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6th January 2021

Last Weeks Dive

Well what a dive trip to start the new year off with. Nurses Quarters and the fabled Cathedral were on the itinerary and so we headed out in a strong easterly wind with a full boat (first one of this club year), Martin Smith making a Barnsy style come back as Skipper, Donna as DO and Chris McC as trainee on his final trip before graduation.

The water was reasonably flat as we left the Marina but as expected it got rougher and rougher as we approached the West End. We reached NQ and after a very brief confab decided it was too rough to dive. As it was now a SW wind the consensus was a short hop round the end and into the relative calm on the North side of the island. As The Cathedral was the advertised site we decided to do it first. We made our way slowly and carefully into Eagle Bay and dropped the anchor. With the strong wind we slowly drifted back until it finally took hold. In the end it was perfect as the drift took us about 20m nearer our site.

Although The Cathedral had been rediscovered a few months back by Wendy we still didn't have a great location for it so this was going to be a bit of an exploration. There is a channel through the reef across to Cathedral Rocks and most headed off in this direction. I don't know if it was just good luck or some accurate descriptions of where the Cathedral was but I stumbled across it as soon as I arrived at the location.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Dive Calendar

Boat loading 7:45am Port Coogee Marina Loading Wharf (end Pantheon Ave) except Special Events

Link to Calendar and Online Bookings

Please note that the new online booking system requires you to re-register i.e. your user name and password from old system will not work

Kingston Spit and & Roe Reef - Double Dive Rotto Day Trip Passengers welcome Sunday 10th January Skipper: Mike DO: Jeff

Orizaba & Carlisle Castle -Double Dive Saturday 16th January Skipper: Carl DO: Pete

Squid Trip Sunday 17th January Skipper: Steve

Midway Point & Swirl Reef -Double Dive Sunday 24th January Skipper: Geoff DO: John

Marjories Holes & City of York Break Saturday 30th January Skipper: Chris DO: Donna



Following a beautiful gully toward the island I could see sunlight through an opening too small to get through. A quick up and over took me into what could best be described as the vestibule of the Cathedral. At first it didn't look like there was anything to see other than a tight hole in the floor of the vestibule.



I poked my head in trying to decide if it was worth squeezing through and it looked promising so I went for it. Wow! The hole opened up into a large domed cave with a single shaft of sunlight flickering down from a high ceiling onto a sandy floor. It was beautiful and lived up to the descriptions in the dive book.



At the back of the Cathedral was a jumble of rocks leading upto a small passageway. I believe you can get through this into another cave and then out but at the time I wasn't aware this led anywhere and it looked a bit tight to risk going in.

Please note:

- Unless doing a nomination dive; you must be a financial member to dive and have no outstanding dive fees (you can pay cash on the boat to clear these)

- Dive fees are \$80 per double dive trip (even if you don't dive or only do one dive) and \$45 for a single dive trip

- If you book on please turn up! You may be charged for the dive if you don't give us sufficient notice. The Skipper will make any call on weather on the morning of the dive.

- Designated Rotto Day Trips are open to all UEC

members, affiliate club members and their guests. The boat will drop you at Thompson Bay about 10:30am and pick you up after the double dive at about 2:00pm. Cost is \$20 per person.

What You Need To Bring

AOW Certification (if Nom Dive) Two tanks (if double dive - note club can provide tanks at \$20ea) Alternate Air if Solo Fins Boots Wetsuit Weights BCD Regs Mask Computer or Tables Depth Gauge SMB (mandatory) Compass Food & Drink Towel

Optional

Hood Gloves Dive Knife Torch Camera Change of Clothes Sunnies Hat Suncream

Containers for Change

If you would like to donate your container refund to the club then please quote the number below when you deposit your containers or save the QR code below onto your phone and scan when you deposit. All funds go towards your running your club.



After swimming round the cave for a while I popped back through the vestibule to meet Shane and Sion coming along. I pointed to the Vestibule and indicated a big cave. Shane dropped in and then reappeared having decided there was nothing there. Sion however was a bit more adventurous and went all the way. Shane then went back down to look for Sion and realised he had missed the hole. I, in the meantime, went off exploring. More beautiful gullies and smaller caves surrounded the area and it was really a very pretty dive.



I then slowly worked my way back to the boat exploring the reef edge on the way and crossing paths with a few of our other divers. As the site was pretty shallow we all made the most of our dive time. Lunch was had in eagle Bay in the shelter from the wind and made for a lovely location to relax in.



With the wind apparently having dropped off a bit we headed back to Nurses Quarters. It was choppy but definitely better than before so we dropped anchor. The drop line was indicating a bit of current but nothing too much. The first four divers jumped in and before the next ones were ready to go we noticed the drop line floating at the surface. The weights were still on so in the space of a few minutes the current had gone from moderate to



Membership Fees Fees for 2020-21 are as follows:

Ordinary: \$230 Ordinary Family: \$380 Student & Junior: \$50 Social: \$45 CIO: \$25 Nomination Fee: \$80 Double Dive: \$80

Payments to the Club Account

We get some pretty cryptic payments into our club account which can make life difficult for Steve, our long suffering treasurer. If you make a payment can you please reference along the lines of *surname & reason* e.g. Smith Augusta, Smith Membership, Smith Dive 17Oct.

Bank Details

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc) Commonwealth Bank BSB 066 136 Account No <u>00901972</u>

Club Membership Nominations

The following people have nominated for membership of the UECWA:

Della Grunwald Tess Hutchins (social)

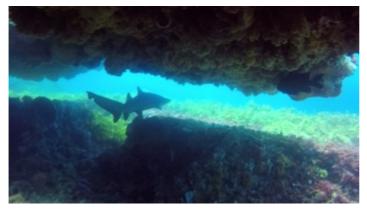
Please join me in welcoming them to the club. Mike Buchanan Membership@uecwa.com.au

Document Links

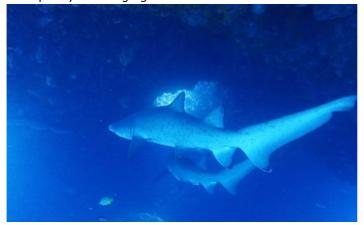
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strong. Normally we would have canned the dive with that current but with four divers already down we decided to proceed with a line to the anchor and everyone instructed to go down the anchor chain as we knew the current would be less on the bottom.





Most eventually found their way to the cave to see a couple of Grey Nurses in residence and then it was a very easy swim back to the boat. Amazingly everyone managed back without being swept away but the current did make for a pretty challenging dive.



With a strong south easterly to contend with it was a slow and bumpy ride back to Coogee but well worth it for some great diving and another dive site ticked off the bucket list.

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Weekly Newsletter

Editor: Mike Buchanan

Dive report: Mike Buchanan

Dive Photos: Mike Buchanan Laura Thompson

Do You Know Your Club Committee?

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Vice President: Tom Bassett

Secretary: Michele Hardesty-Munday

Treasurer: Steve Day

Membership: Mike Buchanan

Dive Coordinator: Donna Gratton

Social & Fundraising: Liz Davey

Safety: Pete Northrop

Training: Tristan Stanley-Cary

Boat & Liaison: Jonathan Anderson Mike

Next Weeks Diving

On Sunday we are heading to Kingston Spit and Roe Reef for a double dive. we are alos offering a passenger drop off and pick up in Thompson Bay open to all members and their quests. Please book on as usual through the website.

Cocos Island Waitlist



DO Training

Would you like to dive for free? All you have to do is complete the DO training including a Recreational Skippers Ticket and First Aid and then go on the crew roster which involves about one trip every 4 to 8 weeks (depending on how many DO's are available). If you are interested then please drop me a line at president@uecwa.com.au

Australia Day night river Cruise and supper.

Although City of Perth have decided against celebrating with Fireworks this year, UEC isn't about to be put off, so., although I cant offer you Fireworks, I can promise you a river cruise a delicious 2 course supper and a welcome aboard cocktail.. I haven't finalised the details yet but if I can get sufficient numbers the trip will proceed.

The estimated cost \$45.00 per person. If you are interested (and I will need numbers) please register your interest by emailing me on socialbookings@uecwa.com.au

Finally have a safe and Happy New Year.

Liz socialbookings@uecwa.com.au

Entertainment App

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Environment: Sue Haste

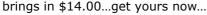
Communications: Jasmine Lyons

UEC Sponsors

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http://www.uecwa.com.au



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13th January 2021

Last Weeks Dive

Sundays dive was a borderline call as far as the wind was concerned. The swell was okay but with a 15kt SW wind from early morning climbing to 25kts in mid afternoon it was always going to be a rough ride. We went ahead knowing we would need to keep a close eye on both the wind and the clock to ensure we were back before it got to rough.



So we headed out of the Marina with twelve divers, John DB as trainee skipper, Jeff W as DO and myself keeping John company on the flybridge as skipper.



Roe Reef and Kingston Reef were the scheduled sites but Kingston was always going to be too rough. We made the call to try City of York as we sailed past Kingston in rough

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Dive Calendar Boat loading 7:45am Port Coogee Marina Loading Wharf (end Pantheon Ave) except Special Events

Link to Calendar and Online Bookings

Please note that the new online booking system requires you to re-register i.e. your user name and password from old system will not work

Orizaba & Carlisle Castle -Double Dive Saturday 16th January

Saturday 16th January Skipper: Carl DO: Pete

Squid Trip Sunday 17th January Skipper: Steve

Midway Point & Swirl Reef -Double Dive Sunday 24th January Skipper: Geoff DO: John

Marjories Holes & City of York Break - Double Dive Saturday 30th January Skipper: Chris DO: Donna

Angelas Cave & Exploration Dive - Double Dive Sunday 7th February Skipper: Carl DO: John

Nurses Quarters & Fish Hook

seas. Unfortunately, although more sheltered from the wind, a set of large swells coming through changed our minds about diving the site so we headed to deeper waters and Blue Groper Cave. This is a site we don't dive often but really should as it has some lovely country to explore. All the divers reported a great dive with excellent viz so a good call.



It was pretty rough out in the bay so we headed into Parakeet for a lunch break and the welcome shelter of the island. After a pleasant lunch it was back out into rough seas for Victoria Station on Roe Reef. Although we dive this site pretty regularly it never disappoints and so it lived up to its reputation with all the divers raving about the caves and fish life.



We pulled anchor and bumped our way back to Coogee with the occasional soaking up on the flybridge but overall a better run back than expected. a quick was down and then the crew retired to the Australian Brewhouse for a well earned refreshment.

Mike

Next Weeks Diving

This Saturday we are heading to a club favourite dive wreck, the Orizaba. One of our new members, Della, has a particular interest in this dive as she has one of the chairs salvaged from the original wreck (see below).

Bay (Sanctuary) - Double Dive

Saturday 13th February Skipper: Chris DO: Jeff

Cray Canyon & Flat Top -Double Dive Sunday 21st February Skipper: Geoff DO: Pete

Barrys Cave & Denton/Macedon Wrecks (Sanctuary) Saturday 27th February Skipper: Steve DO: Mel

Deep Dive - Opera House & Rogers Rocks - Double Dive Monday 1st March Skipper: Chris DO: John

Please note:

- Unless doing a nomination dive; you must be a financial member to dive and have no outstanding dive fees (you can pay cash on the boat to clear these)

- Dive fees are \$80 per double dive trip (even if you don't dive or only do one dive) and \$45 for a single dive trip

- If you book on please turn up! You may be charged for the dive if you don't give us sufficient notice. The Skipper will make any call on weather on the morning of the dive.

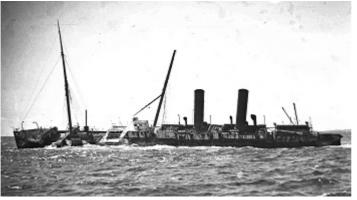
- Designated Rotto Day Trips are open to all UEC

members, affiliate club members and their guests. The boat will drop you at Thompson Bay about 10:30am and pick you up after the double dive at about 2:00pm. Cost is \$20 per person.

What You Need To Bring

AOW Certification (if Nom Dive) Two tanks (if double dive - note club can provide tanks at \$20ea) Alternate Air if Solo Fins Boots Wetsuit Weights BCD Regs Mask Computer or Tables Depth Gauge SMB (mandatory)







While down that way we are also going to visit the Carlisle Castle, wrecked the same night as the City of York with the tragic loss of twenty two sailors.

UEC Lena Trip - 6th Feb

This trip is open to non members and no requirement for AOW. Bookings through website as per instructions below

Compass Food & Drink Towel

Optional

Hood Gloves Dive Knife Torch Camera Change of Clothes Sunnies Hat Suncream

Containers for Change

If you would like to donate your container refund to the club then please quote the number below when you deposit your containers or save the QR code below onto your phone and scan when you deposit. All funds go towards your running your club.

C10320909



<u>Membership Fees</u>

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Bank Details Underwater Explorers Club of

UECWALENATRIP INTERESTED IN DIVING THE LENA WRECK? IT'S A GREAT COMFORTABLE DIVE,

ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE NEW TO WRECK DIVING.

