



U.E.C.

We are on the Net!!!

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NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1999

President's Platform

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I hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas and New Year, and are now sufficiently relaxed enough to get primed for a full-on year of diving.

The boat has been going out at least once a week diving with the occasional social event thrown in for good measure, but at this time of the year, we should be on the boat almost permanently.

Make it your New Year's resolution to get out and enjoy your

diving on your boat. But how about the wind so far this year? Kerry had the boat booked for a Rottnest trip but had to quickly change plans because of a gale warning of all things.

Weather forecasts occupied a lot of time at the last committee meeting, and it was resolved that the skipper will assess the weather conditions on the day (as much as is practicable of course), and decide if the dive will go ahead. It may be

that members may elect to convert to a single dive or choose a different dive site in order to have a dive in marginal conditions.

In this way we are hoping to overcome some difficulties that we have experienced in the past, when dives have been cancelled the night before. Anyway, whatever happens, you will be kept up to date with developments.

(Continues on the next page.)



From the Editor

Hope you all had a great Christmas time and New Years party. We did – together with two of Kerry's four brothers and their giggling wifies, visiting from New Zealand. There was a sudden decision to take a week long trip down south after New Year. First overnight stop was in Albany (where we thought we were going to freeze to death, having a sunset drink atop Mount Clarence). We also

visited Denmark, Walpole for a *Tree Top Walk*, Pemberton to climb the *Gloucester Tree* - (all the way to the top!), Margaret River for sand, sun and surf. (OK. I admit – but just a FEW vineyards this time!), Dunsborough, and Busselton for a jetty walk. All great fun!!!

P.S. Must take this opportunity to beg your pardon for the "false information" in December Newsletter. CARMINE was

the "father" of the second poem "*Le Mare*" as well! Kerry DID read Michel's text all right, but that one was not quoted. :- (



LOST AND FOUND on the boat

I would have thought that you would have noticed by now, if you lost your nice *LEVI* jeans with a *Lacoste* leather belt! (Pity they are too big even for me!)

Also found:
 A blue/white *Finch* flannel shirt
 Blue *Pakka* parka
Sparks blue togs
 Black cap with a horrible gorilla on it!

Cont. President's Platform

The last general meeting was a most enjoyable evening that revolved around a Mexican theme. Sandy was responsible for the festive atmosphere, and the array of nibbles that was served. It was a great night, and I hope that we can continue in the same way at future meetings.

At the same meeting I also asked for some help from members in getting the Rottnest trip in March organised. I received offers of help with food and

bookings, for which I am grateful but would dearly love someone to put their hand up to deal with the administration. Give me a ring if you think you can lend a hand.

Lastly, plans for the Cottesloe to Rottnest underwater swim are now at an advanced stage with Maureen and her sub-committee working feverishly to tie up all the loose ends, so that our participation receives

widespread media coverage. Of course, it is hoped that our increased exposure will lead to greater recognition of the club, and more members that are

frantic to join us in our water-based activities.

Watch this space and others in the magazine for more updates on what is happening.

Maree

Please help me with the Rott administration next year!

Social Scene

FEBRUARY

Friday 12:
Ghostly Candle-light Tour of the Fremantle Jail and Curry in the Courtyard.



Saturday 20:
Cottesloe to Rottnest Swim

Friday 26:
"Underwater Explorer" goes to Rottnest for long week-end and mini-holiday.



Monday 15:
General meeting
 Guest speaker: Tim St Pierre, Physics, UWA, demonstrating "*Why water is Weird, Wacky and Wonderful*".

MARCH

Saturday 20:
Clean-Up Dive
 with a prize for the most interesting *Find of the Day*. In Challenger Harbour, followed by Pizza Party aboard "U.E." B.Y.O. drinkies.



Monday 15:
General meeting
 Guest speaker: Sue Morrison, WA Underwater Photographic Society, on underwater photography.



Social Scene

JANUARY



THE AUSTRALIA DAY SKY SHOW CRUISE

must be paid in full by the January General Meeting!



Monday 18:

General meeting

Guest speaker: Rob Rippingale from Curtin University.
Swan River Jelly fish under the microscope, with slide show and video projection.

Sunday 24:

The launching of Duyfken

We need to leave Challenger Harbour at 6.30 AM to be in place in time, so B.Y.O. brekkie to eat on the boat. The show goes on till 11 AM. Then we steam out for a one-tank dive.

Tuesday 26:

Australia Day Sky Show (see above).

**FOR DETAILS AND BOOKINGS
to all social events:**

See the *Social & PR News Book*
or ring Sandy on 9339 5936 a/h.

Boat Bits

Now that the Christmas-New Year hiatus is behind us, time to get serious on the boat. Not that I've been slacking off anyway, just time to get "more serious" I suppose. By the time this goes to print, the brand new Skipper's seat will have been removed, upgraded (the base WELDED to the upright), and re-installed. I'm also hoping to have the GPS power connections done on a more permanent arrangement. Generally speaking, though, She's going well. Even the antifouling is in best nick I've seen it in at this time of year pretty much since we've had Her, which I can only put down to a combination of good workmanship (or should

that be *workpersonship* in this day of political correctness), and Her being at Challenger Harbour. Whilst not wanting to detract from the good work from yourselves, the lack of a constant current flowing under Her has made a big difference. The only other things to note are that a cover for the steering pulleys is well under way, and will be in place before the Rottnest weekend. This will both look better (varnished plywood) and should (fingers crossed) go a long way to curing some of our noise problems. A new set of storm covers is in the pipeline, due for installation in around the same time frame, and, the piece de resistance, we

are getting a stereo. That's right ladies & gentlemen, we will not have to bring a "Ghetto Blaster" with us on social cruises for much longer! A nice little AM/FM Radio Cassette deck will soon be tucked away neatly (well, we're not quite sure where yet). I was pushing for a 10 CD "boot stacker" and a Bazooka Bass tube to go with it but got outvoted on that bit, but the radio alone will be a bonus. That's all for now, the rest is up to yourselves to make use of YOUR boat.



Geoff C

Conservation Corner

DON'T THROW YOUR CORKS AWAY!

How easy it is to put your wine and champagne corks in the bin! But please don't! **SAVE THEM**, bring them in to the next general meeting, and give them to ZITA, who will pass them on to the Girl Guides for a good course.

THANK YOU!

Recycle your wine corks!

Building Banter

HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone!

Well, here we are in the last year of the 20th century before the millennium bug infects our computers with 21st century fever. I don't know about you guys, but my old computers are not only going to be old fashioned, but I am going to reset them back a year every year from now on. That'll bugger up the bug. I do, however, have a computer which has been inoculated against this millennium bug. This shot in the arm is simply a matter of spending more money. Being just a little bit cynical I bet they always knew, and it was all a big plot to get us all to spend more money.

CLUB P.R.

Since the last report we have had one sub-committee meeting about the *Cott-Rott* swim and have got things under way. Maureen has spoken to the organiser a couple of times. We have discussed the safety issues, and steps have already been taken for the design and manufacture of the towing assembly.

At the last general meeting I took orders from those present for printed T-shirts, and at the same time I am getting *Our Uniform T-shirts* printed, so on THE Day, we will be very visible to the TV cameras.

Steps have also been taken for some sign-writing on the *Underwater Explorer*, so that any

overhead shots will also advertise our club. All in all we are well under way to getting things ready for the 20th February swim. We actually had another meeting on the 5th January, and I will update you at the next meeting.

Could all those that have ordered T-shirts please try to be at the next meeting to pick them up or contact me, and you will be able to arrange to have them picked up, if you want them beforehand.



Carmine

Another symbiotic relationship?

We all know about the anemone and the anemone fish. But I bet you didn't know this one about the *Greenland Shark*.

A three inch long crustacean called *copepod* attach themselves to the shark's eyes with two claw-like appendages that grasp the cornea. The parasite then feeds on surface-layer cells, the abraded cornea fogs over, and "sharkie" cannot see!

So what's in it for the shark?

Well, scientists now speculate that the *copepod* may actually aid "sharkie" in feeding! Fish are attracted to the parasite, which is dangling like a worm when "sharkie" is swimming. Although the shark's vision is severely damaged, it retains a keen sense of smell to seek out pray.

SOURCE: National Geographic, September 1998.

Diving Delights

HAPPY NEW YEAR folks!! I am still trying to work out what day it is. The last few weeks have been pretty hectic, for me, for everyone. Parties, work, parties, parties and more parties.

With the crap weather for the last month or so, I hope the diving is on the up with good conditions and weather. As for last month, the "Christmas Dive" was a huge success. We found a spot south west of *Stragglers* which shot up on the sounder. Kerry said, "let's take a chance". So we did, and it turned up trumps. I think 8-10 crays were taken in all. A couple were thrown on the BBQ, on the boat in the

river for lunch, and everyone had a great day.

After *Stragglers* we went to Rottnest to dive *Catherine's Grotto* where a heap of cackers were caught and released. From there it was into *Catherine Bay*, near *Armstrong Point*, for another great dive and more crays (size ones this time).

From there, in blustery conditions, we dived *14m Reef* on the north side of Rotto.

If you haven't dived it yet, or it's been a while, ask to dive it, as everyone came up saying, "lovely site, plenty of fish life". A couple of crays were taken as well. Then back to *Catherine's*

Grotto for another great dive and more crays.

The final dive for the month was an impromptu mid week dive between Christmas and New Years, organised by Maureen. We dived *Angela's Cave*, where Sandy and I saw a nice size turtle. Then back in to *Catherine's Grotto* for yet another dive, with a couple more crays being picked up.

So get to, and ring me on 9453 1723 (a/h) to book your spot on the boat.
LET'S GO DIVING!!
I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT!

Geoff - the Prawn King (or is it the king prawn?)



Dive Diary

Friday 15/1
Saturday 16/1
Sunday 17/1
Friday 22-Saturday 23/1
Sunday 24/1

Sunday 31/1
Friday 5/2
Saturday 6/2
Sunday 7/2
Saturday 13/2
Sunday 14/2
Saturday 20/2
Sunday 21/2
Friday 26/2

Social Prawn Dive with beach party Booked (Richard Naylor)
Cray dive - two tanks (Peter/Brian)
"Overnighter" (Bob/Steve)
"Green Day" - one tank - after the Duyfken replica launching. PLEASE NOTE: Departure 6.30 AM sharp! (Kerry/Susie)
Wreck dive - two tanks (Geoff/Jim)
Social Prawn dive (D.O. Geoff G)
One dive and fish 'n' chips lunch (Kerry/Susie)
Exploratory dive - two tanks (Bob/Steve)
D.O.'s Choice - one tank (Richard/Brian)
"Request dive" - two tanks (Peter/Geoff G)
"COTT-ROTT" swim (Geoff/Jim)
Cray dive - two tanks (Dennis/Kerry)
"U.E." leaving for Rottnest long weekend and Mini holiday



Dive Diary

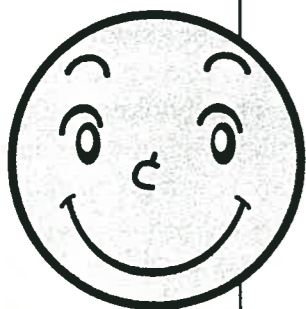


FEBRUARY

Saturday 20/2 Channel Swim to Rottnest (Bob/Kerry)
 Sunday 21/2 Two dives Cray catch (Peter/Luc)
 Friday 26/2 "U.E." leaving for Rottnest long weekend
 and Mini holiday

MARCH

Friday 5 Prawn dive & cook-up (D.O. Geoff G)
 Tuesday 9 "Underwater Explorer" returns from Rottnest
 Saturday 13 One dive "Weight & Sea" (Kerry/Geoff G)
 Sunday 14 Two dives Cray catch (Geoff C/Brian)
 Saturday 20 One dive "D.O.'s Choice" (Bob/Steve)
 Sunday 21 Two dives West End (Peter/Luc)
 Saturday 27 One dive to be followed by Cicerello lunch (Kerry/Susie)
 Sunday 28 Two dives "New country or dive an old site" (Dennis/Jim)



STOP PRESS - STOP PRESS

EVERYONE WHO WILL BE ON THE
 COTT/ROTT SWIM MUST ATTEND
 THIS GENERAL MEETING (Monday 15th February),
 AS WE WILL BE HAVING A "DE-BRIEF"
 STRAIGHT AFTERWARDS.

Maureen

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Hetty Geard
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NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1999

President's Platform

I don't suppose there is much point in groaning about the shockingly windy weather we have been having, but it makes me feel better (at least for a while that is). I hope that some of you have seized the opportunity, when it has presented itself, and enjoyed your diving. I am fervently hoping that the weather will turn around for our annual holiday at Rotto. If it is half as good as last year, it will be memorable. I have had a couple of last minute cancellations, so if you can scrounge a few days off work, let me know ASAP, and I will secure a spot for you.

By now of course, all the arrangements for our weekend and holiday are now in place. The price for the *weekenders* has now been set at \$150, however, as a departure from previous years, food is not included in the price. I will let each of the *weekendees* know who they are staying with, and each house can make their own arrangements. This should not pose much of a problem, if everyone chips in and does a bit. Anyway, this year will be the testing year, and if it doesn't work out, we can always revert to Plan A.

Departure time from Challenger Harbour will be 10AM Friday morning 26 Feb. and 5.30PM sharp in the afternoon. The return trip will be mid afternoon Monday 1 March. The balance of all the payments are now due, so can each of you please make your payment at the next General Meeting. All the people going know what to bring now, but if you have any queries, give me a ring.

The Cott-Rott underwater swim arrangements are now well and truly in hand, and the UEC is sure to make a big splash. Keep your eyes and ears open for news of your Club in the papers and the telly. This is turning into an epic bigger than Ben Hur, but I am reliably informed (by the organisers) that the organisers have sewn up all the loose ends, and that our participation will run as smooth as clockwork.

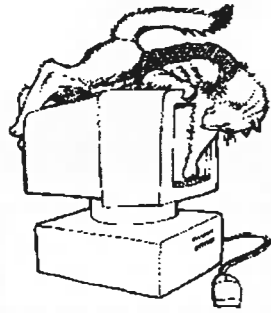
Maree

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GENERAL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE THIRD MONDAY EVERY MONTH at 8 PM:
 Willetton Sports Club, Burrendah Avenue

From the Editor



Believe it or not... but I actually enjoy going to our committee meetings, getting the source

material, and then home to throw myself on the computer to work with putting together a newsletter for you guys to read!

If YOU have any relevant comments, please let me know!

I had one comment relating the January issue from Geoff, our Dive O/C. He wants the **Dive Calendar** to appear on the back page of the newsletter, in order to make it quick and easy for you to find it. Good point! So there you are!

Next on the "wish list" was that I enclose a separate sheet with all club members' name and telephone number in the next newsletter. If you **DO NOT** want me to include yours, you will have to let me know by Monday 22nd February.

HOME PAGE NEWS

All new photographs was uploaded 1/2/99 on the Club's web page *Album*. Check it out! There is also a *hitometer* on the first page. We are getting quite a bit of e-mail correspondence through our web site, which resulted in many guests turning up at the last general meeting, then coming as a guest diver, and finally signing up as members. We welcome you to our "Family" and are sure you'll enjoy our activities.

Sune

NOMINATIONS

Rob Mace, 37 Glenelg Avenue, Wembley Downs
Jeff Pinkham, 7 Newbold Road, Casuarina

Boat Bits

Well, the boat's been a hive of activity the last few weeks, AND we've had some diving as well. The list of improvements/modifications is as follows:

The GPS has been hardwired (now all you do is plug it in & turn it on), Bob has done a stirring job of fitting the stereo, and the compass has been re-installed (I just hope the light works).

As I said last month, I have plans in hand to cover up the steering gear for the outside

helm, and hopefully cut down the noise level in the process. The plan is to have this done before the Rotto trip, ditto for the new storm covers. On the subject of anchors, skippers are probably aware by now that we have acquired a very serviceable "delta" anchor, complete with approx. 15 metres of chain. Skippers, please don't be afraid to use it in windy conditions and soft sand anchorage - it will be hard work when it comes time to leave, but the holding power far outweighs that of the CQR.

Generally speaking, though, She's running well, but the fume problem persists. The temporary rubber exhaust extension has failed somewhat, so we're now working on a MKII version, aiming to have it installed before the Channel Swim, if possible.

I'll just finish with a gentle reminder that if you have any ideas for improvements or modifications (other than trying to turn her into a floating gin-palace), I'm all ears!!

Geoff C



Social Section

EVENTS FOR MARCH, APRIL and MAY

Once again those of us who joined in this annual event had a fantastic *Australia Day* on the boat... and under the stars, the Roulettes and the fireworks, thanks to SUSIE and KERRY. And by the time you read this our *Ghostly Candlelight Tour of Fremantle Prison* will be over too. Things are really happening fast at present, with all the organising and practising for the Cott-Rott swim being pretty central to it all. As a number of our special dives are quite social, and a number of the social events involve the boat or diving, it is quite difficult to know who should be taking charge of things: The Social Butterfly, the Diving Officer, the Training Officer or the Safety Officer. We have to do a lot of cooperating to make sure as many of you as possible get the combination of diving and socialising that you want! The coveted stay with the boat and a heap of club members at Rotto for the February/March long weekend and following week is also soon to be upon us, but those of you who are sorry to have missed out on that this year, think about coming up to Yanchep for some of the Easter days.

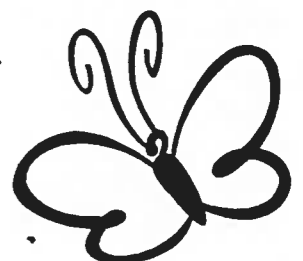
The March social event is an important one and should also be fun: It's the *Clean up of Challenger Harbour* dive and party on Saturday March 20. I'm told by people who have peeped already that there is plenty of interesting stuff down there, and we will be having a treasure hunt and offering a prize for the most interesting find of the afternoon. However, it is not just about our fun, it is a really important event to give something back to the people we wake too early most weekends! And I hope a number of the people who live there will join us on the day, to help clean around the edges of the Harbour and to party on the boat from dusk on. Please sign up to dive and stay to party... and invite your family and friends down too! We now have a cassette deck and radio on the boat thanks to Bob, so we really can party!

The *Easter Extravaganza* at CARMINE's and CAROL's house in Yanchep should be stunning. Numbers are limited to 15 (in comfort) or no more than 20, so sign up now. The boat will go up early on Good Friday (2 April) and Dennis will use it to train trainee skippers. We have a pen booked at Two Rocks Marina for two nights, and the boat will come back down on Easter Sunday, with the possibility of meeting a shore party for a dive at Marmion Marine Park on the way back. Some can go up and back by boat, others (including family members) can travel by car, and we do need enough vehicles up there to get us to and from the Marina. The big dream is that, weather permitting, we may be able to head even further north on Easter Saturday to dive on the *Gilt Dragon*. The cost per day (2 days) is \$40 for divers and \$25 for non-divers, including air fills, accommodation and all meals. A huge drawcard should be that Carmine has offered to do the main cooking, and he is a superb cook!

At this stage, I am planning to liaise with DENNIS (as Training Officer), STEVE (as Safety Officer) and HETTY to organise a *Skills day and Family Picnic* up at Lake Leschenaultia on Sunday 2nd May, while the water is still warm. I'll keep you posted as things develop. I'm told that in the dark past of the Club there have been some high times had at similar events...maybe some of the stories will come out on the day.

Oh..., and if you think you'd like to work on your water fitness a bit, think about joining us in the Fremantle pool on Wednesdays at about 6 PM... although the dinner afterwards usually wrecks the value of the swim! See you at Club meetings... and I hope you enjoy the talks I am organising for them.

Sandy



Cott-Rott & PR Report

I am pleased to say that all preparations for the Cott-Rott swim are going well. The drag assembly works well. The T-shirts went well. All sold and showed a modest profit for the club. The trials themselves have gone very well, and all the people actually doing the swim have had a go, and are happy with the system. The swim rate, which was a bit of a worry at the start, as we thought that we would not be able to travel fast enough to complete the swim in time, has been clocked at a comfortable two knots. This is fast enough to complete the course on time, and we should arrive at Rotto about the same time as the bulk of the swimmers.



As I've already told you, the UEC Cott-Rott organising committee meet every two weeks, and any problems are discussed and ironed out at the time. We will also be attending a briefing session held by the official organising committee on the 6th February, and various people from our sub committee will be expected to attend, especially the skipper (Bob McLaughlin). From talks held with John Guilfoyle, Maureen has found out, that the organisers have been discussing us at length, and are making special allowances by way of meeting with us separately, so that they will not spoil the element of surprise. I firmly believe they are absolutely over

the moon about us doing this swim, primarily as it will create so much interest and publicity for the event, and almost single handily raise the events profile and increase their funding prospects. This brings me to the only disappointing part of this whole event. Try as we may, Maureen and I have not yet succeeded in relieving anybody of any money for sponsorship - except for good old JOHN CRESWELL, who has agreed to pay for the fuel costs for the day. I told him it would be close to \$1,000.00, but he refused to give me the extra naught and offered \$100. I accepted graciously and quickly.

During the trials we have been collecting money from all those who have been participating. Though not a fortune, the amount collected has always more than paid for the fuel costs. As much as we don't like to ask members for more than their normal fees, we would be most appreciative if some of you contributed a little towards this event, either personally or by getting others to do this on your behalf. You know, mothers-in-law, rich aunts and uncles, understanding employers, and even 'sugar daddies'.

This sounds very Jewish, but "trust me" we will all benefit from this in the long run, as it will help to make our club stronger, better known, and

will also give members a genuine feeling of pride in that we are following in the wake of our "club ancestors" by still achieving *First*s today, as they did in the past.

I want to just quickly say that, as your PR guy, I am very pleased with the direction the PR of the club is going. We started off with the standard processes of getting articles printed in the local rags, and found that they were not very successful. We then went to the Internet, and though slow to start, is now working to the extent that we have had well over 1,600 hits since we started. (You can stop phoning our site now, thanks, Warren.) Some of the inquiries are being converted to members.

The Cott-Rott swim will really get us up and going, and along with ready access to information, thanks to SUSIE's well set up web site, we will soon be getting many genuine inquiries for membership. It is my intention that, with the help of many very talented and willing members, we will continue this momentum with follow up after Cott-Rott.



Carmine

Conservation Corner

Global Threats

Some interesting facts about our coral reefs, that I picked up from the latest edition of National Geographic.

Coral reefs thrive in the clear, shallow coastal waters of tropical seas. The reefs of south-east Asia - the world's richest - and those in the Caribbean have suffered the greatest degradation. When climatic extremes such as *El Nino* increase water temperature, symbiotic algae flee the corals' tissue. Without the algae, corals lose their colour and a source of energy. Bleached, they may eventually die.

Together, the Indonesian and Philippine archipelagoes contain about 21,000 islands and nearly one-fifth of the Earth's coral reefs. There are none richer or more complex. A single bay in an Indo-Pacific sea may contain twice as many coral and fish species as grace the entire Caribbean - providing you can still find healthy reefs to compare. **Fewer** than 10 percent of Indonesia's remain in prime conditions. **In the Philippine the figure has fallen below five percent!**

From one little Philippine island of Olango comes the story of a man who used to squirt the chemical onto coral colonies,

then pry them apart with a crowbar to capture stunned fish hiding in the crevices. Thousands of his countrymen did the same, starting in the 1960's, until they were putting 330,000 pounds of poison onto 33 million corral heads **yearly**. The aquarium industry annually sells 200 million dollars' worth of live caught marine stock worldwide. Its biggest market is the United States. The business is perfectly legal, though the use of cyanide is not. **More than half** the fish die during capture and transport!

WHO WANTS AN AQUARIUM AFTER THIS INFO!?!

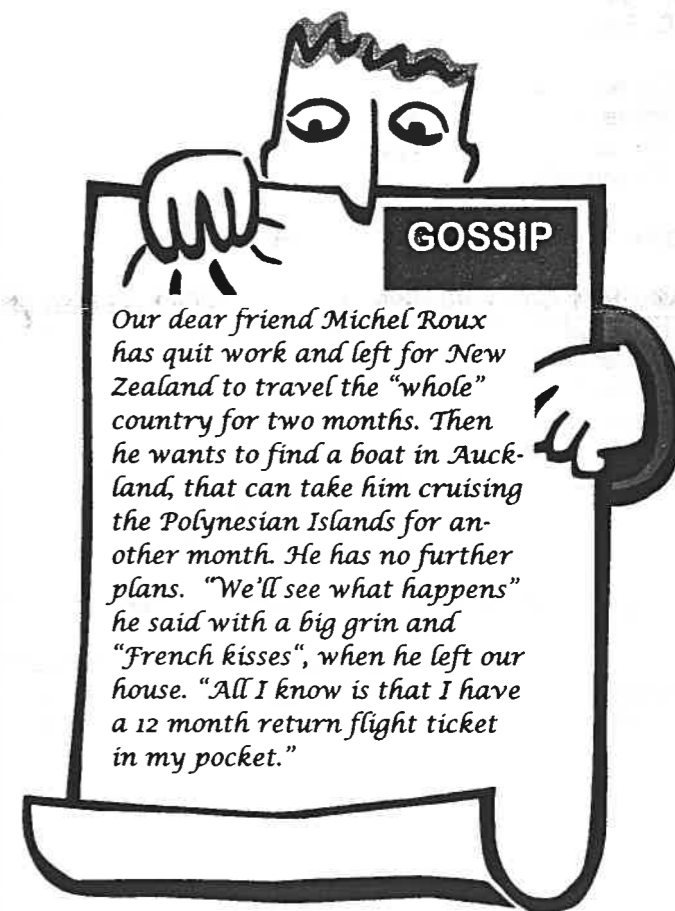


Many thanks to Steve Larter, who copied this magazine a/h, with kind permission from Pilkington Victor Glass, Myaree.

PILKINGTON VICTOR GLASS

Greenwood: 20 Canham Way	9342 3737
Midland: 234 Gt. Eastern Hwy	9274 5833
Myaree: 79 McCoy Street	9330 2333
North Perth: 18 Scarborough Beach Rd	9444 5333
Sth Fremantle: 109 Hampton Road	9335 2044
Victoria Park: 1 Mint Street	9362 2270
Kalgoorlie: 75 Dugan Street	(090) 212724
Albany: Cockburn Road	(098) 411622

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Our dear friend Michel Roux has quit work and left for New Zealand to travel the "whole" country for two months. Then he wants to find a boat in Auckland, that can take him cruising the Polynesian Islands for another month. He has no further plans. "We'll see what happens" he said with a big grin and "French kisses", when he left our house. "All I know is that I have a 12 month return flight ticket in my pocket."

Survey Results 1998

The survey we carried out during 1998 was disappointing, as we only received 17 responses. However, for your information, here is a brief outline of the responses.

All respondents were satisfied with the way the club is being run.
 70% dived once every 2 weeks.
 29% dived once a month with the club.
 41% dived once every 2 weeks with the club.
 23% dived at other times with the club.

When diving with U.E.C. the following methods listed in most preferred to least preferred.

1. 2 tank dive. All crew dive. Immediate return.
2. 2 tank dive. All crew dive. Slower return.
3. Full day diving with lunch at Rottnest.
4. 2 tank dive. One crew member not dive immediate return.
5. 1 tank dive. All crew dive. Slower return.
6. 1 tank dive Stragglers/Carnac. One crew not dive.
7. Night dive from boat.
8. 1 tank dive. Followed by lunch in Freo harbor.
9. Overnighter

Most preferred types of dives. Listed most preferred to least preferred.

1. Two tank dives.
2. Exploratory dives.
3. Deep diving.
4. Wreck diving.
5. Crayfishing dives.
6. One tank dives.
7. Overnighters.
8. Night dives
9. Social dives.
10. Fishing trips.

82% were satisfied with the club boat.
 47% replied the boat was too noisy.
 24% replied the boat required seating.
 11% replied the boat needed better splash screens.

Other comments included: Cylinder stands, power anchor winch, boat too slow, hand held shower required.

All respondents were interested in attending club meetings.
 They all preferred Monday nights.
 35% replied Willetton area was suitable.
 24% replied Fremantle area was suitable.
 11% replied Metro area was suitable.

The preferred meeting activities: Guest Speakers = 13.
 Videos = 12.
 Slide shows = 14.

The preferred nights for social events: 82% Saturdays, and 18% Fridays.

As you can see there were no surprises which is probably attributed to only receiving 17 responses, which were mainly the committee members and our more active members.
 Thank you to all the members who bothered to return these surveys. To those who did not, you had your chance.

Steve, Geoff, Luc.



Diving Delights

February has caught me on the hop. I not only have a committee meeting, but my daughter has just started school! *Grade One!!!* And I'll miss both as I'm on my way to Nimeroy, or was it Wiluna, for work.

We have a few things coming up this month. The first is the Cott-Rott swim/dive/drag on February 20th.

The second is the March long-week-end, which actually starts at the end of February.

Next month we have the week at Rotto followed by the Harbour clean-up, or should that be the Marina clean-up. Anyway,

Challenger Harbour will be dived to see what goodies can be brought up.
 In April, the boat may be going up to Yanchep for Easter, but more in the next magazine.

Our first dive for last month was out to the west of *Stragglers*, where 3/4 crays were taken and everyone had a good dive. From *Stragglers* we went to *Swirl Reef*. For me, another excellent dive. I've never dived it before – it has always been too rough. Then from *Swirl Reef*, we went to *Geordie Caves* for an hour or so.

For our last dive of the month, we had another mid week dive

on Australia Day, Tuesday, in some new country on the north side of *Stragglers*, where a couple of size crays were taken.

*Let's go diving!
 I'll see you on the
 boat!*

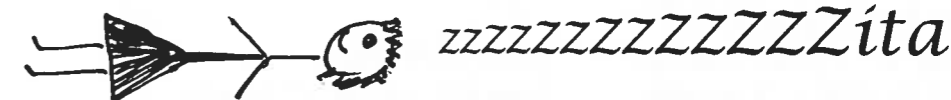
*Geoff -
 Prawn
 King*



Who would like to Sleep with me???

Now that I have your attention! Many thanks go to SUSIE (& apologies for the INSTANT coffee) for sitting with me on February 1st at the Rottnest Island Board's office at "E" Shed, Fremantle, to secure our three units for Feb/March year 2000. The policy for booking three units is that you must have two people! We arrived just on 6.00 AM to see 40 odd (they weren't ALL odd!) people in the queue - all lined up with their deck chairs, newspaper, flasks and, of course, the mobile phones. We weren't able to get exact what we had discussed with our President, Maree, but option B will be OK; the same units we had in 1998.

So..., to get the front units, thought I would do the rock concert thing, and sleep out – hence the invite to join me! The date will be Tuesday, February 1st, 2000. Ring me in December, if you can help out!



P.S. PLEASE KEEP THOSE CORKS COMING!

Club Diary



MARCH

Saturday 13
Sunday 14
MONDAY 15

One dive "Weight & Sea" (Kerry/Geoff G)
Two dives "Cray Catch" (Geoff C/Brian)
GENERAL MEETING at 8 PM - Guest Speaker
"The ups and downs of underwater photography"
by Sue Morrison, WA Museum; WA Underwater Photographic Society and co-author of the recent book on Ningaloo Reef.
"D.O.'s Choice" - 1 tank (Bob/Steve)
Social Clean-up Dive at 1.30 PM in Challenger Harbour to be followed by a Sunset Party on the boat.
West End - 2 tanks (Peter/Luc)
One dive to be followed by Cicerello lunch (Kerry/Susie)
"New country or dive an old site" - 2 tanks (Dennis/Jim)

Saturday 20
Saturday 20

Sunday 21
Saturday 27
Sunday 28

APRIL

Friday 2
Friday 2
Sunday 4
Monday 5
Tuesday 6
Saturday 10
Sunday 11
Saturday 17
Sunday 18
MONDAY 19

"Underwater Explorer" goes to Yanchep for two days diving.
Prawn Dive in Swan River - Cook-up (Geoff G)
Marmion Marine Park dive approx. at 11 AM.
OPEN - 2 tanks
Committee meeting 8 PM
Request Dive - 1 tank (Richard/Geoff G)
Wreck Dive - 2 tanks (Peter/Luc)
Cray Dive - 1 tank (Peter/Brian)
D.O.'s Choice - 2 tanks (Dennis/Jim)
GENERAL MEETING at 8 PM - Guest Speaker
"Science in Science Fiction": A spoof with videos by Dave Macey, Murdoch Uni. School of Biology.3

Underwater Explorers Club of W.A. (Inc.)
P.O. Box 1157
Booragoon W.A. 6154
E-mail: uec@space.net.au

Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Crescent
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1999

President's Platform

Once again the U.E.C. has proved that we don't stay still for long. These past couple of weeks have seen Club members in either a swimming or diving frenzy, and in some cases both! The Rottnest Channel Swim saw 15 divers and eight support people take to some fairly choppy waters early on Saturday morning for the first ever underwater excursion. And what a fantastic job everyone did in actually achieving what we set out to do! Despite the very arduous conditions they all made it, and all came up with smiles on their faces. The wind-down session at the hotel saw all of us extolling the virtues of the U.E.C. to all and sundry - certainly everyone knew about us. **Congratulations to all those involved for a fabulous job well done!**



Next, a big contingent of members headed over to Rottnest for the long weekend, followed by a week's holiday. The weekend weather was perfect, and this allowed us to visit some of our favourite sites. The West End on several occasions provided some memorable dives and a large haul of crayfish fed everyone more than adequately. Sadly, some of the group had to return on Monday, however, the rest of us braved the elements for a further week of fantastic diving. The highlight of the week came on Saturday, when we all dived on *Kerry's Caverns*, located on *Horton's Reef* at the West End. Too many superlatives are barely enough to describe this site - certainly it gives *Roe Reef* and *Angela's Cave* a bad name in comparison. The only problem with this area is the huge rollers, which come through and toss you about a bit. A small price to pay for fabulous diving. **Anyone who wants to come to ROTTO next year should pay a deposit of \$100 for the weekend, and \$50 for the week after at the April general meeting.**

That's it for me this month - we are all off for a slap-up meal in the Rottnest settlement shortly.

Hope to see you all soon!

Maree



PRESIDENT:

Maree Casley
9457 3333

VICE PRESIDENT:

Geoff Charlton
9451 2910

SECRETARY:

John Creswell
9335 7730

TREASURER:

Peter Horton
9445 2336

DIVING:

Judy Cowan
9331 2005

BOATING:

Geoff Charlton
9451 2910

SAFETY:

Steve Larter
9291 9654

TRAINING:

Dennis Stubberfield
9457 3333

BUILDING & PR:

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GENERAL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE THIRD MONDAY EVERY MONTH at 8 PM:

Willetton Sports Club, Burrendah Avenue

From the Editor



Another great week, with great weather, great

company and fabulous diving has passed – my annual Rotto mini holiday!

Our Club's newly discovered dive site *Kerry's Caverns* can well be spoken of in the same breath as any other "10 out of

10" dive sites I have experienced around the world, and would surely be listed as one of Australia's 10 BEST DIVE SITES, if "they" knew about it.

(But they don't! Only a U.E.C. member gets to dive here!)

UEC T-SHIRTS

We are back to making *iron-on* logotype prints, as all T-shirts that Carmine ordered sold out like hot cakes! Just let me know, if you want some.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

Roy Wyatt (26 March)

Bob Dobson (30 March)

Zita Dobson (13 April)

Geoff Geard (13 April)

Our Club Data Base also reveals that the average age of members (excluding non-diving life members) is 47 years!

Sure

NOMINATIONS

Janet Ashwood Byers
Paul, Luke and Ken Weaver

Boat Bits



As I write this report I am

sitting in the chalet at *Geordie Bay*, enjoying a beer after a hard day's diving – a tough life, I know.

The boat is running well, and the antifoul is holding up remarkably well, but needs a wipe-over soon. We've had an interesting week learning how to drive the GPS, and I must say, we're getting better at it.

Over the next few weeks, I'll be programming in most of our dive sites. Stay tuned for more up-to-date info on the progress of this.

The rubber exhaust extension was buried at sea during the long weekend trip (well, it fell off at 12 knots near the *West End*), and with the fume problem being as it is, replacing it has become a high priority, and a "ripper" will be fitted ASAP.

The steering gear cover didn't quite get there before the long

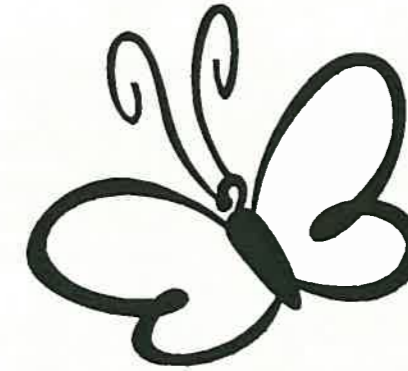
weekend (I'll tell you why, if you ask me), but is on the short-list. The stern-covers, however, did. Thanks to Maree for organising them; they are fabulous!

We now must remember not to kill them with kindness, so they will stay down, when the boat is not in use.

Keep up the good work, and keep reporting any potential problems!

Geoff C

Social Section



I feel very 'upside down' trying to write sensibly about our social program when recent UEC events are having such a dramatic effect on my mind and body, and some future events will be past when you read this. For example... I am writing this on Sunday 21 February, the day after our amazing Cott-Rott channel crossing, and another big social event of the year still lies ahead - next week's migration of 20 or so lucky UEC members and the *UE* to Rottnest, for the long weekend (and for some really lucky ones, beyond). All will be over when you read the newsletter.

Our tour of Freo Prison was a warm and mellow night in stunning surroundings. Sixteen of us lingered on in the huge walled grounds, and would have liked to linger longer. (Perhaps it was a bit too easy to forget the past horrors of the place.)

I am sure others will write about the Cott-Rott crossing, but I have to say something. I did not hear ONE person say they would EVER do it again, but it was a fantastic challenge, and we met it, in spite of that lumpy sea trying to fling us off the frame, and our aches, pains, seasickness, etc. Our whole team was superb!! To me a

most amazing personal observation was that I could not wee in my wet suit while grimly holding on to the frame... (maybe that is why we did not see any sharks?).

As many divers as possible, please sign up for the *Clean Up* dive in Challenger Harbour, which has been set to start at 1.30 – 2 PM on Saturday 20 March. This has been timed not to interfere with the normal Saturday one-tank dive, as we need the boat for easy entry. We will soon finalise approval of the Dept of Transport. We will take good safety precautions, and are working with others who live in the Marina to build up more good-will. There will be a bit of a treasure hunt, and a prize (who knows what?) for the most interesting find (the Cott-Rott frame?). The party after will be very informal, all BYO, and pizzas ordered on whim.

The two days at Yanchep are already fully booked. But do note that the Easter Sunday dive we plan to do at Marmion Marine Park on the way back is being booked as a totally separate dive, not part of the weekend. So weekenders keen to do it, and any others who are keen, but not going to Yanchep: You MUST sign up with Judy for that dive. Exact time and location are still uncertain, but will probably ex Marmion at about 11 AM. (We will finalise details with those booked on later.)

Planning for the Lake Leschenaultia dive skills testing and family picnic is still in its early stages, but hopefully there will be children's activities, and involvement of many experienced members in the adventures of the day is promised: Sunday May 23, circa 10.30 am.

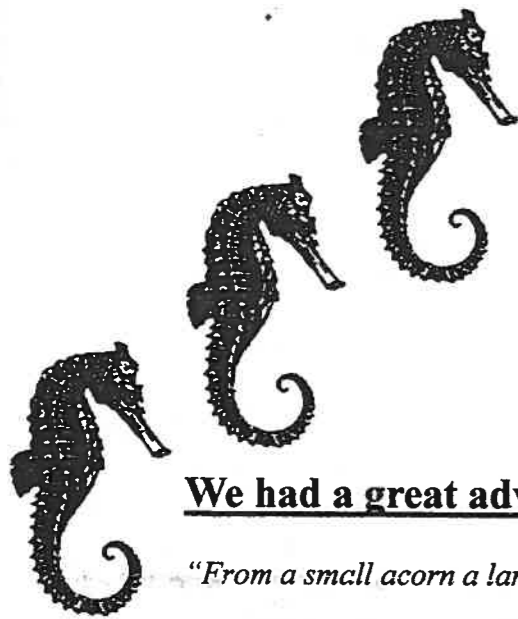
Keep an eye on the topics planned for speakers at our general meetings, and let me know what you think of those you have heard, so I know what you like.

Bye. (Ouch.. off to lie down.. how will I make it to work tomorrow?)

Sandy

EXTRA EASTER NOTES regarding Easter Sunday 4 April:

Speak to the Dive Officer (Judy) for bookings to meet the boat at about 11 AM to dive in Marmion Marine park on the way back from Yanchep, which we are treating as a dive in its own right, not a social event!!



Cott-Rott

Another U.E.C. first!

We had a great adventure!

"From a small acorn a large oak shall grow..." and this is indeed what did occur!

The original plan was to participate in the Cottesloe to Rottnest Channel Swim as a fun event with a team of about 10-12 club members swimming the relay. Well, this is not what happened! At the organizer's suggestion, we became the underwater team, and the adventure began.

Could we do it? Should we do it? How can we do it? Who will do it? Fourteen members/idiots volunteered to put their lives at risk, to make the journey underwater, 22 km from Cottesloe Beach to the Natural Jetty at Rottnest.

The organization took some six months, and became a team spirited event with commitment by all who took part. Firstly, a frame was designed, built, and modified, rubber duckies obtained for our use, and we were "in business". Many meetings took place during this time, and the safety of our divers was at all time of paramount concern.

The day of the event started at about 4 AM for most of us. We were all aboard the *Underwater Explorer* at 5 AM, and enjoyed a beautiful sunrise on the hour-or-so trip to Cottesloe Beach, escorted by *Nereus*, our support boat. On arrival at Cottesloe we could see before us what appeared to be acres and acres of boats. Our start time was 7 AM, after all the swimmers had left. "Sacrificial lambs" Holly and Sean were taken to the shore by our rubber ducky, as they were the divers to complete the first leg of our long, slow trip to Rotto.

Kerry (obviously under instructions from an Army General) had the deck organized with military precision. Having 15 divers on and off the boat in 15 minutes intervals, stowing gear and generally looking after everyone was no mean feat, and he did a fantastic job. We encountered swelly conditions and sloppy seas, and at times it was a battle to stay on the frame (hence some UEC divers are now akin to the orangutan in the arms department). Our estimated time of arrival was 6-7 hours, so we were fairly pleased to have made it in 5 hours 10 minutes. The Rotto Ranger met us on our arrival, and escorted us to approx. 100 meters from the official finish line, and the spectators gave us a great welcome and applause, when 14 divers surfaced at the beach.

The effort put into this event was absolutely amazing. We have a club jam-packed with resourceful and imaginative people, who worked really hard, and along the way, had a lot of fun to put this event together.

BRAVO TO ALL OF US!

Maureen

Building & PR Report



We are now officially into ACR TIME.

(ACR = After Cott-Rott)

A lot will say "thank gawd!" (only because they have drunk too much). Some will say "ohh bugger, its over!"

By and large the reaction has been great. Not only from UEC members but also from others including Shelly-Taylor-Smith, the Cott-Rott organising committee, the media and George. Oh, don't you know George? He's just a guy that bashed my ear at the Quokka Arms, explaining how he was in the Navy Seals, and he did a lot of diving, and he found it difficult and frustrating to guess how we had completed the course in some 5 hrs. He tried cajoling me with drinks, praise and finally he slurred, "C'mon ya wanker, tell me!"

It was a most attractive and gentle Australian way of imploring my compliance, but I was strong and George was last seen quoting some Australian poetry along the lines:

*He wouldn't F----- tell me.
He wouldn't let me know.
They wouldn't be as tough as we were.
A long, long time ago.*

The above poem should be recited whilst drinking a middy of *Swan* and looking with some affection at a quokka.

Seriously though, I was proud of all the participants in the event. It proved to be a little more challenging than we imagined, but the UEC proved to be up to the task. Thanks go to Bob, Kerry, Maureen (she's the one who started all this) Jim, Sean, Holly, Steve, John, Mark, Karl, Geoff G, Clive, Geoff C, Bob & Zeta, Leslie, Sandy and Me, who were on the *Underwater Explorer*, and Dennis, Maree, Susie the camera-person, Robin and Cheryl, who were on the support vessel *Nereus*.

The whole event went almost like clockwork, and at every stage there was a diver under the water to carry the baton. Mind you, we came close a couple of times when The U.E. decided to kick its heels up in a premature celebration of our pending success. Part of the way was spent riding a metaphorical underwater bucking bronco.

The most enduring vision about this whole event (which shall remain with me for some time) was the air of collaboration, cooperation and camaraderie amongst the participants. No complaints, no bad moods, not even a suggestion of anger or malice.

