



**NINGALOO
WHALESHARK
FESTIVAL 2016**

May 29, Exmouth, WA

Free Kites on Display
all ages

Cinema Family Movie Night
(at the Esplanade)

Festival Opening at the
Ningaloo

Fun Run with Aussie Breakfast
at the Esplanade

Wings Aerial Troupe
performances by local artists

market stalls on Saturday at
the Esplanade

workshops
with the Ex Factor

games

Whalesharkfestival.com

Sponsors: QuadraNet Energy, RioTinto, Pilbara News, NINGALOO RESORT, AVIS.

Chinatown upgrade on track

■ Glenn Cordingley

Work on a key project to revitalise Chinatown is about four weeks away from completion.

The connection of the eastern end of Frederick St and the southern end of Dampier Terrace is designed to rejuvenate an underutilised part of the CBD that is home to a mix of retail, office and residential properties.

The \$600,000 link is jointly funded by the Shire of Broome and Tourism WA and work will include connecting the two roads with a raised brick-paved thoroughfare, improved stormwater drainage and 10 new streetlights.

The project is envisaged to eventually include a tourist lookout and other facilities after further consultation and engagement.

Shire engineering director Michael Dale said the council was committed to retaining and enhancing Chinatown as Broome's historic, cultural



Shire of Broome works co-ordinator Dave Greaves and engineering director Michael Dale inspect the road link progress. Picture: Glenn Cordingley

and commercial heart. He said he was pleased with the progress to date which has included earthworks, road construction and sealing with the installation of stormwater drainage pipeline, electrical services and new streetlights.

Mr Dale said kerbing, concrete footpaths and paving would take the project through to completion by about mid-May. "We are on schedule, which is very pleasing," he said.

Fish kill blamed on bacteria

A recent fish kill north of Broome was likely caused by local environmental factors which made fish susceptible to a naturally occurring bacterial infection, the Department of Fisheries has confirmed.

The DoF has been investigating a marine fish kill around 70km north of Broome since March 15.

A member of the public initially reported dead and dying fish on a beach in the Manari area.

Fish deaths were observed along about 60km of coast, north to Cape Bertholet and south to Willie Creek, and also some distance off the Kimberley coast within an algal bloom.

Investigations included aerial, beach and vessel surveys, examination of environmental factors, and testing and analysis of fish and water samples by specialist laboratories.

Scientists advised that the fish deaths were because of a systemic bacterial infection, which test results later confirmed was caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus iniae*.

This was consistent with the symptoms seen in dead and dying fish in initial reports.

Streptococcus iniae is a major fish pathogen associated with fish kills around the world, in both wild and aquaculture fisheries.