

U.E.C NEWS
(UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB OF W.A. INC.)
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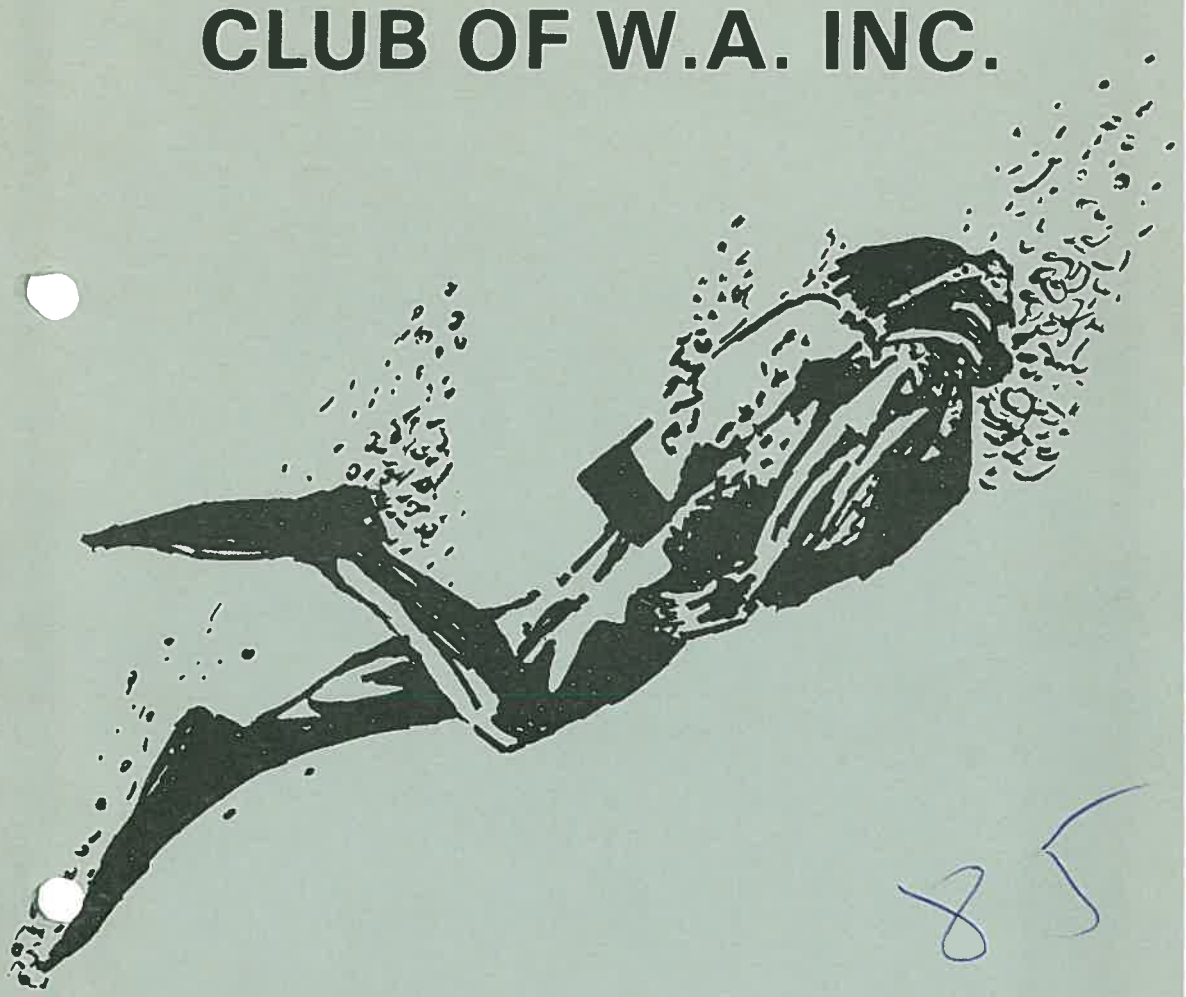
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U.E.C. NEWS

JAN



**UNDERWATER EXPLORERS
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JAN 85



UNDERWATER EXPLORERS

CLUB OF W.A. INC.



U.E.C. NEWS

Mario had a rare old time, although I don't suppose he remembers much about it. He obviously thought I had a rubber fetish and thought he'd play vicar and marry me to an old spare tyre. He did tie the knot, but with Tibi's help, I quickly got a separation. Thanks anyway Mario, but that twisted screwed up old tyre reminded me so much of my ex mother in law, I could never have lived with it.

Then Maree knelt down to blow up Paul's balloons. (As I said, I know Maree quite well, but not that well!) But discretion prevents me saying anymore about that except, "Nice one Paul, good on yer maree."

Ian spent a lot of time at the back of the boat looking towards Rotto with his hands clasped in front of him. You know he must have a remarkable sense of balance because considering the fact that he didn't have much to hold on to, he didn't fall down once.

When we get back to Freo., Ian, flushed with the success of his remarkable balancing act on the way back, now reckons he can clear buildings with a single leap. However his confidence and his ability were two different things as he found out when he tried, from a standing start, to jump from the boat across 20 feet of river and ten feet up onto the jetty. The result, gravity 1, Ian 0. Despite this minor setback he says he's determined to try again next week, when, provided nobody moves the jetty this time, he's convinced he will succeed.

I can't wait for next week!

BREAD WILL DO

Tibi

If you read the article by Hal Harvey on page five and started to pack your bag to go to Darwin STOP!

You don't have to go to Doctors Gulley to feed fish. It can be done anywhere. The only difference is that at Doctors Gulley they come to you on the surface, anywhere else you have to dive down to them.

People have different ideas of what to do when they go for a dive. Some take photos of fish or coral or other divers. Some try their luck with crays - not as easy to catch as some people think, others dive just for the fun of being under water.

I dive for the pleasure of observing the fish in their own habitat. What I noticed is that if you don't chase them they mostly ignore you, just moving out of your way if you get too close. What I also noticed is that if you offer them something to eat, they will come to you and take it from your hand. Now fish watching is a good hobby, combine it with fish feeding and you get double the pleasure and the fish come closer to you so you can see them better.

THE NEW TEAM

On the 13th of December 1984 special meeting the following office bearers were elected for the rest of this financial year:

- President: Barry Kenney 4536927
- Vice President: Margaret Langson.
- Secretary: Maree Casely 4573333
- Treasurer: Tioi Csomay 3413001
- Diving: Martin Smith 4582224
- Committee of four: Julie Rumsey, Bob Cotton, Peter Mortimer, Paul Mulally.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy

As you know, we now have a new committee. This was the will of the members of this club. I know that your faith in these people will be rewarded.

I believe we are about to see some much needed changes in club policies. I personally have very definite ideas about the direction in which this club should be heading. With some foresight and a lot of help from our club members, I can see our club recapturing some of the glory and fame of past years. By working together and each pulling our own weight we can overcome the many problems that are bound to confront us over the next year or so, until we can rebuild our club into the healthy body that it should be.

To start the ball rolling in this direction, the committee has voted to begin basic training again. We will be asking you to support this decision at the next general meeting. Promotion of our club and our club activities is another very important priority that we should be working on. I consider that this is one way for us to generate interest in our club. In fact I believe we should have a person doing nothing but P.R. work for this purpose.

If you want something to happen you must make it happen, it won't happen by itself and there is nothing surer than that. And now it's up to us. We are the members of this club. We are the ones who will make it happen.



DIVING

Martin Smith

Summer is here at last, so all you fine weather divers get your gear together and meet us at East Street jetty 8a.m. on most Sunday mornings.

Our Christmas dive on the 23rd resulted in a good turn out. We headed off for Parker Point and on arriving, found the visibility to be excellent. We did a shore dive at the back of Green Island and had a barbie on the beach. Although it was a rather rough trip home, nobody seemed too bothered (I wonder why?) except for one particular diver who thought it best to put on his B.C.

The following week only a handful of us set out for 5 fathom bank behind the Stragglers. The fish life was plentiful and a few dhufish were sighted.

On the 6th January we braved the weather and ventured out to Rotto with a strong S.W. blowing. We took shelter in Thomson's Bay and wondered what it would be like at Roe Reef. We set out and found a magic spot. Julie found caves and holes and was most ecstatic on her return to the boat. Peter Leach wanted to stay and spear some more fish but with the wind gusting to 25 knots we headed back to Thomson's Bay and did a "pretty" dive on the wreck of the "Janet".

The long weekend trip to Albany has been cancelled due to lack of numbers, but instead the boat will be going out locally.

WHAT NEXT?

The National Union of Seamen has successfully stopped a crucial test of new "penetrators" designed to bury nuclear waste into the seabed. The penetrators were to be dropped into the ocean as a part of a study of methods of nuclear waste disposal being carried out for the Government. (USA).

The penetrators come in several different shapes and weigh some two tonnes each. Instruments attached to them for the experiment should have shown how each design travelled through the water and whether they met the aim of burying themselves up to 30 metres into the seabed.

GO BACK IN TIME.

Tib

If you wonder what the earth looked like 3.5 billion years ago, a short trip to Shark Bay and a bit of imagination will transport you back in time to the Precambrian era.

Beside Shark Bay in Hamelin Pool, in very salty water, lives our planet's oldest life form, a microscopic blue-green algae - cyanobacteria -, forming shapes like cabbages and columns - called stromatolites.

These living fossils still survive in about 20 predator free sites around the world with the Hamelin Pool site regarded by many experts as the best.

3.5 billion years ago these microscopic algae were the dominant living things on earth. With hardly any atmosphere to protect them from the sun's fierce ultraviolet rays they covered the shallow sea shores until 600 million years ago when the organisms that feed on them evolved.

DID YOU KNOW?.....

...The fish St. Peter caught in the Sea of Gallilee is called Tilapia.

...The Tilapia is now stocked throughout the Third World countries.

NOMINATION

K.H. Dankesreither
4 Leonard St, Vic. Park.



"Divers get blasé about safety and start cutting corners till they become an accident looking for a place to happen."

Lt Jack Wilson.

THE FRIENDLY GROUP OF DIVERS.

Tib

You all know that we are training blind students to dive, what you don't know is that we are doing it with a bunch of helpful divers from the Friendly Group of Divers Club.

I was asked to stand in for John one day when he couldn't make it.
-Come down to the North mole- Barry said- We'll take some blind kids for a swim-. We were standing on the beach when Claude, Helene and Ken arrived in the Friendly Diver's rubber duckie. -All on board- Claude said- we are going to duck dive on the North mole wreck, the duck takes ten, plenty room for all.-
in no time we were out past the incinerator and with my help the wreck was located without trouble.
Except for Claude we all jumped into the water. Brian and Barry stretched a rope out and the rest of us held onto it. One after another the kids duck dived towards the wreck, following a shot line. Ken made sure they didn't get lost below. When they finished it was Helene's idea to swim back to the beach about a mile away. -Just what I don't need - I thought, out started to swim with the rest of them. Swimming back to the beach I was thinking about these kids. They must have a lot of guts. It must be really scary for them out in the middle of all that water with just a piece of rope to hang onto,
I think John and his helpers from our club and the Friendly Group of Divers are doing a great job giving these kids the opportunity to learn to dive.

You can get your fills from Peter Henry at Rossmoyne, for two dollars. He is open from 7.00a.m. until 8p.m.

THE GOOD SHIP VENUS

Peter Leach

"Martin is there a dive this weekend?" "Sure is Pete and it's a special, 7a.m. Sunday East St. Jetty, (7a.m!, I'll say it's special, it's a bloody night dive). See you there."

Well I gets up in the middle of the night and pack my gear and in a daze set off for Freo. I'm still not sure if it's late Saturday night or early Sunday morning. 'Cause when I get down there I get a bit of a surprise, divers all over the place and I don't know any of 'em! I'm just about to ask if this is the U.E.C., when I hears the dulcet refined tones of Peter Mortimer ring out "Cor blimey stone the bleedin' crows, look who's 'ere. Hey up Pete, wotcha cock (he does tend to make the most personal remarks), I ain't seen you since Pontius was a Pilot." Well I know I'm in the right place this time.

Well along comes the boat, all decked out like a cruise ship, (Love Boat eat your heart out) balloons, Christmas Tree, streamers, skipper wearing a funny hat, at last I thought it is a hat, but it was just the way he'd combed his hair. Anyway, we load all the gear on board and we're on our way to Rotto.

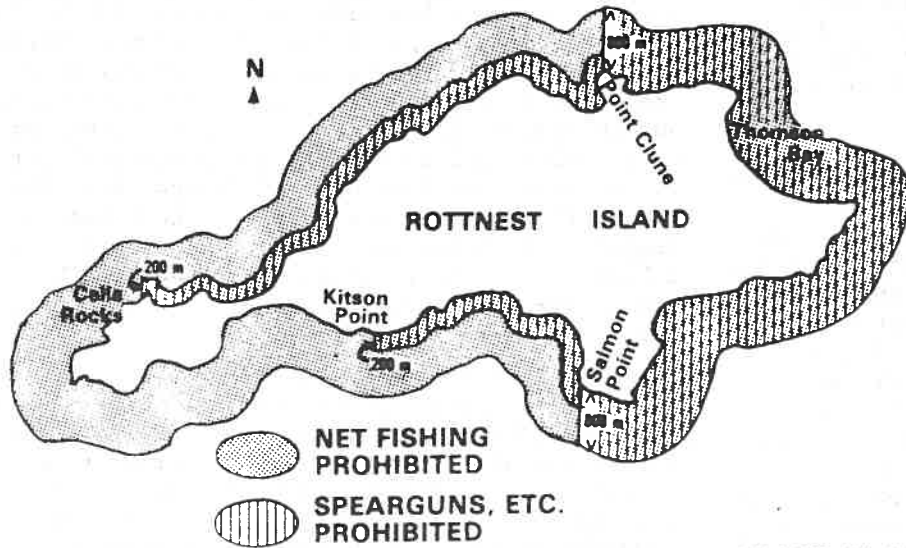
I'm sat there enjoying the view of a sheep cruise ship as we pass through Freo docks, when this bird who I'd never seen before turns to Maree, (who I know quite well, we sometimes go to mandurah together just to throw our gear away) and says, "Is that guy financial?!" Well come on, I've read the personal column on Sunday so I know what a Fin. Gent is, but I never thought the subject would arise on a dive trip. Then I found out she's a vice queen or a vice president, or something like that so that probably explains her asking about me being a Fin. Gent. which I'm not. Actually I'm looking for a Fin. Woman (any offers?)

We got to Rotto and after going through the customary driving round in ever decreasing circles and going backwards and forwards for an hour, (it must be an old Aussie custom, possibly Aboriginal in origin, because we always do it) we weighed the anchor (it was 20 lbs) and threw it over the side and went for a great dive. It really was nice, plenty to see - fish, coral, crays, the lot, everyone enjoyed it.

Now then, after the Lord Mayor's show came the second dive, what a carry on! Anyone out there ever heard of a boat dive off the beach? Puzzled? Let me explain. What you do is, first off you do the circling and backwards and forwards bit, then you throw a diver over the back of the boat and tow him around for an hour or two, then you drag him back on the boat. (I don't know why either, I'm only a Pom and I'm not too clued up on these strange Aussie rituals). Then you tip up to the jetty get kitted up (now this bit is fun) and walk along the jetty, along the beach, across the coral (all told about ten miles) and there you are. Simple isn't it. Hands up all of you who thought a boat dive meant just falling off the side of the boat.

After the dive we went to the beach (we were quite familiar with it by now) for a barby which was very nice. Barbied meat, sausage, fish cordon bleu cheese sandwiches, (courtesy yours truly), even champagne. I was half expecting to see Peter Ustinov suddenly appear and say "No worries mate, I lerv wetting my neck on Rotto", every time a bottle was opened. Time pushed on and we had to go home and while everyone went back to the boat, a couple of us Poms cleaned the place up (you Aussies are a messy lot) and made sure all the rubbish was put in the bins.

We had quite a few titters from Julie and Margaret (I love a good titter myself). It seems that someone had smuggled a contraband barmaids apron on board and despite our heroic attempts to stop them, they managed to get a couple of sniffs each. Well, of course that was that wasn't it, I mean there was no stopping them, balloons bursting, water flying all over the place, it had to be seen to be believed. I'll tell you what they must have had heads like Malls head on Monday morning.



ROTTNEST ISLAND (Nets)

Net fishing is prohibited in all waters within 300 metres of Rottnest Island.

ROTTNEST ISLAND (Spearguns, etc)

The use of spearguns, harpoons, hawaiian slings and other pointed instruments, except giddies, is prohibited in waters around Rottnest Island as shown on the accompanying map.

Tragedy beach

Leaving Melbourne in October, 1887, the 1226-ton passenger ship Cheviot foundered off Port Phillip Heads with the

loss of 35. A beach near Portsea was later named Cheviot Beach after the lost ship — and that was where, 80 years later, Prime Minister Harold Holt was to disappear at sea while swimming!



Do YOU care that:

- ★ *The mineral sands industry, which continues to pollute Leschenault Inlet with radioactive wastes, is poised to launch an assault on our coastal zone from Bunbury to east of Albany.*
- ★ *Despite many proposals put forward by government agencies and conservationists over recent years, Western Australia still has no marine parks or reserves. Rowley Shoals, Shark Bay, Ningaloo Reef, Rottnest and the Abrolhos are all vulnerable to exploitation.*

Eighty miners on board the steamer *Gothenberg*, when it was wrecked off the coast of north Queensland in 1875, refused to take off their heavy money belts saying the gold they contained was their life's savings.

They were all dragged to the bottom of the sea and drowned.



DURING a recent holiday in Darwin, it didn't take much to convince me to go to a Doctors Gully fish-feeding session.

Started many years ago by a doctor who regularly threw bread to fish from his waterfront backyard, this show is a major tourist attraction and guaranteed of leaving even a non-fisherman wide-eyed with amazement.

Hundreds of big diamond-scale mullet compete with smaller mullet, catfish, metre-long milkfish and various others at the daily high tide feeding sessions.

Keen fishermen may have heard of the milkfish, which is one of the most timid and yet incredibly powerful fish in the ocean. They are rarely seen, almost impossible to tempt onto a baited hook — and if you manage all that, the hardest part is landing it.

They grow to a maximum of 1.2 metres and to have a couple of these fish muscling each other out of the way to get to the bread in your hand is an unforgettable experience.

It seems totally out of character with what is known about milkfish.

Taking underwater photos of the milkfish proved harder than expected; not because the fish stayed too far away — rather they were all too keen to

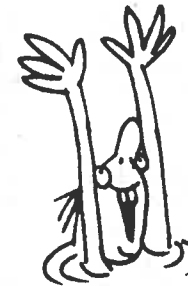
come up and bite the camera!

They are far from subtle about it. While watching two milkfish zoom in from my right, another barrelled in from the left and knocked the camera out of my hands.

Doctors Gully is closed to fishing, with a \$1000 fine should you ignore the many signs. There are even signs on the ocean side to warn off boat-borne anglers.

HAL HARVEY

The Western Mail,



Abrolhos calendar

Original sketches of the Abrolhos Islands are featured in a calendar on sale at the Environment Centre in Hay Street, West Perth.

The calendar, which costs \$6.50, has been put out as part of a campaign to focus attention on the damage being done to the coral reefs around the island by the crayfishing industry and the expanding scallop trawling industry.

According to Dr Paul Lewis, who is coordinating at the Abrolhos Island Protection Project, the coral reefs that are under threat

are the equal of the Great Barrier Reef in splendour and diversity.

He believes that it would be tragic if a combination of ignorance and disinterest on the part of Western Australians led to the loss of this precious asset.

The Conservation Council of Western Australia has offered their support to Dr Lewis' campaign.

The calendar is also available by mail for the Conservation Council of WA, 794 Hay Street, Perth 6000 at \$7 each.



IT'S a fascinating, fairy-tale world beneath the surface of the sea — with all the colours of the coral gardens... the marvels of marine life... the romance of wrecks.

Snorkelling gives just the merest hint of all this. Scuba diving is the only way to go

In WA, scuba diving ranks with sailboarding as one of the State's fastest growing sports. Sailboarding can be learned by trial and error, but there is no margin for error in scuba diving.



"Don't save me just yet — my whole sex life is flashing before me."

DEATH OF A DIVER

A case history

Douglas Walker

He was a trained, experienced and very safety conscious diver aged 20 and had been passed as "Medically Fit to Dive" nine months previously. His only known deviation from perfect health has been occasional chest, or epigastric pains over the past 18 months and these had usually responded to taking food. He was a highly respected and well liked member of the diving club with which he was now visiting a famous sink-hole and had a Category 2 special diving qualification for such diving. The dive was carefully planned and was to show some friends the wonders of diving in such calm clear waters. The dive profile, which was carefully followed, called for a maximum depth of 120 feet with ascent starting after 25 minutes. The dive was without incident and the ascent to the decompression stop occupied 3 minutes. Because the water was cold the stop was increased from 6 to 10 minutes at 10 feet. He mentioned after surfacing that he had suffered some mild soreness of his ears but this did not recur when, a short time later, he made a short (8 minutes), shallow dive (10 feet) in a small cave nearby.

This dive was followed by a club picnic lunch, though he personally took little or nothing to eat for himself and had apparently taken little food over the previous 24 hours. He did not seem to be unduly fatigued. There was to be another dive in the afternoon and he decided to take advantage of the fact that one of the morning party was not to dive again to borrow that diver's back-pack buoyancy vest in order to decide whether to change to such a type himself. While putting it on he mentioned that it felt tight across his chest and that he could not make himself completely comfortable in it. The dive was planned to be maximum depth of 140 feet with bottom time of 13 minutes which they considered to be a very safe dive (S.I. 5 hours 10 minutes, Residual Nitrogen 7 minutes). They descended to the planned depth and swam slowly to conserve their energy but the 15° chill was still felt

severely. The decompression stop at 10 feet was increased from the Table requirement of 6 minutes to an actual 13 minutes because of this cold factor. Although he was still apparently feeling some tightness in his chest, his buddy did not observe anything amiss with his behaviour during the dive.

While resting at the surface after the dive, discussing what they had seen, he coughed a little and said something like "That was blood", a circumstance which his buddies thought strange after an uneventful dive but assumed to be the result of a mild sinus barotrauma. After leaving the water, as he was taking off his wet suit, he complained of chest pains. These quickly became severe and his friends decided to rush to the nearest hospital, though they did not understand how he could have contracted decompression sickness from such carefully calculated and executed dives. During the car ride he could barely remain seated because of the agonising nature of the pain he was experiencing in the centre of his chest at the level of the xiphisternum. He was a bit breathless, found exhalation difficult, and found it difficult to sit and almost impossible to lie down. A nurse friend examined him prior to his being taken to the hospital and saw that there was no joint pains, no shoulder tip pains, no symptoms of cerebral or visual nature or apparent asymmetry of his chest or altered power or sensation in his limbs. The abdomen was normal. There was some cyanosis observed and the pulse was rapid, though regular.

It was while he was at the hospital that he reported the previous episodes (lesser severity) similar pains, one episode having been particularly severe and incapacitating. The pains had not been associated with diving. He ascribed such episodes to indigestion and suggested, hopefully, that the present pain was due to a muscle strain, but nobody accepted this latter suggestion as likely to be true.

At the instigation of some medical friends in the diving party he was given some oxygen, but he soon discarded this as it gave no relief. He found it difficult to lie flat to allow the medical examination. No clinical findings were seemingly noted as being significant and he was given some pain tablets and advised to go home

(to the camp site the club was using) to rest. As he left the hospital he experienced a severe spasm of pain so his friends returned him to the hospital and made plain their belief that admission was mandatory. He was kept for observation, and finally, was admitted, and had X-rays taken but no abnormality was noted. He was given more pain tablets and an injection and admitted for observation. At 2300 hours, 4 hours after his first attendance at the hospital, he began to complain of nausea and asked the nurse to bring a bowl. When she returned she found that he had suffered a cardiac arrest. This failed to respond to medical attention.

At the autopsy a dissecting aneurysm of the aorta, with a left haemothorax was found. There was no history of previous trauma or any known family predisposition of such a condition to explain its occurrence in such a young, active and apparently fit person. In retrospect the episodes of the "indigestion" were almost certainly symptoms of the dissecting process.

This report is presented to draw attention to the fact that divers may suffer from any of the medical or surgical conditions to which any person is liable, even to extremely rare conditions. The dive history here was so well documented and vouched for by a number of reliable witnesses, and the story of pain so definite, that the existence of a non-diving emergency should have been considered. It is not known why it was not. Possibly there was a diagnostic programme fault in that the absence of a clear "diving-medicine" diagnosis in a diver (e.g. pulmonary barotrauma or air embolism) led to the erroneous conclusion that there was therefore "Nil Disease". This pitfall is not usually given critical awareness. It is probable that even had the correct "spot diagnosis" been made the outcome would have been exactly the same.

Doctors should remember that a diver without a clear diving-related cause for his illness may have a non-diving problem requiring attention, and needs the appropriate therapy. This could save lives.

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Martin and I were made to wash and dress for dinner, i.e. stand naked and shivering on the marlin board soaped up with sea water detergent then plunge into the icy waters of Rottnest to wash it off. As I said before, it was hell out there. (We didn't pee in our wetsuits honest Maree). That's one thing I do like about Marjorie - the extensive wash and toilet facilities, vast as the ocean. Ah, but we smelled so nice afterwards! A truly delightful evening was had by all.

Saturday morning dawned gusty and a bit overcast but didn't dampen Julie's ardour for talent scouting. We picked her up on the telephoto lens (photo at clubrooms) chatting up not one, but two husky he-men. She was sent alone for a specific purpose and got side tracked. Tibi was despatched to get her back before too much damage was done!! (to the he-men of course.)

We set off with an exploratory exit from Marjorie via the tricky eastern approach, it being the boat skippers turn to extend their knowledge of Ro waters. This approach looks fine and wide and deep on the chart, but being unmarked was difficult to find in practice. It was decided that as a matter of policy, the western entrance would be used on routine club excursions.

Next it was decided to find and accurately mark the "Mira Flores" wreck site. This was attempted first by Barry with the glass bottomed tube, being rowed around in the tender, then when this unlikely exercise failed, by manta board riding. On successful location of the wreck site, Barry and Allison dived to inspect, clean and buoy the commemorative plaque using hookah air. Photographs, angles and marks were recorded with "U.E." sitting over the buoy which was recovered as we set off for the final dive on Roe Reef. This dive on Roe Reef with the wind and set getting up its usual after bluster was a very rewarding one. Using as a start point marks derived from a former expedition an extensive area was explored by 5 divers. One unusual cave was found about 100m south west of the boat. This was a huge dark cavern with virtually no light penetrating and thus having no vegetation at all. Several large fish including a big sea cobbler and a groper were seen in it. The spot was marked by a surfacing diver (yours truly again) taking landbased transit marks which were later photographed from the boat. The site was named "Dark Cave". In general this represents the North West extremity of Roe Reef as near as our navigational aids could put us, and it is hoped that further exploration can yield more good dive sites using this area as a navigational reference point.

A quick pit stop was held in Thomsons Bay prior to scudding home before our usual stiff sou-wester. Martin very thoroughly cleaned "U.E.'s" hull and added about 1½ knots to our speed as a result. (That will have to become a routine diving exercise we have decided, about monthly, as it certainly contributes greatly to our comfort in faster passages to and from Rottnest).

In all we feel the exploratory exercise was not only worthwhile but must form an essential part of the club's activities to promote interest among diving members. It also provides vital experience and training for skippers and diving officers on whom the very existence of interesting diving and therefore our future club standing and membership must depend.

So with that thought ringing in your equalised ears, see you soon folks, and perhaps I'll have another ripping yarn to tell you about the Albany trip next magazine, if my broken pen arm mends in time!!

SEASICKNESS

Carl Edmonds

Because we were going out on a boat, and into very rough seas, I thought this would be an ideal time to test some of the new approaches to seasickness. One is the use of ginger. I would appreciate it if anyone could give me some of the original literature on this.

I finally found an old record of its use in a book called "Sod's Law of the Sea". It is an exciting book about an old seaman writing to his nephew. In one of his letters, he pointed out that seasickness was a problem that was only averted by not going to sea, or not going to land. His suggestion in this book was that ginger biscuits were very good. He was not sure whether they were good treatment for seasickness, but he was sure that they made the boat go faster. That is the only reference I can find for ginger in the literature. On our controlled trial, it did not work. The ginger takers had to give on very rapidly to the more genuine anti-seasickness drug treatments, which worked very effectively.

Most people would accept that if you are going for an early morning dive, something can be taken the night before, with the sedative effects wearing off in the morning, and with the anti-seasick and electronystagmographic effects still very pronounced during the dive. Basically, we still rely on the antihistamines, which with a stimulant supplement is absolutely unbeatable for yachtsmen (but not for divers). That is the most effective regime, and I thoroughly recommend it.

There is, however, a more fashionable treatment called "Sea Bands". It is used by people as an acupuncture type mode, wrapped around the wrists, and the little button must cover the correct area. It must be very lucrative treatment for the people who initially promoted it. The main problem is washing the vomit off the material.

Reprinted from SPUMS Journal Vol. 15 1985

SAFETY

Points to Remember:

Decompression sickness is a serious risk of diving.

No dive tables are 100% reliable.

No depth gauge is 100% reliable.

The depth of a dive is the deepest point of the dive, no matter how brief the time spent at that depth.

Ascent should be as slow as possible (10m minute).

Decompression stop at 3m should be routine.

Divers who cheat the tables, depths and bottom times are only cheating themselves and their buddies!



UNDERWATER COPS!

Just imagine meeting another diver 18-20 metres under the surface who suddenly pulls a plastic sign out of his dive bag saying "you are under arrest".

This actually happens in Florida where the Department of Natural Resources have a Marine Patrol law enforcement division whose members consist of certified divers.

They go out in 7 metre motor boats with diving gear and handcuffs. In one year these SCUBA cops made 30 arrests while actually under water. They retrieved stolen motor vehicles, jewellery and money, found 73 dead bodies. They also made dives for narcotics evidence and oil spills.

The problem that keeps them busiest is the preventing of the illegal catching of marine life with most arrests for catching lobsters out of season, undersized or using a spear gun to catch them.

To shoot out yet but there have been some unusual underwater arrests. One of these was at the beginning of the lobster season when a Maritime Patrol diver observed five divers violating conservation laws. The only clothing one diver was wearing was a pair of shorts. When he recognized the Marine Patrol officer, he immediately tried to take the lobster tails out of his pockets, but the tiny spines along the sides of the tails clung to the inside of the pants pockets. The diver stripped off his shorts and fled, only to be captured minutes later.

When the officer surfaced, he had single-handedly captured the following: four divers, a pair of abandoned shorts full of illegal lobster tails, and one naked diver. The charges were for spearing lobsters, wringing tails, (separating the tails from the bodies), taking undersized animals, and taking them out of season. The penalty for each person was \$1,000 fine plus confiscation of all diving equipment.



SOCIAL UPDATE with Margaret Langson

After the next General Meeting Reece Brown from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife will show a film and slides on the life cycle of the rock lobster better known to us - but seldom seen - as the crayfish. A general discussion will follow when he will answer questions.

Coming at the General Meeting on the 17th March, a talk by Mike Brown on boat safety. He is from the National Safety Council.

15 lucky members will be able to tour Garden Island Navy facility and see a demonstration of both the oxygen and mixture closed circuit sets of the decompression chamber.

However, you must book with Margaret soon 361 0842 work or 451 7244 home.

There is still room left if you want to go along to the Progressive Dinner. Cost is \$25 and a bus will take you on a tour of some of the southern suburbs for a delicious meal. Ring Margaret soon.

ROTTNEST ISLAND OVERNIGHT EXPEDITION 27-28/12/85 by your Reporting Raver er Raver

Well, you've read about Rottnest at Christmas, now I have the honour to present Rotto at New Year, or nearly New Year. This is a serious article with absolutely no frivolity (maybe just a little).

It was a calm sunny morning when 8 intrepid Underwater Explorers set off from East Street, Fremantle. (Of course it was calm and sunny - it was a Friday wasn't it - not a bloody Sunday). A delightful crossing ensued, occupied by such rewarding pursuits of seamanship as checking anchors, lives, diving gear and cleaning all the seagull poo off sleeping and sitting areas.

First stop was south of Salmon Point (just west of Parker Point), found by leaving Cape Naturaliste well to port (that's clever navigation for you). An interesting, fairly large shelf of rock, close to the surface was investigated by Martin and Mario on hookah. This area is inshore of the 15m line and rose from about 12m to 15m up to about 4m from the surface and is located just west of "Julie's Cave". Photos, angles and marks were taken to allow accurate future anchorage on the spot, which was named "Branchetti's Bommie".

Our next stop was just east of Kingston Reefs where the manta board was used to good effect by Barry and Julie around the area of the wreck of the "Janet". Manta boarding was carried out at a speed of 2 to 3 knots and seemed most comfortable at this speed which was 750rpm of the motor at the conditions then applying. Julie finally stopped us over a beautiful reefy spot some 50m N.E. of the "Janet" plaque. This proved to be a magnificent shallow dive site with many caves and extensive plant and fish life.

A late lunch was next on the menu er programme, anchored in Thomsons Bay. A shore party was despatched to check on the local natives. However none were captured, although our able talent scout of the year Julie, may have been able to entice a couple on board if allowed. But we just can't have this plundering of native species viz. the okker!

It was decided to spend the night getting away from it all in Marjorie Bay with a twilight/night dive around the western arm of the Bay being planned. So we set off, punching into a stiff sou' wester, directly into the setting sun - it was hell out there!! The course was set much wider north of the island than usual to avoid the possibility of fouling craypots set offshore in the area and which were almost impossible to see looking into the sun.

Anchored snugly under the lee of the western cliffs of Marjorie Bay our hardy explorers prepared for a sticky beak of the reefs on snorkel. Some very interesting territory was found with plenty of small fish, caves and crays. Back into the area we sped, the hunters on SCUBA. (Yours truly was definitely not up to catching crays in 20ft of water with the miserable 6 litres of air he could force into his lungs from a snorkel - well make that 5.13 litres anyway). There were crayfish everywhere, dozens of them BUT - there's always a but - they were all undersize except for about two. All extremely frustrating, but having nerves of steel (lesser men would have failed), we did not break the law and returned home empty handed to a beautiful steak BBQ dinner prepared expertly by Maree and Allison on board.

takes place when environmental conditions are favorable for the formation of sperm and eggs inside the sponge. If both the egg and sperm cells are formed in a single individual, the two processes usually occur at different times. The sperm cells from one sponge are dispersed and carried to the egg cells of another by the same internal water currents that bring food and oxygen to the animal. Most sponges are hermaphroditic, but species with separate sexes do exist.

Sponges can reproduce asexually using gemmules or by budding. A gemmule is formed by freshwater sponges and some marine species when specialized cells called archaeocytes, filled with food, become surrounded by a hard covering containing spicules. The gemmules are capable of enduring severe environmental extremes, including freezing and drying, and thus can survive even after the parent sponge has died and disintegrated. When favourable conditions return, the living cells inside the gemmule emerge and develop into an adult sponge.

Budding occurs as larger sponges develop branches that separate from the parent sponge and form their own water-canal system. These branches may break off in a storm or strong current and, if a suitable substrate is located, they will attach and continue to grow and develop their own branches.

Passive defence. Sponges have no nervous tissue and their movements are very slow. When mechanically or chemically stimulated, however, some sponges contract. For example, when a pollutant is suddenly introduced into the water or a fish starts nibbling on a sponge, a visible response occurs. This passive defense mechanism takes place because some species are equipped with primitive muscle cells, called myocytes, which contract, completely closing the oscules in these species. Contraction of the oscule can occur three to ten minutes after an injury or irritation.

Simple contraction is not the only means of defence shown by sponges. Many species produce a noxious biochemical substance to discourage predators. Needlelike spicules also provide an effective defence mechanism. Some species of sponges are protected by their site of attachment to hard substrates in coral crevices.

The unique characteristics of sponges are not the only features that have attracted the attention of scientists and laymen. Sponges are of ecological importance to marine communities in which they live, as well as of commercial importance to man. They often house or protect many smaller animals, thousands of which may live in a single large sponge, such as the loggerhead. Tiny inhabitants, occupying the pore spaces among spongefibres, may live their entire lives within a sponge. Polychaete worms, copepods, and numerous other small organisms often reside within the complex canal system. Vase-shaped sponges may harbor brittle stars, shrimps, or fishes on their inner surface, while the outer surface serves as a substrate for anemone-like animals called zoanthids. Commensal crustaceans have been found in deepwater sponges. An epizoid anemone grows on the rooting spicule of the glass-rope sponge (*Hyalonema*).

Some sponges are destructive to other marine life. In temperate seasons, sponges of the genus *Cliona* bore into the shells of clams and oysters. The

bivalves are unable to replace the protective shell layers fast enough, and they soon become unprotected and die. Thus, these excavating sponges are a problem in clam and oyster beds. Boring sponges are not completely harmful, however. They contribute an enormous amount of sediment as well as providing substrate, in the form of coral rubble, for settlement of new coral and other invertebrate populations. When coral tissue dies, boring sponges attach the dead coral skeleton and a coral head, 1 metre high, can be completely converted to sediment in 100 to 150 years.

A few species of sponges are sought for domestic or industrial use. Historical methods of sponging included poling or harpooning, hardhat or skindiving and dredging. During the first half of this century, sponging grounds off the Florida Keys and Tarpon Springs were among the most productive in the world. Outbreak of disease from 1938 to 1952 eventually depleted the sponge grounds in Florida and the Bahamas. They are recovering and are again being fished but they have not reached previous levels of productivity.

With over a million divers in America alone probing the lakes, rivers, and oceans of the world, sponges are no longer unfamiliar and little noticed creatures. Their versatile reproductive and adaptive abilities have enabled them to survive and multiply.

HELP SAVE THESE DOLPHINS



Brazilian ecologists are protesting at a growing trade in the eyeballs of the endangered Amazon river dolphin. The eyeballs, long valued as amulets by voodoo cult Macumba, are now in vogue as lucky charms among non-believers.

The eyeballs are sold openly in markets and tourist shops in Rio de Janeiro and other major cities. They can even be bought by mail order, or through the yellow pages of telephone books. When local conservationists posed as potential buyers, a dealer said he could supply them with 500 eyeballs within a week at a cost of between \$1.50 to \$3.00 per eye.

Other dolphin products, on sale in Brazil, are also in demand, especially dolphin oil, which is highly regarded as a lure for fish. In addition, dolphin vaginas are said to lure men to the women who carry them.

River dolphins are found only in China, India and the Amazon Basin. In India there are fewer than 1000 individuals left; in China fewer than 500. The Amazon river dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*) has not been well studied and there are no population estimates for the species. Nevertheless, the dolphin is regarded as a vulnerable species and are protected by international legislation on trade in endangered species.

Amazon river dolphins are also threatened by the destruction of their habitat by large water and oil-exploration projects in the Amazon Basin, as well as pollution from agricultural chemicals. Brazil bans the export of dolphins or parts of dolphins, but trade within the country is uncontrolled.

Ecologists want people to write letters to Brazilian embassies around the world in the hope that the Brazilian government will crack down on the dolphin trade.

DO YOU TRUST YOUR TABLES?

The currently used decompression schedules were prepared using deterministic models that predict decompression sickness (DCS) is either certain to occur or certain not to occur. Real data, on the other hand, demonstrate that not every diver will respond in the same way to a given schedule.

The variability of a decompression schedule depends on the incidence of decompression sickness (DCS) associated with its use, but a satisfactory method for predicting DCS incidence from practical numbers of test dives has not been available.

DCS risks were estimated for USN no-stop dive limits and for Huggins' shorter limits. For any depth (see table), DCS risk decreased slowly as bottom time was reduced. For a 1 per cent risk, bottom times were about half Huggins' limits. The appropriate question is not "What are the safe no-stop limits?" but "What DCS risk is acceptable?" A small DCS incidence appears unavoidable. For example, in 4 years of Navy diving (22 DCS cases in 242,778 no-stop dives), 1 DCS case occurred well within the USN limits.

Depth	U.S. Navy		Huggins	
	Time	Risk	Time	Risk
35' Ft	310	11.9%	165	4.0%
40	200	8.8	135	4.4
50	100	5.6	75	3.4
60	60	4.3	50	3.1
70	50	5.3	40	3.5
80	40	5.7	30	3.4
90	30	5.1	25	3.7
100	25	5.3	20	3.6
110	20	5.0	15	3.0
120	15	4.1	10	1.9
130	10	2.6	5	0.7

The table we are using (RNPL/BSAC) is approximately halfway between the above tables.

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FROM THE SECRETARY - JULIE

NOMINATIONS:

Kevin Robertson,
403 Sydenham Street, Belmont.

Rocco Pastorelli,
57 Brooker Street, Dianella.

Debbi Gill,
290 Canning Highway, Como

Mary Edwards,
7 Verbena Road, Willetton

Sheila Askew,
Unit 37, 12 Wall St, Maylands.



SPONGES

Beneath the sea, a quiet group of strange animals has existed for 500 million years. The sponges, phylum Porifera, are the simplest form of multicellular animals and have been in existence since the dawn of Paleozoic era. Despite a long evolutionary history, sponges have received little attention until recently, as people began to realise some of their interesting characteristics. Sponges live in waters ranging in depth from sunlit intertidal zones to dark abyssal depths; they range from polar to tropical seas, and a few species of the family Spongillidae even inhabit freshwater lakes and rivers. With such a variety of habitats, it is not surprising that there are many species of sponges. In fact, to date, more than 5,000 species have been described.

The physical appearance of sponges is as variable, both among individuals and among species, as the environments they occupy. Some are delicate, tiny animals that weigh only a few grams. At the other end of the spectrum is the monstrous loggerhead sponge (*Spherospongia vesparium*), which can weigh as much as 100 pounds. Some of the larger species are thought to live for hundreds of years, while others may not live beyond a year.

In external form, sponges may be thin encrustations or they may be massive subspherical, or irregularly shaped organisms; they may be flattened, resembling fans, or curl to form vases or tubes. Accompanying the gallery of colors: reds, oranges, yellows, greens, blues, purples, and even whites and blacks. Deepwater sponges are generally less brilliantly colored than those from shallow water. Oddly enough, the colors of the interior and exterior of a single sponge are often different.

Even the skeletal structure of sponges is variable. Most sponge skeletons consist of hundreds of thousands of tiny spicules, microscopic limestone or silica rods, hooks, and stars. Elastic connective fibres (spongin) composed of protein provide additional support. Some sponges lack spicules, using only the spongin fibres for support. On the other hand, the deepwater glass sponge (*Monoraphis* sp.) has a single giant spicule that attains a length of several feet. The skeletal structure of a given species relates to its durability, so some sponges are tough, while others are fragile or brittle.

Internal works. Despite such variability, sponges do have certain features in common. All sponges, for example, feed by causing an incoming current of water to enter through pores known as ostia, which perforate the sponge's outer walls. Inside the sponge, collar cells (choanocytes) have flagella to circulate the water, which contains food and oxygen, through the inner recesses of the animal. In this way, algae, bacteria and organic detritus are passed through a succession of canals which vary in complexity with the various species. Food particles are ingested by collar cells and then transferred to cells called amoebocytes which digest them and distribute nutrients to other cells. Finally, the water is ejected through large openings called oscules. This flow is often the only detectable movement made by the entire sponge. Some species have a single oscule, while others are equipped with many.

Reproductive options. The prolific distribution of these animals in many environments, and on coral reefs in particular, is perhaps partially due to their ability to reproduce either sexually or asexually. Sexual reproduction

U.E.C NEWS

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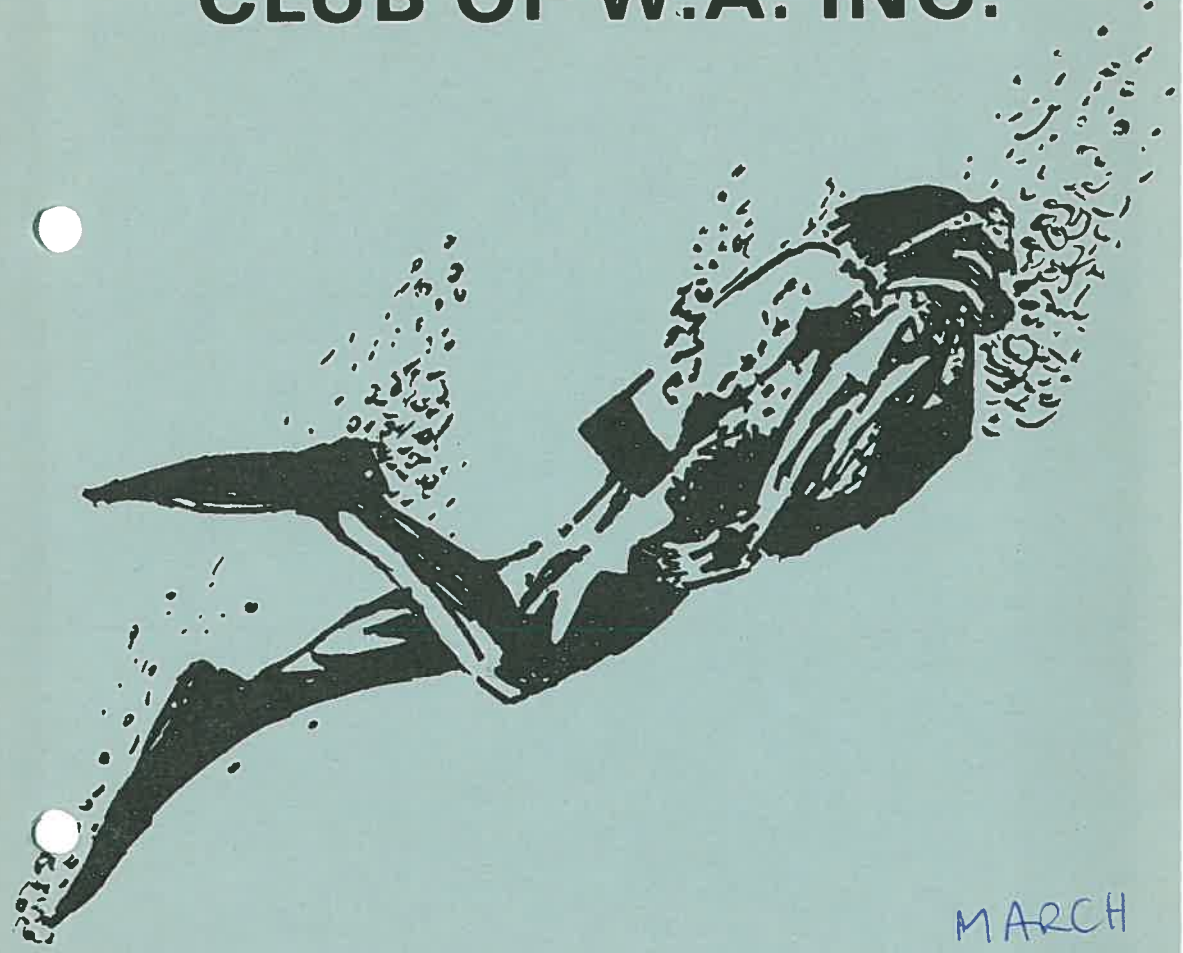
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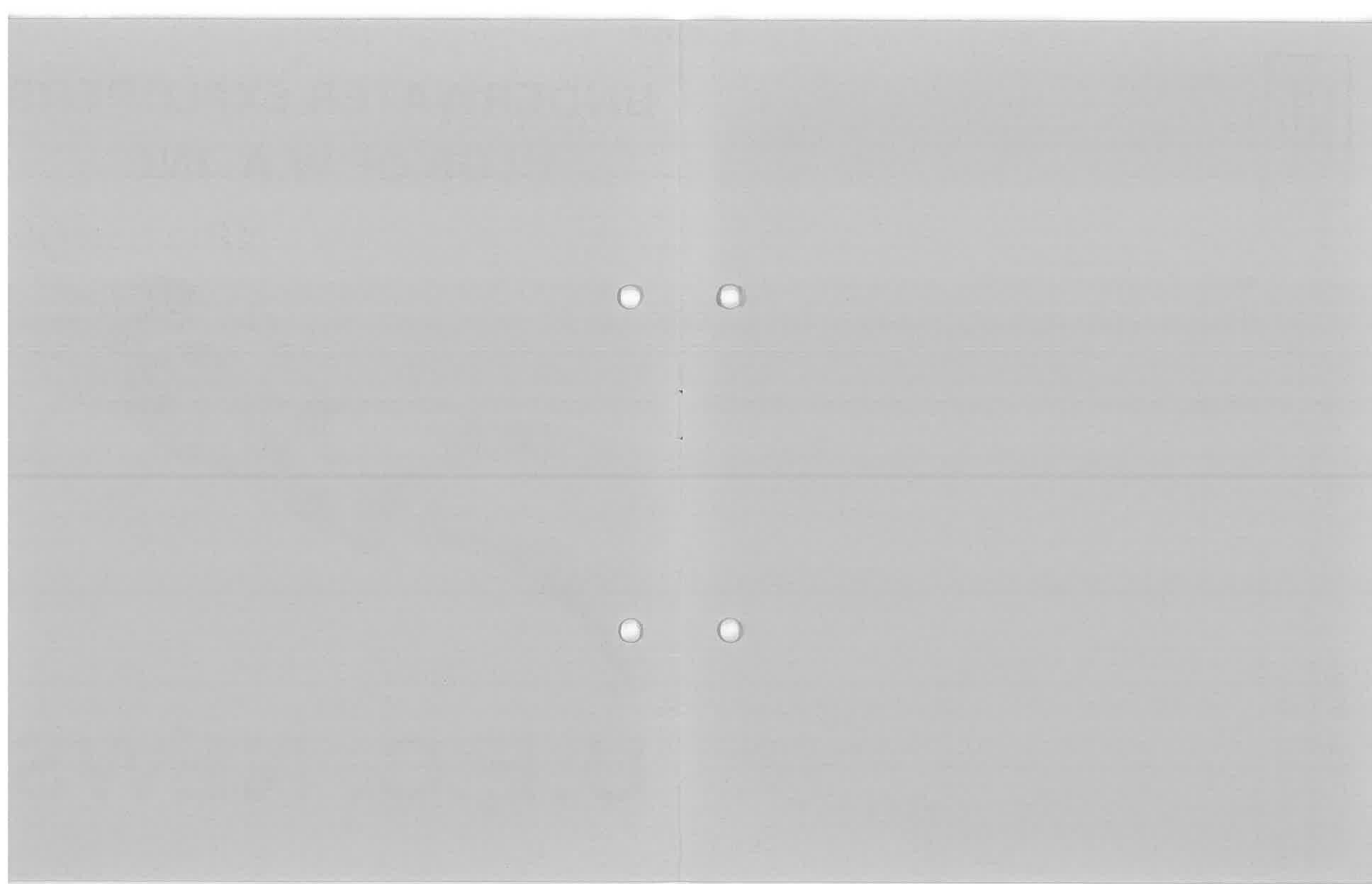
U.E.C. NEWS

**UNDERWATER EXPLORERS
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MARCH 85

MARCH



The other scallop which can swim a little is Pecten Modestus. The upper shell of this scallop is flat and sits flush with the seafloor, while its lower shell is deeply convex (scalloped). Although there is more room inside this animal for meat, the adductor muscle is only small as expected in a scallop that can only swim for a couple of squirts before settling back to the sea floor. However, this muscle may not always be small, as similar scallops I caught in New Zealand were quite meaty. The size of the muscle may be dependent on other factors (e.g. time since last spawn) as the muscle is used as an energy store.

The third scallop is not mobile at all and is generally found attached to a solid substance such as a rock via a mass of threads called the byssus. This is the Fan scallop, Chlamys Asperimus. It is more plentiful in places where there is more substrate to attach to than is found on the flat sandy sea bed that is the home of the other two types of scallops. Further around Geographe Bay, on the wooden pylons of Busselton Jetty, they are common, and make quite an interesting sight as they are always found with a bright red commensal sponge growing on the shell. The red sponge surrounding the gape from which the scallops blue eyes peer makes this scallop such a pretty sight that I've never bothered to open one to see if they're worth eating.

After returning from a dive with a good bag full of scallops it's time for the feast. As I've always caught scallops on camping trips, I cook them as simply as possible - lightly pan fried in butter with a sprinkling of freshly ground black pepper. If you're nearer home you might cook them in a nice white wine sauce. But no matter how good they taste, I still think that the ultimate pleasure is catching them. Bon Appetit!

The author should like to acknowledge the help of Shirley Slack-Smith of the W.A. Museum and the use of information from Fins Vol. 16 No. 2 page 16 and Vol. 18 No. 2 page 7.

MASK SQUEEZE



Carl Edmonds

One diving accident we noted while on the Pandora was a new cause for mask squeeze, and we saw it in very experienced divers. One diver had been diving for 40 years and he never previously had a face mask squeeze, but up there he produced the most beautiful face mask squeeze. He could not understand why, but I can. One look at his face mask and the answer was obvious. It was the new type of mask that is flooding the market. The mask has been converted into a rigid structure, and so continuous equalisation is needed to prevent a "squeeze".

The reason people did not get face mask squeeze more often in the past, was because masks were very flexible so that when Boyle's Law had its effect, the mask would be sucked in, and it would accommodate for Boyle's Law. With this new mask, there is only a small possibility of flexibility in the silicon around the forehead where it makes the seal, and the mask is mainly of rigid material. A stupid bit of equipment to sell on the open market, but they are coming out in pretty colours and you have always got to be wary of the dive equipment manufacturers. They will sell anything without thinking about it, or testing it first.

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DIVING FISH ROCK CAVE, N.S.W.

Adrian Edwards

For those of you who may be contemplating a visit over east sometime in the future and have the opportunity to travel along the coast of N.S.W., I can personally recommend a dive that is extremely worthwhile as well as a chance to view some magnificent scenery.

I first read about Fish Rock Cave in a diving magazine and because I was taking my leave touring the coast of N.S.W., subsequently booked in by phone to "Mid-Coast Divers" at South West Rocks, (a small holiday resort near Kempsey, N.S.W.) for a dive on this popular spot.

We arrived late in the day by hire car from Sydney complete with pup tents, air beds and dive bag, minus tank and weight belt and set up camp for the night in the Lagoon View Caravan Park under the trees. A quick check at the dive shop to ensure that I was booked onto the dive next day then, because the late afternoon weather was so enjoyable, Mary and I went for a snorkel just off the magnificent white beach of Trial Bay. The water was crystal clear and hinted at good things to follow the next day. What remained of the glorious day was spent doing a quick race around the town and sights, lookouts etc. and having a take away tea on the lush green lawns - like grass which always seems to grow down to east coast beaches.

A very early night then followed, more out of necessity due to an unpowered site and one small gas lamp, but sleep soon took over three tired girls and one excited diver who then dreamt about huge sharks and bad weather, until the magpies and cockatoos woke everyone just before dawn. A beautiful day, not a cloud in sight.

After a quick breakfast I eagerly raced off down to the dive shop as arranged and being very early (thanks to the cockatoos), waited for the other divers to turn up. By 8.30a.m. we were all kitted out with hire tanks and weight belts and (surprise) a compulsory purchase of a Cylume stick. At this stage I was glad I had brought my torch!

Everyone was very friendly and we were "buddied up" by the dive master at the shop and all got into our wetsuits and assembled our regs. and B.C.'s and were given a preliminary briefing. Thus prepared we all (8 of us) boarded the back of a large 4 x 4 van and this van then towed the 23' Vee hull aluminium, twin 150H.P. outboard, "New World II" dive boat down to the boat ramp which was in the river near the town.

Once clear of the ramp, we planed down to the estuary and out to the bay in clear blue transparent water, round the rocky headland of the Arakoon State Recreation area past the beautiful old Trial Bay Gaol and into the Pacific Ocean.

20 minutes later we arrived at a large rock jutting up out of the sea and apart from the usual swell which surges up around such rocks, the sea was flat calm.

The dive entry method was interesting to say the least! The skipper thoroughly briefed us all, then in two lots of 4, (2 on each gunwale) he slowly nosed the boat into a large crevice in the rock and at the word "GO",

we did 4 simultaneous back roll entries and when we were all clear of the boat, he reversed out ready for the next lot.

We then all grouped together as briefed and descended in buddy pairs and regrouped on the bottom in roughly 15 metres of gin clear water. The dive through the cave hadn't even started and I was already fascinated by the fish life and colours of the scenery. I would have been just as happy to sit there and look! But the best was yet to come.

The dive leader then led us to the mouth of the cave which starts at about 11 metres and runs down a slope (like a tunnel) to a deep end of about 20 metres. The cave is quite large and wide and has a very narrow neck at the deep end which goes down even deeper, but we were not allowed to go that far.

The 8 divers in the cave presented an eerie sight as we torched our way about exploring the walls and nook and crannies. We looked like a trail of "fire-flies" with our Cylume sticks glowing brightly on our tanks.

The walls of the cave were a sea of beautiful gorgonian fans and delicate fern like coral, while beautiful sponges sprouted from the rocks at all angles. The ceilings were alive with coloured anemones and all sorts of fish which I wasn't familiar with poked their eyes out of holes. Near the entrance where some shafts of light were penetrating, I saw live cowries on the walls. (Yes, Maree and Peter, I spared you a thought then !)

One of the highlights of the dive was when my buddy and I ascended to an air pocket in the roof of the cave and were able to take our masks off and regs out and have a "conversation" at 9 metres indicating on our depth gauges! I can recommend this method of saving air!

The exit back out of the cave into the blinding daylight was spectacular. We had to swim through a solid "curtain" of thousands of bullseye fish. They gleamed silver in the sunlight and slightly parted just to let us pass.

Then with about 15 minutes bottom time remaining, we went over a ledge and down a rocky wall to about 15 metres in excellent visibility to feed the pet blue groper. We were allowed to cut up a limited number of spiny sea urchins (fish love 'em) to feed these magnificent fish. I actually had my arm around the "shoulder" of one large groper whilst hand feeding it.

There were all sorts of fish milling around, big pink snapper, bream, trevally, sweet lips, sergeant leaker, parrotfish, nannygai, morwong and dozens of small coloured reef fish. On the bottom lay an old wobbly shark and I even saw my first moray eel slide out of a crevice to quickly devour some missed morsels.

All too soon it was over and we were back on the boat and heading in. Everyone agreed it was a great dive and as I stripped off my wetsuit back at the dive shop, I vowed I would return for another dive some day.

The rest of the day we spent visiting the historic old Trail Bay Gaol which is the closest thing I have seen in Australia to a medieval fortress and has a very interesting story attached to it which could be the subject of a complete article alone! The rocky headland, recreation area and beautiful bay and camping area is well worth a visit especially for the non divers and kids.

ANYONE FOR SCALLOPS

A lot of my time in boats has been spent idling along looking for a jump in the echo sounder trace that would indicate a drop off for a bommie. Such terrain has been proven by divers as it is invariably a focus for fish congregation, provides holes for crayfish and a home for sponges and corals. But one of my favourite dives is on a flat sandy bottom in 25 metres of water. What could such a dive have to offer? The answer is - scallops.

But what makes scallops so special? They provide a tasty morsel for an apres dive snack, but how do they make up for the excitement of grovelling through caves and extracting crays from their holes? Easy - they provide one of the most ridiculous sights you're likely to see above or below the water!

Scallops are pale flat creatures that blend well with a sandy sea floor. They also camouflage themselves by squirting a fine layer of sand over themselves so it takes a diver a while to develop an "eye" for them, but when he does he must be quick as scallops have fast reflexes and they can swim faster than a scuba diver. And if you think that the sight of a shellfish leaping off the bottom and taking off like a pair of false teeth in a cartoon isn't funny - well you just haven't seen it! The only thing funnier is the sight of a scuba diver - two long with hundreds of dollars worth of high tech breathing equipment strapped to his back, futilely attempting to catch a tiny scallop that he was too slow to pounce on.

But scallop diving is not all fun. One of my worst scares whilst diving was on a scallop dive. I'd left my buddy to chase an elusive scallop and returned (empty handed) to find her curled up on the sea floor, her face screwed up, and huge puffs of air bubbles pouring from the exhaust ports of her regulator. I mentally ran through the symptoms of all the diving ailments I knew of, but none fitted. Eventually I realised that this is what hysterical laughter looks like at 25 metres.

Most of my experiences with scallops have been in Geographe Bay. Launching at Dunsborough Ramp is easy, and after a short trip along the coast towards Bunker Bay, I head out to sea until the hue of the water tells me that the depth is about right and over goes the anchor followed shortly by a group of divers.

There are three species of scallop inhabiting the sea floor of Geographe Bay. The most sought after is the Southern Saucer scallop - *Amusium Balloti*. Saucer scallops are quite thin, each shell is only slightly convex, and it seems impossible that they contain much meat. But Saucer scallops can swim distances of 8 to 20 metres at speeds of up to 2 knots. To perform this feat they need a large adductor muscle which pulls the two halves of the shell together and ejects a jet of water which propels the scallop along. It is the adductor muscle along with the orange gonad that is the edible part of the Saucer scallop. The Southern Saucer scallop grows to a maximum diameter of about 11.5 cm, and lives for about 3 years. It has been fished commercially (by trawling) at Shark Bay, the Abrolhos Islands and Rottneest. The population in Geographe Bay was surveyed to determine if stocks were sufficient to support a commercial fishery - they weren't, but there's enough there for recreational divers to have a lot of fun.

NOTABLE FALLS

by Anon.

Some members may not be aware that over the past few weeks, the U.E.C. has been conducting a competition tentatively titled "Notable Falls". The contest was kicked off (so to speak) by a shadowy figure (rumoured to resemble the Club President) who carefully chose his moment to attract maximum attention to the opening of the competition. As a large audience sat in the darkness engrossed in a film on the sex life of the Western Rock Lobster, our hero strode purposefully across the stage, failed to see a protruding foot and executed a neat flat-on-the-floor forward lunge.

Not to be outdone, our female club members took up the challenge with our most enjoyable progressive dinner chosen as the venue for the next entrant. Lady A. performed an elegant pirouette on the top step followed by the graceful arc of a dish of hot roast vegetables. This was a worthy effort and attracted high commendation from the judges.

The Club Boat Officer then continued his unnatural practice of entering the water sans wetsuit - this time before the boat even reached the heads for the long weekend! While not attracting a lot of points (because he was in bathers at the time) it showed he was not to be outdone.

Evening fell (ha! ha!) over cottage 449 Geordie Bay - the embers of the BBQ were slowly dying in the wee hours as some serious discussion took place between members consuming strange liquids. One bearded member made a spur of the moment decision to enter the contest (good tactics - bound to attract many points) but his judgement was slightly impaired and he hearily missed the BBQ plate with his forward roll and only hit one eye. Anyhow, great try T.!

The contest was on in earnest now with the next contestant choosing the wide blue waters beyond Rottnest to do a reverse tumble (or was it a swallow dive?) off the side of the boat. Word has it that S. was momentarily concerned thinking the judges may have missed her performance and she might have to swim after the rapidly disappearing craft to repeat it.

The most recent entrant performed from the saddle of a Rottnest hire bike with a complicated routine involving a quick jamming of brakes followed by 1½ somersaults over the handlebars and a short slide along the bitumen. A bit gory N. but it caught the judges eye.

While it is pleasing to note how enthusiastically members have joined in this competition, the judges have reluctantly declared it closed, with honourable mentions awarded to all contestants. (Next month we'll try something a little more refined).

CUTTLEFISH

Cuttlefish is of the cephalopods, a group of animals that also includes the squids and octopuses. Its highly variable colour patterns serve as an effective camouflage, enabling it to remain undetected while waiting for suitable prey to swim by. It then can explosively shoot out two long, gripping arms equipped with cupshaped adhesive discs and seize its prey, pulling it back to its mouth with the aid of shorter arms.

DIVING REPORT

Peter Mortimer

I see very few problems at this moment in time as far as the diving is concerned. I believe that maybe a little more variety in dive sites would be appreciated by the membership - we don't always have to go to Rotto. If any member has ideas on new dive sites, please don't hesitate to contact me.

My wish is to take a low profile as O.C. Diving as I believe that nothing is gained by being overbearing. I have absolutely no intention of becoming a general dogs body. Martin was often taken advantage of because of his willingness to take on too much. I will not fall into the same trap. I don't want to see any outbursts or unpleasantness on the boat at any time. If a problem does occur on safety, it should be relayed to Ian Milne, who will bring it to my attention or the committee. If it is a diving problem, I should be informed and it will be sorted out accordingly.

I believe the role of O.C. Diving to be as follows:

1. To organise the members, dive marshalls and skippers, for our regular dive trips.
2. To make up a calendar.
3. To make sure the diving is carried out to our high standard of safety with the help of our Safety Officer, Ian Milne.
4. To allocate the position of Project or Expedition Officer, for special trips such as the one Dennis has organised for the March long weekend.
5. To be open to any suggestions on improving our diving for the benefit of the members.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy

If you concentrate on developing your safety awareness, you will become a better, safer diver and the little things which seem to constantly repeat themselves like divers surfacing too far from the boat, and divers becoming confused about time/depth combinations, should eventually become a thing of the past. The club supplies submersible decompression tables on the boat for members use and I urge you to use these, especially on the deeper dives. Constantly check your depth and time and don't take any chances on trying to remember your tables - take them with you.