For my money it was a huge success, and some of the benefits we felt immediately, but others will undoubtedly continue to manifest themselves in many and various ways.

Carmine

MANY THANKS to Dive-In, O'Connor, for supplying the divers with free air!

One day, a diver was enjoying the aquatic world 20 feet below sea level. He noticed a guy at the same depth as he was, but he had no SCUBA gear on whatsoever. The diver went below another 20 feet, and the guy joined him a few minutes later. This confused the diver, so he took out his slate set and wrote: "How the heck are you able to stay under this deep without equipment?" The guy took the slate, erased what the diver had written, and wrote: "I am drowning, you moron!"

Conservation Corner



W.A. GUIDES COLLECT USED CORK FOR RECYCLING

Someone asked me what happens with the corks that Zita gives to the *Guides Western Australia*.

Used cork is granulated and compressed for use in the manufacture of engine gaskets, flooring for boats, industrial safety mats and the inside of cricket balls!! Who could have guessed that!!

Cork is made from cleaned cork-wood stripped from the cork oak tree. It takes about 9 years to grow wine cork and just seconds for it to become environmental junk.

Use of recycled cork reduces the amount of granulated cork that needs to be imported.

Money earned from cork recycling is used to redevelop W.A. GUIDES campsites. Australia is the only country in the world to have this recycling facility.

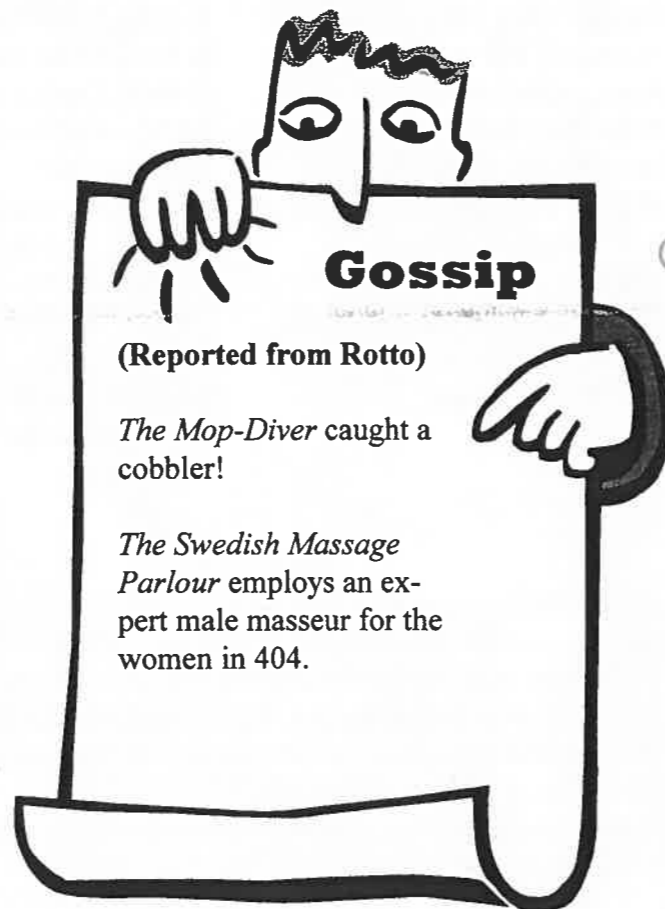
EVERY 20 MINUTES, the world adds another 3,500 humans, but loses one or more species of animal or plant life. This is at least 27,000 species a year!

Many thanks to Steve Larter, who copied this magazine a/h, with kind permission from Pilkington Victor Glass, Myaree.

PILKINGTON VICTOR GLASS

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Midland: 234 Gt. Eastern Hwy	9274 5833
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Victoria Park: 1 Mint Street	9362 2270
Kalgoorlie: 75 Dugan Street	(090) 212724
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**W.A.'s Leading Glass Repairer
24 HOUR SERVICE 9330 2333**



(Reported from Rotto)

The Mop-Diver caught a cobbler!

The Swedish Massage Parlour employs an expert male masseur for the women in 404.

Diving Delights

Hi folks. This is my last report as D.O. as due to work and family commitments, I no longer have the time to give 100% of myself to this job. I feel I would be doing you the club member, the club and myself a disservice by not giving 100%.

So to book your dives, the boat, etc, ring JUDY on 9331 2005 (mobile 0413 519129).

Next month the boat is going to Yanchep for the Easter weekend. Going up Friday then doing 2 dives. Two dives on Saturday, returning on Sunday with a single dive in Marmion Marine Park. The pick-up point for this dive is Hillarys Boat Harbour at approx. 11 AM.

As for last month we dived *Wilson's Bay*. The vis was good, the country was better. After Wilson's Bay we went to a spot near Green Island, which had lots of caves and gullies. It was another good dive. A couple of crays were taken and the day also got better as it wore on.

The next day was more of a drag than dive. Going to Rotto from Cottesloe. What a day!!! It was a bit rough. Being whipped about on the frame, I think a few people had sore arms on Sunday. It's been quite a while since I've been crook on the boat, but Saturday brought it all back to me.

For the next dive, divers were taken to *Mortimer's Hump* where the vis was excellent. They popped into *Parker Point* for lunch and the last dive for the month was at Jackson Rock. A few crays were caught, but due to them being the size of big prawn, they were released.

Well, that's all from me, it's been fun and I would like to thank all who helped me in the last two and a bit years. Maybe in a couple of years, when I can once again give all to the D.O.'s job, we'll see again. Anyway... **Let's Go Diving!! I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT.**

Geoff "PRAWN KING"
(or is it the "Chunder King!!!)

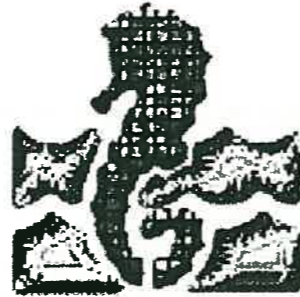
Wow, what a surprise! I rocked up to the February meeting, having been back in Oz for just two weeks, to be presented with the raffle tickets to sell. My plan was to ease quietly and gently back into the Club activities, and raffle ticket sales aren't too difficult, so I was happy. Then Geoff G stood up to speak, and resigning as D.O., and in the same breath nominated me as his replacement. So, here I am, your new D.O. Geoff has done such a terrific job for the past couple of years; it will be tough to maintain the standard. Please be patient with my failings, or you may find the D.O. hat on your own head come November!

Why did I give up the cruising life aboard the beautiful yacht *Mi Querida*, I hear you ask. Well, I ran out of my Mum's pickles, I missed the prawn dives, but mostly, I was reading between the lines in my U.E.C. newsletters. It seems that my position in the Club (which I spent years cultivating) was being usurped. I have always believed that to use a feather is erotic, to use the whole chook is kinky, but now I read of people advocating the use of the humble household MOP!!! Really! I felt compelled to return to restore some decorum to the Club!

Diving on 20th February was enjoyed by just five divers, who enjoyed great visibility at *Mortimer's Hump*, then *Jackson's Rock*. They didn't catch any crays I'm told, but there were some sightings. This being the day after Cott-Rott swim, it was pleasing to see the boat go out.

Divers wanting to book on can phone me on 9331 2005, or my mobile 0413 519 129. I am not available for calls during business hours, but you can leave a message on the answering machine. Hope to catch up with all of you really soon! Happy diving!
Judy (or you can call me the Prawn Princess)

Club Diary



APRIL

Saturday 17
Sunday 18
Monday 19

Cray Dive – 1 tank (Peter/Brian)
D.O.'s Choice – 2 tanks (Dennis/Jim)
GENERAL MEETING at 8 PM - Guest Speaker
"Science in Science Fiction"

A spoof with videos by Dave Macey, Murdoch Uni. School of Biology.3
Exploratory dive – 1 tank (Bob/Steve)
Deep dive – 2 tanks (Kerry/Susie)

Saturday 24
Sunday 25

MAY

Saturday 1
Sunday 2
Monday 3
Friday 7
Friday 7/Saturday 8
Sunday 9
Saturday 15
Sunday 16
Monday 17
Saturday 22
Sunday 23
Saturday 29
Sunday 30

OPEN
Wreck dive – 2 tanks (Geoff C/Luc)
Committee meeting
Social Prawn dive with cook-up (Geoff G)
"Over-nighter" - 2 tanks (Bob/Steve)
Request dive – 2 tanks (Peter/Judy)
D.O.'s Choice – 1 tank (Richard/Brian)
Exploratory dive (deep) – 2 tanks ((Kerry/Susie)
GENERAL METING at 8 PM – Club members' presentations
Jus' Lookin' - 1 tank ((Peter/Geoff C)
Social: Dive Skills & Family Fun Day at Ammunition Jetty
OPEN – 1 tank (Richard/Geoff G)
Cray Dive – 2 tanks (Dennis/Jim)

PLEASE NOTE

- ◆ That our General meetings are held on the third Monday every month at 8 PM at Willetton Sports Club, Burrendah Avenue.
- ◆ That our boat "Underwater Explorer" leaves 8 AM SHARP (if otherwise not stated) from Challenger Harbour, Fremantle.

Underwater Explorers Club of W.A. (Inc.)
P.O. Box 1157
Booragoon W.A. 6154
E-mail: uec@space.net.au

Geoff and Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Crescent
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1999

President's Platform

Once again, Club members have been treated to a fantastic weekend of diving and socialising thanks to Sandy (Chief Organiser), Geoff (Chief Skipper) and Carmine & Carol (Chief Chefs and mine hosts). A large group of us spent two days and nights at the Travaglione's home away from home at Yanchep. The weather was extremely kind to us, and we were treated to a couple of good dives (one on the *Gilt Dragon*) and a couple of ho-hum dives. I'm sure that there will be other more entertaining descriptions of the weekend, so I will move on to other more mundane housekeeping jobs.

Firstly, I recently had a call from the Harbourmaster at Challenger Harbour. He has received some complaints, not all substantiated, and has asked me to address some points before they become problems.

- ◆ Please be aware that noise must be kept to a minimum – people are not happy being woken early in the morning. Keep this in mind on very early starts and fishing trips. Also, no bad language please!
- ◆ Club members are not permitted to park their cars in the 15 minute reserved bay, but you may use the driveway near the bollard to drop and retrieve gear, but do not impede access way for pedestrians.
- ◆ Skippers, please try to manoeuvre the boat without excessive throttle movement that creates noise. The Harbourmaster has made it clear to me that if he continues to receive complaints, we will be moved to another pen, and there is no doubt that it won't be as good as the one we have. Think about it – we have to be more considerate of our neighbours, otherwise we move.

This is also **the last reminder** for payment of deposits for *Rottnest Yr 2000*. Please pay either \$100 for the week or \$50 for the weekend at this month's meeting, otherwise your name will be removed from the list and reserve members put on. I will not ring and remind you, so the ball is in your court.

Lastly, preliminary discussions indicate that the U.E.C. will again be asked to provide rescue services at this year's *Avon Descent*, so Jim will be looking for volunteers again. Please let him know if you are interested.

Hope to see you all soon!

Maree



PRESIDENT:

Maree Casley
9457 3333

VICE PRESIDENT:

Geoff Charlton
9451 2910

SECRETARY:

John Creswell
9335 7730

TREASURER:

Peter Horton
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DIVING:

Judy Cowan
9331 2005

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Carmine Travaglione
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SOCIAL:

Sandy Webb
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From the Editor



Yahoo!

What a terrific Easter holiday

Kerry and I had with our "extended family"! So much sun, fun and food! Forget about the diving! We didn't find the wreck pieces anyway!

Carmine's "shack" (as he calls it) in Yanchep turned out to be a quite luxurious villa on the hill, with very comfortable beds and an impressive kitchen area.

A HUGE "THANK YOU" to Sandy, Carmine and Geoff C for making this kind of an "Easter get-away" possible for the rest of us in the Club! I appreciate all the work behind it!

WEB SITE INFO

It works! We can now see the result of my efforts with the Club's web page. Did you notice all those new faces at the last meeting? (Oh yeah? So why didn't you talk to them!?! Say a simple "Hi" and make them feel welcome, next time you see a new face!)

Anyhow, they all said they'd "surfed in" on our web page, and attended the meeting as a result. (Some I have had e-mail contact with as well.)

Don't forget to dive in yourself at least once a month, as I am changing photos regularly on the *Club Album* page. And maybe somewhere else as well!

With the next Newsletter you'll get an updated version of the UEC members' telephone list, so please let me know if your present data is correct!

Maybe you want to ADD an e-mail address or mobile phone number? (Deadline = April 30)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

Maree Casley 1/5; Clive Cass 11/5; Judy Cowan 6/5; Warren Cummins 21/4; Wendy Cummins 2/5; Luc Fauvet 16/5; Frank Hubbard 7/5; Alison Keen 30/4; Bill Pettigrew 13/5; Jeff Pinkham 29/4; Bruce Porter 25/4; Dennis Stubberfield 11/5; Pat Troy 10/5; Ken Weaver 16/5; Paul Weaver 1/5.

June

Social Section

The March Clean Up of Challenger Harbour

was a great success. About 18 divers (club members and a few friends and family) scoured the silty bottom of the harbour. Above the water about ten others (UEC and Fremantle Cruising Yacht Club members) lent over and hauled up the heavy, slimy offerings as they were passed up. We completely filled a skip with the smaller items, but could not fit our bigger finds into it.

Among the finds: An entire bow rail (stainless steel, and rapidly taken off our hands by someone building a new boat!); a roo bar; a sonar ariel; a supermarket trolley (probably working better than most on the floor of the local Coles but hideously encrusted); a \$20 bill; a boiled egg still in its stainless steel billy; 12 drop nets; and (oh dear!) some readable porn

mags. Great fun had by all. Check out the photos!

*

The Easter weekend at Yanchep was fantastic!

The weather good, some of us actually found the remains of the *Gilt Dragon* wreck, and Carmine's hospitality superb. Thanks to Carmine and Carol for the accommodation, and Geoff C for skippering the boat all that way.

*

Planning for the **Sunday May 23 Dive Skills Testing and Family Picnic** is still in its early stages, but in response to a revolt over the water quality in Lake Leschenaultia, the venue will now be the *Ammunition Jetty* in the Woodman Point Reserve. The

picnic and barbecue area there is sheltered but, if there is any demand for more than a barbecue, there will be some children's activities and other underwater adventures planned with the help of experienced club members.

*

Many thanks to Peter at Dive In

for the donation of fins raffled at the last meeting. As they did not fit the winner, it's possible they will be re-raffled and raise even more money for the Club.

Sandy,



Social Butterfly

Welcome to new members



Barbara Brice, Mt Pleasant
Danny Helson, Subiaco
Doherty Ross, Iluka
David Van Beers, Duncraig



A complimentary car bumper with this edition.



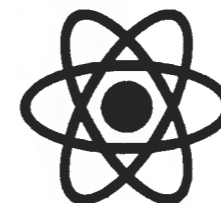
sticker has been included

Please use it wisely ;-) **PUT IT ON YOUR CAR'S BACK WINDOW!!!**

And let me know, if you need another sticker for your 2nd car ;-))

At the April General Meeting

We present "Science in Science Fiction" - a spoof with videos by **Dave Macey** from Murdoch University, School of Biology.3.



"CLUB NIGHT" at the May General Meeting

This is the night for our own Club members to **SHOW & TELL** about recent exciting trips, etc. Please let me know, if you would like to bring your own photos, videos, etc. or just talk and entertain.

START THINKING ABOUT IT NOW, WHAT YOU CAN COME UP WITH!



Diving Delights



It has been great to see the boat going out on both Saturdays and Sundays. Although the number of bodies on board hasn't been huge, it makes for fun diving – NO CROWDS!

Crayfish have been caught regularly by those whose interests take them that way. For those who don't travel far from the anchor (no names mentioned to save some from any embarrassment) there was recently the pleasure of a cute Lionfish posing for photos in front of a small cave.

The regular Friday night divers have had more success in finding diving and fishing gear than prawns recently, but, being dedicated, the hunt will go on. Contact me on the number below, or Geoff Geard on 9453 1723, if you want to join in the fun.

Sometimes, your diving organisers and crew cop a bit of flak when dive outings are cancelled due to the weather being dicey, but the day in question arrives with blue skies, sunshine, little breeze and no swell to mention. So, it has been decided by your Committee that future decisions to cancel dive trips will be made on the boat on the morning of the

dive. So now you don't need to confirm the dive with me the night before. Of course, common sense must prevail, and if there's a howling 30 knot westerly blowing, there isn't much point in turning up.

Hopefully, this arrangement will result in fewer cancelled dives, and more happy divers.

From now on you don't need to confirm the dive the night before!

To book your dive, please phone me on 9331 2005 and leave a message on the machine, or 0413 519 129 outside business hours.

Looking forward to seeing you in the water!

Judy



(This was an article in the *California Examiner*, March 20, 1998):

Fire Authorities in California found a corpse in a burnt out section of forest while assessing the damage done by a forest fire. The deceased male was dressed in a full wet suit, complete with a dive tank, flippers, and face mask. A post-mortem examination revealed that the person died not from burns but from massive internal injuries. Dental records provided a positive identification. Investigators then set about determining how a fully clad diver ended up in the middle of a forest fire. It was revealed that, on the day of the fire, the person went for a diving trip off the coast - some 20 miles away from the forest. The firefighters, seeking to control the fire as quickly as possible, called in a fleet of helicopters with very large buckets. The buckets were dropped into the ocean for rapid filling, then flown to the forest fire and emptied. You guessed it. One minute our diver was making like Flipper in the Pacific, the next he was doing a breast stroke in a fire bucket 300 feet in the air. Apparently, he extinguished exactly 5'10" of the fire. - Some days it just doesn't pay to get out of bed.

Boat Bits



Well, the boat is being well utilised and going well. During the clean-up dive in Challenger Harbour, I got in and cleaned up *Her* under side (thanks for the help, Zita) but generally found *Her* in pretty good nick, generally little more than a wipe-over was needed.

I thought I'd take this opportunity to address some of the issues that the survey raised; namely fumes, seating, speed and noise. The fume problem is well in hand, as reported last month. Whilst permanent seating hasn't been forgotten, temporary seating is coming - and sooner than you might think.

I am well aware that the two things that most people dislike are the speed (or apparent lack of it) and the noise level. Put simply, these two go hand-in-hand. As most of you are no doubt aware, you want speed,

you need power! And the nature of the internal combustion engine (particularly the diesel variety) power means noise, and normally lots of it. So, unless someone can come up with the diesel engine's equivalent of electric power's inverter (heaps of power with bugger all noise AND reduced fuel consumption), we're more or less stuck with the noise.

Having said that, I am attempting to ease the situation, but during a recent conversation with a ship's engineer on the subject, he wished me luck as I'm dealing with an aluminium hull. We are attempting to "tweak" the speed situation with some new trim tabs, which will be fitted to the stern during next slipping. Remember the little ones we tried a couple of years ago? Close but no cigar with those ones, but wait 'til you see the one that Peter and myself plan to fit; SIZE DOES MATTER in this case!

In finishing, I'd like to re-iterate Maree's comments from last meeting:

► Skippers, please feel free to leave AT the advertised time (even if not everyone is there).

► At the end of each dive trip, fully hose the boat down with fresh water - that's windows, deck and storm covers - the hose on board is 18 metres long, so there's no excuses.

► Please be neighbourly and keep the noise down on Sunday mornings. Think how you'd feel if you were woken by people yelling at 7:30 on a Sunday morning! This also includes muffling the *low oil pressure warning siren*.

► Finally, when you're unloading the boat after a dive, don't pile all the gear up on the boardwalk - this MUST be kept as clear as possible at all times. We can simply "stack" it all on the edge of the pathway between the buildings, which means it's also closer to your cars.

Geoff

Top Ten Things Not to Say on a Dive Boat:

"Can I keep this coral that your anchor broke off?"

"Buddy? Oh, did I go down with a buddy?"

"Can someone lend me a computer? Mine keeps flashing 'Deco Violation'!"

"I count seven, are you SURE there are eight names on the manifest?"

"Does anyone else smell smoke?"

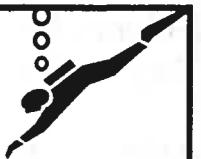
"What do I do with this bucket of vomit?"

"Could you 'warm up' my wetsuit for me?"

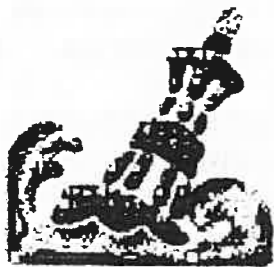
"Macarena anyone?"

"Certification smertification!"

"Is that your mask under my tank?"



Building & PR Report



Not much building going on lately is there??

Well, we are after all a diving club, not bloody A.V. Jennings!!

The PR side is still going on, albeit somewhat low key compared to the previous months. You may remember I promised to continue the momentum of the *Cott/Rott swim* PR, and I have done this by contacting three universities and one school. UWA and Curtin virtually told me to bugger off, as they have their own post diving course clubs, and naturally are trying hard to keep their own organisations going. Murdoch has also got its own diving club but is more interested in some

way tying up with us, as they have somewhat limited facilities. I am and will continue to pursue this avenue of membership development, but I don't necessarily see it as the easy answer.

Whether it's the Internet on its own or it's the result of our Club becoming more high profile as a result of past PR efforts I am not sure, but I have been told we have been getting a marked increase in inquiry from our web page. This has resulted in more new members recently, and by all indications will probably continue to give us a stream of members up to the stage where we may not want any more. I Hope!!

Probably more on the social side than the PR side we have just this last weekend returned from a weekend of diving, eating, drinking and debauchery at Carol's and my little holiday

home at Yanchep. It turned out to be a great weekend with Everyone, without exception, enjoying themselves. We did two dives on the Friday and two on the Saturday; one at the wreck of the *Gilt Dragon*. The viz was not great, but it didn't matter. At night we sat around, some playing scrabble, some telling jokes and reciting poetry, some doing crosswords, whilst others had showers and were appraised by a panel of judges suitably placed at a viewing gallery which, until this weekend, I didn't even know existed. Some good wines were drunk whilst scoring the pervstacular, and we found out that not all blonds were always so.

What an Easter!!
But then again, it was always a pagan festival.

Carmine

RECOMMENDATIONS from the FISHERIES DEPARTMENT:

Always keep your (live) rock lobster in the shade and transport them in a cool, damp bag, not in water. (So far, I have only seen our Cray King Carl doing this. Good on 'ya, mate!) Ed.

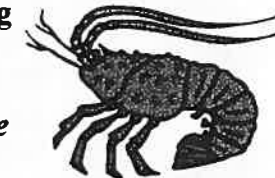
Lobsters can be killed by drowning in fresh water, but this is a slower method of killing the animals than placing them in boiling water. Remember – **don't overcook!** Seven minutes in simmering water is enough for an average lobster.

To barbecue a lobster, split the raw tail in half lengthwise and leave in the shell. Cook on a BBQ plate or grill with the flesh side DOWN for about three minutes, then turn over. Top with garlic butter or butter mixed with a little Parmesan cheese, and cook for a further five minutes (or until cooked through).

Conservation Corner

Not really a *conservation* topic as such, but I thought maybe the following could be of interest:

The RSPCA has developed guidelines as to the most humane methods of killing crustaceans such as crays and crabs.



The guidelines note that *an animal is humanely killed by first making it insensible to pain, then killing the animal before it can regain consciousness.*

The Society is strongly opposed to dropping live animals into boiling water, separating head and body while alive, serving moving crustaceans to a diner or any processing involving cutting flesh from a live animal. Preferred methods follow, and ethical recreational fishers should try to follow them wherever possible to minimize suffering.

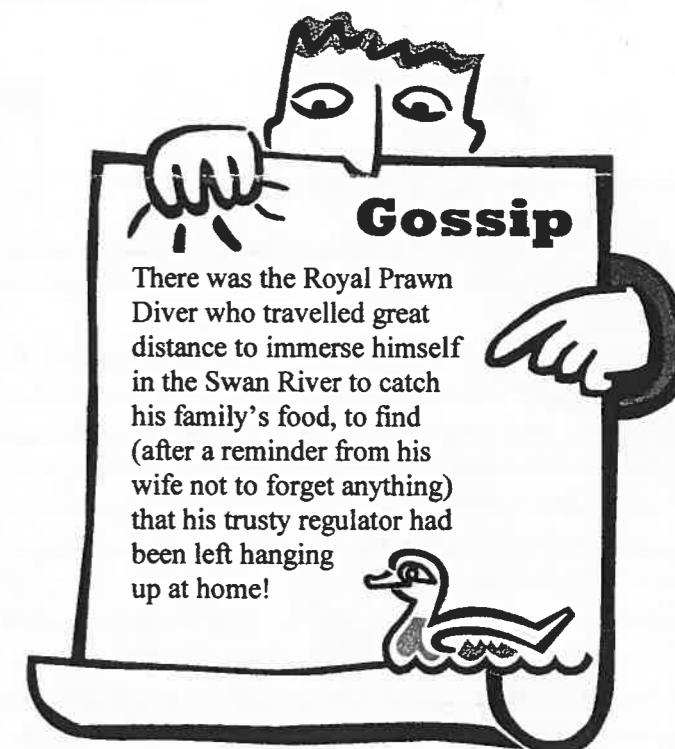
- As cold-blooded animals, crustaceans will become unconscious if their body temperature is reduced and will die without suffering if chilled enough. Live crustaceans should be placed in an ice slurry for at least 20 minutes before being processed further.
- Make the ice slurry by filling a container (an esky is ideal) with normal crushed ice then adding salt water. If the ratio of ice to water is about 3:1, the slurry will have the consistency of wet concrete and the ideal temperature for chilling seafood of minus 1°C. Have enough ice to keep the temperature low.
- When the animal is removed from the slurry, the tails of crayfish should hang rather than curl and there should be no pincer or eye reflex in crabs – the animal can then be assumed to be dead and prepared to eat.
- Crayfish and crabs can be stored up to 18 hours in slush ice without loss of eating quality. If no ice is available or water quality is dubious, chill your crustaceans in a refrigerator freezer to -1°C.

Many thanks to Steve Larter, who copied this magazine a/h, with kind permission from Pilkington Victor Glass, Myaree.

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Gossip

There was the Royal Prawn Diver who travelled great distance to immerse himself in the Swan River to catch his family's food, to find (after a reminder from his wife not to forget anything) that his trusty regulator had been left hanging up at home!



Club Diary



<u>DAY/MONTH</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Sunday 20 June	11.00	AVON DESCENT Orientation Day
Monday 21 June	20.00	GENERAL MEETING "Scientific Diving in Antarctica" by Dr Peter Sullivan, Medical Research Officer, Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions
Friday 25 June	20.00	SOCIAL: Sandy's Music Night
Sunday 27 June	09.00	Avon Descent training
Sunday 4 July	09.00	Avon Descend training
Monday 5 July	19.30	Committee meeting
Sunday 11 July	0900	Avon Descent training
Sunday 18 July	09.00	Avon Descent training
Monday 19 July	20.00	GENERAL METING "History of spear fishing"
Friday 23 July	18.45	SOCIAL: 10 Pin Bowling
Saturday 24 July	08.00	Avon Descent training
Sunday 25 July	08.00	Avon Descent scrutineering

PLEASE NOTE

- ◆ That our General meetings are held on the third Monday every month at 8 PM at Willetton Sports Club, Burrendah Avenue - **EXCEPT Monday 16th August.**
- ◆ That our boat "Underwater Explorer" will still be available for diving or social events until Friday 13th August. Just call Judy on 9331 2005.

Underwater Explorers Club of W.A. (Inc.)
P.O. Box 1157
Booragoon W.A. 6154
E-mail: uec@space.net.au

Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Crescent
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1999

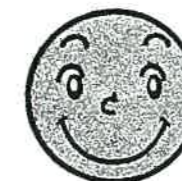
President's Platform

The winter hibernation away from diving is now well and truly with us. *UE* has not ventured out on a dive trip for some time now, so the new anchor winch has not yet been christened and all that hard work put in by Geoff, Peter, Pat and Dennis has so far not been rewarded. I hope that the onset of cooler weather does not keep the hardy ones among you away from the boat.

Of course, we are now entering our *Avon Descent* phase and are actively looking for volunteers to help out. The first Orientation Day is on Sunday 20 June at Claughton Park in Bayswater at 11 am, and we would welcome all who come along. If possible, give Jim Robson a ring on 9454 7868, and register your interest with him - otherwise just turn up on the day. After registering and doing a few training-type exercises, we will settle in for a social sausage sizzle and a drink or two to wash it down. BYO if you want anything stronger than a lemonade.

Our involvement in the *Avon Descent* is not intended to be a showcase for all our macho members. All we need is a few hours of your time for training (which is a doddle really), commitment to at least 3 training days, if you are new to the event, and one weekend on the **7th and 8th of August**. As all past participants will tell you, the only thing you are in danger of, is having a good time.

At our last Committee Meeting it was resolved to start Committee Meetings at 7.30 pm at least for the winter months, and if successful continue for the rest of the year at that time. Members will also be asked at this next General Meeting if they want to trial an earlier start time for General Meetings. If you have a strong stance either way on the issue, come along and make yourself heard. Sandy has also lined up a fantastic guest speaker, so come along, even if you don't care what time we start the meetings! I hope to see you all soon.



Maree

PRESIDENT:

Maree Casley
9457 3333

VICE PRESIDENT:

Geoff Charlton
9451 2910

SECRETARY:

John Creswell
9335 7730

TREASURER:

Peter Horton
9445 2336

DIVING:

Judy Cowan
9331 2005

BOATING:

Geoff Charlton
9451 2910

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Dennis Stubberfield
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From the Editor



WINTER!

Not my favorite months, but it shouldn't

stop me from diving, if weather permits..... and, if I can squeeze into my 7mm wet suit!

COTT-ROTT VIDEO

I thank you humbly for the appreciation you all showed towards my "short and sweet" video. As per request, I will make some copies, and bring to this meeting. Please let me know a.s.a.p. if you are interested in getting such a memory of your **Big Achievement!**

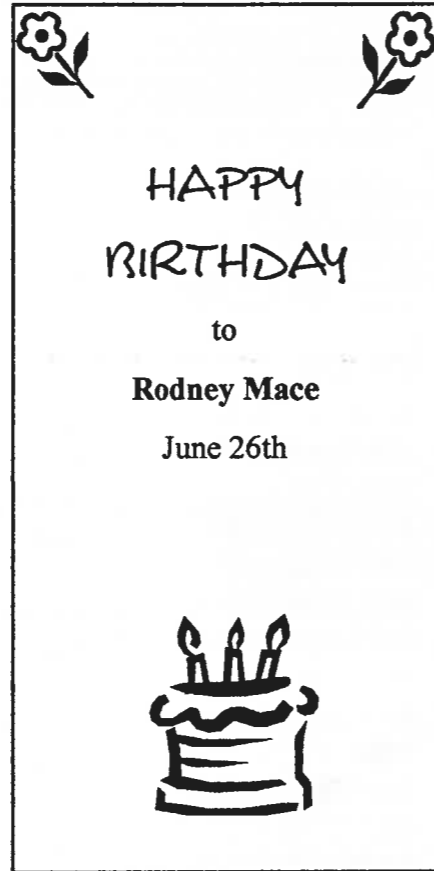
U.E.C. WEB PAGE NEWS

It always pleases me to see new faces at our General Meetings, and find out that they actually are there because of our web pages! I have given our web site a bit of a "face-lift" lately, so please check out the changes here and there!

And here's another web site that might interest you: **The International Shark Attack File** www.flmnh.ufl.edu/Fish/sharks/isaf/ISAF.htm

Did you know that you're 16 times more likely to be struck by lightning than a shark!?!

Cheers!



NEWS FROM MICHEL ROUX:

He is off! To warmer latitudes...the Fiji Islands will be his first stop.

Michel writes: "The yacht is called "Nakiska" (after the mountain where the winter Olympic games were held in Calgary, Canada.) The Skipper is Trevor Anderson from Calgary, and the boat is registered in George Town, Caiman Island, where his daughter lives. It is a 42ft steel sloop and there will be three of us on board. The other crew being a young (30yo) Scottish sailing instructor, who is currently travelling around the world. This yacht is staying in Fiji, as her owner will have to go back to Canada, so my plan is to get to Fiji and stay there for a while. After that I would like to continue to Vanuatu or New Caledonia on another yacht.

If I can't find a lift, I will fly back to NZ and back to Perth."

Cheers, Michel.



Social Section

The mellow month of May has passed already! I think you'll all agree that the video of the Cott-Rott swim that Susie showed at the May meeting was a winner and that she should be congratulated for such a superb, professional job. I'm buying a copy to keep, as it's a great record of a wonderful (?silly) thing we did together, of Maree's expressive leadership style, and was that Jim's lovely bottom?

In spite of the unexpected time-conflict with the first *Avon Descent* happening, we had a lovely blue sky sunny chilly picnic at Ammo Jetty on Sunday 23rd. Ten of our divers turned up (although only five went in for a dive), with seven family members of assorted ages and stages (from Sean and Kathy's still-coming baby up to Lesley's father). Geoff "The Prawn King" emerged with a near-new rod and reel, and Sean came out with a handful of colourful squid lures, and there were tales of tiny sea horses and elusive sponge crabs. All in all a lovely day.

Things will probably go quiet on the diving front soon, but I will keep the Club meetings interesting. And the June meeting should be fantastic! Dr Peter Sullivan, who will talk to us that night, has been involved - either as a diver, dive supervisor, diving medical officer, researcher or administrator - in all diving activities carried out by the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE) since the early 1980's. Peter will give a slide presentation outlining some of the difficulties and pleasures involved in under-ice diving in one of the world's most isolated locations. The main highlights of the presentation will be some images of Antarctic wildlife and fantastic under-ice landscapes.

Note that the General Meeting on Monday 16th August will not be held at Willetton but at the **Hyperbaric Unit at Fremantle Hospital**. Club member Jeff Pinkham has kindly arranged a meeting room there, and will also show us over the unit.

Let me know if you are interested in coming to the UEC **Music Night** at my place on June 25th, either just to come or to take part. Bob McLaughlin is helping me organise the music side of things, and Robin Shepherd will help with the supper. It should be great fun, and if you'd like to bring a sleeping bag, you could stay over, rather than head home when it's all over. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE: It's now all happening on FRIDAY 25 JUNE at 8 PM.

Susie is organising the annual UEC **10 Pin Bowling** in July, so see her for details about that one please, and sign up on the *Notice Board*.

Avon Descent training should keep us busy in July. I always love the damp picnics we have beside the river after the training sessions, and the fact that these sessions are often only half a day, so there is still time to do the other things we all have to do on weekend days.

Now, I need your advice please. Let me know YOUR CHOICE for the movie to show at the UEC **Cult Movie Night** in September. Suggestions so far include: a 'Python and Pasta' night; the original 'Star Wars'; Wallace and Grommitt eg 'Wrong Trousers'; 'Psycho'; The Rocky Horror Show (of course!); an Elvis movie....or ???...

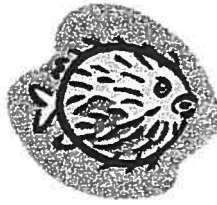
Sandy, Your Social Butterfly

COMING EVENTS:

Sunday 22 August: Avon Descent Wind-up Sausage Sizzle
Swan Yacht Club at 12 noon



Fishy Facts



After we saw Luke's slides of a puffed up fish between his fingers at the May meeting, I thought I'll try to clarify my confusion regarding Puffers, Toadfish, Boxfish, Globe fish, Blowfish, Cowfish and Porcupine fish. (I'm sure I'm not the only one who doesn't know exactly what's what!) What I found (in my several hours research) was that we are talking about three different families here. I start with the "easy" one:

BOXFISHES (Family: *Ostraciontidae*) includes the ever popular Cowfish and Trunkfish.

The boxfishes are an unmistakable group characterised by an external carapace consisting of bony plates. They are generally poor swimmers that rely mainly on their armour for protection from potential predators. Some species produce a toxic mucus that can kill other fishes kept in the same container. Seventeen species have been collected in Western Australia. A few of these are extremely ornate. Shaw's Cowfish exhibits a maze of wavy brown lines on a background of red and white. Equally attractive is the White-barred Boxfish, which is bright red-orange with white bars.

PUFFERS & TOADFISH (BLOWFISH) (Family: *Tetraodontidae*). They have no scales and there are four fused teeth in the jaw; the exception is the Three-toothed puffer, which has (guess what!?) only three fused teeth. They can bite through shells, some fishhooks and the occasional offered finger! The puffers have the ability to inflate their body several times the normal size when exposed to stressful conditions. The skin is highly elastic and swelling is achieved by swallowing water (or air, if on land). They are deadly poisonous! The tetrodotoxin from a medium sized fish could kill 30 people! The pufferfishes are represented by 25 species in Western Australia.

PORCUPINE (GLOBEFISH) (Family: *Diodontidae*) are similar to puffers except the body is covered with long, sharp-pointed spines extending well over the head when erected. In some species the spines are permanently erected – like the Striped Burrfish (*Chilomycterus schoepfi*) - in others, the spines are controlled by the fish and become erect when the fish is threatened. Six species are recorded from W.A.

MUSIC NIGHT
at SANDY'S

...has changed date!

So, come along on

FRIDAY 25th June
(instead of Saturday 26th)



Boat Bits

"Ladies & Gentlemen, start your engines!" Oops, got a bit carried away there (but I've always wanted to use that line!).

What I meant to say was:
"Ladies & Gentlemen, we have an anchor winch!"

Yes, you've read correctly, we are now the proud owners of a shiny new anchor winch. It's mounted on the starboard (that's right) side of the rope/chain bin on the bow.

What it means to most of you is no more bad backs from pulling the anchor up by hand. You'll also note that we now normally use CHAIN ONLY to anchor, on all but the deepest anchorages.

Other than that, there's not much more to say, the boat is running well with the antifoul still in reasonable nick, but it's allowed to start dying now, it's almost due to be replaced.

That brings me to my only other point - the annual slipping is almost upon us and is scheduled for somewhere around 14th August (subject to change). I'll confirm the dates when I can, which should be by the next General Meeting.

As a footnote, my eye has fully recovered - my thanks to Peter, Dennis & Maree for helping me when I couldn't drive.

Bye for now.....

Hiv'em up,
Scotty!

Geoff 

Top 10 Ways Diving Would Be Different if Bill Gates were In Charge

You would have to stop diving on January 1, 2000.

You could never remove that Internet Explorer icon from your dive computer.

This year's new equipment models would eventually be released two years from now.

None of your new gear would be compatible with any of your old stuff.

Bill would get all the good gear from other manufacturers and release it 10 years later under another name and call it "revolutionary."

When you called Microsoft to schedule a dive trip, you would be left on hold for a long time, and when you finally talked to someone, you would be given a lot of information on diving that was absolutely correct but completely useless.

Every dive computer would be from Microsoft and any deaths from them would be explained as a "beta version" problem. Don't worry we'll fix that in the next release.

Equipment dealers would be required to bundle a parachute with every scuba package so Bill could eventually dominate the sky diving market (a natural tie-in).

Your air supply would stop and have to be restarted every couple of minutes and you would accept this as normal.

Every time you were really close to your destination, your boat would crash.



Building & PR report

BUILDING

The wheels of life do turn, but boy, ever so slowly. Since my last report there has been no real advancement in the cars' saga at our unit in Myaree.

What was supposed to have happened was: Richard, after having had a chat with the guy across the road, was told that *their* corporate body group had agreed to send *our* corporate body a letter asking that the "Offending Car Parker" cease and desist. This was supposed to have been done by a chappie called Lee Bradshaw from Stanton Hillier Parker. This would then have carried more weight than just little old me sending a whinging letter to Gordon again. I have been able to find out via Richard, our ten-

ant, that the resolution was passed at their corporate body meeting to send this letter, but as yet I have been unable to find out if this has been done.

Whilst all of this has been going on, or not, I decided to inform myself of what our options are, or would be, if this entreaty was unsuccessful. After checking with the Department of Land Administration they advise me that they actually did not have any direct jurisdiction over our strata company corporate body. They did advise, however, that in the event we did not get satisfaction from our corporate body manager, we could make representations to the Strata Referee. Apparently this position is filled by a lady who does have powers to issue and en-

force an order. Before she will get involved, however, it seems we must demonstrate that we have exhausted every avenue in writing. To those ends I am restricted to wait and see what happens and then act on it. I'll let you know.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

PR-wise I have not received a single response to my letters to the universities and All Saints College. I intend to send them all more brochures now that we have our new ones, but I'm not going to hold my breath.

Unlike the three dimensional guy, that couldn't spell, that claimed the only thing he couldn't hold was his width.

Carmine

Many thanks to Steve Larter, who copied this magazine a/h, with kind permission from Pilkington Victor Glass, Myaree.

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Conservation Corner



Sea Turtle for Supper

Borneo Divers pays the local turtle egg collector on the Indonesian island of Sangalaki to leave sea turtle eggs in the sand to hatch instead of digging them up to be sold as aphrodisiacs, but not every dive operation is so forward-looking. Recent reports suggest that, instead of protecting turtle hatchlings, one resort is trapping them to serve as "special" meals to visiting divers!



Diving Delights

You will see on the *Club Diary* that no diving has been scheduled for July, due to *Avon Descent* training. This is not to say that the boat is not available, but that the majority of regular divers are involved in the *Avon Descent*.

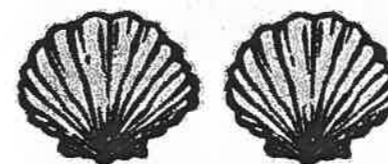
Should you have a few friends who want to book on for a dive during the month, by all means, give me a call, and I am sure I will be able to find crew for the boat.

I have little to report for diving for the past month. The boat has only had one dive outing – thank goodness for the BSAC team! It was reported that although conditions were quite rough, a good day's diving was had by those who partook. Also heard that a good haul of crays was had too. Just as well, I guess, no more cray diving now till next season. That gives the little guys a chance to grow to legal size!

However, don't despair if you are suffering withdrawals. Geoff Geard is still "The Prawn King", and is regularly diving at Blackwall Reach, so give him a call. He is often looking for a Buddy.

Till next time,

Judy



Why do Mermaids wear sea shells?

Because D shells are too big, and A & B shells are too small!

Club Diary



<u>DAY/MONTH</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Sunday 18 July	09.00	Avon Descent training, Bell's Rapids
Monday 19 July	19.30	GENERAL MEETING Club member Dr Paul Weaver, Maritime Historian, will talk to us about the history of fishing (including spear fishing) in WA, and other things
Friday 23 July	18.45	SOCIAL: 10 Pin Bowling, Melville
Saturday 24 July	08.00	Avon Descent training, Emu Falls
Sunday 25 July	08.00	Avon Descent scrutineering, Hind's Park
Sunday 1 August	10.00	Avon Descent participants – meet at Northam Weir
Monday 2 August	19.30	COMM: TTEE METING
Saturday 7 August		AVON DESCENT
Sunday 8 August		AVON DESCENT
Friday 13 August		"U.E." up on the dry for annual beauty treatment (contact Boat Officer Geoff Charlton)
Monday 16 August	19.30	GENERAL MEETING in FREMANTLE Club member Jeff Pinkham to show us over the Hyperbaric Unit, Fremantle Hospital (Entry: off Fothergill Street)
Sunday 22 August	12.00	SOCIAL: Avon Descent Wind-Up Sausage Sizzle (at Swan Yacht Club) Families welcome: FREE.
Sunday 29 August	12.00	"U.E." Launching Party

PLEASE NOTE

- ◆ That our General meetings are held on the third Monday every month at 19.30 PM at Willetton Sports Club, Burrendah Blvd - **EXCEPT Monday 16th August.**
- ◆ That our boat "Underwater Explorer" will still be available for diving or social events until Friday 13th August. Just call Judy on 9331 2005.

Underwater Explorers Club of W.A. (Inc.)
P.O. Box 1157
Booragoon W.A. 6154
E-mail: uec@space.net.au

Geoff and Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Crescent
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058



NEWSLETTER

JULY 1999

President's Platform

Once again I only have good news to report. As can be expected, this time of year is very quiet on the diving front, so we have to content ourselves with other activities. Our training program for the *Avon Descent* is now well under way with everyone involved really getting into the spirit and doing some great work. The *Orientation Day* sausage sizzle was well attended, and training days since have all been great social days as well as training like crazy. Alison Keen has done a great job of encouraging many of her SES friends to join us this year, so we now have some very experienced personnel being added to our own group of rescuers. Keep an eye on Sandy's social calendar for our *Thank You sausage sizzle* at SYC on 22 August. Everyone is welcome and it's free, so I hope many of you turn up.

