From the NT Farmers CEO

Merry Christmas Everyone,

NT Farmers would like to extend our best wishes to all members for this festive season and hope that growers can find some time away from pruning, spraying, fertilising and other fun activities to spend some much-needed quality time with family and friends.

The 2017 NT mango season is done and we can again say “it was like no other mango season we can remember”. The temperatures experienced in the Top End in July meant a lot of fruit was mature well before the normal predicted harvest time for that flowering. I had the opportunity to go on the Mango market tour and Mestival weekend in Sydney. The comments on the quality of the early Darwin fruit were excellent and came from many of the retailers and wholesalers we visited. The NIR maturity program and the objective reporting seems to be delivering the eating experience that the consumers want and we commend AMIA on their work in this area. The retailers have stopped equating “early fruit” with “immature fruit”, as this year showed that with the right weather conditions and good growing practices ripe mangoes in August can have that great mango flavour.

I would recommend this trip to any mango growers who haven’t visited the wholesale markets, Mestival or the large DC’s (distribution centres). It is very educational to see modern logistics at work in delivering groceries and fresh fruit and veg to the super-markets across the state. Mestival on Bondi Beach was a good chance to educate the public about the different varieties of mangoes. Most people were surprised when they found out there were 4 varieties on show for them to taste. KP remains a crowd favourite but the three other varieties Calypso, R2E2 and Honey Gold all had their share of “this is the best flavour” champions. Amazingly, a fine day for Mestival, amongst constant rain for the other 4 days.

NTFA, NTDPiR and NTMIA, and some possible Qld partners, are currently working on an application to use mango levy funds to increase the extension and industry development capacity in mangoes across Northern Australia.

In 2018 the Food Futures Roadshows are heading to Kununurra WA on 28 March and Georgetown Qld, in April and one in Broome WA before the conference. The Northern Australian Food Futures Conference (NAFFC) in Darwin next year is on 2-4 July 2018. The program has been finalised and will soon be available. There is an exciting list of speakers including Senator Matt Canavan, Minister for Northern Australia, Senator Anne Ruston, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources and Brendon Grylls from WA returning as MC. Check out the other notable speakers at http://www.foodfuturesntfarmers.org.au/speakers.html.

NT Farmers is also pleased to acknowledge the sponsorship from GRDC, ACIAR, Agri-futures Australia (formerly RIRDC), and Cotton Australia which will support leading farmers in a range of crops from Southern Australia to participate in a pre-conference tour of the Top End and Kununurra and then to participate in the conference.

The CEO gave a well-received presentation to the Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) Conference in November on our VegNet project, focussing on the IPM work at the demo site at Coastal Plains. Thanks to NTDPiR for allowing the demonstration plot there and helping to gear up for 2018 with the green manure crop of forage sorghum and mung beans. Growers will notice stronger biosecurity measures at the Coastal plains site including a wash down point, fencing and increased signage. This is a constant reminder that biosecurity practices are about protecting every farm and business from the next pest or disease incursion not just the ones we have already had. This project was nominated for a Landcare Innovation Award at the TNRM dinner and while not receiving the award, was in great company with many great projects that were nominated for various LandCare and TNRM awards on the night.

The VegNet project is currently running a survey on who attended any of the events or field days this year. If you would like to tell us whether you think of the demonstration site has helped your vegetable pest management please ring Laura on 0405 287 344.

The labour subcommittee will be holding a meeting on Dec 14. The first in an annual labour requirements survey will be going out to growers in the New Year. The data on permanent and seasonal workers needed by the various crops is critical to developing the policy changes we need to get a more responsive source of critical labour for our industry. Please complete the very quick survey when it pops up in your inbox and help us drive the changes you need.

The Plant Industries Development officer for the Katherine Region is being re-advertised this week. NT Farmers is looking for a special person that can drive the agenda set by Government and industry to increase the amount and types of horticulture and agriculture in the Katherine and Central regions of the NT. The Katherine IDO will work with existing Katherine mango and melon producers, pastoralists looking at diversification, Central Australian growers, and researchers to look at new growing systems, crops and markets for the area. The position will also need to work closely with colleagues and farmers in Nth WA and the Gulf, where agricultural developments and crop trials are underway using new technologies and systems.

