

# TEMs Links



November 2004

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 3

## CC's Corner

Dear All,

The year is almost past and we are all consumed with final unit assessment, a busy time. There is plenty of activity with research projects nearing completion, with a number of students having submitted their thesis for examination. I note that an MTEM research project has made it into a peer-reviewed journal, an outstanding effort. Makoto Hasebe and his supervisor Dr Don Franklin have recently published results from their study on Rainbow Lorikeet food sources in the journal *Corella*, details given on p 9.



Penny Wurm (Project Leader, Education, Tropical Savanna CRC) and others have continued to develop course curriculum for the Professional Doctorate in Tropical Environmental Management (DTEM), which is going to the University's Teaching and Learning Panel in December 2004 for assessment. This course essentially continues the Masters but at a doctoral level. The program includes course work, a professional placement in Tropical Savanna CRC partner agencies (government departments, Universities, land management groups, indigenous organisations etc.), plus an 18 month research project. Professional doctorates are designed for working professionals who may not wish to commit to a 3-4 year research only PhD, but who want to continue to develop their skills at a high level.

*Continued page 2*

*Lindsay gets helpful instructions from friend Jarrah Ziembicki at Kidman Springs, during the SB1509 Rangelands field trip. Photo: Marj King*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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### TEMS LINKS

- *Aims to keep students of Tropical Environmental Management Program in touch with each other and with staff in the course*
- *Contributions from students and others are always welcome, and should be sent to*

TEMS Links

C/o Dr Penny Wurm

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## CCC's corner *(continued)*

Units from James Cook University and The University of Queensland will be integrated into the coursework program students can develop. The course will hopefully be accredited and available for enrolment by semester 1 2006.

There are also new units being developed for the TEM program, namely a unit on Tropical Beef Production which will complement the existing unit, SBI 509 Managing Northern Rangelands. The Production unit will focus more on production issues in northern Australia, sustainable grazing systems, marketing and strategic planning issues for the pastoral industry. Managing Northern Rangelands has more of a natural resource management focus. These units, plus research projects on rangelands issues would form the heart of a rangelands management stream within the MTEM. Also under consideration is a unit on Desert Knowledge, which would examine land management issues in arid regions of northern Australia. This unit would capitalise on recent strategic directions set by CDU via the appointment of a Professor of Desert Knowledge, Professor Donna Craig who will be involved in developing the unit. In addition, the Savanna Ecology and Management unit SBI 507 is being upgraded.

That's enough from me, hope you had a rewarding 2004 on the program and I look forward to more in 2005 !

Cheers,  
Lindsay H  
Course Coordinator

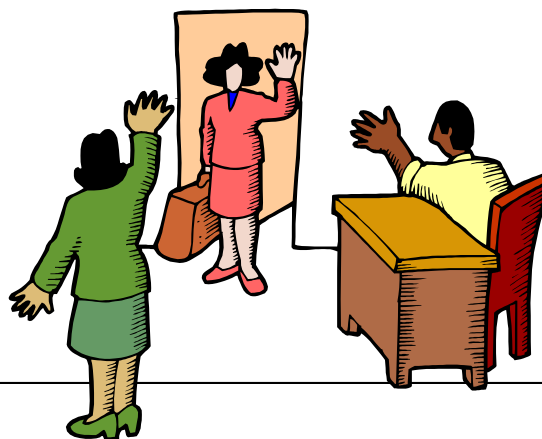
Farewell, Dr Lynda Prior

Lynda will be leaving the TS CRC Higher Education project at the end of this year. She will be taking up full time work in the Key Centre for Tropical Wildlife Management in the Institute of Advanced Studies, where she has been working part-time. She will be working with Dr David Bowman on two projects looking at landscape change in Kakadu National Park, and her work will involve supervising research students, and ongoing work with ARC and other Key Centre projects.

During her time with the TS CRC Lynda has worked on TEM program marketing, the development of the curriculum proposal for the Doctorate in Tropical Environmental Management, recruitment of TS CRC supported PhD students and the development of a new unit in fire ecology and management, and other projects. Importantly she has been editor of TEMsLinks.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lynda for her insight, efficiency, great research skills and collegial company on the TS CRC Education Project. We will sincerely miss you!

