



# Annual Report and Newsletter

July 2020 – June 2021



## 2020/21 Office Bearers

<b>President</b>	Mike Buchanan
<b>Vice President</b>	Tom Bassett
<b>Treasurer</b>	Steve Day
<b>Secretary</b>	Michèle Hardesty-Munday
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Mike Buchanan
<b>Dive Coordinator</b>	Donna Gratton
<b>Boat &amp; Marina Officer</b>	Jonathan Anderson
<b>Safety Officer</b>	Pete Northrop
<b>Social and Fundraising Officer</b>	Liz Davey
<b>Training Officer</b>	Tristan Stanley-Cary
<b>Communications Officer</b>	Jasmine Lyons
<b>Environment Officer</b>	Sue Haste
<b>Newsletter</b>	Mike Buchanan



## REPORTS

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### MIKE BUCHANAN

Well, they say every cloud has a silver lining and for the Club the year of Covid has been a silver lining. With no overseas travel people have been going local and that has clearly including scuba diving.

The club has just had one of the best years on record in terms of membership, diving and as a result, finances. For those on the front line of this influx of enquiries, nominations and diving, namely Donna for dive bookings, Steve as Treasurer, and myself on the membership, it has been a pretty crazy ride. Its great to see the club thriving, particularly in an era where so many sporting clubs are struggling to survive.

Of course none of this could happen without a great committee and fantastic crew. Special mention must go to Jonathan for stepping into the shoes of Chris Cunnold as Boat Officer. No boat no diving so this is a particularly onerous role and Jonathan has done a fantastic job of keeping the boat ship shape and in good running order. Helping Jonathan we have had a few club members working on the boat sub-committee, namely Shane Penny, Chris McCoppin and Francois Leuenberger. Unfortunately, due to work commitments Jonathan will be stepping down so hopefully we will have someone new filling the role at the AGM.

Likewise, Donna has done an outstanding job, not only keeping our weekly dives ticking over smoothly but organising a whole bunch of extra trips in between. Much of the interest in the club has been generated by Donna and her trips posted on Facebook.

Like Jonathan, Michèle stepped into Wendy's shoes as club secretary and has gone over and above the call of duty in terms of maintaining club records, minutes and correspondence, all to an incredibly high standard.

As usual Steve works tirelessly in the background, keeping the books right, no mean feat given many of the cryptic payments into the account, particularly for the overseas trips. Steve will be heading off on a round Australia trip in November and Francois has volunteered to step into the breach.

Along with these we have of course had Liz, our second longest serving committee member, keeping on top of fund raising and social activities including the ever popular and very successful Rottnest week, Jaz keeping our website upto date, Pete for keeping a watchful eye on Safety, new Committee member Tristan organising training including one very successful crew training day, Tom as Vice President, and last but not least Sue in our Environmental role. We are indeed blessed as a club to have so many dedicated people prepared to volunteer their time to keep this institution going.

Skipper	Boat Trips
Steve Day	14
Mike Buchanan	13
Chris Cunnold	8
Geoff Geard	7
Carl Anders	4
John De Boer	4
Martin Smith	2
Wendy Hutchison	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>53</b>

