



Roebuck Bay Working Group Inc. NEWSLETTER

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COASTAL GARDENS – A PLANTING GUIDE FOR BROOME

A new booklet, Coastal Gardens – A Planting Guide for Broome will provide simple and inspiring advice on how to grow a waterwise garden that benefits your wallet, the environment and Broome's coastal waters.

The local natives (endemics) selected for the book, thrive in Broome soils and climate. Indeed, most are cyclone resistant, keep your home and garden cool, require less water than introduced plants and are resistant to tropical pests. Endemic plants have defence mechanisms to cope with common pests, thereby requiring fewer pesticides than introduced species. Less pesticides in your garden means less chemicals entering Broome's coastal waters via stormwater drains. Local natives increase biodiversity too, bringing birds, butterflies, frogs, and insects into your garden.

Plants to avoid are included too, with many of the weeds we see in Broome escaped garden plants. With the 2018 wet season in Broome exceptionally wild, windy and wet (three cyclones and 1719mm of rain) it has been opportune to identify the endemic plants that did well in these tough conditions and those that did badly.

The book has been exceptionally collaborative, with expert botanical help from Tom Harley (Kimberley Environmental Horticulture), Chris Howe-Pienning, Phil Docherty and (Society of Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals), Andrew Mitchell (Northern Australia weed specialist), Tim Willing (Broome Botanical Society), Dr Malcolm Lindsay and Kylie Weatherall (Environs Kimberley). The book will be launched in February 2018.

Sponsors: State NRM, Royalties for Regions, Rangelands NRM, National Landcare Program



SELLOUT SCREENINGS OF 2018 MUD AND SALTWATER SHORT FILM FEST

Two sell out screening in 2018, confirm the Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest is a much loved Broome event. Prominently featured in the Shinju Matsuri Festival program, the Film Fests were held at historic Sun Pictures. The quality of the 2018 films and breadth of subject matter impressive, with Indigenous rangers showing their passion for the land, a mudskipper hell bent on yodelling and a toilet filled with green tree frogs. Particularly encouraging, is the number of locals getting involved in filmmaking. Due to popular demand, the film fest has been re-screened at Sun Pictures, Derby and Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm. [To see the short films and participate in filmmaking workshops, go to Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest website »](#)

Sponsors: State NRM, Royalties for Regions, Inspiring Australia, National Landcare Program, Sobrane Simcock, Cygnet Bay Pearls, Derby-West Kimberley Shire. Prizes Donations: Adventure Wild, Broome Bird Observatory, Broome Whale Watching, Diverse Water Sports, Starsand, Shinju Matsuri.



THOSE 'TERRIBLE LIZARDS' OF BROOME

Voted the Best Science Short Film in the 2018 Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest, **The Dinosaur Coast** made by Paul Bell from Feral Films, starts with Molly Bell on an expedition to find trackways with a bunch of dinosaur obsessed friends. Not only do Molly and her friends walk in the footsteps of prehistoric sauropods (Broome is the only place in Australia to see sauropod tracks), they hunt down a theropod 3-toed trackway. The 130-million-year-old tracks in the film are found in the Broome Sandstone. Research published in 2017 led by palaeologist Dr Steve Salisbury (University of Queensland), has shown that the Broome dinosaur tracks are the most diverse and numerous in Australia, if not globally. Since 2011, thousands of tracks made by over 20 species of dinosaurs, including six named after local people, have been identified from Roebuck Bay north along the Broome coast. Micklo Corpus, Chairperson of the DCMG, said, 'I hope the film will inspire the Broome community to protect the National Heritage-listed tracks so future generations can also enjoy them.'



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This film was developed by the Roebuck Bay Working Group and Dinosaur Coast Management Group and funded by State NRM, Royalties for Regions, Rangelands NRM, National Landcare Program.

APPETITE FOR MUD AND SALTWATER SHORT FILM FEST STRONG

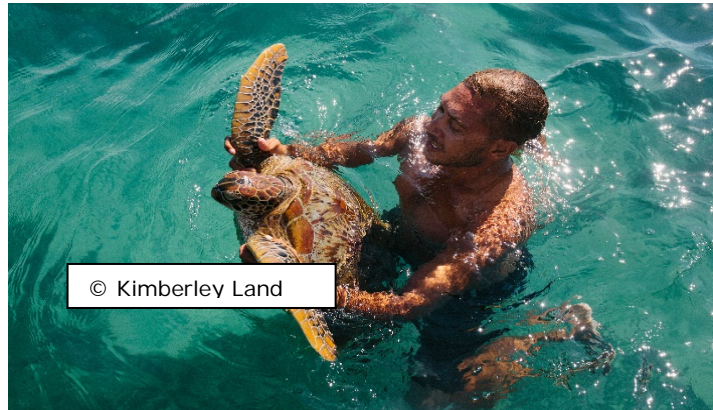
With the Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest growing in popularity on all fronts, RBWG has applied for a three year grant from State NRM. The Film Fest creates community pride from visual storytelling, upskills the community in filmmaking skills, and builds environmental awareness about the natural, cultural and heritage values of Roebuck Bay and Kimberley WA. The grant will be announced in early 2019.



