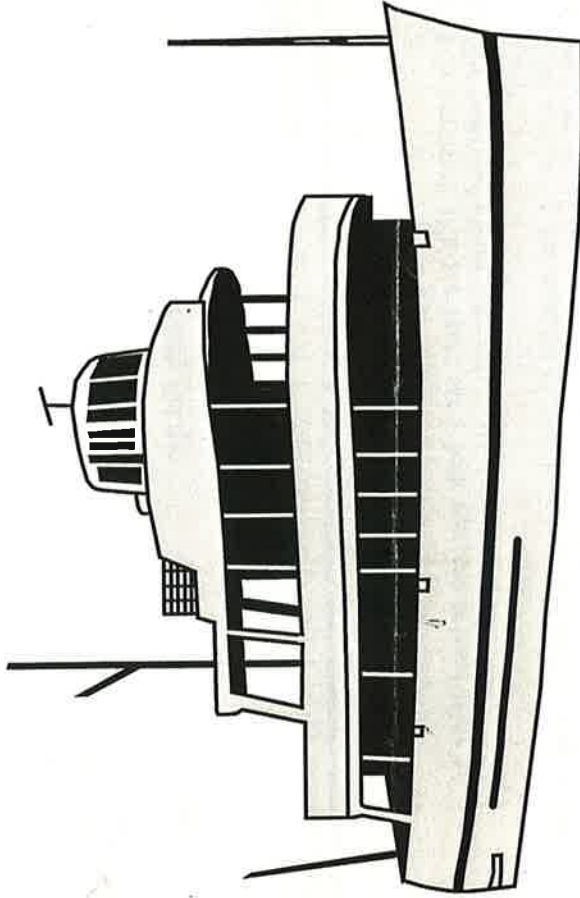


U E C NEWS MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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(Underwater Explorer's Club of W.A. (Inc.)
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JANUARY 1995

THE COMMITTEE 1994/95

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	Phone 457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	Phone 339 6407
TREASURER	Peter Horton	Phone 445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385
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TRAINING OFFICER	Vacant	
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SOCIAL & P. R.	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385

DIVE BOOKINGS

Kerry Ashton

Phone 331 2385

Editorial

Hi Folks!

Well, this is the start of a New Year, and I hope everyone enjoyed their break, and ready for fulfilled diving and social activities.

There is a new section in the magazine called "Wracks of the month". Some of you older members will recognize the title from back in the 60's.

We need some ideas to help us promote your club. I will re-mention this at the meeting, so, any ideas - speak up!

It has come to my attention that to get tank fills at Barrakuda from now on, you must show your diving certificate - no matter how "famous" you are.

For those of you who have not paid your membership fees yet - THIS WILL BE THE LAST MAGAZINE you receive until fees are paid!

All members who have paid their fees can collect their membership card from me at the general meeting.

SANDY
"and staff"

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Club Calendar

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 95

15-1	SUN	DIVE	
16-1	MON	GENERAL MEETING	8.30pm
18-1	WED	SKIPPERS DIVE OFFICERS MEETING	CLUBROOMS
22-1	SUN	DIVE	
26-1	THU	AUSTRALIA DAY CRUISE	4pm EAST ST JETTY
29-1	SUN	DIVE	
3-2	FRI	PRAWN DIVE	SEE KERRY'S REPORT
6-2	MON	COMMITTEE MEETING	
18-2	SAT	VALENTINE CRUISE	SEE SUSIE REPORT

Gee, it's hard to be witty, profound or even string a sentence together after spending five days at Rottnest, but I'll try - so here goes.

Firstly, the committee has appointed ALISON KEEN as Safety Officer, so we now have a full compliment of committee members. Alison is eager (keen?) to assist in the management of the Club, and with her many year's of diving experience and club membership is a welcome addition. If you have any concerns regarding safety, please contact her. In the meantime, watch out for her reports. Welcome aboard, Alison!

Negotiations have begun with BSAC regarding affiliation with us. I have had preliminary discussions with their Chairman, and he will get back to me after he has taken the proposal to their committee. There are many benefits to U.E.C. of an affiliation, the biggest being the opportunity of greater use of our boat. As soon as there is any more news on this front, I will let you know.

In the meantime, let's not rely on affiliation with other groups to increase boat usage. Kerry has drawn up an interesting and varied dive programme. There must be something there for all of us, so show your support for Kerry's initiations and give him a ring.

The last couple of Club dives have been well attended - the Christmas dive especially, when we had lots of people aboard. PAT TROY took over the reins at New Year when he took bookings and organised a dive trip which was also well attended. Thanks Pat for helping out!

At last, I hope to see many of you at our January meeting, where MICHEL ROUX will be presenting a slide show. This promises to be an interesting evening, so try and make it. See you soon!

MAREE

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions and members should keep in contact with D.O. Kerry Ashton - 331 2385

Phone D.O. Kerry Ashton on 331 2385 for dive bookings or enquiries.

DO NOT RING THE CREW.

Dives will be departing from East Street Jetty, Fremantle at 8.00 a.m.

DIVING DELIGHTS

Kerry Ashton

MONTH/DATE	TYPE OF DIVE	SKIPPER	D.O.
JAN. Fr 6	Prawn Dive [night]	-	Kerry A
Su 8	New Year Get Wet Dive	Dennis S	Maaree C
Sa 14	One Tank Dive	TBA	TBA
Su 15	Deep Dive	Richard N	Brian M
Fr 20-21	"Over-nighter"	Bob McL	Kerry A
Su 22	Crayfish Dive	Barry K	Geoff C
Mo 23	By request	Richard N	TBA
Su 29	Marine Reserve Dive	Peter H	Kerry A
FEB. Fr 3	Prawn Dive [night]	-	Kerry A
Su 5	Crayfish Dives	Bob McL	Brian M
Mo 6	By request	Richard N	TBA
Sa 11	One Tank Dive	TBA	TBA
Su 12	Wreck Dive - "D9"	Richard N	Geoff C
Fr 17-18	"Overnighter"	TBA	TBA
Su 19	Photography Dive	Barry K	Kerry A
Su 26	Exploratory Dive	Dennis S	Maaree C

MAR. Fr 3-11	ROTTNEST LONG WEEKEND SCHEDULE		
Su 12	Garden Island	TBA	TBA
Su 19	Reef Dive/Carnac Isl.	Peter H	Geoff C
Su 26	Deep Dive	Barry K	Brian M

As you can see, I have tried to follow a pattern to make it easy for you to remember:

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY EVENING each month = PRAWN DIVE: starting at 7.30 pm (check with me for location). Afterwards we have a cook-up, and a donation of \$2-3 for cheese, bread and butter would be much appreciated.

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY EVENING each month = "OVERNIGHTER"; leaving at 6 pm from East Street Jetty (if boat available). BYO everything.

"FLEXIBLE SATURDAY DIVES" will be arranged according to demand, with early start, if preferred. A suggestion is also that we have breakfast/lunch together afterwards.

DIAL DIVES - 331 2385 - DIAL DIVES - 331 2385 - DIAL DIVES - 331 2385 - DIAL DIVES

SAFETY REPORT Alison Keen

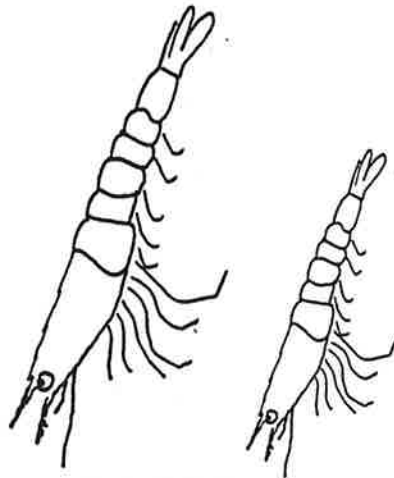
Well, as you can see, I have taken on a position on the committee again, but this is my first time as Safety Officer. So let me make a New Year resolution for you all:
MAKE 1995 A HAPPY & SAFE DIVING YEAR!

Looking down the membership list, there are a few of you who are not getting wet regularly with U.E.C. This club provides the best atmosphere and support to ease you gently back into diving spirit. There are shallow dives, one tank dives, and even good buddies to hold your hand (if you want). Club members will also help you refresh on dive tables, safety procedures and diving gear. You only have to ask.

So, you might be interested now, but make sure your diving gear is in top condition. If you have not used it for a while, it needs checking. Things that might need attention are:

- * Regulator - if you can't check them yourself, get the dive shop to service the first and second stages.
 - * B.C. - check that the inflation valve is working and dumping, and look for holes and rips.
 - * Cylinders - make sure they are in test and don't leave them heating up in the car.
 - * Mask & Fins - rubber straps and fitting can perish, so look and replace.
 - * Weight Belts - your buoyancy may need checking before you go down. Ask the D.O. for help before your buddy kits up.
 - * Wetsuits - have a habit of shrinking when not in use. Try it on before, or ask for a helping hand on the zips.
 - * Safety equipment - watch, knife, compass, depth gauge or a computer. Make sure that they are working and you remember how to use them.
- So, that's you and your gear in order, and you know you will enjoy the diving once you are down there.

SCUBA DIVE FOR PRAWNS IN THE RIVER



COOK-UP ON THE BEACH



For more information, please contact
Kerry and Susie Ashton
(09) 331 2385



Don't be put off by those sea breezes almost constantly reported on the weather. Often we find ourselves out there enjoying very pleasant conditions despite the forecast.

A number of good dives have already been conducted, and last Sunday Pat Troy and Geoff Charlton reported a pleasant day.

The Christmas dive was a little rock-n'-roll on the way over. However, after a good dive on Geordie Caves, followed by a BBQ lunch, refreshments and a chat, nobody seemed to mind the "dance" home.

The DIVING SCHEDULE is fully geared up for the new year's first three months. Don't forget this is a basic guide line (not set in concrete) for Skippers/D.O.'s. It is YOUR club and YOUR boat, so we will try to accommodate your requests to provide you, the Club member, with some of the best diving around Perth.

TRAINING

A "Theory Refresher" evening will be held for those interested, where we brush up and have an open end chat on diving theory. Please give me a call a.s.a.p.

DATE: Monday 23 or Wednesday 25 January.

TIME: 7.00 PM

VENUE: The Club Rooms.

Also, a number of people are interested in additional diving skills - Navigation, Night diving, Deep diving, etc. Please contact me.



* * *

THE PRAWN DIVE IS A NIGHT DIVE,
AND ALSO A SOCIAL EVENT!



So, you are most welcome to bring your family and friends - including non-divers.

NOTE: If they are diving, please ask them to bring their "C" card. A brief "lecture" on the skill of prawn-net-handling will be held at the site!

Wheelhouse Wrap

Dennis Stubberfield

Boat performance was satisfactory this month, with no problems occurring to inhibit our diving program, which at last seems to be on the improve.

The Committee has received a few mildly worded complaints about our boat being very 'wet' in windy conditions and there seems to be general feeling we ought to do something about it. I have checked out the cost of having weather dodgers made of clear plastic and even the cheaper products are out of our price range at this moment. However, I'm only too aware of the adverse affect such matters can have on our diving turn out and will attempt to get some sort of 'easy to erect' weather shielding up this month. This will possibly be of some white or orange tarp material, whatever I can beg borrow or steal fairly cheaply and which will still look reasonably good. Work on the 'dunny' will also be resurrected but I cant promise when such things will come to pass, bearing in mind the heavy work loads now being carried by our panel of shipwrights! Speaking of looking good, I had a rare opportunity to see "U.E." as others see her, travelling at speed and at very close range over the Xmas break. I was in another boat, only just able to beat her in the choppy seas and I must say she looks really good on the water and deceptively fast!

My boat, a 25 ft. so called 'fast cruiser' had difficulty keeping up with her in any sort of sea way and the 15 - 20 Kts shown on my 'clock' seems very "creative" (like some accounting I know) when put up against the real 14 Knots, average, shown on "U.E.'s instrument panel!

If others see her as I did, then she is a beautiful sight indeed, and well worth spending a few 'shekels' on - if we can ever get any to spare!!

Cheers Folks!

Stubby!

ROTTNEST LONG WEEKEND - 3rd to 6th MARCH

Our much awaited diving weekend is now only a few weeks away. Now that final numbers are known, the price for this trip has been set at \$150, and the remainder of your payments are due at the January General Meeting. Payment is essential so that the Rottnest Island Authority can be paid. Most of you owe \$100, so you had better start cracking open the piggy-banks. I will draw up a list of items that you need to bring, and distribute them at the meeting. See you all there!

* * *

DIVING ON A SHOE STRING

Where can you get five days diving, fishing and relaxing for next-door-to nothing? The U.E.C. - that's where! From February 27th to March 3rd there are plenty of places available at Rottnest. All up costs per day are approximately \$40, so for \$200 or less, you can dive to your heart's content. If there are no takers for this offer at the January meeting, I will have to cancel the accommodation booking. This is your last chance, so give me a ring A.S.A.P.

MAREE

THE WRECK OF THE MONTH - "SEPIA"

Found 1960 by Harold Roberts, then a U.E.C. Club member. "Sepia" was a 715 ton iron barque which was heading for Fremantle Harbour, carrying a load of mercury aboard for the gold processing in Kalgoorlie. The consignment was worth, in 1961, £250,000. She sank on the 29th of December 1898 off Challenger Rock, s/w of Carnac Island. She took approx. ten minutes to go down. The wreck currently lies in 15 m of water in the same position. Four crew members lashed themselves to the masts, while the rest rowed to Fremantle for help. They were all rescued by the "SS Pinguin".

CLUB T/SHIRTS

Susie has organised to print up t/shirts at a reasonable cost. All you need to do is give Susie the T/shirt that you would like the club emblem on and she will then get that T/shirt printed. When completed Susie will return the T/shirt back.

PRAWN DIVE

On 2nd January Kerry organised the first prawn dive of the year. All of those who attended enjoyed the dive. A few prawns were caught, then eaten on the shore watch Kerry's article for the next one and hope to see a few more people and lots of prawns.



SOCIAL

BOOK

SOMETHING NEW IS HAPPENING
TO OUR GENERAL MEETINGS!

1. Nice nibbles are being served in the bar (contributions from kind members);
2. A slide show or film will be shown at least every second meeting. At this one, MICHEL ROUX will talk about his trekking adventures in Himalaya together with ALISON;
3. The "official" part of the meeting is getting shorter;
4. Only ONE of the fluro lights was lit in the club room, encouraging more people to stay a bit longer to socialize;

The "FREE DIVE RAFFLE" generated \$60 towards our party flag. THANK YOU all, who bought a ticket or more. At this meeting I'll raffle out a booklet on "Dangerous Fishes of W.A." by J.B. Hutchins. TWO tickets for \$1 - cheap, eh! (We need another 18 dollars!)



Suzie

SECTION

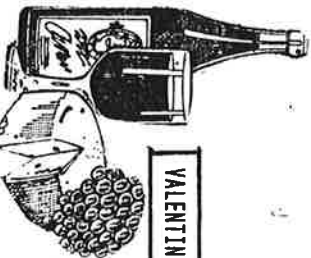
AUSTRALIA DAY SKY SHOW PARTY - THURSDAY 26 JANUARY

Details as follows:
Pick-up at East Street Jetty 4 PM sharp,
and The Royal Perth Yacht Club at 5 PM.

WE provide music, nibbles, Aussie champagne, a sumptuous salad, gourmet grilled chicken, buttered buns and plates. YOU bring your own chair and glass (if you don't like champagne too much, BYO preferences)... and TOGETHER we'll have heaps of fun! FULL PAYMENT DUE AT THIS GENERAL MEETING!

PLEASE DON'T FORGET our Australia Day THEME! DRESS IN GREEN/GOLD or an OZ flag!

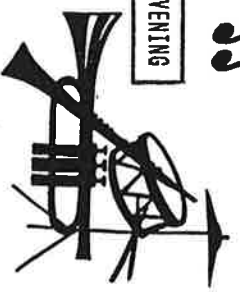
This makes it another great opportunity for a photographic competition, so bring your camera, and we'll do it again!
Two categories: 1) Best party photo, and 2) Best sky show photo.
To be judged at the February general meeting.
1st Prize: A FREE SATURDAY DIVE! 2nd Prize: Two free tank fills.



VALENTINE RIVER CRUISE & GREAT CONCERT EVENING

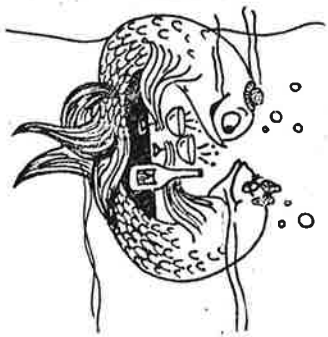
DATE: Saturday 18th February
TIME: East Street Jetty 6 pm

This is our next "official" social event and yet again we board the "Underwater Explorer" party boat for a cruise up the river. We'll anchor next to the Supreme Court Gardens for a free concert to celebrate the start of the 43rd Festival of Perth. At 9.30 PM the sky over the city will be lit with colours again during the Opening Fireworks.

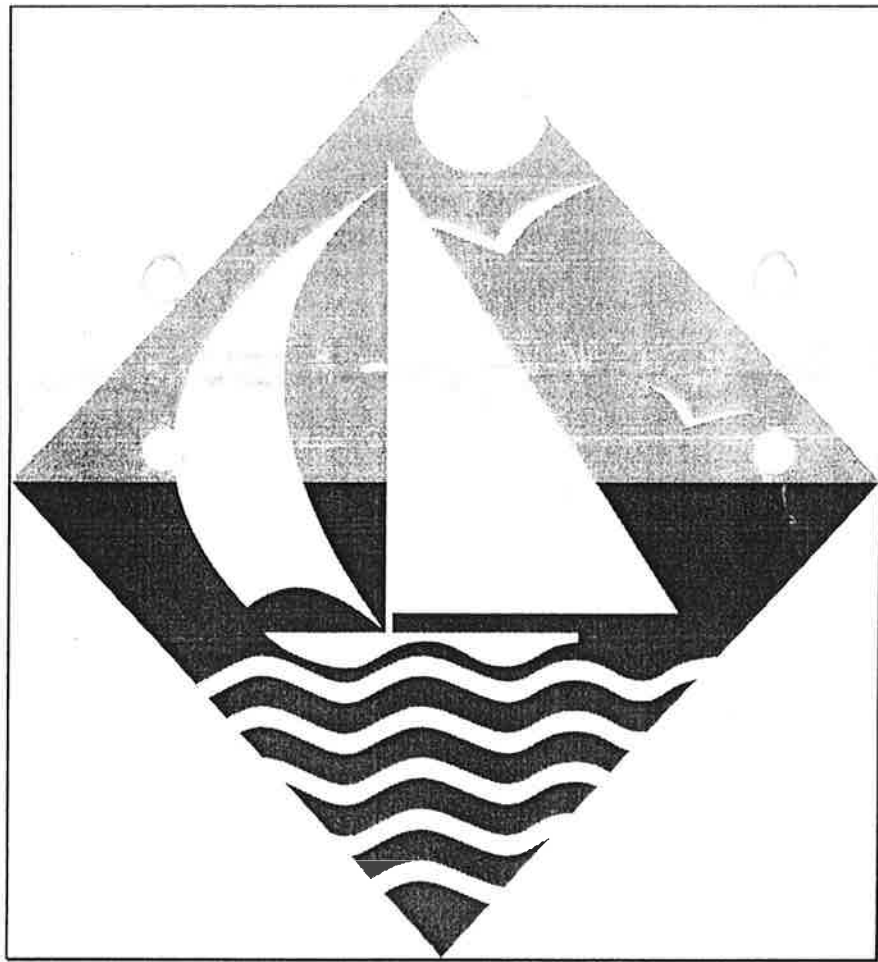


As this is also U.E.C.'s VALENTINE CRUISE, we are not going to let you aboard, unless you wear something RED! Doesn't matter if you don't have a partner - we might find one for you!

A selection of RED WINES & CHEESES will be served, and again, BYO chair and glass.
Price: \$15. You can secure your place by paying a deposit of \$5 at this meeting.



UEC NEWS
MONTHLY MAGAZINE



FEBRUARY 1995

FEB 95

Sandy Jackson
UEC
182 Clontarf Rd
Horn Hill 6163

THE COMMITTEE 1994/95

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	Phone 457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 454 8450
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	Phone 339 6407
TREASURER	Peter Horton	Phone 445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385
BOATING OFFICER	Dennis Stubberfield	Phone 457 3333
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TRAINING OFFICER	Vacant	
BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Sandy Jackson	Phone 337 1105
SOCIAL & P. R.	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385
DIVE BOOKINGS	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385

AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE CLUB:

1. To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
2. To encourage safety methods and procedure and to acquaint both Club Members and the public with the facts on safety and the use of safe, reliable equipment.
3. To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.
4. To provide and maintain club houses and other facilities for members and their guests.

Editorial Notes

Hi Folks!

Well, I don't know about you, but this weather has been perfect for diving. Unfortunately, I have not been able to go out because I got sunburnt, while I was crabbing.

There is a new article called - "Sea Science" - which will provide interesting and informative fact on different marine life.

It would be appreciated if as many members as possible would be at the next General Meeting, due to the fact there will be important issues brought forward for discussion and decision. See you all there!

This month's wreck will be about "Carlisle Castle", which was another ship found by U.E.C. members, which are now either Life Members or no longer members of our great club.

Well, that's about all for now, see you next month.

Oh, also let's try and get more divers out on the water, and how about more people turn up on the social activities. Also the prawn dives are great fun, it's a pity not everyone is coming down and having a laugh with us.

See you all at the meeting OR ELSE.....

SANDY with Staff

There is a possibility that the current arrangements for the printing of our magazine may not continue and I am looking for alternatives. If someone can help in this respect please contact me on 337 1105.

I require a skipper to volunteer to take the boat for a River Cruise on Saturday the 9th. of September. More information will be given to the LUCKY person who takes up this offer. Please phone me on 337 1105.

Word From The President

Maree Casley

Now, what great diving weather we have had lately! The warm/hot conditions are really conducive to diving, but unfortunately many of you are not making the most of it. Just think of it, you have been waiting all year for this, and now you're wasting it. Why not make the decision now, and ring Kerry to secure your place on the boat.

Just last month I mentioned that BSAC were interested in affiliating with the UEC. The Chairman has advised me that they now wish to affiliate, and the Committee has voted to accept BSAC as an affiliate. The final decision now rests with the general membership of U.E.C., and a vote is to take place at the February General Meeting. A notice of motion appears elsewhere in the magazine.

The U.E.C. Committee and membership foresaw sometime ago that possibility with clubs with similar aims to our own, and altered the constitution specifically to allow for this. An ideal opportunity now presents itself, and I strongly urge you all to ratify the Committee's recommendation. In the past few years, the Club has been under increasing pressure to keep our head above water from many areas. To mention just a few, these include competition from commercial interests, decreasing membership and increasing costs of maintaining and just keeping the club rooms and boat. I hope to see you all at the next meeting to show your support of this initiative.

In a couple of weeks time Dennis, myself and a "hardy crew" of fun-lovers will be at Rottneest for two weeks. I know we will be enjoying ourselves and I am sure we will return with a swag of tall tales.

Until next month, happy diving!

Diving Delights

Kerry Ashton

Already we are well into February, but don't worry, as the weather normally settles into a nice pattern, often right through winter. So, if we haven't seen you over the festive season, dust off the cobwebs and join us for some superb diving and good times!

Congratulations to LUC FAUVET, who has been trained and now accepted as a U.E.C. Diving Officer by the Club Committee. See you on the boat, Buddy!

THE "OVERNIGHTER" was a great success. Staying on the boat was rough, yet acceptable with good company and a relaxed atmosphere. To top it all off, we had two superb dives. Be quick to get in on the Feb 17/18 - first in best dressed.

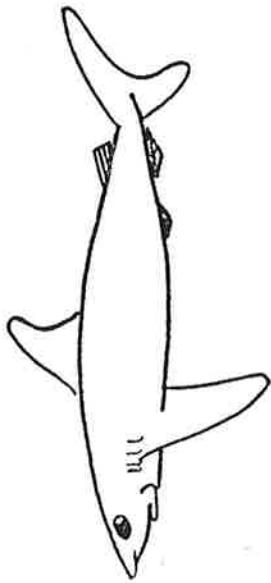
PRAWN NIGHTS - always popular with divers and non divers alike - are alive and well. Many, many thanks to SUSIE our Social Director for the nibbles and organisation. Drop in for a dive or just a chat while passing. There is nothing like a night on or in our Swan River with the added attraction of a feed.

SHORT DAY DIVES (one tank) are on, to be followed by lunch somewhere in Freo. Please contact me on the "DIVE PHONE".

Saturday 11 February we had a very successful day on the "09". A great dive on a wreck absolutely covered with marine life and huge schools of fish, big Truncate Coralfish and more Old Wives here than under the Busseilton Jetty! Fine specimens of Nudibranchs, BUT NO SEAHORSES! Where have they all gone? Died of old age? Afterwards, EVERYONE came to the Surf Club Cafe for something to eat and a yarn.

MID WEEK DIVES? - Richard Naylor is prepared and waiting.

Sea Science



THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT SHARKS!

A magnificent marine killing machine? Even a newly-born shark can attack within seconds of birth. About 250 species of shark glide gracefully through the silent oceans and rivers which make up 71% of the earth's surface, but only 10% are dangerous to human.

THE SHARK'S SENSES ARE HIGHLY DEVELOPED.

It has been estimated that a shark can see half the distance again as a diver wearing a face mask under the water. Here is an amazing story regarding their sight: In Darwin, sharks have often been seen leaping high in the air to catch flying fishes from branches overhanging the water!

ARE SHARKS COLOUR BLIND?

It is generally believed that sharks are colour blind, but how about this story: During WWII the crew of a military aircraft were ditched in the Pacific, some wearing their green flying suits and others in orange. When help arrived, all those in the orange suits had fallen victim to sharks! So, the myth that sharks are less likely to attack a coloured swimmer has been proven untrue. The colour yellow seems to be more easily espied by sharks.

THE SHARK KNOWS IF YOU ARE AFRAID OF HIM!

Sharks have an acute sense of smell, that attracts them from great distance. They can also smell fish in a boat, which probably explains why small crafts have been chomped at. If you are diving after handling fish, you should wash your hands before going over the side. It's also believed that sharks respond to our 'fear odour'.

DON'T SPLASH ON THE SURFACE.

The shark respond to disturbances in the water. From head to tail and all around its body the shark has a chord of nerve tissues. This is the 'radar system' that picks up vibrations from great distances. If the impulse is regular and rhythmic, the shark may continue on its way. If the movement is erratic, jerky, like the thrashing of a wounded fish or a struggling swimmer, the shark's appetite is whetted and it will come in to investigate. (That's why I rather dive than snorkel!)

A shark will butt or nudge an object that has it puzzled. He relies on the tip of his snout or the edge of his fins for touching. His snout appears to be particularly sensitive, and there are many reports on how skindivers have warded off a shark with a smart smack on the snout.

DID I HEAR.....

The shark's ability to locate the source of a sound is highly developed. Underwater sound waves travel at about 1.6 kilometres PER SECOND (= four times faster than air waves). These sounds are transmitted to the shark's brain through its 'ears', two tiny channels in the head, lined with sensitive hairs.

COLD-BLOODED ANIMALS CANNOT FEEL PAIN.

Therefore, a shark can take an incredible amount of punishment. One story is told of a white pointer caught after a one hour tussle. Eventually it had to be shot through the head. A shudder shook its entire body. The hook was removed and the shark, seemingly lifeless, sank out of sight in the water. Thirty minutes later another strike was made with a baited hook. There was a short struggle and the shark was reeled in. IT WAS THE SAME SHARK! Blood was still oozing from the bullet wound.

YOU WOULDN'T LIKE TO HAVE A SHARK SKIN SOFA!

Most fish have scales - sharks have a mass of hard enamel-coated mini-teeth. His skin is ten times rougher than the roughest sandpaper, and can give a swimmer a nasty graze that might well draw blood.

WHALER SHARK

The Common Whaler, also known as a Bull shark, along with its near relative, the Bronze Whaler, are responsible for the majority of attacks on humans. Also called River sharks, because they travel upstream into estuaries and are found in fresh water far away from the sea.

[Info derived from Alan Sharpe's "Shark down under"]



SOCIAL SCENE

REPORT #1:

THREE WOMEN FOUND GUILTY OF MOLESTING
GORGEOUS "U.E." SKIPPER

We all know what a free-flowing regulator can do to your dive, but what do we know about what free-flowing "champagne" can do to your brain?

Sandy, don't tell me that's all salad you made for 20 people? (The bowl looked awfully small, but there was enough for everyone!)

And a last word from Susie: I would like to thank you all for participating in the SKY SHOW event, which wouldn't have been such a great party, if YOU hadn't been aboard "U.E.". My SPECIAL thanks go to: RICHARD NAYLOR for skippering, BEV SWIFT for blowing up all the balloons and decorating the boat, SANDY JACKSON for making a sumptuous salad, and KERRY ASHTON for mounting and putting up our party flag - even if it was up-side-down till somebody discovered the fact.

* * *

REPORT #2:

Some people bring champagne, some people bring a dog - others their whole family. Someone brings a torch that doesn't work, another forgets his weight belt - sometimes. Some people can only catch one - others blame it on holes in their net, KERRY caught the biggest, ROGER SMITH's size was not far behind.

Yes, you guessed it! This is a summary of a Club Prawn Night in the river. We all had a great time in the warm and calm night, with many yarns and stories told around the boiling pot - some better than others - and we all know now how A DUCK CAN RAISE A BUCK!

Thanks for coming. Great to see you all there (Friday 3 February).

P.S. Good on 'ya, Kerry, for leaving all the mating crabs to their "business" so we get more of them later.



Susie

* * *

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH?

Valentine River Cruise with Festival of Perth Opening Concert
SATURDAY 18 February

Pick-up at East Street Jetty 6.30 pm. We will be anchored just passed Barrack Street Jetty, from where we can hear the concert held in the Supreme Court Gardens. It will all finish with a Big Bang Firework approx. 9.30 pm. We supply a gourmet cheese platter and red wine and ask you to b.y.o. chair and glass, and.... DRESS IN RED, PLEASE! This is after all the Annual U.E.C. Valentine Cruise. (If you don't have a partner, we'll find you one!)

We also invite you to an EXTRA event this month:

CLUB ROOM BBQ - FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY - starting at 7pm

A get-together to introduce and meet new members. Eat, drink and be merry. See and experience our new lighting ideas! Music to accommodate all tastes. BYO BBQ pack. We provide the rest.

THIS IS A FREE-BEE, so PLEASE make an effort to be there!

* Video on COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS will be show at the general meeting (KAS DIVE)*

NEXT MONTH

RIVER BOAT PUB CRAWL on ST. PATRICK'S DAY - Friday 17 March

We meet at the Left Bank Hotel garden at 6pm. About 6.30, all the little GREEN gremlins crawl aboard "U.E." for a trip up and down the river. We will have something to chew on aboard. A moderate contribution of \$5 dollars is appreciated at this occasion. Please book now!

REGARDING THE YANCHEP EASTER DIVING (advertised in January Newsletter):

There has been a small change here, so we travel just another half hour north and get to the picturesque LEDGE POINT to dive some new, exciting territory. More about this in March Newsletter, but you should know already now, that we can only take four more people. Price approx. \$60 for one night accommodation and two dives the following day, incl. lunch. Own transport or shared.

WRECK RESEARCH

CARLISLE CASTLE

The Carlisle Castle was found by Harold Roberts, Lyn Jones, and a party from Albany. The Carlisle Castle was built in 1868 by R and H Green of Blackwall, London. She was one of the famous Blackwall frigates. Her gross weight was 1545 tons. She was a fully rigged iron barque. Her cargo consisted of railway lines, water pipes, house bricks, and on top of this, a general cargo of cloth, wines & spirits, ale and groceries, etc. Her cargo was worth approx. 40,000 pounds. The first indication that she had been lost was when lifebuoys and two damaged boats, carrying her name, washed up on the beach off Rockingham.

Unfortunately, there is not much known about this wreck, but there are a few facts that I have found from the UEC magazine, dated August 1972.

- 1) Force 10 plus westerly gales, frequent rains squalls, poor visibility and enormous seas. One report states that the sea was 5-6 ft or more.
- 2) The Pilot light visibility was down to less than 10 miles; one report said it was 5-7 miles.
- 3) The Carlisle Castle is lying approx. NW to SE, the stern just below the visible part of the reef, the bow is pointing out to deep water.
- 4) The cargo: Iron railway lines aft; water pipes amidships; house bricks forward.
- 5) Wreckage first seen ashore at 4pm Wednesday 22 August 1899.
- 6) The skipper knew Fremantle, having traded here often as the Master of the ship "Niola".

What could have happened: The captain could not get a good sun or star fix due to the bad weather on the Tuesday, so he could have come in on dead reckoning. Also no soundings would have been done due to the weather. The captain had to estimate when he was about 100 fathoms. He would have been aiming for this point. With the weather coming from the north, around to the west, any drift he may have made, would have been towards the south. He was probably unable to see the Rotto light. It is believed that at about midnight the Captain laid-to on the port tack. In this position a ship would have been lying between breaking waves with a drift to leeward, of about 3 knots, at an angle of about 60 degrees. The Captain may have used an oil bag to calm the breaking seas to windward.

In the shocking weather, Carlisle castle would probably only had the minimum of her crew on duty. Almost ascertain, in the gigantic sea running, none would have noticed the breaking waves on Coventry Reef. She would have struck the reef at about 6am Wednesday morning on her starboard quarter. In seconds, her deck would have been swept clean of all untied-down gear, all would have gone. There were no survivors. The Carlisle Castle would have split open and sank like a stone due to the cargo she was carrying. At least one of her anchors is still on her. This was in 1972.

Today she lies in about 18 meters of water on the NW edge of Coventry Reef, near Safety Bay. It has also come to my attention that the Carlisle Castle and the City of York were wrecked on the same day.

SANDY



Wheelhouse Wrap

Dennis Stubberfield

The boat and boating operations have been satisfactory during this month, but boat usage is still disappointingly low, due mainly to extremely windy weather! Hopefully this situation should start to ease a bit as late summer and autumn approaches. Already we are getting stronger morning easterlies which drop out late morning to early afternoon, giving beautiful diving conditions. Please let us make the most of such days.

Maintenance on the boat is up to date and minor additions to make her more dry and comfortable are proceeding. Our next major event is "Rottnest 95" which will also provide the opportunity to do a few odd jobs and to give her a really good workout, which she's sadly lacks. I'm looking forward to it, and your company in the process!

Cheers Folks!

Stubby!

Safety Report

Alison Keen

This month has not been a big diving time for me. The luxuries of getting wet have meant taking a shower out in the garden under the hose or a stand bath in a bowl in the laundry. Bathroom renovations are fun! Tyson, the cat, thought the sand floor, when they took up the floor, was one big indoor litter tray.

So, looking in the dive logs, things seem to be going OK. Watch out that your accents and accents are not too fast. You should have 50 bars left to come up as a safety measure. You or your buddy may need it.

The Committee discussed, during the last meeting, the procedures for getting back in the boat after a dive. It was felt that a general plan should be written out to help D.O. and Skippers. Please try to follow this procedure:

1. Ensure you are positively buoyant at the marling board.
2. Pass your weight belt up FIRST to the D.O. Weights should not fall off, as the belt should be passed buckle end down.
3. Remove your regulator and scuba pack. Keep your mask, fins and snorkel on, so you can still use them, if necessary.
4. Fins should be removed LAST, in order to walk up the ladder.

PLEASE NOTE that it is hard work on the marling board, and not just the responsibility of the D.O. and Skipper. Divers should stow their gear quickly and in helping to pass tanks and gear.

Remember, HAPPY but SAFE DIVING!!!

ALISON

KEEP UP WITH THE CLUB'S
NOTICE BOARD

NOTICE OF MOTION.

That the Underwater Explorer's Club of W.A. Inc. proceeds with an affiliation of the British Sub-Aqua Club of W.A. Inc. with the Underwater Explorer's Club of W.A. Inc. as per our Club constitution. Moved by Dennis Stubberfield.

CLUB T/SHIRTS

Susie has organised to print up t/shirts at a reasonable cost. All you need to do is give Susie the T/shirt that you would like the club emblem on and she will then get that T/shirt printed. When completed Susie will return the T/shirt back.

CLUB BBQ

We have decided to have a CLUB BBQ for all members and friends at the Club Rooms on FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY at 7 PM. This event hasn't previously been published, but we hope to see as many as possible present. The format will be fairly laid back, but if you can ring me on 457 3333, so that I know how much salad to chop up, it would be appreciated. B.Y.O. meat. See you all there!

The prawn nights that Kerry has organised have been a great success, with more people coming and having fun. It is good to see these Club Members showing their interest down on the River and I am hoping to see even more people at the next Prawn Night.

Club Calendar

FEBRUARY/MARCH 95

20 Feb General Meeting
7 Mar Committee Meeting

MONTH/DATE	TYPE OF DIVE	SKIPPER	D.O.
FEB FR 17-18	"Overnighter"	Bob McL	Kerry A
SA 18	Valentines Cruise	Dennis S	
SU 19	Exploratory Dive	Dennis S	Maree C
SU 26	Photography Dive	Barry K	Kerry A
MAR FR 3-11	ROTTNEST LONG WEEKEND SCHEDULE		
FR 10	Prawn Dive	Richard N	Brian M
SU 12	BSAC	TBA	TBA
SA 18	Short Day Dive	TBA	TBA
Su 19	Rottnest Reef	Peter H	Geoff C
FR 24-25	"Overnighter"	Bob McL	TBA
SU 26	Deep Dive	Barry K	Luc F
APR SU 2	Rottnest	Richard N	Brian M
FR 7	Prawn Dive		Geoff C
SU 9	Canyons and Caverns	Dennis S	Maree C
TH 13	BSAC	TBA	TBA

DIAL DIVES - 331 2385 - DIAL DIVES - 331 2385 - DIAL DIVES - 331 2385 - DIAL DIVES

Please NOTE: I'm sorry, but I cannot organize nibbles and cook-up at the above prawn dive events. In March I'm diving Rottnest, and in April I'm diving with the mighty WHALESHARKS outside Exmouth!

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions and members should keep in contact with D.O. Kerry Ashton - 331 2385
Phone D.O. Kerry Ashton on 331 2385 for dive bookings or enquiries.
DO NOT RING THE CREW.

Dives will be departing from East Street Jetty, Fremantle at 8.00 a.m.

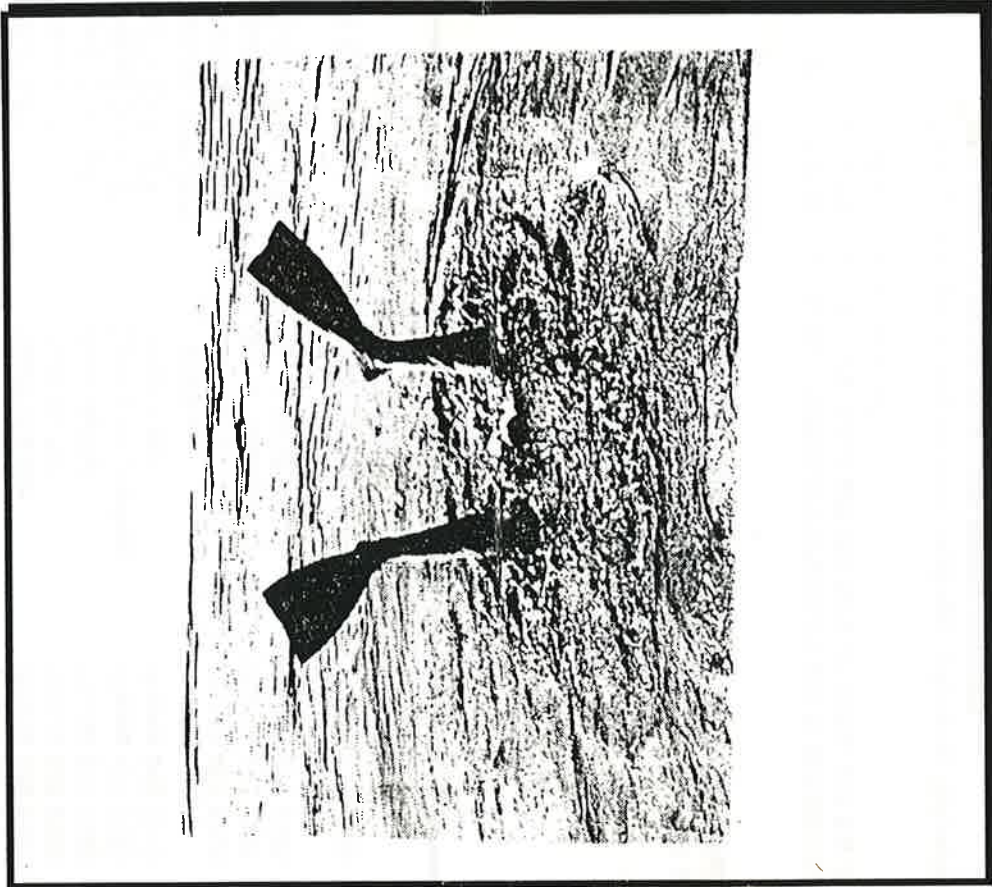
U E C NEWS MONTHLY MAGAZINE

SENDER:
(Underwater Explorers Club of W.A. (Inc.)
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MARCH 1995

GEOFF & HETTIE GERARD
25 PRAYETTA CRES
FORRESTFIELD WA 6056

THE COMMITTEE 1994/95

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	Phone 457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 454 8450
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	Phone 339 6407
TREASURER	Peter Horton	Phone 445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385
BOATING OFFICER	Dennis Stubberfield	Phone 457 3333
SAFETY OFFICER	Alison Keen	Phone 242 3919
TRAINING OFFICER	Vacant	
BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Sandy Jackson	Phone 337 1105
SOCIAL & P. R.	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385
DIVE BOOKINGS	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385

AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE CLUB:

1. To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
2. To encourage safety methods and procedure and to acquaint both Club Members and the public with the facts on safety and the use of safe, reliable equipment.
3. To organise social events and meetings, providing fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.
4. To provide and maintain club houses and other facilities for members and their guests.

Club Calendar

MARCH/APRIL 95

MONTH/DATE	EVENT	SKIPPER	D.O.
FR 17	RIVER BOAT PUB CRAWL	Richard N	Kerry A
SA 18	Short Day Dive	Nick W	Ron P
Su 19	Rottnest Reef Dive	Peter H	Geoff C
MO 20	GENERAL MEETING at 8 pm	-	-
FR 24-25	"Overnighter" leaving 6 pm	Bob McL	Open
SU 26	Deep Dive	Barry K	Luc F
APR SA 1	Fishing	Bob McL	
SU 2	Rottnest Dive	Richard N	Brian M
MO 3	COMMITTEE MEETING at 7.30 pm	-	-
FR 7	Prawn Dive	-	Geoff C
SU 9	Canyons and Gaverns Dive	Dennis S	Maree C
TH 13	BSAC	Open	Luc F
EASTER DIVING	GENERAL MEETING at 8 pm	-	-
TU 18	"Quick Drop"	Barry K	Geoff C
SA 22	"Garden Delights"	Peter H	Kerry A
SU 23	"Snatch"	Bob McL	Brian M
SA 29	BSAC	Dennis S	Maree C
SU 30			

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions and members should keep in contact with **D.O. Kerry Ashton - 331 2385**

Phone **D.O. Kerry Ashton on 331 2385** for dive bookings or enquiries.

DO NOT RING THE CREW.

Dives will be departing from **East Street Jetty, Fremantle** at 8.00 a.m.

SEA SCIENCE

THE WORLD'S LARGEST LIVING JOINT-LEGGED ANIMAL

is

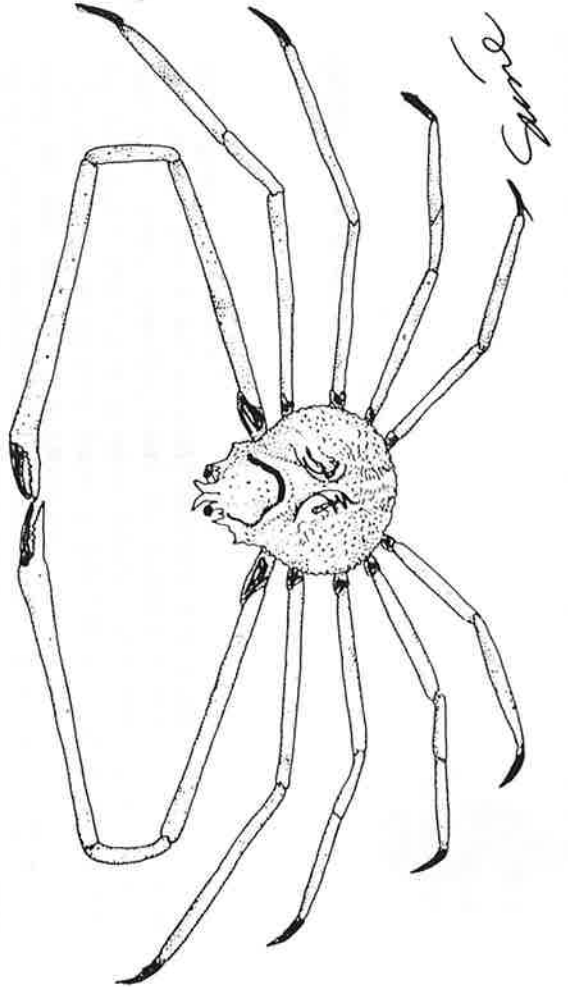
the Giant Japanese Spider Crab

(*Macrocheira kaempferi*)

His spindly arms and legs can span as much as 3.8 metres across, and the body can be almost half a metre wide. Despite crabs having been around for some 360 million years, none have ever matched these proportions.

These spider giants live at depths of between 50 to 300 metres and are known only from the Pacific side of the Japanese islands Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu. They are good eaters, like most crabs, and are caught regularly by the Japanese fishermen.

(Source: "Sea Monsters" by J. Long and K. McNamara)



Hi folks, well I am disappointed in the response I received regarding the printing up of your magazine. I personally thought that the club members would want to help out when asked, silly me. If I don't get any response this month then I am forced to go out side the club, which could be costly.

Now on to happier news, their is some exiting information in the social sceane and Maree has a few interesting news in her article.

On the frontcoverof this month you would have noticed something strange, well there is a compertition to see who can come up with the best caption for this picture, first prize is a free dive unfortunatly there is no otherprizes but the best captions will be advertised in next months issue.

My caption is: " NEXT TIME I DIVE I HAD BETTER LISTEN TO MY DIVE OFFICER REGARDING THE DEPTH."

" I SWARE I SAW A CRAYFISH HEADING THIS WAY"

Sandy and " STAFF "

Wheelhouse Wrap

Dennis Stubberfield

Well that's more like it folks, our boat was hardly on the moorings this month, such was the extent of operations, which were very pleasing. The opportunity was taken at Rottnest to give her what amounted to a six monthly maintenance service, with the exception of the usual anti-foul, which is normally required around January each year. She certainly needs it now, as we have only got through to this point because of the late slipping last year. The anti foul has stood up better this time due to the massive three coat job we did in September, and I'm hoping we will be able to delay an anti-foul slipping for a month or so yet. We simply can't let it go beyond that because the damage done to the boat by extensive barnacle growth can be considerable. Blockage of the seawater cooling system and damage to the expensive rubber impellers of both sea water cooling pump and deck wash pumps can be quite serious from this cause. Barnacle damage to the echo sounder transducer and sum log fittings will also occur if we let it get out of hand. It's much cheaper to slip her and anti-foul.

Other than the above, the boat is running well and I'm happy to report no problems have arisen or are anticipated at this time!

Speaking of boat usage, a delightful little dive in magnificent weather was held on Monday 20/2/95, at Hugel passage, one of our more attractive dive sites. It seems several people get every second Monday off, including one fortunate boat skipper who was forced to take a scantily clad, all girl crew of divers and D.O. out in fine hot clear conditions. I hear he was dragged along kicking and screaming - poor sod!!!!...A likely story I must say!

Well there you are folks get onto it, ring up and find out what's going on, you only get one chance at the really good weather, grab it while you can!

Cheers Folks!

Stubby!

Diving Delights

Kerry Ashton

BOOK BOOK NOW !!!!!!!!!!

The boat has been full with some great dives under our belts. Reports of some fantastic vizability and easy conditions. Maree even dived without a jacket due to the warm water. The deeper dives 18 + meters at Ankelas Cave were superb, Kingston Spit put on its best show for the south eastern edge.

Presently the boat is at Rottnest, our yearly pilgrimage, good company, good diving, good food (thanks to Pete the FOOD coordinator).

Regarding entry and exits - listern to your dive officer and skipper on the day. We had a dive (surprub by all reports) where topside conditions were to say the least unpleasent, with the marlin board moving dramatically, this neccesitated a queue on the mercy line, preparing with fins off, being dragged in and a swift assisted exit. Unceremoniously and very whale like with all gear on and yet quit effective.

Be prepared to adjust your thinking to the conditions of the day, help the divers behind you and of course get your gear changed over or packed away. this clears the decks for a safer environment and protects your gear from accidents.

Enjoy your diving.

KERRY.

DIAL DIVES - 331 2385



Word From The President

Maree Casley

As I write this report, I occasionally gaze out over our balcony at Geordie Bay at a beckoning sea - so this will be a short report.

Our first week at Rottneest was idyllic, lots of diving and good fun. 14 members and friends came over to sample our own special style of laid-back diving. The numbers swelled over the long weekend to 18 - all of whom enjoyed themselves despite the windy conditions. The Rottneest festivity was in full flight and most of us took in some of the entertainment on offer. Lucky for the remaining 15 of us this week looks like being fantastic. The good news for next year is that we have secured 3 villas for 16 days including the long weekend, so get in early with a \$50 deposit. If I don't have a lot of interest early on I will cancel the accommodation because the club can ill - afford to have a large amount of funds tied-up at the Rottneest Island Authority.

The affiliation of BSAC members ratified by the last General Meeting, so we now can officially WELCOME all BSAC members to our club. The BBQ held at the Clubrooms to welcome BSAC was well attended by many people from the UEC and some from BSAC. Everyone enjoyed the friendly atmosphere of the evening and special thanks to Susie and Bob for decorating the clubrooms.

No more news from me this month - I have to go diving. Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Maree

Here is some interesting facts about some of the sea life, in which we share the ocean with:

- * Whales increase in weight thirty thousand million times in their first 2 years.
- * A large-sized whale needs at least 3 tons of food a day
- * Whales can't swim backwards.
- * Because three quarters of the earth's surface is "water" and only one quarter is "land"
- The good lord's intentions are 'VERY' clear...
Time should be divided....THREE QUARTERS: FOR DIVING
ONE QUARTER: FOR WORK.

This information and more has given to me
by HATTIE GEARD. Thanks Hattie

WRECK RESEARCH

CITY OF YORK 1899

The City of Your was a 1218 ton Iron barge, bound for Fremantle from San Francisco. She was built in Glasgow. The City of York was wrecked on the 12 th July 1899, which was the same date as the Carlise Castle. This ship was found by a party of UEC divers in Reg Evan's boat. 89 Days out from San Francisco laden with 743,444 ft of Oregon and 3638 doors, this was her cargo.

Once the City of Your arrived off Rotto, she set off 2 blue signal flares, indicating she needed the services of a pilot. As all the pilots were engaged the light house keeper lit a white flare at the base of the light house, to warn the City of York to stand off. The master of the ship misunderstood and brought the City of Your in, and struck a reef on the northern side of the island. Two life boats were launched, the first with the mate and five crew members, they reached safety. The second boat containing the captain and 16 crew members stood off the wreck hoping the giant seas would ease, and they could return on board. Then a wave swamped their boat, 5 reached the safety of the City of York the other 11 including the captain were lost.

At dawn the tug " Dunskey " steamed out to the wreck and the master of the City of York risked his life to save the 5 stranded on the wreck.



MONDAY 6 MARCH

One midday dive today, and then time for transport back to Fred for many.

Kerry and I stayed for another week to do some "work" (underwater videography). PETER TAYLOR was quickly elected as the "Dinner Organiser" as he had earlier showed his talent in this field. It all worked out well with many delicious dishes cooked every night for us "stayers".

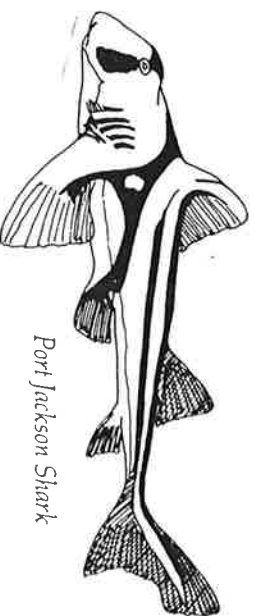
The weather was great and we had many good dives, but also a few "celery dives". Now, there is a new expression for you! A "celery dive" is a shallow dive with sea weeds in a surge. After much winching from my part, we finally (the last day) dropped anchor on "Angela's Cave" which must be one of the most spectacular dive sites Rotto has to offer. It really reminds me of some of the most fantastic dives I have done in the true tropics. We even saw an ANGEL FISH here! Hope the footage will come out OK for you to see sometime.

A BIG THANK-YOU to Margee and Dennis for organising this event again, and again, and again!



Spurl

KEEP UP WITH THE CLUB'S
NOTICE BOARD



Port Jackson Shark

SATURDAY 4 MARCH

Early morning - grey sky - still quite windy. Despite these facts, most bodies had recovered and dragged themselves, and the trolleys, down to the boat for a dive. On the second dive in the afternoon, Dennis took half a dozen of us to a great little reef system nearby. The visibility was of course somewhat lessened, but the wind and surface conditions had mellowed considerably. We had a great dive, and a real bonus was the sighting of a huge PORT JACKSON - definitely maximum size = 1.5 m. Kerry and I just flattened ourselves to the bottom beside him, and looked at him till my gauge showed 50 bars.

Back in Geordie Bay again, our balcony was flooding in sunshine. Massage time! First Kerry did me (topless), then I did Kerry (bottomless). By this time we had an audience on the street under the balcony, requesting about the price for a full body massage. Sandy (Webb) had opened a bottle of champagne that she offered around. Life felt pretty good. A "Swedish Yabbie Party" in the Party House. Gee, that was fun! It didn't take long before we had sung through all the snaps songs we know, and finished the vodka bottle. (Amazing how easy it goes down after the first one!) This time the black-pudding came as a desert.

Dinner time and everybody had gathered in The Kindergarten House. The message table was quickly transferred into a dining table for sunset lovers. After dark, and after Steve and I had sorted out how to work our newly bought flashing bike lights, we took off down the path towards the concert at Thomson Bay, together with Kerry. The rest of the gang had already left. We missed the concert totally, but stayed for a while, listening to some jazz - all huddled up together in the sand storm on the beach, using Kerry's sarong as a wind break. The trip home was hilarious, and I couldn't stop laughing after I came over the crotch that I simply fell off my bike! A quiet night-cap in The Party House, and we tiptoed into The Kindergarten House for a well deserved snooze after a day full of adventures.

SUNDAY 5 MARCH

After brushing the Gobi Desert out of my hair, I surfaced sometime before noon, went down to Geordie Longreach Village Square and had a double Espresso coffee. A three-man jazz band was playing my old favourites.

As usual, less bodies aboard the "U.E." on the afternoon dive, and again the sea had calmed down considerably, so there I was - aboard again. This time Kerry was diving with me, and within three minutes we had bagged a cray fish! After dinner, many of us went to the Kate Cebrano concert. The place was crowded. The sand storm had settled. Had a good time, dancing with Steve in the middle of the Quokka Arms Beer Garden, and I did NOT fall off my bike on the way home that night.

THE ANNUAL ROTTNEST LONG WEEKEND DIVING FUN

FRIDAY 3 MARCH

6 pm at the Challenger Harbour in Freo; a slightly 'panickie' DENNIS had come across from Rottneest on high seas to pick us up.

"We are leaving NOW - and I MEAN IT" he shouted through the strong wind. Bicycles almost blowing off the jetty, as we all very quickly managed to get all the stuff aboard, belonging to BILL BOUSTED, JIM ROBSON, PETER TAYLOR, ROBIN SHEPHERD AND JOHN, RIC YOUNG, NICK/SHARON/MAX WASLEY, ALISON KEEN, SANDY WEBB, STEVE HUNT, KERRY and myself. But when you saw all the gear, you would easily think there would be twice as many people.

The trip over was rough, to say the least, but Dennis managed to safely get us across "the roller-coaster" sea without any incidents and too many sea-sicknesses. We all clapped our hands when we finally tied up in Geordie Bay in the dark. Shuttle traffic along the jetty and up the beach stairs, where GEOFF CHARLTON and PETER HORTON waited with the trolleys. Now it was just a question of pushing the trolleys, over-loaded with luggage, up the hill to our chalets.

After establishing ourselves inside, where MAREE had organised for us to be, you could hear several beer cans clicking open, and I pulled the cork off my best red wine bottle. Now I could feel the party spirit getting to me. Another fun-filled long weekend at Rotto with the U.E.C. mob had begun, and I had already decided not to dive tomorrow morning.

About 10 pm Maree called a welcome meeting in "The Meeting House" (theirs). Everybody was there in a good mood, with colour back in their faces. Dennis was generously offering his port bottle around at this stage. We discussed tomorrow's diving schedule and shortly thereafter were kicked out, so I had to go to "The Party House" to finish my drink. (Our house was "The Kindergarten".) JORDIE JIM was telling stories, and I could have stayed there the whole night listening to his gorgeous dialect. (He eats black-pudding, and drinks Champaigne with it!)

(cont. on page 9)

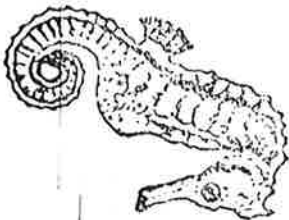
WHAT'S HAPPENING ON MONDAY?

We welcome a GUEST SPEAKER at the March General Meeting, PETER COHTERIL, Coral Bay Adventures, will talk about what they do and show us a WHALE SHARK VIDEO.

SOCIAL REPORT #1

VALENTINE CRUISE - CONCERT - FIREWORKS

I was slightly surprised when I counted the few heads of the participants for our annual Valentine Cruise. The event took part during that incredibly hot and humid week we had, and I could not think about a better place to be than on a perfectly calm river aboard "U.E.", sipping fine red wine, and indulging in a cheese platter made by "our own Cheese-Lady" - ALETHEA HEDLAND of the "Mousetrap", Fremantle Markets, now also a Social Member of our eminent Club.



SOCIAL REPORT #2

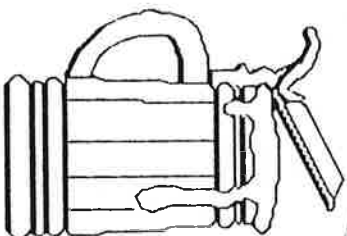
Our CLUB ROOM BBQ, with main purpose to meet and welcome the BSAC divers, now affiliated with us, was a great success with a good turn-up. BOB McLAUGHLIN and myself spent 4-5 hours decorating our venue, while Kerry was blowing up balloons. The 20 year old fishing net was donated by PETER HORTON, and looks absolutely great in the ceiling. We could do with some more of that sort, and a few other "bits and pieces" to hang up. So, if you have something, bring it in to Bob or Susie, please.