*Penny Wurm*



As Penny has mentioned, this will be my last TEMSLINKS. It has been part of the job I've really looked forward to, producing a new issue every few months. I've especially enjoyed meeting you TEM students and graduates, if only on paper. I am always inspired by your stories, and the many interesting and varied paths that you travel—both before and after graduation.

I'd like to thank the TS CRC team for providing such a congenial working atmosphere, and especially Penny and Lindsay for their help and encouragement. I would also like to say how much I've enjoyed the student contact I've had—notably on the Rangelands field trips.

Finally, a big thank you to the TEM students, past and present, who have shared their stories via TEMSLINKS.

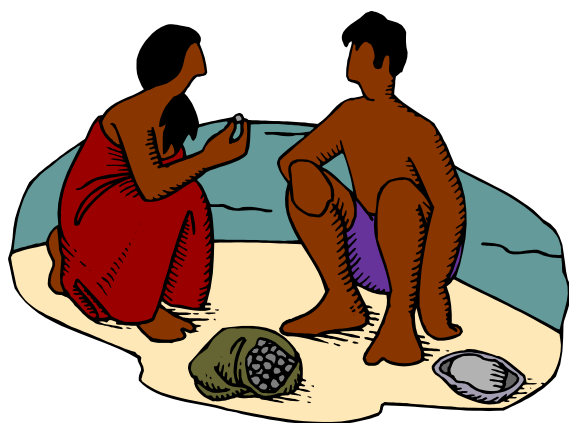
*Lynda Prior*

## Book Review

### The White Divers of Broome. The True Story of a Fatal Experiment

By John Bailey (2001) Pan Macmillan Australia, Sydney

This book covers much more than its title suggests. While it focuses on the plight of twelve British Royal Navy-trained divers and their tenders, sent to Broome to shore up Australia's White Australia Policy, it tells the fascinating story of the Australian pearling industry and also of Broome's history. I highly recommend this book, especially if you're about to visit Broome.



Before Europeans arrived on the north west coast of Australia, you could pick up mother-of-pearl from the beach. Aboriginal people carved the shells into spearheads or tools, and wore them as ornaments. They also cooked and ate the shellfish. All this changed, of course, with the arrival of European pastoralists, and the depressingly familiar diseases that accompanied them. The shockingly unfamiliar chapter of the area's Aboriginal history concerns the role played by Aboriginal people in the pearl-shell industry. Aborigines were driven down to the beaches to collect pearl shell for pastoralists who rewarded them with trinkets, flour and tobacco. Fortunes were made, but of course, not sustainably – soon most of the mother-of-pearl was stripped from the beaches, and here the story becomes more harrowing. First the Aboriginal people were ordered to wade into the sea and search for shell by the touch of their feet, but as that shell, too, was depleted, they were forced to go deeper and deeper. Before long, Aboriginal men and women were diving to 6 or 7 fathoms (about 12 metres) on a chest full of air. These people were crammed onto boats and forced to work under brutal and dangerous conditions.

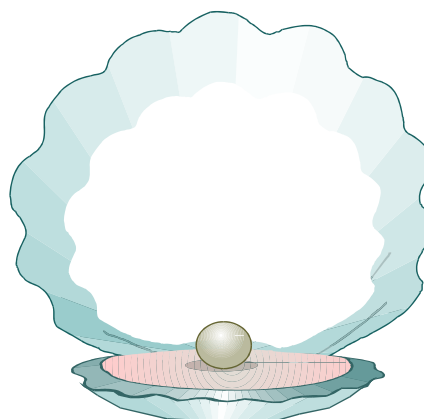
However, there was yet more shell to be had beyond the reach of skin-divers. To harvest this, diving apparatus was required, and the Aboriginal people could not be induced to plunge over the side of boats wearing the cumbersome gear. The pearlers initially turned



to Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines for labour, but then began to use Japanese divers. The lives and deaths of these people are described in disturbing detail. As well as the bends, beri beri (thiamine deficiency, which is easily cured by a proper diet) killed many.

