

# Police officer back at work

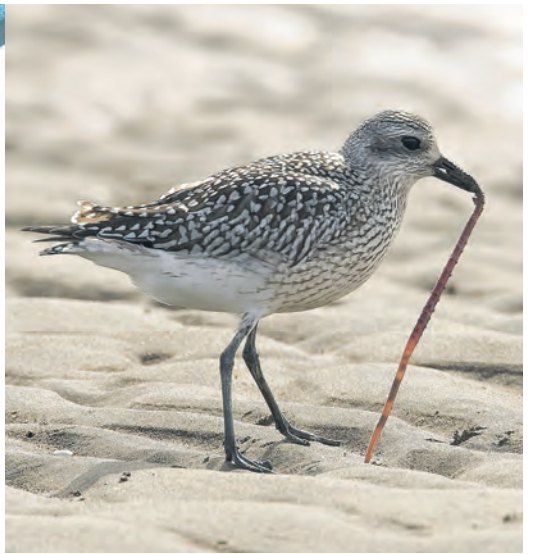
A 38-year-old female police officer, who was stood down after she allegedly witnessed the bashing of an arrested man in Broome watchhouse, has been returned to her duties.

The alleged assault occurred on April 19 after a 30-year-old man was arrested at Cable Beach.

The senior constable was stood down two weeks ago for failing to fully

co-operate with a Corruption and Crime Commission (CCC) probe into the incident.

But last Friday, the WA Police Union said she had been allowed to return to work, so it had discontinued Supreme Court action it had initiated in her defence. Union president George Tilbury said the officer would return to work on Monday.



Roebuck Bay's invertebrates are superfood for migratory shorebirds and are eaten by fish and dolphins. Picture: Jan van der Kam



Fine eye: a Roebuck Bay mangrove tree snail. Picture: Peter Strain

Scientists from the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, led by Professor Theunis Piersma, have undertaken continual research over the past 18 years on the invertebrates and shorebirds. Picture: Jan Van Der Kam

# Roebuck research highlights glory

■ Kandy Curran

Standing still on the tidal mudflats of Roebuck Bay is an amazing experience.

The reason being, the soft, squishy mud under your feet is likely to be crawling with lots of little invertebrate animals that are either hunting for food or escaping the bills of hungry shorebirds.

Getting up close and personal with Roebuck Bay's minuscule mud dwellers has been an enjoyable obsession for Broome-based photographer Peter Strain who spent hundreds of hours taking their pictures.

Unsurprisingly, Strain's quirky anthropomorphic series of photos captured the attention of the WA Museum, resulting in Art Meets Science on the Kimberley Coast exhibitions across the state, with the current show at Albany Museum until June.

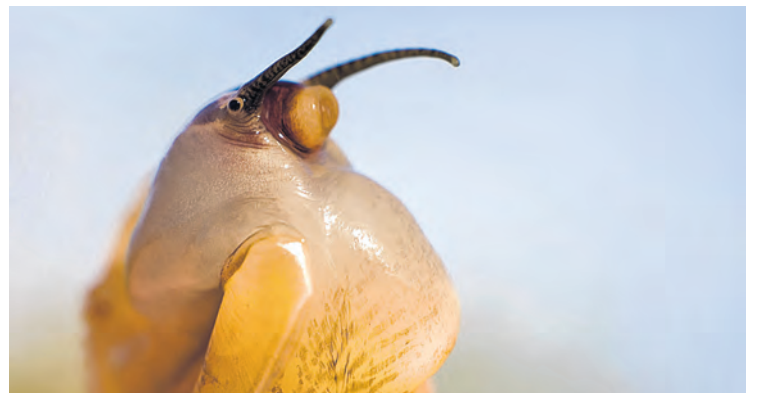
"I hope my photography and videography can encourage people to understand what an extraordinary natural phenomenon we have on Broome's doorstep with Roebuck Bay," he said.

As well as being photogenic, many of the baby's benthic (ecological region at the lowest level of a body of water) invertebrates are highly edible.

For Roebuck Bay's migratory shorebirds they are a superfood that provides the fat reserves for their remarkable 10,000km annual migration to the northern hemisphere where shortly after arrival in the Arctic, they perform energetic mating rituals that hopefully, result in a clutch of eggs.