6TH FEBRUARY

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE AOW FOR THIS DIVE. ONLY 10 SPOTS AVAILABLE \$110.

Where: Diving with Octopus Garden leaving Bunbury at 8am and returning to the Jetty at 2pm.

What's on offer: 2 dives on the wreck and a light lunch.

Cost: \$110 + \$15 per tank hire if needed.

How to Book: Facebook interest and bookings are not valid. Go to our website and book on via the calendar. If you need tank hire (\$15) please email Donna at <u>divebookings@uecwa.com.au</u> The trip is to be paid to the club (in full) at the time of booking. First deposits secure your spot. When booking on it asks you if you AOW or equivalent select yes, but in the additional information please identify your actual qualification. This will not prevent you from participating in this trip.

Cocos Island Waitlist



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The estimated cost \$45.00 per person. If you are interested please register your interest by emailing me on socialbookings@uecwa.com.au

WA (Inc) Commonwealth Bank BSB 066 136 Account No <u>00901972</u>

Club Membership Nominations

The following people have nominated for membership of the UECWA:

Jane John (CIO)

Please join me in welcoming them to the club. Mike Buchanan Membership@uecwa.com.au

Document Links

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Editor: Mike Buchanan

Dive report: Mike Buchanan

Dive Photos: Jane John Sandra O'Hara

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Vice President: Tom Bassett

Secretary:

Liz socialbookings@uecwa.com.au

Entertainment App

Is it time to renew your App ? We've made it easy for you, just follow this <u>link</u> to support the club. Every app we sell brings in \$14.00...get yours now...



Start now or later?

If you want to wait a little while, you have **3 months to activate** your new Membership after you renew. Once you activate, you will have a full **12 or 24 months** to use your Entertainment Membership. Michele Hardesty-Munday

Treasurer: Steve Day

Membership: Mike Buchanan

Dive Coordinator: Donna Gratton

Social & Fundraising: Liz Davey

Safety: Pete Northrop

Training: Tristan Stanley-Cary

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Environment: Sue Haste

Communications: Jasmine Lyons

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20th January 2021

Last Weeks Dive

The recent run of strong easterlies continued and cast some doubt on the scheduled trip to the Orizaba and Carlisle Castle. Debate continued right up to departure but in the end we decided to give it a try but starting with a sheltered spot in the lee of Penguin Island called Christmas Caves to give the wind a chance to drop before attempting the Orizaba. This is a site that we have only dived once in the last ten years and the mark was uncertain so it was going to be a bit of an exploration dive.



We headed out from Coogee with Carl as skipper, John behind the wheel on another training run and Pete as DO. John elected to go down the west side of Garden Island to get the benefit of the shelter. It was a pleasant run down and before long we were edging toward the reef to our mark.



REFERENCE INFORMATION

Dive Calendar Boat loading 7:45am Port Coogee Marina Loading Wharf (end Pantheon Ave) except

Link to Calendar and Online Bookings

Special Events

Please note that the new online booking system requires you to re-register i.e. your user name and password from old system will not work

Midway Point & Swirl Reef Date: Sun 24 Jan Skipper: Geoff DO: Jeff

Marjories Holes & City of York Break Date: Sat 30 Jan Skipper: Chris DO: Donna

Crew training day Date: Sun 31 Jan Skipper: Chris DO: TBA

Angela's Caves & Exploration Dive Date: Sun 07 Feb Skipper: Martin DO: John

Nurses' Quarters & Fish Hook Bay (Sanctuary) Date: Sat 13 Feb Skipper: Chris DO: John

Cray Canyon & Flat Top

Although choppy on the surface, there was no swell so thankfully, no surge on a relatively shallow and exposed site. It did not disappoint. From the anchor we were almost immediately into interesting country made up of small caves and gullies. It went on and on getting better the further we got from the boat. Eventually it was time to turn around. On the way back I took a peripheral route to see how far it extended but the best country was the route we followed out.







Back on board we stayed put for a while as we knew, once we moved offshore, it would get rougher. However the wind had definitely dropped and so we went for it. Great decision Carl :) We had a stunning dive at the Orizaba in near perfect conditions underwater. The viz was excellent and there was next to no surge. Everyone enjoyed Date: Sun 21 Feb Skipper: Geoff DO: Pete

Barry's Cave & Denton/Macedon (Sanctuary)

Date: Sat 27 Feb Skipper: Steve DO: Mel

Deep Dive - Opera House & Roger's Rocks Date: Mon 01 Mar Skipper: Chris DO: John

Rottnest Week

Date: Fri 05 Mar Skipper: NA DO: NA

Rottnest Weekend Date: Fri 12 Mar Skipper: NA DO: NA

Julie's Cave & Parker Point Date: Sun 21 Mar Skipper: Geoff DO: Pete

Nurses Quarters & The Cathedral (Sanctuary) Date: Sat 27 Mar Skipper: Mike DO: Mel

Please note:

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- If you book on please turn up! You may be charged for the dive if you don't give us sufficient notice. The Skipper will make any call on weather on the morning of the dive.

- Designated Rotto Day Trips are open to all UEC

members, affiliate club members and their guests. The boat will drop you at Thompson Bay about 10:30am and pick you up after the double dive at about 2:00pm. Cost is \$20 per person. exploring the wreck from the steering wheel at the stern to the now collapsed bow section.



A pleasant run back to the Marina capped off a much better than expected days diving. Thanks to our crew of Pete, Carl and John.

Next Weeks Diving

On Sunday we are heading to two club classics, Midway (Kerrys and Anders Meander) and Swirl Reef. These two sites never disappoint. Last I heard there was one spot left. Note the last few weeks the dives have been booking out fast so if you want to go diving don't leave it to the last minute. Also if the dive is full then let Donna know at divebookings@uecwa.com.au if you want to be waitlisted. We almost always get places opening up at the last minute.

Squid Trip Family and Friends Day

Another great day on the water with the UECWA, this time not diving, but a day for families and friends. We went squidding with our illustrious skipper Steve Day and Donna as Deckie. With ten squid caught, most of the punters who wanted to, were able to take home a squid or two, we always share our catch on these trips. It began with strong easterlies keeping us close into the shore, in fact so close that we ended up at Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour for an hour. Here we lost one of our squidders to the pub, not to be seen for the rest of the day (). We then returned to a much calmer sea environment and this was where the catch began.

What You Need To Bring

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Payments to the Club



As you will see in the photos, Steve is always looking for future skippers to take the helm and he found two very keen candidates. It may be some time before they are trained up, but Steve is a future-looking man (). A great day all round. Thanks to everyone, and a special thanks to Zita Dobson for helping put the boat to bed. Donna

UEC Lena Trip - 6th Feb

This trip is open to non members and no requirement for AOW. Bookings through website as per instructions below

Account

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Mitch Adams (Ord) James Matthews (Ord)

Please join me in welcoming them to the club. Mike Buchanan Membership@uecwa.com.au

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Cocos Island Waitlist



Rotto 2021

A late vacancy, 1 bed for the Rotto long weekend 12–15th March 2021.

\$430.00 for a diver. \$380.00 for a non diver.

Please contact Liz, socialbookings@uecwa.com.au to book and to learn more details.

Australia Day Night River Cruise and supper.

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The estimated cost \$45.00 per person. If you are

Mike Buchanan

Dive Photos: Mike Buchanan Della Grunweld James Matthews Alastair Trolove

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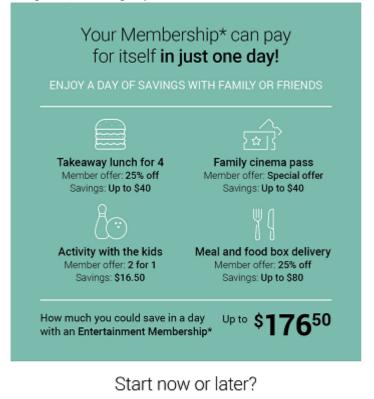


interested please register your interest by emailing me on socialbookings@uecwa.com.au

Liz socialbookings@uecwa.com.au

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27th January 2021

Dive Bookings

To all our active diving members please note that dives are booking up fast just now so please do not leave it to the last minute if you want to go diving. Please also note that we do run wait lists and almost always get late cancellations (for good reason) so even if fully booked let Donna know on divebookings@uecwa.com.au if you would like to be wait listed.

Can you also be courteous and if booked on and don't think you can make it please give us as much notice as possible so we can fill the place. Cancelling on the morning of the dive is not much use to us or those on the waitlist. We do also track cancellations and serial offenders are noted and may have their booking rights removed.

Last Weeks Dive

A perfect start to a Sunday morning with near glass off conditions. Unfortunately that was not going to last.

We headed to the West End to Midway, but once we arrived the breeze had gathered strength and the swell and significant current had us heading for Swirl Reef.



As we arrived the 1st of many squalls for the day had arrived which made it uncomfortable on board. Divers entered and all enjoyed the dive with visibility around 10m and all navigated back the boat without yours truly having to collect strays.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Dive Calendar Boat loading 7:45am Port Coogee Marina Loading Wharf (end Pantheon Ave) except Special Events

Link to Calendar and Online Bookings

Please note that the new online booking system requires you to re-register i.e. your user name and password from old system will not work

Marjories Holes & City of York Break

Date: Sat 30 Jan Skipper: Chris DO: Donna

Crew training day Date: Sun 31 Jan Skipper: Chris DO: TBA

Angela's Caves & Exploration Dive Date: Sun 07 Feb Skipper: Martin DO: John

Nurses' Quarters & Fish Hook Bay (Sanctuary) Date: Sat 13 Feb Skipper: Chris DO: John

Cray Canyon & Flat Top Date: Sun 21 Feb Skipper: Geoff DO: Pete

Barry's Cave &



The 2nd dive was more sheltered at Geordies Lump with visibility shortening and 5 crays logged.

We collected five from Rottnest Island on the way home that we had dropped off earlier and headed back to base. Thanks to Geoff – Skipper, Jonathan (future super skipper assisting) and another Jeff for helping out on my DO duties and the boat prep and clean up. Jeff

Next Weeks Diving

Another full boat already. We are heading to Marjories Holes and The City of York Break so a couple of great dives lined up. Marjories Holes, as the name suggests, are a series of large holes off Marjorie Bay on the North west side of Rottnest. Some only go down a few meters, some go deep down into basements, caves and tunnels. Great exploring and great Cray country.

The City of York Break is another interesting site with beautiful country surrounding the break and an interesting deep hole/cave right under the break itself. A great place to watch the waves breaking over your head. If you're feeling energetic you can swim across to the wreck site itself.

Coogee Power Station

Don't we all just love that graffitied hulk of Coogee Power Station. Here's a flash back to its heyday.



Denton/Macedon (Sanctuary)

Date: Sat 27 Feb Skipper: Steve DO: Mel

Deep Dive - Opera House & Roger's Rocks Date: Mon 01 Mar Skipper: Chris DO: John

Rottnest Week

Date: Fri 05 Mar Skipper: NA DO: NA

Rottnest Weekend

Date: Fri 12 Mar Skipper: NA DO: NA

Julie's Cave & Parker Point Date: Sun 21 Mar Skipper: Geoff DO: Pete

Nurses Quarters & The Cathedral (Sanctuary)

Date: Sat 27 Mar Skipper: Mike DO: Mel

Please note:

- Unless doing a nomination dive; you must be a financial member to dive and have no outstanding dive fees (you can pay cash on the boat to clear these)

- Dive fees are \$80 per double dive trip (even if you don't dive or only do one dive) and \$45 for a single dive trip

- If you book on please turn up! You may be charged for the dive if you don't give us sufficient notice. The Skipper will make any call on weather on the morning of the dive.

- Designated Rotto Day Trips are open to all UEC

members, affiliate club members and their guests. The boat will drop you at Thompson Bay about 10:30am and pick you up after the double dive at about 2:00pm. Cost is \$20 per person.

What You Need To Bring

AOW Certification (if Nom Dive) Two tanks (if double dive - note club can provide tanks at \$20ea) Alternate Air if Solo Fins

This trip is open to non members and no requirement for AOW. Bookings through website as per instructions below

UECWALENATRIP

INTERESTED IN DIVING THE LENA WRECK?

IT'S A GREAT COMFORTABLE DIVE, ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE NEW TO WRECK DIVING.

6TH FEBRUARY

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE AOW FOR THIS DIVE. ONLY 10 SPOTS AVAILABLE \$110.

Where: Diving with Octopus Garden leaving Bunbury at 8am and returning to the Jetty at 2pm.

What's on offer: 2 dives on the wreck and a light lunch.

Cost: \$110 + \$15 pertank hire if needed.

How to Book: Facebook interest and bookings are not valid. Go to our website and book on via the calendar. If you need tank hire (\$15) please email Donna at <u>divebookings@uecwa.com.au</u> The trip is to be paid to the club (in full) at the time of booking. First deposits secure your spot. When booking on it asks you if you AOW or equivalent select yes, but in the additional information please identify your actual qualification. This will not prevent you from participating in this trip.

