

daughters and I his three angels," Mrs McDonald said.

"After he passed we decided to start the business to honour him.

"This business has been such a success for us and it really has kept us very busy."

Money raised from ticket sales and donations on the night went to the Royal Flying Doctor Service, who had nurses and a pilot in attendance. Nurse Jo Smallshaw was

Ms Mahar said there was no doubt the event would return.

"I think it's really important to keep holding events such as these and making them really special.

"More than anything, I hope these events inspire women to get out there and achieve their goals."

Details on similar events in the future can be found on the Broome Business Belles Facebook page.

native title holders affected by the recent decision of the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia in the McGlade decision.

"The Senate Committee's recommendations support changes to the Act that will create greater certainty for native title groups, government and industry whose agreements may no longer be valid," Mr Hunter said.

## Applications open for business awards

■ **Jakeb Waddell**

Small businesses can seek big opportunities by applying for the 2017 Broome Small Business Awards.

The awards recognise the achievements of Broome's hardest-working businesses and give them the opportunity to progress to the WA Regional Awards.

Broome Chamber of Commerce and Industry chief executive Jael Napper said applying would be beneficial for businesses.

"Applying is a rewarding experience in itself," she said.

"It gives owners and staff the opportunity to measure their



**Karl and Simone Kapiteyn, Jael Napper, Zoe and Matthew Sear and Peter Jenkinson at last year's Regional Small Business Awards.**

success and allows them to really focus on business plans."

Matthew Sear was successful at last year's awards after his company, Best IT & Business Solutions, won the community engagement and the business 11-

20 employees awards. Mr Sear said winning the two awards opened the door for him and led to opportunities for further recognition.

"Winning gave me the chance to really get my business out there," he said.

"My favourite thing about the Small Business Awards is that it encourages people to be innovative and really engage in the community."

Ms Napper is hoping a Broome Business will win a State award this year, believing it is long overdue.

Applications are open until May 5 via [broomechamber.com.au](http://broomechamber.com.au).

## Evidence of illegal fishing technique

■ **Robert Dougherty**

Broome anglers could be taking more than their fair share of the catch, according to the Department of Fisheries.

The new information came after a number of threadfin salmon were found dead near Crab Creek in March, with evidence of recreational fishermen practising "high-grading".

The illegal technique involves anglers catching their daily bag limit of salmon and continuing to catch bigger fish, returning smaller dead ones to the water.

Department of Fisheries northern region compliance manager Stuart McDowall said the fish found could have died due to high water temperatures, exhaustion or contact with boats; however, there was evidence of

high-grading, because one salmon had been partially decapitated.

"It is possible these fish have been caught and returned by recreational fishers," he said.

McDowall said the practise places additional pressure on fish stocks and the department encouraged anglers to target different species after taking their bag limit of Threadfin.