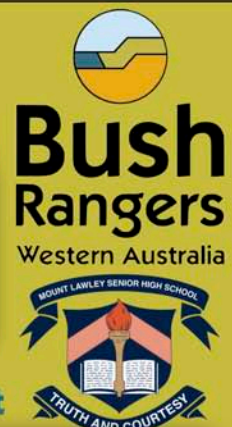


# in the bush



Magazine of the Mount Lawley Senior High School Bush Ranger Cadet Unit

Term One 2013

[www.lawley.wa.edu.au/cadets](http://www.lawley.wa.edu.au/cadets)

Issue 13.1

## Welcome to 2013

Welcome to this issue of our Cadet Newsletter. We start the year with a large intake of Cadets (50), giving us a Unit size of almost 80. To go with our 'Big Cadet Unit', we have some

big plans as well, and inside you will see a bit more about what we hope to achieve in 2013.

Our camps will take us to the south-west, the south coast, east towards the Goldfields and north, not only to Kalbarri, but right up to the Pilbara.

On Mondays we will be working with tents and other camping

equipment, learning to cook in the bush, planting trees and learning first aid, environmental management and leadership.

For all of our Cadets, whether you are in your first or fifth year, welcome aboard and thanks for joining us.

Your Instructor Team



Heading through Karijini National Park (Karijini/Ningaloo Trip 2012)

### Starting the Year

Just started in Cadets? Well there is a wealth of wisdom in our Unit, and you might be surprised where you will find it.

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### The Basics

The simple things you need to know about being a member of our Bush Ranger Cadet Unit.

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### Camps for 2013

A look at the places we will be visiting as a part of our camping program.

Boranup Forrest  
Kalbarri River Gorges  
Rocks of the Goldfields  
The SW Forests  
Millstream/Chichester

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### 15 Year of Bush Ranger Cadets

2013 celebrates 15 years since the program began in WA and at MLSHS.

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### A New Concept at Millstream

Our Unit pilots a new DEC Experience program a Pilbara National Park.

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### Leadership Development

Opportunity and experience, along with mentorship and reflection helped to create the Cadet leaders we enjoy today.

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Sunset over Ningaloo (Karijini/Ningaloo Trip 2012)

## STARTING THE YEAR

*It is great to welcome so many new Cadets to the Unit this year. You do have an exciting year ahead of you .*

*First of all, make sure you turn up! Come along each week, and make sure you get to camp. You will learn some things on our Monday sessions, but most of all you have the opportunity to get to know the other people in our Cadet Unit. If you are not here, it is easy to miss out on a lot of that, and you may find it harder to connect with people.*

*On our first camp, you will start to understand what Cadets is all about, because most of our best times are out in the bush. We see some amazing places, cook some magnificent meals, learn stuff about the natural environment, build relationships with other people, and we also learn something about ourself. You'll find out how well you work in a team, how you go under pressure, how you respond when it would be easy to avoid helping out.*

*There is a lot of help for you. Our instructors are experienced, friendly and helpful, but the most important resource is our Senior Cadets. They will guide you and look out for you. They will explain things and show you how things are done. They learnt from the Senior Cadets when they were new, and are now passing on their own experience. We hope in a few years that many of you will be able to do the same for our new Cadets.*

*Almost everyone who has enjoyed Cadets says that they enjoy two things: the camps and meeting new people. We hope you get to do both soon.*



**ANDREW**

Andrew Paul  
School Chaplain  
& Unit Leader



*End of a great camp ... perhaps the cleanest camp ever! (Camp Wellington 2012)*

## The Basics: What a New Cadet Needs to Know About Cadets

*It is great to have you in our Cadet Unit, and to start, we need to run through a few things that will help you get acquainted with our processes. We will cover most of them at our Monday Training sessions, but its helpful to put them here.*

### Attendance

If you want to keep your position in the Unit, and the ability to attend our camps and other activities, you need to be a regular attender. Cadets are required to attend Training after school on Mondays between 3:00pm and 5:00pm They are also required to attend all camps and excursions unless indicated as optional.

