

UEC NEWS
JANUARY 2003



*The official monthly
newsletter for Underwater
Explorers Club of Western
Australia*

PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154

Phone: 0408 833 115

(President)

Email: uec@space.net.au

www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedure and to acquaint both Club Members and the public with the facts on safety and the use of safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

General Meetings

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are held every third Monday (except for Public Holidays) at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

Committee Contact Details:

President & Investments: Carmine Travaglione Phone: 9356 1311 a/h, mobile: 0408 833 115

Secretary & Vice President: Steve Larter Phone: 9291 9654 a/h, mobile: 0418 949 264

Treasurer: Geoff Charlton Phone: 9354 7917, mobile: 0419 390 089

Boat Officer: Peter Horton Phone: 9448 5809 a/h, mobile: 0417 930 124

Boat Officer: Gary Browne Phone: 9337 9836a/h, mobile: 0409 712 039

Dive Officer: Kerry Ashton Phone: 9331 2385 a/h

Training Officer: Mark Sach Phone: 9417 7008 a/h

Safety Officer: Mark Maddern Phone: 9293 3251 a/h, mobile: 0422 068 870

Equipment Officer: Sandy Webb Phone: 9339 5936 a/h, mobile: 0407 993 395

Social Officer: Malcolm Roberts Phone: 9276 6607 a/h, mobile: 0411 353 641

PR & Web Officer: Susie Ashton Phone: 9331 2385, mobile: 0417 993 141

UEC News Editor: Stina Frantzich Phone 9341 4612 a/h

Please notify editor if any of the above details are incorrect! Thank you!

Please turn over for all the latest UEC news and views!!!

From the Editor

Well hello again! Hope everyone had a lovely xmas and new year! Since the last issue of UEC News I have been burned by a bbq that blew up! A very scary experience which meant we did not make it to the xmas party at Carmine's...but I am sure you all had a lot of fun! We have also had my sister and her husband over from Sweden for 3 weeks so we have been very busy!

There are lots of things happening in the new year for UEC! The Australia Day cruise, tubing weekend, Hawaiian Night as well as - of course - DIVING!!! So get out there - and see Australia..as they say... but from below sea level! Thanks again to all the contributors in this month's newsletter and I hope you will enjoy the January issue of UEC News!

Stina

WANTED FOR WILDLIFE

Here is a message from Margaret & Bill! If anybody can donate any of the items listed below, please help!

A friend of ours is a Vet Nurse in Jandakot and a Wildlife Carer . They are in need of the following donations:

- Old Type Eskies, that's the Old Steel Type Grandad used to use. Good for keeping Joey's in.
- Aquariums any size and does not have to hold any water. Good for Bandicoots, Lizards, etc.
- Desk Lamps. They put heat globes in these for warming the Furless Babies and warming the lizards.
- An "incubator" would be priceless. We have been trying to find one but to date have had no luck.

We and the Animals would appreciate any of the above that you can give!!!

Margaret & Bill Pettigrew
Tel: 9434 5052

UEC Members complete the swim thru at Rottnest!

The 26th Swim Thru @ Rottnest was held on the 7th of December 2002. Times for participating members were as follows: Zita 37.35, Liz 48.25, Steve, 40.53, Muareen 41.29, Michelle 29.38 and Rex 34.15. Well done to all UEC competitors and their support team on the day. Rex has looked at the photos and there are some good shots along with the results at www.swimthrurotto.com
Congratulations to all our UEC participants!

Steve

From the President

Bugger The War!!

It seems the horticultural named president of the USA, BUSH, is hell-bent on having a fisty-cuff with another even more odious fellow with a pork-chop-like name (Sad Ham).

I believe they're arguing about who should take the Persian oil, bat and ball home.

There is very little we can do about these schoolyard bullies apart from ignore them and hope they go away, but wait, there is something we can do ——— We can go diving!

You don't follow my logic? It makes a lot more sense than MELANCHOLY-PORK and SMALL-TREE'S logic!!!

The weather on the weekend, for some time now, has not favoured diving; probably due to intense lows over Iraq and the USA. Having consulted a numerologist, I can assure you good weather is on the way, so get ready to dive. Incidentally, have you had your tanks tested?

How were your holidays?? Good I hope! For those not on the net (I've already sent this by e-mail), be advised that we have quite a few fulfilled and exciting events lined up for you:

- 1) Tubing at Wellington Dam.
- 2) Australia Day fireworks and river cruise.
- 3) Rottnest Mini holiday.....Just to mention a few.

The u-beaut wiz-bang echo sounder is, I believe, working well, and our astute Boat-persons are slowly but surely bringing our boat up to a top standard (recently, the injector tips have been replaced). I am certain our boat will eventually be perfect, but we are constrained into doing it up slowly, unless of course we win Lotto.

Now our debts are all paid, we as a club can relax a little and reappraise our direction. Where are we going and what sort of club do you, the members, expect it to be in say 5 to 10 years time? To find out what you the members want, the committee is going to come up with a questionnaire that will hopefully assist us in reflecting your requirements. This will probably be the best way to satisfy those who are happy and those who may want some concerns addressed. I am led to believe that some existing members are voicing their dissatisfactions to new members. I would prefer these complaints to reach the ears of those who may be able to do something about them. I am most assuredly aware that not everyone will be 100% happy all the time. As Winston Churchill said: -

"You can please some of the people, all of the time, and all of the people some of the time but you will never please all of the people all of the time."

Please all remember that any member is welcome to attend our committee meetings and request an audience and be heard by the full committee. This is the best and most effective way to air any concerns.

Carmine

Boat Report

Hi this will be a short boat report as I have only got 15 min before the deadline!

The new echo sounder has been fitted and it works well. All we want now is some good weather to try it out. Apart from a few minor electrical things the boat is going fine. We should have new injectors fitted by now and it will be a lot faster.

We will need to have a skippers training day again soon to get up to scratch with our new boat. This will be planned in the near future

Peter & Gary

WELCOME to our New Members!

Michael Watson, Perth
Andrew Robertson, Shelley

SAFETY SECTION

Happy New Year to everybody and I hope you all had a happy and safe festive season. We have been lumbered with some bad weather on the weekends towards the end of 2002, but hopefully that will change for the start of 2003 and a lot more diving will be happening.

On the safety side of things, discussions are still under way regarding the propeller guard. Peter is currently looking at the possibility of making one from stainless steel, so I will keep everybody updated with his progress. The rear steps of our new boat have been coated in a non-slip surface and comments from members have been positive about its effectiveness. It has also been brought to my attention that the ladder can be slippery for divers when exiting the water (and, of course, carrying 20 kg of dive gear magnifies this). Therefore the ladder will also be coated in non-slip adhesive tape very soon.

A couple of weeks ago I visited the new Maritime Museum in Fremantle - lots of information about the history of boating and fishing in Western Australia. There was some information about pearl and military diving and the activities of Jack Sue during WWII. Unfortunately, there was little about the history of recreational diving and the contribution that Underwater Explorers have made over the years. The club provided the first diver training in the state and discovered many wrecks around Rottnest. Perhaps there might be room in the new museum for an Underwater Explorers Club exhibit?

Happy diving!

Marcus

Urgent call for information about UEC 'things'!!!!!!

Please email me (Sandy_Webb29@hotmail.com) if you have any 'thing' belonging to the Club that you think we might not already be aware of...no matter how old or how battered (it might be historically interesting?).

We are trying to achieve two things by getting a good inventory of UEC property..one is to keep better track of where useful things actually are, and the other is to sort out the things we want to keep from things we really should pass on to someone else or just chuck.

So, please contact me as soon as possible!

Your Property Officer (thank goodness this does not include real estate).

Sandy Webb

Training Report

I would like to point out that members need to confirm their attendance at all training sessions or they will be cancelled. I can be contacted on 9417 7008 or 0419 912 406 to confirm your attendance at training sessions. Remember, as a club we wish to be seen to support the SYC, and what better way to do this than attending our in house training sessions. I intend to run all of them at the SYC this year.

There will also be some refresher First Aid Training happening. I will be conducting this at the SYC on the 10th and 24th of Feb. I know that the Rottnest Holiday will be in motion for those of you going on the week holiday but don't worry! I will make arrangements with you to cover what you miss out on at another date.

I know that February is traditionally the month that my predecessors normally covered deep diving theory for all those people who wish to see the beautiful sights of our deeper and less disturbed locations. This year I have opted for something different in the first aid training. However, if some of you who have not dived or wish to revise deep diving techniques and skills, please give me a call and I will arrange a time to go through these skills before the dive.

An important training and safety point for all club members with regard to the boat **'is that aluminium can be welded or replaced but our bones can not'**. So if the boat looks like it is going to hit something - let it, and keep your extremities within the boat. The boat weighs 7 tonnes and will crush our bones like breaking a matchstick. You will not stop it no matter how hard you try and it is more than likely that you will get your extremities crushed in-between the boat and the object it is going to hit.

Skippers and Dive Officers

There will be a Skipper Training Session at 1900 on Tuesday 28 Jan on the boat, covering how to use our new Echo Sounder and how to work the GPS. **Due to the amount of space on the fly bridge I ask that this session be restricted to skippers only.**

While the skippers are being squared away with the use of our new electronic toys upstairs I would like all DO's and potential DO's to also be in attendance so we can go over some of the revised diving procedures with the new boat. **All Skippers/DO's and interested parties are requested to confirm their attendance (non-attendance) with myself by 1700 on the 25th of January.** All members attending will be asked to volunteer a few dollars towards pizza and something nice to wash it down with so confirming your attendance is important.

Happy diving!

Mark

Great WA, animal, fish and other prints to keep (plus much more!)

If you are after a gift for a friend, relative or yourself, then a print by Natalee Poli would be the perfect gift!!! She has a small studio in Woodlands and her prints are sold in selected shops in Perth and around WA. You can call and visit the studio as well to buy the prints directly from Nat. I will bring some along to the general meeting for you all to see! Natalee's contact details are: The Polinski Studio, 30 Willow Road, Woodlands, WA 6018, tel: 9204 5727 (w), 9447 2295 (h) and fax: 9243 8500. Unfortunately she does not have a website...yet!

Stina

Social Snippets

Hello Everyone!

Now that the silly season is behind us we can get on with things like diving and socialising. We plan to make the most of this warm weather and have some great things coming up!

Sunday 26th January The ~~Infamous~~ famous annual Skyshow river cruise

Party! Party! Party! Join your fellow UEC revellers as we head down the river to anchor up to watch the Skyshow. The boat will be decked out "True Blue" in the colours of the flag and we need you to dress in the same 3 colours. Use your imagination. Prize for the best dressed.

The boat will leave the Swan Yacht Club at 5pm and return late. There will be an additional pick-up at Royal Perth Yacht Club at 5:45. Please let us know where you would like to be picked up.

The price for this cruise is \$25 per head including champagne on arrival. BYO drinks. Nibbles, ice-filled eskies and a selection of yummy food provided. No under 18's. There are only a couple of places left, so be quick. Please send your money to the treasurer.

Friday night to Sunday - January 31st to Feb 2nd 2003

White water tubing below Wellington Dam

This is a fun-filled weekend for novices, experts and non-tubers alike. We are staying in the comfortable cottages at Wellington Mill. Tubing action takes place in the river below Wellington Dam. Never been "Tubing"? Here's the drill – put your wettie long johns and booties on, grab a helmet and a truck tube, park your bum in it, jump in and hang on for the ride. Woo! Hoo!

There are a variety of rapids of varying difficulty and you can progress as your confidence grows.

Cost for this weekend is only \$50 (Not \$40 as on the flyer).

This includes 5 meals (2 x breakfast, 2 x lunch and Sat dinner.), tube hire and accommodation.

Due to the nature of this event, we have restricted it to those of 16 and over. This will be a fun weekend, so don't miss out!

Mid-week swimming and social dinner

This informal group meets on a Wednesday night for a swim, followed by dinner at a restaurant chosen on the night. Check your email for details or contact Carmine for more info.

Night diving on the river

Another regular but informal event. You can chase prawns, observe seahorses or be amazed at what you find in our Swan River. Contact a couple of the regulars, Sandy or Clive for more info about the night dives.

January club meeting.

In order to give all of you a chance to catch up over a drink and share your summer diving experiences, there will not be a speaker at the club meeting this month. Looking ahead, the speaker for February is the taxidermist who preserved my jumbo. He will be sharing his experiences in preserving crustaceans as well as some of his other talents.

See you at the January club meeting!

Lists for names for up-coming events will be available at club meetings, or you can email me at concept1@iinet.net.au or phone 9276 6607, leaving a message if necessary.

Malcolm

PR REPORT

POLO SHIRTS

It is all happening! We are going to provide you with an even better quality and a stitched logotype instead of the screen print. They should all be ready for pick-up at the February meeting at the latest. I will have a sample to show you at the January meeting and can take more orders then. The price will be \$25.

CAR NUMBER PLATES

Maree needs two more names before she can order, as she can only get them in batches of ten. Contact her on 9457 3333 a/h.

WEB REPORT

As was mentioned in the December newsletter there is a good web site at www.diveoz.com.au and if you follow the link from "info directories" you will come to our web site... BUT... the information there is not up-to-date yet! I have contacted them SEVERAL times with our new info but it has still not been changed on their website. There is nothing else I can do.

I have also put faces to our committee members on the website now, if you care to see what we look like.

Cheers!

Susie

Rotto Holiday February/March 2003

Well we've had a great response for divers booking on for this fantastic holiday. There is now room for another diver or two for the week or part of the week from 22 to 28 February 2003.

Why not wake up to a glorious ocean view and maybe dawdle over breakfast at noon?!!

The boat will leave on the 22nd of February and return on the 28th of February 2003. You can still make use of the first weekend or come over for a few days midweek.

And we can squeeze a few extras in for the long weekend from the 28 Feb to the 3 March – we would love for you to join us.

If you do want to join us, please phone me on 9336 4004, 0421 639 290 or email clivecass@inet.net.au

For everyone booked on, please note that the final payment is due 15 January 2003.

Many thanks!

Clive

Diving Report

Happy New Year everyone! I hope your resolutions included getting out and diving more on our new boat, she is a great platform to dive from and will, with our TLC over the year become even better and more comfortable.

Since the last report we have been out 5 times, having good dives at Rottnest, Stragglers and Carnac. Apart from the Xmas dive (which was well attended) the boat has been less than half full. Traditionally, this is because of the family commitments, holidays etc over the festive season. Also, I detect that some members are reading ahead on the weather patterns and anticipating bad weather and not booking on.

This is fine except often we have had great dives ahead of the predicted bad weather. Often the weather comes in later or is not as blown up as predicted and is still diveable within our safety guidelines. The skipper can alter or cancel on the day according to the current weather, often this may mean a change of plan with a quick one-tank dive to one of our many closer spots, so you still get wet and have a great dive to boot. If we cancel, remember, we do not have to pay.

As this is my first year back (I was diving officer 5-6 years ago) in the role as your diving officer I would like to conduct a survey (everybody groans). Ahhh!! but wait, we have grown with new members and a new boat and the IMPORTANT BIT is that this is not mandatory. You will not be rapped over the knuckles for not doing it. I will bring the survey to the next club meeting for distribution (those who cannot make it and wish to participate please ring or email me for a copy).

The survey is only one page with a simple grading system to assess your preferences, your chance if you like to request the type of diving you like. Hey, if you are happy to go with the flow then let me know. That is still a response and will give me guidance along with the rest of the responses. Already I have had informal off the cuff requests and will endeavor to build them into our dive schedule.

The schedule this month generally follows our “traditional” practices. However, per requests, there is an early dive built in and please note, where the dive is designated as skipper’s choice or TBA, it is a chance for you to influence the choice, first - in best “dived”. The proviso is that it is an appropriate dive and will attract other members, so contact your like-minded buddies and attract a good turnout. Notwithstanding, skippers will always assess the conditions on the day to ensure a safe dive.

It is our boat – let’s use it!
See you out there!!

Kerry

CLUB CALENDAR

<i>January</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Skipper/DO or Venue</i>
Friday 17	“Overnighter” at Rottnest	Bob / Steve
Saturday 18	“Overnighter” West End	Bob / Steve
Sunday 19	Kerry’s Caverns	Peter / Carl
<i>Monday 20 @ 2000</i>	<i>General meeting</i>	<i>Swan Yacht Club</i>
Saturday 25	Exploratory dive	Geoff C / Clive
Sunday 26 @ 0700	Early start one tank	TBA/TBA
<i>Sunday 26 @ 1700</i>	<i>Australia Day</i>	<i>Skipper: Kerry</i>
<i>Tuesday 28 @ 2000</i>	<i>Skippers & Dive Officers</i>	<i>Swan Yacht Club</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Skipper/DO or Venue</i>
Saturday 1	West End (3 site option)	Bob / Steve
Sunday 2	Parker Point drop-off	Geoff C / Steve
<i>Monday 3 @ 2000</i>	<i>Committee meeting</i>	<i>Swan Yacht Club</i>
Saturday 8	Sausage Reef	Dennis / Carl
<i>Saturday 8</i>	<i>Hawaiian Night aboard U.E.</i>	
Sunday 9	Deep dive (30 m)	Geoff G / Mark S
Saturday 15 @ 0700	Early start (1-tank)	Carmine / Kerry
Sunday 16	Martin’s Arches (3 site option)	Peter / Carl
<i>Saturday 22</i>	<i>Rottnest Mini Holiday</i>	
<i>March</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Skipper/DO or Venue</i>
Monday 3	Rottnest Mini Holiday finishes	
<i>Tuesday 4 @ 2000</i>	<i>Committee meeting</i>	<i>Swan Yacht Club</i>
Saturday 8	Skippers choice	Bob /Gary
Sunday 9	Garden Island	Peter / Steve
Saturday 15	Early start (1-tank)	Carmine / Carl
Sunday 16	Duffield Ridge	Geoff G / Clive
<i>Monday 17 @ 2000</i>	<i>General meeting</i>	<i>Swan Yacht Club</i>

DIVERS!

Please board boat at 0745 (Challenger Harbour, Fremantle) for 0800 departure (if other time not scheduled).

DIVE BOOKINGS preferred by e-mail kasdive@iinet.net.au or phone 9331 2385, stating name and date for dive on the answering machine.

Please DO NOT contact the skipper or DO to discuss weather conditions. They will decide on the day, at the boat, if weather is suitable for the trip to proceed.

The club meetings are held at Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle.



UEC NEWS APRIL 2003

*The official monthly newsletter for Underwater Explorers
Club of Western Australia*

What a diving day and night it was.....

Well, Saturday 28 March 2003 has to be one of my most memorable diving days....What a day (and what a night)!

It started out with a grey, calm morning at Stragglers. Bob (after some harassment) found a near perfect site where the swell was not rising too sharply, and we went in for 70 minute dives on very pretty, white, sand-encircled reefy patches that typify Stragglers. SOME people thought there were no crays there... but I GOT MY FIRST EVER CRAYS!

Maureen, Dallis, Chris and I found a beautiful, brightly lit, calm, sandy cave with 3 BIG crays in it. No battling with surge or weed catching the cray hook this time, but it still took a lot of effort... Dallis finally scared one of them right into my waiting arms, at which stage I realised that I was inside the cave without my catch bag, so I had to eject myself through the opening in the roof clutching the cray...No way was it going to escape! Exciting... and a beautiful spot.

Then, a stunning night spent on our perfect new club mooring, under the low cliffs at Mosman Park. Twenty two joined us for our 'Mussels on the Mooring' night. Six went for a dive, while others drank wine and nibbled and watched Carmine cooking up his famous Chili and Meuniere mussels...It was windless, the water was oily calm and we watched a puny human fireworks display from somewhere in the city...

Then we were treated to some of nature's most stunning fireworks. At first it seemed the lightning was very distant, circling the city over the hills or way out over the ocean. ...then suddenly it was upon us, and right around us on all sides. We turned out the lights on the boat and just watched the sheets and forks of lightning. It was so bright at times that the trees and buildings were silhouetted against the sky and the light left an after- image in our eyes....and then the rain started pouring. It was not cold or windy, and Carmine did a magnificent job handling the boat in that much-needed, sheeting rain.

It was a very late night in the end, but I went to bed as high as a kite after such a day feeling incredibly happy with our Club and the new boat... and with what we can all do together. Then this morning I woke up to reality..... completely and utterly tired out and looking like a scarecrow (the effect of going to bed with damp hair?). Roll on next weekend and this glorious autumn diving weather with its calm seas and cloudy skies...And here's to the crays in the sea and to the return of the prawns to the river.

By Sandy Webb

From the Editor

Hello and hope everyone is enjoying our autumn weather!

Sounds like the mooring night was spectacular! Yanchep is on the cards for Easter, check with Malcolm for bookings and read more in his social report.

Again I hope you will enjoy this edition of UEC news. If you have a story you would like to include, or something for sale, or a good photo, please send it in!!! The deadline for newsletters is the Thursday following the Monday committee meeting every month.

Stina

General Meetings

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- To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

From the President

Around this time last year we had just returned from our diving trip to the Cocos Islands. This year we have had some of our members go to other destinations. Susie and Kerry have just returned from a trip to Micronesia. I believe their trip was a howling success and they saw such wondrous things as Manta Rays swimming and Mandarin fish mating. Hmmmm... I wonder if they have to peel off beforehand?? (*see Susie's travel report part I on p.9, Ed's note*).

Another couple, our newly-married members, Julie and Vince have just returned from Bali, where they ostensibly went for a honeymoon but I bet they dived whilst there.

Others like Gary, Luc and Pat have just returned from a diving trip to Albany. Brrrrrr! I think they may have been acclimatising for some warmer dives around Rotto over winter (*see Gary's story on p.11 of this issue, Ed's note*).

Last meeting, we on the committee, pointed out that the Department of Sport and Recreation had made some recommendations with regards to the minimum equipment that should be part of a diver's kit. We suggested that this should be embraced by the club, ahead of what will inevitably become law. Some of the members saw this as some sort of impingement on their democratic rights. After some discussion, we on the committee have decided that it is not and never has been our duty to police these things, as firstly, we are a club and not a commercial organisation and secondly, if we make rules then we are responsible for their effectiveness and upkeep. We certainly don't want to do that and will as always suggest what we consider to be the best course but the responsibility will rest squarely on the shoulders of each and every member for their own safety.

The trip to Yanchep, with the intention to dive the Gilt Dragon, is well under way. Check with Malcolm as there may be a couple of spots left. We also intend to do a shore dive on the outside of the lagoon whilst there, apart from continuing the tradition of eating some of the fruits of the ocean along with a fruity crisp white wine. I am advised that the bathroom window competition will again be a popular drawcard this year.

The boat is working very well and is proving to be perfect for the reasons it was bought. We are thinking of procuring rubber matting rather than carpet for the outside and also establishing a dry zone in the cabin so that the carpet we intend to put in there is not ruined. If any of you have other suggestions let us know.

See you at the next meeting,

Carmine

Welcome to new members!

Mark Norton, High Wycombe
Aaron Parry, Yangebup
Robert & Denise Buetler, Bicton

Diving Report

Many, many thanks to Steve for filling in whilst I was away in Micronesia. It proves we have great depth in our club which means we can carry on operating as normal, even if we are missing a few bods off on holiday, working, etc.

Which leads me to congratulate and welcome Dallis Golding and Jim Robson as the club's new Diving Officers. These guys have quietly worked towards meeting our club requirements and have been accepted by the committee at Monday night's meeting.

I am sure you will assist them and afford them due respect in their duties. We encourage club members to take this next step, it is rewarding, challenging and returns something to the club. I am sure other Skippers and Dive Officers will agree with me that it increases you own diving pleasure, skills and knowledge.

Steve tells me that the diving has been great with good numbers and it is pleasing to see our affiliates utilizing the boat as well. From the reports, Rottnest was a success, so get in early for next year.

The schedule beginning in May (only 6 weeks to the shortest day) will be "winterized". That means I will schedule only one day per weekend, mostly Sundays, with a starting time of 9 am.

Ohhhh!!! did I hear you say?

Well, the good news is that means the boat is free on the other day, so for those of you wanting to do special dives, organize a group, do a river trip or whatever, then stick your hand up and ring me to book the boat. The proviso is that we have a Skipper and DO, enough numbers and of course we stick to club rules.

Happy Diving!
See you out there!!

Kerry

WEST COAST DIVE PARK

Planning is under way for the creation of the West Coast Dive Park, a recreational attraction that will offer a unique, world-class diving experience with a variety of wrecks to explore.

The Dive Park will be sited off the coast of Rockingham in an area that stretches from Casuarina Shoal to the James Service Reef and includes the Five-Fathom Bank and western portion of Warnbro Sound.

Members of the Public are invited to participate in the consultation process by forwarding comments and suggestions to the West Coast Dive Park Steering Committee, chaired by Mr Mark McGowan MLA, Member for Rockingham.

To obtain an information package and comment form, go to www.dhw.wa.gov.au

This information is from a notice in the West Australian provided by Steve!

Social Snippets

Diving's been great and so have the social events. Just because diving slows for some over winter, don't expect that your social calendar will too. We are planning events to make the most of the cooler months. Grab your calendar and a pen and mark the following events down.

Email me on malcolm.roberts@conceptphotography.com.au and let me know if you wish to participate and to know that you won't miss out. The progressive dinner has rewarded those who bothered to put their names down. It is already full!

Been and gone...

Wine and cheese and mussels night. Christening of the new UEC mooring.

Sat 29th March

Good food, great company and Nature's Skyshow to boot. A fantastic night was had by all. Read Sandy's review in this newsletter on page 1 of this issue.

What's happening in April...

Easter Escape to Yanchep.

April 18-21

What a fun weekend this will be. To miss it, you'd be a bunny.

We will be staying at "Trav's Temple" in Yanchep from Good Friday – Easter Monday. The UE will be sailing up to join us and provide a great long weekend of diving, socialising and whatever else you choose to enjoy. Beachcombing??

It is BYO food. Cost for the weekend is \$40 (or 4 vouchers) per person for everyone. In addition, divers will pay for diving ie \$25 (or two vouchers) for short day and \$35 (or 3 vouchers) for long day to somewhere like the Guilt Dragon.

If you can't stay, but want to dive, we can do that, just let us know. Because the Travaglione's have donated their house to the UEC FOC for the weekend, the charges applied are to recoup the costs of a pen and getting our dive boat to Two Rocks.

Prices are as follows: \$20 for one day's diving, plus diving charges, or \$40 for two or more days diving, plus charges. Accommodation is therefore free, thanks to Carol and Carmine. It is looking like a great weekend. Stay for the party, or just dive, book now while you still can.

Anzac Day fishing trip on UE.

Friday 25th April

Join us for a day's fishing on the UE. We will head out somewhere promising and wet a line. Prize for the best fish on the day. Cost is \$40, including bait. BYO lunch and fishing gear. No need for deep-sea gear as we won't go deeper than about 40 metres. There are also 5 places for non-fishing passengers @ \$10. If you want fish for dinner, you won't go fresher than catching it yourself.

Want to go but forgot to book? Do it now while you think about it!

PTO

Looking ahead to May...

A night on the mooring. Saturday 10th of May

How can you not keep warm with a bowl of hearty soup and a superb stew? Mmmm!
Join your UEC friends for a warm night of fellowship and food as we moor on the Swan River for an enjoyable night. Is it true that Perth is the world's most livable city? Come out and see for yourself.
The boat will leave SYC at 7pm.
\$20 per person. BYO drinks. Diving optional.
Now we have the great mooring at Point Walter, jump on board the club boat and let's use it.

Progressive dinner. Saturday 24th May

A club favourite, this event is now full. However, there is a waiting list, should places become available. The price includes a seat on the bus, all food and drinks except BYO for dinner. The cost for the evening is \$45 per head. Because this event is full with a waiting list, I am asking everyone who has their name on the list to please pay the treasurer in full before the end of the club meeting on the 22nd of April. Please advise me when you have paid. **Any places not paid for by then will become available to those on the waiting list.**

As I said at the beginning, we are planning some great events over winter. Watch this space for details of June and July. In the meantime, make the most of what's on in April and May.

Any questions, catch me at the meeting!

Lists for names for up-coming events will be available at club meetings, or you can email me at **malcolm.roberts@conceptphotography.com.au** or phone **9276 6607**, leaving a message if necessary. **Email is the preferred and best way to book our social events.** Book now while you are thinking about it!

Hope to see you at a UEC social event soon.

Malcolm Roberts

Safety Report

Well, it's April and the summer diving season is drawing to a close. I have been madly writing up my thesis, and have therefore not had much time to go diving (unfortunately). On the safety front, the outboard motor from the duck has been measured up for the propeller guard, and the guard is currently under construction. Peter has also stuck some non-slip tape on the rear stairs, which is working effectively.

Dive Safely!

Marcus

Boat Report

The boat has been going pretty well since our last report, we have had one or two problems with a steering pump and the deck wash pump however as usual Peter has come to the rescue and has been able to carry out repairs. We took the boat for a test run on Wednesday evening and she performed very well, we will be making a few minor adjustments during the week to rectify the fault with the starboard tachometer but apart from that she is ticketyboo.

A couple of people have had problems entering the water from the marlin board when the tips of their fins have been caught between the grab rails that run along the back edge of the marlin board. We have had a look at the situation and have come to the conclusion that DOs should make people aware that there is potential for a problem here, if the boat is rolling around when trying to enter the water another person should be on the marlin board to assist divers to ensure fins are not caught up prior to making a giant stride entry or assist divers to enter the water using the ladder.

Hopefully this will alleviate any further problems.

See you on the Boat!

Peter and Gary

PR Report

I submitted an article (that Malcolm wrote) to Dive Log Australasia a while ago together with a photo that I took the day he and Annie surfaced with a jumbo cray. It was a ¼ page with black background in the February issue and finished with “*Check out our website for more information about our non-profit dive club, the oldest in Australia!*” Good exposure! But our picture and article generated some opinion from one reader so now we have follow-up articles in both the March and April issues.

This month I am working on an update of our old, outdated brochure and business card plus printing more car stickers.

As winter is approaching, I have been asked to supply more club sweatshirts, the warm and cuddly sort, you know. Please let me know your size, if you want one.

Web Report

New photos provided by Annie and Richard D from the annual Rottnest long weekend has been uploaded to our “Album” page. I have also made some small changes to the “Contact Us” and “Who We Are” pages, using Dick’s photos.

Cheers!
Susie

CLUB CALENDAR

<i>APRIL</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>Skipper/DO or Venue</i>
Friday 18 (EASTER)	“U.E” goes to YANCHEP	Bob / Kerry
Saturday 19	Yanchep waters	TBA
Sunday 20	Yanchep waters	TBA
Monday 21	“U.E” goes back to Freo	Bob / Kerry
<i>Tuesday 22</i>	<i>General meeting</i>	<i>Swan Yacht Club</i>
Friday 25 (ANZAC)	Fishing Day	see Social Report
Saturday 26	Parker Point drop-off	Peter / Carl
Sunday 27	Angela’s Cave	Gary / Clive

<i>MAY</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>Skipper/DO or Venue</i>
Saturday 3 @ 0900	Exploratory	Carmine / Dallis
<i>Monday 5 @ 2000</i>	<i>Committee Meeting</i>	SYC
Saturday 10 @ 1900	Mooring Munchies	See Social Report
Sunday 11 @ 0900	Deep Dive	Bob / Steve
Sunday 18 @ 0900	One-tank Dive	Peter / Jim
<i>Monday 19 @ 2000</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>	SYC
Saturday 24	Progressive Dinner	See Social Report
Sunday 25 @ 0900	Anders Meander	Geoff G / Clive

DIVE BOOKINGS:

MEMBERS!

Please board boat at:

0745 (Challenger Harbour, Fremantle) for 0800 departure.

0845 (Challenger Harbour, Fremantle) for 0900 departure.

Please DO NOT contact the skipper or DO to discuss weather conditions.
They will decide on the day, at the boat, if weather is suitable for the trip to proceed.

PLEASE NOTE: Dives are 2-tanks unless otherwise stated.

DIVE & BOAT BOOKINGS:

Please contact Kerry (or Susie) on:

Tel: 9331 2385

Email: kasdive@inet.net.au (**Email is the preferred and best way to book your dive!**)

“A DREAM COMES TRUE” - Part I – GUAM

by Susie Ashton

For three years I have been talking about “the next big dive trip” meaning Micronesia. Now I can say: “Been there, done that” and tick off a number of exotic dive destinations on my “wish-list”.

I had been reading in dive magazines about “guaranteed diving with the manta rays” at Yap, and the exciting dive sites and variety of marine life in Palau. After a lot of research on the Internet I booked five different destinations. Kerry thought we might as well “do the whole thing” to see, experience and learn a bit more of the old cultures whilst in that part of the world. Consequently, we chose to visit Pohnpei and Kosrae as well – two islands that don’t see many tourists at all. Most people go to Truk (now Chuuk) Lagoon and dive the old shipwrecks from WWII from a live-aboard. What have they seen of Micronesia? Nothing really! And from what I found out about what’s happening on Chuuk island today, we were definitely not interested.

Flying in to Guam from Cairns took only 4 hours but to go through the customs took almost as long with the tight security, as Guam actually belongs to the USA and was on “orange alert”.

We stayed in a lovely little hotel on the bay and did one day of diving with Guam Tropical Dive Station. They took us, on a big and very comfortable boat called *Scuba Roo* (because the owner is from S.A.), to Guam’s most famous dive site, the Blue Hole. A couple from UK, Kerry and myself and 500 Japanese on the boat. Well, maybe not 500 but certainly 26 of them. It is cheaper for them, one of the girls told me, to come here to dive than to do it in their own country. It’s like us going to Bali for a fun weekend – they have weekend dive packs.

This one was freezing cold at the bottom (39.4 m) but as soon as we swam out through the tunnel and ascended through the thermoclines on the outside wall, we had the “normal” 30°C water temperature warming our bodies again. Lovely! A lycra suit is all you need (to protect you from the nasty Fire Coral). Ouch, it stings! (Got stung on my hand.)

Our second dive was the *Gabgab2* inside Apra Harbor. A very pretty dive with a fantastic, big and red sea anemone surrounded by smaller ones of different species and colours, all inhabited by various anemone fish. We also saw some stunning purple sea fans here.

Unfortunately, there was a dive accident. The English girl passed out on the duckboard after the second dive. She got off the plane the same morning, had been sick with the flu, still taking medication, and was quite fatigued. (She was a Dive Instructor and should probably know better and not dive under such circumstances!) We put her on oxygen, called the US Navy and got special permission to pull in at their pier. They rushed her to their chamber and later banned her from diving for half a year! She and her husband (a dive magazine reporter) had just started their Micronesia round-trip. That lesson should tell us something!



I simply LOVE to slowly sink down through a “blue hole”.

Guam, though just 50 km long and 15km across, is the largest island in Micronesia. Shelving coral reefs surround Guam and the dive sites, about 20 marker buoys, are on the west coast, in the Philippine Sea.

Guam of course has many interesting historic sites to visit so we hired a car one day and drove around the coast road, people call the island “the rock”. I am specifically interested in the Chamorro culture, dated as early as 1500 B.C. *Latte* stones are the most visible remains. The upright posts were quarried from limestone and the rounded top capstones were of brain coral.

The Spanish came to rule for 333 years. Then came the Americans (following the Spanish-American war of 1898). And then came the Japanese! (Guam surrendered in 1941). In 1944 American forces landed on Guam. Three weeks of bitter warfare claimed thousands of Chamorro, American and Japanese lives before the island was declared safe and once again under American rule.

Guam is considered the hub of the western Pacific and undeniably Micronesia’s most cosmopolitan destination – a true example of the great American melting pot. In addition to the indigenous Chamorros and “stateside” Americans, Guam boasts large populations of Filipinos, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans and Micronesian Islanders, as well as Vietnamese, Indians and Europeans.

Guam’s nightlife is versatile. Elegant nightclubs and modern discos operate in the larger hotels, as well as in other locations along Tumon Bay and in Tamuning, where you can also find restaurants from all over the world – even the Aussie “Outback”. But best of all I think was the Wednesday night entertainment and market in the Chamorro Village, where we could sample their food, buy handicraft and watch cute kids doing their folk dancing.

Cheers!
Susie

“A dream comes true” – Part II – YAP will appear in the May issue of UEC news.



Latte stones were used as foundation pillars for men’s houses and for the homes of nobility.

Cute folk dancing girl.



Our Albany Trip

by Gary Browne

Vicki and I headed off to Albany on Monday morning the 24th March. We took our time as we were taking our first long run in the new Camry, what a joy to drive with cruise control. We had stops in Williams and Mt Barker and arrived in Albany about 1430 and went straight to the Albany Scuba Diving Academy in Proudlove St on the corner of York St in the centre of town. There we met Ron Moore, owner of ASDA and his friendly staff Ken Methven and Japanese dive master Takae. Ron gave us instructions on how to find our accommodation at Jacaranda Hill at 6 Fredericks St just up the road from the dive shop. Jacaranda Hill is a very comfortable three bedroom B&B owned by Wayne (Wiz) and Kelly who are both keen divers as well, it has been set up especially for divers and has an undercroft area for washing and drying dive gear. As Vicki and I were the first to arrive we grabbed the front bedroom with beautiful views over the town and Oyster Harbour. Luc Fauvet and Pat Troy arrived in town about an hour after us, after checking out our dive plans for tomorrow and settling in at Jacaranda Hill we went for a walk around the corner to the Earl on Spencer Pub for a very nice meal and a pint or two of Guinness.

We met at the dive shop at 0730 Tuesday morning for a briefing on our dive on HMAS Perth. Prior to the dive Pat was introduced to the mysteries of modern diving as Ron insists that all divers carry a dive computer on these deep dives. So Pat was issued with a computer and he really looked the part with his trusty 1970s reg and a snazzy new fangled wrist mounted dive computer.

HMAS Perth was built in the USA in the 1960s. She is 133m long and 14m wide. She had two five inch rapid fire automatic guns as well as machine guns and torpedo tubes. She saw action in Vietnam in the 1970s and she was decommissioned in 1999 and sunk as a dive wreck in November 2001.

We loaded up the boat "Sea Tiger" and set off for the dive site situated in Frenchmans Bay near Seal Island. We descended down the mast past the radar platform down between the funnels to the main deck. In about 28m we entered the hull and made our way through various alleyways and control rooms and emerged through the stern in about 32m. The visibility was a little disappointing at about 8m however inside the hull it was a little better at 10-15m, we then commenced our gradual ascent past the aft gun which is still in place, then inside the hull again into the gyro room and past some toilet blocks. It was in this area that we found what appeared to be a brick wall which turned out to be panelling that was supposed to look like brick. We then made our way up the side of the funnel and back to the mast for a safety stop, where we were entertained by heaps of little blennies playing hide and seek inside the soft corals and hand rail pipes. We also saw lots of yellow tail and banded sweep.

We had our surface interval on the beach about five minutes boat ride from the dive site, after a few cups of hot soup and an hour of warm sun it was back into the water for the second dive. This time we made our way forward up around the bow then inside the hull and through a galley area, various bunk rooms and weapons control rooms full of switchboards and bits of equipment that would keep Rambo entertained for hours.

We were back at the shop by 1230 which left the afternoon clear for some sight seeing so Pat, Vicki and I headed out to the Gap, The Natural Bridge and the Blowholes for a look at some spectacular coastal scenery. This evening Vicki cooked up a big batch of Spag Bol which went down well with a few reds.

On Wednesday morning we met at the shop at 0830 and set off for Michaelmas Island situated about 10km out in King George Sound. After a twenty five minute boat ride we arrived at the dive site on the eastern end of the island referred to as "Fingers" due to the fingers of granite that run out from the end of the island. This was a very easy dive, the top of the granite is in 16m running down to a sandy bottom in 30m. Visibility here was 20m, there was an abundance of fish life and beautiful soft corals on the walls of the granite rock including huge gorgonian fans. We also saw a few gunnard perch and large cuttlefish and at the end of the dive we spent our safety stop with a docile loggerhead turtle.

The second dive for the day was at the west end of Michaelmas Island on the old whaler "Cheynes III". This was a very pretty dive with good visibility and once again an abundance of fish life with heaps of blue queen snapper, leather jackets, scaly fins, bullseyes etc. We went inside the wreck in a few places, the ship has suffered quite a lot of damage as it gets quite a hammering from the winter storms. This was the first prepared dive wreck in Australia, sunk in 1982.

I received a phone call from work today asking if I would be able to do a week's work on the Albany tugs next week as one of the engineers was going to be off sick. After considering it for about five nanoseconds I agreed as they were going to actually pay me to stay in Albany for another week, surely I could arrange to squeeze some more diving in!

On our third evening we had a Japanese meal cooked by Takae, our lovely Japanese divemaster. We were joined by Wiz and Kelly and everyone from the diveshop including Ron's wife Shirley who made a mean sticky date pudding which was quickly snaffled up.

Thursday morning we met again at 0830. The weather had been beautiful over the last few days but it looked a bit dodgy this morning as we headed out to Breaksea Island which is not far from Michaelmas Island. The dive site was called North Breaksea Cove and we anchored in close to the rocky shore where we could see New Zealand fur seals sunning themselves on the rocks just above the waterline. I was a little concerned as I know "what" likes to eat seals down this part of the world, however Ron assured me that there were no bitties in the area and he wouldn't tell fibs would he?? What a great dive site!

We went down the anchor line to a sandy bottom in 10m then made our way north into deeper water which bottomed out in about 30m. The visibility here was at least 30m, once again we saw beautiful gorgonian fans, black coral, colourful soft corals and sponges and the usual teaming fish life. Once we had made our way back to the boat Luc signalled for me to join him in about 5m of water close in to the island and for the next ten minutes we had several of the inquisitive fur seals swimming around us, what a buzz! There were also large schools of trevally that the seals attacked at their leisure and we saw a large blue groper here as well, what a great way to spend a safety stop, and you have to ask Pat what he saw on his safety stop!

The second dive on the day was on the south side of Breaksea Island where we went through quite a few swim throughs and saw the usual pretty scenery but it was not as good as the north side of the island. The water temperature for most of our dives was around 21° C but at the end of this dive we were all bloody freezing.

This evening a BBQ was organised by Wiz and Kelly and we were joined by all the crew from the dive shop and once again we sampled some of the local reds...I could get use to this lifestyle.

On Friday morning Luc, Pat and I went for a ride on the tugboat that I would be working on the following week and Luc and Pat took turns in driving the tug and did a few donuts in Albany Harbour.

By 1000 we packed up our gear, said our goodbyes and left town. Luc and Pat headed home and Vicki and I went to Busselton for the weekend and were back at Jacaranda Hill on Sunday night

During the following week I was able to sneak in three more dives despite the “hectic” pace of shipping in Albany. I had a night dive at a place called Bombie Rock, another dive on the forward section of the Perth with much better viz than the previous week and a shore dive up at Two Peoples Bay at Little Beach. The highlight of the last dive was finding a colony of weedy seadragons, quite a few were what I assumed to be males with eggs attached.

I would not hesitate going back to Albany Scuba Diving Academy for more diving. Ron, Ken and Takae could not do enough for us and I am sure we have only just scratched the surface as there is a whole lot more for us to see in and around Albany both above and below the water.

Check out their website at www.albanyscuba.com.au

When I do return to Albany I will once again stay at the Jacaranda Hill B&B where they made us very welcome and they are only a five minute walk to town with shops and restaurants close by.

You can contact them on 1800 814880 or email okeefew@iinet.net.au

Their charges are quite reasonable at \$33.00 per person per night including continental breakfast.

Gary

CONSERVATION CORNER

Dive in to Earth Day

Sign the Coral Reef Alliance’s Dive In Pledge to protect coral reefs.
The goal is to get 10,000 signatures by **Earth Day, April 22**.

Go to: <http://fmpro.coralreefalliance.org/divein/pledgesign.htm>

The End



UEC NEWS MAY 2003

*The official monthly newsletter of
Underwater Explorers Club of Western Australia*

“A DREAM COMES TRUE” – Micronesia Part 2 – YAP *by Susie Ashton*

YAP is a fantastic and very interesting place – well worth the visit!

Our second week in Micronesia was spent on Yap, half way between Guam and Palau and just 9 degrees north of the equator. This tiny island (only 21 kms long and 6.5 km wide) offers an insight to the way Micronesia was hundreds of years ago.

The first settlers are thought to have arrived on Yap around 3,500 years ago but little is known of these people. In 1526, *Dioga da Rocha* became the first Western explorer to land here. The Spanish established a Catholic mission in 1731, but Jesuits were massacred after a disagreement with the island chiefs. In 1899, Germany purchased Yap (and the rest of Micronesia) from Spain, and built hospitals, bridges, canals, radio towers and schools. They lost Yap to the Japanese, along with the rest of their Pacific holdings, in 1914. This began a period of virtual enslavement as Japan began to fortify Micronesia for empirical conquest.

Yap saw little action in WWII. The Americans, having already spent considerable lives, effort, and artillery on Palau and Chuuk, never invaded, although they did bomb the island daily for three years. The constitution of the FSM (Federated States of Micronesia) went into effect in 1979, and full independence came in 1986. In the State of Yap, the island chiefs still command a lot of respect in the decision-making process and hold considerable political and social power.

Long before Yap became famous in the dive community for its manta rays, it was known as the *Land of Stone Money*. The huge disks of stone, some over 3.6 m in diameter, are still used today for some traditional transactions.



Most money is kept in ‘banks’ lined up along village pathways. The money is not moved, even when ownership changes.

Continues on Page 9...

From the Editor

Hi all! Hope you are well. In this issue we have part 2 of Susie and Kerry's amazing diving trip as well as our usual reports.

Again I hope you will enjoy this edition of UEC news. If you have a story you would like to include, or something for sale, or a good photo, please send it in!! The deadline for newsletters is the Thursday following the Monday committee meeting every month.

Stina

General Meetings

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are held every third Monday (except for Public Holidays) at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

Committee Contact Details:

President & Investments: Carmine Travaglione Phone: 9356 1311 a/h, mobile: 0408 833 115

Secretary & Vice President: Steve Larter Phone: 9291 9654 a/h, mobile: 0418 949 264

Treasurer: Geoff Charlton Phone: 9354 7917, mobile: 0438 244 603

Boat Officer: Peter Horton Phone: 9448 5809 a/h, mobile: 0417 930 124

Boat Officer: Gary Browne Phone: 9337 9836a/h, mobile: 0409 712 039

Dive Officer: Kerry Ashton Phone: 9331 2385 a/h

Training Officer: Mark Sach Phone: 9417 7008 a/h

Safety Officer: Mark Maddern Phone: 9293 3251 a/h, mobile: 0422 068 870

Equipment Officer: Sandy Webb Phone: 9339 5936 a/h, mobile: 0407 993 395

Social Officer: Malcolm Roberts Phone: 9276 6607 a/h, mobile: 0411 353 641

PR & Web Officer: Susie Ashton Phone: 9331 2385, mobile: 0417 993 141

UEC News Editor: Stina Frantzich Phone 9341 4612 a/h

Postal Address: PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6954

Email: uec@space.net.au

Home Page: www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedure and to acquaint both Club Members and the public with the facts on safety and the use of safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

From the President

Last year at this time we were predicting the acquisition of a new boat, affiliating with Murdoch University Divers and the possible sale of our unit in Myaree. All of these things have come to pass and the result, albeit coloured with challenges, has proven to be a positive move forward in the maturity of our club. It's a bit like evolution, in which the changes are inexorably forced on us by subtle changes in values and community expectations. We have, in my opinion, met those challenges and our club is now poised for the next stage of growth and maturity.

I am musing about these matters because we have coming up, next year, the 50th anniversary of the club's inauguration. This is a real milestone and, as luck would have it, it coincides with the 100th anniversary of our adopted home club, the Swan Yacht Club. I have already spoken to our friends at the SYC and they want to celebrate both our milestones together in a way that will not only be enjoyable but will also be an occasion to be remembered by our existing and future members with pride and a sense of real achievement and inspiration.

SO!!

Lets all put our thinking caps on between now and next year and come up with some really clever ways to kick up our heels and put on record for posterity our joy and pride in our club's past achievements, our present love of diving, companionship, nature and its preservation and our aspirations for the future.

Our lovely boat has given us some real joy and some real pain. It is this shift in our modus operandi of which I have hinted and hope here to make clearer to you. Because of the expectations of the new generations and the older generations who have moved with the times, our club, like every other organisation, both private and commercial, is in real terms competing for its share of the cake. There are so many other competing activities available these days that in order to assure us of our slice we must show we are offering comparable value, not only in price but also in facilities and professional operation. We on the committee are forever mindful of this and the acquisition of the boat is only part of what we consider has kept us up there and relevant.

Carmine

Welcome to our New Members!

Mark Garner

DID YOU KNOW...

that the Blue Whale's tongue is bigger than an elephant, it has seven stomachs and its veins are so large that a human could swim through them!

Diving Report

The diving can be a bit hit and miss this time of year; nevertheless we still jag those good days and wonder what the “poor people” are doing. Apart from our established good sites we are constantly looking for extensions, new sites and to venture to further pastures.

Case in point here is the trip over Easter to Yanchep. This was a great opportunity for the club to hone, maintain and refine the skills of skippers, dive officers and members alike. The diving conditions were not to flash for the weekend, yet the members who availed themselves of the opportunity I am sure will agree it was worthwhile. The trip gave us a lot of confidence and we will be planning more of these long-range trips in the future. These trips mean we can dive new areas, broaden our diving and add variety to the club calendar.

Remember the schedule beginning in May (only 6 weeks to the shortest day) has been “winterized”. That means I will schedule only one dive day per weekend, mostly Sundays, with a starting time of 9 am.

Unfortunately we had to take the boat out of the water for running repairs. It should be back in the water by the time you get this, so business as usual for all our members.

By the way if you are desperate for a dive and the schedule does not accommodate your timing, please call me as there is always a chance to hook you up with some action. There is an intrepid bunch in the club who shore and night dive and welcome new buddies.

Happy Diving!
See you out there!!

Kerry

Safety Report

Not a lot happening at the moment as the boat is out of action. My thesis is due in less than four weeks now so I'm looking forward to having a life again after it is handed in. The propeller guard has been manufactured by another party after the original people kept stretching the completion date (and upping the price!). Thanks very much to Gary for organizing this through a personal contact.

As many of you are no doubt aware, an underwater observatory is being constructed towards the end of the Busselton Jetty. There is an application to create a “fish habitat protection area” around the observatory. If this is successful, it will result in a localized ban on fishing that will result in an increase in the fishlife around the observatory, and, more importantly, an improvement in the diving as well!

If you would like to send an application to the Shire of Busselton supporting this proposition, it must be received on or before the 13th June, and can be emailed to admin@busselton.com.au. If you would like more information, you can contact Cheryl (who works at the ticket office at the start of the jetty) on 9754 3689.

Safe diving!
Marcus

Social Snippets

Recent UEC Events....

Easter Escape to Yanchep

What an escape it was! Like staying at Rotto, although Yanchep is only an hour away from Perth. When you're there, you might as well be 1000 miles away, as long as you turn your mobile phone off!

With the swell too big for the planned dive on the Gilt Dragon, the opportunity to dive on some new sites was good. (You tolerate average exploratory dives, because you know the next A1 dive site "Treasure" is just around the corner.) Second dive, Saturday would have been an excellent dive in better conditions. That was the one with the stuck anchor! It is rumoured that the following conversation took place.

TRSR - "Come in Underwater Explorer. This is Roger from Two Rocks Sea Rescue."

UE - "Roger Roger from Two Rock Sea Rescue, this is the Underwater Explorer."

TRSR - "Roger here. You haven't logged in back at the marina by your ETA. Are you okay?"

UE - "Roger Roger. Sure. We are okay, just stuck! We just wish the anchor didn't work *quite* so well."

TRSR - "Two Rocks Sea Rescue standing by."

UE - "Where's Malcolm! What the? Yippee! He's alive! Oops \$%&# ! The radio's still on!"

TRSR - "Roger here. Can you repeat that Underwater Explorer? I didn't copy that"

UE - "Roger Roger. No worries. All good here. Thankyou Roger."

All's good that ends well.

After the dive, Kerry wanted to call this patch of reef "Kerry's Lump" but was beaten to it by the mysterious Mr Cook. Unfortunately for Kerry it was already marked on the charts as Cook's Lump.

It would be the perfect spot to protect as a marine sactuary and, like Boyinaboat Reef off Hillarys, it would be an interesting shallow dive in a low swell.

The out-of-water weather was magic and a great Easter was had by all who attended the Trav Hilton. Glass brick awards, nights of sing-along, joke-telling and Billionaire, a barrowful of bottles, and it was all over too soon. There was even a little bit of my Minestrone left, but only a little.

What's happening in May and June...

Progressive dinner

Saturday 24th May

A club favourite, this event is now full.

Tour of the Fremantle Hyperbaric Chamber and dinner

Saturday 14th June

4pm Fremantle Hospital.

Club member Geoff Pinkham will give us a tour of his workplace. See what pressure can do to you! Better to see the "recompression chamber" this way than as a diver with the bends. After that informative part, we will head to dinner for a nice feed at a local restaurant. Cost for the tour and dinner is \$25.

PTO

What's happening in July...

