

# THE UEC News

Annual General Meeting Wed 17 July 2015

Thank you 2014-2015 committee

President – Martin Smith  
Secretary – Mak Tanaka/Steve Zoccoli  
Vice President – Mike Buchanan  
Treasurer – Steve Day  
Membership – Mike Buchanan  
Dive Coordinator – Mel Turner  
Boat Officer & SYC Liaison – Martin Smith  
Safety & Training – John De Boer  
Social – Jasmine Lyons  
Environment – Stephanie Mayoh  
Fundraising – Liz Davey  
Communications – Chris Wilkinson  
Newsletter Editor – Mike Buchanan



## Member subscriptions are due now

Member subscriptions are now due. Payments can be made by cheque payable to "Underwater Explorers Club of WA" and posted to the club at: PO Box 382, Melville WA 6956 or by EFT direct to the clubs bank account (preferred): BSB 066-136, Account no. 90-1972. Please email [treasurer@uecwa.com.au](mailto:treasurer@uecwa.com.au) and advise that you have EFT paid and provide details (a screen shot of the payment is great).

Subscriptions for 2015/16 are:

UEC Ordinary member \$155

Family member \$240

Student/Junior/Social \$45

SYC membership is compulsory for all diving members - not required for UEC

Student/Junior/Social membership. Members should receive a statement/invoice from the SYC for 2015/16. **This should be paid directly to the SYC.**

## UEC Membership Database

Have you moved house recently or updated your email address / mobile phone number? If so please let Mike know on [membership@uecwa.com.au](mailto:membership@uecwa.com.au) so we can ensure that the UEC membership database is up to date.

## President & Boat

Well can you believe this calendar year for the Club is almost up. It's been a Year of change, mainly in the way of making our General Meeting's more interesting and social.

It's good to see that our membership is almost the same as last Year. Another notable point was the amount of good diving through the year and credit must be given Mel Turner for her tireless work in this area.



Another event that is worth mentioning is the Club's 60th birthday bash. This was a great event and many thanks to Jasmine Lyons and her team of helper's for making this a resounding success. Again the Rotto Reef Life survey went ahead. This event promotes the Club and help's out with finance's.



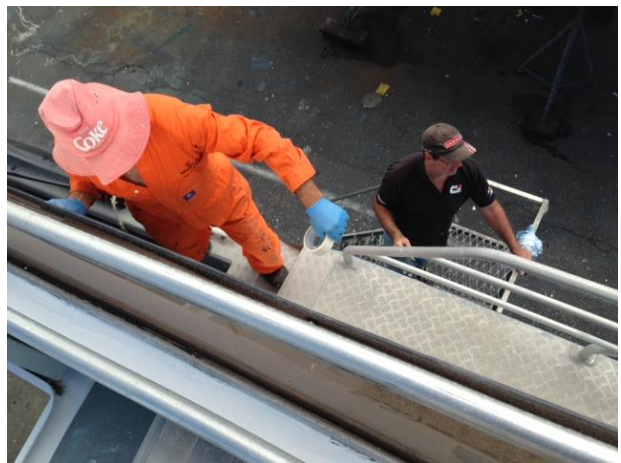
Also who can forget the amount of crayfish caught and the size of some them. Turning to Cape Cruiser, many thanks to Dennis Stubberfield for organising the Bimini Top and its installation. It look's a "Million Dollar's".

These are just a few items' that cap off the last year. None of these things are possible without a good, working and happy committee. The state of the Club

bears evidence to that from the finance side, to the newsletter, the web site, to the diving, all set the scene for a great year, thank you. Many thanks also to the great job done by our Skipper's and Dive Officers as without them nothing happens on the boat, thank you.

These are just a few reflections of the past year without going on and on. So I encourage all of you to think of the next year and with the coming A.G.M., put your hand up to serve on the committee. So, let's look forward to another great year with the Best diving club in Australia.

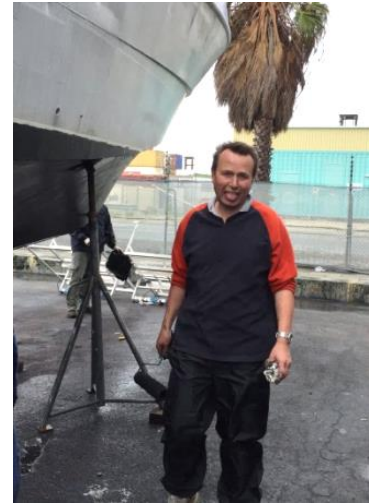
Regards Martin Smith



## Vice President & Membership

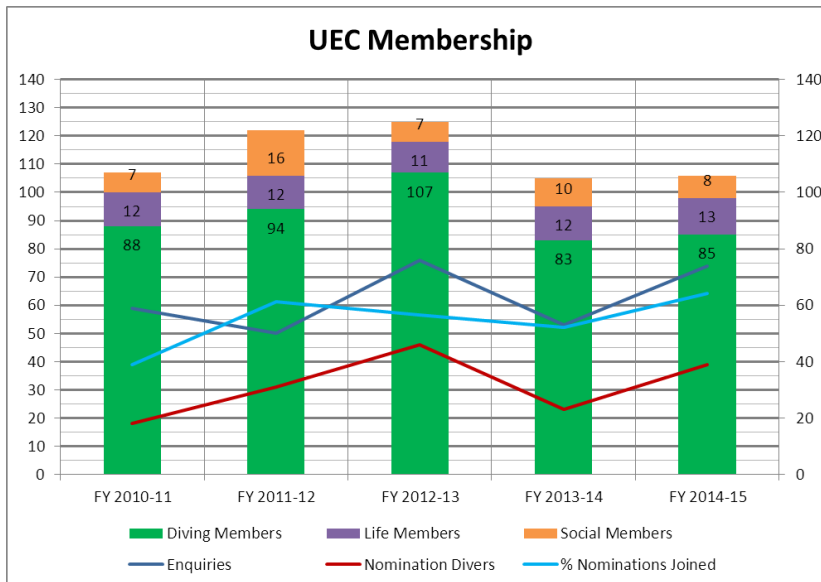
The good news is that after a big drop the previous year, membership numbers have recovered slightly (see following graphs). We are at a level that is probably on the low side of ideal for diving one day a week. The question of what is the ideal membership has been debated on a number of occasions. Too many members and the boat is booked out early and people can't dive. Too few and we become uneconomic.