Mid-August is also the time of year when "UE" comes out of the water for her annual slipping. Geoff has a list of jobs that he wants done this year, so get in touch with him and volunteer some time to help out. The usual jobs like scraping, painting and mechanising will all need doing, and we only have two weeks to do it in, so get ready to get busy and please don't leave all the work for someone else to do. "UE" belongs to us all equally, so it is only fair that we all pitch in.

The last General Meeting resolved to start meetings at 7.30 pm until November, and at that stage we will review how the earlier start time is being received. At that time we will decide how we want the meetings to proceed during the summer months. And please don't forget that the August meeting is going to be held at the Fremantle Hyperbaric unit at the Fremantle Hospital. Sandy will continue to remind you of the change in venue also, so you can't say you didn't know!

That's all from me this month. There is precious little news to report on at this time of year, so settle back and enjoy the rest of the mag.

Hope to see you all soon.

Maree



PRESIDENT:
Maree Casley
9457 3333

VICE PRESIDENT:
Geoff Charlton
9451 2910

SECRETARY:
John Creswell
9335 7730

TREASURER:
Peter Horton
9445 2336

DIVING:
Judy Cowan
9331 2005

BOATING:
Geoff Charlton
9451 2910

SAFETY:
Steve Larter
9291 9654

TRAINING:
Dennis Stubberfield
9457 3333

BUILDING & PR:
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From the Editor



TWO GREAT THINGS...

...happened since last month's newsletter, that I am deeply impressed by!

1. The extra-ordinary interesting presentation *Scientific diving in Antarctica* by **Dr Peter Sullivan**, who is a very entertaining person, and showed beautiful slides from both above and under the ice. I feel sorry for you guys who couldn't make it to that meeting. I also feel sorry for you guys, who couldn't make it to.....

2. *Sandy's Music Night* on Friday 25th. I have said it before... and I'll say it again... we have so many hidden talents among our members! Besides our previously known talents, we had the pleasure of hearing a Banjo Patterson poem recited by **David Zuiddam**, to be followed by his own "*Night's Dawn*" (see below). David is an actor, and will inform me on the whereabouts of his next performance on stage, so watch this space!

My warmest THANKS goes to a) **Sandy Webb**, for organizing this annual event in her lovely home, and b) all the great participating musicians, where I would like to specially mention our youngest talent **Jonathon Robson** playing his sexy, shiny

saxophone!

Check out our Website for the NEW pictures from the party on the *Club Album* page!

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
to
Barbara Brice 2/8
Steve Larter 8/8



NIGHT'S DAWN by David Zuiddam

The shadows creep longer
and a golden hew caresses the landscape.

The silence of the still air, almost drowns out an enchanting choirs of birds
hailing Night's Dawn.

A dazzling orb of golden orange, glowing on the horizon
with a happy face smiles "good bye" to the fleeting sun.

In union frogs begin their croak
A distant, melodious, rhythmic chant, entrancing night's visitors.

The now crisp air carries new scents
a sweet musk and damp muted perfumes, that waft teasingly.

Above, the sky having faded through magenta to black
is now lit with what seems a million diamonds sparkling.

Yawning, the nocturnals arise from their slumber
and I too yawn, as I descend into mine.

Social Section



First: General meetings. Don't forget we are experimenting with a 7.30 PM start. Or that while the next General Meeting (the July one, with new Club member Paul Weaver talking about the oral history of fishing (including spear fishing) in WA) will be at the Willetton Sports Centre as usual, the August meeting will be at the Hyperbaric Unit at the Fremantle Hospital. And did you enjoy that superb slide show and talk by Peter Sullivan from ANARE? Diving in the Antarctic.... that night totally rekindled my fantasies about going down there sometime.....

Actually, right now I feel as flat as a tack.....Is it just winter (which I usually love)? No.... I think it's mainly that one of the nights I look forward to most in the year.. the UEC music night.. is over for this year. It was a real buzz again, but different to last year, as the wonderfully raucous sing-a-long did not happen this time. We got into rock and roll instead.. when John Steel's friend (an ageing rocker (ie older than me) called Syd) and Bob really got going. High points for me this year were the quiet magic (that a lot missed, early on) when Pat played a couple of classical guitar pieces and, in total contrast, Sean and the UEC Big Band (well, not very big, especially without the recalcitrant drum machine) stylishly belting out a few favourites (such as the *House of the Rising Sun*). Another of my major fantasies (to play in a rock band) was partially fulfilled that night if anyone noticed...with the volume turned down low I had little effect either way, but it felt good. We even blew a fuse somehow, in the middle of all that, which slowed things down a bit. Could someone ask us to play again please, to motivate the others to keep practising?....I can't wait another year! And like the *Avon Descent* and the Cott/Rott swim, a huge amount of the fun is in the lead up. (Hmm. I'm the social organiser, maybe we'll be invited to play at the Xmas meeting? Or the Awards day?)

I have a lot of 'thank yous' for help that night: Robin and Alison who just did not stop in the kitchen, Lesley who seemed to wash up everything in the house, Kerry who took over from me every time I started to do something, Kathy who captured a lot of the night on film, and Bob who organised everyone on the night and kept it all going.

See Susie or sign up on the board for the annual UEC **10 Pin Bowling Night** (Friday 23 July). Sign up and put the dates for the **Avon Descent wind-up** (Sunday 22 August) and the **Cult Movie Night** (Saturday 19 September) into your diaries. (And don't forget to let me have your suggestions for the film you want to see that night). For details, see previous page.

Swimming in the Freo pool?.. 6 PM on Wednesdays is possibly, almost, a happening thing again (no regulars it seems at the moment though!). And enjoy those beautiful damp mornings by the foamy river while we tussle with those complicated stretchers that make the 'victim' look like a modern mummy.

Oh. Also please note down on the notice board your 'expression of interest' in either a canoeing weekend (probably October or November, with not a lot of flexibility in the date, as it depends on what Roger can organise) or a weekend in Busselton to dive on the Swan. That's something I want to do and am prepared to organise, and I will try to fit the date and other arrangements to suit whoever is also keen. It would be probably be in the summer sometime....

The Social Butterfly.

Sandy



Training Report

Training in navigation, seamanship, boat handling and boat mechanics theory, for our trainee skippers and other interested members, is well underway.

The course material is meant to be quite specific to the needs of the Club and the Club boat, and so far there has been almost as much interest shown by non potential skippers in the lectures.

We are up to lecture three of 6 or 7, depending on the needs of the class, and have hammered compasses (and will continue to do so, because the good old

magnetic compass will never be superseded) and next week it will all about 'anchoring'. Believe me, the process of anchoring, staying properly anchored and getting unanchored again is probably the cause of 95% of all the difficulties we have gotten into (and will get into) with our Club boating. Certainly poor anchoring techniques have caused a number of quite serious incidents with our diving. So it too will get a hammering.

After a one-week holiday last Wednesday it's on again for the ensuing Wednesdays till fin-

ished. Give me a call if you would like to participate. The mechanics are still to come too, and I will see if I can fit you in!

Cheers!



Stubby



Boat Bits

Hi folks, this is set to be the shortest boat report in UEC history. No offence intended to either of my predecessors, but "you get that" this time of year!!

Basically, there's nothing to report. As stated at the last meeting, the boat is booked to come out of the water on Friday 13th August (no, this is NOT a misprint or typo), and go back in the water on Sunday 29th. That gives us two weeks, and more importantly, three weekends, to antifoul and do anything else that needs attending to below

the waterline. Now that I've got you attention, however, please let me know if there's anything we can do for/ to the boat that is relatively quick & painless, and is easier to do on a stable (on the hardstand) work platform.

Please speak to me - either ring me at home (see the front cover), or you may want to try my MOBILE (yes, I'm now a yuppie).



Phone #
0409
451 291

Bye for now.....

Geoff C



LAUNCHING PARTY
Sunday 29 August
at 12 noon.

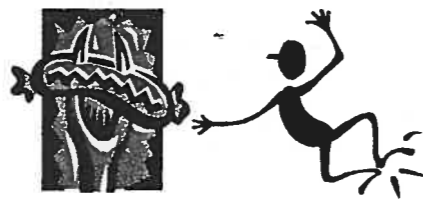
10 PIN BOWLING



Two games, shoes and snacks included. (Please pay at June general meeting.)

DATE: Friday 23 July
TIME: 18.45 SHARP
WHERE: Corner Leach Hwy and Stock Road, Melville

AVON DESCENT WIND-UP PARTY



All welcome, with families! FREE, but please sign up for catering purposes. (Buy drinks from the bar.)

DATE: Sunday 22 August
TIME: 12 noon
WHERE: Swan Yacht Club, East Fremantle

CULT FILM NIGHT



Help us pick a movie!!! Take-away foods included. BYO drinkies. (Pay on the night.)

DATE: Saturday 18 September
TIME: 7.30 PM
WHERE: Zita & Bob's place, 36 Shannon Road, Dianella
Phone: 9275 2279

Top 10 Reasons Why Divers Should Not Take Viagra:

- It increases your drag.
- Your wetsuit is already tight enough.
- Because a guy could really get hurt, if he had to drop his weight belt.
- One pill to get you up, 20 pounds of lead to get you down.
- Two words: Fire coral!
- It increases your risk of entanglement.
- You could accidentally penetrate a wreck.
- You could constantly be searching for blowfish.
- Risk of "inappropriate" contact with the reef.
- Divers aren't supposed to rise quickly.



Building & PR report

BUILDING

Well bugger me (according to the Gov. that's now acceptable), I got so engrossed with being over in Pauline Hanson country that I nearly forgot to send the report this month. Fortunately, I was speaking to a real estate agent over here and he reminded me of Gordon.

More about the Cars of Everlasting Nuisance!!

Since the last report I have spoken to Richard several times and have found out that, despite all the threats made by the corporate body across the road, no letter of complaint has materialised.

To his credit it appears that Gordon phoned Richard to advise him that he hadn't received anything. I quickly knocked up a letter and sent it off. As soon as I hear I will, of course, let you know.

P.R.

Now that we have switched to Avon Decent modè, it opens the door for more Press Releases. I was not previously aware but it appears that one of our life members, Tibi Csomay, has been approaching the West Australian for many years and has made some good contacts there. While at the Avon Decent training the other day, he very politely asked me if he

could continue contacting the West, or would he be treading on my PR toes. I am always delighted for any assistance or ideas to do with PR, and of course I said to Tibi that he could go right ahead. As I have expressed on previous occasions, I don't think that we necessarily get a lot of new members from the newspapers, but we do keep the UEC alive and in the minds eye of the public. I feel this cements our position in the community of still being a force in the diving world.

See you all at the next meeting!

Carmine



Safety Report

South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society [S.P.U.M.S.] is now on the Internet. Their location is: www.spums.org.au.

I have not as yet looked it up, but it will contain a great deal of good information. We are members of this Society and we do have all these publications.

Australian Standards have a new release. A.S./NZS. 2299.1:1999. OCCUPATIONAL DIVING OPERATIONS, PART 1: STANDARD OPERATIONAL PRACTICE.

This new release is the first part of a series of standards dealing with diving procedures. It is intended to be applied to all occupational diving operations until standards for the conduct of diving operations in specific areas are published. These specific areas apply to, Scientific Diving, Recreational Diving, and Film/Photographic Diving operations. It is vital that anyone who dives for a living uses this new standard as a basic op-

erational guideline. The safety of the diver at all times is the key focus of this new release.

DIVING MEDICAL

During the April General Meeting and the May Committee Meeting the subject of diving medical was a topic of some discussion. It is apparent that a significant number of us are what society refers to as the *Baby Boomers*. The very idea of diving medical checks bring all kinds of reactions from our members. However, the reality is, SCUBA diving requires a high level of general fitness, not only for the individual, but also their family and diving buddies.

It is not the responsibility of the Club to ensure that members are fit to dive or in date when it comes to diving medical. Each individual is responsible for their own fitness to dive. To ensure safe recreational diving practice, all divers should have regular medical checks. The

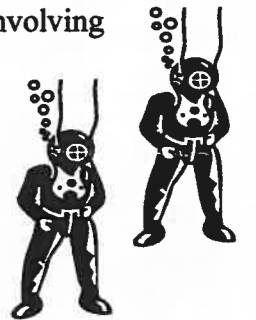
frequency of these checks is up to the doctor and the individual diver.

The Club Secretary has the latest list of doctors in W.A. who are qualified to carry out diving medical. Take your doctors advise about your level of fitness, and plan your diving to suit your capabilities.

The question of invited guests on an *introduction to the Club dive* is still to be resolved with regards to qualifications to dive. We currently insist on a basic qualification, and we never see a medical certificate.

We are currently seeking further advise on this matter. We do not wish to become the 'medical police', but we also do not want a serious diving incident involving a buddy.

Steve



Many thanks to Steve Larter, who copied this magazine a/h, with kind permission from Pilkington Victor Glass, Myaree.

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Kalgoorlie: 75 Dugan Street	(090) 212724
Albany: Cockburn Road	(098) 411622

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SHERMAN'S LAGOON



(Judy reports: Lots of meaty crabs in the river!)

<http://www.stagoon.com>

Club Diary

<u>DAY/MONTH</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Monday 16 August	19.30	GENERAL MEETING in FREMANTLE Club member Jeff Pinkham to show us over the Hyperbaric Unit, Fremantle Hospital.
Sunday 22 August	12.00	SOCIAL: Avon Descent Wind-Up Sausage Sizzle at Swan Yacht Club. Families welcome. FREE, but RSVP to Sandy on 9339 5936. (Drinks from the bar)
Sunday 29 August	12.00	SOCIAL: Launching Party aboard "UE" at Swan Yacht Club (details inside this magazine). FREE, but RSVP to Susie on 9331 2385. (BYO drinks)
Sunday 5 September	08.30	2-tank day to Rottnest (Peter/Luc)
Monday 6 September	19.30	COMMITTEE MEETING
Sunday 12 September	08.30	2-tank day to Rottnest (Dennis/Jim)
Saturday 18 September	19.00	SOCIAL: Cult Film Night at Zita and Bob's place. \$7; nibbles, dessert and coffee provided; take-away to be ordered and paid for on the night; BYOG.
Sunday 19 September	08.30	2-tank day to Rottnest (Geoff/Judy)

PLEASE NOTE

That our General meetings are held on the third Monday every month at 19.30 PM at Willetton Sports Club, Burrendah Blvd - EXCEPT Monday 16th August.

Underwater Explorers Club of W.A. (Inc.)
P.O. Box 1157
Booragoon W.A. 6154
E-mail: uec@space.net.au

Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Crescent
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1999

President's Platform



Without doubt the biggest topic of conversation in the Stubberfield/Casley home at the moment is the AD (Avon Descent!). For weeks now we have had our home littered with all sorts of AD paraphernalia including reams of paperwork, food, clothing and harnesses etc. It has got to the stage that we are tripping over stuff in our efforts to get to the phone to field the enormous number of calls that we need answer or make all in order to get the show on the road from the Club's perspective. I am sure that the Robson home is in just as much turmoil, as Jim and Sue struggle with all the problems that they encounter as part of their contribution to the event. This time next month it will all be over, and we can breathe a sigh of relief and wonder what all the fuss was about. I will report all (or at least what is printable) of the goss then. However, I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to Alison Keen for stepping into the breach at the last moment to fill an unavoidable vacancy left by one of our team leaders, who has fallen ill. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

It seems that no sooner than we get home from the AD, we are going flat out again with our annual slipping of "UE". Same drill as last month I'm afraid; Please ring Geoff Charlton and volunteer for some work on the boat - there is plenty to do and every bit helps. Then of course, you will be entitled to a front berth to the re-launching party, that Susie is in charge of at the end of the month. Consult the calendar for details of times etc. Even if you didn't lift a finger to help at the slipping, you are still welcome to come along and enjoy the bubbly that is mandatory at a party like this.

Sunday 22 July is also our **AD thank you sausage sizzle** at Swan Yacht Club. This is always a fun day, when we can all get together and re-live the excitement and swap stories from a fortnight before. Everyone is welcome, but please let Sandy know of your intentions, so that she has some idea of how many sausage skins to fill.

Last but definitely not least is our general meeting to be held at the Hyperbaric Unit at Fremantle Hospital. This is a must in my opinion, if only to reinforce the rules of diving to us all. I am sure that not one of us wants to spend any time at all "in the pot". Many thanks to Jeff Pinkham for making it all possible. I hope to see you all there.

Maree

PRESIDENT:

Maree Casley
9457 3333

VICE PRESIDENT:

Geoff Charlton
9451 2910

SECRETARY:

John Creswell
9335 7730

TREASURER:

Peter Horton
9445 2336

DIVING:

Judy Cowan
9331 2005

BOATING:

Geoff Charlton
9451 2910

SAFETY:

Steve Larter
9291 9654

TRAINING:

Dennis Stubberfield
9457 3333

BUILDING & PR:

Carmine Travaglione
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EDITOR & WEB:

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uec@space.net.au

WEB SITE:

www.space.net.au/~uec

From the Editor



recently featured these islands as a part of their *Islands In The Sun* special.

WEB SITE NEWS

GREAT news! Our site has been added to the **Best of Perth Internet Directory**, and they wish us "*best of luck with your online ventures*".

So, check it out at www.space.net.au/~uec and don't forget to look at the new photos on the *Club Album* page. Who knows, YOU could be in it!

Cheers!



Diving withdrawal syndrome? Absolutely!

Makes me dream about going back to my favourite Dive Paradise in W.A. - **Cocos Islands** - as I just had a report from my friend out there in the middle of the Indian Ocean.

Dieter Gerhard is repromoting his dive business, due to popular demand, after the award winning TV program *Getaway*



Happy Birthday

Steve Larter 8/8
Maureen Cox 13/8
Richard Jeffree 17/9
Gary Browne 20/9
And a SPECIAL one to
Rick Young on 14/9

Together they are all
245 years old!
(= 49 years each)

Some new numbers!

First name	Last Name	Home Phone	Mobile Phone	E-Mail address
Elaine	Airey	9271 5868		
Carl	Anders	9454 3724		
KAS	Ashton	9331 2385	0417 993 141	kasdive@inet.net.au
Janet	Ashworth Byers	9335 1729		
Lesley	Bettink	9364 2064		
Barbara	Brice	9364 4915		
Gary	Browne	9337 9836		browneg@bizzpro.com.au
Maree	Casley	9457 3333	0417 900 653	
Clive	Cass	9336 4004		
Geoff	Charlton	9451 2910	0409 451 291	
Judy	Cowan	9331 2005	0413 519 129	
Maureen	Cox	9310 6795	0417 997 269	
Mark	Creswell	9383 2606		
John	Creswell	9330 3708		jcreswel@perthpcug.org.au
Tibi	Csomas	9341 3001		
Warren & Wendy	Cummins	9337 8337		warren@perthpcug.org.au
Bob & Zita	Dobson	9275 2279	0418 752 279	
Paul	Dunbar	9277 6342		
Sean	Edmett	9455 3172		
Adrian & Mary	Edwards	9457 2117		acemee@space.net.au
Holly	Elder	9188 1021		
Luc	Fauvet	9528 6171		
Geoff & Hetty	Gead	9453 1723		
Peter	Horton	9445 2336	0417 930 124	phort@space.net.au
Frank and Karen	Hubbard	9336 6878		illowra@q-net.net.au
Nicholas	Hunter	9450 4739	015 424 611	
Richard	Jeffree	9319 8648	0418 945 152	jeffree_poolspa@bigpond.com.au
Lyn	Jones	9310 1937		
Alison	Keen	9242 3919		a_keen_one@mailcity.com
Ken	Kennedy	9447 0012		
Barry	Kennedy	9359 1727		
Dave	Kenny	-	0417 914105	
Steve	Larter	9291 9654		larter.family@eudoramail.com
Rodney	Mace	9445 3110		
Bob & Zita	McLaughlin	9454 8450		
Richard	Mohacsi	9385 6674		
Brian	Murray	9459 4662		
Michael	Myers	9291 0428	0413 535 733	mmyers@one.net.au
Richard	Naylor	9390 2819	0419 910 066	
Harry	Oldenius	9451 3972		
Barbara	Parker	9337 8209		
John	Paskulich	9490 1625		
Bill & Margaret	Pettigrew	9434 5052		pettigre@inet.net.au
Jeff	Pinkham	9419 3893		
Bruce & Margaret	Porter	9367 2282		
Nick	Rawlins	9341 5033		
Jim	Robson	9454 7868		Robo.clan@bigpond.com.au
Michel	Roux	9450 2229		michelr@multipro.com.au
Robin	Shepherd	9335 7730		
Roger	Smith	9275 8620		rogers@mafeking.scouts.org.au
Dennis	Stubberfield	9457 3333		dennisstubby@hotmail.com
Arjen	Tjalma	9385 6485		
Carmine	Travaglione	9356 1311	0411 420 128	austasia@opera.iinet.net.au
Pat	Troy	9328 8163	019 681 948	
David	Van Beers	9448 0985		
Trevor	Walker	9354 2841		
Robin	Wallis	9446 2888		
Paul/Ken/Luke	Weaver	9339 6593		
Sandy	Webb	9339 5936	0407 993 395	sandy_webb29@hotmail.com
Ron	Whitson	9337 5531		
Roy	Whyatt	9341 1295		
Rick	Young	9457 5206		
David	Zuiddam	9454 4188		

What kind of reef is not made of coral?

Not all ocean reefs are made from coral. Although they are now rare, reefs built by *Serpula tube-worms* can be found in several places.

The most well developed *Serpula* reefs are found near the shores of Loch Creran, a sea in Scotland.

Serpula worms secrete calcium carbonate which they form into long tubes to make their homes. When thousands of worms build their tubes on top of each other, a reef forms. A *Serpula* reef is a unique ecosystem, with its own fish, plants, and other organisms.

Millions of years ago, such reefs were much more common, along with other kinds of reefs built by clams and other molluscs. Like coral reefs, *Serpula* reefs are endangered by human changes to their environment.

A study of the *Serpula* reefs at Loch Creran:
<http://www.bio.hw.ac.uk/staff/cgm/NATURAL.HTM>

Serpula vermicularis, the most common reef-building tube worm:
<http://nhm.org/~dgeiger/annelida.html>

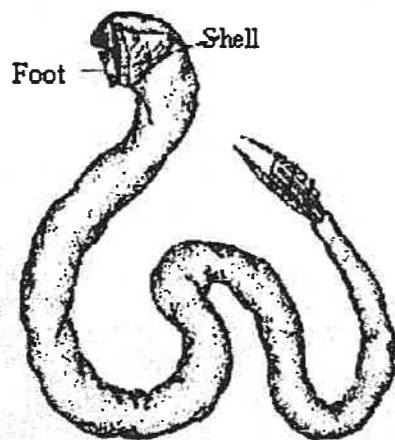
Termites of the Sea (Teredo)

According to Turner (1966), the shipworm is a marine bivalve highly specialised for boring into wood.

The shell is greatly reduced and the long worm-like body is protected by the wood in which it is boring; the shell is modified into a rasp for grinding the wood.

Teredo can only invade new wood when they are in the larval stage during the short larval period when they are free swimming.

The initial entrance hole may be so tiny it can't be seen. The first hint of problems comes after the interior is nearly destroyed and the wood disintegrates.



In the era of wooden-hulled ships, the danger of your ship literally sinking under you was very real. Quite often a ship's crew had to abandon their ship because it was "rotten" from the holes bored in its bottom by shipworms.

There are many references to the results of shipworms in the historical literature.

Here are a couple of examples:

In 1502, during his 4th voyage to the Caribbean Sea, Columbus' ships survived a water spout, a hurricane, high seas, lightning and rocky reefs. Luck ran out when two of his four ships had to be abandoned because of shipworm rot.

In 1519, Fernando Cortes decided to burn his ships in order to prevent his men turning back from their march into the heart of Mexico to conquer the Aztec kingdom. What reason did he give for burning the ships? The ships were so worm-eaten they were no longer seaworthy!

Cortes knew that even though this statement was not true, it would be accepted as truth, because shipworm rot was so prevalent.

HELP WANTED

Following July's monthly meeting it has been decided that we need to do something about the Club's archived monthly magazines. We currently have a complete collection going back to the early 1960s. The current storage facilities are not adequate for safe storage, and we are in danger of damage occurring to these valuable past historic records. We do send a copy of the magazine to the Alexander Library each month but we need to carry out our own maintenance in-house.

It has been proposed that we copy all editions onto a CD ROM. This, as you can imagine, would be a major job. We do have access to the equipment to carry out this process, but we need interested members to undertake this task. If you are interested, or you now someone who would be, please contact either myself or our club secretary John. The finished product will be a definitive work on the oldest diving club in W.A., which will be of great value to the Club and its past and present membership. Please consider.

Steve



Boat Bits

By the time you are reading this, our beloved "UE" will be out of the water and sitting on the hard-stand at Swan Yacht Club. That's right, Saturday 14th is "D-Day" for our annual slipping (or is that "S-DAY"?).

What this means is that all of us, yes – that means YOU, have an intense three weekends / two weeks to get *HER* ready for another year of service.

As far as the workload goes, the more the merrier, so if you have a pulse, we want to see you

down at the slips.

If you need to know what to do, feel free to contact me on my mobile phone – 0409 451 291 (outside business hours) and I'll tell you in the nicest possible way. You might also try dropping in to the boat after work, as there's an even money bet that's where I'll be.

Bye for now.....

Geoff

And the reward is.....

**LAUNCHING PARTY
For all Working Bees
and their friends**

**Sunday 29 August
at 12 noon
Swan Yacht Club**



(Arranged by Susie)

LAUNCHING PARTY details:

"Underwater Explorer" goes back in the water between 11 am and 12 noon. We take *HER* for a spin up the river, anchor somewhere nice and calm to enjoy Susie's Sardine Sarnies and a drink or two. Then we can drop you back at SYC, or you can come along to dock in Fremantle Harbour and party on!



"COTTESLOE CRABS" ONE MILE SWIM AT ROTTO



Is anyone interested in the above,
held on Saturday 4th of December this year?

One mile is just 32 laps in the Freo pool, and with all that Wednesday night training you are doing now, I'm sure some of you would like to join me.

I have participated five times over the years, and it is a great day out! Please let me know by September meeting, if you are interested. I want company! And as there is no way I can swim a mile at the moment, I'll have to get into training pretty soon!

(The "Underwater Explorer" would still be able to do a dive in the morning.)

Zita



Building & PR report



Since the last report, I have spoken to our tenant Richard, a couple of times. The first time, three weeks ago, he commented that one of the cars was gone, and I must admit the whole thing looked promising. I spoke to Richard again on Tuesday 3rd Aug. and he reported that for the first time since he has been there, he noticed that the owner of the wrecks next door is working furiously to replace rusted panels. Richard sees this as a positive step. He feels that finally the guy has been given the message and is now trying to get them in a state of repair such that he can sell them off. I guess we live in hope. Richard in any event is quite happy to wait awhile.

Incidentally, our erstwhile corporate body manager, Gordon, has been as usual the strong, silent type, in that I haven't heard a whisper from him. I decided to ring him myself and got a taped message on his old phone number that he now has new numbers. Fortunately, I am a 3rd Dan fastfonenumberlistner, otherwise I would not have found out his new number. As Maree correctly noted from our last corporate body fees invoice, it appears that *Gordon Tucker Real Estate* has now been cleverly disguised as *Warren Tucker Real Estate*.

Gordon was not in his office, so I rang him on his mobile. Ap-

parently, he is amalgamating his business with his brother Warren. He hadn't let anybody know, so when the invoices went out, other owners also asked whether he had been watching too much GNW. It appears that he is eventually going to ask us if we approve of the corporate body manager change at a proposed meeting in a couple of months time. Lucky for him we are a fairly relaxed lot in Australia.

Gordon did report that he has had other letters of complaint from the corporate body across the road about the cars and has, as a result, written a very terse letter to the unit owner, demanding his compliance. I asked him to follow it up, and he has promised to visit him on the weekend, and if he has not complied, he has promised to get terser. Let's wait and see!!

PR Stuff

Did you all see the great article that appeared on page 9 of the *West Australian* on Monday 12th July? It was in colour and spelt all our members names correctly and even mentioned... yes!... the **Underwater Explorers Club**. If you haven't seen it, come to the next meeting, and I will show it to you. I believe we have Tibi to thank for this for getting them out there, and Maree for the information given as apparently they rang her.

Other than that - the web page is looking great these days, and is being hit on a lot. I am not sure whether the figures are correct, but last committee meeting someone said around 22,000. If this proves to be correct, I'm going to try to get some paying advertising on our page.

CLUB COLOURS

Do you think we should have our own colours so we, like the *Dockers* and the *Eagles*, will be recognised by our distinctive colours???

If you do think we should, come along to the next meeting with some suggestions or even sketches.

Partly because of the above I have aborted the sweat shirts, and I will give all those that have pre-paid, their money back at the next meeting.

Carmine

Chinese drugstores, street vendors and aquarium shops in Manila, they fetch from 35 to 80 pesos (90 cents to about two dollars) each. Overseas, where Philippine seahorses overwhelmingly end up, the rarest and most valuable seahorses used in traditional Chinese medicine can sell for several hundred dollars per kilo.

Biologists say concern for seahorses extends not just to these captivating creatures, but to their surroundings as well. Because they live in the oceans' most productive marine systems -- mangrove forests, sea grasses and coral reefs -- seahorses are indicators of the health of marine environments.

Conservationists say the drop in seahorse numbers is also due to the destruction of their environment through the pollution of coastal waters, felling of mangrove forests, dredging and draining of seagrass beds and destruction of reefs by cyanide and dynamite fishing. But no one doubts that the overenthusiastic harvesting of seahorses deserves the most blame for their decline.

Most seahorses that do not wind up as medicine or curios usually survive capture and transport. But they do not live long in captivity because they

are finicky eaters, consuming only live food such as brine shrimp and zooplankton. Aquarium seahorse supplies must thus continually be replenished from wild stock. The biology of seahorses makes them easy to harvest. After a storm, it is common to see these slow-moving creatures washed up on the beach. Although seahorses are fish, they cannot swim well. Because they are rather stationary, affixing themselves to coral, mangrove or seagrass with their prehensile tails, people have only to coop them by hand or with little nets.

Seahorses' monogamous behaviour also mean they do not reproduce quickly. Once the male or female from a seahorse couple is taken or dies, it is unlikely that the remaining mate will find a new partner. Even the way seahorses reproduce makes it more vulnerable to fast depletion after they become targets of fisherfolk. Among other fish, a male fertilises the eggs and the female lays them. In theory, either could be caught, and the young still survive.

With seahorses, though, it is the male that gets pregnant. The female deposits her eggs into a pouch located on the male's lower portion. The eggs are fertilised in the pouch and remain

there until the male gives birth to live, fully-formed offspring 10 days to six weeks after fertilisation. The length of time depends on the species and water temperature. If fisherfolk catch the pregnant male, therefore, the young will not be born.

The good news is that a community-based seahorse protection project has been ongoing here since 1994, pooling the efforts of conservationists, marine experts and local fisherfolk to stem the decline in seahorse numbers. Researchers in Iloilo, some 300 kms northwest from here, have also done work aimed at breeding seahorses in captivity. But initial research done in Handumon suggests that seahorse populations rebound slowly.

According to the Manila-based *Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources*, which initiated the project here, there has been little noticeable growth in the area's seahorse numbers since conservation efforts began in earnest here almost five years ago. Replenishing seahorses in their natural environment may thus take years, or even decades.

Article by Chadwin Thomas
Sent in by Carmine
Thank you!



Hope the above story interested you!

After all, it has to do with our Club symbol!

(and also being my special interest, if you have noticed somehow!?) ED.



Conservation Corner



Seahorses Fall Prey to Overfishing

On a quiet night lit with stars, Rey Abano plies the dark, warm waters off Jandayan Island, in the central Philippine province of Bohol, searching for seahorses. The 24-year-old's head disappears under the water, pops up for air and disappears again. When he began selling the tiny sea creatures seven years ago, Abano could catch at least 20 per night, or even more. Older fisherfolk here in Handumon, on Jandayan Island, say that as late as 1985, they used to get more than twice that number.

But now, when Abano and others like him dunk almost half their bodies in the sea to look for seahorses, they often resurface empty-handed. They count themselves lucky if they manage to each haul in 10 seahorses in a single night.

Handumon is at the heart of the Philippines' seahorse trade, which has among its most active players the provinces of Bohol, Cebu, Zamboanga and Palawan in the central and southern parts of this archipelagic country. But seahorses are becoming more difficult to find around in this remote town, a telling indication of

how global demand for the elegant equine-headed fish has escalated in recent years, leading to their being overfished here and elsewhere.

As one of the four major seahorse exporters in the world, the Philippines is at ground zero in the global decline of the seahorse population. Handumon's fisherfolk estimate that seahorse numbers in and around this area have plunged by up to 70 percent in the last decade.

That echoes an alarming discovery by conservation biologist Amanda Vincent of the McGill University in Montreal, Canada:

The seahorse population worldwide has likely plummeted 50 percent since the beginning of the 1990s.

According to Vincent, considered the foremost authority on international seahorse trafficking, the number one reason for the decline in seahorse numbers worldwide is the rapid growth in China's disposable income since the mid-1980s. In a landmark 1996 study, Vincent noted that as incomes in China rose, so did demand for seahorses -- particularly dried ones -- in China, as well as in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore.

Although dried seahorses are often made into curios, key chains and other souvenirs, most of them are used in traditional Chinese medicine for a variety of purposes that range from aphrodisiacs to asthma treatment. At the same time, there has also been strong demand for live seahorses. Unlike in traditional Chinese medicine, where large, smooth-skinned seahorses are preferred, the live trade is mostly in smaller seahorses, which fit more easily in home aquariums. And since home aquarium enthusiasts are

usually not very particular about how the seahorses look, there is a market for nearly all seahorses, large or small, smooth or spiny.

There are 39 countries involved in the lucrative global trade in seahorses, but the four top exporters are in Asia. Aside from the Philippines, the others are India, Vietnam and Thailand. Vincent says the Philippines' annual share could exceed 5.2 million seahorses -- 4.7 million dried and 500,000 live -- or more than a quarter of the 20 million wild seahorses that she estimates are harvested and sold worldwide each year.

Filipino fisherfolk like Abano often earn only about six pesos (16 cents) per seahorse. But once the seahorses reach

Seahorses are indicators of the health of marine environment

Social Section



Well now, I'm another one with little to report, although I'm dreaming up ideas for future meetings and social events. (I dream of belly dancers, warm sun and lamb on the spit... or sea shanties, a fire, beer... or a warm sea gently rocking the boat, a balmy black night with stars, chilli crab, champagne, soft..... Oh!... I'd better stop!)

But I'd love your ideas on what you think would be fun to do too.... so share them with me, please!

The best fun lately have been Wednesday nights. These start with swimming and end up in a variety of ways (all involving red wine it seems, so very mellow). After a brief trial of another pool (murky and shallow), we have headed

back to the Freo pool. The only down side of the Freo pool is that if we indulge after swimming with a stint in the hydrotherapy pool (joke telling etc) there is a longish, freezing run through the chill night air back to the change rooms. (Small price to pay.) We try to keep the meals afterwards at about \$10 a head, so the night is not too expensive.



For the last few weeks a number of us, including people like me who have absolutely no intention of putting a hand to the wheel, have then been going on to Dennis' skipper training sessions. Even I am learning a fair bit about mucking about in boats.

Let me know ASAP if you and your family etc will be coming to the **post Avon Descent Sausage Sizzle** at the Swan Yacht Club. Come even if you are not part of the rescue team, as it is also a chance to see the "UE" on the slip and maybe even a chance to lend a hand before lunch.

GENERAL METING: You will find directions at the bottom of this page on how to get to the *Fremantle Hospital Hyperbaric Unit* for this month's club meeting, so see you there!

Your Social Butterfly.



Sandy

Remember the next General Meeting Monday August 16 will be at the Hyperbaric Unit in the Fremantle Hospital at 7.30 PM.

Entry into the Hospital is from Ord Street, into Fothergill Street (running down the S. wall of the Fremantle Prison), and first entry left into the hospital, where there will be free parking either in a multistorey car park on the left or an open car park on the right. Continue on foot, heading south on the street you entered the hospital on, past two incinerator chimneys, and you will see a sign to the Hyperbaric Unit, which you enter through double doors.

A SHARK ENCOUNTER

By Margaret Pettigrew

The man on the tele forecasting the next day's Bastilles Day weather (Thursday, July 15) said overnight N/NW winds of 12 - 18 increasing to 20 then changing to N winds of 20 - 25 knots before switching east to 25. Huge squalls with a sea of 2.5m and a swell of 4 metres. A wind warning in effect. Rain showers during the day, in fact a day in which one should stay indoors munching on one's favourite food.

So, it was that on this dark and stormy day the station wagon (boat) set off north towards Hillarys and an underwater rendezvous with sharks. Driving carefully, and passing two multi-novas trying to catch those naughty speeding motorists, Bill and I arrived safely at our destination and were directed towards the back door (why do we always enter buildings via the back door I ask myself), where we unloaded our gear - and were happily told by Nick, our dive master, that we were the only two divers that day.

It took us the better part of half-an-hour to gear up, explore our surroundings: water everywhere, on the floor, in pools, tanks, buckets, all full of fish, a sea snake, a beautiful cuttle fish and a dear little turtle who had been at the Aquarium since birth with a humped back, caused by too much gas in his shell, and it was felt that he

could not survive in the wild. The staff had pinned a little lead weight on his bum to allow him to manoeuvre, breathe and eat more easily. Upstairs was the kitchen (avoid that and the dirty dishes), toilets, change rooms, showers (lots of hot water).

At 2.20pm, we were briefed on the dive. After the sharks were fed (thank goodness) we would enter the water. The aquarium was 90 ft long, 40 ft wide, and 15 ft deep with visibility about 40 ft. We were cautioned to be careful of the plastic tunnel as divers' bottles hitting it did most damage.

The *Underwater World* houses nine nurse sharks (not dangerous but big), including two little baby sharks, Port Jackson sharks, 12 turtles (one was huge; he must have been a hundred years old), huge groupers, beautiful sting rays (two kinds). And fish and shells galore.

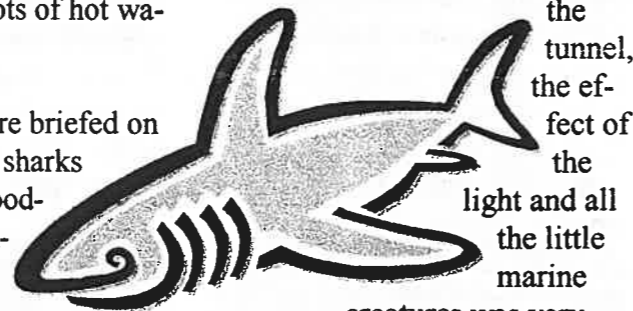
Five hand signals are used: OK, up, down, touch, don't touch. Water temp. 18 degrees. The *Underwater World* was bringing the temperature down from 24 to 16, and we thought we would be cold and really regretted that after half-an-hour we had to surface, rising to the top and flopping into the little pool to take our gear off. We both felt we could have stayed

down for another 15 minutes. When we first dropped over the side, it was a wonderful sight to peer down at all the fish and the wide and long view of the aquarium with the "dry" folks on the outside rotating around the tunnel, the effect of the light and all the little marine creatures was very satisfying.

We took a little underwater throwaway camera with us, but unfortunately without a flashlight none of our pictures came out. It is permissible to touch some of the creatures, so we did: The stingray felt silky, the turtle shell hard but alive, tried to touch a fish but they are too fast, and I did not try the shark.

Nick guided us along the tunnel, over the top, back again on the other side and then around again. The sea life ignored us for the first five minutes but then moved closer to us so that we had a very good view of them. A lot of fish have blue eyes - did you know that?

Then it was time for the ritual of de-robing, having a hot cup of tea/coffee (provided free) a 10% discount on shop purchases (an offer I forgot to partake of) and a tour of *UWW* if



we so desired. Then the drive home. We elected to follow the Coast road back to the wilds of Coogee. Just as well as the man on the tele said *due to an accident the freeway had been closed*, so we would have been stranded. As it was, we could not see the sea at all - just fog and mist.

For us it was a great experience. We enjoyed our "indoor" diving, although it is difficult to keep a good balance at 12 ft from the surface and try to

avoid hitting the synthetic rocks. (A young member of the staff was busy making more rocks down in the work area near our changing rooms.)

You get a very different perspective from being inside the pool than on the outside; people love waving at you. And one cheeky little girl stuck her tongue out at Bill, who reciprocated. She told the two adults about Bill's actions, so he stuck his tongue out at them, which made them laugh.

I asked Nick what his thoughts were on using Nitrox, which is very popular in Europe. His response was that as you use less air, it is bound to be less tiring and therefore beneficial. He himself had one more day before moving to Melbourne where he is to run a new aquarium to open at the beginning of next year.

We wished him good luck and *Bon Voyage*.



Diving Report

Still nothing to report in the way of recent diving activity, but... with Spring time, we have the boat back in the water, the sun should be shining, the birds be singing, Avon Descent will be over, and UEC will be back in the swim!!! That's the theory anyway. So... we now have the calendar up and running again, and all we need now is DIVERS!!!

See you on the boat!

Judy

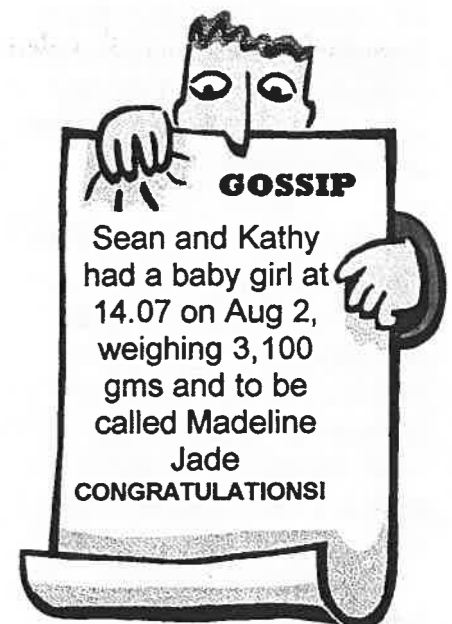


Many thanks to Steve Larter, who copied this magazine a/h, with kind permission from Pilkington Victor Glass, Myaree.

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**W.A.'s Leading Glass Repairer
24 HOUR SERVICE 9330 2333**



Sean and Kathy had a baby girl at 14.07 on Aug 2, weighing 3,100 gms and to be called Madeline Jade
CONGRATULATIONS!

CONSERVATION CORNER

COOL WEB SITE FOR DIVERS—CORAL

If you are looking for a way to do your part for reef conservation, check out the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) web site. CORAL works with divers to promote coral reef conservation around the world through a number of programs, including reef condition reporting forms that you can complete online. CORAL also matches volunteer divers with reef conservation and research projects around the world. While you're at the web site, subscribe to CORAL's e-mail newsletter. Go to: www.coral.org.

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UEC NEWSLETTER

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September

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EDITOR &

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9331 2385



President's Platform

This month I have a lot to report regarding recent events and also about some future changes. Firstly, I am pleased to report that once again Club members and friends did a wonderful job at the Avon Descent. Thankfully, there were no really serious incidents to contend with, however, we were on hand to deal with any situation. The Northam's Avon Descent Association again provided us all with superb meals and accommodation for the weekend (did anyone notice what happened to the electric blankets?) and the weather remained fine for the duration making conditions very pleasant during the day. I am sure that everyone had a great time and are queuing up already for another big effort next year.

The Sausage Sizzle was also well attended. Many thanks to Sandy for organizing the BBQ and also to *Watsonia Foods*, who generously donated the snags. Well done everyone, and thank you all for all your hard work during the weeks leading up to and including the race.

As you all know, "UE" has been out of the water getting her annual mainte-

nance attended to. There were some initial problems that we had to contend with, but I am pleased to report that most jobs were done. The boat is now ready for the upcoming diving season, so get on the horn to Judy to get wet. We once again had our traditional Launch Party, where there were gallons of champers and tons of nibbles thanks to Susie. Unfortunately, I missed part of the celebrations due to an urgent need to sleep - courtesy of too much champagne, but that is another story. The only important job remaining on the boat is a new exhaust extension to help alleviate the problem of fumes on the boat. Geoff is confident of fixing the problem in the near future.

Last month's General Meeting at the Hyperbaric Unit at Fremantle Hospital was a huge success. Jeff Pinkham did a wonderful job in explaining the units operation and then showing us around. It is a very interesting installation that is used in a wide variety of situations, not just straightening out bent scuba divers. Thanks Jeff for showing us your workplace.

