

Values on the Kimberley Coast

Written by Kandy Curran, Wednesday 20 April 2016



The first all-female line-up for the Science on the Broome Coast series

Image: Kandy Curran

Surrounded by a striking display of indigenous artworks from the Kimberley, four social scientists from Murdoch University and The University of Western Australia presented their research findings on April 4th, to an enthusiastic Broome audience.

The presentation, *Values and aspirations for coastal waters of the Kimberley*, delivered by Dr Jennifer Strickland-Munro, Professor Susan Moore, Dr Halina Kobryn and Alaya Spencer-Cotton, was full of firsts.

The first social science presentation for the Science on the Broome Coast series, the first to be held at The University of Notre Dame, and the first all-female line-up of scientists.

The values project, which included an online survey was funded by the Western Australian Government and covered a coastline 13,296 km in length at low water mark - from the islands at the southwest of Eighty Mile Beach to the Northern Territory border.

Over three years, scientists documented and analysed the social values and aspirational opinions of residents and visitors to the region, in relation to the existing and proposed marine parks at Eighty Mile Beach, Roebuck Bay, Lalang-garram (Camden Sound) and North Kimberley, as well as the other coastal waters of the Kimberley.

The questions from the audience were lively and informed, with the tea and coffee facilities providing an ideal opportunity for the visiting scientists to mingle with the local community.

The series

In years gone by, scientists undertaking research in the Kimberley would only transit in Broome for essential supplies before travelling into the region.

More recently however, the town by the bay has become a favourite stopover for scientists, with the community and visitors eager to learn about the research underway along the Kimberley coast.

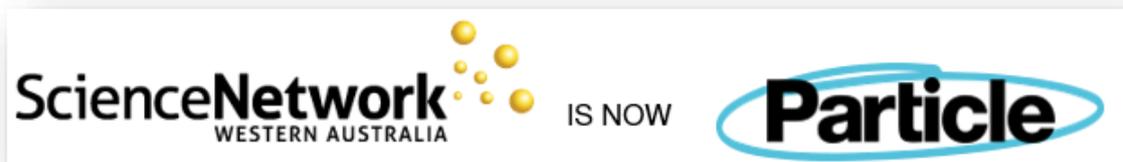
The innovative science series that started in 2014, is the creation of the Roebuck Bay Working Group, Yawuru Land and Sea Unit, Inspiring Australia and Rangelands NRM.

The initiative enables scientists to showcase their scientific work to promote science, and to pass on information that contributes to better management and understanding of the extraordinary values of the Kimberley coast.

The next Science on the Broome Coast presentation is **Secrets of Marine Stingers** on May 4, 2016 at the University of Notre Dame Multipurpose Hall.

This Science on the Broome Coast series is sponsored by Inspiring Australia, The University of Notre Dame Broome, Yawuru Land and Sea Unit, Western Australia Marine Science Institution, Rangelands NRM through the Federal Government Landcare Program and Department of Parks and Wildlife.

See the 2016 Science on Broome Coast program and posters for each presentation.



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