We have often said that as a club we would like to get the boat out on both Saturday and Sunday but to do this, as well as needing sufficient crew, we would need a diving membership of about 160+, about double the current number. I do think this is a goal that the club should aspire to although it is a significant increase in current levels and whether it is achievable is questionable. Better utilisation of our boat would ultimately give members more



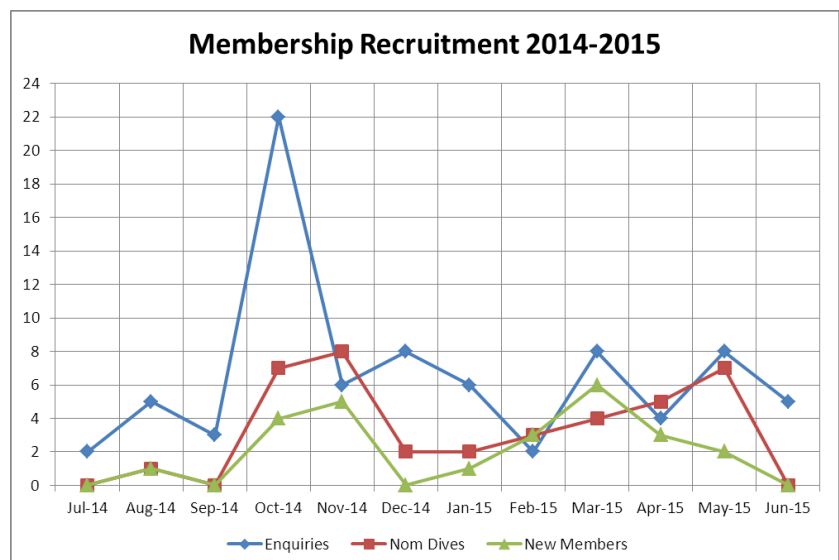
choice about which day they dive on and would bring down costs for everyone.

Several notable events during the year have significantly helped in numbers, these being the Dolphin Dive open day which resulted in a total of 22 enquiries for October and the posting of the UEC newsletter across a number of Facebook sites such as Dive Buddies [Perth] from February onwards. This can be



seen in the rising trend of nomination dives from January onwards at a time when typically numbers would be dropping off with the colder weather. Unfortunately the boat being out of action for almost all of June brought numbers back to Earth (or literally land).

Remember it's not just the Membership Secretary or the committee that recruit. We can all do our bit by inviting friends and work colleagues along to try out the boat. Let's see if we can keep the trend moving in the right direction for the next club year.



I have now sat on the committee for five years and enjoy our committee meetings which have become very sociable and enjoyable. I have nominated to remain in my current role and look forward to continuing into the future. I would urge anyone thinking of joining the committee to come forward and let us know. It's a rewarding experience to give something back to the club.

Mike Buchanan



## Treasurer

The accounts show a small profit which is somewhat misleading. This is due to an invoice from Twin Disc who fixed a throttle issue which has yet to be sent to the Club. The expected total of this may be in the vicinity of \$3,000 to \$4,000. This cost, when known, will appear in the financials for next year

Also to appear in the financials next year will be a major cost for the repair to Cape Cruiser's motor which Westrac is currently undertaking. The quote is some \$23,000 but could go higher. Fortunately the Club does have reserves which will cover these costs.



Some interesting financial comparisons from this year to the previous one are:

- Boat dive income up by \$2,400. This was due to more dives plus the \$10 double dive increase
- Membership fees down by \$700 due to reduction in fees from \$170 to \$155
- Nomination dive income up by \$1,000
- Boat Maintenance is \$3,000 less this year however do note the Twin Disc comments above
- Swan Yacht Club pen fees increased \$1,500 this year

It was remiss of me last year for not thanking Clive Cass for organizing the annual Rottnest dive week. His efforts returned \$5,100 to the Club this year so thank you again Clive.

I want to thank the Committee for an enjoyable year and have happily re-nominated to be your Treasurer for next year

Steve Day

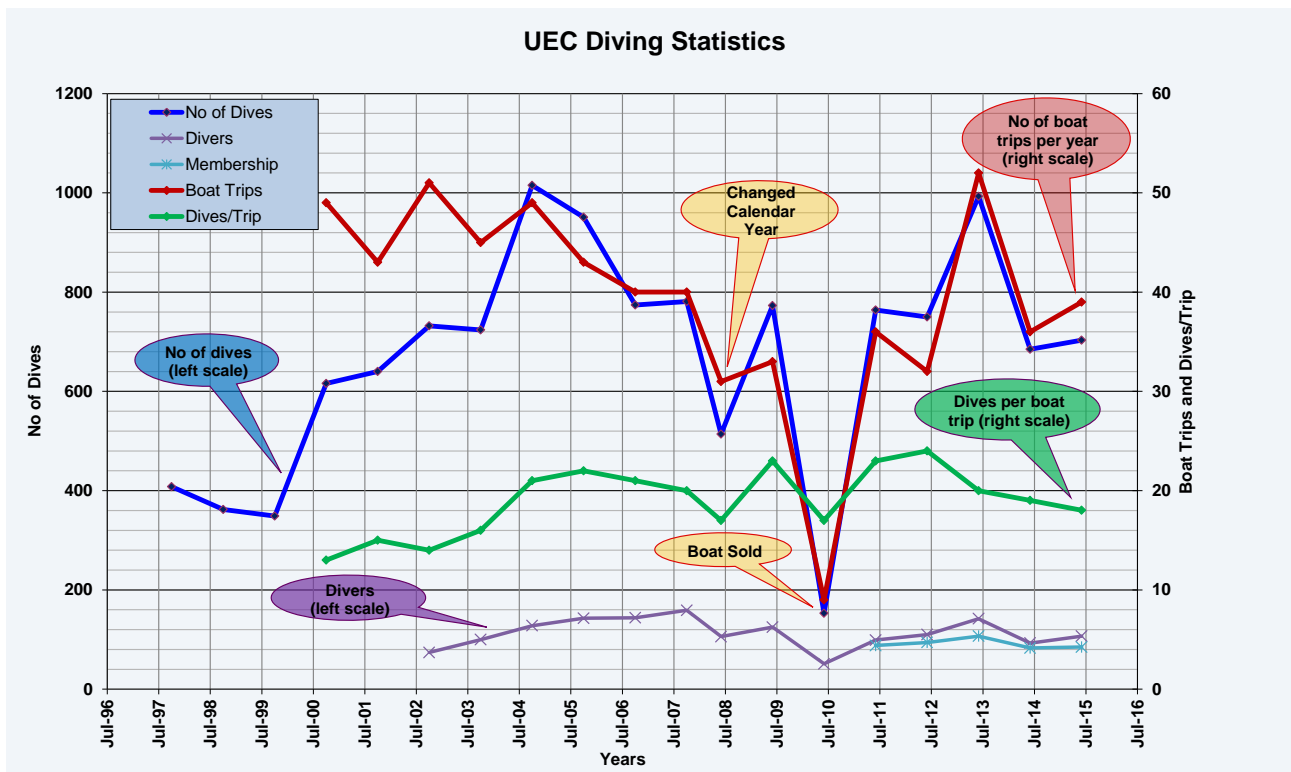


# Diving

I have to say I've had a ball being Dive Coordinator this year! The depth of our Club's knowledge on the dive sites around Rottneest, as well as up and down the coast, absolutely blows me away... did you know that we have over 150 recorded dive sites on our books?!!