### If I Can't Come to a Session

If you can't make it to a session, we would like to know, and we would prefer to know ahead of time and in writing - eg. an email, a text message or a note. A passing comment in the hall won't do. We do understand if people have appointments or other commitments, and will respond to them reasonably, but we do want you to attend when you can. Regular commitments (for more than one instance) should be discussed with Andrew. Please note, that this includes camps!



### Uniform

To be given a Cadet uniform, Cadets must be regular and enthusiastic contributors. We will be issuing uniform to our new Cadets before the first

camp. They will receive a t-shirt and a cap. Other items of uniform, such as the polo shirt, jumpers, beanies, etc are issued to Senior Cadets.

### What Do I Take to Camp

Generally speaking, the less you take the better, but exactly what you need to take on camp will be something you learn the more camps you go on.

Details about what to take to camp will be covered in our Monday Sessions in the lead up to camp. A copy of the What-To-Bring List will also



be posted on the Cadet website, and copies will be available from Andrew the Chaplain should you be unable to print them out.

### Quitting Cadets

In some ways leaving the Unit is more important than joining, because the way you leave and the impression you leave behind can last a long time. Most people who join Cadets will quit at some point. It is only the special few who make it all the way through to the end of Year 12. We understand this, and we respect the fact that you will have to stop at some point. But don't just drift off without telling anyone and try to avoid talking to the Instructors when you see them at school. We would like you to let us know, and then to bring a note from your parents so that we know that they are aware. We will also give you a questionnaire to fill in asking a few questions about your reasons for leaving.



*A visit from Arlene, the State Bush Ranger Cadets Coordinator (Monday Training 2012)*

# The Bush Ranger Cadet Program Celebrates 15 Years...

*The Cadets WA program developed new styles of Cadets Units, with Bush Ranger Cadets beginning in 1998. At Mount Lawley, we joined as the 5th Bush Ranger Cadet Unit in October of that year.*

## Camps



A major part of all Cadet Units. We aim for at least one camp per Term. At Mount Lawley we also plan our camping program based on the following aims:

- Not re-visiting the same camp more than once in three years.
- Camping in remote sites (ie. no caravan parks or dorms).
- Being independent (we take everything we will need).

## Community Service



Community Service is an important part of Cadets. On each of our camps we endeavour to do some form of conservation or environmental management work with the local DEC Rangers.

On Mondays we often get involved with local bushland areas, animal surveys and tree planting. Some of the work is hard, but always rewarding.

## Working With DEC



The Department of Environment & Conservation (DEC) staff around the state go out of their way to assist Bush Ranger Cadet Units with their activities. When we camp in an area, we make contact, and most times are able to arrange an opportunity for the Cadets to engage in a local project. The DEC Rangers also often take time to talk about their work and answer questions.

## Student Leadership



Our Senior Cadets bear much of the responsibility for training younger Cadets. The experience they have gained over previous camps and Cadet activities was gained from their interactions with older Cadets ... and so the cycle continues. We value our student leaders and with mentoring processes aim to give them opportunity to succeed.

## The WA Environment



Our travels take us far and wide across the state, and quite deliberately so. We would like to give every Cadet the opportunity to see the majesty that the natural environment has to offer, and to see things they might never have seen. As a result, many families have been dragged out to locations such as Karijini or Shark Bay.

*The Bicentennial Tree near Pemberton (Summit2Sea Camp 2012)*



The Bush Ranger Cadet program is funded through the Department of Communities Cadets WA program, and hosted and supported by the Department of Environment & Conservation. At school level, our Unit has a Management Committee involving Instructors and Cadets.



