



8 (Jul 2002)

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

**A newsletter about Marine Conservation in the Department of Conservation and Land Management**

Issue 8 July 2002

## MPRA NEWS

### MPRA meet in Exmouth

The Marine Parks and Reserves Authority (MPRA) held its April 18 meeting in Exmouth at the Department of Conservation and Land Management's District Office. Key issues discussed at the meeting included the review of the Ningaloo Marine Park Management Plan, current environmental and public safety issues near Coral Bay and the proposed Coral Coast Marina Development Pty Ltd.

*En route* to Exmouth members had the opportunity to stop at Coral Bay and view a recent coral bleaching event by glass bottom boat. Members also had the chance to observe first hand the area in southern Bills Bay, adjacent to the Coral Bay township, where swimmers and snorkellers share the same area with a high concentration of boats. While in the area, local District Ranger Bruce Bond escorted members by four-wheel-drive to the proposed Coral Coast Marina Development site and turtle nesting beach at Maud's Landing immediately to the north



Milyering Visitor Centre in Cape Range National Park.



Coral Bay coastline

of Coral Bay. In addition, members visited one of the two site options for a new recreational boating facility.

On the Thursday night the Authority met with members of the Coral Coast Parks Advisory Committee and other key stakeholders of the area for an informal discussion. Before returning to Perth on Friday, it visited coastal sites in the Ningaloo Marine Park and the Cape Range National Park. The day tour included the Milyering Visitor Centre, nature-based tourism sites and a snorkel at Turquoise Bay. Accompanying District staff outlined key issues at each site.

As the controlling body in which Ningaloo Marine Park is vested, the MPRA deemed the Exmouth expedition a valuable opportunity to gain a better appreciation of the range of issues faced by District staff in the marine park.

The MPRA and Marine Conservation Branch would like to extend its appreciation to the Exmouth District staff for hosting the meeting.

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### IMPORTANT NEWS IN THIS ISSUE

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## MARINE RESERVE IMPLEMENTATION



Dampier Archipelago

### Update on Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston marine reserve proposal

At the sixth meeting of the Advisory Committee for the proposed Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston marine conservation reserve in December 2001, the Committee identified 15 areas that it believed could be established as sanctuary, recreation or special purpose zones. The Committee requested that the Department of Conservation and Land Management undertake a community consultation program to gather community feedback on the draft zoning scheme.

To obtain community feedback, staff from the Marine Conservation Branch and District office in Karratha have completed the following tasks:

- A sector reference group package was mailed to 64 sector reference groups and individual community stakeholders.
- Two radio interviews were aired on ABC North West radio.
- Articles appeared in the NorthWest Telegraph and the West Australian newspapers summarizing the proposed marine reserve and draft zoning scheme.
- Static displays were placed at Robe River Iron, Woodside Energy and Hamersley Iron work sites, providing information about the draft zoning scheme, as well as feedback forms.
- Staffed shopping centre displays were arranged at Wickham, Dampier and Karratha Shopping Centres.
- Phone calls, meetings and presentations to clubs, associations and individual stakeholders have also been undertaken in order to disseminate information about the proposed zoning scheme and to gather community feedback.

Written submissions were received from statewide and local stakeholders, community groups and individuals. This feedback was summarised and presented to the Advisory Committee at its meeting on 14-15 May.

The Committee reconsidered and modified many of the zones in the draft zoning scheme in light of the comments received. It also considered the most appropriate reserve category for the proposed marine conservation reserve.

Notwithstanding the extensive community consultation already undertaken, further public comment will be sought during the statutory three-month public submission period after the draft Indicative Management Plan is released.

If you would like to find out more information regarding the proposal developed by the Committee, please contact the Departmental staff below.

This project is partly funded by the Commonwealth Government's Natural Heritage Trust Marine Protected Areas Program.

