

Bay the star of short films

Roebuck Bay is set to make a splash on screen when it is showcased as part of a grassroots film festival launched tonight.

The Mud and Saltwater short film festival is a new initiative by the Roebuck Bay Working Group, funded by Rangelands NRM and Inspiring Australia, that is being held as part of this year's Shinju Matsuri Festival.

It will feature a host of inspiring

stories that aim to capture the beauty and diversity of the bay.

Roebuck Bay Working Group project manager Kandy Curran said the films that had been chosen for the festival were of a high standard and were exceptionally diverse.

"There are interviews with Roebuck Bay's wildlife, stories about the bay's multicultural history, creatures of the soft, warm mud,

underwater footage of dolphins and out-of-water experiences with humpback whales, bats in mangroves, cyclone surfing ... and the award-winning film High Tide," she said.

"It is hoped that the short films will draw attention to the bay's fascinating cultural and pearling history and exceptional diversity of marine life and, at the same time, encourage community

and visitors to take pride in protecting these natural and cultural values."

The films, all less than five minutes long, will be judged before the event and the winners of each category announced on the night.

The Mud and Saltwater short film festival will be held at the Mangrove Hotel tonight and opens at 5.45pm. Films will run from 6.30pm to 9pm.

Dementia rates soar in communities

■ Rourke Walsh

Remote Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley have the highest rates of dementia in the world, according to research by the University of WA's Centre for Health and Ageing.

The researchers revisited a target group of Aboriginal people tested 10 years ago to review the clinical and socio-economic factors contributing to the development of dementia.

WA Centre for Health and Ageing director Professor Leon Flicker said they found that every year, 21 of every 1000 Aboriginal Australians over the age of 60 developed dementia, a rate at least twice as high as the general population.

"This is a world-first study that has provided comprehensive clinical data on the cognitive health of a group of older indigenous people," he said.

Professor Flicker said dementia was placing strain on Aboriginal communities.

"The greatest risk factors we found were head injuries, as were stroke, a low body mass index and high blood pressure," he said.

The researchers found 75 per cent of the original group who had already been living with dementia had died.

"By further exploring the contributing risk factors we are now looking to target preventative measures such as preventing head injuries and controlling strokes," Professor Flicker said.



Roebuck Bay's wildlife will be in focus in the Mud and Saltwater short film festival at Mangrove Hotel tonight. Picture: Rick Else

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