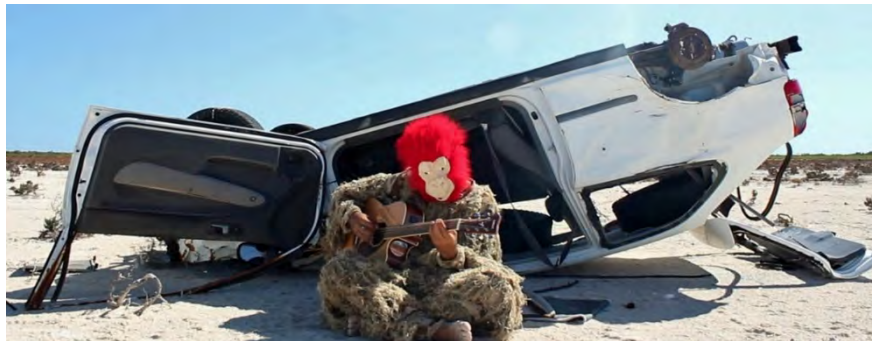




Roebuck Bay Working Group Inc. NEWSLETTER

Number 22 • December 2020



HUGE WIN FOR ROEBUCK BAY

Twelve years of persistent advocacy by the Roebuck Bay Working Group and partners to address nutrient contamination of Roebuck Bay, has resulted in the imminent closure of Broome South sewage plant.

The Roebuck Bay Working Group, led by Kandy Curran, worked closely with hydrogeologist Dr Ryan Vogwill, Parks and Wildlife Yawuru Rangers and the Broome community to discover the role of nutrient inputs from groundwater and surface water in the proliferation of noxious *Lyngbya* blooms in Roebuck Bay. This community driven work was awarded a South Seas Environment Award in 2013 and a prestigious State and Territory Award in 2019. Dr Sora Estrella widened the study scope to examine the *Effects of nutrient enrichment and Lyngbya blooms on benthic invertebrates and migratory shorebirds of Roebuck Bay*. The five peer reviewed studies provided evidence that the aging Plant's unlined ponds were seeping nutrients and contributing to nitrification of Roebuck Bay and blooms of *Lyngbya majuscula* which thrive on nutrients.

Dave Dureau and Environs Kimberley also made a valuable contribution, lodging a petition to the State for a stop to contamination of Roebuck Bay from Broome South sewage plant overflows. The Plant overflowed twice during wet season downpours in 2018 into Roebuck Bay.

The Broome South sewage plant license has been revised to reduce seeping nutrients entering Roebuck Bay from unlined ponds. The treatment plant will close in 2022 and remediation of the site will take nine years.



CAN YOU MAKE A 2 MINUTE FILM IN 3 DAYS?

Every year the Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest challenges filmmakers, experienced and inexperienced, to make a 2 Minute Film to a tight timeframe. The eight filmmakers who took part in the event deserve recognition for their creativity, brevity, and ability to produce a must watch '2 Minute Film in 3 Days'. Broome's esteemed Mud and Saltwater Film Fest judges Paul Bell (Feral Films), Mark Jones (Mark Jones Films) and Neil Turner (PAKAM) selected **'Where's ya bin'** by Leong Kelly and Mark Fogliani as Best Overall Short, and **'Stay'** by Trish Pepper, Best Short from a New Filmmaker. The 2 Minute films were screened under the stars at Matsos on September 6th to an exuberant audience! Thanks to the filmmakers and their crews, Matsos for hosting the screening, PAKAM for the screen and projector, Paul Bell for the projection and judging along with Neil Turner and Mark Jones. Film Freeway is open for film entries for the 2021 Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest. For more information, go to the [Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest website](#) and [Facebook page](#) »



Major Sponsors: Rangelands NRM, National Landcare Program, Sobrane Gallery, Cygnet Bay Pearls, Inspiring Australia, Camera Electronics, Yane Sotiroski Photography and Broome Whale Watching.

Prizes and donations: Betta Home Living, Broome Bird Observatory, Broome Whale Watching, Good Cartel, Murrnaji Photography, Press Play, Matsos and Pilbara & Kimberley Aboriginal Media.

