



Roebuck Bay Working Group Inc. NEWSLETTER

Number 12 • June 2015

An initiative of the Roebuck Bay Working Group and Yawuru Land and Sea Unit

SCIENCE ON THE BROOME COAST

Dinosaurs, Drones and Lasers: Digital
Mapping of Western Australia's
Dinosaur Coast



Thanks for your continued interest in Roebuck Bay

Roebuck Bay Marine Park and Conservation Park

A joyous ceremony at Demco Park overlooking Roebuck Bay, celebrated the long awaited release of the indicative and draft management plans for a Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park and Yawuru Birragun Conservation Park.

Releasing the plans on Friday June 19, Environment Minister Albert Jacob said the proposed Yawuru Nagulagun/Roebuck Bay Marine Park and Yawuru Birragun Conservation Park will be jointly managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife and Yawuru custodians. The Roebuck Bay Working Group (RBWG) were acknowledged for their proactive work to develop community based management plans, and for allowing their use in the planning process. DPaW and Yawuru planners will meet the RBWG on July 16 to explain plans and answer questions such as why sanctuary zone is not in the marine park. Public comment on the plans is encouraged, with the three month cutoff date, September 25, 2015.

To read the plans and make comments go to www.dpaw.gov.au/yawuru



Proposed Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park

indicative joint management plan 2015

Yawuru Birragun Conservation Park

draft management plan 2015



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



MUD & SALTwater SHORT FILM FEST IN SHINJU FESTIVAL

Roebuck Bay Working Group are inviting filmmakers of any level to submit a short film in the inaugural [MUD AND SALTwater SHORT FILM FEST](#). The aim is to showcase the exceptional diversity of marine life in Roebuck Bay and encourage community ownership in protecting the bay's extraordinary natural and cultural values.

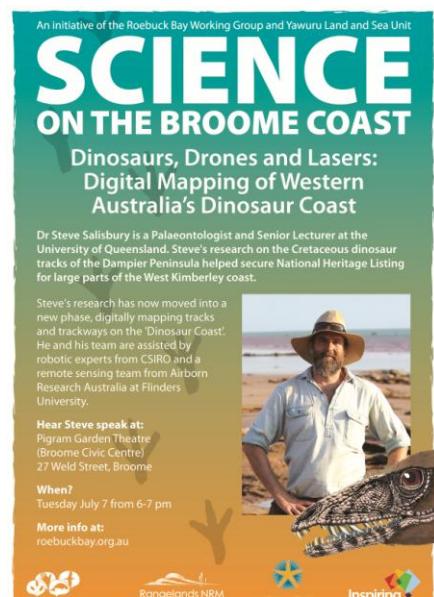
To help budding filmmakers gain the technical skills to make a short film, RBWG has run three free filmmaking workshops. The short films, which can be up to five minutes in length including credits, will be pre-judged, and if shortlisted, will be screened on September 3 on the lawns of the Mangrove Hotel as part of the Shinju Matsuri Festival. The deadline for short film entries is July 31, 2015 with details on the [RBWG website](#).

MUD & SALTwater SHORT FILM FEST is sponsored by Rangelands NRM and Inspiring Australia



Dinosaurs, jellyfish, coastal parks and bilbies

[Science on the Broome's Coast](#) is on 'track' for 2015. Shorebird researcher Chris Hassell, who has been tracking the migratory shorebirds of Roebuck Bay and Eighty Mile Beach for twenty years, provided the first presentation. On July 7 paleontologist Dr Steve Salisbury presented '[Dinosaurs, Drones and Lasers: Digital Mapping of WA's Dinosaur Coast](#)'. Then on July 15, the topic is the recently announced [Yawuru Conservation Estate](#), which combines traditional Yawuru knowledge and practice with western science and technology in holistic and sustainable management. With Irukandji and Box jellyfish known distribution including Broome's waters, on August 17 Australian Marine Stinger Advisory Director Dr Lisa-Ann Gershwin, will reveal the main stingers in Broome's waters and current treatments. The final presentation will be all about the [iconic and much adored bilby](#).



Broome Shire has sponsored the hire of the Pigram Garden Theatre.

Sponsors: Inspiring Australia, Rangelands NRM, WA Marine Science Institution, Broome Shire

Thanks Lotterywest

Roebuck Bay Working Group Inc has successfully applied for a [Lotterywest grant](#) for media and office equipment. This includes a waterproof camera with a macro lens to photograph Roebuck Bay and its invertebrate life, a digital voice recorder for production of print and radio stories on Science on Broome Coast presentations and an ergonomic desk and chair, computer and printer.