Elsewhere in Australia, there was disquiet about non-Europeans entering the country. The Japanese divers were particularly worrisome, being seen as ambitious, with 'ability, energy, and wonderful organisation'. The master pearlers argued that while they favoured the ideal of the White Australia policy, banning Asians would ruin the industry. To resolve the situation, and demonstrate that Europeans were superior to the Japanese under water as well as on land, the British Navy divers were recruited. In 1912 they arrived in Broome. Much of this book is devoted to their ordeal, and the disastrous results of the racial arrogance that plunged them into such an unfamiliar and hostile environment.

No one will mourn the passing of this era in the pearling industry. A combination of medical science, improved technology and a more enlightened attitude towards workers has led to enormous improvements in the health, safety and comfort of all involved in the industry – all, that is, except for the oyster.



## Graduate Update—Ian ‘Dicko’ Dixon



*Volunteers of the Australia Geographic Top End Scientific Expedition – Douglas/Daly Region. Ian Dixon on far left*

I graduated with a Graduate Diploma of Tropical Environment Management in 2001 after driving to Darwin in a Volvo from Canberra. The temperature of my first night in Darwin dropped to a chilly 28 degrees—a bit of a shock coming from a town 580 metres higher in altitude. After completing the GDTEM I gained some casual field work with Penny Wurm riding quad bikes around the Mary River floodplains, and then with Natalie Rossiter eating BBQ chicken rolls in Wildman Reserve. When not exploring the Top End, I was telling people to stop running and to get off the lane ropes at Casuarina pool. A year later I joined the Water Monitoring Branch at NT DIPE for a 6 month contract writing Darwin Harbour water quality reports. Mid-2003 saw the retirement of my Swedish-built car and the purchasing of a Territorian-Toyota when I joined the Ecology Mob (Dougo and Sam) at Charles Darwin University.

I am a research associate working on the Tropical Savannas CRC's Riparian Health Project. My main task is to develop a rapid method for assessing the condition of riparian zones in the wet-dry tropics. A rapid assessment is a tool that on-ground land managers can easily use to assess and monitor changes in the condition of riparian vegetation. It looks at numerous features of the riparian zone—such as vegetation cover, weeds, debris, regeneration and disturbance—and gives each a score, depending on how well each

performs a function—such as bank stabilisation, nutrient and sediment filtering, shading, maintenance of biodiversity and provision of habitat. The method will allow land managers to identify areas that require special attention, such as weed, erosion, stock or feral animal control. By documenting the changes in riparian condition, land managers can evaluate the effectiveness of management actions and identify areas for future works.

Half of my three-year contract has now passed and I am still learning how to use the photocopier (unlike my personal assistant Bazza). I have, however, further developed other professional skills and have been fortunate enough to apply these in many amazing locations around the Top End. My knowledge of riparian plants has sky-rocketed, especially in the Darwin region, Kakadu National Park and the Douglas-Daly region. I recently joined an Australia Geographic Scientific Expedition where I had the pleasure of working with 12 interesting volunteers from all walks-of-life (see photo). I was using the volunteer group to trial the rapid assessment method in riparian zones that varied in condition. The aim of the study was to see if all the users collected similar results. Future field work will hopefully be carried out with pastoralists in the Roper River catchment; indigenous land managers in the Kimberley; and park rangers and traditional owners of Kakadu National Park.



## Ian Dixon (continued)

In late October 2004, I gave my first presentation at the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Stream Management Conference in Launceston, Tasmania. It was a great experience and I met a lot of people that have led the way in developing rapid assessment methods in southern Australia. I also ate about 5kg of Tasmanian prawns.

