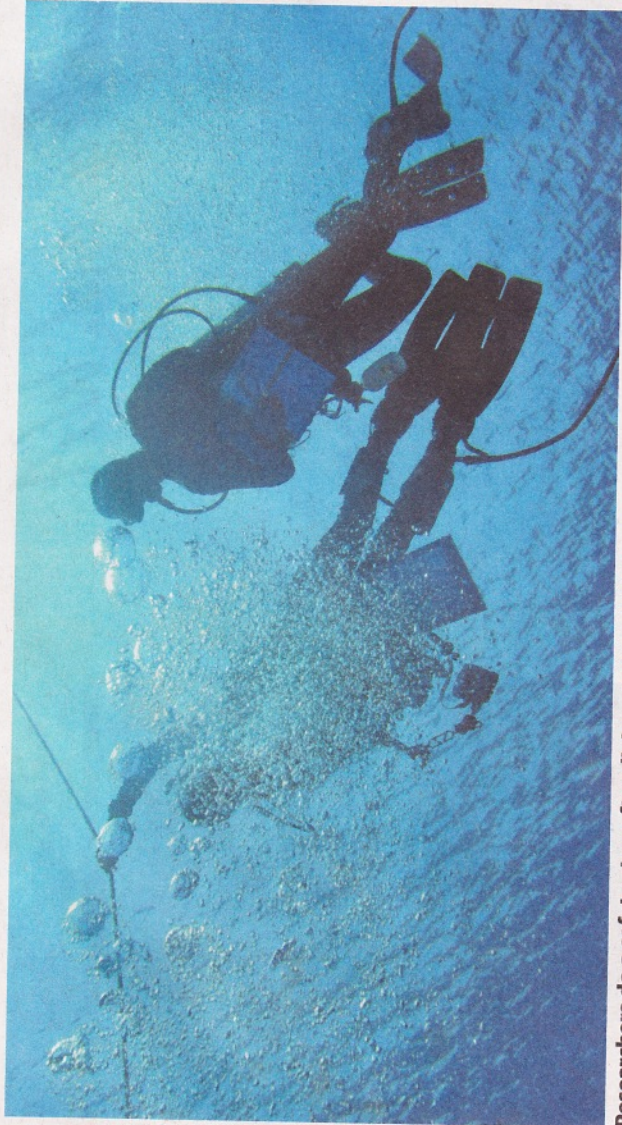


Survey uncovers more of final frontier



Researchers do a safety stop after diving. Pictures: WA Museum

■ Michelle Wheeler

Chemicals from sponges which could help fight cancer, plus species of barnacle, crab and coral never before seen have been uncovered following a marine survey of the Kimberley last year.

The WA Museum-led project studied worms, crustaceans, molluscs, echinoderms, fish, corals and marine plants in the region for two and a half weeks in October as part of a study that will run until 2015.

WA Museum senior project officer Clay Bryce said there were a lot of great discoveries on the trip and it would take a good 12 months to get a handle on what they had collected.

"There was a species of barnacle called *Nobia* which is a burrowing barnacle that lives inside coral," he said.

"There was a couple of possibly new species of soft coral."

The visit was the second of four field trips in the study and included surveys from White Island to Jameson Reef, Browse Island and two isolated shoals.

Mr Bryce said every time they went diving they found something new.

"If you look at things like the soft corals and sponges, most of those



A series of behind-the-scenes video clips will be released.

have been unrecorded anywhere in the world so the number of new species is quite significant," he said.

"In fact we find new species at such a high rate that we can't put names on them we have to put numbers on them at the moment, we just don't have time to describe them and put a proper name on them because there's just too many."

Mr Bryce said he believed there were still a lot more to be found in the Kimberley.

"Because not very much has been done up there in the past, it's a vast unknown area," he said.

"It really is Australia's, if not one of the world's, last frontiers for biological science."



Josie Farrer One of Our Mob

WA Labor will establish the \$300 million Northern Health Initiative



"I support Josie Farrer and I urge you to support her too."

Dr Michael Kimberley Doctor

WA Labor will deliver better hospitals and improved health services to regional WA.