Cheers

Greg Owens
CEO NT Farmers

Mango tasting at Mestival, Bondi
At times, we are able to deliver specific member ‘wants’ through externally funded projects such as mango quality testing (NIR Gun) and the vegetable capacity building and IPM projects (funding Laura’s position). We are also currently working extremely hard to get a fair share of mango levy spent on RD&E in the Territory which will add further capacity and redress a growing imbalance in where the levy is spent.

So, to communication. Like advertising only bits work but which bits? Well in our case the bits members actually take the time to read! I think the staff do a fantastic job keeping members informed with the weekly enews and bi monthly newsletter (mailed and digital) and annual report. Add our website, social media, emails, workshops, information sessions, food futures roadshows and farm visits and I think members have every opportunity to be informed and engage.

One area we could do better is members having access to the Board apart from the annual AGM so we will hold a general meeting in the first half of 2018. I am confident your NT Farmers Board and staff delivered most of the member needs in 2017 and I’m sure Santa Greg will continue to do his best to deliver those special member wants wherever possible!

On behalf of all Directors I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable festive season and a prosperous 2018.

Simon Smith
NT Farmers President
The agricultural sector is always busy and the last couple of months have been no exception. We’ve seen a phenomenal mango season draw to an end, with Territory mangoes not only being enjoyed all over Australia, but overseas too. The NT Government has been supporting such growth in a number of ways, from helping mango farmer Wayne Quach export directly from Darwin to Asia, to trialling a new tracking device in mango shipments to the USA.

Knowing our agricultural and fisheries sector is a vital contributor to our economy – it was worth $736 million in 2015-16, up from $680 million the previous year – this NT Government is focused on supporting such growth. Our Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is an example of this, and it is great to see home-grown NT business Humpty Doo Barramundi seizing such opportunities. The family business recently completed an expansion that will allow an increase in production of 50 per cent over the next 12 months, and I was honoured to be asked to officially open their nine new ponds. Thanks to the MoC they have already shipped their famous barra to sashimi chefs in Singapore and Tokyo for testing, and they have big plans for future overseas growth.

I launched another NT Government initiative to support the agricultural sector in November - the Agribusiness Potential of the Big Rivers Region document. This identifies potential agribusiness opportunities in a broad region that includes the Katherine, Roper, Victoria River and Stuart Plateau districts, with a focus on Katherine as a logistics hub. There is great scope for growth in areas such as aquaculture, forestry, livestock and even agrotourism, and the new document paints a picture based on the soils, water, climate, markets and willingness of stakeholders to invest their time, money and energy.

Elsewhere in the sector, the NT Government-funded upgrades to the Berrimah Export Yards are on track for completion in February 2018, depending on the wet season, with Taylors Fencing NT recently awarded the contract for the fitout. Thanks to former NTLEA CEO Stuart Kemp for his efforts on delivering this project. He did an amazing job. The upgrades have provided an economic stimulus and will see the Territory better placed as the supplier of choice for live cattle and buffalo exports. With this in mind, I recently travelled to Vietnam with Louise Bilato from the NT Buffalo Industry Council and Tom Ryan from the NT Cattlemen’s Association to discuss our live export trade with government ministers. Vietnam is one of our biggest buffalo live export customers, and the new yards will help the industry grow its live export capacity.

Finally, it was good to see the agricultural industry receive recognition through Australia’s inaugural National Agriculture Day. This gave us all a chance to celebrate the amazing work the sector does. I thank you all for your contributions to the Territory, and look forward to working with you for a successful 2018.
From the Industry Development Officer

VegNET Project VG15044

As the Demo plot growing & harvesting season comes to a close, findings are now in and available for members to access from our presentation at the Territory Natural Resource Management Conference last month.

The team is now preparing for the wet season. With soil health and structure of key importance, our green manure crop is high on our agenda, to ensure the continuation of our successful VegNet trials at Coastal Plain Research Farm next dry. Maintenance slashing for the barrier banna grass is being conducted, cutting height initially 150-200mm for rapid regrowth, 2-3 cuts may be achievable before the wet. The banna grass wind break has been established to help prevent spray or weed seed drift. The barriers also provide safe sanctuary for good predators.

