



NORTHERN BETTONG PROJECT

UPDATE #10: JULY-SEPT 2017



Field work fun

This quarter has been a busy one and the search continues for the elusive northern bettong! It's been a very dry winter-spring period so far and the bettong is relying on the abundance of cockatoo grass at this time of year. More specifically, its tubers hidden under the ground. They are full of the moisture and nutrients bettongs need to survive the dry period. A bit of a change from the tasty truffles they devour in the wet season. I bet they can't wait for the rain to return!

In the last few months, more camera trapping surveys have taken the bettong team from the far reaches of upper Daintree National Park, all the way down to Paluma, near Townsville. In August, WWF-Australia was joined by James Cook University researchers and Giringun Rangers to set up over 100 camera traps in the Paluma and Kirrama Ranges, most of which were for northern bettongs and some for their predators. This will help to give us an idea of the assemblage of predatory species across mapped northern bettong habitat.

For the Daintree survey, James Cook University (JCU) researchers and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) staff teamed up and were helicoptered in to deploy 80 camera traps in a remote area near Mt. Spurgeon, nearby to where the species was rediscovered by WWF and partners earlier this year at Mt. Carbine.



The home stretch

The Northern Bettong Project's run of field work will all be completed by January 2018, with only a few more locations to put camera traps. Come on, bettongs, show yourselves! This will give us plenty of time to analyse the data and determine the final outcomes of the project! If you'd like to be involved in the final field work scheduled from now until mid-January, please get in touch!

Goodbyes and welcomes

As the Northern Bettong's Project Officer for the last four years, sadly I am leaving the WWF team to work on other threatened wildlife projects in Queensland's Far North. I will greatly miss all the hard-working colleagues, partners and volunteers, and especially the bettongs! I am excited to welcome Caitlin Weatherstone, who will be taking over my role. Caitlin is a wildlife ecologist, originally from New South Wales, and has been working in the wildlife research and environmental conservation/education fields for the last ten years. Caitlin also has a soft spot for northern bettongs, having studied them in her Masters research project!

Signing off until next time,

- Jess & Caitlin

Special thanks

A huge thank you to QPWS Rangers and Giringun Aboriginal Corporation Rangers who assisted with field work and also our volunteers from the third quarter of 2017: Wise Lum, Caitlin Weatherstone, Sophie Holt, Simone Vinton, Paula Strickland, Liz Hauck, Richard Korim, Lawrence Scheele and Breanne Johnson. We couldn't do it without you!

If you would like to contact us, please send me an email to toweatherstone.caitlin@gmail.com

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WWF in numbers

+100

WWF is in over 100 countries,
on 6 continents

6,628

WWF has 6,628
staff worldwide



1961

WWF was founded in 1961

+5.4M

WWF has over 5.4M
financial supporters



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To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and
to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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