNRM's Regional Coordinators Heidi Groffen, Ilse Pickerd, James Wright and Spatial Scientist Philippe Puig were among the 11 to attend a Landscape Literacy course in Alice Springs facilitated by Hugh Pringle and Centralian Land Management Association.



Farming Initiative. For more info, click [here](#)

Publications and holiday reading!

Territory NRM's Annual Report is now available [online](#), if you would like a hard copy, please send us an [email](#).

The Territory NRM [Carbon Farming Initiative Booklet](#) is now available online. If you would like a hard copy, please send us an [email](#).

[Atlas of Living Australia](#) is an interactive website which enables natural resource managers to learn more about their natural surroundings and contribute to the data through it's biodiversity volunteer portal (which already has over 30 000 entries). Field guides and mobile apps enable users to explore and to identify species you may not have seen before.

Soils for Life - have released a report "[Innovations for Regenerative Landscape Management](#)"

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The week-long course gave us an insight into Ecosystem Management Understanding (EMU)™ and drainage system ecology; particularly key patterns and processes that optimize primary production and rainfall infiltration. We spent the week both in the 'classroom' and making ground observations at Old Man Plains Research Station. Thank you to land managers Coral Allen and Darren White, from DPI, for showing us around the property. On ground activities included a flight and site visits to develop skills in system dysfunction diagnosis at multiple scales. At the end of the week we were able to compile system assessments and discuss restoration options and priorities. Through this process we became familiar with restoration planning principles, and we look forward to the follow up course next year which will focus on catchment ecosystem restoration.

A big thanks to CLMA and Hugh Pringle for making this worthwhile course possible. This was a TNRM funded project.

New Pastoral Landcare Group for the Gulf

Over 40 people attended a land management field day at Heartbreak Hotel last Thursday. Territory NRM's Regional Coordinator James Wright and NT Regional Landcare Facilitator Peter Clifton organised the day after months of consultation with landholders in the Gulf.



The field day provided an opportunity for people to get together, form working relationships and learn about a wide range of land management techniques, including how to identify and treat Parkinsonia, the latest feral animal control technologies, how to minimise erosion, pastoral extension services, fire control for carbon credits and the new system for baiting wild dogs in the NT.

The Gulf Rivers Landcare Group was formed and the election process is underway. Elections close on 20th December

Like other pastoral landcare groups, the formation of the Gulf Rivers Landcare Group will lead to improved capacity access to resources for strategic natural resource management initiatives.

Melon Grower's forum

Territory NRM in partnership with DPIF, held a melon growers' forum in Katherine on the 9th of November. The Forum was a huge success with the majority of growers in the region in attendance. Growers travelled from as far away as Darwin and Mataranka to attend and some growers hadn't seen one another for 10 years! The NT Melon industry is valued at \$58m per year and in terms of horticulture, it is second only to mangoes



Stuart Smith (DPIF) gave an overview of the melon industry in the NT, info on the importance of cover cropping and an introduction to the Action on the Ground project. This project is a DAFF initiative, pledging \$99m of on farm investments over the next 6 years – the NT project will receive \$600 000 over

three years.

Bob Williams spoke about Export to South East Asia and new potential market access.

There has been increased demand for watermelons from supermarkets in China while Russia and Korea are also opening up markets.

Barry Conde gave an update on the Fusarium project including grafting and the cost of disease to the industry. For more information, check out the links from the NT Country Hour reports.

Interview with TNRM's Chantal Bramley and grower, Dave Cormack

Interview with Bob Williams, Director of Plant Industries, DPIF

Farewell Chantal

Last month we said farewell to our Top End Regional Coordinator, Chantal Bramley. Over the past three years, Chantal has been an important part of our small team and has worked closely with many of our project partners in the Top End to build strong working relationships with an array of stakeholders and achieve some remarkable environmental project outcomes.



Thank you Chantal for your contribution to the Territory NRM team and we wish you the best in your new role as Environmental Officer with Power and Water Corporation, so while we at Territory NRM will miss your skills and knowledge, great sense of humour and general presence in the office, we're happy that they will remain in the Territory and look forward to working with you in the future. Chantal's replacement will join the team in January.

Threat abatement plan launched

A threat abatement plan to reduce the impacts on northern Australia's biodiversity by the five listed grasses (the plan) under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) was launched on 11 December 2012.



A threat abatement plan is considered to be a feasible, effective and efficient way to abate the key threatening process listed under section 183 of the EPBC Act, 'Ecosystem degradation, habitat loss and species decline due to invasion of northern Australia by introduced gamba grass (*Andropogon gayanus*), para grass (*Urochloa mutica*), olive hymenachne (*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*), mission grass (*Cenchrus polystachios* syn. *Pennisetum polystachion*) and annual mission grass (*Cenchrus pedicellatus* syn. *Pennisetum pedicellatum*)'.

For more information, click [here](#)

Image of gamba grass fire - NTG Weeds Branch

The gamba grass assistance program is now open, click [here](#) for more information

Endangered Possum Surveys in Central Australia

The Central Land Council (CLC), Senior Traditional Owners, Rangers from Papunya, Docker River and Santa Teresa and Andrew Schubert from Desert Wildlife Services completed surveys over the year for the



Endangered Common Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecular*). Comprehensive surveys were undertaken at key places within their historical range within the Haasts Bluff ALT, Irving Creek area on the proposed Katiti Petermann IPA and the Hale River on Loves Creek Station. The aim of this project was to re-visit previously surveyed sites where possums had been recorded 20 years ago, determine presence or absence of possums, record habitat quality, weed, fire and feral predator and herbivore impacts, as well as implement on ground land management activities for the threatened species conservation. To read more, visit our [website](#)

Image courtesy of the Central Land Council

National Biodiversity Investment Prospectus Launched

On December 12, Federal Environment Minister, Tony Burke, released the Gillard Government's first national biodiversity investment prospectus: *One Land – Many Stories: Prospectus of Investment 2013-14*

"It provides the community with information in one document on where we will focus our investments in 2013-14 and how we will work with the community to deliver real outcomes for the environment." said Minister Burke.

For more information, click [here](#).

End of year message from the Chair, Kate Andrews

It has been an exciting year. I never fail to be impressed by the commitment and hard work of all of those involved in natural resource management in the NT. The two NRM Forums this year, in Alice and in Darwin, were a great



showcase of the scope of work being undertaken in the Northern Territory in natural and cultural resource management; the range of people, organisations and activities involved, and the myriad of issues addressed over our diverse Territory. Territory Natural Resource Management is working to support you across this scope, and to continually improve how we do this.

We also continue to advocate for natural resource management, and for the Territory, at the national level. We have provided input to a range of Australian Government programs and policies such as the second phase of the Caring for our Country program, NRM planning, and processes for improving the

performance and governance of regional bodies nationally. Regionally we have been helping to build an alliance of regional NRM organisations across northern Australia, and a broader collaboration with Indigenous, pastoral and conservation groups. Helping work towards a vision for the future is as important as slogging away on the day to day challenges. I'd like to thank our directors, staff, partners and everyone doing their bit for natural resource management for another inspiring year. I look forward to the next!

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