**Contact: Fran Stanley, Reserves Management Officer, Pilbara Region, Karratha.**

**E-mail: frans@calm.wa.gov.au**

### Ocean Walking - a video on the Capes region



The film Ocean Walking produced by Robin Juniper.

Former ABC program maker and Murdoch University PhD student Robin Juniper has just completed a stunning 28-minute film on the region from Geographe Bay to Flinders Bay in the southwest of Western Australia. Called *Ocean Walking*, the Cape to Cape Clean Waters Project Group film showcases the marine and coastal ecological and social values of the region. Aimed at community education, it asks how we should best protect the marine and coastal resources at a time when the proposed Geographe Bay/Leeuwin-Naturaliste/Hardy Inlet marine conservation reserve process is about to formally commence.



Filmed in January 2002, the film boasts an award-winning crew and features many local people including surfer Taj Burrows, Olympian Shane Gould and local community and fishing identities.

Robin, a social scientist and Capes resident, hopes the film will be screened on Australian television. The film was produced with funding from Coastwest/Coastcare, Murdoch University, the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Fremantle Film and Television Institute. It will be distributed through Coastcare groups, community groups and schools.

Contact: Dr Sue Osborne, Community Liaison Officer, Marine Conservation Branch.

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## MARINE RESERVE MANAGEMENT

### Marine conservation reserve work plans for 2002-2003

One requirement of the Department's Memorandum of Understanding with the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority (MPRA) is to "... better quantify allocations to its marine program ...". Over recent months the Marine Conservation Branch (MCB) has been working with Districts and Branches within the Department to meet this requirement for the current financial year and for the 2002/2003 financial year. The information provides the MPRA with a list of the major marine activities currently being undertaken by the Department and the proposed activities and outcomes for next year. This issue is of major interest to the MPRA in relation to both their audit and policy functions.

A key part of this process has focussed on the current and proposed management activities within marine reserves. As the management plans for existing marine parks are not easily amenable to the 'new' MPRA audit process there has been a need to develop 'work plans', consistent with the approved management plans, in a way that will better facilitate the MPRA audit function. Fortunately, the outcomes of this process are also consistent with the internal Service Provider Agreements being used by the Department.

A number of meetings have been held between MCB staff and respective District staff to utilise their local knowledge and experience and to ensure that local priority management issues are addressed and properly balanced with ongoing strategic concerns. A meeting was held in Denham and several meetings have occurred at Fremantle. It is intended to provide all marine reserve 'work plans' for 2002/2003 to the MPRA for consideration at its June meeting.

Contact: John Lloyd, Regional Projects Officer, Marine Conservation Branch.

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## Gazetial of Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002

On 3 May the *Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002* were gazetted. These regulations provide an improved legislative base to regulate activities in marine conservation reserves and all other areas managed by the Department. The regulations cover a broad range of activities that may be managed to help conserve the ecological values of marine conservation reserves and manage human use of these areas more effectively. The regulations include the protection of landforms and flora and fauna and regulate activities such as mooring, anchoring, launching and retrieving vessels, closed areas, littering and discharging waste, and non-indigenous animals on reserves.

Where management plans for an area have restricted activities in reserves to ensure conservation values are protected, the regulations provide the legal mechanism for enforcing these restrictions. The regulations allow for the issuing of infringements for contravention of these restrictions and are an important tool in managing the State's marine conservation reserves.

Copies of the regulations are available from [www.slp.wa.gov.au/index.html](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/index.html)

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## Mapping the marine ecological communities of Shark Bay Marine Park

The Marine Conservation Branch (MCB) in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Land Management District offices, has an ongoing programme of developing broadscale maps of the shallow-water marine benthic habitats within existing marine conservation reserves. Marine benthic habitat data have been identified as being essential biological information for the day to day management of the State's marine conservation reserves.