Ghandi and Games night

Saturday 5th July

7pm @ my place 23 Gatton Way, Embleton

Did someone suggest Indian? Holy cow! Is nothing sacred? Come along for a night of curries and condiments, rice and riata.. Fancy the crown of "Pinball Wizard"? Maybe you are full of Balderdash? Prefer just a vindaloo and a video? Perhaps you've seen people at the casino having fun playing that game with the dice they call "Craps" but didn't know how to play. Here's your chance. There'll be a craps table with coach/croupier extraordinaire Andre Stephenson. The pinball will be crankin'. I've heard the recently stood down chef Mahatma Coat will be reinstated!

\$20 p/h for all food. BYO drinks.

Pinball and pappadums! Curry and Craps! Don't miss it!

AQWA visit and Shark Dive

Mid/Late July

Weather too rotten to dive in? Not if you do it indoors with sharks!

Please indicate your interest in doing this by email ASAP as it will help me with planning and negotiating if I have idea of the level of interest. Normal price for a shark tank dive is \$90. Come for a dive with the Grey Nurses or just watch and tour AQWA's aquariums. We could follow with dinner at Hillarys if desired. Let me know.

Please advise your desire to any or all of the above by email as soon as possible.

Any questions, catch me at the next club meeting.

Please pay our Treasurer Geoff in advance for any events, either by post or at a club meeting.

Lists for names for up-coming events will be available at club meetings, or better still, you can email me at concept1@inet.net.au or phone 9276 6607, leaving a message if necessary. Email is best. Book now while you are on line and thinking about it!

This month at the club meeting Susie & Kerry will be showing a short (12 minute) video they purchased on their recent trip to Micronesia, leaving plenty of time to socialise afterwards.

Hope to see you at the next club meeting or at a UEC social event soon.

Your Social Dragonfly,

Malcolm Roberts

Training Report

Hi all,

I am back and have got my gill wet again. I will run training on Monday 9th of June. At this point in time it will be a Mystery Topic (so if you have any preferences let me know by Monday the 26 May so I have time to prepare your preferred topic).

DO's - we need to get together at some point so we can standardise some of our procedures and put them into print. If you all can let me know when you are available to get together one night and maybe have a few reds at the Bar of the SYC and talk about procedures I would like to do this by the end of June. Please email me your availability on: **mark.sach@defence.gov.au**

Happy diving!

Mark

PR Report

Club Winter Wear:

A roaring success! You will now see many of us wearing the cozy, cuddly jackets and fleecy jumpers – just the right thing to entice a warm hug from you. They will be ready for pick-up at the May general meeting. Our Treasurer, Geoff Charlton, will be handling the money so don't pay me.

New UEC pamphlet:

It will be an A4 double-sided brochure advertising our club at future exhibitions. Grab a few to keep handy! It's a great way to attract and keep those interested people we all bump into from time to time.

Business cards:

500 will be printed so you can all have some and give to people outside the club. It will have our web site address on it for further information.

Car stickers:

New, updated car stickers are also being printed for you to stick on "here and there".

Web Report

Some pictures that speak for themselves (from the Easter at weekend at Yanchep) have been uploaded on the Club Album.

I did a bit of a research to see where UEC is placed with the biggest search engines so I typed in "dive clubs in western Australia". *Yahoo* has us as #2 and #3 (number 1 is the diveoz.com.au where we of course are listed) and as #7 you'll find my company's page on Rottnest diving, which has a link to UEC. With *Google* we are placed as #3 and with *Alta Vista* as #4 and #9. That's not bad at all!

Cheers for now!

Susie

CLUB CALENDAR

<i>MAY</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>Skipper/DO or Venue</i>
Sunday 18 @ 0900	One-tank dive	Peter / Jim
Monday 19 @ 2000	General meeting	SYC
Saturday 24 @ 1700	Progressive Dinner	(sold out)
Sunday 25 @ 0900	Anders Meander	Geoff C / Clive
Saturday 31 @ 0900	Exploratory	Carmine / Dallis
<i>JUNE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>Skipper/DO or Venue</i>
Tuesday 3 @ 2000	Committee meeting	SYC
Saturday 7 @ 0900	One-tank dive + Freo lunch	Bob / Steve
Saturday 14 @ 1600	Tour of Hyperbaric Chamber & Dinner	Freo Hospital etc
Sunday 15 @ 0900	Angela's Cave	Geoff C / Gary
Monday 16 @ 2000	General meeting	SYC
Sunday 22 @ 0900	Garden Island	Geoff G / Jim
Saturday 28 @ 0900	One-tank dive	Dennis / Mark M

DIVE BOOKINGS:

MEMBERS!

Please board boat at:

0745 (Challenger Harbour, Fremantle) for 0800 departure.

0845 (Challenger Harbour, Fremantle) for 0900 departure.

Please DO NOT contact the skipper or DO to discuss weather conditions.
They will decide on the day, at the boat, if weather is suitable for the trip to proceed.
Just check with Kerry the night before that we have sufficient numbers to go out.

PLEASE NOTE: Dives are 2-tanks unless otherwise stated.

DIVE & BOAT BOOKINGS:

Please contact Kerry (or Susie) on:

Tel: 9331 2385

Email: kasdive@inet.net.au (**Email is the preferred and best way to book your dive!**)

“A DREAM COMES TRUE” - Part 2 – YAP

by Susie Ashton

Continued from Page 1...

There was never any question about where we should stay on Yap – it had to be the *Manta Ray Bay Hotel* – a dedicated dive resort, designed by divers and built for divers by American Bill Acker. But what I didn't know was that every room in this hotel has a marine creature theme... and WE WERE ASSIGNED THE SEAHORSE ROOM! I could not believe it!

The solid wooden door had a carved seahorse on it and inside the room everything was 'seahorsie'... the shower curtain, the pictures on the walls and two queen size beds with a fantastic seahorse bedspread on each! ... and guess what!... one is being shipped to Perth right now!



From our hotel balcony we could check out what was happening in the *Crow's Nest* (the bar) of this groovy old wooden ship, the *Sea Hawk*, that Bill had sailed from Indonesia and made into the hotel restaurant, bar and microbrewery.

At 1700 hour the canon aboard went off to announce “happy hour” in the *Crow's Nest*.



Yap Divers, the first dive operation in Yap (founded 1986) is a very professionally run organization on the premises with rinsing tanks and storage lockers for your gear. The staff and dive guides were all fantastic and great fun. They also had an in-house videographer, Mark Thorpe, who would come out with us filming and diving. (We bought one of his fantastic tapes, and will show it after the official meeting for those interested.)

The wall with the squares you see in this photo are some of the identified mantas.

My special friend, the house cat Fran, is having a rest on the table.

The diving around Yap is absolutely terrific. Here you find vertical walls, deep canyons and miles of coral covered reef. There are about 20 buoyed dive sites. Among divers, Yap is world-famous for its large population of resident manta rays. A typical dive day would start with breakfast aboard *Sea Hawk* at 0600, watching the sunrise. Our fast, twin-engine dive vessel would leave about 0800 and most days go to *Miil Channel* and *Manta Ridge* to wait for the mantas to come in with the tide. We would sit on the sandy bottom (visibility somewhat cloudy from plankton) and soon you would have half a dozen big, gracious manta rays very close on top of you feeding and cleaning – an awesome experience.

One day, our second dive was exceptionally exciting: our DO *Crazy Collin* (an ex Royal Marine) was attacked by a silvertip shark. His own “fault” though because he provoked a bunch of sharks by rolling a plastic bottle between his hands – it sounds to them like bone crunching = food. Soon we had four different species of sharks around us at 35-40 m, but this particular silvertip must have been very hungry because he took a bite at Collin’s face so he lost his mask.

Luckily for Collin, the shark also bit off his air supply and the heavy curtain of rushing bubbles pouring out of the hose probably frightened it off. Collin was calm enough to check out the rest of us before ascending to the surface with the help of buddy breathing. We continued this “interesting” shark dive until we were low on air. Collin used to say in his briefing: “Get down there, shake it around, suck it up and don’t come back with air in your tank!”



As a third dive one late afternoon we did a very special dive to see the colourful little mandarin fish mating. They only do this at sunset and are very hard to discover in the low visibility among the mangrove-lined reefs, but our dive guide was a true expert and we even managed to get it on our video.

More info about this fish at:

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2001/04/0423_mandarinfish.html



Our schedule at Yap was: two days diving, one day off, two more days diving and then flying to the next island group.

On our day off we took a kayak trip around the complex mangrove system of the islands. Bill Acker’s native wife Patricia, a very nice and knowledgeable lady, led this half-day tour with packed lunch and snorkel gear.

Nightlife on the island could be walking to another hotel restaurant for a change, a karaoke nightclub or the nearby popular hang-out *O'Keefe's Canteen* with live music. Must admit though that most evenings we spent up in our own *Crow's Nest*, chatting and laughing together with the expat locals; Bob the power station manager from Texas, Chuck the hotel accountant from Arizona and the pohm, still waiting for the hops to arrive for the hotel's mini brewery. Mario, a Philippine living in Sydney, and Barry, a solidly built oil-rig man, were also there most evenings.



On Yap they are aware of the importance of preserving their old culture. They arranged visits to the *Kaday Village* where they had performances of their traditional dances about how they transported the stone money from Palau on small rafts, with many boats sinking and people dying on the way. They also demonstrated how to make lei, ropes and baskets.

Then we were offered to try the betel nut. 99.9% of the population are constantly chewing on this stuff that gives them stained teeth in a bright red colour.

(I wish I had a photo of it, but on Yap you had to be very careful about taking photos and video of people.) The betel nut is split open while green, sprinkled with dry coral lime, wrapped in pepper leaves and then chewed. The effect is a mild high that lasts for about ten minutes. The effect on me was rather unpleasant; I experienced a bitter taste in my mouth and became VERY dizzy – not 'high' at all.



Young village girls in dancing outfits, and Kerry in a traditional village Meetinghouse.

The End - Thanks Susie for a great story and beautiful photos! (Editor's note!)



UEC NEWS JUNE 2003

*The official monthly newsletter of
Underwater Explorers Club of Western Australia*

“A DREAM COMES TRUE” – Micronesia Part 3 PALAU - Population: 19,126

by Susie Ashton

During our third week in Micronesia we stayed in *Koror*, provincial capital of *The Republic of Palau*.



Palau is located 7 degrees north of the Equator in the western Pacific Ocean and enjoys warm tropical weather and moderate temperatures year-round. The average relative humidity is 82% but I am sure it was 100% the week we were there.

It was also supposed to be the dry season in March but was actually raining every day except for the last!

The trip over from Yap took only one hour.

Our hotel was the *West Plaza by The Sea* situated central to all shopping.

We had our own kitchenette here and a lovely big terrace on the top floor.

As we arrived at 0800 on an empty stomach, we went straight down to the hotel restaurant for brekkie... and guess what the name of the restaurant was... ***The Sea Horse!***

Oh boy... did I get it right again, or what?!



After a short nap we walked all the way, through the town and over two bridges, to the “world famous” dive operator *Sam’s Tours* to check them out. As it was SO humid, I had to visit many souvenir shops on the way to cool off in their air-conditioning premises.

Continues on page 9!

From the Editor

In this issue: Part 3 of Kerry and Susie's amazing trip, the usual reports (minus a couple as we have very busy committee members!), some interesting information about wet suits... another jam-packed social calendar and more!

I am off to England and Sweden for 6 weeks. With Sean's help you will receive your UEC News as usual. If you have a story you would like to include, or something for sale, or a good photo, please send it in!! The deadline for newsletters is the Thursday following the Monday committee meeting every month.

Stina

General Meetings

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are held every third Monday (except for Public Holidays) at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

Committee Contact Details:

President & Investments: Carmine Travaglione Phone: 9356 1311 a/h, mobile: 0408 833 115

Secretary & Vice President: Steve Larter Phone: 9291 9654 a/h, mobile: 0418 949 264

Treasurer: Geoff Charlton Phone: 9354 7917, mobile: 0438 244 603

Boat Officer: Peter Horton Phone: 9448 5809 a/h, mobile: 0417 930 124

Boat Officer: Gary Browne Phone: 9337 9836a/h, mobile: 0409 712 039

Dive Officer: Kerry Ashton Phone: 9331 2385 a/h

Training Officer: Mark Sach Phone: 9417 7008 a/h

Safety Officer: Mark Maddern Phone: 9293 3251 a/h, mobile: 0422 068 870

Equipment Officer: Sandy Webb Phone: 9339 5936 a/h, mobile: 0407 993 395

Social Officer: Malcolm Roberts Phone: 9276 6607 a/h, mobile: 0411 353 641

PR & Web Officer: Susie Ashton Phone: 9331 2385, mobile: 0417 993 141

UEC News Editor: Stina Frantzich Phone 9341 4612 a/h

Postal Address: PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6954

Email: uec@space.net.au

Home Page: www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedure and to acquaint both Club Members and the public with the facts on safety and the use of safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

From the President

The boat is back in the water!!

Yes, after some bother in procuring the parts and spending quite a bit of our money the boat is now back in the water and running well. On Wednesday the 28th of May I took a trip to Rottnest with 18 people on board, a mixture of divers and social members. The weather was absolutely splendid. The sea was clam and after finding shelter from a fairly robust swell we ended up having two very good dives in ideal conditions. The 'tourists' better known as "Butsys Bunch" were dropped off at the fuel jetty at Rotto and had a great time wandering around slaking their thirst with either the amber fluid or the red or white fluid and the odd latte or short black from the Dome. They were a great bunch and all of us enjoyed a wonderful mid-week boating day.

The success of the trip was due, in no small part, to Ian and Val. We need more of these types of trips, so that our new boat is used more often, with a lot of people having a lot of fun and the club benefiting. If we can keep using the boat we will be able to keep our prices down for things such as membership fees, boat trips and diving charges. For the facilities we offer, our costs are remarkably low; some say too low. So please try to support the club as much as you can so that we can continue to keep our prices down. Many of the expenses suffered recently can be considered an investment for the future. When we replaced the parts that had failed it was obvious that they had been there since the boat was built. Though we don't expect any large expenses in the near future it will still be necessary to keep up our maintenance to keep the boat reliable and safe.

We have now organised a subcommittee to plan for the 50th anniversary of our inauguration. These conscripts, oops, sorry, I meant cooperatives will meet fairly soon to devise a strategy and a timetable. I will keep you posted and please feel free to make any suggestions.

I will be away for all of next month. Carol and I are joining another six cars to travel the length of the Canning Stock Route, some 1800 kilometres. The trip, from Perth to Wiluna, up the Canning to Halls Creek and then down the Great Northern Highway back to Perth is expected to take some 4 to 5 weeks. During my absence, Steve Larter, our very capable secretary and Vice President will be chairing the meetings.

I will be around for the June meeting so I look forward to seeing you there.

Carmine

RINGS OF THE ALUMINIUM VARIETY

My sister's grandchildren who attend Gosnells Primary School save the aluminium rings which we detach when drinking from cans. They are saving these as they are the only part of the can which is pure aluminium and it is used as some kind of aid for their disabled students. I don't know how practical it is to save them for the children but if you can, I know they would appreciate receiving them.

Thank you on behalf of the children!
Margaret and Bill Pettigrew

(If you are able to collect some rings, please bring them along to the general meeting/s for Margaret to pass on to the School - Ed's note).

Diving Report

Our wonderful boat is back in the water, running well and just beckoning divers to get out there and enjoy some diving. We have had a number of great days out in the last couple of weeks. A memorable day to mention is the midweek Rottnest trip & dive organized by Ian.

About eighteen people took advantage of the trip. For the social members it was a day out to enjoy Rottnest landside, whilst the divers took advantage of increasingly glass like conditions. Followed by a get-together for lunch and to swap tall stories.

Remember the schedule has been “winterized”. That means I only schedule one dive-day per weekend, mostly Sundays, with a starting time of 9 am. As usual, the dive is going ahead, and if the weather is adverse the Skipper and Dive officer will cancel on the day

Make sure you bring out your warm clothing and energy “kicks”, you will enjoy the day far more if you do not let yourself get cold.

The boat is yours to use if not otherwise booked and skipper and DO are available. If you can get a bunch together, I am sure you can set up a great day out, just as Ian did last week. This time of the year can be wonderful for cruising/mooring/diving on the river so keep that option in mind.

By the way if you are desperate for a dive and the schedule does not accommodate your timing, please call and there is always a chance to hook you up with some action. That intrepid bunch that shore and night dive is still at it and welcome more buddies.

Happy Diving!
See you out there!!

Kerry

PR Report

A valid comment given to me was: “We are a diving club - show more dive related photos on our web site”. So I will. Two thirds of our social pictures on the “Album” page have been deleted and there is also a bunch of Luc’s great underwater photos on the “More about us” page.

Web Report

We have started to discuss how we should best promote our club and celebrate the 50th anniversary next year. A sub-committee has been set up to organise the events we are planning for our big year.

Cheers!

Susie



Social Snippets

Hello fellow members!

The weather might be cooling down, but the social calendar is heating up. Book early so you don't get burned! A recent UEC social was...The Progressive dinner. I understand a fantastic night was had by all. I know I had a great time!

The recipe? Take several hosts, add one mini bus full of UEC members, stir through some great food, slowly add one or two drinks, combine with fun company and a good vibe. Bake until done or wobbliness occurs. Serve immediately. Caution: Take care when handling the next day.

A big thankyou must go to the many hosts for the night – Val and Butsy, Margaret and Bill, Wendy and Warren, Susie and Kerry, Pat and Bob, Sandy, Geoff our sober bus driver and to Susie again as the chief organiser. Thank you to all of you for your contribution. A tip for next time dear members – book early!

What's happening in June...

The new Fremantle Maritime Museum and dinner

Saturday 14th June

3pm Outside the museum at Victoria Quay.

Come and check out the new maritime museum. The museum closes at 5pm and we will go out to dinner afterwards. If you don't think 2 hours will be enough time in the museum for you, go in early, then come to the entrance and meet us at 3pm. Just want to do dinner? The cost is \$25.

Cost for museum entry and dinner is \$35.

Curry and Games night

Saturday 12th July

7pm @ my place, 23 Gatton Way, Embleton.

Did someone suggest Indian? Holy cow! Is nothing sacred? Come along for a night of curries and condiments, rice and riata. Whole baked pink snapper – Indian style. I've heard a rumour the recently stood down chef Mahatma Coat will be reinstated!

Dust off your head towels, stick on your red dots and come dressed in your favourite Indian outfit because there's a prize for the best dressed.

Fancy the crown of "Pinball Wizard"? Maybe you are full of Balderdash? Prefer just a vindaloo and a video? Perhaps you've seen people at the casino having fun playing that game with the dice they call "Craps" but didn't know how to play? Here's your chance to learn without risking your house. There'll be a craps table with coach/croupier extraordinaire Andre Stephenson.

The price for this "Ghandi's Gamefest" is \$25 p/h for all food and extras. BYO alcohol.

Pinball and pappadums! Curry and Craps! Food and fun – fellowship and festivities! Don't miss it!

PTO

What's happening in July...

AQWA visit and Shark Dive

Saturday 26th July

3pm – 5pm @ AQWA

Weather too rotten to dive? Not if you do it indoors with sharks! Normal price for a shark tank dive is \$90 but come with your club and it will only be \$80. Come for a dive with the Grey Nurses or just watch and tour AQWA's aquariums for \$12 instead of \$20. We could follow with dinner at Hillarys if desired.

Be quick! There's a limit of 8 divers in two shifts of 4. We need 10+ watchers to get the above price of \$12. Divers have entry included.

Be quick if you want to dive. There are only 3 places left!!! No limit on "watchers".

Please advise your desire to any or all of the above by email as soon as possible. Any questions, catch me at the next club meeting. Please pay our Treasurer Geoff in advance for any events, either by post or at a club meeting.

Lists for names for up-coming events will be available at club meetings, or better still, you can email me at concept1@iinet.net.au or phone 9276 6607, leaving a message if necessary. Email is best. Book now while you are thinking about it!

Hope to see you at the next club meeting or at a UEC social event soon.

Your Social Dragonfly,

Malcolm Roberts

The Leeuwin Current

In autumn and winter a fascinating phenomenon takes place along the Western Australian coast that has far-reaching consequences for the distribution of marine life throughout the area. The Leeuwin current is a band of warm, low-salinity water that moves south from Exmouth to Cape Leeuwin. On reaching Cape Leeuwin, it flows eastward towards Esperance.

In winter, when it is at its strongest, the Leeuwin Current can usually be identified from satellite imagery as a stream of warm water moving down the upper continental slope. It is around 50 kilometres wide and 200 metres deep and moves south at a rate of between one and three knots. It appears to originate as a result of a complex pattern of water circulation for the Western Pacific Ocean through to the Indonesian Archipelago and from currents and eddies in the Indian Ocean.

The current transports larvae of tropical marine life, such as corals, south and provides a flow of warmer water that enables many tropical and subtropical species to survive further south than they would in other parts of the world. The many tropical fish that proliferate in Perth's Marmion Marine Park and on the spectacular reefs around Rottnest Island can be attributed to the Leeuwin Current.

This information is from "Dive & Snorkel Sites in Western Australia", 1997, p.95. Distributed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

The Science of Warming Your Wetsuit (story supplied by Susie)

You try to hold it in, but can't. Desperate, you pee in your wetsuit. You hope no one will notice. But what can you do? Drink less water? No, drink more.

The Dehydration Factor

- Deliberately dehydrating yourself, in the hope you can hold it until the surface interval, just makes the embarrassment problem worse.
- Because of immersion diuresis and your involuntary reaction to cold, chances are you'll have to pee anyway.
- Dehydration makes the result stronger in odour and colour.

The Embarrassment Factor

There is a well-worn joke that divers belong to two schools regarding peeing in their wetsuit: Those who do and those who lie about it. If you do have to pee in your wetsuit, know this:

- If you're well-hydrated, your urine will be nearly clear and odourless. Almost like water. So who's to know?
- There's no health risk to peeing in your wetsuit. Most people don't realize that urine is sterile, unless you already have an infection of the urinary tract. The worst you have to fear is a case of diaper rash if the urine stays against your skin for several hours, and this too is less of a problem when your urine is diluted. Solution: Open your wetsuit under water and rinse it between dives.

The Warmth Factor

True or false? Urinating in a wetsuit is a quick way to warm up. False, and here's why: You may feel warm initially, but it will actually lower your body heat. And, if you're wearing a tight-fitting wetsuit that doesn't flush easily, a semi-dry or dry suit, then this warming-up technique loses a lot of its appeal.

What To Do with a Wetsuit that Stinks

It couldn't be helped. You felt the urge to pee during a dive, and so you did. Now you're afraid your wetsuit will stink. What should you do?

Give it a hot rinse. This is the most important part of regular stink prevention. Walk right past the rinse tank where other divers are busy dunking their suits in the filth rinsed off other gear, and go back home and rinse it in hot, fresh water. The easiest way to do this is to take your suit in the shower with you. Hot water is better than lukewarm water for breaking down salts from the ocean and from your body.

Hang it. After rinsing, hang your suit to dry on a wide wooden or plastic hanger, preferably one made for wetsuits. Use a wide hanger to keep the front and back of the suit apart so it can dry more quickly.

Soap it. Every once in a while give your suit a soapy bath. Scrub it well inside and out. Use a sponge on the slick neoprene and a soft-bristled brush on any nylon linings. Just about any kind of soap will work to kill the odours, but some are better than others. The best soaps for the job are commercially available "wetsuit shampoos" (check your local dive store) or a gentle baby shampoo. Next best are regular bath soaps and shampoos. Dish and laundry soaps are too harsh to use regularly on your wetsuit, but will do the job in a pinch. Never have your suit dry cleaned.

Deodorize it. If your suit still reeks, you might want to deodorize it. "Sink the Stink" (www.flinet.com/gulfstream/sts.html) is an all-natural deodorizer made specifically for de-stinking wetsuits.

CLUB CALENDAR

<i>JUNE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>Skipper/DO or Venue</i>
Tuesday 3 @ 2000	<i>Committee meeting</i>	<i>SYC</i>
Saturday 7 @ 0900	1-tank dive + Freo lunch	Bob / Steve
Saturday 14 @ 1500	Freo Maritime Museum & Dinner	Museum etc
Sunday 15 @ 0900	Angela's Cave	Geoff C / Gary
Monday 16 @ 2000	<i>General meeting</i>	<i>SYC</i>
Sunday 22 @ 0900	Garden Island	Geoff G / Jim
Saturday 28 @ 0900	1-tank dive	Dennis / Mark M
Monday 30 @ 0900	Cray fish dive	TBA / TBA
<i>JULY</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>Skipper/DO or Venue</i>
Sunday 6 @ 0700	"Early-Bird" 1-tank dive	Geoff G / Karl
Monday 7 @ 2000	<i>Committee Meeting</i>	<i>SYC</i>
Saturday 12 @ 0900	Exploratory dive	Kerry / Dallis
Saturday 12 @ 1900	Curry & Games night	@ Marlcom's Place
Sunday 20 @ 0900	Skipper's choice	Dennis / Clive
Monday 21 @ 2000	<i>General Meeting</i>	<i>SYC</i>
Saturday 26 @ 0900	1-tank dive	Geoff C / Steve
Saturday 26 @ 1500	AQWA visit & shark dive	AQWA @ Hillary's

DIVE BOOKINGS:

MEMBERS!

Please check departure times and be at the boat 15 minutes before.

Please DO NOT contact the Skipper or Dive Officer to discuss weather conditions. They will decide on the day, at the boat, if weather is suitable for the trip to proceed. Just check with Kerry the night before that we have sufficient number of divers to go.

PLEASE NOTE: Dives are 2-tanks unless otherwise stated.

DIVE & BOAT BOOKINGS:

Kerry (or Susie) on 9331 2385 or by Email kasdive@inet.net.au

AND THERE IS MORE!

If you can get a group together some other day than scheduled, you are welcome to get the boat, if we can get a skipper (and DO if diving). Remember! It is YOUR boat!

See you on the boat!

“A DREAM COMES TRUE” - PART 3 - PALAU

by Susie Ashton

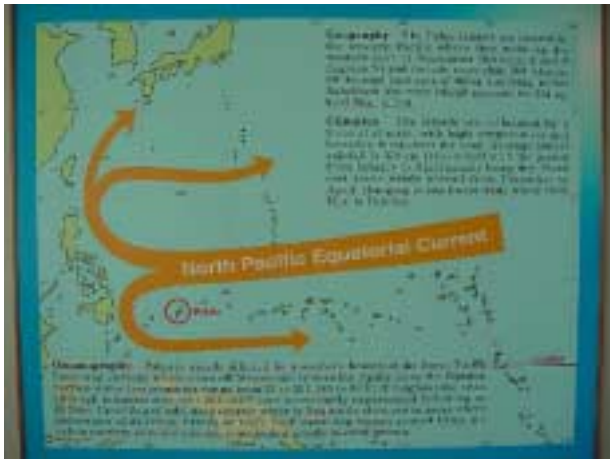
Continued from Page 1...

We liked what we saw at *Sam's* (even if we didn't meet the Yankee owner himself) and the staff was very friendly and accommodating so we booked in for four days diving with them.

They have several twin-engine dive vessels, all with names of a fish, huge “working tables” with space for photo and video equipment and huge basins for washing gear.



There are many, many dive shops in Palau but *Sam's* has consistently been ranked as Micronesia's premier tour service since 1997. All the other dive shops mainly provide for the Asian market.



Map showing the three ocean currents.

Around Palau, three ocean currents converge to bring in some of the most varied and dazzling marine life in the world, counting about 1500 fish species and 700 different corals.

Most of the famous dive spots on Palau are for advanced divers, because of the strong currents and vertical walls.

We had the pleasure of being introduced to “hook diving” here. This means that you attach a line with a clip to your BCD (by your chest).

At the other end of the line is a hook that you hook on to a rock, pump yourself up a bit and then you just “hang” in the current and enjoy the moving scenery around you, with both hands free for filming or taking photos.

Absolutely brilliant! And exciting! And fun to hang at the edge of the reef wall.

Palau's most famous dive spot **BLUE CORNER** is a site that people come from all over the world to dive again and again. The reef is covered with corals, soft corals, and anemones, some of them more than a meter across. We did this dive several times – and it was a different scenery every time! With the current ripping around the reef corner, you hook up, hang in there, with fantastic visibility. I have NEVER seen so much marine life before in my life in one spot!

Turtles, sharks of many kinds cruising back and forth with remoras clinging to their bodies, large schools of barracuda, eagle rays, and of course all the other colourful little reef fish. A huge resident Napoleon Wrasse swam right up to us every time. I even saw sharks being cleaned. During another dive we saw ten sharks cruising around together with Big Eye Jacks brushing up against the sharks to clean themselves of parasites.

Palau has more than 30 dive sites buoyed at the reef's edge and to get out there we would travel for about one hour through the magic **ROCK ISLANDS**. There are more than 300 of them, remnants of ancient uplifted coral reefs, undercut by the persistent action of waves, and draped with lush vegetation.



Between dives we would visit one of the lovely beaches for a long lunch break.

The Rock Islands hold about 80 marine salt lakes, former sinkholes that are now filled with saltwater.

You might have heard about the world famous **JELLYFISH LAKE** where all jellyfish have lost their ability to sting.

It was an absolute delight to snorkel around here early one morning before the dive on the reef– no extra charge!



On non-diving days we hired a car and took off to explore all corners of Palau islands.

We visited *The Palau Mariculture Demonstration Center*, which has received international recognition for its success in cultivating the threatened giant *tridacna* clam.

There are 9 species of giant clams in the world, and 7 of them are known to thrive in Palau. All are considered endangered species.

Turn over to see a picture of the Clam farm! (Ed's note)



The *PMDC* raises millions of seed clams to be planted in reefs around Palau and other islands in Micronesia – especially in places that can be guarded against illegal harvesting.

The main threat to the clams comes from outside poachers, mainly from Taiwan. Law prohibits the export of naturally grown giant clams in Palau, and only cultured ones can be exported to other countries.

We were invited to the island's only microbrewery *Red Roster* and had a free pint of their best beer from the barrel - a very good dark version that we enjoyed tremendously on this hot and humid day.



We also went through the excellent and informative exhibition at *Palau International Coral Reef Center*.

See how they use part of the real world outside, inside the aquarium. Clever!



We crossed over the bridge to *Babeldaob Island* in search of Palau's oldest *bai*, (traditional meeting house) which dates back a century. Found it and paid US\$10 to the caretaker so we could take photos. Beautiful legendary scenes and symbolic designs are painted inside and out – a true work of art.

There is a lot more I could tell you about the diving and things to see and do in Palau but I guess this article is now long enough for you to absorb, so I will stop here.



UEC NEWS JULY 2003

*The official monthly newsletter for Underwater Explorers
Club of Western Australia*

From our Vice President

While our President is away exploring the scenic delights of out back of Western Australia, it's my turn to stand in for Carmine who is off on a well earned break from civilisation.

The big news for this month is the reactivation of our role in the Avon Descent for 2003. Yes we have agreed to send a team of 20 + members to assist with the rescue activities and from the amount of rain that has fallen recently we should be busy with the levels in the river well up and flowing like white water should be.

Denis has stepped into the breach for this event and is busy getting everything organised. Thanks to all the volunteers who have come forward from the membership to assist as this event is a very good fundraiser as well as an exciting weekend of fun and excitement for everyone involved.

At the last monthly meeting we touched on the fee structure for membership and activities for the club for the coming year. While Carmine is away we need to move on with our deliberations and discuss at our July meeting various options for keeping your club a strong viable organisation, which can supply us all with what we need to enjoy both the social side of the club and our diving activities.

Geoff, our overworked Treasurer, is going to put together a cost analysis of club costs in the last 12 months so we can plan for the next 12 months. Your participation with positive suggestions would be appreciated. We are also interested in your suggestions for more fund raising activities for the coming months. Remember I am only the stand in Vice President so be gentle please!

Would the owners of the latest issue of club clothing of fleecy tops etc who have not paid for their garments please pay before the next meeting. Geoff has sent everyone reminders so please contact him to settle your outstanding debts as we are looking for nominations for club awards at the next General meeting and it could be embarrassing if you have not coughed up yet.

Steve

From the Editor

Hi all! I am editing this edition of UEC News from my parents home in Sweden. We have a beautiful summer's day today and it is really lovely to be here. Hope you are all well back in Perth and see you when I get back. Thank you to my friend Anna who assisted me with this issue of UEC News!

Please remember as usual that the deadline for newsletters is the Thursday following the Monday committee meeting every month.

Stina

General Meetings

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are held every third Monday (except for Public Holidays) at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

Committee Contact Details:

President & Investments: Carmine Travaglione Phone: 9356 1311 a/h, mobile: 0408 833 115

Secretary & Vice President: Steve Larter Phone: 9291 9654 a/h, mobile: 0418 949 264

Treasurer: Geoff Charlton Phone: 9354 7917, mobile: 0438 244 603

Boat Officer: Peter Horton Phone: 9448 5809 a/h, mobile: 0417 930 124

Boat Officer: Gary Browne Phone: 9337 9836a/h, mobile: 0409 712 039

Dive Officer: Kerry Ashton Phone: 9331 2385 a/h

Training Officer: Mark Sach Phone: 9417 7008 a/h

Safety Officer: Mark Maddern Phone: 9293 3251 a/h, mobile: 0422 068 870

Equipment Officer: Sandy Webb Phone: 9339 5936 a/h, mobile: 0407 993 395

Social Officer: Malcolm Roberts Phone: 9276 6607 a/h, mobile: 0411 353 641

PR & Web Officer: Susie Ashton Phone: 9331 2385, mobile: 0417 993 141

UEC News Editor: Stina Frantzich Phone 9341 4612 a/h

Please notify editor if any of the above details are incorrect! Thank you!

Postal Address: PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154

Email: uec@space.net.au

Home Page: www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedure and to acquaint both Club Members and the public with the facts on safety and the use of safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

Boat Report

There is not a lot to report this month, the boat has not been out much which is to be expected at this time of year. We have a few outstanding jobs to do during this period of inactivity including the fitting of new ignition switches, modifying alternator pulleys, fitting a new steering pump and a new CD Player/Radio.

Vince Page has been able to assist us in purchasing the new ignition switches at a much reduced price to what Mercruiser would charge and he has agreed to fit them when he gets a chance. It is contributions like this from you, the members, that make our job much more bearable and at the end of the day the Club benefits.

If there are any keen plumbers out there we have a heat exchanger that needs to be fitted so that we can enjoy a hot shower after a dive, if you are able to assist with this project please contact Gary on 0409712039.

Gary & Peter

Safety Report

Hello everybody and welcome to my safety report. I have now finished my thesis so I (thankfully) have a life again. There has been very little diving due to the winter (crappy) weather, though hopefully we will soon have a sunny spell and the boat will go out. I am currently doing an inventory of the life jackets on the boat (with some help from Geoff Charlton) to determine the size and carrying capacity of each jacket.

Stay safe!

Marcus

Training Report

Hi all,

Thanks to all the people who turned up to the navigation theory night in June. There is no training in July due to the Avon Decent training. On the 11th of August I intend to run a general equipment maintenance workshop at Swan Yacht Club starting at 8pm. Please remember to book on so that I know how many people are attending. Leave a message on my answering machine on 9417 8890.

For all DO's and Skippers, I intend to run an O₂ equipment maintenance and user theory night. Please email me your availability so that I can co-ordinate this with the most suitable time for our guest instructor, Gary Brown.

Happy diving,
Your Training Officer

Rambo

Social Snippets

Hello fellow members, here are some social snippets for you.

There are lots of people booked to come to our social events. The Curry and Games night will have been by the time you are reading this. Who was the pinball champion? Who was a natural at Craps? Full report in next months newsletter.

AQWA visit and Shark Dive

Saturday 26th July

3pm – 5pm @ AQWA

\$80/\$12

Weather too rotten to dive? Not if you do it indoors with sharks! Come and dive, or come and visit all the attractions.

Normal price for a shark tank dive is \$90 but come with your club and it will only be \$80. Come for a dive with the Grey Nurses or be a watcher (includes a special ‘behind the scenes’ tour of AQWA’s aquariums) \$12 instead of \$20.

If you are interested in having a drink or dinner after AQWA, we can decide as a group on the day where to go afterwards. There are a few options in the nearby Hillarys Marina Complex.

Mussels on the mooring

Saturday 13th September

7pm @ SYC jetty

\$25 pp

Your chance has come. This event was postponed due to the boat breakdown.

How can you not keep warm with a bowl of hearty soup and a superb stew? Mmmm!

Join your UEC friends for a warm night of fellowship and food as we moor on the Swan River for an enjoyable night. Is it true that Perth is the world’s most livable city? Come out and see for yourself.

The boat will leave SYC jetty at 7pm.

\$25 per person. BYO drinks. Diving optional. No extra charge, but your prawns are to share!

Now that we have a great mooring in the Swan river, jump on board the club boat and let’s use it. Don’t miss this one. “The moor - the merrier.”

Whale Watching Trip

Family day out on the UE

Sunday 12th October

8am to 4pm ex Challenger Harbour pen.

\$10 under 12’s \$20 others (Family ticket is \$50)

Note: You must BYO life jacket if your child is under 40 Kg.

We will travel to Rottnest and surrounds and do some whale watching before spending an enjoyable few hours on Rottnest Island for lunch. Depending on our earlier success we may “whale watch” again before coming back to the harbour. It’ll be a fun day. Any whales will be a bonus.

Please advise your desire to attend any or all of the above by email as soon as possible.

Any questions, catch me at the next club meeting.

Please pay our Treasurer Geoff in advance for any events, either by post or at a club meeting.

PTO

Your social sub-committee is putting the final touches to the calendar for the rest of the year. Some members have suggested a “music night” like the club did a few years ago. How about Sat November 30th? Please indicate your interest, particularly if you play an instrument and can help out on that front. We have a club of talented musicians. Let’s see and hear you!

Club nights

8pm on the third Monday of the month @ SYC

June - We had a man from Woodman Point enlighten us last month.

July - To give everyone a chance to catch up, there will be no speaker this month.

August - Club member, Rob Stagg has just returned from diving in the South China Sea and we will be showing an edited version of the awesome footage he took.

September or October – We have been promised a chat from famous author and diver Hugh Edwards. We will have a copy of his book, “Islands of Angry Ghosts”, as a raffle prize.

Hope to see you at the next club meeting or at a UEC social event soon.

Lists for names for up-coming events will be available at club meetings, or better still, you can email me at concept1@iinet.net.au or phone 9276 6607, leaving a message if necessary. Email is best. Book now while you are on line and thinking about it!

Your Social Dragonfly

Malcolm Roberts

END OF YEAR SALE!

Take this opportunity to buy a “look like new” Tusa Export BCD for \$195 (with cushioned back for comfort).

ALSO have a Mirage Pro BCD for \$95.

AND a couple of men’s 5 mm wet suits for \$50 each.

Contact Susie on 9331 2385 or e-mail kasdive@iinet.net.au

Conservation Corner - brought to you by Susie!



Keiko has become a bit wild—and that’s a good thing! After years of captivity, Keiko now lives in a Norwegian fjord. There, with a little help from his friends, he has open access to the North Atlantic Ocean. It’s also where he’s learning how to be a wild orca again. It’s hoped that some day Keiko will be ready to join a pod of wild orcas. *Source: Keiko Watch Newsletter – July 2003*

More good news...

(at least at this stage) **Maud’s Landing (Ningaloo Reef) got the thumbs down for development!**

Hurrah!

Diving Report

The past month has seen little activity with the adverse weather affecting our diving, so nothing to report on that front. Do not give up hope, we still have a schedule in place and I am sure we will jag some great days. August will be just round the corner when you receive this schedule and that is almost spring time so keep the mould off the gear and get wet. Also, with spring approaching there is the chance we will encounter our whale friends passing through and the place to see them is from the boat.

The schedule is still “winterized”. That means I only schedule one dive day per weekend, mostly Sundays, with a starting time of 9 am. As usual, assume the dive is going ahead; if the weather is adverse the Skipper and Dive officer will cancel on the day.

Remember the diving survey? Well, initially we did a manual run through which gave us a pretty good idea of what members want. Now a database has been created, which gives us a better opportunity to analyse/chart the responses to see if we are in fact providing the service you, the club members, want. Check out what you had to say in the summary/analysis tha follows. I will include further installments over the next couple of months.

Happy diving!
See you out there!!
Kerry

UEC Diving Survey 2003

There are many different ways to interpret the data so bear with me. Of course I will be sharing the knowledge with the committee and members and I am happy to discuss the findings. This article will begin the analysis with more to follow in later editions.

To summarise:

37 members responded, whilst 11 preferred to remain anonymous I could see from the other 26 (signed forms) that a good cross section of the club was represented, with long standing, recent, young and old members taking part.

The scoring system was:

1= Very Desirable 2= Desirable 3= Occasionally 4= Not at all

To give you an idea, the responses ranged from scores of

52: this low total score means 27 of 37 responses were very desirable

127: this high total score means 20 of 37 responses were not at all

So, you can see there is quite a diverse response.

A scoring analysis of dive day and number of tanks produced the following table

Description	Sat	Sun	Comment
Dive Day	58	52	We need to offer both days in the schedule Interpret also, with options below
One Tank	77	89	Stronger Saturday preference Lesser Sunday requirement
Two Tank	81	59	Strong preference for Sunday two tank Saturday preference less than one tank Sat

A scoring analysis of start times produces the following table

Description	One Tank	Two Tank	Comment
6am Start	121	116	Only some starters would need special effort
8am Start	74	69	Confirms our normal start time
10am Start	117	127	Only some starters would need special effort

For the same questions in the above two tables this next table shows the actual responses by category and indicates to me that we should not totally write off an option because of a “poor score” in comparison to other stronger options. Most options have some support and they can be added to the schedule say once a month or bimonthly as demand permits.

Name	Very Desirable	Desirable	Occasionally	Not at all	No answer
Sat	25	5	6	0	1
Sun	27	7	2	0	1
Sat1	15	9	10	1	2
Sun1	11	7	13	5	1
Sat2	14	8	12	0	3
Sun2	24	8	3	0	2
6am1	4	3	11	17	2
6am2	4	6	10	15	2
8am1	16	10	7	3	1
8am2	19	11	3	1	3
10am1	6	2	10	18	1
10am2	3	4	7	20	3

Thanks to all members who took part. Yes, I know there were more questions, do not worry, I have not forgotten. They will follow in the next installment.

Kerry

CLUB CALENDAR

<i>JULY</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>Skipper/DO or Venue</i>
Sunday 20 @ 0900	Skipper's choice	Dennis / Carl
Monday 21 @ 2000	<i>General Meeting</i>	Swan Yacht Club
Saturday 26 @ 0900	One-tank dive	Geoff C / Steve

<i>AUGUST</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>Skipper/DO or Venue</i>
Sunday 3 @ 0900	Crystal Palace	Geoff G / Jim
Monday 4 @ 2000	<i>Committee meeting</i>	Swan Yacht Club
Saturday 9 @ 0900	Carnac Island ONE-tank	Bob / Steve
Sunday 17 @ 0900	DEEP dive	Carmine / Clive
Monday 18 @ 2000	<i>General meeting</i>	Swan Yacht Club
Saturday 23 @ 0900	Jumbo Cave	Geoff C / Mark M
Sunday 31 @ 0900	Murray's Chambers ONE-tank	Kerry / Clive

DIVE BOOKINGS:

MEMBERS!

Please check departure times and be at the boat 15 minutes before.

Please DO NOT contact the Skipper or Dive Officer to discuss weather conditions. They will decide on the day, at the boat, if weather is suitable for the trip to proceed. Just check with Kerry the night before that we have sufficient number of divers to go.

PLEASE NOTE: Dives are 2-tanks unless otherwise stated.

DIVE & BOAT BOOKINGS:

Kerry (or Susie) on 9331 2385 or by Email kasdive@iinet.net.au

AND THERE IS MORE!

If you can get a group together some other day than scheduled (including mid-week) you are welcome to get the boat, if we can get a skipper (and DO if diving). Remember! It is YOUR boat!

PR Report

1) I have had requests for more fleecy to be made with our logotype so if you missed out in the first and second round – here is your chance for the third time. Orders need to be with me by the July general meeting. For \$10 we can embroid the UEC logotype on to your own garment if you bring it to the meeting. Separate badges with stitched edges can also be made for \$10.



These two items were the most popular and they are as warm as toast.

Prices: Polar fleece \$37 and Full zip polar fleece \$41.

2) The new UEC pamphlet is now ready for printing and I take this opportunity to thank Margaret, Maree and super proof reader Zita for their valuable help in the process.

WEB Report

1) I am working on a totally new look for our web site to correspond more with our celebration of the club's 50th anniversary next year.

2) There was a new dive site register launched on the Internet this month and I have (and still am) in contact with the web master who promised to put in our UEC details without charging us.

GOSSIP!!!

UEC divers and social members were seen at the Jazz Club of WA's fund raising event, dancing their feet hot and scooping many raffle prizes.

“A DREAM COMES TRUE” – Susie & Kerry’s Micronesia Trip

Part 4 – POHNPEI

POHNPEI Island has more than 40 rivers and is known as the **Garden Island** of Micronesia. To get here we had to fly back to Guam and then East, touching down on Chuuk and finally landing in **Kolonia**, the largest town in FSM (Federated States of Micronesia) with a population of 3,250 at the last count. The capital of FSM, **Palikin**, is situated 8 km outside Kolonia.

With its rugged, wet, lush interior, cascading waterfalls, and thick ring of mangrove forest, Pohnpei is the largest island in the FSM although only 21 km across.



Main Street is the town center in Kolonia and here is a typical grocery shop.

Our accomodation



The Village Resort consisted of some 15 bungalows on stilts with thatched roofing made from palm fronds and reeds, a “long-house” with a reception and an open-air restaurant, serving the best food ever, and a sunken bar called *The Tattooed Irishman*, where we always had our sunset cocktail.

This wonderful place, build by an American couple in 1971, is situated on a steep hill side, bedded in the native





jungle and is, without a doubt, the absolute top accommodation on the whole island, and the best one we stayed in during our five weeks in Micronesia. We really loved it here. We even had our own house cat. I called her *Mjau* because she would always greet me with a “mjau”. She was pregnant and stayed with us the whole week. I hope the next resident will look after her as well as we did because she needs a lot of TLC to feel safe.

Mjau in my king size waterbed

The Diving

Few tourists visit Pohnpei, and the reefs remain pristine with spectacular underwater scenery. An unbroken line of mangrove means there are no beaches here and the dive sites are all reached by boat. The reefs are very healthy on the main fringing reef that surrounds the island. We did four dives here. Unfortunately, the dive operation that was provided by the hotel was the worse we have ever experienced. They didn't even have enough weight belts for six divers, the maximum their lousy dive boat could take. Kerry was diving with a big led lump and another guy was given a bunch of big chains to put in his pockets!

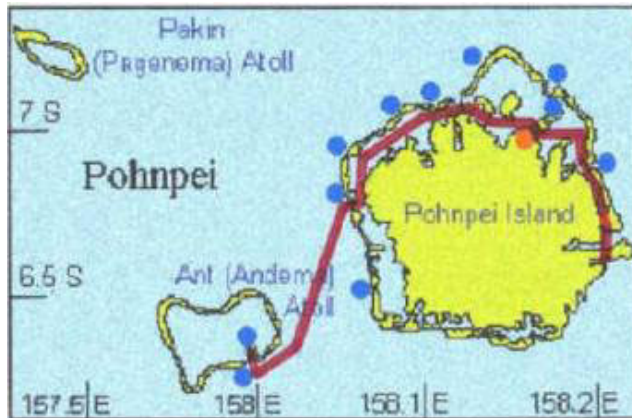
We also saw some bad behavior from one of our so-called dive officers. While leading the dive, he was instead sitting on a brain coral head, hacking inside a giant clam with his knife. It was awful! . . . and at the end he didn't get it off the coral head anyway – broke his knife and had to leave the clam there. It made me feel sick to see.

Otherwise it was a wonderful dive experience with excellent visibility, lots of host anemones with anemone fish, schools of barracudas, jacks, big feather starfish and all the “usual” colourful coral fish among beautiful coral gardens.



Lunch break between dives on a Japanese bunker ruin.

At the second dive spot that day we had a very strong current and could practice our “reef hook diving” again. That is so great! But we only saw our dive master for the first five minutes... then he disappeared with the current and left the rest of us all spread out in different places... and that’s when my brand new Sherwood BCD blew up! I was 30 m deep at this stage and rapidly losing air from the disconnected hose.



Even though our dive vessel was extremely uncomfortable it didn’t stop us from going the extra hour to the **Ant Atoll** (see red line on map – the blue spots are dive sites). We had heard that the diving there is absolutely special... and it was quite incredible, I must admit. Some notes from my dive log: *Ant atoll passage* (10/10): Fantastic coral gardens, fast current along wall then suddenly stopped at the bend and turned. Many beautiful big sponges; barracudas; sharks; clown trigger. Terrestrial downpour and thunder when we took off for the second dive after the lunch break.

Toawoai Passage (10/10): huge triggerfish nests in the sand and many triggers chasing each other (mating season); beautiful Queen angelfish; a gentle drift along the wall totally covered in hand size bright yellow gorgonians. The 1,5 hour trip back home was horrible, uncomfortable, wet and bumpy in hard rain.

The dive vessel would only take six people so that was good but we had to sit on the hard bottom of the boat – not good. When we got back from that trip I didn’t think I had a single rib left unbroken but I thought it was worth it so you can imagine how great the dives must have been... and for me to be outside the door in such weather!



Lunch break on Ant island beach. We just made it between showers.



On our days off...

... we did the normal things – hired a car and did a circumnavigation, exploring the island. One stop was at the **Kapingamarangi Village**, the home of wood and ivory nut carvers. Yes, of course I got a seahorse specially carved out for me!

The artist’s studio/shop.



He uses the pink center of a mangrove tree (not an endangered species).



NAN MADOL – an ancient Venice-like city

Definitely the most intriguing of all of Pohnpei’s spectacles, and an important archaeological site, are the ruins of Nan Madol, situated at a remote sea-shore location off the South-East side of Pohnpei and a “must see” when you are there.

Nan Madol was an important political, social and religious centre built during the Saudeleur dynasty, a place for ritual activity and the homes of royalty and their servants.

Apparently, the construction and modification of Nan Madol (which is made up of some 92 man made islands) commenced at around 500 AD and some of the buildings have been dated as far back as 1500 AD. The major buildings were constructed of immense basalt pillars, six meters long weighing several tons. Some of these stone logs are stacked crisscross, to form walls 12 meters high and five meters thick! The Saudeleurs are believed to have taken over at around 1000 AD and remained in power until they were defeated in 1628. The best way to see this area is by canoe – and that is exactly what we did. It was an awesome sight and kind of majestic experience to silently float around the ruins in these tidal flats.

Well, of course there are more tales to tell from Pohnpei but I will finish here for now.

Cheers!

Susie





UEC NEWS

AUGUST 2003

*The official monthly newsletter of
Underwater Explorers Club of Western Australia*

THE 2003 AVON DESCENT VIEWED FROM THE CAMPSITE

As campsite coordinator for the UEC volunteers (ie doing brekkies and lunches and helping sort out the tents and stretchers) I hardly saw the river and its rapids and cannot comment on the action side of the weekend, but once again I really enjoyed playing a small part in the Avon Descent. I think I'd be in a repeat effort next year if we get the opportunity, even though two years ago I thought I'd had enough. Our campsite sessions were mellower than in the past. We were earlier to bed at night.

There was less thumping music as the 'Coates Hire' boys were no longer there and Dennis had urged good behaviour. I didn't even get my feet wet (I had my wellies with me so that, given the amazing storm that hit the camp on Saturday night, my feet were the only bits of me that were really dry!). As far as I could see around that huge warm bonfire and even under that dripping awning, scoffing eggs and bacon cheerfully (yes, without exception cheerfully, even at 5 am!), all who took part also had a very good time.

This year the Avon Support Unit made a late and urgent call for 20 or so intrepid souls from the UEC to assist with the rescue teams. After Carmine's initial negotiations with the ASU and call for UEC volunteers, Dennis stepped into the breach and did a fantastic, huge job in coordinating our involvement. As a club 'oldie', one of the great things was to see that among the faithful Avon Descent regulars were a number of new and younger members of the Club.

There are a lot of 'thank you's' to be offered. This participation was a very valuable fundraiser for the Club, so every volunteer has to be thanked heartily. But special thanks must go to Dennis for his massive job coordinating things, Mark Sach for organising the army tents and stretchers for us, Andie for providing vital space and help in cleaning and drying the tents after the event, Michelle and Duncan and Ric especially for behind the scenes work in towing trailers and gear to and from Perth...Rachel was everywhere helping it seemed, always up first (must be the horsey training?)..truly everyone..... You were a hardworking, easygoing group and it was a pleasure to feed you! Hope you had enough to eat.

Sandy

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!!!

Jenny Ough - Nollamara
Christine Buessenschuett - Floreat
Charles Faulkner - Floreat

From the Editor

Hello again! Yet another issue of UEC News with plenty of reading. Everything from the Avon Descent to Fiji and the last instalment of Susie and Kerry's trip of a lifetime.

We are going through our list of people/places who receive UEC News in the post. If you have an email address then you will most probably not receive the paper copy in the future! We can save many trees for the planet and money for the club by reducing the number of copies going out in the post. The deadline for contributions is the Thursday following the Monday committee meeting every month as usual.

