



Roebuck Bay Working Group Inc. NEWSLETTER

Number 17 • December 2017



MUD AND SALTWATER FILM FEST MEGA CULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL EVENT

The Film Fest's popularity has grown exponentially, with an audience over 800 at The Mangrove Hotel in August enjoying the 24 short films made by professional and emerging filmmakers about Roebuck Bay and the Kimberley coast. The Broome Bird Observatory's winning film about the mangrove crab migration will be screened to an audience of 8,000 at the [Peninsula Film Fest](#) in early 2018.

Aussie actor Steve Bastoni and Shayne Thomson provided free acting and filmmaking workshops in May and it paid off, with filmmakers making drama, science shorts, documentary and comedy using guerrilla filmmaking techniques. With the Film Fest so popular, the Film Fest is on in August 2018 at Sun Pictures, the world's oldest picture garden.

Major sponsors: Cygnet Bay Pearls, Sobrane Simcock, State NRM, Inspiring Australia, Rangelands NRM.

Prizes / In-kind donations: Astro Tours, Betta Electrical, Broome Bird Observatory, Broome Car Hire, Broome Resource Centre, Bruce Wiggan, Diverse Water Sports, Finn Films, Good Cartel, Harvey Norman, National Science Week, Sundowner Camel Tours, Wil Thomas, Zanders.



SHORT FILM FEST RESCREENS - WOW

The appetite for the Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest is stronger than ever, with rescreens at Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm, Broome Surf Club, Sun Pictures (Shinju Matsuri) and Derby! For the screening in Derby, the projector and screen provided by the Derby Shire, and Kerrie and Eric Goodchild were presented with a pearl shell carved by Bruce Wiggan for their winning film 'Outback Eric'. The film won the 'Kimberley Calling' section and 'People's Choice'.

Kerrie Goodchild is now an ambassador for the Mud and Saltwater Film Fest in Derby.

Sponsors: Cygnet Bay Pearls, State NRM, Rangelands NRM, Derby Quick Grant Scheme



STUDENTS BRUSH WITH CELEBRITY

RBWG provided acting and filmmaking workshops for secondary students, resulting in close ties with schools and four short films in the 2017 Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest. Actor Steve Bastoni showed students how to prepare for roles, act and storyboard their scripts. RBWG also presented Roebuck Bay values and issues for Environment Day, judged STEM competitions in schools and donated prizes for Science competitions.

Sponsors: State NRM, Rangelands NRM



LIFE IN THE LONG MUD ON FILM

RBWG's latest film, [Life in the long mud](#) was premiered at the 2017 Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest. With a major 'benthic' expedition on Roebuck Bay and Eighty Mile Beach in October 2016, RBWG provided a brief for Paul Bell to make a film about the amazing invertebrates in the Ramsar wetlands of Roebuck Bay and Eighty Mile Beach.

The film is impressive, with aerial footage of large flocks of migratory shorebirds, macros of tiny invertebrates in the productive intertidal mudflats and close ups of the legs of volunteers disappearing into the soft warm mud.

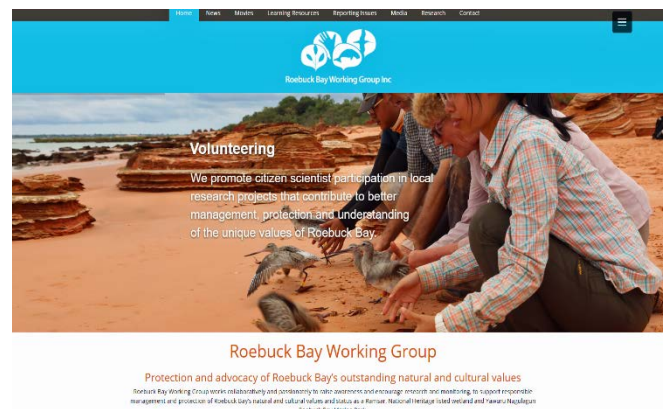
The expedition team of 100, included scientists, Yawuru, Karajarri and Nyangumarta ranger groups, landowners and volunteers. The impetus for the expedition was to conduct repeat surveys of the benthic invertebrates to discover if and how benthos abundance, diversity and distribution has changed. The recommendations from the 2016 benthos expedition will inform management of these valuable wetlands for migratory shorebirds, as they come under increasing pressure from industrial developments on their staging grounds on the Yellow Sea in China.

Sponsors: State NRM, Rangelands NRM



STATE LIBRARY ARCHIVE WEBSITES

A proud achievement for the RBWG, with the State Library of WA requesting permission to archive the [Roebuck Bay Working Group](#) and [Mud and Saltwater Short Film](#) websites. PANDORA, Australia's Web Archive, was set up by the National Library of Australia in 1996 to enable the archiving and provision of long-term access to online Australian publications. Since then the State Library have been identifying online publications and archiving those that they consider have **national significance**. For more information go to [PANDORA »](#)



TEAMWORK HELPS ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY AND BAY

State NRM has funded a collaborative project to improve the McMahon walkway in Cable Beach. The Shire repaired footpaths, weeded and cleaned up the walkway and stormwater drain - which had become a dumping ditch for garden waste and litter.