Sponsors State NRM, Royalties for Regions, National Landcare Program, Derby West Kimberley Shire

SCIENCE ON BROOME COAST SERIES 2019-21

The popular science series will continue for a further three years (2019-21), however with less funding. The series, partnered with Yawuru, has attracted seven sponsors and delivered quality presentations, which have been invaluable, with scientists collaborating with Indigenous Rangers, coastal managers and community in managing Roebuck Bay and the Kimberley region's natural and cultural values.



Aug 8 [Research to inform sustainable development of North West marine environment »](#)

Sep 8 [Broome Bird Observatory Congress and Campout »](#)

Sep 26 [Microbilitz: A citizen science project everyone can dig »](#)

Nov 28 [The Indigenous Saltwater Advisory Group »](#)

Sponsored by Inspiring Australia, State NRM, Royalties for Regions, WA Marine Science Institution, Rangelands NRM, Parks and Attractions, University of Notre Dame, National Science Week.

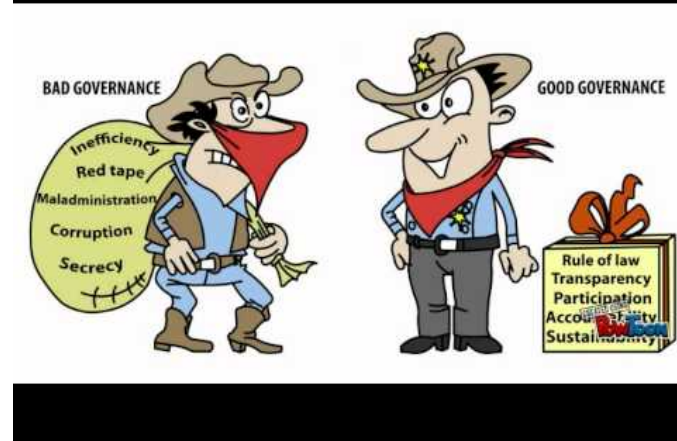
GENEROUS DONORS SUPPORT ROEBUCK BAY WORKING GROUP

Community and business have recognised RBWG's outstanding work, with a \$500 donation from the Commonwealth Bank, \$500 from Kimberley Whale Watching from sales of non-plastic water bottles, paintings donated by artist Sobrane Simcock raising \$1800 for the Film Fest in 2017 and \$5,000 in 2018, and Cygnet Bay Pearls who have sponsored the Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest in 2017-18. Hearty thanks - your donations are exceptionally helpful, encouraging and very much appreciated by the Roebuck Bay Working Group.



GOOD GOVERNANCE

Hard work, collaborations, good governance and 100% grant success (last nine years) has resulted in RBWG's excellent reputation for running outstanding projects and events - foremost the Science on Broome Coast series, Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest and Keep Our Bay Clean projects. Thanks RBWG's talented Management Committee, Dr Alexander Watson (Chair), outgoing Vice Chair Jason Fowler, committee members Grey Mackay and Julie Melbourne who provided constructive support on projects: letters, media, governance and events.



SEWERAGE PLANT TO BE DECOMMISSIONED

RBWG have been working with the Water Corporation, the State and Department of Environment Regulation to reduce nutrient seepage and overflows during heavy weather from Broome South Wastewater Treatment Plant (BS WWTP).

The response has been encouraging; with a scope of works undertaken by the Water Corporation at BS WWTP to reduce the likelihood of nutrients entering Roebuck Bay and the decision by the Corporation, to decommission the aging plant by 2023-25.



The Broome North WWTP is being upgraded, works include:

- 3.3km wastewater pipeline to divert flows from BSWWTP;
- Wastewater pump station upgrade;
- Second pivot irrigation system at BN WWTP for future flows.

KANDY CURRAN ON THE MOVE

Kandy has stepped down from the role of Project Manager after 13 years with Roebuck Bay Working Group. Kandy will however, continue in her role as Festival Director of the Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest. Kandy said "Thanks to the Yawuru Traditional Owners, Management Committees and members for supporting and encouraging me in my role. Being the RBWG Project Manager has been the hardest job I have ever done, but by far the most rewarding and enjoyable. Thank you for your friendship and trust in me over the last 13 years.



Prizibila, Lisa Russell, Kevin Smith, Neil Turner (Judge), Brad Turton, Dr Alexander Watson.

Grey Mackay, Dean Mathews, Grace Maglio, Dr Alexander Watson, Dr Michael Wysong.

Special thanks: Dr Alex Watson, Grey Mackay for outstanding support of the Project Manager.



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-  [LIKE and follow the RBWG Facebook Page »](#)
-  [Check out the new RBWG website »](#)
-  [Check out the Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest website »](#)
-  [Like and follow the Mud and Saltwater Film Fest Facebook page »](#)

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

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 and Yawuru Nagulagun Roebuck Bay Marine Park.