



Roebuck Bay Working Group NEWSLETTER

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Gardening the Roebuck Bay Friendly Way is good for dugongs

It makes a lot of sense in Broome, to use a coastal gardening approach that keeps the productive waters surrounding the town free of toxic blooms of *Lyngbya*. These blooms thrive on nutrients from dissolved fertilisers, garden waste, animal faeces and sewerage. Coastal gardening is simply, trapping rainwater, growing plants that do not require fertiliser and mulching. These new cards developed by RBWG and SKIPA will help the community to adopt a gardening approach that is good for dugongs, fish stocks and marine life.

GARDENING THE ROEBUCK BAY FRIENDLY WAY

- 1 Plan**
Draw a simple diagram of your garden. Group native plants with similar water and light needs together. Work out how big native plants will grow to so they have enough space and won't damage your house in a cyclone.

- 2 Trap Rainwater**
Dig large depressions around plants, with the downhill side built up to capture sheet rain. Depressions filled with gravel under runoff from roofs and in the flow path, will capture water and allow it to soak in. For paths, use gravel instead of cement to allow rain to sink into the soil and recharge Broome's aquifer. Trapping rain reduces runoff into the bay.

- 3 Mulch, Mulch, Mulch**
Mulching will capture and soak up water, reduce evaporation and improve the soil to make plants stronger and more pest resistant. It slows rainwater that might otherwise run straight off a bare pindan surface into the bay, as well as cause erosion.




- 4 Watering**
Establish a drip irrigation system to water seedlings. After two years, wean the water off, as most natives will survive without watering. Some native vine thicket and rainforest plants however, will require regular watering. Remember to turn off reticulation during the wet.

- 5 Fertilising**
Native plants don't need fertiliser. If your lawn or introduced plants require fertiliser, use organic, slow release fertiliser and read directions to avoid overuse.

- 6 Lawn**
Try growing more local natives and less lawn, as lawn requires fertiliser that can run off into stormwater drains during heavy rain and become food for toxic blooms of *Lyngbya majuscula* (Maiden's Hair).

Get a book
SKIPA Guide to Planting a Garden in Broome is available from skipas@environskimberley.org.au

Find native plants in Broome
Kimberley Environmental Horticulture 0439 511 985
Broome Nursery & Pets (08) 9192 1279

Join a group
Members of the Society of Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals propagate plants, undertake 'Landcare' projects and go on field trips to collect seed and observe Kimberley plants and animals. skipas@environskimberley.org.au

This brochure was produced by the Roebuck Bay Working Group with help from the Society of Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals. Find out more at www.roebuckbay.org.au

Colourful cards to encourage coastal volunteering

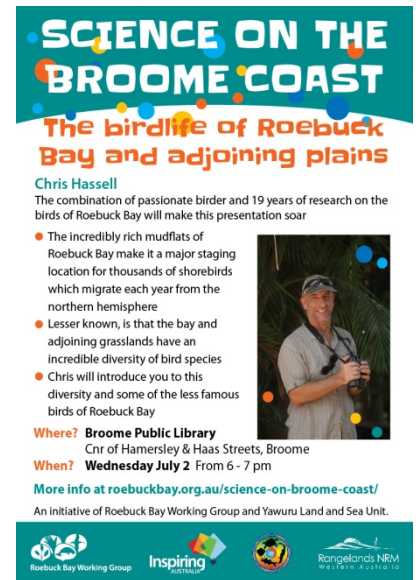
A series of striking cards has been developed by RBWG to encourage volunteers to get involved in research projects on Broome's beautiful coast. Volunteers can participate in the monitoring of muddy invertebrates, dolphins, seagrass, shorebirds, turtles and cleanups of Broome's coast. Data gathered from the projects assists with protection and management of Roebuck Bay and the Kimberley coast. What's more, volunteering is fun, educational and an opportunity to meet Traditional Owners and awesome coastal loving locals! [Click here for the 2014 Volunteer Program](#), or for details of each [coastal project »](#)



Thanks Inspiring Australia/Rangelands NRM for funding these useful/beautiful cards

Science on Broome Coast

RBWG and the Yawuru Land and Sea Unit are holding a Science on the Broome Coast series, to showcase the exciting marine research underway on Roebuck Bay and the Kimberley coast. The monthly presentations are attracting strong community and media interest. In March Assoc Professor Lars Bejder showed the large audience how to use smartphones to record marine life observations on the Kimberley coast. Then in April, PhD researcher Alex Brown presented findings on nearshore dolphins, and Dr Kim Friedman mapped out how a science conservation strategy is assisting Kimberley marine parks. [Click for the 2014 Science on Broome Coast series »](#)



SCIENCE ON THE BROOME COAST
The birdlife of Roebuck Bay and adjoining plains

Chris Hassell
The combination of passionate birder and 19 years of research on the birds of Roebuck Bay will make this presentation soar

- The incredibly rich mudflats of Roebuck Bay make it a major staging location for thousands of shorebirds which migrate each year from the northern hemisphere
- Lesser known, is that the bay and adjoining grasslands have an incredible diversity of bird species
- Chris will introduce you to this diversity and some of the less famous birds of Roebuck Bay

Where? Broome Public Library
Cnr of Hamersley & Haas Streets, Broome

When? Wednesday July 2 From 6 - 7 pm

More info at roebuckbay.org.au/science-on-broome-coast/
An initiative of Roebuck Bay Working Group and Yawuru Land and Sea Unit.