Stina

General Meetings

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are held every third Monday (except for Public Holidays) at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

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Boat Officer: Peter Horton Phone: 9448 5809 a/h, mobile: 0417 930 124

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PR & Web Officer: Susie Ashton Phone: 9331 2385, mobile: 0417 993 141

UEC News Editor: Stina Frantzich Phone 9341 4612 a/h

Postal Address: PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6954

Email: uec@space.net.au

Home Page: www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedure and to acquaint both Club Members and the public with the facts on safety and the use of safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

From the President

Back again! After almost a month of the equivalent of the Australian Hudge, wandering around in the desert for almost 40 days and 40 nights, fighting off savage wildflowers - which to the unsuspecting eye look beautiful, looking with trepidation at multicoloured and graceful butterflies and grasshoppers that may have maliciously fluttered or hopped us into a state of wonder, waking to the twittering of a dangerous Zebra Finch or going to sleep at night under the blinding lights of the cross-examining stars, I have returned to 'civilisation' and all its 'advantages', for example the daily newspaper, wherein I can read about interesting things such as wars, fighting, drug abuse, bombs in hotels, police corruption, political corruption, business corruption, religious corruption and general abuse. Further delights such as eating Kentucky Fried and generally buggered duck, Hormones' Treat or Greasy Hut were also 'missed'.

Ahhh ——— civilisation!

Whilst I have been away the club has prospered a little more thanks to the efforts of some of our members. Dennis very kindly took the baton after I left and did a marvellous job of running the UEC campus for the Avon Descent Association. Around 25 people were mustered at the last minute to provide a service to the A.D.A for which we have been promised a donation of \$3,000. After our costs and a small thank-you function for all those who helped, we will show a net gain to our coffers of some \$2,500. Not a bad effort don't you all think? I want to extend the club's and my personal thanks to all those who helped and we will advise you of an upcoming function to be held in your honour as a gesture of thanks.

Another thank you must go to our Vice-President, Steve Larter who took over my duties in my absence. As expected he conducted himself in the professional way Steve always does. Thanks Steve!

Unlike where I have just come back from, I am advised the weather here has not been particularly conducive to diving. Mind you, the lakes I have just been to would not require any deco stops. Notwithstanding the restrictions of nature, we have Malcolm organising many social events and activities for you. Put your names down and help us to make a success of these events which also help the club raise funds.

I am advised that the boat, despite a small oil leak, is ready to take you diving if the weather is OK. I believe whale watching is also on the agenda. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

It is now just over 12 months since we procured our new boat. This period has been peppered with events both good and bad. I am still supremely confident that the decision made to buy our boat was a good one and has taken us to the next stage forward to allow our club to grow yet still be capable of servicing our members. Calculations of boat usage and costs were made based on projected boat usage, bearing in mind the growth of membership due to affiliations, associations and advertising. There has been an increase in the use of our boat but sadly, it has not achieved our expectations. These factors as you no doubt are aware of affect the charges for diving, boat usage and membership. In an effort to keep these to an absolute minimum we have successfully acquired the services of none other than:-

——— BELLIGERANT BELINDA ———

Yes that's right, Belinda has agreed, in conjunction with some of our committee, to be part of a subcommittee to look into increasing our membership and assisting in the smooth running of the new membership area. Please give her all the support you can in making her job easier. In the meantime, smile, dive and be happy.

Carmine

THE CURRY AND GAMES NIGHT....

What an odd combination you might think if you had not been there...but Malcom's hard work and great party house made it a really fun night for the big crowd of UEC members and friends who invaded his place on that cold winter night!

A few people braved Malcom's request that we 'dress up' Indian style, and maybe those of us who did dress up were not very authentic, but Michelle looked the beautiful part and her partner Duncan looked pretty damn good too.

Malcom's wonderful curries warmed our tummies and he ushered us through various games as the night wore on...a word game to get our minds going, a game with blocks to test our fine motor control..then a hilarious game called...er...Schlong..that involved tying panty hose laden with oranges around our middles and sort of playing bowls with them....and (most addictive) playing with his fantastic pinball machine.

I can't really remember who won what, in the end winning did not seem very important, but a couple of young blokes, both called 'Chris' were the best at pinball and Schlong if I remember rightly...

Thanks so much Malcom!

Sandy

PR Report

I am researching the cost to produce a fancy UEC poster to be displayed at recreation centers, libraries, boat clubs, universities, etc.

My sub-committee is trying to swap links with other related web sites.

We'll be running notifications of our general meetings in the local rags.

Web Report

We are now up and running with the new www.underwater.com.au

Does anyone have a good picture of our boat that I can use?

Susie

Social Snippets

Hello fellow members!

Here are the latest social snippets for you.

Just been –

Sat 12th July

With nearly 30 UEC members getting into the Indian mood, the Curry and Games night was enjoyed by all I believe. My house looked that way the next morning! Pinball, craps croupier, nothing was Taboo, including “Schlong!”. Although this night had as much it was also a great fundraiser, with over \$400 for the club. See the full report by Sandy on page 4 of this newsletter.

AQWA visit and Shark tank dive

Sat 26th July

How good was that?! By all accounts, this afternoon was a lot of fun, both for watchers and divers.

Coming up soon – Not-to-be-missed events!

Mussels on the mooring

Saturday 13th September

7pm @ SYC jetty

\$25 pp

How can you not keep warm whilst tucking into a bowl of hearty soup and a superb stew? Mmmm! Join your UEC friends for a warm night of fellowship and food as we moor on the Swan River for an enjoyable night. Is it true that Perth is the world’s most livable city? Come out and see for yourself.

The boat will leave SYC jetty at 7pm.

\$25 per person. Includes boat trip and “Soup and Stew.” BYO drinks. Diving optional. No extra charge, but your prawns are to share!

Now that we have a great mooring in the Swan river, jump on board the club boat and let’s use it. Don’t miss this one. “The moor - the merrier.”

Whale Watching Trip - Family day out on the UE

Sunday 12th October

8am to 4pm ex Challenger Harbour pen

\$10 under 12’s

\$20 others (Family ticket is \$50)

Please Note: You must BYO life jacket if your child is under 40 Kg.

We will travel to Rottnest and surrounds and do some whale watching before spending an enjoyable few hours on Rottnest Island for lunch.

BYO food and drinks or buy on Rotto.

Depending on our earlier success we may “whale watch” again before coming back to the harbour.

It’ll be a fun day. Any whales will be a bonus.

PTO

Dunsborough Diving Weekend

Friday 24th – Sunday 26th October

Fancy a luxury weekend staying just metres from the waters of Geographe Bay? We have a big house in a quiet part of Quindalup to ourselves for the weekend. It comes fully furnished with a big kitchen, outdoor eating area and gamesroom. BYO breakfasts and when there we can sort out dinner together – either decide to eat out or go shopping and eat in.

The plan? Arrive Friday evening, 2 Swan dives Saturday morning. Additional dives, such as the Busselton jetty can be arranged if desired.

There should be great viz and as a dive, the HMAS Swan never fails to disappoint. There are only 10 places for this trip, so be quick!

Cost is \$150 for accommodation and 2 dives (with second tank) on the HMAS SWAN. Food and fuel costs extra. The first 10 people with their \$50 deposit to Geoff secure a spot!

Dates to diarise – more info in next month's snippets...

Your social committee has been busy putting the finishing touches to the social plans for the rest of the year. More info to follow, but stick these dates in your diary NOW!

Saturday 8th November - River cruise pub crawl

Starting and finishing at SYC this night on our beloved boat will visit a few riverfront pubs during the night.

Saturday 29th November - Hawaiian Night

Pineapples and grass skirts, cocktails and frivolity.

Sunday 14th December - UEC Christmas BBQ

Please advise your desire to attend any or all of the above by email as soon as possible.

Any questions, drop me a line.

Although I will not be at the August club meeting, I will spare you a thought from the warm waters of Coral Bay and have another dive for you.

Please pay our Treasurer Geoff in advance for any events, either by post, EFT or at a club meeting.

Lists for names for up-coming events will be available at club meetings, or better still, you can email me at concept1@iinet.net.au or phone 9276 6607, leaving a message if necessary. Email is best. You can send it at your convenience and I can get it at mine. Book now while you are thinking about it!

The guest at this month's club meeting, is our member Robert Stagg. Rob has recently returned from a trip to the South China Sea and has edited his best footage to share with us. Enjoy!

Hugh Edwards? Not sure? He's a busy man.

Fantastic news! We have organised **Steve Parish**, photographer of renown, to give us a presentation and slide show at our **October meeting**. Don't miss this! He has a new book for sale later this month. Why not buy one on the night and get it authorgraphed?

Hope to see you at a UEC social event soon!

Your Social Dragonfly

Malcolm Roberts

Membership Report

After the meeting last month, I got talking to a few of the members about the issues that had been raised. I realised that the club members were having some great ideas but that none of the committee were around to hear them, so I collated the ideas and wrote a letter to Steve.

In the letter I acknowledged the club members I had spoken with and listed their ideas. Steve then invited me along to the last committee meeting and consequently, I have been volunteered for a few jobs that need to be done:

- pay your accounts to me at the door when you come in to the meeting, this will allow Geoff to collate the banking details and it means he will be able to give us a smoother financial report at the meeting
- to find out how much it would be for UEC to participate in the boating / fishing / diving expos, the aim being to attract new members to the club
- collate all members contact details for a database, this will mean that newsletters and emails are distributed to all members
- develop a welcome pack for new members, I imagine this will include a letter with answers to those frequently asked questions, bumper sticker, a couple of business cards, contact details of club members, etc.

I am looking forward to being more involved with club activities. See you soon!

Belinda

Safety report

It has been brought to my attention that some people in the Philippines are not behaving safely (ie. military coups, assassinations, etc), therefore I have decided, as safety officer, to go over there and sort things out.

On a slightly more serious note, I am in fact going to the Philippines for Sept and Oct as a research volunteer with the 'project seahorse' organisation. Unfortunately this also means that you will also be without a safety officer (again) for a couple of months. We will be conducting visual surveys (whilst diving) of marine life in and out of marine protected areas (the equivalent of sanctuary zones in WA) across the southern Philippines (Cebu and Bohol).

Essentially, I will be counting fish and hard corals whilst diving for two months - It's a difficult, thankless job, but somebody has to do it. I would also like to point out that the main emphasis of this trip is not to procure a "mail-order wife", as suggested by some committee members, not mentioning any names - you know who you are (ie. Malcolm).

Project Seahorse conduct research in a number of countries (including Australia) and they have a very interesting Website: www.projectseahorse.org I will endeavour to send email updates to let everybody know how I'm getting on over there.

BE SAFE - *Marcus*

CLUB CALENDAR

AUGUST

Sunday 17 @ 0900
Monday 18 @ 2000
Saturday 23 @ 0900
Sunday 31 @ 0900

EVENT

Deep dive
General Meeting
Jumbo Cave
1-tank dive & last day of winter lunch

Skipper/DO or Venue

Carmine / Clive
Swan Yacht Club
Geoff C / Mark M
Kerry / Clive

SEPTEMBER

Monday 1 @ 2000
Sunday 7 @ 0900
Saturday 13 @ 0900
Saturday 13 @ 1900
Monday 15 @ 2000
Sunday 21 @ 0900
Saturday 27 @ 0900

EVENT

Committee Meeting
Roe Reef
Whale Watch 1-tank
Mussels on the Mooring
General Meeting
South Rotto
Garden Island

Skipper/DO or Venue

Swan Yacht Club
Peter / Jim
Dennis / Carl
Swan Yacht Club
Swan Yacht Club
Carmine / Mark M
Geoff C / Dallis

DIVE BOOKINGS:

MEMBERS!

Please check departure times and be at the boat 15 minutes before.

Please DO NOT contact the Skipper or Dive Officer to discuss weather conditions. They will decide on the day, at the boat, if weather is suitable for the trip to proceed. Just check with Kerry the night before that we have sufficient number of divers to go.

PLEASE NOTE: Dives are 2-tanks unless otherwise stated.

DIVE & BOAT BOOKINGS:

Kerry (or Susie) on 9331 2385 or by Email kasdive@iinet.net.au

AND THERE IS MORE!

If you can get a group together some other day than scheduled, you are welcome to get the boat, if we can get a skipper (and DO if diving). Remember! It is YOUR boat!

See you on the boat!

Dive Report

I thought that I had winterized the schedule, not “polar bear-ised” it, so with everybody going into hibernation, there is nothing much for me to report!! In truth it has been the weather against us, great for the farmers, Avon Descent and our precious water supplies, but not conducive to diving. Where to from here you might ask? More positive things- **Springtime!!!**

So get the mould out of the gear, hang up the wetsuit (to get the wrinkles out), replace that wet towel from last season, air the bag, check your bits and pieces, bring some warm gear and dive while the water is fresh, clear (none of that summer spat as I call it) and a possible chance encounter with our whale friends heading south.

Check out the second installment of the diving survey below.

Happy spring!
See you out there!!

Kerry

UEC Diving Survey 2003 (part 2)

Refer to the July newsletter for the survey rationale & workings, however, remember in the scoring section a low score means very desirable, so onward me’ hearties:

A scoring analysis of dive types produced the following table:

Description	Score	Rank	My comments
Exploratory	72	1	Great to see this is what we like
Wreck	77	2	Indicates more trips as local not the best for wrecks
Deep	87	3	Looks like we need some more of these
Weekend trips	88	4	Healthy interest in all diving
Skill Development	90	5	We all need it new/refresh good to see it up here
Night	92	6	Club wants and needs variety
Harbour Lunch 1 tank	97	7	A good alternative
Photo/Video	102	8	Moderate strength for this one
Rotto Lunch 1 tank	103	9	Perhaps once a month
3 Site Option	104	10	Perhaps once a month
Overnight	104	11	Perhaps once a month
Sunset	106	12	I suspect summer to autumn season timing
Rotto Dinner 2 tank	107	13	Maybe one or two per season
Nude ¹	108	14	Control question to see if you were awake
Dive + Family	111	15	One or two a season
Midweek	114	16	Work restrictions, for those who can, why not

¹ Believe it or not there is enough interest to run this type of dive?!!

For the same questions in the table on the previous page, this next table shows the actual responses by category and indicates to me that we should not totally write off an option because of a “poor score” in comparison to other stronger options.

Most options have some support and they can be added to the schedule say once a month, bimonthly or as demand permits – after all the boat is there for the club members to use.

Name	Very Desirable	Desirable	Occasionally	Not at all	No answer
Harbour Lunch 1 tank	9	7	15	1	5
Rotto Dinner 2 tank	6	8	11	8	4
Skill Development	12	8	10	3	4
Photo/Video	6	9	14	4	4
Exploratory	17	13	3	0	4
Deep	13	7	11	3	3
3 Site Option	6	10	11	5	5
Wreck	14	13	6	1	3
Sunset	5	10	12	5	5
Night	9	10	11	5	2
Midweek	3	9	11	10	4
Nude	9	5	6	14	3
Overnight	7	7	12	8	3
Weekend trips	10	11	11	2	3
Rotto Lunch 1 tank	5	7	19	3	3
Dive + Family	4	8	12	10	3

Once again thanks to all members who took part in the survey.

As I mentioned there are a number of ways to look at the data, interpret and draw conclusions. The survey, however, is not the be all and end all - it is simply another tool to help guide the club in the direction that our members favour.

Do not forget that your ongoing opinions are always welcome and thrown into the melting pot so that together we progress the entire club.

Kerry

Fiji Diving Report from Lisa and Mike Smeaton

As part of our aim to enjoy as much of the southern hemisphere as possible during our time here, we decided to visit Fiji in June for a two week holiday. After a bit of research, we decided to dive in two places – Beqa Lagoon and Somosomo Strait. We contacted local dive companies and booked some diving.

We arrived in Nadi and travelled to Pacific Harbour, the base for Beqa Lagoon diving and dived there for 4 days. The diving was quite spectacular with the coral being particularly amazing especially the Gorgonian fans. A number of sites had excellent swim-throughs and as we were the only divers along with the divemaster there was no congestion. Each dive site was littered with a variety of life including nurse sharks, white tips, lionfish, scorpion fish, moray and blue ribbon eels, nudibranchs, the list goes on. Dive depths rarely exceeded 30m and most sites seemed to have an excellent reef at 5m which provided a perfect safety stop. Mike was battling a cold for the first few days and found that he was using more air than normal particularly when taking photos so the camera was passed to Lisa on Day 2, who was quickly hooked. That's the last he has seen of that toy. Favourite dive sites were Caesar's Rock and the Dase Wreck. Our dive master, Jay, had over 3000 dives in the lagoon and with no other divers on the boat, we had fabulous attention as he showed us all the sights.

After a trip to the Fiji Museum in Suva which was very interesting, we flew to Taveuni. The flight itself was a memorable part of the holiday with 6 passengers on board, the pilots help load the luggage, close the door, climb over the passengers into the cockpit and off we go. Flying altitude was 3000ft so we got great views of the islands and the reefs. The extent and complexity of the reef system around the islands becomes clear in the air so, along with the practice of cannibalism, you can clearly understand why ancient mariners avoided the islands for many years.

We spent six days in Taveuni which is correctly named the Garden Island. It is really quite beautiful. We stayed in a self contained cottage in someone's garden looking onto the beach and ate some great curry at small restaurants. We dived for five days (2 dives a day) on Somosomo Strait which is a 35 minute boat trip away. The company we used were Aquaventure who were excellent and had a maximum of 6 divers on the boat, along with 2 divemasters, who were very competent and knowledgeable, and a skipper. The additional divemaster allowed divers to 'stretch out' along the reef or to split into groups of different abilities.

Effects of the recent cyclone could be seen in a few places but the reef was still teeming with life and, in particular, the soft corals and macro life was very special. The highlight was, without a doubt, the leaf fish we saw at two sites. Whilst the 'famous' Great White Wall was excellent, our favourite sites were Small White Wall, Annie's Bohmie and Jerry's Jelly.

Each day's diving involved crossing the 180^o meridian. We realised that exactly six months ago, when we met up with Lisa's brother and sister in Greenwich – spooky! Another great flight brought us back to Viti Levu from where we returned to Nadi. Our last day was spent on a boat trip to one of the atoll-like islands in the Mamanuca group for some kayaking and, at long last, some lying on the beach.

The holiday had been so good – fantastic diving, wonderful people, great accommodation and food. There had to be a sting in the tail and there was! A seven hour delay on the flight from Nadi to Sydney. Needless to say, Nadi's departure lounge and snack bar isn't designed to cope with 484 bored people for 7 hours!

“A DREAM COMES TRUE” – Our trip to Micronesia – by Susie and Kerry Ashton

Part 5 – KOSRAE (population 9,600 in 1999)



Last but not least – the island of Kosrae, also called “Jewel of Micronesia”. It is one of the least spoiled and least developed areas in Micronesia. The island is roughly triangular; covering an area of 109 sq km. Kosrae has a rugged interior of mountain ridges and river valleys. 70% of the island is mountainous and another 15% is mangrove swamps and somewhere in there you’ll find Kerry and Susie’s bungalow at the *Kosrae Village Resort*.



Our bungalow in the bush

During the week we stayed here it rained every day and night, which turned our accommodation into a “dark and damp jungle dwelling in a crab infested country”. (I had a crab crawling across my bare back in bed one night!). A consolation were all the cats that kept you company in the restaurant bungalow.



My cats

Tourism on Kosrae is still a new industry. The only other “white” people we came in contact with was Aussie Adrian, who was diving his way around Micronesia like us, the American part owners of the resort, a Spanish girl working for the Health Department in New York (here to study diabetes in the people), one lady doing crab research, the Aussie owner of a hotel closer to the little township and a police officer seconded from Queensland to assist and train the locals. There was also a bunch of biologists here for a couple of days to study the unique environment. Kerry and I came for the diving and culture.

Kosrae is the only place in Micronesia where visitors must buy a drinking permit for alcohol, which leads me to talk about...

SUNDAYS, SOCIETY AND CONDUCT

In Kosrae, when you talk about the culture, you talk about religion – the most essential part of modern Kosrean society. About 85% of all Kosreans are Congregationalists. The religious belief and practices of the late 19th century that so totally overtook the islanders have changed little over the years.

Kosrae is very serious about keeping the Sabbath. You are not supposed to work, cook, dive, fish or drink on Sundays so the only thing you really can do is to go to church! I actually enjoyed the experience as they had a wonderful choir and not too much preaching and everybody dressed up in their Sunday best. Afterwards we were invited to soft drinks, home made cookies and buns.

When we arrived home we just went for a walk on our beach up to the Japanese bunker a kilometer or two away.

Absolutely MILLIONS of crabs had made this eerie remnant from the war their home, clattering up and down the wet walls.

THE DIVING

Our in-house dive operator was a 5 star PADI facility (which means they have “everything”!) More than 50 dive sites around the island have been marked with a buoy to prevent improper anchoring that could damage the pristine reef.



We were diving in stunning coral gardens and plunging walls on the south and west side of the island due to the wind this time of the year. As we lived on the eastern side, we had a bit of a ride on the back of a truck through small villages on the way to our dive boat in *Utwe* village harbour.



Loading up the dive boat

Our skipper Roman and dive officer Jim were the most fantastic and friendly souls you can imagine and would do anything to please us.

Kerry and I were their only divers for the whole week, so you can easily imagine how well we were looked after.

The dive boat was comfortable but slow, which really didn't matter as the dive sites were all so close and we really didn't have anything else to do than being out there on the water! Very pleasant and enjoyable... could only have been improved by a little more sunshine. The included packed lunch was always great, plentiful and flavoursome.





Every dive was a 10 out of 10 on my scale. The visibility was excellent, as we would dive on the incoming tide on top of the most fantastic coral garden landscapes and steep drop-offs. We had schooling jacks and trevalli, Queens and Regal angelfish, Moustache triggerfish and Mayer's butterfly fish among all the other "usual" coral fish.

Jim pointed out a kind of anemone that I have never seen before. It was living between two more "ordinary" ones and when you touched it would quickly disappear into a crack. Only shrimps lived on this one.

Another dive site was *Clam City* - a large area with many Giant clams that had been put back in the water after being cultivated in a nursery.

BACK TO GUAM

A week later we were at the Kosrae airport again to catch the plane back to Guam, where we stayed for another couple of nights before our connecting flight to Cairns. On Wednesday nights the *Chamorro Village* put on a spectacular night market with entertainment. We tried some of the authentic foods and bought a few "last-minute nick-knacks".



Drinking champagne with goldsmith Victor Andre when we picked up my specially ordered black pearl/seahorse pendant.

On our last day in Guam we visited the *Fish Eye Marine Park*, a very well designed and enjoyable establishment. Here you can see the reef and its inhabitants in their natural environment. I believe they are doing something similar to this in Busselton, W.A.



Fish Eye Marine Park



We left Guam on time at 2000 with Continental Air and arrived at Cairns airport by midnight and everything was of course closed. We had to wait there for six hours for our flight to Brisbane. Kerry and I found some benches we could stretch out on but at 3am the air conditioning was turned on so we were freezing!

The Qantas flight left on time and we arrived in Brisbane at 0855, found a sunny spot in the domestic terminal where we sat down to warm our chilly bodies. Cannot remember how many hours we had to wait there before the flight to Perth.

These are the occasions when you really realise how “far away” Perth is. But I am not complaining because I love it here.

To summarize our Micronesia trip: It wasn't cheap – but we think it was worth it, because we really enjoyed the diversity of cultures on the different islands and the diving was absolutely incredible.

If you are thinking of going there, Kerry and I are happy to provide you with more details.

Cheers!
Susie



UEC NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2003

*The official monthly newsletter of
Underwater Explorers Club of Western Australia*

Dive Report

Not a lot to report with the weather against us, though we did jag an excellent trip out- just one of those winter days we get now and then that are more like summer, with glass like conditions and a long low swell.

The boat has been up on the hard for maintenance and a good scrub and will be back in the water when you receive this newsletter. Thanks to all those hardworking members who turned up and chipped in, she should look brighter and perform better.

So we are into spring and it is just a case of booking on and getting out- do a bit of networking and drag out those reticent buddies who just need a little nudge to remind them we have world class diving. It is spring and before they know it Christmas will be here and they haven't dived. Don't forget the boat is available on days not scheduled so organize your buddies, family and friends to make use of it.

Please note in the schedule that September remains a 0900 start and that **October changes to our normal 0800 start**. Diving fees have been reviewed and adjusted by the committee, so be prepared for a change in the schedule of fees (see p.10 of this newsletter). Please note diving vouchers will be phased out. To help the crew, please bring along the correct fee/change on the day.

Harking, back to the survey we published in the last two newsletters, as a club, we are basically offering what the members want. However, the results did indicate support for alternatives, which we will add to the schedule to provide more variety.

You can help me out here by contacting me with specific requests and preferably some initial starters (that's the networking I spoke about earlier).

I will book/schedule the request in and once started these trips normally attract members and can go ahead. An impromptu trip (short notice not in the schedule) can be arranged to take advantage of weather opportunities. Often these days turn out to be the most memorable of the season and well worth the effort.

Spring diving is here!
See you out there!!

Kerry

From the Editor

In the September issue of UEC NEWS we have a travel story from Liz, committee reports, new fees schedule and more. Hope you'll enjoy!

The deadline for contributions for the newsletter is the Thursday following the Monday committee meeting every month as usual. Look forward to your stories!

Stina

General Meetings

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are held every third Monday (except for Public Holidays) at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

Committee Contact Details:

President & Investments: Carmine Travaglione Phone: 9356 1311 a/h, mobile: 0408 833 115

Secretary & Vice President: Steve Larter Phone: 9291 9654 a/h, mobile: 0418 949 264

Treasurer: Geoff Charlton Phone: 9354 7917, mobile: 0438 244 603

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UEC News Editor: Stina Frantzich Phone 9341 4612 a/h

Postal Address: PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6954

Email: uec@space.net.au

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- To encourage safety methods and procedure and to acquaint both Club Members and the public with the facts on safety and the use of safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

From the President

“SPRING IS SPRUNG, THE GRASS IS RISE, I WONDER WHERE THE DIVERS IS ?”

With apologies to Pam Ayres, I ask the question above to awaken within you the Diving Beast. Now that spring is here your mind will wander and you will think of the beauty of the underwater world and say,

“TIME TO DIVE”

The weather is warming and the sea is calming. The boat has had its annual spring clean and maintenance, and is ready to cruise out to Rottneest and beyond, so now is the time for the annual dive-gear check. Check your tanks, your regulators, your computers and even your masks and fins. Most likely your wet suit will have shrunk over the winter and may need a bit of stretching and then **let's go diving.**

Just to fill you in on the boat, it was put up on the hard stand on Friday 29th August. Over the weekend we had 12 members helping out on Saturday and 11 on Sunday. We carried out maintenance on the legs and repaired an oil leak in the starboard leg. A pesky fuel leak was located and repaired. Two new starter switches were installed on the fly bridge, the inside cabin floor was painted and so too was the outside deck. A canopy stanchion and a hole were welded up, new hull anode plates were welded on and finally, the hull was painted with two good coats of antifouling. The boat was then put back in the water Thursday afternoon at about 1330 hrs. The UE is now proudly back in her temporary pen and is straining at her tethers anxious to sail the ocean waves.

We are making progress with the 50th anniversary preparations. Lisa Smeaton has very generously agreed to research the past exploits of the UEC, such that it will make life easier, when in the not too distant future, we decide to write a more comprehensive history of the club. Lisa is also attempting to catalogue all the club records to make future research more accessible.

During this process Lisa has also run across another would-be researcher, Mr Ross White. Ross was a member of our club back in 1962. He has met up with Lisa and myself, even though he now lives in Busselton, and is currently assisting Lisa in part of the research. Lisa has broken up the task to enable others to work in a particular area that may be of interest to them.

The areas are:

- 1.) Overall history of people, key events and dates.
- 2.) Wreck finding.
- 3.) Diving history, especially depths.
- 4.) Underwater exhibitions.
- 5.) Training.
- 6.) Reef discoveries.
- 7.) The UEC boats.
- 8.) Finances and property.
- 9.) Diving equipment.
- 10.) What does the future hold?

PTO

If anyone is interested in any of these areas or maybe just want to help out, then please let me know.

To help keep the club records in some sort of good order, I have decided to donate the use of an office where all this valuable paraphernalia can be kept. This room will be available to anyone wishing to assist in the research. If any of you have any diving related memorabilia you would like to donate, we will be able to decorate this area as well. It is my intention to transfer all perpetual trophies and shields to this site and also any photos. Perhaps we may even have room for a hall of fame. If any of you want to participate in this project then please also let me know.

Carmine

PR & Web Report

Short and sweet: I have put a few nice u/w photos in the "Club Album" web page from member Jim's recent dive in Phuket.

Nothing new in PR to report.
Cheers!

Susie

Donations for Wildlife

I just wanted to write and say "thank you" to all the Generous Members of the UEC who donated Eskies and Fish Tanks to me for my (our) Wildlife.

Spring is here and I have managed to set most of the tanks up now with heat and shelter in preparation for the influx. The Tanks are best used to house injured Reptiles, Tortoises, Baby Bandicoots and the occasional Waterbird.

The Eskies are for housing Baby Marsupials - The old Tin Eskie creates a perfect environment for them to grow.

With the cost of raising, housing and treating these Aussie orphans mainly covered by my husband and myself it is a "good feeling" when others are happy to help out with donated goods. Not only do we get a great feeling of achievement from helping them but we can also share it with you all.

Thank you for all your help.

Joanne Burston RVN
Registered Veterinary Nurse

FOR SALE: Suunto diving computer/watch

200m/660ft

Recently serviced - 15/7/2003

Price: \$700.00

The computer requirements are as per current model.

Contact details: Wendy Turner 9297 3509 (a/hrs)

Social Snippets

Hello fellow members - Here's what's coming up on the social front with UEC.
Coming up soon – Not-to-be-missed events!

Mussels on the mooring
Special Price!!! Only \$15!!!
Saturday 13th September
7pm @ SYC jetty \$15 pp

How can you not keep warm whilst tucking into a bowl of hearty soup and a superb stew? Mmmm!
Join your UEC friends for a warm night of fellowship and food as we moor on the Swan River for an enjoyable night. Is it true that Perth is the world's most livable city? Come out and see for yourself.
The boat will leave SYC jetty at 7pm.

\$25 per person. Includes boat trip and "Soup and Stew." BYO drinks. Diving optional. No extra charge, but your prawns are to share!

Now that we have a great mooring in the Swan river, jump on board the club boat and let's use it. Don't miss this one. "The moor - the merrier."

"Thankyou" Moor-up for Avon Descent helpers.

Sausage sizzle on the mooring
Saturday 20th September 11:30am @ SYC – returning about 3pm.

AD helpers should have received their invitations. Please do as he says, and RSVP Dennis ASAP.
This will help Susie and myself with the catering.

Whale Watching Trip
Family day out on the UE
October Sunday 12th

8am to 4pm ex Challenger Harbour pen.
\$10 under 12's \$20 others (Family ticket, for 2 adults and their children under 12, is \$50)

Please note: You must BYO life jacket/s if your child/ren are under 40 kg.

We will travel to Rottneest and surrounds and do some whale watching before spending an enjoyable few hours on Rottneest Island for lunch.

BYO food and drinks or buy on Rotto.

Depending on our earlier success we may "whale watch" again before coming back to the harbour.
It'll be a fun day. Any whales will be a bonus.

Dunborough Diving Weekend
Friday 24th – Sunday 26th October

Fancy a luxury weekend staying just metres from the waters of Geographe Bay? We have a big house in a quiet part of Quindalup to ourselves for the weekend. It comes fully furnished with a big kitchen, outdoor eating area and gamesroom. BYO breakfasts and when there we can sort out dinner together – either decide to eat out or go shopping and eat in.

The plan? Arrive Friday evening, 2 Swan dives Saturday morning. Additional dives, such as the Busselton jetty can be arranged if desired.

There should be great viz and as a dive, the HMAS Swan never fails to disappoint.

There are only 10 places for this trip, so be quick!

Cost is \$150 for accommodation and 2 dives (with second tank supplied) on the HMAS SWAN.

BYO dive gear. Food and fuel costs extra. The first 10 people with their \$50 deposit to Geoff secure a spot!

Booze Cruise

River cruise pub crawl

Sat 8th November 6pm SYC

\$25 per person

Kerry is skipping our boat.

Starting and finishing at SYC this night on our beloved boat will visit a few riverfront pubs during the night before returning to the SYC @ 11pm. \$25 p/p includes river cruise, a hotdog dinner and nibbles. BYO drinks.

Steve's, The Old Swan Brewery and the Raffles can all expect a visit from us on the night.

Dates to diarise – more info in next month's snippets.

Your social committee has been busy putting the finishing touches to the social plans for the rest of the year. More info to follow, but stick these dates in your diary NOW!

Sat 29th November - Hawaiian Night

Pineapples and grass skirts, cocktails and frivolity.

Sunday afternoon 14th December - UEC Christmas BBQ

Our **September club meeting** will be a "Member's night". Instead of an imported guest speaker, expect to hear some great anecdotes and stories from a couple of our older members. "They did WHAT!" CU there.

Fantastic news! We have organised **Steve Parish**, photographer of renown, to give us a presentation and slide show at our **October meeting**. Don't miss this! He has a new book for sale later this month. Why not buy one from him on the night and get it autographed?

Please advise your desire to attend any or all of the above by email as soon as possible at concept1@iinet.net.au

Please pay our Treasurer Geoff in advance for any events, either by post, EFT or at a club meeting. Lists for names for up-coming events will be available at club meetings, or better still, you can email me at concept1@iinet.net.au or phone 9276 6607, leaving a message if necessary. Email is best. You can send it at your convenience and I can get it at mine. Book now while you are thinking about it!

Hope to see you at the next club meeting or at a UEC social event soon.

Your Social Dragonfly

Malcolm Roberts

CONSERVATION CORNER - from Susie

Indonesia's coral reefs are in big trouble. Its vast reefs cover 51,000 square kilometres, surround 17,500 islands and stretch 3,500 kilometres from Sumatra to Irian Jaya.

Coral mining, industrial pollution and toxic agricultural runoff – all play a role in their destruction, but fishermen have been the worst offenders. **They bomb fish and poison them with cyanide.** Fishermen are also among the biggest potential victims of the devastation. Two thirds of Indonesia's 7,000 coastal villages are adjacent to coral reefs and their livelihood depends on reef fish and crustaceans.

CLUB CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Monday 1 @ 2000
Sunday 7 @ 0900
Saturday 13 @ 0900
Saturday 13 @ 1900
Monday 15 @ 2000
Saturday 20 @ 1130
Sunday 21 @ 0900
Sunday 27 @ 0900

EVENT

Committee Meeting
Roe Reef
Whale Watch - 1 tank
Mussels on the Mooring
General Meeting
Avon Descent Thank You
South Rotto
Garden Island

Skipper/DO or Venue

Swan Yacht Club
Peter / Jim
TBA/ Carl
See Social Report
Swan Yacht Club
See Social Report
Carmine / TBA
Geoff C / Dallis

OCTOBER

Note: Departures now @ 0800!

Sunday 5 @ 0800
Monday 6 @ 2000
Saturday 11 @ 0800
Sunday 12 @ 0800
Sunday 19 @ 0800
Monday 20 @ 2000
Friday 24 - Sunday 26
Saturday 25 @ 0800

EVENT

Neil's Nest (NEW SITE-Deep dive)
Committee Meeting
One-tank somewhere
Whale Watching Trip
Parker Point
General Meeting (Steve Parish)
Dunsborough Diving Weekend
City Beach

Skipper/DO or Venue

Bob / Clive
Swan Yacht Club
Geoff G / Jim
See Social Report
Geoff C / Steve
Swan Yacht Club
See Social Report
Carmine / Dallis

MEMBERS!

Please check departure times and be at the boat 15 minutes before.

Please DO NOT contact the Skipper or Dive Officer to discuss weather conditions. They will decide on the day, at the boat, if weather is suitable for the trip to proceed. Check with Kerry (phone 9331 2385) the night before.

PLEASE NOTE: Dives are 2-tanks unless otherwise stated.

DIVE & BOAT BOOKINGS:

Kerry (or Susie) on 9331 2385 or by Email kasdive@iinet.net.au

AND THERE IS MORE!

If you can get a group together for a day other than scheduled (including mid-week) you are welcome to the boat for \$250 (gives you three hours motoring) and engage a "Club Skipper". Remember! It is YOUR boat! USE IT!

NEW DIVE FEES (no family discounts):

To Rottnest	\$40 (Non-divers \$15)
Stragglers/Carnac	\$30 (Non-divers \$10)
Other locations	\$40 (Non-divers \$15)
Life Members	Free of Charge

Flinders Reef - by Liz Kerry

In April of this year along with a number of other workers, I was lucky enough to be selected to represent my employer at a three-day national conference in Brisbane.

Our trip up was a truly momentous journey, commencing with a 4:30 am rise for the early flight to Adelaide, changing planes for Melbourne and finally the last flight into Brisbane.

There was some space for sightseeing around Brisbane, prior to the conference, and of course the weather was perfect. The conference was held at the Sheraton and we had accommodation in five star luxury apartments.

Ever the opportunist I chose to remain in Brisbane after the conference, to do more sight-seeing and of course to catch a dive or two.



Over the following days I traveled around and about Brisbane, north to Noosa and the Sun Shine coast and south to Surfers Paradise, the Glass House Mountains, Ettamogah pub, Australia Zoo, Mount Tambourine, the Big Pineapple and the Ginger factory to mention but a few places visited.

However the highlight of the trip of course was my two-tank dive on Flinders reef (see map above). Flinders Reef is heralded as S.E. Queensland's premier dive sight and situated at the northern most end of Moreton Bay.





The water temperature was a balmy 23 degrees and viz 25 meters. Flinders is credited with having more different species of coral than any other part of the Great Barrier Reef.

I could certainly substantiate such a claim and I was more than awe struck with the wonderful Staghorn coral gardens. I swam with turtles, Octopus and Rays and played with Moreton Bay bugs, not as much fun as chasing the elusive Rotto cray.

The fish species were certainly different to those with which we are familiar. Of particular interest were several species of Flute mouth. I did attempt to photograph these fish but sadly the film jammed in the camera and I lost a whole film.

Other fish of note were Flat Tailed Longbottom, Slender Longbottom, Threadfin Butterfly Fish, Luna Tailed Big Eye, Parrotfish and Moorish Idols.

I dived with Prodiver out of Hamilton in Brisbane around the corner from City backpackers where I stayed following the end of the conference and wasn't that a culture shock coming from five star accommodation.

The two-tank dive was booked over the net and cost \$80. Included in that price were: transport from backpackers to the boat, boat to dive spot, and return, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, plus full equipment hire including a computer.

The boat was large and comfortable and the crew extremely helpful, the weather was wonderful and the whole day was one of those magic moments you wouldn't miss for the world.

I can provide additional information for anyone who might be considering a dive in these waters.

Story and pictures by Liz Kerry.



Thank you for a great story and lovely photos! (Eds note)

UEC Schedule of Fees As of 2nd September 2003

These revised fees are applicable from September. For comments please contact the committee.

Rottnest trip	\$40.00 per diver.	
Stragglers / Carnac	\$30.00 per diver.	
Other locations	\$40.00 per diver.	
Passengers	\$15.00 Rottnest trip. \$10.00 Stragglers / Carnac	
Nomination Dive	\$50.00 per nominated diver.	
Life Members	Free of charge	
Voucher Payments (To be phased out)	Rottnest.	4 Vouchers
	Stragglers / Carnac	3 Vouchers

Guests - no charges applicable.

Only club members can pay fees.

Nomination fee for Full Club Membership is \$50.00.

Nomination fee for Student, Social, Non Resident membership is \$25.00.

Only persons applying for full membership are entitled to a free introductory dive when nominating for membership. All nomination forms and inspection of diving qualifications must be completed by the duty diving officer prior to diving.

Boat Hire

All locations: \$250.00 for 3 hours (engine running hours).

Additional \$120 for each hour or part of hour in excess of 3 hours (this charge may be lowered, eds note).

Special hire rates mid week \$1,000.00 for maximum 15 hours use. Additional \$120.00 per additional hour. Boat must be returned clean, refuelled and checked ready for use the next day.

The duty skipper must accurately record all details in the boat logbook and is totally responsible for the boat and payment.

All UEC regulations, safety procedures and protocol to be followed whilst operating the boat.

Only UEC endorsed skippers and trainee skippers to operate and be in control of the club boat.

Diving officers to complete details in receipt book with list of divers and fees paid.

Skippers and Diving Officers excluded from schedule. All rostered crew will be eligible to take a free trip in place of dives voluntarily given up or missed while on duty.



UEC NEWS

OCTOBER 2003

*The official monthly newsletter of
Underwater Explorers Club of Western Australia*

Member Update from Belinda

Thank you to everyone who has had input into the new membership renewal and application form and welcome letter. The welcome pack is coming along - all new members will receive an introduction letter, sticker, leaflet and business card so they have all the information they need about diving with the club. The membership renewal and application form is to be linked with a database so that when the forms come back after the AGM then we can start work on developing knowledge about what our club members want, when they want it and where!

The letter that I had drafted is now back on the drawing board due to the fact that we have moved the boat to its new pen down at the SYC. Having the boat at the SYC is a great bonus for us and if you haven't yet joined as a social member, I would certainly recommend it.

Looking forward to seeing you on the boat soon!

Belinda

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!!!

Iwona Krekora - Heathridge
Sam Dawkins - Nedlands
Craig Adams - East Victoria Park
Craig Martin - Leeming
Anna Maughan - North Perth
Catherine Lewig - Warwick
Sybille Aust - North Perth
Wendy Hutchison - Doubleview
Adam Bartle - Hillarys

From the Editor

Welcome to the October issue of UEC News! We have a “new member extravaganza” in this issue as we welcome nine new members to the club! Apologies if I did not spell your names correctly or if I got your suburb wrong! You are very welcome indeed! Also the usual reports, club calendar and more! Enjoy!

The deadline for contributions for the newsletter is the Thursday following the Monday committee meeting every month as usual. Look forward to your stories!

Stina

General Meetings

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are held every third Monday (except for Public Holidays) at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

Committee Contact Details:

President & Investments: Carmine Travaglione Phone: 9356 1311 a/h, mobile: 0408 833 115

Secretary & Vice President: Steve Larter Phone: 9291 9654 a/h, mobile: 0418 949 264

Treasurer: Geoff Charlton Phone: 9354 7917, mobile: 0438 244 603

Boat Officer: Peter Horton Phone: 9448 5809 a/h, mobile: 0417 930 124

Boat Officer: Gary Browne Phone: 9337 9836a/h, mobile: 0409 712 039

Dive Officer: Kerry Ashton Phone: 9331 2385 a/h

Training Officer: Mark Sach Phone: 9417 7008 a/h

Safety Officer: Mark Maddern Phone: 9293 3251 a/h, mobile: 0422 068 870

Equipment Officer: Sandy Webb Phone: 9339 5936 a/h, mobile: 0407 993 395

Social Officer: Malcolm Roberts Phone: 9276 6607 a/h, mobile: 0411 353 641

PR & Web Officer: Susie Ashton Phone: 9331 2385, mobile: 0417 993 141

UEC News Editor: Stina Frantzich Phone 9341 4612 a/h

Postal Address: PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6954

Email: uec@space.net.au

Home Page: www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

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- To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

From the President

Around this time of the UEC year, is a time for reflection on the past 12 months. Like all previous times, it has been a time filled with challenges but thanks to the efforts of many of our club members, especially the committee members, it has again been a year of positive growth for our club.

Our membership is growing steadily and I feel that after the many changes made to the club over recent years, we are now accepting those changes with the club showing the benefits.

I genuinely feel the club is now well placed to face the future, in a difficult and changeable world, and to move forward and strengthen. It is now a time for consolidation, a time to build steadily on the past and to secure the club's future.

You will all have had access to this newsletter before the Swan Yacht Club's clean-up day, so I would like to ask as many of you as are able, to turn up on the 18th of October to show our club's unity and strength to our host club.

I am sure you all agree that our move to the SYC has been a positive move for our club and now that we have a pen, we can, for the first time in many years, feel we actually belong somewhere. We have been well received by the SYC Manager, the Commodore and his committee and for that matter by many of the members.

We should try to build on this relationship and this clean-up day is one way in which you as members of the UEC can show your resolve and gratitude to the SYC. Please try to turn up at 10am on Saturday the 18th October. We will meet in the car park nearest to the entry of jetty number 2. Bring your diving gear if you are a diver and a pair of gloves and an old bag if you are not a diver. We will probably be finished in time for lunch when the galley and bar will be open.

The other way we can show our resolve and gratitude to our host club is by becoming social members of the SYC. The cost is very little by comparison to the advantages and this move would then cement our future at the SYC.

Our AGM is next month. I would like to encourage some of you, especially our new and younger members to seriously consider nominating for some of the committee positions. It will bring new ideas and energy into a growing club and give you an opportunity to help sculpture the face of our future club.

The next general meeting promises to be an interesting one. Apart from Steve Parish, we will also have another big crowd drawer. Yes you guessed it in one ——— Lovely Lisa. Yes Lisa will be giving us a report on her research journey into our dusty and deep archival repository.

You can't afford to miss this one.

Carmine

Diving Report

Well into spring, summer and Christmas around the corner, so drag those bodies out and dive. The couple of dives we have had over the past month have been good, an old faithful Parker Point drop off and a new spot, Neil's Nest.

Please note in the schedule **the 0800 start** unless otherwise stated. I have kept the schedule to one day per weekend until numbers pick up. A reminder that diving fees have been reviewed and adjusted by the committee so be prepared for the change in the schedule of fees. Please note diving vouchers will be phased out. To help the crew, please bring along the correct fee/change on the day.

Don't forget the boat is available on days not scheduled so organize your buddies, family and friends to make use of it. A number of members have already done so. Do not "miss" the boat so to speak!

The club is looking for more skippers and dive officers to help out with the roster. Being a skipper or dive officer is a natural progression of your diving talents. We have a club-training program designed to enhance and complement your talents and give you the skills required by the club to carry out these duties. It is enjoyable and will broaden your experience. This is a great way to help and put something back into our revered club in a rewarding and satisfying way.

Spring diving is here!
See you out there!!

Kerry

Migraines and scuba diving?

Is there any evidence to suggest that diving can start the onset or trigger migraine attacks?

Answer:

There are several possibilities that might come into play with migraine and scuba diving.

First, migraine can be triggered by scuba diving, swimming or stress.

Second, carbon dioxide retention, occurring in many divers can cause vasodilation of cerebral vessels and initiate a bout of migraine.

Thirdly, migrainous persons with aura are known to have a higher incidence of intracardiac shunting (PFO) and can have venous bubbles cross into the cerebral circulation - setting off a decompression sickness scenario. Finally, some symptoms of migraine can mimic a decompression accident.

There are web pages with articles about headaches at <http://www.scuba-doc.com/mgrns.htm> and at <http://www.scuba-doc.com/headache.html>

Paramax [paracetamol + metaclopramide] can cause some muscular symptoms [extrapyramidal] that would be averse to diving and would increase your risks if you are prone to these symptoms. It would be unwise to dive while having a migraine attack or while taking this medication.

Source: Diving Medicine on-line (Oct 2003) Thanks to Susie for submitting this valuable info! Eds note.

Social Deluge!

Dear Divers,

The “Social Snippets” this month has been renamed “Social Deluge” as there is so much coming up! Read on and book straight away for everything you wish to be part of by email at: malcolm.roberts@conceptphotography.com.au

You won't want to miss out!

Since last month, we've had two successful and fun events on our boat and there are more planned. Check out the following:

Just been –

September 13th - Mussels on the Mooring

A great night was had by all. Moored on the river. There was a night dive for some, and good food and fellowship for all.

September 20th - Saturday Sausage Sizzle

Lunch on the river at the UEC's mooring. The weather turned out to be very pleasant as we sizzled the sausages and enjoyed a drink or two.

October 12th – Whale watching

Rotto day trip. On Sunday – lets hope for some whales! Even without, it should be a beautiful day.

COMING UP!

Dunsborough Diving Weekend

Friday 24th – Sunday 26th October

\$150 per person

Fancy a luxury weekend staying just metres from the waters of Geographe Bay?

We have a big house in a quiet part of Quindalup to ourselves for the weekend. It comes fully furnished with a big kitchen, outdoor eating area and gamesroom. BYO breakfasts and when there we can sort out dinner together – either decide to eat out or go shopping and eat in.

The plan? Arrive Friday evening, 2 Swan dives Saturday morning. Additional dives, such as the Busselton jetty can be arranged if desired. The emphasis is on relaxation.

There should be great viz and as a dive, the HMAS Swan never fails to disappoint.

There are only 3 places left for this trip, so be quick!

Cost is \$150 for beautiful accommodation and 2 dives (with second tank supplied) on the HMAS SWAN. BYO dive gear. Food and fuel costs extra.

Booze Cruise - River cruise pub crawl

Sat 8th November 6pm SYC Returning @ 11pm.

\$25 per person

Jump on board the Underwater Explorer to explore some riverside pubs.

Starting and finishing at SYC this night on our beloved boat will visit a few riverfront pubs during the night before returning to the SYC @ 11pm. \$25 p/p includes river cruise, a hotdog dinner and nibblies. BYO drinks for the boat.

Steve's Hotel, The Old Swan Brewery and the Raffles Hotel can all expect a visit from our boat full of partygoers on the night.

Hawaiian Night

Sat 29th November 7pm SYC Returning @ 11pm

\$30 per person

“Hawaii on Swan brings palm leaves and pandemonium!”

Aloha! Last year we had the black tie dinner, in 2003 we are going to be way more relaxed with a Hawaiian cruise. Upon arrival at our boat, you will receive a Maui Mauler cocktail followed later by dinner and dessert. In keeping with the traditional feast of the ancient Molokai Tribe, we will be serving ham steak & pineapple burgers with side salads. Dessert is a banana sundae with all the toppings, made to a recipe passed down over generations.

The trip will only cost \$30, or a live pig has to be sacrificed to the God of Good Diving Weather. To be allowed entry on to the boat one must be attired in Hawaiian festive dress, eg grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts etc. BYO drinks.

This event is being held as a “Boat CD Fundraiser” The proceeds will be used to buy a CD player for our boat to use for future events. Come along – have fun and help the club at the same time.

Boat leaves SYC at 7pm and will be back at 11pm, depending on how long it takes to reach Maui. Tickets will be limited, book now to avoid disappointment. Please pay Geoff at upcoming October meeting.

This one promises pineapples, palm leaves and plenty of people partying.

UEC Christmas BBQ -Club meeting then BBQ lunch

Noon Sunday 14th December

\$15 for BBQ lunch

Be at the SYC ready to start our December club meeting at noon. Brief formalities aside we will all join together and enjoy some Christmas spirit as we share in a BBQ lunch supplied by SYC. The cook-your-own BBQ lunch includes steak, sausages and onions, bread, coleslaw and garden salad as well as tea, coffee and chocolates. All for only \$15. Full bar facilities are of course available. Please book and pay Geoff by the November club meeting (AGM 17-11-03) so we can let SYC know our numbers.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER AT THE OCTOBER CLUB MEETING – STEVE PARISH!!!

8pm Monday 20th October SYC

No charge. Bring money for raffle

‘Photograph Australia’

Famous photographer, Steve Parish will be showing us his new book, Photograph Australia, and telling us a bit about it. After his chat, Steve will answer any questions you may have, then be available for signing copies of his new book, which will be available for sale on the night for \$59.95.

Bring a few dollars for the club raffle. This month's raffle is no chook raffle, it's a book raffle. This month's prize is a copy of Steve Parish's new book Photographing Australia. What a great prize!

Be punctual, Steve will be on first, followed by the official club meeting after a short interval.

Please advise your desire to attend any or all of the above by email as soon as possible at malcolm.roberts@conceptphotography.com.au

Please pay our Treasurer Geoff in advance for any events, either by post, EFT or at a club meeting. Lists for names for up-coming events will be available at club meetings, or better still, you can email me at malcolm.roberts@conceptphotography.com.au or phone 9276 6607, leaving a message if necessary. Email is best. You can send it at your convenience and I can get it at mine. Book now!

Hope to see you at the next club meeting or at a UEC social event soon!

Your Social Dragonfly

Malcolm Roberts

Boat For Sale!!! - Liz Davey's friend Ralph Bailey has this fab boat for sale!

- **Guardian cabin cruiser, 6.7m, Mercruiser stern drive, V8 engine.**
- **Sleeps 4 adults, sink, gas top, toilet.**
- **40 hours on recon engine – receipts for work done.**
- **Tandem trailer & boat both well maintained & licenced till May 2004.**

Price: \$16,990.00 ono.

Phone: 9398 5475



CLUB CALENDAR

OCTOBER

EVENT

Skipper/DO or Venue

Note: Departures now @ 0800!

Saturday 18 @ 0930

Sunday 19 @ 0800

Monday 20 @ 2000

Friday 24 - Sunday 26

Saturday 25 @ 0800

Swan Yacht Club Clean-Up

Parker Point

General Meeting (Steve Parish)

Dunsborough Diving Weekend

City Beach

SYC - Call Kerry!