Next year I will upgrade my GDTEM to MTEM by undertaking a year-long project. I plan to assess the condition of riparian zones at 50 sites in the Darwin region and write some management recommendations that aim to protect, maintain or improve the condition of the riparian zone....or something like that. Hooroo



*This picture of Ian kindly supplied by Jane Barratt*

## Quoll Spotters Wanted

TSN (Threatened Species Network) Northern Savannas is seeking any information about recent northern quoll sightings in the Top End. With the advancing cane toad front, quolls are disappearing fast because they die when they eat a toad. It is important to find out exactly where quolls still survive. Please contact TSN if you have recently seen a quoll or would like to be involved in the establishment of a Quoll Seeker Network. It is envisaged that a network will be established early in 2005 to record, monitor and promote northern quoll conservation in the Top End. All welcome. Contact Jarrod Holmes, Threatened Species Network  
Email: [savannas@wwf.org.au](mailto:savannas@wwf.org.au)

< [savannas@wwf.org.au](mailto:savannas@wwf.org.au) >  
Tel (08) 8941 7554



## Graduate Update—Jane 'Bazza' Barratt



*Jane in Mission grass at Litchfield in May 04*

“Grass Girl” reporting live from Charles Darwin University.

Having graduated from Masters in Tropical Environmental Management in 2003, I was lucky enough to land a job as a research associate, working on the Tropical Savannas CRC funded Grassy Weeds Projects with Dr Michael Douglas and Dr Sam Setterfield.

When I left the UK about four years ago, I would never have thought I would be working with weeds, especially grassy weeds! It certainly is a conversation starter when people ask you what you do. No one really ever expects you to turn around and say well I research grassy weeds. A bemused and smiling face is a typical response.

So what does a Grassy Weeds Research Associate actually do? It is a really diverse role – ranging from digging holes in the dirt and chopping grass out bush to analysing large data sets and developing links with external organisations.

The last 15 months has been pretty action packed. One of the first, and on-going projects, has been helping PhD

student, Natalie Rossiter, who is looking at the impacts of the introduced African grass gamba grass. Her project focuses on the impacts of gamba grass on savanna fire characteristics, nitrogen cycling and water cycling. This saw Natalie and I spending a lot of the build up and wet season out bush at the Wildman Reserve getting friendly with the mossies, buffalo and march flies.

I also undertook a similar study into another introduced African grass; mission grass (perennial species) at Litchfield National Park. One of the highlights of the mission grass study (apart from field sites next to Wangi Falls) was probably the fires we measured at Leanyer. We almost lost our sites to a wildfire but our ‘mates’ (see photo) helped save the day!

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My job also involves helping out other students studying grassy weeds. This has included working with Honours student Peter Clifton who studied the effects of gamba grass on microclimate and woody seedling recruitment at Wildman Reserve, and with PhD student Ken Scott at the Territory Wildlife Park looking at population dynamics of ground layer vegetation in response to fire regime.

I have been involved with several other grassy weed projects including seed bank collection with Sean Belairs and Taegan Calnan, examining the impacts of gamba grass on stand structure in the field with Keith Ferdinands and Geoff Carr and monitoring the hydrological effects of gamba grass using data loggers at Wildman with Lindsay Hutley.

Life as a grassy weeds research associate continues to be full of opportunities to meet and work with new people on a wide range of projects. I am continually learning and enjoy the combination of field work, lab work and office work.





The Leanyer Fire - Sam Setterfield and Jane with their 'mates'!

## Lindy Features in Financial Review

Veterinarian and Tropical Wildlife Management student Lindy Price recently featured in the Education Supplement of the Financial Review (Mon 18th October 2004). The article describes how Lindy's interest in animal management and wildlife conservation led her to enrol in the GDTWM at Charles Darwin University.

Lindy has been living in Broome since 2000, and the flexibility offered by CDU was the only way she could complete a postgraduate course in wildlife health and population management that she had started at the University of Sydney.

One of Lindy's major interests is in solving the problem of why sea turtles are developing a form of cancer called fibropapilloma. While Lindy still loves being a vet, she is looking at her options in the environmental field. 'There's very little research done by vets on wild animal populations, but it's a huge problem in Australia because European settlement, tree clearing and grazing animals have upset the balance that used to exist'.



