

# TEMs Links

MAY 2002 VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

## CC's Corner

Welcome to our first edition for 2002, especially new students who have enrolled for the first time this semester. This is the first issue with me, Lindsay Hutley as the new TEM Course Coordinator. Following in this issue is a breakdown of my and Penny Wurm's (previous course coordinator) roles'. One of Penny's roles will be marketing the course and recently TEM students have been involved in the development of a video promoting the NTU and its courses. Obviously NTU management are seeking outstanding courses with good integration of teaching and research! Enrolments on the course have hit record levels this semester.

I think TEMs Links is a great idea, especially given the fact that some students are studying locally and

some are fully external and contact with other students and staff is limited. I would encourage students to submit materials or articles and contribute to TEMsLinks, especially students currently doing research projects, who could put together a short article on their current research topic (include the odd photo as well!). We also have a student interview in this issue, so keep the communication channels open and I wish you well in your studies.

Regards,  
Lindsay Hutley

## Penny and Lindsay - who does what?

With Lindsay coming on board as Course Coordinator, we thought it might help to give you a bit of an overview as to what he and Penny are now responsible for.

Penny's work is now more behind the scenes duties associated with the program on behalf of the CRC, which include

- Marketing
- Update of information booklet, promotional materials & website
- Process facilitation & trouble-shooting
- Course, Unit & Coordinator Evaluation
- Steering Committee
- JCU-NTU Linkages

- Newsletter
- International Linkages

Lindsay's responsibilities are from the perspective of the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences. These include

- Inquiries
- Enrolments & admissions
- Process facilitation & trouble-shooting
- Orientation
- MTEM Room & facilities
- Re-accreditation
- Graduation
- International student services

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New Veg Map

---

Conferences

---

Workshops

---

Where are they now?

---

Student Interviews

---

Staff Profiles

---

Savanna Burning

---

### TEMs LINKS

- *Aims to keep students of the Diploma and Masters of Tropical Environmental Management 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 Jenni Webber*

*Faculty of SITE*

*NTU*

*Darwin NT 0909*

*Tel 08 0946 6563*

*Fax 08 8946 7107*

*jenni.webber@ntu.edu.au*

*Next publication date—August 2002*

## Staff Profiles

### Lindsay Hutley

**Course Coordinator  
Masters and Graduate Diploma  
Tropical Environmental Management  
NTU**

Lindsay Hutley is the new TEM program Course Coordinator. Lindsay has been at the NTU since 1996, as part of a Tropical Savanna CRC project looking at savanna water and carbon cycling. Lindsay was a Post Doctoral Research Fellow during this time and was involved in a project examining patterns of savanna vegetation's water use and impacts of groundwater extraction on savanna health. In addition, the project examined the carbon cycle as it operates in tropical savannas. This work was done in collaboration with a range of post graduate students and researchers from NTU, CSIRO and the NT Government departments.

Since February 2002, Lindsay was fortunate enough to be appointed as a Lecturer in Environmental Science, in the School of Biological, Environmental and Chemical Sciences, in the Faculty of SITE. Part of this position is the course coordination of the TEM program, largely dealing with enrolments, administration and liaising with teaching staff and students.

Lindsay can be found in Building 42  
School of Biological, Environmental and Chemical Sciences  
Faculty of Science, Information Technology and Education  
Northern Territory University  
Darwin NT 0909

+61 8 8946 7103  
+61 8 8946 6847 (Fax)

Have a look at what he has been up to at the following website  
<<http://savanna.ntu.edu.au/research/projects/>

### Jenni Webber

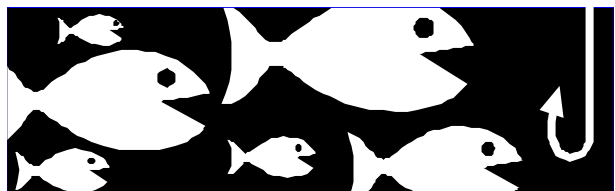
**Research Associate  
Education Project  
Tropical Savanna CRC**

My position is based in the School of Biological, Environmental and Chemical Sciences at NTU. The type of things I look after include

- managing marketing and promotional material for the postgraduate courses in Tropical Environmental Management
- managing postgraduate student information data bases
- website maintenance
- field trip preparation and support
- providing support to the Education Project Leader and MTEM Course Coordinator
- anything else Lindsay or Penny ask me to do (if I know what's good for me!)