Cocos Island Waitlist



Rotto 2021

A late vacancy, 1 bed for the Rotto long weekend 12–15th March 2021.

\$430.00 for a diver. \$380.00 for a non diver.

Please contact Liz, socialbookings@uecwa.com.au to book and to learn more details.

Boots Wetsuit Weights BCD Regs Mask Computer or Tables Depth Gauge SMB (mandatory) Compass Food & Drink Towel

Optional Hood Gloves Dive Knife Torch Camera Change of Clothes Sunnies Hat Suncream

Entertainment App

Is it time to renew your App ? We've made it easy for you, just follow this <u>link</u> to support the club. Every app we sell brings in \$14.00...get yours now...

Containers for Change

If you would like to donate your container refund to the club then please quote the number below when you deposit your containers or save the QR code below onto your phone and scan when you deposit. All funds go towards your running your club.

C10320909



Membership Fees Fees for 2020-21 are as follows:

Ordinary: \$230 Ordinary Family: \$380 Student & Junior: \$50 Social: \$45 CIO: \$25 Nomination Fee: \$80 Double Dive: \$80

Payments to the Club Account

We get some pretty cryptic payments into our club account which can make life difficult for Steve, our long suffering treasurer. If you make a payment can you please reference along the lines of *surname & reason* e.g. Smith Augusta, Smith Membership, Smith Dive

Smith Membership, Smith Dive 17Oct.

Bank Details

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc) Commonwealth Bank BSB 066 136 Account No <u>00901972</u>

Club Membership Nominations

The following people have nominated for membership of the UECWA:

Sean Bradley (Ord Fam) Aneta ward (Ord)

Please join me in welcoming them to the club. Mike Buchanan Membership@uecwa.com.au

Document Links Please email president@uecwa.com.au if a link is broken or out of date

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Weekly Newsletter

Editor: Mike Buchanan

Dive report: Mike Buchanan

Dive Photos: Della Grunweld

Do You Know Your Club Committee?

President: Mike Buchanan

Vice President: Tom Bassett

Secretary: Michele Hardesty-Munday

Treasurer: Steve Day

Membership: Mike Buchanan

Dive Coordinator: Donna Gratton

Social & Fundraising: Liz Davey

Safety: Pete Northrop

Training: Tristan Stanley-Cary

Boat & Liaison: Jonathan Anderson

Environment: Sue Haste

Communications: Jasmine Lyons

<u>UEC Sponsors</u> The UEC would like to thank the following sponsors:





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http://www.uecwa.com.au





3rd February 2021

Last Weeks Dive

We had Marjories Holes and the City of York Break scheduled for our dives on Saturday. The wind was blowing hard from the east again! I don't remember so many strong easterlies in previous years but this year it has gone on for weeks. We all rocked up to the Marina knowing it was shaping up to be a challenging day. With a full boat of fourteen divers, three passengers for Rottnest, Chris as Skipper and Donna as DO, it was a full boat that headed out of the Marina.



Sure enough, as we pulled away from the shore, the seas got bigger making a few on the upper deck a little bit nervous. After a quick stop off at Thompson Bay to drop our three passengers it was onto the West End. Surprisingly conditions at Marjories Holes were not too bad and so we all jumped in to go hole exploring. Well I think everyone had a great dive as there were no complaints on the boat at the end. This site is usually a great one for the Crayfishers but only one came back with us for the trip to the next site.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Dive Calendar Boat loading 7:45am Port Coogee Marina Loading Wharf (end Pantheon Ave) except Special Events

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Cray Canyon & Flat Top Date: Sun 21 Feb Skipper: Geoff DO: Pete

Barry's Cave & Denton/Macedon (Sanctuary)

Date: Sat 27 Feb Skipper: Steve DO: Mel

Deep Dive - Opera House & Roger's Rocks Date: Mon 01 Mar Skipper: Chris DO: John



We sauntered down to the City of York to be met by Blue Destiny steaming across our bows (well not quite), obviously in a rush to bag the wreck site. We dropped anchor at the break and watched a few surgy swells go through and decided to go back towards Narrow Neck and dive the Mira Flores instead (see history below coincidence that we dived it on the same day it sank).



This is a site I have never dived and don't remember the club scheduling a trip as long as I have been a member. I love diving new sites so it was with some excitement that we jumped in to go exploring, and in some cases, horsing around.



Rottnest Week

Date: Fri 05 Mar Skipper: NA DO: NA

Rottnest Weekend

Date: Fri 12 Mar Skipper: NA DO: NA

Julie's Cave & Parker Point Date: Sun 21 Mar Skipper: Geoff DO: Pete

Nurses Quarters & The

Cathedral (Sanctuary) Date: Sat 27 Mar Skipper: Mike DO: Mel

Please note:

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It turned out a really interesting dive with lots of the wreck to poke around in and some interesting reef edge to explore as well. Only downside was the viz was pretty poor as the photos show but all up a very interesting site and definitely worth putting on the calendar more often. Mike

Mira Flores 1867-1886

On 30 January 1886, The Mira Flores foundered and sank after being driven onto Horseshoe Reef off Rottnest Island. She was at the end of a voyage from London to Fremantle carrying general cargo including ammunition, under the command of Captain Witt.



Owned by W. Moach of Germany, the 49.2 meter iron barque had been built by Bowdler, Chaffer and Co in Liverpool in 1867, and was registered in Rostock, Germany. Several cartridges, bullets, timber handles, bottles, a lead ingot marked 'Babbitt's Patent' with a coat of arms, and the anchor (now on display on the Thompson Bay foreshore), have been salvaged from the wreck site.

https://mailchi.mp/7808abc4fef8/weekly-bulletin-3605378

Towel

- **Optional** Hood Gloves Dive Knife Torch
- Torch Camera Change of Clothes Sunnies Hat Suncream

Entertainment App

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C10320909



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Payments to the Club Account

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The wreck was found by H. Roberts (UEC President 1959 & 1960) and the U.E.C in 1956.



Next Weeks Diving

At this stage we are crossing our fingers, and everything else, in the hope that the dive can go ahead. We are planning a trip to Angela's cave and an Exploration dive (as the Underwater Explorers this is something we really need to do more often). There are still places available and we will advise if the dive is going ahead as soon as we hear if the Covid restrictions being lifted

Crew Training Day

We take safety very seriously in the club, but like all organisations, a degree of complacency sets in when no incidents occur. Recent events with a number of tragic outcomes spurred us on to organise a crew emergency response training day.



A big shout out to Tristan, our (not so) new training officer for taking this one on and organising a very useful morning of instruction and information sharing. Thanks also to our volunteer victims, Sue and Nathan, our inhouse expert trainers Michele and John, and our crew who gave up their Sunday morning to participate. I must also commend them for their active participation and their willingness to dive right in (excuse the pun) and rescue our victims. Smith Membership, Smith Dive 17Oct.

Bank Details

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc) Commonwealth Bank BSB 066 136 Account No <u>00901972</u>

Club Membership Nominations

The following people have nominated for membership of the UECWA:

Martin Crossley & Family (Ord)

Please join me in welcoming them to the club. Mike Buchanan Membership@uecwa.com.au

Document Links

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A few key learnings came out of this, one being to ensure we are set up to handle any emergency before it occurs. This means setting up the Oxygen beforehand, checking the dingy outboard will start and run and for the crew to refresh their skills in areas such as dingy handling and boat operations. Another key area that needs more thought and practice is around recovering an unconscious diver from the water. Not an easy task as we discovered.



There will definitely be more to come out of this exercise and plans to make this a regular annual or biannual event.

Australia Day River Cruise

A bit after 5.00pm Tuesday evening we left Coogee marina with a very blustery south westerly wind blowing for a Dinner Cruise on Cape Cruiser. Big thanks to Liz Davey for organising this evening.

Jonathon Anderson was our Skipper for the evening, with Steve Day supervising him. I had to pitch in as Deckhand for the night, as we had no other experienced people on board. That wasn't such a bad thing. Had to stay sober for the night so I could get home safely any way. Vice President: Tom Bassett

Secretary: Michele Hardesty-Munday

Treasurer: Steve Day

Membership: Mike Buchanan

Dive Coordinator: Donna Gratton

Social & Fundraising: Liz Davey

Safety: Pete Northrop

Training: Tristan Stanley-Cary

Boat & Liaison: Jonathan Anderson

Environment: Sue Haste

Communications: Jasmine Lyons

<u>UEC Sponsors</u> The UEC would like to thank the following sponsors:







We had a pretty full complement of passengers and we had a bit of a wet trip to the harbour. We picked up two more passengers from Claremont Jetty and headed up to Perth water. While the wind never let up but once we were anchored and head to wind, with the clears down we were very comfortable. Liz had prepared two cocktails, one Alcoholic, one not. Funnily enough the Alcoholic one was the most imbibed. Then a very enjoyable two course meal and a 10 or 15 minute Fireworks Display .

There was some speculation as to who put this on at the time, but we had a front row set and they were really good Fireworks. We upped anchor around 9.15 and headed back. Stopping to drop off the passengers at Claremont then a very slow comfortable trip back to Coogee arriving there about 11.45.

Really enjoyable night regardless of the wind.

Many thanks again Liz.

Tom Bassett.

Social Fundraising Report - Australia Day

A full boat enjoyed a lovely evening cruising up the river , taking in the lights at Elizabeth Quay followed by a magnificent firework display provided by an anonymous Perth millionaire, and a 2 course dinner. Thanks to Skippers Jonathan and Steve for anchoring Cape Cruiser into prime position for viewing the 15 min firework display. How lucky were we to be in the right spot at the right time.

Thank you also to everyone who assisted in anyway throughout the evening. Many hands make light work, and you certainly did, thank you. Special thanks must go to Ilonka who treated us to her fabulous dip in a loaf, unexpected and amazingly delicious. We were so lucky the trip was scheduled to prior to current lockdown restrictions. A big thank you to everyone who came along. Many thanks

Liz

Member use of Boat

Just in case you weren't aware, all club members are entitled to use your boat for private functions. These can

be fishing trips, special occasions such as the recent 21st to Eagle Bay or just taking your friends out for a daytrip. Note no diving trips allowed.



Cost is \$150 for a trip out to Carnac Island and \$350 for a Rottnest trip. Other destinations can be priced. Trips are of course subject to boat availability and being able to find a qualified club skipper and Deck hand. If you would like more information then drop me a line to president@uecwa.com.au

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http://www.uecwa.com.au



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10th February 2021

Last Weeks Dive

Well a combination of Covid lockdown uncertainty and crap weather put paid to last weekends diving.

Next Saturdays Diving

The weather is looking promising and we have a full boat with a wait list so please let us know asap if you can't make it. We are heading to WA's favourite dive site, Nurses Quarters and also into Fish Hook Bay for lunch and a relaxing dive around the bay. Note both sites are Sanctuary so no Cray fishing (or loops) allowed.



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Date: Sat 27 Feb Skipper: Steve DO: Mel

Deep Dive - Opera House & Roger's Rocks Date: Mon 01 Mar Skipper: Chris DO: John

Rottnest Week Date: Fri 05 Mar Skipper: NA DO: NA



Crew Graduations

I would like to welcome two new additions to our crewing ranks. Well one was already in the crew but John de Boer has risen to elevated rank of Skipper. Well done John and our first new Skipper in almost five years. John is a long time member and has been a Dive Officer for many years so comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Our second graduation is Chris McCoppin who has recently completed a very long training stint as a Dive Officer. Chris started training several years ago and had almost completed the course when he took a break before resuming recently so it was a relatively quick refresher in the last few months. Like John, Chris comes with a wealth of personal boating experience and is a welcome addition to our DO ranks.

January Membership Records

January set two new membership records for the club since my records began in 2011. We had the highest number of enquiries about joining the club in a single month at 37 (YTD 104). We also had the highest number of new members joining at 9 (YTD 23). We are now sitting at 112 members, only three behind where we finished last year, with five months still to go in the club year.

Not far behind in the record books was the second highest number of nomination dives in a single month at 12 (YTD 25). Regular divers will have noted that the boat is booking up fast these days, largely driven by the upsurge in interest. I guess Covid has a silver lining in that people are looking closer to home for their entertainment.

Containers for Change

I would like to thanks those people who continue to donate their containers to the club account (see side panel for details). Unfortunately we can't see who it is to thank them directly but it is much appreciated. Going forward we will have a container bucket on the boat if anyone would like to bring along any bottles or cans to donate (we will take care of dropping them off at a collection point).

