



Number 21 • December 2019



### THIRD STATE AWARD FOR ROEBUCK BAY WORKING GROUP

RBWG has won the 2019 State Landcare 'Virgin Coastcare Award' for outstanding work to reduce polluting nutrients entering Roebuck Bay and contributing to blooms of *Lyngbya majuscula*. RBWG's winning entry is now in contention for a 2020 National Landcare 'Coastcare Award.'

Using an informed, respectful, unyielding approach (informed by science) with industry and agencies, contributed to the Broome South Sewage Facility (located within 200m of the Roebuck Bay shoreline) being classified as contaminated and the Broome Golf Course potentially contaminated – with monitoring confirming elevated concentrations of nutrients in groundwater beneath the sites. As a result, the Broome South Sewage Facility's license was revised to reduce seeping nutrients entering Roebuck Bay from unlined ponds and golf course irrigation.

With surface water runoff via Broome's aging stormwater drains contributing to nutrient loading of Roebuck Bay, RBWG rolled out a series of Keep Our Bay Clean projects involving hundreds of volunteers. This helped the community to understand links between *Lyngbya* blooms and nutrient enriched stormwater runoff, septic tank seepage and fertiliser use on exotic plantings and lawns. One of these collaborative projects, partnered with Broome Shire, Parks and Wildlife Yawuru Rangers and local schools, resulted in an improved stormwater drain in McMahon Reserve, with hundreds of endemic bush tuckers planted in the riparian zone, and installation of friendly Keep Our Bay Clean signage.

Acting Project Manager Kandy Curran said, "The award recognises the unrelenting collaborative effort over 14 years to reduce polluting nutrients entering Roebuck Bay and contributing to blooms of *Lyngbya*. This has taken long haul dedication and it's fantastic to celebrate everyone's passionate efforts."

**Sponsors: State NRM, Royalties for Regions, Rangelands NRM with support from the Federal Government National Landcare Program, Inspiring Australia**



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## SCREENINGS OF 2019 MUD AND SALTWATER SHORT FILM FEST

The popular Mud and Saltwater Film Fest screenings on September 13-14 were sell-outs again in 2019! The screening of the award-winning documentary 'Secrets of the Kimberley' by Trevor Almeida and Peter Strain was a hit too. Compèred exceptionally well by Bart Pigram, the 2019 Film Fest attracted increased Indigenous participation, with 12 of the 23 films involving Indigenous filmmakers and actors. Indeed, Best in Fest went to Goolarri Media filmmakers Jodie Bell, Kimberley West, Dianne Appelby and Dot West for their superb film *Marrimarrigun*. Ramsar and Heritage values featured strongly too, with eight films showcasing Ramsar and National Heritage values and issues.

**Major Sponsors:** Rangelands NRM with support from the Federal Government National Landcare Program, Sobrane Simcock, Cygnet Bay Pearls, Inspiring Australia. **Prizes/donations:** Betta Home Living, Broome Bird Observatory, Broome Whale Watching, Camera Electronics, Fitzgerald Photos, Good Cartel, Murrarji Photography, Press Play, Shinju Matsuri, The Big Broome Ha, Unbound Sound



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## GIANT SHOREBIRD PUPPET PERFORMANCE ON FILM

'Shorebird Quest', a stunning short film on the magnificent shorebird puppet performance in May this year, was debuted at the 2019 Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest. Commissioned by RBWG, the camera goes behind the scenes to the construction of illuminated puppets and the music by local musicians and school choirs.

The compelling story of *Shorebird Quest* follows Curtis the Curlew on his breeding migration from Siberia to Roebuck Bay through a fusion of Yawuru Country knowledge, musical theatre, puppetry and original music written by musical Jaime Jackett.

*Shorebird Quest* is a co-creation between Theatre Kimberley, Broome Bird Observatory, Parks and Wildlife Yawuru Rangers, Nyamba Buru Yawuru Country Managers, five Broome schools and the Broome community. Special thanks to filmmaker Paul Bell (Feral Films), Theatre Kimberley and bird loving musician Jaime Jackett.

**Sponsors:** Rangelands NRM with support from the Federal Government National Landcare Program





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## PIONEERING SCIENCE ON BROOME COAST SERIES FUNDED TO 2021

The pioneering science series will continue for a further three years (2019-21), however with decreased funding. The series, partnered with the Yawuru Land and Sea Unit and sponsored by Inspiring Australia and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, delivers quality presentations, with scientists collaborating with Indigenous Rangers and coastal managers.