Finally, at the last Committee Meeting it was decided to not increase Club membership fees for this coming year. It is interesting to note that ordinary membership fees have remained the same since 1992, which is an achievement in itself. Don't forget that next year each of us will have to pay 10% GST on Club dives, so don't blame us when it happens. The meeting did decide, however, to increase diving and social boat usage fees. The increases are very moderate and reflect the need to keep abreast of rising costs associated with running the boat especially the increases in fuel. I am sure that you agree with me that a \$3 increase in diving fees is very modest.

It is not very long now till the start of the new financial year for the Club and consequently a new Committee. As in past years we will be on the lookout for new people to become more actively involved in the administration of the Club. Think about who you would like to see running the Club, and if you have any ambitions in this regard yourself, think about getting nominated. In any event, membership fees will be due soon, so start saving up now!

I hope to see you soon.

Maree

From the Editor

SURPRISE!!!

A new look newsletter! Well, I knew it had to happen sooner or later..... A MAJOR CLEAN-UP in my computer.



And with that came the loss of ALL the software I used to have. So, I had to start from scratch and use the old version of *Publisher* for this month's newsletter. Although, there is one advantage of my "new" computer, because I had *Windows 98* installed, which has the most wonderful underwater coral reef picture as wallpaper, and colourful reef fish PLUS A SEAHORSE swimming around as a screensaver!

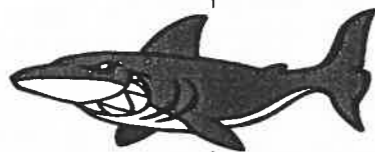


"UE" LAUNCHING

Gee, what a party! You should have been there, because you would not believe, whatever I would tell you about it!

Anyhow, I suppose Sandy is writing a report where you can read more about the party, but I also suppose that she will leave some bits out....., especially what "the stayers" got up to on the way back to the pen!!

It's nice to know though that our beloved "UE" is in good nick and ready to take us out diving in the coming season. Let's make it a record year for filling the boat up with intrepid divers every weekend!!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to

Rick Young 14/9
Richard Jeffree 17/9
Gary Browne 20/9

Michel Roux 2/10
David Zuiddam 2/10
Carmine Travaglione 3/10
Luke Weaver 19/10
Mary Edwards 26/10

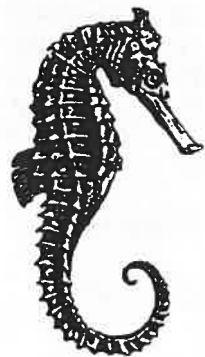
Cheers!



Sorry about the delay in changing our web page this month, but there was nothing I could do before the installation of my new software. Should be ready for you to check out by now at www.space.net.au/~uec. Hopefully!

NOMINATION Welcome to the Club

Jan Lumsdaine, Alfred Cove
Telephone: 9330 3326



SOCIAL REPORT

It was EXTREMELY nice being on the boat again... launching day, with champagne and sausages in hand thanks to Susie (who we also have to thank for the seahorses painted on the hull, which means that at least we'll be sure we're 'home' when we look up now!) The

*Swimming/dinner on Wednesdays;
Canoe trip in October;
SWAN wreck dive in November;
Christmas Party in December*

"UE" is looking fantastic after all the hard work on, under, and in it, and having been around the edges of the work (not actually getting dirty) I now have a really good idea of how much is involved, and how lucky we all are to have so many experts and generous people to

do it. Wind and hail and icy mornings don't make it feel as though diving time is near, but hopefully it is.

We had a huge turn-out again to the post-Avon sausage sizzle at the Swean Yacht Club, and it was good to have the chance to thank all who helped up there as well.

Wednesday night swimming is really happening again (Freo Pool, finishing up by about 6.45). It's deadly serious these days, with Carmine and Carol swimming something like 40 laps, and Dennis not far behind. Gone are the days of chatting at the end of each lap, although wallowing in the hot pool is now well deserved and the dinners really well earned. There's a plan afoot to join the mile long swim at Rotto in early December, and maybe even the Cott-Rott swim (on top this time). The choice of Wednesday eating place varies, although the aim

is 'cheap and good'. Next Wednesday (8 Sept) we are 'going' Lebanese, and Clive's wife Eve promises us a private belly dancing performance!

I have chatted now to Roger Smith about the canoe trip, and see we have good numbers already. We can stop at the 13 already on the list, but if you are keen, and your name is not on the list yet, do sign up as a reserve, because we may have the option of taking up to four more canoes. This trip now has dates: Saturday/Sunday 30/31 October, and it will cost next to nothing (canoe rental is something like \$7.50 per head!).

I couldn't wait till next year to dive on the SWAN, so am trying set a date with Cape Dive, Dunsborough, for two dives on the wreck in late November. That is "low season" in price but actually into the best diving time of the year.... dodging school holidays, the Rotto swim, etc. etc. Cape Dive come very highly recommended, and I have a good idea now of how well looked after we will be by them, and what we can do in and around the wreck, how deep we can go, etc. That trip is limited to 17 or 18 people, and we already have 15 on the list, so sign up if you are keen! We will book Saturday night accommodation for those who want it (which will no doubt be affected by whether we are diving Saturday or Sunday) in the Yallingup Chalets, 4 people in two bedroom, self contained chalets. Accommodation and the two wreck dives (with refreshments on the day, but no meals or equipment provided) will cost \$105 per

person. The dives without accommodation would cost \$75 per person, and there is some cheaper accommodation in a Backpackers in Dunsborough. The date will be confirmed by the time of the General Meeting, so please make sure you pay your deposit of \$50 to Peter Horton at the meeting or mail it to me a.s.a.p. (29 Clive Street, Bicton) to secure your place. Also, please be sure to mark on the list that you have paid your deposit, and record your highest dive qualification and number of logged dives. Ring me if you are interested in getting more information about the dives, or the accommodation, etc. (Actually..... don't ring me between 15th and 27th September as I'll be away, even missing the next General Meeting, but I'll 'gen' someone up for that night!).

Two more 'different' General Meetings are coming up: One is the November meeting, which will be the AGM combined with the Annual Awards Presentations, to be held in the usual Willetton venue. I have organized some light entertainment for that night as well. The other one is the December meeting, which will be an 'away' meeting again..... this time in the Fremantle Maritime Museum, with a speaker from there, to be combined with a Club Christmas Party. More later.

*Sandy
Your Social Butterfly*



SCHEDULE OF FEES

The following amended schedule of fees was passed by the Committee on September 6, 1999, and are to apply from October 1, 1999.

MEMBERSHIP (All grades to remain unchanged)

Nomination fee (once off only)	\$ 25.00
Annual membership—Ordinary	\$ 75.00
Annual membership—Family	\$120.00
Annual membership—Junior	\$ 35.00
Annual membership—Non resident	\$ 30.00
Annual membership—Social	\$ 25.00
Annual membership—Student	\$ 35.00
Annual membership—Affiliate—Determined by the Committee	

DIVING TRIPS ON CLUB BOAT

One tank dives—Stragglers/Carnac	\$ 20.00
One tank dives—Rottnest	\$ 25.00
Night dives (one tank) - Stragglers/Carnac	\$ 20.00
Night dives (one tank) - Further out	\$ 25.00
Single member dive trip (two tanks) - All locations	\$ 30.00
Family dive trip (two members)	\$ 50.00
Family dive trip (three or four members)	\$ 60.00
Children under 14 or dependant children under 18—All trips free	
If a member brings one guest, the total fee will be	\$ 50.00

Skippers and Dive Officers excluded from the schedule. All rostered crew will be eligible to take free or half dives in place of dives voluntarily given up or missed while on duty.—Life members free.

MINIMUM CHARGES FOR TAKING THE BOAT OUT

Rottnest	Equivalent to four paying single members
Stragglers/Carnac	Equivalent to two paying single members
River/Coastal—Social	Minimum \$ 45.00 (or \$5.00 per head)
Fishing trips	Minimum \$140.00 (or \$35.00 per head)
Rottnest social trips	Minimum \$100.00 (or \$10.00 per head)

BOAT BITTS

Well, what can I say, our beloved "Underwater Explorer" is now back in her pen following the annual slipping (beauty treatment/nappy change). On our 'sea trial' to Melville Water (that's techno talk for the Boating Officers' annual and brief "hoon"). We managed a bit over 18 knots - I am not complaining at all.

"Thank you to everyone who came down to the boat to lend a hand."

For those of you that don't know what went on, we applied three coats of antifoul, (black-red-blue, applied in that order), improved the operation of the rudder, serviced the engine (much the way you do your car) and gave the timber runners on the gunwales a 'face lift'.

The marlin board also got a quick patch-up. Basically, we only did the essentials. The "wish list" has not been forgotten (it is growing), but unfortunately my job change made some of the shopping by phone I needed to do just a little bit difficult. Plan B is being swung into action to facilitate some of this in-water.

Let me finish by thanking everyone who came down to the boat to lend a hand. The fact that we achieved the majority of the work in 1 1/2 weekends shows that many hands make light work. It simply could not have been done without your assistance.

Bye for now.....

Geoff

P.S.

And next time you go diving with us, you can be absolutely sure that you found your way back to the right boat "UE" - because we now have THIS ONE



painted in red antifoul—both at the front and the back of the hull.

Ed.

DIVING REPORT

Still not much happening on the diving front. In fact, nothing at all by way of Club dives. Not even a hint of interest. However, I am sure that will all change when you realize what is happening with diving charges. At the Committee meeting this month, it was discussed, debated and talked about. We have agreed to have no in-

crease in the membership fees, but sadly, due to escalating fuel and other costs, we will have to increase the charges for boat dives. Sorry. But the good news is that the new prices are not effective until October 1st, so, you have a couple of cheap weekends, if you are quick! Just by way of explaining one aspect of the diving

charges—if you book on for a 2-tank trip, but only elect to do one dive, the full rate will still apply. I do hope the new charges don't cause to much grief—we are still only a fraction of the cost of the charter boats. And a positive point—now we won't have to find change every time!

Happy diving! *Judy*

BUILDING & P.R.

BUILDING

The never ending story of the cars being parked in an obstructive way at our unit in Myaree has still not ended. Gordon, I must say, is very busy achieving absolutely nothing for us. Even after some quite pointed and explicit promises, he has not managed to get the cars shifted or moved out completely. He has, however, had them moved to the other side of the driveway in the property of the corporate body next door.

It would appear that the fellow who owns these cars (now six of them and a Datsun 120ys) must have taken some smarties' advice because now I can't really do anything about them, as they are no longer on our common property. I have been down to talk to Richard, our tenant, and he does not seem as upset as he was last time, so I am hoping that this may cool down for a while, as we certainly don't want to lose our tenant.

P.R. STUFF

At the last General meeting I put forward a suggestion that we should try to promote our public identity by establishing our very own club colours. It was generally agreed that all wanted to do this, and our President Maree suggested that I get a sub-committee together to try to come up with some suggestions that could be put to the members.

Last Wednesday RESSCUEC (the Really Exciting Subcommittee for the Selection of Colours for the Underwater Explorers Club) had its inaugural meeting. The meeting was well attended with six of the seven subcommittee members present and six other observers, who also were invited to put their case forward.

By way of a report for the members I can say that some enthusiasm is being shown to arrive at acceptable colours and that, as we progress the results, will certainly be presented for the scrutiny of all interested members.

Some feel, and rightly so, that the existing logo is fine, whereas others would like to see the logo change to a more stylized and impressive logo. All of these factors are to be further discussed at the next meeting of RESSCUEC, to be held next Wednesday at Leban Lebanese restaurant at 19.30 hrs.

Carminie



JUST for your information.....

BELOW is what the absolutely FIRST UEC club logo looked like in the 50's



CLUB DIARY

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 18th	19.00	SOCIAL: Cult Film Night at Zita and Bob Dobsons's place. BYOG; \$7; Nibbles, coffee and dessert provided; order take-away on the night and pay as it comes. Call Zita and Bob if you are interested in going (9275 2279).
Sunday 19th	08.30	2-tank dive day around Rottnest (Geoff C/Judy)
Monday 20th	19.30	General meeting: Peter from <i>DiveIn</i> shows his video of the dive trip to the Solomons and talking about the <i>DiveIn</i> trip to Vanuatu
Sunday 26th	08.30	2-tank dive day around Rottnest (Bob/Steve)
Monday 27th		Holiday: The boat is free for any Club member to use

OCTOBER

Sunday 3rd	08.30	2-tank dive day around Rottnest (Kerry/Susie)
Monday 4th	19.30	Committee meeting
Sunday 10th	08.30	2-tank dive day around Rottnest (Peter/Jim)
Sunday 17th	08.30	2-tank dive day around Rottnest (Dennis/Geoff Geard)
Monday 18th	19.30	General meeting: Talk on the monitoring of the wreck of the SWAN by Marine Biologist Peter Morrison.

PLEASE NOTE

- ◊ that our general meetings are held at Willetton Sports Club, Burrendah Blvd on the third Monday every month (except Public Holidays)
- ◊ that our dive boat leaves IN TIME from Challenger Harbor, Fremantle
- ◊ that bookings for boat or diving should be made to JUDY on 9331 2005
- ◊ that bookings for our social events should be made to SANDY on 9339 5936

Club Diary

<u>DAY/MONTH</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Sunday 17 October	08.30	2-tank dive around Rottnest (Dennis/Geoff G)
Monday 18 October	19.30	GENERAL MEETING Talk on the monitoring of the SWAN wreck by Marine Biologist Peter Morrison (Discussion of logistics of canoe trip with Roger afterwards)
Sunday 24 October	08.30	2-tank dive around Rottnest (Bob/Steve)
Friday 29-Sunday 31 October		Blackwood River canoe and camping trip
Sunday 31 October	08.30	2-tank dive around Rottnest (Geoff C/Luc)
Monday 1 November	19.30	COMMITTEE MEETING
Sunday 7 November	08.30	2-tank dive around Rottnest (Dennis/Luc)
Sunday 14 November	08.30	Deep Dive supervised by Safety Officer Steve Larter for all those booked on the SWAN wreck dive (Kerry/Steve)
Monday 15 Nov.	19.30	AGM combined with Annual Awards Party Snacks and light entertainment will be provided

PLEASE NOTE

- ◆ That our General meetings are held on the third Monday every month at 19.30 PM at Willetton Sports Club, Burrendah Blvd (except on Public Holidays)
- ◆ That our boat leaves Challenger Harbour in Fremantle on the above specified time!

Underwater Explorers Club of W.A. (Inc.)
P.O. Box 1157
Booragoon W.A. 6154
E-mail: uec@space.net.au

Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Crescent
FORRESTFIELD
WA 6058



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1999

President's Platform

The Club is getting back into full swing again with diving activities up and running again. We have had several trips out diving and a fishing trip thrown in for good measure and as expected the boat is performing beautifully. She handles very ordinary weather very well as the crew on a recent trip can attest to. The anchor winch also proved its worth on that day with Steve Larter reporting that the hardest thing he had to contend with was a sore toe from pressing down on the switch with it. However, all members that are required to use the winch, particularly those tailing in the rope and chain, **MUST** take extreme care when or if it becomes jammed. There is the potential for serious injury if your fingers or hand becomes jammed in the machinery. Please be aware of the danger and be careful.

The end of October is officially the end of our financial year and members need to bring their membership up to date by paying their subs. As I reported last month these have remained the same. Please fill in the enclosed form and return it with your cheque to the Club's mailing address. With the diving season very quickly approaching, we need to have Club finances up to date to pay for the many bills that we get at this time of year.

This year the Committee is trialing a new approach to the presentation awards. Over the past few years this day has become less popular with members and the number of people attending has declined. The presentation of awards to members, however, is a very important tradition that we do not want to dispense with. It is the only time that we officially recognise the efforts of Club members in a formal manner, and bring these outstanding members to the attention of all of us in the Club. Bearing all of this in mind, **we will combine the Presentation Day with the AGM** to be held in November. The Committee hopes that the traditionally high number of members that attend the AGM will remain to enjoy the presentation of awards. The evening will end with a light supper. Family and friends are encouraged to attend. There will be no charge of course for those people attending. I hope that many of you will come along and make the night a success.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that a new Committee will be elected on that evening. All positions will become vacant and there are some current Committee members that will not be seeking re-election. The Club needs some new and vibrant people with new and vibrant ideas to continue with the good work started by their predecessors. Please consider a position on the Committee, it doesn't require a lot of work but it does, however, require commitment. The Club has been let down many times in the past from members with good intentions but have failed in their commitment. Think about what talents you have and how best you can put them to use for the Club.

I hope to see you soon.



Maree

PRESIDENT:

Maree Casley

9457 3333

VICE PRESIDENT:

Geoff Charlton

9451 2910

SECRETARY:

John Creswell

9330 3708

TREASURER:

Peter Horton

9445 2336

DIVING:

Judy Cowan

9331 2005

BOATING:

Geoff Charlton

9451 2910

SAFETY:

Steve Larter

9291 9654

TRAINING:

Dennis Stubberfield

9457 3333

BUILDING & PR:

Carmino Travaglionne

9356 1311

SOCIAL:

Sandy Webb

9339 5936

EDITOR & WEB:

Susie Ashton

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uec@space.net.au

WEB SITE:

www.space.net.au/~uec



From the Editor



G'day!

Been out diving with us lately? Good!

Heard on the news the other day that we have 30 Humpback whales frolicking around Rotto - and a 5 m White Pointer in the backwaters! As a matter of fact, when we came back home after our Sunday dive (3/10) I read in the newspaper about a warning to get into the water because of a shark lurking around here! Just as well I didn't have time to read the paper BEFORE we went out!

Cool Web Site for divers:

PROTECT SHARKS:

The World Wildlife Fund is concerned about the plight of sharks:

"Skyrocketing international demand for shark fins and other shark products is driving a massive increase in shark fish-

ing around the world. Tragically, at the same time, sharks may be the least protected of all wildlife."

To help that, sign the WWF's petition on-line to urge the federal government to develop a management plan for shark fisheries. Go to:

www.worldwildlife.org/action/lite/action/shaarks_takeaction.htm

UEC WEB SITE

Have you noticed that we change pictures on the page *Club Album* every month?

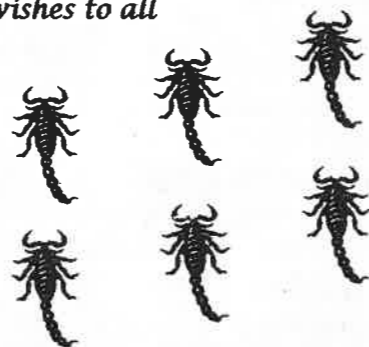
If YOU have a Club picture you would like to publish on the web, please give it to me, and I'll do the rest. In case you have missed checking our site each month, you can always look back in the folder I bring to the meetings, where I have printed out and saved all pages.

Cheers!



June

...and special warm birthday wishes to all



Happy Birthday

Ron Whitson 12/10
Mary Edwards 26/10
Geoff Charlton 4/11
Nick Rawlins 8/11
Susie Ashton 12/11
Robin Shepherd 20/11
Holly Elder 22/11
Karen Hubbard 25/11

NO RENEWAL FORM — NO MONEY — NO VOTE — NO NEWSLETTER

(REMEMBER: Club fees due by 31 October)

WELCOME TO A NEW SOCIAL MEMBER: Travis Stanley, Hammersley

Social Section



Just back from a beautiful blue sky day on the "UE"... smooth sea, apart from large, pointed, glassy swells. These made it a bit swirly under water, but for me it was a lovely start to the summer diving. (Summer? the water temperature was 17.9 degrees!!!) Otherwise, I've been pretty out of it over the last month. I was away battling the crowds of Sydney, so I missed the **Film Night**, although I hear was good fun. The film in the end was *'The Gods must be Crazy'* and I gather it was still very funny.... and there were either too many or too few anchovies on the pizzas that night (can't remember which, although generally I know anchovies can be a problem!). I am also incredibly busy at work, and trying not to lose my grip on the plans for the pretty hectic social life coming up for UEC members over the next three months. Keep your eyes on the calendar, and even if things are booked out, talk to me if you suddenly decide you want to come to something and I'll do my best to fit you in.

For those going on the **CANOE TRIP** Saturday/Sunday 30/31 October, please set time aside after the speaker at the UEC General Meeting on October 18 for a meeting to discuss logistics with Roger Smith (who has willingly undertaken on to guide this

bunch of amateur paddlers down the Blackwood), car pooling, etc. Please pay your \$20 to confirm your place on the trip by that night too.

The **SWAN WRECK DIVES** are now set for Sunday afternoon 28 November. Some of us will stay overnight on Saturday, and some of those plan to do a night dive on the jetty. Others will come up on the day, and a few lucky ones will stay over and party on Sunday night. Steve Larter, our Safety Officer, has reserved the Club boat on Sunday November 14 for those going on the Swan trip, so that we can try ourselves, our training and our equipment on a deep dive before the trip.

It is very important (especially for those who are less experienced at deep diving) to take advantage of this supervised dive, before we head into that totally new situation. It is important for our safety and our enjoyment to be well prepared. Ring Judy in the usual way to book on that day, as places are limited.

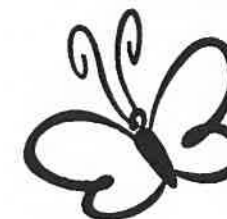
Remember that the November General meeting is a very special one. It will be the **AGM** combined with the **Annual Awards Presentations**, held in the usual Willetton venue. There will be election of office bearers for the next year

(don't panic.. if you have not heard about it already, it is highly unlikely that you will be dobbed in on the night for a position you don't want... so don't stay away from fear!!) and the fun of the very traditional Club awards. Plus one of our Club members will entertain us (a mystery until the night!).

And remember that the **December meeting will be held in the Fremantle Maritime Museum** and combined with a Club Christmas party. More later.

The speaker at this month's general meeting is Peter Morrison, Senior Marine Biologist at Sinclair Knight Merz. He is in charge of monitoring the changes that are taking place on and around the wreck of the *Swan*, as organisms start to grow on it and use it like an artificial reef. His talk should be extremely interesting, even for those who are not joining us on the dive in November.

All for now...Social Butterfly.



Sandy



Safety Report

It's that time of the year again, time to get back into the water. At last, I hear you all say, winter is a memory. Before we all leap into the water, one or two safety checks need to be carried out. Remember all that expensive gear, that has been dormant for a few months since your last dive, so it needs a good check either by your own experienced eyes or if need be by one of the local dive shops.

Regulators can be tricky and a bitch if they decide to play up at 25 meters. Servicing of all diving equipment is a **must**, so do it at the start of the season. Cylinders need their hydro test annually: Check the expiry date on yours to avoid a filling station refusing to pump your cylinder.

The other important check is your own health and fitness. Diving can be very demanding, so if you need a tune up, in the pool or in the gym, it will assist you to be much more comfortable in the water.

While on the safety subject, we have had some minor incidents during the last few months involving club members. Remember your **boat skills** - not only your underwater skills.

One good tip: Always ensure when the boat is in motion and you are standing or mov-

ing around the deck that you hold onto to something solid for support. The boat is subject to rapid changes in direction and speed at any time, which to the unprepared can result in spoiling your day and the rest of the crew, if the injury is serious.

Tip 1. If you sit down when the boat is underway, you will be much more comfortable and safe.

Tip 2. When loading and off loading gear onto the boat make sure you pass the equipment to a buddy and do not attempt to step on or off the boat carrying either yours or any of your buddy's gear, as any mistimed footstep can end in a problem for someone.

Tip 3. Keep the deck clear of loose equipment. Stow your gear in your kit bags or box as soon as possible. Loose gear on a crowded deck is not only a tripping hazard, it can also be written off inadvertently by a third party dropping their tank onto your expensive dive computer or your foot.

Tip 4. Assist the skipper by being a good crewmember. Lookout for potential problems and assist where ever possible in eliminating obvious hazards. A good crewmember ensures good safety performance.

There have been some changes to the Australian Standard relating to the filling of portable gas cylinders. AS3848.2 1999. These

changes are designed to enhance safety. There is lots of discussion currently about the features and benefits of this revision but your filling station will have to comply with these standards. Let them inform you of these changes, as they may effect the amount of air you may be limited to in future air fills.

Finally, it's up to you as individuals to get as much out of your diving. The Club can provide the means to enjoying the best diving available, but we do need enthusiastic divers, who are keen to be adventurous in their diving activities. Remember, being adventurous does not mean dangerous. We have to apply the same diving procedures in all our diving operations.

There is lots of fantastic diving to be had - all we need is you! If you want to explore, or visit your favorite sites, let the skippers know so we can accommodate your wishes. It's up to all of us to get out there and enjoy ourselves.

See you on the boat soon!

Remember: **Dive Safe!**

Steve 



Boat Bits

Well, folks, let me tell you that it's been great to get my weekends back since the boat went back in the water—but that doesn't mean noting is happening.

I'm as aware as most of you that the cylinder straps are somewhere between mildly knackered and non existent; in fact I don't think there is a single strap that is in good nick. They are about to be replaced. I have the webbing, which has been cut and hemmed, and only needs installation, which should happen before you read this.

The only other thing that needs mentioning is the promised exhaust extension. Unfortunately, my changes of job meant I was

not able to "shop by phone" for the materials I needed (trying to earn brownie points in the early stages) and Carmine can now attest to how difficult it is to get "odd" bits of aluminium tube.

We are now going for design "B", which we (the technical sub-committee) believe will cure the fume problem in all conditions except those which involve a tail-wind faster than the boat is going (the impossible we can achieve at short notice—miracles takes a little longer).

Just as a footnote; I haven't forgotten about the soundproofing issue, but again, I am (we, the technical team again) working on this one from a couple of

angles. I ask you not to expect miracles on this one, as I am now of the opinion that we will only be able to reduce the problem, and not eliminate it—that's not to say we won't give it our best shot, but don't expect *Rotto Ferry* style noise levels when you're only two metres or less from a dirty great diesel engine at full revs!

Bye for now...

Geoff



P.S. Thanks ZFTA for doing the beautiful hemming of the straps job!

Conservation Corner



Despite our waters being considered the safest in the world, all SIX marine turtles found in Australia are threatened with extinction. There are only seven species of marine turtle worldwide.

After many years of negotiations it is still not a legal requirement to use Turtle Exclusion Devices (TEDs) in our prawn trawling operations. In the US this has been mandatory practice for over a decade. Last year the Humane Society International (HSI) Washington office took legal action to ban the imports of Australian prawns into the US because we were not using TEDs, therefore turtles were still dying in our prawn nets.



Building & PR report

The saga of the *Cars of Everlasting Nuisance* is still ongoing. I spoke again to Richard, our tenant, and he has now taken some photos which he will give to me in due course. I will then write another letter to the corporate body in the hope that they may do something. If not I will then write to the Strata Titles Commissioner and see if we can get some joy there.

P.R. Stuff:

Since the last newsletter we have had another three RESSCUEC meetings. You remember:- (The Really Exciting Subcommittee for the Selection of Colours for the Underwater Explorers Club).

A lot of wine has flowed under the belt since the first meeting and much spirited discussion (pun intended) has taken place. Just to quickly summarise; we have discussed the original logo, the existing logo, and the future logo.

We have also discussed the original caption, the existing caption, and the future caption. And even more we have discussed the original colours, the present colours, and the future colours. By and large the feeling amongst this subcommittee, and the ever present observers, seems to be one of slight change to the logo, a tendency to rich and vibrant colours for both the garments and the logo, and some caption perhaps similar to the original *Veni et Vedi* but more meaningful, perhaps still in Latin, as this may give the impression we have been around for a long time and have a tradition to uphold.

With a bit of luck we may even have something to present to the AGM for approval and scrutiny of all interested members.

Both Warren and Susie seem very keen for me to produce some caps with the UEC logo on them. I have looked into this, and I can produce a very

high standard cap with an embroidered logo for around \$10 to \$12. I was hoping to wait until the logo and colours had been finalised, but I will ask the question at the next general meeting and go ahead if you all decide I should.

We have had a call from a member of the South Australian chapter of the UEC, a Mr John Wood, who is over here to attend a *Triumph Car Rally*. John would like to catch up, so I have made contact with him and will pick him up next Sunday. A few of us from the committee will meet with him and take him to the airport.

We of the Committee felt that it is quite important to network in this way, as our diving future may rely on strength associations; especially if we are to have an input into the inevitable legislation that will result in the future.

Carminé

PILKINGTON VICTOR GLASS

Greenwood: 20 Canham Way	9342 3737
Midland: 234 Gt. Eastern Hwy	9274 5833
Myaree: 79 McCoy Street	9330 2333
North Perth: 18 Scarborough Beach Rd	9444 5333
Sth Fremantle: 109 Hampton Road	9335 2044
Victoria Park: 1 Mint Street	9362 2270
Kalgoorlie: 75 Dugan Street	(080) 212724
Albany: Cockburn Road	(098) 411622

**W.A.'s Leading Glass Repairer
24 HOUR SERVICE 9330 2333**



Diving Report

Hurrah! Yippee! Hooray! At last! Members have been DIVING! Not just once, but twice.

Sunday of the long weekend produced somewhat inclement conditions, but an intrepid group successfully dived at *Crystal Cave*. I say, congratulations and well done to those who were there!

Last Sunday another eager group set out to *Stragglers*, where the swell was up a bit, the Skipper was ill (that's another story) but the sun shone upon the four who dived. Mind you, they had a bit of a wait to enter the

water, due to the skipper-introduced pollution floating nearby. But, the wait was worth it, the divers enjoying some pretty countryside, in spite of the surge.

The dive was followed up with a visit to *Carnac*, where Clive had a happy play with some sea lions. Fish and chips back on shore finished the day off for those who didn't hurry home.

Zita is organising a boatload to go to Rottnest on Saturday December 4th for the annual big swim there (I've forgotten how far it is). It should be a great day out, and with

enough enthusiasts, should be a cheap one too. Zita is looking for any interested swimmers and/or divers to share the day. Or even just socialisers. The idea of the day is to stop for divers to take a dip on the way over to the island, arriving by about 11:00 in time for the big swim, followed by social activities at the *Quokka Arms* and travelling back to Fremantle late in the day. If you are interested, call Zita or me.

Happy diving!

Judy

DID YOU KNOW.....

That a STARFISH turns its stomach inside out to eat. When it finds something tasty (like a snail), it extrudes its stomach through a tiny hole. The stomach is like a transparent bag made out of thin rubber. It wraps around the prey, completely surrounding it, and the prey is digested.

If the prey is a tough morsel like a hard-shelled mussel, the starfish attaches its suction-tube feet to the mussel's shells and simply pulls them apart. It can do this because it is able to exert a huge, steady force with a network of hydraulic tubes that run through its entire body. Once the shells are open, the stomach goes in through the gap and dinner is served.



Club Diary

<u>DAY/MONTH</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Sunday 14 November	08.30	Boat booked for Deep Dive (Kerry/Steve)
Monday 15 Nov.	20.00	AGM combined with Annual Awards Party Snacks and light entertainment will be provided
Saturday 20 November	11.00	Skipper and D.O. meeting on the boat (see Training Officers rapport for details)
Sunday 21 November	08.30	Two-tank dive around Rottnest (Peter/Geoff G)
Sunday 21 November	15.00	SOCIAL: Freo Frolic Festival Fun (meet at Orient Hotel, High Street)
Sunday 28 November	-	Trip away for diving on "SWAN" (booked out). Not going away? Phone Judy; may be able to organise a dive.
Saturday 4 December	09.00	Boat booked by Zita (Ph 9275 2279) for morning dive on the way to Rottnest for the One Mile Swim
Sunday 5 December	08.00	Two-tank dive around Rottnest (Bob/Steve)
Monday 6 December	20.00	Committee Meeting at Willetton Sports Club
Sunday 12 December	08.30	SOCIAL: Christmas Dive (one tank) followed by picnic/BBQ upriver (Geoff C/Luc)
Sunday 19 December	08.00	Two-tank dive around Rottnest (Peter/Geoff G)

PLEASE NOTE

- ◆ That our General meetings are held on the third Monday every month at **8 PM** at Willetton Sports Club, Burrendah Blvd. (except on Public Holidays)
- ◆ That our boat leaves Challenger Harbour in Fremantle on the above specified time!

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Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Crescent
FORRESTFIELD
WA 6058



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1999

President's Platform

November in the UEC heralds the election of a new Committee and a year full of new ideas and plans to make our Club even better than it is now. This is also the time of year when we are scouting around for new faces to fill the vacancies that occur. Please come along to the meeting to cast your vote and participate in the hurley-burley of Club politics. Well, not so much of the politics, because there isn't much, but there is lots of hurley-burley from time to time. Remember, you must be financial to be eligible to vote and/or be elected to the Committee. Bring your chequebooks!

This month, of course, is when we will also be presenting the all-important Club awards. As I mentioned before, this is a departure from previous years, and we are hoping for a large turnout of members to share in the celebrations with members presented with awards. Once again we have found some very worthy recipients of trophies, and we can all be proud of their achievements. Sandy has pressed some well known cooks in the Club into service and huge feast is planned. Plan on not having a big meal for dinner that evening, as there will be plenty of food available AND all at no cost, so there is no excuse for not being there.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE START TIME FOR MEETING DURING SUMMER WILL REVERT TO 8PM FROM THIS MEETING ONWARDS. (Pat Troy has promised to remind us when summer has finished, so that we revert back to 19.30 during winter.)

I also want to remind everyone going to the Rottnest holiday that next year, the dates are as follows: Friday 25th February to Friday 3rd of March represents our traditional week's holiday followed by Friday 3rd of March to Monday 6th March for the long weekenders. These were the only times that could be secured for the Club that allowed for the continuity of accommodation that we need. If anyone finds that they are unable to attend, please let me or Zita Dobson know ASAP, so that other members on the waiting list can be offered a place. Zita has kindly offered to take care of the organization of next year's event, for which I am very grateful.

As this is my last President's report, I want to thank all the members, and especially the Committee members, who have been of so much help to me during this last year. It has made my job so much easier knowing I have such a dependable and hard-working group to lend support. This last year has once again seen the Club go through some changes, and we have weathered them all with ease. It shows that the enormous strength that we have as a Club will always carry the day for us, and proves that the success of our Club depends solely on the support and dedication of its members. I hope that you will all support the next Committee as much as you have all supported me. I hope to see you soon.

PRESIDENT:

Maree Casley
9457 3333

VICE PRESIDENT:

Geoff Charlton
9451 2910

SECRETARY:

John Creswell
9335 4734

TREASURER:

Peter Horton
9445 2336

DIVING:

Judy Cowan
9331 2005

BOATING:

Geoff Charlton
9451 2910

SAFETY:

Steve Larter
9291 9654

TRAINING:

Dennis Stubberfield
9457 3333

BUILDING & PR:

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Maree



From the Editor



Kerry and I had a great day out in the blazing sun, representing our eminent Club at the Cottesloe Dragon Festival on Sunday 31 October. A real bonus was to meet the old fellow Mr Donald Dobson, who at an early stage came up to us and said with a smile all over his face: "It's really good to see my old club is still going. I was the founder of UEC in the late 1940's together with two other fellows."

We had a long and interesting talk, and it also turned out to be his daughter that had earlier given us permission to put up our big, blue banner and a small table with brochures about our Club. We had a really good little spot under a baby Norfolk pine tree, that provided us with some shade. We stayed for six hours, and had an even stream of interested young divers and other people approaching us.

We met a "Doctor of creepy crawlies in the sea grass" as she called herself (another former member of UEC!) who will come and give us a talk at a future meeting.

Ms Edwina Davies Ward from The Marine & Coastal Community Network also made contact with us. Their web page is at

www.ozemail.com.au/~mccnet

and I saw in their newsletter *Waves* that the Marine Group has a new web site at

www.environment.gov.au/marine/

I think it was definitely worth the effort for us to be there, and we have Rod Mace to thank for the initiative. Although, he had the added pleasure of conducting a shore dive, counting fish and actually spotting a SEA DRAGON along with Maureen and Cleve.

Cheers



CONSERVATION CORNER

Japan recently announced that they would undertake an *experimental fishing program* - a program that may see their actual take greatly exceed their quota. Last year, when Japan conducted a similar program, 1,460 tones of southern bluefin tuna was taken in addition to their quota.



The Australian government has announced that it will commence international legal action after Japan ignored protests from the Australian and N.Z. governments to the introduction of the *experimental fishing program*.

Source:
AFMA News, Vol 4, Issue 4.

Social Section



Just washed and clean and unwinding after our weekend canoe trip on the Blackwood... and feeling pretty happy about a totally delightful weekend with 7 other Club members. The army would not be the least bit interested in people like us though... our strategic sense (planning how to get canoes in the water at the start, and cars and food etc into the right spots at the right time) and our ability to remember what was planned, when it had all been worked out, were sadly lacking. Maybe next year we'll have it all down pat. However, Roger, like a watchful mother duck, guided us in battered aluminium canoes down something like 28 kms of mainly smoothly flowing water, through a number of challenging little rapids and a couple of log jams. Only one altercation with a tree stump caused a genuine spill... the other two spectacular tips happened on the bank and both had a human element (funny how the same person was involved in all three episodes!). Sleeping under the stars on the first night turned decidedly damp and just about at bedtime on the second night things took a spectacular turn.

My theory is that the two hefty locals who turned up (not too drunk yet) were inspired by *Deliverance*, and their regular Saturday night entertainment is just to scare the city folk by arriving in the camp-ground with their beer, two huge dogs caged on the back of their truck and tales of pig hunting right where we were camped (killing them with knives and their bare hands)... I really don't think they could ever run through the bush in the state they were in, or do what they said they did to large tusked boars... but the biggest of the dogs (which they let out to come and sit by the campfire!) did have lots of scars from some sort of war wounds. He was also the only dog I have ever seen with buttocks and 'six packs'... and he was wearing a leather collar about 15 cm wide, and had a large leather chest plate to protect him from the pigs' tusks. It was all a bit surreal, especially when they expressed rather comforting disgust at people who had recently vandalised the camp-ground. They and the dogs oddly enough appeared very gentle.

Anyway, tons of thanks to Roger for being our leader, Jim for all the driving and Carmine for returning the canoes even though he had to miss the trip in the end.

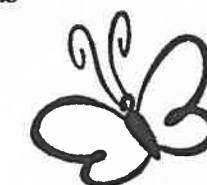
Don't think all I do is socialise... I saw Maureen's and Cleve's shark at Rotto last weekend! I was there and it was big!!! (In fact, in all the years I have been diving, dozens of sharks have probably passed me by, but I tend to look down all the time so I don't see them. It was Sean who calmly pointed out the slim grey creature sailing by above us.) So, my last two weekends have been high on adrenaline and I may have trouble adjusting to a low-key life now. What story will I have to tell at work next week?

And what social events are coming up? Put these events into your diaries as we are really getting into the 'Season'...

- **AGM and AWARDS** night, at the **November General Meeting** (to be held at Willetton as usual). I have had some offers of help with supper for the night and you can buy drinks from the bar. You will be entertained by one of our own, and by the Club's traditional awards that will go to worthy members.
- **SWAN WRECK** dives on **Sunday 28 November**. This trip is fully booked at present and most are staying in Dunsborough for one or two nights. Seven have booked for a Saturday night dive on the Busselton Jetty as well. Those planning the night dive must bring cyalumes and torches and have night diving qualifications or log books showing experience at night. All going on the trip should also book on the deep dive Steve Larter is supervising on Sunday 14th to make sure your skills and equipment are up to par.
- **FREO FESTIVAL** 'Pub Crawl and Parade' in Fremantle on **Sunday 21 November**, meeting at the Orient Hotel in High Street (towards the Round House) at 3 PM before watching the Fremantle Parade at 4 PM, to be followed by more pubs and dinner at a place to be democratically decided. In the past Freo Parades have been the quirkiest parades I have ever seen!
- **X-MAS DIVE** planned for **Sunday 12 December**. Book up for a one tank dive that is to be followed by a 'raft up' of boats in Blackwall Reach and a BYO picnic. I hope to bring my little boat, the SSJJ, for the raft up if someone will come with me (well, from Leuwin (spelling please Sean?) to Blackwall Reach should not be too challenging!). Numbers on the *UE* are limited for this one, but talk your boat-owning friends into picking up non-diving friends from East Fremantle after the dive and join us!
- **CLUB CHRISSIE PARTY** to be held with the **December General Meeting**. We have booked a beautiful venue in the Fremantle Maritime Museum and have Jon Carpenter from the Museum speaking. Then we will party. There will be a door charge of \$5 per person to pay for the venue and it is a real BYO...so, bring your drinks, some nibbles to share, your favourite CDs and DEFINITELY family and friends to this one.

My year as social organiser is nearly over, and although it has taken up a lot of time, it has been fun, and I'd like to thank everyone who has helped me during the year. Make sure you keep your suggestions for social events and speakers rolling in.

Sandy—Social Butterfly



The following motion was put forward by Carmine Travaglione at our last Committee meeting: "All *complimentary divers*, on their first dive, will be required to pay \$25 Nomination Fee. This will be refunded, if they elect to join the Club". Seconded by Judy Cowan. The motion was carried.

WELCOME TO A NEW SOCIAL MEMBER: Travis Stanley; Hammersley

Safety Report

Equipment Malfunctions in 1000 Diving Incidents

(Article by Chris Acot.) Spums Journal Vol. 29, 1999

Among the first 1000 incidents reported to the Diving Incident Monitoring Study (DIMS) 10% were consistent with equipment failure. The actual number of incidents was 105. Of these, 57 involved the regulator or air supply; 24 buoyancy jacket; 14 depth gauge; 11 involved other diving equipment.

Over 27 of these incidents resulted in morbidity

Diving is equipment oriented sport and control of problems with the use of that equipment is a very important part of diving safety.

Computer failure = 6 cases.

Contents gauge failure = 9 cases.

Depth gauge failure = 2 cases.

Inflator Failure, spontaneous inflation = 5 cases, failures

First stage Failure = 3 cases.

Regulator 1st stage failure and low-pressure hose rupture did not necessarily occur when the air supply was at maximum pressure.

Power inflator mechanism of a buoyancy jacket failed to operate in 14 incidents. During 10 separate dive incidents the inflator spontaneously inflated the buoyancy jacket. Consequent rapid changes in buoyancy are very dangerous. 7 of these incidents resulted in morbidity.

Of the incidents involving dive computers none of the divers involved had access to a set of dive tables. In light of this it is clear that the computers should be used to assist dive planning and not as the sole method of dive management.

All of the incidents involving inaccurate depth gauges resulted to harm to the diver. A sensible safety measure is an annual recalibration. Divers should compare readings prior to diving, during the dive and afterwards to assess accuracy.

The loss of a fin in an emergency situation may be fatal. A pre dive check should involve fin straps.

In conclusion 60 % of incidents involving equipment failure were preventable by the combination of a thorough pre dive check and a recalibration of gauges.

The above extracts from the study make interesting reading. If you would like to read the full report, please contact myself.

Diving so far has been good. Ask Maureen and Cleve about the shark incident they experienced last week at *Roe Reef*. Apart from the shock of coming face to teeth with a 2-meter shark, Maureen realized the importance of buddy diving. You can hide behind your buddy, even if it is your son. Well done to them - they handled the situation extremely well and were both eager to get back into the water for the second dive.

The winch for the anchor is brilliant - the hook virtually flies off the bottom and care has to be taken on deck, when feeding the line into the hatch, as the chain can jamb up if not placed into the hatch. You must keep your hands clear of the capstan on the winch, as your fingers will become trapped. When you are next on the boat, get the crew to demonstrate the retrieval procedure.

Think safe, Dive Safe.

Steve



Original
received from
The sum of
AUSTRALIAN CONCRETE
MANAGEMENT, ADFLT
MAIN TERMINAL OFFICE
AIRPORT S.A. 5007
1081 352 173
Signature

Date 11.11.99

Boat Bits

As the 1998/99 UEC year draws to a close, allow me to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their efforts and assistance during the year. If nothing else, it has convinced me that I don't want to own my own boat, or at least not one that is 32ft long! You have no idea how much I appreciated being broken in gently as a new OIC Boat.

I'm pleased to say that the boat is in very good shape to be handed over to my successor (which may very well be me). SHE has seen some upgrades

this year—all of which I knew were happening, but some of which surprised me to see in place so soon.

The crowning glory of the upgrades, I'm sure you'll agree, is the anchor winch—which works a treat and saves our backs to boot. The acquisition of this was a team effort, and again, I thank "the team".

My thanks go not only to those who worked on HER during the year (your help has been invaluable), but also to those who took the time to let me know of

things they felt needed looking at (boat bits that is, not scantily clad female bodies—but thanks for pointing those out!).

As boat speed has been an issue this year (one that we're still working on), I part with some reasonably famous words:

"It's not the pace of life that kills you—it's the sickening thud at the end!"

Bye for now...

Geoff



Training Together

Well, I'm at it again, this time in response to a request by a concerned D.O., that did not know how to work our new winch.

