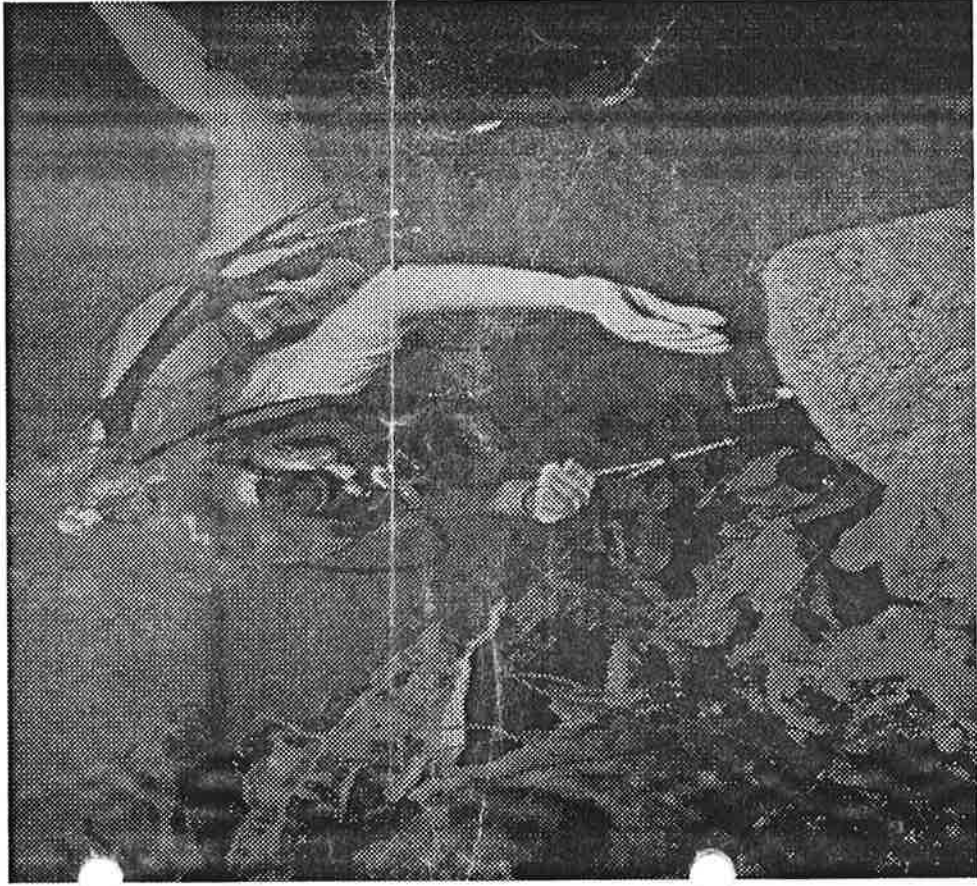


SENDER:
Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc.)
PO Box 1157, Booragoon, WA 6154

THE UEC NEWS

M O N T H L Y M A G A Z I N E



APRIL
1997

JANUARY 1997

UEC NEWS

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc)
Print Post Approved by Australia Post
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SURFACE
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AUSTRALIA

Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Cr
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

THE COMMITTEE 1997

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	Phone 457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 454 8580
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	Phone 451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	Phone 445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Geoff Geard	Phone 453 1723
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TRAINING OFFICER	Judy Cowan	Phone 417 9900
BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Steve Larler	Phone 291 9654
SOCIAL OFFICER	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 454 8580
PR OFFICER	Bruce Porter	Phone 367 2287
DIVE BOOKINGS	Geoff Geard	Phone 453 1723

FOR SALE

Mens Dive Suit 5mm SONAR
Plus lined 2 piece size 3.5
Excellent Condition - \$170.00

ALSAFE Sea-gull Lifejacket
For persons of 40kg & over - **\$10.00**

ALSAFE Tadpole Lifejacket
11-22kg - **\$20.00**

HUTCHWILCO Life Vest
22-40kg - **\$25.00**

Short Leg Short Arm Wetsuit
Suit child - **\$25.00**

1 Pair New Yachting Gloves RONSTAN XL - **\$18.00**
1 Pair Yachting Gloves RONSTAN - **\$8.00**

Warren Cummins (09) 337-8337

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Phone : 459 4662

CLUB CALENDAR

JANUARY /February 1997

MONTH/DATE	EVENT
JANUARY	
Fri 3	Prawn Dive - Cookup - Geoff G Open - Boat Free Request Dive
Sat 4	SKIPPER: Richard N / Geoff C
Sun 5	SKIPPER: Richard N / Geoff C
Wed 8	COMMITTEE MEETING - 5:30pm
Sat 11	Open Two Tank Luc F
Sun 12	Two Tank Dive : BSAC : Tam
Sat 18	SKIPPER: Barry K / BSAC Open
Sun 19	Cray Dive Skipper Peter H / Brian M
Mon 20	GENERAL MEETING - 5:30pm Dinner (must be pre booked) : 6:30pm
Sat 25	Open SKIPPER: Bob Mc / Jim R - 454 7868 Early Dive : 7:00am SKIPPER: Geoff C / Luc F
Sun 26	SOCIAL * AUSTRALIA DAY SKY SHOW
Sun 26	
FEBRUARY	
Sat 1	Exploratory Dive - One Tank Skipper Kerry A / Susie A
Sun 2	Two Tank
Sat 8	SKIPPER: Bob Mc / Judy C Open
Sun 16	DO's Choice SKIPPER: Dennis S / Maree C
Sat 17	GENERAL MEETING - 5:30pm Dinner (must be pre-booked) : 6:30pm
Sat 22	One Tank : BSAC : Tam SKIPPER: Richard N / BSAC
Sun 23	Early Dive One Tank : Tam SKIPPER: Peter H / Luc F

NOTES

- : DEPARTS SWAN YACHT CLUB LOADING JETTING
- : Check Your Departure Time
- : All Dives Subject to Weather
- : Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with DO Geoff Geard
- : **NOT THE CREW**

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made with Geoff Geard

Phone : 453 1723

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

Welcome to 1997 - I hope you all had a great Christmas and survived New Year's Eve without too big a headache. For some of you, I'm sure the jolly fellow in the red suit brought you some new dive gear. Check out the bookings with Geoff as soon as possible so that you can christen your gift at the earliest opportunity.

I'm hoping that this year will be a bumper one for the UEC for both diving and social activities. If the New Year's Eve party at SYC is anything to go by our social scene will have everyone hopping. The evening was really great, although stifling hot and everyone enjoyed themselves. The next social evening, the Skyworks, also promises to be just as great. Check with Bob to see if there are any places left on this sought-after event.

Now is the time for us to make the most of the summer weather conditions and try some different diving. Always popular in the past have been overnights and night dives out to Stragglers. These are easy to organise, so get together with some friends and get cracking whilst the weather is good. The boat is also great for river cruises with your friends and family. Just pick the day or night and ri Geoff to make a booking. There are endless opportunities to enjoy club facilities, all you have to do is do it!

Hope to see you all soon at the next meeting.

Maree

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF

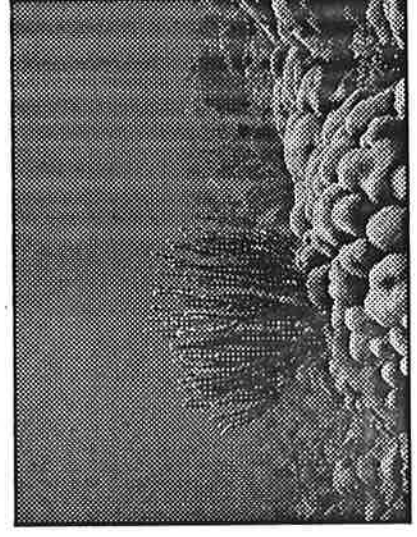
1997

Coral reefs are one of the most diverse and beautiful of the earth's ecosystems and have an importance that goes far beyond that of pure aesthetics. Tropical coastlines in many countries are protected and stabilised by living coral reefs and millions of people from at least 100 national states derive either resources, such as building materials and food, and/or their livelihood from tourism and fisheries, from coral reefs.

Coral reefs around the world are being threatened by factors such as over-fishing, coastal development, run-off from agriculture and logging, high-impact tourism and many other causes.

The International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 1997 will begin a major effort of assessment, education and collaboration. Scientists and volunteers from the worldwide diving community will aid in diagnosing the condition of representative reefs throughout the tropical seas. Aquariums, scientists and conservation organisations are collaborating to produce a variety of courses, video tapes and other education material. Individual coral reef areas are creating or revising management plans for their coastal zones. With the involvement and financial support of Governments, foundations and individuals, all these initiatives and more can be put in place to ensure that the world's coral reefs are preserved for the future.

Now may be a good time to look at your own impact on coral reefs both as a club and as individuals. Scuba divers are in the privileged position of being able to see and enjoy these amazing resources for themselves, not just on a TV screen. So let's get your thinking caps on and see what ideas we can come up with to support the International Year of the Reef.



NOMINATIONS

Mark Lennard - Victoria Park

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FOR ALL YOUR GLASS REQUIREMENTS



PILKINGTON VICTOR GLASS

Greenwood: 20 Canham Way	342 3737
Midland: 234 Gl. Eastern Hwy	274 5833
Myaree: 79 McCoy St	330 2333
North Perth: 18 Scribro Bch Rd	444 5333
Sth Fremantle: 109 Hampton Rd	335 2044
Victoria Park: 1 Mint St	362 2270
Kalgoorlie: 75 Dugan St	(090) 21 2724
Albany: Cockburn Rd	(098) 41 1622

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Glass Repairer**

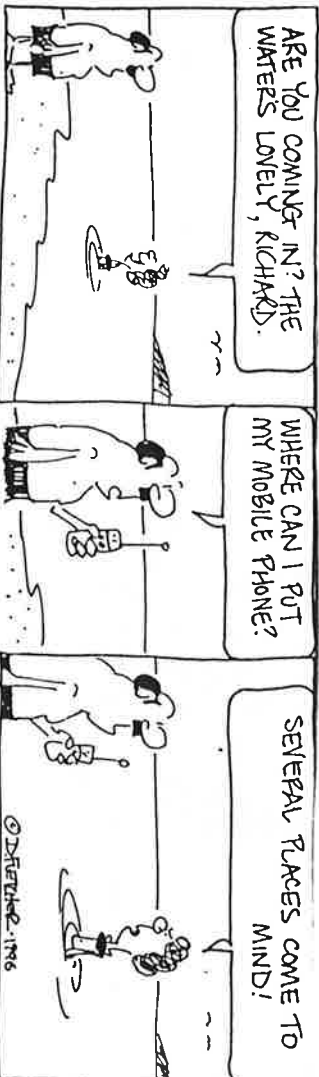
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330 2333



ARE YOU COMING IN? THE
WATERS LOVELY, RICHARD.

WHERE CAN I PUT
MY MOBILE PHONE?

SEVERAL PLACES COME TO
MIND!



EDITORIAL

Steve Larler

Happy New Year! 1997 promises to be as eventful as 1996. The ongoing changes within UEC will carry on in our quest for more members. We presently have a major dilemma. We have a club with the best possible assets for diving and a well organised social activity programme. What we are lacking is active divers who are looking for every opportunity to get wet and are enthusiastic about their sport. Our present membership has a large number of divers who have been there and done it and now only want to be involved in particular events in the best weather conditions and who can't come them. To ensure the future of UEC we must attract new members as the life blood of UEC.

Ways to attract the ever increasing numbers of qualified divers need to be considered. There has never been so much competition for the recreation divers involvement amongst the Perth diving community. We cannot sit on our hands and rely on the members of long standing for the club's future. The methods we have adopted during our diving operations have proven to be highly successful and we are often complemented by new divers and visitors on our professionalism.

We can also offer qualified divers further training in boat handling and boat diving techniques which are not offered by any of the commercial diving operators, we must capitalize on our strengths and build membership. Help is going to be requested from all of our members in the coming months to start spreading the word on the benefits of being a member of UEC. Work is currently underway on a revised information booklet outlining the activities of UEC to the public who may be considering joining us.

If you have friends or relatives who are interested, bring them along for a day on the boat.

When prospective new members and visitors attend any of our activities make them welcome, remember your first introduction to UEC and make them feel as relaxed and welcome as possible. They may turn out to be another Peter Horton or Dennis Stubberfield.

"MEMBERS", just do it!

Steve

WRECK RESEARCH GROUP

Steve Larler

For those of you who missed Decembers monthly meeting and the very informative presentation given by Lyn Jones about his past diving experiences in the early days of diving and the UEC, you certainly missed an excellent evening.

The talk of the early research and eventual discovery of historical shipwrecks along the WA coastline has whetted my own appetite for wrecks. I would like to form a group of interested divers who would like to be involved in wreck research. I cannot guarantee any major discoveries but a look at some of the known wrecks and their origins will make these dives of particular interest. There are still a number of wrecks which remain undiscovered, one in particular 'The Twinkling Star' which is somewhere off Garden Island. There is a reward for significant shipwreck discoveries and the persons who find a wreck do receive recognition for their discoveries by the State Government.

If you are interested please contact me and we shall arrange a suitable programme for 1997.

EXTRACT FROM UEC NEWS SEPTEMBER 1984

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Paul Brooker

Members, as part of my monthly report, I shall include all motions passed at the Committee Meetings. This should help you, the member, be informed.

Special Meeting 26 July 1984

1. Motion that Martin Smith be allowed to spend up to \$600 on the Club boat repairs - carried unanimously.
2. Secretary moved that all expenditure by any officer of this club must receive prior approval at a meeting of the Committee of management of general meeting before purchasing any goods or hiring of any labour - carried unanimously.

Committee Meeting 6 August 1984

1. Motion that the Club send a thank you letter to Dave Kenny. Carried.
2. Motion that a Committee recommendation that we abolish scuba training and canvas for qualified divers through dive shops and other means be carried to the general meeting for discussion. Carried.

Once again, I am happy to report club improvements. The club boat has been overhauled and looks and runs well - 12 knots cruising speed I have been told. Our thanks to Dave Kenny for all the time and labour he and his men put into the job. Incidentally, Dave's bill was only \$473 and I would say without his help the bill would have been more like \$1,500.

Peter Horton, as usual, saved the club heaps on the steering gear which was US. Our thanks also to the rest of the members who pitched in and helped.

Another improvement was the removal of the glass partition at the clubrooms and with the roll-up at the last general meeting, we certainly needed the space. Thanks to Dane Brooker and Steve Oddy for their help... Social Committee now handles drinks and takes some of the load off Peter Horton.

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

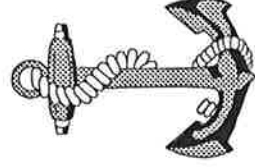
The engine and gear box reconstruction has lifted boat performance but the burden of the coat has left us room for nothing else in the way of improvements to the boat. Such things as deck carpet, sound proofing, anchor winches etc. will simply have to wait.

The cheap anti-foul put on the boat last September has once again proved the old adage that you only get what you pay for and the bottom of 'UE' is already badly barnacle encrusted. We must make a concerted effort to keep her full clean, or fuel usage and vibration will keep us poor and do much expensive mechanical damage. The best way to tackle this is for all to do a small amount consistently, with the moving parts like propellers and shafts taking priority. In contrast and with the benefit of hindsight I chose the most expensive and highly recommended anti-foul to put on my own boat so I will soon have irrefutable evidence (I hope), that its false economy to use cheap anti-foul!! However, in defense I have to please (insanity), no enormous pressure to keep costs down, which sometimes comes unstuck. (You will note dear readers that I initially used the same rubbish in my boat and with the same results too - but didn't look under my bottom before accepting it for 'UE'). As soon as we can afford it, we'll pull her out and replace it. Meanwhile, it's out with the scrubbing brushes and use her as much as we can - hopefully a good scrubbing will release a good layer and get us through the season.

Finally, we need to have another look at our mooring very, very soon so don't leave town folks, I'll be in touch.

Cheers Folks!

Stubby



SAFETY REPORT

Ric Young

Hi! Fellow Divers

Last month I mentioned my plan to encourage safe diving by informing club members of incidents that occur during diving operation that have the potential to harm, so that we can learn from the incident.

When I first qualified as an open water diver my first boat dive in hindsight could have been conducted in a safer manner than actually occurred and may have prevented me having an unpleasant experience.

The diving conditions were reasonable with about 1 metre waves and 1 metre swell and slight surface current.

My buddy and I donned our diving equipment, conducted buddy checks and the Diving Officer gave the signal to enter the water using the giant stride method from the stern platform of the boat, which I carried out without incident, however, my buddy had some problem with his mask just before he was about to enter the water and was delayed for about 10 minutes. During this period I had to maintain my position in the water a short distance from the boat without the aid of a mermaid line. Anyway, my buddy entered the water and we conducted our final check and commenced the descent a short distance from the boat without a shot or reference line as instructed by the Diving Officer in the pre-dive briefing.

As I descended I had increasing difficulty breathing and at about 10 metres signaled to my buddy that I was aborting the dive and returned to the surface, probably faster than what is considered safe to do so, still having difficulty obtaining a lung full of air, in some discomfort but otherwise OK.

After resting a few minutes my buddy and I commenced the 50 - 75 metre swim back to the boat against the current. (Lucky for me it was not too strong), and in a short time was back on board where I produced a huge burp! That released air from my stomach and relieved the pressure against my diaphragm causing my difficulty in breathing. Well, it was a great relief to me in more ways than one as up until then I really didn't know what was causing my problem. My buddy and I did not return to the water immediately but had a successful dive about 2 hours later without incident at another dive site.

Well fellow divers, you will be pleased to know that this dive was not conducted by UEC and if some simple rules and equipment were used this incident probably would not have occurred.

For example, the use of mermaid lines, reference lines, i.e. shot line or anchor line, and encouraging divers to swim forward of the boat.

The knowledge of what was causing my difficulty in breathing would have possibly allowed me to release the air underwater or make a more leisurely ascent. I'm sure there are a few more lessons that can be learnt from this incident, so if you have any ideas, please let me know.

Ric

PRESENTATION DAY REPORT

Hetty Geard

I just missed the last magazine, but no matter.

Sunday 8 December 1996 turned out to be a very hot day. With the Strongbow flowing freely from the Gargoyle's mouth, people were (gingerly at first) dipping their medieval drinking horns under, for a refreshing drink.

Banners flying in the background, a jester appeared in his colourful costume with bells ringing, to greatly entertain the crowd of peasants who were gathering. He was a sight to behold! Then off to the side a feud began and a group of Medieval warriors started rattle. Swords, daggers and armour were glinting in the hot sun. Sweat was pouring from them as they fought to the death. Their honour was at stake!

That was only some of the events of that afternoon. Everybody that came had a fabulous time and then came the most important part of the day.

THE TROPHY PRESENTATIONS

Awards To:

Clubperson of the Year
Boatperson of the Year
Most Improved Diver
Appreciation Awards

Kerry Ashton	O'Ring Award
Richard Naylor	Golden Thong Aware
Geoff Geard	
Hetty Geard	
Brian Murray	
Iiana Murray	
Bruce Porter	
Jim Robson	
Pat Troy	
Warren Cummins	
Marree Casley	

...they all greatly deserved them and were honoured by having to walk under a sword - arch to receive their trophies. Congratulations again to all the above.

The lunch banquet was served next. It was delicious with beef and port on the spit, hot vegetables and salads. (Only forks were provided though, as this was after all a medieval day and they used their fingers in those days...) Lovely cheesecake and fruit salad was for desert.

The turnout was great, good on you guys and gals. Thanks again for coming and supporting your club. Thanks also to the "imitation warrior" who slashed my chair to pieces with my sword... Better find yourself some armour and a sword of your own, then we will see what you are really made of.....

Hetty

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Luc Fauvet

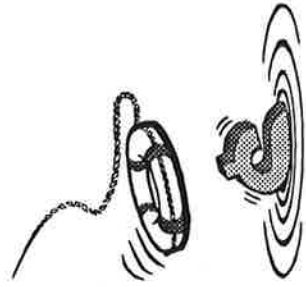
Fellow UEC members, I am sure you all know that the club is in deep financial difficulties. In fact, as you read this letter, there are some dedicated members manning the pumps trying to keep us afloat.

Over the years the membership has steadily declined and the debits have steadily risen. Dear readers, it does not take a 'Rhodes Scholar' to figure out that we cannot go on like this much longer. However, all is not lost and you my fellow divers will not have to lift a finger or contribute a single cent. No, I am not bent or narked, the answer is sell the Ex - Clubrooms.

I can hear shouts of 'hanging is too quick, burn him as a heretic' they are saying.

You will have noticed that I wrote Ex - Clubrooms, because we are now associated with the Swan Yacht Club. I know that some old and not so old members dream of the day when we shall return to the promised land. I say to these people 'dream on' but I would rather go diving and for that you need a dive boat in good repair.

Please refrain from tearing up this newsletter, instead give me a ring on **459 4204**.



DIVING OFFICERS REPORT

Geoff Geard

'HAPPY NEW YEAR' EVERYONE!

My Christmas / New Year break was very pleasant. Diving off Rottnest looking for crayfish and diving in the river catching heaps of prawns.

The diving season is definitely here with some great diving being had at Rottnest, Victoria Station, Catherine's Grotto, Jackson and Arch Rocks to name a few.

We even had a couple of International divers on the 29th December. They had a wonderful time and would like to do another dive when they return from Exmouth!!

The boat is going extremely well, as it should and there have been vacancies available. To book your place ring me on **453 1723**. Don't forget those social events (or private) as well.

Over the Christmas period we have had some good turnouts for getting prawns for Christmas dinners, with everybody catching them. Don't forget the 'Social Prawnning Night' at Kent Street on the 1st FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Let's see more tanks on backs out there, even if you're not a diver, come out for a leisurely day on the boat, or a refreshing swim.

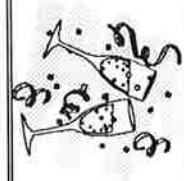
Let's make 1997 a bumper year for diving. Ring **453 1723** and I'll book you on.

Once again 'Happy New Year'. (See you on the boat)

Geoff.



SOCIAL EVENTS - Bob McLaughlin



CLUB MEETING

20 January 1997

We are hoping for a guest speaker and are awaiting confirmation at time of print.

VALENTINES DAY

14 February 1997



Special Sundowner 6.30pm - 9.30pm. Come along with the Club for a romantic Valentines Sundowner at the Clubhouse.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY



Our party was certainly something to remember. Everyone at Swan Yacht Club enjoyed themselves.

NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

Social night at SYC 15 Jan ^{Sat Feb} 1997 - "The Troupadores". _{8.30}

Tickets will be available from Bob:

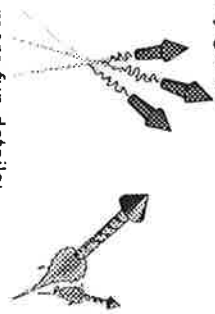
- \$7.00 — Members
- \$10.00 — Friends
- \$15.00 — Buffet

Come along for a great night out!

AUSTRALIA DAY SKY SHOW

SUNDAY 26 JANUARY 1997

Fanta! The boat is filled up with happy people already! No places left! So, all I want now is your money to confirm your booking. \$20 per person must be paid to BOB at the January General Meeting (or before). We already have names down on the Reserve List, so if you don't pay in time, they get in!



Now to more fun details:

Pick-up at SYC jetty at 5.00pm. Champagne cocktail and nibbles will be served, as we cruise up the river in time to park "UE" in a favourable position to see the S Show at dark. On arrival we'll have some sumptuous chicken, salad and buttered buns.

PS. If you don't like or want champagne, please BYO whatever.. and a deck chair to sit on (if you want to sit on a deck chair!). See you there! "Brownie points" for those who dress "Aussie" flag colours or green and gold. Maybe even a little prize for the best outfit!

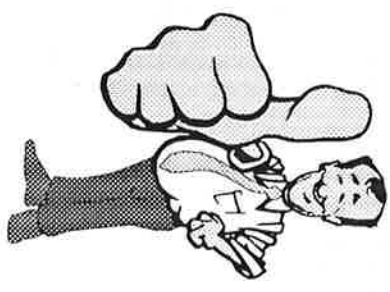
Suave

STOP PRESS * STOP PRESS
STOP PRESS * STOP PRESS

WHOEVER TOOK THE PARTY
FLAG AWAY FROM THE BOAT -
PLEASE ARRANGE TO HAVE IT
BACK ABOARD ON 26
JANUARY!!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

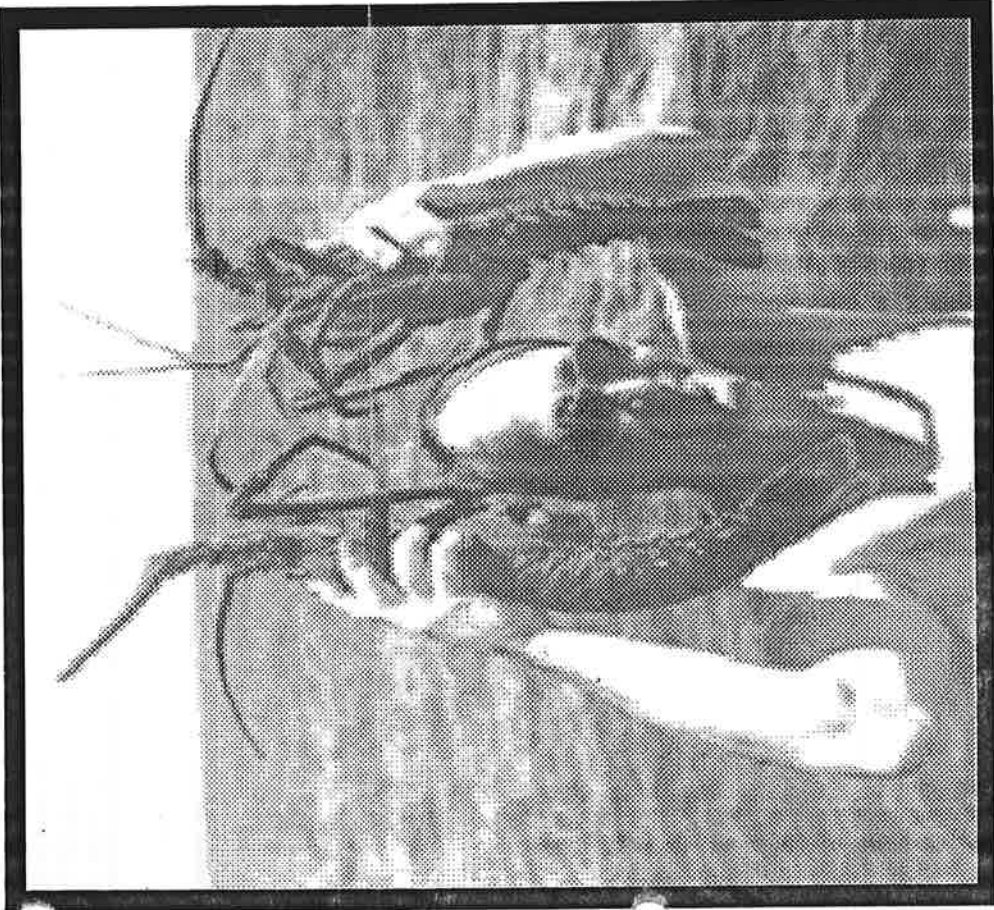
Thanks to Lyn Jones for his very informative talk. It's amazing the amount of information about the Club and diving that he can recall. I hope one day he will write a book, I certainly would buy a copy. I am sure everyone enjoyed the experience reminiscing about the good old days.



THE UEC NEWS

M O N T H L Y M A G A Z I N E

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PO Box 1157, Booragoon, WA 6154



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Geoff & Hetty Geard
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PR OFFICER	Bruce Porter	Phone 367 2282
DIVE BOOKINGS	Geoff Geard	Phone 453 1723

STOP PRESS * STOP PRESS

Kerry Ashton lent his Cray Loop to some thankful person recently, however, Kerry is unsure of whom it was lent to. Would you please give Kerry a call and let him know you have the loop and arrange for its return.

Many thanks

KERRY - 331 2385

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CLUB CALENDAR

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 1997

MONTH/DATE	EVENT
FEBRUARY	
Fri 14	SOCIAL: Valentines Day' Sundowner SYC 6.30pm - 9.30pm Open Dive
Sat 15	SOCIAL: 'The Troupadores' - SYC 8.30pm Cray Dive - 8am
Sat 16	SKIPPER: Peter H / Kerry A
Sun 16	GENERAL MEETING - SYC : 8PM Dinner / 'Must' be pre-booked! 6.30pm
M 17	One Tank : BSAC - 7am
Sat 22	SKIPPER: Richard N / BSAC Two Tank : 8am
Sun 23	SKIPPER: Barry K / Luc F
Fri 28	LEAVING FOR 'ROTTNEST' (2 weeks)
MARCH	
Sat/Sun 1/2	3 rd - Fri Labor Day, 17 th - St Patrick's Day, 26 th - 31 st - Easter Rottneest Long Weekend
Wed 5	COMMITTEE MEETING - SYC : 8PM Prawn Dive - Cookup (Geoff G)
Fri 7	Returning from "Rottneest" weekend
Sat 8	Open
Sun 9	Rusty Divers Day (Cray Dive?)
Sat 15	SKIPPER: Richard N / Brian M)
Sun 16	Two Tank: BSAC : 7am SKIPPER Kerry A / BSAC
Mon 17	GENERAL MEETING - SYC : 8PM Dinner / 'Must' be pre-booked! 6.30pm
Fri 21	Open
Sat 22	SOCIAL : MONGOLIAN BBQ
Su. 23	Wreck Dive SKIPPER: Barry K / Judy C
Sat 29	Open
Sun 30	Exploratory Dive? (Easter: subject to numbers etc) SKIPPER: Kerry A / Susie A
Mon 31	EASTER DIVE SKIPPER: Geoff C / Brian M

NOTES :

- : DEPARTS SWAN YACHT CLUB LOADING JETTING
- : Check Your Departure Time
- : All Dives Subject to Weather
- : Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with DO Geoff Geard
- : NOT THE CREW

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made with: Geoff Geard

Phone : 453 1723

FISHY FACTS

White Shark on Red List

Southern bluefin tuna, dugongs and white sharks have been added to the Red List of the World Conservation Union who say that they are critically endangered.

The list numbers 37 Australian fishes and 25 amphibians whose status is either vulnerable or endangered.

White shark numbers have dropped dramatically in the past 10 years because they have been hunted for sport, for the sale of their jaws and the trade in sharkfins.

Dugong numbers are believed to have halved in the last 8 years and are on the Red List as vulnerable.

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North Perth: 18 Scribro Bch Rd 444 5333
Sth Fremantle: 109 Hampton Rd 335 2044
Victoria Park: 1 Mint St 362 2270
Kalgoorlie: 75 Dugan St (090) 21 2724
Albany: Cockburn Rd (098) 41 1622

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EDITORIAL

Steve Larter

Following the controversial letter in last months UEC News from Luc Fauvet there have been a number of comments and points of view which have been raised.

The main point is why sell the Clubroom's for the benefit of the present memberships enjoyment. The funds may not achieve the results anticipated and the short term gain may not prove to be of benefit in the long term. The past membership of UEC would of course be aggrieved watching what they built up over a number of years being disposed of. Financially, we are probably better off leasing our Clubrooms and using the lease payments to assist the Committee and members to build active membership.

The opposite view of course is, we are not property managers and if we failed to secure a tenant for a long period then what Luc Fauvet suggests may become a reality. We do however, have the services of some very dedicated members who, behind the scenes, work very hard to ensure that UEC not only survives but gets stronger. We have in our records library past UEC Newsletters going back to 1970 warning the members of the dire consequences of the future of the UEC if they did not support the clubs activities. Since those early rumblings 27 years ago a great deal has been achieved.

We cannot become complacent. The key to success and a long term future is "membership". The drive for new "active diver membership" must be accelerated, there are lots of opportunities with the huge numbers of divers taking up the sport. The profile of UEC must be raised in the community and members of UEC must be supportive of the clubs efforts. We are very fortunate to have had loyal, dedicated members both in the past and currently who enjoy their sport and take great pride in being a member of UEC, those members have built what we enjoy today.

Let us all show them what we can do to make UEC the premier dive club in WA.

Membership target "100" - Just do it.

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maaree Casley

1997 has got off to a flying start with the boat carrying boat loads of divers out both Saturdays and Sundays. This is fabulous news for the club because it not only improves our financial position, it also creates a much greater sense of fun and adventure on the boat. We even had the night dive I had been talking of for some time - the weather could have been better but at least we got wet and enjoyed ourselves at the same time. Prawn dives in the river are also alive and well and attract divers from all over the place. I hope this frenzied activity in the club continues for some time and allows us to consolidate our position as far as the bank is concerned.

Along with this renewed activity in the club comes the welcome news that a lot of prospective members are accompanying us on dive trips. Now this is an ideal opportunity for us all to help in securing new members. If you're on the boat, make guests feel welcome. Help them with their gear if your buddy and show them a really good dive. Get your buddy's phone number and ring them later - try and get them involved in diving and socialising in the club. Membership members and consequently an increase in diving numbers are the basis for the club's continued success.

Continuing on in the "good news" theme - I am pleased to see so many people turning up to our General Meetings. It is pleasing to see so many people enjoying the SYC facilities - well priced meals from the galley and drinks from the bar. Bob is planning a full calendar of guest speakers, so hopefully each month we will have an interesting session at the club. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, come along, you will be pleasantly surprised.

Finally, I have had a request from the Avon Descent Committee to once again provide the rescue services for this year's Avon Descent in August. This is a great winter activity that the whole club can be involved in - as well as keeping us busy during winter it also tops up the bank balance. Last year we had a great time and had all manner of good food and accommodation lavished upon us. Get in early and organise your friends now for this upcoming event. I will keep you all posted on future developments.

See you all soon!

Maaree

My Trip To Leeman With Fremantle Sailing Club

Maureen

In November last year the dive section of the Fremantle Sailing Club were off to Leeman for a weekend of diving and fun, and I was asked by some friends to join them.

We met at FYC at 5pm on Friday afternoon and boarded a limobus (very nice) for the trip up the coast to Leeman. We had one pit-stop on the way for food and arrived at our destination at approximately 10pm. We were met on arrival by our host Ian Styles who showed us to our accommodation which was great! Ian is an ex-commercial diver who has ventured into the business of recreational diving.

We were up bright and early the next morning for our first dive, which was at the "Pinnacles". This was a 25 metre dive and the Pinnacles are large "bombs" of rock encrusted with lots of corals and sponges. Visibility was good, but not a huge amount of fish in this spot. After a nice morning tea (home-baked cookies and coffee) we were off for our second dive near Beagle Island. This was a shallower dive and a very pretty one, lots of fish, good visibility and we were lucky enough to have caught some 8 crayfish. We were back at our units, showered and eating our catch by 4pm. That evening we went to the local tavern for our evening meal, a few drinks and some dart-playing.

Up again early on Sunday and heading South of Leeman for our morning dive. This was not a deep dive (some 12 metres) but lots to see. Very pretty terrain, beautiful corals and seaweed's and lots of fish. (Unfortunately no crays today).

We only did the one dive this morning and after we had washed out our gear, went to our host's house for a sumptuous lunch provided by his wife.

We left Leeman in our limobus at about 1.30pm and were back at FSC late in the afternoon.

We felt that the whole weekend was very well organised and good value for money.

The cost was \$220 which included our transport, accommodation, meals and as we only took one tank, this also included our extra air fills.

I have handed some brochures and information on to Steve Larter, so anyone interested in this weekend away package could get in touch with him.

See you on the boat...

DEFINITION OF THE "OLD DIVER"

Steve Larter

Recent Editors offering in the SPUMS Journal has inspired me to discuss this topic.

Description of an older diver is one who is older than I am! So there is no real age to stop sport diving. However, consideration of the physical fitness of older divers must be taken into account.

It is a fact that roughly one third of people who complete a diving course never dive again after the course, another third only dive for one or two years, that leaves one third who dive for longer or "the enthusiasts".

The statistics show that a large proportion of divers who get into trouble diving are inexperienced or have not dived for a long time. The two most common causes of accidents and deaths are "running out of air" and "not dropping weight belts when in trouble".

Cardiac death is the commonest cause of death in American divers over 50. Diving Doctors worry that there is no way of calculating the risk except to say that the risk is higher when the diver has symptoms of cardiac disease. Obviously medicals and regular check ups are very important to ensure exposure to the risk of cardiac death is minimised.

Regular exercise is the most important factor in avoiding cardiac disease. Exercise to a level above that likely to be needed during diving and can bring home to divers the need for improving their level of fitness.

Pre-dive planning is important. When making up buddy pairs matching an 18 year old with a 50 year old diver may result in a 'tortoise versus hare' situation and could cause the older diver to become over exerted trying to stay with the younger diver. Pre-dive checks and planning the dive prior to commencement will eliminate this risk.

Remember, age is no barrier to participation. But ensure you increase your medical reviews as your age increases. Being fit also means you will be confident in your ability to handle any emergency situation.

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

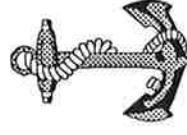
As promised we have attended to the boat's dirty bottom, with all concerned at the January General Meeting voting to get her up on the hard and do the job properly. Nobody liked the thought of trying to keep her clean by continually having to scrub her during dives. I am now surprised - I can't think of a better way to ruin a good day out in prime diving weather. Thus it was organised with bewildering speed and skill - up on Tuesday - washed down and first coat on Wednesday - second coat and repairs to radio aerial and other work Thursday and back in the water ready for work Friday evening - a great job. This has fixed the vibration and she's running the best ever. I must thank all those who answered the emergency call and rushed the job through, in particular Ric Young who acted as foreman painter shipwright, Peter Horton, engineer and Bill Boustead essential supply facilitator. Adrian Edwards and Roger Smith cleaned her up first - they've got a mention because its the worst job of all!! Others who have not been mentioned by name many thanks - your support is vital.

I'll give everybody a bit of a break before I start mentioning moorings!

Our next move is to sharpen up our boat handling and seamanship for the best and busiest part of the season and that's the pay-off and the most interesting bit. My GPS has now been made portable so I'm taking it with me when I go diving and for Rottnest in March. Any Skippers and interested parties on board during these times may like to have a play with it and learn something about the best navigation aid, since the sundial; and second only to our book of photos, for getting near dive sites and navigating round reefs and 'short cut' passages - with a suitable very wide margin or error!

Cheers Folks!

Stubby



SAFETY REPORT

Ric Young

Recently there have been several incidents during club diving activities that thankfully did not result in any harm to the divers involved, but nevertheless should not have occurred.

Two "out of air" situations, the first, underwater requiring buddy breathing to be conducted for the diver and ascend to the surface and the second involved a diver running out of air on the surface resulting in a long surface swim back to the boat.

In the first incident a small air tank was used, along with a contents gauge with the red zone starting at 30 ats. Instead of the more common 50 ats mark and is believed to have contributed to the incident.

As a result of these incidents I would like to remind members of the importance of being absolutely familiar with your own and your buddies diving equipment by inspecting it before diving, taking note of the size of the air tank, the marking on the contents gauge and whether an alternative second stage regulator (occy) is available in an emergency.

The Underwater Explorers Club encourages all divers to have an alternative second stage regulator and to conduct their diving with the aim of returning to the boat with a minimum of 50 ats of air in their air tank. Also, please be more vigilant in monitoring your own and your buddy's air supply, particularly if they are not experienced divers.

The final incident I would like to comment on is where a diving pair were separated and one diver ignored the lost diver procedure and continued to dive solo. Please follow the lost diver procedure if you are separated from your buddy.

Remember the Diving Officer and Skipper are under an obligation to instigate emergency procedures involving the rescue authorities if you are missing. Do not place the Diving Officer and Skipper in the unenviable position of deciding to instigate emergency procedures by disregarding the simple lost buddy procedure of looking for your buddy for one minute and if you cannot find him/her ascend to the surface and wait for them. Raise the alarm if they do not surface in a short time. Do not continue to dive solo.

Ric

NEWSLETTER NEWS

Steve Larfer

As you may be aware this UEC News is published free of charge by Briana Desktop Publishing. Ilana and Brian Murray take all our contributions and turn them into the publication you are now reading. Sorting, typing and formatting this Newsletter is a time consuming operation which has been carried out by Ilana and Brian for over 24 editions. Ilana is concerned that the present layout and style may not be pleasing some of our members who have at times been critical of some aspects of the Newsletter.

We would like to know if any of our members (or family members) would like to try their hand/computer skills in publishing the Newsletter each month. This may bring a different concept to your Newsletter. If you are interested then please contact either myself or Ilana to discuss any options.

From a personal viewpoint I would be very sorry to see Briana influence removed from our publication as during their involvement the Newsletter has been highly successful in bringing together a wide range of contributions from the various sections of the club.

In my reflection of past Newsletter Editors it was always difficult getting members to write reports or articles, today due to the work done by Ilana and Brian we now have plenty of material and willing members to put pen to paper. Which leaves your Newsletter and club richer for the experience.

OUR COVER STORY

Brian Murray

The cover photograph of Nick Wasley and his prize crayfish catch was taken on a recent Saturday 1 tank dive 1 Feb. 1997

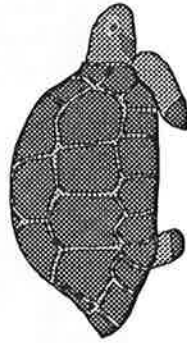
14 adventurous divers, plus a few non divers headed to a location beyond Straggler Rocks, which for the club record will now be known forever as "Nick's Crayfish Spot" for a Look-see and search 'em out.

Nick and his buddy Ric outdid the combined boat effort with 9 size crayfish, including the 2 Jumbo's in the photograph, whilst the remaining divers either found only undersize crayfish, or just had a pleasurable 40 -50 minute dive at 10 metres taking in the impressive scenery and abundant sea life.

You also can join in the diving fun and just maybe have your photograph on the cover for some special or unusual diving feat.

Check the calendar, join in the regular dives or ring Geoff and arrange a diving adventure to suit your own preferences.

You'll never never know, if you sit at home and don't go.



DIVING OFFICERS REPORT

Geoff Geard

What can I say. "Those damn sou-westers", canned more than enough dives.

Now they're 'gone', let's get down to some serious diving. The two days and night that the boat went out, we had some excellent dives, Swirl Reef, the wreck of the City of York, Stragglers by night and the D9 Dredge wreck.

I've penned in Saturday 15 March as a 'Rusty Divers Day', because even this late into the season there are still some of you who haven't gotten wet yet.

On Friday 17 January weather conditions were perfect for a night dive. We had seven divers and two non-divers on the boat. Personally, I've never seen as much 'colour' on any of my dives as I did on this one. It was brilliant!! My hand is up for the next night dive. (Maree organised this one, but if you want to do one, get a few divers, book the boat and go).

To book dives, fishing trips, river cruises, to book the boat! - whatever - ring me.

On a personal note, I am going to Busseton on Sunday 2 March, returning very late Sunday night or very early Monday morning (long weekend). One day dive and one night dive on the Busseton Jetty!! Anybody interested please let me know...

Don't forget the phone number 453 1723.

Let's Go!!

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT.

Geoff

The Kingdom Of Tonga - Where Time Begins

KAS Dive

Nudging the International Dateline, the Kingdom of Tonga is the first country in the world to welcome the dawn of each new day.

Tonga is composed of about 170 volcanic and coral islands sprinkled over 700,000 sq kms of ocean, and is distinctly different to its neighbouring island nations. It is the oldest and last remaining Polynesian monarchy and the only Pacific nation never brought under foreign rule. Made up of four main island groups, Tongatapu in the south, Haapai, Vava'u, and the Niua in the far north. Fewer than 50 of the islands are inhabited and Tonga's total population numbers less than 100,000.

Our dive pack took us to Neiatu township in the Vava'u group. Vava'u is also one of the most popular yacht cruising areas of the South Pacific, and we had the pleasure of meeting many "boaters" on their way around the world, seeking shelter in the Port of Refuge during the cyclone season. We were lucky. No cyclone came through when we were there, but the heat and humidity was incredible. Our "dive pack", purchased in Auckland, included flight, hotel accommodation (I'm glad we opted for a "de luxe" apartment with air conditioner!) and six dives.

On arrival to the Paradise Hotel, in a bus that really had seen better days (I was surprised we actually made it at all in that vehicle!) we were met by a very sleepy girl behind the reception desk. She gave us a key and pointed in the direction of our room. We had to carry all our luggage ourselves - down and down the stairs. No service what-so-ever, and the air conditioner was NOT turned on in the room! Did I tell you about the 100% humidity in 40+C heat? Anyhow, after a shower and draping ourselves in a sarong, we went the 1000 stairs behind the hotel further down-hill to the jetty, where the Bailega Divers were housed. The Skipper/Manager Nick, a tall and skinny New Zealander, was there. My first impression of him, after he spoke to us in his extremely slow and "surgy" way, was: "This guy is not the full quid." Now I understand that it all depends on how long you stay on the island. He had been there for a while, and his brain had just melted down to the same level as the rest of the inhabitants.

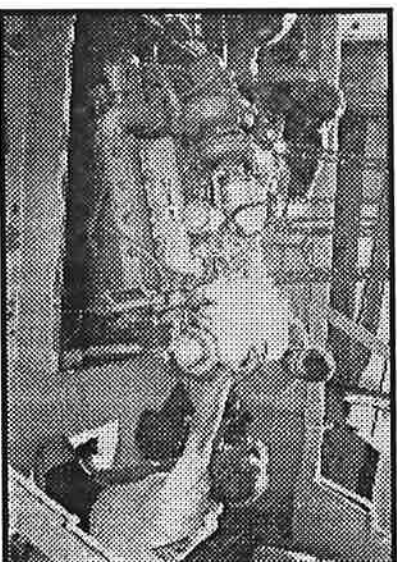
Kerry, with his accumulated knowledge of boats, discovered immediately that half the motor of our dive boat to be for the week, was spread out on the jetty in the sun! So, we asked: "Do you think we can dive tomorrow?" eager to get wet, as we had no chance at all during the four weeks in New Zealand to dive, because of the terrible weather conditions when we were there. Nick replied: "Don't you think it's better that you guys have a rest tomorrow? I don't think the boat will be ready." Right! Nothing happens fast in Tonga, as we soon learnt!

So next day we wandered the short distance down to town to do some shopping for the little fridge we had in our room. The first bar we came to was "The Viking Bar" owned and run by a Danish couple! The next bar was called "Bounty Bar" owned and run by a Kiwi lady. Later we discovered "Ana's Bar" run by two friendly ladies. This was the place where all the "boaters" get together for happy hour drinking between 5-6 pm every day. Kerry and I really enjoyed sitting there by the waterfront with a "coldie", listening to these guys and gals, who had really been around a lot and experienced many "out of the world" things.

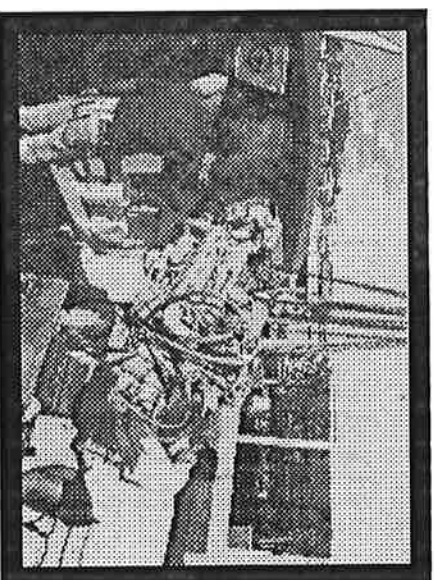
Well, back to the diving business. That same evening Kerry went down all the stairs again to see Nick, and told him that we really want to dive tomorrow, because we are only here for one week, and have already paid for six dives up front. Nick said: "I'll see what I can do. Come down tomorrow morning again." So we did, and SURPRISE! An hour later we were on our way out for our first dive among the Tongan islands. Nick skipped and also acted Dive Master. He took us to a site suitably called "Spill in the rock". We swam through the narrow and hundreds of metres long spill at 23 metres depth. Great feeling! The rest of the dive offered undulated landscape of hard coral with a profusion of fish life, including Emperor Angelfish with their incredible beauty. We also spotted a striped sea snake, twiddling between the corals in search for anything to eat. Shot him on film. (Of course.) Conditions were good for filming, and we are very happy with our brand new video & UVW housing equipment. Don't even have to pay overweight to the airlines any more!

The second dive was a very spectacular site with great gorgonians between boulders, moray eels, masses of different, colourful reef fish and a huge anemone colony with several species of anemone fish darting in and out, and a huge bommie absolutely clustered with many multi-coloured, big starfish.

BOAT REPAIR CREW



Our 'hard at it crew' replacing the boat's motor.



More hands to the motor!

'PARTY TIME'



Anyone for RAW Crayfish legs??



Australia Day 'Sky Show' revelers!

The Kingdom of Tonga - Where Time Begins (cont)

That evening we had been invited to The Country Club for a social dart competition night. Great fun. Kerry actually made it all the way to the final, but lost to this Tongan bloke, who spends his whole life in The Club, playing darts. It was said, that no-one can beat him! I was proud of Kerry, and he was proud of me, because I won first prize for highest score! Two bottles of beer! We also met our Dive Master for the first time, here in The Club, drinking with a cute young Swedish blonde, who had hitch hiked on a yacht from the capital city Nukualofa on Tongatapu. Tulu said he would come out with us tomorrow, and show us some really good stuff. "Be at the jetty by 10 am." Tomorrow came, at 9.55 am, on my way down all the stairs to the jetty, I meet Tulu on the way upstairs!

"Hey, what's happening? Aren't you coming with us today?" I asked. With the Swedish blonde hanging on his arm, he replied: "No, I feel crook, and the dive boat doesn't work." (He didn't look so crook, and I could easily guess how he was going to spend the day!)

More than two hours later we are on our way out through Port of Refuge in a huge trimaran that Nick managed to engage for the day. This must be the slowest boat in the whole archipelago, but who cares. At least we get to dive again. Nick gave us a quick brief of the intended dive site before we left, because he wasn't going to come with us today. "Must work on the boat". The engine had flooded when the boat got stuck under the jetty and tilted when the tide came in during the night! Nick asked us to look after this American "beginner" diver, who was coming out diving as well. Wow! What a holiday! Well, the American turned out to be not so bad in the deep blue, and he only did one dive, so Kerry and I had the second dive to ourselves, which was great. We penetrated in to the "Swallows Cave" through a tunnel at about 15-20 m. When we surfaced inside the cave, we could hear and see hundreds and hundreds of swallows flying about above our heads. Awesome!

Next day, our last day of diving. Was it going to happen, or not? You never knew from one day to another. YES! Only this time we found ourselves aboard a small (but fast) run-about motor boat...with SIX divers! And, surprise, our DIVE MASTER was coming out today! The Tongan skipper of the vessel turned up 2 hours late and said he felt terribly hang-over. That was his excuse.

Tulu took us to two spectacular dive sites - the first with a big area absolutely full of bright yellow gorgonians at about 25 m outside a huge cave, that we didn't penetrate too far. The second dive was a pretty wall dive with hard corals covering every inch of volcanic rock, including an extensive area of "cabbage" corals, edged like shining gold in the sun's rays here at 20 metres depth.

As a conclusion, I would say that the diving was good, with a visibility in between 20 and 40 metres at the time we were in the caves. There is a wide range of virgin dive sites, offering mostly hard corals, exciting huge grottos and magnificent caves.

It was all more or less wall diving on different depths. But I must admit - I missed the presence of any kind of sharks! We saw no pelagic at all, really. "Only" all the usual colourful reef fish such as parrot, butterfly, angel, trigger, and so on.

There is one more dive operation in Vava'u, called Dolphin Divers, housed at the Tonga Beach Resort. Living out there, you would be quite isolated, and have to pay \$14 each time you want to go to town and see some new places and faces. The restaurant was also very pricy, we heard. Though, it seemed like they had a better dive boat, because we could see they had a much needed shaded area aboard, which we didn't have on ours.

"Malo e Lelei"
from KAS DIVE

EPILOGUE:

As a consolidation for the erratic diving and service, we were offered a free trip to the harbour wreck. Kerry took up the offer. Down the stairs at 7 am the next day. Guess what! Boat not firing properly and flat battery! Oh well, into the kayaks and a 1.5 km paddle out to the wreck - a big freighter. A great dive despite the low visibility.

I guess we cannot complain about the variety of diving/vessels.



SOCIAL EVENTS - Bob McLaughlin



CLUB MEETING

17 February 1997

Guest speakers at the next monthly meeting will be Kerry and Susie Ashton. They will be giving us a slide show of the holiday in New Zealand and Tonga.

NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

Social night at SYC 15 January 1997 - "The Troupadores".

Tickets will be available at the door.

- \$7.00 Members
- \$10.00 Friends
- \$15.00 Buffet

Come along for a great night out!

PARTY AT BILL'S

Mongolian Barbecue

22 March

7.30pm

What is a Mongolian Barbecue?

The Mongolian soldiers of long ago (I suppose they are Chinese soldiers now) used to carry strips of meat under their saddles, this meat was part frozen due to the mountain conditions, it was then cut into thin strips and cooked on an upturned shield.

I don't intend to supply horses, shields or soldiers but a selection of sliced meats and vegetables along with dishes of various condiments (soy, garlic, ginger, lemon, chilli etc) this is added to your selection and stir fried on a 'steak' barbecue and eaten immediately in hot sooner. This is repeated at your desire.

I am not sure what Mongolians had for entree or desert but I shall endeavor to find out.

See you there!

Bill (Ghengis) Boustead.

Cost - \$15.00

SKY SHOW

I am utterly disappointed that my plea to return the Club's party "tag back on board was not heard! Shame! But then again - I forgot to bring the strawberries for the champagne! Shame.

Otherwise... my opinion = this was the best year ever, with the best group of club members and friends participating. You could certainly hear our "oohhs" and "aahhss" miles away, as the sky lit up with a fantastic fire work display. **ROBIN SHEPPARD** scored first prize, and received a bottle of pink champagne for best Aussie dress in her green and yellow pants and blouse.

We also must admire **RICHARD NAYLOR** for his fantastic effort getting there and anchoring at a good spot in the somewhat rough water conditions. The trip back was a pleasant cruise. The wind had died away totally.

Susie

42nd STREET

The song and dance fable of Broadway.

Some of us already have tickets for this wonderful show at the Quarry Amphitheatre (Oceanic Drive, City Beach) for **FRIDAY 21 MARCH**. Seating is on grassed terraces and you bring your own rungs and cushions (no chairs) as well as a picnic hamper. The gates open at 6.30pm. We will be in row N. Try to get some tickets there or close by, if you want to join us. But warning, they sell out quickly!

Ring **BOCS** on 484 1133 (Tickets \$22.00)

SPECIAL THANK YOU'S!

I would like to thank **Ron** for giving us talk on the weather at the last monthly meeting. The information and presentation about the weather patterns around Australia was extremely informative.

Thank you **Susie** for organising the Sky Show social, from all accounts it was a great success.

SENDER:
Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc.)
PO Box 1157, Booragoon, WA 6154

THE UEC NEWS

M O N T H L Y M A G A Z I N E



MARCH 1997

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CLUB CALENDAR

MARCH / APRIL 1997

MONTH/DATE	EVENT
MARCH	
Sat 15	Rusty Divers Day (Cray Dive) Richard N / Brian M Two Tank : BSAC : 7am
Sun 16	Kerry A / BSAC
Mon 17	GENERAL MEETING - 5YC : 8PM Dinner (Must be pre-booked) : 6.30pm SOCIAL : MONGOLIAN BBQ
Sat 22	Wreck Dive
Sun 23	Barry K / Jim R
Sat 29	Open Exploratory Dive? (Easter: subject to numbers etc)
Sun 30	Kerry A / Susie A
Mon 31	EASTER DIVE Geoff C / Brian M 25 th = Public Holiday : Anzac Day)
APRIL	
Wed 2	COMMITTEE MEETING - 5YC : 8pm
Fri 4	Prawn Dive - 'Cookup' : Geoff C
Sat 5	One Tank : BSAC : 7am Paler H / BSAC
Sun 6	Request Dive : Two Tank Dennis S / Maree C
Sat 12	Cray Dive Richard N / Jim R
Sun 13	Photo & Film Dive - Two Tank Kerry A / Susie A
Sat 19	Open Two Tank : BSAC / UEC : 7am
Sun 20	Barry K / BSAC
Mon 21	GENERAL MEETING - 5YC : 8pm Dinner (Must be pre-booked) : 6.30pm
Fri 25	SOCIAL : PROGRESSIVE RIVER BBQ - Bob M
Sat 26	Open Bob M / Steve L

NOTES

- DEPARTS SWAN YACHT CLUB LOADING JETTING
- Check Your Departure Time
- All Dives Subject to Weather
- Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with DO Geoff Geard
- NOT THE CREW**

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made with Geoff Geard
 Phone : 453 1723

NOMINATIONS

Harry Oldenhuis

East Cannington 108 CRAWLEY

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Paddybury

Damien Forssman

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EDITORIAL

Steve Larter

For those of us who are lucky enough to be on the annual dive trip to Rottnest for the long weekend and the following week we have been very fortunate both with outstanding weather and sea conditions which has resulted in some excellent diving and socializing activities. Spending time out enjoying your sport and mixing with people who share your own enthusiasm for water activities, you cannot wish for more.

Again the importance and benefits of belonging to a well organised diving club are highlighted when other people have over the years constantly improved on the previous years' to make each annual club holiday better than the last.

Whilst we have been here lots of other divers have been observing our activities and have been fairly envious of both our boat and our organised activities. This professionalism can only reflect within the diving community and we should be constantly talking up our activities and spreading the message of the advantages of being a member of a club that offers consistent activities of a high standard.

We constantly both observe and hear about other dive operators who, for commercial reasons, tend to cut corners both on training and dive charters. By cutting corners and offering less and less the experienced diver will tend to either give up the sport or find another group who can provide the sort of activities that these potential members are looking for.

We must raise our clubs' profile and spread the message to the diving community and make our great club stronger by attracting more active divers who are keen to develop both their sporting interest and assist the club with its future development.

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

Once again the Club has enjoyed a fantastic long weekend and week at Rottnest. The group that came over this year were treated to the best weather ie; lack of wind, that we have had in years. Of course, we wasted no time in heading off to the West End for some diving and cray-catching. As usual the dive at the breaks was spectacular and worthy of a lot more exploration when conditions permit. Thanks mus, go this year to Sandy Webb who did a fantastic job coordinating some aspects of the weekend and organising all the food. Her efforts were much appreciated by everyone.

Bookings have been made for accommodation next year, but unfortunately this may be our last long weekend excursion over to Rottnest. In the absence of anyone willing to take on the job of organising the event it may die a natural death. Peter Horton and I spent a total of 9 hours sitting in queues to secure next years' booking and cant get too enthused about doing it again. People wanting to come next year should send in their \$50 deposit as soon as possible as space is already limited.

Easter falls quite early this year, so over the four days we should be able to do some great diving. Also there is an overnighter scheduled this month so give Geoff a ring to get on board for this one. This is an opportunity to do something a little different and get into a bit of adventure.

Lastly, Bill Boustead is hosting a Mongolian night at his place and it promises to be a gourmet's delight. In fact, I'm salivating just thinking about it, so give Bob a ring and make your reservation.

Maree

BATHER'S BAY & THE LONG JETTY (cont)

The Long Jetty was extended by 457 feet (139m) in 1896 to reach its final length of 3294 feet (1004m). Eight vessels could now be brought alongside, the low water depth being 22 feet (6.7m). The opening of the harbour in 1897 meant the Long Jetty was no longer required for shipping. Demolition at the time was only averted by recommendations to convert the structure into a promenade. In 1906 a fence was erected for safety reasons and in 1907 a hall was built at the jetty extremity. A few unsuccessful attempts at providing entertainment saw the hall removed to South Beach. The jetty eventually fell into disrepair (sic) and RO Law secured a contract for demolition of the structure he in part had built. The Long Jetty was finally demolished in 1921.

Most of the well established families of Perth and Fremantle first set foot in Western Australia by walking over the planks of this historic jetty.

Municipal Sea Baths

The baths were constructed between the Long Jetty and the South Jetty and were opened during the summer of 1906-07. In 1917 they were closed down.

Loss of the Priestman Dredge

Fremantle harbour works commenced in 1892 when the first load of stone was tipped at Rous Head, marking the commencement of the North Mole. Four dredges were used during the harbour works. A Priestman Dredge removed rock blasted from the bar across the mouth of the Swan River, but was used mainly to clear sand from the inner basin. On the night of the 14th May, 1893, a clam shell bucket dredge known as the Priestman capsized in the bay to the south of the Swan River mouth. Attempts to righting the vessel the next day failed and she sank to the bottom where she has remained to this day. The boiler, diving pump, crane and mooring chains were salvaged in the days that followed the Priestman's loss.

The wreck site was discovered in October 1978 (by author) and inspected by the WA Museum soon after. The vessels association with the harbour works and its year of loss (1893) has resulted in the vessel being declared protected by the Historic Shipwreck Act.

Bather's Bay Today

Looking out to sea from the shoreline of Bather's Bay in 1984 the scene is much as it must have been in early colonial days. Garden and Carnac Islands, historic places in their own right are still prominent features of the skyline. The few wooden piles that remain above sea level indicates where part of the Long Jetty stood. Little evidence, considering the ¾ mile (1.2km) long structure that almost enclosed the bay.

To really be transported back in time one only has to go beneath the waters of Bather's Bay. The many stumps of the old Long Jetty still project from the sand and seagrass. Flotsam and jetsam of the past litter the seabed. A heavy chain snakes its way over the seabed probably from the Priestman Dredge now buried in the material it once excavated.

In early 1984 the State Government approved the construction of an America's Cup marina adjacent to the northern groyne of the Fisherman's Harbour to seawards of Bather's Bay.

Hopefully with foresight and planning, a portion of this historic body of water will be preserved for all time in recognition of the role which it played in the history of the State.

Reprinted by courtesy of The Port of Fremantle.

BATHER'S BAY & THE LONG JETTY

By Jon Carpenter

Early Development in the Port of Fremantle

"The landing took place in a little bay close to the mouth of the river, to the southward of it, being the only landing in that neighbourhood where boats could go with security, the bar at the entrance of the river generally being impassable". The words of Captain Fremantle in a despatch sent to the Admiralty on October 8, 1829. Great uncertainty surrounds the question of whether the landing actually took place in the South Bay which is now reclaimed as the Fremantle Esplanade or Bather's Bay between Arthur's Head and Anglesea Point. Today the boundary of Bather's Bay is defined as that area between the south mole and the fishing boat harbour mole. In any event, the open expanse of water between these two points has played an important role in the development of the Swan River Colony and the establishment of Fremantle as the port. Early disappointment with the land made it all the more imperative to maintain the sea lifeline between the colony and the outside world. To this end, Bather's Bay as it became known was the site of the first and subsequent jetties.

Whaling

In 1837 a jetty was constructed by the Fremantle Whaling Company, established in 1836. The jetty was situated near the northern end of Bather's Bay. Later the tunnel under Arthur's Head was cut to provide access to the High Street. The Swan River Guardian reports on Thursday May 11, 1837: "The depth of water at the point of the jetty is 8 feet (2.4m) and it is thought that vessels can lay off at a very short distance, and land cargoes with the greatest ease. It is in contemplation to form a tunnel through Arthur's Head from the jetty into the town, so that casks and goods may be stored in the warehouses of the merchants with the greatest facility".

Reports in the Fremantle Gazette of late have indicated that the WA Museum will supervise an archaeological dig in the vicinity of the Round House, to try and locate this jetty and other remains of previous occupancy. The Fremantle Whaling Company caught its first whale off Carnac Island and towed the creature into Bather's Bay. Today the view from Bather's Bay to Carnac remains unobstructed as it did in the days of whaling activities. Whaling was a staple local industry for many years, reaching its zenith in the 1850 - 60's. Interestingly it is recorded that aborigines congregated in Fremantle during the whaling season and feasted on whale blubber from which the oil has been boiled.

South Jetty

In 1854 the south jetty was completed, having been built between Bather's Bay and South Bay. It was 484 feet (147.5m) long with a depth of 9 feet (2.7m) at the end. The jetty was used mainly by lighters which loaded and unloaded cargo for ships at anchor in the roads.

The Long Jetty or Ocean Jetty 1872 - 1921

Mason, Bird & Coy of the Canning Saw Mills built and completed the first section of the long jetty in 1873. The structure extended from Anglesea Point and ran in a south westerly direction for 750 feet (228.6m). The depth of water at the end of the jetty was 12 feet (3.6m). Large vessels (drawing more than 10 feet 6 inches (3.2m) unloaded cargo into lighters whilst at anchor in Gage Roads.