Geoff C / Steve

Swan Yacht Club

See Social Report

Carmine / Jim

NOVEMBER

Sunday 2 @ 0800

Monday 3 @ 2000

Saturday 8 @ 0800

Saturday 8 @ 1800

Sunday 16 @ 0800

Monday 17 @ 2000

Saturday 22 @ 0800

Saturday 29 @ 1900

Rusty Divers

Committee Meeting

Carnac Environs

Booze Cruise on the UE

North Rottneest

Annual General Meeting

West End

Hawaiian Night on the UE

Bob / Clive

Swan Yacht Club

Geoff G / Jim

Swan Yacht Club

Peter H / Steve

Swan Yacht Club

Carmine / Carl

Swan Yacht Club

MEMBERS!

Please check departure times and be at the boat 15 minutes before.

Please DO NOT contact the Skipper or Dive Officer to discuss weather conditions. They will decide on the day, at the boat, if weather is suitable for the trip to proceed. Check with Kerry (phone 9331 2385) the night before.

PLEASE NOTE: Dives are 2-tanks unless otherwise stated.

DIVE & BOAT BOOKINGS:

Kerry (or Susie) on 9331 2385 or by Email: kasdive@inet.net.au

AND THERE IS MORE!

If you can get a group together for a day other than scheduled (including mid-week) you are welcome to the boat for \$250 (gives you three hours motoring) and engage a "Club Skipper".

Remember! It is YOUR boat! USE IT!

NEW DIVE FEES (no family discounts):

To Rottneest \$40 (Non-divers \$15)

Stragglers/Carnac \$30 (Non-divers \$10)

Other locations \$40 (Non-divers \$15)

Life Members Free of Charge

Something for the gourmets..

Still getting prawns in the river?
Still too cold to stay and cook them up on theriverbank?
Here is a “different” recipe for a “normal” cook-up or bbq.

SAUTÉED PRAWNS IN OLIVE OIL & TOMATO

Ingredients (for 2 persons)

12 prawns, de-veined with tail left on
2 tomatoes, chopped (skinned and seeded)
Sea salt
Good splash of Jingly Leccino
Extra Virgin Olive Oil
Good splash of WA white wine
Fresh basil leaves
1 red onion (small), finely chopped

Method

Sauté prawns in hot olive oil.
Season and turn.
Add onion, then tomatoes.
Remove prawns then add white wine and reduce sauce.
When sauce thickens, put prawns back in and finish with basil.

ENJOY!

Susie

WRASSE AND “CLEANER FISH”

Wrasse are among the most striking and colourful reef fish. They range from small to very large and there are at least 400 species. All are carnivorous. Many species are capable of radical colour changes with growth and sex reversal.

Some small species of wrasse act as “cleaner fish”, removing parasites from the heads and gills of larger carnivorous fish such as groper, snapper, parrot fish and eels. The valuable services provided by the smaller fish save them from being eaten. Because the cleaner fish are small they tend to stay in one place, which becomes recognised as a cleaner station. The larger fish make regular visits to these stations to be cleaned. Cleaning stations are very important to the health and welfare of whole communities of fish.

The blue-streaked wrasse is one such cleaner fish and it performs an elaborate dance to advertise its services. The dance attracts fish which allow the wrasse to enter their mouths and gills for cleaning. This species can be seen in the northern half of Australia, but several small colonies have been observed on reefs at Rottnest Island. The king wrasse is the most common cleaner fish in southern waters.

This information is from “Dive & Snorkel Sites in Western Australia”, 1997, p.123.



UEC NEWS

NOVEMBER 2003

*The official monthly newsletter of
Underwater Explorers Club of Western Australia*

The UEC Dunsborough Trip 2003 by Michel and Co.

The House

Malcom advertised it as a “Luxury weekend just meters from the water...” and luxury it was! The little picture of the house we were shown did not prepare us for what we found: a magnificent modern house with all the facilities and loads of space. Arriving lateish on Friday night, it was lit up like a castle and easy to find unless you had left the address and instructions behind. After a “quiet night at home” UEC style with only moderate amount of red wine being consumed, the ten of us retired in anticipation of an early morning start.

The Swan

Saturday morning, after a quick breakfast, we all gathered at the dive shop Cape Dive, getting ready for a big day out. Paper work signed, dive gear on the ute, briefing completed, we all hopped on the bus heading for the beach where the boat was waiting for us. We had the boat to ourselves and it felt just like another UEC dive day out except that we did not get to argue with the skipper and DO as to where we should go. There was only one destination and we all agreed: the HMAS Swan! The visibility was average and the water was cold but it was well worth the trouble. There is always plenty to see and explore on the Swan and armed with my new camera and my own ‘dive guide’, I got to visit all these places that I knew of but never found before such as the magazine room, cold room, gully, laundry and a few more dark corners that I would not have ventured in by myself. After a lunch break in perfect sunny surface conditions, the second dive was spent at a more leisurely peace with Malcom and lots of batfish modelling for me. To recover from this exhausting day of diving, we had to sit down at a Dunsborough coffee shop and re-energise ourselves by sipping cups of coffee and hot chocolate with marshmallows.

The Fish

Back at the house, after sorting out our dive gear ready for the next day we all enjoyed a relaxed evening with a fantastic dinner cooked to perfection by Malcom. The main course being two enormous Dhufish served with a delicious array of vegetables. The whole lot of us felt sleepy, of course, by a reasonable (by UEC standard) amount of wine. Just what we needed to get in the mood for some party games and lots of laughter.

Continues on page 7

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!!!

David York, Morley
David James, East Fremantle
Rebecca Woods, East Fremantle
Chris Van Etten, Tuart Hill

From the Editor

Welcome to the November issue of UEC News! This is my last issue as editor with 2003 coming to an end. Hope you have enjoyed your newsletter! And that someone will be able to take over after me! Thanks to Sean for helping out along the way too, could not have done this without him!

The deadline for contributions for the newsletter is the Thursday following the Monday committee meeting every month as usual. Please submit your stories by email, attaching your story in word format.

Stina

General Meetings

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are held every third Monday (except for Public Holidays) at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

Committee Contact Details:

President & Investments: Carmine Travaglione Phone: 9356 1311 a/h, mobile: 0408 833 115

Secretary & Vice President: Steve Larter Phone: 9291 9654 a/h, mobile: 0418 949 264

Treasurer: Geoff Charlton Phone: 9354 7917, mobile: 0438 244 603

Boat Officer: Peter Horton Phone: 9448 5809 a/h, mobile: 0417 930 124

Boat Officer: Gary Browne Phone: 9337 9836a/h, mobile: 0409 712 039

Dive Officer: Kerry Ashton Phone: 9331 2385 a/h

Training Officer: Mark Sach Phone: 9417 7008 a/h

Safety Officer: Mark Maddern Phone: 9293 3251 a/h, mobile: 0422 068 870

Equipment Officer: Sandy Webb Phone: 9339 5936 a/h, mobile: 0407 993 395

Social Officer: Malcolm Roberts Phone: 9276 6607 a/h, mobile: 0411 353 641

PR & Web Officer: Susie Ashton Phone: 9331 2385, mobile: 0417 993 141

UEC News Editor: Stina Frantzich Phone 9341 4612 a/h

Postal Address: PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6954

Email: uec@space.net.au

Home Page: www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedure and to acquaint both Club Members and the public with the facts on safety and the use of safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

From the President

On the 17th November, the UEC year comes to an end. Like last year, the AGM is to be held at the Swan Yacht Club, commencing at 8pm.

However, the end of one period is merely the birth of another. This coming year will indeed be the birth of a new and significant era in the life and history of our great club, as it marks the 50th anniversary of the inaugural meeting of The Underwater Explorers' Club of WA.

Had you read the short history written by one of our older members, John Paskulich, you would be aware of the changing face of the Underwater Explorers' Club. From the beginning it displayed a very 'macho' and adventurous image. This image then matured to an 'explorative' and adventurous one. Further down the track this changed yet again to a 'teaching' and adventurous image. Still further down the track a 'gender equal' and adventurous image emerged until finally today we have a well rounded club with a little of every ingredient from our past, added together with strong conservation leanings but always maintaining an adventurous spirit. The changes made to our club over the past 50 years merely reflect the changing times. Little wonder the UEC exists today as a strong and relevant club. The Club has merely evolved as would a living thing adapting to a changing environment

Next year we should all celebrate the club's longevity, not only by popping the champagne corks but also by recognizing those who came before us and helped reach the club's current place in history, while at the same time ensuring its future.

Once again, I would like very much to do something I have done for the last three years at this time, and that is to thank my committee for their assistance over the past 12 months. I feel privileged to have served as the President for the past 4 years and I am sure our club will continue to go from strength to strength over the coming years.

Please remember that all positions become vacant on the night of the 17th November 2003. Some of you may wish to nominate others or yourselves but don't forget, that in order to vote at the AGM, you must be a fully paid-up member. As always, all our awards will be presented at the AGM, so come along and join me and the committee in thanking all those members who have contributed to the benefit of the club over the last 12 months.

I hope to see you all there!

Carmine

Lost Property

Margaret Pettigrew left her brand new UEC heavy duty jacket on the boat when she went whale watching on the boat on October 12th. (That's what happens when you leave the boat stone cold sober!!). If ~~anyone kindly picked it up for her, would they please email her at~~ herpetti@inet.net.au

Thanks.

Margaret and Bill Pettigrew

Safety Report

Well, I'm back from the Philippines and a safety report is long overdue. I had a great time in the Philippines, and although the marine environment over there has been heavily impacted by over-fishing, pollution and dynamite fishing (we actually heard explosions occur six times while we were diving - not pleasant!), positive steps are being taken to reduce the dependence of local communities on fishing, and also the creation of marine protected areas where fishing is not allowed. I will be writing a report of my experiences, which will hopefully appear in the next newsletter.

One interesting observation I made whilst away was the difference in the requirements for a diving medical certificate in various countries. One of the other volunteers working with project seahorse in the Philippines was from England, and although a serious asthmatic, had obtained a diving medical certificate in that country and was unaware of the danger associated with asthmatics diving - and it is generally accepted that the dangers can be quite serious. In Australia, there have been stringent rules regarding asthmatics diving, though doctors are now using a more discretionary approach when granting medical certificates. It is safe to say that asthmatics who dive should act with caution and have regular dive medicals.

Unfortunately, I will not be present at the AGM due to work commitments, so I will see you all out on the boat for the start of the crayfish season.

Mark

Secretary's Report

Following requests at the last general meeting for a contact list of members to be available for everyone to network, it was agreed at the last committee meeting to make available a contact list of member's names, telephone numbers and e-mail details. We are aware of our responsibilities concerning the provisions of the Privacy legislation and will not include any member who do not wish to have their details made available to other members.

If you do not wish your contact details to appear on the members contact list please contact Steve Larter before the 6th of December 2003. Your details will be deleted from the list as per your specific instructions. The contact list will not be available on the web site only hard copies will be produced for individuals who request them.

There are a number of members who still wish to receive hard copies of the newsletter. We still produce a number of Hard copies for members who do not have an e-mail address. The cost to produce, print and post each copy is around \$2.50 per copy not including the time it takes to produce it. We produce 12 copies each year so that equates to \$30.00 per member receiving a hard copy per year. We do consider members who have not got access to a PC should still receive their hard copy of the newsletter. We are proposing that members who wish to receive a hard copy who have access to a PC pay an additional sum in their membership to cover the costs of printing and postage. It would be appreciated if members who require this service give the committee some feedback on this topic so we can discuss and agree on a course of action that is acceptable to all concerned. Take care.

Steve

Social Calendar

Hello Divers and others, Lotsa news heading into the festive season followed by our Golden Jubilee 50th celebrations.

What's just been - hope you made the most of it.

October club meeting we had world famous photographer **Steve Parish** give a great talk and slide show to our members, some of whom bought an authorgraphed copy his new book, Photographing Australia. We had a very successful raffle. Bring some extra money to the November meeting because we have a great prize of a coffee table book of the **Top Dive Sites in Australia**. It includes our favourite, Rottnest as well as some other WA spots you've dived and love. Be at the meeting and makes sure you buy some tickets. This is a beautiful book. **Quindalup Luxury Weekend** – 24th-26th October. A great weekend of diving and relaxing with good food, wine and company was enjoyed by all 10 of us. The word "luxury" was an understatement! Read Michel's full report on the weekend and Trevor's report on the Busselton Jetty dive we finished our weekend with in this newsletter.

Hawaiian Night

Sat 29th November 7pm SYC Returning @ 11pm

\$30 per person

"Hawaii on Swan brings palm leaves and pandemonium!"

Aloha! Last year we had the black tie dinner, in 2003 we are going to be way more relaxed with a Hawaiian cruise. Upon arrival at our boat, you will receive a Maui Mauler cocktail followed later by dinner and dessert. In keeping with the traditional feast of the ancient Molokai Tribe, we will be serving ham steak & pineapple burgers with side salads. Dessert is a banana sundae with all the toppings, made to a recipe passed down over generations. The trip will only cost the small sum of \$30, or a live pig to be sacrificed to the God of Good Diving Weather. To be allowed entry to the boat one must be attired in Hawaiian festive dress, eg grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts etc. BYO drinks. **This event is being held as a "Boat CD Fundraiser"** The proceeds will be used to buy a CD player for our boat to use for future events. Come along – have fun and help the club at the same time. Boat leaves SYC at 7pm and will be back at 11pm, depending on how long it takes to reach Maui. Tickets will be limited, book now to avoid disappointment. Please pay Geoff at upcoming November meeting. Any places not paid up by that night will be made available on a first pay basis. This one promises pineapples, palm leaves and plenty of people partying.

UEC Christmas BBQ

12 Noon Sunday 14th December

Club meeting followed by BBQ lunch.

\$15 for BBQ lunch

Be at the SYC ready to start our December club meeting at 12 noon. Brief formalities aside we will all join together and enjoy some Christmas spirit as we share in a BBQ lunch supplied by SYC. The cook-your-own BBQ lunch includes steak, sausages and onions, bread, coleslaw and garden salad. Tea, coffee and chocolates. All for only \$15. Full bar facilities are of course, available. Please book with me and pay Geoff by the November club meeting (AGM 17-11-03) so we can let SYC know our numbers.

Please advise your desire to attend any or all of the above by email as soon as possible at malcolm.roberts@conceptphotography.com.au

Please pay our Treasurer Geoff in advance for any events, either by post or at a club meeting. Lists for names for up-coming events will be available at club meetings, or better still, you can email me at malcolm.roberts@conceptphotography.com.au or phone 9276 6607, leaving a message if necessary. Email is best. You can send it at your convenience and I can get it at mine. Book now while you are on-line and thinking about it!

Another club year draws to a close and a new season awaits. We have done a lot as a club during the last year both with our boat and diving, and with our social events. Our boat has become a real part of our social calendar. With the addition of a CD player and some more lights it will become even more of a party vessel. Some of the social highlights have been a couple of great rivercruise parties/dinners on our boat and two “mussels on the mooring” nights. Diving weekends away and a chance to dive with sharks at AQWA were great opportunities enjoyed by members. Meals featured strongly on the social calendar. Who would forget (perhaps some did!) the Progressive Dinner with different food and drinks at every stop? There was the inaugural Curry and Games night. And there’s the Hawaiian Night to come!

Something members should be aware of is my disappointment with your lack of decisiveness on attending social events. The number of people wishing to join/bail social activities with little or no notice makes the hard work catering and organising done by the social sub-committee even harder. Please advise the social committee person as early as practical if you wish to participate in/withdraw from social events. This will help immensely with our planning. Thankyou.

I am heading off on an around-the-world trip early in the New Year. I plan to experience every continent except Antarctica. Because this holiday will take up a large portion of the year, I will not be available as social committee person next year. I will however, be part of the sub-committee on my return. The incoming social dragonfly/butterfly will have a similarly capable sub-committee as I enjoyed.

Ah! The sub-committee. Putting in all the work behind the scenes has been my helpful social sub-committee. I particularly want to give a big THANK YOU to Susie, Sandy, Alison, Dallis and Liz for the work they have done as contributors to the sub-committee.

I also wish to say THANK YOU to those who have made their houses available to be used by club members for social events during the year.

THANK YOU too to the skippers for boat-based activities. Your time, expertise and willingness to be sober when others perhaps are not is appreciated.

THANK YOU to everyone else who has helped during the year with all sorts of things. There are too many of you to mention here, but thank you too.

Thank you to you, the members of UEC. Those of you who participated in the events on offer were the ones who benefited. Weren’t the best things the one’s you participated in? That’s the great equation of a club: The more you put in, the more you get out.

Hope to see you at the AGM or at a UEC social event soon.

Your Social Dragonfly

Malcolm Roberts

The Jetty - Continued from page 1

There was a bit of indecision about the Busselton Jetty dive on Sunday morning as the wind has increased from the previous day. Once the jetty was in sight everyone was suddenly very keen despite the wind. We "trained" out to the jetty's boat landing. The prospect of a giant stride from that height daunted a few of us. However we had attracted a crowd of spectators by this point so we had to put on a respectable show. We shouldn't have worried as all went well ("did anyone see where Rex's weight belt went" ?). After the concern about the wind, the water conditions were perfect with excellent visibility. For those of us unfamiliar with this dive, the initial visual overload was amazing. The colour of the growth on the pylons was like nothing else we've seen. The underwater photos we've all seen of the jetty before now don't do the real thing justice. The Puffer fish (Globe fish) are plentiful and at one stage we saw a large school of them. Also plentiful are the beautiful bright orange Short-tailed nudibranch. Hanging low in the water and looking upward through the pylons reminds you of the giant Karri's in Pemberton (which is more than likely where the pylons are from) except this scene was made very surreal by the colour and the fact it is underwater. We all swam out through the pylons and over some discarded pylons on the sea floor, probably from the jetty fire, and towards the new underwater observatory. It is not finished yet and was quite unremarkable from the outside as all the glass panels have large steel shutters over them. Although it is quite shallow, we were restricted for time if we wanted to catch the next train back so we headed for home. A cormorant swooped through a group of us on the way back just to prove to us how clumsy us humans are in the water. Other highlights were a couple of Pygmy Leather jackets, Cuttlefish, Octopus, a few Anemones as well as the old standards like Bullseyes and Yellow Fins.

Thanks to management of the Busselton Jetty who were very good to us and shouted us a half price coffee to warm up afterwards. They also gave us some of their time to discuss the future of the presently less fished end of the jetty, after the Underwater Observatory is opened. Let's hope they can maintain their stance of fishing free zone from the Observatory onwards.

Also a big thanks (again !!!) to our Social Dragonfly, who has outdone himself once again to organise the "Dunsborough Weekend 03" and cooked up a storm on Saturday night too. Don't miss this trip next year. It's a corker!

The Shop

We sent a thank-you to Cape Dive for our great weekend of diving. Here is their reply:
It's a good wrap for UEC!

Subject: RE: Underwaters Explorers Club of WA Thank-you.

It was a pleasure to have you all - it makes our life a pleasure to take out such organised divers too - so thank-you back and congratulate the club as we do see all sorts of things through Cape Dive and Underwater Explorers can definitely be congratulated for being an organised group of divers!! Thank-you for the feedback, it is important to know our divers are happy and we hope to see you all again.....not that I can guarantee such perfect weather !! Take Care.

Kindest Regards

Shelley

Michel, Chris C and Nicole on behalf of the crew who enjoyed this UEC weekend away!

Web Site note from Susie: Some new photos have been placed in the 'album' on the web site. They are Michel's from the Dunsborough trip organised by Malcolm.

CLUB CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Saturday 15 @ 0800	Cray dive	TBA
Sunday 16 @ 0800	North Rottnest	Peter H / Steve
Monday 17 @ 2000	Annual General Meeting	Swan Yacht Club
Saturday 22 @ 0800	West End	Carmine / Carl
Saturday 29 @ 1900	Hawaiian Night on the UE	Swan Yacht Club
Sunday 30 @ 0800	Five Fathom Bank	Geoff G / Clive

DECEMBER

Monday 1 @ 2000	Committee Meeting	Swan Yacht Club
Saturday 6 @ 0800	Rotto South	Bob / Mark S
Saturday 13 @ 0800	Christmas Dive	Kerry / Mark M
Sunday 14 @ 1200 noon	General Meeting & Xmas Party	Swan Yacht Club
Sunday 21 @ 0800	Rotto North	Peter H / Carl
Saturday 27 @ 0800	It's xmas - book on!	TBA
Sunday 28 @ 0800	It's xmas - book on!	TBA

MEMBERS!

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Please DO NOT contact the Skipper or Dive Officer to discuss weather conditions. They will decide on the day, at the boat, if weather is suitable for the trip to proceed. Check with Kerry (phone 9331 2385) the night before.

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Remember! It is YOUR boat! USE IT!

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Other locations	\$40 (Non-divers \$15)
Life Members	Free of Charge

The Busselton Jetty Dive by Trevor

On Sunday morning, after a wonderful day's dive on the Swan on the Saturday and a very enjoyable evening in the very large and luxurious house that we had been forced to endure, I woke to the sound of the wind blowing through the trees. After the flat calm that had greeted us for the previous day's dives, it did not bode well for the proposed dive on the Busselton Jetty. A report of growing waves on the beach did not sound encouraging either.

However, it was decided that we would pack up and make our way to Busselton to assess the conditions before making a decision. In the event of not being able to dive, we could still have a pleasant lunch together before driving back to Perth.

We arrived at the jetty at approximately 11:00 am and the conditions looked better than anticipated. It was decided that the dive would go ahead and tickets for the train were purchased, the silver tongue of Geoff Geard managing to get an 8 for the price of 7 discount deal.

The Jetty has changed quite considerably since my last visit with the addition of an Interpretive Centre and gift shop at the entrance to the Jetty, which provides details of the history of the jetty and information on the ongoing rebuilding and refurbishment of the Jetty. It also provides the opportunity to view the marine life under the Jetty via the Jetty Marinecam. This can also be viewed on the Web at www.watercorporation.com.au/marinecam.

The next train was due at 12:00 pm and every body donned their wetsuits at the car park and carried the rest of their equipment the short distance to the train. We were later told that it is possible to bring cars onto the grass area around the other side of the train boarding area, and dress there. At 12:00 pm the train slowly trundled down the Jetty and I thoroughly appreciated the means of transport as the length of pier stretched out in front of us.

The train stopped about 200 metres from the end of the Jetty where steps led down to a boat platform, which was already occupied by some anglers. After donning the rest of our equipment, the means of entry to the water was restricted to two choices. A climb down a vertical and slippery ladder, or the astride jump entry. I don't know what the state of the tide was, but the 5 metre drop to the water suggested it was a low tide. There was some hesitation on behalf of some of the divers, but one at a time an assortment of entries were made, sometimes to the amusement of the crowd that had gathered to watch our antics. Liz, my buddy, not being the tallest person in the world, must have thought the drop was much more than 5 metres, but courageously took the plunge closely followed by me. In fact the entry was not as traumatic for me as I thought it might be, but I can't speak for some of the others.

Once in the water, which was incredibly clear, each buddy pair proceeded under the jetty to explore as they wished. With absolutely no current and excellent visibility, the swim towards the end of the jetty was effortless and very enjoyable. The soft corals and sponges covering the pylons were a tapestry of colours and provided a shelter for a myriad of small sea creatures. Fallen pylons, the result of fire and the cyclone Alby, provided even more protection for the abundant marine life. While Liz was busy capturing as much of this with her camera, I was content to hover and observe the surroundings.

We slowly progressed towards the end of the accessible jetty where the new Underwater Observatory has been constructed. The circular construction is not yet operational, and metal shutters currently cover the viewing windows. However, when it is finally complete it will provide some of the pleasure that we as divers are able to experience to those poor unfortunate landlubbers.

The construction process has left some debris on the seabed, but we were informed later that plans were in place to remove all the rubbish before the observatory was opened. The other problem effecting the marine Eco-system is the number of anglers fishing towards the end of the jetty and causing damage to the marine growth on the Jetty supports. They also provide a danger to the unwary diver who does not see that suspended hook. Many of the pylons had fishing lines wrapped around them, which in some cases can present problems for the marine life, but has probably already created damage to the corals and sponges when it was initially snagged.

Ideally anglers should be banned from the end of the jetty, where the best of the marine life exists, but this has become a political problem for the local shire council. If you feel strongly enough about the problem, a letter to the council expressing your concerns can only help those fighting at the local level.

While on the return leg of the dive, Liz and I were confronted with the sight of a cormorant swimming among the jetty supports intent on a meal and apparently oblivious of our presence. The dive finished with a climb up the vertical ladder, which was accomplished with comparative ease with the assistance of the other members of our group. From the comments that I heard, everybody had enjoyed the dive, and some even more than the dives on the Swan.

After returning to the car park and changed, we adjourned to the local café where we partook of coffee/chocolate on a 2 for 1 basis provided by a discount printed on the on the back of our train tickets. It was decided not to have a meal in the café, but late lunch was provided by the local bakery in the pie or pastie of one's choice which was eaten al fresco outside the bakery on an upturned milk crate, if one was quick enough. This basically brought us to the end of a perfect diving weekend and Busselton Jetty is a worthwhile dive in daylight or night.

If anybody would like more information about the history of the Busselton Jetty, links are provided from the Water Corporation Webpage , which incidentally has a link to underwater cameras in Monterey, California with live pictures of life in the kelp environment (USA day time).

Trevor

FOR SALE 1:

Two aluminium tanks, 90's. Five years old. Were put in test again for us before they were left by the Smeatons who have been using them for the past year. Reason for sale, we are now using steel tanks. \$90.00 each.

Please contact: Bill or Margaret Pettigrew 9434-5052. Email: petti@iinet.net.au

FOR SALE 2:

Pat Troy's friend John Kohl has a boyancy vest for sale.

Bouyancy vest, SeaQuest, ADV, Spectrum 2, as new, \$250.

Please contact: John Kohl on 9571 1194 (home), 9443 0509 (work).

**Our beautiful diving holiday; destination Northern Sulawesi: Bunaken and Lembah Strait.
By Francis and Joop de Wit**

We set out in July for a three week holiday in Sulawesi. Flight connections are a bit complicated, but once you get to Jakarta, there it is a three hour flight into Manado with Garuda, Bouraq and Silk Air offering good connection flights. There are flights leaving Denpasar every morning, they all include a stopover but eventually you will end up in Manado. We made reservations with Two Fish divers on Bunaken (www.twofishdiver.com). Because Sulawesi is quite a poor island, the sea is polluted to an extent with just household waste, especially plastic bags. We had been warned about this so we did expect to find a lot of rubbish in the water. We chose the resort as it is situated on the outside of a horse shoe shaped island with the current passing by the shore. If you choose to stay on the inside of the horse shoe there is a fair chance that any waste stays within the bay. Anyway, the diving centre was very small, it consisted of only 5 bungalows but there is accommodation available next door that is slightly more budget oriented. Please refer to their website and have a look. Nigel and Tina have very qualified dive guides working for them, and normally it is a 2 to 1 situation, 1 guide to 2 divers. Diving with a good guide who knows the area and knows the behaviour of the sea with its currents does make or break your dive. In this case it makes the dive. The diving was just superb, we saw beautiful walls during drift dives, we did night dives, wreck dives, you name it, we did it.

We (Joop) bought a digital camera, the Canon S45, not cheap, but very good. At the last minute he also bought an underwater case, which of course does not come cheap either. Try to visualise Joop standing knee deep in the sea with his new under water camera in his hand, just a touch above the water level, gathering enough courage (financial loss) to submerge his new gadget in SALT water. Can you see it? In the meantime, while just snorkelling I had seen so many fish and stunning coral. After a while Joop took the risk and quickly dipped the camera in the water. Of course it was waterproof, what do you expect with a waterproof case with a price tag of around \$ 350.00? Did you know that you can buy diving gear and cameras in Perth and declare them at the airport and they will pay you your tax back? As many of you probably already know, underwater photography is not easy. It has to do with balance and having enough light, fogging up of the lens, especially when you see this once in a lifetime creature. For more detailed information, just ask my husband. I am sure Joop can go into many, many, many details.

This place is a paradise for the smaller creatures, nudibranches, fish, sea snakes and of course the coral. We saw stone fish, leaf fish, scorpion fish, cleaner shrimp (yes cleaning our guide's moustache), ghost harlequin pipe fish, decorator crabs, cuttle fish etc. As you may have gathered we had a good time. One word of warning though the accommodation is not luxurious, there is no power during the day, the mozzie netting might have a few holes in it and there is no airconditioning. But it is a very friendly and quiet place. The food is simple, yet people who had stayed with other dive operators rated it as the best. Some people who stayed on the island for longer than a week crossed to the capital Manado to do some snack shopping. All ferry services are free. If you decide not to dive they will take you out on the dive boat just to go snorkelling for free as well!

Our next destination was Lembah Strait. I had seen a TV documentary by an Australian couple named Trevally and they filmed in the Lembah Strait. We stayed on Lembah Island with Rob Schinke (www.diving-on-sulawesi.com). This is a friendly couple who built their own resort consisting of 3 cottages. The view from the top cottage is stunning, but it is quite a steep climb. These guys will pick you up from Manado if you need a ride. They take great care of you which we needed because we did forget to bring some stuff and we could borrow just about everything (within limits of course). On our first dive we encountered three, yes three bright orange angler stonefish. One big one with two babies adjacent to her body, it was stunning!

All cameras were in action. It was a sight not to forget and if there had been a professional photographer working for a calendar it would have made the front page. We also saw ribbon eels, lion fish, Banggai cardinal fish, commensal shrimp, turtles, moree eels, angler fish, coackatoo flounders, urchin crabs, flying gornards (dragon fish) , swimming brittle stars and more. Every serious diver must visit the Lembah Strait once. This place attracts a lot of photographers, professional as well as amateurs, so at the dining table it was digital photo's galore. We enjoyed our holiday very much and it was completely stress free, I even lost 3 kilos due to all the healthy food on the menu. If anybody would like more information, please send us an email at francisca@iinet.net.au and we will get back to you.

PS: If there are ladies who are interested in my new fashion label, they can visit my website www.stylish40.com I have just started my own fashion line and I specialise in designing dinner and race wear for sizes 12 and 14 for ladies who wants to dress a touch cheeky and daring . My garments are for sale via Tall Poppies boutique at 669 Beaufort Street in Mt Lawley and I am hoping to expand to a boutique in the centre of Perth as well.

Francis & Joop

Canal-Free Coogee Beach Party

This notice about the bbq at Coogee beach comes from Liz Davey!

If you want to save our swimming beaches and ocean from the developers' bulldozer please join the Coogee Coastal Action Coalition for a byo barbecue on the Coogee Beach lawn on **Sunday November 23rd** from 11:30 am – 3:00 pm.



UEC NEWS

DECEMBER

2003



*The official monthly newsletter for
Underwater Explorers Club of Western
Australia*

PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154

Phone: 0401 775 720 (President)

[Email UEC](#)

www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

[Download UEC News here \(pdf\)](#)

From the editor

Welcome to December's issue of UEC News.

There is much news to report following the November AGM, most notably there have been significant changes in the club committee, 2004 committee listed below. I'd like to join our new president Steve in thanking all the outgoing committee members for their hard work and diligence in taking the club through a period of significant change and development. As part of the 2004 committee we plan to consolidate on these efforts with an emphasis on the aims and objectives of the club.

To help us make a smooth transition into our various positions please make an effort to contact the new committee members regarding club business. In particular note Belinda's new position as Dive Officer when booking on for dives.

A final note regarding the newsletter, the club has been moving towards a completely digital newsletter for some time now and we aim to complete the move over the next few newsletters. We are aware of the inconvenience this will cause to those members unable to access computers. To maintain the newsletter distribution to these members there will now be hardcopies of the newsletter made available at the general meetings.

Chris G.

GENERAL MEETINGS

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are held every third Monday (except for Public Holidays) at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

[Click here for UEC Committee Contact Details](#)

Postal Address: PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6954
Email: uec@space.net.au
Home Page: www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
 - To encourage safety methods and procedure and to acquaint both Club Members and the public with the facts on safety and the use of safe, reliable equipment.
 - To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.
-

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is indeed an honour to be elected as president of your club.

Firstly I must thank on behalf of all members the out going committee for all there hard work over the past 12 months. Special thanks must go to Carmine for the past 4 years in his role as President. We have seen a number of major changes to the UEC during those years. He skilfully guided us through a period of change to make UEC a much stronger club.

Our membership is now in excess of 135. We have embraced modern technology to work for us and we now meet the majority of new members via the Internet and the web. Our newsletter is now web based with the majority of members both in Australia and overseas keeping in touch with us.

The need to upgrade our diving vessel to a more comfortable and appealing craft was a long and sometimes difficult process but we now can offer a vessel that meets new members expectations of a club that is going somewhere. The move to a prime riverfront location at the Swan Yacht Club for our meetings and Penn facilities ensures that we are aligned with a large boating organization that can benefit both of our clubs.

Upon reflection the changes have been dynamic and we will need to continue on with the work to ensure our club moves forward to meet the rapidly changing demands of our existing membership and our future members. Your committee of management for 2004 is a much younger team than previous years and brings with it a new vitality with many new faces that will endeavour to keep activities moving forward. We have a very challenging time ahead of us and we need the support of all the UEC membership to keep your club a strong and viable organization, of which you are proud to be a member.

The need to lift our public profile within the West Australian diving community is paramount to attract new members and will be vital in ensuring our future. With the challenges ahead we must also ensure that we enjoy ourselves on the path to the future. We are all members of a great diving club founded by past members who were very much the frontiersmen of underwater activity in Australia a tradition that all of us must ensure we maintain for the generations that follow us.

I look forward to a period of consolidation, recognition, and fun times for all of our members. Remember the words of a very famous President John F Kennedy,

“Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country”

I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Take Care.

Steve.

SAFETY REPORT

Thank you club members for entrusting me with the role of safety officer, I will do my best to resolve any safety issues you may have, and if need be, take them to the committee for resolution. So please do not hesitate in contacting me with any issues you may have.

Since becoming safety officer I have had six safety concerns brought to my attention by various members.

1. I have been asked to take a look at the 'life ring' or 'bouy' attached to the boat to make sure it is in serviceable condition, i.e. rope, accessibility. ...does it float?...
2. A member has asked, "Please, that divers do not put their fins on until they are at the step at the rear of the boat, thank you". ...oops! I've been guilty of that...
3. The gas bottle and fuel tank for the inflatable must be stored in the fly bridge (upstairs) part of the boat to comply with the Swan Yacht Club regulations for penned boats. ...I know the gas bottle is not for the inflatable!...
4. The 'slippery lid' problem of the 'beneath the floor storage compartment' of the boat. This has been rectified. ...problem solved...
5. Some members have expressed safety concerns with transferring dive gear and especially tanks by wheelbarrow to and from the boat. There will be a meeting of skippers and DO's on the sixteenth of December, on the boat. One point to be discussed at this meeting will be to consider using the finger jetty beside the launching ramp to load and unload our dive gear, which is the purpose of this jetty. i.e. loading and unloading. ...YEAH!!!...
6. Please could the descent, ascent, 5m safety stop line or whatever you may call it be hung off the starboard side bollard away from the ladder (in case of weight belt slipping while boarding). ...makes sense eh!...

See you all at the next general meeting (christmas party). Merry Xmas and safe diving.

...REX...

SOCIAL SNIPPETS

Hi guys.

Firstly I would like to say thank you for voting me Social Secretary for 2004. It is going to be a very big year for club what with our 50th birthday to celebrate. I think we are going to need to change the rules and have a 5 day weekend and 2 day working week to fully do justice to all the diving and socializing the club has planned.

I must admit I put my hand up for this job not being fully aware of all the work that it entailed. I have the utmost admiration for Malcolm and his team of helpers for all the work they did last year organizing a very full social calendar, all the interesting speakers we enjoyed at the monthly meetings and of course the catering. (I shall never forget Australia Day 2003, what a great introduction to the club). I have been set quite a standard to keep. Thankfully I have already had a great deal of help offered from the Social Sub Committee that is very appreciated.

Well now down to business

Social Diary

14th December 2003

Club meeting and Christmas BBQ at the Swan Yacht Club

Malcolm has kindly offered to still be the contact for this event so anyone who has not yet booked please contact him ASAP.

26th January 2004

Australia Day Fireworks Cruise

If you are interested in booking your spot on the boat please email me at JasmineLyons141@hotmail.com or phone me on 0439 697 693.

This was my first outing with the club last year and was a total blast. Lots of food and lots of fun.

I hope everyone has a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Cheers

Jasmine

PR REPORT

It's early days for me as the new PR Officer and it is turning out to be as I thought, I have a large pair of shoe's to fill. A big thanks to Susie and her PR sub-committee for all the work that has gone in to this job up until now. I'm sure we all under- estimate the effort that Susie has put in, particularly on the website. As I'm still feeling my way around I haven't got much to report at this point but have plenty of idea's. We are looking at giving our website a facelift. It's such a great tool for attracting new members and communicating to present members that we are going to concentrate on that initially. Sean and Stina will be giving us web-learners some background information soon and are offering a new system for running the website. We will also be continuing to try get our website listed on as many diving and recreational related sites as possible. Also in the pipeline are idea's for promotion of our 50th anniversary.

See you on the boat

Chris C.

BOAT REPORT

By now most of you will be aware that there has been movement in the club at committee level and the Boating Officer has been no exception. My job this year has been made easy by the outgoing Boating Officer, Peter Horton. I personally would like to thank Peter and his merry band of helpers for doing such a marvelous job in keeping the boat ship-shape for the up and coming dive season.

At this point in time the boat is in good operating condition with all regular maintenance up to date.

One thing on the agenda is a new CD player for all you socialites.

Of course one of the joys of owning a boat is that there is always something to do so all you mechanics, painters and general helpers please be ready to lend a hand. It's good fun working on the boat. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to offer your help at any time. I know we have a vast array of skills amongst the members of this club, all of which I am sure can add to the efficiency and pleasure of running our boat.

My aim this year is to maintain the boat as a working asset for the club and to ensure all the regular maintenance and repairs are carried out quickly and at a minimum of cost.

So happy diving for this coming season and don't forget, the Underwater Explorer is your boat so lets make an effort to keep it out on the water as much as possible.

Martin Smith

DIVE REPORT

The next 12 months of the UEC looks to be an exciting period in our development. The new committee met with a number of the outgoing committee and lots of ideas were shared.

If you have any favourite dive sites that you want to share with other club members – let me know and I will do what I can to schedule it in for you.

I would love to hear from anyone who has a fun 'dive story' to tell so that we can include it in this section of the newsletter – tell me where, when, and what made the dive so memorable.

To make your dive bookings please contact me as early as you can so that the Skipper and Dive Officer for the day can be prepared well in advance. Generally it would be GREAT if you could book by the Thursday before your intended dive day, however we do understand that you don't always know what you want to do until closer to the time so we will do our best to accommodate you.

Call on 9339 1789 or email on tbpalmer@ca.com.au to make your bookings. Alternatively, I will have the diary with me at the meetings so you can always make your reservation then.

Looking forward to hearing from you ...

Date		Dive Site/ Event	Skipper	Dive Officer
December				
Saturday 6	08:00	Rotto South	Bob	Mark S
Saturday 13	08:00	Christmas Dive	Kerry	Marc M
Tuesday 16	18:00	Skippers & DO Meeting on the boat		
Sunday 21	08:00	Rotto North	Peter	Carl
Saturday 27	08:00	Skippers Choice	Carmine	Mark S
Sunday 28	08:00	Skippers Choice	Bob	Steve
January				
Sunday 4	06:30 one tank	Stragglers	Geoff G	Jim
Sunday 4	12:00	Trainee Skippers on the boat	Carmine	
SATURDAY 10	08:00	West End	Kerry	Mark S
Sunday 18	08:00	Maree's Aquarium	Peter	Clive
Saturday 24	08:00	City Beach	Carmine	Steve

- Boat departure is 8:00 am from Swan Yacht Club unless otherwise stated. Please DO NOT contact the Skipper or Dive Officer to discuss weather conditions – they will decide on the day, on the boat, if the weather is suitable for the trip to proceed.
- Check with Belinda and Tony on 9339 1789 the night before to make sure there are enough numbers for the dive to go ahead.
- All dives are two-tank unless otherwise stated.

Dive and Boat Bookings

Belinda / Tony on 9339 1789 or tbpalmer@ca.com.au

LOST AND FOUND

Lost

One cray loop left behind on the boat on Sunday 30 November – please contact Belinda / Tony if you have found it.

TRAINING REPORT

Hi all

Well another training year has commenced with the Equipment Maintenance session being run and I would like to thank those people who booked and attended. I feel a lot of valuable information was passed amongst the group on not only equipment maintenance but how to handle some equipment failure situations.

Well for the rest of the year I have a few ideas. Due to the silly season there will be no training in January unless a group of people wish for a specific topic to be run and then we will work a time out for the activity.

With February being the traditional deep dive for the club I intend to run a deep diving refresher evening on the second Monday 12 Feb 04 I will also be pointing out the added benefits of the use of Nitrox on such dives.

For March 08 March I will be intending to run a night diving refresher training night especially catering for those who like to chase the creepy crawlies in the river during the Winter. I intend to follow this session up with a dive from the boat and maybe a BBQ afterwards with a cost in the vicinity of \$15.00 per person.

I am also looking for another 8 people who wish to refresh or learn about basic first aid and resuscitation (I need to requalify for my 2 yearly recertification). The SYC have the facility to run this training for groups of this size the training is through ST John and I believe you receive an accredited certificate. There is a cost of approximately \$40.00.

Shippers and DO's and Trainees I will be looking at conducting some training for all I am still interested in finding a skipper who is willing to travel back from Rotto on a Friday night so I can organize a Dive and Dine night being dinner at Rotto at the Quokka Arms whilst we wait for dark and then allowing trainee skippers the opportunity to train in the skills required to navigate the boat home on one of our more common passages in night time situations.

There will be a training session/discussion held on the 16th December held on the boat, time to be advised (approx. 6.30 to 7.00pm).

As always, should members wish to revise or be trained in a particular topic, please advise me so I can schedule it and remember that all training needs to be booked to confirm your place to guarantee the session will go ahead. I can be contacted on 9417 8890. If I'm not home please leave a message.

Yours in diving.

Training Officer
Rambo

Editors special report on crayfishing

Given recent opening of the cray season and it's discussion at a recent general meeting I thought it

would be a good time to review the regulation of recreational crayfishing and UECs attitude towards it.

The western rock lobster (aka crayfish) is considered to be one of the best managed fisheries in the world. The continued success of the fishery relies on those accessing it to follow the rules and regulations outlined by the W.A. Department of Fisheries. Fisheries have a very impressive website that outlines the regulations effecting "cray fishing" and many other forms of recreational fishing. If you are planning on taking crays on an upcoming dive please educate yourself on the rules.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au>

While UEC allows club members to take crayfish during it's diving activities it is not in the business of policing members to ensure they are following the rules. Basically, if you take a crayfish on a club dive you take with it the accountability of meeting Fisheries rules.

The single rule that arguably effects the skipper and D.O. is ensuring that the bag limit of 16 per boat has not been exceeded. Again, this is better dealt with through self regulation and discussion amongst the cray-fishers themselves. A suggestion on how to help your friendly dive officer is to give him a brief report following the last dive, i.e. how many were caught and confirming they all meet the legal requirements.

Note: the boat has a set of callipers to measure any crayfish taken.

The basic western rock lobster regulations (see website link above for comprehensive info and illustrations):

- License required to legally take western rock lobster
- Open season from 15 November to 30 June
- Size limits of carapace, 15 Nov. - 31 Jan: **77mm**.
1 Feb. - 30 Jun: **76mm**
Females cannot be over **115mm**
- Daily bag limit of **8** per license, and **16** per boat.
- Divers may only catch lobsters by hand, or use a hand-held snare (cray loop) or blunt crook for assistance.

- All lobsters to be kept, must have the central flap of their tail fans (the hole must be more than 10mm wide), clipped or punched within five minutes of taking them out of the water.

- Processing rock lobsters on boat (i.e. pulling the tails off, eating etc) is illegal. Keep your lobsters whole until you get them home and are about to eat them.

- Cray fishing is illegal at night.
- No taking of Setose and Tar Spot Lobsters
- Tagged crayfish require special procedures

Note: a skipper can drop 16 crayfish off to shore but this will only allow the catching of another 16 crays if a completely new set of licensed divers are taken out.

The cray-fishers comprise a very active and valuable part of the club. I hope this year is a good year for catching crays and by following the regs there will be many more good years ahead.

Chris G

DIVER PROFILE

I don't have a profile this month but this is just to announce the return of the profile in upcoming newsletters. If you want to do one, or suggest someone, please let me know and we will work it in.

If I can't get anyone to do a profile I will follow the 2004 Committee's suggestion of making them up, lampoon style!!! You have been warned.

ROTTO HOLIDAY FEBRUARY/MARCH 2004

GOTTA GO TO ROTTO ?

ROOM FOR TWO MORE ROTTO TRIP
1.1.1.1.1 RETURN FORM TO CLIVE CASS

We have booked awesome views, great weather and excellent dive sights for the fabulous annual Rottnest holiday in 2004. We're staying in fun-filled chalets at Geordie Bay and you're welcome to come.

An awesome for members wishing to dive, relax and party with some fantastic people. The cost will be \$330 and includes

- diving,
- tank fills,
- accommodation and
- transport from Fremantle to Rotto and back again.

For more info please contact Clive Cass 9336 4004, mobile 0421 639 290 or at clivecass@inet.net.au.

The dates are:

WEEK: Sat 21 February to Fri 27 February 2004

Payment schedule: Payment due 15 December 2004

[In case of a late cancellation there may be spaces available for the LONG WEEKEND from Fri 27 February to Mon 1 March 2002. I am pleased to take reservations for a waiting list]

Payments are refundable up until 15 January 2004. After 15 January refunds can be made where replacements can be found and there is no loss to the club.

Note: Non-divers are welcome. Costs are \$170 for the week and \$100 for the long weekend.

7

Please indicate your interest by completing the form below and returning it to Clive Cass.

ROTTA HOLIDAY FEBRUARY/MARCH 2004

To Clive Cass
Underwater Explorers Club
PO Box 1157
BOORAGOON WA 6154

Name/s

Phone number

e-mail

I would like to book on with UEC at Rottnest Island for a great time diving, relaxing and partying for:
the week from 21 February to 27 February 2004.

My payment of \$330 per person is enclosed or has been paid to the treasurer, Underwater Explorers Club.
(Please make cheques payable to Underwater Explorers Club of WA)

The End
[Last months Newsletter](#)

UEC NEWS

JANUARY

2004



*The official monthly newsletter
for Underwater Explorers Club
of Western Australia*

PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154

Phone: 0401 775 720 (President)

[Email UEC](mailto:uec@underwaterexplorersclub.net)

[Download UEC News here \(pdf\)](#)

www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

From the editor

Welcome to January's issue of UEC News. There is plenty of activity coming up this month and with the recent weather it should be an ideal time to get under water. Belinda has put together a busy calendar of diving so there will be plenty of opportunities to get out there.

The annual UEC invasion of Rottnest is also coming up. Clive has an ad for the few spots left, if you are interested better get in now to avoid being left on the mainland.

Another unusual event coming up is a dive on the legendary local wreck Key Biscayne. Robert Stagg is organising this dive as a UEC Tec event. See his report below for more info.

Chris G.

GENERAL MEETINGS

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are held every third Monday (except for Public Holidays) at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS:

President:

Stephen Larter, ph 92919654(h) 0401775720 (mob)

Secretary:

Bob McLaughlin, ph 93191929(h) 0409944069 (mob)

Treasurer:

Clive Cass, ph 93364004(h) 0421639290(mob)

Boating Officer:

Martin Smith, ph 94934691(h) 0419977135 (mob)

Diving Officer:

Belinda Palmer, ph 93391789(h)

Training Officer:

Mark Sach, 94178890(h)

Social Officer:

Jasmine Lyons, ph 0439697693(mob)

Magazine Editor:

Chris Golding, ph 93177045(h), 0407317700(mob)

Safety Officer:

Rex Burke, ph 93644212(h) 0410678668(mob)

Building & Investments:

Carmine Travaglione, ph 93561311(h), 0408833115(mob)

Property Officer:

Nicole Howard, ph 9418 6763 (h)

Public Relations:

Chris Cunnold, ph 92572231(h), 0419907976(mob)

Email uec@space.net.au

Home Page: www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

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- ✦ To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year and all very best for 2004.

During the past few weeks there has been a number of excellent Television programmes on underwater activities. This fascination of the undersea that captivates TV audiences, attracts large numbers of potential divers to the Dive Schools and eventually into the undersea world to experience what we all enjoy.

The statistics indicate that very few qualifying divers continue diving longer than 3 years after their initial training. We have to ask ourselves, " Why is there such a large drop out rate." We experience the same drop out from our membership every year as divers drift in and out of the sport of recreational diving.

To answer this question and to enhance our club I believe we need to be looking at why we dive, and the purpose we have in mind that keeps us coming back for more. Diving for a purpose is a very important factor to keep recreational divers diving.

We have a very strong Cray fishing group who clearly define that the purpose they dive is to hunt and gather. We also have a group who like to dive for prawns at night and again are a very successful group. Therefore it is logical to assume that if we can create and support other groups within our club we can enhance our membership and attract other divers who are looking for more to do when they dive.

There are a number of differing underwater activities Underwater photography, Marine observation, Wreck diving, and Technical diving to name a few, which we all have varying interests.

To start the momentum within the club towards the focus on "Diving for a Purpose" the various officers responsible for organising our activities have agreed to focus on this long term objective to enhance our diving experience to provide existing members and prospective new members with a variety of interests which they can build upon.

We will be looking for our members to come up with some good positive ideas on ways we can build a stronger club with the emphasis on diving activities as varied as our membership. Ideas, suggestions and your support is always appreciated.

Remember the words of another President.

"Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence.

The slogan press on has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race."

Calvin Coolidge. 30th USA President.

Take care.

Steve.

SAFETY REPORT

Well, not a lot to report for this month, with no safety concerns brought to my attention. With a lot of people on holiday, including myself, (hope this report makes it on time) is probably why. Managed to get a couple of dives in the temperate waters of Kaikoura NZ, however never got to see the blue sharks as some of you may have read about in Diverlog Aust. They seem to have disappeared for some unknown reason.

Before Xmas I managed to lay out and measure our boats anchor chain. Surprise to me there was 50mtrs of chain there. While I had it laid out, I painted red, a metre of chain at 30mtrs as a guide when anchoring.

If anybody has approx.30mtrs of approx.6mm line I could have to make the 2nd lifebuoy useable let me know, this will save the club buying it.

While doing a fairly deep dive on the boat a few weeks ago with a new member of limited experience I noted that we need to have a shot line attached to a buoy set a few metres behind the boat to enable a more safer and controlled descent. This swimming to the anchor line as, in my opinion, has got knobs on it. We want to attract and keep new members and by making their diving more comfortable and safer must surely help. What do you say?

Also while on the boat recently I picked up a copy of 'duties and responsibilities of dive officers' introduced in 2000 by Steve who I think may have been dive officer at that time. I urge all members when they get a chance to read this. I was very surprised (again) to find what a vast list of duties and responsibility they have. Where do they get the time to dive, as well!! This is a very important and demanding role and I ask all members to help out the DO of the day and maybe the DO's should delegate some of their tasks to fellow members as most of us are only willing to help, to ensure nothing gets left out. Thanks to all the DO's for their time and effort they put in to make our day an enjoyable and safe one.

See you all at the January general meeting.
Safe Diving
Rex.....

TRAINING REPORT

Hi all

With February being the traditional deep dive for the club I intend to run a deep diving refresher evening on the second Monday 12 Feb 04 I will also be pointing out the added benefits of the use of Nitrox on such dives. Robert Stagg has organised a dive on the Key Biscayne in early March so book on with either Belinda or Clive.

For March 08 March I will be intending to run a night diving refresher training night especially catering for those who like to chase the creepy crawlies in the river during the Winter. I intend to follow this session up with a dive from the boat and maybe a BBQ afterwards with a cost in the vicinity of \$15.00 per person.

I am still looking for 8 people who wish to refresh or learn about basic first aid and resuscitation (I need to requalify for my 2 yearly recertification). The SYC have the facility to run this training for groups of this size the training is through ST John and I believe you receive an accredited certificate. There is a cost of approximately \$40.00.

I am intending to conduct a navigation theory night on 12 April with another twilight/ night dive with a BBQ afterward. The location and cost will depend upon where those who attend wish to conduct the dive and subject to me finding a Skipper.

Skippers and DO's and Trainees Dennis Stubbisfield has volunteered to be the skipper who is willing to travel back from Rotto on a Friday night the 16 Jan for a Dive and Dine night being dinner at Rotto at the Quokka Arms whilst we wait for dark and then allowing Skippers & trainee skippers the opportunity to train or revise in the skills required to navigate the boat home on one of our more common passages in night time situations.

Skippers and Trainees as you can see I am trying to combine a theory session with a practical session most of these I will try and conduct of an evening to try and get some night Skipper training happening for us all.

As our qualified Skippers have been placed on the endangered species list we are looking for people to step up and lend a hand weather it be the current DO's stepping forward and starting Skipper training and other members undertaking DO training we need people to step forward and crew the boat. Remember if no one volunteers to crew our boat then we can't go diving.

As always, should members wish to revise or be trained in a particular topic, please advise me so I can schedule it and remember that all training needs to be booked to confirm your place to guarantee the session will go ahead. I can be contacted on 9417 8890. If I'm not home please leave a message.