Sponsored by Lotterywest



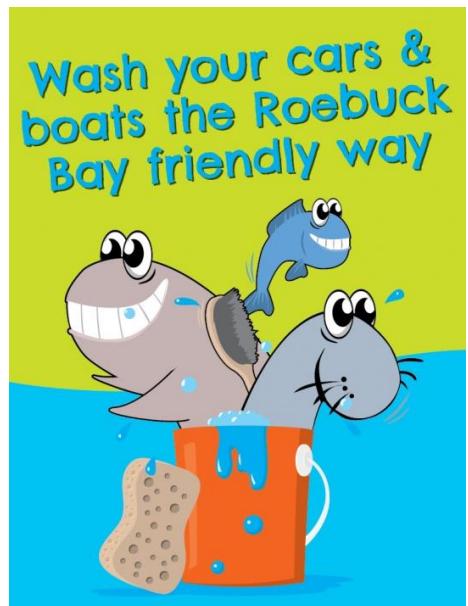
Broome's soils tested for nutrients

Samples of soil are being collected for analysis in the accredited CSBP laboratory in Perth. The aim of soil analysis is to improve fertiliser use decision making, by measuring levels of plant available nutrients in the soils. Overuse of fertilisers can result in runoff and seepage of nutrients into Broome's coastal waters. Lyngbya blooms thrive on nutrients from dissolved fertilisers, garden waste, animal faeces and sewerage. CSBP are analyzing Broome's soils free of charge and University of Western Australia researchers are interpreting the results. This information will be used in a RBWG coastal garden booklet and fertiliser flyer.



Threadfin like wattles not Lyngbya

It is the Yawuru season of barganna and many people are enjoying fishing for threadfin (walga walga) in Roebuck Bay. With a severe, Lyngbya bloom in Roebuck Bay early this year, it's a good time to drop off cards with tips to keep nutrients that trigger Lyngbya blooms, out of Broome's coastal waters. These nutrients are frequently from garden fertilisers and carwash detergents. The friendly [cards on gardening](#) and [washing cars and boats the Roebuck Bay friendly way](#) are being dropped to Sunset Park and Broome North. Hydrogeological research in Broome has revealed the first two heavy rainfall events at the onset of man-gala (wet season) bring shock loadings of nutrients from fertilisers, detergents, wastewater, garden waste and animal faeces and these can worsen Lyngbya blooms, which threadfin do not like ☺



Keeping Broome's saltwater country healthy on film

Filmmaker Mark Jones has produced an outstanding short film that includes footage of turtles laying eggs, frolicking snubfin dolphins, migratory shorebirds being flagged and banded and the bay's seagrass meadows being monitored. The purpose of the film is to encourage the Broome community to adopt a coastal gardening approach (growing native plants and trapping rainwater) to keep the bay free of nutrients which can contribute to toxic Lyngbya blooms. The film will be premiered at the [MUD AND SALTwater SHORT FILM FEST](#) in September 2015.

Sponsored by Rangelands NRM



Lobbying for better water quality in Roebuck Bay

RBWG have written to Water Corp, the State and Department of Environment and Regulation (DER) regarding worsening Lyngbya blooms in Roebuck Bay and leakage of treated wastewater at Broome South Waste Water Treatment Plant (BSWWTP) and re-use and disposal impacts of wastewater used to irrigate sporting amenities.



DER (Industry Licensing) is completing a revised risk assessment of the operation of BSWWTP and wastewater re-use scheme to inform the acceptability of continued operations of the BSWWTP.

DER has re-classified the BSWWTP site as "Contaminated – Remediation Required" under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* (formerly classified as "Potentially Contaminated – Investigation Required"). An independent contaminated sites auditor is overseeing a Detailed Site Investigation to determine / delineate the extent and severity of any contamination from the site, and recommend management options for monitoring and remediating (if required) the contamination into the future. The Broome Golf Course and UCL between the golf course and BSWWTP and Roebuck Bay has been classified as "Potentially Contaminated – Investigation Required". The environmental investigation will determine what actions are needed to ensure BSWWTP is not a key contributor to elevated levels of nutrients in Roebuck Bay.

The Lyngbya blooms that have been worsening in Roebuck Bay in recent years, threaten Roebucks Bay's considerable biodiversity, indigenous heritage and economic values.

Thank you Rangelands NRM

Thank you Rangelands NRM for funding RBWG's relentless and innovative work over the last six years to reduce nitrification of Roebuck Bay and Lyngbya blooms. The RBWG is applying for a third Rangelands NRM grant this year ☺



Want to know more about Roebuck Bay or the RBWG?

[LIKE RBWG's Facebook Page](#) » [Check out RBWG's website](#) »

[Email RBWG Project Manager Kandy Curran](#) »

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. Thanks to the Management Committee: Grey Mackay, Alexander Watson, RBWG members and Project Manager, Kandy Curran.