In 1887 RO Law was contracted to build a new approach and extend the jetty in a westerly direction towards Gage Roads. The new section was to be 42 feet (12.8m) in width compared to the original structure which was 15 feet (4.5m) wide, with a narrow approach. Six vessels accommodated alongside the jetty which was 2837 feet (864m) long when finished, water depth alongside was 20 feet (6m). It was around this time the term Long Jetty came into popular use. Both the South Jetty and Long Jetty were served by tram tracks and later by the railway which was opened in 1881.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Christmas Island lies 312km from Java and 1400km north-west of the Australian mainland - a little-known part of Australia right at Asia's doorstep.

The island is on top of a volcanic mountain rising from the depths of the ocean floor on the edge of the Java Trench. A diver can float over seemingly bottomless expanses looking at the abundant colourful reef fish swimming amongst huge S. Jonian fan corals on vertical walls while large tuna and Wahoo cruise by. You can also find huge Maori Wrasse and diving with majestic Whale Sharks will provide an unforgettable experience.

There are other placed in the world with steep drop-offs but not very many that are within 20 metres from shore. The shallow waters have a great variety of coral species and colourful tropical reef fish making the old "Five at Five Safety Stops" more interesting than a whole dive at lesser locations.

Christmas Island is largely unexplored diving and you can still dive spots never visited by anyone before. True wilderness diving, 45 metre viability is common.

Christmas Island is accessible from Indonesia, Singapore and from Perth.

ANCIENT SHIPWRECK FOUND

A shipwreck that could be 1500 years old has recently been discovered off the west coast of Meirionnydd, North Wales.

Ceraint Jones of the Cae West diving group said that there were 2 possibilities as to the origins of the wreck. "It could be a Roman wreck or even a Viking wreck. We will not know for certain until experts have carried out carbon testing on the wood".

The Cae Nest group discovered another important wreck off the Meirionnydd coast in 1979 which turned out to be an Italian ship carrying Carrea Marble. Artifacts from that wreck are on display in museums throughout Wales.

"This wreck could be more important than the first one", said Mr Jones.

"Early reports are that the wreck, with wooden pegs, dates back to 400AD.

"It is in about 1.2 metres of sand and clay and additional diving and further investigations cannot be made until the weather improves".

The location of the wreck is being kept secret to avoid it being spoilt and ravaged by illegal treasure trove hunters.

MONSTER SQUID SOUGHT

A team of scientists and adventurers is about to set sail in search of the giant squid, a monster of mythological proportions and one of the last great ocean mysteries. The international group will leave Wellington soon on a six-week trip to waters over the deep trenches off New Zealand's South Island.

The squid is a leviathan, believed to be more than 20m long, with eyes as big as dinner plates and powerful bird-like beak. It has tentacles as big as tree trunks and covered with suction cups. It is the biggest aquatic invertebrate and is believed to weigh about two tonnes. Although the creature has been woven into seafarers' tales for centuries, the only giant squid with which scientists have had close encounters have been dead. There has never been a recorded sighting of a live one.

Sailors' accounts have become the stuff of legend: the fabulous sea monster Kraken which was said to have dragged down ships off Norway, the behemoth with which Jules Verne's Captain Nemo did battle in the submarine Nautilus, and the creatures encountered in Herman Melville's Moby Dick.

Legend has also provided the starting point for the search, off the coast at Kaikoura, near where the Maori believe the 10th century Polynesian explorer Kupe dragged the original monster ashore. The area is known as Whakenui, which translates as "giant octopus", and a huge but dead squid has been netted there by fishermen.

The two-boat expedition, sponsored by National Geographic magazine and television productions, will be using the latest equipment. Undersea digital video cameras with canisters of slow-release fish-bait attached will be suspended from the boats. The cameras can be lowered 3500m, though the expedition organisers are hoping to find squid at only 350m below the surface. A computer-directed submersible built by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology will also be used.

The waters off Kaikoura are a feeding ground for whales, among the few creatures prepared to do battle with the giant squid. In a controversial move, further cameras called Crittercams will be attached to some of the whales using tags and biodegradable straps.

One of the expedition's leaders, Dr Clyde Roper, of Washington's Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, said: "It is a staggering phenomenon that this big animal exists and we don't know much about it. More is known about the dinosaurs. The only creatures who know where they live are sperm whales, so we will let the whales be our hound dogs and lead us to them".

Dr Roper said if the expedition was a success, a second might follow next year, using a crewed submersible.



DIVING OFFICERS REPORT

Geoff Gearpd

What a month!! Crayfish, shipwrecks, good vis!! What more does a diver need! The total of individual dives off the boat was over 70. It's what the boat needs and this club is all about.

Where did we go??? - Top End - Stragglers or "Nick's Crayfish Spu. (where some rather large crays were taken), West End and Crystal Palace. For the wreck divers we had another dive on the 'D9' and the 'Mira Flores'. Swirl and Roe Reefs, Marree's Aquarium, 'Champion Rock' and then back of Stragglers for more crayfish (wasn't Nick's crayfish spot was it?). As I said 'what a month'....

For those of you who missed out, is it because you haven't dived for a while??, a bit rusty perhaps??? Well if you haven't been for a dive by the time this goes to press, ring me and I'll book you on the Rusty Divers Day, Saturday March 15th. If you 'have' been for a dive, well ring me anyway as it will be a cray dive as well.

Let's get the boat working overtime. Ring me on 453 1723 to book your spot.

Let's go Diving!!

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT.

Geoff.

BITS & PIECES

Susie

"To me, the sea is like a person - like a child that I've known a long time. It sounds crazy, I know, but when I swim in the sea I talk to it. I never feel alone when I'm out there".

Quotation by Gertrude Ederle

And WHO exactly is SHE??

Born in New York 1906, she was the first woman to swim the English Channel and one of the best known US sports personages of the 1920's.

In the Olympic Games of 1924 in Paris she won a gold medal as a member of the US women's 400 metre relay team.

On August 6, 1926, she swam the 35 miles (56km) from Cap Gris-Nez, France to Dover, England, in 14 hours 31 minutes, breaking the men's record by 1 hour 59 minutes.

After her channel triumph, in which her hearing was permanently impaired, she became a swimming instructor and a fashion designer.

So no you know!!

SHARK ATTACKS

The good news ... 1986 was a good year to go swimming. The bad news : 1995 wasn't. That's what can be gleaned from a graph on unprovoked SHARK ATTACKS that has been compiled by America's International Shark Attack File, an archive of worldwide investigations. Since 1980, it shows that attacks in 1986 (between 10 and 20) and 1995 (60 - 70) have been the two extremes and a steady rise in the 90's is related to world population growth and more people in the water.



THIS MONTHS' COVER

Watching Whales

Steeped in myth and mystery, whales have fascinated people for thousands of years; Jonah survived, according to the Bible, in the belly of a whale and the tale of Moby Dick continues to enthrall.

Whales range in size and weight from the 31 metre blue whale, the world's largest, weighting between 80 and 130 tonnes, to the 2.4 metre dwarf sperm whale, weighing about 150 kilograms.

They are divided into the toothed whales (eg; sperm and killer whales) and the baleen whales (like humpbacks). Toothed whales feed on squid, fish and sometimes marine mammals. Mostly baleen whales sieve planktonic organisms from the water. All are air-breathing, warm-blooded mammals that give birth and nurse their young.

They have streamlined, smooth-surfaced bodies, no external ears, flippers like forelimbs for steering and maneuvering, very few hairs, and a layer of insulating blubber. These characteristics make them ideally suited to their marine environment.

Whale Watcher's Code

- Only approach a whale (or group of whales) from a direction parallel and slightly to the rear, or 300 metres ahead and allow the whales to approach you. Do not separate what may be members of a tightly knit family group.
- Within 300 metres of a whale or whales, move the vessel at a consistently slow, 'no wake' speed. If you intend stopping the engines to watch, allow them to idle for a minute before switching off. Whales become alarmed at sudden noises, or at the sudden stopping of noise they have grown used to.
- One hundred metres is the closest vessels can come to a whale, unless they are specially licensed research vessels displaying "RESEARCH" signs. If the animal approaches the vessel more closely, put the engine in neutral and avoid engaging the propellers until it has moved off.
- Swimming with whales is not permitted. It may cause stress to the animal and is dangerous for people, as a tail or fluke slap can easily render a swimmer unconscious.





SOCIAL EVENTS - Bob McLaughlin



CLUB MEETING

17 March 1997

I've managed to get Frank Pisani from the Fremantle Sea Rescue to come and give us a talk at the March monthly meeting - please come along and bring a friend, this should give us an insight into how the Sea Rescue work - I'm sure there will be lots of questions.

NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

Don't miss the Mongolian BBQ at Bill (Ghengis) Boustead's place - this should be a gourmet night not to be missed. Why don't you come early, around 5.00 o'clock and have a swim.

March 22nd 7 - 7.30pm

Please make sure I have the money by the next monthly meeting.

SUNDOWNER

SATURDAY

APRIL 19TH

MAGNETICITY

COUNTRY ROCK BAND

Members \$7.00
Friends \$10.00

This should be another great event.

I'll book tickets for UEC, please let me know if you're interested at the next monthly meeting.

Anyone wishing to book a meal (\$15) before the next monthly meeting let me know for Friday 14th March.

SUNDOWNER

FRIDAY 14TH MARCH

&

13TH APRIL (Family Day)

Members \$15.00
Friends \$20.00

Includes food and drink for 3 hours.

Why don't you get a few friends together and come to SYC and enjoy the facilities and get to know the members (possibly potential divers).

TROUPADORES NIGHT

A great night was had by everyone that came to the social night at SYC with the Troupadores.

What a fantastic band - if you missed seeing them this time be sure to book next time around.

SPECIAL THANK YOU!

I would like to thank Kerry and Susie for the slide show at the last monthly meeting - as usual a very informative show.

PRIPORI

All State and Public schools and every major Shopping Centre has now received flyers and been requested to show them on their notice boards. We are hoping this will attract some interested people for membership to our club.

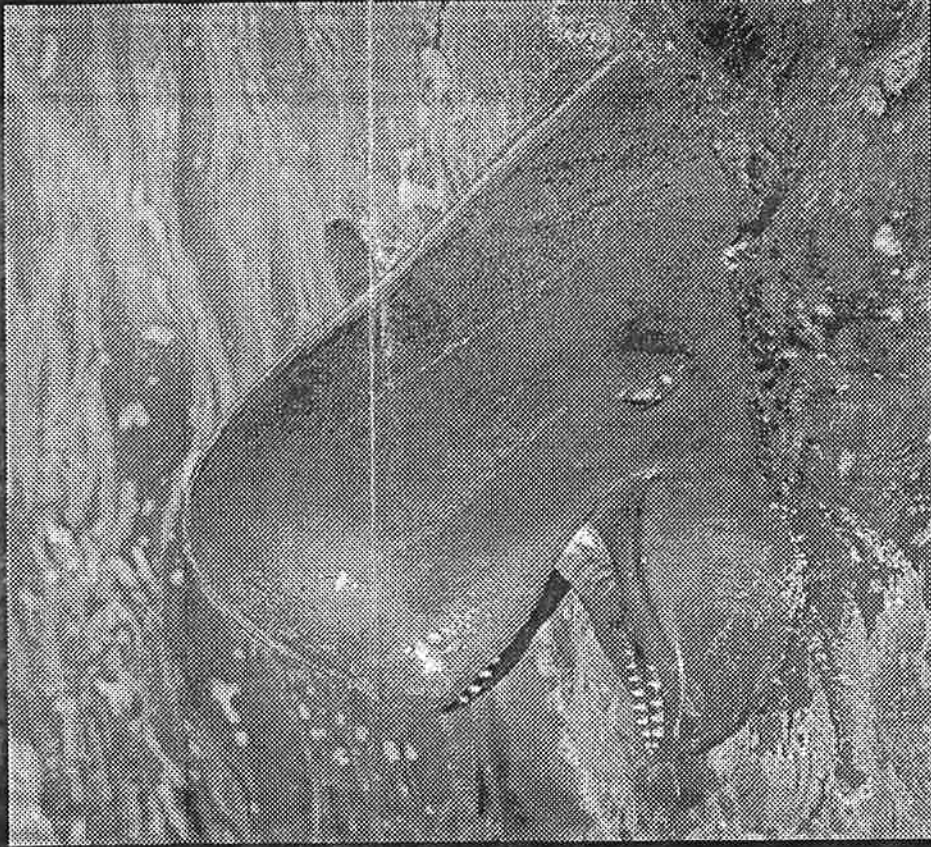
Copies of these flyers are available, if you would like to distribute them please contact me on 470 9700 and I will arrange them for you.

Bruce Porter



THE UEC NEWS

M O N T H L Y M A G A Z I N E



SENDER:
Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc.)
PO Box 1157, Booragoon, WA 6154

UEC NEWS

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc)
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APRIL 1997

THE COMMITTEE 1997

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	Phone 457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 454 8580
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	Phone 451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	Phone 445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Geoff Geard	Phone 453 1723
BOATING OFFICER	Dennis Stubberfield	Phone 457 3333
SAFETY OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
TRAINING OFFICER	Judy Cowan	Phone 417 9900
BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Steve Larter	Phone 291 9654
SOCIAL OFFICER	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 454 8587
PR OFFICER	Bruce Porter	Phone 367 2282
DIVE BOOKINGS	Geoff Geard	Phone 453 1723

LOST

LOST: one diver's knife, absolutely brand new.

Only worn once and never used in action. It was last seen on the boat! The knife is basic black, with abstract colour line marks throughout. Tusa brand. It has a security mark on it with the initials BP. If you have a strange knife in your possession, we can be reached at 434 5052, telephone / fax or on the boat - usually on Saturdays - or at club meetings.

Thanks

Bill & Margaret Pettigrew

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CLUB CALENDAR

APRIL / MAY 1997

MONTH/DATE	EVENT
APRIL	
Sat 19	Open Two Tank : BSAC / UEC : 7am
Sun 20	Barry K / BSAC
Mon 21	GENERAL MEETING - 5YC 7pm Dinner (Must be pre-booked) 6.10pm
Fri 25	SOCIAL : PROGRESSIVE RIVER BBQ (Geoff C) (Bob M) Open
Sat 26	Bob M / Steve L DO's Choice
Sun 27	DO's Choice Geoff C / Andy C / 4722 / 5.00
MAY	
Fri 2	Prawn Dive - Cookup (Geoff G) Open 2.00pm Swan Yacht Club - Skippers & DO's only
Sat 3	Cray Dive
Sun 4	Barry K / Brian M
Wed 7	COMMITTEE MEETING - 5YC 9pm
Sat 10	Two Tank Deep Dive : 8am Kerry A / Susie A P/H / 2 Wreck Dive : BSAC / UEC : 7am
Sun 11	Geoff C / BSAC
Fri 16	Overnighter - Bob / Steve
Sun 18	DO's Choice
Mon 19	Dennis S / Maree C
Sat 24	GENERAL MEETING - 5YC 7pm Dinner (Must be pre-booked) 6.30pm One Tank 'Exploratory' Dive Bob M / Jim R
Sun 25	Two Tank : BSAC : 7am Peter H / BSAC
Sun 25	SOCIAL : 'CAR RALLY' & BBQ
SPECIAL NOTICE	
Saturday 3/5/97 2.00pm Swan Yacht Club Skippers & Dive Officers meeting. Agenda to be announced. Please ensure if you are a Skipper or DO to attend.	

NOTES

- DEPARTS SWAN YACHT CLUB LOADING JETTING
- Check Your Departure Time
- All Dives Subject to Weather
- Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with DO Geoff Geard
- NOT THE CREW

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made with Geoff Geard

Phone : 453 1723

NOMINATIONS

Robert & Zita Dobson

Dianella

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Midland: 234 Gt. Eastern Hwy 274 5833
Myaree: 79 McCoy St 330 2333
North Perth: 18 Scribro Bch Rd 444 5333
Sth Fremantle: 109 Hampton Rd 335 2044
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EDITORIAL

Steve Larier

The days are getting shorter as the onset of winter approaches. The best diving conditions are still with us with calmer seas and lower swells. The late autumn weather pattern gives us time to enjoy some diving sites which cannot be dived due to strong sea breezes and constant swells.

Club activities during the winter turn to training for The Avon Decent rescue team. The Avon Decent is held on the first weekend of August. This exciting and well organised event enhances our skills as a team to provide rescue cover for the competitors. We need a large number of members to assist in a variety of different functions as a team. For those who have never been involved you have missed out. The training sessions and the actual event give you a great opportunity to not only assist y our club but enhance your fitness and enjoy yourself. This event is raced down some of the most beautiful countryside at a time of the year that provides some very spectacular scenery.

At the moment the club is looking for members to assist. If you are looking for some excitement to liven up this winter gloom get your A into G and join the team in this year's Avon Decent. Funds raised by our involvement with the event will be used as a deposit for the club to obtain a boat pen at the Swan Yacht Club.

For those members who for a variety of reasons have not been able to support the club activities during the diving season involvement with The Avon Decent will assist us in obtaining another club facility to make U.E.C.

THE BEST DIVING CLUB IN W.A.

There is no cost involved in participating. Your time and energy is all we need. Come along and have a wild time supporting your club.

"JUST DO IT"

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

Activity in the club at the moment is really hopping - there is something for everyone. Our meetings are very well attended with guest speakers addressing the group most nights. There is also a good social feeling developing amongst members. Diving is still going flat-out with both days of the weekend well patronised. Autumn produces some magic diving conditions - the visibility last week was the best I've seen in Perth waters in 15 years of diving. Our social functions are also attracting large crowds - it was standing room only at Wendy & Bill's home for the Mongolian night. And if all this frantic activity is not enough for you, then there is also the Avon Descent coming up - but more of that later.

All of these activities have a common thread running through them - camaraderie and a sense of belonging. That is one of the main reasons for joining a club - to associate with people with a common interest. We have quite a few new members that have joined us this year and I encourage all new and existing members to be active and join in with club events. This is the core of our club, its reason for existence and the springboard for expansion. In essence, the message is to get involved.

Now, back to the Avon Descent. This year we are looking for about 18 in-water and boat crew people and approximately 40-45 shore based personnel to assist. Once again Jim Robson will be co-ordinating the training and be the focal point for UEC Avon Descent liaison. This is a fantastic weekend that is eagerly awaited by many members, so give Jim a ring on 454 7868 to register your interest. This year the Committee has given an undertaking that with the proceeds from this year's event we will pay our deposit to secure a pen for the boat. In this way there will be tangible evidence of member's contribution for all to see.

Hope to see you all soon.

SKINNY DIPPING: THE BEST LICE GUARD

Swim nude to prevent sea lice infection, say the editors of the usually professional journal.

"In the interest of good public health research and practice, we feel compelled to note that abandoning swimming garments altogether, usually referred to as 'nude bathing' or skinny dipping, might go a long way to reducing the occurrence of this disease," the editors wrote.

Their suggestion appears in the current issue of Public Health Reports, at the bottom of a study about the risk of developing the sea bather's eruption, a rash that can afflict swimmers in Florida waters from March to August.

The rash, commonly called sea lice, generally appears in areas of the body covered by swimsuits, because microscopic jellyfish get trapped beneath the material and release a venom that irritates the skin.

Chances of an outbreak are made greater by failing to remove the swimsuit and to shower immediately after leaving the ocean, health officials say. The study notes swimmers at greatest risk of developing a rash are those with a history of the ocean infection, as well as children and surfers.

"We don't know whether it is obedience to social mores or a commercial link to fashion industry that has prevented the authors from suggesting an important preventive strategy for sea bather's eruption in an otherwise excellent article," the journal's editors wrote in suggesting nude swimming.

"It's true. If you don't wear a swimsuit you probably won't get a sea lice rash," said Dr Jean Malecki, director of the Palm Beach County Health Department and a co-author of the study.

But the nude-bathing suggestion from the editors was a little more than she expected.

Lifeguards and beach officials from Palm Beach, Broward and Dade counties chuckled at the idea. "It said they would warn swimmers that they face arrest if they strip off swimsuits."

"I'm speechless over the prospect," said John Robinson, assistant manager at the John D MacArthur Beach State Park on Singer Island. "Then again, if a man or woman is in the ocean over their chest, no one's going to be able to tell whether they have a bathing suit on."

Larry Fleischman, the unofficial "mayor" of Haulover Beach in Dade County - which includes a quarter-mile stretch that constitutes the only nude bathing area in South Florida - said the Public Health Service suggestion was on the mark.

Editors' Footnote:

Action will not be taken against members and guests who wish to skinny dip on the boat. However, we do reserve the right to sell tickets and commercial rights to all photography.

Steve.

BITS & BITES

Steve Larter

WHALE OF A HUNGER

Icelandic fisherman Sveik Kronliman has become a national celebrity and gone into the record books. He is the first person to eat an entire whale. It weighed three tonnes and took him seven years.

It's very ironic that when a shark eats a human we send out more human's to catch and kill the man eater. What a wonderful world we live in!

NOMINATION FOR WORLD'S OLDEST DIVER

According to Bob Halstead in a recent edition of Dive Log, Leni Refenstahl was actively diving aboard Telita in November 1996.

She is reputed to be 94. She learned to dive in 1974 after giving her age as 52 not 72 as she was worried she would be considered too old to learn. Since then she has been diving around the world producing books and films.

She was in Australia filming footage for a film on the wonders of the underwater world.

Bob Halstead commented upon how amazed he was by her energy and enthusiasm at the age of 94, she was up and down ladders and in and out of the water better than a lot of 50 year olds.

Are there any other nominations!!

CAMPAIGN ALERTS WORLD TO REEF THREAT

Australia has joined other Pacific nations in a campaign to draw attention to coral reefs as part of the International Year of the Reef, with Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority chairman Ian McPhail saying Pacific coral reefs are under growing threat from human activities.

"Pacific island countries face many of the same coral reef issues as we do here in Australia, including management of fisheries, pollution, tourism and coastal development", Dr McPhail said.

He said Australia had a lot to offer the Pacific because of its experience in the Great Barrier Reef. "Australia leads the world in reef management and research and we hope that by sharing our expertise and experience, we can help to ensure that reefs in the Pacific are used sustainably", he said.

Scientists have estimated that 10 per cent of the world's coral reefs have been degraded beyond recovery and that as much as 20-30 per cent may be lost by 2010.

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

Last month proved to be a good one for boat usage despite the terrible Easter conditions, which were made up for by Saturday, Sunday and social trips on the river at other times.

The boat and machinery performed well although the No 1 battery battery finally curled up it's toes and died and was replaced, without causing any loss of sea time.

The propeller gland packing was also replaced as it began to leak considerably, leading to the demise of the starter motor with salt water in the windings. A new starter motor may have been able to cope with this, but our aging unit simply could not, which may have been a blessing in disguise because it's replacement was possibly well overdue and could have cost us a tow home.

The boat has currently been berthed across the end of the SYC fuel jetty for most of the last 2 weeks, week days only of course, to facilitate the above attention, but also to find and fix a possible fault in the oil flow circuit of the motor. This problem is the occasional occurrence of the oil pressure alarm to stay on for lengthy periods on start up and may be something which is not covered by the reconditioning of the motor, but is nonetheless being looked at by the person who did our work, just in case.

It might be a good opportunity to put her up on the slips for a day or two next week to check this out thoroughly and catch up on a few odd jobs to keep her going flat out till the end of the season.

Keep in touch folks and don't leave town if this happens.

Cheers!

Stubby

SAFETY COMMENT

Steve Larfer

A recent study from the USA has shown that the 2 most common causes of Scuba fatalities are:

1. Running out of air.
2. Failure to release weight belt when in trouble.

Unfortunately, training techniques from commercial operators tend to rely totally on not running out of air.

It is therefore of vital importance that none of our divers overstays their bottom time. The diving Officer instructs all divers to ensure they commence their ascent at 50ats without exception.

Safe diving techniques for sport diving are fundamental and running out of air is unacceptable.

During the past few seasons we have had a number of incidents of divers returning to the boat with much less than 40 to 50ats left in their air supply.

Diving Officers must in future ensure that divers who want to ignore this fundamental safety rule are asked to give a full explanation of this blatant unsafe conduct.

The combined DO and Skippers meeting on 3/5/97 will have this recommendation on their agenda.



RECIPE CORNER

PRAWNS IN VINE LEAVES

Good to serve with drinks before a barbecue or picnic, these prawns are quick to cook and easy to eat.

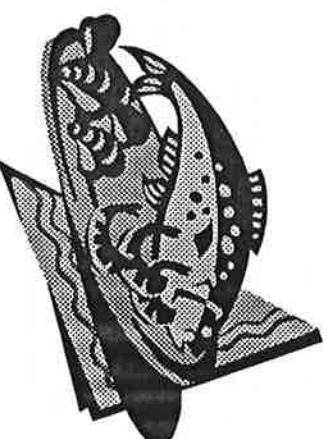
- 3 tbsps chopped parsley
 - 4 garlic cloves, crushed
 - ½ gar vine leaves, drained
 - 12 green prawns, peeled & deveined
- olive oil

Combine parsley and garlic in a small bowl.

Blanch vine leaves in boiling water for 1 minute. Drain.

Rinse under cold water and drain well. Place vine leaves vein side up on work surface and cut off stems.

Brush prawns with olive oil and place in centre of bottom edge of vine leaves. Sprinkle with 1 tspn parsley mixture. Fold sides of vine leaves over prawns and roll up, enclosing prawn completely. Thread prawn packages on skewers, three to a skewer, and brush with oil. Preheat grill or barbecue and cook skewers until prawns are cooked through, about 2-3 minutes each side. Serve warm or at 'room temperature', garnish with lemon. (Serves 4).



MEMBERS NEWS

Steve Larfer

Congratulations to Diane Goodfellow - winner of the Dive Log Magazines "Wildthing" competition.

Her prize a live-aboard dive charter on "Wildthing" from Exmouth.

We are green with envy - look forward to your report on your trip in the May magazine Wildthing!

MEMBERS NOTE

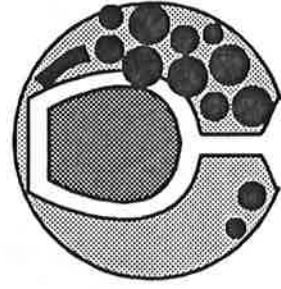
UEC members are welcome to book onto BSAC dives, when scheduled.

Priority will be given to BSAC for numbers. The boat can carry a maximum of 16 divers including crew for routine two tank dives. Not all BSAC dives have a full boat, so contact Geoff Geard who can book you on.

UEC THANK-YOU

On behalf of UEC, I would like to thank KNOX'S of Midland for their kind donation of a bottle of wine.

Knox's is situated at 273 Great Eastern Highway, Midland (2743885).



DIVING OFFICERS REPORT

Geoff Geard

Dive, dive, dive. Even hail squalls don't stop us!

The beginning of the month was very slow for me. Why? The boat was at Rottnest for the annual long weekend away and the week after. It only took a week to recover though and then I suffered writers cramp from booking people on and filling up the boat. Hey, I loved it. BSAC even had a fail squall when they were at Parker Point Drop Off, (where the vis was excellent). Even a dragging anchor was taken in its stride and handled with aplomb!!

To rub it in (to those of you that didn't get out on the boat), this month we went behind Joan Rock, Parker Point Drop Off and Stragglers. For the wreck enthusiasts, we dived the "Mira Flores" and the "City of York" wrecks again. On Easter Monday the boat went to Champion Rock, were Carl A and Geoff C caught "Jumbo Crays" measuring 115mm.

So if you haven't been for a dive for a while, or if you went yesterday, ring me on 453 1723. Contribute to my writers cramp and book your spot ASAP.

Crab Tip : Book early, as the boat is booking well.

Let's Go and Dive!!

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT.

Geoff.



SOCIAL EVENTS - Bob McLaughlin



NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

25 April

Progressive BBQ
on the Boat

\$20.00 a head

BYO Drink & Chair

This should be an interesting event I think, a first of, so come along and let's make it happen.

We'll be going up and down the river having a course at different venues - it should be a real food adventure for all of us.



MOTHERS DAY

LUNCHEON

SUNDAY MAY 11TH

12.00PM - 3.00PM

Three Course Meal
\$17.50 per head

Complementary Champagne on arrival for Mum's.

CLUB MEETING

Monday 21 April

Guest Speaker from Environmental Protection

This month's guest speaker Ray Masini, will be present at the 8pm UEC General Meeting on the 21st at the Swan Yacht Club.

Ray is from the Environmental Protection Marine Branch and will be speaking to us about their latest Marine Project.

Sounds very interesting so come along and learn.

SOCIAL CAR RALLY 1997

COMING SOON..... !!!

GET READY..... !!!

'Social Treasure Hunt'
Sunday May 25th 1997
9.00am

\$10.00 per car

- Bring yourselves, your car and your kids and your dog...
- "Ask your relatives and all of your friends..."

Just like a Car Rally, it will be the most fun you've had for ages!!!

Finding and experiencing lots of new and exciting things...

Plus there will be a BBQ, with many more stimulating things to do.

So Come Along, Don't Miss Out.

The More the Merrier !!!

SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Thank you to Bill & Wendy Boustead for letting us use your home for the Mongolian BBQ.

Everyone thought the BBQ was a great idea something different and from all accounts the food was excellent. Once again thank you Bill and to your helper Kerry - Looking forward to the next one.

A great talk at the last meeting from Frank Pisani from the Fremantle Sea Rescue. I'm sure we all learnt a lot from about the workings behind Sea Rescue.



"SEE YOU THERE"!!!

THE UEC NEWS

M O N T H L Y M A G A Z I N E

SENDER:
Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc.)
PO Box 1157, Booragoon, WA 6154

UEC NEWS

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Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Cr
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

MAY 1997

THE COMMITTEE 1997

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	Phone 9457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 9454 8580
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	Phone 9451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	Phone 9445 2396
DIVING OFFICER	Geoff Geard	Phone 9453 1723
BOATING OFFICER	Dennis Stubberfield	Phone 9457 3333
SAFETY OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 9457 5206
TRAINING OFFICER	Ric Young	Vacant
BUILDING OFFICER	Steve Larter	Phone 9457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 9291 9654
SOCIAL OFFICER	Bruce Porter	Phone 9454 ~ 90
PR OFFICER	Geoff Geard	Phone 9367 .J2
DIVE BOOKINGS	Geoff Geard	Phone 9453 1723

FOR SALE - (Still)

Dennis and Maree have upgraded their regulators and are selling their old ones while there is still at least half their life left - the regulators, not Dennis and Maree!!!

The deal is now:

- (a) 1 only - 'acme' Scubapro Mk10 1st stage with a G250 2nd stage, just serviced and a beauty - \$750
- (b) 1 only - Tusa regulator 1st and 2nd stage, with Sherwood shadow oocy and contents gauge and depth gauge, which has depth calibration adjustment and maximum depth indicator - \$300

Word Processing, Flyers, Newsletters, Desktop Publishing
 Letterheads, Company Logo's, Artwork & Package Tutoring
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 Confidentiality & Quality of work assured

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Phone : 9459 4662

CLUB CALENDAR

APRIL / MAY 1997

MONTH/DATE	EVENT
MAY	
Fri 16	Overnight (Bob M / Steve L)
Sat 17	DO's Choice (Dennis S / Maree C)
Sun 18	GENERAL MEETING - 5YC - 8pm Dinner (Must be pre-booked) - 6.30pm
Sat 24	One Tank ' Exploratory Dive (Bob M / Jim R) Two Tank : BSAC : 7am (Peter H / BSAC) SOCIAL : 'SOCIAL TREASURE HUNT' & BBQ
Sun 25	Open (Dennis S / Michel Roux) (2 nd June = PH : Foundation Day)
Sat 31	Exploratory Two Tank Dive (Richard N / Jim R)
JUNE	
Sun 1	COMMITTEE MEETING - 5YC - 8pm Lazy Autumn One Tank Dive - 8am - Free Lunch (Kerry A / Susie A) Wreck Dive? (Peter H / Luc F) Request Dive (Geoff C / Brian M) Cray Dive (Dennis S / Maree C)
Wed 4	GENERAL MEETING - 5YC - 8pm Dinner (Must be pre-booked) : 6.30pm
Sat 7	Open (Bob M / Steve L)
Sun 8	AVON ORIENTATION / BBQ SOCIAL : 'TEN PIN BOWLING'
Sat 14	
Sun 15	
Sat 21	
Sun 22	
Fri 27	

NOTES :
 : DEPARTS SWAN YACHT CLUB LOADING JETTY
 : Check Your Departure Time
 : All Dives Subject to Weather
 : Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with DO Geoff Geard
 : NOT THE CREW

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made with Geoff Geard
 Phone : 9453 1723

NOMINATIONS

Trevor Walker
Fraser Cleghorn

Willettton
Cottesloe

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FOR ALL YOUR GLASS REQUIREMENTS



PILKINGTON VICTOR GLASS

Greenwood: 20 Canham Way 342 3737
Midland: 234 Gt. Eastern Hwy 274 5833
Myaree: 79 McCoy St 330 2333
North Perth: 18 Scribro Bch Rd 444 5333
Sth Fremantle: 109 Hampton Rd 335 2044
Victoria Park: 1 Mint St 362 2270
Kalgoorlie: 75 Dugan St (090) 21 2724
Albany: Cockburn Rd (098) 41 1622

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EDITORIAL

Steve Larler

Following the skippers and diving officers meeting held recently a unanimous decision was taken that our most urgent priority was to obtain a pen at the Swan Yacht Club.

The benefits of penning the boat are many and positive outcomes will be achieved with regards to boat usage and maintenance.

Unfortunately there is a down side as there always is. Economics, how do we pay ??

There are only four ways to raise funds in any club environment.

- (a) Club membership
- (b) Fees and charges for activities
- (c) Sponsorship
- (d) Fundraising events

The most difficult balancing act is always "money in" versus "money out" and running a diving club is no different than any business or home. To make improvements investment must be made. Over the years the club has gone from strength to strength by responsible management of available funds. Improvements like a boat pen and a efficient anchor winch will need financing so we must, as a club, start to look at imaginative ways of raising funds. Some suggestions have already been made. We need more ideas and commitment towards raising funds.

If we could find a sponsor for our boating activities or any donations would be fantastic.

Get your thinking hats on and let's have some suggestions.

Money we need it!!

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

It's amazing what a strong club feeling and commitment can achieve. Last month we had a potentially serious problem with the motor in the Underwater Explorer and a hardy group of 8 men took the engine out and replaced within a day allowing us to dive on Sunday. This is just one example of what can be achieved if we all work towards a common objective. There are people in this town still shaking their heads that we could pull off the seemingly impossible. With this in mind we are trying to harness some of this club spirit to help us speed up the acquisition of a pen at SYC. If just 8 members can pay their up-coming subscription fees early, we can get on the list. Think about it folks, only 8 people.

We also find that we need more skippers and DO's. Our full-on diving schedule is taking its toll on our current people and they need a breather. We need some form of succession planning to ensure our activities are catered for in the coming years. Anyone interested in taking on some training for either skipper or diving officer, give Dennis a ring on 9457 3333. BSAC members are welcome also. Training consists mainly of putting time on the boat and operating her or conducting dives under supervision.

The May meeting promises to be very interesting with a talk on sharks.

I hope to see you all there.

Maree

VACANCIES - AVON DESCENT

Low cost (**FREE**) accommodation in exclusive rustic retreat. First class meals included in this action-packed weekend. Space is limited on this sought-after weekend getaway! For reservations and further information contact tour organiser Jim Robson on 9454 7868.

BLAST FROM THE PAST!!

UEC September 1969

How many of us have qualified for this proficiency award certificate?? Let's see your log book!

TRAINING STANDARDS

A number of members have been asking what there was to aim at in the club after having gained their Advanced Certificate. It has been mentioned to them on a number of occasions that there is a Proficiency Award Certificate for which there are only four members who have completed this. The tests are as follows:

1. Swim half mile without equipment.
2. Swim two miles with mask, snorkel and fins.
3. Swim quarter mile on surface wearing lung and basic gear. No air to be used.
4. Free dive to 30ft three times in five minutes.
5. Dive to 200ft.
6. Conduct blind search in 10ft water on muddy bottom. Area of search 50ft by 50ft.
7. Write article on search techniques.
8. Free ascent from 100ft.
9. Free ascent from 50ft after exhaling all air.
10. Twelve dives of 100ft or more spending at least 5 minutes on the bottom each time.
11. Write 2,000 word essay on subject allied to diving.
12. 400 yard compass swim. Surface within 50ft of buoy.
13. 100 yard directional swim (no compass). Surface within 50ft of buoy.
14. Five feet mud dive. Attach shackle to mooring.

These tests are to be recorded by the individual member who is naturally on trust. These records will be able to be kept easily with the New Log Book soon to be available to members.

With regard to other training, Barry Geddes is working on diabolical ideas at Beauty Park each Thursday evening until the opening of Bass in October. All are designed to make for greater efficiency in the water.

By the time the Advanced Certificate is held it is believed that members will have enough knowledge to organise for themselves and others and would therefore be in a position to assist on subcommittees, organise and work on projects allied to diving, and to which they have a leaning, ie shell collecting, archaeology, etc.

BITS & BITES

DID YOU KNOW?

- Whales have belly buttons.
- Baby blue whales need about 190 litres of milk daily to survive.
- The blue whale has a heart the size of a small car and a tongue that could fill a bug living room. It is about as long as three buses and weights more than 20 elephants.



- Sharks were on the planet 300 million years before the appearance of dinosaurs. They have existed for more than 400 million years and have remained virtually unchanged for the past 100 million years. There are about 380 known species. Of all the species, 27 have been known to attack people; another dozen are suspected to have attacked; and 28 more are potentially dangerous because of their size and behavior.
- Sharks range in size from only 15cm to almost 20m, the size of the biggest whale shark, the largest fish in the sea. Although its body is massive, the whale shark has some of the smallest teeth of all sharks. The smallest shark, the dwarf dogfish shark, can fit in the palm of your hand.
- All sharks have skeletons of cartilage. Their body frameworks are comprised of gristle-like cartilage. All sharks belong to one class of fish called chondrichthyes, which have skeletons of cartilage.
- Sharks are born in three ways: in egg cases outside the mother - many of which are uniquely shaped, leathery shells; as live young, similar to mammals; or through a combination of the two - hatched inside and then born as live young.

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

The Skippers and Diving Officers meeting held on the 3rd of May discussed a full range of boating matters from priorities in work on the boat, to the way we run our dives. Work and improvements to the boat are very much dependent on the state of our finances, which are fully committed at this time due to the engine reconditioning. However, a great deal of work can be done and many improvements can be made, for almost negligible cost if we as a Club work together to 'scrounge' materials and do with our labour what we cant afford to buy off the shelf.

Back in the 'Bad old days' when we didn't have a dollar between us - before most of us owned a bank card - a very great deal was achieved in this way. Admittedly we didn't have the enormous pressure on us to compete with the glitzy commercial operations that we do now, nor the social constraints that our present economic, dollar crazed, commercialized, society has forced upon us (ie. Working week ends and no more 9 to 5, and 5 day weeks) so we had more time for this type of approach.

But this is what we must do until the boat is paid off, if we want to improve the boat and attract more members - to pay the boat off sooner - to get funds to make even more improvements!

As far as the boat itself is concerned the top priority was felt to be our anchoring arrangements. This includes, mounting the anchor up 'forward', an anchor winch to get it up and easy rope storage - all of which can be achieved for very little money if we make things and do the work ourselves. Skippers visibility was also seen as major problem, in part being solved by better anchoring means, but will need some money to improve. I feel noise and fume on the boat, followed by seating and hand holds come high on the list too and this can also be achieved by ourselves at little cost.

Operationally, the major concern and TOP PRIORITY was to get the boat in a pen as quickly as possible. This can only be achieved by time and money, the sooner we pay the sooner we get in! At \$600 to get on the list it's a bit of a hard ship, but will pay big dividends.

Firstly, boat usage is likely to rise and secondly it will dramatically improve our incentive and ability to work on the boat and make the improvements we need to get more divers out. It is now a well established fact, that in the two seasons we had our boat penned at Challenger Harbour we achieved our best diving man-days ever. We also improved the boat and generated a Club spirit, that we have barely achieved since.

It has been suggested that we get 7 or 8 people to pay their fees now and get on the pen list immediately. This could be doubly beneficial as the situation at SYC is such that a recent increase in the pen deposit to \$600, which must be paid before the end of June 1997, may mean a few drop outs from the waiting list.

Go for it Folks!!

Stubby

SAFETY REPORT

Ric Young

Hill Fellow Divers

It has come to my attention that some divers may not be diving with the appropriate equipment to ensure safe diving.

In addition to the basic items required to scuba dive - air supply tank, regulator, weight belt, fins, snorkel and mask, there is other equipment that divers are required to utilize on UEC dives. They are:

1. Buoyancy Control Device (Vest)
2. Submersible Pressure Gauge
3. Depth Gauge
4. Dive Watch or Computer to measure elapsed time
5. Knife

Other equipment that is recommended:

1. Alternative air supply - 2nd stage (occy)
2. Torch
3. Compass
4. Whistle

Safe diving not only requires the appropriate equipment, it also requires a fit and healthy body.

To make sure that divers meet this criteria they should have a dive medical check up every two years. So fellow divers, if you are overdue for a dive medical, please consider having one in the near future.

"In Deep Trouble"

"Two divers after flathead in Fremantle were lucky not to have adopted the name of their 'watch'."

These are the opening lines of a report in the Sunday Times 20/3/1997.

The report refers to two divers conducting a night dive off the East Street Jetty, who were forced to lie on the river bed with only centimetres of clearance as the "Captain Cook" cruiser passed over them.

Apparently they did not have a compass and ventured into the boating channel by accident. The divers were fined \$100.00 for diving without a flag and were grateful not to be charged with altering the course of a commercial vessel which carries a greater penalty. These two divers were lucky not to be killed or seriously injured.

Let their experience be a reminder to all of us to always use a dive flag and avoid boating channel.

Safe diving!

Ric

CMAS / PADI AGREEMENT

1. REASONS

- a) Do not penalise divers following one of the two paths.
- b) Allowing divers to move from one scheme to another without losing its experience.
- c) Allowing CMAS and PADI diving centres to receive divers taking up a different scheme correctly assessing their skills and experience according to their level.

2. AGREEMENT

CMAS

- CMAS 1 star diver
- Can apply for Rescue Diver
- CMAS 2 star diver
- Can apply for Diver Master
- CMAS 3 stars divers

PADI

- Open Water
- Advanced Open Water
- Advanced Open Water Plus
- Can apply for CMAS 2 stars divers
- Rescue Diver
- Can apply for CMAS 3 star divers
- Divemaster

3. LIMITS

- a) This agreement only concerns divers, not instructors.
- b) This is only a framework agreement, which is:
 - i) CMAS suggests its members take up this scheme, but in no case can enforce it.
 - ii) If a CMAS member resolves to take up part of all of this agreement, it should fully implement it - no alteration allowed.
- c) This is not an equivalence table, allowing any divers to automatically receive a certificate issued by the other organisation.
- d) This agreement allows:
 1. A CMAS diver willing to move in a PADI scheme to apply for:
 - Rescue diver - if holding a CMAS 1 star certificate.
 - Dive master - if holding a CMAS 2 stars certificate.
 2. A PADI diver willing to move in a CMAS scheme to apply for:
 - CMAS 2 stars diver - if holding a PADI Advanced open water plus certificate
 - CMAS 3 stars diver - if holding a PADI Rescue diver certificate.

STRICKEN DIVER RESCUED

Sunday Times 12th April 1997

A dramatic rescue off Rottneest Island yesterday saved an inexperienced diver from death after he swan down to 60m.

He had dived to almost twice the recommended depth with two friends before he started convulsing and lost consciousness.

One of his friends dragged him to the surface while fighting to keep him alive by sharing a regulator, but the rapid ascent aggravated his condition and he was bleeding from the mouth, nose and ears when they reached their 6m aluminium run-about, west of Rottneest's West End.

Another diver, also suffering decompression sickness, performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation while water police and the Fremantle Volunteer Sea Rescue Group responded to their may-day call. Two boats raced to the scene, one with a nurse from Rottneest. The third diver, the skipper, surfaced unharmed. They were picked up by the sea rescue boat Rover 1.

The diver was being treated in Fremantle Hospital's hyperbaric oxygen unit. Water police said the men were believed to have challenged each other about how deep they could dive.

But the skipper said the men chose to dive to 60m in search of black coral.

FOR SALE

Tusa 1st and 2nd stage regulator with hose, also SOS combo and hoses. Very little use. No MDI.

\$250.00

Contact Angela Hughes:

Home: 9370 4417

Work: 9327 8777

DIVING OFFICERS REPORT

Geoff Geard

As you will have read in the Boating Officers report, the beginning of April saw a few hiccups with the boat. But the diving has more than made up for the misery. With dives at Stragglers having some of the best visibility seen for a long time.

I'd like to say here that the calendar is **flexible**. A two tank becoming one, or a one tank becoming two. Going to Carnac or Stragglers, instead of Rottneest, to get back to Fremantle in quick time if the weather breaks. D/O's will endeavour to please and give you a dive.

Please note when the calendar states:

'Open days' with D/O's and Skippers listed: that day is open for whatever the D/O, Skipper or Divers suggest.

'Open days' without D/O's and Skippers listed: is the same, I just haven't found a D/O and Skipper yet for that day.

So ring me to find out what is happening for the day. Weather permitting, most days are diving days.

Note: As of or after Friday 2nd May, 'Prawn Dive-Cookups', will be removed from the calendar. If you want a buddy any Friday night to chase prawns though, please feel free to ring me as I enjoy these dives.

* Also while I am here, don't forget to ring me the night before a dive, after 6.30 PM to confirm if the dives are on or not.....

Finally to the part you all want to read.

Over the last month, we dived at: Stragglers where quote "some of the best visibility seen in a long time" unquote, was stated; A 14 metre lump between Sausage and Roe Reef; An 8.7 metre lump in Geordie Bay, where photos were taken and it was generally a good day with 8 metre plus vis; North of Stragglers, more good vis; Jackson's Rock and Roe Reef to finish the month with.

So if you missed out last month, ring me this month on 9453 1723 and book you spot, as next month Winter will be upon us and we will have some weekends taken up with the Avon Descent.

Don't forget the phone number 9453 1723.

Let's Go and Dive !!

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT

Geoff



SOCIAL EVENTS - Bob McLaughlin



NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

25th May

CAR RALLY

9.00 am - \$10.00/Car

Starting at the City West Car Park, Perth City. (Next to the Omni Theatre)

- Bring yourselves, your car, your kids and your dog. (plus your street directory)
- "Ask your relatives and all of your friends....." Don't be shy!

We'll here it is....

Everyone loves car rally's and this will be the most fun you have had for ages.!!!

Finding, learning & experiencing lots of new and exciting things and generally having a ball. Surprises?..., maybe...!!!

There will also be a BBQ. (B.Y.O. everything) with more stimulating things to do at the finish.

So Come Along, Get in Quick - "Book Now" Don't Miss Out!!!

The More the Merrier !!!

Contact Hetty Geard Ph: 9453 1723
(BOOK and pay, at the General Meeting on 19/5/97)

MOTHERS DAY

LUNCHEON

SUNDAY MAY 11th

12.00PM - 3.00PM

Three Course Meal
\$17.50 per head

Complementary Champagne on arrival for Mum's.



CLUB MEETING

Monday 19th May

Guest Speaker
Dr John Bass

Dr Bass is an expert in shark biology, this should be an interesting talk on the habits and behaviour of sharks.

BOWLING NIGHT

COMING SOON.... !!!

FRIDAY JUNE 27th

WATCH THIS SPACE !!!

LADIES NIGHT

Saturday 24th May

TOY BOY ENTERTAINMENT

8.00 till late

Cost:

\$12.00 Members
& \$15.00 Friends

3 Course Buffet downstairs before show:

\$15.00 per head

Book Early at SYC Office

SPECIAL THANK YOU!

To Ray Masini for an interesting talk on the Environmental Protection Agency. You must admit, we've been getting some very interesting speakers to our monthly meetings.

Thanks Hetty.



PROGRESSIVE BBQ

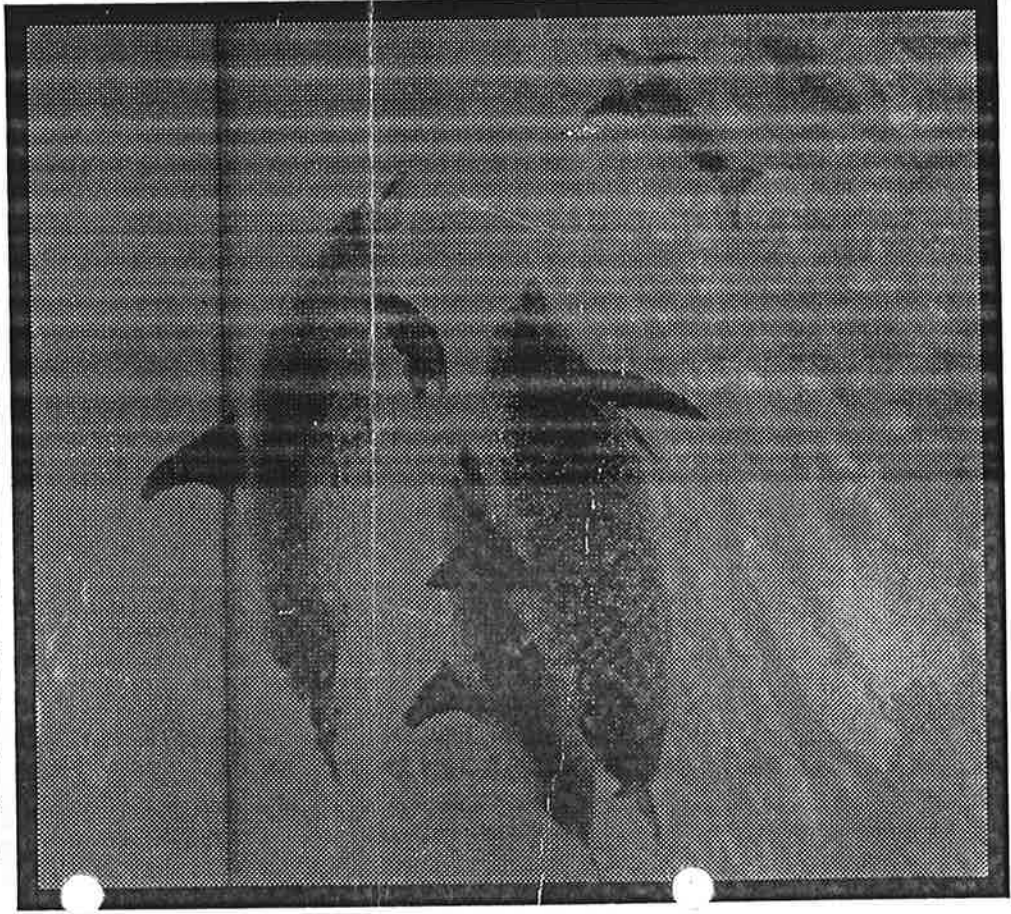
Unfortunately the Progressive BBQ was canceled due to lack of numbers.

I thought at the time it was a good idea but possibly the timing was wrong. I might give it in the future if I can get the numbers.

SENDER:
Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc.)
PO Box 1157, Booragoon, WA 6154

THE UEC NEWS

M O N T H L Y M A G A Z I N E



UEC NEWS

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Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Crescent
FORRESTFIELD 6058

JUNE 1997

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of the
6058

THE COMMITTEE 1997

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	Phone 9457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 9454 8580
SECRETARY	Geoff Chanton	Phone 9451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	Phone 9445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Geoff Geard	Phone 9453 1723
BOATING OFFICER	Dennis Stubberfield	Phone 9457 3333
SAFETY OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 9457 5206
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CLUB CALENDAR

MAY / JUNE 1997

MONTH/DATE	EVENT
JUNE	
Sat 14	Request Dive (Geoff C / Brian M) Cray Dive
Sun 15	(Dennis S / Maree C)
Mon 18	GENERAL MEETING - SYC 8pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) - 6:30pm
Sat 21	Open (Bob M / Steve L)
Sun 22	AVON ORIENTATION / BBQ - Cloughton Park - 11AM
Fri 27	SOCIAL : TEN PIN BOWLING
Sat 28	Open (7/7?)
Sun 29	"AVON DESCENT TRAINING - WATER / SHORE / BBQ - BELLS RAPIDS
JULY	
Wed 2	COMMITTEE MEETING - SYC 8pm
Sun 6	"AVON DESCENT TRAINING - WATER / SHORE / BBQ - BELLS RAPIDS
Sun 13	"AVON DESCENT TRAINING - WATER / SHORE / BBQ - BELLS RAPIDS
Sat 19	"AVON DESCENT TRAINING - WATER / SHORE / BOAT / BBQ - EMU FALLS
Sat 19	SOCIAL : CHRISTMAS IN JULY - SYC
Sun 20	"AVON DESCENT - SCRUTINEERING - HINDS PARK
Mon 21	GENERAL MEETING - SYC 8pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) - 6:30pm
Sun 27	AVON DESCENT - VALLEY RUN / BBQ - NORTHAM WEIR

NOTES

- DEPARTS SWAN YACHT CLUB LOADING JETTY
- Check Your Departure Time
- All Dives Subject to Weather
- Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with DO Geoff Geard
- **NOT THE CREW**

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made with Geoff Geard
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Rosalie Miles

Yokine

(FAUJ/NASDS)

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EDITORIAL

Steve Larter

What is happening at UEC. We are experiencing a strange phenomenon. For those of you who haven't been joining in on the club's activities you have been missing out.

Monthly meetings are well attended with some excellent guest speakers. Compared to our monthly meetings in the club rooms we are attracting many more members. Social activities are also well attended with some varied and interesting functions.

This year's Avon Descent has really attracted a very large number of members who are really fired up for a great weekend of fun and excitement.

Does this increase in member activity indicate that the club is starting to enjoy a change in culture.

The donation presented to the club by one of our long standing members for the deposit for a boat pen was a very generous gesture which is going to benefit all of us. With the increase in activity and support of the members the club will carry on moving from strength to strength.

The aim of the club is to provide and promote underwater activities for our members. Our number one priority is to boost club membership of active divers from all ages. With the strong commitment of our members, which has been evident during the radical change which has occurred over the past 12 months we can only conclude that we are moving in the right direction.

Support + new members = **SUCCESS!**

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

Great news folks! Thanks to the generosity of Harry Welmink from Dive Ski and Surf we are now on the waiting list for a pen at SYC. Harry was quick to offer the \$600.00 needed to secure a deposit which was just as quickly accepted at the May meeting by members. Harry, his family and Dive Ski and Surf have always supported the aims and objectives of the UEC and importantly our club members in their sporting endeavours. In recognition of their support of us, I encourage all members to visit a Dive Ski and Surf shop when they need new gear. On top of the already fabulously low price UEC members are offered a further 10% discount.

The training schedule for the Avon Descent training is also in this mag. Cut it out and stick it on the fridge so that you won't forget to turn up. Even if you are not in the rescue team, come along anyway and enjoy a day of fun and adventure. As this is our major winter activity we can all be involved, even if only to provide moral support and to share a good BBQ lunch.

Once again we are having a guest speaker at the next meeting. Peter Burwood is giving a talk on the wonders of diving in the Solomon Islands. I hope we will have the upstairs area at SYC because downstairs the acoustics are terrible. It is difficult to conduct a meeting when no-one can hear you. Rest assured that I will be doing my best to secure a permanent spot upstairs.

Hope to see you all there.

Maree

DIVING MANADO

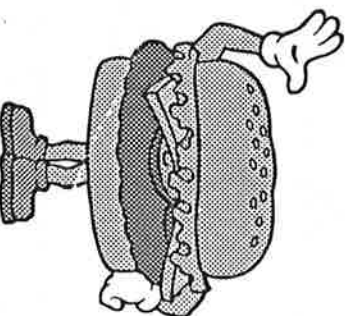
Pat Froy

After having spent ten days in Manado I thought that I should put a few lines in the mag to give you some idea about the place.

The city of Manado is the major city of North Sulawesi (next to Borneo). Although there are a few diving accommodation centres in the area, I chose the Nusantara Dive Centre (NDC) which is located about seven kilometres from the city. Air conditioned rooms, all meals and diving equipment are provided. They also have about 10 large boats that take divers out around the islands. Usually the boat trip out is about thirty minutes. Some may take up to an hour.

The ocean is usually as calm as the Swan River and the water on the surface is very warm. All of the diving is on steep slopes or vertical walls. *I won't lay it on thick the way they do in dive magazines.* I'll simply say that the scenery along the slopes and walls is fantastic. If you are thinking about going up there for a diving holiday, definitely take your dive tables and learn how to read them before you go.

The water is very deep. There are cold currents occasionally coming up from the depths and they can make your dive a bit uncomfortable if you don't have at least a wet suite top. I felt really comfortable with a lycra suit to protect my legs from stinging corals and an old wet suite top to keep me warm when I ran into a cold current. In exchange for a hamburger and a can of coke, I'll willingly give you more fatherly advice about Manado.



BITS & BITES

Susie

MOLA MOLA

Sounds like Polynesian greeting words to me, but it's not. It's Greek (meaning millstone) for the OCEAN SUNFISH or HEADFISH, the weirdest-shaped fish, which can be seen occasionally wallowing on the surface near our urban beaches in summer. Kerry claims he has seen one in the Swan River during a prawning session.

Ocean sunfish are pelagic (middle depth to surface) relatives of the Leatherjacket, Puffer and Porcupine fish. Their peculiar shape, all head and practically no tail, accounts for the name 'headfish', while the habit of lying almost motionless, partially on their side on the surface, results in the more popular description of 'sunfish'.

In 1910 near Sydney, a giant sunfish jammed the port propeller of an ocean steamer. When removed and placed on a weigh-bridge, the fish came in at just over two tonnes, and measured three metres from nose to tail, a little over four metres from fin-tip to fin-tip and almost two metres in breadth!

[Source: LANDSCOPE Summer 1996-97]

The sudden decline of the SPOTTED HANDFISH

A slow-moving, shallow-water creature, the Spotted Handfish rarely swims. Instead, like other Handfish, it "walks" along the sea floor on its fins. But this species may be walking toward extinction: It is the first marine fish listed under Australia's Endangered Species Act.

The eight species of Handfish take their name from arm-like side fins with extremities resembling human hands. In the early 1980s the Spotted Handfish, which can reach five inches in length, was abundant off south-east Tasmania. A 1982 guide to Tasmanian fishes called it the Handfish species most commonly encountered by divers. Now, says marine biologist Barry Bruce, it's rare: Recent surveys of its home waters in the Derwent estuary and adjoining bays turned up only three dozen.

No one is sure what caused the decline, but experts suggest siltation of the estuary, urban effluent, or predation by a new neighbour, the northern Pacific Sea Star, which probably arrived in the ballast of ships during the 1980s.

[Source: National Geographic, February 1997]

FISHY AFFAIRS

Susie

TUNA FARMING

From November through to March spotter planes watch for the big schools of tuna coming out of the Great Australian Bight. When the open ocean tuna appear, boats go out and throw a purse-seine net around the school which are then transferred to tuna farms, large 50 metre diameter floating rings made of plastic tubing with an 18 metre diameter net in the middle and a predator net on the outside to keep out sharks and seals. Towed into the sheltered waters near Port Lincoln, South Australia, each farm net holds about a hundred tonnes of tuna which consume about 8-10 tonnes of pilchards a day (at a cost of \$1,000 a tonne), until they reach optimum size, about 35 to 40 kilos. When the market is at it's peak the tuna are harvested and flown directly to Japan where they fetch an average of \$1,000 a tuna.

Divers are involved in every stage of the operation, from transferring the catch from the purse-seine to the farm net to carrying out daily inspection dives, referred to as 'Mort' dives - mortality dives - in which they remove dead tuna from the net. They also monitor the feeding and check each net for predators, notably White Pointer sharks attracted to the farms by the blood during harvesting which takes place on an almost daily basis.

A relatively new industry that's only become established within the last five years, there are now between 60 and 100 tuna farm 'rings' in the Port Lincoln area.

[Source: Professional Diver Journal, Vol. 2 No. 2]



"Port-starboard-port-starboard.
Can't you speak English?"

SOCIAL REPORT

Susie and Kerry

WELL DONE HETTY and GEOFF - YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN!!!

And the Weather Gods were with us... not a drop of rain the whole day.

As usual, when the Geard family arranges a social event for our club, they put a lot of time and effort into the task. This time it was something "new" on the UEC Social Calendar - A CAR RALLY! Pity though, we didn't have more UEC members in attendance, but then again, they don't even know all the fun they missed out on.

Kerry and I had invited our dear friends Liisa and Kimbal to join us, and that, I am glad for! Without them, we would probably not have received the first prize, which was very generous, and enough for us to take home more than one item each!

As the rally was meant to be a leisurely drive, and not timed, we could take it easy in finding a can, a ball, a slab, 3 seeds, a piece of wool, an ice cream stick, map of Australia, piece of toilet paper (!) an egg, a feather, a nail and a bus ticket.... AND have plenty of time to go fishing for the big game, plus give Hetty's father a cuddle, at their house.

Some statistics: Seven cars (= 3 UEC + 4 others) with 19 people all together, started out at the City West Car park in the morning. We drove between 101 and 114 km through town and several suburbs.

The first car over the "finishing line" took 2.1/2 hours, and the last car (us!) arrived one hour later.

While Hetty and Geoff were scoring our points, the rest of us were enjoying our BBQ and drinkies in the late afternoon sun "where the Squad fly" by the river.

GREAT DAY! THANK YOU!

from Kerry and Susie, "The Moose Boozers Team"

DIVING OFFICERS REPORT

Geoff Geard

Winter is here! Too cold to dive!

RUBBISH...!!!

I am still diving and catching prawns! Crazy ???

Yeah, maybe, but hey, what a way to finish the week. I know, I know.

Rubbish, compared to ocean diving can always be done, but the water gets a lot colder in the river.

What I am trying to say, with the Avon Descent training next month, let's make the most of this month. (With weather permitting)

Don't like getting up in the dark huh???

How about we make it an 8.30, 9.00 or even 9.30am start...? YOU TELL ME...!

BOOK YOUR SPOT ON THE BOAT: Call Geoff: 9453 1723.

As for dives, BSAC wanted a wreck dive so Peter obliged and took them to the "D9". Unfortunately the vis was on the poor side, but then they went east of Straglers and had an enjoyable dive.

Then the weather here turned nasty and 'we' couldn't get a lot of diving in.

It's a month for sure!!!

(Don't forget to ring me the night before a dive, after 6.30 PM to confirm if dives are on or not)

Let's Go and Dive !!

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT

Geoff

SAFETY REPORT

Ric Young

Due to the poor weather recently little diving has been conducted and no reports regarding safety has come to my attention.

Therefore, I thought I would comment on an incident reported in last month's UEC News on a near drowning when a diver was brought to the surface in an unconscious state following a 60 metre dive, West of Rottneest.

This dive was not a UEC dive and was considerably deeper than the 40 metre limit recommended for recreational diving by most training agencies.

HOW DEEP IS TOO DEEP?

I don't have any precise details of the events underwater in this incident, however, the reality of deep diving is the deeper you go, the potential for problems increase and if a problem does occur the consequences are often serious.

Unconsciousness underwater is often associated with deep diving accidents and may be attributed to the physiological effects of diving at depths greater than 30 metres.

These include an increase in the carbon dioxide level of the blood oxygen toxicity, nitrogen narcosis and decompression illness.

Blackout underwater may not be attributed to a single cause but may result from a combination of physiological or physical factors.

Considering the increased hazard and difficulty dealing with problems at this depth, plus the associated stress involved, most divers would avoid embarking on such a dive, or at least have the proper training and special equipment available to reduce the risks.

Safe diving!

Ric

AVON DESCENT RESCUE GROUP 1997 Training Schedule

SUNDAY 22ND JUNE

Orientation Day / Sausage Sizzle with in water training.

CLAUGHTON PARK, BAYSWATER - 11.00am TO 2.00pm

This day is designed to combine a social and training session to meet each other, establish a backbone of teams and demonstrate the requirements of the teams.

A sausage sizzle, provided by the AVON DESCENT COMMITTEE, will follow the exercises. Bring your salads to eat, all your gear (for in water trainees) and be prepared for a good fun/work day.

SUNDAY 29TH JUNE

Water and Shore training.

BELLS RAPIDS - 9.00am to 1.00pm - Optional BYO / BBQ to follow.

SUNDAY 6TH JULY

Water and Shore training.

BELLS RAPIDS - 9.00am to 1.00pm - Optional BYO / BBQ to follow.

SUNDAY 13TH JULY

Water Shore and Boat training.

EMU FALLS - 8.00am to 3.00pm - Full days training ALL TEAMS to attend this training session. Assembly point 8.00am at ACE Cinema car park Cnr Morrison Road & Great Northern Highway leaving 8.15am prompt to travel in convoy through the Avon Valley. The rubber ducks will be put through their paces and both shore and water teams will get a good work out. BYO / BBQ to follow.