Having the diving flag flying from our boat is supposed to keep other boat fifty metres clear of our flag. This doesn't always work in practice. However we have to rely on this for our safety. Every diver should try to return to the boat before surfacing, for safety's sake. Using the "swim up stream of your boat" system, you should never allow yourself to surface more than fifty metres from the boat, preferably in front of the boat, definitely not behind the boat. The area you should be diving in doesn't correspond with the area of protection, under the diving flag. You should make every effort to surface somewhere in the area between the anchor and the shot line.

I feel there is a need to tighten up on our safety procedures and in future you will notice the effects of this. Remember a good safety record speaks well of any club.

GEORDIE BAY LABOUR DAY WEEKEND 1986
(or, The Ballad of Eskies and Swell)

The East Street jetty's crowded out with people, food and beer
As heaps of sleepy divers all try and stow their gear.
Our trusty vessel Bombo, she looks ready for the trek,
And someone's even cleaned off all the bird poop from her deck!

The sun it shines, the sky is blue, the weather is just fine
And - goodness me! - it's 8 o'clock, we're ready right on time!
And all us folk are looking just as pleased as pleased can be,
As we're off to go to Rottnest with the U.E.C.

There's Martin at the helm who's looking suitably serious,
There's Peter in a deck-chair looking quite hilarious,
There's Ian and there's Ian, there's Tim and Tony too,
There's Deidre and Alison who are also in the crew,

There's Adrian who's only supposed to be there for the day
(Until he goes off, ahem, sick, so he extends his stay).
Margaret and Barry in his boat are looking flash
As they speed past us waving and making quite a splash.
But Bombo chugs on merrily through all the waves and spray
As she heads in the direction of Rotto and Geordie Bay.

When we get to Geordie Bay we offload all the gear -
The amount of food and drink we've brought we could last all year!
But soon the troops are sounding keen and no-one's going to skive
As we all get back on Bombo to go out for a dive.

The vis. is good, the swell is low, just like we tried to plan it:
Our first dive is off North Point, our second on the "Janet".
The fish are great, the corals too, we even see a ray,
And I enjoy myself so much I want to stay all day.

In the evening there's a barbie and we all have lots of fun,
Only somewhat helped along with the aid of "jolly black Swan".
Later in the evening when most sober folk are in bed
Tim decides the time is right to barbecue his head.

Early in the morning, before the sun has shone,
Someone's up and making noises - it's that b----y Pom!
(No, not me, you sillies - I mean Peter Mort,
Who woke our chalet up much earlier than he ought.)

In the morning we leave bright and early to get off to the West
Because we know that, if we're lucky, diving there's the best.
But alas, alack, it's not to be - we'd surely come to grief,
So instead we dive Green Island and Pocillopora Reef.

HAMELIN BAY by IAN COWAN

As per the Dive Club Calendar for Easter and as discussed at the last General Meeting
I have organised a trip to Hamelin Bay over Easter being from the 27th - 30th March, 1986.

Camp sites have been booked (yes booked) at the Hamelin Bay Caravan Park. The site is
near the beach, unpowered, but there are no restrictions on how many or how big the tents
are. There are all facilities available at the Caravan Park, so no need to bring a portable
toilet with you!!

It is hoped that other dives will be organised at various other locations besides Hamelin
Bay i.e. Busselton Jetty, Canal Rocks etc if the demand is there. Even though the Easter
break is over the above period, people wanting to come can arrive anytime over the weekend
to their convenience. The diving at Hamelin Bay is renowned to being quite something and
there are several reefs etc. A compressor has been booked so there will be no worries with
getting your tanks filled, however it is advisable to bring at least two along with you.

I will be organising a Treasure Hunt with prizes, to add to the fun of the weekend. All you
need to bring is your own camping gear, diving equipment, food, utensils etc which will
naturally keep the costs down, and you only need to bring what you want for the weekend.

Members and non-members are both invited so if you wish to bring a friend or two with you
no worries. If you have not already advised me that you want to come, please telephone
me on 325 9599 at work or 362 4520 at home to let me know, and also to advise whether you
will be taking your own car or wish to have a lift with someone else. If you do not have
a tent dont despair as I am sure that I can fit you in with somebody else.

The total cost of the weekend is \$35.00 which includes all your fills and the camp
sites. A deposit of \$10.00 is required which I will collect at the next General Meeting.

It should be a great weekend, and look forward to seeing you there.

P.S. Naturally if you wish to bring non-divers and children with you, the cost of the
weekend will be reduced, as they will not require fills.



FROM THE EDITOR

It is nice to see new authors contributing to the magazine. Whether it's
diving in Hawaii, Rottnest or Sydney it's good reading with a few ideas that
our club could adopt. One is the briefing of divers. Divemasters should
find out diver's interests, knowledge and ability before working out buddy
pairs. Another one is asking the divers where they want to dive and if
needed, taking a vote on the days locations. Fish guide books on board
are another good idea, maybe we know most of the fishes around here, but
there are always the new divers who are thrilled when they can identify a
fish they have seen.

P.R. & SOCIAL WITH MARGARET LANGSON

GUEST SPEAKERS

On Monday 17th March, 1986, which is the date for the next General Meeting, we will be having a talk by Mike Brown from the National Safety Council. Mike will be talking about Boat Safety (which will be of particular interest to Martin!) From all accounts Mike gives a very interesting and humorous talk, which should be enjoyed by all.

At the General Meeting on Monday 21st April, 1986 our guest speaker will be Robert Wong from the Royal Perth Hospital. Robert will be talking about Decompression Sickness, Dive Tables, Diving Medicals, Free Ascents and Women and Diving. Thanks go to Marie for putting me on to Robert, Marie has heard Robert talk before and advises that he gives a very interesting talk also.

Both these meetings should definately not be missed!

If anyone knows of any people that could give a talk at one of the meetings could they please let me know. Thanks.

The trip to H.M.A.S. Stirling to view the decompression chamber is scheduled for Wednesday 16th April, 1986 at 7 p.m. at the H.M.A.S. Stirling base at Rockingham. I already have a list of people that want to go, but there are still one or two places left, if your interested please ring me on 361 0842 business hours or 451 7244 After Hours. All the people who have already advised that they wish to go, I will ring with all the details in the near future.

Dennis will be writing an article later on the Progressive Dinner which I hear was a great success and also on the Rottnest Trip which was over the long weekend. However, on behalf of everyone that went to Rottnest, would like to say a very big THANKYOU to Dennis for all his hard work in organising the trip, food etc etc. It was a great weekend and everyone had a good time.

As was announced at the last meeting Sue Churrack has now taken over the role of Social. The next event is the Quiz Night and full details will be printed in the next magazine. However, as always prizes are needed and we call upon all of you to help. If you have any unwanted gifts at home or can obtain anything from work, however, big or small we would love to receive them - please dont just read this and forget about it, bring something along to the next meeting - the more prizes the better - thanks.

There will be another raffle at the next General Meeting so dont forget to bring along your \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$. No excuses are accepted as most of you already know.

Ian Cowan is organising the Easter Trip to Hamlin Bay and camp sites have been booked. Ian will advise of the full details at the next General Meeting.

That's about it for this addition, look forward to seeing you at the next meeting - until then keep smiling.

After afternoon siestas, we have a meeting about five
So we can all discuss and plan the evening's Night Dive.
We kit up on the jetty, and it takes us quite a while
(Our neighbour on his cosy boat can't help but smile).

But at last we leave the harbour as the night is getting darker
And head out for the spot where Dennis has left the marker.
And what a Top Spot the dive site turns out to be -
Even Maree when she comes up is eager to agree!
The highlight of the dive I thought was a Real Ripper cave:
I even swam right through it (I was feeling Very Brave).

The next morning, after sleeping well ('cept Adrian, I gather)
We aren't so pleased to look and see there's changes in the weather.
But this won't stop us hardy divers going to Roe Reef,
Even though on the way back we nearly come to grief -

For suddenly as we sail along, the boat begins to flounder!
"Oh my goodness gracious me!"* Poor Bombo is aground-er!
Stuck on a rock! - We free her with a great deal of harrassment,
And sail back into Geordie Bay overcome with embarrassment.

Now, do you know, with all those divers diving all those days,
We only manage to catch - wait for it - just THREE CRAYS!
We cook one up and serve out lots of champagne for a toast
To Maree who now a hundred hours' diving time can boast.

But all too soon it's time to pack to sail back home to Perth
(On the journey, we must confess, the cabin was full of mirth)
And when we get back to the club, I think we all agree
The whole weekend was just about as excellent as it could be.
So thanks to all the team who organised it so fine,
You can be sure we just can't wait till we go again next time!

E.M.A.

*Barry's words (sort of ...)

New member: Stephen Holle,
8 Fulman Way,
Lynwood, W.A. 6155



HAWAII

Greg & Di

Should your holidays or work take you to the the United States via the Pacific Ocean, be sure and book a stop over in the Hawaiian Islands and plan on going diving.

Almost all of the airlines stop over there for refueling and crew change. The stop should be able to be organized at no extra expense as far as the airfare is concerned.

The first stop is Honolulu and Wakiki Beach on the island of Oahu, as the international airport is located there. However, Western airlines has a direct flight to Maui from Los Angeles.

Playing tourist in Honolulu and Wakiki Beach for a couple of days to sample the wide range of restaurants and night life is recommended. One of the closest marine preserves is Hanauma Bay, and can best be appreciated by snorkel. It is located up the coast highway from Wakiki, about twenty kilometres. Take your picnic lunch and don't forget a strong pair of legs for the hike back up the cliff (or spend fifty cents for the bus like we did). Bring lots of frozen peas to feed the fish. Leave your wet suit at home for this snorkel as the water temperature is 18 to 26 in the winter and 22 to 31 in the summer. As in Western Australia watch out for the tropical sun.

We would say that your next stop should be the island of Maui and it is only twenty minutes away by jet. The old whaling village of Lahaina is the centre of diving activities and has several dive tour operators, but the one we have found to offer the best package is Central Pacific Divers as it provides diving that will satisfy the most experienced diver.

The business of serious diving can now begin. Most boats depart Lahaina harbour around 7:00 AM which means arriving at the boat for 6:30 AM in order to load the gear and get the briefing and take a vote on the days locations.

Many exciting dive sites are within one hours steaming. The seas are usually glassy at that hour of the morning making the passage enjoyable. Coffee is always available on board in generous quantities (we always needed it at 6:30 AM) Photo albums and fish guide books are also in abundance to help you identify that curious looking fish or whatsit. By the time everyone finds out where everyone else is from you have generally arrived.

If you are in the islands between November and May you will be treated to 20 tonne Humpback Whales breaching near your boat as we were. There are coast watchers to ensure that the boats do not interfere with the whales. It is one of the memorable sites you tend to recall often. Most certainly you will be escorted by Dolphins for part of the trip.

The dive sites that are accessible from Lahaina include Molakini Crater, another marine preserve. The crater is an extinct volcano with only a crescent of land above the ocean. It contains a variety of life including Murre eels, octopus and white tip reef sharks. The thing that struck us the most was the ability to see the black sea cucumbers on the bottom in 30 metres of water like grains of pepper on a bed of white sand and coral. The visibility is often 60 metres plus.

This year we dutifully loaded the camera with film hoping to catch a white tip reef shark on film. We stopped and fed Garbonzo a large Murre eel at about 15 metres. As we continued our descent past the 25 metre point down the steeply sloping wall of coral, we looked out into the blue and saw a large Manta ray who as it turned out was as curious about us as we were about him/her?

We followed the Manta to a depth of 30 metres afraid that it would dive too deeply for us when it must have overheard our thoughts for it promptly stopped its descent and began to circle. We were completely in awe of its size. We later compared notes and decided it must have been 4 metres wing tip to wing tip. It carried 2 moray fish on its back. It swam with us for the entire dive which we regretfully had to abandon after 20 minutes. I did have the presence of mind to take a few photos and they are in the Churchill Color lab right now.

The island of Lanai is also accessible from Lahaina and contains a number of dive sites. Cathedral I and Cathedral II are lava tubes that contain a variety of critters. The large ghost shrimp are very worthy of a photo or two. Underwater torches are included with cost of the trip.

Other sites include Triple Reef, Sergeant Major Reef, Wash Rock and Nob Hill to name a few. Try to dive the Cathedrals. They are very similar to our own Cathedrals on Rotto. The back wall of Molakini is also spectacular but requires certain sea conditions.

The only disconcerting moment is when you realize that the 3 tank dive (best value for the money) is done on PADI tables. Don't look at your RNPL/BSAC tables as we found it disturbing to know that we should have been bent 5 minutes into the 2nd dive.

We have been fortunate enough to dive in Hawaii on more than one occasion and we are not aware of any bend cases having been reported where the diver stayed within the PADI tables. We still feel personally safer with the RNPL/BSAC tables.

Lastly, if you need help with travel or accomodation arrangements my cousin Chrystal in Kailua will be more than pleased to help out.

Enjoy your diving and dive safe!

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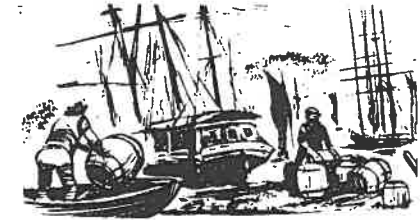


FOR INFORMATION
ON THE CLUB RING
BARRIE 4536927

U.E.C. NEWS

APR
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DIVING BLIND

Lyn Tyson is blind. Last year her love for the sea, developed during her childhood days at Proserpine, Qld., prompted her to take up SCUBA diving.

"Why would a blind person want to dive?" people ask. "Nothing is hard for me if someone shows me. The sea is important to me" she said.

During her first dive on the Great Barrier Reef she was scared, but now she is a qualified SCUBA diver and describes the sport as full of great sensations. "Diving is like flying through the air. You don't have to be able to see to visualise - you just need people to take the time to communicate in a way I understand so that I can then visualise."

Lyn has now published a book of verse called "The Sea and Me", largely inspired by her diving.



For Sale. I.V.A. camera, SB 101 flash. As new \$700. 336 1686.

GIVE THEM A HAND

The average man has bigger muscles than the average woman. Women and men do not necessarily use their arms and legs in the same way, because their muscle systems are distributed differently. The strength differences between the sexes are most apparent when individuals are lifting, lowering or carrying heavy things.

The anatomy of the female pelvis is different from that of the male; this makes it especially difficult for women to lift things from a stooped position. Because her whole pelvic architecture is designed to be more flexible to allow for childbirth, a woman is at greater risk from strains of the joint between the lower spine and the pelvic girdle, the sacroiliac joint.

Male divers are asked to assist female divers to lift on tanks, weightbelts and to help with gear when they return to the boat. This includes Macno I as well.



Remember the story in the papers which told us that one of the rules about being a fireman in the West Midlands, England is that he or she must be able to expand his or her chest by two inches to show that they have the lung capacity to cope with breathing apparatus. Every girl who applied to be a firewoman could cope with the minimum 36 inch chest requirement, but none of the poor dears could expand their chests by the necessary two inches. I don't think the test is fair!

We wouldn't have any female divers in our club if it was introduced as a physical requirement by us!

Today's Australians owe much to the early seafarers who sailed into our often treacherous waters. The course our history has taken over the past two centuries would not have been possible without them.

Divers know this better than most, because they have strong links with these early adventurers. They share the sailors' love of the sea and their overwhelming respect for it.

Divers have opportunities that are denied to most people. They can see the remains of historic shipwrecks for themselves. By swimming through the remains of iron framed hulks or over coral encrusted cannon and anchors they can closely observe the cargoes and contents of these ships of long ago. However, these opportunities do not belong to just our own generation. They are an important part of Australia's national heritage, which belongs to our ancestors and our children, as much as it does to us. We are all custodians. These things should be enjoyed by as many people as possible both now and in the future.

If these shipwrecks are left untouched, their relics will remain protected by the marine environment. The host of colourful marine growths and sea creatures which seek their protection will become an added bonus for both divers and those who seek a more leisurely viewing through glass bottomed boats.

Divers know that their sport provides more than relaxation, enjoyment and a balance to the heavy stresses of modern life. They are constantly learning as well, expanding the horizons of human knowledge in a beautiful, but once inaccessible environment.

Historic shipwrecks can tell us a lot about our ancestors, who sailed them. They contain historically significant relics, that can tell us how our forefathers lived. How they designed the tools they used for the work they did.

Our Maritime Heritage is very fragile. Indiscriminate fossicking from wrecks inevitably leads to extensive damage and destroys the archaeological integrity of the wrecksite. Also, many artefacts, once removed from the sea, begin to corrode and disintegrate very rapidly, unless proper conservation methods are taken to preserve them. Such thoughtless actions are a very real threat to the preservation of shipwrecks. Because people are sometimes shortsighted, greedy and even indulge in vandalism, legislation has been necessary to protect this maritime Heritage.

The Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976 protects shipwrecks in coastal waters off all Australian States and Territories. Under this act, people finding the remains or relics of a previously unreported ship must tell the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment of its location as soon as possible. If the wreck is declared historic, a reward of up to \$50,000 may be paid.

KENNY'S KORNERDave Kenny

Writing reports was never one of my stronger points, preferring the instant disposable lines and off the cuff ad libbing. This has been brought about by the high pressure world of boat owners and their varied problems which like in-laws, arrive when least expected and at the worst possible time.

And although to put it medically, writing reports is for me a pain in the bum, ironically, it is because of a pain in the bum, I now find that I have time to spare and ponder the ways of the world and the club more importantly.

As I gaze from room 504 in John of God's, I reminisced about the last long weekend at Rotto.

As I got away late on the Sunday, I wondered to myself is it worthwhile? One and a half to two days on my own - oh yes, I rang all the "Listen Ken next time you go to Rotto give us a ring brigade". They were all busy watering the pot plants, baking wedding cakes and having a sleep in so.... as I was saying, there was no fuel at the Yacht Club, so after careful calculations with a stick in the fuel tanks, I said, "Hell, I'm off!

When the engine coughed in the harbour I thought on manure. (I'm educated you see!) With careful closing of valves and stacking all the gear on one side, considered I could in fact make it to E. Jays at Rotto - off again. Two miles outside the heads lay an anchored vessel to starboard (that's the right Martin) with bodies moving frantically. Now being the considerate soft hearted sod that I am, I thought to myself oh ha Kenny, chance for a quid here, (you see I had no money for fuel at E. Jays either, the object was to fill the tanks and then organise credit - crafty eh!) As it turned out the victims had my problem. Two tanks, one empty and an air locked diesel. It was not a big task to get him mobile again. His wife nursed little green cherubic faces and was ever so grateful, made me feel almost Godlike giving their engine life. But the hard part was to come. He tried pushing money into my hands and I restrained myself with every lione and muscle in my body, but also dear reader, I was over powered and beat a hasty retreat to "Nancy" with \$20 shoved down the back of my bathers. Well \$20 worth of diesel got me out of trouble.

Now having refuelled, I wondered where to stay on this tranquil Mediterranean Island, surrounded by blue azure waters, while listening to 6KY! On the spur of a moment I called the "Underwater Explorer", (that's "Bombo" to you Julie) and great squid rings an answer, fairly unintelligible I might add. It was Martin. It went sort of like this.

Q: Nancy D. to Underwater Explorer do you copy?

A: Nancy D. this is Bom.... er Underwater Explorer.

Q: Nancy D. What is your position?

A: Underwater Explorer. I dunno, Rottnest somewhere!

Q: Which side of the island?

A: Am hang on. Dennis is getting a map (chart actually).

Q: Well Underwater Explorer, have you figured out where you are yet?

A: Yean, looks like Marjorie Bay.

Well that's my favourite watering hole, so off I set, entered the bay and pulled alongside. All the crew needed was a cutlass and musket to complete the picture, a more scurvey untidy mob of ratbags would be hard to imagine.

DIVING.

The Easter Longweekend trip to Busselton was called off, due to lack of interested divers.

On Good Friday the boat was taken out with eight divers to a spot north of Roe Reef, where all of us had an interesting 32m. dive. Some, definitively not Macho types, didn't enjoy the gentle rocking of the boat and to appease Neptune, made all sorts of offerings over the side. (Cornflakes, bacon and eggs, toast, all slightly used).

On the way back, about 2.30 pm. an early rising group of divers were spied near the horizon, trying to sneak out unnoticed to Rottnest for the weekend. With the aid of modern communication methods, we wished them all a happy Easter and good diving. (Hope you used your binoculars Dave).

TRAINING.

Training is going well with Peter M. handling the theory on Tuesday nights, and Barry and his group doing the in water instruction. The boat was used to go to the North Mole on several Saturdays but on Easter Saturday we tried Mettams Pool near North Beach. Conditions weren't ideal. The water was stirred up and too shallow.

THE NORTH MOLE WRECK.

The wreck of the hopper barge 100 metres north off the Fremantle North Mole, might have to go.



MIGHT I SUGGEST YOU STAY AWAY FROM BAKED BEANS BEFORE A DIVE!

The wreck which is easily accessible from the North Mole is frequently visited by divers. It has been used for years by instructors and clubs as a safe introductory wreck dive and a magnificent advanced night dive. Overseas divers are amazed at the condition and the beauty of the wreck.

The wreck is known to most divers as the "Gareenup", however research so far points to the fact that this may not be the wreck's real name. The Gareenup was a timber barge, the wreck at the North Mole is a steel hopper barge with a coathanger shaped beam above the hopper bin. There is an engine room with a horizontal boiler on the port side extending between the hull and the wall of the hopper bin.

It would be a tragedy for the local diving community if this wreck was blown up to make room for a new container terminal.

GOSSIP

Peter Henry has been made an Honourary member. Welcome Peter.

Julie has enrolled on a year long course to enable her to be able to tell the difference between ears and ashtrays.

Peter Horton has joined a Boy Scout troop. He wants to learn how to tie knots properly.

Tibi's found a great cure for seasickness - throw your new wetsuit away.

Read in the English "strand" magazine, in an article about diving: "Strangely enough the coming up is even more dangerous than the descent, owing to the rush of blood to the head when the pressure on the brain is removed." It happens every time!

This too happened in England. Three divers surfaced over two miles from their boat and were only found after a two hour search by helicopter and lifeboat. We aren't as bad as that!

Marie says she can talk quietly.

John Paskulich is convinced you've got to decompress if the water in your bath is too deep.

Dennis Stubberfield has been elected to the position of Public Relations Officer of the club. With membership growing we will need a membership Secretary soon!

Barry Kennedy doesn't want to annoy anybody. He just likes smoking old socks in his pipe.

Peter Mortimer is macho Duck?

Dennis and Brian Jury have now qualified as skippers and can take our boat out on dive trips.



NORTON, A WORD IN YOUR EAR ABOUT YOUR TRAINING METHODS!

It looked as if they were enjoying themselves, so I joined in! After a bite to eat, Julie suggested a swim, so we set off for the champagne pool in the corner or eastern end of the bay. Well somehow she got it into her dizzy head that we should all see what was on the other side of the hill. Dear friends, let me tell you what was on the other side of that hill, - four pairs of lacerated feet one gravel rashed bum, two chafed thighs and a long swim home! Having then eased our pains and ailments in the pool, we played water polo with Martin's shirt and leap frogged our way back to the boat. After some refreshments we headed for Geordie Bay, having paid our respects to our new Hon. club solicitor who was lazing on board his launch.

On arriving at Geordie Bay we found it chock o' block and with all the skippers aimers and advisers on the U.E., I decided to make myself scarce for a while and tied up to "Pure Gold" for a Guinness. Finally, darkness fell and I felt I should investigate. They had hooked into an old mooring near the jetty which the President kept inspecting by sticking his head complete with pipe, and water. Nancy and U.E. were secured and the great cook up began (that's cook up!) Corks were drawn from a Jacob's Creek and a system evolved of eating on Nancy and cooking on U.E. In all, with Dennis stoking the chops and Marie poking the vegies, Ian hanging like a fruit bat in his hammock and Julie looking like an accident victim from Thailand, yours truly was in full control until demonstrating the "other way" to leave a boat fully kitted. A slight slip of the foot and inches separated me and my Bailey's Cream from Neptune's garden - everybody laughed uproariously - personally I think a cruel streak runs in this lot! Later a birthday surprise for our glorious President was organised. I just happened to have some bubbly, the girls had a cake and hastily 21 (again?) matches were placed on the cake as no candles were available. Marie got the President out of the way while the scene was set, on the pretext of pressure buildup in the water works dept and Barry knew I had a loo on board! Strange fellow. Anyhow when they came back Marie was smiling - must have done her a power of good. Click flash etc., the moment was recorded for posterity and so on went the night with singing and dancing to Joe Loss party tunes. I heard later that we were heard at the other end of the bay. Well the night closed with the inevitable goon shows and Martin drumming his feet when he laughed. Strange fellow Martin. This of course kept Julie awake, so she lit up several more wheeze tubes. And so to bed.

Monday got off to a fairly early start. A few fuzzy heads, but breakfast over, tanks were filled and by dive time on Roe Reef, the nasty chop from the East was subsiding. Once again, our intrepid map reader picked the dive spot. The only good thing about the dive was I had Julie as my buddy. The dive was very ho hum, not a good part of Roe Reef. Next time Martin I'll put you on a good spot.

All in all a great couple of days and certainly shades of days gone by which goes to prove people don't change, only times, and you can only get out of life what you put into it. Count me in next time. Cheers ratbags!

The future of the old building we call Base, at Woodmans Point, will be discussed next meeting.

From my point of view, any whale you can dive with is the right whale - so extraordinary is the experience and the meeting between a human and a giant mammal. That's the philosophical side of it, anyway.

But when you are actually swimming towards a fifteen metre forty tonne black whale, the noble beauty of the experience doesn't seem quite so significant. Caution and fear are a bit more realistic..... I couldn't even see all of her at once. She kept on sliding past like a black submarine. Her head and mouth were covered with callosities - patches of white, rough skin. Every whale is born with different patterns of callosities which make it possible to identify individual whales. This rough skin is usually infested with whale lice, barnacles and parasitic worms. These are known as commensals - living together with the whales and feeding on left-over particles of food.

The eye of the mother whale was large and bulbous as she looked us over curiously. Then the rest of her went sliding past - and on and on, only a metre or so away. I was awe-struck. Her tail came into view. It not only moved up and down, but the other edges of it moved with a flying motion like the wings of a bird. The water creamed in bubbles off the trailing edge of her tail as all that power almost effortlessly moved her through the water.

I realised later that this was probably another warning. Whales attack with their tails and she was either positioning herself to defend her calf, or letting us see her strength close-up. We soon discovered just how powerful she could be. I was making up my mind to reach out and stroke her when my diving partner decided the issue himself. He touched her pectoral fluke.

This time, the whale decided that she had had enough and lashed out with her tail. Well, it wasn't exactly a lash with her tail. It was more a sort of flip. The first thing I knew, I was being lifted half out of the water on the inside edge of her tail. The tail caught me right under the rib cage and I (yes, I was terrified) yelled out loud with pure fear. With a reverse switch of her tail, she hit my diving buddy the same way.

Naturally, I swam away flat out! The amazing thing in retrospect was the gentleness with which she hit us. She had sort of lifted us both instead of hitting or 'whacking' us. Her warnings had built up until there was now no mistaking what would happen next if we transgressed further. Linda Gibson, an expert on mammals at the Australian Museum in Sydney believes we were very lucky not to have been seriously hurt. Whales can be very unpredictable when protecting their young.

Anyway, the southern whale and calf soon tired of us and moved away. There was no question of chasing them with only flipper power. I swam back to shore and dragged myself out of the surf - still stunned, awe-struck and exhilarated all at once. I was forced to snap out of my euphoria by the angry arrival of a self-appointed beach inspector (the

beach was otherwise deserted) He demanded to know what I had been doing harassing the whale and her calf. Didn't I know that whales were protected? How dare I disturb such rare creatures in their own environment, etc,etc.

My jaw hung open. Here I was fresh from one of the most amazing experiences of my life, being harangued by a local, concerned like me, with whale conservation. I managed to calm him down and point out that the whale had been in no danger. We were the ones who had been in danger, not the whale. We hadn't been chasing her with boats. It had been a privilege to be in the water with her in her own environment. The local finally quietened down and we had a long discussion about marine conservation.

However, this concern reflects provisions that the Federal Government has incorporated into the Whale Protection Act 1980. Because of the potential vulnerability of these whales close inshore, it is now an offence to injure, interfere, chase, mark or harass whales in Australian waters.

The Federal Act covers waters from three nautical miles out to the edge of the fishing zone - 200 nautical miles. Most state governments have duplicated this three mile coastal zone. This legislation to cover waters within the three mile coastal zone. This legislation has never been contested in court and the definition of harassment is open to interpretation. For this reason the Federal National Parks and Wildlife Service is currently formulating guidelines for whale-watchers and divers. These will be published in the next twelve months. But it's unlikely that snorkelling with whales will be an offence.

This legislation is becoming more significant as the whales slowly begin to build up their numbers again, and more and more people want to see them. In the winter of 1982, for example, more than 50,000 people turned up to see the fifteen southern whales at Warrnambool on the Victorian coast.

No-one knows how many southern whales shelter along the Australian coast each year. For the first time, the National Parks and Wildlife Service will this year conduct an aerial survey of the coast from Albany to Sydney to try and identify total numbers and individual whales. The West Australian Museum is also conducting aerial surveys. It's thought that individual whales return every three years or so - but no-one is really sure.

The experience of diving with whales still stands out as one of the most extraordinary I have ever had. I am now trying to figure out how to dive with the larger sperm whales, and right at the top of my list is to sight a blue whale. At thirty metres long, the blue whale is the largest and heaviest creature ever to have lived - including the now extinct dinosaurs. But I certainly won't try to touch them in the water. It's their environment. I just want to say hello.

My experience with the southern whale also indicates to me that you don't need lots of money and equipment, big boats, or even lots of diving experience to enjoy diving with whales. Just wetsuit, mask, snorkel and fins - and the nerve to walk out of work to get there.

An no, I wasn't sacked the next day at the office. But I did have to strain my imagination to come up with a plausible excuse. If I had told them I was swimming with whales, I don't think they would have believed me!

U.E.C NEWS

(UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB OF W.A. INC.)

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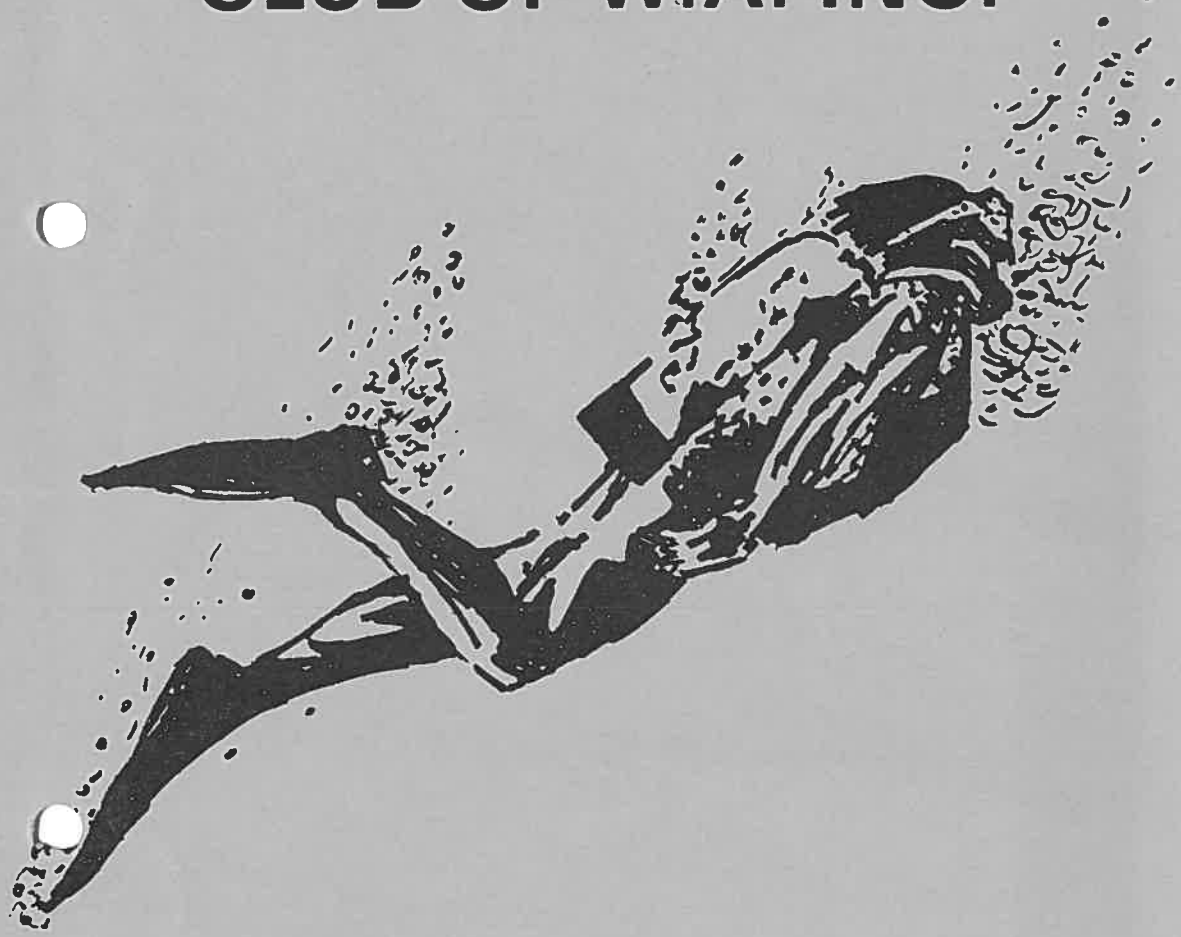
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U.E.C. NEWS



CLUB OF W.A. INC.

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS

MAY 85



"Slow" and "Slower". The Cheynes III is situated on the lee side of Michelmas Island appropriately 40 minutes from Albany, and is open to the diving public only, as she lies in some 24 metres of water. We found the wreck with relative ease (perhaps some of our skippers could take a course down there!) and anchored.

After getting kitted up we were two of the first in the water as I had great aspirations of taking some photos. My first thoughts were of disappointment at the visibility which was only about three metres. My last dive there 18 months ago was in 25 metres visibility. One consolation was that we found the wreck unlike some of the group who failed and returned early to the boat frustrated.

Once on the wreck I at once started taking photos but alas my trusty Toshiba TMII flash refused to work, as it had on my first visit. Now anyone who has ever carried a camera and flash on a dive knows how inconvenient it is but to carry one that doesn't work is a!! So with photography forgotten the exploration began. Starting at the aft (blunt end) we descended into the darkness of the crew's accommodation, with the bunks, hand basins and toilets still in position. It was a great adventure as we worked our way forward through the galley and bridge then back down into the engine room. Here can be seen the large hole left by the explosive charge used to scuttle the vessel. Then it was down a rather tight companion way into the forward cabins, again all in tact. There are many more fish around now, notably bullseyes and leather jackets.

Overall the wreck has deteriorated since my last dive on it. The walkway from the bridge to the cannon on the bow (pointy end) has collapsed onto the forward deck. After 31 minutes we ascended slowly decompressing just like in "The Wonders of Western Australia", and got back to the boat. There were already three in the boat (the ones who didn't find it).

When Les Bail returned I commented that he was only wearing a 3mm long john, only to be told "Oh normally he just wears bathers". We were told that the water is only two degrees colder than at Rottneest - take my word for it, it's not true! On the trip home I tried all the best sales pitches and handed out calendars to sell the UEC to other divers on the boat. Hopefully we may see some of them.

In conclusion anyone who has a free weekend (maybe next summer!) should try and make a visit to Albany. Les Bail from South Coast Divers I'm sure would only be too pleased to make your trip and dive on a real complete (mostly) wreck a memorable one. This was my second and it won't be my last.

NOTICE OF MOTION

The motion was moved by Martin Smith that the Annual General Meeting should be on the third Monday in November.

PAGE EIGHT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

B. Kennedy

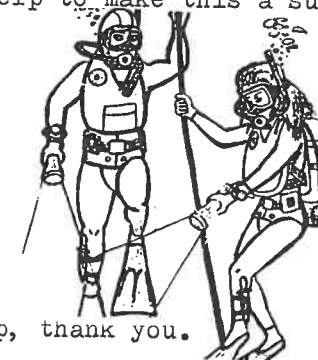
Having been absent from the magazine pages last month, I feel that it is now time for me to say a few words.

Firstly, to the people who are helping to make our training program a success I offer my sincere thanks. Your actions in giving your time and effort so generously and your attitude towards others, is what makes the very heart of this club. You make it possible for us to train to very high standards at very little cost to students. You help to make this a successful and popular club.

Let me say to....

Maree Casley
Margaret Langson
Brian Jury
Bruce Walker
Tibi Csomay
Bob Cotton
Peter Leach
John Paskulich
Peter Mortimer

and others who have been along to help, thank you.



To the people who are interested in the future of our old training base build we intend to have an inspection of the old building and a discussion on site, to discover what the members feel should be done about this building. At the next General Meeting we will decide on a day and date for this to take place. Perhaps we can combine our inspection with a training session at base, or a boat dive leaving Woodman's Point to dive in the Rockingham area. Your choice.

A committee has been formed to investigate Diving Instructor Standards, details of which were given at last month's General meeting. What the outcome of this will be, I do not know. Our club was asked to send representatives to the meetings. We have and will continue to do so. The views of our club on this subject will be made known in no uncertain manner.

Training: I have had many enquiries regarding training in our club and I expect our program to continue into the winter months. The only change will be a roster system for instructors. I know instructors need a break too, but I'm hoping we will have enough interested members to carry on into the colder months.

Our current group of students are nearing the completion of their course. I will have a report on their progress at the next General meeting.

I hope to see most of you there.

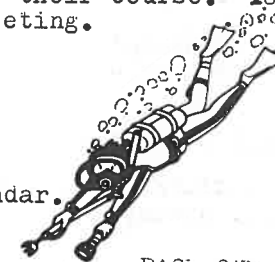
QUIZ NIGHT

Will be held on the 19th June and not as shown on the calendar.

U.E.C. NEWS

MAY 1985

PAGE ONE



ABALONE DIVERS

r. Karl Edmonds has reported in "Pressure" the theory that repeated diving leads to brain damage similar to boxers punch drunk syndrome.

r. Edmonds studied the abalone divers in Australia. Since 1900 these divers have been registered for which they are required to have three years previous experience of abalone diving.

If anyone was to show the punch drunk effect, these men with their total disregard for all decompression rules would be good candidates. They work using a airline from the compressor in their boat; dive length is variable and is determined by running out of abalone, and surface interval is merely the time needed to shift the boat to a new site. Daily underwater time totals around four hours at an average depth of 18 metres.

r. Edmonds persuaded them to take a series of intellectual function tests to determine how much their mental capacity had dropped below their expected level. The result, he reports, was horrifying. Of twentyfive divers, twelve showed evidence of intellectual impairment and eleven appeared to be demented, a condition in which the individual loses contact with reality, at least part of the time. The remaining divers' results were questionable. The demented divers had had slightly more decompression sickness and also drank more.

It is not too surprising that their style of diving with frequent minor decompression insults to the brain and the occasional major bends results in eventual cerebral damage.

BOSSIP

John P. writing the history of the U.E.C. was asked to make it herstory!

Steve Kenny is forming a fan club.

Barbara is now talking through her nose, because she has worn her mouth out.

SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING ARE:

The future of the Woodman Point base building.

Peter Leach's motion that nobody is to be elected to a club management position until they have been in the club for over 12 months.

POST

A blue/maroon striped sailing jumper, S.P.Y.C. insignia. Removed from E. Sunday 27th March. If you've got it please phone Julie-Anne 295 2518.

moderate, especially on these wrecks as the surge on the bottom can push a diver at an alarming rate towards jagged steel framework - not a healthy pastime!

Another point is boat safety; a boat capable of handling 'offshore' conditions of at least 4 1/2 metres is necessary to adequately transport divers to the wreck site, if you don't have access to a boat of this size then I would suggest contacting one of the dive clubs around Perth who run trips to both wrecks at odd times.

The best time to visit the 'Bank' is late Summer or Autumn when the ground swell is lowest and the water clearest. Other shipwrecks do exist close to the 'Bank', two of the more famous are the Sepia. South West of Carnac Island sunk in 1898, and the James Service, North West of Mandurah which sank in 1878, they are both worth a visit.

CHEYNES III

On the recent Easter weekend, Margaret and I decided on Albany as our destination for the four day break. Albany at Easter you might ask? Isn't it a bit cold? It certainly was but with an attraction like the Cheynes III it was worth a bit of discomfort.

We arrived early on Friday and spent the morning taking in a leisurely cruise aboard the "Princess Royal" formerly the Rottnest Islander. The cruise was excellent value and gave us a much better knowledge of the surrounding islands and the history involved with the discovery of Albany. The rest of the day was spent visiting "The Gap", "Natural Bridge", "The Amnity" and more importantly the Old Whaling Station, where we could explore the Cheynes IV and obtain a good idea of the layout in preparation for our diving adventure the next day.

With Saturday morning last minute shopping for "Easter Bunnies" over we headed for the Yacht Club to meet Les Bail and board the "South Coast Diver's" boat. The boat is of a similar size and speed to "Explorer I" with the throttle approximately marked

RAFFLE RESULTS

First Prize - Soren Copley

Second Prize - Pam Goodrich

Third Prize - Barry Kennedy

CORRECTION

General Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. The calendar shows the wrong date for April and July. (General meeting 17th July).

NOMINATIONS

Troy Kennedy, 8 York Street, Forrestfield.
Kim MacCallan, 6 Berberis Way, Forrestfield.
Elaine Reed, 66 Warragoon Crescent, Attadale.
Sonia Spong, 20 Murray Drive, High Wycombe.
Llewellyn De-Souza, 1 Pat street, Parkwood
Paul Sofield, 186 Brewer Road, Forrestfield.



dart out from their hideaways like charging bulls, only to turn away centimetres before striking the diver, and head back to their refuge.

The hull, in the vicinity of the boilers, has what appears to be the lower deck still intact and through some small openings the inside of the hull can be seen, the sides and part of the bottom are visible on either side.

These areas are occupied by big schools of bullseyes, and buffalo bream darting in and out of the hull. A little further South East of the boilers, a huge crankshaft sits on mounting blocks attached to the bottom of the hull, it appears that this is where the ship 'broke its back' as here the bottom starts to slowly get deeper and the crankshaft and propellor shaft angle slowly towards the sand at the stern at a depth of 12 metres.

At the stern is a huge steel wheel and axle, possibly a wheel which activated the rudder from inside the hull, the bottom in this area is mainly sand and a few rocks, I have seen schools of yellowtail kingfish feeding around the stern on two or three dives. Not a particularly common fish, the yellow-tail kingfish is one of the fastest moving predatory species in local waters.

The Royal Mail Steamer Orizaba was built by the Barrows Ship Building Co in 1886. She was a four masted steamer 460 feet long, with a gross rating of 6300 tons. Owned by the Pacific Steam Navigation Co., but on charter to the Orient Line when leaving London on January 13th, 1905, bound for Fremantle and other Australian ports, she had on board 160 passengers and 250 tons of general cargo; the last port of call

before being wrecked was Columbo, Ceylon, on 6th February. While approaching Fremantle on the 16th February, the land was hidden from sight by smoke from bushfires in the Darling Ranges, the master first spotted dry land when the ship had already passed over the Five Fathom Bank.

When he realised that the land was not the coast near Fremantle he had expected, it was Garden Island, he immediately ordered 'slow steam' and the ship be turned around on a westerly course, soundings were taken but it was too late. On her way over the bank the Orizaba must have been very close to running aground with her 24 foot draft, but on the way back she bumped bottom once and then struck hard where she rests today. The passengers and mail onboard were unloaded onto the tug Gannet on the same day as she ran aground, but the next day things looked a little grim and there was some doubt that the ship could be refloated, owing to water in engine room and a bad list to port.

After the cargo was unloaded and some fittings salvaged she was left for a number of weeks while salvaging attempts were planned, but these were to no avail, and she was eventually stripped of all furniture and fittings and left to the elements.

The Orizaba is not an 'Historic Shipwreck' as it sank after 1900, but is still privately owned by the Orient Line who has agreed to allow diving on the wreck, but no removal of artifacts or destruction of the wreck is allowed.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Both of these wrecks make interesting dives, but a little note of warning! The Five Fathom Bank is no place to be if the ground swell is above low

FIVE FATHOM WRECKS

Buzzing along at 15 knots past Penguin Island, we can just see Coventry Reef breaking five kilometres South West of us. Our planned dive site today is the North side of Coventry where eight metres below the surface, lies the wreck of the Carlisle Castle. A 25 knot easterly breeze has chopped up the surface, making our trip a very wet one in my open aluminium runabout, this hasn't dampened our enthusiasm though as we know that water is usually very clear around Coventry during a strong offshore breeze.

The Five Fathom Bank is a shallow line of reef and sand which rises out of considerably deeper water on either side, it lays in an approximately North-South line starting five kilometres West of Carnac Island and runs 30km South to finish North West of Mandurah.

Coventry Reef is the only part of the 'Bank' that normally breaks and was once thought to be the southern end of the bank, but today we know differently, the bank extends South of Coventry for at least five kilometres even though in some areas it appears to be only sand bottom, it re-appears as large outcrops of limestone and kelp weed after a short distance, those being its main features. North

Coventry it forms an almost continual line of reef with an average depth of ten metres. The water along and around the Bank is generally clearer than the inshore reefs, and are also much richer in marine life, but more importantly to the wreck enthusiast the bank is the resting place of two very interesting wrecks, the Carlisle Castle on Coventry Reef, and the Orizaba 4.8kms North of Coventry.

THE CARLISLE CASTLE WRECK

As we approach Coventry Reef the water clears very quickly over the last kilometre and we can clearly see the kelp covered reef dotted on the generally sandy bottom in 13 metres of water below us, we anchor on the wreck site and prepare our gear for the dive. On entering the water we find the visibility even better than we expected as we can see the reef face perhaps 35 metres away, we stop at the anchor of the wreck, the only one left of the site, it points skyward from a piece of wreckage on the North West end of the reef and after taking a few photos, we move on to a section where there are hundreds of bricks under tight ledges formed by the iron hull.

The bricks all bear the name CARTCRAIG engraved into their upper flat face. A short swim along these small ledges and a larger ledge, big enough for both of us to swim through, invites us to inspect its interior. Inside it is quite dark but we are able to recognize long water pipes sticking out of one side on the ledge, trapped by large sections of the broken hull. Close by there are some large caves in the reef itself and in these we come across more bricks and some broken bottles.

The marine life in these caves is colossal, the strong currents caused by the breaking swells overhead, maintain a never ending supply of food to the many sponges, ascidians, bryozoans, and corals which cover every inch of the roof and walls of the caves. One particularly large ledge near the caves, glows gold on an overcast day with the extended polyps of tubastrea coral covering its

full nine metre length. The caves are also home to dozens of blue devil fish which hang like suspended puppets in the quiet dark recesses, crayfish are also in abundance during early summer.

We then head back out to the wrecksite and search for any more cargo remains, we come across a ledge full of whisky bottles which still have the remains of their packing cases buried beneath the sand, some of the bottles are still complete with cork and lead seals, although the contents appear to have 'thickened' during their 85 year stay on the seabed. Close by is a large sand hollow which looked as though it could be a good spot to search. After dropping into the hollow we fan the sand and find more bricks, broken bottles and some pieces of china, probably the remnants of plates or bowls. By this time our air is getting low so we make our way back to the boat, bobbing away in the metre high chop on the surface.

The Carlisle Castle is regarded by the government as an 'Historic Shipwreck' as it sank before the year 1900 this to the diver means that any one is free to dive on the wreck, but that nothing must be disturbed or picking up a brick or a bottle looking at it and placing it back where it came from, although the law states that nothing should be disturbed!

The wreck actually occurred on either the 11th or 12th July, 1899, but most probably on the night of the 11th, as on this night one of the worst gales to hit the South West of WA in many years, caused many shipping mishaps in Fremantle Harbour and also led to the sinking of the City of York near Rottneest Island.

On the 12th July, wreckage was washed ashore in the Rockingham area, and along

the Penguin Island shoreline, among the wreckage two boats and some lifebuoys bearing the name Carlisle Castle were found. The next day the Government Steamer Penguin was sent to look for survivors and wreckage in the general area, but after searching and finding only more wreckage, the Penguin returned and resumed the search the next day - but no bodies were ever found. The captain of the Penguin saw a mast sticking above the water West of Coventry Reef, and on July 17th inspected the wreck from the surface with the aid of 'water glasses' and could see the name 'Carlisle' on a broken piece of timber near the bow - satisfying beyond doubt that the Carlisle Castle had sunk, and that all 22 crew were presumed drowned. For a week or so wreckage came ashore in the form of baltic masts, yardarms, cedar fittings, clothing, cabin furniture, barrels of spirits, and bottled whisky and ale.

The Carlisle Castle left Glasgow, Scotland, on March 22nd, 1899, with a cargo of water pipes, railway lines, bricks, whisky, general cargo, and according to some sources \$100,000 in gold! She was built by R.H. Green of London in 1868 and had been re-rigged as a barque for a few years before being wrecked, she was 229 feet long, had a beam of 37 feet, and had a gross rating of 1484 tons. She was once a fine example of the faster ships of the era, but today remains are a long way from bearing any resemblance to a ship. The wreck site covers an area approximately 70 metres along the North face of Coventry Reef and wreckage can be found up to 40 metres North and West of the reef, the easiest way to locate the wreck is to anchor in one of the sand patches North of the reef and as close to the reef as conditions will

safely allow, from here a short swim South will bring a diver over the bulk of the wreckage. Other interesting caves and reef can be found all around Coventry especially in the deeper water (15 metres) on the South West end of the reef, here I have seen jewfish, large schools of herring and during Autumn, schools of migrating salmon.

R.M.S. Orizaba

In complete contrast to the wreck of the Carlisle Castle, the wreck of the R.M.S. Orizaba is not particularly easy to find, has no artifacts or cargo visible, and sank under much different circumstances to the aforementioned wreck. But the Orizaba site is also more recognisable as a shipwreck than many of the wrecks in WA and is also the largest diveable wreck in local waters.

My first trip out to the wreck a number of years ago was a dead loss as I simply could not find anything but kelp covered reef, this was due to the instructions I was given by someone who obviously didn't want anyone else to dive his favorite wreck!

I was at least a kilometre away from the actual site, which I was to find a few weeks later from directions given to me by a local diver - Steve Sturgeon (now proprietor of the Malibu Diving store in Rockingham). Those directions I have now adapted to my way of locating the wreck and are as follows: Head out from the southern end of Garden Island on a compass course of approximately 240 degrees for a distance of five kilometres, while travelling out, looking astern you will notice one of the industrial chimneys in the Kwinana area is higher than any others visible, by the time you are five kilometres out, this chimney has to be lined up over the

southern-most end of Garden Island. About this distance out the water will become gradually shallower and the bottom should be clearly visible as you come onto the Five Fathom Bank, the wreck is only a few hundred metres from the edge of the bank and is located by searching, from the boat, for the boilers of the ship which appear yellow-green among a generally brown kelp weed bottom, the boilers are large and close together and are clearly visible if the surface is not too chopped up and the water clear, they are in the direct line of the chimney and Garden Island 'line up'.

The wreck lies in a north-westerly direction and the basic shape of the hull is still visible, starting at the huge bow (the most intact section of the hull) in eight metres of water. One gets an idea of the original size of this once proud ship - a diver can enter chambers in the bow which lead out through corroded plates to the outside. Inside these chambers is a huge array of invertebrate life forms, and usually a few port jackson sharks (although they appear to be a little scarce of late) lie amongst the colourful ascidians and sponges.

Heading South East from the bow the wreck is made up of large box sections covered in kelp weed, these were the framework of the hull, the outside plates having corroded away.

A little further along this framework are two boilers on the left and still further are another five to the right, one of these appears to have had the outside sheathing stripped exposing the many internal pipes. The general area around the boilers is also home to some of the most territorially aggressive scaly fins I have come across. These fish

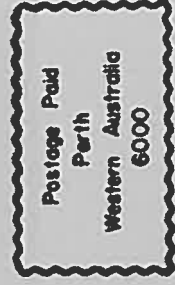
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U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A. INC.



Monthly Magazine

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7. Removal of organisms except by special research permit from intertidal platform be prohibited.
8. Temporary closure of research areas should not occur without reference to the Rottnest Island Research Committee.
9. Collection of living organisms from tidal zones for sale should be prohibited.
10. Organised reef walks should be arranged.
11. No new moorings should be installed in seagrass areas except Thomson Bay.
12. Phased introduction of daily and weekly mooring rentals on a pre booking basis.
13. Phased transfer of all private moorings to R.I.B. ownership.
14. Phased removal of moorings from Porpoise and Eagle Bays.
15. Discharge of sewerage and rubbish at moorings should be prohibited.
16. Underwater removal by divers of non-degradeable rubbish should occur. It may be possible to use volunteers.
17. Consideration should be given to provision for secure facilities for smaller boats.
18. Scavenging for wood and lighting of fires on beaches should cease.
19. Discharge of raw sewerage from Point Clune should cease as soon as possible and secondary treatment instituted. In the interim extension of the out fall should occur.
20. Marine oil spill contingencies procedures should be adopted.

Part of chapter 12 was also obtained and under the heading The Rottnest Island Reserve Recommendation 12.14 states that:

The boundaries of the Rottnest Island Reserve should be extended seaward to the 15 metre contour all around the island. The eastern boundary of the reserve should be where the 15m contour abuts the Fremantle Port Authority outer harbour boundary. This would have the effect of making the area, including Roe Reef an A class reserve, thereby achieving our object of preserving the Reef.

The summaries of the scientific papers also made interesting reading from the divers point of view and are well worth studying. One of the many interesting items of note is contained in the paper by B. Hutchins of the W.A. Museum. Of the 560 odd recorded species of fauna at Rottnest, 16% are subtropical and 27% tropical. At the Perth mainland, there are only 11% of so called tropical species. This is due to the warm south flowing Leeuwin current maintaining water temperatures of 18°C or more at Rottnest. Yet in winter mainland colder water frequently reaches the eastern and northern areas of the island. Thus the tropical fish at Rottnest tend to be restricted to the southern and western coast.

The largest number of tropical fish are found at Parker Point in the area centred around a 100m long reef of the coral Pocillopora damicornis at Pocillopora reef. Hence the efforts to protect this particular area.

These extracts should be widely read by so vitally concerned a body of people as U.E.C. members, and are available from the Secretary on application.



★ "YOU'RE doing fine
MARTIN ... keep rowing!"

The General Meeting of the 20th May was an important meeting in that several important matters required urgent attention and these had been widely publicised in the magazine. The meeting failed to gain a quorum of members and after 45 minutes, many of those who did come, left because the meeting could not be held.

Considering the rising keen membership of the club, this is an extremely poor state of affairs. We have a hard working committee who needs the support of the members to decide these important administrative matters which seriously impede club progress whilst they remain pending. This club belongs to you the members and if we are to maintain our standards in the diving community, we need your active support.

The June General meeting on the 17th will be the next opportunity members will have to show their interest in club affairs and support for the committee who work for the club. The meeting commences at 8p.m. Please be there.

DIVING REPORT

Martin Smith

Despite the bad weather, diving and boat work has proceeded as normal. On the 28th April the boat trip to Rottnest took place with a deep dive at Roe Reef and the second dive on the Transit. On the 5th May our second postponement occurred due to bad weather. Some people did turn up and a busy bee was held on the boat. On the 12th May five intrepid divers paid a visit to Stragglers Rocks in distinctly "lumpy" conditions. After kitting up in the lee of Stragglers a good dive was had approximately half a mile west of the rocks. This was no dive for the inexperienced as surface conditions made boating unpleasant. The second dive held in the lee of the rocks proved to be interesting, if on the shallow side. The deep dive west of the Stragglers was particularly interesting and worth a second visit in more pleasant conditions. On the 19th May one of our biggest diving parties once again headed west to Rottnest. Blustery N-NW winds again made the crossing unpleasant until the lee of Rottnest was reached.

Almost flat calm conditions and the surprising lack of SW swell made excellent diving conditions. Two new spots were dived on in the Radar Reef area. It is clear that weather conditions however rough from the north do not always prevent good diving south of the Island. A busy bee to clean the bottom of the boat after the second dive, added about 1½ knots to our cruising speed.

It is pleasing to note that the younger less experienced divers handled the uncomfortable seaways very well. A great confidence booster. The boat handles these kind of conditions exceptionally well and has obviously vindicated its choice for this work.

Please note that diving times during the colder months has changed to 9a.m. and not 8a.m. As this is one hour later, we expect everyone to be there on time as the boat will be leaving at 9a.m. sharp.

RESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy

things are moving along quite well at present in our Club. We have been enjoying some very good day trips to Rott. Weather conditions have favoured us over the summer season. Very few trips have been cancelled due to bad weather.

Dennis has been working hard on dive site locations, recording the better areas accurately, so that we can return at a later date to enjoy the good sites over again.

Membership is still growing, thanks mostly to our training programme, but also to our continuing good reputation as a diving club. Having our own dive boat is beginning to pay dividends. We are now able to compete with the best of them. It can be seen now that the decision to buy our own boat was a good one. Let's hope that the decisions we make from now on will be as successful.

With the winter season closing in on us I expect our activities to slow a little but for those of you who enjoy diving through the winter months, we will be providing plenty of opportunity for you to do just that. I believe that some of the best diving conditions exist during the winter, so come along and find out for yourself.



Not of useless information for U.E.C. divers: In Alaska it is legal to spear fish as long as diver and fish are both completely under the water.

THE BEGINNING OF UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

William Thompson submitted the first underwater print to the Society of Arts in London in 1856. It was a very weak image of the bottom of Weymouth Bay, taken with a camera which filled with water at the depth of 6 metres (Brownie in a plastic bag?).

His method was interesting, you can all learn from it. He lowered the camera from a row boat and the shutter was held open for 10 minutes using a length of string.

The progress in underwater photography was painfully slow until in 1880, Louis Boutan a French Professor of Zoology, developed a number of techniques for photographing underwater. But his major problem was always how to provide sufficient illumination. Lighting was important when the subject was moving.

Exposure times of 10 minutes were common - using natural light even at shallow depths. His solution was (you would never take another picture underwater if you had to use it), to fill a fifty gallon barrel with oxygen and air, attached to a spirit lamp under a glass dome. Into the glass dome he injected magnesium powder which produced a brilliant light. In his clumsy diving suit all this was very difficult to manipulate but he tried with various degrees of success.

He published the first book on underwater photography in 1900.

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ROTTNEST ISLAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROPOSALS

Dennis Stubberfield

A Rottneest Island marine management Workshop was held at the U.W.A. Botany Department on 4th August, 1984.

Participating bodies were the W.A. Branch of the Australian Marine Sciences Association and the Rottneest Island Management Planning Group. (R.I.M.P.G.) The morning sessions were occupied by a series of papers presented by specialists in various aspects of the marine ecology and the afternoon sessions were taken up by group discussions on specific management issues.

A summary of these proceedings and some of the papers presented has been obtained by the Club and is available from the Secretary.

The summary document reports the proceedings in general, but with particular emphasis on those areas dealing with management of the environment.

The afternoon sessions dealt with the specific management issues associated with Marine Reserves, Education, Boat mooring facilities, and discussed those proposals which may have Government Policy implications. Recommendations which were made under these areas include, a ban on water skiing, further restrictions on spearfishing and angling including their being banned on Transit Reef and a ban on boat anchoring at Parker Point. Under Boat mooring facilities, it was recommended that a marina if constructed, should be in Thomson's Bay only and that all moorings should be owned and rented by the R.I.B. subject to suitable terms of reference. The removal of all moorings from the west end, i.e. Marjorie and Eagle Bays and from Porpoise Bay. There should be no attempt made to satisfy peak demands for moorings or to create such a demand.

The R.I.M.P.G. has just released a two volume draft of recommendations for the management of the Island and all aspects of its environment. A copy of the chapter on marine management, chapter 9, volume 1, has been obtained and consists of a number of specific topics with recommendations relevant to their management. Twenty recommendations have been made with respect to Marine management of the Rottneest Island Reserve. These are:-

1. Swimming area reserves should be extended in Thomson, Longreach and Geordie Bays.
2. Beach mooring and landing areas for boats should be specified.
3. The Thomson Bay waterskiing area should be truncated or relocated to minimise conflict with other areas.
4. Access to all beaches and headlands should be controlled.
5. Competitive fishing by anglers and spear fishermen should cease in all waters up to the 15m contour.
6. Department of Fisheries should review fish bag limits, methods of taking fish and if required, intensify enforcement. In particular using spear guns with SCUBA.

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TO CATCH AN OCI.

This method of catching octopus is not recommended for U.E.C. members, because it is done without wetsuit, tank, mask and even a knife. The octopus hunt was observed on Gilbert Island, where the natives go in pairs to hunt the octopus. (It's called the buddy system). The best time is when the tide is out and the best place is near rocks and reefs.

The two natives swim along the surface above the reefs, with their face under water. They are looking for the arms of an octopus among the rocks. When they see it, one of them dives down and swims past the octopus allowing it to catch him.

The other native remains on the surface watching from there, waiting for the moment to intervene. He waits until the octopus wraps all but one or two arms around his friend, then he dives down grabbing his friend. He jerks him and this dislodges the remaining arm holding the octopus to the rocks. Both then kick off from the bottom swimming towards the surface. The second native grabs the body of the octopus and pulls it away from his friend. When the octopus' face is exposed, he bites it as hard as possible between the eyes. This paralyses the octopus immediately, the arms loosen and the human bait frees himself. Both natives drag the octopus to the shore, tie it to a stake and go back for another

FOR SALE: Nikonos 4A with 28mm lens and 80mm lens \$350.00
Underwater housing with flash housing to suit F2A Nikon or
Nikkormat \$250.00
Condition as new
Ring 336 1686 or 397 0436

NOMINATIONS

Elizabeth Hitchinson
Unit 51, 150 Millpoint Road, South Perth

R. Phillips
42 Sandgate Street, South Perth

WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOM ?

I know that if I cannot go for a dive for a couple of weeks, I get depressed, cranky and bad tempered.

I would like to find out if this feeling is common among divers or does it only happen to me. Send your answers to the Editor for possible publication.

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"LIKE another cold tinny, Bert?"

THE U.S. UNDERWATER DEMOLITION TEAMS

On November 20, 1942 the Japanese held island of Tarawa was invaded by United States amphibious forces. Tragedy struck when a submerged reef caused the Marine-laden landing craft to stop far off shore forcing the troops to wade several hundred yards to the beach. To the heavily laden men the water became as lethal as enemy bullets and hundreds drowned.

To provide better pre-assault hydrographic information, and to demolish beach obstacles, Navy Combat Demolition Units were formed. The original personnel were gathered from Navy Construction Battalions and Navy/Marine Scout and Rail Volunteers. All were in excellent physical condition and had previous swimming experience. Training began at Fort Pierce, Florida in the summer of 1943.

In the winter of 1944 the graduates were organized into 6-man Navy Combat Demolition Units and most were sent to England to join the large invasion force being gathered there.

After months of additional training the men were embarked with the massive invasion force which set off for the beaches of Normandy. The Navy CDU teams were assigned to clear the way to Utah and Omaha beaches. Working under intense enemy fire they painstakingly set their charges. Four gateways to France were unveiled in a series of triumphant explosions. But the Navy CDU teams paid a price - losses at Utah were 30% and at Omaha about 60 - 70%. The survivors were shipped to the Pacific where they were re-structured and renamed Underwater Demolition Teams (UDT).

BENTHOS

If someone asked you after a dive, "Have you seen any benthos today?" Would you know what they were on about?

Most likely not.
And yet we see them all the time.

Biological communities closely associated with the sea floor are collectively known as the benthos.

In shallow seas in regions of high phytoplankton productivity, the benthos are supplied with abundant food and therefore are correspondingly rich.

Along mid-ocean ridges the benthic community is made up of organisms anchored to the rock.

On the abyssal sea floor, 4 - 6 kilometre beneath the surface, most benthic animals are no more than a millimetre or two long and live buried within the sediment.

And the ones we see?
Stingrays are a true benthic species. So are sea urchins, starfishes and gorgonian corals!

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TSUNAMIS

Tsunami is a Japanese word which is used to define an ocean wave generated by seismic disturbances. These waves are very different from wind waves. A wind wave may have a length of 100 metres, tsunami can be measured in hundreds of kilometres and travel at speeds exceeding 650 kilometres per hour. While travelling in deep water tsunamis are quite harmless as they are only about one metre high. However on reaching shallow coastal water the velocity and wave length quickly diminish but as the period of the wave remains the same, it rears up to heights of 16 metres or more sweeping ashore causing widespread destruction.