(And she was not the only one! Ed.)

So! There will be training for D.O.'s, Skippers and Cadets (both Skipper and D.O.)

on

SATURDAY 20th NOVEMBER

at the Boat from 11.00 to 14.00 - (BYO lunch and drinks)

After that we will repair to the Club rooms and spend an hour or so cleaning out the shed and moving the stuff to the 'Office' in Carmine's complex. Following that, we will think of some interesting mayhem to finish off the evening - for those at a loose end.

See you there, Folks!

Dennis

Building & PR report

The building scene has been very quiet but it just got very noisy. Why? I hear you say. Because I have just attended the AGM for the corporate body last Wednesday 27th October. Your next question would most likely be:- Why didn't Gordon have an AGM last year? The answer is:- Otherwise he would have been sacked last year! Yes, you guessed correctly. He was sacked this year. I would like to say that I was not the only one that was not happy with his performance. In fact there wasn't anyone that was happy with his performance. As a result we have now the task of finding a new strata manager.

So far I have not found this too difficult, as it seems there are several small and large companies that do this sort of thing for a living. I have asked a few of them for a quotation and also some sort of CV as to what they've done and will do for us. The only problem then will be to convince the rest of the unit owners.

You may also remember back in August 1997 Gordon sent us a form asking if we wanted to spend collectively around \$14,000 on new bitumen. I refused his offer and so did some of the others. Incidentally, the repairs that I recommended be done and where, are still holding up well. With the same questionnaire Gordon also asked if we would like to have the Strata Titles of every unit

altered to include the back yard fenced off areas. We agreed to have this done at a nominal cost, at that stage of \$180 per unit holder. Unfortunately, only two others agreed, possibly because they didn't fully understand the implications of this move. This item came up again and I again supported a motion to have this done, on the proviso that the costs had not increased too much. The advantages of having this done are many, but principally it will mean that all the unit holders that have constructed permanent or semi permanent structure would then become responsible for them and thus, when and if the Council inspector enforces the building code, each unit holder would be responsible for sub standard structures and not the corporate body. I will keep you posted on this ongoing matter.

Incidentally, I met Darryl at the meeting. Yes, right again, Darryl is the owner of the **Cars of Everlasting Nuisance**.

I had a quite exchange with him, wherein I mentioned something to the effect that, if our tenant moves out, our solicitor would introduce him to SUE. The funny thing is that Darryl is experiencing similar discomfort with the shoe on the other foot. It appears that the "ceiling people" next door to us are parking a truck in the back lane, and Darryl can't get access to his back door to get

rid of his oil waste. I listened very intently and then told him that I understood how he felt. He also said rather despondently that the "ceiling guy" was not very approachable. Well, I never!!

Just quickly, at the request of the committee, I have managed to get some legal advice on our responsibilities and exposure to litigation in the event of some loss or injury. I hope to present that to you at our next general meeting.

Rod Mace just recently came up with a rather good suggestion that we participate in the Cottesloe beach Clean up and Sea Dragon search. Though at short notice, Susie, Kerry, Maureen, her son, Rod and someone else turned up to do the dive, while Susie and Kerry handed out our brochures. It was apparently a good day, and one that we should consider as an annual event to raise our exposure and profile in the community. Rod will be forced (at the risk of physical abuse) to give you a report at the AGM.

Carmine



Diving Report

HELLO for the last time in my role as Diving Officer. It is encouraging to see that the boat has been put to use for diving again. The interest hasn't been frantic, but then again, the cray season hasn't yet begun. I do hope that will make a difference.

There is excitement to be had underwater, even without crayfish—just ask **Mrs Mop** and her son **Cleve**. On a recent day at *Victoria Station* they had the dubious pleasure of a shark sharing their diving space, for some 10 to 15 minutes. (Cleve will tell you it was half an hour, Maureen reckoned 3 hours). They cer-

tainly had a close-up view of the magnificent creature. Maureen believes it to be a **Mako**—identified by its very long teeth and sleek lines. This 6-7 ft critter was also witnessed by Sandy and Sean, but at something of more of a distance. Maureen likes her children's early diving experiences to have that little something extra! I think she likes to give them her own stamp of competency above and beyond the call of the diving instructor! But given Cleve's composure during a scary experience, she tells me that she will always be happy to have him as her Buddy. Onya Cleve!

Let's make the Christmas dive a ripper! If you all make the effort, and we have to recruit more boats, it will be "the more the merrier", with a fun time on the riverbank after the dive.

As someone else will do the next diving report, I will take the opportunity to thank those of you who have been supportive during the past 9 months.

I wish all of you the compliments of the season, safe diving, and a happy and prosperous 2000.

Judy



DID YOU KNOW

that the **MAKO** shark is a close relative to the largest and most ferocious of all sharks—the **White Pointer**. The following is what my book says:

"The **BLUE POINTER** or **MAKO** *Isurus glaucus* is a large and dangerous species of our subtropical ocean water. It attains 4.5 m (15 feet). The head is sharply pointed, the jaws armed with slender, awl-like teeth. It is a diagnostic character that the gill-slits are unusually long, extending to the lower surface of the body. The coloration of the Blue Pointer is unmistakable; it is vividly dark-blue above and white below, the two colours sharply-defined. This species is known to have made unprovoked attacks on small craft."

(Source: Guide to Fishes by E.M.Grant)

Honestly Maureen..... Do you still think it was a MAKO? (Ed.)



December



1999



UEC NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT:

Carmine Travaglione
9356 1311

VICE PRESIDENT:

Bob McLaughlin
9454 8450

SECRETARY:

Sean Edmett
9455 3172

TREASURER:

Peter Horton
9445 2336

DIVING:

Steve Larter
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BOATING:

Geoff Charlton
9451 2910

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TRAINING:

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9310 6795

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President's Platform

An era has come to an end.

Maree was possibly our most outstanding President. She was certainly one of the longest serving and competent Presidents we have had. I am sure you will all join with me in thanking her for all her hard work and past dedication to the Club. **THANK YOU, Maree**, from all of us, and **THANK YOU** to all outgoing committee members.

Now you've done it, you silly buggers. You've elected me!! You realise of course I am not going to change. I am still going to drink red wine at the meetings, I am still going to kiss all the ladies as my way of saying *hello* (must be my Italian tactile gene), and I am still going to tell rather poor jokes, and laugh at them even if you don't. Well, I guess if you've put up with me all this time, you can't be all that bad yourselves.

I am happy to accept the role as President and I promise you that my dedication to the well being and future of the Club is strong, and I will endeavour to assist in steering the Club's course to comparable beneficial and exciting directions as in the past. I say *assist*, because this is not a one man band and never has been. The Committee is the heart of the Club body, and we have been fortunate in the past to have good committees. This year is no exception! Boy, with the talent and dedication we have on the Committee this year, I can assure you the Club's future is in good hands!

On to business. We have started the club year with a bit of a glitch. Jim Robson, our roving Avon Descent rep, has advised us that there are some serious problems with the newly elected Avon Descent Committee. Jim is concerned that the Club may be exposing itself to potential problems if we agree to again head the rescue operations this coming year. Jim reports that some of the people now heading the Avon Descent Committee may lack the necessary experience to coordinate this operation. After Jim reported to me on this matter, I invited the previous coordinator, Jamie, to come to our committee meeting to brief us on the potential problems. He came along with Jim and Steve and gave us a very concise report from his perspective.

Cont. next page

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Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Crescent
FORRESTFIELD
WA 6058



From The Editor

New President, new Committee members, new web site and a new-look newsletter, but the same 'old' face of the Editor. And all I want to say this time is:

Have a wonderful Christmas Holiday and a ripper New Year's party!



Susie

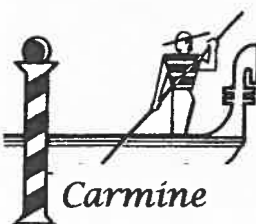
Cont. President's Platform

At this stage, if what Jim and Jamie are saying proves to be so, I am obliged to advise you that there is the real possibility that we may no longer be involved in the *Avon Descent* as a Club.

Maree has been approached by one of the new committee members, a certain Jim Smith, who has asked if we will continue to be the rescue team. Maree has written them a letter requesting clarification of conditions and remuneration but as yet we have not received a reply.

I know that you will all be concerned at the loss of some \$3,500 to our bank a/c, but believe me, if we decide not to go ahead, it will be for good reasons which I will advise in due course. On the more positive side, Jim and Jamie have come up with another possible gig that we can do that may replace the lost funds. The suggestion has been made that we act as 'crowd controllers' at the *Vintage Car Rally*.

Chew over this and let's discuss it at the next full meeting.



Carmine



Secretary's Scribbles

My name is Sean and I've been diving for 14 years or so, mostly locally. I've also been on a couple of dive trips to the *Abrolhos Islands* and one to *Albany* to survey a small wreck. I was introduced to the club by Bob, the new Safety Officer, who I work with at *All Thing's X-Ray*.

Other than diving, my main interests are anything biological, keeping our Nation's winemakers employed, keeping fit (though you couldn't tell by looking at the moment) and last but not least my new daughter Madeline. Maddy and her mum, Kathy, can often be seen at the Club meetings.

I've been in the Club for two years now, and I have to say that I've enjoyed virtually every minute since I first walked in the door. I have found that the lively social aspect of the Club means that you dive with friends, not just acquaintances with a common interest.

I also enjoy a challenge occasionally, and between an *Avon Descent*, being keelhauled from *Cottesloe* to *Rottnest* and the odd *Mako shark* amongst other things, I haven't been disappointed.

While my function as Secretary is largely administrative, I will be sticking my hands in when ever and where ever necessary.

Sean



Club Diary



<u>DAY/MONTH</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Sunday 19 December	0800	2-tank dive around Rottnest (Kerry/Susie)
Monday 20 December	1900	General Meeting / Christmas party at the Fremantle Maritime Museum. (see details in the <i>Social Section</i>)
Thursday 23 December	1900	Social Prawning and cook-up

Sunday 2 January	0900	Social/Full Day Rotto Special (Kerry/Susie) Non-divers also welcome/Drop-off at The Settlement. Dinner there after two dives & back home <u>after dark!</u>
Tuesday 4 January	2000	Committee Meeting
Friday 7 January	1900	Social Prawning and cook-up
Saturday 8 January	0800	Exploratory dives City Beach (Steve/Bob)
Sunday 9 January	0800	2-tank dive West End. Rottnest (Geoff C/Jim)
Saturday 15 January	0800	1-tank cray fishing (Peter/Geoff G)
Sunday 16 January	0800	Deep Diving Program. 30 m. (T.B.A.)
Monday 17 January	2000	General Meeting. Willetton.

DIVE BOOKINGS: Contact Steve Larter.
Home phone: 9291 9654. MOBILE: 0418 949 264.
Business phone: 9317 0431.
E-mail: Steve.Larter@pilkington.com.au



The dive boat leaves Challenger Harbour at the above specified times. The Skipper will carry out assessment of weather conditions on the boat. Please DO NOT phone Steve Larter the previous night to discuss conditions! If you are not contacted prior to the dive, then weather permitting, the boat will be going out. Cancellations of bookings to be made by 6PM the day prior to the dive. The Skipper and D.O. will assess the weather and sea conditions prior to each scheduled dive. Nominated dive sites in the program may change to suit conditions.



P.R. Prattle

Once more I have to ask myself the question "Why me?" I apparently have the 'unofficial' title of P.R. person... what does this mean? I have thought about this at great length (all of 30 seconds) and believe it could mean some of the following:

Pathetic Ratbag
Pertinent Rubbish
... or maybe...
Perfectly Regal!?!?

Anyhow, whatever it means, I guess I am supposed to promote our Club so that people who don't know about us (yet) will be championing at the bit to find out what U.E.C. is all about.

Verity James from A.B.C. Radio was my first victim, and last Wednesday (1/12) she gave me about 6 minutes air time on her show.

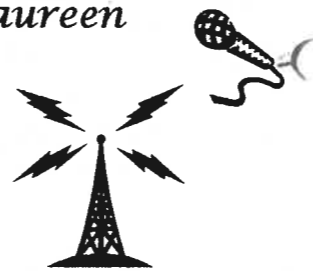
We had quite a chat about scuba diving (she has just become one) and lots of information about U.E.C., and what we are all about crossed the airwaves to probably a couple of million people on the day.

As a result of this, about eight thousand people responded to our radio chat, but I have selected just six of them and have sent various bits of information, brochures, etc. off to these fortunate people, and hope that we will hear from them soon.

A group of U.E.C. ~~drinkers~~ members went off to the Fremantle Festival a couple of Sundays ago, to take part in the festivities and ensuing pub-crawl. We enjoyed the street parade, and one of the ~~drinkers~~ members made the very amusing suggestion that perhaps next year we could have our own float in the parade!

Perfectly Raunchy???

Maureen



Building Blabber

The only reason I am giving you this report is that I have not handed all the building portfolio over to Clive yet. In fact, that will happen tomorrow, but it will be too late, as the Editor is possibly a member of the Swedish Mafia and has threatened me with something to do with concrete and my feet.

Gordon took some time to send us a copy of the AGM minutes and then only did so because I hassled him.

It was necessary to receive these, as they contained the names and contact numbers of the elected unit holders, consulting committee, of which I am a member.

it was necessary to have these, as we were given the task of finding a new Strata Manager.

As soon as I received the names, I contacted a few of them and asked if they had found any other possibilities for a replacement. None had, so I presented a CV of a strata management company to the rest of the unit holders, which I believe is the only one before us for consideration.

This was before I went on my fishing trip and on my return, yet nothing has been resolved.

They must now be very careful, as I am going to unleash my secret weapon on them;

Skitch them Clive!!!

Carmine



Boat Bits

With the 1999 AGM behind us, I could claim to be somewhat prophetic in my words from last month's report, but I'd be kidding myself if I did. In any case, thank you for showing faith in me by re-electing me.

Now on to the important stuff. The long awaited cover for the steering pulleys is planned to be in by the time you read this, in fact, if all goes to plan, it will be in place for the Christmas dive. I must apologise for the delay in fitting this, but I realised when I went to put it on

in February, that the original design wouldn't quite fit, and I needed some extra materials (that I have since found at home - knew I had it, but couldn't find it) so it's full steam ahead. It is hoped that this will have an effect on both fume AND noise levels.

On the issue of the exhaust fumes; after much discussion at the committee meeting, I can assure you all that design work is continuing - there is light at the end of the tunnel (and it's not an oncoming train!).

Although I am somewhat biased, I must say that the new straps for the cylinder racks are working well. The

only comment so far was "this is no good, I can't find a bloody broken clip anywhere!" I'm so glad to see that you all have a good sense of humour!

As a final note, I've been made aware that those of you with varying degrees of "duck's disease" are having trouble actually getting onto the boat (particularly over the stern). A small step ladder has just gone onto the drawing board. I'll keep you informed of progress on this one.

That's all for now!

Geoff



Important Notice - Private Boat Trips



A number of Club members are booking the boat for private trips outside of the official Club Calendar. I would remind everyone that boat bookings **must** be carried out in the normal way by contacting the Dive Officer to ensure that it is not already booked.

The schedules of fees are applicable to all boating operations. If diving operations are carried out during the private trip, then the costs to the persons involved are the normal schedule of fees for diving. Passengers must pay the nominated fee for the relevant trip as listed in the schedule.

The minimum payment only refers to trips where the number of passengers paying the normal scheduled fee do not cover the minimum fee for use of the boat, then the minimum fee has to be applied. For any further clarification of these fees, please discuss with the D/O when booking the boat for your trip. **Remember: What ever you pay goes back to your Club!**

Steve

Safe Diving

Summer is with us and THE BOAT is ready for another season of diving. This season we need to get maximum use of our vessel. As you are aware, a variety of dives are available and the skippers and diving officers are very keen to make sure all the crew enjoy their trip and their dive. It is very frustrating for the duty crew when the location for the dive has to be restricted if the number of divers are not sufficient to allow the crew to choose a destination which will provide the best diving conditions to suit the weather and sea conditions.

It is important to remember that the season goes very fast, and if you keep putting your dives off due to the weather not being perfect, then you will be missing out on the occasions when the dive location was perfect despite the conditions. We are very fortunate to have very good dive locations to choose from, in most weather conditions. So get that dive gear out of the cupboard and "get your arse" onto the boat as many times as possible this season, and **stop making excuses!** As you all are aware, we do have a number of basic safety rules which have to be followed whilst diving with UEC. Without doubt, our most important rule is **NEVER DIVE ALONE!**

There is a discussion currently taking place in Australia about the necessity of this basic safety requirement. In light of this development, I want to make it perfectly clear to all our members, and the guests that occasionally dive with us, that whilst diving with UEC, **no** person dives solo under any circumstances! The consequences for the Club in any legal action that may follow an accident, where it was established that solo diving was occurring, that a case of culpable homicide may be brought against the Club.

Remember your lost buddy procedures, ensure you check with your buddy prior to your dive that they are aware of the procedure, and the requirement that it must be followed, should you become separated.

Steve



Of all the water on the earth, only 3% is fresh



WHY Santa Claus doesn't DIVE

Still mourning the mysterious disappearance of his dive buddy, Frosty the Snowman, while diving in the Bahamas.

That big white beard makes it impossible to get a good seal on his mask.

It's hard to get 32 fins on those little reindeer feet.

His elf-produced wooden regulator is dangerous at depth.

Rudolph's nose shorts out under water.

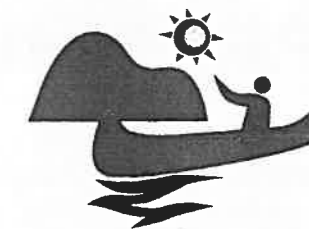
His sleigh failed Coast Guard inspection.

He's jolly enough without getting narced!



An Experience to Remember

By Warren Cummins



Our UEC canoe trip was a great experience, although I was very surprised at the fast flow of current and depth, particularly on the first day. We were very pleased to have the expertise of Roger Smith, member of the UEC, who participated in the Avon Descent this year. His supervision and concern for our safety was great, plus the fact he was familiar with the river. He said the river was up a foot on last year.

There were several rapids on the first leg of 14 km. Roger would go ahead and determine where and how we would negotiate a specific rapid. At some of these you could actually see white caps at distances ahead and around bends, and also hear the distinct sound of rushing water. There was only one rapid my buddy, in our 2 man canoe, did not successfully negotiate. Despite of Roger's specific loud instructions, we ended upside down in a 8-10 knot current with 3-4 meter of depth. This particular area had a huge tree in the center of the river and the canoe become wedged... also my life vest became entangled and this forced us into the drink! This is where it was fantastic to have the expertise of Roger in sorting out the situation.

It was this experience that made me realize that this could actually turn into a dangerous situation and that these trips should really be done in groups, as if anything does happen, it would be great to have group support. (There is no road near some of these points, perhaps up to five km.)

After the first leg of 14 plus km we had a very rewarding camp site where we were visited later that night by local farmers hunting wild pigs. They stumbled across our camp fire and were keen to discuss how they run after the pigs with a huge bladed knife and stab them. They were very proud of their special breed of South African Ridgeback dogs, heavily scarred from pig hunting. These were released from the very sophisticated cages on board their vehicle. After continuous sniffing around our legs and various camping equipment, they settled down though, and even took the liberty of jumping into one of our chairs. As the campfire burned furiously, so did the conversation of our 'Deliverance' friends. And came the talk of "Love shooting..... There's a rifle in the truck... Would you like to try your skills?????" (No thank you!!!!)

During these discussions, Sandy, our social photographer, looked on with her sophisticated single lens reflex camera, clutching at the camera body in great anticipation of whether she should ask permission from these wild hick boys, could their pedigree hounds be filmed. With moments of the movie "Deliverance" passing through her mind as to what was going to eventuate next. As the evening drifted on into the wee hours, our friends proved to be a respectable couple of boys and they politely drifted off, after commenting on the fact they were expecting a herd of 8-20 pigs through our campsite that night..... which, fortunately, did not eventuate (though I did notice some sniffing their Weetbix bowls for pig the next morning).

The second leg or day was tame. I did this with Wendy. We quite enjoyed it and even thought the rapids were mild!

This venture was a great experience, and I recommend it be done as a group.



SUMMER

A dive report 23/11/99 by Margaret Pettigrew

Is it possible that today will be 34 degrees and Wednesday 38 degrees. Best place to be is in the water.

Bill and I went along with eight others to dive on Sunday 21 November. Because of the weather we went to *Stragglers*. We were supposed to dive at *Murray's Chambers*, but after the dive

was over Luc said we had not. No crays were caught, and Bill and I used the time to get our weights correct with Bill's new suit and our new steel bottles.

Then we moved to another site in the same general area. No one seemed to know what the reef was called but lots of crays were caught, so everyone was very happy. We returned to shore around 3 PM, where some people headed for fish and chips and *Cicerello's*.

Bill and I headed for the *Orient Hotel* where Sandy had gathered some members for a drink before the Freo Festival Parade, but I think we arrive too early, so we walked around Freo, finishing up at the start of the parade and watched the participants getting ready, and do some rehearsing (lots of fun). Then we watched the parade from the start. It was fun, but with two dives under our belt we were now tired, so we walked back to our car and went home.

Diving Report

What a start to the diving season! For those of us who were fortunate enough to attend the dive on the *HMAS Swan* are still talking about how good diving can get.

HMAS Swan is recognized as one Australia's premier dive locations, and after only two dives with *Cape Dive*, I have to agree. *Cape Dive* was the right choice for safety and great organization. Everything was superbly organized. We even had the *Greek Goddess of Love* as Diving Officer for the night dive on the *Busselton Jetty*, which was also a great dive. Rod Mace was gob smacked when he was forced to assist the D/O with anchoring the boat. Ask Rod for further details.

The safety procedures followed by *Cape Dive* were very much the same as our own with a special emphasis on everyone diving with as much comfort as possible. Sandy definitely slipped up by organizing an away trip when the sea conditions were perfect; *Geographe Bay* was as flat as a billiard table which of course put a number of us off the dive, as we all prefer a 1.5 swell on a 1.0 sea. (Pigs bum!).

The ship is well covered in marine growth and we found that there was a lot of suspension in the water once a dive team hit the deck at 24 meters. The first dive was a quick swim from bow to

stern and down to the rudder at 31 meters. Then up to the arial at 9 meters, then onto the shot line for a 5 @ 5.

Once we were checked out the D/Os for the day allowed us to penetrate the wreck on the second dive. We were restricted to a max depth of 26 meters, which allows access to the really interesting parts of the ship. The bridge was a bit crowded with seven of us all swimming around inside. Again, a slow ascent onto the shot line with a 7 @ 5. Wow, what a dive! We have decided that we shall make this trip an annual event, so no excuses next time. Let your hair down and join us!

Locally, the boat is getting well used by 'the regulars', who are benefiting on their dives by having a lot of space to move around in. This, of course, is not good for the Club, as we need to get as many divers out there as possible. I would remind everyone - the season goes very quickly, so stop putting off diving and come and join us.

Carl Anders, our *Crayfish King*, is rapidly filling his freezer with his catch. He is putting the rest of you to shame. The crays are there, so come on you fishermen!

You will notice the new Club Diary format. The committee has been concerned that our diving has become a little too predictable, so to attempt to make our diving a lot more challenging and varied, I have nominated

dive sites and a variety of different types of dives. This diving schedule will require a lot more commitment from our skippers and diving officers, who are very willing to ensure that our members have a great season, but we need everyone's support to make things tick and get our diving activities up to the levels of the social activities. We, of course, want to be as flexible as possible; anything can be organized, so speak up and join in and help arrange any particular special dive you would like to do.

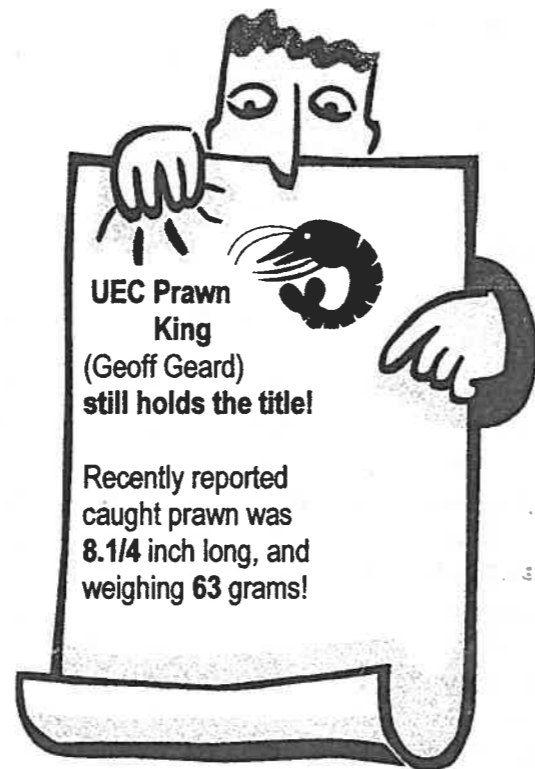
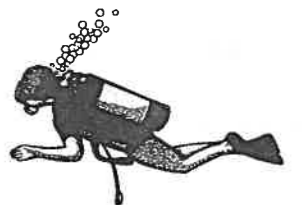
Finally, can you please ensure that you bring the correct fare for the dive. It is a devil of a job trying to organize change for each diver when the time comes for paying for the day's diving, and invariably things are overlooked.

Remember your boat etiquette and assist wherever possible to make the day enjoyable and safe for everybody involved.

Have a great Christmas and let's make the summer of 99/00 one to remember for great diving.

See you on the boat!

Steve



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U.E.C. Award Winners 1999

U.E.C. Club Person of the Year: **Carmine Travaglione**

U.E.C. Boat Person of the Year: (=most frequent diver) **Maureen Cox**

Most Improved Diver: **Clive Cass**

Most Safety Conscious Diver: **Kerry Ashton**

Lick the "O" Ring Award: **Clive Cass**

Appreciation Awards for Exemplary Service to the Club:

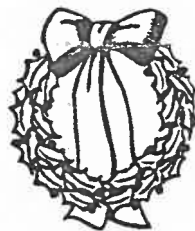
Kerry Ashton, Susie Ashton, Zita Dobson, Bob McLaughlin, Jim Robson, Sandy Webb



This month's birthdays are:

Donald M Clayton 13/12, Leslie Bettink 20/12

Sean Edmett 20/12, Sandy Webb 28/12



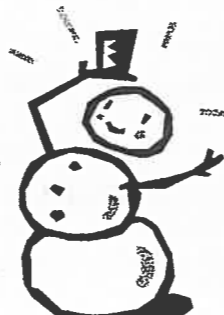
New Nominations:

Cleve Elder, Lynwood

Donald M Clayton and Thomas Clayton, Duncraig

Barry Peter Lane, Bayswater

**A VERY WARM WELCOME to the Club-
your home away from home!**



Social Section



Those of you who were not there - I won't bore you for too long by telling you how much fun we had 'Pub Crawling' (all of two pubs!) on the day of the **Freo Parade**. Susie has learned a new word 'quirky' (which now means to her just what the Freo Parade is). It was brilliant, and now I think over-enthused observers want to put in a UEC float next year (mermaids, etc.) - more later, if the energy level stays high!

Also, the 14 of us that dived on the **HMAS Swan** on 28th November had a superb time. Everything about that weekend was perfect - the weather, accommodation, organization by Cape Dive, the dives and....us of course (well, on reflection, I am not at all sure about that last point!). Five of us did a night dive on the Busselton Jetty in glassy conditions, so clear that with your torch off you could see about two sets of pylons ahead in the moonlight, with occasional glints of phosphorescence outlining little fish. For me it was a 'cephalopod' dive, from a quite big occy and a big dark cuttlefish, two tiny occies that I poked at with my fingers before I thought they might be 'blue-ringed', and several of the cutest baby cuttlefish that were yellow with black stripes and hid in the sand. There were some question marks over our navigation, however, and we ended up a fair way from the boat. (We were on the right course mind you, just started in the wrong spot!) The Swan itself is a spectacular dive, and it was fun to swim up staircases and sit on the loos, or swivel on the Captain's chair. I loved the big school of porcupine puffers near the bow (as promised by Peter Morrison), and the tiny blennies peeping at us out of every pipe while we did our deco stop on the Crow's Nest.

I just have one defensive point to make. As silly as it may seem and look to observers, there must be some good reasons why, when one lens of even a very dark pair of sunnies falls out, the person wearing them doesn't notice it! My current theory is that this is one unexpected effect of using that very modern approach to seeing well under water as your eyes fail (i.e. using different strength contact lenses in each eye, so that one eye can see close up and the other a long way away, as long as your brain remembers which eye to pay attention to). (Nearer an Awards Night I reckon I would have earned the 'Lick the O-Ring' award for that).

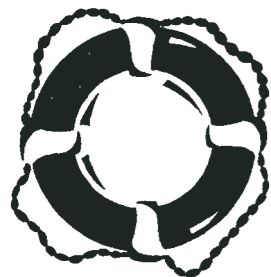
Finally **Swim thru' Rotto** is also over for another year - another event a number of us had fun preparing for and competing in. Zita and Bob booked the **UE** and made a big family day of it, teaching their Austrian son in law (very successfully) to catch crays. Then five UEC members did the mile long swim. Zita's time of 34 minutes was amazingly close to the last time she competed in the race 13 years ago! (What a fish!) Also amazing were Clive (33 minutes, our fastest(!)). He also won our prize for being closest to the time he predicted for himself), Steve Larter 35 minutes, Carol Travaglione (44 minutes) and me (46 minutes). The floundering and flailing at the start is no fun, and it's a damn long way, but there's a great sense of achievement and it's another event we plan to repeat next year. (Dennis: I 'sagged down' in the wind and current, and swam further than I needed to! Why didn't I listen, when you taught the skippers that?)

NOW FOR THE FUTURE: For the two **Family Prawn Nights** that are coming up (Thursday December 23 and Friday January 7) bring family and friends, and meet at Kent Street, Bicton at circa 7 PM, aiming to go into the water no earlier than 7.30. If the weather is bad, we can move up to our place (29 Clive Street, Bicton) after the dives, but I will make sure some way of cooking prawns is available at the beach. Otherwise BYO everything you need. Ring me if you have any queries.

For the next **general meeting**, please remember: Come early if you like, as doors open at 7 PM (although the meeting will start at 8 PM as usual). The venue is the **Hall** attached to the **Fremantle Maritime Museum**, entry off Cliff Street; \$5 per person at the door to cover rental costs, but there will be a door prize; BYOG and please... all of you, bring some nibbles to share, your favourite CDs and friends; Jon Carpenter, who is a maritime archaeologist (and ex-UEC), will talk about diving on the wreck of the *Bounty*. We have the Hall until midnight.... and who knows, maybe a bit beyond!

Your Social Butterfly, Sandy





Bob

Safety Stuff

I have been reading through the latest *SPUMS* magazine and noticed that a lot of the drowning incidents were due to divers' low fitness levels, i.e. divers not being active for many years, and then diving without being fit.

There were also a couple of drowning incidents, which were caused by divers having to swim back to the boat in different sea conditions.

In terms of safety for our Club, divers should be in good physical and mental health, and we should be aware of members who are returning to diving after a reasonable period away. We also need to be generally vigilant for those visitors that are diving with us.

General health and fitness needs to be maintained through the winter for all divers, and we should make sure that we are participating in some kind of exercise in low diving periods.

I have always been in favour of having a rubber duck with us when we dive to pick up divers who surface a long way from the boat or for when problems arise (cramp etc.). I will be doing my best to acquire such a vessel. If you know anyone with one to sell, or better still, someone who would be willing to donate one - I would be all ears!

Safe diving!

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E-mail: uec@space.net.au
www.space.net.au/~uec

Geoff & Hetty Geard
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UEC NEWSLETTER

The official magazine for Underwater Explorer's Club of W.A. (Inc.)
JANUARY 2000

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9356 1311

VICE PRESIDENT:

Bob McLaughlin
9454 8450

SECRETARY:

Sean Edmott
9455 3172

TREASURER:

Peter Horton
9445 2336

DIVING:

Steve Larter
9291 9654

BOATING:

Geoff Charlton
9451 2910

SAFETY:

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President's Platform

Firstly, I must wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year. If I am not too mistaken, I'll bet, like me, you have all eaten more than you should have, drunk more than you should have, and made the same New Year resolution. What's more - this year is going to be different, and we are all going to stick to our resolutions. Aren't we??? Starting to have second thoughts? Well don't!!

I have it on good authority that if you DIVE often, you can drink and eat as much as you like! Well.... within reason. I have a very good reason for tugging at your conscience and your love handles.

The Club Needs You!!!!

Yes, that's right, the Club really needs your support. It was revealed to me at the last committee meeting, that we now only have about 48 financial members. That makes it quite hard, because not only are we dipping out on the subs, but we are also very short of divers to keep the boat gainfully employed. We actually need the income from the diving more than ever, since the *Avon Descent* seems to have bitten the dust. We are not in any way in a critical financial situation, in fact we are probably quite healthy financially, but I feel we should try to plan ahead, so we can head off any potential future problems.

Some other attempts at rectifying the situation are being made, such as fund raising and membership drives, but we on the committee are not able to do this alone. We also need the help of each and every member to actively participate, such that we can keep the Club strong and viable, and continue to offer the high quality of services and safety to our members.

I phoned Jim Robson and he is not able to report further on the *Vintage Car Club* crowd control fund raising caper, because the meeting is being held tonight, and Susie needs this report now. We will keep you posted at the next general meeting.

I promised at the last general meeting that I would give you a very brief resume on the report given by our solicitors *Anthony Torre and Monaco*, with regards to liability concerns. Firstly, I would like you all to know that I have a copy of the full report and my original letter requesting the report. These documents are available for your perusal at any reasonable time.

(President's report continues on the next page)



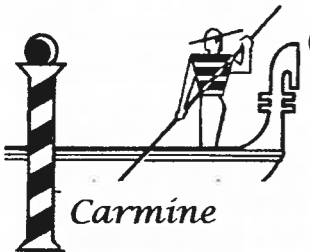
From The Editor

I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas holiday, and started the new year with lots of wonderful dives! Kerry and I did, and his *Caverns* were better than ever the day we were there!

Here is a side of me that you probably didn't know about..... I collect stamps! And it doesn't have to be a seahorse on it, but it must be an underwater motif.

So what? Well, somewhere, somehow I got these wonderful stamps from **Pitcairn Islands** in my collection, and that's how I became interested in knowing more about a place I never heard about before. Internet is a blessing! I learned a lot, but the fantastic talk and slide show that **Jon Carpenter** gave us at the last general meeting really added on heaps to my earlier knowledge. I am sure you all enjoyed it as much as I did.

Thank you, our *Social Butterfly*, for organizing such a great extra festive Chrissie General Meeting. The venue was absolutely incredibly gorgeous, and some people had really put in a lot of effort with their fantastic food platters.



(Cont. of President's Platform from previous page)

Were we to attempt to eliminate all risk from everything that we do, then I suggest we would do nothing at all, because to eliminate all risk is not possible, unless one does nothing. Consider the above lines carefully, as I am sure you will agree with what I have written. I offer this as a preamble to the resume of the report, because if we were to take literally all that is requested or written by lawyers and insurance companies, then our lives would be very dull indeed. Moreover, we will have given permission to all these nameless and faceless legislators of life, to control our lives by virtue of the indemnities that they offer. Basically, we must ensure that we take all possible steps to minimise the possibility of any loss or injury to any persons, by informing them correctly, by not taking undue risks, by ensuring that we are well equipped to deal with any emergency, by ensuring that our Skippers and D.O.s are well trained, by ensuring that we only allow qualified people to dive with us, and by making sure that we advise people that they are responsible for what they do. If we make sure of the above, we will have done everything possible to protect ourselves as a Club. About the only thing you cannot protect yourself from is negligence, and if all the above is adhered to, we should be fine. Now this does not mean we will not take any of the advice gratuitously given by our solicitors. We will draw up a new disclaimer, we will review our insurance to ensure we are adequately covered, and we may even have everybody that comes onto the boat sign an indemnity, but basically nothing will change.

Ciao!

Club Diary

<u>DAY/MONTH</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Saturday 15 January	0800	Cray fishing 1-tank (optional) (Peter/Geoff G)
Sunday 16 January	0800	Deep Diving Program. 30 m. (T.B.A.)
Monday 17 January	2000	General Meeting
Friday 21 January	1800	Night Dive Stragglers 1-tank (Dennis/Geoff G)
Saturday 22 January	0800	Exploratory City Beach 1-tank (optional) Bob/Jim)
Sunday 23 January	0800	Skipper's Choice 2-tank (Geoff C/Luc)
Wednesday 26 January	1430	SOCIAL: Australia Day Concert & Sky Show
Saturday 29 January	0800	Boat booked (Geoff C)
Sunday 30 January	0800	Mystery 2-tank (Dennis/Luc)
Friday 4 February	1730	Over-nighter 2-tank following day (Bob/Steve)
Sunday 6 February	0800	Favourite 2-tank (Peter/Jim)
Monday 7 February	2000	Committee Meeting
Saturday 12 February	0800	Cray fishing 1-tank (optional) (Geoff C/Geoff G)
Sunday 13 February	0800	Deep Dive Program 2-tank (TBA)
Saturday 19 February	TBA	SOCIAL: Picnic/Festival Fireworks and Carneval
Saturday 19 February	0800	Exploratory Garden Isl. 1-tank (optional) (Bob/Steve)
Sunday 20 February	0800	Favourite site 2-tank (Richard/Luc)
Monday 21 February	2000	General Meeting



DIVE BOOKINGS
 Contact Steve Larter.
 Home phone: 9291 9654. MOBILE: 0418 949 264.
 Business phone: 9317 0431.
 E-mail: Steve.Larter@pilkington.com.au



PLEASE NOTE:

- ◆ The dive boat leaves Challenger Harbour at the above specified times.
- ◆ The Skipper will carry out assessment of weather conditions on the boat.
- ◆ Please DO NOT phone Steve Larter the previous night to discuss conditions.
- ◆ If you are not contacted prior to the dive, then (weather permitting) the boat will be going out.
- ◆ Cancellations of bookings to be made by 6PM the day prior to the dive.
- ◆ The Skipper and D.O. will assess the weather and sea conditions prior to each scheduled dive.
- ◆ Nominated dive sites in the program may change to suit conditions.



Social Section

Happy everything to everyone...a big New Year has just begun! The Y2K Dive Program looks inviting and exciting, and I think our socialising will continue to be brilliant as well this year.

Some of our regular social events like **Wednesday swimming and eating** (at present meeting at Freo Pool at about 6 PM) and **Friday night Kent Street prawn dives** (or Monday or Thursday nights, if you know the right people) go on.

Also I have already lined up a few very interesting speakers for our General Meetings, and am mulling over bigger social events for the year. "Thanks" to people who are chatting to me with their ideas on things we might do.

Argh!!! Back at work, and the only good word for that is 'air-conditioning'. (I did so little in all that free time between Christmas and New Year....it was so damnably hot).

December saw some lovely mellow UEC socialising. First the Christmas Dive, in the end followed by a picnic at Kerry and Susie's, as the weather then was so foul. "Thanks" you two, for making your very inviting house available to us. Then, by most reports, the Christmas General Meeting was very well received....although people were a bit torn between Jon Carpenter's riveting talk on the aftermath of the *Mutiny on the Bounty*, and the desire to party in that beautiful venue. "Thanks" everyone for all the help, wonderful food, etc, that made it a great night.

By the December 23 'Prawn' dive the weather was perfect, but the prawns were very sparse... so sparse that my buddy Rod Mace came up after the dive asking what a one looked like underwater! I am contemplating getting welding gloves and a spring loaded catch bag, and plucking up courage to catch the big blue swimmer crabs, which are prolific just now. It would be another learning curve to learn how to make Chilli Crab, I suppose.

Finally, I have a big personal "thank you" to skipper Bob McLaughlin and D.O. Steve Larter for the wonderful day they made possible for John and me on Monday 3rd, for a party on the *UE* that took us to *Camac* and *Garden Island*. I have now had a series of parties on the *UE* over the years, and thoroughly recommend it... plus, although reasonably priced, they are good fundraisers for the Club.

What's coming up? To lure you to the next General Meeting I have arranged with **Chris Chubb**, Principal Research Scientist and Officer in charge of **Rock Lobster Research with Fisheries WA** to talk about "W.A.'s Rock Lobster - Natural history, commercial and recreational fisheries."

Chris' whole working life has been on rock lobsters, and he has been scuba diving legally since 1984. He is now a PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer and DAN Oxygen Instructor, and has dived widely throughout the world. In August he dived as a volunteer with *Earth Watch* on coral reefs in Puerto Rico, he has taught in the Maldives for a month, and has done a month in Mauritius in 1998 for the *Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN* to assess the Mauritian fish stocks.

Then there's the annual trip up the river that Susie and Kerry host, to the **Sky Show** (January 26th). This year they plan to leave earlier to catch the end of one of the opening concerts for this year's *Festival of Perth*, but I am sure we can arrange something for latecomers, before we head back out for dinner and the Sky Show. (Talk to Kerry and Susie directly.) Book now! (\$25 per person). Chicken and Champagne included as usual. See you!!!!!!

TALK TO ME ABOUT DETAILS FOR OUR SOCIAL EVENT ON 19 FEB.



Sandy

Boat Bits

I have to confess, very little has happened on the boating front in the last month (work wise anyway).

The promised cover for the steering pulleys is now in place and has made a hell of a difference. I'll be **honest**, I thought it would help a bit, but didn't expect it to make a huge difference.

As I reported at the December meeting, fume levels in the cabin are now way down (you can barely detect the bouquet of diesel), and I must admit to being gob smacked at the level of noise reduction achieved.

Since the aforementioned meeting, the weather has prevented any further work being done. I hope you'll forgive me for preferring to watch cricket & yacht racing in my air-conditioned living room rather than sweat a few kilo's away (like I've got them to spare!!) working on the boat in 36 degree heat. You can also rest assured that the "fabled" exhaust extension will materialise when the Bureau of Meteorology's promised cool change arrives.

While I have your attention, I have one more thing to say. Since we fitted the anchor winch, we now have 40m of chain followed by 30m of rope. We have also provided a pair of "riggers" gloves to protect your hands whilst setting the anchor (some handling is required). Whilst the crew of the day have the absolute say in the anchoring procedure, there is no need to change from normal "techniques". We really only need to pay out 3-5 times the anchoring depth of chain/rope. I realise it is easier to tie off the rope, but the more chain and rope you use, the more the boat swings on the anchor (annoying for the divers) and the more damage we are likely to do to the corals in the anchorage. I'm planning to put a 30m mark of some description on the chain.

Bye for now.....



Geoff

New NOMINATION: Alan B Rudland, Wembley

JAN/FEB Birthdays:

Kerry Ashton 7/2/54; John Creswell 5/2/46;
Adrian Edwards 25/2/43; Nicholas Hunter 23/1/62;
Barry Lane 16/2/64; Richard Naylor 15/2/50;
Harry Oldenius 11/2/45; John Paskulich 12/1/49;
Margaret Pettigrew 14/2/36; Margaret Porter 31/1/55;
Travis Stanley 1/1/74; Trevor Walker 2/2/47.



Happy
Birthday!





Clive

Building Blabber

There has been no progress yet with the appointment of a new Strata Company Manager, as some other occupants are still away. Verbal acceptance has been given by seven units. That leaves units 2, 3 and 8 to be contacted.

I have today obtained contact details for all owners except for unit 2, and hope to have that information as soon as Gordon Tucker returns my call.

The rent is paid and up-to-date.

A tasty CHILLI CRAB recipe

Ingredients:

8 blue manna crabs, cleaned and cut in half
2-3 chopped chillies
3 cloves garlic
1/2 tspn grated ginger
1 tspn salt
Juice and rind of 2 limes
3 tblspns chopped parsley
2 tblspns chopped coriander
2 large onions chopped
1 tspn turmeric
2 cups low-fat coconut milk
2 tblspns fish sauce
1 tblspn chopped, toasted cashews
Lime vedges, extra to serve



Method:

Blend together chilli, garlic, ginger, salt, onions, turmeric and coconut milk to form a paste.
In a large wok, cook the crab covered in a little water to steam (about 10 minutes).
Remove the lid, then add the coconut paste and cook for a further 10 minutes until cooked through and flavoured.
Add the lime juice and rind, fish sauce and freshly chopped herbs and gently mix through.
Serve immediately with steamed jasmine rice and wok-fried greens.
Garnish with extra lime wedges, coriander and the chopped cashews..