Cheers
Rambo

Training Officer

SOCIAL REPORT

AUSTRALIA DAY FIRE WORKS CRUISE 26-1-04

Fun! Fun! Fun! Join your fellow UEC revellers as we head down the river to the Old Swan Brewery to watch the Skyshow. Wear your most sparkly green and gold gear or if your wardrobe is not that way equipped the wearing loads of green and gold glitter on any exposed body parts will be

acceptable.

The boat will leave the Swan Yacht Club at 5pm and return late. How late depends on how many of us have to be semi functional at work the next day.

There will be an additional pick-up at Royal Perth Yacht Club at 5.45. Please let us know if you wish to be picked up here.

The cost is \$25 per head including champagne on arrival. BYO drinks. Nibbles, ice-filled eskies and a lovely cold meat and salad dinner plus desert all included in the one low price.

Places are filling nicely but we can still squeeze a few more on. No under 18's please.

If you haven't contacted me already my email is JasmineLyons141@hotmail.com

Mobile No. 0439 697 693

Please bring your payment to the January meeting or post a cheque to our treasurer.

Cheers

Your Social Dancing Damsel Fish

Jasmine

.

BOAT REPORT

Boating Report

Hi everyone, I trust you all had a happy festive season and are looking forward to year ahead.

This coming year I will welcome help from all club members with the ongoing maintenance of the boat. If you have any trade or specific knowledge that would be suitable for the more technical side of boat maintenance I would love you to contact me so I can get an idea of what skills are available within the club. Of course everyone can help with painting and general upkeep. Just send me an email and get involved, it's lots of fun and a great way to get to know each other better.

If you haven't tried it out already, the new CD player that the Hawaiian night raised funds for works a treat. In regards to boat improvement, if you have a good idea give me a call. After all it's YOUR BOAT.

Happy Diving

DIVE REPORT

The conditions at the moment are perfect for diving ... check your calendar and book yourself on.

The Club holiday at Rottnest is just around the corner (I understand there are still vacancies – contact Clive). We will do lots of diving while we are away so if you need to get your self into dive-mode before the holiday now's the chance to book on!

Call on 9339 1789 or email on tbpalmer@ca.com.au to make your bookings. Alternatively, I will have the diary with me at the meetings so you can always make your reservation then.

Looking forward to hearing from you ...

Date		Dive Site/ Event	Skipper	Dive Officer
January				
SATURDAY 10	08:00	West End	Kerry	Mark S
Friday 16	18:30	Skippers training – night orientation	Dennis	
Sunday 18	08:00	Maree's Aquarium	Peter	Clive
Saturday 24	08:00	City Beach	Carmine	Steve
Monday 26	See social	River Cruise – Australia Day		
February				
Sunday 1	08:00	Salmon Bay	Geoff	Jim
Saturday 7	08:00	Five Fathom Bank	Kerry	Marc
Monday 9	See Mark	Deep Dive theory training SYC		
Sunday 15	08:00	Martin's Arches	Carmine	Carl
Saturday 21	See Clive	UEC Holiday – depart for Rottnest!	Peter	
March				
Monday 1		UEC Holiday – return from Rottnest		
Saturday 6	See Robert	Key Biscayne – DEEP DIVING	TBA	TBA
Sunday 7	See Robert	Key Biscayne – DEEP DIVING	TBA	TBA
Sunday 14	08:00			
Saturday 20	08:00			
Sunday 28	08:00			

- ? Boat departure is 8:00 am from Swan Yacht Club unless otherwise stated. Please DO NOT contact the Skipper or Dive Officer to discuss weather conditions – they will decide on the day, on the boat, if the weather is suitable for the trip to proceed.
- ? Check with Belinda and Tony on 9339 1789 the night before to make sure there are enough numbers for the dive to go ahead.
- ? All dives are two-tank unless otherwise stated.

Dive and Boat Bookings

Belinda / Tony on 9339 1789 or tbpalmer@ca.com.au

UEC Tec and the Key Biscayne

What is UEC Tec you ask?

We are a (currently very small) group of UEC divers that wish to push the diving a little bit farther. We are interested in things like mixed gasses, decompression diving, and rebreathers. To further our aims we are sponsoring a Key Biscayne weekend for the weekend of 6,7 March.

You are invited to join us for some very special dives on W.A.'s biggest and best known real wreck dive. Carmine has volunteered his house in Two Rocks for accommodation. (I think he wanted to reserve a spot on the boat for himself!) The boat will depart from Two Rocks early Saturday and Sunday mornings to get the best of the weather.

Total cost for this weekend is \$100 each + food (BYO).

To reserve your spot on the boat get your \$100 (non-refundable) to Clive Cass or Belinda Palmer. You can also pay the DO of the day on your next dive trip. In case of cancellation due to weather you will be credited \$100 worth of dives. Spaces are limited - pay now to avoid disappointment.

Safety note: The Key Biscayne lies in 43 meters of water with the top at 23 meters. There is nothing else around to look at or swim too. This is for experienced divers only that are used to dives in the 30-40 meter range. Due to the vast emptiness at the dive site, we require all divers to have a safety sausage with them.

Robert Stagg

ps. I hear tell the place is full of crays :-)

ed – The Key Biscayne is a jack-up drilling rig that has been on the bottom since 1983. This is what the Key Biscayne might have looked like in 1982



ROTTO HOLIDAY FEBRUARY/MARCH 2004

LAST CHANCE TO GO!

**FOUR CHALETS OVERLOOKING GEORDIE BAY
THREE CHALETS FULL - ONE CHALET EMPTY**

Your last chance to join 18 club members at Rottnest. Due to last minute changes there are 4 beds available for the week and the long weekend in February 2004.

This fantastic chalet with ocean views will reluctantly be returned to the Rottnest Island Authority if it is not filled by the date of the next club meeting on Monday 19 January.

To keep the chalet we offer it to four people (non-divers allowed) for the week and four for the long weekend. [Please note that the chalet needs to be filled or it is not economical to keep it].

An awesome time away for members wishing to dive, relax and party with some fantastic people. The cost for the

- ✂ week is \$330 (\$170 non-divers)
 - ✂ long weekend is \$170 (\$100 non-divers)
- and includes
- ✂ transport from Fremantle to Rotto and back again.
 - ✂ Accommodation
 - ✂ A variety of dive sites
 - ✂ Great company

To register your interest or for more info please contact Clive Cass 9336 4004, mobile 0421 639 290 or at clivecass@inet.net.au.

The holiday dates are:

WEEK: Sat 21 Feb to Fri 27 Feb 2004
LONG WEEKEND: Fri 27 Feb to Mon 1 March 2004-

*WHAT BETTER THING
could you possibly do on a warm and windless night in Perth?*

Kerry and I joined "Prawn King Klyfe" and his gang for a dive in the Swan River on such a night recently.

There are so many pretty things to look at on the silty river bottom. Many different species of starfish, big and small anemones with their tentacles out feeding, mountains of mussel clutches, cobblers swimming by, a flathead trying to hide by flattening himself even more and a VERY PREGNANT SEAHORSE... all on his own, clinging on to a algae covered twig. I stayed with him for en minutes, hoping he would give birth in front of my eyes. What a ripper dive!

The catch quota of the night wasn't terrible high but who cares? Clive, of course got the most prawns; Kerry and I came home with four crabs.

I must say, the intrepid river divers are very "organized". They offered us a hot shower after the dive and they check their tide/time table to know where and when next dive is going to be! And then came all the goodies... dips, chips and cookies. Sandy shared a bottle of champagne with us to celebrate her birthday.

Thanks all involved for a terrific night!

SEAHORSESUSIE

INTERESTED IN DOING SOMETHING FANCY WITH YOUR VIDEO FOOTAGE?

Why not make it into something you could be proud of showing to your family and friends? That often means that you need to cut out all these shaky and boring bits... and do you recognise this one? You thought the video was on "off" and have loads of footage that shouldn't be there!

I have the answer:

Take my Video Editing Controller/Title SONY RM-E300 off my hands for a minimal cost. Operating Instructions book included of course.

Susie

phone 9331 2385
mobile 0417 993 141

UEC NEWS

FEBRUARY

2004



*The official monthly newsletter
for Underwater Explorers Club
of Western Australia*

PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154

Phone: 0401 775 720 (President)

[Email UEC](mailto:UEC@underwaterexplorersclub.net)

[Download UEC News here \(pdf\)](#)

www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

From the editor

Welcome to the February 2004 edition of UEC News.

The weather has been great and there is plenty more on the way. Belinda has a busy calendar of opportunities to get out and enjoy these great diving conditions.

In this edition:

Steve has some discussion on the cathartic experience of our last general meeting.

Rex has provided a timely warning on the need of regular servicing of our equipment, in particular BCD inflator buttons. Not to mention keeping your tanks in test, nothing worse than getting knocked back for an out of test tank the day before a dive.

Chris C. has requested some underwater photography that he can add to the website, and Martin has some discussion on weighty boat issues.

In regards to the crayfishing regulations briefly discussed at the last general meeting: I have not included any further information here, but Jasmine is kindly organising a fisheries officer to come to an upcoming meeting. No doubt we can all keep the officer busy with convoluted hypothetical scenarios regarding regulations.

Lastly, I have moved the 2004 committee contact details to the bottom of the newsletter.

All the best.
Chris G.

GENERAL MEETINGS

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are held every third Monday (except for Public Holidays) at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

- **To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.**
- **To encourage safety methods and procedure and to acquaint both Club Members and the public with the facts on safety and the use of safe, reliable equipment.**
- **To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and**

exchange of ideas among members.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Following some vigorous debate at our last general meeting we had a very controversial topic to thrash around and everyone got to have their say. The fundamental difference between being an independent club and a commercial enterprise was highlighted when it was suggested that the duty skipper and diving officer should not dive during their day's duty. The objection to the duty crew not to dive was both a safety and timing issue. Safety wise it is a club rule that there are always 2 persons on the boat to enable any emergency to be dealt with where one person may have to use the inflatable to recover divers thus leaving the other person on board to direct any emergency situation and that the boat is never left without a competent person on board. A qualified skipper or a trainee skipper is recognized as being a competent person.

If one of the duty crew wishes to dive during the day arrangements have to be made for the days diving to be split into either a 3 or 4 dive day which of course means that the days diving extends and everyone has to wait until all divers are back on board.

In order to put this topic into perspective we have to look at how diving within the UEC evolved. The safe system of diving we currently have in place has been very successful as our safety record shows. We have also managed to train skippers and diving officers to give their time as volunteers for the benefit of other members. This system has been instrumental in ensuring the positive growth and longevity of the club. As we are all very aware the reasons we dive with a club, is to meet other people of similar interests, to keep the cost of diving to a minimum, and to be a part of a reputable organization of which you can feel proud.

We have moved forward from the days when the first dive boat was purchased by a group of very ambitious UEC members who fought very hard to convince others in the club that the future survival of the club was dependant on boat ownership. These members were heavily criticised and the members who thought that change was not necessary forecast predictions of imminent doom and destruction.

However we have not moved away from the clubs voluntary system of all members joining together to solve problems, create interest and assist for the greater benefit of all current and future members. This, as well as the consumer based system that the commercial operations have to follow to make their operation a financial success is the difference between being a "member of a club" and a "fare paying passenger." We cannot compete with any of the commercial operations and we will never attract divers who wish to have all their needs attended to by a professional skipper or dive master. To carry on our proud tradition of comradeship we must all join in and help whenever possible to ensure the growth and success of the club.

The short answer to the debate is, we do not try and fix something that is not broken, and is highly successful. More members are required to take up the challenge of volunteering to be Skippers, Diving officers, and crew. The fundamentals of club membership are as strong today as they were 50 years ago when the club was formed. Togetherness and sharing are what makes organizations and relationships last and are fundamental to future success and of course having lots of fun together.

There has been lots happening since our last newsletter and the officers responsible for all our activities have been flat out. Please give them some accolades, as they certainly deserve it.

Another very wise person once said:

"Common sense is the collection of prejudices acquired by the age of 18", Albert Einstein.

Take care.

Steve.

SAFETY REPORT

Last weekend out on the boat I set the descent/ascent line a bit differently than the way it has been done in the past. A buoy was attached approximately 3meters along the mermaid line from the back of the boat, and the descent line was hung from the buoy. The divers I spoke to on the day were happy with this system and considered it an improvement. I believe it to be a safer way to descend and do safety stops away from the marlin board. A couple of new members have now requested this style of descent line so I hope the DOs will adopt this system on future dives.

Thanks Wazza for the carpeting on the transom, hopefully this will alleviate any slipping problems.

How's all your BCD inflator buttons? Hopefully not sticking! On two recent occasions I have seen my buddy's inflator buttons stuck in the inflate position mid-dive. This was a different buddy each time. Believe me this is scary stuff, particularly on a relatively deep night dive at Coombes. Maybe we should all check when we last had our BCD's serviced.

Anybody with other incidents they would like to share please let me know, not only do they make good reading, but can make good learning tools. Will also help me with trying to think of something to write for this column.

Please members (especially new members) any safety concerns you may have about the way we operate and dive let me know and I will do my best to resolve them.

Safe Diving Rex.....

PR REPORT

You may have noticed some changes to the website. It's been a slow process but I nearly have a grip on it now. There are some new pages, including a weather links page. The frontpage now has the monthly calendar on it for quick reference as well as a "Site of the month" and also a "Pic of the month". If anyone has any suggestions for these spots in future months please let me know and photographers please submit your favourite shots for the "Pic of the month" spot. Soon we will have a separate Dive Photo Gallery and Social Photo gallery too, so any photo's you have will be appreciated, particularly the underwater ones.

In the next month we should have some new UEC car stickers. I will keep you informed.

During April, UEC are going to participate in an event called "Dive in to Earth Day 2004". It is an environmental awareness campaign. Our part of the event will be on our regular dive day of April 17. There are several other events in W.A. on or around April 22 as part of this campaign and the hope for UEC is firstly to contribute to a good cause and secondly to promote our club in the community. The requirements to participate are fairly broad, as all that is required is that we hold an eco-friendly event that is dedicated to "Dive in to Earth Day". Our event will be very interesting for our older members and newer members alike. In the early 1980's there was a lot of fuss about the degradation of reefs and loss of fish habitat and to help the problem everyone was creating artificial reefs, including the UEC who developed a site near Rottneest Island. On April 17 we will dive on this site. Our goal is simply to observe and report on the growth of "our" artificial reef. So as well as participating in a great event we will be able to learn something about one aspect of our clubs history. From the promotion viewpoint, this day will be promoted in DiveLog and hopefully we will get some of our great photo's of the day posted on the "Dive in to Earth Day" website, which is at:

<http://www.coral.org/divein>

Don't forget to send your photo's for our website to cunnold@inet.net.au.

Chris C.

SOCIAL REPORT

Hi everyone,

We have had our first major social event for the year and from all the kind emails I received afterwards everyone had a wonderful time.

The boat left at 5pm with 37 people on board. Thanks to everyone for turning up on time. Champagnes were handed out, pre dinner munchies organised and the fun began.

True to my word I did my best to make sure that people who had not been able to come pre sparkled were well and truly glittered by the time I finished with them. I bet some of you are still finding bits of glitter in some "unusual" places.

After a very leisurely wander down the river on a perfect summer's evening we reached our spot where we were to spend the evening in very high spirits. Of course the food flowed freely and the fireworks were a delight.

Due to it being a work day and people had to get up early the next morning we returned to the yacht club around 11pm.

I would like to thank everyone who offered their help for the event. I could not have done it without you.

WHATS NEXT

MARCH 21st - Arabian Nights Cruise -

Come and be transported back into the world of dancing girls, sumptuous food and various other delights to the senses.

The Underwater Explorer will be transformed into a floating palace and the lovely Swan River will be the magical Nile for an evening.

Cost \$35 per head

Includes :

- Champagne on arrival
- Middle Eastern buffet meal
- Entertainment by two of Perth's top Belly Dancers
- BYO Drinks

Dress :

Formal or Exotic. Prizes given for the best Sheik and Hareem girl.

Numbers will be strictly limited to 20 so book early. UEC Members and their partners only.

See you at the next meeting

Your Social Dancing Damsel Fish
Jasmine

BOAT REPORT

Hi People's,

Just sitting here pondering what good things to put in this report. Well firstly, we have changed pen's again and as some of you know it's in the first line of pens on the left of the yacht club rooms. It's quite challenging to put the boat back after a day's diving, but with further training we will master it.

After the dive on Saturday we completed installing steel cables down the sides of the pen to attach the stern bridle while backing in. These are working very well. Thank you to all who stayed behind and helped out.

Another point of discussion is the purchase of a new anchor. Being one of the most important pieces of safety equipment on board we need one that holds under all conditions and I am currently looking at a few options.

Other than that things are under control.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who have offered their time and expertise to help keep the boat in good running order. Your assistance is appreciated.

Happy Diving
Martin

DIVE REPORT

What is it that you dive for? A bit of peace and quiet away from the hustle and bustle of life in the city? Are you scouring the ocean bed for remnants and artefacts of a bygone age? Maybe you dive to take photographs of those strange and wonderful creatures down there, or perhaps a spot of crayfishing to take dinner home to the family? Whatever it is that you dive for, you should expect to be able to carry out your dive activity without any rough behaviour from other divers.

On a recent club dive, two sports divers were interacting with a crayfish. Another diver, who happened to be crayfishing, pushed his way through the sport divers, knocking the regulator out of the mouth of one and pushing the other out of the way!

This is not the way we, as divers, are supposed to carry on. The incident was quite distressing and if the sports divers hadn't been relatively experienced the situation could easily have resulted in something more than disbelief at the offending divers lack of courtesy.

Please, divers, be aware of your space and that of others around you in the water and respect that we are not all diving for the same reason. Let's exercise some courtesy in diving practices.

To make your dive bookings, call on 9339 1789 or email on tbpalmer@ca.com.au I will have the diary with me at the meetings and whenever I am on the boat, so you can always make your reservations then.

Dive and Boat Bookings

Belinda / Tony on 9339 1789 or tbpalmer@ca.com.au

Date
February

Dive Site/ Event

Skipper

Dive Officer

Saturday 7	08:00	Five Fathom Bank	Carmine	Mark M
Monday 9	See Mark S	Deep Dive theory training SYC		
Sunday 15	08:00	Martin's Arches	Carmine	Carl
Monday 16	20:00	Club Meeting at SYC		
Saturday 21	See Clive	UEC Holiday – depart for Rottnest!	Peter	
<i>March</i>				
Monday 1		UEC Holiday – return from Rottnest		
Saturday 6	See Robert	Key Biscayne – DEEP DIVING	Carmine	TBA
Sunday 7	See Robert	Key Biscayne – DEEP DIVING	Kerry	TBA
Monday 7	See Mark S	Training theory at SYC		
Sunday 14	08:00	Marie's Aquarium and/or Barry's Cave (UEC Green Dive Day)	Peter	Clive
Monday 16	20:00	Club Meeting at SYC		
Saturday 20	08:00	Exploratory	Bob	Steve
Sunday 28	08:00	Jumbo Cave	Carmine	Carl
<i>April</i>				
Monday 1	See Mark S	Training theory at SYC		
Saturday 3	08:00	The West End	Kerry	Mark S
Sunday 4	07:00	Stragglers – one tank early	TBA	TBA
Saturday 10	08:00	Dive Day – mark it in your diary		
Monday 12	08:00	Dive Day – mark it in your diary		
Saturday 17	08:00	Dive in to Earth Day / Cleanup Event		
Monday 19	20:00	Club Meeting at SYC		
Sunday 25	08:00	Dive Day – mark it in your diary		

- Boat departure is 8:00 am from Swan Yacht Club unless otherwise stated. Please DO NOT contact the Skipper or Dive Officer to discuss weather conditions – they will decide on the day, on the boat, if the weather is suitable for the trip to proceed.
- Check with Belinda or Tony on 9339 1789 the night before to make sure there are enough numbers for the dive to go ahead.
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Robert Stagg

ps. I hear tell the place is full of crays :-)

Notices

Lost: Large blue beach towel – left on boat 24 January after that FANTASTIC dive at City Beach. Rightful owner is David James – let David or Belinda know if you have put it to one side.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

One dive flag on weighted float (so it stays upright). It's one of the small ones so it's good for any avid shore diver (too small to use with a boat). A bit dusty though hardly used since new.

If anyone wants it, call Geoff Charlton on 9354 7917 or 0438 244 603.

Bill and Margaret Pettigrew were up at the Beverley Gliding Club over the Australia Day weekend and ran into an old UEC member, Mark Strickland. They sent him a UEC newsletter in hard copy along with the web site information and he responded with the following:

Many thanks for your letter and newsletters.

The UEC has come a long way from the days of training kids like me off the North Mole in Freo in 1978. I remember fondly and have always thought the training I received there from volunteers was many times more thorough than the courses that are available commercially now. I still dive regularly and still enjoy it.

Mark Strickland

He has been invited to visit a club meeting at the Swan Yacht Club. Hopefully, he takes us up on our offer.

There is plenty of diving information out there on the net. Here are some that Robert Stagg has recommended:

www.divernet.com/news/stories/bends261003.shtml

www.daneurope.org/eng/english.htm

Click on "Research /Medicine", and then "Diving Medicine Literature" for the pdf articles

2004 COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS:

President:

Stephen Larter, ph 92919654(h) 0401775720 (mob)

Secretary:

Bob McLaughlin, ph 93191929(h) 0409944069 (mob)

Treasurer:

Clive Cass, ph 93364004(h) 0421639290(mob)

Boating Officer:

Martin Smith, ph 94934691(h) 0419977135 (mob)

Diving Officer:

Belinda Palmer, ph 93391789(h)

Training Officer:

Mark Sach, 94178890(h)

Social Officer:

Jasmine Lyons, ph 0439697693(mob)

Magazine Editor:

Chris Golding, ph 93177045(h), 0407317700(mob)

Safety Officer:

Rex Burke, ph 93644212(h) 0410678668(mob)

Building & Inestments:

Carmine Travaglione, ph 93561311(h), 0408833115(mob)

Property Officer:

Nicole Howard, ph 9418 6763 (h)

Public Relations:

Chris Cunnold, ph 92572231(h), 0419907976(mob)

UEC NEWS

MARCH 2004

[Download UEC News here \(pdf\)](#)



*The official monthly newsletter
for Underwater Explorers Club
of Western Australia*

PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154

Phone: 0401 775 720 (President)

[Email UEC](mailto:uec@space.net.au)

www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

From the editor

Here is the March edition of UEC news. Some good contributions from the members in this edition with a great profile of Robert Buetler, some stories from Sandy, and a special report by Chris C.

If you have an article that you would like to publish in the newsletter please contact me. Dive reports, diver profiles, and any funny stories are all welcomed.

The 2004 Rotto trip was a great success. Thanks to Clive and others who took on the organising of the trip.

All the best.

Chris G.

GENERAL MEETINGS

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are held every third Monday (except for Public Holidays) at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

Email uec@space.net.au

Home Page: www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

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- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
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- To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

[Click here for UEC Committee Contact Details](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our diving season is now in full swing hopefully the wind and swell conditions that seem to

constantly dog our activities will change and give us more opportunity to dive those magic sites which are inaccessible till the conditions are perfect.

The Rottneest holiday was an outstanding success special thanks go the Clive for the organisation of the event and also for planning ahead to next year 2005. The deposit has been paid and the booking confirmed so if you are intending to go get your name down with Clive for 2005.

For those of you who missed the last general meeting, Martin Smith and Dave Kenny gave us a fabulous in sight into the club as it was in the late 60s and early 70s. Martin has a number of 35mm films of a variety of activities that the member's back then undertook. The preparation and training that the members undertook back then to carry out a 200 foot or 60meter dive was incredible and it was special having Martin and Dave explaining to us the events and people featured on a very special piece of UEC history captured on 35mm film.

Denis has suggested we get as much of this history recorded onto DVD for our historical archives, which I think, is an excellent idea. If we have any one in the club who could assist with this work it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact either Martin or myself so we could get this underway.

We shall be looking at some more of Martins movies at more of our General Meetings throughout this our 50th Year. The trip down memory lane was indeed very enlightening and enjoyable to see.

It has been suggested that as part of our celebrations we arrange a special photographic competition open to members both past and present for photographs of past UEC events. The winning entries will be copied and bound into an album, which we can keep as part of our heritage. Again we shall require assistance from interested members to get this project underway. Please contact me if you would like to become involved.

We have been busy upgrading our membership list. For those members who have not paid for membership as of 16th March 2004 for this financial year this will be the last newsletter they will be receiving. I have contacted everyone who is still outstanding and we are still awaiting payments from those who have confirmed that they still wish to remain members. Could those members please ensure we have received your payment before the 16th March.

Some inspirational thoughts from another great president.

"But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can only rest for a moment for with freedom come responsibilities and I dare not linger for my long walk is not yet ended"

President Nelson Mandela.

Those words are true for all of us throughout our lives.

Steve.

PR REPORT

There's not a lot to report this month. The web page now has new photo albums which I will try to keep updated. I have separated them in to a Social and a Diving page. The diving page also has links to full pages from individual divers. Robert and Denise Buetler and David James have these pages. Also thanks to Liz and Belinda for their Rotto 04 photos. Keep those photos coming.

This month we will be have two press releases about our 'Dive in to Earth Day' dive in April to see if we can get a mention in a local paper. The aim of this is not really to promote that day, but just to try to get our name out in the community.

We will also have a presence at the next Western Australian Diving Tourism Association meeting (WADTA). Once again this is more a tool for us to raise awareness of our club amongst the dive shops and other operators in WA. WADTA will be dealing with a lot of issues that are irrelevant to us as a club but they are very keen to have all the WA clubs become associates and have some input.

Chris C.

SOCIAL REPORT

Social Events coming up

Sunday March 21st Arabian Nights River Cruise
April (date TBC) Pasta, Python & Popcorn night
Saturday August 28th Under Water Explorers Club 50th Birthday party.

Hello again fellow UEC'ers.

I hope those of you who are coming out on the Arabian Nights River Cruise are busy putting your costume together. Remember if you don't want to come dressed ala "Arabian" theme please come dressed smart casual or as formal as you wish. I have some pieces of costuming that I would be happy to lend out.

Just to remind you, here are the details.

Come and be transported back into the world of dancing girls, sumptuous food and various other delights to the senses.

The Underwater Explorer will be transformed into a floating palace and the lovely Swan River will be the magical Nile for an evening.

Cost \$35 per head
Please pay Jasmine Lyons at the next meeting or post a cheque
to
13 Labyrinth Way, South Lake W.A. 6164

Includes : Champagne on arrival
Middle Eastern buffet meal
Entertainment by two of Perth's top Belly Dancers
BYO Drinks

Dress : Smart casual, Formal or Exotic. Prizes given for the best Sheik and Hareem girl.

Numbers will be strictly limited to 20 so book early.

PASTA, PYTHON & POPCORN NIGHT coming in April

Calling all Monty Python fans. It has come to my attention that there are quite a few Monty Python fans in the UEC. After many nights of quoting MP lines to each other while sitting around the dinner table at Rotto the suggestion was put forward that we have a film evening featuring the famous mad cap bunch.

Lots of pasta, lots of popcorn (can't have a movie with out it) and lots of laughs and maybe a prize or two for the person who can quote the most lines.

I will have details of date and venue real soon. Stay tuned.

August 28th, Underwater Explorers Club 50th Birthday

Plans are underway for our big birthday bash. We want to make this a night to remember as a worthy celebration of a very big mile stone for the club. This is where all of you come in. Please spread the word to as many past members and any one else who you think would like to celebrate this prestigious event with us. It will be help at the Swan Yatch Club.

Mark it in your calendar now.

Your Social Dancing Damsel Fish

Jasmine

BOAT REPORT

ed - There is no boat report this month as Martin and his crew are flat out fixing a problem on one of the legs.

Thanks Martin and all those helping out with the boat.

TRAINING REPORT

On 08 March I conducted a night diving refresher training catering for those who like to chase the creepy crawlies in the river during the Winter and I'd like to thank all those that attended s it was great to get such a good turn out .As I stated we intend to follow this session up with a dive from the boat (in the river so we can get some of the creepy crawlies) and maybe a BBQ afterwards on Friday 16 Apr with a cost in the vicinity of \$15.00 per person. I am looking for a Skipper and DO who would not mind giving their time to aid with the conduct of this activity

I am still looking for 6 people who wish to refresh or learn about basic first aid and resuscitation (I need to requalify for my 2 yearly recertification). The SYC have the facility to run this training for groups of this size the training is through ST John and I believe you receive an accredited certificate. There is a cost of approximately \$40.00. If I have no response by the 12 Apr I will organise the training to fit in with a group being conducted for the SYC. If this occurs we loose the flexibility to hold it at a time convenient to our members and have to fit in with the SYC.

I am intending to conduct a navigation theory night on WEDNESDAY 14 April (DUE TO EASTER) with another twilight/ night dive with a BBQ afterward. The location and cost will depend upon where those who attend wish to conduct the dive and subject to me finding a Skipper.

In May I will be conducting search and recovery theory on 10 May with the possibility of holding a practical activity soon afterwards if all that attend are interested.

On 14 Jun I will be holding a communication and emergency procedures night where we will go over how to use the radio and other equipment on the boat. I will be endeavouring to get a representative from VN6DI to attend to discuss what happens when we call in and how the emergency response program works when we need it. (There will be soup on offer and may be a cheese and wine platter) depending on if people book before 13 Jun 04.

At present I am holding training at 8pm on the second Monday of the Month and I have been asked to bring it forward to 7 pm on the same day please let me know if this what you want as members or

if another day is more convenient to the majority of the club and it shall be as I am willing to please.

As our qualified Skippers are on the endangered species list we are still looking for people to step up and lend a hand weather it be the current DO's stepping forward and starting Skipper training and other members undertaking DO training we need people to step forward and crew the boat. Remember if no one volunteers to crew our boat then we can't go diving.

As always, should members wish to revise or be trained in a particular topic, please advise me so I can schedule it and remember that all training needs to be booked to confirm your place to guarantee the session will go ahead. I can be contacted on 9417 8890. If I'm not home please leave a message.

Cheers
Rambo
Training Officer

DIVE REPORT

What a holiday! The Rottneest holiday was a huge success, lots of good weather, great company, excellent food and of course terrific diving – check out the photos on our web site! We learnt lots of new dive signals – when was the last time you went through signals with your dive buddy?

Congratulations to Robert B who completed his 1,000th dive on the last dive of the holiday. If anyone else is getting close to a 'milestone' dive, let me know and I will make sure you get a mention.

Milestone Dives: 50, 100, 250, 500, 1000

Chris C has been doing a wonderful job on our web site – you will find links to various dive sites, weather information sites as well as lots about our club and members. You will also see on the web a link to the Dive in to Earth Day. If you want to see what has happened to the artificial reef that was installed by UEC members all those years ago, book on with me. I imagine this trip will be popular so be quick to get your name down.

The Key Biscayne trip needed to be postponed so that repair work could be carried out on the boat. The trip will be rescheduled - please register your interest with either Robert Stagg or with me if you want to come along. At the time of writing the date of this trip is to be confirmed but will probably be early May.

Belinda

To make your dive bookings, call on 9339 1789 or email on tbpalmer@ca.com.au I will have the diary with me at the meetings and whenever I am on the boat, so you can always make your reservations then.

Date		Dive Site/ Event	Skipper	Dive Officer
<i>March</i>				
Sunday 14	08:00	Marie's Aquarium and/or Barry's Cave (UEC Green Dive Day)	Peter	Clive
Monday 16	20:00	Club Meeting at SYC		
Saturday 20	08:00	Exploratory	Bob	Steve
Sunday 28	08:00	Jumbo Cave	Carmine	Carl
<i>April</i>				
Saturday 3	08:00	The West End	Kerry	Mark S
Sunday 4	07:00	Stragglers – ONE TANK - EARLY	Dennis	Clive

Monday 5	20:00	Training Theory at SYC – see Mark S.		
Sunday 11	08:00	Skipper's choice	Peter	Clive
Monday 12	08:00	Roe Reef Caves (for those that missed Rotto ☺)	Geoff G	Jim
Saturday 17	08:00	Dive in to Earth Day observe artificial reef	Bob	Steve
Monday 19	20:00	Club Meeting at SYC		
Sunday 25	08:00	Richard's Pot Luck	Geoff G	Clive

- Boat departure is 8:00 am from Swan Yacht Club unless otherwise stated. Please DO NOT contact the Skipper or Dive Officer to discuss weather conditions – they will decide on the day, on the boat, if the weather is suitable for the trip to proceed.
- Check with Belinda or Tony on 9339 1789 the night before to make sure there are enough numbers for the dive to go ahead.
- All dives are two-tank unless otherwise stated.

Dive and Boat Bookings

Belinda / Tony on 9339 1789 or tbpalmer@ca.com.au

Special Report – The Blue Ringed Octopus

Blue Ringed Octopus' are one of the hazards of living in Australia and playing in our oceans. We are all raised with an awareness of this little terror but it's not until you have a close encounter that all of the warnings actually hit home.


The Blue Ringed Octopus is common in our coastal waters but not often seen, partly because of its very small size (max 20cm and that's a whopper) and clever camouflage but mostly because of their nocturnal behaviour. They are very dangerous to humans. They have two types of venom that are delivered via their saliva when they bite, it is believed that one venom is used on crabs and crustaceans which are their main food source and the other venom is for defence. They have a powerful beak that can easily penetrate a wetsuit. The venom paralyses it's prey almost instantly. Although the octopus usually is only about the size of a golf ball it can store enough venom to kill 26 humans. They are a docile animal normally and don't bite unless aggravated. Their bright blue rings aren't visible unless they are threatened and they act as a warning to predators to advertise that they are venomous.

They are at home in shallow rock pools particularly after a storm and on reefs from depths of 0 - 20 metres but also like to use discarded shells as protection and can slip through amazingly small gaps. For a diver the temptation to pick up these lovely shells and have a look is great, despite all the warnings and training we had when we learned to dive. The result can be seen below.



The bite of a Blue Ringed Octopus may be painless but is usually fatal. The venom attacks the victim's nervous system and paralysis sets in within minutes. The first symptom is nausea followed by blindness and then loss of the other senses.

To treat a victim, firstly get someone to call 000 and apply compression to the wound as you would for a snake bite. Begin artificial respiration as soon as possible. Survival is dependent on hours of heart massage and artificial respiration until the venom has dissipated from the body.

For divers the best advise is not to touch. If you are tempted to pick up a potential home like a shell, you must be very careful. And remember that the pretty shell you put down the front of your wetsuit for the trip back to the surface could be fatal. And yes, the photo is a Blue Ringed Octopus in the pocket of my B.C


I'll mark it down to experience this time.
Chris C.

Fun in the shallows

Like the enjoyment of night diving in the river, the enjoyment of diving in the shallows might indicate something weird about me...but I don't think so. I do not really want to clamber down the huge boulders of North or South Mole any more, or trudge through the sand out to Boy in a Boat, or float my tanks across the sand spit to Penguin Island, or wallow in the murk around the wreck trail in Rockingham, although these are all good shore dives. But lately I have been desperate for a dive when the boat was not going out or I had a new diver to shepherd, the weather was being kind and I tried out two easily accessible gems of shore dives here.

The first was a massive 3.5 metre dive out to the wonderful sea grass bed just off Beach Street at Cottesloe, where we quickly found a couple of sea dragons. But we found a lot of other interesting creatures as well, especially the huge dark sea hares that are like satin pillows, small rays, octopus and of course many of the beautiful sea weeds that we have here. (I am in the process of learning more about our local algae as I spend so long wallowing in it looking for sea dragons and I don't want to think of it just as 'celery diving' as Susi calls it). If you swim out further you can circumnavigate the reef and it does get down to a depth of about 6 metres and the fish life gets bigger as the water gets deeper. There are freshwater showers at the car park, so that makes rinsing gear etc after the dive very easy.

The second is a dive on the site of the old South Fremantle abattoir. No sign of the old jetty above water, but there are pylons a plenty under the water and a rich marine life and lots of old bottles associated with them that make this a great 'muck dive'. Would not say 'no sharks' there any more though, as in fact we saw a couple of gorgeous little baby Port Jackson sharks there. Otherwise I have seen there a myriad of little rays, sea cucumbers of many colours, sea fans, a few species of nudibranchs, a live cowrie, a very imposing gurnard perch on top of one pylon in the light, a pretty lacey, spiny leather jacket and much, much more. It's a photographers' paradise on a good day and the trudge from car park to beach is well worth it.

Sandy

I'm a loser.

The summer holiday at Rottneest was really the best ever this year. For the first time when we started back I felt the reluctance of leaving a great holiday destination, and then I remembered that it was Rotto we were leaving and we have the luxury of being able to get here all the time!

However, perhaps as I was sleeping on the boat, I seemed to keep losing things. I got the

reputation of being a LOSER!! (I also spent the whole week damp, as I used my surf ski to come and go from the boat, carting things I thought I would need either on ship or shore in my waterproof sack, but that's another story). In the end I was afraid to mention even fleetingly that I could not find my sunnies etc.

Among the things I really lost though were my cray loop (since found in Peter's care after I left it at SYC after we disembarked on the Friday); my catch bag (never found - it's a bright green one with a zip pocket in the front with a measure attached); and my dive torch. This last is the only genuine loss for which I am fully responsible, although I would like to suggest that maybe the octopus that lives under the mooring in Geordie Bay took it. The story is that I wanted very badly to catch (and cook and eat!) squid. I scoured the internet for advice, bought the recommended pink squid jig and was full bottle on how to do it. But the wind kept blowing and boat kept swinging around on the moorings until suddenly I woke one night at 2 am- to calm. I staggered out of bed to take advantage of this, tied my torch over the back of the boat to attract the squid, set my alarm for 3 am and went back to bed. Not too keen on getting up again at 3 am, but I did, only to find my torch GONE. Nearly went straight back to bed, but I then got the bright idea that I should look for it while the batteries were still alive and it was still glowing. It was a moonless night thank goodness, because what followed was undignified (and unsuccessful). It involved nude snorkelling and paddling about on my surf ski...not a pretty sight but there was no one to see. It was actually very beautiful, no stingers and there were lots of interesting flashing lights in the sea grass..(I wonder what they were?)... but not my torch. A subsequent 'search and recover' effort led by Wendy (using top search protocols) did not manage to locate it either. The sea grass is very dense under the boat- or does that occie have it in the back of his cave?

Sandy

MARCH DIVER PROFILE – ROBERT BUETLER



Robert Buetler

Born 1954 In Zurich Switzerland

PADI Divemaster

Specialty certifications: Deep Diver, Night Diver, Equipment Specialist, Dry Suit Diver, Nitrox Diver, Underwater Photographer, First Aid.

of logged dives 985 (ed - at time of writing, now in excess of 1000)

of hours under water 858

of fresh water divers 375

of night dives 64 boat, 40 shore

of deep dives (30m +) 487

Highest altitude dive 2,284m Lake Julier Switzerland

Shortest dive 16 min

Longest dive 130 min

Underwater camera Sea & Sea Motormarine II with strobe, 16mm and macro lens

Joined UEC in 2003

Last Holiday on Rottneest with UEC

Further dream destinations – Galapagos and Papua New Guinea

Profession: IT Sales Consultant

Sport: Waterpolo and Masters Swimming at Bicton Pool

Hobby: Playing chromatic harmonica and learning how to play guitar

Married to Denise: PADI Instructor

Emmigrated to Australia November 2001

Australian Citizenship February 2004

Dive philosophy: Every dive has its fascination

Diving attitude: Live and let live

Diving Behavior: Don't touch just look

In my early twenties I lived in Cape Town South Africa for five years. That's where in 1977 I had my first diving experience doing an introductory dive in the kelp forest. Only 11 years later while on holiday with Denise on Grand Cayman did she inspire me to get my Open Water Certification. That's when we really started to get hooked on this great sport. Our first trip to Egypt was less than one year later where we experienced what it meant to dive, eat, sleep then dive, eat, sleep some more. In May 1990 we went on our first Liveaboard trip – 2 weeks in the Red Sea aboard the Ghazala I. For many years thereafter it became our favourite way to spend our dive holidays.

Dive Destinations

Year	Place	Type of dive	Highlights/Impressions
1988	Grand Cayman, Caribbean	Boat dives	
1989	Sharm-El-Sheikh, Red Sea Egypt	Boat and shore dives	Colour and visibility, soft corals
1990	Kinodo, Kenya	Boat dives	
1990	Red Sea, Egypt	Liveaboard on 'Ghazala I'	Wreck dives
1991	Mirhi Isl. Ari Atoll Maldives	Boat and shore dives	Great house reef
1992	Bali, Manado Seram, Banda, Indonesia	Boat dives Liveaboard on 'Pindito'	Fish, fish, fish
1993	Sipadan Island, Borneo	Boat and shore dives	World best house reef
1993	Brother Islands, Red Sea	Liveaboard on 'Lady Somaya'	Rough sea, fantastic drop-offs
1993	Great Barrier Reef, Coral Sea Australia	Liveaboard on 'Supersport' Liveaboard on 'Spoilsport'	Giant cods, wreck of the 'Yongala'
1994	Seram, Banda, Misool, Indonesia	Liveaboard on 'Pindito'	Coral spawning
1994	Las Aves, Venezuela Boanire, Dutch Antilles	Liveaboard on 'Sea Witch' Shore dives	Fluorescent sponges
1995	Belize, Caribbean	Boat and shore dives at Ambergris Key, Liveaboard on ' Belize Aggressor II'	The famous 'Blue Hole'. Introduction to Liveaboard diving American-style (6 times a day at 20 min a dive). These guys were going in for their 2nd dive as Denise & I were surfacing from our 1st!
1996	Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt	Boat dives	Ras Mohammed - end of June massive gatherings of fish due to mating season
1997	El Ocotol, Costa Rica Cocos Islands off Costa Rica	Boat dives Liveaboard on 'Undersea Hunter'	Schools of Cow Rays Huge schools of hammerheads, Pacific Mantas, Yellowfin tuna, Trevally and, and, and
1997	Helengeli, Nth Mali Atoll, Maldives	Boat and shore dives	Fantastic house reef with drop-offs
1998	From Bali to Flores	Liveaboard on 'Baruna	Komodo, Rinca Island

1999	South Red Sea	Adventurer' Liveaboard on 'Ghazala Voyager'	Pelagic fish, Hammerheads
2000	Zanzibar & Mafia Island, Tanzania	Boat dives	Bullshark
1994- 2000	Switzerland	Shore dives (lakes, mountain lakes, rivers)	Freezing cold, bad visibility

Hilarious: In the Maldives we made friends with a Swiss couple who had little dive experience. During a dive we spotted a Mantis Shrimp, which is typical to that area. Very colourful, fast moving with strong claws, it lurks in it's hole and projects it's claws out of the whole with incredible speed to catch it's prey. In German it's called a 'frightening catch crap'. We tried to explain with all kinds of signs what it was. Our air dropped to 50 bar because we laughed so much.

Terrifying: Denise and I were diving in Manado and she was about 3 metres in front of me. She looked around and pointed to something in front of her. All I saw was a massive monster with large teeth. I did not understand why Denise was not scared. I thought she must be in shock and didn't realize the danger she was in. Scared senseless I approached Denise and only at that point saw that it was a school pf Barracudas that was lined up in such a way that their body markings looked like massive vertical teeth.

Shock: In Las Aveas, Venezuela, we were diving along a reef with many holes and crevices. I swam close to a big hole to get a closer look, when a green Giant Nmoray Eel suddenly shot out of the hole and swam directly towards me. I had that flash from the movie 'The Deep' with Nick Nolte and Jacqueline Bisset. Denis must have seen the Moray in the hole and watched it all coming. She laughed her head off and reckoned I must have set a new record in swimming backwards. I was not amused!

Panic: Diving from the Liveaboard MV Pindito meant a lot of drop-offs. For safety reasons we were advised to stay within the 30 metre limit as we couldn't be recovered from the 600 to 1000 metre drop-offs if anything happened. With that in mind a further cautiousness to check on each other was applied. Denise and I were diving along this bottomless drop-off and I looked to the front, then to the side, then to the back, then up to the left and then to the right. That's when I had a panic attack because I couldn't see Denise. I grabbed my inflator and let the air out of the BCD and dropped like a skydiver into the big blue. Then I heard Denis screaming through her regulator above me. I looked up and there she was gesticulating 'what's the matter with you, are you out of your mind?'. I realized that she must have been right above me in a blind spot while I was looking for her.

Lesson learned: On a hot summers day my buddy and I went diving late afternoon in Lake Zurich. It's a site with a 48 metre drop off. Typically the lakes are clear the first few metres and then there is a thermo cline and a silty layer for about five metres. After that it clears up again but it is pitch-dark and the temperature is six degrees centigrade. Everyone dives with strong halogen lamps. My buddy helped a friend the whole morning to move houses. When we were diving at 40 metres along the wall, all of a sudden he grabbed my BCD shoulder strap with such strength that I knew something was terribly wrong. I never forget the way he looked at me. We slowly ascended and he was shaking like a leave. When we got to the surface he told me he was constantly battling to not pass out. It took me ages to get all the gear ashore. I had drinks in the car, which was water and diet lemonade. I called Gerry our sport and dive club doctor while my buddy was lying on his back and crying like a baby. Keep drinking and take him home was Gerry's advice. When I dropped him off at home he didn't feel better. About 10 pm my phone rang and it was my buddy. "I feel 100% again. My girlfriend gave me some glucose tablets about 10 minutes ago and that depressive feeling just disappeared." My buddy was due a shoulder injury under medical treatment, drank too little on this hot summers day while helping his friend, the thermo cline, darkness and the depth helped considerably developing severe nitrogen narcosis. Despite this incident we stayed buddies for many years afterwards. However the depth limit was strictly 30 metres.

Intense Light: To enjoy a dive in the cold lakes the most important factor is to wear warm undergarments under the dry-suit. I bought this latest technology thermal synthetic-pile dry suit undergarment with socks. Getting into my 7mm neoprene suit wasn't easy with this voluminous one-piecer. Once the zip close I got hot

fast. In the water I realized I had not enough weights. This new garment was more buoyant than my previous one. I had to get out of the water, take off my tank and belt, walk to the car, get more weights and gear up again. By that time I was sweating profusely. Eventually we started descending along a drop-off. At about 20 metres it got very bright and the grey granite walls changed to a light green colour. I knew straightaway, I had mild narcosis. We went up for 5 metres, rested a while and descended again. I was fine for the rest of the dive.

Fun

Back in Switzerland we used to produce mini stickers for the logbook entries whenever one of the dive buddies caused a mishap or didn't join us for our weekend dive for some reason or other. Here are some of the examples (can be viewed in my logbook):



We were all ready geared up to go diving in the lake of Zurich. Jack was not at the dive site at the appointed time. We tried to reach him. He forgot to switch on his mobile while he missed the ferry across the lake to the dive site. He missed us only by minutes. When we surfaced he was standing on the shore.



Berni locked himself out of his car while leaving the key in the ignition. After the dive we had to call the RAC. APD stands for Automobile Penetration Diver.



Berni had six sheep as house pets. He couldn't join us for the Saturday dive because his sheep had to be sheared.



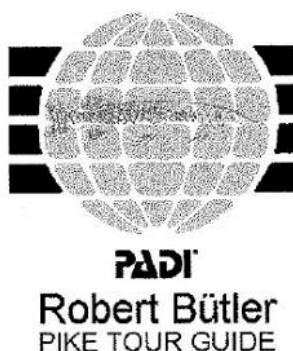
Before Neven's baby was born he went with his wife to a prematernal breathing course and missed some dives.



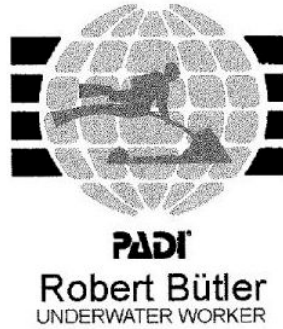
Again Neven missed a few dives because his wife expected a baby.



After surfacing from the dive Jack told us that he felt cold throughout the dive. When he opened the front zip of his dry suit he noticed that he forgot to close the zip of his dry suit.



I knew a great spot in Lake Lucerne where I could almost guarantee you would see pikes.



Many of the lake in Switzerland have tremendous drop-offs. We used to roll boulders over the drop-offs and listen to the thundering noise to guess how deep it was.



Robert after his 1000th dive.

Notices

Warren has contributed this nautical site out it might have relevant information of interest to some members.

<http://home.att.net/~agligani/navigation/navigate.html>

Sandy has recommended we read an article from NATURE. Last year's movie smash Finding Nemo impressed many marine biologists with its scientific accuracy. Meet the young expert in fish biomechanics who helped to breathe life into the film's stars.

<http://nature on nemo>

Found after the boat trip back from Long weekend Rotto:-

- Brown Raincoat
- Dk Blue polo T shirt
- white flower T shirt
- drinks esky
- green bathmat.

Please claim from Alison at the next meeting.

Also I have a aluminium 90 cu ft tank for sale CHEAP! See me at the meeting.

Thanks
Alison Keen

"Laughter makes the world a happier place."

UEC NEWS

APRIL 2004

[Download UEC News here \(pdf\)](#)



*The official monthly newsletter
for Underwater Explorers Club
of Western Australia*

PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154

Phone: 0401 775 720 (President)

[Email UEC](mailto:uec@space.net.au)

www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

From the editor

Welcome to the April edition of UEC news.

There are plenty of club activities coming up this month including the Dive to Earth day on the 17th. For this event we will dive on an old artificial reef that was installed off Rottnest by UEC some years past. Will be a good opportunity to see the marine life that now calls it home.

Mark Sach has put together a busy schedule of training covering important topics such as navigation, first aid refresher courses, and emergency procedures. Very handy stuff to know/revise for divers of all levels of experience.

Enjoy
Chris G.

GENERAL MEETINGS

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are held every third Monday (except for Public Holidays) at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

Email uec@space.net.au
Home Page: www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedure and to acquaint both Club Members and the public with the facts on safety and the use of safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

[Click here for UEC Committee Contact Details](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Reality checking is of course one of the new buzz words we often hear around popular journalism and media releases. It seems to be used where someone is trying to push some cause and convince others that some sort of change is required. I find the expression "In the real world" really interesting as it assumes that the person referring to this imaginary world is somewhere else and not on this planet.

Change is of course inevitable and resistance to any change is useless as King Canute found when he tried to stop the tide from rising all he got was very wet. We have seen huge changes in our club both in our diving and social sections. It appears when the social section is strong; the diving section is not as strong and visa versa. So we keep moving along attempting to balance our sections, which of course is not easy.

Our diving so far this season has been great with the increased use of the boat and the skipper training sessions and dive-training sessions have all been well attended and enjoyed by all participants. Social activities have also been well attended and the Rottnest Holiday and Skyshow were hugely successful.

Your committee members have been working hard to provide as much variety as possible to keep UEC moving forward. My role has been made easier by the determination and enthusiasm of all the members of the committee of management. Individually they all know what they are putting in and are sometimes concerned by the lack of recognition for the time and effort they continue to give up as voluntary officers. We have a great team leading us forward but we do sometimes need those small important gestures of support by the members.

Remember we are all one club and there is no difference in membership between a new member and a member of long standing. We try to steer the club in a direction in which we consider is the right path. Sometimes there are members who disagree with the direction and wish to see changes. We need these ideas and concerns to be relayed to us so we can ensure we can make a "Reality Check" to ensure where we are and what we are achieving is in the best interests of the majority of members. There is a very old saying stating that "you cannot please all the people all the time". We have to keep on track in the best way we can as volunteers to ensure UEC remains a strong progressive diving organization where we are all proud to be members of the Underwater Explorers Club of WA.

Remember we need your positive support in all our activities and if you are holding back for any reason come forward and help us make the changes you wish to see for the benefit of all your fellow members.

Together we all can move forward and have some fun as we go.

Congratulations to Martin on his official appointment as Skipper. Well done Martin.

Another one of those famous orators once said;

" If you do not know where you are going, every road will get you to nowhere".
Henry Kissinger.

Dive and Play Safe.
Steve.

PR REPORT

You should have noticed the website is updated with all the April activities while you were navigating to the newsletter. While your here have a look at the club albums for photos submitted by members.

There's loads from the Rotto holiday and plenty of interesting underwater shots too, as well as many more to be posted very soon, so don't forget to keep visiting the site.

If anyone would like one of the 'www.underwaterexplorersclub.net' car stickers that you are beginning to see on some members cars, let me know, they are a very reasonable price of \$2 and are a good cheap promotional tool for your club.

Keep an eye on Access 31's 'Eye on Perth' show with Christina Morrissey on April 13. UEC has a small promo planned for the show relating to the "Dive in to Earth Day - Artificial Reef Dive" planned for April 17.

The most important PR job in the club is making new members welcome. This job is in the hands of all of us, so when you see a new member on the boat or at a meeting, say G'day, have a chat and encourage them to dive often. Also tell them about the website and ask if they have the password to the newsletter as it's important that new members have access to all the information in here.

Chris C.

TRAINING REPORT

Hi All

On Friday 16 Apr there will be a night dive in the river with a cost in the vicinity of \$15.00 per person. I would like to publicly thank the newly appointed Skipper Martin Smith and the DO Marc Maddern for giving their time to aid with the conduct of this activity.