An earthquake in Southern Chile on 22 May 1962 caused severe local damage but nothing compared to the trail of havoc as the tsunami swept the Pacific during the next 24 hours.

In Japan over 10,000 miles away from the original disturbance and just one day later, many lives were lost as the giant wave rolled inland.

DRUGS FROM THE SEA

The toxic nature of certain fish was known to the Romans.

As with all natural products used medicinally their potential for medicinal use was first discovered as a toxic effect upon ingestion.

Thousands of marine organisms are known to be either toxic to eat, hazardous to touch, or venomous.

The following marine organisms are potentially useful:

A marine bacteria Schizophyta = a source of antibiotics.

Heart stimulants may be extracted from certain sea anemones.

Phaeophyta, the brown algae, is used in the food industry for its gel-making property.

The puffer fish contains a substance which has anaesthetic properties.

The red algae, Chondrus crispus, is used in tooth paste.

The antiviral compound, Idoxuridine, is made from sponges.

Nereistoxin is made from marine worms, in Japan they produce an insecticide from it.

Research is complicated by the transfer of chemical compounds down food chains. This makes it difficult to decide which particular organism should be picked, caught or cultivated.

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DID YOU KNOW THAT...

... There is a Miraflores wreck at Rottneest and there is a Miraflores lock on the Panama Canal ?

... World production of salt from the sea is six million tonnes per annum ?

... For the diver who has everything. Airdive have produced a 22 carat gold-plated regulator and tank valve set. The unit is a limited edition production. Only 30 units have been made. Price \$ 700.

... On a night dive, if you turn off your light and wave your hands about, your hands will leave starry trails in the water. The reason is, you disturbed the planktonic protozoa which reacted by glowing for a moment.

... New on the market, silicone fins with graphite added to the silicone. Graphite mixed in plastic compounds enhances the ability of the material to store the energy of the diver's kick and then releasing it at the proper moment. This will give you more propulsion with less effort. The fins are about half the weight of rubber fins, what's more they are impervious to ozone or ultraviolet attack.

... Another new product on the market is a silicone mask which the makers claim will fit every face. It is a low volume mask with a single-edge face seal which covers a larger surface area and adapts to a variety of faces. It has an adjustable strap that tightens and loosens with just one hand.

... A person who drinks alcohol before or after diving is more likely to get the bends than one who doesn't.

... A person who drinks alcohol before a dive is more likely to get chilled.

PRESSURE

We all know the effects of hydrostatic pressure on divers, but what about other lives in the oceans ?

Life is known to exist down to some 10,000 metres at which depth the pressure is about 1000 atmospheres (or in the old lingo 14,700 pounds per square inch).

Since bone, muscle and fluids in fish are barely compressible, structural adaptations to avoid being crushed are only necessary for fishes which have a gas bladder. Such fishes have evolved means of regulating their density against pressure change. Some migratory mesopelagic fish accommodate wide ranges of conditions, often experiencing changes of 50 atmospheres pressure in an hour long vertical migration.

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U.E.C NEWS

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~~JAN 88~~ FEB 88 JULY 88

U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A. INC.



Monthly Magazine



BOOK REVIEW

MARINE ANIMAL INJURIES TO MAN
Dr. Carl Edmonds
Wednell Publishing,
54 Shutt Street,
Melbourne.
Price: \$11.95 (paperback)



This book is the sequel to "Dangerous Marine Animals of the Indo-Pacific Region" and presents a wealth of information in an interesting and eminently readable form. It has everything one can imagine needing to know about the multitude of creatures who have good reason to regard us as intruders in their living space, and who we contact at our disadvantage. The subjects start with those which can eat us (in whole or in part), progressing through those who zap us in various ways until we reach those whose Pathian shot hits after we have eaten them. The illustrations are excellent, even though some of the subjects are far from photogenic, and add greatly to the temptation to read on and on beyond the item of initial interest. In many instances a photograph is much to be preferred to too intimate a contact with the subject, as the author notes in relation to the dental structure of barracuda after showing the fish at a respectful distance.

Detailed advice is given on both the immediate first-aid and the definitive management, as would be expected in a book intended as far more than a library companion. The reader is reminded that it is rare for the animal concerned to be seeking out the diver or swimmer or person wading, though this nice ethical point is of little interest to the victim at the time. Scattered through the text are a number of amorphisms, including the possibly tongue-in-cheek advice to "Handle Old Wives with care". There is only one statement which this reviewer believes few will entirely follow, for the author suggests that the book "should accompany the patient and be given to the medical practitioner who is responsible for management." Shown ... Yes, loaned ... just possibly, but given ... that stretches generosity too far. But perhaps it could be regarded as a gift from a grateful patient, who would then promptly buy a new copy for himself (or herself).

Reprinted from South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society.

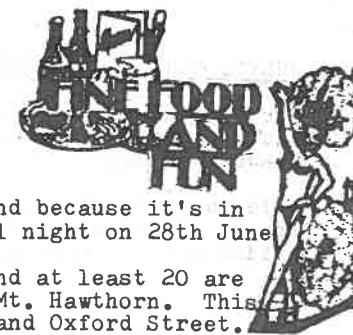


DID YOU KNOW.....

New on the market a second stage with housings in colourful shades of translucent ABS. The mouthpiece, exhaust tee, purge cover and diaphragm are all silicone which is hypoallergenic and impervious to ozone.

The main obligation of a buddy is to prevent things from going wrong. Constantly checking your buddy's gear, air supply, depth and nearness is your main task. Keep your buddy out of trouble and you will be the best partner anyone could have underwater.

The worst place for a buddy to be is behind or above the other diver.



SOCIAL NIGHT FRIDAY 28TH JUNE

Right! Following the festivities of the Quiz night and because it's in the Club calendar there WILL be a well attended social night on 28th June

Some volunteers have already been ordered to attend and at least 20 are booked into the Bacci Ristorante, 410 Oxford Street, Mt. Hawthorn. This is virtually on the corner of Scarborough Beach Road and Oxford Street.

The Bacci is \$15 per head all inclusive of house wines and dinner, similar in style to Cicero's, only better.

We want as many members and friends and family as possible to come along and just simply thoroughly enjoy yourselves.

Contact Dennis on 272 8649 after hours or 274 9606 at work.

DIVING SCENE.

Martin Smith



Diving over the past month has been somewhat hampered by bad weather, but not being too discouraged, we have managed to get out a couple of times. It has been encouraging to see some of the newer members coming along on boat trips.

At long last we have acquired a monocular compass. This necessary piece of navigational equipment will help to accurately pinpoint dive sites for further reference. It will eliminate the practice of meandering all over the ocean trying to find a particular spot.

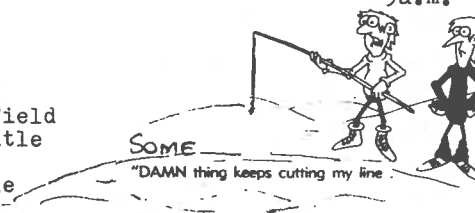
Don't forget, give me a call early in the week if you wish to go diving.

JULY CALENDAR

1st	Committee Meeting	8p.m.
7th	Boat Trip - Rotto	9a.m.
14th	Carnac Island Dive	9a.m.
15th	General Meeting	8p.m.
19th	Night Dive	6p.m.
21st	Training Dive	9a.m.
28th	Boat Trip	9a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Steve Taylor, 1Bulida Court, Kelmscott
Frazer Nelson, 7 Myonia Court, Forrestfield
Dean Crighton, 9 Burns St, North Fremantle
Susan Dawes, 159 Grove Road, Lesmurdie
Tanya Askew, 9 Burns St, North Fremantle



JULY'S GENERAL MEETING

The General Meeting for July has been incorrectly set for 22nd in the Club calendar. This meeting will be held on the 15th July, the third Monday in July.

A feature of this meeting will be a slide presentation by Ian Milne who has an extensive and interesting collection of underwater and other slides dealing with diving and boating.



SOME DIVE BOAT

"Watersports" is the largest live aboard dive vessel operating in the waters of the Great Barrier Reef. Being of catamaran construction she combines the maximum in living, leisure and kitting up areas with unequalled stability whilst at anchor.

Airconditioned accommodation is in four two berth cabins, two four berth cabins and two five berth cabins. Hot and cold showers and toilets are available adjacent to the enormous (50 square metres) undercover kitting up area. The spacious dining area and comfortable lounge/bar area provide the ultimate in after dive recreation. The upper and top deck areas are favoured for sun baking.

"Watersports" is 20.2m long, 9.1m wide and draws only 1.2m. She is powered by two V8 Caterpillar diesel engines. She can carry 20,000 litres of fuel, 13 tonnes of freshwater and has a desalinator (have a shower after every dive if you like). Navigational aids include satellite navigation, radar, auto pilot, ship to shore radio and a sophisticated electronic homing device. Diver safety equipment on board includes two inflatable tenders, medical oxygen, diver first aid kits and oxy viva. Another safety feature is the helipad on the top deck.



AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Two amendments to the Constitution were decided upon at the last General Meeting. They are:

1. Members wishing to be elected to the position of either, President, Treasurer or Secretary of the Club, must be an ordinary member for 12 months before the election.
2. The Annual General Meeting shall be held within thirty days following the month of October in each year for the purpose of balloting for all official positions for the ensuing year and any other business that may arise.

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT

FEEs ARE DUE ON 1ST JULY OF EACH YEAR.

YOUR PROMPT REMITTANCE IS NECESSARY TO ASSIST IN PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF CLUB AFFAIRS.

It has been necessary to increase ~~some~~ grades of membership fees to cope with rising costs, and will be as follows:

Nomination fee	\$20 per year	unchanged
Ordinary member	\$30 per year	up \$5
Social member	\$10 per year	unchanged
Junior member	\$25 per year	up \$5
Husband and wife	\$40 per year	unchanged



PRESENTATION NIGHT

It has been decided to defer the Presentation Night from the 26th July to 8th November to allow time to organise this important event properly and to allow the current trainees to complete their courses in time, to be presented with their diving certificates.

All entries for the Photographic trophy should be submitted to the Club as soon as possible.

CRAYFISH

The western rock lobster, *Panulirus cygnus*, passes through several major stages during its life history.

These include a series of phyllosoma larva stages, a puerulus stage, juvenile and adult stages.

After hatching in summer the phyllosoma larvae undergo a 9-11 month planktonic life. The surviving phyllosoma larvae metamorphose into a puerulus stage which swims across the continental shelf and settles in shallow coastal areas. The younger juveniles concentrate on limestone reefs to depths of 10m, with some larger juveniles to 20m. At about 4-5 years of age the juveniles migrate, in what is called the "white" phase, from the shallow reef areas into depths of 30 to 150m. Here maturity is reached, mating takes place, and the life cycle is completed.

BOUNTY

The sailors aboard the famous "Bounty" would never have mutinied if they had sailed aboard the \$4 million replica specially built for the latest movie of the historic seafaring saga.

Above deck, this full-masted "Bounty" looks just like the original vessel of the 1780's. Below deck, it's ultra luxury with beautifully-fitted cabins, satellite navigation, diesel engines, automatic pilot and the modern kitchen features microwave cooking.

There is accommodation for 30 and even a special director's cabin and film store.

The ship was built in steel, from original 18th Century plans, but covered in wood for the authentic look.

This new "Bounty" will be seen in the \$25 million film.

Only the exterior and top deck were used for filming. This is the third movie about the "Bounty". It is the first to tell the story as it actually happened, for it is based on authentic documentation. The movie has been eight years in the making.

The "Bounty", this time around, ignores what made the Clark Gable.-Charles Laughton 1935 version, and the Marlon Brando-Trevor Howard 1962 version so popular.

Gone is the classic confrontation between good and evil, between the maniacal Captain Bligh and the valiant Fletcher Christian.

In this historically accurate version, we see a very different Christian and Captain Bligh.

Christian is selfish, immature and at times close to being a coward. He was 22 during the events of 1789. Bligh is shown not as a monster but a compassionate man who generally treated his crew in a humane manner. His main problem seems to have been an inability to communicate with his crew.

NOTICE OF MOTION

That following the inspection of the building at training base on Sunday 30th June, 1985 at 9a.m., the future of base will be decided at the General meeting to be held on 15th July, 1985.

DIVE!

PAGE SIX

ANY DAY
IS A GOOD
DAY FOR
A DIVE!



U.E.C. NEWS

JULY 1985

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy

BASE

An inspection of our base building and a discussion on the future of same will take place on Sunday 30th June, 9a.m. Woodman's Point training base. This is an opportunity for those members who have an interest in the future of this building to air their views. All are welcome to attend. The Underwater Explorer will be there waiting to take those interested on a dive to the Carlisle Castle and Orizaba, weather permitting, after our discussion.

QUIZ NIGHT

The lack of attendance by club members to our Quiz Night was disappointing to me, although not totally unexpected. People tend to shy away from fund raising events. Those that do attend do so out of loyalty to the club or are badgered into going by friends.

The biggest percentage of members simply ignore such events. What this means is a handful of hardworking people put tremendous effort into raising club funds for the benefit of all members at their own expense.

I would like to see our club funds come entirely from membership fees. Each member would then contribute enough to support the cost of running the club and all the effort spent on fund raising could be channelled into more acceptable forms of activities and the few would not have to support the many, as now happens.

TRAINING

Our current group of trainees has begun the open water section of their course and despite the cold, rough conditions are progressing exceptionally well. It pleases me to see this kind of keenness and spirit. Soon they will be joining us on our regular diving trips and I know they are looking forward to this. It will be good to have them with us.

PRESENTATION NIGHT

The committee has decided to postpone our Presentation Night in line with our new A.G.M. This will give us a little more time to organise a good show and bring the event nearer to the end of the committee year.

Safe diving.

MOTION

Barry Kennedy

Blind divers who trained with the U.E.C. should be made Honourary Members. They are:

Marilyn Brown
Ian Blackburn
David Regan
Kingsley Bugarin

DIVE! DIVE!

U.E.C. NEWS

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PAGE THREE

MARINE PLANTS

Seagrasses and seaweeds represent the large marine plants found on the reefs of south Western Australia. These plants are the base of a food web whose higher members include the western rock lobster, marine mammals and man. To investigate the ecology of these reefs it is essential to study the production, biomass and strategies for growth of the plant members.

Seagrasses are flowering marine plants with roots, leaves and stems. In south Western Australia there are 17 species, a relatively large number compared with other parts of the world. The seagrass beds support many floral and faunal epiphytes. They provide shelter for juvenile fish, crustacea and larvae of the western rock lobster. Beds also stabilise sediment and prevent beach erosion.

Seaweeds may be divided into three groups; red, green and brown. About 600 species are found on reefs to 30m depth in southern Western Australia. Kelp makes up most of the bulk of seaweeds growing in the upper 15m. Seaweeds are food for some snails, fish and sea urchins and indirectly food for many more. In other parts of the world seaweeds are used as human food, food processing products, sizing paper, chemicals, soil improvers and stockfeed. The industrial uses of seaweed are being examined.



THE SCOTTISH PRINCE

Gold Coast waters are not flush with gold, treasure or skeletons of swash-buckling pirates lying in Davy Jones Locker, ready to put a marine archaeologist's blood pressure on red alert.

Most ships that had unscheduled burials at sea there since 1800 were cargo carriers with mundane loads such as pig iron and salt.

But "The Scottish Prince" was a bit different. The 950 tonne iron ship went down off the Southport Spit in 1887 and became known as the "Whisky Wreck". One writer said at the time "There was all the firewater a dipsomaniac could desire" on board. The local population came in dozens to help salvage this part of the cargo.

Today the wreck of "The Scottish Prince" is one of the most popular dive sites on the Gold Coast.

But a suggestion by the Mayor, Dennis O'Connell, that part of the wreck be raised and made into a museum as Bicentennial Project, has met with diver resistance.

They reckon it would be impracticable. Lifting it would also rob the coast of its most interest wreck - where prized artefacts still to be found include old-time whisky bottles, although their contents have long since been spoiled.

QUIZ NIGHT REPORT

Dennis Stubberfield

The Quiz Night held on 19th June was, despite a low attendance, a successful night and fun for all those who did attend. Prizes were adequate in numbers and quality, the main prize, dinner for 8 at the Bacci Ristorante in Mt. Hawthorn, was won by Warren Russell, a member of U.E.C. from "way back."

Warren and his party came in response to the Sunday Times Readers Mart ad. of the 26th May, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves!

Martin and Deidre won the last Bingo ticket prize of \$25 and is still shaking his head in disbelief.

David did a fine job of compering the show and is highly commended for his efforts. Margaret also deserves a special mention in despatches for her support and efforts in organising prizes, the raffle and numerous other odd jobs. Who could resist her looking charming and attractive as she applied gentle pressure to extract about \$120 from the assembled merrymakers. Yours truly of course had the best job of all tucked in between those two gorgeous creatures of feminine delight at the adjudicating table - sigh! - Julie and Maree. Bob Cotton too performed stirring service at the adjudicating table and appeared to enjoy it. "We haf ways of making you enjoy yourself."

Notwithstanding the above, the roll up of Club members, 14 in all, was not, repeat not, good. Next year you will all be badgered, cajoled and threatened for months ahead of the night until you are sick of the sound of Quiz Night. Well you asked for it - it's YOUR Club and it needs YOUR support.

The bare facts are:

Attendance: Club Members	14
Friends	30
Money raised	\$270

You're in for it next year you lot!

WHEN YOU ARE IN GREECE....

The 4th century B.C. Greek merchant vessel which was found near the ancient harbour of Kyrenia in 30m of water is now on display in the Crusader Castle in Kyrenia.

When first located, the site was a cluster of ancient amphoras on a mud sand seabed overgrown with weed. Careful removal of sediment revealed a cargo of 400 amphoras. Most were from Rhodes but some came from Samos. A secondary cargo of 10,000 almonds were also found. Under the amphoras lay 29 grinding stones which served as ballast. Crockery from the remains of the cabin included four sets of dishes, drinking cups, oil jars and wooden spoons. 70% of the ancient hull was found. Saw and adze marks were found on the timber.



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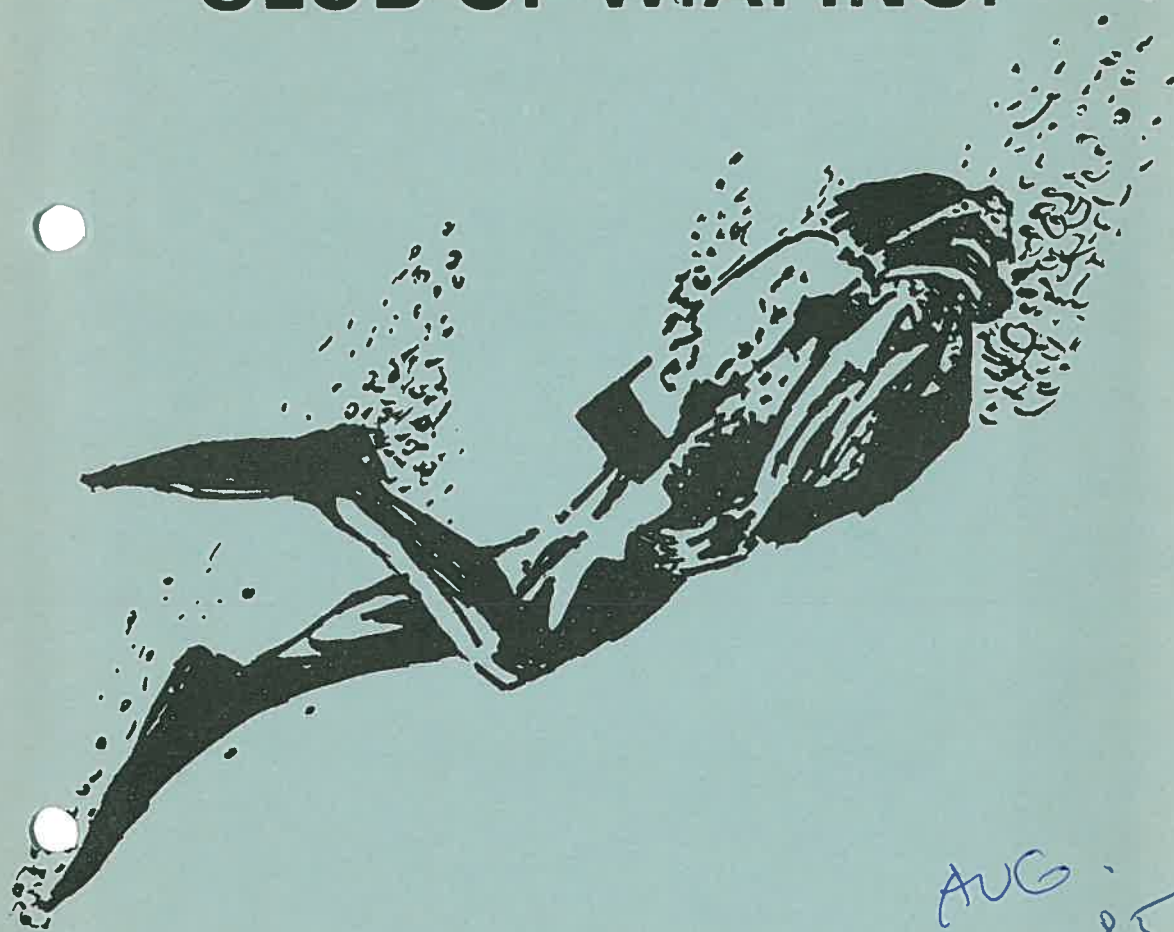
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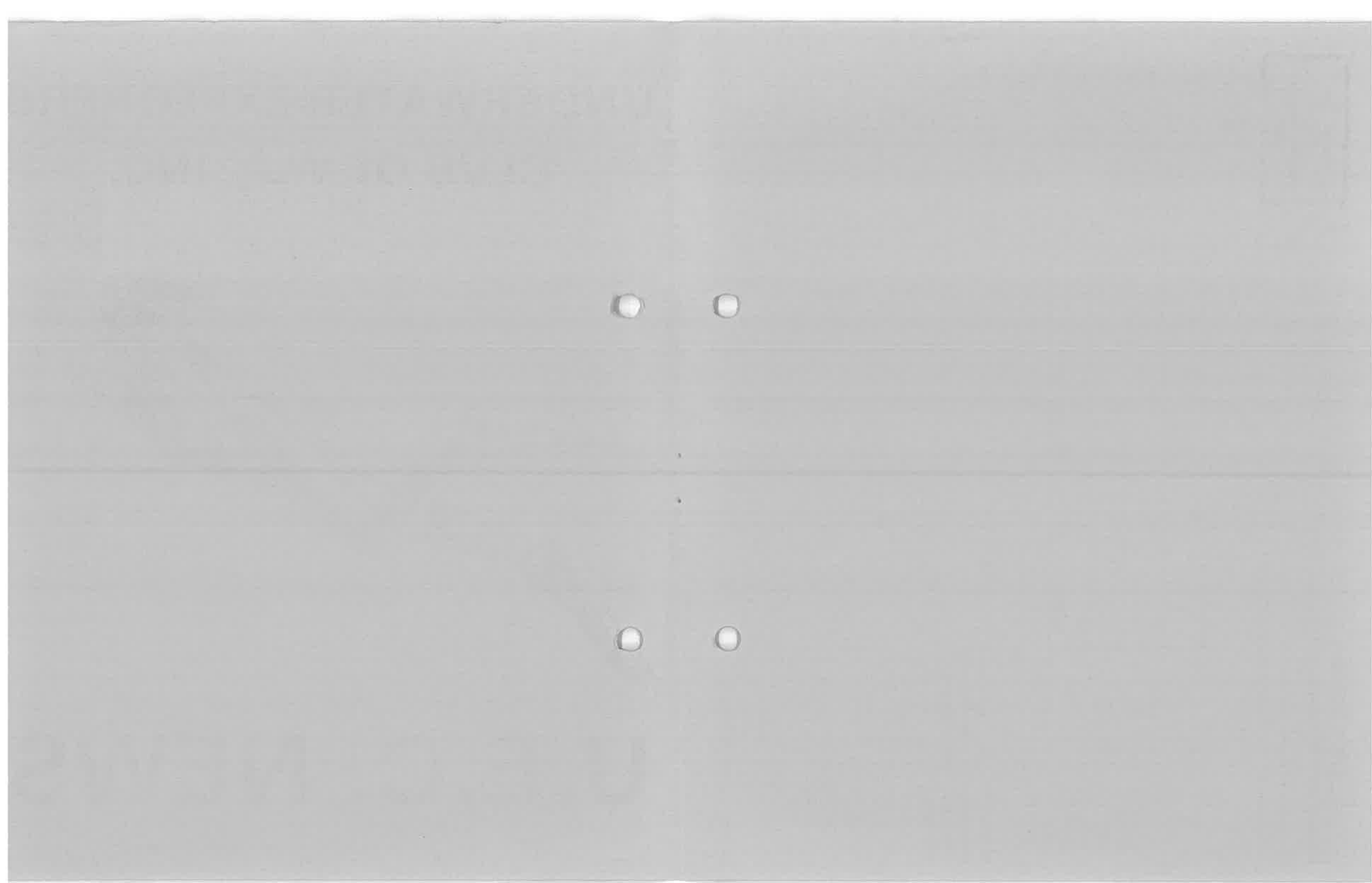
U.E.C. NEWS

**UNDERWATER EXPLORERS
CLUB OF W.A. INC.**



AUG 85

AUG 85



THE OLD GIRL NEEDS SOME ATTENTION!!

Barry Kennedy

Well it's happened again. Those long hot lazy days of summer have given way to the short, dark and cold days of winter. For the next few months diving will be patchy and erratic and so now is the time for those divers who enjoyed a good season aboard "Underwater Explorer" to repay this lady for her loyalty and service, in carrying so many of us to and from Rotto so many times in safety and comfort. Over the many months of service, she has developed a certain loyalty to our club.

In the beginning it was very hard for her. She had first to overcome the many pessimistic feelings. I remember when she strongly resisted those villians who tried so desperately hard to terminate her services to our club. I have seen the times, when with emotional tenderness, she playfully allows certain members to chuck up over her sides and at other times, at Martin's insistence, she has patiently allowed some of us to tickle her bottom (lucky Lady!!) with scraps of rag.

We all seem to take her for granted, so much so that some of us haven't noticed the ravages of time on her pretty face and body. She is beginning to show her age. What she now needs is some tender loving care, some gentle loving strokes with paint brush, up and down her sides and under her belly, to nurse her back to her sparkling radiant old self.

Those of you who have her welfare in your hearts will know what I mean and be prepared to pitch in and help when the time comes. She needs your care and attention.

COMING EVENT.

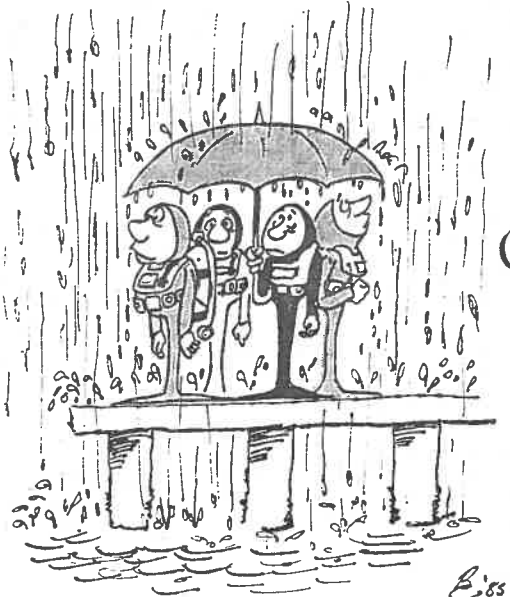
MEMBERS...

**PLANS ARE AFOOT FOR A
LARGE CLUB BASH IN NDV.**

**THIS WILL COMBINE A DISCO
AND TROPHY NIGHT AT A
VENUE YET TO BE ADVISED.**

**SO WATCH OUT IN THE
NEXT FEW MONTHS FOR
FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.**

**THE CLUB COMMITTEE HAVE
ALREADY PUT TOGETHER
A GREAT FORMAT FOR THIS
OCCASION.**



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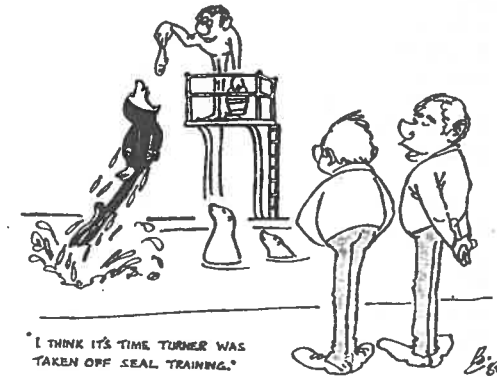
August 1985

26TH AUGUST, 1985

BARBEQUE AT THE CLUBHOUSE

LADIES PLEASE BRING A PLATE

GENTS PLEASE BRING DRINKS



"I THINK IT'S TIME TURNER WAS
TAKEN OFF SEAL TRAINING."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

When the pen is hot and the wine or ink flowing freely, let's take a look at the scintillating (titillating I had planned to say) events coming up.

1. Social Night - Friday 26th July which was to have been our Presentation night has now been planned for 8th November. So instead this social night will now take the form of a barbeque dinner and salads and drinks at the clubrooms with any sort of entertainment (well almost any sort) that the participants can come up with. Slides even if you'd like - let me know. Roll up at 7p.m.

Ericdite and informed conversation, funny stories (clean of course) - well mainly clean, music (and dancing, not on the tables), if we can get a couple of notable performers fired up; will occur. Yours truly will refrain from horrifying the President's wife - or anybody else for that matter.

It's to be your basic B.Y.O. format:- B-B-Q's will be set up in the garage which will be closed to prevent the fumes of garlic gourmet cooking pervading the banquet hall. Ladies are asked to bring the odd salad - normal ones too, while the fellows will ply them - er I mean, provide the ladies with drink of all kinds, (notably beer and wine and apple juice(?)). Harvey Wallbangers and such should be provided by the actual drinker unless you can con some sucker, I mean friend, to bring them for you.

Tables will be set up in the main hall and a real feast ensue.

If you will all promise to misbehave, I'll leave the camera in the car!! (maybe)

See you on Friday at 7p.m. folks - don't book, just roll up - friends included and welcome.

2. Rottnest Island Trip - September 1985. Contrary to popular belief this is a social function and will take place at Geordie Bay over the long weekend at the end of September 1985. Dates are 28th, 29th and 30th September.

A weekend of fun, fishing, manta board riding and DIVING will be programmed including one day's exploration for dive sites, as we have a number of spots lined up to try.

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Accommodation on the island has been booked and will be chalets No. 436 and 437, at the west end of Geordie Bay. These will accommodate 15 people and if we can persuade a couple more to sleep in the boat, we can take an absolute maximum of 17 people. Such is the popularity of this event that we have only 3 places left (not counting a possible 1 or 2 cancellations, which one can't promise). This is the first magazine in which we have been able to advertise the trip!

A deposit of \$20 per person will be required by the 26th July to allow chalet bookings to be held. The chalets are available from the Wednesday to Wednesday, spanning the long weekend and will be available for members use during that time.

Peter Henry has hired us a compressor which will save much cost and inconvenience for tank fills.

Fixed costs will be around \$45 per person and with food, tank and equipment hire, it is confidently expected the total cost should be under \$100 per person for the whole weekend. More details will be published next magazine but in the meantime contact me for further details. i.e. Dennis on 274 9606 working hours or 272 8649 at home.

Don't worry if you miss out this time, we'll do it again the following weekend if there's enough people interested!!! - and if we are not too exhausted.

Stay in touch folks!

THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE.

THE SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE:	MEMBER	\$30
	JUNIOR	\$25
	SOCIAL	\$10
	HUSBAND & WIFE	\$40



DIVING

Martin Smith

In the past four weeks or so the boat has only been out a couple of times, due once again to adverse weather conditions. On the 14th we dived on Halls Bank but visibility was not the best. The night dive on the 19th was also cancelled. Maybe next month's Night Dive will be better.

It's that time of the season when the "Underwater Explorer" must be taken out of the water to do a spot of painting and other maintenance. Of course this task takes time, but more importantly, lots of able bodied people. The boat will be at Royal Perth Yacht Club next to Dave Kenny's workshop (Matilda Bay Marine Centre). I know there will be lots of divers who have made use of the "Underwater Explorer" over the past year, who will be only too willing to lend a hand. The boat will be out of the water for approximately three weeks as from 22nd July. Don't be shy, give me a call. The main tasks are sanding, painting, putting the name on the boat and other minor repairs.

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SOCIAL NOTES

by your Raving er Roving Reporter/Photographer

Social night at the Bacci Ristorante. This event was held on Friday 28th June, when 27 revellers attended a feast of food, music and dancing to cater for all tastes. The large group of young and newer members really added zip to the evening, while us older more sophisticated types (speak for yourself, Raving Reporter!!), were persuaded to let our hair down and swing a little.

Ian and Dean started things with a pretty little promenade (together) and Olga treated us to a very good Russian Cossack dance. If you're wondering about the apparent reversal of roles here, so were we, although Olga certainly lost none of her femininity during the Cossack dance, I promise. We took photos to prove it. Fish net stockings were not, repeat not, worn by Ian (I think). It's marvellous what a few snorts and a party atmosphere will do.

Angela and Glenda were there looking very attractive, so much so that they were whisked off to the Parmelia or Sheraton or somewhere, for drinks and tete-a-tete dancing afterwards. While this was going on I believe another party of stayers did themselves grievous bodily harm at a disco of high repute (I hope) untill 4.00a.m.

The afore-mentioned photos were very revealing and showed at one stage, the President's wife, in company with the Presidential party, deep in conversation with our P.R. Officer. Then there appeared a look of horror on her face (second photo taken by President Barry) - the blighter must have rattled off a few verses of "Eskimo Nell" - dastardly swine.

We were delighted to welcome our newest honorary member, Peter Henry and wife Peg, who were caught by the camera having a quick cuddle, glass in hand (Peter that is) and that well known beaming smile splitting Peter's face from ear to ear.

Paul came along with lovely Lady just to check out the cuisine and gave it favourable comment - just as well he did because your busy scribe was so intent on having a good time, he didn't have time to notice the food.

There were many more smiling faces and interludes, too numerous to report but if my camera missed you this time, look out at future events. The evening was terrific and I have had strict instructions (notably from Brian and Irene Walker) to do it again, - I will, leaving out Eskimo Nell.

I have also heard that the prize winners of the Quiz Night have had their night out at the Bacci and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, which is a tremendous advert for U.E.C.

I look forward to snapping you for the gossip notice board at the next event, which I'll tell you about in a minute, all photos being pinned up for viewing (after those concerned have had a chance to censor them). Meanwhile, a little more practice on your "Zorba the Greek", please!

Cheers folks!

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Restrictions

The certificates issued will be endorsed with the restrictions that a blind diver will be accompanied by TWC sighted, qualified divers and that a buddy line to at least one of them will always be used.

BLIND DIVER SIGNALS

Sighted buddy to blind diver touch signals	Blind diver responds with normal signal
"OK" Touch blind divers mask	Thumb and forefinger in circle
"GO LEFT/RIGHT" Tap left/right shoulder or leg	Points in appropriate direction
"STOP" Squeeze upper arm	Open hand, fingers together
"START SWIMMING" Tap 3 times on shoulder	---
"GO UP/DOWN" Take blind divers thumb and hold up or down	Points in appropriate direction
"I WANT TO BUDDY BREATHE" Sighted buddy takes blind diver's fist, covers it with his own hand and moves it back and forward	For the same request the blind diver would move his hand back and forth over his own mouth-piece
On ascent "WE ARE APPROX. 3 METRES FROM THE SURFACE" Press the blind divers stomach firmly. This is repeated 1 metre from surface	---
"I WANT YOU TO DITCH YOUR EQUIPMENT" (used in training) Place blind divers hand on his own shoulder strap	---

Two simple line signals are also used.

1 tug "OK" or "STOP"
Multiple tugs "URGENT: COME TO ME/HELP"

NOTICE

CLUB FEES WERE DUE ON THE 1ST JULY. IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YET, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

DON'T TRY IT.

When Jose Angel drowned in a diving accident five miles off Lahania, Maui, he was diving for black coral with Ricky Grigg. Due to a slight navigational error, he dived into water much deeper than he anticipated. He went over holding a thirty pound rock to get down more quickly (to have more bottom time) and never surfaced. Ricky said that Jose dived into what he thought was 220 feet of water. Ricky estimated the bottom depth at 330 feet or more.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy

BASE It seems a decision on our base building is a hot potato that no one wants to handle. After being shuffled about and conveniently forgotten by successive committees over the past couple of years, it was finally brought to a head and a recent General Meeting was to decide the fate of this building. Not enough members turned up for us to even hold a meeting.

After arranging a discussion on site to air members feelings on this issue, it was again to be decided at the next General Meeting. What was to happen to this building? Not enough members turned up for us to hold a meeting.

Perhaps there is a message here for me. I believe the committee will ultimately have to make this decision and the club will have to wear the result regardless.

TRAINING All training for this season is now complete except for the final practical tests which will be coming up soon. For those interested, training will re-commence in November.

As you know, our Presentation Night will also be held in November. I'm hoping for a big turnout for this event. We are making this a combined pre-season get together and Presentation Night with music, dancing and supper. Cost will be \$5.00 per head, tickets are on sale now. Photographic entries and nominations for all other trophies and awards will be accepted by the committee as from now. Let's hear from you.

PRESENTATION NIGHT - 8TH NOVEMBER, 1985

The following trophies will be presented:

Dennis and Barbara Parker Trophy for Conservation
Lyn Jones trophy for Best Woman Diver
Ken Kennedy trophy for Most Improved Woman Diver
Dave Kenny trophy for the Writer of the Year
Dolphin trophy (sportsman of the year) for Personal Diving
Kerry Stokes trophy for Underwater Photography
Mike Pollard Memorial trophy for Research

You can nominate divers for any of the above trophies.



BLIND DIVER TRAINING 1984/85

John Paskulich

This programme was initiated after a successful pilot session where 6 members of the Association for the Blind completed a short course conducted by the Underwater Explorers Club early in 1984. This course ran for 4 sessions where basic snorkelling, basic theory and introductory compressed air skills were taught.

The present programme involved 4 members of the above association two of which had participated in the pilot scheme. It was run as a conventional diver course and at its conclusion the students were tested to "Open Water Scuba Diver" level and appropriate certificates (with some restrictions) will be awarded. 3 of the 4 students completed the full course, one completed the snorkelling section only.

Certification is from the Scuba Divers Federation of W.A. and the clubs involved were the Underwater Explorers Club of W.A. and the Friendly Group of Divers. Both members of the above federation.

The students involved were:-

Ian Blackburn)
David Regan) completed full course
Kingsley Bugarin)
Marilyn Brown - completed snorkelling section only.

COURSE FORMAT

All students required medical clearance to participate. The course was divided into 2 sections. The first was snorkel skills only and consisted of 4, two hour sessions. 2 were conducted in Somerset Pool and 2 in the ocean adjacent to North Mole. The second part of the course ran over 9 sessions and consisted of pool and ocean training. In this the elements of scuba diving and basic resuscitation skills were taught. Practical tests were done in Beatty Park Pool and theory was tested orally. These tests were supervised by a senior officer of the SDF (W.A.).

Snorkel training: All students completed the following -

Pool 200m swim unaided

2 minutes treading water unaided
50m surface snorkelling
Duck dive 2m and swim underwater 15m
Snorkel without a mask 50m
Clear flooded mask on a single breath
Water entries
Towing victim and "in water" EAR

Ocean Surface swim on snorkel 800m

Duck dive 5m (minimum)
Water entries from beach and small boat

Scuba Training This training was based on conventional courses being run by the major organisations with a few variations to suit the blind. At the end of the course the successful students could:-

Prepare and fit all equipment

Operate BCV

Perform satisfactory water entries

Demonstrate underwater hand signals

At 5m - clear flooded mask

- buddy breathe both with and without face mask while swimming over a distance in excess of 30m

- remove and replace all scuba basic equipment

Perform C.P.R.

As well, they each answered correctly at least 20 out of 25 oral questions (80%) on basic scuba theory. The topics included gas laws and diving physics, diver illnesses, basic first aid, dive tables, equipment and underwater hand signals.

Instructors: At all times, each student was attended by at least one instructor and one other assistant.

Instructor standard was SDF(W.A.) "Instructor", assistants qualifications varied but all were trained, experienced and qualified divers. It must be noted that all were volunteer workers and donated their time free.

EQUIPMENT

Some items of basic equipment were purchased but the majority of gear was either borrowed or hired from "Fremantle Diving Centre" Rossmoyne. 3 copies of the "Australian Scuba Diver" were also purchased and used as the standard reference. Students used family or friends to read these for them where appropriate. It is proposed to hand over all of the purchased equipment to the Association for the Blind at the conclusion of the course for safe keeping. They will be able to lend it to members at their discretion.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

From our experience the following was noted:-

Underwater signals

Visual signals are no use to blind divers. We experimented with navy line signals but found these too cumbersome and in most cases were rejected.

The best system was a hybrid arrangement where the sighted buddy used a series of touch signals and the blind diver responded with a normal hand signal. Details appear in the appendices.

Buddy lines

It is essential that the blind diver be connected by a short line to his buddy at all times during open water diving. This improves confidence and always ensures immediate contact. Two simple line signals were retained, one tug indicated "OK", multiple tugs meaning "Help me". It was also noted that the students were unable to judge ascent rate, a line is useful here should they "take off" towards the surface.



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U.E.C. NEWS

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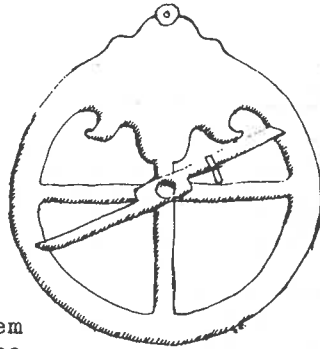


SEP 85



THE SEA ASTROLABLE.

The sea astrolable was one of the early instruments developed by Portuguese navigators in the 15th Century to measure the altitude of the Pole Star and the noonday sun as a means of determining latitude - position north or south of the Equator.



Since these early navigators had no accurate means of determining longitude - position east or west of an agreed starting point - they evolved the system of "running down the latitude" to find their place of destination. To do this they would run due north or south to the known latitude of that place and then turn due east or west until the land - hopefully the one they sought - hove in sight.

The sea astrolable was used in conjunction with the forestaff from about the end of the 15th Century, and was only gradually superceded by the backstaff, which in turn gave way to the octant and then the sextant, the latter used from Captain Cook's day to current times without major modification.

A sea astrolable recovered from the Vergulde Draek wrecksite brings the W A Museum's collection of astrolables to a total of five - a most impressive figure in view of the fact that fewer than fifty survive world wide.



Gossip.

Sorren Copley and Shane Lake were seen diving near the Monte Bellos.

Dennis Stuoerberfield is in England visiting his grandmother.

Denzil Talbot is in Europe.

John Pasculich has finished the History of the U.E.C.

The Bombo winch has been sold.

Alen Gatter returned from England.

NOMINATIONS

Diana Bachman

Greg Bachman 1 Queen Street South Perth.

Adrian Edwards 7 Verbina Rd Willetton.

Janet Kramer

Albert Kramer 9 McBain Court Langford.

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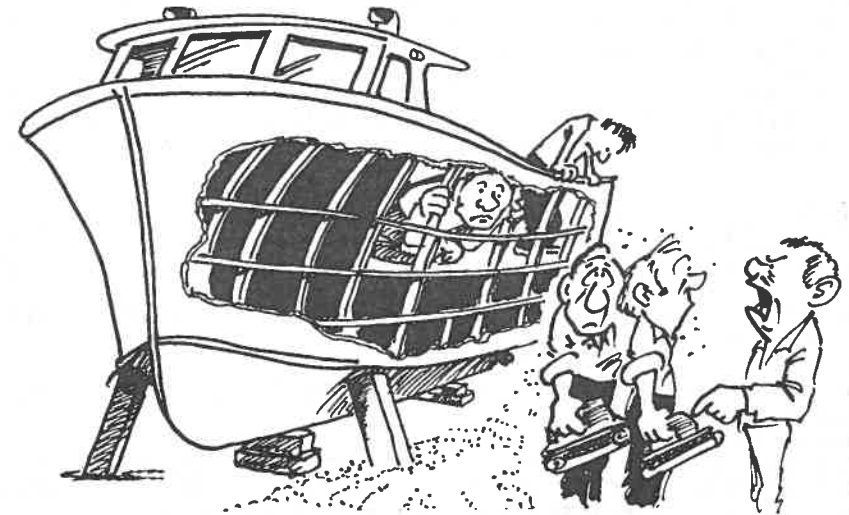


BOAT REPORT

Martin Smith

The work on the "Underwater Explorer" is proceeding. I must say though, I am a little disappointed at the number of people who have offered their services to help with the laborious tasks of scraping and sanding etc. the hull, which is time consuming. It seems to be the same dedicated members every week who give up their time to come and help. To them, thankyou. If you have some spare time on the weekends give me a call.

Now for a progress report. Well things are looking good. The hull has been painted and we have repaired the gearbox. Upper deck work is well advanced. One of the big tasks was to fit a diving platform at the back. This is also almost complete. A toilet is to be fitted at last. It will be at least another two weeks before she is back in the water.



WHEN I SAID, SAND IT DOWN.
I JUST MEANT THE PAINT!

Bob
Cotton.

DIVING REPORT

Martin Smith

As you all know the "Underwater Explorer" has been out of the water for the last few weeks so no diving activities have taken place. But don't despair, she will soon be afloat again so keep in touch.

Below is the calendar for September, October and November as the current calendar expires at the end of August. As the A.G.M. has been moved to the November meeting, the official calendar won't be printed until the new office bearers have been elected.

NEW DIVER EMERGENCY SERVICE APPROVED BY GOVERNMENT

The Minister of Defence, through his minister assisting, has agreed to an approach made by the Australian Underwater Federation, that the RAN School of Underwater Medicine to accept the responsibility of a national co-ordination point for assistance in the event of diving emergencies.

To obtain assistance in a diving emergency, there is, Australia wide, a single telephone number to call. That phone, manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week, will provide access to the doctors of the RAN School of Underwater Medicine for immediate advice on treatment and to provide advice on future transport or further treatment that may be needed.

Mr. Frank Pool, the National Director of Coaching for the AUF, was quick to add that this in no way lessens the importance of the several professionally serviced recompression chambers available around our coast, but with divers tending to be very migratory, there was now a single telephone contract and a simple reporting procedure, instead of the multiplicity of reporting numbers and offering procedures currently evolving. The navy would normally utilise the closest appropriate facility to the accident and provide advice in first aid and subsequent treatment and in arranging transport to move the patient to the facility.

The AUF stated that this action by the minister and by the navy indicated their willingness to assist the general public where service expertise prevailed. It will be a major factor in improving the safety of diving in Australia.

If you have a diving emergency, call "DES" (Divers Emergency Service):

RING: (02) 960 0321

STATE: "This is a diving emergency"

ASK: That they contact the duty doctor of the School of Underwater Medicine.

GIVE: Details of INCIDENT:-

1. Exact location of patient.
2. Telephone number where someone can be contacted, including STD code (make sure that someone stays at the phone and that the phone is not used).
3. Details of accident/incident and patient's conditions.
4. Current first aid being applied.
5. Contact's name.
6. Have any emergency/medical/police services been notified. If so, when.

CHECK: That the receiver has correct:-

1. Location.
2. Telephone number
3. Give details
4. Signs and symptoms
5. Contact name.

The AUF will shortly be distributing a brochure with full procedures suitable for notice boards and handouts, to be followed by an abbreviated procedure on a plastic wallet card and a sticker.

Further information can be obtained from the AUF National HQ, P.O. Box 1006, Civic Square, Canberra, 2608.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy

Boat: I hate to steal Martin's thunder, but I can't resist mentioning how well the boat is looking with the new marlin board, sparkling new coat of paint and the name painted along her sides. She is her old self once again, thanks to the efforts of those club members who worked so hard on her over the last few weeks.

It will certainly be good to go diving from her once again. I have withdrawal symptoms settling in and feel I may have to adjust to being in the water again.

The Committee intends this season to make a promotional video of our club activities. The artwork on the boat should stand out very nicely for this. I hope everyone can take some part in this process even if it's only a cheesy smile for the camera.

Training: Most of our trainees have now qualified. The few who have not yet been examined will probably be qualifying by the time this magazine goes to print. Remember our training is due to start again in November, so if you know of anyone who is interested in doing a course, let us know so that we can advise them of the details.

Social: The long weekend at Rottneest is next on our social calendar. I am certainly looking forward to this. It should prove to be all we are hoping for. There is still a couple of places left. If you would to take part the opportunity is there.

Also coming up soon is our Presentation Night. I would like everyone to make an effort to come along to this important club event. We promise you a good night for only \$6.00 a head. What have you got to lose, bring some friends along.

See you on the next dive.



NOTICE

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND AT ROTTO

28TH, 29TH, 30TH September, 1985. Two chalets available from 25th September to 2nd October. Our boat will be there Saturday, Sunday and Monday with filling compressor. Two dives each day, log fire at night. Book with Dennis on 272 8649.

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT

FEE'S ARE DUE ON 1ST JULY OF EACH YEAR.

YOUR PROMPT REMITTANCE IS NECESSARY TO ASSIST IN

PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF CLUB AFFAIRS.

THE USE OF "DIVER BELOW" FLAGS

Following concerns expressed last year on the use of "diver below" flags, investigations have now been completed on the need to introduce regulations to prohibit divers operating next to commercial fishing gear.

The Crown Solicitor has advised that it is possible to introduce regulations under the Navigable Waters Regulations, to prohibit diving operations from being carried out within 50 metres of a set rock lobster pot, net or similar device used in connection with the taking of fish. These regulations can be justified under the Act from a safety point of view and the necessity for vessels being able to approach such devices without impediment. However, the introduction of such a regulation will not remove the obligation of a boat skipper from abiding with the requirements of an International Code Flag "A", indicating the presence of a diver below, even when inappropriately placed.

Reproduced from FINS



At long last we have acquired a monocular compass. This necessary piece of navigational equipment will help to accurately pinpoint dive sites for further reference. It will eliminate the practice of meandering all over the ocean trying to find a particular spot.

MEDICATIONS AND DIVING

The physiology of diving is complex, as are the physiological effects of medication. Drugs mask symptoms, but do not eliminate the illness producing them. Illness causes changes in body chemistry and the body is not normal immediately afterward. To complicate the situation by exposing oneself to the effects of higher pressures in combination with medications is a definite but avoidable risk. Even worse is the use of mind-altering drugs, which affect judgement and motor-skills. The best "trip" of all is the natural high of diving experienced by those in good health.

EATING SOME KINDS OF FISH MAY REDUCE CORONARY DISEASE

The New England Journal of Medicine has reported on a study conducted in the Netherlands which has found a direct link between the amount of fish in the diet and rate of death from heart disease. Investigators monitored the eating habits of 852 middle-aged Dutchmen for twenty years and found the incidence of fatal heart disease was more than 50% lower among men who regularly ate fish than those who ate no fish at all. This trend was noted even though the fish eaters consumed more cholesterol and more meat than non-fish eaters in the study, and both cholesterol and meat have been suggested as major factors in heart disease.

The Dutch study suggested that even modest doses of sea foods, the equivalent of one or two fish dishes a week, may be of some value for the prevention of coronary heart disease. The reasons for the way in which fish consumption prevents heart disease are not well known. Some fish (specifically cold water species such as cod, salmon, mackerel and sardines) contain some polyunsaturated oils that are found in no other food and have major effects on body chemistry.

It is known that these fats reduce the tendency of blood to clot and help lower cholesterol levels in the blood. The study seems to back up the previous observation that high fish eating populations such as the Eskimos of Greenland who consume about 400 grammes of fish a day and Japanese people which average about 80 grammes of fish a day have lower rates of heart disease than other people in the world.

The study was conducted in the Netherlands town of Zutphen by a Dr. Daan Kronhou and colleagues of the University of Leiden. About 20% of the men in this study sample ate no fish at all when the study first began in 1960 and the average consumption was just over 14 grammes a day. Over the course of the study 78 men died of heart disease. However it was found the more fish the men ate the less likely they were to die from heart disease. Those which averaged at least 28 grammes of fish daily were less than half as likely to die of heart disease than those who never consumed fish.

Reprinted from FINS.



DID YOU KNOW.....

Did you know that the Club Patron Kerry Stokes entered an American photographic competition and, out of over 10,000 entries, came 27th! with an entry titled "All you need is love". He was also the only Australian finalist. Congratulations Kerry, from all U.E.C. members. Let's hope your achievement will be an inspiration to the photographers in the club.

Leni Riefenstahl learned to dive at the age of 70. Today she is a well known underwater photographer.

Dr. N Haimson, our club doctor, is leaving Australia. He has a long association with the club having joined it in 1961. More in next issue.

COMPRESSED AIR DIVING FOR ROCK LOBSTER

The Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee continues to be concerned with reports regarding the poaching of rock lobster from pots by some divers using compressed air. In addition, departmental enforcement experience has shown that divers using compressed air tend to be more frequently involved in the offences of illegally selling rock lobster and exceeding their legal bag or catch limit. The Committee is also conscious of the association of the use of "diver below" flags adjacent to fishing gear and complaints by commercial fishermen, on almost all occasions, being a consequence of divers using hookah or scuba equipment to take rock lobster.

Commercial fishermen may only use pots to take rock lobster. Amateur fishermen may use pots or take them by hand whilst diving either with or without the assistance of compressed air. Diving is not a permitted method of rock lobster capture within the area of the Abrolhos Islands. The Committee was of the view that compressed air diving for rock lobster should no longer remain an acceptable method of capture. The regulations should be amended accordingly.



Reproduced from FINS

SEPTEMBER

1ST Boat Trip Rottneest
2ND Committee Meeting
8TH Wreck Dive
15TH Boat Trip
16TH General Meeting
22ND Garden Island dive
28TH, 29TH Long Weekend at Rottneest
30TH

OCTOBER

6TH Boat Trip
7TH Committee Meeting
13TH Boat Trip "Orizaba"
18TH Night Dive
20TH Boat Trip
21ST General Meeting
27TH Boat Trip Rottneest



UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY - AN INCREASINGLY POPULAR HOBBY

Western Australia's fine beaches and climate encourage outdoor sports and one of the most rapidly growing outdoor experiences is that of underwater photography.

Providing good exercise and continuing interest the hobby has a lot to offer a person seeking a slightly different form of recreation. The quality of photographs taken by such hobbyists is becoming of a very high standard. Many have been used in previous issues of FINS and have often made good cover designs.

If any Western Australian underwater photographers have good photographs they would be welcome to forward copies to: The Editor, FINS Magazine, Fisheries Department, 108 Adelaide Terrace, Perth and every effort will be made to include those of sufficient quality and clarity in FINS.

THANKS

Angela Thomson

I would like to thank the people who have given up their time to train us.

My special thanks go to Peter Leach for introducing me to the sport. Thankyou Brian for your quality of enduring trials, calmly and with patience, I think you are great. Thankyou Maree for your words of encouragement when I needed them most. The lectures made a great deal of difference, Barry and Peter, I don't think any of us will forget your words of warnings.

Now that we have learned the basic skills of diving, we'll need lots of dives to give us more experience and confidence.



DIVING IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL

Peter Mortimer

In England, many of the wrecks our Club dived on, were 8 to 15 miles off shore so it was impossible to locate these deep wrecks with transit marks. There were two choices - try to find them with navigation and a depth finder (not very easy), or have a friend in the Club with a 35 foot boat with auto pilot and Decca radar. Our Club was lucky to have a member with these qualifications. Decca radar works by beacons being set up all along the south coast, and the coast of France. The equipment was able to use these beacons as transit marks and with a naval Decca chart, which had the wrecks and numbers marked, it was quite easy to locate wrecks out of sight of land. The two numbers were set on the equipment, and you just steamed to the right location. I think it was accurate to about 6 feet. One of the wrecks we dived on, which was quite interesting, lay in about 90 feet (28 metres) at low tide. The tide had a rise and fall of about 5 metres, so it made a big difference to dive on low water. It was also necessary to dive at slack water, because the tide ran at about 4 knots, which was impossible to swim against. As you can see, there was a considerable amount of organisation, to be at the right place at the right time. We normally dropped a buoy on the wreck, which the divers went down, and the boat drifted close to the wreck, ready to pick up the returning divers.

We called the wreck, the Armed Trawler. As you descend the buoy line, it progressively grew darker, at about 20 metres, it would be almost black, your eyes slowly became accustomed to the dark, and with the aid of a torch, you started to see the outline of the wreck. She sat upright on the bottom, the funnel had fallen over and lay in the mud - a good place to find lobsters and conger eels. There are huge shoals of pollock, 2 to 3 feet long, and smaller fish in every direction you look - far more than you see on our W.A. wrecks, although not so colourful. The interesting thing about this wreck was the four inch gun mounted on a raised platform on the bow. It still had the box of live shells by its side, and spent cartridge cases all around. We learned that this ship was sunk by gunfire whilst engaging a German submarine. We assumed the sub got away. It was quite eerie, and easy to imagine the scene that night, as these two ships fought desperately to sink each other, maybe the sub was hit and lays not far away, there are several wrecked subs in the Channel near this area. As you return to the light, the bubble of imagination bursts and you are very keen to get back on board, to get some warm drink inside you.

U.E.C NEWS

(UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB OF W.A. INC.)

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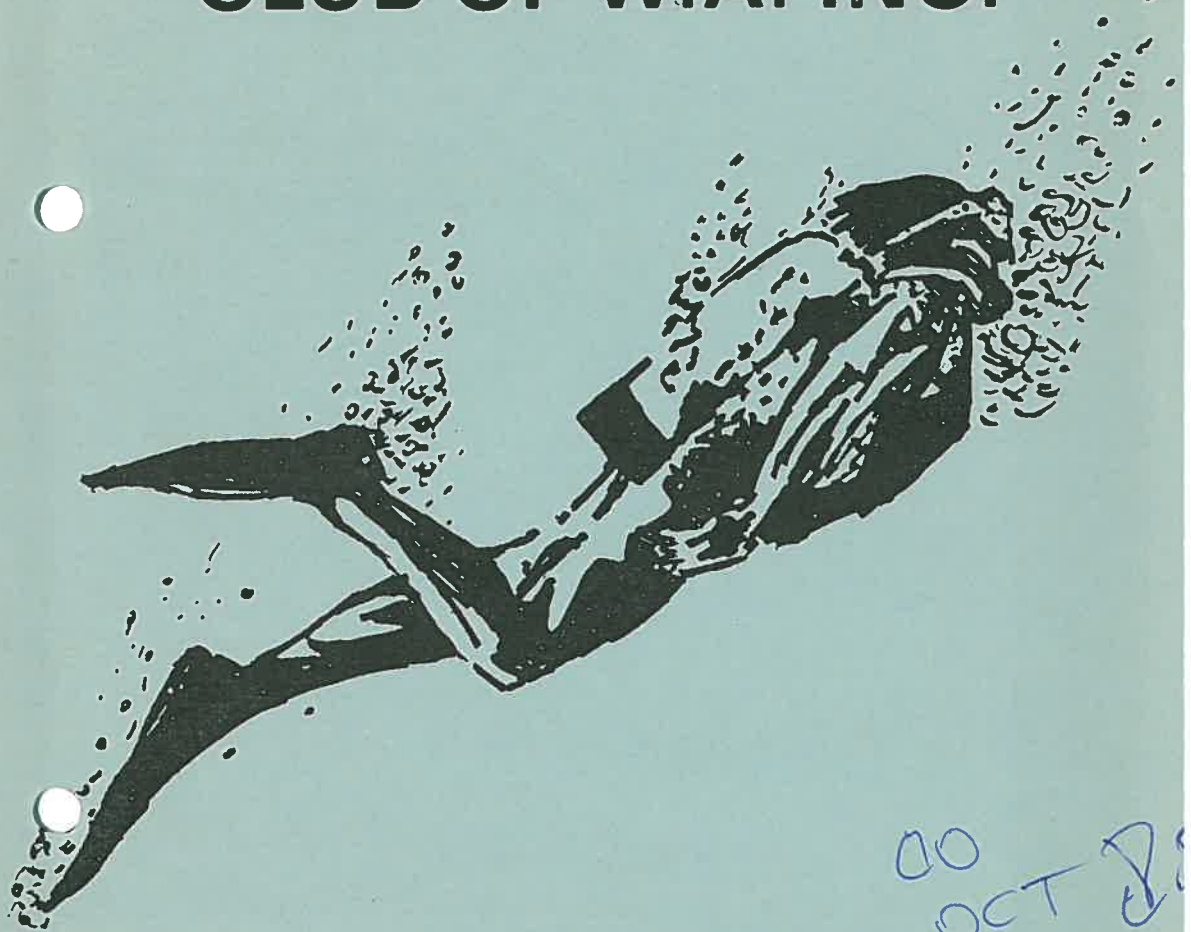
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U.E.C. NEWS

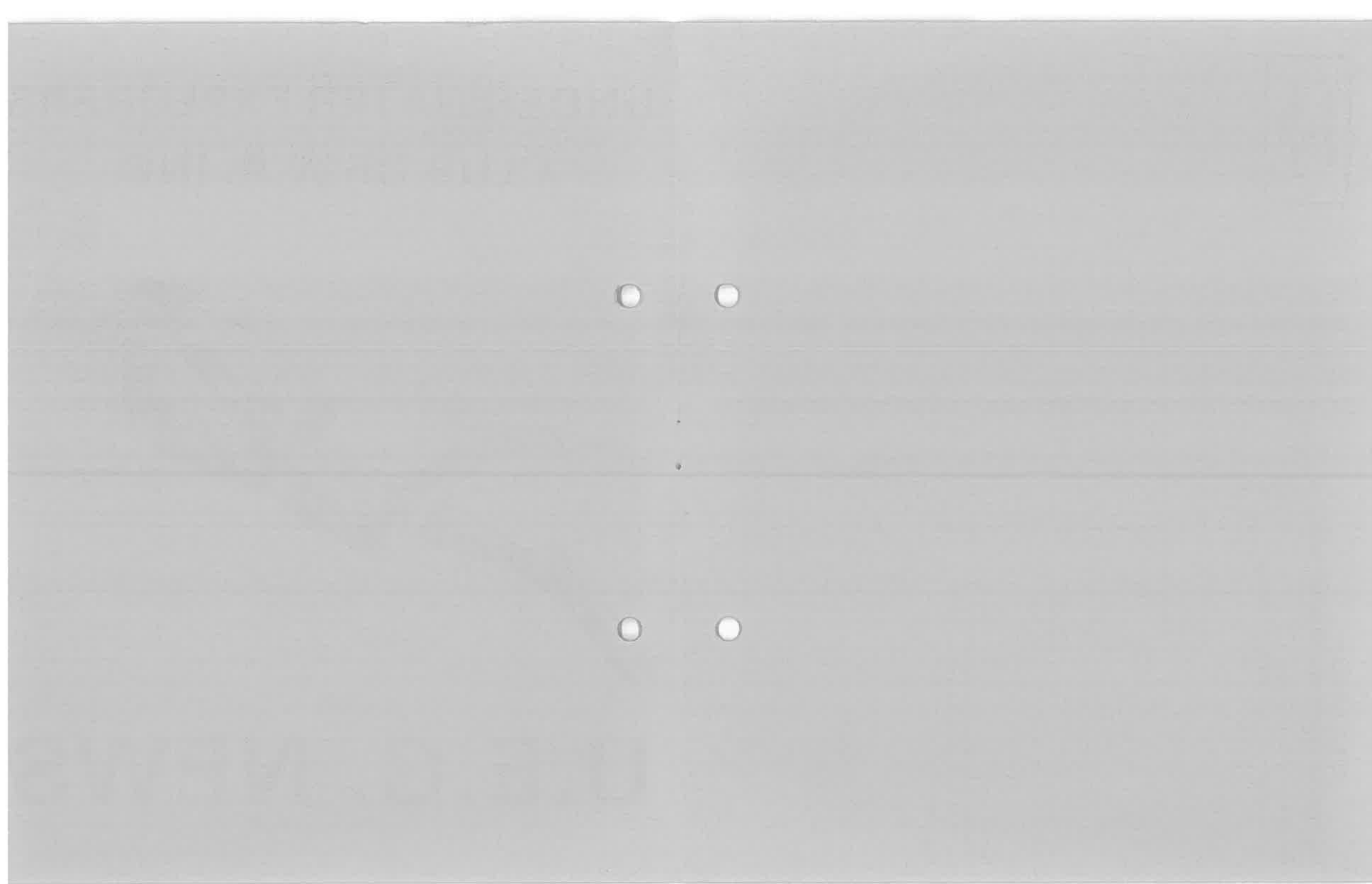
CLUB OF W.A. INC.