Recently, the MCB and the Shark Bay District have undertaken a two-week survey of marine benthic habitats in Shark Bay Marine Park. This collaborative survey targeted areas that were as yet unclassified. Over 260 ground-truth sites were recorded and these data have been used in the upgrading of the broadscale map of marine benthic habitats. The survey highlighted areas of unusual habitat such as algal mat-covered soft sediments and algal turf-covered shell sediments.

Future habitat mapping work in the Shark Bay marine reserves will include the ground-truthing of mangals, saltmarsh and mudflats, identifying the spatial extent of coral reef communities and the development of a broadscale habitat map for the Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve.

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*Management of dugongs in Shark Bay will benefit from recent benthic mapping in the area.*



*Ray Lawrie, from the MCB delivered and installed the new GIS system in Exmouth*

## Marine information System

The Ningaloo Marine Park Information System, described in the November 2001 issue of *Marine Conservation Matters*, has been successfully installed in the Exmouth District office. All available relevant ecological and social data have been assembled in a user-friendly information framework and delivered using Arcview software. The system is housed on a dedicated GIS workstation and will support management decision making by the District as well as providing a framework for ongoing marine data and information gathering. Information management tools, developed by the Department's Information Management Branch, have been included to aid systematic data capture and to ensure consistency with Departmental practices. In addition, protocols and training for further project and data management have been delivered to ensure that new data feed into the Department's corporate information system. For effective use, this system assumes a base knowledge of geographic information principles and software, equivalent to that currently available in Departmental GIS training programs.

The Ningaloo Marine Park Information System is, in effect, a prototype marine specific GIS system and will provide the basis for all existing and proposed marine reserves for the construction and distribution of marine GIS systems in the future.

It should be noted that much of the data in the system is supplied by custodians other than the Department of Conservation and Land Management and is licensed for Departmental use only.

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## Whale shark research in Ningaloo Marine Park

Whale shark research in Ningaloo Marine Park in April this year uncovered some interesting new data about these massive creatures. Assisted by staff from the Department's Exmouth district, scientists from the Australian Institute of Marine Science and CSIRO undertook a collaborative research project with funding assistance from Woodside Energy and National Geographic. The research is part of an on-going research effort to understand critical aspects of whale shark ecology that will assist the Department's management of the growing tourism industry centred around these animals.

During 11 days in April, the movements of whale sharks were investigated using acoustic and satellite tags. Some whale sharks were swimming close to the seabed and along submarine ridges located about three to four miles seaward of, and parallel to, the outer reef of Ningaloo Marine Park. The ridges were at a depth of about 40-60 m and video cameras were used to find out what was attracting the whale sharks. The ridges were found to be teeming with both bait fish and plankton; favourite food of the whale shark. Satellite tags were also attached to two whale sharks to investigate their movements over longer periods of several months. One whale shark is still being tracked and was recorded heading towards Christmas Island in early May.

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*A whale shark in the Ningaloo Marine Park. Photo courtesy of Jeremy Coleman*



*Dead fish in Coral Bay.*

## Fish kill in Ningaloo Marine Park

This year's annual coral spawning event resulted in the deaths of about one million fish and a significant amount of coral in the Coral Bay area of Ningaloo Marine Park. It is the most significant fish and coral kill caused by deoxygenation as a result of the coral spawning since the 1989 event which caused widespread mortality of reef animals over an area of about three square kilometres. Fish such as moray eels, surgeon fish, damselfish, angelfish, mullet and northwest snapper were found washed up on the beach. The most extensive area of coral mortality was between Fletcher Hill and Monks Head.

Unlike the 1989 event, which killed a diverse range of corals, this year only the *Acropora* species (branching and tabular corals) appear to have been affected. The spawning, which usually begins seven to ten days after the full moon in March or April, occurred at Coral Bay this year between 4-7 April. A day after the spawning started local staff received reports that coral spawn slicks were evident between Monks Head and Point Maud and they remained there for several days. The coral spawn slick disperses quickly in most years but this year the calm conditions meant that it remained along the shore for a number of days causing a lethal reduction in the levels of dissolved oxygen in the water.

