



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**  
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**GMAS and Busselton Jetty creating artificial reef with 3D printers**

3D printing, wood and metal has been used to investigate building an Artificial Reef at the end of the Busselton Jetty with 45 year 9 GMAS students assisted by Jetty Marine Scientists Sophie Teede and Amy Gornall.

The marine project was the culmination of 6 months of student work in Marine Engineering at GMAS led by teacher Steven Riddell and Fr. Earle Chamberlain.

Students were tasked with researching, designing and constructing a Marine Growth Tile to create an artificial reef for marine creatures to build their homes. Each of the student's tiles were then attached to a pyramid frame, before being placed into the sea.

"Students completed research, then used Tinkercad software to create 3D models which assisted them visualise their tiles before creation," said Mr Riddell.

"They then used a variety of different mediums including wood, metal, textured holes and colours as well as 3D printing."

Busselton Jetty divers then installed the pyramid frame into the ocean where new ocean growth on it will be monitored, retrieved and studied. The results can be used as part of the Jetty's pile rehabilitation program and also in designing future artificial reefs as part of the Australian Underwater Discovery Centre.

Ms Teede, an award-winning expert in marine biofouling said that it was wonderful to work with the students encouraging their thoughts about marine structures existing in harmony with the environment. "As a coastal nation, man-made structures are prevalent in the marine environment, but there is no need for this to be negative if we utilise available technologies and knowledge"

Busselton Jetty CEO Lisa Shreeve said it was encouraging that GMAS was running marine engineering as a course in Busselton and that further work was being investigated to bring the national Marine Habitat and Conservation Certificate program to the Western Australia, with practical units hopefully delivered at the Busselton Jetty, for aspiring marine biologists and future employment in marine industries.

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