



KIMBERLEY MARINE

RESEARCH STATION • CYGNET BAY

JUNE/JULY 2016



News from Cygnet Bay

Operations in the Hatchery

Harvest has begun in the Hatchery at Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm! Our pearling crew and interns have been busy preparing the hatchery and oysters for this process and it is a very exciting time for the farm. We have begun with the first re-seeding operations of the year and our technicians; Garata and Mike have already extracted some beautiful South Sea pearls from Cygnet Bay oysters.

New Cygnet Bay Pearls Boutique

After 12 months of waiting, Cygnet Bay Pearls have opened our new flagship jewelry boutique in Broome. If you are in Broome make sure you take a look at our beautiful new store showcasing the new range of Australian South Sea pearl jewelry designs. However if you cannot make it to Broome, the Cygnet Bay Pearls website has had a re-vamp so be sure to check it out!



A morning's pearl harvest! Photo: J. Brown

Research at KMRS



Steph, Gary, Katey, Milly, Leah, Ross & Rhy on our last day with Milly!

Photo: S. Strange

Milly's return – Juvenile fish recruitment

Camilla Piggot from UWA returns to KMRS for her final visit at the end of July to complete her PhD field work. Milly has been studying juvenile fish recruitment across different habitats throughout the Kimberley coast. Milly has also been working with the Bardi Jawi Rangers and AIMS with their coral recruitment project. Milly has put a lot of hard work and her time into developing the KMRS intern program. We would like to thank Milly for her amazing work and we hope to see her back at KMRS in the future! ☺

Coral Monitoring and Rock Oyster Recruitment

KMRS Interns have been waiting for the next spring low tide to drop below 1.4m to continue their coral monitoring project – surveying and monitoring coral health in the bay. We will also be continuing and expanding our Rock Oyster Recruitment project, surveying the rock oysters in the bay and monitoring their recruitment onto settlement tiles. These projects will be ongoing for future interns to carry out and provide interesting and exciting data for KMRS about our beautiful Cygnet Bay.



Transect tape alongside a small boulder coral on the intertidal shore at Cygnet Bay.

Photo: R. Powell

Pinctada maxima spat data analysis

KMRS Interns have been working on data collected from Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm spat to help determine suitable farm locations for optimal spat growth throughout the bay. They have also started to compare spat data collected from different family groups within the *P. maxima* oysters. KMRS Interns hope the ongoing data analysis will help to improve spat growth and broodstock selection for Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm oysters.

Other news from Cygnet Bay

New Cygnet Bay Tour

Our tourism crew has teamed up with locals Kevin & Donna's Island Tours to provide the new Inala Booroo Cultural Island Tour. Discover a slice of the Bardi Jawi people through the eyes of the locals and explore the Buccaneer Archipelago with a Bardi guide.

Harvesting Pearl Meat

KMRS Interns have begun research into harvesting our oysters for pearl meat as well as South Sea pearls. You can try our fresh pearl meat in a delicious tasting platter at Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm Restaurant.



Delicious pearl meat tasting platter! Photo: J. Bancroft



Raw pearl meat freshly harvested. Photo: C. Richioud

Staff news

KMRS Interns

Stephanie Strange

Steph is our newest intern visiting from the UK. She is currently on summer break from Newcastle University, and has joined us to gain an invaluable insight to further her studies relating to her marine biology degree. Already, Steph is enjoying the beauty of the Kimberley and is most looking forward to the return of PhD student Milly to assist with her project out in the field.

Thanks and goodbye to our previous Interns ☺

We say goodbye to our French intern Charlotte as she returns to France to complete her final year of studies. She has particularly appreciated this experience with all the KMRS and Cygnet Bay Pearl Team, and would like to thank everybody especially her roommate; Rhyanon ☺ to have taken the time to explain everything twice or more.

Rhy is leaving KMRS to continue travelling Australia and Asia. She loved the opportunity to work for KMRS and Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm and has learnt many new skills to take with her. She will miss the great people and new friends she has met at the Bay.

Photo of the month

Staircase to the Moon

On the 21st June, Cygnet Bay was lucky enough to witness our very own Staircase to the Moon. The perfect way to celebrate the Winter Solstice too!



Photo: C. Richioud

Follow us

KMRS is on Twitter! Follow KMRS on Twitter (@KMRS2009) and Facebook (facebook.com/kmrs2009) for frequent updates on the research and happenings in and around Cygnet Bay.



+61 8 9192 4999 ✉research@cygnetbaypearls.com.au

www.kmrs.com.au