Inter rows will be sprayed out and irrigation lines pulled up to allow for ground cultivation and sowing of the green manure crop of sweet jumbo forage sorghum and mung beans.

While the Demo plot is finished for this year, our IPM practises continue out in the field with on-farm observation and assistance to farmers who continue to grow okra, snake bean and other crops through the wet. The interactive involvement growers have experienced with the IPM best practice site and with the aid of their field guides, we are now seeing farmers identifying pests through early detection which enables them to differentiate between beneficial and harmful bugs and contacting NT Farmers when they run into evolving issues.

ABOVE & RIGHT
Lady Beatles — beneficial bugs seen in action to the right feeding on mealybugs

RIGHT Native frogs doing their bit to help keep predators under control

BELOW
A Cluster Caterpillar feeds on an okra flower

Laura Cunningham

This project has been funded by Hort Innovation using the vegetable research and development levy and funds from the Australian Government. For more information on the fund and strategic levy investment visit horticulture.com.au
Within the first month of employment I have visited Katherine twice and caught up with several growers and stakeholders. There are several plans being worked on including linking trainees to farms. Further information will be provided in due course on these.

In November an event at the NT Farmers Coolalingtona Office provided an opportunity for informed discussion on the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) and Seasonal Worker Program (SWP).

The PLS is for non-seasonal agriculture, low and semi-skilled work in rural and regional Australia where the workers can stay for up to three years from the Pacific Island Countries. This option is available from 1 July 2018. If you are interested in further information, please contact the Workforce Planning Coordinator.

Mr Peter Kinelorea from the Solomon Islands Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided information on employing workers from the Solomon Islands through the Seasonal Worker Program (SWP).

Changes coming into effect on 1 July in relation to the SWP include:

- Streamlining the application process
- Introduction of a multi-year, multi-entry visa for seasonal workers
- Removing the training requirement
- Investigating ways to help employers lodge information online
- Piloting ways to lower upfront costs for employers
- Piloting a 24/7 information line for seasonal workers

The Labour & Workforce Sub-Committee of NT Farmers will meet on 14 December to consider courses of action to meet strategic objectives. Along with the board the Sub-Committee members volunteer their time, experience and knowledge for the improvement of the industry.

NT Farmers Association will be surveying growers early 2018 to gain valuable data that will contribute towards a Workforce Development Plan for the industry. To both forecast ahead and understand previous and current labour requirements. Your participation is crucial in getting it right. The survey is available via survey monkey, email pdf and in hard copy form. I will be available to assist either by phone or in person.

There are many Government Programs which you can access to employ staff

- “Sentenced to a Job” NT Correctional Services
- Seasonal Work Incentives Trail
- Jobactive Harvest Labour Services
- Transition to Work for youth aged 15-21
- Seasonal Worker Program
- Employer sponsored visa holders

If you require further information on any of these please contact Aisla Connolly, Workforce Planning Coordinator 0400 416 558 or email wpc@ntfarmers.org.au

From the Workforce Planning Coordinator

Workforce Planning Coordinator
Aisla Connolly

Merry Christmas
Limiting spray drift and improving coverage

Callen Thompson, Senior extension Agronomist, Katherine
A Landcare Small Grants funded project by NTDPIR Katherine, and NT Farmers Assoc

Part A

Agriculture in the Northern Territory is famous for its vast cattle stations, but we know that within this landscape, horticulture and hay production is often concentrated in specific areas where there is good soil and water. There is also likely to be lifestyle blocks in the same areas. In these intensive areas, there is a significant risk of spray drift damaging neighbouring crops, pastures or the environment if chemicals are not applied properly.

Using spraying equipment, whether it be for weed, pest or disease control, is part of most agricultural systems and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) ensures that chemicals are safe for use, as long as the applicator follows the directions on the label.