NEXT BIG SOCIAL EVENT!

RIVER BOAT PUB CRAWL

(or "ST. PATRICK'S BOOZE CROOZE")

Friday 17 March



We meet at the The Left Bank Bar & Cafe (15 Riverside Road, Fremantle) in the Beer Garden at 6-6.30 pm. "U.E." pick-up across the road, and all the little GREEN gremlins crawl aboard for a trip on the river to the Karalee Tavern for a St. Pat's Guinness. (Home made "sanies" served on the way.) B.Y.O.B. We'll drift on to Steve's and Raffles to join in the live music and dancing!

So far we have room for a few more fun people aboard. Come and party with us!



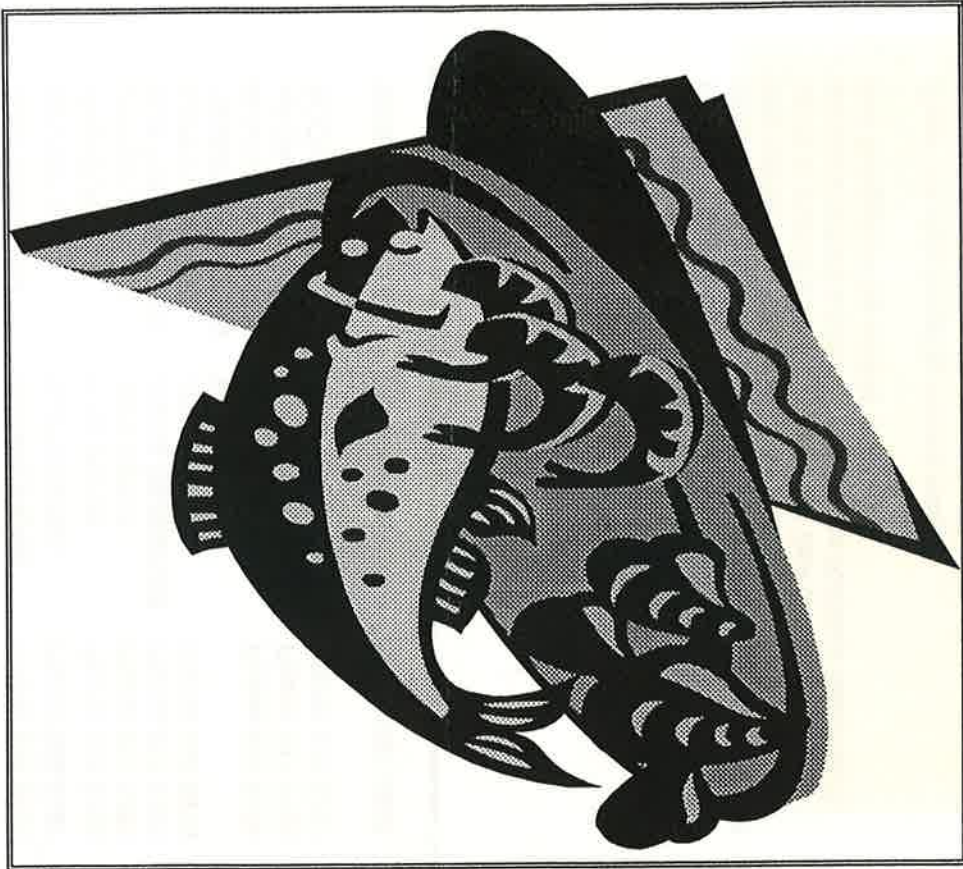
Susie

SENDER:

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

UEC NEWS

MONTHLY MAGAZINE



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THE COMMITTEE 1994/95

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SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	Phone 385 547 385 547
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SAFETY OFFICER	Alison Keen	Phone 242 3919
TRAINING OFFICER	Vacant	
BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Sandy Jackson	Phone 337 1105
SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385
DIVE BOOKINGS	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385

SEA SCIENCE

RAINBOW NUDBRANCHS and many other sea slugs thrive on deadly foods. They attack tube anemones, eating just the beautiful tentacles, which are full of nematocysts or stinging structures. Once swallowed, the sea slug transfers them where they can do the most good: to its feathery gills, where they serve to protect the nudibranch. The new defenceless anemone suffers a further indignity; the Rainbow Nudibranch lays its eggs on the outside of its tube.

(From "The Kelp Forest" by Howard Hall).

CLUB CALENDAR

APRIL/MAY 95

MONTH/DATE	EVENT	SKIPPER	DO
------------	-------	---------	----

APRIL

Sat	1	Fishing	Bob McL	
Sun	2	Rottnest Dive	Richard N	Brian M
Mon	3	COMMITTEE MEETING at 7.30pm		
Fri	7	Prawn Dive		Geoff C
Sun	9	Canyons & Caverns Dive	Dennis S	Maree C
		CONTACT KERRY - 331 2385		
Tues	18	GENERAL MEETING at 8pm		B-B-Q at 6.30pm
Sat	22	"Quick Drop"	Barry K	Geoff C
Sun	23	"Garden Delights"	Peter H	Kerry A
Fri	28	FUN FINE WINE TASTING	SUSIE	
Sat	29	One Tank	Bob McL	Brian M
Sun	30	BSAC	Dennis S	Maree C

MAY

Mon	1	COMMITTEE MEETING at 7.30pm		
Sat	6	Open	Open	Open
Sun	7	Marine Reserves	Richard N	Ron P
Sat	13	LATER START DIVE	Dennis S	Luc F
Sun	14	North Rottnest	Richard N	Geoff C
Tues	18	GENERAL MEETING at 8.00pm		
Sat	20	"We Help the Cautious"	Barry K	Kerry
		PROGRESSIVE DINNER	GEOFF C	
Sun	21	Carnac	Peter H	Luc F
Sat	27	DO's Choice	Dennis S	Maree C
Sun	28	Open	?	?

7PM Club norms \$10

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions and members should keep in contact with DO Kerry Ashton - 331 2385

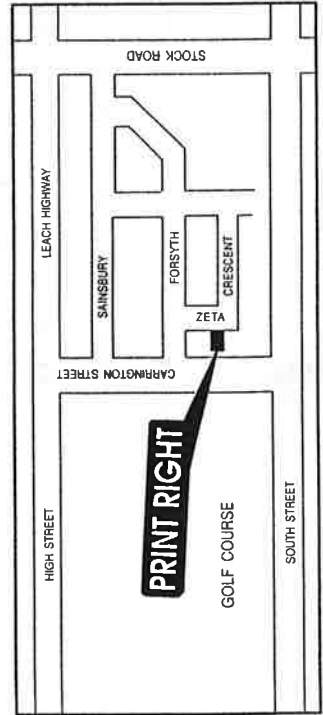
Phone DO Kerry Ashton on 331 2385 for dive bookings or inquiries.
DO NOT RING THE CREW.
 Dives will depart from East Street Jetty, Fremantle at 8.00am

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BUSINESS CARDS



EDITORIAL NOTES

Sandy Jackson

Hi folks! I wish to thank everyone for the response regarding the photocopying of our magazine each month.

I have been fortunate enough to find a company who have agreed to do the photocopying, collating and stapling of the magazine for a very, very reasonable price, so please note their advertisement in the back of our magazine.

Also at this time, we would like to welcome all new club members and hope that you enjoy happy diving with us!

Unfortunately, there is no Wreck Research report this month as I have been too busy, but I promise there will be two next month.

Sandy and "STAFF"

NEWS FLASH!

Tuesday the 18th is our April General Meeting and will be a meeting to remember! It's a B-B-Q with Bun & Meat supplied at only \$1.00 per serve.

Starts at 6.30pm sharp!

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

This past month has seen a lot of activity in the Club. Diving trips have been well attended and members have enjoyed some glorious weather. At this time of the year we are able to dive in some locations that at other times of the year are impossible and it also gives us the opportunity to scout around for some new spots. Kerry has produced a calendar of dive events that has some appeal for everyone. While this lovely mild weather is with us, why don't you give Kerry a ring and book on? Why not ring a few friends and organise your own dive trip from time to time? If not a dive trip, try a B-B-Q trip to Garden Island or Rottnest for your friends and relatives. "Underwater Explorer" is your boat so use it as often as possible. Use your imagination and you will be surprised at what can be achieved.

The boat has also gone out on a couple of fishing trips recently. Dennis and I took out a group of friends a few weeks ago. It was a beautiful day out on the water that produced mixed results - no dhufish but a few desirable fish emerged from the merky depths. Bob McLaughlin had better luck with his fishing trip, he landed a dhufish but had to endure less favourable conditions. The only disadvantage that I saw with fishing was the 3.15am kick-out time from my cosy bed! I survived the ordeal but only just.

Now onto more meaty subjects. We have decided to celebrate the end of Lent by having a quick B-B-Q before the next General Meeting on Tuesday 18th April. You don't have to worry about rushing around at home to finish tea before the meeting - have tea at the Club for only \$1.00. The luscious Weber cooked beef will be carved at 6.30pm - so be there! It is school holidays so bring the family as well, everyone is welcome.

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

Following and during the Rottnest trip last month major improvement to the boat's performance was achieved at very little cost and effort, that is if you consider a very extensive bottom clean "very little effort"! I personally don't, but with pleasant water conditions and many willing hands it can be tolerable! This time we tried to scrub the outer blue layer of anti-foul right back to the underlying white, the theory being that this would expose a good healthy new surface of barnacle poison, which after all cost us a fortune to put there so we might as well use it. It is possible that the outer coat has been leached of active ingredient and the residual paint film is preventing the under layers from getting through. If this turns out to be the case we should get a new lease of life out of the remaining anti-foul and save us another major clean up for quite a while.

We also took the opportunity to remove the stops from our throttle control on the basis this was preventing the engine from getting the boat quickly up on the plane thereby actually costing more fuel. The trim tab rams have been removed for proper fixing and we hope to have these back and operational very soon. These and a number of other minor maintenance items have combined to give a dramatic improvement to performance to the boat, Roe Reef to North Mole in less than 38 minutes being one such outcome. We certainly will save fuel with this sort of efficiency and improve the quality of our dive trips as well. The other comfort factors planned are slowly proceeding and will be added as time and money permit.

Meanwhile, this is the best diving weather we've had for years so get out there amongst it. The bottom of the boat will stay cleaner longer if we give it plenty of use too, so stay in touch.

CheersFolks!

Stubby!



DIVING DELIGHTS

Kerry Ashton

Once again the season has given us some good dives with the boat generally full. Do not be put off by the somewhat unpredictable weather this time of the year. Even with the threatening thunder storms, my Advanced Night Diver students enjoyed one of the most pleasant, balmy nights ever experienced with "Hills Light Show" to boot.

Looking at the current dive schedule, we are trying a single tank - later start dive on a Saturday - *TRY IT!*

We are always there to help you on every dive, however, for the really rusty, anxious, long-time-out-of-the-water diver, *TAKE THE PLUNGE on MAY 20* - this dive is for you!

The boat is available for members' fishing trips - just ring and book with me.

P.S. I'll give you a report on the *WHALESHARK DIVING* in Exmouth when we get back! (Rub it in, eh!)

NOMINATIONS

Ross & Sally Doherty (BSAC)
Nigel Marsh (BSAC)
Margaret Melsom (NASDS)
Sandy Webb (FAUI / NASDS)

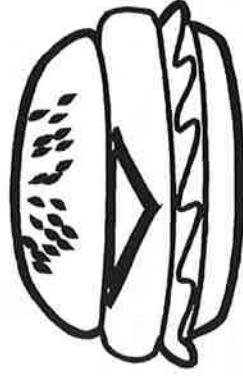
WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT (Continued)

You will notice that this magazine has an improved format. Ilana Murray, who has one of these new-fangled things, "a computer", and laser printer, has kindly offered to type the magazine. We will now have a more uniform and professional publication. Sandy is still on the look-out for articles, so please send them along with any snippets of gossip or news to her.

Hope to see you at the next meeting!

Maaree

OUR B-B-Q



ALL THIS FOR JUST \$1.00 PER SERVE

SOCIAL REPORT

Susie Ashton

The River Boat Pub Crawl On **ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

Well, we did meet at The Left Bank Bar in Fremantle, but only three of us. About 7pm we boarded 'UE' with Richard Naylor as Skipper (*again*) and Kerry as Deckie (*who did NOT fall into the water this time*).

As we only has two guests, FRANK and KAREN HUBBARD, we proceeded to the East Fremantle Yacht Club, where Frank has been a member since childhood. After a relaxed time on the balcony in the wind-still night, sipping Bailey's Irish Cream and watching life go by, we headed back downstream and moored the boat. In true Irish tradition, we kicked on to **CLANCY'S** in Freo, where we had a ball with lots of Guinness and other friends.



THANK YOU for supporting the 'raffle ticket business'. As I can see, it will not take much longer before we have enough money to be able to pay for an original stencil of the Club logo-type to be made. I have already given GEOFF GEAR's mother a 'Go Ahead', and we shall soon see the beautiful result. I might have a few for sale at this meeting, but you are welcome to bring in your own garment and get it printed for \$5 each.



SOCIAL REPORT

Susie Ashton

"NEXT BIG SOCIAL EVENT"

FINE WINE FUN TASTING WITH

"The Bacchus Bunch"



- € Be entertained with amusing anecdotes.
- € Expand your wine knowledge with a presentation from ELIZABETH KILLERBY - one of the pioneers of the South West wine industry.

Killerby Vineyards have won 15 trophies in 6 years, including "Best Small Wine Maker" 3 times.

We are tasting and comparing Premium Chardonnay and Special Cellar Selection Chardonnay, Semillon, Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz and Vintage Port.

Tasting notes, cheese and crackers provided.

We guarantee this will be an evening you will remember forever! (And well worth the \$10 we ask you to pay in advance as cover wine costs).

- € A DRAW WILL BE CONDUCTED FOR A BOTTLE OF KILLERBY VINTAGE PORT 1987.

YOU MAY BE THE LUCKY WINNER!

BACCHUS = Roman God of Wine and Ecstasy.

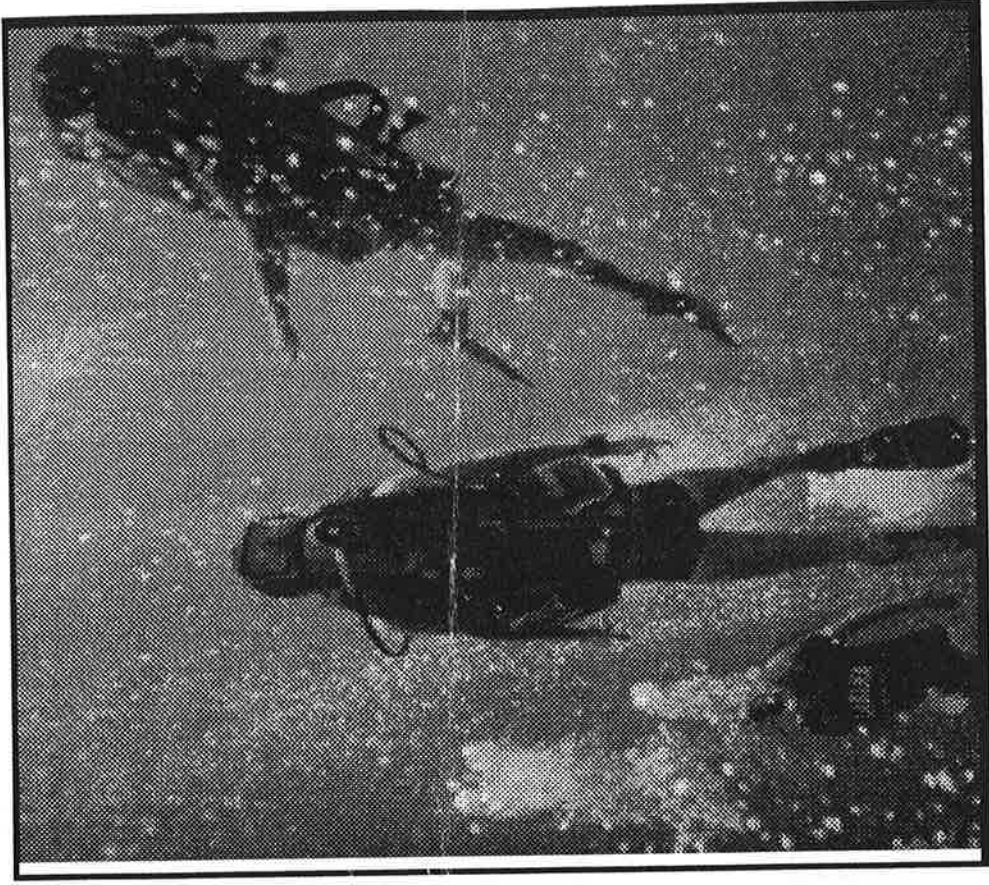
"The Bacchus Bunch" - an informal wine club formed by Kerry and Susie many, many years ago.

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UEC NEWS

MONTHLY MAGAZINE



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Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Cr
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

MAY 1995

THE COMMITTEE 1994/95

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	Phone 457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 454 8580
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	Phone 451 2910
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DIVING OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385
BOATING OFFICER	Dennis Stubberfield	Phone 457 3333
SAFETY OFFICER	Alison Keen	Phone 242 3919
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MAGAZINE EDITOR	Sandy Jackson	Phone 337 1105
SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385
DIVE BOOKINGS	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385

MAKE A FASHION STATEMENT!

Bring along your favourite T-Shirt or Windcheater to the next meeting and have the Club Logo printed for only -

\$ 10.00

FOR SALE

Female small wetsuit and boots for sale, Size 5 (I think). For more information please call Julie of Black Cat Florist, Fremantle

Phone : 336 2072

CLUB CALENDAR

MAY / JUNE 95

MONTH/DATE	EVENT	SKIPPER	DO
------------	-------	---------	----

MAY			
Sun	14	BSAC / UEC	Richard N Geoff C
<i>Mon</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>GENERAL MEETING at 8.00pm</i>	
Sat	20	"We Help the Cautious"	Frank H Kerry
EVENING			
Sun	21	Carnac	Peter H Luc F
Sat	27	DO's Choice	Dennis S Maree C
Sun	28	Last Autumn Dive	Barry K Ron P

JUNE			
Sat	3	OPEN	Bob McL Geoff
Sun	4	Winter Warmer	
<i>Tues</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>COMMITTEE MEETING at 7.30pm</i>	
Sat	10	OPEN	
Sun	11	Late Start One Tank	Richard N Luc F
Sat	17	OPEN	
Sun	18	BSAC / UEC	Dennis S Maree

<i>Mon</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>GENERAL MEETING at 8.00pm</i>	
<i>Fri</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>MOVIE AT THE CLUBROOM</i>	

Sat	24	OPEN	
Sun	25	Rottnest	Peter H Ron P
JULY			
Sat	1	OPEN	
Sun	2	One Tank	Barry K Geoff
<i>Mon</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>COMMITTEE MEETING at 7.30pm</i>	

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions and members should keep in contact with DO Kerry Ashton - 331 2385

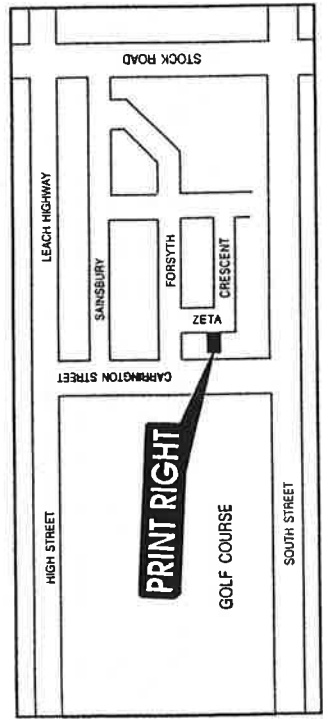
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EDITORIAL

Sandy Jackson

Hi folks, well unfortunately this is the last time you will hear from me in the position of Magazine Editor as I have had to resign from the position due to personal commitments.

This month there are lots of exciting events happening, like our continuous, terrific diving. Susie has organised a Progressive Dinner for the 20th May. Don't forget to check out the Club's calendar for these and other events happening.

I hope to see you all at the General Meeting.

Bye

Sandy and Staff"

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CONGRATULATIONS! Gee, that looks great! I'm talking about the "new" good-looking, last edition of the Newsletter. **THANKS, Iliana,** for helping us out. You have lifted the standard of our publication more than one thousand percent!

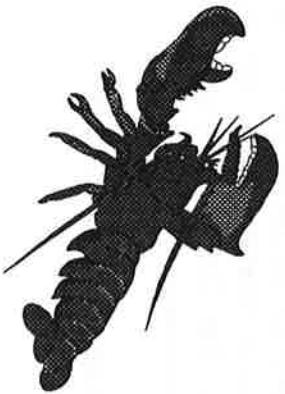
Maybe we'll get a few more members **TO READ IT now!**

Susie

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

Autumn has been very kind to us this year - providing some really good conditions for diving. One Sunday a couple of weeks ago was packed to the gunnels practically. Everyone enjoyed a really good day out and for the hunters amongst us, a sure-fire crayfishing spot has been found. To find out where it is, you have to come out on the boat with us before the season finishes. The signs are also good that the trend will continue, so keep an eye on the weather and ring Kerry.



Now that summer is over (*depressing isn't it!*) and winter approaches, we need to give serious thought to our financial position. As usual, our income dwindles and our bills increase and in keeping with a resolution passed some time ago, efforts to rent or lease the Clubrooms are now being stepped up. Hopefully, we will be able to arrive at a situation where we will be able to continue to use the rooms for our meetings and receive some income as well. In the meantime, I will keep you posted on any developments.

On the subject of income, now is the ideal time to introduce new members to the Club. Members signing up now will be able to take advantage of our offer to renew their membership in October 1996, therefore getting an extra 5 months membership for nothing. Hard to resist isn't it?

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield



This month I am happy to report no problems with our boat which has performed well over a number of trips. However, I notice that the algae and barnacles are starting to build up again below the water line significantly increasing fuel consumption, vibration and making our return trips slower. It's almost 2 months since our last good bottom scrub which is a pretty good run for this time of the season when the anti-foul is on it's last legs. I feel certain we can get through to next season without a slipping for anti-foul, the first year we have been able to get a full year out of one slipping.

Therefore, it will come as no surprise to you all that the time has come for a solid mornings working party on the boat (*and most of the afternoon as well!*) This could well include a look at the moorings at the same time. The proposal is to do this on Saturday 13th of May, or Sunday 14th, if the dive trip is cancelled due to moderately inclement weather! (*If the weather is too inclement the working party will be cancelled too and rescheduled to the first available Saturday thereafter.*)

The programme will include a refreshing little dive on the mooring and surrounds (*to pick up the odd spanner and rowlock*), a quick run up to Bickley and a bottom scrub, while still kitted up, then a general clean-up and work on the boat itself. All this followed by a rum and coke at the Swan Yacht Club! So folks don't leave town!

Cheers/McHearties!

Stubby!

DIVING DELIGHTS

Kerry Ashton

Check the current calendar out! We have a number of single-tank dives, a couple of which start at "Gentle Folk's Hour" (9.00am).

Of course, we still have two-tank dives on Sundays.

You will also notice a number of "Open" days, which are there for YOU to use, organise or request, eg: single-tank, early start, exploratory, over-nighter etc.

DON'T FORGET: Saturday 20 May = RUSTY DIVERS! This one is for YOU!

Reports on the diving over the last month have been good. Both Rottnest and Stragglers / Carnac have produced some great visibility and excellent sea conditions, which is common for this time of the year, as we move through the Autumn transition.

Sure, maybe it is becoming a little bit chilly in the evenings. However, we had an excellent PRAWN DIVE last month. One Thursday evening we had eight divers and four "social" folk, spending a very pleasant evening on the banks of the Swan. The catch was good, the pot a little slow, but with plenty of nibbles as we waited for our feed to round out the evening.

We should never stop thinking about our diving ability, especially with changes of equipment, clothing, season, etc. One of the most important aspects of this thinking is to realise your own limitations and capabilities. I sum this up as: "PACING YOURSELF". This covers a whole range of topics such as fitness, weather, familiarity with your equipment, navigation skills and experience.

We can help you to enjoy and improve your diving much easier, if you let the D.O. know of any concerns or reservations you may have. Don't be shy to ask - diving is a continuous learning curve for all of us.

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Continued)

Lastly, the Club is again on the look-out for a new Magazine Editor. Unfortunately Sandy is unable to finish her term of office and we need someone to take over the reins. Fortunately, the new Editor will find the portfolio a lot less ominous than in the past now that Ilana is preparing the manuscript, so if you think you can help, please give me a ring. Many thanks to Sandy for all her efforts during the past year in producing the magazine.

Last months General Meeting and B-B-Q was a big success with many people turning up for a cheapie meal. Maybe we will do it again soon, so watch this space for news. Hope to see you all at the next meeting where a fantastic slide show has been organised.

Maree

NEWS FLASH!

WANTED

Volunteers to join the Avon Descent Rescue Team.

Contact Jim Robson on 454 7868!

DAIRY OF A PUNTER

Kerry Ashton

Early breakfast, early packed, waiting for the bus, is this a first? YES!!! that is whalesharking.

Bus ride, picking up more people, introductions, buzzing talk fading away on the half hour ride to the jetty. JETTY??? Zodiac trip to boat, anticipation, briefing and coffee. Chug, Chug out beyond the reef, when's the plane due?

Looking, looking, looking - more coffee radio crackles - CONTACT!! CONTACT!! One kilometre at eleven o'clock. Throttles on, bodies stumbling for gear, adrenalin pumping. GROUP ONE!! GROUP ONE!! READY!! THERE IT IS!!! THERE IT IS!!! Spotter - GO!! GO!! Group One WAIT!! WAIT!! - GO!!! GO!!! GO!!!

Cool deep blue water - where is it? Where is the Spotter? There, coming straight for us out of the spawn mist, an enormous shadow materialises, so silent, so peaceful, so relaxed.

We swim hard to get back up to the front to once again see that cavernous mouth with its attendant circus of smaller fish. Such small eyes, delicate colour tones, huge fins and the huge tail.

We drop away to allow the next group on and are still panting with exhilaration and excitement when the boat picks us up.

What did it really look like? How big? Did you see??

It all seems forgotten in the rush.

GROUP ONE!!! READY!!! GO!!! GO!!! GO!!!.

(To be continued)

WHALESHARKOMANIA

Susie

"GO, GO, GO ... NOW! were the yelled commands from a crew member aboard "Lionfish III" Adrenalin was pumping through my body as I stood on the marlin board together with three other bodies, dressed in super-slim and colourful lycra-suits, mask, snorkel and 6 foot flippers. A big splash and we were all in the warm waters of the Ningaloo Marine Park's northern part. A WHALE SHARK had been spotted by "our" plane and the message given to the skipper, Bonny Morrison.

This was a good one - she stayed with us for a long time, close to the surface. Each group of four snorkellers had 10 to 15 minutes on the whale shark several times. We were not allowed to touch this, the biggest fish in the world, but came oh so close! What a beautiful and impressive sight! My feelings are still overwhelming and difficult to describe in a foreign language. I'm glad we finally did it! It is actually worth all the dollars you spend. But then again, it seems like we were "lucky" the three days we were out looking for the whale sharks, because we had the opportunity to spend a lot of time with a lot of them. Sizes varied from about 6 to 12 metres. One day was overcast, and we only saw one whale shark, but the other two days more than made up for that, with several animals around us. One "beauty" even came up to the boat to say "hullo" or whatever, when we were standing still with the motor off.

Can you have WHALESHARKOMANIA?



P.S. We were also very fortunate to have Dr GEOFF TAYLOR aboard, who has devoted all his spare time to study the whale sharks. Did you read his book "The Giants of Ningaloo Reef", published last year?

A WORD FROM

Susie

A SAD WORD FROM YOUR SOCIAL SECRETARY

I will depart for Sweden a bit earlier than planned, due to not so pleasant circumstances (*my father had another stroke*). Therefore, I will not see you for awhile, and can't "push you to play with me" at social club events. If things go according to our new plans, Kerry will join me in Stockholm in June and we will both be back late July.

Till then - behave - but have fun, and don't do anything I wouldn't do!

BOB McLAUGHLIN has kindly promised to run the social calendar while I'm away, so check things with him.



Susie

PUBLIC RELATIONS

THANK YOU, Mrs GEAR, for the beautiful UEC logo-type stencil. It's a great asset for the club and very valuable for us club members to be able to have our T- Shirts and/or sweatshirts "decorated". Good PR for UEC as well.

Being down in Fremantle for a pint now and then, Kerry and I have had people coming up to us asking about the club, when they see the UEC logo on our chests.

So, the price is really only \$5, but we would of course appreciate if you could pay a few dollars extra for the Club's petty cash (= "social till"). All you have to do is to bring in your own garment and give it to GEOFF or HETTY GEAR at this meeting. (The logo is printed in blue colour only at this stage).

Susie

SAFETY REPORT

Alison Keen

Well done divers, as everything seems to be proceeding well on the boat. When the weather eventually breaks, be aware of giving people a hand and clearing the marlin board as soon as possible. Get your gear packed away quickly.

We are still sorting out a few problems on the marlin board. We still want you to take off your diving gear on the marlin board but carefully. Divers are often below so hang on tightly to your gear as you pass it up. We have dared to move the shot line onto the starboard side. When you are on the shot line look out for White Pointers or divers removing gear.

Make sure your diving gear is up to scratch and hire gear still needs a careful check too. Good checks will ensure an enjoyable dive for you and your buddy.

Alison



NOMINATION

Mark Davis of Shelley (FAUI)

SOCIAL SCENE

Susie Ashton

SOCIAL SCENE

Susie Ashton

NEXT GENERAL MEETING - DON'T MISS IT!

EVA BOOGAARD is back "on stage" (*Monday 15 May*) for a slide show. (*Wish I could be there!*) She will give us a talk on invertebrates, grouped in Bryozoans, Cnidarians, Echinoderms, Molluscs and what have you, to make it easier for us to identify what we see during our dives. Eva has been awarded the title "WA's Best Underwater Photographer". Once we were honoured with her UEC membership - Eva is now in with the WAUPS mob.

This meeting's RAFFLE PRIZE is a ticket to REG LIPSON'S lecture "In Praise of Monsters, Marvels & Myths" on Wednesday 31 May at Perth Superdrome, Mt Claremont. Anyone that has ever heard Reg before will surely agree that he is most entertaining.

(Wish I could be there!)

THE ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER PARTY

WE NEED MORE PARTICIPANTS FOR THIS MONTH'S SOCIAL EVENT, taking place on Saturday 20 May (*Only eight bookings so far!*).

WE ALSO NEED SOMEONE WHO IS WILLING TO SERVE AN ENTREE AND SOMEONE ELSE TO COOK UP THE MAIN COURSE. (*We have Geoff Charlton for soup, and Nick/Sharon for the coffee & cake, that's all!*).

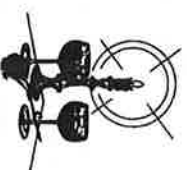
Unless these matters get "sorted out" at this May General Meeting, we'll have to cancel the event. My suggestion is that the involved people agree on a restaurant and go out for a nice meal together. (*Wish I could be there!*)



SOCIAL REPORT

Susie Ashton

The wine tasting with the "Bacchus Bunch" was, as I promised you it would be, an unforgettable evening at the club room together with ELIZABETH KILLERBY. She really is quite a character, and very "theatrical" when she relates her anecdotes of the industry. We all learnt something new, and had a great time together.

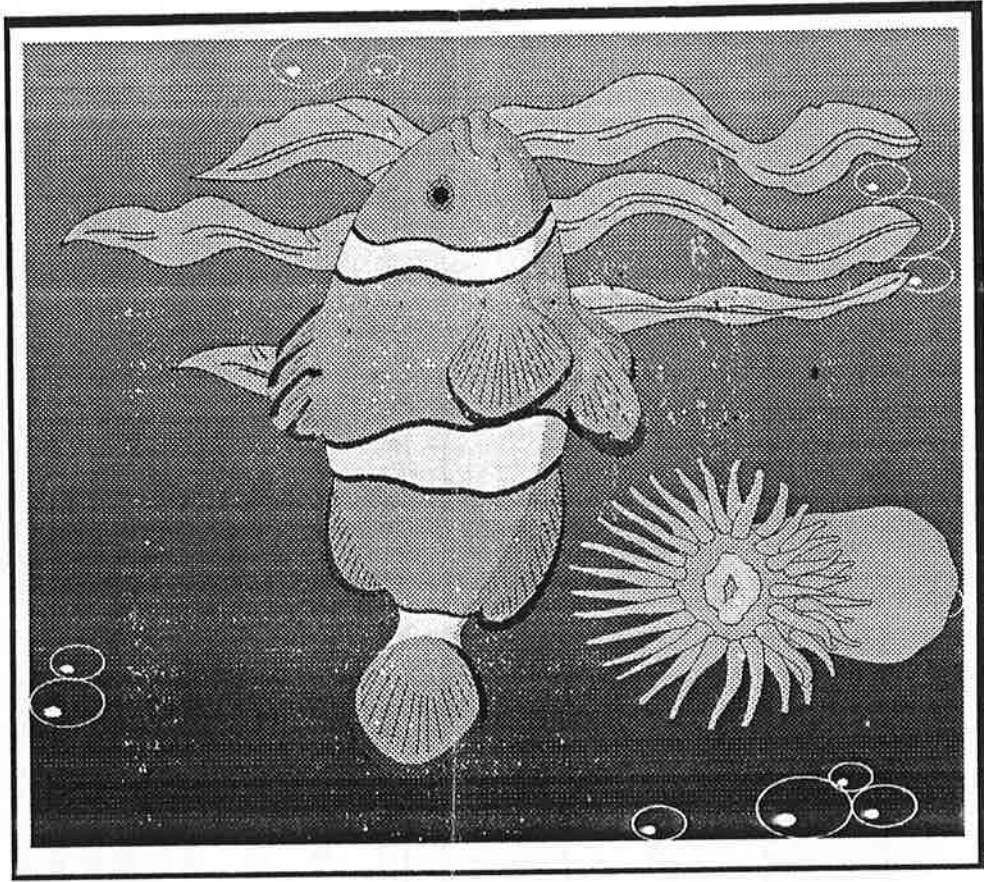


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UEC NEWS

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



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Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Cr

FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

JUNE 1995

THE COMMITTEE 1994/95

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VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 454 8580
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	Phone 451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	Phone 445 2336
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TRAINING OFFICER	Vacant	
BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Vacant	
SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385

DIVE BOOKINGS Sharon & Nick Phone 339 4559

SPECIAL NOTICE

Please note that the boat will be slipped for its annual maintenance from the 11th August until the 2nd of September.

FOR SALE

Moray 5mm wetsuit with Parka hood, very good condition,
Extra Large Mens!

\$350.00 (negotiable)

Contact : Brian Murray
018 090 641

CLUB CALENDAR

JUNE/JULY

MONTH/DATE	EVENT	SKIPPER	DO
JUNE			
Sat 17	OPEN		
Sun 18	BSAC/UEC	Dennis	Maree
Mon 19	GENERAL MEETING 8.00pm		
Sat 24	OPEN		
Sat 24	MOVIE AT OMNI THEATRE - 6.30pm		
Sun 25	Rothest	Peter	Ron P
JULY			
Sat 1	OPEN		
Sun 2	1 Tank	Barry	Geoff
Mon 3	COMMITTEE MEETING at 7.30pm		
Sat 8	OPEN		
Sun 9	Stragglers	Bob	Brian
Sat 15	OPEN		
Sun 16	BSAC / UEC	Richard	Ron P
Mon 17	GENERAL MEETING at 8.00pm		
Sat 22	OPEN		
Sun 23	1 Tank	Peter	Kerry
Sat 29	OPEN		
Sun 30	Late Start	Dennis	Maree
AUGUST			
Sat 5	OPEN		
Sun 6	Garden Island	Barry K	Luc

FROM 11 AUGUST TO 2 SEPTEMBER THE BOAT WILL BE SLIPPED

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions and members should keep in contact with Sharon & Nick - 339 4559

Phone Sharon & Nick - 339 4559 for dive bookings or inquiries.
DO NOT RING THE CREW.
 Dives will depart from East Street Jetty, Fremantle

DIVING DELIGHTS

Kerry Ashton

Congratulations guys, take a bow and all that!!

Over the past months or so we have had a number of new divers on board - some experienced and some needing guidance and practice. It is great to see our members step forward, quietly assist, be friendly, encouraging and willing to buddy these new people. If ever there was a way to increase our membership, this is it! All the comments coming back from these people are good. Diving is not the easiest recreation, it should be a sharing and caring sport.

The first dive without my instructor some years ago with "UEC", I can remember sitting at 14 metres thinking "I hope I can remember everything he taught me". The learning curve never stops and I trust that we will continue to share our experiences and knowledge in the future.

The boat has been quite active lately, despite the changeable weather. We are blessed with year round diving in Perth provided we can pick / jag the windows in our wind patterns - the moral being "do not pack your dive gear away just yet".

The short Saturday "One Tank Dive" gentlepersons hours are proving to be popular this time of year, so join in!!

I'm off to join Susie in Sweden for a month, so I'll see you in July/August.

Dive safe and well!!



WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

It's official - Winter is with us and wasn't the first week of June just perfect? 5 metre swells tends to put the "mokkas" on diving but watch out for those lovely balmy days that crop up between the stormy ones. The boat has been out on several 1 cylinder dives that have been very well attended and it seems that members appreciate the 9am start time as well.

Despite the slow down in diving activity the social calendar has been moving along well. The progressive dinner last month was great - see the Social Scene pages for more details, and watch out for future events. In Susie's absence, if anyone has a screamer of an idea for social events, give me a ring.

I am disappointed by the response for our call for a Magazine Editor. No one has volunteered to take over the reins yet. The work involved is minimal, all you have to do it take the manuscripts to the printers, pick up the printed copies and then post them. There must be someone out there that can squeeze this small amount of time into a month.

Hope to see you soon.

Maree

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield



I am happy to report this month that all is well with the boat and, following a good bottom scrub and some minor maintenance, is performing well. Also carried out on the Working Day in May was an inspection and clean out of the sea water cooling intake, by taking the removable plate off under water. The intake was found to be choked full of barnacles, restricting the inlet to such an extent one could hardly fit a thin bladed screw driver past the obstruction. This cleaned out, temperatures are now back down to normal! The marine growth was incredible, enough mussels to start a medium sized farming operation.

The nor' westerly gale last week caused the 1 inch swivel at the bottom of the mooring to break (with half an inch of metal left) letting the boat wander across to sample the Oyster Beds berthing facilities. Fortunately, the Water Police and Marine Operations, contacted us promptly, sparking off a mad dash down to the boat by Maree and Peter one lunch hour, to recover said craft! The very heavy bottom chain and long new upper mooring chain is almost as good as a mooring itself, acting as sufficient restraint to enable her to be spotted and recovered before going too far and being damaged. As it was she spent a comfortable night tied up at the OB's. Next day a new, even more gigantic shackle was placed on the bottom of the mooring, to be changed regularly and frequently!

Now the season is drawing to a close and following the sustained heavy rains which will freshen up the Bull Creek area it is nearly the time to bring her up the creek to her Bull Creek mooring. This year we will attempt to make more use of the nearby location for boating social events, working parties and whatever other interesting things we can think of, so folks, once again, don't leave town - we will be in touch.

Creeper's McHearties!

Stubby!

DIARY OF A PUNTER (cont)

Kerry Ashton

WOW!! FANTASTIC!! AWESOME!!

Did you see the way he stood on his tail?

Day two and the adrenalin is still pumping. Lose of contact and a delicious lunch brings us back to reality - blue sky, blue ocean, warmth and friendships. Ahh!! What more could one want.

Cruising, cruising, cruising.

CONTACT!! CONTACT!! CONTACT!!

This one we found ourselves without the plane. Are we feeling cocky or what?

Group one GO!! GO!! GO!!

No we are getting used to the speed, old hands we are. Still buzzing from the contact the four of us drift in deep blue waiting for our pick-up. Below us a whale shark cruising by checking us out - one of the lads free dives to get a close-up.

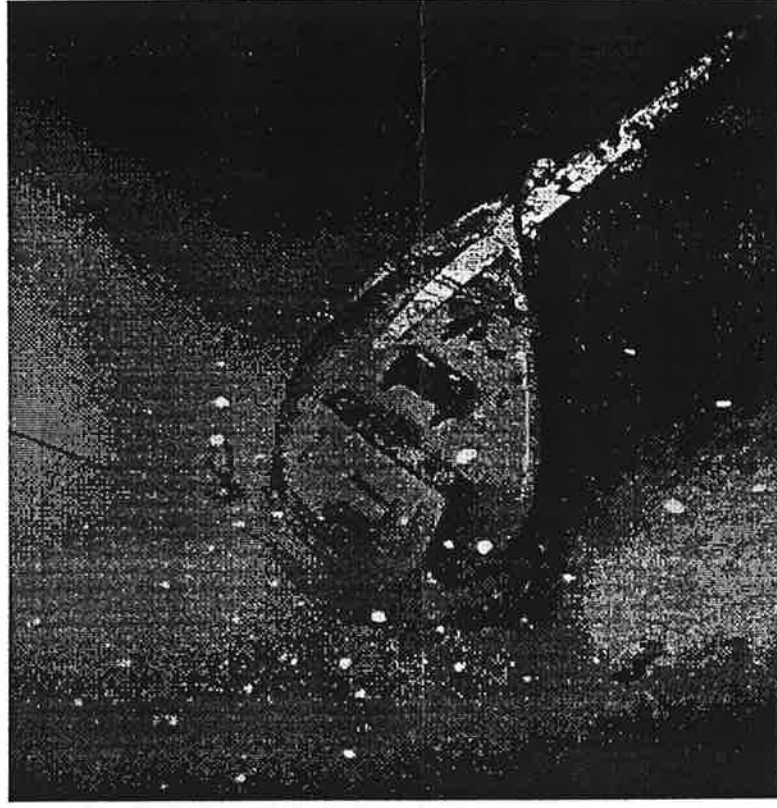
Two boats, two whale sharks, after an hour the decision is made to swap sharks, this adds a spice to the adventure.

A days break and onto day three.

CONTACT!! CONTACT!! CONTACT!!

Oh!! Did I forget to tell you about the diving?

WRECK REPORT



This shipwreck is near Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii and is a 45 foot (15 metre) sailing vessel that sank after hitting an obstruction. She rests in 100 feet (33 metres) of water.

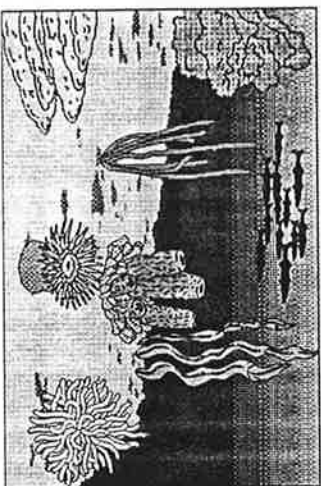
SOCIAL SCENE

FILM NIGHT

Circle this one on the calendar now - as this event promises to be a sell-out! We have secured some tickets to the Omni Theatre to view the spectacular movie "*The Living Sea*". Our resident movie critic Jim Robson has seen it and reckons this is the "*must see*" movie of the year. Narration is by Meryl Streep and music supplied by Sting. The idea is to all meet at the theatre for the 6.30pm showing and then adjourn to a local eating establishment for a cheapie meal - a pizza or something.

The night is Saturday the 24th of June and the cost is only \$9.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children.

Get in quick for this one and give me a ring to book on.



SOCIAL SCENE

Maree Casley

THE PROGRESSIVE DINNER

WOW! What a great night we had! About 19 of us met at the Club Rooms for a quiet champagne cocktail or two and a few nibbles. This set the scene for a really entertaining evening. Soon we were off for our soup at Geoff's new home. He's pretty cagey you know, he saved the cost of having a "house warming" party by having the gang come around for soup. The cream of fungi (mushroom) soup was delicious, but I still sometimes ponder how Geoff thought 19 people could consume 73 litres of soup!

Next it was over to Dennis and Maree's place. What could I say about the entree without sounding "full of it"? Well, I will tell you it was a fantastically delicious pork and pasta dish, the taste of which is unparalleled in the annals of gormandising history. Sounds good doesn't it and if I do say so it wasn't too shabby!

A real treat was awaiting us at the next venue. Alison and Michel had cooked up a veritable smorgasbord of goodies for us. The selection consisted of dishes such as tortellini, curry, quiche, fish mornay and salads. Alison and Michel had worked slavishly to produce a sumptuous meal and to cap it off they even put on some world class entertainment. A friend was on hand to regale the diners with some really earthy poetry. Thanks Alison, Michel and Friend.

The bus journey to Sharon's place for dessert produced a few laughs. Suffice it to say that Jeannie flashed her "head lights" at Pat who was following in his bug. Unfortunately, Pat must have had his eyes and mind focussed elsewhere because he missed the whole show.

Dessert at Sharon's was a sweet-tooths delight. I think I have the name right - it was called "*Tacky Sticky Pudding*" and the name described it perfectly. It was a superbly decadent dessert but yummy nevertheless.

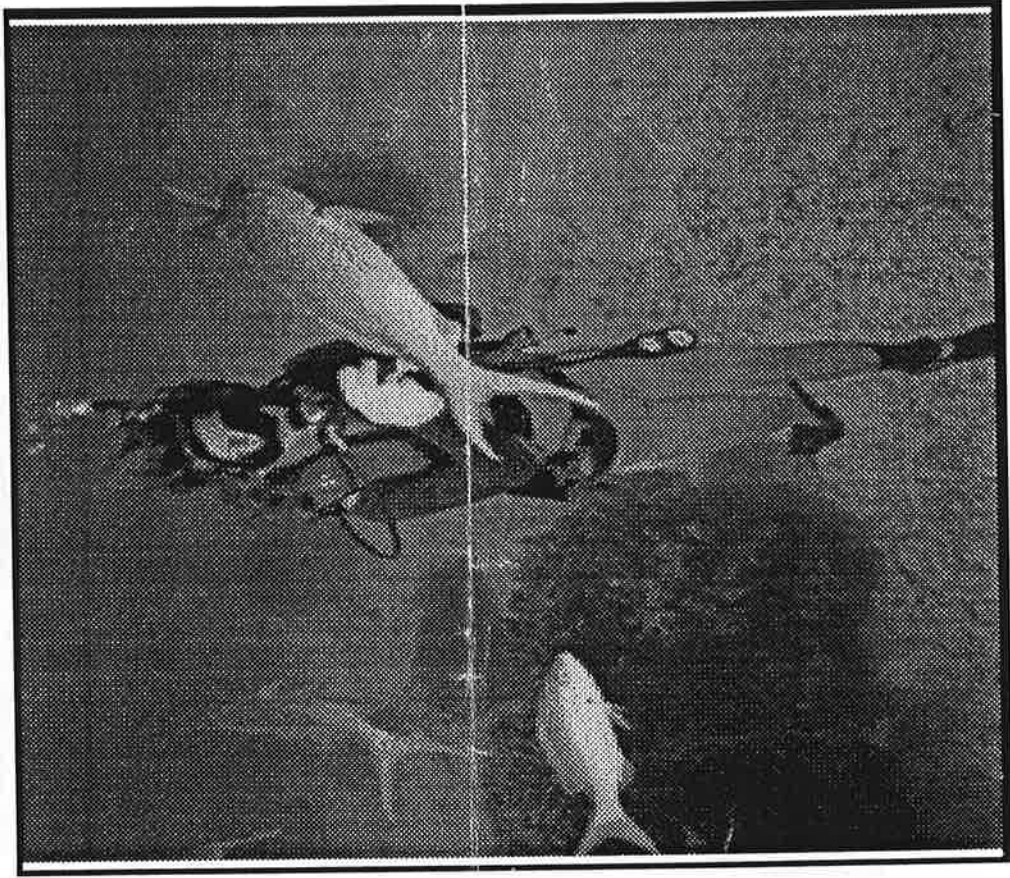
The evening draw to a close at about 1am when Geoff herded us onto the bus. We all had a great night and it was good to see some new faces join us in the fun. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work in preparing meals and to Geoff for driving the bus.

SENDER:

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

UEC NEWS

MONTHLY MAGAZINE



SURFACE
MAIL

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UEC NEWS
Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc)
Print Post Approved by Australia Post
Print Post Publication No. PP632563/0002

Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Cr
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

JULY 1995

THE COMMITTEE 1994/95

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VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 454 8580
SECRETARY	Geoff Chantton	Phone 451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	Phone 445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385
BOATING OFFICER	Dennis Stubberfield	Phone 457 3333
SAFETY OFFICER	Alison Keen	Phone 242 3919
TRAINING OFFICER	Vacant	
BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Steve Larter	Phone 291 9654
SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385
DIVE BOOKINGS	Sharon & Nick	Phone 339 4559

SPECIAL NOTICE

Please note that the boat will be slipped for its annual maintenance from the 11th August until the 2nd of September.

FOR SALE

Moray 5mm wetsuit with Parka hood, very good condition,
Extra Large Mens!

\$350.00 (negotiable)

Contact : Brian Murray
018 090 641

CLUB CALENDAR

JULY/AUGUST

MONTH/DATE	EVENT	SKIPPER	DO
------------	-------	---------	----

JULY

Sat	15	OPEN	
Sun	16	BSAC / UEC	Richard Ron P
Mon	17	GENERAL MEETING at 8.00pm	
Sat	22	OPEN	
Sun	23	1 Tank	Peter Kerry
Sat	29	OPEN	
Sun	30	Late Start	Dennis Maree

AUGUST

Sat	5	OPEN	
Sun	6	Garden Island	Barry K Luc
Mon	7	COMMITTEE MEETING 7.30pm	
Fri	11	Boat Slipped	
Mon	21	GENERAL MEETING 8.00pm	

**FROM 11 AUGUST TO 2 SEPTEMBER
THE BOAT WILL BE SLIPPED**

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SAFETY REPORT

Alison Keen

Not a lot of diving going on, so my report is directed more to boat First Aid. It has been brought to my attention that the First Aid Kit is in need of attention. Dennis is going to provide us with a better box and so it will come off the boat to be restocked. We will leave some band aids aboard while the boat is on the mooring.

Once we get back into diving, after the boat slipping, the Skippers and Diving Officers need to make sure the First Aid Kit is up to scratch. They can enter into the log any used or missing items - but not each band aid please!

Club members need to be aware that the First Aid Kit should be ready for emergencies and not just 'raid' everything.

Safe diving, if you can brave getting wet!

SAFETY SPOT



NO! WE DON'T GO EENIE, MEENIE,
MINIE MO WITH THE DIVE TABLES.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Steve Larier

Yes! You have a new Magazine Editor. After some years of relative non-activity in the UEC, I thought it was about time to get motivated with Club activities and events.

The new-look publication style of the Newsletter will continue thanks to Ilana who has lifted the quality of the publication 100%. The publication is your chance to voice your opinions and provide other members with your experiences. We will be looking for items of interest both humorous and serious.

Articles for the Newsletter are required for publication during the last week of each month. My contact numbers are:

Work Telephone : 330 2333

Facsimile : 330 4541 *wk*

Home Telephone : 291 9654

I look forward to hearing from you. Remember it's your Newsletter. Let's use it!

Steve

DID YOU KNOW?

Hetty Geard

- ▶ Because their eyeballs are fixed, whales have to move their whole body in order to shift their line of vision.
- ▶ A shark has to keep moving forward in order to live.
- ▶ Crocodiles are Colour-Blind.
- ▶ An Albatross can stay airborne without flapping its wings for days on end.
- ▶ Dolphins Sleep with one eye open.
- ▶ Half of the World's area of land water is in Canada.
- ▶ There is about 200 times as much gold dissolved in the World's oceans than has been mined in our entire history.
- ▶ Ninety-nine per cent of all the forms of life that have ever existed on the earth are now extinct.

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

The cool, and at times very windy, weather has certainly taken its toll on our diving activities - in fact it has brought it to a screaming halt! The boat is currently bobbing around on the Bullcreek mooring waiting for someone to take her out. There is only a couple of weeks left before she comes out of the water for her annual slipping, so get in quick for your last winter dive.

If the idea of getting into the briny doesn't hold much appeal for you - how about getting into a pair of overalls! Dennis is going to need all the help he can get when the boat is slipped. The Underwater Explorer belongs to us all equally so it goes without saying that we all have an equal responsibility in maintaining her. Give Dennis a ring and let him know when you will be available to lend a hand. Once again this year the boat will be in a handy location at the Swan Yacht Club.

Yippeee!! We now have Steve Later as our new Magazine Editor. He will probably have a different way of doing things so read his editors comments to find out where to send your articles or snippets of gossip. I'm sure of one thing though - he will need articles, stories etc, otherwise the magazine becomes very boring. Someone out there must have at least one funny anecdote that they would care to share with us.

Well, for the moment I am all out of good news. I hope to see you all soon at the next meeting.

Maree

WHEELHOUSE WRAP (cont)

Dennis Stubberfield

We should now start planning a few short River trips for those odd balmy, sunny winters day, which we often get during winter! Dive trips will also still go ahead with a little forward planning.

Finally, just a gently reminder that the boat will be slipped for annual maintenance and anti-foul on Friday 11th August 1995. She will be slipped at about 10.00am at Swan Yacht Club, (very conveniently) and remain there till Monday 4th September. That will give us four solid weekends and we must make the most of it, so please let me know when you are available to enable me to schedule the work. The Friday we slip will be taken up mostly with clean-up, which is an essential start to the maintenance program.

Cheers! WeHearties'



Stubby!

New Rules on Sharks

Whale sharks will be protected under guidelines announced recently.

A 250m contact zone around the sharks has been declared under the Wildlife Conservation Act. Breaches could attract fines of up to \$4,000.

Under the guidelines, which are part of a Government bid to develop whale shark viewing in Ningaloo Marine Park, only one vessel may operate in a contact zone at a time and must stay at least 30m from the shark.

Swimmers must not touch or ride on the shark - keeping a metre clear of the head or body and 4m from the tail.

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

The June report this year will be brief, since no dive trips occurred and the weather has been too foul to do much in the way of maintenance. However, the boat did get a run up the river to the Bullcreek mooring, where She now lays in calm water. We came up on about the highest tide I have ever seen (one could only just see daylight under the decking of the 'Deep Water Point' jetty) and we passed under the Canning Bridge, keeping hard over to Starboard where the highest part of the span is, with about 10 millimetres to spare. (The measurement is accurate because Peter had his little finger resting on the radar cover and he felt it brush the bottom of the bridge beam!!). There nearly went another one in the service of the UEC (finger that is). **SKIPPERS PLEASE NOTE!** The Bullcreek mooring was inspected (after first locating the sunken buoy) in zero visibility on that rainy wintry day by none other than Luc Fauvet, our mooring specialist. It was suggested we would have done it quicker by steaming around in the vicinity and getting it caught around the prop, an extremely likely outcome given our recent run of bad luck, but not a wise move at any time let alone in a howling gale! Dare I say it - "it was hell out there!"

Minor repairs have been carried out to the freshwater cooling system, which was leaking into the bilges and some work was also done on our bilge pumping system. A new chain, with extra length, has been attached in parallel with the old chain to the mooring block (again by the intrepid Luc) so we are reasonably certain She is snug for the winter.

Now is the time for all those little odd jobs as She is close to hand and easy to reach - you don't even need to use the oars - any old paddle will do in that secluded nook.

AVON DESCENT NEWS

There is only a couple of weeks left till a hardy bunch of about 18 divers and 10 shore based rescue personnel brave the elements along the Avon River to participate in this year's event. Our contingent is considerably larger this year as we have been asked to help out with some shore based activities as well.

We have already had two training days up at Bell's Rapids and will squeeze in another one or two before the race starts. Once again, Michel Roux is organising a weekly swim training session. These will be held each Thursday evening from 6.00pm at the Fremantle Aquatic Centre. These nights are great for everyone and especially those people taking part in rescue training.

These nights are a casual, fun way of keeping (or getting) fit. See you down at Freo soon!

Apart from organising the training session, Jim Robson has also been busy formulating the rescue teams and transport arrangements. He will advise each of you of these arrangements as soon as possible.

By the time the August magazine hits the streets we will have completed another tour of duty. So watch this space next month to catch up with all that happened.

SOCIAL SCENE

Maree Casley

OMNI THEATRE FLOGGING

This was a really good night. All 20 of us enjoyed "The Living Sea" and those amongst us who had never been before, doubly enjoyed the experience. Most of us then adjourned to Fast Eddy's in the city for a meal, a drink and a chat with friends. It was all very laid back and a very pleasant way to spend an evening.

JULY GENERAL MEETING

Our very own Steve Larter will be presenting a slide show. Steve has spent some time working in Mauritius and has the photo's to prove it. By all accounts Mauritius is a beautiful island and I look forward to seeing Steve's presentation.

Watch out for Bob McLaughlin flogging his raffle tickets. This months' prize is a pair of tickets to the Omni Theatre valued at \$20. The tickets can be used for any of the Omni movies up till the end of August, so don't let Bob out of your sight till you get your raffle tickets.

SOCIAL SCENE

Maree Casley

COMING ATTRACTIONS!

This month we're all off to Super Bowl in Melville for another fun-filled adventure. These are always popular evenings where Peter Horton and Tibi Csomay show us all what it's like to be a super athlete and Pat Troy gives a pretty good initiation. Give me a ring to book on for the night. Some light snacks will be provided after the game but if you have a "healthy" appetite grab a hamburger beforehand.

SUPER BOWL

Cnr Stock Road & Leach Highway
Melville

ONLY \$12 FOR ALL THIS!

- 2 Games
- Show Hire
- Hot Finger Food
- Prawn Rolls
- Mexican Rolls
- Samosas
- Spicy Potato Wedges
- Savoury Rolls
- Dips/Biscuits
- Tea/Coffee
- BYO Beer or Wine to Celebrate Your Win

FRIDAY 21 JULY 1995 - 7.00PM

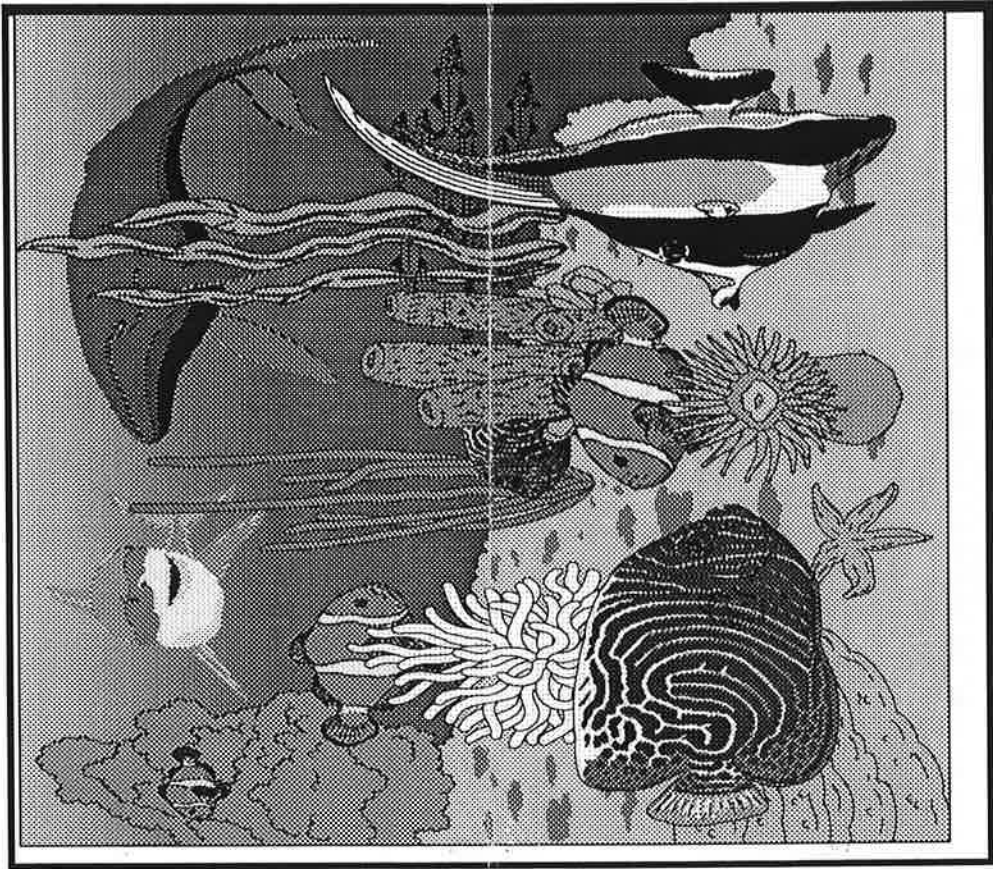
Ring Maree on 457 3333
to reserve your spot!