SUNDAY 20TH JULY

HINDS PARK - 8.00am to 2.00pm

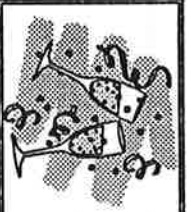
Scrutineering of craft and contestants at which our boat crews provide rescue services for the swim tests. Today will also be used for shore and water teams who were unable to make other training dates. BBQ facilities BYO food and drinks.

SUNDAY 27TH JULY

NORTHAM WEIR - 10.00am to 4.00pm

Traditionally a trip down the Avon River from Northam to Bells Rapids to view river conditions. BBQ lunch at Weston Quarries Campsite. Social type day where rescue and organising personnel check the scene before the race.

TEAM MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO ATTEND AS MANY SESSIONS AS POSSIBLE



SOCIAL EVENTS - Bob McLaughlin



NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

FRIDAY 27th JUNE

It's on again! Our annual 10 PIN BOWLING evening!

As usual we have booked four lanes for two games.

WHEN?

Friday 27th June

WHERE?

SuberBowl
248 Stock Road, Melville
(cnr Leach Highway)

WHAT TIME?

1900 - 2100, but be there 1845 to try out shoes first.

AND AFTERWARDS?

We party on in the meeting room!

PRICE FOR ALL THIS?

Not more than last year!

\$15.00 - payable at June General Meeting

DINNER AT SYC

Pre-Monthly Meeting

Dinner

\$10.00

Please book with me before Friday 13th

CLUB MEETING

Monday 16th June

Guest Speaker
Peter from Dive Inn

A video and talk from a recent dive trip to the Solomon Islands - Muada and Geeza. With mill pond conditions everyday, large rays and sharks - wrecks - huge drop offs.

Don't miss this one!



THANKYOU

SOCIAL TREASURE HUNT (CAR RALLY)

Sund: May 25th 1997

Starting at the City West Car Park, Perth City and finishing at Nedlands Foreshore BBQ's, everyone had a fantastic time. The rally took 2-3 hours with lots of interesting things to collect along the way. The contestants all did 'very well', with our Susie, Kerry and friends collecting the first prize.

There were 7 cars all together, but only 3' of those were from U.E.C. **SHAME....!!!**

Well I would really like the thank those who did turn up:

- Susi~ Kerry and friends
- Wei...y and Bernard Cummins
- Harry Oldenhuis and sons
- Lyn Clark and 'her family'
- Mike Evans and friend

(We still had a ball though and even the weather held up for us. Great.....!!!!!!)

Hetty Geard

SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Thanks to Dr John Bass for his talk on sharks, this was sharks from a different angle. Thanks to Sandy Webb for organising this one.

CAR RALLY DONATIONS

I would heartily like to thank some 'very generous' businesses for their donations to our Car Rally last May 25th 1997.

They are (in no particular order):-

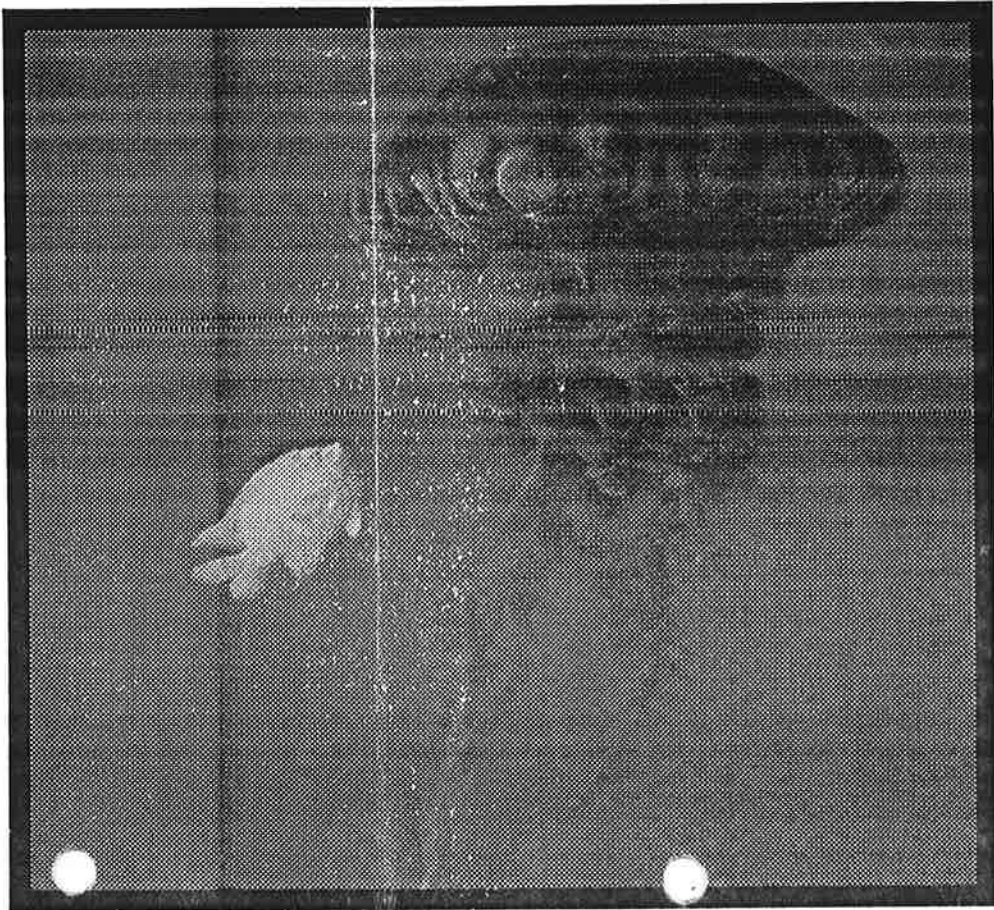
- BRASHS - BELMONT
- DOLPHIN SCUBA DIVING - WELSHPOOL
- DAWSONS GARDEN CENTRE - FORESTFIELD
- LIQUORAMA - BELMONT
- THE PAPER PLACE
- NEWSAGENCY - FORESTFIELD
- DIVE IN - O'CONNOR

Due to their generosity, we were able to present our winners with many more prizes for their enjoyment. Thank you again.

Hetty Geard

THE UEC NEWS

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CLUB CALENDAR

JULY / AUGUST 1997

MONTH/DATE	EVENT
JULY	
Wed 2	COMMITTEE MEETING - SYC : 8pm
Sun 6	AVON : Water / Shore Training 'Bells Rapids' / BBQ
Sun 13	AVON : Water / Shore & Boat Training 'Bells Rapids' / BBQ
Sat 19	SOCIAL : CHRISTMAS IN JULY - SYC / EMU Fall * / BBQ
Sun 20	AVON : Scrutineering 'Hinds Park' (8.00am - 2.00pm)
Mon 21	GENERAL MEETING - SYC : 8.00pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm
Sun 27	AVON : Valley Run / BBQ Northam Wier (10.00am - 4.00pm)
AUGUST	
Sat 2	** AVON DESCENT - WEEKEND ** ?
Sun 3	** AVON DESCENT - WEEKEND ** ?
Wed 6	COMMITTEE MEETING - SYC : 8pm
Sun 17	Avon Descent Social Reunion / Sausage Sizzle : 12.00pm
Mon 18	GENERAL MEETING - SYC : 8pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm

Boat is to be slipped the last week in August (22nd)
until the first week in September (7th)

NOTES

- DEPARTS SWAN YACHT CLUB LOADING JETTY
- Check Your Departure Time
- All Dives Subject to Weather
- Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with DO Geoff Geard
- NOT THE CREW

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made with Geoff Geard
Phone : 9453 1723

NOMINATION

Scotty Black
Ian Lawrence
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Call in and see our range of gear and collect a 10% discount. Winter is also an ideal time of year to have your regulators and BC's serviced ready for Summer diving.

EDITORIAL

Steve Larter

Over half way through the winter of '97. Another 8 or 10 weeks and we shall be into the new diving season. Once again UEC will be there offering as much as the members can absorb. Membership is growing, as more divers are finding that our club has a great deal to offer both socially and actively on and under the water. Demand is increasing for variety in our diving, so frequently we shall be needing more Skippers and Diving Officers to accommodate this demand. Training for Skippers and DO's is vital to enable us to maintain our very high safety standards. We need more active members to become leaders who can plan and execute club activities - don't be shy. Next time your on the boat find our more!!

Discussions have been underway with regards to changing the format of your magazine. Complaints have been made, opinions offered and advice is now sought. Do you want a newsletter or a magazine?? At present we produce monthly a 16 page magazine. Some of the information is irrelevant to club activities and some of the reports are often very sketchy. A large proportion of our membership never attend club activities, is this because they know what we are doing so therefore do not bother joining in with us?

Some emotional debate has already taken place, what we need is the members opinions. It has been stated that our members consider the newsletter to be paramount. However, we must review the current offering with a view to what the future members would like to see and that is sufficient to keep our membership informed about club activities.

Your opinions and suggestions will be appreciated.

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

1/2

The onset of winter certainly puts the mockas on our diving activities doesn't it? Geoff is patiently waiting by the phone for someone to book onto the boat for a dive, all to no avail it seems. Until demand for the boat picks up we will be relocating her upstream for a couple of weeks. Still, we are very busy with our other commitments for the Avon Descent, so that is having to sustain our team spirit for the moment. Our training programme is progressing well at the moment thanks to the efforts of Jim and the various team leaders that have been appointed. Currently, we are on the lookout for people that have some spare time on Wednesday July 3rd to participate in a street parade to celebrate the Avon Descent's 25th Anniversary. This is an ideal opportunity for the Club to show itself to the citizens of Perth and let them know that we are not only active in the diving scene but also in other forms of outdoor activity. You will only have to be available for a couple of hours, so if you can help out, give me a ring on 9457 3333.

The next thing on our Club calendar is the annual slipping of the Underwater Explorer. Dennis will give you further details in his report but seeing as you are probably reading this first (one of the perks of being President is that your report is in the front of the mag.) I will appeal to all of you to contact him and let him know that you are willing to help. He has a lot of work planned for this slipping and needs all the help he can get. We are also interested in your ideas for improvements to the boat but we have to know what's on your mind, so pick up the phone now.

I will soon be negotiating with the Swan Yacht Club regarding our continued association and as soon as possible after we pay the fees, you will be sent new membership cards and car passes.

Maree

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

The July Committee meeting spent considerable time discussing the boat and this report will be confined to the schedule for maintenance and those vital decisions made at that meeting.

Firstly, the boat was brought up to the Bull Creek mooring early in July, where she will spend the winter, handy for social trips and a bit of forward maintenance. You can see her from the Freeway so would all members keep their eye on her please!

Next Slipping dates have been booked as follows:- Up - Friday 15th August
Down - Thursday 4th Sept.

The first of 3 coats of anti-foul to be put on 16/8/97!

There will be a number of major works carried out and organisation for this will start about now! These include:- rebuilding of the Marlin board, putting in a stern door, installing the anchor and anchor lines permanently and conveniently up front and reducing the fumes on deck. This latter has emerged as a major discomfort factor in attracting people onto our boat (especially new members and attractive young ladies - you think I'm being sexist - not a bit - that's just the cold hard facts!).

There are a few smaller items which will also be tackled if time permits but then there always is, isn't there! Personally I hope to add a bit of noise reduction - a lot can be achieved with very little effort in this direction, there's also some plumbing and heaps of cleaning, painting and scraping!

So, don't leave town folks I will be in touch.

Cheers! - Sully

OBITUARY

Steve Lanter

Jacques-Yves Cousteau

Born 11 June 1910 - Died 25 June 1997 - Aged 87

Explorer, Film Maker, Author, Environmentalist and Scuba Pioneer. You name it, anything to do with the ocean - this great man has probably been there and done it.

He co-invented the aqualung, developed a one man jet propelled submersible and helped start the first manned undersea colonies. During World War II he was involved in espionage for the French Resistance and received the Legion of Honor, France's highest award.

As long ago as 1960 Cousteau began voicing concern over pollution. He set up the Cousteau Society Conservationist group in the USA. In 1977 he shared the United Nations International Environmental Prize. He was voted one of France's most popular men and joined international protests against nuclear testing in the South Pacific in 1995.

Jacques Chirac (the President of France) said that Cousteau had represented the defense of nature and modern adventure. The Director General of the Worldwide Fund for Nature, Claude Martin, said that Cousteau was a great explorer and defender of the oceans, we stand in great respect of his achievements.

He is survived by his eldest son, conservationist Jean-Michel, his second wife, Francine Triplet and their children Diane and Pierre-Yves.

Last year Jacques-Yves Cousteau said....

"The future of civilization depends on water, I beg you all to understand this"



Farewell to Jacques-Yves Cousteau
Great citizen of Planet Earth.

DIVING OFFICERS REPORT

Geoff Geard

Well folks it really is that time of year. As I am writing this I am looking at a beautiful sunset. There are a few clouds around, bathed in pinks & golds. Enough of the tropics! It's winter here, but to all intents and purposes you'd think it was a cool autumn, spring or summer evening.

When I wrote this article, we had just begun "Avon Descent Rescue Training" at Bells Rapids. "What a weekend". Unfortunately due to: work commitments/training/lack of divers, the boat didn't quite get out. Next time!

Now for the tricky bit, as July is the middle of 'winter' and 'winter' is traditional, wild and woolly weather, the calendar reads "Avon Descent Training", "Avon Descent Weekend", "Committee/General Meetings".

For the month of August, no Skippers or D.O's are listed. Also the boat will be slipped around late August. So Skippers and D.O's have a 'holiday' until September. 'But!', yes, you guessed it, 'a catch'. If we get excellent weather and two or more divers book on for a dive, "I'll be calling".

I've scheduled a Rusty Divers Day in September as well. So all you divers who haven't been out for a while, don't miss this one.

As for diving last month, yes we went out! Where did we go?

The "D9", (a 9am one tank dive). I was impressed. It was my first dive on the D9 (home I think, to the Stingaree population). After counting a dozen of them I gave up, counting that is. On the way back home, the front that was threatening, crossed out path. Vis dropped to about 1/2 a mile and without the radar, a person could have become very lost.

Where else did we dive?

Victoria Station, Roe Reef, where I saw my first shark. A Wobbegong, but none-the-less, still a shark. Stragglers, North Breaks, where I dived with Carl. Boy can that man swim! We covered a lot of country, but it was worth it. Carl caught 5 size crays and I caught one as well, by hand. What made it even more special, was the fact it was my first cray in about 15 years.

Yes, you were reading right. I actually got a couple of dives in....

So, book you place on the boat. Ring 9453 1723.

Let's Go and Dive !!

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT

THE WORLD'S MOST CERTIFIED DIVER

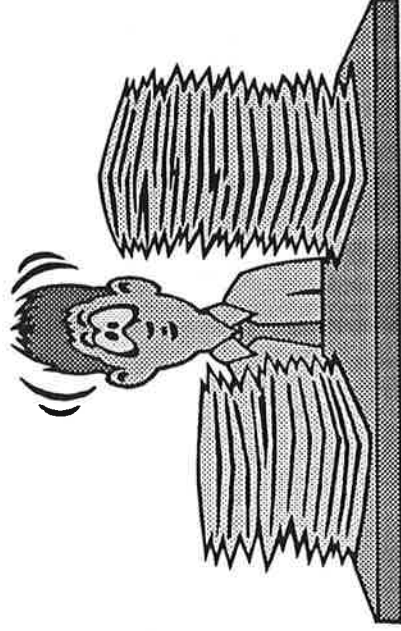
During the recent DEMA show in Orlando, Florida in the USA attendees were introduced to a diver who must have the world record for the number of certifications he has achieved! Ken Helinski from Buffalo, New York has a staggering 186 certifications cards!

Ken was almost bubbling with excitement as he showed his 186 certification cards in their special plastic sleeve measuring 48 foot long! The cards have been issued from 19 different Certification Agencies and fit into their own storage box.

Ken started diving back in 1982 and now has instructor ratings from 9 different agencies. He has travelled to the United Kingdom, Australia and the Bahamas as well as diving extensively in the United States.

In his real life Ken runs his own CD Rom business. He emphasised that he really believes in continuing education and says "you can never stop learning".

It could only happen in the USA!



Geoff



SOCIAL EVENTS - Bob McLaughlin



NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

DINNER AT SYC

CLUB MEETING

SPECIAL THANK YOU!

MAGNIFICENT 7

Saturday 23 August 1997

8.00pm - 1.00am

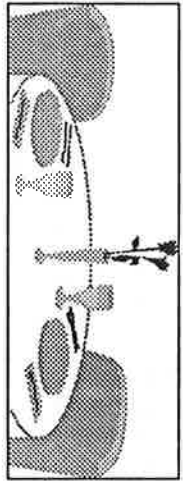
Cost = \$10.00 members
\$12.00 friends



I have 30 tickets, so let me know as early as possible if you want to go - this band is very popular so you will have to be quick!

Pre-Monthly Meeting

Dinner



\$10.00

Please book with me before Friday 18th

Monday 21st July

Guest Speaker
Dr Mike McCarthy

Curator of the
West Australian Maritime
Museum

Mike's expertise is on the history of wrecks and diving. His talk will be on early diving & wrecks and will be a great night.



So come along and bring a friend.

Special thanks to Peter Burwood for that great slide show and video of the Solomon Islands.

I hope most of you have signed up the trip in 1998

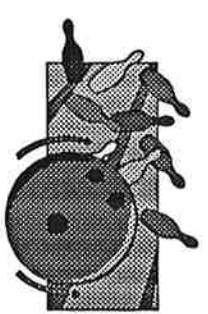


BOWLING NIGHT

The bowling night was a great success with 17 people participating - great bowling.

Congratulations to the winners Tibi, Ian and Peter.

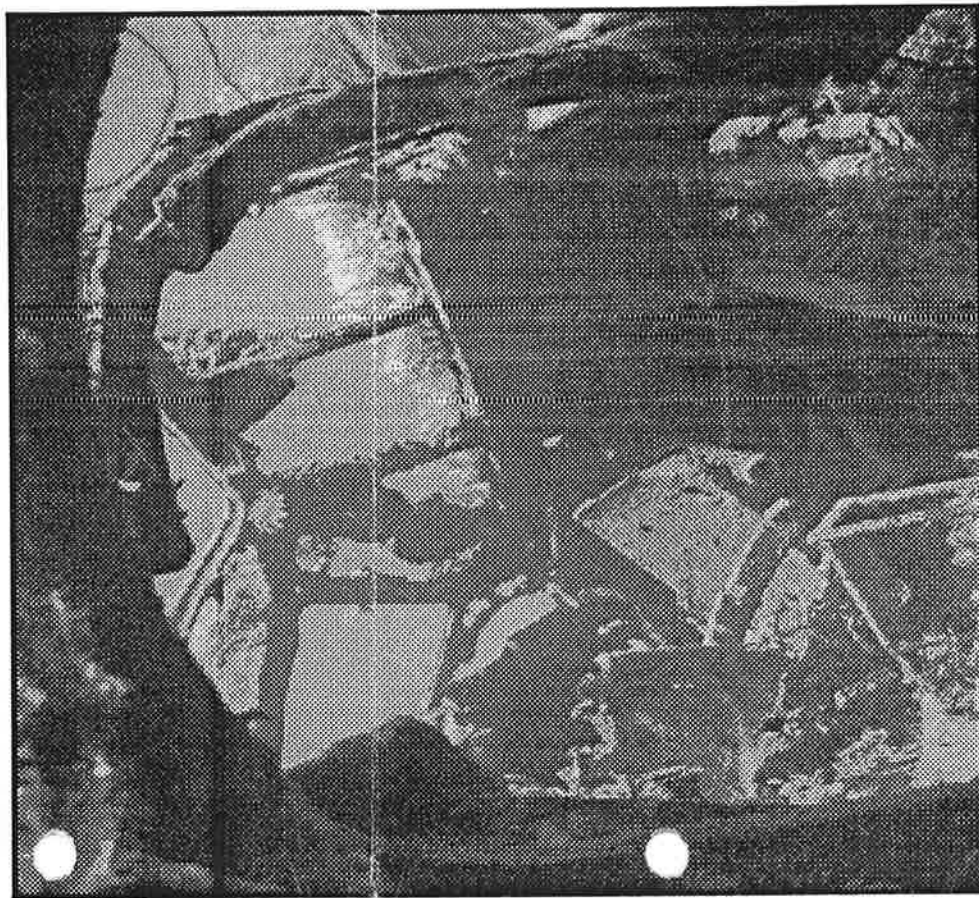
Thanks a lot Suzie for organising the night.



THE UEC NEWS

M O N T H L Y M A G A Z I N E

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Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc.)
PO Box 1157, Booragoon, WA 6154



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Geoff & Hetty Geard
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AUGUST 1997

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CLUB CALENDAR

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 1997

MONTH/DATE	EVENT
AUGUST	
Fri 15	Boat Slipping
Mon 18	GENERAL MEETING - 8pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm
SEPTEMBER	
Wed 3	(29 th = P/H : Queens Birthday)
Thu 4	COMMITTEE MEETING - 8pm Boat back in the water
Sat 13	Whale Watching? (One Tank) (Richard N / Geoff G (Leave 9am - back 4pm))
Sat 13	SOCIAL - SEPTEMBER SUPPER EVENING
Sun 14	DO's Choice (Pater H / Luc)
Mon 15	GENERAL MEETING - 8pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm
Sat 20	Rusty Divers Day - One Tank : 9am
Sun 21	(Kerry A / Susie A) Popular Choice
Fri 26	(Geoff C / BSAC) Overnighter? (Bob McL / Steve L) Wreck Dive (Barry K / Brian M)
Sun 28	

NOTES :
: :
: :
: :
: :
DEPARTS SWAN YACHT CLUB LOADING JETTY
Check Your Departure Time
All Dives Subject to Weather
Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with DO Geoff Geard
NOT THE CREW

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made with Geoff Geard
Phone : 9453 1723

DIVING IN CALIFORNIA, USA, JUNE 1997 (cont)

Sandy Webb

I actually took all my gear, as heavy as it was, as there is a generous weight limit for traveling to the US and within it, and I had all my other stuff in one small bag. I was glad I did, although as I only dived three days it would have been cheaper to rent it than to pay the expensive insurance. It was seeing my friend choke in a too tight rental suit, and lose a too loose rental fin and miss two dives that made me glad I knew my own gear so well. The only other thing is that it is true that diving gear is relatively cheap over there, and it would be a wise option (if you need new stuff of course) to buy it there and use it. I succumbed into buying a Sherwood regulator and 'Shadow' octopus reg, and various other tempting odds and ends like ankle weights and a waterproof 'spares' box for just over 50% of the cost here. I declared it all after days of pondering smuggling (as it was over my \$400 AU duty free allowance), and was rewarded by finding out I still did not have to pay any duty on it.

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EDITORIAL

Steve Larter

For those of you who were unable to attend this years Avon Descent training and the actual event you certainly missed a great time

It was interesting to observe how well people respond to well organised events. Despite some days when it was pouring with rain and very cool, team members turned up to be part of the team.

In the past U.E.C. has thrived on similar such organised activities when individual members decided to arrange diving related activities which involved a lot of members and logistics to achieve something special. The support was always strong

Maybe we need to learn some lessons from this type of group or team involvement and organise special group activities with our diving and boating during the summer.

Any suggestions?.

Following July's editorial we have received some feedback from interested members about the future look of the newsletter. Some of these comments:

- > Increase articles of Interest
- > Committee member reports to be brief.
- > More members' names to be mentioned.
- > Each committee member to write a report.

Briana Desktop Publishing (Ilana & Brian) have agreed to carry on the great work they do to ensure that the newsletter presentation is first class. Their only condition is that in future all articles for publication have to be submitted on computer disc.

If you wish to submit articles of interest e.g diving holidays, or any other item please contact the editor.

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Marce Casley

Thankfully July has come to a close and the Avon Descent is behind us. These last few weeks have been very busy for me, especially now that I have begun a new job, and I look forward to having a bit of a breather. The weekend was once again a huge success and the club and its representatives were all big winners. There were no major incidents that we were involved in, just the mundane jobs of hiking boats, paddle craft and competitors from the water with monotonous regularity, especially at Emu Falls. The weekend certainly took its toll on our group, as both days were very long because of the low water levels. I hope that everyone involved enjoyed the weekend and all those people deserve a big thank you. I would like to give a special thank you to Jir-Robson for all his hard work in organising much of our involvement, Dennis for all of his computer work that I am totally useless at and all the team leaders for the effort that they put in. Team leaders this year were Michel Roux, Barry Kennedy, Nick Hunter, Dennis Stubberfield, Genie Counsel and Steve Forrester.

I think the Club has come to a point where we can no longer conduct our general meetings in the same manner as we have been for the last year. As most of you are aware, our meetings are very well attended but we always are inconvenienced in some way. The last meeting with Mike McCarthy as our guest speaker was atrocious. Having to share our venue with other groups is bad enough, however, when they use a PA system as they did last month, our meeting was effectively destroyed. I was acutely embarrassed as I am sure many of you were. This leads me to place a couple of options before you to overcome the current problems and I hope that we can spare some time at this next meeting to discuss them. The options that we have are : a) change our meeting night to one that doesn't conflict with anyone else using SYC facilities; b) re-evaluate whether our association with SYC should be continued if we cannot have our meetings on our preferred night without continued disruption; c) wait and see whether the proposed new partitioning will reduce disruption sufficiently enough or; d) do nothing and grin and bear it. I have repeatedly asked the secretary at SYC if the situation can be remedied and as yet nothing has happened except the proposed installation of partitions. Anyway, watch this space as there will be further news on this topic hopefully after the next meeting.

Our boat will soon be getting her annual maintenance slipping and a couple of modifications. This means all hands on deck to have the work completed in the time available to us. Don't be shy, there will be plenty of work for everyone so put your hand up for a job. Dennis is keen to hear from anyone that can hold a paintbrush, screwdriver or drill, so give him a ring before he rings you this year.

Fatigue has finally caught up with me and I now make my weary way to bed. I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Marce

DIVING IN CALIFORNIA, USA, JUNE 1997

Sandy Webb

Diving with the giants?

Well, for a long time I have dreamed of diving in the giant kelp of Southern California and confronting the giant octopus in the cold dark waters of Puget Sound, way up there in Washington....and now I have at least tried, thanks to what really was basically a work related trip to the US in June. The days I could attempt to fulfill these fantasies were totally restricted, so it was expecting a lot to hope that everything would work out perfectly....but I did have fun and I want try it all again, now I have seen some of the magic and understand better how things work over there.

All I could arrange for the two days I had in Los Angeles were two separate trips out to the Channel Islands of San Clemente and Santa Catalina on two different dive boats.. the 78 foot Great Escape and the smaller and less well appointed Cee Ray. Both boats come equipped with dormitory style bunks for all divers as the trips to the Islands can be long.. to reach San Clemente took about 5 hours and we boarded the boat the night before an... of around 2 am, and the trip to Catalina took over two hours and we set off around 7 am. I ended up spending my first two nights of jet lag on arrival in the States on the Great Escape.. pretty good treatment. I found out a great deal of information about diving in California on the internet, and although disappointed at not being able to get onto another boat that was staying out at the Islands on the days I wanted to dive, I was able to book onto the Great Escape for two separate days' diving.. the only problem as I discovered is that boats cancel if not filled! Potentially disastrous if you only have two precious days! And the Great Escape cancelled the Sunday dive, leaving us in the lurch, although the owner did find us a space on the Cee Ray for that second day. On arrival I picked up the dive paper 'California Diving' in the dive shop and found what appeared to be an immense number of boats and locations for diving on the California coast, so one could, it seemed, dive any day of the month...with some overnights. Knowing the jargon though now, I could see that many of the days were booked by clubs and the problem would be finding out if they still could squeeze an outsider in, and other days were 'open boat' dives and therefore highly likely to be cancelled if not full. The secret must be to find a group that will let you in on their charter, book the whole boat yourself or allow enough time to be flexible.

The style of diving was interesting. The dive masters only checked qualifications, and then made it quite clear that each diver was totally responsible for monitoring their own dive times and depths. In a truly democratic fashion time in the water was not regulated by a maximum dive time, but by limiting 'gate time' ie the time the gate was open to go in! However, as I also discovered on my first two dives, the dive masters are probably not slack. Within seconds of hitting the water on two occasions the friend I went with was in trouble, and the dive master (who was also a highly trained emergency medicine specialist) it turned out) hit the water and had her out again. Next surprise..this was California remember.. I was told to continue my dive alone, and I remembered reading somewhere that California is the 'anti buddy or rather 'pro self sufficiency in diving' state. So I tumbled down alone and jet lagged to 33 metres..Both days were pretty frenetic diving , as everyone stayed in their wet suits all day and surface times were kept to an absolute minimum. Time between was spent in the galleys where short order cooks just kept churning out the fast food. The first day we had four dives with surface intervals of 49 minutes, 1 hour and 3 hours. The second day diving was shallower, and we only had three dives with two one hour surface intervals. All up the San Clemente day cost \$85 US (and saved two nights in a hotel!) and the California day cost \$65US.

A storm had passed through just the day before we went out, so our diving was restricted to the lee sides of the Islands, but visibility was good at about 20 meters, and the water temperature not unlike Perth's. I particularly loved the deeper water and larger kelp off San Clemente, and it truly is a beautiful, translucent amber forest, with white sandy basins and brilliantly contrasting greeny blue water all around. The kelp strips were very intervenient for strength, and occasional tendrils joined to another clump looking like vines in a jungle. We saw plenty of bright orange Garibaldi, large grey bat rays and shoals of shining silver anchovy like fish.

Now diving in Puget Sound was not nearly that pleasant. Again with the help of a friend and the internet I was connected with my own personal dive guide, one 'LP', who promised to take me for two dives at the time of lowest current in the Sound. One was to be a day dive and the other a night dive as he knew where the octopus would be then. Diving by day in cold green pea soup (an algal bloom) was definitely not fun, although through the dim 1 meter vis I could see amazing amounts of sea life it's true.. giant ling cod, big orange Dungeness crabs, huge white plumed anemones and tiny pipe fish. I had the strong impression my hearty looking guide did not fancy a night dive and neither did I.. so fulfilling that fantasy still awaits me (I mean seeing the octopuss!).

A fantastic finale to my trip was a visit to the Monterey Aquarium, about 2 hours' drive south of San Francisco. This has the most stunning displays of the kelp ecosystems that I had been part of, with the addition of incredibly cute sea otters that occur in the kelp nearer to San Francisco and I loved the special displays of wonderfully lit jelly fish and comb jellies.

(continued)

DIVING OFFICERS REPORT

Geoff Geard

Another month has gone and soon we will be right in the thick of the diving season again.

We have just finished the Avon Descent, so relax for a couple of weeks, do nothing, but think, (yes think) about your fitness!, your dive gear!, the boat!

As I said the Avon Descent has finished, and your fitness level should be higher from all the training. So why not keep it up for the dive season. Swim, walk, run or jog. It doesn't take much.

Don't forget your dive gear. Now is the time to have it serviced while you are not diving, to keep it in top condition!

Remember your life could depend on it.

This month the boat will be slipped from the 15th August. Many hands make light 'work' and there will be a bit of that to be done on the boat.

As for diving last month, yes a few hardy souls went (six in all). They went to Carnac Island.

I was told there was a bit of a swell, and yes, the water was cooler. The vis was impaired by a lot of suspension in the water. 'Boy', hasn't some of the weather been absolutely unbelievable for winter.

For those of you who haven't dived for a while, there is a **Rusty Divers Day** scheduled for **Saturday 20th September**. Come along and have some fun.

Don't forget:- your fitness, the boat and service your gear.

TO BOOK, RING: 9453 1723

Let's Go and Dive !!

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT

Geoff

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

There is nothing to report on the boat this month as She has stayed sedately on the Bull Creek mooring while we all ignored Her in favour of the Avon Descent.

Therefore this is just a reminder that She comes up on the hard standing at Swan Yacht Club on Friday 15th of August, until Thursday 4th of September. I will attempt to produce a reasonably detailed plan which should let everyone know what they can do, and there is a lot to do this slipping, as I want to forge ahead with some the improvements we have talking about over the past 6 months.

Please let me know in advance of any help you may be able to offer, while I badger you all for time and skills to get it all done. I will also attempt to pen the boat at the Club for a couple of weeks after She goes back in the water to facilitate work which can be done 'in water' to make the most of the relatively expensive hard standing.

Cheers! - Scubby

DIVING HINTS

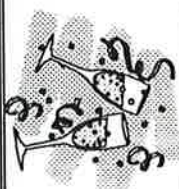
Using the correct weight belt position

Your weight belt is a sliding balance and you are the balanced beam. As you slide your weight belt higher on your waist you begin to swim with your feet elevated when in a horizontal position. As you lower the weight belt towards your hips your feet and fins will be forced lower than the water.

Trial and error will find the exact position and you will have found the key to freedom in this weightless environment. Wear the bulk of your weight to your front as this will counterbalance your tank and decreased the tendency to roll over as the more in control of your weight you are under water the less likely to thrash around trying to gain correct position and control. Give it a try!



SOCIAL EVENTS - Bob McLaughlin



NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

DINNER AT SYC

CLUB MEETING

SPECIAL THANK YOU!

MAGNIFICENT 7

Pre-Monthly Meeting

Dinner

"What is a "WARUGA"

Saturday 23 August 1997

8.00pm - 1.00am

Monday 18th August

Monday 18th August

Interested come and see the slide show at this months general meeting.

Presented by KERRY and SUZIE.

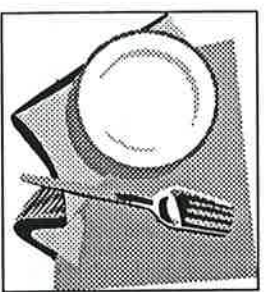
Just back from "SULAWESI" and there diving adventures around BUNAKEN ISLAND and BITUNG.

Thanks to DR MIKE MCCARTHY for a marvelous talk and presentation on the early development of diving in W.A.

Over 45.members attended and were totally absorbed by an excellent speaker who really knows his subject.

Mike has promised to come back again in the not to distant future.

Cost = \$10.00 members
\$12.00 friends



Please contact me

\$10.00

THIS MONTH'S COVER

A Japanese World War II Betty Bomber which is located in Truk Lagoon at a depth of 35 metres.

Please book with me before Friday 15th August 1997

SEPTEMBER SOCIAL SUPPER EVENING

Saturday 13th September

39 CLIVE ST BICTON
7.30pm

LIMITED NUMBERS BOOK WITH ME.

This will be a laid back evening at Sandy's with some live folk music with NIC HUNTER and other artists in front of an open fire.

Supper will be provided.

SPECIAL

SUNDAY 17th AUGUST AVON DESCENT SOCIAL REUNION

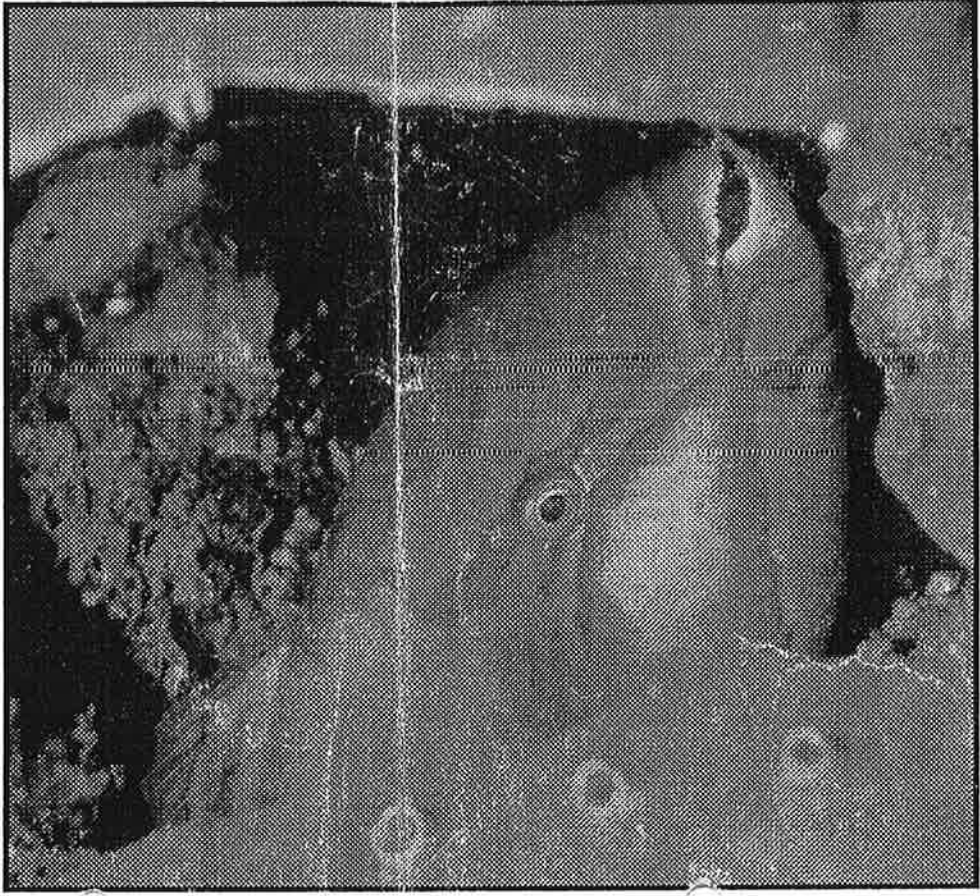
Sausage Sizzle 12.00pm at S. Y. C.
All Welcome



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CLUB CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 1997

MONTH/DATE	EVENT
SEPTEMBER	
Wed 3	COMMITTEE MEETING - 8pm Boat back in the water
Sun 7	Whale Watching? (One Tank?) (Richard N / Geoff G)
Sat 13	SOCIAL : SUPPER EVENING - (Bob McL) D/O's Choice (Peter H / Luc)
Sun 14	GENERAL MEETING - 8pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm
Mon 15	Rusty Divers Day - One Tank - 9am Popular Choice - Two Tank (Kerry A / Susie A)
Sat 20	(Geoff C / BSAC) Overnighter (Bob McL / Steve L)
Sun 21	Overnighter Wreck Dive (Barry K / Brian M) Open
Fri 26	
Sat 27	
Sun 28	
Mon 29	
OCTOBER	
Wed 1	COMMITTEE MEETING - 8pm Two Tank (Dennis S / BSAC) Exploratory Dive - Two Tank (Richard N / BSAC) Rusty Divers Day - One Tank - 9am (Kerry A / Susie A)
Sun 5	
Sun 12	
Sat 18	SOCIAL : BLESSING OF THE FLEET (Dennis S / Geoff G) GENERAL MEETING - 8pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm
Sun 19	One Tank - (Bob McL / Steve L)
Mon 20	Wreck Dive (Orizaba?) - Two Tank? (Geoff C / Luc F)
Sat 25	
Sun 26	

DEPARTS SWAN YACHT CLUB LOADING JETTY
Check Your Departure Time
All Dives Subject to Weather
Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with DO Geoff Geard
NOT THE CREW

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made with Geoff Geard
Phone : 9453 1723

FOR SALE

Kerry & Susie

Do YOU have a youngster in the family who is ready to take the plunge?
WE have a 5mm wetsuit in size Small (10) for sale, only used a couple of times.
\$79.95
Ring Kerry or Susie on 9331 2385 or see it at the meeting.

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EDITORIAL

Steve Larler

Spring has finally arrived. These cold nights certainly dampens enthusiasm for water sports. The diving season is about to get underway again and your club will be making every effort to cater for all your needs.

To enable the club to operate effectively we need both active divers and individuals who are prepared to assist the club with organising dives and social activities.

The annual general meeting and election of THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT will be held in November.

Enthusiastic members are required to keep up the momentum of interest for the clubs development. There is lots of work to be done.

Promotion of the club to new divers is vital for the future membership. Diving activities to accommodate everyone's level of diving and interest.

We must get it right, safe, adventurous, and pleasurable dives are our lifeblood.

Fundraising social activities to accommodate all of our members who enjoy getting together for fun and entertainment are vital for both club funds and maintaining members interests.

Boating and boat diving operations need well trained skippers and crew. There is no other diving club in Perth who can offer its members boating training to enable them to become competent boat skippers and the opportunity to operate the boat.

The club magazine also requires members to publish, print and distribute your magazine, every month.

U.I.C. has developed into the organisation it is today by the work its past and present members have done.

Being involved is not difficult it can also be a lot of fun. Enthusiasm is what is needed most, help and support from other members is always given to enthusiastic organisers.

Put something back into your club you will not regret it and it will make our club a much stronger organisation.

PLEASE CONSIDER.

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

The new, improved version of the Underwater Explorer will soon be with us. A flash new stern door and an all-singing, all-dancing anchor well up front, combined with some bright paint on the woodwork will transform our boat into an even more diver friendly vessel. Many thanks to all the members that put in the hard work to achieve these results. All that remains now is that we use her to her fullest potential. It will soon be whale-watching season, so even if you don't feel like getting wet, come out and see these fantastic creatures in comfort aboard your very own boat.

As you know if you came along to last month's slide show, the promised partitioning has not been installed yet, however, the meeting agreed that you should wait to see if our situation improves before moving meeting night. Meetings are so popular now that I hope the situation can be improved sufficiently to allow us to continue with Monday nights.

Our membership at SYC has also had a positive effect on our social functions. We recently had a great turnout to the Magnificent 7 dance night and more than 40 people turned up to the Thank You sausage sizzle. This was a very good response so hopefully we can have more days like this as the situations present themselves. It is worth noting that you can organise your own social function at the Club, so keep this venue in mind.

Many thanks to Warren Cummins for the page that he has put on the Internet telling the world about our club. Warren's efforts have already led to an enquiry from a prospective member and I hope many more in the future.

I also have some sad news to report this month. One of our life members, John Walden, is not well at the moment following a car accident a few weeks ago and is undergoing treatment at Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital. We wish John a speedy recovery and send our best wishes to his lovely wife Cath during this difficult time.

Finally, it is the time of year that I start to encourage members to join us Rottneest in March for our annual excursion. At the moment there is plenty of space but be quick to secure your spot. This is quite probably the last time that the Club will be undertaking this form of group holiday on the Island, due to declining interest from members in either attending or helping with the organisation. It is a real pity as we have been doing this about 13 years now and I for one will miss the great times that we invariably have. Anyway, give me a ring to make your booking.

Hope to see you all soon.

Maree

AVOID DAMAGING MARINE GROWTH

Divers appreciate the fragile nature of the marine environment so it close up and unfortunately on occasions contribute to damage with careless fin strokes or dragging anchors. These hints will hopefully help you reduce your contribution to the damage.

- 1. Remove excess lead from your weight belt.** Over weighted divers are constantly inflating and deflating their B.C., often too late to avoid crashing into fragile formations. Make sure your weight belt fits properly and that the release buckle is secure.
- 2. Avoid rapid descent.** Exhaling most of the air in your lungs and plunging to the bottom feet first is an invitation to disaster. Crashing into the bottom with your fins can smash or damage as much as a square meter of living sea floor. Descend head first while finning your way to the bottom.
- 3. Relax your breathing.** Avoid breathing too deeply as full inhalations and exhalations can effect your buoyancy by as much as 5 kilos. Take shorter breaths and exhale slowly to minimise buoyancy fluctuations.
- 4. Be aware of buoyancy changes during descent.** Your wetsuit will lose buoyancy at depth as the increased pressure squeezes the air cells in the material. Compensate for this by adding air to your B.C.
- 5. Control your fins.** Fin control and kicking technique are just as important as buoyancy control. When swimming over marine growth use shallow kicks instead of long deep strokes. Be aware of the position of your fins and prevent them from coming too close to the formations. Avoid stirring up the bottom as an underwater sand storm can choke and smother delicate growth.
- 6. Cease kicking if your fins strike something.** It is difficult to see what is happening because your fins are directly behind you. If you feel a fin come into contact with something solid, immediately cease kicking. Look behind and below you to see what is happening. You can rise off the formation using your fingers to push off.
- 7. Secure your octopus and console.** Instrument consoles and extra second stages are attached with long hoses. If unsecured, they may drag on the bottom or snag delicate marine growth. Secure them to your B.C. with quick release fasteners.
- 8. Avoid using your fins as bumpers.** If you feel as though you are losing your balance or are in a current, do not use your fins as bumpers. Fins are large and relatively stiff and cause a great deal of drag. Instead, steady yourself with your arms by placing your fingers on the formation and push away.
- 9. Be aware of unseen currents.** As you are exploring, you may suddenly encounter a current as you go around a point. Battling such currents can prove to be fruitless as well as damaging to formations. Keep your head down and fins on an upward angle so you do not damage the bottom. Pull yourself along the bottom, one hand at a time, being careful to select the least fragile handholds.
- 10. Watch for surge.** The power and momentum of ocean waves can reach deep below the surface, causing strong, invisible forces that tend to push you into marine formations. Look for signs of surge and maintain a distance from the formations.

Awareness makes you a more responsible diver.

This article appeared in August newsletter of U.E.C. of South Australia. Thanks to Pauline McGregor.

DIVING OFFICERS REPORT

Geoff Geard

Spring Equinox is here, that means not long until full summer.

The boat is in the water, my pen is full of ink.

Do you remember not getting your gear out before Christmas and before you knew it summer had gone again....?

Check the calendar - Christmas is just around the corner.

There is a Rusty Divers Day on the 20th September, 'come and have a dive'. An added attraction at this time of year is the whales that pass through. No guarantees, just a good possibility of seeing them whilst out there! Last year I was out a couple of times and saw whales! The chances are good.

This article would have to be my hardest. Last month the boat was on the hard, no diving going on.

My phone number has changed. It is now:- 9453 1723.

Don't forget : - 'check your gear....'
'check your fitness....'
'check the dive....'

Let's Go and Dive !!

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT

Geoff

★ 'LEEMAN' - SEPTEMBER ★

I am looking for **5 divers** to go/come up to **LEEMAN** for a week-ends diving, staying at 'Tamarisk Court'. I was going to try for the long weekend: **27, 28 & 29th September**.

I know it's short notice, but !!! ...

If the long weekend is out, maybe a weekend in October, or during the 'cray season' may be better.

Anyhow let's have a chat about it and work something out.

Lets Go And Dive - Leeman

Geoff

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

Well folks many thanks to those who helped with the annual maintenance slipping of the boat. A small but select band of enthusiastic helpers. Special thanks to Peter Horton for his work on the Marlin board (which is a lot lighter and stronger now) and of course for many other things which are not so obvious but equally important. All who helped deserve a mention too for the hundreds of little things done – The rest of the Club salutes you.

Hopefully on your next trip out we will have a new anchor-well up forward and a stern door put in the transom both of which will greatly help crews and divers. This work has been done by a professional aluminium boat builder Mick Lawrance (responsible for the design and production of arguably the best tri-hulls in the water) and who is highly regarded for his work and innovative design. It cost a fair bit, but we had to be sure of the quality and safety of the modifications, which are of survey standard. The price also included the very ingenious design features of the modifications which is what I had hoped for when I asked to Mick to quote for the job. Mick had a good look over the Boat while he was on board and assured us She was great and in fantastic condition generally. He also repaired a cracked frame in the stern of the boat, which I hasten to add was not serious or dangerous, but which really could not be neglected.

Noise, fume abatement and home comfort mods. are still in the process of design and implementation.

It only remains for us to get Her out and working!

Cheers Folks! - Stubby

'PRAWNS'
Geoff Gear'd - 'Prawn King'

Anyone interested to know:

"There is 'NO' closed season on prawn diving or dabbing, (only netting)"

In 1987 it was estimated over 50,000 people go prawning each season. Fortunately prawns are prolific breeders! A female river prawn can produce around 300,000 eggs. A king prawn can lay up to 1.2 million eggs a spawning!!!

Prawns are an 'annual crop', that is, they grow to catching size and breed in 1 year. Their natural life span may last up to 3 years. River prawns reach a useful catching size of around 5cm at nine to 10 months old. King prawns reach a catchable size during January or February, but by late summer they reach about 8cm.

Females are usually larger than males and those that survive into their second or third years can reach a phenomenal size. The largest female so far recorded in WA was caught at Shark Bay, measuring 24.4cm long and weighed 99 grams.



REGULATORS FOR SALE
Dennis Stubberfield

- (a) 1 only, 'ripper' Scubapro Mk10 1st stage with a G250 2nd stage, just serviced and a beauty - \$150. No gauges or occy.
- (b) 1 only, equally 'ripper' Tusa regulator 1st & 2nd Stage, with Shenwood shadow occy and contents gauge and depth gauge, with depth calibration adjustment and maximum depth indicator - \$300.
- (c) 1 only, 'even more ripper' Tusa regulator 1st & 2nd Stage, with contents and depth gauge (no MDI). No occy. This is a match for (b) above and has hardly been used, looks like new. Belongs to highly regarded and much loved former UEC member. \$250. Buy them both and have a matched pair. Great for servicing.

Call Dennis 9457-3333

MUSSELS MONITOR POLLUTION

Researchers at Battelle's Ocean Sciences Laboratory in Duxbury, Massachusetts, are using the mussel, which is a little bigger than your thumb, to take a long range look at ocean pollution. Because the mussel stores chemical compounds in its tissues, researchers can determine if hazardous materials were dumped in the water.

Analysis of the tissues can reveal such toxins as PCBs, pesticides and heavy metals, even though water and sediment samples will show none of the toxins or only in trace amounts. Comparison of year to year analysis at some sites shows a reduction in the amount of toxins - perhaps an indication the oceans are getting cleaner.

THE SAGA OF OUR CLUB'S LOGOTYPE

Susie Ashton

Guess what! A logotype for U.E.C. has never really been established. That is the latest development in my research on U.E.C.'s Seahorse. But with the kind help and information from Life Member Robert Wallis, it has now come to my knowledge that one of the earliest traces of a Seahorse, in connection with our Club, is from a "Diving Physiology" manual, written by The First Patron LT CDR L.V. Goldsworthy, used in the Club's early days of training. There, our beloved Seahorse appears as a tiny drawing **FACING TO THE LEFT**.

So, how come we are now using a beautifully detailed Seahorse **FACING RIGHT** as our Club logo? Well, my fault I guess. I was asking around for what really had been used as a significant and recognisable sign for U.E.C. and was given "A brief history of the Underwater Explorers Club (WA)" written by John Paskulich in 1985, and here was the Seahorse again on the front page, but **FACING RIGHT!** Plus the fact that another prominent member of the Club presented me with his rather old (U.E.C.'s own) log book, where a Seahorse was impregnated on the front hard cover. You guessed it! **FACING RIGHT** again!

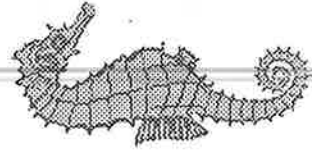
If everybody is happy (or don't really give a damn) with the version we are currently using on our T-shirts and car stickers, **LET'S STICK TO IT**, and adopt it as our "real" logotype for the future. If you are an "old" member like me, you might also have seen a version of "Poseidon" on T-shirts and sweaters, plus a rather horrible-looking round car sticker with a diver in black & white. **THAT** sticker originally prompted me to try to find out what was going on with so many different logotypes in the one and same Club.

So, let's get more T-shirts printed up for the new dive season! Hand them in to Geoff Geard and pay only \$5.

Or do you want to wait till we can have them embroidered? **AND WEAR THEM!**

Cheers!

Susie



SAFETY REPORT

Ric Young

Well spring has finally arrived and its time to dust off those winter cobwebs from your diving equipment and get aboard the Underwater Explorer for some great diving that we can expect with the mild weather conditions this time of the year.

However; before you actually book on for a dive with Geoff, take a little time to check over your equipment and make sure everything is in good working order and if anything is not up to scratch, service or replace it.



For example, items like the buoyancy Control Device inflation/deflation control and air dump valves may not operate properly, rubber parts like O rings, fin and mask straps may have perished and switches and terminals on dive torches may have corroded .

Remember that a little preventative maintenance may make your diving more enjoyable and safer by discovering problems before you hit the water.

Safe diving

Ric



SOCIAL EVENTS - Bob McLaughlin



NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

DINNER AT SYC

CLUB MEETING

SPECIAL THANK YOU!

SUPPER AT

SANDY'S PLACE

Pre-Monthly Meeting

Dinner

Monday 15th September

Saturday 13th September

Monday 15th September

Guest speaker for next monthly meeting will be Harry Leese from Dive Ski & Surf to speak on new products in diving equipment.

Special thanks to Kerry & Susie for a great slide show and Pat Troy and Sandy Webb for their slide contribution.

29 CLIVE ST BICTON

7.30pm

BLESSING OF THE FLEET

SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER

MAGNIFICENT 7

A quiet evening by the fire is envisaged, in good company with music by Nick Hunter. Substantial supper, BYO drinks. Port will be provided. Please phone Bob or Sandy if you would like to attend. Numbers needed for catering as soon as possible.



\$10.00

(Departs Swan Yacht Club 12.30pm)

Come along with us and see the "POPE."

Well maybe not the Pope, but the Cardinal, Bishop, or whoever the "Holy Man" is when he blesses our boat, along with a few other fishing boats at the "The Blessing Of The Fleet".

A welcome aboard drink will be served, along with some Italian anti-pasta dishes.

Bring a deck chair, and some more drinks.

(We'll be back around 4 pm)

The cost a paltry \$10 in advance

Please book with Bob before Friday 12th September 1997

Sandy can be contacted on 9339 5936. Bob 9454 8580

Cost \$15 per head

A great night was had at the last social event at the Swan Yacht Club, dancing to the Magnificent Seven. Twenty three of us turned up to show the boaties just what country rock dancing was all about! It was a pity that none of us won the outboard motor or the disgustingly large bottle of Whisky!



SENDER:
Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc.)
PO Box 1157, Booragoon, WA 6154

UEC NEWS

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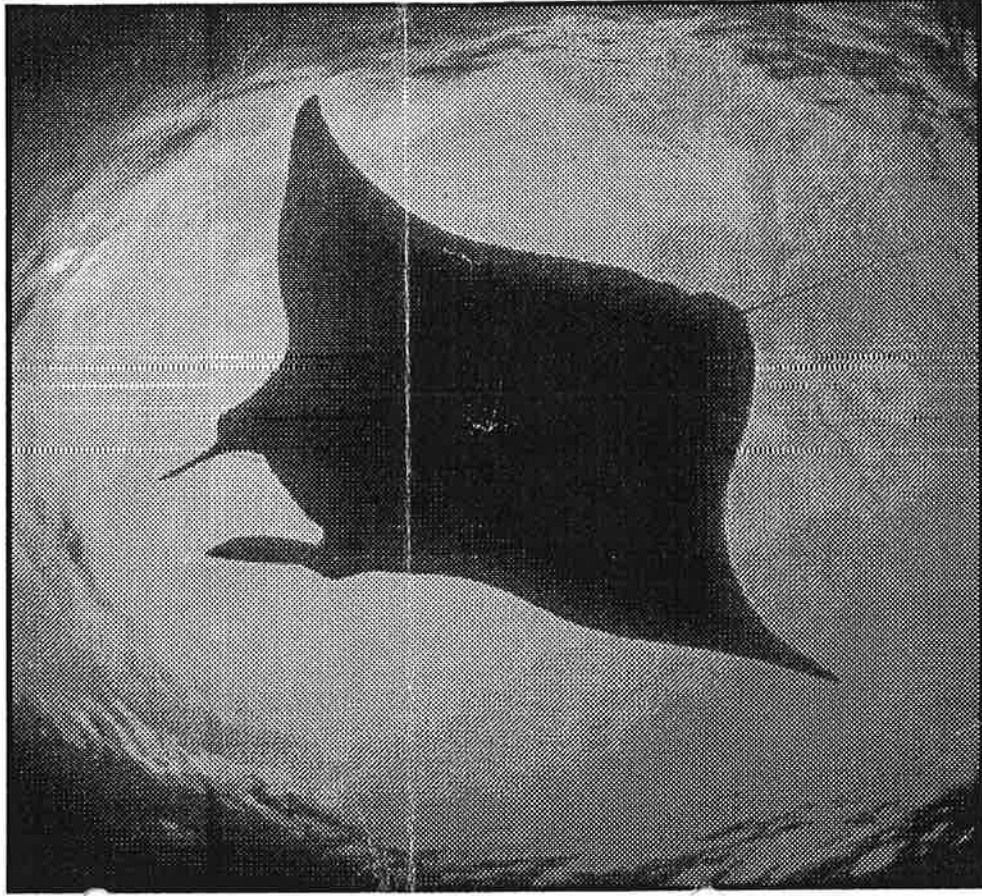
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THE UEC NEWS

M O N T H L Y M A G A Z I N E



OCTOBER 1997

THE COMMITTEE 1997

PRESIDENT	Marce Casley	Phone 9457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 9454 8580
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	Phone 9451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	Phone 9445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Geoff Geard	Phone 9453 1723
BOATING OFFICER	Dennis Stubberfield	Phone 9457 3333
SAFETY OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 9457 5206
TRAINING OFFICER	Ric Young	Vacant
BUILDING OFFICER	Steve Larter	Phone 9457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 9291 9654
SOCIAL OFFICER	Bruce Porter	Phone 9454 8580
PR OFFICER	Geoff Geard	Phone 9367 228.
DIVE BOOKINGS	Geoff Geard	Phone 9453 1723

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CLUB CALENDAR

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 1997

MONTH/DATE	EVENT
OCTOBER	
Sat 18	Rothrest - One Tank - 9.00am SOCIAL : BLESSING OF THE FLEET (Kerry A / Susie A) (Dennis S / Geoff G)
Sun 19	
Mon 20	GENERAL MEETING - SYC : 8pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm
25	One Tank (Bob McL / Steve L)
Sun 26	Wreck Dive (Orizaba?) - Two Tank? (Geoff C / Luc F)
NOVEMBER	
Sat 1	Open - One Tank Blind Fishing Expedition (Peter H / ?)
Sun 2	
Wed 5	COMMITTEE MEETING - SYC : 8pm
Sat 8	One Tank - 8am (Richard N / ?) <i>FRANKY STEVE & MARTIN</i> Rothrest - Two Tank (Dennis S / Luc F)
Sun 9	Cray Dive Season Opener - One Tank (7am start) (Kerry A / Brian M)
Sat 15	SOCIAL : "PRESENTATION DAY" Open - Two Tank (Peter H / Geoff G)
Sun 16	"ANNUAL" GENERAL MEETING - SYC : 8pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm
Mon 17	Exploration Dive - One Tank
Sat 22	D/O's Choice - Two Tank
Sun 23	(Barry K / Jim R)
Sat 29	Open - One Tank
Sun 30	Garden Island? - Two Tank (Geoff C / BSAC)

NOTES :
DEPARTS SWAN YACHT CLUB LOADING JETTY
Check Your Departure Time
All Dives Subject to Weather
Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with DO Geoff Geard
NOT THE CREW

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made with Geoff Geard - Phone : 9453 1723

CARL ANDERS

NOMINATIONS

Anthony Harris

Fremantle

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Call in and see our range of gear and collect a 10% discount. Winter is also an ideal time of year to have your regulators and BC's serviced ready for Summer diving.

EDITORIAL

Steve Larter

This months magazine has a couple of features which are rather disturbing with regards to DIVER SAFETY. We have taken a number of articles from the SPUMS JOURNAL which report on diving fatalities. It may seem a little extreme to publish this material but it is very important for our club diving activities to ensure that none of our members experience a diving accident.

Our past diving history has had a relatively incident free record. Which is recognised by the diving fraternity as an outstanding achievement.

To maintain this record it is up to all our divers and guests to ensure that they are capable and have there equipment in good working order to undertake the diving activity planned for the days activities.

Being capable can mean a variety of things. One of the most obvious is physical fitness. Being fit ensures that you are confident to handle, and remain calm in a crisis. Being totally dependant on your equipment for your safety can be a mistake.

Equipment failure is one of the major causes of diving related accidents.

Training is also a major factor in qualifying for being capable. Being qualified not always means you are totally confident. Informing your BUDDY and the DIVING OFFICER for the day on any concerns you have prior to the dive will assist the crew to make the correct decision about the conditions and the type of dive that is right for everyone. Remember we are all out there to have a good time. Becoming a statistic in a future SPUMS JOURNAL will not result in us having a good day.

U.E.C. DIVERS DO IT SAFER

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

Last month's request for starters for next year's Rottnest extravaganza resulted in an unprecedented response. At the moment all places are now taken but I will take the names of people wanting to go on a reserve list. Those people who indicated that they want to come need to get a \$50 deposit to me ASAP otherwise they will miss out. Members wanting to stay at Rottnest for the first week in March should also let me know as these places are filling fast. Get those leave applications in now!

The alterations to the boat are now complete and by all reports they are fantastic. The marlin board has already been through its paces and passed with flying colours. The "new" ladder, stern door and anchor well have yet to be tried but I have no doubt that they will be great. We have a new ladder now because the old one was wrecked by someone backing into our boat while it was berthed at SYC. The nerve of some people astound me, to cause this sort of damage and not report it is incomprehensible to me. Anyway, the only way we will know if you like the improvements is for you all to get out and go diving.

We are now at the business end of the year. Firstly, it is time to pay your annual subscription fees. They are the same as last year and as usual we do not send out individual accounts. Please be prompt with your payments. The committee have made every effort to keep costs down so that our membership numbers are maintained and hopefully increased. From memory this is the 4th year where we have contained costs so there is no excuse for not paying. As a reminder, individual fees are \$75 and family membership is \$120.

I also want to take this opportunity to ask all members to consider being a Committee member. There has already been some current member's signal that are will not be standing for re-election and as usual we always on the lookout for some new blood. The business of running the Club can be a very rewarding and now that we have made significant inroads in securing a pen, renewed our SYC association and leased the Clubrooms, our business is looking very healthy. So, the amount of time that individuals need to devote at Committee meeting is now greatly reduced. Please give it some thought and if you have any questions about any of the positions just give me a ring.

I hope to see you all soon, preferably with a cheque in hand!

Maree

DIVING INCIDENTS

Steve Larler

Acknowledgments for the following case study go to DR D G WALKER and SPUMS Journal Vol 27 no. 1 March 1997. SC 93/3.

A diving holiday package was arranged by a dive shop in another state. The victim had trained elsewhere but was a member of the club and had dived with its members, though not with those making this trip. The local dive shop checked that they had certification, but not their experience level. It was a boat dive and although the boat owner held a dive master qualification but did not assume the responsibilities. There were seven divers and it was left to them to decide their dive groups, merely advising them not to exceed 33m. The victim, being a stranger to the others, joined a buddy pair. He entered the water before his buddies, coming rapidly back to the surface because his air was not turned on. He then started his decent without waiting for his buddies. As they descended they could see him close to the sea bed, which was at 37m about 5m from the anchor and swimming towards it. When they reached 22m they met him ascending rapidly, hand over hand up the anchor line. They signaled him to slow down, they observed no signs of panic and his breathing appeared normal. They thought he would reach the surface safely so continued their descent and there dive. He had waived his octopus regulator at them as they passed, what he meant by this is unknown.

The skipper was surprised to see someone back on the surface so soon and became alarmed when the diver floated face up and failed to answer his call.

He swam a line to the victim but by the time he reached him, the victim was unconscious and not breathing. In water CPR was started, and with the help of two nearby fishermen, he was put aboard the dive boat. Although alive when he reached hospital he never regained consciousness and died there later. He had been wearing his weight belt when he encountered his buddies during his ascent but it was absent when he was reached at the surface. The rescuer attempted to inflate his BC but failed. Subsequent examination showed there was a leak at the attachment of the inflator hose to the vest. An X-ray was performed before autopsy which showed a small left pneumothorax, some air in the left ventricle and some mediastinal emphysema. The autopsy showed that both ear drums were ruptured and that sinus barotrauma had occurred. His weight belt was described as "excessively heavy" but it was not recovered and its actual weight is not known. He probably descended uncontrollably rapidly, due to an inoperative BC, suffering severe pain in his ears and sinuses. Failing to drop his weight belt he had to pull himself up the anchor line to return to the surface. It would be easy in such a situation to forget to breath correctly during the ascent and consequently suffer pulmonary barotrauma and DEATH.

FINDINGS -TRAINED. POSSIBLY EXPERIENCED. TRIO. ENTERED WATER WITH AIR OFF. RAPID DESCENT WITHOUT WAITING FOR BUDDIES. MADE RAPID ASCENT. PULLING HIMSELF UP ANCHOR LINE TO SURFACE. BUDDIES FAILED TO ACCOMPANY TO SURFACE. NEW WET SUIT. PROBABLY EXCESSIVE WEIGHTS. FAULTY BC. DITCHED WEIGHTS LATE IN ASCENT. UNCONSCIOUS AT SURFACE. X-RAY SHOWED LEFT PNEUMOTHORAX, AIR IN LEFT VENTRICLE, CAGE BAROTRAUMA EARS AND SINUSES.

