



CONTEST: Lucky Bay, in Cape Le Grand National Park in Western Australia, has been judged to have the whitest sand.

A thesis awaits in the sand

This week we brought you some argy-bargy over whether Hyams Beach at Jervis Bay had the whitest sand in the world – and the debate is getting feisty. The executive secretary of the Australian Academy of Science in Canberra, **Professor Sue Serjeantson**, emailed us yesterday this photograph of Lucky Bay in Cape Le Grand National Park in Western Australia – last month judged to have the whitest sand in the world, according to a committee of scientific experts, headed by **Noel Schoknecht**. Professor Serjeantson, who took this image of Lucky Bay last October reckoned, “I think we should tell Noel not to give

up his day job if he thinks Lucky Bay is the whitest beach!” Schoknecht conceded it was difficult “to define the whitest beach as beaches are in a dynamic environment and vary over time and space”. “Based on the samples received from each state and territory, Lucky Bay was the whitest by visual assessment.” Schoknecht said debate was bound to continue and he welcomed it, not least with Siesta Key in Florida also claiming to have the whitest and finest sand in the world. “I can see a PhD for me in this, sipping pina colodas on beaches around the globe,” he said, a little hopefully.