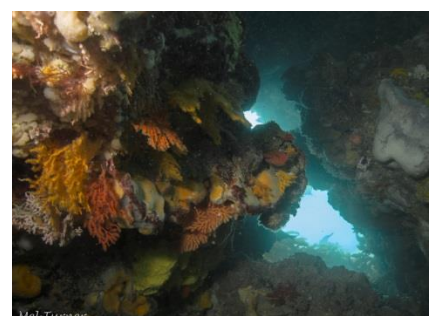
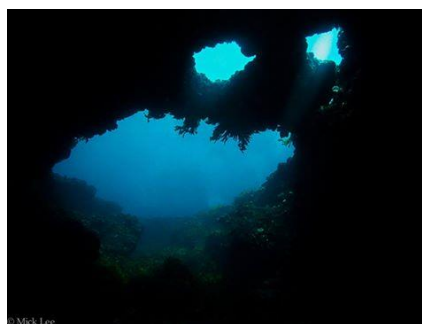
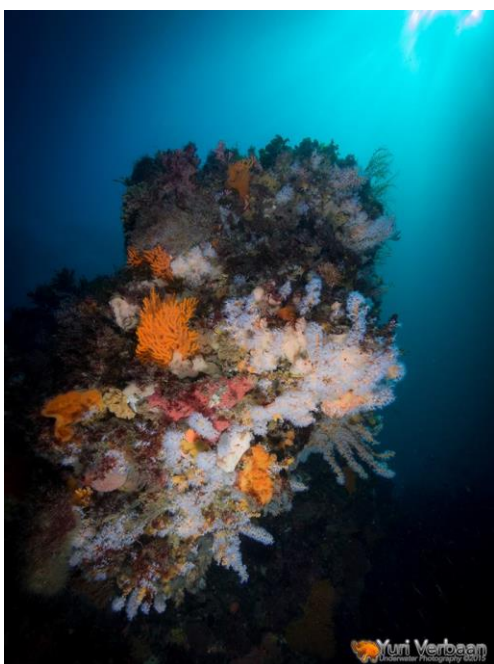
My goal this year was to include some spots we hadn't been to for a while, whilst continuing to visit the favourites, and I believe we achieved this goal. On that note – thank you to the Skipper's for your support. There were a few frantic "I have no idea where this spot is Mel!" phone calls and e-mails along the way – but everyone got behind it, and I think we had more wins than losses in this regard.



## Where did we go?

We visited a total of 74 different sites over the course of the year, compared to 70 different sites last year. Looking at the figures, we probably over dived Stragglers a little, but in our defense – it is one of the better, more popular cray hunting spots. Plus, Stragglers has some magnificent country for the non-cray divers to explore and photograph.

Dive Sites	No of dives	Dive Sites	No of dives
Stragglers	8	Flat Ledge N.Garden Island	1
Marjories Sink Holes	5	Hall Bank Night Dive	1
Geordie Lump	4	Halls Bank	1
Crystal Caves	3	Eagle Bay Entrance Cathedral Reef	1
Garenup North Mole Wreck	3	City of York Wreck	1
Kerrys Caverns	3	Do Not Dive Again Exploratory	1
Cray Canyon	2	Christmas Caves Penguin Island	1
Arch Rock	2	The Channels	1
Kingston Spit Shark Cave	2	Cathedral Rock	1
Saxon Ranger Wreck	2	Rogers Rock	1
Flat Top	2	Blueys Ridge	1
Parker Point Drop Off	2	Stragglers - Main Break	1
Nurses Quarters	2	Cathedral Rocks Seals & Wreck	1
City of York Reef	2	Anders Meander	1
Duffield Ridge	1	Cable Reef	1
Marees Aquarium	1	14m Reef	1
Crystal Arch	1	Barrys Cave	1
Stragglers – Exploratory	1	The Count	1
Easter Lump	1	Star Picket	1
Jackson Rock - The Archways	1	Stragglers - Crazy Wobbe	1
Daves Spot Roe Reef	1	Reef Life Survey	1
Jackson Rock	1	Geordie Channel Marker Caves	1
Kingston Reef	1	Geordie Bay Caves	1
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>74</b>





## Diver of the Year

The “Diver of the Year” Award was a fiercely contested battle this year...

Congratulations to Mike Buchanan on taking out the win with 36 dives. Mike just ousted Adrian Taylor, who finished second on 34 dives.

Our recently departed Secretary Mak Tanaka looked to have this award all stitched up (until his departure in April) with 30 dives, which was also the same number of dives Malcolm Roberts ended the year on.

Other honourable mentions go to our new Members Hugh Parker (21 dives), George Gandossini (19 dives), and the lovely Lena and Birger (14 dives each).



Place	Name	Dives	Place	Name	Dives
1	Mike Buchanan	36	12=	Lena Persson	14
2	Adrian Taylor	34	12=	Birgir Eriksson	14
3=	Mak Tanaka	30	14	Elise Brigden	13
3=	Malcolm Roberts	30	15=	Dave Carter	12
5	Geoff Geard	25	15=	Jeff Weston	12
6	Hugh Parker	21	17=	Nigel Hobson	10
7=	Liz Davey	20	17=	Sue Haste	10
7=	Mel Turner	20	17=	Mick Lee	10
7=	Clive Cass	20	17=	Andrea Carter	10
10	George Gandossini	19	17=	Rusty Geller	10
11	Trevor Walker	16			

## How much diving did we do?

A total of 107 divers (UEC, affiliate and nominations) had a total of 703 dives off Cape Cruiser this year, which is up from the previous 12 months (93 divers completed 685 dives last year). Two of these trips were single dives, and two were social night dives.

In terms of non-diving days, Cape Cruiser did undergo some major work this year and (as always) the weather sometimes conspires against our diving plans. Despite this, we still managed 39 different boat trips. This figure was also slightly up from the 36 boat trips last year.