This natural event has resulted in another significant loss in live coral cover in the Bay. Coral recovery in the area has been monitored regularly by both the Department and the Australian Institute of Marine Science since 1989.

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Bleached coral at Scott reef. Photo courtesy of Australian Institute of Marine Science

## Water temperature monitoring in tropical marine parks

The issue of coral 'bleaching', caused by elevated water temperatures as a result of global warming, has become a concern for marine park managers around the world. Coral deaths in many reef systems of the Indo-Pacific, including the Maldives, Seychelles, Scott Reef, Indonesia, Philippines, Japan and the Great Barrier Reef, during the bleaching event of 1998 alerted marine park managers to the need for action. A similar event in early 2002 on the Great Barrier Reef is considered the worst bleaching event on record. Monitoring water temperatures and identifying areas of unusually warm water provides an important early warning system of the health of our tropical marine parks.

The Marine Conservation Branch (MCB) in collaboration with the Exmouth and West Kimberley District offices of the Department of Conservation and Land Management has been monitoring lagoonal water temperatures at sites within Ningaloo Marine Park since July 2000 and Rowley Shoals Marine Park since December 2000. The data are being used to conduct correlation analyses between the lagoonal water temperatures (*in-situ* data) and the offshore sea-surface temperatures (SST) measured from satellite-based sensors, to assess the suitability of using satellite based SSTs as an indicator of lagoonal water temperatures in the marine parks.

A collaborative partnership has been formed for this project between Dr Marguerite Toscano of the USA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the MCB. The results of the analyses will be presented by Dr Toscano at the Australasian Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Association conference in Brisbane, September 2002. A scientific paper on this work is in preparation and will be co-authored by Dr Toscano, Nick D'Adamo and Judy Davidson.

**Contact:** Nick D'Adamo, Senior Oceanographer, Marine Conservation Branch.  
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## Coastal interpretation signs for Marmion Marine Park

The City of Stirling and the City of Joondalup have recently upgraded part of the promenade, or dual pathway, adjacent to Marmion Marine Park. With excellent views out to sea and high levels of visitation, the pathway provides an opportunity to construct signs that raise community awareness of the values of Marmion Marine Park and explain the Western Australian marine reserve program.

A series of 21 small signs are to be mounted on existing walls around alcove seating areas adjacent to the southern section of the park. The northern section of the park will be serviced by an additional nine signs at high use areas such as Mullaloo and Burns Beach observation decks and at key sites along the dual pathway.

The signs will have a low visual impact to ensure that they do not detract from the view and each one will feature a short snippet of information which is intended to provide food for thought as visitors focus on the ocean.

The project is a cooperative effort involving staff from the Swan Coastal District, Visitor Interpretation Services and the Marine Conservation Branch in liaison with the City of Stirling and City of Joondalup and the Friends of Marmion Marine Park.

**Contact:** John Edwards, Nature Conservation Officer (Marine), Swan Coastal District  
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From left to right, John Edwards, Britt Anderson and Gil Field planning interpretation signage for Marmion Marine Park



## Turtle interpretation platform for Ningaloo Marine Park

A new turtle interpretation platform will be constructed adjacent to Ningaloo Marine Park, near the Vlamingh Head lighthouse, later this year. Construction of the project, a collaboration between the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Shire of Exmouth and the Exmouth Tourist Bureau, will start in August.

The area has become a popular tourist destination between November and April each year when green and loggerhead turtles come ashore to lay eggs. Up to 1000 turtles migrate from as far afield as the Northern Territory, the Gulf of Carpentaria and from Indonesia to nest in the northern section of Ningaloo Marine Park each year. However, these animals are easily disturbed by tourists and the new platform will play a crucial role in the development of a sustainable turtle tourism interaction industry for Ningaloo Marine Park.

