



KIMBERLEY MARINE

RESEARCH STATION • CYGNET BAY

2016 YEAR IN REVIEW



Sunset over the Cygnet Bay mangroves. Photo: L. McKinney



KMRS Ongoing Research

Coral & Oyster Continuing Research

In early 2016, KMRS began two monitoring programs: coral bleaching and rock oyster spat recruitment & competition. Both programs will be continued into 2017 and for future years to come! So far, the coral pools have seen a reduction in macroalgae cover and experienced a large accumulation of silt. The rock oyster spat seem to prefer settling on the middle shore of Cygnet Bay's intertidal coastline. Throughout the year, innovative KMRS interns have proposed extensions to these projects in hopes of implementation in 2017.



Rock Oyster Maintenance
Photo: K. Rawstron



Coral Transect
Photo: A. Lienesch

Future Plans

For 2017, KMRS is hoping to kick off a new long-term phytoplankton monitoring program, an elaborate water quality testing procedure, and nutrient analyses of water samples. This is expected to bring a greater understanding of the interactions between biotic and abiotic components of the Kimberley marine ecosystems.

Visiting Scientists

Kimberley Coast Research

Many researchers utilized the KMRS's laboratory this year as a base for their continuing studies on the Kimberley coast. During 2016, scientists from the Australian Institute of Marine Science and the University of Western Australia came to study a range of topics from fish recruitment and turtle tagging to coral bleaching. If you are a research scientist or a post-graduate student looking for a unique area to conduct your work, contact the KMRS team to see what we can do for you.



Anemone fish. Photo: S. Strange



Solar Energy! Photo: G. Firman

Solar Panels

Earlier this year, Cygnet Bay placed approximately 200 solar panels around its campus which has added an extra 50kW of power to run the farm. We hope to continuously upgrade our solar systems with the aim of being 100% renewable in the next few years.

Leave No Trace

The Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm has partnered with the Leave No Trace Program (LNT), an organization dedicated to the appreciation and respect of Australia's natural and cultural heritage. Through education, research, and partnership, LNT promotes a minimal impact mindset and empowers others to take conservational responsibility of their natural environment. Cygnet Bay continues to incorporate these principals in our pearl farm and research operations.



<http://www.lnt.org.au/>

Recycling

We have continued to build on our recycling initiatives by reusing and repurposing aquaculture equipment for the farm's pearling operations. We have also upgraded our waste management of recyclable materials by storing them in separate transfer station areas.

KMRS Interns

This year, the KMRS has hosted 9 interns hailing from all over Australia and the world. Each intern has brought with them a unique perspective and a fresh outlook. The KMRS would like to thank each and every one of them for their hard work and dedication to the research station and for their unparalleled enthusiasm for marine science. Best of luck to each in their future endeavors.

Farewell to Samantha Dawe and Anna Lienesch

We say thanks and goodbye to our last two interns of 2016, Sam and Anna. They will spend the holidays together in Sam's hometown of Lancelin, WA surfing and exploring. After the New Year, Sam plans to seek new aquaculture opportunities in South Australia and Anna returns to the USA to start work as a technician for the Smithsonian. Anna enjoyed experiencing the new marine life and lifestyle that the remote Kimberley offers. Sam relished learning new aquaculture techniques, especially culturing microalgae, and enjoyed spending time on the boats. They both look forward to furthering their careers as marine scientists and want to thank KMRS for this opportunity.



Last day with our algae!
Photo: A. Lienesch

Photo of the year



Bring on the wet season! Photo: S. Halvorsen

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



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