Year	Boat Trips	No of Dives	Dives per Trip	Divers	Diving Membership
2009/10	9	153	17	51	
2010/11	36	764	23	99	88
2011/12	32	750	24	110	94
2012/13	52	993	20	142	107
2013/14	36	685	19	93	83
2014/15	39	703	18	107	85



## What type of diving did we do?

2014/15 saw our inaugural “Wreck Diving Day” and “Deep(er) Diving Days”, as well as the return of Exploratory Diving.



### Wreck Diving Days

A fantastic suggestion from Wendy and Chris saw UEC purchase an Annual Pass to dive the Saxon Ranger. We visited this wreck twice, making the most of the purchase.

Whilst the area is fairly silty, the wreck itself was impressive to dive. Given that our visits to the Saxon Ranger took us further south than we would usually venture, we used the opportunity to dive around both Penguin Island and Garden Island on these trips.

### Exploratory Diving Days

Given we are the Underwater Explorer’s Club of WA – it seems fitting we managed to schedule some exploratory diving this year.

Exploratory Diving days are a difficult to implement, in that no one wants to spend their day diving two disappointing dive sites – yet it is hard to make any guarantees when you’re diving the unknown. So to decrease the chances of disappointment, our exploratory dives generally utilised tip-offs from outside the Club’s knowledge base.

With that in mind, we held two Exploratory Diving days this year – the first visited site is now named “Donotdiveagain” (like I say – we don’t always get it right!)

Our second Exploratory Diving Day saw us head to Easter Lump, which the Club had only dived once – the time it was discovered. Second dive of the day was a new site found by the group during the Rottneest Week – Geordie Lumps. We had favourable reports on both sites.



### Deep(er) Diving Days

The site we visited for our Deep(er) Day was Bluey’s Ridge – which got down to 30m. We were blessed with fantastic conditions and visibility, and a highlight of the day was spotting a good-sized Grey Nurse shark. We’ll look to hold another Deep(er) Diving day in the coming 12 months.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Chris and Wendy for their support and guidance on the Exploratory, Wreck and Deep(er) Diving Days... I think those who participated on any of these days would agree – they were a lot of fun.

### Carl the Cray Whisperer's Secret Spot Dives

By now most will know Carl – he is legendary at sniffing out and catching crayfish, and his days were extremely popular (the boat was booked to capacity all three times he skippered his cray fishing days).

Congratulations are also in order, as he now officially holds the record as the only Skipper to reach the boat (cray) limit three trips in a row... and he probably would have made it 4 in a row if he'd had the opportunity to complete the final trip of the cray season (sadly, Cape Cruiser was undergoing repairs for this trip).



### Our wonderful Crew

As you would have read in the newsletters, we've been a tad short on crew numbers (particularly DO's), and as such each of these guys and gals have crewed more often than we would have liked. Without these fantastic people giving up their time, we wouldn't be able to go diving... thank you!

Congratulations to Steve Day – who earned his Skipper “wings” this year, and we also had one new Dive Officer join the ranks (me!)

Skipper	No of Trips	No of Dives
Geoff Gead	7	126
Chris Cunnold	6	123
Steve Day	5 + 6*	91
Carl Anders	6	118
Rex Burke	5	85
Martin Arrowsmith	4	77
Dennis Stubberfield	3	26
Martin Smith	1	15
Wendy Hutchison	1	26
Geoff G/Martin A	1	16

\* supervised trips

Dive Officer	No of Trips	No of Dives
Clive Cass	9	167
Adrian Taylor	6	116
Steve Day	6	108
Mel Turner	4 + 7*	65
John De Boer	4	89
Mike Buchanan	2	41
Pat Swallow	2	24
Martin Arrowsmith	1	25
Amanda Blanksby	1	19
Mike Buchanan / Adrian Taylor	2	16
Mike Buchanan / Steve Day	1	16
Geoff Gead	1	13
Martin Smith	1	4

### Nearly finished ☺



One last thing... putting my hand up for this role has been one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. I can't give enough thanks to the Committee and (many of) our Members for their support, guidance and encouragement.

If you've ever been thinking about getting involved in any way, go for it!!! No matter how big or small the role, it is highly satisfying giving something back to this fantastic Club we're all a part of. Not to mention – it's a hell of a lot of fun!

Mel Turner

## Secretary



Unfortunately our wonderful Secretary, Mak, decided it was too warm here and headed back to Canada for some cold water diving. We will all miss his cheery face.

In the meantime we welcome Steve Zoccoli to the role as of May and hopefully for the next few years at least.



## Fundraising

2014-2015 has been another amazing year for the best dive club in Perth, UECWA !

For those of you who enjoy a few stats, this year we have sold the greatest number of Entertainment Books and Apps ever! Twenty five books and eleven Apps. A truly amazing effort especially considering \$13.00 per sale comes back to the club, making a grand total of \$468.00...Thank you folk, that's a serious effort.



I have placed two clothing orders, the most recent one with a new supplier, a local firm, making the availability of samples, ordering and collection and distribution quicker easier to manage. Thankfully those who have already collected their clothes are thrilled, so hopefully I needn't worry any more ...everything seems OK. The profit margin on clothing items is very small. I would rather see club members attired in our clothing than making lots of dollars, having said that , the amount raised was around the \$200 .00 figure..



Part way through the year we changed the long standing habit of General Meeting raffles with various donated prizes, and trialed a lucky number raffle, with half the proceeds going to the member with the lucky, randomly drawn number, the other to the club. Members have voiced their approval, and have queued up to buy their ticket.

The high spot for me this year, and for many others I am sure, was the UECWA 60th Birthday Party/Christmas

Party. What an amazing night it was, Jasmine and Ilonka excelled themselves by presenting us all with the most amazing foods. Mel and Cathy provided run sheets organisational directions and hands on help. Ilonka painted a Photo stand scene, members could have their photos taken with heads protruding through a hole, and the scene was that of a deep sea diver being menaced by a shark....if you were there you will know what merriment it created.

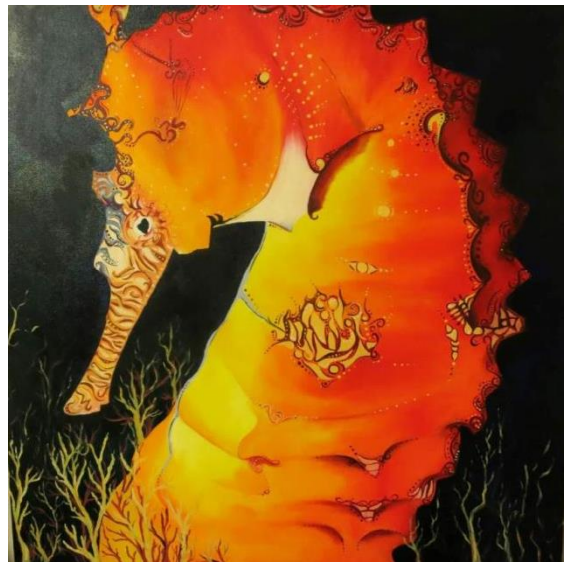
The diving community are always a generous mob and they certainly supported our club event with so many amazing donations, we were able to provide an impressive and lengthy array of lucky door prizes.