### FINANCIAL REVIEW

Date: Monday, 18 October 2004  
Page Number: 24  
Edition: First  
Supplement: Education

Market: National  
Circulation: ABC 83,450  
Published: Monday to Saturday  
Editorial: [news@finreview.com.au](mailto:news@finreview.com.au)  
Item No: F3925961

#### Endangered wildlife attracts vet

Julie Marshall

Veterinarian Lindy Price says she has always been interested in the 'big picture' of animal management and wildlife conservation.

Since graduating in 1999 from the University of Melbourne with a bachelor's degree in veterinary science, Price has developed a deep interest in endangered species.

Price received Distinction for Honours, Western Australia, in 2000 and was awarded the postgraduate diploma in tropical wildlife management offered by Charles Darwin University.

She used the flexibility offered by CDU as the only way she could complete a postgraduate course in wildlife health and population management that she had started at the University of Sydney.

'Working in the Sydney course would have meant flying back because it wasn't online, so it wasn't all options, but I did get credit for one subject', she says.

At the University of Sydney, she was a 'bored' student. Tony Ingalls, who was an important influence on her decision to specialize in the care of wildlife.

'She has a great vision to teach vets conservation biology', she says.

Price's current interest is in solving the problem of why sea turtles, even those living in pristine conditions, are developing a form of cancer called fibropapilloma.

She will conclude, after graduating, she headed for the



Sea turtles develop a form of cancer called fibropapilloma.

United Kingdom and did a training course as James Cook, founded by the famous naturalist and author Gerald Durrell, where she completed a certificate in endangered species management.

Price says the people she met on the course opened her eyes to the ethical dilemmas faced by the wildlife conservation lobby in countries where subsistence agriculture has found that there are whatever they can, even rare programs, just to survive.

'Conservation is a luxury in places like the Ivory Coast and Nigeria', she says.

Price also participated in a conservation program in Honduras run by Coral Gables Conservation and was part of an ambassador program in Ecuador and the Galapagos.

'I will love being a vet but I'm looking at the options in the environmental field', Price says.

'Coming back to study was a step in directing my energy and passion into big climate problems and the environmental issues, which aren't traditionally get involved in.'

'There's very little research done by vets on wild animal populations, but it's a huge problem in Australia because European settlement, tree clearing and grazing animals have upset the balance that used to exist.'

Unlike GPs, many of whom do longer profiles with minor surgery, vets are thought to operate on all manner of creatures.

'You trained for one might include operating on a snake - I've treated a few kangaroos, but I've had a lot of experience with a horse and a turtle, a crocodile or any kind of wild animal', Price says.

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TEMS Links—July 2004





**SBI509 Field Trip August 2004**

**Victoria River District**

**Photos: Marj King**



# MTEM Thesis submissions

By Penny Wurm

MTEM Research Projects Coordinator

Since the last edition the following TEM research projects have been submitted (and are currently in examination):

**Erin Aucoin-Wenkoff** worked on “Accounting for Indigenous cultural values in the Northern Territory Water Act”. Erin has now returned to her home country of Canada.

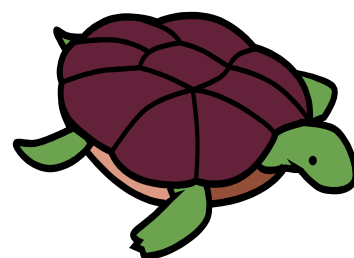
**Abilio da Fonseca** looked at “The effects of salinity on juvenile growth and survival of black tiger prawn (*Penaeus monodon* Fabricius)”. Abilio completed his thesis while at home in Dili and is now working on a biodiversity management project in East Timor.

**Birgit Hallenstein** submitted her thesis entitled Land monitoring on Mistake Creek Station: Evaluating the use of historically collected ground data to validate multi-temporal satellite data.” Birgit, who is employed with NT DIPE, celebrated with a camping trip!

**Simon Gummer** submitted his thesis entitled “Towards Australia-wide codes of conduct for marine turtle tourism: the Northern Territory's contribution”. Simon is now headed off along the wets coast for a well earned traveling holiday before deciding on a date for his return to Europe.