High value horticultural crops like mangos, Asian vegetables and sandalwood are susceptible to herbicides such as 2,4-D, which are commonly used for broadleaf or woody weed control in pasture and hay paddocks. If these chemicals are applied incorrectly, in poor weather conditions or with inappropriate equipment, they can drift onto neighbouring crops. This may cause yield loss or even death to the susceptible “off target” crop, which can lead to litigation if significant damage is caused.

Even if the chemical does not land on an off-target crop it may contaminate the environment. In addition, chemical that is not landing on the desired crop is wasted, effectively decreasing the rate of chemical applied, decreasing the effectiveness of the job.

By understanding weather conditions, your equipment and the product you are using, you can limit the risk of off target drift while still getting good coverage.

Coverage

Coverage is important as chemical that does not land on the target is wasted. This is effectively reducing the rate of product you are using, which can lead to reduced efficacy and low rate herbicide resistance. Products where this is especially important are insecticides, fungicides and contact herbicides, especially when applying as a protective spray.

Products like glyphosate are translocated through the plant so coverage is not as important, as the chemical will travel from the point of contact to the rest of the plant. Some products, like gramoxone, are extremely poorly translocated and rely on the whole plant being covered to achieve effective control.

Pre-emergent products like S-Metolachlor need good coverage as they act as a film, stopping weeds emerging through the top soil. Timing, solubility of the product and ground cover can affect the degree of chemical coverage achieved.

Key Points:

- Weather, nozzles and boom height can affect spray drift and coverage
- Drift is reduced by using course droplets, but coverage is decreased
- Increasing water rate will increase coverage

Continued page 7...
Droplet Size

Different nozzles can give you different droplet size ranging from very fine to extremely course. Fine droplets are small, slow moving and highly susceptible to drift while course droplets are large, fast moving and less susceptible to drift.

If landing on the desired target, fine and medium droplets will give a more even coverage compared to course droplets, unfortunately weather conditions and equipment setup can decrease fine droplet survival and increase movement off target. Good coverage can be achieved using course droplets if the water rate is increased. Figure 1 shows water sensitive paper comparing two spray rates, 100 and 50 L/ha using air induction nozzles. The higher water rate achieved far greater coverage.

Weather conditions effecting application

Weather in the Northern Territory is generally marginal for spraying. It is important we understand how weather effects spray quality and how we can manage it.

Wind

Wind can blow droplets off target, this is called physical drift. It is important not to spray when wind is blowing towards susceptible crops. Risk of drift can be reduced by using course droplets because larger droplets have greater velocity and are less susceptible to being blown off target. Spray when wind speed is between 3-20 km/h and is not gusting (some products like 2,4-D label requires less than 15 km/h). Never spray when there is little to no wind (less than 3 km/h) as this can allow fine droplets to float upwards into an inversion layer (see below). When you are measuring wind speeds always measure at boom height.

Temperature

At high temperatures, the weed may have shut down and not translocate the product so never spray when weeds are showing signs of stress. High temperatures can cause volatile chemicals to vaporise and lift off the target. This is called vapour drift and can happen hours after the chemical has been applied. Chemical companies recommend that you don’t spray at temperatures over 30°C. High temperature combined with low humidity can affect droplet survival due to evaporation. Using courser/larger droplets will decrease the effect of evaporation. Because of this relationship, understanding Delta T is very important.

Humidity and Delta T

Increased humidity can reduce droplet evaporation rate. The relationship between temperature and humidity is expressed by delta T. droplets have greater survival as they are not evaporated. The graph in figure 2 is a great tool to determine the right Delta T conditions for spraying. Delta T between 2 and 8 is ideal.

Surface temperature inversion

![Figure 2: Selecting the right Delta T conditions for spraying. Source: Jorg Kitt, Spraywise Broadacre Application Handbook, 2008](image)
High delta T (high temperature/low humidity) causes droplet evaporation and can limit the product hitting the target. Low delta T (low temperature/high humidity) can be a drift issue as fines droplets have greater survival as they are not evaporated. The graph in figure 2 shows temperature inversion is commonly known as an inversion layer, and has the potential to cause chemical drift up to 30km from the area sprayed.