How to cook your CRAY FISH best

Split rock lobster in half with large cook's knife, de-vein (remove intestinal sac).
Brush with a little vegetable oil and sear, meat side down, on a char grill or flat BBQ plate for TWO minutes.
Turn over and continue to cook for a further three or four minutes, brushing with butter (garlic butter, if you like) several times. Season with a pinch of sea salt. Serve with a bottle of bubbly or an elegant Western Australian chardonnay, both wooded and unwooded make perfect partners.

Diving Delights

Happy New Year!
What a start to 2000!

Perfect weather conditions and plenty of organized dives ready and waiting for divers to book onto, and get out there to enjoy the conditions.

We have gathered some statistics for dives carried out since 24/10/99 to 3/1/00. We have successfully completed 12 boat trips catering for 92 divers, who have carried out 126 dives.

The average number of divers for each trip has been 7.67 which are not as good as we need. I would like to see all our members out on the boat taking full advantage of the facilities we have to offer, and the enormous range of diving locations we have access to.

The Saturday and Sunday dive program has now commenced. To maintain this successfully, we must have adequate numbers for both days. Having a full boat will mean better choices of dive locations.

Since my last report Kerry and Susie have enjoyed two days down at the West End with magic conditions. Our crayfish haul has been above average. Some new locations, previously not dived on, have been discovered.

Check your diary and book on! Remember - the summer will be gone before you notice, so stop putting off your diving and get out there with us.

If you would like to arrange for any particular type of dive or location, please contact me, so we can accommodate any requirements.

Remember, this is your Club and your facilities, so make the most of everything!



Steve

SATAY PRAWNS

1 kg green King prawns
1/2 cup tomato sauce
3 cloves garlic, crushed
1/4 teaspoon dried chillies
Pinch of salt
1/4 cup lemon juice
1 teaspoon finely grated lemon rind
2 tablespoons soy sauce
1 teaspoon honey
Oil

Shell and de-vein prawns, wash thoroughly. Combine tomato sauce, garlic, chillies and chilli powder, salt, lemon juice and rind, soy sauce and honey. Mix well.
Allow prawns to marinade in satay for 30 min. Brush BBQ plate with oil and stir fry prawns to cook approx. 2-3 minutes.

NOTE: If using open grill, thread prawns on to bamboo skewers.

TASSIE TRIP REPORT

"Don't forget to pack your thermal underwear" was the last advice I received from my good friend, who is a "Tassie Specialist" and has paid many visits to this wonderful island. 16 days in total and only some rain on the arrival day in Launceston did not mean we had to wear all the warm jumpers and jackets we brought, as the temperature was around 30°C every day. The only "chill" we experienced was that night up at the Cradle Mountain Lodge, where we also experienced lots of wonderful wildlife. My sister just about died when she saw two WOMBATS outside our cabin window! (She collects wombats as I collect seahorses.) And then we had Bush Tail Possums on the verandah and a Tassie Devil nearby. Absolutely fantastic! We bought so many Tassie-Devil soft toys and other souvenirs that we had to buy an extra suitcase to get it all back to Perth! Qantas was nice to us and didn't charge for the extra baggage.

Tasmania has so much to offer and can cater for a wide range of interests, and if food and wine is one of them, you are in Paradise! (I had salmon in a variety of ways every day!) We hit the *Tamar Wine Trail* up north and found the Pinot Noirs being our favorite. In Hobart, where we stayed for 5 nights, we had on our "To Do" list to visit the Cadbury Chocolate Factory for instance, but never had the time, so you can surely understand that we were 'flat out like a lizard drinking' with all sorts of other activities, including a visit to the Seahorse Australia Pty Ltd, where *Emma Greenhatch* (Marketing & Sales Executive) took us on a private tour around the seahorse breeding facilities. (Follow up in the next newsletter.)

Kerry and I only managed to get one dive under our belts at Eaglehawk Neck (Tasman Peninsula), due to many circumstances out of our control. But we were very satisfied, because that dive was a 10/10. When we came to Bicheno on the east coast, we missed out totally! (Sometimes it doesn't matter how well you plan your dives in advance.) Besides that, we were told that there is not much left of the Giant Kelp forest in the area! We should have been here 10 years ago, said the man who took us out for an hour on his glass bottom boat. We saw some incredibly huge Bull kelp instead, and learned a lot about what has happened with the marine ecology here during the last decade.

Kerry and I had brought most of our equipment with us but had to hire 7mm wetsuits and tank/weight belt. Not cheap! \$20 each for the wetsuit for instance, and \$15 for one tank. Air fill = \$7. Hmm. But then again... Tassie has been declared having the cleanest air in the whole world!! The dive was only \$33 each, and this day the water temperature was a pleasant 19°C. They were experiencing the warmest summer in 70 years! We sure picked the right year to visit Tassie for the first time.

There is so much more I could tell you about our Tassie trip, but as you can see, I'm running out of space!! Maybe a few yarns around the camp fire in Northam on Saturday 25th?!

We found everybody extremely friendly and had such a good time, and could easily have stayed for another couple of weeks.

Cheers!

Susie

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UEC NEWSLETTER



The official magazine for Underwater Explorer's Club of W.A. (Inc.)
MARCH 2000

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President's Platform

Several issues of some import have been discussed at the last committee meeting. They make reference to concerns about safety and some diving practices, that are perhaps not quite up to the high standards that we expect in the UEC. I wish to mention this by way of passing as a small *wake up* call, such that future problems are avoided. The Safety and Diving Officers will probably make mention of these issues in more detail, but I would request that you all take these (*criticisms*), in the way that they are meant; as a friendly and concerned reminder that has your genuine interests at heart.

Boy, I hate telling people off, and the above is all I'm going to say on the matter.

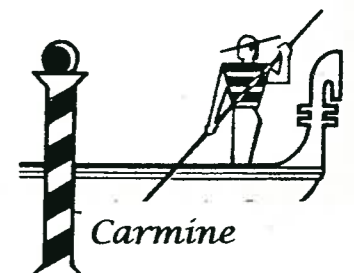
On to other matters! **The Avon Descent is on!!** Yes, just as I started writing this report, I received a fax from the Avon Descent committee, confirming all the details to be as last year, with a possible increase in the remuneration package. Now we really need to have commitments from those that are going to be part of the operation. Please put your weight behind this one, as the rub off from being associated with such a high profile event really keeps us there in the forefront of the diving fraternity.

The **VCCCCC** is still on, as far as I can ascertain. I have not received any further update on this event and am currently waiting on a response from Jamie. Jim has been put on the case, so I'm sure we should get some answers soon. In any event, please try to let us know ASAP, as to who of you and your friends are going to be part of the deal we offered in the flyer in the last UEC magazine. Sandy needs it for catering purposes.

We still have plenty of caps, so please get them as soon as you can. All that have already purchased them are amazed at the excellent quality and price of the item. Sell them to you friends and even your mother-in-law, as we make a very slight profit on them that will be returned to you in other ways.

One of the ways is, we pay off some of the money owing on the boat. After this week we will only owe slightly over \$4,000.00 on the boat. If we can succeed in the two forthcoming events of the VCCCCC and the Avon Descent, we will probably have paid all of the boat off by August this year.

Then we can start saving for our new, bigger and better boat!!!





Susie

From The Editor

Just back home from a 16 day trip around Tasmania, I still have fresh memories of the most exciting multilevel dive and safety stop that I ever experienced in my entire diving history.....hanging on to a Giant Kelp! Half way up, at 12 meters, I shared the space around this enormous plant with a Weedy Seadragon!

I have been asked by Sandy to arrange a social event for April, as our *Butterfly* will be flying out of Perth. I have a good friend who is in Marketing & Promotions at the Swan Brewery, and she takes people on tours. Roz is available on Wednesday the 12th, and I have made a tentative booking with her. We need to get at least 15 people together, so come'on guys... **make this a social event we'll be talking about for years to come!!** (For more details, see below.)

By the way... did you detect the deliberate made mistakes in the last newsletter? Good! I was just checking how many of you actually **READ** the whole newsletter!! Ha-ha! See how many you can find in this issue, and we'll have a prize for the most observant person!

Cheers!



SWAN BREWERY

TOUR AND TASTING

Wednesday 12 April at 18:30



Come along for an interesting tour around the working areas of the brewery to be finished with tasting of the different produce.

\$10 per head, which includes tour, drinks and bar snacks.

P.S. I must know numbers and have the money in my hand on 9/4 at the latest.

Susie

Phone/Fax: 9331 2385

E-mail: kasdive@inet.net.au

Club Diary



<u>DAY/MONTH</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Saturday 18 March	0800	Cray fishing dive; 1-tank
Sunday 19 March	0800	West End Rottnest; 2-tank (Geoff C/Luc)
Monday 20 March	0800	GENERAL MEETING at Willetton Sports Club (Burrendah Blv) Guest Speaker: Claire Savage
SATURDAY 25 March	1800	SOCIAL: BBQ at Northam Caravan Park
SUNDAY 26 March		FUNDRAISER: Northam Car Rally

Saturday 1 April	0800	Cray fishing dive; fish'n'chips lunch (Peter/Jim)
Sunday 2 April	0800	ORIZABA wreck/Garden Island south (Kerry/Steve)
Monday 3 April	0800	COMMITTEE MEETING at Willetton Sports Club
Saturday 8 April	0800	Stragglers/Carnac; 2-tank option (Geoff/Geoff)
Sunday 9 April	0800	Swirl Reef (Richard/Luc)
Saturday 15 April	0800	Murray's Chambers; 2-tank option (Bob/Steve)
Sunday 16 April	0800	Cathedral Rock (Peter/Jim)
Monday 17 April	0800	GENERAL MEETING at Willetton Sports Club (Burrendah Blv)

DIVE BOOKINGS:

Contact Steve Larter. Home phone: 9291 9654. MOBILE: 0418 949 264.
Business phone: 9317 0431. E-mail: Steve.Larter@pilkington.com.au

PLEASE NOTE:

- ◆ The dive boat leaves Challenger Harbour at the above specified times.
- ◆ The Skipper will carry out assessment of weather conditions on the boat.
- ◆ Please **DO NOT** phone Steve Larter the previous night to discuss conditions.
- ◆ If you are not contacted prior to the dive, then (weather permitting) the boat will be going out.
- ◆ Cancellations of bookings to be made by 6PM the day prior to the dive.
- ◆ The Skipper and D.O. will assess the weather and sea conditions prior to each scheduled dive.
- ◆ Nominated dive sites in the program may change to suit conditions.



Sandy

"Social Butterfly"

Social Snippets

Help! Now February has passed in a blur! Again, lots of good diving and good times shared. I am just back from the long weekend at Rotto. Looking on the bright side, I am not totally exhausted and stumbling back to work....because the weather/sea were less than perfect I only had three dives! Somehow too, the much talked about night dive did not eventuate. It was put off for all sorts of odd reasons (mainly related to red wine) until the last night, when an easterly gale was blowing and no one wanted to go at all.

Congratulations to Carmine's **Carol** and Maureen's **Holly** on their great swim from Cottesloe to Rottneest. Carmine was the careful and patient skipper for the day, Bob Dobson 'team masseur' and I was 'timer'. A good experience and impressive swim.... and now it seems that four of the UEC women have already boasted too much and may be committed to being the oldest team of women only to attempt the swim next year (?the Four Fit Ladies Ab Flab...). What have we done! At my current rate of swimming the crossing would take eleven hours! We'll see.

The BIG and IMORTANT social event coming up is to be Northam, Saturday night 25 March, the night before the VOOOOOOOOOOO Car Rally. As you know, helping out at the Rally on Sunday 26th is a very important Club undertaking and fundraiser, and **all who can should participate**. The night before should just be fun, and it is a good idea to get up there the night before, as the start on Sunday is early. Jim tells me there is to be a Cocktail Party and a band later in Northam, so it will be a big night. You need somewhere to sleep and \$15 and that is all.... as long as you let me know you wish to join us for a barbecue on Saturday night and brekkie on Sunday morning.

I must have numbers and preferably \$\$ in advance, so I can cater adequately. PLEASE let me know at the next Club meeting or ring me on 9339 5936 or 0407 993 395.

Michel has put me in contact with a very interesting speaker for the next Club meeting. **Claire Savage** is Infrastructure Planning Coordinator with the Western Australian Tourism Commission, working in the Tourism Industry Development Division. She was Project Executive for the Steering Committee for the Relocation and Deployment of the former *HMAS Perth* and will give an outline of the process which was undertaken to allocate the *HMAS Perth* to the successful community for sinking as a dive wreck and artificial reef. She may also talk about the likely fate of the *HMAS Hobart*, which is also probably destined to be a dive wreck, and perhaps this time Perth may put in a successful tender!

Hope to see you on Saturday night, 25th March, with lots of friends!!!!

APRIL SOCIAL EVENT

Tour and Tasting at the Swan Brewery

For details, see page 2 or ring Susie on 9339 5936

Boat Bits

Hi folks! I must apologise for the lack of boat report last month. Unfortunately, I was extremely busy both during and after work and simply didn't get time to put my fingers to the keyboard. You're not getting off so easily this month!!

The boat is running well, and really earned her keep during the Rottneest trip. We are due for an oil change, which I hope to do with a minimum of interference to the diving programme. As I write this report, tropical cyclone *Steve* is gradually working its way down the coast. If it has the effect on the weather pattern that I expect, there will be no other diving days lost than those the change in weather will (should) cause.

As reported at the last general meeting, the planned extension to the exhaust system will require YOUR help. Basically, it's not a 5 minute job and I am proposing a *working bee* aimed at fitting the pipe work to the hull whilst the "technical crew" perform the necessary modifications to the marlin board. Needless to say, I'll keep you informed of when it will happen, so you can expect a phone call a week or so in advance.

Those of you who were at the last GM will also recall that we are getting the use of a superseded (but still highly effective) error correction unit for the GPS. You'll know it's been fitted when you see the new "aerial" on the back of the canopy.

In finishing, I'll ask you to be prepared for a "nappy change" day for the boat. We have two coats of antifoul still to be exposed, and we're seven months down the road from our last slipping, but more about that at the March meeting.

Bye for now.....



Geoff

Did you know.....

- ◆ The Giant Kelp is the fastest growing plant on the planet.
- ◆ The Giant Kelp is one of the major factors which can decrease Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere and fight to reduce global warming.
- ◆ The Giant Kelp plant has the ability to clean and take up impurities of the water.
- ◆ The Giant Kelp forest provide "living quarters" for an estimated **800 million** species of marine life!
- ◆ The Giant Kelp is used as a *fertilizer*.
- ◆ The Giant Kelp is used as a *stabilizer*, e.g. in ice cream, cosmetic products, etc.
- ◆ The Giant Kelp is used as a source of fuel.
- ◆ The Giant Kelp forests are excellent for commercial fishing.
- ◆ The Giant Kelp is a paradise for Sport divers!



Steve

Diving Delights

Congratulations to everyone who has been diving with UEC. Since 24/10/99 we have carried out 19 boat trips, involving 48 members, who have completed 210 dives. These statistics are up to 5/2/2000, so the Rottneest holiday diving is not included. We are now into the best conditions for diving, so we are anticipating even better diving.

A number of members have requested that we continue our diving program through the winter. This is an excellent suggestion and providing our Skippers and Diving Officers are agreeable, I shall put together a winter roster. The diving during the winter can be excellent but the weather can be notoriously unpredictable. However, if we are organized and ready to go, we can make the most of some of those *Indian Summer* occasions.

Last month I suggested that, during our dives, we should record some of the marine creatures we observe. I would be interested in hearing from any members, who would like to be involved with the identification of marine life, which inhabit the dive sites, which we visit. It is interesting to note that in our dive log we describe the site, but have very little information on the marine life, which is observed. The importance of recording what we see, at varying times of the year, will give future members of UEC a good insight into how it was back then.

The Club, via the newsletter, has built up volumes of information about diving in Perth since the newsletter was established. Every newsletter produced is stored in the Alexander Library, and they get very miffed if they fail to get their newsletter on time. We could start a new item in the newsletter each month, outlining our observations, for the record. For those of us who are not red hot on which fish is which, do not be concerned, as there are lots of us who will be in the same boat. Imagine, in a short time we could all become very skilled at informing others of our experiences.

A review of the current situation, with regards to **qualifications for Club Dive Officers**, is required. To improve our standards and ensure a consistent flow of qualified persons to take on the role of Club D.O., we intend to introduce a training matrix, similar to the Boat Skipper Training Matrix. Training will be organized around this matrix and will be offered to any interested person who wish to participate. I envisage that we can offer a very broad range of content specifically tailored to suit our Club diving activities. It will not be difficult, and it will enhance your diving skills. Please contact me if you wish to be included, you will not be disappointed.

Look forward to hearing from you.

See you on the boat!

Safety Section

They say "*time and tide wait for no man*" and in the past few weeks a safety issue has arisen which certainly needs to be opened for general discussion and a formal resolution, which we can adopt as a UEC safety regulation.

At this point in time the amount of diving time is regulated by the D.O. and based on tables which have always been used for this purpose. 'The Tables' are probably a bit outdated, but they do ensure a safe diving procedure. Time has moved ahead and we are in the computer age. There are many divers within the Club, and probably many potential new members, who will invest in computer operated diving equipment and this is where the issue is raised. Again, a matter of time. The computer reads an advanced profile of the diver and usually allows him/her more diving time than the tables would allow. Recently, there has been a few incidents where the computer time and the D.O.'s expectation have not met. This raises a safety issue.

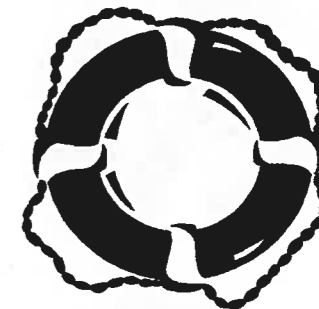
The Club's problem is: **At what point is the alarm raised?**

If the D.O. has the expectation that a diver is due to surface at a certain time and that diver does not surface, how long and what way do we - as a Club - want to handle that? If the Club regulation is adhered to in that situation, then there is every possibility that a full rescue could be embarked on at that point. At the same time, it is recognized that computer profiling is the way of the future. In the present, we need a safety regulation which ensures the safety of our divers.

Over the next few weeks this issue should be open for ideas, input and discussion, and if the current Club regulation needs to be altered, this needs to be addressed.

Whilst we are on the subject, I would just like to remind you that 'solo diving' is not a current Club procedure; we need to remember where safety is concerned, *time waits for no man* and neither does the tides.

Safe diving!



Bob

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UEC NEWS



NOVEMBER 2000

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9454 8450

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Sean Edmett
9455 3172

TREASURER:
Peter Horton
9445 2336

DIVING:
Steve Larter
9291 9654

BOATING:
Geoff Charlton
9451 2910

SAFETY:
Bob McLaughlin
9454 8450

TRAINING:
Dennis Stubberfield
9457 3333

BUILDING:
Clive Cass
9336 4004

SOCIAL:
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9339 5936

EDITOR & WEB:
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9331 2385

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President's Report

Interesting and exciting times are ahead for us as a club!! Yes, we are now heading towards an intersection on the road of life as far as our club is concerned. Decisions will have to be made. Which way will we go? Do we take the left turn or the right?? Where does each path lead??? Will either direction ensure our survival or will one lead to irrelevance???? Are we prepared for what is in store????

Let me assure you that we are ready and the previous questions are not merely musings but questions that we on the committee wish to share with all members such that we take this journey into the future together with total cognition of its implications. I speak of course about whether we should grow and the implications of that decision, such as, how many members should we aim for, what size boat should we buy to cater for the needs of our members, what changes do we need to make to our constitution to cope with the growth? We the committee are addressing these questions and I feel that the future looks rosy.

Firstly, we have a great and dedicated committee. Secondly, we are mustering really well and have recently had quite a lot of interest from people accessing our web site. Thirdly, we have looked at a few very nice boats and are getting closer to understanding our needs in that area.

I predict that in the not too distant future you the members will belong to a club that will be even more vibrant, more committed to maritime conservation and ecological sustainability, have more members and a bigger and better boat that will allow us to plan diving excursions further a field, adding another dimension to our club and its reason for being.

I would like to alert everyone to what I feel is causing the club to mark time, stymieing our growth and trapping all our energies. I am speaking about the purchase of our new boat; the very thing that I believe will be the catalyst to our future development. Even though the possible purchase has captured all of our imaginations, it has also had the effect of putting everything else on hold until we take the plunge. In my opinion I think it's best if we buy the new boat sooner rather than later, so that we can get on with other things.

What do you think?





From the Editor

Great to be back home again—just in time for the festive “silly season” and some adventurous diving in the same waters as “the big bad white”.

ROGER SMITH has written an extra-ordinary article about the annual UEC canoe trip on Blackwood River, but it is so long, that I couldn't fit it in this newsletter. For those interested, you can pick up a copy at our AGM on Friday 24 November.

A series of photographs are placed on the “Club Album” page in UEC web site.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Kerry (and his helpers) for distributing the last two issues of *UEC NEWS* during my stay in Stockholm.

FOLLOWING MOTIONS WERE PAST AT OUR NOVEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING:

Motion 1 - *That Carmine Travaglione keep the Deeds for the U.E.C. property in his safe.*
Proposed - Dennis Stubberfield Second - Clive Cass
Passed Unanimously

Motion 2 - *That the U.E.C. purchase a collapsible anchor for the Zodiac inflatable.*
Proposed - Bob McLaughlin Second - Clive Cass
Passed Unanimously

Motion 3 - *That the U.E.C. membership fees remain unchanged for the next Club Year.*
Proposed - Dennis Stubberfield Second - Susie Ashton
Passed Unanimously

Motion 4 - *That the role of P.R. officer be reclassified as a full Committee position.*
Proposed - Susie Ashton Second - Peter Horton
Passed Unanimously

Motion 5 - *That the Constitution of the U.E.C. be altered to reflect the creation of the new Committee position, through Motion 4 above, and the resultant increase in Committee size.*
Proposed - Dennis Stubberfield Second - Geoff Charlton
Passed Unanimously

UEC committee meetings and general meetings

are held at the Willetton Sports Club, Burrendah Blvd, Willetton, at 8 PM.
(if otherwise not stated in the Club Calendar).

We welcome our members, their friends and family as well as the general public to all General Meetings.

Club Calendar



DATE

EVENT

Sunday 19 November	Crystal Palace (2 tanks)	Dennis/Clive
Sunday 19 November	Fremantle Festival and Parade	(details on page 7)
Friday 24 November	AGM and Awards Night, 8 PM	(details on page 7)
Sunday 26 November	West End (2 tanks)	Peter/Steve
Saturday 2 December	Swim Thru Rottnest (details on page 7)	Carmine/Clive
Sunday 3 December	Kerry's Caverns (2 tanks)	TBA
Monday 4 December	Committee meeting 8 PM	
Sunday 10 December	Christmas Dive and River Picnic (1 tank)	Kerry/Susie
Friday 15 December	General meeting and Christmas Party at President's Palace	(details on page 7)
Sunday 17 December	Swirl Reef (2 tanks)	Dennis/Cari
Saturday 23 December	Stragglers (1 tank)	Bob/Steve
Saturday 30 December	Parker Point (2 tanks)	Geoff/Geoff
Tuesday 2 January	Committee meeting 8 PM	
Friday 6 January	Over-nighter at Rotto (2 tanks)	Bob/Steve
Sunday 7 January	Radar Reef (2 tanks)	Peter/Clive

Boat will leave from Challenger Harbour at 8.00. AM.
Divers, please be there by 7.45 AM.

All dives to be booked with the Diving Officer Steve Larter.
Home Phone 92919654.- Work 93170431.- Mob 0401775720.
E-Mail. Steve.Larter@pilkington.com.au

Cancellation of dives due to inclement weather will be made by the Skipper, on the boat on the morning of the dive.

Please do not contact the Diving Officer to enquire about dive cancellations.

Individual divers who wish to cancel their booking, please contact the D/O before 6.00 PM the night before the dive or as early as possible.

We do have an answering machine, so please leave your booking on the answering machine. The Diving Officer is not good at returning calls.

Building Blabber

Bruce Porter of Porter Matthews advised me on 3 November that the tenant has received the new Tenancy Agreement for signing and stamping at the stamp duty office. A copy of the new Tenancy Agreement has now been received and we await confirmation of its signing. The tenancy is for a period of twelve months from 1 November 2000 until 31 October 2001. The Agreement now includes GST details to comply with the current taxation requirements.

We are still working on the new strata rules. Although not much has happened lately I expect to chase them up with the other owners and Strata Manager this month.

So, I'm pleased to still be diving at least once a week at Bicton. In mid October I built up a catch of a kilo of prawns, including one that was a massive 220 mm (over 8.5 inches) weighing 85 grams.

Late October Sandy and I tried

a dive at Kent Street (Geoff Geard's favourite haunt). We were fortunate to find the water getting warmer (less cold!!!). Together we picked up a few good prawns and at the end collected a bonus four kilos of beautiful big mussels. They were very tasty. Let's hope the crayfish are big and catchable this year.

See you on the boat or at club events.

Clive



Far away in the tropical waters of the Caribbean, two prawns were swimming around in the sea - one called Justin and the other called Christian. The prawns were constantly being harassed and threatened by sharks that patrolled the area.

Finally one day during a tropical storm, Justin said to Christian, "I'm bored and frustrated at being a prawn, I wish I was a shark, then I wouldn't have any worries about being eaten..."

As Justin had his mind firmly on becoming a predator, a flash of lightning hit the water and, lo and behold, Justin turned into a shark. Horrified, Christian immediately swam away, afraid of being eaten by his old mate. Time went on (as it invariably does...) and Justin found himself becoming bored and lonely as a shark. All his old mates simply swam away whenever he came close to them. Justin didn't realise that his new menacing appearance was the cause of his sad plight.

During the next tropical storm, Justin figured that the same lightning force could change him back into a prawn. Lightning never strikes twice except in stories like these, but while he was thinking of being a prawn again, a flash of lightning struck the water next to Justin and, lo and behold, he turned back into prawn.

With tears of joy in his tiny little eyes, Justin swam back to his friends and bought them all a cocktail. (The punch line does not involve a prawn cocktail - it's much worse). Looking around the gathering at the reef, he searched for his old pal. "Where's Christian?", he asked. "He's at home, distraught that his best friend changed sides to the enemy and became a shark", came the reply.

Eager to put things right again and end the mutual pain and torture, he set off to Christian's house. As he opened the coral gate, the memories came flooding back. He banged on the door and shouted, "It's me, Justin, your old friend, come out and see me again." Christian replied, "No way, man, you'll eat me. You're a shark, the enemy, and I'll not be tricked."

Justin cried back "No I'm not. That was the old me. I've changed... I'm a prawn again Christian!"

Boat Bits

Well folks, as most of you are now aware, this is my last boat report for a while. I'm standing down from the Committee for a year or so (I've been told by Carmine I can have a year off) due to my pending nuptials.

I guess it can be said the boat has had a good year, although I myself would have liked to have got some more jobs done. Alas, there are only so many hours in a week, and I have to work for a living as well.

I am happy to report that the clips on the tank racks have now been replaced. They all work and can be used for "piggy-backing" cylinders in the event of a full boat. Our biggest coup for the year has to be the Error Correction "black box" we now have, and used to great effect before Bill Clinton decided to remove the error from the GPS network.

The fabled exhaust extension will (hopefully) be in place by the time you read this article, as I have a Saturday morning free to make the final "tweaks" to the design, therefore, only requiring a few minutes with some basic hand tools to fit. Some more sound deadening foam is also high on the agenda for the engine hatch and surrounds.

This year saw us move away from Swan Yacht Club in favour of Fremantle Boat Lifters for our annual slipping. I think everyone who helped out will agree this was a huge success and should be repeated.

The next twelve months promise to be very exciting as far as the UEC and boats go, so please keep a close eye on things and get involved where possible.



In finishing, I'd like to thank all of you for your assistance over the last two years—you made it POSSIBLE to do my job. Also, please be gentle on my successor, break him/her in gently; it's always tough being a rookie in the Boat Officer's position.

Geoff

NEW CLUB MEMBERS: A WARM WELCOME TO

*Renate Zilkens, Victoria Park; Malcolm Roberts, Embleton;
Mark Maddern, Kalamunda.*

NEW NOMINATIONS ARE:

*Vincent Pago, Scarborough; Jane Eckersley, Geldrup; Rhonda and Robert Stagg, Perth;
Nathan Marr, Coogee; Luke Ellery, Nollamara; Christin Walsh, Hawaii*

SOLO DIVING — WHY?

There have been a few statements in the UEC magazine this year that bring solo diving to our attention. The statements have been of a negative nature and I take this opportunity to respond. As a solo diver I would like to give an indication of what is behind my decision to solo dive.

My life has been a succession of solo activities such as surfing alone, driving by myself, fishing alone, relaxing alone, living alone, bicycle riding by myself and swimming alone in the pool or the ocean. I also prefer to work alone and have travelled overseas alone for a period of seven months. These activities are recognised as being acceptable to the community, sometimes with risk, and at times they are desirable. I guess I am someone who enjoys spending time by myself.

It is only natural for me to take on diving as a solo activity, and I subsequently do so of my own accord. Of course I continue to obtain advice from experienced divers and have appropriate safe practices in place. I certainly enjoy diving with a buddy, and then there are times when I just enjoy the freedom of my own company.

There have been books written on the subject promoting the many benefits and safety aspects of solo diving. Solo diving, when practised with common sense and safety, is quite a safe sport — perhaps safer than diving with a buddy.

It is perhaps interesting to note that activities where solo participation is encouraged include flying a plane, parachuting, white water canoeing, bike riding and snow skiing.

Not everyone wants to live alone, surf alone, travel alone or parachute alone. However we give those people the freedom to choose the activity they want even if we disagree with it. I simply ask that I be given the same freedom to participate in a recreational activity that I choose.

It's no wonder that I progressed in this direction of diving, and I simply ask that any critics consider that solo diving may be not only an acceptable activity, but also perhaps a desirable one for some people.

Clive Cass
30 Oct. 2000

A bit of interesting info, as we approach the cray season:

What expensive seafood was once used as fertilizer?

During the 1700s and early 1800s, there were so many lobsters along the coast of New England that one could walk down the beach and pick them up off the sand.

Lobsters were so abundant that native Americans used them as fertilizer, and colonists thought of them as food for poor people.

Servants complained when they were forced to eat lobster more than three times in a week.

Today, of course, lobsters are prized as an expensive delicacy. They are hunted intensely by humans, and they are no longer so abundant. Today's wild lobsters are puny runts compared to the huge forty-pound, three-foot specimens (18 kg, 1 meter) that were once common along the New England coast.

Training Together

This will be my last report for the foreseeable future as I've decided not to nominate for the Committee again. We need to get some new blood into things and that will never happen, while us older icons hang around.

This year has been a good year for training. A basic seamanship course was held, facilitating the appointment of Carmine as a UEC skipper as well as creating some interest among others in the Club and carried out a number of boat and diving training sessions.

A qualification schedule for Diving Officers was accepted by the Committee to get some system into the way we appoint our DO's; this being modelled on the lines of that produced for qualification of skippers.

Training milestones during the year include the outstanding in water training provided by experienced canoeists, diving, surf lifesaving and Avon Descenders, Nick Hunter, Roger Smith and Sean Gardiner who combined to lift our training standards up to a much higher level. Many thanks to those three, especially Nick who took charge of the whole thing.

The appointment of two new DO's and a Boat Skipper and the acquisition of an inflatable dinghy with a very successful and innovative training session to develop the methods for launching, stowing and recovering that vital piece of gear also stand out as key achievements.

All this of course could hardly be attributed to me alone and I

would like to thank you all, especially my fellow Committee Members, for the support and cooperation I have received throughout a very action packed year.

While I will not be on the Committee in future, any knowledge and expertise I have will be freely available to the Club and I hope to take an active part in all our doings, particularly procuring our next boat. The latter will be a pretty big job and certainly requires extra help for the Committee from the Club's general membership.

Meanwhile, Cheers Folks,
see you on the boat!



Dennis

FISHY FACTS



From the look of it, you might think that a starfish has no eyes. But in fact, it has an eye on the end of each arm. Most starfish have five arms, so they also have five eyes, but some starfish have as many as twenty arms (or more), and as many eyes.

The very simple eyes of a starfish are unable to form images. Each eye is a tiny spot of red pigment that is sensitive to light. Nerves run from the pigment spots to the starfish's central nerve ring.

The signals from the eyespots affect the animal's behavior, enabling it to avoid light that is too bright and change its light preferences according to the time of day, water chemistry, and other factors. Since a starfish has no brain, it would not be able to make much use of images, even if its eyes were able to form them.

Safety Section

Talk to most people and they will say that this year has flown by, and I am no exception. Between my duties for UEC, the various trips and family commitments it has all in all been a stimulating and busy year. Now it is time to recap.

I am pleased to report this year has been particularly safe and UEC continues to have a safe diving record with everyone working as a team to preserve an ongoing standard. We also had an opportunity this year to examine our procedures so it has made my job an easy one.

Everyone has been shocked by the shark attack at North Cottesloe beach. It reminds us that every time we enter the water that conditions are different and we must be ready to expect the unexpected whilst still remembering that diving is an adventure!

Looking forward to next year and my pet project. At this month's meeting I instigated some rapid research where committee members were asked to comment via a questionnaire their 'wish list' for UEC's new boat. Apart from a ballroom, a great number of toilets and cooking facilities to rival the Hyatt kitchen, here is a sample of the results:

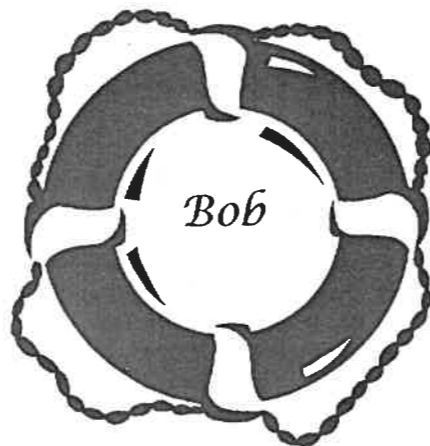
- Probably a fiberglass boat;
- A mono hull - planing;
- Length somewhere between 35 to 42 ft - ideal 38ft;
- Beam - 4 metres plus;
- Engine - Cat. Volvo Cummins 25 to 60 litres per hour;
- Speed - 20 to 30 knots flat out;
- FEATURES INCLUDE: fly bridge, marlin board, access to marlin board, galley, cabin big enough to hold all aboard. 6 berth plus, enough room for storage of tanks at

the stern. A walk-in toilet, shower, chart table, low noise when running. No exhaust fumes. A dinghy rack with davit.

- EQUIPMENT: Anchor winch, GPS, radio, radar, sounder, sum log, CD sound system.

This gives us lots to think about and the new committee to act upon!!

Until next time, safe diving



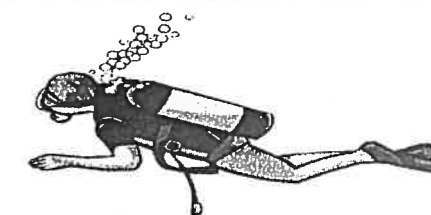
WARMER WATER AROUND ROTTNEST (by Pat Troy)

An article by Timothy Rouse in the West Australian on September 25, 2000 tells us that there has been a substantial increase in the volume of water being carried south by the Leeuwin Current. The C.S.I.R.O. has announced that the Leeuwin Current is flowing so strongly that it has raised sea levels along the coast by up to 10 cm. Along with all that water comes the coral and tropical fish.

Dr Barry Hutchins, curator of fishes at the W.A. Museum, has been studying the current for more than 20 years. He says that as well as the increase in the number of tropical fish settling at Rottneest, the coral reefs are becoming more impressive. His study has focused on four species of tropical reef fish. The are: Damselfish, goatfish, wrasse and surgeonfish.

This tropical diversity appears to be confined to the western and southern reefs around the island, as these are the areas that the Leeuwin Current reaches more than other parts of the island. Let's hope that more tropical fish do move into the area as they certainly brighten up a dive!

Diving Delights



BECOME A DUTY DIVE OFFICER FOR YOUR CLUB!

We are now desperate for members to become duty Diving Officers. Three members have come forward and are currently under training, but we **do** need more. Please consider!

During our recent D/O training day comments were made about who is responsible for diving safety on the boat. The club's view is that the members who dive are responsible for their safety and the safety of their buddy. We only allow fully qualified divers to dive from our boat under the direction of the duty Diving Officer. Unlike a commercial boat dive we do not have qualified Dive Masters or Instructors accompanying our divers. We are a members' club and not a commercial operator, so we rely on our divers to follow the D/O's instructions and to dive safely.

Dive Safe! Steve

This is my last report before the AGM and after a successful year of diving activities it is time to thank everyone for assisting in making this last 12 months one of our most successful. We have been keeping statistics on our boat diving activities and who has been diving with us.

We carried out 617 dives in total. There were 49 boat trips, which involved 58 members and 61 guests. A number of these guests joined the club after their introductory boat dive. The average number of divers per boat trip was 8.

My thanks go to the Skippers and Diving Officers who made the above possible. Without their dedication to their tasks it is not possible to achieve the number of dives which were completed. I also thank all of the members for their good conduct and safe diving practice, without which we would not have the best diving club in WA. Well done everyone.

During October we assisted Scuba2 dive club in their Dragon Search. We had 15 divers on the boat for the day. Unfortunately, we failed to see any Sea Dragons at Victoria Station or Kingston reef. Divers at the four other locations searching for this elusive creature also failed to spot a single dragon. We have left copies of the procedure for reporting sightings of sea dragons on the boat for future sightings to be recorded.

The training day was very successful with 15 of us working out the best way to launch, drive and recover our new inflatable boat. Yes, for those of you who have not seen our very latest club asset, we have now got the best of both worlds for diver surface support.

We can now consider alternatives to our diving procedures with the increased use of the inflatable boat.

GOSSIP



Peter Heaven and Joy Mack, our mates from Avon Descent (Scuba2) are engaged.

Peter proposed to Joy on a slate underwater! Kerry and I met them carousing their way through the Swan Valley in search of a suitable vineyard wedding venue.

ROTTO 2001

SATURDAY 24th FEBRUARY - TUESDAY 6th MARCH



For new members, unfamiliar with UEC's annual Rottnest dive trip, the club arranges to rent three chalets from the RIA for the use of its club members. For the information of everyone, the Executive Committee has approved the following guidelines for participation in this year's trip.

As usual, three chalets have been booked to accommodate 16 divers and 2 non-divers. For those interested, the dive trip is divided into two components:

The week of 24th February to Friday 2nd March *and* The long weekend from Friday 2nd to Tuesday 6th March.

The boat will make two return trips only:

It departs from Fremantle on the morning of Saturday, 24th February and returns on Friday 2nd March in the afternoon. Returning to Rotto on Friday 2nd March, around 5.00pm and then back to Fremantle on the morning of Tuesday 6th March. Therefore, anyone wanting to arrive or depart on days other than this will have to make his or her own travel arrangements.

The Rottnest Island Authority requires the club to book these chalets a year in advance with the result that club funds to the total of approximately \$2700 are tied up with the RIA. All those club members who wish to participate in the dive trip are requested to pay a non-refundable deposit by the date of the Xmas party, Friday, the 15th December. The balance will be required by January 15th, a club meeting night. All monies to the Treasurer, Peter Horton, please.

The total projected amount for individual accommodation should be in the vicinity of:

The week \$200.00 per person

The long weekend \$150.00 per person

The week and long weekend combined \$350.00 per person.

If you plan to stay for the week only, a deposit of \$160 per person is required. A deposit of \$100 per person is required if you plan on staying for the long weekend.

If you plan to stay for the entire ten days a deposit of \$260 per person is required.

Maree and Dennis have kindly offered to work out the costs of the diving and air fills as these obviously will not be known until the holiday is concluded. The fuel costs for the boat will be included in the air fill charges.

So far, the following people have indicated their intentions of participating and have paid a deposit.

Based on the above, would you please now pay the required minimum to the Treasurer?

Trevor Walker, Bob and Zita Dobson, Maree Casley, Dennis Stubberfield, Clive Cass, Eva Cass (non-diver), Maureen Cox, Alison Keen, Leslie Bettink (non-diver), Sandy Webb, Jim Robson.

The following have indicated their intention of participating but no deposit has been paid as yet. In order to facilitate everyone, please make your deposit otherwise the space will be made available.

Carl Anders, Cheryl Anders (non-diver), Geoff Geard, John Creswell.

As you can see at the moment, space is still available so anyone interested, please contact the treasurer or us.

As in previous years, each house will work out amongst themselves their own cooking and food arrangements. You should be aware that you are required to provide your own pillows and sheets. **AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL:**

TWO CYLINDERS WHICH ARE IN TEST. The dive shop will NOT REFILL any tanks which are out of test.

The chalets are currently reserved with the RIA in the names of Maree Casley, Peter Horton and Dennis Stubberfield. When keys are released by the RIA, it will be in their names only. In January, Bill and Margaret will make a visit to the RIA office in Fremantle to arrange for a priority check in to the chalets.

As this is the first time we have endeavored to coordinate the trip, errors could be made, please keep your receipts. Bill and I will NOT be going to Rottnest this year so it is important that we get all the details straightened out prior to departure. We can be reached by telephone: 9434-5052 or email at pettigre@iinet.net.au

Happy diving holidays!

Bill and Margaret

Social Snippets



Sandy

Yes!!!... as you can see from Roger's article, the canoe trip was great fun... 17 of us in all, and Bob and I probably got the wettest (I'm still not sure why... but there's a lot to paddling a double canoe, and it's not all technique and strength... there's something psychological about the interaction between the paddlers).

I have decided to postpone the Albany trip until about March next year. The silly season was starting to get too silly and the numbers keen to go now rather low. This means those who want to can join us in Fremantle on the afternoon of **Sunday 19 November** (come along after the dive even) for the **Fremantle Festival**...culminating in watching the 'quirky' **Parade** go past from the bar of the **Orient Hotel on High Street at about 4 PM**. Before and after this various of us will be having lunch and crawling about the streets and pubs of Fremantle taking it all in. To find us, try calling my mobile (0407 993 395) or Susie's mobile (0417 993 141), and we will try to hear it ring over the din.

Don't forget that the **Club AGM and Awards Night is FRIDAY 24 November** in the Willetton Sports Club. I am calling for volunteers to help with providing some nibbles for the night. If you can help, please ring me on 9339 5936 (home) or 9222 4260 (work). I will reimburse you for the cost of the ingredients.

And also don't forget that the **December Club meeting is at Carmine and Carole's house, 44 Bridge Street, Wilson, from 7 PM on Friday 15 December**. Unfortunately, I will be interstate for a couple of days before this, so Little Liz has taken over coordinating the proceedings. I will fly in from interstate (bathers and nose clip in hand, ready to join in the synchronised swimming) before you all get going too far. Cost \$5 per head for which we will provide some beer, soft drinks and nibbles. Otherwise the evening is a BYO barbecue. Bring wine, glasses, plates, cutlery, folding chairs. Men!!! Are you taking up the challenge to enter a synchronised swimming team? Not only that... you could also offer to help with the food; it's not just the province of women.

Keen swimmers... why not book onto the boat for the trip to Rottnest (with maybe a dive on the way) for the **Annual Swim Thru Rottnest on Saturday 2 December?** (I hope they provide a shark patrol!) The boat will be travelling back late, after partying following the 1 mile (!) swim around Thomson's Bay (registration required before the event).

The **Sunday 7 December Christmas Dive** will be followed by a BYO picnic lunch. Mobile phones again should be useful in finding where the "UE" would be able to pick up a few extra family members or raft up with any other boats that wish to join us at a mooring (weather dependent). Book on for the dive as usual but negotiate with the skipper regarding extra people who want to join after that.

As the Club year ends I'd like to say how much I've enjoyed being the Social Butterfly (Dragon Woman). To remind you of the Social Year just past: During the year we had 9 speakers at Club meetings (Jon Carpenter 'Beyond the Mutiny on the Bounty'; Chris Chubb, 'Lobsters'; Dennis Beros 'Dragon Search'; Claire on the sinking of the HMAS Perth; Juliette Pasveer, on the Batavia mutiny; Lawrie Davidson 'A Geologist's view of coastlines and ocean basins from Darlington to Dar es Salaam'; Bob Humphries 'Perth Waste Water'; ??on the WA Fisheris proposal; Sue Harrington Leighton Action Committee). Generally a social event was organised for each month (not all by me): Fremantle Pub Crawl and Parade; Family Prawning night; Festival of Perth Closing pyrotechnics; Rotto Week and long weekend; VCCC Car Rally; Omni Theatre 'Dolphins'; Avon descent and the Avon descent wind up; Music Night; a Club night with videos; and the Canoe trip. The VCCC rally and the Avon Descent were of course our major fundraisers and very social too! Otherwise the most successful social events for involving most members were the Omni Theatre night, the Music Night and the Canoe Trip. All social events were either cost neutral or made a profit and the Sky Show and the Canoe Trip made healthy profits for the Club. The raffles at Club meetings generally covered the cost of nibbles provided and the gift given to each speaker.

