



KIMBERLEY MARINE

RESEARCH STATION • CYGNET BAY

August 2011 Update

What's been happening at KMRS in August?

August 2 – 3 Dr Jamie Oliver, AIMS, visits

KMRS had the pleasure of hosting world renowned marine biologist and Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) research leader Dr Jamie Oliver and wife Juanita during a recent trip through the Kimberley.

Spectacular weather over the 2 day visit gave great opportunities to showcase local coral reef habitats, intertidal mangrove-lined creeks and the islands of the Buccaneer Archipelago as well as the facilities, vessels and farm base here at Cygnet Bay. Thank you Jamie & Juanita for taking the time to visit our remarkable corner of the world here at KMRS!

August 11 – 12 CSIRO research team visits

KMRS had the pleasure of hosting a team of Perth-based CSIRO research scientists during a recent scoping trip to the station. Dr John Keesing, Damian Thomson & Mat Vanderklift travelled to Cygnet Bay to scope the area and KMRS facilities for CSIRO research potential, including an introduction with the Bardi Jawi Rangers and visit to the One Arm Point Ardyaloon Hatchery. KMRS would like to thank the team for taking the time to visit and the Bardi Jawi Rangers for their valued contribution to the week's proceedings.



Local coral reefs in the Sunday Island group



(c) Peter Strain

August 11 – 17 Local photographer & film maker Peter Strain on-site

Broome-based nature photographer Peter Strain has been back on-site at KMRS, capturing footage for a series of mini-docs on the local marine environments and fauna as well as the research station facilities and capabilities.

Peter's work focuses on highlighting art in nature and his latest exhibition "Line of Sight" is set to open at Notre Dame University in Broome on September 9 after a highly successful launch and showcase at the WA Maritime Museum in Fremantle earlier this year. For more information on Peter's work, please visit www.gianttides.com.au. KMRS would like to thank Peter for sharing his expertise and artistic flair with us.

August 21 KMRS presents at the Broome Science Week Festival

KMRS was pleased to present at the Science Week Festival held in Broome during the week of August 14-21. The event was part of the Australian Government National Science Week program and was hosted by Environs Kimberley. The week's program comprised of various presentations and events including the forum by local marine researchers:

"Whales, reef, coral & pearls: An evening with James Brown & Ali McCarthy from Kimberley Marine Research Station, Cygnet Bay; Richard Costin from Kimberley Whale Watching & Peter Strain, Wildlife Photographer" held at Notre Dame University, Broome. KMRS would like to thank EK for inviting us to come and partake in such a great event.

August 24 – 25 WAMSI CEO Steve Blake returns

KMRS had the pleasure of hosting KMRS veteran & WAMSI CEO Steve Blake who visited with a team of 2 whale researchers, all of whom were taking part in a Kimberley whale and zooplankton research expedition onboard the vessel "Walcott". Whilst coordinating a team change onboard the vessel which moored at Cygnet Bay overnight, Steve and the team managed to make Cygnet Bay's first ever hydrophone recording which features an array of distinctive underwater sounds including calling gropers! Thank you Steve and co for dropping in.

August 24 WA DEC West Kimberley team visits

DEC West Kimberley Manager Alan Byrne along with DEC's Naomi Findlay and Kimberley TAFE's Jeffrey Cooper visited KMRS to inspect the facilities and gauge the research potential. It was a great day overall and was topped off with a pod of Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins (*Sousa chinensis*) accompanying the team on the water inshore at Shenton Bluff. KMRS thanks Alan and the team for taking the time to travel up the Peninsula and check out KMRS.



www.derm.qld.gov.au

What's been happening in the water this month?

Spawning of **swimmer crabs** *Thalamita danae* has occurred with thousands of juveniles observed en-masse around intertidal mangrove creeks.



Manta rays *Manta birostris* have been spotted earlier in the month with a group of 3 individuals seen daily inshore at Cygnet Bay.

The world's largest population of **humpback whales** *Megaptera novaeangliae* are migrating along the Kimberley coastline to give birth. Numerous adults and calves have been spotted in the nearby Sunday Island group as well as a pair inshore at Cygnet Bay late in the month!



Photo of the month

Stonefish (*Synanceia sp*)
in amongst feather stars
(*Crinoidea sp*)

By Cameron Adam

Cygnet Bay 24.08.11

What's ahead at KMRS in September?

KMRS is looking forward to hosting 3 research teams on-site during September:

- WA Museum affiliated researchers will be continuing bird surveys of the One Arm Point area and nearby islands started in 2010.
- A PhD candidate from the UWA Ocean's Institute returns to KMRS to check in-situ coral experiments as part of a project entitled "Resilience of coral reef communities and coral metabolism in extreme environmental conditions".
- A PhD candidate from Macquarie University in Sydney will visit KMRS as part of a project entitled "The effects of environmental stressors on immunological activity in *Pinctada maxima*".

Please follow the news feed on the website for the latest information on what's happening at KMRS

www.kimberleymarineresearchstation.com.au



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