



Dolphin discourse ... Three Minute Thesis winner Sarah Marley.

Three minutes to thrill

Doctoral students from 48 Australian and international universities had three minutes to convince a panel of judges their research was most worthy at a University of WA event.

Developed by the University of Queensland, the Trans-Tasman Three Minute Thesis competition is designed to challenge students to present a compelling speech about their thesis.

Participants in Monday's competition were judged on their ability to deliver their topics clearly to a non-specialist audience, avoiding academic jargon.

Curtin University student Sarah Marley won the competition with her presentation titled: "Say what? Coastal dolphins and noisy environments."

Ms Marley's research is in the field of applied physics and focuses on the effect of noisy environments on dolphin acoustics.

The runner-up and people's choice award winner was Australian National University student Rosanna Stevens for her

presentation, "Now you see it".

Ms Stevens used a completely white slide to show how white culture can cover and obscure underlying black stories and culture.

She argued that whiteness was a covering that could make other important and real things invisible.

UWA was invited to host this year's competition after a UWA student, Kelsey Kennedy, took out the Trans-Tasman people's choice award last year.

Ms Kennedy was one of the judges this year.

The winner received \$5000 and runner-up won \$2000.

The competition was open to active PhD candidates and graduates were not eligible.

Doctoral students from Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong took part.

The Three Minute Thesis competition kicked off UWA's Research Week, which included a range of free activities and guest speakers.