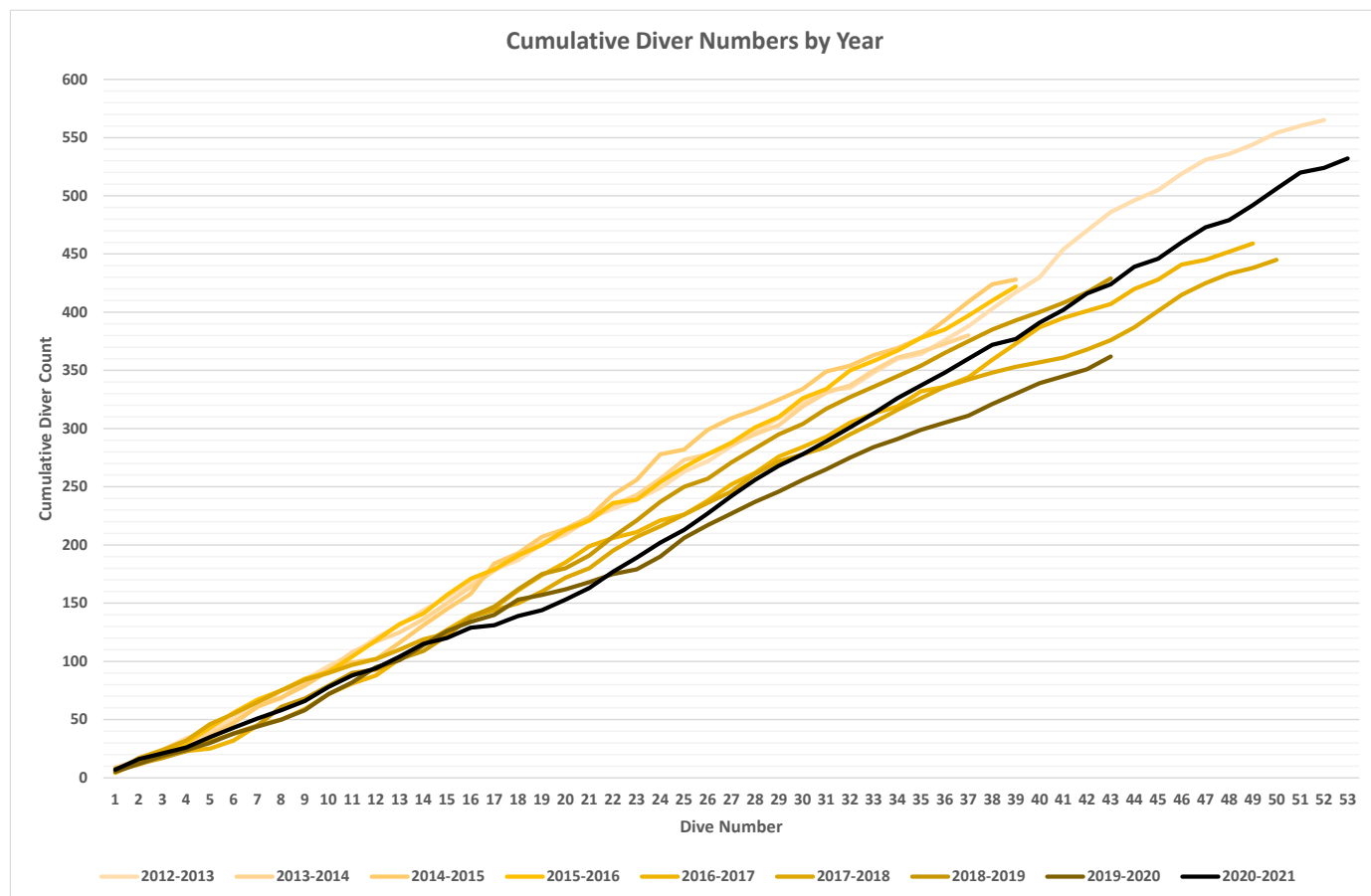
Dive Officer	Boat Trips
Pete Northrop	13
Donna Gratton	10
Jeff Weston	9
Adrian Taylor	7
Chris McCoppin	6
John De Boer	3
Mel Turner	3
Jonathan Anderson	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>53</b>

While the committee keep the back room operating, it is the crew that keep the front line going so this is an opportune time to recognise the time, effort, and responsibility they take on for the club. This year one of our long-term skippers, Rex Burke, stood down from the roster. We were sad to see Rex go as he has been a regular on the boat for as long as I have been in the club. In his place we welcome John De Boer as our most recently qualified skipper.

On the Dive Officer front we welcomed Chris McCoppin and Jonathan Anderson to the ranks, while Mel made a reappearance after an absence due to work commitments.

Of course the crew don't just do our regular weekly boat dives as shown in the tables but also other social, private and affiliate engagements. Chris and Wendy again skippered the four-day Reef life Survey recently after an absence last year due to Covid lockdown. This annual event is part of the clubs' environmental commitment, at the same time bringing in welcome funds in affiliation fees. Along with the RLS trip we also conduct social events like the annual Australia Day trip, private members trips and training events which would not be possible without crew volunteering their time.

I mentioned previously that this has been a better than average year for the club. The two graphs below hopefully show that (note this year's numbers are to 14<sup>th</sup> June and not a full club year).



The first is the number of divers on the boat (black line) this year compared to previous years. We have just past the 500-mark making this the second-best year after 2012-13 when detailed records were started. We have also done more boat dives this year than any previous year. Note this years' numbers are YTD and there are still a couple of weeks to go. A great turn around after last years curtailed numbers due to covid making them the worst on record.