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS

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Most importantly, a very obvious display of safety back-up equipment and a pre-dive briefing. Rather than highlighting the potential dangers of the dive, if done correctly this should provide the comforting realisation that the diver is in the capable hands of a safety-conscious diver.

Provision of a compatible diving buddy.

Unhurried approach - entering the water last allows the nervous diver (and guide) to proceed at his own pace and not under the scrutiny of other divers.

If anxiety is heading towards a critical level underwater, no single action is more calming and reassuring than that of human contact. Unless the victim is already gripped by panic, comfort will be given by a firm hold on his arm and strong eye contact, both of which impart the feeling that the sufferer is not alone down there. This simple action followed by an exchange of "O" signals has steadied many an uncertain situation underwater. If however, the victim is beyond the "point of no return" it would be unwise to make oneself available to the wild clutches of a diver who has lost all self-control. Fortunately these predicaments are rare as anxious moments are usually defused before this stage. Two incidents only spring to mind. In the first the instructor made the rapid ascent alongside the panicking diver and only ventured close enough at about 3 metres to 'punch' the victim in the stomach region to successfully force an exhalation of air from the lungs. He was then on the surface with the diver to provide continuing support. The second incident involved a panicking diver's refusal to return a regulator during a buddy-breathing ascent. A second instructor was alert enough to cover the required distance and provide buddy-breathing support to the first instructor.

To conclude with some of the more pathetic anecdotes in this collection, there was the elderly gentleman on his first open water dive after qualifying, whose body shook uncontrollably with fright so that he was unable to adjust his manual inflate BC and had to be helped from the water. Then there was the ridiculous sight of an instructor surfacing while securely caught in the vice-like scissors-grip of the panicking student's legs around her torso. And finally, the vision is still clear of the mascara-eyed woman who adopted the foetal position while clinging nervously to the shot line for 20 minutes at 2 metres under the boat, persevering because it is currently fashionable to claim that one is a scuba diver.

REPRINTED FROM SPUMS JOURNAL

You don't want to dive anymore???????

Don't leave the Club... Become a Social Member! The magazine will inform you of club activities and forthcoming social events!



BOAT REPORT

Martin Smith

After seven weeks in dry dock the "Under Explorer" is now back in the water and work completed just in time for the long weekend at Rotto.

There are a lot of members who gave their time and made the effort to come down to Royal Perth Yacht Club to help work on the boat and to each and everyone of them, thank you. I feel that I must recognise those who were there every week, for without that hard core of workers the job would not have been finished in time for the long weekend.

Dave Kenny again supplied his equipment, gave his time and space at the Yacht Club to work on the boat. Peter Horton as usual did a lot of work on the mechanical side and also supplied material. Well, I could go on (and on about Peter's effort, we all know what a great club member he is. President who was there, rain, hail or shine (there was not much of the latter), did a lot of the timber work and organising together with Tibi, who did a number one job of our toilet. So when you sit on it think of Tibi!! Julie and Marie were also always there, together with Bob and Adrian Edwards who is one of our new members. I must also mention the efforts of Olga who did an excellent job of the signwriting and incidentally is not even a club member.

During the time the boat was out of the water a few additions were made. The most important was the diving platform closely followed by the toilet. The deck wash pump has been fitted with a magnetic clutch so it can be controlled at the flick of a switch.

We now have a "mint" diving boat so let's all use her and look after her.

LETTER FROM OUR DOCTOR, NAOOM HAIMSON



I believe that with the probable exception of the Old Beach Master (Harold Roberts) and Lynn Jones, I have had the longest continuous association with the Club. I joined in late 1961. My initial certificate is No. 104 and advanced is No. 65 - both issued on 21st May, 1962.

(One of the "high spots" in my association with the Club was our succession of 200 ft. dives. These proved that with intense preparation and attention to detail, mass dives of this depth in open ocean can be conducted successfully.

My participation with other U.E.C. members in the various wreck expeditions - Zeewijk, Batavia, Gilt Dragon and Zuytdorp culminated in the discovery - together with Eric Christiansen and the late Alan Robinson of the Trial - no being visited by the W.A. Museum group.

Over the years I have derived great satisfaction in being associated with the training programs and other activities. However, I will shortly be leaving Australia. I therefore will no longer be able to function as the Club Medical Officer. I am also donating by bequest to the Club to hold.

DIVING REPORT

Martin Smith

At last the long weekend was upon us and things were looking good. The boat was back in the water, the compressor was in good condition and ready to go. All we had to do was organise the weather to make sure of a good start to the weekend. Alas, the latter did not live up to expectations.

On the Saturday it was overcast with NW winds and looked rather "suspect". Not to worry we loaded up the boat and headed towards the Island.

After arriving and organising things in the chalets, we headed for Roe Reef. The dive was quite pleasant, visibility was good and some good fishlife was seen. A typical type on Roe Reef. On arriving back at Geordie Bay we had to fill our tanks for the next day's diving. A night dive was contemplated but weather did not permit.

On Sunday morning we headed to the south side of the Island to dive on Radar Reef. Barry had taken his boat over and after meandering in the vicinity of the Reef, Barry found a likely spot. Again the vis. was 40' to 50' with a low swell - good diving conditions. This was a good site for caves as Julie and I found out. I spotted a huge jewfish and some crays. The scenery was really quite good. The second dive was spent a little closer in to shore, and once again a pleasant dive. I might add here that the diving platform was excellent and entering the boat presented no problems at all. The toilet also works well and is quite comfortable!!

On entering Geordie Bay, Dennis and I had a difficult task in mooring the boat up to the jetty. In the meantime a $\frac{1}{2}$ ton yacht had drifted onto the sand and was left high and dry, as the tide was going out.



SOCIAL NEWS

Dennis Stubberfield

After club business has been taken care of at the General Meeting on 21st October, the evening will take the form of a wine and cheese tasting night. This will start at approximately 8.30p.m. and will be \$1.50 per person.

The Trendy Trophy Night on Friday 8th November is fast approaching. This will be at the Y.M.C.A. Bentley, opposite La Plaza Shopping Centre. Tickets are \$6.00 per person and are available from Dennis.

Bookings have been confirmed for two chalets, No. 448 and 449 at Geordie Bay for the March long weekend next year. Get in quick as the chalets are filling fast. Contact Dennis if you're interested. Maximum number of divers is 18 and a deposit of \$25 is required by the October General Meeting.

NOMINATIONS

Diana Bachman
Greg Bachman 1 Queen Street, South Perth



RECOGNITION AND MANAGEMENT OF APPREHENSION

S. HILL

Apprehension always precedes panic and has been observed in one or more of the following behaviour patterns, by afflicted divers:

- inability to absorb information from a dive plan;
- prolonged questioning about proposed dive;
- gearing up incorrectly;
- defiantly rejecting offers of assistance in preparing for dive;
- slow deliberate, methodical gearing up;
- reluctance to enter water after gearing up;
- a tendency to begin offering excuses for a possible unsuccessful dive (ears, sinuses, stomach upset), well before arrival at the dive site.

These are all pre-dive clues. An apprehensive diver not exhibiting any of the above pre-dive behaviour patterns may be detected underwater by one or more of the following:

- an over-dependence on the descent line and reluctance to be physically detached from it;
- use of the "something's wrong" hand signal quite soon after leaving the surface. (On checking the problem back at the surface the affected diver will commonly invent a problem relating to his equipment, "This regulator doesn't seem to be giving me enough air", etc);
- use of the "something's wrong" signal but reverting to the "OK" signal on checking closely with diver.

Most incidents of apprehension manifest themselves in one of the above ways, very early in the dive. Occasionally though a diver will pass through the earlier stages of the dive successfully only to degenerate into a situation of apprehension and panic later on. These cases are more serious as they occur during the dive when the victim is away from the back-up facilities and security offered by the dive boat.

Typically these situations begin with the diver entering a "worrying" phase where some problem (or perceived problem) begins to totally occupy the diver's mind up to the point where almost all external stimuli are excluded. This "worrying" phase develops towards panic as a sense of urgency surrounds the problem in the diver's mind. It is about this time that rational thought and behaviour patterns begin to break down, as commonly the diver is overwhelmed by a need to get himself out of his predicament at all costs, sometimes involving removal of his mask and regulator or a rapid ascent out of the foreign environment to the surface, or both.

Again, it is typical for the breathless diver back on the surface to try to rationalise his behaviour thus, "I just couldn't seem to get enough air!" All sorts of equipment malfunctions are cited, but rarely verified back in the workshop.

Having detected an early warning sign (as listed earlier) the key to reducing the effects of anxiety so as to lessen the risk of underwater panic, lies in the quality of the buddy. Attempts to defuse possible panic situations normally include:

THE EARLY DAYS

REPRINTED FROM SPUMS JOURNAL

During World War II I was a Company Commander in the Torres Straits Light Infantry Battalion. My men had been pearl shell or trochus divers who made their goggles from carved "kapok tree" with insert of glass. Such goggles did not suit me, so I made my own from an army issue type mirror, the de-silvered glass being fixed into a piece of jeep tube split to form four straps which enclosed by head.

I obtained some Japanese diving equipment from an old pearl-shell warehouse, made up the airlines and put together an old air pump of the manual type. The army would not let me have a sensible boat so I had to make do with an old barge. My tenders were ex-divers but could not cope with the change of tide or the violence of the water, the worn-out pump bearings which overheated and seized up and the fact that the pump was not tied down firmly owing to a lack of anchorage points. Once when I was in the Helmet at about 100 feet, the pump slipped and slid, changing the barge's balance. Although the men did everything they could, the pump slipped suddenly across the barge and into the water, and down to join me. They dragged me to the surface by the lifeline, lifting me bodily by the neck like a fish into the barge, bleeding from ears, nose and mouth.

After the war I purchased some oxygen equipment from a member of the Navy. The unit contained damp, old, deteriorated soda-lime and he suggested that I regenerate it by putting it out on the rocks on a hot day. When I used it for a deep dive off Sydney I felt very, very queer. Because of the facilities the Navy later restricted the use of oxygen sets to no deeper than 25 feet and introduced the use of oxygen-nitrogen mixtures. So we dived with compressed air equipment made up from Air Force oxygen bottles and a modified copy of Cousteau's demand valve, and felt more confidence when at depth.

One chap had a small air compressor under his car to be driven by the moving parts. He drove 30 miles with the compressor gathering in the worst atmosphere possible plus the "cracked" lubricating oil used in the cylinder. He was found dead within minutes of diving. I can still remember some of my doubts about early compressed air. I can taste the weird burned oil. I can see the air bubbles breaking on the surface and literally giving off blue smoke!

Among the most dangerous of the early "aids" was a floating mini-boat carrying an extended snorkel, connected to the diver by a long rubber tube. Nothing dangerous happened if the valve system worked and the user was near the surface, but users often passed out because they attempted to draw air down at depth or because the valve was faulty and they were rebreathing their exhaled air, the inhalation tube being too long for flushing if used during exhalation. Near deaths, but no actual fatalities, were reported to occur

The early diving suits were merely a wrap-around of rubber (seal skins) which compressed the woollen garments and minimised exchange of water. Some dry suits were used with the SALVUS rebreather sets, but when the water compressed the material onto the body it was almost inflexible and wooden. The introduction of neoprene foam was the factor which led to the introduction of wet suits.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy

BASE: Saturday 19th October at noon, a busy bee is to be held at our training base at Woodman's Point to make repairs to the building and surrounding railings. We need some help with this project. Can you spare us some time?

I have a mental picture of those who will offer to help and those who will make themselves scarce while this work is in progress and I make a small bet with myself that I'm not wrong.

ROTT WEEKEND: The long weekend in early March is our next weekend stop-over at Rottneest. This is already filling fast. If you would like to join in, contact Dennis on 272 8649 before it is booked out.

TRAINING: As the weather changes into summer patterns and the mercury creeps up the glass, we see once again a renewed interest in diving activities and already one diving accident has marred this season.

The commercial operators are quick to take advantage of these situations and have already begun their sales pitches onto and in the newspapers. We all know that club training is the safest and most desirable way of training new scuba divers. Let's hope these commercial salesmen fail to persuade people away from the safety of club training.

Our training starts with a preliminary meeting on the 24th October at 8p.m. in the Clubrooms, 22 Shields Ave., Booragoon, with all those who are interested in completing our scuba course. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss dates and times of training sessions, basic equipment, what is expected of the student and a basic run down of our training programme.

Actual training will start two weeks later on Saturday 2nd November at Somerset Pool in Carlisle. The two week delay is to allow students time to purchase the basic equipment necessary to complete a scuba course. Members who are interested in assisting should contact me on 453 6927 or attend the meeting at our clubrooms on the 24th October at 8p.m.

Let's see you on the next dive.



OCTOBER

6th	Boat Trip
7th	Committee Meeting
13th	Boat Trip - Orizaba
18th	Night Dive
20th	Boat Trip
21st	General Meeting
27th	Boat Trip - Rottneest

NOVEMBER

3rd	Boat Trip
4th	Committee Meeting
8th	Presentation Night
10th	Boat Trip - Ocean Reef

LONG WEAK END AT ROTTNES by - yes, you've guessed it, your roving Ripper
er Reporter

Ah! first diving trip of the season, salt spray, wind and sunshine; the throb of diesel engine, swish of wake and the fresh smell of the sea (not to mention oily bilges, exhaust fumes and seagull poo on the gunwale).

Sixteen of us set off in U.E. and President Barry's 18ft. runabout for a glorious fun-filled long weekend on our beloved Rottnest.

Now for the facts; mountainous seas, seasickness, cold winds and drizzle! but it wasn't raining inside by the enormous fire set in the lounge of chalet 437 and maintained nearly all weekend.

First dive of the day occurred at the boat moorings, Skipper for the morning knowing full well he wouldn't get much diving in, deliberately fouled the propellor with a rope mooring and dived over the stern in jocks to free it, arriving wet and triumphant still in jocks at the jetty to pick up the team. The second dive was on Roe Reef late morning on Saturday after unloading gear and organising sleeping gear. "I'm sleeping on a bed with the girls" was a catch cry - fortunately they won and we mere males were relegated to the lounge on blow ups! Back to the diving. Well yes, there was some. Back on the jetty, filling tanks to the glorious aroma of BBQ steak and the hoots of derision from chalet balconies. Yours truly made a thoroughly unseaman like exit from the beach in the dinghy - then backed U.E. in resplendant in her new paint and eye-catching club name, to the jetty - unusual approach that, above hoots and slow capping. Geordie Bay is an absolute "you know what" in northerly weather and no good anchor holding ground.

Saturday night was a bit low key with most of us yarning around the fireplace it was a hard day and hell out there!. Following a beautifully cooked BBQ and fine wine, several hardy adventurers did dress up and tramp across to the Rottnest Lodge for drinks and darts and a quiet sly survey of the local talent! Peter of course, smooth sod lead the field and made the first try. A truly great hunter that - missed out though so I'm told. Yours truly did try a modest chat up but also retired defeated to navigate the party back to base. Liz - great little worker and stayer that - lead the small team of truly great stayers who batted on to heaven knows what!

A modest diving programme ensued next morning after sizzling BBQ'd bacon and eggs and toast and horror of horrors a glass of red wine!! Ah! superb dining pleasure and what delectable chicken and ham sandwiches of fresh granary bread were made for lunch. Then surfing back around the West end to visions of tank filling, long hot showers, clean dry clothes, moderate amounts of crisp wine and the pleasure of erudite and witty company to follow.

Sunday night was eventful. It all started with a flamboyant pair of seaman towing a poor stricken yacht off the beach, grounding lightly ourselves, hiding a fish, chasing a demented dive master on bike in a bikini (the dive master, not the bike) and ended playing pontoon for matches. Fortunately the chalets had plenty of rooms and those who wished to sleep were allowed to do so.

Poor Peter L. caught this beautiful groper (fish not female) but 3 dastardly conspirators, 2 female and 1 male hit it in his bed. The poor lad never saw such dumb friends as that night. "Dunno Pete!" everybody said as he prowled around for an hour looking for it.

Meanwhile another of the ladies somehow wheedled and cajoled and threatened our Divemaster into dressing up - or should I say down. We were treated to a brief display of hairy chest between two very high school type what nots and he fled bicycle mounted to get away from it all - right into the waiting arms of a sadistic crowd of divers who photographed then conducted him round the bay on the bike. Interesting rear end that - it may be viewed at the Clubroom picture gallery (the photo, not the rear end).

By Monday morning breakfast was a late one, egg, two bacon, 1 hair of the dog, BBQ affair. We dived again I think. Yes we did, north of Roe Reef on off Parakeet Bay. Then back for the final clean up. Brian Walker go down as the saviour of the weekend in that he stayed on for a couple of days and cleaned up. This allowed us weary lot to steam out to a quiet crossing without having the messy job of cleaning up to worry about. Peter Horton also deserves a special mention for looking after the boat - but he will have it known that it looked after him, allowing him a good uninterrupted sleep. Of course being the fittest by Monday he skippered us home.

Such was the enthusiasm for the trip that on Wednesday of the following week 2 chalets sleeping at least 18 people, have been booked, right next to the jetty for the March long weekend on 3/3/86. Names will now be taken for suckers - er divers to go on that trip.

THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE DUE IN JULY

Have you paid?

The Annual General Meeting is coming in November. If you want to be elected to a position on the Committee or if you want to have a say in who will be, you must be a financial member of the Club.

The fees are:	Member	\$30
	Husband and Wife	\$40
	Junior Member	\$25
	Social Member	\$10
	Country Member	\$20

The magazine will be sent to all the above financial members, but will cease after November unless you are financial.

TELL A FRIEND ABOUT THE CLUB!

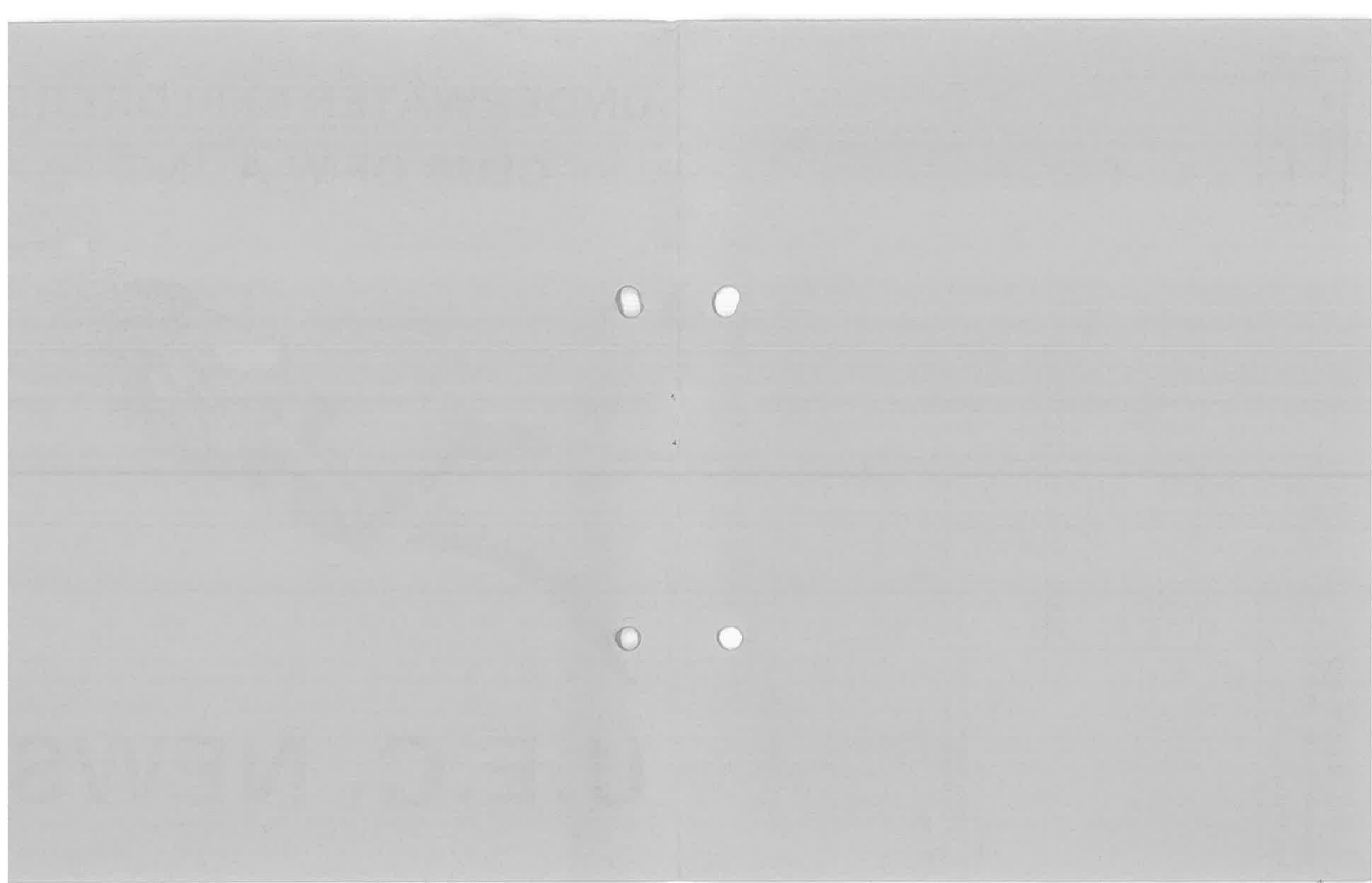
Get a new member by giving your magazine to another diver or someone interested in becoming a diver.

U.E.C. NEWS

OCTOBER 1985

PAGE FIVE





TOWARDS SAFER DIVING

Over the past couple of years decompression sickness presenting for treatment has become more common in Australia. The reasons for this increase must include some or all of the following.

1. An unchanged incidence of DCS with a better understanding of the need for treatment among the sufferers.
2. Diving exactly the dive set out in the tables. Many divers seem to believe that decompression tables have a zero incidence of DCS if followed properly. This is a delusion fostered by the fact that few sports divers dive in the pattern of the tables which is go straight to the bottom, stay on the bottom at that depth, and return straight to the surface.
3. Poor dive planning has always been a hazard.
4. Many divers are unable to use decompression tables properly, especially when calculating repetitive dives.
5. Many depth gauges are inaccurate. If they read deep this does not matter. In fact it is a safety factor as long as the diver does not allow for it! The dangerous gauges are those that read shallow. This is especially true if the diver thinks that the gauge is accurate.
6. Finally there is the problem of not diving the planned dive.

What can be done to reduce the incidence of DCS? One has to alter the behaviour of divers so that they dive more safely. A very obvious statement but difficult to achieve.

The only time most divers are taught anything is during their training course. This is when they are introduced to decompression tables and, judging by divers I have met over the years, introduced is unfortunately the correct word, as many divers do not know how to use the tables correctly.

The simplest layout for any decompression table that I have seen is the RNPL/BSAC table. This table has the depths in increments of 2m. although there is an allowance for outgassing nitrogen with time, the second dive's decompression requirements are based on the deepest depth reached in the two dives. It is easy to forget this when calculating the no-stops time for a second dive.

HINT

A split in a plastic backpack may be repaired by applying a patch of fibreglass matting soaked in araldite. Before application ensure the area is clean and well scuffed with sandpaper. On drying rub back rough edges and if you're fussy, paint to match original.

PAGE EIGHT U.E.C. NEWS NOVEMBER 1985

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 18th. November, 1985, You must be a financial member to vote or to hold office.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

This will be held at the Woodman Point Base on Saturday, 14th. December, 1985 at 5 pm. Bring your own meat and drinks.

BONFIRE PROMISED

SEASICKNESS

Be considerate to your fellow divers.

If you suffer from seasickness, prevent it by taking one of those little pills.

FINAL NOTICE

To all Club members who are unfinancial, this is your **LAST** magazine unless you pay your dues **NOW**.

A LOT OF BARNACLE

The owners of small boats in Britain can breathe a sigh of relief. Oysters cannot. The Department of the Environment has decided to change tack in its bruising battle with yachters and paint manufacturers over a plan to ban formulations of tin-based "antifouling" paint for boat hulls.

A crescendo of concern about antifouling paints has arisen since the 1970s, when traditional materials that used copper as the toxic agent were replaced by new organotin formulations.

The old paints worked for only a few months before the active ingredient was largely washed out of the paint. This meant that, before the end of the summer's sailing a typical boat would be gathering marine life on its hull, slowing down the boat and sometimes damaging the hull. Every Spring the hull had to be scraped free of marine life. The paint regularly had to be scraped off too, and a new coat applied.

Formulations of organotin, known as copolymers have a resin base. The resin slowly dissolves, releasing the active ingredient at a controlled rate. Each Winter, a new coat of paint can be added without scarping the old one off.

The problem is that organotin paints are more toxic to marine life than copper-based paints. The organotin is bound chemically in the paint as a tributyltin polymer. When organotin leaches into the water it degrades very slowly. It remains toxic for weeks or months and becomes incorporated into plant and animal tissue, as well as binding to small particles of matter that are then filtered from the water by some invertebrate animals.

Copper, by contrast, binds to organic material and quickly becomes less available to marine life. Many marine organisms are tolerant to copper.

Until recently, the case against organotin paints centred on their apparent tendency to stunt the growth of the Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, which today forms the basis of commercial oyster fisheries in Britain.

But that is just the visible tip of a potentially massive environmental iceberg. Less than one teaspoonful of TBT in 20 million gallons of water is sufficient to stop the growth of phytoplankton - the marine equivalent of grass.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy

Our current training programme is advancing well and should be completed soon after the Christmas break. Our next course should be starting some time in January. Don't forget we are always eager for people to help us with our training. If you are interested let me know. I don't expect members to help at every training session, but if you can spare some time, I can work you in our roster.

There are many areas where club members can help with training, especially the new club members who may be interested in qualifying as instructors. Our club needs to produce a continuing line of instructors to replace those who leave and also to reduce the workload on those who have worked so hard in the club's interest. The training of new divers is a very important part of our club's activities and we need your support to help us to continue this important work. We are currently training on Saturday afternoons, so please give this some thought.

As you know, the next meeting is our A.G.M., so I would like you all to make every effort to be present on this night, to take your part in electing our new committee and club officials. Remember this is your club, so have your say as to who should run it for you.

Let's now look back over the past twelve months to see what the club has achieved in this period. I believe we have made excellent progress, especially when you consider the mess before the current committee took over the reins. However, with your support, they have been able to breathe life back into the U.E.C. And look at the result. Our club has come from the trouble and turmoil of the "Black Knight" era, into a full training and diving programme.

The "Underwater Explorer" has come up to our best expectations, with regular weekly diving trips and some fantastic full weekend trips. Work is proceeding on our Woodman's Point training base and soon, with the help of the S.D.F of W.A., we will see this place in full use again by the amateur clubs. Our Handicapped Diver programme has successfully concluded (to the dismay of a certain Commercial Group). We have been able to further our already excellent reputation and once again become a pacesetter among the diving scene.

As I have said before, I have very definite ideas about the direction in which this club is heading. We are now beginning to move in this general direction and we have some very good plans for next year. I am happy and proud to have been President of such a club.

SEA WATER



Sea water is a complex solution in which about 80 naturally occurring elements have so far been detected. The total quantity of solids dissolved in the oceans is estimated to be about 5,000 million million tonnes. Over 99 percent of the dissolved matter in sea water is made up of sodium, chloride, sulphate, bromide, bicarbonate, potassium, calcium and magnesium. For example, the oceans are our only source of iodine, an element vital to human metabolism.

NEW TANK STANDARD

1984 saw the introduction of a variation in standards relating to the testing of cylinders used for scuba diving. Under AS 2705-1984 Section 3, Par 3.3 Inspection and Testing there is a notation as follows:
"For seamless aluminium alloy cylinders only, the hydrostatic stretch test may be waived each second year, provided that there is no evidence to suggest the cylinder may fail that test. To establish which is a second year, the cylinder is to be stamped with a 'V' (to denote 'visual only') adjacent to the date of test station inspection at the time that the date is applied and when the hydrostatic stretch test is waived."

In actual fact this means that it is up to the registered SAA Test Station to decide whether the alloy cylinder due for test can pass a visual inspection or will have to undergo a hydrostatic test.

Steel cylinders are still required to undergo both visual and hydrostatic test each year, regardless of their condition.

GET FIT

Spring is here and the boat is back in the water. It is time to dust off cobwebs from your diving gear and to get ready for another season.

You possibly find that your gear is in good condition. How about you? Will flabby muscles and short wind turn the first dive into a narrow escape? If you are not fit, over-exertion and exhaustion can lead to a variety of problems including fatigue, nausea, cramps, panic, unconsciousness. The beginning of the season is the most hazardous.

If you didn't help with the boat the last two - three months inactivity must have played havoc with your muscles. You don't get fit watching Cousto on television. You might have been the best and the fittest diver last year but that does not make you the superdiver this year. Physical stamina begins to fade as soon as you stop swimming. On your first dive have an honest appraisal of your physical condition. Are you fit enough to swim in the waters the boat plans to visit? Little old ladies in bowling hats can snorkel around the Denton Holme. But you have to be fit to dive at Parker Point or the west end of Rottneest. How fit is fit you might ask? It is hard to say, each diver should know the minimum requirements for his or her type of diving. I think an average diver should be able to swim 400m in eight minutes (8 laps of an Olympic pool with fins and mask). Instructors or dive masters require more exercise because their roles are more demanding. They might be called upon to rescue another diver in open seas. They should be able to swim 800m with fins and mask in 15 minutes at least.

It all boils down to exercise. Diving is a safe sport, let's keep it that way. If you're diving this year, tune up first.

DIVING REPORT

Martin Smith

It's that time of the year when the weather is starting to hot up again, so all you keen divers get in early as the boat is filling up fast. Give me a call early in the week to ensure a place on the boat.

A good dive was had by all on Jackson Rock on the 27th October. On the 4th November, we ventured out to North Point reef, a place where we have not done a lot of diving in the past, but that will change. Dennis put us on a good spot as usual. The weather was quite calm with slight seas. Karen Pollock and myself found a ripper spot on the northern edge of the reef. We found a large cave with some natural arches and an abundance of fish including jewies and baldchin groper.

Coming events include the January long weekend at Albany which will be a camping affair. Also check with Dennis about the Rotto trip in March.

NOMINATIONS.

Nicole Martin,
62 Beach St., Bicton

Colin Mackay,
7 Jasper Place, Armadale

J. Kelmar,
5 Wallaba Way, Lesmurdie



CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

17th Boat Trip
18th A.G.M.
24th Boat Trip

DECEMBER

1st Boat Trip
2nd Committee Meeting
8th Boat Trip
13th Night Dive
15th Boat Trip
16th General Meeting
22nd Boat Trip
27th Boat Trip
31st Social Night



NO WE DONT IRON WETSUITS TO GET RID OF WRINKLES

U.E.C. new postal address is:
P.O. Box 1157, Booragoon, 6154

BE CAREFUL

Julie-Anne Rumsey

The dive platform on the back (oops, sorry Dennis - stern) of the boat is a great asset to club divers, I think all will agree. It should however, be treated with a little bit of respect. Most divers tend to group at the platform at the start of their dive, which is fine, but in the interest of safety, before submerging, all divers should swim well away from the boat.

On a recent dive I had to fend off one diver who was attempting to descend at the platform and was oblivious to the possibility of being given a severe headache (or worse) from the board moving up and down.

We do have Disprin on the boat, but in this regard the old adage "prevention is better than cure" seems a more appropriate application.

IS THE U.S.N. DIVE TABLE SAFE TO USE? YES IF YOU KNOW-HOW!

In 1981 Dr. Bruce Bassett delivered a paper entitled, "The safety of the United States Navy decompression tables and recommendations for sports divers". He pointed out that in chamber dives the USN no-decompression table, when dived to the limit, gave a 6% incidence of DCS. In practice the USN rate for DCS is less than 0.1%. What is the explanation for this large difference? It is because the USN divers never dive the USN tables. For decompression dives they always add at least one depth and one time increment and decompress for the time applicable to the fictitious depth and time. For no-decompression dives within 5 minutes of the limit for that depth they again add one depth and one time! As most USN diving is surface supplied the decisions are taken by the supervisor, who is unaffected by nitrogen narcosis, and not by the diver.

In the December 1984 issue of Undersea Biomedical Research, Dembert et al. give the USN DCS figures for 1981. Thirty-five divers developed DCS out of 92,484 dives which is 0.037%. Almost all USN scuba diving on air is shallow. Obviously if the USN air tables are used as the USN actually uses them they are as good as any other table in preventing DCS.



While the Underwater Explorers Club may be the owner of the boat "Underwater Explorer", there is another boat named "Underwater Explorer" at Rottnest.

The one at Rottnest is a cross between a sunken railway carriage and the top half of a small submarine. Tourists sit in the bottom and look through the windows seeing fish and reef - the same things we see - without getting wet.

And, now another boat to be called "Explorer", 32m long worth \$2 million to take rich tourists to the Abrolhos.

BEING A FISH

Roger Smith

Why is it, when you go to sea on diving trips
 That you think of us as something to eat with chips?
 I'm something pretty, but never cute, with scales and slime
 But that's the way it is down here, it's certainly no big crime.
 If only I were like a seal with soft fur and big brown eyes,
 Then you might love me instead of making me into casseroles and fish pies.
 Take my friend, the dolphin, who has his own TV show
 So you all say "Lovely" and let him swim on through.
 Even the poor old whale has just won distinction -
 It just took the Japs and Ruskies to hunt him to extinction.
 A member once said we're good food for his cat, which caused a fuss,
 But if you think like me, his cat is better for us.
 If I see old Roger with his Nikonas in his hand
 I like to appear and sport myself - it makes me feel quite grand.
 But if I spy those spearo boys of Neddy, Horton and Oddy,
 I'll disappear bloody quick, before I'm just one more dead body.
 It's a nice world down here, full of colour, adventure and fun -
 So please come and join us, but bring a camera - not a gun.



BOAT TRIPS

With warmer weather conditions, many divers are coming out of the woodwork, and as such the boat is getting more divers each weekend. Clean the cobwebs off your tanks, mothballs out of your wetsuits and ring Martin on 458 2224 to book your place on the boat.

It must be understood that no diver, regardless of ability or experience should go on a dive alone, but should be accompanied by another diver who has acknowledged and accepted the responsibility for the other's safety under any circumstances requiring mutual assistance.

For the buddy system to be effective you must observe a strict diver distance range which must not exceed 3 metres, even with good visibility. Greater distance reduces the chances of rendering immediate assistance in an emergency situation.

Mutual protection and responsibility must be accepted, each other's ability discussed, the type of activity and signals to be used agreed on, and finally, make yourself familiar with each other's gear.

NOVEL WAY?

We all heard what's-his-name's invention of fixing a mousetrap to a broomstick to catch crayfish with. The latest I heard was the use of a mop. The spines of the cray are supposed to get entangled in the strands. All you have to do is take the cray off the mop (called the Housewife Method). Another method is to use a long thin stick with a feather tied to it. You gently and carefully slip the feather between the cray's legs until it reaches its tail. You then tickle the cray's tail and as it crawls out, you grab it.

CALLING ANY POTENTIAL WRITERS

The Editor and Typist would be more than happy (ecstatic morelike) to receive articles, anecdotes, cartoons, ideas, etc... etc... to put into the magazine. I'm sure that there are some club members who have hidden talents that they could provide to ease the burden of delving into magazines and marine books to print the magazine each month. You would even be forgiven for submitting an article on a dive you have done away from the club!! Anonymous submittances are acceptable.....censored by the Editor!

MAGNETIC FISH

Next time you go diving leave your speargun at home and take a magnet instead. Joseph Kirshwink and Andrew Dizon of the National Marine Fisheries Service in La Jolla, California, dissected tissue and organ samples from three, one year old yellow fin tuna, and analysed them for the presence of magnetic properties. Two samples had magnetic properties, they were of frontal dermethmoid bones, both parts of the fish skull. X-Ray diffraction revealed that the magnetic material in the samples was magnetite. The site of the magnetite deposits, the ethmoid region of the skull, was also innervated by the supraophthalmic trunk nerve, which suggests that it is a likely site for a vertebrate magnetic sense organ.

This points to the fact that fish, just like migrating birds, can navigate using variations in the Earth magnetic field.

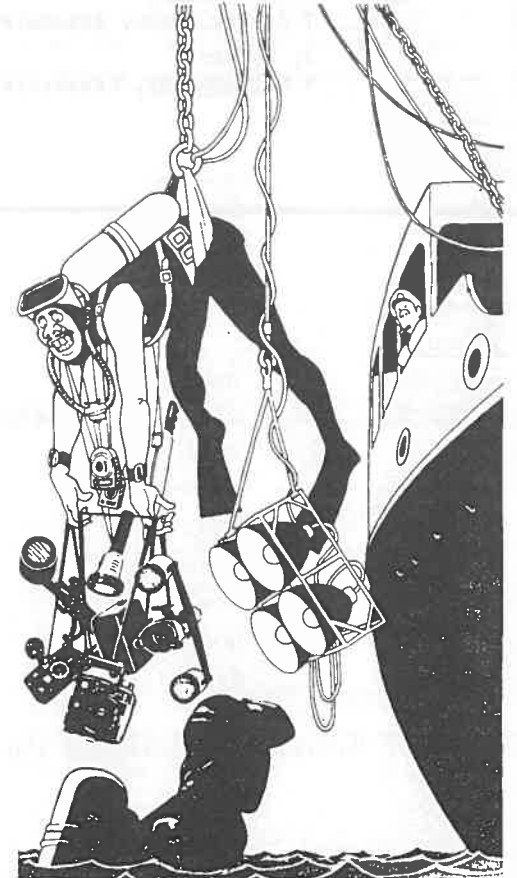
WRECK 1890



Sliding into darkness -
 The cold enveloping of every sound
 Silent
 black stillness weighing heavy.
 Nature's claim supreme.
 The penalty of man's presumption
 lying leaden, massive,
 broken, scattered.
 Monuments of ninety years to danger,
 devastation and despair -
 and final rest.

by Mel Francis.

I HOPE I'VE
 GOT
 EVERYTHING.



U.E.C NEWS

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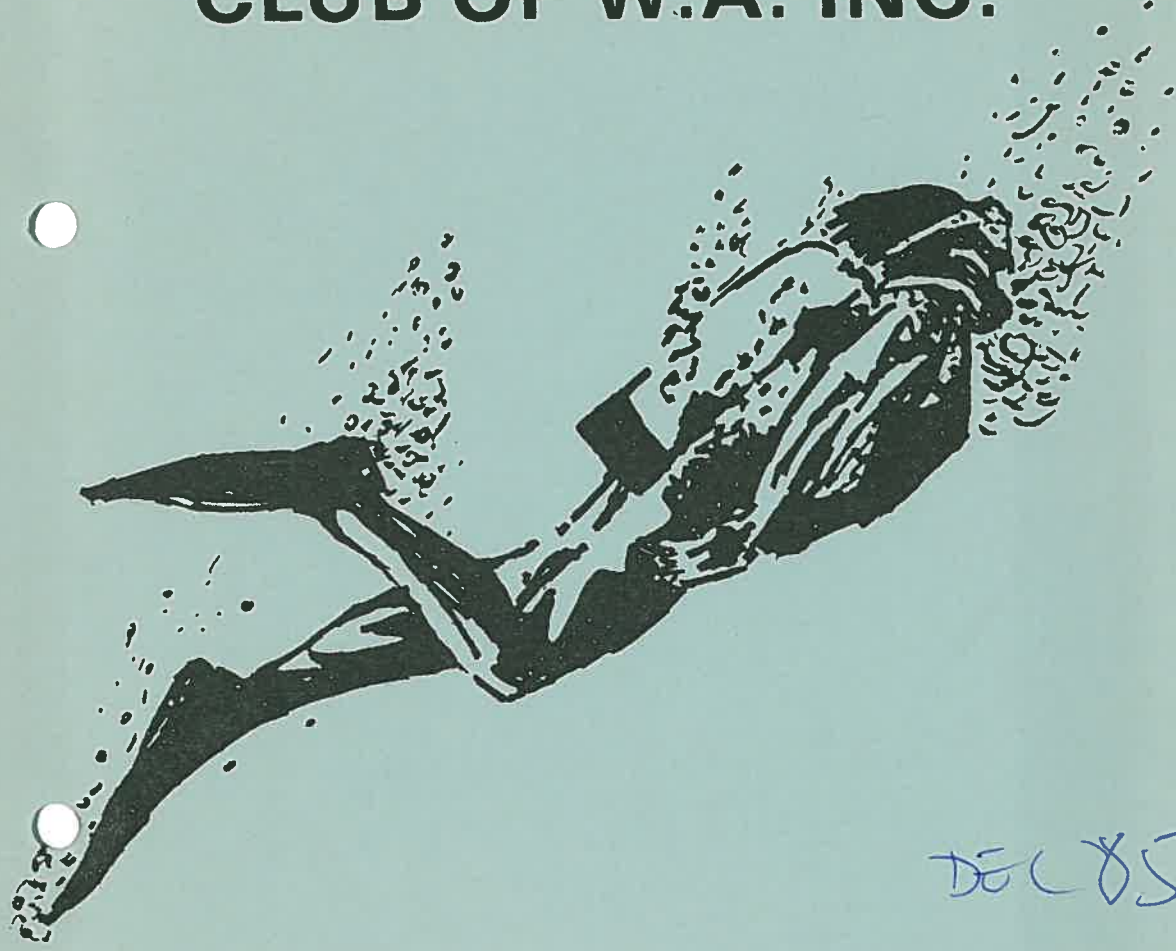
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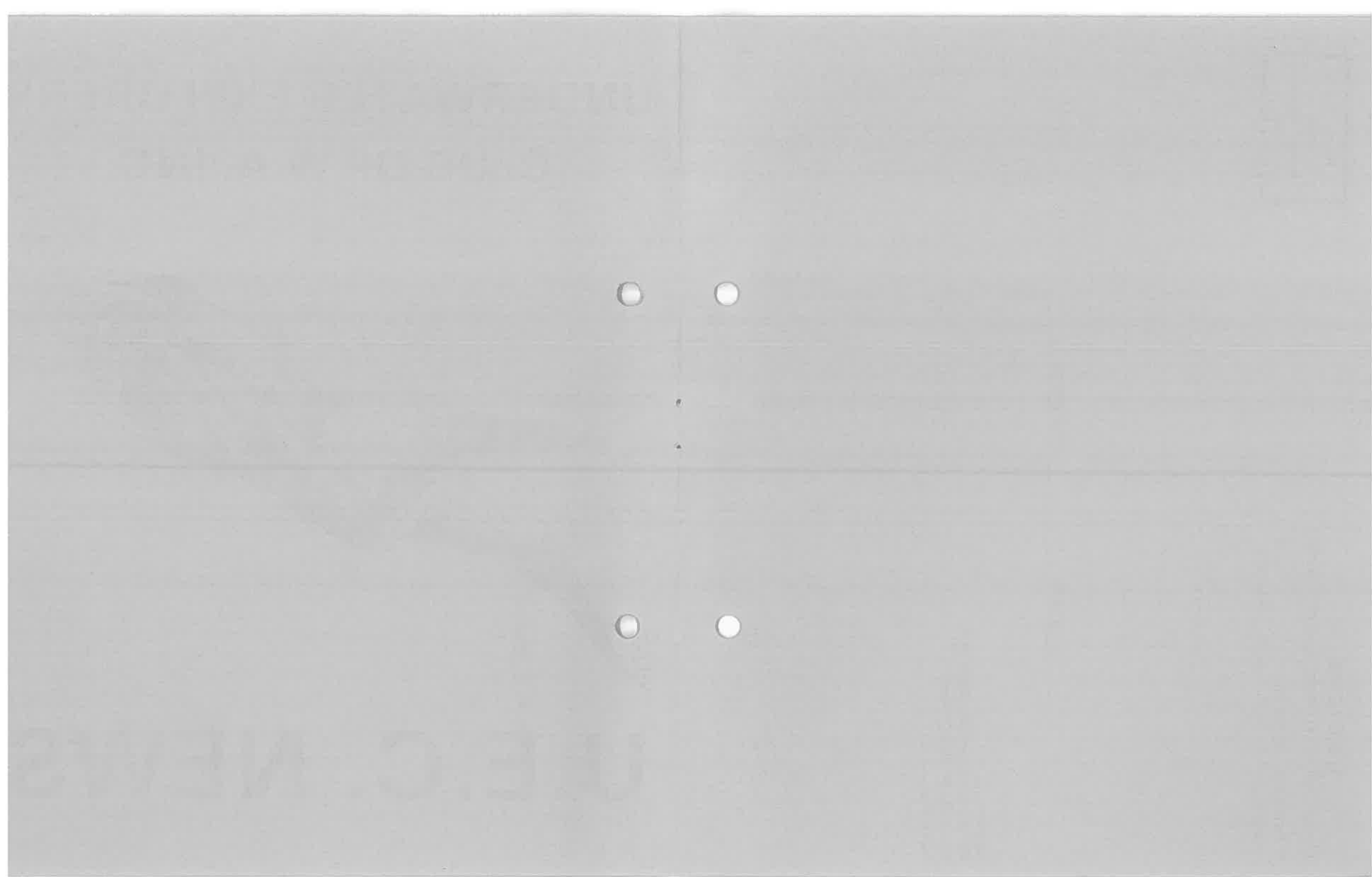
U.E.C. NEWS

**UNDERWATER EXPLORERS
CLUB OF W.A. INC.**



DEC 85

DEC 85



NOMINATIONS

Ron Phonemyint	124 Spencer Rd, Langford
Jon Rowdon	25 Crawshaw Cr, Manning
Alison Keen	140 Townshend Rd, Subiaco
Colin Mackay	7 Jasper Pl, Armadale
Tim Churack	2 Rogerson Rd, Booragoon
Sue Churack	2 Rogerson Rd, Booragoon
Carolyn Deards	Unit 1, 23 Villiers St, Yokine

WEIGHTS

3lb weights \$2 each,
ring 349 5312

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy

Having moved our A.G.M. from July to November seems to have achieved the desired effect. We had a well attended meeting with many willing people capable and keen to take up positions on the committee.

To the outgoing committee, thankyou for your work over the past 12 months. Your efforts have helped us to retain our position as the leading SCUEA club in this state. The next 12 months could well be the busiest yet.

You may be asked to help us as a member of a sub committee, if you haven't already been asked. I would like to see as many members as possible taking part in organising and running the many activities that we have in store for you this season. If you would like to take part in this and you haven't been approached, don't hesitate to come forward and offer your services. We need you!

On your new calendar you will notice a trip to Albany coming up in the January long weekend. Albany promises some excellent diving. If you have dived there you will know what I mean and if you haven't, then surely you should go and find out. We need to know approximately how many people wish to come on this trip so that we can make arrangements to suit. Should you want to go please let us know as soon as possible.

Training: As you know, Dennis is in charge of training and I expect he will report on progress from now on. However, I would just like to say that the current group is progressing well and that they are well into the ocean training section of their course.

Do you know the difference between Panulirus cygnus and Jasus novaehollandiae?

WHALES

Linda Guinee and Katherine Payne, two World Wildlife Fund researchers have been listening to the songs of the hump back whales for the last 26 years. They say that the whales are using phrases repeatedly which rhyme. The songs appear to have meaning.



THE OLDEST

A ship which sank 3,400 years ago has been found off Turkey. It lies in 50 metre deep water. Divers have salvaged gold, ivory and copper and tin ingots.

ARE YOU GOING DEAF?

A survey found that SCUBA divers are likely to suffer high-frequency deafness. The results were published in the Australian Medical Journal. Two doctors who surveyed a group of abalone divers have found that more than 60 percent of them have an unacceptable degree of high-frequency deafness.

In an article in the latest edition of the Australian Medical Journal, Dr John Haydon, of the navy's school of underwater medicine in Sydney, said that in many diving-accident investigations the cause of death was "loosely attributed to drowning."

"Without identifying some of the causes leading to these accidents it is impossible to make recommendations which might contribute to their prevention."



Thousands of marine organisms are known to be either toxic to eat, hazardous to touch, or venomous.

A.G.M. 18.11.85

The following members were elected to run the club affairs for the next twelve months.

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Diving Officer
Training Officer
Committee 1 & Safety Officer
Committee 2 & P.R. & Social Officer
Committee 3 & Magazine Editor
Committee 4 & Building Officer
Auditors

Barry Kennedy
Peter Mortimer
Julie Rumsay
Peter Horton
Martin Smith
Dennis Stubberfield
Ian Milne
Margaret Langson
Tibi Csomay
Mario Branchetti
Lyn Jones & John Paskulich



All members wish the newly elected management continuous success in guiding the club towards our goal of reaching the same height of excellence previously held by the Underwater Explorers Club.

DIVING REPORT


Martin Smith

The diving over the past four weeks has been limited, thanks to the weather. Strong southerly winds have kept temperatures down and seas moderate to rough. But, in spite of this, Peter Mortimer still got in a dive at the Stragglers.

Looking at the calendar, you will notice the January long weekend at Albany. Give me a call if you are interested.

Between Christmas and New Year, Monday 30th December and Tuesday 31st December I will be taking the boat over to Rotto find more second dive spots. Only 8 people will be going, so get in quick. This won't be a social outing. I will be expecting divers to spend many hours on the manta board.

DETERGENTS - SHARK REPELLENT?



The Moses sole, a Red Sea flatfish, secretes a poison that repels sharks. Professors Eliahu Zlotkin and Yechezkel Barenholtz of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem wanted to know how the secretion, tardaxim, worked. They found that its shark-off-putting qualities and toxicity are due simply to its detergent properties - it lowers the surface tension of water, foams, and reduces the size of water droplets.

This made them wonder if household detergents were equally abhorrent to sharks. So, along with Professor Solomon Gruber at Miami University, they tested the Moses sole's toxin against the aggressive Florida lemon shark. To their delight, they found it worked - and that two common household detergents are even more effective. They even repel ferocious Californian blue sharks.




FUNDRAISING/SOCIAL NIGHT AT THE CLUBHOUSE

After the General Meeting on 20th January a Tupperware demonstration has been arranged (buy early for next Christmas!!) with all proceeds going to the Club.

Bring the family and friends as there will be lots of giveaways and prizes to be won, including the chance of being in a draw for a trip for two to Hong Kong. This should be a good night so mark the date in your diary now!

DANGER

You may come across Cuttle-fish swimming around in caves.



The Cuttle-fish has ten arms, two longer than the others, intelligent eyes, and has an intelligent brain. It may take you for an intruder and attack. It is capable of inflicting severe bites with its beak, and its arms may knock your regulator out of your mouth or your mask off your face.

VOLUNTEERS

Committee members would like to see willing members to come forward and assist with work in subcommittees - diving, social, safety, training, magazine etc.

THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING DEAF

Cephalopods - squid, octopus and cuttlefish - have the most highly developed nervous and sensory systems of all invertebrates. Their brains are large and complex. Their vision equals that of vertebrates and they have organs of balance and chemoreceptors. Yet it seems that they are completely deaf. They do not respond to sound, have no obvious acoustic receptors, nor do their brains have an otic lobe (a region for interpreting acoustic signals).

Martin Moynihan of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, in Panama, suggests that there may be a positive aspect to this apparent deafness (American Naturalist, vol 125, p 465).

The sea is noisy. Therefore it is reasonable to assume that cephalopods might benefit from intercepting acoustic information emitted by other animals. Their organs of balance (statocysts) could easily have developed into organs of hearing. Because this has not happened, argues Moynihan, we should consider the possibility that there is some advantage in their being deaf.

Several species of toothed whales, or odontocetes, including sperm, pilot, beaked and bottlenose whales, like to eat cephalopods. Killer whales and most dolphins and porpoises will also partake if cephalopods should happen to swim by. Yet it is difficult to imagine how relatively slow-moving odontocetes catch squid, which can move very rapidly. Moreover, despite their name, the jaws and teeth of the toothed whales appear woefully inadequate for the task of snapping up prey.

An intriguing idea is that odontocetes may use extremely loud sounds to stun their prey (New Scientist, 15 December 1983, p 807). The effect of such sound would be similar to that of an underwater explosion, literally of tissue-shattering proportions.

Acoustic receptors necessarily have delicate membranes which could be damaged at intensities of sound that are lower than the threshold for other tissues. Thus, "ears" might be a liability for a squid. Perhaps significantly, squid have been shown to withstand shock waves of an intensity that will stun fish.

With their excellent vision, cephalopods can detect predators at considerable distances. Being able to hear them too need not improve their chances of escape, but might make them more vulnerable to stunning.



BALDCHIN GROPER (Choerodon Rubescens)

Martin reported seeing one of these fishes in the October dive report.

A Baldchin is easily recognised underwater by its very prominent white chin and large buck teeth, as well as by its distinctive large head tapering down evenly to its small tail. Average size is 35cm to 75cm, they are coloured light blue with white chin and prefer water 20m and deeper.

CRAYFISH

John Paskulich

With the crayfishing season opening on the 15th November, it is a good time to go over the regulations as they affect the diver.

I must remind members that divers are under very close scrutiny by the Fisheries Dept. at the moment. The new regulation about 16 crays per boat/day is one brought in to combat a real, or imagined, threat to the industry by divers. They are also keeping up their sleeve the possible banning of taking crayfish on compressed air if the situation worsens. Do your bit and stick to the rules.

Another point to remember is that the Dept. has the right to confiscate ALL GEAR including BOATS if regulations are breached. Imagine how impressed your diving mates would be if the U.E. was impounded!

Detailed information on all aspects of crayfishing is available from the Dept. of Fisheries but while diving for rock lobster the following points must be observed.

- You must be able to produce a current licence on demand
- No more than 8 crays may be taken per day by any licence holder
- No more than 16 crays per day may be carried in any private boat irrespective of the number of licence holders on board (new regulation)
- No net, spear or any pointed implement may be used
- Crays cannot be de-tailed until at the place where they will be eaten
- Buried or spawning females must not be taken
- Only "size" crays are legal. On the local variety the distance from between the horns to the rear of the carapace must be at least 76mm.

HELP!



The whale isn't a fish. It's a mammal with lots of human characteristics. Whales communicate and sing to each other. They breathe air. They're warm-blooded. They develop their young inside their bodies and once born, are nursed on their mother's milk.

Whales are graceful, slow-moving creatures as old as time itself.

But time is running out. Every hour, every day, someone kills another whale. Help fight this unnecessary killing. Nations still engaged in killing whales are Japan, Russia, Norway and Iceland.



WEST AUSTRALIAN DHUFISH (Glaucosoma Hebraicum)

Would you know one if you saw one? The Dhufish is unmistakable once you know what to look for. It's a big fish from 18 inches to 4 foot long, silver grey with a dark diagonal band from the eyes going down and back. It has a thick set body with large eyes and mouth. It prefers deeper water (25m). You find them among limestone reefs, caves and ledges.

KWINANA ACID LEAK

IT IS SAD TO LEARN THAT NONE OF THE NOXIOUS INDUSTRIES ALONG COCKBURN SOUND ARE OBLIGED TO REPORT LEAKS OR SPILLS BECAUSE THERE IS NO STATUTORY OBLIGATION TO DO SO.

AND WHEN MOST OF THE SPILL, THIS TIME UP TO 200 TONNES OF SULPHURIC ACID AND PHOSPHATE ROCK GETS WASHED INTO THE SOUND, NOBODY IS TOLD. IT IS ONLY BECAUSE THE WORKERS WERE CONCERNED AND WENT ON STRIKE THAT THE PUBLIC AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY FOUND OUT.

WE WONDER HOW MANY UNREPORTED SPILLS TAKE PLACE DOWN THERE AND HOW MUCH NOXIOUS WASTE GETS POURED DOWN STORM WATER DRAINS?

ENDING SIGNALS TO SUBMARINES

Extremely-low-frequency radio transmitter ELF, frequency band 30 hertz to 3 kilohertz, is the only radio band capable of penetrating deep into the oceans. The US has developed ELF communications during the past three decades, and a transmitter is about to become fully operational in Wisconsin, with another to follow in Michigan next year.

Before ELF, the only way to communicate with submarines was by high-frequency and very low-frequency (VLF, 3 kHz to 30 kHz) radio. Submerged vessels can receive on VLF by holding a buoy, containing an orthogonal loop aerial, not more than 6 metres below the surface. The submarine has to be almost stationary to receive the normally continuous signals. A deliberate break in transmission tells the captain to deploy antennas above the surface to receive on a higher frequency.

The US Navy can communicate on ELF with submarines deeply submerged anywhere. It broadcasts from Wisconsin on a single cross-shaped antenna, some 23 kilometres wide, which radiates the same amount of energy as a small torch!

The US Navy set up the Polaris Command Communications Committee in 1955 to "review, evaluate and recommend" research into better communications with the US submarine fleet, which was shortly to receive nuclear missiles. The need, as seen then, was to deliver operational messages to submarines under way at depth anywhere. The committee specified that the communications system was to be sited in the continental US. The system was not to reveal the locations of submarines nor to reduce severely their speed or manoeuvrability. It was to resist jamming. It was also to survive direct nuclear attack as well as the electromagnetic pulse from nuclear bursts at high altitudes.

Perhaps the most difficult objective was to communicate with a submarine, with its sensors deployed, while it is submerged safely at about 100 metres. Mechanical vibrations (such as seismic effects or sound) and electromagnetic waves (radio or blue-green lasers, for example) have all been considered. Some early proposals for submarine communications required numerous buoy transponders to relay messages from aircraft-, satellite-, land- or ship-based radio. The eventual solution - ELF radio - was proposed by Nicholas Christofilos of the University of California in the summer of 1958.

WHALES

J. Kirschvink a Caltech geobiologist thinks he's discovered why whales and dolphins beach themselves. He compared the earth magnetic fields with whale and dolphin strandings and found that strandings always occur where a magnetic field intersects the shore. As these cetaceans use magnetic fields to guide them to migrate, sometimes they follow the wrong one and find themselves in shallow water.

PROJECT JONAH

672B Glenferrie Road,
HAWTHORN, VIC. 3122.

Dear *Mr. Kennedy,*

I am writing to ask for your assistance in our effort to collect information on the number and nature of encounters between Man and cetaceans (whales and dolphins) in Australian waters.

Project Jonah is a voluntary organisation concerned with all aspects of the conservation and welfare of cetaceans. An important part of our work involves learning as much as possible about the nature and behaviour of whales and dolphins in the wild.

Cetaceans are well-known for their curiosity in, and friendly disposition towards, Man. We are keen to collect as many reports as possible of such encounters. Accordingly, we have recently established a programme entitled the "Dolphin Hot-Line", whereby we are inviting anybody who has had such an experience to write to us and tell us about it.

I enclose a copy of a questionnaire we would very much like you to include in your next Club Newsletter. We would, of course, be happy to cover printing costs if necessary.

I hope you will be able to help us in what promises to be a very exciting programme, and which will, ultimately, be to the benefit of all whales and dolphins.



SAVE THE WHALE CAMPAIGN

Yours sincerely,

S. Whiteside

Dr Stephen Whiteside,
Vice-President,
Project Jonah Victoria.



WHAT A DAY!

Peter Leach

Everyone has one of those days at one time or another. However, the first boat trip in November seemed to be a convention of people having one of those days.

East Street jetty looked like Perth Airport on a 'go slow' day, people all over the place waiting for boats to come in. Diving gear was left as usual in a neat and tidy state, that is, about as neat and tidy as a china shop would be if the baby elephants had been jiving in there.

Anyway, our boat shows first so we carefully load all the gear, making sure we didn't take anyone else's, which we didn't. A quick head count revealed that Margaret who arrived late was missing. Everyone is asking "Where's Margaret, where's Margaret" (talk about parrots. Then someone says she's having breakfast at the snack bar. Now breakfast to Margaret, who you've got to admit is a lady of some refinement, is an unhurried affair. All the parrots are now looking at their watches spitting feathers and saying "She's late, she's late, she's late", when pushing a supermarket trolley full of tucker, "Just a snack for lunch" she says, (how does she manage to stay so beautiful and slim when she eats so much?) and gets on board.

Prior to getting underway Martin asks "Who wants a seasick tablet? It's a bit rough out there." A few people said yes, but Karen said "I'm off the pill now, I'm onto magic charms so I don't need one" (ha, ha). Big Lou, who has in the past, been known to lean over the side and call for his mate Hughie, filled out his chest, macho as you like and says "No thanks." Then when no one was looking whispered in Martin's ear "I will have one, I don't want to be sick."

When we eventually get underway Ian Cowan starts running around like a chicken with its head cut off. I thought he'd forgotten his tinnies but it wasn't that serious, he'd only discovered his diving gear was on the wrong boat! When we couldn't raise the other boat on the radio, Ian decided he'd have a Clayton's dive.

At the site, Karen starts feeling sick. I must admit my initial thoughts were wrong and it just turned out that her magic charms just weren't working.

The dive site was excellent, rock formations, big caves, lots of fish, sounds great doesn't it? Well it was if you went port forward of the boat. Muggins here went starboard aft and found absolutely nothing!

Dennis kindly stopped at the jetty in Thompson's Bay whilst Ian, Martin, Karen and myself, who had opted out of the second dive, got off the boat. Karen still in her wet suit took off her knife and snorkel which I threw back to the boat. The knife made it, the snorkel didn't. As it began to sink, Martin wearing only a pair of jocks, dived off the jetty and saved the snorkel from a watery grave. I'm sure there must be something wrong with Martin the way he keeps leaping into the sea without a wetsuit. It just isn't normal.

Apparently the second dive was quite pleasant as was our little sojourn to the Quokka Arms. The trip back to Freo passed off without further incident.

I sure wonder what next week will be like.

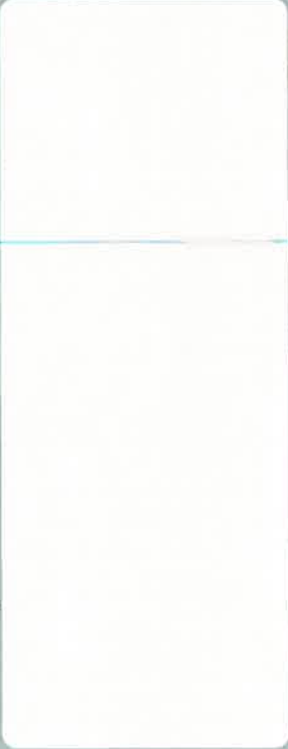
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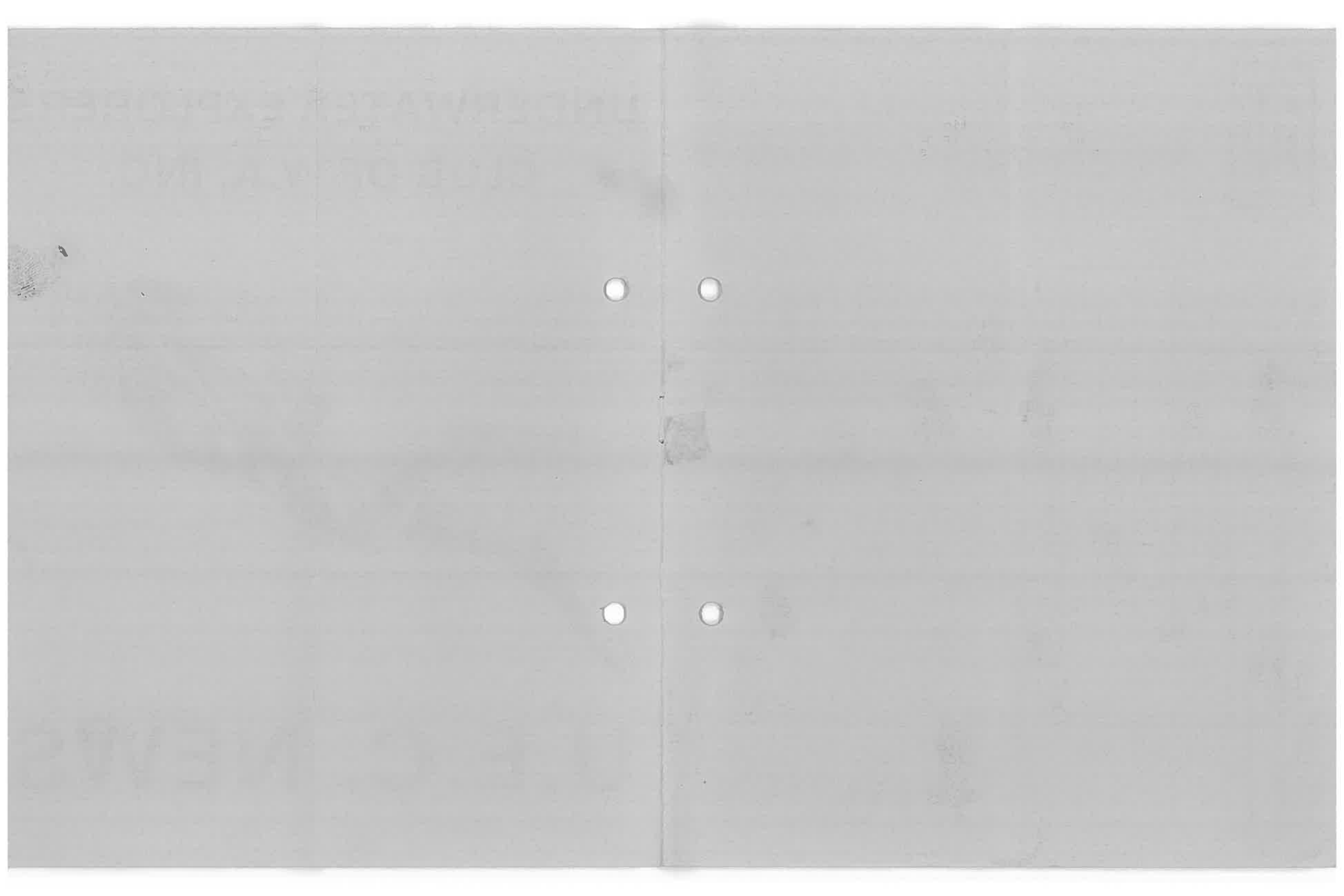
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U.E.C. NEWS



INSTRUMENTS

Instruments are an important part of the dive system.

