

## Students Keep a Close Eye on Water Conservation

Primary school students in Broome can take a closer look at the world around them, thanks to a joint initiative by the Rotary Club of Broome and the Water Corporation.

The Rotary WA Magnifying Microscope project provides primary schools with microscopes and activity books with which students can study plant structure and soil composition and learn how plants adapt to available water supplies. The project was initiated early last year by the Rotary Club of Freshwater Bay and the Chief Scientist of WA Professor Lyn Beazley. Since then it has been adopted by other Rotary Clubs, with Broome the latest to join in.

Broome Rotary has donated 30 microscopes each to Roebuck and Cable Beach Primary Schools and the Water Corporation has contributed activity books. A Water Corporation Education Officer has also visited the schools to conduct lessons as part of the Corporation's Waterwise Schools Program.

The Waterwise Schools Program aims to educate students to value water and to understand the need to conserve and protect it. It's a long term, whole-of-school approach to water education which seeks to change students' behaviour towards using water.

The Magnifying Microscope Project is supported by the Science Teachers Association of WA (STAWA) an independent association of science educators dedicated to promoting science and science teaching. The project helps primary school students develop a greater interest in science and in exploring the natural world.

Cable Beach Primary's Science specialist Mark Pager welcomed the project. "Thanks to the generosity of the Rotary Club of Broome and initiatives such as the Magnifying Microscope Project, primary school students in Broome will have the opportunity to explore the amazing world of microscopic organisms", he said.



*Cable Beach Primary School students with their new magnifying microscopes*

"Children are naturally keen to explore and study things they normally can't see. It brings the 'Wow factor' into learning and enhances their desire to question why things are like they are in life."

Roebuck Primary science teacher Anthony Collopy said students in Broome were discovering a genuine interest in and enthusiasm for science, partly because of the involvement and generosity of groups such as Rotary. Broome and St Marys Primary Schools have also been invited to participate in the project.