



Number 23 • September 2021



COASTAL GARDENING TREND

Local nurseries say the free booklet ***Coastal Gardens – A Planting Guide for Broome on the Dampier Peninsula*** is inspiring locals to garden with endemic trees, shrubs and ground covers like never before. Indeed, gardening with endemics benefits your wallet, birdlife, local environment and Ramsar listed Roebuck Bay.

Local endemics have many benefits. They thrive in Broome soils and climate, cope with cyclonic weather, keep homes and gardens cool, require less water than introduced plants and resist most tropical pests. Endemic plants have evolved over time with defense mechanisms to cope with common pests, thereby requiring fewer pesticides than introduced species. Less pesticides means less chemicals entering coastal waters via roadside stormwater drains.

The book, written by Kandy Curran for the Roebuck Bay Working Group, has been exceptionally collaborative, with support from native plant experts Tom Harley (Kimberley Environmental Horticulture), Phil Docherty (Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals), Christine Howe-Piening, Andrew Mitchell (Northern Australia weed specialist), Tim Willing (Broome and Beyond) and Kylie Weatherall (Environs Kimberley).

The book is [online and smart phone friendly >>](#)



ROEBUCK BAY WORKING GROUP COMMENDED IN 2021 NATIONAL AWARDS

Landcare and Coastcare champions from across Australia came together on August 5 to watch the 2021 National Landcare Awards. Costa Georgiadis, ABC TV presenter and Landcare champion, hosted the event celebrating 75 nominees in 11 categories. Western Australians took out three of the 11 awards and the Roebuck Bay Working Group, a finalist in the 2021 Coastcare Award, received a Commendation, indicating our Group came close to winning an award. The 2021 National Landcare Awards were delivered by Landcare Australia through support from Australian Government National Landcare Program.

<http://nationallandcareconference.org.au/national-landcare-award-winners-2021>



KEEP OUR BAY CLEAN SIGNAGE ON FORESHORE OF BAY

A Keep Our Bay Clean sign recently installed on the foreshore of Roebuck Bay, has the noble purpose of reminding passersby to keep litter out of Roebuck Bay.

Over two years, 60 locals painted Keep Our Bay Clean stencils on footpaths around the Broome townsite to raise awareness of the need to keep litter and nutrients from garden waste and fertiliser from entering Roebuck Bay through stormwater drainage.

The enthusiastic response from everyone involved shows that the Broome community is keen to see Roebuck Bay's highly productive waters free of stormwater pollution and blooms of Lyngbya (Maiden's Hair), which can be triggered by high loads of nutrients from litter, rotting garden waste and fertilisers.

Among those featured on the sign are Dr Anne Poelina and Ian Perdrisat, deputy Shire president Desiree Male, Narlijia Cultural Tours owner Bart Pigram, builder Jahved Cox, Yawuru Rangers and Country Managers, and students from schools across Broome.

The initiative to locate the signage on Roebuck Bay's foreshore was organised by the Shire of Broome and the RBWG, with funding from Rangelands NRM with support from the Australian Government National Landcare Program.



MUD AND SALTWATER SCREENS ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

The Mud and Saltwater Film Fest's popularity continues to swell, with 22 outstanding short films shown over two sell-out nights at Sun Pictures in Broome's Chinatown.

The Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm screening on June 12, included a presentation of the 'Kimberley Calling' prize to the Bardi Jawi Rangers for the film, *Gaarragoon Guardians – A Bardi Jawi Ranger story* by AIMS, WAMSI and Sam Frederick. The change of date to screen the 2021 Mud and Saltwater Film Fest on June 4-5 has many benefits: the weather is cooler during Barganna, the date coincides with World Environment Day and the Broome Fringe Festival!

The festival predominantly shows short films up to 5 minutes, although this year showed a limited number of shorts to 10 minutes, and in keeping with the theme there was a major award for 'Best World Environment Day Film' to promote awareness of the exceptional biodiversity of the Kimberley region and particularly Roebuck Bay.

Best in Fest this year went to two exceptional films; *'How to make Saltfish'* by Paul Bell and Stephen Pigram, and *Wilimirimiri* by Mervyn Street, Mangkaja Arts and Bernadette Trench Thiedman. People's Choice and Best Environment Day went to the popular film, *Yawuru Seasons* by Kate Carr and Broome Primary School.