The evening culminated in a silent auction of many things donated by the dive community and members alike. However the auction wasn't so silent when the bidding became intense for the hand painted Swan river Sea Horse picture, painted and donated by Erin Roberts. Thank you Zita Dobson for your winning bid, and an even bigger, Thank You for immediately giving it to Suzie, a

truly generous gesture.... both a great reflection of the type of people who make up our club.

I am always looking for new and exciting ways and ideas to fundraise, so important especially given the recent engine issues we have experienced with the boat. So if you have any scathingly brilliant ideas, or even slow steady ones, please don't be shy, share them with me.. You can reach me through the club fundraising address, or meet me at the General Meetings... I will do my best to implement any feasible ideas.



And finally, THANK YOU, thank you all for your continued support, generosity and enthusiasm. Ours is a great club, it is only through your support that we remain so.

Happy Diving

Liz Davey



## Safety & Training

Another successful year at UEC from the safety side of things with not much to report and that's probably a good thing. With only a couple of incidents and none resulting in personal injury it's been a safe year. This is mainly due, I believe, to the way our skippers and dive officers go about their business. I am very impressed with the way our crews are looking after us all and with some newcomers to the crew list I expect this to continue.

I already have some names of members who wish to undertake training in the Skipper and DO roles on Cape Crusader in the near future. We are always looking for new crew so if you like the sound of it let me know. Recent changes to the Dept of Transport regulations mean that DO's do not have to have a recreational skippers ticket any more.



Just a little reminder about our own personal diving skills. On your open water course (for some that may be a stretch to remember) we were all taught how to manage emergencies such as losing a reg or a mask and how to remove a BCD underwater and replace it.

Now the BIG question??? When was the last time you practised these skills. I know "it will never happen" but that's what safety is all about. So next time you are in shallow water with a few minutes and a few bar of air to spare have a go. Let your buddy know and remove your mask, share an air source. Even inflate a safety sausage without getting tangled in the cords.

Safe diving  
John



## UEC 60th Birthday Party December 13, 2014

A lot of preparation went into UEC's big birthday bash, which was also our Christmas Party and December General Meeting – rolled into one. Over 65 Members joined us at the Cockburn RSL for a night of good food, laughs and reminiscing 60 years of good memories.



After some time to mingle, our MC Malcolm Roberts (also known as MC Hammer) kicked off the night with some questions that got us all either remembering or learning about our Club's history (I still can't believe our Club swam underwater to Rottnest!!!)



Then – time to tuck in to some amazing food. Jazz and Ilonka had not spared a thing, and (with the assistance of some BBQ Helpers – thanks guys!) we had the most incredible choice of BBQ'd meats and vegetables, cold meats, salads etc you could ever ask for.

Once our bellies were satisfied (and the plates cleared away – thanks again to those who helped!), we were entertained by Dave Kenny with a Potted History of the UEC. Our Club really has a fascinating history, and everyone was captivated as Dave told us about it.

After some more time to mingle (and time to let the mountain of food settle in our bellies), it was time to announce the winner of the Silent Auction ... The Silent Auction item was a stunning Sea Horse painting, donated by Artist Erin Roberts... Thank you so much Erin!

The Auction was hotly contested, with a few hanging around in the hope of putting the final bid on...The eventual winners were Bob and Zita Dobson, who then kindly gifted the artwork to Seahorse Susie... an incredibly appropriate transaction!





It was then time to draw the Door Prizes, which were all result of generous donations from a number of Club Members and Dive Shops. A big thank you to Perth Scuba, Dolphin Scuba and Australasian Diving Academy for your generous support – UEC appreciates it!

A special thanks must also go to Danny Messom for your donation of a framed photograph... a stunning photo of a seahorse, which was eyed off by many during the night, none more-so than Geoff G, who eventually took the prize home!

The main Door Prize winner was MC Hammer (I mean Malcolm Roberts) – who took home a brand new (wrist watch) dive computer – donated by Perth Scuba.



Finally it was time for the best part of the night... cake!!! But you can't eat birthday cake without singing happy birthday – so El Presidente Martin lead the way, and after wishing our wonderful Club a happy 60th (and another happy 60 years ahead), we rolled out of the Cockburn RSL Club with full bellies and smiles on our faces.

A big thank you to the Social Committee for all your work, and to every single person who had a part in making the night a success (there were a lot of Club Members who did their bit, and it was just great to see... thank you!)



## UEC Rotto Annual Holiday February 2015

With the boat loaded up with twelve divers all looking forward to a week of diving, eating, drinking and generally having fun we set off down the river. The crossing was uneventful until we got close to Rottnest where we witnessed the annual spectacle of the Rottnest swim flotilla. Geoff carefully picked his way through the line of boats and swimmers and we cruised into the vibrant Thompson Bay.



After dropping off Clive and Zita to pick up the keys, the rest of us cruised around to Geordie Bay. After 30 minutes of humping bags and Eskies we were in and the Rotto week had begun in earnest.

Saturday night kicked off with the traditional group dinner conjured up by Liz, Chris and others and the next day's plan was formed. The traditional salute to Huey was performed by Bob on the balcony and then we got stuck in to the Spag Bol.



With a weather forecast of rapidly increasing wind we opted for a 7am start much to the chagrin of those who prefer their beds at that time.

### **Day One - Sunday**

Geoff and Clive had the boat on the jetty at 7am and with only six divers we set off. A brief delay while Clive wrapped his Craypot around the rudder saw most of our early start evaporate but although it was windy the swell was not bad so we headed for Flat Top. This ranks as my own personal favourite dive on Rottnest and it didn't disappoint. Stunning viz made it a perfect start to the week. While the Cray's eluded us all the photographers had a field day.

With an increasing SE wind we decided to head inshore for some shelter. For the second dive we opted for the City of York wreck. Another beautiful dive with stunning scenery of gullies, caves and swim thru's. Yet again the Cray's won the day but a beautiful dive had by all. Nobody found the wreck but I suspect some of the caves we swam through were underneath it.

## Day Two - Monday

With the weather steadily improving we decided to try out Kerry's caverns. This was an interesting dive site with lots of smallish caves & long tunnels including one that Adrian and I ventured into which was just swarming with the little buggers (and most of them were little). As we had only got 200 bar to start with from the Rottnest bike rental the dive was going to be limited. The Cray drought ended with about 12 Cray's bagged for the day and lots of prawns returned to fight again.