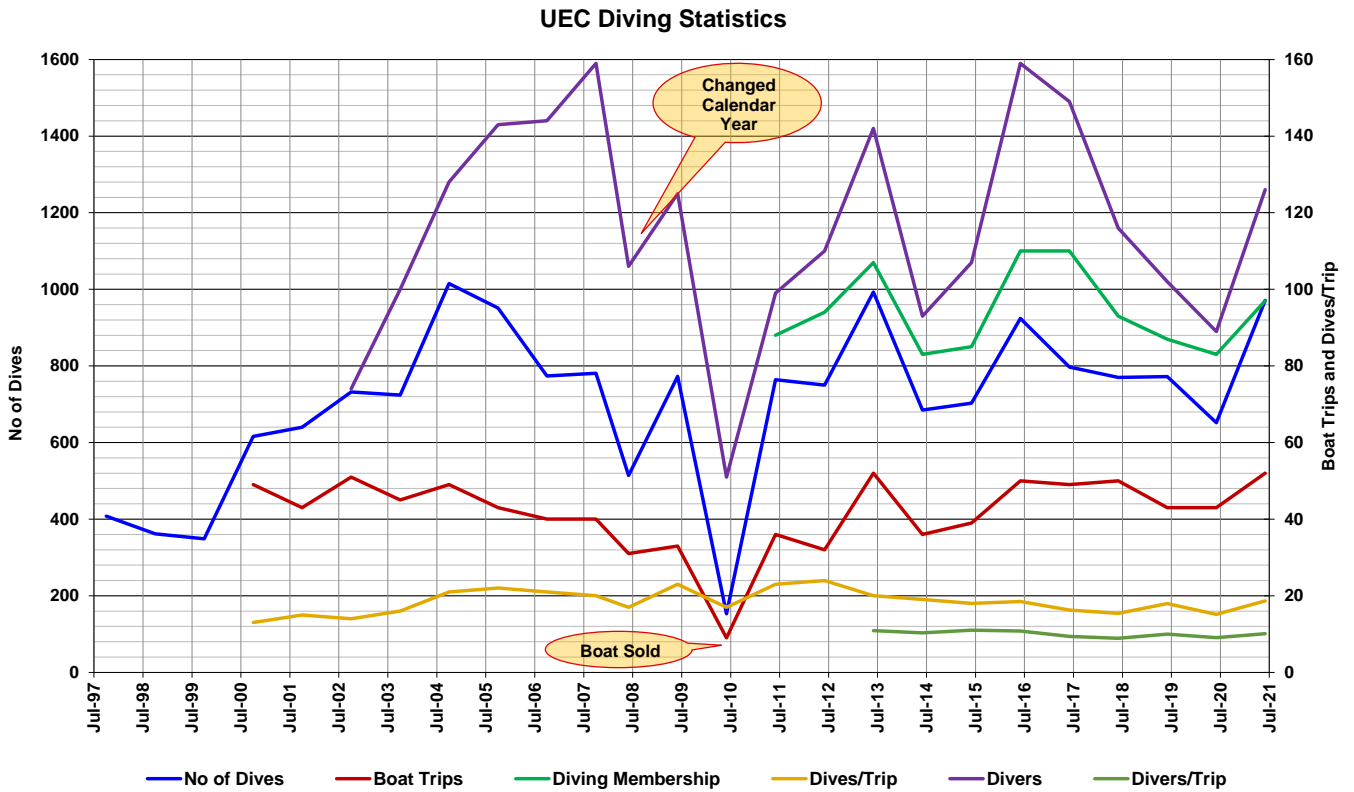
The second chart is the old favourite. Its busy but it captures pretty much all the key diving statistics since detailed records began. Again, note this years' numbers are YTD so still a couple of weeks to go but the uptick from last year is clear.

Two lines in particular to draw attention to. The first is the number of dives for the year (blue line 971). This is close to passing the 1000 mark, and a number only surpassed on two previous occasions in 2004 (1015) and 2013 (993).

The other line to look at is the number of boat trips (red line). This is currently sitting at 53, an all-time high. Boat trips of course rely on a number of factors such as the weather, sufficient diver numbers, mechanical reliability, and of course the number of trips actually scheduled. This year has seen a few extra trips over normal. We had the Mindarie week which saw diving on both weekend days as well as during the week. Unfortunately, the trip was curtailed due to weather but was still a great success and well attended. The second is the appearance of mid-week diving. With a number of a crew now able to volunteer mid-week we have been able to schedule a few trips. These