A '2 Minute Film in 3 Days' filmmaking and screening event will be held in June 2022 to upskill filmmakers for the 2023 Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest. For more info go to [Mud and Saltwater website](#) and [Facebook page](#) »

A big thanks to our generous sponsors and volunteers, the Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest wouldn't happen without your support, encouragement and community spirit.



MAJOR SPONSORS Rangelands NRM, National Landcare Program, Sobrane Gallery, Cygnet Bay Pearls, Yane Sotiroski Photography and Inspiring Australia.

PRIZES AND DONORS Broome Betta Home Living, Broome Bird Observatory, Broome Whale Watching, Camera Electronic, Feral Films, Good Cartel, Inspiring Australia, Mark Jones Films, Press Play, Pilbara & Kimberley Aboriginal Media, Reef Chief, ULK Productions and Willie Pearl Lugger Cruises

MUD CRITTERS, SHOREBIRDS, EUCALYPTS AND COASTAL GARDENS

The Science on Broome Coast series continues to empower the Kimberley regional community with science events. Mud dwelling invertebrates, shorebirds and local coastal plants featured in the 2021 series through presentations, art, film, hands on events and competitions.

Mud Critters of the Bay The Shire of Broome, RBWG and Broome Senior High School provided information sessions and art workshops to help students develop artworks of mud dwelling critters in Roebuck Bay's intertidal mudflats. Many of the artworks have been included in a series of colourful murals in a new playground at Town Beach, Broome.

Flock Oz - Shorebirds Galore and Turtley Awesome With Eighty Mile Beach gazetted as a Marine Park in 2013, Parks and Wildlife and RBWG make regular visits to the Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park to provide school holiday education activities. These include Flock Oz activities to increase understanding of the shorebird's epic annual breeding migration to the northern hemisphere, the impacts of disturbance on nesting sea turtles and roosting migratory shorebirds and from coastal debris.

Pi in Nature Primary students in Broome participated in activities to get them thinking about mathematics in nature.

A Series of Science Shorts

Eucalypts of Broome » In 2021 Philip Docherty won a Eucalypt Australia fellowship to collect seeds and propagate and plant Broome eucalypt species in Magabala Botanical Park in Broome North. The project includes raising awareness of Eucalypts through guided tours, radio interviews and an educational display at Broome Public Library. Future initiatives include tree planting days, signage and a book on Kimberley eucalypts.

Coastal Gardens » The reprinted booklet, *Coastal Gardens – A Planting Guide for Broome* is inspiring the local community to grow a waterwise garden that benefits the wallet, environment and Roebuck Bay. [The book is online and smart phone friendly](#) »

Shorebird Poster Comp - ANSTO 2021

Primary schools in Broome participated in an ANSTO poster competition focused on promoting migratory shorebirds and Roebuck Bay. The RBWG Management Committee judged the entries with the winners being judged in the 2021 National ANSTO competition.

SPONSORS Inspiring Australia, Rangelands NRM, National Landcare Program, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, University of Notre Dame, Broome Men's Shed. Door prize donors: Absolute Ocean Charters, Broome Bird Observatory, Broome Whale Watching, Bunnings, Harry Butler Institute, Reef Chief.



GOVERNANCE OF RBWG






Many thanks to Grey Mackay (Chairperson), Kira Andrews (Vice Chairperson), Grace Maglio (Committee member) and Kandy Curran (Acting Project Manager) who give up so much of their time to support Roebuck Bay and the projects the group does to advocate, protect and support responsible management of Ramsar listed Roebuck Bay.

These projects include the popular Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest, the innovative Science on the Broome Coast series and the Environs Kimberley and Roebuck Bay Working Group

project to develop a practical training video on how to conduct an effective seagrass survey. The resultant video will ensure future seagrass monitoring volunteers have access to the professional training to improve consistency of the survey monitoring efforts overall.



Follow Roebuck Bay Working Group...

-  Check out the [Roebuck Bay Working Group website](#) »
-  Like and follow the [Roebuck Bay Working Group Facebook Page](#) »
-  Check out the [Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest website](#) »
-  Like and follow the [Mud and Saltwater Film Fest Facebook page](#) »
-  Like and follow the [Kimberley Filmmakers Forum](#) »

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

RBWG works to raise awareness and support management and protection of Roebuck Bay's natural and cultural values and status as a Ramsar and National Heritage listed wetland and Yawuru Nagulagun Roebuck Bay Marine Park.