



BICTON

Speaking out pays off

BICTON local and Curtin University PhD student Sarah Marley sure can talk, but it was not always her strength.

Once too embarrassed to speak publicly, she was crowned 2014 Three Minute Thesis (3MT) champion at the Trans-Tasman final in Perth this month after beating out 47 other contestants from Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Ms Marley, a first-year PhD student at Curtin's Centre for Marine Science and Technology, said the competition gave her the opportunity to preach to a captive audience and share her fascination for the marine environment with others.

The annual research communication competition challenges higher degree students by giving them only three minutes to deliver a compelling presentation



Bicton local and Curtin University PhD student Sarah Marley shares her passion with an audience.

to a non-specialist audience about their thesis.

Her thesis, Behavioural and Acoustic Responses of Coastal Dolphins to Noisy Environments, investigates how coastal dolphins are responding to increasing levels of man-made noise in the ocean, which threatens to mask their means of communication.

"Four years ago I couldn't even present my research to a small group of friends without getting embarrassed and reading word-for-word from a script. So to now enjoy presenting to this degree is something I am both amazed at and extremely proud of," she said.

Ms Marley said she was a firm believer in

science communication, as there was no point doing research if no one was going to be told about it.

"Previously there has been a strong focus on presenting research academically, through conference talks and journal articles, but it is just as important to communicate research to the general public," she said.