SENDER:

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

UEC NEWS

MONTHLY MAGAZINE



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Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Cr
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

AUGUST 1995

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BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Steve Larter	Phone 291 9654
SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385
DIVE BOOKINGS	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385

"SPECIAL NOTICE"

Please note that the boat will be slipped for its annual maintenance from the 11th August until the 4th of September

"Interesting Articles" IMPLANT EXPLODES

An American woman suffered horrific injuries when a silicone implant in one of her breasts exploded as she ascended from a 30m dive. The 37 year old Bostonian was left with extensive damage to her chest wall muscles, two broken ribs and a bad infection. Her right breast was completely decimated.

Doctors hope to conduct plastic surgery once her wounds have healed completely, but they warn that a totally normal appearance may never be possible due to the extensive damage done. An implant in the woman's other breast was unaffected during the diving ascent.

CLUB CALENDAR

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 95

MONTH/DATE	EVENT	SKIPPER	DO
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AUGUST

Fri	11	BOAT SLIPPED	
-----	----	--------------	--

SEPTEMBER

Mon	4	BOAT LAUNCHED	
-----	---	---------------	--

Mon	4	COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7.30pm	
-----	---	-----------------------------	--

Sat	9	Open	
-----	---	------	--

Sun	10	Late Start One Tank	Bob
-----	----	---------------------	-----

Sat	16	Open	
-----	----	------	--

Sun	17	Rottnest	Dennis
-----	----	----------	--------

Mon	18	GENERAL MEETING at 8.00pm	Maree
-----	----	---------------------------	-------

Sat	23	Open	
-----	----	------	--

Sun	24	Stragglers	Peter H
-----	----	------------	---------

Sun	24		Luc F
-----	----	--	-------

NOTE !!

NOTE !!

NOTE !!

DIVE BOOKINGS ARE NOW BACK WITH KERRY & SUSIE - 331 2385

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions and members should keep in contact with **DO Kerry Ashton - 331 2385**

Phone **DO** Kerry Ashton on **331 2385** for dive bookings or inquiries.
DO NOT RING THE CREW.

Dives will depart from **East Street Jetty, Fremantle** at 8:00am

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield



This report will really be brief, since once again no dive trips occurred, the weather has been too foul to do any maintenance and besides we were all off training and Avon Descending, weren't we?

She was put up on the hard at Swan Yacht Club, where she now rests, on Friday 11/8/95 and is ready for your fond ministrations. Said ministrations being limited only by the funds you all made at the Avon Descent and the hours of work we put in! That's not quite right, actually, because Maree won't let me even sniff the 'fund' barrel, let alone touch it, so it all has to be done by the sweat of our brows (and armpits). Basically we only have to antifoul, fix up the hand rails, mount the anchor up front, and a few (about a million) short mechanical jobs such as remove the prop shaft, remount the engine, fix up the gland - you know all that nautical stuff, then get her back diving as quickly as possible.

If we can persuade the Hon. Treasurer and President to give the old cheque book a flutter (or just lend it to me for a few days) we might bung a clear plastic weather dodger on the port side, provided of course we get really busy and spend a few man-hours on the rest of the boat!

There are a few electrical and hydraulic things to do as well, heaven forbid, we might even look at the steering hydraulic system, which has given us such a trouble free run I've forgotten where it is! Well, we will find it, because part of the success of running a boat without breakdown is to get at these things first and "fix 'em before they've broke!" and not rely too much on that old faithful.... "if it's not broke, don't fix it!" routine.

I hope to see heaps of you during the month!

Pondest Regards!

Stubby!

EDITORIAL

Steve Larter

It was interesting to notice that this magazine goes to 70 recipients. Among these are various other Dive Clubs, Library's and other interested groups. It was disappointing to see that our membership remains stagnant.

The sport of Scuba Diving has experienced a huge growth in popularity in the past 5 years with large numbers of new divers taking to the undersea world every year. The question we must ask ourselves is Why? When we have all the facilities that both new and experienced divers require, we cannot attract more members to UEC.

We cannot compete with the professional diving organisations in what they offer, luxury diving craft, numerous diving courses, latest diving gear for hire. In order for UEC to attract divers we must look at what we can offer.

One weakness the professionals have, is the organisation of boating and diving is made by paid employees. In some cases new divers would like to be more involved with the responsibility of organising diving expeditions which can be very challenging and rewarding, ensuring diving operations are successful.

We need more Skippers, Diving Officers and members. One of our strengths is the quantity of experience we have in UEC. Let's use that experience and open up our Club for divers who want more from their sport.

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

This year's Avon Descent is finally over, however, not without a lot of hair-pulling and teeth-gnashing. Jim and I assembled a strong team of divers and shore based rescuers that acquitted themselves very well over the weekend. Everyone did a great job, sometimes in very trying circumstances, and I would like to thank everyone for their efforts. It was a pity that the usual fun and festivities were marred by the provision of poor meals and refreshments and a general disregard for the needs of rescue and other voluntary personnel. I hope that the organisers will take heed of our concerns, otherwise recruiting volunteers for future events may be difficult.

The boat is now out of the water undergoing repairs and maintenance and as usual funds are low and the list of things to be done is long. One way to get around this problem is to pay your annual subs now. Not only will you be helping the Club through a difficult time but you will escape the inevitable rise in fees next year. With present membership numbers it will be very difficult for us to continue without some fee rises of some sort.

This month's guest speaker is from the Police Diving Squad. Last time the Police Divers addressed us it was a fascinating evening and this time promises to be no different. Hope to see you all there.

Maree!

The AVON DESCENT

(Continued)

Then followed a magnificent repast consisting of 28 grams of beef, 5 mls of gravy, 3 peas and a quarter of foil wrapped spud!! We were herded into the northern section, VIP's indeed!, while spitted pig and champagne followed freely in our erswhile breakfast parlour next door. Someone had well and truly lost the plot.

Tempers flared and mutiny was mentioned - more than once - I can tell you, dear readers and fellow remonstrators. Well the sparks shot skywards and the Race Director raced to the scene of the hastily convened Team Leaders meeting. Resignations were rife and insult threatened insult, gauntlets flashing free! Finally the mutiny was put down ruthlessly with promises of 3 course meals and free champagne at the Freemason's Arms next year ('I'd like to see that!) - 'You've guessed it folks "It was hell in there!"

Meanwhile, back in the paddock round the gigantic fire us troops enjoyed a rather sparse ale, having had some of our supplies nicked and, my limp was coming along nicely. That is until Peter Harrod, confound it, came to the rescue with some gelled 'horse' liniment called "Sulphuric Bat Cid" or something like that, which we stopped on by the hand full, with more threatened if the problem failed to respond. Not unexpectedly, the dicky knee gradually came good and the limp abated.

(To be continued in our September magazine)

DIVING DELIGHTS

Kerry Ashton

Hi, I'm back from Sweden and cannot wait for our Spring diving. Yes! Spring already after, from all accounts, a wet Winter - glad I missed at least part of it. The Avon Descent is over and the boat will be back in the water and rearing to go first weekend in September.

I have left Saturday's open which can be used at your discretion - perhaps a short day, one dive just to slip back into the water. Speaking of which, getting back into the water I mean, if it has been awhile then:

- > Check your gear will ahead of time. (Maybe it's been thrown in the corner going mouldy).
- > Check your fitness. (A little lead up work would go a long way).
- > Check the dive. (Is this the one for you, it's better to start off the season with a shallow uncomplicated dive).
- > Take your time. (Slow and easy is the way to go).
- > Allow time. (To pack, especially all those accessories like chocolate for the DO. To get to the boat etc).

Dive safe and happy - look after our precious environment, which in general terms means your looking after yourself.

The AVONDESCENT (Continued)

Surging up to the paddler, following this 3½ mile chase, we inquired as to his state of health and general well being, skilfully phrasing the questions to get an incoherent disjointed answer which would indicate a major problem - so we could RESCUE HIM OF COURSE! "I'm perfectly all right and happy sonny - bugger off and play somewhere else", was his firm, clear reply. (Or words to that effect, allowing yours truly considerable poetic licence). Summing up the situation instantly and accurately, despite this somewhat ambiguous rejoinder we smiled sweetly, through clenched teeth and, graciously retiring, vowed sotto voice to "get you at Extracts buddy".

Packing up after all the uncooperative canoeists had gone we tore down to Extracts to await further festivities and were treated to an absolute blinder of a noon session, watching people getting bogged in the nice mud with their shiny new 4WD's. Then came the 'piece de resistance' (spoken without a trace of French accent). Rescuer Alison's fiendishly clever drive through the mud in her 4WD Landcruiser tray top with 8 flashing yellow and 6 red lights. (If she had put them all on, she could have levitated across the paddock with all that electricity). She made it across brilliantly and was awarded an extra 50 points for ejecting a wheel chair off the tray top while going over a slight indentation in the terrain. There's no doubt Alison spotted this discontinuity from some distance away and using great nerve and skill, timed it perfectly onto the sweet spot of the left rear wheel, projecting the aforementioned conveyance in a neat arcing double somersault with twist and pike into a patch of mud to the north west. I thought I caught a glimpse of some arms and legs too and had her down for 150 points, but later had to retract the 100 points for the chairperson.

During the ensuing wash-up at the Freemason's Arms, over sherbets, several other interesting facts, yes and figures also emerged, my word the sun got quite hot! Peter Harroid and Extracts boat crew decided discretion was the better part of valour and sailed down river to be recovered at Toodyay, rather than risk the mud of Extracts. The ancient paddler wasn't got at Extracts, making it to the over night camp (by Wednesday morning I think, but he made it). The Eagles got clobbered in the mud of Optus Oval and many more interesting snippets!

During a magnificently balmy lazy afternoon back at camp, everybody got showered metaphorically and dressed for the big evening dinner engagement ahead. Your unworthy scribe and ripping yarn narrator fell awkwardly (how else?) off the back of the truck and sustained the makings of a useful limp, which could, no doubt, develop into a deliciously, debilitating, dicky knee on the morrow when it came time to don the damp, smelly wet suit! The first real hint of trouble re: dinner, came later when it was announced that due to a stuff up (what else?) NO ALCOHOL could be taken into the VIP dining room (er tent). What! snort, seethe, re-cork my Coonawarra 1987 Cab Sav - not bloody likely - what barbarian behaviour - what scurrilous savagery - what a stupid suggestion. Into the china mug went a more than generous helping - hopefully they would think it was tomato soup, like the night before! I needn't have worried, every last drop was succulently scavenged before the queue reached the servery.

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT (Continued)

The Committee and members of the UEC thank the following people for their participation in the 1995 Avon Decent::

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Peter BENZIE | 16. Serena McQUADE |
| 2. Domenic BONI | 17. Dave MOIR |
| 3. Peter BONINI | 18. Richard NAYLOR |
| 4. Maree CASLEY | 19. Anita NEILSON |
| 5. Geoff CHARLTON | 20. Tom NEILSON |
| 6. Tim CSOMAY | 21. Ron PHONEYMINT |
| 7. Innes DAVIE | 22. Jim ROBSON |
| 8. Gordon FRENER | 23. Michel ROUX |
| 9. Geoff GEARD | 24. Roger SMITH |
| 10. Peter HARROLD | 25. Dennis STUBBERFIELD |
| 11. Peter HORTON | 26. Warren VAISEY |
| 12. Nick HUNTER | 27. Paul WALSH |
| 13. Sandy JACKSON | 28. Nick WASLEY |
| 14. Barry KENNEDY | 29. Ric YOUNG |
| 15. Gordon MAGEE | |

DID YOU KNOW?

Heffly Geared

- The surface areas of one human lung is equal to that of a tennis court.
- Squids can commit suicide by eating their own tentacles.
- An electric eel produces an average of 400 volts.
- An oyster can change its sex from male to female and back again many times during its lifetime.
- The eye of a giant squid is larger than a person's head.
- An octopus has three hearts.

SOCIAL SCENE

Bob McLaughlin

At this monthly meeting on the 21st August our quest speaker will be Sergeant Gary Tattersall of the Police Dive Squad.

He will be giving us an informal talk on Police diving activities, this should be a very interesting night so please come along and bring a quest.

A SOCIAL DIVING ADVENTURE IN DUNSBOROUGH

Will be arranged for a suitable weekend in November, with Kerry as our Dive Master.

Please let me know at the September General Meeting if you are interested. Further details will then be given.

*Suzie!
(still in Sweden)*

Stay & Have Some Fun!

On Sunday 3rd September when the work is completed on the boat we will be staying on at the Swan Yacht Club for a well earned pat on the back as well as a few drinks and something to eat. So make this a social event, even if your not working on the boat that day, come down and see the finished product from 3.00pm

P.S.

The 3rd of September is Fathers Day

THE AVON DESCENT 1995

Dennis Stubberfield

**“A different perspective”
by your very own Raving Reporter**

Well, so moving was the event and the crush of all those reporters, photographers and news-hounds pencilling and snapping about all weekend at the AVON DESCENT, that your very own rotting reporter of ripping Rotnest yarns lashed out and borrowed a ball point (not, you will note, a 'Biro' or a 'Bic') and swiped some dummy paper! Fair to state, it was only to dewax his ears in the first instance, but gradually the temptation to write on the paper became too much to bear and finally the initial rude graffiti gave way to a more serious work, which you see herein reproduced. (Our - "not so refined as we first thought" - new editor originally wanted to print the graffiti, as being the more gifted, fresher approach, but on being persuaded that this is not the best course of action, at this time, and the treat of being belted with a billet of *Banksia melanoxilan*, printed this lot instead).

My Lady and I arrived at the camp in our battered 4WD 'breaker brothers' truck just in time for tea, only by abandoning our normal, boring, orderly packing methods in favour of the speedier, more practical 'fling it over the tail board and sort it out when we get there' approach! With the old V8 H-L rattling and roaring musically along the Troodray Boulevard and new second hand ripper radials, with lugs on like rhino hoofs, singing an adventurous accompaniment, we said to ourselves, we said - "This is going to be the best AVON DESCENT yet!" (Mad impetuous fools). Dinner was served in the main hall of the VIP tent, with a little separate empty bit partitioned off on the northern side for the now absent VVIP's, we being only VIP's of course! (Note this fact well, dear readers - it's important to the plot).

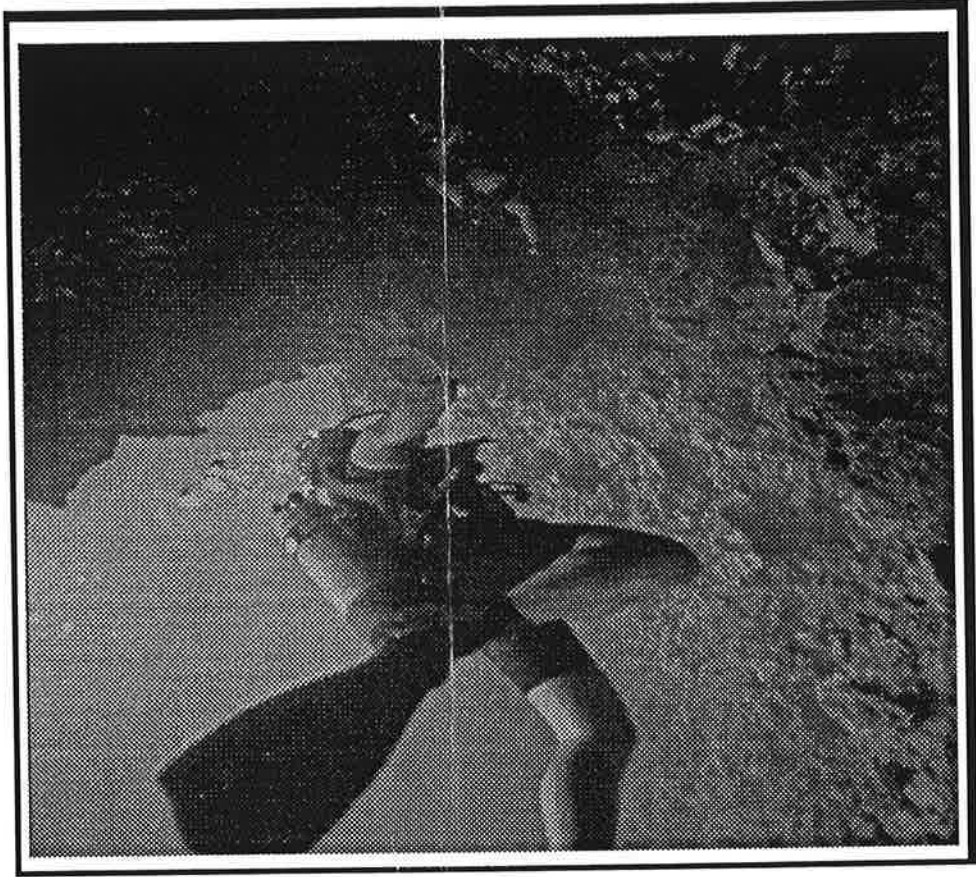
The first day dawned clear, cool and exceedingly crisp - rather like the bottom of our empty freezer, about 18°C. Divers and shorepersons missed the damn by about minus 1 hour to just reach station before the hordes of little AVON DESCENTERS arrived to give us our day's rescue sport. Would you believe, not one of the ungrateful little blighters so much as fell out of a canoe, broke a limb, fractured a rib, no gripping plies from sitting on wet fibreglass (which is worse than smooth cold concrete) or cut an artery or sustained a scratch of any kind to make our day. We were feeling a bit let down, that is until number 5320 came by. (The number has been changed slightly to avoid litigation). The poor sod (er'lad), a venerable grandfather in his late seventies was supported on land by his granddaughter who became a trifle worried about him making the distance. Group Leader Kevin, among some 17 others, also had grave doubts, as he paddled off at an amazing 4 strokes per minute from Katrine Bridge. Team Leader Greg, described by Channel 9, (hopelessly inaccurately), as the "family" of all rescued paddlers, dispatched your very own scribe and cox, with Nick at the helm, off downstream in the dinghy to check on him. As we screamed down the river in our 15 Hp, double overhead turbo driven rubber duck at a breathtaking 4%, Knots several thoughts flashed my mind. Since they mainly concerned a gorgeously endowed lady spectator hanging over the Katrine Bridge, these were put on the backburner and the impending RESCUE brought forward!

SENDER:

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

UEC NEWS

MONTHLY MAGAZINE



UEC NEWS

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FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

SEPTEMBER 1995

THE COMMITTEE 1994/95

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VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 454 8580
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SAFETY OFFICER	Alison Keen	Phone 242 3919
TRAINING OFFICER	Vacant	
BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
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SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385
DIVE BOOKINGS	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385

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CLUB CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1995

MONTH/DATE	EVENT	SKIPPER	DO
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SEPTEMBER

Sun 3	Boat Launching		EVERYBODY
Mon 4	COMMITTEE MEETING at 7.30pm		
Sat 9	OPEN		
Sun 10	Late Start - One Tank	Bob McL	Steve L
Sat 16	OPEN		
Sun 17	Rodnest	Richard N	Ron P
Mon 18	GENERAL MEETING at 8.00pm		
Sat 23	Social/Cultural In Fremantle	Susie	
Sun 24	Late Start	Peter H	Luc F
Sat 30	OPEN		

OCTOBER

Sun 1	Rusty Divers Day	Barry K	Kerry
Mon 2	COMMITTEE MEETING at 7.30pm		
Sat 7	OPEN		
Sun 8	Two Tank	Dennis S	Marce
Sat 14	OPEN		
Sun 16	Exploratory	Bob McL	Brian M
Mon 16	GENERAL MEETING at 8.00pm		
Fri 20	Something Social	Susie	
Sat 21	OPEN		
Sun 22	BSAC/JUEC	Richard N	Steve L
Sat 28	OPEN		
Sun 29	Rodnest	Peter H	Ron P

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions and members should keep in contact with DO Kerry Ashton - 331 2385

Phone DO Kerry Ashton on 331 2385 for dive bookings or inquiries.
DO NOT RING THE CREW.
Dives will depart from East Street Jetty, Fremantle at 8.00am

WHEELHOUSE WRAP (continued)

Dennis Stubberfield

(Well, you have to test her out thoroughly to make sure nothing breaks, or if it does, you can fix it before the season starts). I'm sure you all appreciate that!

My job during all this was to don the ear-muffs and lay in the bilge with a couple of gland adjusting tools and my spare paw on the hopefully not too hot propeller shaft gland. If it gets warm I adjust it to make it cool, as cool as the bottom of the boat and only one drip per second of water coming in with the shaft at full speed, or something like that.

Well dear readers there was more water than that appearing in the bilge I can tell you and it was hot and it looked a bit green, or was that the reflection of my complexion, very puzzling! Faster, Faster Peter my laddie, more and more water and me adjusting furiously.

The ghastly truth dawned, the water was coming from the fresh water cooling system through an ancient, and now cracked pipe fitting. Even more ghastly, I reached up and prodded it to make sure and the damned thing broke in my hands. Thus, the sea trials were ended by limping back to SYC with yours truly in the bilge, hands shielded by rags, trying to make like a compression water fitting. I tell you it was hell down there! Destroyer Captains in deed!!

Then followed a more humane social afternoon and evening of music and food at SYC to commiserate and mark the end of 'boat slipping' 1995. All will be repaired by the time you read this folks.

Cheers! Stubby

EDITORIAL

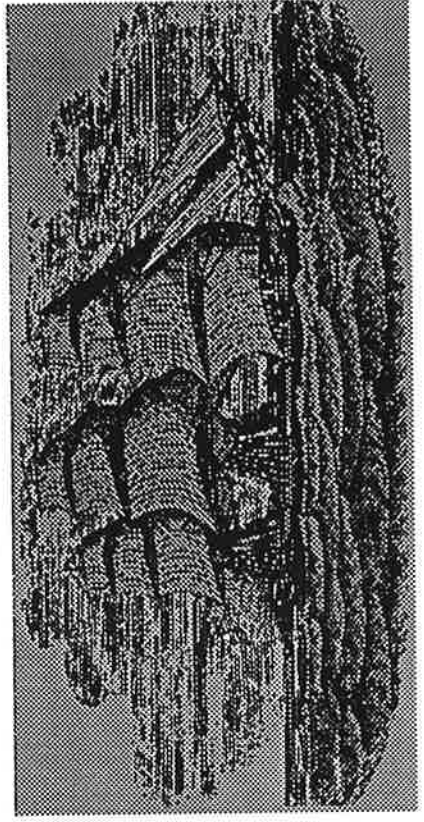
Steve Larler

For those of you who have not visited the Mary Rose Exhibition yet, please make sure you do. It is a very good exhibition with some fascinating artefacts on display. The Mary Rose was recovered after nearly 500 years on the bottom in the solent between Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight UK. The marine archaeological work carried out in this recovery of the artefacts and nearly 40% of the hull has been an enormous success.

Wreck diving has always been a fascinating way to spend time underwater. The coast off of Fremantle is littered with wrecks. Researching and finding wrecks can be very rewarding and can generate enormous interest from members of the public and other divers who may wish to join a club like ours to search for interesting wrecks which are apart of history.

Diving on known wreck sites is always interesting especially if knowledge of the wreck and its circumstances of how it came to be a permanent underwater feature are known and you never can be sure that all those divers who have already visited this site have located everything that was left. The club has a wreck log of local wrecks which have been located over the years, so let's get motivated and become underwater explorers again!

Steve



WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

The first item on the agenda for this month is a big 'thank you' to everyone who worked on the boat, these past few weeks. Each year a few modifications are done to make UE more comfortable and this year it is a toilet, better life jacket holder, new bow rails —, the list goes on and on. So now that you have these added extras, how about paying for it! Paying your subs now will really help out and although I hinted last month that subs may increase, the committee has decided to retain the same fee structure.

Secondly, welcome back Susie. Susie has only been back a couple of days and already she is working on the Social Calendar. The Mary Rose Exhibition sounds great! Steve Larter has seen it and he assures me it is a real winner. I hope to see a lot of you down there and afterwards for a meal.

Well, winter is officially over, so now is the time to dust off your gear and get ready for the diving season ahead. Spring can offer some magic days and, of course, there is always the whales to watch out for. Lets all make a conscious effort to make the most of what our Club has to offer. This includes good diving practices, good dive sites, good mateship, a good boat and club rooms. What more could a diver want in life? If you can't make it onto the boat in the near future, I hope to catch up with you at the next club meeting.

Maree

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield



How time flies when your having fun! Here it was only a short week or three ago when I was reporting the boat had just gone up on the hard for all those nice things to be done to it. Well, she's back in the water and looking, and running like a million dollars, which is about what it has cost to get her that way (if you charge the labour at technicians rates of about \$120 per hour). She has three coats of anti-foul on her bottom, a blue, a red and finally the blue coat that you now see. The engine has been re-aligned and the gland fixed and she no longer makes that deafening rattle at a idle speed. Richard has installed a new and better engine hatch cover sound-proofing which has also given a noticeable improvement at all other running speeds. Three new perspex windows have been installed giving rise to a number of sore noses on faces that tried to thrust through the new optically transparent panels. The dunny will be installed by the time you read this and she has a new, lighter, aluminium mesh life jacket rack and several other little improvements to the comfort of divers which you must come and sample for yourselves.

The steering hydraulics were completely overhauled and the main board and main support brackets repaired and strengthened (this latter job only occurred as a result of installation the night before slipping when one bracket cracked and fell off).

Finally, she was ceremoniously slipped with great fan fair and filming on Sunday 3/9/95 and after a short champagne break on sea trials (this provides the excuse for the more conservative skippers such as Peter and myself to hoon around Blackball Reach at full speed pretending to be Destroyer Captains)

DIVING DELIGHTS

Kerry Ashton

The boat is back in the water and rearing to go. Considering the success of our September 9 speed trials a niggly problem was rectified and the enthusiasts alternatively water skied or blow dried their hair (optional radar wave if required), we should be in for a good run from our beloved boat. Many, many thanks to Captain Bligh and ground staff.

Now, to sea staff and matters of import such as diving.

Take heed of a recent safety article, guess who had to soak up months of encrusted salt from their dive bag - so spend an extra bit of time checking things work!!

Last year Spring turned up some grand dives in spite of the normal changeable weather and perception that the water is still cold. The real bonus for me was seeing the whales migrating South - don't hesitate to invite your family or friends.

I have made the program flexible with Saturday as a swing day which any member may use, just ring me on 331 2385 for short, early, late or even normal dives. Don't forget fishing or family trips and of course we may transfer Sunday to Saturday if the barometer looks like falling.

Remember, I keep lists for various alternate dives such as:

Over-night, early, late start, night, prawn, shore and refresher - These have been wiped clean so ring me to renew your interest.

Don't forget some of the best dives are impromptu!!

Start now and enjoy safe happy diving for the next nine months or so.

Kerry

SAFETY REPORT

Alison Keen

Hopefully the weather will be kind enough to invite you warmly into the water. Spring is in the air. Susie is rearing to get wet, having not dived in Sweden, so join her and Kerry.

I shall not be joining you as I am off for four weeks in England for a family wedding.

I need to know that you will start off the season safely, so please bear the following points in mind:

1. Get out your gear before the dive. Dust off the cobwebs and check all working parts. If you haven't had them serviced recently, do it in plenty of time. Try on your wetsuit - who knows it may have stretched!!
2. On the boat, go through anything you are not sure of - ask the DO. Check with your buddy on your dive plan and be aware that your diving fitness may not be at its peak.
3. Gear up ahead of time and buddy check carefully.
4. Relax, don't feel pressured, seek help if you need it and enjoy your dive.

Marie has updated the First Aid Kit. Thank you Marie. Skippers and DO's should keep it well kitted and divers should not just raid this without telling the DO. There are NO SEA SICK tablets in the First Aid Kit, so please BYO.

Alison

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Steve Larfer

Reading through the 1965 UEC News it was interesting to note some of the activities that took place.

The UEC News was titled The Magazine for All Scuba Men and was priced at 6 pence. We had 4 sponsors for the covers. Swan Beer, FAI Insurance, WA Skindivers (Jack Sue) and Caris Bros.

The Editor of the news was Dennis Parker from Doubleview who was also the Vice President. Lyn Jones was our Treasurer. In those days the club meetings were held in the "Farmers Union". The first UEC News was a one page circular which was printed early in 1959.

It was not until August 1961 that the magazine as we know it today was printed, the Editor was a Mr G Evans, covers were first put on the magazine in October 1961.

During the early days of the club, female membership was restricted. However, in April 1958 they were allowed to social functions and field days but not general meetings. In August 1958 ladies were allowed to become associated members with full rights.

The main events which happened in 1965 were:

- Underwater exhibition
 - 100 foot dive
 - Anchor recovery Hamlin Bay
 - Presentation Night
 - 50 foot free ascent training
 - Wreck dive "Orizaba"
 - "WA Shell Club" formed
 - Inquiry to near fatal diving accident on 200 foot dive
- March 1965
 - February 1965
 - March 1965
 - May 1965
 - April 1965
 - March 1965 (30 club divers)
 - April 1965
 - September 1965

FISHY FACTS

Susie

MUDSKIPPER - caught my attention this time - maybe because that reminds me of what they said in Stockholm about the diving there. Right! I didn't dive - for MANY reasons (but by the time you read these lines, I'm sure that I have taken the plunge with a bottle on my back instead of in my mouth).

So, back to the MUDSKIPPER: Mostly at home in the tidal mangrove swamps of the tropics. It is an amphibious fish, which means that it can live on land as well as in water, although its skin must always be wet.

Like other fish, the mudskipper receives oxygen through its gills, but to some extent it can also 'breathe' air through its mouth and throat, which are covered my a mass of tiny blood vessels.

The gills are contained in an enlarged chamber that the fish keeps full of water to allow for oxygen exchange. The mudskipper splashed in small pools and puddles to fill the pulpy reservoirs above the gills.

The mudskipper uses its armlike pectoral fins to drag itself across land. The mudskipper digs a burrow 50cm deep or more by swallowing large mouthfuls of mud and spitting them out later.

Although mainly adapted for vision on land, the mudskipper's eyes can also see in all directions under the water. The eyes can also move independently of one another.

The mudskipper spends at least ¾ of its time out of the water. At high tide, however, it can remain completely submerged in its burrow for up to two hours.

Susie

THE AVON DESCENT 1995 (cont)

Dennis Stubberfield

The AVON DESCENT 1995, Day 2!

Day two dawned clear and crisp but not so cool. We had moved up to the fridge section by now. Feeling good after virtually no booze and a good nights sleep (it was a deep plot I tell you Min) we made our way down the valley to the various rapids finally ending at Bells in what must be one of the most attractive drives around Perth. It is at this point that all new comers want to come back and camp in the valley and/or do next years Avon Descent as a competitor. Once again we intrepid rescuers face a tough day trying to convince a very determined group of contestants that they might need to be rescued. They won! However, not without a fight as Mark Holman managed to get one poor sod to stick under a tree at Super Shoot where he was just able to survive by taking one breath every 5 minutes. This enabled Mark to con the Police helicopter to winch a diver and support across the 5 feet of river on the pretext of trying to rescue him. I believe the main casualty was Ric who sustained sprig marks over the upper back region when Geoff raced over him to the said winched diver. The canoeist after a while became sick and tired of not being able to breathe and extricated himself, paddling away as fast as he could. The helicopter pilot went off in a huff and left the rescue team on the wrong bank.

Meanwhile at Emu Falls Greg performed like a seal and the boat crew developed their skills to the point where any salmon would have been proud of them as they motored up the "washing machine" swift stretching skills to the ultimate. At Bells the spectators provided some interest and the camera teams trying for that spectacular shot from under the bridge, a few heart stopping moments when they appeared set on being either the mascot for a power boat or an Olympic rapid swimmer in street clothes. There were absolutely no contestant casualties and it became an enormous temptation to fling a spectator in for practice.

BLAST FROM THE PAST (continued)

Building Committee Chaired by "The Beachmaster" Harold Roberts negotiate lease of land - River frontage East Fremantle - July 1965

Annual membership fees changed from:

Male Member	-	£3.10.s.od to \$7.00
Female Member	-	£1.10.s.od to \$3.00

September 1965

Underwater World Ball - September 1965
South Perth Civic Centre

As you can see our predecessors of Underwater Explorers Club were very active in providing a huge variety of activities for the members.

The previous copies of UEC News make very interesting reading and are available for all members to find out the history of the UEC.

Steve

GOSSIP

CAN SCUBA DIVERS SING?

Maybe not so clear and well underwater, but certainly on stage! Our Club mate and Dive Buddy NICK HUNTER is going to perform at the Playhouse Theatre on 23 - 30 September. The play is a fully Western Australian production of Gilbert & Sullivan's most popular work "THE MIKADO". Please let me know **NOW**, if you would like to make this an extra little social/cultural event this month. We can, hopefully, still get tickets for Tuesday 26 or Wednesday 27. (Price = \$19.50).

SOCIAL SCENE

Susie Ashton

THANK YOU !!

Must start with a BIG OFFICIAL THANK YOU to BOB McLAUGHLIN and MAREE CASLEY who both have done a great job by keeping you guys busy socially over this, what I believe has been a wet winter in Perth. I am also pleased to notice that there is more money in the "Social Cash Flow" wallet now than when I handed it over to Bob back in May. He is good at selling raffle tickets, so I'm told.



Susie

SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

Is our next social event, I thought we could spend the afternoon and evening in our beloved FREMANTLE. There is an exhibition at the maritime Museum right now about life and death on Henry VIII's lost warship "MARY ROSE". (Entry \$8). After one of the most ambitious salvage operations in maritime history, you can now see many of the original relics and a video show.

I suggest we meet in the Sail & Anchor's CORNER BAR between 14.00 - 14.30. (The museum closes at 17.00). Afterwards we go somewhere else for a drink, to be followed by a nice dinner at a BYO place nearby. I have booked a table for ten people "somewhere". SURPRISE!! (Hope you like to share some Thai food).

Susie

SOCIAL SCENE

Rottnest Long Weekend

It has been a couple of months since I mentioned it so now is the time to remind you of our fabulous long weekend. There are spots available for 11 more people for the weekend and for 8 people for the following two weeks. The Club has quite a bit of money tied up for this accommodation so please let me know as soon as possible if you want to join us. If I don't get some indication soon of final numbers I will have to cancel some of our reservation. Cost for the weekend will be around \$150 for accommodation, food, diving and transport. In fact, it is probably cheaper to have a three day holiday than it is to stay home, so give me a ring and register your interest.

Maree

Just Another Word to Say

Susie Ashton

If you actually went down to the Swan Yacht Club when our dive vessel was up on the dry and saw the boys working on her, you must have been amazed to realise all the effort and dedication they put in and all this only so you and I can comfortably get out there and dive for another season.

A big hug from Social Susie, who went down there with a couple of well deserved champagne bottles on the launching day, Sunday 3/9/95, and thanks to Alison Keen for providing the paté and bikkies.

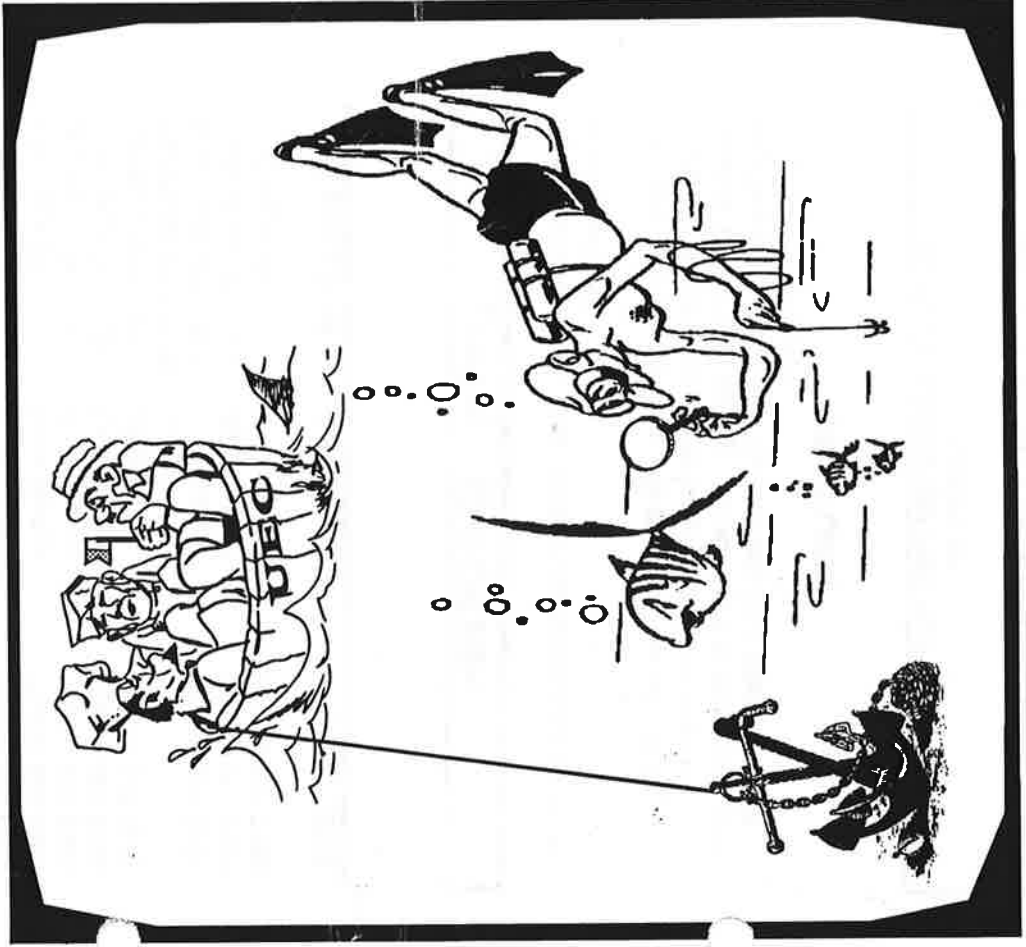
Susie

UEC NEWS

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

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OCTOBER 1995

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MAGAZINE EDITOR	Steve Larfer	Phone 291 9654
SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385
DIVE BOOKINGS	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385

COVER COMPETITION

Can you nominate the "Club Person" you believe our cover reminds you of?

Let's see who can come up with the "best" caption for this month's magazine cover and for your efforts you can win yourself **TWO FREE air fills**. All you have to do is bring your captions along to the next meeting and your Committee will choose their favourite!

GOOD LUCK!

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CLUB CALENDAR

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 1995

MONTH/DATE	EVENT	SKIPPER	DO
OCTOBER			
Sat 7	OPEN		
Sun 8	Two Tank	Dennis S	Maree
Sat 14	OPEN		
Sun 15	Exploratory	Bob McL	Brian M
Mon 16	GENERAL MEETING at 8pm		
Thur 19	Fishing Trip	Dennis	
Fri 20	MOVIE NIGHT	Susie	
Sat 21	Late / One Tank / Harbour Lunch	Peter H	
Sun 22	BSAC/UEC	Richard N	Steve L
Sat 28	OPEN		
Sun 29	Rottnest	Peter H	Ron P
NOVEMBER			
Sat 4	OPEN		
Sun 5	DO's Choice	Dennis	Maree
Mon 6	COMMITTEE MEETING at 7.30pm		
DUNSBOROUGH DIVING 10, 11, 12			
Sat 11	OPEN		
Sun 12	Garden Island	Barry K	Luc F
Sat 18	North Rottnest	Richard N	Geoff
Sun 19	UEC REPRESENTATION PARTY		
Mon 20	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at 8pm		
Sat 25	OPEN		
Sun 26	BSAC / UEC	Bob McL	Kerry

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions and members should keep in contact with DO Kerry Ashton - 331 2385

Phone DO Kerry Ashton on 331 2385 for dive bookings or inquiries.
DO NOT RING THE CREW.
Dives will depart from East Street Jetty, Fremantle at 8.00am

29/10
\$25 8 AM East St

DIVE OFFICER'S CHOICE

Maree Casley

That's the nominated dive on November 5th. Well, I am the Diving Officer that day and I am planning something big, something incredible and definitely something fun. We will be having a splendid dive at one of my favourite dive sites, near Carnac or Stragglers, followed by a sumptuous lunch in the Fishermans Harbour. We might even enjoy a nice bottle of champers as well. Let's put some fun back into our diving - so join me by ringing Kerry and booking your place.

Maree

ROTNEST 1996

I still have a few vacancies for the Rotnest holidays in March - especially for the second week. Book your holidays now with the boss and give me a ring to get yourself on board.

Maree

**SWIAN RIVER SAFARI
SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER 1995**

We are planning a trip up the river in small boats, past the city and all other interesting sights seldom seen by us.

After visiting Tranby House, we plan to have a BYO barbecue at one of the riverside parks.

All small boat owners in the club (who are willing to take other club members), and anyone interested in the trip, please ring Kerry and Susie on 331 2385 for co-ordination and pick-up points.

Tide

EDITORIAL

Steve Larler

The recent Channel 7 production of Shipwreck Coast highlighted the interest shown by West Australians in the past history of our coastline.

The wrecks shown in the programme were, of course, the famous Dutch shipwrecks of which have been well documented and artefacts recovered and put on general display. There are, however, still a large number of wrecks still not located scattered around our most interesting coastline.

The Select Committee on Ancient Shipwrecks reported that persons who find wrecks should be rewarded for doing the right thing by reporting their finds.

After a long period when there was no legislation with regards to the protection of shipwrecks it was evident that treasure hunters enjoyed themselves by looting wrecks. A tour of the WA Maritime Museum shows the importance of discoveries being reported to the experts for recovery and presentation to the public.

The report also names a variety of wrecks yet to be found. UEC and its members have found 16 of the identified known wrecks mentioned in its report.

A number of our members have done a lot of research into some of the missing wrecks. It may be time to dust off the records and get down to getting wet in the location of these mysterious missing parts of our history.

Other members have indicated their interest in locating ancient wrecks and a small research group would add a further important activity to our club. The club funds would certainly benefit from any reward we may receive as well as the publicity of such a find.

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

The cob webs are starting to blow away and diving activity increase. As predicted we have had some great weather to herald in the new season of diving and boating in general. Kerry has planned a comprehensive calendar of events and there should be something there for everyone to enjoy. Ring your friends and get a group together.

Also on the calendar is a range of social events. Watch out for the movie night, presentation night and river cruise to the upper reaches of the Swan. The Presentation Night in particular is a great time for everyone to get together and toss around a few ideas, reminisce and generally solve all the problems of the world. Pencil the date in now so you wont forget.

Another event on the calendar is the AGM coming up next month. This night ushers in the new Committee to run the club for another year and as usual we will be looking for candidates. I hope all of you will seriously consider what contribution you can make to the ongoing success of the club and put your hand up for election. For the club to remain healthy and vibrant we need new faces and new ideas at the Committee level, so think about it for the next month and come along to the meeting.

Hope to see you all out on the boat and diving soon.

Maree

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

There is very little to report this month, which in itself is good news. Some unexpected trouble with the cooling system has given me a few headaches but this had finally been laid to rest hopefully for the season. We have had the boat up at Swan Yacht Club for the week-ending Saturday 7/10/1995 to make it easy to work on - tying up all those loose ends left over from annual slipping. SYC have been very good to us through my membership so I'll have to return the favours on Saturday 7/10/1995 and attend a club working party while other UEC members work on the boat!

Our sessions on boat mechanics seem to be going well, with 4 members (and myself) getting a good working knowledge of our boat. Basically we have a couple of hours in the classroom followed by an hour on the boat to get a first hand knowledge of what we are talking about. [I'll run it again next year if enough interest is shown].

Finally, a note of thanks to Life Member Dave Kenny, who recently surveyed the club boat to allow us to get her insured. He gave us a good wrap up and our insurers are happy. (All boats over 15 years must now be "assessed" or "surveyed" by a competent, recognised authority before they will be insured).



Cheers Folks!

Stubble

THE AVON DESCENT 1995 (cont)

Dennis Stubberfield

The AVON DESCENT 1995, Day 2! (*Final Instalment*)

Finally, in desperation, your own rotting scribe had to do something and; deftly sweeping his helmet off and into his dive bag, jerked upwards neatly nutting himself on abridge stanchion, all in one fluid movement. Fair dinkum, it brought the crown to their feet, gasping at the rich, steady flow of blood trickling beautifully between third and fourth index finger of the left hand, from a perfectly judged gouge on the upper scalp!

The duty medico fairly danced a jig in delight as your wounded raver was presented by concerned lady, Maree, who intended to watch the gory stitching for experience. Despite disgracefully, disloyal comments about the thickness of the patient's head from so called friends, the doctor severely underestimated the hardness of your chroniclers nut and broke the suture needle of the second stitch. Then followed a deft grovel around with forceps to remove the broken bit and triumphant display of the bloodied remnant, which induced an ash-greying of the assembled theatre staff. "Are you OK?", "Yeah Fine", "not you dummy, her!" went the conversation at that point. (I can't wash me head for a week now - phew!, what a whooff!). A beautiful stitching job done, further rude remarks suggesting the doctor should improve the rest of my physiognomy and it was on to the next crisis.

Finally, the day ended with a sporting gesture by the recovery crew, who locked Richard, Geoff and Michel in the valley at Syd's. They very quickly learned how to dismantle and replace the odd fence, such that you wouldn't have known they'd been through, arriving back at Bell's in time to see all but their UEC mates disappearing in a cloud of dust. We, the aforementioned UEC mates, were definitely on the point of coming back for you fellas, honest, because we just knew you wouldn't have gone through without stopping!

Well happy little fellow rescuers, if you survived The AVON DESCENT 1995, particularly the organisers, you could survive anything. See you next year folks !!!

THE ANNUAL UEC PRESENTATION PARTY

This year will be held at Kery and Susie's place on SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER. This is also the last day of this committee's duties, so you better sober up the next day and attend our AGM to vote for a brand new Committee for the next period.

Anyhow, back to the party details:

- 1pm Start with Welcome drinkies and a dip in the pool, if you fancy.
- 2pm Trophy presentation.
- 3pm Tucker (BYO drinkies for this).
- 5pm Entertainment - a short video show of slips from the past year's club activities.
- 6pm Finish.

We will charge you the same as last year:

\$25 per double and \$15 per single person.

PLEASE ring 331 2385 and book by the 14 November to assist us with the catering planning.

Kery & Susie

GOSSIP

A STAR ON THE STAGE
(follow-up from previous Newsletter)

If you missed "Mikado" at the Playhouse Theatre, you didn't only miss a good show, but also the sight of a bold man with lipstick on!
CUTE!

DIVING DELIGHTS

Kerry Ashton

The boat is serving us well, nice clean bottom and going like the proverbial rocket. Already we have had good dives and great days out, so dust off the cob webs and join in!

Our Dive Officers and Skippers will endeavour to cater to your demands on any given day within the confines of sensibility, safety, reasonableness and group harmony - don't let that put you off, try asking !!!

STEVE LARTER is stirring up interest in wrecks and has been doing some research round the traps - museum, old mags, old news papers, old minds etc. If you are interested in exploratory (or just getting back on to) wreck diving, please register your interest with Steve or myself.

My old favourite "The Overmighter" is back. That "rugged adventure", dropping everything, getting away from it all thing. Good friends, good food, good diving and Mother Nature at her raw best. What more could we ask for?

Check out the one-tank-dives, if that's your scene, and I know it's early, but put the Christmas Dive on your calendar and enjoy one of the best social dives of the year!

Happy and safe diving

Kerry

NOMINATION

Gary S Summerfield, Armadale

FAUL/NASDS

CLUB PUBLIC RELATIONS

Susie Ashton

LOOK HERE! We obviously need more members in the club, as we could only attract 3 divers on Sunday 24 September, which was such a fantastic warm and sunny day! I could even sit on the bow of the moving boat without getting wet. How often do we really experience the water being so flat on our way to and from the Rotto dive site? AND GUESS WHAT I SAW! A HAMMERHEAD SHARK! He would have been about one metre between his eyes. I saw him so clearly, because he was very close to the surface, and right in front of the boat. An incredible sight! My first!

Anyhow, back to the PR bit: I'll produce a small leaflet and all I will ask you guys now is to pin it up at your local shopping centre and other suitable places, to let other divers know of our existence.



Susie

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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 Scrbro 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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BLAST FROM THE PAST

Steve Larler

UEC 1970

Among the varied activities undertaken by UEC members during 1970 was an ENDURANCE DIVE.

Members involved were Harry Weimwk, Leslie Cheryman, Peter Ewers, Arnold Rothwell and our honorary club Doctor Naom Haimson. Harry Weimwk exceeded the previous record by 1 hour, he stayed down for 17 hours. Bill Penstone won the club Championships. There were 11 starters of which 5 were UEC members. The Championships consisted of a theory exam with 6 open water events.

(1) Ditch & Recover, (2) Speed & Stamina, (3) Navigation U/W, (4) Obstacle Course, (5) Bund Search, (6) Rescue & Resuscitation.

An artificial reef project proposed 2 sites identified. Area 1 - Roe Reef, Area 2 - Bickley Point S/E of Dyers Island.

80 Dunlop tyres were dumped for this pilot reef project. Tyres transported and positioned on 24/5/1970. UEC had a pavilion at the Royal Show (cost \$600). Annual Diving Report listed 8 boat trips, for scuba diving, 2 boat trips for spearfishing and 2 100 foot dives (30m). Maximum number of divers on trip was 37 with a minimum of 12. Charter boat cost \$60.00.

Mike Pollard introduced a wreck research programme. 4 local wrecks to research and locate:

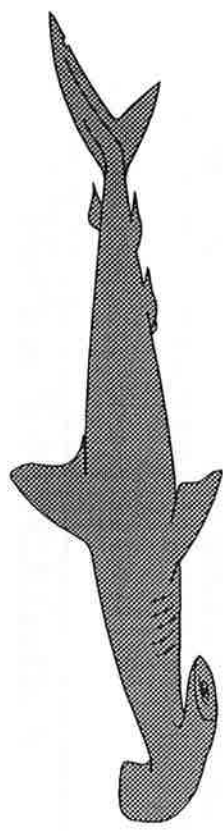
- 1. Lancier 1839 - Stragglers
- 2. Twinkling Star - Garden Island
- 3. Devonshire - Garden Island
- 4. James Matthews - Woodman Point

Lynn Jones arranged club visit to HMAS Leeuwin for a dive in their recompression tank.

Steve

SEA SCIENCE

Susie Ashton



As I was so lucky to see a HAMMERHEAD SHARK in our waters, I thought I'd give you a few facts on them. I didn't know, for instance, that there are NINE species of hammerhead shark, with four species occurring in Australian waters. The hammerhead is rarely found in waters below 20°C. I guess that's why I was so surprised to see one here and now.

KEY FACTS

Length: 4m average, but some species can grow up to 6m. Habitat: Feeds alone at night. Lives in schools during the day. Diet: Fish and invertebrates. Life-span: Probably 30 years or more. Sexual maturity: Probably 10-15 years. Breeding Season: Probably Spring and early Summer. Gestation: Up to 11 months.

BREEDING

In Summer, when mating is complete, the female does not lay her eggs but carries them internally. The embryos are nourished at first by the egg yolk and to the mother's bloodstream just like a mammal's placenta. There can be as many as 50 pups (young) in each litter. Before they are born, the pups have soft teeth which cannot damage the egg. The distinctive 'hammer' flaps on the pups' heads are folded back to streamline them for birth. When the pups are born, the egg tears open and the umbilical cord, which connects the pup to the nourishing yolk sac, breaks. The pups, which emerge head-first, have a scar on their underside like that of a mammal's navel.

HABITS

Some species of shark spend most of their lives lurking in the depths, but the hammerhead regularly surfaces.

The flattened head shape may even help the shark rise through the water.

All the species migrate in large schools twice yearly. At the beginning of Summer they move away from the equator to cooler waters, then make the return journey as Winter sets in. The nine species live worldwide but the Scalloped Hammerhead is the most common.

SOCIAL SCENE

Susie Ashton

FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER

"THE BIG BLUE" - a divers' cult movie.

I see it at least once a year and this is the day I want to share my enthusiasm with you all. Well, maybe not ALL of you, because our saloon is not that big, but first come, best seats, and we can comfortably take 10 in our house at 5 RALSTON ROAD in KARDINYA.

This is a beautiful and thrilling film, with lots of humour, and shows one man's closeness to dolphins. It's based on the true story about JACQUES MAYOL, pursuing the extremely dangerous activity of breath-hold diving to over 100 metres.

There will be plenty of "Hot Dogs" before the movie, pop comm during the movie and coffee with ice cream after the movie.

The cost for this extra-ordinary cosy gathering is only **\$8.50**. You are welcome from 7pm - but you must let me know at least one day ahead if you are coming. Movie starts at 8pm.



Susie



BE PROUD OF YOUR SCUBA CLUB - THE OLDEST IN WA

By yourself a nice T-Shirt and/or Sweatshirt and get our new "old" logotype printed at the front (or back?). Looks great!

(Only blue colour print available at present). Hand it in to Geoff or Hetty at the next meeting.

SOCIAL REPORT

Susie Ashton

Our visit to the Maritime Museum in Fremantle to see the **"MARY ROSE"** exhibition proved to be very interesting. As an extra bonus we went upstairs to check out the "BA7A/VA" relics. At 5pm we were interrupted and told to leave. We took a walk in the afternoon sun to the Primavera Cafe, and afterwards went up Norfolk Street to Sala Thai Restaurant for a sumptuous meal, shared and enjoyed by all eight participants.

GEOGRAPHE BAY DIVING - 11 NOVEMBER

Kerry and I have arranged for a "full-on-fun" weekend, staying at the luxury DUNSBOROUGH BAY VILLAGE RESORT for 2 nights (Friday 10 - Saturday 11).

The price of \$180 per person **ALSO INCLUDES:**

- > Light dinner on arrival (around 8pm)
- > Two boat dives
- > Complimentary second tank provided
- > Whale watching
- > Packed lunch and soft drinks
- > Dinner at Chinese Restaurant on Saturday
- > Continental Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday

THEN, on Sunday, which is MY BIRTHDAY, I hope that you will join us at the MARGARET RIVER MARRON FARM, where I have organised for a guided tour around the farm, to be followed by a sumptuous lunch at their friendly restaurant.

I guarantee that you have never tasted a crustaceous animal cooked that deliciously, unless you have been there before! It's HEAVEN! (Own expense).

NOTE: I must confirm the accommodation/diving booking on the 21st October, so please bring a deposit of \$90 to this meeting, if you decide to come along.

UEC NEWS

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



NOVEMBER 1995

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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Geoff & Hetty Geard
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FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

THE COMMITTEE 1994/95

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	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385
BOATING OFFICER	Dennis Stubberfield	Phone 457 3333
SAFETY OFFICER	Alison Keen	Phone 242 3919
TRAINING OFFICER	Vacant	
BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Steve Larfer	Phone 291 9654
SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385
DIVE BOOKINGS	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385

COVER COMPETITION

The Winner of last months Newsletter competition was Hetty Geard with the caption of:

"I wish these slow DIVERS would stick to the top lane".

Congratulations Hetty.

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Phone : 459 4662

CLUB CALENDAR

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 1995

MONTH/DATE	EVENT	SKIPPER	DO
NOVEMBER			
Sat 18	Subsea Divers	Richard N	Brian M
Sun 19	UEC PRESENTATION PARTY		
MON 20 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at 8pm			
Sat 25	Early Start - One Tank	Frank H	Kerry
Sun 26	BSAC/UEC	Bob Mcl	Steve L
DECEMBER			
Sat 2	OPEN	Peter H	Luc F
Sun 3	Social River Trip	Kerry	
MON 4 COMMITTEE MEETING at 7.30pm			
Fri/Sat 8/9	Overnight Exploratory	Bob Mcl	Kerry
Sun 10	Two Tank Special	Barry K	Brian M
Fri 15	Prawn Dive	Kerry/Susie	
Sat 16	OPEN		
Sun 17	UEC Social Christmas Dive	Richard N	Kerry
MON 18 GENERAL MEETING at 8pm			
Sat 23	Christmas Diving - Please ring Kerry to organise / book		
Sun 24	Let's Do It!		

Assume the dive is on unless you are notified to the contrary.

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions and members should keep in contact with DO Kerry Ashton - 331 2385

Phone DO Kerry Ashton on 331 2385 for dive bookings or inquiries.
DO NOT RING THE CREW.
Dives will depart from East Street Jetty, Fremantle at 8.00am

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Steve Larler

UEC 1971

March Members interest survey conducted on 102 members. The following areas of activity.

Advanced diving techniques	52%
Wreck Research	91%
UW Photo	58%
Just looking	85%
Competitive diving skills	33%
Marine Research	82%
Spearfishing	76%

July Plotting of wreck redemptive progressing well after initial survey. By Mike Pollard and members.

Aug Northern Cannon Quest to Maggie Cliffs - B Parker. Advert for permanent diver for collecting pearl shell on farm in Cygnet Bay North of Broome. Good diver can earn \$6,000 per annum working 10 days in 14.

Oct UW endurance record set at Royal Show. Set by Dorothy Davies and Phillip Brown. Both UEC members, time spent UW was 40 hours and 2 minutes.

Dec Club purchased a photocopy machine. 200 foot dive planned - training commenced 7/12/71 for dive to be conducted 20/1/72.

Steve

SAFETY REPORT

Maree Casley

Until recently test stations have marked cylinders with an 'F' to indicate a fault - typically a crack in the neck of cylinders. The Australian Standard was that such a fault would be tolerated as long as the crack was less than 4mm in length and there were no more than 2 cracks.

A new standard is now in practice and any cylinder with any crack in the neck will be condemned and will not pass the test procedure.

During one of our recent well organised, highly popular boat dives a very technical question was asked by one of our members to the duty Diving Officer.

The question was: "Do you lick your 'O' Ring before you go for a dive'?"

This question caused a great deal of confusion amongst the members present and of course no definitive answer was given.

The intrigue that this question has caused can only be answered by referring to a number of technical manuals.

