

Our Mission: To deliver affordable and quality Local Government services

What's happening in the Shire of Broome?

Fri 20 Mar – Broome Business Breakfast Series

Broome Civic Centre, 7-9am. Keynote speakers: Melissa Hartmann from Morrgul; John Hackett from Landcorp; and Russell Barnett from Australian Venture Consultants. RSVP to traci.alchin@broome.wa.gov.au or 9191 3482.

Thu 19 – Wed 25 Mar – Broome Sport in Focus

Various venues. Activities, workshops and coaching courses to develop sustainable clubs and promote participation in sport. Full program at www.broome.wa.gov.au.

Sat 28 Mar – Mosquito Community Information Session

Broome Public Library, 10-11am. Shire of Broome Environmental Technical Officer, Murray Gray, who is completing a Masters Degree in Public Health and research into mosquito-borne disease at Curtin University will conduct a free information session on preventing mosquito breeding, mosquito-borne diseases, safe use of repellents and other mosquito control.



Environmental Technical Officer, Murray Gray, sets a mosquito trap as part of the Shire's monitoring program.

Warning over mosquito risk

Mosquito numbers in Broome could rise due to recent heavy rain and big tides, according to Shire of Broome Health Services.

The Shire's wet season mosquito surveillance and control program found that heavy rain in January followed by a hot, dry spell showed very low numbers of mosquitoes through February and only one notification of mosquito-borne disease in Broome.

However, Senior Environmental Health Officer, Chantal Spittle, says the community should remain vigilant during outdoor activities to prevent mosquito-borne diseases like Ross River and Barmah Virus.

"Our trapping history shows that salt marsh mosquitoes and midge populations have the potential to become active and increase following the March high tide," Ms Spittle says.

"We now have both freshwater mosquitoes, which are dawn and dusk biters, and salt marsh mosquitoes which are aggressive biters and have the tendency to bite during most of the day."

Precautions include wearing loose-fitting clothing and applying repellent containing DEET.

The following simple steps will also help protect the community by reducing mosquito numbers:

- Empty buckets and dog water bowls each week;
- Check tyres, pot plants and other water containers regularly;
- Introduce fish to ornamental ponds;
- Fill pot plant saucers with sand to prevent pooling water;
- Maintain household swimming pools with chlorine and keep clean;
- Pooling water from reticulation can provide a year-round water source for mosquitoes to breed, and ensure leaking taps and hoses are not pooling.
- Create a frog-friendly garden to naturally control mosquitoes.



Free fitness testing at BRAC will be one of the highlights of Broome Sport in Focus.

Great chance to get into sport

Broome Sport in Focus is a week-long program of activities, workshops and coaching courses that aims to provide accredited training to coaches and volunteers to develop sustainable clubs and promote participation in sport.

Shire Club Development Officer, Mike Doyle, says that last year in Broome about 500 people from 60 different clubs and organisations took part in the event.

"This year Broome Sport in Focus will run from 19-25 March, with highlights including workshops with five-time Olympian Ric Charlesworth AM, free community fitness testing and a range of courses and activities," Mr Doyle says.

For the full program of events head to the Shire website.

Community help sought in fight against weeds

Weeds threaten native vegetation and biodiversity, and the entire community has a role to play in reducing their impact on the natural environment.

Parks and Gardens Technical Officer, Clint Hankinson, says the Shire puts in considerable work controlling weeds on public land, but the community needs to help control them on private property.

"Caltrop is a very invasive weed and once established it's very hard to get rid of due to its vigorous growth and the seed staying viable for many years," Mr Hankinson says.

"This spreading prostrate annual is characterised by yellow flowers that produce an aggressive, woody prickly that punctures bare feet and bicycle tyres, and is a problem on verges and all pedestrian traffic areas around Broome.

"The best method for complete control is removing the whole plant by any means possible before the seed has formed.

"This can be manually by hand, by mechanical means or by chemical control with a glyphosate spray (Roundup)."

Weed identification brochures are available from the Shire administration or on the website.



Caltrop is one of the most prolific weeds found around homes and yards, and has a nasty thorn often called a "double gee".



VABIS Group Chairman, Nguyen Ngoc My, and Vietnamese Consul General, Le Viet Duyen, meet stakeholders in Broome with a sculpture presented to the town.

Economic development on the menu at Business Breakfast

Indigenous economic opportunities, progress on the Broome Road Industrial Estate, and unlocking the door to Broome's future will be key topics at the latest Shire of Broome Business Breakfast Series event on Friday.

Keynote speakers will be Melissa Hartmann from Morrgul to speak about Indigenous economic opportunities and funding; John Hackett from Landcorp to update progress on the Broome Road Industrial Estate; and Russell Barnett from Australian Venture Consultants who will speak on Broome Future Limited – unlocking the door.

Shire of Broome CEO, Kenn Donohoe, says other recent economic development initiatives include working with the Chamber of Commerce, Visitor Centre and others to service cruise ship visitors, with Council providing \$15,000

in 2015, and \$10,000 earmarked for next year.

"The Shire has also hosted a delegation from Vietnam looking at investment opportunities, and facilitated meetings and site visits with stakeholders," Mr Donohoe says.

"The Shire's new Manager of Economic Development, Daniel High, is on board and is progressing projects including the Chinatown redevelopment with Landcorp and the Kimberley Development Commission, development of an Economic Development Strategy, and creation of a Shire of Broome Investment Prospectus."

The Broome Business Breakfast runs from 7-9am on Friday 20 March at the Broome Civic Centre, with RSVPs essential to traci.alchin@broome.wa.gov.au or 9191 3482.