I completed a BSc at NTU in 1997 and a Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education at NTU in 2001. I moved to the Top End in 1989 leaving Sydney where I had been working on Australian Mammals and Birds at Taronga Zoo. Since arriving here I have worked for the Territory Wildlife Park, the Museum and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, CSIRO and the esteemed TS CRC. I also had a fantastic time managing a touring exhibition called Spiders! - both up here and down at Questacon in Canberra. I even get up to the odd consultancy in survey work, taxonomy and fun stuff like feasibility studies for live butterfly and spider exhibits.

I can usually be found in my office (42.2.01) on Mondays, Tuesdays and every second Wednesday. The rest of the week I work as an Education Officer at the Territory Wildlife Park. The great passions in my life (apart from two kids and the bloke who can lift heavy things) are environmental education, spiders, bats and the role of zoos and museums in public education. In my spare time I can be seen doing the "soccer mum" thing and fishing (if the tides are OK).



## Student Interviews

Michelle Allnut and Jane Barrett left the U.K. to come and study on campus at NTU. I thought I would find out why?

### Where have you come from?

**Michelle:** UK (England/Wales - where my family are)

Jane: Pommy land

### What were you doing there?

**Michelle:** I was working as a training administrator (temp) to drum up some money to come out here and study. (I finished my degree in Environmental Science in 1996 without being able to find interesting work related to my course).

Jane: Working for a French investment bank in London

### Why did you choose this course?

**Michelle:** I wanted to study tropical environments and after looking at the courses of Australian Unis online, decided that this one looked very good as it was closely linked with research centres such as CRC savannas.

Jane: During my year of travelling round the world, i spent a while working in various places in Australia, one of which was the amazing Tipperary Station. I was so struck on the natural environment and the various pressures exerted upon it that i decided to investigate courses that addressed the various problems experienced in northern Australia.

### What has surprised you most about the Top End?

**Michelle:** Not that many spiders, or insects for that matter. I thought it would be swarming

with them because of the tropical climate. I was quite worried about being surrounded by large hairy spiders before I got here but I have seen 2 in Darwin!

Jane: Mmmm nothing really! How they keep the beer so cold???

### What is your most favourite place around Darwin?

**Michelle:** I have a few - my current accommodation (elevated tropical house with big verandas), Casuarina reserve (for head clearing walks and rides), and the wharf (for fish and chips).

Jane: Darwin is full of wonderful places. We are lucky enough to live right by the beach and I love going to the beach and cycling through Casuarina coastal reserve to Lee Point. Then there is Litchfield National Park, a great place for serious R and R (lazing in waterholes and camping out with the mossies!), not to mention the Territory Wildlife Park which is great to see all the native animals to the territory. There are heaps of great places, not to mention the various pubs and clubs.

### What do you think you will be doing when you have graduated?

**Michelle:** Trying to get work related to my course and interests in the top end. I would love to settle down up here.

Jane: Working within the Top End focussing on weed management maybe with indigenous people.

## TEM Graduate Stories — Where are they now?

Its always interesting to find out what students have gone on to do after they have graduated. Paula Barry recently finished the Graduate Diploma and was kind enough to answer a few questions.

### Who are you working for?

I work as an Environmental Officer for Adrail who are constructing the Alice to Darwin railway in the Northern Territory.

### What are you doing?

As the Environmental Officer for the southern half of the railway line, my day to day tasks are many and varied but include conducting rapid vegetation surveys along the construction corridor (ahead of clearing), water sampling, and monitoring civil works, workshops and camp areas. I regularly liase with government departments on a regional level.

### What are the major challenges of the position?

The major challenge of the position is keeping up with numerous works that are constantly moving and changing along the railway corridor. Because

there are so many work fronts I spend a lot of time travelling between different places where works are being carried out and have to organise my time to maximise efficiency.