With the wind picking up we headed again for the shelter of the island and City of York outer reef. Initially the country was pretty average but after a while we found some nice gullies, caves and swim thru's.

## Day Three - Tuesday

With Steve as Skipper there was a last minute change of plan with a trial of a new dive site called Marjorie's sump holes. As most wanted to dive the west end as the forecast was promising but to satisfy the crayfisher's we did one at this site on steves recommendation. Geoff, Adrian, Mak, Bob, Zita and Clive jumped in and came back with glowing reports. We then took a trip round to Martins Arches on the west end but decided the swell was too high. Geoff convinced all to go back



to do Marjorie's again but unfortunately we missed the mark and most of us didn't find too much. Lots of undersized Cray's caught with a few keepers.

With the wind picking up and a desire for more Cray's we went to Geordie Bay Caves. A nice but not spectacular dive with a few Cray's in the bag.

#### Day Four - Wednesday

The forecast was near perfect so we decided to try the West End again. First stop was Anders Meander but after the peg had dropped the consensus was it was too rough.

We decided to move into Eagle Bay entrance (outer Cathedral Rocks reef) and had a second go. It was a long swim to the reef but for those who made it it was a very nice dive.



Lots of gullies, slabs, holes and caves, some packed with Crayfish. Adrian and I found a nice flat cave about 10m across and 1m high with a few Cray's hanging around which kept us entertained for 10 minutes.



As we were already at Cathedral Rocks and the conditions were looking great Denis convinced us to go for the holy grail of The Cathedral itself. We dropped the peg as close as we could and set off.

Well what a dive. Words cannot express how beautiful a dive site this is. Lots of caves of varying sizes, tunnels, shafts of light and enough Cray's to sink a battleship but as it is sanctuary zone all safe from our eager eyes. Adrian and I pushed on over the break to find the elusive Cathedral. We don't know if we found

it but we found a cavern that was well worthy of the description. It was so big that my LED couldn't reach the sides. Adrian's description of an aircraft hanger was pretty apt. It was very dark with just a bright shaft of light at the end we entered which looked very much like the altar.

At the back of the cavern a tunnel disappeared off into the distance which I attempted to go down but after getting stuck I decided retreat was the best option. We reluctantly left as air and time were against us and headed back to the boat.

Wednesday night saw us down at the Rottnest Lodge for what is becoming the traditional quiz night. This is something that we usually clean up at but this particular night after some heckling of the compere for her somewhat amusing pronunciation of certain words we mysteriously ended up in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place. I guess we kind of asked for it but we was robbed.

### Day 5 – Thursday

With the wind picking up and coming from West to North West we decided to head around to the Crystal Caves area of Rottnest. The diving was superb and the Crays were jumping in the bags so we ended up doing both dives in the same location.

### Day 6 – Friday

With the weather deteriorating and a strong southerly wind it was down to a core of four dedicated divers to do the last day of the week. So with Dennis at the helm and Steve Day as DO Mike, Mak, Adrian and Geoff headed for a site that is rarely dived – Maree’s Aquarium. This is tucked into the North of the island just west of Parakeet Bay and in the conditions was probably the most sheltered dive we could have found. With a blustery wind Dennis was forced to drop anchor some way off the reef so we had a bit of a swim.



Mak and I swam over the reef and spent about 25 minutes looking for the cave. It was only when we about turned and headed back over the reef to head back to the boat that we found a hole and on diving in there it was. This is a stunning site with two large flattish caves interconnected by a saddle. The fish life was fantastic and made the name of aquarium very apt. As with all great dives our time in the cave was too short and reluctantly we headed back to the boat and then back to

Geordie to pack up for home.

The week had been the perfect diving holiday with fantastic weather, great company, great food (thank you Liz and Chris and to all those who caught the Cray's we feasted on) and of course the best diving on the planet.

Friday also brought the changing of the guards with 11 new divers heading over to the island. A number of us arrived feeling rather green given a very choppy journey over there. Stomachs settled after the late toast to the already set sun and the traditional spag bol.

### Day 7 – Saturday



Saturday morning it was off to explore a new site, Marjorie's sinkholes. The crew during the week had already explored this site and Geoff was keen to head back there for the weekend bunch to enjoy. Boy what a site, awesome visibility, with lots of sinkholes to explore, some shallow and others deeper. The cray hunters and photographers both thoroughly enjoyed both dives on the site. That evening we all enjoyed the spoils of the ocean with a huge crayfish

feast.

### Day 8 - Sunday

Sunday we headed to the Canyon. Conditions were a bit surgy given the slight increase in swell, and a tad windy on the surface. A large school of buff bream were streaming around on the reef and it was fun to swim through them and down into the canyon.

For the second dive we headed back to the City of York, and this provided an interesting experience with a shark cruising around. Most of the buddy pairs saw the shark and there was lots of debate back on board as to its identity. This was definitely not a grey nurse shark, more likely either a tiger shark or a bronze whaler.



Monday morning brought along less wind than anticipated so a few of us headed out to another new site now named Geordie Lump. A beautiful dive site, lots and lots of fish hanging about, masses of varieties, some very nice swim thru's in the reef. The only downside was that the vis wasn't that great. Definitely a recommended site for the future so thanks to both Rex and Geoff for getting us out exploring.

All in all a great week and weekend had by all. Thanks to Geoff Geard, Denis Stubberfield, Steve Day and Rex Burke for skippering, and Clive Cass, Mike Buchanan, Adrian Taylor, Pat Swallow and Amanda Blanksby for DO'ing, some for which involved dusting off some rusty DO skills. Finally big thanks to Clive Cass, the undisputed King of Rotto, for organising yet another great Rotto holiday. For anyone who has not been on one yet this is an event not to be missed.