There are four things that must be monitored by divers: contents of the air-tank, nitrogen absorption, depth and direction. Without a contents gauge you cannot plan your return to the boat, your air might cut out when least expected and you don't even know if your tank is full at the start of the dive.

Diving without monitoring one's depth is equally as dangerous. The boat's echo sounder will tell you the depth of the bottom under the boat before you enter the water, but are you going to stay under the boat?

A depth gauge and a watch are needed to make sure that you stay inside the no decompression limits and avoid the excessive absorption of nitrogen (bends).

Direction is the fourth. Unless the water is exceptionally clear, humans have no sense of direction under water. Surprisingly most divers do not carry a compass and those who do, do not know how to use it.

Learn to use these instruments and develop the habit of looking at them frequently during a dive.



POGO

The Sea Urchin Dive Club in the U.S.A. holds an annual underwater Pogo Stick race. Usually large numbers of divers take part with the local F.V. station featuring it as one of the ten craziest events of the year.



Stay for the Tupperware party after the January General Meeting. Prizes galore to be won.



The first three minutes are vital. They can mean the difference between life and death or permanent injury. Learn first aid and be prepared. Don't be helpless when you are needed most.



Next group will start training on Saturday 8th February, 1986 at 9a.m. at the Somerset Pool, Carlisle with a meeting of all interested parties at 10a.m. in the Clubhouse.

NOMINATIONS

Anthony Bradshaw,
82 Leonard Street,
Victoria Park.

Troy Edwards,
Lot 1376 Gray Street,
Gosnells.

Pierre F. Loisel
297 Fisher Street,
Cloverdale.

Bruce Edwards,
Lot 1376 Gray Street,
Gosnells.

Marley B. White,
29 Poynter Drive,
Duncraig.

Ross Bennett,
66 Kirwan Street,
Floreat Park.

Tim Moore,
17 Bradford Street,
Cannington.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy

Club members should not be lulled into false sense of security when diving from the club boat with the diving officer in charge explaining depths and bottom times. It is still up to the individual diver to check his/her time and depth combination and make sure that each dive is completed without going into deco. times. You must be particularly careful when involved in repetitive dives.

Current club policy is to have our second and subsequent dives in water no deeper than 9 metres. However there are always some holes and crevices which are deeper than 9 metres. It is up to you to resist going down into these holes which are over 9 metres, or be totally aware of the time that you can spend at any greater depth.

The club supplies submersible decompression tables on the boat which are available for divers to use on club dives. Should you take one of these tables with you while you are diving, it is then a simple matter to check your depth and times while you are under water and correct your dive time according to your greatest depth. Decompression sickness is a severe condition to have, it can change an intelligent person into a mindless zombie. It can cripple a fit and healthy diver. It can kill. Don't take decompression sickness lightly, it is extremely dangerous. Before you dive check your tables while you are diving check your time and depth. Don't let D.S. sneak up on you.

Regulations regarding amateur fishing, especially the taking of crayfish (or Western rock lobster as they are commercially known) may seem to most people as ridiculous in the extreme, especially to compressed air divers. However, club policy prohibits the breaking of these regulations and any club member who does so, will be firmly dealt with. Let this be a warning to all, the club will not tolerate people who break these fishing regulations.

Members who feel frustrated over current regulations and proposed new regulations, should write to the appropriate authorities and protest strongly. This is the only way to curb these regulations which seem to be unduly influenced by the commercial fishing group and seem to be irrelevant to the conservation of the species when you consider the huge amount of lobster taken each year by commercial fishermen and exported overseas.

However, it is in the best interests of this club for all members to abide by the rules and we intend to see that you do just that.

Meanwhile, enjoy your diving and don't forget to come along to our next meeting I'm sure you will enjoy the demonstration afterwards.

DOLPHINS



Dolphins are a welcome sight on our dive trips and when their streamlined bodies slice through the water beside the boat all of us crowd the rails to see them.

The commonest dolphin off the Western Australian coast is the Bottle-nosed dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*). It grows up to 4 metres long and belongs to the family Delphinidae, which embraces about 50 species.

President
Underwater Explorers Club of W.A.
P O Box 28
NEDLANDS, WA 6009

Dear Sir

On behalf of the Association for the Blind, I would sincerely like to thank your club and the friendly group of divers, co-ordinated by Mr John Pascolich, for a magnificent effort in conducting the Blind Diver Programme for our Association.

Although there were only four participants in the 1985 course, they showed that quality counteracts quantity in the way they dedicated their enthusiasm into the course, surprising themselves in the challenge of the unknown under water.

We certainly appreciate the time and effort each member of your instructors gave to this course, and it is admirable the way they supported this programme. Please pass on to each of these members our thanks and gratitude.

This course has proved to the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation and the Diving Association, that a sensitive approach and dedicated instructors can have blind and visually impaired students in their open courses and clubs, providing they follow the recommendations set by your club in safety procedures, etc.

I certainly hope that we keep in contact for any further involvement together, in endeavouring to integrate our blind and visually impaired into scuba diving.

Thanking you all once again.

Yours sincerely



RON ANDERSON
RECREATION OFFICER



EAR CLEARING

Experienced divers clear their ears reflexively without even thinking about it. Each has developed his/her own technique, but new divers are often taught "pinch your nose and blow" (Valsalva manoeuvre).

Sometimes this manoeuvre won't work for a simple anatomic reason - there are tiny muscles attached to the throat end of the eustachian tube which must contract to pull open the unsupported flutter valve part of the tube which connects the back of the throat to the air space of the middle ear. Easy clearing requires contraction of the muscles at the side of the tongue.

Place the tip of your tongue against the roof of your mouth, pinch your nose shut and swallow. Swallowing forces the back of your tongue upwards gently pushing the air above into the now opened eustachian tube.

You have to do this manoeuvre which is called the Frenzel manoeuvre on the boat before you enter the water. The next problem is the first two feet of water. If you have not cleared your ear on the boat or as soon as you hit the water, at a pressure differential of two feet of water in excess of middle ear pressure, the unsupported middle one-third of your eustachian tube collapses and ear clearing will be very difficult, if not impossible. Further attempted descent will lead to pain. The answer is to begin inflating your middle ears as soon as your head is under water and during the descent, especially often through the shallow depths where the volume change is greatest for each foot of water.

The instant your ears don't clear easily, stop descending and swim up until your ears click and feel normal. Try again descending more slowly with feet first.

If you have a cold don't dive because you will not be able to clear your ears.

Middle ear squeeze would be the most common problem in diving. Never try to forcibly clear your ear. If you cannot clear it gently, give up diving that day.

One more thing about ears. Some people suffer from swimmer's ear. It is caused by prolonged wetness reducing the slight acidity of the external ear canals. A variety of germs can invade the ear canals causing severe pain which can extend to the side of the face. To prevent swimmer's ear use ear-drops which can be purchased at any chemist.

LUCKY!

When Danny Owen dived on the wreck Eagle near Bishop Rocks, Scilly, England, he swam down the anchor line about 120 feet. Without swimming more than a yard from where the anchor lay on the sea floor, Danny lifted a broken shard of glass from an onion bottle, ran the side of his hand over the sand beneath it and found a pure gold ring studded with emeralds.



The Whitfords Volunteer Sea Search and Rescue Group hold regular free radio operators courses with the next one planned for February. Phone 405 1347.

STRANGER THAN FICTION

When the ship Cowarra was wrecked on Oyster Bank, N.S.W. during a gale in 1866, 59 people drowned. One survivor Frederick Hedges was saved by Luky Johnson who was the only survivor of the Dunbar, 1521 tons, which smashed against the rocks near Port Jackson nine years earlier.

Membership of the British Sub-Aqua Club rose from 6,800 to 27,000 between 1965 and 1980.



CHRISTMAS AT GREEN ISLAND

by your Ripping Ho Ho Ho Reporter

It was a hot, blazing Sunday, the only one for the last 7 years, which dawned clear and bright and calm. This was the day of U.E.C.'s annual debauch at Rottneest to celebrate Christmas, well for some of us it might have been anyway. A spectacular event was planned to consist of "Underwater Explorer", accompanied by 3 other boats, President Barry's, Peter Horton's and Albert Kramer's ferrying 25 - 27 people to a site south of Wilsons Bay for the one dive of the day and then to Green Island for the festivities.

We left the wharf in high spirits as well as in convoy, except for Peter Mortimer who took charge of Peter's boat. The poor lad having succumbed to the dreaded dog's disease at the last moment. Peter (Mort. that is) snuck off to the Stragglers to get a quick dive in while we caught up, but much to his pain and grief had to sit there while we flashed past, on account of it was too rough to follow us right then. A likely story - they just wanted to get two dives in. I'll bet, but ho ho ho they didn't make it, arriving just in time for the barbeque.

The dive took place on the spot previously designated "Adrian's wreck," after Adrian who was down there one day in a cave day dreaming about wrecks (among other things). We still haven't found what he saw yet.

Most of the latest trainees were also treated to their first ocean dive on this occasion. A relatively picturesque, high visibility, shallow affair which enthralled them and gladdened our hearts to see them enjoying it so.

The dive over and amidst many tales of adventure the party were ferried off to shore for the afternoon's festivities.

Ah what magic moments; brown ale, succulent steak, tangy red wine, delightful salads and witty company - the afternoon raced us by, ending all too soon. The photographic account saw many sights. Martin barbecuing on the hot exhaust of a motor generator set because he couldn't wait, Liz squirting everyone with a water pistol until pounced on by a number of enthusiastic males all eager to get their hands on it. The water pistol you fools!! Such cavortings. Back into the water then to cool off with a light snorkel around the shallows of Green Island. God that tomato was yuk and sticky! Your Ripping Raver was given the job of navigating everybody home since he had drunk the most orange juice and the least alcohol.

It was a great day made the more specially so by those members who took their boats, thereby making it possible to take everybody over who wished to take part. Many thanks to Barry, Albert and Peter for assisting in this manner.

Cheers folks, see you at our next festive function.

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DIVING REPORT

Martin Smith

Diving has got off to a good start for 1986. The weather has been fair and the boat trips well patronised.

The Albany trip is almost upon us. We will be staying at the Panorama Caravan Park at Frenchman's Bay. Already, the boat has been filled by divers for the 2½ days. I will therefore be organising shore dives down there for any divers still wishing to go. Final arrangements for vehicles and tenting will be made at the General Meeting on 20th so please come along. This will be a great weekend I'm sure.

Another reminder, divers wishing to book onto the boat for any Sunday boat trip, should if possible, phone me early in the week to ensure a place. Also as the boat leaves at 8a.m. sharp, please ensure that you arrive 15 minutes early to help load the boat.



SAFETY REPORT

Ian Milne

Lately there have been many instances of neglect in operation of the buddy system. Many divers seem to have lost the basic idea, which is, that if you are in trouble your buddy is around to help you. Perhaps these divers don't want anybody to help them.

Buddy checks are being poorly performed on club dives, buddies have lost each other under water and continued the dive. Practices such as these will not be allowed to continue in the future.

Another point which divers should bear in mind is that they should surface as close to the boat as possible. The divers flag only warns educated boat drivers to keep 50m away. Instances have been heard of with boats coming to see dive boats to find out what the flag means. On the way in they could have easily run over a surfacing diver. The fact they could be prosecuted later wouldn't be much consolation to an injured diver. In N.S.W. the authorities have considered removing the legal safety aspects of a divers flag. Therefore the only safe place to ascend is the place you descended - next to the dive boat.

Hopefully there will be an improvement in standards as there are many other interesting things to write about than having to get the big stick out in my first report.

A great deal of safety hinges on buoyancy control. That's why it is very important to be proficient in the skills pertaining to it. Buoyancy control skills are sometimes taken for granted because the concept is so simple: add air if heavy and exhaust air if buoyant. But, while the concept is simple, the application of it is not. Knowledge, practice, training and experience are all necessary. I feel that better buoyancy control skills would substantially increase diving safety. Instructors should devote more training in their courses to this important ability and divers are urged to learn more about it if buoyancy control poses a problem on a regular basis.

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THE SCILLY ISLANDS

Scilly Islands are 28 miles off the southern tip of England at Lands End in Cornwall.

On these remote islands the inhabitants used to have a traditional craft: wrecking or going after the "Lagan". That is, salvaging what they could off ships which got smashed against the stark granite rocks with the violent fury of the sea. Ships have been wrecked on Scilly's rocks from the first day man ventured out to sea.

Around Scilly's rocks would be the greatest treasure trove of sunken ships to be found anywhere in the world. The storm tossed winter seas around Scilly have no equal in fury, tempest or inferno, crushing ships great or small.

Here is the story of just one group of sailing ships:

Sailing from Gibraltar on October 10th, 1707 after having besieged the French port of Toulon, Sir Cloudesley Shovell the Commander in Chief of Britain's Mediterranean fleet with 21 ships, headed home. The weather was stormy, navigators could not take observations. Sir Cloudesley thought his fleet was sailing up the coast of France, refusing to believe one of the navigators warning that they were heading towards the Scilly Isles.

Here is an actual report of what happened by Edmund Herbert:

"Abt. one or two aft. noon on the 23rd Octr. Sir C. call'd a council and exam'd ye master wt. lat. they were in; all agreed to be in tht of Ushant on ye coast of France, except Sr. W. Jumper's Br. of ye Lenox who believ'd 'em to be nearer Scilly." After three hours of sailing in the same direction: "the weather being stormy, they could not see the light on St. Agnes; not yet knowing where they were they fir'd, soon after wch they struck on ye ledge, and bilg'd; the Rumney also struck immediately and stav'd on the Guildstone. The Eagle was lost on ye Gunnar or thereabouts by wt of ye wreck floated to St. Just and other places at y Lands End and up ye North Channel."

Lost on the rocks of Guildstone and Bishop Rocks were the flagship H.M.S. Association with 96 guns, the Eagle with 70 guns, the Romney with 50 guns. The Firebrand and Phoenix were badly damaged. The St. George was on rocks but was lifted clear. 2,000 men perished, including the commander whose body was washed up next day on St. Mary's Island.

The islanders recovered for themselves such goods as floated ashore, including the rings off the commander's finger. Later there were attempts of recovering property from the shipwrecks.

This report is from a newspaper dated July 9th, 1710. "We hear from Scilly that the gentlemen concerned in the wreck where Sir Cloudesley Shovell was cast away, have taken from the bottom several iron guns and seven brass guns, with a cable and have found the Association in four fathoms of low water, the hull of the ship being whole, wherein there is waste treasure - the Queen's Plate, several chests of money; besides ten chests of Sir Cloudesley's own, with great riches of the Grandees of Spain".

The divers go down in a copper engine, and continue two hours under water. They have also met the Fireship cast away at the same time as the Association.

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(The wreck now lies in 18m of water). The treasures of the Association have now been salvaged.

P.S. After the sinking of the Association in 1707, the British Admiralty ordered verification of the compasses of the 7 surviving vessels. Non of the wooden boxed compasses were found to give acceptable readings.



SEALS

I had my head stuck under a ledge when Liz poked her finger into my ribs. Backing out I looked at her inquiringly. She was pointing behind me frantically with fright in her eyes. I turned around. There was a seal a few inches in front of my mask.

Two species of seals reside and breed in Western Australia: the Australian sea lion (*neophoca cinerea*) and the New Zealand fur seal (*artocephalus fosteri*). Both are eared seals. They can bend their hind flippers at right angles to their body enabling them to walk on all fours with a kind of shambling gait. They are quite agile on land and fur seals can quickly outdistance a human.

They use their large front flippers like paddles for swimming and steer by means of their hind flippers.

The Australian sea lion numbers only 4,000 to 5,000 over the entire range from Houtman Abrolhos W.A. to Kangaroo Island S.A. with only about 1,000 in Western Australia, making it one of the world's rarer species.

The survivors of the Dutch East Indiaman Batavia wrecked on Half Moon Reef in the Abrolhos are said to have killed and eaten 147 sea lions during the six months they stayed in the Archipelago waiting rescue.

Houtman Abrolhos, North Fisherman Island, Carnac Island and the Recherche Archipelago are the main haunts of sea lions.

Fur Seals, of which there are about the same number are mostly on the islands of the Recherche Archipelago.

Sea Lions are enigmatic animals: very unafraid, almost friendly on sandy beaches where they doze and pose for photographers.

Sometimes they playfully scare scuba divers when they sneak up behind them.

A few stragglers of the Arctic walrus and Phocidae, the earless seal, visit the Southern Australian coasts from Subantarctic islands and the Antarctic Continent but they do not breed in Australian waters.

....And the seal that sneaked up behind me? His bewhiskered face close to mine, his large brown eyes appealed for a handout of fish and seeing that we didn't have any, he turned and glided through the water to find someone who did.

P.S. Seals are protected by law.

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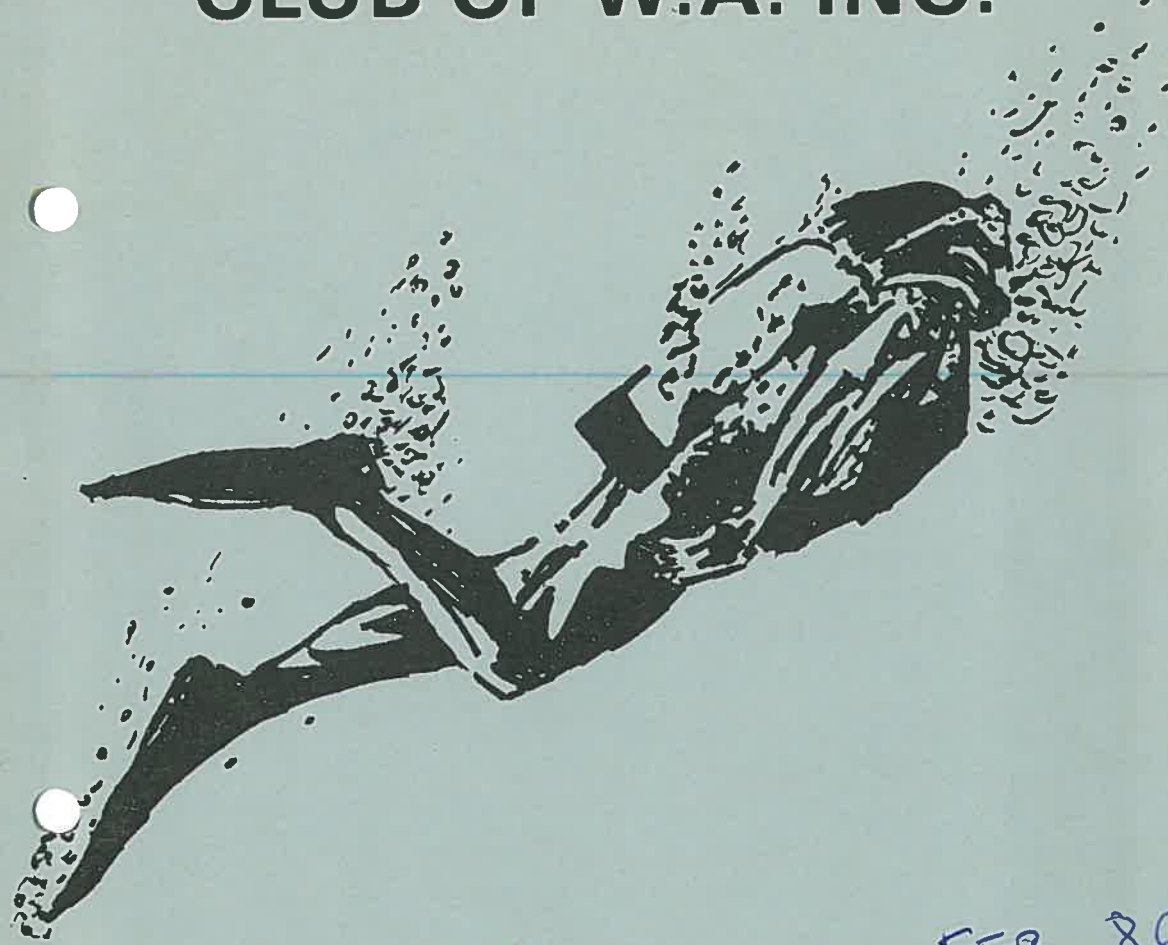
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UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB OF W.A. INC.



FEB 86

U.E.C. NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

CLUB OF MARYLAND

NO



WATER

Martin and I were made to wash and dress for dinner, i.e. stand naked and shivering on the marlin board soaped up with sea water detergent then plunge into the icy waters of Rottnest to wash it off. As I said before, it was hell out there. (We didn't pee in our wetsuits honest Maree). That's one thing I do like about Marjorie - the extensive wash and toilet facilities, vast as the ocean. Ah, but we smelled so nice afterwards! A truly delightful evening was had by all.

Saturday morning dawned gusty and a bit overcast but didn't dampen Julie's ardour for talent scouting. We picked her up on the telephoto lens (photo at clubrooms) chatting up not one, but two husky he-men. She was sent alone for a specific purpose and got side tracked. Tibi was despatched to get her back before too much damage was done!! (to the he-men of course.)

We set off with an exploratory exit from Marjorie via the tricky eastern approach, it being the boat skippers turn to extend their knowledge of Rottnest waters. This approach looks fine and wide and deep on the chart, but being unmarked was difficult to find in practice. It was decided that as a matter of policy, the western entrance would be used on routine club excursions.

Next it was decided to find and accurately mark the "Mira Flores" wreck site. This was attempted first by Barry with the glass bottomed tube, being rowed around in the tender, then when this unlikely exercise failed, by manta board riding. On successful location of the wreck site, Barry and Allison dived to inspect, clean and buoy the commemorative plaque using hookah air. Photographs, angles and marks were recorded with "U.E." sitting over the buoy which was recovered as we set off for the final dive on Roe Reef. This dive on Roe Reef with the wind and set getting up its usual after bluster was a very rewarding one. Using as a start point marks derived from a former expedition an extensive area was explored by 5 divers. One unusual cave was found about 100m south west of the boat. This was a huge dark cavern with virtually no light penetrating and thus having no vegetation at all. Several large fish including a big sea cobbler and a groper were seen in it. The spot was marked by a surfacing diver (yours truly again) taking landbased transit marks which were later photographed from the boat. The site was named "Dark Cave". In general this represents the North West extremity of Roe Reef as near as our navigational aids could put us, and it is hoped that further exploration can yield more good dive sites using this area as a navigational reference point.

A quick pit stop was held in Thomsons Bay prior to scudding home before our usual stiff sou-wester. Martin very thoroughly cleaned "U.E.'s" hull and added about 1½ knots to our speed as a result. (That will have to become a routine diving exercise we have decided, about monthly, as it certainly contributes greatly to our comfort in faster passages to and from Rottnest).

In all we feel the exploratory exercise was not only worthwhile but must form an essential part of the club's activities to promote interest among diving members. It also provides vital experience and training for skippers and diving officers on whom the very existence of interesting diving and therefore our future club standing and membership must depend.

So with that thought ringing in your equalised ears, see you soon folks, and perhaps I'll have another ripping yarn to tell you about the Albany trip next magazine, if my broken pen arm mends in time!!

SEASICKNESS

Carl Edmonds

Because we were going out on a boat, and into very rough seas, I thought this would be an ideal time to test some of the new approaches to seasickness. One is the use of ginger. I would appreciate it if anyone could give me some of the original literature on this.

I finally found an old record of its use in a book called "Sod's Law of the Sea". It is an exciting book about an old seaman writing to his nephew. In one of his letters, he pointed out that seasickness was a problem that was only averted by not going to sea, or not going to land. His suggestion in this book was that ginger biscuits were very good. He was not sure whether they were good treatment for seasickness, but he was sure that they made the boat go faster. That is the only reference I can find for ginger in the literature. On our controlled trial, it did not work. The ginger takers had to give on very rapidly to the more genuine anti-seasickness drug treatments, which worked very effectively.

Most people would accept that if you are going for an early morning dive, something can be taken the night before, with the sedative effects wearing off in the morning, and with the anti-seasick and electronystagmographic effects still very pronounced during the dive. Basically, we still rely on the antihistamines, which with a stimulant supplement is absolutely unbeatable for yachtsmen (but not for divers). That is the most effective regime, and I thoroughly recommend it.

There is, however, a more fashionable treatment called "Sea Bands". It is used by people as an acupuncture type mode, wrapped around the wrists, and the little button must cover the correct area. It must be very lucrative treatment for the people who initially promoted it. The main problem is washing the vomit off the material.

Reprinted from SPUMS Journal Vol. 15 1985

SAFETY

Points to Remember:

Decompression sickness is a serious risk of diving.

Dive tables are 100% reliable.

NO depth gauge is 100% reliable.

The depth of a dive is the deepest point of the dive, no matter how brief the time spent at that depth.

Ascent should be as slow as possible (10m minute).

Decompression stop at 3m should be routine.

Divers who cheat the tables, depths and bottom times are only cheating themselves and their buddies!



UNDERWATER COPS!

Just imagine meeting another diver 18-20 metres under the surface who suddenly pulls a plastic sign out of his dive bag saying "you are under arrest".

This actually happens in Florida where the Department of Natural Resources have a Marine Patrol law enforcement division whose members consist of certified divers.

They go out in 7 metre motor boats with diving gear and handcuffs. In one year these SCUBA cops made 30 arrests while actually under water. They retrieved stolen motor vehicles, jewellery and money, found 73 dead bodies. They also made dives for narcotics evidence and oil spills.

The problem that keeps them busiest is the preventing of the illegal catching of marine life with most arrests for catching lobsters out of season, under-sized or using a spear gun to catch them.

Do not shoot out yet but there have been some unusual underwater arrests. One of these was at the beginning of the lobster season when a Maritime Patrol diver observed five divers violating conservation laws. The only clothing the diver was wearing was a pair of shorts. When he recognized the Marine Patrol officer, he immediately tried to take the lobster tails out of his pockets, but the tiny spines along the sides of the tails clung to the inside of the pants pockets. The diver stripped off his shorts and fled, only to be captured minutes later.

When the officer surfaced, he had single-handedly captured the following: four divers, a pair of abandoned shorts full of illegal lobster tails, and one naked diver. The charges were for spearing lobsters, wringing tails, separating the tails from the bodies, taking undersized animals, and taking them out of season. The penalty for each person was \$1,000 fine plus confiscation of all diving equipment.



SOCIAL UPDATE with Margaret Langson

After the next General Meeting Reece Brown from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife will show a film and slides on the life cycle of the rock lobster better known to us - but seldom seen - as the crayfish. A general discussion will follow when he will answer questions.

Coming at the General Meeting on the 17th March, a talk by Mike Brown on boat safety. He is from the National Safety Council.

15 lucky members will be able to tour Garden Island Navy facility and see a demonstration of both the oxygen and mixture closed circuit sets of the decompression chamber.

However, you must book with Margaret soon 361 0842 work or 451 7244 home.

There is still room left if you want to go along to the Progressive Dinner. Cost is \$25 and a bus will take you on a tour of some of the southern suburbs for a delicious meal. Ring Margaret soon.

ROTTNEST ISLAND OVERNIGHT EXPEDITION 27-28/12/85 by your Reporting Rover er Rover

Well, you've read about Rottneest at Christmas, now I have the honour to present Rotto at New Year, or nearly New Year. This is a serious article with absolutely no frivolity (maybe just a little).

It was a calm sunny morning when 8 intrepid Underwater Explorers set off from East Street, Fremantle. (Of course it was calm and sunny - it was a Friday wasn't it - not a bloody Sunday). A delightful crossing ensued, occupied by such rewarding pursuits of seamanship as checking anchors, llyes, diving gear and cleaning all the seagull poo off sleeping and sitting areas.

First stop was south of Salmon Point (just west of Parker Point), found by leaving Cape Naturaliste well to port (that's clever navigation for you). An interesting, fairly large shelf of rock, close to the surface was investigated by Martin and Mario on hookah. This area is inshore of the 15m line and rose from about 12m to 15m up to about 4m from the surface and is located just west of "Julie's Cave". Photos, angles and marks were taken to allow accurate future anchorage on the spot, which was named "Branchetti's Bommie".

Our next stop was just east of Kingston Reefs where the manta board was used to good effect by Barry and Julie around the area of the wreck of the "Janet". Manta boarding was carried out at a speed of 2 to 3 knots and seemed most comfortable at this speed which was 750rpm of the motor at the conditions then applying. Julie finally stopped us over a beautiful reefy spot some 50m N.E. of the "Janet" plaque. This proved to be a magnificent shallow dive site with many caves and extensive plant and fish life.

A late lunch was next on the menu er programme, anchored in Thomsons Bay. A shore party was despatched to check on the local natives. However none were captured, although our able talent scout of the year Julie, may have been able to entice a couple on board if allowed. But we just can't have this plundering of native species viz. the okker!

It was decided to spend the night getting away from it all in Marjorie Bay with a twilight/night dive around the western arm of the Bay being planned. So we set off, punching into a stiff sou' wester, directly into the setting sun - it was hell out there!! The course was set much wider north of the island than usual to avoid the possibility of fouling craypots set offshore in the area and which were almost impossible to see looking into the sun.

Anchored snugly under the lee of the western cliffs of Marjorie Bay our hardy explorers prepared for a sticky beak of the reefs on snorkel. Some very interesting territory was found with plenty of small fish, caves and crays. Back into the area we sped, the hunters on SCUBA. (Yours truly was definitely not up to catching crays in 20ft of water with the miserable 6 litres of air he could force into his lungs from a snorkel - well make that 5.13 litres anyway). There were crayfish everywhere, dozens of them BUT - there's always a but - they were all undersize except for about two. All extremely frustrating, but having nerves of steel (lesser men would have failed), we did not break the law and returned home empty handed to a beautiful steak BBQ dinner prepared expertly by Maree and Allison on board.

takes place when environmental conditions are favorable for the formation of sperm and eggs inside the sponge. If both the egg and sperm cells are formed in a single individual, the two processes usually occur at different times. The sperm cells from one sponge are dispersed and carried to the egg cells of another by the same internal water currents that bring food and oxygen to the animal. Most sponges are hermaphroditic, but species with separate sexes do exist.

Sponges can reproduce asexually using gemmules or by budding. A gemmule is formed by freshwater sponges and some marine species when specialized cells called archaeocytes, filled with food, become surrounded by a hard covering containing spicules. The gemmules are capable of enduring severe environmental extremes, including freezing and drying, and thus can survive even after the parent sponge has died and disintegrated. When favourable conditions return, the living cells inside the gemmule emerge and develop into an adult sponge.

Budding occurs as larger sponges develop branches that separate from the parent sponge and form their own water-canal system. These branches may break off in a storm or strong current and, if a suitable substrate is located, they will attach and continue to grow and develop their own branches.

Passive defence. Sponges have no nervous tissue and their movements are very slow. When mechanically or chemically stimulated, however, some sponges contract. For example, when a pollutant is suddenly introduced into the water or a fish starts nibbling on a sponge, a visible response occurs. This passive defense mechanism takes place because some species are equipped with primitive muscle cells, called myocytes, which contract, completely closing the oscules in these species. Contraction of the oscule can occur three to ten minutes after an injury or irritation.

Simple contraction is not the only means of defence shown by sponges. Many species produce a noxious biochemical substance to discourage predators. Needlelike spicules also provide an effective defence mechanism. Some species of sponges are protected by their site of attachment to hard substrates in coral crevices.

The unique characteristics of sponges are not the only features that have attracted the attention of scientists and laymen. Sponges are of ecological importance to marine communities in which they live, as well as of commercial importance to man. They often house or protect many smaller animals, thousands of which may live in a single large sponge, such as the loggerhead. Tiny inhabitants, occupying the pore spaces among spongefibres, may live their entire lives within a sponge. Polychaete worms, copepods, and numerous other small organisms often reside within the complex canal system. Vase-shaped sponges may harbor brittle stars, shrimps, or fishes on their inner surface, while the outer surface serves as a substrate for anemone-like animals called zoanths. Commensal crustaceans have been found in deepwater sponges. An epizoid anemone grows on the rooting spicule of the glass-rope sponge (*Hyalonema*).

Some sponges are destructive to other marine life. In temperate seasons, sponges of the genus *Cliona* bore into the shells of clams and oysters. The

bivalves are unable to replace the protective shell layers fast enough, and they soon become unprotected and die. Thus, these excavating sponges are a problem in clam and oyster beds. Boring sponges are not completely harmful, however. They contribute an enormous amount of sediment as well as providing substrate, in the form of coral rubble, for settlement of new coral and other invertebrate populations. When coral tissue dies, boring sponges attach the dead coral skeleton and a coral head, 1 metre high, can be completely converted to sediment in 100 to 150 years.

A few species of sponges are sought for domestic or industrial use. Historical methods of sponging included poling or harpooning, hardhat or skin diving and dredging. During the first half of this century, sponging grounds off the Florida Keys and Tarpon Springs were among the most productive in the world. Outbreak of disease from 1938 to 1952 eventually depleted the sponge grounds in Florida and the Bahamas. They are recovering and are again being fished; they have not reached previous levels of productivity.

With over a million divers in America alone probing the lakes, rivers, and oceans of the world, sponges are no longer unfamiliar and little noticed creatures. Their versatile reproductive and adaptive abilities have enabled them to survive and multiply.

HELP SAVE THESE DOLPHINS



Brazilian ecologists are protesting at a growing trade in the eyeballs of the endangered Amazon river dolphin. The eyeballs, long valued as amulets by voodoo cult Macumba, are now in vogue as lucky charms among non-believers.

The eyeballs are sold openly in markets and tourist shops in Rio de Janeiro and other major cities. They can even be bought by mail order, or through the yellow pages of telephone books. When local conservationists posed as potential buyers, a dealer said he could supply them with 500 eyeballs within a week at a cost of between \$1.50 to \$3.00 per eye.

Other dolphin products, on sale in Brazil, are also in demand, especially dolphin oil, which is highly regarded as a lure for fish. In addition, dolphin vaginas are said to lure men to the women who carry them.

River dolphins are found only in China, India and the Amazon Basin. In India there are fewer than 1000 individuals left; in China fewer than 500. The Amazon river dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*) has not been well studied and there are no population estimates for the species. Nevertheless, the dolphin is regarded as a vulnerable species and are protected by international legislation on trade in endangered species.

Amazon river dolphins are also threatened by the destruction of their habitat by large water and oil-exploration projects in the Amazon Basin, as well as pollution from agricultural chemicals. Brazil bans the export of dolphins or parts of dolphins, but trade within the country is uncontrolled.

Ecologists want people to write letters to Brazilian embassies around the world in the hope that the Brazilian government will crack down on the dolphin trade.

DO YOU TRUST YOUR TABLES?

The currently used decompression schedules were prepared using deterministic models that predict decompression sickness (DCS) is either certain to occur or certain not to occur. Real data, on the other hand, demonstrate that not every diver will respond in the same way to a given schedule.

The variability of a decompression schedule depends on the incidence of decompression sickness (DCS) associated with its use, but a satisfactory method for predicting DCS incidence from practical numbers of test dives has not been available.

DCS risks were estimated for USN no-stop dive limits and for Huggins' shorter limits. For any depth (see table), DCS risk decreased slowly as bottom time was reduced. For a 1 per cent risk, bottom times were about half Huggins' limits. The appropriate question is not "What are the safe no-stop limits?" but "What DCS risk is acceptable?" A small DCS incidence appears unavoidable. For example, in 4 years of Navy diving (22 DCS cases in 242,778 no-stop dives), 7 DCS cases occurred well within the USN limits.

Depth	U.S. Navy		Huggins	
	Time	Risk	Time	Risk
35 Ft	310	11.9%	165	4.0%
40	200	8.8	135	4.4
50	100	5.6	75	3.4
60	60	4.3	50	3.1
70	50	5.3	40	3.5
80	40	5.7	30	3.4
90	30	5.1	25	3.7
100	25	5.3	20	3.6
110	20	5.0	15	3.0
120	15	4.1	10	1.9
130	10	2.6	5	0.7

The table we are using (RNPL/BSAC) is approximately halfway between the above tables.

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FROM THE SECRETARY - JULIE

NOMINATIONS:

Kevin Robertson,
403 Sydenham Street, Belmont.

Rocco Pastorelli,
57 Brooker Street, Dianella.

Debbi Gill,
290 Canning Highway, Como

Mary Edwards,
7 Verbena Road, Willetton

Sheila Askew,
Unit 37, 12 Wall St, Maylands.



SPONGES

Beneath the sea, a quiet group of strange animals has existed for 500 million years. The sponges, phylum Porifera, are the simplest form of multicellular animals and have been in existence since the dawn of Paleozoic era. Despite a long evolutionary history, sponges have received little attention until recently, as people began to realise some of their interesting characteristics. Sponges live in waters ranging in depth from sunlit intertidal zones to dark abyssal depths; they range from polar to tropical seas, and a few species of the family Spongillidae even inhabit freshwater lakes and rivers. With such a variety of habitats, it is not surprising that there are many species of sponges. In fact, to date, more than 5,000 species have been described.

The physical appearance of sponges is as variable, both among individuals and among species, as the environments they occupy. Some are delicate, tiny animals that weigh only a few grams. At the other end of the spectrum is the monstrous loggerhead sponge (*Spherospongia vesparium*), which can weigh as much as 100 pounds. Some of the larger species are thought to live for hundreds of years, while others may not live beyond a year.

In external form, sponges may be thin encrustations or they may be massive subspherical, or irregularly shaped organisms; they may be flattened, resembling fans, or curl to form vases or tubes. Accompanying the gallery of colors: reds, oranges, yellows, greens, blues, purples, and even whites and blacks. Deepwater sponges are generally less brilliantly colored than those from shallow water. Oddly enough, the colors of the interior and exterior of a single sponge are often different.

Even the skeletal structure of sponges is variable. Most sponge skeletons consist of hundreds of thousands of tiny spicules, microscopic limestone or silica rods, hooks, and stars. Elastic connective fibres (spongin) composed of protein provide additional support. Some sponges lack spicules, using only the spongin fibres for support. On the other hand, the deepwater glass sponge (*Monoraphis* sp.) has a single giant spicule that attains a length of several feet. The skeletal structure of a given species relates to its durability, so some sponges are tough, while others are fragile or brittle.

Internal works. Despite such variability, sponges do have certain features in common. All sponges, for example, feed by causing an incoming current of water to enter through pores known as ostia, which perforate the sponge's outer walls. Inside the sponge, collar cells (choanocytes) have flagella to circulate the water, which contains food and oxygen, through the inner recesses of the animal. In this way, algae, bacteria and organic detritus are passed through a succession of canals which vary in complexity with the various species. Food particles are ingested by collar cells and then transferred to cells called amoebocytes which digest them and distribute nutrients to other cells. Finally, the water is ejected through large openings called oscules. This flow is often the only detectable movement made by the entire sponge. Some species have a single oscule, while others are equipped with many.

Reproductive options. The prolific distribution of these animals in many environments, and on coral reefs in particular, is perhaps partially due to their ability to reproduce either sexually or asexually. Sexual reproduction

U.E.C NEWS

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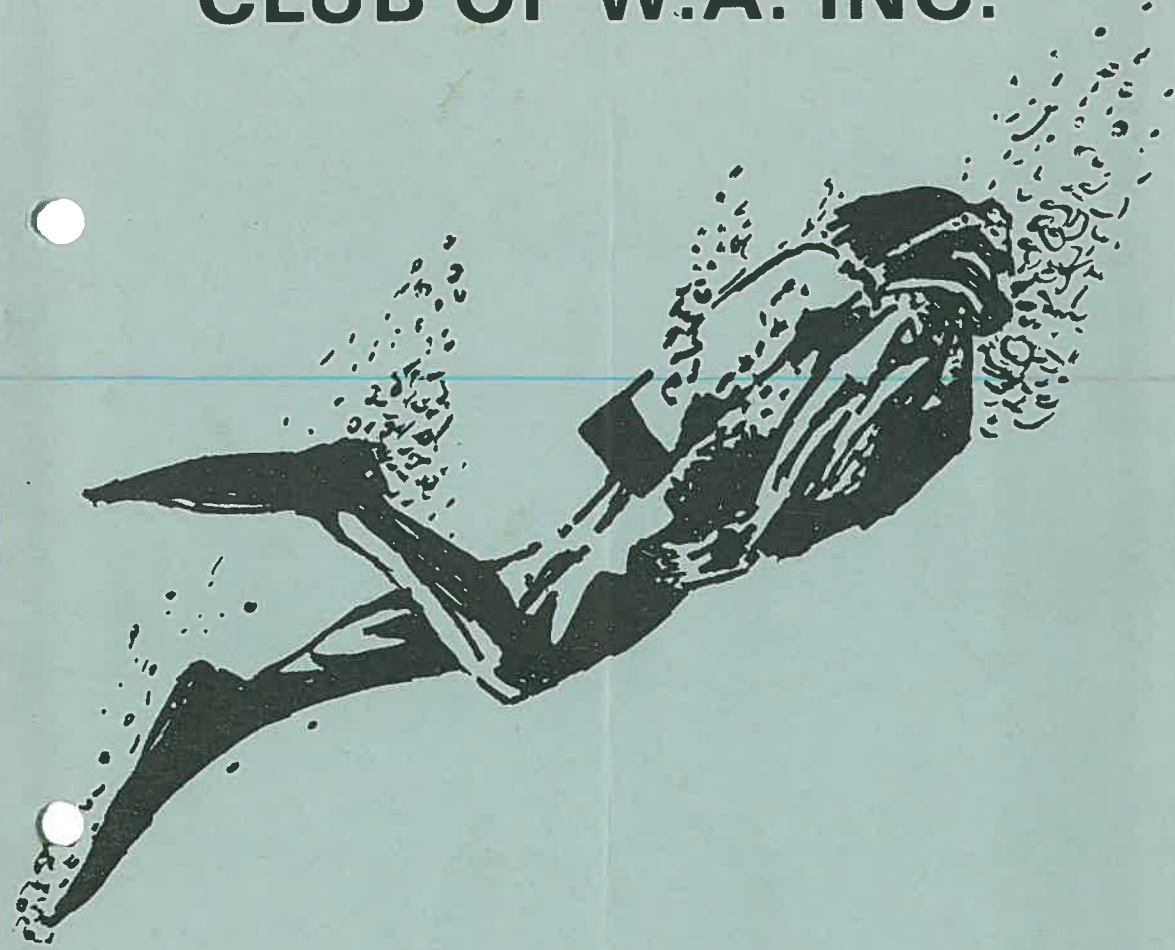
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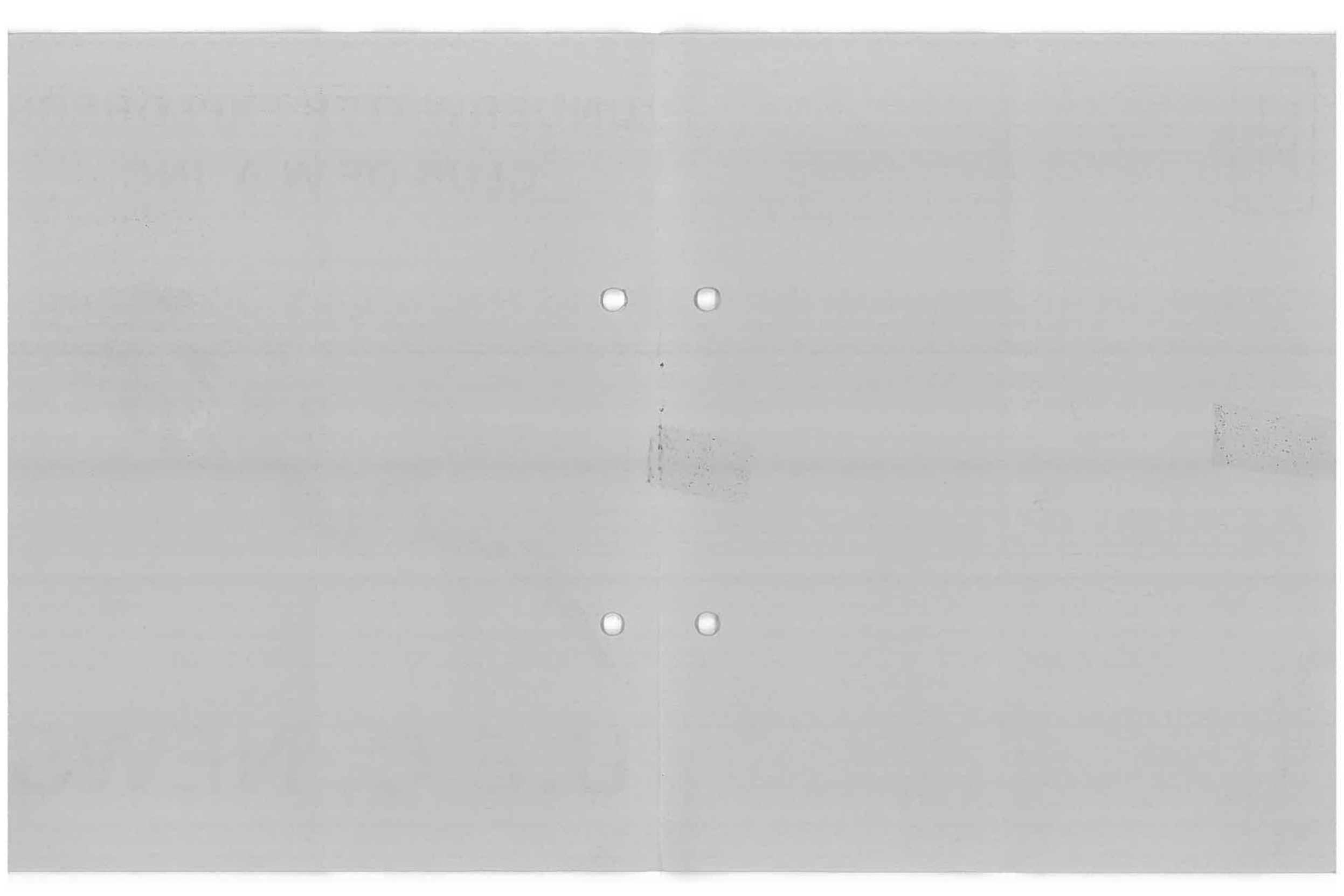


MARCH 86

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB OF W.A. INC.



U.E.C. NEWS



The other scallop which can swim a little is Pecten Modestus. The upper shell of this scallop is flat and sits flush with the seafloor, while its lower shell is deeply convex (scalloped). Although there is more room inside this animal for meat, the adductor muscle is only small as expected in a scallop that can only swim for a couple of squirts before settling back to the seafloor. However, this muscle may not always be small, as similar scallops I caught in New Zealand were quite meaty. The size of the muscle may be dependent on other factors (e.g. time since last spawn) as the muscle is used as an energy store.

The third scallop is not mobile at all and is generally found attached to a solid substance such as a rock via a mass of threads called the byssus. This is the Fan scallop, Chlamys Asperimus. It is more plentiful in places where there is more substrate to attach to than is found on the flat sandy sea bed that is the home of the other two types of scallops. Further around Geographe Bay, on the wooden pylons of Busselton Jetty, they are common, and make quite an interesting sight as they are always found with a bright red commensal sponge growing on the shell. The red sponge surrounding the gape from which the scallops blue eyes peer makes this scallop such a pretty sight that I've never bothered to open one to see if they're worth eating.

After returning from a dive with a good bag full of scallops it's time for the feast. As I've always caught scallops on camping trips, I cook them as simply as possible - lightly pan fried in butter with a sprinkling of freshly ground black pepper. If you're nearer home you might cook them in a nice white wine sauce. But no matter how good they taste, I still think that the ultimate pleasure is catching them. Bon Appetit!

The author should like to acknowledge the help of Shirley Slack-Smith of the W.A. Museum and the use of information from Fins Vol. 16 No. 2 page 16 and Vol. 18 No. 2 page 7.



Carl Edmonds

MASK SQUEEZE

One diving accident we noted while on the Pandora was a new cause for mask squeeze, and we saw it in very experienced divers. One diver had been diving for 40 years and he never previously had a face mask squeeze, but up there he produced the most beautiful face mask squeeze. He could not understand why, but I can. One look at his face mask and the answer was obvious. It was the new type of mask that is flooding the market. The mask has been converted into a rigid structure, and so continuous equalisation is needed to prevent a "squeeze".

The reason people did not get face mask squeeze more often in the past, was because masks were very flexible so that when Boyle's Law had its effect, the mask would be sucked in, and it would accommodate for Boyle's Law. With this new mask, there is only a small possibility of flexibility in the silicon around the forehead where it makes the seal, and the mask is mainly of rigid material. A stupid bit of equipment to sell on the open market, but they are coming out in pretty colours and you have always got to be wary of the dive equipment manufacturers. They will sell anything without thinking about it, or testing it first.

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DIVING FISH ROCK CAVE, N.S.W.

Adrian Edwards

For those of you who may be contemplating a visit over east sometime in the future and have the opportunity to travel along the coast of N.S.W., I can personally recommend a dive that is extremely worthwhile as well as a chance to view some magnificent scenery.

I first read about Fish Rock Cave in a diving magazine and because I was taking my leave touring the coast of N.S.W., subsequently booked in by 'phone to "Mid-Coast Divers" at South West Rocks, (a small holiday resort near Kempsey, N.S.W.) for a dive on this popular spot.

We arrived late in the day by hire car from Sydney complete with pup tents, air beds and dive bag, minus tank and weight belt and set up camp for the night in the Lagoon View Caravan Park under the trees. A quick check at the dive shop to ensure that I was booked onto the dive next day then, because the late afternoon weather was so enjoyable, Mary and I went for a snorkel just off the magnificent white beach of Trial Bay. The water was crystal clear and hinted at good things to follow the next day. What remained of the glorious day was spent doing a quick race around the town and sights, lookouts etc. and having a take away tea on the lush green lawns - like grass which always seems to grow down to east coast beaches.

A very early night then followed, more out of necessity due to an unpowered site and one small gas lamp, but sleep soon took over three tired girls and one excited diver who then dreamt about huge sharks and bad weather, until the magpies and cockatoos woke everyone just before dawn. A beautiful day, not a cloud in sight.

After a quick breakfast I eagerly raced off down to the dive shop as arranged and being very early (thanks to the cockatoos), waited for the other divers to turn up. By 8.30a.m. we were all kitted out with hire tanks and weight belts and (surprise) a compulsory purchase of a Cylume stick. At this stage I was glad I had brought my torch!

Everyone was very friendly and we were "buddied up" by the dive master at the shop and all got into our wetsuits and assembled our regs. and B.C.'s and were given a preliminary briefing. Thus prepared we all (8 of us) boarded the back of a large 4 x 4 van and this van then towed the 23' Vee hull aluminium, twin 150H.P. outboard, "New World II" dive boat down to the boat ramp which was in the river near the town.

Once clear of the ramp, we planed down to the estuary and out to the bay in clear blue transparent water, round the rocky headland of the Arakoon State Recreation area past the beautiful old Trial Bay Gaol and into the Pacific Ocean.

20 minutes later we arrived at a large rock jutting up out of the sea and apart from the usual swell which surges up around such rocks, the sea was flat calm.

The dive entry method was interesting to say the least! The skipper thoroughly briefed us all, then in two lots of 4, (2 on each gunwale) he slowly nosed the boat into a large crevice in the rock and at the word "GO",

we did 4 simultaneous back roll entries and when we were all clear of the boat, he reversed out ready for the next lot.

We then all grouped together as briefed and descended in buddy pairs and regrouped on the bottom in roughly 15 metres of gin clear water. The dive through the cave hadn't even started and I was already fascinated by the fish life and colours of the scenery. I would have been just as happy to sit there and look! But the best was yet to come.

The dive leader then led us to the mouth of the cave which starts at about 11 metres and runs down a slope (like a tunnel) to a deep end of about 20 metres. The cave is quite large and wide and has a very narrow neck at the deep end which goes down even deeper, but we were not allowed to go that far.

The 8 divers in the cave presented an eerie sight as we torched our way about exploring the walls and rock and crannies. We looked like a trail of "fire-flies" with our Cylume sticks glowing brightly on our tanks.

The walls of the cave were a sea of beautiful gorgonian fans and delicate fern like coral, while beautiful sponges sprouted from the rocks at all angles. The ceilings were alive with coloured anemones and all sorts of fish which I wasn't familiar with poked their eyes out of holes. Near the entrance where some shafts of light were penetrating, I saw live cowries on the walls. (Yes, Karee and Peter, I spared you a thought then !)

One of the highlights of the dive was when my buddy and I ascended to an air pocket in the roof of the cave and were able to take our masks off and regs out and have a "conversation" at 9 metres indicating on our depth gauges! I can recommend this method of saving air!

The exit back out of the cave into the blinding daylight was spectacular. We had to swim through a solid "curtain" of thousands of bullseye fish. They gleamed silver in the sunlight and slightly parted just to let us pass.

Then with about 15 minutes bottom time remaining, we went over a ledge and down a rocky wall to about 15 metres in excellent visibility to feed the pet blue groper. We were allowed to cut up a limited number of spiny sea urchins (fish love 'em) to feed these magnificent fish. I actually had my arm around the "shoulder" of one large groper whilst hand feeding it.

There were all sorts of fish milling around, big pink snapper, bream, trevally, sweet lips, sergeant leaker, parrotfish, nannygai, morwong and dozens of small coloured reef fish. On the bottom lay an old wobbogong shark and I even saw my first moray eel slide out of a crevice to quickly devour some missed morsels.

All too soon it was over and we were back on the boat and heading in. Everyone agreed it was a great dive and as I stripped off my wetsuit back at the dive shop, I vowed I would return for another dive some day.

The rest of the day we spent visiting the historic old Trail Bay Gaol which is the closest thing I have seen in Australia to a medieval fortress and has a very interesting story attached to it which could be the subject of a complete article alone! The rocky headland, recreation area and beautiful bay and camping area is well worth a visit especially for the non divers and kids.

ANYONE FOR SCALLOPS

A lot of my time in boats has been spent idling along looking for a jump in the echo sounder trace that would indicate a drop off a bommie. Such terrain has been proven by divers as it is invariably a focus for fish congregation, provides holes for crayfish and a home for sponges and corals. But one of my favourite dives is on a flat sandy bottom in 25 metres of water. What could such a dive have to offer? The answer is - scallops.

But what makes scallops so special? They provide a tasty morsel for an apres dive snack, but how do they make up for the excitement of grovelling through caves and extracting crays from their holes? Easy - they provide one of the most ridiculous sights you're likely to see above or below the water!

Scallops are pale flat creatures that blend well with a sandy sea floor. They also camouflage themselves by squirting a fine layer of sand over themselves so it takes a diver a while to develop an "eye" for them, but when he does he must be quick as scallops have fast reflexes and they can swim faster than a scuba diver. And if you think that the sight of a shellfish leaping off the bottom and taking off like a pair of false teeth in a cartoon isn't funny - well you just haven't seen it! The only thing funnier is the sight of a scuba diver - two long with hundreds of dollars worth of high tech breathing equipment strapped to his back, futilely attempting to catch a tiny scallop that he was too slow to pounce on.

But scallop diving is not all fun. One of my worst scares whilst diving was on a scallop dive. I'd left my buddy to chase an elusive scallop and returned (empty handed) to find her curled up on the sea floor, her face screwed up, and huge puffs of air bubbles pouring from the exhaust ports of her regulator. I mentally ran through the symptoms of all the diving ailments I knew of, but none fitted. Eventually I realised that this is what hysterical laughter looks like at 25 metres.

Most of my experiences with scallops have been in Geographe Bay. Launching at Dunsborough Ramp is easy, and after a short trip along the coast towards Bunker Bay, I head out to sea until the hue of the water tells me that the depth is about right and over goes the anchor followed shortly by a group of divers.

There are three species of scallop inhabiting the sea floor of Geographe Bay. The most sought after is the Southern Saucer scallop - *Amusium Balloti*. Saucer scallops are quite thin, each shell is only slightly convex, and it seems impossible that they contain much meat. But Saucer scallops can swim distances of 8 to 20 metres at speeds of up to 2 knots. To perform this feat they need a large adductor muscle which pulls the two halves of the shell together and ejects a jet of water which propels the scallop along. It is the adductor muscle along with the orange gonad that is the edible part of the Saucer scallop. The Southern Saucer scallop grows to a maximum diameter of about 11.5 cm, and lives for about 3 years. It has been fished commercially (by trawling) at Shark Bay, the Abrolhos Islands and Rottnest. The population in Geographe Bay was surveyed to determine if stocks were sufficient to support a commercial fishery - they weren't, but there's enough there for recreational divers to have a lot of fun.

NOTABLE FALLS

by Anon.

Some members may not be aware that over the past few weeks, the U.E.C. has been conducting a competition tentatively titled "Notable Falls". The contest was kicked off (so to speak) by a shadowy figure (rumoured to resemble the Club President) who carefully chose his moment to attract maximum attention to the opening of the competition. As a large audience sat in the darkness engrossed in a film on the sex life of the Western Rock Lobster, our hero strode purposefully across the stage, failed to see a protruding foot and executed a neat flat-on-the-floor forward lunge.

Not to be outdone, our female club members took up the challenge with our most enjoyable progressive dinner chosen as the venue for the next entrant. Lady A. performed an elegant pirouette on the top step followed by the graceful arc of a dish of hot roast vegetables. This was a worthy effort and attracted high commendation from the judges.

The Club Boat Officer then continued his unnatural practice of entering the water sans wetsuit - this time before the boat even reached the heads for the long weekend! While not attracting a lot of points (because he was in bathers at the time) it showed he was not to be outdone.

Evening fell (ha! ha!) over cottage 449 Geordie Bay - the embers of the BBQ were slowly dying in the wee hours as some serious discussion took place between members consuming strange liquids. One bearded member made a spur of the moment decision to enter the contest (good tactics - bound to attract many points) but his judgement was slightly impaired and he hearily missed the BBQ plate with his forward roll and only hit one eye. Anyhow, great try T.!

The contest was on in earnest now with the next contestant choosing the wide blue waters beyond Rottnest to do a reverse tumble (or was it a swallow dive?) off the side of the boat. Word has it that S. was momentarily concerned thinking the judges may have missed her performance and she might have to swim after the rapidly disappearing craft to repeat it.

The most recent entrant performed from the saddle of a Rottnest hire bike with a complicated routine involving a quick jamming of brakes followed by 1½ somersaults over the handlebars and a short slide along the bitumen. A bit gory M. but it caught the judges eye.

While it is pleasing to note how enthusiastically members have joined in this competition, the judges have reluctantly declared it closed, with honourable mentions awarded to all contestants. (Next month we'll try something a little more refined).

CUTTLEFISH

Cuttlefish is of the cephalopods, a group of animals that also includes the squids and octopuses. Its highly variable colour patterns serve as an effective camouflage, enabling it to remain undetected while waiting for suitable prey to swim by. It then can explosively shoot out two long, gripping arms equipped with cupshaped adhesive discs and seize its prey, pulling it back to its mouth with the aid of shorter arms.

DIVING REPORT

Peter Mortimer

I see very few problems at this moment in time as far as the diving is concerned. I believe that maybe a little more variety in dive sites would be appreciated by the membership - we don't always have to go to Rotto. If any member has ideas on new dive sites, please don't hesitate to contact me.

My wish is to take a low profile as O.C. Diving as I believe that nothing is gained by being overbearing. I have absolutely no intention of becoming a general dogs body. Martin was often taken advantage of because of his willingness to take on too much. I will not fall into the same trap. I don't want to see any outbursts or unpleasantness on the boat at any time. If a problem does occur on safety, it should be relayed to Ian Milne, who will bring it to my attention or the committee. If it is a diving problem, I should be informed and it will be sorted out accordingly.

I believe the role of O.C. Diving to be as follows:

1. To organise the members, dive marshalls and skippers, for our regular dive trips.
2. To make up a calendar.
3. To make sure the diving is carried out to our high standard of safety with the help of our Safety Officer, Ian Milne.
4. To allocate the position of Project or Expedition Officer, for special trips such as the one Dennis has organised for the March long weekend.
5. To be open to any suggestions on improving our diving for the benefit of the members.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy

If you concentrate on developing your safety awareness, you will become a better, safer diver and the little things which seem to constantly repeat themselves like divers surfacing too far from the boat, and divers becoming confused about time/depth combinations, should eventually become a thing of the past. The club supplies submersible decompression tables on the boat for members use and I urge you to use these, especially on the deeper dives. Constantly check your depth and time and don't take any chances on trying to remember your tables - take them with you.

Having the diving flag flying from our boat is supposed to keep other boat fifty metres clear of our flag. This doesn't always work in practice. However we have to rely on this for our safety. Every diver should try to return to the boat before surfacing, for safety's sake. Using the "swim up stream of your boat" system, you should never allow yourself to surface more than fifty metres from the boat, preferably in front of the boat, definitely not behind the boat. The area you should be diving in doesn't correspond with the area of protection, under the diving flag. You should make every effort to surface somewhere in the area between the anchor and the shot line.

I feel there is a need to tighten up on our safety procedures and in future you will notice the effects of this. Remember a good safety record speaks well of any club.

GEORDIE BAY LABOUR DAY WEEKEND 1986
(or, The Ballad of Eskies and Swell)

The East Street jetty's crowded out with people, food and beer
As heaps of sleepy divers all try and stow their gear.
Our trusty vessel Bombo, she looks ready for the trek,
And someone's even cleaned off all the bird poop from her deck!

The sun it shines, the sky is blue, the weather is just fine
And - goodness me! - it's 8 o'clock, we're ready right on time!
And all us folk are looking just as pleased as pleased can be,
As we're off to go to Rottnest with the U.E.C.

There's Martin at the helm who's looking suitably serious,
There's Peter in a deck-chair looking quite hilarious,
There's Ian and there's Ian, there's Tim and Tony too,
There's Deidre and Alison who are also in the crew,

There's Adrian who's only supposed to be there for the day
(Until he goes off, ahem, sick, so he extends his stay).
Margaret and Barry in his boat are looking flash
As they speed past us waving and making quite a splash.
But Bombo chugs on merrily through all the waves and spray
As she heads in the direction of Rotto and Geordie Bay.

When we get to Geordie Bay we offload all the gear -
The amount of food and drink we've brought we could last all year!
But soon the troops are sounding keen and no-one's going to skive
As we all get back on Bombo to go out for a dive.

The vis. is good, the swell is low, just like we tried to plan it:
Our first dive is off North Point, our second on the "Janet".
The fish are great, the corals too, we even see a ray,
And I enjoy myself so much I want to stay all day.

In the evening there's a barbie and we all have lots of fun,
Only somewhat helped along with the aid of "jolly black Swan".
Later in the evening when most sober folk are in bed
Tim decides the time is right to barbecue his head.

Early in the morning, before the sun has shone,
Someone's up and making noises - it's that b----y Pom!
(No, not me, you sillies - I mean Peter Mort,
Who woke our chalet up much earlier than he ought.)

In the morning we leave bright and early to get off to the West
Because we know that, if we're lucky, diving there's the best.
But alas, alack, it's not to be - we'd surely come to grief,
So instead we dive Green Island and Pocillopora Reef.

HAMELIN BAY by IAN COWAN

As per the Dive Club Calendar for Easter and as discussed at the last General Meeting
I have organised a trip to Hamelin Bay over Easter being from the 27th - 30th March, 1986.

Camp sites have been booked (yes booked) at the Hamelin Bay Caravan Park. The site is
near the beach, unpowered, but there are no restrictions on how many or how big the tents
are. There are all facilities available at the Caravan Park, so no need to bring a portable
toilet with you!!

It is hoped that other dives will be organised at various other locations besides Hamelin
Bay i.e. Busselton Jetty, Canal Rocks etc if the demand is there. Even though the Easter
break is over the above period, people wanting to come can arrive anytime over the weekend
to their convenience. The diving at Hamelin Bay is renowned to being quite something and
there are several reefs etc. A compressor has been booked so there will be no worries with
getting your tanks filled, however it is advisable to bring at least two along with you.

I will be organising a Treasure Hunt with prizes, to add to the fun of the weekend. All you
need to bring is your own camping gear, diving equipment, food, utensils etc which will
naturally keep the costs down, and you only need to bring what you want for the weekend.