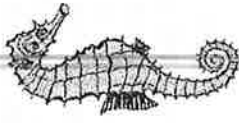
DR DG WALKER is a foundation member of SPUMS, he has been gathering statistics about diving related deaths and incidents since the early 1970s. He is the author of the series of Provisional Reports on Australian Diving related Deaths which have been published in the journal covering 1972 to 1992.

UEC are members of SPUMS and we are the proud owners of a complete set of Journals. SPUMS is short for SOUTH PACIFIC UNDERWATER MEDICINE SOCIETY.

SEAHORSE PROTECTION AT LAST

Susie Ashton

Today (16/9) I read some really good news in the newspaper for a change! It's about our SEAHORSE!



The Federal Government should be congratulated on its landmark decision to recognise that fish can be wildlife too.

On September 5, seahorses, pipefishes and seadragons became the first marine fish to be protected under the Wildlife Protection Act. From January 1, all exports of these fish from Australia will require permits.

The Government's decision is particularly important because seahorses and pipefish are subject to a big and rapidly-increasing international trade for traditional medicines, aquarium fish and curiosities.

The number of seahorses in exploited populations throughout Asia appears to be declining markedly, causing traders to look further afield. Australia has perhaps 25 to 33 per cent of the world's seahorse species, many of which are heavily exploited in other parts of their range, thus conferring a special responsibility for their long-term survival in Australia.

Recognising these fish as wildlife should allow for much-needed checks and balances on the suddenly emerging seahorse aquaculture in Australia.

The Australian Government's action in placing seahorses and their relatives under the Wildlife Protection Act is praiseworthy but it must now administer the controls well. Appropriate research and management initiatives for seahorses, pipefish and seadragons will help ensure that Australia continues to set international standards for marine conservation.

[Dr A Vincent, Dept of Biology, McGill University, Montreal, Canada]

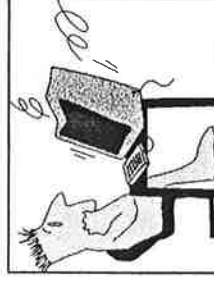
Susie

SECRETARIES REPORT

Geoff Charlton

If you're wondering why this is the first report I've written in a couple of years, it's because nothing much has been decided at Committee meetings that wasn't more appropriately covered by other reports. However, at the September Committee meeting it was decided unanimously to increase Diving fees by \$2 per person. This is an across the board increase, and is effective immediately.

While I've got your attention, most of you would be aware that the club receives Magazines/Newsletters from: W A Shell Club, SPUMS, UEC of South Australia, Western Fisheries, MAAWA, Scuba2, Dive In Social Club, and more recently started getting Professional Diver. All copies of these which were received since we moved out of the Clubrooms are on file at my place - if you want to borrow a copy, please let me know.



Geoff

FOR SALE

Delta "Innovator" ADV style BC (Large Size) in better than average condition for it's age. Purchased new in January 1992 and serviced annually. Would suit someone more vertically challenged than current owner (that means most of you). Make me a reasonable offer and it's yours. If you're interested contact Geoff Charlton on 9451 2910 for more details.

DIVING OFFICERS REPORT

Geoff Geard

The sun's out (most days), the boat's flying, the divers are diving, and Spring is here. Summer is on the way. By the time this is printed all the work on the boat will be finished, that is, the new anchor rope well, the cracked frame, and the "DOOR IN THE STERN". So boating life will be much easier. The new marlin board is excellent! It can be raised or lowered with ease by one person! Also it doesn't bounce up and down, like the old one used to do.

A guest, along with John & Kerry, saw a Blue Groper, a Tiger Cowry and a Port Jackson Shark, which was quite fitting, as the comment was passed before the dive: "You don't see Port Jackson Sharks anymore". All on his first dive in WA waters!

Where did we go? I hear you ask???

Jackson Rock. As I've already said, a Blue Groper, and a Port Jackson Shark were seen, plus the usual crabs!

Katherine Grotto, Rottnest (where I for one, had a great dive), a bit surgy and a massive 4-5 metres viz. The fish life more than compensated though. I've not seen so many large size fish for a long while.

Wreck Diving? Unfortunately the elements were against us, maybe next month.

Also the boat went on a fishing expedition to the back of Garden Island where heaps of fun was had catching that elusive 60 pounder? Well OK maybe not, but heaps of fish were caught anyway.

The fishing trip was organised by Carl, so don't be shy. Get a group of friends together, let me know what you want, and help organise it (like the fishing trip or a river cruise). The boat doesn't have to be used for diving only, as long as it is being used.

So ring me on 9453 1723, to book your dive, or the boat.

I am praying for good conditions Sun 26th October. We will have another attempt to dive the "Orzaba". The pick up point will be the jetty at Swan Yacht Club at 7.30am. Limited space is available (11 divers), so book early!!

Also coming up soon, is the Christmas Dive! Keep an eye out for that.

To book your place on the boat call me on 9453 1723.

Let's Go and Dive !!

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT

Geoff

DEAD DIVER HIGH ON DRUGS

Warren Cummins

A 27-year old man who drowned while diving in Exmouth Gulf had a high level of cannabis in his blood, Perth Coroner's Court was told yesterday. Pathologist Karin Margolius said blood tests showed that Humberto Augusta Gomes had smoked cannabis just before his death and was a chronic user. She said cannabis could contribute to lack of attention and cause panic attacks. It was possible the drug had played a part in Mr Gomes' death. Mr Gomes died on January 12, 1995, after being pulled from the water, blue in the face. He responded to initial resuscitation efforts but died on the way to Exmouth Hospital.

The inquest was told that Mr Gomes had started work the day before as a "tucker deckie" - performing deck duties on pearling boats. He had advanced recreational diving qualifications and had hoped for work as a pearl diver.

Mr Gomes got into trouble while making his second dive from a spotter boat in 2m to 4m of calm water. The boat's master, Ross Larard, said Mr Gomes had been refused permission to dive for pearls from a bigger vessel because he had not had a medical examination or undergone an induction course. The master of the mother vessel had also thought Mr Gomes did not appear confident in "suiting up". Mr Larard said Mr Gomes had told him he was simply nervous. He thought it would be safe for Mr Gomes to dive from his smaller boat. He thought Mr Gomes was doing well until he noticed tension on the line connecting Mr Gomes with the boat. No air bubbles were coming to the surface. Mr Larard said he ran to pull Mr Gomes in. When he got him on board, his face was blue and his abdomen swollen, indicating he had swallowed a lot of water. Mr Larard denied that he had breached industry standards by allowing Mr Gomes to dive when he did not have the required medical certificate. He said Mr Gomes had not been diving for pearls at the time.

Police diving supervisor Gary Tattersall said Mr Gomes completed his SCUBA diver's certificate in 1982 and an advanced certificate in 1993.

The hearing before Coroner Michael McGuire is continuing.

(The West Australian 3/9/95: Wendy Caccetta)

BELLAMY CALLS FOR PARKS BEYOND THE SHORE

World renowned botanist, conservationist, author and broadcaster, Professor David Bellamy has called for more marine no-take areas in Victoria - areas free of fishing, collection and habitat disturbance, highlighting southern Australia marine waters as "blessed" with some of the most magnificent sealife in the world.

The high profile environmentalist, best known to Australian through his award winning documentaries, was in Melbourne to launch the Victorian branch of the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS), of which he is honorary Vice President.

Professor Bellamy said Victoria still had the chance to save some of the most unique and spectacular coastal and marine areas in the world, but due to overfishing, pollution and loss, time was rapidly running out.

"Over 85% of all southern Australia's marine species are found nowhere else on the planet" he said. "The waters off your East Gippsland for example have the highest number of marine species per area of any marine habitat yet discovered - one square metre area recently turned up 353 species alone!"

Professor Bellamy also said Victoria's coastal waters held some of the most spectacular seaweed forests he has ever seen. "There are more types of seaweed under a single pier, Portsea Pier in Port Phillip Bay, than in the entire Japanese Archipelago" he said.

Troubled by his belief that the global environment is in a stage of "mega-collapse", Professor Bellamy said a series of marine reserves were urgently required to save the marine realm.

"If we had a series of marine no-take areas we would give the sea a break. Sealife stocks would be replenished - we would be giving the sea a chance," he said.

"One of the best examples of this is in New Zealand at the Leigh Marine Reserve. Against all odds a large no-take area was created. Commercial fishers objected and there was a huge backlash. Now they want more because stock have improved out of sight and stocks have increased beyond imagination. You see the fish spill out over the boundary of the no-take area. It's like an investment policy with fish interest".

Professor Bellamy said thousands of reserves were needed throughout the world's oceans. "These cannot afford to be tiny little excuses" he said. "We need big reserves where fish can breed and escape humans".

Professor Bellamy finished by saying "It is a very simple thing to save the world's oceans.

BITS & PIECES

Following Darwin's Lead

At first glance, modern oceanographers might not have very much in common with naturalist Charles Darwin. On second thought, there may be something there after all.

Oceanographers are still studying the ancient formations of atolls & guyots just as Darwin did about 150 years ago. Darwin, in fact proposed how coral atolls originate & develop. The rings of coral atolls lace the Pacific Ocean, remnants of volcanic eruptions, biologic construction & subsidence of the volcanic islands.

Oceanographers study the ancient formations because their composition marks the passage of geological time, recording millions of years of changes in sea level, climate & evolution.



TORCH MAINTENANCE

Dive lights should be treated with the same thoroughness you'd accord the rest of your high quality dive equipment & if maintained with the attention they deserve, they'll give you many years of excellent service.

- Don't treat you torch as you would a weight belt.
- Base contacts sometimes develop an insulating film which will cause the light to dim or fail. Scrape dirty contacts gently with a knife blade, ink eraser or emery paper to clean them, ensuring a better light output.
- Clean & dry the caps & bases of batteries before installation into the torch.
- Rinse the torch thoroughly in warm fresh water after each dive.
- Dry the torch completely, then check & coat O-rings with silicone grease.
- Remove batteries before storing the torch, as they will damage the interior contacts if left for long periods.
- Spray the torch internals lightly with a water displacement fluid.



SOCIAL EVENTS - Bob McLaughlin



NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

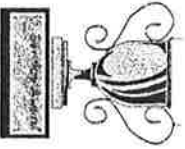
ANNUAL

PRESENTATION

DAY

**Saturday 15th
November**

Remember to keep the 15th November free for the annual presentation event. This year it will be at the home of Bob & Pat McLaughlin, (7 Best Court, High Wycombe) a Saturday afternoon/evening event - from 3pm. Cost will be \$15 per head which will cover an evening meal and welcome drink.



Bookings essential, money in advance please.

Phone Bob on 9454 8580

DINNER AT SYC

Pre-Monthly Meeting

Dinner

**Monday 20th
October**



\$10.00

Please book with Bob before Friday 17th October 1997

CLUB MEETING

Monday October 20

The guest speaker this month will be ary Tattersall from the Water Police. He will be giving us a talk on police activities in and around Perth and WA.

BLESSING OF THE FLEET

17TH OCTOBER, 1997

SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE!!!

Book now to avoid disappointment!!!

The boat is leaving Swan Yacht Club at 12.30 pm, back approximately 4.00 pm.

Bring a deck chair and extra drinks. We will decorate the boat, have a complimentary drink on boarding, and eat some taiti anti-pastas during the event.

Come and see the POPE.
Watch the 'Blessing'.
Have a great afternoon.

All this for a small \$10 per head
Ring me on 9453 1723 to book

Geoff Geard

APOLOGY

Apologies for the absence of the guest speaker for last month (Harry Lease) a last minute flue victim! Hopefully he will join us in the not too distant future.

HOT GOSSIP



A rather large stork whispered in our ears that Hetty & Geoff Geard are looking forward to an addition to the family (another new member for the UEC).

SUPPER AT SANDY'S

The supper at Sandy's place was a great success, plenty of good food and company. Great music from Nick & Alex, the evening seemed to go very quickly and the next one we have may have to start earlier! Thanks to Sandy and John for the use of their home and the wonderful food and hospitality.

THE UEC NEWS

M O N T H L Y M A G A Z I N E

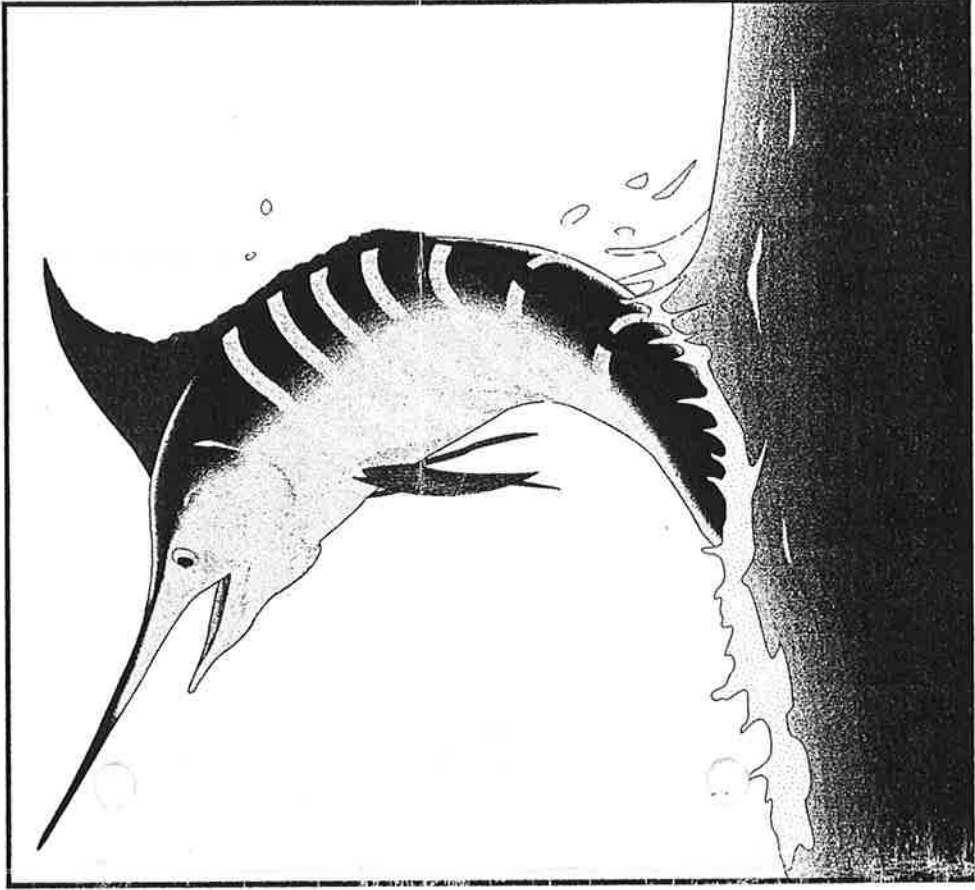
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UEC NEWS

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Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Cr
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

NOVEMBER 1997

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VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 9454 8580
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TREASURER	Peter Horton	Phone 9445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Geoff Geard	Phone 9453 1723
BOATING OFFICER	Dennis Stubberfield	Phone 9457 3333
SAFETY OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 9457 5206
TRAINING OFFICER		Vacant
BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 9457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Steve Larler	Phone 9291 9654
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CLUB CALENDAR

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 1997

MONTH/DATE	EVENT
NOVEMBER	
Sat 15	Cray Dive Season Opener - One Tank (7am) start (Kerry A / Brian M) SOCIAL : PRESENTATION DAY Open - Two Tank (Peter H / Geoff C)
Sat 16	"ANNUAL" GENERAL MEETING - SYC : 8pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm Exploration Dive - One Tank
Sun 17	(Bob McL / Steve L) D/O's Choice - Two Tank (Barry K / Jim R) Open - One Tank Garden Island? - Two Tank (Geoff C / BSAC) (25 th - 26 th = P/H : Christmas)
Sat 22	COMMITTEE MEETING - SYC : 8pm Prawn Dive Open - One Tank (Bob McL / Jim R) Two Tank (Peter H / BSAC) Stragglers? - One Tank (Richard N / Brian M) 'Christmas Dive' (Geoff C / Kerry A)
Sun 23	GENERAL MEETING - SYC : 8pm Exploration Dive - One Tank (Bob McL / Steve L) Popular Choice (Dennis S / Kerry A) Open - (Christmas / New Year Break) Open - (Christmas / New Year Break) (Barry K / Geoff C)
Sat 29	
Sun 30	
DECEMBER	
Wed 3	
Fri 5	
Sat 6	
Sun 7	
Sat 13	
Sun 14	
Mon 15	
Sat 20	
Sun 21	
Sat 27	
Sun 28	

NOTES

- DEPARTS SWAN YACHT CLUB LOADING JETTY
- Check Your Departure Time
- All Dives Subject to Weather
- Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with DO Geoff Geard
- NOT THE CREW**

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made with Geoff Geard - Phone : 9453 1723

NOMINATIONS

Roy Wyatt
Mark Creswell

Scarborough
North Fremantle

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EDITORIAL

Steve Larfer

The dangers of participating in water sports has again been highlighted once again, with the recent shark attack off Cottesloe Beach. Fortunately the shark only managed to chomp a Double Ski into two pieces.

It does however show that the shark favours attacking from below a silhouetted object on the surface.

One of the most remarkable features of this attack is that we have not seen the once normal reaction of mankind rushing out in fishing boats in an attempt to KILL THE MONSTER, with teams of macho men being photographed in front of a magnificent creature strung up by the tail with copious amounts of its own blood dripping from those massive teeth.

Credit must be given to the various conservation groups that have during recent years managed to change societies attitudes towards our environment and the creatures we share our time and space with.

It is no longer wossie to be a conservationist. With the ever increasing pressures upon our environment from both governments and exploiters for short term profit in the name of so called progress. We all must become involved with the conservation of our underwater world. What we do as a club within the local diving community is of vital importance and protecting those special places that we find to be exquisite is the responsibility of every member and who ever else gets to experience diving with us.

The crayfish season has already begun, make sure that you have the correct license and you only take legal specimens. We have been boarded and searched a number of times in the past. Lets make sure that we are not embarrassed during our diving expeditions.

Green divers are not necessarily sea sick.

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

We are finally at the business end of our diving season and in more ways than one. Firstly, the AGM is happening on Monday 17 November and this promises to be a great evening. After all the business is completed we will launch ourselves into a social night complete with nibbles and a vast array of liquid refreshments available from the bar. I hope that you will all try and make it. The election of next year's Committee will take place and we need some new faces to take the place of members who are not seeking re-election. In particular we will be looking for someone to become Boating Officer as Dennis is taking a well earned rest. The boat is... in top condition so hopefully the new officer will not have to deal with any disasters. Other positions are also up for grabs, so please give it some thought and step into the breach, so to speak.

Club social activities are still going strong thanks to the efforts of Bob. The annual presentation day is being held at his house this Saturday, so give Bob a ring to get aboard for this one. As he will not be standing for re-election next year this is an ideal opportunity to thank Bob personally for all his work. Also, watch the social pages for details of the annual Christmas Dive This is always well attended and it is important that you get in early.

The SYC have advised that there will be increased patrols of the car parks. Please ensure that you have your sticker affixed to the windscreen of your car. If you haven't received yours yet give me a ring pronto so that I can sort it out. If you have friends or family coming to the Club in their own vehicle please ask them to park in the Council car park to the west of the Club or on the verge opposite to avoid getting a parking ticket. This is only necessary during the day when there is increased pressure on the facilities.

Lastly, the fishing day held in conjunction with SYC and the Blind Association was a great success. The UEC was asked to participate by providing a boat, skipper and crew. Many thanks to Peter Horton and Ian Lawrence for helping out on the day. It was very much appreciated by all those who attended.

That's all for this month folks. I hope to see you all at the AGM.

Maree

DIVING INCIDENTS

Steve Larler

PART 2

The employees of a firm had an outing to a resort island, the majority in the one boat and three following in another boat. There was some surfing and swimming by all, then the owner of the private boat asked the victim if he would like to scuba dive with him. The owner had spare equipment so it is assumed that he was experienced.

It is known that the victim had been trained 8 years ago and had dived regularly for 2 years, but had not dived since.

Visibility was good, sea conditions excellent and the water shallow at the reef close to where the boat was anchored. The owner spent about 5 minutes exploring under a rock shelf at about 4m the victim remained outside looking for crayfish. When the owner emerged he was surprised not to see his buddy.

After a brief look around underwater he surfaced but still no buddy. He climbed onto a bommie to obtain a better view. He saw an inflated B.C. at the surface 70m away, so went over in his boat.

He found the victim floating, unconscious, face up, and without his mask. After ditching his weightbelt he managed to get him into the boat.

This was difficult as there was a breeze and a surface chop. C.P.R. was unavailing. A check of his equipment showed the tank valve was incompletely open so that breathing would of required extreme effort.

A history letter obtained that he had reported chest pains during the previous 3 months, but these had not been regarded as cardiac in origin.

At post mortem the left descending anterior coronary artery was affected by atheroma, 60% occluded in places. While there is no evidence that he suffered an anginal attack or that arrhythmia had occurred, and no evidence of air embolism was noted, critical adverse factors were a combination of inexperience, separation and difficulty in obtaining adequate air.

TRAINED. SOME PAST EXPERIENCE. NO DIVING 6 YEARS. BORROWED EQUIPMENT. TANK VALVE RESTRICTED. SEPARATION. POSSIBLE ANGINA HISTORY. 60% NARROWING LEFT CORONARY ARTERY. SUDDEN DEATH.

SPUMS JOURNAL VOL 27 NUMBER 1 MARCH 1997.

DR D.G. WALKER

RESCUE KITE

Tibi

A credit card-sized wallet which inflates into a multi-purpose kite could save your life. The kite called a Skystreme, was invented by New Zealand adventurer Vernon Pascoe.

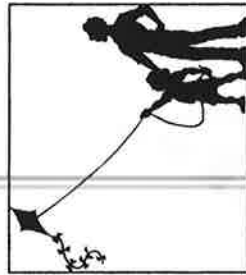
The Skystreme which weighs just 43g and packs into a credit card sized wallet will be in the shops next month.

A report in the journal New Scientist says that because of the shape of the kite when it is blown up it lifts off the ground unaided.

The kite comes with 50m of line and is covered in a metallic coating to make it visible to the naked eye for up to 3.2 kilometres.

Skystreme has been tested by the Royal Air Force and the Lifeboat Institution.

West Australian London October 97.



Tibi.

SPOILSPORT TRIP

Geoff Charlton

As most of you would be aware, I've recently done a seven day live aboard dive trip to the Coral Sea on Mike Ball Dive Expeditions' flagship "Spoilsport". It was a tough job, but somebody had to do it.

The trip left from Townsville, leaving port at 10pm and not seeing land again (or at least the mainland) for five days. The quality and variety of diving was simply superb, a good variety of sea life (both flora and fauna) at most depths enabling all those on board to thoroughly enjoy their dive at whatever depth they chose, although most of us were starting the day with a deep dive. With average visibility of 30-35metres and water temperature around the 26°C mark, simply brilliant.

For myself, the highlights of the trip were: China Wall - First dive of the trip and a dropoff from 12M to 1000+Cod Wall - A Giant Gorgonian Fan (10ft wide & 8ft high) and comfortably marked at 44M. Watanabe Pinnacle - Giant Trevally and large Barracuda as well as a great variety of hard and soft corals. Scuba Zoo - A shark feed resulting in video footage you'll have to see to believe. SS Yongala - The variety of corals and fish was simply stunning. More Trevally as well as a couple of Groper the size of St Bernards - only spoilt by bad viz and strong current. If you would like more than the "Reader's Digest" version, I'll gladly have a chat with you over a cleansing Ale.

Geoff



DIVING OFFICERS REPORT

Geoff Geard

With the AGM on the 17th November this will be my last report, come along to elect your new committee.

A couple of incidents have happened of late, one was a diver, who had cleaned and packed their gear away for the winter. They took it out and gave it a quick check. Everything seemed fine, until they got to the water, where the ocky wouldn't stop free flowing. Lucky this wasn't on the boat, at Rottnest.

The second incident involves doing a buddy check. The poor diver couldn't work out why they had trouble going down. They blamed the different tank, the rat and the other. Wasn't until the end of the dive, and they were back on the boat, that they discovered they had forgotten their weight belt. It was still on the boat...

The third incident involved a divers weight belt coming off on the bottom. Luckily the diver caught the belt before he headed for the surface. I still don't know how my belt came undone.

1st Friday In December - Social Prawn Dive at Kent Street.

Where was the Diving???

Parker Point Drop Off! Where the viz was 8-10m +, and I was told everybody had a great dive.

West Reef? Just west of Camac Island. A very nice site. Arches, caverns, fish, cowrie shells. I also counted 17 size crays in one hole!!!

For the wreck divers, the forecast was against us again. But the conditions on the day were perfect, to search for the Orzaba !!!.

Geoff C found her the first time, circled back and lost her, turned back and found her again. I actually dropped the anchor on its deck. Well I think it was the reck, so we couldn't miss her. After 15 year she still looks the same, maybe a bit more marine growth. "Is the bow leaning over more???" I won't swear to it, but I think it is. The big steering wheel?, at the stern is still standing. About the only thing I can say is missing with certainty, are the Port Jackson sharks, although Dave saw a Wobbegong of a size that he didn't think they grew to.

As a final word, I would like to thank everyone for their patience and participation, and I will see you all at the Annual General Meeting on the 17th November 1997.

To book your dives, ring me on 9453 1723.

Let's Go and Dive !! I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT

Geoff

TALES FROM "MI QUERIDA"

Steve Larfer

For those of you who have not been reading the correspondence from Judy and Leigh aboard the "MI QUERIDA", please see Geoff Geard who has 2 very interesting letters from them detailing there adventures. Judy has obviously been keeping a great journal. Its great reading and the magnificent photos also enclosed are really good.

Currently they are in Darwin after a long cruise all the way up the W.A. coast exploring the very remote areas of the North West. We send them there U.E.C. magazine every month but they would love to hear from individual members. Keep sending the JOURNAL EXTRACTS Judy it will make a great book for the future.

Judy and Leigh can be contacted by post:

JUDY COWAN
YACHT "MI QUERIDA"
C/- 2 JOSEPH STREET
KINGSTON S.E.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5275



WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

I am happy to say that all is well with the boat in what will be my last boat report in the foreseeable future. The new marlin board, new stern door anchor well and ladder are all being widely acclaimed and will go a long way to lifting club pride in our boat, a fact which I think is greatly under estimated in keeping you all motivated and attracting new members.

The engine fume problem also seems to have been eliminated with the removal of the cover over the exhaust and the boards off the marlin board. We have some further mods to do in that area, which will proceed in due course. Finally we have found a source of reasonably priced high quality deck carpet, which the Committee felt was too good an opportunity to miss in further increasing the boat's comfort and appeal. This will be installed as soon as possible and will be down to stay for years. We have just installed the same product, different colour, on our boat and I can thoroughly recommend it.

Finally as my term of office draws to a close, I wish to thank you all for the support and assistance I have received this and other years, without it of course the job would have been impossible. There have been many, many good times, far outweighing the bad and even the emergencies have been interesting, most of them, to say the least.

Certainly I've learned a tremendous amount from the experience of being UEC Boating Officer for so many years and I am profoundly grateful for it. Now it is time for me to take on a different role, still relating to boating, if the new Committee wishes, but not as Boating Officer. Naturally I will be on hand to assist your new Boating Officer but I must stress the job will be His and I will not interfere with that in any way what so ever!

On that note let me say one last time.

Cheers Folks!

Stubbie

SAFETY REPORT

Ric Young

Hi there ! fellow divers.

Well my 12 months term as Safety Officer is almost completed and I'm pleased to report that the year has been excellent from a dive safety point of view, with no accidents causing personal injury or endangering life occurring in the water or aboard the "Underwater Explorer" being reported. However, there was one incident where a member sustained an injury to his back while assisting with the transporting of air cylinders on Rottneest during the March long weekend.

During the year there were a few incidents which had the potential for injury, the most notable being an "out of air situation", however, thanks to good training, the divers involved carried out the buddy breathing technique to safely reach the surface without sustaining any injury.

Considering the nature of diving and boating in general, the Underwater Explorers Club has maintained a good safety record over many years and therefore I would like to take this opportunity to thank the boat skippers, diving officers, and all divers for achieving a high safety standard over the past year, to continue the clubs good record.

Safe diving!

Ric

DIVERS BEWARE

One of our members was recently involved in a very ugly incident with a group of Fishermen. Whilst diving on the inside of the South Mole with a buddy and another buddy pair they were stoned by a number of bored line fishermen, who had decided that the divers were to blame for scaring "there fish" away.

One of the group was struck by a large rock on his head, resulting in a 3 hour visit to Fremantle Hospital for stitches. The Police were called and charges have been laid against the person who threw the rock.

We cannot label all fishermen as irresponsible but please be very weary when diving in close proximity to fishermen who can be very one eyed when they are not catching anything.

The irony of the whole affair was that the victim is a Policeman who managed to control his anger, despite being further provoked by the person charged .

It goes to show that you never now who your up against when you play the fool.

Steve



SOCIAL EVENTS - Bob McLaughlin



NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

ANNUAL

PRESENTATION

DAY

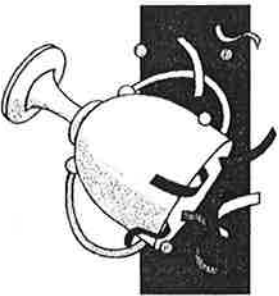
Saturday 15th

November

At Bob & Pat McLaughlin's
Place

7 Best Court High Wycombe

From 3.00pm



All of you that have booked,
I'll see you there!

DINNER AT SYC

Pre-Monthly Meeting

Dinner

Monday 17th

November



\$10.00

Please book with Bob
before Friday 14th
November 1997

THANKYOU'S

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for participating in the social scene this year and especially my sub-committee Susie, Kerry, Sandie, Hettie, Geoff and Bill for all their help. I've had a great time. Next term I'm going to have a break and let some one else have a go.

BLUES ON THE SWAN

A Blues night will be held at
Swan Yacht Club

Blues Band from Queensland

8.00pm till 1.00am

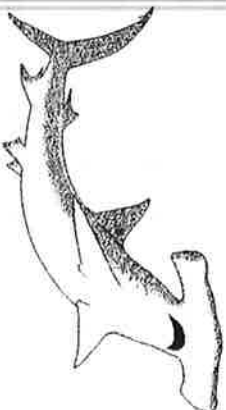
\$10 Members \$15 Friends



SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to Gary Tattersall for a great talk on Water Police activities. After listening to Gary, you realise it takes a special person to do Police Diving work. Thanks Gary.

SHARK FIN SOUP?



With all the shark sightings lately, we are even scared to take a bath!

THE UEC NEWS

M O N T H L Y M A G A Z I N E

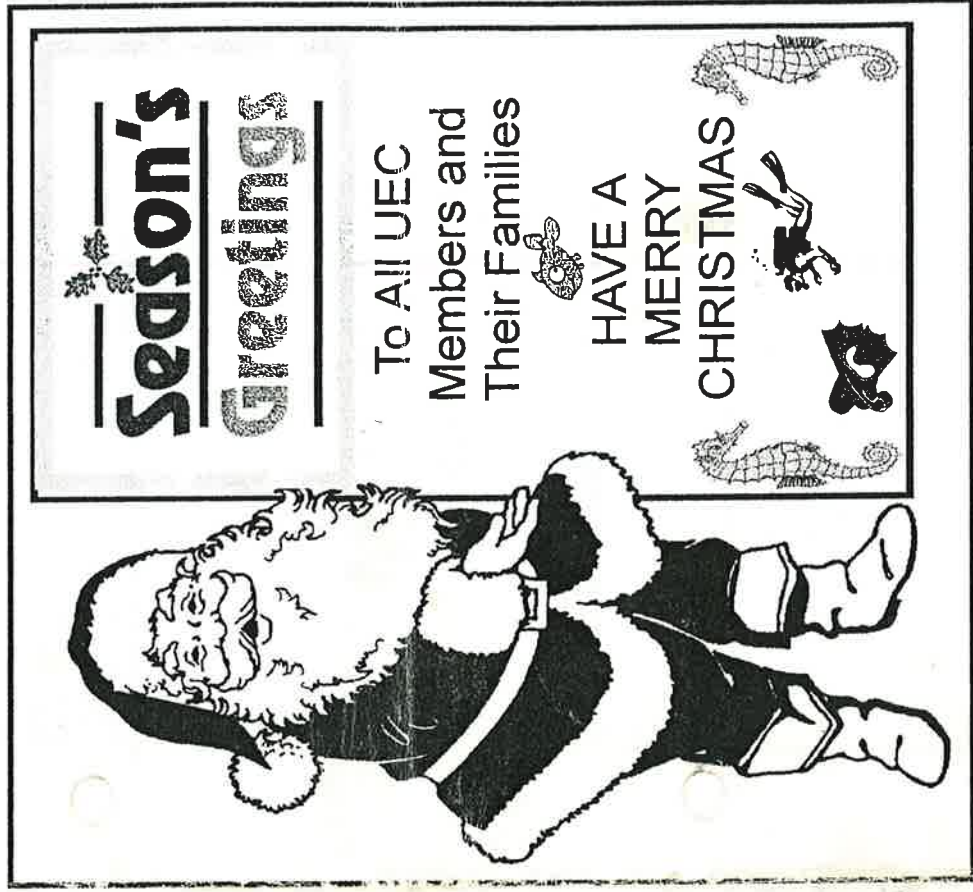
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UEC NEWS

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc)
Print Post Approved by Australia Post
Print Post Publication No. PP632593/0002

SURFACE
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AUSTRALIA



Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Cr
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

DECEMBER 1997

THE COMMITTEE 1998

PRESIDENT	Maaree Casley	Phone 9457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Geoff Charlton	Phone 9451 2910
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	Phone 9451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	Phone 9445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Geoff Geard	Phone 9453 1723
BOATING OFFICER	Harry Oldenhuis	Phone 9451 3972
SAFETY OFFICER	Steve Larter	Phone 9291 9654
TRAINING OFFICER	Ian Lawrence	Phone 9364 6331
BUILDING OFFICER	Carmine Travaglione	Phone 9356 1311
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Roger Smith	Phone 9275 8620
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CLUB CALENDAR

DECEMBER 1997 / JANUARY 1998

MONTH/DATE	EVENT
DECEMBER	
Sat 13	Stragglers? One tank dive WHITBRED YACHTS LEAVING* Richard N / Brian M Christmas Dive "Don't miss this one" Geoff C / Kerry A
Sun 14	General meeting - SYC : 8pm SOCIAL : MOVIE UNDER THE STARS (Kerry Ashton)
Mon 15	
Wed 17	
Sat 20th	Explorion dive - One tank Bob McL / Steve L Popular Choice
Sun 21	
Sat 27	Kerry A / Dennis S Open - (Christmas / New Year Break)
Sun 28	Open - (Christmas / New Year Break) Barry K / Geoff C
JANUARY 1998	
Fri 2	<u>1st = PH: NEWYEARS DAY. 26th = PH: AUSTRALIA DAY</u> Prawn Dive & Cookup - Geoff G
Sat 3	Open - Boat Free
Sun 4	Request Dive - (2Tank) Barry K - Luc F
Wed 7	COMMITTEE MEETING - SYC - 8PM One tank
Sat 10	Richard N / Jim R
Sun 11	Two tank Dive
Sat 17	Dennis S / ????
Sun 18	Open Cray Dive Peter H / Brian M
Mon 19	GENERAL MEETING - SYC - 8pm DINNER - 6.30 pm ("MUST BE PRE BOOKED") OPEN
Sat 24	Bob McL / Steve L

NOTES

- DEPARTS SWAN YACHT CLUB LOADING JETTY
- Check Your Departure Time
- All Dives Subject to Weather
- Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with DO Geoff Geard
- NOT THE CREW**

BARGAIN SALE!

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DIVE SKI & SURF SUPPLIES

Dive Sea and Surf are offering some great specials on air fill cards. Call in at the Subiaco or Rottneest shop and find out how economical an air fill card can be

Whilst in the shop take advantage of our fantastic summer specials and collect a 10% Club discount.

“ THE SWAN “

Anyone interested in diving on ‘The Swan’ on the 27th December with BSAC, please let Steve Van Der Walt know by the 22nd December 1997. Phone No: 94501103.

Cost of 2 dives at the moment is \$50.00 per person. BSAC are looking at camping overnight in Bunbury the night before.

EDITORIAL by Rog



“O my gosh. ” What have I done? How did I ever get talked into this job? Here I am sat at my computer, crying over mountains of crumpled bits of paper as I try to put this newsletter together. All I can say is it's a lot harder than I ever imagined and has made me much more appreciative of those who have done such a good job the past. Slowly bit by bit, page by page it is gradually starting to happen, that was until I got to this page, which is my own page. Now I'm buggered if I can think of anything to write about which is not like me (it must be the stress).

I suppose I could give you all the same old gripe about more members contributing articles to the newsletter, but that's not worked in the past so I won't bother. What I may suggest though is that if you see anything that may be of interest in other publications that you let me know. Those of you that have access to the internet would already know how many interesting snippets of trivia can be found there, so pass them on to me along with any interesting dive related sites that you may encounter. One thing I would ask is that you try to keep them on the lighter side. Like you all I am aware of how important safety is, but come on guys (*meant in a non sexist way*) we all do this diving stuff for FUN.

You won't see any major changes in the way the newsletter is produced, at least for a while as I believe it has reached a particular high standard thanks to Ilena input over the last few years. I will be extremely happy in I can just maintain it at its present level.

Well if you are reading this I will be very happy for it will mean I'll have succeeded in getting the damn thing completed, if not then I've probably slashed my wrists

Just one more thing, if you have any suggestions on how I can do a better job producing this newsletter “**KEEP THEM TO YOUR BLOODY SELF**”. Just kidding

Rog

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Maree Casley

The 1998 Committee was elected at the November meeting and I am thrilled that so many new people have come forward to do their bit for the Club next year. Among the new faces are some really new faces (and names) that some of you may not recognise. Ian Lawrence is our Training Officer, Carmine Travaglione is Building Officer and Harry Oldenhuis is Boating Officer. They join Roger Smith as Editor and Kerry Ashton who is Social/PR Officer. All the other positions are held by previous committee members, although Steve Larter has moved camps to be Safety Officer. All of our Committee will be calling on each of you during the year to lend them a hand with their various projects, so please give them every assistance and encouragement especially for our new members. I am not going to steal anyone's thunder by telling you what they have planned for the next year but I can assure you that they are going to be busy organising tons of activities that we can all become involved in. During the course of the year Roger will endeavour to introduce the new faces to our readership. I hope you will all join me in welcoming our new Committee and offering our sincere thanks to departing members.

We also had our annual Presentation Day at Bob McLaughlin's home last month. Awards presented this year went to:

Club Person of the Year - Peter Horton who was a very deserving and popular choice

Boat Person of the Year - Pat Troy for his cheerful willingness to help out on any project on the boat

Appreciation Award Bob McLaughlin His social functions were fantastic

Ilana Murray For her continued support in preparing the magazine

Richard Naylor He is always available to skipper the boat.

Jim Robson His organising for the Avon Descent is superb

Sandy Webb For assisting with Rotto '97 and social functions.

Harry Weimink His generous donation to allow us to fast-track securing a boat pen.

Without the unselfish dedicated work of these (and others who didn't receive awards) our Club could not continue. Many thanks to all recipients for all the work that they have done for the Club... Everyone who attended on the day had a great time and were treated to a fabulous meal. Bob and his wife Pat did a wonderful job and we greatly appreciate their efforts.

Lastly, I hope as many as possible turn up for our Christmas dive this Sunday. It promises to be a legendary event and families are welcome to attend and join in the festivities. If I don't manage to catch up with you all beforehand, I hope you and your families have a very happy Christmas and New Year. See you all soon.

Maree

DIVING INCIDENTS

Steve Larter

PART 3

The 6 divers were all experienced in deep dives though only 2 had previously dived to 75m, one being the victim. This was a deep dive on a wreck. One was to remain in the boat. When the first pair started there dive the others set up the decompression bar at 6 and 3m. As the trio descended they met the first ascending. On the wreck they tied a reel line to the anchor and then swam over the wreck. As the three divers began their return to the anchor, in line ahead the tail ender saw that the middle diver, the victim) he appeared to be finning but was making no progress. He assumed the victim had become snagged but when touched he was unconscious. The regulator fell from the victims mouth as he was turned over so the buddy replaced it. He appeared to breath shallowly but in a rapid hyperventilation manner. The diver attracted the attention of the leader and held the victim while the leader cut the reel line. Then the tallender let go and started to make his ascent. The leader grabbed the victim and replaced his regulator, but no further efforts to breath were observed. At 13m he put some air into the victims BC, ditched his weights and allowed the victim to ascend to the surface unattended. He then returned to 15m to start the planned decompression. The man in the boat saw the victim break the surface and immediately jumped into the water. With the assistance of the first pair who had completed there deco stops, he got the victim into the boat. Their attempts to resuscitate were unsuccessful.

A pre-autopsy X-ray showed a massive air presence intravasacularly, with air in the heart and pulmonary vessels and also many other vessels. Some air was post mortem out-gassing but the total amount indicated possible air embolism. There were several adverse factors. Calculations show that he had used far less air than would of been expected. His regulator was hard to breathe and had a partially inverted exhaust valve which would of caused a spray of water with every inhalation. He was wearing two tanks and a regulator on the second tank was also misassembled, however he had not breathed from it. Oxygen toxicity, carbon dioxide retention and nitrogen narcosis could all have affected him and he was using equipment unsuitable for deep diving because it required to much effort to breathe.

EXPERIENCED DIVER. DEEP DIVE. LOST CONSCIOUSNESS AND SEEN FITTING. TRIO NITROGEN NARCOSIS POSSIBLE REASON WHY ONE BUDDY ABANDONED VICTIM. REGULATOR HARD TO BREATHE. WATER SPRAY ON INHALATION. LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS. PROBABLE NITROGEN NARCOSIS. POSSIBLE CARBON DIOXIDE RETENTION. POSSIBLE OXYGEN CONVULSION. PROBABLE CAGE DURING RAPID UNCONSCIOUS ASCENT.

SPUMS JOURNAL VOL 27 NUMBER 1 MARCH 1997.
DR D.G. WALKER.

Deep Sea Fish Breaks Cover Tibi

It took three days for the tiny orange-mottled fish to reach its new home- and the whole journey was up-up-up. A deep sea exploration team from the Seaquarium in Curacao, off the coast of Venezuela, announced this week they had brought up a fish never before seen alive, diving to rare depths of 90m. The 4cm long apricot bass was first recorded in 1961 and has since been seen washed up on the shores of Cuba and the Bahamas - but never alive - said seaquarium curator Paul Hoetjes.

"The discovery really extends (the fishes) territory, which is really exciting for this little fish," he said. The team spotted the fish on Saturday during an exploratory dive and quickly captured it inside a tiny acrylic cylinder. It took 3 days to bring the fish to the surface. Any faster and the change in pressure would have killed it. "It's really doing fine now," Mr. Hoetjes said. "It can adapt remarkably."

The fish, whose scientific name is *plectranthius garrupellus*, has bulging eyes and brilliant red and orange markings across its white body. It's the aquariums third rare fish since January, when it began fielding special deep exploration dives. Since then, the divers have gone down more than 40 times with each trip costing more than \$1500. In one, diver Adrian Schrier discovered a new species of fish, which he plans to name after the aquarium.

"It's unbelievable how different the world looks down there," Mr. Schrier said. "Who knows what you can find." It takes the divers four minutes to reach the 91m marker. But they can only stay about 15 minutes before beginning the painstaking 2 ½ hour ascent, which means switching between five different tanks of air. "It's not dangerous if you follow the rules, but if you overshoot by minute, you're in trouble." He said.

The aquarium hopes to field even deeper dives early next year, when teams of expert deep-sea divers are expected from the Florida Keys. "They like it down here where it's crystal clear," Mr. Schrier said. "No pollution to take your mind off the fish."



HARRY WHO ?

This was the question on some members lips when Harry Oldenhuis was nominated and elected as boating officer at the November meeting (that's the one you all stayed away from). The few of who do know Harry are aware that he is a very quiet modest man who is very capable of handling the important position he has taken on, even if so far he has stayed in the background. I spoke to Harry this week and being the nosy sod that I am I asked him a / questions about himself.

Harry is married with three teenage children and resides in Cannington. As far as his age I'll tell you he's in the average age bracket for the UEC (45-85). Like many of us in this club Harry is a migrant, leaving his native Holland for these glorious shores in 1956. Nothing to get too excited about there, but wait there's more, much more.

As far as diving goes Harry has been at it for ten years and is a qualified divemaster as well as possessing a certificate of competency which allows him to instruct within closed waters. He is also vice president of MAAWA (if you don't know what that stands for ask Harry). But does he know about boats you ask yourself? You bet he does, Harry has a Cox's certificate and is presently studying at Freo tech for his yachmasters certificate. On top of all this he has one excellent qualification for this position in that he loves fixing things. (This really impresses me because I'm always breaking things). For a living Harry repairs computers from his own business called STAR-BYTE by day then in the evenings he is a milkman. Is this a busy man or what?

But wait there's still more I asked Harry if he had any other hobbies that we should know about. Nonchalantly he mentioned that he had raced speed cars for ten years when he lived in Port Hedland (can't you just picture him delivering milk at 120kmh) and that he has a private pilots license as well a license for acrobatics and towing (now there's a novel and quick way to get the boat back from Rotto if it should ever run out of fuel).

I'm sure Harry has some great stories to tell so I will be well worth turning up to help with any busy bee's that he may organize on the boat in the future. I'm sure you will all join me in welcoming Harry into his new position and will be keen to offer him any help that he may need in looking after the UEC's greatest asset.

By Rog

DIVING OFFICERS REPORT

Geoff Geard

Another new year and another new committee. My role is the Diving Officer again. Hasn't the weather and the diving been superb! Larger numbers of divers have been turning up of late, for some excellent dives.

A couple of incidents to report:-

First, a diver coming back from a dive, missed their dump valve, accidentally hitting the inflator button, and came to the surface a bit too quickly. Being an experienced diver, this person kept their cool, dumped the air, and promptly went down to 10 metres for 5 minutes, then 5 x 5. After returning to the boat, they went on oxygen for 20 minutes for 'piece of mind'... This incident could have proved very nasty.

Second, basic training and safety standards had been neglected with a couple of divers swimming back to the boat with facemask and snorkel down around their necks. I don't know how they ended up so far behind the boat? They should have gone down the anchor line and gone 'forward'. That way upon surfacing and swimming to the boat, they would not have been fighting the current, they would have been going 'with' it.

Thirdly, please check you fitness levels regardless if you are 15 or 50. You might not be as fit as you think. A long swim back to the boat can be pretty tiring. If you are not comfortable, only do 'one' dive.

Now to the fun section:-

The Cray Season opened last month with a record number of divers turning up on the boat. I only booked more on the Christmas Dive last year. The dive was a success, with Carl getting Brians' Jumbo and Kerry having to leave behind a female full of eggs.

Where did we dive last month???

- Until a better name comes up, 'Lump 24A' has to do. Out to Stragglers for the cray season opener and again toward the end of the month, to try to repeat the seasons opening catch. Unfortunately only one was taken captive.
- South of Jackson Rock, at a spot called 'Mortimer's Hump', with a viz of 10-12 metres.
- TOP DIVE, went echoing around the boat.
- Back to Stragglers for more crayfish and where several were caught.
- For the wreck divers: we went to Kingston Reef in search of the Janet. Well her anchor stock anyway.
- Unfortunately none of us found it.

To book your dives, don't forget my new number, 9453 1723.

**** PLEASE CONFIRM WITH ME, THE NIGHT 'BEFORE' THE DIVE (after 7.00pm) ****

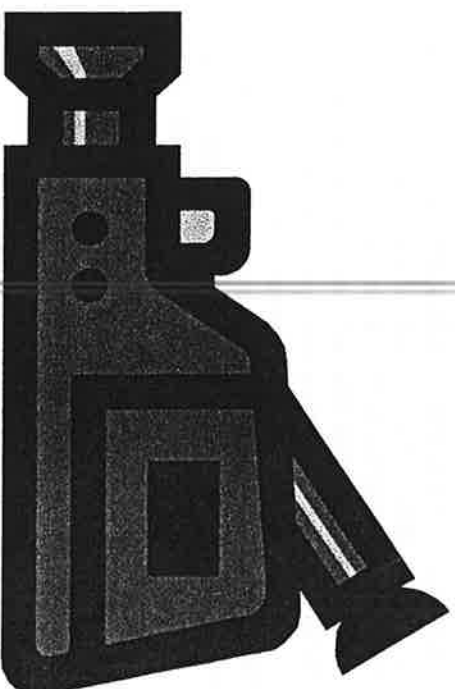
Also my family and I would like to wish everybody a "VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS"
and a "HAPPY NEW YEAR".

Let's Go and Dive!! I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT

Geoff
"PRAWN KING"

We are selling our

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and
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Please ring Kerry or Susie
on 9331 2385, if interested

Who Me ?

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES

Fees for your next year of membership are now overdue and many members have overlooked their payment. Please send in a cheque ASAP to ensure that your membership remains current. Fees have remained the same as last year and they are : Ordinary Members \$75, Family Members \$120 and Social Members \$30.

DIVING FEES

Please remember that Diving Fees are now \$2 extra for each type of dive outing, so fling some coins into your wallet or purse to make life easier for your DO.

CHRISTMAS DIVE

Yes it's on again the years most popular event, the annual christmas dive and BBQ. The boats leave Swan Yacht Club at 8pm. Make sure you ring Geoff to book on board for an easy one tank dive at the 'Stragglers' then back into the harbour for a Xmas BBQ.

EVEN BETTER NEWS

Now you landlubbers can join in the xmas cheer by joining the returning divers at the jetty opposite Memorial Park Johnson parade Mosman Park between 12 -1 pm Sunday 14th December



SAFETY REPORT Steve Larter

RESPONSIBLE DIVERS CODE.

Divers Alert Network has developed the **RESPONSIBLE DIVERS CODE**,

The intention of this code is to remind all divers of there individual responsibility and to focus on **SAFETY**.
The code is reproduced here as an introduction and a reminder to all of us.

- 1 SELF-AWARENESS.** I will dive within the limits of my ability and training.
- 2. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS.** I will evaluate the conditions before every dive and make sure they fit my personal capabilities.
- 3. EQUIPMENT AWARENESS.** I will be familiar with and check my equipment before and during every dive.
- 4. BUDDY AWARENESS** I will respect the buddy system and its advantages.
- RESPONSIBILITY AWARENESS.** I accept the responsibility for my own safety on every dive.

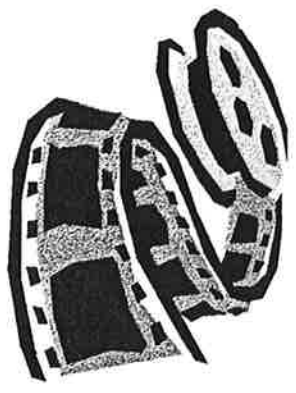
- 6. ECOLOGICAL AWARENESS.** I will be environmentally conscious on every dive.

FINALLY I will be responsible to myself, the people I dive with, the Underwater Explorers Club, and the Environment.

During the diving season I shall be monitoring (with the assistance of both the diving officers and the skippers) all our diving activities and shall try and formulate a special award for the diver who contributes the most to the Responsible Divers Code.

Wednesday 17 December

MOVIE under the stars

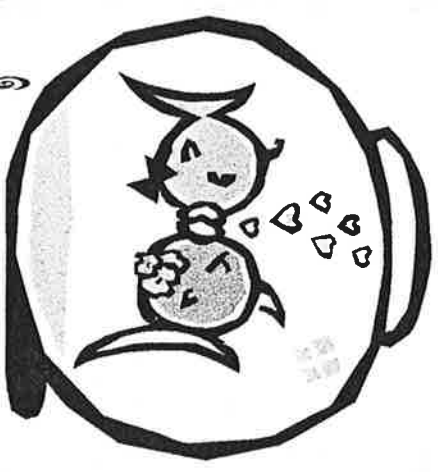


...and the Norfolk pine trees!
 Bring a picnic basket and join us at the Somerville Auditorium 6.30 pm. The film is a "Best Director and Best Music" awarded production, *A Mongolian Tale*, filmed in Mongolia amidst breathtaking panoramas of the vast steppes.



Saturday 14 February

"U.E." departs Swan Yacht Club early evening for a ... romantic cruise on the river, followed by dinner



Valentine Cruise



DRESS requirements: RED, RED, RED

Monday 26 January

AUSSIE PALM DAY SKY SHOW



- ◆ Pick-up from Swan Yacht Club at 4.30 pm.
- ◆ Chicken and Champagne served at 6 pm
- ◆ DRESS Green and Gold or "Aussie"
- ◆ BYO extra drinks & glass
- ◆ A chair or cushion
- ◆ \$25/couple; \$15 single
- ◆ PLEASE PAY at January general meeting!



Saturday 21 March

Bring your whole family! An easy-going bike tour Park day and play Followed by a BBQ



SENDER

Underwater Explorers Club of WA Inc
PO Box 1157, Booragoon, WA 6154

During my last dive on the boat on 21st Dec. I had a strange aberration of the mind. I know that it's hard to believe but true. Anyway, as a result I am now the proud owner of a dive mask sans snorkel that previously I had never seen and I am pining for my old one. Can everyone that was on the boat that day check their bag for an unidentified mask and snorkel? I will gladly swap with my new pink US Divers mask.

Maree

UEC NEWS

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Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Cr

FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

WARNING!

Iceberg sighted in Cockburn sound

A warning has been put out to all craft leaving Fremantle harbour after reports that a fisherman saw an iceberg in Cockburn sound on Sunday. Forty year old Mick Ryan from Kwinana reported the sighting after an unusual days fishing in his 12ft dinghy.

Mr. Ryan described how the day had started out quite normal when he and his friend, only identified as "Davo" left the harbor for a mornings fishing. "We only brought one big foam esky with us", said Mr Ryan. "Unfortunately once we emptied a slab of beer and some ice into it, there was no room for the bait so we left that behind on the dashboard of the Ute for next time."

Mr Ryan told our reporter that the fishing wasn't the best without bait, but "me and Davo managed to down about a dozen tinnies each in the first couple of hours". It appears it was at this point that "Davo" passed out while Mr Ryan continued drinking the rest of the beer before taking a "quick nap" himself.

Mr Ryan said that the dinghy was suddenly rocked by a strong breeze, which woke him with a start. "As I sat up I saw that it

was very misty and I noticed this white object floating away into the distance", he said.

When asked how he knew it was an iceberg, Mr Ryan told our reporter he had recently taken the kids to see the film "Titanic" at his local cinema and recognized it straight away, "although it was a bit smaller," he said.

After zigzagging his way back to shore "through the mist" Mr Ryan described how he collapsed into a coma on the beach. "Must have been the shock", he said.

Mr Ryan says he has now fully recovered from the incident, unlike his mate Davo who is still detoxifying in Fremantle hospital. "My only regret" he said, was losing the foam esky, which he says "must have gone overboard when the iceberg struck."

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

ORAL SEX!

WILD PARTIES

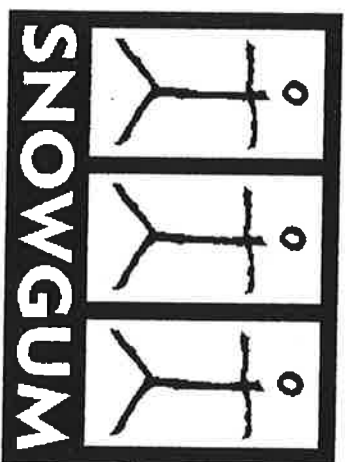
WARREN'S JOKES

BORING REPORTS

THE COMMITTEE 1998

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	9457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
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CLUB CALENDER

JANUARY '98 (1ST=PH New Years Day; 26th=PH Australia Day)

Sat 17 Open
 Sun 18 Cray Dive 2 tank
 Mon 19 GENERAL MEETING -SYC-8pm
 Peter H/Geoff C

DINNER (Must be pre-booked) 6.30
 Fri/Sat 23/24 "Overnighter" Bob McL/ Steve L
 Sun 25 Garden Island - Two Tank Peter/Geoff G /Luc F
 Mon 26 SOCIAL : "AUSTRALIA DAY" SKY SHOW
 Sat 31 Exploratory Dive -One Tank Kerry A / Susie A

FEBRUARY '98 (14TH = Valentines Day)

Sun 1 Cray Dive - Two Tank Barry K / Geoff G

Wed 4 COMMITTEE MEETING - SYC : 8pm

Fri 6 Prawa Dive - Cookup Geoff G

Sat 7 One tank Bob McL / Steve L

Sun 8 Wreck dive Dennis S / Jim R

Sat 14 One Tank Richard N / ???

Sat 14 SOCIAL : 'VALENTINE CRUISE' (Evening)

Sun 15 Cray Dive: 8am G. Geard, Peter H / Geoff G

Mon 16 GENERAL MEETING - SYC-8pm

DINNER (Must be pre-booked) 6.30

Sat 21 Open - One Tank Peter H / Jim

Sun 22 Open - Two Tank Kerry A / Susie A

Fri 27 "LEAVING FOR ROTNEST" (1week)

Sat 28 (Rotnest Long Weekend)

Sun 01 ..

NOTES : DEPARTS SWAN YACHT CLUB LOADING JETTY

: Check Your Departure Time

: All Dives Subject to Weather

: Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with Geoff Geard
 NOT THE CREW

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made to Geoff Geard . Tel 9453 1723

Late Breaking Gossip

Did you hear about our President ringing around and inviting 17 people out for a fish and chip supper at Cicerello's? They took the club boat, which is now comfortably sitting in a pen at Swan Yacht Club waiting for any other club members who may wish to impress their friends on these warm summer evenings. This is a really great idea and since you ask, yes I'd love to come along.

Have you heard that those nasty harbor and lights people have been sending out summonses out to boat owners who are seen with passengers hanging their legs over the side while the boat is moving? I'm so glad we would never allow such a practice on our boat.

NOMINATIONS

John Rhodes
Viveash

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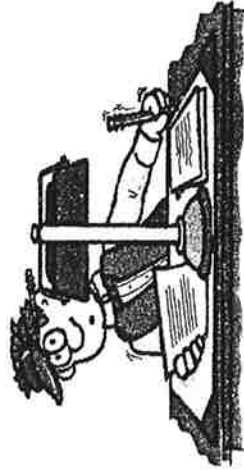
DIVE SEA & SURF SUPPLIES

Dive sea and surf are offering some great specials on air fill cards. Call in at the Subiaco or Rottneest shop and find out how economical an air card can be.

Whilst in the Shop take advantage of our fantastic summer specials and collect a 10% club discount.

EDITORIAL

by Rog



Welcome to the first club newsletter that I have put out all on my own. Contrary to what I said last month it has been quite good fun. I feel this sort of thing is in my blood, it certainly gives one a sense of power to be responsible for what my fellow club members get to read each month. I just love the smell of the ink, the roar of the printing press and the excitement of meeting a deadline. Well maybe some day!

I must apologize for the typing error on the front page (you didn't honestly think you were going to get an article on oral sex did you?). To those readers that rushed to find that article first, all I can say is you must get out diving more often. To those readers that think I would do such a low underhanded thing on purpose, just to get people to read the magazine more closely, "SHAME ON YOU" I'm not like that.

While we're on the subject of cheap tabloid journalism I'll tell you some **GOOD NEWS**. Next month to make this newsletter more interesting I am thinking of having a nude centerfold. I'll be on the lookout this month for prospective models of either sex, what the hell it's 1998.

The **BAD NEWS** is that if you have not paid your club fees for this year you will not get to see this very special issue of next month's newsletter. Sorry this is your last one.

One thing you will have noticed is that I am a compulsive liar. I said last month I had no intention of making any changes to the newsletter. "Believe me when I tell you I'm incapable of telling the truth" Once I start to write I never know what I will say or do next. I hope you all enjoy this newsletter. I have no idea what the next issue it will be like, as I am going to try a few different things and see what the response is.

Please read on and enjoy.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome to 1998. I hope you and your families had a great Christmas and New Year and that Santa brought you a heap of goodies. Over our way he thought he had won Lotto and delivered Dennis and me a couple of Super Dupper, fabulously practical dive bags. Must have cost him a fortune but who am I to complain.

What a wonderful start to the 1998 diving and social season we have had. The boat is getting lots of work which pleases me no end. U.E. now happily ensconced in a pen at S.Y.C. for the summer and it is proving to be very successful. It is now so much easier to organise impromptu events and skippers and crew are not kept up all night putting the boat back on the mooring. Anyone interested in using the boat for social or dive trips that are not on the calendar, please ring Geoff Geard to check availability of the boat and then all you have to do is find a crew. While we have the boat in such a convenient location during summer make the most of it. Just think, when we get a pen of our own, life as we know it will never be the same again!

Another point to note is that there is a BBQ in the bar downstairs that is for the use of all S.Y.C. members (which we are), so if you want to take advantage of it to cook up your crabs, just ask at the bar and it is all yours. Just remember to clean it afterwards. I have also noticed that sometimes when we load and unload our cars at the base of the loading jetty that we partially block access to the launch ramp. Please keep the access free for other boaters to use otherwise we (me) will get a stern talking to.

For members that have not paid their subscription fees for this year this will be your last magazine. It is always a pity that some people do not renew their membership for whatever reason and I hope that it is not a problem that we at the Club could fix. Please give me a ring if there is something we can do for you. For the rest of you that are still members I hope to see you all soon.

ROTTNEST 1998

Now is the time to pay the balance of your Rotto deposits. I require your money at this coming General Meeting otherwise I will have to give your spot to the next person on the waiting list. For the 3rd year running we have contained costs to the same level and that is \$150 so that means most of you owe about \$100 each. If you can't make it to the meeting, give me a ring and we can make alternative arrangements.



SAFETY REPORT.

JAN 98.

Happy New Year to all and lets keep our safety standards up to the highest possible for 1998.

A correction to an article in December's issue of U.E.C. magazine. Somewhere between the writing and the publication a mistake was unfortunately made, re-Diving officers report. Incident First.

Further clarification was made and the diver concerned did not accidentally hit the inflator button, as reported. The inflator button on a BC is practically impossible to accidentally operate as the button needs to be firmly pressed and held down to inflate.

Concern was also expressed with regards to the appropriate action followed after the diver inadvertently surfaced.

There are a number of schools of thought with regards to in water recompression. The modern theory in sport diving is that all recompression is carried out in a recompression chamber where appropriate medical assistance can be provided. Of course diving in remote areas where emergency recompression may not be available, a different approach may have to be implemented.

Some of our more mature divers who did there basic training back in the late 70s or early 80s, would of been trained to carry out in water recompression. However it is now recognised that this type of recompression is very difficult, extremely hazardous, and should not be undertaken by sport divers.

Our emergency procedures are adequate to ensure that any decompression problem can be treated at the Fremantle Hospital Hyperbaric Treatment facility with full medical coverage in a very short time.

Delaying treatment by attempting in water recompression may result in the patient suffering a more serious situation. Diagnosis of decompression illness is not straight forward and calculating the required amount of recompression at sea and the logistics required to carry out the procedure may not be available at the time.

The most frequent errors related to decompression treatment are:

- 1 Failure of the diver to report symptoms early.
- 2 Failure to treat doubtful cases.
- 3 Failure to treat promptly.
- 4 Failure to treat adequately.
5. Failure to recognise symptoms however minor.

If you are in any doubt about your dive profile and you experience any symptoms you must report your concerns to the diving officer or the skipper.

Another important and pertinent point in this debate is that it is each divers responsibility during there dive to ensure that there dive plan and profile is carried out according to there training and in the event of any emergency situation they are capable of carrying out the appropriate actions necessary to ensure there own and there buddies safety.

Remember your training, check your equipment, ensure you are familiar with your buddies equipment and your signals, and plan your dive together to eliminate any misunderstandings during your dive.

In future to prevent embarrassment I shall not be reporting any individual incidents which occur during our diving operations. Incidents will be discussed with the individuals concerned whenever appropriate.

DO'S REPORT

"Happy New Year" everyone.

I hope everybody had an excellent Christmas and New Year break. Mine was!

Hasn't the weather been superb although Boxing Day was a bit hot (especially driving). Fortunately Luc and I went to Busselton in Warren's car which was air-conditioned. We stayed in Broadwater actually and drove to Dunsborough early on Saturday, where we met up with eight? BSAC members and five other divers to dive on "The Swan".

By mid January charter boat divers will be able to penetrate the wreck. We could only swim around it peering in through the holes wishfully... So far there is only a school of Bullseyes taking refuge under the hull and around the prop shafts.

Mark in you calenders January 23rd. It is and overnigher, 'the first for 1998'. Hopefully we can get a few in this year.