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*A turtle interpretation platform will assist the turtle tourism industry in Ningaloo Marine Park.*

## Marmion Marine Park - gaining an understanding of human usage

Marmion Marine Park is used by a large and ever-increasing number of recreational users. An understanding of the changing patterns of types and locations of human usage is essential for effective park management. Swan Coastal District is currently working with the Marine Conservation Branch and Murdoch University to identify trends in the types and locations of human usage within the Marmion Marine Park and to identify the most cost-effective methods of gathering human usage data.



*Effective park management relies on an understanding of human usage  
Photo by Jiri Lochman, courtesy of Department of Fisheries*

An aerial survey of the marine park was recently undertaken to obtain a 'snap-shot' of the number and types of recreational users. The locations and numbers of participants in activities such as power-boating, swimming, surfing and jet-skiing were made using a combination of video camera footage, still photography and observation counting techniques.

In addition to the data obtained by aerial surveillance, the study of human usage will incorporate patrol data collected by Swan Coastal District staff over the past several years and data from other agencies such as the Department of Fisheries, the Department for Planning and Infrastructure, Fremantle Port Authority and Local Authorities.

The findings of this study will help assess the potential impacts that recreational activities may have on the ecological values of the Marmion Marine Park, and this information will assist with the review of the *Marmion Marine Park Management Plan 1992-2002*. The research will also further refine the operational methods currently used by District staff to monitor trends in human usage.

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## MARINE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT

### Facilitation of marine research

#### Seven honours projects begin in the proposed Jurien Bay and existing Ningaloo marine parks

In October 2001, the Marine Conservation Branch (MCB) advertised its 2002 list of marine research honours topics to local universities in order to seek academic interest in conducting research relevant to management in marine conservation reserves (see the November 2001 issue of *Marine Conservation Matters*). Topics were designed to match specific informational requirements of management and geared to assist District staff address high priority management strategies through the harnessing and facilitation of student interest in research relevant to marine conservation.

The initiative, coordinated by Nick D'Adamo through the MCB's Research Portfolio, had spawned eight high quality research projects at the beginning of May 2002, through the University of Western Australia, and both Curtin and Murdoch Universities. The projects comprise seven for the proposed Jurien Bay Marine Park and one for the Ningaloo Marine Park. In each case, the MCB has assisted students and supervisors in: developing objectives and methods; providing a limited amount of financial support; and, facilitating liaison with, and support from, relevant District staff and Departmental Branches (e.g. the Indigenous Heritage Unit).

Projects commenced so far for Ningaloo Marine Park comprise:

- Assessment of human-induced coastal degradation; and;

for the proposed Jurien Bay Marine Park:

- Characterisation of the flora and fauna of selected inter-tidal reef platforms;
- Assessment of the nature, level and potential impacts of human activities on inter-tidal reef platforms;
- Understanding the heritage significance of the proposed park to Elders of the area;
- Establishing baseline physical and chemical water quality characteristics;
- The distribution and abundance of the 100 million year old living mollusc, *Campanile symbolicum*;
- Modelling of the hydrodynamics; and
- Characterisation of the surficial sediments.

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### Unique and unexplored

The Recherche Advisory Group (RAG), a non-Government organisation, has committed to developing an educational program, titled 'Unique and Unexplored' which promotes the ecological values and sustainable uses of the Recherche Archipelago. The Recherche was identified in the 1994 *Report of the Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Working Group* as worthy of consideration as a future marine conservation reserve. To raise awareness of marine values in their own community, and therefore to reduce the risk of high impact development proposals, RAG has applied for the Australian Government Envirofund (Natural Heritage Trust funds for local community projects) to implement an extensive education program. RAG's objective is to promote sustainable use and management of the Recherche Archipelago by:

- fostering scientific research;
- raising awareness through education; and,
- involving the community in the development of a management plan.

The education program will be implemented by interested volunteers who have knowledge of the Recherche's magnificent and mostly pristine marine environment. RAG will also be supported by scientists from the University of Western Australia who, in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Land Management, are currently undertaking an extensive benthic habitat mapping exercise of the Recherche Archipelago.