Inspiring Australia began funding RBWG's pioneering series in 2014 along with four other groups to promote science across regional WA. Here are the 2019 presentations (July 2019 to June 2020) run by the 2019 Science on the Broome Coast Project Manager Grace Maglio, an independent shorebird researcher, science advocate and RBWG member.

August 22 [Seagrass: The invisible thread that weaves Roebuck Bay together](#)

September 2 [The cane toads are coming – now what?](#)

October 3 [Wet Season activities in Broome](#)

Inspiring Australia, Rangelands NRM with support from the Federal Government National Landcare Program, The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, University of Notre Dame

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## 2019 GRANT APPLICATIONS UPDATE

**1. Success – RBWG secured a Rangelands NRM 1-year grant - 'Protecting Ramsar values' (July 2019-June 2020)** Communications to protect Ramsar values', a short film on migratory shorebirds, Science on Broome Coast series, Mud and Saltwater Film Fest screenings and Strategic Planning.

**2. Success – RBWG secured a State NRM Small 3-year grant - 'Broome Seagrass Monitoring Training Film' (Jan 2020 – Dec 2022).** Partnered with the Broome Seagrass Monitoring Project to create a reliable training film to increase consistency of seagrass monitoring survey results.

**3. Unsuccessful – RBWG did not secure a State NRM Large 3 Year Grant - 'Indigenous Coastal Gardens and Community Custodianship to protect Ramsar values'.** Project management,

Keep Our Bay Clean signage in Minyirr Park, marine litter bags, short film to aimed at reducing plastic pollution; Surveys and workshops on Indigenous plant uses to inform expansion of Coastal Gardens book, Busy Bees to support peri-urbans with properties abutting Minyirr Park to replace weeds with endemics.

**4. Pending grant - Communities Environment 2 Year Grant – 'Keep Broome's Coastal Waters Clean'.** Reprint Coastal Gardens – A planting guide for Broome book, Keep Our Bay Clean litter bags gifted to citizen scientists and beach walkers, and a short film about these bay friendly projects.

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## GENEROUS DONOR SUPPORT

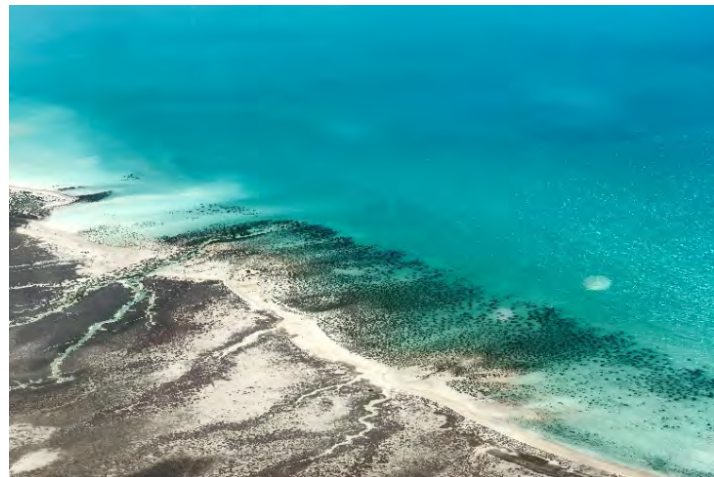
Local business has recognised RBWG's outstanding work, with a donation of \$1,000 from Broome Whale Watching from sales of non-plastic water bottle. Generous sponsors of the Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest are; Sobrane Simcock who has donation paintings for silent auction, raising \$1800 in 2017, \$5,000 in 2018 and \$1400 in 2019, prize vouchers of \$550 from Camera Electronics and, Cygnet Bay Pearls who have sponsored the Film Fest since its inception. Thank you - your generous support is exceptionally helpful and encouraging.



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## GOVERNANCE OF RBWG

RBWG has a new Management Committee, with Grey Mackay Chair, Fiona West Vice Chair, Committee members; Michael Wysong, Julie Melbourne, Kira Andrews, Grace Maglio and Acting Project Manager Kandy Curran. Thanks to outgoing Chair Dr Alexander Watson who led the Management Committee for five years, and to committee members who give their time to support Roebuck Bay and the projects our group does so well to protect and support responsible management of beautiful Roebuck Bay.



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## 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 Filmmaker Forum](#) »

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

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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.