Last month saw some great diving, with some large crayfish being taken. One measuring 157mm on the carapace, was taken at Champion Rock. An even larger specimen was caught at Roe Reef?. A massive 173mm'. We also dived Maree's Aquarium and Victoria Station. From what I was told, both had good viz with everyone happy about the dive.

Out to Stragglers for our Christmas Dive, with a BBQ lunch at Mosman Park. "This was one well attended dive and BBQ". Back to Champion Rock, where even quite a bit of surge didn't stop Brian catching three nice size crays.

Anglers Cave, Victoria Station, Maree's Aquarium and Dark Cave were also dived.

As you can see the diving is very diversified and we have had a good number of divers on each dive.

So ring now to book your spot on the boat.

Phone: 9453 1723

Let's Go and Dive !!
I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT

Geoff Geard
PRAWN KING



IMPORTANT NOTICE

While attending the UEC Christmas dive and picnic, many of the clubs members were observed acting in a manner most unbecoming of their mature ages. They thought that it was acceptable behavior to drink and eat excessively, belch and fart while telling smutty jokes and laughing loudly. To this uncontrollable element I have only one thing to say. **Thanks a million guy's, I had a great time.**

To those members who did not attend, sorry folks but you missed a great day, try again next year.



The Underwater Explorer... Party Boat extraordinaire!

Do you remember that at the last UEC meeting our President reminded us that the Underwater Explorer was OUR boat and that we could make arrangements to use it for our own special occasions?

Well, I have not wanted to celebrate my birthday for as long as I can remember (and I'm getting old!), but I suddenly felt like it and I knew exactly what sort of celebration I wanted. With the skilful help of skipper Kerry and help from Bob; help with the food from friends, especially Astraea whose birthday is the next day to mine (Astraea is the brains behind any events I have catered for UEC and a great cook); and a crystal clear and calm night, we all had a most wonderful time tucked in near Mosman Park somewhere. The only downs were having to limit our numbers to 20, no crabs in our nets and the time limit set by people's bladders (sorry, but the boat's loo is not very inviting for us women, and it was too cold to swim!) It was as near perfect as it could be.. topped off by Bob doubling as guitarist and deckie, and attentive dolphins.

CORAL SEX

It was a beautiful moonlit night. Romance was in the air — and in the sea. That night on a reef five miles off the Florida Keys — right in front of the lobsters and fish, and in full view of about 10 scuba diving researchers — coral spawned. It had been a long time coming — and it would be a full year before they do it again. In a strangely predictable mating ritual, tiny oral globules containing both coral sperm and coral eggs float up from the reef about 20 feet to the ocean surface. Then, aided by the ocean's chop, the sperm and egg pair up and a star coral is born.

Few people think about coral sex. Fewer still see it happen, although researchers can predict almost to the hour when it will occur.

Many people think coral is a rock. But corals are actually tiny colonial animals, and after every August full moon, like clockwork, they reproduce in what marine biologist Alina Szmant calls a "coral orgy." Szmant and her graduate students from the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science bobbed in the waves aboard a NOAA research vessel on a recent magic night, over Key Largo Dry Rocks reef, waiting for a certain species of montastria — or star coral — to spawn. After donning scuba gear, the researchers went down about 15 feet, and hovered around the coral heads. Soon, the little orange droplets started floating upward. The researchers pointed excitedly. Some of the future corals were gathered up in nets.

Normally, the BB-sized bundles float to the surface, get jostled around by the current, mix and match, and start to develop into embryos. "They go swimming around for three to five days until they're ready to settle down onto the coral reef," Szmant said. "Reefs exist, because these little larvae we're studying decided to settle down somewhere."

Szmant wants to know just how the unhorn corals — called planulae larvae choose a spot on the bottom of the sea to settle. Once scientists know that, it's just a short step to helping coral reefs, endangered by everything from people fishing with dynamite to souvenir-hunting scuba divers, replenish themselves. Szmant's research could lead to restoring damaged areas. "Or you could even envision building artificial reefs," with real coral, said Szmant, who's been studying reef coral since 1982.

Some species of coral can be used in human bone transplants, and coral could be grown artificially for that purpose too, if scientists can learn how to get them to settle, Szmant said.

Scientists know the coral larvae settling is based on some type of chemical cue. But the study of coral reproduction is relatively new, having been noticed for the first time off the coasts of Australia and Texas in the early 1980s.



Building Report

January 1998

For those of you who were not at the last meeting, I would like to fill you in on some developments with regard to the factory unit we own in Shields Crescent Myaree. In early December we received a letter from our Strata Manager, Gordon Tucker Real Estate, advising us that there were two unresolved matters that arose at the last owners' meeting. The first was a proposal to apply for all strata plans to be altered to incorporate the rear yard. The second was a proposal to have the entire bitumen driveways and parking areas that are currently bituminised to be covered with hotmix.

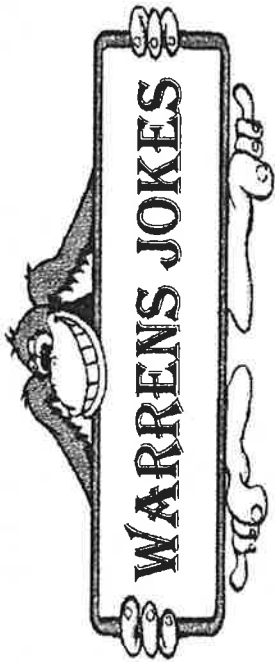
In my opinion the first proposal has merit because it offers all unit holders the independence to apply for changes to their rear yards without the need for the approval of all unit holders, providing of course the changes were in keeping with existing structures and had the approval of controlling authorities. The cost of this proposal was to be a relatively modest \$180.00 per unit.

Because the second proposal was going to be a comparatively major expense of some \$1346.50 per unit holder I decided to go and see the area of the proposed works. After two visits and discussions with several bitumen contractors I arrived at the decision that this major expense is not warranted. Apart from some rather large potholes the remainder of the areas seem to be in fairly good condition. The estimates I solicited to repair the potholes, in much the same way as has been done next door, ranged from a mere \$200.00 to \$300.00. This would mean only \$20.00 to \$30.00 per unit holder.

I wrote a letter to Gordon Tucker on the seventh of December and apart from agreeing to the first proposal and rejecting the second, I pointed out to him at the repairs to the bitumen should be carried out immediately as the potholes are getting worse. Also, because we had not been advised of the owners meeting I asked that he advise us in future. The gardens also look unkempt as does the bitumen areas, with weeds growing in some of the cracks further exacerbating the damaged areas. We pay a maintenance levy quarterly, so I requested that this be carried out. As of the date of writing this report I had not heard from Gordon Tucker. Any further developments will be advised at the next meeting or in the next issue of the magazine.

The only remaining point is for me to wish all our members a happy and prosperous New Year.

Carmine Travaghione
(Building Officer)



Newbie Diver: Which is better, sex or SCUBA diving?
 Veteran Diver: Where's the site? And how deep.

Father and son shark are looking at a fleeing diver. Says the father to the son, "Don't eat the hard bit on his back. It makes you fart!"

Top 10 Reasons Scuba Diving is Better than Sex!

1. Divers don't get worried when you ask if you can put the rubber suit on.
2. Everybody gets to be on the bottom.
3. It's not how long you can stay up — it's how long you stay down.
4. The question "are you wet yet?" won't get you slapped.
5. Everything looks bigger underwater.
6. Regulators are balanced — it doesn't matter how hard you suck.
7. You can dive with a group of strangers anytime you want.
8. Fins give you more thrust.
9. Wet suits can be used more than once.
10. Divers don't get mad when you notice they've put on weight.

Two whales, a male and female, are swimming off the coast of Japan when the male whale looks up and sees a whaling ship that killed his father five years ago. Excited at the opportunity to avenge his father's death, the male whale says to the female "Let's go underneath the ship and blow air through our air holes. That ought to knock their boat over, and make them think twice about killing innocent whales." The female whale agrees, and the plan works perfectly. Once the whaling ship has completely sunk, the male whale notices that most of the sailors are making their way back to the shore by either swimming or lifeboats. Not willing to let them get away so easily, the male whale yells "They're going to shore - Let's go gobble them up!" Just then, the female whale becomes less cooperative: "Sure", she says, "I agreed to the blow job, but there is NO WAY I'm swallowing seamen!"

Contributions of humour always welcome

(cont' from p.6)

Now, it's not just the scientists who venture out into the gamete soup for a chance to watch coral spawning. Not long after the researchers first watched it on the Great Barrier Reef and then in the Gulf of Mexico, recreational divers noticed it, too. The Florida Keys tourism council has in the past marketed the spawning to divers looking for a new underwater experience.

Tim Hart, a New Orleans oceanographer, takes advantage of divers' interest in seeing the rare event to get help in observing spawning for science. Last year, Hart recruited 138 divers to go to different spots around the world and watch the spawning. Each paid their own way and used their own time to help Hart study the spawning. "Those 138 divers accomplished the equivalent of six years of marine science for one

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT CORAL REEFS?

Even though coral reefs cover less than .2% of the ocean floor, it is estimated that coral reefs contain approximately 25% of the ocean's species. Almost 5,000 species of reef fish have been identified, and more than 2,500 species of coral, of which almost 1,000 are reef-building hard coral.

DID YOU KNOW? The calcium carbonate from the sand, shells, and coral maintains the pH balance in the ocean which in turn maintains life as we know it.



researcher," said Hart, whose program is called Project Reef Spawn. "It's a chance for a regular diver to be involved in discovery." One of Hart's goals with the project is to try to get a sense of how much stress various reefs are under based on the strength of the coral spawn there. Hart said the fact that coral in different areas — even in different oceans — sometimes spawn simultaneously amazes him. "Seeing that sort of thing happen," he said, "drives home to me how much of a global ocean it is." Source: Associated Press (Oct. 15, 97).

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER

Currently I am using OFFICE 97 and PAGEMAKER 5.0 to produce your club newsletter.
 If you wish to make a contribution it would be of great help (but not essential) if you can do so in the following manner.

- * Supply all information on a 3.5 inch disc with your name and phone number on it.
- * Make sure it has been cleared of all other files.
- * Save text as "WORD" document or "TEXT ONLY" files
- * Do not use tables to format the text, use tabs.
- * Save any graphics as "bmp" files

For those members fortunate enough to have access to Email you can send stuff (please keep it relevant) to me at rogers@mateking-scouts.org.au

If you wish to contribute an article please do not be put off by what is written above. I will accept articles written on toilet paper or scribbled on hundred dollar bills if I have to. So give it a go.

Monday 26 January

**AUSSIE RALLA DAY
SKY SHOW**



Pick-up from Swan Yacht Club at 4.30 pm.
 Chicken and Champagne served at 6 pm.
 DRESS: Green/Gold or Aussie*.
 BYO extra drinks & glass,
 chair or cushion.
 *\$25/couple; \$15 single.
 PLEASE PAY at January
 general meeting!



Saturday 21 March

Bring your whole family!
 We meet at Bibra Lake
 for an easy-going bike tour
 to be followed by a BBQ



Saturday 14 February

*"U.E." departs Swan
 Yacht Club early
 evening for a
 romantic cruise on the
 river, followed by din-
 ner*



Valentine Cruise

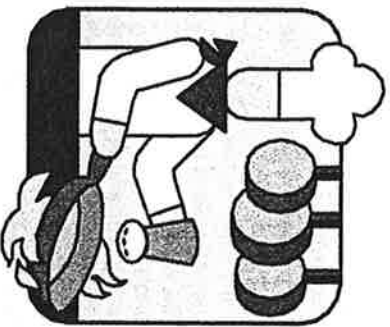


DRESS REQUIRE-
 MENTS:
 RED, RED, RED!

Saturday 25 April

PROGRESSIVE

DINNER

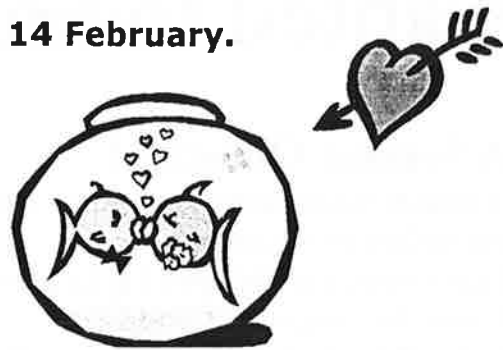


SOCIAL CALENDAR for Feb/March/April/May

VALENTINE CRUISE

Saturday 14 February.

DRESS
in
RED
RED
RED



"U.E." leaves at 5pm for a romantic river cruise to be followed by a visit to a restaurant.

FAMILY DAY OUT: Cycling/BBQ

Saturday 21 March at 10 am.
Meeting place: Bibra Lake car park.

BRING your whole family, all friends,
BBQ-stuff, drinks and the "kitchen sink".



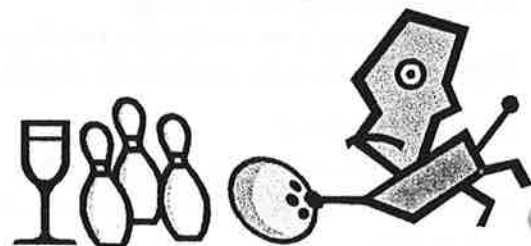
Saturday
25 April

Further details
in the next
Newsletter

**PROGRES-
SIVE DINNER**
with a differ-
ence

TEN PIN BOWLING, Melville
to be followed by "munchies" in the meeting room.
(B.Y.O. beer/wine).

FRIDAY 22 MAY
Start at 7pm sharp.
Please be there at 18.45pm to try out shoes.
Limit: 24 playing persons (=6 pers. each lane)



UEC NEWS

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc)
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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB

UEC NEWS

FEBRUARY 1998

International Year of the Ocean - 1998

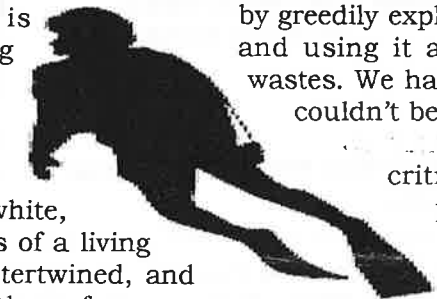
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9 Bits and Pieces

Seen from space, Earth is blue, the blue of one great ocean covering almost three quarters of the globe. The continents are but large green and brown islands, and from space their intimate relationship with the surrounding sea is irrefutable. Overlying all this are swirls of white-the visible clouds of our atmosphere. Blue, green, brown, and white, these are the colors of a living planet. They are intertwined, and the links among them form an intricate chain of life - a chain we do not want broken.

The UN has recognized the importance of the world Ocean to the living Earth by designating 1998 the Year of the Ocean, a year to celebrate, learn about, and embrace this blue jewel that defines our planet. It is a year to begin long-term efforts to protect the life of the ocean, to recognize our own role in changing the ocean environment and what those changes mean to us. For the ocean is in trouble, and that means we are too.

The future of all living things is inextricably linked to the fate of the ocean, which provides oxygen, regulates Earth's climate, and supports the coastal food chain. Over the last several decades, we have profoundly damaged the ocean by greedily exploiting its resources and using it as a dump for our wastes. We have treated it as if it couldn't be hurt; while in fact, it may be the most critical environmental problem facing the world in the 21st century.



Mandela urges protection of seas

Mandela urges protection of seas, as Year of the Ocean looms
South African President Nelson Mandela has called for urgent action to protect the global ocean. In a speech opening the fifth meeting of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans (IWCO) in Cape Town, Mandela spoke of the need to "address the urgent threats of environmental deterioration and illegal fishing activities that could deprive us of a critically important source of protein-rich food for all peoples."

THE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	9457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
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SAFETY OFFICER	Steve Larter	9291 9654
TRAINING OFFICER	Ian Lawrence	9364 6331
BUILDING OFFICER	Carmine Travaglione	9356 1311
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Roger Smith	9275 8620
SOCIAL OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	9331 2385

CLUB CALENDAR

FEBRUARY '98

Sat 14	One Tank : 8am (Richard N / Steve L)
Sat 14	SOCIAL : "VALENTINE CRUISE" EVENING
Sun 15	Cray Dive - Two Tank : 8am (Geoff C / Geoff G)
Mon 16	GENERAL MEETING - SYC :8pm Dinner: 6.30 ("Must" be pre-booked)
Sat 21	Open - One Tank : 8am (Peter H / Jim R)
Sun 22	Full Day Rotto - 2 Tank : 8am (Kerry A / Susie A)
Fri 27	LEAVING FOR "ROTTNEST"
Sat/Sun 28/01	(Rottnest Week)

MARCH '98

Wed 04	COMMITTEE MEETING - casual at Rotto
Sat 07	(Returning from "Rottnest" week)
Sun 08	"The Boat's Back Special" - Two Tank Dive : 8am (Barry K / Luc F)
Sat 14	One Tank : 8am (Bob McL / Steve L)
Sun 15	Green Day - Two Tank : 8am (Geoff C / Kerry A)
Mon 16	GENERAL MEETING - SYC :8pm Dinner: 6.30pm ("Must" be pre-booked) :

DEPARTS SWAN YACHT CLUB LOADING JETTY
Check Your Departure Time
All Dives Subject to Weather
Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with Geoff Geard
NOT THE CREW

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made to Geoff Geard
Tel 9453 1723

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Fax: (08) 9292 5120

FREMANTLE
E Shed
Victoria Quay, Markets Fremantle
Ph: (08) 9336 4355
Fax: (08) 9336 4961

DIVE SEA & SURF SUPPLIES

Dive sea and surf are offering some great specials on air fill cards.

Call in at the Subiaco or Rottnest shop and find out how economical an air card can be.

Whilst in the Shop take advantage of our fantastic summer specials and collect a 10% club discount.

PRINTED BY KIND PERMISSION

FEBRUARY SPECIAL

Silva 14d Diving Compass
ONLY \$63.00



551 Murray st West perth
Tel 93215259

Your adventure begins at SNOWGUM

Bits and Pieces

Stuff you always wanted to know

Diving in Deep

Model and part time mermaid Meghan Heaney-Grier has broken the American free diving record off the coast of Florida. Diving without breakaway weights or floatation equipment to a depth of 50m. On a single breath, lasting one minute and fifty eight seconds, Heaney-Grier broke her previous record by three metres and surfaced safely to double celebrations - it was also her 20th birthday.

Speaking after her record-breaking dive Heaney-Grier said she could have managed another metre, but was satisfied with the result. Her next goal is the women's world record of 62m currently held by Cuba's Deborah Andollo.

Heaney-Grier has only been diving for two years and has already positioned herself as a serious threat to the Cuban's record with a training breathhold exceeding four and a half minutes. (Sherman asks how she managed to stop talking for so long)

The men's record is also held by a Cuban, Pipin Ferraras, who recorded a depth of 133m.

Scale Secret

EVER WONDERED how shoals of fish manage their wonderful displays of synchronized swimming, darting to and fro as one? Researchers have found that the answer lies in a system of optical signaling built into their scales.

Seen from different angles, scales' light-reflecting platelets send back varying intensities of light and, after millions of years of evolution, fish have learned to associate various patterns of change with specific directions of movement.

In studies of horse mackerel, it was found that a dorsal lateral line along a fish's back acts as a large arrow, showing other fish which way it is moving. The work was carried out by Prof. Eric Denton of the Marine Biological Association in Plymouth, and by Dr David Lowe of the University of Plymouth.

A Serious Question!

Anybody interested in diving the ABROLHOS ISLANDS over Easter?

I have a price of \$165 per day/night on "Lady Grace" leaving from Geraldton.

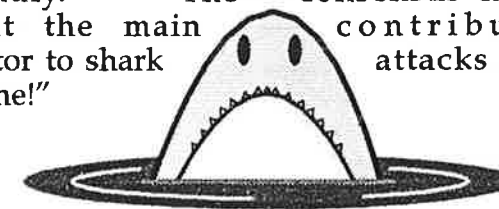
Contact Kerry or Susie a.s.a.p. on 9331 2385.

Editor flogged

THE EDITOR of a local newsletter was dragged into a public marketplace and flogged in Dubai this week. The editor, Roghamed El Smithulla had been charged with changing the face of what locals referred to as their "bible". Authorities claimed that Smithulla had broken an ancient religious code by altering the shape and size of their monthly scripture. It appears the newsletter affected its readers in various ways. Some were found in dark corners grinning and chuckling, while others suffered less serious symptoms, such as choking and a severe bugging of the eyes.

Sharks Like Piss

David Baxter, who has studied sharks for 15 years, believes that victims have all urinated in their wetsuits shortly before being struck. Mr Baxter, from Sydney, said: "People don't think having a sly wee in the water can be deadly. The consensus now is that the main contributing factor to shark attacks is urine!"



(Sherman wants to know how to swim with his legs crossed)

Stuff for Sale

Anybody know somebody who wants an Epson LQ-550 dot-matrix printer in excellent condition (incl. manual) for \$60? If you do, please ring Kerry or Susie on 9331 2385.

Artificial Reefs

Another name for ocean dumping?

WHAT DO a concrete pink dinosaur, rows of rejected toilet bowls, a working Rolls-Royce and an immense pile of junked computer hard drives have in common? They've all been dumped in the ocean to start new lives-as artificial reefs. It's a controversial practice, indeed: sound environmental management to some; ocean dumping to others.

Artificial reefs, in one form or another, have been used by fishermen to attract fish for 200 years. Japanese fishing villages experimented with artificial reefs in the late 1700s, and they were first constructed in the U.S. in the 1830s. There's no doubt that fish do congregate around them, often within hours of deployment.

Studies have shown that a well-constructed artificial reef can attract as many fish as local natural reefs, and greatly increase fish catches. With this knowledge in hand, both amateur and commercial fishermen in the U.S. have sunk everything from tyres to ships to concrete pilings. In Florida alone, 571 permitted artificial reefs have been deployed, and the number of illegal reefs is probably far greater.

California takes a more cautious approach. It has allowed only 35 artificial reefs-mostly constructed from natural quarry rock-to aid in research, fishing and repair of environmental damage. Dave Parker, a California Department of Fish and Game biologist, says many oil drilling companies are offering to build artificial reefs to offset habitat damage from oil exploration. Even some California shipping harbors have expressed interest in creating reefs to compensate for dredging damage. The California Coastal Commission, however, recently approved a plan to start construction of a 150-acre artificial kelp reef made from concrete. The reef, by far the largest in the state, is sponsored by California Edison and offsets kelp damage done by the company's San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station.

But James Bohnsack, a Florida-based research biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), says artificial reefs don't increase fish populations. "Artificial reefs simply concentrate fish, making them easier to catch," he says. Kathleen Matthews, then a student at the University of Washington, studied both artificial and natural reefs for a 1985 report in The Bulletin of Marine Science. She found fish populations at artificial reefs to be "very similar" to those at nearby reefs, with no new species observed.

Matthews concluded that fish were merely moving from one reef to the other; she failed to find that the artificial reefs stimulated fish growth.

Jeff Polovina, a Hawaii-based NMFS biologist, agrees with Matthews. "There's no evidence that if you put out an enormous volume [of artificial reef habitat] you're going to get an enormous increase in fish productivity," he says.

Other critics add that allowing artificial underwater environments sets a dangerous precedent, like knocking down historical landmarks to make way for Disney recreations.

With that evidence, why are artificial reefs so popular? "People like to sink things," says Bohnsack.

Dumped in the surf

YOU MAVE HAVE READ read Peter Lauds column in the Sunday Times when he wrote of how the scuttling of HMAS Swan off Dunsborough has opened up a fresh range of possibilities for waste disposal

Mr Lauds suggestion that if successful it could lead to local authorities and householders adopting similar measures which in time could lead to wholesale changes in navigational and coastal charts. He continues with his own guide to new age wrecks and reefs of WA.

Cooking stove reef: 4 nm south-west of Augusta. Interesting line up at a depth of 4 metres of four stoves including a 1920 Metters (complete with ready chopped wood) and a rare 1960's model with pots, pans, oven gloves, and a pot of pea and ham soup.

F.J. Holden Passage: 2nm off Albany. Laying at a depth of 18m you'll find the wreck of an F.J. thrown away by an aggrieved owner following a disputed repair bill. Still in good condition and complete with original tool kit, duco, licence disc and a touring guide of the South-West in the glove box. A lovely motor and one worth diving for.

Range Rover reef: 1.5nm off City Beach. In the 80's many owners tired of range Rovers simply drove their vehicles into the ocean and let them settle on the ocean floor. The reef comprises of four Range Rovers in various stages of decay - one with a full set of golf clubs in the back and another with an original plastic shopping basket marked Property of Coles - Not to be taken away.

Supermarket Trolley Island 3nm off Scarborough: Useful navigation marker close to Rear Axle Reef. Best approach is from the south via a series of small reefs made from broken eskies.

Presidents Report

Diving activities in the Club have been rushing along at breakneck speed. The boat is in constant use, although the windy weather of late makes conditions unpleasant. I'm sure Geoff has plenty of news regarding past and planned dives, including the "new" wreck that was found. Watch out for his article.

Zita Dobson and I spent a couple of useless hours waiting in a queue to make a reservation for Rotto next year (many thanks Zita) and we chatted a bit about the Club. One of the things that we spoke of was the tragedy that occurred in Queensland and I made the comment that this scenario would be unlikely to be repeated on a Club dive. The reason for this is not that our Diving Officers are better trained or that we employ better practices on the boat, although in both areas we have enviable records, but simply that we are a CLUB.

I'll explain. On most charters it would be unlikely that you would know anyone else amongst a contingent of 24, let alone the whole boatload as we do on U.E. There would be no reason why anyone would notice that 2 people were missing. Someone probably would on our boat because that person is a friend or an acquaintance. If ALL our other checks failed in some way, SOMEONE would probably still notice if you were missing. It is a comforting thought isn't it that in the UEC we all care about our fellow members.

Another typical example occurred a few weeks ago when a new member lost a borrowed dive computer during their dive. Other divers managed to recover it, saving the person hundreds of dollars replacing the gear. These are only 2 instances that spring to mind that further illustrate how great it is to join a Club.

If you are really, really lucky you could also find romance as Dennis and I did 12 years ago, but I digress and must move on! Think about it folks. If you are talking about diving with anyone, extol the virtues of Club membership with them, especially UEC Club membership.

Thanks to everyone who made it along to the last meeting and paid for Rotto this year. Make sure you come along this month to find out all the details of what to bring and when we are leaving etc. If you can't make it give me a ring and tell you over the phone. Next year's booking is a ripper down in the first row of villas in Geordie Bay, so get in quick.

And finally, for those that don't know yet, the boat now leaves from Jetty 3, which is the furthest jetty down river at SYC. Hope to see you all soon.



EDITORIAL

by Rog



I hope you all approve of the newsletters new format. If you don't, that's tough, there's not much I can do about it now.

My aim this month and in the months to come, is to give our mag a theme. This month's theme in case you hadn't guessed was "the year of the ocean", an idea suggested to me by **Sandy Webb**. This has proved a little harder than I first thought as I became a bit overwhelmed with the idea and perhaps overlooked other important parts of the clubs interests. The outcome is a newsletter that has gotten a little serious and rather bulky.

When I started with this year of the ocean theme it felt a bit of a grim topic, especially looking at the amazingly beautiful scenes seen in Geoff Charltons video of diving on the Barrier Reef at the last meeting. What wonderful oceans we have to dive in and how privileged we divers are. Then the next thing I see is that our kind government is proposing to increase the industrial areas in Cockburn Sound and almost certainly degrading the area further. For those of you that are unaware Cockburn Sound is where we dive most weekends. So maybe its time we got off our backsides and took some action as a club and made our voice heard.

Well that's enough preaching from me and I promise next month I will tackle a lighter theme, which will be "Our club and its members". I would greatly appreciate some help on this one so if you have any interesting tales about our club or any persons (nice ones of course)

To finish I will borrow one of **Warrens** jokes

Q: Why do divers fall backwards when entering the water?

A: Because if they fell forward, they'd still be in the boat!

Do you sometimes find yourself lying face down on the deck of the boat wondering what went wrong? If so look out for the training day proposed by **Luc Fauvet** that will be coming up soon.

Happy diving

Rog

A Sea of Troubles In the International Year of the Ocean,

Are We Reaching the Limits?

By Kieran Mulvaney

Ours is a water planet. The ocean covers 71 percent of the surface area of the globe, and constitutes over 90 percent of all habitable space on Earth. Its total volume is around 300 million cubic miles and its weight is approximately 1.3 million tons. No wonder that Arthur C. Clarke, scientist and writer, once remarked that it was "inappropriate to call this planet Earth, when clearly it is ocean." The vast dimensions of the global ocean moved one scientist to suggest 40 years ago that it "may be rash to put any limit on the mischief of which man is capable, but it would seem that those 100 and more million cubic miles of water... is the great matrix that man can hardly sully and cannot appreciably despoil." But those "100 and more million cubic miles" need to be put into perspective. As Jim Lovelock, originator of the Gaia hypothesis, has observed, "Although the weight of the oceans is 250 times that of the atmosphere, it is only one part in 4,000 of the weight of the Earth." If the Earth were a globe 12 inches in diameter, notes Lovelock, the average depth of the ocean would be no more than the thickness of a piece of paper, and even the deepest ocean trench would be a dent of a third of a millimetre.

Pollution of the ocean comes in many varied forms, and from a wide range of sources. The National Research Council has estimated that as many as 8.8 million tons of oil enter the ocean each year as a result of human activity, and that at any given time, the ocean contains 280,000 tons of tar balls. All kinds of garbage, ranging from fishing nets to trash from cargo ships to litter on the beach, finds its way into coastal waters and the ocean, where it traps, ensnares and entangles marine wildlife such as marine mammals, sea turtles and seabirds.

Plastic pellets have been found on the surface of the Pacific at concentrations of 21,000 per square mile; a clean-up exercise on the coast of Texas yielded 15,600 six-pack rings along 1.8 miles of coastline; and a National Academy of Sciences review once estimated that over 14 billion pounds of garbage enters the ocean

from sea-based sources alone. In the 1980s, it was reckoned that 30,000 northern fur seals died each year after becoming entangled in marine debris, principally lost or abandoned fishing gear.

In response, the United Nations has declared 1998 the International Year of the Ocean. This year's Expo, or World Fair, to be held in Lisbon, Portugal, will have the oceans as its main theme. And across the globe, scientists, environmentalists and others are training their focus on the array of human impacts that are making themselves felt on the global ocean:

The fate of the ocean is inextricably entwined with that of the coast. "The coasts," says Beth Milleman of the Washington, D.C.-based Coast Alliance, "have been described as underwater rainforests because of the incredible diversity of life they contain, and there's a lot of truth to that." Many ocean species rely on coastal habitats for breeding, feeding and shelter: one-third of the world's marine fish species are found on coral reefs, the most productive coastal ecosystems of all, and it has been estimated that the total number of species of all kinds in reef systems could number a million. Other coastal habitats, such as mangroves and sea grasses, are also vital breeding, feeding and nursery areas for fish and shellfish species, home to a variety of wildlife species, and important protection and shelter against storms and coastal erosion.

Ninety percent of the current world fisheries harvest comes from within 200 miles of the coast, and most of that within a strip of just five miles from the coast. But the coastal zone is also home to the majority of the world's population. As much as 66 percent of the world's population lives within 40 miles of the shore, and coastal populations are growing faster than the global population as a whole. In the U.S. between 1960 and 1990, the population in coastal counties grew by 41 million, an increase of 43 percent. Between 1983 and 1991, 90 percent of all building activity in Australia took place within the coastal zone.

(con't next page)

Safety Report

Well what a month for safety problems, the local and international news has been full of diving reports some of them good for diving, some bad for the sport. The most tragic incident occurred on the Barrier Reef where Tom and Ellen Lonergan were accidentally left at the dive site 70kms off shore. There is obviously more to this accident than what has been reported, but the enquiry will reveal more. The effects of this type of incident are far reaching, and the investigations which follow will identify a number of causes, most of which will be obvious to the diving community. We also imagine that safety procedures were in place. However despite all of the training, safety procedures, government regulations, licensing, and thousands of hours of diving, this accident still occurred. It must be a lesson for all divers, avoid complacency and never assume that things "will be right," without careful planning, checking, and following the procedures in place.

Some of our members sometimes complain about our diving methods and our emphasis on safety. U.E.C. has to be ahead of the commercial outfits as we have always been a target for the commercial operators to criticise. Failure to provide safe diving facilities for our members will not be defensible.

Remember in our club safety is everyone's responsibility, if you are not happy about any aspect of our safety procedures or methods talk to the duty D.O. or Skipper, and offer your opinion. We always need members suggestions to make our diving both safer and more enjoyable. The skipper and the D.O. on board have to make the decisions, but they will always be open for ideas. Let us not get hung up on safety, we all go diving to have some fun, and that is why U.E.C. is the most successful members club in W.A.

Safe Diving Steve.



A guy is stranded on a desert island, all alone for ten years. One day, out of the surf comes this gorgeous blonde woman, wearing a wet suit and scuba gear. She comes up to the guy and she says, "How long has it been since you've had some gum?"

"Ten years!" he says. She reaches over, unzips this waterproof pocket in her left sleeve and pulls out a pack of fresh bubblegum. He takes one, starts to chew, and says, "Man, oh man! Is that good!"

Then she asked, "How long has it been since you've had a drink of whiskey?"

He replies, "Ten years! She reaches over, unzips her waterproof pocket on the right, pulls out a flask and gives it to him. He takes a long swig and says, "Wow, that's fantastic!"

Then she starts unzipping this long zipper that runs down the front of her wetsuit and she says to him, "And how long has it been since you've played around?"

And the man replies, "My God! Don't tell me that you've got golf clubs in there!"

This guy arrived on a dive with a brand new, extra short skinhead haircut. His buddy asked what the reason for such an extreme cut. "In case of a shark attack, I want to be as streamlined as possible" came the response.

"It doesn't matter how streamlined you are" said the buddy, "you'll never outswim a shark!"

"Just as long as I can outswim you." was the reply.

Three instructors and their students are on board a dive boat in the middle of the ocean... and everything is going fine, until the boat springs a leak, and starts to sink.

The first instructor says to his students, "okay... we're in the middle of the ocean, so we might as well do our deep dive."

The second instructor says to his students, "okay... we might as well do our navigation dive, so let's get our compasses out and swim towards shore."

The third instructor says to her students, "okay, for \$25 extra you guys get to do a wreck dive!"

Then there's the one about the miserly diver who bought a surplus Algerian compressor to save fill charges. Only thing was the instructions were written in Sanskrit and he ended up hooking it up backwards and accidentally removing 3000 pounds from his tank.

Unknowingly, he sticks the regulator in his mouth, takes a breath, and is immediately sucked into the tank, never to be heard from again. I understand his widow has the tank mounted at the corner of the fireplace.

Building Report

Since the last report and indeed since the last meeting I have been down to our unit in Myaree many times, forever optimistic that the next time, the repairs to the bitumen areas will have been carried out. I am not entirely ingenuous so I try to ensure that there is some possibility that this will be so, by phoning our friend Gordon Tucker and sending him letters. I fear that we must surely have chanced upon one of the busiest strata managers available, because he has still not had time to phone me back, nor write to me.

Because I appreciate how busy a person can be, I decided to help him out by phoning him yet again on Monday 2nd Feb. Though I couldn't get hold of him at his office, I did manage to get him on his mobile phone.

Joy of all Joys. He told me that the work had been done. I meekly asked him when. He answered, "Last Wednesday the 28th January." When I told him I had checked it on Friday the 30th and at that stage it hadn't been done, he

answered, "If it hasn't, it will be done real soon; it may have already been completed over the weekend."

As I said earlier I am forever an optimist and when Gordon told me that he had given an order to a bitumen repairer for \$250 to carry out the repairs I believed him. I could hardly contain my gratitude and thanked him. The anticipation of success after a few months and without even one nasty word was like drinking a good Merlot.

I skipped out of my office throwing flowers in the air almost tasting the admiration of my fellow members and visualising the looks of gratitude and respect as I walked up to receive my very own, legendary, Zeta-laser engraved glass whilst the waves of accolades washed over me.

It was just at the end of that vision that I arrived at the battle ground to find that my beautiful Zeta engraved glass had shattered and that the booing and hissing had started. The public is so fickle.

In any case if it wasn't for Gordon what would I write in my Building report, I mean do you realise how potentially boring building reports can be.

To be continued.

Carmine

Diving Report

What a month! New sites, wrecks, fish, good viz, flat water and good friends.

The month started at Parker Point & Dyer Island, where a few crays were caught and the viz was 10 metres plus. From here it only got better, with a new site at Stragglers. Some feed back: "Excellent site!", "Very pretty", "Have to do it again!". If you want to know where ask Richard or Jim.

If you haven't dived Geordie Caves ask the D.O. next time you go out. It makes a great shallow/second dive. Prior to Geordie Caves, we had a look for, but didn't find Crystal Caves. (Next time...) Jackson Rock was hit for crayfish. Fortunately, (or unfortunately depending on whose side you're on), only one cray was taken. A couple more new sites were dived, one just west of Stragglers where the water got flatter as the day wore on.

For the wreck divers, we dived on the 'Fremantle' (or is it the 'Governor?'). The experts aren't too sure. Yes, you read correctly. We found and dived Perth's newly discovered wreck. Personally I think it is excellent! Peter took some location pictures so finding her will be easier next time, although she was fairly easy this time with the compass co-ordinates. After the 'Fremantle?', we headed north of Stragglers, towards Champion Rock and found great country, caves, hollows, walls and crayfish.

The boat also went on a fishing trip with everyone having a great day, catching Blue Lined Emperor and King George Whiting, to name a few.

**** PLEASE NOTE:- ****

Please ensure that you are at the boat at least '15' minutes 'before' departure.

A couple of dives to look out for:-

This month - Sun 22 : 'Full Day Rottnest'
Next month - Sun 08 : 'The Boat's Back Special'
and be sure, not to miss - Sun 15 : 'Green Day'

As I said in my last report, we have a lot of varied diving and lots to look forward to.

So ring me on 9453 1723 to book your spot.

Let's Go and Dive!!

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT

Geoff Geard
"PRAWN KING"



As a result of such growth in population and development, among other factors, coastal environments are coming under increasing pressure.

It is estimated, for example, that, worldwide, as much as 10 percent of the world's coral reefs have been degraded beyond recovery, and that another 30 percent is likely to decline within the next 15 or so years. Seventy-five percent of mangrove forests in the Philippines, and 40 percent in Ecuador, have been cut down to make way for aquaculture ponds. Around the world, seagrasses are being stifled by turbidity in the water as a result of nutrient pollution.

Who will Speak for the Oceans

French explorer and "aquanaut" Jacques Cousteau was the most visible and trusted ambassador for the oceans of our time. Now, we must ask, who will be the voice of the oceans? It is not a trivial question. Space exploration routinely captures headlines but ocean exploration popularized by Cousteau may be more immediately valuable to us: Many scientists believe there are far greater benefits to humankind in the depths below than the heavens above.

From the days of Eric the Red to the era of Jacques Cousteau, the human pulse has raced at every report back from the frontiers of the unknown. Through his charisma and marvelous television specials — which he rightly referred to as "adventure films" and not documentaries — Cousteau was more responsible than any other person of his time for our fascination with the sea.

Yes, he was controversial. But in a recent poll conducted by the Mellman Group for SeaWeb, a conservation group, 63 percent of Americans named Cousteau as the most trusted messenger for the oceans. No other person was even close. He opened a generation's eyes to the wonders of the sea, and there is still so much more we must learn.

Americans need no convincing. In that same poll, respondents said that ocean exploration was a higher priority than space exploration by a whopping 71 to 19 percent margin. Moreover, 87 percent said they considered threats to the oceans a threat to our quality of life. The oceans have lost a great ambassador at a critical time. We all must fill the void.



WE ALL CAN HELP THE OCEAN

Here's what you can do:

Learn about your coastal waters and what is needed to keep them healthy.

Be an informed shopper. Ask grocery stores and restaurants where their seafood comes from and if it was caught or "farmed" in a way that protects the ocean. They may not know, but if you keep asking, they will begin to care.

Conserve water and energy in your own home and encourage your community to initiate water and energy conservation programs. Turning off lights and televisions, repairing faucet leaks, and reducing the strength and length of water flow, when washing yourself, your pets, your cars, and your dishes, are habits that help. Water your gardens with used or "gray" water collected from drain spouts and washer outflow hoses; and water them at dawn or dusk to reduce evaporation.

Eliminate pollutants from your household and community. Find alternatives to toxic cleaning products, pesticides, and home maintenance products. Use composted lawn clippings, leaves and food wastes to fertilize your lawn and garden. Use phosphate-free laundry and dishwasher detergent.

Reduce runoff from your home and property. Use soap sparingly when washing your car. Have a chemical free lawn—it's great for bare feet! Landscape with vegetation, not pavement. Direct rain gutters into your lawn or collection barrels. Scoop pet wastes; an estimated 15 tons of pet waste flows into ocean waters every day.

Reuse, recycle, and compost whenever possible, and support more recycling instead of the incineration of wastes in your community. Pick up litter and avoid using disposable products if at all possible. Properly dispose of those you do use. Never flush non-degradable products down the toilet; they may wash through the sewage treatment plants intact and pollute waterways and beaches.

Reduce automobile pollution. Use fuel efficient vehicles, drive less, recycle oil, repair oil and air conditioning leaks. A significant portion of the oil pollution in surface waters is caused by people dumping used oil into storm drains and by oil dripping from all sorts of vehicles.

Don't litter. Avoid styrofoam, which degrades into small pellets resembling food; and start asking your grocers to do the same. Support marine sanctuaries and strong government programs to regulate or manage coastal fisheries and coastal development.

CARE about the ocean and pass on your knowledge and concern to others.

(c) 1998 SeaWeb

SOCIAL CALENDAR for March/April/May/June

FAMILY DAY OUT: Cycling/BBQ

Saturday 21 March at 10 am.
Meeting place: Bibra Lake car park.
BRING your whole family, all friends,
BBQ-stuff, drinks and the "kitchen sink".
*RING KERRY (9331 2385) FOR MEETING
PLACE DETAILS.* (\$5 per family).



Saturday
25 April

We need two
more "small
courses" to round
out the menu.
**DO YOU HAVE A
SPECIALITY?**

PROGRES- SIVE DINNER

with a difference

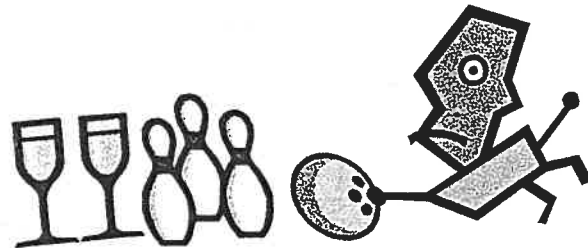
Always popular!!
A deposit of \$20, please

TEN PIN BOWLING, Melville

to be followed by "munchies" in the meeting room.
(B.Y.O. beer/wine).

FRIDAY 22 MAY

Start at 7pm sharp.
Please be there at 18.45pm to try out shoes.
Limit: 24 playing persons (=6 pers. each lane)
Price: \$15 per person IN ADVANCE



MUSIC NIGHT

at Sandy's

FRIDAY 19 JUNE

Last year's inaugu-
ral was a great
success!



B.Y.O. instrument

UEC NEWS

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc)
Print Post Approved by Australia Post
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Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Crescent
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB

UEC NEWS

MARCH 1998

A Trip Back in Time to:

1954!

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The inaugural meeting of the Underwater Explorers Club of Western Australia was held at the Cottesloe Civic Centre on Monday, 26th July 1954.

In his introduction, Chairman Donald Dobson pointed out that Western Australia now had a number of men interested in underwater diving with open circuit compressed air equipment, and all those known to have and to be interested in this equipment had been invited to form a club for the purpose of exchanging ideas and generally promoting the sport

The Underwater Explorers Club of W.A. was founded by men disenchanted with the limitations of the (then) popular sport of spearfishing. Many were ex-servicemen experienced with compressed air diving and keen to expand their skills into the sporting field, as well as passing on their knowledge to others.

THE GOLDEN YEARS

The early 1960's saw the club go from strength to strength. The first mass 200ft dive involving twelve members took place in 1960. Various projects including surveying Lake Richmond (Rockingham), tracing the freshwater spring into Cockburn Sound, and

surveying the notorious "Blue Hole" at Triggs were completed around the same time.

Tragedy struck on the 30th October 1960 Barry Aken died during training at Woodman Point. His untimely death brought about revisions in methods that are valid even today.

Many achievements followed. Mud-diving was developed from an abortive attempt by Len Cohen to salvage a truck lost in Lake Monger. The first UEC night dive was completed in 1961; the "UEC News" went to print in August of that year and has been produced continuously since then. The first marathon swim took place in 1962; five miles between Garden Island and Woodman Point, which continued on as an annual event for many years.

1962 saw the commissioning of the UEC's recompression chamber, following a bends accident during a 200ft dive. This chamber was installed for many years in Fremantle Hospital. At that time it was the only one available in the south of the state.

Also in 1962, the UEC organised the Scuba Championships in Denmark, WA on behalf of the CUA. At this event, member Albert Ottey became Australian Scuba Champion.

THE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	9457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	9445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Geoff Geard	9453 1723
BOATING OFFICER	Harry Oldenhuis	9451 3972
SAFETY OFFICER	Steve Larter	9291 9654
TRAINING OFFICER	Ian Lawrence	9364 6331
BUILDING OFFICER	Carmine Travaglione	9356 1311
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Roger Smith	9275 8620
SOCIAL OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	9331 2385

CLUB CALENDAR

MARCH '98 (17th = St Patrick's Day)

Sat 14	Open - 1 Tank : 8am (Bob McL / Steve L)
Sun 15	Green Day - 2 Tank : 8am (Geoff C / Kerry A)
Mon 16	GENERAL MEETING - SYC 8pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm
Sat 21	Carnac - 1 Tank : 8am (Peter H / Geoff G)
Sat 21	SOCIAL: "BICYCLE / PARK DAY" & BBQ
Sun 22	DO's Choice - 2 Tank 8am (Dennis S / Jim R)
Sat 28	Open morning - 1 Tank 8am (Richard N / Jim R)
Sat 28	'Afternoon Training' (Diving Skills) (Refer: Luc Fauvet or Ian Lawrence)
Sun 29	Exploratory Dive - 2 Tank 8am (Kerry A / Susie A)

APRIL '98 (10th & 13th = P/H:Easter) (27th = P/H: for Anzac Day)

Wed 01	COMMITTEE MEETING - SYC
Sat 04	Boat Booked (Peter H / Geoff G)
Sun 05	Request Dive - 2 Tank : 8am (Dennis S / Jim R)
Fri 10	(Booked?)
Sat 11	Cray Dive - 1 Tank : 8am (Richard N / Brian M)
Sun 12	Deep Dive - 2 Tank : 8am (Kerry A / Susie A)
Sat 18	Open - 1 Tank : 8am
Sun 19	Green Dive - 2 Tank : 8am (Peter H / Luc F)

DEPARTS SWAN YACHT CLUB JETTY

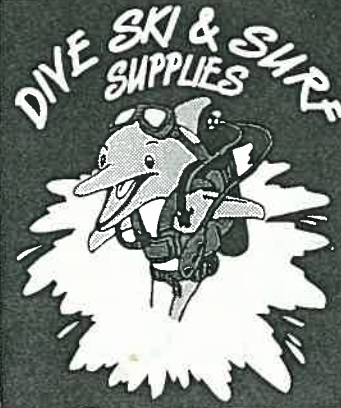
Check Your Departure Time

All Dives Subject to Weather

Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with Geoff Geard
NOT THE CREW

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made to Geoff Geard.
Tel 9453 1723

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DIVE SKI & SURF SUPPLIES

Dive Ski and Surf are offering some great specials on air fill cards.

Call in at the Subiaco or Rottneest shop and find out how economical an air card can be.

Whilst in the Shop take advantage of our fantastic summer specials and collect a 10% club discount.

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Going Away for Easter?

Our Sale Starts On March 20th
For The Best Deals On Camping Gear

See Enclosed Catalogue



581 Murray St West perth
Tel 93215259

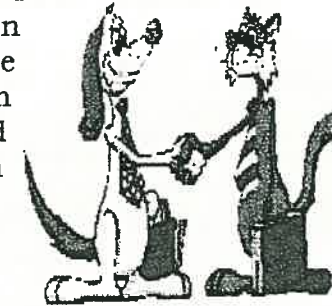
Your adventure begins at SNOWGUM

Building Report

"The pen is mightier than the sword."

Yes, you've guessed what I am alluding to. The bitumen repairs have been completed and I didn't use my sword once. More than that, the front dead grass has been mowed and the surrounding yard tidied up. I confess that I couldn't really tell the difference but our tenant Richard from INK POT Printing and Stationary assures me that is the case.

I don't wish to be too critical because at least Gordon has certainly made an effort, so I won't say too much about the quality of the repairs and when I spoke to Richard on the 23rd Feb. he seemed much happier. That could also have been because his business seems to be going well, which is good for us because he shows no signs of moving out and is still paying the rent.



I decided to actually inspect our unit and found the following:

Externally, it seems to be in a fair condition for it's age, and it is certainly comparable to others of the same age and design, which, incidentally is just about everything in Shields Crescent. The small bitumen damage near the front downpipe, though no longer adorned with grass, is, however, one of the patches that has not been repaired (there are others). The front garden which is convincingly disguised as short dead grass beckoned me over and requested that I write a letter to Gordon and ask if he wouldn't mind donating a little water. The few trees in the ga...., I mean the short dead grass, reported a shift away from superficial roots and are tending towards deeper, more meaningful roots. The concrete curb had little to report apart from the fact that it was taking a bit of knocking and was a little tired.

Internally, the building seems fine. The suspended ceiling is ok and still in suspense. Richard would probably not win any interior

decor awards, but has altered the internal configuration, from when it was used by us, by adding a partition straight across about 3m in from the front door. A further significant change is that he has taken a partition down which was about 4m in from the rear roller door. Other than that I am told it is about the same as before.

OH NO, I may have told you too much already.

What the hell am I going to write next month??

Carmine

Bits and Pieces

THERE'S ALWAYS ONE

In response to my facetiously made comment about supplying articles on toilet paper if necessary, someone just had to take me up on it didn't they. None other than ex-magazine editor **Tibi Csomay** supplied me with a sample of his strange wit written in biro on a length of 3ply. His suggestion, being aware of my conservationist views, was that I use the other 2ply for the original purpose. Of course I had to go one better and use all 3 ply and now have a blue smudge on a place you'll never see. For those of you that are interested **Tibi** uses a very soft, pure white toilet tissue embossed with butterflies.

I also commented that I would accept articles written on Hundred dollar notes (Go on I dare you). **Rog**

The first **UEC News** was printed in August 1961.

It was sold for sixpence and had printed on the front page "**THE MAGAZINE FOR ALL S.C.U.B.A. MEN**"

NEXT MONTH

Will be about diving equipment, so all you technology freaks write or send me info on:
rogers@mafeking.scouts.org.au



E-MAIL ADDRESS

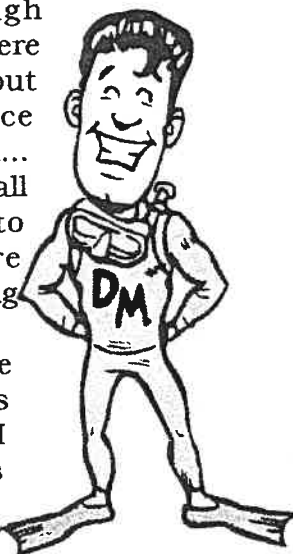
Diving Report

As February is a short month, I've got pen to paper (or should I say Hetty has got fingers to keyboard). Firstly I want to thank all divers for ringing and booking dives starting from Wednesday nights. In fact, I (well you) filled the boat on two occasions by Thursday night!!! Secondly I should have mentioned it in the last mag but I forgot sorry, crayfish minimum legal size is now 76mm!

Enough of the procrastination! Where did we dive? Our first port of call was Jackson Rock where, those that got to dive, had a good one. Though unfortunately no crays were taken. The worst thing about this dive was the surface condition. It wasn't good... From Jackson Rock, a small contingent went to Champion Rock where average vis was had, along with no crays, again.

Hugals Passage (correct spelling?) was visited by a full boat. I wasn't told much about this dive apart from where the dive was. The west side of Carnac was different. Some crays on the small size were taken and everybody had an exhilarating dive! Rock & reef straight up out of the bottom, and a photographer from Scuba 2 has some pics of what he thinks is a new species of Nudi Branc. Another small contingent dived on new territory, (well maybe Brian's dived it before, but Steve doesn't think anyone else has). It is west end of Stragglers, right at the end. Plenty of swim throughs & overhangs, with I was told, lots of Jew fish.

On another dive at Stragglers, we had an International Diver from Japan! She had a great dive along with everyone else. It was a bit surgy though, and a few crays were taken. Are there more around?, or did we have more crayfishing divers on this dive? Brian, Nick, Carl, ?, "with you guys on board the crays don't stand a chance do they?". The last two



dives for the month were at Rottnest. The first was at West End. Some very pretty country with lots of gullies and caves, and a bit of swell. The second dive was on an 8.7metre lump off Geordie Bay.

So come on guys, Summer is now officially over but we still have some great diving weather.

To book your place on the boat, call me on 9453 1723.

Let's Go and Dive!!

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT

Geoff Geard



DIVING SKILLS

It has come to the attention of members of the boat crews that some people need a lot of assistance.

Due to lack of experience or training some of our members are having trouble assembling their equipment, also getting in and out of the boat and enjoying the dive.

It has been proposed that on **Saturday afternoon on the 28th March 1998** the boat will leave the Swan Yacht Club with a crew of four and go to a calm spot to practice some diving skills and so avoid a possible mishap in the future.

If you need more information you may ring these people, or come to the meeting.

Luc Fauvet - 9459 4204

Ian Lawrence - 9364 6331

Kerry Ashton - 9331 2385

Geoff Geard - 9453 1723



NOMINATIONS

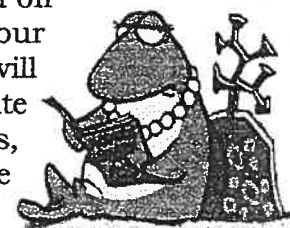
Meagan & Gary Brown
40 Sowden Drive
Samson 6143

Presidents Report

by Maree Casserly

Dennis and I only have 2 more sleeps before we go to Rotto for our annual holidays. By the time you read this we will be back at work all rested after 2 weeks lazing around in the sun. The Club's R and R at our favourite island is eagerly awaited by many members who make it an annual tradition and that is what it's all about. This year 31 members, their families and friends will spend a crowded but fun-filled weekend away from it all. The weather promises to be exceptional, so everyone should have a hoot of a time. I hope that we can find a suitable scribe to chronicle the events of the weekend and report to you next month. Easter is also fast approaching, so make sure that you get on board early for some good Autumn diving. Geoff will be standing by to take your booking.

Roger has threatened me with all sorts of very painful consequences if I write a long report as he wants to conserve space for far more interesting articles than mine. What a cheek! Anyway, you know how temperamental he can be so I will sign off and hope to see you at our next meeting where I will bring you all up to date with all the latest news, of which I know there will be heaps.



Pull Your Socks Up!

Are you aware that the Swan Yacht Club has a dress code? Members (that's us) are required to dress to a minimum standard, especially after 7pm.

For further details refer to "The Cygnet" Which all members received last month.

Editorial

by Rog



Isn't it easy to laugh at those members who started this great club almost 44 years ago? I can imagine this misogynous bunch of old buggers sitting around drinking beer (out of bottles) and discussing what may become of their newly formed club in years to come. Any suggestion by some namby pamby young bloke, that women might become a large part of the clubs membership were probably derided with remarks such as, "Oh yeah and men will walk on the moon first". Well they were right on that count. But I bet they'd have packed it all in there and then if they had thought for one moment that the club would one day have a woman president.

As I said it's easy to laugh, but the truth is it was a tough sport then. Can you imagine a world with no dive shops to provide you with everything you need (and indeed lots you don't need). They had none of the things we have today such as the ability to purchase reliable well tested equipment, charter boats with experienced and knowledgeable crews and even the most taken for granted product, safe compressed air. Most of the equipment was "army surplus" or bits and pieces made at home. The types of boats available make the mind boggle (no outboards) and with no depth finders or accurate marks, every dive was an exploratory dive.

I hope you enjoy this issue that looks at some of our clubs past and perhaps take a little time out to appreciate what members of the past have done to create what is Australia's best independent dive club. You may also like to think of what you can contribute for those that will follow.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those that have contributed to the magazine so far this year. A special thanks must go to John Paskulich who compiled a history of the club several years ago from which I have drawn most of the information used in this issue.

My First Open Water Dive

How I lost my virginity to two women at once

After weeks attending the training base at Cockburn Sound, here I was at last, nervously waiting at Yanchep Marina for my first open water dive. It was a sunny march morning as I stood there eagerly waiting to meet the superfit band of heroes I had dreamt about since choosing to partake in this manly sport some months earlier.

This image was soon shattered as the rest of the club began to arrive (late of course), most of them suffering from the previous nights revelry. To say the least they were a motley bunch.

But what was this? Some of them were actually female! I assumed they were only coming along to make coffee and sandwiches or something. Alas no, as I watched them squeeze their feminine bumps and curves into wetsuits, I thought to myself "very pretty, but who will look after them?"

At last we cast off and headed seaward, my nerves getting worse the further we got from land, especially as the handful of seasick pills I'd taken were having little effect.

At this stage the DO started calling out names and who they were to dive with. Fortunately I was to be partnered with a competent looking chap with large muscles named Peter Horton. "Phew" I thought, this fit young bloke looks like he'd bite a shark back, so I felt a little more positive, but not much.

But wait! A little talk was going on with the DO and my newfound partner. This burley fellow was diving on hookah; a change of plan was being made. Then an announcement that would affect the rest of my life, for I didn't really expect to see the end of the day. "You'll have to dive with Anne and Joan." Don't let the names fool you, these were both "girls".

What was I to do, me a virgin diver left in the hands of two mere girls? Talk about lamb to the slaughter. Well I thought I'd just saunter over and casually introduce myself to these two chicks, thinking I may dazzle them a bit with my charm and good looks. Wrong! Have you ever tried to saunter across the deck of a rocking boat in a borrowed wetsuit two sizes too small and your fins on the wrong feet? Strike one.

Introductions over, these two charming ladies gave me a few hints such as "your wearing your face mask upside down dummy", as well as commenting on how my colors clashed. Typical!

Having resigned myself into there tiny hands, I began to calm down a bit, but worse was still to come. As they daintily donned their Gucci wetsuits with matching accessories, they removed their glasses which, until now I had presumed were ordinary sunglasses. Anne started talking to a bundle of clothes next to her and Joan was trying to put the anchor chain around her waist in place of a weight belt. It then struck me like a bolt of lightning; "both these birds were half blind." Oh my God, what next?

Anne and Joan then proceeded to deftly sling their tanks on their backs and after I had done a Tango around the deck several times, helped me on with mine. But at last the moment to enter the water had come. I had always fancied I'd be a bit like Sean Connery as he gracefully entered the water in the movie "Thunderball", but as I splashed into the water for the first time I fear I looked more like Daffy Duck.

I was led down the anchor until I flopped onto the sandy bottom. I finally gathered up enough courage to open my eyes and was surprised to see that it wasn't so bad. I could see about five metres around me and there were no sharks in sight, yet. The two mermaids expertly flitted around me, adjusting my straps and making sure I was intact. Eventually I was coaxed into letting go of the anchor and we set off to have a look around. I had a girl on each hand leading me around like their own "pet man." I kept praying I wouldn't meet anyone I knew for I'm sure I would have died of embarrassment.

They towed me around the bottom pointing out all sorts of squirmy and squishy things. I was trying to look interested, but was only really concerned with how the hell we would find our way back to the boat.

Suddenly, Anne pulled out this bloody big knife and lunged under a ledge. After a great tussle she appeared holding a cute little sea urchin, which

she promptly cut into pieces with great delight. She then continued on to feed the pieces to a school of fish. I almost fainted at the sight of this bloodthirsty ritual but managed to recover enough to feed a few pieces myself fearing that this wild female frenzy could be turned against me if I did not comply.

It was at this time that my gauge was showing 1000psi and convinced I was about to suffocate and drown I waved it frantically in front of them. But of course them being females just smiled and waved their back.

Eventually I was led back to the anchor and up to that beautiful dry area above the water. Even though I was hauled out and dumped on the deck like a dead fish, I felt like I'd won lotto. As I lay there puffing and panting, I looked up and saw the two rubber clad nymphs leering down at me with satisfied expressions, I realized my life had changed forever. I was no longer a virgin diver. Thank you ladies.

WRECK RESEARCH

From its inception the UEC was the driving force behind shipwreck exploration and continued in this role well into the 1970's.

UEC members provided the core of worker for the early museum expeditions on the Dutch wrecks and our club can claim many of the later wrecks discovered on our coast. It is unfortunate that in the early days of wreck discovery, a suitable reporting system was unavailable and often details of finders are obscure and incorrect.



Some of the wrecks discovered by UEC members include:

Orizaba	- located by Manta board 1959
Sepia	- Harold Roberts 1960
Rockingham	- found previously but rediscovered in 1962
Georgette (Margaret River)	- Christensen family 1963
Ville de Rouen (Moore River)	- Ray Sonneman
James Service	- Harold Roberts, Hugh Edwards, Reg Evans
Carlisle Castle	- Harold Roberts, Lyn Jones, and a party from Albany
Zedora	- Hugh Edwards
Ulidia	- Harold Roberts, Albert Ottey, Lyn Jones, Reg Evans
Lady Elizabeth	- Barry Martin
Raven	- Barry Martin
City of York	- UEC party in Reg Evan's boat
Redemptora	- Harold Roberts, Ray Devitt (directed by Micheal Scott)

Notable Dates in UEC's History

- 1954 Foundation of the UEC
- 1956 Commencement of diver training
- 1957 Incorporation
- 1958 Ladies admitted as ASSOCIATE members
- 1960 First 200ft dive; First club fatality
- 1961 First club night dive; First "UEC News"
- 1962 Commissioning of recompression chamber
- 1963 Women gained voting rights; UEC/W.A. Newspapers Batavia expedition
- 1965 First Underwater World exhibition
- 1966 Construction and opening of Woodman Pt training base; Introduction of underwater hockey into Australia by UEC
- 1967 UEC/Museum Batavia expedition
- 1970 Construction of artificial reef at Rottneest
- 1971 Two club members die in separate incidents
- 1976 "Dolphins" formed
- 1977 VN6PL "Explorer base" licensed; Ladies achieve full membership
- 1981 Last 200ft dive conducted by UEC
- 1983 Purchase of clubrooms
- 1984 Purchase of first "Underwater Explorer"; Blind diver training

This article was originally printed in the February 1982 issue of the clubs newsletter. The author who prefers to remain anonymous is still an active club member and diver today.

SOCIAL CALENDAR for April/May/June/July

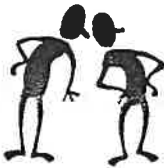


PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Many different international dishes

Saturday 25 April

MEETING PLACE:
Kardinya Tavern
Beer Garden
TIME: 5 pm



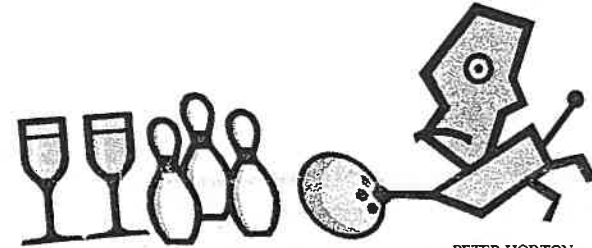
Eight places left!
COST: \$25 in
deposit at this-
meeting

TEN PIN BOWLING in Melville

to be followed by pizza & plonk in the meeting room.

FRIDAY 22 MAY at 7 pm sharp

- So, PLEASE be there at 18.45pm to try shoes.
- Limit: 24 playing persons (=6 pers. each lane)
- Price: \$15 per person IN ADVANCE



PETER HORTON

MUSIC NIGHT

at Sandy's



FRIDAY 19 JUNE

Last year's inaugural
was a great success!



B.Y.O. INSTRUMENT

ALL BLUE

SATURDAY 25 JULY AT 7 PM

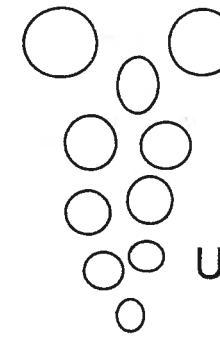


Join us for our annual
screening of all divers'
"cult" movie

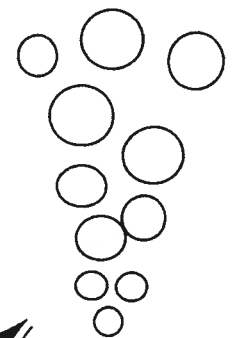
THE BIG BLUE



The Management would appreciate if you
dress in BLUE!! Thank You!