### What was the most memorable aspect of your Grad Dip?

Perhaps the most memorable aspect of my grad dip was the numerous people (both staff and students) who offered me encouragement during the course. As a 30 (something) year old professional it was risky decision to forgo an income to return to university full time. I found it difficult financially and logistically to juggle casual jobs with full time study. I'm pleased to say that it really was worth the effort and I am looking forward to commencing my Masters on an external basis mid-year.

Thanks Paula



## Conferences

### Savanna Landscapes in Northern Australia - fire and heterogeneity

8 - 12 July 2002, NTU, Darwin.

The TS-CRC and the Key Centre for Tropical Wildlife Management are holding a conference and linked workshops on the management of fire and its implications for wildlife.

The conference is built around two related themes. The first deals directly with fire and management practice. It will summarise much of what is known about fire in savannas, including fire incidence, methods of measuring and describing fire patterns in space and time, and the ecological and resource management implications of those patterns. The second theme will focus more closely on the effects of fire on wildlife habitats, and in particular the role of fire in maintaining or damaging wildlife habitat values and implications of the associated changes in landscape heterogeneity for the dynamics of wildlife populations.

### Fire and Savanna Landscapes in Northern Australia - Regional Lessons and Global Challenges

8-9 July 2002, Darwin.

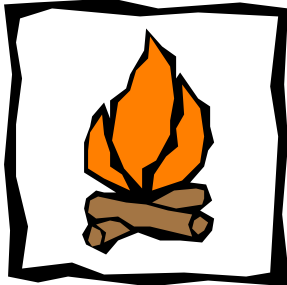
Conference with 17 or so invited papers, including 5 from invited international researchers (Prof. William Bond, South Africa; Prof. Chris Justice, USA; Dr William Keane (USA); Prof. Yutama Kondo, Japan; Assoc. Prof. Jose Pereira, Portugal). Proceedings to be published as special edition of International Journal of Wildland Fire.

For registration details, and more information go to the website:

<http://www.wildlife.ntu.edu.au/activities1.htm>  
Or fax Julian Gorman on (08) 8946 7088

Places may be limited to attend these conferences.

## The Latest "Must Have" Fire Book



The TS-CRC's book on fire management "Savanna Burning" has been launched in Townsville at a meeting of the Queensland Rural Fire Service on March 15 - and will be launched in the NT at a volunteers event for the Bush Fires Council of the NT in early May. The book is also being shown around various meetings associated with fire management in the Kimberley.

In case you didn't know already, "Savanna Burning" provides for the first time a practical and comprehensive guide to managing fires in north Queensland and tropical Australia. Published by the Tropical Savannas CRC, the book uses practical case studies from land managers as well as collating the findings of researchers on fire from north Queensland and across northern Australia.

The books 40 contributors have a wealth of experience in managing and researching fires across northern Australia. They include rural fire agency staff, graziers, fire and weed researchers and Aboriginal fire managers.

The authors offer advice on many issues of practical concern in the north including:

- Savanna ecosystems and fire regimes
- How fire affects plants and animals
- Aboriginal fire management
- 
- Managing pasture condition with fire
- Controlling weeds with fire
- Controlling woody thickening.
- Controlling and fighting wildfires

Price: \$30.00 within Australia; \$45 overseas (postage, handling and GST incl.)

For more information, go to <http://savanna.ntu.edu.au/publications>

To purchase a copy, contact Melissa Tang, Tropical Savannas CRC,  
Tel: 8946 6764 Email: [Melissa.tang@ntu.edu.au](mailto:Melissa.tang@ntu.edu.au)

## Young Scientist Awards



RIRDC is pleased to announce its sponsorship of the AFFA Science and Innovation Awards for Young People 2002. The Awards are open to young people aged between 18 and 35 years, working, employed or studying in an agricultural, fisheries, food or forestry-related industry. Eligible applicants may include young producers (farmers, fishers, foresters etc), extension officers, researchers, processors, students, or industry advisers.

Applications close on 17 May 2002.

More information and application forms - <http://www.affa.gov.au>

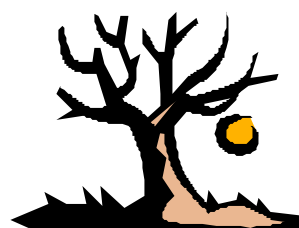
## Landclearing Guidelines for the NT



Although not legally binding, these guidelines are fairly comprehensive. They include sections on the impacts of clearing, landclearing policy, mandatory clearing approvals, land capability, biodiversity protection and erosion and sediment control. Territory-wide landclearing legislation is currently under development.

