

## Three environmental programs from the Eastern Goldfields, WA

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Firstly, I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Yirrganydji people, who are the Traditional Custodians and First People of the land on which we meet/stand. I would like to pay my respects to the Elders past and present and I would like to extend my respect to the Aboriginal people, colleagues, staff and students who are present today.

Our presentation is on what we have been doing and a couple of our programs.

### Dog sterilisation program

We are lucky enough to be able to have worked along-side some great vets. Recently it was with a bloke called Pete and his offsider, Sal. They were from the Katherine vets service. I call him the John Travolta of the vets, as he flies in his own planes to communities to do de-sexing sterilisation. Pete and Sal were really great, as he comes rough and ready. We had a few vets but Pete is the quickest as he would shoot the tranquiliser gun to drop a dog, we would grab it and he would de-sex the dog before the tranquiliser wears off.

### House hygiene inspections

We will go in and check all house hardware and report on things that need to be fixed (windows, doors, fans, hot water, taps etc. if in our scope, we will do repairs - thanks to the WA Plumbers Licensing Board, who have given us licences to carry out minor plumbing issues in communities as we all know how much it costs to get a plumber out - then the issues that came with it (taps, toilets, minor plumbing, walls and doors repairs). Anything major we send to the Housing Department, and if not done in a timely manner, we re-do the inspection and send to the Health Department.

### Sustainable gardens

Our CEO at Bega was at a conference when he saw these and asked if it would be something we could or would be interested in doing. It comes from a man named David De Vries from the NT; he made these sustainable gardens in these blue barrels, so we gave it a go. They were very easy to make and look after and were a lot of fun; the school loved it and also the clients. The idea behind this is quite simple, yet wonderful. If you put this garden somewhere that the client sits, they can watch it grow, which makes them want to look after it.

### For more information

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