Shire and Yawuru Rangers helped hundreds of students plant a bushtucker trail and endemic plants in the drain to absorb/slow nutrient flow into Roebuck Bay. RBWG produced the short film [Bushtuckers healing community and bay](#) and delivered fridge magnets to residents in the area with tips to keep the stormwater drain and walkway clean into the future.



Sponsors: State NRM, Rangelands NRM

DON'T BAG BROOME

RBWG wrote to the State Government in March 2017 to urge for a [Container Deposit Scheme](#) (10 cents back on drink containers) and Ban on Single Use Plastic Bags in Broome. The Environment Minister replied "it is anticipated a container deposit scheme will commence from January 1, 2019." More good news (12/9/2017): [Premier Mark McGowan announced WA will ban single-use plastic bags from July 1 2018](#). Plastics remain in the environment, breaking up into smaller and smaller pieces which contaminate soil and water, and have serious impacts on the health of wildlife, who can mistakenly ingest plastics. The solution is to prevent plastic pollution in the first place, by changing our laws and our habits in WA.



Sponsors: State NRM, Rangelands NRM

DRAIN STENCILLING PROJECT

Can you believe it, 60 people painted azure Keep Our Bay Clean stencils on Broome's footpaths! Bart Pigram said, "It's simple... Look after the country and the country will look after you! An old saying extremely relevant to today's environmental threats. Walyjalajala buru jayida!" [Media stories, posters](#) and a short film on social media, are being circulated to remind everyone to keep rubbish and nutrients out of drains and [Coastal Garden»](#). This is simply, growing native plants, mulching heavily and trapping rainwater using swales to reduce nutrient enriched runoff entering Roebuck Bay and feeding toxic blooms of Lyngbya.



Sponsors: State NRM, Rangelands NRM

SCIENCE ON BROOME COAST SERIES

The popular series continues its momentum, with continued sponsorship and collaborations with Yawuru, community and universities to cover a wide range of practical research projects on Roebuck Bay and the Kimberley coast in 2017.

- July [Celebrate the Dinosaur Coast »](#)
- July [Ten years of seagrass monitoring on Roebuck Bay »](#)
- August [The wonder of avian migration »](#)
- August [Wing Threads: Flight to the Tundra »](#)
- August [Communication in whale and dolphin societies »](#)
- October [Culture and science to look after Balguja »](#)
- November [Eye in the sky: Use of the Dampier Peninsula »](#)
- November [Connections among fish, trochus, corals, seagrass »](#)
- November [Past, present, future of Kimberley coral reefs »](#)

Sponsors: Inspiring Australia, State NRM, Western Australia Marine Science Institution, Rangelands NRM, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, University of Notre Dame, National Science Week



EDGY COMMUNICATION

Recognising social media as a popular means of communicating with a wide audience, RBWG has developed an outstanding new [Mud and Saltwater Film Fest website »](#) and [Facebook page »](#) plus an upgrade of the [Roebuck Bay Working Group website »](#). The websites are now responsive and can be viewed on desktops, tablets and smart phones, and embedded videos and other multimedia display responsively. RBWG also purchased a large indoor / outdoor screen and LED projector, allowing Science on Broome Coast presentations to be outdoors and the 2017 Mud and Saltwater Films to be screened at Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm.

Sponsors: State NRM

COMMUNICATING SCIENCE TO INSPIRE

[Inspiring Australia](#) sponsored Kandy Curran, Jason Fowler and Chris Parker from RBWG to attend the 2017 [Communicate to Inspire Conference](#) in Perth. Inspiring Australia invites the best science communicators in Australia to present and connects science communicators across WA for networking and skill development at the annual conference. RBWG provided a colourful poster on science communication, participated in a business development workshop and learnt how to contribute to [Particle](#), which brings science to a digitally connected audience.

Sponsor: SciTech through the Federal Government Inspiring Australia initiative



WORK TO REDUCE NUTRIENTS ENTERING ROEBUCK BAY

RBWG have been lobbying Water Corporation, the State and Department of Environment Regulation to investigate and reduce nutrient seepage from Broome South Wastewater Treatment Plant. The response has been encouraging, with a scope of works undertaken at BS WWTP to reduce the likelihood of nutrients entering Roebuck Bay:

- Lined seeping holding pond/disused seeping holding ponds
- Holding tanks replace Shire storage pond at Golf Course.
- Nutrient Irrigation Plan regulating Golf Course watering.
- Monitoring bores (18) at BSWWTP, Golf Course, shoreline.

Broome Wastewater Management/Broome North WWTP upgrade (Sep 17 – Feb 18). The works include:

- Wastewater pipeline (3.3km) to divert flows from BSWWTP.
- Wastewater pump station upgrade.
- Second pivot irrigation system at BNWWTP for future flows.

Note: RBWG continues to urge for the tertiary and secondary ponds at BS WWTP to be lined, with worsening blooms of *Lyngbya* in Roebuck Bay downgradient of the plant.