Under normal conditions temperature decreases further away from the ground. In an inversion event temperature increases with height. The cool air doesn’t mix with the warm air and layers are formed. Fine droplets or vapour can be trapped in these layers and float away.

This often happens when there is low wind, high daytime temps and low night temps. Inversion layers usually occur early evening, night time and early morning. Dust, smoke and fog can indicate an inversion layer. Fine droplets are most susceptible.

Part B in next newsletter!
We wish you a mango Christmas, Darwinites

MANGOES are likely to make an appearance in festive spreads around the country this Christmas, with one Territory provider harvesting 30 per cent more mangoes this year than last year.

NT Mango Industry Association president Leo Skliros said 2017 was a good year for Territory farmers.

“For the majority of growers it was a fantastic season,” he said.

“It was a quite spread out crop beginning quite early, the price kept up high – most of us picked large, near-record volumes.”

Mr Skliros said most growers in the Darwin region had picked most of their mangoes by mid-October, and Katherine farmers finished their season last month. He said most of the mangoes in stores across the country now, were coming out of Queensland.

Manbulloo Mangoes owner Marie Piccone has farms in Queensland and the NT.

Ms Piccone said she expected to supply more than seven million mangoes to Coles supermarkets this season.

Story courtesy Lauren Roberts, NT News

Northern Territory Most Powerful 120 - our farmers well represented

Marie Piccone, Managing Director of Manbulloo Mango Farm in Katherine came in at 109.

When it comes to our sweetest export, Marie stamps her name all over them. Manbulloo sends mangoes all over Australia through major supermarkets like Coles. She is an accomplished businesswoman, everyone should learn from.

NT Farmers Association President, Simon Smith was listed at 111.

They said few people understood the potential of the Territory’s agricultural sector better than this man. It is tough at the moment with a heap of competing interests but he has the ear of government and industry.

Law Conference finds Northern Australia development needs purpose

More discussion is needed about the purpose of developing Northern Australia with social, cultural and environmental elements just as relevant as economic demand, a recent round-table conference of farmers, scientists, environmentalists, lawyers and academics found.

The inaugural conference of the Law Futures Centre held in November at Griffith University, Queensland included high level panellists with specific knowledge of Northern Australia who over two days, discussed and debated four key themes.

Participants concluded that the development agenda for Northern Australia had matured beyond the 2015 White Paper.

The model for the conference was four round tables that each considered four themes – achieving integrated governance; overcoming compartmentalised regulation; embracing diverse values in development; and using a broader knowledge framework for regulation.

In relation to economic development, it was identified that the key in the North is the small business sector. To be economically productive, there is an assumption that something must be done that transforms the land but we need to recognise the existing value that is already being generated. The question is how to get revenue recognition for all, the panellists decided.

It was agreed that further research was required to identify an agreed shared vision for Northern Australia.

As well, participants concluded that there was a need to change the conversation away from the North being underdeveloped and needing to be filled up and dug up. Instead, the focus should be on what works well already and how it can be used as platforms for development.

It was identified that development of the North will be facilitated through strength based thinking.

The roll call of panellists was impressive and illustrated the calibre of the conference. They included farmers (Mr Vin Lange, CEO, Centrefarm Aboriginal Horticulture Ltd), academics (Professor Ruth Wallace, Director, Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University), scientists (Dr Marcus Barber, Senior Research Scientist, CSIRO) and industry bodies (Mr Grant Maudsley, President, Agforce).

Kingfisher Law contributed to the round table on overcoming compartmentalised regulation moderated by Clare Martin, chair of the Territory Natural Resource Management. Ms Martin’s group discussed how best to move from compartmentalised regulation towards legal tools that have capacity to regulate the cumulative effects of a wide range of ecological, cultural, social and economic impacts on terrestrial, marine and freshwater environments.

Members of the Office of Northern Australia were present which allowed them to hear what experts on Northern Australia were saying and gave them an idea on what areas of governance and regulation could be improved to better Northern Australia’s future.

