



# Roebuck Bay Working Group NEWSLETTER

Number 7 • December 2012



Happy Xmas and thanks for your continued interest in Roebuck Bay

## Proud finalists in state award

The Roebuck Bay Working Group are proud to have reached the finals in the WA Regional Achievement Community Awards, and see our work beamed onto supersize screens at Perth's Convention Centre. Roebuck Bay Working Group's (RBWG) 'Keep Our Bay Clean' project was acknowledged for the collaborative work to reduce run-off from Broome that can feed Lyngbya blooms. Congratulations to South West Catchment Council who won the Environment Award and Kimberley Toadbusters who were also finalists.



Thanks Rangelands NRM for funding the RBWG project ☺

## Gardening the Roebuck Bay Friendly Way

An exciting new project for 2013 is Gardening the Roebuck Bay Friendly Way.

The project is aimed at increasing awareness of the benefits of planting a native garden and harvesting water to reduce run-off of nutrients and pindan that can trigger Lyngbya blooms. The project includes a gardening demonstration at Expo which will be filmed, development of educational materials and feature articles in the Broome Advertiser and [Science Network WA](#). »



Stormwater run-off into Dampier Creek. © M Pritchard

Thanks Inspiring Australia for funding the project ☺

Roebuck Bay Working Group is supported by:



## Roebuck Bay's untold story slips out

**Roebuck Bay's untold story slipped out to 400 people at Celebrate the Bay in August.** Held at Town Beach during Science Week, the event included music, gelatos, telescopes, microscopes, displays and photo and dolphin sighting competitions. Run by RBWG and DEC's Yawuru Rangers, the enthusiastic crowd enjoyed learning how to prevent algal blooms, safe fishing techniques, how the bay is managed, shorebirds amazing migration, dinosaurs that roamed our coast and research at the Kimberley Marine Research Station. A film of the event will be out soon!



.Iason Richardson and .Iason Fenn © .I Dohson

**Thanks National Science Week for funding the event, Rangelands NRM for funding a film of Celebrate the Bay and DEC for Co-hosting the event ☺**

## Keep our bay clean campaign

**Blooms of *Lyngbya* have been forming thick mats over the bay's seagrass and** impacting marine life in recent years. The cause for the cyanobacteria blooms of *Lyngbya majuscula* is likely to be linked to run-off and polluted groundwater from Broome. The RBWG has responded with a Keep Our Bay Clean project to reduce pollutants entering the bay. [To read more »](#)



**Recent Keep Our Bay Clean achievements:**

## A blooming good film

**A short You Tube film has been released this week by the RBWG** to provide a snapshot of the marine life in Roebuck Bay, the *Lyngbya* spread that has been worsening in recent years and what the triggers can be for these nuisance blooms. The film includes some great footage of snubfin dolphins, seagrass and shorebirds as well as practical tips for the Broome community to reduce run-off and polluted groundwater flowing into Roebuck Bay. The film has been an exciting collaboration between DEC's Yawuru Rangers, Roebuck Primary students and the RBWG. To see the film go to RBWG's website or [Facebook – please share on your Facebook page »](#)

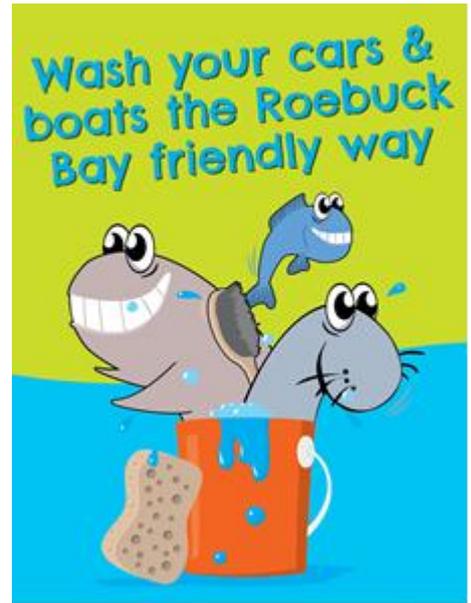


**Thanks Rangelands NRM for funding the film and filmmakers Mitch Torres, CLinton Ferstl and Paul Bell for putting the film together so well. ☺**

**Roebuck Bay Working Group** (44 members) members work voluntarily together to protect, restore and maintain the extraordinary natural and cultural values of Roebuck Bay.

