

Broome Advertiser

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\$1.60

New coral

Buccaneer reef yields discovery

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Youth Week

Next generation ready to celebrate

LIFTOUT



Sport

Club turns into social hub

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New riders revved up for season opener

■ Rob Dougherty

Dirt flew and spectators cheered for Broome Motocross Club's Come and Try Day held last weekend.

The event attracted 50 new registered members for the club, with participants from Derby and countless onlookers, as riders aged four to 45 put their machines through the paces on Broome's well-known technical track under sandy conditions.

BMC president Troy Gibson said the turnout for the registration weekend had been good despite many of the club's regular members being away contending the Northwest Round 1 in Port Hedland.

"The weekend has been a big success — it's the first year we've held the Come and Try Day over two days — I think it allows the people who are working on Saturday to register on the Sunday instead because we've had at least 50 registrations, which is a great result," he said.

This week looks to be a revved-up season start for many riders as more than 50 competitors, including some from Derby and Port Hedland, are expected for round 1 on Sunday, at 8.30am.



Tom O'Connell flies high at Broome Motocross Club last weekend. Picture: Rob Dougherty

Plant leak is causing algae: MP

■ Glenn Cordingley

A Broome wastewater treatment plant thought to be leaking excessive nutrients into groundwater and Roebuck Bay has become a political hot potato.

WA Greens MLC Robin Chapple has fired a salvo at Water Minister Mia Davies for refusing to acknowledge the plant near the 18-hole Broome golf course was the source of the pollution.

Mr Chapple believes the seepage has been contributing to increased blooms of blue green algae in the bay for 10 years.

He said the Water Corporation had been "painfully slow" to respond as leakage concerns were initially reported in 2012.

The Department of Environmental Regulation last year reclassified the plant as "contaminated — remediation required".

"Roebuck Bay has experienced worsening blooms of the cyanobacteria *Lyngbya majuscula* over the last decade, possibly due to an excess of nitrogen and phosphorous in groundwater," Mr Chapple said.

"Whilst I appreciate there are seasonal variations, I question why

an investigation started in 2014 will not be completed until at least 2018.

"Acknowledge the site is contaminated, put serious measures in place immediately to stop the situation from worsening and then investigate, not vice versa."

The Water Corporation said existing data could not determine if the plant was leaking nutrients into Roebuck Bay but it has taken interim measures to reduce the likelihood of contribution to pollution.

These include fast-tracking a project to fully line a holding pond to contain wastewater at the plant, replacing two existing unlined ponds, reducing wastewater application to the Broome golf course by 50 per cent and conducting environmental investigations overseen by an independent auditor.

Ms Davies said she understood the Water Corporation was taking steps to reduce potential leakages at the plant.

"Water Corporation will continue to consult with the Department of Environment Regulation, the Shire of Broome and community groups on this important issue," she said.



APPLICATIONS CLOSE APRIL 15

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All applications for the 2016 Broome Small Business Awards must be submitted by 5pm, Friday 15 April. For free application advice, contact the Broome Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Go to www.broomechamber.com.au or call 9193 5553.



ASH GRUNWALD

Friday 8 April / Divers Tavern / 7.00pm