You can download pdfs of various parts of the document from:

<http://www.lpe.nt.gov.au/advis/land/clearing/default.htm>



## Vegetation of the Australian Tropical Savannas Map & Text



The Vegetation of the Australian Tropical Savannas Technical Report is now available for \$27.50 (including GST and postage).

The report:

- Describes each map unit including a distribution map and images for most units
- Presents a history of vegetation survey and mapping
- Presents a history of the evolution of the northern Australian flora
- Describes the northern Australian physical environment
- Presents an analysis of land cover change in northern Australia
- Details the methods used to produce the map

The map and report provide valuable information at a regional scale for researchers, students, land managers, planners or anyone with an interest in the vegetation of northern Australia.

To obtain your copy: Contact the Queensland Herbarium, EPA on (07) 3896 9326 or Email: Queensland.Herbarium@env.qld.gov.au

Credit card payment is preferable. Please include name, mailing address, telephone number, type of credit card, card number and expiry date. A receipt will be sent with your order

## NT Writers Centre



**Editing Workshop**  
Saturday July 27 and Sunday July 28

The NT Writers Centre holds a variety of workshops and seminars throughout the year. One that you may find interesting is an Editing Workshop with Jean Weber which will cover editing principles, copyediting and substantive editing.

For further information contact the NT Writers Centre on 08 8941 2651, or check out their website at <http://www.ntwriters.com.au/>

## Topical Savannas

Do you want to keep up with the happenings in, around and about tropical savannas?

Then you need to receive Topical Savannas to get the latest on TS-CRC news, general news, websites & info, grants, scholarships & awards, workshops, conferences and a whole lot more.

Past issues of this newsletter are available on the TS-CRC's internal Website <http://savanna.ntu.edu.au> and click on "internal site".

User name: internal  
Password: tropical  
(lower case only)

## NTU Postgraduate Student Association

NTUPSA represents and advocates for all Honours, Graduate Diploma, Masters and PhD (both Coursework and Research) students at NTU. Student Amenities Fees are provided to NTUPSA by the NTUSU for the benefit of all postgraduate students at NTU. The NTU Students Union is focussed on undergraduate issues and is not always aware of issues specifically related to postgraduate studies.

NTUPSA co-ordinates postgraduate representation on many university committees and liaises with the University Administration to ensure that postgraduate students views are (at least) heard. NTUPSA is affiliated with the national peak body the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) which represents over 140,000+ postgraduate students nationwide.

Check out their website at <http://www.su.ntu.edu.au/~postgrad/>



## Looking for a Job????



Are you sick of having to search 20 different websites to try and find out where the environmental management jobs are? Searching the job market is often an onerous task. Thankfully some people realise this and do the job for you, providing regular emails with a host of great jobs on offer. Here are two handy ones to check out:

- **NRMjobs** is a weekly email which advertises opportunities in the environment, water and natural resource management field in Australia and New Zealand. Receiving it is free, but there is a charge to advertise

To receive 'NRMjobs' send a blank email to: [nrmjobs-subscribe@emailmedia.com.au](mailto:nrmjobs-subscribe@emailmedia.com.au)

If that doesn't work, send an email saying 'subscribe' to: [adverts@emailmedia.com.au](mailto:adverts@emailmedia.com.au)

Email Media donates \$5 from every paid 'NRMjobs' advertisement to community groups and projects in the natural resource management and environment area. Donations (up to \$500 each) are targeted at groups and projects unable to access other funding.

- **'COOEEads'** provides a weekly listing of jobs, grants and scholarships in the fields of outdoor/environmental education, interpretation/extension and park management in Australia. Anyone can receive 'COOEEads' (it's free), but there is a charge to advertise.

Past postings of 'COOEEads' on-line at [www.projectnatureed.com.au](http://www.projectnatureed.com.au)

Getting yourself on the COOEEads mailing list is easy. To receive 'COOEEads', send a blank email to: [cooeeads-subscribe@projectnatureed.com.au](mailto:cooeeads-subscribe@projectnatureed.com.au).