Shark Shield for the Drop Line

I'm sure a few of you, like me, feel a little uncomfortable

https://mailchi.mp/f6a54dcc69ed/weekly-bulletin-3742066

Rottnest Weekend

Date: Fri 12 Mar Skipper: NA DO: NA

Julie's Cave & Parker Point Date: Sun 21 Mar Skipper: Geoff DO: Pete

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Optional Hood

Hood Gloves Dive Knife

hanging on the drop line at 5m doing a safety stop. The committee last night approved the purchase of a shark shield to hang on the line to offer some protection and comfort. It should be on the line in the next week or two so just watch out you don't zap yourself. Torch Camera Change of Clothes Sunnies Hat Suncream

Entertainment App

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Belinda McManus

Please join me in welcoming them to the club. Mike Buchanan Membership@uecwa.com.au

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17th February 2021

Last Weeks Dive

Well dive bookings are going crazy at the moment so no surprise that a trip to Nurses Quarters sold out weeks in advance. So with fourteen divers, two passengers, two Skippers and two Dive Officers (one training) it was a full boat heading out last Saturday. Before leaving the pen we decided to make sure the dingy outboard was running. Just as well we tried it as it wasn't and with a Nurses Quarters trip in the offing, often with a current, it was important that we were prepared. Fortunately we had a bunch of very capable mechanics onboard and so we left it to Jonathan, Chris and Shane to strip down the carb and give it a good clean out. Meanwhile Steve elected to take first shift at the wheel, while I covered off the DO duties as Chris was otherwise engaged, and so we nosed our way out of the Marina and through Lambert Passage out to the West End.

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Rottnest Week

Date: Fri 05 Mar Skipper: NA DO: NA

Rottnest Weekend Date: Fri 12 Mar Skipper: NA DO: NA

Julie's Cave & Parker Point



The current forecast had predicted a reasonably strong current and it was true to form. After dropping the anchor and then the drop line it was clear the forecast was spot on as the flag sat almost horizontal on the surface. So no Nurses Quarters this time. As usual our Plan B when unable to dive Nurses was Kerrys Caverns, just around the tip of the island on the North side. While a little bit swelly it was not too bad so all jumped in for the dive. The anchor was spot on the mark so no problems finding the caves. Date: Sun 21 Mar Skipper: Geoff DO: Pete

Nurses Quarters & The Cathedral (Sanctuary) Date: Sat 27 Mar Skipper: Mike

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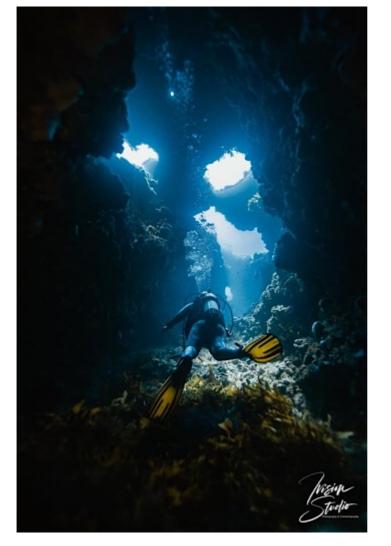
members, affiliate club members and their guests. The boat will drop you at Thompson Bay about 10:30am and pick you up after the double dive at about 2:00pm. Cost is \$20 per person.

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AOW Certification (if Nom Dive) Two tanks (if double dive - note club can provide tanks at \$20ea) Alternate Air if Solo Fins Boots Wetsuit Weights BCD Regs Mask Computer or Tables Depth Gauge SMB (mandatory) Compass Food & Drink Towel

Optional

Hood Gloves Dive Knife Torch Camera Change of Clothes Sunnies Hat Suncream





This really is a stunning dive site and the caves and gullies seem to go on forever. I in the meantime went for a little explore due west of Kerry's and found some interesting country with a couple of highish bommies, a wall with a few smallish caves and a nice deep sandy gully to poke around in. As usual, all too soon the air was running low so time to head back to the boat.

Entertainment App

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Bank Details

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc) Commonwealth Bank BSB 066 136 Account No <u>00901972</u>

Club Membership Nominations



Next stop was the scheduled dive site of Fish Hook Bay. This brought some welcome relief to a few of our divers who were looking a bit green around the gills. Fish Hook Bay is a delightful small bag right at the west end and with its wrap around high cliffs is a lovely sheltered spot even on the windiest and swelliest day.



Lunch was eaten and then back to business with most electing to dive the headland with its dark caves and tunnels. A few elected just to snorkel the bay and enjoy terra firma. Whichever the choice I think all enjoyed their time in the water. Jonathan meanwhile took the dingy for a long drive just to make sure the engine was running smoothly. The following people have nominated for membership of the UECWA:

Please join me in welcoming them to the club. Mike Buchanan Membership@uecwa.com.au

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Treasurer: Steve Day

Membership: Mike Buchanan



With most of the divers back on board we had an unexpected visitor with a boatie swimming across to ask if we could assist in starting a recalcitrant engine. So mechanics jump to the fore again! Shane and Jonathan motored across to said boat and after about 20 minutes large clouds of white smoke appeared indicating a degree of success. The smoke gradually cleared and one relieved boatie maneuvered his way out of the bay thanks to Shane.



My turn at the wheel now and with the wind having picked up to a fresh 20knots it seemed prudent to take the North side of the island to gain at least some shelter on the run home. It was very pleasant up top in the beer garden as we headed to Kingston Reef. Sure enough once we poked **Dive Coordinator:** Donna Gratton

Social & Fundraising: Liz Davey

Safety: Pete Northrop

Training: Tristan Stanley-Cary

Boat & Liaison: Jonathan Anderson

Environment: Sue Haste

Communications: Jasmine Lyons

<u>UEC Sponsors</u> The UEC would like to thank the following sponsors:





our heads around the corner we felt the true force of the wind but for the few who braved the elements upstairs it was largely dry with only a few sprays to freshen us up.

All up another cracking days diving and fourteen very happy divers. Mike

Next Sundays Diving

Its two club favoutrites, Cray Canyon and Flat Top





Shark Shield for the Drop Line - Update

The club now owns a shark shield for the drop line so just be careful when you come back to the boat that you don't zap yourself.

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24th February 2021

Wanted Newsletter Editor

Ever wanted to show of your creative writing and editing skills? Then here's your chance as I would love someone to take over compiling the newsletter. It is pretty simple to do and you can be as creative (or not) as you want. If you would like to know more then drop me a line at president@uecwa.com.au

Last Weeks Dive

The forecast for last Saturday was less than ideal with a 2.3m swell so it was always unlikely we were going to be able to dive Cray Canyon. Stand in skipper Steve (with some subtle hinting from Mike) elected to go the Blue Groper Cave instead. This is a site we have not dived much but really should visit more often as it is made up of nice caves and gullies.

And so we departed Coogee ably assisted by Pirate Pete as DO, Jonathan as Trainee DO and fourteen eager divers. Thankfully the forecast was wrong and conditions were much better than expected. We all had a great dive and all reported nice country.

With the help of my new toy scooter, I ventured a few hundred meters further south to explore a dive site called Mary's Garden. The description in Stubbies dive book is:

This dive site is named after Mary Edwards who, with Adrian Edwards first explored it on 27/12/1988. The main feature of this dive is the isolated area containing a patch of magnificent plate and other corals.

Said plate corals were duly found and photographed as below:

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Dive Calendar

Boat loading 7:45am Port Coogee Marina Loading Wharf (end Pantheon Ave) except Special Events

Link to Calendar and Online Bookings

Please note that the new online booking system requires you to re-register i.e. your user name and password from old system will not work

Barry's Cave & Denton/Macedon (Sanctuary)

Date: Sat 27 Feb Skipper: Steve DO: Mel

Deep Dive - Opera House & Roger's Rocks Date: Mon 01 Mar Skipper: Chris DO: John

Rottnest Week

Date: Sat 06 Mar Skipper: NA DO: NA

Rottnest Weekend

Date: Fri 12 Mar Skipper: NA DO: NA

Julie's Cave & Parker Point Date: Sun 21 Mar Skipper: Geoff DO: Pete



Other than the plate corals there was little of great interest between the two sites and of the two, Blue Groper was definitely the better and a site we need to visit more often.



Lunch was a short hop into Geordie Bay for some shelter and then back out to Victoria Station on Roe Reef for the second dive. Another great dive although the viz was not so hot, as the somewhat murky photos show.





Cathedral (Sanctuary)

Date: Sat 27 Mar Skipper: Mike DO: Mel

Please note:

- Unless doing a nomination dive; you must be a financial member to dive and have no outstanding dive fees (you can pay cash on the boat to clear these)

- Dive fees are \$80 per double dive trip (even if you don't dive or only do one dive) and \$45 for a single dive trip

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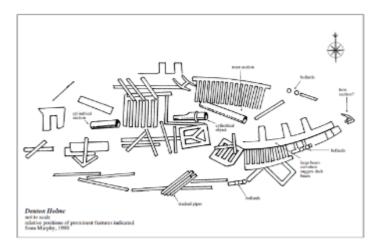


We had one very unlucky diver on the boat who lost their camera about 10 minutes into the dive. Said diver then turned very lucky when a boat approached us shouting something about a camera. Turned out they had found it floating on the surface and managed to pick it up. Pretty small chance of that happening, particularly as it was a dark coloured camera case floating on a dark sea. A great ending (and one very happy diver) to a great days diving. Mike

Next Saturdays Diving

Saturday's dive is a double sanctuary dive to the wrecks of the Macedon and Denton Holme and Barrys Caves, both on Transit reef in Thompson Bay.

The Denton Holme was a Belfast built Iron Barque, carrying 1275 tons of iron pipes for Perth waterworks, cement and 250-300 tons general cargo with a value of $\pounds 20,000$. After departing Glasgow, it arrived at the island in the evening of the 25th September 1890. They requested a pilot, but before receiving one got in too close and stuck fast on Transit reef, almost on top of the Macedon which was wrecked nine years earlier. It began disintegrating in the swells and broke in two. It was discovered by the UEC in 1956.



The Macedon was a Liverpool built iron screw steamer of 562 tons was wrecked on 21 March 1883, with 50 passengers, about 40 horses, mail, specie, general cargo and a Kimberley survey party containing Alexander and John Forrest and Walter James, a future Premier. The captain took in tow a party of officials with business on

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Double Dive: \$80

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Karri Coles

Rottnest, and in displaying such hospitality, took his vessel too close to the reefs. After releasing the tow and turning north, the vessel struck. Attempts were made to get it off but the hull was holed. It sank with no loss of life. The captain's certificate was suspended for three months.

The wreck was sold to H Atwell (of Atwell Arcade in Fremantle fame), he was initially successful, but later lost his diving equipment and 'hard hat' in a storm. The wreck was found by Barry Martin of the UEC. The helmet found by Greg Scharf.

This wreck, along with the nearby Denton Holme, lies in 3– 6 meters of water. Barry's Caves, named after the afore mentioned Barry Martin, lies slightly to the north of the wreck sites and is an extensive and pretty site with small caves and swim thru's sitting on white sand.

Next Mondays Diving

Monday sees the club head to the other Grey Nurse Shark cave, Opera House, located on the north side of Rottnest. This site gets down to about 34m so is one of our deepest dive sites. On the way home we will be doing a shallower dive on Rogers Rocks, a pretty site in about 12m with small caves and gullies to explore.



Environment Report

The Committee have discussed an opportunity for the club to be involved in some environmental issues. Red map is a site we should all be familiar with with lots of information on species that maybe impacting on our environment.

Teresa Hill

Please join me in welcoming them to the club. Mike Buchanan Membership@uecwa.com.au

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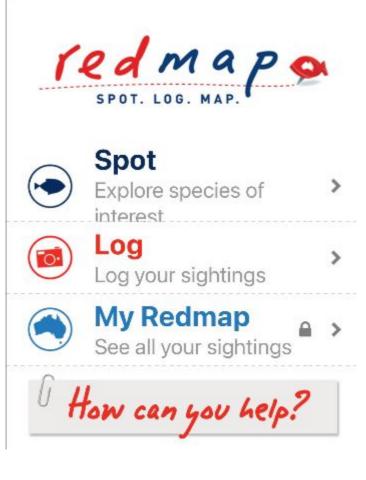
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Adopt-a-Bin



Liz Davey

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3rd March 2021

Correction

Last week I stated that the dive site, Barry's Caves was named after Barry Martin who is credited with finding the nearby <u>Macedon wreck</u>. Our font of club wisdom, Dennis 'Stubby' Stubberfield, has since advised me that it was named after Barry Kennedy, club president from 1984 to 1988. Well at least I know someone reads the newsletter!

Last Weeks Dives

Wow, what a weekend of diving. We had a full boat on both Saturday and Monday, plus we had a bunch of members down south on Busso Jetty and Canal Rocks. Only downside to all this activity is it takes me three times as long to write the newsletter.

Saturday

On Saturdfay we hjad a full boat heading to the Denton Holme, Macedon and Barrys Cave with Skipper Steve, DO Mel (yes that Mel, long lost Mel has made a reappearance!!!!!), and trainee Jonathan.



Unfortunately the viz was not great but this is always a lovely dive site. With my scooter in hand I went looking for the wreck of the Janet. I don't think I found it, but there was one suspiciously manmade looking bit of reef but I still had a great dive a found some nice country that is

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Dive Calendar

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Link to Calendar and Online Bookings

Please note that the new online booking system requires you to re-register i.e. your user name and password from old system will not work

Rottnest Week

Date: Sat 06 Mar Skipper: NA DO: NA

Rottnest Weekend

Date: Fri 12 Mar Skipper: NA DO: NA

Julie's Cave & Parker Point Date: Sun 21 Mar Skipper: Geoff DO: Pete

Nurses Quarters & The Cathedral (Sanctuary) Date: Sat 27 Mar Skipper: Mike DO: Mel

Please note:

Unless doing a nomination dive; you must be a financial member to dive and have no outstanding dive fees (you can pay cash on the boat to clear these)
Dive fees are \$80 per double

https://mailchi.mp/15c884e6373f/weekly-bulletin-3771042

definitely worth diving again.