Members and non-members are both invited so if you wish to bring a friend or two with you
no worries. If you have not already advised me that you want to come, please telephone
me on 325 9599 at work or 362 4520 at home to let me know, and also to advise whether you
will be taking your own car or wish to have a lift with someone else. If you do not have
a tent dont despair as I am sure that I can fit you in with somebody else.

The total cost of the weekend is \$35.00 which includes all your fills and the camp
sites. A deposit of \$10.00 is required which I will collect at the next General Meeting.

It should be a great weekend, and look forward to seeing you there.

P.S. Naturally if you wish to bring non-divers and children with you, the cost of the
weekend will be reduced, as they will not require fills.



FROM THE EDITOR

It is nice to see new authors contributing to the magazine. Whether it's
diving in Hawaii, Rottnest or Sydney it's good reading with a few ideas that
our club could adopt. One is the briefing of divers. Divemasters should
find out diver's interests, knowledge and ability before working out buddy
pairs. Another one is asking the divers where they want to dive and if
needed, taking a vote on the days locations. Fish guide books on board
are another good idea, maybe we know most of the fishes around here, but
there are always the new divers who are thrilled when they can identify a
fish they have seen.

P.R. & SOCIAL WITH MARGARET LANGSON

GUEST SPEAKERS

On Monday 17th March, 1986, which is the date for the next General Meeting, we will be having a talk by Mike Brown from the National Safety Council. Mike will be talking about Boat Safety (which will be of particular interest to Martin!) From all accounts Mike gives a very interesting and humorous talk, which should be enjoyed by all.

At the General Meeting on Monday 21st April, 1986 our guest speaker will be Robert Wong from the Royal Perth Hospital. Robert will be talking about Decompression Sickness, Dive Tables, Diving Medicals, Free Ascents and Women and Diving. Thanks go to Marie for putting me on to Robert, Marie has heard Robert talk before and advises that he gives a very interesting talk also.

Both these meetings should definately not be missed!

If anyone knows of any people that could give a talk at one of the meetings could they please let me know. Thanks.

The trip to H.M.A.S. Stirling to view the decompression chamber is scheduled for Wednesday 16th April, 1986 at 7 p.m. at the H.M.A.S. Stirling base at Rockingham. I already have a list of people that want to go, but there are still one or two places left, if your interested please ring me on 361 0842 business hours or 451 7244 After Hours. All the people who have already advised that they wish to go, I will ring with all the details in the near future.

Dennis will be writing an article later on the Progressive Dinner which I hear was a great success and also on the Rottnest Trip which was over the long weekend. However, on behalf of everyone that went to Rottnest, would like to say a very big THANKYOU to Dennis for all his hard work in organising the trip, food etc etc. It was a great weekend and everyone had a good time.

As was announced at the last meeting Sue Churrack has now taken over the role of Social. The next event is the Quiz Night and full details will be printed in the next magazine. However, as always prizes are needed and we call upon all of you to help. If you have any unwanted gifts at home or can obtain anything from work, however, big or small we would love to receive them - please dont just read this and forget about it, bring something along to the next meeting - the more prizes the better - thanks.

There will be another raffle at the next General Meeting so dont forget to bring along your \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$. No excuses are accepted as most of you already know.

Ian Cowan is organising the Easter Trip to Hamlin Bay and camp sites have been booked. Ian will advise of the full details at the next General Meeting.

That's about it for this addition, look forward to seeing you at the next meeting - until then keep smiling.

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After afternoon siestas, we have a meeting about five
So we can all discuss and plan the evening's Night Dive.
We kit up on the jetty, and it takes us quite a while
(Our neighbour on his cosy boat can't help but smile).

But at last we leave the harbour as the night is getting darker
And head out for the spot where Dennis has left the marker.
And what a Top Spot the dive site turns out to be -
Even Maree when she comes up is eager to agree!
The highlight of the dive I thought was a Real Ripper cave:
I even swam right through it (I was feeling Very Brave).

The next morning, after sleeping well ('cept Adrian, I gather)
We aren't so pleased to look and see there's changes in the weather.
But this won't stop us hardy divers going to Roe Reef,
Even though on the way back we nearly come to grief -

For suddenly as we sail along, the boat begins to flounder!
"Oh my goodness gracious me!"* Poor Bombo is aground-er!
Stuck on a rock! - We free her with a great deal of harrassment,
And sail back into Geordie Bay overcome with embarrassment.

Now, do you know, with all those divers diving all those days,
We only manage to catch - wait for it - just THREE GRAYS!
We cook one up and serve out lots of champagne for a toast
To Maree who now a hundred hours' diving time can boast.

But all too soon it's time to pack to sail back home to Perth
(On the journey, we must confess, the cabin was full of mirth)
And when we get back to the club, I think we all agree
The whole weekend was just about as excellent as it could be.
So thanks to all the team who organised it so fine,
You can be sure we just can't wait till we go again next time!

E.M.A.

*Barry's words (sort of ...)

New member: Stephen Holle,
8 Fulman Way,
Lynwood, W.A. 6155



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HAWAII

Greg & Di

Should your holidays or work take you to the the United States via the Pacific Ocean, be sure and book a stop over in the Hawaiian Islands and plan on going diving.

Almost all of the airlines stop over there for refueling and crew change. The stop should be able to be organized at no extra expense as far as the airfare is concerned.

The first stop is Honolulu and Wakiki Beach on the island of Oahu. as the international airport is located there. However, Western airlines has a direct flight to Maui from Los Angeles.

Playing tourist in Honolulu and Wakiki Beach for a couple of days to sample the wide range of resturants and night life is recommended. One of the closest marine preserves is Hanauma Bay, and can best be appreciated by snorkel. It is located up the coast highway from Wakiki, about twenty kilometres. Take your picnic lunch and don't forget a strong pair of legs for the hike back up the cliff (or spend fifty cents for the bus like we did). Bring lots of frozen peas to feed the fish. Leave your wet suit at home for this snorkel as the water temperature is 18 to 26 in the winter and 22 to 31 in the summer. As in Western Australia watch out for the tropical sun.

We would say that your next stop should be the island of Maui and it is only twenty minutes away by jet. The old whaling village of Lahaina is the centre of diving activities and has several dive tour operators, but the one we have found to offer the best package is Central Pacific Divers as it provides diving that will satisfy the most experienced diver.

The business of serious diving can now begin. Most boats depart Lahaina harbour around 7:00 AM which means arriving at the boat for 6:30 AM in order to load the gear and get the briefing and take a vote on the days locations.

Many exciting dive sites are within one hours steaming. The seas are usually glassy at that hour of the morning making the passage enjoyable. Coffee is always available on board in generous quantities (we always needed it at 6:30 AM) Photo albums and fish guide books are also in abundance to help you identify that curious looking fish or whatsit. By the time everyone finds out where everyone else is from you have generally arrived.

If you are in the islands between November and May you will be treated to 20 tonne Humpback Whales breaching near your boat as we were. There are coast watchers to ensure that the boats do not interfere with the whales. It is one of the memorable sites you tend to recall often. Most certainly you will be escorted by Dolphins for part of the trip.

The dive sites that are accessible from Lahaina include Molakini Crater, another marine preserve. The crater is an extinct volcano with only a crescent of land above the ocean. It contains a varitey of life including Morry eels, octopus and white tip reef sharks. The thing that struck us the most was the ability to see the black sea cucumbers on the bottom in 30 metres of water like grains of pepper on a bed of white sand and coral. The visilibility is often 60 metres plus.

This year we dutifully loaded the camera with film hoping to catch a white tip reef shark on film. We stopped and fed Garbonzo a large Morry eel at about 15 metres. As we continued our descent past the 25 metre point down the steeply sloping wall of coral, we looked out into the blue and saw a large Manta ray who as it turned out was as curious about us as we were about him/her?

We followed the Manta to a depth of 30 metres afraid that it would dive too deeply for us when it must have overheard our thoughts for it promptly stopped its descent and began to circle. We were completely in awe of its size. We later compared notes and decided it must have been 4 metres wing tip to wing tip. It carried 2 amora fish on its back. It swam with us for the entire dive which we regretfully had to abandon after 20 minutes. I did have the presence of mind to take a few photos and they are in the Churchill Color lab right now.

The island of Lanai is also accessible from Lahaina and contains a number of dive sites. Cathedral I and Cathedral II are lava tubes that contain a variety of critters. The large ghost shrimp are very worthy of a photo or two. Underwater torches are included with cost of the trip.

Other sites include Triple Reef, Sergeant Major Reef, Wash Rock and Nob Hill to name a few. Try to dive the Cathedrals. They are very similar to our own Cathedrals on Rotto. The back wall of Molakini is also spectacular but requires certain sea conditions.

The only disconcerting moment is when you realize that the 3 tank dive (best value for the money) is done on PADI tables. Don't look at your RNPL/BSAC tables as we found it disturbing to know that we should have been bent 5 minutes into the 2nd dive.

We have been fortunate enough to dive in Hawaii on more than one occasion and we are not aware of any bend cases having been reported where the diver stayed within the PADI tables. We still feel personally safer with the RNPL/BSAC tables.

Lastly, if you need help with travel or accomodation arrangements my cousin Chrystal in Kailua will be more than pleased to help out.

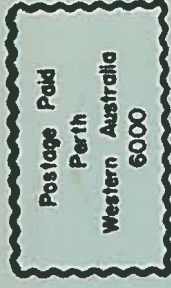
Enjoy your diving and dive safe!

U.E.C NEWS

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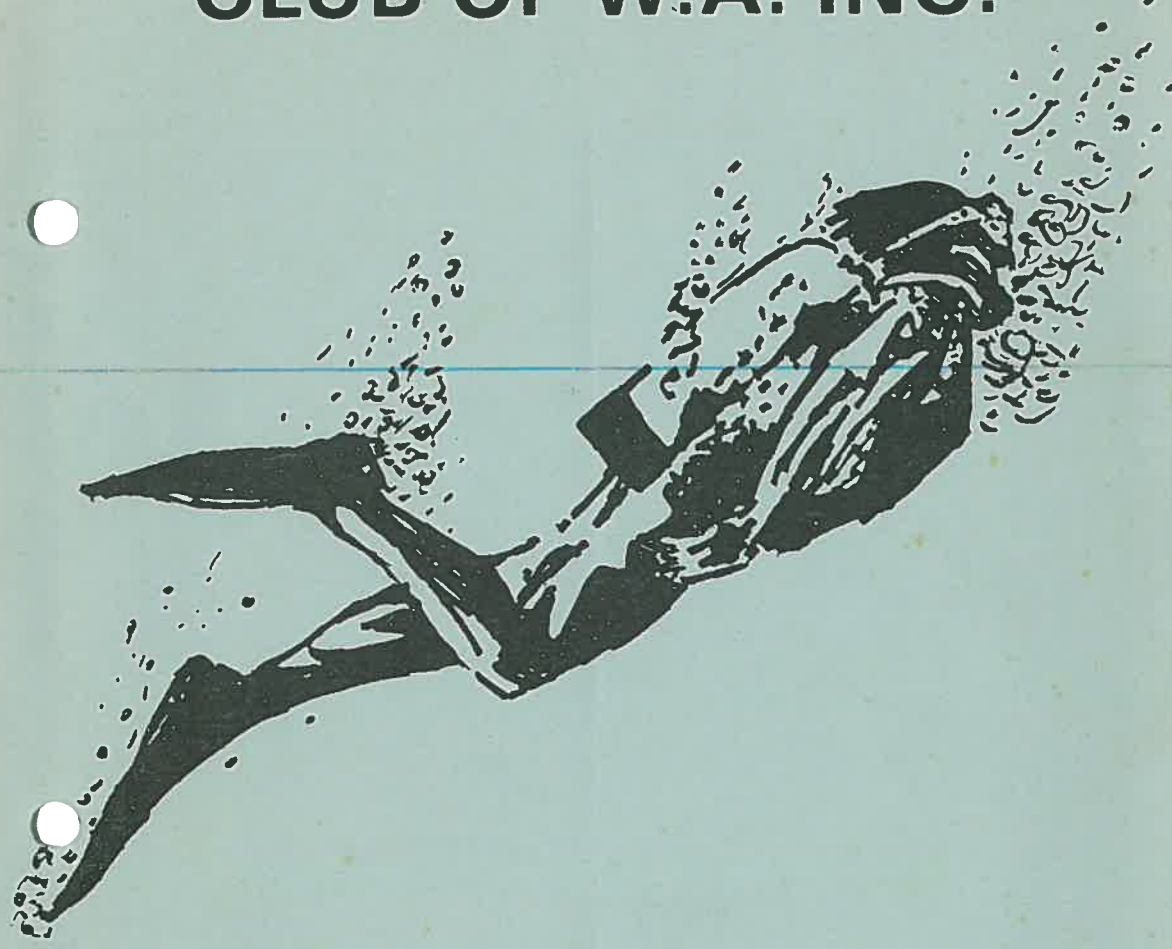
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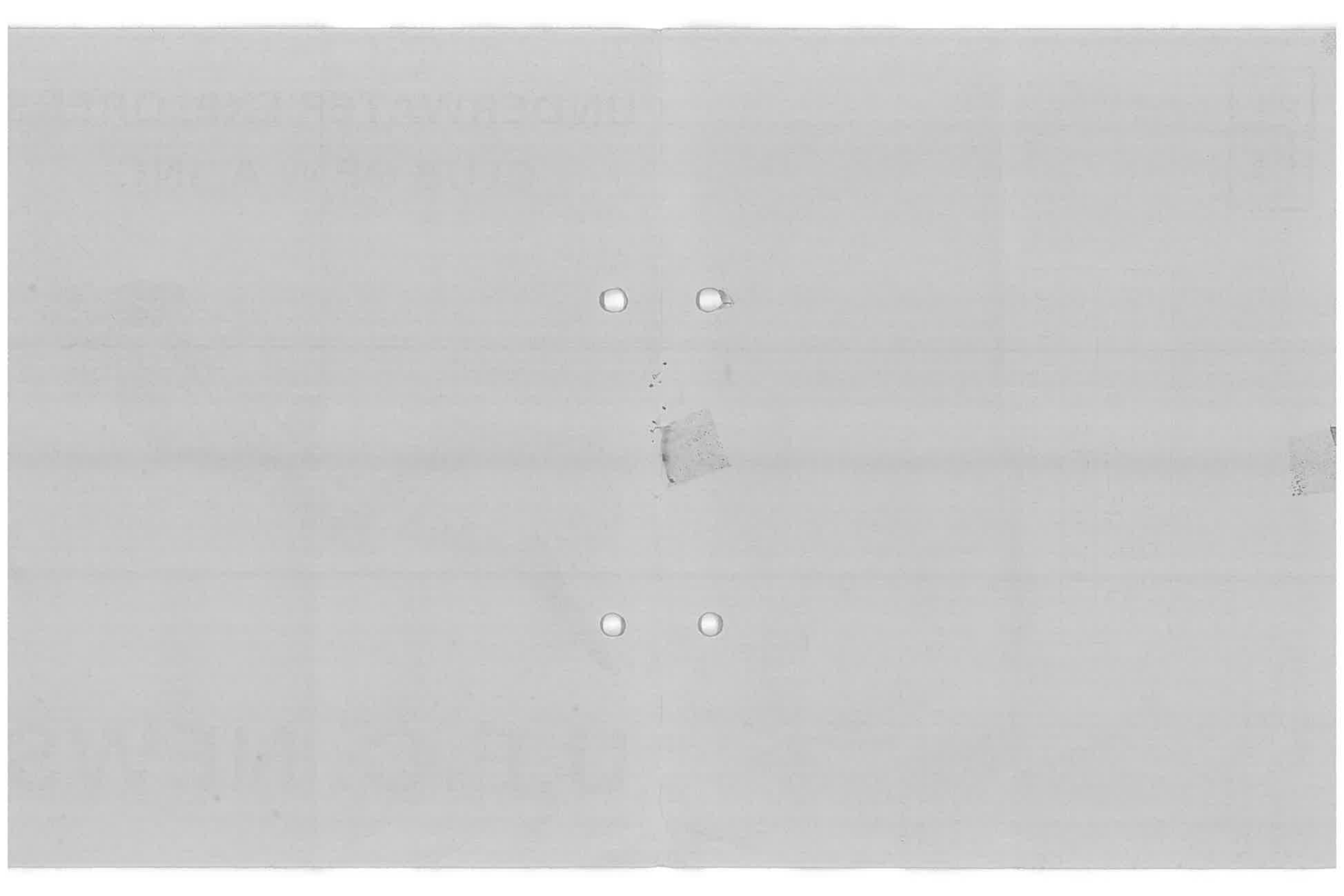
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Booragoon.

APRIL 86

**UNDERWATER EXPLORERS
CLUB OF W.A. INC.**



U.E.C. NEWS



SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT

Adrian Edwards

This is my first report since being appointed safety officer and as such find it difficult to put together material which doesn't sound like the same old stuff that previous safety officers have been harping on for years and years.

From my own observation and listening to club members of many years standing, I have come to the conclusion that the U.E.C. is at a very interesting stage in its development and with the support of all members, new and old, this club has the potential to really become the "club to belong to", and one which has the respect and good standing within the diving industry.

Nobody wants to belong to a club which has a bad name and the one single thing that will generate this reputation above all else, is our safety record. We have been pretty lucky up to date but we as divers must never let our guard down, as the potential is there each time we dive for an accident to occur. We must all do our utmost to ensure that this never happens.

As qualified open water scuba divers, we should all know the theory of diving and our safety rules and regulations, but in practice I guess we are all sometimes guilty of overstepping the safety line now and then.

~~During the last 12 months or so, the club has attracted quite a few new members, some reasonably experienced and some brand new divers who have just completed their initial certificate course. We must always consider the new or inexperienced diver when we plan our dives and thus help them gain the exposure and further knowledge necessary for them to develop into a good, safe divers.~~

By this, I certainly don't mean that the experienced divers should be deprived of their right to enjoy their club outing, quite the reverse! The buddy system nicely takes care of this and when divers are sensibly paired up the whole dive can be great for all. I personally get a lot out of my own diving by helping new divers and thus honing up my own skills. In turn, I appreciate and seek advice from more experienced divers and so it goes. It is up to the experienced diver to set an example to the diver who is learning.

I don't intend to go into any particular aspects of safety in this report but merely wish to introduce myself as your new safety officer and invite your help and advice so we can all enjoy our sport safely. In future monthly newsletters, I intend to highlight on particular subjects - much of which will be boring to older members but unfortunately some things just have to be said over and over and over....

Just before I finish this months, A PLEA!! Please bring to my attention anything you notice which could improve our club safety and also if anybody ever has an accident or is involved in a "close shave" or incident which, in your opinion, has the potential to be dangerous (no matter how small), please ring me on 457 2117 or have a yarn down at the club or boat. No names, no pack drill, no reports (we're not into that) just might save somebody's neck!

See you on the boat. Cheers and safe diving.

It is still possible to purchase a new 88 aluminium tank for \$210 in Sydney with a boat dive at Jervis Bay chucked in free.

Makes you wonder why they are selling them here for £275.

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P.R. & SOCIAL WITH MARGARET LANGSON

On Monday, 21st April, 1986 at the General Meeting our guest speaker will be Robert Wong from The Royal Perth Hospital. Robert will be talking about Decompression Sickness, Dive Tables, Diving Medicals, Free Ascents and Women and Diving. This will be a very interesting talk with slides etc and should not be missed.

At the General Meeting on Monday 19th May, 1986 Dennis Robinson who is the Public Relations Officer with the Fremantle Port Authority will be giving a talk at the club. Dennis is a very experienced diver and we believe will be very interesting. Dennis apparently even got married under water - which would have been an experience in itself!

Look forward to seeing you all at these meetings.

The trip to H.M.A.S. Stirling is on Wednesday 16th April, 1986 at 7 p.m. The trip is now full and it has been suggested that all those going meet in the car park area just before the H.M.A.S. Stirling base at 6.45 p.m. Someone from H.M.A.S. Stirling will meet you at the gates to authorize you in. The trip is now full, however anyone who has missed out and would like to go, if you let me know then I shall organise another one.

The Quiz Night is on Wednesday 18th June at 7.45 p.m. at The Booragoon Hotel in the Lounge Bar. Tables of 8 or 6 is O.K. Tickets will be available at the General Meeting at a nominal cost of \$3.00 each. I would ask that you all try and get a table together to make a success of the night, and once again anyone who can obtain prizes please let either myself or Sue Churrack know. I notice that I wasn't flooded with prizes after the last article, which I'm sure just means that no one read it!!!!!!

I went along to the last Western Australia Underwater Photography meeting and once again saw some excellent slides from Queensland. Their next meeting is on the 28th April, which is the last Monday of the month, at the Highway Hotel, Stirling Highway, Nedlands. Anyone is welcome to attend even if your not a photographer.

Some of you might have seen advertisements in the newspaper from time to time about diving at Atlantis Park with the Sharks, fish etc. These trips can only be organised through Western Pro Diving and I recently rang Neil Ringshaw to enquire about same. The details are as follows:

Meet at Atlantis Park Yanchep about 10 a.m. Dive in the tanks with the Sharks etc with a qualified Instructor, watch the show, have a smorgasbord luncheon at Atlantis and then after the Dolphin show dive with the dolphins.

The maximum number of divers on the trip is 10 however, any number of non-divers can go as well. The only day they do it is on a Saturday. The total cost for divers is \$45.00 and for non-divers \$25.00. That includes the entrance fee to Atlantis, the diving with the sharks and the dolphins and lunch, a series of mini lectures on the sharks, turtles etc by the Instructor - which isn't bad.

Neil has advised that if the U.E.C. can get 10 divers who want to go along, they will make it a sort of private trip for the club. If you are interested please let me know by either ringing me on 451 7244 A/Hrs or 361 0842 Bus. or of course by telling me at the next meeting. There is only one condition and that is because Western Pro Diving are a PADI organisation you must either hold a NAUI, FAUI or PADI qualification, and same must be brought with you on the day, no one will be allowed to dive without showing their qualifications. BRITISH SUB-AQUA is also recognised. This might offend some people, however, each organisation is different and it's up to the individual club as to what qualifications they recognise and choose not to.

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HALLS BANK

Bob Cotton

We had the opportunity along with some of our less experienced, newer members to conduct a monitored dive on the ridge known as Halls Bank one recent sunny Saturday morning. The general idea was to give these people an opportunity to visit a reef system that was fairly accessible to Fremantle.

Although the surface conditions were conducive to perfect diving conditions, the same couldn't be said of the general visibility in the water.

Descending down the anchor line thru the murk was like approaching some drab, barren gloomy, pockmarked planet thru a biscuit coloured mist. This whole ridge looks like two thousand tonnes of something unpleasant dumped in one spot. Despite this uninspiring description, this reef has quite a few surprises in store for the diver and/or the amateur marine naturalist.

One of the first things you notice is that it has no marine flora (seaweed, plant life) to speak of and that the whole ridge seems to be dotted with numerous spiny sea urchins, possibly more noticeable here because of the lack of weed growth. Also one of the larger variety of sea squirts seems to thrive in abundance here as well.

It was not these species of marine fauna that created the interest for me. It was in fact the superb variety of starfish in a broad spectrum of species and colours that you come to expect on some of the more glamorous diving locations on our coast. Of the many starfish that I picked up and examined, one in particular, a bright leaf green in colour, while being handled and examined began to change its colour from green to a rust chromate in patches until the whole animal was covered. Depositing this chameleou echinoderm back on its craggy perch we proceeded to another area.

Now travelling fairly close to the surface of the reef, it does not take long to discover a variety of marine life, while not unique is varied and possibly some of the most accessible along our coast. By carefully lifting aside some of the broken decaying limestone rubble with a knife, you'll be confronted with a flurry of activity as various serpent stars, brittle stars and feather stars scatter in all directions to safer locations. While doing this, you find yourself being closely scrutinised by curious Senator Wrasse and common Scalyfins who after quick darting forays into the disturbed debris and rubble for any tit bits move back into their various crevices and holes.

Next to catch my eye were some small cone shells that appeared to be in a state of extreme agitation, like disco dancers with fleas. Lifting each one up and examining them closely I discovered that they were inhabited by hermit crabs

Moving around we became aware of a fair variety of Nudibranch some that you don't often see in other places, probably because they are better concealed. Here they dot this barren moonscape like brightly coloured jewels.

Several oysters were discovered, not the round dish type, more elongated and very rough exterior. Drifting slowly over a low spiny ridge, I was confronted by a small blue spotted puffer fish who swam backwards and forwards glaring at me balefully, first with one eye then with the other in an effort to frighten me away out of its territory - it must have been all of six centimetres long. Moving slowly down the face of the ridge, a couple of crested morwong move into view, swam around to examine us and then swam off. We then turned round and headed back towards the anchor and because of the activities of our diving group

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy

Divers who are inexperienced and nervous tend to get a lot of attention and care from our Diving Officers. And rightly so. It is up to us to try to reduce the chances of any accidents that could occur; to avoid the risk of panic and any subsequent injury. Most of our safety regulations are formed around protecting the novice diver. We need to be seen to be safety conscious. This has two effects.

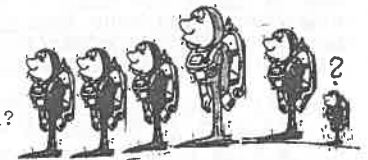
One, it gives the novice diver confidence, knowing that all safety procedures are being followed. Two, it encourages a general safety awareness among club members.

We seem to be taking good care of our new divers. We should be paying more attention to another type of diver. This is the experienced, over confident and often careless diver, who complains about safety regulations being unnecessarily restrictive and not worth bothering with.

He is characterised as the diver who often enters the water minus some piece of equipment, i.e. weight belt, fins, mask, has a lot of buddy separations, consistently surfaces a long way from the boat (usually behind and downstream). He occasionally overstays his time on deeper dives and then dismisses this as trivial and hardly likely to effect him. He cannot be trusted to stay above nine metres on repetitive dives, considers that a few minutes won't hurt him, especially if a crayfish can be had by slipping down an extra few metres for a minute or two.

It becomes increasingly harder for Diving Officers to find willing buddies for this type of diver as more and more of our divers ask not to be buddied with them as they don't feel safe and they hate the long surface swim back to the boat.

Which type of diver are you?
Are you safety conscious?
Do you practice safe diving?
Ask yourself....."Are you becoming careless?"
Do you need to tighten up a bit in some areas?
Are you the type of diver that I have just described?
Think about it.....be honest.
Does this description fit you?



Fish have been around for a long time - about 325 million years. People have been interested in them for thousands of years. Four thousand years ago, the Sumerians built fishponds in their temple. The Ancient Egyptians fished with rod and line, they even mummified some of the specimens. The Romans were hot on fish too, the poor kept ponds stocked for food, the rich for entertainment. Large Roman moray eels bedecked with jewels are quite likely to have lived on a diet of miscreant slaves.

Diving Officer Peter Mortimer 459 8067. Ring him to book dives.

TRAINING REPORT

Dennis Stubberfield

SCUBA TRAINING

Five trainees have completed the course with U.E.C., six having started. Unfortunately Sheila Askew had to return to England before completing her course, but for which she would undoubtedly passed. The group now has to complete three ocean dives to gain their S.D.F. of W.A. certificate.

NAVIGATION COURSE

It is proposed to hold a six week coastal navigation course for boat skippers, dive officers and other club members interested. The course will be held over six successive Tuesday nights from 8.00p.m. commencing on 22nd April. This course is intended to be very practically orientated, covering chart work, compass work fixing and finding positions and finally, boat handling. The Saturday 7th June, following the final lecture, there will be a practical session in the boat commencing at the East Street jetty at 9.00a.m. and going all day, with a trip to Stragglers and Mewstone to do some practical course plotting and keeping and boat handling. Barry Kennedy will take most of the final lecture and some practical on boat handling with areas specific to our boat, while more general aspects will be covered by myself.

ROTTNEST ISLAND TRIP - LONG WEEKEND IN JUNE (2nd)

It is proposed to run another long weekend at Rottneest in June, with some major changes in policy as to the arrangements, which will allow up to 32 divers to attend and still maintain boat and diving safety.

The Geordie Bay venue is obviously too restrictive for the large numbers we are now expected to accommodate, so Thomsons Bay has been proposed for this trip.

A boat pen can be hired on the jetty out from E-Jays for less than \$20, allowing ready access for tank fills. The boat would make two trips in the morning and two in the afternoon to cater for all tastes in diving and cope with numbers conveniently. The boat skippers and dive officers will dive in alternative trips so that two people will be up topsides at all times.

One half of the group will ferry across and the other half will ferry back with our boat taking one half of the party alternatively each way. Should a day at the west end be proposed, buses are available to take those not able to be taken by the boat with half the party alternating between bus and boat.

Chalets have been tentatively booked and costs will be slightly less, even accounting for ferry costs, than the previous trip. Those wishing to go, please see me and get your name on the list.

Did you know... that a hagfish has no mouth or stomach and can tie itself into knots.

The oldest sturgeon fish lived 154 years.

An archer fish can shoot down insects at five metres.

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the fish life around this bank were by now fairly stirred up - Rough Bullseyes, black spotted Wrasse, Danssel fish, Truncate coral fish, black banded sea perch, juvenile brown spotted Wrasse, black headed fish to name just a few that were seen.

You become aware also of very small blennys and gobys that are almost invisible until they dart off. Beneath a small ledge I found a beautifully marked juvenile Truncate coralfish, no bigger than my thumb nail, which after trying to tough it out with me, decided that discretion was the better part of valour and shot down a hole.

After returning to the boat and having a debriefing discussion with other members of our party - who had spotted other forms of marine life including small eagle rays, wobbecong sharks and small cat sharks, it was generally agreed that even though the general conditions weren't terribly brilliant, it wasn't such a bad dive after all.

In conclusion I would like to say this - sometimes we are inclined to dismiss some of the diving spots that we visit as not being particularly brilliant, possibly because many of us have come to expect and equate diving locations as being worthwhile only if it's as glamorous looking as some of the glorious pictures, slides, movies and some of the T.V. programs that are around at the moment.

Don't glow over the next dive location as being not much chop - take your time, explore, investigate, observe. Sometimes there's a hell of a lot more to see than you thought possible.



ANZAC DAY LONG WEEKEND

Martin Smith

As per usual on a long weekend, there is always something going. The Anzac Day long weekend is no exception.

The venue this time is North Head which is just north of Jurien Bay. At this stage there are two boats going, Peter Horton's and Barry Kennedy's. Anyone else who would like to take their boat can give me a call. Tents and camping gear will be the order of the day. Bring your own bedding, food, eating utensils etc. Tanks can be filled at Jurien Bay, but we will also be taking the hookah.

Give me a call as soon as possible if you're interested in coming and we can work out transport for those needing a lift. Come to the next General Meeting to finalise last minute details.

So, give me a ring on 4582224 as soon as possible.

BOAT REPORT

Just a few words on how the Underwater Explorer has been going. She has served us well this summer with only a few minor repairs needing attention and no breakdowns. As she has been used for training on Saturdays and out most Sundays not excluding long weekends, her performance has been extremely good.



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The Easter trip to Hamelin Bay was voted a great success by all who went on it. About a dozen members and non-members gathered at the Hamelin Bay caravan park late on Thursday or during Friday and pitched tents around a central camp fire, a 'kitchen' tent, a collapsible (at the wrong moments) table and chairs combination and a beach umbrella. The campsite was crowded because it was Easter, but we had been allocated a site on the outskirts of the camp (had they been warned about us??) so we were able to spread into the bush for plenty of space. Friday it rained and was blowing a gale, so diving wasn't possible. And, of course, it was Good Friday, so alcoholic excursions to all the nearby vineyards also weren't possible. So instead we played tourists: a few of us looked around Margaret River and then saw a fantastic shell collection (eat your heart out Margaret and Peter!), while others went to see some of the local caves.

We all met up in the evening around a rather smokey camp fire, and the people who had arrived the previous evening and who had been rained on all night told us their tales of woe, then drank plenty of sleeping draught (port) to ensure that they slept through any further rainstorms.

So people weren't up too early the next morning (we missed you, Peter and Martin!) and breakfast was a leisurely affair. Ian cooked up a big pot of porridge and generously gave everyone a helping... one lump or two...

We tried diving at Hamelin Bay that day, but the weather was far from ideal: first of all we had to launch the boat off the jetty, but before we could do that, all the seaweed that had washed up onto the jetty had to be thrown off... we seemed to spend most of the morning carting smelly seaweed off the jetty only for more of it to be washed on again.

We did get the boat launched in the end, but the wind and swell severely restricted where we could go, so diving wasn't great. Some others tried shore diving, but that turned out to be Close Encounters Of A Sandy Kind. So we gave up on Hamelin diving, and went to Augusta to seek out a better jetty to use the next day. We found what promised to be an excellent launching ramp, so, much heartened, we adjourned to the campfire for evening meal and Entertainment.

Meanwhile back at the campsite, Sue had discovered that a very nice pair of legs was camped in the group right next door to ours, so that evening she was assiduously chatting up their owner. Needless to say, the poor guy went to bed early in great embarrassment, but the rest of his group (who also had good legs and were divers into the bargain) stopped up longer around our campfire. The beer, port, wine, port, songs, port, jokes and port flowed freely all evening, and a good time was had by all. An impromptu rendering of some tune or other by Ian on the harmonica was accompanied by such motley instruments as spoons, eskies, dustbin lids etc. etc. It was probably the port that made it sound so good! Tim evidently didn't realise that the Notable Falls competition had closed, since he went for a repeat performance of his famous Barbecue Fling, but fortunately turned it into a Barbecue Leap instead. We also went in search of Halley's Comet, but no-one told us that we were 2 hrs too late...

Stephan (the Eligible One with the boat and the 4WD) was awake earlier than the kookaburras the next morning (he and Peter M. should get on well together), but it was Easter Sunday so no-one else was keen to move too fast. The Easter bunny came hopping out of her tent in her nightie throwing Easter eggs to anyone who was sufficiently co-ordinated to catch them. Ian made porridge again, and a few people helped him eat it...

Having been disappointed by Hamelin diving, we were determined to make Augusta a success, and this it certainly was. The weather was brilliant sunshine all day, so sunbathing between dives was an added bonus. Two boats (Stephan's and Lovely Legs') went out to two separate sites, so we were able to fit all divers onto one boat trip in the morning, and then another in the afternoon. Stephan has one of those underwater propeller machines (we told him that made him even more eligible!) so we all had a go at playing James Bond, whizzing round the rocks, chasing big stingrays and generally having a great time. The diving was all very shallow (Barry please note!) - the deepest anyone recorded over the whole weekend was 15m, but I think Alison sneaked a shovel down with her for that one! So our bottom times gave us plenty of time to explore all over the place. A few excellent crays were spotted, but Tony and Tim were the only ones who managed to catch any. Tony also collected some abalone, and Ian caught a cuttlefish, which I gather was quite tasty after a good beating (the cuttlefish I mean).

The next morning, Ian made porridge again for breakfast.

By now we were getting pretty efficient at getting organised and at launching the boat, so despite the porridge we were able to get to Augusta before 8.30. We had one dive near to the spot we had been the previous day. The weather was still excellent, and everyone enjoyed the dive. There are some beautiful corals to be seen, some of them covering huge areas, and it looks very different from Rottnest scenery.

After our dive, Ian organised a treasure hunt, in which we were all out-played by the two Robertson juniors, who collected more tokens than the rest of us put together. But we all came out with prizes in the end, and it was certainly a good way to end the weekend.

Full marks to Ian for organising a fun-filled, eventful weekend, and many thanks to Stephan (the Eligible One with the boat and 4WD) for bringing his boat, and let's have more weekends away like that!

FLOATING HOTEL

A seven storey floating hotel is planned for the Great Barrier Reef. The hotel will be moored on the John Brewer reef, 72 kilometres east of Townsville.

It will be finished by early 1987. It will weigh 12,000 tonnes and cost \$35 million. It will be named Reef Unk Resort and it will have restaurants, bars, shopping arcade, gymnasium and 147 suites. Transparent sided lifts will take people down to the sea floor 10 metres below the hull.

Divers are asked to mark all their diving gear, including hired tanks, to avoid confusion on dive trips.

U.E.C NEWS

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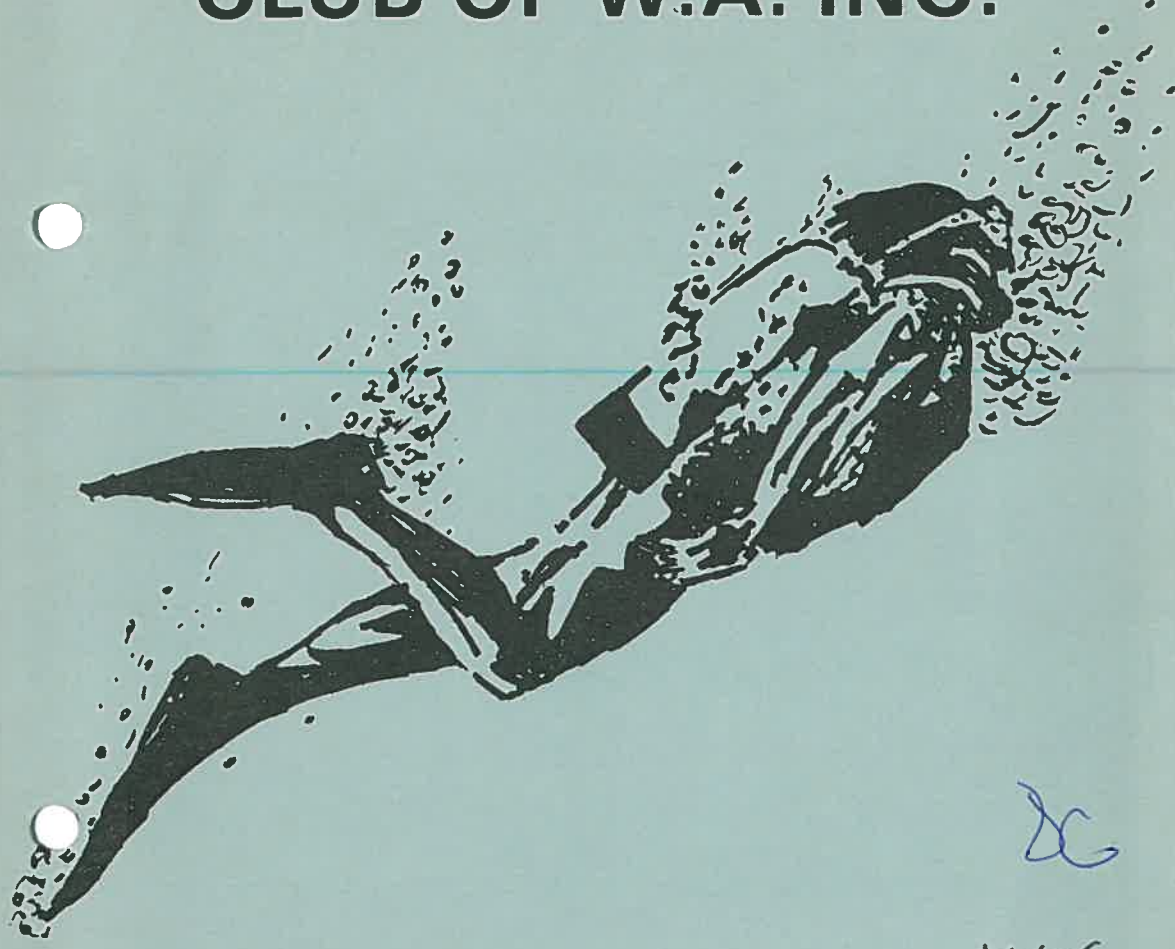
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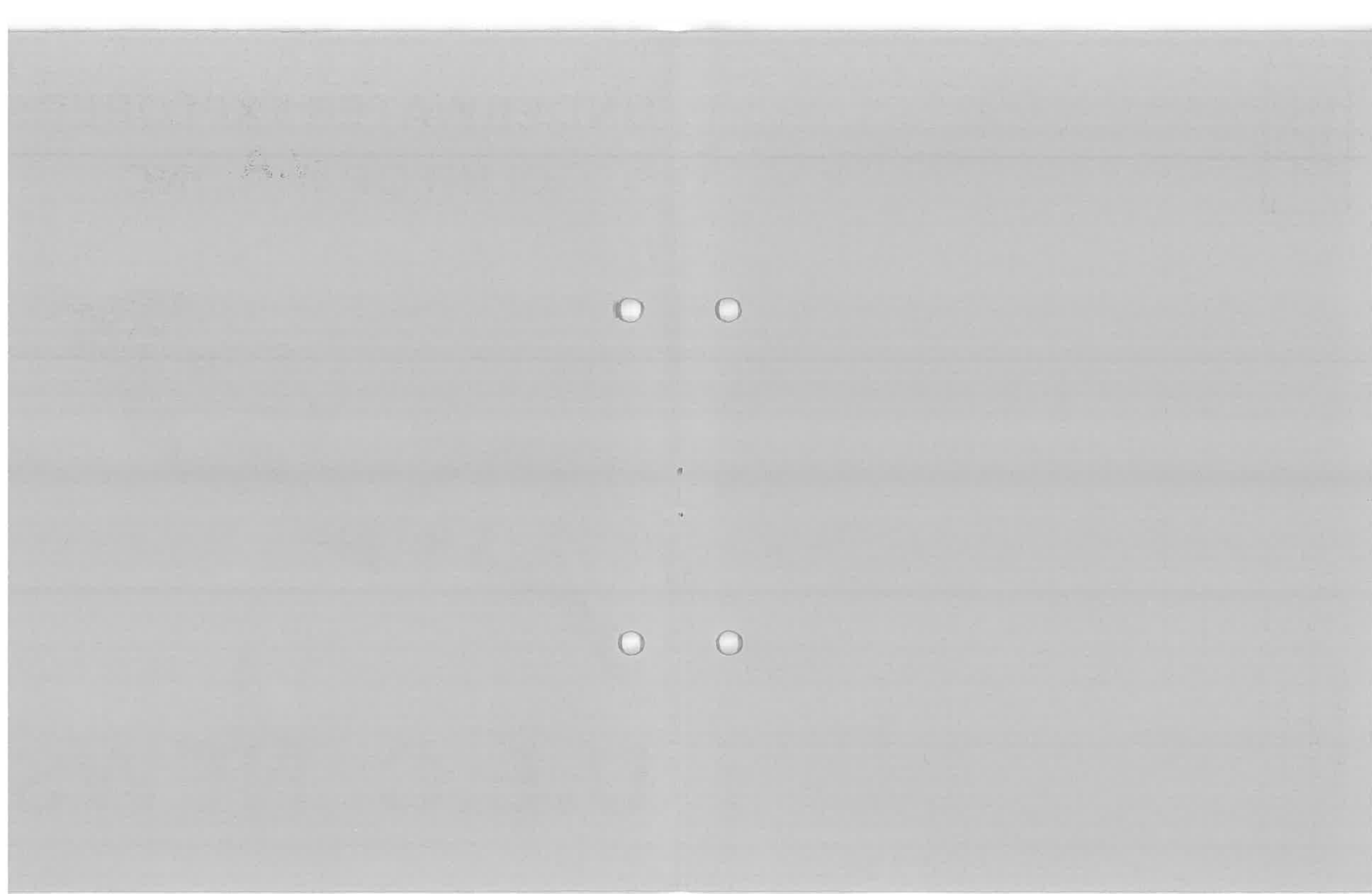
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U.E.C. NEWS



HOW SEA SNAKES MAY AVOID THE BENDS

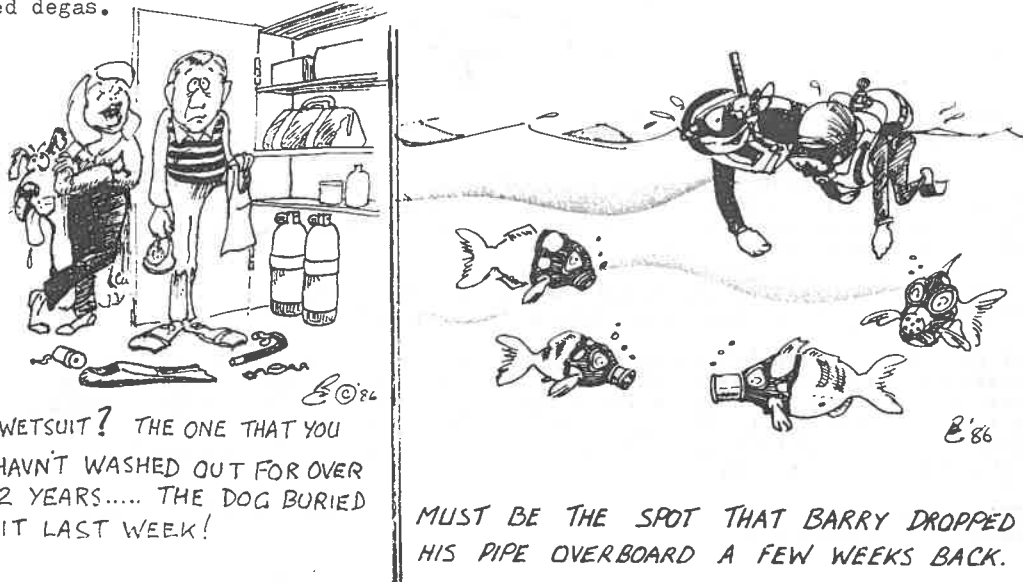
One of the problems confronting any diver is the bends - the slow build-up of gaseous nitrogen in the blood and tissues during a dive and the need to remove it before surfacing. Too rapid an ascent results in nitrogen bubble formation in the blood, which can lead to considerable body damage and even death.

For several years, scientists have been examining the diving biology of sea mammals to find out how they avoid the bends. In general, these animals undergo bradycardia, a physiological state in which the heartbeat slows, the lungs are emptied of air, blood flow is reduced to all but the most critical parts of the body, and the muscles are allowed to respire anoxically. All of this is designed either to reduce the amount of gaseous nitrogen in the body or to minimize its entrance into critical areas.

The diving physiology of another animal, the sea snake, has been the subject of an investigation by Roger S. Seymour of Monash University at Clayton, Australia. He has found that these reptiles use an entirely different system to achieve the same results. In the sea snake, the lungs remain full during a dive, but the dangerous nitrogen is prevented from reaching the rest of the body by a shunt in the circulation system.

Normally, blood flows in a big double loop centred on the heart - from the lungs to the heart to the body to the heart and so on. Sea snakes, however, have what is essentially a "hole" in their heart; therefore, during a dive, blood from the body bypasses the lungs altogether. By this means, the blood is not greatly exposed to the nitrogen-rich air, and only the lung tissues are affected by nitrogen build-up.

The small amount of the gas that does reach the body proper diffuses through the permeable skin of the reptile at a rate that increases with depth. The total result is a constant low level of nitrogen in the body. Thus, when the sea snake surfaces, only the lung tissues, which gain and lose gases rapidly, need degas.



SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT

Adrian Edwards

An important milestone in the club's activities since the last newsletter, was undoubtedly the talk given to club members by Dr. Robert Wong at the last general meeting.

Dr. Wong is one of the few medical practitioners around who is fully qualified in underwater medicine and his lecture was listened to with great intent by those present. Backed up by slides and statistics, he drove home some very pertinent points relating to the medical and physiological side of diving and highlighted the many dangers we are exposed to, as well as dispelling some old well worn ideas some of us still may have. I am sure that all would agree that we sport divers don't really know very much at all about the science of hypabari medicine and need to be very careful indeed!

In addition, those of us who recently visited H.M.A.S. Stirling to see the decompression chamber and hear the Navy divers talk on the treatment of pressure related injuries, would have had the message further driven home to them and that message is: diving accidents DO happen and happen frequently to all types of divers even professionals. Even divers who are fit and follow all the rules are still not exempt from problems. Individuals are all different and factors such as ones health, fitness and metabolism combined with environmental and situation factors, such as cold waters, exertion, prolonged diving, age and anxiety all add to the risk.

I think that the most sobering fact to emerge from all we heard was that the Navy who specialise in diving, using accurate depth gauges and times to within a half a minute and highly trained super fit young divers, still accept a small percent age rate of decompression sickness so much so, that they have portable decompression chambers on board ship or operate in close proximity to naval hospitals and main chambers. Food for thought!!

The U.E.C. has adopted the RNPL/BSAC tables as the ones to use as they seem to offer a better safety margin than others based on USN tables. These are the plastic tables on board our boat and members are urged to use them when diving privately. Also, have your depth gauge checked, DON'T push your times to the limit and strive to keep fit.

Recommended reading for all divers is "The Divers Medical Companion" by Dr's. Thomas and McKenzie, readily available and quite cheap and easy to read.

Recently a situation came to light on the boat when two divers were buddied up together by a well meaning dive master thinking that because one of the divers had been diving for some time and the other just out of training, then the more experienced would obviously be the leader. Well it turned out that the leader was not really very comfortable with this situation because on all previous dives had been content to follow the other diver and had never really been a leader before and felt the responsibility a bit too much. Understandable.

If anyone ever gets in the above situation, please explain to the dive master and the buddy pairs will be altered if possible. Also I would strongly recommend that divers who fit category should ask to dive with an experienced diver who will allow them to be the leader and make all the decisions on direction and times (the experienced diver of course monitoring the situation) thus gaining confidence. Never be afraid to speak up and state your mind, the dangerous diver is the one who gives others the impression that he/she knows it all, but in fact the opposite is usually the case.

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TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

D. Stubberfield

The coastal navigation course is progressing well, with 3 of the two hour sessions completed. Two further sessions remain, one on general seamanship and chart practice and the other on boat handling which will be taken by Barry. On Saturday May 24th the course will wind up with a practical day on the boat, plotting and holding courses, fixing positions and the boat handling taught by Barry and myself

Following the course the training team will go into winter hibernation as far as training is concerned, until mid November when diving training will recommence.

ROTTNEST ISLAND TRIP

D. Stubberfield

Well it's off to Rottneest Island again for the long weekend in June, i.e. 31/5/86 to 2/6/86 inclusive. Your Ripping Reporter can't keep away from the place and is going to the extraordinary lengths of organising the trip just as an excuse to spend the weekend away from Perth. We will be staying in cottages L and M in Thomsons Bay with boat pen No. 12 on the E. Jay jetty being our boat mooring. Fifteen people have so far committed themselves to a lovely cosy weekend of diving and toasting their toes by the fire in the evenings.

The cottages will accommodate 20 people and are booked from 9.00a.m. Saturday 31/5/86 to 10.00a.m. Wednesday 4/6/86 and anyone may stay over if they wish at no extra cost except their ferry trip home with gear.

The boat will take personal and hired tanks and gear back ONLY if they are labelled and someone is designated to look after them on a purely private individual basis. Those individuals will then be solely responsible for looking after such gear. Please NOTE WELL the labelling requirements for ALL hired gear.

The following cost arrangements will apply:

1. A deposit of \$25 is required immediately for intending participants if they have not already paid.
2. Full payment of \$70 will be required BEFORE Friday 30/5/86 to D. Stubberfield (who wants to go out to dinner on Friday night!!!) The \$70 will cover accommodation, trip across, food, air, boat and diving. An allowance of 4 air fills at \$3.50 per fill is included in the \$70 but anyone using less air will be refunded the appropriate amount - more about that later.

It is recommended you bring 2 full tanks but if only one is taken then any inconvenience this causes will be borne solely by the person concerned.

An account will be opened with E. Jays for air fills which will be paid according to total fills at the end of the trip by the organiser (if there's any money left after his mandatory session at the Quokka Arms - joking of course). Therefore it is essential that ALL tanks be labelled U.E.C. and the persons name to facilitate account keeping and avoid money and change hassles.

This labelling of gear is VITAL. It is not enough for you to know your own gear everyone else has to know whose it is as well.

Diving and accommodation arrangements will be generally as follows:

- (a) Beds and sleeping areas will be decided at a meeting to be held at the earliest convenient time on Saturday and no one will have a claim to anything until that meeting. The organiser flatly refuses to be involved in determining who sleeps where and with whom before hand, that will be left to the meeting.
- (b) If more than 16 people take part in this trip the boat will be taken out in

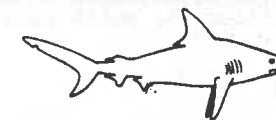
IT HELPS TO BE A LITTLE MAD

I have pondered many times over the last 15 years, why I and others, are so keen on diving each week. When I add up the problems, such as the initial training and the continuous need to keep fit, rough seas and seasickness, cold weather and cold water, cost of diving equipment and the need to replace it at regular intervals, the slight, though possible chance of being eaten by a large fish or stung by something nasty, and last but by no means least, having on occasions (not very often !) to dive with an absolute dill. All this may make you wonder why we dive at all. There is of course the wonder of entering an alien environment, the adventure and danger, the undoubted beauty of the undersea world with its flora and fauna. These reasons alone would be enough to keep most people interested for a year or two, but as you know familiarity breeds contempt, and this is why such a large percentage leave diving after only a few months, once the enthusiasm wains (a good source of spare equipment !) This enthusiasm usually gets them over their initial fears, but the fears grow larger as time goes by. My conclusion to this problem, is that nearly all old divers are a little mad, and having become addicted to the discomfort problem, and of course the joys of diving, find after a while that life is a little ordinary without it.

Peter Mortimer.

DIVE REPORT - Peter Mortimer

The diving over the last month has been very successful, with the good weather which has been a nice change, excellent visibility and some new dive sites. The newly trained divers seem very competent, and my thanks to our trainers. Their training ability makes my job a lot easier. Even with the winter coming up, there will still be some good diving to be had, just bring along some warm clothes.



After years of ignorance, prejudice and wholesale slaughter, the grey nurse shark is now protected.

The N.S.W. Department of Agriculture has placed a 20 year ban on the capture of the grey nurse and herbst nurse sharks, both considered harmless to humans. (The herbst nurse shark is almost identical to the grey nurse, but it is found only in deeper waters.)

The ban is supported by the N.S.W. branch of the Australian Underwater Federation and the Professional and Amateur Fishermen's Associations.

The grey nurse shark (*odontaspis taurus*) was the unfortunate victim of mass hysteria. Unlucky to have its habitat in the shallow inshore waters. By heavily populated areas and being a bottom dwelling creature usually spending most of its time around the same area, it was often blamed for attacks by faster moving less visible sharks. It was branded a savage man-eater and slaughtered mercilessly.

Congratulations to those few who cared and made the protection of a shark (!) possible in Australia.

P.R. WITH MARGARET LANGSON

At the next General Meeting on Monday 19th May, Dennis Robinson from the Fremantle Port Authority will be giving a talk at the club, the talk will also include slides of various wreck sites around W.A. and excerpts from the Wonders of Western Australia which Dennis played a major role in producing. This should prove to be a very interesting meeting, so look forward to seeing you there.

That's all on P.R. However, you will find included with this magazine tickets for the Quiz Night, so please don't forget to sell as many as you can, to help make this night a success. Sue will need all the help she can get with prizes so please try and assist if you can.

ETIQUETTE ON BOARD

Anon.

OR, How to make life on board your boat enjoyable without being a "pain" to others.

Most divers are reasonable people. I mean you and I are, but there is always the "one", isn't there, who irritates (only sometimes, I mean) so here are a few little hints to those who may err (unintentionally of course) from time to time.

1. Help lifting gear on and off the boat is always appreciated. Grabbing your own gear and shooting thru might get you home 5 minutes sooner but is noticed by the "helpers".
2. Grab a brush and hose occasionally. It's your boat as well and seagull poo is not very nice.
3. Don't block the skipper's view of the compass or windscreen when underway.
4. Don't hog the cabin - offer others a seat sometimes.
5. Balance the boat - don't all crowd one side.
6. Volunteer with the anchor sometimes.
7. Coil up ropes and keep deck tidy. A taunt ship is a safe ship.
8. Move your gear away from the aft deck when you finish your dive. Make room for the next diver out of the water.
9. Make sure your tank is secure especially when rough seas are experienced.
10. Finally, wait until the boat is securely made fast against the jetty before rushing to get off. Someone is going to get hurt between boat and jetty if this is not followed. Even if the boat is late getting back it only takes an extra couple of minutes to prevent a nasty accident. Assist others up onto the jetty when the tide is very low. Why spoil a good day out!

IN SHORT - BE CONSIDERATE TO YOUR FELLOW CLUB MEMBER.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

B. Kennedy

Should anyone happen to be diving on the North Point reef, please keep an eye out for my favourite pipe. I lost it there, over the side of our boat a few weeks ago. There is a reward offered for its return.

Should anyone find they are missing any gear - towels, thongs etc., - check in the storeroom at the club as we are beginning to get a collection of odds and ends there. These are items left behind on our boat after diving trips.

I would suggest to all members to clearly mark their own property so that it can be identified among other often identical equipment and so save some of the confusion over who owns what. This would make it easy for us to identify things that do get left behind and things that are mistakenly placed in the wrong bags.

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relays of 4 dives splitting the party into two. The boat skipper will be non-diving and act as dive marshall on one dive and be relieved to allow him to dive on the next trip.

(c) If not more than 16 people take part there will be a choice of 2 deep dives in the morning, one early and one late. Divers may elect to go at either time but not both. Diving officers/boat skippers will be non-diving and alternate. For the afternoon shallow dive the whole party will be taken out and the boat skipper and diving officer will share the dive as usual. A roster of diving times and officers concerned will be arranged for the trip at a later stage.

(d) A night dive will be made, if numbers and conditions permit.

(e) Dive log keeping will be strict to avoid any possibility of bottom times being exceeded and this will be aided by the organisation of non diving dive officers.

(f) For all this our long suffering, patient, skilled, dedicated team of skipper and dive officers will be suitably rewarded for their efforts by your co-operation and assistance. (Others offers of reward will also be carefully considered I am told).

Finally if you want to go on this trip which leaves the East Street wharf at 0800 Saturday 31/5/86 please contact Dennis (me) on 279 4606 during working hours as soon as possible.

BOUNCE DIVES



A bounce dive is a short dive, with direct descent and a direct ascent, it is not multi-level and there are no decompression stops.

A single bounce dive within table limits poses no problems. Repeated bounces, or bounce dives after dives are something else - they introduce two kinds of problem. The first is that each ascent produces venous bubbles which become trapped in the lung's capillary bed. Too many ascents in too short a time will bring on chokes. The second is that once bubbles are stuck in the lung capillaries, another descent might squeeze some of them small enough to pass through and circulate with the blood. On ascent they inflate and when they become too large they become stuck in some important area and cause the bends. This can happen even when on no decompression dives.

ARTIFICIAL REEFS

The value of artificial reefs is already recognised in the U.S. and Japan. In the U.S. artificial reefs are constructed from old tram cars, car tyres, railway carriages and the like. These reefs have proved to be a boom to fishermen and divers.

It is in Japan, however, that the technology of artificial reefs is most advanced.

Between 1976 and 1982 the Japanese government devoted \$326 million to the development of more than 2,500 artificial reefs. In the U.S. reef builders have exploited scrap materials but the Japanese have developed a variety of new designs such as lattices, tubes and multishaped blocks, made from concrete, steel and plastics. These constructions not only attract fish but also provide an environment that appeals to seaweeds, abalones, sea urchins, shrimps, crabs and lobsters.

Japan's fishing industry predicts that artificial reefs will enable it to increase its annual harvest of fish and shellfish by nearly five million tonnes. I wonder how much we could increase our lobster catch if we spent a little money on artificial reefs?

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DIVING AT NIGHT

During the day colourful fishes swarm in the open water around the limestone reefs but at nighttime activity is less for most of the fishes are then concealed in holes and other hideaways. Only a few big-eyed species show themselves to the night diver.

The invertebrates far outnumber the fishes on reefs, however, and most of these animals are mainly active at night. The host of molluscs, crustaceans, worms, echinoderms and other invertebrates that come out of hiding is truly astounding. During the day, most of these animals are tucked away in holes and under rocks, avoiding sunlight.

Why is there all this nighttime activity of invertebrates on the reefs? There are several reasons, with probably the most important being to avoid predatory fishes. Many reef fishes are carnivorous, and many of these feed upon invertebrates during the day. Some of the wrasses are especially voracious invertebrate eaters, to the point of even following scuba divers around in the daytime, waiting for small animals to be disturbed and forced out of hiding by diving activities. The under surfaces of rocks are favorite hiding places for small molluscs, crustaceans and echinoderms: predatory reef fishes often swarm around a rock that has been overturned by a diver and pick the rock clean of small crabs, shrimps and even larger armoured invertebrates like sea urchins and spiny lobsters.

Another reason invertebrates are active at night is to search for food. Since many invertebrates are nocturnal to avoid predatory fishes, some predatory invertebrates that feed on other invertebrates use this time to hunt. Carnivorous molluscs, such as cone shells are almost all nocturnal. The mollusc eating cones probably have an easier time finding prey at night, when it is not hidden away in holes as it is during the day. In addition, fish-eating cones can more easily capture an inactive fish resting on the bottom at night than a fish that is actively swimming above the reef by day.

To see all this activity, one must go night diving. Night diving can be done anywhere day diving is good, but the best spots are those with cliffs and caves, since the holes that usually honeycomb these areas are favorite daytime hideouts for many invertebrates.

There are a few dangers involved in nightdiving: some of which can be minimized by proper diving techniques. Probably the most serious of these dangers is surf, particularly if one is making a shore entry. In the dark, it is much more difficult to find ways to get in and out of the water safely, especially when diving from rocky coastlines in a high surf.

Other diving problems encountered at night include those involving equipment. In addition to all of the malfunctions possible in the daytime, a diving light can, and often does, go out in the middle of a night dive. If there is a moon, shapes and shadows may be discerned, but it is still uncomfortable to be left in near total darkness underwater and it is often difficult, if not impossible to find the spot where it is safest to exit the water under such conditions. The obvious precautionary measures for this problem are to carry a spare light, stay with a dive buddy and know the area where you are diving well enough so that you do not have to depend on artificial lights to work your way back to the boat or shore.

A third class of dangers in night diving involves the marine life. In many areas, sea urchins come out of their holes at night to graze over rocks, so that brushing against the rocks can be quite unpleasant. Many species of eels are out at night as well, feeding on sleeping fishes, and they have been known to occasionally mistake a diver's foot for a fish.

Then of course, there is the one danger that everyone thinks of at night - sharks. A diver can log hundreds of hours of night diving, however, before even seeing a shark, much less meeting one which is of a size and species that can be dangerous. There definitely are proper ways to handle an encounter with a shark at night, though: one trick to remember is to never shine a dive light directly into the shark's eyes, for sharks seem to have a disconcerting habit of homing in on a diver's light beam. A certain native diver in the Marshall Islands uses this behavioral trait to his advantage, however, when dealing with sharks at night. He shines his light into the shark's eyes, then turns off the light and swims to one side. According to the diver, the shark always swims directly to the point where the light was last, then continues on and does not return. Most divers, though, would probably prefer to know where the animal is at all times. (Bet you didn't know this.)

Fortunately, the pleasures of night diving far outweigh the drawbacks, because so many new animals can be observed. Even invertebrate species that are well known to the daytime diver show new facets at night. The orange tubal coral, for example, common in caves and ledges, extends in polyps at night, thus turning a cave ceiling into a field of orange flowers. Some sea anemones, always retracted into the sand or in holes during the day, unfurl their tentacles at night in a dazzling display of color. Multi-colored flatworms come out of hiding in search of small molluscs for food.

A wide variety of sea stars and sea urchins, rarely seen during the day, makes an appearance to the night diver. Many annelid worms come out to crawl around on the reef and some even swim through the water by undulations of the body. Crustaceans are everywhere: small red shrimp abound in shallow water; lobsters emerge from caves; banded shrimp stray from their hideaways; and a wide variety of crabs forage on the reef for food.

Molluscs are also abundant on reefs at night. Cowries come out of dark hiding places to graze on algae. Cones, miters, tun shells and other predatory gastropods wander about in search of prey. Colorful nudibranchs seek out colonies of sponges and coelenterates upon which to graze. Even octopuses are more active after dark.

Night diving on reefs is like a wonderful dream. With the proper precautions a daytime reef diver can safely observe a completely new world on the same reef at night.