Logos: Roebuck Bay Working Group, Inspiring Australia, Rangelands NRM Western Australia

Thanks Inspiring Australia/Rangelands NRM for funding this exciting series

Shorebird infographics attract a Facebook following

A clever series of infographics by [Rickie Coughlan](#) on Roebuck Bay shorebird's feeding ecology and migration, has captured a large [RBWG Facebook](#) following. Showcasing shorebirds during their preparation and migration has allowed people on social media to understand how these remarkable birds undertake some of the longest non-stop flights in the world. The campaign is increasing awareness of the bay's values on a local, regional and international scale and advocating lifestyle choices that minimise impacts on Roebuck Bay and the shorebird flyway. Please [LIKE our Facebook page »](#)



Thanks Rangelands NRM for funding this creative project

Roebuck Bay Working Group is maturing

The [Roebuck Bay Working Group](#) (RBWG), which formed ten years ago, is becoming incorporated. The group has won two state coastal awards for community based management planning initiatives for Roebuck Bay and proactive work to tackle the serious issues that arise, such as the *Lyngbya majuscula* (maiden's hair) blooms that have been impacting Roebuck Bay in recent years.

A clear advantage, apart from providing some legal protection, is the ability to apply for a much wider range of public and private funding to continue RBWG's outstanding work.



Celebrating the bay with films

With many people owning smartphones and cameras with video functions, the RBWG is providing the opportunity for the community to make short films about Roebuck Bay. To gain the technical skills, free workshops will be held on filmmaking and editing. A selection of three to four minute films will be premiered at a Celebrate the Bay film festival in April 2015. Further details of the event and prizes will be forthcoming. If you are interested in participating, contact [Kandy Curran »](#)



Coastal gardening on film

A creative animation will show where Broome's stormwater goes each time there is a downpour. The animation will be included in a creative short film being produced for the RBWG by



filmmaker Mark Jones. The film includes footage of turtles laying eggs, breaching whales, frolicking snubfin dolphins, migratory shorebirds being flagged and banded and the bay's seagrass meadows being monitored. The purpose of the film is to showcase the diversity of life in Broome's coastal waters, then show how a coastal gardening approach (growing native plants and trapping rainwater), can help keep the bay free of toxic Lyngbya blooms. The film will be premiered at a Celebrate the Bay film festival in April 2015.

Thanks Rangelands NRM for funding this exciting and innovative project ☺

A backyard worth looking after

Quite a few of the students from Broome Primary School had never walked on the mudflats of Roebuck Bay, so the first 20 minutes of their excursion on June 6 was a thrilling, slippery, slide experience! These lucky students loved the excursion, discovering the breathing roots of mangroves (pneumatophores), and then on the exposed mudflats, combed starfish, colourful crabs, snails, flatworms, and unfortunately, rubbish! Whilst



excursions take a lot of organisation and supervision, it is vital Broome students learn about the marine wonderland of Roebuck Bay that is a big part of their backyard. Keeping the bay clean and free of Lyngbya blooms is one of their challenges for the future.

Features in Science Network WA

Regular RBWG science stories in Broome Advertiser and Science Network WA are being read by thousands: [Roebuck Bay a special place for snubfin dolphins](#) 3076 views!



[Read about the nearshore dolphin research](#) that has been underway on the Dampier Peninsula.



Yawuru Traditional Owners have an important role on nearshore dolphin surveys in Roebuck Bay.

Roebuck Bay scientist wins Nobel Prize

Professor Theunis Piersma has received the [Dutch Nobel Prize \(Spinoza\) for his work on migratory shorebirds](#) » A leading authority on global flyway shorebird ecology, Professor Piersma has been studying Roebuck Bay's migratory shorebirds and benthic invertebrates in collaboration with BBO, AWSG, DPaW, Museum of WA, Curtin Uni since 1999. Professor Piersma (Leader of Global Flyway Network) employs Chris Hassell, Roebuck Bay's only full-time researcher studying the biology of the Bay's migratory shorebirds. Heartiest congratulations Professor Piersma from the Roebuck Bay Working Group.



For enquiries about RBWG's work please contact

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W www.roebuckbay.org.au F www.facebook.com/roebuckbay

RBWG works to raise awareness and promote responsible management and protection of Roebuck Bay's natural and cultural values and status as a Ramsar and National Heritage listed wetland.

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