



Roebuck Bay Working Group Inc. NEWSLETTER

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NIGHT PARROTS, SEAGRASS, DINOSAURS, WHALESONG

The 2017 Science on the Broome Coast series has had a super exciting start, with ornithologists Bruce Greatwich and Nigel Jacket presenting the enthralling story of their discovery of the Night Parrot in WA.

With the Kimberley coast a hotspot for research and discovery, the 2017 presentations are sizzlers.

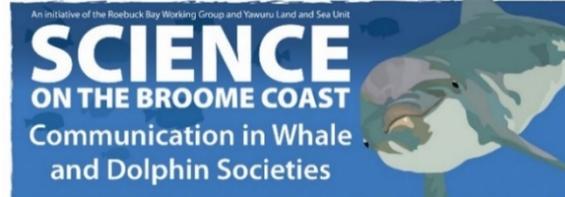
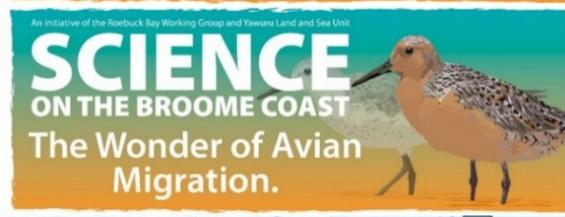
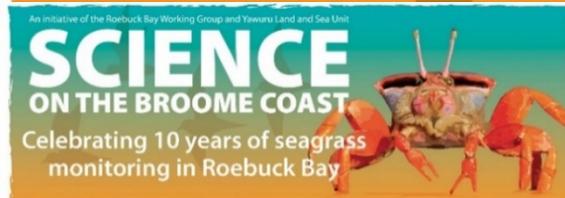
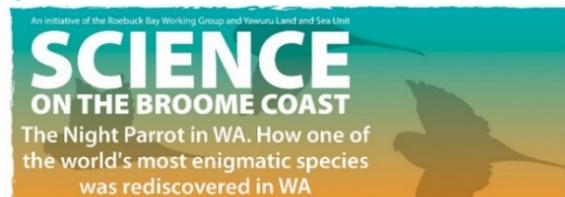
From July 1-15 we [Celebrate the Dinosaur Coast's](#) 21 species of dinosaurs that once called Broome and beyond home, with a series of fascinating hands on dinosaurian events. Then on July 12, we [Celebrate 10 years of seagrass monitoring on Roebuck Bay](#).

August is all about exceptional science, with Chris Hassell explaining [The wonder of avian migration](#) and Amelia Formby describing her ambitious microlight [Flight to the Tundra](#) to raise awareness of the growing pressures on migratory shorebirds. We then learn about [Communication in Whale and Dolphin communities](#).

Click here for the full [Science on the Broome coast program for 2017 and stories on the presentations »](#)

The popular [Science on the Broome Coast series](#) has been underway since 2014 and is run by the Roebuck Bay Working Group and Yawuru Land and Sea Unit.

Sponsors: Inspiring Australia, Rangelands NRM, State NRM through Royalties for Regions, WA Marine Science Institution, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and The University of Notre Dame.



2017 MUD AND SALTWATER SHORT FILM FEST

The Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest had a brush with fame, with acclaimed Australian Actor and filmmaker Steve Bastoni providing filmmaking and acting workshops in May to prepare filmmakers for the 2017 Film Fest. Steve Bastoni, who is also Founder/Director of the Peninsula Film Fest in Victoria, was a huge hit with school students and the community - who made a short film with impromptu acting on set.



August 5 is the date for the 2017 Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest at The Mangrove Hotel in Broome. The categories for the 2017 Film Fest include the Kimberley coast, and for Roebuck Bay: Drama, Documentary, Science Short, Comedy, Bay from Above, Animation and Music Video. Go to the new [Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest website](#) for information about the 2017 Film Fest, the categories and to see the short films from the inaugural Film Fest in 2015.



Sponsors: State NRM through Royalties for Regions, Rangelands NRM through the National Landcare Program, Cygnet Bay Pearls, Broome Broome Car Hire, Good Cartel, Zanders, The Mangrove Hotel, Sundowner Camel Tours.

MCMAHON MAKEOVER

A State NRM Grant has provided the funds for RBWG to undertake a collaborative project with the Shire of Broome in McMahon Reserve. The Shire of Broome has begun work to repair the footpaths, clean up the degraded Reserve and adjacent stormwater drain - which has become a dumping ditch for garden waste and litter. The RBWG will make a short film about the project and deliver fridge magnets/letters to residents in the area to ensure the Reserve is cared for into the future.



The positive community project will involve hundreds of students from local schools in the planting of a bushtucker trail in the McMahon Reserve and native plants in the upper catchment of the stormwater drain that runs through the area.

RBWG are keen to see the drain catchment planted with natives, to slow the flow of stormwater and absorb nutrients that can cause havoc in Broome's coastal waters. If successful, the pilot project can be replicated in other stormwater drains in Broome.

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

DON'T BAG BROOME

RBWG has written to the State to urge for a Container Deposit Scheme (10 cents back on drink containers) and a Trial Ban on Single Use Plastic Bags in Broome. The Environment Minister, Hon Stephen Dawson MLA said, it is anticipated a scheme will commence from January 1, 2019.

With bans on plastic bags in SA, Tasmania, NT and the ACT, and plastic litter the top item found on Broome's beaches, RBWG are keen to see a ban on single use plastic bags. The State however, are not at this stage considering a State wide ban, instead; encouraging communities to contact the local Shire about a ban.



If you support a Single Use Plastic Bag Ban, then write to Broome Shire, or join the [Circle House Boomerang Bag group](#) and make shopping bags using recycled materials.

RELINING OF SEEPING PONDS AT TREATMENT PLANT

The Broome South Waste Water Treatment Plant sits on the southern coastline of the Broome Peninsula. Outbreaks of Lyngbya blooms (Blue Green algae) have been recorded in Roebuck Bay over the last decade and are thought to be linked to nutrients. Whilst there are many sources of nutrients along the Broome peninsula that could contribute to Roebuck Bay, including stormwater runoff, pastoralism and septic tanks, a major concern has been nutrients reaching Roebuck Bay via groundwater from the aging BSWWTP (Contaminated Site 2015) and Golf Course. To reduce seepage of nutrients, Water Corp have:



- Fully lined a holding pond at BSWWTP to replace two unlined, seeping ponds.
- Installed 18 monitoring bores around BSWWTP to monitor nutrients in groundwater.
- Commissioned works to replace an unlined pond with holding tanks at the Golf Course.
- Put in place a Nutrient and Irrigation Management Plan for the Golf Course.

Want to know more about Roebuck Bay and RBWG?

-  [LIKE and follow the RBWG Facebook Page »](#)
-  [Check out the new RBWG website »](#)

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.