Next stop was Kingston Reef and we anchored on the sand to the North of the reef. Again with scooter in hand I made a beeline for the so called Shark Cave, not really expecting to find a shark there but lo and behold there was. I take back everything I have said about Shark Cave, and Jeff I believe you now.



Fish Cave lived upto its name as usual and was packed with bulls eyes, Pomfreys and Old Wives. This site is as close as you will get to diving in an aquarium, Just lovely.



dive trip (even if you don't dive or only do one dive) and \$45 for a single dive trip

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On the way back to the boat I poked my head in a small cave to see a Jumbo staring back at me. If I had been holding a loop instead of a scooter I would have had a go but with hands full I decided to leave him in peace - maybe next time if he is still in the same cave.

It was back to Coogee and for some a quick slaking of the thirst at our new watering hole.

Monday

Back on the boat after what seemed to be no time but summer had literally gone overnight. The rain was steady and it was cool, not what one expects on the 1st of March. On the plus side the wind was nothing like the forecast so Chris, our skipper, reckoned Opera House was on.



So we headed out of Coogee, this time with John DB replacing Mel and Jonathan again but this time sporting a John DB look a like hairstyle. Not quite so shiny but almost as much hair!

C10320909



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Barry O'Grady Sebastian Laffont

Please join me in welcoming them to the club. Mike Buchanan Membership@uecwa.com.au

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Opera House was lumpy but diveable so we all jumped in to see if any of our sharky friends were in residence. Well there was one lone shark in the cave, maybe the same one that was in Kingston on Saturday. Being a deep dive our bottom time was over before we had started and it was back to the boat.

For the first few back on board we watched a very large offshore support vessel appear through the misty rain heading straight for us. Fortunately the skipper was alert and changed course to give us a wide berth.



Reminds me of someone, just can't think who

We headed to Duck Rock for lunch and a bit of respite from the lumpy seas. Having dropped a couple of passengers in Thompson Bay it seemed daft to go all the way to Rogers Rock to come all the way back so instead we headed for the Maze.

Now the last few times I have dived the Maze I didn't find it which is very frustrating as IO have dived it so many times. This time we elected to anchor slightly south of the GPS mark and north of the marks I had. Bingo, the anchor was almost spot on. Now this is a difficult cave to find as the entrances are small and well concealed, often appearing to be just small caves in the gully that runs along the north side of the maze. However this time the second hole I poked my nose into was the main cave. Club Bylaws (Part 1)

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Mitch Adams, nomination diver, on hearing he can join the UEC!

I explored the cave more extensively that previously and in the bottom corner, furthest away from the shelves at the southern entrance I found a black hole. I ventured into a convoluted dark and narrow passageway which opened up into a slanting flat cave full of Crayfish. This led to an exit which when looking back was a completely non descript hole iin the reef with no clue of the treasures within. Again one for next time with a loop in hand.



Finally weekend diving over and homeward bound over lumpy seas and a very fresh wind. All up a great weekends diving.

A big thanks to Steve, Mel, Jonathan, Chris and John for making it all happen, and of course to Donna for managing to keep track of who was on which dive.

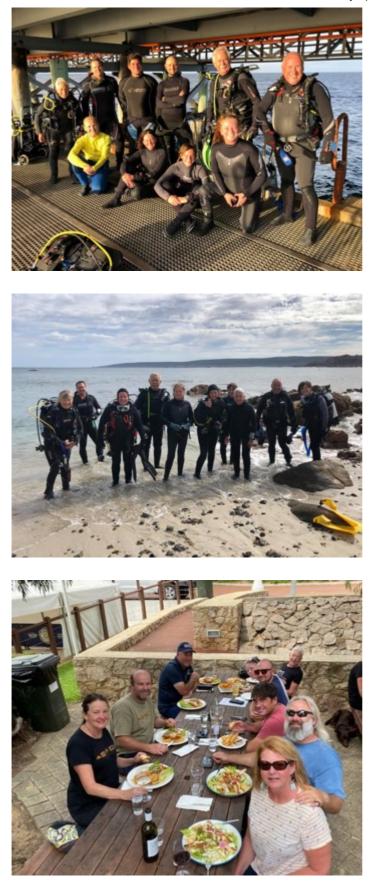
Busselton Jetty and Canal Rocks

Well I don't know too much about what shenanigans they got up to while down there but judging by the reports and photos on Facebook all had a great weekend. **Communications:** Jasmine Lyons

UEC Sponsors The UEC would like to thank the following sponsors:







<u>Next Dive</u>

The club heads off to Rottnest on Saturday morning for the annual ten day diving bonanza so no calendar boat dives until Sunday 21st March when we will be heading to Julies Cave and Parker Point.

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17th March 2021

Last Weeks Diving

Phew, what a Rotto annual dive trip. Ten fantastic days of diving, socialising and eating Crayfish. A huge thank-you to Liz Davey for yet another impeccably organised and catered dive trip.



As you might have noticed there was no newsletter last week as we were all having so much fun diving. Well it all came to an end last Monday after ten days of fun blowing bubbles. The weather overall was great with low swells most days, but a few windy days made finding a good sheltered spot more challenging, particularly for the weekend brigade.

Tune in next week by which time I hope to have compiled the full diving report of the ten days with help from Laura.

Next Weekends Dive

Back to reality with a double dive to Julies Cave and Parker Point. Forecast is looking good and the boat is already full with a waitlist. Please remember to be courteous and if you are not able to make it let Donna know at divebookings@uecwa.com.au so that someone else can use your spot.

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Dive Calendar Boat loading 7:45am Port Coogee Marina Loading Wharf (end Pantheon Ave) except Special Events

Link to Calendar and Online Bookings

Please note that the new online booking system requires you to re-register i.e. your user name and password from old system will not work

Julie's Cave & Parker Point Date: Sun 21 Mar Skipper: Geoff DO: Pete

Nurses Quarters & The Cathedral (Sanctuary) Date: Sat 27 Mar Skipper: Mike DO: Mel

Carnac Single Dive

Date: Fri 2 Apr Skipper: Martin DO: Donna

Midway Point & Exploration

Date: Sun 4 Apr Skipper: Carl DO: John

Stragglers Mini Swirl Single Dive' Date: Mon 5 Apr Skipper: Mike DO: Mel

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Aquarium

Date: Sat 10 Apr Skipper: Chris DO: Jeff

Lady Elizabeth Wreck & Julies Cave Date: Sun 18 Apr Skipper: Mike DO: Pete

Deep Dive Angelas Cave & Swirl Reef Date: Sat 24 Apr Skipper: Carl DO: Jeff

Hugals Passage Single Dive

Date: Tue 27 Apr Skipper: Geoff DO: Mel

Please note:

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24th March 2021

<u>Rotto 21</u>

Here it is - the <u>Rotto 21</u> souvenir write up. Hope it brings back some memories for those who were lucky enough to be there.

Also a quick thanks to Zita who dropped of the containers from the week crew (we somehow lost the weekend containers). You guys managed to drink 256 cans and 74 bottles of, I suspect mainly beer raising almost \$39 for the club!!!!!

..... and here is a final word from our Rotto sponsor - the amazing Liz Davey

<u>The Annual Rotto Pilgrimage March 6th – 15th 2021.</u>

I can hardly believe the Rotto holiday has been and gone and, we have been back for a week !

Firstly I want to thank all who attended for supporting the club, there will be more thank you's, later.

Our nightly homage to Huey, paid off during the week, but sadly didn't quite extend to the Long Weekend...

We did however manage a full compliment of dives, totalling 17, comprising of, 15-day time dives, 1 night dive, 1 twilight dive and a squidding night thrown in for incredibly good measure enthusiastically by Steve Day, and while we are talking stats, we clocked up a total of 141 air fills. A very grand effort by all.

The trip was a complete sell out as usual, and in addition this year we had some very welcome visitors. Mike and Yvonne Buchanan joined us from their boat, spending best part of the week with us. Mike not only dived but skippered twice as well. Thanks Mike.

Malcolm Roberts joined our ranks for 2 days diving, in the week and a cameo appearance at the weekend where he kindly cooked BBQ Garlic crays for us. Thank you, Malcolm. Nathan Cox was with us from Saturday till

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Dive Calendar Boat loading 7:45am Port Coogee Marina Loading Wharf (end Pantheon Ave) except Special Events

Link to Calendar and Online Bookings

Please note that the new online booking system requires you to re-register i.e. your user name and password from old system will not work

Nurses Quarters & The

Cathedral (Sanctuary) Date: Sat 27 Mar Skipper: Mike DO: Mel

Carnac Single Dive Date: Fri 2 Apr Skipper: Martin DO: Donna

Midway Point & Exploration

Date: Sun 4 Apr Skipper: John DO: Chris McC

Stragglers Mini Swirl Single Dive' Date: Mon 5 Apr

Skipper: Mike DO: Mel

DO: Jeff

Mira Flores Wreck & Maree's Aquarium Date: Sat 10 Apr Skipper: Chris

Wednesday, during which time he underwent training as a DO. Thank you, Nathan. Good luck we hope you become a fully-fledged DO soon.

Michele Hardesty-Munday, who had planned to join us for dinner on 6th March popped in at 949, to tell us she was busy at the Medical Center and couldn't stay, but donated 2 bottles of wine to cheer us up, thank you Michele ..the wine was delicious and much appreciated.

Finally, after too long a hiatus, Hetty Geard joined us for the LWE. It was awesome to have Hetty with us again, and a big thank you must go to Stephy Geard for sleeping on the stretcher bed allowing her mum and dad to snuggle up together.

Those in the know, will appreciate that eating and drinking are almost as important as diving during the Rotto Holiday. This year we were lucky to have our third club chef, Francois Leuenberger on board. Francois cooked the most amazing Cray dishes for us using his Sous Vide cooker. For many of us it was the first time we had ever experienced such a cooker. We were so impressed, the food was beautiful, and I am reliably informed there has been a run on the sales Sous Vide cookers since our return to Perth. Along with Crayfish Rogan Josh, Crayfish chowder, and BBQ Cray fish, Crayfish Thermidor is a new club favourite. Thank you, Francois.

Our culinary experience did not only revolve around the Crayfish though. Maree Cassleys Chicken Curry with coconut rice was also enthusiastically received...thank you Maree.... Long-time club members, skippers, DO's, and former presidents of the club, Dennis and Maree, were sadly missing from this years' experience. The engine of their boat died on the eve of the holiday, what bad timing....We did raise a glass to you both whilst toasting Huey, and we asked he ensured you were amongst our ranks in 2022.

A very big thank you must go to Tess Hutchins, who created the most delicious Potato Bake, on our final Sunday which dove tailed all the leftovers, into another gastronomic delight...Thank you Tess.

Liz Davey

Last Weeks Diving

The forecast looked so promising that we even thought we might get to Martins Arches but it was not to be. With a full boat we set off from Coogee with Geoff back at the helm, Pete as DO and 'young' Jeff as trainee DO. It was flat, warm and sunny and looked so nice. Along for the ride was Stubby and he quickly took up Geoff's offer to refresh his skills with the old Cape Cruiser.

Lady Elizabeth Wreck & NOT Julies Cave

Date: Sun 18 Apr Skipper: Mike DO: Jeff

Deep Dive Angelas Cave & Swirl Reef Date: Sat 24 Apr Skipper: Carl

Anzac Service & Hugals Passage Single Dive Date: Mon 26 Apr Skipper: Geoff DO: Mel

Please note:

DO: Pete

- Unless doing a nomination dive; you must be a financial member to dive and have no outstanding dive fees (you can pay cash on the boat to clear these)

- Dive fees are \$80 per double dive trip (even if you don't dive or only do one dive) and \$45 for a single dive trip

- If you book on please turn up! You may be charged for the dive if you don't give us sufficient notice. The Skipper will make any call on weather on the morning of the dive.

- Designated Rotto Day Trips are open to all UEC

members, affiliate club members and their guests. The boat will drop you at Thompson Bay about 10:30am and pick you up after the double dive at about 2:00pm. Cost is \$20 per person.

What You Need To Bring

AOW Certification (if Nom Dive) Two tanks (if double dive - note club can provide tanks at \$20ea) Alternate Air if Solo Fins Boots Wetsuit Weights BCD Regs Mask Computer or Tables Depth Gauge SMB (mandatory) Compass Food & Drink Towel

Optional Hood

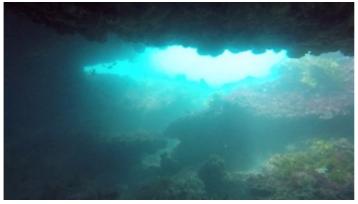


Passing through Lambert Passage on our way to the west end it started to become clear that the swell was a good bit more than forecast so change of plan and back towards the scheduled dive site of Julies Cave. We duly arrived and watched with some dismay as the big swells rolled over the site. To dive or not to dive, that is the question. In the end sense prevailed and we decided to head to the Crystal Palace area.