**Michelle Press's** thesis is entitled “Use of photo-identification to assess migration of whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) at Nigaloo Reef, Western Australia”. Michelle plans to return home to the US in early December.

Congratulations everyone!



## MTEM Publication by Makoto Hasebe

*Makoto's supervisor, Don Franklin, has forwarded us details of the publication arising from Makoto's MTEM thesis. This should be an inspiration for all other TEM students doing or contemplating their research projects!*

Hasebe M, Franklin DC. 2004. Food sources of the Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus* during the early wet season on the urban fringe of Darwin, northern Australia. *Corella* **28**: 68-74.

Abstract: The food sources of the Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus* were studied from October to January in a mixed environment of urban, semi-urban and remnant native vegetation on the coastal fringe of Darwin in the Northern Territory. The study coincided with a period of low nectar availability in the tropical savannas, abundant but flowering and fruiting of rainforest trees and the ripening of cultivated fruit of *Mango Mangifera indica*. Lorikeets obtained a diversity of food types from 37 species of plants. Consumption of seed, mostly of the Coastal She-oak *Casuarina equisetifolia*, and nectar and/or pollen from a diversity of species comprised 41 per cent and 40 per cent respectively of foraging observations. Lerp obtained from the leaves of cultivated eucalypts was also prominent in the diet, whilst consumption of fleshy fruits was minor and consisted entirely of consumption of mango early in the study period. Just over 50 per cent of flower-feeding records were at eucalypts and over 60 per cent at myrtaceous trees. Food sources and flock sizes varied considerably over time within the study period. The median size of feeding flocks was five, with a range from 1 to 30, the largest flocks occurring in Mango trees and at the flowers of woodland trees, and the smallest at cultivated flower and leaf sources. Coastal forest provided mainly seed and woodland trees mainly nectar and/or pollen, whilst the urban environment provided a wide range of resources. However, an extensive band of semi-deciduous vine-thicket provided few food sources and supported few lorikeets during the study period. The large population of lorikeets in the study area was supported both by the diversity of plants associated in particular with urban plantings, and by the juxtaposition of habitats.



## Graduation October 2004

TEM graduates for the October ceremony were **Brian Cluney, Natalie Madden** and **Carlos Ximenes**, who all graduated with their Master of Tropical Environmental Management. Congratulations!

Unfortunately none of them were available to attend the ceremony, as they were scattered around the world doing interesting things! – Natalie is an environmental consultant in Gladstone, Carlos is a civil servant at home in East Timor and Brian is working on a 1 year AusAid project in Fiji.

### MTEM Theses

Did you know that copies of some of the best completed MTEM Theses are lodged in the Short Term Loan section of the CDU Library? They are listed under unit code SBI520 in the library catalogue, but are a bit hard to find—they are in the Personal Copy collection. Numbers 534, 541, 579, 823- 825 are MTEM theses (lodged there by Dr Penny Wurm).



*Natalie Madden couldn't make it to the Graduation ceremony, but she was very happy to receive her MTEM certificate.*

### Now I've graduated, how do I put all those letters after my name?

MTEM graduate Wendy Gillespie asked “Can you please advise what letters we are entitled to place after our name on completion of the Masters, and do you know what order the BSc is placed first last???? Where do you gather this info as it seems to vary? “

Sam Thompson, Manager of the Academic Liaison Unit, replied :

‘I have spoken to a few people and the theory is the you would put them in the order of completion (lowest to highest). The actual course letters can be found under the Degree and Other Award rules in the CDU Calendar’. So it is:

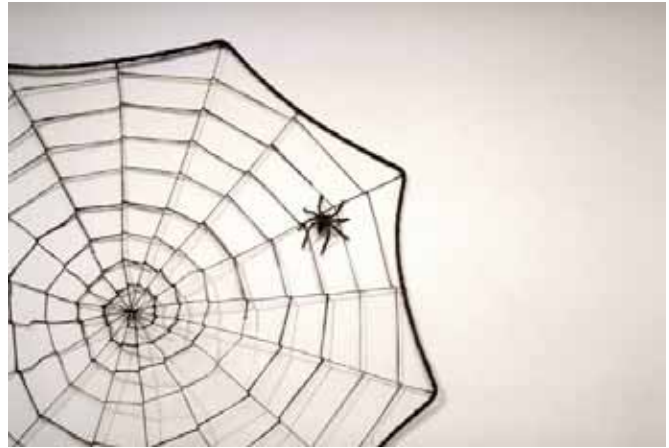
**Your name, BSc, MTropEnvironMgmt**



# WEB-SITES

## Improved Savanna Search Site

The TS-CRC's Savanna Search website has recently been improved. This site displays bibliographic references related to Tropical Savannas research by drawing information from researchers' Endnote files. It will also allow users to download references from the site to their own Endnotes files. The site now has an improved interface that should be easier to use with "simple search" and "advanced search" options. The site has a much greater number of records to search thanks to the references from the Key Centre for Tropical Wildlife Management's (CDU) very large Endnotes database. There are now around 45,000 references on the site.



Another feature of Savanna Search is the capacity to create website links that dynamically generate search results on particular topics. For example if you go to [http://savanna.cdu.edu.au/information/ar/seedeating\\_birds\\_2.html](http://savanna.cdu.edu.au/information/ar/seedeating_birds_2.html) in Savanna Explorer you will see a list of bird species that trigger a bibliographic search. Go to the TS-CRC website and click on "Savanna Search" at the bottom right of the home page, or use the link [http://savanna.cdu.edu.au/information/savanna\\_search.html](http://savanna.cdu.edu.au/information/savanna_search.html)

## NRM website for regions

A new Australian Government NRM website has been set up to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences between regional bodies on NRM. The public area of the web site emphasises the involvement of all levels of government in natural resource management as well as providing ready access to a range of information related to monitoring and evaluation, investments and funding, and discovering data. It is intended that all key NRM reference material produced by the Australian Government will be made accessible through the public area of the web site. Visit: <http://www.nrm.gov.au>.

## Interactive social atlas for regional Aust

A wealth of information on rural and regional Australia, including details of population, education, employment, household and income, is now just a keystroke away, following the recent launch of a new website. The new web-based Interactive Social Atlas draws on information collected for the BRS/RIRDC publication Country Matters - Social Atlas of Rural and Regional Australia. Visit: <http://data.brs.gov.au/mapserv/pdfatlas/index.html>

## A bird's eye view of landscape change

Australians can now access satellite imagery for a bird's eye view of changes to Australia's landscape over the past 30 years. The recent launch of Australia 1972-2002: A Thirty Year View from Space is a satellite image product tracks and highlights changes to the environment, in particular vegetation cover. Visit: <http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/ncas/aspaces/index.html>

## Tropical Rivers

Australia's Tropical Rivers - Data Audit was commissioned by Land & Water Australia to provide an assessment of all catchments draining into the Gulf of Capentaria and the Timor Sea, as well as the east flowing rivers north of Cairns. The report is an important compendium of information for the region that will allow users to gain a very quick appreciation of the environment. It includes 24 full colour maps including fire scar history, soil classification, land tenure, river gauging stations, annual climate data, groundwater flow systems, threatened species, and estuary conditions. Visit: [http://www.lwa.gov.au/downloads/publications\\_pdf/PR040674.pdf](http://www.lwa.gov.au/downloads/publications_pdf/PR040674.pdf)

### jobhunters:

Hallmark Editions have two very useful sites , one for environmental jobs:

<http://www.envirojobs.com.au>

the other is for jobs in research:

<http://www.researchjobs.net.au>

"NRMjobs" is another excellent site advertising jobs that TEM students are likely to be interested in:

<http://www.nrmjobs.com.au>

# SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND A FESTIVAL

The **Ecological Society of Australia** maintains a comprehensive listing of relevant conferences at: [www.ecolsoc.org.au/ConferenceListing.html](http://www.ecolsoc.org.au/ConferenceListing.html)