1. New Science of Skin and Scuba Diving.
Answer: Only if your a practicing contortionist.

2. BSAC Diving Manual.
Answer: Not recommended while divers are kitted up.

3. RH Davies - Deep Diving and Submarine Operations.
Answer: Very dangerous whilst in the process of recompression as lower partial pressure in the bowel may cause a rapid expansion of gas if the 'O' Ring is interfered with.

IN SUMMARY: Divers may choose to lick their 'O' Ring.

But normal precautions should be adopted.

1. Be very familiar with your diving buddy.
2. Know your limits.
3. Select an attractive diving partner.
4. Plan your dive and dive your plan.
5. Beware of violent movements when boat is in motion.

DIVING DELIGHTS

Kerry Ashton

You know me, I always advocate diving the year round, not just in the height of summer. For those of you who haven't joined us yet, you have missed some superb early season diving.

STEVE LARTER reported that the BSAC trip ended up at the West End with terrific all-round conditions. All the divers were really impressed. Don't forget that UEC members can also join with our affiliates on these dives.

MAREE CASLEY reported an excellent single-tank dive out the back of CARNAC on the 5th November. Personally, I'm still buzzing from the weekend before, when we dived at JACKSON ROCKS just South East of Rottnest.

Coming up, we have both single and two-tank dives and a number of open days for your convenience. Don't forget the social Christmas dive around Garden Island with BBQ afterwards. Non-diving friends and family are always welcome.

PRAWN DIVES are back on the calendar! Join us for this unique dive and cook-up afterwards, weather permitting.

I've left the Christmas/New Year holiday period open, and we can organise day trips, river cruises etc according to your demands. Perhaps you would like to arrange an overnight trip for a small group of friends and family. Snorkellers and non-divers are welcome.

Happy and safe diving!

Kerry

CLUB PUBLIC RELATIONS

Susie Ashton

WHERE did you put up the little advertising leaflet you received in the last UEC News? Maree has not received any phone calls yet! I'm sure there are heaps of divers out there who would love to get a free dive! Could it be so that you actually DID NOT put the note up yet? COME ON ... the Club needs more diving members! Please help us out!



Susie

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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 Scribto 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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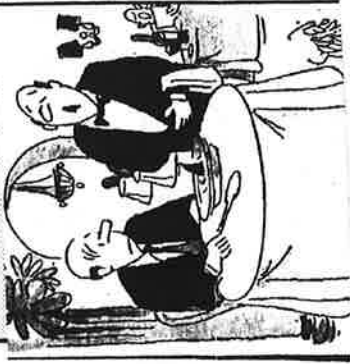
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BITS AND PIECES

FREE! FREE! FREE!

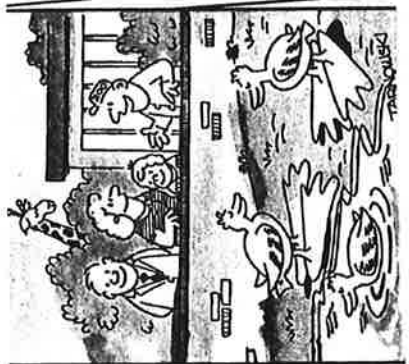
Sausage Sizzle at the Clubrooms on Monday 20 November from 6.30pm onwards. Come along and enjoy the convivial atmosphere at the Club prior to the AGM.



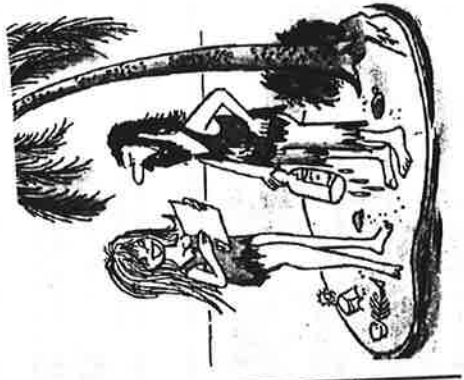
"Here is your Shark Fin Soup Sir."



"Handy to have these rubbish bins all over the ship."



"They can swim fast but it slows them down on land".



"It's from Mother, she is coming to visit us".

FISHY FACTS

Heffy Geard and Steve Larfer

The aquatic animal, The Red Sponge, can be broken into a thousand pieces and still reconstitute itself.

The Tuna Fish never stops moving in the water and can swim millions of miles in its lifetime.

A six pound Sea-Hare can lay 40,000 eggs in a single minute.

The female Angler-Fish weighs up to half a ton. The male, however, is only a few millimetres long and spends his whole life attached to her nose.

The Scorpion Fish can merge the shape of its head with the surrounding rocks.

The plant life contained in the oceans of the world makes up eighty five percent of all our greenery.

The Great White Shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) grows to eight metres in length and can live for more than 100 years. The bite power of a two metre shark is incredible and has been measured at three tonnes per square centimetre. It can swim at 35 km/h and the acid in a great white shark's stomach is powerful enough to corrode steel.

Mako sharks have been reported jumping clear of the water by nine metres when hooked.

GOSSIP

NICK HUNTER is getting married to JUDY IFFLA on SATURDAY 18 November at The Pioneer Women's Gazebo, Kings Park at 11am

SOCIAL SCENE

Susie Ashton

SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER

WEC PRESENTATION PARTY

We are going to introduce a new format at this year's party, with BOB McLAUGHLIN as our BBQ chef, starting with a WELCOME DRINK and finger food at 1pm, so be there on time or miss out on the gourmet platters.

Trophy presentation around 2pm.

As we have a pool, you are more than welcome to take a dip, but BYO TOWEL in that case. (Bathers not required!)

Regretfully, I will not be able to put together that short video showing the past year's social events (as I promised in the last newsletter), because my "Baby" had a serious accident last time I took her out for a dive.

PLEASE NOTE: \$25 per couple and \$15 p/p will be collected at arrival.



Susie



SOCIAL REPORT

Susie Ashton

1. The 'FILM NIGHT' at our place was great fun. We also had some interesting "Special Guests" from England that evening. Thanks to all participating.

SOCIAL SCENE

Susie Ashton

This will be my last efforts to "entertain" you. Next year will hopefully see another Social and PR Officer on the Committee.

FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER - A SOCIAL PRAWN DIVE

The first of the season. We have long waited for the river to get a bit cleaner (and the nights a bit warmer) but it's all happening now! Go out there and get them!

Invite non-diving family and friends as well! BYO drinks for the cook-up party afterwards. Bread and nibbles will be provided, so a \$2 donation per person is expected. Book with Kerry on 331 2385.

SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER - SMALL BOAT UP-RIVER CRUISE

At this point we have two pick-up places:

- South of the River = Raffles Hotel jetty at 8.30am
- North of the River = Royal Perth Yacht Club 8.30am

Ring Susie on 331 2385 to book on this "Lazy River Safari".

NOTE: Could those of you who have already booked with me, PLEASE call again for further information!

SOCIAL REPORT

Susie Ashton

2. The GEOGRAPHIE BAY DIVING TRIP was cancelled due to lack of interest. Kerry and I will do it together with our Swedish visiting friends sometime in December. Maybe you would like to come along then?

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

It's that time of year again with the AGM looming and a new Committee waiting in the wings to take over the reigns. As this is my last report for this year I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Committee for their assistance during the year and also all the members for their ongoing support. This past year has seen the Club enter into a new era with BSAC affiliating with us and providing us with some much needed additional boat usage. I hope in the new year that we will continue to see BSAC members on our boat.

On the financial front we continue to have minor cashflow crises from time to time and unfortunately these will continue whilst our membership numbers remain low. Please make an effort to distribute the flyers that appeared in last months magazine at your local shopping centres and community notice boards in your district. Our financial worries would also be lessened if you all paid your annual subs which are now due. Also, you need to be financial to vote at the AGM, so bring along your cheques.

Speaking of the AGM, please come along and nominate for a position or throw your weight behind a candidate. The Club needs your support, so come to the meeting and enjoy a sausage sizzle as well.

The next major social function is our Club's Presentation Day on Sunday 19 November. I hope to see you all there - you never know you may be in line for an award. This is a great day in the Club's social calendar and the one event we should all try to attend.

Maree

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

The month of October has been quite a good one for boat usage, with half a dozen dive trips and a social night on the river, tied up to a crumbling old pylon just East of the old boat shed by the Barrack Street wharves. They really ought to do something with that water front area, it is a disgraceful waste of social boating real estate!! The evening river trip was one out of the box, calm waters, late or no sea breeze, warm evening and convivial company - it was hell out there!

I am happy to report that the boat and machinery is running well (as so it should be) and no major problems appear to be looming. Not such a glowing report about our Club dinghy - which now has two water leaks, broken gunwales, a dismantled fore deck and a busted rear seat, which could not bear the weight of a couple of our older and or, more clumsy younger, crewpersons! Uneconomical to repair I hear you murmuring, not so, with any old heap of namure fetching \$250, we'll have to fix it ourselves we just have to do it properly to a 'permanent' job that's all. It will be done - soon - and we'll save the \$250 for something much more interesting - like a new compass or something.

Incidentally, it was cut off the moorings and set adrift one night when we were up at Swan Yacht Club, and not one week later is was cut off it's chain and we found it over by the oyster beds. Our dear friend and next door neighbour on the next mooring down, who also lost his dinghy during the same period and hasn't found it yet, gave me a lift back to SYC in his boat to get my land transport! Meanwhile we are using his dirty great chain which would hold the "SS Queen Mary" to lock up our dinghy while we replace our relatively small sized product.

Fed up with this I rang the "Feds" and told them the natives were restless in the area and could they please move them along a bit! So you see it's never a dull moment being Boating Officer of the UEC!! Which reminds me, this will be my last report for the UEC year and I would like to thank the Club membership for all the support and help received with the boat during the year. We are steadily improving her value and making her a more pleasant vessel to operate. However, we still have a long way to go and we need your future support just as much or more than ever.



Cheers Folks!

Stubbie

UNSAFE SCUBA DIVING IN SWEDEN?

Susie Ashton

Well, that was not exactly the reason for my four months stay in Stockholm without a dive, but the statistics I read in the daily newspaper were pretty scary. It was an article describing "dangerous sports" in conjunction with the story about 1 of 8 people that died during a white water rafting trip earlier this year. They didn't wear any cold protecting clothes and died in +5°C water (you only last for 20 minutes).

"Eight SCUBA divers died during 1994" said the paper. "Many because they were diving inside wrecks that they didn't know and got stuck".

I talked to several SCUBA shops in Stockholm and they all say the same: "These dead divers must have been going out on their own to dive the wreck and not with us". (See the importance of being a member of a club such as UEC where we conduct SAFE diving?)

The visibility underwater in and around Stockholm is SO poor that you cannot see your own stretched out hand in front of you. Most probably, these divers hadn't used a line between them.

More statistics from the newspaper: "In Sweden they have now 100,000 SCUBA divers."

Year	1991	-	8 died
Year	1992	-	3 died
Year	1993	-	5 died
Year	1994	-	8 died

So no you know why I didn't dive. I can truly tell you that I suffered so much from "withdrawal symptoms" that my eyes watered with tears just talking to other divers about diving.

But, with a viz like that, I decided to wait until I was back in Perth and as you read this article, I have been submerged several times already!

GET OUT THERE AND DIVE, FOLKSI

YOU DONT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND HOW LUCKY WE ARE TO HAVE WHAT WE HAVE SO CLOSE TO A BIG CITY!

EDITORIAL

Steve Larler

The Annual General Meeting is upon us again. The election of the Committee of management is an important function and the members of the Club who undertake a committee position and are duly elected have a great responsibility to carry on the management of our Club.

The UEC has been run by its members since the Clubs foundation in 1954.

The assets of the Club in 1959 consisted of a Hooka, Manta Boards, Compass and miscellaneous items, the total value of assets was 136 pounds.

The accumulation of funds by the members of UEC during the past 41 years now represents a huge investment. The control of our investment will be handed to the elected Committee members at the next AGM.

For those of us who do not have the time to spend managing our Club, we must strongly support those members who are prepared to spend both time and effort to ensure UEC continues to be the Club that has survived and prospered over the past 41 years.

Club members, both past and present, have built UEC into the organisation that we are all proud to be associated with.

To enable your Club to continue for future members to enjoy, support the Committee members who are elected at the AGM.

Steve

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.

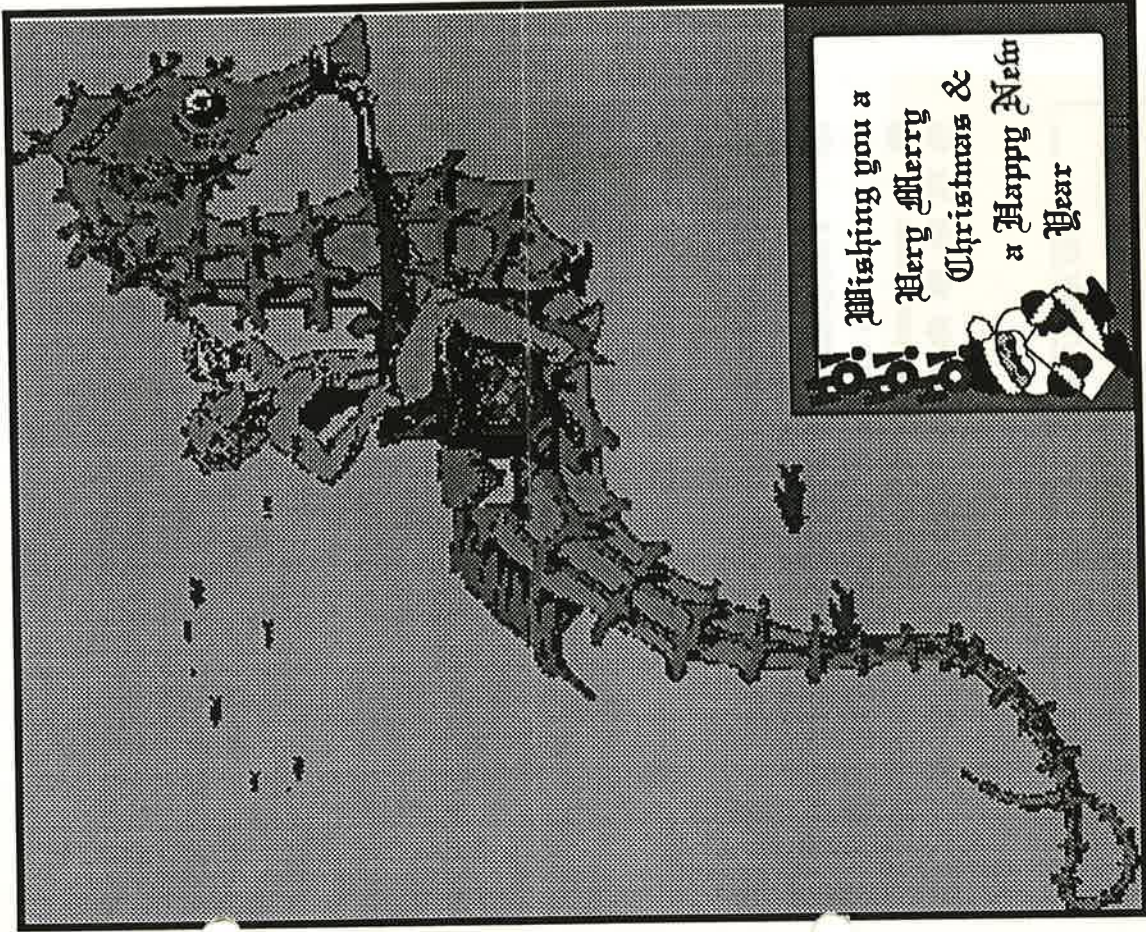
UEC NEWS

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

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Cr
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058



Wishing you a
Merry Merry
Christmas &
a Happy New
Year

DECEMBER 1995

BALI DIVING - NOVEMBER 1995

Pat Troy

Having just spent a week in Bali and diving for five days I thought that a few lines in the magazine may be appreciated.

I could write for hours about it but space in this mag is limited so I'll concentrate on what I consider to be the best dive site around Bali. It's called Nusa Penida and it is a small island about 40 minutes by boat from Bali. We didn't actually set foot on the island itself. The boat stopped about 200 metres from the beach and we drift dived along a slope that started at about 15 metres and bottomed out at about 60 metres.

There were nine divers and the dive masters and we cruised at about 20 metres. The scenery was typically tropical. Thousands of coral fish came out to greet us and the variety of marine life was spectacular. Visibility brilliant and water temperature about 30°C. No need for a wet suit. However, most people hired 3mm suits from the dive shop. The quality of the area is what impressed me most as there was no damage to the coral and there seemed to be no limit to the variety of colourful fish. Also it should be noted that it was very safe diving.

Getting to any of the good dive sites takes about two hours by car so in addition to the diving you can do quite a bit of sight-seeing on the way. The tropical forests and mountain scenery is worth the trip anyway. In a nutshell, it was a great diving adventure. If you want me to tell you more, you will have to buy me a hamburger and a can of Coke!

Pat

EDITORIAL

Steve Larler

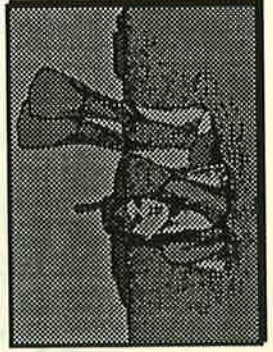
It's that time of year again. Summer is here, the club has chosen its committee of management, members have paid their membership for another year. Now all we have to do is enjoy ourselves diving.

There is lots happening with boat diving being organised both on Saturday and Sunday's, to suit everyone's needs. We need our organised boat dives to be well attended to cover costs and provide more scope for interesting dive experiences.

It's interesting to listen to some of our less active members who keep putting of their spare time for diving and the season passes them by. There is always lots of other things that need to be done which take up our previous spare time. The important thing to remember - life is not a rehearsal so don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today.

Just do it!!

Steve



WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Marree Casley

As you can see you have me in the Presidents' Chair for another 12 months. For that matter, most of the Committee remains the same also - the only change being Gordon Maggee is now Safety Officer. Welcome to Gordon and many thanks to Alison for her work during the past year. Please support your Committee in any way you can, after all they devote their time willingly to try and provide members with the very best of good, safe diving.

The Clubs Annual Presentation at Susie and Kerry's place was great. Susie, Kerry and Bob went to a great deal of trouble to ensure that everyone had a good time and plenty of good food. On the day awards were presented to the following people:

Club Person of the Year	-	Kerry Ashton
Boat Person of the Year	-	Pat Troy
Most Safety Conscious Diver	-	Michel Roux
Most Improved Diver	-	Sandy Jackson
Appreciation Awards	-	Marree Casley, Hetty Geard, Steve Larter, Brian Murray, Ilana Murray, Jim Robson

Congratulations on all recipients.

Christmas and New Year will be with us soon and there will be plenty of time to get wet. Kerry has left this time free on the calendar, so keep in touch. Let me also take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a wonderfully happy Christmas and New Year.

Marree

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

Guess what, your very own Barnacular, ancient rotting reporter and mariner, in a surprising and unexpected development at the last AGM (20/11/95), was elected unopposed and kicking and screaming to the position of you've guessed it - Club Boating Officer.

My first job as your newly re-elected BO, was to find something on which to spend that \$250, we saved by fixing the old dinghy ourselves! Viz, repairs to the engine fresh water cooling system, which once again sh..., failed, letting fresh water out into the seal. Hopefully, after a long and arduous stint by Patrick, Richard, Adrian and myself, together with help from a very professional cooling system repair company, we have fixed it for good and can get many seasons of trouble free operation from the repair. The repair firm was Tassoc of Welshpool, whom I can thoroughly recommend for all heat exchange and oil cooling system testing, repairs and, I believe, manufacture. They have a big, well equipped factory and are highly regarded by myself and Caterpillar!

We did fix the old dinghy by the way, or at least Pat did, taking it home for a week to do the job properly. It now looks like a million dollars or at least \$250 and should stay leak free for about - lets give it a month shall we! No reflection on Pat's workmanship you understand, because that dinghy springs leaks on cue like an actress in a TV 'Soapie'!

Right then, after all that I am now happy to report that all is well with boats and machinery and it only requires your extensive sustained use of her. Don't forget we can use her for social events as well as diving too! Finally, in keeping with my new UEC year's resolution, I'll keep it short and say,



Cheers Folks!

Stubbie

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Steve Larter

UEC 1975

Dec. 1974 Nine UEC divers went down 61 metres in the clubs recompression chamber at Fremantle Hospital. John Walden was DO. Doctor Naaom Haimson was in constant attendance during each dive. Each diver was effected by nitrogen narcosis. One experienced diver had very dramatic reactions with numbness to the face, narrowing of vision, trembling hands.

Feb 1975 200ft dive 3 miles South West from West End Rottnest. 9 divers. Keith and June Errington, Naaom Haimson, Dave Kenny, Elaine Airey, John Carpenter, John Bele, Kevan Collett, Warrick Braithwaite. Safety divers in attendance Lynn Jones, Brian Price. DO Ken Kennedy. Dive duration was 3 minutes decent, 4 minutes on the bottom, 5 minutes decompression at 20 feet, 10 minutes at 10 feet.

Decent weights were used to conserve energy. These are still on the bottom. Group No 2 also left a small lead plaque with the bricks the divers names and the clubs name engraved on the plaque.

Our Vice Patron in 1975 was Alan Bond, 160 Victoria Avenue, Dalkeith.

More from the 1975 Club Archives next year!!

Steve

FISHY FACTS

Hetty Geard and Steve Larter

- It may take over 1 million years for a glass bottle to decompose in the sea.
- An old pair of sandshoes will take 75 years to decompose.
- A cigarette butt will take 40 years to decompose in the ocean.
- An aluminium can will probably never decompose in the sea.
- A foam cup will take 500 years to break down in the sea.

Despite their size, whales are able to produce a good turn of speed. The blue whale, for example, can sprint over short distances at up to 40 kmh; dolphins can reach more than 48 kmh and killer whales have been clocked at up to 65 kmh.



To assist in determining the age of fish, scientists are now injecting fish caught for tagging with a harmless dye that leaves a specially coloured ring on the fish's otolith (ear bone).

When the fish is recaptured, the number of rings laid down after the dyed ring are counted and related to the number of days or years that the fish was at liberty.



DIVING DELIGHTS

Kerry Ashton

Another year ahead - let us make it a good one!

This year I am not recommending any major changes to the way we operate. The boat will basically be scheduled out once every weekend with a "swing day" to accommodate weather, special occasions and club members who wish to use the boat.

To book on dives, ring 331 2385, Kerry and Susie - NOT THE CREW. Do not assume a dive is cancelled unless otherwise stated. Always assume the dive is on, and turn up at the jetty in time.

With the new year I am scrapping my "old" book and starting again. So, grab me and put your name down on the lists for all those impromptu, mid-week, night, early, etc dives.

Over the Christmas / New Year week, the boat is available for members in town. Contact me and let's see if we cannot organise a couple of dives, perhaps an overnighter!!

Happy and safe diving!

Kerry

ROUTINEEST 1998

Bookings for this fun-filled weekend and subsequent 2 weeks are a bit slow at the moment, so now is a good time to remind you - book on.

Currently there are 8 places available for the weekend for approximately \$150, 4 places for week 1 and 9 places for week 2 on a pay as you use system. For those members that have booked, please pay the remainder of your booking as soon as you can so that I can pay for our accommodation.

Maree!

FOR SALE

Dennis & Maree

One BCD, Apollo Sub Zero, with soft pack and separable buoyancy section. Medium sized and in excellent condition having had one very light seasons work. Owner regrettably no longer an Apollo Medium Sizer!! Has an optional Occo-Inflator, which is in A1 condition, serviced and with spare Diaphragm. (This doubles as an occy regulator and or a power inflator and has been modified to accept a standard BC inflator hose). Asking \$450 to Club members - more from others - ono with Occo, or \$400 without. Occo separate \$100. (They are about \$170 new if you can twist a dealer's arm hard enough!). Apply Dennis and/or Maree 457 3333.

Dennis & Maree

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BITS AND PIECES

BITS AND PIECES

Brian Murray

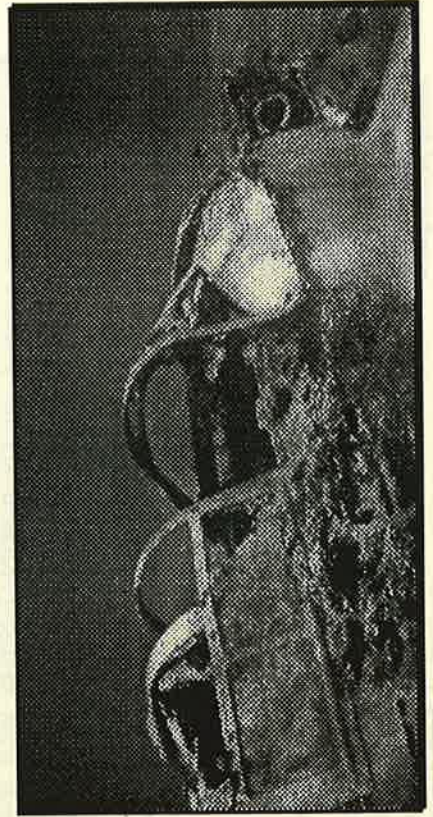
DIVE TRIP - ALBANY

We are arranging a long weekend dive trip to Albany with Albany Divers Club for the dates of June 1, 2 and 3rd, 1996.

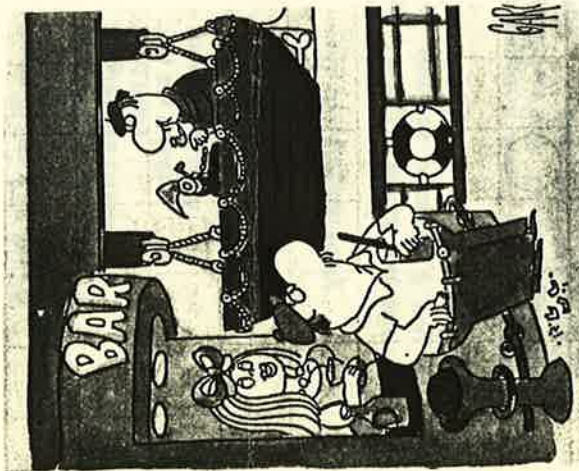
We envisage travelling to Albany late Friday afternoon with 2 dives each day and returning to Perth on Monday afternoon. At this time the cost is \$20 per day for the 2 dives, meals and accommodation at a local Caravan Park are extra but will be approximately \$20 per day per person.

Plans are to dive Herold Reef and Bald Island areas which feature some exciting underwater territory, big fish and clear water, the average depth will be a maximum of 25 metres so there is ample room for the not so experienced club member to enjoy the underwater environment which Albany offers. These dives will be run with DO's and Skippers as the UEC runs their traditional Sunday dives from Fremantle.

For further information please contact me on 459 4662 or see me at the club meeting so numbers can be confirmed.



A Japanese Zero Aircraft photographed at the Truk Lagoon at 50 metres.



"He is writing a book: Crossing the Atlantic Alone in a Life Boat".



"Just as well it was a travel now pay later cruise."

SOCIAL SCENE

Susie Ashton

MONDAY 18 DECEMBER UEC BIRTHDAY

Come to the December General Meeting and celebrate your club's birthday with a creamy cake!

UEC was officially "born" on December 19, 1957.



Susie



PR REPORT

We have now printed up six quality T-Shirts with the UEC logotype, hopefully ready for sale at the next General Meeting. Price will be at cost for only \$15

SOCIAL REPORT #1

Susie Ashton

According to what I've heard about the UEC PRESENTATION PARTY in November, everybody had a great time. We started well with a potent punch I made as a welcome drink. I would also like to take this opportunity to officially thank our Acting Chef BOB for all the food preparation work he did before and on the day, plus MAREE and ROSIE for the salads they provided.

SOCIAL SCENE

Susie Ashton

Well, as it turned out at the last AGM I'm back in the saddle as your Social and PR Officer, but this time with a Sub-Committee of five:

Bill Boustead, Geoff and Hetty Geard, Sandy Jackson and Bob McLaughlin. We have already had our first meeting and agreed on the following social events for the next year:

Friday	January 26	-	Australia Day SKY SHOW
Saturday	February 24	-	"ISLAND DAY"
Friday	March 29	-	Cable Water Ski Park
Saturday	April 20	-	Progressive Dinner
Sunday	May 26	-	Boat Rally
Friday	June 21	-	Ten Pin Bowling
Sunday	July 21	-	Christmas Lunch
Friday	August 23	-	Quiz Night
Saturday	September 28	-	Seafood Night
Sunday	October (date to be confirmed)	-	Blessing of the Fleet
Sunday	November 24	-	UEC Presentation Party

We have done our best to provide different things to attract your attention and participation. Please book on as early as possible, if you are interested in any of the above events.

Every second month we will also have a speaker and/or slide/video show at the General Meeting with nibbles provided as well. So, please make an effort to come along if you have the time. The more the merrier, as they say and with this I would also like to wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS!

SOCIAL REPORT #2

Susie Ashton

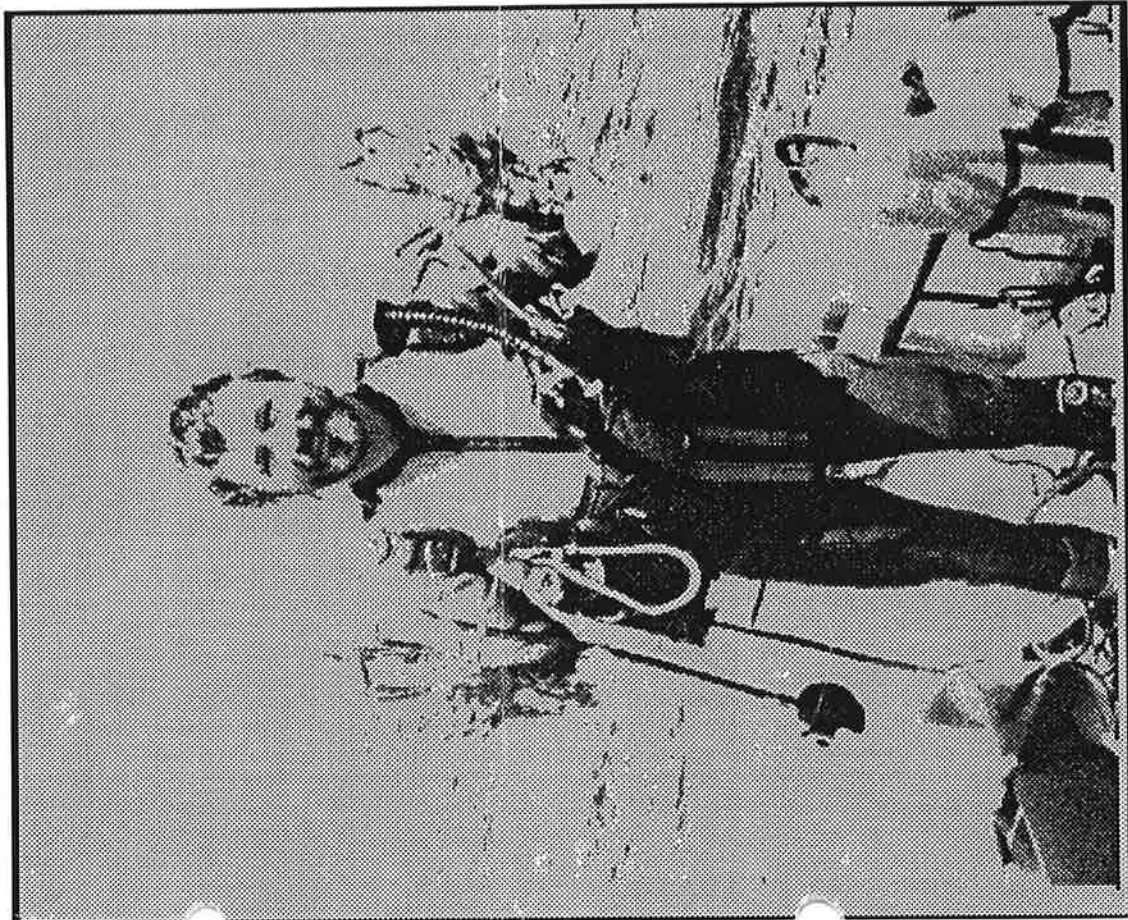
Our Small Boat Cruise up-river on Sunday 3 December turned out to be a brilliant day, even though the sky was grey in the morning and the gas BBQ on the site didn't work; Maree to rescue with frying pan and gas bottle from their comfortable boat. A very pleasant day indeed.

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

JANUARY 1996

THE COMMITTEE 1995/96

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	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385
BOATING OFFICER	Dennis Stubberfield	Phone 457 3333
SAFETY OFFICER	Gordon Magee	Phone 331 3740
TRAINING OFFICER	Vacant	
BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Steve Larter	Phone 291 9654
SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385
DIVE BOOKINGS	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385

COME ALONG TO OUR NEXT MEETING FOR A VIDEO SHOW,
CHEESE AND BICKIES!
Monday 15 January at 8.00pm

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CLUB CALENDAR

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 1996

MONTH/DATE	EVENT	SKIPPER	DO
JANUARY			
Fri/Sat 12/13	Overnight Exploratory	Bob McL	Steve L
Sun 14	BSAC/UEC	Barry K	Luc F
Mon 15	GENERAL MEETING at 8.00pm		
Fri 19	Prawn Dive/BQ	Kerry & Susie	
Sat 20	Boat Trainees	Dennis	
Sun 21	Two Tank	Richard N	Ron P
Fri 26	Carnac/Garden Island	Peter H	Brian M
Sat 27	OPEN	-	-
Sun 28	Australia Day Social	-	-
Mon 29	Skippers/DO Meeting at 8.00pm	Dennis	Kerry
FEBRUARY			
Sat 3	OPEN	-	-
Sun 4	Skipper/DO Choice	Dennis	Maree
Mon 5	COMMITTEE MEETING at 8.00pm	Kerry/Susie's Place	
Sat 10	OPEN	-	-
Sun 11	Two Tank	Peter H	Luc F
Sat 17	OPEN	-	-
Sun 18	BSAC/UEC	Barry K	Kerry
Mon 19	GENERAL MEETING at 8.00pm		
Wed 21	Prawn Dive/BQ	Kerry & Susie	
Sat 24	Social Island Day	"THE BOAT"	
Sun 25	City Beach Exploratory	Richard N	Brian M

From Friday March 1 - Saturday 16 - Boat is at Roithrest

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions and members should keep in contact with DO Kerry Ashton - 331 2385

Phone DO Kerry Ashton on 331 2385 for dive bookings or inquiries.
DO NOT RING THE CREW.
Dives will depart from East Street Jetty, Fremantle at 8.00am

95
40

FISHY FACTS

Hefty Gear



Crocodiles can see underwater because they have a semi-transparent third eyelid which slides into place when necessary.



A frog's tongue starts growing from the front of its mouth, making it easier to catch insects.



It seems goldfish actually get seasick every now and then.



The Red Sea is never mentioned in the Bible.



The volume of water in the Amazon is greater than the 'combined' total of the next 8 largest rivers in the world.



On 3 August 1492, Christopher Columbus left Spain on his historical voyage to the new world. The expedition was run on a shoestring budget and the total cost in terms of today's money would be just under 4,000 pounds (A\$ 8,387.00).

EDITORIAL

Steve Larfer

At the December monthly meeting we celebrated the Clubs birthday. Officially we were 40. Is UEC over the Hill??

The history of the Club has been one of growth from a handful of very enthusiastic Scuba Men through the early boom of exploration and provision of training facilities and onto a provider of diving facilities. To put it in a nut shell we have been there and done that.

The question we must now ask is what is our future? Diving is one of the fastest growing recreational sporting activities with very successful businesses opening up to provide for the demand, so why are we suffering a decline in diving activity. We have become very exclusive with a large diving boat, good clubhouse and a large array of equipment, all these assets have been established by the past and present membership of UEC. We are now only catering for a membership of less than 70 of these 70 members we struggle to get a quorum at our monthly meetings and rarely fill the Explorer 1. As with any voluntary organisation complacency of its membership can bring about the Clubs demise. The great Aussie expression "She'll be right" is under threat as large numbers of Australians are finding out.

We, as members, must support the Club we belong to by paying our Subs, attending meetings and using the boat.

The Committee of Management of UEC will not fail UEC if drastic action has to be taken to ensure the Clubs future then that action will take place. Let us all ensure that UEC celebrates its 80 years in 2035.

SUPPORT, JUST DO IT!!

Steve

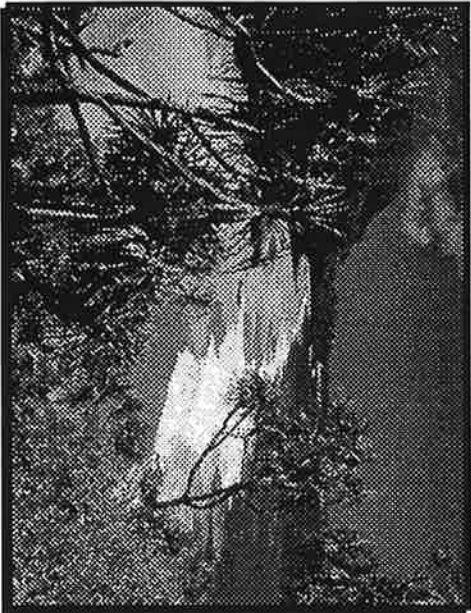
WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

I hope all of you enjoyed a very Merry Christmas and are now in good form for a Happy and hopefully Prosperous New Year. I wish the same for our Club also. I hope that together we can work to make our Club even better than it is. The Committee is still working hard to see that our diving activities are varied, exciting and safe and of course, the social calendar is chock-a-block. Let's all make a New Year's resolution to dive more and be more active in Club affairs.

Speaking of Club affairs - our Rottnest fling will be with us soon, so can all those members attending, please bring along the balance of monies due to the next meeting. I need your money to finalise the accommodation payments. This is also your last chance to get a cheap diving holiday because I will be cancelling some additional accommodation booked. Once again, Happy New Year and I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Maree



WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

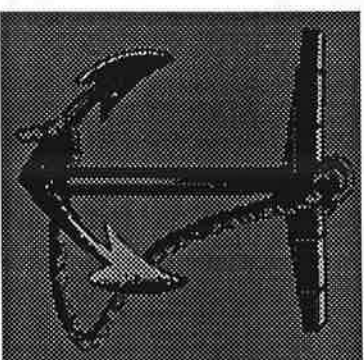


I am happy to report that the boat and machinery has performed very well over the last month and the new cooling system repairs appear to have been wholly successful. Hopefully, I can now forget about that part of the system and move on to the next major crisis - which there isn't at the moment, but there will be - you can bet on it.

Our next move is to modify our anchoring system and get that dirty big reel and anchor off the deck and up front where it belongs! To this end there will be a short but intense working bee at Swan Yacht Club after work on Friday 20 January, followed by an equally short but intense session at the Club bar as my guests! Meanwhile, get out and get our boat working.

Cheers Folks!

Sauldie



DIVING DELIGHTS

Kerry Ashton

Happy New Year and welcome to a dive season that has already been under way for some time. We have had some great reports over the last month or two with the boat working well.

The Christmas period as always is something of a hiatus with people concentrating on family and friends naturally.

.... This then brings me to the calendar where I have maintained the open/available days so members can utilise the boat. Where does the family and friends come in you might ask??? Of course, you may wish to take them with you - dropping them at Rottnest, Camac, Garden or even up the river. Perhaps you will even get a dive in - whatever your plan, we will try to accommodate your needs. So please ring me.

Prawn dives are on and as always are very enjoyable. On a personal note, we had a fantastic impromptu BBQ on the riverbank just before the New Year. The water was warm, no wind when we came up from the dive, with very pleasant balmy conditions.

I read a report the other day about dolphins coming up to Divers at the end of their dive out at Rottnest. Over the break down at Canal Rocks a pod of 12 - 20 dolphins swam past me just after I entered the water - mind blowing!

Perhaps it can happen to you ... how???

USE THE BOAT AND GET WET!

Kerry



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Geoff Charlton

I, Geoff Charlton, hereby give notice that at the February General Meeting, I intend to move that Clause 25 of the Constitution be altered to read:

DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS:

If, upon the dissolution or winding up of the Club, there remain any assets, these assets shall be liquidated. The funds resulting from this liquidation shall be donated to the Western Australian Government body responsible for Maritime Archaeology and to be used to fund research into shipwrecks off the Western Australian coast.

Geoff

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BITS AND PIECES

BITS AND PIECES

Brian Murray

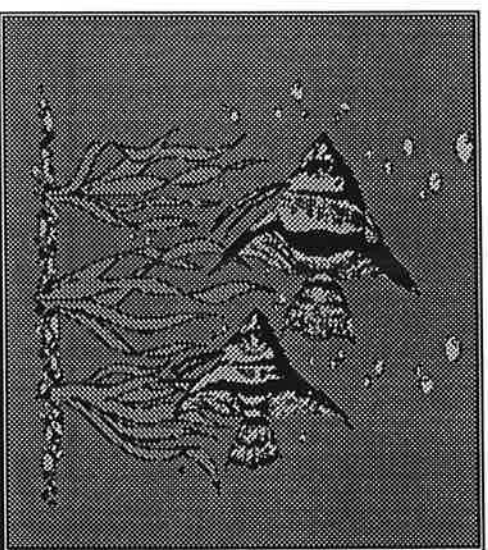
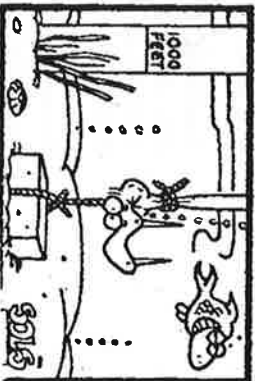
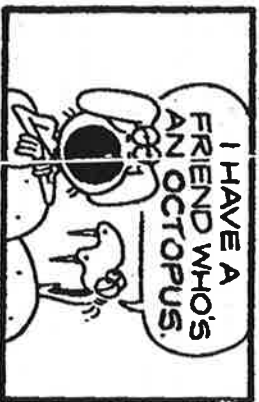
DIVE TRIP - ALBANY

We are arranging a long weekend dive trip to Albany with Albany Divers Club for the dates of June 1, 2 and 3rd, 1996.

We envisage travelling to Albany late Friday afternoon with 2 dives each day and returning to Perth on Monday afternoon. At this time the cost is \$20 per day for the 2 dives, meals and accommodation at a local Caravan Park are extra but will be approximately \$20 per day per person.

Plans are to dive Herrold Reef and Bald Island areas which feature some exciting underwater territory, big fish and clear water, the average depth will be a maximum of 25 metres so there is ample room for the not so experienced club member to enjoy the underwater environment which Albany offers. These dives will be run with DO's and Skippers as the UEC runs their traditional Sunday dives from Fremantle.

For further information please contact me on 459 4662 or see me at the club meeting so numbers can be confirmed.



COMPASS NAVIGATION

Brian Murray

After many requests from frustrated DO's we include the following in anticipation that those readers who have trouble relocating the boat may be able to make use of this information.

If the compass is strapped to you arm bend the arm the compass is attached to and take a bearing to the direction you are going to head. The compass should be held in front of your face and positioned down the centre line of your body. In this position the lubber line points in the direction of intended travel.

When the compass is in an instrument console position the console so that the lubber line is pointing in the direction of travel, again, position down the centre line of your body.

SETTING A HEADING

Aim the lubber line at your destination.

Take the heading in relation to North and set the bezel using the index marks of a desired heading. Note the degree heading.

SETTING A RETURN HEADING

Stop swimming and turn the bezel 180° opposite your present heading.

Turn your entire body whilst holding the compass centre line to your body so that the magnetic needle is positioned between the index marks. Return on that course.

HANDY HINTS

Keep the lubber line in position with the centre of your body.

Look over rather than down on compass.

Avoid being too close to ferrous metal objects.

Keep compass level to avoid needle trapping.

Also use natural aids in addition to a compass heading.

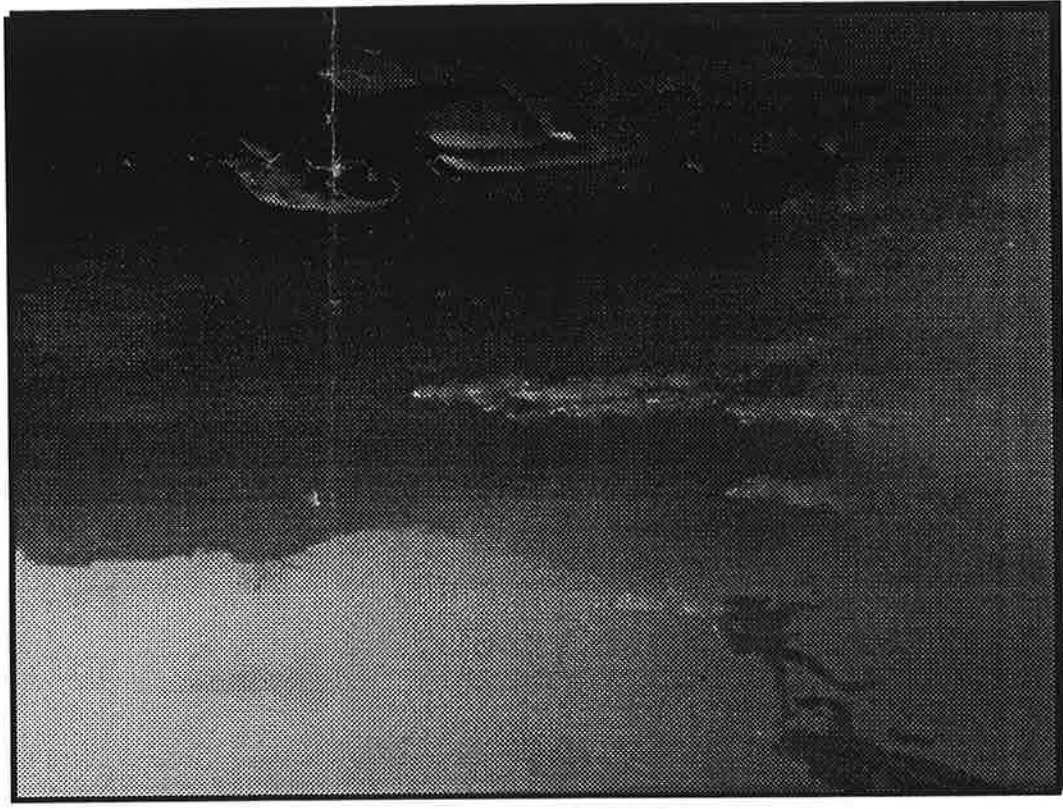
Allow for effects of current.

Trust your compass - its probably right even though you may not think so.

ANDROS ISLAND

Bahamas

THE WALL. Divers on a ledge above the tongue of The Ocean, Andros Island, Bahamas. This was photographed at a depth of 180 feet.



SOCIAL SCENE

Susie Ashton

Australia Day Sky Show

Details regarding the AUSTRALIA DAY SKY SHOW: Please note that the DATE has been changed (without consulting me first!)

Be at the East Street "Old" ferry jetty at 4:00pm SHARP and The Royal Perth Yacht Club public jetty at 5:00pm SHARP for pick-up. We provide music, nibbles, Aussie Champagne, a sumptuous salad, gourmet grilled chicken, buttered buns and plates. YOU BRING your own chair and plastic glass. If you don't drink Champagne, please BYO whatever you like.

WARNING!

Only eight places left on the boat as I write this.
 Pay me at the January GM to secure your booking.
 Cost: \$25.00 per couple and \$15.00 per single person.
 Friends of members also welcome!

Susie



SOCIAL REPORT #1

Susie Ashton

The BUSSELTONDUNSBOROUGH DIVING TRIP did go ahead with six participants. We left on boxing day and came home four days later. The first day we were diving north and south of the CANAL ROCKS. Good dives and weather conditions. The second day was cancelled because Gordon Magee and myself didn't fancy to sit in a small steel dinghy on the rough water during a thunder and lightning storm! Gordon went for his cray later that day around the Sugarboat Rock.

The Busselton Jetty dive was conducted the following day under superb conditions. The big school of Old Wives that we normally see there was still absent, but in a way it seemed like a lot of other "new" fish life had come instead. Geoff Geard's tug-o-war with a good size octopus was a thrill to watch!

After packing up and moving out of the *** hotel/motel, Kerry and I travelled south to Margaret River Vineyards to taste and stock up on some good wines, and also to meet a couple of our "old" UEC country members (Mary & Adrian Edwards) for a delicious long lunch at the MARRON FARM

SOCIAL SCENE

Susie Ashton

I hope you all had a ripper start of the New Year. We took the UE out for a combined dive/social trip to Rottnest the first day of 1996! Most bodies on the island looked a bit hung-over, but Kerry and I had a snorkel and a drink (in that order) together with Swedish friends, who wanted to see a quokka.

Here is what the Social Sub-Committee decided on to do for you the in the next six months:

Sunday	January 228	-	Australia Day SKY SHOW
Saturday	February 24	-	"ISLAND DAY"
Friday	March 29	-	Cable Water Ski Park
Saturday	April 20	-	Progressive Dinner
Sunday	May 26	-	Boat Rally
Friday	June 21	-	Ten Pin Bowling

It would be great to see some BSAC faces on these social events as well this year!

SOCIAL REPORT #2

Susie Ashton

OUR SOCIAL PRAWN DIVES HAVE BEEN UP-GRADED!

Thanks to SANDY WEBB we can now charcoal grill our catch on the river bank, and let me tell you, that is absolutely delicious! But you should have seen her facial expression when she put the prawns on to the skewers!

Check The Social Board at the club rooms for the next prawning date!

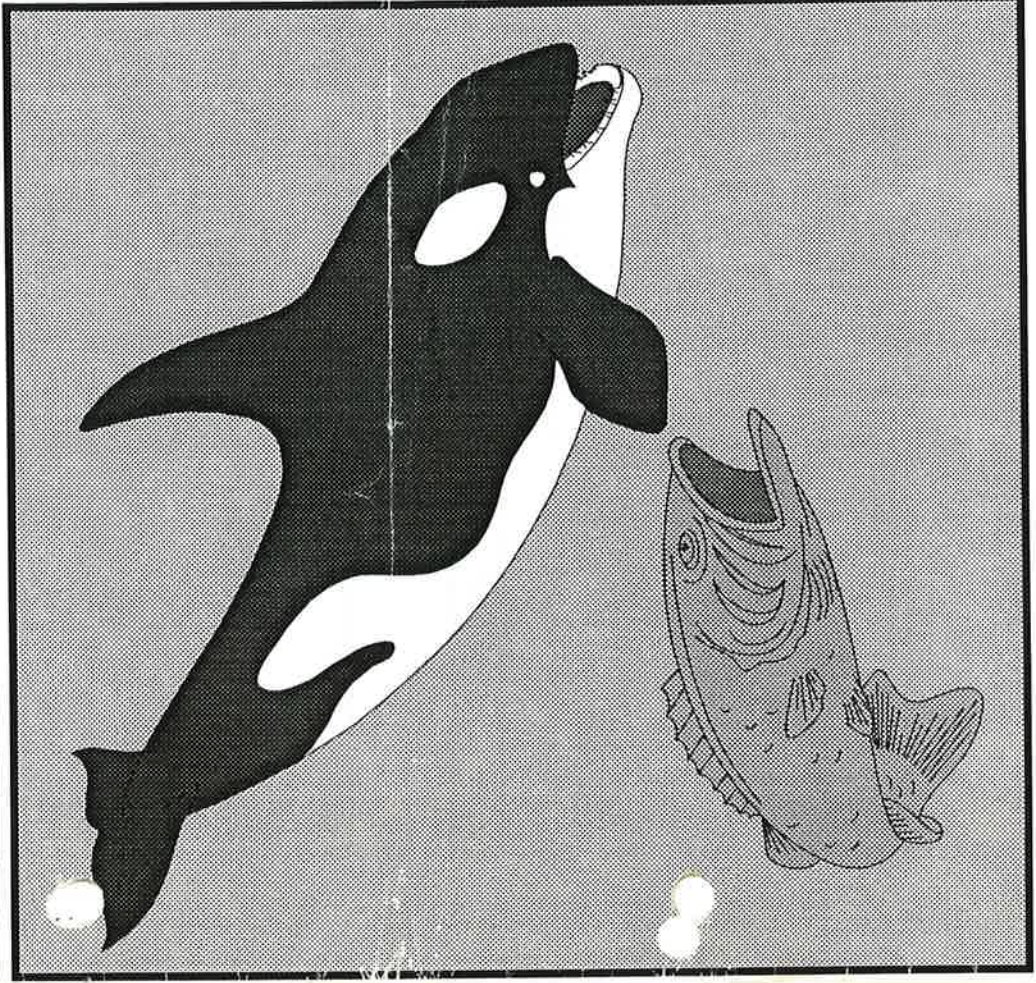


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Underwater Explorers Club of WA (inc.)
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THE UEC NEWS

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



UEC NEWS

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (inc.)
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FEBRUARY 1996

THE COMMITTEE 1994/95

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VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 454 8580
SECRETARY	Geoff Charlton	Phone 451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	Phone 445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385
BOATING OFFICER	Dennis Stubberfield	Phone 457 3333
SAFETY OFFICER	Gordon Magee	Phone 331 3740
TRAINING OFFICER	Vacant	
BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Steve Larter	Phone 291 9654
SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385
DIVE BOOKINGS	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385

ROTTNEST 1996

It is important that all participants in this years' event come to the next meeting for a briefing, a discussion on accommodation and departure information.

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CLUB CALENDAR

FEBRUARY / MARCH 1996

MONTH/DATE	EVENT	SKIPPER	DO
FEBRUARY			
Sat 17	AM OPEN SKIPPER / DO TRAINING	1.00pm - Contact Kerry Barry K	Luc F
Sun 18	BSAC / UEC		
FROM FRIDAY MARCH 1 - SATURDAY 16 - BOATS AT ROTTNEST			
MARCH			
Sun 17	Deep Dive	Richard N	Kerry
GENERAL MEETINGS at 8.00pm			
Mon 19	Prawn Dive / BBQ	Kerry & Susie	
Fri 22	Single Tank	Bob McL	Ron P
Sat 23			
Sun 24	BSAC / UEC	Peter H	Luc F
Sat 30	OPEN - Social Cable Water Ski		
Sun 31	OPEN	Barry K	Brian M

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions and members should keep in contact with DO Kerry Ashton - 331 2385

Phone DO Kerry Ashton on 331 2385 for dive bookings or inquiries.
DO NOT RING THE CREW.
Dives will depart from East Street Jetty, Fremantle at 8.00am

CONSERVATION CORNER

Susie Ashton

TONGA CONSIDERS COMMERCIAL WHALING

When I read things like this, I get really mad and it doesn't do much for my growing disbelief in the future of our planet.

It was reported in one of my dive magazines, that the Tongan cabinet is considering a proposal to allow commercial whaling in its waters, taking 50 Humpback, 200 Sperm and 100 Minkie whales annually.

It is common knowledge that the migrating Humpbacks, which travel each year from the Antarctic to Tonga, is one of the few groups which have not recovered since commercial whaling ceased. It is feared that this particular Humpback population is in danger of being genetically eroded to the point that it will not recover.

With a brain so much larger than humans, perhaps their proposed destruction highlights the narrow-minded, greed and lack of foresight of humanity.

Our knowledge of the whales is only just scratching the surface of their intelligence and abilities.

If you feel you want to do something physical against this proposal, put pen to paper and write to the Tongan Consul-General, 158 Pacific Highway, North Sydney NSW 2060.

Thank you for your concern.

Susie

EDITORIAL

Steve Larler

The beginning of a New Year. Only 4 more years and we shall celebrate the turning of the Century. We are indeed fortunate to witness what will be a huge celebration. The future is unpredictable for everyone and we look forward to being part of it.

As members of UEC we must also ensure its future by supporting the various activities and functions. The pastime we all have in common, provides us with enjoyment and comradeship which being a member of a club enhances.

The Club in turn must provide the stimulus for the membership to be sustained and grow. Certified divers who join us need to be involved in some of the organisation of diving and boating. We have the ability and the expertise within the Club to provide both new members and existing members with the training and experience to further their interest in diving. The Club would in turn benefit by having a wider circle of trained Skippers and Diving Officers to plan and carry out a wider range of diving activities. We must not make the mistake of expecting our more enthusiastic members to keep supporting us when we are not providing them with an outlet for that enthusiasm to be extended. There is so much knowledge that needs to be passed on to the future members of Club.

At the last monthly meeting, concern was expressed by a number of members that we must not adopt a negative approach in your Newsletter as it may affect prospective members decisions about joining.

I would like to propose that "letters to the Editor" would be a very interesting addition to our Newsletter where you can air your views. Censorship will not be done to your letter providing it is acceptable by Australia Post.

Contact the Editor with your views.

NOMINATIONS

Margaret and Bill Pettigren, Gosnells

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

WOW, what a busy month we've had! January was the busiest time that I can remember for a long time. It is really gratifying to see so many people out on the boat enjoying their diving or social activities. The Skyworks were a real hoot - certainly the best that I've seen. The evening was very pleasant, enhanced only by the good champers, food, fireworks and of course, the company. Susie and her hand of helpers did a fantastic job. Thanks to you all.

Our diving has also been great. The weather has been only moderately good - but the boat has been busy. Our BSAC members have been making good use of the boat and enjoying some great diving. I hope that this activity continues because as you know, diving is our Clubs' life-blood. In keeping with our endeavours to increase Club membership, I have been negotiating with Sub-Sea Divers with a view to them affiliating with us. I'll keep you posted on developments.

Watch our for Kerry's report. He has heaps of diving planned including a weekend of diving at Two Rocks and xxxxxx. Included in this trip will be some diving on the Gilt Dragon. This should be a great weekend so mark it on your calendar now.

Susie has a great video lined up for the next meeting, so I hope to see you all there.

Maree

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

This month has been one of the busiest for boat usage we have had for many seasons with 8 dive trips, one social trip and 2 or 3 work and training sessions. I am happy to say all is well with boat and machinery. We are currently working on a more convenient anchoring system in which the anchor will stay up on the Bowsprit and the anchor line will be stored under the foredeck. It's proving a little tricky as room below the foredeck is limited and the anchor line is slow to stow. However, we will persevere and get it right eventually.

The Committee has also approved the purchase of side weather shields in clear plastic and professionally fitted. This will vastly improve the comfort of the boat on trips home. I am also working on other measures to keep the gear dry at sea, some sound proofing and fume removal from the cabin.

With "Rottnest in March" coming up we have decided to pen the boat at Swan Yacht Club for the week immediately prior to the March long weekend. This will greatly aid pre-trip work on the boat and loading gear on the Friday before the weekend.

Keep up the good work folks, your work efforts and just plain diving support is much appreciated by all members.



Cheers Folks!

Stubbie

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Steve Larfer

UEC 1975

JULY

Presentation night was held at the Mounts Bay Sailing Club, 180 people attended.

Eight divers attended the Underwater Navigation swim in Lake Leschenaultia. The winner of the event was June Errington with Les Coleman in second place. A word of warning was issued to members who owned underwater contents gauges, as the high pressure hose on Ken Harrison's demand valve blew.

Club finances as of October 1975 were \$20,268.00. Membership fees were Male \$15.00, Female \$8.00 and Nomination Fee \$10.00.

State Scuba Championships held at Whitfords Beach September 12-14. Barrie Geddes, a UEC member won this practical event and was selected to represent WA. in the Australian Scuba Championships to be held at Port Fairy, Victoria.

