

Bay's marine life on show

■ Sally Wilkinson

Have you heard of the snubfin dolphin? If not, you're probably not alone — this enigmatic creature was only identified as a separate species in 2005.

Broome's Roebuck Bay is home to one of the largest populations of snubfin dolphins in Australia.

The dolphins are just one of many species that inhabit the waters, beaches and mudflats of Roebuck Bay. This globally renowned marine environment includes turtles, dugongs, manta rays, migratory shorebirds, mangroves and sea grasses.

The bay's remarkable wildlife is the focus of a new range of eco tours.

Broome Whale Watching and Sentosa Charters' owner Cameron Birch says snubfin dolphins have been spotted on

each day of the company's recently launched eco tours.

"They've been swimming up to the boat and being very interactive," he said.

Absolute Ocean Charters' new eco sunset cruise is hosted by a marine biologist, who provides insight into both the marine wildlife and sights along the coastline.

Owner Kelly Woodley said the tours highlighted Broome's beauty and biodiversity.

The Broome Visitor Centre has helped get the new tours up and running.

Visitor centre general manager Nick Linton said it was exciting to have a new tourism product focused on Roebuck Bay that is available to visitors throughout the year.

The new eco tours complement existing Roebuck Bay tours, such



Broome's Roebuck Bay is home to one of the largest populations of snubfin dolphins in Australia. Picture: Cameron Birch

as Broome Adventure Company's turtle kayak tours, Kimberley Kayak Fishing, and Broome Hovercraft, which offers a unique way see the bay and its dinosaur footprints.

The Broome Bird Observatory, nested on the shore of the bay, is another must-see for wildlife lovers.

The bay will soon be protected through the proposed Yawuru Nagulagun/Roebuck Bay Marine Park, which will be jointly managed by Yawuru and the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Mr Birch said the

establishment of the marine park was "fantastic" and would put Roebuck Bay on the map.

Research into snubfin dolphins in Roebuck Bay is being led by Yawuru and WWF-Australia. Tour operators have flagged the potential to collaborate on research by logging sightings of the dolphins.

■ Sally Wilkinson is a freelance writer employed by the Broome Visitor Centre. For more information on local tourism contact the Broome Visitor Centre on 9195 2200 or go to www.visitbroome.com.au.

What's on

Friday, November 20

- Captain Murphy's will host Friday Night Live from 7pm. Entry is free.
- Few2Many will perform at Divers Beach Bar from 8-11pm. Entry is free.

Saturday, November 21

- The Mexicans will perform at Divers Beach Bar from 8-11pm. Entry is free.

Sunday, November 22

- Steve Angoorly will perform at Matso's Brewery from 2-5pm. Entry is free.
- The Mangrove Hotel will host a Family Fun Day from 3-6pm. Entry is free.
- Divers' Sunday Sess featuring Bernardine will take place from 6-9pm. Entry is free.

YOUR STARS

Tanya Obrez



Aries

(March 21 - April 20)

If there's one thing you know, it's that you're a survivor. Even when times are tough, most Ariens maintain their ambition and optimism.

Both are tremendous assets that work to your advantage, making this a work-hard, play-hard kind of week.



Taurus

(April 21 - May 20)

Since Venus and Mars are conjuring up an office romance. Avoid flirting if you're already attached.

Tempting as it may be, giving in to your desires could come at too high a cost. But if single and fancy-free, go right ahead. Mix business with pleasure.



Gemini

(May 21 - June 21)

You've learned to trust your intuition, but beware going to the other extreme — "selective hearing".

Take good advice if offered. You're not alone in this world, Gemini, so if need be, call for help. You'll be surprised at how supportive friends and family can be.



Libra

(September 23 - October 23)

That old self-doubt is back again, but you'll just have to scrape up your self-esteem and paste on your best smile.

Most of the trouble is home-grown, so you're in for some candid chat if there's any hope of restoring the peace.



Scorpio

(October 24 - November 22)

Someone's being impatient this week because they want to do everything in double-time, so woe betide you if you have a few slow days or you disagree with them.

It could easily become a week of silly spats and squabbles — mostly about nothing.



Sagittarius

(November 23 - December 21)

You're on a roll, Sagittarius. Not only are the ideas sparking, they're also connecting. At times, your projects c dawdle along, but not now. Jaws drop as you power into top gear. Week's energy concentrates on finances. Money, assets and an upwardly mobile lifestyle take priority.

if it's happening in Broome,
it's happening at The Roey!

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With a range of dining options and event styles sure to meet your needs!

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Saira Hanlon on 9192 1221