If this command fails, send an email to: [info@projectnatureed.com.au](mailto:info@projectnatureed.com.au) saying 'subscribe COOEEads' and we will do it for you.

## New Frogwatch Website



The TS-CRC has lent its support to a new website which will let people check on the status and distribution of the many native frogs in north Australia. The site will become an online encyclopedia for frogs of north Australia - with pictures, sounds of frog calls, maps of frog distributions and answers to questions such as "how do I 'toad bust' my area?" or "how long do Green Tree Frogs live for?"

The technology will also allow people to enter sightings of frogs including the cane toad, report on cane toad impacts and ask questions about frogs. In this way, the site will let people to track the spread of the cane toad across north

The site already has information on 61 frogs including the cane toad - visit [www.frogwatch.org.au](http://www.frogwatch.org.au).

## Postcard from a TEM Graduate

*Annie Phillips was a TEM student last year, previously qualified as a Veterinarian.*

Dear Penny,

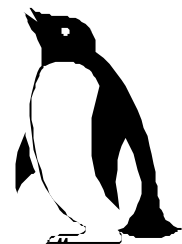
I'm writing from Antarctica where we're finishing up the field season. It's been a fantastic experience working on a daily basis in the penguin colonies & with all the wildlife & scenery in general.

We were based at Davis station and sampled birds at various study sites within the Vestfold Hills area. Our aim was to determine the importance of disease in the variation of reproductive success in South Polar Skuas. We also sampled Adelie penguins to study their interaction and disease transmission with skuas. In addition we placed satellite transmitters on 2 birds to study their austral winter migration.

Living and working on the Antarctic continent was a wonderful experience. The wildlife were so abundant and unafraid that behavioural observations were easily made and a constant source of fascination.

Thanks for keeping me in the loop re jobs, I do like to know what's happening in northern Australia as well.  
Cheers

Annie



# TEMS Links

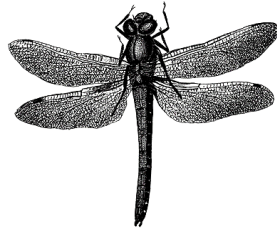
## Tropical Environmental Management Students' Newsletter

POSTAGE  
PAID

AUSTRALIA

Vol 3 No 1 May 2002

### NTECOL

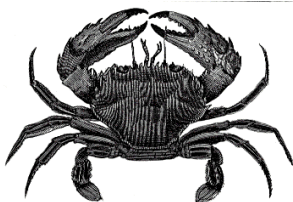


NTECOL is a discussion list for people with an interest in the ecology and biology of the organisms and communities of Northern Australia.

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. Ultimately, the success of the list will depend on the users.

The NTECOL list is provided by the Northern Territory University Information Technology Support Branch as a service to people in organisations—in the NT, Australia, or elsewhere—with an active interest in ecological and biological events in the region.

The NTECOL list is non-moderated and public. It is administered by Dr Keith McGuinness, NTU, and all queries concerning it should be directed to him via e-mail [keith.mcguinness@ntu.edu.au](mailto:keith.mcguinness@ntu.edu.au)



### International Mimosa Symposium in Darwin

Sunday 22 September - Friday 28 September 2002

The Australian Mimosa Management Committee invites you to attend the third International Symposium on the management of *Mimosa pigra*. The first Symposium on *Mimosa pigra* was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in 1982. The second Symposium on *Mimosa pigra* was in Darwin in 1992 and resulted in Harley, KLS, 1992, A Guide to the Management of *Mimosa pigra*. Now, ten years later, we will hold the third symposium with the aim to share and document advances in the management of this significant weed. The workshop will be extremely relevant to representatives from both the agriculture and environment sectors.

Further information will shortly be available on the web: <http://www.nt.gov.au/dbird/dpif/>

### From the Editor.....

I hope you enjoy the new look TEMS Links, its been heaps of fun putting it together. I especially enjoyed hearing what previous graduates are up to these days.

Don't forget to let me know if you have some news for the next issue or would like to do a book review—even some photos from field work would be great.

Cheers

Jenni

