

# Litter bugs urged to clean up their act

NICOLA KALMAR

PRESERVATION of the Kimberley begins at home, according to Broome local Pat Lowe, who is frustrated with the amount of rubbish people are leaving around popular spots such as Reddell Beach.

Instead of taking in the scenic views of Reddell Beach as part of her daily morning stroll, Ms Lowe's routine became more of an environmental mission in recent weeks, as she urged the community to keep the town tidy.

In five days, Ms Lowe collected copious amounts of litter dumped or washed up on Reddell's shores, filling large bags with empty bottles, drink cans, plastic bags, polystyrene and fishing lines.

She said the amount she collected in a few days from one spot was a fraction of what remained on the



Pat Lowe with the mass of rubbish collected in five days at Reddell Beach.

Picture: Nicola Kalmar

beach, and said people needed to take more responsibility.

"It's disappointing that people

love the place enough to come and visit, but not enough to keep it the way they found it," she said.

Ms Lowe believed there were different levels of awareness in society, regarding the impacts caused from dropping litter, and said she was "so conscious" of the damaging effects of rubbish on the environment, particularly plastic.

She illustrated her point with a reference to the trash vortex – an area the size of Texas located in the North Pacific, comprising of the world's plastic and other slow-degrading garbage, where an estimated 6kg of plastic, for every 1kg of natural plankton slowly swirls, ensnaring and destroying marine life.

Ms Lowe said if people were aware of the issue, they would do a better job of waste disposal.

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## Turtle dies after strangulation

BEN JONES

A DEAD juvenile greenback turtle was a distressing sight for a Broome visitor last week, after the animal washed ashore at Entrance Point, tangled in a fishing line.

The man, who did not wish to be named, travelled out to the point to watch the sun rise and noticed the turtle on the beach.

When he realised it was not moving he moved closer for a better look, and found the animal tangled in thick line.

"It was a horrible sight to come across in the morning, after watching the beautiful sunrise," the visitor said.

"It had the line wrapped around its neck and one of its front flippers."

A Broome Shire spokeswoman said rangers collected the



The greenback turtle found dead at Entrance Point last week.

animal from the beach after a call from the public and confirmed it had died from asphyxiation, from fishing line wrapped around its neck.

Department of Fisheries regional manager Peter Godfrey said the department advised anglers to dispose of fishing line on land.

"We strongly encourage fish-

ers to dispose of their tangled fishing line responsibly, obviously not at sea, bring it to shore and get rid of it there," Mr Godfrey said.

He said if anglers accidentally hooked a turtle or any other animal that was not a fish, they should attempt to bring in as much line as possible before cutting it off close to the hook