Kingfisher Law
Water & Agribusiness Lawyers for Northern Australia
Jeremy Fisher
P: 0299317830
**Mango Daquiri**

Serves: 4  

**Ingredients:**  
1 large ripe mango, peeled and coarsely chopped  
2 tablespoons fresh lime juice  
1 tablespoons caster sugar  
6 nips (180ml) Bacardi or white rum  
3 cups ice cubes  

**Directions:**  
Preparation: 10min  
Ready in: 10min  
Put all ingredients in a blender and blend till smooth. Pour into chilled cocktail glasses.

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**Rockmelon Cocktail**

Serves: 3  

**Ingredients:**  
200ml rockmelon juice, strained (about 1/2 rockmelon)  
60ml brandy  
Zest 1 lime  
100ml champagne or sparkling wine  

**Directions:**  
Place the juice, brandy and lime zest in a cocktail shaker with plenty of ice. Shake well and pour into glasses. Top up with sparkling wine and serve immediately.

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**Water Melon Slushie**

Serves: 6  

**Ingredients:**  
4 cups of watermelon cubes  
2 lemons, juiced  
2 tbsp sugar  
1 bottle of very cold white wine (anything that you like to drink), plus more for serving  

**Directions:**  
Put the watermelon cubes into a plastic zip top bag and then into the freezer until frozen, at least 2 hours.  
Put the watermelon, the lemon juice, the sugar and the cold white wine into a blender and blend until smooth.  
Transfer the frozen mixture into a wine glass filling it 2/3 full. Top with a bit more wine.

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**Pina Colada**

Serves 3-4  

**Ingredients:**  
375ml chilled pineapple juice  
250ml chilled coconut milk  
80ml Malibu coconut liqueur  
60ml Midori liqueur  
60ml fresh chilled lime juice  
2 cups crushed ice  

**Directions:**  
Place pineapple juice, coconut milk, Malibu, Midori, lime juice and ice in a blender and blend until combined

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**Cucumber Punch**

Serves 4  

**Ingredients:**  
4 cups water  
2 small cucumbers  
3/4 cup sugar  
1/4 cup lime juice  
1 litre of lime or lemon/lime soft drink  

**Directions:**  
Notice is hereby given that the

Annual General Meeting

of

The Northern Territory Farmers Association

Will be held

5pm, Wednesday 31st January 2018

at

NT Farmers Association meeting room,
Shop 15A Coolalinga Shopping Centre, Stuart Hwy, Coolalinga

All members and interested industry partners are invited to attend

Please note that only Financial Members are entitled to a vote

Business:

1. To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29th November 2016 as a true and correct record of proceedings.
2. To receive, consider and adopt the financial statements of the Association for the year ended 30th June 2017, and the reports by Directors and Auditors.
3. To elect Directors for the ensuring year.
4. To appoint an auditor for the year 2017/2018
5. Any other business
The harvest of dates in the desert is to almost double thanks to a Northern Territory Government program that rewards businesses for being innovative. A grant under the Smarter Business Solutions (SBS) scheme enabled the Desert Fruit Company to switch their bore water pumping from diesel to solar power. Company manager Ben Wall, said the switch would not have been possible without the SBS grant.

The solar power will not only enable the Desert Fruit Company to increase production at its operation, 65 kilometres east of Alice Springs, but also slash their $1,110 per month diesel bill.

Mr Wall said growing dates was a 'tough business'. “Water is critical to its success. We were struggling with old diesel pumping systems being able to deliver the amount of water required to get a decent crop. We have always wanted to convert our water pumping systems to solar but had to put it off due to financial considerations. But this year it became essential if we wanted to be able to keep our farm viable and grow into the future. We came up with an innovative direct solar pumping system that we think will work for the long term.”

Mr Wall said Alice Springs-based, government Small Business Champion, Sam Hill and his colleagues gave their support and encouragement 'from day one'.

“Once we explained our unique situation, they quickly grasped our problems and need for an urgent solution, and then proceeded to provide extremely professional assistance and support. Farming, as with most business is a lot about timing, capacity and momentum. We had to convert our water systems to solar this year to go forward. We could not have achieved this change at this critical juncture without the support of Smarter Business Solutions. I thank the NT Government for having such a program and hope to see it expand and continue its success into the future.”