# Busselton 'Clean-Up' Weekend 2014



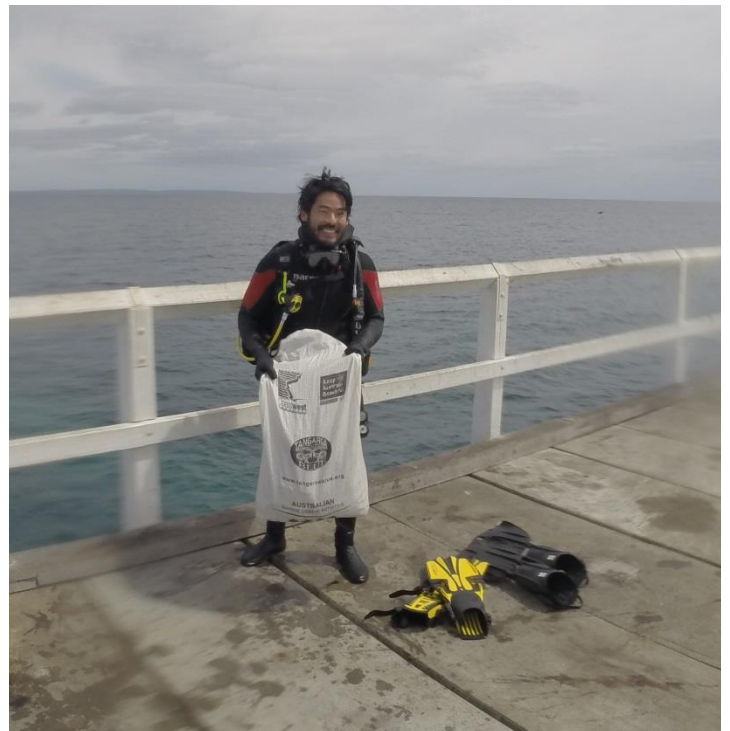
Once again an intrepid group of UEC pilgrims journeyed to Busselton for the annual WA Beach Clean-Up.

Jo Bull, Liz Davey, Mel Turner, Mark Weber, Mak Tanaka, Rex Burke and Pat Swallow were the happy weekenders, collecting rubbish from under Busselton Jetty amid the new pylons.

Sadly the Dive Shed's boat broke down, but this didn't daunt us – we let the train take the strain instead!

Even though we were told a local group had already brought up a heap of rubbish from under the jetty the day before, we still managed to find a fair bit of rubbish. It was also the perfect excuse for a very enjoyable dive, catching sight of the usual Busselton Jetty underwater inhabitants – cuttlefish, globe fish, octopus, nudibranchs, and many more marine critters, as you can see on the cool Youtube video that our new friend James put together <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1l5QyE4AifU>.

After the dive we put Jo and Mel in charge of all the gear on the train and the hardy folk amongst us walked back down the jetty, working up a good thirst in the process.

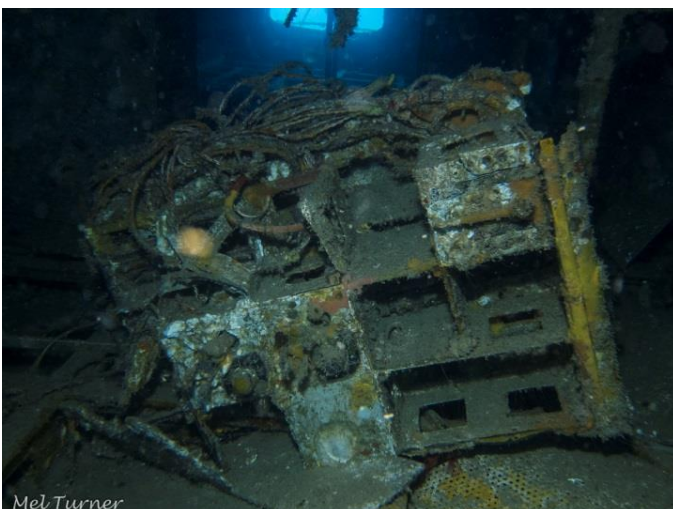




As always, we enjoyed relaxing at our accommodation in Busselton, and this year's house held a surprise, as besides board games and our favourite Jenga, there were some very early arcade games to be played, such as Space Invaders, making the 'boys' in the group very happy.

Cape Dive also helped us out on the Saturday, taking us to the Swan wreck. We were treated to a display by a hump back whale and calf on the journey and could hear the whales singing when we were under the water, which was truly magical.

The dive on the Swan didn't let us down either and we had fun exploring the wreck. All in all, another great Busselton Clean-Up Weekend!





## Augusta Weekends

Life Member (and Skipper extraordinaire) Geoff Geard organised two trips to Augusta during the year – the first in November 2014, and the second in March 2015. Augusta is near the meeting points of the Southern and Indian Oceans, and we were lucky to dive in both Oceans during these trips.

Our Southern Ocean diving included dives on the Ocean Grown abalone farm (<http://www.oceangrown.com.au/about-us/>) – a unique and eerie experience. During the March trip, divers were lucky to be visited by both seals and bull rays during their dive on the abalone farm.



Our Indian Ocean dives were in the Cosy Corner bay, which has a vast network of reef teeming with crayfish, abalone, fish life and large areas of kelp and seaweed – absolutely stunning. It is a spot that is accessible by shore, but only if you don't mind carrying your gear up and down a monster hill. Suffice to say, we were all very happy to have the opportunity to dive it from a boat, and the consensus is we would all happily return there again.

We were lucky to catch loads of crays and abalone on both trips. In fact, we caught so many we ate them fresh

(cooked on either on the boat's BBQ or on the BBQ back at the house) – and still had enough left over to take home.

These Augusta weekends have proved to be very popular, and we plan to make this an annual (or bi-annual) trip. A big thank you to Geoff for organising two fantastic weekends of diving!



## Berry Nice Café Photo Competition

Berry Nice Café – owned and operated by UEC Member Malcolm Roberts – kindly gave UEC the opportunity to display their work (as well as sell to any interested buyers) – as Berry Nice’s “Feature Artist” for the month of June.



Members were allowed to submit up to 3 photos each, with the top 7 photos going on display. We received a total of 24 entries from 9 individuals – all of exceptional quality.

Congratulations to everyone who entered this competition... the talent we have in our Club never ceases to amaze.

The vote took place at our April General Meeting, with Members voting on their top 3 favourite photos. Those who voted did not know who had taken each photo, and they were displayed in random order.



A special congratulations to our winners, and a big thank you to Malcolm and Berry Nice Café for this fantastic opportunity.