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Town beach in Esperance Bay



## OTHER NEWS

### Marine sanctuaries: a new brochure

The establishment and management of *marine sanctuaries*, or no-take areas, remains the focus of much community debate. Fuelled by this debate, and in response to repeated requests from commercial fishers, marine resource managers, government officials, conservation activists and interested citizens, an international team of scientists was convened in 1997 to develop a succinct, non-technical but scientifically accurate summary of scientific knowledge about *marine sanctuaries*. Their summary is known as the *Scientific Consensus Statement* and it has been signed by 161 leading marine scientists and experts on marine reserves.

The statement concludes that *marine sanctuaries* help conserve marine biodiversity and assist in the management of fish stocks and that existing scientific information justifies the immediate establishment of *marine sanctuaries* as a central management tool.

To raise community awareness of the concept and benefits of *marine sanctuaries* and to assist with community debate regarding the establishment of marine sanctuaries in Western Australia, the Marine Conservation Branch has produced a brochure entitled *Marine sanctuaries: insurance for a sustainable future*. This brochure complements the more technical report *No-take Areas in Marine Management* that was published in 1999. If you would like a copy of the brochure or booklet, please contact the Marine Conservation Branch.

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The new Marine Sanctuaries  
brochure

### Strategic Research Fund for the Marine Environment (SRFME) - update

Scientific studies in SRFME's three 'core' projects are now well underway, with the initiation of the *biophysical oceanography project*, involving regular cross-shelf monitoring of the nutrient, plankton, nekton and physical characteristics of the near-shore, mid-shelf and continental slope area off Two Rocks. This project will examine how climatic and hydrological forcings influence the biological productivity of the coastal waters at seasonal and annual time scales and links with the *integrated modelling project*. The modelling project involves the implementation of integrated biophysical models for the cross-shelf waters, and the biophysical measurements will be used to calibrate and validate the models.

The third link in the chain of core projects is the *coastal ecosystem and biodiversity management project*, which aims to improve the understanding of marine ecosystem dynamics and responses to natural and anthropogenic influences in order to support environmental management decision making. This project links with, and will obtain guidance from, the other two projects, because of the physical and biological inter-connectivity between the shelf and the nearshore zone.

The Department's involvement in SRFME continues through Marine Conservation Branch representation on the Technical Advisory Committee (Nick D'Adamo) and Joint Venture Management Committee (Dr Chris Simpson). The recent work of these committees has included the assessment and selection of doctoral projects for funding under SRFME, as well as the commencement of the process of evaluating proposals for the so-called 'collaborative' projects, which will entail collaborative research initiatives between universities and Government agencies. Ten, three-year PhD scholarships have now been awarded and two million dollars have been set aside for the collaborative projects. Past reports on SRFME can be found in the July 2000, June 2001 and February 2002 issues of *Marine Conservation Matters*.

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## Exmouth Sea Life Festival

The Outback Coast Sea Life Festival 2002 was held at Exmouth from 28 April to 4 May. Organised by *Oceannenvironment* in collaboration with Outback Coast Tourism, it was aimed at promoting the Ningaloo Reef and attracted international photographers such as Stan Waterman (five times Emmy winner) and David Doubilet (resident photographer for National Geographic).

Cash and prizes worth \$US 50,000 attracted 48 participants from around the world. Activities included education seminars, photographic workshops and opportunities to explore the Ningaloo Reef. Competitors took photographs and video footage of megafauna such as whale sharks, manta rays and general coral reef scenes. The Navy Pier to the North of Exmouth was a very popular spot with the photographers and many contestants saying it was the best pier dive in the world and the best dive in Australia.

The Sea Life Festival was opened by the Hon Tom Stephens MLC and the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Exmouth District Manager, Jenny Cary, spoke about conservation values and management of the Ningaloo Marine Park. International photographers told stories of their visits to the Ningaloo Reef, the changes they had observed over the years and how much they liked visiting the area.

