

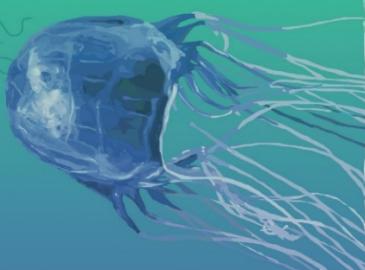


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An initiative of the Roebuck Bay Working Group and Yawuru Land and Sea Unit

# SCIENCE ON THE BROOME COAST

## The secrets of Marine Stingers



### 2016 SCIENCE ON THE BROOME COAST SERIES

The popular science series that is in its third year, has six sponsors, including the University of Notre Dame in Broome who have provided their well-equipped multipurpose hall for the 2016 presentations. In the first half of this year scientists, who are leaders in their fields, have provided enthralling presentations on the [Values for the Kimberley Coast](#), [Secrets of marine stingers](#), [Sea Turtles in northern WA](#), and [Corals, canaries and cockroaches »](#) With science communication a goal of the series, quality [media stories](#) are broadcast and published on [presentations](#) and tips provided to presenters. Read about the exciting [Science on the Broome Coast presentations coming up in 2016 »](#)

**Sponsors:** Inspiring Australia, University of Notre Dame, WA Marine Science Institution, Rangelands NRM, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Yawuru Land and Sea Unit.

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# SCIENCE ON THE BROOME COAST

## Sea Turtles: Iconic ambassadors linking marine habitats, cultures and regions in north WA



### COMMUNITY STENCILLING

What a great project, with 55 people painting azure Keep Our Bay Clean stencils on Broome's footpaths. The best part of the project, besides raising awareness of the onerous connection between nutrient enriched stormwater runoff and blooms of Lyngbya in the Bay, is the opportunity to chat with the wider community about their concerns and aspirations for Roebuck Bay.

[Media stories](#), a short film and poster will be developed to remind everyone to '**do their little bit**' to keep rubbish and nutrients (fertiliser, garden waste, sewerage, carwash detergent, animal faeces) out of stormwater drains as they discharge this pollution into Roebuck Bay. The other important 'little bit', is to [Coastal Garden to keep Broome's waters clean and healthy »](#)

**Sponsors:** Rangelands NRM through the Federal Government National Landcare program.



## MUD N SALTwater FILM FEST RESCREEN A SMOKING SUCCESS

A LandCorp grant made it possible to re-screen the Mud and Saltwater (2015) short films at a Food and Film night in Broome North on May 21. The starry Wirralburu evening was idyllic for 300 people to 'chill' on picnic rugs in Tanami Park, and watch the 16 short films made by local filmmakers in 2015, about Roebuck Bay. A Yawuru smoking ceremony provided a reverential atmosphere and audience feedback was exceptional. Hot off the press! The Mud & Saltwater Short Film Fest will be held again in 2017 with dates of the free filmmaking workshops announced in coming weeks on [www.roebuckbay.org.au/mudnsaltwater/](http://www.roebuckbay.org.au/mudnsaltwater/)



**Sponsors:** Rangelands NRM (National Landcare Program), LandCorp, Inspiring Australia

## ROEBUCK BAY WORKING GROUP GRANT SUCCESS

The State Government announced on June 28 RBWG has successfully secured an NRM Large Community Capability Grant of \$100,000. The grant, aimed at 'Improving understanding of Ramsar values for Roebuck Bay through innovation', will run from 2016-18 and include the Roebuck Bay MUD AND SALTwater SHORT FILM FEST, project to reduce pollution including plastics, infographic signs to build understanding of Roebuck Bay's extraordinary values, and a coastal gardening book aimed at reducing nutrients in Roebuck Bay. Thank you to our partners who provided letters of support to help to secure the grant: Yawuru Land and Sea Unit, Broome Bird Observatory, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Dinosaur Coast Management Group, Enviros Kimberley, Rangelands NRM and WWF Australia.



**Sponsors:** Western Australian Government, State NRM Program and Royalties for Regions

## TALL INDIGO REMOVED FROM ROEBUCK PLAINS

The RBWG was notified in 2013 by botanist Andrew Mitchell that the noxious weed, Tall Indigo (*Indigofera oblongifolia*) had established a small infestation on Roebuck Plains. The vigorous weed was removed in 2013 by the Yawuru Country Managers, however re-established and spread. The Yawuru Country Managers have removed the plants again, to prevent the weed from colonising Roebuck Plains and Kimberley grasslands - as it has done in the Pilbara region of WA.

**Thanks Andrew Mitchell and the Yawuru Country Managers**



Photo: G Byrne

## LOBBYING FOR BETTER WATER QUALITY IN ROEBUCK BAY

RBWG have written to Water Corporation, the State and Department of Environment Regulation, urging for the relining of all sewerage ponds at Broome South Wastewater Treatment Plant (BSWWTP), with the aging facility only 50m from Roebuck Bay.

In February 2014, Water Corporation confirmed sewerage ponds at BSWWTP are seeping (estimated 8%) through the compacted soil lining of the secondary, tertiary and holding ponds via the groundwater system into Roebuck Bay. Water Corporation has advised works will commence in August 2016 to disuse a seeping holding ponds at BSWWTP, enlarge and reline the Overflow holding pond (geotextile clay liner) and Broome Shire Treated wastewater pond at the Golf Course replaced with two holding tanks.



The two year lag and late start to reline seeping ponds is concerning, with an early wet forecast (80%) and no plans to reline the Secondary, Tertiary (lined 1982 with compacted pindan) or Primary ponds (Relined 2004 with geotextile - old technology). RBWG are urging Water Corp to install 'world best practice' liners in all ponds to prevent further seepage.

The major concerns are the Lyngbya blooms that have been worsening in Roebuck Bay over the last decade, and the nutrient enriched seepage that may be a major contributing factor for the noxious blooms. These concerns have been heightened, with the BSWWTP listed as 'Contaminated – Remediation Required' in 2015 under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* (formerly classified as "Potentially Contaminated – Investigation Required") and land encompassing the Broome Golf Course, strip of UCL between the Course, BSWWTP and Roebuck Bay, "Potentially Contaminated – Investigation Required".

Lyngbya blooms threaten Roebucks Bay's biodiversity, indigenous heritage and economic values. Letters to the Water Corp, the State and Department of Environment Regulation are encouraged from the community.

## Want to know more about Roebuck Bay and RBWG?

- ✚ [LIKE and follow the RBWG Facebook Page »](#)
- ✚ [Check out the RBWG website to see films, events, volunteer opportunities, photos and great information about Roebuck Bay »](#)
- ✚ [Email RBWG's Project Manager - Kandy Curran »](#)

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. Thanks to RBWG's talented Management Committee: Dr Alexander Watson, Jason Fowler, Grey Mackay, Julie Melbourne, Nathan Kay, Kandy Curran and members.