I am still looking for 6 people who wish to refresh or learn about basic first aid and resuscitation (I need to requalify for my 2 yearly reverification) If I don't requalify how can I conduct first aid training the rest of the club providing the most up to date information or procedures. The SYC have the facility to run this training for groups of this size the training is through ST John. There is a cost of approximately \$40.00.

I am conducting a navigation theory night on WEDNESDAY 14 April (DUE TO EASTER) with another twilight/ night dive with a BBQ afterward. The location and cost will depend upon where those who attend wish to conduct the dive and subject to me finding a Skipper.

In May I will be conducting search and recovery theory (on 10 May) with the possibility of holding a practical activity soon afterwards if all that attend are interested.

On 14 Jun I will be holding a communication and emergency procedures night where we will go over how to use the radio and other equipment on the boat. I will be endeavouring to get a representative from VN6DI to attend to discuss what happens when we call in and how the emergency response program works when we need it. (There will be soup on offer and may be a cheese and wine platter) depending on if people book before 13 Jun 04.

At present I am holding training at 8pm on the second Monday of the Month and I have been asked to bring it forward to 7 pm on the same day please let me know if this what you want as members or if another day is more convenient to the majority of the club and it shall be as I am willing to please.

As our qualified Skippers are on the endangered species list we are still looking for people to step up and lend a hand weather it be the current DO's stepping forward and starting Skipper training and other members undertaking DO training we need people to step forward and crew the boat. Remember if no one volunteers to crew our boat then we can't go diving.

As always, should members wish to revise or be trained in a particular topic, please advise me so I

can schedule it and remember that all training needs to be booked to confirm your place to guarantee the session will go ahead. I can be contacted on either of my email Mark.sach@defence.gov.au or msach@iprimus.com.au or 9417 8890. If I'm not home please leave a message.

Since the last newsletter I have suffered a small set back in that I have lost my beloved UEC Dive info bag that contained my diary and other information such as my skipper training Log, My copy of the Holy grail (The club Constitution) and a number of dive tables (worth about \$250.00). So if you see a black bag that looks like one of those zip on attachments to a dive gear bag can you contact me, as I would greatly appreciate its return?
Also if you have cooked for any training activity particularly the First Aid please re email me so I can reconfirm your place or interest

Cheers

Rambo
Training Officer

PROPERTY REPORT

After "surveying the wreckage" in the factory it was decided that a lot of stuff could be turfed out, and that the stuff remaining needs to be sorted. An idea was discussed at the committee meeting to have a busy bee during May for this purpose. We will be looking for volunteers to help. Some of the tasks will include deciding what needs to be kept, cleaning up and throwing out, and moving and sorting club records an memorabilia into the office space that Carmine has made available.

I'll keep you posted as to the date when it gets a bit closer.

Nicole

Python Pasta And Pop Corn Night

Come and be part of the fun when the UEC holds it's very first Outdoor Cinema

The Python (as in Monty) Pasta & Pop Corn Night

What you get:

Heaps of yummy Pasta
Hot Buttery Popcorn
Garlic Bread and
Prizes, Prizes, Prizes

Get together your team of 4,6 or 600 for the Monte Python Trivia Quiz

When is it	Saturday April 24th
Where is it	13 Labyrinth Way, South Lake
Time	6.30pm
What to bring	A blanket to sit on and warm clothing BYO Alcohol (Soft drinks provided)
Cost	Only \$10 per head

This event is open to UEC member and non members so bring your mad Monte friends and have a ball

Jasmine

DIVE REPORT

We have had some fabulous dives over the summer, with record numbers on the boat. It's been really great to see so many of you participating in the Club's activities. The feedback we have been getting from Club members has been terrific!

Don't forget to book on for the 'Dive in to Earth' day we have planned for Saturday 17 April – we will be going to observe the growth on the artificial tyre reef that was laid down by our members something like 25 years ago. We hope to follow this up with a dive on one of the sanctuary zones around Rottneest. Definitely a photo opportunity ... we'll have a prize for the best photo of the day.

Make that resolution now to continue diving through the autumn and winter – we get some great visibility and superb conditions during this season.

Phone or email me to book on,

Belinda

To make your dive bookings, call on 9339 1789 or email on tbpalmer@ca.com.au I will have the diary with me at the meetings and whenever I am on the boat, so you can always make your reservations then.

Date		Dive Site/ Event	Skipper	Dive Officer
April				
Saturday 3	08:00	The West End	Kerry	Mark S
Sunday 4	07:00	Stragglers – ONE TANK - EARLY	Dennis	Clive
Monday 5	20:00	Training Theory at SYC – see Mark S.		
Sunday 11	08:00	Skipper's choice	Peter	Clive
Monday 12	08:00	Roe Reef Caves (for those that missed Rotto ☺)	Geoff G	Jim
Friday 16	19:00	Night dive on the Club Mooring	TBA	TBA
Saturday 17	08:00	Dive in to Earth Day observe artificial reef	Bob	Steve
Monday 19	20:00	Club Meeting at SYC		
Sunday 25	08:00	Richard's Pot Luck	Geoff G	Clive

- Boat departure is 8:00 am from Swan Yacht Club unless otherwise stated. Please DO NOT contact the Skipper or Dive Officer to discuss weather conditions – they will decide on the day, on the boat, if the weather is suitable for the trip to proceed.
- Check with Belinda or Tony on 9339 1789 the night before to make sure there are enough numbers for the dive to go ahead.
- All dives are two-tank unless otherwise stated.

Dive and Boat Bookings

Belinda / Tony on 9339 1789 or tbpalmer@ca.com.au

DIVE COMPUTER BATTERIES – SOME MORE HASSLE THAN OTHERS

Just a warning that it is worthwhile checking out what the battery situation is when you purchase a dive computer...Some of you may recall that over on the Rottneest trip my dive computer battery died (Those in my chalet definitely won't forget as we had to put it in a bucket of water at night to dull the ticking noise!). I have a UWATEC Aladdin Pro and after the battery conks out, it ticks to let you know. What I didn't realise, is that this type of computer has to be sent to the eastern states for a battery change (at a cost of over \$100). This has turned out to be a bit of a drama as Australia Post won't accept any ticking packages and 5 weeks on my computer is still ticking! I rang UWATEC who said there is no way to stop the ticking (which is supposed to last for 3 days) and you have to wait until it loses all power. The staff at Dolphin Dive are slowly going insane as it continues to tick in their shop. It stopped once and they took it to the post office but it started ticking again so Australia Post made them take it back! Being nice guys they have lent me a computer for my dive on The Swan this weekend though.

Rebecca Woods

PERFECT NAVIGATION – DIVE REPORT FROM SATURDAY 3 APRIL

I am proud of our club and its members!

It is always a pleasure to be out diving aboard our new "Underwater Explorer" – and even more so when the weather is perfect. I feel I must compliment my fellow club mates for their skills. Kerry was skipper for the day and responsible but Rambo did ALL the work as trainee skipper, and he did it with excellence – even getting the boat back in the pen without any trouble.

Also, my compliment must go to my dive buddy and navigator Nicole, who took Chris and myself on a tour at Kerry's Caverns, and then timed it right to get back to the boat within our time limit (60 minutes) in a STRONG current, in a STRAIGHT line, SPOT ON to the u/w flag for our 5 minute safety stop. I was immensely impressed!

The Kerry's Cavern dive was good as always, although we had a bit of a surge this day but the visibility was good enough to get one or two photos to come out all right. Nicole was our "spotter" and gave me a basket starfish. I think they are fascinating. This one was curled up and I did NOT "unfold" him, which is very tempting, so you can see all the fantastic "arms" waiving around. Chris got his passion on film – the mosaic starfish.

So, don't hesitate – join Rambo's navigation course this month and become a star like Nicole! (You might see me there as well – if I get hold of a compass.)

Cheers!
SeahorseSusie



Basket Starfish

A ONCE IN A LIFETIME DIVING EXPERIENCE

It was one of those perfect dives. We had just had a baby Port Jackson Shark swim right up to my torch and spend five minutes 'begging' to be scratched under the chin, we then wrestled with a playful octopus that was determined to steal a new (bright pink !) diving glove. We swam around in warm, still conditions watching all the unusual nocturnal creatures of the (not so) deep and enjoying the strange night behaviours. It was while we were watching a huge (40cm) deep crimson sea slug that we noticed our diving buddies torches began to circle at us from a distance. The polite circling soon became frantic skipping and jumping in every direction. Being attentive dive buddies we raced over to them, not to find them in trouble but to realise they had stumbled across four Seahorses hanging on to one piece of stick-like debris. We were very impressed, but not as impressed as when we realised that one of our buddies underwater signing by indicating that she had something coming out from between her legs uh oh, actually meant that the male Seahorse was 'pregnant' and giving birth while we watched. The screams and yelps through our regulators was testament to the level of excitement. In our rush to get a viewing spot and settle down we stirred up a bit of silt which made taking photo's a bit hit and miss. Plus the fact that I was so anxious to get a shot I was pressing the shutter button 5 times faster than the flash could boot up. He had a very large stomach and showed us why as we watched over the next 10 minutes. He would hang quietly for some time between birthing spurts (for want of a better word) and then begin to convulse his whole body around his anchored tail and finally eject a small herd (well they are horses) of young who floated up and out of sight fairly quickly. He repeated this three times while we watched and must have given birth to 60 young. When you see their size, you can't imagine many of the young surviving for very long, they were only about 15mm long which is bite size for most fish in the area.

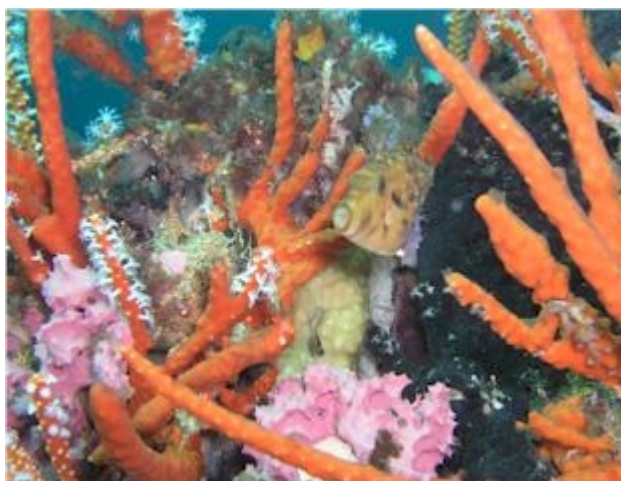
We continued our dive with our eyes peeled now ... what other fantastic things could we see ? Loads of octopus, a huge bailer shell and starfish and sea hares everywhere. We won't forget the night we saw the Seahorse give birth for some time, it really was a once in a diving lifetime experience.

Chris Cunnold



Busselton Jetty News

You would have heard that new observatory is open. It's a great attraction for Busselton and a fantastic reward for all the volunteers who have battled for many years to save their Jetty. The success of the observatory has had a bit of an impact on divers though. As a diver you are no longer able to book a Jetty train ticket ahead of time. The only way a diver can secure a seat (or 2) on the train is to phone the Jetty office at 7.30 in the morning that you plan to dive to reserve tickets. If the train is already booked out you will miss out on your dive, unless you fancy a 2km surface swim! Having said all that, divers can reserve tickets if they book a ticket for an observatory tour as well. Obviously this adds to the cost. The Jetty staff were friendly and tried to accommodate everyone were possible, we saw them stretch the rules a bit for a couple of divers who had driven from Perth and missed out on tickets by transporting their gear out for them on the train on our last visit. More info is at www.downsouth.com



In other news, the Busselton Jetty management have been successful in getting a permit from the fisheries department for a 50m exclusion zone for fishermen and spearfishers around the new observatory. Effectively this excludes them from the end of the train tracks to the end of the Jetty, as there is still no public access past the Observatory at this time. This is a good thing from a divers point of view as it will hopefully help protect the fish life and growth at the end of the Jetty that has had very little of these activities since the fire cut off the end of the Jetty to the public. It will also help to protect the image of divers, as they have already had an incident of a spearfishing diver swimming past the observatory windows shooting at tiny sweep, apparently he was introducing his

son to the sport of spearfishing! Good stuff! A UEC contact within CALM has advised that they developing a plan to introduce a marine reserve in Geographe Bay that would include the Jetty and they are very keen to see it approved. There will obviously be a lot of opposition from the recreational fishing lobby groups.

So get down to Busso soon and check out WA's best shore dive and while your there do the observatory tour and dive without getting wet. The train ticket entitles you to 50% off a coffee at the Equinox Cafe too, so you can de-brief over coffee with your buddy after the dive.

Chris Cunnold

Notices

I found an interesting article (or should I say yarn?) on the *Carcharodon Megalodon*. *Carcharodon Megalodon*, or Meg to its friends, is the scientific name of a very large and now extinct shark. It's size can only be inferred because the only fossils they have found are fossilized 6 inch teeth, sharks having no bones to fossilize because they are built on cartilage. These teeth look remarkably similar to White Pointer teeth, except for being 3 to 4 times as big.

DOES CARCHARODON MEGALODON STILL EXIST?

Feel like a bit of sailing?

Vision It
Set Goal
Do It
Enjoy It

OPPORTUNITY with Paul

Whitsunday Island Yachting Trip
28 August to 4 September 2004



5 nights & 6 Days
on LUXURY Yachts

All up price of \$2895 per person twin share includes:

- Return flights from Brisbane to Whitsundays
- Transfers to and from airport to accommodation
- Transfers to and from accommodation to yachts
- Two nights accommodation in a luxury resort
- 5 nights aboard luxury charter yachts (6 days) onboard yachts
- food fully catered

Optional dive experience on outer reef is at own cost
There will be an extra fee if a single person doesn't want to share a cabin with someone else

Register interest with Alan Saunders alans@servcom.net.au

**LIMITED
PLACES!!**

Network with Paul and his friends
from all over the world in a relaxing cruise



UEC NEWS

MAY 2004



*The official monthly newsletter
for Underwater Explorers Club of
Western Australia*

PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154

Phone: 0401 775 720 (President)

[Email UEC](mailto:uec@underwaterexplorersclub.net)

www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

[Download UEC News here \(pdf\)](#)

Important Notice

For a trial period the **UEC general meetings** will now be held on the third **Wednesday** of the month instead of the Monday. Thanks.

From the editor

There has been some fantastic diving done over the last few weeks. Read Sandy's report from the Anzac Weekend for an idea of what the conditions have been like. Although the weather may have got a bit cooler of late, there are still some great diving to be done out there. Fair weather divers are coming into the long break so get your dive fix now or be left high and dry for some time.

The planned 50th Anniversary celebrations are coming up soon. Susie and Kerry have put included a flyer for the anniversary ball in this newsletter.

Note the warning about moving the general meetings to a Wednesday night. There is a feeling that Monday nights don't find most people in the most convivial moods and later in the week would be preferable. Having the meeting later in the week may also generate more divers for the weekend as people might book on with the general meeting fresh in their memory.

The Wednesday change will be trialled for a few times to get peoples opinions. Please let us know what you think of Wednesdays using the pole immediately below.

Enjoy
Chris G.

What night would you prefer for general meetings?

- Monday
- Wednesday
- Neither

[Vote](#)[Free polls from Pollhost.com](#)

GENERAL MEETINGS

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are now held every third Wednesday (for a trial period) at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

Email uec@space.net.au

Home Page: www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

- **To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.**
- **To encourage safety methods and procedure and to acquaint both Club Members and the public with the facts on safety and the use of safe, reliable equipment.**
- **To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.**

[Click here for UEC Committee Contact Details](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Winter is rapidly approaching and the numbers of days, which we can attempt to dive, are declining. We have enjoyed an excellent season of diving and our membership has increased. We now have over 110 paid up members and the interest continues to come from the local diving fraternity who are looking for an active diving group who they can share there underwater experiences with both above and below the surface.

There are a number of members who wish to continue diving through the winter months and Belinda will be keeping the bookings and the calendar going for as long as there are members interested in diving. Please do not be too disappointed if the numbers drop away during the hibernation period, which the cooler weather brings.

For those members who attended our last general meeting which turned out to be one of our more exciting functions. Not only did we have to share the SYC with a fabulous group of young hairdressing students, who were modelling some terrific outfits with stunning hairstyles. But we also had to endure the ranting of a person who was expelled from the club membership in 2002.

Unfortunately for the newer members who are unaware of the situation with this person it is embarrassing for us all to endure, as his only motive is disruption. There is very little that we can do about this disruption. We can only ignore this disaffected person ranting and his seemingly endless desire to disrupt our proceedings.

We are a vibrant members club and we will not allow this particular individual, who no longer has any status in our club to divert our energies away from our purpose. Which is to provide to our members the aims and objectives of the Underwater Explorers Club.

Planning for the big birthday bash is progressing well. There is a lot to arrange and the social sub committee members are working flat out to ensure that the event is going to be one, which will be outstanding. We have not had an event of this magnitude in our recent history so keep your diary blank, as this is a must.

We recently participated in an Extension Program with a group of candidates from the Institute of Chartered Accountants. They have recommended that we introduce a policy regarding member's rights and responsibilities. The success of the club depends on its ability to provide a good social atmosphere to future members. We currently have no governance over members behaviour within our club. This policy gap needs addressing as our success depends on our ability to provide a good club atmosphere for all members. We shall be discussing this topic further for implementation in the future.

At the last general meeting a proposal to move the night of the general meetings from the third Monday in the month to the third Wednesday as a trial was passed by the members present. We have made arrangements for this to occur as of the May general meeting. So please put on your calendar and diary the meeting this month will be held at SYC on 19th May commencing at 8.00pm. The galley at SYC has a Fish and Chip supper every Wednesday night and bookings are a must if you wish to have supper prior to the meeting. Please contact the SYC direct if you want to eat as they do get booked up. See you at the meeting.

H.W. Longfellow once said.

"We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, whilst others judge us by what we have already done.

Steve.

PR REPORT

There's a lot of PR info this month and a lot of PR work in the pipeline. Firstly, a great piece of publicity for us recently was a mention in "The West Australian", in an article about our own Annie Boyd on Monday May 10. The article was about her "coastal gypsy" lifestyle and her volunteer work on the discovery of the "Correia da Azia" at Ningaloo, but she managed to slip our name in too (See notices for article). Thanks Annie.

It was suggested last year to the committee that we need a New Member Liaison officer within the club. The idea got a bit lost with the change of committee and lots of other big issues the committee have been dealing with however it has been re-visited by the committee recently and Belinda and I have volunteered to do the job. It is very important that someone making an enquiry or a new member has someone within the club they can ask for help or information. The New Member Liaison will have all the correct information and be able to arrange to get a new member on the boat the first time and arrange someone on board to meet them and introduce them to diving with us. It's also important to have a system of follow up for new members and nominee divers to encourage them to join after their first dive and to dive more often. Belinda has previously produced an introduction package which we hope to kick in to life again. It includes a letter with all the basic "need to know" stuff on it like "where is the boat?" and "how do I book on to a dive?", plus a feedback form so we know what members are interested in. We will be doing our best to make new members feel welcome and to get them on our e-mail list ASAP so they know what's going on. If anyone hears of a possible new member or would like

us to contact anyone with information, please let me know, or alternatively please feel free to pass on my contact details to anyone who is interested. cunnold@iinet.net.au or 9257 2231 or 0419 907 796 . It is obvious what benefit new members are to the club but they can also benefit you too. Remember that if you introduce a friend to the club and they join, you will get a free day of diving on the boat.

New "Dive Flag with Seahorse" UEC car stickers are now available ... I will try to carry them with me all the time, so please ask for one. It would be great to see one on every members car. The www.underwaterexplorersclub.net stickers are also still available for \$2 each if you wanted to take the idea of making your car a mobile UEC billboard a bit further.

Winter is getting closer so another order of the UEC Winter Fleece's is due. We are taking orders now, so please let me know what you are interested in. I have a catalogue if you'd like to see the styles available, you will need to drop me a line or bail me up next time you see me. Once again I try to keep the catalogue with me all the time too, so just ask. We will also be ordering more Polo shirts at the same time. The prices aren't confirmed yet, but they are always very reasonable. I'll e-mail out to everyone once the prices are confirmed.

We are also beginning to promote our 50th Anniversary Event on August 28. Initially we are trying to contact as many ex-members as possible. If you are still in touch with anyone from the "old days" please let them know the event is on and that they are invited. Susie and Kerry have kindly offered do the ticketing and bookings so please let them know the details.

That's it !

Chris C.

SAFETY REPORT

Last night while reading the latest edition of SPUMS magazine I found an interesting article on the (Rationale for oxygen use in diving accidents)

For injured divers, it is important to provide an increased oxygen concentration, close to 100%, especially where DCI is suspected. Breathing 100% oxygen provides very important benefits for a diver suffering from DCI:

- By eliminating nitrogen from the inspired gas, 100% oxygen breathing accelerates nitrogen elimination from the body, thus reducing bubble size more quickly.
- Any reduction in blood flow due to bubble formation may cause hypoxia in affected tissues. The higher oxygen partial pressures will help to oxygenate any hypoxic tissues by increasing diffusion of oxygen to these areas. It may also assist in reducing swelling in hypoxic tissues by drawing fluid away from injured tissue.
- Elevated oxygen concentrations can help compensate for reduced blood oxygen content resulting from impaired gas transfer from the lungs to the blood, and reduce any breathing distress caused by hypoxia.
- Higher oxygen concentrations may help reduce circulatory shock and cerebral oedema, uncommon but serious complications of DCI.

Prompt provision of high concentrations of inspired oxygen can minimise the damage that may occur while the diver is being transported to a decompression facility, possibly in certain circumstances alleviating the need for further treatment. There have been numerous anecdotal reports of even severe symptoms of DCI disappearing while an injured diver was breathing oxygen.

I urge all members while out on our dive boat to familiarise themselves with and where the oxygen equipment is kept .As part of the June training night Mark will be demonstrating the set up and use of

the oxygen equipment. We are also trying to find an organization (perhaps St. Johns) who can provide an oxygen provider course to members who are interested in doing this. If you are interested please notify Mark Sach so he can put you on the list.

Trevor has given me this following article to put in this safety report.

DIVING EQUIPMENT RECALL: Scuba Futures has recalled Sherwood Scuba BCDs, models Silhouette, Magnum, Avid, Luna and Freedom, purchased after July 1, 2003, with a serial number between 90010001 and 90350167. The power inflator valves within this number range have either a black or grey inflator button.

The Problem: The power inflator could provide continuous inflation and expose the diver to potential injury if appropriate measures aren't taken to operate the exhaust valve to control ascent.

What To Do: Stop using the equipment immediately and contact your nearest Sherwood dealer for a free valve replacement, or call (02)96863139 for more information.

FREE! To UEC members only. Need any 'D' rings, snap hooks, side release buckles, velcro, etc sewn onto or relaced on your BCD. Minor repairs to dive bags, cray bags, zips replaced ,hot knifing etc. Zips in some wet suits .Labour only is free. See me.

Safe Diving, Rex.....

50th ANNIVERSARY BALL

Preparations are well underway for the clubs 50th anniversary celebrations. Secure some tickets now for what will a significant occasion for the club, not to mention the biggest above water club event in the foreseeable future.

Here is the flyer:



UEC
GOLDEN JUBILEE
ANNIVERSARY BALL

Come along and enjoy Underwater Explorers Club's
50th Anniversary Ball

You will enjoy:

Welcome drink
Celebrity guests
Sumptuous 5-course dinner
World renowned entertainer
Great door and spot prizes
Audio visual displays
Live dance music

Venue: Swan Yacht Club, East Fremantle
Date: Saturday 28 August 2004
Time: 7 pm for 7.45 pm sit-down
Price: \$70 per person
Dress: Formal

Limited tickets—secure your seat/table by 23 July

CALL SUSIE ON 9331 2385

DIVE REPORT

Exmouth – April 2004

Five days diving from Exmouth with Village Dive. Village Dive have a boat and accommodation units to offer. For around \$1,400 the two of us had five days diving and six nights accommodation. The diving consisted of three days in lighthouse bay and two days around the waters of the South Murion Islands.

The accommodation is basic, but clean; port-a-cabin style units with double bedrooms at each end and a shared kitchen facility in the middle. Ablution blocks are just 30 meters away. Alternatively, you can take your own tent, van, whatever.

Of the dives that we did on this trip, those at South Murion were the best – a long trip out from the mainland but worth it. Lots of fish, (cod, sweet lips, fire fish, banner fish, bat fish, you name it!) turtles, nudibranchs, eels, snakes, sharks (white tip reef, wobbegong and one that was called a silver whaler although I don't have that one listed in my fish book?).

Brilliant.

No whale sharks for us but there were apparently about six or so in the area whilst we were there. So, if you are prepared to spend the extra money you will get to see them at this time of the year.

Belinda & Tony

Winter Diving

As we are getting nearer to the winter months then the chances of getting so many divers on the boat as we have been enjoying are going to reduce. REMEMBER - some of the best diving can be done in the winter as the visibility improves with the cooler water temperatures. Don't be put off by the weather forecasts – they don't always get it right!

Book as early as you can so that we have an idea of numbers sooner rather than at the last minute. And then call the night before the dive to make sure there are enough numbers for the boat to go out – we only need six to make the trip break even with the costs (if we don't have the full compliment of six divers the day before then we will have to abandon the dive).

If the boat is not going to go out because of bad weather then the skipper will make that decision on the morning, at the boat – please don't call to speak with the bookings or dive officers.

If the dive is not going ahead due to boat failure then we will do our absolute best to get hold of you to let you know. So, just in case, always leave your phone number when making your booking.

To make your dive bookings, call on 9339 1789 or email on tbpalmer@ca.com.au. Leave your name, number and the date you want to dive. Your registration will be entered into the diary and we will only call you if the dive is cancelled due to boat failure. Please remember to check with us the night before the dive to make sure there are enough numbers for the boat to be going out.

I will have the diary with me at the meetings and whenever I am on the boat, so you can always make your reservations then.

Date	Dive Site/ Event	Skipper	Dive Officer
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May

Saturday 15	08:00	Anders Meander	Martin S	Carl A		
Sunday 23	08:00	City Beach	Martin S	Clive C		
Saturday 29	08:00	Roe Reef Caves	Geoff G	Mark M		
Sunday 30	09:00	Stragglers – ONE TANK – (lunch at the club)			Kerry A	Steve L

June

Saturday 5	09:00	Parker Point Drop Off	Geoff C	Steve L		
Saturday 12	09:00	Skippers Choice	Martin S	Mark M		
Sunday 20	09:00	Transit Reef or Thompson Bay Sanctuary		Peter H	Clive C	
Saturday 26	09:00	Exploratory	Kerry A	Mark S		

July

Sunday 4	09:00	City of York	Geoff C	Mark M		
Saturday 12	09:00	Good Spot	Martin S	Carl A		
Sunday 20	09:00	Porpoise Bay	Geoff G	Jim R		
Saturday 26	09:00	Skippers Choice	Kerry A	Mark S		

- Boat departure until end of May is 8:00 am from Swan Yacht Club, unless otherwise stated.
- Our winter dive calendar commences Saturday 5 June – Boat departure is 9:00 from Swan Yacht Club, unless otherwise stated.
- Please DO NOT contact the Skipper or Dive Officer to discuss weather conditions – they will decide on the day, on the boat, if the weather is suitable for the trip to proceed.
- Check with Belinda or Tony on 9339 1789 the night before to make sure there are enough numbers for the dive to go ahead.
- All dives are two-tank unless otherwise stated.
- The boat will collect you at the loading jetty (at the end of the boat sheds in the car park). Do not take your gear to the pen.

Dive and Boat Bookings

Belinda / Tony on 9339 1789 or tbpalmer@ca.com.au

Anzac Day Weekend Diving

The day out on the boat on the Monday of the Anzac weekend was one of the best days of diving I have ever had. Mostly this was due to the near perfect diving weather and the sites chosen by the skipper (Martin) and DO (Mark S and Rachel) ...but I have to admit some of my pleasure also came from showing off to my visiting brother Adrian why I love diving, Perth, Rottnest and UEC etc so much!!

We had a great dive at Angela's Cave first, followed by the rare treat of lunch inside Fish Hook Bay....but it is the dive at Martin's Arches that will stay with me for a long, long time .. for its beauty and the adventure of it!! There was a little bit of adrenalin too, I suppose, to go up and over the reef near the break and drop over the other side into those long sandy gullies under the sloping arches. It was amazingly eerily calm and crystal clear over there, so that it seemed there was no water at all.. but at the same time we could look up to the surface not far above and watch what seemed like thunder clouds rolling overhead. Also beautiful were huge schools of fish, such as footballer sweep, against the light. We then swam back to where we had come over as the other end was getting too scary, peeked like Foo over the top to see all was clear and crawled back with the fairly gentle surge to the deep on the other side.

This was a great dive. Nice that it was Martin who discovered it who took us there!

Sandy

Notices

Annie Boyd in the West Australian

The following article was published in the West Australian on Monday, 10Th May. Annie was recently club member until heading north.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN

News



Outdoor life: Wreck enthusiast Annie Boyd gave up pressures of work as a computer programmer to look for shipwrecks on the WA coast. She takes it easy at the old Point Cloates lighthouse which looks over Ningaloo Reef. Picture: John Makrzycki

Flinders error theory on wreck

CARMELO AMALFI

Self-styled coastal gypsy Annie Boyd was cruising north when she closed in on Australia's oldest Portuguese shipwreck near Coral Bay.

The flute-playing computer expert came close, within weeks, to discovering the 1816 wreck, marked in red on her map of the Ningaloo Reef off Point Cloates, in her four-wheel dune buster.

"I couldn't afford a Land-Cruiser so I went gypsy," Ms Boyd, 47, said at the site of the *Correio da Azia*, found last week by a WA Maritime Museum team of archaeologists and volunteers.

She said she put her furniture into storage and let out her Floreat flat to pursue her passion for a number of shipwrecks in WA, including SS *Koombana*, a coastal steamer that disappeared off Port Hedland in a cyclone in 1912 with the loss of 138 lives.

"I didn't want to sit in front of a

computer and get fat so I decided to chase shipwrecks," she said.

In the past decade, Ms Boyd has worked as a physics lecturer at Sydney University, a CSIRO computer programmer, roller blade manufacturer and hamburger tosser.

"I've always been interested in

'I didn't want to sit in front of a computer and get fat.'

WRECK VOLUNTEER ANNIE BOYD

shipwrecks and as a child visited the *Batavia* exhibition in East Fremantle," she said.

Having trained as a diver about 15 years ago, she took the big plunge three years ago when she joined the Underwater Explorers' Club and Maritime Archaeology Association of WA.

With the *Correio da Azia*, Ms

Boyd returned to the captain's account of the last 24 hours before the dispatch vessel was wrecked on Ningaloo Reef.

In a report to the WA Maritime Museum, which discovered iron remains of what is believed to be the *Correio* and a second wreck, she raised the possibility the *Correio* crew misjudged the reef using a flawed map drawn about 1806 by explorer Matthew Flinders.

She learnt of a reference to Flinders' charts in a copy of the account of the *Correio* wreck by Luis Antonio Da Silver Beltrao, skipper of the *Emilia*, who returned with *Correio*'s captain to look for the ship in 1817.

WA Maritime Museum archaeologist Mike McCarthy said Flinders' charts grossly underestimated the western extension of Point Cloates. "But Flinders perpetuated the errors of earlier Dutch, French and British navigators who also got it wrong."

Super Deal on Batteries for UEC members

Everyone knows how expensive buying batteries can be, especially if you are a regular Night Diver or

Photographer. UEC is now able to offer members some super prices on batteries. Due to an exclusive offer from a new member Michelle Sutherland, we are able to offer Energizer Industrial batteries in AA, C and D sizes. If there is enough demand we may be able to look at supplying other types of batteries too.

Energizer Batteries have a reputation as a premium quality brand. Energizer Industrial are the same premium quality without the retail packaging.

To give you an idea of the savings, we are offering AA batteries at 80c each, that compares with ordinary Energizers I spotted at a major hardware store on the weekend at \$1.30 each. It's a really good deal.

AA size batteries are available in a 24 pack for \$19 or in a box of 144 for \$115

C size batteries are available in a 12 pack for \$19 or a box of 72 for \$110

D size batteries are available in a 12 pack for \$26 or a box of 72 for \$156

Best of all purchasing batteries this way means that a small margin goes to UEC.

Please order your batteries via e-mail from Michelle on sutho@bekkers.com.au . The batteries will be available for pick up ONLY at General Meetings.

UEC NEWS

JUNE 2004

[Download UEC News here](#)
(pdf)



*The official monthly newsletter
for Underwater Explorers Club
of Western Australia*

PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154

Phone: 0401 775 720 (President)

[Email UEC](#)

www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

UEC general meetings are still being held on the third Wednesday of the month.

From the editor

Welcome to the June edition of UEC News. Following the exciting encounter with a mature grey nurse shark off the far end of Rottnest we have added some special reports on these endangered animals.

Recent publications have questioned the presence of any grey nurse aggregations in Western Australia and referred to the lack of encounters with grey nurse sharks here. Thankfully we can correct the second point and hopefully the first will also be uncovered in due course.

In other news there is a busy social calendar coming up that includes curry nights and winter warmers. The golden jubilee has now been clearly identified on the radar screen and you would do well to book tickets now for this exclusive event.

Club diving continues at record numbers for the club and a busy winter schedule will give us all plenty of opportunity to get wet. Coming up on the dive schedule is a chance to do some wreck diving with Transit Reef coming up on the June 20 and the *City Of York* all set for the first weekend in July. See the report below for more information on some of these wrecks.

Enjoy
Chris G.

GENERAL MEETINGS

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are now held every third Wednesday (for a trial period) at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

Email uec@space.net.au
Home Page: www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

1. **To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.**
2. **To encourage safety methods and procedure and to acquaint both Club Members and the public with the facts on safety and the use of safe, reliable equipment.**
3. **To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.**

[Click here for UEC Committee Contact Details](#)

PRESIDENTS REPORT JUNE 2004

After two unsuccessful attempts to get the boat beyond the heads in the last two weekends it looks like or Indian summer is well and truly over. Overall our season has been a tremendous success with a growing number of divers joining us. There are still the winter months coming where we are blessed with fantastic water conditions and providing the swell and wind we shall be arranging for weekend dives weather permitting.

In my report last month I mentioned the work completed by the CA Foundation group and the formalization of a Policy to cover the rights and responsibilities of all members of the club. The policy needs to state some of the following.

- A right to be treated with respect and recognition of dignity.
- A responsibility to adhere to constitution principles at all times.
- A responsibility to treat fellow members with respect.

Theses are a few of the suggestions from the report. I would like some added input from our members before we come up with a definitive policy, which we can implement in the future. If you have any suggestions can you please forward them to me for discussion.

This will be my last report from me for a couple of Months. I will be away from early July to mid September in the UK attending to some family matters and having a well-earned holiday. Unfortunately I shall be away for our 50th Birthday bash which is shaping up to be a great celebration. Get your tickets early as we need to confirm numbers with the SYC. Committee members have been discussing the future directions, which the club may follow as we look forward to 2005 and beyond. This year we have been successful in attracting younger active divers. A number of suggestions and ideas have been put on the table for consideration. Change as we have all come to accept is inevitable and it's a sign of a good organization that is dynamic and can change to suit the demands put upon it by their stakeholders. The generation change which is taking place within the club needs to be fully supported as we move forward.

An important issue that needs to be addressed is the role, which UEC needs to fulfil within the West Australian Diving scene. Would our club benefit from being the catalyst, which other smaller groups could affiliate with and thus become stronger as both organizations, grow together. There is huge potential for us to grow by attracting members of other clubs to become part of our club and remain members of there own club by a mutually beneficial affiliation. So far we have successfully affiliated with the Murdoch Underwater Divers and the

BSAC group. These ideas are worth considering and support for them will be required to allow us to move forward to establish the UEC as the leading Organisation for independent diving clubs in West Australia.

“Always laugh when you can, it is a cheap medicine. Merriment is a philosophy not well understood. It is the sunny side of existence.” Lord Byron.

Steve.

PR, WEB AND NEW MEMBER REPORT

Things have been quiet on the PR front with just a bit of work being done on 50th Anniversary promotions, mainly by Susie.

The website has had another face-lift to it's front page recently with a more complete calendar added as a link. Please keep the photos coming in. The club albums are due for refreshing soon and with the number of cameras we are seeing on the boat there must be a heap of great photos kicking around the club.

We have had a number of nominee divers in recent months as well as a number of new members join. They are all very keen divers so you've probably met them on the boat already, if not you are bound to see them diving soon, so say hello to Tanya Dewhurst, Daniel Simms, Spencer Shute and Jules Holliday. I think that's everyone ... yell out if I've missed anyone. We are endeavouring to keep better track of nominees and possible new members, (it's not an easy task) but if any member knows anyone who is interested in joining the club and would like me to contact them, please let me know.

Chris Cunnold

TRAINING REPORT

Oxygen Therapy Kit Training - 14th June 8pm at Swan Yacht Club

A training night will be held covering the use of the oxygen therapy kit. Providing oxygen is routinely done in the early treatment of diving related problems/injuries. Being able to competently use the oxygen therapy kit has obvious advantages for a scuba diver so please come along, the more members that know how to use this equipment the better.

PROPERTY REPORT

It appears there are quite a few personal items that get left on the boat each week e.g. hats, scarves, clothing, etc. If any of these items are yours could you please remove them at your earliest convenience? Otherwise, they will be *seized* by the property officer and held at an undisclosed location, fetching a minimum 50c fine per item (depending on size) for release to their rightful owner. If not claimed within a reasonable time, these items will be auctioned off at the next general meeting (or donated to charity).

Nicole

SOCIAL REPORT

Hi there folks.

Our last social function was the Python, Pasta & Popcorn night and what a hoot that was. A big thank you to the 40 people turned up to enjoy Carmine's amazing cooking and then watch "The Life of Brian" at UEC's first Outdoor Cinema. Many thanks to Karl for supplying the quiz questions. (Note to self: It's really hard for people to fill out answers in the dark...Doh!!!!!!) We had so much fun many people have asked if this will become an annual event, I for one certainly hope so.

Cheers for now and don't forget to book for the social events coming up.

Your Social Dancing Damsel
Jasmine

Upcoming Events

26th June 2004 - Curry Commotion

Too cold to dive????? Look what we have for you.....

Rachel has once again offered to host one of her legendary CURRY NIGHTS. Just what you need to thaw out. Once you have eaten your fill of delightful curry we will get your blood pumping withwait for it.....PARTY GAMES..... When was the last time you played "Adult sized Twister" or done the Limbo????? It's always the kids that get to have all the fun, now it's our turn.....

Date: June 26th 2004
Cost: \$15 per head
You get: Lots of wonderful warming curries with all the trimmings
Address: 9 Hollis Street, Samson (near Freo)
Time: 7pm
RSVP: Booking and payment by Tuesday 22nd June
BYO: Drinks
Contact: Jasmine Ph: 9414 8849 Email: JasmineLyons141@hotmail.com

17th July 2004 - Winter Warmer Wonderland

Come and be warmed from the inside out at Kerry and Susie's WINTER WARMER

What you get...	Wonderful Swedish Glögg (warm red wine with spices and vodka) American Hotdogs in a bun Marshmallows for roasting
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There will be a Mexican Oven fired up and a HUGE open fire in a drum and the whole backyard decorated with candles.

And there's more...
There will be a prize for the "BEST WINTER WARMER"
(AS Suzie says "Use your imagination" ;-)

What it costs... All this for \$15
Time: 7.00pm
RSVP... Bookings and payment must be made by
Wednesday 14th July

Contact: Kerry & Susie Ph 9331 2385 Email kasdivers@swiftdsl.com.au

UEC Golden Jubilee Anniversary Ball

28th August 2004

I hope you are all getting ready and excited about celebrating a huge milestone for the UEC. This will be an even not to be missed. Please don't forget to ask all your family, friends and dive buddies. We want to share our party with everyone.

You will enjoy

A welcoming drink on arrival
Special celebrity guests
Sumptuous 5 course dinner
Great door and spot prizes
Audio visual displays
Live music by **Jerry Azor**
(Internationally renowned singer)

Venue: Swan Yacht Club, East Fremantle
Date: Saturday 28th August 2004
Time: 7pm pre dinner drinks
7.45pm sit down to dinner
Cost: \$70 per person
Dress: Formal
RSVP: Limited tickets – secure your seat/table by **23rd July 2004**
Contact: Susie Ph 9331 2385 email kasdivers@swiftdsl.com.au

BOAT REPORT

I am pleased to report that the boat is running extremely well. With all the good weather lately, this has put our boat to the test as far as reliability and performance goes as the boat has been in almost constant use.

As with all boats they require constant care and attention. Ours is no exception.

In the last two months these items have been attended to.

The radio and antenna has been replaced due to the fact that it was no longer reliable and we could not contact Fremantle Rescue from Rotto.

The mast head light no longer worked because it was all corroded.

The container for the power steering fluid was cracked and needed replacing.

The pulley on the power steering pump needed realigning and the belt replaced.

These are on going tasks which need doing. Also the fact that the boat is not new, upgrading and replacing existing equipment is part and parcel of owning such a vessel as the "Underwater Explorer". Once again, thank you to all the UEC members who helped with the maintenance. It's good to see that the skippers have mastered the entry and exit of the pen thanks to the training done with Carmine.

Martin Smith.

DIVE REPORT

Abroholos Island Trip

The Abroholos Islands are an archipelago consisting of 108 islands 60Km off the coast from Geraldton. The pristine waters around these islands are home to a maze of reefs and channels that very few get the opportunity to explore. You will expect to see coral trout, red emperor, crayfish, bald chin groper, mackerel, cod, dolphins, seals, turtles, sharks, whales...

Malibu Diving are organising a number of trips to the Abroholos Islands during September this year. Diving from the Cape Cruiser, accommodation on one of the islands in the comfort of a 'Fisherman's Hut'. Maximum group size is 12 people.

Five day / four night trip is \$1,100* per person, which includes diving equipment, air fills, food, diving, transport to Geraldton/Abroholos and accommodation. Fishing gear is also provided for between dives!

You will need to take: bedding, warm clothing, toiletries, torches, batteries, drinks, certification, and sunscreen.

Departure dates are:

- 3 September 2004
- 9 September 2004
- 15 September 2004
- 21 September 2004
- 27 September 2004

Please let me know at the June meeting or call me on 9339 1789 by 29 June which trip suits you so that we can coordinate a group booking.

*If we can get 12 divers, you will get a discounted rate and UEC will get a bonus!



UEC Diving Activity

Diving during May was superb with record numbers going out on the boat. The highlight of the month was the last weekend – 23 on board – a grey nurse shark spotted by a couple of divers.

To make your dive bookings, call on 9339 1789 or email on tbpalmer@ca.com.au. Leave your name, number and the date you want to dive. Your registration will be entered into the diary and we will only call you if the dive is cancelled due to boat failure. Please remember to check with us the night before the dive to make sure there are enough numbers for the boat to be going out.

I will have the diary with me at the meetings and whenever I am on the boat, so you can always make your reservations then.

Date	Depart	Dive Site/ Event	Skipper	Dive Officer
June				
Saturday 12	09:00	Skippers Choice	Martin S	Mark M
Sunday 20	09:00	Transit Reef or Thompson Bay Sanctuary	Peter H	Clive C
Saturday 26	09:00	Exploratory	Kerry A	Michel R
July				
Sunday 4	09:00	City of York	Geoff C	Mark M
Sunday 11	09:00	Good Spot	Martin S	Carl A
Saturday 17	09:00	Exploratory	Bob Mc	Mark M
Sunday 25	09:00	Porpoise Bay	Geoff G	Jim R or Maureen C
Saturday 31	09:00	Skipper's Choice	Martin S	Mark M
August				
Sunday 8	09:00	One Tank – Stragglers	Peter H	Clive C
Sunday 15	09:00	Skipper's Choice	Kerry A	Carl A
Saturday 21	09:00	West Patch	Carmine T	Mark M

- Our winter dive calendar commenced Saturday 5 June – Boat departure is now 9:00 from Swan Yacht Club, unless otherwise stated.

- Please DO NOT contact the Skipper or Dive Officer to discuss weather conditions – they will decide on the day, on the boat, if the weather is suitable for the trip to proceed.
- Check with Belinda or Tony on 9339 1789 the night before to make sure there are enough numbers for the dive to go ahead.
- All dives are two-tank unless otherwise stated.
- The boat will collect you at the loading jetty (at the end of the boat sheds in the car park). **Do not take your gear to the pen.**

Dive and Boat Bookings: call Belinda / Tony on 9339 1789 or tbpalmer@ca.com.au

Grey Nurse Shark - Special Reports

Grey Nurse sightings at the West End - Chris C.

You may have heard that Chris Van Etten, Marcus, Rex and Dohn spotted a Grey Nurse Shark back in April at the West End. One of Chris' photo's has been displayed on the boat for a while now. There was also a sighting of juvenile Grey Nurse's near that site the following weekend by other divers.

For the May 29 dive it was decided to visit the spot again and search for sharks ! Marc (the human GPS) was D.O. and having a rough idea of the spot in his head managed to drop the anchor right on the cave where the previous sighting had been. There really wasn't much expectation that we would see any sharks as we plunged into the water. Nicole and I weren't first in, but we were the first to head forward to the anchor and into the large cavern beneath it. We had dropped right down to the sandy bottom inside the cavern when I looked skyward and framed by the large opening I saw the silhouette of a reasonable size Grey Nurse Shark (it was about 6 or 7ft long). Surprisingly it was excitement that gripped me rather than fear as I reached out to grab Nicole's BC and nearly tore it off her back trying to get her attention. The shark hovered in the opening of the cavern just checking us out. We swam closer and it 'paced' back and forth a couple of times in the cavern opening. After a couple of minutes it gracefully turned and swam away. We pursued, but it was quickly out of sight as the viz. wasn't that good.

After a short rest to get our heart rates down we continued with the rest of the dive , which was fantastic. I didn't see all that much as I spent most of the time looking up into the water above hoping for another glimpse of the shark.

'Did you get a photo ?' they all asked on the boat. I did try, however it was one of 'those' moments, and pressing every button on the housing at once only served to confuse the camera's digital mind and it turned itself off. I didn't spend too much time trying to get it to work again as I didn't want to miss the sight altogether.

The swell was dropping away to nothing so we topped off the day with another great dive at Richard's Pot Luck. 20 of us dived, and it all went smoothly enough for the Skipper and DO to get in 2 dives as well. Another fantastic day !

Chris C.

Grey Nurse Sharks *Carcharias taurus* - by Dallis S.



Photo by Chris Van Etten

There are over 370 species of sharks world wide, 166 occur in Australian waters. Grey nurse sharks are known as *Carcharias taurus*. The family they belong to is Odontaspidae which is then divided into two genera; *Carcharias* and *Odontaspis*. Two species (both genera) occur in Australian waters; the Grey Nurse Shark (pictured above) and herbivorous nurse shark *Odontaspis ferox*.

The grey nurse shark (*Carcharias taurus*) is one of Australia's most endangered marine species. Despite not being a threat to man, it was hunted almost to extinction during the 1960s due to its fierce appearance. Today, activities such as fishing and diving continue to impact on the sharks. It is estimated that there are less than 500 left along Australia's east coast.

It appears that the Grey Nurse Shark population of Western Australia may be larger than originally thought; however, at these catch rates it is inevitable that this population will also decline. Without extra protection, the species could be extinct within 40 years. The grey nurse shark is listed as endangered under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

To date, there have been no distribution surveys in Western Australian waters for Grey Nurse Sharks. Therefore, no Grey Nurse Shark aggregation sites in Western Australia have been identified, and hence, no sites critical to the survival of Grey Nurse Sharks have been proposed for WA at this stage. The identification of sites in Western Australia will be difficult, as it is not known where the species occurs. It is recommended that a distribution survey, similar to the project run by NSW Fisheries, be initiated in Western Australia. Unlike New South Wales and Queensland, there are no known sites in Western Australia where divers can regularly observe Grey Nurse Sharks.

Habitat:

The family Odontaspidae is recorded throughout the world oceans. Grey Nurse Sharks are found in tropical and temperate waters in the Atlantic, Indian and western Pacific Oceans, although the species is known by different common names in different regions. It has been

recorded in all states of Australia except Tasmania. The Grey Nurse Shark lives in shallow coastal waters from the surf zone down to 60m, although it has been recorded from water as deep as 190m. During the day, they are generally found in the vicinity of dropoffs, caves and ledges

Description:

The Grey Nurse Shark grows to a length of 3.6m. Males mature at 2.1m and females at 2.2m. Many sharks including the grey nurse have a tail with a long upper lobe and a shorter lower lobe. This type of tail is described as heterocercal. When a shark swims the large upper lobe of the tail tends to push the snout of the shark down. This is balanced by the lift produced by the pectoral fins and the ventral surface of the snout.

Grey Nurse Sharks are countershaded, the dorsal (upper) part is dark, mostly a grey to bronzy colour whereas the ventral (lower) part of the body is pale. Many fishes that swim in open water are countershaded. This adaptation results in the fish being difficult to see from above because the dark colour of the dorsal surface of the fish blends into the dark colour of the water below. It helps to make the fish also less visible from below because the light colour of the underside of the fish is less noticeable against the light shining from above. Juveniles have reddish or brownish spots on the posterior (back) half of the body and tail. These spots often fade as the shark ages, but are sometimes still visible on adults.



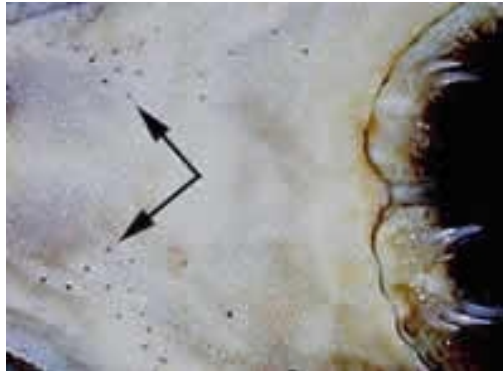
Photo by Dallis Strick

Electroreception:

Sharks have the same five senses as humans; taste, touch, sight, hearing and smell, but in addition have a sixth sense; electroreception. The underside of the Grey Nurse Shark's snout is dotted with pores. Each of these leads to an organ (ampula of Lorenzini) which can detect electricity.

Sharks can detect very weak electrical currents. This extra sense gives sharks the ability to detect and attack prey at close range without needing to see the prey item. This can be advantageous in murky water or if the shark is a bottom feeder which relies on finding prey buried in the sediment.

The electroreception capabilities of sharks also gives them the ability to navigate using the Earth's magnetic field. This is possible because an electrical conductor (the shark) moving through a magnetic field (the Earth's) generates an electrical field through the conductor. Sharks can navigate by responding to changes in this electrical field.



Sharp Pointed Teeth:

In some parts of the world, the Grey Nurse Shark is known as the Spotted Ragged-Tooth. The reason for this name is obvious. This species has fang-like teeth which are visible when the shark's mouth is closed. Grey Nurse Sharks are not however the "maneaters" that some people thought in the past.

The teeth of the Grey Nurse Shark are constantly being replaced. Grey nurse can actually replace up to 30,000 teeth in their lifetime. This means that older, damaged or blunt teeth on the exterior surfaces of the jaws are replaced by new teeth.



Large Oily Liver:

Many bony fishes have a structure called a swim bladder which is used to control buoyancy. No shark has a swim bladder. Instead, sharks have different buoyancy regulating mechanisms that involve the liver and fins. The oily liver of the Grey Nurse Shark has been developed to a huge degree and occupies a large proportion of the body cavity. Shark oil is lighter than seawater and this gives the shark buoyancy.

The Grey Nurse Shark also swallows air at the surface, and holds it in the stomach. This provides buoyancy and enables the shark to hang almost motionless above the bottom. An interesting little fact is that when a shark is released in to a new aquarium it needs to be lifted to the surface for its first gulp of air or it will sink.

Reproduction:

The Grey Nurse Shark has an interesting twist to its reproduction, which begins, like all sharks with internal fertilization. The female shark has two uteri and the male shark has two claspers. The developing young are enclosed in egg cases within each uterus of the female. They hatch from the egg cases at about 55mm in length and then eat not only unfertilised eggs, but also their brothers and sisters. After about nine to twelve months two young are born, one from each uterus. When born the grey nurse young are somewhere between 1-1.5 metres in length.

The Grey Nurse Shark is ovoviviparous, it produces eggs which hatch inside the female and have no placental connection. Other sharks such as the Port Jackson Shark lay eggs (oviparous sharks), or have a true placental attachment and give birth to live young (viviparous sharks), such as the blue shark, *Prionace glauca*. The Grey Nurse Shark is not the only shark in which the young are oophagous (egg eaters). Other sharks include the Shortfin Mako Shark and Porbeagle Shark.

Diving requirements outlined in the recovery plan for the grey nurse shark Australia :

Diving restrictions have been put together in Queensland to help protect the grey nurse shark and its habitat. When undertaking any more diving excursions to look for grey nurse sharks we should pay attention to these.