On arrival Blue Destiny was anchored over the main site so to fulfill the 'exploration' part of the double bill we decided to have a go a Porpoise Bay Caves or Crystal Caves (same mark but different names).



Unfortunately the viz was appalling as the photo above shows and I suspect many never found any caves as it was hard to see more than 5-10m. I found a couple of reasonable spots after a fair bit of searching back and forth but not a site I would bother going to again.



For the second dive we decided to hop over to Crystal Palace as Blue destiny had vacated the spot and we

Gloves Dive Knife Torch Camera Change of Clothes Sunnies Hat Suncream

Entertainment App

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C10320909



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Ordinary: \$230 Ordinary Family: \$380 Student & Junior: \$50 Social: \$45 CIO: \$25 Nomination Fee: \$80 Double Dive: \$80

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thought it best to follow a crappy dive with a good one. As this was my third dive on the site in a week I was getting pretty familiar with it. On the two previous occasions I went SE and W, so this time I went SW, along teh scarp and heading towards a mark we call The Vault.



The viz was still pretty crappy but the scenery was not. When you are swimming in decent caves the viz doesn't seem to matter as much. The caves went on and on, Cray Pot Cave, Baby Jackson Tunnel, and then onto The Vault. This is definitely in the top five dive sites around Rotto.



Finally time to go and a very pleasant run back to Coogee in the sun. Thanks to Dennis for skippering, Geoff for filling in on the odd occasion and to Pete and Jeff for DO'ing. A nice days diving even though viz was poor.

Next Weekends Dive

Saturday sees us back at Nurses Quarters again (third time in a week). If its anything like the last two visits it will be full of sharks. Following Nurses we are heading to the fabled Cathedral and we know exactly where it is so should be a cracking dive. Weather forecast is looking great and next to no current forecast at Nurses.

Please note the boat is full and there is a waitlist so please be courteous and if you are unable to make it give us plenty of warning so someone else can take the place.

Lena Dive on Saturday

As well as a full club boat we also have a fully booked club organised (thanks Donna) outing down to the Lena on Saturday. Hope its a great trip and sure we will hear all about next week (hint - someone please send me a write up).

Parking at Coogee

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc) Commonwealth Bank BSB 066 136 Account No 00901972

Club Membership Nominations

The following people have nominated for membership of the UECWA:

Please join me in welcoming them to the club. Mike Buchanan Membership@uecwa.com.au

Document Links

Please email president@uecwa.com.au if a link is broken or out of date

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Weekly Newsletter

Editor: Mike Buchanan

Do You Know Your Club Committee?

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Vice President: Tom Bassett

Secretary: Michele Hardesty-Munday

Treasurer: Steve Day

Membership:

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Mike Buchanan

Dive Coordinator: Donna Gratton

Social & Fundraising: Liz Davey

Safety: Pete Northrop

Training: Tristan Stanley-Cary

Boat & Liaison: Jonathan Anderson

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Communications: Jasmine Lyons

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31st March 2021

Last Weeks Diving

With a perfect forecast including no current Saturdays dive to Nurses was destined to be a cracker. It didn't disappoint with some even saying best day of their lives - well you don't get much better than that!

What was to be a slightly overfilled boat of fifteen divers dwindled down to twelve thanks to a few last minute cancellations. Frustrating but I guess things do come up at the last minute. Just for everyone's awareness we do track cancellations in the last 24 hours before the dive to see if any serial offenders.



Anyway with an almost full boat, myself at the helm, Chris 'Papa Smurf' as DO and 'young' Jeff as trainee DO we set off for what was promising to be a great day on the water.

We pulled up at the site with no competition and dropped anchor right on the mark. After a bit of faffing around all our divers eventually jumped in apart from one poor seasick soul.

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Eventually they started streaming back raving about the site and the sharks. Job well done.



We upped anchor with no dramas and headed round the west end to Eagle Bay and some welcome calm water. a very pleasant lunch in the warm Autumn sunshine and then after numerous explanations on how to find the Cathedral they were off.



Deep Dive Angelas Cave & Swirl Reef Date: Sat 24 Apr Skipper: Carl

Skipper: Carl DO: Pete

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Optional

Hood Gloves Dive Knife Torch Camera Change of Clothes Sunnies



Some chose the surface swim, some went under but gradually they all made their way across to the site.



The main cave is nestled in the arms of Cathedral Rocks and due to the somewhat shallow surrounding reef means that getting the boat in close is not really an option.



We watched with some interest as heads and bodies appeared all over the reef, some opting to go real shallow.

Hat Suncream

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Well it appears you can lead a diver to water but can't make it find the site as only two divers found The Cathedral. The rest had varying degrees of dive success. Some loved it, some grumbled about the distance they had to swim but the general consensus was it was a good dive. I think maybe we need to try and find a way of getting closer to the site next time.



He definitely said The Cathedral was down here somewhere

Critter highlights included a Spanish Dancer and a Sea Dragon although there was some debate as to whether it was a Leafy or Weedy as not too clear on a tiny screen.



The run back to Coogee was warm and pleasant although

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Rottnest Dive Photos: Aneta Ward Della Grunwald

Surface Photos: Jeff Young

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Secretary: Michele Hardesty-Munday

Treasurer: Steve Day a little choppy in the fresh SW wind.

Thanks to Chris McC for DO'ing and Jeff Y for helping out as trainee. Always makes puttying the boat to bed much quicker with an extra pair of hands.

Mike

Lena Dive on Saturday

While the magnificent Cape Cruiser was heading out to Rottnest ten divers went down to the Lena. Conditions were perfect; less than 1 meter swell and about 5kn winds, the water glassed-off for us while we were having our first dive.



The great thing about a double dive on the Lena is whatever you missed during the first dive is shared with everyone during the surface interval and you go back down with directions to find it during the next dive. Pete Northrop's directions to find the rather large resident and sleepy Wobbegong didn't fail, so everyone got to see it, and it modelled patiently for Tracy Hughes to take some great photographs of him.



During the surface interval the glassed-off water allowed us to see huge schools of baitfish hanging around the boat trying to avoid the tuna that were jumping and hunting. I've experienced better vis, but still good considering there is some dredging work happening around Bunbury. Membership: Mike Buchanan

Dive Coordinator: Donna Gratton

Social & Fundraising: Liz Davey

Safety: Pete Northrop

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Boat & Liaison: Jonathan Anderson

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The resident three-legged turtle was also there, Alastair managed to get some shots before it took off into the blue. He was clearly a bit over sharing the wreck with a bunch of bubble blowing divers.



It was a great day all around; great company, beautiful conditions, lots of light and a smooth gentle dive. We were back on the Jetty by 2pm, ready for the drive home. Keep an eye out for UEC's day-trips in future, they are always posted on our FB page, in our newsletter and on our calendar.



Thanks to everyone who came down and thanks for the photographers, Tracy and Alastair. Donna Gratton

Next Weekends Diving

Its the Easter weekend and we have three dives lined up so its a busy one. On Friday we have a cheeky single out to Carnac Island. The trip is fully booked so if you want to waitlist contact Donna at divebookings@uecwa.com.au

On Sunday we have a double out to Midway Kerrys and Anders and also an Exploration Dive lined up. Still plenty of room on this dive.

And finally on Monday we have another single out to a classic Stragglers site, Mini Swirl. This dive also has plenty of room left.

Environment Report

New Ammo Jetty plans - 9.69 million of funding available.

Liz Davey and myself attended a Department of Transport Meeting workshop on the 18th of March for the diving and snorkeler's community. It was well attended by a variety of Dive Shops in Perth and UEC.

The meeting was also attended by Professor Gary Kendrick from UWA to share information on the growth and life found on such pylons and its uniqueness.

We were asked to discuss the issues that divers have with diving the current jetty. Fishermen, lines and rubbish was identified as a problem. We were then asked to come up with plans of how we might want it to look each table drawing a rough plan. It was identified width would be better at 30 meters with pylons spaced further away from each other as damage to sea growth from fins was identified.

The old jetty. History: Original build 1903 then in 1939 concrete and timber top put on. It was disclosed that the pylons would remain in situ as they are in good condition and discussion held. Participants strongly expressed it was

crucial to replace the top to provide protection for the growth.

On the **new jetty** lots of things were asked for such things as disability access for disabled divers, possible platform for teaching, permanent dive flag, jetty cam (like surf beaches), wind direction, night lighting, more rubbish bins, signage of fish and growth under the jetty. We did not want a fish cleaning station on the jetty. Pylons to be clad with material that would enable new colonization of life.

Sue Haste

Parking at Coogee

Finally, after years of peace and quiet with our existence at Coogee we are being hounded once again, and not by the Marina who I might add have done their best to minimise the impact. After a run in with two over zealous Rangers who clearly like wearing a uniform, we have now been informed that we **MUST NOT** park between the granite blocks to unload and load gear. There is now a solid yellow line and NO STOPPING painted on the road and you will be fined on the spot if caught. Please use the car park and the provided trolleys to move your gear to and from the boat. The trolleys are locked but we have the combination code for anyone who would like it.

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7th April 2021

Last Weeks Diving

The Easter weekend was a busy weekend with dives on three out of the four days.

Friday

We kicked off on Friday with a single dive out to Hugals Passage at the back of the Mewstone.



Martin was our Skipper and Donna the Dive Officer for the relatively short run out. A full boat of divers enjoyed exploring the caves, gullies and bommies that make up this section of the Stragglers reef and all had an enjoyable dive although the viz was not great. With the short run and only a single dive we were back in the pen by 11am so plenty of time to enjoy the rest of the day.

Sunday

Sunday saw the boat set out with nine divers, John at the helm and Chris Papa Smurf as DO. It was a strange forecast with the wind bouncing all over the place reaching highs of 25kts so we weren't too sure what was going to happen. It was relatively calm when we rocked up at the Marina so decision made to head to Rotto and play it by ear. With the wind blowing fresh from the east it was a relatively flat run out with the seas only starting to build as we approached Rottnest.

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John decided to go for Blue Groper cave rather than head all the way out to the west end as the seas were pretty big and it would have been a long trip just to find out we couldn't dive there. We jumped in for the dive to be greeted by appalling viz. I went to the anchor and although I spent about 30 mins swimming around in circles I didnt find the site but then I could have been 10m away and not seen it. Others were more fortunate and reported a lovely dive through the gullies and caves that make up this relatively deep site.



By the time we surface it was blowing over 20kts with gusts upto 28kts so we pulled anchor and ran for the island, heading for hopefully more sheltered waters at City of York bay. Fortunately conditions here were much more pleasant and with lunch over we went off to explore. Some headed for the wreck site, others the caves and holes under the break.



We chose the break and although the viz was not great had a lovely dive swimming through schools of fish and poking around in the caves. By the time we got back to the boat the wind had dropped back to a more manageable 12kts and so the run home was pleasant until raindrops the size of tennis balls started dropping. Even the most hardy couldn't stay up on the flybridge so we all pay cash on the boat to clear these)

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retreated into the cabin until the shower passed.



Although not the best of conditions it was still a pretty good days diving.

Monday

Mondays forecast was much more predictable than Sundays and so it was always a good bet we would get to the advertised dive site of Mini Swirl on Stragglers. With myself at the helm and Mel as DO we headed out with a very full boat of fifteen divers and one passenger.



There was next to no swell and only a light wind so conditions were very pleasant at the site. There was however a slight current running and this caught out almost half the divers with many inadvertently surfacing a long way behind the boat. We ran out a lot of extra line on the mermaid line and eventually seven tired divers pulled themselves back to the boat but all raved about the site.

Another short run home and back in time for lunch

Mike

Next Weekends Diving

On Saturday we are heading out to the Mira Flores wrecksite and a skippers choice.

Mira Flores 1867-1886

On 30 January 1886, The Mira Flores foundered and sank after being driven onto Horseshoe Reef off Rottnest Island. She was at the end of a voyage from London to Fremantle carrying general cargo including ammunition, under the command of Captain Witt. Owned by W. Moach of Germany, the 49.2 meter iron Barque had been built by Bowdler, Chaffer and Co in Liverpool in 1867, and was registered in Rostock, Germany. Several cartridges, when you deposit. All funds go towards your running your club.

C10320909



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Pat Jones Alan Jones

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bullets, timber handles, bottles, a lead ingot marked 'Babbitt's Patent' with a coat of arms, and the anchor, have been salvaged from the wreck site.



Lost Property Is this your lunch box?