November 1975 "Ban The Gun" article in the UEC News recommending a moratorium on spearfishing by all UEC members.

Club visit to Busselton Jetty was attended by nine divers and families. 3 boats were taken to Busselton.

Waroon Dam Dive, 20 members attended and all dived to a depth of 30 metres.

November 23 1975 - First UEC dive out of Yanchep on the 57 foot crayfishing boat Patricia. 13 Divers attended.

1975 was a very busy year for UEC.

SAFETY REPORT

Susie

The Club strongly recommends the use of a Safety Light attached to your tank on dives after dark. Susie strongly recommends that you get the environment friendly Flashing Light, instead of a new chemical lightstick every time. Also much more economical, of course.

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING FLAG!

Where is it now? It wasn't where it should have been for our last social event. Can we have it back, please?

Very much needed next time aboard - is on the Island Day - Saturday 24 February.

Susie

OBITUARY - DENNIS PARKER

It is with great sadness that I bring you the news of Dennis' recent sudden death - Dennis and his wife Barbara have been long time members and Life Members of the UEC. For many years Dennis worked tirelessly for the Club and in recent Years he would regale Club members of his many underwater exploits. Of particular interest were his stories of 200 foot dives and mud dives in Herdsman Lake. Although he had ceased diving, Dennis maintained his love of the ocean by swimming regularly and by skipping Cockburn Sea Rescues' boat Avail 2. Dennis will be sadly missed by all who knew him and we all pass on our sincerest sympathies to Barbara and family for their sad loss.

DIVING DELIGHTS

Kerry Ashton

Is it summer or did you just unpack your dive gear? The boat has been full and for those slow to the phone, can I suggest you book earlier in the week. The "Open Day" on the schedule is working well. If you want to use it, as others have already done, (for ONE-TANK-DIVES for instance), please contact me as early as possible so we can arrange crew.

We have had some brilliant dives since Christmas, at Stragglers, Garden and Rottnest. Don't forget we have world class diving on our door step. If you haven't been out, then get moving and join us!

Happy Diving!

DRAWING REPORT

An extremely pleasant and successful night with FOURTEEN DIVERS in the water and families waiting in anticipation on the shore. YES! The catch was big enough to feed us all! Who was there? Sandy Webb with her little girl, Geoff Gear, Roger Smith, Peter Horton and mate Sean, Nick Hunter with pregnant wife Judy, Sandy Jackson, Michel Roux with mate Mark, Bill Boustead, Pat Troy with Moose, Jim Robson with family, Nick Wasley with family, and Susie with nibbles.

NEXT PRAWN DIVE : WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY

DIVING OFFICERS

We are always on the look-out for more DO's. If you are interested in furthering your skills and assisting the Club, please contact me on 331 2385 a/h.

TRAINING by Kerry Ashton

Many of the chartering organisations are now insisting on Advanced or Deep Diving certification for deeper dives. I am running these courses now, and will plan more, if there is enough interest to warrant more. NOTE that a lot of the diving available to us - Esperance/Albany/Abrolhos/etc falls into the deeper diving category. ARE YOU PREPARED?

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Geoff Charlton

I, Geoff Charlton, hereby give notice that at the February General Meeting, I intend to move that Clause 25 of the Constitution be altered to read:

DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS:

If, upon the dissolution or winding up of the Club, there remain any assets, these assets shall be liquidated. The funds resulting from this liquidation shall be donated to the Western Australian Government body responsible for Maritime Archaeology and to be used to fund research into shipwrecks off the Western Australian coast.

Geoff

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BITS & PIECES

Steve Lariper

UNDERWATER NAVIGATION

Brian Murray

Our Deepest Diver

In March 1955, UEC member 29 year old Gordon McLean of Kenwick dived to 250 feet (approx 80 metres) off the west end of Rottnest.

His equipment consisted of a triple block of 42 cu ft steel tanks topped with a twin hose Siebe Gorman Regulator. Apprehensive about the depth he did not use a weight belt, which forced him to haul his way down the shotline. He reported to have been very marked over the last 20 to 30 feet. He signed off his name on a slate at the 250 foot level.

Support divers were Graham Anderson, John Stokes and Harry Lepalaars.

Barry Martin used his home made camera housing containing a Finette 35mm camera at 180 feet and took some excellent shots of the dive.

The 250 foot dive broke the Australian record of 196 feet set in Sydney Harbour, another UEC achievement.

Editors Note:

We are, of course, assuming that none of our members have dived deeper than Gordon McLean. If you have let us all share your experience in our next edition.

Natural navigation is commonly used on every dive.

Pre-dive observations at the dive site allow you to become familiar with the area to be dived by locating various formations which can be used as references.

1. Note wind, currents and tidal movement.
2. Note angle of the sun and the direction of its travel.
3. Note reefs, navigation buoys and depth.

Natural references found underwater to help you navigate are:

- a) Light and shadows of the sun and the direction of its light rays on the water.
- b) Water movement.
- c) Currents during the dive.
- d) Surge.
- e) Bottom compositions.

AND FINALLY

Recreational Scuba divers may be at higher risk of brain degeneration than the general public, according to a report in the Lancet. A study of 52 divers found that 27 of them had changes in the white matter of the brain and in the cartilage of the cervical discs of the neck, a much higher percentage than in the control group. Symptoms include depression and memory loss.

SOCIAL SCENE

Susie Ashton

Just repeating our social programme again for the first half of the year:

- Sat Feb 24 - Island Day
- Sat Mar 30 - Cable Water Ski Park
- Sat Apr 20 - Progressive Dinner
- Sun May 26 - Boat Rally
- Fri June 21 - Ten Pin Bowling

NOTE: We have changed the date for the Cable Water Ski Park to be a family day event rather than a Friday evening bash.

I have now met Julie, the Social Secretary of BSAC. She promised to publish our social programme in the BSAC Newsletter. Hopefully we will have the pleasure of seeing some of their members joining in our fun.



Susie

SHOW AT THIS MEETING

At long last I have managed to finish the editing of the earlier promised video of our social events for 1995 (including some diving footage and snorkelling with a Carnac Sealioness).

SOCIAL REPORT #1

The Sky Show! Absolutely fantastic! What else can I say? A boatload of happy people, the Champagne was flowing freely, plenty of sumptuous grilled chicken - even enough to offer the Water Police a generous serve. A good mix of people and a lot of mingling with friends, friends of friends and members including our two latest Margaret and Bill Pettigren.

(See the Notice Board for photo's).

RAFFLE

Prize this time will be the Aqua Pak, a four page waterproof notepad and thick pencil to enable you to communicate underwater, least ways until you can afford to buy a net specifically made for that purpose. (As seen in "Sea Trek").

FOR SALE

Only three stylish 100% Australian made raw cotton T-Shirts with our Club Logo left!

SNAP THEM UP NOW!!

YANCHED FOR EASTER

We have arranged for the Underwater Explorer to be available for diving from Yancheep Marina over Easter, April 5, 6, 7 and 8 and have pre-booked a number of units for the 3 nights (5, 6 and 7) at the Harbour View Apartments. These are 2 bedroom, self contained units. A deposit of \$30.00 each is required by the end of the month, so please see Kerry or Susie at the next meeting or telephone and confirm your place.

UFC SOCIAL ISLAND DAY

SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY

Let's start this year to make this an annual event! Join us for an "Island Day Out" with you family and friends. Try your hand at crabbing, fishing and/or snorkelling, beach volleyball (scientific rules apply!), BBQ lunch on Garden (Heron Bay).

A short trip to visit the sealions at Carnac Island will finish the day off. Back again at Woodmans Point about 3-4 o'clock.

Pick-up from Woodmans Point Jetty at 9.00am, BYO BBQ lunch in case we don't get any crabs.

For further information regarding this trip call Bob McLaughlin 454 8580 a/h or book with Susie.

Price: \$5.00 per adult person and \$1.00 for each child.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

SATURDAY 20 APRIL

HEAR YEAL HEAR YEAL HEAR YEAL

Well folks, this is your early warning for seats aboard the magical mystery tour and gastronomic extravaganza of the finest order. We mean, of course, the progressive dinner. If you have not been on one before, then get your ear to the phone and join in, but be warned past participants are after the seats, so move it! It will be great to see some of our less frequent socialisers, so please come along and renew a few hostilities - sorry - acquaintances.

The bus holds just over 20 people and half the seats were pre-booked as soon as word got out. The cost will be a reasonable \$25.00 (approx) which includes transport, meals and fun (double helpings) - (a pre-journey lip-loosener may also be squeezed in).

If demand is as great as has been, a second bus (or van) will be commissioned. One last thing, a couple of volunteers to hold or prepare a course are needed. I say prepare, as we may try to "eat out".

More next month. Please contact Bill Boustead on 364 6356 with any enquiries or book with Susie on phone number 331 2385.

THE UEC NEWS

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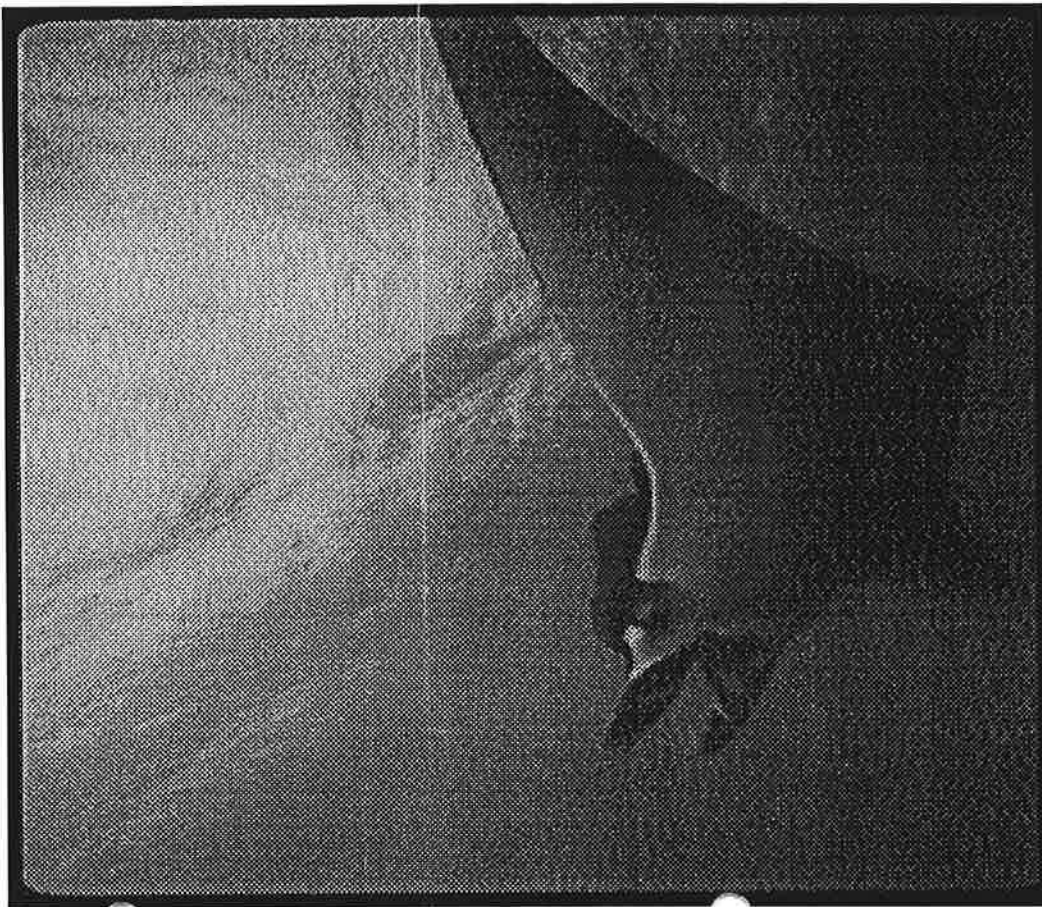
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Geoff & Hetty Geard
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FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

MARCH 1996

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MAGAZINE EDITOR	Steve Larter	Phone 291 9654
SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385
DIVE BOOKINGS	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385

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CLUB CALENDAR

MARCH / APRIL 1996

MONTH/DATE	EVENT	SKIPPER	DO
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MARCH

Sun	17	Deep Dive	Richard	Brian M
<i>Mon</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>GENERAL MEETING at 8.00pm</i>		
Fri	22	Prawn Dive / BBQ	Kerry & Susie	
Sat	23	One Tank Dive	Bob	Kerry
Sun	24	BSAC/JUEC	Peter H	Luc
Sat	30	Social : Full day Cable Water Ski Park / BBQ		
Sun	31	Two Tank Dive	Barry	Brian M

APRIL

Sat	6	Exploratory	Richard	TBA
Mon	8	Easter Monday Dive	Geoff	TBA
Sat	13	One Tank Dive & Freeo Harbour Lunch	Kerry	Jim
Sun	14	West End	Geoff	TBA

Mon 15 GENERAL MEETING at 8.00pm Guest Speaker

Sat	20	Fishing Trip	Peter	
Sun	21	Skippers & DO's Choice	Dennis	Maree
Sat	27	One Tank Dive	Bob	Steve
Sat	27	Social : Progressive Dinner		
Sun	28	Two Tank Dive	Peter	TBA

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions and members should keep in contact with DO Kerry Ashton - 331 2385

Phone DO Kerry Ashton on 331 2385 for dive bookings or inquiries.
DO NOT RING THE CREW.
 Dives will depart from East Street Jetty, Fremantle at 8.00am

RECIPE Susie Ashton

THE ART OF COOKING CRABS

Make sure the crabs are still ALIVE (or only very recently dead).

Add to a big pot of BOILING WATER.

Cook for only 3 - 4 minutes (begin the timing from the moment the last crab goes into the pot).

Only cook about ten crabs at a time.



And Here's A Yummy Recipe for Chilll Crabs

You'll Need:

- 8 Crabs
- 4 tbspn Olive Oil
- 3 Cloves Garlic
- Fresh Ginger
- 1 Cup Roughly Chopped Parsley
- 2 Long fresh Chillies, chopped finely, seeds and all
- 1 Cup White Wine

Here's How:

Clean uncooked crabs by pulling off the back, washing out the innards and breaking in half.

Chop up garlic, ginger, chilli and parsley and mix together into a lovely green mixture.

In a large frying pan, heat the oil, throw in the parsley-garlic mixture and fry gently until fragrant - this takes seconds only.

Throw in the prepared crab halves, tossing around in the hot fragrant oil to coat with the mixture. Fry over a high heat until crabs begin to change colour, (about 2 - 3 minutes).

Now slurp in the white wine, cover with a lid and steam for 2 - 3 minutes at most, stirring a few times and cooking only until they are all red.

Serve with lots of fresh crusty bread and a nice green salad.

These crabs are best eaten outside with lots of newspaper for a table-cloth and finger bowls.

EDITORIAL Steve Larfer

With ever increasing numbers attending our monthly meetings and organised dives things are really going well. It is satisfying for the Committee of Management to see increased member activity and the return of some of our previous members who are keen to get involved again in the many varied activities we are privileged to choose from.

The more activities we can offer, the stronger our membership will become. New members are attracted to organisations which have motivated people who demonstrate their commitment to their Club by supporting each other.

Remember all of us are dedicated to the success of our Club and to having a good time along the way.

Life Be In It - but have a wicked time.

Steve

Letter to Editor

Correction re: Prawning Report in the UEC News February edition:

"Sandy Webb with her little girl should have read ".... little grill"

Regards

Susie

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

Our annual weekend diving and fun at Rottnest is over for another year and I think most people would agree that it was a success. Certainly the fewer members meant much more relaxed diving. Luck was also with us this year, allowing us to experience a wonderful dive at the West End. Susie has kindly offered to organise next years holiday, but I am sure she won't mind me reminding you now that we need deposits to secure your place. Only 2 places remain, so hurry!

Has anyone noticed how pleasant our meetings have become lately? Lots more members and their guests are turning up to enjoy the social atmosphere that is now more prevalent. Keeping business to a minimum and showing an occasional video seems to have increased the members. If we apply enough pressure, perhaps Susie will bring another video this meeting also.

Must go now - the gang want to go get wet. See you soon.

Maree

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

This month has been a good month for the boat with major improvements being completed and usage well up. The boat was penned for a week at Swan Yacht Club just prior to the Rottnest long weekend, giving us the opportunity to get plenty of work done. The anchor is now permanently mounted on the bowsprit and we have a set of beautiful clear weather proof side covers for both sides of the boat. These have proved extremely effective and useful already. One wonders how we ever did without them. On the down side, the anchor rope placement in the fore peak is proving to be a problem and more work has to be done here.

The bottom has been given a good scrub and the anti-foul polished back to a new layer. An almost unbelievable 23½ knots was achieved on "sea trials" just after the bottom clean.

The most important development by far was the appointment, by the Committee, of two new Skippers, Geoff and Kerry. Congratulations to them, they have worked hard and long and deserve the credit. I must say I'm almost surprised they retained their enthusiasm over such a long time, but they have and even become keener now!

This also means a whole new era could open up - with a drier more comfortable boat and extra Skippers to provide the manpower - more diving, more social functions using the boat.

Apart from all the above I am also pleased to report the boat and machinery has operated well over the period with no new problems arising.



NOMINATIONS

Ferris Family - Attadale (PADI)

Cheers Folks!

Stubbie

DIVERS / BLUDGERS

Peter Leach

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE



A recognised diving qualification is essential. Applicant must be experienced bludgers, particularly in the areas of:

Watching ladies; smaller and weaker divers; load and unload the Club boat; talk to the Skipper; pretend to repack dive bags; rushing to the toilet etc when loading and unloading is in progress.

Shifty, sly, shameless and bone idle individuals will be favorably considered.

If you think you have any of the above experience or think you would like to gain this experience please apply quoting Ref No U. P. ISS M.E. O.F.F. to:

Another Dive Club
GPO Box 4Q2
Perth

BITS and PIECES

TITANIC MEMORY

More than 80 years after her father, Thomas Brown, died in the Titanic disaster, Edith Haisman, aged 97, was presented with the gold watch he was wearing when the ship went down.

Mrs Haisman was 16 when she and her mother were put in a lifeboat by her father with the words: "I'll see you in New York". She never saw him again. At a hotel in Southampton, a company salvaging the wreck of the ship on the bed of the Atlantic presented her with the blackened watch her father had worn on a gold chain.

FEATHER STARS

These beautiful creatures can be seen poling their feeding arms out of crevices on nearly every dive we do yet it is surprising how ignorant divers are about them, many not even recognising them as living creatures.

They consist of the feeding arms that they extend up from a central disc, with a cirri that extends below the disc and attaches the Feather Star to the bottom structure normally in rocky crevices. The feeding arms use numerous little branches to trap plankton for food which is then transported along mucus lined grooves to the mouth which is situated on the top of the central disc next to the anus. They breed by use of reproductive organs situated on the feathery branches called pinnules, eggs and sperm are released into the open water where once fertilised, the eggs hatch in larvae that eventually settle to the bottom and grow into the adult form thus starting the cycle all over again.

They can range in colour with the Common Feather Star being usually orange, brown, green or black. They can have as many as 40 arms and can grow to approximately 20cm long. They move by either swimming by undulating the arms or clumsily walking on their cirri.

So next time you're on a dive, take time to have a closer look at these pretty little creatures, they won't bite, however, whatever is under the ledge with them, well that's another matter!



DIVING DELIGHTS

Kerry Ashton

Once again I am glad to report the boat has been fully utilised, there is still room on the boat however for those reluctant/busy members. Don't forget the Club provides a very good platform for diving. Possibly the best and safest in Perth.

The varied sites we visit from Garden Island through Carnac, Mewstone, Straglers out to Rottnest and back towards the Marmion Marine Park, have provided some superb summer diving. Sitting here at Rottnest as I write I can only think of the terrific dives we have had during the Club long weekend.

- **Swirl Reef** - Huge caverns and caves, large stringrays. Plenty of colour and fish life - good visibility. Anybody for second hand equipment apply Nick.
- **Jumbo Liar** - Shallow reef system with great tunnel and cave system. Provided dinner enjoyed by all for tips corner Maree.
- **Night Dive** - A totally different beautiful experience each to observe small behavioral aspects.
- **West End** - Spectacular reef system with caves and tunnels. Glorious colour with corals gorgonians and sponges, great variety of fish.
- **Parker Point East** - Minor drop off with gully's, octopus, gliding eagle rays, grazing schools of fish.
- **8 Metre Lump** - A good shallow dive with nooks and crannies.

SECRETARY'S SCRIBBLINGS

Geoff Charlton

The motion to change the Distribution of Assets clause in the Constitution which was passed at the February General Meeting has lapsed as it does not comply with the Associations Incorporation Act - we will keep you up-to-date with developments.

Geoff

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North Perth: 18 Scribro Bch Rd	444 5333
5th Fremantle: 109 Hampton Rd	335 2044
Victoria Park: 1 Mint St	362 2270
Albany: Cockburn Rd	(098) 41 1622

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BLAST FROM THE PAST

Steve Larfer

HOW UEC GOT ITS RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER

On Sunday 18 March 1962 Max Shaw, a 26 year old UEC diver, was one of six divers who was doing a 200 foot dive. Bottom time was scheduled for 2 minutes with no staged decompression planned.

Next day Max was rushed to Royal Perth Hospital and diagnosed with "the Bends".

Emergency calls went out as there was no recompression chamber in Perth. A chamber was located in an Augusta backyard. Its previous owner, Tom Snider, a salvage diver who had died in 1961 in an aircraft accident. Tom used the chamber to decompress in comfort on the salvage boat as it returned to Port.

Local fisherman, Arthur Morner, collected the chamber from Augusta and rushed it to Busseton where he rendezvoused with the newspaper delivery van. The chamber arrived in Perth at 3am Tuesday.

Staging tables were received from navy doctors in Fremantle and Sydney.

Fred Villier, the Engineer who constructed the chamber, assisted Frank Marshall to commission the chamber. Max entered the chamber at 9am Tuesday. At 2am Wednesday (total 17 hours) Max was at surface pressure. The Doctors examined Max who had lost the use of his legs due to a nitrogen bubble pressing on his spinal cord. Max had improved but the bubble had not completely dissipated. Max went straight back into the chamber.

Max spent a total of 38½ hours in the one man capsule (recompression chamber). His first words when released was "I fell fine but I'd like a bath".

The sequel to this incident was that UEC was determined to have a recompression chamber located in the metropolitan area. A UEC deputation approached the Minister for Health.

Application was made to the State Lotteries Commission who provided £150, a further £100 was raised by the members of UEC. The one man chamber you now see in our Clubrooms was commissioned early in December 1962 and was loaned permanently to the Fremantle Hospital. I have not found any records of how often the chamber was used. If any members have any information please share it with all of us.

Max gradually regained complete feeling sensation in his right leg. Max admitted two things: (1) he calculated he overstayed his bottom time by 1 minute; (2) he ascended too quickly. His buddy took longer ascending and suffered no after effects.

Any volunteers for a 3½ hour session in the chamber.

Steve

WORD FIND

C S B L U S P E R M W H A L E
L A R O C H S D I U Q S E R S
A N S E W A T E R P E O P L E
M D E H I R N G U M I W S S E
S B A E R K L O B S T E R R R
J L L E H S I F B T D O C E T
E U S M N E O O I O P T H V L
L E S I W A N C S N O S P I L
L W E T A H F E H E I H L D E
U H A C R O I A O F S O A A H
F A S R P R S N R I O O N B S
I L T A S S H A F S N K T U E
S E A B E E T T P H U S S C N
H J R S A S A N D C R A B S O
S U P O T C O S E A W E E D C

Find all these words in the puzzle. Go along line by line and get all the letters circled and find the missing word. GoodLuck!

★★ STOP PRESS ★★

At our next General Meeting on Monday 18 March there will be a slide show presented by Geoff Geard. "Slides of the Orient" will include countries such as China, Taiwan, Japan, India and the Maldives.

See you all there!

SEA
OCEAN
SHARKS
ORCA
WATER
SEALS
WHALE
BLUE WHALE
JELLYFISH
OCTOPUS
SQUIDS
CORAL
SEAHORSES
HERMIT CRABS
CLAMS
LIONFISH
SPERM WHALE
CONE SHELL
SEA HORSES
SEASTAR
CATFISH
STONEFISH
STARFISH
TREES
SWIM
POISON
HOOKS
PEOPLE
PLANTS
SEAWEED
SANDCRABS
LOBSTER
PRAWN
FISH



SOCIAL SCENE - Susie Ashton



Coming Updates for our Social Program:

Sat Mar 30 - Cable Water Ski Park
Sat Apr 27 - Progressive Dinner
Sun May 26 - Boat Rally
Fri June 21 - Ten Pin Bowling

*** STOP PRESS * STOP PRESS ***

Please note that we have changed the date for the PROGRESSIVE DINNER since last Newsletter. This way we now have secured our Main Course Provider - SANDY WEBB. Should be a great night out! Book early!

Susie

DRAWING REPORT From 21 February

A voice in the dark: "I got the biggest!" Quick reply from all other prawn divers (except PETER HORTON): "No, look here, look at MY one, I got the biggest!" OK. Line them up - let's check this out. Well, it was a close cut between ROGER SMITH's and KERRY's. As you probably already have guessed, this was yet another successful UEC Prawnning Night.

**NEXT PRAWN DIVE:
FRIDAY 22 MARCH**

SOCIAL REPORT #1

A nice Island Day on Garden Island was hopefully enjoyed by all who attended. 26 members and families including Barry Kennedy and family who helped ferry with his own boat everyone from the mooring at Heron Bay to shore (thanks Barry). Activities for the day included snorkeling, crabbing, sight seeing and barbecuing in magnificent surroundings.

Sea-Lion watching at Carnac Island was a great success for the late afternoon. With temperatures in the high thirties the Island was the coolest place to be.

Why not make this an annual event?

Thanks for your support.

Bob

BIG SOCIAL EVENT IN MARCH

SATURDAY 30 MARCH

**FAMILY FUN DAY
GETS GO SKIING**

**CABLE WATER SKI PARK
at Spearwood**

Entry - \$2

Includes pool, playgrounds and use of BBQ. What is available: water skiing \$15, water slides \$5, mini golf \$4.

Our central meeting place:

Area No 7 (BBQ by the pool) from 11 a.m. Look out for UEC's party flag!

What to Bring:

Own wetsuit and gloves (if skiing) and a BBQ pack (also available at the Park). We plan to eat together around midday.

All inquiries to Sandy on 337 5451 (a/h) and bookings with Susie on 331 23895.

POTTEST GOSSIP

Keep abreast of the happenings:

- > Wunda about Rhonda with the titillating tattoos.
- > No Carpet Snakes, only wall snakes.
- > The winner of the boat scrub - the water skier to fly to Thompson.
- > Sea Lion stealth - not food for the health. The buoy retriever. Oh what a bummer!

Romy

MONDAY: One dive before the bulk of the mob had to return to the main island. In the Party House, JIM goes back, MICHEL, KERRY and myself stay and OSCAR, the snake moves in. (I had problems with having a relaxed sleep that night).

Susie

THE UEC NEWS

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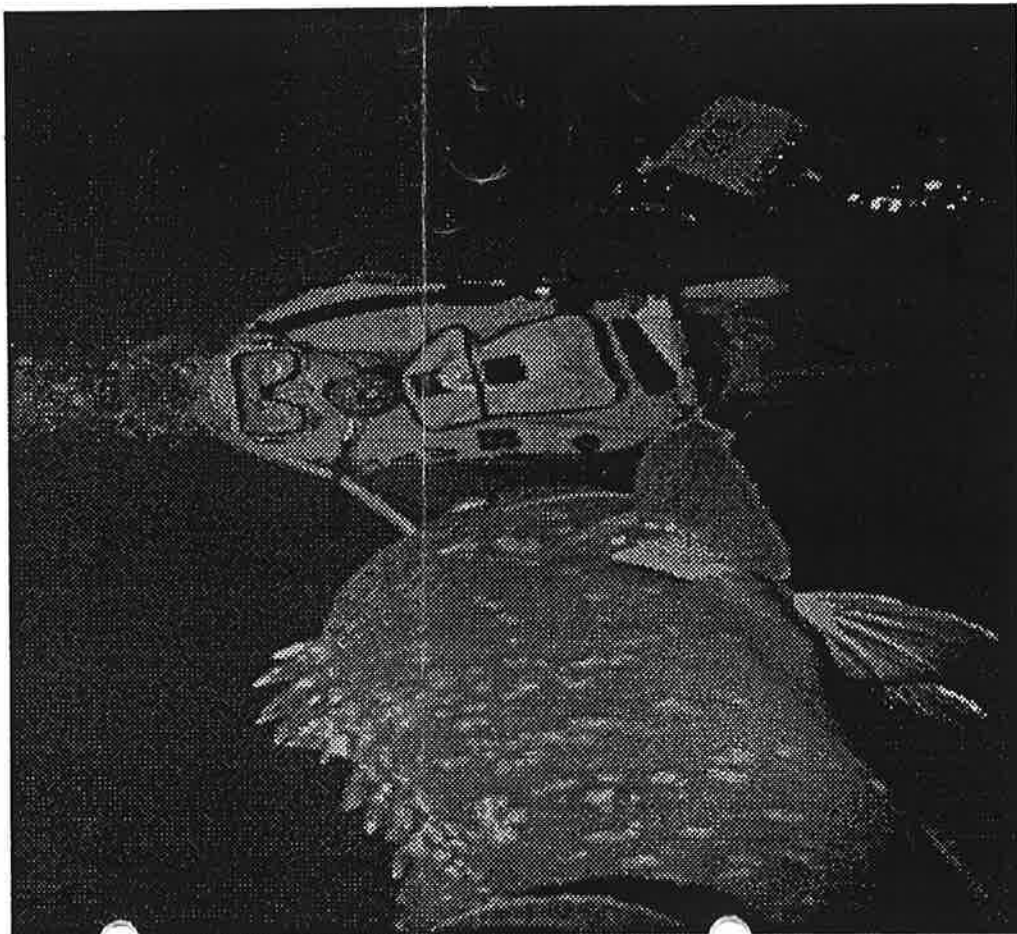
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APRIL 1996

Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Cr
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

THE COMMITTEE 1995/96

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	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385
BOATING OFFICER	Dennis Stubberfield	Phone 457 3333
SAFETY OFFICER	Gordon Magee	Phone 331 3740
TRAINING OFFICER	Vacant	
BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Steve Larter	Phone 291 9654
SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385

DIVE BOOKINGS Kerry Ashton Phone 331 2385

Bill - 109 Diver - 364 6356 Hm

STOP PRESS

Stocks of Club Tee Shirts and Fleecy Tops have run out prior to new orders.

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for placing your orders

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CLUB CALENDAR

APRIL / MAY 1996

MONTH/DATE	EVENT	SKIPPER	DO
APRIL			
Sat 6	1 Tank Exploratory	Richard	Luc
Mon 8	EASTER DIVE	Geoff	Brian
Sat 13	1 Tank Dive & Free Lunch after	Kerry	Jim
Sun 14	BSAC (West End?)	Geoff	Brian
GENERAL MEETINGS at 8pm - Video Show			
Mon 15			
Fri 19	Prawn Dive		Kerry
Sat 20	FISHING TRIP	Peter	-
Sun 21	DO's Choice	Dennis	Maree
Sat 27	1 Tank Dive	Bob	Steve
Sat 27	SOCIAL: Progressive Dinner		
Sun 28	2 Tank Dive	Peter	Luc
MAY			
Sun 5	BSAC (Mary's Garden)	Kerry	BSAC
Sun 12	Orizaba Wreck	Peter	Brian
Sun 19	1 Tank DEEP dive Lunch at Roto	Barry	Kerry
GENERAL MEETING - Guest Speaker on Shells			
Mon 20			
Sat 25	2 Tank Dive	Bob	Steve
Sun 26	SOCIAL: Pirate Boat Rally on the river		

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions and members should keep in contact with DO Kerry Ashton - 331 2385

Phone DO Kerry Ashton on 331 2385 for dive bookings or inquiries.
DO NOT RING THE CREW.
Dives will depart from East Street Jetty, Fremantle at 8.00am

DIARY FROM ROTTO LONG WEEKEND March '96

Susie Ashton

EDITORIAL

Steve Larfer

Friday:

A rough crossing from Freo to Geordie Bay. Three cottages filled up with UEC members and their families. A brief gathering was held in "The White House" to plan diving activities.

Saturday:

Top diving on Swirl Reef. Massage session in "The Party House", where we also have a stereo/CD set-up with music for all moods and occasions. A few intrepid divers went for a night dive by the sewage outlet. I experienced a great feeling, being back in the dark depths of the Indian Ocean, instead of the silty bottom-scratching dives in the Swan.

The late evening "Surf 'n' Turf" BBQ dinner resulted in nobody making it to the Thomson Bay concert that night.

Sunday:

Another day full of beautiful diving. This time at the WEST END and I finally must agree - this IS a fantastic dive site, when you hit the right spot. We were even able to dive right under the break!

Back in the "Party House", BASIL (our pet mouse from last year) appears on the door step.

Another BBQ dinner and this evening we actually made it to the concert, which wasn't much to rave about anyway. But "my Party Boys" had a good time with RHONDA "The Fallen Madonna with The Tattoo on her Boobie" - till her boyfriend abruptly snatched her back to safety.

Monday:

One dive before the bulk of the mob had to return to the main island. In the "Party House" JIM went back, MICHEL, KERRY and myself stayed for another week and OSCAR, The Snake, moved in.

- TOWARDS 2000 -

Members who were at our last monthly meeting will be aware of discussions that have taken place between UEC and the Swan Yacht Club. Negotiations have proceeded since our last meeting and we have been offered a fantastic opportunity to affiliate our membership with the Swan Yacht Club. The Committee of Management are unanimous in recommending to the UEC membership that we accept the offer.

The future of UEC is of paramount importance to all of us and to secure our future we must embrace an opportunity when it presents itself.

For UEC to continue its strong tradition in the Perth diving community we must attract new members who, when looking for a recreational club to belong to expect the best, both in diving activities and social activities. We are no longer unique in the diving community so we must offer more than our competitors for membership. This opportunity is going to enable UEC to offer its membership much more than we presently can.

Come along to the April monthly meeting to find out more and lend you support.

See you there!

Steve

Susie

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

This past month has been busy, busy, busy with Dennis and I on holidays - diving, fishing and boating as much as possible. In fact, this report will be on the short side because we have only come home for the Committee Meeting.

Our 2 week sojourn at Rottnest had some wonderful highlights where we dived several times down at the West End breaks (spectacular) and by contrast, some very ordinary weather when we couldn't dive at all. One memorable dive was at Martin's Arches when Peter Horton and I found the remnants of a wrecked launch. This is a truly great dive - so next time there is a low swell and no wind badger the Skipper and DO to take you down there. I promise you that this will be one of the best dives you will ever do!!!

Now on to even more interesting topics. Following the last General Meeting, I obtained some more information from the Swan Yacht Club regarding affiliation and the Committee of Management has resolved to recommend to members that we proceed with affiliation. Affiliation with Swan Yacht Club presents us with some very exciting options and possibilities for the future development of our Club.

Come along to the next General Meeting and we will go through all the details. I hope to see you there.

Maree

GIANT COD TAKES ANCHOR

It's not every day you find a giant Queensland cod on the end of your anchor line, but that's what happened to two recreational anglers fishing for whiting about 10km off Hilliarys in late January.

The fish, later measured at 1.95m (6'4") in length, had probably mistaken their small anchor for a slow-moving snack when the fishermen began to raise it.

In Western Australia, any member of the cod family *Epinephelus* measuring more than 1.2m is protected and must be returned to the water alive. This family includes estuary cod, Queensland groper and the fully protected potato cod.

Unfortunately, the fish caught by Rod Thompson and Dudley Batten appeared to be already sick or injured and though freed from the anchor, it remained floating on the surface. The groper took up almost the full width of their 2.1m wide gaff and four people were needed to carry the fish ashore. It was taken to big storage freezers at Underwater World at Hilliarys, where Fisheries Department scientists have begun tests to determine its age, estimated to be at least 40 years. Its weight of around 95kg indicated the fish's poor condition as a healthy groper of that size would be expected to weigh about 200kg.

Queensland gropers, rarely found in Perth waters, are the world's largest reef-dwelling fish and can grow up to 3.6m.

"It's every kid's dream to catch a whale of a fish on an anchor, and here it was," Dudley Batten said. "I've never seen a fish with a mouth like this one - I reckon that I could have climbed through it and I'm a solid 5'10". However, I'm a little sad it didn't survive and we'd have preferred to see it swim away."

Large cod are protected in West Australian waters to allow them to remain as breeding stock.

Fishers who bring large cod to the surface and find they are bigger than 1.2m can help ensure the fish's survival by not taking the fish out of the water, carefully removing hooks from the mouth or cutting the line if the fish is hooked deeply. And above all, handle the fish gently.

The Fisheries Department is currently developing a brochure which details the best methods of returning fish alive to the water.



DIVING TIPS

Kerry Ashton

Do you remember!

Nitrogen Narcosis

- ✓ An anesthetic quality of nitrogen
- ✓ Occurs approaching depths of 30 metres and beyond
- ✓ Symptoms include:
 - ✓ Anxiety
 - ✓ Full headiness
 - ✓ False sense of security
 - ✓ Euphoria
 - ✓ Misjudgment
 - ✓ Drowsiness
 - ✓ Abandon

✓ Signs include:

- ✓ Impaired judgment
- ✓ Languid and semi-conscious
- ✓ Behavioural problems
- ✓ Slow thinking

✓ Mitigating factors:

- ✓ Inexperience with deep diving
- ✓ Anxiety
- ✓ Excessive workloads
- ✓ Tiredness
- ✓ Alcohol and drugs

Fortunately, there appears to be no long term effect of the direct narcosis. The solution is recognition of the narcosis (self or buddy) and to ascend to shallower water inside your table limits.

ROGERS SHAME FILE

Roger Smith

He sneaked his boat within 50 metres of another dive flag and invaded a tranquil dive site at Swirl Reef. This man, who is in his mid sixties then slung a tank on his back and entered the water without any sort of buoyancy control, no wet suit, no buddy and carrying a large speargun. He appeared quite amazed when divers from the other boat got angry at him and threatened to report him to the authorities. He asked the question, "has something changed that I don't know about?" The answer is yes, the times. Wake up and catch up, the day of the cowboy has gone. We are now living in a world where people are expected to act responsibly while scuba diving, neither endangering themselves or the underwater environment.

SHAME! SHAME! SHAME!

WANTED

A group of forty idiots- people? required for a free fun weekend in the Avon Valley. Yes thrillseekers, it's that time of the year again when a group of dedicated people brave the elements for the Avon Decent. I require twenty fit divers for the in water rescue team as in previous years, but this year we also require a team of twenty shore based rescuers to assist.

Anybody wishing to participate in the teams please contact me stating in water or shore based, also if you have any friends interested don't hesitate to ask them along. Dates for training TBA.

Phone: Jim Robson (H) 454 7868 (Mobile) 014 081 774

Kerry

DIVING DELIGHTS

Kerry Ashton

Once again we have had some excellent diving as we move from Summer into Autumn (possibly the best time of the year for conditions and visibility). I am encouraging Skippers and DO's not to cancel dives on the weather report the night before and to assess the conditions in the morning. This means a two tank dive may become a one tank dive, utilising the better early morning conditions, or be cancelled in the morning at the jetty. With this approach I am sure we will have more diving, reacting to the immediate weather and not the "worst case" weather report.

Remember, diving like driving requires continual reassessment, adjustment for and appreciation of the diving environments we choose to visit. A number of what could be called "incidents" have occurred over the past few months, concerning disorientation, narcosis (not drugs) and buddy separation. These were all handled adequately by those involved, displaying good training and dive sense. Congratulations Guys!!

It does happen and does not need to mean the end of diving, so practice your skills, brush up on your theory and look out for the articles we or others publish.

Happy and safe diving.

Kerry

TRAINING

Kerry Ashton

I am going to start an ADVANCED DIVER course after Easter. If you feel you want to further your skills in some of the areas such as deep, night, navigation, AND have some fun at the same time, please let me know a.s.a.p. so I can give you the book to read before the first theory lesson on:

WEDNESDAY 17 April

This course involves home study, knowledge review and five open water training dives.

Kerry

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GARDEN ISLAND KAS

A Unique Dive Site Near Garden Island

RMS (Royal Mail Steamer) ORIZABA was a 460 foot long, 4 masted passenger liner, built by the Barrows Ship Building Co in 1886. Owned by the Pacific Steam Navigation Co, she was on charter to the Orient Line when she left London for Fremantle and other Australian ports on January 13 1905.

While approaching Fremantle on 16 February she ground to a halt in the shallow section of limestone reef we now call "Five Fathom Bank". After off-loading its 160 passengers and crew, she was stripped of all furniture and fittings. The ORIZABA today rests where she was grounded. The 6,300 ton ship never really sank and is now leaning to one side in 8m of water.

The extensive bow lies in 8m of water, where you can enter chambers, which lead out to the exterior.

At the stern is a massive steel wheel and axle. This is a very impressive sight that I'll never forget. It's the rudder quadrant and would have been just inside the stern, driven by chains to actuate the huge rudder.

When Kerry and I last dived here (a few years ago now) we encountered many different species of schooling fish and individuals, now taking their refuge in the boiler area and other places. A BRILLIANT DIVE, NOT TO BE MISSED!

We have scheduled this wreck dive for Sunday 12 May. The weather conditions need to be right, otherwise it's a "hopeless" dive.

BOOK NOW, and cross your fingers! See you then!

Yours in diving.

RAS

THE HYOSCINE HYDROBROMIDE HORRORS Roger Smith

Sunday 5th Feb. A top day out. After ringing up on Wednesday morning I was surprised to be told that the boat was fully booked. It wasn't till the next day that I was confirmed on board. (Heed this warning and book on early). The day before saw 3m swells and me almost cancelling, but the forecast looked promising so I stuck with it and munched on a breakfast of Kwells (See title). The majority of the Divers on board were from BSAC who are a great bunch, especially as we're now getting to know each other a bit better. The only difference between them and UEC is that they seem to be a bit keener on actually diving. Other notable faces on board were Skipper Dennis, Trainee skipper Geoff, D.O. Maree and Peter Leach accompanied by two guests and a mobile phone.

The first dive was on Victoria Station at Roe reef. I've been known to criticise diving at Roe reef, having dived there so often because skippers constantly use it as the easy option. So why is this only the second time I've dived on this particular section of Roe Reef? I have to admit this is one of the top dives around Rottnest, but again please skippers lets not make it a weekly event. Highlights of this dive besides the spectacular scenery was seeing a huge Blue Groper, several Jewie's and on returning to the boat to be greeted by several hundred Bullseyes taking five at five on the shoreline.

The second divesite at Barry's Caves was even more memorable due to some of the very odd things that happened during this dive. As Geoff, Sandy and I prepared to enter the water, the UEC was suddenly surrounded by every other charter boat at Rottnest that day. (No I'm not suggesting that they followed us, but who knows). So I was expecting to see a few other divers about. The first odd encounter was when in one of the large caves I managed to grab hold of a large orange Boxfish. I was feeling pretty pleased with myself so when I saw Peter and his buddy (a lovely woman, but I've forgotten her name) swimming nearby, I thought I'd swim over and give them a look. I handed the fish to Peter who seeing that he could not eat it, soon lost interest and passed it on to his buddy. The dear lady did her best to look interested, but realising there's only so much you can do with a handful of fish passed it on to Geoff, who after a few prods and squeezes passed it onto Sandy, who with a shudder and a look of disgust quickly passed it onto ... THE MAN IN THE HAT? Thinking that perhaps I was getting a reaction from the Kwells I had eaten for breakfast I blinked a few times and did a second take. Sure enough right before my bugging eyeballs was a young Japanese gentleman wearing a baseball cap reversed on his head and nodding gratefully at what he must have thought was a free gift of sushi. Feeling that my privacy was about to get invaded I yelled at him through my mouthpiece "Gimme my f---ing fish back!". Obviously he did not speak English as he bowed, grinned thankfully and passed it on to one of his two female dive buddies for further inspection. It must have been a very curious sight as eight divers, one wearing a hat, played pass the parcel with a live fish in what had now become a very crowded cave. Luckily the very confused and somewhat irate fish ended back in my grasp. The trio from Japan looked on in confusion as I dashed off clutching the rotund fish to my bosom like a rugby forward to make a touchdown for freedom outside the confines of the cave.

As we continued on our way moving further from our own boat we came across many other divers. One interesting event happened as we approached a large swim through. As pair of divers approached us from the opening I noticed that they appeared identical with yellow tanks and black wetsuits. Written down the left sleeve of each in bold white lettering was PERTH DIVING ACADEMY HIRE SERVICE. I chuckled to myself at this and continued to look on as another diver appeared from the opening identically dressed. I was then amazed to see another duplicate pair of divers follow right behind. Again I began to question the effect of Kwells for breakfast as a total of eight of these clones emerged from the same opening. It only needed the appearance of Robert Palmer (If you don't know who he is ask your parents) singing "simply irresistible" to complete my hallucination.

The rest of the dive was "interesting" if only to see how many divers could get into the water at one time. It resembled an Esther Williams movie (If you don't know who she was ask your grandparents) with divers coming from the left, divers coming from the right and divers dropping in from above. The weather conditions for the day were pretty ordinary with a strong swell and fairly poor visibility but this was still one of my more memorable days out on the boat. The moral of the story being if you want to have a memorable experience you have to get out there and make it happen.



SOCIAL SCENE - Susie Ashton



APRIL BIG SOCIAL EVENT

The one of the year we all look forward to in great anticipation!

PROGRESSIVE DINNER SATURDAY 27 APRIL



1. Time and place to meet is: The Club Rooms at 6.00pm for a drink.
 2. Transport leaves at 6.30pm SHARPI!
 3. You must pay the full amount (\$25) at this General Meeting (Monday 15 April).
- NO CHEQUES PLEASE.

Susie

SOCIAL PEDDPI #1

Well, I don't have any really because the Cables Ski Park day had no participants!

Susie

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NEXT MEETING

I said it before (at the March GM) and I'll say it again (here in writing) : UEC is now a proud owner of its OWN TV / VCR set, most kindly donated by BOB McLAUGHLIN. No more dragging your own equipment to and fro the Club Rooms. THOUSAND THANKS, BOBI

So, at the April GM we will have nibbles and show a video on "hang around" and of you that want to "hang around" and socialise a bit after the meeting.



PIRATE BOAT RALLY

And here is a bit more on the PIRATE BOAT RALLY SUNDAY 26 MAY. This is a TOTALLY NEW IDEA, coming from Hetty and Geoff Gead. It should be heaps of fun for the whole family. The more the merrier, so book NOW!

"BOAT RALLY - UEC" RECRUITMENT'S NEEDED!!!

Come along and rule the seas with some 'High Seas Adventure'. Fame, freedom, fortune and treasure. Risks and rewards beyond your wildest dreams.

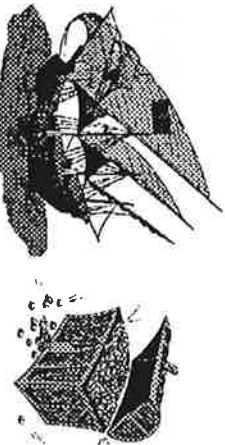
Signing up will be on the UEC Club Boat at the jetty by the Oyster Bed at 9am on Sunday 26 May. Bring \$15 per head; kids under 12 = half price.

Don't miss it!

BYO: BBQ lunch, drinks and rug. Nibbles and Rum Punch aboard! Please wear pirate attire (eg comfortable trousers and baggy shirt).

Further inquiries:

Hetty (Wk: 323 4381 - Hm: 453 1723)



ON THE CLUB NOTICE BOARD

... you will now find that we have put up lists with coming social events to make it easier for you to book ahead. It works out quite well, as you can see from what has happened already. So get in there quick-smart with your precious signature!

(Some of our events have limited places).

But of course you can still ring me on 331 2385 as well to make your booking, if you cannot make it to the General Meeting.

We also have pinned up some photos to look at from the social outing "Island Day".

Susie

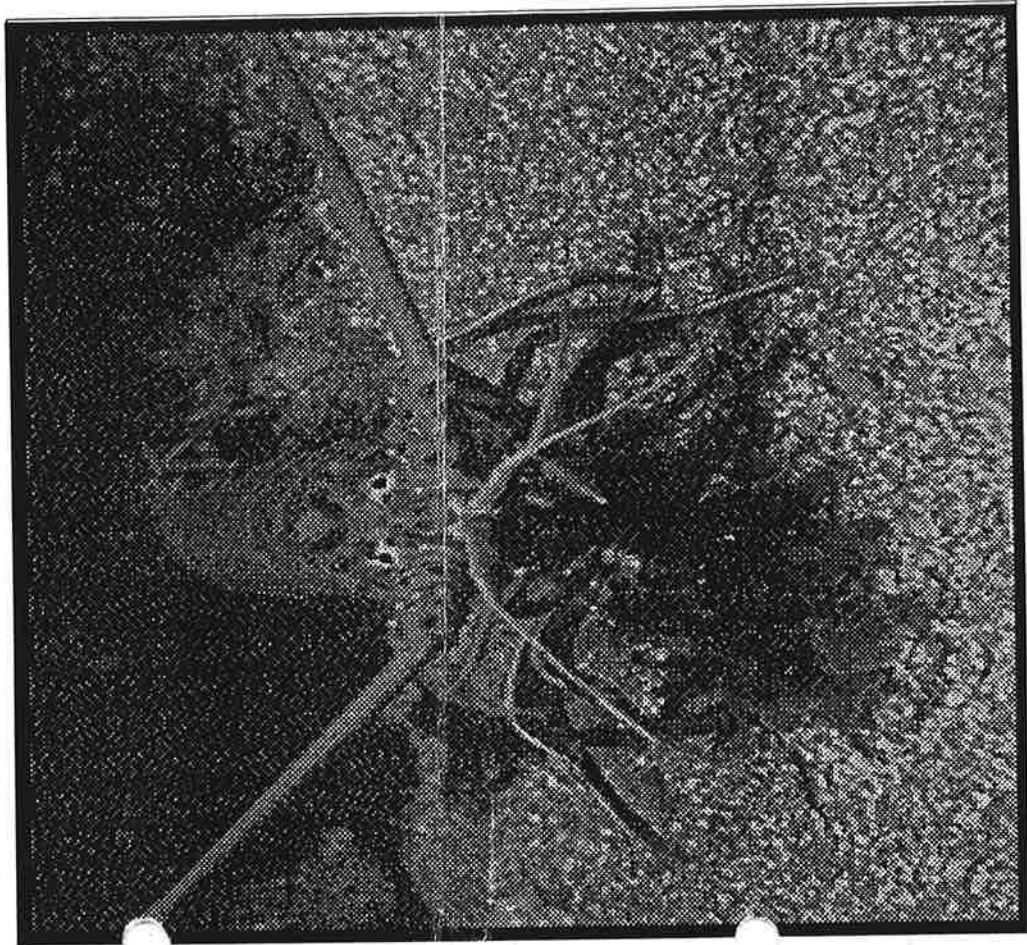


If you live in Melville - Fremantle area and read your local rag, you would have seen a big photo of our DO and a flattering article (26/3) about UEC.

If you missed it check out our Notice Board

THE UEC NEWS

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



MAY 1996

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Underwater Explorers Club of WA (inc.)
PO Box 1157, BOORAGOON, WA 6154.

UEC NEWS

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Geoff & Hetty Geard
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FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

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VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 454 8580
SECRETARY	Geoff Chantton	Phone 451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	Phone 445 2336
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SAFETY OFFICER	Gordon Magee	Phone 331 3740
TRAINING OFFICER	Vacant	
BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Steve Larter	Phone 291 9654
SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385

DIVE BOOKINGS Kerry Ashton Phone 331 2385

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 Good Condition - rarely used.
 Size medium

\$100.00

Contact Brian Murray - 459 4662

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CLUB CALENDAR

MAY / JUNE 1996

MONTH/DATE	EVENT	SKIPPER	DO
MAY			
Sun 5	BSAC (Mary's Garden)	Kerry	Jim
Sun 12	ORIZABA Wreck	Peter	Brian
Sun 19	1 Tank DEEP Dive lunch at Roto	Barry	Luc
GENERAL MEETING at 8pm - Rowley Shoals Slide Show			
Mon 20			
Sat 25	Two-Tank-Dive	Bob	Steve
Sun 26	SOCIAL: Pirate Boat Rally on the River		
JUNE			
Sun 2	*Exploratory* Two-Tank-Dive	Richard	Geoff
Sat 8	*Exploratory* One-Tank-Dive: 7am	Kerry	Brian
Sun 9	BSAC (Two-Tank-Dive)	Barry	Jim
Sun 16	*Crayfish Country* Two-Tank-Dive	Dennis	Maree
GENERAL MEETING at 8pm - Rowley Shoals Slide Show by Jerry Dugh			
Mon 17			
Fri 21	SOCIAL: Ten Pin Bowling		
Sat 22	Two-Tank-Dive	Bob	Steve
Sun 30	One-Tank-Dive: 9am	Geoff	Luc

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions and members should keep in contact with DO Kerry Ashton - 331 2385

Phone DO Kerry Ashton on 331 2385 for dive bookings or inquiries.
DO NOT RING THE CREW.
 Dives will depart from East Street Jetty, Fremantle at 8.00am

ABROLHOS DIVING ADVENTURE Susie Ashton

Kerry and I were lucky to get a place on the live-aboard "Force 5" over Easter this year. (But then again, we booked it a couple of months ahead). There was a nice crowd of another 13 young divers from all over Perth with only one German tourist. Great service and friendly staff. The food was plentiful and superb. Here are some notes from my log book:

OFF STOKES ISLAND: 32m depth @ 30m vis.

Face to face with a Spotted Wobblygong shark. Heaps of different fish. Fanbelled Leatherjacket. Redspeckled Parrotfish. Schools of Bait fish, making huge "clouds" that you could "disappear" in. Many beautiful Electrical Sea Urchins.

GRAVE YARD: 14.4m depth

Don't know why they called this site the Grave Yard with all that marine life around! Lots of healthy coral, heaps of Crayfish, Cuttlefish and more "clouds of Bait fish.

ANEMONE LUMP: 25m depth. Strong current.

One of the most amazing dive sites on earth! Absolutely fabulous! Must be hundreds of different species of the Anemone Animal here. But could actually only see the Clark's Anemone fish inhabiting. Big and colourful Parrotfish. Shark in the distance; not a Whitetip Reefie - something else.

ANEMONE LUMP: 22m depth. Strong current.

Super-great wall drift dive. A Baldchin Grouper followed me all the way. Red Firefish (also called Lionfish or Butterfly Cod). School of "some big fish" that looked very tasty.

STOKES LUMP: 32.5m depth.

Staghorn coral country. Electrical Sea Urchins. Butterfly fish. Blue-barred Orange Parrotfish. White-barred Boxfish. "Attacking Clark's Anemone fish. Ragged-finned Firefish.

ALEXANDER ISLAND: 20.3 depth.

Not too much fish life here. Broken up and dead corals. This place could have been called the Grave Yard instead. Turban shell infestation destruction. Did see a completely red Nudibranch that "saved" the dive.

ANEMONE LUMP: 28.3m depth.

I'll never get tired of diving this site! After admiring the huge area of Anemone colonies, went over the edge and encountered a Yellowtail Angelfish at 20m. Stunning beauty with its blue "mask" and yellow spots on cheek and above eyes.

EDITORIAL Steve Larter

Why Should Divers Get Fit?

What is fit? One definition of fitness means being able to carry out the things you want to do. For participating in sport its easy to see that someone completely out of shape may not perform well during a vigorous dive.

Good cardiovascular fitness improves tolerance to exercise in cold environments. The core temperature of a fit person can drop lower than that of an unfit person before the onset of shivering.

Cardiovascular fitness through aerobic exercise reduces risk of early death from vascular disease, heart disease and high blood pressure.

Increased physical fitness is thought to reduce risk of decompression sickness through circulatory advantages. Cardiovascular and muscular endurance positively affects your capacity for the over exertion common in diving. You call on your exercise reserves for extended efforts such as long swims and currents. The demands of carrying gear around, getting in and out of the boat and for emergencies.

Fitter divers can dive longer.

Regular exercise increase feelings of well being and ability to face emotional stress.

It's vital that personal fitness comes before relying on expensive equipment to ensure your own safety underwater. Regular diving medicals will provide a good indication of your fitness to dive.

For the more adventurous the Avon Descent is on again in August. The Club will be providing members to assist with rescues. Jim Robson will be organising training sessions. The Winter months prevent regular diving so keep up your fitness with regular exercise.



Keep Fit!

Steve

Susie

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

The April General Meeting centred mainly on our proposed affiliation with Swan Yacht Club and discussion regarding the leasing of the Clubrooms. No sooner had the subject been mentioned than Bruce Porter and Brian Murray jumped into the fray and offered to arrange all the leasing formalities. Within days a huge sign had been erected and both of them had begun working feverishly on finding a tenant for us. At the moment there are no takers but it is early days yet.

The Avon Decent is only a couple of months away now and details of our involvement are currently being worked out. Although the details aren't set in concrete yet, we have given the Avon Descent Committee a firm commitment to provide a larger contingent than last year. Of course, in return for the extra effort required on our part the Avon Descent Committee will donate more to our Club, which is very handy in the middle of the Winter cold. If you, your friends or relatives can help by providing shore rescue support, please ring Jim Robson on 454 7868. As soon as the details are known a training schedule will be distributed.

The Progressive Dinner was a great evening filled with good fun, good food and good company. What a great effort by everyone involved - with special mention of Geoff & Hetty Geard. Along with a wonderful soup course, they also provided the diners with a beautifully decorated "dining room" complete with a live music concert. Well done Hetty & Geoff. If the progressive dinner is anything to go by, the Pirate Boat Rally on Sunday 26 May will be fantastic with the Geard's attention to detail. Get on the phone and book a place now while there are still a couple of spots available.

The May General Meeting will also be a great evening. A slide show of the Rowley Shoals is planned, so I hope to see you all there.

Maree

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

I am pleased to report that all is well with the boat, which has performed well over the last couple of months. Minor maintenance has been carried out and the mooring surveyed. New chain installed on the top section of the mooring will ensure at least 6 months trouble free operation. The rest of the mooring is in great shape and should last for decades! Kerry and I turned that event into quite a nice little dive, seeing a few big crabs, a good sized flathead and heaps of other stuff.

The bottom of the boat is becoming a bit weeded up and lightly barnacled again, which costs us dearly in speed and fuel. We are nearing the time when she will be taken to the Bull Creek mooring, about the end of June, just before Avon Descent training, and I hope we will only need one more light bottom scrub to keep operational in that time.

I think I will reserve that chore for the pirate cruise, and keel haul the odd few captives - or perhaps offer it as an alternative to walking the plank, with a nice little flogging thrown in - *won't that be fun me hearties!!*

Cheers Folks!



Stubby!

BUDDY SYSTEM PROCEDURES

As a Club we actively support the buddy system when diving, so here is a refresher.

You and your buddy should agree on an objective for each dive and work together toward that objective. With the specific objective in mind, you should both:

1. Establish entry and exit points and techniques.
2. Choose a course to follow.
3. Agree upon a minimum time and depth limit.
4. Establish and review communication procedures.
5. Establish an agreed-upon air pressure for returning to the surface.
6. Discuss the technique you will use to stay together.
7. Agree on what to do if separated.
8. Discuss what to do if an emergency arises.