A new pump transfers wastewater from 'new holding pond' to new holding tanks at BGC. Ponds outlined in purple are for emergencies and extreme wet weather

LETTERS OF SUPPORT SUCCESS

RBWG has written six letters of support for partner grants, with great outcomes. "We had success in the Shire 'Community Sponsor Program' and RBWG's excellent letter was an important factor in the application success. We can finish the shade house kitchen with stainless steel benches and cupboards, providing a safe, hygienic environment for staff, researchers and guests." Broome Bird Observatory.

RBWG grant writing tips:

- Write an individual letter for the organisation submitting the grant.
- Demonstrate how strategic priorities of sponsor, RBWG and grant align.
- Include how both organisations will work together to help enviro i.e. Ramsar.
- Use official letterhead, signature of Chair, one pager on your organisation.



RAMSAR WETLANDS AND HELICOPTERS

To protect migratory shorebird roosts from disturbance by helicopters flying in/out of Broome Airport, RBWG asked Air Services Australia for a stakeholder meeting (Jun) to raise awareness and seek solutions. Outcomes thus far:

- Parks and Attractions/Air Services update fly neighbourly policy for ERSA (promulgation to be verified Nov 2017) resulting in Ramsar site visible to aircraft operators/rotary aircraft to operate above 1000 ft.

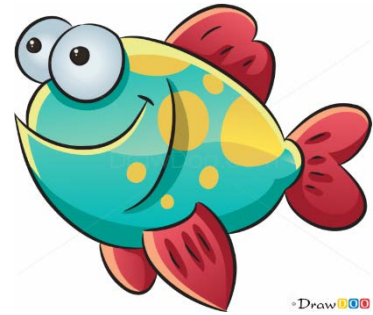
- In interim, helicopter operators move low level training north of Broome and pilots reminded at weekly meetings to avoid Ramsar site/operate above 1000ft/closer to 2000ft.
- Anecdotal reports suggest a decrease in larger helicopters flying over the Ramsar site, but some smaller helicopters are still seen.



GRANT SUCCESS

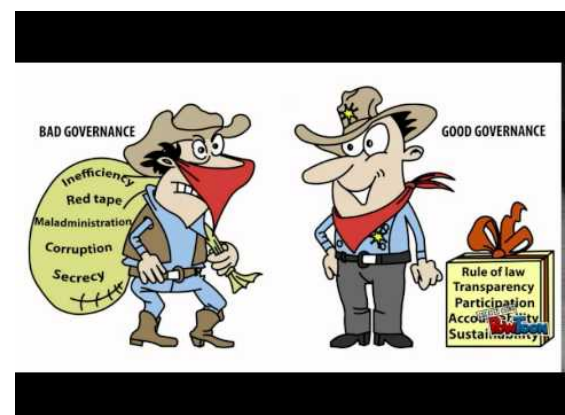
RBWG is in a sound financial position with five grants:

- Rangelands NRM (Jul 17-Jun 18) 'Community protecting Ramsar values'.
- State NRM Community Capability Grant Large (Aug 16-Dec 18).
- 'Improved understandings and management of Ramsar values through innovative media, - science, culture, governance'.
- State NRM Community Action Grant (Apr 17-Dec 18) 'Bushtuckers, native plantings and community reinventing drains, walkways and pride'.
- Inspiring Australia (Jul 17-Jun 18): 'Science on Broome Coast'.
- Derby West Kimberley Quick Grant – Mud and Saltwater Film Fest screening in Derby.



GOOD GOVERNANCE

Hard work, collaborations, good governance and 100% grant success (last eight years) has resulted in RBWG's excellent reputation for running outstanding projects and events - foremost the Science on Broome Coast series, Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest and NRM projects. A big thanks to RBWG's talented Management Committee, Dr Alexander Watson (Chair), Jason Fowler (Vice Chair), Grey Mackay, Julie Melbourne and Chris Parker who have provided constructive advice and help on projects: letters, media, governance and events i.e. Science on Broome Coast and Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest.



THANKS THANKS THANKS

Thank you to the grant organisations, sponsors and businesses for your support of RBWG projects.

Thank you volunteers Dr Alexander Watson, Jason Fowler, Jessamy Ham, Dr Malcolm Lindsay, Grey Mackay, Grace Maglio, Dean Mathews, Julie Melbourne, Sarah Mullineux, Christopher Nutt, Kevin Smith, Kylie Weatherall, Fiona West and Lisa Bonobo for promoting and helping out at events.

Thank you Kandy Curran / Shayne Thomson for outstanding Co-Direction of 2017 Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest.



Follow RBWG...

- 📌 LIKE and follow the [RBWG Facebook Page](#) »
- 📌 Check out the new [RBWG website](#) »

Disclaimer: RBWG has made every effort to verify all facts in this newsletter.

RBWG works to raise awareness and promote responsible management and protection of Roebuck Bay's natural and cultural values and status as a Ramsar and National Heritage listed wetland and Yawuru Nagulagun Roebuck Bay Marine Park.