Top Ten Diver Table as of 5th April 2021

Place	Diver Name	Total
1	Mike Buchanan	54
2	Jonathan Anderson	28
3	Rachel Standish	26
4	Jeff Weston	24
5	Geoff Geard	23
6	Shane Penny	20
7	Laura Thompson	19
7	Francois Leurenberger	19
7	Della Grunwald	19
7	Cheryl Petty	19

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Boat & Liaison: Jonathan Anderson

https://mailchi.mp/75045c7b35a4/weekly-bulletin-4776618

Environment: Sue Haste

Communications: Jasmine Lyons

<u>UEC Sponsors</u> The UEC would like to thank the following sponsors:





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14th April 2021

Mid Week Special Tuesday 20th April

We have a special midweek double dive organised. We will be heading to Mike and Steve's favourite dive spots around Rotto so for all you stay at home workers, retirees and general layabouts get in and book your place.

Last Weeks Diving

I think most will agree that the weather patterns this year have been rather strange with lots of very strong easterlies being the norm. The weather experts say this is due to El Nino and Saturday was another great example. The wind forecast was for an Easterly up to 25kts dropping down to about 8kts at lunchtime. Now a 25kt wind from the SW is very different to a 25kt wind from the E as wind coming off the land has less time to build up big seas than one coming from the SW. So even with high winds forecast the dive was scheduled to go ahead.

We all rocked up at the Marina and yes, it was windy, but the sea didn't look to bad and we were in the capable hands of Chris, our skipper for the day. With Jonathan as DO we soon had all eight divers loaded up and briefed ready for our days diving.



The scheduled site was the Mira Flores and a skippers choice but this was clearly a day where we would need to look and see what was possible. Seas were running pretty big by the time we got to Rottnest but Chris decided to give Flat Top a look. Well it was a great choice for the divers but not so sure about the crew on board. We all had a great dive as there was almost no swell and surge and

REFERENCE INFORMATION

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Port Coogee Marina Loading Wharf (end Pantheon Ave) except Special Events

Link to Calendar and Online Bookings

Please note that the new online booking system requires you to re-register i.e. your user name and password from old system will not work

Lady Elizabeth Wreck & NOT Julies Cave

Date: Sun 18 Apr Skipper: Mike DO: Jeff

Skippers Choice Double Dive Date: Tue 20th April Skipper: Mike & Steve DO: TBA

Deep Dive Angela's Cave & Swirl Reef

Date: Sat 24 Apr Skipper: Carl DO: Pete

Anzac Service & Hugals Passage Single Dive Date: Mon 26 Apr

Skipper: Geoff DO: Mel

Please note:

- Unless doing a nomination dive; you must be a financial member to dive and have no outstanding dive fees (you can pay cash on the boat to clear the anchor was literally on the site so no one could miss it (as seen in above photo).



The viz wasn't great but when you're in a cave a nice as Flat Top it doesn't seem to matter too much.



I went for a little explore to the North West of the main site but apart from a few small caves and gullies there wasn't anything to compare with the main cave so I headed back and spent most of the time exploring all the nooks and crannies. There were certainly plenty of Crayfish but surprisingly no one caught any. I guess they were all just too smart.



Back on surface it was very bump with a 23kt wind blowing so we headed for the shelter of Geordie Bay for lunch. It was warm and pleasant in the Bay so all enjoyed a leisurely lunch before we had to face the force of the wind again.

these)

- Dive fees are \$80 per double dive trip (even if you don't dive or only do one dive) and \$45 for a single dive trip

- If you book on please turn up! You may be charged for the dive if you don't give us sufficient notice. The Skipper will make any call on weather on the morning of the dive.

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members, affiliate club members and their guests. The boat will drop you at Thompson Bay about 10:30am and pick you up after the double dive at about 2:00pm. Cost is \$20 per person.

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Optional

Hood Gloves Dive Knife Torch Camera Change of Clothes Sunnies Hat Suncream

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We thought we would be okay on Roe Reef but with seas of up to 2m that wasn't going to work. We then retreated back to the Geordie Bay Channel Marker but even it was bouncing. We had little choice but to retreat back up the island behind North Point to City of York Bay for the second week in a row in almost identical conditions.



Those who have dived this site know you can choose the reef break or the wreck site, or both if you don't mind a bit of swimming. Like last week there was no break as the swell was negligible which made diving around that area attractive. I chose both as the reef connecting the two is a great dive site in itself, with caves, gullies and tunnels to poke around in and explore. Starting at the break I finished up on then wreck and had one of the best dives I have had for at least a week!

By the time we were back on board the wind had dropped to a more sedate 12kts so the run home was fairly pleasant and dry up in the beer garden.

A big thanks to Chris and Jonathan for a great days diving, well exceeding expectations for such a windy day.

Mike

Next Weekends Diving

On Sunday we are heading to a site I have never dived in all my time in the club, the Lady Elizabeth wreck. The Lady Elizabeth was a composite wood and steel Barque, 48 meters long and 648 tons.

towards your running your club.



Membership Fees

Fees for 2020-21 are as follows:

Ordinary: \$230 Ordinary Family: \$380 Student & Junior: \$50 Social: \$45 CIO: \$25 Nomination Fee: \$80 Double Dive: \$80

Payments to the Club Account

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Please join me in welcoming them to the club. Mike Buchanan Membership@uecwa.com.au

Document Links

Please email president@uecwa.com.au if a link is broken or out of date

Club Constitution



On the 25th of June 1878, the Lady Elizabeth begun its fateful journey departing Fremantle for Shanghai heading out to sea in less than ideal weather. The barque had cleared Rottnest and was well out to sea when in bad weather the ship was beaten back south on its voyage and on the 30th the Captain decided to turn the ship around and head back to the safety of Fremantle. On returning to port a crew member was lost overboard and in the poor conditions a boat could not be launched to effect a rescue. During the evening the Captain sighted what he thought was Parker Point and attempted to sail the ship through south passage in the failing light, shortly after the vessel struck the reef near Dyer Island and begun to break up and lose its cargo.



The wreck of the Lady Elizabeth lays in around 9 metres of water on the western side of Dyer Island. Two thirds of the wrecked composite built barque are located on the sand extending southward with the stern hard up amongst the nearby reef. Being on the south side of the island and adjacent to a number of nearby breaking reefs the Lady Elizabeth is best dived in a low swell under a metre and in an easterly wind. The site is generally regarded to have great visibility sometimes up to 20 metres.

Club Bylaws (Part 1)

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For the second dive (or maybe the first depending on what order we do them in) we are going to NOT Julies Cave. NOT Julies Cave is the area based on the old GPS coordinates that we had for Julies Cave. However what I didn't know at the time was they were based on the old Australian coordinate datum and so are about 200m to the SW of the current GPS datum. In other words we went looking for Julies Cave about 200m away from where it really is which explained why it took a while to find it. In the meantime however all the divers reported lovely diving country and so we are going back to dive it again. **Communications:** Jasmine Lyons

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21st April 2021 - Update

<u>Update</u>

Apologies but just realised the ANZAC day service is on the Sunday (25th) and the dive is on the Monday (26th).

Last Weeks Diving - Sunday

Its been a busy week for diving. On Sunday we had a full boat of fourteen divers heading out to NOT Julies Cave and the Lady Elizabeth wreck with yours truly as skipper and Jeff as DO. The forecast was pretty good so the plan was to do as per the calendar.



We duly pulled up at the mark for the first site and dropped the anchor. Although we had dived here last year while searching for Julies Cave and all the divers reported nice country it was still a bit of an exploration dive. Before they had even jumped in Jeff spotted an interesting looking jellyfish floating nearby which was duly photographed.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Dive Calendar

Boat loading 7:45am Port Coogee Marina Loading Wharf (end Pantheon Ave) except Special Events

Link to Calendar and Online Bookings

Please note that the new online booking system requires you to re-register i.e. your user name and password from old system will not work

Deep Dive Angelas Cave & Swirl Reef

Date: Sat 24 Apr Skipper: John DO: Pete

Hugals Passage Single Dive

Date: Mon 26 Apr Skipper: Geoff DO: Mel

Midway Point & Swirl Reef

Date: Sat 01 May Skipper: Geoff DO: Donna

RLS - Boat Unavailable - 7th May to 11th May Date: As Above Skipper: Chris & Wendy DO: Wendy & Chris

Nurse's Quarters & Cathedral Rocks

Date: Sat 15 May Skipper: Mike DO: Donna



Soon enough they started coming back and all reported a nice dive with interesting gullies and small caves. Paula and Trev even found a low cave complete with a Grey Nurse Shark in it. Can't get better than that.



We pulled anchor and trundled round Parker Point to our next dive site, The Lady Elizabeth wreck tucked in close to Dyer Island. It was a lovely spot for lunch with some shelter from the Easterly behind the island and reef. This is a site I've never dived so I was a little jealous of everyone as they jumped in. Again most enjoyed the dive although not much to see of the wreck itself but the surrounding reef was interesting.

Mini Swirl Reef

Date: Sun 23 May Skipper: John DO: Adrian

(Deep Dive) Angela's Caves & Exploration Dive Date: Sat 29 May Skipper: Steve DO: Jono

Nurses' Quarters & Fish Hook Bay (Sanctuary Dives) Date: Sat 05 Jun Skipper: Geoff DO: Donna

Hugal's Passage

Date: Mon 07 Jun Skipper: Mike DO: Pete

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- If you book on please turn up! You may be charged for the dive



Soon enough it was tome for home and a pleasant warm run back to Coogee followed by a debrief for the crew at the Australian Brewhouse. Thanks to Jeff for DO'ing and Trev for helping put the boat to bed.

Tuesday

On Tuesday we had a mid week special put on for all the FIFO's, retirees, working from homer's, general layabouts and weekend workers. This was suggested by Steve and in no time we had four volunteers for crew so diving for all. In the end we ended up with thirteen onboard for a double dive out to the West End in lovely conditions.





With Steve pushing hard for a visit to Marjorie's Holes and the rest wanting to go to Kerry's Caverns, we settled on a compromise. A choice between a first dive at Kerry's caverns or Marjorie's Holes followed by the second dive at Cray Canyon. Kerry's Caverns won hands down in terms of numbers but it was touch and go as there was strong current. However after a discussion all felt it was within their capabilities and so it proved as all made it back to the boat without need for rescue. if you don't give us sufficient notice. The Skipper will make any call on weather on the morning of the dive. - Designated Rotto Day Trips are open to all UEC members, affiliate club members and their guests. The boat will drop you at Thompson Bay about 10:30am and pick you up after the double dive at about 2:00pm. Cost is \$20 per person.

What You Need To Bring

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C10320909



Kerry's didn't disappoint with a bonus Grey Nurse Shark thrown in for the lucky few. Dave Kirk got the best view and probably the fright of his life when he turned round and saw it coming straight towards him, barely five feet away.



The caverns suitably explored it was then time to head across to Marjorie's Holes so Steve could get his wish. The rest of us enjoyed lunch in the warm autumn sunshine before time to head across to Cray Canyon. Another beautiful dive exploring the Canyon and various side tunnels and caves. Although the main canyon had few Crays a couple of the smaller caves surrounding were well packed so thirteen were bagged in all, with Malcolm bagging out.



Another beautiful run around the west end and straight for home. Mid week diving is definitely a goer and I look forward to more of these in the future. Mike

Next Weekends Diving

Its the ANZAC day holiday week-end and we have two days of diving lined up. The first will be Saturday and its a trip to Angelas Cave and Swirl Reef.



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Document Links

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On Monday we are heading out for a single dive on Hugals Passage. This is a lovely site made up of extensive reef with small caves, gullies and nooks and crannies to poke around in. The area is also good Cray country.

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28th April 2021

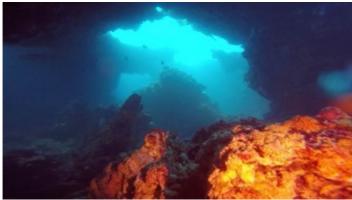
Sorry newsie is a day late but was I was out of town for a couple of days....

Last Weeks Diving

Thanks to the 3 day Covid lockdown we lost two beautiful days for diving - aaarrggghhh!!!! Oh well at least we are out of it now so hopefully Saturdays dive is not going to get cancelled. See details below:

Next Weekends Diving

On Saturday we are heading to Midway (Kerrys Caverns & Anders Meander) and Swirl reef. Two classic dive sites and definitely up there in the top ten. Don't let the weather over the next day or so put you off as on Saturday we have a break in the wind before things pick up again on Sunday. There is still plenty of room on the boat so book on now.



Rubbish Pick Up

Got any interesting pictures of rubbish you have collected from our beaches or rivers. Send them to me for posting in the newsletter. Here are a couple from Sue Haste:

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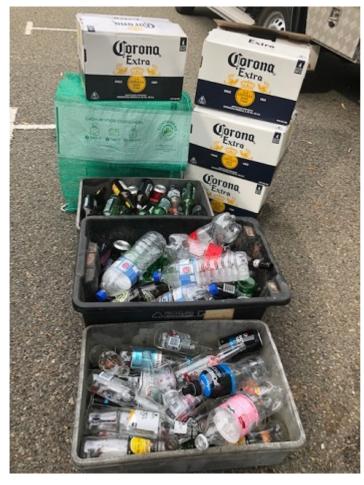
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https://mailchi.mp/49b6c89519d2/weekly-bulletin-4783701

Nurses' Quarters & Fish





Redmap Seen any unusual critters on your dive? Log them at

Hook Bay (Sanctuary Dives) Date: Sat 05 Jun Skipper: Geoff

DO: Donna

Hugal's Passage Date: Mon 07 Jun Skipper: Mike DO: Pete

Cray Canyon & Flat Top Date: Sun 13 Jun Skipper: ????? DO: Mel

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Sharnee Hoe Max Turner

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5th May 2021

Last Weeks Diving

What a perfect start to the day. Light winds, crisp morning air, calm seas and sun aplenty.