Remember: *Plan your dive together and dive your plan together.*

During the dive, you and your buddy are responsible for keeping track of each other and providing each other with assistance whenever possible. In general, you and your buddy should be no more than a metre or two apart during the dive. Staying together is easier if you and your buddy agree to maintain a relative position and follow a general direction until you both acknowledge a change in course. If separated, you should search for each other for not more than one minute, then surface to reunite if you haven't located each other.

TANK CARE and MAINTENANCE KAS

One of the most important pieces of equipment for a diver is the tank. And it is also the most taken for granted. Fill it up, stick on a reg and head down to the depths. No worries. But, tanks must be treated with respect. A full tank has more stored power than a hand grenade!

An aluminium tank, well cared for, should give 20 to 30 years of faithful service. So how do you care for your tank?

The correct transport of scuba tanks is important. When carried in a car, keep the valve to the rear so a sudden stop won't damage the valve. Don't leave tanks in a locked car parked in the sun. The temperature will rise and the air in the tank will expand, blowing the burst assembly. I have heard of one tank ruining the interior of a car, when the burst disk ruptured and set the tank thrashing around.

Always secure tanks when on a boat. Lie them down or use a proper rack. This is not only to protect the tank, but also to save a crushed foot or smashed mask. Always carry a tank by the valve or with a proper tank holder. Never on the shoulder as it could easily fall. A wash down in fresh water after use in salt or chlorinated water is essential and this includes the valve assembly.

The tank must be filled with clean, dry air and it is a good idea to keep a record of where you get your filled. Always have a look at the filling station. Check the location of the air inlet hose to the compressor. The most likely contamination is CO from the exhaust of a petrol engine driving the compressor or water.

NOTE: *IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THE AIR QUALITY, BLEED OFF A SMALL AMOUNT AND SMELL IT, OR BLOW SOME THROUGH A WHITE HANDKERCHIEF. IF THE MATERIAL DISCOLOURS, THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THE FILL.*

The main symptoms of contaminated air are nausea, dizziness or breathing difficulty. If this occurs, surface immediately! - Fresh air will cure minor cases.

Be wary buying a second-hand tank. It may look perfect on the outside but could be corroded on the inside. Or the valve might need a good overhaul. Have the tank checked by a qualified inspector before purchase.

The Australian Standards require scuba tanks to be tested every year but they do not require tank valves to undergo any tests, so every second tank test is a good time to have the valve tested. It can pay to have the burst disk replaced as well at every valve service. The disks eventually wear because of age and it doesn't add much to the cost of the service.

STORAGE OF YOUR TANK

For long-term storage, tanks should be left upright in a cool place. If not used for three or four months the pressure should be bled to 500 to 100 psi to decrease the effect of the partial pressure of oxygen causing corrosion. Tanks should always have at least 100 psi to stop moisture ingress. If the tank has been sitting for some time, then it is worthwhile to clean out the airway before fitting the regulator. Hold the O-ring on the side and beware of the power behind a full tank.

A couple of spare tank O-rings should always be handy. Such a simple, inexpensive item can make or break a dive, if you run into problems.

Don't use too much force when turning off a tank. A tank valve is similar to an ordinary household tap; it only needs a small nip to stop the flow.

Tanks must be treated with respect. REMEMBER, they are like a small bomb when full. But, with good care and attention, a tank will give you many years of trouble-free and fun diving.

DIVING DELIGHTS

Kerry Ashton

Having just returned from a dive today I can report that the water is still warm, just bring a good change of clothes for the trip home. As we turn the corner into Winter and the shorter days of June I have added a few one tank dives and varied the starting times.

Check out the Schedule:

One tank lunch day
(more of a social occasion)

One tank earlier start
(back in time to do the chores)

One tank later start
(for the late risers comfort)

Crayfish day
(June - your last chance)

The Exploratories
(adds spice, anticipation and interest)

We planned a deeper dive further North of Rottnest than normal on one of those lumps. Having made a "racee" of the transits during the Rottnest week, we visited the site a few week later. Being a deeper dive we took all the precautions and ventured down onto a broken reef. Lots of fish, colour, gullies, sponges and oops!; time to head top side again. Without fail everyone reported an excellent dive worth another visit, and so we shall!

Kerry

NOMINATIONS

<u>COX</u>	Maureen	PADI	Bateman
<u>GLASER</u>	Blanka	FAU/INASDS	Como

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A PEA IN THE OCEAN

Anonymous

I once read a fairy tale about a Princess who had a pea in her bed. That was a long time ago, since then I have known a lot of divers who had a pee in their wetsuits, Martin being an exception, he had a fly in his.

While having a pee in your wetsuit on a cold dive might warm you, it makes your wetsuit smell and they say it attracts sharks as well.

But maybe those divers who pee in their wetsuits know something the rest of us don't.

In an article in The Big Weekend we can read that there are millions of people who say urine heals just about everything but you have to drink it or rub it in. They say you can use it as an aftershave, drink it and it will cure dysentery and eczema, pour it in your nose, it will cure sinusitis. Use it as a shampoo and it will grow you hair (Pat please note). An Indian Prime Minister drank a glass of it every day and he lived to be 99 (maybe he would have lived longer without it). It is so good that in America and in Shanghai they collect urine from public toilets and pharmaceutical companies extract "Urokinase" and enzyme which can be used to dissolve blood clots and treat heart attack.

So, if you want beautiful skin and don't mine washing your wetsuit, keep on peeing!

ENDEAVOUR REPLICA

25 May - 13 October 1996

Fishing Boat Harbour Fremantle

Cook's faithful replica makes its long awaited return to Perth after a highly successful trip to the Eastern States and New Zealand. The Endeavour will be returning to Perth for a refit before sailing for South Africa and England.

FOR SALE

One only, ACME nice little fibre glass, Dive, Fishing and party boat named '*ESPRIT DE LA MER*' (ESPRIT for short).

Vital Stats: 25' GLASSCRAFT Cabin Cruiser with 220Hp. BMW petrol engine and BMW MkII stem drive.

Comes with 2 spare legs - dismantled and containing many new and near new parts. Numerous other new parts and recent modification throughout. All safety gear, full storm covers and 3 spare propellers (about \$350 a throw). On licensed tandem trailer with new drawbar, power winch and newly fitted winch cable.

Owners, Maree and Dennis, have discovered she is too small for a prolonged live aboard lifestyle and want a bigger boat! We've got the disease I fear!

Asking an extremely reasonable **\$25,000** for quick sale of the lot.

'ESPRIT' has had extensive maintenance and useful modifications to her in the last few years and is running at her very best - all that work for someone else!! New owner could take over our storage spot under covered at CPBS at Woodmans Point.

Phone Maree, who is the negotiator (I'll be gagged), and Dennis on **457 3333**.



SOCIAL SCENE - Susie Ashton



NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

(FUN! FUN! FUN!)

PIRATE BOAT RALLY SUNDAY 26 MAY



Don't Forget!

RECRUITMENT'S NEEDED!!!

Come along and rule the seas with some "High Seas Adventure" (on the river), Fame, freedom, fortune & treasure. Risks & rewards beyond your wildest dreams.

Signing up will be on the UEC Club Boat at the jetty downstream of the Oyster Bed at 9am. First Boozy Prize: RUM PUNCH!

BYO BBQ lunch, drinks and rug. Please wear pirate attire (eg comfortable trousers & baggy shirt).

We herewith also announce this to be a PHOTO COMPETITION, so don't forget your camera.

Further enquiries: Hetty at home 453 1723.

Bookings: On Notice Board or ring Susie on 331 2385 asap \$sPrice: \$15 - kids under 12 for free

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NEXT MEETING

ROWLEY SHOALS - have you been there yet? If you haven't, I'm sure you really want to after viewing JENNY JUGH'S super slide show.

Jenny is a very experienced underwater photographer, and also holds the position as the secretary of WAUPS. I will have the pleasure of welcoming her to our May General Meeting.

SOCIAL REPORT

This time I really have something to report! Our Annual Progressive Dinner was a HUGE success! I think we have broken all records now. Just try to imagine all this:

From 6pm at the Club Rooms we served a yummiie Champagne Cocktail as a welcome drink. Very popular. I really simple - all I had done was to put some Blackberry Nip (Jadran Wines) in the Champagne.

When we approached Hetty & Geoff Geard's house in Forrestfield, we were met by the soft tones from a 3 piece ensemble playing classical music! What a surprise! Several round tables were set out in their nice patio in front of the house. We served ourselves delicious soups from the kitchen and bread from the decorative hanging baskets outside.

SOCIAL REPORT (cont)

Next stop was at the War Memorial in Kings Park. The weather was absolutely perfect for this occasion. Here Sandy Jackson handed out a delicious shrimp cocktail served in plastic white glasses. We all enjoyed eating this, walking around, admiring the stunning view of Perth by night.

Now on to Bicton and Sandy Webb's ravishing house (with a newly renovated kitchen) for a superb main course. In fact, there were two casseroles to choose from. Sandy had also gone to the trouble to beautifully decorate two big tables with live candles, Eucalyptus leaves, sea stars and a set of shark teeth! I can appreciate all the work behind the table arrangements, presentation and preparation of the food, that was equally wonderful. I think we stayed here for quite a while.

Coffee and sweets, consisting of two different cakes, was served at Wendy and Warren Cummin's house in Kardinya. An extra surprise, I think, when I served a White Port to accompany.

I only feel sorry for you guys that missed out, on this fun-filled evening/night. Some of us didn't get to bed until after 4 o'clock in the morning!

And now - A HUGE, BIG THANK YOU to the organiser, Bill Boustead, Geoff Charlton, who drove us around with a smile, and the above mentioned persons for all their troubles. It's really appreciated by all of us who enjoyed it. I hope you did too.

(Sandy Webb must have spent the whole next day as well to wash dishes and clean up her house!)

ON THE CLUB NOTICE BOARD

Pictures from the Progressive Dinner Party.

And don't forget to do your booking here and now for the Pirate Party and other coming events!

Susie



Rumour has it that Peter Horton is not afraid of anything. On a recent dive out from Straglers he was so busy looking under a ledge for "crays" that he didn't notice an EXTRA, EXTRA large cuttlefish alongside trying to attract his attention by changing colours and waving its tentacles around in an excited manner.

When his dive buddy tapped him on the shoulder and pointed to the cuttlefish, Peter almost walked on water backwards and his dive buddy, Brian, almost drowned laughing.



Also, where would the Club boat be without Pat's decorative and pristine "Barbie" (Dive) Bag?

THE OEC NEWS

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

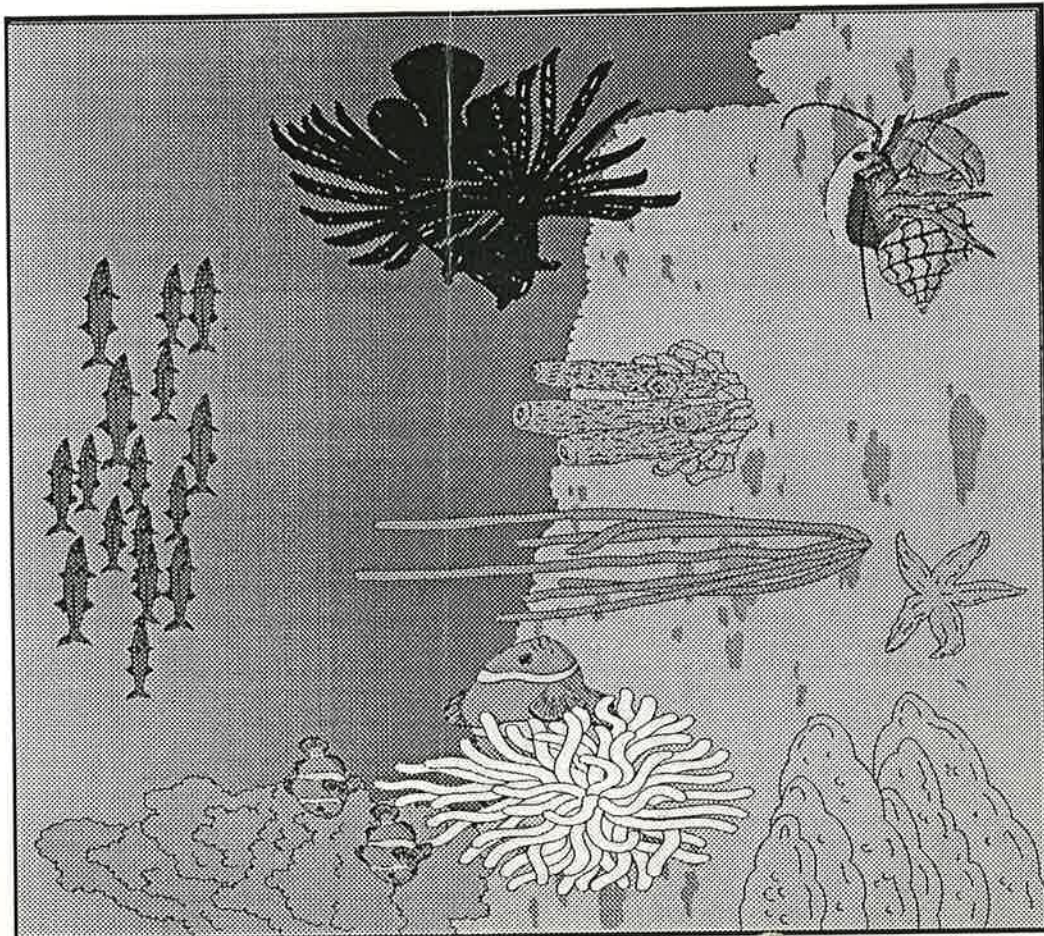
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JUNE 1996

Hetty

Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Cr
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

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SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385
DIVE BOOKINGS	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385

INTERESTED ????

Divers and Fisherpersons Wanted

We are considering Saturday dives, One-Tank, leaving at 8am to Huggalls Passage, Stragglers etc for One dive (around 45 minutes) and then approximately 2 hours of fishing!

Supply your own lunch, bait, lines and dive gear
Estimated cost per person \$15.00

Return between 12.30pm and 1.00pm
Interested? Then ring Brian 459 4662

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Supplied by:

BEHND DESK TOP PUBLISHING
Phone : 459 4662

CLUB CALENDAR

JUNE / JULY 1996

MONTH/DATE	EVENT	SKIPPER	DO
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JUNE

Sun 2	*Exploratory Two-Tank Dive	Richard	Geoff
Sat 8	*Exploratory One-Tank Dive 7am	Kerry	Brian
Sun 9	BSAC (Two-Tank)	Barry	Jim
Sun 16	*Crayfish Country Two-Tank Dive	Dennis	Maree
<i>Mon 17</i>	<i>GENERAL MEETING at 8pm - Video Show</i>		
Fri 21	SOCIAL EVENT - Ten Pin Bowling (Hetty: Phone 453 1723)		
Sat 22	Two-Tank Dive	Bob	Steve
Sun 30	One-Tank Dive 9am	Geoff	Luc

JULY

<i>Mon 1</i>	<i>COMMITTEE MEETING 8pm</i>		
<i>Mon 15</i>	<i>GENERAL MEETING 8pm</i>		
Sun 21	SOCIAL EVEN - "Christmas In July (Bob: Phone 454 8580)		

Weekends in July will be taken up with AVON DESCENT training for the event on the first weekend of August.

NOTE: Kerry and Susie will be away June 17 - July 24

For diving enquiries for this period ring Dennis and Maree on
437 3333

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions and members should keep in contact with DO Kerry Ashton - 331 2385

Phone DO Kerry Ashton on 331 2385 for dive bookings or inquiries.
DO NOT RING THE CREW.
Dives will depart from East Street Jetty, Fremantle at 8.00am

NEW MEMBERS

<u>LOWE</u>	Bob	BSAC	Winthrop
<u>Greenham</u>	Robin	BSAC	Ocean Reef

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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
 Albany: Cockburn Rd (098) 41 1622

" STOP PRESS "

ALL AVON DESCENTERS

TRAINING SESSION

SUNDAY 23rd JUNE

CONTACT JIM ROBSON

FOR VENUE AND TIME

AVON DESCENT.

AVON DESCENT.

EDITORIAL

Steve Larfer

DIVE SAFETY

Looking back over the last 3 or 4 seasons of diving it is hard to recall any really serious incident that has occurred during our diving operations that has caused any major safety breaches.

This record of safe diving is one that is envied by the majority of other clubs, and other diving operators.

We must ask the question, "How have we achieved this impressive record"?

Upon reading our 1984 Newsletters I discovered that during our first year of boat ownership we experienced a number of safety incidence. These incidents were not serious but it was interesting to note that lack of boat diving experience was the underlying factor in some of the problems.

We have come a long way since 1984 and we can now boast the safest boat diving available.

As a club we must not become complacent and allow unsafe boating or diving practices to occur. We must also inform divers who are looking for an active dive club to belong to, about our safe diving and boating practices.

Newly qualified scuba divers are not familiar with boat diving operations. We can offer the best training for boat diving procedures to attract these divers to our club. Let us all spread the safe diving message and keep our club record the best and most attractive in WA.

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

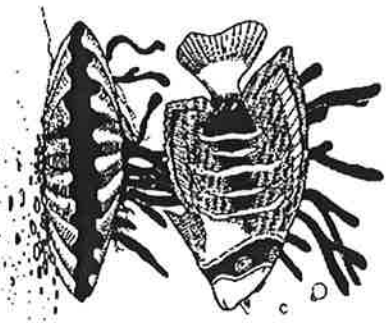
Maree Casley

The hibernation season is now just approaching and diving activities will slow down considerably. Nevertheless the club will still continue to dive as long as there is some interest out there. Susie and Kerry are overseas for a while, so Dennis and I will be looking after the bookings. Give us a ring to find out what's happening.

On the social scene however, things are still moving. Coming up is the Bowling Night - always well attended and a Quiz Night in August to be held at the Clubrooms. Be early for this one because space will be limited. Snap up a table ASAP and book with Sandy for this one.

Finally I know that several of you have been out and about diving in exotic locations like Coral Bay and Exmouth. How about an article for the mag telling the rest of us about your adventures? Many of us can only dream of such diving at the moment, but would welcome the opportunity to read of your experiences.

That's all from me this month and I hope to catch up with you at the next meeting.



Maree

FACT FILE

NEW SHARK REPELLENT DEVELOPED

A South African inventor has developed an electronic device which may be the first effective shark repellent. The device, 'Shark-Off', comes in 2 parts, one of which is attached to the diver's tank and the other to a fin. An electrical field is generated between the two, providing a safe zone of up to 2 metres around the diver. The device is described as having 'tremendous potential'. The device has also been successfully tested by Ron and Val Taylor.

RAS

Did you know:

- > More people visit aquariums each year than zoos. Are they attracted by the peace and beauty of the underwater environment?
- > Sydney Aquarium displays 500 marine species and approximately 4000 individual animals. Aquariums offer everyone the opportunity to observe and appreciate creatures living in many of the world's aquatic environments.
- > All the way from the Antarctic, the Marble Rockcod is one of the few fish that has been successfully maintained in captivity. Found in shallow water to 500m, the water in their tank must be maintained at 3°C; any higher than 5°C and they would die. The Rockcod has a reduced number of red blood cells enabling the fish to survive in the icy waters of the Antarctic.
- > Middleton and Elizabeth Reefs, located 600kms off the east coast of Australia, about 150kms north of Lord Howe Island, are the most southern coral atolls in the world.
- > These two reefs are also the last secure refuge in Australia for the black cod or *Epinephelus daemeli*. The black cod begins life as a female and as it slowly grows larger (up to 50kg), it changes sex to become a male.

GIANT SQUID NETTED AT CHATHAMS

An 8 metre long squid made international news after being netted by a research vessel near Chatham Islands off New Zealand early this year. The 3 year old female squid would probably have grown to over 10 metres if it had reached maturity, but was still the biggest caught in New Zealand waters and possibly in the world. Dr Steve O'Shea, of the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, started motorists as he took the squid back to Wellington stuffed into a trailer after a refrigerated trucking firm refused to carry it.

A WARNING TO OUR FISHING MEMBERS

TRIO SURVIVE DEADLY FISH

Three people are lucky to be alive after eating a metre-long deadly north-west blowfish.

The poison in the fish, which doctors said could kill in 15 minutes, left the Fremantle trio partially paralysed and struggling for breath.

The two men and a woman were taken to Fremantle Hospital after they began to lose their balance, felt as though they were swaying and had difficulty controlling their arms.

The woman and the older man were admitted to the intensive care unit. The second man was not so badly affected, even though he had eaten more of the fish than the others.

The trio, described as regular anglers, cut and fried big fleshy steaks from their 2.5kg catch, landed from a boat in Cockburn Sound. They began to feel sick half an hour after eating the fish.

A Fremantle Hospital intensive care unit consultant said the trio had mistaken the north-west blowfish for a leather-jacket. It had not puffed up when landed and did not have spikes or teeth. When they returned to the beach with their catch they had been stopped by a fishing inspector who commented that it was a good-looking fish. He did not recognise it either, but doctors confirmed that the three had been poisoned by neurotoxin found in blowfish. Doctors said there was no known antidote for the toxin and they could only support patients and let the poison take its course.

Fremantle Hospital warned fishermen to be wary of blowfish, also known as giant toad or puffer fish. The skin, offal and reproductive organs were the most toxic parts. The trio had stripped off the skin but sections of the flesh had become contaminated.

Most West Australians are familiar with common blowfish but they could be confused by north-west blowfish, which were much bigger and normally have four big front teeth, spikes on their head and no scales.

Japanese regard the flesh of certain blowfish, known as fugu, as a delicacy, but it is usually available only in restaurants licensed to serve the fish after it has been expertly cleaned to remove the poison. Nevertheless, about 150 Japanese are poisoned by the fish each year, 51 per cent of them fatally.

There have also been deaths in Australia, the first recorded in Sydney in 1821. Explorer Captain James Cook was reported to have almost died in 1774 after eating a giant toad fish in New Caledonia.

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

There is little to report this month other than the boat and machinery performed very well and no problems occurred. The extremely good weather for this time of year has extended the season and given rise to increased boat usage.

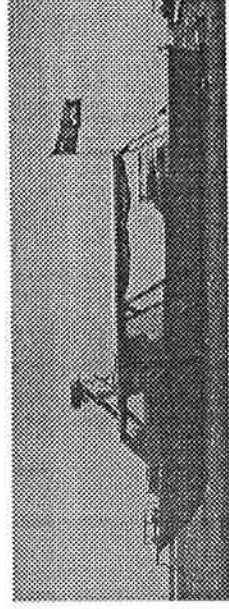
The social event on the river, the now famous Pirate Cruise was an outstanding success and will be long remembered by all who participated. Let's have a few more of this type of boat usage please folks! Not only is it fun, even in winter now, with our nice new weather shields, but does the Club an enormous good in a number of ways.

First, the fun type publicity is seen and remembered by many (those awesome girl pirates turned many a divers head) and the kids loved the mucking around by the more benevolent, lolly distributing Buccaneers. (Hopefully when they get to diving age they will remember)

Secondly, this kind of boat usage is easy on the boat and easy on our pockets: and finally it was great practice for the crew who got to know the river well and all the potential landing spots. A BIG PLUS for the Club and the participants "Me Hearties!"

Cheers Folks!

Scubby!



RESPONSIBLE COMPUTER DIVING

- > Always make your deepest dive first.
- > Always make the deepest part of every dive, first.
- > Check your computer often.
- > Do a safety stop on every dive.
- > Adequate surface interval between each dive.
- > Adequate surface interval between each day of diving (12 hours or until your computer clears).



DID YOU KNOW CLEARVIEW HI-TECH GLASS TREATMENT

- > Prevents fogging for up to 2 weeks.
 - > Reduces eye fatigue.
 - > Excellent for diving goggles, works every time.
 - > No more spitting on underwater spectacles.
- One of our divers has experienced using it for the past 2 years and swears by it.

Manufactured by: Perma-Seal Aust Pty Ltd

NEWS FLASH (cont) Dennis Stubberfield

Right about this time the rich, red, RUM punch started to take effect on the crew. Punch was hardly apt- more like the kick of an angry mule!! Blanca, slurping a bit down her shirt front was going for the wet, red T-shirt look and Michel and yours truly, flogged for swordplay on the quarter deck, opted to rub it into their wounds! Our next salty ashore, to find the buried treasure was right next to Stokesy's house. Here the ships scurvy assortment was divided into two 'watches', and a competition run to see who could get the dinghy away and all ashore the fastest. Your ancient chronicler was in the team that won by 19 seconds, but wished he was on the losing side when that lot all stripped of' I swam the dinghy to shore right under the glass front of Bondy's ex mansion. You will remember dear readers, this, 'as an almost all girl crew!!!! Goodness, that water was cold and they looked pleased to see us!! Having found the treasure, only by coercing the aid of two dear little old ladies, who we accosted, violently at sword point, for information leading to 'Mozz Lookout' and 'Lone Rock', which appeared on our treasure map but not on the road map! Reports had us torching the entire park and stringing up its occupants - quite untrue!! Then it was back to the Tearooms BBQ for the spit roast and midday feast and booze up! Rumours that we disrupted two entire family outings including one lady's 70th Birthday party were also false - we couldn't help it if she wanted to get into the swing of things and do a little flogging too, nor the pack of little ankle biters who inveigled all our hard fought chocolate pieces of eight out of us, the little monsters! Ah! but the feast was a delight, a beautiful Taylor's Cab. Sav. in the belly, truly fabulous and scintillating company and the spoils of war about us. Also rum, mirror seas, the flies too lazy to buzz in the warm sunshine and not a cloud in the sky, you would have to say-

"IT WAS HELL OUT THERE!!"

Hardly above to raise a sword, we put to sea again for more dastardly delights, getting in the way of a timid young couple (with kid) who had the temerity to challenge our path and tie up at the pier. We did not report, not, spit roast the kid!

Determined to pinch a GPS and send some sort of vessel to the bottom, we headed south, sighting the 'Nancy D' along our route, a venerable, obscenely clean, white vessel made of wood (real wood ie, not synthetic rubbish). Here was a prize indeed!! and a change to settle a score or two with that old 'Pirate' UEC Life Member, Dave Kenny who owns her!

"Man the guns, Man the braces, 'Ware ship, look lively you swabs, run that gun out or you'll taste the cat you run soaked sons of dogs!" roared Hetty in a voice that would have smashed the glass window of a bathysphere - we small band of men slaved to breaking - the women were doing their nails!! "A gallon of rum and two harlots to the first man who holes her" and even more imperiously, "I'll personally deliver the last man to board her and serve it up as lamb's fry" ranted Hetty as we rounded up on 'Nancy', guns blazing and crew screaming blood. Gunner Paul was having trouble getting the range though, and Dave, that wily Buccaneer, slipped up... ne smoke of cannon fire and got away! (Geoff you'll have to speak to Hetty about her language). Mosman water tower she looked around for a scapgoat! (Geoff you'll have to speak to Hetty about her language). Well dear readers, since Paul came last in the pillage detail, had, so far, failed the rape test, and scored the lowest marks in the marine biology quiz, our gunner was - so to speak - looking down the barrel!

In full view of the Clough's, the Buckridge's and the Hancock's (what's left of 'em) the plank was run out, nothing less would satisfy the female executive, poor old Paul. Clad only in briefs, Cutlasses at his back, pleading for mercy, he was prodded out to the end of the plank, there finally, to be pushed off into shark infested waters, a dreadful, terrifying, watery grave! Horrible! So if you don't see him around for a while you'll know what happened. Hetty, having calmed down, ordered us back to base, Maree clutching her treasure chest, won by getting less answers wrong than the rest of us and Alison taking the whip off Sandy and giving Michel a few very robust, but friendly lashes just for the sheer, side spitting, fun of it.

Roaring and hooting, singing and shouting she shanty's, made up on the way home, Hetty's band of beautiful brigands and their merry men finally made it back to the Oyster Beds, where the last drop of depravity and rum was eked out, the end of a perfect plundering day.

So you see, me hearties, that was the real truth of the matter and with many thanks and congratulations to Hetty and helpers for an outstandingly successful and pleasant day I'll say cheers! - and don't believe everything you read in the papers or magazines!!

NEWS FLASH!

Dennis Stubberfeld

PIRATES AGAIN SEEN ON THE SWAN - LOCK UP YOUR DAUGHTERS (AND SONS). SECURE YOUR VALUABLES (ESPECIALLY THE FAMILY 'JULES') AND BATTEN DOWN YOUR HATCHES!

Thus ran the hysterical head line in the local rag last week. Amid sensation seeking tales of looting, pillaging, the odd spot of rape (please!) and lurid descriptions of flogging, torture and plank walking; this scurrilous scare mongering, has left a trail of defamation and fearful phobias amongst the innocent, gentlefolk living round Melville Waters. Such irresponsible reporting should be banned, for causing unnecessary dread and worry, for driving house prices down, and encouraging a spate of copy cat crimes!

Therefore it is with a great sense of outrage and moral indignation that your own Rotten, Raving Rothest Reporter has been easily persuaded to unretire (with the usual bottle of 1990 Bin 389 thrown in) to set the record straight and ease the fears of the populace by faithfully reporting the events of that Black Sunday on the Swan, when pirates once again reappeared on these sedate waters. You will know the reported events are all true because R.R.R., was there himself, having been captured by this heinous handful of hellions!

It all started like this dear readers:- Your Ripping little Raver, deciding to evade the doghouse, rowed the Club dinghy out to the mooring for a spot of fishing while the boat was away diving. There he was settled down, rod in hand, bottle of Club Port carefully uncorked and attached to the left rollock, feet up on the transom awaiting the first bite.

When all of a sudden Whami, this dirty, greysided ship slammed into the dinghy and he was dragged kicking and screaming, port and all onto the deck of said raider at Cuttass point. When he finally managed to take his eyes off the blood spattered blade bidding to ventilate the old rib cage, he noted an all-girl pirate crew. What luck! A floral clad Floosie from Forrestfield lead the band, a hearty Harridan from Hamilton Hill, wielded the whip, and yours truly wondered how many lashes he'd have to enjoy before they got around to the rape! No such luck (the lashes I mean). There were a couple of men in the crew, mostly relegated to working the ship, feeding the guns and swabbing the deck. The helmsman was this scruffy, unshaven little bandit who stood on a box to steer the ship. Kiwi.. no Kerry was his name I think. Five other gorgeous looking hags made up the rest of the crew, which your unworthy scribe was forced to join, in order to save his own hide! After several hours of torture and sexual harassment, they finally succumbed and let him join them on a raiding, treasure seeking spree along the Swan, right up to Bondy's Pier. Firstly, reports that we clashed with police at Fremantle traffic bridge, rammed their vessel, overpowered two officers and absconded with the loot were grossly misleading. We did, in fact, clash with police and two officers were overcome, but only with the beauty and fairness of our crew. Their boat wasn't actually rammed - polystyrene cannon shells going close, however, in fairness to Gunner Mulally, who was flogged for missing! Secondly, the Forays ashore at East Fremantle and Chidley Point, were not, as reported, to cut down the power lines across the river and/or to reduce Harry Clough's castle to ruins, respectively, but were in fact to answer a call and to harass a lone gentleman trying to do sunsights with his sextant on the lawns of Mosman Park. We didn't believe this either until he asked us if we had a GPS so he could check his calcs. We promised him we'd steal one the very next ship we boarded and "don't go away we would be right back", such public spiritedness was again grossly misrepresented on the news that night! Reports that we rammed and sank a time trial cruiser of Mosman Tea Rooms, to the delight of the late morning croissant crowd, were again sadly blown out of all proportion. The blighter got away and hid at RFWBYC after very minor harassment!

DIVING ACCIDENTS & ASTHMA

In asthma the muscles of the small airways become oversensitive and over reactive, causing excessive narrowing and obstruction of these passages. This can occur in response to allergy, cold, dryness, infection, anxiety, smoking or other inhalants such as sea water. At the same time, the cells lining these passages produce excessive and thickened secretions. The combination of these factors causes airway narrowing which can have serious repercussions for a diver.

Asthmatics should usually be excluded by a competent diving medical examination. Even so, surveys have shown that between 0.5 and 1% of recreational divers are asthmatics. When this figure is subtracted with the 9% of diving fatalities who have the condition, it implies that asthma is a significant risk factor. As medical histories were only available in half the recreational diving deaths, even this high figure is an underestimate.

The increased risk of pulmonary barotrauma and decompression illness is predictable, considering that asthma narrows and obstructs airways. Added to this is the increase risk of panic, fatigue, respiratory distress, salt water aspiration and drowning, if asthma develops during the dive.

The diving environment can provoke asthma in susceptible divers, in several ways:

> Salt water aspiration

Respiratory physicians use nebulised salt water to provoke an asthmatic attack in cases of questionable asthmas. Divers immerse themselves in a similar solution and often breathe a fine mist of sea water through regulators (when the regulator "bubbles").

> Cold, dry air

Breathing cold dry air precipitates attacks in asthmatics. Divers breathe this type of air continuously. It is effectively dried during compression and cools as it expands while going through the regulator.

> Exertion

This aggravates many attacks. Even the most routine dive can require unexpected and extreme exertion due to adverse environmental factors such as rough water or currents.

> Hyperventilation

The effects of anxiety causes hyperventilation and changes in respiratory gases. Breathing at depth is equivalent to hyperventilation. This will have little effect on normal lungs, but provoke asthma in those so inclined.

> Breathing against a resistance

Many of our cases first noticed problems at depth or if there is increased resistance in the regulator - such as following a low-on-air or out-of-air situation.

Bronchodilators and other Asthma Medications

Bronchospasm can be reduced by aerosol sprays (puffers) containing drugs such as salbutamol ("Ventolin") or other bronchodilators. These can also disturb cardiac rhythm and precipitate the sudden death syndrome during diving, because of the multiple factors.

Bronchodilators also cause pulmonary vasodilatation - which can allow asymptomatic venous bubbles from normally safe dives to pass through the pulmonary filter and enter the arterial circulation as gas emboli, even without pulmonary barotrauma. This produces decompression illness.



SOCIAL SCENE - Susie Ashton



NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

TEN PIN BOWLING
FRIDAY 21 JUNE

Meet at the Melville Superbow, 248 Stock Road, about 6.30pm to try out your shoe size. We start playing at 7pm SHARP (to 9pm). Afterwards, we socialise in the meeting room at the premises. "Finger food" will be provided. BYO wine or beer, soft drinks can be bought there.

We have booked four lanes and can therefore take up to 24 people for two games each. Only 3 spaces left!

Cost for all this = \$15 per person.

To secure your booking, you must pay **HETTY** at the June General Meeting (by 17 June).



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NEXT MEETING

CONCHOLLOGY - *The study of shells and shellfish*

Join us at 8pm on 17 June at UEC Clubrooms for some interesting discoveries about shells. We have someone from the WA Shell Club giving a little talk and bringing along some specimens from their collection, so that we may brows and ask any questions.

Sounds great, so see you there...

SOCIAL REPORT

WELL ME HEARTIES!!!

To those of you who didn't come to the Pirate Boat Rally you **REALLY** missed out on something!

Everybody had such a fantastic time! We captured a drunk fisherman, his dinghy and booty, attacked the Water Police (my gun crew had the canon balls flying from our excellent canon) and had a chase with an known seaman up and down the river (perhaps another pirate incognito?). We learnt about knots and The Wonders of the Deep. We danced and sang aboard our 'rat-infested' vessel, eating weevil infested biscuits with the rum punch flowing freely.

A few floggings had to be served out by my capable Quartermasters to a few of my unruly crew, but in general they all behaved fairly well and reaped the rewards. Encountering land explorations with participants enduring Devils Cliffs, Dead Mans Gully and Traitor Hill.

SOCIAL REPORT (cont)

Traveling through rough terrain from desert to mozzli infested areas. But finally two lost treasures were found containing jewels, money and many more valuables. We then settled into a landing spot to eat an enjoyable lunch and...
...st....

After lunch questionnaire points and times were totalled. Our winning point pirate being: Maree Casley, who then received a large treasure chest full of goodies. "Well done Maree". (I especially liked her pirate song).

The lowest point pirate was Paul Mulaly, who was then walked promptly off the plank.... (He did have some very ingenious answers though!)

So again to those of you who didn't go.... well.... **YOU MISSED OUT!**...

Signing off....

Captain Betty

SOCIAL SCENE

Another hearty meeting was held with "my" Social Sub-Committee and we have decided on the following events for the rest of the year:

- Friday 23 Aug Quiz Night
- Saturday 28 Sept Seafood Night
- Friday 18 Oct Blessing of the Fleet
- Sunday 24 Nov Presentation Party

Details to follow in coming Newsletters.

Susie

ON THE CLUB NOTICE BOARD

Photographs from the Pirate Boat Rally.

Susie



Normally, it's Kerry that falls overboard of "UE" in our family - but this time it was me ... twice! Susie, the Pirate Sail Maker on 26 May 1996.

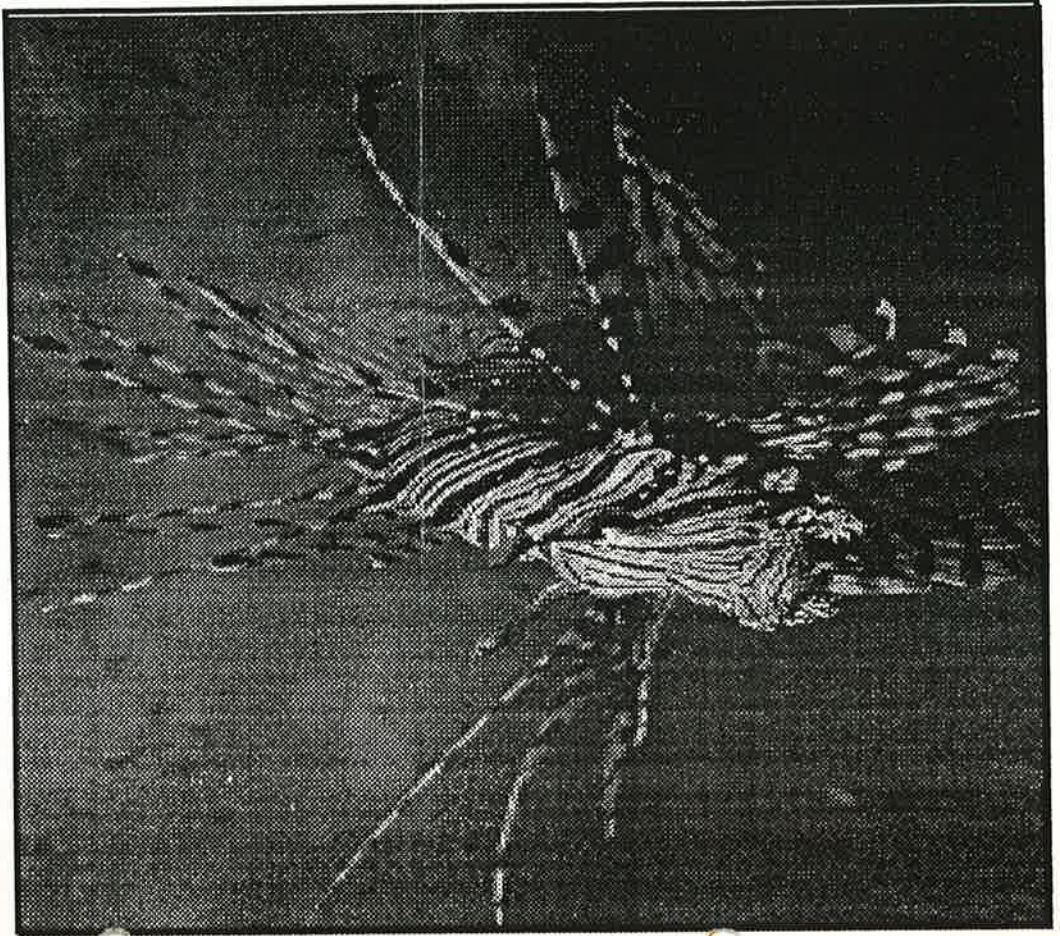
Congratulations to Ric Young and Rosie Costantino on the announcement of their engagement. Once again, Ric has demonstrated his customary good judgment - the nuptials are in November, leaving the whole of summer available for diving without having to worry about those trifling little events in life such as getting married. Best wishes to both of you from all of us at the UEC.

Heard on the Boat!

New Diver - "Can't wait to go night diving".
Experienced Diver - "I'll be your DO".
Old Hand - "You can loan my torch".

THE UEC NEWS

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



JULY 1996

SENDER:

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (inc.)
PO Box 1157, BOORAGOON, WA 6154.

UEC NEWS

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (inc.)
Print Post Approved by Australia Post
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**SURFACE
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Geoff & Hetty Geard
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FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

THE COMMITTEE 1995/96

PRESIDENT	Maree Casley	Phone 457 3333
VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 454 8580
SECRETARY	Geoff Charton	Phone 451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	Phone 445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385
BOATING OFFICER	Dennis Stubberfield	Phone 457 3333
SAFETY OFFICER	Gordon Magee	Phone 331 3740
TRAINING OFFICER	Vacant	
BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Steve Larter	Phone 291 9654
SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385

DIVE BOOKINGS Kerry Ashton Phone 331 2385

INTERESTED ????

Divers and Fisherpersons Wanted

We are considering Saturday dives, One-Tank, leaving at 8am to Huggalls Passage, Stragglers etc for One dive (around 45 minutes) and then approximately 2 hours of fishing!

Supply your own lunch, bait, lines and dive gear
 Estimated cost per person \$15.00

Return between 12.30pm and 1.00pm
 Interested? Then ring Brian 459 4662

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CLUB CALENDAR

JULY / AUGUST 1996

MONTH/DATE	EVENT	SKIPPER	DO
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JULY

Mon 15	GENERAL MEETING 8pm		
Sat 17	Avon Descent - Reunion Night		
	UEC Clubrooms - 7pm		
	SOCIAL EVEN - "Christmas In July (Bob : Phone 454 8580)		

AUGUST

Sun 11	Boat is being taken out of the water for its annual slipping		
Mon 19	GENERAL MEETING 8pm		

Weekends In July will be taken up with AVON DESCENT training for the event on the first weekend of August.

NOTE: Kerry and Susie will be away June 17 - July 24
 For diving enquiries for this period ring Dennis and Maree on 437 3333

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions and members should keep in contact with DO Kerry Ashton - 331 2385

Phone DO Kerry Ashton on 331 2385 for dive bookings or inquiries.
DO NOT RING THE CREW.
 Dives will depart from East Street Jetty, Fremantle at 8.00am

SOCIAL SCENE

A meeting was held with the Social Sub-Committee and it has been decided to hold the following events for the coming year:

- ~~Friday 23 Aug~~ Quiz Night — **CANCELLED**. No Int. Res. T.
- Saturday 28 Sept Seafood Night
- Friday 18 Oct Blessing of the Fleet
- Sunday 24 Nov Presentation Party

More details to follow in coming Newsletters so keep these dates free.

Sue

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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

For this months editorial I must thank Barry Kennedy for inspiration. This word for word article appeared in the October 1984 UEC News written by Barry.

'OUR CLUB

Now that we have delated initial training from our activities, we really need some other projects to keep members actively involved. Stagnation and boredom soon become breeding grounds for human weakness. It becomes difficult to enjoy each others company without having to be on guard against subtle insults and aggressive attitudes. Sarcasm, thinly disguised as humour begins to raise its ugly head. People soon become dissatisfied with this undesirable atmosphere.

To overcome these negative attitudes, we need more active projects, these tend to bring out the better nature in people.

One of the objectives of the club is to create fellowship. This is often an elusive quality which needs to be nurtured and encouraged. Active projects such as repairing and painting the club boat create feelings of friendship and fellowship among those who participate. Those who don't, really miss out on something good and satisfying.

It seems the more people contribute to a club, the more satisfaction they receive in return. It's not hard to contribute something constructive, like writing an article for the magazine or painting a door - or offering to help with some of the other work. You can become involved in all aspects of club activities. There should be, and there is, more involved in club membership than simply going on diving trips. Apart from social events and diving programmes, there are some other activities that you can become involved in which are coming up soon.

These include:

- Training for a boat skipper, to handle our club boat.
- Assist with training of handicapped divers.
- Help with advanced training of club members.
- Cleaning, painting and maintenance of club rooms and dive boat.
- Designing and building a display unit, for the purpose of promoting the club.
- Producing a video tape of club activities for promotional display.
- Manning such a display unit at a shopping centre.

Add something of value to the club, become involved.

Barry Kennedy

Although the social events and diving programmes may differ from 12 years ago the objectives of the club are still the same, as the old saying states "You only get out, what you put in" (Now there's a good double meaning).

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

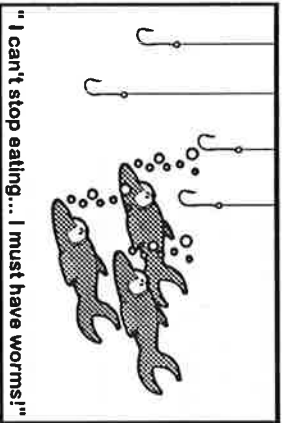
Maree Casley

The Avon Descent has certainly given club members something to keep themselves busy during winter. In fact, it has given their friends and relatives busy also. Training has been in full swing for several weeks and there is plenty of water around to get wet in. A couple of people have had to withdraw from our rescue group, so if there is anyone out there that can lend a hand give Jim a ring on 454 7868 and he will get you into training. The donation to the club is also very handy, allowing us to pay the bills during the winter.

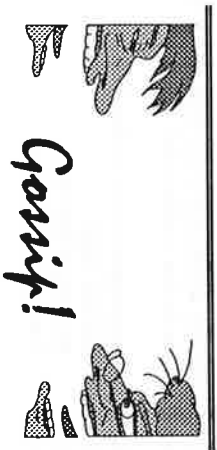
The boat is coming out of the water in 11 August for a month to enable us to anti-foul her and to do a few minor jobs. As usual we will need people to pitch in and help get all the work done. Dennis is standing by ready to handle the flood of calls that come in at this time of year from willing helpers, so give him a ring and register your interest.

As you can see there is not much diving, but plenty of work to do to keep the boat and the club going until diving starts in earnest again. Club meetings have also been well attended recently and it is becoming quite a social event, so one way or another we can all keep in touch during winter.
Hope to see you all soon.

Maree



THE UEC FACT OR FICTION FILE



As you read this, Kerry and Susie are diving in Mexico!

Bev Swift is getting married on August 3rd.

And for you all who remember Lis Aitchison: she is getting married in September - to a DIVER this time! (Her first husband was a surfer).

Did you know:

➤ Upfront model Lolo Ferrari, winner of the biggest breasts championships, has been banned from flying on the Supersonic Concorde. Airline chiefs said any sudden drop in pressure could cause her silicone enhanced 58F bust to explode. "Her breasts could be a danger to herself and other passengers" an Air France spokesman said. She should also not go scuba diving because any uncontrolled ascent would cause the same trauma.

➤ Did you hear about the diver who was so horrified by what he read on the effects of the bends that he gave up reading?

➤ Delicate Shot! Feared gangster Chanh Thong Vo who was renowned because he always tucked a gun in the front of his pants is now known as No Dong Vo after it accidentally went off. He wouldn't have had the same problem if he had been a scuba diver and been using a spear gun now would he?

.....
Congratulations to our latest Club Member and addition to Bruce Porters and Margaret Langsons household - Jessica Maria.

A beautiful bubbly female potential diver!

WHALE WATCHING excerpt from WWF

The world has been properly alerted to the danger of whales being hunted to extinction but it seems that the killing continues.

A moratorium on commercial whaling has been in place since 1986 and many 'whaling' nations have voluntarily cut down on large-scale hunting of the magnificent cetaceans.

But just recently a Japanese whaling ship brought home 330 minke whales from Antarctica and Norway too, continues whaling.

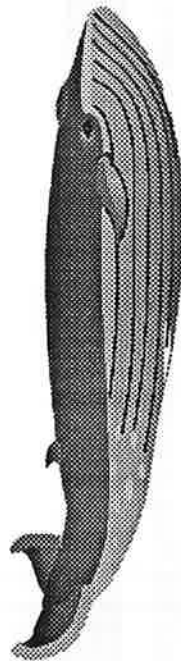
There are various ways to protect the whales, such as partial bans issued by The International Whaling Commission and the establishment of sanctuaries. Lethal weapons are disallowed and have been levied on whaling expeditions and the killing of certain species is also prohibited by an international agreement.

Despite the protective measures, seven of the eleven great whale species are considered to be endangered or vulnerable, with at least three small species on the brink of extinction. These are the Indus and Yangtze River dolphins and the little Mexican Porpoise, the Vaquita. The status of the remainder of the world's species of whales, dolphins and porpoises remains uncertain.

From an economic standpoint, the best way to use the whales - and to help conserve them - is to view them as a tourist attraction. In 1992, whale watching attracted four million enthusiasts worldwide and generated more than US\$300 million in revenue, following the interest raised by a WWF research project, about 20,000 people went whale watching in Japan, spending more than 100 million Yen and the interest in whale and dolphin watching aroused by this and other similar projects stimulated other whale watching ventures around the coast of Japan.

Cassandra Phillips, WWF's Cetaceans officer said 'the whales in around one third of the oceans are now protected from whaling and we now want to persuade Norway and Japan, the two top whaling nations, to stop exploiting loopholes in the Whaling Convention to justify their large-scale killing.'

WWF also hopes to persuade these two countries and other states where the Cetaceans abound to seek alternative endeavors to benefit from the mammals, like whale watching perhaps.



OBITUARY

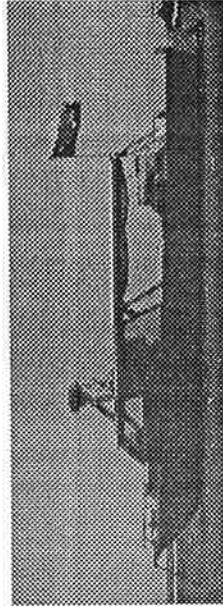
Eric Christiansen, a founder member of UEC, has passed away, aged 73.

Eric was a noted explorer and was among the party that found Western Australia's earliest and most controversial wreck - the Tryall - in 1969.

WA Maritime Museum Director, Graeme Henderson, commented that Eric was a strong supporter of legislation covering rewards for people who discovered wrecks. He also was on the side of conservation and preservation of Western Australia's rich maritime heritage.

Eric is mentioned on numerous occasions in the early editions of the UEC News with lots of reports of his exploits and diving adventures shared with other founder members in the early days of scuba.

The members of UEC extend their sympathy to family and friends of Eric Christiansen.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

Steve Larfer

UEC 1984

President - John Paskulich

Committee Members - Peter Horton, Roger Smith, Barry Kennedy, Bob Cotton, Tibi Csomay, Paul Mulally.

Club Boat purchased on 1 February 1984 - 32 foot boat called "Bombo" for \$8,500.

Peter Horton appointed OC of this boat Committee.

Wreck Dive - 8/4/84 on Sepia - 12 divers

West End Dive - 15/4/84 - 16 divers

Boat name changed on 21 May 1984 to Explorer I.

June - Anti-foul paints reported to be releasing toxins in the water in UK.

June - Boat fees up to 2 hours running = \$60.00
Up to 4 hours = \$100.00

June - Blind diver training carried out successfully. Seven blind students completed a pilot course teaching the fundamentals of diving by volunteers from UEC training concentrated on basic snorkel skills with a short segment on compressed air.

Presentation Night - 8 July 1984

Total Membership June 1984 - 91 Members - 8 Life Members

August - Richard Bone took over as President of UEC.

Peter Horton was presented with Life Membership for service to the club

Sept - Motion passed to discontinue training of scuba divers. In anticipation of opening up UEC to new members from dive schools.

October - October long weekend spent at North Heads north of Jurien Bay. Ian Cowan and Barry Kennedy supplied the boats.

Nov - Dive boat Underwater Explorer boarded by Marine & Harbour Police who checked for safety gear and inquired about costs of diving. Point out to UEC that payment for boat dives was illegal.

NEWS FLASH

English Newspaper Report (cont)

He had been told how Mrs Snaith, on her first sea diving weekend in Britain, had been paired with club instructor, policeman Roy Martin from Nelson Road, Corby, as they dived on the wreck of a submarine in Lyme Bay.

They abandoned the dive at eight metres because she was concerned about something, although her "buddy" never found out what was wrong and no fault was found in her equipment when it was tested later. On the surface she began struggling violently, and he was unable to hold her, inflate her suit or her jacket, nor could he remove her weight belt, so she sank.

But no-one on board saw the struggle. Skipper, Len Hurdiss of Weymouth, noticed the divers immediately they surfaced, but thought they would dive again. He saw no struggle.

Underwater throughout the incident were three pairs who had dived earlier, including club captain Det-Sgt John Maughan of Kettering, and the organiser of the weekend Richard Botting of Corby.

Said the coroner: "Every dive should have a dive marshal whose word is law. That person must be qualified, unflappable, quick thinking and accurate, and must remain on the surface at all times".

"A dive marshal who is already down does not amount to having someone in charge".

"If someone had picked two divers in this incident, and sent one after each of the two on the surface, we probably wouldn't be here today".

The coroner declared that regular disaster training practice must be mandatory, not just a recommendation of the British Sub-Aqua Club.

"It is a sport, and divers need to continue to practice for emergencies not just in a clean swimming pool, but in nasty, dirty quarries and cold seas, where training is real", he said.

The coroner complained that British Sub-Aqua Club incidents adviser Tim Parish had failed to attend the inquest, despite repeated requests to give expert evidence.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NEXT MEETING

Come along and join in with the Monthly Club activities. You never know, you may have a good time and make a positive suggestion to assist the operation of YOUR CLUB.

NEWS FLASH!

English Newspaper Report

CORONER HITS OUT AT DIVING SAFETY

A Coroner yesterday demanded better emergency training by sub-aqua clubs throughout the country after a diving tragedy off Portland.

West Dorset Coroner Mr Michael Johnston recorded a verdict of accidental death on an inexperienced diver who drowned when fellow divers failed to go down after her.

He criticised fellow divers, their club and the British Sub-Aqua Club at the end of two day inquest into the death of 42 year old sales representative, Jackie Snaith.

Mrs Snaith, of Five Chase Hill, Geddington, Northamptonshire, was with a group of 12 from the Corby Sub-Aqua Club on a diving weekend from the local boat Autumn Dream when tragedy struck on VE Day.

"She was inexperienced, without the wherewithal to deal with something going wrong. If this were a professional diving school where she had paid to be trained, I would say she had been let down by what happened," declared the coroner.

"There were four divers on the boat a few meters away when she sank. It was right to restrain her husband from going in, but why was this inexperienced diver able to come to the surface and then sink out of sight, watched by three people, two of them fully kitted up? And why was a concerted rescue attempt made immediately?"

In other incidents, many people took great risks to try to rescue a casualty, he said, but in this case no one dived down after her. One diver went into the water but told the inquest she didn't follow Mrs Snaith down because she was trained to dive only with a "buddy".

"There was no one on board to co-ordinate a disaster scenario. There was no real disaster plan, thought up and practiced. People are taught never to dive without a buddy, but there should be a distinction between normal procedures where this is excellent good sense and a crisis when someone is actually drowning", declared the coroner.

DIVERS AUCTION

Community Newspaper Report

A divers hard-hat used 100 years ago during the construction Fremantle Harbor and sketches of old Dutch ships disguised as black swans have surfaced in a unique collection of WA curios.

The collection which will be auctioned shortly, includes some 1500 items which belonged to Barry Martin, one of WA's top divers who passed away in 1981. His wife Patricia, said her husband, a private diving contractor who operated the biggest onshore diving company in WA, collected anything he could get his hands on that was related to diving.

Even his very first underwater diving mask made from an old World War II gas mask will go under the hammer along with relics from several WA shipwrecks, old whale teeth from Albany, compasses, sextants, jewelry, guns, swords, certified coins from the Gilt Dragon wrecked near Ledge Point in 1656 and the odd pair of Victorian women's underwear(?).

She said "Bowerbird" Barry, who was also a founding member of the Underwater Explorers Club, worked on numerous sites around WA until he died of exhaustion whilst working in Fremantle Harbor on the hull of the container ship Sydney Express.

Mrs. Martin said her husband, a fitter and turner by trade, was hooked on diving from a young age and at the age of 13, his mother had found him under Rockingham jetty where a friend pumped air down to him using a bicycle pump connected to a garden hose. He later went on to make a number of diving compressors.

"I'm surprised he stayed alive as long as he did," said Mrs. Martin, who met Barry during a visit to Rottnest Island in 1955, when he was working for Fremantle Port Authority.





SOCIAL SCENE - Susie Ashton



NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

**AVON DESCENT
REUNION NIGHT
AUGUST 17**

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The boat will be moved to the Bullcreek mooring within the next week or so and please are to slip her at the Swan Yacht Club on the 9 August.

We are looking the volunteers to help us with painting, general repairs and maintenance work.

With your assistance the boat will be ready to be returned to the water by the end of August.

AVON DESCENT

Avon Descent training is proceeding to schedule and the next one will be ready for the Descent activities.

Did you see the great publicity we received from the Channel 9 News on Saturday 6 July?

We have had a couple of people become unavailable and have vacancies for a number of Avon Descenders.

If interested please contact Jim on 454 7868.

BOWLING NIGHT

The recent Ten Pin Bowling night proved to be a wonderful success with everyone having a great time.

A full report will be forthcoming in the next Newsletter.

BALI

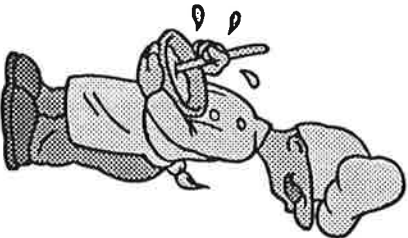
Did you realise that Bali offers really good diving, nice easy reef dives on unspoiled coral? You don't have to spend the best part of your day traveling to and from the dive site or to compromise by diving "OK" dive sites because they are easy to get to. There are numerous inexpensive packages to Bali that are flexible and made to suite your interests to give a good combination of holiday. You can then do some great diving and play tourist at the same time.

The best diving in Bali is found on the Northern sector of the island and Pondok Sari Bungalows are close to the Pemuteran and Menjangan dives sites offering clean, comfortable accommodation.

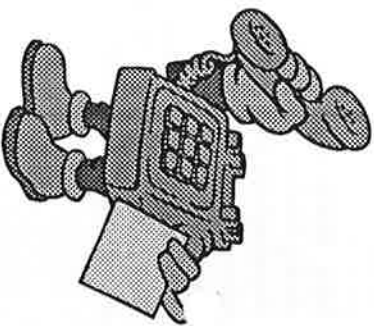
See any travel agent for details.

