



Scientist attacks topic of sharks

GIVEN what seems to be an increase in shark attacks in Western Australia, this month's UWA Skywest lecture held certain relevance.

UWA scientist Ryan Kempster presented his talk "Taking a Bite out of Fiction – When Sharks and Humans Interact" to a curious and engaged audience last Wednesday.

Mr Kempster, a marine neuroecologist, sought to dispel some of the sensationalist Hollywood perceptions of the ocean's top predators, and educate audiences as to the critical role they play in marine

ecosystems.

Mr Kempster along with other UWA scientists are trying to develop ways in which shark attacks can be prevented without harming the creatures, who are in danger from overfishing in Australia and around the world.

As well as the Skywest Lecture, Mr Kempster visited local schools, where he gave a modified version of his talk and sought to inspire students to pursue careers in science and technology.



● Sally Thomas, Catherine Macdonald and Richard Vogwill.



● Georgia Holman and Dylan Lehmann.



● UWA researcher Ryan Kempster with Bob Fitzpatrick.



● Alisdair Ross and Andrew Storrie.