

Walkway of pride

By Roebuck Bay Working Group Project Manager Kandy Curran

A new partnership has been rewarded, with the WA Government announcing a \$35,895 State NRM Program Community Action Grant for the Roebuck Bay Working Group.

The winners are the community and Broome's coastal waters, with the degraded McMahon Reserve, to be spruced up and planted with a beautiful bushtucker trail, and the stormwater drain which has become a dumping ditch for garden waste and litter, to be cleaned up and planted with hundreds of endemic native plants that have been grown by the Shire of Broome's Parks and Gardens.

Kandy Curran, the Project Manager of the Roebuck Bay Working Group said, our group is very pleased to be working with the Broome Shire, who will carry out the on ground works to beautify the McMahon Reserve and stormwater drain.

"This is a really positive community project, with the Broome Shire involving children from local schools and juvenile justice programs, to participate in planting the bushtucker trail and stormwater drain."

The cleanup of the McMahon Reserve is underway and the planting days are expected to commence in April 2017. Included in the innovative project 'Bushtuckers, native plantings and community reinventing drains, walkways and pride', are improvements to the footpath in the McMahon Reserve and reticulation for the new plants.

The Roebuck Bay Working Group are pleased to see the upper catchment of the Dakas Street stormwater drain planted with natives. "What we hope to see over time, is the stormwater drain colonised by the native plants which will slow the stormwater flow and allow the plants to absorb the nutrients. If successful, then this pilot project can be replicated in other stormwater drains discharging into Roebuck Bay.

"These nutrients can feed the blue-green Lyngbya blooms that have been worsening in Roebuck Bay, so works to reduce stormwater drainage impacts on Broome's beautiful coastal waters is good news.

"Collaborations are key to the Roebuck Bay Working Group's incredible success in securing grants - with 100 percent grant success over the last six years. We thank our partners who provided letters of support that helped secure the grant: the Yawuru Land and Sea Unit, Cable Beach Primary, St Mary's Primary, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Environs Kimberley, Rangelands NRM and WWF Australia. The RBWG extends our thanks to the Western Australian Government, State NRM Program and Royalties for Regions for providing the two year NRM Community Action Grant." Kandy Curran said.



Roebuck Bay Working Group and Broome Shire working together to plant a bushtucker trail and clean up the stormwater drain along the McMahon walkway. © Kandy Curran