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE
UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB



UEC NEWS

APRIL 1998

West, North, South, East.

10 mts, 24 mts, 21 mts, 18 mts. A depth and place to please all.
What am I babbling about??? ROTTNEST of course!

by Geoff Geard

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- 3 Editorial
- 4 Rottnest Trip
- 5 Dive gear care
- 6 Diving Report
- 6 Environment
- 7 Safety Report
- 7 Building Report
- 8 Social News

Yes, I got a leave pass and spent the first week of March surrounded by good friends, absolutely brilliant weather and even more brilliant diving conditions. From what I was told, everybody had a great weekend with dives at some great spots. West End, 14m lump, the North & South sides of "The Breaks", just to name a few.

Monday afternoon Dennis brought the boat in to the Swan to drop those that had to work off & pick up those that didn't. That evening I asked the question: "where are we diving tomorrow?". "We're fishing tomorrow" came the reply, "the weather is not going to be good enough".

Damn, damn, damn!. But, Tuesday after much deliberation, half of us went fishing in the morning and caught lots of fish. The rest went diving in the afternoon at Geordie Caves but caught nothing. It was a good dive anyway. Wednesday we dived 14m lump, (which may be renamed 'The Art Gallery') as well as Kingston Spit. I know

1/2 a dozen crays at least were caught.

Thursday, we went to West End and six of us did a drift dive. If you've never done one, they're great. "No navigation", the boat just follows the buoy. When you surface, there's the boat! The remainder did a 'normal' dive. We then dived Richard's Pot Luck. That night, to stop the withdrawal symptoms, we (the same six that did the drift dive), did a night dive just west of Geordie Caves. It was great with crayfish everywhere. We even saw a couple of catsharks.

Diving! Diving! Diving!

Friday had to be seen to be believed. The day started with a flat sea that got even flatter. We dived on an 8m lump, which was named Maureen's Peaks, Ander's Meander, and Kerry's Caverns, all in the one area. Everyone came up with rave reviews on this dive site. Maybe a few more Exploratory dives are in order. Fish hook Bay was picked for lunch, where everybody did a snorkel dive. Our final dive for the week was at Martin's Arch where I missed the wreck. Pity, it was a lovely place.

UEC NEWS

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc)
Print Post Approved by Australia Post
Print Post Publication No PP632593/0002

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Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Crescent
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

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MAGAZINE EDITOR	Roger Smith	9275 8620
SOCIAL OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	9331 2385

CLUB CALENDAR

**** As of Sat 18th April: 'Pickup' and 'Set Down', will be at: East Street Jetty ****

Sat 18	Open - 1 Tank : 8am
Sun 19	Green Dive - 2 Tank : 8am (Peter H / Luc F)
Mon 20	GEN MEETING - SYC : 8pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm
Sat 25	SOCIAL : 'PROGRESSIVE DINNER'
Sat 25	Open - 1 Tank : 8am (Bob M / Jim R)
Sun 26	DO's Choice - 2 Tank 8am (Geoff C / Luc F)
MAY '98	
Sat 02	Open - One Tank : 8am (Richard N / Geoff G)
Sun 03	Request Dive - 2 Tank : 8am (Geoff / Michel R)
Wed 06	COM MEETING - SYC : 8pm
Sat 09	Skippers /Interested parties Meeting
Sun 10	Exploratory Deep Dive 1 Tank : 9am (Kerry A / Susie A)
Fri 15	Overnighter (Bob M / Steve L)
Sat 16	Overnighter (cont.)
Sun 17	DO's Choice - Two Tank : 8am (Dennis S / Jim R)
Mon 18	GEN MEETING - SYC : 8pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm


***** DEPARTS EAST ST JETTY *****

Check Your Departure Time
All Dives Subject to Weather

Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with Geoff Geard
NOT THE CREW

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made to Geoff Geard.
Tel 9453 1723

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DIVE SKI & SURF SUPPLIES

Dive Ski and Surf are offering some great specials on air fill cards.

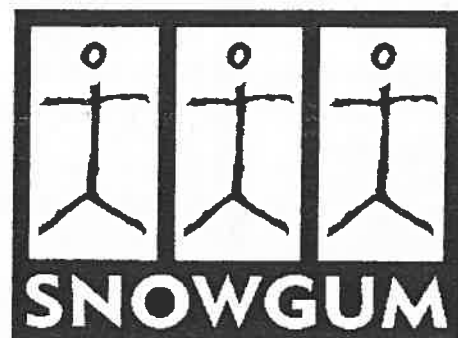
Call in at the Subiaco or Rottnest shop and find out how economical an air card can be.

Whilst in the Shop take advantage of our fantastic summer specials and collect a 10% club discount.

PRINTED BY KIND PERMISSION

AVON DESCENT?

Come in and see our range of canoes, kayaks and accessories



581 Murray St West perth
Tel 93215259

Your adventure begins at SNOWGUM

Safety Report

Not a great deal to report this month with regular dives being carried out and of course the annual U.E.C. Rottnest trip. I have not been told of any incidents that may have occurred.

A recent report in Dive Log Australia highlighted the use of Oxygen Therapy as a First Aid therapy and not an end in itself. Once you or your diving buddy have signs of D.C.I. the best way to get control is to use 100% oxygen. Remember, however that it is first aid - and the first step to getting an evaluation and appropriate care.

After first aid you still need to seek evaluation for small changes in reflexes, variations in muscle strength, or patchy areas of numbness, that you may not even know you have. Do not feel sheepish or over-cautious because you think your symptoms have resolved when the doctor examines you. It's better to be over-cautious and safe.

DAN also reports that the symptoms of D.C.I. can return when oxygen breathing stops and in some cases the symptoms can be more severe.

Central nervous system symptoms such as numbness and paralysis are cause for the greatest concern.

Divers with mild symptoms do not always acknowledge they may have a problem and delay reporting to the D.O. their concerns. Waiting to see if your symptoms go away and trying oxygen as a last resort is not effective. Early oxygen is better.

Oxygen is carried on Explorer 1 and is always on board in case of emergency. Remember Think Safe Dive Safe.

Steve

IMPROVEMENTS TO BOAT

A special meeting of skippers is to be held at the SYC at 2pm on May 9th to discuss the future development of the club boat. Any other interested parties with practical ideas about how we may improve the boat in the future to benefit all club members are invited to attend.

Ring Harry Oldenhuis for further info.

Building Report

"Thank You Gordon"

Without having said another word, Gordon has had that small patch under the downpipe repaired; you know the one that was originally adorned with grass. Anyway I decided to write him a letter and thank him for having had all those repairs carried out. I felt this to be necessary because all too often we criticise easily, but hardly ever thank. To my mind this seems a very Australian trait loosely related to the "Tall Poppy Syndrome", slightly more closely related to the fact that we prefer to call people "Wankers" and maybe even more closely related to our homophobia, where saying thank you may expose us to being referred to as a "Poofter" Well I don't care I did write a letter to Gordon and I did thank him.

To balance this out a little so he didn't think, "This man is really a softie", I gave him another small list of "Druthers". I hope he does carry out my suggestions because I have seen many industrial estates turn into slums with dumped cars, rubbish and graffiti, subsequently attracting a lower standard of tenant, becoming a breeding ground for bankruptcy and recalcitrant non paying tenants, repositories for used needles, and resulting in child abuse, broken marriages, crime, mugging, pillage, (not to mention the other word) and home to the ubiquitous Rabbit.

You may well laugh at the above but I shall support my theory by drawing on the "Chaos Theory". It is said that even the flutter of a butterfly's wing may ultimately cause a cyclone. When such a far fetched theory as this is thought possible imagine how easily not carrying out the maintenance on our factory may well spawn the next serial killer.

To pre-empt some suggestions by some of you that I should befriend some nice men in white coats I'll thank you to mind your own business, and yes I do prefer the company of trees and am currently learning their language.

Carmine.



Diving Report

Along with the excellent diving on the Rottneest Holiday weeks the good diving continued. Angela's Cave was dived again a week later, some of us found it! Hey Rog, others found it returning from a very pleasant swim anyway. (Hey, at least I found it...) Then we dived at another lovely cave site that hadn't been dived for 2 years or more, 'Barry's Caves'.

Another trip went to "some lumps & bumps" 200 mts northwest of Stragglers, where 1/2 dozen Cray's were taken home. I believe a few complaints were made about the water: as it got flatter after an excellent dive.

Our last dives for the month were at Five Fathom Bank (an average dive: "typical Five Fathom Bank Territory"), then into the beach at the back of Garden Island for a swim and lunch, and finally off to the southwest of Carnac, where a few more crayfish were caught.

Great!!!

(The Green Day was a great success! Watch out for the next one)

PLEASE NOTE:

After Easter the boat will be going back to its original mooring again. To ease the burden on Skippers and D/O's pick up and set down will be back at 'East Street Jetty'. This will probably save about an hour in travel time on the river.

So until next month...

Let's go and Dive!

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT



Geoff Geard
"PRAWN KING"

NOMINATIONS

Mathew Warren Anstey
Karryinyup

Janet & Albert Kramer
Waterford

Paul John Dunbar
Rivervale

Holly Elder
Tom Price

WELCOME BACK

Environment

LEMBEH STRAIT NETS ILLEGAL KILLS

A string of buoys stretching 500 metres across Lembah Strait marks an illegal fishing operation that has netted thousands of endangered fish and marine mammals bound for Taiwan, Japan and Hong Kong. The deep channel is a crucial migratory path for marine mammals such as whales and dolphins making their way south to Australia.

Two nets covering 2,000 square metres have caught at least 577 pilot whales, 326 sharks, 257 dolphins, 9 dugongs, 84 turtles and 1,424 Manta rays. Many of these species are protected under international conventions.

Taiwanese-Indonesian joint venture PT Eka Sapta Usahamina has run the illegal operation since March 1996.

In May 1997 recreational divers captured on video company workers cutting up a live whale shark that was trapped in the nets along with turtles and manta rays.

The company took the nets down in May after a furore when the slaughter video was made public.

The nets went back up early this month.

(Article from Sport Diving #66 Feb/Mar)

Susie Ashton passed the above article onto me. In response I contacted The Lembah Strait Preservation Society on the net for more info. I then emailed this message:

I am shocked at what I have read in these pages. I am a member of a dive club and some of our members have taken dive trips to this area totally unaware of what is happening. As the editor of the clubs newsletter, should I argue for a boycott of diving in this area as protest?

Thanks for your concern. Recently, the nets were permanently removed by order of the Minister of environment, backed by the military. This was the result of nearly 12 months of continued pressure from concerned People like yourself. No need for a boycott now, but I sure would like for you and your club members to keep their eyes open on any marine environmental infringements they see in SE Asia and give me a shout.

Steve Morris
SEA Reef Relief

Presidents Report

by Maree Casserly

As predicted our annual journey over to Rottneest for a week was truly fantastic. We were blessed with the best weather I have encountered in the 13 years that we have been going. The worst day we had we went fishing anyway. I am sure that everyone agrees that it would be perfect if we could jag the same conditions again next year. Perhaps that is why it is already booked out with another 9 people on the reserve list. In order to be fair to everyone I must insist that members that have put their name down pay their deposit at the next meeting, otherwise the next on the list gets a guernsey.

In this issue of the magazine you will find a separate sheet that is in fact a submission to protest against the proposals for a large portion of Cockburn Sound. For many of us the Sound holds a special place in our hearts. For me it is where I learned to dive and became involved in the UEC. The proposals for the Sound now include such things as allowing even more heavy industry, resulting in more pollution, more degradation of the environment and NO community access to much of the coastline and the immediate waters. Allowing the quality of the water to become more degraded is insane in this, the Year of the Ocean. It reeks of incompetence at best and a large degree of greed for money and power at worst. It is inconceivable that we as a community will be denied access to this area and that the sea life will have its existence threatened by such unbridled greed. We have the opportunity to stand up and be

counted on this matter. All you have to do is send in a submission. **Do it ASAP and get your friends and families to do the same.**



MAREE

Editorial

by Rog

It must be my age, as I'm definitely starting to suffer memory loss. I've just returned from a days diving and realized I've forgotten just how fantastic some sites are. The day's first dive at Angela's Cave was amazing. The dramatic scenery of this deep gully as it plunges from 14 to 26 Mts., its walls jeweled with the most beautiful sponges, corals and anemones just made my head spin. There must be dozens of varieties of magnificent fish that make this their home or just take shelter within its boundaries.

This deeper than usual dive had a wonderful tranquil atmosphere. With no surge to fight against it was possible just to hang in midwater and take it all in. Also this being a green dive it was interesting to just sit and watch the many crayfish go about their business and not dart back into their crevices in fear.

After a pleasant picnic lunch in Geordie Bay with the usual good company of fellow club members, we had what I believe was an even better dive at Barry's Cave. This spectacular part of Kingston Spit, which is part of the Rottneest Marine Park surprisingly seems to have improved with the extra use it's getting from the commercial snorkeling trips that visit this site several times daily. The amazing array of fish (including a large Blue Grouper) that reside in the numerous labyrinth of swim through's have become extremely tame and now swim far closer to divers than any other place I have dived before.

Happy Diving

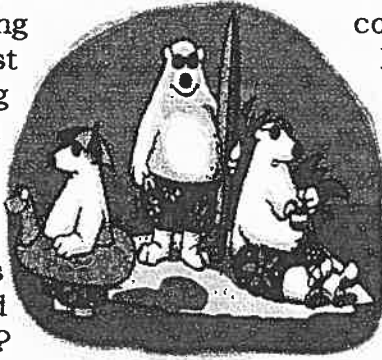
ROG



More Rottnest Tales

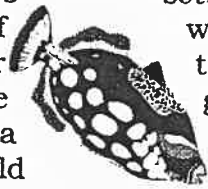
by Geoff Charlton

Well, by the time you read this, you will all have heard about the great time had by all during the Rotto trip. Let me tell you - it was hell out there. The diving was SOME of the best I've had on a Rotto long weekend. Diving both inside and outside the outer break at West End, West Patch, Geordie Bay Caves (always good value) and more - what can I say??



The Gossip? Kerry having a quiet sleep by the side of the road after combining a few cleansing ales with a bike ride; Alison displaying similar cycling skills, losing skin but not falling asleep; and Trevor Walker in the Beer Garden at the Quokka Arms, as it doesn't have a ceiling had to be content with dancing on the table - oh what a feeling (think back to your mid to late 70's music).

After returning all the weekend warriors to Fremantle, 14 members settled in to a week of working hard for the club under the guise of having a good time (or should that be the other way around). The good diving continued.



Sites like 14m reef off Roe Reef (great territory), Kingston Spit (always a good dive), West Patch - again (those two big Stingrays still impress me) were all great dives, but the best was yet to come. Friday 6th saw the ultimate diving weather, 38! in Perth and about the same on the island gave us the best dive conditions I've ever seen in Perth.

The morning dive was at the 8.7m "lump" off Eagle Bay. Not bad, but continuing about 50m East led us into the most fabulous

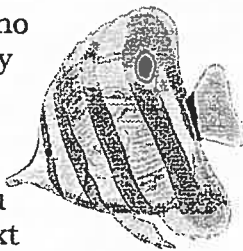
cave network I've EVER seen - Anders Meander and Kerry's Caverns is born (yes, that's right, two dive sites). Surface conditions excellent.

During lunch in Fishhook Bay, we noticed that the surface conditions were improving - the inner break (Martin's Arches) beckoned us over.

Ladies and gentlemen I kid you not, you could have walked out onto the break and whilst you'd have got your feet wet, that would have been the only part of you that wasn't dry.

It didn't disappoint - a supermarket for Crayfish with no surge to fight. Needless to say we caught our bag limit. By the time we finished the dive, West End was like a millpond.

All I can say is that if you want to get in on the action next year - be quick

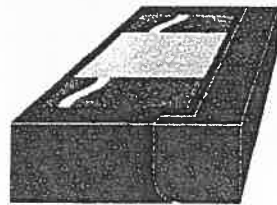


ROTTO MEMORIES

Thank you for your appreciation of my hastily put together video of our fun-time at Rotto recently. I am bringing a number of VHS copies to this meeting, as I had a few requests.

Just let me know if you too would like one, by telling me in advance, so I can make additional copies.

Ring Susie on 9331 2385.



Page 4

DIVE GEAR CARE

by Susie Ashton

The DIVE COMPUTER is usually the diver's most treasured instrument, as it can display depth, time elapsed, dive time remaining and the limits for a no-decompression dive. This type of information is vital to a diver's safety and thus the computer's continued operation is very important. (And you probably also paid quite a few \$\$ for it!)

Needless to say, your dive computer should be soaked in clean, freshwater either daily or at the end of a dive trip. A LONG soak will help dissolve any salt crystals or chemical residue that may have built up during the diving activity. (Don't forget that the pool water could be even more damaging than the saltwater!)

As with other instruments, the dive computer should be dried IN THE SHADE! When on a trip, NEVER allow your dive computer to be exposed to strong Sunlight and high heat for a prolonged period of time. Overheating can distort the LCD face, making the computer unreadable.

For travel, the dive computer should be packed carefully in its own WELL PADDED, crush proof carry case. For long term storage, you may wish to remove the battery, if possible.

From a maintenance point of view, there are two types of dive computers:

- a) a factory sealed unit, where the battery is not accessible to the user, and
- b) a computer that allows battery replacement by the user.

In both types of units, a low battery warning signal is displayed when the battery is near exhaustion. A computer should be good for one more dive at the onset

of the low battery warning signal, but the battery should be replaced as soon as possible.

Factory sealed dive computers must be taken back to an authorized dealer for Battery replacement or servicing. Generally speaking, factory sealed units contain a battery or set of batteries that will last one to three years during normal usage. Dive computers that offer the option of battery replacement by the user generally have a shorter battery life span, under the same conditions.

You should always carry a spare battery for possible replacement during a dive trip. Take special care inclosing the battery compartment cover or door - making sure that the O-ring seal is clean of sand, silt or hair strands. **(Lick it, Warren!)**

Should your dive computer suddenly cease working during a dive, it could mean it has flooded. If there is no sign of moisture inside the dive computer, it is possible the battery lost contact for a moment - owing to a weak spring. When replacing a battery, make sure it is making good contact and that the spring is applying pressure to the battery when the compartment is closed.

How about that! Cheers!

Susie



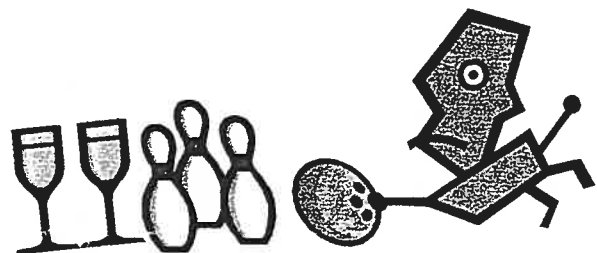
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SOCIAL CALENDAR for May/June/July/August

TEN PIN BOWLING in Melville
to be followed by pizza & plonk in the meeting room.

FRIDAY 22 MAY at 7 pm sharp

- So, PLEASE be there at 18.45pm to try shoes.
- Price: \$15 per person IN ADVANCE



PETER HORTON

MUSIC NIGHT

at Sandy's

FRIDAY 19 JUNE
start at 8 pm

Cost
\$15
includes:
Nibbles,
Finger-food
supper,
Mulled wine,
Open fire!



B. Y. O.
INSTRUMENT

SATURDAY 25 JULY AT 7 PM



Join us for our annual
screening of all divers'
"cult" movie

THE BIG BLUE



ALL BLUE

The Management would appreciate if you
DRESS IN BLUE!! Thank You!

WINE TASTING

FRIDAY 21 AUG.

7.30 PM

UEC NEWS

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc)
PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154
Print Post Approved by Australia Post
Print Post Publication No PP632593/0002

SURFACE
MAIL

POSTAGE
PAID

MAY 1998

Avon Descent 1998

Are you volunteering to help in this years Avon descent? For those that have not done so in the past you may be missing out on a great experience. In previous years the Avon Descent volunteers have all enjoyed a great weekend as part of the world biggest whitewater event.

This year our club is trying to introduce a few different elements to the training. Jim and his team are trying to make the training weekends a bit more enjoyable with less standing about and more participation in a fun way. Hopefully by the time of the Avon descent weekend we will all have learned a few extra simple skills and have had a good time.

To make this a success for our club it is important that we have large numbers of people to share the workload. No person will be asked to do anything that is not well within their capabilities, most of the tasks will require volunteers to be shore based. Whether the job is waving a flag or making a hot drink for

someone it is no less important than those who are expected to swim in the river. One outcome of all the previous events is that everyone seems to have a few more friends than when they began. So don't be shy to bring some friends along as well we do need all the help we can get.

In conjunction with the Avon Descent training our club is for the first time organising a voluntary first aid course for its members. This is an ideal opportunity for all members with a few

spare hours each week to learn something that will benefit you not only as divers but at work and in your everyday family life. The costs are fairly low but will depend on numbers.

As the winter months start to approach and the diving we club members have all enjoyed winds down, it may be time to look at our part in our club in a different light. Winter is the time that we all need to think about staying involved by putting something back in. **Rog**

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- 6 Avon descent
- 7 First Aid Training
- 7 Building Report
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THE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	9457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	9445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Geoff Geard	9453 1723
BOATING OFFICER	Harry Oldenhuis	9451 3972
SAFETY OFFICER	Steve Larter	9291 9654
TRAINING OFFICER	Ian Lawrence	9364 6331
BUILDING OFFICER	Carmine Travaglione	9356 1311
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Roger Smith	9275 8620
SOCIAL OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	9331 2385

CLUB CALENDAR

MAY '98

Fri/Sat 15/16	O/nighter (Bob M / Steve L)
Sun 17	DO's Choice - Two Tank : 8am (Dennis S / Jim R)
Mon 18	GEN MEETING - SYC : 8pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm
Fri 22	SOCIAL : TEN PIN BOWLING
Sat 23	Exploratory - One Tank : 8am (Bob M / Steve L)
Sun 24	Wreck Dive - Two Tank : 8am (Geoff C / Geoff G)
Sat 30	Open - One Tank : 8am (Peter H / Jim R)
Sun 31	Exploratory - Two Tank : 8am (Richard N / Luc F)

JUNE '98 (1st June = P/H : Foundation Day)

Wed 03	COM/MEETING - SYC : 8pm
Sat 06	Lazy Autumn Dive - One Tank : '9am (Freo Lunch) (Kerry / Susie A)
Sun 07	Wreck Dive? - Two Tank : 8am (Geoff C / Luc F)
Sat 13	Request Dive - One Tank : 8am (Richard N / Jim R)
Sun 14	Cray Dive - Two Tank : 8am (Dennis S / Geoff G)
Mon 15	GENERAL MEETING - SYC : 8pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm
Fri 19 SAT 20	SOCIAL/MUSIC NIGHT at SANDY'S
Sat 20	Open - One Tank : 8am (Bob M / Steve L)
Sun 21	Open - Two Tank : 8am (Peter H / Kerry A)
Sun 21	AVON ORIENTATION / BBQ ???
Sun 28	AVON: Water/Shore Training 'Bells Rapids' / BBQ ???

***** DEPARTS EAST ST JETTY *****

Check Your Departure Time
All Dives Subject to Weather

Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with Geoff Geard
NOT THE CREW

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made to Geoff Geard .
Tel 9453 1723

SPONSORED BY



SUBIACO
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E Shed Markers
Fremantle
Ph: (08) 9336 4355
Fax: (08) 9336 4961

Dive Ski and Surf are offering some great specials on air fill cards.

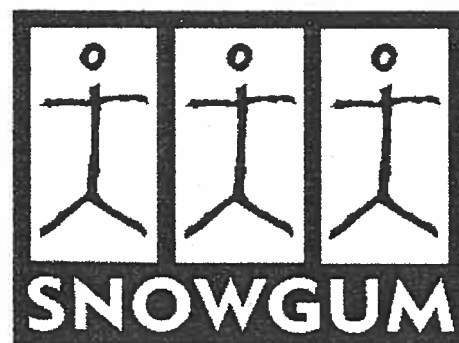
Call in at the Subiaco or Rottnest shop and find out how economical an air card can be.

Whilst in the Shop take advantage of our fantastic summer specials and collect a 10% club discount.

PRINTED BY KIND PERMISSION

AVON DESCENT?

Come in and see our range of canoes, kayaks and accessories including the best in warm clothing



581 Murray St West perth
Tel 93215259

Your adventure begins at SNOWGUM

Building & P.R. Report

Yes I have finally been conned by **Sexy Suzie and Crafty Kerry**. They've asked me to help with the P.R. of the club. I think they put it very nicely when they said I am better than they are at Bullsprinting or something like that. (Must be a new PR expression.) It seemed to have something to do with the Bovine species. Anyway, its probably a good thing, because I have very little to report regarding building, or other such constructive subjects. True to his usual style, (strong silent type) Gordon has not written back to me, to comment on my "Druthers list," I sent him in my last letter. Perhaps it's best if I leave it for this month and get back to him with a slightly longer list next month.

I am actually going away to the Kimberley for about three weeks from the 6th of May so I wish to tender my apologies for both the committee and the monthly meetings as I shall miss them both. I won't be diving while I am up there as I believe there is research to confirm the inability of Crocodiles to discern between me and a Barramundi Banquet. If any of you are interested I will certainly show you some of my Box Brownie shots when I see you at the next meeting.

Back to the P.R. I must confess I have never done this before but I have already started, by submitting a press release, to both the Fremantle Herald and the Community Newspaper Group. This consisted of a photo of Maree holding a bloody great crayfish and a bit of a write up about the club. The heading was "Oldest Diving Club, Female President & Biggest Crayfish". While writing this building/pr report I decided to bother the editors of both the newspaper groups by asking if they had put it in yet, and if not, why not. Bugger me, Hillary from the Community Newspaper Group told me they had already put it in their last issue of the Fremantle-Melville-West series. Hillary told me she would also be very interested in some information to do with the Avon Decent. When I get back I'll be bothering **Rog and Jim** for lots of info. The Herald is going to ring me back. If they haven't put it in their paper I might tell them to lift their game otherwise I'll give Murdoch an exclusive. That ought to frighten them.

See you when I get back.

Carmine.



You've heard the radio ads, seen the TV commercials and yes it's a very important conscious decision to make. Learning to save a life or even being able to unwrap a Band-Aid using that ever so small fiddly red line.

No matter which level your at, you can never get enough practice, both practical and theoretical to make your self a better first aider.

SO, We intend to run a course that will enable us all to reach the benchmark level of Senior First Aid with the R.S.L.S. This would give those who attend a recognized skill level as well as giving an excuse to get yourself a hangover at the end of course party.

Eligible people of good moral fibre are required as the course consists of lots of groping and S&M bondage techniques.

Please register your interest to me by the next meeting on 94573333 so that I can organize some appropriate dates and times to suit. The course will cost approx. \$65 per person and will probably be at the SYC clubrooms Tues/Weds evenings in June.

Maree

CARL & CHERYLS 990 DIP

- 1 Tin Refried Beans
- 2 Avocados (Mashed)
- Mix together:
- 1 sml carton of Whipping Cream
- 1/2 cup Mayonnaise
- 1/4 pkt Taco seasoning Mix
- Layer as follows:
- 1 Beans
- 2 Avocado
- 3 Mayo/Cream
- 4 Grated Cheese
- 5 1 cup diced Tomatoes (peel & seed)
- 6 1/2 cup Spring Onions
- Will fit into a dish 2"x10"x7"

WARNING

This tasty dish can be addictive and may cause flatulence

Progressive Dinner



This UEC annual event deserves a proper social report! What I'm talking about is the PROGRESSIVE DINNER we just had.

After meeting at the Kardinya Tavern for an AUSSIE beer and wine, Geoff Charlton drove our taste buds on a sensational trip around the world.

First stop was Sweden (the look-out tower on Wireless Hill) to sample two different dishes of herring, pickled & baked, served with authentic Elderbloom Snaps.

Back on the bus...New Zealand cheese and crackers, served by a staggering Kerry (at this stage because of bus movements) complemented by red wine.

Soon we arrived in Vietnam (Carl and Sheryl's) where we had the most amazing rice paper rolls. New, indulgent, and very tasty. We left nothing for Carl's lunch box.

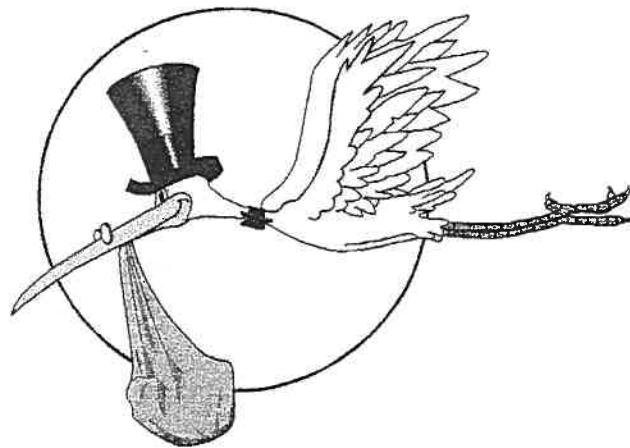
Back on the bus... more wine... and on to Italy and France. Mainly Italy. We enjoyed freshly cooked mussels, prepared by Carmine, in two different ways - chilli and onion/cream - followed by lasagne, salad and bread. By the way, he used to be a Chef at his own restaurant in Melbourne. (Amazing, all these things you get to know about your club buddies, if you come along on a progressive dinner!)

Back on the bus to Denmark. (Kerry and Susie's). Coffee and Aebleskage (apple cake). "Not a cake in our sense of the word, but the most popular of all Danish desserts" says my Danish cook book. There wasn't much left, so I guess it was popular.

Sandy entertained by showing her skills on her "strange" but lovely sounding instrument, giving us a pre-taste of the Music Night at Sandy's in June. Sadly, she had to leave for the airport to catch the "midnight horror" to Sydney. Some "stayers" enjoyed our hospitality till about 2am. (No wonder! Kerry was dishing out foot massages!!!)

All in all - we had a ball!!

Cheers! Susie



HE'S HERE !!!

Geoff, Hetty & Stephanie Geard would 'proudly' like to announce, the birth of their baby boy: 'Nathan Geoffrey Geard'.

Born Thursday 23rd April 1998 at 1.17pm. Weight: 8lb 4oz Length: 52.5cm.

Nominations

Jarrad Westerside
Huntingdale

Russell Vick
Fremantle

A.D.D.

Are you, or do you know anyone who is suffering from A.D.D. [Avon Deseent Doldrums] if you are, then help is just around the corner. Call for help now, don't wait until its too late ring Dr. Jim on 9454 7868 or mob. 0414 454 786 immediately and book in on his therapeutic training course.

Help and support is free [so is the camp and food] all we need is some of your time and skills [and rain] to combat this terrible affliction. Keep tuned in for more details soon.

signed

Doctor Jim

Presidents Report

By Maree Casley

Well, didn't we stir up a hornet's nest at the last meeting by circulating a petition and discussing the proposals that the Government have in mind in regards to the closure of a substantial section of Cockburn Sound to the public. Many Club members were unaware of the threat that is posed to us as recreational users of this stretch of water and I was pleased with the overwhelming response that we had. Dennis gave us all a very good overview of these proposals and members were firstly left dumbstruck then furious at what is being planned. I hope that those of you that couldn't make the meeting took the time to fill in the submission that was sent to you. It is quite clear that if we as users of these waters do not stand up for our rights, then certainly our elected representatives are not going to.

In response to a complaint levelled by a charter boat operator, the UEC, along with some other Clubs, have had their constitutions, rules and boating procedures examined by the Department of Transport. The DOT were required to ensure that we were operating correctly as a privately owned vessel and were not encroaching into the charter boat area. I am pleased to let you know that our Club has stood the test of scrutiny and our operating procedures were above board. It is our insistence on abiding by the rules at all times that cleared the way for us to continue to use our boat for both diving and general recreational use without falling outside the law. If some of our rules seem a little strict, it is for a reason and this is it. We must continue to observe our own rules because there is no guarantee that we will not be placed under the microscope again in the future. In the meantime enjoy our boat and all the good times it brings with it.

Lastly, a big thank you to all the people associated with the progressive dinner in April. The evening was a great success with a veritable feast laid before our eyes at every turn. You all did a fabulous job and I for one look forward to my next invitation to break bread with you.

Maree



Diving Report

by 'the proud father'

I don't know about the diving, but the weather is trying to wind down a great diving season. Don't get me wrong, there is still plenty of diving left to do yet.

A couple of items have come up in conversations over the past few weeks. The first is Carnac Island. We only seem to dive it in "iffy" conditions, or when we need sheltered diving. There are some pretty areas around there. The second is exploratory dives. Are we doing enough? More often than not, "what a great dive" is the response we get after doing one. Maybe we should do some exploratory diving around Carnac... my hand for one is up. Let me know.

What happened last month ?

Well the Pettigrews took their family to Carnac Island to see the seals, then to Garden Island for lunch. Marg, you thanked Peter and I for a great day. I'd like to thank you for an excellent lunch. What a way to start the month.

Richard took some members fishing. Some nice sized fish were caught. After the fishing trip, a great dive was had at Angela's Cave, . No surge, excellent viz, with quote "I wish I'd taken my video camera down. It was the best I've ever seen." unquote. Inside Eagle Bay was next, with sandy canyons, and good viz again, where a few nice size crays were taken.

For the wreck enthusiasts, we dived on the Governor, or is it the Fremantle?, (can anybody tell me which one). From the wreck site the boat moved to an area near Champion Rock, where, "another excellent dive" was had by all. No crays were taken as this was another 'Green Day'. Heading for the wreck site, an interesting lump came up on the sounder, which Peter suspects, "could be a very interesting dive."

Don't forget the boat now leaves from the East Street Jetty.

Also remember the number is **94531723** to book your dives.

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT

Geoff Geard
'PRAWN KING'



MOP DIVING

Another U.E.C. first!

For all divers who are interested in the above variation on diving, (which is probably everyone), I thought I should share the many experiences of this amazing way of diving, discovered by **Sandy** and me on our weekend away at Rotto.

Originally I had been advised by someone (who obviously hates me) to give away the more conventional cray-loop, and catch crayfish using cotton mops. Whilst the mop was instrumental in catching crayfish (1) we discovered many other uses for having the trusty cotton mop under the ocean.

Apart from the obvious use of cleaning up around reefs, caves etc. the mop can be used as a "walking stick" to push oneself off the ocean floor, or away from reefs and dangerous hazards.

When the conventional cray-loop is dropped in the weed, it can be difficult to locate - not the mop ' though...when the mop is dropped, it stands upright at attention, awaiting retrieval by a relieved owner.

Thrust down the open jaws of an attacking shark (or a crazed 'narced' buddy diver) the mop can be used as a fearsome weapon.

Catching your buddy's attention with a sharp prod is so much easier than turning cartwheels and waving arms frantically, and this is achieved brilliantly with the mop - (bruising will take but only days to fade).

If your buddy should happen to suffer some sort of death during the dive, the mop can be tightly wedged down the B.C. and you can drag said buddy along with you until you have finished your dive, thus making sure at least one of you gets maximum enjoyment on this dive.

Zita and I had the experience at Rotto of surfacing too far away from the boat in a strong current (obviously my compass was not working,

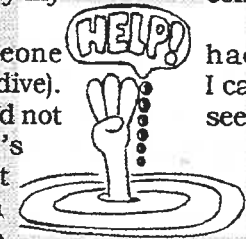
someone had moved the boat during this dive). I called out to the skipper who could not see us at first due to the sun's reflection on the water, but upon holding the mop in an upright position above the water we were spotted immediately. Without the aid of the mop on this dive, we would surely have drifted to Geraldton or somewhere.

I guess many of you may be curious as to why we didn't actually catch lots of crayfish using this fabulous device...

Try to imagine coming upon a few crays under a ledge, carefully introducing your mops and watching in amazement as your prospective 'lunch' rolls over on their back with their claws across their mouths laughing hysterically!!

Just wait crays — we may be there next year with vacuum cleaners!

Maureen



Vent Your Spleen

Roger,

Herewith some shocking news I just read in the West Australian April 13:

In one place I read about how they now have a "go ahead" for oil exploration only 40 meters away from the Ningaloo Marine Park.

On another page I read "..... It has also been proved that blasting from drilling platforms has so badly damaged the hearing of whales that they have lost their sense of orientation and died in agony."

WHAT KIND OF A WORLD ARE WE LIVING IN!!!!

Use it, if you want. Maybe we could have a Conservation Corner in the newsletter?

I'll be happy to provide you with some info once a month.

Luv from **Susie**

Wow! Susie you sound really angry about this. I'm most impressed but you're preaching to the converted in my case. I've always got lots of space for contributions from club members in this magazine (especially green ones) so let's go for it. Rog

Conservation Corner

... and here is my Conservation Corner Contribution of the month:

I was upset and disgusted when I saw sharkfin soup on the menu at a semi-local restaurant we patronised with some friends a recent Friday night. I really thought restaurant owners would have better taste, than putting sharkfin soup on their menu at least here in Australia.


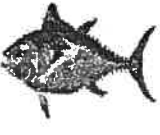

A bowl of sharkfin soup used to be the food of emperors, a refined delicacy taken in small quantities and on special occasions only. World wide consumption is now estimated to be over 350 tons of sharkfin, which translates into more than half a million sharks killed every year only for their fins, often under exceptionally brutal circumstances.

The problem is global, but the solution may be right in your own hands.

Cheers!

Susie

The AUDUBON Guide to Seafood

Species or Group	Background	Status	Management	Bycatch & Habitat Concerns
 Sharks	Sharks mature late in life, grow slowly, and produce few offspring. As a result, their populations require decades to recover from intensive fishing. Sharks are often caught for shark-fin soup, sold in China for \$90 a bowl.	Many populations are declining. Most species on the East Coast are overfished and depleted. Poor in the Pacific Ocean.	Management is fair to good in U.S. Atlantic waters. Almost no management elsewhere.	Moderate to high. Most shark fisheries use longlines or gill nets, which also catch unwanted fishes and creatures such as turtles and marine mammals. Many sharks are killed just for their fins, then dumped.
 Tunas	Almost all large bluefins are shipped to Japan for sushi. There, bluefins are often worth \$10,000 to \$20,000 each (the record is \$80,000), making them one of the world's most valuable animals. Canned "white tuna" is albacore; "chunk light" is yellowfin or skipjack.	Bluefins are severely overfished. Bigeyes, yellowfins, and albacores are declining in some regions. Skipjack populations are still large.	Poor in the Atlantic, where populations are most depleted. Current management in the Pacific is not adequate to prevent future depletion.	Moderate. Tunas sold in the U.S. must be "dolphin-safe" (no dolphins killed), but many dolphin-safe netting methods catch juvenile tunas and unwanted species. Bigeyes and Atlantic yellowfins are often taken on high-bycatch longlines. Troll-caught tuna is OK.
 Shrimps & Prawns	A wide variety of shrimps come from all over the world, from the tropics to temperate climes. About half are farmed, mostly in the tropics. Shrimp farms pollute and destroy habitat — so much so that the Indian government recently ordered more than 100 farms closed.	Plentiful in some regions, depleted in others (such as Mexico's Gulf of California). Their status is not well known elsewhere.	Generally poor in the U.S., and even worse in many other countries. Regulation of farming, the effects of bottom-trawl nets, and bycatch are the main issues.	The highest of any fishery in the world. For every pound of shrimp you buy, an average of seven pounds of other sea life was killed and shoveled overboard. West Coast spot prawns are a rare exception; they are caught by traps that let other creatures escape.

<http://magazine.audubon.org/seafood/>

Journalist Probes "Universe Below" ...

Humanity is at a critical turning point in its relationship with the world's oceans, and is on the verge of "an epic of physical exploration unparalleled since the European Age of Discovery." These are among the conclusions of a new book on ocean research and exploration by New York Times science writer William J. Broad.

The Universe Below: discovering the secrets of the deep sea discusses the developments in ocean exploration in recent human history and argues that, with the end of the Cold War, formerly top-secret military technologies enable scientists to probe the ocean depths as never before.

Broad ranges over a wide area of topics related to the deep sea, including the discovery of previously unimagined life which depends on energy, not from the sun, but from hydrothermal vents on the sea floor; the

health hazards of abandoned nuclear missiles and reactors; and the effects of industrial pollution on even the deepest levels of the ocean. He describes how nations around the world are scrambling to exploit the economic riches of the deep, and suggests ways to preserve its newly-discovered biological diversity.

Broad recommends the establishment of deep sanctuaries, entire regions placed off-limits to deep fishing and mining. "In the whirlwind of progress," he writes, "we will either destroy the sea through ignorance or save it through knowledge. Every day science finds new evidence that the health of the planet is intimately tied to the state of the ocean and that our own fate and that of all living things revolves around the habitability of this global commons."

Source: Broad, William J. 1997. The Universe Below: discovering the secrets of the deep sea. New York: Simon & Schuster

SOCIAL CALENDAR for June/July/Aug/Sept.

MUSIC NIGHT

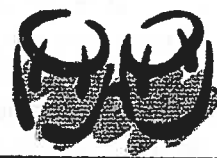
at Sandy's

**SATURDAY
20 JUNE
start at 8 pm**

Cost \$15 includes: Nibbles, Finger-food supper, Mulled wine, Open fire!



B. Y.O.
INSTRUMENT



Saturday 25 July at 7 pm



Join us for our annual screening of all divers' "cult" movie

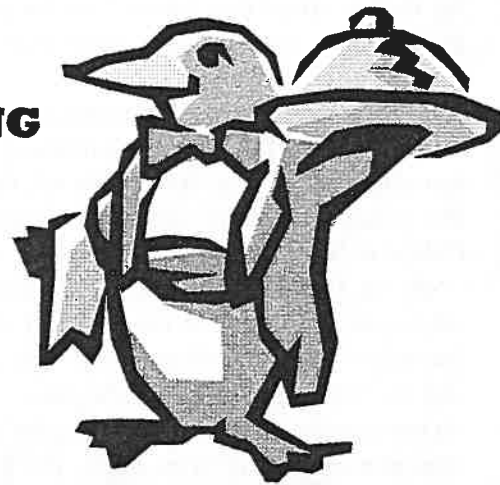


ALL BLUE

The Management would appreciate if you **DRESS IN BLUE!!** Thank You!

SATURDAY 19 September

EATING OUT



WINE TASTING



Friday 21 AUG.

7.30 pm

UEC NEWS

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc)
PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154
Print Post Approved by Australia Post
Print Post Publication No PP632593/0002

SURFACE
MAIL

POSTAGE
PAID

Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Crescent
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB UEC NEWS

JUNE 1998

RARE GIANT FISH FARE GAME

The world's largest known group of whale sharks discovered in the Philippines only weeks ago already faces being wiped out to satisfy the exotic tastes of Chinese restaurant-goers. Up to 50 of the massive, little understood fish have been feeding in a tiny area in the shallow coastal waters off Sorsogon, around 400km south-east of Manila. Despite being sharks and the largest fish in the seas, they are placid, feeding only on plankton and krill. They can grow up to 20m long and weigh 11 tonnes.

The Philippines lies on their November-June feeding route, but they are only rarely seen, and rarely in such large numbers. Nowhere else in the world can so many be seen without an airplane. Locals say the huge fish assemble in Sorsogon annually. But it was only this year that the outside world learned of the phenomenon, resulting in the area being swamped with conservation campaigners, tourists, divers, and American research scientists trying to tag them.

It has also resulted in a frenzy of killings. As soon as the sharks' existence was advertised in the local press, commercial fishing vessels descended on the area, and the gentle giants were systematically picked off, and their carcasses exported by local Chinese-Philippine businessmen to the exotic restaurant trade in Taiwan.

World Wildlife Fund spokesperson Arnel Yaptinchay said: "it's absolutely terrible, especially as so little is known about these fish. They are so gentle they will come right up to the boat, and you can get into the water with them" At least 12 whale sharks have been killed in Sorsogon in recent weeks. Between 1990 and 1997, 744 whale sharks were slaughtered in the country as a whole, but numbers have been declining by 29 per cent each year.

In reaction to the public outcry over the bloodbath in Sorsogon, the Philippine Government declared the whale shark a protected species in late March. However, violators face fines of just 500 pesos (\$19.70) to 5000 pesos or a short prison term. While Sorsogon locals view the sharks as a curiosity rather than a source of income, the new legislation has caused outrage among the poverty-stricken fishermen from Pamilacan Island in the Visayas region.

For them, following and slaughtering the fish for the Chinese buyers is the years only substantial source of income.

Their traditional fishing methods involve huge risks. Several men set off in a small outrigger boat, and armed with a harpoon, will hurl themselves into the water lunging at the area between the animal's eyes.

Australian 14/5/98

201
- 2.4
- 5.76
- 4.00
- 3.75

THE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	9457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	9445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Geoff Geard	9453 1723
BOATING OFFICER	Harry Oldenhuis	9451 3972
SAFETY OFFICER	Steve Larter	9291 9654
TRAINING OFFICER	Ian Lawrence	9364 6331
BUILDING OFFICER	Carmine Travaglione	9356 1311
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Roger Smith	9275 8620
SOCIAL OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	9331 2385

CLUB CALENDAR

JUNE '98 (1st June = P/H : Foundation Day)

Wed 03	
Sat 13	Request Dive - One Tank : 8am (Richard N / Jim R)
Sun 14	Cray Dive - Two Tank : 8am (Dennis S / Geoff G)
Mon 15	GENERAL MEETING - SYC : 8pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm
Sat 20	SOCIAL : MUSIC NIGHT AT SANDY'S
Sat 20	Open - One Tank : 8am (Bob M / Steve L)
Sun 21	Open - Two Tank : 8am (Peter H / Kerry A)
Sun 21	AVON ORIENTATION / BBQ ???
Sat 27	Open - One Tank : 8am (Invitation)
Sun 28	AVON: Water/Shore Training 'Bells Rapids' / BBQ ???

JULY '98

Wed 01	COMMITTEE MEETING - SYC : 8pm
Sun 05	AVON DESCENT TRAINING ???
Sun 12	AVON DESCENT TRAINING ???
Sun 19	AVON DESCENT TRAINING ???
Mon 20	GENERAL MEETING - SYC : 8pm Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm
Sat 25	SOCIAL: ALL BLUE
Sun 26	AVON: Valley Run ???

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made to Geoff Geard .
Tel 9453 1723 ***** DEPARTS EAST ST JETTY

Check Your Departure Time
All Dives Subject to Weather
Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with Geoff Geard
NOT THE CREW

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WINTER SPECIALS

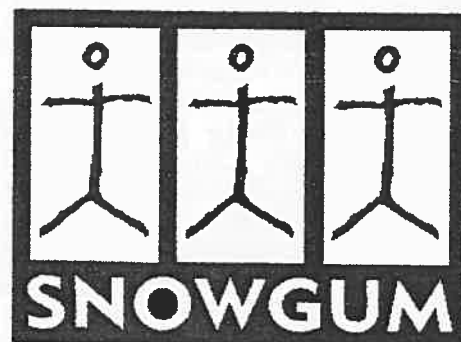
We presently have in stock a number of used and ex hire scuba units at very special prices

Whilst in the Shop take advantage of our fantastic winter specials and collect a 10% club discount.

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AVON DESCENT?

Come in and see our range of canoes, kayaks and accessories including the best in warm clothing



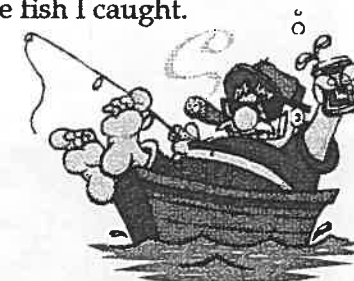
581 Murray St West perth
Tel 93215259
Your adventure begins at SNOWGUM

Building Report / P.R. Report by Carmine Travaglione

I am afraid this report is not going to give you much information as since I returned I have been somewhat occupied, firstly by business pressures and then by the sudden death of my mother in law. I have therefore, been a little too occupied to give very much of my time to chasing Gordon around nor trying to get another article printed by the "Local Rag". Before I left for my trip I received two calls which were generated by the article I had submitted to the Community Newspaper about the large crayfish and Maree. I believe that at least one of the callers is joining the club. Because I left the same week that the article was printed I never actually saw it and Maree rang me to say that not only hadn't she seen it but she didn't know anyone that had. I decided to go down to the Community Newspaper Office in Fremantle and pick up a copy, which I now have and will bring it along to the next meeting, for those of you that may be interested. Whilst down there I spoke to Hillary who is the sub-editor and she said she was doing some article on the Avon Decent this week. (first week in June). It may be best if I wait for that to come out before I try to put something in that may be repeating what has already been said.

My Kimberley trip turned out to be a real adventure rather than a relaxing holiday. We travelled from One Tree point all the way down the coast to Broome in a 45ft yacht called the Osborne Star, calling in at several salient points such as the Maret Islands in the Bonaparte Archipelago, several creeks and river systems including the magnificent Prince Regent river. We did this by mooring in a safe place and going out on excursions in aluminium dinghy's. The scenery was awesome, the tides huge, the fish abundant, the crocodiles curious and the amount of beer and wine we drank surprising, both for the quantity and the quality. I want to tell those of you who don't already know; Australia is a very big place! Anyway I won't go on but I am happy to show any interested parties the photos and lie to you about the size of the fish I caught.

Carmine



JUNE SAFETY REPORT by Steve Larter

Winter is here and despite lower temperatures the sea conditions can be outstanding. If you intend to carry on diving during the winter months its important to ensure that you and your buddies keep warm both before and after your dive. Wearing warm wind resistant clothing is a must. Sea temperatures in and around Perth vary by about 10 degrees but the wind chill factor can make your dive very uncomfortable. It may also be advisable to plan your dive later in the day when the air temperature may be warmer. Hot drinks before and after diving are advisable, but remember no alcohol. Check prior to planning that the emergency rescue facilities are operational. Some of the sea rescue stations may not operate all year. Finally consider if a one or two tank dive is appropriate when the conditions are not as warm as the summer months. Remember winter diving can present different conditions but careful planning and consideration of the different conditions can be very rewarding.

Safe diving.

STEVE.

TEN things your dive instructor should NEVER tell you!

10. Yes ... I want you to tell me when I say the wrong thing in front of everyone and no one else catches it.
9. To avoid shark attacks: Dive with a briefcase. Shark may mistake you for an attorney and leave you alone out of professional courtesy.
8. Hiccups underwater? Hold your breath.
7. A dive computer will do all those calculations for you.
6. Don't worry what those gauges say...you'll KNOW when you're out of air!
5. Wear gloves on every dive. That way, when you're going hand-over-hand on the coral, you won't cut yourself.
4. Spit in your suit to get warm and pee in your mask to defog.
3. If you take Viagra it will increase your lift.
2. Always remember to empty your tank before surfacing. Waste not, want not.
1. If you have good eyes, you don't really need a mask.

AVON DESCENT RESCUE GROUP
1998 TRAINING SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 21st JUNE

Orientation day/Sausage sizzle with in water training

CLAUGHTON PARK- 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM.

This day is designed to combine a social and training session to meet each other, establish the backbone of the teams and demonstrate the requirements of the teams:

A sausage sizzle, provided by the AVON DESCENT COMMITTEE, will follow the exercises. Bring your salads to eat, all your gear (for in water trainees) and be prepared for a fun/work day.

SUNDAY 28th JUNE

Water and shore training

BELLS RAPIDS-9AM to 1.00PM - Optional BYO/BBQ to follow.

SUNDAY 5th JULY

Water and shore training

BELLS RAPIDS-9AM to 1.00PM - Optional BYO/BBQ to follow.

SUNDAY 12th JULY

Water and shore training

BELLS RAPIDS-9AM to 1.00PM - Optional BYO/BBQ to follow

SATURDAY 18th JULY

Water, shore and boat training

EMU FALLS - 8.00 AM to 3PM - Full days training ALL TEAMS to

Attend this training session. Assembly point 8. AM at ACE CINEMA car park Cnr Morrison Rd & Roe Hwy. Leaving 8.15 AM promptly to travel in convoy through Avon Valley.

The rubber ducks will be put through their paces and both shore and water teams will get a good workout. BYO/BBQ to follow.

SUNDAY 19th JULY

HINDS PARK - 8.00 AM to 2.00PM

Scrutineering of craft and contestants at which our boat crews provide rescue services for the swim tests. Today will also be used for shore and water teams who were unable to make other training dates. BBQ facilities BYO food and drinks.

SUNDAY 26th JULY

NORTHAM WEIR - 10.00 AM to 4.00PM

Traditionally a trip down the Avon River from Northam to Bell's Rapids to view river conditions. BYO/BBQ lunch at Western Quarries Campsite. Social type day where rescue and organising personnel check the scene before the race.

TEAM MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO ATTEND AS MANY SESSIONS AS POSSIBLE

Diving Report

by Geoff Geard

JUNE DO'S REPORT

June is here, which means next month is Avon Descent training month, as well as the end of the cray season. So let's make the most of this month, or what's left of it.

As for last month?

The boat visited **Angela's Cave**, where the viz was good. From there, the boat dropped anchor on **14mt reef** by Geordie Bay. Surface conditions on the day were described as sensational, smooth dropping off to glass.

A week later some of us were diving in the river. Replacing the mooring chain and cleaning the float, followed by a good scrub to U.E.'s hull. The cleaner hull would have given a fast run to 'Rotto' for the overnigher, where a few hardy souls spent a sleepless night, before having an excellent couple of dives at **Green Island** in **Salmon Bay**, where Sandy found a large empty Baler Shell.

From the overnigher, the boat was steered into a good site South of Carnac. This site was in pretty country, but it was a shame about the viz. A highlight of the dive for **Kerry**, was coming across what he thought was some old ballast from an unnamed wreck. It might be worth further investigating.

The last dives for Autumn were at **Roger's Rock** where the viz was low and **Crystal Palace** where the viz was excellent. A few crays were taken, and the water temperature was a balmy 21 degrees.

As you can see, even though the weather is cooling down, the diving certainly isn't.

Don't forget the boat leaves from the East Street Jetty, unless otherwise stated.

Also remember the number is 94531723 to book your dives.

Let's Go and Dive!!

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT

Geoff Geard
"PRAWN KING"



Presidents Report

By Maree Casley

Hasn't the past few months of autumn been glorious? I cannot remember a year when the lovely weather extended so far into the year, so I hope you all have been taking advantage and getting a few really good dives in. Dennis reports that the dive recently completed at Roger's Rock and Crystal Palace were exceptional and that everyone on board had a great day. Apparently, a group of hardy fisherpersons were not so lucky when they had an overnight stay the following day and found conditions in Geordie Bay less than perfect. They caught a few fish though so they weren't too unhappy.

The boat meeting that was held last month was very well attended with many valuable ideas being discussed. Many of the items that have been on our wish list for some time have been given the go-ahead and a gang of people are now in the process of rushing around organising for the work to be done. So hang onto your hats folks because there are some changes afoot. Of course this is all based on the premise that we can afford it so keep up your diving pursuits with the Club and if you can lend a hand with the boat work give Harry a ring as I am sure he would appreciate any assistance that he can get his hands on.

The Avon Descent is quickly looming up on us and so far we are well below the number of volunteers that we need to provide for the rescue services. Unfortunately, our friends at BSAC are unable to come up with as large a contingent as they did last year and people that we relied on in the past are also unavailable so please, please, please think about giving it a go. At the moment we have nearly as many people as required for the water work component but we need helpers on shore and to be flag marshalls. Neither task is particularly difficult, in fact to be honest it is a downright doddle so don't be put off by any talk of it being macho or anything. The only pre-requisite is that you are over the age of 18 and still breathing! Honestly, it is a great weekend that is thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attends so don't delay give Jim or me a ring ASAP.



Con't

The response to the first aid course has been very good. By the time you read this report a group of 22 will have already clocked up a few hours of EAR, CPR, DRABC, and thousands of other acronyms in their quest to obtain their Senior First Aid qualification. It is great that members are taking the time to improve their knowledge of first aid and it must be an even more comforting thought for those members that don't have a first aid certificate that there is someone about who does.

Maree

NOMINATIONS

Ronald Whitson
Hamilton Hill

Sean Allen Edmett
Atwell

John James Harte
East Fremantle

CONSERVATION CORNER

Australia has the worst record in wildlife management in the world!

More than half the mammal species lost to the world over the past 200 years were Australian, and more than half the endangered mammal species in the world today are Australian.

No other country has lost a mammal species in the wild over the last five years, but Australia has lost two - the *mala* in the N.T., and the *eastern barred bandicoot* of Victoria.

SHAME ON US!

Susie



FOR SALE

65 cu/ft Auminium tank
Includes boot, mesh and dustcap
Still in test \$120 o.n.o.
Call Luc Fauvet on 94594204.

I Could Never Go Diving! I'd be much too scared

It's natural to be scared at first, but statistics show scuba diving is not particularly dangerous. The Diving Equipment & Marketing Association, a trade group, estimates that there are 2.4 million active divers and 17 million dives made in the U.S. per year. Divers Alert Network, the leading safety organization for divers, reports only 85 fatalities in 1996, and nearly 20 percent of those were on technical dives. You do the math.

Most of us find that as our ability to deal with risks increases, our fears recede. The risks in scuba diving, while real, can all be reduced significantly by what you do for your own safety. Look, for example, at some of the most common fears of new scuba divers.

I won't be able to breathe!

It's understandable if you mistrust your scuba regulator, that mysterious device on which so much depends. But mechanical failure of your breathing equipment is highly unlikely. A regulator is simple, robust and designed so that if it does fail, it delivers more air than you need, not less.

Still, on the principle that anything can happen, you will have redundant breathing systems, and so will your buddy. You should each have an "octopus," the extra second stage to your regulator. Many divers also carry a completely redundant air system with its own regulator, like Spare Air or a pony bottle. The chance of them all failing together is infinitesimal.

Still, low-on-air emergencies do occur. Most often, the diver simply fails to watch his pressure gauge and uses up the air in his tank. It's like running out of gas on the freeway because you didn't check the fuel gauge.

Actually, it's pretty hard to run out of air even if you don't watch the gauge. As you breathe, tank pressure falls steadily and slowly. As the pressure gets lower, your air supply doesn't suddenly stop. Instead, you find you have to suck harder and harder - which warns you're low on air in time to head for the surface or switch to a backup system.

OK, but what if - somehow - all your air supply systems did just stop suddenly? If you are no deeper than about 60 feet, you almost certainly have enough air in your body to reach the surface safely. As you ascend, water pressure on your body decreases, allowing more of the air in your lungs to expand and become breathable. You exhale gently all the way up, to keep your airway open and to vent the carbon dioxide that makes your lungs burn, and when you reach the surface you'll still have more air.

The bottom line is that if you stay above 60 feet and stay out of caves and wrecks - good advice for all new divers - there is no reason to be afraid of running out of air under water.

What to do:

- * Carry redundant breathing systems and practice using them.
- * Service your equipment regularly.
- * Dive with a buddy.
- * Watch your gauges.
- * Stay above 60 feet until you feel comfortable going deeper.

I'll get eaten!

It's true that when you're diving, you're playing on someone else's dinner table. Will you become an aquatic rib roast?

Certainly not. In fact, most fish ignore you or run away. Most creatures, except

humans, have very narrow diets and eat only what they are accustomed to. Then there is the shark. Some sharks have been known to make unprovoked attacks on humans. Even here, there is evidence that the shark mistakes a human for his regular meal, a seal or sea lion. For example, surfers and swimmers are statistically more at risk than scuba divers, perhaps because their splashing and their dark silhouette against the surface make them resemble these pinnipeds.

In any event, shark attacks are very rare. Says noted shark expert Dr. Eugenie Clark, "Driving your car to work in the morning is far more dangerous."

A good indication of the lack of danger from sharks may be the popularity of intentionally diving with them. With or without protective cages, many divers who better understand the risks actually seek encounters with sharks.

Other fish, like barracuda, have sharp teeth, and many fish have sharp spines. Almost all will leave you alone if you will do the same for them.

What to do:

- * Don't spearfish. If you do, take speared fish out of the water immediately.
- * If you see a shark, stay calm. Rapid kicking may resemble the movements of injured fish, triggering an attack.
- * Don't annoy sharks by poking at them. You may get what you ask for.
- * Don't reach into places where you can't see. Moray eels, for example, nest in dark holes.

I'll be embarrassed because I'm a 'newbie'

The fear of ridicule is so strong that countless divers (and flyers, climbers, surfers and sailors) have risked their lives to avoid it. Often it happens when a new diver buddies with a stranger who seems more experienced. The rookie is uncomfortable with the buddy's ambitious dive plan but afraid to admit it and gets in over his head. It's crazy, but it's all too human. How do you avoid it? Consider an area of life where you are experienced. Probably your ridicule goes not to the candid novice but to the beginner who pretends to be a grizzled veteran. Probably you are generous with help to the beginner who openly asks for it. It is pretense that is ridiculous, not inexperience.

So you can prevent embarrassment (and worse) by saying five magic words: "I'm still new at this." It takes courage to display inexperience instead of hiding it, but it will probably turn your dive buddy into a kindly, protective uncle-for-a-day. If he still laughs at you, he's a jerk and an unsafe buddy. Demand a new one.

What to do:

- * Don't fake it.
- * Remember that the other divers in the group are really accountants, clerks, personnel managers - people like you, often as nervous as you.
- * Discount the pre-dive bragging, especially when it is loud. Someone is faking it.
- * Ask for advice. It induces the more experienced diver to display his knowledge constructively.

Social Report from Bowling Evening

Twelve people, four lanes, two games.

First round's winner: Peter Horton (160), Kerry came second (141), and Hetty 3rd, breast-feeding her new-born baby between.

Good on 'ya, mate!

Second round's winner. Guess who? Peter Horton (169 this time), Geoff Geard on second place (134), and sick Tibi as a third (126). He had the flu, and didn't look the best.

After the games we gathered in the meeting room for some pizza and plonk. I had made three different pizzas that day, which was appreciated by most participants. Tibi thought it should have been thinner. The plonk was in fact a quite acceptable red cask wine. Even Warren complimented on that!

My many thanks to Peter H, Tibi, Geoff??Stephanie, Warren & Wendy, Michel, Geoff C and Pat for coming along, which makes it worth organising.

Suzi

SOCIAL CALENDAR for July/Aug/Sept./Oct.

Saturday 25 July



Join us for the annual screening of all divers' "cult" movie:

THE BIG BLUE



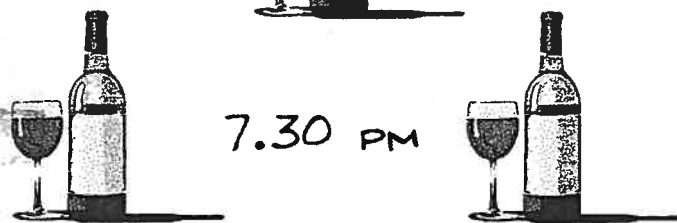
ADDRESS: 5 Ralston Road, Kardinya
TIME: 19.00. Movie starts 19.30

Tonight's theme is BLUE, so The Management would appreciate if you DRESS IN BLUE!! Thank You!



WINE TASTING

Friday 21 AUG.