Hancock Gorge (Karijini/  
Ningaloo Trip 2012)

# A New Concept at Millstream

*Having done a series of Shark Bay Experience Programs and three ambitious trips to Karijini and Ningaloo, our Bush Ranger Cadet Unit has been asked*

*It seems we have become known as the Cadet Unit who doesn't mind a bit of a drive. Unable to get a place on the Shark Bay Experience this year, because a number of new schools were keen to get involved, we have instead been offered an opportunity to pilot a new experience in the Pilbara.*

DEC offers Cadet Units a number of 'Experience Programs' as rewards to Senior Cadets. **CALM Fire** has them gaining a nationally accredited Fire Safety Awareness Certificate and conducting a prescribed burn. The **Perup Experience** has been trapping mammals in the Perrup Forest for almost

15 years, gathering data that has indicated a significant decline in the Woylie population in the area after initial thoughts that the population was recovering.

Easily the best, however, is the **Shark Bay Experience**. The Cadets spend 5 days with the DEC staff of Shark Bay. They work out in the Francois Peron National Park for two days, usually removing old station fencing, brushing out 4WD tracks or weeding. They spend a day with Project Eden, a captive breeding program for Bilbies, Banded Hair Wallabies and Rufus Hair Wallabies. Another two days with the DEC staff at Monkey Mia, who manage the Shark Bay Marine Park as well as the dolphin feed off the beach.

Other experiences we have 'thrown in' to the deal include a wildlife cruise on the Shotover, a trip out to Steep Point (the Western-most point of the Australian mainland), and some astronomy walks with the local guides.

Getting to know the Rangers over the week is a wonderful opportunity for the Cadets, as they get to see what life is like in the National Park (bogged vehicles and all). Park management can be explained and understood because we are there, and we can see what action needs to be taken and why. And most of all, the work is very real and useful to the DEC Rangers.

We have been invited to help create a model for a **Millstream/Chichester National Park Experience**. In conjunction with the State Coordinator and the DEC Ranger staff in the National Park, we will work up a program and then trial it in the July school holidays.

The number of Cadets we take, how long we are away, and what exactly we will do are all up in the air, however, the country is spectacular and the opportunity is fantastic.

We trust we will be able to create an experience we can enjoy again, but one which can also be enjoyed by other Cadet Units from around the state.



## Indigenous Education

**Indigenous Education is an important part of Cadets. The Department of Environment & Conservation has a special relationship with the local Indigenous people around Western Australia. National Parks such as Karijini are managed by the local people in conjunction with DEC. Our Cadets have gained much from the many excellent education programs we have been a part of.**

Suiting up for canoeing  
(Camp Wellington 2012)



# Leadership Development

*Turning a scared Year 8 into a confident and capable teacher of others.*

*When Cadets attend their first camp there is a lot of 'firsts' and uncertainties that they have to contend with. What do I pack? What will I be eating? Do I really have to sleep out in the open?*

By the time they have attended their 10th or 15th camp there is still some excitement (we travel to new locations regularly), however, a lot of those uncertainties have disappeared.

Our experienced Cadets cope with many things. In the last 18 months, 7 of our 9 camps have been washouts ... not just a bit of rain, but complete washouts. That has created some difficult

moments, but they have always dealt with those situations with enthusiasm and commitment.

Working with the younger Cadets has become very much a part of the role of a more experienced Cadet. The tradition of learning from those who have been here longer is well established.

Our Instructors spend time mentoring the Cadets as they take on these leadership opportunities, with special debriefing sessions and individual attention.

On reflection, many can recall the time when they realised for themselves that they needed to take more of a role in guiding the younger Cadets. That moment when they understand that it is time to give back and not just receive is a pivotal one. It is a learning process for them, but Cadets is a great and safe place to learn it.



**Boranup Camp**  
Sunday 24 - Tuesday 26  
March 2013  
All Cadets eligible

**Kalbarri Trip**  
Sunday 9 - Wednesday  
12 June 2013  
All Cadets eligible

**Expedition Millstream**  
Friday 5 - Monday 15  
June 2013 (??)  
Reward experience for  
Senior Cadets by  
invitation.