Divers in the grey nurse shark areas must not:

- Dive between 6pm and 6am;
- Touch or feed a grey nurse shark;
- Chase, harass or interrupt the swimming patterns or interfere with a grey nurse shark's natural behaviour.
- Attempt to block cave entrances or gutters, or entrap grey nurse sharks;
- Use mechanical or electro-acoustic apparatus including, but not limited to, scooters, horns and shark-repelling devices. Commercial operators may use equipment required for diving under the *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995*; and
- Dive as part of a group of more than 10 divers. Tourist operators may have groups of up to 12 divers, provided the extra divers are either instructors or guides.

Hope you enjoyed.
Dallis

Special Report on the wrecks of Denton Holme and SS Macedon

As it is proposed to dive the Thompson Bay Marine Reserve (Transit Reef) on Sunday June 20 it's a good time to brush up on the facts about the two wrecks you will see in this area, Denton Holme and the SS Macedon.

The wrecks are both in about 6m of water and are very close to each other. You can see both in one dive. One section of the hull of Denton Holme is only 2m below the surface.

SS Macedon

SS Macedon was an Iron Screw Steamer of about 500 tonnes. She was lost in 1883 after leaving Fremantle with a Survey party, horses and stores on board, bound for the Kimberly area of W.A. It was known the evening before that the Kingston Spit Marker buoy at Rottnest had gone missing but the warning had not reached Captain Craig in time. Later he blamed himself and had his licence suspended for three months, but added that steaming in to the sun with a large number of passengers and the Kingston marker missing had contributed to his error. Possibly the glass of whisky he had consumed was a factor also.

SS Macedon struck Transit Reef at 5.40pm and that night was spent trying to refloat her. Eventually she was freed at 6.30 the next morning, only to then strike another rock pinnacle which damaged the hull seriously and it rapidly filled with water. After wrestling with the elements for twenty four hours SS Macedon was finally abandoned at 6pm the day after the original grounding.

Some salvage of rigging and a steam anchor was successful by the owners at the time however later attempts by divers were abandoned due to bad weather and after the loss of some diving equipment. A lot of artefacts were removed illegally from this site during the seventies and eventually the museum removed everything they could to save items from being looted, including a divers helmet from the era (probably the lost diving equipment).

Denton Holme

Denton Holme was a iron barque of nearly 1000 tonnes, built in Glasgow in 1863. She was wrecked on Transit Reef on September 24 1890 on a trip from Glasgow, Scotland to Fremantle carrying a cargo of iron pipes, cement and alcohol. Seven years after the SS Macedon this vessel came very close to land in heavy seas and upon sighting the breakers of Transit Reef Captain Rich ordered a tack to starboard, however before the vessel responded she had hit the reef. A pilot boat was sent and every effort was made to reduce the damage, including dropping all the sails to stop her being blown further onto the reef. When SS Rescue arrived from Fremantle, Denton Holme was found to be lodged heavily with huge seas breaking over the stern pushing the vessel further on to the reef and it appeared she would break up. The seventeen crew were transported to shore.

Salvage attempts were hindered by heavy seas and by October 1 1890 Denton Holme had broken in two. By October 8 the beaches between Robb Jetty and Woodman Point were littered with cases of alcohol. In the next year a salvage diver was appointed which resulted in two of the salvors being charged for smuggling alcohol from the wreck.

In the wash up it became clear that Captain Rich had been reluctant to make radical changes of direction with the ship as the cargo of iron pipes had come loose in the hold three weeks beforehand and the ship was quite unstable. It was as a result of the inquiry into the Denton Holme loss that Rottnest Island got it's first telegraph connection and more navigation markers.

It is also interesting that despite all the documentation of the vessel's whereabouts, UEC and Hugh Edwards are officially credited with finding the wreck in 1956.

Along with the wreck of the Janet on Transit reef, these vessels highlight how treacherous this area of water was without proper markings. It's difficult to comprehend this era of shipping when today we are able to slip over to Rottnest in 40 minutes and dive on these wrecks in relative comfort.

This information and much more is available on the Maritime Museum 'wreckfinder' website at: www.mm.wa.gov.au/Museum/march/shipwrecks/Wreckfinder/home.html
There is also a permanent link to the Maritime Museum on the UEC website.

Chris C.

Notices

Swan Yacht Club Social Memberships

You should have received your SYC social membership renewals by now. Please pay the membership fee of \$25 direct to our Treasurer, Clive. Don't pay SYC direct. There are benefits to UEC by having Clive pay SYC for these memberships. Clive should be able to provide you with a new 04/05 parking sticker once these are paid.

If you aren't a social member at the SYC, you should consider it. What do you get ? UEC members only pay \$25 for social membership, that's a 50% discount for a start. You get a SYC parking permit sticker, which is very handy during summer as you don't spend all day on the boat worrying about returning to a parking fine. SYC also sends you a discount meal voucher on your birthday and the SYC newsletter. Plus you have access to all the facilities and social events at SYC. Ask for a membership application form at the next UEC general meeting.

Entertainment Book Fundraiser

The club is currently offering entertainment books for sale at a cost of \$60. The books offer an enormous range of discount vouchers covering everything from restaurants and museums to outdoor cinemas and pretty much any other Perth hotspot that you can think of. They are valid for 12 months and can easily pay for themselves and more.

The books will be available for examination/purchase at the next general meeting.

Super Deal on Batteries for UEC members



Last month was the first time UEC offered these batteries and there was a big demand so the club will continue to make them available. Don't miss your chance to save money on these

batteries. Remember it's not just diving you may need them for.

Everyone knows how expensive buying batteries can be, especially if you are a regular Night Diver or Photographer. UEC is now able to offer members some super prices on batteries. Due to an exclusive offer from a new member Michelle Sutherland, we are able to offer Energizer Industrial batteries in AA, C and D sizes. If there is enough demand we may be able to look at supplying other types of batteries too.

Energizer Batteries have a reputation as a premium quality brand. Energizer Industrial are the same premium quality without the retail packaging.

To give you an idea of the savings, we are offering AA batteries at 80c each, that compares with ordinary Energizers I spotted at a major hardware store recently at \$1.30 each. It's a really good deal.

AA size batteries are available in a 24 pack for \$19 or in a box of 144 for \$115

C size batteries are available in a 12 pack for \$19 or a box of 72 for \$110

D size batteries are available in a 12 pack for \$26 or a box of 72 for \$156

Best of all purchasing these batteries means that a small margin goes to UEC. If you don't have a use for batteries yourself maybe you know someone who does. Anyone with toys, remote control models etc.

Please order your batteries via e-mail from Michelle on sutho@bekkers.com.au

The batteries will be available for pick up ONLY at General Meetings.

Prawn Bay Tidal Wetland Community Planting Day

A prawn bay tidal wetland planting day has been scheduled on Sunday 13 June 2004 from 10am to 1pm.

Come along to the Foreshore Johanna Street, North Fremantle

BYO: Garden Trowel. Provided: Drinks and BBQ

UEC Winter Polar Fleece and Polo Shirt orders

It's that time of year again, so now instead of freezing after those lovely winter dives you can be toasty warm in a UEC Fleece.

We are about to place an order, so if you are interested in a Polar Fleece or Polo shirts please let me know. I have a catalogue which I can e-mail scanned pics of the products from and I also have some samples of each fleece style (all medium sizes though) if you would like to catch up with me to try them for size. Prices have gone up a bit from last year, but they are still very in-expensive for what you get.

Polar Fleece Full zip style \$ 45

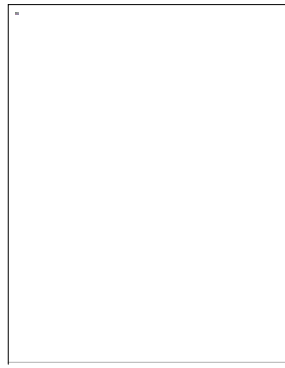
Polar Fleece 1/2 zip style \$ 40
Polar Fleece Vest style \$ 35
'Birds eye' Polo shirts \$ 29

Please contact Chris Cunnold to order.

UEC NEWS

AUGUST 2004

[Download UEC News here \(pdf\)](#)



*The official monthly newsletter for
Underwater Explorers Club of
Western Australia*

PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154

Phone: 0401 775 720 (President)

[Email UEC](mailto:uec@space.net.au)

www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

From the editor

Hi everyone,

Dallis and I have returned from our jaunt through Europe. Many thanks to Chris C. for filling in for the July newsletter during my absence. Europe was fantastic and a warm escape from our winter cold - but I should not complain about the cold after reading Steve's report on UK diving and personally seeing some of those lakes that Robert Buetler used to dive (now that would be cold!)

Plenty of content this month with extra reports on our Avon Descent involvement, Port Jackson Sharks, and a new Geraldton wreck. Belinda has also organised plenty of opportunities to get some diving done with a busy calendar for the coming weekends.

Don't forget the 50th

Dinner coming up this month, there have been a huge number of tickets sold and it is shaping up to be a fantastic night. Jasmine is after a few more helpers to prepare the venue so if you could spare some time for the clubs big night let her know (see the contact details listed below).

Hope to see you all there
Chris G.

GENERAL MEETINGS

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are now held every third Wednesday (for a trial period) at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

Email uec@space.net.au

Home Page: www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedure and to acquaint both Club Members and the public with the facts on safety and the use of safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

[Click here for UEC Committee Contact Details](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sorry but my Presidents report for this month is going to be short as I only have limited access to the Internet. It is surprising how quickly you start suffering with e-mail withdraw symptoms by not being able to access the Internet whenever you wish too. Since my arrival here in Weymouth UK on 7th July I have been gainfully occupied by mixing work at my folks house and catching up with friends and relies. I have also been checking the e -mails from UEC of all your activities when I can get space to log on at the local library. It's great to again see the involvement of the UEC at the Avon Descent and the usual fast and effective organisation that Carmine has been able to get together at such short notice. The support, as usual, from our members for this event is great too see.

The South Coast of Dorset particularly where I am staying is a Mecca for UK diving with abundant wrecks scattered all over the local waters. Some of these wrecks are very deep in excess of 60 meters and the growth of Deep technical Diving here has been rapid. There are reported to be over half a million recreational divers here in the UK so the demand for facilities and organisations to accommodate this growth is everywhere. They do however experience problems with safety. Last weekend there was 3 emergency rescues just in this local area where 3 unfortunate individuals had to be airlifted by the Search and Rescue Helicopter from their boats and flown to the nearest recompression facilities. It has not been confirmed as to the circumstances or causes of these incidents but it does reinforce the issues of Safety. Fortunately there were no fatalities from these incidents, but in North Wales a very experienced deep tech diver was lost presumed drowned during this last week.

The equipment available is mind blowing with majority of divers using full dry suits with very comfortable under suit thermal wear allowing diving to continue all year round, weather permitting. The tech divers are using a variety of combinations or gas mixtures all carefully pre-planned prior to any deep dive. One of the guys who I used to dive with here tells me that it is not uncommon to find that dives down to over 60 meters are carried out solo by some of the more advanced divers who do not wish to find themselves responsible for a buddy who may not be capable of performing such advanced diving. It certainly is an eye opener for me. My conclusion from what I have seen here is that recreational sport diving is continuing to grow rapidly and our future as a club is dependant on us being able to provide a variety of diving options to enable both existing members and potential new members a mix of diving activities which will attract those active divers to our club. The focus on "diving for a purpose" has never been clearer.

The 50th birthday celebration plans have gone well. I shall be thinking of you all on the 28th August as you celebrate this remarkable achievement for a voluntary sporting organisation which has proven to be so successful since its formation in 1954. Regretfully I shall not be there but will take some timeout here to celebrate. The next 50 years will be just as exciting.

Take care
Steve.

PR, Website and New Member Report

We will be spending time this month promoting the 50th Anniversary Ball to the media. Hopefully we will at least get some coverage from the local newspapers. Our special diving / political guest (and media drawcard) Jim McGinty has had to cancel his acceptance to attend, which is unfortunate but won't detract from the extravaganza the 50th committee have planned.

The proposed members link page on the UEC website is still in the pipeline. Please let me know (cunnold@iinet.net.au) if you would like your personal, business or work website listed on this page.

The committee are still receiving lots of enquiries about membership which is good for this time of year. From our communications we are anticipating a big influx of new members when the weather begins to warm up and a big 04/05 diving season.

Chris Cunnold

SAFETY REPORT

It was great to see a lot of new and potential members at the last club meeting. I would like to say, especially to these people, what my roll as safety officer is in the club. As safety officer my duties are to look after the day to day safety issues which may arise with our dive boat and the way and how we dive. I will also deal with any safety concerns members have and if necessary take them to committee to be resolved. So please do not hesitate if you know or see of anything that you feel could be improved upon or practises that should be adopted. You can see me at the club meetings or email at rexbur@bigpond.com

Quite a few of us board the boat not knowing with whom we are going to dive with on the day. I find it a good idea to link up with someone early in the trip. This gives some time to get to know the person who you will dive with. You can find out each others abilities or problems they have eg. Equalizing, weights, new equipment, or not being familiar with local conditions. I find it also good practice to establish who will lead the dive, basic hand signals, (100 bar), back to boat etc which could either make or break the dive.

The gas bottles on board the boat are stored along with the inflatable's fuel tank upstairs when the boat is not being used or in its pen. This is a Swan Yacht Club rule for pen holders. The gas bottle has been removed for inspection, repair or replacement as necessary .The small gas bottle was found to be leaking. Chris Wilkinson has kindly offered to do this work and he will also use his gas detector to check for any gas pockets which may have accumulated below deck .So please no smoking below deck until this work has been carried out.

If anyone has any 12mm marine ply lying around let me know as I am presently organising the seating and backrest upstairs on the boat. This will allow more seats and more comfort cause come summer we will need them.

Safe Diving, Rex....

SOCIAL REPORT

Well what can I say, it's August already and that means not many sleeps till our BIG 50th Anniversary Celebrations.

You should all have returned you tickets to Susie by now and are frantically searching out you best glad rags for the big night.

I have had a couple of people reply to my request to help decorate the room but would really appreciate a few more. I still need people for Friday to help create the decorations, (it's not difficult work and guaranteed we will have lots of fun) and then on Saturday I need people not afraid to climb ladders.

So now to past glories:

The Curry Commotion Night

We had a great turnout for our curry night. Rachel's legendary status as a curry cook was well and truly lived up to. The only complaint that I heard all night came from Martin who was upset that there weren't any leftovers for him to snaffle.

A big thank you to Ilonka for offering her house for us all to invade.

Susie's Winter Warmer

Looks like everyone who attended the Winter Warmer had a wonderful time. I so wish I could have been there. Here is Susie's report.

We could not have asked for a more PERFECT evening. Sunshine during the day so it was a pleasant task to "prepare" the garden and then a totally wind free night so all the candles didn't blow out. Plenty of sausages and glögg. People really liked the warm Swedish wine brew. Some left the party at 2300 and the last bunch of people sat around the big fire chatting and "toasting" marshmallows and sausages till 12 midnight. We had 22 people here and made a nice little profit.

Susie

I would like to extend a huge thanks to Rachel and Susie for organising these nights.

Cheers

Jasmine

Your Social Dancing Damsel Fish.

BOAT REPORT

I am happy to report that the boat is running well and it's been getting some use lately thanks to the fine weather.

Finally that nagging problem with the starboard motor losing coolant is fixed. This is good news as we were concerned the problem may have been in the turbo or the intercooler. Luckily it was just a nasty "hidden" hose.

Some of you may have noticed our anchor has a bent tip. Well after contacting the supplier they have agreed to supply another one. It's taken 4 weeks to arrive but it's here and it didn't cost us a cent.

It is almost that time of year when we take the boat out of the water for her annual bottom painting. The good news is that that's about all that needs doing.

The boat is looking in good mechanical shape for next summer so lets plan ahead to use her.

Martin Smith

DIVE REPORT

UEC Diving Activity

The diving schedule for September is to be confirmed as the boat will be coming out for general maintenance and her annual once over in preparation for the busy dive season ahead of us.

Key Biscayne

The Key Biscayne is a sunken oil rig, lying upside down between 26 and 42 metres of water and is considered by many to be one of the premier wreck dive sites in our waters. The wreck has become a marine habitat, boasting groper, dhufish, Port Jackson, lionfish, eels, wobbegong as well as colourful corals.

The UEC are planning a weekend to the Key Biscayne in late October so to make sure of your space, let me know of your intention to join the trip.

See you in the water soon!



Belinda

To make your dive bookings, call on 9339 1789 or email on tbpalmer@ca.com.au. Leave your name, number and the date you want to dive. Your registration will be entered into the diary and we will only call you if the dive is cancelled due to boat failure.

Please remember to check with us the night before the dive to make sure there are enough numbers for the boat to be going out.

I will have the diary with me at the meetings and whenever I am on the boat, so you can always make your reservations then.

Date	Depart	Dive Site/ Event	Skipper	Dive Officer
August				
Sunday 15	09:00	Skipper's Choice	Kerry A	Carl A
Saturday 21	09:00	West Patch	Carmine T	Mark M
September				
Saturday 4	09:00	Transit Wrecks	Martin S	Carl A
Sunday 12	09:00	Be on board! Skipper's Choice	Peter H	Clive C
Saturday 18	09:00	Rusty Divers – come on ... get your gear wet!	Kerry A	Mark M
Sunday 26	09:00	Exploratory	Bob Mc	Chris G or Dallis G
October				
Saturday 2	08:00	Flat Top	Carmine T	Carl A
Sunday 10	08:00	Skipper's Choice	Martin S	Mark M
Saturday 16	08:00	Exploratory	Kerry A	Steve L (?)
Sunday 24	08:00	Swirl Reef	Peter H	Clive C
Friday 29 to Sunday 31	TBA	Key Biscayne	TBA	TBA

Our winter dive calendar is in full swing – boat departure is now 9:00 from Swan Yacht Club, unless otherwise stated. We will recommence our 8:00 departures in October.

Please DO NOT contact the Skipper or Dive Officer to discuss weather conditions – they will decide on the day, on the boat, if the weather is suitable for the trip to proceed.

Check with Belinda or Tony on 9339 1789 the night before to make sure there are enough numbers for the dive to go ahead.

All dives are two-tank unless otherwise stated.

The boat will collect you at the loading jetty (at the end of the boat sheds in the car park). **Do not take your gear to the pen.**

Dive and Boat Bookings: call Belinda / Tony on 9339 1789 or tbpalmer@ca.com.au

Avon Descent 2004 Support

We didn't think we were invited this year but the Avon committee left it to the very last minute before deciding that they really did need our help. Never phased by a challenge, Carmine stepped up to the plate and organised everything with only two weeks notice. When we began arriving on Friday night Carmine and Carol and some helpers already had a HUGE shelter up which was kitted out with all the comforts of home (nearly).

Friday night was very low key.

After dinner and a briefing from the ASU (Avon Support Unit) chief we all hit our tents fairly early due to a 4am

start on Saturday. There was no need for an alarm clock in the morning however as the freight trains past the campsite were very regular, loud and seemed to take 25 minutes to pass (earplugs next year).

4am you must be kidding. Yes it was freezing first thing but the campsite was still buzzing with activity amongst the fog. At UEC HQ the cooked breakfasts were already well underway. The crews were off by 5am

leaving the support crew to clean up our mess and begin lunches. UEC were split up amongst all the ASU crews and our group ended up at Extracts Weir. We arrived in the dark and the fog and foam over the water looked like a Hitchcock movie. We were soon allocated jobs for the day, flag marshalling and crowd control were the main ones and luckily no-one ended up needing to get wet due to the new aids on the weir preventing too much congestion. The day warmed up and turned out to be beautiful and it went quickly too, as we constantly had news crews and public to deal with. We were in a good position here as once the paddlers had cleared the weir and their anxiety level (due to the weir crossing) had dropped they all had huge grins and were very friendly. The days efforts wound up with a quiet drink at the pub in Toodyay.

Saturday night was 'Bronto' steak night (I felt like Fred Flintstone) which were cooked 'a la Trav' on the BBQ. We joined the rest of the rescue crews for drinks around the fire and watched an impromptu fancy dress competition (I still think the stalker should have won !) and retired much later with ear plugs kindly donated by Clive Cass, as we had a 7am start on Sunday.

On Sunday our crew worked Bells Rapids. The drive down the valley along the river the whole way was spectacular, once again the fog filled the valleys and we got to see most of the river the competitors had in front of them .

Down at Bells it was clear and warm as we set up. There was no crowd control needed here and somehow UEC members got all the wet jobs. It turned out that the main reason to get wet was to cool off as we occasionally felt like seals sitting on the rocks in black wetsuits and had to jump in to cool down.

Dohn

actually got in to the water to free a couple of paddlers from the rapids and we thought we may have had some action towards the end of the day when someone was reported as being unconscious on the shore she was very grumpy when we woke her up ! All too soon it was time to head for home.

A fantastic weekend all things considered the fun of camping and roughing it (kind of) in an exotic location (kind of) with good food, great company and new friends. We all would like to express a big thanks to Carmine, Carol, Sandy

and Alison who fed and accommodated us in style. And a pat on the back to Clive Cass, Chris Cunnold, Chris Golding, Wendy Hutchison, Jasmine Lyons, Mark Maddern, Clive Mitchell, Malcolm Roberts, Martin Smith, Robert Stagg, Rachel Stone, Dallis Strick, Chris van Etten and David Zuiddam. Plus a special mention for Dohn Taylor who split his time between UEC and ASU. Best of all we raised a handsome amount of money for the UEC.

Chris Cunnold

p.s. There's a rumour that some UEC members may be entering the event next year so you'll need to keep an eye out for further developments they will not let you enter a hovercraft Mark ! Don't forget to keep a look out for the photos on the website soon.

Special Report - Port Jackson Sharks



Photo taken by Chris Cunnold at Robs jetty.

Common name: Port Jackson sharks (originally discovered in Sydney Harbour area, which was previously known as Port Jackson).

Scientific Name: *Heterodontus portusjacksoni*

Heteros- different (greek)

dont- teeth (greek)

Refers to the pointed front teeth and the blunt rear teeth

Family: Heterodontidae (are the Horned Sharks)

There are over 370 species of sharks world wide, 166 of which occur in Australian waters. The family Heterodontidae has eight species all in the genus *Heterodontus*, three of which are found in Australian waters. These are the Port Jackson Shark *Heterodontus portusjacksoni*, the Zebra Horn Shark *Heterodontus zebra* and the *Heterodontus galeatus* crested horn shark.

Distribution in Australia: The family Heterodontidae is found in tropical and temperate marine waters in depths down to 275m, although most are found in depths less than 100m. The Port Jackson Shark occurs in southern Australian waters from southern Queensland south to Tasmania and west to the central coast of Western Australia

Port Jackson Sharks have been caught as far north as York Sound in Western Australia. The species has been recorded only once from New Zealand. Studies of Port Jackson Shark genetics suggest there may be two populations in Australia, one occurring from southern Queensland to New South Wales and the second from northeastern Victoria to Western Australia

Habitat: Sheltered and moderately exposed reef, seagrass; at 1 - 275 m depth.

Size/Age:

Grows to a maximum length of 1.65 m, however usually found at less than 1 m. Mature at about 10 years or 800 mm in length.



Photo from Australian fish museum website.

Venomous dorsal spines:

Two venomous spines are found anterior to (in front of) their dorsal fins. These spines provide the animal with protection from any predators attacking from above. This species is not considered dangerous, however should be handled with care. Stings cause pain, and are treated by bathing wound in hot water.



Photo from Australian fish museum website

Respiration:

Port Jackson Sharks have the ability to eat and breathe at the same time. This ability is unusual for sharks which mostly need to swim with the mouth open to force water over the gills. The Port Jackson Shark can pump water into the first enlarged gill slit and out through the other four gill slits. By pumping water across the gills, the shark does not need to move to breathe. It can lie on the bottom for long periods of time and this behaviour is observed at mating time.

Movement: These bottom dwelling sharks are slow moving and docile. Port Jackson Sharks often congregate in large open caves along shallow reefs. They are nocturnal animals resting in caves and gullies during the day, coming out at night to feed.

Reproduction:

Port Jackson Sharks can migrate up to 800km north in summer, only to return in winter for the breeding season, usually to the same area and often to the same gullies and caves.



image from australian fish museum website

The breeding season is usually late winter and into the spring. At this time, divers regularly observe sharks congregating in caves, under ledges and in gutters.

Port Jackson Sharks are oviparous, the female lays eggs. The egg case is a tough, dark brown spiral about 7-8cm wide and 15cm long. It is common to see them washed up on beaches.

The egg case is soft when laid by the female. She uses her mouth to wedge the spiraled egg case into a rock crevice where it hardens, and from where one young shark emerges after ten to twelve months. The crested horn shark has a similar-looking egg case with the addition of long twisted tendrils on the bottom end. These are often attached to seaweed. Female Port Jackson Sharks mature at 11-14 years of age, whereas the males only take around 8-10 years.

Feeding:

Port Jackson Sharks generally feed at night. They have strong jaws equipped with plate-like teeth for crushing invertebrates and bivalve molluscs, such as clams and mussels.



Photo from Australian fish museum website

Teeth:

The teeth of the Port Jackson Shark are very different. They are not serrated, and the front teeth have a very different shape to those found at the back of the jaws, hence the derivation of the genus and family names. The anterior teeth are small and pointed whereas the posterior teeth are broad and flat. These teeth, are perfect for holding, breaking and then crushing and grinding the shells of molluscs and echinoderms.

References:

Underwater zoo . education at Melbourne aquarium. Fishy fact files. Australian fish museum website

Dallis

New Dive wreck for Geraldton

You may recall the 'South Tomi' making history when Australian authorities were involved in a low speed pursuit of her which took fourteen days and ended just short of South Africa in 2001. Well the time is nearing when the seized Patagonian Tooth fish trawler will find it's final resting place. With the bulk of the work done and only some final environmental inspections to be completed the scuttling is planned for September 18.

She will be sunk in 30m of water about 3 nautical miles offshore in Champion Bay which is near Geraldton's famous red and white lighthouse. The 57m ship has deck level will provide an 18m (Open water) level as well as a maximum of 30m on the ocean floor.

There is an extensive website on the vessel on the Geraldton Shire Council's site, follow the link from <http://www.geraldton.wa.gov.au/>.
Chris C.

**For Sale**

- TUSA impreg regs, with depth gauge that have just been serviced.

- TUSA X-pert BCD european small.

Both look like new as have only been on 20 something dives. Price \$500

Phone 0428914154

I work shifts so can be hard to contact. Monday, Tuesday or Thursday nights I'm normally around.
Jo Bull

Caption Clive Competition

Be quick to enter this competition by e-mailing your caption to Chris at cunnold@inet.net.au
The winner will be announced at Wednesdays General Meeting and will win whatever it is Clive has in his pants for this photo just kidding, it will be something fattening and unhealthy of course. The competition will be judged by the photographer. The judges decision will be final and no correspondence or bribery will be entered in to, except of course if you were to



UEC NEWS
SEPTEMBER
2004

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Western Australia*

PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154

Phone: 0401 775 720 (President)

[Email UEC](#)

<http://www.underwaterexplorersclub.net/>

From the editor

Hi everyone,

Welcome to the September edition of UEC news. This edition is fairly brief, the spring weather seems to have driven everyone outdoors and away from their computers. While it is a good time to get outdoors if you want to take full advantage of the conditions book on for a dive this month. Belinda has listed a busy diving schedule below.

Don't forget that the annual slipping of the boat is also coming up on the weekend of the 17th, any help from members will be appreciated.

The UEC 50th Anniversary celebration ball was a big success and I'm confident everyone had a good time. A big thankyou to all those involved in the preparations (the decorations were fantastic!). Chris C. has gathered a number of photographs from the night on our webpage that is well worth a look.

Enjoy
Chris G.

GENERAL MEETINGS

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are held every third Monday (except for Public Holidays) at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

Email uec@space.net.au

Home Page: www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

- **To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.**

- **To encourage safety methods and procedure and to acquaint both Club Members and the public with the facts on safety and the use of safe, reliable equipment.**
- **To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.**

[Click here for UEC Committee Contact Details](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Does size really matter??? A question that is asked time and time again for a variety of reasons.

I was given a number of British Scuba Aqua magazines by a relative of mine here who has recently completed his Dive Master training and is now under going training to become a club instructor with the BSAC. In one of the magazines there is a good article about the Southsea SAC, which is a branch of the BSAC. They have enjoyed great successes as a club here in the UK founded as we were in 1954. They have survived the problems of development and commercial pressures to be one of the top clubs. In the article the question was asked what is the branches greatest strengths. The answer to this question was that they have members in the club who have been around for a while to give advice and assistance on just about any diving related topic. They also have a great social side to there club which involves both members families and friends. They also have 2 RIBs which are rigid inflatable boats dive kit and a compressor. Above all everyone involved with the club is friendly and willing. The club is only as strong as the people that put in the time and effort. They also have a website and they organise diving and training in line with the guidelines of the BSAC. They have around a 120 members and there are no barriers to diving with many crossovers from other training organisations. The club has a conservation and ecology officer on there committee who just happens to be a marine expert.

My conclusion after reading this article was yes, size for a dive club does matter, and that the UEC has grown to a point where we can provide our members and future members with world class facilities. To continue this growth the club is looking at adding two new positions to the UEC Committee. One new committee position is that of an Environmental Officer to focus on the marine environment concerns and keeping us up to date with the latest information. Another role will be that of a New Members Officer to look after all those future members who show an interest in our organisation is vital for the ongoing development of the club.

The growing interest in scuba diving and the need to ensure we are Diving for a purpose will ensure the clubs success.

It has been 8 weeks since I left and only another 2 weeks before my return. From the e-mails I have received activities have been very successful. Special thanks to those special people we have in our club who have come forward to help make these special events so successful. Well done everyone for all your support of the committee.

I will be flying South again on the 17th September and look forward to catching up with everyone.

Take care and safe diving.
Steve.

PR, Website and New Member Report

The website has heaps of 50th Ball photos in the social pages and there will be more soon so keep going back to check. Thanks to all the Ball photo contributors (there are too many to list). Still on web, for the 'net nerds' amongst us there is now a page counter and statistic program attached to the site. You will see a small light blue square with a red line through it in the far left hand bottom corner of the front page, click on it and your in. It gives lots of information about hits on our site. I still have a couple of ideas brewing for the website (including the members link page I've spoken about previously) which are still coming when time permits.

On the PR front I'm hoping to get an article in Dive Log about our 50th anniversary with some pictures of the amazing balloon diver and decorations. Also on PR, with a bit of luck by now you may have seen a promo article in the Fremantle Gazette for the club. I must thank Cleve Etherington for sneaking over to S.Y.C. during his lunch break for the "swimsuit" shoot.

We have a new member promotion happening at the moment. If a new member joins this month and pays the regular annual fee they will receive September and October's membership free. That's 14 months for the price of 12. Remember that if you refer someone to the club who becomes a member you will get a free day on the boat. So get on to those dive buddies of yours who say the will join "one day" and twist their arm. Just make sure you let me know who you have referred.

Chris Cunnold

DIVE REPORT

UEC Diving Activity

The Rusty Divers trip has been put back a week because the boat is coming out for a bit of tender, loving care. This means the weather will be EVEN BETTER for this trip!

Now is the time to check that your tanks are in date, make sure that your wet suit hasn't been eaten by moths, get your gear serviced, or pick it up from the dive shop if it has been there all winter!

Make your bookings as soon as possible – this is certain to be a popular day out.

Key Biscayne

A Planning meeting for the Key Biscayne trip has been scheduled for after the next general meeting, everyone who is coming is invited (required) to attend. Any other interested members are also welcome to contribute.

See you in the water soon!

Belinda

To make your dive bookings, call on 9339 1789 or email on tbpalmer@ca.com.au. Leave your name, number and the date you want to dive. Your registration will be entered into the

diary and we will only call you if the dive is cancelled due to boat failure. Please remember to check with us the night before the dive to make sure there are enough numbers for the boat to be going out.

I will have the diary with me at the meetings and whenever I am on the boat, so you can always make your reservations then.

Date	Depart	Dive Site/ Event	Skipper	Dive Officer
September				
Saturday 4	09:00	Transit Wrecks	Martin S	Carl A
Thursday 9	18:00	Skipper Training on the boat	Carmine T	
Sunday 12	09:00	Be on board! Skipper's Choice	Peter H	Mark M
17 & 18	TBA	Busy Bee on the boat – check with Martin and Carmine for details		
Sunday 26	09:00	Rusty Divers	Bob Mc	Chris G or Dallis G
October				
		Change to Summer Departure Time		
Saturday 2	08:00	Flat Top	Carmine T	Carl A
Sunday 10	08:00	Skipper's Choice	Martin S	Mark M
Saturday 16	08:00	Exploratory	Kerry A	Steve L (?)
Sunday 24	08:00	Swirl Reef	Peter H	Clive C
Friday 29 to Sunday 31	TBA	Key Biscayne	Geoff C Martin S Carmine T	TBC
November				
Sunday 2	08:00	Season will be in full swing! Lock it in!	Martin S	Clive C
Saturday 13	08:00	You'll need to get your dive gear tested ready for the start of the Cray fishing season!	Bob Mc	Steve L
Sunday 21	08:00	Put it in your diary	Geoff G	Jim R
Saturday 27	08:00	Put it in your diary	Carmine T	Carl A
Sunday 28	08:00	One tank followed by lunch at the SYC	Peter H	Clive C

- Our dive calendar is in full swing – boat departure is still 9:00 from Swan Yacht Club, unless otherwise stated. We will recommence our 8:00 departures in October.
 - Please DO NOT contact the Skipper or Dive Officer to discuss weather conditions – they will decide on the day, on the boat, if the weather is suitable for the trip to proceed.
 - Check with Belinda or Tony on 9339 1789 the night before to make sure there are enough numbers for the dive to go ahead.
 - All dives are two-tank unless otherwise stated.
 - The boat will collect you at the loading jetty (at the end of the boat sheds in the car park). Do not take your gear to the pen.
-

Dive and Boat Bookings: call Belinda / Tony

on 9339 1789 or tbpalmer@ca.com.au

Robbs Jetty "Fingers" Debunked

Following much discussion about the presence of secondary jetties (aka fingers) branching off the end of the main jetty, Chris C. has managed to obtain an aerial photograph of the dive site (see below).

Unfortunately, there is no evidence of any 'fingers' off the main jetty. If they were there, they have been completely removed. So we can stop looking.

Any divers that claimed to have found these 'fingers' should book onto the next navigation course.



UEC NEWS

OCTOBER

2004



*The official monthly newsletter
for Underwater Explorers Club
of Western Australia*

PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154

Phone: 0401 775 720 (President)

[Email UEC](mailto:uec@space.net.au)

[Download UEC News here \(pdf\)](#)

www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

From the editor

Welcome to the October UEC News. We have a bumper edition this month, perhaps reflecting excitement of the coming season. You may have noticed the local waters warming from a chilly 16° C to a less chilly 18°C (thanks Dallis), looks like the Leeuwin Current is nearly here.

Attendance at club diving activities also reflect this excitement, see the Robbs Jetty dive report where a recent club night dive gathered a record 21 divers. Make sure you consider this when booking on upcoming dive events, get in early and avoid disappointment.

Enjoy
Chris G.

GENERAL MEETINGS

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are held on the third Wednesday of every month at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

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Presidents Report

We are fast approaching the AGM, which will be held on the 17th November 2004. At this time of year we need to start planning for next year and the very important task of selecting your committee of management who will be running your club for the next 12 months.

This year has seen our membership grow with more qualified divers joining the club. Encouraged by the enthusiasm of our current membership who have taken on some important roles within the club, we are experiencing a sea change in the direction of the future of the club. This is very exciting as new members bring with them the vitality, which a dynamic club like ours absorbs and moves forward, in a positive direction.

The future direction of the club is in the hands of you the members and if you want to get involved with assisting on the committee then you will be welcome.

We are looking at changing the roles of Building officer and Property Officer to New Member Liaison Officer and Environmental Officer. We need enthusiastic members to take up these and the existing roles on the committee to enhance the continuing progress of your club.

Just when you think that everything is going along well the gremlins strike. One of the boat motors went into self-destruction. First diagnosis was that it could be fixed, upon further investigation by a marine engineer it was found that the damage was worse than anticipated and that the costs of rebuilding the damaged motor would be very high. In short we have proceeded with the purchase of a new motor which our Boating Officer Martin will explain in more depth at the upcoming general meeting.

Thanks to the technical skills and experience of Martin and his team of mechanical geniuses we have moved forward and hopefully the new motor will be installed and the boat will be running again shortly.

This of course has been a disappointing set back for us but we are a strong vibrant club and we will recover from this setback. I would like to thank Martin and his team for all the extra effort they have put into getting the boat back into service as quickly as possible.

The soaring cost of diesel is going to impact on our running costs for the future. The cost has risen by 20% in the past 4 months. We have discussed raising the costs of dives and one idea put forward is to charge a fuel levy to cover this rise which will be added to the cost of each trip. Nothing has been finalized yet but your input is important so if you have any ideas about how we can keep our charges down we would very much like your views.
That's all from me this time.

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle", Albert Einstein (1879 – 1955).

Take care.
Steve.

PR, Website and New Member Report

It's all been a bit quiet on the PR front except for some great coverage from Maureen on Eoin Cameron's 720 ABC breakfast show a couple of weeks ago. Maureen was being interviewed about the 'Roaring Forties' swimming team she is part of, but somehow diving and UEC crept in to the conversation. Thanks Maureen.

Another good PR exercise for the club is the photo competition which will promote UEC on www.underwater.com.au. See the article in this newsletter.

Our website received 840 hits last month which is good for a small club. We only know this since

adding a hit counter to the site. Click on the small pale blue box in the left bottom corner of the front page if you are interested.

This month I have added a 'For Sale and Wanted' page, the link is in the lower yellow bar on the front page. Please let me know by e-mail if you have anything you would like advertised. Next to the 'For Sale and Wanted' link is the long awaited 'Member Links', as I write this it's not done but will be there soon. Check out these new pages while you are on-line reading the newsletter. I'm hoping to have 2 new underwater albums soon too. One will be Night Diving Swan River photos. I have heaps of amazing photos from different people and I promise you aren't going to believe some of the stuff seen in our river at night.

New members are continuing to join; we have had 8 in the last 2 months as well a few more waiting for the right moment for them to join. We had 6 non-members do the 2 un-official Robb Jetty dives we did a couple of weeks ago, which was a good way for interested divers to do a dive with us and find out first hand that we don't bite.

Chris Cunnold

Safety Report

On Monday 11th October we had a training meeting at the Swan Yacht Club. The subject was Deep Diving. Many of the people who attended are booked for the Key Biscayne weekend. Here are a few check lists to do with safety and deep diving which we discussed at the meeting.

Equipment

- Safety Sausage - this according to our training officer is compulsory for those people attending the Key Biscayne weekend.
- Slate - for communication with your buddy, remember we may only get one chance at this dive so we don't want to stuff it up due to lack of understanding.
- Mirror - small one is always a good piece of safety equipment to have in your BCD, not only for signalling, it is also handy for checking for Secretions Of Nasal Type (snot) before reboarding the boat.

If your regulator and BCD have not been serviced for a while now would be a good time to have this done. Fine tuning your weight system is important when planning for deep dives.

A very important factor, which may make or break this dive is something I mentioned in one of my previous reports, and that is finding a buddy early and finding out as much info about each other as possible ie. Do you both speak the same language, synchronise your hand signals, find out what religion they are, menopausal, premenstrual or other denomination, what drugs do they take before they dive, any physiological problems, do you need to wear your big fins to keep up, these factors if known beforehand can go along way in understanding your buddy and his or her behaviour while on the dive.

Discuss who will lead the dive, what side of your buddy will you swim on, the depth you will go to, and what ascent rate you will apply and at what bar. pressure you will begin the ascent. As discussed 10mtr/min is the preferred rate with a 5 at 5.

While at depth keep an eye on your buddy and look out for any signs of unusual behaviour, ie feeding ones reg. to a fish, and be prepared to terminate the dive at the first sign of a problem. So brush up on your signs of narcosis and also symptoms of decompression sickness because I don't have time to list them here, it's getting late and I have to have this report in.

Safe Diving, Rex....

Training Update

Dear Members

As you may know, Mark is leaving for sunny Darwin shortly and will not be able to continue as Training Officer of the UEC. I am sure that his obituary, so to speak, will be covered by other people in the Club so I am concerned with who and what will replace him rather than what a nice man he is! I also leave it to other people to tell you what a nice man I am....

Assuming the members agree to the proposal, I should like to replace Mark. If that happens, I have a few ideas which I should like to share with you. Although trying to get feedback is sometimes rather like trying to raffle off a car in a shopping mall (!), I hope that you will take a little time to consider this as I believe that it could be to everyone's advantage – I guess not many divers would answer "no" to the question, "Would you like to be well-trained when you go into the water?"....

In this newsletter you will see a questionnaire about your levels of training and what you might like in the future.

[Training Questionnaire \(Excel File\)](#)
[Training Questionnaire \(PDF version\)](#)

Just a few words on some of the courses:

Scuba Review is for those divers who have been out of the water for some time and may not be very confident about getting back in. What we can do is to go through some of the theory once again and then go into a pool and practise some of our skills. Once the training is complete (and we are really talking about one evening), you will be better able to descend and catch the crays rather than be bobbing about like a seal at the surface. If you go and see the new film "Open Water", you'll soon find out why that's something to avoid...

DAN O2 is the Oxygen Provider Course which will train you in the correct use of oxygen for diving emergencies. Prior to certification, a student must show first aid training within the last 12 months which is why the Emergency First Response course is also being offered. EFR has replaced the old Medic First Aid course and is a requirement of being a PADI Rescue Diver. DAN and EFR courses can be covered in a little over half a day each, or two evenings.

At this stage, I can make no promises about what courses will be running over the next 12 months, where they will be running or even what the costs might be. What I can promise, however, is that if we receive feedback from members about what they want, I shall try to accommodate those requests and work on being able to provide enjoyable training courses without breaking the bank!

All the best!
Jules

Brief Resume!

Jules was born in Yorkshire, England, and moved to Perth in May 2004 after spending 10 years in Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong. His brother Kib and girlfriend Sarah are both new members of the UEC.

He is employed as a PADI Instructor at the Australasian Dive Academy which has shops in Nedlands and Applecross. Before coming to Australia, he was active with the British Sub Aqua Club in Hong Kong and is a BSAC Instructor. He also has an Instructor rating in Emergency First Response and is a DAN Oxygen Instructor.

PROPERTY REPORT

I will be collecting some memorabilia tomorrow from an "old" UEC member who wishes to donate photos from the early days. He was at The Anniversary Ball and was obviously inspired to keep the early days of the club alive and well and able to be enjoyed by all. Other than that, not much to report.

Nicole

BOAT REPORT

I am sure we have all now heard the bad news regarding our recent boat problems, that being serious problems with one of our diesel motors. One thing about UEC is that we don't do things half heartedly, true to form we managed to a pretty spectacularly good job of damaging said motor. Kaput is the most apt term to describe it's condition.

The good news is that Martin and his crew now have the boat out of the water and up on hardstand. Currently they are preparing for the arrival of brand spanking new replacement motor. Meanwhile the old damaged motor is being removed and will be stored as a source of future spare parts.

According to Martin's current plan the motor installation will be done over the coming few days and they are planning to put her back in the water sometime next week. Barring any unforeseen problems the boat should be operational on the Key Biscayne weekend.

A big word of thanks goes out to Martin and all those who have helped during these repairs.

Chris G

On behalf of Martin, who has been slightly busy of late.

DIVE REPORT

UEC Diving Activity

The next scheduled dive off our boat is Sunday 24 October. In the meantime we are organising other activities for you. If there is anything you would like to suggest then let me know.

Shore Dives

I have set Saturday 16 October aside as a shore dive at Cottesloe Marine Park.

Looking for a buddy for week day diving from shore? Send me an email and I'll get a group together.

Lena

Club dive on the Lena in Bunbury has been organised for Sunday 17 October – this trip is now fully subscribed and I am sure we can do it again if there is enough interest.

Key Biscayne

All deposits are required to be paid for the Key Biscayne trip, please make sure you pay your deposit to Clive and let me know so that I can keep my records up to date.

See you in the water soon!

Belinda

To make your dive booking call on 9339 1789 or email on tbpalmer@ca.com.au. Leave your name, number and the date you want to dive. Your registration will be entered into the diary and we will only call you if the dive is cancelled due to boat failure. Please remember to check with us the night before the dive to make sure there are enough numbers for the boat to be going out.

I will have the diary with me at the meetings and whenever I am on the boat, so you can always make your reservations then.

Date	Depart	Dive Site/ Event	Skipper	Dive Officer
October				
Saturday 16	09:00	Shore Dive – Cottesloe Marine Park		Steve L
Sunday 17	09:00	Lena – Bunbury	Coastal Water Dive Charter	
Sunday 24	08:00	Rusty Divers	Martin S / Peter H	Clive C
Friday 29 to Sunday 31	TBA	Key Biscayne	Geoff C Martin S Carmine T	TBC
November				
Saturday 6	09:00	Whale Watch Trip – no diving	Kerry A	Chris G
Sunday 7	08:00	Season will be in full swing! Lock it in!	Martin S	Clive C
Saturday 13	08:00	You'll need to get your dive gear tested ready for the start of the Cray fishing season!	Bob Mc	Steve L
Sunday 21	08:00	Put it in your diary	Geoff G	Jim R
Saturday 27	08:00	Put it in your diary	Carmine T	Carl A
Sunday 28	08:00	Stragglers - one tank then lunch at the SYC	Peter H	Clive C
December				
Saturday 4	TBA	Rottnest Swim Through – one tank dive	Martin S	Mark M
Sunday 5	08:00	Put it in your diary	Kerry A	Mark S
Saturday 11	08:00	Put it in your diary	Carmine T	Carl A
Sunday 19	08:00	Christmas Dive – Stragglers then lunch at SYC	Bob Mc	Steve L
Sunday 26	08:00	Beat the Boxing Day Blues	Peter H	Clive C
Monday 27	09:00	One tank Stragglers - It's holiday season!	Martin S	Mark M

- Our dive calendar is in full swing boat departure is still 8:00 from Swan Yacht Club, unless otherwise stated.
- Please DO NOT contact the Skipper or Dive Officer to discuss weather conditions – they will decide on the day, on the boat, if the weather is suitable for the trip to proceed.
- Check with Belinda or Tony on 9339 1789 the night before to make sure there are enough numbers for the dive to go ahead.
- All dives are two-tank unless otherwise stated.
- The boat will collect you at the loading jetty (at the end of the boat sheds in the car park). **Do not take your gear to the pen.**

Dive and Boat Bookings: call Belinda / Tony

on 9339 1789 or tbpalmer@ca.com.au

Underwater.com.au has a new photo competition

The crew at www.underwater.com.au (UW) have started their new photo competition. It runs until April 2005 with monthly prizes awarded in the 2 categories of Novice and Open and huge grand prizes including dive trips and camera gear awarded in April. There is a total of nearly \$7000 in prizes to be won.

I have seen some of our members photo's and without blowing our own horn, I'm sure we can make a big impression in this competition and promote our club also. UW have always been a supporter of UEC with lots of referrals coming our way via their website and recently a big load of Underwater Australia brochures and UW stickers were sent to us.

I have spoken to Tim at UW and he is more than happy for us to run a small competition of our own along side his. The aim of the UEC competition firstly is to try to win the UW competition but secondly to get UEC mentioned in the foot note of your photo on their website. It's a great way to promote UEC and to run a photo competition without the work. There will also be some modest UEC prizes in each category for the person who ranks the highest and / or the person who gets UEC mentioned the most times. When you send your photo's in make sure you include a mention of UEC in the text, It's easy to drop in a line like "photo taken on dive with Underwater Explorers Club of WA".

It's easy to sign up, just visit www.underwater.com.au/show.php for all the details. You need to sign up as a UW member which is free. Then you can submit up to 5 photo's per person each month and with only 50 entries last month the chances of winning a monthly prize are pretty good.

If the night dive a couple of weeks ago is anything to go by we should have loads of entries. The water at Robb Jetty was alive with flashing strobes. Get snapping.

Chris C

Robb Jetty Reports

As you know we did couple of "un-official" shore dives at Robb Jetty recently while some boat issues were being sorted. It appears that everyone was up for a change in their diving as both dives were well attended.

Sunday 26th September saw thirteen divers meet in the car park, it was a bit breezy and cold but it was going to take a bit more than that to stop this crew. After a bit of a struggle in the surf we were in as usual their spot didn't disappoint us. We saw heaps of juvenile Port Jackson Sharks and a couple of Seahorses. Although it's a bit stirred up it doesn't really affect the viz. as "Cockburn Sound Viz" is never great, it's always a case of looking for the small stuff. It was the perfect chance for a couple of members to blow the winter dust off their gear and get in the water again. Afterwards we all headed to the South Fremantle Beach Cafe for brunch and coffees which was a civilised end to a beautiful morning.

Sunday 3rd October was the date for the anticipated night dive. As promised, it was spectacular. 21 divers can you believe it? I'm sure there were more camera's in the water than torches too, so

we can expect a lot of photos on the www.underwater.com.au website photo competition.

Robb Jetty comes alive at night, so much so that the joke about having to see a Port Jackson Shark after the dive being sold on that point was made even funnier by the fact that we had juvenile Port Jacksons swimming around us like flies at a picnic, they were everywhere. Rex and Wendy spotted the biggest Prawn known to man-kind ... and there is photographic evidence. Others saw Seahorses, Octopus, Port Jacksons, Port Jacksons, Port Jacksons A Striped Dumpling Squid was our novelty sighting for the evening and a new nudibranch we haven't seen before. I still can't get over the huge sea slug's, pleurobranchus peroni that in the real world are supposed to only be 5cm long but of course at this site are at least 3 times that size. We spotted 2 deep crimson ones, a couple of redish pinky (variegated) ones and an amazing brilliant bright orange one. (pictured below). I also managed to get a reasonable size Port Jackson to swim right on to my open hand, attracted by the light of course, but he was happy to sit there a while. There was a lot of green algae type of weed on the site which I'm told is normal around this time of the year, I'm sure that kept the number of sightings down as normally you see a lot more Seahorses and Nudibranch's here. Roll on summer we will do another night dive here (after the algae has gone).

Afterwards we headed to a tavern for a few quiet drinks and a good old chat about everything we had seen that night.

Chris Cunnold

Club Notices

Special Event :

Our congratulations and very best wishes go to David and Rebecca on the occasion of their marriage.

Weblinks :

I was sent an interesting site with information about local dive sites, in particular there some great information on the Key Biscayne: [Click Here](#)

Wanted:

100 cu/ft Ally tank - in hydro or able to pass hydro - e-mail craigdesu@iinet.net.au

For Sale:

Sherwood Pro Black BCD, size XS (equivalent to size 8/10 ladies or SM male) - \$350
Email: wenrose19@yahoo.co.au or call Wendy on 0438 190 858

Super Deal on Batteries for UEC members



UEC still has access to discount batteries. Don't miss out on these savings. Remember it's not just diving you may need them for.

Everyone knows how expensive buying batteries can be, especially if you are a regular Night Diver or Photographer. UEC is now able to offer members some super prices on batteries. Due to an exclusive offer from Michelle Sutherland, we are able to offer Energizer Industrial batteries in AA, C and D sizes. Michelle can also supply some more specialised batteries including re-chargeables if you e-mail her with the details.

Energizer Batteries have a reputation as a premium quality brand. Energizer Industrial are the same premium quality without the retail packaging.

To give you an idea of the savings, we are offering AA batteries at 80c each, that compares with ordinary Energizers I spotted at a major hardware store recently at \$1.30 each. It's a really good deal.

AA size batteries are available in a 24 pack for \$19 or in a box of 144 for \$115

C size batteries are available in a 12 pack for \$19 or a box of 72 for \$110

D size batteries are available in a 12 pack for \$26 or a box of 72 for \$156

Best of all small margin from each sale goes to UEC. If you don't have a use for batteries yourself maybe you know someone who does. Anyone with toys, remote control models etc.

Please order your batteries via e-mail from Michelle on sutho@bekkers.com.au. The batteries will be available for pick up ONLY at General Meetings.

MEMBERSHIP IS DUE FOR RENEWAL

IT'S TIME TO RENEW

Get in early for 2004-5

Please assist me by renewing your membership for 2004-5 prior to the AGM in November 2004. Membership offers you many benefits such as diving trips, social cruises and functions, voting rights

and lots more.

Memberships are:

Ordinary	\$120
Family	\$180
Non-resident/country	\$120
Social/student/junior	\$35

Post bring your payment to the next club meeting or
post it to PO Box 1157, Booragoon, WA 6954

MANY THANKS

Clive Cass
Treasurer

UEC NEWS

NOVEMBER

2004



*The official monthly newsletter
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of Western Australia*

PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154

Phone: 0401 775 720 (President)

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[Download UEC News here \(pdf\)](#)

From the editor

Welcome to the November UEC News. This month we have some reports of excellent diving on the Key Biscayne where some lucky members enjoyed excellent conditions on the Sunday. A measure of how good the diving was is the fact that I received multiple dive reports, two of which I have included below.

The boat is now completely operational again with the successful addition of the new motor. Thanks to everyone who took the time to help out with the boat during repairs.

Keep in mind that the next meeting is the annual general meeting. I hope everyone can attend and have a say in the election of a new committee.

Chris G

GENERAL MEETINGS

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are held on the third Wednesday of every month at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

Email uec@space.net.au

Home Page: www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedure and to acquaint both Club Members and the public with the facts on safety and the use of safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

[Click here for UEC Committee Contact Details](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the 17th November 2004.