## Wash cars & boats the Roebuck Bay friendly way

A colourful brochure featuring a smiling snubfin dolphin, dugong and salmon in a bucket, has been developed to encourage the Broome community to wash cars and boats on the lawn or garden. Hard surfaces such as driveways and roads aren't good places to wash cars and boats because the soapy water is likely to contain chemicals that can run into stormwater drains on our roads. Nutrients such as phosphorus in detergents can then be washed into Roebuck bay during wet season downpours. So follow the simple tips on the brochure and wash your car the Roebuck Bay friendly way and give our dugongs, dolphins and salmon something to smile about in 2013!



## Survey on Lyngbya awareness

Please ask friends and colleagues to do a 2 minute online survey to help RBWG understand how much the community knows about Lyngbya blooms in Roebuck Bay. Please forward this link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GVJQSG7>

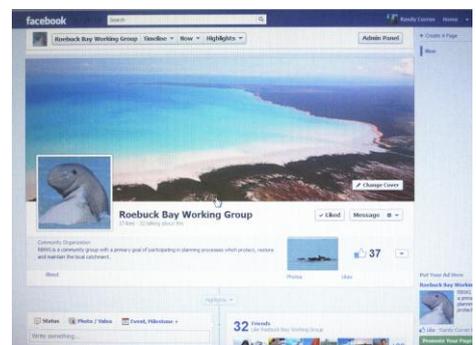
## Broome Primary students hit the mud

Broome Primary students had a memorable excursion on the bay's mudflats recently with Kandy Curran, Kylie Weatherall and Kath Southwell. The student's enthusiasm was matched by knowledge – they loved Roebuck Bay and all its exciting inhabitants. RBWG donated the books *Life along land's edge* and *Invisible Connections* to Broome Primary School to encourage further knowledge of Roebuck Bay's cultural and natural values.



## RBWG on a friendship drive

ROEBUCK Bay's popularity is growing on social networks with 92 Facebook friends. RBWG Facebook page and [website](#) are great communication tools to pass on news about RBWG's work, the bay's extraordinary values and its management. To help spread the word about the bay and Keep Our Bay Clean messages, invite your friends to ["LIKE" Roebuck Bay's Facebook page »](#)



## Plants for drains

A list of plants being grown in Broome's drains has been documented to establish best practice species that will be low maintenance, take up nutrients and slow drain water flow. It is hoped that after evaluation, the best performing species will be identified to guide future plantings of stormwater drains in the Broome catchment.

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## Volunteering in Roebuck Bay projects in 2013

### **SEAGRASS MONITORING »**

Four times a year volunteers monitor Roebuck Bay's seagrass meadows. Volunteers learn about the intertidal creatures in the mudflats and seagrass ecology, whilst contributing to an important dataset that helps monitor the health of Roebuck Bay.

#### **Seagrass monitoring dates for Jan 2013**

Jan 30      Town Beach      05:45 for a 06:00 start

Jan 31      Demco Beach      06:15 for a 06:30 start

Feb 1      Port Slipway      06:45 for a 07:00 start

**Bring** Sandshoes or mud booties, hat, sunscreen, water, AN ADULT IF PRIMARY AGED.

**Contact** Kylie Weatherall M 0400 665 524

E [seagrass@environskimberley.org.au](mailto:seagrass@environskimberley.org.au)



**[Shorebird and Benthos monitoring dates will be on the website in Feb 2013](#) »**



Over the wet garden the Roebuck Bay Friendly Way. Plant natives and dig horseshoe swales around trees and positioning mulch, gravel, logs and pavers to slow and capture water, then there is less run-off for Roebuck Bay. © C Leahy

**For enquiries about the Roebuck Bay Working Group's work please contact:**  
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**W [www.roebuckbay.org.au](http://www.roebuckbay.org.au) F [www.facebook.com/roebuckbay](http://www.facebook.com/roebuckbay)**

Disclaimer: RBWG has made every effort to verify all facts in this newsletter

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