Five divers, one passenger and three crew headed off to Midway Point for the first dive and it wasn't long before we spotted the first whale of the season. A special treat which was repeated on the way home.



The dive itself was a little surgy but this site doesn't disappoint with plenty of ground and critters to discover.

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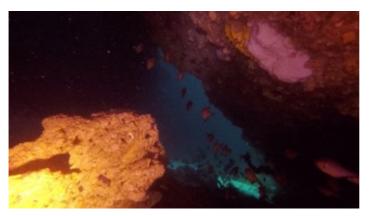
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Nurses' Quarters & Fish Hook Bay (Sanctuary Dives) Date: Sat 05 Jun Skipper: Geoff DO: Donna



The second dive was Swirl Reef – underrated I believe, because as you circle around the site there is plenty to see and is quite picturesque.





Water temp is still around 21 degrees at this time of the year so there is no excuse not to head out before the weather changes.



Total of 17 crays for the day which is not bad considering the numbers aboard. Sizes are small but very tasty.

Hugal's Passage

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Cray Canyon & Flat Top

Date: Sun 13 Jun Skipper: ?????? DO: Mel

Deep Dive - Opera House & Exploration Dive Date: Sat 19 Jun Skipper: Carl DO: Chris

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Thanks to Geoff Geard – Skipper, for expertly navigating us onto the sites and berthing back at Cockburn around a party boat. Also thanks to Jeff Young – Trainee DO as he did most of the heavy lifting as yours truly went in for a double dive.

Jeff W.

Next Weekends Diving

No club diving next weekend as its the annual $\underline{\text{Reef Life}}$ $\underline{\text{Survey}}$.

Reef Life Survey (RLS) is a non-profit citizen science program in which trained SCUBA divers undertake standardised underwater visual surveys of reef biodiversity on rocky and coral reefs around the world.



RLS has been an affiliate organisation with the UEC for many years and has conducted the survey around Rottnest on the UEC boat since affiliation. Chris and Wendy will be the crew for this annual event next week-end.

Annual General Meeting & Committee Nominations

The annual club AGM will be taking place this year on Wednesday 16th June at Royal Perth Golf Club (to be confirmed). A formal invitation to nominate to the committee has been issued to members. We always love to see new faces on the committee bringing new ideas and experience so if you are interested in helping run the club and would like any further information about standing on the committee then please contact me at president@uecwa.com.au

If you would like to nominate for any position on the committee then please download and complete the form

Alternate Air if Solo Fins Boots Wetsuit Weights BCD Regs Mask Computer or Tables Depth Gauge SMB (mandatory) Compass Food & Drink Towel

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C10320909



<u>Membership Fees</u> Fees for 2020-21 are as follows:

Ordinary: \$230 Ordinary Family: \$380 Student & Junior: \$50 Social: \$45 CIO: \$25 Nomination Fee: \$80 below and return to the club secretary no later than 7pm on 19th May 2021. If you require someone to nominate and second you then let me know.

2021-22 Committee Nomination Form

Double Dive: \$80

Payments to the Club Account

We get some pretty cryptic payments into our club account which can make life difficult for Steve, our long suffering treasurer. If you make a payment can you please reference along the lines of *surname & reason* e.g. Smith Augusta, Smith Membership, Smith Dive 17Oct.

Bank Details

Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc) Commonwealth Bank BSB 066 136 Account No <u>00901972</u>

Club Membership Nominations

The following people have nominated for membership of the UECWA:

Craig MacFarlane

Please join me in welcoming them to the club. Mike Buchanan Membership@uecwa.com.au

Document Links

Please email president@uecwa.com.au if a link is broken or out of date

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Incident Report Form

Weekly Newsletter

Editor: Mike Buchanan

Dive Report: Jeff Weston

Dive Photos: Mike Buchanan

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Vice President: Tom Bassett

Secretary: Michele Hardesty-Munday

Treasurer: Steve Day

Membership: Mike Buchanan

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Safety: Pete Northrop

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Environment: Sue Haste

Communications: Jasmine Lyons

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Add us to your address book

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12th May 2021

Mid week Special Thursday 20th May

We are planning another midweek special double dive for all you retirees, layabouts, weekend workers and FiFo's. Its on the calendar so book on now.

Last Weeks Diving

No club diving last weekend as the boat was on Reef Life Survey duty. Although conditions were not ideal with a bit of swell and surge they achieved their goals. if anyone would like more information on RLS then go to their website at Reef Life Survey.

In the meantime here are a few photos from the previous week that Jeff sent through. as you can see it was a very tiring day :)

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Dive Calendar Boat loading 7:45am Port Coogee Marina Loading Wharf (end Pantheon Ave) except Special Events

Link to Calendar and Online Bookings

Please note that the new online booking system requires you to re-register i.e. your user name and password from old system will not work

Nurse's Quarters & Cathedral Rocks

Date: Sat 15 May Skipper: Steve DO: Donna

Midweek Special Double Dive - Mike & Steves' favourite Dive Spots Date: Thursday 20th May Skipper: Steve & Mike DO: TBA

Mini Swirl Reef Date: Sun 23 May Skipper: Steve DO: Adrian

(Deep Dive) Angela's Caves & Exploration Dive Date: Sat 29 May Skipper: Steve DO: Jono

Nurses' Quarters & Fish Hook Bay (Sanctuary Dives) Date: Sat 05 Jun Skipper: Geoff



DO: Donna

Hugal's Passage Date: Mon 07 Jun Skipper: John DO: Pete

Cray Canyon & Flat Top Date: Sun 13 Jun Skipper: ????? DO: Mel

Deep Dive - Opera House & Exploration Dive Date: Sat 19 Jun Skipper: Carl DO: Chris

Skipper's ChoiceDate:Sun 27 JunSkipper:GeoffDO:Pete

Lady Elizabeth Wreck & Not Julie's Cave Date: Sat 03 Jul Skipper: Steve DO: Jono

Nurses Quarters & The Cathedral (Sanctuary) Date: Sun 11 Jul Skipper: Chris DO: Mel

Please note:

- Unless doing a nomination dive; you must be a financial member to dive and have no outstanding dive fees (you can pay cash on the boat to clear these)

- Dive fees are \$80 per double dive trip (even if you don't dive or only do one dive) and \$45 for a single dive trip

- If you book on please turn up! You may be charged for the dive if you don't give us sufficient notice. The Skipper will make any call on weather on the morning of the dive.

- Designated Rotto Day Trips are open to all UEC

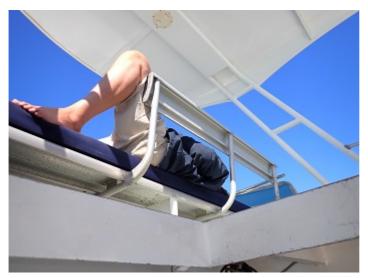
members, affiliate club members and their guests. The boat will drop you at Thompson Bay about 10:30am and pick you up after the double dive at about 2:00pm. Cost is \$20 per person.

What You Need To Bring

AOW Certification (if Nom Dive) Two tanks (if double dive - note







club can provide tanks at \$20ea) Alternate Air if Solo Fins Boots Wetsuit Weights BCD Regs Mask Computer or Tables Depth Gauge SMB (mandatory) Compass Food & Drink Towel

Optional

Hood Gloves Dive Knife Torch Camera Change of Clothes Sunnies Hat Suncream

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Next Weekends Diving

This Saturday we are heading for the club favourite, Nurses Quarters to see the Grey Nurses (weather permitting). We are then heading around the corner to Cathedral Rocks. Note both dives are sanctuary so no Cray Fishing allowed. the boat is fully booked so if you don't have a place booked then drop Donna an email at divebookings@uecwa.com.au.

If you have booked and can't make it please let us know so we can give the place to someone who is waitlisted.

Annual General Meeting & Committee Nominations

The annual club AGM will be taking place this year on Wednesday 16th June at Sue Haste's house. This will be an RSVP event so please let me know if yiou are attending to president@uecwa.com.au and I will advise you of the address.

A formal invitation to nominate to the committee has been issued to members. We always love to see new faces on the committee bringing new ideas and experience so if you are interested in helping run the club and would like any further information about standing on the committee then please contact me at <u>president@uecwa.com.au</u>

If you would like to nominate for any position on the committee then please download and complete the form below and return to the club secretary **no later than 7pm on 19th May 2021**. If you require someone to nominate and second you then let me know.

We are specifically looking for the following positions to be filled:

Vice President Safety Communications (website) Boat and Marina Liaison

2021-22 Committee Nomination Form

Nomination Fee: \$80 Double Dive: \$80

Payments to the Club Account

We get some pretty cryptic payments into our club account which can make life difficult for Steve, our long suffering treasurer. If you make a payment can you please reference along the lines of *surname & reason* e.g. Smith Augusta, Smith Membership, Smith Dive 17Oct.

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19th May 2021

Mid week Special Tomorrow Thursday 20th May

We are planning another midweek special double dive for all you retirees, layabouts, weekend workers and FiFo's. There are three places left on the calendar so book on now.

Last Weeks Diving

Yet another strong easterly but low(ish) swell so the dive was on. Scheduled sites were club favourite and always a sure seller, Nurses Quarters and Cathedral Rocks. On the run up to Saturdays dive there was a fair bit of movement on the bookings and in the end everyone waitlisted got a place and the boat headed out full with fourteen divers, Steve at the helm and Donna as DO.

Conditions at the site were challenging with swell, seas, wind and current, all seemingly coming from different directions making surface condition less than ideal. After some debate over do we or don't we the general consensus was go for it.



Fortunately the anchor was spot on the mark (well done Steve), so finding the cave against the current wasn't too difficult. With the day being heavily overcast it was dark and dingy in the cave so difficult to spot the Nurses but sure enough at least two were in residence.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Dive Calendar Boat loading 7:45am Port Coogee Marina Loading Wharf (end Pantheon Ave) except Special Events

Link to Calendar and Online Bookings

Please note that the new online booking system requires you to re-register i.e. your user name and password from old system will not work

Midweek Special Double Dive - Mike & Steves' favourite Dive Spots Date: Thursday 20th May Skipper: Steve & Mike

DO: Jeff & Jono?

Single Dive - Mini Swirl Reef Date: Sun 23 May Skipper: Mike DO: Adrian

(Deep Dive) Angela's Caves & Exploration Dive Date: Sat 29 May Skipper: Mike

DO: Jono

Nurses' Quarters & Fish Hook Bay (Sanctuary Dives) Date: Sat 05 Jun Skipper: Geoff DO: Donna

Hugal's Passage Date: Mon 07 Jun Skipper: John



After a bit of exploring to the wormhole, amphitheatre and Venetian Bridge I headed back to the cave to see the Nurses were still around, seemingly unperturbed by the now more adventurous divers.



Eventually everyone made it back to the boat with no rescues required, remarkable given the strong current. Time for the anchor. Well it didn't want to come back on board no matter which way we went so time to pick the short straws. John and I volunteered to go down and see what we had managed to snag around armed withy a lift bag each.



DO: Pete

Cray Canyon & Flat Top Date: Sun 13 Jun Skipper: Chris DO: Mel

Deep Dive - Opera House & Exploration Dive Date: Sat 19 Jun Skipper: Carl DO: Chris

Skipper's Choice Date: Sun 27 Jun Skipper: Geoff DO: Pete

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What You Need To Bring

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Fortunately it was not too onerous with a hooked finger bommie causing the problem. With lift bag inflated and chain untangled off the boat went with the wind and current. John and I meantime did our safety stop and surfaced to be picked up.



With the rough seas there were a few green faces onboard so Steve took us to Fish Hook Bay for some welcome relief. So nice in fact, we opted to stay there and do the second dive. I know I say it every time but this really is a lovely dive site with some beautiful caves and tunnels to explore. Soon enough it was time to get back on board and head into the still strong easterly back home. Weights BCD Regs Mask Computer or Tables Depth Gauge SMB (mandatory) Compass Food & Drink Towel

Optional

Hood Gloves Dive Knife Torch Camera Change of Clothes Sunnies Hat Suncream

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A few of us dropped in for a 'debrief' at the Australian Brewhouse, always a great way to round of a challenging but very enjoyable day. A big thanks to Steve and Donna for crewing, and to James for staying back to help them refuel and put CC to bed.

Next Weekends Diving

Tomorrow we have the mid week special. On Sunday we have a single out to Stragglers Mini Swirl.

Annual General Meeting & Committee Nominations

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