

Derby Teachers Attend the 6th World Environmental Educators Congress

While most teachers around the state relaxed and enjoyed their hard earned school holiday period Derby District High School science teachers Danielle Taylor and Barbara Sing were busy showcasing to the world some program options they have developed through community partnerships that aim to integrate environmental education and sustainability into their schools curriculum.

The World Congress brought delegates together from around the globe to present and participate in discussion on building the capacity of today's school students to take effective action on some of the many environmental issues that they face now and in the future.



As 700 voices echoed around the Brisbane Convention Centre all contributing their version of 'Think globally, act locally' it was clear that the sleepy little town of Derby is right there with the rest of the world doing their bit!



The Iconic Species Monitoring Program being conducted at Derby District High School by the Derby Bush Ranger Cadets aims to build a longitudinal database of native species known to be at risk of localised extinction when Cane Toads are present.

After attending the Kimberley Toad Busters - Caring for the Kimberley Forum in 2010 Danielle and Barbara saw the opportunity to adapt and implement KTB's 'What's In Your Backyard' program as a proactive teaching tool. The Iconic Species list from the 'What's In Your Backyard' program is native animals all Kimberley residents are familiar with but are seeing less and less of in the East Kimberley.

There is some time before cane toads will hit the West

Kimberley and by mobilising the Derby Bush Ranger Cadets into the field to gather data now we can build a data base well ahead of the cane toad front line. This database should give research bodies the evidence they need to exact the true cost of unmitigated cane toad progression and pressure government bodies to take more action to solve the problem.

With sustainability being prioritised within the National Curriculum school and community partnerships such as the one Derby District High School have formed with KTB are critical. Ongoing collaboration has seen the schools science profile lift remarkably. Students are engaged in active citizen science that really counts towards their future.