**Very Large Rock Camp**  
Sunday 25 - Wednesday  
28 August 2013

**Tree Camp**  
Sunday 1 - Wednesday 4  
December 2013  
All Cadets eligible

## Camp Dates

These camp dates have been selected. Dates may change if circumstances require.

*A quiet dip on the way home - at Coral Bay (Karijini/Ningaloo Trip 2012)*

# Traveling Western Australia

*Our camping program is ambitious and excellent. You will see some great parts of our wonderful state, and enjoy some fantastic experiences.*

## Boranup Camp (Term 1)



One of our favorite sites, nestled in the Boranup Forest near Margaret River, and with the beaches a few kilometers away. For years we always came here in the winter and enjoyed campfires and hikes. These days we are enjoying the opportunity to swim and explore in glorious sunshine. The Term One Camp is set aside as an introductory experience for our new Cadets. Plenty to do, plenty of fun. Usually 3 days, 2 nights.

## Kalbarri River Gorges (Term 2)



A big trip in a short time. We will spend 4 days traveling to the River Gorges of Kalbarri. We plan to walk through them and explore, as well as to do some work with the local DEC Rangers. Our campsite is a well-hidden one out near the gorges themselves, where we have a magnificent opportunity to see them from morning until night. The drive is long, but the rewards are there. A good introduction to some of our lengthy trips up north.

## Very Big Rocks (Term 3)



Heading east towards the Goldfields we find a series of large rock outcrops. For many years they have drawn both the Indigenous people, explorers, farmers and prospectors, usually as a water source. We take in the Rabbit Proof Fence (yes, the one from the movie), and look at the reasons Western Australia still maintains a State Barrier Fence. Usually a 4 day, 3 night trip.

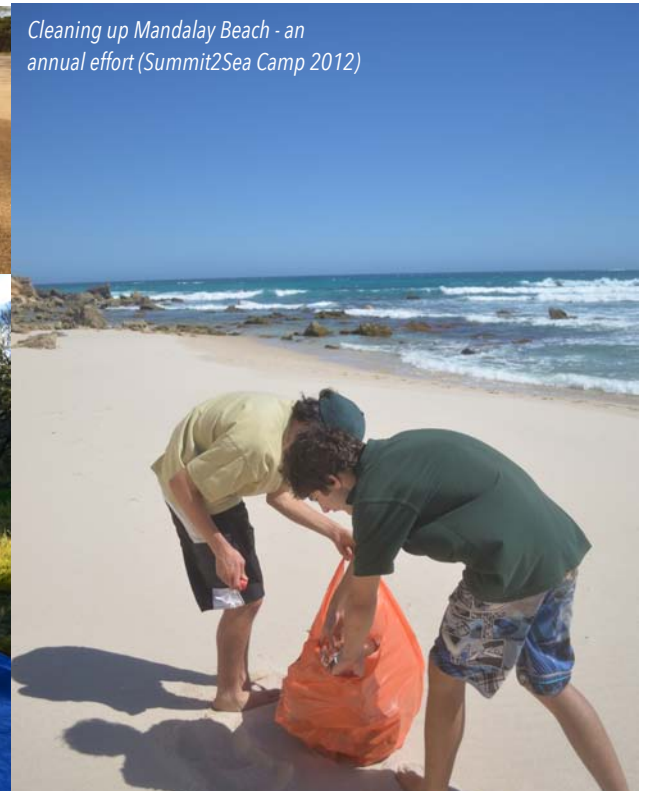
*It can get wet (Climate Camp 2012)*



*Our 'new' trailer (Climate Camp 2012)*



*Cleaning up Mandalay Beach - an annual effort (Summit2Sea Camp 2012)*



*In good weather, we don't need tents (Karijini/Ningaloo Trip 2012)*

Finishing the Loop  
Walk in the rain,  
Kabbarri River Gorges  
(Kalbarri Trip 2011)



**Tree Camp & Summit2Sea Camp (Term 4)**



Our **Summit2Sea Camp** takes in Bluff Knoll and Albany before ending near Walpole and our annual clean up of Mandalay Beach. On alternate years **Tree Camp** starts at Walpole (and Mandalay Beach) and the Tree-Top Walkway and then ventures west towards the forests near Pemberton and Boranup. Each year the campsites and itinerary change for variety. Usually 4 days, 3 nights.

