



Sarah Curran Ragan
Research Assistant • 1993 - 1995



What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

I started at the Lighthouse in 1993 until 1995 as an RA on the bottlenose dolphin photo-identification project. My main role was to conduct the fieldwork (taking photos of dorsal fins, behavioural observations, environmental observation) and then work up the images for the database. My role was sponsored by the WDCS at the time so I was also involved in their adopt-a-dolphin project. I had opportunity to help out with many other projects while I was there. I have very fond memories of my short time at the Lighthouse.

What are you doing now ?

After leaving the Lighthouse, I worked in the Philippines with local fishing communities in sustainable development. I went on to research coral reef ecology and conservation in Tanzania before running a marine research station in Indonesia for two years. I moved to Western Australia in 2005 to lead the State's Marine Pollution Unit for the WA Government, before taking the role of Senior Marine Scientist with ERM, a consultancy in Perth. I am heavily involved with science journalism and photography and have been published in magazines in 30 countries. I won the Best of The Decade Award in Asian Geographic Magazine, for my article on whaling in the Southern Ocean.

I started Little Genius Science in 2016, promoting and providing STEM subjects in novel and inspiring ways to primary and secondary aged students across WA. Most recently I was given a highly commended award for the best of STEM Communicators, for my work in the region. I went on to coordinate the region's Science Hub, as part of the Australian government's commitment to encourage STEM engagement. I now specialise in STEM engagement across the community and am involved with a range of initiatives such as the inaugural Quantum Words (science meets art) Festival in Perth. I sit on school boards and, since 2018, have been a Scientist in Residence for one of Perth's top private colleges.

What advice would you give someone who wants to follow in your footsteps ?

Assume you can do it until someone says you can't.

