



KIMBERLEY MARINE

RESEARCH STATION • CYGNET BAY

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2019



IN THIS EDITION...

Sunrise at Cygnet Bay. Photo by Paul Fliedner

A new research project is going to be introduced soon at the Marine Research Station and have we had our first drops of rain up here...

STAFF NEWS

As the wet season in the Kimberley region has already started, the tourism has started to slow down. It is getting even warmer and the humidity is rising up to 67% Relative Humidity. Christmas is getting close and many off the staff here at Cygnet Bay are leaving, going home to enjoy the festive season together with family and friends.

Farewell to Ashley, Selva and Paul

We say goodbye to three more interns. Ashley left us at the beginning of November. She has headed off to gain experience turtle tagging at Thevenard Island before heading back to Canada. Selva is going back home to enjoy Christmas with her family, and Paul is going back to university in the wintery Berlin.



Interns Selva and Paul
Photo by: Ashley Bachert

NEWS FROM THE RESEARCH STATION

Invertebrate assemblage project at the front beach

In November 2019 we introduced a new research project at the Research Station. One of the aims of the Kimberley Marine Research Station (KMRS) is to become a hotspot for research in the Kimberley and a facility that generates baseline data site, which can be used by KMRS, Cygnet Bay Pearls, visiting scientists and research students. The data will also allow us to gain a basic analysis of the invertebrate species found and their general distribution along the beach which is yet to be studied in the Cygnet Bay region. This study will shed light on how fresh groundwater seepage may affect the general distribution of species and possible identification of new unidentified species due to the unique and extreme conditions observed through the Kimberly region. This project is still in the development stage and we hope to get our interns in 2020 to finalise the details and kick-start this awesome project.



Hermit crab at Kooljaman beach. Photo by Selva Barroso



Beautiful mangrove forest at Cygnet Bay, Photo by Selva Barroso



Monthly Sampling , November 2019 Photo by Paul Fliedner

MORE FROM THE RESEARCH STATION

Monthly Sampling



Samples from monthly sampling in Cygnet Bay. Photo by Paul Flidner

The Monthly sampling is a regularly project from the Kimberley Marine Research Station to gather important information about the waters of Cygnet Bay and the surrounding region.

We collect water samples from three different locations to test pH, salinity and turbidity. This is to check for any abnormalities in the farm or used to pick up any changes in water quality before they have a chance to affect the shell.

Back in the laboratory at the research station we then test our samples for Ammonia, Nitrite, Nitrate and Phosphates. Month-

ly sampling also incorporates recordings of various phytoplankton, which we analyse our samples collected under the microscope and identify any phytoplankton found.

At three different locations on our oyster lines we remove some oyster samples to bring into the laboratory and check the current health of the oyster, we look for specific things like double back, boring worm, and cliona. After Which we perform a dissection and samples are then sent to our experts for RNA analysis.



Oysters in the basked. Photo by Paul Flidner



Phytoplankton Water sample under the microscope. Photo by Paul Flidner

AROUND THE FARM

Spawning

In November we had a spawning scheduled in the hatchery at Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm. We encounter some complications with the growth of our algae stock and due this we decided to cancel our scheduled spawning and aim for a following spawning event in early 2020.



Spawning in the hatchery. Photos by: Ashley Bachert



Crocodile trap, from BADI JAWI RANGERS by P.Fliedner

The Bardi Jawi ranger from One Arm Point, who are responsible for indigenous land and sea management came to down to the Marine Research at the end of November to drop off a crocodile trap. These rangers are managing more than 250 km of coast line and 3400.700 ha of land. We had a few crocodile sighting over the last month close to the main beach and for safety reasons they placed a trap nearby. If a crocodile is successful caught they will relocate it to a remote region thus removing the risk to our locals and visitors.

End of the season

As we are approaching the end of tourist season and things start to quiet down around the farm, some of our staff depart as well. We wish everyone the best during the wet season, happy holidays and look forward to seeing them all back next year!

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Kimberley Marine Research Station



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@KMRS2009

Check out our website for more info.. <https://www.kmrs.com.au/>

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Terry Hunter and James Brown enjoying a trip to waterfall reef. Photo taken from Western Australia youtube clip <https://youtu.be/82mKwtyXpNg>.