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Works to cut water pollution

■ Glenn Cordingley

Millions of dollars will be spent to repair a leaking wastewater treatment plant in Broome thought to be contaminating groundwater and polluting nearby Roebuck Bay. The Water Corporation's Broome South site was declared contaminated by the Department of Environment Regulation in March last year and remediation work was ordered.

The golf course next door uses recycled water from the facility to irrigate its fairways and greens and was classified as possibly contaminated.

The DER at the time said the pollution appeared to be seepage from containment ponds leading to excessive levels of nitrogen and phosphorous leaching into the soil and groundwater with "a plume that extended off-site".

The corporation said it was undertaking "more extensive environmental investigations" to determine the levels of pollutants reaching Roebuck Bay because existing data was inconclusive.

But it confirmed rushing through a multimillion-dollar project to line a separate 2.2 million-litre capacity pond and shutting down two others suspected of leaking treated wastewater.

Water Corporation North West regional manager Rino Trolio said the work must be carried out in the dry season, with a planned start about September and completion by the end of the year.

"Once the lining is in place, it will contain the treated wastewater and reduce the likelihood of nutrients entering Roebuck Bay via groundwater," he said.

Mr Trolio said the corporation was working with the golf course to comply with nutrient management guidelines and practices.

The Broome South plant uses a pond system to treat wastewater from households and businesses in Broome.

Once it is treated and disinfected, it is recycled and used on the golf course and town ovals.

Mr Trolio said wastewater flows to the contaminated site have reduced by about 25 per cent since the Broome North plant was built in 2012 and another project due for completion early this year would further decrease nutrient loads.

Environmental lobbyist, the Roebuck Bay Working Group, said the heavy discharge had continually triggered blooms of toxic blue-

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Amalia Hegarty, 7, and Micah Hegarty, 5, are excited about going back to school next week. Picture: Nicola Kalmar

Children ready to begin year of learning

■ Nicola Kalmar

After a long and relaxing six-week holiday, Broome youngsters finally have their bags packed, their uniforms ironed and their lunchboxes ready for the start of the school term.

Among them are sister and brother Amalia and Micah Hegar-

ty, who will return to Broome North Primary School.

Amalia, 7, said she was excited about going back to school to start Year 2.

She said she was looking forward to catching up with her friends and getting involved in art classes.

Meanwhile, younger brother Mi-

cah, 5, who will start Year 1, said he was excited about seeing his friends again and meeting his new teachers.

Dad Darcy Hegarty said it was wonderful to see BNPS come together really well in its first year and said he was delighted to see his children return for another exciting year ahead.



Kimberley Chiropractic is proud to announce the addition of Dr Laura Maurice to our Chiropractic team. Originally from Perth Laura's career in Chiropractic has taken her to clinics in Perth, India, Columbia and now to Broome. A frequent visitor, Laura is excited to now live and work in Broome and continue providing high quality service to residents and visitors to Broome and the Kimberley.

Contact Peta or Ann on **9193 7632** to make an appointment to see Dr Clay Blight and Dr Laura Maurice or book online at www.kimberleychiropractic.com.au.



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Man avoids prison after police assault

■ Gareth McKnight

A man who assaulted a police officer while receiving treatment at Broome Hospital has avoided a prison sentence.

Zachary Scott Crease, 41, appeared at Broome Magistrate's Court on Friday, January 15, and pleaded guilty to one charge of assaulting a public officer.

Despite the offence carrying a three-year maximum penalty, the Broome man was handed down an eight-month suspended sentence because of his subsequent conduct and recent rehabilitation.

The court was told how Crease had been receiving treatment at Broome Hospital after falling off

his bicycle while intoxicated.

When police arrived, Crease became agitated and struck Acting Sergeant Richard Conkling.

In summary, Magistrate Stephen Sharratt said that it was a "notorious fact" that the good order of Broome Hospital was put at risk by intoxicated people.

He also said that police officers were "sitting ducks" and an assault on a public officer carried a greater penalty as a result.

However, Mr Sharratt took into account Crease's "immediate acceptance" of guilt and self-referral into the Milliya Rumurra rehabilitation centre on the outskirts of

Broome.

The court was told how the defendant had "flourished" at Milliya Rumurra and received intense supervision for close to six months.

Crease had a number of glowing references from staff at the centre, while his art teacher was present at court to support him.

Crease's lawyer also claimed that his client could become a "target for police" if imprisoned.

Mr Sharratt said it would "go against all common sense" to send Crease to prison, suspending his sentence but threatening to impose harsh sanctions should he appear in court again in the future.

Slow down as students head back to school

■ BROOME BEAT
 ■ Sergeant Luke Collins

Schoolchildren return to school next week and police are urging everyone to slow down and be vigilant in and around school traffic zones.

The 40km/h school zone limit slows traffic in the vicinity of the school and most 40km/h school zones operate between 7.30am and 9am, and from 2pm until 3.30pm.

A 40km/h school zone operates on all gazetted school days, including staff development days (pupil-free days).

Police will be out over the next couple of weeks targeting the reduced speed limit and if drivers fail to adhere, there will be consequences for their actions.

Broome police would also like to remind people to secure their property.

In a great number of instances in recent times, the theft of property from homes and vehicles (including burglaries on residential properties) has been the result of unlocked doors.

While an unlocked door does not excuse the offenders, a locked door certainly makes them think twice about entering your property.

Please help us help you by ensuring that you lock your doors.

For 24-hour police assistance, call Broome Police Station on 131 444 or, in an emergency, dial 000.

Anyone with information for police can call Broome Police Station or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

People can also follow us on Twitter @BroomePol.

Action plan for polluting waterworks

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green algae in the famous marine area.

RBWG project manager Kandy Curran said remediation work was of the "utmost importance" given the bay's renowned natural and cultural values.

The DER said it was assessing the regulatory controls it had placed on the site.

A DER spokesman said the department would continue to monitor the progress of the investigations and remediation required under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003.

Shire of Broome chief execu-



Roebuck Bay Working Group project manager Kandy Curran inspects the 2015 blue green-algae bloom. Picture: Kandy Curran

tive Kenn Donohoe said the council would work in consultation with the Water Corpora-

tion and the DER in relation to "any future report considerations".

NORTH WEST weddings

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