

# Welcome to

# Roebuck Bay

Mirda (One Tree); an area of enormous cultural and environmental significance

## Please

- park your vehicle away from the cliffs and walk to the beach
- keep a distance from the shorebirds and move quietly so you don't disturb them
- fish in places away from the shorebirds and take only enough fish for tonight's dinner
- keep your dog on a lead and under control
- do not disturb any ground or materials, eg rocks or shells; Aboriginal cultural and heritage sites abound
- take home only photos, memories and rubbish.

## 1. Weary international travellers

Roebuck Bay is a vital resting and feeding ground for more than 150,000 migratory shorebirds that fly here each year from their northern breeding grounds, which extend from Central Siberia to Arctic Alaska.

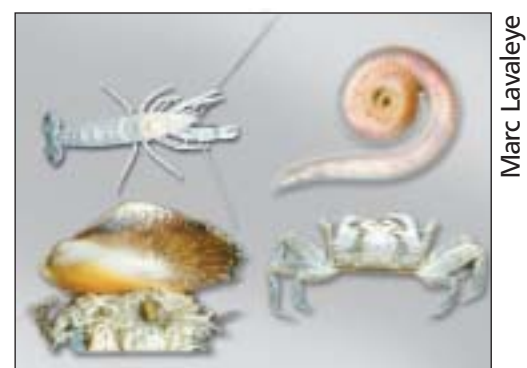
Some larger shorebirds fly 9000 kms non-stop to Roebuck Bay; smaller birds make a stop-over in Asia on the way.

## 2. Best takeaway seafood in the world

Here shorebirds feed and roost on beaches, tidal mudflats, saltmarsh, claypans and mangroves.

Low tide exposes 17,500 hectares of mud flats that offer the birds a rich and varied menu, including 200 known species of invertebrates (small spineless animals) like worms, crabs and molluscs.

At high tide, birds form large flocks and rest on the shore. This is when they are most vulnerable to disturbance.



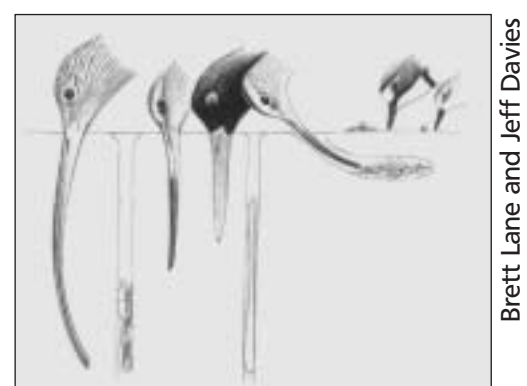
Marc Lavaleye

## 3. Eat, sleep and get fat

Most shorebirds have long legs and bills that are adapted to feeding on the small animals living on or in the muddy sediment exposed at low tide.

Shorebirds on Roebuck Bay are so influenced by the tide that they live two 12 hour days rather than one 24 hour day! Night and day, they feed for 8 hours then rest for 4 hours.

Migratory shorebirds need to build body fat to fuel their international flight. Each disturbance depletes their store of fuel, threatening their survival.



Brett Lane and Jeff Davies

## 4. A great place to spend the winter

Birds feed on the rich food supplies in the Bay and increase their body weight by 60 - 80% during February, March and April each year before leaving Roebuck Bay on their epic journey back to their breeding grounds.

But not all the birds fly away!

From April to August about 35,000 shorebirds remain until they are mature enough to breed and migrate.

Mirda (One Tree)

Chris Hassell



Rubibi



Chris Hassell



Chris Hassell



Aboriginal custodians work with other groups to protect the Bay. This sign is part of a national Shorebird Conservation Project, funded by the Natural Heritage Trust and managed by WWF-Australia in partnership with Rubibi.

### Information:

Visit the nearby Broome Bird Observatory (9193-5600). Call Shire of Broome (9191-3456), Kimberley Land Council (9193-6199), Dept Conservation and Land Management (9192-1036), Fishwatch (1800 815 507).