7.30 PM

SATURDAY 19 September

EATING OUT



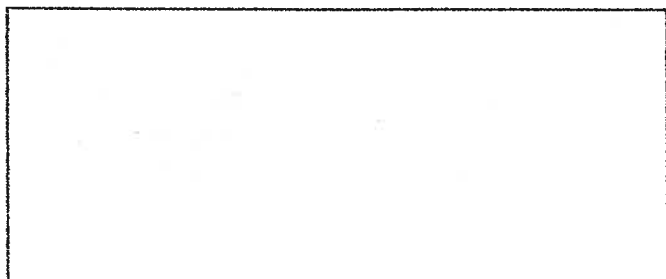
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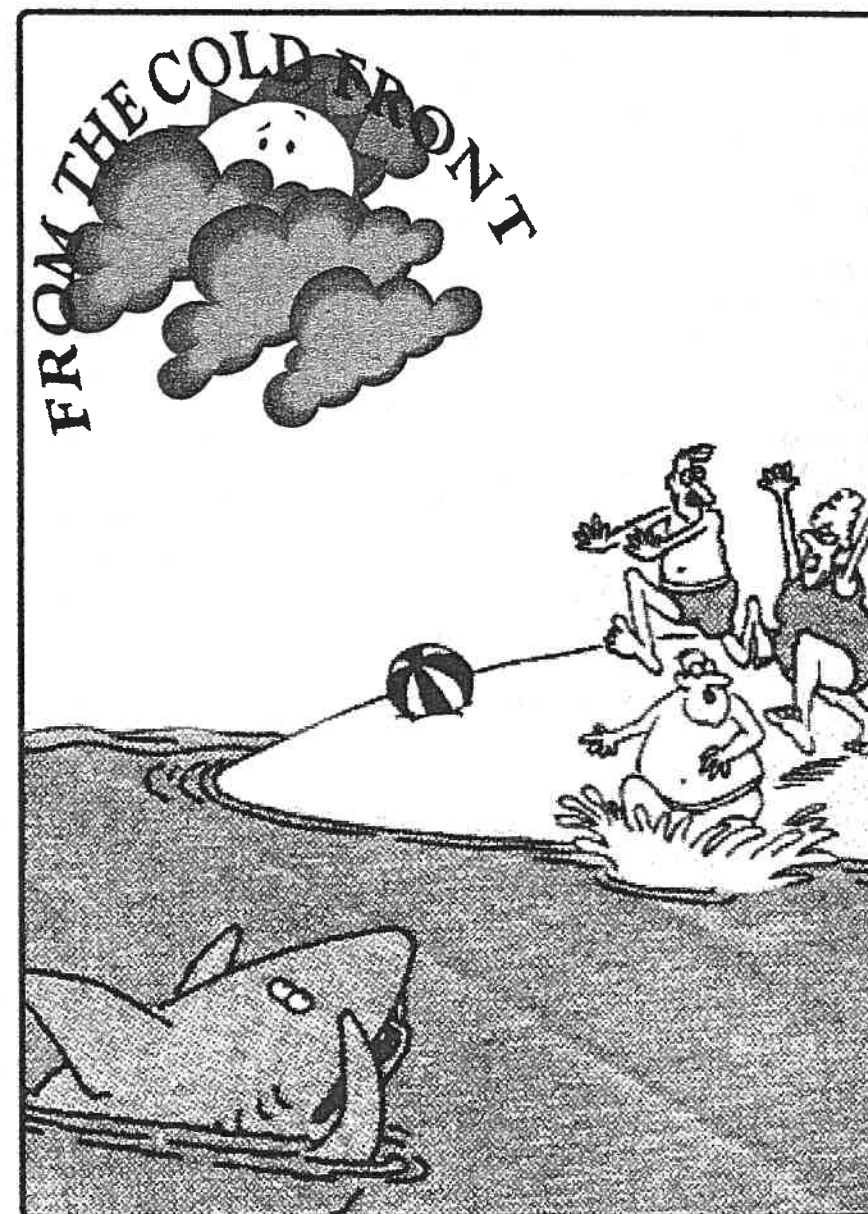
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE
UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB
UEC NEWS

JULY 1998

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Hey! A Dolphin! A Dolphin!

THE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	9457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	9445 2336
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BUILDING OFFICER	Carmine Travaglione	9356 1311
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Roger Smith	9275 8620
SOCIAL OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	9331 2385

CLUB CALENDAR

JULY '98

Sat 18 AVON: Training: 'Emu Falls' (8am - 3pm)
 Sun 19 AVON: Scrutineering: 'Hinds Park' (8am - 2pm)
 Mon 20 GENERAL MEETING - SYC : 8pm
 Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm
 Sat 25 SOCIAL : 'ALL BLUE'
 Sun 26 AVON: Valley Run 'Northam Weir' (10am - 4pm)

AUGUST '98

(BOAT OUT FOR ANNUAL SLIPPING?)
 Sat 1 ** AVON DESCENT - WEEKEND **
 Sun 2 ** AVON DESCENT - WEEKEND **
 Wed 5 COMMITTEE MEETING - SYC : 8pm
 (Boat slipping date to be arranged.)
 Sun 16 Apres Avon Descent Sausage Sizzle
 Mon 17 GENERAL MEETING - SYC : 8pm
 Dinner ("Must" be pre-booked) : 6.30pm
 Fri 21 SOCIAL: WINE TASTING

SEPTEMBER '98 (28th Mon = P/H : Queens B' day)

Wed 2 COMMITTEE MEETING - SYC : 8pm
 Sun 6 Whale Watching? - Two Tank
 (Richard Naylor / Geoff Geard)
 Sat 12 Deep Dive - One Tank
 (Kerry Ashton / Susie Ashton)
 Sun 13 D/O's Choice - Two Tank
 (Peter Horton / Luc Fauvet)
 Mon 14 GENERAL MEETING - ??? : 8pm
 Sat 19 SOCIAL : 'EATING OUT'
 Sun 20 Popular Choice - Two Tank
 (Geoff Charlton / Jim Robson)

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made to Geoff Geard.
 Tel 9453 1723 ***** DEPARTS EAST ST JETTY

Check Your Departure Time
 All Dives Subject to Weather

Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with Geoff Geard
 NOT THE CREW

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WINTER SPECIALS

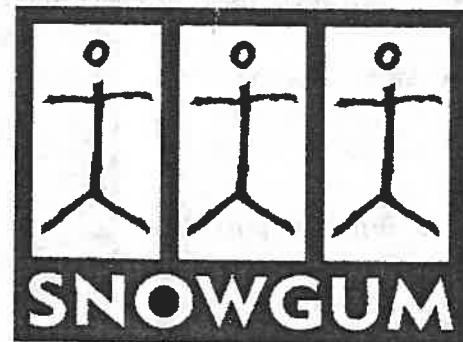
We presently have in stock a number of used and ex hire scuba units at very special prices

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Your adventure begins at SNOWGUM

Building Report / P.R. Report

JULY 1998

Well, here we are again, one month further on and lots of things have happened. Such exciting things as doing a senior first aid course, training for the Avon Decent rescue team, listening with disbelief at the success of Pauline Hanson and the One Nation Party and with equal disbelief at the response of our Prime Minister. Even the fall of the Suharto regime in Indonesia. Wow what an exciting time to be living in. The best is yet to come! I'll bet you'll never guess what momentous event causes all of the above to pale into insignificance.

I knew you wouldn't. Brace yourselves because I'm about to tell you. ---

Gordon wrote back to me!!

Yes it's true. We're now officially pen pals. I'm a bit worried about Gordon though. I reckon he must be a good mate of our transport minister Eric Charlton, because he still wants to hotmix the whole parking area. Just like Eric wants to build bitumen roads everywhere. You know, through hospitals, schools and old people's homes. Hang on, I'm wrong. He just wants to sell the land those services are on so he can afford to build the roads. Good thing too. Why the hell do we need hospitals, schools and old people's homes, when we can rip up a perfectly good bitumen road and replace it with some more bitumen.

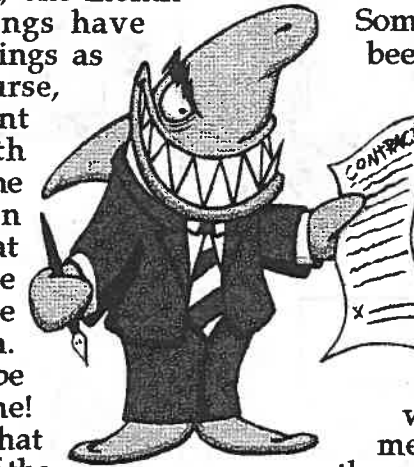
Back to Gordon. I wrote him a letter to point out that if we look after the bitumen paved area it should last at least 15 more yrs. In his letter he states that "any external painting is our responsibility, that the verges are raked twice a year, and that any form of beautification is not supported by the other owners, as they use the verges for parking their cars on". You can see why he wants to bituminise the existing parking area if parking on the verges is more important than upgrading of the externa of the units.

Let us move forward rather than dwell on Gordon's druthers. Since I was down there, I decided to look at what we should do to upgrade our unit to maintain our status quo. The following stood out:-

- 1) The wire on our back gate is badly rusted and should be replaced.
- 2) The eaves board at the front and the back should be repainted.

3) The barge mould though never previously painted is looking a little tacky and should be painted.

4) The down pipe, also has never been previously painted but should be done at the same time.



Some of the adjoining units have been totally painted externally and look very nice but I would only recommend this if our tenant insisted this should be done.

Basically I want to say that a lot of money could be expended on our unit and it would look nice, but would not give us nor our tenant much more. Because we are trying to make ends meet I suggest we only grease the squeaky wheel.

Re: PR I am still working on the article to present to the local rag.

Carmine

Safety Report

July 98.

Recent incidents in Queensland have highlighted the dangers involved when safe diving procedures are overlooked. It has been established that a number of diving organisations have been turning a blind eye to the requirements of ensuring that all divers are fit to dive and that medical examinations are current.

The current trend indicates the increasing tendency of divers to ignore their own fitness and rely on expensive diving equipment to ensure that they will be able to deal with any emergency. Unfortunately it can be a frightening experience to find that your gear may actually not be able to assist you when your suffering from exhaustion, or a heart attack, whilst you are diving.

Medical examinations by certified diving doctors on a regular basis are not expensive when compared with the costs of regular servicing of your equipment. Remember the older you are the more frequent you may need to be checked out. For your own peace of mind and your buddies confidence in you make sure your body is as fit for diving as your equipment is.

Safe diving

Steve.

Tales from "Mi Querida"

Judy Cowan & Leigh Von Burtouch
Philippines Diving

Our first dive in this beautiful country was on a drop-off next to a tiny island in the Quatro Group, north east of Cebu Island. We found several tiny islands there with areas buoyed and sign-posted "Marine Sanctuary - NO ENTRY: Of course these area appeared to be in the best diving spots, but we weren't about to be arrested for trespassing, so we anchored 100 meters away, dropping our anchor into about 3 meters of water, with the yacht hanging back over a depth of 50 meters plus. I was quite excited; this was to be my first dive in about 3 months. As I entered the water, the purge mechanism on my AIR2 octopus let go, and I lost about 60 bar of my air by the time I sorted that out. Damn! Then, as I descended, my sinuses kept screaming that they didn't want to dive today, so I proceeded ever so slowly, so they weren't really aware of what I was doing.

The water was a warm 29deg and so oh clear. I hit the bottom (at 6 meters) after about 5 mins and headed into a slight current, while making my way slowly deeper. There were several pipefish, cute little fellers that stayed until my hand was only centimeters away. I saw my first crown of thorns starfish and numerous different corals. They were nice and quite colorful, but the general condition of the reef was not as good as it might be. Several fat starfish like footballs gave us some amusement. After about 25 mins I had traveled far and reached a depth of about 25 meters, and figured that was deep enough for this dive. I was thinking about how I'd have to sneak back to the surface without alerting my sinuses. I could see the drop-off falling away below me, and multitudes of fish were down deep. Leigh was having the occasional problem with his hookah hose catching on the coral, which made me appreciate the freedom of my scuba gear. The Current was stronger at 20 meters, so we did a "drift ascent" back to "Mi Querida". We explored the shallow reef for a while using my air to 50 ATM, then clambered back on board. The verdict: A very nice dive, with some unusual fish, a variety of pretty corals and clean warm water. Now I'm back into it I can't wait for my next dive.



Dive 2 Boracay Island - Lobster Rock.

We took Emma, a PADI instructor, and Mauricio, a gorgeous macho Mexican with sexy eyes, a great body and beautiful accent, out for a dive on Lobster Rock. Emma had never heard of hookah diving and wanted to try it. Mauricio came with us because he just loves diving and sailing. (I really wanted to believe it was because he fancied me). The dive site is so named because there are supposed to be lobsters there. In our six days there I didn't actually meet anyone who had actually seen one there, but I digress. This was a 17-meter dive, on a lump rising to 8 meters. Many Lionfish, several different nudibranchs, sponges, corals, warm water, but poor vis, around 20 feet. But I scored a free air fill, so I was happy. Verdict: Enjoyable experience (Watching Mauricio), but I wouldn't rate as a dive site compared with the rest. We were told after, that it is not one of the good Boracay dives, just that it is easy to locate. And it was the only one Emma could locate!

Dive 3. Apo Reef - west of Mindoro Island.

In a word - Spectacular! Crystal clean water, very warm - around 30 degrees. I was very hot in my 3mm wetsuit. Strong current was a bit un-nerving. Top of the reef was in about 10 meters, with a fantastic wall of beautiful corals. All colours, shapes and varieties. Made me think of the Botanic Gardens in springtime! Sadly, not many fish due to the intensive fishing industry. I followed the wall down to 17 meters, and felt I could see forever into the depths beyond. This is truly a world class dive and gets a 5 star award from both of us.

IS SOMEONE TAKING THE PISS?

Urinator/urinater
(YEW-RIN-AH-TOR, yew-rin-ay-tor); clearly, a pair of words that offers scope to those of mischievous intent; *urinater* (Latin *urinator*, dive beneath the water), hence a diver; *urinater* (Latin *urina* urine), one who voids the accumulated contents of the bladder. "Hortense," you say to Mrs Humdingler, "I hear your husband Hiram is a famous urinator."

-Peter Jeans
Submitted by Tibi

EDITORIAL

Here we are in the middle of winter, which is supposed to be a really quiet time in the dive scene, and yet so much is happening. A few of our club members are dashing off overseas for exciting dive hols. **Pat Troy** tells me he is just popping over to Malaysia for a week, on his return he has another trip to the Barrier Reef planned along with **Luc Fauvet**. **Sandy Webb** has left for yet another exotic, remote location. **Ian Lawrence** has recently returned from Townsville where he has been diving with the Museum of Tropical Queensland on the Pandora and has returned with an interesting story to tell. To top it all off we get a five-page report from **Judy Cowan** telling us how great the diving is in the Philippines.

For those that don't know, Judy is a member of UEC who has taken leave to cruise the world in a yacht. Judy is best remembered for her friendly manner, constant smile and big breasts. I'm sure we all wish her and all the other overseas travelers well.

LIKE **** WE DO!

I've spent the day at bells rapids with my testicles immersed in freezing water and I've still to scrape off all that bloody red mud of my boots and wetsuit. I really don't wish to know how the rich half lives or where they are spending the winter. Either take me with you or please keep it to yourself, at least until the summer returns.

Other exciting news in the club over the past month is that 22 mostly club members passed their **Senior First Aid Certificate** with the **RLSSA**. Congratulations to them all. Below is some of the new medical jargon that may be heard at the next club meeting.

Rog

Artery	The study of painting
Bacteria	Back door to a cafeteria
Bowel	Letter like a, e, i, o, u
Cat scan	Searching for kitty
Cauterise	Made eye contact with her
Colic	A sheep dog
D&C	Where Washington is
Dilate	To live long
Enema	Not a friend
Nitrate	Higher than the day rate
Prostate	Flat on your back
Seizure	Roman Emperor
Varicose	Near by
Vein	Conceited

Submitted by Tibi

DO'S REPORT

It's July, mid winter, with nothing much to do. Apart from Avon Descent training and the Avon Descent next month, we also have anti-fouling along with minor and major works to the boat. I don't know what else is planned, to alleviate the boredom of no diving on week-ends.

As for last month?

Although the sun has been out on most week-ends, we were unable to get the boat out for diving due to unsavoury water conditions. We did however, take the boat down to the Bullcreek mooring. Yes!, I found the right side of the river this time, and I enjoyed the river cruise from Fremantle to Bullcreek.

Let's Go Rescuing!!
I'LL SEE YOU ON THE AVON

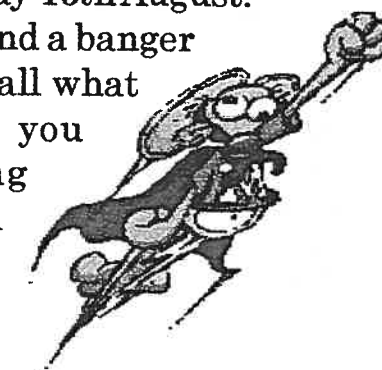


Geoff Geard
"P R A W N
KING"

Apres Avon Descent Thank You

The UEC invites all participants of The Avon Descent Rescue Team to a sausage sizzle at the Swan Yacht Club on Sunday 16th August.

Have a beer and a banger on us and recall what a great time you had being brave and heroic on the Avon Descent weekend





The Pandora left England in November 1790, sailed around Cape Horn and arrived at Matavai Bay, Tahiti in March 1791.

The Pandora first encountered mutineers at Matavai Bay in Tahiti in March 1791. Four of them came aboard voluntarily within hours of the warship's arrival. However, the rest weren't so easy to apprehend.

Several mutineers, whom Captain Edwards referred to as "pirates", initially managed to elude capture by sailing off in a schooner they had built on the island. Edwards was told that they had little water with them,

Since 1983, the Queensland Museum has been excavating the wreck of the Pandora - widely regarded as one of the most significant shipwrecks in the Southern Hemisphere.

The mutiny on the Bounty is one of the best known stories in the history of seafaring. However, few people are aware of the considerable efforts of the British Admiralty to bring these mutineers to justice.

This is the story of HMS Pandora's last voyage. A reliable workhorse of the fleet, the Pandora was the 24 gun frigate sent in search

Surgeon Hamilton:
The prisoners' wives visited the ship daily and brought their children to their unhappy fathers. To see the poor captives in irons, weeping over their tender offspring, was too moving a scene for any feeling heart.

and would probably soon return to the island. By 9 April, 14 "pirates" had been captured and brought onboard. A prison cell, known as "Pandora's Box", was built to hold the prisoners on the quarterdeck. Conditions inside the cell were cramped and miserable. Some of the prisoners protested that Tahitians had prevented them from giving themselves up.

The rest of the mutineers, nine in all, including Fletcher Christian, had already left Tahiti for Pitcairn Island in the Bounty. Captain Edwards never found them. Nothing was heard of them until an American whale ship happened on Pitcairn Island in 1808.

With 14 of the mutineers captured and safely locked up in Pandora's Box, the Pandora then spent nearly four months searching the South Pacific for the leader of the mutiny, Fletcher Christian, and his followers. Their search took in the Cook, Union, Samoan

Mutineer Morrison:
This place, which we stiled "Pandora's Box", was only 11 feet in length and 18 feet wide at the bulkhead, in which were two small scuttles of 9 inches, and one on top of 18 or 20 inches square, secured by a bolt. When it was calm, the heat was so intense that the sweat frequently ran in streams to the scuppers, and soon produced maggots, and the hammocks given to us were full of vermin, from which we could find no method of extricating ourselves.

of the infamous Bounty mutineers in 1790. What is the full story of the Pandora? And how did the men who sailed her live while at sea?

HMS Pandora was the Royal Navy warship sent to the South Pacific to capture the 25 men who had "pirated" the Bounty and cast adrift her Captain, William Bligh. She was built in Deptford (England) in 1779 at the Grove Street Yard of Adams, Barnard & Dudman. The 24 gun Porcupine class frigate and the mission to capture the mutineers was entrusted to Captain Edward Edwards.

When on her South Pacific voyage, the Pandora was carrying a special armament of 20 six-pounder carriage guns and 4 eighteen-pounder carronades. She was heavily laden for her mission with additional crew (officers, midshipmen and able seamen), stores and fittings to man and refit the Bounty should she be found.

Mutineer Heywood:
We were all put in close confinement, with both legs and hands in irons, and were treated with great rigour, not being allowed ever to get out of this den. And, being obliged to eat, drink, sleep and obey the calls of nature here, you may form some idea of the disagreeable situation I was in.

and Society Islands. However, the search for the elusive Bounty and the other mutineers was unsuccessful.

On 29 August 1791, the Pandora was homeward bound-via the Torres Strait -when she struck a part of the Great Barrier Reef and sank. Thirty-one of the Pandora's crew and four of the mutineers drowned in the shipwreck.

The Pandora's "lucky" survivors made for a small sand cay about 4 km away in four small ship's boats. They called this tiny island "Escape Cay".

The survivors spent three days on Escape Cay, before setting out for the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) in the ship's boats. They arrived in Timor after an arduous 16 day, 2200 km open boat voyage. They subsequently made their way to Batavia (Jakarta), where they were able to arrange for a passage to Capetown and eventually back to England.

Mutineer Morrison comments on the sinking:
On the evening of the 29th August, the Pandora went on a reef and beat on it till between 11 and 12 when she got over, and was brought up in 15 fathoms. Captain Edwards ordered Coleman, McIntosh and Norman to be let out of the Box to go to the pumps. As soon as Captain Edwards was informed that we had broke our irons, he ordered us to be handcuffed and leg-ironed again, although we begged for mercy and desired leave to go to the pumps as well, but to no purpose.

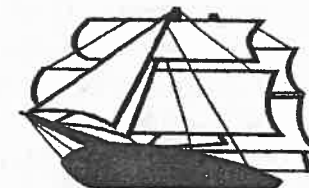
The ten surviving mutineers were transferred to a British warship and transported to England to stand trial. Six were found guilty and sentenced to the gallows. However, only three were actually hanged.

Captain Edwards and his officers were exonerated for the loss of their ship. After the trials of the mutineers and the inquiry into the loss of the ship, no efforts were made to salvage the Pandora.

It is assumed that the Pandora wreck remained undisturbed until its rediscovery by scuba divers, aided by an airborne magnetometer flown by an RAAF Orion, in November 1977.

Following an archaeological survey to positively identify the wreck and assess its potential, it was declared a protected historic site in April 1979 and is now being excavated by the Queensland Museum.

The Museum has led eight expeditions to the site between 1983 to 1998.



Thanks to the Queensland Museum website @ www.qmuseum.qld.gov.au/culture/pandorawelcome.html

Diving on THE HMS PANDORA

by Ian Lawrence

In February this year I was fortunate enough to travel to Townsville and join the Museum of Tropical Queensland's 1998 Pandora Expedition.

The Pandora was a 24-gun Royal navy frigate, which sunk after hitting a submerged bombie on the Great Barrier Reef while trying to find a new passage through.

The remains of the ship now rest in approximately 33m of water. Several items remain proud of the sea floor; noticeably the ships stove, cannon and anchor.

This expedition used two dive teams working independently areas in the stern and bow sections. Both teams were using surface supplied diving systems similar to commercial diving practices.

Most of the artifacts recovered will be exhibited in the new Museum of Townsville due to open at the turn of the century. Items recovered varied from tiny inteligo wax seals to a large concretion covered six-pound cannon. Also some amazingly fragile items such as wineglasses, bone syringes and crockery remain intact after 207 years submerged in this wooden time capsule.

Mutineer Heywood
HMS Pandora went down on the 29th August, and the appearance we who survived made on the small sandy key within the reef, about ninety yards long and one hundred athwart, in all ninety-nine souls. Here we remained three days, subsisting on a single wineglass of wine or water, and two ounces of bread daily, with no shelter. Captain Edwards had tents erected for himself and his people, and we prisoners petitioned him for an old sail which was lying useless, but he refused it, and all the shelter we had was to bury ourselves up to the neck in the burning sand, which scorched the skin, we being quite naked, entirely off our bodies, as if dipped in large tubs of boiling water.

Excavation take an very methodical approach consisting of a three dimensional grid system used to place each artifact accurately once uncovered. Dredges are used to remove sediments and are controlled by the dive team to ensure artifacts remain in-situ to be co-ordinated and recovered successfully.

On the surface the artifacts are registered, photographed and conservation methods are commenced. The item is then carefully packaged and stored for the return trip.

Divers have one dive per day on SSBA (Surface Support Breathing Apparatus) with a bottom time of 45 min and a decompression stop at 9 meters on O2 for 27 minutes. This stop gives the diver ample time to reflect on the excitement of recovering a segment of maritime history and the tragedy that unfolded at this site in August 1791.

Ian

SOCIAL CALENDAR for Aug/Sept./Oct./Nov.



Fine wine tasting at the Sheraton. Only \$20 for more than 200 wines from world class wineries. (Must be booked and paid at the August general meeting)

Wednesday
26 August

4.00 pm to 9.00 pm



SATURDAY 26 September

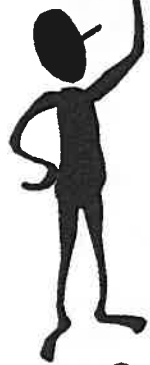
EATING OUT

Guess what! I need your booking by Sept. 12 (and deposit at the general meeting), so I can secure a booking.



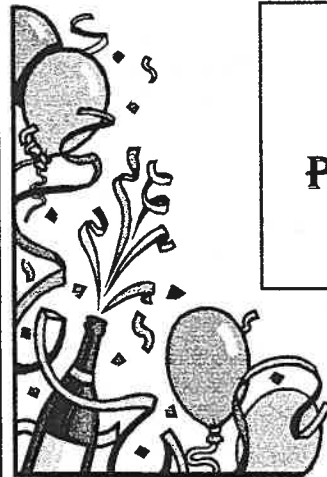
Probably a GREEK restaurant!

Saturday 24 October



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SUNDAY 8 of NOVEMBER



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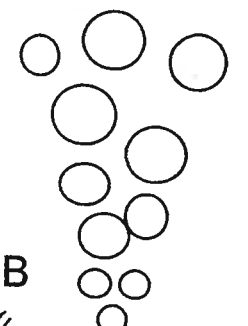
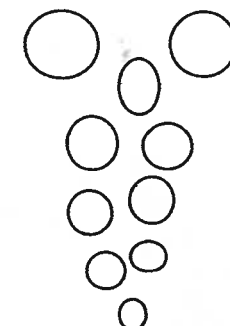
UEC NEWS

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Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Crescent
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE
UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB

UEC NEWS

AUGUST 1998

Divers urged to take lead in marine conservation.

You've got far more expertise than you might think...

A FORUM earlier this year involving some of the world's leading figures in the dive industry has called on recreational divers to take a greater lead in promoting marine conservation issues.

The forum, organised by American dive magazine Rodale's Scuba Diving, heard that more and more divers are becoming increasingly conscious of the need to protect the marine environment.

The emphasis on environmentally friendly diving practices is growing but more can be done by the growing legions of divers.

Divers are uniquely placed to make a significant contribution to marine conservation, as they can see first hand what affect activities, both on land and in the sea, have on the environment.

While conservation efforts and debates have tended to be dominated by "experts", regular divers are being urged to realise they have specialised knowledge and experience which is just as valuable.

Someone who dives a stretch of reef every week or every few weeks throughout the year ultimately develops an understanding of the dynamics of that reef, even if they don't know all the scientific names of every fish, sponge or coral they see.

As such, divers are being urged to take an active part in debates on marine conservation issues by sharing their insights and experiences with decision makers and the wider community.

As Jean-Michel Cousteau commented "Divers see things that others only dream of. Whether it is through photographs, videos, talking, writing or encouraging others to take to the water, they have the ability to make a real difference".

"As divers, we see wondrous things, harbour intriguing secrets and experience a deep lifelong fulfilment that most landlubbers would never begin to understand. Let our tribute to the reefs be to preserve them," author Annemarie Kohler said.

"Divers see things that others only dream of."

THE COMMITTEE

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SOCIAL OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	9331 2385

CLUB CALENDAR

AUGUST 98

Sun 16	Sausage sizzle - SYC : Mid-day
Mon 17	GENERAL MEETING - WSC : 8pm
Wed 26	SOCIAL: WINE TASTING

SEPTEMBER '98 (28th Mon = P/H : Queens B'day)

Sun 6	Whale Watching? - Two Tank (Richard Naylor / Geoff Geard)
Mon 7	COMMITTEE MEETING
Sat 12	Deep Dive - One Tank : 9am - (Lunch at Cicerello's) (Kerry Ashton / Susie Ashton)
Sun 13	D/O's Choice - Two Tank (Peter Horton / Luc Fauvet)
Sun 20	Popular Choice - Two Tank (Geoff Charlton / Jim Robson)
Mon 21	GENERAL MEETING - WSC : 8pm
Sat 26	Social 'EATING OUT'
Sat 26	Rusty Divers Day - One Tank : 9am (Bob McLaughlin / Steve Larter)
Sun 27	Wreck Dive - Two Tank (Dennis Stubberfield / Brian Murray)
Mon 28	Open

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made to Geoff Geard .
Tel 9453 1723

***** DEPARTS EAST ST JETTY *****
Check Your Departure Time
All Dives Subject to Weather
Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with Geoff Geard
NOT THE CREW

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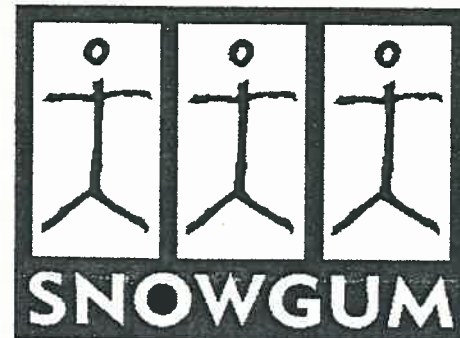
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WINTER SPECIALS

We presently have in stock a number of used and ex hire scuba units at very special prices

Whilst in the Shop take advantage of our fantastic winter specials and collect a 10% club discount.

This newsletter brought to you by



WINTER CLEARANCE SALE

BEGINS END OF MONTH

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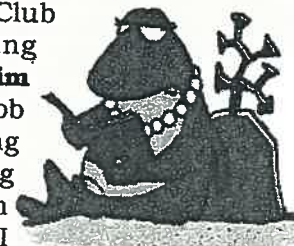
Your adventure begins at SNOWGUM

Presidents Report

Since you last heard from me, unfortunately not in last month's magazine, there have been some significant developments in the UEC. Firstly, our association with the SYC has come to an end. It was decided at the July Committee meeting that our needs as a Club were not being met at SYC, so we are moving on to hopefully greener pastures. The Underwater Explorer is still being slipped there this year and I know that Harry will be looking for many able bodies to undertake our annual maintenance programme. Please make yourself available to help out as much as possible as I know that we have quite a large amount of work to get through. As far as penning our boat is concerned we are hoping that within a few months we will have a pen at Challenger Harbour. This location is considered the best option we have and is certainly far more convenient than the current situation. I hope that our negotiations will bear fruit soon.

The next problem of where to have our meetings has also been addressed and for this current meeting at least we will gather at the **Willetton Sports Club**. The club is located on **Burrendah Boulevard, Willetton opposite the Southlands Shopping Centre (near the tennis courts)** and offers us a very good meeting place at minimum cost and with attraction of bar facilities as well. Come along to this months meeting and see what you think. If it is considered acceptable by the members present we will make the club our permanent meeting place. Carmine is a member at the club and he has negotiated a very attractive deal with the management on our behalf. I hope that the majority of members agree with our choice as we think it more convenient for the greatest majority of members. Anyway, come along and make your decision at this coming meeting.

As most of you are aware, the Avon Descent has finished for another year, and we as a Club acquitted ourselves admirably. We did a great job looking after the safety of competitors, at times with great difficulty, and we can be justifiably proud of our efforts. Putting together a rescue team the size of ours is no easy task and it was especially pleasing to note that an increasing number of Club members are becoming involved in the event. **Jim Robson** did a fantastic job organising the training sessions and assisting with the logistics of such a big task and of course I



am eternally grateful to **Dennis** for the wizardry he performs with the computer by organising all the mountains of data that we inevitably collect. The team leaders this year were **Barry, Kerry, Dennis and Nick** from our Club, also **Genie and Steve** from the SES. Many thanks to all these people for their invaluable help and support. Along the way I am sure that more than just a few people enjoyed themselves. Just ask Chopper 1 and Chopper 2 AKA **Leslie and Maureen** and the other club members who were lucky enough to score a joyride in the rescue helicopter.

Lastly, on the environmental front, the UEC has become a member of **ComNet** which is a network of community and conservation groups that are fighting to keep Cockburn Sound clean and accessible to the public. **Barbara Parker**, a Life Member for many years, is our representative at ComNet meetings and I am sure that she will keep us up to date with events as they unfold down in that neck of the woods.

DO'S REPORT

The Avon Descent is over for another year. A quiet one for all those concerned. The boat has been on the hard since the 11th, but we still have heaps of work to do on her. So don't forget, "many hands make light work", and come on down.

The diving season is starting up again next month with a fairly full calendar. Am I jumping the gun with Whale Watching at the beginning of the month??? We'll have to see, but for the next 2-3 months there will be heaps of opportunities to see them, (provided you are out on the boat). There is a Lazy Deep Dive Sat 12th, leaving at 9am with lunch at Cicerello's afterwards. We have a Rusty Divers Day Sat 26th leaving at 9am as well. It's late in the month for all you rusty divers that don't like the cold, cold water.

One last thing before I go. How's the dive gear??? Now, while you're not in the water, is a good time to have it checked and serviced.

Well, that's it from me for this month.

Let's Go Diving!!

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT

Geoff Geard

"PRAWN KING"



Wer'e Getting Involved

The UEC has now become a member of **COMNET, Community Network Group**. This is an informal group of associations and individuals, concerned about the future of Cockburn Sound, and contingent land based issues.

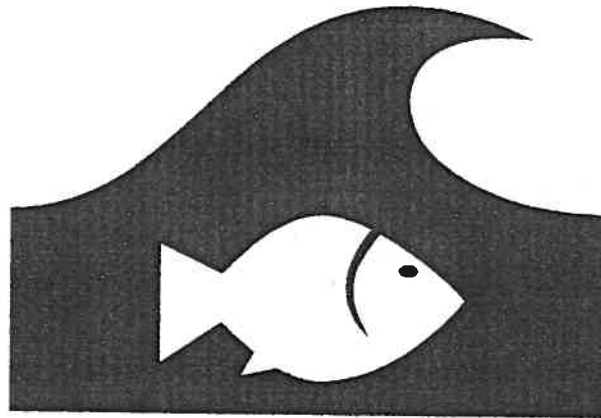
What is proposed for the Sound in the future will apparently place wrecks (many of which the UEC has been instrumental in finding) within an exclusion zone.

Other Issues that concern the Comnet group (and I'm sure all of us) is the pollution of the Sound with toxic chemicals, harm to marine life and the exclusion of public access to all the beaches from Fremantle to south of Kwinana.

Cockburn Sound supports 73 licensed fisheries. It brings in \$2 million per annum, which benefits local communities. Is labor intensive, non-polluting and harvests a self-renewing resource. With shore based processing it employs many. This industry will dwindle from less access and more pollution. Shareholders living elsewhere in pristine environments will benefit from the project

Our representative at Comnet will be **Barbara Parker**, a UEC life member and eager conservationist.

Go get em **Barbara**.



DIVERS DIVERS DIVERS

Volunteer divers are needed by **The Australian Marine Conservation Society** for surveys of Cockburn Sound

A systematic survey of Cockburn Sound is about to get underway. We are looking for Green Mussels (*Perna sp.*) and other introduced marine species.

The dives will be conducted on a weekend and divers will need to attend an evening briefing prior to the dives

Register your interest by calling the office on **9220 0679**

.....

It's that time again

The boat is on the slips and our club needs your help



Some of the fascinating tasks that need completing include: renewing the anti-fouling, some minor mechanical adjustments, fixing little thingies and generally making our club boat even better for the forthcoming dive season.

Your help would be greatly appreciated.

So if you can spare a little of your time between 11th and 30th August give Dennis a call on 94573333

Building Report / P.R. Report

You will remember last month that I reported on a few items of maintenance that will need to be done to our unit as soon as the winter is over. At that stage I will be looking for a few willing hands. However we have a couple of months before this will be required, so we may leave the building activities until it warms up a bit.

The Public relations side of it seems to be going along quite well. Since the last meeting I have written a couple of articles, including one rather long one which I hoped would get published in either the West Australian or the Sunday times, or both. To that

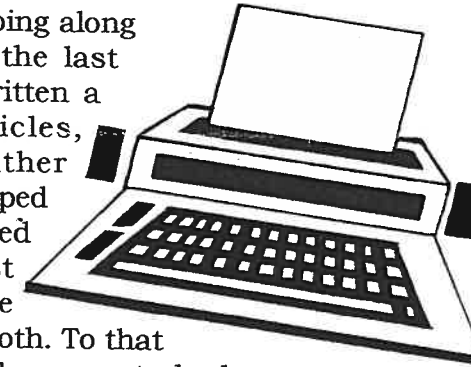
end I faxed through a copy to both papers and a few days later I had a call from a John Townsend from the West who said he wanted a few more details and some pictures of us rescuing somebody. At first I thought of our beleaguered Prime Minister as a rescue candidate, as he seems to be in deep water at the moment, but then I put John in touch with our ambassador, Sir Dennis Stubberfield, who arranged for some of our club members and the West Australian reporter and his photographer to go up to Bells Rapids on Sunday the 26th July for a shoot.

Dennis seemed to think that the exercise went quite well and I stood by with bated breath expecting a rather long article with pictures of our brave volunteers pulling some one out of the frozen froth. Up to the day before the Avon Decent we had only a very disappointing and rather badly written article that required a magnifying glass to be seen, on the 29th July p38 of Wednesday's West. I didn't think that would be the end of it as they seemed to be putting in a small article every day leading up to the event.

It's now after the Avon Decent and I am still waiting for the long article on us (the UEC). I think I will have to resign myself to that tiny article I mentioned earlier as nothing else seems forthcoming. I will continue to

write articles in the hope that they will print them but I think if we wait for the newspaper media we will first have to blow up "The Swan" down at Busselton before we get any good copy. I have also written a couple of articles for the community newspaper group and I was told that this time they would send a copy to all the various community newspapers. Keep your eyes open and your fingers crossed!

I have had a few discussions with a couple of the other members re. establishing a web page for the UEC and generally they all seem to think its a good idea. I will enquire further and report to you at the next general meeting on the 17th August.



Where??

**At the Willetton Sports Club.
Burrendah Boulevard
Willetton.**

Please all come along as not only do we want to ask your opinion on the venue but I have also arranged for :-

Senator Dee Margetts

To come along and give us an interesting talk on green issues that affect us as divers.

Please be on time

I've got plenty more to say but Roger will only belt me up and tell me to keep it short.

Carmine

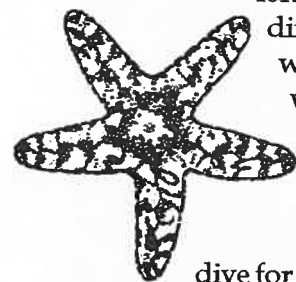
Too right I will!
'Rog'



Tales from "Mi Querida"

Judy Cowan & Leigh Von Burtouch
Philippines Diving

Dive 4/. "Olympia Maru" In September 1944, American Forces bombed and sank 24 Japanese vessels around Basuanga and Caron Islands. We chose the Olympia Maru for its location, accessibility and depth. In this wreckdivers paradise some of the wrecks are very deep (we don't prefer deep dives) others are quite shallow and subject to surge and waves etc. Anchoring away from the wreck site, we employed a dinghy our dive. Loaded with the hookah compressor, hoses my scuba gear and me, Leigh rowed over to the dive site, which is buoyed. In no time we were heading downward once more. Hit the bottom at 27 meters, where we found an abandoned weight belt. I pondered for a brief moment on several possibilities for it being there, and swam on. This freighter is 450 feet long, and we wanted to see as much of it as time permitted. Plenty of black coral, sponges, hydroids, fish and feather stars made this a terrific dive. Many lionfish loitered in the dark crannies. Large fish chasing little fish; Leigh teasing an agro clownfish in an anemone; me having hysterics watching the clownfish attacking Leigh. I have such great memories from this dive, which will last me a long time. Peering into some of the dim dark recesses, I found myself wondering about the crew who were on board at the time of the sinking. Did anyone survive? Did they have any warning of what was about to happen?



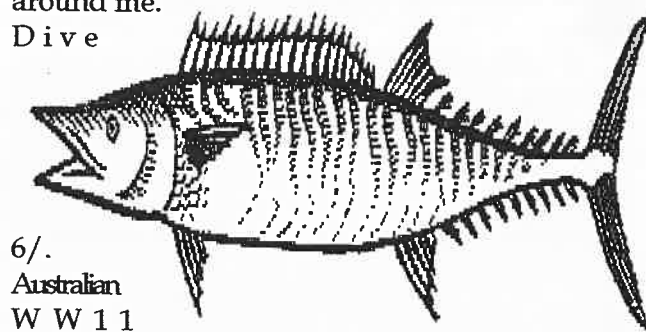
This is a five star "must do" dive for anyone interested in wrecks. All too soon, my computer was suggesting a lunch break, so we slowly made our ascent, watching for the last glimpses of the sleeping wreck disappear gradually beneath us.

Dive 5/. Miniloc Island, North Palawan. Once again we dived out of the dinghy, between a rock and a tiny Island of the western side of Miniloc Island which is home to the beautiful "El Nido" resort.

Anchoring the dinghy in 5 meters we dived together, both using the hookah. I thought I'd save my tank for something bigger, better, deeper, whatever. Hookah isn't my first choice for diving,

one reason that I need to carry an extra 3lbs in weight to compensate for the buoyancy of the hose. But down we went. What a lot of fish! Apart from our dive on the "Olympia Maru" this was the largest population of fish we'd seen. We meandered down and through a gully, where it became quite dark due to the overhanging rocks. Through and beyond it brightened again, where Leigh encountered his first Spanish Dancer. It was so pretty and a real buzz for Leigh. The biggest surprise I found on the dive was the variation in water temperature. In one spot I thought I was being cooked as my thermometer showed 34degrees, and shortly after I was shivering in 26 degrees. It all took some comprehending, but was in an area of a convergence of currents, so strange things were to be expected, I guess. Leigh used his handspear on this dive so we could enjoy some variation from our diet of chicken. He managed to score a couple of nice fish. I spent most of the time studying the huge selection of tiny coral dwelling fish of all shapes and colours, darting in and out of the crevices as we passed by. It was a very pretty dive and we enjoyed it for a very long time. So pretty that after ditching my reg and weights at the dinghy, I snorkeled back to the yacht not wanting to miss a single bit of sponge or coral or any of the fish that milled around me.

Dive

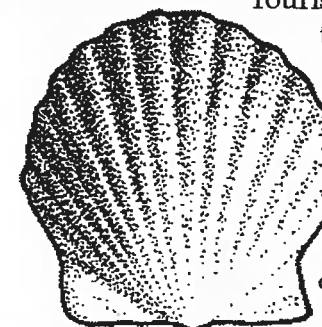


6/.
Australian
W W 1 1

wreck. Not actually the Philippines, but our only dive since. Halfway between Labuan & Brunei (check your atlas at the NW coast of Borneo) lies a large a about which we could find very little. For my birthday Leigh thought a nice dive would be an appropriate celebration. After much circling around the area where the wreck is shown on the chart, we thought we had found it, but weren't 100% sure. We have only a digital depth gauge

gauge not a colour sounder. Believing we were over it we anchored in about 30 meters. After a lunch break and the getting ready of our gear, the breeze changed, swinging the yacht of the wrecksite. We calculated we needed to swim about 20 meters at a heading of 280 degrees after we descended the anchor chain. Hit the bottom at 35.4 meters. Oh shit! I thought, I hate deep dives. Leigh and I signaled OK to each other and set off through the gloom. Those who have been prawn diving with me will know of my navigational skills, and understand my trepidation of being at 34 meters and trying to locate a mid ocean wreck. But! We swam all of 20 meters before the first pieces of wreckage appeared in front of us! Yippee! Jackpot! Bingo! We didn't have a lot of time as most of the wreck was at 27 meters or more and Leigh reached the end of his hose before we reached the end of the wreck. But computers are wonderful for multilevel diving and in spite of the depth and the murky vis; we enjoyed a pleasant 20-min dive. I found a snorkel too, so it was also rewarding. There were many large fish making there home in the wreckage, along with sponges, nudibranchs and various sea stars. The dive was thoroughly enjoyable though I did not appreciate the depth.

Tourist brochures mentioning this dive claim it to be only 24 meters.



Diving in the Philippines is well worth the effort and expense to get there. I have enclosed a business card of Mark Bush, an American guy who owns "Dive Right" at Coron, as well as a dive shop on Boracay Island. If you have access to the Internet, he tells us that all your questions can be answered at WWW.mozcom.com/~diving. His sidekick at Coron is a friendly cheerful Aussie who made us most welcome. Do take the time to check it out, and mention us of course.

Although we've done very few dives, we have spent many hours snorkeling on the coral reefs throughout the Philippines. It is really a divers paradise, and although dynamite fishing has been outlawed (though not really stopped) some of the damaged areas are beginning to rejuvenate.

My next dive report some time in the future - probably Maldives

Judy

SMILE

Did you hear about the dyslexic philosopher who spent his time wondering if there really was a DOG? Or the dyslexic Satanist who spent his time worshipping SANTA

5 Bad Underwater Jokes:

1. I'm sorry - I thought I turned your air ON.
2. In an out of air situation, hand your buddy a real octopus.
3. Fill student tanks with helium for pool session.
4. Pee in your buddy's wetsuit.
5. Honest, pull my finger, I did jam it on my tank.....

Apres Avon Descent Sausage Sizzle

Sun 16th Aug
Swan Yacht Club
From Midday

ALL WELCOME

Lost
STAINLESS STEEL VACUUM
FLASK
LEFT BEHIND AT BELLS RAPID
GREAT SENTIMENTAL VALUE
(IT COST ME \$25)
ROGER 92758620

SOCIAL CALENDAR for Sept./Oct./Nov./Dec.

SATURDAY 26 September



(Also suitable for vegetarians)

Deposit \$10 by 21 September.

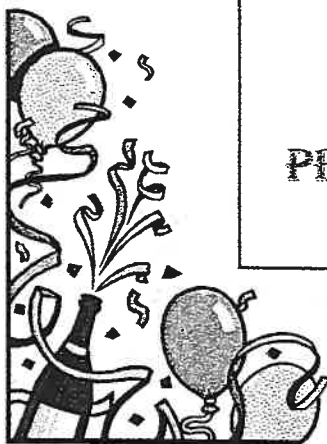
ADDRESS: 106 Oxford Street, Leederville
TIME: 19.00. Don't forget to **B.Y.O. drinks!**

Saturday 24 October
SPRING RIVER CRUISE



*with Flame Grilled Lunch
a la Kerry.*
TIME: 11am to 3pm

SUNDAY 8 of NOVEMBER



**U.E.C.
ANNUAL
PRESENTATION
PARTY**

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER



**Christmas
Dive**

...and BBQ



UEC NEWS

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc)
PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154
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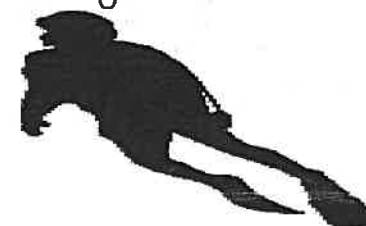
**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID**

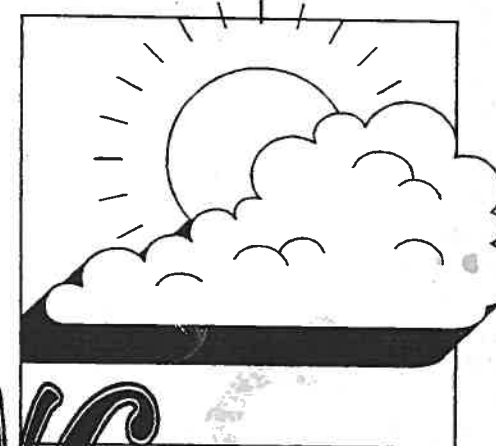
Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Crescent
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

UEC NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE
UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB



SEPTEMBER 1998



SPRING

I WOULDN'T MISS THIS FOR ANYTHING IN THE WORLD!!

What am I talking about? The annual launching of "U.E." of course!
Always so exciting. A real boost, and renewal of life for my diving veins.
Climbing up the iron ladder, while SHE is still on the slip, checking out all the
new little things that had been done to make HER better and better each year for
us mortal divers.

Later, a smooth, somewhat tilted glide down the slipping rails. SPLASH! We
are afloat again!

"YES!" Arms up in the air of pure happiness. It really feels like the diving
season has started. A tiny bit of champagne on the hull, and the rest in our
glasses to celebrate this glorious day.

We have now properly christened Peter's two new, shiny knobs, Geoff Geard's
tailor made dunny curtains, Adrian's plank extension, and a brand new Skipper's
chair (so Kerry doesn't have to stand on the toolbox anymore!).

Susie

THE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	9457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	9445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Geoff Geard	9453 1723
BOATING OFFICER	Harry Oldenhuis	9451 3972
SAFETY OFFICER	Steve Larter	9291 9654
TRAINING OFFICER	Ian Lawrence	9364 6331
BUILDING OFFICER	Carmine Travaglione	9356 1311
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Roger Smith	9275 8620
SOCIAL OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	9331 2385

CLUB CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER '98 (28th Mon = P/H : Queens B'day)

Sat 19 Rusty Divers Day - One Tank : 9am

(Bob McLaughlin / Steve Larter)

Sun 20 Popular Choice - Two Tank

(Geoff Charlton / Brian Murray)

Mon 21 **GENERAL MEETING -**

WILLETTON SPORTS CLUB : 8pm

(Burrendah Boulevard Willetton)

Sat 26 **SOCIAL : 'EATING OUT'**

Sun 27 Wreck Dive - Two Tank

(Dennis Stubberfield / Jim Robson)

Mon 28 Open

OCTOBER '98

Sat 3 Open - One Tank

Sun 4 Popular Choice - Two Tank

(Peter Horton / Luc Fauvet)

Mon 5 **COMMITTEE MEETING - WSC : 8pm**

Sat 10 Open - One Tank

Sun 11 D/O's Choice - Two Tank

(Dennis Stubberfield / Brian Murray)

Sat 17 Rusty Divers Day - One Tank

(Richard Naylor / Geoff Geard)

Sun 18 Exploratory Dive - Two Tank - 'Manta-Board Day'

(Kerry Ashton / Susie Ashton)

Mon 19 **GENERAL MEETING -**

WILLETTON SPORTS CLUB : 8pm

(Burrendah Boulevard Willetton)

Sat 24 Open - One Tank

(Bob McLaughlin / Steve Larter)

Sat 24 **SOCIAL : OPEN** *SPRING RIVER CRUISE*

Sun 25 Wreck Dive - Two Tank?

(Geoff Charlton / Jim Robson)

Sat 31 Open - One Tank

BOB / STEVE

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made to Geoff Geard.

Tel 9453 1723

***** **DEPARTS EAST ST JETTY** *****

Check Your Departure Time

All Dives Subject to Weather

Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with Geoff Geard

NOT THE CREW

SPONSORED BY



SUBIACO
513 Macomber Street
Ph: (08) 9381 2713
Fax: (08) 9381 1901

FREMANTLE
Fremantle
Ph: (08) 9336 1373
Fax: (08) 9336 1901

SPRING IS HERE

Now is the time to get all your gear serviced and up to date

Why not treat yourself to some new gear for the start of the diving season and collect a 10% club discount.

This newsletter brought to you by



**FOR THE BEST PRICES
ON ALL CANOEING,
CAMPING AND TRAVEL
EQUIPMENT**

581 Murray St West perth
Tel 93215259

Your adventure begins at SNOWGUM

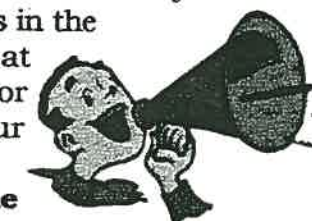
Building / PR Report

Building is still on holidays for the winter, even though it's spring so no building report this issue. P.R. is sort of still going on though I have to admit that I get the distinct impression that diving is not big on the agenda during the winter period. I say this because apart from that microscopic article printed by the West Australian I have had another two articles printed by the local rag; The Community Newspaper Group, both with a contact number at the end of the article, but I have not even received one call. I would not have even known that these articles had been published if it hadn't been for Maree and her spies. These results have caused me to reflect a little on the approach of how to better spread the word to attract a greater cross section of members.

Perhaps at this stage I should solicit a little feedback from you out there in membershipland because there's not much point in trying to 'sell our club' if the feeling could well be, that we don't want to get any bigger, nor do the bulk of the members want to necessarily share our club assets with a lot of others. The only problem I see with this attitude is that eventually we would all be going down to the boat in our walking frames and would probably have to have a loading derrick installed to get us all on the boat. I jest of course but I guess the point I am trying to get across is that unless we attract some new and younger members eventually the club could go from having been a veritable force in the development and growth of diving, in Australia, to a club that provides a facility to a few. I am not necessarily saying that this is a bad thing it's just that the future direction of the club needs to be a conscious decision, and is a decision to be made by all of us.

I have a few suggestions as to how we can probably get the new membership, but it's not going to be as easy as putting a few articles in the local rag or being at the mercy of the editor who usually spells our names incorrectly.

Carmine



COMING EVENT

Canoe trip

Fancy a day on a remote river
Picnic away from the crowds
A bit of peaceful paddling



Contact Kerry for details

CONSERVATION CORNER

Your next overseas dive trip destination?

Despite regulations against "dynamite fishing" we all know that this practise is a common occurrence in many countries.

Personally, I prefer not to spend my money in such places.

Where ever you dive - try to find out if your dive operator actively lobby their local government to help stop this destructive form of fishing!

Try to ensure that your dollars do not support dive operators that turn a blind eye!

Susie



Our Trip To Tioman Island

By Warren Cummings

Friday 10/7/98 8.50am Wendy I and 15 other persons from the Fremantle Sailing Club boarded the big A 340 Singapore jet for our dive trip to Tioman. And after 4 hrs 50 minutes touched down in Changi Airport. After arriving at the Peninsular in Coleman Street there was confusion to as whether we were to have non smoking rooms? After some 1 hr we finally moved next door to the Peninsular where they accommodated for us on the 16th and 17th floors, which had a spectacular view. That night Pat, Wendy and I chuffed off to Lucky Plaza where I purchased my UK 400 chargeable torch for \$235 Singapore dollars..

Saturday 11/7/98 Pat Wendy and I had breakfast in a quaint French restaurant just around the corner, then of we went to the Zoo by train and bus. For the evening Wendy and I went to Clarke Quay for a magnificent hot wok cooked meal from one of the street carts.

Sunday 12/7/98 about 8.am we had to meet down in the lobby for our bus trip out to Seletar Airport where at 10.25am we flew out in a twin prop 20 seated aircraft for Pulau Tioman Island. The 40-minute flight was interesting at 7000 ft. As we approached Tioman it looked like a beautiful green jewel with its high peaks shrouded in mist and cloud. The runway is extremely short, due to the rugged terrain. We could see part of the mountain had to be blasted away to give landing space for propeller aircraft, as the length does not lend itself to modern jet aircraft. After passing through customs we were then led by our guide to Tekek's town jetty where we were to be transported by speedboat to Salang Bay some 3 kms away. It wasn't long before we were under way at full throttle powered by the big 200 horsepower Yamaha outboard engine screaming across the flat sea, our 12 yr. old skipper saw some ferry wake

approaching and probably thought here's a good opportunity to take our tourists into orbit, as the boat landed with a thud, so did I, but 2 seconds later, resulting in a me severely jarring my back. After assistance from the other's I was helped limping down the jetty to our bungalow where I hit the bed for the next hour or so.

Monday 13/7/98 for some unknown reason I decided to actually go out for the first dive even though I felt muscle stiffness getting worse. Our first dive was at Chebeh Island Some 40 minutes by authentic Malay fishing vessel. Pat, myself and the rest of the group went down to 20 metres with vis to about 10 metres, mostly coral plate etc, was very pretty though.

Tuesday 14/8/98 I snorkeled around the southern end of Salang Bay. A lot of variety and very pretty indeed. Wednesday and Thursday I just took it easy at my own pace as I was still in no condition to scuba dive.

Friday 17/7/98 no diving as it was a day off before flying home. Everyone convinced me to come on the waterfall trip. I was dead scared but decided to give it a go. Fortunately they had discussed with the skipper to take it real easy if he was to encounter any waves etc. So we all went for the tour of the Mukut Village waterfall located on the southern tip of Tioman perhaps about a 20 minute speedboat trip from Salang Bay with a pleasant 15 minute walk and a refreshing swim at the falls. Then it was back up the Island to Berjaya Imperial Resort for lunch. Then over to Regis Island where we had a magnificent snorkel doing a complete circuit around the Island, we saw turtles and lots of pretty coral and fish. I'm sure we all enjoyed the atmosphere of Salang Bay which is a back packer's paradise and offered us a good selection of Malay, Chinese cuisine. I think in my opinion why Salang Bay was so interesting was because the tourists was made up mostly of young people coming from Northern Europe. If one was to stay in the 5 star Berjaya some 3 kms to the South you would be very restricted to eat only at that resort, and sooner or later that obviously would become boring. But for those who prefer a sterile environment that's the place to stay.

Warren

Presidents Report

Well folks, spring has sprung and we are now heading flat-out towards the business end of the season ie. diving, fishing, electing committees, paying annual subs. etc. Please remember these last 2 items as they are both looming large on the horizon. Annual subs and diving fees will not increase this season, which is good news and we will be happy to accept your early payment of same. Regarding annual subs, the Committee has decided to allow new members, joining during the season, to pay quarterly increments till fees become due at the end of October in their first year. This allows somebody joining in march or April to pay only a proportionate fee instead of the whole year or part thereof as it now stands. There will also be plenty of work to be done on the Committee this coming year, so please give that some thought.

From now on it is go, go, go, as we head towards the really busy season. Most of the work that was programmed for this slipping was accomplished thanks to the untiring dedication of a few stalwarts and anyone else that they could con into helping them. Many thanks to everyone who helped out. There was a complication after the boat was returned to the water and at the time of writing the fellows think that they have it all sorted out. Thankfully, the initial \$1,000+ price tag for repairs will be closer to \$100 when the work is complete as it was not as bad as first thought. There are still a couple of outstanding jobs to be done on the boat, but they can be completed in-water.

At the last general meeting it was agreed that the Willetton Sports Club was an acceptable venue for Club meetings to be held. The meeting room that we have been offered is more than adequate for our needs and it was decided to secure bookings for the next 9 months and to then review the situation. It is hoped that during



that time we will be able to have our boat penned at Fremantle and we may find more suitable accommodation in that area. The last social function that we had at the SYC was a great success with more than 50 people plus children turning up for the Avon Descent sausage sizzle. Thanks to Kerry for his outstanding effort in organising all the food and drinks for the day.

No more news from me this month but I hope to see many of you at the next meeting to view a fantastic slide show from a friend of Sandy's.

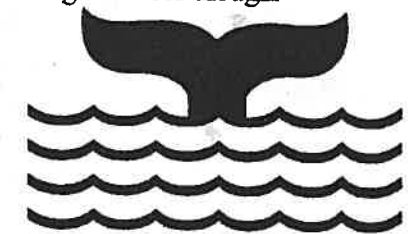
Maree

Diving Report

SPRING IS HERE !!!

The dive calendar is up and running, popular choice, wreck and rusty diver days, are just a few on the agenda.

Has anyone seen any whales? We've had one designated whale watch. If you missed it don't worry, as long as you are on the boat, you have a very good chance of seeing whales, as they head south for the summer. No guarantees though.



If you missed the rusty diver's day in September, there is another one in October. Come and get wet, I know it's only the start of the season, but be careful if you leave getting wet too late, Christmas will be here, then Easter, then another season will be gone before we know it.

We have an Exploratory Dive: "MANTA-BOARD" day, in October. Something I've not done and I suspect a lot of other members haven't done either. It should be a great day.

Don't forget to phone "9453 1723" to book your place on the boat.

Let's Go Diving!!

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT

Geoff Geard

"PRAWN KING"





5 Reasons Bill Clinton Would Make A Very Bad Dive Buddy:

5. He'll dive with you 37 times and then deny ever having been your buddy.
4. He points to himself and asks all prospective female buddies if they have any objection to orally inflating "This B.C."
3. The outrageous expense of dry cleaning your wetsuit after every "improper" dive with him.
2. His bad habit of dragging his console across the reefs, damaging the coral. At least I think that's his console.
1. It would cost you \$40 million and take you 7 months to investigate whether or not he's certified at the level he claims to be, only to find out that he's using some strange agency's definition of the word, "certified."

Mr. Perkins, the biology instructor at a posh suburban girl's junior college, said during class, "Miss Smythe, would you please name the organ of the human body, which under the appropriate conditions, expands to six times its normal size, and define the conditions."

Miss Smythe gasped, then said freezingly, "Mr. Perkins, I don't think that is a proper question to ask me. I assure you my parents will hear of this." With that she sat down red-faced.

Unperturbed, Mr. Perkins called on Miss Johnson and asked the same question. Miss Johnson, with composure, replied, "The pupil of the eye, in dim light."

"Correct," said Mr. Perkins. "And now, Miss Smythe, I have three things to say to you. One, you have not studied your lesson. Two, you have a dirty mind. And three, you will some day be faced with a dreadful disappointment."

A colleague and her husband recently bought a puppy. Keen that Rover should be properly cared for, their nine year old daughter invested in a book on dog training.

One evening, looking up from the book, she announced, "Did you know that a dog whistle is not audible to the human ear?" Gazing at the puppy in admiration she continued. "To think, Rover could be sitting there whistling, and we can't hear him!"

First Sailor- "Women the lifeboats! Woman the lifeboats!"

Second Sailor- "You don't woman the lifeboats, you man the lifeboats."

First Sailor- "You fill your lifeboats, and I'll fill mine."

Q: What lies at the bottom of the ocean and shivers?

A: A nervous wreck.

HUMOUR?

It's Tough, But Somebody Has To Do It!

By
Paul Mulally

Many people believe I have the best job in the world, and I must admit I am inclined to agree. As many of you are aware I have been for the past year or so, working on "Sea Trek" A 60ft live-aboard dive boat, as dive-master, deckhand and cook. Yes, I am one of those lucky people that gets paid to dive and fish all day long.

We work out of Fremantle between Oct-March, then it's up to the whale-sharks at Exmouth as a live aboard charter, diving on Ningaloo Reef and the Murion Islands and out as far as the Monte Bellos. In Sept we head south, basing ourselves in Geraldton for about six weeks running 3-4 day trips to the Abrolhos Islands

When not at Freo, Ray, the skipper and myself live on the boat. No TV and radio only when in range, just good books and lots of beer and red wine.

Sounds great, Yes! OK try cooking 3 meals a day for 12 people in a 20 knot wind on 2mt seas (I soon learned not to fill the pots more than half full). I have lost count of the number of times the fridge door has flown open and spewed its contents all over the galley. (It's always the bloody beetroot that escapes first).

On one trip to Peak Island (past the Murions) I had planned hot beef rolls for lunch. The beef had been in for an hour or so, but the weather was taking a turn for the worse forcing Ray to turn back. We were suddenly caught on the beam by a ripper of a wave which caused the tray of beef to smash its way out of the oven, removing the oven door from its hinges in the process. This demented piece of beef then continued on to paint the cabin with fat and pan juices before attempting to abscond down the steps towards 10 stunned customers who looked as though they had all suddenly lost their appetites.

Another funny incident that sticks in my mind was a morning dive at "The Spit" on North Murion. The divers were being briefed on the marlin board while waiting to enter the water, when a timid voice piped up from the back "What about sharks?" "Never a problem" I answered reassuringly. With that a 2mtr whaler leapt out of the water in front of us, spun around twice, giving us all the evil eye before splashing back in on its belly. It took a lot of kind words and coaxing to get them in the water that day.

Last year diving Ningaloo Reef at the mangroves I was surprised to see an oceanic white tip shark trying to eat the float on the mermaid line. I had eight divers in the water doing a safety stop. The shark had a good look at all the divers before gliding off into the blue. I was going to charge them all extra for that dive, but none of them looked like they would be willing to pay.

Only once have we been unfortunate enough to have an incident of decompression sickness. A diver did an uncontrolled ascent from 35 Mts. I had him on oxygen immediately then straight to Exmouth hospital, from where he was flown to Perth where he fully recovered in a few days.

A few months ago I had a new (and hopefully the only one) experience. A diver "cooked" their computer. She surfaced without doing her safety stop with her gauges buzzing and flashing and carrying on like you'd never believe. Once again it was straight on to the oxygen. Luck was on her side, just no diving for 24 hours and no more problems.

But even with all the dramas and hard work I have a great lifestyle. Best wishes and I hope to catch up with you all during the summer months. Paul Mulally



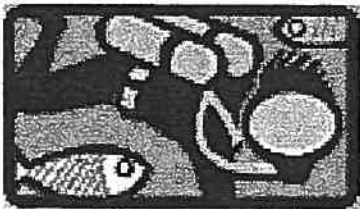
SOCIAL CALENDAR for Oct./Nov./Dec.

Saturday 24 October
SPRING RIVER CRUISE



*with Flame Grilled Lunch
a la Kerry.*
TIME: 11am to 4pm

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER



**Christmas
Dive**

....and BBQ



**U.E.C. ANNUAL
PRESENTATION PARTY**



SUNDAY 8 of NOVEMBER

This is the day we recognise and honour our hard-working club members with the U.E.C. annual awards.

It is also a fantastic day to catch up with past and present, old and new, members. Hear the stories, swap the gossip, and socialise!

The action will be at the Willetton Sports Club, located at Burrendah Boulevard, Willetton.

2.00 pm arrival
2.30 pm trophy presentation
3.30 pm buffet

Deadline for booking: **October 26.**
Cost is \$20 per head.