QUIZ NIGHT

LOUNGE BAR
BOORAGOON HOTEL

157 RISELEY STREET BOORAGOON

WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 1986

TIME 7.45 pm

TICKETS \$3.00

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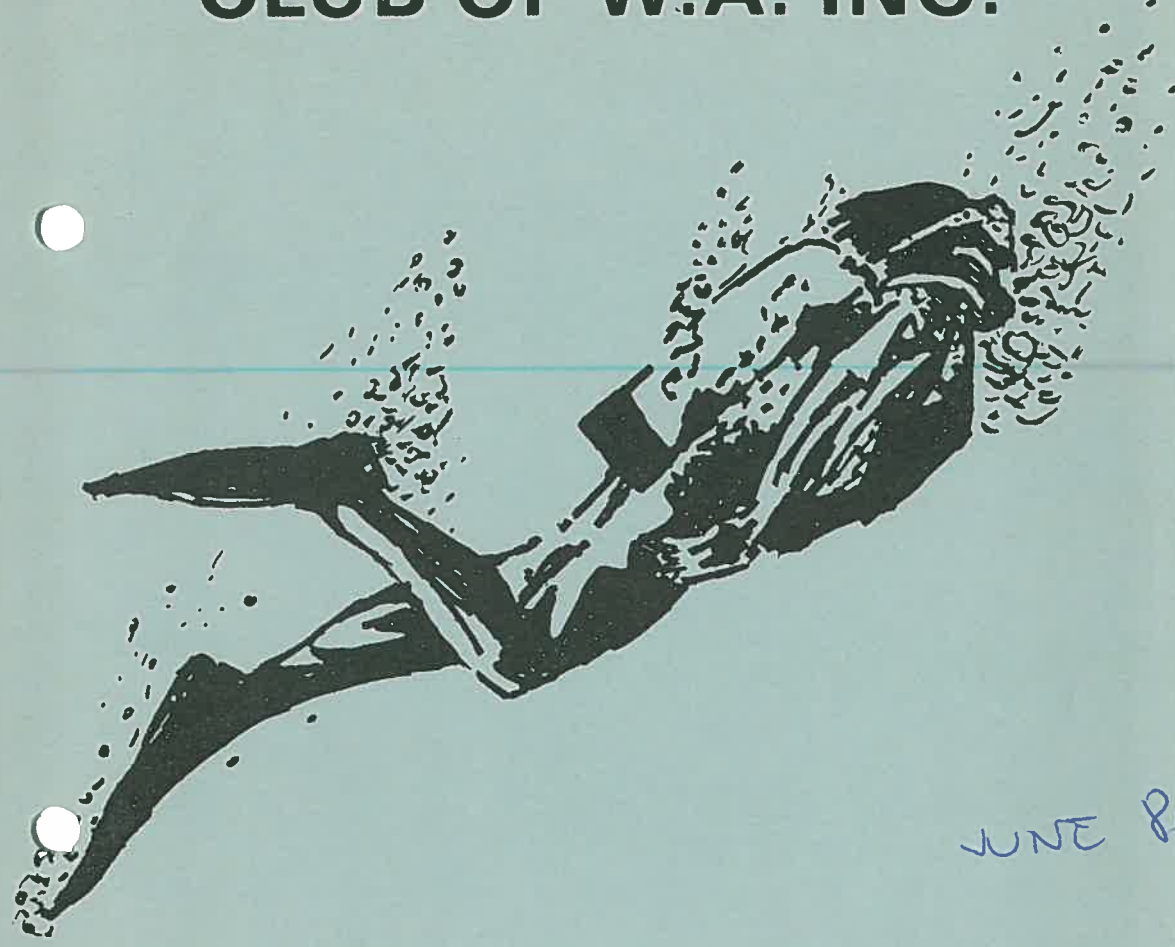
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JUNE 86

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lazily toured the settlement. The afternoon dive was a shallow dive to the "Lady Elizabeth" with all the group taking part, timed to get us back to the warmth of a BBQ by 5.30p.m. Would you believe though our ace navigator had a day off and couldn't find the spot or spots to save himself - there were quite a few ribald comments especially when it was discovered he was trying to anchor on "Maree's Gully".

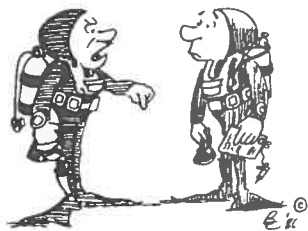
Norm, that bundle of energy, wrestled with the chops and sausages to cook the BBQ while us lesser mortals rested. His new tank racks were also much appreciated, giving us a great deal of extra room in the boat.

Monday dawned bright and clear again, but with over two metres of swell running. An attempt to dive on Roe Reef was aborted as they were breaking over the reef - it was hell out there. So to Wilson Bay attempting to dive on a deep ravine close inshore - too rough as well. Finally we dived on a lump off Green Island which proved to be not too spectacular. However, it was the only place clear and calm enough to dive in such swells.

Back to the base to clean up then relax for a while in warm calm afternoon sunshine. Would you believe by 3.30p.m. when we left for home the swell had abated to a mere ripple of its former self - typical. Tim and Sue waved us off intending to stay for a day or so on their own - having idealic weather to enjoy their extended stay.

It was a great weekend in which all enjoyed themselves and no real problem occurred.

Cottages L and I have already been re-booked for the September long weekend so get in early folks and book for this event.



NO! WE DON'T GO EENIE, MEENIE, MINIE MO WITH THE DIVE TABLES.

The wrecks of the Yarra and the Highland Forrest will join a list of 69 wrecks off the W.A. coast - protected by the Federal Government.

The Yarra was wrecked in 1884 on Scott Reef 350 km north of Broome and the Highland Forrest in 1901 on Murray Reef south of Fremantle.

Do you need a new wetsuit? 144 will buy brand new U.S. divers 5m.m. thick farmer Johns type. Ring the editor for location of shop.

President: Barry Kennedy 453 6927. Ring Barry for general information about the club.

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UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

by D. Wallin

After acquiring the necessary skills in basic scuba, a diver's curiosity and interest in the marine environment may be intensified by the challenge of underwater photography. Taking quality pictures underwater, however, is a great deal more complicated process than many people realize and requires techniques rarely and sometimes never, encountered on land. Water as a photographic medium is very different from air, so that simple snapshots, which in air produce acceptable pictures, in water result in wasted film. This difference must be understood and overcome by underwater photographers if they are to consistently take quality photographs.

Water is 800 times denser than air. It has three deleterious effects as a photographic medium: refraction, scattering and absorption. Similar processes operate in air, but are of a minor nature and can easily be compensated for, or even ignored. In water, however, all three are critical.

Refraction, the bending of light waves, occurs whenever light passes at an angle from a medium of one density into that of another density. Underwater, it happens when the light in water passes through a flat port into the air around the camera. The result of this process is familiar to anyone who scuba dives or snorkels. Just as a diver looking through a mask sees everything a quarter closer and larger than it really is, so also a camera lens sees everything magnified. This is known as the telephoto effect since it transforms a normal lens, above water, into a short telephoto lens, underwater.

Scattering is caused not by the water itself, but rather by debris suspended in it. As light bounces off a subject, carrying the image to be reproduced on film, it is scattered among and between these suspended particles. The final image looks fuzzy and unsharp, even when correctly in focus. The farther the camera is from the subject, the more particles there will be between them and the more out of focus the picture will look. In some cases it can become so unfavorable that quality photography is nearly impossible. This is one reason why more and better photographs are taken in clear reef areas than in murky inshore or northern areas. Because of scattering, the closer the camera is to the subject, the better.

This is also true with respect to absorption. Light does not penetrate water evenly, rather, the warm colors - red, orange and yellow - are selectively absorbed from the visible spectrum, which is why the underwater world is predominantly blue. The amount of this absorption increases as the light path lengthens, so that the deeper one goes, the less there are of any colors but blue and green for the film to record.

To help overcome the color-robbing effects of absorption, most professional underwater photographers use an artificial light source, either a flashbulb unit or an electronic strobe (in a housing). Since the diver carries the source of illumination with him he is no longer dependent on the sun and can go quite deep while still retaining the full color spectrum in his pictures. The new limiting factor is the distance of the subject from the artificial light; even the strongest bulbs and strobes can only reach 10 feet or so before all of the reds and yellows they add are absorbed. Close-up pictures are best, with full, very intense colors, while those taken farther away have increasingly less brilliancy, until finally, once again, only blue and green are left.

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The outgrowth of these three effects of water on light is the most vital axiom of underwater photography: always get as close as possible to the subject. Quality nature portraits, whether fish or coral, are typically taken from distances as short as 3 or 4 inches and even for panoramic shots, the subject is rarely more than a few feet from the camera. For a 35-millimeter camera, wide-angle lenses of 50, 24 or even 20-millimeter focal lengths are normally used for scenic. The less the focal length, the wider the field of view the lens encompasses and the closer the photographer can move toward a subject and still have it within the picture frame.

For close-up shots of animals and plants, it is impractical to employ a wide-angle scenic lens. Even when focused in close, the field of view of such a lens is so large that the subject in the resultant picture will appear unpleasantly small and far away. Such portraiture shots are taken with specially designed macro-lenses, ones that permit focusing into extremely close ranges so as to fill the frame with even very small subjects. For even closer shots, photographers use extension tubes that fit between the lens and the camera body and effectively create a low-power microscope.

Thus the first and most important task facing an underwater photographer - before he even gets into the water - is to decide on his subject. Then, considering the size of the subject, the proper equipment can be chosen. Photographing the exotic animals and vibrantly beautiful colors found in the underwater world requires planning, patience and as is often the case, a bit of luck.

Potential environmental problems associated with the Liberty reefs have not yet surfaced, and decomposition of the hulls is expected to take 75 years or more. Even as the ships decompose, calcium carbonate deposits left by encrusting organisms produce a skeletal framework over the hulls, thereby strengthening the reef.

The Liberty-ship program symbolizes the general effort to improve coastal environments and resources. Such programs encompass countless factors and a multitude of interests must be satisfied for artificial-reef policy to succeed. Continued co-operation and support of this and other programs will play a vital role in the progress of research and development of coastal marine resources.

ROTTNEST IN JUNE by your Ripping Rotter - er Reporter

Ah! that magic call of the sea, a wild compelling irresistible force, at least that was the excuse 16 people gave when they set off for a long weekend of diving at Rottneest in June - in JUNE you fools, don't you know it's winter and cold and rainy and wet and the seas are mountainous and the cold wind cuts like a knife. "No!" they said innocently! It wasn't like that at all - firstly they were sick of mowing lawns at weekends, the seas were calm and the weather mild and balmy.

The shift from "getting away from it all" in Geordie Bay to a life of sophisticated ease in busy downtown Thomsons Bay, proved to be a great success and highly convenient for the group. There was one problem though - the diving was terrible - but who cared anyway. This was due to the high swell which was running most of the weekend despite smooth seas, clear skies and light winds. This swell made conditions difficult, with poor visibility and strong surges under water.

Saturday began with a dive on Roe Reef, easily the best of the weekend, followed by a shallow dive on Kingston Spit which proved interesting - most people seeing it for the first time.

Then back to the luxury of our own boat pen on E Jays jetty and less than a hand-spears throw from tank filling facilities and luxurious chalet accommodation. (The dunnies were inside). The meeting to decide who was going to sleep where and with whom took place while the roast beef dinner and 3 vegies with gravy was cooking - yes, I mean it, the girls turned out the most fabulous evening roast in cottage L, you could wish for. It was enough to turn vegetarian into carnivores! wasn't it Peter! Then coffee and port, with a choice of the good port provided by Mario or the less costly but highly interesting lesser vintage V.O. something or other covered in a brown paper bag by Tim. We yarned long into the night, telling tall stories, other kinds of stories, something about an Eskimo maid called Nell, the narrator being egged on by Adrian who was so overcome with mirth he fell off his chair - or was that later in the evening.

Sunday the experiment in diving organisation took place in which an early morning dive to Swirl Reef left the jetty at 0800 sharp under non diving D.O. yours truly, followed by a second deep dive of North Point leaving at 1130 hours. This second dive was taken by Peter Mortimer and while it took place the early morning group

Exploring underwater caves is not one of the easiest techniques of diving, nor one of the safest. Simple logistical and environmental problems posed by penetrating deep into a dark, underwater caves, studying them and getting back out safely, would deter all but the hardest or the most curious.

If things do go wrong, there is no easy dash for the surface. Instead, there is a slow return along dark passages. Often in the stirred up sediment torches can only dimly penetrate the murky waters ahead. Panic has no place in caves!

Diving in caves under the sea should be undertaken only after careful planning and with the provision of ropes, guidelines and extra torches.



BOY! TALK ABOUT A FUSS BUM!

Overall, the Liberty-ship reefs were observed to be "effective in rapidly attracting a diverse and apparently stable fish community." Though the voluminous data from these studies often displayed high variability, the general trends showed a fairly regular species recruitment, or colonization, of the reefs by new inhabitants. First to arrive were encrusting organisms such as barnacles, polychaete worms and hydroids. Substantial secondary encrustation, primarily by sponges, then followed, to create a more complex and productive habitat for larger invertebrates. The maturing invertebrate reef community then served to attract vertebrate reef dwellers, such as gobies. Pelagic fishes - snappers, amberjacks and many others - were last to become significantly abundant.

Water temperature was found to be the most critical factor affecting seasonal changeover of species on the Mississippi reefs. Furthermore, the PVC mid-water structures added to the Mississippi ships enhanced the attraction of truly pelagic fishes, such as Spanish and king mackerels.

On the Texas Liberty-ship reefs, benthic reef fishes that are almost always associated with natural or artificial structures were found to be present. Coastal pelagic species were attracted to the structure for orientation. Estuarine-dependent opportunistic species exploited the reef for food and shelter, but were not confined to the habitat. Lastly, typical continental-shelf species occurred near the reefs, but were not actually associated with it. It was therefore concluded that the Texas Liberty reefs supported a large and diverse fish fauna, simulating a complete reef habitat with an abundance of catchable game fishes.

Economic success of projects such as the Liberty-reef program is the most readily apparent and appealing aspect to policy makers. In Mississippi, it was determined that the benefits exceeded the costs of establishing the reefs. The dollar value of the program extends to outside businesses as well as activities directly associated with recreational fishing and diving.

How good for recreation has the Liberty-reef program been? In Texas, 10 per cent of all charter fishing is to the Liberty-ship reefs. Use varies among the four sites - Freeport, Port O'Connor, Port Aransas, and South Padre Island - and is less where the reefs are farthest from shore. These reefs would probably draw more attention if they were closer to shore, but their location was restricted due to constraints such as noninterference with shipping lanes. Nevertheless, surveys of Gulf sportfishing operations in Texas showed that the number of boat operators using the reefs exceeded the number of those who did not. In addition, operators who used the reefs had slightly longer seasons.

Advantages, ecological and recreational, afforded by the Liberty-ship reefs are many. The reefs serve as easily reached analogues of natural marine-reef systems: therefore, they are a vital scientific tool in studying the ecology of reef communities, especially since the progression of colonization on the Liberty-ship reefs is comparable to what occurs in a natural reef environment. For the sportdiver, the Liberty reefs support a colorful and intriguing display of reef fauna to explore, photograph and study within easy reach. And for the sportfisherman, the reefs attract a concentration of game fishes in areas where such fishes were previously widely dispersed.

MAYBE THE SIMPLE FACT THAT ONE FINDS HAPPINESS IN DIVING IS ENOUGH EXCUSE FOR DOING IT. WHETHER SUCH AN OCCUPATION IS USEFUL OR IDLE MATTERS LITTLE. DIVING NOT ONLY INVOLVES THE HUMAN BODY BUT THE HUMAN SPIRIT AS WELL. - P. DIOLE.

P.R. WITH MARGARET LANGSON

As I will be away for the next couple of months, I have organised the Guest Speakers for the next few General Meetings which are as follows:

Monday 16th June, 1986

Alex Fairfull - Alex has been diving for some years and has spent a lot of time overseas. He will be giving a general talk on various aspects of diving. From all reports, he is a very interesting person and I'm sure you will enjoy this meeting.

Monday 21st July, 1986

Peter Mortimer - As you are all aware Peter has been diving for some years, and will be giving a talk on his extensive diving experiences, and I also believe he will be talking about shell collecting - which Peter knows so much about.

Monday 18th August, 1986

Martin Smith and Dennis Stubberfield - Martin and Dennis will be showing you an underwater movie as well as some various other topics. This should also prove to be a very interesting meeting from two experienced divers.

Monday 15th September, 1986

Adrian Edwards - Adrian will be showing a very interesting movie about Dolphins and also giving a lecture on the use of a compass - something we all need to know about.

Please support these meetings and give these speakers as much encouragement as possible. Thank you.

I only received 4 replies to the Atlantis trip that I was going to organise which isn't enough for a private party booking, however, as time has run out, if those 4 people are still interested when I get back, I will organise that we join another group that is going.

Sue Churrack is the social contact now and if you have any queries about the Quiz Night etc, please do not hesitate to contact her.

Liz Aitchinson will be taking over the Secretary role at the forthcoming meetings and again I hope that you will all give Liz your support.

Here's hoping that this winter produces some good diving for you all, and that the above Guest Speakers help to make same even more interesting in some way.

The heavily calcified internal shell of the cuttlefishes, Sepia, is popularly sold as cuttlebone, a source of lime and salt for domesticated birds. Cephalopods also have an internal sac containing an inklike substance that is used in the manufacture of sepia ink for drawing pens.

The Recreational Boating Advisory Council was created a few weeks ago with the promise that anybody who got their feet wet will benefit.

As divers are among those whose feet do get wet, some of the benefits may come our way.

The following have been mentioned: diving platforms on groynes (maybe steps down the north mole), the establishment of artificial reefs using tyres.... I can recall one effort of creating a reef with tyres... didn't work... there is nothing left of it. Maybe we should look at other material to make the reefs.

This article from the United States might help.

LIBERTY-SHIP REEFS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO M. Michot

Artificial reefs that are placed in coastal marine areas of little or no bottom relief, such as in the Gulf of Mexico, will almost immediately increase the standing stock of marine organisms in the local coastal environment. Corals, mussels, barnacles, sponges, and algae quickly colonize the submerged man-made structures, then serve as sources of food for larger crustaceans and fishes. As the framework of encrusted skeletal material on the reef grows, it furnishes a myriad of niches and crevices for new reef inhabitants to occupy.

The attraction of artificial reefs to marine life is, therefore, no different than that of natural reef systems. Manmade reefs, like natural ones, provide substrate for encrusting plants and animals, nutrition for all levels of marine life, and shelter, thereby enriching bottom communities in barren regions of the continental shelf. Unlike natural reefs, however, artificial reefs are strategically placed by man for this purpose.

Artificial reefs have been constructed and maintained by private groups in nearly all coastal states of the United States, and in many instances these activities have been supported by some level of government. The first major attempt by the federal government to initiate an artificial-reef program came in 1972, when the U.S. Department of Commerce was authorized to release moth-balled World War II Liberty ships for use in the construction of reefs by interested coastal states. This action introduced a new era in governmental policy regarding artificial reefs.

It is difficult to pinpoint where the idea of using the Liberty ships to construct reefs originated. Representatives from Florida, Alabama, and the National Marine Fisheries Service at Beaufort, North Carolina were involved in testimony before Congress on designation of the ships for artificial reefs. No public interest group was organized to lobby for the federal legislation, but awareness of the program was broad on the state levels. In Texas for example, the offer of the ships to the state was originally declined by the Parks and Wildlife Department, but a group of Corpus Christi divers, who wanted to see the ships used for reefs, was very influential in forcing a reversal of

the decision.

Why were the liberty ships so appealing to those interested in artificial-reef programs? In the past, a great variety of techniques and materials had been used in efforts to increase artificial reef systems along the coast of the United States. Sportdivers reported that the different reef materials seemed to vary in their capacity to attract fishes to the reefs. Because sunken ships appeared to serve most effectively as artificial reef structures, those familiar with the Liberty-ship legislative action quickly recognised its significance.

The Liberty ships, constructed between 1941 and 1945 as an emergency measure to provide freighters during World War II, were last used for military transport during United States action in Korea. At the time the artificial-reef program began, the ships were so badly deteriorated that repairs to achieve seaworthiness were unreasonable. Delegation of the retired vessels for "conservation of marine life," as stated by law, meant that once again they would be used productively.

Liberty ships were made available to all coastal states of the United States. A total of 27 ships was given to four Gulf Coast states - 12 to Texas and 5 each to Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

All salvageable materials had to be stripped from the Liberty ships before they could be used as reefs. In Texas, the original vessels were cut so that a height of 27 feet was left in some places to retain vertical relief. To enhance biological activity, holes were cut into the hulls to allow water circulation and passage of light. Ships in Mississippi and Alabama were so dismantled that only shallow empty hulls, with little vertical relief, were left for sinking. Midwater attracting structures made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe were added to the Mississippi ships to increase the concentration and variety of fishes around the reefs. To meet Environmental Protection Agency requirements, the ships were thoroughly cleaned, and this included the difficult task of detoxification of hazardous materials removed from the hulls.

The Liberty-ship reefs were placed at different depths and distances from the shore in the various states. Locations were based on the degree of use of coastal waters, shipping, commercial fishing interests, and accessibility of the reefs to small craft. The Texas ships were placed at depths of between 100 and 110 feet, while those in Mississippi and Alabama were placed in shallower waters, about 60 feet in depth. Also, the Liberty reefs in Mississippi and Alabama were placed closer to shore than those in Texas.

The ultimate success of the Liberty-ship program is the associated increase in biological activity on the reefs. A final report was submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on the results of a complex multi-institutional project undertaken in Mississippi and Alabama, to study the degree of success of the Liberty reefs in providing sport-fishing habitats. During the course of this project, faunal analysis, substrate characterization, economic analysis, environmental enhancement, and public health implications were all explored.

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JULY 86

JULY 86



It looks somewhat like the Atlantic bottlenosed dolphin, although the Atlantic spotted dolphin is slimmer and has a longer snout. It is marked with numerous greyish white spots on a darker background topside. The underside is marked with dark spots on a lighter background. The spotting and coloration details change as the dolphin ages. The young dolphin lacks spots completely, and it is lighter grey on the sides with a white belly. A dark cape along the back is distinctly separated from the lighter colored sides. The fins and trailing edge of the tail fluke are also dark.

Atlantic spotted dolphins feed primarily on squids, herrings and anchovies, and other small schooling fishes. Usually, they are found more than 5 miles offshore. The herd with which the author and his associates have been working is about 50 miles from the nearest shoreline. While the seven dolphins stayed around the ship for two days and nights, the crew counted from topside, approximately 200 more dolphins about a mile from the ship.

Two later trips were made to this same area and each time the dolphins responded as before. As funds become available, a scientific fact-finding expedition will be made to study the dolphin population and this information will be communicated to the Bahamas National Trust for its consideration of a dolphin preserve. This expedition - the Dolphin Project - is planned for the coming summer.

WELL TEAM, I THINK A LITTLE REVISION
WORK ON COASTAL NAVIGATION IS IN
ORDER HERE."



N.A.U.I. resigned its membership and severed all official relationships with the C.P.A.S. The reason given was that N.A.U.I. instructors were prohibited from teaching N.A.U.I. courses in countries outside U.S.A.

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SAVE THAT SKIN OF YOURS

Tibi

Nobody gets sunburned quicker than a diver after he/she peels off a wetsuit.

The Melanoma Unit attached to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, stresses the importance of using maximum protection sunscreens. Even winter sun is damaging anywhere in Australia. The use of maximum protection broad spectrum sunscreen with sun protection factor of 15 or 15 plus is recommended.

The length of time a sunscreen will protect the skin can be determined by multiplying its factor number by ten. For example, factor 15 will protect for 150 minutes after which it must be reapplied. Creams rather than oils or lotions are recommended because they bind better to the skin.

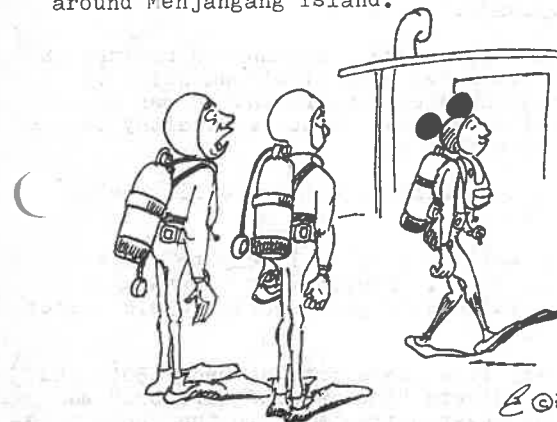
Even products listed as water-resistant will deteriorate in water and 40 minutes should be considered maximum protection time while swimming.

If you think that spaghetti eels, noodle fish, banana prawns, apple snails and sea lemons are dishes so named by divers at a progressive dinner, you are wrong. They are all inhabitants of the sea.

CLUB MEMBERS

Stuart Lowth, now in Williamstown intends to fit in some diving in N.S.W. He reports that scenery under water is much like here. He did well with his exams too, coming third overall.

Julie-Anne Rumsey whom we haven't seen for a while, is off to Bali in July. Armed with underwater camera she is going to dive on the Tulamben wreck and around Menjangang Island.



THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT OUR
DIVE LEADER THAT DISTURBS ME!



ATTENTION

THE ANNUAL FEES ARE NOW DUE:

GENERAL MEMBERS	\$35
FAMILY MEMBERS	\$45
COUNTRY & SOCIAL MEMBERS	\$10

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STUPID STRIKES AGAIN

Have you noticed recently that Dennis' navigation has not been up to his usual high standard? Those of us who endured the painful exercise of trying to find Marge's Gully and a site off Green Island on the last long weekend, must have guessed that the man was not feeling "himself".

Also those of you who are a little more observant than most, would have noticed Marge's whip missing for a short time from the clubhouse. When it was carefully returned the other day, your gossip columnist detected small pieces of flesh and black hair still clinging to the knots of the "cat".

These subtle signs coupled with the fact that it is now annual subs. time again and as you know it is cheaper to join as a family, prompted further investigation and now the secret is out. Yes folks, you guessed it, Marge and Dennis are to be married and we here at the club all join in wishing them a big, huge, rip roarin' HIP HIP HOORAH and congrats. and all that sort of thing.

Keep watching further issues for details of the big date.

GET A PROPER HEALTH CHECK

A Specialist, one of the few doctors in the state trained in underwater medicine, says dozens of W.A. scuba divers may be medically unfit but they don't know they are in danger.

Because most General Practitioners have no knowledge of the hazards of compressed air diving, divers should go to doctors who are trained in diving medicine. What stops most people is that a proper diving medical examination will cost \$30 which is not refunded by Medicare.

There are a lot of risks of which people are not aware. Anyone can rupture an eardrum if unfit, in four feet of water, a diver can develop air embolism by coming up from the bottom of a swimming pool holding his breath. Women seem more susceptible to the bends even when following dive tables or healthy people can get into trouble when they disregard dive tables.

It's like Russian roulette. People with lung weakness, ear or hearing defects, epilepsy or asthmatics should not be diving.

Asthmatics have a problem breathing out as well as they're likely to suffer from bronchial constriction when exposed to water. People with lung weakness could rupture weak spots under pressure. Deafness or poor hearing could disrupt the balance mechanism in murky water.

The doctor recommends a diving medical every five years for the under 30's and more often for older divers. He calls some divers "the weekend warriors" who go down and do stupid things. He warns that even a treatment in the recompression chamber could leave people crippled in some way.

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THE DOLPHIN PROJECT

In the crystal-clear waters of the Bahamas, in a place where fine white sand covers an area of over 5 miles, a herd of Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella plagiodon*) cavort and play. Unlike most dolphins, which may escort a boat for hours yet disappear when a diver enters the water, these dolphins will stay close by. It is music that draws them.

The author and his companions first discovered this fact when they sailed through the area and saw two Atlantic spotted dolphins riding the bow wave of their schooner. As the ship stopped and dropped anchor, a diver jumped overboard and a loudspeaker was lowered into the water. Live music - guitar, flute, clarinet, harmonica, African finger piano, and various bells - was played through the speaker. The dolphins circled the ship several times and finally stopped near the underwater speaker.

The Lure of Music

Soon the two dolphins - a baby and its mother - were joined by five other adult Atlantic spotted dolphins. All seemed to be drawn to the music. Even when other divers entered the water, the dolphins did not swim away. Instead they stayed to swim with the divers, showing little fear and seeming both friendly and curious.

The sound system producing what was dubbed liquid music, is based around a quality 12-volt DC stereo system. To enable underwater broadcasting and monitoring, one amplifier channel was switched to power an underwater speaker. Also switching in to drive the amplifier is a Nagra IV stereo deck, which makes possible the two-way audio link with the dolphins. One channel transmits through topside microphones for spontaneous live performances to the underwater speakers, while the other channel is used to pick up underwater sounds by means of a hydrophone. The Nagra recorder permits high-quality recordings from both topside and underwater to be made on magnetic tape.

Sometimes the music is from a standard cassette tape of a Strauss waltz or Ravi Shankar and other East Indian music using the sitar, which makes high-frequency pings similar to sounds made by the dolphins. The underwater speaker hangs about 12 feet into the water, thus transforming the surrounding underwater area, for about a 1/4 mile radius, into quite literally, liquid music. This music not only attracts the dolphins to the ship, it holds their interest.

Although a great deal is known about dolphins in captivity, little is known about them in their normal environment. To find a suitable place to study and photograph them in clear water is not only fortunate, but rare. Lack of clarity of the water in most areas where dolphins are found tends to prevent scientists from observing them. This coupled with other water and wind problems creates a difficult situation. Furthermore, humans in diving suits are not readily accepted by a herd of wild dolphins, so studying these animals for a long period of time has not previously been possible. By attracting the dolphins with music and holding their attention, the researchers hope to be able to enter the water with them repeatedly until the dolphins accept their presence.

The Atlantic spotted dolphin (also called spotter, Gulfstream spotted dolphin, spotted porpoise, and long snouted dolphin) reaches a length of 7 1/2 to 8 feet.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

B. Kennedy

QUIZ NIGHT

Definitely our best in recent years and I'm not just saying that because our table won the \$100 cash prize. My thanks go to Margaret, Sue, Maree, Dennis, Adrian, Bob and Ron for their excellent effort and of course, all those who attended helped to make our Quiz Night a success. Thank you all.

CLUB FEES

Are once again due. Reluctantly we have increased your fees. Like everything else the costs of providing clubrooms and facilities have risen and we must keep up with these costs. I hope you all understand our position and won't object too strongly to the extra \$5 per year.

DIVE BOAT

Is soon to be slipped for her annual facelift and touchup. We always need willing helpers for this job. Please let Martin know if you can help.

RECREATIONAL DIVING

Clubs like ours try hard to provide amateur divers, like yourselves, with the best training, facilities and opportunities for recreational diving under the safest possible conditions.

All of this at a minimum cost to you. Because we are now commercial, we are able to concentrate on high standards and safety, rather than making a fast buck. Why am I telling you this..... because at the moment some commercial operators are trying desperately hard to create a monopoly situation for themselves. Should they ever succeed, they would have complete control over all aspects of recreational diving, equipment sales, training and of course, the costs to you as divers. Heaven forbid! With great showmanship they refuse to accept qualifications other than the commercial type, with obvious reasons. As consumers, divers would be foolish to ever allow this to come about.

As the warmer weather brings renewed interest in diving activities, we will be looking at ways of weeding out these undesirable people by channeling our custom into the dive shops that don't participate in these underhand activities.



BUT MARGARET. THEY ONLY BORROWED YOUR TANK.

Letters

We welcome letters to the editor, but they must include the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication.

Preference is given to letters that are brief and to the point.

SOCIAL & P.R. REPORT

by Special Corrrspondent Maree

Howdy folks, they reckon there's a first time for everything and you privileged club members are now witnessing one My first magazine article!! Let me set you straight, I am not doing this willingly, however, because of the absence of both Margaret and Sue on overseas junkets, I have been seconded to fill their shoes. (Has anyone seen the size of Sue's feet?)

First on my list of things to report on is the QUIZ NIGHT. What an outstanding success this event was. For those who didn't attend you all missed a ripper night and have no one to blame but yourselves. Remember, you were all warned. For those who did make it, I'm sure you all had a good time and it was your efforts that helped make the night the success it was. See how easy it is to make a good social event happen - all we need is for people to participate. While I'm in the mood for thanking people, I should mention the contributions made by Margaret, Ron the raffle ticket seller, Bob, Adrian and Dennis (adjudicators extraordinaire) and quiz master Chris May. Sue Churack of course put in a lot of time and effort to get everything together and she can be well pleased with the result. Apart from everyone having a good time, the club made a handsome profit which is one of the reasons we were all there.

Winners of the evening will be treated to a night out at Dirty Dicks courtesy of the management. Rumour also has it that our President is buying drinks for everyone that turns up to the next general meeting as he won \$100, (yes you read it right....\$100).

Getting back to Dirty Dicks. Sue has also made arrangements for a social night there on Friday 25th July. The cost is only \$23 a head which is excellent value for food and entertainment. It should be a really good night out but unfortunately only 24 lucky people can go, so it's first in best dressed, so to speak. Sue has also left me in charge, so I don't want to hear any weak excuses for non attendance. Give me a ring on 457 3333 to book for this once in a lifetime chance of having a good time.

On to P.R. now and just a gentle reminder that our next speaker at the general meeting on 21st July will be the famed Peter Mortimer who will regale us with some of his spine tingling adventures and delight us with a slide show. So come along and enjoy the slides and Barry's hospitality!!

Well, that's all from me folks. See writing an article for the magazine is not that difficult. If I can do it anyone can, so why not give it a go.



SEPTEMBER LONG WEEKEND AT ROTTNEST

The venue for this trip has been changed from Thomson's Bay chalets to the Kingston Barracks where 4 chalets each sleeping 7 people in beds have been booked. The move was brought about by the difficulties and cost associated with the Thomson Bay chalets. The Kingston Barracks deal involves all food and catering to be provided and works out to be less costly as well. Costs will be approximately \$80/head and bookings are open now!

TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT
SCUBA TRAINING

D. Stubberfield

Training will begin late in November 1986 and we are now accepting nominations for trainees, so if you know of someone who wishes to train, please put them in touch with me.

SECRET FORMULA

The unobtrusive sea mussel, long taken for granted as part of the shoreline scenery, is emerging from its watery privacy into the scientific spotlight. With fanatic tenacity, this little marine mollusc bonds itself to slippery, wet rocks or pilings by excluding a glue so powerful that it literally becomes part of whatever strata it chooses to call home. Having noted the mussel's gripping power, dental scientists made a logical connection to one of their most pressing needs: a filling material that will adhere to teeth under all circumstances.

To dentists, the analogy between conditions in the mouth and the mussel's environment is plain. In the mouth, the chemical milieu swings from very acidic to very alkaline. Temperatures range from freezing to near boiling, depending on what is being eaten or drunk. Normal biting stresses run to thousands of pounds per square inch. A tooth is always moist and it is never completely free of microscopic bacteria.

Similarly, the mussel is exposed alternately to saltwater, air and sunlight, a combination of disparate natural chemical elements and stresses virtually guaranteed to break down many materials. Yet its cement stays firm. The mussel is buffeted by waves, yet this pounding pressure has no effect on its holding power. If the mussel would give up its formula so that its cement could be reproduced synthetically, dentists might have a substance far more effective than any presently in use.

The mussel has two fundamental purposes for its secretory apparatus: to produce strong attachment threads and to make a waterproof adhesive for anchoring the threads to its attachment site. Experimental specimens gathered at ocean beaches quickly synthesize new threads to replace those torn away as they are pried from rocks and attach themselves to the bottom and sides of their aquarium.

To clamp itself to its new glass house, a mussel extends its muscular foot, which resembles a tongue, through the partly opened shell halves and gropes about for an attachment site. A depression near the tip of the foot is applied to the glass, the mussel makes a series of squirming motions, and then the base of the depression is firmly pressed against the glass. After a few moments, generally less than a minute, a turbid, semitransparent material obscures the surface of the depression and the foot is drawn back. Left behind is a plaque or disc, adhering to the glass and a single thread emerges sideways from a longitudinal groove in the foot as it is withdrawn. The mussel can synthesize at least 100 threads and attachment discs in 48 hours.

The multiple threads are attached to the animal's body by rings formed around a strong main stem, which is also a secreted structure. The stem protrudes from a muscular socket at the base of the foot. The entire structure is called the byssus, a name taken from the Greek byssos, meaning fine linen or cotton.

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What is the organic material that forms the threads and what is the main ingredient in the attachment disc? Slowly, the work is yielding answers in the laboratory.

The mussel has four distinct exocrine secretions, those produced by glands with ducts. These secretions originate in separate masses of cells identified as the collagen gland, the phenol gland, the enzyme gland and a fourth gland associated exclusively with stem formation which is still biochemically unidentified. Numerous small glands produce mucus which flows abundantly in the mussel. Secretions from all the glands are mostly packaged in the form of membrane-bound granules, which outwardly resemble human secretory granules.

The mussel's strong threads are synthesized in the collagen gland with some help from the phenol and probably the enzyme glands. Collagen is the basic protein fibre in connective tissue, it supports skin and it is an important component of bone. Collagen molecules are packed together to form long rods, but they are joined by numerous cross-links to increase the strength of the fibre. The proteins from the phenol gland might have the second purpose of helping to form these cross-links and thus strengthening the collagen threads.

On the basis of evidence so far, it seems unlikely that collagen contributes to the actual adhesion of the plaques to substrata. Some collagen is found in the plaque, but this is thought to be there for the simple but critical purpose of anchoring the thread in the cement.

Investigators believe that mucus forms a certain tackiness on the strata to which the mussels cling. This may hold plaque material in place while the cement is setting. After artificially stimulating mussels to secrete, Dr. Tamarin has observed three distinct phases of the secretion process in the ducts and channels that conduct granules from the various glands toward the exit depression in the mussel's foot. He has seen how granules from the phenol gland become more numerous than others as the exit nears, and he has confirmed that plaque geometry conforms to theoretical requirements for efficient adhesion underwater.

The all-important question now is: what, exactly, is in those granules from the phenol gland? Investigators currently think it may be necessary for secretions from the phenol gland to pass through, or mix with, secretions from the enzyme gland in order to produce the cement. Further tests may tell if the scientists are correct.

The mussel appears to be guarding its formula with a jealous obstinacy. Much patient laboratory work remains to be done. Nevertheless, the search for the mussel's amazing cement is undoubtedly narrowing.

S.D.F. OF W.A.

The August 1986 Seminar for S.D.F. instructors, of which U.E.C. has two, and assistant instructors has been deferred to early October 1986 because a large number of people are unable to attend. A tentative date of October 4th or 11th 1986 has been set and will be confirmed later. Attendance at this Seminar by instructors is regarded as mandatory for S.D.F. accreditation to be maintained.

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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION



THE OLD GIRL NEEDS SOME ATTENTION!!

Barry Kennedy

Well it's happened again. Those long hot lazy days of summer have given way to the short, dark and cold days of winter. For the next few months diving will be patchy and erratic and so now is the time for those divers who enjoyed a good season aboard "Underwater Explorer" to repay this lady for her loyalty and service, in carrying so many of us to and from Rotto so many times in safety and comfort. Over the many months of service, she has developed a certain loyalty to our club.

In the beginning it was very hard for her. She had first to overcome the many pessimistic feelings. I remember when she strongly resisted those villians who tried so desperately hard to terminate her services to our club. I have seen the times, when with emotional tenderness, she playfully allows certain members to chuck up over her sides and at other times, at Martin's insistence, she has patiently allowed some of us to tickle her bottom (lucky Lady!!) with scraps of rag.

We all seem to take her for granted, so much so that some of us haven't noticed the ravages of time on her pretty face and body. She is beginning to show her age. What she now needs is some tender loving care, some gentle loving strokes with paint brush, up and down her sides and under her belly, to nurse her back to her sparkling radiant old self.

Those of you who have her welfare in your hearts will know what I mean and be prepared to pitch in and help when the time comes. She needs your care and attention.

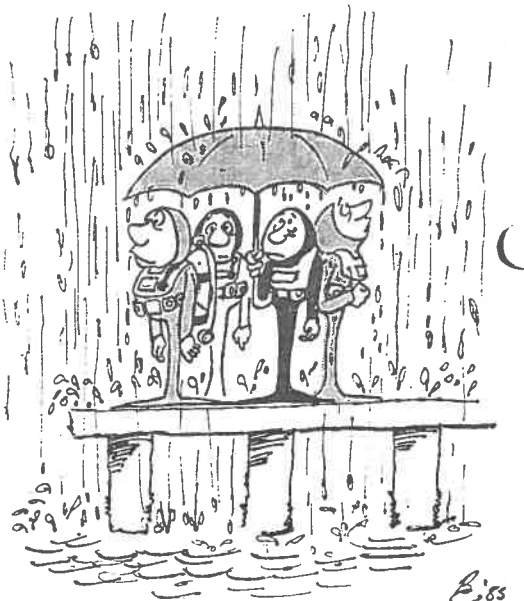
COMING EVENT.

MEMBERS...

**PLANS ARE AFOOT FOR A
LARGE CLUB BASH IN NOV.**

**THIS WILL COMBINE A DISCO
AND TROPHY NIGHT AT A
VENUE YET TO BE ADVISED.**

**SO WATCH OUT IN THE
NEXT FEW MONTHS FOR
FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
THE CLUB COMMITTEE HAVE
ALREADY PUT TOGETHER
A GREAT FORMAT FOR THIS
OCCASION.**



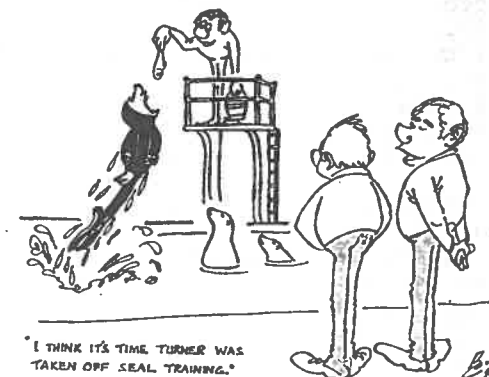
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26TH AUGUST, 1985

BARBEQUE AT THE CLUBHOUSE

LADIES PLEASE BRING A PLATE

GENTS PLEASE BRING DRINKS



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

While the pen is hot and the wine or ink flowing freely, let's take a look at the scintillating (titillating I had planned to say) events coming up.

1. Social Night - Friday 26th July which was to have been our Presentation night has now been planned for 8th November. So instead this social night will now take the form of a barbeque dinner and salads and drinks at the clubrooms with any sort of entertainment (well almost any sort) that the participants can come up with. Slides even if you'd like - let me know. Roll up at 7p.m.

Ericdite and informed conversation, funny stories (clean of course) - well mainly clean, music (and dancing, not on the tables), if we can get a couple of notable performers fired up; will occur. Yours truly will refrain from horrifying the President's wife - or anybody else for that matter.

It's to be your basic B.Y.O. format:- B-B-Q's will be set up in the garage which will be closed to prevent the fumes of garlic gourmet cooking pervading the banquet hall. Ladies are asked to bring the odd salad - normal ones too, while the fellows will ply them - er I mean, provide the ladies with drink of all kinds, (notably beer and wine and apple juice(?)). Harvey Wallbangers and such should be provided by the actual drinker unless you can con some sucker, I mean friend, to bring them for you.

Tables will be set up in the main hall and a real feast ensue.

If you will all promise to misbehave, I'll leave the camera in the car!! (maybe)

See you on Friday at 7p.m. folks - don't book, just roll up - friends included and welcome.

2. Rottnest Island Trip - September 1985. Contrary to popular belief this is a social function and will take place at Geordie Bay over the long weekend at the end of September 1985. Dates are 28th, 29th and 30th September.

A weekend of fun, fishing, manta board riding and DIVING will be programmed including one day's exploration for dive sites, as we have a number of spots lined up to try.

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Accommodation on the island has been booked and will be chalets No. 436 and 437, at the west end of Geordie Bay. These will accommodate 15 people and if we can persuade a couple more to sleep in the boat, we can take an absolute maximum of 17 people. Such is the popularity of this event that we have only 3 places left (not counting a possible 1 or 2 cancellations, which one can't promise). This is the first magazine in which we have been able to advertise the trip!

A deposit of \$20 per person will be required by the 26th July to allow chalet bookings to be held. The chalets are available from the Wednesday to Wednesday, spanning the long weekend and will be available for members use during that time.

Peter Henry has hired us a compressor which will save much cost and inconvenience for tank fills.

Fixed costs will be around \$45 per person and with food, tank and equipment hire, it is confidently expected the total cost should be under \$100 per person for the whole weekend. More details will be published next magazine but in the meantime contact me for further details. i.e. Dennis on 274 9606 working hours or 272 8649 at home.

Don't worry if you miss out this time, we'll do it again the following weekend if there's enough people interested!!! - and if we are not too exhausted.

Stay in touch folks!

THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE.

THE SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE:	MEMBER	\$30
	JUNIOR	\$25
	SOCIAL	\$10
	HUSBAND & WIFE	\$40



DIVING

Martin Smith

In the past four weeks or so the boat has only been out a couple of times, due once again to adverse weather conditions. On the 14th we dived on Halls Bank but visibility was not the best. The night dive on the 19th was also cancelled. Maybe next month's Night Dive will be better.

It's that time of the season when the "Underwater Explorer" must be taken out of the water to do a spot of painting and other maintenance. Of course this task takes time, but more importantly, lots of able bodied people. The boat will be at Royal Perth Yacht Club next to Dave Kenny's workshop (Matilda Bay Marine Centre). I know there will be lots of divers who have made use of the "Underwater Explorer" over the past year, who will be only too willing to lend a hand. The boat will be out of the water for approximately three weeks as from 22nd July. Don't be shy, give me a call. The main tasks are sanding, painting, putting the name on the boat and other minor repairs.

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SOCIAL NOTES

by your Raving er Roving Reporter/Photographer

Social night at the Bacci Ristorante. This event was held on Friday 28th June, when 27 revellers attended a feast of food, music and dancing to cater for all tastes. The large group of young and newer members really added zip to the evening, while us older more sophisticated types (speak for yourself, Raving Reporter!!), were persuaded to let our hair down and swing a little.

Ian and Dean started things with a pretty little promenade (together) and Olga treated us to a very good Russian Cossack dance. If you're wondering about the apparent reversal of roles here, so were we, although Olga certainly lost none of her femininity during the Cossack dance, I promise. We took photos to prove it. Fish net stockings were not, repeat not, worn by Ian (I think). It's marvellous what a few snorts and a party atmosphere will do.

Angela and Glenda were there looking very attractive, so much so that they were whisked off to the Parmelia or Sheraton or somewhere, for drinks and tete-a-tete dancing afterwards. While this was going on I believe another party of stayers did themselves grievous bodily harm at a disco of high repute (I hope) until 4.00a.m.

The afore-mentioned photos were very revealing and showed at one stage, the President's wife, in company with the Presidential party, deep in conversation with our P.R. Officer. Then there appeared a look of horror on her face (second photo taken by President Barry) - the blighter must have rattled off a few verses of "Eskimo Nell" - dastardly swine.

We were delighted to welcome our newest honorary member, Peter Henry and wife Peg, who were caught by the camera having a quick cuddle, glass in hand (Peter that is) and that well known beaming smile splitting Peter's face from ear to ear.

Paul came along with lovely Lady just to check out the cuisine and gave it favourable comment - just as well he did because your busy scribe was so intent on having a good time, he didn't have time to notice the food.

There were many more smiling faces and interludes, too numerous to report here but if my camera missed you this time, look out at future events. The evening was terrific and I have had strict instructions (notably from Brian and Irene Walker) to do it again, - I will, leaving out Eskimo Nell.

I have also heard that the prize winners of the Quiz Night have had their night out at the Bacci and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, which is a tremendous advert for U.E.C.

I look forward to snapping you for the gossip notice board at the next event, which I'll tell you about in a minute, all photos being pinned up for viewing (after those concerned have had a chance to censor them). Meanwhile, a little more practice on your "Zorba the Greek", please!

Cheers folks!

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Restrictions

The certificates issued will be endorsed with the restrictions that a blind diver will be accompanied by TWC sighted, qualified divers and that a buddy line to at least one of them will always be used.

BLIND DIVER SIGNALS

Sighted buddy to blind diver touch signals	Blind diver responds with normal signal
"OK" Touch blind divers mask	Thumb and forefinger in circle
"GO LEFT/RIGHT" Tap left/right shoulder or leg	Points in appropriate direction
"STOP" Squeeze upper arm	Open hand, fingers together
"START SWIMMING" Tap 3 times on shoulder	---
"GO UP/DOWN" Take blind divers thumb and hold up or down	Points in appropriate direction
"I WANT TO BUDDY BREATHE" Sighted buddy takes blind diver's fist, covers it with his own hand and moves it back and forward	For the same request the blind diver would move his hand back and forth over his own mouth-piece
On ascent "WE ARE APPROX. 3 METRES FROM THE SURFACE" Press the blind divers stomach firmly. This is repeated 1 metre from surface	---
"I WANT YOU TO DITCH YOUR EQUIPMENT" (used in training) Place blind divers hand on his own shoulder strap	---

Two simple line signals are also used.

1 tug "OK" or "STOP"
Multiple tugs "URGENT: COME TO ME/HELP"

NOTICE

CLUB FEES WERE DUE ON THE 1ST JULY. IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YET, PLEASE DO

SO AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

DON'T TRY IT.

When Jose Angel drowned in a diving accident five miles off Lahania, Maui, he was diving for black coral with Ricky Grigg. Due to a slight navigational error, he dived into water much deeper than he anticipated. He went over holding a thirty pound rock to get down more quickly (to have more bottom time) and never surfaced. Ricky said that Jose dived into what he thought was 220 feet of water. Ricky estimated the bottom depth at 330 feet or more.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy

BASE It seems a decision on our base building is a hot potato that no one wants to handle. After being shuffled about and conveniently forgotten by successive committees over the past couple of years, it was finally brought to a head and a recent General Meeting was to decide the fate of this building. Not enough members turned up for us to even hold a meeting.

After arranging a discussion on site to air members feelings on this issue, it was again to be decided at the next General Meeting. What was to happen to this building? Not enough members turned up for us to hold a meeting.

Perhaps there is a message here for me. I believe the committee will ultimately have to make this decision and the club will have to wear the result regardless.

TRAINING All training for this season is now complete except for the final practical tests which will be coming up soon. For those interested, training will re-commence in November.

As you know, our Presentation Night will also be held in November. I'm hoping for a big turnout for this event. We are making this a combined pre-season get together and Presentation Night with music, dancing and supper. Cost will be \$5.00 per head, tickets are on sale now. Photographic entries and nominations for all other trophies and awards will be accepted by the committee as from now. Let's hear from you.

PRESENTATION NIGHT - 8TH NOVEMBER, 1985

The following trophies will be presented:

Dennis and Barbara Parker Trophy for Conservation
Lyn Jones trophy for Best Woman Diver
Ken Kennedy trophy for Most Improved Woman Diver
Dave Kenny trophy for the Writer of the Year
Dolphin trophy (sportsman of the year) for Personal Diving
Kerry Stokes trophy for Underwater Photography
Mike Pollard Memorial trophy for Research

You can nominate divers for any of the above trophies.



BLIND DIVER TRAINING 1984/85

John Paskulich

This programme was initiated after a successful pilot session where 6 members of the Association for the Blind completed a short course conducted by the Underwater Explorers Club early in 1984. This course ran for 4 sessions where basic snorkelling, basic theory and introductory compressed air skills were taught.

The present programme involved 4 members of the above association two of which had participated in the pilot scheme. It was run as a conventional diver course and at its conclusion the students were tested to "Open Water Scuba Diver" level and appropriate certificates (with some restrictions) will be awarded. 3 of the 4 students completed the full course, one completed the snorkelling section only.

Certification is from the Scuba Divers Federation of W.A. and the clubs involved were the Underwater Explorers Club of W.A. and the Friendly Group of Divers. Both members of the above federation.

The students involved were:-

Ian Blackburn)
David Regan) completed full course
Kingsley Bugarin)
Marilyn Brown - completed snorkelling section only.

COURSE FORMAT

All students required medical clearance to participate. The course was divided into 2 sections. The first was snorkel skills only and consisted of 4, two hour sessions. 2 were conducted in Somerset Pool and 2 in the ocean adjacent to North Mole. The second part of the course ran over 9 sessions and consisted of pool and ocean training. In this the elements of scuba diving and basic resuscitation skills were taught. Practical tests were done in Beatty Park Pool and theory was tested orally. These tests were supervised by a senior officer of the SDF (W.A.).

Snorkel training: All students completed the following -

Pool 200m swim unaided
2 minutes treading water unaided
50m surface snorkelling
Duck dive 2m and swim underwater 15m
Snorkel without a mask 50m
Clear flooded mask on a single breath
Water entries
Towing victim and "in water" EAR

Ocean Surface swim on snorkel 800m
Duck dive 5m (minimum)
Water entries from beach and small boat

Scuba Training This training was based on conventional courses being run by the major organisations with a few variations to suit the blind. At the end of the course the successful students could:-

Prepare and fit all equipment

Operate BCV

Perform satisfactory water entries

Demonstrate underwater hand signals

At 5m - clear flooded mask

- buddy breathe both with and without face mask while swimming over a distance in excess of 30m
- remove and replace all scuba basic equipment

Perform C.P.R.

As well, they each answered correctly at least 20 out of 25 oral questions (80%) on basic scuba theory. The topics included gas laws and diving physics, diver illnesses, basic first aid, dive tables, equipment and underwater hand signals.

Instructors: At all times, each student was attended by at least one instructor and one other assistant.

Instructor standard was SDF(W.A.) "Instructor", assistants qualifications varied but all were trained, experienced and qualified divers. It must be noted that all were volunteer workers and donated their time free.

EQUIPMENT

Some items of basic equipment were purchased but the majority of gear was either borrowed or hired from "Fremantle Diving Centre" Rossmoyne. 3 copies of the "Australian Scuba Diver" were also purchased and used as the standard reference. Students used family or friends to read these for them where appropriate. It is proposed to hand over all of the purchased equipment to the Association for the Blind at the conclusion of the course for safe keeping. They will be able to lend it to members at their discretion.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

From our experience the following was noted:-

Underwater signals

Visual signals are no use to blind divers. We experimented with navy line signals but found these too cumbersome and in most cases were rejected. The best system was a hybrid arrangement where the sighted buddy used a series of touch signals and the blind diver responded with a normal hand signal. Details appear in the appendices.

Buddy lines

It is essential that the blind diver be connected by a short line to his buddy at all times during open water diving. This improves confidence and always ensures immediate contact. Two simple line signals were retained, one tug indicated "OK", multiple tugs meaning "Help me". It was also noted that the students were unable to judge ascent rate, a line is useful here should they "take off" towards the surface.





BOAT REPORT

Martin Smith

Well at last "Underwater Explorer" is back in the water. Once again much was accomplished. Just to mention a few items of work completed - a full paint job, anchor box, tank racks and associated maintenance to motor and steering equipment.

I would like to thank all those willing hands who gave up their precious time to help out. I do hesitate to mention names in the fear of forgetting someone. However, I feel there is one person I must mention because year after year he supplies the facilities and know how for us to carry out the work on the boat. Thanks to Dave Kenny who runs Matilda Bay Marine Services and for those new members who do not know Dave, he is an ex-president and now a Life Member of the club.

So it's on again for young and old. Give Peter a call and come diving.

888888888888888888

YOU TOO COULD HELP.

A whale rescue centre will be established in W.A. to ensure local whale experts and helpers are on hand in the event of a repeat of the recent mass beaching at Augusta.

Joanne Faed and Beth Copeland of Busselton have decided to set up a register of helpers and volunteers.

Contact has been made with experts from Victoria's Operation Jonah, Greenpeace and ORRCA.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

With just about anyone filling tanks it is a good idea to mark the filling pressure clearly on your tank to prevent under or over filling.

All the seals have been killed in The Atlantis Marine Park.

Sharks teeth which came from a 27 metre long shark were found near Ningaloo Reef WA. (Our boat is 11 metre.)

Greg Bachman and Rodger Smith will be showing slides after the meeting on the 15.9.

There will be training courses for small craft by TAFE at Carine 4483233 and Scarborough 4464661 Cost \$25.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

In sports diving the most valuable instrument is the tank contents gauge. No other instrument has done so much for the safety and pleasure of diving. It virtually eliminated that fear of wondering when your air supply is going to run out. It has saved many lives by preventing hazardous out of air situations. Should it not be made club policy not to allow a diver enter the water without one?

Rowley Shoals

by Alison Keen



The Rowley Shoals consists of 3 independent coral atolls, each about 13 Km. by 6 Km. The shoals are about 300 Km. off Broome and took us about 20 hours to get there on our chartered boat. "Jodi Anne" is a luxury 22m. sailing ketch with John Mangini as skipper and Barbara O'Dowd and Mark Woldseth as crew. It was an overnight steam out there but we saw lots of life once we left the shore line. A couple of hump back whales were too busy humping - didn't mind the boat coming up close to them.

The rim of each shoal is almost dry at low water and awash at high water, forming a perfect harbour within the lagoon. Mermaid Reef, the most north easterly of the three reefs, has a 55m. wide passage leading into a central lagoon. Clerke Reef lies 25 Km. S.W. of Mermaid and has a sand cay called Bedwell Island on it. Imperieuse Reef lies 32 Km. S.W. of Clerke Reef and has a metal lighthouse on it.

The first reported sighting of the shoals came in 1800, when Captain Jasias Rowley wrote in his journal of his vessel H.M.S. Imperieuse on the 30th December 1800 and this shoal was named Imperieuse Reef. In 1809 Captain Clarke gave his name to Clerke Reef. Mermaid Reef was named after the vessel H.M.S. Mermaid which visited in May 1818 and one of the crew gave his name to Bedwell Island.

We dived entirely at Mermaid Reef where the atolls and their fauna are still in perfect condition, with shells and large tiger cowreys along the reef flats. The coral gardens are untouched by anchor damage and large reef fish plentiful, curious and fearless of divers.

The outside of the wall rises steeply from 220 fathoms and is vertical in many places. This, combined with water visibility in excess of 60m., creates some of the best wall diving to be found anywhere in the world. It also meant great care had to be taken with depth and buoyancy. The drop off walls are adorned with Giant Gorgonians, sponges, feather stars, soft and hard corals of every species and many types of unusual fish.

One of the exciting features was to visit the cod hole and hand-feed the amazing resident spotted potato cods who then stay with you for the rest of the dive. The larger ones are up to 2m. long and used to divers as they investigate cameras, gauges and anything with bright colours on. They seem to like being handled and one was even waiting for us when we did a 7 knot drift dive into the lagoon one morning. We unfortunately caught one in one of our fishing lines one day but Barbara jumped in and managed to unhook it.

We did dive inside the lagoon and there is evidence of damage here. Some areas of dead and damaged coral and lots of empty giant clams up to 2m. long sacrificed for one small muscle - which is a delicacy in Taiwan. Many smaller clams are still living and flashing their purple, blue and turquoise lips.

The Museum's boat "Deba Del" was up on the W face of the reef diving the possible site of the British whaler "The Lively". We were able to dive with them and see some of their finds. It's an old wreck so the finds were small nails, pistol shots and dividers, but we could see the two anchors up on the reef.

I did manage to see my first 'real' sharks, mostly white tipped reef sharks swimming along the walls and once I got used to them it was interesting to watch them. However on the last dive of the holiday I did manage to see too much of a very large Tiger Shark coming up from depth at me. I now know the answer to the question - "What do you do if a big shark comes for you with his mouth open?"

I only hope this area can stay unspoilt and unexploited as it is unique and a valuable natural asset to Western Australia. The shell collectors could over harvest and the anchors could easily tear holes. I hope W.A. is able to protect this area by making it a Marine Park where divers can visit and see one of my favourite dive sites.

Rottnest.



ROTTNEST ISLAND TRIP 27, 28, 29, September 1986.

Well folks, its off to Rotto again in our biggest, brightest and best filled trip to Rottnest. We will be staying at Kingston Barracks as you know, having all food supplied and prepared for us.

Now down to the nitty gritty - money.

I will be requiring \$50 from each participant by 15 Sept. and your presence at the General Meeting of the U.E.C. on Monday the 15 Sept. to discuss final arrangements.

The total cost will be \$73 per diving member plus an amount for a one way ferry trip, not more than \$16 - it may be less depending on numbers and arrangements. The \$73 includes all air, boat, food and accomodation costs. Non divers and kids will pay \$40 plus \$16 for ferry. The \$40 will include \$6 for their social use of the boat, which we hope will be extensive.

I look forward to seeing all those intending to go on the 15. 9. Dennis.

FRIDAY

~~SATURDAY~~

PRESENTATION NIGHT 14. NOVEMBER 86.

You are asked to nominate divers for the following trophies;

*For conservation
The Dennis and Barbara Parker Trophy.

*For the best Clubman of the year
The Bob Wallis Trophy.

*For the best ~~Woman~~ Diver of the year
The Lyn Jones Trophy.

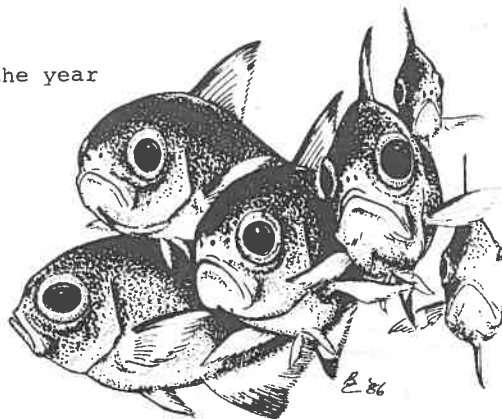
*For the most improved ~~Woman~~ Diver of the year
The Ken Kennedy Trophy.

*For the ~~writer~~ of the year
The Dave Kenny Trophy.

*For personal diving prowess
The Dolphin Trophy.

*For underwater photographs
The Kerry Stokes Trophy.

*For research
The Mike Pollard Memorial Trophy.



SHORT REFRESHER COURSE

Safety Officer.

1. How good is your scuba rescue technique?
2. Could you cope with an accident or emergency?
3. How is your resusitation - rusty?
4. Are you up to date on dive tables and your limitation?
5. Could you safely plan a dive away from the club environment for a group of divers?
6. You have not dived for quite a while and want to get back into it, but are a bit aprehensive?
7. Do you remember all about your equipment etc?

If you feel hesitant about any of these questions you should attend the " UEC Refresher Course " to be held at the club rooms on Saturday 20.9.

The course will be open to any club member who wishes to attend, however, because part of the day will be spent on the club boat, the boat numbers will be limited to 16. Therefore, any number of members may sit in on the lectures but we may have to restrict the boat to those with the most need for practical work. Depends on how many turn up on the day. There is no cost, this is a club benefit to members.

There will be no written exam or swimming tests and no " pass or fail ". Rather, the emphasis will be on a fun day with no heavy theory or long lectures and plenty of oportunity to ask questions and do some practical " hands on ". With the diving season well underway again it is hoped that all the old and not so old faces will be back to enjoy lots of fun on our club outings. However we must maintain a very high standard of safety and so it is very important that we keep up to scratch with our proficiency.

Below is a rough idea of how the day will go so you can plan in advance if you wish to attend. If you are thinking of attending would you please ring ADRIAN EDWARDS at his home 4572117 or leave a message via a club member, just so we can organise things properly and thus run it smoothly.

PROPOSED FORMAT OF COURSE.

Saturday 20.9.
Morning. Start 0900 hours at the U.E.C. club rooms.
Talks and demos, by club instructors on such topics as basic theory (not involved), safety procedures, equipment, dive tables and use, practice resusitation on Annie, compass use and dive planning. Suitable coffee breaks in between (provided).

1200. Lunch B.Y.O. or from shops nearby.
1300. Meet at East St. jetty and proceed on club boat to training area (North Mole) for some practical rescues, dich and recovery and perhaps if time, a compass swim to the wreck. I do not anticipate a real late finish so you can get home to wash out your gear. Each diver will need full gear, and compass.
Adrian.

SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT

Adrian Edwards

It's been a long, cold, wet winter hasn't it! We've all been huddled up next to fires and eating hot dinners and drinking lots of warm cocoa etc. Our flabby white bodies crying out for the warmer sun and salt spray on our faces. Oh, for a lovely day's diving!

Well, hopefully folks we will soon be back into it. But are you fit enough to dive safely?

There are volumes of books and countless articles written on diving medicine and the minimum physical fitness required to dive. However, there are some basic guidelines.

- (1) How long is it since you had a really good medical exam? (preferably from a diving Dr.)
- (2) Have you been down to the heated pool lately and had a good workout? Remember when you learnt to dive the very minimum requirement was to swim 200 metres without stopping and then at the end of the swim, tread water for 2 minutes with both hands out of the water!
- (3) How is your aerobic fitness - do you jog, play sport or cycle often?
- (4) Are you on any permanent medication such as sedatives, tranquillisers, anti-depressants, anti-diabetic drugs, steroids or antihistamines?
- (5) Are you overweight?
- (6) Are you a smoker?
- (7) Have you suffered any recent ailments or injuries since last diving?

These, and other intriguing questions will all be answered in that moment of truth when next you plunge over the side of our shiny new refurbished "Underwater Explorer" and down into the beautiful blue depths of Roe Reef to have a ball.

I'm getting ready, how about you?

Diving Report

P. Mortimer - O.C. Diving

Now the club boat is back in the water after its winter refit, I am sure we are all looking forward to a new diving season.

I intend to continue to stress high standards of safety in our club diving, and I am sure Adrian will keep as all on the ball this year.

We will be looking for new dive sites this season -(any suggestions are welcome, as well as returning to many of our better known sites.

If any member needs extra training, i.e. "Deep Dives", for qualification, it should be mentioned to myself or to the dive marshall that day, and we will try to incorporate them in that day's diving.