MUD AND SALTWATER FILM FEST TO SCREEN ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Film Freeway is open for entries in the 2021 Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest. The popular grassroots Film Fest is attracting a strong following and growing number of talented filmmakers from across the Kimberley region.

The 2021 Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest will Premiere on June 4th, the 5th will celebrate World Environment Day. The aim is to encourage worldwide awareness of the exceptional natural and cultural values of Roebuck Bay and the Kimberley region, and action for the protection of the environment.

The Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest celebrates and showcases short film productions about Roebuck Bay, Broome and the Kimberley region, capturing the stories, culture and landscape of our iconic region and the people who call it home.

For more information, go to the [Mud and Saltwater website](#) and [Facebook page](#) »



CORALS, TURTLES AND MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS

Broome is one of five regional hubs in WA that work to empower their regional community with local science events. The Science on the Broome Coast series, run by the RBWG and Yawuru Land and Sea Unit, put a focus on local Kimberley communities in 2020, delivering innovative STEM events in Broome and Derby. With the Kimberley region a hotspot for research, migratory shorebirds, marine biodiversity, corals and Flatback Turtles have been explored through presentations, hands on events and competitions. See the fascinating events below...

July Hands on Activities

The Marvels of Migratory Shorebirds poster competition
A Wader's Life, Mowanjum Art Centre by Grace Maglio

August Presentations

Marine Biodiversity of the Kimberley by Kathryn Dryball
Corals & the Rowley Shoals by Kathryn Dryball
A day in the life of a Flatback Turtle by Jenna Hounslow

October Hands on Activities

Wall of Wings school holiday activity

Sponsors: Inspiring Australia, Rangelands NRM, National Landcare Program, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, University of Notre Dame, Broome Community Resource Centre, Broome Men's Shed, A Wader's Life on Roebuck Bay. **Door prize donors:** Broome Whale Watching, Broome Bird Observatory, Harry Butler Institute, Reef Chief, Absolute Ocean Charters.



CONTAINER SCHEME A WINNER FOR ROEBUCK BAY

Hoorah... Broome has a Container Deposit Scheme located at Nirrumbuk Environmental Health Services on 29 Clementson Street. Nirrumbuk Manager Greg Smith said the local response to the scheme, which started on October 1st in Broome has been fantastic. "Today we had 18,000 containers deposited, with quite a few locals collecting every day around Broome and Roebuck Bay."

The Roebuck Bay Working Group, a stakeholder in the process, can already see a sizable reduction in litter entering Roebuck Bay. Thanks to the McGowan State Government for prioritising schemes in Broome and the Kimberley region, they are making a big difference.

Most aluminum, glass, plastic, steel and liquid paperboard drink containers between 150ml and 3L are eligible for a 10-cent refund. When returning containers, you can keep your refund, or donate to a charity: Broome Bird Observatory quote ID C10288503 Environs Kimberley quote ID C10296595.

[Click this link for more information on the Container Deposit Scheme »](#)



GENEROUS DONOR SUPPORT

Local business recognises Roebuck Bay Working Group's outstanding work, with a donation of \$1,000 from the sales of non-plastic water bottles by Broome Whale Watching.

Generous sponsors of the Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest include Sobrane Gallery, Camera Electronics, Cygnet Bay Pearls, Yane Sotiroski Photography, Broome Bird Observatory, Broome Whale Watching, Broome Betta Home Living and Good Cartel. Thank you, your generous support is exceptionally helpful and encouraging.



GOVERNANCE OF RBWG

Many thanks to Grey Mackay (Chairperson), Kira Andrews, Grace Maglio and Kandy Curran who give their time so generously to support the projects the group does to advocate, protect and support responsible management of beautiful Roebuck Bay. These projects include the spectacular Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest, the innovative Science on the Broome Coast series and our very worthy partner project (Environs Kimberley and Roebuck Bay Working



Group) to develop a practical training video on how to conduct an effective seagrass survey. The resultant video will ensure that all future seagrass monitoring volunteers have access to the same training which will 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.