UEC NEWS

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc)
PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154
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Print Post Publication No PP632593/0002

**SURFACE
MAIL**

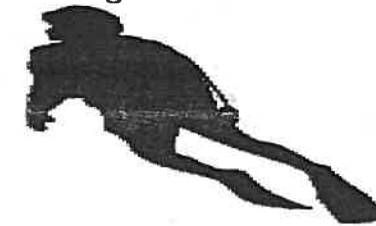
**POSTAGE
PAID**

Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Crescent
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

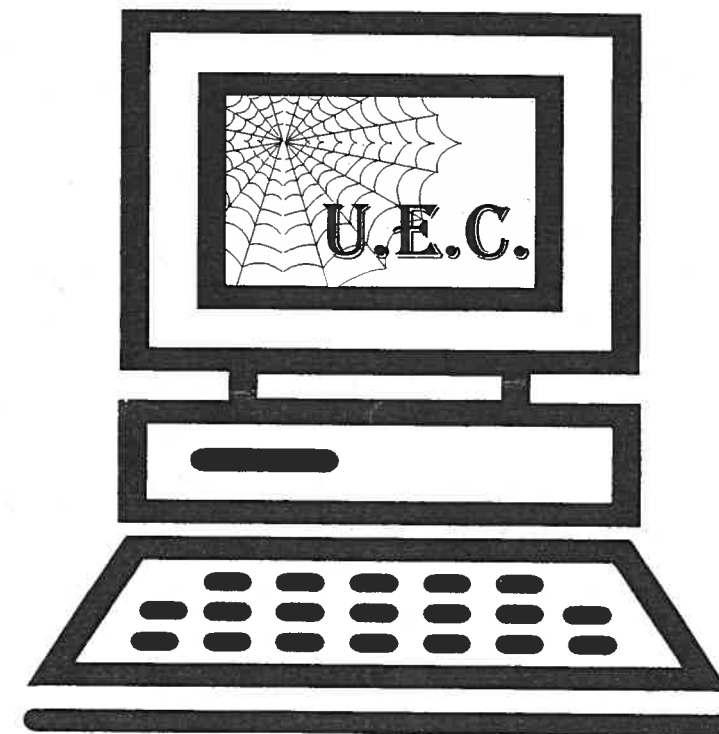
UEC NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE
UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB

OCTOBER 1998



WER'E ON THE WEB



<http://www.space.net.au/~uec/>

THE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	9457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	9445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Geoff Geard	9453 1723
BOATING OFFICER	Harry Oldenhuis	9451 3972
SAFETY OFFICER	Steve Larter	9291 9654
TRAINING OFFICER	Ian Lawrence	9364 6331
BUILDING OFFICER	Carmine Travaglione	9356 1311
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Roger Smith	9275 8620
SOCIAL OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	9331 2385

CLUB CALENDAR

OCTOBER '98

Sat 17 Rusty Divers Day - One Tank
(Richard Naylor / Geoff Geard)
Sun 18 Exploratory Dive - Two Tank - 'Manta-Board Day'
(Kerry Ashton / Susie Ashton)
Mon 19 GENERAL MEETING WILLETTON S/C 8pm
Sat 24 SOCIAL : SPRING RIVER CRUISE
Sun 25 Wreck Dive - Two Tank?
(Geoff Charlton / Jim Robson)
Sat 31 Open - One Tank
(Bob McLaughlin / Steve Larter)

NOVEMBER '98

Sun 1 Wreck Dive - Two Tank
(Peter Horton / Geoff Geard)
Mon 2 COMMITTEE MEETING WILLETTON S/C 8pm
Sat 7 One Tank - 8am.
(Richard Naylor / Kerry Ashton)
Sat 7 Booked: River Cruise
Sun 8 SOCIAL : * UEC ANNUAL 'PRESENTATION DAY' PARTY *
Sat 14 Open - One Tank
Sun 15 "Curry Day" - Two Tank
(Kerry Ashton / Brian Murray)
Mon 16* "ANNUAL" * GENERAL MEETING - WSP: 8pm (Burrendah Boulevard Willetton)
Fri 20 Booked: River Cruise
Sat 21 Exploration Dive - One Tank
(Bob McLaughlin / Steve Larter)
Sun 22 D/O's Choice - Two Tank
(Dennis Stubberfield / Luc Fauvet)

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made to Geoff Geard .
Tel 9453 1723

***** DEPARTS CHALLENGER HARBOUR *****
Check Your Departure Time
All Dives Subject to Weather
Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with Geoff Geard
NOT THE CREW

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SUBIACO
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Ph: 081 451 7711
Fax: 081 451 1902

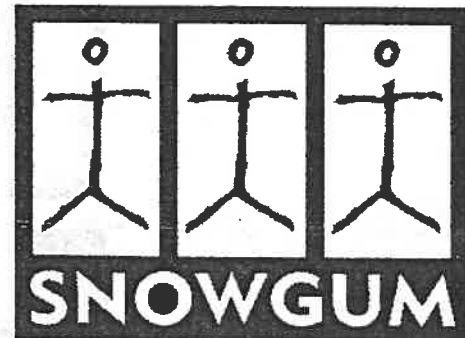
FREMANTLE
F. Street, Fremantle
Ph: 081 436 1475
Fax: 081 436 1902

IT'S TIME FOR DIVING

Get all your gear serviced and up to date at our favourite dive shop

Why not pop in and check out some new gear for the start of the diving season and collect a 10% club discount.

This newsletter brought to you by



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Building / PR Report

Since our last general meeting and pursuant to a decision reached by the committee to put us on the world wide web, I sourced out what I thought to be the best deal for a web page and internet address. Spacenet seemed to be the best bet, so I handed all the info. to Suzie, who has designed our very own UEC web page, which was enthusiastically approved by Maree. You can see for yourself what she has done by looking up our very own web address:

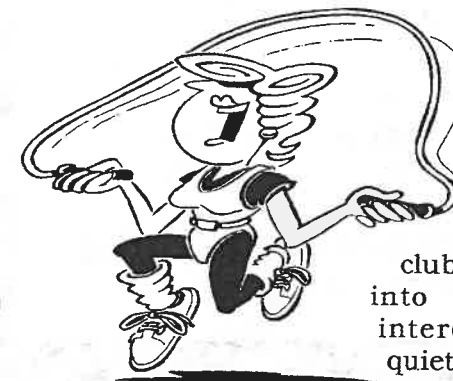
<http://www.space.net.au/~uec/>

I feel that having our own web page is a good start towards greater recognition of the club and will, I am sure, in due course, result in increased interest from the younger generation. This is only the start and must be followed up by visits to universities, taking out advertising space in Uni. Guild publications, posting fliers on Uni. Noticeboards and generally trying to get our club profile heightened.

And then!!

Along came **SUPERMAUREEN**

Maureen Cox, of Maureen Peaks fame, the name of one of our newly-found diving possies, was just the other day talking to the organiser of the Fremantle to Rottneest swim, John Guilfoyle. When she suggested that we may want to participate in the event as a diving club, he promptly went into paroxysms of interest. He became quiet, his ears pricked up, his hair, what's left



of it, stood on end and then without any warning he became frothy at the mouth and started to speak in an incoherent and animated manner. At first she thought he may have been an Evangelist speaking in tongues but when

WARNING

THE public has been warned not to use a type of scuba tank after one exploded in Karratha. Work-Safe WA said anyone who had a French S.M GERZAT 12-73HOAL 2 2655 PSI cylinder should not use it.

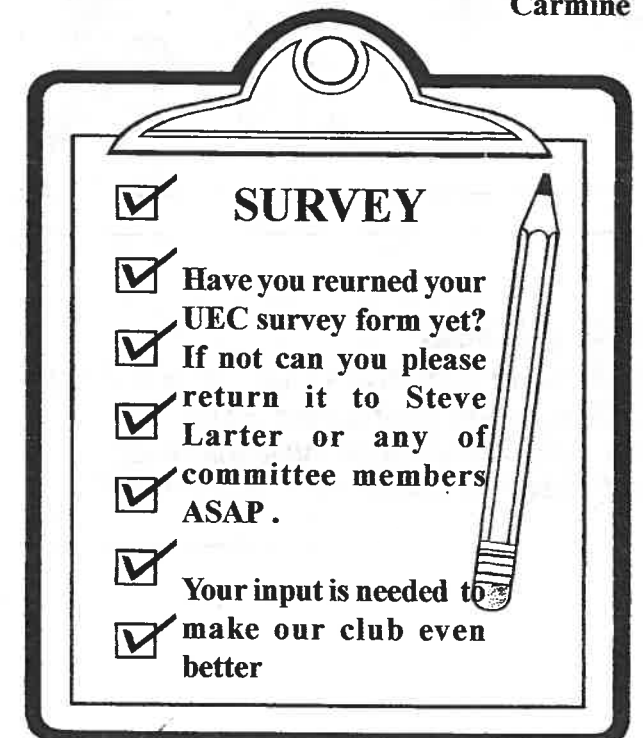
One such tank exploded in a house in Karratha in June. Two others have exploded in New Zealand.

Maureen finally managed to quieten him down, he explained why he was so excited. Apparently last year he had arranged for the Navy Seals to swim the event underwater but at the last moment they had to pull out. It seems they had to nip off and rescue 100 people from certain death or take over a small South American country or some such boring exercise. But I digress. So you can understand why John was so excited when Maureen told him we were a dive club, as here was his opportunity to revisit the idea to swim the channel underwater. Well, at least have someone else do it for him.

For the Fremantle to Rottneest Swim Committee our swim would be a PR exercise and for us it would put UEC on the lips of everyone in WA. All these people with UEC written over their lips would then, I am sure, show a lot more interest in joining our club, therefore not making the tattooing process a total waste of time. Moreover, Maureen then had the idea that Channel 9 might want to put a diver/photographer under the water, in which case they would probably consider sponsoring us. I then thought that we might be better off using the manta boards, as otherwise the event would take too long. So many possibilities!! Apparently there would be no objection to us doing the swim in any way we wanted. This would then be another UEC first and raise our profile enormously. If it all works out, and I cannot see why it shouldn't, my job as PR Officer would probably become obsolete. We couldn't buy all that publicity with all the tea in dinner plates, oops sorry, China.

What do you reckon????

Carmine



SURVEY

- Have you returned your UEC survey form yet?
- If not can you please return it to Steve Larter or any of committee members ASAP.
- Your input is needed to make our club even better

Stock Market Report

Helium was up, feathers were down.
Paper was stationary.

Fluorescent tubing was dimmed in light trading. Knives were up sharply.

Cows steered into a bull market. Pencils lost a few points.

Hiking equipment was trailing.

Elevators rose, while escalators continued their slow decline.

Weights were up in heavy trading.

Light switches were off.

Mining equipment hit rock bottom. Diapers remain unchanged.

Shipping lines stayed at an even keel.

The market for raisins dried up.

Coca Cola fizzled.

Caterpillar stock inched up a bit.

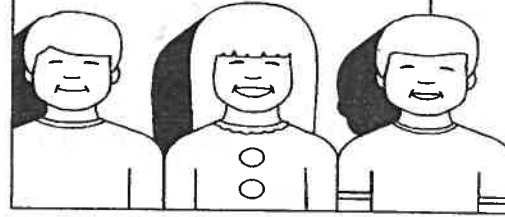
Sun peaked at midday.

Balloon prices were inflated.

Scott Tissue touched a new bottom.

And batteries exploded in an attempt to recharge the market.

Science in a Nutshell from Kids



A monsoon is a French gentleman.

For asphyxiation, apply artificial respiration until the patient is dead.

To keep milk from turning sour, keep it in the cow.

Genetics explains why you look like your father, and if you don't, why you should.

Water vapour gets together in a big cloud. When it gets big enough to be called a drop, it does.

Vacuums are nothings. We only mention them to let them know we know they are there.

A vibration is a motion that cannot make up its mind which way it wants to go.

I'm not sure how clouds are formed, but clouds know how to do it, and that's the important thing.

You can listen to thunder and tell how close you came to getting hit. If you don't hear it, you got hit, so never mind.

Someday we might discover magnets that can point in any direction.

Honeymoon Interference

A honeymooning couple had purchased a talking parrot and taken it to their room, where much to the groom's annoyance, the bird kept up a running commentary on their love-making.

Finally the groom threw a large towel over the cage and threatened to give the parrot to the zoo if he didn't quit it.

The next morning, packing to return home, the couple couldn't close a large suitcase. The groom said, "Darling, you get on top and I'll try." That didn't work.

Figuring they needed more weight on the lid, she said, "Sweetheart, you get on top and I'll try." Still no success.

Then he said, "Look. Let's both get on top and try."

At that point the parrot pulled away the towel with his beak and said, "Zoo or no zoo, this, I gotta see!"



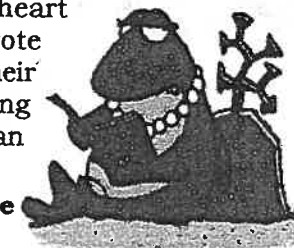
Presidents Report

YIPPEE!! 'UE' has now been found a fabulous new home and it is arguably the best spot for her in the whole metro area. We now have a permanent home at pen 53 on Jetty G in Challenger Harbour, which is the last jetty on Mews Road in Fremantle. From now on there will be no stopping us from being the most progressive and dynamic dive club in Perth and if Saturday's celebrations are anything to go by our social functions will be the talk of the town. Many thanks to Susie for the delicious selection of gourmet sandwiches she provided, Kerry for the refreshments and Peter, Pat and Dennis for getting UE safely in her pen and organising her flashy new pen lines. Also many thanks to Harry Wellmink from Dive, Ski and Surf for his wonderful donation to the Club some time ago that gave us the initial impetus we needed to invest in a pen for the boat. You as members can now begin to reap the benefits of our new home by using the boat as often as you can.

And the good news doesn't stop there either. We are now officially Scuba diving in Cyber space because we now have our own Website. If you have access to the Internet have a look at the great job Susie and Kerry have done in producing a really first class Website and thanks to Carmine for planting the Cyber seed and getting us going. You can even send us an E-mail with your comments and suggestions if you want as well as keeping up to date with all the latest happenings in the Club.

Dennis and I are heading off to Adelaide for a few weeks and will unfortunately miss the Presentation Day so I will now offer my congratulations to all the recipients of trophies on the day. These trophies are not awarded lightly, so I am confident that the winners will be well deserving of their award. I hope as many of you as possible can make it to the day as I am sure that Kerry will perform his customary magic in providing you with a great day. You won't be hearing from me next month but I will be back just in time for the AGM. I hope that we can once again form a good committee that has the Club interests at heart and are willing to devote just a small amount of their precious time to making our Club even better than it is at the moment.

Maree



Diving Report

September was a disappointment as far as diving goes. First a hiccup with the boats exhaust blowing a gasket and dropping the cooling water, then shorting a wire and burning a diode in the alternator. Just some minor hiccups. After replacing gaskets, diodes, and burnt wires, the front windows were also replaced. Then after the work on the boat, the weather stopped us from diving.

On the up side to diving, we now have our own pen at Challenger Harbour.

PLEASE NOTE:

The boat won't be leaving from East St Jetty anymore, she'll be leaving from the pen at Challenger Harbour.

There has been a mother whale and her calf off the beach at Cottesloe/Swanbourne, and heaps of whales surfaced near Ken Kennedy's boat off Rottneest. So if we're out on the boat diving, (well going to dive sites), the chances of seeing some whales are pretty good.

A Rusty Divers Day is scheduled for this weekend along with a "Manta-Board Day"/ Exploratory Dive, which should be great fun!!!

So give us a ring on 9453 1723 to book your spot on the boat so you don't miss out. Until next month,

Let's Go Diving!!
I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BOAT

Geoff Geard
"PRAWN KING"



October Meeting Monday 19th



Peter from Dive In will be showing his video from their latest trip to the Solomon Islands,

Return From Tioman Island

By Warren Cummings

Saturday 18/7/98 about 7 am we had all assembled in our hotel restaurant for Breakfast as we had informed them we would require at 8.30 am sharp departure from the jetty for the airport.

Breakfast seemed to be drawn out as you could imagine, these people do not move at lightening speed regardless of what is happening for the day. By the time we had all bundled onto the jetty it would have been close to 8.50 am with an aircraft departure of 9.25am. To our surprise the water taxi turned out to be instead of the traditional speedboat, an authentic island fishing boat which seemed to be motoring along at about 6 knots?

As we approached Tekek Village we noticed a plane landing, but at 9.15 am we saw the same plane taking off. When we enquired about the flight to Singapore "all gone" they replied. It took a while to sink in as the plane had left 10 minutes early plus the fact we were a group of 15. We were told they carry limited fuel, as taking off and landing on the short runway weight is crucial. Whether they thought it's a good opportunity to get out of here with less weight one will never know?

It was then that the panic really set in, as we were all aware of our flight from Singapore that evening at 8.15pm. Luckily on the jetty, we met an Islander with a mobile glued to his ear who said "no problem" "I'll get you a speed boat from the mainland. He will be here 11.00am sharp. We thought this is great! Luck is now coming our way. 12.00 no speed boat. 12.30pm still no boat, in the mean time he was trying to contact the mainland some 35 nautical miles away, and mumbling something about a poor line? It seemed to be the same answer "no problem" as he expressed himself between 2 teeth

that seemed to point in different directions. At 12.35pm we could see a small spray of white in the distance with our friend running up and down the jetty screaming "boat come, boat come".

Yes it was our boat, so after a high-speed trip and the next hour and 20 minutes we arrived in Mersing. This is where we were to do some more negotiating with several jabbering locals for the charter of 2 vans for the 4 hour trip down the Malay Peninsular. Successfully we got under way after 40 minutes.

Things seemed to be going fairly smoothly until we reached the Malay border with thousands of workers returning from work or what ever? Then a short distance through "no mans land" and then for the bumper to bumper congestion of traffic on the Singapore border with a few thousand more daily workers. This time it's unload the chewing gum, present yourself for identification and don't ever mention the word drugs within a km of the border.

Probably for this discipline they can proudly say they have the safest city in the world. Once across the border we had to make a high-speed dash for the Peninsular Hotel as we had left other luggage there due to the strict baggage limit of 10kgs enforced by the propeller aircraft to Tioman. Then came the fiasco of catching the airport bus after we all piled on, the driver announced he would take some 90 mins to get to the airport. The reason being he would be doing the rounds of other hotels. So after circling the block we caught view of a taxi rank, then it was everyone for himself as we scrambled of the bus.

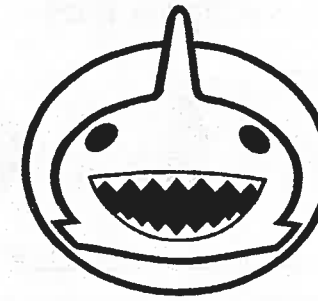
Fortunately we were all lucky to catch cabs as they were frequently arriving.

The end result was we all made it to check in by 7 15 PM. I'm sure that being seated in the big "A 340" aircraft was a big relief as none of us throughout the day hadn't really eaten or drunk anything due to the circumstances. It was great to be in the comfort of air conditioning, sipping on a good scotch and soda and being pampered by Singapore Airlines for the next 4 3/4 hours.

When we enquired about the flight to Singapore "all gone" they replied.



Sorry to put the bite on you



Membership fees are now due

As far as myself well am slowly recovering from "Acute Back Sprain or Strain" with my intercostal muscles being swollen fortunately the x-rays show no abnormalities of the spine, have had several physiotherapy visits combined with hydrotherapy pool exercises. My employer has been very considerate in giving me 2 weeks of half shifts to rehabilitate me back into the workforce. Unfortunately I have had to give up my winter series yachting but am looking forward to this summer when I recommence scuba diving in the river. I still have some lovely memories of beautiful Tioman Island despite the fact of only doing one dive.

According to my friends I don't think I'd recommend it as a fantastic scuba area probably due to poor vis. which on one occasion they reported back to me being only 4 metres. They also had one dive where the current was so bad they had to go down hanging on to a shot line. That to me sounded scary. As a snorkeling region I think its paradise. Very good vis considering you would spend most of the time on the surface. And from what I heard, in a certain respect more was seen by snorkeling. The access to reefs is good and I think there is some 64 Islands around Tioman.

At Salang Bay there were a variety of fast and cheap boats to your choice of reef. Salang Bay itself right off the beach with magical coral plate and cabbage patches. There are 3 dive shops catering for everything. One has a very sophisticated dive boat, although I observed most of the vessels catering for larger groups, were the authentic fishing vessels, terribly uncomfortable. Nowhere as practical as the authentic Indonesian fishing vessels I experienced in Manado .

Wheelhouse Report

The hull cleaning went of with great success and a lot of jobs got done, Thanks to all involved. Two new cleats have been put on the Boat that should stop the handrails from breaking. The screen for the dunny has been put up, so you can now **sit** in private :) The exhaust pipe has been extended to stop the fumes, lets hope it works. A new drivers seat has been installed in the wheelhouse so Kerry does not have to stand on his box anymore. New side wooden extensions installed on the rear of the boat. New glass, front windows have been installed

The only thing I ask is, DONT sit on the rear when the boat is moving, as most people that are lost overboard fall from the stern into the water and are now statistics.

And there is still more good news, The boat has now been shifted to a new home, we have a Pen at challenger harbour in Fremantle Thanks to Maree

I'm presently attending Fremantle Tafe full time, doing Nautical fishing and should complete my course in December.

Here are some tips, when processing fish that I learnt at school:

- 1/. Kill the fish as soon as possible and bleed
- 2/. The guts needs to be removed as it starts to swell up and will contaminate the fish
- 3/. Wait for the fish to go Rigor_Mortis (stiff as a board) and go soft again before filleting as you can lose 20% of your fillet. This process will take from 30 min to one hour, there is only 36% of the fish that you get, when filleting, what a waste.

Also when you freeze the fish there is a lot of damage to the flesh you will notice that, when you take your fish out of the freezer and it falls to bits, when defrosted. A fish is 78% water.

When buying Fish Check for the following, Eyes clear, Gills red in colour, No sign of mucus, and no cloudiness, no missing scales, Slime clear and not smelly.

There is a real art in fish processing, I found out.

And don't forget to try out the new things on the boat.

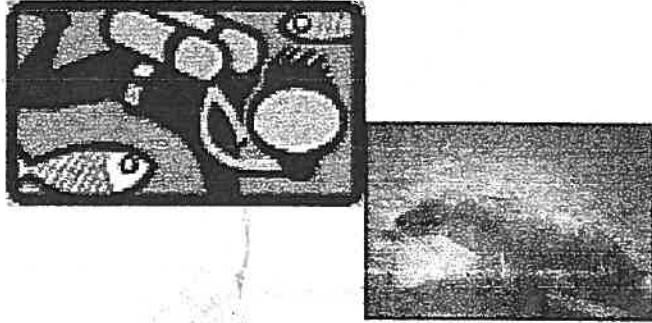
Cheers Harry



SOCIAL CALENDAR for December & January

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER

Leaving Challenger Harbour at 9am for one dive at Carnac or nearby....



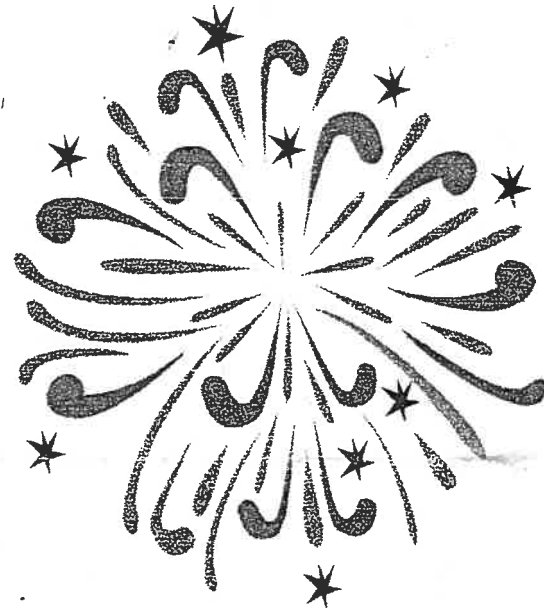
...to be followed by a BBQ.



B.Y.O.
family & friends,
food and drinks!



TUESDAY 26 JANUARY



AUSTRALIA DAY SKY SHOW

Book early (with Susie on 9331 2385) so you don't risk to miss out on this great afternoon/evening aboard "Underwater Explorer". (Limited to 20 people & only adults.) We indulge in the obligatory Chicken & Champagne before the Sky Show. (More details in next newsletter.)

UEC NEWS

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc)
PO Box 1157, Booragoon 6154
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Print Post Publication No PP632593/0002

SURFACE
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Geoff & Hetty Geard
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UEC NEWS

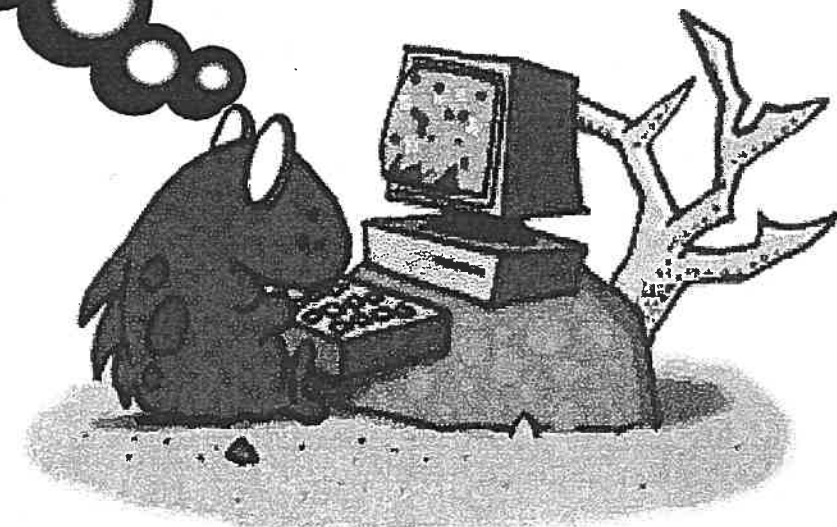
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE
UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB

NOVEMBER 1998



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 16TH 1998
WILLETTON SPORTS CLUB
BURRENDAH AVE
8PM

PERHAPS
I CAN
HELP!



THE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	9457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	9451 2910
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SAFETY OFFICER	Steve Larter	9291 9654
TRAINING OFFICER	Ian Lawrence	9364 6331
BUILDING OFFICER	Carmine Travaglione	9356 1311
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Roger Smith	9275 8620
SOCIAL OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	9331 2385

CLUB CALENDAR

NOVEMBER '98

- Sat 4 Fishing Day
 Sun 15 "Curry Day" - Two Tank
 (Kerry Ashton / Brian Murray)
Mon 16 "ANNUAL" GENERAL MEETING WSP
: 8pm (Burrendah Boulevard Willetton)
 Fri 20 Booked: River Cruise
 Sat 21 Exploration Dive - One Tank
 (Bob McLaughlin / Steve Larter)
 Sun 22 D/O's Choice - Two Tank
 (Dennis Stubberfield / Luc Fauvet)
 Fri 27 Booked: River Cruise
 Sat 28 Open - One Tank
 Sun 29 Garden / Carnac Island - Two Tank
 (Geoff Charlton / Jim Robson)

DECEMBER '98

(25th & 26th = P/H: Christmas)

- Sat 5 Open - One Tank
 Sun 6 'Christmas Dive' - One Tank
 (Kerry Ashton / Geoff Geard)
Mon 7 COMMITTEE MEETING - WSC : 8pm
 Fri 11 Booked: River Cruise
 Sat 12 Cray Dive - One Tank
 (Richard Naylor / Brian Murray)
 Sun 13 Popular Choice - Two Tank
 (Geoff Charlton / Luc Fauvet)
Mon 14 GENERAL MEETING - WILLETTON
SPORTS CLUB : 8pm
 (Burrendah Boulevard Willetton)

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made to Geoff Geard.
 Tel 9453 1723

***** DEPARTS CHALLENGER HARBOUR *****
 Check Your Departure Time
 All Dives Subject to Weather
 Check 6.30pm the Evening Before with Geoff Geard
NOT THE CREW

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IT'S TIME FOR DIVING

Get all your gear serviced and up to date at our favourite dive shop

Why not pop in and check out some new gear for the start of the diving season and collect a 10% club discount.

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Building / PR Report

The weather may not, up to now, have been ideal for subaqueous pursuits but it certainly will be very soon. Because we're all going to be so busy diving I figured I should get all the spring cleaning out of the way. For a building officer that means something to do with our factory unit. You may remember some time ago, I said I would be looking for some slave labour, I mean volunteers, to help me out. Before you all duck for cover, I fortuitously remembered that a chappie I introduced to the club and who has been out on a couple of dives, Tony Savka, is a painter. I asked Tony if he would do some spring-clean painting and he readily agreed. Our only cost will be the consumable items. I might even offer him a free dive.

At the same time I decided to fit the new gates which Peter Horton has donated. Peter very kindly dropped the gates off at the unit last Saturday the 31st October. I'm writing this report on Monday morning, the day of the committee meeting and I'm hoping to have done all of the spring cleaning by the end of the day.

Public relations is really starting to look up. Further to the brilliant suggestion put forward by Maureen to participate in the Cottesloe to Rottneest underwater swim she presented it to the general meeting and it was enthusiastically embraced by all. Many members have put forward ideas and even Peter from Dive In came up with the suggestion that he would try to get hold of some special masks that will enable the divers to talk to each other and to the crew on the boat. Since then Peter has confirmed that he has got that equipment and will make it available to us on the day and also before for test runs. We have talked about a frame design for towing the divers and a quick release system similar to the one used on the Avon Decent. By the time the event comes around I am sure with all the talent within the club we will have solved all of the problems except perhaps how to cope with the increased interest in our club.

Maureen has maintained contact with John Guilfoyle and he will be sending out the necessary application forms in due course. I have been requested to ask all of you to keep this to ourselves as we don't want any other club stealing our thunder. During the next several weeks prior to the event, Maureen and I, amongst others, will



be pursuing all the avenues and rest assured we will be reporting back to you our members either in the UEC NEWS or on our Web pages or both.

Its now late in the afternoon and I wish to report that Tony has painted the fascias, barge moulds, downpipes, gutters and the front door of the unit. I have swapped the gates which look a lot better than the old rusty ones and I have weeded around the perimeter of our unit plus I have removed the rusty old wall protectors on the outside of the gate, which looked unsightly. All in all the unit has had a bit of a birthday and should be happy for a time.

Incidentally the repaired bitumen areas are still as good as the day they were put in despite Gordon's protests.

Carmine

Diving Report

It's November and this could be my last report, as November is 'AGM' month. We want as many people as possible to have a say, or to give the Committee a go. So don't be shy, put up your hand.

This is a busy month for the club and boat, with the Annual Presentation Party and the Crayfish Season Opening. So dust off them loops! There are also three river cruises booked. Last month, the 'dive gods' finally shined on us with a dive a little south of Angela's Cave, and one at Barry's caves on Sunday. On the last Saturday for the month we dived at Carnac where it was a "pea souper". Being a family magazine I won't repeat how it was really described.

Don't forget, the boat is now penned and leaves from: Challenger Harbour. To book your dive, (or the boat for that matter), ring me on 94531723.

Let's Go Diving!!

I'LL SEE YOU AT THE AGM

Geoff



Geard

"PRAWN KING"

Wheelhouse Report

Well I've been informed that I did only one Dive from the boat but when I look back over the last 12 months it seems I was there every week (just ask my Wife). I did enjoy been boating officer. There is so much to learn, the only problem I found was nobody will ring me up and say there is a problem with the boat, I'm not a mind reader :) As I said before I'm going to Fremantle TAFE full time, Doing Nautical fishing. There are 33 subjects in the course I have completed the following, TL3, Elements of ship board safety, Vessel handling, Occupational health & safety at sea, Ropework, steel rope, Net making and repair, Coastal Navigation and GPS, Coastal Navigation practical, Ships knowledge, Marine engine driver grade 3, Sea food handling, If you need a hand with ropes and netmaking just ask. It is that time of the year again with club elections coming up I wish to offer my self for re-election as boating officer, so I ask for your support. If I get re elected I will offer UEC Club members free access to OZIWEST BBS Bulletin board 94581255, there are 42938 files on the system and also free computer help Now that is a big help to club members who have computers.

Here is a message I received from Saudi Arabia. Area 111, Msg#23, 09-10-98 08:06:00
From: Steve Ford To: Harry Oldenhuis

Too hot to dive?

Some may say impossible! Others may say I wish it was true! Well here on the East Coast of Saudi Arabia it is often too hot. This summer was one of the hottest on record, air temperature hovering around 50 degrees C, surface sea temp around 40-41 degrees and around 37 degrees at the 40 metre mark. Dehydration whilst diving is a very real problem. Sweating on the surface is fine as the evaporative cooling effect of perspiration helps regulate the core temperature of the body as long as there is sufficient uptake of fluids. When diving with or without a wet suit, perspiring has no cooling effect on the body at all. Perspiring only adds to the volume of water in the ocean! Heat stroke and heat exhaustion are very real dangers when diving in the Gulf during summer.

DRINK THOSE FLUIDS!

October/November is the best time of the year for diving, with the cooling water temperatures the Whale Sharks return to the islands of Janna and Jarayd.

Regards Steve Ford PADI#69206
Al-Khobar Saudi Arabia

See you down under and keep bubbling

Cheers Harry

Vent Your Spleen

To The Editor, UEC News
Dear Roger,

I wish to respond to the article by Susie in September's UEC News. I hope that not everyone who disagrees with a specific country's activities responds by boycotting that country. In the Philippines, dynamite fishing is definitely NOT legal, and it is the diving industry which is playing a large role in curbing the activities of dynamiting in many areas. It is the presence of international divers that has the fishermen 'hauling ass' so to speak. So, the more divers that visit the Philippines, the better the diving will become, and the less dynamiting will take place.

If all divers took the attitude that they would not visit a country because of dynamite fishing, whale catching, dolphin fishing, nuclear testing etcetera, we could all end up as armchair tourists/divers. Indeed, if we look hard enough, we could probably find reasons to boycott diving in our own precious waters - e.g. toxic waste spewing into Cockburn Sound.

When we left Perth, Leigh was and still is anti anything French, due to their Nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll. What with China, India and Pakistan testing their nuclear weapons, I can see us returning to Australia in a short time, due to no countries left to visit because we disagree with some of their government sanctioned activities. At least dynamiting in the Philippines is illegal. I don't condone nuclear testing or dynamite fishing, but fail to see that refusing to visit a country on those grounds will achieve anything worthwhile. In fact, I think the more we can take our own message to the people of these countries, and let them know how the rest of the world sees them, may help in a small way to plant some seeds in the minds of the locals who vote their governments in.

Happy diving, wherever it be.

Best regards,

Judy Cowan

(VICE) PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, with Maree being away on a well earned holiday, I get the job (privilege??) of the last President's Report for the year. I think it's fair to say it has been a big year, with some important changes being made to ensure the Club's success into the new millenium.

The decision to break ties with Swan Yacht Club was a tough one to make, with the Committee brewing over the pro's & cons for some time before the plunge was taken. They say every cloud has a silver lining, this one had two. The first being to berth the Underwater Explorer in Challenger Harbour, and if you've been to the boat since this move, I think you'll agree she's in a great position for all our boat based activities (including maintenance), although some of us skippers need a little more practice at getting into the pen with a stiff Sou-westerly blowing. The second of these silver linings was the move to Willetton Sports Club for our meetings, again, I hope you agree it's a great move. The Avon Descent once again saw a huge UEC contingent provide full rescue services. This year the event provided very little drama, but unfortunately with even less water.

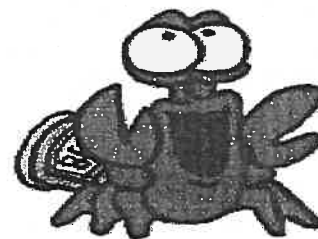
By the time you receive your newsletter, the Annual Presentation Party will have passed. This year the prizes going to:

Club Person of the Year - **Maree Casley**
Boat Person of the Year - **Maureen Cox**
Most Improved Diver - **Maureen Cox**

Appreciation awards going to **Jim Robson, Pat Troy, Kerry Ashton, Susie Ashton, Sandy Webb & Richard Naylor.**

As I mention the new millenium earlier, our Web Site has to be mentioned. By far the most advanced PR method we've employed will, hopefully, be both a widespread and specific method of targeting future members.

I couldn't finish



AN EXTRA SOCIAL EVENT IN NOVEMBER



Every year Kerry and I go to the Launch of Festival of Perth Film Season.

This outdoor party is held at The Tropical Grove, University of WA on Sunday 29 November at 7pm.

As a Life Member, I can invite a group of people, and this is what we intend to do: We like to start by eating as many chicken sandwiches and drinking as much champagne as we can, before sitting down in the comfy deck chairs at the Somerville Auditorium outdoor theatre to watch a wonderful film. "Walking Ned Devine" is an award winning film at the Toronto Film Festival 1998. An hilarious Irish comedy about everyone's dream - winning the lottery - and has been described as "having all the charm, character and eccentricities of great British films".

Sounds good! So come along! You must RSVP to me Sunday 22 November at the latest, and pay \$15, so I can get the tickets.



Cheers!
Susie

without mentioning the **AGM on Monday 19th November**. Folks, this is your chance to have a say in who "runs" the Club for the next twelve months, so please make your prescence felt. Remember, however, that you can't vote unless you're financial. So if you haven't paid your fees yet, bring your cheque book (or even cash) and we'll see you there.

Geoff Charlton

More tales from the bridge of the "Seatrek"

By Paul Mulally (a.k.a. "the lucky bastard")

Summer is on the way and Seatrek is back in Fremantle, another season over. How time flies when you're having fun.

It certainly doesn't seem 6 months has passed since we left. I must admit its great to be back after living on the boat for half of the year. I am looking forward to leading a "normal" life until we leave again next March.

The whaleshark season was quiet, the number being spotted was down on previous years. Of course no one knows why, but it seems to be a case of "lets see what happens next year". It was good to see that at least one whale shark came back. We call him stumpy, due to his short tail. I think it's the third year he has been sighted at Exmouth. Although the whalesharks numbers were down the tourists were still in town and as usual it was a two-month long party.

We had a couple of weeks at the end of the season to recharge our batteries (dry out!) and do maintenance on the boat, including the job all deckies dread - cleaning the hull. 3 or 4 hours in the water scraping weed growth and barnacles off of the bottom of the boat. Not fun.

The next three months we ran 4-5 night dive trips, which gave us the chance to explore as far south along Ningaloo, reef as Yardie creek and east out to Long Island. We were lucky enough to find some excellent country never dived before. Just out of Sandy Bay we dived a ledge which seemed to be a permanent fish cleaning station. While my customers were having their breakfast of cereal, eggs, bacon, grilled tomatoes, fresh fish, miso, rice fruit, toast, croissants and home made fig jam, I donned my gear to check it out. Unbelievable!! The anchor was in 16mts of crystal clear water. I peered over the edge of the reef and could see the sand at 38mts. As I slid down the side I was joined by a large shoal of spangled

emperor. Turning on my back I watched a dozen or so mackerel feeding on a shoal of baitfish that had huddled together in a tight ball. Everywhere, painted Cray's were peering out at me from under ledges, while clown fish darted amongst the swirling anemones. I was then given the once over by a large potato cod. This was nothing to what was about to happen next. The cream! An enormous manta ray gracefully glided over the top of me, circled a couple of times then swam right up to me, eye to eye. I was totally amazed. It then as it slowly glided over me, I leaned back, raised my arms up and stroked it with the palms of my hands and it just stopped dead, perhaps enjoying the bubbles (as I was really blowing double time at this stage). Sadly it only stayed with me for a few minutes before gently gliding off along the reef.

I had been so enthralled with this amazing incident that I hadn't checked my computer for at least five-min. Bloody Hell!! I was still at 32 Mts. with my time approaching the red. So it was straight back to the boat to tell my tale. The customers on that trip were all Japanese and manta rays rate very high on their list of things to see. Anyway as luck had it the manta had hung around and they all got to see it. We have dived on this spot around 10 times and saw mantas on all but on one occasion; course we named this site "The Manta Ledge".

Other times its more luck or chance to find a good spot. Peter, our relief skipper was diving on a spot that was less than average when he spotted a large potato cod, which he then followed for about 400mts to its home and consequently THE SPOT.

When he came back to the boat, we jumped in the zodiac and marked the spot with a buoy. We then spent the afternoon exploring all around it. Just fantastic. Heaps of baitfish, all the "famous" reef fish, white and black tipped sharks and pristine coral. By the last dive the potato cod was waiting under the boat with no fear at all.

Whales and dolphins are two creatures that everyone wants to see, touch and be with. I have had the good fortune to swim

with both. Last year at the Abrolhos Islands, on the last charter of the season, we had a close encounter with 5 humpback whales. For 2 hours they played with us, it was one of those only once in a lifetime moments. They became so inquisitive that one chap left the water as it was "too scary" for him. The memory of all this will always be with me (along with the video and photos). In Lighthouse Bay at Exmouth on 3 occasions when we were moored for the night a pod of dolphins were feeding around the boat. So on with the mask and snorkel and over the side. Yes, these are very special creatures.

As with all jobs there is the down side, such as cleaning up the puke from seasick passengers, unblocking the toilets and trying to pacify the guests when its blowing its ring off and the diving is absolutely dreadful. Even in Exmouth many days are less than average, thank goodness god invented alcohol.

Back to the good things. On the NW side of the cape there is a row of bommies. We dived one last year and it has become my favorite. I call it "Trout City" due to the coral trout that are always there. The top of the bombie is at 17mts - the sand at 32mts. There are 2 good swim-throughs that are always packed with fish. Bait fish, snapper, ranking cod and trout of course. A couple of large stingrays are at home most days making this a great and easy dive. On the top of the bommie is one of the largest gorgonians that I have ever seen. Last year a giant Queensland groper made its home there. This thing was enormous, almost 3mts long, it was just like a Volkswagen (keep your eyes off it Pat).

The month of October was spent diving the Abrolhos Islands, based at Geraldton running 3-4 day trips. Last year was great, this year even better. It's one of the highlights of the year for me. The water is always clear, heaps of fish and easy diving. We spend most of our time at the Easter group, as I think it's the best. The Wallabi and Pelsart groups have the good points, the Batavia etc, but you need perfect conditions to get the most out of the diving.

I had hoped to catch up with you all at the AGM, but being the start of the crayfish season we have a live aboard on Mon. & Tues. a Japanese sushi, sashimi and saki trip. It looks like I'll never stop having fun'

EDITORIAL

Well what do you know? It's been twelve months since I took on the editor's job and suddenly I'm working on my final issue. I must admit I've really enjoyed putting the newsletter together each month, it has been a very rewarding experience. I just wish I could say the same about the other parts of the job such as attending meetings, compiling, folding and sticking down the finished article. Still I don't suppose I can expect to do just the fun bits.

I felt a sense of pride when I've seen the finished product each month, a job that has gotten easier as each issue has passed. I can still remember the frustration I felt with the first issue when nothing would fit where it was supposed to, followed by several hours wrestling with the photocopier to get it printed, and then rushing to catch the post just on time.

I took it on myself to change the format quite dramatically and thankfully this was received favorably by most members of the club. My policy was not to whine every month that I received nothing from club members. I was always open to suggestions and I tried to feature articles that were of interest to other members as well as myself. The best part was to come when in the last three issues my input was reduced to nil and articles flowed in, ranging from stories of some amazing diving trips, both home and abroad. Also my Email was buzzing with literally dozens of jokes and humorous pieces. I wish to thank all these people who will never know how much more pleasurable it made my job, and also improved the newsletter for all. For first and foremost this is the newsletter of the UEC, for its members to communicate. If in doing so words get mis-spelt or grammar is imperfect "so what". It is far more important that we have a variety of members views than articles brought in from outside.

I hope all you guys appreciate my centrefold, perhaps the next editor will do one for the ladies

Hope to see you all on the Christmas dive

Rog

BUILDING BANTER

Christmas is right on our doorstep! From today the 8th December: Only 17 shopping days!! That's how we all measure our Christmas, isn't it? Well, whether you're looking at it from the point of view of hedonistic pursuits, shopping, celebrating the birthday of the founder of Christianity or just simply looking forward to the holidays for a rest, one thing that we all seem to have in common at this time of the year is this spirit of goodwill and general sense of forgiveness towards our fellow human beings.

I have a theory!

This euphoric and somewhat irrational feeling is caused by that very thing I have mentioned above: *The Spirit Of Goodwill*. This spirit can be found in several places: at home, on the picnic ground, at BBQ's, in crowded rooms, at parties, at the office or more especially at the local pub. Yes, I have this rather astounding theory that our spirit of goodwill is not an esoteric manifestation of paranormal,

metaphysical, psychosomatic suggestion, nor even a suggestion of the hypnotic type that some may believe is perpetuated by the would-be high priests of this irrational behaviour, the religious groups.

Nah, its simply that most of us at this time of the year have a higher than normal blood alcohol level, which is maintained at this higher level for a longer period, having the most unusual effect of making everybody glassy-eyed with acceptance and forgiveness, and truly develops that "Christmas Spirit".

Time for a Christmas Joke!

This rather well oiled fellow, on his way home after a rather long session, walked up to his bus stop, where a 'Man of the Cloth' was waiting for the same bus. Thinking he just had a sore neck, the inebriate simply asked: "Howssh yaar gooin mate." "Fine, thank you" said the cleric. Encouraged by his ability to have carried out what he

thought was a complex conversation up to then, the red faced orator decided to strike up a full conversation and asked: "Hoo doossh yoo worssk forssh maaeette? Hic!"

After a short interlude while translating the inebriate's question, the priest answered:

"I work for the Lord Jesus."

"Wellssh bugger me. Yooussh must know my brudder Mick. He woorkssh for your bosses brudder Kraft Cheeses!"



This is not the time to be giving you building reports. So I'm not going to.

It is, however, the time to give you a short PR report. Maureen, has now got a form that we will fill in to register us for the 'Cott-Rott' swim.

And that's it.
Carmine



WEB REPORT

A new, "Chrissy" version of our WEB page was uploaded in December. Check it out! The SiteInspector by Link Exchange reported "Overall rating = Award Winner!" Makes me double happy. :-))

We had 21 hits in November plus one request from a guy from Texas, who will visit Perth and wants to dive.

We also had e-mail from CHARLIE SNOW, saying:

Wish I were there!

To my friends Dennis and Maree, Peter Horton, Bob Cotton, Kerry and Susie, and the rest of the UEC membership past and present, I want to wish you a successful and safe diving season. Best wishes for the holidays. You would now have my e-mail address; please let me know how you are doing. Regards to all, Charlie. cbsnow@webtv.net

This magazine was printed with kind permission at Pilkington Victor Glass, Myaree.

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NEWSLETTER

December 1998

PRESIDENT'S PLATFORM

I'm baaack!!! Back from where? Adelaide. Back in the chair? Yes. Back doing the same old stuff as in years gone by. Not a chance. This coming year will see the U.E.C. become a more vibrant and exciting club. Just look at the new committee. We have had a couple of new people become involved in Club affairs, and some old stagers are back to give us the benefit of their years of combined experience. With a strong commitment from our new committee, and a willingness for members to embrace some new ideas, our Club will continue to flourish and grow. A sample of what is to come can be seen



on the following pages, so read on and find out what is in store.

SANDY WEBB has a fabulous social calendar and speaker line-up already organized. With the help of her enormously talented sub-committee members, we will hardly have time to take a breather. Some of the activities planned will be very popular, so make sure that you get in early.

JOHN CRESWELL, our new secretary, has already had a taste of what is to come after attending his first committee meeting the other night. There was smoke coming from his pen, as he tried to keep up with everything going on, but he is shaping up not too bad!

DENNIS also has already got off to a flying start with his portfolio. Training sessions have been held on some aspects of our boat handling in Challenger Harbour, and he has some other training sessions planned. Watch out for his report.

(Cont. on next page.)

DIVE DIARY

Saturday 19/12
Sunday 20/12
Wednesday 23/12
Sunday 27/12
Saturday 2/1
Sunday 3/1
Saturday 9/1
Sunday 10/1
Friday 15/1
Sunday 17/1
Friday 22/1

EXPLORATORY - one dive - (Bob/Steve)
WRECK - two dives - (Dennis/Jim)
SUNSET PRAWN DIVE
"OPEN" (Peter/Geoff G)
D.O.'s CHOICE - one dive - (Bob/Steve)
D.O.'s CHOICE - two dives - (Richard/Luc)
EXPLORATORY - one dive - (Peter/Jim)
"REQUEST" - two dives (Dennis/Geoff G)
SOCIAL PRAWN DIVE
CRAY CATCH - two dives - (Peter/Brian)
"OVER-NIGHTER" - two dives on Saturday 23/1



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9451 2910
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9335 7730
Treasurer:
Peter Horton
9445 2336
Diving:
Geoff Geard
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9451 2910
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Steve Larter
9291 9654
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FROM THE EDITOR

Back in the Editor's chair again!



And this time with a fancy computer and software to help me out, instead of the old cut and paste method I had to use in the earlier days of my editing career, when I took over from our dear TIBI, who had done it for so many years for our Club.

ROGER introduced a big change regarding the format of our Club's newsletter last year. As I personally think that was a good move, I'll stay with it, but cannot resist to make some minor changes to the lay-out, to put my personal touch to our publication. Specially in this Christmas edition!

And I am definitely back to re-introduce and promote U.E.C.'s old SEAHORSE logotype! What



you see here was embossed on the Club's first dive log-books, made for the members in the early fifties!

(The poor seahorse looks more like a scared seabird, I think!)

Wear our Club T-shirt!

Be proud of being a UEC member, and show the whole world, that you belong to such an "old" and distinguished dive Club!

We have now made an *iron-on emblem* that you can use on your T-shirt, wind-cheater or whatever, with a better looking seahorse, that was introduced last time I was Club Editor. You can have it in any size or colour you like!

As I am also U.E.C. Webmaster, I urge you to check out our web site at www.space.net.au/~uec each month. I welcome comments in either direction, and **don't panic**, if you don't have access to the Internet, because there is a print-out copy of the current web site in the *Social & PR News Book*, that will be circulating during the general meetings.

Cheers!

See 'ya at the next meeting over a Sangria!

Susie



Cont. of President's Platform

SUSIE has her finger firmly on the pulse of the magazine. She has spent quite some time putting her own unique stamp on the format of the magazine, the results of which you are now seeing. Please let her know what you think, and keep her busy by sending in heaps of articles.

Thanks must also go to the outgoing members of the committee for all their work this past year, and for leaving their portfolios in such good shape for the next batch of office-bearers. This Club certainly would not be in the position it is in currently, if not for the hard work of all these people. Thanks to GEOFF for keeping the chair warm for me in my absence.

Lastly, I must thank the members who made the trek up to Northam earlier this month to attend the AGM of the Northam's Avon Descent. The idea was for us to have our say in trying to retain a committee that supports us each year by securing our services for the rescue activities during the Avon Descent. I can report that we were successful, and hopefully we will again be involved in the race.

Many members are now *not* financial, so please attend to this matter ASAP. I hope to catch up with you all soon, and in the meantime, I wish all our members and families a **very merry Xmas** and a **safe and happy New Year.**

Maree

Tell all your friends about U.E.C.'s new web page!

www.space.net.au/~uec

SAFETY SECTION

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

It is important to remember that the season goes very fast, and if you keep putting your dives off

due to the weather not being perfect, then you will be missing out on the occasions when the dive location was perfect despite the conditions. We are very fortunate to have very good dive locations to choose from in most weather conditions. So get that dive gear out of the cupboard, and "get your arse" onto the boat as many times as possible this season and **stop making excuses!**

As you all are aware, we do have a number of basic safety rules which have to be followed whilst diving with U.E.C. Without doubt our most important rule is **never dive alone**. There is a discussion currently taking place in Australia about the necessity of this basic safety requirement. In

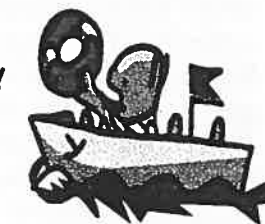
NEVER DIVE ALONE!
Remember the lost Buddy procedure!

light of this development, I want to make it perfectly clear to all our members, and the guests that occasionally dive with us, that whilst diving with U.E.C. no person dives solo under any circumstances. The consequences for the Club in any legal action that may follow an accident, where it was established that solo diving was occurring, then a case of culpable homicide may be brought against the club.

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

Safe diving!

Steve



TRAINING TOGETHER

The training sub-committee has wasted no time in getting down to business. Following a request for Dive Officers to be taught all about the berthing and mooring lines on our boat and pen, a training session was held at Challenger Harbour on 5/12/98. Two sessions were run, one for the early birds and one for the afternoon shift. Many thanks to Kerry for supplying the portable white board. We have to do a deal with him on that - it's so useful.

The boat was taken in and out of the pen a few times to get some real 'hands on' experience and demonstrate the best berthing procedure, giving all crews and skippers a good insight in how best to use the new pen lines and stern 'bridle' installed between them. (Just one of the many advantages of the glorious pen we have!!)

"What do you call a 'line' attached to the stern?" was the frequent exhortation.

"No, it's not a 'back thingy' - it's a b... dy Stern Line!!" was the cry - and it's **Bollard** not 'Bollocks'!

We all know what a **Halyard** is, and where **Abaft the boom** is, don't we!?

No, we don't lift the halyard and slide between the sheets - not on this vessel, we don't!

Generally a fun afternoon and a fair bit of 'rollocking & bollocking' from the spectators (Frank & Karen) who really do know the ropes!

There will be more such sessions 'und zey vill' be compulsory!!

Anything you ever wanted to know, or do, and were afraid to ask - we'll train you for it!

And if we can't do it - we'll get someone in!!! *Cheers!*

Stubby



DIVING DELIGHTS

I'm back!!! For another year anyway. I'd like to say congratulations to all the new, and returning committee members.

At the A.G.M. the question was asked: "When are you going prawn diving next?" At the time I wasn't sure, but I can tell you now. The 23rd December, which is a Wednesday night, but close enough to put nice, fresh prawns on the Christmas table. Next one is on the 15th of January - a great social get together arranged by Sandy. Hopefully, there will be some prawns, as there hasn't been many around lately.

I have finally gotten wet again after a forced exile of 6-8 weeks. It was great. Just ask Hetty, she will tell you. I've stopped complaining, and I am easier to live with.

(Hetty: "Well, that's a matter of opinion".)

Anyway, enough of that. You want to read about the diving! The weather has been crap, but we managed to get a few hardy souls into the water for the *cray season opener*, where two very nice size crays were taken by the main man to catch them, CARL. That was near Sausage Reef somewhere.

**Social prawn dives
with cook-ups: First
Friday every month**

Saturday's one-tank *Exploratory* dive north of Stragglers yielded a healthy bonus for Sandy and her buddy Jane. EIGHT crays, all well over size, and all but one caught by hand! I think some of us guys should speak to these ladies.

Sunday's *D.O.'s choice* was a dive at Parakeet Island, as it was too rough to dive anywhere else. (When was the last time you dived it?) All divers agreed it was quite a pleasant, pretty dive. Although plenty seen, no crays were taken. Our last dive for the month was

out near Stragglers. The water was a bit lumpy but a good dive was had with four good size crays taken.

January 22nd is scheduled as an *Over-nighter*, or two dives on Saturday, if the *Over-nighter* doesn't go ahead. Sunday 24th January will be a one-tank dive by request, as the "Duyfken" (a 1606 replica sailing ship) will be launched. We will have a great dive, then go and watch the launching. It should be quite good, like when they launched the "Endeavour".

Well, that's it for this month's report, but before I go, I want to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Ring me on 9453 1723 to book your dive or the boat. **LET'S GO DIVING!!** See you on the boat!

The Prawn King -
or is it *The King Prawn?*

Geoff G



BOAT BITS

Well, folks, it seems that even with your new Boating Officer lying low for a week or so with a pending TAFE exam, life goes on. The radio has been removed (and by the time you read this, re-installed) to fix a bad connection on the inside. Some of you may be aware of the recent modifications to the anchor, following a coming together between it and the boardwalk at Challenger Harbour. Well, *Plan B* is to undo these modifications (that loop that we don't use is

actually part of the design). Minor adjustments to the gear linkage are also in hand. Otherwise, the boat is running well, and with your assistance, it will continue that way.

"Me?" I hear you say, "How can I help?" The answer is simple, **SPEAK TO ME!**

While I will be on the boat regularly, I can almost guarantee I won't be on it every weekend.



With this in mind, and the fact that my crystal ball is somewhat cloudy (that Genie sold me a dud), I need YOU to tell me, if something needs to be attended to. As I hope you know by now, I am very approachable, so give me a call and let me know. We'll either fix it, or I'll give you a (hopefully) very good reason why not.

Geoff C

SOCIAL SCENE

Apart from diving, I think we are going to have a tremendous amount of fun, and some very interesting things happening in the Club this year. We have a keen 'social' team with lots of ideas and lots of energy, who will make sure it all happens. What YOU have to do is to make sure you know what is coming up and join us! We have a mixture of regular and special events planned but, as places may be limited for some of the special events, be sure to book in early - by signing up in the folder that will circulate at Club meetings, or by ringing me. Your feedback and your own ideas on what you'd like to do are always welcome too.

Basically we will have at least one special social event each month, which we are varying to suit a variety of tastes and the season! For

some we will make special plans so that your children can have fun too, and other events may be 'child-free'.

Then at each general meeting we aim to have interesting speakers. The theme for the year's talks is *Water*, and speakers might cover 'watery' aspects of anything from history, biology, science fiction, physics, diving, etc, etc... and if you have slides or videos of your dive trips, we'll squeeze these in too!

Plus on the 'regular' front, you might think of joining our (so-called) 'swimming training'. This is continuing through the summer this year, from 6 PM at Fremantle pool, followed by a cheap meal out in Freo somewhere - for those

who wish to linger on and undo the good the swimming has done!

And on most Friday evenings, at any time except bleakest winter, somebody can usually be lured into the deep, dark water of Blackwall Reach for prawn diving.

So... come along, bring your friends and family... and have fun!!

Social Butterfly



COMING SOCIAL EVENTS

JANUARY

Friday 15:
Social Prawnning Night
BYO drinks and food.
Nibbles and a mini-Webber BBQ provided free of charge.

Sunday 24:
Launching of the Duyfken
(to follow a one-tank dive).

Tuesday 26:
Australia Day Sky Show

Monday 18:
General meeting
with guest speaker Nick Burningham, Naval Archaeologist, on the Duyfken 1606 Replica Project.

FEBRUARY

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

Saturday 20:
Fremantle to Rottnest Swim.

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

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

MARCH

Saturday 20:
Clean-Up Dive
at Challenger Harbour, followed by beer (BYO) and Pizza Party.

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

DETAILS AND BOOKINGS to all events:
See the *Social & PR News Book* or ring 9339 5936 a/h.



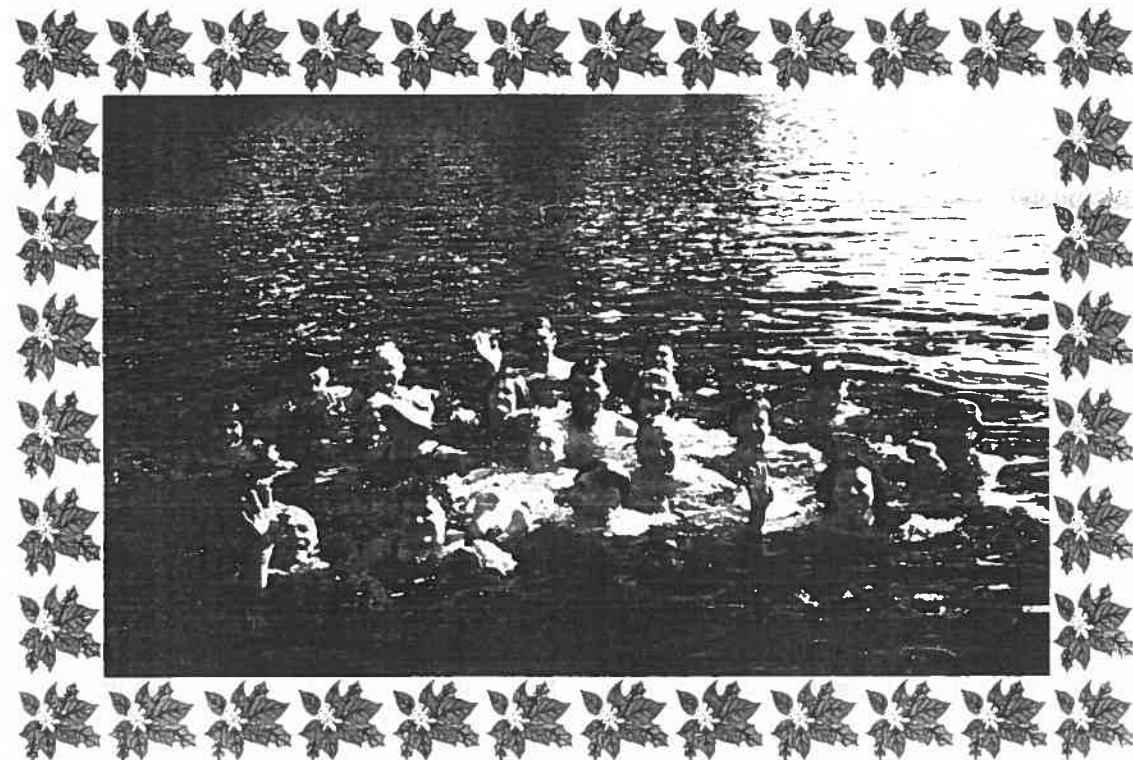
SOCIAL CHRISTMAS DIVE

The December 6th Christmas Dive and barbecue turned out to be one of those magic days that cannot be predicted (or probably, repeated). The weather was grey and the forecast doubtful enough to make the non-divers, who had booked on for the day, stay back for coffee and a wander in the *E-shed Market* while the divers dived. And dive we did, in what looked like the middle of nowhere this side of the Stragglers, but turned out to be a very pretty spot with heaps of crays for the taking... even by hand!

After the dive we headed back into the river and met the non-divers, by now happily out for a spin in Dennis and Maree's *Nereus*. Then it was time for the **Celebration of the Sea**... yes... in the river (apologies to the sea).

As the *International Year of the Sea* had almost passed without recognition by the Club, we thought we should do something, so we devised a ceremony of our own (tongue in cheek). Gentle music (Sandy), flowery speeches about the sea in Italian and French (thanks to Carmine and Michel), wreaths, candles that would not light (Maureen), feeding the fishes (not **That** way.. it was calm). Somehow the magic took over (probably the champers mixed with the warm sun... the fun of it all... the barbecued crayfish). Now - that might look like a scene from the Titanic, but look again, we are all laughing! Or a scene from Cocoon?... but no... look again, we're too young! Memories include Geoff G doing swan dives off the cliff at Blackwall Reach, and Susie doing what Susie does (? enough to alarm new members who are not inclined to flinging off their bathers in the broad day-light (until they become old members, and discover we don't all do that so readily.. it's not required!))

But ah, come Monday at least one of the party goers reported being racked and sluggish, and as if stuck down with a mega dose of chronic fatigue syndrome - after bounding up and down countless ladders, jumping across endless gaps (between boats) and straining every nerve to avoid hitting anything harder than the lightest kiss, and drinking 2 bottles of champagne, one bottle of red, a number of cleansing ales and eating a mountain of food.



CELEBRATION OF THE SEA

Il Mare

(written and read by Carmine)

*L'oigina di tutto la vita sul monde
Il poste di riposo da tutto, eventualmento.
La ricchezza dal umanita'
Vi offeriamo l' nostri sincere saluti e ringrazia
E vi assicuriamo l nostri intenzione da proteggarti al piu meglio
contro quelli che volessero daniggiarti
Salute Mare Al tuo vero bennessero.
L'UEC*

Le mare

(written by Michel, read by Kerry)

*Le plus formidable essistenze on su le monde.
Le gran Martre du tutt le umanite
Le Dieu on su le terre
Salut a votre fortune
G'temme a voux
L'UEC*



From Dennis: In this *International Year of the Sea*, let us all hope to be, Enfolded in her cool embrace, ever in her benign good grace. Let us respect her foamy wave, lest we be dashed in watery grave As she takes back what she gave, Our lives and evolution.



CELEBRATION OF CLUB MEMBERS



U.E.C. Annual Presentation Party was held early November this year at the Willetton Sports Club. Life Member DAVE KENNY presented the *Boat Person of the Year* award to MAUREEN COX, who has been aboard our boat *Underwater Explorer* for 28 dives during the last season. Maureen also received the *Most Improved Diver* award. (Would that have anything to do with her 'mopping around' on the reefs?)

PHOTO: Pat Troy



NEW NOMINATIONS

A warm welcome to:

DAVID V ZUIDDAM, High Wycombe (Limited visibility/Night diving, Navigation, Search & recovery, Deep diver, Enriched air nitrox, Stress & rescue, Equipment techniques/service)

CLIVE L CASS, Fremantle (Advanced diver)

NICK RAWLINS, Karrinyup (Dive Master).