UEC CLUBROOMS SHIELDS CRESCENT BOORAGOON

- € Bring a plate
Hot or Cold
- € BYO Wine / Spirits
- € Beer on sale from the bar

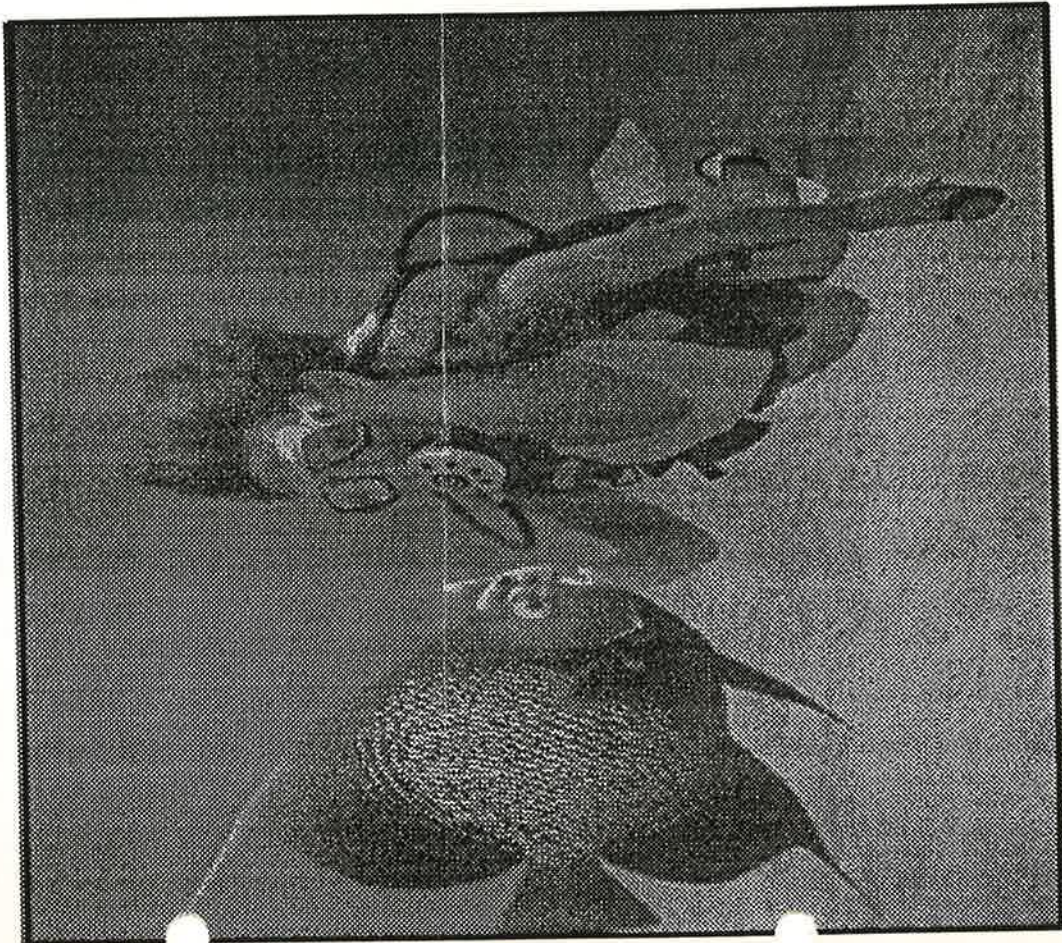


Please contact your Boating Officer Dennis on 457 3333 and make yourself available.



THE OEC NEWS

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



AUGUST 1996

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VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 454 8580
SECRETARY	Geoff Charton	Phone 451 2910
TREASURER	Peter Horton	Phone 445 2336
DIVING OFFICER	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385
BOATING OFFICER	Dennis Stubberfield	Phone 457 3333
SAFETY OFFICER	Gordon Magee	Phone 331 3740
TRAINING OFFICER	Vacant	
BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Steve Larter	Phone 291 9654
SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385

DIVE BOOKINGS Kerry Ashton Phone 331 2385

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Two Pine Bar Stools

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Ask for Susie

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CLUB CALENDAR

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 1996

MONTH/DATE	EVENT	SKIPPER	DO
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AUGUST

Boat is "up on the hard" for maintenance. Contact Dennis if you can help out with something.

AVON DESCENT - REUNION NIGHT

Sat	17		
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GENERAL MEETING - "FAREWELL PARTY"

Starts 7pm with a Sausage Sizzle

SEPTEMBER

Sun	1		
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Boat goes back into the water and for "a spin" up the river!
Swan Yacht Club between 12 and 1pm

Mon	2		
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COMMITTEE MEETING (in new premises) 8pm

Sun	8		
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Rusty Divers Day (1 Tank) 9am

Sat	14		
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Rottnest Island (2 Tanks) 8am

Mon	16		
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GENERAL MEETING (in new premises) 8pm

Sun	22		
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Rottnest Island (2 Tanks) 8am

Sat	28		
-----	----	--	--

Rusty Divers Day (1 Tank) 9am

Sat	28		
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SOCIAL SUMPTUOUS SEAFOOD NIGHT

NOTES TO KNOW

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made on telephone/fax number
331 2385 with Kerry Ashton. Do NOT ring the crew!

Please observe the different times for departure. Till further notice,
we still depart from East Street Jetty.

All dives are subject to weather conditions, and it is the diving member's
responsibility to check with the Diving Officer (Kerry) the night before
the scheduled dive.

Please note that calendar details are subject to change and weather conditions
and members should keep in contact with DO Kerry Ashton - 331 2385

Phone DO Kerry Ashton on 331 2385 for dive bookings or inquiries.
DO NOT RING THE CREW.
Dives will depart from East Street Jetty, Fremantle at 8.00am

FISHY FACTS

Australia's Fisheries Ministers will consider protecting the Great White Shark when they meet in Brisbane this month. NSW Minister, Bob Martin, has proposed that a forum of Scientific Experts be convened to investigate the need to protect the shark in all jurisdictions. The Shark has been protected in South Africa, the Maldive Islands, California and Tasmania.

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FOR ALL YOUR GLASS REQUIREMENTS



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Midland: 234 Gt. Eastern Hwy 274 5833
Myaree: 79 McCoy St 330 2333
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EDITORIAL

Steve Larler

The history of UEC is about the evolution of an organisation that has survived and flourished. When reading previous UEC News it is remarkable how the Club has managed over the years to keep changing to meet different needs of its existing membership and its future membership. This month will be the last time we shall be holding our monthly meeting at our Clubrooms. It will, of course, be an emotional time for a great many of our members. The Clubrooms have been the corner stone for UEC for a number of years and lots of us have very fond memories of past events and the people who we have shared those special times.

The time has come when UEC must move forward. The leasing of the Clubroom's is a major event in the evolution of UEC and is a big step forward to ensure the future viability of our Club.

Affiliation with Swan Yacht Club is going to assist us to offer other divers more facilities to enjoy for their membership dollars.

The Committee of Management has taken this very bold step forward to ensure that UEC will be available for future generations to enjoy. It would have been much easier to have kept the status quo and watched the Club eventually drift apart with declining and aging membership. But your Committee is not like that. The Committee of Management will not fail UEC when it comes to making difficult decisions they will be made. It is vital for the future that the membership support the Committee, even when you may not agree with their decisions. So come to the meeting on the 19 August for a sentimental Au Revoir to our existing meeting place and find out more about the very exciting future prospects for your Club.

Support - Just Do It!!

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

Wow!! What a month we've just had. Things are really hopping at the moment and I can hardly wait to tell you all the Club news.

Firstly, the Avon Descent is over for another year. Thankfully, the high river levels led to a generally easier run down the river for most competitors, leaving us with little to do but watch in most locations. We didn't get to utilise many of the skills that we had learnt over the previous couple of months, however, the whole exercise was of immense value to everyone who participated. Next year our training should be much easier and friendships formed this year can be further developed to the benefit of everyone involved. Many thanks to Jim Robson for all his work in organising teams and training. Thanks also to all Club members, their friends and family, BSAC members, Scuba 2 members and Westral staff and their families and friends. In all, we fielded a combined team of nearly 70 people, which is a huge task in anyone's language. To all Avon Descent Rescue Team participants, I extend a hearty welcome to our Clubrooms on 17 August at 6.300 - 7.00pm. Our address is 24 Shields Crescent, Bootagoon.

Now, the other big news is that we have secured a tenant for the Clubrooms for at least the next 12 months and hopefully longer. Bruce Porter, Brian Murray and the staff at Porter Matthew's have done a wonderful job for us in finding a suitable lessee at very favourable conditions for our Club. So, as from 1 September, we will have to make alternative arrangements for Club meetings. It is with this in mind that the Committee will meet with the Swan Yacht Club Secretary to try and formalise arrangements of an affiliation. Come along to a farewell sausage sizzle at the next General Meeting on August 19 to hear all the latest news. leasing the Clubrooms is a great outcome for the Club at this time as it allows us to make some plans for the Club and boat before the summer diving season descends upon us. As time is of the essence, the Committee has had to make some decisions, but there are still some things that need to be sorted out. Come along to the sausage sizzle at 7pm and see if you can help out. See you all soon.

Maree

AVON DESCENT 1996 (cont)

from the Rescue Rock By:
Count Von Stuberfeldt ("Stew-ber-felt")

Day two meant our earliest start on record - 4.30am - fast rivers also mean fast times and we must be up set, before they the paddlers arrive. It was a warmer, but mysteriously foggy morning, just like der moat of Frankenstein Castle back home in Transylvania.

Super chute, no casualties produced, as did Stronghills Farm! Ernu Falls was interesting mit a linked number of spills and draggings of demoralised paddlers from fast flowing water. One surfer skied a magnificent graze on der upper arm sustained, as seen on TV. Tot was not shown, vas der 3 doctors, der 2 ambulance attendants, 2 rescue divers, 2 shorepersons, 3 supporters, 1 cameraman, 1 TV executive und 5 spectators in attendance.

Your own Count Von 'Stewby', vired for sound (in the absence of your erst-vile star Greg Lohian) quite audibly remarked, forgetting, "Vun more attendant und open heart surgery ve could haf performed!" The blighters threatened to vork it into the TV special but in the end obviously couldn't. There, no other casualties vere at Ernu Falls.

The spectators at Ernu's vere impressed greatly by der manner seemingly nonchalant, mit which der rescue dinghy vas der rapids UP driven, to trouble spots and vantage points der rescue people ferrying und up stranded paddlers picking. Ve haf decided to form our own Avon ASCENT Committee, mit the Avon Descent Committee to compete, who vill then, know which vay to go.

At Syd's all the paddlers off fell, causing Roger and team all day to be flatten chatten as per der lizard drinken. Geoff Q vas der stainless steel crossen awarded, for into the raging torrent himself continually flinging, people twice his sizen to rescue. Finally, Sandy hirn out had to drag, in der process her velly's mit vater filling. A feat for which she vill be der oak leaves given (three of them). Mick like a chimpanzee performed, most of der time from tree to tree swinging, to get der best vantage point for a rescue, vile joy, until her butt off frozen, vorked in der freezing vater! She der electrical blanket vill be awarded. Oberbearkleinenuhrer Wats distinguished himself at Bell's by der spectators bridge shudden following behaviour loudish by one particular onlooker who made of himself a complete schwanzholen. However, he left screaming "I'll sue" und kleinfuhrer Watsky der bridge reopened! Once again no casualties vere permitted.

Finally, the group assembled in the car park of Bell's Rapids to tell their tales of heroism and mayhem on the waters, hand back gear, remove wet wetsuits and generally relax over a can of lager graciously supplied by Jamie Anderson and Steve Cooper, who did their best as Avon Descent Committee men to look after us, generally succeeding pretty well.

Another AVON DESCENT is over, thankfully without incident, allowing the new look HBF RESCUE UNIT the chance to learn and develop, to consolidate skills and strategies, which will allow us to cope more adequately with the rigors of future events.

On behalf of Jim Smith, Jim Robson, Maree und Von Study, many, many thanks for your time, your skills and your co-operation team members and leaders. In making this year's rescue effort so well presented and successful.

Toaster Volkai

Von Study!

AVON DESCENT 1996

from the Rescue Rock By:
Count Von Stuberfeldt ("Stew-ber-felt")

Vell folks, this year's rescue was perfect let me tell you dear readers and fellow HB Effenburghers, not many stuff ups and those vot did come up, vere immediately goose-stepped upon by the two Jims und Maree!

But you vill understand this did not easily happen. Der Avon Dissent Committee, tried very hard this year - only to collapse in a kicking und screaming heap - under the relentless pressure of our tireless organisation, our superior communication, our depth of back-up und our sheer mongrel determination to get vot ve vorted, anticipating und thwarting their every glitch.

Maree had a flashing yellow light obtained for her dirty big 4VD Landencruisenstashevagen which guaranteed 'might is right' passage around the place und allowed her to fix all these little f...ms before they out of hand got.

Sol mien campf, vos a delightful square of tents beautifully pitched und der cookhouse und mess hall, a huge white marquee mit ranging fire close by. Superb! Vot matter that the lights did not at first work! Several vords fromd Maree to the Coates man and it vas instantly fixed.

Und the food und catering fit for a Court, an establishment truly vell run. Der HBF team had arrived - fit und ready the mighty AVON to apart take, at its highest level since 1984, or even higher.

Day vun dawned varm und fuzzy, the high river meaning a late 9am start. Ve could our luck hardly believe - this can't be right, a sleep in. The Katrine Bridge vas closed - only policeman duties there!

Obergropenfraulien Alison did that job vell, und der vireless vork also, ensuring none of those grotty little competitors broke any portage rules, or came within a yodell of that maelstrom thrashing under the bridge. Except for a gashed foot on broken glass during the portage no casualties vere permitted to occur at Katrine. Team leader Roger a gratefully quiet time getting.

Glen Avon failed to exist and three teams including Stubby's (that's Stewby!) blitz-krieped the Extracts veir from the north through the bull paddock! No hint of a red flag vas here vaved! und der high voltage fencen forced very careful entries indeed.

Teams Mick and Steve stayed on the northern side, und Von Stuberfeldt's vas across to the southern side ferried by Peter in the new inflatable rescue craft. Then followed a brief but decisive skirmish mit der spectators, to gain 2 meters of water-front in vicht to vork. Mit victory flushed, the team to the serious business of rescuing got down.

Very few contestants fell off a the flooded extracts vier, but those vot did vere immediat... on pounced und rescued!

The fast river ensured a quick race and no casualties, so to the Freemasons in Toodyay the adjournment came early, und very pleasant it also vas. Later in the afternoon most of the team leaders vere given a brief preview of the second days rapids via helicopter which had then to return to Pearce for crew change. A cursory study of the facilities at Pearce confirmed they would not be a factor in the race, still vun had to be sure!

Back flying, over der T-trees a quick look for a lost canoeist revealed him safely being home shepherded by the sweep boat, thus ending day vuns operations on a high note.

Dinner vos magnificent und der bottle of 1990 Wolf Blass Kabinet Sauvignon to perfection topped it off, no stuffs ups here, just stuffing!

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfeld

There is very little to report this month as the boat's only 'sea' trip was down the river to Swan Yacht Club for her annual slipping. She is even as you read, up on the hard awaiting your attention. Her short rest on the Bull Creek mooring certainly killed all the barnacles and I was even thinking of putting her back up there after slipping until her first dive trip to save the anti foul. However, we will assess that situation come September.

There is not much we have to do this year unless we proceed with major modifications to the cabin, which is doubtful at this stage. There are a number of small jobs including bilge pumping, electric's, window seals, oil leaks and general cleaning and repairs.

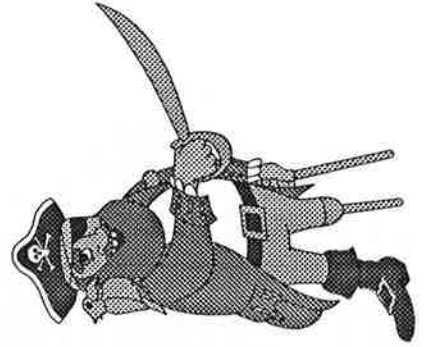
On the structural side, the marlin board is to be repaired, the toilet possibly shifted, the anchoring arrangements sorted out property and perhaps some seating up front.

She must be ready to go back in the water on Sunday morning of the first day of Spring - very appropriate - at latest. After sea trials an afternoon lazing around on the river will be organised as a complimentary pay off for the people who worked on her, with the usual champagne and patté afternoon tea. Nothing mundane or mediocre about us folks!

Please contact me for details of how, when and where you can help and thus qualify for the odd free drink on September 1st.

Cheers Folks!

Stubby



CORAL BAY

Margaret & Bill Pettigrew

Coral Bay/Ningaloo Reef: July 96: Diving north down under:

Little did we think that having joined the Underwater Explorer's club (and being very happy with that decision) the first time we dove down under it would be with another scuba club! But that is how it turned out. As a result of some teaching work at Murdoch we heard of a cheap seven-day dive being coordinated through MUD, The Murdoch Divers club, so Bill and Margaret, some seventeen other divers, mostly students), one school bus, one trailer, one boat and many pounds of scuba equipment, food and equipment sallied forth from Murdoch Uni to Coral Bay, arriving some seventeen non-stop hours later at the Coral View hostel.

For \$A530, we had eight dives, air fills, transportation there and back, a trip to Exmouth, food and hostel accommodation. Weather was not at its best and in trying to keep the cost to the lowest possible a charter boat was hired rather than a dive boat. John Ashford was the skipper. He told us that he was a former member of the UEC club. He was also responsible for naming the dive sites we visited and named them differently each time! Nevertheless, we had a good time, and considering our different ages and lifestyles we got along just fine. For us, it enabled us to get all the rust out of our rusty selves as we had not been diving in over a year and we had acquired some new equipment since our arrival in W/A.

Not one dive was over 10 metres which was something new for us. As well, there was very little soft coral but a good variety of hard coral and a greater variety of fish than we were used to in diving "up there" including a stone fish, parrot fish, rays and all the usual suspects. We saw a school of reef sharks, numerous turtles, including one huge turtle which left its cave as some five of us watched it slowly meander out of the cave and into the ocean. Because of the weather we were unable to move outside the reef but the last day was a no diving day and a group of ten made up a fishing trip and were able to get outside and came back with snapper, mackerel and golden trevally. (which was duly cooked and eaten that night). And very happy they were with many photos being taken as a record.

As there was coral right at the water's edge, it was also possible to swim, snorkel and dive right from the shore with fish swimming around ones face. Water and air temperature ranged around the 70 degrees F mark.

SHARK FILE

Australian sharks should be protected The Humane Society International said yesterday on the eve of the second World Fisheries Congress in Brisbane.

It nominated the Great White Shark and the Grey Nurse Shark for protection under Federal and State Endangered species laws.

The Secretary of the Australian Director, Michael Kennedy, said the issue of sharks was likely to be hidden during the Congress.

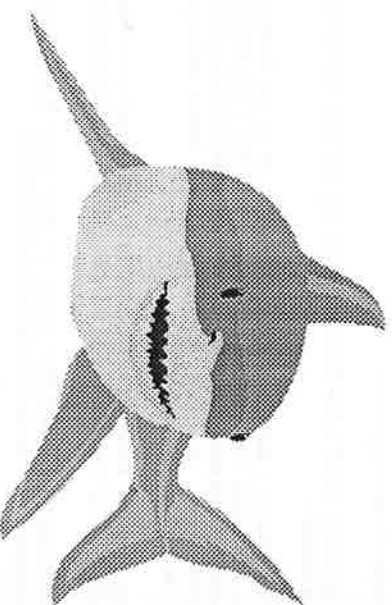
More than 900 Scientists and industry experts from 55 countries will attend the Congress.

Mr Kennedy said, other sharks seriously depleted in Australian waters included School and Gummy Sharks, all of these are eaten as fish in Fish and Chip Shops.

Shark meshing off Queensland and New South Wales beaches should be abandoned because of the waste of marine life.

Peter Young, President of the Australian Society for Fish Biology said Brisbane had been chosen for the Congress because of Australia's good record in fish management.

Federal Resources and Energy Minister, Warwick Parer, who will open the Congress, said last week that Great Whites were not common and were vulnerable to fishing because they grow slowly and have a low reproductive output.



AVONDESCENT

Steve Larler

When it comes to eating humble pie and regretting not being involved with this great weekend of fun and excitement before I must hereby publicly admit that "Yes, I was wrong".

I would like to thank Jim Robson for convincing me that I would find the whole event well worth the effort. This year was my first Avon Descent and for those of you who have never been involved, believe me you have really missed out!

The organisation, training and execution of this year's Avon was outstanding. The organising Committee of the Avon Descent hold the UEC Rescue Team in very high esteem and we are now recognised as a key element in the success of this event.

I would like to thank the members of past and present for keeping up the very high standards which enable us to be invited back again for a marvellous weekend of action and excitement.

To Jim Robson, "you beauty", put me down for more next year.

Steve

Brush With River Death

A man nearly drowned in the Avon River yesterday when he was trapped under a log being thrown from his surf ski. Stuck underwater, he desperately grabbed his ski from the cold, fast flowing water. Disorientated, he was on a training run for the Avon Descent but later walked more than 20 kilometers along a railway line and through bush until he was found by three trail bike riders who dropped him off near a foot bridge. They said I would be able to cross it, but it was covered with water and I had to swim across.

Unbeknown to him, he was listed as a missing person until his 7 hour ordeal ended after a bush walking couple met him in Walyunga National Park and drove him to a road side eatery in Guildford. I sat by a fire and sipped soup and coffee he said, and I could have been at the bottom of the river with my surf ski. It was going to be my very first Avon Descent.

CORAL BAY (cont)

In order to save money we all had to cook one meal throughout the trip and the "chefs" were given \$70.00 to come up with one meal. Bill and Margaret chose the first night and provided lasagne, salad and canned fruit as their contribution. As the cooks also had to do the dishes we wanted to keep the dish washing down to a minimum. We bought lasagne (from Portobello products) which was a huge success. We ate very well all week, consuming everything from tacos to a BBQ celebrating America's 4th July - complete with a rowdy rendition of The Stars and Stripes, and waving sparklers.

With one exception, we would do everything again and that is the bus trip. The White House accommodation was perfect for a large group. The decision was made to travel overnight and the bus was not equipped for long distance travel so there were bodies all over the bus trying to cope with the upright seats but the Price was Right, and now we are ready to dive again with our own club.

In summer, inside the reef at Coral Bay, it is shallow, very good for fish observation, lots of hard coral too. The viz about 40 - 50' max, especially if another dive group has just gone through! We wore 3 mil suits and were able to stay down for 1.15 mins. without getting cold. In short, we'd do it again.

Margaret and Bill Pettigrew

Dolphins Stop Shark Attack

Three dolphins saved a British diver from being eaten by a Great White Shark in the Red Sea. Martin Richardson said the dolphins swam to his rescue at high speed and forced the shark to flee. The shark, thought to be at least 6 metres long and weighing almost 2 tonnes, bit Mr Richardson 3 times as he was diving near Marsa Bareika on Israel's Sinai Peninsula.

He beat off the shark once by punching its nose when it seized his left arm but it attacked twice more causing horrific injuries to his chest and waist requiring more than 200 stitches. Just as Mr Richardson had resigned himself to dying, three dolphins sped to his rescue forcing the shark to flee.

Experts said dolphins often saw off sharks by ramming them at high speed. A witness said three bottle nosed dolphins huddled around Mr Richardson in the water flapping their fins and tails to keep the shark away and thus preventing the shark from further attacks. A Marine expert was quoted as saying the diver was saved because the dolphins had young and that behaviour was common when dolphin mothers were protecting their calves from predators such as sharks.



SOCIAL SCENE - Susie Ashton



NEXT SOCIAL EVENING

A SUMPTUOUS SEAFOOD SATURDAY

Will be a "Fishy Affair" but we promise - not at that restaurant. Maybe another, or, if suitable, BOB will arrange something down at our new Club venue in September, the Swan Yacht Club. I'm sure that whatever Bob decides on, it's going to be well worth your dollars and a great time out together!

DATE:
Saturday 28 September

TIME:
To be announced.

NOTE:
PLEASE, PLEASE, give me a deposit of \$10 with your booking before or at the September meeting.

We need to know exact number by then!



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NEXT MEETING

Because it will be our LAST meeting in the good, old Clubrooms, we want to give a bit of a "FAREWELL PARTY" - a chicken sausage sizzle! I'm sure that you will have a lot of questions and things to talk to us about regarding this new direction we are taking in our long lived club-life. So come along and take this opportunity. We'll start at 7 pm.

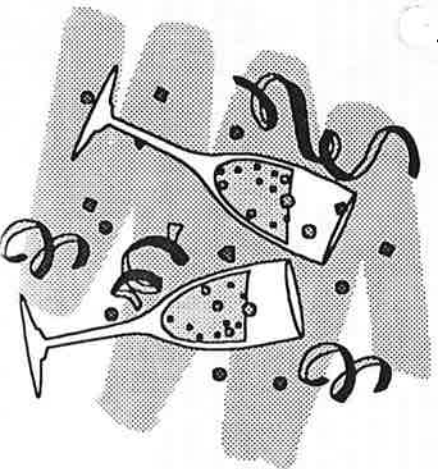
STOP DRESS & STOP DRESS

An extra party to be announced!



The launching of "Underwater Explorer" on Sunday 1 September!

You are welcome to the Swan Yacht Club between 12 and 1pm for a glass of champagne (or two) provided by the Social Department.



BOWLING NIGHT

MELVILLE SUPERBOWL 21 June 1996

Well, sorry for the delay in this article, but you know.

The Ten Pin Bowling night in June was a great success, as usual!!!

We had 16 participants, all of which had a fantastic time and the nibbles afterwards were of a high standard 'again' (with so much of it). Next time you must make sure that you can come, "even if you don't know how" (we can always put the railings up). Even my daughter Stephanie (3) had a go, and she knocked some pins down.

Well short but sweet, see you at the meeting.

Pattie



Gavin



Club member Nick Hunter is now the proud father of a strapping baby boy - James. Best wishes to Judy and Nick.

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

Club Rooms: Unit 1, 22 Shields Crescent, Booragoon, W.A.
Postal Address: P.O. Box 1157, Booragoon, W.A. 6154



Dear Geoff,
Thank you for your help and support in volunteering for this years Avon Descent Rescue operations.

The HBF RESCUE UNIT was made up of UEC members and families, Affiliates, Scuba 2 Dive Club and friends, together with a some former members of the now disbanded Westrail teams and their families and friends.

The 1996 Unit has been acclaimed as being the best and most team spirited in recent history, which in no small way, led to our very professional performance and presentation.

Your participation, your enthusiasm, and the very considerable effort you put into training and the actual event has made it and the team a huge success.

The additional funds this event generates for the Club will allow considerable benefit to flow to us all; and is directly attributable to the efforts of you and other members who assist the Club in these ways.

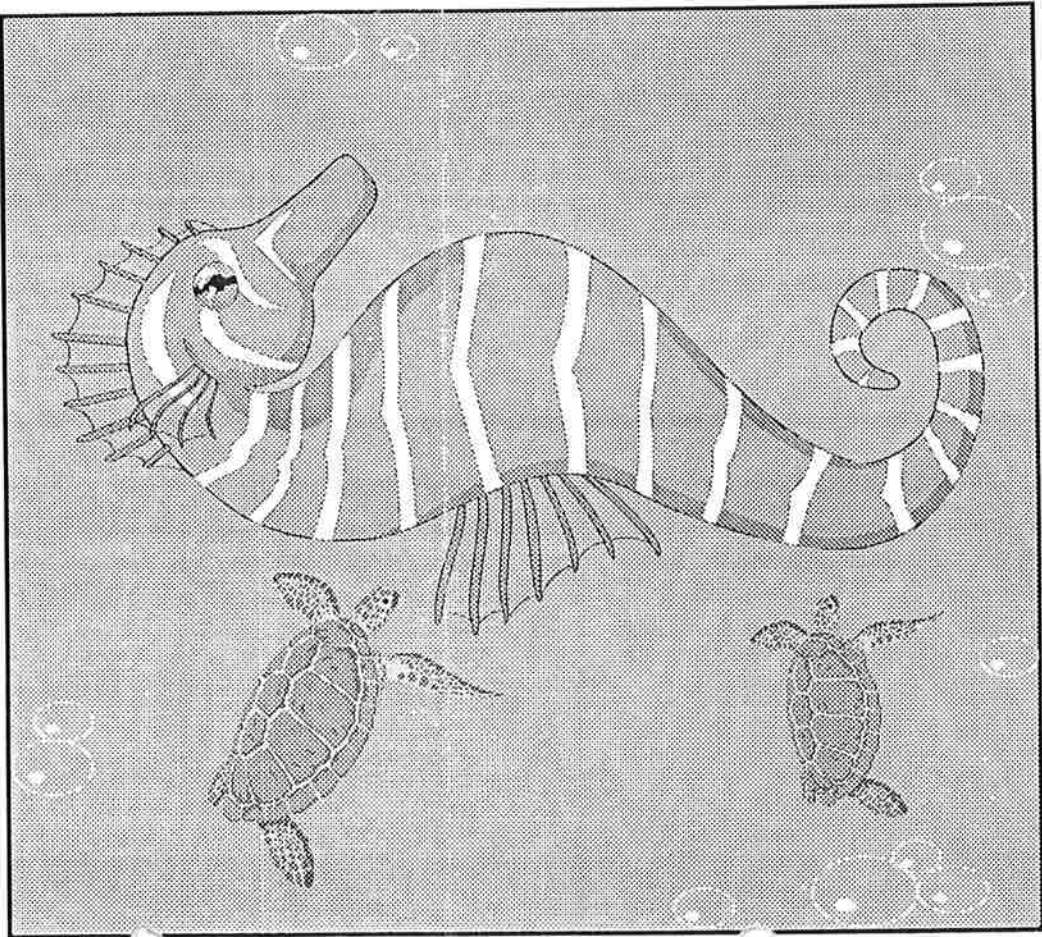
Don't forget the 'get-together' for all members of the Rescue Unit, at the Club rooms on Saturday evening, 17th of August 1996. Please bring a plate and join the gang for one final 'session' in the 1996 Avon Descent Rescue operations.

Yours Sincerely

Maree Casley
Maree Casley
PRESIDENT

THE OEC NEWS

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



SEPTEMBER 1996

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VICE PRESIDENT	Bob McLaughlin	Phone 454 8580
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TREASURER	Peter Horton	Phone 445 2336
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BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Steve Larter	Phone 291 9654
SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385
DIVE BOOKINGS	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 385

NEW BOOK ON SHIPWRECKS

Shipwrecks 1656 - 1942 is a guide of historic wreck sites around Perth by Sarah Kenderline. It presents a wealth of history for discovery under the sea within the Perth region in the form of historic shipwrecks. This book is a comprehensive wreck divers guide to numerous sites and will compliment the library of maritime historians, particularly those who are interested in the history and heritage of Perth.

Containing some 200 illustrations including location maps, photographs and plans of 38 wreck sites, the book offers a compelling view of the underwater world of shipwrecks.

Wrecks sites have been divided into 5 regions and are colour coded for easy reference. This unique volume will fill an obvious gap in dive literature, tourism and local cultural heritage markets and is most likely to find a ready audience in schools and universities Australia wide.

Copies of this book are available through the West Australian Maritime Museum, Cliff Street Fremantle

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CLUB CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 1996

MONTH/DATE	EVENT
AUGUST 5 th	"Rusty Divers Day" (1-tank) : 9am SKIPPER: Geoff & DO Kerry Two Tank Dive : 8am SKIPPER: Peter & DO Brian
Mon 16	GENERAL MEETING at Swan Yacht Club : 8pm
Sat 21	WHALE WATCHING: Bring your whole family! Leaving 9am - BYO lunch pack - back at 4pm BSAC Dive (2-tanks) : 8am SKIPPER: Richard & DO Geoff
Sun 22	"Rusty Divers Day" (1-tank): 9am SKIPPER: Kerry & DO Jim
Sat 28	SOCIAL: SUMPTUOUS SEAFOOD NIGHT (See details in the Social Section)
Wed 2	COMMITTEE MEETING: 8pm Two Tank Dive: 8am
Sun 6	SKIPPER: Dennis & DO Maree
Sun 13	Two Tank Dive: 8am SKIPPER: Peter & DO Luc
Sat 19	Two Tank Dive: 8am SKIPPER: Richard & DO Brian
Sun 20	SOCIAL: BLESSING OF THE FLEET (For details, see next Newsletter)
Mon 27	GENERAL MEETING at Swan Yacht Club: 8pm Dinner at 6.30pm (Must be pre-booked) BSAC Dive : 8am SKIPPER: Bob & DO Steve
Sun 27	

All dives are subject to weather conditions, and it is the diving member's responsibility to check with the Diving Officer (Kerry) the night before the scheduled dive. Please observe the different times for departure.

OUR DIVE BOAT IS NOW LEAVING FROM THE SWAN YACHT CLUB'S LOADING JETTY
(not the fuel jet). Parking is free of charge at the Yacht Club.
All dive bookings and enquiries to be made on telephone/fax number 331 2385 with Kerry Ashton
DO NOT RING THE CREW.
Dives will depart from Swan Yacht Club

Useful Hand Signals Not Found in Diving Manuals

Point finger at pressure gauge. Means: How much air do you have? Raise middle finger if partner has more air than you!

Point at mask. Draw line across chest followed by drawing line from sternum to stomach. Means: Look at the babe over there who's top has fallen off.

Variation #1. Draw line from hip bone to hip bone. Means: Look at the stud muffin/babe over there who's trunks/bottoms have fallen down.

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Midland: 234 Gt. Eastern Hwy 274 5833
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Kalgoorlie: 75 Dugan St (090) 21 2724
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EDITORIAL Steve Larter

Spring is here, the diving season is underway. The Winter seemed to go on forever but now that it's over its time to get all of your gear out of storage and onto the boat.

It's important that equipment checks and servicing are completed before diving operations are commenced. Equipment to be checked and serviced is not only the gear you have purchased.

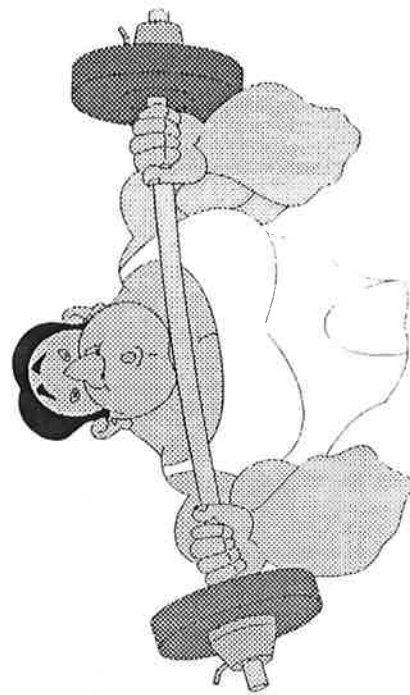
Don't forget your body may need some checking and fitness levels drop substantially when you are inactive. Make sure your fitness level is up to the same level you finished last season with. Things can go badly wrong when the stress of over exertion whilst diving catches up with you.

Having good physical fitness levels gives you much more confidence in the water.

Get fit, get onto the boat and get it right down under.

Diving!! Just do it!

Steve



WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

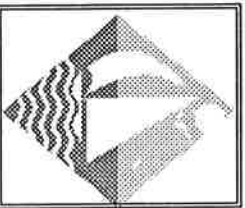
As reported in the last magazine, the UEC is on the move! Our tenants have officially begun their lease period and we are now based at Swan Yacht Club. The move, for me at least, was tinged with both sadness and excitement. Sad because my 14 years involvement with the Club has centred mainly around the Clubrooms and the boat. Excitement because the Club is again expanding its horizons whilst, at the same time, making the most of its assets.

The facilities at Swan Yacht Club have been greatly improved in the past couple of months - a complete refurbishment both downstairs and upstairs - a fitting welcome for us I think! Come along to the next meeting and see our new base. If you cannot make it to the meeting but want to dive, remember that the boat will now be leaving from the small loading jetty at SYC - right next to the launch ramp.

Many thanks to all the Club members who came along to help clean up the Clubrooms a couple of weeks ago. With everyone pitching in it only took a couple of hours to have the rooms spick n span. Would you believe that most of the gear we want to retain is now housed in the compressor room and we have room to spare!

Watch the social pages for details of our next function. This should be a real beauty and a terrific introduction to SYC. Come along and sample the seafood that the Chef is cooking up for us.

Maree



What Wind Through Your Humpback Breaks? Do Whales Fart?

Question: What do scuba divers and whales have in common?
Answer: They both fart a lot.

Whales as we all know are the longest, heaviest and loudest animals on earth. Did you also know they are the most flatulent? Although there has been no direct research on the subject, Australian Marine Biologist, Richard Martin, has come with this proposal by studying the gas production of closely related mammals.

First, he looked at the how are farts generated? In vertebrates, farts are produced by the activities of microbes nosing on undigested food in the large intestine. The resultant gases are expelled via the anus, producing the cheerful calliope effect immortalised in Blazing Saddles. The "characteristic fragrance" (his words, not mine) of farts results from minute traces of volatile chemicals formed by the bacterial metabolism of certain sugars and fats.

Since no one has studied whale farts directly, Mr Martin has to look for indirect evidence. To do that, he had to start with the whales' closest land-dwelling relatives. Analysis of blood proteins have revealed that hippopotamuses are the closest terrestrial relative of whales. This relationship between hippos and whales is further supported by anatomical evidence, notably that both have a three-chambered stomach. But guess what! No one seems to have studied hippo farts either. What a disaster.

Cattle are the next closest relatives and cow farts have been studied. A few years ago, global warming researchers cast a suspicious eye on the world's bovine population. Cows, it turns out, fart mightily every 90 seconds or so.

Two of the major ingredients of farts, carbon dioxide and methane, are important greenhouse gases. It has been estimated that cows generate 400 quarts of methane a day. Recent studies on the stomachs of whales suggest that cetaceans, like their land-dwelling relatives, may also use bacteria to digest their food. In the first stomach chamber of bowhead and grey whales, Russell Herwig and his research team at the University of Washington found volatile fatty acids that are characteristic by-products of the bacterial fermentation of cellulose in cattle. They also found great numbers of bacteria clustered around food particles in whale stomachs.





Why do scuba divers fart so much? According to a recent book, Wind Breaks by Terry Bolin and Rosemary Stanton, inexperienced divers swallow more air during their descent, if they forcefully re-breath out while holding the nose and keeping the lips tightly closed, air can be forced into the stomach. Drinking fizzy drinks, eating beans or having a fatty meal before diving also increases air in the stomach.

During the ascent from the dive, gases in the intestine expand as the surrounding atmospheric pressure decreases. This may cause abdominal distention and a colicky pain! Scuba divers are well aware of the danger of holding air in the lungs while ascending, they must also be aware of holding back on botty bangers.

The average human backfirs about 18 times a day, releasing between 13.2 and 79.2 ounces of gas into earth's atmosphere. (Not me of course, it was the guy next to me). That works out to about 0.6 quarts per day or about 0.004 quarts per pound of body weight.

All of which raises a final and very important question: How much fart gas do whales produce? Based on the average body weight on nine species of whale (blue, fin, sperm, bowhead, right, grey, humpback, minke and killer) and the latest minimum population estimates for these species, Marine Biologist Martin was able to very approximately calculate the total fart volume generated by whales each day at 455,845,250 quarts. That works out to about 40 billion gallons of fart gas discharged by whales every year.

OUR DECLINING MARINE LIFE

-  5,000 - 10,000 turtles are caught in prawn trawl nets around Australia annually - hundreds of thousands die around the world.
-  For every tonne of prawns caught in Australia, 8 tonnes of bycatch is dumped back into the sea. All of this bycatch dies, including turtles, sea snakes, finfish, rays, sharks and dolphins.
-  Around the world, 100 million sharks are killed by the world's fishing fleets every year.
-  Every year around the world, between 18 and 40 million tonnes of fish are thrown overboard as bycatch and die, including thousands of dolphins, albatross and turtles.
-  In Australian waters nearly 10,000 albatross and other seabirds are killed by the activities of longline fishing every year. 44,000 albatross are killed globally.
-  The whaling fleets of Japan and Norway kill 1,000 minke whales annually.
-  Dugongs continue to be killed due to gill-netting, hunting and habitat destruction in the Great Barrier Reef region alone. The Dugong population has declined by over 50% and is considered critically endangered. Thousands die every year.
-  Every year hundreds of thousands of seals are still killed around the world for commercial gain.
-  The Southern Bluefin Tuna (10% population left), orange roughy (less than 30% population left) and gemfish (fishing now halted to try and save the species) are examples of marine fish species that have been decimated by our own industry.
-  Australia's commercial fish stocks have not been used sustainably, 9 species are over-exploited, 7 species are heavily exploited, 16 species are fully exploited and the populations of 59 species are either unknown or uncertain and only 9 are considered "under-exploited".

What you can do:

1. Write to the Fisheries Minister in your State or Territory (and the Federal Minister Senator Parer) C/O Parliament house in your capital city (and Canberra), urging that they both instigate measures to reduce and eliminate all wildlife bycatch in commercial fisheries operations and that they better involve the public in decisions involving allocation of catch quotas.
2. Write to the Environment Ministers in your State or Territory (and the Federal Minister, Senator Hill) C/O Parliament House in your Capital City and Canberra., urging that they make the strongest possible efforts to protect albatross, turtles, dugong and other wildlife species from death in fishing gear around Australia.
3. Send your replies to us.

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

Winter's over at last and so is boat slipping. "Thank goodness" I hear you say and I must say I agree. However, that doesn't mean we've finished working on the boat, far from it, there is still plenty left to be done as our policy is to do only what cannot be done "in water" while on the slips and leave anything else to a more convenient time.

Apart from all the boring stuff like changing all the filters and the engine oil and putting 3 coats of antifoul on the bottom there has only been a couple of outstanding changes. One is the repositioning of the dunny up in the wheelhouse, with its new seat surround made superbly in wood by Ric and which will eventually have a vinyl padded seat. The other will eventually be the completion of the arrangements to have the anchor permanently mounted on the fore-deck. This was started last year as an experiment and as a result of our experience with this, further modifications are being made.

We have also begun a renovation of the deck which is showing corrosion spots where the paint layer has broken down. Water being trapped under carpet is adding to this problem. It is planned to paint the deck with a non-skid rubber-based coating which will help, but we must do something to alter this arrangement fairly soon.

I will be proposing a different way of managing boat maintenance in future since the days when we have unlimited hard standing at low rates, especially during good weather, are long gone and with it the ability to do major modifications over a long period. Hence, to get things done we need a different approach. Basically, various sections of the task will be delegated to each skipper who has the expertise in that area, and who will handle maintenance and modifications as discreet 'projects' to be organised around the diving schedule. Each section 'leader' will be given control of this area, and while getting broad Committee approval to proceed and for funding will do things his way. The boating officer will then only need to coordinate things and help where he can. As it stands now, the Boating Officer tends to be responsible for all the planning, supervision of the activities and for helping as well. This is neither healthy nor possible without great time and effort, which makes the job too big to handle and inhibits good ideas and progress. The new system should encourage a broader outlook and give others a chance to contribute their skills and ideas too.

Meanwhile, the boat is now ready to go diving, so give Kerry a ring and book early.

Cheers Folks!

Stubby



CLUB NOTICE BOARD

Susie

DIVE REPORT FROM COZUMEL

Kerry & Susie

#1 BOOKING LISTS

As we don't have a notice board in our new premises, a small folder containing the different social event booking lists will be circulating during the meeting.

#2 PRE-MEETING DINNER

If you like to come along and have a dinner at the Yacht Club's restaurant before our General Meetings, you are more than welcome, but please let Susie know by the Thursday before. (I have to book with the Chef well in advance). Cost is only \$10 for a 2 course dinner. Great value!

#3 CHANGE OF DATES

a) The "Blessing of the Fleet" event has been changed from Friday 18 October to Sunday 20 October.

b) Our Annual Presentation Party has been changed from 24 November to SUNDAY 8 December. Make a note in your 'Silly Season' Diary now!

#4 UEC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Will be held on the first WEDNESDAY every month from now on.

#5 RAFFLE PRIZES

To choose from at this meeting will be a beautiful booklet "Great Barrier Reef" photographed by the famous Steve parish, OR a silver plated dolphin shape bottle opener, OR a tank knocker! Scramble your pockets for some change and get your chance! Five tickets for a dollar. Not bad, eh!

Cozumel Island is located near the eastern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula in the Southern Mexican state of Quintana Roo. The island is about 45kms long and about 16 kms wide. Due to its proximity to the mainland, the island was under Mayan influence for many centuries. Even today many residents of Cozumel show a striking resemblance to carved and painted images of pre-Columbian Mayans and many locals still speak a Mayan dialect as well as Spanish. Kerry and myself made friends with a restaurateur who could tell us a bit about his ancestors (I thoroughly enjoyed practising my Spanish again and was surprised how much I really could remember from by time in Spain during the sixties!)

The island has long been a favoured spot for travellers. In pre-Conquest times it was a religious center for Mayans and subsequently it was visited by such notables as Hernan Cortez (who conquered Mexico for Spain during the sixteenth century) and a number of pirates who took advantage of the abundant fresh water on the island and the calm, deep waters near the western shore to anchor and rest between raids. More recently, the island has been invaded by thousands of divers seeking clear, warm water. Today Cozumel has a most unusual blend of cultures, successfully integrating divers (mostly Americans) with the resort industry of modern Mexico and the local Mayan heritage.

Nearly all of Cozumel Island is jungle, dotted with fresh-water springs, caverns, wells and pools (cenotes). The island is separated from the mainland by a channel only 19kms wide. Ferry boats to the mainland depart several times every day.

We did eight dives from the island with Tom Hartdegant's "Dive Paradise", a well organised dive shop. If you buy a 3-5 day dive package, it works out cheaper, eg you can add on an extra afternoon dive for only \$10, instead of paying \$30. Morning dives were \$40, instead of \$50. (They travel further in the morning). Our "old" dive buddy Charlie Snow (whom some of you know) had arranged this deal from his home town Houston, Texas, so we had a flash hotel accommodation included as well, all for less than \$600.

So, what about the dives? You read a lot about the strong current here, and how this is only for advanced divers. Well, this time of the year (July) the current is NOT always that strong and sometimes non-existent at all. That was a bit of a surprise. We really only had ONE strong current dive! Result: all divers were OK for novices.

I will never forget the very first dive. No current. Beautiful, healthy soft and hard corals everywhere and A SCHOOL OF QUEEN ANGELFISH! I almost dropped my regulator in surprise. Any other time I have been so fortunate to encounter this, the most beautiful Angelfish of them all, it has been on its own and/or trying to hide among the coral. They are by nature quite shy, so the books tell me, but here I saw a whole heap of them! I just knew then that the diving here was going to be some of the best diving I have done in this whole, wide world!

There are many different shapes of boats from the different dive shops, but all very suitable. Each morning you see an armada of 20-30 or so, dropping in to all the different little jeties, picking you up from outside your hotel. They all go in the same direction - to drop you off at the southern tip of the island - in different places, of course, so it is never "crowded" underwater.

The diving is very versatile. You could be doing a drop-off, going deep down a wall in a labyrinth of interconnected tunnels, a combination of wall and shallow diving, or just slowly drift along a sandy bottom, watching all the beautiful coral bommes and huge sponges passing by.

The night dive was hilarious! I saw the biggest crab I've ever seen! Just his body as bigger than my burn! In a cavern we saw a fairly big moray eel guarding his "cupboard" shelf, consisting of five food supply such as crayfish, crabs and

Glancing back in my dive log reveals notes such as: lovely swim-through caves; a wonderful, lazy drift-dive; excellent diving; magic big bommes; exciting caves lingering in and out on the wall; many huge Queen Angelfish together; feeding a French Angelfish with my banana; monster crab scared me; heaps of Spotted Eels; conch on walk-around; the biggest and fattest Green Moray I've ever seen, swinging right up to my face!... and so impressed by the marine life in this Caribbean marine park, being part of the second largest barrier reef in the world.

The Mexican Federal Government made the western shore of Cozumel a National Marine Park to help protect the many unusual species found here, such as the Splendid Cozumel Toadfish. We were lucky to see a couple hiding under coral heads.

But, when someone asked me a while ago, what was the most fantastic experience during these dive tips, I answered, without hesitation, the "Cenote" dive on the Yucatan Peninsula in the middle of the jungle! Why? Because this was such a NEW and DIFFERENT type of diving and I can finally understand cave divers' passion.

THE 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 nation 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, runoff from agriculture and logging, high-impact tourism and many other causes.

Concern about the state of the world's reefs has inspired scientists and environmental groups to accept the following challenges:

- ★ Planning and executing a major program of public education about coral reefs.
- Assessing the conditions of coral reefs worldwide.
- Collaborating with governments, local communities and other reef managers to develop and implement plans for the sustainable use of irreplaceable reef resources.

The International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 1997 will begin in 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, brochures and other educational materials. 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 insure that the world's coral reefs are preserved for the future.

Now may be a good time to look at our own impact on local 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 get your thinking caps on and lets see what ideas we can come up with to support 1997 International Year of the Reef.

DIVING DELIGHTS

Kerry Ashton

The boat is back !!

- £ Check your gear .
- £ Check your fitness
- £ Check the dive

AND check your calendar - Christmas is around the corner and before you know it summer has gone again.

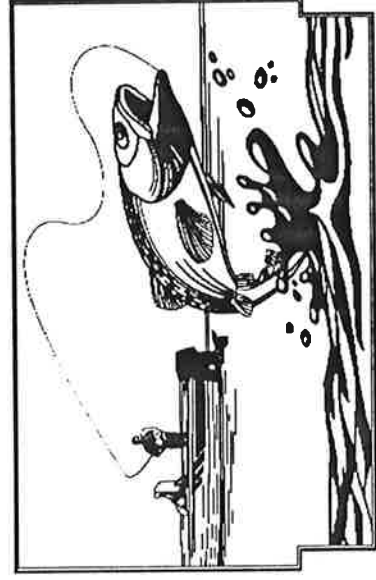
Allow yourself plenty of time to pack you gear, yourself and find **The New Dive Pick-Up Point at the Swan Yacht Club.**

An added attraction this time of year is the whales that pass through. No guarantees, just a good possibility of seeing them when we are out there!! In fact, we have slotted in a "Family Day" (no diving) on September 21, by special request.

Any special requests, overnights, fishing and so on, don't think about it ask me and we will kick-start it.

Safe Diving.

Kerry





SOCIAL SCENE - Susie Ashton



NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

**SUMPTUOUS SEAFOOD
SATURDAY**

SPECIAL EVENT

DATE:

Saturday 28 September

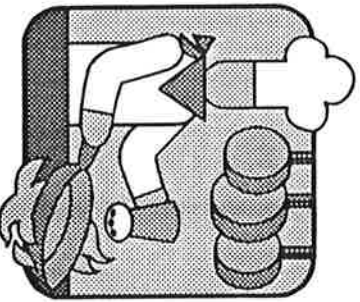
LOCATION:

Swan Yatcht Club

TIME:

8.00pm onwards

CONTACT BOB - 454 8450



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NEXT MEETING

Our Club member STEVE PARKINS will show us his slides from many local dive sites.



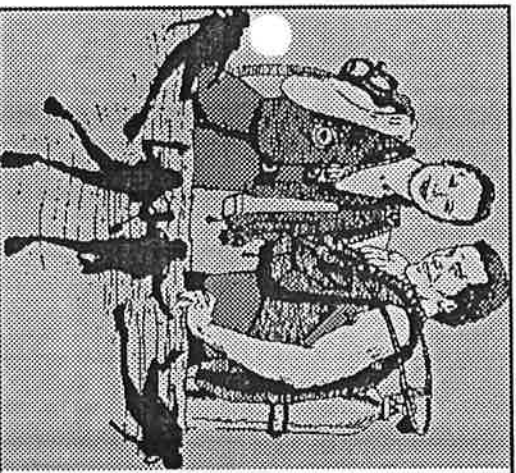
SOCIAL REPORT #1

Never would I have guessed that furniture polish would be so popular to drink together with m-hyated spirits! People kept coming back for more, and more... and more. Needless to say that we ended up with quite a "happy" bunch at the "Farewell Party" held at the old Clubrooms at the August General Meeting. Thanks for making my day, folks! (By the way - the proper name for this luke warm, red wine with spirits and spices is "GLOGG", if you care to know a bit of Swedish culture).

£ STOP PRESS £
£ STOP PRESS £

Check with your Skipper with regards to embarking onto Explorer I. We are now based at Swan Yacht C and we shall be embarking and disembarking from the loading jetty at the Club.

Parking is available to all Club members.



SOCIAL REPORT #2

The launching of "Underwater Explorer" from Swan Yacht Club on Sunday 1 October was another "wet" event, where we polished off three big platters with nibbles, nine bottles of champagne and I honestly don't know how many beer cans. We finished off with a dinner in the Yacht Club's restaurant. All good fun and people.

SORRY - SUNDAY 1st September - (Hic)

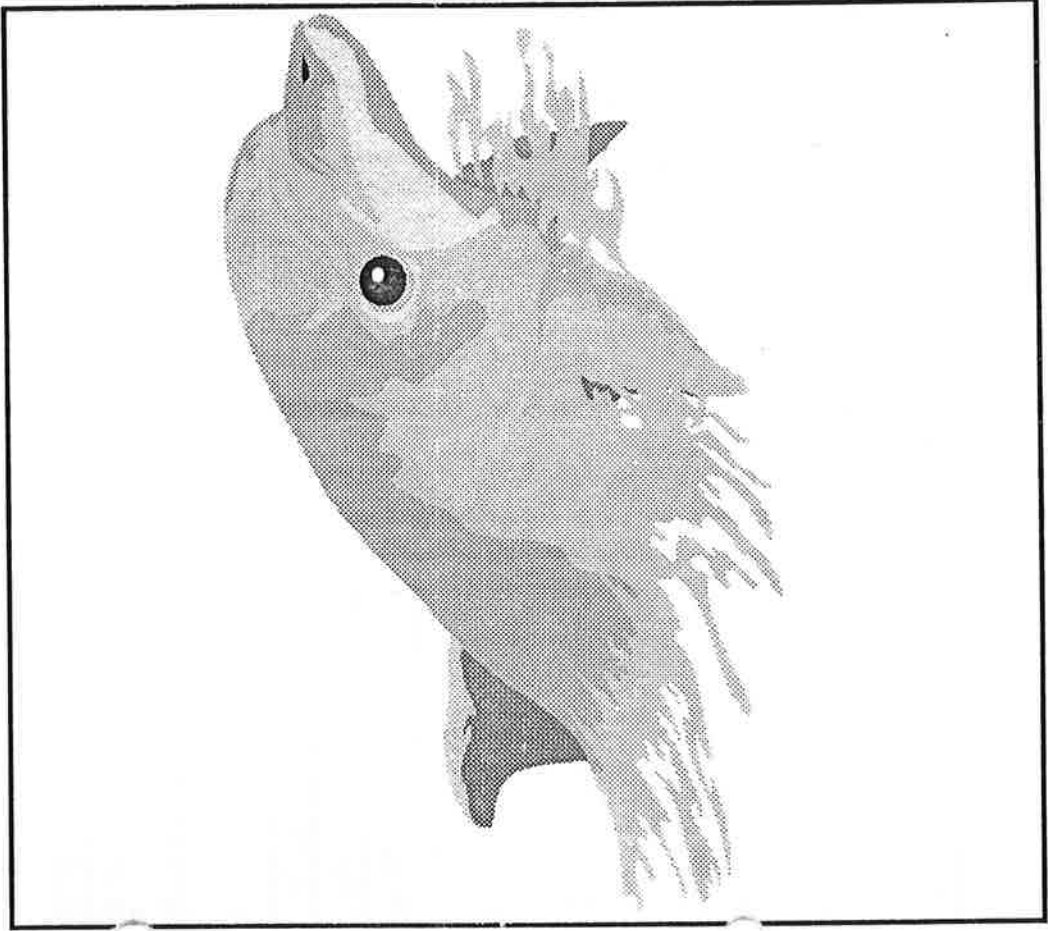


NICK HUNTER will be performing at the Pioneer Hotel in Armadale on Saturday 21 September at 8.30pm. "Be there, or be square". Nick is also taking this opportunity to release his first cassette Downunder - all with his own songs.

BEV SWIFT (sorry - now HUNTY): "BIG O" birthday on 29 September. CHEERS!

THE UEC NEWS

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



OCTOBER 1996

SENDER:

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (inc.)
PO Box 1157, BOORAGOON, WA 6154.

BARRY KENNEDY
YES

UEC NEWS

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (inc.)
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THE COMMITTEE 1995/96

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	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385
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TRAINING OFFICER	Vacant	
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SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2385
DIVE BOOKINGS	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385

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Complete with VGA colour monitor, Compaq Lite

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CLUB CALENDAR

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 1996

MONTH/DATE	EVENT
OCTOBER	
Sat 19	Two Tank Dive : 8am SKIPPER: Richard N & DO Brian M SOCIAL: BLESSING OF THE FLEET : 1 - 4pm GENERAL MEETING - SWAN YACHT CLUB 8pm <i>Dinner (must be pre-booked) 6:30pm</i>
Sun 20	BSAC - Two Tank Dive SKIPPER: Bob McL & DO Steve L
Mon 21	
Sun 27	
NOVEMBER	
Sat 2	Skipper / DO Boat Training : 1pm : Contact Kerry Two Tank Dive SKIPPER: Barry K & DO Geoff C
Sun 3	
Wed 6	COMMITTEE MEETING - 8pm
Sat 9	Early Exploratory : 7am SKIPPER: Kerry A & DO Brian M GUESS ?? Kerry A
Fri 15	Two Tank Dive SKIPPER: Dennis S & DO Maree C
Sun 17	
Mon 18	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SWAN YACHT CLUB : 8pm <i>Dinner (Must be pre-booked) : 6:30pm</i> SKIPPER: Peter & DO Luc DO's Choice SKIPPER: Geoff C & DO Luc F
Sun 24	
DECEMBER	
Wed 4	COMMITTEE MEETING - 8pm
Sat 7	Straglers / Carnac : 7am SKIPPER: Richard N & DO Jim R SOCIAL: PRESENTATION PARTY : 1pm One Tank Morning : 7am SKIPPER: Bob McL & DO Steve L
Sun 8	
S 14	
Sun 15	Christmas Dive Rotnest : 8am SKIPPER: Barry K & DO Kerry A
Mon 16	GENERAL MEETING - SWAN YACHT CLUB : 8pm Dinner (Must be pre-booked) : 6:30pm

NOTES

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

All Word Processing and Desk Top Publishing
Supplied by:

BRIANA DESK TOP PUBLISHING

Phone : 459 4662

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made with Kerry / Susie

Phone / Fax : 331 2385

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Geoff Charlton

Birthday wishes go out to the following people this month:

Michel Roux - 2nd
Mary Edwards - 26th

If I've missed you, please let me know - my membership records are very sketchy before 1985.

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FOR ALL YOUR GLASS REQUIREMENTS



PILKINGTON VICTOR GLASS

Greenwood: 20 Canham Way 342 3737
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Myaree: 79 McCoy St 330 2333
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Sih Fremantle: 109 Hampton Rd 335 2044
Victoria Park: 1 Mint St 362 2270
Kalgoorlie: 75 Dugan St (090) 21 2724
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EDITORIAL

Steve Larfer

With the impending sinking of the HMAS Swan off our coastline the interests of divers will turn once again to wreck diving. For those of us who have dived on significant wrecks around the world and off the WA coast, wreck diving is always memorable. UEC was founded by some very adventurous individuals who at a very early stage caught the wonder lust for exploring wrecks. They were responsible for discoveries of a number of significant wrecks which have assisted the marine archeologists to record the early history of seafarers who regularly visited the settlement of the Swan Colony and of course Fremantle.

