

**MEDIA CLIPPINGS**

**Former Good Shepherd Student Giovanna Fasanelli  
Noosa News 20 August 2013**

**DIVING IN:** Noosa's marine biologist, Giovanna Fasanelli, is co-hosting the new Foxtel National Geographic series *Life on the Edge*.  
PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



# TV stardom for Noosa's 'sub girl'

By PETER GARDINER

BY THE time Giovanna Fasanelli moved to Sunshine Beach as a 15-year-old she was already captured by the ocean's tidal pull. And as she walked round the headlands on weekends, the desire to be a marine biologist grew stronger.

Now Giovanna, 31, is living her life dream, hosting Foxtel's National Geographic big splash – Australia: Life On The Edge, as the show's submersible pilot.

This TV series which debuted last Sunday, is billed as a "team of passionate experts on a quest along Australia's edge to uncover the stunning landscapes, incredible structures and fascinating people that shape our nation".

A love of sea life seeped into Giovanna on the beaches of her homeland South Africa.

"I started when I was very young – we had a holiday house there and I used to play in the rock pools," she said.

**Giovanna still a passionate local in her heart**

SOME of the amazing film adventures in debut series Australia: Life On The Edge, of Noosa-schooled marine biologist Giovanna Fasanelli, to date have included drift diving in the strong atoll currents off northern West Australia where they have 11m tides, swimming with 400kg Queensland gorgons, and "rocketing along on underwater scooters off Lady Elliot Island with rays".

Giovanna still considers herself a Noosa local, even though she has married and is based back in South Africa.

"We still have a house there, so I'll definitely be coming back for a visit," Giovanna said.

"I decided I wanted to be a marine biologist when I was 10 years old.

"I've stuck with that dream ever since I moved out to Australia when I was 15."

After finishing high school at the Good Shepherd Lutheran College in Noosaville, Giovanna studied at the James Cook University in Townsville and her volunteer work for an underwater film company attracted the interest of Andrew Ettingshausen.

She co-hosted his Escape with ET before discussing a pilot with Prospero Productions for a series based around her as "submarine girl" exploring Australia's watery environs.

"It's taken years to get it going and it now has four presenters, but it's a much bigger show," she said.

"I've been in Australia since January filming and getting my pilot's licence for the submersible has been the absolute highlight – it's what I've always dreamt of, my absolute passion."

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## Work and play in an octopus's garden

**UNDER THE SEA:** Noosa marine biologist Giovanna Fasanelli is co-hosting the new Foxtel National Geographic series *Life on the Edge* debuting this Sunday night.

READ ALL ABOUT IT ON PAGE 6

**Friends for life**  
— PAGE 8