**Karijini/Ningaloo (Every 2-3 Years)**



We hold a major expedition every two or three years, usually taking in Karijini National Park, and the World Heritage listed areas of Ningaloo Reef and Shark Bay. We visit magnificent country, work with the DEC Rangers on the ground and travel together for about 10 days. The trip is usually a highlight for those cadets who are selected for it, knowing that they will most probably only get one chance to go.

**Shark Bay (Every 2-3 Years)**



DEC offers a Shark Bay Experience twice a year, and our Unit has been fortunate to be selected for it several times. There is usually a few years between opportunities and the trip lasts about 8 days. The 12 Cadets spend 5 days working on a range of real environmental projects with the DEC Rangers. Its hard work, digging out old fencing, cleaning breeding pens, but very rewarding. A peak experience for the Cadets.

Typical camp set up  
(Camp Wellington 2012)



A break in the rain (Leaving Tree Camp 2012)



Camping at Cape Range National  
Park (Karijini/Ningaloo Trip 2012)

Canoeing on Wellington Dam  
(Camp Wellington 2012)



Searching for the Rabbit Proof  
Fence (Climate Camp 2012)

# Our Instructors

Our Cadet Unit would not be possible without the commitment and enthusiasm of our volunteer Instructors. They supervise activities as diverse as swimming, snorkeling, canoeing, gorge exploration, wildlife spotting, photography, rubbish clean up, track building, cooking and navigation. They help to provide 'interpretation', or explanation, for many of the experiences we engage in, demonstrating expertise in native flora and fauna, national park management, camping, hygiene, nutrition and much more.

The way that they help the Cadets with all of these things in such a natural way, especially on camp is what makes a big difference. Every moment can be a teaching moment, and most are driven by the Cadets' curiosity (eg. 'Why do those ants do that?') or necessity (teaching knots becomes so much more relevant when you are tying your own bags to a roof rack).

Please take time to show your appreciation to these people for the work that they are doing with the Cadets. The hours are long, especially when we travel away and are completed by people who are volunteering their time.

Their reward is in seeing those 'moments of understanding' in the eyes of the Cadets ... but a thank you goes a long way.



## 2013 Term One Planner

Week	Date	
1	Monday 4 Feb	Planning Meeting - Instructors & Senior Cadets
2	Monday 11 Feb	Planning Meeting - All Returning Cadets
3	Monday 18 Feb	First week for New Cadets
4	Monday 25 Feb	Building Our Accommodation
5	Monday 4 March	Public Holiday
6	Monday 11 March	What to Take On Camp Section Olympics
7	Monday 18 March	Packing Equipment Learning About Leeuwin-Naturaliste
	Sunday 24 March	Boranup Camp
8	Monday 25 March	Boranup Camp
	Tuesday 26 March	Boranup Camp
9	Monday 1 April	Public Holiday - Easter Monday
10	Monday 8 April	Inglewood Triangle Visit (A) Maintaining Gear
11	Monday 15 April	Airport Tree Planting Inglewood Triangle Visit (B)
12	Monday 22 April	Cadet Input Meeting Survival
	Friday	Bush Ranger Cadets WA 15th Anniversary Dinner (Sending representatives)
	Saturday	Bush Ranger Cadets WA 15th Anniversary BBQ (helping to cook)
H1	Monday 29 April	School Holidays
H2	Monday 6 May	School Holidays

## Our Term One Camp... Boranup Camp



*A wonderful part of the world at a wonderful time of the year. We will be camping at Conto's Field and walking both the coastal and forested areas adjacent to the campsite. Expect to see possums!*

**Sunday 24 - Tuesday 26 March 2013**



**Training is Mondays after school from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Meet outside Student Services**