

## Kathleen Cox – Bio



Kathleen Cox lives at her community on the Dampier Peninsula where she and her husband John operate their tourism business called Goombaragin Eco Retreat in Pender Bay, just over two hours' drive north of Broome.

Kathleen, one of the original founding member of Ardi Indigenous Tourism Operators which was established in 2005 and represents the many tourism operations on the Dampier Peninsula. She believes that through ARDI many of the successful family based businesses will have a voice at the grassroots' level on how Indigenous and Cultural Tourism will play an important role in the future of tourism in the Kimberley.

She continues to be a passionate advocate for ARDI tourism and how the many great products it represents in accommodation choices, cultural tours, land and sea based tours, aquaculture, cafes, Arts and Crafts, local cuisine to destinations filled with gorgeous and colourful ancient coastlines, crystal clear waters, to tidal creek flats and the many other hidden gems that the ARDI region has to offer.

Kathleen believes that Indigenous and Cultural tourism plays an important role and is the key to linking in mainstream tourism with local people on the ground on country sharing their culture, stories, their aspirations, their journey and a destination for the potential visitor to experience that point of difference that separates ARDI as a tourism region from beyond Broome. ARDI encapsulates the essences of grassroots people and their lives and their businesses on country and it is being said that the tourism market shows that more and more visitors are seeking these types of experiences.

Kathleen is confident that ARDI will be a significant body in building new relationships within the tourism industry sector at a local and regional level and is now a recognised Indigenous tourism body at a state, national and international level as well. It is vital that ARDI is at the table in this new vision of the Kimberley and where to from here from a tourism perspective.