The Desert Fruit Company has about 700 palms and grows 12 varieties of date. Dates are drought tolerant but still require a lot of water in a commercial operation. Now the Desert Fruit Company no longer has to turn diesel into dates but can use abundant solar power to do an even better job of growing food in the arid zone.

If you would like to discuss ways to improve the profitability, sustainability or capability of your business, contact our Small Business Champions team on (08) 8999 5479.

Photo courtesy https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/lifestyle

Photo courtesy Dept Trade, Business and Innovation.
Education options for Barkly students

A dedicated education centre aimed at engaging remote and regional students in alternative educational programs has opened in Tennant Creek.

The Juno Centre focuses on engaging young people in schooling and keeping them involved by integrating art, sport, music, health and learning on country as well as Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs.

The programs and support offered at the Juno Centre will enable students in the Barkly region to transition back into their schools to continue with their learning, or progress into further training or to a job.

There is a strong focus on working with communities and industry to provide the right programs, which include both accredited and non-accredited training.

Tennant Creek High School student Troyston Corbett is studying a Certificate in Agriculture and participating in the Pastoral Futures Program at Juno.

“I want to use the skills that I’m learning right now, I want to get a job. It’s important for me to learn stuff that will help me get a job when I finish school,” he said.

“I grew up hearing stories about my grandfather and how he used to break horses in, working on cattle stations and working with the animals. I’m following in his footsteps and he’s the person that I’ll always look up to.”

The Juno Centre aligns with the Pastoral Futures program, which is designed to provide pathways into the agricultural industry.

Juno will be fully operational from Term 1 2018, delivering residential and in-reach programs for Years 7 -12 students in the Barkly region.

Photo Candice Belbin.
Caption: L-R: Tennant Creek High School students Troyston Corbett and Kerrin Butterworth
Northern Territory in November 2017:
A cooler and wetter than average November

A wetter than normal month across the Northern Territory, resulting in its tenth-wettest November on record. Most parts of the Northern Territory had cooler than average daytime and overnight temperatures. Severe thunderstorms were observed in the second half of the month at several locations in the southern parts of the Territory.

- Above average rainfall for most of the Northern Territory; very much above average rain across central and northwestern areas. Overall, rainfall for the Northern Territory was 66% above the long-term average.
- A wet day on the 20th; some sites including Kidman Springs and Nightcliff had their highest November daily rainfall on record.
- Labelle Downs had its highest November daily rainfall on record and its highest total November rainfall on record.
- Warruwi and Pirlangimpi had their highest total November rainfall since 1975.
- Cooler days and nights in most places.
- Daytime temperatures were below average across the Northern Territory apart from parts of the Top End and a few locations in the south.
- Overnight temperatures were mostly cooler than average apart from some sites in the Top End and the southwest.
- Daly Waters had its lowest November temperature on record since 2003.
- Channel Point reported its lowest November mean daily minimum temperature on record.

Northern Territory Rainfall Totals (mm) November 2017
Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Maps and information courtesy www.bom.gov.au
NT Farmers wish you all a very Merry Christmas Season and we look forward to farming with you in 2018!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas

Our office will be closed from Saturday 23rd December, re-opening Tuesday 2nd January.

Pacific Labour Scheme provides more options for NT businesses

Northern Territory agriculture and horticulture businesses may be able to access workers under a new labour scheme announced by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders’ Meeting in September.

The Pacific Labour Scheme, commencing in July 2018 with an initial intake of up to 2,000 workers, enables citizens of Pacific island countries to take up low and semi-skilled, non-seasonal work opportunities in rural and regional Australia for up to three years.

The Scheme, which contains protections to safeguard against worker exploitation, requires labour market testing be carried out to ensure Australians have priority for local jobs, and that workers be employer-sponsored.

The Pacific Labour Facility will connect Australian employers with Pacific workers and support the administration of the Pacific Labour Scheme in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Queries on the Scheme should be addressed to PacificLabourMobility@dfat.gov.au

NT Farmers Workforce Planning Coordinator, Aisla Connolly

Seasonal workers in the NT. Photo Courtesy A. Connolly