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National and international photographers were attracted to the Ningaloo coast for this years Sea Life festival in Exmouth  
Photo courtesy of Mick Eidam



This years AMSA conference logo

## Australian Marine Science Association (AMSA) 2002 national conference

The Australian Marine Sciences Association 2002 National Conference will be held in Fremantle 10-12 July 2002. The theme of the national conference is *Tropical Temperate Transitions* and will provide a valuable opportunity for a diverse and widespread group of delegates working within, or studying, the marine environment to come together, share information and strengthen collaborative ties.

During the conference, three concurrent sessions will be run daily, covering 13 session themes such as Assessment of Ecosystem Health, Marine Protected Areas and Introduced Marine Pests. The Marine Conservation Branch (MCB) will have a strong involvement in the national conference with staff members Liesl Jonker and Tim Grubba sitting on the AMSA Western Australia conference committee. During the conference, MCB's Senior Marine Planner, Andrew Hill will chair the session on Marine Protected Areas. A number of MCB staff including Nick D'Adamo and Tim Grubba will also present during this session. Their presentations will showcase Western Australia's marine reserve planning and implementation process, habitat mapping and monitoring programs. The session is expected to provide a good overview of marine protected areas in Australia and provide a forum to generate discussion about the management of marine protected areas.

Further details on the conference are available through the AMSA WA conference web site:  
<http://amsawa.murdoch.edu.au/conf/index.html>

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## STAFF NEWS

### Marine conservation seminar series

The Marine Conservation Branch would like to thank the following presenters:

- **Dr Ian Elliot** from the University of Western Australia who spoke about 'Sheltered Coasts – Exmouth to Port Kennedy' on 24 April.
- **Rachel Siewert** from the Conservation Council of WA who spoke about 'Marine Protected Areas: A Conservation Council view' on 8 May.
- **Dr Andrew Heyward** from the Australian Institute of Marine Science who spoke about 'Marine and coastal impacts of global warming' on 22 May.
- **Luke Smith** from the Australian Institute of Marine Science who spoke about 'Coral reefs of the far north' on 5 June.
- **Associate Professor Charitha Pattiaratchi** from the University of Western Australia who spoke about 'Continental shelf processes between Abrolhos Islands and North-West Cape' on 19 June.

The midday marine seminar series continues with presentations at the Marine Conservation Branch office at 47 Henry Street in Fremantle as follows:

- 3 July - Walking on a tightrope: Sustainability issues facing Rottnest Island.** Presented by Claire Wright from the Rottnest Island Authority.
- 17 July - Marine Conservation in the UK: Recent developments.** Presented by Jim Burt from English Nature.
- 31 July - Marine geology research on the Western Australian continental margin.** Presented by Dr Lindsay Collins from Curtin University.
- 14 Aug. - Ecology of the bottlenose dolphins of Cockburn Sound and the Swan River.** Presented by Hugh Finn from Murdoch University.
- 28 Aug. - Woodside's environmental studies, offshore North West Cape.** Presented by Francis Baronie from Woodside Petroleum
- 11 Sept. - Implementation of bycatch reduction devices in Western Australian trawl fisheries.** Presented by Dr Mervi Kangas from the Department of Fisheries
- 25 Sept. - Location of marine protected areas: Some insights from fish distribution data and complementarity analysis.** Presented by Dr Lynnath Beckley from Murdoch University.

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### Staff profile

#### Roland Mau

A fascination with whale sharks and a keen interest to work in a regional office attracted 34-year-old Roland Mau to his current job in Exmouth. He took up his position as Marine Conservation Officer at the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Exmouth District Office in August last year.

German-born, Roland migrated to Australia with his family in 1981 and grew up in Sydney. He has an Associate Diploma in Mechanical Engineering and a Bachelor of Applied Science (first class honours) in Coastal Management from Southern Cross University in New South Wales.

