



KIMBERLEY MARINE

RESEARCH STATION • CYGNET BAY

MARCH - APRIL 2017



Look out at Front Beach Photo G. Inungk

News from Cygnet Bay

X-ray and Meat Harvest

In late March KMRS interns assisted the pearling crew in conducting a pearl meat harvest. This involved x-raying the shell to confirm presence or absence of pearls. Those without pearls were harvested whereas those which had accepted the operation were returned to the farm. Pearl meat is quickly becoming a popular seafood delicacy. Cygnet Bay pearl meat is served in our restaurant and is available from the Cygnet Bay Pearls flagship store in Broome.



Pearling crew and interns x-raying the oysters. Photo: K. Mullan

Shell Delivery

In early April Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm received a wild shell delivery from 80 Mile Beach. This was the first time the current interns were involved in the process. The interns were responsible for taking measurements and samples and observing the general health of incoming oysters.



Cam Risbey, part of the team that received the shell delivery. Photo: G. Firman

Research at KMRS

Algae Lab

KMRS interns have got the Algae lab up and running. The algae produced are usually fed to oyster spat that have been bred in the hatchery. Though this year the hatchery was not utilized, a small culture is underway for the benefit of maintaining the lab and increasing the interns' experience. The algae will not go to waste as it is to be fed to the oysters showcased on the Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm Tours.



Intern Carreana autoclaving the algae media. Photo: P. Adamson

Phytoplankton Monitoring

Phytoplankton monitoring has begun in line with our research objectives to produce baseline data, with the aim to gain insights into phytoplankton communities of Cygnet Bay, collaborate with industry professionals, and contribute to an Australian open data set. This is undertaken in addition to monthly environmental monitoring done within the Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm. Thank you to previous interns Anna and Sam for all their hard work in setting up this project.

Coral Sampling with Chris and Verena

Dr Chris Cornwall and Dr Verena Schoepf joined us at Cygnet Bay continuing their work on Shell Island and Tallon Reef. On Shell Island, the interns assisted Verena with taking samples and tagging coral colonies as she continues her work on the effects of heat stress on intertidal and subtidal corals.

Other News from Cygnet Bay

Cygnet Bay Open for the Dry Season

The end of wet season sparked the beginning of tourism season for the Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm. On April 1st the accommodation and restaurant re-opened and the running of tours, both on land and sea, commenced. It has been a busy start to the season with lots of positive feedback.



Kimberley Islands Film Research Expedition

The interns were lucky enough to be invited on a custom expedition of the the Kimberley Islands as the Cygnet Bay/KMRS commercial marine team helped a film production company scope sites for an exciting movie concept. Exploring some of the most unique locations in the Kimberley, we travelled around Sunday Island and through Yampi Sound, Whirlpool Passage and Strickland Bay seeing some incredible mangrove swamps, pindan stained cliffs and some curious marine life including a bluespotted fantail ray (*Taeniura lymma*) and Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops aduncus*).



Intern Pip and Carreana on the Kimberley Island Tour Photo: C. Nolan.

Staff News

Welcome Tourism Staff

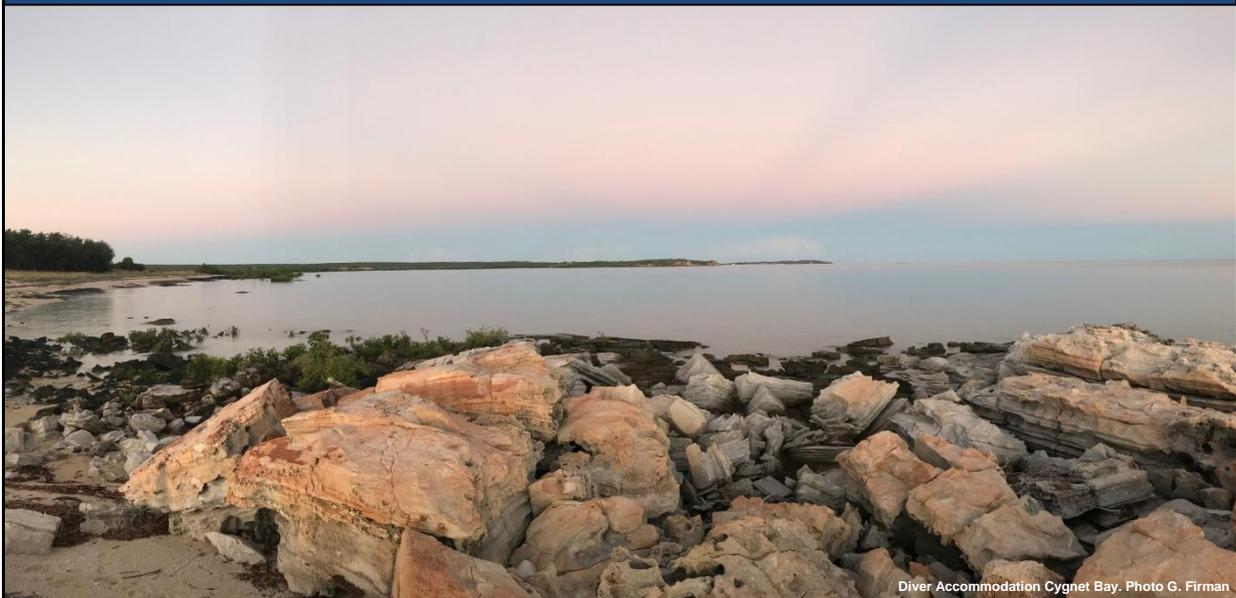
With the start of the tourism season, there has been an influx of staff to Cygnet Bay. Welcome to all new staff, we hope you enjoy your time here. KMRS interns and the pearling crew have certainly appreciated having a few new faces to chat to!

KMRS Intern Sam Gilbert

We also welcomed Samantha Gilbert to our intern team at the end of April. Sam is from the far south coast of New South Wales and has recently completed a Bachelor of Biological Sciences and a Diploma in Marine Studies from the University of Waikato in New Zealand. Sam has returned to Australia to start her internship with KMRS and is excited to be able to develop her skills and knowledge through the internship program and experience the beauty of the Kimberley area.



Photo of the Month



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