

Media Release:

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Weeds Management Branch partners with the Crocodile Island Rangers

The Department of Land Resource Management, Weeds Management Branch, has partnered with the Crocodile Island Rangers in the fight against invasive weeds in north east Arnhem Land.

Tom Price from the Weeds Management Branch visited Milingimbi last week to work with the local ranger group to conduct a series of follow up and baseline weed surveys at the island.

“We commenced a partnership with the Crocodile Island Rangers about two years ago and have conducted regular visits to the island since then to share our weed identification and management techniques with the ranger group,” Mr Price said.

“In addition to assisting the rangers finalise two grant programs, our extra training in field identification and skills in mapping has been greatly useful and appreciated by the community and we have seen some fantastic work being done out there as a result.

“The rangers have developed some innovative strategies to help eradicate weeds on the islands, including a series of posters and signs in the local Indigenous language which have been put up around the community to educate public about weeds and weed hygiene.

“There are only two freshwater billabongs at Milingimbi and one of them was absolutely smothered in para grass, however, with a combination of chemical control and well timed prescribed burning, the Crocodile Island Rangers have been able to make a huge impact in reducing the grass choking the Billabong.

“The aim of the partnership is to share our techniques with the local people so that they can adapt them into their land management practices. We’re pleased to be seeing great weed management results and hope to continue to strengthen our relationship with the Crocodile Island Ranger group.”

The Crocodile Islands ranger group started up three years ago and are based in Milingimbi. Prior to this the area lacked any training or resources in weed management.

Senior Traditional Owner, Laurie Baymarrwangga, donated \$400,000 of her own money to establish the Crocodile Islands Rangers, to invest in the livelihoods of future generations and promote practical projects on her sea country.

In three years, with dedicated staff and support from Traditional Owners, the rangers have been able to develop a successful ranger program that blends traditional *Yan-nhangu* ecological knowledge and modern land management systems.

For more information in relation to the Department of Land Resource Management, please visit <http://www.lrm.nt.gov.au/>.

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Media note – For further information / interviews please contact Tom Price on 8999 4554

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