His previous employment has included working for the state Parks and Wildlife Service in northern New South Wales and as a university research assistant. A keen diver, he has also worked overseas for over two years as a dive instructor at the Red Sea in Egypt and at the Maldive Islands. Roland moved to Exmouth from Cairns where he worked for the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service's Marine Parks Division as part of the unit responsible for the day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef.

Roland is currently working on several projects in Ningaloo Marine Park including developing a turtle conservation program, managing users at Coral Bay, whale shark research and management and day-to-day management of the Ningaloo Marine Park. He is passionate about conservation and Ningaloo Reef and enjoys sea kayaking in the marine park.



## Staff Movements

**Mat Cork**, who spent 14 months at the Marine Conservation Branch working on the review of the Ningaloo Management Plan, recently resigned to pursue work in Oman. In his new job, Mat will be undertaking field surveys to evaluate ecologically sustainable hiking and climbing ecotourism opportunities in both Oman and neighbouring Yemen. During his time at the Marine Conservation Branch, Mat made a valuable contribution to the review of the Ningaloo Marine Park Management Plan, and at the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority in his role as Executive Officer. We wish Mat luck in his new ventures.

**Karen Wheeler** has joined the Marine Conservation Branch on a 12 month contract from Murdoch University. Karen will work as a Marine Conservation Officer on stage three of the Marine Community Monitoring Project. This will involve evaluating the monitoring methods with community groups and, if appropriate, refining the methods. Welcome Karen.

**John Lloyd** was seconded to the Marine Conservation Branch from the Swan Region in mid February to work as a Senior Project Officer. John is currently working with Districts to develop marine reserve 'work plans' that are better aligned with MPRA and Departmental priorities. He has been employed with the Department for over twelve years, previously working as the District Manager for the Departments Mundaring and Manjimup Districts. John recently completed his Master of Marine Management at Dalhousie University in Halifax. Welcome John.

**John Edwards** has been appointed as Nature Conservation Officer (Marine) for the Swan Coastal District. John takes up the position after five years as Ranger in Charge Marine Parks. Congratulations on your appointment John.

**Britt Anderson** has recently joined the Marine Conservation Branch as a Marine Projects Officer on a casual basis. Britt most recently worked as the Education Officer on Rottnest Island and is now using her expertise to help coordinate a signage project within Marmion Marine Park.

**Arvid Hogstrom** from Exmouth district has been on exchange in Alaska and returned home in early June. Welcome back.

**Danny Rosenkrans** was Arvid's exchange partner. He left Exmouth to return to Alaska in mid May. The Department has appreciated the valuable contribution that Danny has made by providing a new perspective on environmental issues.

**Shawn Thomas** has taken up residence in Coral Bay as Ranger. He is on secondment from Serpentine National Park for six months and will be working with Bruce Bond.

**Josie Dean** has started work as an Information Officer at the Milyering Visitor Centre adjacent to Ningaloo Marine Park. Welcome Josie.

**Jon Van Den Broek** has joined the Exmouth management team as Park Maintenance Worker for Cape Range National Park. Welcome Jon.

**Daniel Cocks** has begun a traineeship with the Department in Shark Bay in close conjunction with the Yadgalah Aboriginal Corporation. Welcome Daniel.

Previous issues of Marine Conservation Matters can be found at:

[www.naturebase.net/national\\_parks/marine\\_splash.html](http://www.naturebase.net/national_parks/marine_splash.html)



Issue 4 - November 2001



Issue 6 - February 2002

Marine Conservation Matters is produced by the Marine Conservation Branch of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, to broadcast up-to-date information about marine conservation activities in the Department. If you have any queries regarding our newsletter please contact Dr Sue Osborne at the Marine Conservation Branch. Ph: (08) 9336 0100, Fax: (08) 9430 5408 or email: [sueo@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:sueo@calm.wa.gov.au)