I'm happy to carry on as Social Butterfly (Dragon woman) for another year if you wish... as long as you all keep coming forward with ideas for social functions and Club night speakers... and continue help with the social events. I'll need a social subcommittee... so let me know if you are interested.

Well, dear Sandy, I think I speak for all members in the Club by saying that the Club's social calendar and all Club meetings have never been so fun, entertaining and well attended as during the past two years! Well done... thank you! You are the best... and we want you forever!

ED (Club member since early 1980's).

UEC NEWS

The official newsletter for Underwater Explorers Club of W.A. (Inc.)

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~uec



Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year



UEC NEWS
The official newsletter for Underwater Explorers Club of W.A. (Inc.)

DECEMBER 2000

President's Platform

"TIME WAITS FOR NO MAN OR WOMAN"

That sure has been the case this last twelve months. Though the time has flown we have done lots of good things as a Club, such as:

- 1) The VCCCCC.
 - 2) The Avon Descent.
 - 3) We've paid off our boat.
 - 4) We've re-signed our tenant for another 12 months.
 - 5) We managed to get the use of a rescue boat for free.
 - 6) We had a great canoe excursion.
 - 7) Our web site is working well.
 - 8) We've made our desire known to the Government that we want to be consulted on future diving legislation.
 - 9) We are looking at buying a new boat.
- And many other good things.

It seems only yesterday that I was elected President, and yet here we are 12 months later and you've all gone and done it again. I thank you all for your show of confidence and I hope not to disappoint you in the next 12 months. I don't think the job is going to be all that hard because as last year I will be ably assisted by our committed committee.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my committee from last year for their dedication and for their advice in assist-

ing me in my endeavors as President of the Club. I want to especially thank the two retiring committee members, Dennis Stubberfield and Geoff Charlton. You will know both of them as stalwart, long time members of the UEC. They are not going away or leaving us; I believe one of them is going to sow some oats and the other is going to harvest some. They will still remain as committed Club members and

I am sure will lend a hand if we need them. On the other side of the coin we have ended up with two excellent replacements on the committee in Kerry Ashton who requires no introduction as he has been associated with the club for some 13 odd years, and Gary Browne, who is also well known to many of us as a dedicated diver with substantial experience in the marine industry. Kerry has accepted the position of Training Officer and Gary the job of Building Officer.

I wish you all a safe and merry Christmas and a happy New Year in a true spirit of opti-

mism at what the future holds. I hope that most of you will come to the Christmas wind up and meeting at Carol's and my home on Friday the 15th December such that we may personally exchange the festive seasons greetings.

Carmine
austasia@opera.iinet.net.au



**MERRY CHRISTMAS and
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Aims and Objects 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.

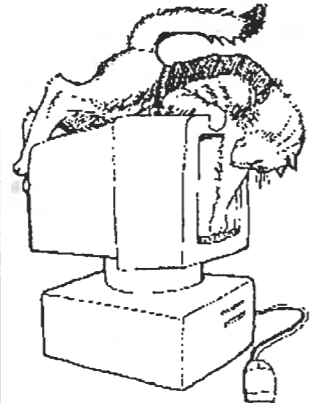
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From The Editor

Here we are again! Another year with the Club newsletter. Thanks for voting me back in - I enjoy doing this! The first year I became Editor for UEC (1988) it was a bit more complicated without the wonderful world of computers and fancy clip art... but I enjoyed it even then. I would also like to take this opportunity to officially THANK ZITA and KERRY so much for their invaluable help with all the proof reading.



Ed. at work with UEC web site:
www.space.net.au/~uec.

What a night—never to be forgotten! It is a very nice gesture of the Club to show their appreciation to a loyal member's "hard" work like this.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Christmas and New Year is VERY close by the time you read this newsletter, and all the party invitations are rolling in. Don't forget that it is just as dangerous to drink and DIVE as to drink and DRIVE.

Make up your mind before you go to that party, if you are going to dive or not the following day! Don't be as foolish as a friend of ours, who ended up in the chamber! (By the way—he didn't dive with UEC!)

Cheers!

Susie

kasdive@inet.net.au



Profile: Susie Ashton

So, who am I... and why did I get honored with the UEC Life Membership?

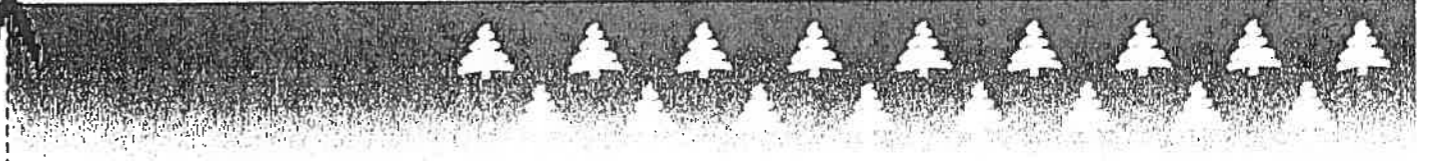
Born a Scorpio (a water sign) in Stockholm, Sweden, 1943, I came to Australia 1980 together with Kerry. 1983 we settled in Perth. After seven years of traveling and living together, Kerry and I finally tied the knot on a Swan River cruiser.

I did my first dive on SCUBA 1962 (see photo) but I didn't get my first "C" card until 15/05/1986. (FAUI). What a turn that took in my life style! A whole new world was there underwater for me to explore, so I joined the Underwater Explorers Club—one of the best things I have ever done!

Two years later I was involved in the committee and have been "working" for the Club in various positions ever since! UEC Constitution and Rules state: "Life Membership may be conferred for especially meritorious services to the Club, at the recommendation of the Committee of Management...."

I am very grateful for the appreciation the Club shows me. UEC has long been an important part of my life and my "extended family". I find it very easy to make new friends here and stimulating to work for the future of the oldest dive club in WA.

My other hobbies and interests are: dive, dive, dive, travel, culture, environmental issues, animal welfare, good friends, good food, and frolicking Freo.



UEC membership fee and annual subscription are due prior to the first day of November.

Membership Renewal Form

IF YOUR FEES ARE OVER DUE...

PLEASE cut out, fill in and return together with your cheque to:
The Treasurer, UEC of WA, PO Box 1157, Booragoon WA 6154
OR hand in at the next General Meeting 15/12/2000
(Also remember that only financial UEC members can dive with us)

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

Date of birth:.....

TELEPHONE: (H).....(W).....

(M).....

E-MAIL ADDRESS:.....

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: (please circle)

Ordinary	Family	Student	Junior	Country	Social
\$75	\$120	\$35	\$35	\$30	\$25

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Fees paid: \$..... Date:.....



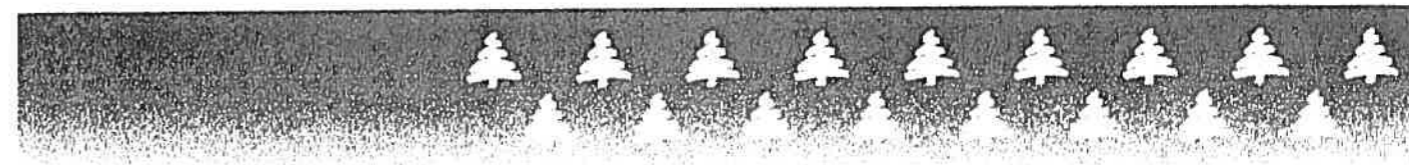
Club Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT	SKIPPER/D.O.
Friday 15th December	1900	General meeting & SOCIAL: Christmas Party BBQ (see details on page 7)	
Sunday 17th December	0800	Swirl Reef; 2 tank dive.	Dennis/ Carl
Saturday 23rd December	0800	Stragglers; 1 tank dive.	Bob / Steve
Saturday 30th December	0800	Parker Point; 2 tank dive.	Geoff / Geoff
Tuesday 2nd January	2000	Committee meeting (Willetton Sports Club, Burrendah Blvd)	
Friday 5th January	1600	Overnighter; 2 tank dive.	Bob / Steve
Sunday 7th January	0800	Radar Reef; 2 tank dive.	Kerry / Clive
Sunday 14th January	0800	West End; 2 tank dive	Dennis / Carl
Monday 15th January	2000	General meeting (Willetton Sports Club, Burrendah Blvd)	
Saturday 20th January	0800	City Beach; 2 tank dive	Carmine / Geoff
Sunday 21st January	0800	Orizaba; 2 tank dive	Peter / Steve
Friday 26th January	1600	SOCIAL: Australia Day Sky Show River Cruise	Kerry / Susie

Boat will leave Challenger Harbour at 0800 hours.
 Divers please be there at 0745 hours.
 All dives to be booked with the Dive Officer Steve Larter:
 Telephone: (H) 92919654, (W) 93170431, (M) 0401775720.
 The Skipper will make cancellation of the dive due to inclement weather on the boat on the morning of the dive.
 Please do not contact the Dive Officer to enquire about possible cancellations of the planned dive.
 Individuals who wish to cancel their booking, please contact the Dive Officer before 1800 hours the night before the dive.
 We do have an answering machine so please leave your booking message.
 The Dive Officer is not good at returning calls.

E-mail bookings welcome > Steve.Larter@pilkington.com.au

Steve



Secretary's Scribble

The following motions were tabled at the 4th December committee meeting:

MOTION 1:
 That Carmine Travaglione keeps the Deeds for the UEC property in his work safe.
 Proposed - Dennis Stubberfield Seconded - Clive Cass (Passed Unanimously)

MOTION 2:
 That the Club purchase a collapsible anchor for the Zodiac inflatable.
 Proposed - Bob McLaughlin Seconded - Clive Cass (Passed Unanimously)

MOTION 3:
 That the UEC membership fees remain unchanged for the next Club Year.
 Proposed - Dennis Stubberfield Seconded - Susie Ashton (Passed Unanimously)

MOTION 4:
 That the role of P.R. Officer be reclassified as a full committee position.
 Proposed - Susie Ashton Seconded - Peter Horton (Passed Unanimously)


MOTION 5:
 That the Constitution of the UEC be altered to reflect the creation of the new committee position, through Motion 4 above, and the resultant increase in committee size.
 Proposed - Dennis Stubberfield Seconded - Geoff Charlton (Passed Unanimously)

**UEC
Committee Members**

At the AGM on 24/11/00 the following UEC members were elected for committee positions:

Committee of Management are:
 PRESIDENT: Carmine Travaglione, Phone 9356 1311
 VICE PRESIDENT: Maureen Cox, Phone 9310 6795
 SECRETARY: Sean Edmett, Phone 9414 5860
 TREASURER: Clive Cass, Phone 9336 4004

Officer-in-Charge for Sub-committees are:
 BOAT: Peter Horton, Phone 9445 2336
 BUILDING: Gary Browne, 9337 9836
 DIVING: Steve Larter, Phone 9291 9654
 MAGAZINE: Susie Ashton, Phone 9331 2385
 SAFETY: Bob McLaughlin, Phone 9454 8450
 SOCIAL: Sandy Webb, Phone 9339 5936
 TRAINING: Kerry Ashton, Phone 9331 2385





*A warm welcome
to new members!*

KYLIE N HERD, Balcatta
 chocshopaholic@hotmail.com

CAMERON PORTER is herewith officially announced as included in Bruce Porter's family membership.





Building Bits

The lease for the period November 2000 to November 2001 has been received by us and needs signing by UEC to confirm its acceptance. This is expected to be done shortly.

The strata manager is yet to set up a meeting to review and vote on the proposed by-laws that are more applicable to our complex.

This is my last report as Building Officer, and I have enjoyed the role over the last twelve months. I have, just last week, handed over the

papers and responsibility to Gary Browne to manage the property on our behalf and offer him my support should it be needed.

Thanks for your past assistance, and I know you will give Gary the same level of support as I received in this role.

Clive
clive@perthmail.com



THE ANGRY JELLYFISH WINS IN THE END by Clive Cass

I guess you might believe this story – probably because it's about Maureen! So we're eagerly at Rotto for the one-mile swim on 2 December. At the swim briefing they advise that St Johns is providing first aid for injuries, sunburn and jellyfish stings. JELLY-FISH!!!

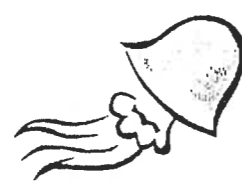
None of us, including Maureen, were too happy to hear 'stingers' are around. To ease my mind I calmly gave Maureen my confidence boosting theory!!!

CLIVE'S THEORY: There are no stingers in December! Anyway with 800 swimmers thrashing through the water before us, all the jellyfish will be munched, squashed, pushed out the way and generally given the old heave-ho!

- The first wave of 200 swimmers would absorb all the stings and provide a warning to jellyfish to leave Thompson Bay.
- The second wave would take care of the brave ones and scatter them further away.

- If that weren't enough, then the third lot of 200 would confirm that a jellyfish holiday in the resort of Kingston Reef would be a good idea.
- And just to tidy up any stragglers, the fourth wave including speedy Zita, would totally clear the area of the bravest-of-the-brave stingers.

With the path clear, our fifth mob of 200 swimmers including Sandy, Maureen, Steve, Michel, Carol, Liz and myself could safely swim around the course. And my theory worked – MOST OF THE TIME!!!



Maureen had a strong swim to finish in record time of just 38 minutes and six seconds. Alas, just at the 38 minute mark of the race there is ONE ANGRY, STIRRED UP, IRATE LITTLE STINGER just waiting to slip inside her bathers. The damage was painful and fortunately not too serious. Maureen did however get to proudly display her injuries - as any hero might!

Treasurer's Trove

As yet I have not received the Treasurer's papers from Peter as he is away for ten days. I expect to receive the truckload of information and documents from him by the next General Meeting.

Congratulations to Peter for the tremendous job he has done as Treasurer over the last fifteen years or so. (I heard it was fifteen). He has certainly set a high standard to follow and I will do my best to maintain the accounts and keep you all informed of the club finances.

Please remember your Club memberships were due on 1 November 2000. For now you can complete the form on page 11 in this newsletter and return it with the payment.

Next year I hope to send out accounts to remind everyone payment is due.

I have been fortunate to dive at Stragglers and Rottnest in the last few weeks. Four crayfish, from just legal size to 1.5 kilogram, kept Eva and my mother-in-law happy.

Looking forward to seeing many Club members on the boat this summer.

Clive
clive@perthmail.com



Conservation Corner

MARINE DEBRIS

A sample of rubbish collected during a ten day clean up of nine kilometres of remote beach in northeast Cape Arnhem included over 2,000 rubber thongs, 3,000 plastic bottles and 500 fishing nets. More than 7,500 items were collected, with a total weight of four tonnes.

The rubbish was collected and surveyed by the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers in conjunction with Rangers from Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation and WWF Australia. The survey was sponsored by Environ-

ment Australia's Coast Care program, Nabalco and Perkins Shipping and has provided important information on the source and composition of debris washing ashore in northern Australia.

(Source: WWF Wildlife News, Spring 2000)

New web site launched:
"WWF Australia's Great Barrier Reef"
www.gbr.wwf.org.au





Training Together

Seasons greetings! Have a safe, prosperous and happy festive season!

Thank you for accepting me as your new Training Officer. I have some large shoes to fill, nevertheless, I have some ideas and actions to take us in a slightly different direction regarding training. Notwithstanding, I will have the support of Dennis and Steve in continuing to run both the Skipper and Dive Officer programs that have been developed and are an excellent way to enhance your boating and diving skills. By the way, we have had tremendous interest from Club members to join the Dive Officer program, welcome aboard! We will pursue this training with vigor to alleviate the current shortage.

In addition to the current training profiles I am intending to kick off evening, half-day and day-long mini work shops to address specific topics relevant to our Club diving. In this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me with suggestions on topics close to your heart. No matter how mundane such as tables, boat eti-



Buddy pairs should be in step with each other

quette, Club regulations, etc. These are all important and aid the efficient and happy running of our Club activities.

As it is Yuletide, Christmas, whatever you want to call it, I think it is pertinent to point out that our *togetherness* in the Club assists in our personal training. How many times have we heard "You never stop learning"? This is also true with diving. We learn from each other by observing, listening, asking questions and sharing our ex-

periences. Being a good Buddy is to assist each other throughout not only the dive but the whole day. What about the de-briefing? "What" you say. Yes, I said the de-briefing. However informal it may be, it is the simple act of talking about the dive, the conditions, what we saw, how we handled things and so on.

This all leads to an exchange of information and is a continuation of our training.

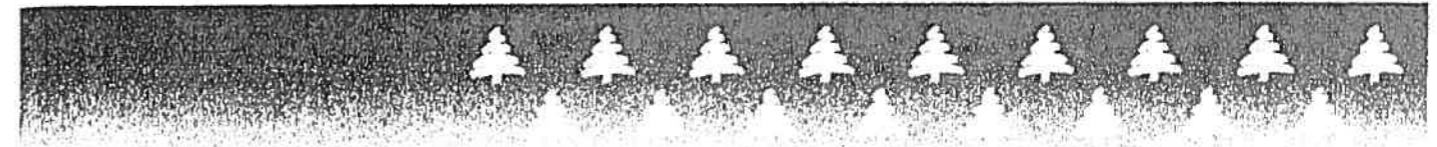
Kerry
kasdive@iinet.net.au



A sad day for Martin and his family

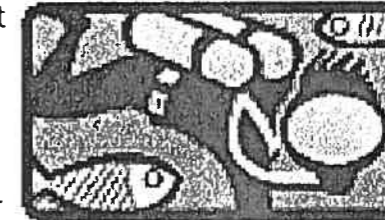
It is with great regret that we advise all members of the passing on of Diedre Smith. Diedre passed away on Thursday the 7th December. Our hearts go out to Martin and his family as we extend our collective condolences on this sad occasion. We can only hope that the pain will soon pass and that it will be replaced by the happy memories.

The UEC Members, Committee and President.



Diving Delights

A big thanks for your confidence at the AGM in accepting my nomination as your Diving Officer for this coming season. To achieve a better season of diving after last season is going to be a hard act to follow but we shall be giving it a huge nudge. We have a lot more going for us this season as we have some really enthusiastic divers who are just starting to find their way around UEC and will be making their mark with us.



The planning for a bigger and better boat needs to be reinforced by demand for dives.

Since the November newsletter we have had some really appalling weather conditions. Coupled with the tragic shark attack at Cottesloe, we have seen demand for dives reduced.



There is little more that can be said about the shark attack, as we seem to have been deluged with shark stories from all areas of the media. It has however enlightened water sports persons to the dangers of the ocean. Sharks are always in the ocean, and scuba diving is considered to be an extreme sport with a degree of risk.

As an independent members Club we endeavor to reduce these risks to make everyone's experience a pleasure and a lot of fun for all members. With this in mind we can spread the word to those divers who may be feeling a little unnerved, and hopefully attract more fun loving divers into our great Club. If you know of any divers who are looking for a club to belong to, bring them along for one of our introductory dives.

Carl's appointment as Dive Officer in July will lighten the load on the current D.O.s and we can now start planning for Saturdays as well as Sunday diving. We have also got another 8 members who have shown interest in becoming

boat diving officers. They will be assisting the duty D.O. on the boat in the not too distant future. We shall also be organizing another training day on the boat in the New Year prior to the Rottneest holiday. Look out in your next newsletter for details.

For those of you who tend to keep putting things off, there is only 25 Sundays from now until June 2001, so please do not put off your diving any longer!

If you have a favourite dive site and want to include it on the Club Calendar, give me a call and we can arrange a trip.

We shall be carrying out some of our famous *exploratory dives* in the future. The first of these will be the City Beach trip on 20/1/2001. The last time we visited this area we discovered some very interesting sites.

Don't put off your diving any longer!

See you on the boat!

Steve
Steve.Larter@pilkington.com.au



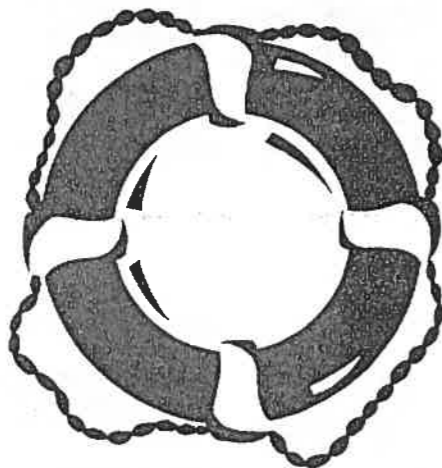


Safety Section

Here we go into another diving season with a new committee who is raring to go and take us into the year 2001. I'm sure we are going to make this yet another safe cycle of diving.

I would just like to draw your attention again to the 'lost buddy' procedure especially to new Club members. Listen carefully to your D.O.'s instructions at the pre dive briefing. Normally, if you lose contact with your buddy, within 1 to 2 minutes you should surface and hopefully you will reconnect. Always remember that while you are underwater it is the responsibility of the D.O. and Skipper to constantly monitor the situation for problems and if you are on the surface and your buddy is nowhere in sight, we have to assume there is a potential problem and raise the alarm.

We had a situation recently where the tide was low and getting onto the boat (when in the pen) was difficult and particularly unsafe (unless you



had Steve Larter's long legs). This was discussed at committee level and it was decided for safety reasons to acquire a ladder (another Carmine freebie) to ensure there are no unnecessary risks taken.

By the time you will have received this newsletter a sub-committee will have been formed to undertake the acquisition of our new Club boat. The even better news is that there are possibilities in the pipeline.

We are still open to suggestions and information from the membership.

Until next month - safe diving!

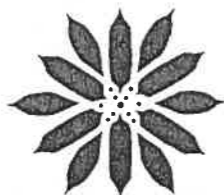
Bob
patmac@iinet.net.au



The Swim thru Rottnest Results

Congratulations to Michel Roux for the fastest time of 31 minutes 4 seconds, followed by:

Zita Dobson (33.05)
Clive Cass (34.54)
Steve Larter (36.33)
Maureen Cox (38.06)
Sandy Webb (40.20)
Carol Travaglione (42.30)
Liz Kerry (52.35).



(Steve won the \$2 from each of us for guessing he'd swim nearest to his nominated time.)

We all did well to finish - what with hundreds of feet to kick you in the head, shoulder and other more fragile places. Anyway, we finished off with a few drinks and a well-earned feed to complete the celebration.

Thanks go to Carmine, the Skipper, and Bob Dobson and Bob McLaughlin for their support on the day.

And YES, we did get our two-Bobs worth.

Clive



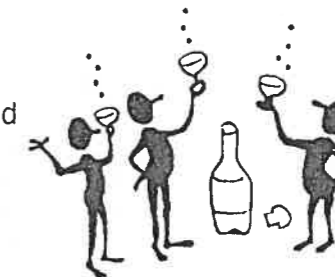
Social Snippets

Arghh!! I cannot keep up with my life at the moment... so not a lot new to report on the social front. Not only that, all the would-be synchronised swimmers claim being similarly overwhelmed (?or reluctant) and we have not been able to have a single practice for the proposed big event at the Christmas meeting/party... so, sadly, you'll all miss out!! (I personally was really looking forward to trying to turn somersaults in the water with a fluffy hat and nose clip on... as another interesting challenge for my mind and body).

That very special December Club meeting is not to be at Willetton on the third Monday of December remember, but at Carmine and Carole's house (44 Bridge Road, Wilson) from 7 PM on Friday 15 December. Cost \$5 per head for which we will provide some beer, soft drinks and nibbles. Otherwise the evening is a BYO everything barbecue. Bring wine, glasses, plates, cutlery, folding chairs as well as your food. This will be a fantastic night in a stunning setting, so come along, with friends and family.

Susie has offered to continue her long tradition of hosting the fabulous Australia Day Sky Show Cruise and numbers are strictly limited so ring her as soon as possible to book on for the river

cruise departing Challenger Harbour at 4pm and costing \$20 (which is to be paid in full before 15 Jan. to confirm your booking). For this Susie provides nibbles followed by a chicken and champagne dinner. (Obviously on Friday 26 January 2001).



SEASONS GREETINGS

There are absolutely no other firm social plans yet for next year... so feel free to offer your suggestions for speakers or social events and also let me know if you would like to be on the Social Sub-Committee. We will have a boozy dinner early in January to develop the program for the year. ANYTHING you suggest will be considered, particularly if you can help organise it!

Have a fantastic holiday time!

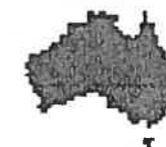
Sandy
sandy_webb29@hotmail.com



Best Dressed Person Prize

A dinkum Aussie prize will be presented to the person dressed in the best Aussie outfit at the Australia Day Sky Show Cruise!

So, if you love the country you have chosen to live in... be proud to show off the Aussie colours! That is the least you can do to honour Aussie on this special day!



DIVE exciting ABROLHOS Four days EASTER HOLIDAY 2001

There is a live-aboard 'ECO ABROLHOS' leaving Geraldton on Friday 13th April ... AND KERRY AND I WILL BE ON IT!! For the whole boat (14 divers) the group rate will be \$235/person/day. That is a VERY moderate price for this luxurious cruiser with air conditioned share cabins, (bedding supplied) all meals (and cappuccino coffee!) They even supply fishing gear. If interested, contact Susie immediately!

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Booragoon, W.A. 6154
uec@space.net.au



Geoff Geard
15 Hawtin Rd
MAIDA VALE WA 6057



We're on the Web!
www.space.net.au/
~uec



UEC NEWS

The official newsletter for Underwater Explorers Club of W.A. (Inc.)

JANUARY 2001

President's Platform

Some will argue that the Millennium started last January and others will say that it actually starts January this year. I don't really think it's that important. In the overall scheme of things it's only a constructed milestone. From our Club's point of view it is this year that we should look forward to; firstly because I believe that looking forward, mindful of the past, is a more positive approach to life and secondly I think we have so many exciting things to look forward to this year that we on the committee certainly feel motivated to jump in and start trying to make some of the exciting things become a reality.

What are these things??? You may well ask.

For a start, our diving season is now in full swing and we are still working on finding a new boat that will enhance this experience.

We have been asked to commit to the Avon Descent again, in a more involved way.

Our Rotto annual holiday is coming up.

Some interesting meetings and

guest speakers are on the agenda for this year.

Our Australia Day boat trip is coming up among many other social events and excursions, not to mention our 'keep fit swimming and health food after' campaign.

I am sure you will all agree that we can look forward to this year being an exciting one. One that will provide the opportunity for all club members to participate in many, if not all activities, that will not only help in the furtherance of the Club as a leader in recreational diving activities, but will also enrich the lives of the participants and provide an outlet and medium for expression of physical activities and personal desires to be part of some fulfilling activity that may not otherwise be available in our personal daily lives.

See what a great Club you belong to and partly own!

I hope to see you all at our next meeting because I need your advice and help on certain matters that affect us all.

CARMINE
austasia@inet.net.au

Aims and Objects 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.

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UEC Committee

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT:

PRESIDENT:

Carmine Travaglione, Phone 9356 1311

VICE PRESIDENT:

Maureen Cox, Phone 9310 6795

SECRETARY:

Sean Edmett, Phone 9414 5861

TREASURER:

Clive Cass, Phone 9336 4004

SUB COMMITTEES:

BOAT:

Peter Horton, Phone 9445 2336

BUILDING:

Gary Browne, Phone 9337 9836

DIVING:

Steve Larter, Phone 9291 9654

MAGAZINE & WEB:

Susie Ashton, Phone 9331 2385

SAFETY:

Bob McLaughlin, Phone 9454 8580

SOCIAL:

Sandy Webb, Phone 9339 5936

TRAINING:

Kerry Ashton, Phone 9331 2385



From The Editor

I hope you had a terrific Christmas break and a roaring start to the new year! Kerry and I did—that's for sure!

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who complimented me on the "new look" newsletter. Always nice to hear a good word in that direction.

And here is another idea of mine. In order for you all to get to know a bit about a new member of our eminent Club, I will do a presentation of him/her, if possible. (Otherwise I'll come up with a face from the UEC committee.)

We start this new, exciting series with MARK FORBES, who is the latest joined member. He was introduced to the Club by our "old" member and friend Ron Phonemyint. Mark came out diving with us for the first time on the Christmas dive/party in December. Also, check out some new, really good photos taken by Mary Edwards from that day on our web site's "Album" page.

Other than that I can only say—I hope we will all catch up on the boat, diving LOTS together this season.

Cheers!

SUSIE (still cat-less)

kasdive@iinet.net.au



U.E.C. INVOICE

**IF YOUR FEE IS OVER DUE -
Please use this Renewal Form when paying your membership fee.**

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....
.....

Date of birth:.....

TELEPHONE: (home).....(work).....

(mobile).....

E-MAIL ADDRESS:.....

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: (please circle)

Ordinary Family Student Junior Country Social
\$75 \$120 \$35 \$35 \$30 \$25

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Fees paid: \$..... Date:.....

Snorkelling for fun and education

With the hope of expanding the membership of the Club, and the purchase of a bigger and better boat, and of course it's use.

One way I feel to achieve both these aims is to encourage more snorkelling.

It has always been my opinion that there are people who are possibly better off starting underwater activities by being educated in snorkelling first.

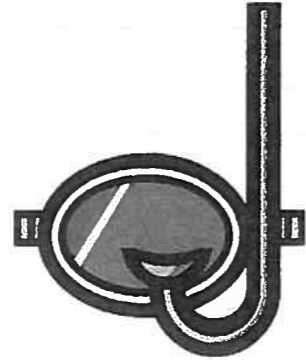
Learn the basic equipment of mask, fins, snorkel, wetsuit, weight belt, etc.

All the different entries such as backward roll, step and enter, beach, and rocky shore entries.

Learn the physics of light, sound and buoyancy. Pressure and gases which relate to the lungs, sinuses, ears, etc. and the barotraumas that can affect a diver.

Carbon dioxide poisoning, and most importantly, the dangers of hyperventilation.

The different stages of hypothermia, its prevention and first aid, and how to revive a diver suffering from it.



Miscellaneous complaints such as salt water fever, outer ear infection, near drowning, sunburn, heat exhaustion and seasickness.

First aid pertaining to underwater activities.

All about potentially dangerous marine animals.

Understanding water movement, dive planning, post dive brief, the importance of the buddy system and rescues.

Perhaps the most important aspect of this education is for the person to gain experience about our sport in a less complex way compared to SCUBA and become comfortable in the ocean before going into a SCUBA course and all its different facets, if they should so desire.

Yours in diving,

GORDON A PIRIE
maureenpirie@hotmail.com

Profile of the month: Mark Forbes



Born in Auckland, New Zealand in 1971 under the star sign of Pisces (the fish) I was first introduced to the water as a 'water baby'. Since then I have experienced many water sports.

1989 I achieved PADI 'Open water', 'Advanced Open Water' and completed 'Search and Rescue'. Suddenly a whole new world opened up. I became addicted and joined two clubs while assisting my dive instructor with his classes in return for free dives.

After my studies in mechanical engineering, at the age of 23, England became my destiny, based on a working holiday and a chance to discover the world. Within three years I had covered around 30 countries and dived great places such as Caribbean, Red Sea, Lake Malawi and South Africa.

Travelling back to New Zealand I stopped off here in Perth to visit some relatives and fell in love with the place. Arrived back in NZ to work as a 'Deck Hand' with National Geographic, hunting Giant Squid off the South Island - Kaikoura coast.

Career wise nothing was happening in New Zealand. A good friend from Perth invited me over for a holiday and I never had the desire to return. Perth has so much to offer - not to mention the diving! And a chance to meet new people.

My other interests are windsurfing, long boarding, tennis and squash, rugby, camping, tramping, socialising, and best of all partying!

MARK
msf@inet.net.au

Building Business

Hi every one! This is my first report as your new Building Officer since taking over from Clive Cass.

What is a Building Officer doing in a dive club you ask. For those new members that don't know, our Club owns a factory unit in Shields Crescent, Booragoon. We have a tenant, Mr Richard Mouttet who runs a business known as Inkpot Printing and Stationery.

The Building Officer's job is to maintain contact with the tenant, attend strata company meetings, deal with any problems he may have and generally keep him happy enough to want to renew the lease each year.

The lease was recently renewed and will run from 1 Nov 2000 to 31 Oct 2001.



The tenant has had an ongoing problem with a fellow that runs a panel beating business nearby. The panel beater has a habit of parking car bodies on common ground and at times this restricts Richard's access and his customers access to his business.

Our strata company manager is addressing this problem and has recently written to the panel beater advising him that action will be taken if he persists in this annoying behaviour. I have advised Richard that we are endeavouring to resolve this issue.

See you on the boat!

GARY
browneg@iinet.net.au

Did you know....

NUDIBRANCHS:

The name nudibranch means "naked gills".

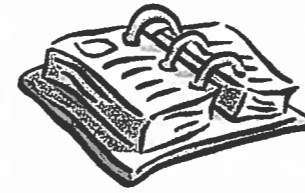
Some nudibranchs wear their gills on their backs, pulling them into special pockets if alarmed.

Nudibranchs are hermaphrodites and a mating pair exchanges sperm. These may be stored for weeks before they are used to fertilize eggs, which are laid on a favoured food.

A nudibranch larva swims free and does not change into an adult unless it meets a suitable surface with opportunities to feed.

Most nudibranchs favour special diets. They are carnivorous, and many species feed on a very specific food source. In these cases the animals are usually found on their food.

A nudibranch's life circle is short—only one year or often much less.



Club Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT	SKIPPER/D.O.
Sunday 14 January	0800	West End; 2-tanks	Dennis/Geoff
Monday 15 January	2000	General meeting (Willetton Sports Club, Burrendah Blvd)	
Saturday 20 January	0800	City Beach; 2 tanks	Bob/Steve
Sunday 21 January	0800	Orizaba wreck; 2 tanks	Peter/Clive
Friday 26 January	1600	SOCIAL: Australia Day Sky Show Cruise (Kerry/Susie)	
Saturday 27 January	0800	Stragglers; 2-tanks	Bob/Steve
Sunday 28 January	0800	Anders' Meander; 2-tanks	Geoff/Carl
Saturday 3 February	0800	Mortimer's Hump; 2-tanks	Carmine/Clive
Sunday 4 February	0800	Kerry's Caverns; 2-tanks	Dennis/Geoff
Monday 5 February	2000	Committee meeting	
Saturday 10 February	0800	Radar Reef; 2-tanks	Bob/Steve
Sunday 11 February	0800	West End; 2-tanks	Peter/Carl
Saturday 17 February	0800	Deep dive (30m); 2-tanks	Kerry/Steve
Sunday 18 February	0800	Cathedral Rocks; 2-tanks	Carmine/Geoff
Monday 19 February	2000	General meeting (Willetton Sports Club, Burrendah Blvd)	

Boat will leave Challenger Harbour at 0800 hours.

Divers please be there at 0745 hours.

All dives to be booked with the Dive Officer Steve Larter:

Telephone: (H) 92919654, (W) 93170431, (M) 0401775720.

The Skipper will make cancellation of the dive due to inclement weather on the boat on the morning of the dive.

Please do not contact the Dive Officer to enquire about possible cancellations of the planned dive. Individuals who wish to cancel their booking, please contact the Dive Officer before 1800 hours the night before the dive.

We do have an answering machine so please leave your booking message.

The Dive Officer is not good at returning calls.

E-mail bookings welcome > Steve.Larter@pilkington.com.au
Steve

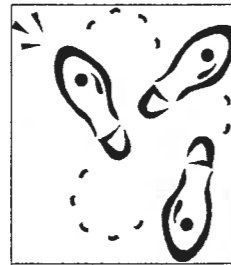
Training Together

How many of us have forgotten our basic diving knowledge and skills, let alone practice them? Do we check our tables? Do we buddy check? Do we buddy breathe? DO get to the point, Kerry!

Yes, we are having a

TABLE REFRESHER NIGHT

Tuesday 16 January at 7.30pm at my place. Duration: 90 minutes. Please book with me.



Buddy pairs should be in step with each other

bits and pieces the Club has acquired. This mini session is pitched at Skippers and Dive Officers in training. However, there is nothing like a refresher for current Skippers and DOs... and, of course, all interested members once again are invited to see how we do things. It may well encourage you to progress in the Club. (Book with me.)

This will cover basic tables and use. Bring your tables, computers, log books, diving scenarios, etc. We can go over past dives, compare tables, practice scenarios and generally brush up. Even if you dive on computer, you will get something out of this. Even if you have dived for years—you will not lose face. Don't be shy. All members welcome.

DEEP DIVE REFRESHER NIGHT

Tuesday 13 February at 7.30pm at my place. Duration: About 90 minutes.

A refresher night to brush up/learn the extra knowledge and care required for deeper recreational diving. This will be especially beneficial for those doing the deep dive on 17/2.

COMING UP: Rubber Duck handling.

BLACK BOX KNOWLEDGE

Tuesday 30 January at 7pm aboard "U.E." in the pen. Duration: Approx. one hour.

What is The Black Box? Well, it is a fountain of knowledge containing all sorts of interesting

Think your diving!

KERRY

kasdive@inet.net.au

Treasurer's Trove

The Club finances are in good shape and we look forward to planning for the next dive boat.

Thanks to the many members who have paid their membership so promptly. There are still some who have yet to renew membership, and it will help me immensely if you can pay at the Club meeting on 15/1. Please use the Renewal Form on page 11 in this newsletter.

It's also important for those Club members wishing to go on the boat and dive, as unfortunately unfinancial members cannot dive!!!



And... unpaid members will miss out on the fabulous Newsletter and info on the wonderful social events planned for the future.

I'm looking forward to catching a few more crayfish and seeing you all on the boat this summer.

Wishing everyone a great year for 2001.

CLIVE

clive@perthmail.com

Diving Delights

Happy New Year! What a start to 2001, perfect weather conditions and plenty of organised dives ready and waiting for divers to book onto and get out there to enjoy the conditions. We need you our members out on the boat taking full advantage of the facilities we have to offer and the enormous range of diving locations we have access too.



ence we can arrange for some introductory deep diving skills training as a build up to diving deeper. Your diving skills will be improved and the adventure of diving in some virgin dive sites can be very rewarding.

You may even get a new dive site named after you.

The Saturday and Sunday dive program has now commenced. To maintain this successfully we must have adequate numbers for both days. Having a full boat will mean better choices of dives. We need a minimum of 4 divers to ensure the trip will be viable.

To make our diving more interesting we need to find some new dive locations for our dive log. As we progress through the season I would like to arrange for some dives to be a little more challenging by diving deeper than normal. Dives over 30m are easily available around Rottneest. We have the logistics and the experienced members who can lead deep diving expeditions. Look out for the deep diving trips for details.

If you think you need some additional experi-

Don't put off your diving any longer!



Check your diary and book on, remember, the summer will be gone before you notice, so stop putting off your diving and get out there with us. If you would like to arrange for any particular type

of dive or location, please contact me so we can accommodate any requirements. Remember this is YOUR Club and YOUR facilities, so make the most of everything!

See you on the boat!

STEVE

Steve.Larter@pilkington.com.au

NEW MEMBERS :

Mark Forbes, Padbury
Christopher Cartwright, Morley
Vince Page, Scarborough

A warm welcome to the Club!

NOMINATION:
Colin Jackson, Willetton

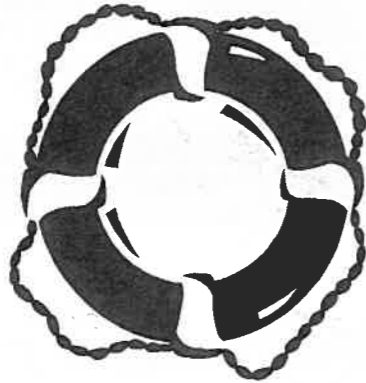
Safety Section

Just a reminder that safety on the boat or on a dive should be the responsibility of all members. We should be more vigilant especially of our new members.

New members are often teamed up with more experienced UEC divers so that they can be shown how we do things. If as a UEC member you are buddied up with someone you don't know, you may find they are likely to have varying diving qualifications and possibly limited diving experience and/or fitness.

This would normally be pointed out by the DO providing he has made the necessary checks, but it would do no harm to communicate with your new buddy on dive experience etc. Other checks should be equipment, underwater communication (hand signals) and emergency procedures should you be separated during the dive.

Buddy diving is based on the concept of individual responsibility. By agreeing to be a buddy



you take on a moral obligation to stay together, to help each other, to provide assistance in an emergency and to follow generally accepted safe diving practices to the best of your ability.

New members should be shown the UEC standards of safe diving procedure. Although safety is a key element it need not take the joy, excitement and pleasure out of your sport. You need to abide by the current margin of safety and then dive within your own comfort zone defined by depth, time, activity, water conditions and your buddy's capabilities.

Understanding the comfort zone of the less experienced diver should always take precedence.

Until next month - safe diving!

BOB
patmac@iinet.net.au

Secretary's Scribble

All members please note:

At the February general meeting there will be a vote on a motion proposing to change the constitution.

The committee would like as many members as possible to turn up for this important occasion.

See you there!

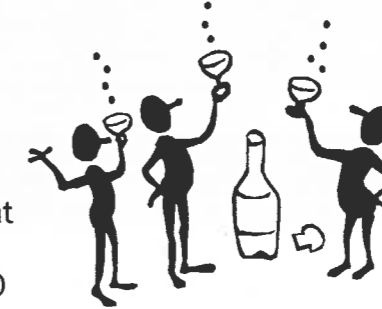
SEAN
medicalimaging@compuserve.com

Social Snippets

No social report from Sandy this time because she is heavily involved in social activities with her visiting relatives.

Just a report from Susie stating that the Australia Day Sky Show Cruise is fully booked and payment of \$20 per person should be done to her by the January general meeting at the latest for those who put their names down - otherwise your space goes to someone else!

Champagne cocktail and nibbles will be served a.s.a.p. after boarding at 1600, Challenger Harbour. A pick-up at the RPYC will happen about an hour later for those north of the river, if you prefer. Please just let me (Susie) know where you'll be. At 1800 we indulge in a chicken din-



ner and desert. Sky show starts at 2000. Don't forget to bring a comfy chair, a drinking vessel and whatever extra drinkies you want plus bathers, if you are shy! We might stop somewhere for a night dip on the way home.



Also, honour the country where you chosen to live! Dress up in Aussie style or colours! A nice prize will be awarded to the winner.

Cheers!

Susie
kasdive@iinet.net.au

Rottnest Mini Holiday

SPACE AT ROTTO FOR THE ANNUAL UEC DIVING HOLIDAY

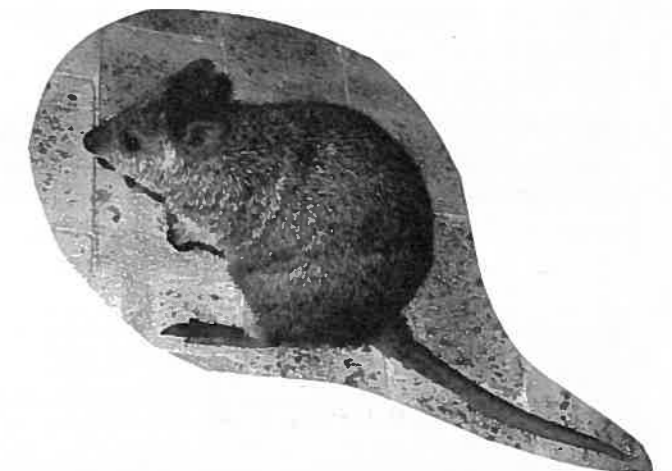


The long weekend is totally booked at the moment with a short waiting list but the previous week of February 26 - March 2 still has vacancies. There is space available for four persons in a sea front cottage on pristine Geordie Bay. Why not sign up for the week and enjoy yourself diving, swimming, fishing, cycling and all those other activities which pass the time in a very pleasant way. A nice, inexpensive diving holiday. Speak to Bill or Margaret or bring your big pen or pencil with cheque book and talk to Clive Cass. (He also accepts cold hard cash.)

A gentle reminder that all fees must be paid by the January meeting in order to secure your booking.

Finally, but very importantly, at the request of several people going to Rottnest on the long weekend, the boat will now return on MONDAY afternoon NOT Tuesday as was previously indicated. This should save many members having to take a "sickie".