### First Place – Danny Messom





Second Place –  
Malcolm Roberts



Third Place –  
Malcolm Roberts



Fourth Place  
– Pat Swallow

Fifth Place –  
Amanda Blanksby



Sixth Place –  
Gary Browne



Seventh Place –  
Mak Tanaka



## Club Honours

From	To	President
1954	1955	John Stokes
1955	1957	?
1957	1958	Barry Martin
1958	1960	Harold R H (Beachmaster) Roberts
1960	1961	Rod Ashton
1961	1962	John Walden
1962	1963	Len Cohn
1963	1964	J Carrie
1964	1966	Ken Kennedy / Richard Bone
1966	1970	R.A. (Bob) Wallis
1970	1971	J Varris
1971	1973	John Walden
1973	1975	Dave Kenny
1975	1976	R.A. (Bob) Wallis
1977	1979	Dave Kenny
1979	1980	Mal Thomson
1980	1981	Dave Kenny
1981	1983	Mal Ferrier
1983	1984	John C Paskulich
1984	1985	Richard Bone / Barry Kennedy
1985	1988	Barry Kennedy
1988	1991	Maree Casley
1991	1993	Glen Collingwood
1993	1994	Dennis Stubberfield
1994	1999	Maree Casley
1999	2003	Carmine Travaglione
2003	2004	Steve Larter
2004	2006	Chris Cunnold
2006	2007	Jules Holliday
2007	2007	Rachel Stone
2007	2008	Clive Cass
2008	2009	Wendy Hutchison
2009	2012	Bruce Fielding
2012	2013	Mike Buchanan
2013	present	Martin Smith

Diver of the Year			
From	To	Name	Number
2014	2015	Mike Buchanan	36
2013	2014	Tracy Tebutt	31
2012	2013	Tracy Tebutt	54
2011	2012	Matt Philson	39

Life Members
Elaine Airey
Susie Ashton
Maree Casley
Tibi Csomay
Geoff Geard
Peter Horton
Lyn Jones
Ken Kennedy
Dave Kenny
Martin Smith
Dennis Stubberfield
Carmine Travaglione
Pat Troy

Diver Top 20		
Place	Name	Dives
1	Mike Buchanan	36
2	Adrian Taylor	34
3=	Mak Tanaka	30
3=	Malcolm Roberts	30
5	Geoff Geard	25
6	Hugh Parker	21
7=	Liz Davey	20
7=	Mel Turner	20
7=	Clive Cass	20
10	George Gandossini	19
11	Trevor Walker	16
12=	Lena Persson	14
12=	Birgir Eriksson	14
14	Elise Brigden	13
15=	Dave Carter	12
15=	Jeff Weston	12
17=	Nigel Hobson	10
17=	Sue Haste	10
17=	Mick Lee	10
17=	Andrea Carter	10
17=	Rusty Geller	10

Club Person of the Year		
From	To	Name
2014	2015	
2013	2014	Clive Cass
2012	2013	Pat Troy
2011	2012	Wendy Hutchison
2010	2011	Tracy Hagen
2009	2010	Tom Bassett
2008	2009	Wendy Hutchison
2007	2008	Pat Troy
2006	2007	Pat Troy
2005	2006	Chris Cunnold
2004	2005	Chris Cunnold
2003	2004	Chris Cunnold
2002	2003	Malcolm Roberts
2001	2002	Bob McLaughlin
2000	2001	Mark Sach
1999	2000	Carmine Travalagione
1998	1999	Carmine Travalagione
1997	1998	Maree Casley
1996	1997	Peter Horton
1995	1996	Kerry Ashton
1994	1995	Kerry Ashton
1993	1994	Dennis Stubberfield
1992	1993	Larry Park

Boat Person of the Year		
From	To	Name
2014	2015	
2013	2014	Geoff Gead
2012	2013	Rex Burke
2011	2012	Rex Burke
2010	2011	Rex Burke
2009	2010	Bruce Fielding
2008	2009	Pat Troy
2007	2008	Chris Cunnold & Wendy Hutchison
2006	2007	
2005	2006	
2004	2005	Martin Smith
2003	2004	Martin Smith
2002	2003	Carmine Travaglione
2001	2002	Gary Browne
2000	2001	Geoff Gead
1999	2000	Pat Troy
1998	1999	Maureen Cox
1997	1998	Maureen Cox
1996	1997	Pat Troy
1995	1996	Richard Naylor
1994	1995	Pat Troy
1993	1994	Geoff Gead
1992	1993	Dennis Stubberfield



**Hardship Diving by Greg Bachman - Parker Point October 1985**

# Wrecks May Yield More Information

By MICHAEL ZEKULICH

The sailing ships *Batavia* and *Zeewyck* will be reconstructed on a drawing board from information gained by an expedition to the wrecks off the Arolhos Islands.

Twelve members of the Underwater Explorers' Club, who live in the metropolitan area, will form part of the expedition team. They will spend about five days, weather permitting, measuring the wrecks.

The party will leave Perth on August 25.

Mr K. Kennedy, who is in charge of the club's

section of the expedition, said the team would hire a 65ft. boat in Geraldton for about 12 days. Members would live on board.

The expedition will also include a party of university archaeology students led by Dr Colin Jack-Hilton, head of the human-studies section of the W.A. Museum.

Mr Kennedy said only club members and museum officials would dive.

The U.E.C. would receive a donation from the museum, depending on results achieved by members.

It would cost members about \$80 each.

The *Batavia* was lying in 16-24ft. of water and the *Zeewyck* might be in up to 30ft.

## BAD WEATHER

The area was open to bad weather, which might stop the work.

It was hoped, by measuring from point to point around the wrecks, to draw comprehensive plans.

Reconstructing the wrecks had to be done before any relics were moved.

Eventually a wreck might be remodelled on land. The *Batavia* could never be pulled up. It had been battered and flattened.

If items, such as a spar, were pulled up they could be preserved and put in their place as shown on the plan.

The locations of the wrecks were not well known. Local fishermen were good custodians against vandals or treasure hunters.

Silver coins had been picked up from the *Batavia*. Her cargo list showed she had been carrying gold and silver coins.

The wrecks belonged to the museum and people could be prosecuted for interfering with them.

If bad weather stopped underwater work, members would try to prove a theory which they were keeping secret.

It would mean excavation work on an island and it could result in the recovery of skeletons, swords and other items.

The U.E.C. was participating as a club service to the community.

## Secret Theory Held



Mr K. Kennedy, of Gildercliffe-street, Scarborough, prepares some of his gear for an expedition which, among other things, may try to prove a secret theory connected with the wrecks of the *Batavia* and *Zeewyck*. The *Batavia* was said to be carrying silver and gold coins when she sank.

## Hockey Training



Hockey will start today at Beatty Park—at the bottom of the 16ft.-deep diving pool.

It will be played by teams from the Underwater Explorers' Club with challenges from a Collie team and a city group.

ABOVE: Underwater explorers' Club president D. Parker (left), of Doubleview, and club member D. Stocker, of North Perth, at training in the Beatty Park diving pool yesterday.

Club president D. Parker said W.A. was the only State in Australia where the game was played. A sim-

ilar game was played in America but at the bottom of an Olympic swimming pool.

The game was part of the club's winter training programme because conditions for sea-diving were too bad.

A rubber puck is used and the players have sticks, shaped like a T and coloured for identification. There are four five-minute quarters with a five-minute break at half-time and a two-minute break between the other quarters.—Picture by David Tanner.