



# KIMBERLEY MARINE

RESEARCH STATION • CYGNET BAY

## JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2018



### News from Cygnet Bay

#### Wild, Wild Weather

It's been a particularly wet season here in Cygnet Bay and it's said to be turning into one of the wettest on record for Western Australia. Rainfall levels for January have increased by a total of 149.9 mm compared to January 2017 and February is set to follow this trend with an increase of 77mm so far this month. Despite the rainfall however we are seeing some of the most breathtaking thunderstorms with such spectacular lightning brightening up the sky.

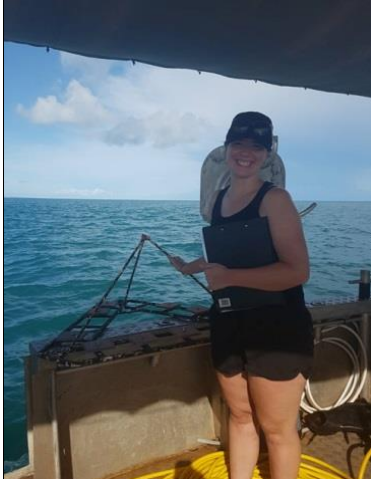


### Research at KMRS

Last year's research projects are all continuing on into the New Year, with the interns collecting data and making repairs to field equipment damaged from the storms. We await the return of Master student Ash (UWA) in March to work on her rock oyster competition project with the help of the interns over a period of two weeks.

### Long-term coral monitoring

Our coral monitoring program is nearing the end of its second successful year of data collection. Despite the weather, the interns have been out collecting data used to monitor ongoing health and recovery within the reef. This program helps track coral reef community health and monitors for any changes such as bleaching, recruitment, and growth.



Suzanne deploying the coral frames

### Exciting new project!

In other exciting coral news, multi-tiled coral frames are currently being deployed as a trial run for a new coral recruitment study. This new project will complement ongoing coral transects which KMRS interns perform monthly to monitor coral cover and health. The aim of this study is to compare sites within the subtidal and intertidal coral populations to determine coral polyp recruitment levels during the major spawning periods (March/April and Oct/Nov). If the trial is successful, tiles from the frames will be examined every 2-3 months to observe coral polyp recruitment and growth before being re-deployed. The entire team is eager and waiting for frame deployment this month.

### Around the Farm

#### Cleaning Up

This wet season has been particularly harsh and caused quite a bit of damage to the infrastructure of the pearl farm. The pearling crew have been hard at work making repairs to the farm while maintaining regular pearling duties. However, the cyclones have forced them to pull the boats off the water, sometimes for several days, adding to the difficulty. Yet, their hard work and dedication has paid off and repairs to the farm are finished allowing them to prepare for the upcoming X-ray of the oysters.



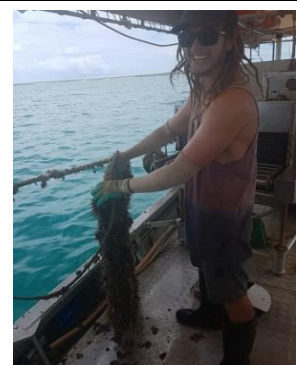
Uli diving & Liam tendering

As tourist season moves ever closer, the preparations are well underway to make this the best season yet. We are happy to see new and old faces around the farm and are excited to soon begin another season of tourism at Cygnet Bay.

### Staff News

In the turnaround of the New Year we said farewell to KMRS intern Eashani Haria and welcome to three new members to KMRS and Cygnet Bay Pearls.

A big welcome to the new Field Research Officer Liam Rawlins. Liam originates from Perth but has been a Kimberley local for the past 3 years. His degree in marine science from UWA and many years of boating and diving experience has prepared him well for the job. He's looking forward to working with the interns and developing new research projects in the future.





Karyssa (left) & Suzanne (right) with dolphins

In early January, Karyssa Arnett began her internship at KMRS. Karyssa holds a BSc from the University of British Columbia, majoring in Marine Science and Conservation. Leaving the cold of Canada to come to the Kimberley region has been an exciting adventure for her so far. She loves the challenge of doing research with such extreme tides and weather systems.

Later in February we were joined by a second intern Suzanne McCarthy. Suzanne is originally from Ireland but studied Marine & Freshwater Biology at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. She is looking forward to making a valuable contribution to KMRS and enjoying all that Western Australia has to offer.

Finally, we say farewell to an important member of the KMRS and Cygnet Bay family, Pippa Adamson. Pippa started as a KMRS intern in February of last year and was later hired on to be the Hatchery Assistant and a member of the pearling crew. She has been an integral part of running KMRS; overseeing and training many groups of interns during her year here. Pippa has made a powerful impact on KMRS and the people involved, and we wish her the very best in her future endeavors.



Photo of the Month



Follow Us



+ 61 8 9192 4999



research@cygnetbaypearls.com.au



www.kmrs.com.au



Kimberley Marine Research  
Station



@KMRS2009



@kimberleymarineresearchstation