As I believe that the club boat will be well used this year, an early call rather than a mad rush on Friday or Saturday night, may save disappointment.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 17 NOVEMBER 1986.

YOU CAN HAVE A SAY IN WHO IS GOING TO RUN THE CLUB NEXT YEAR. COME TO THE A.G.M. BUT REMEMBER ONLY FINANCIAL MEMBERS CAN HAVE A VOTE.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy

Things have been rather dull for us over the past several weeks. Poor weather and having the boat up for her annual paint up has severely hampered our diving operations.

We need to get through the work on the boat much faster than we are currently doing. In future we will need the help of many more club members. Those members who have worked on the boat have done an excellent job and I thank them for their time and effort. What concerns me is the number of members who haven't worked on the boat. Regardless of your skills or lack of skills, we would really appreciate your help with our boat maintenance. Remember it is your boat too.

With the coming fine weather we are anticipating another excellent season. I would suggest that all you divers who have been rusting away over winter, check your gear, make sure it's in good condition for the coming season. It's not very far away.

As usual our first few dives will be carefully selected moderate dives to allow you to once again adjust to open water diving after the long winter break.

Don't forget to come along to our meetings. Apart from interesting guest speakers and blue/green movies, there is a chance to chat to your fellow divers. We do need to discuss some important club issues, like our pending purchase of a filling compressor.

Coming up soon, among other things, will be our Presentation Night. Once again we must choose who is deserving of our various trophies and awards. We need your help to do this. Tibi will be publishing a list of all the available awards and I would like you to select who you think should receive our trophies or other presentations. Just put your preferences in writing and give them to any committee member who will present them for consideration.

Also coming up soon is the commencement of our training programme. Now is the time for all those who wish to train as SCUBA divers to begin making arrangements about joining our classes. If you know of anyone who is interested, then prompt them into doing something about it. The more people who join our club the more interesting our club will become. Make an effort, try to interest at least one other person into joining our club. If we all did this we would soon double our numbers and we would all benefit from the new blood, new ideas and new interests that these people would bring with them into our club.

Let's see you on the next dive or at the next meeting.

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Kerry Ashton 5 Ralston Rd. Kardinya.
Ross Lambert 15 Rae Place Hilarys.

Got something to say? Get it off your chest by dropping us a line. We'll do our best to publish it in this column. Send your letter directly to the Editor,

DECOMPRESSION TABLES (AGAIN)

--- A Comparison of Eight Decompression Tables

Calculating two "No Decompression Dives" is enough of a chore for some divers, but what about doing it with strange tables?

In addition to the RNPL (anyone know what RNPL stands for?) there are at least seven other tables available that will be discussed in this article.

In addition to these more tables are being developed and at least two decompression meters for sport divers are on the market. Confused, well dont be.

The point to be remembered here is **DIVE THE TABLES YOU WERE TAUGHT** Most instructors will tell you this and I concur. If you must dive strange tables then study them or take instruction for them before you dive.

It is very easy to become confused when conditions exhaust you. Unfamiliarly added to the the slow/confused mental process is just another step down the incident pit to decompression sickness.

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* Some minor differences may occur between the actual tables and the times above as some tables are based on metres of sea water and some on feet of sea water.

Confused now?

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These tables hail from Appendix B of the Australian Standards CZ18 & Z67 dated 1972 and may be found in the back of your Red NQS Log Book.~

Well enough is enough. If I left out you favorite German, French, Broome Pearl Diver or Italian table it was due to lack of space. If any one has dived with a computer or other table not in this article perhaps you could let us know of your experience.

The old saying: **PLAN YOUR DIVE AND DIVE YOUR PLAN** can't be beat!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am often amazed at how few people are properly qualified to give first aid in an emergency.

Even supposed "First Aiders" and volunteers who have had this training seem to have only a shattering of knowledge.

Fifty percent competence is not enough when dealing with an individual's life. Perhaps we should have compulsory refresher courses to follow at regular intervals. What do others think?

Miss V.N.

U.E.C NEWS

(UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB OF W.A. INC.)

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OCT 86

U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A. INC.



3610842

Monthly Magazine

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL CENTER FOR WATER RESEARCH



MAYHEM AT "DIRTY RICHARDS"
OR DASTARDLY DEEDS AT "DIRTY DICKS"
Strike out whichever does not apply.

by your Reporting Raver or
Rotting Ripper or
Ripping Repraver or
Rotten Writer. (Dennis)

Well folks, it was a great night in Wembly where a select few Under (the) Weather er Water Explorers met for the U.E.C.s annual feast and merry making, social event held at the said D.D.s.

Ah. what joy de vivre, what scintillating company, what brilliant and witty conversation over delectable dishes, and what titillating service to make the evening flow and flow.

Our Hostess for the evening first fed us some cock and bull story about the band not turning up and we were to be entertained by a couple of wandering minstrels - these turned out to be a couple of Cowboys from Karratha. "Wassial" the company, was supposed to be the cry - not on your Nellie - The evening was spent yelling out, "Will you be my mate" (or whatever) and being answered by "My Bloody oath I will (or wont). This had quite an effect on the more refined guests present - there were a few - including our three "Fallen Maids" Maree, Rosslyn and Sue, who when asked impolitely by this Dreadful Duo if they would like a ride in their panel van, were quite taken aback. Maree on her feet, suddenly became speechless and shy, Rosslyn sat down quickly and Sue mumbled "Not Bloody Likely" -Not the correct answer you will note.

However , these worthy minstrels kept us entertained non stop for what proved to be a great evening. Of course our own party of intrepid Under Water Explorers also contributed to the fun and merriment and mayhem. Our "Illustrious Lecher" one P. Henry and "Pisspot Pete" non other than your (un)worthy President, Barry were particularly helpful in this respect. "Ill. Lech" vied with Greg Bachman all night in trying to inspect more closely the cleavage of our delightful serving wench "Charlie". They failed miserably in frequent attempts to use her biro which was placed in said décolleté. Our "Lech" was as you'll hear in a moment publicly punished for this misdemeanour whereas Greg merely got his wrist spanked - metaphorically. Meanwhile P. Pete on the other table seemed to be always in the limelight singing out "My bloody oath I will" at every opportunity and mostly when not required to.

The food, a set menu, was excellent and plentiful and the service stood out - I mean was outstanding.

Birthdays, engagement - or should that read engorgement - and even a pregnancy was celebrated - one had grave doubts about its authenticity though. But back to our two miscreants "Illustrious Lecher" and "Pisspot Pete" -- they finally took one look too many and "oathed" once too often and our hostess had them carried off and put into the stocks to cool off. Here they inflickted on the assembled groups, admittedly with the help of a threatening stockwhip, and a couple of pints of ale a very lengthy song in duet.

It was hell in there. and I've got photos to prove it, they're mounted on the U.E.C. notice board. And that was it the end of another Ripping U.E.C. Social evening - it just serves you right if you didn't get to go. Make sure you don't miss the next one.

"Cheerio Folks"

Page eight. U.E.C. News October 1986.

SAFETY OFFICERS REPORT.

Adrian Edwards.

First I would like to answer a couple of letters to the Editor which appeared in the last U.E.C. News.

Thank you Miss V.N. for your letter. Yes, I agree that we as divers must keep up with our knowledge of first aid and do refresher courses. We recently ran a short refresher course here at the Club rooms and although only a few divers attended I would like to think that somebody got something useful from it, especially the segment on resuscitation given by Barry. We just can't get enough of this "hands on" practice and I intend to make more regular practice sessions like this available in the future. So would club members who feel like a brush up on anything please let me know.

Next in reply to a letter from C.F. It is certainly club policy to insist that all divers enter the water with a serviceable air contents gauge. There is no exception to this even if you do have a J valve or reserve mechanism. All divers please note this.

Also , while on the subject, it is also club policy that each buddy pair must have between them at least an accurate depth gauge and watch. Preferably a depth gauge each.

In addition to the usual diving gear all divers on U.E.C. outings will wear a B.C. and carry a knife. These are minimum requirements. The dive officer of the day has the authority to refuse entry to the water to any diver who lacks the essential minimum equipment.

Finally, I would like to thank all those U.E.C. members who co-operated so well during the recent long week-end to make a safe and enjoyable few days diving. It was particularly pleasing to note that when one diver returned to the boat not feeling well, there was adequate helpers still on board to render assistance. Thankfully all ended well. See you on the boat and keep up the safe diving.

WHALING CONTINUES

All those who took part in the whale rescue at Augusta should be congratulated for their magnificent effort. Strange isn't it, we save them - others still kill them.

The international moratorium on whaling has been in force for almost a year.

Japan, the Soviet Union and Norway ignore it and continue whaling. Iceland and South Korea issued themselves with so called scientific permits. They kill whales to obtain information about their movements, habits and numbers, and they sell the whale meat to the Japanese.

There is a campaign against these nations. Let's join it by voicing our disapproval.

A GENTLE REMINDER

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

From the Editor

WELL, WE HAD ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR WHICH IS COMING TO AN END. NEXT MONTH YOU WILL BE ELECTING A NEW COMMITTEE TO RUN THE CLUB AND PROVIDE AIM AND DIRECTION.

BEING ON THE COMMITTEE REQUIRES A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF HARD WORK WHICH CAN BE QUITE REWARDING AT TIMES, BUT IT CAN ALSO BE TERRIBLY DEMANDING.

YOU CAN EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT AS A MEMBER 1./ BY COMING TO THE A.G.M.
2./ BY STANDING FOR A COMMITTEE POSITION IF YOU THINK YOU CAN DO SOMETHING BETTER. 3./ BY NOMINATING SOMEONE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN OFFICE.....

LOOKING THROUGH THE HISTORY OF THE U.E.C. YOU WILL FIND THAT WE WERE IN THE FOREFRONT OF DISCOVERING SHIPWRECKS. WE NOW HAVE SOME MEMBERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN LOOKING FOR WRECKS AND THERE ARE STILL A FEW TO BE FOUND....

I AM STARTING A SERIES OF ARTICLES BY A.L. PIERCE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL Y.M.C.A'S SCUBA LIFE SAVING ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, CALLED "THE ART OF BREATHING". EVERYBODY WILL LEARN FROM IT, OR SAY, THAT HAPPENED TO ME AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHY.....



S.D.F. TRAINING SEMINAR - OCT. 4TH 1986.
(Held at the U.E.C. clubrooms).

Tibi
Bob Cotton

I am happy to report that the Scuba Divers Federation of WA. Instructor Training Seminar was very successful. The attendance by member clubs affiliated with SDF of WA was well above expectations and more than indicated the SDF's move into updating of suba diving procedure and training of both instructors and trainee divers.

There were a series of lectures presented by Dr. Bob Wong, who with his excellent diving medical background and in his usual inimitable style of presentation reminded us all of the perils of obesity, lack of fitness, asthmatics, epilepsy and complacency in proper dive planning.

He also brought up the many and varied reasons why divers who are over the age of 35 years should be a great deal more conservative and cautious with their driving profile than their younger counterparts. The fact that women were more susceptible to decompression sickness than men was also discussed and once again confirmed the female diver has to also be more conservative in her diving profile than her male counterpart.

Because of the success of this seminar and the interest shown, it looks as if these seminars will become a regular feature for the scuba diving clubs involved in training and in promoting a much safer attitude towards sports diving whether the individual trained stay with their clubs or pursue this unique recreation with other enthusiastic members of the sports diving fraternity.

PAGE 2 U.E.C. NEWS OCTOBER 1986.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the 17th of November at 8 pm.

All members are invited to attend.

The following Committee of Management positions Office Bearers and Honorary Appointments will be decided:

Committee of Management positions: PRESIDENT...VICE PRESIDENT...SECRETARY... TREASURER...A GENERAL COMMITTEE OF FOUR...OFFICER IN CHARGE OF DIVING...OFFICER IN CHARGE OF TRAINING.

Section Leaders: BUILDING... LIBRARY...PUBLIC RELATIONS...PROPERTY...SOCIAL... SAFETY...TECHNICAL...RESEARCH... RADIO VN 6 PL... MAGAZINE PRODUCTION...BOAT...

Honorary Appointments: AUDITORS (2)...COUNSEL...ARCHEOLOGY...BIOLOGIST... DOCTOR. (Not necessarily club members).

All officers will be elected for 12 months on an honorary basis.

All nominators, seconders and nominees must be ordinary financial members of the Club. The Returning Officer will be John Paskulich 23 Cranwell St. Thornlie. Nomination for any position may be lodged in written form with the Returning Officer, in the event of a member not being able to attend.

Any member unable to attend may be represented by proxy nominated in writing by the member and the proxy, on submitting this authority to the Secretary shall be entitled to exercise the voting power of the absent member in addition to the members own voting power.

REMEMBER TO COME TO THE A.G.M. AND HAVE A SAY IN WHO IS GOING TO RUN THE CLUB NEXT YEAR, OR TAKE ON ONE OF THE POSITIONS YOURSELF. REMEMBER TO ORGANISE A PROXY IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COME.

NEWS BRIEF.....

THE DATE OF THE PRESENTATION NIGHT WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING....

TRAINING WILL START TUESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER AT 8PM IN THE CLUBROOMS...

IF YOU ARE NOT FINANCIAL, THE NOVEMBER MAGAZINE WILL BE THE LAST ONE WE WILL SEND YOU...

TO BUY OR NOT TO BUY AN AIRCOMPRESSOR WILL BE DECIDED AT THE OCTOBER MEETING...

THIS IS A NEW IDEA... THE CLUBROOMS WILL BE OPEN EVERY SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH AT SEVEN PM. FOR SOCIAL, VIDEO, BOOKS, MAGAZINES AND FUN.

BOOKS ARE MISSING. IF YOU HAVE ANY AT HOME PLEASE RETURN THEM, THEY BELONG TO ALL CLUB MEMBERS...

A FISHING TRIP IS PLANNED FOR CLUB MEMBERS ON THE 15TH OF NOVEMBER, SEE MARTIN AT THE NEXT MEETING...

A REEF WAS BLOWN UP IN MARJORIE BAY... WE KNOW YOU DIDN'T LIKE IT

PARKING FEE IS NOW \$2 AT THE EAST STREET JETTY....

U.E.C. NEWS OCTOBER 86. PAGE 7

SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT

Adrian Edwards

It's been a long, cold, wet winter hasn't it! We've all been huddled up next to fires and eating hot dinners and drinking lots of warm cocoa etc. Our flabby white bodies crying out for the warmer sun and salt spray on our faces. Oh, for a lovely day's diving!

Well, hopefully folks we will soon be back into it. But are you fit enough to dive safely?

There are volumes of books and countless articles written on diving medicine and the minimum physical fitness required to dive. However, there are some basic guidelines.

- (1) How long is it since you had a really good medical exam? (preferably from a diving Dr.)
- (2) Have you been down to the heated pool lately and had a good workout? Remember when you learnt to dive the very minimum requirement was to swim 200 metres without stopping and then at the end of the swim, tread water for 2 minutes with both hands out of the water!
- (3) How is your aerobic fitness - do you jog, play sport or cycle often?
- (4) Are you on any permanent medication such as sedatives, tranquilisers, anti-depressants, anti-diabetic drugs, steroids or antihistamines?
- (5) Are you overweight?
- (6) Are you a smoker?
- (7) Have you suffered any recent ailments or injuries since last diving?

These, and other intriguing questions will all be answered in that moment of truth when next you plunge over the side of our shiny new refurbished "Underwater Explorer" and down into the beautiful blue depths of Roe Reef to have a ball.

I'm getting ready, how about you?

Diving Report

P. Mortimer - O.C. Diving

Now the club boat is back in the water after its winter refit, I am sure we are all looking forward to a new diving season.

I intend to continue to stress high standards of safety in our club diving, and I am sure Adrian will keep as all on the ball this year.

We will be looking for new dive sites this season -(any suggestions are welcome) as well as returning to many of our better known sites.

If any member needs extra training, i.e. "Deep Dives", for qualification, it should be mentioned to myself or to the dive marshall that day, and we will try to incorporate them in that day's diving.

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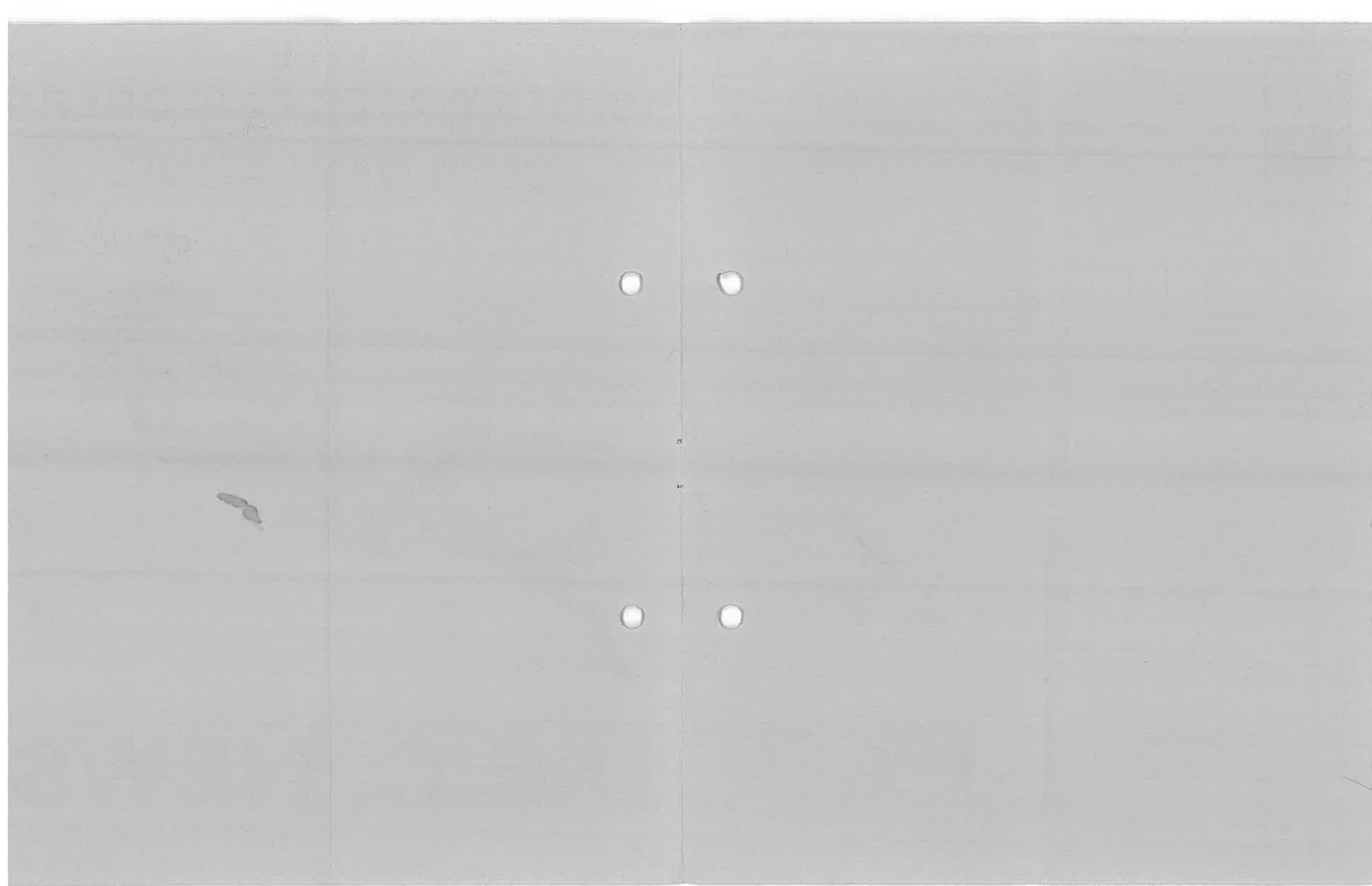
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NOV 86

**UNDERWATER EXPLORERS
CLUB OF W.A. INC.**



U.E.C. NEWS



TRAINING WILL START ON THE 18TH OF NOVEMBER AT 8 PM IN THE CLUBROOMS. THE FIRST POOL TRAINING WILL BE AT THE SUMMERSET POOL ON THE 22 ND OF NOVEMBER.

PRESENTATION NIGHT WILL BE HELD AT THE Y.M.C.A. HALL, MELVILLE AT 8 PM.
TICKETS \$6

NOMINATIONS.

RONALD SIDNEY RICHARDS 253 VINCENT ST. LEEDERVILLE.
IAN JOHN HILL 84 BUXTON ST. MT. HAWTHORN.
STEVEN JOHN GORMAN 26 KEMPENFEALDT AVE. SORRENTO.



TALL SHIPS FOR FREMANTLE.

TALL SHIPS FROM MANY NATIONS WILL BE VISITING FREMANTLE BETWEEN NOW AND AUSTRALIA'S BICENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY ON 26TH JANUARY 1988.

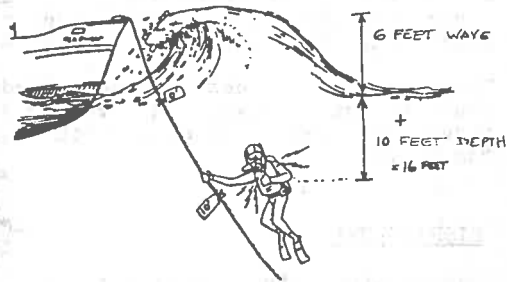
EYE OF THE WIND DEPARTS DARWIN ON TUESDAY 21ST OCTOBER BOUND FOR FREMANTLE AS PART OF HER CIRCUM-NAVIGATION OF AUSTRALIA AND IN JANUARY THE BOUNTY, A REPLICA OF THE FAMOUS MUTINY SHIP, WILL VISIT FOR THE AMERICA'S CUP. AUTHENTICALLY CONSTRUCTED TO EXACT SIZE, RIG AND SAIL PLAN, THE BOUNTY WAS BUILT FOR THE FILM OF THE SAME NAME.

IN EARLY DECEMBER OF NEXT YEAR UP TO 20 SAILING SHIPS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE FOR THE TALL SHIPS AUSTRALIA PROGRAMME AND A WEEK LATER SHIPS IN THE FIRST FLEET RE-ENACTMENT WILL CALL ENROUTE TO BOTANY BAY AND THEN SAIL ON TO SYDNEY HARBOUR, ARRIVING ON AUSTRALIA DAY.

THE RECENT LOUNCHING OF THE BARQUANTINE STS. LEEUWIN HAS BROUGHT THE DREAMS OF ADVENTURE UNDER FULL SAIL TO A REALITY FOR BOTH YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE. MEMBERSHIP TO THE SAIL TRAINING ASSOCIATION OF WA. IS OPEN TO EVERYONE FROM AS LITTLE AS \$20 PER YEAR.



Most regulators will not supply adequate air for heavy exertion at depth -- especially if the tank air pressure is low.



Simply swallowing as a high wave passes may cause a lung rupture.

Letters

We welcome letters to the editor, but they must include the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication.

Preference is given to letters that are brief and to the point.

DENIS ROBINSON

LOOK AT THE WHALES!

For one lucky group of divers who enjoyed our recent long weekend at Rottnest the highlight of the trip was a close encounter with one of the giants of the ocean - the humpback whale.

Divers surfacing from Roe Reef were greeted with the news that 2 (?) humpbacks could be seen in the distance, so it was up-anchor in record time for a closer look. As we approached the whales skipper Peter H. cut the motor and we drifted quietly hoping not to scare them away.

Our first sighting was of a huge black back (longer than the boat) arching out of the water then rolling to show huge white flippers (higher than the boat). Our intrepid diving officer (ignoring Jonah's experiences) leapt into the water with mask and snorkel in time to see a massive shape pass right under the boat while the more cowardly among us wondered what a whale that grows to 16 metres could do to a 10 metre boat. After some long silent moments the whales surfaced again ahead of the boat and treated us to some spectacular jumps with tremendous splashing.

Humpbacks are noted for their incredible ability to leap right out of the water: try it some time when you're fully kitted-up then remember that an adult humpback weighs about 4,000 kg. They will often roll in mid-air with 5 metre long flippers outstretched like wings.

It was an unforgettable experience to come so close to these magnificent creatures and very sobering to realise that man has hunted them almost to extinction.

(P.S. There are a few snapshots of the occasion - we won't mention how many \$000's worth of Nikonos gear was on board with no film left!)

EXERTION BREATHING.

On land, you can do strenuous exercise and get enough oxygen by heavy breathing. Under water this can be very dangerous. Your regulator may not supply the required large volume of air fast enough.

Rapid breathing will not help. If you are able to suck air fast enough through a regulator to double the flow four times the resistance will be created, and you will use eight times as much oxygen in the attempt. The resulting air hunger will make you breath faster, a vicious cycle. Most regulators will not supply enough air for even moderately heavy work at 100 feet when the tank is below 300 psi. Some will not give adequate air to support a working diver at only 66 feet. If you are caught in an exertion-breathing cycle, stop working, ascend, and breath gently. Avoid these problems by taking it easy under water staying shallow and surfacing before the tank pressure gets low.

If your buddy starts working and breathing hard, stop him and signal him up. He may want to buddy breathe. That will not help. If your tank pressure is the same and your regulators have similar breathing characteristics he will be no better off. Offering an octopus second stage may make matters worse. The first stage serving both mouth-pieces will be dangerously over-breathed unless you take alternate breaths. An air-hungry diver is not likely to be able to coordinate his breathing with yours and you will both end up without enough air.

Avoid exertion under water, especially at depth with low air pressure.

As this is my last diving report for 1986, I would like to thank all those members who have been a help to me over the last year. I have been diving now for nearly 16 years and have completed about 1,400 open water dives in this time and dived with many hundreds of divers. I was also a Diving Officer with my B.S.A.C. branch for several years and have been O.C. Diving on two occasions for the U.E.C. These jobs can be quite thankless tasks at times and I would ask the membership to give the new O.C. Diving a little consideration as he or she will not have had as much experience as myself.

Some of the problems that occur on our trips are: weather and sea conditions, experience of the members on the boat, some wish to take photos, some would like to spear fish, some collect shells, others just like to dive. Then there are members who like to dive together which is not always possible. You will appreciate that no one can get it right for everybody, so give whoever is in charge a fair go. The diving trips are now going very well, safety procedures are being strictly adhered to and I think the club will go from strength to strength over the next few years.

Annual General Meeting *November 17*

SAFETY OFFICERS REPORT.

This month I want to give you a reminder about the most basic of all the rules of diving which simply states that you should "never dive alone!"

You might well say and rightly so that we always dive with a buddy. I know the dive marshals on our boat wouldn't let anyone in the water on their own. The problem starts after our members have started their dive when they become so absorbed in what they are doing that they fail to communicate or even swim within reasonable distance of their buddy which is almost as bad as diving alone. Next time when you are down under and your buddy is a little further away than he should be see how long it takes for you to reach him and make him understand your problem. Don't be surprised if it takes more than several breaths which in an emergency you may not have. That you have made the mistake of judging the distance and the speed required to cover it.

While diving with more than one other person may be acceptable more often than not one buddy always seems to disappear and spoil the dive for the other two. Making one diver responsible for two others is an unworkable situation and should be avoided.

Another situation in which one diver usually finishes his dive alone is when a "slow breather" is buddied with a "fast breather" diver. Breathing rates and air consumption among sports divers is often extremely varied. A slow breather could be still heading down the slope of a reef as his fast breather buddy is about to run out of air and has to ascend.

We all consider ourselves to be able divers but to be safe we must learn and practice the finer points of the buddy system.

TREASURE

T6

General Grant a three-masted wooden ship carrying 2576 oz. of gold left Melbourne in 1866 bound for London, hit rocks and went down off the Auckland Islands some 500km south of New Zealand.

16 expeditions tried to find it, the first, two years after the sinking, the second, four years later, both with actual survivors, all sixteen failed and at least six people died looking for it. Now a new expedition tried. They think they found the wreck but not the gold. Weather made it impossible to continue but they will be back next summer. Here is the story of the shipwreck.

The General Grant sailed from Melbourne on May 4 with a cargo which included wool, skins, pelts, nine tons of spelter and gold. The Auckland Islands were sighted about 11p.m. on May 13. Two hours later she struck towering cliffs then drifted into a cave about 250 yards deep. Masts were shattered. The ship drifted deeper into the cave. Of the 61 passengers and crew of 22, only 15 people survived the wreck. Cold, wet, miserable and hungry the survivors reached Disappointment Island and one boat was swamped. All food, apart from nine tins of soup, was lost.

Six of the survivors were passengers, one a woman.

The first task the survivors had to do once ashore was to light a fire. The group discovered they had only one match between the 15. Great care was taken in lighting the fire - and keeping it alight.

During that long, lonely winter the survivors fashioned clothes from the seal-skins they had collected.

Eight months after the ship had been wrecked, four of the survivors decided to try to reach New Zealand in their seven metre pinnace. Sealskins were used to help keep the water out and the four men who went in her took a goat and two kids, some smoked seal, several dozen sea-fowl eggs and seven tins of soup. Water was carried in seals' gullets.

The four said goodbye to their companions on January 22, 1867.

They headed off without a compass, chart or any nautical instruments. The four were never seen again.

That left 11 survivors on the island.

That September a seaman died after a short illness.

A few weeks later there was jubilation at the camp - a ship was sighted. Huge fires were lit. The group's other rowboat was launched in a bid to attract attention. But the ship disappeared.

The survivors decided to move to Enderby Island where a better lookout station could be established. On November 19 a sail was sighted. Two days later the ordeal was over. The ship which rescued them was the whaling brig Amherst, from Bluff.



FISHING TRIP

The fishing trip planned for 15th November has now been cancelled until 29th November. Would those interested, please take note of the new date.

At a glance

BATTLE TO FREE DOLPHINS. DOLPHINS, THE GENTLE AND CARING CREATURES, OF THE SEA, ARE WINNING THEIR FREEDOM. THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL WELFARE IS CALLING FOR A BAN ON THE CAPTURE OF THE DOLPHINS FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY. IT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED THAT DOLPHINS GENERALLY HAVE PAID A HIGH PRICE FOR THE DUBIOUS ADVANTAGES OF CAPTIVITY.....

PEOPLE CAUGHT LITTERING AT SEA FACE A POSSIBLE \$25 ON THE SPOT FINES OR MAXIMUM FINES OF \$400 IN COURTS.....

HAVE YOU GOT DIVING GEAR YOU WANT TO SELL? RING THE EDITOR (3413001) WITH THE DETAILS. IT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE MAGAZINE FREE.....

THE CLUBROOMS WILL BE OPEN FOR SOCIAL EVENING ON THE 15TH NOVEMBER AT 730PM AND ON THE SECOND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH IF ENOUGH INTEREST IS SHOWN.....

THE MYSTERIOUS PERSON - UNTRACEABLE BY MODERN DETECTION METHODS - WHO BLEW UP A REEF IN MARJORIE BAY GOT AWAY SCOTT FREE. THE FINGERPRINTS GOT WASHED AWAY.....

SEVERAL U.E.C. MEMBERS WERE PRIVILEGED TO SEE TWO HUMPBACK WHALES NORTH OF ROTTNEST.....

THE WA. MARITIME MUSEUM WILL SOON HAVE REPLICAS ON SALE OF SOME OF THE RELICS FROM THE VERGULDE DRAECK AND ZEEWIJK. KEYRINGS AND PENDANTS IN PEWTER AND SILVER PLATE WILL BE THE FIRST ITEMS.....

HE LAY ON THE SANDY BOTTOM WAITING WITH HIS CAMERA FOR A TINY BLUE FISH THAT KEPT POPPING IN AND OUT OF THE CORAL. WHEN AT LAST HE GOT THE PHOTOGRAPH HE WANTED, HE REACHED BEHIND TO CHECK HIS CONTENTS GAUGE. WITH SHOCK AND PANIC HE REALISED THAT HE GRABBED A HANDFUL OF SEA SNAKE INSTEAD.....

PLEASE RETURN U.E.C. LIBRARY BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.....



HYPERVENTILATION.

You know it is dangerous to hyperventilate (over ventilate the lungs by deep, fast breaths) prior to a long breath-hold dive. You could black out from insufficient oxygen before the carbon dioxide signal to breathe is strong enough to warn you to surface.

Novice scuba divers, however, are liable to hyperventilate under water simply from apprehension during a dive. The resulting drop in carbon dioxide may cause a tightening of the chest that may be interpreted as shortness of breath. A frightened novice may breathe more vigorously thus starting another vicious cycle. Again, offering another air supply will not help. Long, slow inhalations will rebuild carbon dioxide levels. Signal the novice to slow down and exhale more slowly. If necessary, surface with him.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy

It pleases me greatly to finally own our own filling compressor. I'm convinced that this is the beginning of better things to come.

Should you elect me as President again this season, I will be working towards purchasing a number of diving cylinders for members use on club dives and also of course for our training of new members. Even as I am writing this article, Peter Horton is hard at work putting our new compressor and motor together into an operational unit. By the time this magazine goes to print, we will already have begun filling tanks for club members.

As you know, this coming meeting is our A.G.M. It's time once again to elect our club officials and officers. It is very important for a club like ours, to have as many members as possible attending our A.G.M. Remember your vote does count and now is the time for you to help to select who will be responsible for all the various activities within this club. Remember only financial members are able to vote so if you are one of those people who haven't paid your dues for this season, then bring your money along with you.

Our club is looking very healthy at the moment and I can see no problems in the near future. All indications are for another excellent year. Once again I must say that I am proud and happy to have been President of your club and I look forward to your company on Monday 17th November at 8.00p.m. Don't forget will you?

COUGHING UNDER WATER.

A coughing diver on the surface may not only be unable to catch a breath, he may also be struggling to stay afloat because he is losing buoyancy each time he coughs out air and gets none back. Get to him quickly. If he is not panicky make yourself buoyant, then give him support or inflate his buoyancy compensator.

A coughing diver under water is likely to dash madly for the surface, holding his breath. You may be able to stop him by grabbing a leg as he goes by. However tests have shown that there is a tendency for a rescuer to hold his breath as the victim drags him up. Do not let the circumstances make you forget to vent air. If, in your grab, a fin comes off in your hand, its loss may slow him somewhat. Follow him at a slower pace to make sure he hasn't suffered a lung over-pressure accident.

In stopping a panicky diver, do not hold your breath. If you do stop him, do not punch him in the chest to make him exhale, You cannot force a panicky diver to exhale that way. The pressure of such a blow could cause the lung rupture you are trying to prevent. Signal him to exhale using the language or the deaf.

If you have a coughing spell at the surface, try submerging your face. You will gain buoyancy. Your seventeen pound head weighs almost nothing under water. With your mouth aimed down, gravity will help expel the water. Stay near the surface so you can lift your head as soon the coughing spell is over.

During a dive water in your regulator could start you coughing. Swallowing may help. But if it does not, cough into your regulator. Do not remove it. The experienced diver will sense the presence of water and inhale slowly and cautiously with the tip of the tongue at the roof of the mouth, thus excluding water droplets from reaching the air passages that could cause coughing or a laryngeal spasm.

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Many divers lack experience in underwater navigating. This can be a problem. Either you are aware of your limitations and have a boring dive around the anchor or you wander off and often end up with a long swim home.

Navigating relies on 3 basic skills; judging distance, recognising "landmarks" and knowing in which direction you're going.

JUDGING DISTANCE An old favourite is counting fin beats. Although rates vary widely from diver to diver it is surprisingly accurate for an individual. A typical figure would be 2 fin beats per metre travelled. This method is only effective in calm conditions.

Another method uses, as a rough guide, the visible distance. If you have worked out the vis. on your descent by checking your depth gauge against the point that the bottom came into view, then you can apply this distance to objects just visible under water. It is a very rough method as the vertical and horizontal visibilities often differ and the water clarity can change rapidly.

RECOGNISING LANDMARKS One lump of rocks often looks like another. All I can suggest is TAKE YOUR TIME to have a good look around.

DIRECTION It is often hard enough to work out which is up and down let alone horizontal direction. Often natural clues exist like the ripples on a sandy bottom or the flow of current, but I believe the only reliable way is with a compass. I've no wish to discuss all the fine points about compass readings but the following should be noted.

A compass is essentially a magnetised needle (suspended within a "rose") that points to north and south. For underwater applications it should be fluid filled both for protection against the pressure and also for "damping" of the needle.

The "rose" is a circle around its perimeter calibrated from 0 - 360 degrees, 0° = N, 90° = E, 180° = S, 270° = W. Compasses with bezels (movable rings) may be calibrated with the 90° and 270° sides reversed but more of that later.

In a simple compass all you do is move it so the north pole (coloured or pointy end of the needle) lays on the 0°. Your direction, called a bearing, is now indicated by the rose. See fig. 1.

BACK BEARINGS To go back the way you came, you must obviously reverse your direction. This bearing can be calculated simply. IF THE FORWARD DIRECTION IS GREATER THAN 180° SUBTRACT 180°. IF THE FORWARD DIRECTION IS LESS THAN 180° ADD 180° TO IT.

In the example in fig. 1 $120° + 180° = 300°$

BEZEL TYPE COMPASS The simple compass mentioned above is difficult to use. A better type is one with a bezel fitted. In this case the 90° and 270° sides are REVERSED. These are not true bearings.

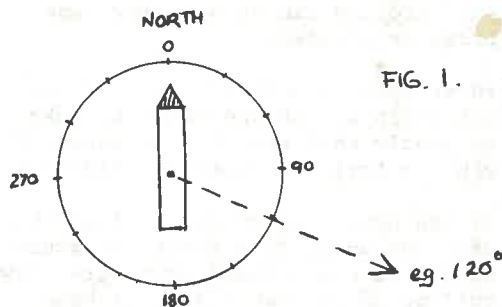


FIG. 1.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

To take a bearing with this compass, simply point the arrow on the rose in the desired direction. Because of the reverse nature of the rose, the north pole of the needle indicates that bearing directly in degrees.

To swim on a bearing, the bezel is set so that the markers line up with the desired angle in degrees. The compass is then rotated until the north pole of the needle lays within the markers. You then head off in the direction of the arrow, ensuring that the needle stays within its marks. e.g. to swim on a bearing of 120°

HINTS Large amounts of iron nearby will badly effect the accuracy of a compass, thus they are often useless near a shipwreck (not a wooden one!) Even a steel tank may influence the readings.

If possible, take bearings to recogniseable objects underwater and swim to them rather than rely wholly on the compass (sideways drift is always a problem)

Practice makes perfect.

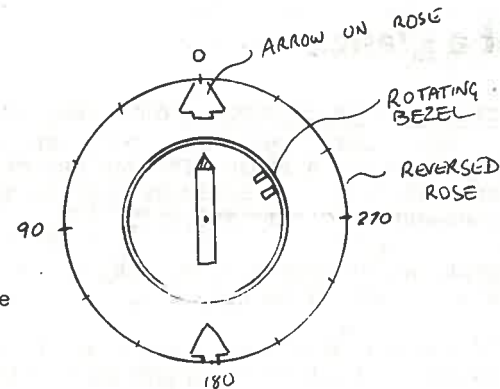


FIG. 2.

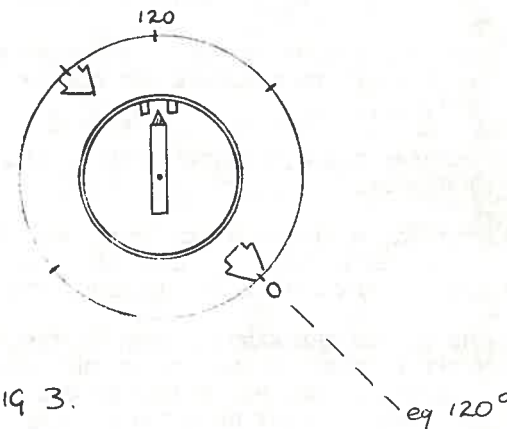


FIG 3.

Don't miss out!



PRESENTATION NIGHT AND OTHER EVENTS

Margaret Langson

The Dive Club Presentation Night is on Friday 14th November, 1986 at 8p.m. at the Y.M.C.A. in Melville which is located in Tompkins Park, off Canning Highway. The tickets are \$6.00 each which includes a light supper and a D.J. Drinks will be available at a small charge. Tickets are available at the door on the night and you are welcome to bring along as many friends as you wish. Last year it was a fun night and this year should be no exception. Look forward to seeing you there.

Anyone who is interested in going out on a Saturday afternoon to view the America's Cup trials should contact me on 361 0842 during business hours to let me know which Saturday you would like to go out. The boat will take approximately 15 - take your own chair. The trials go right through until the 10th January, 1987.

Do not forget that the next General Meeting on the 17th November, 1986 is the Annual General Meeting. After the meeting Barry and Adrian are apparently going to do a duo of some songs - should be an interesting evening!

U.E.C NEWS

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HOW IT HAPPENED.....

Near the mouth of the Blackwood River at Augusta, early in the morning of Wednesday, 30th July, beach walkers observed a large number of false killer whales swimming around in a frenzied fashion in a tightly packed group.

As they watched, one large whale separated from the group and charged through the shallowing waters, struggling and flapping his flukes until stranded high and dry. Several more whales soon followed and within a short time 114 were writhing and rolling in the shallows in a helpless state.

The heart-rending vision was made worse by the pitiful squeals and moans emitted by those gentle and harmless creatures as they, like their helpless onlookers, realised they were about to die.

The plight of the whales was quickly relayed to Russell Cooley, a professional fisherman, who lives close to the beach. Russell, who is a foundation member of the Augusta Sea Rescue Group, realised that a large and co-ordinated effort was required; he immediately phoned the Fisheries Research Department to request assistance. The Fisheries Department contacted the Department of Conservation and Land Management, and a rescue programme was planned.

While appropriate government departments were exchanging ideas and arranging for equipment to be sent to Augusta, word of the stranding spread through the district like a bushfire. Residents left their homes and businesses, schools closed so that the children could help, and hundreds of willing helpers plunged into the surf.

In driving rain and hailstones and bitter cold, one could see shopkeepers, nurses, school children and elderly pensioners, many in their normal clothes, struggling to keep the whales upright.

In the initial stranding the whales were spread over about 200 metres of the beach, but as well-meaning rescuers refloated them, they would swim out until submerged, then turn around and restrain themselves. This process was repeated until 700-800 metres of the shoreline was occupied by struggling dying whales and dismayed frustrated helpers.

By mid-morning word had come from the rescue co-ordinators, experience from previous strandings in the Eastern States had shown that surviving whales should be kept together as a group until they could be coaxed into deep water together.

David Mell from Department of Conservation and Land Management, with other co-ordinators, had evolved a plan to pick up the individual whales from the beach in a front end loader, place them onto trucks, and while keeping them moist, transport them by road to Flinders Bay, where they could be regrouped in deeper sheltered water.

A boat launching ramp and a jetty recently constructed by members of Augusta Sea Search

and Rescue Group proved an invaluable aid in relaunching the whales.

Hundreds of helpers braved atrocious weather and scores donned wetsuits to spend hour after hour in the icy cold water, keeping the whales swimming in a group, and preventing them from damaging themselves on the rocks. During the night some of the rescuers had to be escorted from the water as they were showing signs of hypothermia — a roster was drawn up and strictly policed to prevent further trouble.

By now it appeared that the whales were responding as hoped. They were much less agitated. Individual swimmers developed strong bonds with individual whales and extremes of emotion were witnessed as helpers cried with pity, love and frustration.

As well as to those actually touching the whales, tribute must be paid to the residents of Augusta, and others who came from far and wide — some even travelling from the Eastern States. Tents were erected on the beaches, flood lights set up at night and a constant supply of hot soup and food was provided. When the bakery ran out of bread, several volunteers conducted a door-knock and collected dozens of loaves of bread. Others opened their homes to provide hot showers and sleeping facilities. Special mention should be made of Ted Wright, who made his beachside home available as headquarters for the co-ordinators, and who, with Terry Adams and John Gardner, had their boats on constant standby. These three members of our Rescue Group, along with another 13 members, contributed 239 man-hours during the rescue.

During Wednesday night when the weather was so bad, 12 whales escaped through the human cordon and re-beached themselves on the 'back beach', east of the river mouth, and were rolling in heavy surf. Ted Wright showed great skill and seamanship to manoeuvre his boat through heavy surf into shallow water to retrieve these whales and transport them, slung alongside, back into the river, where they could be gently loaded onto four-wheel drive trucks and taken back to Flinders Bay. By Friday mid-morning, all surviving whales had been resuscitated and were together; it was considered time to release them.

A large female who had delivered a still-born calf, was towed in a sling to the Flinders Pools and as she was being towed past the opening in the reef, the remaining whales were guided into the opening and coaxed into the open sea by swimmers and surfboard riders.

Rescuers followed the progress of the pod as they swam strongly for the open sea.

With mixed emotions of joy for the survivors, sorrow for the few that were lost, and satisfaction from participating, they had just completed the world's most successful whale rescue.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. M.J. Williams
Commander

Augusta Sea Search and Rescue Group

From the Editor

TIBI.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS WITH BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY WET NEW YEAR FROM THE UNDER WATER EXPLORERS CLUB TO ALL.....

BEST WISHES TO DENNIS AND MAREE ON THEIR SPECIAL DAY ON THE 9TH OF JANUARY, MAY ALL THEIR TROUBLES BE LITTLE ONES.....

....READ ABOUT THE WHALE RESCUE AND HOW YOU CAN HELP.....AND READ ABOUT BARRY'S GOOD IDEA....



DIVING REPORT

MAREE CASLEY

In the 2 weeks since I've been Dive Officer diving has been both good and bad - I hope the latter is not a bad omen!

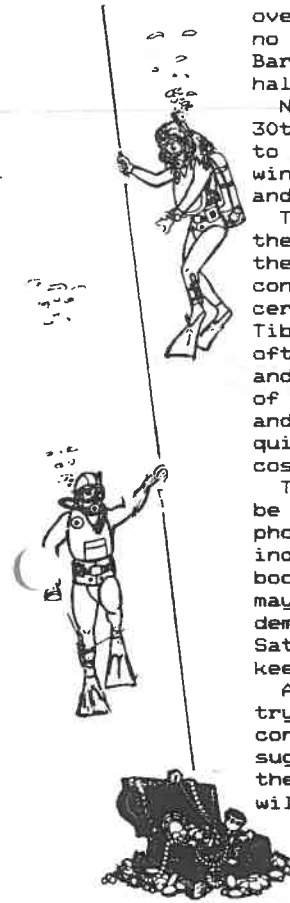
First the good news - the exploratory dive on Sunday 23rd was enjoyed by all. It was a new area to the N/W of Roe Reef. The dive is about 17 metres and some good territory was found similar to Roe Reef with some large coral-covered overhangs and gullies. Marks to the area have been taken and no doubt we will be visiting it again. The second dive was to Barry's Caves on Kingston Reef and from those divers not half-frozen by the strong S/W winds a good dive was reported.

Now the bad news - both the night dive and the dive of the 30th had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. It is hard to believe that summer is upon us and we still have to endure winter-like conditions. Let's hope that the weather improves and this summer is a lot better than last year.

This year 2 new Dive Marshalls will be conducting dives and they are none other than Bob Cotton and Tibi Csomay. Both these divers have many years diving experience and also contribute many hours in diver training so they will certainly be an asset on the boat. Please give both Bob and Tibi, as well as the other Dive Marshalls, your support. It is often not an easy task organising dive sites and buddy pairs and people can be disappointed but remember that the strength of our club depends on the many hours of work given freely and everyone deserves a fair go. This year there will be quite a few new divers on the boat so please show them some consideration and provide assistance if it required.

The new dive calendar for the first 6 months of 1987 should be accompanying this magazine. Keep it handy as it has my phone number on it and remember to book on early as current indications are that the boat will be very busy. Also, if have booked on for a dive and can't make it, let me know as you may be depriving another diver of a day out if you don't! If demand for dive trips is high we may try and go out on Saturdays if the boat is not being used for training. I will keep you informed of any developments.

As much as possible the skippers and Dive Marshalls will try and adhere to the calendar, but as you know, weather conditions determine the dive location. If you have any suggestions for dive sites on those days when we cannot go to the advertised location, let the Dive Marshall know and they will try to get there.



SAFETY AND TECHNICAL REPORT.

ADRIAN ELWARDS.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

NOW THAT THE DIVING SEASON IS REALLY UNDER WAY WITH LOTS OF NEW KEEN MEMBERS IT MIGHT BE TIMELY TO REMIND ALL DIVERS TO CHECK THAT THEIR TANKS ARE CURRENTLY 'IN TEST'. TO DO THIS, SIMPLY LOOK AT THE TOP OF THE TANK WHERE ALL THE DATA IS STAMPED AND IF YOU FIND THAT THE LAST INSPECTION IS STAMPED $\frac{12}{85}$ OR EARLIER THEN YOU MUST HAVE THE TANK TESTED.

THE NEW LAWS STIPULATE THAT YOU ONLY NEED TO HAVE A HYDROSTATIC TEST EVERY SECOND YEAR NOW, SO IF YOUR LAST STAMP HAS A V NEXT TO IT, YOU ARE UP FOR A HYDROSTATIC. IF YOU HAVE NO V, THEN YOU ONLY NEED A VISUAL INSPECTION WHICH IS MUCH CHEAPER.

FILLING STATIONS HAVE A LEGAL DUTY TO REFUSE TO FILL TANKS WHICH ARE NOT IN TEST AND THIS WILL INCLUDE US WHEN OUR OWN COMPRESSOR COMES INTO USE. WE SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD THE TROUBLE IT WOULD CAUSE IF WE HAD AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING AN UNTESTED TANK.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR TANKS AND IF TESTING IS REQUIRED, HAVE IT DONE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PETER HENRY OF 22 KEITH ROAD ROSSMOYNE, PHONE 4573303 WILL GET THEM DONE WITHIN THE WEEK IF YOU DROP THE TANKS IN TO HIM BY THE MONDAY, YOU CAN HAVE YOUR TANKS BACK BY THE WEEKEND AND AT THE RIGHT PRICE.

ALSO, JUST A POINT WHILE ON THE SUBJECT. WHEN BUYING SECOND HAND TANKS, CHECK FOR TEST AND IF GROSSLY OUT OF DATE IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO MAKE AN OFFER SUBJECT TO PASSING A FULL HYDRO TEST.

FINALLY, DON'T OVERLOOK YOUR REGS AND DEPTH GAUGES FOR SERVICE EITHER. CHECK HIRE GEAR BEFORE YOU TAKE IT AWAY. THIS INCLUDES TANKFILL B.C. LEAKS AND REG. HOSES.

CHEERS ADRIAN.

RESULTS OF THE A.G.M. 17.11.86

The following members have been elected to run the Club in the coming year.

President and O.C. Training
Vice President and O.C. Social
Secretary and P.R.
Treasurer
O.C. Diving
Committee 1. and O.C. Boat
Committee 2. and O.C. Safety & Technical
Committee 3. and O.C. Building & Library
Committee 4. and Magazine Editor & Research
Radio
Property
Committee 5.

Barry Kennedy
Alison Keen
Margaret Langson
Peter Horton
Maree Casley
Dennis Stubberfield
Adrian Edwards
Mario Branchetti
Tibi Csomay
A. Wallis
A. Kramer
Peter Mortimer.

LOBSTER

Of various factors influencing the size of the catch in the lucrative WA rock lobster industry, the question of reduction of numbers by disease has had comparatively little research attention.

The fact that few diseased lobsters turn up in the pots is no real guide, as moribund adults are unlikely to be able to forage for food and so walk into baited pots.

Studies around the world show significant losses in prawns, lobsters and crabs to bacterial disease, fungal infection and marine viruses.

Parasites also cause disease and a recent study of female lobsters which carry their eggs on the underside of the tail, showed that 74 per cent had worms which significantly affected the proportion of eggs lost.

Dr. Louis Evans, senior lecturer in Medical Technology, is working under a joint WAIT/CSIRO collaborative research projects grant to study the nature and incidence of disease patterns in the Western Rock lobster.

"We are surveying the lower age groups - the puerulus (the tiny ones just out of larval stage), and the juveniles, from half-grown to undersized adults.

"We are looking at factors that may influence the numbers which grow to maturity by microscopically inspecting tissue samples for parasites and evidence of any diseases," she said

"At least 50 in each of the three age-groups - puerulus, early juvenile and late juvenile - will be examined.

"Each will first be checked for any abnormal features, such as shell lesions, then tissue from the gills, stomach, hepatopancreas (a gland which combines the duties of liver and pancreas), hind gut, sex organs and muscles will be examined using a compound or stereo microscope. Representative samples of various organs will be fixed and stored, along with any parasitic organisms.

"Stained paraffin sections will also be checked for dead cells, abnormal structures within the cells, and any unusual increase or decrease in size of cells."



RESEARCH.

TIBI.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN DISCOVERING UNLOCATED WRECKS, FINDING KNOWN WRECKS ON WHICH WE HAVE NOT DIVED ON AND GENERALLY HELPING WITH RESEARCH PLEASE TALK TO ME AT THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING.

THE BOAT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON ANY DAY EXCEPT SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS. INTERESTED MEMBERS WILL HAVE TO COORDINATE, DAYS OFF, HOLIDAYS, SICKIES ETC.

An estimated 20,000 porpoises are killed each year off the West Coast of America after becoming entangled in fishing nets....

SOCIAL REPORT.

MAREE CASLEY.

TO COINCIDE WITH THE ONSET OF WARMER WEATHER, QUITE A FEW SOCIAL EVENTS HAVE BEEN PLANNED - YOU MIGHT SAY THINGS ARE HOTTING UP.

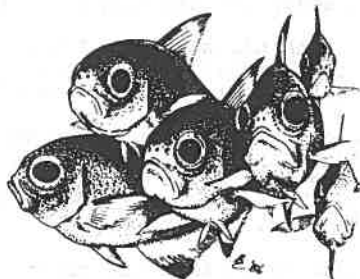
THE FIRST EVENT ON THE SOCIAL CALENDAR IS THE NOT TO BE MISSED U.E.C. CHRISTMAS PARTY. THIS YEAR THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE HAS PLANNED AN ITALIAN NIGHT AT THE CLUB ROOMS ON FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER (SO AS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH EVENTS PLANNED FOR SUNDAY RE HANGOVERS). FESTIVITIES WILL KICK OFF AT 7.30. THERE WILL BE HEAPS OF YUMMY ITALIAN FOOD AND JUST TO GET EVERYONE IN THE MOOD, PERHAPS A BOTTLE OR TWO OF LAMBRUSCO. EVERYONE (INCLUDING HUSBANDS / WIVES / GIRLFRIENDS / THE NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOUR AND THEIR DOG) IS WELCOME. THERE MIGHT EVEN BE SOME GOODIES FOR THE YOUNG ONES SO MAKE SURE THEY COME AS WELL. CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT WE CAN PROVIDE ALL THIS ENTERTAINMENT FOR ONLY \$4.00?

HOT ON THE HEELS OF FRIDAY NIGHT'S EXCURSION INTO FUN AND FRIVOLITY IS THE BOAT TRIP TO ROTTNEST WITH OUR ANNUAL B.B.Q. AT GREEN ISLAND. THOSE OF YOU WHO ATTENDED THE LAST TWO CHRISTMAS PARTIES ON THE ISLAND WILL REMEMBER THE GOOD TIME YOU HAD -- OR DO YOU? NEVERTHELESS THIS PARTY IS NOW LEGENDARY AND IT IS A FOOLISH PERSON INDEED THAT DOESN'T WISH TO ATTEND. UNFORTUNATELY NUMBERS ON THIS TRIP MAY BE LIMITED, SO GET IN EARLY AND RING ME TO BOOK ON. ALL YOU NEED TO BRING ON THE DAY IS YOUR MEAT, SALAD AND REFRESHMENTS - CHEAP EH?

SATURDAY 17TH JANUARY HERALDS A NEW AREA IN U.E.C. SOCIAL EVENTS. THIS EVENING WILL BE SOLELY DEVOTED TO ENJOYING ONESELF AND DEVOURING A BEEF ON A SPIT. MINE HOST ON THIS NIGHT WILL BE PETER AND PEG HENRY AT THEIR HACIENDA LOCATED AT 22. KEITH RD. ROSSMOYNE. NOT ONLY DO THE GROUNDS OF THEIR LOVELY HOME BOAST LEAFY PALM TREES AND BOUGANVILLEA BUT ALSO A SWIMMING POOL SO BRING YOUR BATHERS. SO AS TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THEIR HOSPITALITY (AND THEIR POOL) BE THERE ABOUT 7.00PM. TO HELP WITH CATERING ARRANGEMENTS. LET SUE KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING ON 3648014. A MERE CHARGE OF ONLY \$10.00 APPLIES TO COVER THE COST OF ALL THE FOOD YOU CAN EAT (INCLUDING SWEETS) PLUS DRINKS. FOR THOSE OF YOU DIVING THE NEXT DAY PLEASE WATCH YOUR INCOHOL (HIC) INTAKE.

NOMINATIONS.

KAREN JOY HUBBARD
FRANK H.W. HUBBARD 2 JACKMAN ST. MELVILLE.
RON RICHARDS 253 VINCENT ST. LEEDERVILLE.
NEIL ROBERT SPARROW 73 TORQUATA DR. MIRRABOOKA.
CAROLYN FRENCH 57 CARGILL ST. VICTORIA PARK.
DAVID NEIL PEARSON EGLINGTON CRES. HAMMERSLY.



THE NEXT FISHING TRIP WILL BE ON SATURDAY JANUARY 3 RD. BOAT DEPARTS 6 PM.
FRIDAY JANUARY 2ND. THOSE TAKING PART WILL SLEEP ON THE BOAT.

It was nice to see John Waldon at the last meeting.

PRESIDENTS REPORT.

WELL, THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER, AND WE NOW HAVE SELECTED THOSE PEOPLE WHO WILL RUN THE CLUB AND ORGANISE OUR ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS.

AT THIS POINT I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THOSE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, BOTH PAST AND CURRENT, FOR THE WORK THEY HAVE DONE IN BRINGING THIS CLUB UP TO ITS PRESENT HIGH STANDARD.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN PARTICULAR PEOPLE PUT INTO THIS CLUB, AN OUTSTANDING AMOUNT OF WORK AND EFFORT, UNSELFISHLY GIVING THEIR TIME, SO THAT OTHERS CAN ENJOY THEMSELVES. IT WORRIES ME THAT THESE PEOPLE DON'T GET ENOUGH RECOGNITION FOR THE WORK THEY DO. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE COULD SHOW OUR APPRECIATION IN A MORE POSITIVE WAY.

THIS YEAR I PROPOSE TO RESTRUCTURE OUR TROPHIES AND PRESENTATIONS IN SUCH A WAY THAT WE CAN SHOW THESE PARTICULAR PEOPLE, JUST HOW WE DO APPRECIATE THEM.

OUR RECENT PRESENTATION NIGHT WENT VERY WELL, QUITE ENJOYABLE AND WELL ORGANISED NIGHT (AND MORNING FOR SOME OF US). THANK YOU MARGARET.

TRAINING IS PROGRESSING EXCEPTIONALLY WELL. WITH THE GROUP ALREADY ONTO THE COMPRESSED AIR SECTION OF OUR PROGRAM. ONCE AGAIN I WOULD ASK THOSE MEMBERS OF THE CLUB WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH THE TRAINING TO CONTACT ME. YOU DON'T NEED ANY SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO US, AND SOME PEOPLE MAY WELL FIND THAT INVOLVEMENT WITH OUR TRAINING WILL HELP THEM TO IMPROVE THEIR OWN SKILLS AND INCREASE THEIR CONFIDENCE. IT CAN BE A VERY SATISFYING EXPERIENCE.

SEE YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING.

BARRY.



TALL SHIP VISITS AT FREMANTLE.

BY: DENIS ROBINSON.

STS LEEUWIN DEPARTS FREMANTLE FOR HOBART ON THE 14 DECEMBER 1986.

EYE OF THE WIND IS IN FREMANTLE FROM THE 19 TO THE 28 DECEMBER 1986

FALIE ARRIVES FREMANTLE 6 JANUARY 1986.

A FLEET OF ELEVEN SQUARE RIGGED SHIPS WILL BE IN FREMANTLE FROM THE 17 DECEMBER 1987 TO 23 DECEMBER 1987.

A FLEET OF UP TO TWENTY SAILING SHIPS WILL GATHER IN DECEMBER 1987.

You can avoid a lung rupture by not closing off any of your airway, but there is more to this than simply exhaling while ascending. An airway may be closed off not only by holding the breath. Small airways may also be closed off by unhealthy lungs: tumours, cysts, scars and excess mucous caused by smoking.

Become a Regular Contributor

LETTER FROM JOANNE

Dear Tibi Csomay,

Thankyou very much for making contact with me. It is good to know that there are other people who are interested in what we are doing.

After the Augusta whale rescue there were a few people down here who were amazed that we didn't have our own rescue group set up and that we had to get experts over from the Eastern States to help us. I started looking around because of this, in order to find out if we did have any such group. It didn't take long to find out that there wasn't an existing group and that the Government groups involved at Augusta wanted one set up. I spent a few days in Perth visiting with Conservation and Land Management Officers who were very helpful and encouraging. Their Chief Wildlife Officer, Dave Mell, is being very supportive and is in the process of seeing if they can help us by lending their training centre to us for our Perth meetings. We are going to work in very closely with C.A.L.M. as we feel that they are the main people who get notified of any strandings and they in turn will notify us. We will also pool our resources and equipment so that we have a good rescue kit and not double up on things. C.A.L.M. at the moment is acting as our Perth contact and is then referring people onto us. They also feel that we should look at attending dolphin and seal strandings as we could be too constricted just attending whales. Dave Mell said that we would be a big asset at any future strandings as we now have as much experience as they have, due to being involved at Augusta.

When we were in Perth we also visisted with the Museums Mammal Dept. who were also very helpful. The people there are prepared to help in any way they can and have offered to come and give talks on whales and their behaviour etc. when we start having meetings. We also spent a day at Atlantis Marine Park which was very informative. The people there were also helpful and have offered any assistance they can. All in all everyone is very responsive towards us.

We hope eventually to have the whole of the W.A. coastline covered. In the event there is another stranding, we will have people on the spot who know exactly what to do. At the moment though we feel it is an education time. Time to learn about all Cetaceans and how to handle them, what to do if they strand and how to record the data that is needed at every stranding. We are madly collecting any data we can lay our hands on at the moment. We are also in touch with the Whale Rescue groups in the Eastern States and we are gaining information from them. Eventually we hope to have the man power to get out to shops, schools etc. and be able to give talks on the subject and let people know what to do if they come across a whale or a group of them stranded.

We would like to see sub groups in districts like Perth, South West, South East and North. These groups would have meetings monthly. The meetings would either be in the form of an organised meeting or they could be in the form of a discussion group. We would call a main meeting three or six monthly and these meetings would be in Perth and in the form of a Committee meeting more than likely followed by a talk given by a guest speaker or we could have a workshop type meeting.

We have yet to decide on a name for our group. If you have any suggestions, I would be happy to hear them. Also a big worry at the moment is funds. We drastically need some money as it is costing me a fortune to get this group off the ground. Do you have any suggestions that might help me in this field?

At the moment we need as many people as possible to help set up this group, as we feel it is a major necessity. As soon as we have enough people interested we will set a date to hold a meeting in Perth. Hopefully this will be sooner than we originally thought.

I was happy to hear that there are people from your group who wanted to know more about us. People from the Underwater Explorers would be a big asset to our group as they have wetsuits, knowledge of the seas and can swim. They also know about most of the seas inhabitants and this will be very helpful. If there is anyone who would like to help us in any way we would like to hear from them. The addresses and phone numbers below can put people in touch with someone who can help them.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Joanne

Addresses: Joanne Faed
C/- District Hospital,
Busselton 6280
Ph: 097 52 3454

Ann McGree
P.O. Box 161,
Augusta 6290
Ph: 098 58 1770

Beth Copeland
C.A.L.M.
13 Queen St,
Busselton 6280
Ph: Work 097 52 1677
Home 097 52 3478

Peter Penning
C.A.L.M. Headquarters
Como
Ph: 367 0333



UNDERWATER CUCKOO

Tetsu Sato, of the University of Kyoto in Japan, reports that a fish living in Lake Tanganyika in Africa has adopted similar tactics-to ensure success in breeding-to the cuckoo's strategy.

During his studies of the spotted catfish, Sato was unable to find any free living fry. Instead newly hatched catfish were always inside the mouths of certain types of cichlid fish.

Cichlids are unusual in that, unlike most fish, they are diligent parents and guard their eggs and young until they can look after themselves. A few cichlids have gone so far as to keep their fertilised eggs in a brood chamber inside their mouths. The fry live within the chamber and take regular trips out of the mouth to feed.

Sato found that the crafty catfish parasited the mouth brooding cichlids. Instead of rearing cichlid young, the fish were rearing one or more catfish fry. Like the cuckoos, the catfish eggs hatched well before the host's eggs. Invariably, the young catfish devoured the cichlid eggs or small fry before going outside to feed.

How the catfish sneaks its eggs into the brood chamber is a mystery.