Bill and Margaret
Phone 9434 5052
E-mail: pettigre@iinet.net.au





Geoff Geard
15 Hawtin Rd
MAIDA VALE WA 6057



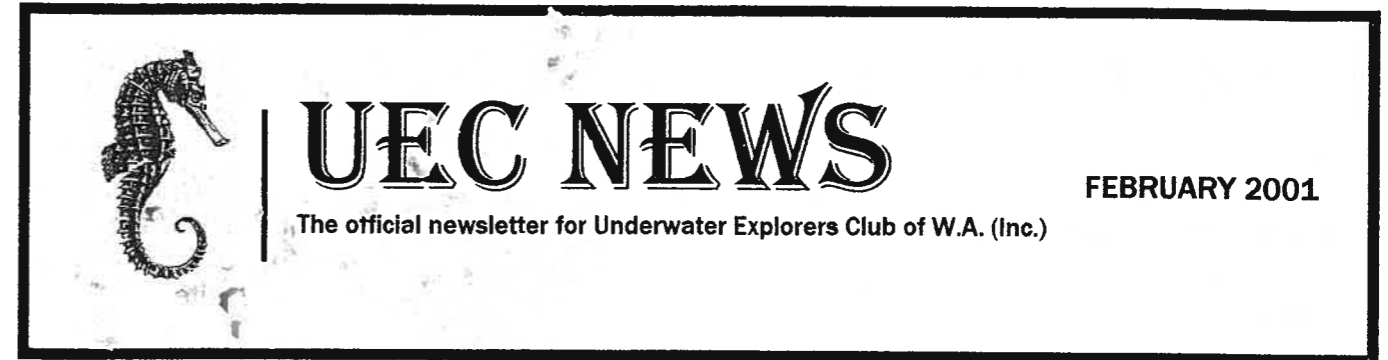
CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY—SUNDAY 4TH MARCH

It's on again, been going for 12 years now.

A fabulous concept—tho I can NEVER understand WHY anyone would/could litter in the first place.

Those of us who will be lounging at Rotto could/should use the Club colours for a couple of hours and do our bit?!

Zita Dobson
zitabob@bigpond.com.au



President's Platform

At the last general meeting I asked those present if we should accept the further responsibility of doing our own catering at this year's Avon Descent. Without exception, after I explained the implications, all agreed that we should. I submitted our quotation to the head of the Avon Descent committee, Jim Smith, and as of today I have not heard back, but on the positive side I have had a terrific response from the many talented and capable catering and food connoisseurs that abound in our great club. If they accept our quotation I feel very sure that you will be in for a culinary treat at the Avon Descent this year. I will keep you posted.

Boy, I tell you, we are really mustering well at the moment. I think this month we have around nine or so nominations. This augers well for our plans to look for a larger boat, as soon we won't be able to fit all the divers on the small but brave *Underwater Explorer*. On that score we are still looking and our sub committee chief for boats, Bob McLaughlin, has proffered a few but found none to be quite right. We are even considering a Junket... ooops I mean a fact finding trip to Geraldton to maybe try and find a suitable craft.

Most of you will know one of our younger members, Kylie Herd. On Saturday the 3rd of February I skipped a dive to a really beaut spot called *Mortimer's Hump*. Kylie brought along with her a nice young man, as a pack horse, who is becoming a member,

Mark Sach. As it turns out, Mark is a fairly keen diver with, it appears from the 2123 certificates he carries around, a fairly good working knowledge of Nitrox diving and diving with mixed gasses. I am hoping by mentioning him in my article that I will be able to embarrass him into sharing his knowledge with us and create another facet to our already multi-faceted club.

This approach is one that I hope will be constant in the attitude of our club; and that is of course to move ahead, forever exploring new horizons and remain a leader on the cutting edge of diving. Provided that we always come from a perspective of knowledge I am sure that diving in the most up-to-date ways will not only prove challenging but will also become a magnet for the people looking for a club with depth and breadth.

Thanks to a great extent to Zealous Zita, this year we have really lucked out for next year's Rotto trip. Zita camped out overnight and with a little help from some of us we managed to get some really great chalets for next year. In anticipation of an increase in interest and our membership, we increased our real estate holdings on Rotto next year to four chalets. Book early folks! I already have.

I look forward to seeing you at the next general meeting (Monday 19th).

CARMINE
austasia@iinet.net.au

Aims and Objects 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.

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UEC Committee

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT:

PRESIDENT:

Carmine Travaglione, Phone 9356 1311

VICE PRESIDENT:

Maureen Cox, Phone 9310 6795

SECRETARY:

Sean Edmett, Phone 9414 5861

TREASURER:

Clive Cass, Phone 9336 4004

SUB COMMITTEES:

BOAT:

Peter Horton, Phone 9445 2336

BUILDING:

Gary Browne, Phone 9337 9836

DIVING:

Steve Larter, Phone 9291 9654

MAGAZINE & WEB:

Susie Ashton, Phone 9331 2385

SAFETY:

Bob McLaughlin, Phone 9454 8580

SOCIAL:

Sandy Webb, Phone 9339 5936

TRAINING:

Kerry Ashton, Phone 9331 2385

From The Editor



REVOLUTIONARY NEWS!
You will soon be able to book your UEC dive on the Club's website!

With a little help from our expert in the trade, Sean Gardiner, this should be possible pretty soon... or maybe it already is there by the time you get this newsletter! Here you can also see who has booked on for the same dive! Hope this will make it more convenient and fun for you and will inspire you to book on MORE dives! (If you do NOT have access to the internet, don't worry—you can still get Steve on the telephone, of course.)

Sandy is giving me a lot of credit for the Sky Show organisation (*thank you, my pleasure*) but I must take the opportunity here to thank her officially for the absolutely sumptuous salads she contributed. It would not have been the same without them... or herself present!

Check out the Album page on our web site for some photos from this great evening!

Cheers!

SUSIE—now a proud cat mother again! *)

kasdive@iinet.net.au

*) one cross-eyed Chocolate Burmese (*Chico*) and one Gray Stray (*Chiquita*).



Club Calendar

Saturday 17 th February	0800	Deep dive (30m)	2 Tank dive	Kerry / Steve
Sunday 18 th February	0800	Cathedral Rocks	2 Tank dive	Carmine / Geoff
Monday 19 th February	2000	General meeting at Willetton Sports Club, Burrendah Blvd		
Wednesday 21 st February	1915	Lai Lai Restaurant, 95 Queen Victoria Street, Fremantle		
Saturday 24 th February – Monday 5 th March ROTTNEST				
Monday 5 th March	2000	Committee meeting		
Saturday 10 th March	0800	Roger's Rocks	2 Tank dive	Carmine / Carl
Sunday 11 th March	0800	Parker Point	2 Tank dive	Bob / Steve
Saturday 17 th March	0800	Jumbo Cave	2 Tank dive	Peter / Geoff
Sunday 18 th March	0800	Anders' Meander	2 Tank dive	Kerry / Clive
Monday 19 th March	2000	General meeting, Willetton Sports Club, Burrendah Blvd		
Friday 23 rd -Sunday 25 th March ALBANY				
Saturday 24 th March	0800	Exploration Dive	2 Tank dive	Carmine / Carl
Sunday 25 th March	0800	Martin's Arches	2 Tank dive	Geoff / Geoff
Saturday 31 st March	0800	City Beach	2 Tank dive	Bob / Steve

Boat will leave Challenger Harbour, Fremantle @ 0800 hours.
Divers! Please be there @ 0745 hours.

All dives to be booked with the Dive Officer, Steve Larter:
(h) 92919654; (w) 93170431; (mobile) 0401775720.
E-mail bookings: Steve.Larter@pilkington.com.au

The Skipper will cancel the dive due to inclement weather on the boat on the morning of the dive. Please do not contact the Dive Officer to enquire about possible cancellations of the planned dive. Individuals who wish to cancel their booking, please contact the Dive Officer before 1800 hours the night before the dive.

We do have an answering machine so please leave your booking there.
(The Dive Officer is not good at returning calls.)

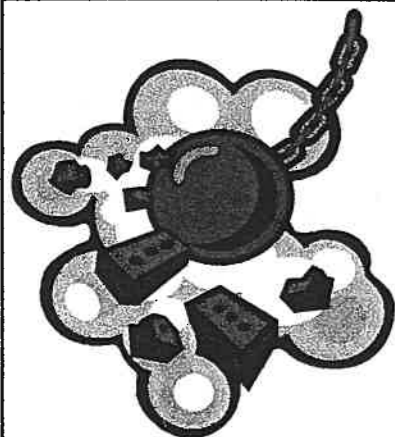
WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS :

Benjamin Bridgham, Como
Glenn Pirie, Belmont
Mark Sach, Swanbourne
Rhonda & Robert Stagg, Perth

NOMINATIONS:

Russell Mortimer, Currambine
Megan Re, Karrinyup
Gregory Tulusso, Bern

Club Notice Board



Barry's Shack

We will be demolishing the shack at Jurien Bay on the weekend of May 5 & 6, and would appreciate help to do this from any one willing to lend a hand. For those who have enjoyed the charms and ambience of the shack over past years, this is an opportunity, never to be repeated, to partake in one last farewell. We will be camping in tents near to the shack, and will probably

stay a little longer than just the weekend - we will need time to dry the tears and drown the sorrows, after all is said and done.

Please register your interest to participate by phoning Barry on 9359 1727; mob 0409 591 727, or Judy - phone wk 9239 9341 a/h 9331 2005, mob 0403 480 711.

Do you remember our Club mate DAVID Z? We have seen him on stage now... and he is good!

David's next play is Shakespeare's "Much ado about nothing" where he performs as Leonardo.

Kerry and I are going on Friday 16 March! Interested in joining us at the Spare Puppet Theatre in Freo? (only \$15)

SHORE DIVE

Saturday 3 March 2001, 8.30 AM, on the grass in front of Malibu Diving, Rockingham:

Why not join "Little Liz" for a shore dive and BYO brunch - a chance for a shared diving experience while the UE and a number of members are away for the annual Rottneest diving holiday?

Please ring Liz on 9434 6878 if you plan to go.

Profile of the month: Kylie Herd

I am a Pisces born in Perth in 1975, being the eldest of three children. I was born in the same hospital as my mother and grandmother and my family have lived in Perth for over 100 years. I have only resided in the northern suburbs and fortunately have had the opportunity to travel around Australia and overseas.

I completed TEE in Year 12 and have worked as a conveyancer, managing and working in settlement agencies for the past 5 years. As much as I would love to dive every day, I have to support my diving, shopping and travelling addictions some how!

It was my visit to Bali for Christmas/New Year last year that inspired me to learn to dive. I have always admired the beautiful coral and colourful fish experienced when snorkelling so I attempted an introductory dive in the hotel swimming pool. I then booked to do the Open Water Course the same week I returned from Bali.

I completed the Open Water Course with Australia Scuba Centre in April 2000 and now wish I'd learnt sooner! Although suffering from chronic seasickness, a fear of water (especially cold water!) and having problems equalising, I was determined to continue diving. I must have been keen, as I managed to dive all through winter having just learnt to dive.

I am renowned with friends for being a Japanese tourist so it came as no surprise when I purchased an underwater camera a month after learning to dive. I have become obsessed with anything 'different' and on a recent trip to Albany was delighted to see Common Seadragons on numerous dives. I also dived with New Zealand Fur Seals which was an amazing experience as they were very curious and playful.

I recently completed the Advanced, Night and Nitrox courses with an independent instructor. I had the opportunity to night dive on the Swan wreck in Dunsborough which was fantastic. I found diving with Nitrox very beneficial for me as I have lengthy decent times due to equalising problems.

My life is now revolving around diving and I'm hoping to have many exciting overseas dive trips in the near future. Being one to feel the cold I'm sure to love the warmth and colour of tropical waters. Besides, what could be better than a post-dive cocktail under a palm tree!

My other interests include sleeping (as anyone on the boat with me would know!), shopping, travelling and dining out

KYLIE
chocshopaholic@hotmail.com

(Kylie surfed the net, found our web site, e-mailed us, came to a meeting, did a dive and joined the Club.)



Boating Bits

Hi everyone! This is my first report as Boating Officer. As you might know writing reports is not my best thing. (I only hope Susie gets it in time.)

Pat Troy and I cleaned the bilges and took out 80 litres of oil and water, trying to find the oil leak which has been bugging me for a while. I think we have found it.

I am working on a few projects when I have time. One is storing the outboard motor and the other is a davit for lifting the inflatable boat—and these take time.



The only major thing that has happened is that I made a box for the key to the gate in Challenger Harbour. The box is locked on to the railings by our boat and has a boat key pad lock on it, so our Skippers and D.O.s can open the gate to get on the boat easier.

I am also looking into replacing the engine hatch cover.

PETER
phort@space.net.au

Building Business

Hello everyone, here's another boring report from your Building Officer. I have been in touch with our tenant regarding the ongoing problem he has with the panel beater next door leaving old car bodies parked on the common property interfering with access.

I will be attending a Strata Company meeting that has been arranged in a week or two; other tenants and property owners have also complained about the car bodies so our Strata Company is getting the Strata Referee involved to force their removal. I guess this is a bit like one of your bitter and twisted neighbours leaving his old bomb parked on your front lawn or in your driveway.

On a lighter note I am about to build on my diving skills, as part of the training requirements for the job of D.O. I am going to be doing a Rescue Diver Course and DAN Oxygen Administration Course. The reason I mention this is that, at the last committee meeting we discussed



the need to look at updating our oxygen equipment that we have on the boat. It may well be adequate if we do have an emergency. However, the newer Oxyviva type sets available nowadays have a lot more flexibility. If any members out there have any experience with these newer sets or know

where we can buy one at the right price, please let me know or bring it up at the next general meeting.

All the best to our girls in "The Roaring Forties" team for the Cott/Rott swim.

Is it just me or have all the crayfish gone into hibernation??

GARY
browneg@inet.net.au

> No, Gary! We saw heaps at Swirl Reef last Sunday! (Even caught one beauty.)

Ed.

Training Together

I am impressed!

Club members came out of the woodwork for the first training refresher, TABLES, eager to learn and discuss. Did we have a good session? In my opinion and from the feedback, YES. We may not have solved the riddle of the universe and where the big bang stops, but then that is another session. A repeat—see below.

The "Black Box" (will I ever stop using this term?) was a different style of session, being more of a working, tidying, thrashing ideas around evening. This was an informal, and I think, beneficial exercise for those taking part.

DEEP DIVE REFRESHER

Hopefully you went to theory (13/2) so now the real thing: Saturday 17 February at the boat. Don't forget to book!!

NAVIGATION REFRESHER NIGHT

Tuesday 13 March, 7.30pm at my place. Duration: about 90 minutes.

How to get there, how to know where you are, how to get back... underwater!

Take the tension out of your diving, improve your safety, take control of your dive. This session is not only about compass (helpful of course) work, so do not shy away thinking it is all too hard and technical - you may even enlighten yourself or me for that matter. We will cover simple and easy methods to assist you, perhaps some of you never thought about or have applied since your past training. Now is the time to refresh.

Practical application:

1) A shore dive to sort out attributes such as distance, speed, depth, direction and so on. What date will be decided with those who are interested on the theory evening and others who may just wish to join in on the practical get wet side.



Buddy pairs should be in step with each other

2) I would like to encourage participants with a bent for Exploration to join me on the Saturday March 24 dive to practise your skills. Psst, I haven't told Carmine/Carl yet, but I am sure they will accommodate us if we book!!

TABLE REFRESHER NIGHT
(back by popular demand)
Monday 26 March, 7.30pm at my place.
Duration: about 90 minutes.

Not only a repeat but a continuation for those who attended the first session where we can cover some of the more difficult questions or tables (not mentioning any names of course).

COMING UP: Wait for....rr.....rr it!

RUBBER DUCK HANDLING

Give me a break, patience, wait till we have a more permanent fixture. In the meantime I am sure you are getting on the job training and will be able to educate me. I do hope you are not picking up bad habits along the way.

NIGHT DIVING

So you can join our stalwarts in the river, who are always looking for buddies.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING TO ANY OF THE SESSIONS SO I CAN ACCOMMODATE YOUR THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE.

Trust your diving!

KERRY
kasdive@inet.net.au

"The Roaring Forties"



As members of UEC are probably by now aware, a small band of your members will swim from Cottesloe to Rottnest on the 24th February.

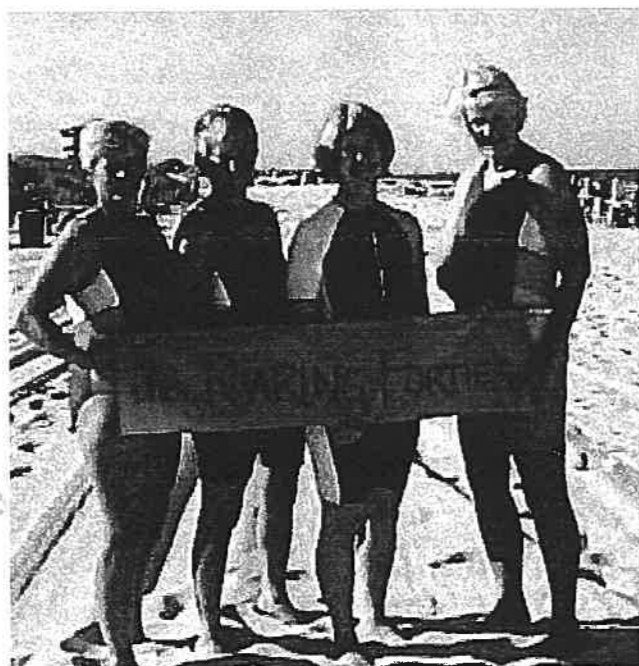
You may ask yourselves why they are doing this, and indeed we are asking ourselves the same question.

We will have the dubious honour of being the oldest women's team to have swum in this event and I guess that is a good enough reason. You may also ask yourselves about our mental stability, and indeed we are now questioning this but I won't go down *that* path.

Apparently, we appear worthwhile to Skids Sun Wear of Willetton, as they are our sponsors for the race. This company makes bathers, rash-vests, wetsuits and all manner of swim wear. They have supplied us with the nicest, brightest pieces of bathers, vests, swim-shorts, etc. for which we are most grateful.

Skids Sun Wear has a showroom at their factory (Unit 8, 10 Whyalla Street) and sell to the public. Their prices are fantastic and the quality of the gear is great. So, when you are thinking of buying anything in the swim range, remember this company; and if you mention that you are a member of UEC, you will get a further discount from them.

MAUREEN



Zita
Sandy
Carol
Maureen

Diving Delights

The count down to the annual Rottnest UEC Expedition is on again—24th February to 5th March. For those lucky enough to be going they can look forward to a busy ten days of diving and socialising. It will be an advantage for those attending to ensure that your diving equipment is in top working order and that your level of fitness is up to the challenges of the trip. I would recommend that you try and get out for a 2-tank dive to check out both before the 24th. We have plenty of spaces on the boat for the 17th and 18th the weekend before the trip. For those of you who will be swimming in the Cottesloe to Rottnest event, you are excused. Good luck to you, we have every confidence that you will do us proud.

Since the new seasons diving commenced we have successfully completed 15 boat dive trips involving 53 individual divers carrying out 179 dives. We are a little behind with the numbers compared to last season so we have to catch up and get more members out there enjoying the ocean and what it offers. Remember, there are not so many occasions you get the opportunity to dive in some of the best locations during the season, so putting off your sport till another day only reduces your opportunities to experience the thrill and companionship of diving with your Club.

For those of us who have not attended any of Kerry's training sessions, try and support them. You will be surprised at both the content and the outcome, as Kerry is focusing on group participation and they are very informal and create a very good climate for open exchange of ideas and previous experiences.



Being a Club D.O. or Skipper is very rewarding but can also be frustrating if not everything goes according to plan. It can be difficult enough sorting through any problem which may occur. We do need members to be a little patient at times and willing to assist

in ensuring that everyone on board has a great diving experience with UEC.

Remember, if you are asked to assist by the D.O. or Skipper, please help with positive action rather than a negative reaction. We are all endeavoring to provide everyone aboard the best possible day out and although you may have your own ideas about the particular situation, the Skipper and D.O. do have to think of all aboard at the time.

At the committee meeting held on 5/2/2001 it was resolved that the Skippers and DOs who accumulate their dives by not diving on their duty days will in future only accumulate their complimentary dive during that financial year. This change to the current system will alleviate future committees having to honour the past committee's financial burden, and it will encourage our Skippers and D.O.s to use the boat on occasions other than their duty days.

See you on the boat!

STEVE
Steve.Larter@pilkington.com.au

**Don't put off
your diving
any longer!**

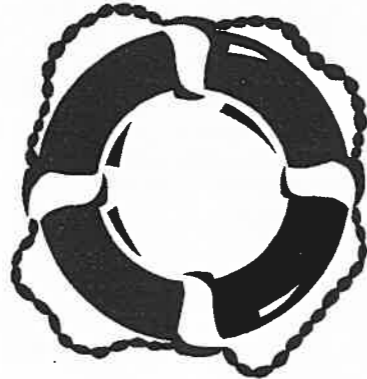
Safety Section

I have been asked to go through the safety procedures regarding 'lost divers' and 'raising the alarm'.

Before a dive commences at a dive site, the D.O. gives a brief and the expected time for the divers to surface - be on the shot line or be on the boat. If this time is exceeded, and there is no sign of the divers, a decision has to be made between the Skipper and the D.O. when to raise the alarm (this could be as little as 5 minutes depending on variables such as sea conditions, divers experience, etc).

When the alarm is raised, everyone on the boat will be utilised to assist in the location and recovery of lost divers. Emergency procedures will involve buoying the site, posting lookouts, utilising equipment especially the rubber duck, snorklers and/or divers in the water.

One of the most powerful resources is to contact the Sea Rescue by radio; they have a very fast boat (*Rover 1*), which can be at our position



within minutes, especially around Rottnest. They have the expertise and experience to assist us in most emergencies. If they can't, they have other resources at their disposal and they make the decision as to what further rescue measures are taken.

These measures will be taken without hesitation as part of the Club's safety procedures. This is perhaps one show where you would not want to be the 'star attraction' with all the fuss, drama and formal explanations—not to mention drinks all round for Club members. It could be a somewhat expensive and embarrassing experience and all for ignoring rules that are important and not meant to be broken.

Until next month, safe diving!

BOB
patmac@inet.net.au
PS: Frank Pezano (senior Sea Rescue member) will be giving us a talk at our Feb. meeting.

Secretary's Scribble



It is proposed to change the UEC Constitution by a motion next meeting (Monday 19th February, 2001). These changes are not controversial but do need a two third majority of those who vote at a general meeting for them to be passed.

The proposals are that we allow a larger committee of up to 14, to reflect the larger work load of an expanding Club, expand the duties of the Vice President a little and tidy up a few loose ends left over from our last attempt to fix up The Constitution.

We also wish to put the current Club seahorse logo on the cover of The Constitution.

So, please come along and help to make these changes for the benefit of Your Club!

SEAN
medicalimaging@atx.com.au

Social Snippets



First up... thanks so much Kerry and Susie for yet another of their fantastic Sky Show extravaganzas. Only Susie can put on a 'do' like that, and even the howling wind bringing the possibility of sea sickness in Perth waters (especially in combination with too much champagne?) did not spoil the night.

This is being a very different year for me as, for a whole variety of reasons, I've only had a couple of dives so far... (unlike last year when I dived almost non-stop). I suppose the main reason for less diving (not just the windy weather) is the huge commitment we members of the Roaring Forties (me, Maureen, Zita and Carol) have taken on as a team for the upcoming Cott/Rott Channel swim (Saturday 24 February). This is a real UEC effort though, not just us. Carmine is supporting us in his own boat, which will be quite crowded, with Bob McL as back-up skipper for the day, two club members (Cleve and Michel) sharing the job of our watchful 'paddlers' and Bob D aboard as our own personal masseur. 'Wednesday night swimming', which used to be the Club members' way of socialising in a hot spa and staying 'water fit' over the winter months, has dramatically evolved into a vital training session... and now we are training an additional 3 or 4 times a week as well. This leaves ME for one very tired (and probably very boring). However, it really is another of life's big adventures. Why not join us for dinner on Wednesday 21 February and find out how tired and nervous and excited we are?

The speaker at the next general meeting should be very relevant to our Club, as it will be Frank Pisani of Fremantle Sea Rescue. I hear his talks are always very interesting.

I would like to hear from more people keen to join us in Albany on the weekend of 23-25 March, where a (so far small) group of us will be spending a couple of half days cleaning up the HMAS Perth prior to its sinking as a dive site down there... and as well, having a couple of discount dives as a reward. I have made a booking for a couple of chalets in the Emu Beach Caravan Park and expect the total cost of accommodation to be about \$36 for the two nights. There is a good possibility of sharing driving down there, as a couple of four wheel drives are going down (leaving during the afternoon of the Friday if you can get away early from work that day). Talk to me about this if you are interested.

Then there's a plan afoot to have Good Friday and Easter Saturday nights at the *Trav Hilton* up at Yanchep (Carmine and Carol's house), with a shore dive perhaps, and general fun and games. This will need some organisational help (food) as I won't be there, so look for the notice on the notice board at the general meeting, sign up... and if you can help, please let us know. Plenty of beds and scope for 'camping' if these run out.

Eight people came to the 'social planning' night a few weeks ago (?another excuse for a party in itself) and we mapped out the social year, confirming that people like having speakers at most (but not all) of our meetings and enjoy a variety of social events. What we plan will unfold month by month, and as usual it is wonderful to have so many people willing to help out with things. The Club will be exploring the possibility of the Social Committee taking on a couple of big new responsibilities in the future it seems (not doing all, but overseeing and making sure things happen), such as the catering for the Avon Descend and organising the Club's mini holiday on Rottnest.

It's all very flexible really, so join us if you'd like to help but, for the time being, the makeup of the Social Subcommittee is Susie/Kerry; Bob McLaughlin; Carmine/Carol; Margaret Pettigrew; Kylie Herd; Liz Kerry; Robin Shepherd; Lesley Bettink; and me.

Ways you can help:

- If you have anything that would be suitable for a raffle at a general meeting - do let's have it. This is a small but important source of funds for the Club and also covers the cost of nibbles provided for the meetings.
- Pass on to me suggestions for speakers or social events
- And generally, offer to help as things come up.

UEC SOCIAL DATES:

Monday 19 February: General Meeting
Speaker: Frank Pisani of Fremantle Sea Rescue.

Wednesday 21 February at 7.15 PM: Lai Lai Restaurant, 95 Queen Victoria Street, Fremantle:
Dinner to cheer on 'The Roaring Forties' and other Club members who are doing the big Cott/Rott swim on Saturday 24 February. Join us for training in the Freo pool up to 7 PM that day as well, and earn your dinner! Please let me know if you are coming by signing up at the Club meeting or leave a message on 9339 5936.

Weekend of March 23, 2001: trip to Albany to help prepare the HMAS Perth for sinking as a dive site and discount diving. DEFINITELY let me know if you are interested in coming, so we can make adequate chalet bookings and make the best transport arrangements. Accommodation probably about \$36 per person for the two nights.

Good Friday and Easter Saturday nights at the *Trav Hilton*, Yanchep (cost TBD). An opportunity for shore diving and a generally relaxing weekend at Carmine and Carol's beach house. Shared catering will be arranged and there are plenty of beds and plenty of room for overflow 'camping'. Details closer to the time. Sign up if you are interested at the next Club meeting.

SANDY
Sandy_Webb29@hotmail.com

UEC NEWS
DECEMBER 2002



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

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(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 5804 a/h, mobile: 0417 930 124

Boat Officer: Gary Browne Phone: 9337 9836a/h, mobile: 0409 886 729

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!

WELCOME to New Members
Rex Burke, Booragoon
Wolfgang and Oliver Leeb, City Beach
Werner Steiner, Lucerne, Switzerland

From the Editor

Hello and welcome to the first issue with myself, Stina Frantzich as the editor of UEC News! With my other half Sean Gardiner, I will put this magazine together in 2003. Special thank you to Susie for all your hard work so far - you are a hard act to follow! As this is your newsletter, our UEC members, I would love to hear from you! Been diving anywhere nice? Seen some colourful fish? Whatever it is, please do not hesitate to send us an email at stina@moosecat.com.au.

The AGM took place on the 18th of November at the Swan Yacht Club and the club Awards were presented. Many deserving members were recognised for their work and commitment to the club during 2002 which included selling the old club boat, buying the new club boat and selling the unit among many other things! Thank you also to our outgoing committee members; Dallis, Julie, Bob and Clive.

Please see below for all the award recipients for 2002

Club Person of the Year: Bob McLaughlin

Boat Person of the Year: Gary Browne

Most Safety Conscious Member of the Year: Clive Cass

Diver of the Year: Mark Maddern

Awards of Merit:

Malcolm Roberts - for his cooking

Liz Kerry - for her lovely jams & marmelades

Susie Ashton - for a great web site

Kerry Ashton - for help and advice

Annie Boyd - for the new UEC domain name

Warren Cummings - for assistance in selling the boat

Peter Horton - for continuous work with the boat/s.

Dallis Golding - for "social" work

Julie Helbers - for secreterial work

Mark Sach - for help and advice

Steve Larter - for diving

Sandy Webb - for help and advice

Appreciation Awards (for their help on the new club boat):

Geoff Geard

Rachael Stone

Maureen Oenen

Maureen Cox

Alison Keen

Margaret Pettigrew

Bill Pettigrew

Geoff Charlton

Luv Fauvet

Pat Troy

Maree Casley

Dennis Stubberfield

Belinda Palmer

Susie Ashton

Warren Cummings

Sean Edmett

Vince Page

Robin Sheppard

Carol Travaglione

Robert Stagg

Trevor Walker

Rick Young

David Zuiddam

Robert Kaminaga

Jenni Ross

Carl Anders

Richard Dembowski

Tony Palmer

Lisa Smeaton

Mike Smeaton

From the President

We are Debt Free!!

Yes, we have paid off our boat from the proceeds of the sale of the unit in Myaree. Now we can start to plan our next adventure for our club. In preparation for this next step, I suggest we firstly take a good look at our club and re-evaluate our direction by remembering our past, being mindful of the present and plan our future. I am not trying to reinvent the wheel because what I have just suggested is not new. What is new is, we, as a club, have reached a level similar to one of the safe levels of that popular TV show, Who Wants To Be A Millionaire.

Some of the more successful organisations always remember their core business. Ours is diving. We have just recently gone to a lot of trouble to purchase a new echo sounder. Once installed, this will be an important tool in rejuvenating our diving programme. We need to go and explore new sites, find new ground, discover new wrecks, register new marine species.

“Ho, Ho, he’s joking” you say, “Carmines finally lost his marbles!!”

I’m quite serious and I still have a deep and resonant voice. I guess what I am really trying to say is that our precious leisure time should not be governed by the same roller coaster mentality of our normal lives in which we seem always too busy to plan what to do next because we are trying to cope with the present.

We have time! We are no longer under pressure! We’ve reached a safe level!

Let us still keep this a merry club and enjoy our social occasions, share a good wine with good company, canoe down the Blackwood, cruise up the river but at the same time lets keep our rudder firmly on course and develop further our public profile as a respected and professional diving organization. This will ensure that our club will remain strong and be a source of pride to all members both past, present and future.

I will, of course, be extending my season’s greetings to most of you personally at the Christmas meeting and party, to be held at our house on Friday the 13th of December, but it would be remiss of me not to do so in my Christmas report, both for the sake of tradition and for those of you who cannot attend.

Have a Merry and Safe Christmas everybody, and may your New Year be not only a prosperous one but also exciting and memorable and full of joy.

Carmines

DIVING DELIGHTS

Season’s greetings and happy diving to all!

With great pleasure and optimism I have taken on the role of your diving officer. Pleasure, because it is all about diving; optimism because we have our new boat to dive from. We now have the ability to expand our already considerable diving program. Whilst I have a number of ideas to phase in, please do not hesitate to ply me with suggestions or wish lists. It may be a simple request for one of our legendary dive sites, that for one reason or another you haven’t dived yet. Get your requests in early and I will slot them into the program if appropriate. It is YOUR boat - do not hesitate to use or book her. Club rules will of course apply.

See you diving!

Kerry

Training Report

Well another year is on us and I would like to thank you all for giving me this opportunity to run the training for our club in 2003. My aim this year is to not only increase our knowledge of diving but to conduct some First Aid Training. If we sit still we will gather weed just like our boat so get out there and think up new things for her to do. I would appreciate feedback from you, the members, with regards to what you would like to achieve with your diving this year rather than going through the same motions as every other year.

To start off, my first training session will be a Table Refresher session held at the Swan Yacht Club at 7:30 PM on Monday the 13th of Jan 2003.

Skippers and Dive Officers

With the purchase of a new Echo sounder I have had to quickly establish a sub committee and enlisted the aid of one of our old salts Dennis. So even with the full swing of the Silly season upon us, once our new acquisition is installed we will all have to learn how to use it as well as some of the other electronic gismos we have at our aid. These sessions will be held in the evening on the boat. I will try to organise a time that is convenient for us all. However, if you miss out on the training, do not fade away as I will try to arrange the training for you at one of the impromptu midweek sessions.

For all our DO's and expiring Do's this year I would like to include you in more of the training so you can get a hands on approach with the new procedures we have put in place on the new boat. As these develop, I would also like to see a day where our DO's actually go through some of the motions of the recent skipper training

Happy diving!

Mark

SAFETY SECTION

Well, hello everybody and thank you for entrusting me with the role of safety officer. The role is one which involves working with the committee and club members to ensure that past "incidents" are not repeated, and preferably, to prevent their occurrence in the future. Quite an important responsibility really!

I have recently been working towards my PADI Dive Master certification and a large part of this qualification is learning the responsibilities of a "dive professional" when supervising certified divers. It is quite sobering to learn about all of the things that can go wrong whilst diving recreationally. That said, when done responsibly, diving is a very safe past time as the enviable safety record of UEC proves. I believe that it is important to be pro-active on safety issues and the key to maintaining this safety record is regular training. In this regard, I intend to work with our new training officer Mark Sach, in running training days that benefit all club members.

With a new boat there are always safety issues to consider. The first of these that I will address is the purchase of a propeller guard for the inflatable outboard motor. Navigationally challenged divers (like Malcolm for example), who surface away from the boat are often towed back by the inflatable. This appears to be the standard procedure as there is very little space inside the inflatable to accommodate divers. From personal experience of being towed in this fashion, I can attest that body parts often come in very close proximity to the rotating propeller, which I'm sure you'll agree

is not an ideal situation. Sean, who has association with Scarborough Surf lifesaving club where propeller guards are used on all inflatables, has kindly agreed to do some groundwork on the procurement of a propeller guard.

Another issue requiring immediate attention is the condition of the fold-down steps at the rear of the boat, that are used for diver access. Whilst a commendable job was done by club members painting said steps (and the rest of the boat), they do become very slippery when wet (steps that is - divers too, actually!). Therefore discussions are under way in regard to the application of a non-slip surface to alleviate the problem. Finally, if anybody feels there are safety issues they wish to raise, feel free to do so at club meetings or with me personally.

INTERESTING WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

One of the best Australian Scuba sites is the “Diveoz” website available at: www.diveoz.com.au

It has an interesting selection of photo galleries and info on diveshops, divesites and general diving related news. Undoubtedly, the highlight is the discussion forum where a frank and often amusing exchange of ideas takes place. There are even a couple of UEC members who regularly post messages on the forums. Check it out!

Marcus

Building / Investment Report

This could well be the last building report for some time!

Why??

Because we no longer have a building!

Some of you older members are probably a bit miffed that we have sold the unit, because you put in so much work to get it in the first place, but let me assure you that we, on the committee, have not taken this step lightly. The unit was for some time becoming a millstone around our necks principally because it was difficult to re-lease and it was getting older, in a bunch of units where a significant percentage of them were vacant; not to mention our ongoing problems with Darryl next door. We actually tried to lease it through our member agent, Bruce Porter for some 4 or 5 months with no success. To procure a good tenant would have involved spending about \$15,000 on an upgrade with no guarantee of repayment of our investment. Eventually the club would have experienced financial hardship and this may have precipitated in an unsavory environment between the members and the committee.

Having avoided possible disaster I am happy to formally announce that our unit at Myaree has been sold and has settled. The money is in our bank albeit for a short time, as at the last committee meeting it was resolved that we repay our loan to Tenendum. This will of course mean we will be totally debt free with some money left in the bank to be used for other purposes or saved so that we can perhaps invest the excess funds in the future. I want to extend my thanks and those of the UEC to Bruce Porter for his assistance. He has assured me that one day all of you may meet him as now that we have a new boat, he may even come diving.

I have accepted the position of Building/Investment officer for the club because as we slowly save our pennies I will keep my eye out for something that the club can invest in such that we slowly become even stronger financially than we are.

Carmine

Social Snippets

Christmas is nearly here and don't we know it. With summer upon us we have lots of great social events coming up. 2003 promises to be a fantastic year with the UEC as we make the most of our new boat, with both diving and social events. In addition to non-diving social events we have a couple of weekends away planned including dives on the Perth and the Swan. Watch this space!

Friday 13th December - (Not so) Black Friday UEC December club meeting. 7pm

The annual Christmas Party will be held at the traditional venue of Trav's lush gardens and pool side. We kick off at 7pm and when we hold a short general meeting before the festivities start. Bring your own EVERYTHING this year! (food, drinks, salad, plates, cutlery, glass, chair... why not the whole kitchen sink?)

Saturday 21st December Crayfish dive and BBQ 12 noon

8:30 am departure from Challenger Harbour for the boat. A one-tank dive to gather some crayfish to share at the BBQ. Non-divers can meet the boat for the BBQ near Mead's Fish Gallery on the Mosman Park river foreshore at noon. BYO everything including a chair or blanket. This will be a very relaxing afternoon, a respite from the madness of Christmas. Ring diving officer (Kerry) to book in for the dive.

Sunday 26th January The Infamous annual Skyshow river cruise. 5pm

The boat will leave Swan Yacht Club at 5pm and return very late. 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! \$25 per head. BYO drinks. Nibbles, ice-filled eskies and a selection of yummy food provided. No under 18's. This event is always popular. Only 40 places available so BOOK EARLY!

Saturday 8th February Hawaiian night on the Underwater Explorer.

Grass skirts, hibiscus flowers and of course pineapples! Wear your loudest Hawaiian shirt. (The boat will be Hawaiianised for the night so you can be too.) Full details of what Dallis has in store for this great night in next month's newsletter, but you can diarise it now and put your name down so you don't miss out.

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

My first task as your new PR Person will be to encourage all members to become a proud owner of our nice club T-shirt (the grey one with blue collar and printed logotype). So, here is your chance to buy yourself a worthy Christmas present! Please contact me by the general meeting on 13th December to let me know what size you want. Don't miss out this time! It will take another year before next order.

Maree is organizing special UEC car number plates that include the club's name and our beloved seahorse. The plates must be ordered and paid for in groups of ten, so anyone wanting these plates, ring Maree on 9457 3333 to let her know. Cost is \$160 and you can select the number you want (as long as no-one else has reserved it). Maree says: "It will take a couple of months to organize, which gives you plenty of time to purchase a new car to display it on if your current auto is a bit shabby."

I also believe in exposure in the local press (and Dive Log) and will submit articles. As they always want photos with the text, I was hoping that you divers on the 21st could wear something Chrissy on your heads after the dive, and smile to the camera when you see me approaching.

WEB SITE

I am working on a brand new look and have also re-submitted the new site name (underwaterexplorersclub.net) to the search engines.

Susie

kasdive@iinet.net.au

phone 9331 2385

Rotto Holiday February/March 2003

The demand for the chalets for Feb/March 2003 has been great. The long weekend is now fully booked with 23 people booked in.

The week has 19 people booked and room for a few more. I'm sure they'll fill up soon. There is one more bed available.

Where possible comfy folding beds will be provided to make room for more fun loving divers wishing to dive, party and relax in the sun for a few fantastic days.

Also we are taking names for a waiting list for the long weekend and the week as sometimes our plans change. Every effort will be made to accommodate everyone who wants to come.

The cost will be approx \$320 (week) and \$160 (long weekend) depending on the number of dives taken, and includes transport from Fremantle to Rotto and back again. For more info please contact Clive Cass 9336 4004 or at clivecass@iinet.net.au.

The dates are:

WEEK: Sat 22 February to Fri 28 February 2002

Payment schedule:

- Payment of \$50 due 23 November 2002
- Final payment \$270 due 15 January 2003

LONG WEEKEND: Fri 28 February to Mon 3 March 2002

Payment schedule:

- Payment of \$50 due 23 November 2002
- Final payment \$110 due 15 January 2003

Payments are refundable up until 15 January 2003. After 15 January refunds can be made where replacements can be found and there is no loss to the club.

Note: Where space is available non-divers are welcome. Approximate costs are \$170 for the week and \$95 for the weekend

Please indicate your interest by completing the form at the back of this issue and returning it to Clive Cass.

CLUB CALENDAR

<i>DECEMBER</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>Skipper/DO or Venue</i>
Friday 13 @ 1900	General meeting and Christmas Party	Carmine's place
Sunday 15	Skipper's choice	Peter / Kerry
Saturday 21 @ 0830	Christmas dive (1 tank) & BBQ	Bob/Clive
Sunday 22	Swirl Reef	Geoff C / Gary
Saturday 28	Carnac Island (1-tank + Harbour lunch)	Kerry/Clive
Sunday 29	Parker Point	TBA / Carl
<i>January</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Skipper/DO or Venue</i>
Saturday 4	Jackson's Rock	Bob / Clive
Sunday 5	West End	Geoff C / Kerry
Monday 6 @ 20.00	Committee Meeting	Swan Yacht Club
Saturday 11	Murray's Chambers (1-tank)	Carmine / Mark
Sunday 12	Orizaba wreck (3 site option)	Dennis / Clive
Friday 17	Orizaba wreck (3 site option)	Bob / Steve
Saturday 18	West End	Bob / Steve
Sunday 19	Kerry's Caverns	Peter / Carl
Monday 20 @20.00	General meeting	Swan Yacht Club
Saturday 25	Exploratory dive	Geoff C / Clive
Sunday 26 @ 17.00	Australia Day	Skipper: Kerry
<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
Saturday 8	Sausage Reef	Dennis / Carl
Saturday 8	Hawaiian Night aboard U.E.	
Sunday 9	Deep dive (30 m)	Geoff G / Mark
Saturday 15	Stragglers (1-tank)	Carmine / Kerry
Sunday 16	Martin's Arches (3 site option)	Peter / Carl
Saturday 22	Rottnest Mini Holiday	

DIVERS!

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

DIVE BOOKINGS preferred by e-mail kasdive@inet.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.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Call to end shark finning practices in Australian waters

Shark finning involves the cruel and wasteful practice of slicing off the shark's fin and throwing the rest of the flailing shark overboard, where it is left to bleed to death, drown or be attacked by predators. Sold to feed a demand for an ancient Asian delicacy-shark fin soup- shark fins are now one of the world's most expensive fisheries products; a single Basking shark fin can be sold in China for USD15,000.

In 1999 NSW became the first Australian State to place a ban on the inhumane practice of finning, while in June 2000 the United States House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly in favour of passing a Bill that would ban shark finning in all US waters. While neither of these bans prohibits the sale of the fins, they do prohibit the landing or possession of any shark fin that is not still attached to the carcass.

As a part of the Australian Government's commitment to develop a National Plan of Action for the Management and Conservation of sharks in Australian waters, the Government is currently developing its policy on shark finning.

Your help is needed to ensure that the cruel and wasteful practices associated with shark finning do not continue to occur in Australian water!

Write to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Warren Truss MP, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 or fax (02) 6273 4120, and support the development of a strong National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, which includes a national ban on shark finning practices.

And the good news is that Thai Airlines have removed shark fin soup from their in-flight menus.
Source: Humane Society International

CLUB NOTICE BOARD



Engagement News!!!

We had an email from UEC member David Zuiddam with some great news!

“ Hi, Guess what..... The unimaginable has finally happened. And you probably thought it would never happen, but it has and I'm soooo happy words can't convey. Yep I'm engaged and am getting married (yes I did say married) on the 15th March 2003. Sharon and I became engaged on Mon. the 2nd of Dec. You'll find attached a pic. of us on our way out to a cocktail party last month”.

For Sale!!!

Male Wetsuit from Dive, Sea and Surf, as new condition, black with red trim, pant size 31/2, top size 4 with buckle crotch strap. All yours for the bargain price of \$50!

Please contact Robin on 9335 7730 (a/h) or email RobPSheperd@aol.com

The End

ROTTNOST HOLIDAY / FEBRUARY / MARCH 2003

To Clive Cass
Underwater Explorers Club
PO Box 1157
BOORAGOON WA 6154

Name/s

I would like to book on with UEC at Rottnest Island for a great time diving, relaxing and partying for:

the week from 22 February to 28 February 2003.

the long weekend from 28 February to 3 March 2003 (waiting list)

My initial deposit of \$50 per person is enclosed.
(cheques payable to Underwater Explorers Club of WA)