At low tide, a multitude of meandering tracks on the mudflats reveal the profusion of life buried in the mud.

Incredibly, colourful topshells, tiny mudwhelks (*Cerithidea cingulata*) and snails (*Salinator bur-*



Another mangrove tree snail from Roebuck Bay. Picture: Peter Strain

mana) can reach an abundance of 2500 per square metre.

Bivalves are also plentiful, with more than 100 species.

The largest bivalves in the intertidal flats are "bloody cockles", a favoured Yawuru traditional food in serious decline.

Surprising though, the most abundant and diverse animals in the mudflats are worms.

Some of the worms live in tubes that stick out of the mud like periscopes, while the carnivorous and herbivorous species have powerful jaws.

Researchers can't get enough of Roebuck Bay's invertebrates either, with scientists from the by Professor Theunis Piersma-led Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research have undertaken continual research over the past 18 years on the invertebrates and shorebirds.

Professor Piersma set up monthly invertebrate monitoring in 1996, and lead three epic expeditions on Roebuck Bay's mudflats where he and his team of volunteers and scientists sieved mud from 1500 locations, turning up a staggering 30,000 invertebrates.

This monitoring provides some two decades of robust data on the ecological health of Roebuck Bay.

It will continue with the support of the Yawuru DEC Joint Management Team and Broome Bird Observatory.

A world leader in wetland ecology with a host of scientific awards, Professor Piersma's message to the Broome community is, "don't take Roebuck Bay for granted".

The expert's research has revealed Roebuck Bay mudflats are some of the richest in the world, in terms of biodiversity.

Life is tough for Roebuck Bay's invertebrates, as the low spring tides expose their habitat to many avian predators that feast on them.

They are also at the mercy of large inflows of polluted stormwater from Broome town site during heavy rain.

Reducing stormwater runoff from Broome homes is a good way to look after the critters that make the bay biodiverse.

To achieve this much, plant natives, reduce lawn areas and use fertilisers high in nutrients.

To learn more go to [www.roebuckbay.org.au/gardening-the-roebuck-bay-friendly-way](http://www.roebuckbay.org.au/gardening-the-roebuck-bay-friendly-way).

■ Kandy Curran is the Roebuck Bay Working Group project co-ordinator.

## Correction

Last week the *Broome Advertiser* ran an incorrect photo on page 10 (Night markets light up town). The *Advertiser* apologises for the mistake.

The photo which should have run is the one below:



Sasha Wells, 10, and Aimee Knox, 9, check out the dresses available at Broome's night markets. Picture: Cally Dupe

## MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC DISEASE WORKSHOP

### TOPICS WILL INCLUDE

- DIABETES
- RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE
- SELF MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC DISEASE
- CHRONIC HEPATITIS B & C
- CHRONIC RENAL DISEASE

The workshop will offer an opportunity for health care providers and service providers to update their knowledge and skills relating to the management of Chronic Disease within the community.

**Dates:** Tuesday 25th June (whole day)  
Wednesday 26th June (half day)

**Venue:** Derby Rec Centre  
Ashley Street, Derby

**CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATIONS**  
11th June 2013

NO CHARGE FOR ATTENDANCE

For registration forms, please visit [www.kpml.org.au](http://www.kpml.org.au) or contact Pam Jermy on 9192 7741



## Are you ready for race round 2013?

The Broome Turf Club has begun selling memberships for the 2013 season.



### 2013 Broome Race Dates:

- Saturday June 1st
- Saturday June 8th – At Derby
- Saturday June 15th – **Family Day**
- Saturday June 22nd
- Saturday June 29th – **Derby Cup at Derby**
- Saturday July 6th
- Saturday July 13th
- Friday July 26th
- Saturday August 3rd – **Kimberley Cup**
- Tuesday August 13th – **Ladies Day**
- Saturday August 17th – **Broome Cup**

Visit [www.broometurfclub.com.au](http://www.broometurfclub.com.au) to become a member online and view race dates and events for 2013

We look forward to seeing you all trackside for another exciting season of Racing!