This will be my last Presidents report, as I will be stepping down as your President and the committee for 2005.

My year as president has flown past so quickly and upon reflection we have had a very successful year. Membership has grown, our number of active divers has increased, and we have managed to break our previous records for the number of dives completed.

Financially we have maintained our status as a "not for profit Organisation". We have spent everything we earned on the replacement motor. This major upgrade to our boat has enhanced the value of our boat, which will provide us with more successful seasons of diving.

Everybody groans when mechanical disasters occur but we have to be optimistic and move on from these disappointments which always seem to happen just when you do not need it.

I must congratulate all the members of the committee of management for their hard work during the past 12 months. Without their dedication and strong support to the club we would not be enjoying the benefits of belonging to this great club.

A number of us will be stepping down from the committee to make way for other new members who wish to assist the club to move forward. We are including two new positions on the future committee. The need to have a dedicated New Membership Officer has become very apparent as the majority of our new members have joined us due to the work put in by both Belinda and Chris. They have spent a great deal of there time making sure new members were treated well and provided with all the information they need to ensure there initial contact with us is a good experience. The other position will be a dedicated Environmental Officer who will be dedicated to advising the members on matters concerning the undersea world.

In order for us to abide by our Constitution these two positions will have to fit into our current structure. The role of New Membership Officer will be as the Records Officer in the Constitution and the role of the Environmental Officer will be as the Building Officer in our constitution. Reference Section 11 Items (c) and (h).

At our October General meeting Carmine Travaglione was awarded Life membership of UEC. It was indeed a pleasure to award Carmine with this long overdue token of the clubs appreciation of all the hard work and dedication he has given to the Underwater Explorers Club.

My personal thanks to everyone in the club for your support during my year as President.

"The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible."

Arthur C Clark

Safe Diving Steve

PR, Website and New Member Report

Can you believe the year is nearly over? I don't have anything to report on the Website except hopefully I will have some Key Biscayne photo's up soon. And there's just one thing for PR and that is to remember the www.underwater.com.au photo competition. There is a link on the front page of our website to the entry page, don't forget to get the clubs name in the text of the photo you submit. The main prizes are drawn in April 05 and by that stage we will be able to confirm some UEC prizes too. With the amount of camera's we are seeing on dives these days there must be heaps of good photo's out there.

New Members are still steadily being introduced to the club and we have had a couple of nomineee

divers out on the boat with us recently too. Don't forget that if you introduce a new member to the club and they join as a full member you will be rewarded with a free day of diving on the boat.

After trialling the New Member role this year the committee have seen how vital a New Member Officer is to the club and next year it will be a separate position on the committee which will hopefully see it expand further and offer New Members plenty of support when they join up.

As it is my last report for the club year, I would like to thank all the other committee for their efforts and help during the year. I would also like to thank all the members for their encouragement and input. We received plenty of ideas and opinions all year, which is exactly what your committee is there for. Next year looks to be an even bigger year for the club with lots of these ideas being put in to practise so your committee may be looking for help from time to time. If you are in a position to help on one or two projects don't be afraid to approach the relevant committee member your offer will be gladly accepted.

It's been a great year. Keep diving in 05'

Thanks
Chris Cunnold

Safety Report

Another club year is nearly over, and this could be my last report. Now is the time for members of our club to ask themselves if they think they may be able to contribute their know how to benefit our club by taking up a committee position. If anyone is willing to take on the position of Safety Officer I will happily support them in this role.

The Key Biscayne weekend was a real eye opener for me as Safety Officer, as I suddenly realised how unprepared we were for the safety issues that may arise. No more so than the need for contingency, and risk assessment planning. However, by a lot of good luck we all managed to return home safely, and a hell of a lot wiser for the experience. Next years trip should be a lot smoother.

Yet another of our members has had the unfortunate experience of the dreaded BCD inflator button sticking on. That makes four in our club in the last 18months that I know about. Spums mag. says, as far as equipment failure goes, the BCD is the biggest killer, either by sticking inflator or user panic, pressing the wrong button. When did you last have your BCD serviced ? I find its good practise to practise disconnecting and connecting the low pressure hose while on a dive.

To all those enthusiastic crayfish hunters out there, be careful, don't forget your buddy, and remember it's only a crayfish!

Safe Hunting, Rex.....

Training Update

Hi All

I would like to thank all the people who attended the training sessions that I have conducted over the past two years I hope they have been informative and that you all have benefited from them in some way. This will be my last report as the training Officer as I am off to Darwin with the Army next year. There will be no training next month as I will be busy organising the move and trying to get some diving in before I go

Once I have settled in to Darwin I will let you all know my contact details so if you're in the area you

are all welcome to drop in and go for a dive.

The deep diver training held this month was very well attended with over twenty people turning out to revise their deep diving theory.

Cheers
Rambo
Training Officer

BOAT REPORT

The boat is now back in action. The new motor has been successfully installed and been sea trialled with good results. The damaged motor is currently being stripped down for spare parts.

Chris G
On behalf of Martin, who has been slightly busy of late.

DIVE REPORT

UEC Diving Activity

During October eight club members went to Bunbury to do a couple of dives on the 'Lena' the fishing vessel that was scuttled in December last year. The vessel is 55 meters long, in 18 metres of water and is suitable for all levels of experience. There is a lot of growth on the wreck considering the short time she has been down and schools of fish have already made the 'Lena' home.

22 UEC divers completed three dives on the **Key Biscayne**. This is a deep dive about 20 miles off the coast from Two Rocks, with the wreck of the oil rig sitting on the bottom in around 40 meters of water, the top at 26 meters. More detail from Chris later ...

This trip has been scheduled many times in the past, but this was the first time the Underwater Explorers Club can say 'mission accomplished' – thanks go to all club members who participated to make this such a success, particularly to Carmine, Rex, Chris and Mark.

We will be doing it again. I suggest we go for the last weekend in October again next year ... so put Friday 28, Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 in your diary!

Congratulations!

By the time this goes to press Ilonka Jarvis will have her dive qualification! Well done Ilonka, we look forward to seeing you out on the boat soon.

Milestone dives have been reached recently by a few members: acknowledgements will be presented at the next meeting ... let me know if you have completed your milestone dive recently ... 25, 50, 100, 250, 500 or 1,000.

Shore Dives

Looking for a buddy for shore diving during the week? Send me an email and I'll see who I can buddy you with.

End of the Year (already)

Finally, I'd like to say thank you to all club members who have assisted me during my year as Diving Coordinator. It has been fun.

See you in the water soon!

Belinda

To make your dive booking call on 9339 1789 or email on tbpalmer@ca.com.au. Leave your name, number and the date you want to dive. Your registration will be entered into the diary and we will only call you if the dive is cancelled due to boat failure. Please remember to check with us the night before the dive to make sure there are enough numbers for the boat to be going out.

I will have the diary with me at the meetings and whenever I am on the boat, so you can always make your reservations then.

Date	Depart	Dive Site/ Event	Skipper	Dive Officer
November				
Sunday 7	08:00	Season will be in full swing! Lock it in!	Martin S	Clive C
Saturday 13	08:00	You'll need to get your dive gear tested ready for the start of the Cray fishing season!	Bob Mc	Steve L
Monday 15	08:00	Start of the Cray season	Martin S	Carl A
Sunday 21	08:00	Angela's caves	Geoff G	Jim R
Saturday 27	08:00	Flat Top	Carmine T	Carl A
Sunday 28	08:00	Stragglers - one tank then lunch at the SYC	Peter H	Clive C
December				
Saturday 4	TBA	Rottnest Swim Through – one tank dive	Martin S	Mark M
Sunday 5	08:00	Exploratory	Kerry A	Steve L
Saturday 11	08:00	City Beach	Carmine T	Carl A
Sunday 19	08:00	Christmas Dive – Stragglers then lunch at SYC	Bob Mc	Steve L
Sunday 26	08:00	Beat the Boxing Day Blues	Peter H	Clive C
Monday 27	09:00	One tank Stragglers - It's holiday season!	Martin S	Mark M

- Boat departure is 8:00 from Swan Yacht Club, unless otherwise stated.
- Please **DO NOT** contact the Skipper, Dive Officer or Dive Coordinator to discuss weather conditions – the Skipper will decide on the day, on the boat, if the weather is suitable for the trip to proceed.
- Check with Belinda or Tony on 9339 1789 the night before to make sure there are enough numbers for the dive to go ahead.
- All dives are two-tank unless otherwise stated.
- The boat will collect you at the loading jetty (at the end of the boat sheds in the car park). **Do not take your gear to the pen.**

Dive and Boat Bookings: call Belinda / Tony

on 9339 1789 or tbpalmer@ca.com.au

Membership Update Form

To keep our club records up to date, and also to get an idea of everyone's diving interests, we have

put together a membership update form. Please take the time to fill out the form and either email it back to Belinda on tbpalmer@ca.com.au, or bring a printed copy along to the next meeting.

Click on the text below

[Membership Update Form \(Word Document\)](#)

[Membership Update Form \(PDF Format\)](#)

2005 UEC Committee Nomination Form

If you want to nominate anybody for one of our committee please use the form attached below.

[Committee Nomination Form \(Word Document\)](#)

[Committee Nomination Form \(PDF Format\)](#)

Completed forms can be brought along to the AGM on Wednesday, or email to me at:

[Chris](#)

A Key Biscayne Dive Report – by Malcolm Roberts

What a weekend! After several attempts, the Underwater Explorers Club has finally made it to dive on the Key Biscayne, an oil rig that sank on September 1, 1983 in 42m of water.

Friday evening after work, a group of over 20 UEC divers (mostly) met at the Trav Hilton in Yanchep. After a lively evening of pasta, wine and camaraderie, early beds were made wherever a spot could be found.

Saturday – EARLY! – last night's discussion about rising time became irrelevant when the person who wanted us up earlier just woke us then anyway. A Carmine "special Brekkie" consumed, dive gear loaded and we were out of the house at 7 ready to dive the Key Biscayne. The weather didn't look the best, but we were supposed to be comforted by the skipper's comments that, "He'd been out in worse." That from a professional crayfisherman?

It was a 2 hour roly poly trip out there and by the end of it, most people felt crook, some more than others. If the journey didn't get ya, the wallowing of a slow-moving boat finished a few more people off.

Despite having the co-ordinates, after nearly an hour and a half of fruitless searching we still hadn't found the wreck. I said "fruitless" searching because it is here in the story that **Alison's banana caper** took place. Alison has the fuzzy duck pajamas, but no longer the bananas. Caught eating a banana by the mortified skipper she was instructed to throw it overboard because they're unlucky on boats, apparently. Alison obliged, and we continued to search while Alison sat there feeling guilty about "banana number 2" squirreled away in her bag. It was not until she returned to her seat, after throwing the offending banana overboard, that the skipper shouted, "Here it is!". We had now found our diving destination.

Time to go! Logistics sorted, the first group disappeared into the blue below. Half an hour later, it was my turn and I too did a **high** backwards roll off the boat into the deep blue.

We were now suspended in a liquid world, with the overcast sky adding a real "blue" to the water. Making ourselves negatively buoyant, our group of 4 descended, free-falling until 40 metres down, the bottom rushed up at us. The steel girders that were the legs of the rig now rose high above us

as we did our buddy and safety checks. Cameras clicked rapidly as the amazingly colourful soft corals that cover the wreck were revealed. Giant delicate fans, missing on oft-dived sites, all sorts of colourful growths, and the occasional large fish, made for an interesting dive. At this depth, we didn't have long and soon began our slow ascent of the wreck to the highest point at 25 metres. This part was covered in places with white flowery soft coral that looked exactly cauliflower. From here we continued upwards, enjoying the awesome clarity and blueness of the water. Unknown to us, it was rough above, but as we paused for our safety stop, we were in a current-less blue world, enjoying the weightlessness of inner space. A magic end to a great dive.

We returned to the boat to find that the rolling ocean had made some people turning worrying shades somehow beyond green. The second dive was abandoned as we opted to head home.

The journey back was interrupted with a show of Nature I will never forget. We'd seen whales breathing, but what we were treated to, at close quarters, was breaching - Humpback whales leaping out of the water. After a humpback calf breached half a body out of the water, almost directly in front of us, we stopped the boat for another look, we hoped. Again the calf breached, this time getting all of its body out of the water, except for its tail. What followed appeared to be mum saying, "Here's how to do it." as 100% of adult humpback whale flew out of the water near us. If that didn't take your breath away, the finale awaited.

In perfect synchronicity, mother and calf Humpback whale breached out of the water and turned towards each other. They launched at exactly the same time, then faced each other before crashing back into the ocean with a splash. A display those fortunate people on the boat that day will never forget!

We returned to Two Rock marina late afternoon and headed back to the Trav Hilton. There people shared with the group their underwater digipix from the day's diving on the TV. Despite (or perhaps because of) the empty bottles of red, everyone crashed early. Again, it was sleep where you can and beds appeared everywhere.

Well was Sunday flat or what? Was this even the same place? Time for another dive on the Key Biscayne. More familiar this time, and after another freefall descent to the bottom, we headed straight for the main part. Heading inside the wreck itself had an eerie feeling. Everything was just as it had been when she sank in a storm over 20 years ago, and it's fortunate there were no lives lost that day. A large Dhufish hung around and I took it's portrait. The photo opportunities abounded and I enjoyed this dive the most. There was lots to photograph, including big crays and other treats to find as we ascended the sides of the rig. Again at 25 metres, we played briefly with the spike that forms the highest part of the wreck, before ascending slowly to the surface, enjoying our weightlessness as we went. Zero gravity can turn anyone into a circus clown!

Back on the boat, with no wind, and the water flat as a result, it was a unanimous decision to "seize the moment" and do a second dive on the Key Biscayne. We had our necessary surface interval and then, after another high flop entry, enjoyed another dive, our third dive on the wreck for the weekend. The noisy "breathing" signalled the presence of whales again, but they did not repeat the spectacular breaching like Saturday.

The return journey was missed, in part at least, by most, as bodies lay snoozing in a random manner. It looked like people just slept where they fell! Back at Two Rocks and our diving was done. A quick trip back to the Trav Hilton to collect things and it was time to share good-byes. What a good weekend!

I'm sure that everyone who went wishes a big thanks to Belinda and the other organizers. Carmine for the tasty meals. Alison for sweet treats and others who made the weekend happen.

Thanks again.
Malcolm Roberts

UEC on the Key B – by Chris Cunnold

As divers trickled in to the Trav Hilton at Yanchep on Friday night most of the conversation revolved around the weather. After all, we knew there was only a 50/50 chance of getting a dive on this thing. Some of us had spent a lot of time during the previous week on the weather websites deciphering the ambiguous descriptions used in long range forecasts. Of course none of this would help one little bit, but it did make for vigorous discussion and allowed us to spot the doubters amongst us. After an authentic Spaghetti meal ... well it was cooked by an Italian, and some beautiful dessert it was off to bed for a reasonably early night for the 20 staying that night.

Personally I thought the weather looked good in the morning, but apparently it was still up for discussion over Bacon and Eggs. Breakfast was huge. You name it and it was on the menu. Alison, Rex and I also indulged in a small illicit drug party in the front yard and shared a pack of natural ginger Travelcalm - Never again, but more on that later. We headed to the marina around 7.30 and met Ross our skipper. He was exactly what you expect of a Cray fisherman. He had hardly slept the night before as he motored up from Fremantle and left at 2 am so he could do some fishing on the way. The boat is a beauty. 53 foot long and she appeared as wide as she was long but it only took minutes for us to fill the entire deck space with tanks and gear. In the cabin was the worrying sight of a small grotto of religious icons stuck in amongst the gauges of the instrument panel. Lucky Chinese coins, 3 Buddha's and a picture of the Virgin Mary with child. We would have many God's on our side this weekend. I prayed that we weren't going to need any of them.

We headed out of the marina and immediately realized the conditions weren't going to be perfect. It wasn't really bad, just relentless swell rather than sea's but it was a more than a hour and a half trip out to the site and it wasn't too long before I realized that the natural Travelcalm was not all it was cracked up to be, this was reinforced by the look on the faces of my drug party buddies. The only solution seemed to be the coma position on the deck. The trip out was broken up by the sight of whales breaching about 500 metres away from the boat. We finally hit the spot ... Or did we? Jasmine had managed to download a copy of the investigation in to the loss of the Key Biscayne which had every detail including the coordinates in it. After a good 30 plus minutes of some kind of special type of Cray fisherman grid search technique which resembled a dodge-em car ride we were at our wits end. Considering the boat had a state of the art GPS and a fish finder with a screen you could see from the moon we were very disillusioned by our inability to find the wreck. It was at this point we discovered the real significance of the religious grotto. Rex decided he would try to call Whitfords Sea Rescue and ask them for coordinates 'Not on either of those radios mate' No wonder the boat needed so many God's on its side (it wasn't actually a safety issue as we were still in mobile phone range). At about the same time Ross turned to spot Alison reading the Key B report with a half eaten banana in her hand 'A Banana ... get that off the boat'. Alison scoffed the rest and promptly disposed of the skin. Seconds later an interesting discrepancy was spotted in the Key B report. There were 2 sets of coordinates, 1 where the Key Biscayne sank and another where she lays. It's also about this time that Alison realises she has another banana in her bag, so with the skill of a teenage shoplifter she slides it up the sleeve of her jumper and sneaks out on deck to rid the boat of the yellow peril. At that very instant there is a huge roar from the skipper back inside the cabin ... "There it is". Who doesn't believe bananas are bad luck on a boat now?



Photo by Malcolm Roberts

John Contessi quickly slipped straight back in to instructing mode and delivered a straight to the point dive briefing and it's not long before Robert Stagg and Dohn are in the water and on there way to secure a descent line to the Oil Rig. This wasn't without drama but they managed it before too long. When the descent line popped up near the boat we decided to wing it and use it as an anchor yeh, yeh, we know that thin nylon rope won't hold a 10 tonne boat, but we had already tried an anchor and it wasn't keen to hang onto the limestone ocean floor around the wreck. It was about now that the effect of the swell began to hit us all and a couple of hardy sailors decided they needed a closer view of the outside of the hull. Minutes later all but a few were in the water. It was a decent drop off the side of the boat and I did hear a comment later along the lines of how hitting the water backwards was like getting hit in the back of the head with a rolled up newspaper. The viz. was very good and as we descended I struggled to make out what it was I could see beneath and was very surprised to realize it was one of the 3 huge legs sitting on the bottom some 30 metres below. We dropped right down to the floor in between 2 of the legs which were sitting exactly parallel to each other. It wasn't long before we found 41.5 metres in a small hole in the limestone and stuck our computers there to register. Almost immediately we both started upwards and noticed the huge teeth of the gears on the side of the legs that were used to jack it up and down, I guess that's why it's a 'Jack up Oil Rig'. We saw heaps of basket stars, in one spot there was one on the tip of nearly every gear tooth. This is a large wreck and it would take a lot of diving to get to know it well, especially when you consider the very short bottom time available because of the depth. We head up to the main deck structure and come across a paddock of strange white and purple cauliflowerer type growth (soft corals), from there it was up to the highest point at about 25 metres and before we know it we are at our safety stop. The whole dive lasted only 27 minutes but it is quiet spectacular. Everyone's a bit stunned to have actually got a dive on it and it's not until the next day that we all get really excited. Now the good part Getting back on the boat was as difficult as Chinese algebra. The lowest rung on the ladder hovered somewhere between 1 and 3 metres above the water depending on the swell and unfortunately it was necessary to get our kit off in the water first.

Back on board we realize that one of our number is very ill, about the same time we realize that our anchor rope has snapped. Mark Maddern and Malcolm discovered it earlier than us as they were still following it to the sea floor when it parted company. This resulted in a bit of traveling around to pick up our divers as they popped up a fair distance from the boat. Luckily we planned for this exact situation and everyone had safety sausages and the dinghy was on stand-by which avoided a repeat of a scene from the 'Open Water' movie and made it very easy to spot everyone.

It's been a tough day and everyone is very happy to be heading for home. A Southern Right Whale and her calf put on a spectacular display which at one stage saw the larger whale leave the water completely, right next to the boat. The skipper is a bit surprised that we ask him to stop the boat so we can all watch and take photos while our sea sick patient is in a bad state on the deck, we didn't

really realize how bad at this point ... honest. Back in the marina it is obvious that our patient needs some professional care so a group stay and get that organized while the rest of us head back to the Trav Hilton.

It doesn't take long for 25 of us to whip through the shower. The vote about the following day is all 'for' to have another attempt to dive the Key B which surprised a few of us as it hadn't been an easy day. A BBQ dinner and a quick slide show of the days photos and then to bed fairly early again. It's during this night that Dohn realizes that everyone else in the big back room snores and he doesn't. His reasoning is that every time he wakes, he's not snoring and somebody else is! I get it, I think.

The next morning the ocean looked much better, especially from inside the house. Down at the boat we realize it's going to be a calmer day. We have less numbers on board and super D.O. Mark Maddern arranges the deck so we have a lot more space, then following in John's footsteps from the day before starts to deliver a dive brief which fairly quickly dissolves after continual heckling from the stalls. More whales on the way out ... yawn It's getting to be a common sight. On the dive site we slip over in the duck to chat with the Skipper of Lionfish IV to find out their plan for the day, that is after we work out that the duck motor won't start unless you pull the stop button out (no names, you know who you are). All set, we drop our first divers in. The day is so calm that we decide to not worry about anchoring but instead we slowly glide over in the big boat and drop our divers in and then surface swim back after the dives. This keeps us well out of the way of Lionfish IV. We all get 2 dives in today which is a real treat. We get to explore much more of the wreck and get over to the side where there is real wreckage like drilling poles and large plates that look like some kind of anchor system. We also get right in amongst the main structure of the rig. Today we realise what a spectacular dive this is and see a surprising number amount of soft and hard corals on it. There wasn't as much fish life as I expected but we did see a Bull Ray at one stage and a good size 'Jewie' right under the structure. It couldn't have been the same 'Jewie' that Mark had seen on the previous dive as he described it as nearer the proportions of a horse ... narcosis can do strange things. It's after that conversation that Belinda mentions seeing a Kangaroo down there How do you respond to a statement like that? To be surfacing in mirror like water at the end of these dives was too good to be true. We all bobbed around discussing what we had and hadn't seen. Bruce made a new friend when an inquisitive Albatross swam right up to his mask after the last dive.

After more highs than lows we all came away from the weekend with a lot of experience of diving outside our regular comfort zone of Rotto, at a site which has a reputation for being very difficult to get to, and we managed on our first attempt. It sets us up well for the next time we take on this site. Keep you ear to the ground. In the mean time there are some fantastic photos on the website.



Photo by Bruce Fielding

Super Deal on Batteries for UEC members



UEC still has access to discount batteries. Don't miss out on these savings. Remember it's not just diving you may need them for.

Everyone knows how expensive buying batteries can be, especially if you are a regular Night Diver or Photographer. UEC is now able to offer members some super prices on batteries. Due to an exclusive offer from Michelle Sutherland, we are able to offer Energizer Industrial batteries in AA, C and D sizes. Michelle can also supply some more specialised batteries including re-chargeables if you e-mail her with the details.

Energizer Batteries have a reputation as a premium quality brand. Energizer Industrial are the same premium quality without the retail packaging.

To give you an idea of the savings, we are offering AA batteries at 80c each, that compares with ordinary Energizers I spotted at a major hardware store recently at \$1.30 each. It's a really good deal.

AA size batteries are available in a 24 pack for \$19 or in a box of 144 for \$115

C size batteries are available in a 12 pack for \$19 or a box of 72 for \$110

D size batteries are available in a 12 pack for \$26 or a box of 72 for \$156

Best of all small margin from each sale goes to UEC. If you don't have a use for batteries yourself maybe you know someone who does. Anyone with toys, remote control models etc.

Please order your batteries via e-mail from Michelle on sutho@bekkers.com.au. The batteries will be available for pick up ONLY at General Meetings.

MEMBERSHIP IS DUE FOR RENEWAL

IT'S TIME TO RENEW

Get in early for 2004-5

Please assist me by renewing your membership for 2004-5 prior to the AGM in November 2004. Membership offers you many benefits such as diving trips, social cruises and functions, voting rights and lots more.

Memberships are:

Ordinary	\$120
Family	\$180
Non-resident/country	\$120
Social/student/junior	\$35

Post bring your payment to the next club meeting or
post it to PO Box 1157, Booragoon, WA 6954

MANY THANKS

Clive Cass
Treasurer

UEC NEWS

DECEMBER

2004



*The official monthly newsletter
for Underwater Explorers Club
of Western Australia*

PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6954

Phone: 0401 775 720 (President)

[Email UEC](mailto:uec@space.net.au)

www.underwaterexplorersclub.net

[Download UEC News here \(pdf\)](#)

From the editor

Welcome to the December UEC newsletter. If you missed our AGM back in November this will be the first time you will get to see the new committee in action. Check the committee contact details below to see the 2005 Committee.

Note that the UEC Christmas will be held at the Ashton's on the 17th December. Check the notice below for more information. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Enjoy
Chris G.

GENERAL MEETINGS

You are more than welcome to attend the UEC general meetings. They are held on the third Wednesday of every month at the Swan Yacht Club, Riverside Drive, East Fremantle. Starting at 8pm with a short report session followed by a guest speaker. There are bar facilities on the premises. Hope to see you there!

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- To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

[Click here for UEC Committee Contact Details](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another year has flown past and I would like to take the opportunity once more to thank the

outgoing President and Committee members for all the effort this year. It's been a memorable year for UEC. One highlight was the hugely successful 50th Anniversary Ball, we also had record breaking diving figures and some fantastic events like the Rotto Mini Holiday. The biggest thanks though must go to all our active members who supported these events during the year.

Next year is looking even bigger. Your new committee is fired up with enthusiasm and the amount of forward planning that has already been done is impressive. The diving, social and training calendars are already very full for January and February. The planning for an Easter dive trip is already close to completion and I hear a second trip is pencilled in for the first part of the year also. Behind the scenes plans are well underway for development work on our website as well as some refining of some of our administration practices.

Personally I expect next year to be challenging for me, following in the footsteps of previous Presidents who have helped build a very progressive and vibrant club. I think it's safe to say I'm the youngest and the least experienced person to hold this position and plan to rely heavily on guidance from previous Presidents and senior members for a while. The committee's main priority this year will be fundraising. As you know the boat consumed a lot of our savings last year and as we don't expect those sort of costs again in coming years we hope to be able to put some money aside in a 'boat replacement fund' to fulfil a long term plan to replace our boat when the time comes.

Let's get out there diving and partying. Take care over the Festive Season and I look forward to seeing you on board UE or at a social function very soon.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members and their families.

Regards
Chris Cunnold

PR REPORT

Hi, I'm Tanya, the new PR person. Thanks for voting for me and I hope I can serve you well. It's going to be an exciting year for the club PR-wise. The website sub committee are already in the throes of planning a bigger and better website so watch this space.... Please let me know any thoughts or ideas about what you'd like to see on the website. Also, if anyone would like to join the website subcommittee, particularly if you have web graphic design skills, don't be shy, get in touch.

I'm also interested in hearing from anyone who has ideas for interesting news stories about the club and/or knows journalists and writers who might be interested in writing about us.

Contact me at tanya_dewhurst@bigpond.com or 0418 764 262.
Happy, fun diving.

Tanya Dewhurst

SAFETY REPORT

Hello everybody

As your new safety officer I would firstly like to thank Rex for doing a great job last year – the fact that he won the UEC award for “safest diver” just confirms this – Well done Rex! I am currently in Coral Bay for two weeks working hard on a friend's coral research project (honestly I will be working hard – it won't all be beer and fishing – unfortunately) but will be back just in time for the December general meeting.

Although being responsible for safety is an important task, the role of safety officer is arguably one of the less onerous committee positions – as such I will be sticking my nose in other peoples business and helping out with environmental, social and diving committee members' responsibilities (and anyone else that needs it). The committee features a lot of newer (and younger) faces this year – this fact along with the continuing “explosion” in new members will make 2005 a big year for UEC.

Upcoming highlights in the safety portfolio will include:

- A review of the Western Australian voluntary recreational diving code and how this relates to UEC's diving operations
- A review of the Dive Officers boat briefing to include all safety aspects important to diving from Underwater Explorer – This will be completed with Carmine who is now responsible for DO and Skipper training
- Hopefully a DAN oxy-provider course will be run by Julian – this would be very helpful for dive officers and other interested persons
- As night diving is becoming increasingly popular, a review of safe diving practise for diving (most notably in the river) at night. This includes the DPI regulations regarding flashing orange lights and so forth.
- Interesting articles from the SPUMS (South Pacific Underwater Medical Society) magazine. These magazines are full of fascinating information on diving related medical issues.
- Diving and fitness – what qualifies people as being mentally and physically fit to dive? (apart from completing a recognised diving course). There are a number of interesting websites that discuss recreational diving accidents and the concept of “diving fitness”.
- And finally a review of an interesting diving-related each month.

I will also be talking at the January general meeting about a recent trip – a scientific biodiversity trawling survey (run by the WA fisheries and WA Museum) in and around the Exmouth Gulf and Onslow. I have lots of interesting pics to show everybody.

I hope everybody will have a safe and enjoyable years diving

Mark

BOAT REPORT

It looks as though summer is finally with us and the starboard motor (the new one) has already 40hrs on the clock and purring along nicely. Several people have commented on how much smoother the boat feels.

Some minor modifications have still to be completed though. In testing the new motor, it was found that the backpressure of the exhaust outlet of the turbo was too high. The way to overcome this problem is to bypass some of the cooling seawater going through the leg. This will allow more exhaust gas to escape faster thus reducing backpressure in the system. The result is increased power and better fuel economy.

Looking a bit further ahead to when our bank balance improves, we plan to put carpet on the deck. This should help further reduce engine noise.

But for the immediate future, I have acquired a bar fridge to put in the galley so we can have a few coldies on board.

See you on the boat.

Martin

DIVE REPORT

Firstly and most importantly I extend my thanks to Belinda and Tony for continuing to run with the Dive Coordination role until the end of December 2004.

All bookings for January 2005 dive events and those going forward from January may be made through me – your new Dive Coordinator... (Contact details below.)

Thank you also, to the members of UEC for giving me the opportunity to do one of the things I love almost as much as diving, that is organising diving.

Belinda has done a fantastic job with Dive Coordination for 2004, and is a tough act to follow, but I'll give it my best shot, and will be more than glad to take on board any suggestions for dives and dive trips.

RECENT UEC DIVING ACTIVITY

November has proven to be one of the UEC's busiest months! We had over 100 people participating in various dive days and social events. We are, of course expecting the same level of participation from you for the remainder of the summer season!

With this current level of enthusiasm in mind we have scheduled ...

MORE DIVES

A combination of an excellent level of bookings and expressions of interest has coaxed us to trial some additional dives.

Early Start Single Dives: we have scheduled two early start single dives – one for January 9th and one for February 6th. If these prove popular with members, we will schedule additional dates. The idea of these dives is to get out early and get back early. Departure time will be **7am** (as per the dive calendar).

Boat Night Dive: interest in boat night dives has increased, so we have schedule a dive for Wednesday, February 9th. The dive will be either at Stragglers or up towards City Beach. If we receive a good level of bookings and interest, we will schedule additional dives going forward.

Shore Night Dive and BBQ: this one cuts across both diving and socialising. We have scheduled a **“post-festive season wind-down night shore dive and BBQ” for Friday, 14th January at Bicton Baths**. As a club dive event, a Dive Officer will be in attendance. The event will be catered with BBQ packs, salads and rolls and as such will attract a small charge. Further details will be announced on the UEC website and in the Thursday emails. Please email me at wenrose19@yahoo.com.au if you are interested in attending.

MONEY MATTERS

Ah, to the subject of paying for the pleasure of diving ... the UEC Committee has reviewed the cost of running and maintaining our wonderful boat, Underwater Explorer. Based on this review, it is clear that it is necessary to increase the cost of dives.

From 1st January 2005, the cost of a trip to Rottneest/City Beach will be \$45 and the cost of a local trip (Stragglers/Carnac) will be \$35.

BOAT DIVES

To make your dive booking until the end of the year, continue to call on 9339 1789 or email on tbpalmer@ca.com.au. Leave your name, number and the date you want to dive.

Your registration will be entered into the diary and we will only call you if the dive is cancelled due to

boat failure. Please remember to check with us the night before the dive to make sure there are enough numbers for the boat to be going out.

Here is the calendar for the remainder of December, January and February.

Date	Depart	Dive Site/ Event	Skipper	Dive Officer
December				
Saturday 11	08:00	City Beach	Carmine T	Steve L
Sunday 12	08:00	Skipper's Choice	Geoff G	Dallis S
Sunday 19	08:00	Christmas Dive – Stragglers then lunch at SYC – (single dive)	Kerry A	Clive C
Sunday 26	08:00	Received dive gear as Christmas gifts that you want to check out?	Peter H	Clive C
Monday 27	08:00	It's holiday season, spoil yourself with a days diving	Martin S	Mark M
January		Dive Bookings with Wendy H from here on...		
Sunday 2	08:00	Exploratory	Bob McL	Steve L
Saturday 8	08:00	City of York	Carmine T	Chris G
Sunday 9	07:00	Mini Swirl (early start - single dive)	Dennis S	Clive C
Sunday 16	08:00	West End	Geoff G	Jim R
Saturday 22	08:00	Skipper's Choice	Kerry A	Mark M
Sunday 30	08:00	Swirl Reef	Martin S	Clive C
February				
Saturday 5	08:00	Flat Top	Bob McL	Steve L
Sunday 6	07:00	Stragglers (single dive – early start)	Kerry A	Carl A
Wednesday 9	18:30	Boat Night Dive – Skipper's Choice	Martin S	Mark M
Sunday 13	08:00	City Beach	Geoff C	Clive C
Saturday 19 - Sunday 27	N/a	UEC Rottnest Holiday. UE will be at Rottnest for the duration		

- Boat departure is 8:00 from Swan Yacht Club, unless otherwise stated.
- Please **DO NOT** contact the Skipper, Dive Officer or Dive Coordinator to discuss weather conditions – the Skipper will decide on the day, on the boat, if the weather is suitable for the trip to proceed.
- During December, check with Belinda or Tony on 9339 1789 the night before to make sure there are enough numbers for the dive to go ahead.
- **From beginning of January 2005**, please make your dive bookings with Wendy Hutchison via email at wenrose19@yahoo.com.au or phone 9204 1858.
- All dives are two-tank unless otherwise stated.
- The boat will collect you at the loading jetty (at the end of the boat sheds in the car park). **Please do not take your gear to the pen.**

Dive and Boat Bookings for remainder of December: call Belinda / Tony

on 9339 1789 or tbpalmer@ca.com.au

Dive and Boat Bookings for January and going forward: call Wendy

on 9204 1858 or wenrose19@yahoo.com.au

TRAINING TIPS

By Julian Holliday and Jeff Wake

LOSE WEIGHT IN SECONDS AND BE A HEALTHIER DIVER

By Julian Holliday

I do not wish to bore you with all sorts of training mumbo-jumbo but it seems to me that lots of experienced divers carry too much lead on their hips. This means they sink quickly and that is great if we were running a contest to see who can hit the bottom first. What it also means is the following:

- Excess weight requires greater effort under water because we have more to carry and our profile is less streamlined.
- That means we use more energy, we use more air and we become more tired.
- It also creates greater stress on our hips which causes strain, especially when we are diving from the shore.
- Finally, it causes greater pressure on our bladders which means that we need to wash our wetsuits with more vigour.

I am prepared to bet that at least 75% of UEC members can lose at least three pounds of lead and maybe more by performing this simple exercise which is a matter of physics:

- Go into waste deep water (preferably salt water as that is what we tend to dive in), take off your scuba unit and let all the air out of the BCD. It will sink which means it is negatively buoyant. Thus, when you are wearing it and let ALL the air out, it will still be negatively buoyant.
- If you use an integrated BCD, make sure you have taken all the lead out of it before you try and sink it. Borrow somebody's weight belt, take three pounds off what you use and put the belt on with the remaining weights. If you normally use a weight belt, take three pounds from it and put it on as usual.
- Ensure that you are wearing what you wear normally when you dive. Let ALL the air out of your lungs and when there is no more air, fall backwards. You will sink. You may be able to do the same again and lose another three pounds. By sinking with that amount of weight, you have just proved to yourself that you can lose it because your scuba unit is also negatively buoyant. Thus, by letting all the air out of your BCD and your lungs when on the surface, you will descend.

Bear in mind that you will not descend as quickly but that is not a problem. Bear in mind also that you will need to get used to being lighter, particularly in shallower water and towards the end of a dive. That will not be a problem provided you remember to dump air regularly.

Give it a try and I am sure that most divers will feel the benefit!!

UEC DIVING REFRESHER COURSE 27 NOVEMBER 2004

By Jeff Wake

The first UEC Diving Refresher course was conducted by Julian Holliday on Saturday 27th

November at the Perth Diving Academy Rouse Head facilities. Seven divers attended the training.

From a course administration perspective the following forms were completed by all trainees.:

- UEC Current Member Contact Details form. [for UEC database]
- PADI Standard Safe Diving Practices Statement of Understanding
- A Liability Release and Assumption of Risk form
- Medical statement form

The day commenced with all trainees doing a Knowledge Review followed by a Skills Review in the pool from 1030 until 1400. All trainees completed a Review of the Open Water Course skills. I have had a problem with using the correct weight so I also participated in the training. I am happy to say that the procedure used by Jules enabled me to take 6lbs off my weight belt.

After a quick lunch we all jumped in off the PDA Jetty to check out the barge wreck at about 8m. This lasted for 30 minutes. After a debrief we finally wended off home pretty well stuffed at about 1620

All trainees achieved Refresher Competency. The message we all received was loud and clear - do more dives to gain confidence.



Diving Theory Revision



Refreshing skills in the pool

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Well this is the first time the UEC newsletter has had a whole report dedicated to the environment and its about time I think. As a club we have a lot of members who love to help the environment where they can, be it a clean up of the Swan River on clean up Australia day, or just enjoying a green dive at Rottneest Island.

This year we are looking at using our boat and the UEC name to take part in some extra activities,

(this wont affect our usual diving activities... or crayfish hunters!) and hopefully individuals and the club as a whole will be able to benefit from this. We have some very well connected people in the UEC, such as Harriet the environmental officer at Rottnest and many others!

The UEC may have a fantastic opportunity to work with the Rottnest Island Authority on preservation and monitoring work. Wendy has been involved in some of these activities already and is busily promoting the UEC! Some of the opportunities that may happen for the club this coming year are:

- 1) Stark Bay cleanup on scuba at Rottnest Island
- 2) fish/environment survey work of particular locations around Rotto, recording data and GPS details.

Another issue we will be looking at is seeking grants, yes money! By registering with marine conservation groups and taking part in activities like "dive into earth", helping the Rottnest Island authority, and taking part in things like clean up Australia day the club may be able to benefit both financially and publicly. If you know of any other organizations or activities we can be a part of please let me know.

If anyone has any marine articles etc they think should be added to this site, or issues to raise, then please email them to our newsletter editor. (especially any strange, unusual or amazing stories or photos!). To this months environmental report we have added a letter that was sent by Geoff Gallop to people who voiced their concerns over the proposed Ningaloo Marine Park, and also a letter from our very own Malcolm Roberts sent to the West Australian newspaper regarding the park zoning.

[Map of Ningaloo sanctuary zones](#)

See you on the boat,
Dallis

Letter from Geoff Gallop:

Last Saturday, I was very pleased to announce the Government's plan for the Ningaloo Marine Park.

I see this plan as one of my Government's most important initiatives. It will help protect the long-term health of this internationally significant reef and the growing tourism industry that depends on it.

Under the Government's plan, the Ningaloo Marine Park will be extended by 60 kilometres south to Red Bluff to include the whole reef, and sanctuary zones will be increased from 10% to 34% of the new Park.

Recreational fishing can continue in 66% of the Marine Park and along 70% of the shoreline.

The Government has committed substantial new resources to make the new marine park a success. An additional \$8.5 million over 4 years has been allocated for the management of the expanded park.

The overwhelming feedback from public consultation was that people wanted to see a greater level of protection for Ningaloo Reef. The Government's plan will meet this need, ensuring that Ningaloo Reef is one of the best-managed reef systems in the world.

A final, detailed management plan will be published later this year and the new sanctuary zones will come into effect on 1 March 2004.

You can access information on the new Marine Park, including a map showing the location of the new sanctuary zones, at

www.ningaloo coast.wa.gov.au

Thank you for taking the time to contact me with your views on this very important issue.

Yours sincerely

**GEOFF GALLOP
PREMIER**

Letter from Malcolm:

Here's the letter I had printed in The West Australian on Wed 2/12/04. Perhaps other UEC members can contribute positively to the media in support of our marine environment? Even lobby their local MP?

You are welcome to share it in the Dec UEC newsletter?

Cya

Malcolm

BIGGER IS BETTER

Why can't the common sense that applies to National Parks apply to our marine environment equally? We know that tiny patches of bush reserves are less effective than large areas and therefore make large protected areas. Can't fishermen see that by giving the marine ecosystem large sanctuary areas to be productive and prolific, has a positive effect on the remaining areas they can fish in?

For the fishing lobby groups to claim that, despite the evidence all over the world of the success of large marine sanctuaries, WA is somehow different, shows the poor state of their defense to the obvious benefits to every one of large marine sanctuaries.

Not only does the quantity of fish increase inside the parks, this has an overflow effect into areas that are fished, improving the fisherman's catch.

The fishing lobby groups claim the process has been hijacked by scientists. These scientists are the ones suggesting how fishermen might protect the quality of their fisheries for future generations. It takes learning and knowledge to be a scientist, unfortunately, as we see by their opposition to large marine parks, this is not a prerequisite for some vocal fishermen.

On purely dollar and job terms, imagine the growth in diving tourists and eco-tourists keeping pace with improvements in the quality of the marine environments. As the rest of the world destroys their marine ecosystems, protecting our reefs will bring untold numbers of international diving tourists, and the jobs and growth to meet demand.

I am a diver and a fisherman. Currently we are heading towards having poor examples of both diving and fishing.

This is our chance as a state to protect for the future our amazing marine environment and get world class fishing and diving. We CAN have both. Large marine sanctuaries make sense.

Malcolm Roberts

SOCIAL REPORT

Luckily I am being let into the Social Coordinator job slowly by Susie & Kerry & Crew giving me a reprieve in December organising the Xmas Party - THANKS GUYS!!

Now

CALLING ALL SOCIAL BUTTERFLIES - CALLING ALL SOCIAL BUTTERFLIES - CALLING ALL SOCIAL BUTTERFLIES

In order to have a fun filled 2005 I need two things.

Firstly - ideas / wish-lists - tell me what you want or think would work. The more ideas we have to bounce around the more we can organise.

Then secondly - I need volunteers for the social subcommittee. General volunteers to help with events & specific volunteers who are already coming forward offering to organise an event that appeals to them. Also feel free to do in someone else you think I should harangue!

There are events in the pipeline & once I have a few more specifics we can publish THE PLAN!

Events that you can definitely book into your diaries now:

Bicton Baths night dive & BBQ

Friday 14th January - book on using rachel.stone@iinet.net.au or 93781796 for this one please.

SkyShow

Wednesday 26th January - This is always fully booked so RSVP ASP to ensure you get a spot on board!!

Lastly, I need expressions of interest, or ideas, for a Family Fun Day picnic at a beach where kids can develop their snorkelling skills (in preparation for their future diving career). I'm thinking around Sunday 30th January before they go back to school?? Those of you with kids/grand-kiddies that are interested please contact me so we can work on this idea.

Cheers & thanks all in anticipation

Rachel

rachel.stone@iinet.net.au 93781796

CHRISTMAS BBQ AND DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING

The December General meeting is now being held on **December 17 at 7pm** at Kerry and Susie Ashton's home.

- Bring your own BBQ packs, all your drinks, something to drink from (unless you don't mind a plastic cup), a folding chair as well as your bathers and a towel.
- Provided will be nibbles, salads, baked potatoes and a beautiful swimming pool.

There is plenty of alternative parking in Hutchings Road which is the first right turn after Ashton's place. Susie will give you her address and other details when you RSVP to her.

Please RSVP to kasdivers@swiftdsl.com.au or 9331 2385 before Tuesday 14th Dec.

As this has been a last minute change of venue and date please spread the word.

VALE DONALD DOBSON

UEC founding member Donald Dobson passed away peacefully 27/11/04 at the age of 89.

Don and a group of his regular diving buddies founded UEC in 1954. Don wrote the original club constitution himself and kept all the minutes of meetings and the club records in big old fashioned hand bound book for many years. His secretary kept it all up to date and 'proper' as he called it. All the earliest meetings of the UEC were conducted in Don's offices in the basement of 104 St Georges Terrace, Perth.

Don was the person who bought the very first 'mask' to Perth after World War II. Up until that time everything used in WA was homemade using army surplus gas masks or inner tubes. For a long time he was the agent for Turnbull dive equipment in Perth and was had a lot of success in this area.

Don's son Stephen has memories of some of his fathers diving stories, like his brush with a large Hammerhead Shark at Rottnest and a story about one of Don's diving buddies setting the underwater endurance record of the time off Woodman Point.

Don began to pull away from diving when he lost a couple of mates in SCUBA accidents. There was no medical information back in the sports early days and these type of accidents were common. Eventually Don retired from diving and steered his children away from it too.

Thanks to Stephen Dobson for his 'notes' on his Dad's diving and UEC activities.

Rottnest Swim-Thru Report

On Saturday the 4th December we took the boat out for a single dive on Stragglers followed by a visit to Rottnest Island so that members could participate in the annual Rottnest Swim-Thru. The dive was done on Mini-Swirl and apart from a bit of surge was your usual excellent dive. Once everyone was back onboard we pulled the pick and moved on to Rottnest.

After we landed at Rottnest where the crew divided themselves into two groups: the swimmers and the supporters. While the swimmers psyched themselves for the event the supporters headed to the pub for your typical sport fan's preparation.

The event kicked off with an enormous number of swimmers departing in waves from the start line, over one thousand by my estimate. The course was 1.6 km, with the first half downwind and the second half and arduous return into the freshening sea breeze. A whole range of people entered, from Olympic swimmers to two blokes on body boards with several beers taped to the front of their boards. The Olympic swimmers were notable for the fact, that not only were they blindingly fast, but they also had a combined body fat total lower than your single average sports fan.

The UEC entrants put in some fantastic individual efforts, see times below. Not a bad effort for a 1.6 km swim. The event is annual so keep it in mind for next year, whether you train to be a supporter or a swimmer is up to you.

Chris G

Results for UEC participants in the Rottnest Swim-Thru

	Time
Sandy Webb	39.08
Carol Trav	43.42
John Contessi	27.16
Zita Dobson	36.36
Maureen Cox	36.22
Rex Burke	33.16

NOTICES

DIVING PRICE INCREASE

Most members are aware that the committee has been reviewing diving prices for a few months. The outcome is that diving costs will be increasing a small amount.

From January 1 2005 a 2 tank day will cost \$45 and a single tank day \$35.

It has always been the committee's objective to keep diving cost's as low as possible however the ever increasing cost of running the boat have made this price rise un-avoidable.

PAYMENT DIRECTLY TO UEC BANK ACCOUNT

There has been a pleasing increase in direct payments to the UEC bank account for diving and social events.

Payment can be made to:
Commonwealth Bank
BSB 066-136
Account 0090 197 2
In the name of **Underwater Explorers Club of WA.**

There is limited space to write what the payment is for. Please start with your name and then reason for payment.

In all cases it will be necessary to email me clivecass@inet.net.au with the payment information so it can be recorded prior to the bank statement being sent with:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for
- Reason for payment i.e. dive 4 Dec, Christmas dive, Fleece top

I have received several payments with insufficient identification of the payment. Most have been identified, however there is one payment of \$80 on 10 Nov for \$80 where the person is not known. If you have made this payment please contact me.

Good diving everyone.
Clive Cass

INTERESTING WEB SITE OF THE MONTH

Michael Mcfadyen's Website
<http://www.michaelmcfadyenscuba.info/index.html>

Sydney dive identity Michael McFadyen is well known in Sydney and Australia-wide from the many print articles he has written on his diving experiences. He also maintains an excellent website. This not only has very useful information on dive sites and marine life around Sydney and NSW, but also:

- How a GPS works – and what is a datum and why do they keep changing,
- His experiences buying an Olympus C5050 (take note Chris) and a strobe in the early days of underwater digital photography – and how the pictures improved with different settings and greater experience. This is one of the most interesting articles on digital photography

that I have read (and relevant for the "virgin" digital photographer).

- A review of recent diving "incidents" – what went wrong and how it could be avoided – including an interesting article titled "diving with an idiot".

LOST ITEMS

Geoff Geard's weight belt was accidentally taken from the boat after the Sunday Nov 21 dive. Please contact Geoff on 0438 900 876 or 9359 1150 if you have it.

Also missing from last weekends Saturday dive is a cray loop belonging to Rex Burke, please contact him at rexbur@bigpond.com or 0410 678 668 and a pair of diving gloves belonging to Craig Adams please contact Craig at craigdesu@inet.net.au

FOUND ITEMS

Polartec hood, fleece lined. Found in dive tub following Sunday 12th December Dive. Contact [Chris G](#)

FOR SALE

Sherwood Pro Black BCD, size XS (equivalent to size 8/10 ladies or SM male)
\$250 Ph : 0438 190 858 e-mail wenrose19@yahoo.com.au

Jeff Mullins has all the following Underwater Cameras, Housings and accessories for sale:

1. Seatite Alloy custom made housing (Australian made) for Canon AE1 Program, complete with 15mm Sigma full frame fish-eye lens and matching dome port, also 8mm Sigma circular fish eye lens that utilises the same port. Housing has a Nikonos style strobe socket, rear of housing has been modified at the factory to suit the Ikelite Super Eye viewfinder, which also comes with the housing, the entire housing has been anodised and painted in two pack paint to resist corrosion which was part of the customisation when I ordered the housing. This housing/camera combination is the sharpest wide angle system I have seen, it has been compared (by pros) to the Nikonos RSAF with the 15mm lens (around \$20,000) It also comes with Flat Port and extension for use with longer lenses (like 50 macro or 100 macro). Comes with Canon Camera and motor drive, plus two lenses (15mm & 8mm) - \$1300 the lot.
2. Tussey Alloy housing (USA import) for Canon AE1 Program, complete with Sigma 90mm macro lens, Canon 50mm Macro lens, Sigma 28mm macro lens, with Flat Port, extension port for 50 & 90 lens, domeport for 28mm lens (also suits 24mm lens which can be sold as a separate item with focus and aperture rings). Housing has been modified by Seatite - with Nikonos Style strobe socket and Ikelite Super Eye Viewfinder which also comes with housing. Comes with Canon Camera and three lenses (28 & 50 & 90) - \$1500 the lot.
3. Three Aqua Sea 140 Strobes, two have Nikonos style leads, one is set-up as a slave, but is convertable to a nikonos 'lead' style if required. These strobes have re-chargeable battery packs capable of around 200+ flashes per charge - \$250 per strobe. Will sell for \$200 each if sold with either of the above housings.
4. Nikonos 5 camera with 28mm & 35mm lenses - \$550
5. Nikonos 3 camera with 28mm lens - \$400
6. Nikonos 15mm lens & Viewfinder, latest model with full TTL exposure - \$1200
7. Nikonos 20mm lens & Viewfinder - \$900
8. Aqua Sea extension tube set - polypropolene type - 1:2 & 1:3 with framers for 35mm & 28mm

lenses, 1:1 with framers for 35mm lens only - \$80 the lot.

9. Film - Velvia50 - 36 exposure x 2rolls \$10ea / Velvia100 - 36 exposure x 16 rolls \$10ea / Sensia100 - 36 exposure x 2rolls \$6ea / all film is professional and expiry is March 2005 and has been refrigerated since purchase.

Contact Jeff Mullins : 9496 1878

Super Deal on Batteries for UEC members



UEC still has access to discount batteries. Don't miss out on these savings. Remember it's not just diving you may need them for.

Everyone knows how expensive buying batteries can be, especially if you are a regular Night Diver or Photographer. UEC is now able to offer members some super prices on batteries. Due to an exclusive offer from Michelle Sutherland, we are able to offer Energizer Industrial batteries in AA, C and D sizes. Michelle can also supply some more specialised batteries including re-chargeables if you e-mail her with the details.

Energizer Batteries have a reputation as a premium quality brand. Energizer Industrial are the same premium quality without the retail packaging.

To give you an idea of the savings, we are offering AA batteries at 80c each, that compares with ordinary Energizers I spotted at a major hardware store recently at \$1.30 each. It's a really good deal.

AA size batteries are available in a 24 pack for \$19 or in a box of 144 for \$115

C size batteries are available in a 12 pack for \$19 or a box of 72 for \$110

D size batteries are available in a 12 pack for \$26 or a box of 72 for \$156

Best of all small margin from each sale goes to UEC. If you don't have a use for batteries yourself maybe you know someone who does. Anyone with toys, remote control models etc.

Please order your batteries via e-mail from Michelle on sutho@bekkers.com.au. The batteries will be available for pick up ONLY at General Meetings.