



WEEDS AND FERALS NEWS

WET SEASON 2011

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CONTACT US

CAPE YORK
WEEDS AND
FERAL ANIMALS
PROGRAM



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

MANAGERS NOTES:

The Late arrival of funds from the Federal Government really slowed the amount of work down that the group has been able to complete, and has also impacted on the preparations for our wet season control program.

During the last dry season, thanks to the prompt arrival of our Q2 Coast and Country contract and subsequent funds we were able to complete a substantial amount of follow up control on the Rubber vine infestations located north of the containment line. The group was able to control a total of 50 hectares of Rubber vine within the Lukin River and a further 30 hectares from within the Holroyd River. This control work is building upon previous investment in the area from the blue print for the bush and previous State and Federal investment over the last three years.

It was good to see community support for last years Cooktown Hog Hunt with a total of 132 pigs weighed in. Further community engagement activities have been undertaken by the staff at weeds and ferals, including providing a information both at the annual Cooktown Country Show and participation in Weedbusters week.

In conjunction with the Wild River Ranger Program and the Normanton Rangers, Cape York Weeds and Feral animal staff were contracted to complete a six-day cull in the area, which resulted in the removal of over 4500 pigs from two stations in the Normanton area. This is great outcome for the Normanton Rangers and the CYWAFAP staff look forward to continuing to providing support or the Normanton Rangers.

With almost all our contracts signed off and funding starting to roll in, we are now able to ramp up our control programs within the region. Preparations are underway to ensure that we provide high quality environmental outcomes for the community of Cape York.



Staff delivering ACDC training to Nyungkal Rangers



Staff undertaking recreational boat safety course



ARE YOU GUILTY OF SPREADING WEED SEEDS:

The vastness of our country and the ease at which we are able to cover large distances leaves us wide open to the possibility of rapid weed seed spread. The modern economy requires us to transport products great distances, unfortunately weeds seeds are easily adapted to hitching a free ride all over the country. Since the arrival of the modern passenger vehicle our independent lifestyle has contributed hugely to the spread of all kind of weeds, as well our great passion for the great outdoors has led to one of the most significant environmental threats that our country has faced.

For instance the introduction of Lantana as a garden plant has led to the large scale invasion, degradation, and destruction of natural habitats. This has a particularly negative impact on our native plants and animal habitats, eventually wiping some of these species out and costing the economy millions. Animals, humans and machines can move weed seeds by attaching themselves to clothing, vehicles and equipment and in a similar fashion they attach themselves to the bodies of stock and pets.

To help reduce the impact of weeds on our native plants and animals, there are a few simple steps we can all take to minimize their spread.

These include:

Land Managers

Helping prevent weed seed from entering your property. This could be achieved by asking for all machinery and vehicles to be washed down prior to entering and
Having a designated wash down area that can be monitored for weeds

Helping prevent the spread via hay and feed. This can be achieved by monitoring designated feeding and watering points throughout the property and
Getting a vendor declaration from all product vendors

Helping to limit the spread by stock. Stock could be visually inspected and handled accordingly and holding yard or paddock could be monitored and treated as necessary and
Monitoring stock movements on the roads and cattle pads where they live

Travellers

Staying on designated tracks and roads
Taking time to remove mud, seed, sand, and plant material from clothing, camping gear, boats, canoes, vehicles, trailers, caravans and any other equipment
Visually inspecting all equipment and people prior to moving from one area to another

All of us can minimize the impact of weed seed spread by

Using wash down facilities where available
Collecting specimens to be identified
Reporting weeds sighted to your local authority

Remember the old saying: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure



WEST COAST POND APPLE SURVEY:

The Group completed a pond apple survey on the west coast of Cape York funded through Queensland governments Indigenous Land and Sea Grant Scheme. Rangers from Mapoon Land and Sea, Napranum and Northern Peninsula Area undertook training for identification of Pond Apple followed by a survey of Pond Apple on the Western Coastline from the Jardine River south to Wooldrum Point. No Pond apple was located on the western coast however rangers were able to collect other valuable data including ghost net numbers and locations.



Rangers receiving practical training in preparing chemicals and control methods



NPA Rangers taking part in the Pond apple survey

After the survey was completed rangers from Mapoon were involved in follow up control along 8 kilometres of coastline with staff from CYWAFAP on pond apple infestations located at Temple bay on the east coast of Cape York.

The project was an overall success with new partnerships developed and an increased awareness of the invasive Pond apple within the Western Coast communities.

DEPARTMENT OF MAIN ROADS (DMR):

We have again received some funds from the DMR totalling to \$40'000 to complete control works from the Cook Shire boundary through to Weipa. Some control works have already been undertaken on Sicklepod, Gamba grass and Rubbervine along the PDR to Laura and Mulligan Hwy to the Cook Shire boundary as well as local roads around Cooktown under DMR control.

It is intended that staff will be completing the northern control works as soon as road and weather conditions permit. These control works will again be targeting Rubbervine, Sicklepod and Gamba grass which are deemed as HIGH priority weeds by DMR.



Road side Gamba Grass Control



SENDER CONTACT DETAILS

**Address: Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Program
PO Box 3
Cooktown Qld 4895**

Webpage: www.cywafap.org.au

Email: mail@cywafap.org.au

Phone: 07 4069 5020

Fax: 07 4069 6997