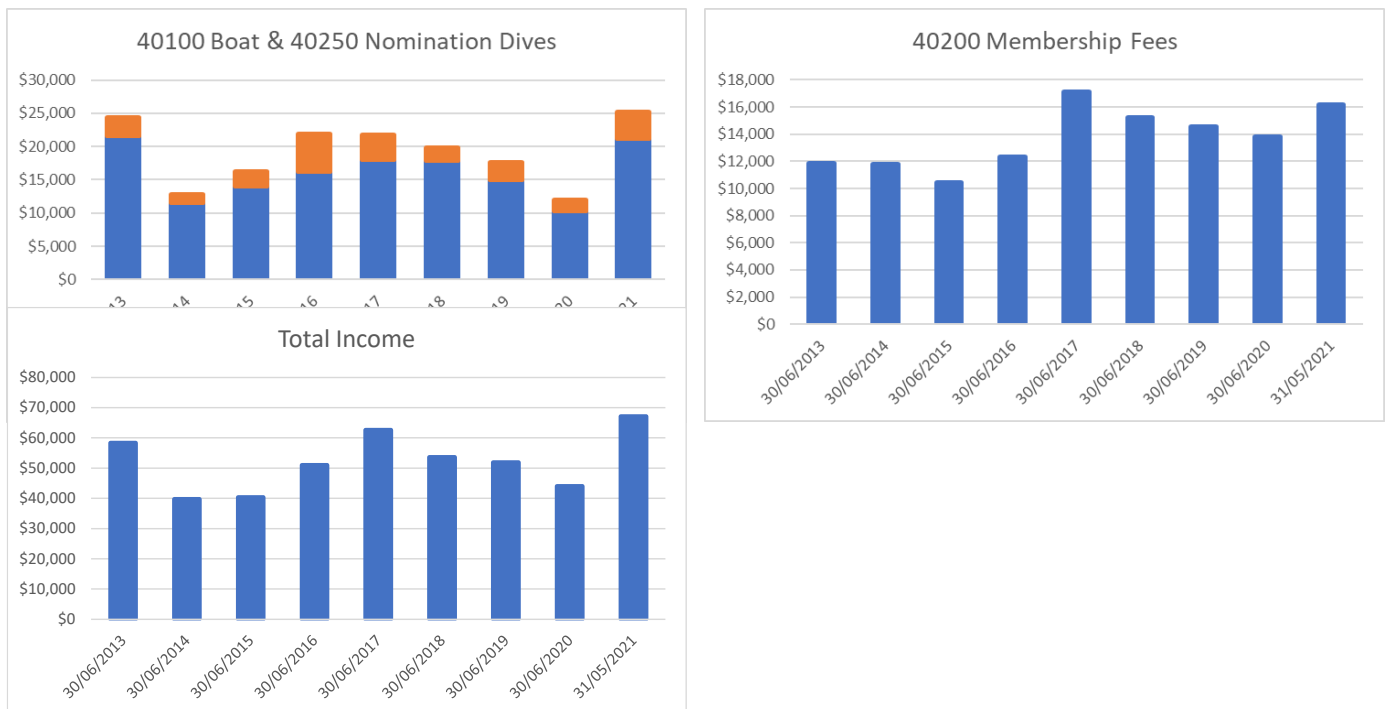


are surprisingly popular and clearly demonstrate a demand for mid-week diving. Hopefully, this is an area we can continue to develop further next year.