*Why not check out their student memberships when you visit their site?*

## **11th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM) 16-19 June 2005, Östersund, Sweden**

ISSRM 2005 will focus on the social and cultural dimensions of natural resource issues and their importance to natural resource decision makers and managers. Specific topics of the symposium include: nature-based tourism; rural impact from tourism; human dimensions of wildlife; strategic environmental assessment; natural resources in regional and local planning; resource economics and valuation; eco-tourism; regional development; indigenous peoples and natural resources; environmental attitudes and values; policy, planning and conservation; outdoor environmental education; environmental change and society; sustainability criteria and indicators; tourism and the environment; and fire management. Web: <http://www.issrm2005.com>

## **The 8th International Conference on Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions 5-10 September 2005, Poland**

Contact: Dr Barbara Tokarska-Guzik,

Department of Plant Systematics, Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, University of Silesia, Jagiellonska 28 40-032 Katowice, POLAND Web: <http://www.emapi.us.edu.pl/>

## **Devils Claw Festival Gregory National Park, NT, 5th - 17th December**

The Devils Claw Festival is an annual weed control program conducted within Gregory National Park. Gregory National Park is the 2nd largest park in Australia, covering close to 12500 square km of land in the Victoria River District, west of Katherine. It can be accessed via the Victoria Highway between Katherine and Kununurra. The Devils Claw Festival will take in some of the more remote areas of the park along the East Baines and Humbert Rivers. Devils Claw (*Martynia annua*) is a Class A noxious weed in the Northern Territory that grows along waterways in isolated locations throughout the park. The control program has been running for around 13 years and is proving to be highly successful.

So if you're physically fit, enjoy the outdoors and are keen to be volunteers, the Parks and Wildlife Service would like to hear from you. Food, camping and transport around the park will be provided.

For more information, please contact the Gregory National Park rangers at Bullita or Timber Creek.

Bullita: (08) 89750833 Timber Creek: (08) 89750888

### **SEMINARS AT CDU**

Keep an eye on the seminars at CDU—the EH&S Faculty and Key Centre for Tropical Wildlife Management (KCTWM) are sharing a slot on Wednesdays from 12 noon to 1pm in the Business Lecture Theatre (22.01). The CDU website and Key Centre websites have details:

<http://www.ntu.edu.au/faculties/site/research/pgresearch/semprogram.htm>

<http://www.wildlife.ntu.edu.au/>

### **CSIRO SEMINAR SERIES**

These are held at CSIRO Seminar Room, Vanderlin Drive, Berrimah at 3.45 pm on Fridays

Visit the website: [www.terc.csiro.au/seminars](http://www.terc.csiro.au/seminars)

# TEMS Links

## Tropical Environmental Management Students' Newsletter

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If undelivered, return to P Wurm, Tropical Savannas CRC, CDU, Darwin 0909

**The Northern Territory Field Naturalists Club** meets on the second Wednesday of the month, at 7.45 pm in the SAIKS seminar room (Bldg 30) here at CDU Casuarina. Guest speakers present informative talks on the flora and fauna of the region. There are also regular excursions. Contact Don Franklin: [don.franklin@cdu.edu.au](mailto:don.franklin@cdu.edu.au), phone

**The Top End Native Plant Society** meets on the third Thursday of each month at Marrara Christian School (corner of Amy Johnstone and Macmillans Rd). The meetings start at 7.30 and invited guest speakers provide insight into various aspects of Top End flora. Visit their website for more info:

<http://tenpsnt.tripod.com/>

### NTECOL discussion list

"NTECOL is a discussion list for people with an interest in the ecology and biology of the organisms and communities of Northern Australia.

The primary purpose of the list is facilitate communication among interested people and organisations so as to increase the flow of information and facilitate interaction. This could include--but need not be restricted to--announcements of seminars, workshops and conferences, discussion of topical issues, and requests for information or collaboration."

TO SUBSCRIBE, PLEASE GO TO THIS PAGE:

<http://lists.cdu.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/ntecol>

If you want to be removed from our mailing list (electronic or hardcopy), please let me know by emailing [penny.wurm@cdu.edu.au](mailto:penny.wurm@cdu.edu.au)