For the majority of our membership a lot of these wrecks still remain mysterious as we no longer dive on wrecks or bother to take time out to do some exploring of our own. Last year we attempted a number of times to carry out exploratory dives without success. That was last year. It's time to start making our diving more interesting, there are only so many times you dive in the same place without losing interest. Support for dives for exploration has been negative but there are a growing number of UEC members and other divers who want to find something new and there is lots out there to discover.

The City Beach dive in April 1996 was a good example of this. Get behind the exploratory dives as this year we need to put UEC on the front page of diving in WA.

Discovery. Let's just do it!

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

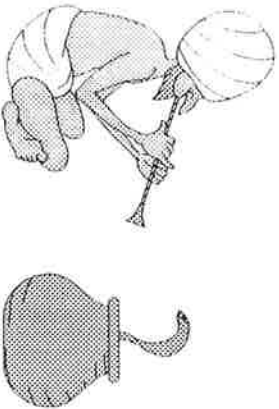
It's official! The association between UEC and the SYC has been signed, sealed and delivered and our new base for operations will be at the Yacht Club. Keep an eye open for social functions run by both UEC and Swan Yacht Club. They promise something for everyone so try and make it occasionally. A real winner will be the curry night that is scheduled for 9th November. If it is anything like the seafood night, it will be truly memorable. The dinner was magnificent - mussels, prawns, whitebait, octopus and barramundi, followed by a selection of sweets. What more could a gourmand ask for? Well, a veritable smorgasbord of curries that's what! Let Bob know if your interested.

The "business" end of the diving season is just about to start again and with that comes your first gentle reminder that your annual fees are now due. Our hope is that if you pay your fees ASAP we will be able to put our name on the pen list at SYC. Clearly, the sooner we put our name on the list the sooner we actually get one. To help you feel better about paying now, the Committee has decided to hold our fees at the same rate as last year (and the year before and the one before that etc). Please send or bring along some cash or a cheque to the next meeting.

This is also the time of year that we need to consider the up-coming Annual General Meeting. As usual I am making a plea to all Club members to consider taking on a Committee position. We are always on the look-out for people that have the Club's best interests at heart and are willing to put in a bit of time to ensure the Club continues to grow and prosper. If you can spare a couple of hours a month, have a willingness to help and a few ideas that you can bring to the Club, come to the November meeting and have yourself nominated.

Last month's meeting was very well attended and everyone enjoyed Steve Parkins slide show. For those of you who haven't experienced our new meeting place, come along on the 21st and see what you're missing.

Maree



OLD WARSHIP TO BE SUNK FOR DIVING

The decommissioned Royal Australian Navy destroyer escort Swan will be sunk as a diving wreck.

Swan, which was decommissioned on September 13, became the subject of a tug-of-war as the WA Tourism Commission took submissions on possible uses for it.

Te McVeigh, the commission's general manager of tourism industry development, said six submissions were received. Unsuccessful proposals included using Swan as a floating church headquarters at Fremantle and preserving it as a naval heritage showpiece.

The commission was examining two diving wreck proposals - from Rockingham and Geographe Bay.

Factors included the removal of potentially hazardous or polluting materials from the ship, weather conditions, insurance and liability.

The commission was seeking advice from Canada, which had sunk ships as diving wrecks and was due to make a recommendation to the State Government in about a fortnight.

Swan's sister ship, Derwent, was sunk in 1994 as an artificial reef 12 nautical miles west of Rottnest Island.



NEWS EXTRA

Two Whales were sighted from our dive boat last Sunday!

Come join in our Spring diving, you may see some unexpected delights

Useful Hand Signals Not Found in Diving Manuals

Point in a direction, followed by making squeezing motions with both hands.

Means: Lets follow the gal/guy in the thong!



Make a motion with hand simulating the use of a yo-yo preceded with a pointing motion. Means: Look at the Yo-Yo!



Point at divers fins, then make circle with right hand while thrusting left index finger into hole made by right hand followed by pointing at the bottom. Means, Hey you jerk, stop kicking up the f****ing bottom!



Point at yourself, point at partner. Then make circle with right hand while thrusting left index finger into hole made by right hand. Means: Hey, ever done it underwater?



Thrust finger of either hand against mask of another diver until their head bounces off cylinder valve. Means: Please pay attention!



Point at regulator, then point at rear end. Means Kiss my ass!



WE ARE SWIMMING IN GOLD

Tibi

It has been estimated that one km³ of sea water (one thousand billion litres) contains 6 kilograms of gold. Since all the oceans together comprise 1.5 billion m³ of water, the total quantity of gold dissolved may be estimated to be 10 million tons.

In 1927 - 28 in order to try to pay the debts incurred during the First World War, a German Chemist, Fritz Harber, equipped an Oceanographic ship, the Meteor, to rake the waters of the Atlantic and to attempt to recover part of the gold dissolved in sea water.

The procedure used was found to be rather fruitless and he had to abandon his research because of the very small quantity of gold collected.

Fritz didn't get much of the gold, it's still there for us to swim in.



The first underwater photograph was presented to the London Art Society by William Thompson in 1856. The photographic apparatus had been placed at the bottom of the Bay of Weymouth at a depth of 6m. The lens controlled from the surface stayed open for 10 minutes.

Tibi



CLUB NOTICE BOARD

Susie

#1 ROTTNEST LONG WEEKEND - 1-3 MARCH 1997

We need to know if you are interested in coming over during the week before (24 - 8 February) AND / OR the week after (4 - 8 March) in order to keep our booking of the extra cottage. Please contact Susie in this matter a.s.a.p.

#2

As we are now all "social members" of the Swan Yacht Club as well, I thought it would be a good idea to extend our own social activities and take part in some of theirs.

- a) SUNDOWNER - Friday 25 October at 7 - 9pm.
- b) OLD TIME DANCING - Saturday 2 November.
- c) Anybody out there who wants to join me for the MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON on Tuesday 5/11?

#3 BOOK NOW for our own social events:

- a) CURRY DINNER - Saturday 9 Nov.
- b) ANNUAL PRESENTATION PARTY - Sunday 8 Dec.
- c) CHRISTMAS DIVE & BBQ - Sunday 15 Dec.

#4 UEC BUMPER STICKER

HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO SHOW US YOUR CREATIVITY!

We want suggestions to what you think our new UEC bumper sticker should look like. Hand in your ideas to Susie ASAP. Closing date - Friday 1 November; suggestions to be discussed at November Committee Meeting. That will give us a chance to hand them out (free of charge) to members at the AGM on 18 November.

Must be square or rectangular and maximum 100mm wide.

AIR TO SPARE

(cont)

'SPARE AIR' A COMPACT AND RUGGED LIFESAVER

Dispensing with hoses and instrument consoles the small aluminium cylinder, approximately 30cm in length with a diameter of just 5½ cm, holds, when fully charged, some 75 litres of air. Capped by a single-stage regulator with silicone mouthpiece / dual-purpose purge button and exhaust valve / filling port and pressure indicator gauge, the whole unit is compact and streamlined, a light weight safety accessory that's easy to use.

A refill adaptor allow the 'Spare Air' to be filled to its working pressure of 3,300 psi from the charging port of a dive store, or decanted from the diver's own primary air cylinder.

Securely gripped by an elastic sleeve affixed to an adjustable webbing and Velcro fastening system, the 'Spare Air' attaches easily to any BCD. To use, simply remove the 'Spare Air' from the sleeve, remove the protective mouthpiece cover, depress the purge button to expel water, and breathe.

Only intended for use within normal recreational diving limits, the 'Spare Air' is very much an emergency breathing system, not an alternative one that can be used to extend bottom times! Providing that the cylinder is properly filled - and that in an emergency a controlled ascent is begun immediately - it will provide a sufficient level of breathing comfort for a diver to safely reach the surface.

In an activity that boats more than its fair share of 'gizmo's' and gadgets the 'Spare Air' is a ruggedly practical safety accessory that, for divers who shoulder the responsibility for their own safety and well-being, offers low-profile, low-weight, low-maintenance, and low-cost, peace of mind.

Making diving even safer, the 'Spare Air', available through Land & Sea Sports, meets all the criteria of a company whose maxim, 'Innovative Technology Made Affordable', continues to reflect a concern with safety and product excellence.



CIG EXTENDS CYLINDER TRADE-IN

In response to market demand, CIG Gas Cylinders has extended their aluminium scuba cylinder trade in offer to 31 December 1996. Recreational and commercial divers can trade in any aluminium cylinder, in any condition, before the end of the year and receive a \$50 rebate when they purchase a new CIG aluminium cylinder.

"We felt it was necessary to extend the offer and give more divers the opportunity to upgrade their old cylinder and take advantage of the new 60671 alloy, which is a stronger cylinder", said Mr David Day, Sales and Marketing Manager of CIG Gas Cylinders.

To get the \$50 rebate, divers need to turn in their old cylinders to participating dive shops and purchase a new CIG aluminium cylinder. The old tank and proof of purchase for the new tank will then be sent to Cape Byron Imports or Scuba Industries of Australia, distributors of CIG cylinders. A cheque for \$50 will be forwarded to the trade-in customer within 7 days. The market leader in diving cylinders in Australia, CIG Gas Cylinders is the only manufacturer to offer an unconditional 7 year warranty on their product.

For further information, contact Joanne Smith, Marketing at CIG Gas Cylinders on telephone (02) 830 0927.

AIR TO SPARE

Running out of air. It happens more often than we realize - or care to admit to. And for an assortment of reasons. Bad planning; neglect of the "Rule of Thirds"; failure to monitor instruments throughout the dive; fear of a dive buddies reaction if the dive is 'prematurely curtailed; or simply pushing the cylinders capacity to its limits in order to prolong a particular enjoyable dive. Rarely is it caused by an equipment malfunction.

There's also the notion that in an out-of-air situation the buddy will be close by, alternate air source to hand, with a plentiful supply of air sufficient to get both diver to the surface. As an option it's better than nothing, but it's a concept and fact still fraught with problems. Often particularly in clear, warm waters the only common basis for determining a 'buddy pair' is that you are diving in the same body of water at the same time.

Nobody doubts the value of the buddy system, it's served divers well, but there's a growing body of opinion that stresses the importance of self sufficiency. It's a doctrine that's been around for a long time, and one that's finding increasing favour among those who take diving - and their own safety - seriously.

There's nothing new about the use of redundant breathing systems. Known collectively as 'bail-out' bottles, 'come-home' cylinders, or, more popularly, as 'pony bottles', they've been used successfully for years by commercial and military divers. A smaller cylinder of breathing mixture, often with its own dedicated regulator and demand valve which, in the event of a failure in the primary breathing systems, allows the diver sufficient gas to ascend safely back to the surface.

SELF-SUFFICIENT SAFETY

Once again coming into vogue, principally among those carrying out more advanced types of diving, the use of redundant - or independent - breathing systems are enjoying a resurgence in popularity. It's now more commonplace to see recreational divers employing a 'pony bottle' attached to their main cylinder. But despite this acceptance of their obvious worth, their use among recreational divers has remained small.

Perhaps because of the equipment intensive image that diving already portrays; perhaps because of the additional cost of an item that nobody ever expects to use; and almost certainly because of a false reliance on the role of the buddy system, the concept of self-sufficiency and the ability to 'rescue' oneself is largely overlooked.

Now, however, there's a redundant air source that meets the requirements of the mainstream recreational diving community. The 'Spare Air'. Designed for rapid use in an out-of-air emergency, 'Spare Air' is a miniature SCUBA system that, if properly used and maintained, can help avoid injury and save lives.

DIVING DELIGHTS

Kerry Ashton

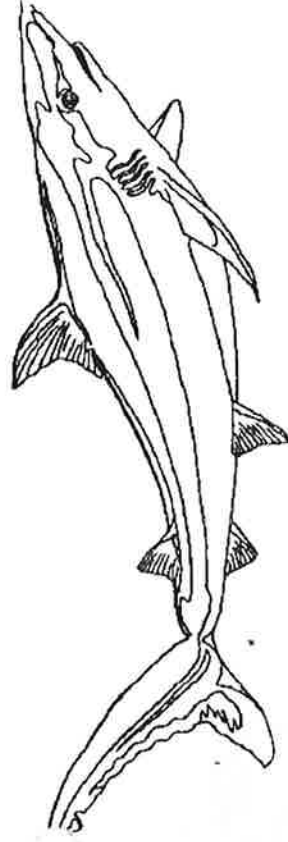
Annette, Kerry, Luc and Peter were the intrepid first four UEC divers to get wet this season.

The scheduled dive on Saturday 28/9 was cancelled due to bad weather conditions. However, Monday 30/9 produced one of those "oily flat" days. The water temperature showed 16°C on Luc's gauge. All four divers managed to stay underwater for 50 minutes and reported a pleasant dive; not too bad vis and not much u/w swell, at a depth of 10m. They were diving Hugal's Passage.

Peter saw a "dog shark", he said, but after looking the creature up in our "fish book", we decided it was probably a WHISKERY SHARK. Interesting.

The BSAC mob had eight divers out on Sunday 29/9 and had two good dives north of Rottneest.

Kerry





SOCIAL SCENE - Susie Ashton



NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

SOCIAL REPORT #1

SOCIAL REPORT #2

ROWLEY SHOALS

BLESSING OF THE FLEET

SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER

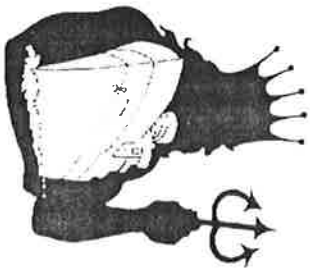
Pick-up at Swan Yacht Club - 1pm Sharp

We'll party decorate our "UE" and be on the Fremantle waters together with all the other boats celebrating. A "Welcome aboard" drink will be served and some Italian anti-pasta dishes.

Bring your own deck chair and MORE drinks.

(We'll be back about 4pm).

Cost : \$10 in advance.



SUCCESS Number One:

Our first General Meeting at the Swan Yacht Club. About 20 people turned up for the pre-meeting dinner at 6.30pm. Good value meal for money paid! And extremely good atmosphere at our new club room afterwards!

Remember to book with me by Thursday 17 October if you want to join us next time, or simply put your name down on "UEC Floating Notice Board".

STEVE PARKINS' slide show was brilliant and we thank him heartily for his presentation. Well done - keep your hobby up and you might become really famous one day!



Gossip



KAREN GURRY (nurse/mid-wife) says "hullo" to everyone she knows in the club from her Cocos Islands home. Her hubby, Steve, works in the dive shop 3 days per week. When I asked how long they were going to remain there, she said she had no idea and didn't seem to be in a hurry to move on.

SUCCESS Number Two:

The Sumptuous Seafood Dinner, organised by Bob in close consultation with the staff, Mr Kunchan at the SYC. It was really delicious! As a starter we had mussels cooked in a divine, creamy sauce. After finishing the two huge plates, we actually tipped the remaining sauce into the small bowls, so we could soak up the rest with our bread rolls.

Next dish was mountains of baifish with another tasty sauce. After that, we were served juicy garlic prawns and grilled octopus with rice. And, as if all this wasn't enough, the main course came out with a whole Barramundi each, prepared in an exotic way. Pavlova and/or fruitcake as dessert, with coffee, of course. Needless to say we had a great time together!

We were all so pleased, that we decided on the spot to have another dinner soon. As a matter of fact, it will be our November social event, as the Presentation Party has been moved to December. Bob had another talk to the Chef, and next time it will be all (mild to medium) CURRY dishes. Cost : \$20.

Book now and please, payment in advance this time!

It's all happening on Saturday 9th at 7.30pm.

I suppose you have already heard about the marvelous diving at the ROWLEY SHOALS and you have also heard about the fairly high cost (at \$2,500). Kerry and I have been talking and thinking about going to dive this wonderful tropical WA reef system for many years now, but haven't done it yet. It needs a bit of commitment and planning in advance because the live aboard "TRUE NORTH" always books up very quickly. (This year, when I tried to book on, the boat was already full) I was then told that if I put down a deposit soon, I can secure a charter of the whole boat for a trip next year. That does also work out to be much cheaper for many reasons. Maximum twelve divers will pay "only" \$1,585 each for a week aboard. (Ten = \$1,900).

The ROWLEY SHOALS are a scuba divers' paradise, they say. However, you do not have to be a scuba diver to enjoy the snorkeling, feeding the fish, sunset walks on the sand cays, shell collecting, exploring the reef in the dinghies and fishing. Your week aboard "True North" can be as full or as relaxing as you wish to make it, and the food is magnificent. I have heard.

Please let me know VERY soon, if you are interested in a trip in October/November next year.

Susie

P.S

See the "Floating Notice Board" for more information.

THE OEC 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.

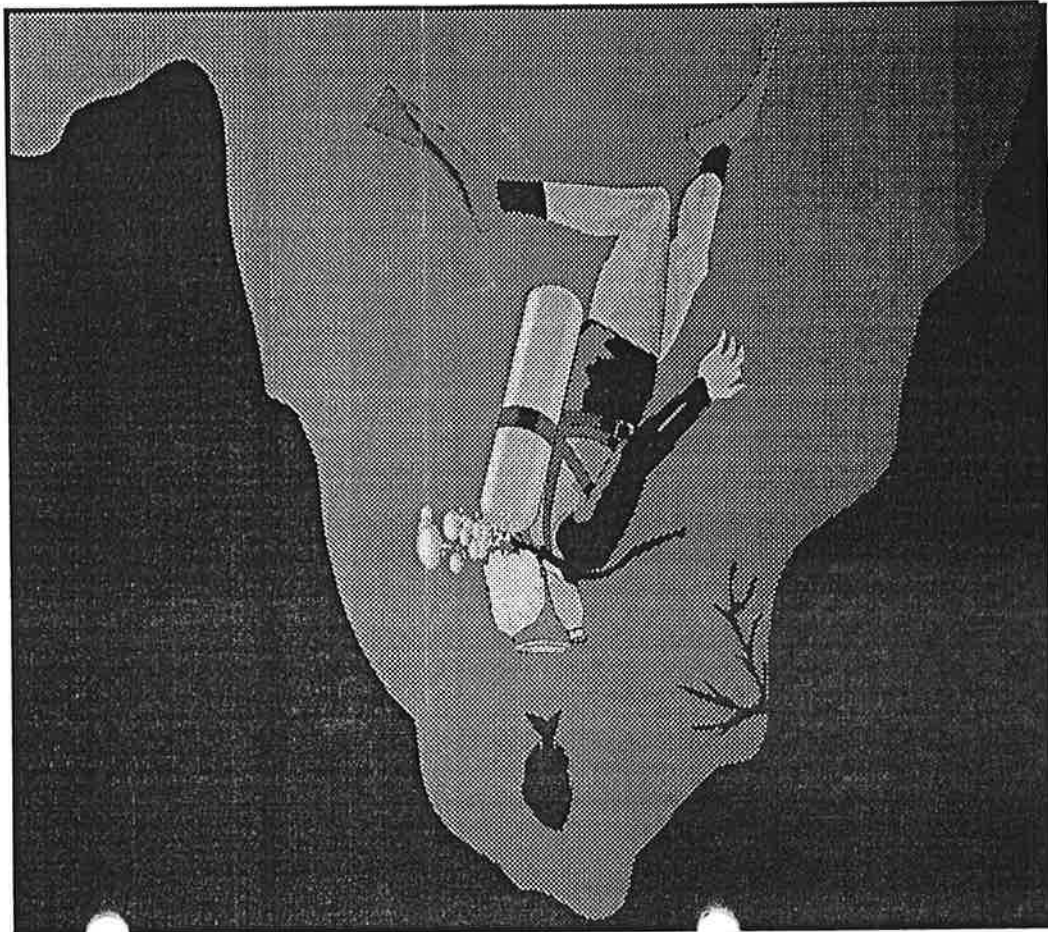
UEC NEWS

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

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AUSTRALIA

Geoff & Hetty Geard
25 Pavetta Cr
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058



NOVEMBER 1996

THE COMMITTEE 1995/96

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	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385
BOATING OFFICER	Dennis Stubberfield	Phone 457 3333
SAFETY OFFICER	Gordon Magee	Phone 331 3740
TRAINING OFFICER	Vacant	
BUILDING OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 457 5206
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Steve Larter	Phone 291 9654
SOCIAL & PR	Susie Ashton	Phone 331 2387
DIVE BOOKINGS	Kerry Ashton	Phone 331 2385

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CLUB CALENDAR

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 1996

MONTH/DATE	EVENT
NOVEMBER	
Fri 15	Boat out of water for repairs - Ring Kerry
Sun 17	Boat out of water for repairs - Ring Kerry
Mon 18	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SWAN YACHT CLUB : 8pm <i>Dinner (Must be pre-booked) : 6.30pm</i>
Sat 23	Boat out of water for repairs - Ring Kerry
Sun 24	Boat out of water for repairs - Ring Kerry
Fri 29	SKIPPER: Bob McL & DO Steve L Overnighter - Ring Kerry Ashton
DECEMBER	
Sun 1	Two Tank BSAC : 7am
Wed 4	Peter H / BSAC COMMITTEE MEETING - 5pm
Sat 7	Stragglers / Carnac : 7am Richard N / Jim R
Sun 8	SOCIAL PRESENTATION PARTY : 7pm
Sat 14	One Tank Morning : 7am Bob McL / Steve L
Sun 15	Christmas Dive Roastest : 8am Barry K / Kerry A
Mon 18	GENERAL MEETING - 5pm DINNER (MUST BE PRE-BOOKED) : 6.30pm
	STOP Press !!
	CONTACT KERRY PAIR TO
	BOOKING. BOAT IS TEMPORARY
	OUT OF SERVICE DUE TO
	ENGINE PROBLEM.

NOTES

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

All dive bookings and enquiries to be made with Kerry / Susie
Phone / Fax : 331 2385

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Geoff Charlton

Birthday wishes go out to the following people this month:

Geoff Charlton	-	4th
Susie Ashton	-	12th
Robin Shepherd	-	20th
Karen Hubbard	-	25th
Bianka Glaser	-	29th

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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 Larter

We have now been resident at The Swan Yacht Club for 3 months and the move has proven to be a great success. At long last we are achieving a positive cash flow and we can now start planning for improvements to our most usable asset "Explorer 1".

For those of you who have not been aboard this season so far the boat is running well and plans are in place for better diving and more of it.

What we do urgently need is more active divers. Our present active diver list is stagnant and for what we do offer we can do a lot better.

To attract new divers we need to fire up a publicity machine. Advertising and limelight is what we require. We have so much to offer all divers, regardless of qualification type. A Publicity Officer for the incoming Committee to commence the push towards getting our message across to the Perth diving community will be a very positive step.

Getting the UEC message across to prospective new members is everybody's responsibility, the more positive and the more frequent the message, then the more success we must enjoy.

Be positive - just do it!

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

November is possibly one of the most important months of our diving year. Two things happen in November that impact greatly on the Club. Firstly, annual subs are due and this year it is important that we don't drag our feet too much. We need the money to pay for some urgent major repairs that need to be done on the boat and as soon as we can we want to put a deposit down with SYC to secure a pen for her. Currently our plans have had a set-back because the motor needs work. You also need to be financial if you want to participate in important event number two - that is of course the AGM.

The AGM will be held on the 18th November and I hope there will be a large turnout of members to vote and hopefully take positions on the Committee. As I say each year, we need new faces and new ideas to keep our club fresh and vibrant. If everyone helps out or goes onto a sub-committee, then none of the offices become overly burdensome. Please consider a position on the Committee - it only takes a couple of hours a month and the Club will really benefit. The AGM will also have a social focus with a few nibbles etc after the business of the evening is complete.

The Annual Presentation Day is also fast approaching - check the social pages for this one. This is an important day for members because it gives us a chance to catch up with some of our life members. It is also the time when we present awards to club members that have dedicated so much time and effort to improving the Club.

I would like to take this opportunity at the end of the Club year to thank all my colleagues on the Committee for all their efforts during the past year. It has been a time of change but one I believe has been and will continue to be successful. Thanks also to all club members for their support during the past year. I hope to see you all at the next Club meeting on the 18th.

Maree

CAIRNS SNORKELING & DIVING by Warren & Wendy Cummins

Monday 21/10/96 - 8.30am Wind 10 knots, clear skies. Wendy and I set sail with some 150 passengers aboard the 105ft catamaran Ocean Spirit for Michaelmas Cay, a small sandy island some 40km North East of Cairns on the outer Barrier Reef. After reaching the island some 2 1/2 hours later we were entertained by the daily fisher feeding as the fish pieces went overboard the water was a boil with giant Trevally literally jumping out of the water. Then organising hook place for our activities. One had the choice of snorkeling tours, resort diving, semi-submersible coral viewing or tours of the migratory sea birds. We decided to snorkel the reef, within 20 metres of the beach in about 1 - 2 metres we were astounded by the crystal clear water and what we were about to see. Water temperature was around 26 degrees. The area was abundant in colour with virtually no evidence of decimated coral. Listed here is some of the variety we had pleasure in experiencing. Ascidians with colourful filer, over soft coral, sea fans, laced coral, acropora, brilliant butterfly fish, goldback anthias, purple anthias, clown, nemofish, humpugs black and white, angelfish, giant clams tridacna degrassa ranging up to 50cm and numerous other varieties of life. Clown anemorfish fascinate me the way they keep themselves busy darting in and out of the soft wavelike coral. After spending some time snorkeling we returned to the boat to indulge in the very lavish smorgasbord. Then after some 4 1/2 to 5 hours on Michaelmas Cay we departed for Cairns under reefed sail and motor, by this time wind was approaching 25 knots. On the way home we were entertained to a live musician. A memorable day seemed to be had by all, by a boat catering to international tourists in a very profession way.

Wednesday 23/10/96 - 6am. Wendy departed for Perth and today was the start of my 3 day 2 night live aboard dive adventure. 6.30am I was to meet at Divers Den main shop. Due to strong wind warning I was flabbergasted to find that 7 out of 20 passengers had canceled losing their 10% plus. Regardless of all this the boat was still going out. So within the next hour I plus 3 other certified divers, 9 students, 2 instructors and a skipper combined engineer embarked aboard the 23 metre Pacific Adventure, destination Norman Reef some 65 kms North East of Cairns. We were told now might be a good time to have a nap. As 25 to 30 knots South Easter brings the prevailing wind, with 3 metre swell and 1.8 seas was forecast. And the trip to the reef would take some 3 1/2 to 4 hours. Within the next hour evidence of this was setting in as the vessel listed heavily to Port side crockery could be heard crashing from side to side. I politely asked the cook "do you ever lose much crockery", but I seemed to get a pretty negative reply. Eventually we arrived at Norman Reef after much rolling from side to side. As we motored into a relatively protected area one could see huge swells crashing onto the reef some 1/2 a km ahead. The call went out "we are here" kit up, kit up, kit up. At this stage a few people were not capable of doing this as they were still quite ill. I and the other 3 certified divers decided to make our first dive as a team which worked out quite well. We went down to 18 metres and found no surge, no current, with visibility of maximum 10 metres. Marine life was till evident as I discussed in our snorkel adventure. This area of the Barrier Reef usually experiences 20 metres plus. But due to seas being whipped up, no much could be done about this. Later in the afternoon we made another dive, 14 metres and much was experienced as the previous one. A night dive was held with 2 conscientious divers participating. That night the sea was angry with white caps seen in every direction as wind reached 30 knots plus with rain squalls coming through from time to time, our vessel creaking and groaning as I ended up and down on the mooring.

Daybreak broke to a continuation of the previous conditions. I made a morning and an afternoon dive similar to the previous day. That afternoon 4 divers were transferred to a moored pontoon some 1km from us whom were then ferried to the mainland by the huge motorised catamaran that had brought some 300 international tourists to the reef for the day. I could only imagine as I peered towards the cat what a lovely day those tourists thought they were going to do snorkeling around in the ocean. As Wendy and I recall a group of people coughing and spluttering with floaties on their back and trying to breath through this funny stick welded to the side of their head "and that was in flat conditions. Thursday afternoon after transferal of our 4 passengers it was decided we move to Saxon Reef a few kms to the South. Here visibility had dropped to 7 or 8 metres although very pretty with lots of clams, many large fish and of course Wally the giant humphred wrasse whom would be at least a metre in length. He is known to Divers Den as their friendly pet who is seen constantly. I used to love hanging off the 5 mtr monkey bar with arm outstretched, the closest he came to me was perhaps 1/2 a mtr. Friday, day 3 with an instructor and a group of 6 we made our last dive then an early lunch, signing of all our logbooks, then a battering down of anything that would move. We fired up the engines for our return to Cairns. That was a process of the bow plunging through waves and spray for the next 3 hours. I still considered my 3 day 2 night liveboard trip a great experience and would do it again, only next time would study Cairns weather pattern in much greater detail and would not book so far in advance.

(PS) I enjoyed the food, never missed a meal and was always complementing the young lass on her culinary cuisine, as she had the movement of the vessel and the confined galley to contend with. Luckily for her there seemed to be less mouths to feed as days went by.

READ THIS BEFORE YOU COME TO OUR A.G.M.

Did you ever think about taking up a committee role? If so, here is your chance:

Two fun and rewarding positions are coming up. Kerry and I want to have a break, so, we are seriously looking for replacements.

Kerry's tasks as a DIVING OFFICER means that you will schedule Skipper/D.O.s for our Saturday/Sunday dives, and put together monthly Club Calendar. This is basically a co-ordinating role, and effective use of your sub-committee of four people, makes life easier. A dive report in our Newsletter is always appreciated.

My position as Officer-in-Charge for the SOCIAL & PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE has been great fun this year, because I was smart enough to surround myself with very valuable helpers.

I would like to take this opportunity to THANK them all, especially HETTY with husband GEOFF and BOB for their outstanding ideas and organisation of some really special social events that came to life during this period.

From the Constitution: "The duties and powers of the Social & Public Relations committee shall be in respect of:

- (1) Recommendation and organisation of Club social functions.
- (2) The raising of funds for normal club activities and to liaise with other sub-committees for this purpose when required.
- (3) Recommendation and organisation of Club advertising and Publicity."

I will still be around to help out and support anyone taking over this position, if needed.

(Most of the year, anyway.)

GOOD LUCK!!

Susie

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

Several boating and administrative matters need reporting this month as we prepare our boating facilities for what promises to be a bumper season.

Boat usage has been well up for this time of year and the boat and machinery has served us well. However, the engine injectors, long overdue for a good service and or replacement have finally protested to such an extent that it must be done now. No. 6 injector failed leading a smoky exhaust and rough running engine, so we've "bit the bullet" and have given them all a major overhaul at a cost of some \$1,800 and a week-ends diving. This should last for about 10 years!! (At our rate of usage). The hull and deck is still in superb condition, but we must paint the deck and replace our deck covering with a more kindly product to prevent long term corrosion. Apart from that all is well and we are ready for a good years run. The mooring we have user rights to in Geordie Bay has been completely renovated and we have secured our "owners" heartfelt gratitude and our place in the sun in the Bay. In return, if anyone knows a mooring owner in the west end of Stork Bay (narrow neck) who needs a good conscientious user please let us know because our "owner" would like to be allowed to get on a mooring there!!

Administratively, some big changes to the way we 'manage' our boating have come out of the Skippers meeting held on 23 October 1996 at our place.

Your Boating Officer has gained considerable help from Skippers who have taken over various responsibilities suited to their abilities and been given a free hand to 'do it their way' as to design and detail; subject only to the general constraints of coordination and cost from the Committee and the broad principles of best technical practice as required by the BO, the Committee and various other advisors.

The Boating Officers job will then become more of a co-ordinator administration person, a much easier workload. In the end this will better suit the Club who will have less trouble getting people to do the job in the longer term. It has worked well for us as Social Director and should work well in this application.

Each sub-boating officer has many good ideas, Barry taking on shipwrighting, Peter mechanical and Bob electrical, while captain sea training.

One of the more interesting and major possibilities is a bigger more open cabin with a small flying bridge! A stern door and other goodies have also been taken up. Therefore we can look forward to a very interesting boating future with the Club.

Finally, since this is my last report before the AGM and the election of your future Boating Officer, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all Skippers and crews for your support and excellent service in the past year and to thank all other members for your efforts, your help and support of Club diving throughout the year.

Many thanks and Cheers!

Stubby

CLUB NOTICE BOARD

Susie

#1 ROTTNEST LONG WEEKEND 1-3 MARCH 1997

The organisation is now being handled by SANDY WEBB, phone 339 5936.

Weekend and first week are fully booked, but plenty of beds left for the second week. Please book a.s.a.p.

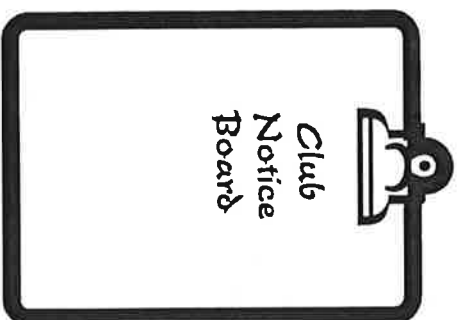
#2 PRE-MEETING DINNER

If you have told us that you will come and then don't turn up, we still have to pay S.Y.C. the \$10, so, we'll charge you anyway! Sorry!

Please also remember that dinner is served at 6.30 pm. It was quite embarrassing to have people dropping in too late.

#3 RAFFLE

This time we have a quality dive mask as raffle prize, kindly donated by Peter's DIVE-IN shop in O'Connor.



TROPHY PRESENTATION PARTY

It's that time of the year again, when those people who have out done themselves are recognised and thanked.

Come along on SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER at 1pm and support your Club! Show your thanks to those who have helped and given their time to make your UEC what it is today. (It could be you!!)

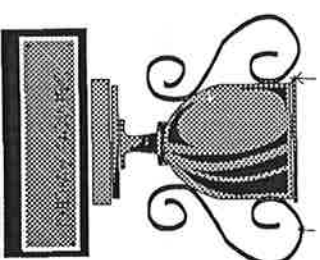
Trophy Presentation will be at 2pm with late lunch and 'surprise' provided (BYO drinks).

So, have a different day, bring your family and friends and have a "Great Time"!

Cost : \$25 per Double - \$15 per Single
Venue : Hetty & Geoff's house:
25 Pavetta Crescent
Forrestfield

Please call Hetty (453 1723)
or Susie (331 2385) by 1st December to book,
so that catering numbers can be arranged.

“SEE YOU THERE ! ! ! ! !”



FISHY FACTS

DIVING PROVERBS

Better to have Dived and lost then never to have Dived at all.

"Experience is the worst teacher, it gives the test before presenting the Lesson".

- Vernon Laws

Life's a bitch! And then you Dive.

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes".

- Marcel Proust

When the Diving gets tough the tough go Diving.

"Have no fear of perfection - you'll never reach it"

- Salvador Dali

You can take a Diver out of the water but you can't take the water out of the Diver.

"Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing".

- Helen Keller

WHITE SHARK PROTECTION IS GUMMY

At a recent meeting in darling harbour in Sydney of the CSIRO, State Fisheries bureaucrats and recreational fishermen, it was decided not to give the white shark any legislative protection.

Dr John Glaister, the Director of NSW Fisheries was reported as saying that there was no scientific proof that the white shark was under threat and deserving of legislative protection as an endangered species.

The bureaucrats agreed to ask recreational fishermen to stop catching, killing and weighing the sharks for sport.

The NSW Minister for Fisheries had previously been concerned about the future of the species, and had written to the Federal Minister for Resources Mr Parer pointing out that the species had been protected in Tasmania and California and South Africa.

DIVING DELIGHTS

Kerry Ashton

Despite the changeable weather of late we have managed some terrific dives over the past month.

A deeper BSAC dive at Duffield Ridge turned up interesting and varied territory combined with good top side conditions, a great day out...

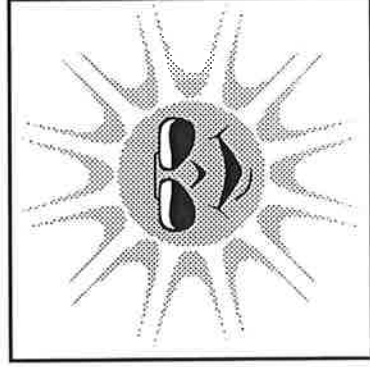
Swirl Reef (not living up to its name) proved to be an excellent spot with good visibility.

An impromptu booking for the one tank Angela's Cave dive proved again that this is one of our top spots. The variety of fish and growth is amazing. Most "normal Rottnest fish" were spotted, with extra to boot, out came the books - was it this one of that one.

Don't forget the calendar is flexible, so stay in touch with the DO and let him know what you want or create your own dive, it's your boat. Susie filled her trip in about 15 - 20 minutes of deciding to go.

Happy diving!

Kerry





MEET SOCIAL EVENT

SOCIAL REPORT #1

By Geoff Conrad

SOCIAL REPORT #

(cont)

SOCIAL REPORT #2

By Susie

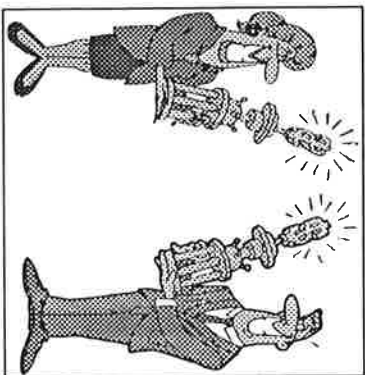
ANNUAL PRESENTATION PARTY

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER

WHEN? Sunday 8 December at 1 pm.

WHERE? 25 Pavetta Crescent, Forrestfield

Read more about it on a special page in this newsletter.



Well, the day started warm and hot. I arrived at Swan Yacht Club with the family about 1/2 hour early. Dennis arrived shortly after, and we went to get the boat. A quick gland fix and we were off to S.Y.C. to pick up all our passengers. There were 12 of us in all, plus daughter Stephanie. We decorated the boat with palm fronds and balloons, and to help get the party going, Susie made up a champagne punch. NICE, but potent for me.

We cast off promptly at 1pm with a pleasant 1/2 hour trip down river. We pulled into the Fremantle Fishing Harbour with 30 seconds to spare. (I was told the harbour would be closed at 1.30. It wasn't!) We found a section of wharf under the old Lombardo's building to tie up to and wait. We had been tied up for a very short while when Susie pulled out an amazing array of dishes. Italian anti-pas seafood, excellent cheeses, meats, olives, and much more. Delicious!

By about now I was thinking "what a flop". This was my first social event arrangement. "BANG!". "What the hell was that?!!" "BANG!". Another one! Sky rockets? Then some fire crackers went off and another couple of sky rockets. The Procession was moving from the church to the harbour! Boats started moving!

Things were happening. Dennis started up our boat and joined the others milling around the harbour. LOOK! The 'main boats' are moving into the harbour. We jockeyed into position and followed around for a lap or two, then Dennis dropped out and HEY! LOOK!!! The 'POPE' was blessing us as well! (Well, not the real Pope, but you know who I mean.) The next boat had angels on it, and the next the band, etc. All were decked out exceptionally well. This was great. We moored again as did the other boats, and there was a definite buzz aboard. Now I was relieved. It wasn't a flop! "You beauty!!" On the way out, Dennis took what I thought was a wrong turn, but no, he knew where he was going. We popped in to say hello to Frank and Karen (Challenger Harbour) for a while, then headed back to the S.Y.C.

I at the wheel during the Blessing had to have been seen to be believed. There were boats going everywhere, and he weaved his way through them beautifully. I wasn't the only person aboard that was very impressed. Everyone was. If you weren't there, you missed out on a very enjoyable afternoon. (Next time, BETHERE!)

The Official Opening of the Balcony at Swan Yacht Club was a fine event where I met and talked to a few characters and the friendly Commodore. Delicious finger food, free beer, gin/tonic at less than half price, and sunshine made the afternoon very pleasant.

NOMINATIONS

Mark Charmers - Willetton
Carmine Travaglione - Wilson



Word has it the boat is out of the water for maintenance so please check with Kerry for future diving plans!

THE DEC 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

DECEMBER 1996

THE COMMITTEE 1996/97

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BOATING OFFICER	Dennis Stuberfield	Phone 457 3333
SAFETY OFFICER	Ric Young	Phone 417 5206
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 2280
DIVE BOOKINGS	Geoff Geard	Phone 453 1723

330 2333
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FOR SALE

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT

- Cannon AE - 1 Program Camera
 - 50 mm Macro Lens
 - 100mm Macro Lens
 - 24mm Wide Angle Lens
 - 19mm Wide Angle Lens
 - Canon Marine Housing
 - Dome Port
 - YS 150 Sea + Sea Strobe
 - YS 50 Sea + Sea Strobe
 - Sea + Flash Arms x 2
 - Canon Aluminium Carry Case
- All in Excellent Condition
\$1,950.00
- Telephone Steve Parkins
497-1419 or 017 868 683

CLUB CALENDAR

DECEMBER 1996 / JANUARY 1997

MONTH/DATE	EVENT
DECEMBER	
Sun 1	Boat out of water for repairs - Ring Geoff
Wed 4	COMMITTEE MEETING - 5YC 8pm
Sat 7	Boat out of water for repairs - Ring Geoff
Sun 8	SOCIAL : PRESENTATION PARTY : 1pm (Helly & Geoff's house)
Sat 14	Two Tank dive : BSAC 7am
Sun 15	SKIPPER: Peter Horton & BSAC DO Christmas Dive Rotteast : 8am
Mon 16	SKIPPER : Barry K / Kerry A
Sat 21	GENERAL MEETING - 5YC : 8pm Dinner (Must be pre-booked) : 6.30pm One Tank Morning : 7am
Sun 22	Bob McL / Steve L) Open)
Sat 28	Open - Christmas / New Year Break)
Sun 29	Open - Christmas / New Year Break)
Sun 15	Christmas Dive Rotteast : 8am
JANUARY	
Fri 3	Prawn Dive - Cookup - Geoff G
Sat 4	Open - Boat Free)
Sun 5	Request Dive SKIPPER: Richard N / Geoff C
Wed 8	COMMITTEE MEETING - 5YC 8pm
Sat 11	Open
Sun 12	Two Tank Dive : BSAC : 7am
Sat 18	SKIPPER: Barry K / BSAC
Sun 19	Open
Mon 20	Cray Dive SKIPPER: Peter H / Judy C
Sat 25	GENERAL MEETING - 5YC : 8pm Dinner (Must be pre-booked) : 6.30pm Open

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**

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All dive bookings and enquiries to be made with Geoff Geard

Phone : 453 1723

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Geoff Charlton

Birthday wishes go out to the following people this month:

Sandy Webb	-	28th
Brian Price	-	29th

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FOR ALL YOUR GLASS REQUIREMENTS



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Kalgoorlie: 75 Dugan St (090) 21 2724
Albany: Cockburn Rd (098) 41 1622

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Glass Repairer**

24 HOUR SERVICE

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EDITORIAL

Steve Larter

For those of us who were not present at our November AGM after reading your newsletter will be aware that a new Committee has been elected to carry on running the Underwater Explorers Club. It was indeed satisfying to note that all positions were filled on the night.

The work of the Committee of Management this year will be to increase our active diving membership. Membership is vital for our future development and will be the difference between success and failure of our Club activities.

The point was made during the AGM that if we could fill our boat every Sunday with active divers we would be looking for a larger, better equipped boat within a very short period of time.

Our active diver membership has been declining over the years, it's now time to change our thinking about attracting members. Our focus for the next 12 months must be on putting qualified divers on our boat. We have so much more to offer than other diving operations but we all need to be spreading the positives of our Club and at the same time enjoying our diving.

The Committee needs everyone's assistance in our quest for new members, our association with Swan Yacht Club makes our organisation a very attractive proposition for prospective divers to become involved with.

We need your support in this effort. If you can spread the word about our Club and maybe bring new divers along for an introduction boat dive. Active divers are always on the look out for well organised diving operators. Convincing ourselves that what we offer is better than commercial operators can offer is sometimes harder than convincing prospective new members.

Your ideas about new members would be greatly appreciated.

We presently print and distribute 70 newsletters, by this time next year let's make it 100.

"MEMBERS", just do it!

Steve

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maree Casley

The November AGM is over for another year and we can now get on with the business of running the Club and enjoying our diving and social activities. The Committee this year has a few new faces - they compliment the old faces such as mine quite well I think. New members of the Committee are:

Geoff Geard	-	Diving Officer
Bruce Porter	-	PR Officer
Judy Cowan	-	Training Officer
Bob McLaughlin	-	New Social Officer as well as Vice President
Ric Young	-	Now has Safety Portfolio

Peter Horton, Geoff Charlton, Dennis Stubberfield, Steve Larter and I have all retained their offices from last year. Welcome to all the new Committee members and many, many thanks to Susie and Kerry for all their help in past years.

As you all know Diving Officer is arguably the hardest position on the Committee, so I ask you all to help Geoff as much as possible till he settles into the hurly-burly of Committee life. For instance, keep in touch regarding weather and if you can't make a dive, please let him know in plenty of time to give someone else a chance.

Bruce Porter is champing at the bit to get on with his PR portfolio. Already he has put together a comprehensive plan to recruit new members and get UEC's name on everyone's lips. This is a new portfolio oriented to take the place of Building Officer and I'm hoping that everyone will get behind Bruce.

The Committee also has a new Training Officer in Judy Cowan. Judy has just passed a re-test exam to continue as an instructor with NASDS and she will be taking on the co-ordination of the Club's training needs - for divers, skippers and diving officers. Once again, I urge all members to throw their weight behind Judy and her training portfolio.

As most of you know, the boat has been in no-go mode for the past few weeks. She is now up and running again and raring to go. I hope all of you will put her to good use because we now have a vastly increased bank loan to pay off. The cheapest and easiest way for members to assist in paying of the loan is to DIVE, DIVE, DIVE. Considering that we are a dive club, this should not prove too much of a problem. Ring Geoff and book your dives now.

Lastly, I would like to wish all members and their families a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. If you go off diving during the holidays please do it safely. See you all soon.

Maree

BITS 'N' BITES

DIVERS DIE IN WRECK

Two divers, one Australian & one British, died after being trapped in a wreck off the Vanuatu island of Espiritu Santo. The Australian was described as a Master Diving Instructor from Queensland. The names of the men, both said to be in their 30's, have been withheld. They were diving on the wreck of the 20,000 tonne US ship President Coolidge, which sank during World War 11. The 196m-long ship is reputed to be the biggest & most accessible wreck in the world. Informants said the men became trapped in an unexplored area of the wreck.

WHALES, DOLPHINS 'HURT' BY ATTENTION

The boom in Whale Watching & Dolphin feeding was having disastrous effects on the marine mammals' way of life, a leading zoological consultant said this week at a wildlife conference. John Kirtland, a consultant in animal exhibition & training, said close human interaction with mammals forced a change in their social, breeding & feeding habits which could put them at risk. "We could be killing them with kindness," said Mr Kirtland, at the International Marine Animal Trainers Association conference on the Gold Coast. "In areas where we've got huge explosions of Whale Watching tours & let's go out & feed or swim with wild Dolphins" the natural habitat & behavior of these wild animals is being abrogated. Some, which have always returned to the same area to breed, calve or feed are no longer coming back. They are chased & harassed by boats trying to get too close & disturbing their natural personal space.

SHARKS PROTECTION HALTED

Australia's commercial fishing industry & the nations leading marine conservation organisation expressed surprise & dismay at a decision taken in September 1996 to hold any moves to protect the Great White Shark on a national basis. Earlier this year the Australian Seafood Industry Council (ASIC) had to support a ban on any targeted fishing for the Great White because of its susceptibility to fishing pressure. The Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) had been working on a similar proposal & the two organisations wrote to all fisheries agencies in the country seeking a total ban. Only Tasmania responded positively & protected the Great White, but it is believed & hoped SA might follow suit in the near future. "Neither the council nor the Society were invited to the meeting & it appears that only scientists & forces hostile to any ban were invited," said Bill Foster, Conservation & Development Manager, AMCS. "The game fishing industry was well represented, but there were no conservation groups nor the ASIC in attendance." The Great White Shark is already protected in South Africa & California. Concern about their population status in Australia has been expressed by scientists, environmentalists & the commercial fishing industry in the past. "At the very least there should have been a commitment to stop the intentional killing of these animals for either entertainment or profit" said Duncan Leadbetter, Chairman of the Environment Committee of ASIC. "This would have to put a stop to one of the sources of morality & allowed time for a population assessment." "Given the past willingness of organisations like the CSIRO to speak out publicly on fisheries issues of concern, we expect CSIRO to speak out on what happened & what the research need are," said Nigel Scullion, Chairman of ASIC.

SHARK RESEARCH WINS OVER PROTECTION

In early September there was a national meeting held to discuss the national protection of the Great White Shark (GWS). Conservationists and scientists were hoping to see a conclusive national protection blanket placed around this amazing animal which at present is only protected in Tasmania.

Although some recommendations were arrived at (and are still being processed) there was no conclusive ban and the vote, taken at the end of the meeting, has become quite controversial. There were Government representatives from SA, NSW, WA, QLD and VIC - Tasmania was not present and a postal vote was given by Northern Territory. Because NT and TAS were not present, their vote was not counted(?) and the vote to protect the Great White went like this:

NSW	-	In favour of protection
SA	-	In favour
TAS	-	Already protected so in favour - Vote not included
WA	-	Not in favour
QLD	-	Not in favour
VIC	-	Conflicting decisions from various quarters, on the day not in favour.

The postal vote from NT (in favour) was not counted and the protection legislation was overruled! All the scientists at the meeting were in favour of protection, but they were there to advise - not to vote. The result was disappointing to say the least. However, the recommendations agreed on were:

1. The adaptation of an Australia wide ban on the sale & use of GWS products. Fins for soup, jaws to the USA etc.
2. A research group established to create a co-ordinated & controlled research plan to give scientists more answers on population & movement. Group to be funded by the Government. Work would be carried out with fisheries to develop ways to minimise the by-catch of GWS. By-catch of sharks has the biggest impact on their population numbers, estimated that at least 400 per year are caught in commercial fishnets.
3. Gamefishing Association is being asked not to kill or display any more GWS. They have requested to continue to tag and release.

Ian Gordon, Director of the Australian National Shark Conservation Foundation and curator, Oceanworld Manly agrees that it is disappointing not to have had the blanket protection ban but feels the recommendations are at least a good start. "If we can reduce the by-catch of great whites and stop the sale of jaws, fins for soup and teeth, we will be moving in the right direction. We want to save the sharks and if that means better management and co-operation between Government, fisheries and conservationists, then so be it."

"If the recommendations go through, it will save hundreds of GWS every year - that has to be good. Even though, eventually we want them to be fully protected."

WHEELHOUSE WRAP

Dennis Stubberfield

Well, surprise surprise you wont believe your new Boating Officer is in fact the old one again! However, a new system has been established in which others will become more involved and more autonomous. Hence, if you wish to know anything about shipwrighting see Barry, for electrical see Bob and for mechanical Peter is the expert while I will be the facilitator. The system will take some of the pressure off and make the Boating Officers job much easier - I hope!

By now most of you have heard that what started out to be a relatively minor injector problem with the engine, has turned into a major overhaul and recondition of both engine and gear box at a cost of approximately \$13,000. The type of problems exposed when the cover was removed to inspect the injectors, lead to removal of the head for further inspection of valves and pistons, which finally revealed an engine overdue for overhaul. We simply had to bite the bullet, there was no way anything short of a total refit could have been done to ensure the future safety and operational integrity of the boat. The engine at 14,000 hours had simply worn out and we were very lucky to have got home from the last trip let alone without major consequent damage of the actual failure incident. As it was the only real side effect was a wrecked turbo, through which pieces of a broken valve had passed, creating the only extra damage.

For those who worked very hard getting the engine out and putting it back again, many many thanks for a brilliantly executed effort - and not to be repeated, which is why the gear box was reconditioned at the same time. We can also thank our President Maree for a superb job in support, getting loan extensions, negotiating this and that, paying our bills and finally bringing the engine back from "Fremantle Diesel Services" behind the Hi-Lux. Without this kind of support all the engineering skills are useless and it would probably have been mid January before we did any diving!

Finally, a plug for Alan Groom of Fremantle Diesel Services, who did the reconditioning, on time and within a few hundred dollars of the budget (the turbo blew it) - a very professional and pleasant person to deal with, always willing to fully discuss options and their consequences, but not willing to let us take short cuts - which we weren't about to consider anyway. Still, it helps to know what is a short cut and what is not!

So, we are back in operation again with spanking new mechanics and an exciting season before us, so let's get cracking and work this new engine the way she should - and not leave her sitting at the moorings!

Cheers Folks!

Stubby

SAFETY REPORT

Ric Young

Hi! Fellow Divers.

Well, now that I have been appointed Safety Officer at the AGM I have been thinking about what I can do to contribute to the maintenance of our good safety record over recent years.

Safety is really the responsibility of each individual diver, who should have regard to the possible hazard of any action they may take, to themselves and other people who may be involved. This of course is not confined to diving but all aspects of our daily activities.

I'm sure most of us attempt to carry out our diving in a safe manner, however, sometimes through lack of experience or a lapse in concentration, potentially unsafe acts may occur, generally without any grave consequent, except possibly a good fright and the knowledge not to repeat the experience in the future.

What I propose to do with the co-operation of members of the Underwater Explorers Club is to collect information on any incident with a potential hazard that members have experienced or witnessed so that all members can be made aware and in turn be safer divers with the knowledge gained from someone else's experience. So, fellow divers, if you have something to contribute to make our diving as safe as possible, please contact me.

Please note that my purpose is not to embark on a witch hunt, so the identity of divers involved in incidents will not be made public unless they specify otherwise.

To get the ball rolling, next month I will relate an incident I experienced when I was a novice diver.

Merry Christmas and safe diving.

Ric

PRESENTATION DAY REPORT

The Club's annual presentation day was again a great day enjoyed by all. This year Geoff and Hetty Geard were hosts to this fabulous event. As usual Hetty came up with a new surprises to keep everyone on their toes and the dramas of the past few weeks were forgotten (or drowned!) for a while.

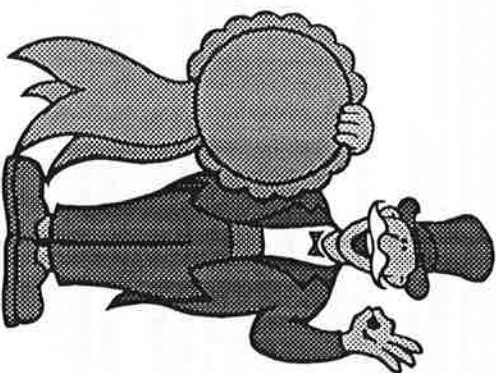
Recipients of awards this year were:

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

Kerry Ashton
Richard Naylor
Geoff Geard
Hetty Geard
Brian Murray
Ivana Murray
Bruce Porter
Jim Robson
Pat Troy

*O'King - Warren
Cammis
Golder, Tony - Marie
Castley*

Congratulations everyone on a job well done.



TRAINING REPORT

Judy Cowan

It seems a hundred years, or two weeks, I am not sure which, since I've been on this Committee. The past couple of weeks have been hectic in my life, with upgrading my own dive qualifications and now have achieved renewal of my "intest" scuba diver instructor certification.

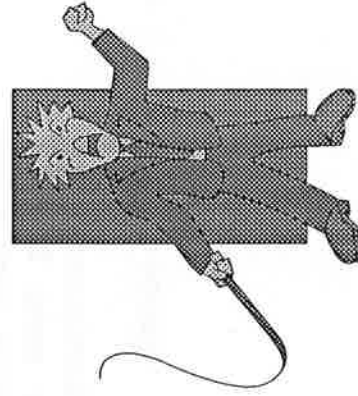
Having been pretty much out of the diving scene for a while, it has been made very evident to me that individual skills, at whatever level, can always do with a bit of brushing up. While I haven't exactly formulated any official training as yet, I am open to any suggestions or enquiries regarding "refreshment" of skills.

So if it has been a while since you practised "octopus" breathing, rescues, or resuscitation and care enough about hose you dive with, we can organise a bit of a re-run with you.

How many haven't been on a prawn dive simply because you're afraid of getting lost in the dark? We can help!

Please don't be shy, most of you know how easy I am to talk to. Give me a call.

Judy



DIVING OFFICERS REPORT

Geoff Geard

A 'New Year', a 'new Committee' and a 'new DO'. (I have some very large shoes to fill, as Kerry has done an excellent job).

I got back into diving 2 years ago when Hetty gave me membership to UEC and now I try to dive as often as possible. As far as Diving Officers goes, I am not sure what my job will entail, but give me time...

I'll use the same format for scheduling dives that Kerry set up and we'll see what happens. I'll also schedule a Social Prawn Dive for the "FIRST" FRIDAY IN EVERY MONTH, starting in January.

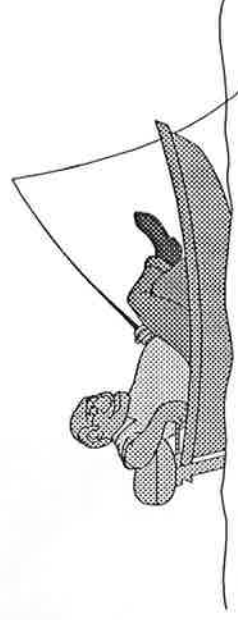
On Friday 22nd November, Kerry, Warren, Sandy, Bob, Michel and myself went prawning, with Susie waiting on the shore. Even though a near full moon that night, we all caught a good feed of prawns.

Ring me on 453 1723 to book your dives. Don't forget the boat is yours and you should use it...!

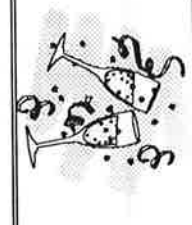
Also ring me to book those "Extra dives" or "Social events".

I'll see you on the boat.

Geoff.



SOCIAL EVENTS - Bob McLaughlin

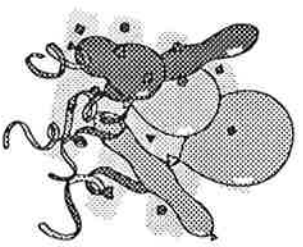


CLUB MEETING

16 December 1996

Club anniversary will be acknowledged at this meeting.

Please be there to celebrate.



PRE-MEETING DINNER

16 December 1996

At the Swan Yacht Club
6.30pm

Book with Bob before
13 December 1996

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Swan Yacht Club

We have block booked 30 tickets. Tickets will be available at the c meeting on 16 December.



\$10 per person



SKYSHOW SPECTACULAR

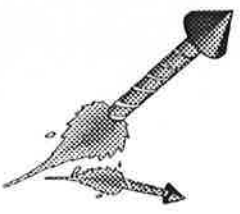
SUNDAY 26 JANUARY 1997



Cost \$20 each



Book with Susie



There will be a meeting early in January with the Social Club Committee to plan 1997.

Please contact myself on **454 8560** for all social activities.

Remember social activities are open to any friends and relatives or potential new members and are very welcome to attend. Bring along your friends and let's see if we can turn them into members.

My thanks go to Susie, who as you know has done a fantastic job over the last 3 or 4 years building up the social activities to what they are today. She is certainly a very hard act to follow, but we shall ensure we keep the momentum going and with a good social sub-committee including Susie on my side we shall be continuing the great work.

See you socially.

Bob

Come along and join in the fun with all your Underwater Explorers Club friends and make this a New Year to remember.