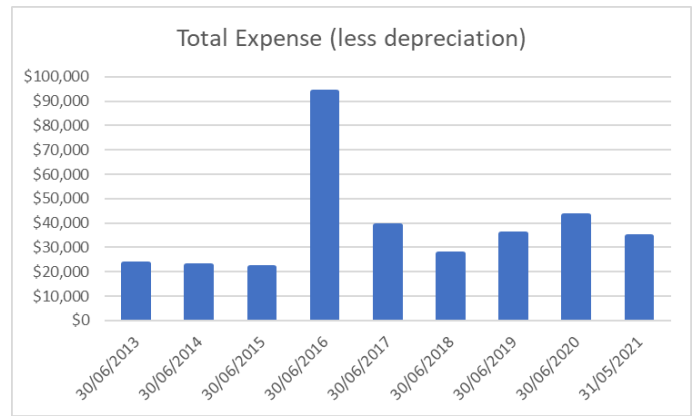
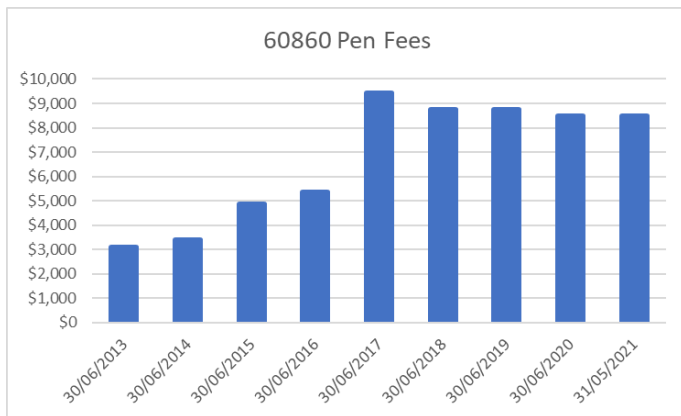
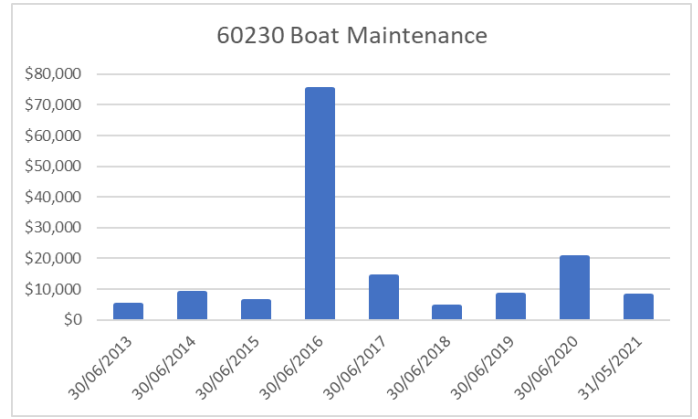
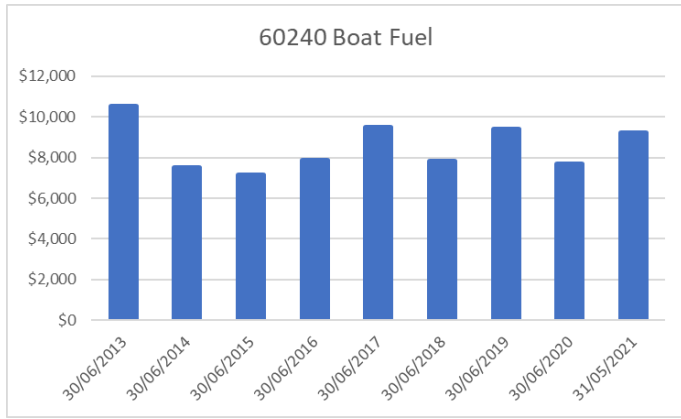


Onto club financials, the ultimate measure of a club’s health. Well, it great to report that this club is alive and kicking with a great turn-around from last year’s Covid impacted result. The numbers for this club year are to end of May so not the full club year but the final result will not differ too much. Below are some of our more significant incomes and expenses that show the overall trends:

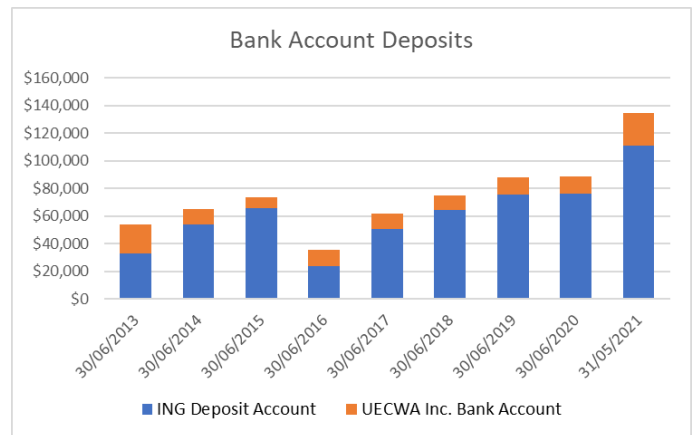
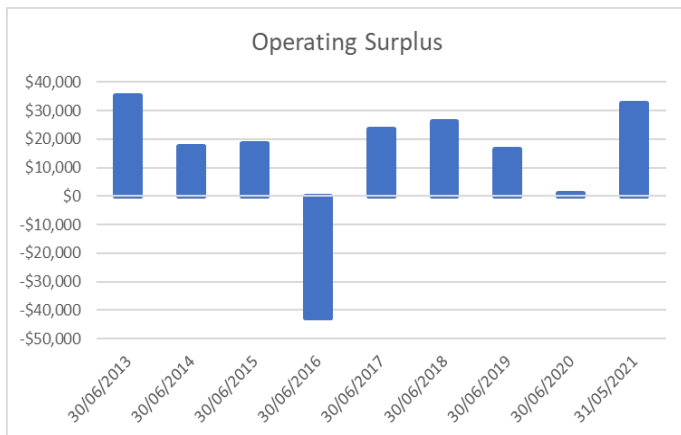
**INCOME**



**EXPENSES**



**OPERATING SURPLUS**



So why, as a not for profit association, do we have an operating surplus? Two main reasons, the first is to cover those bad years like 2016 where the club had a loss of over \$40,000 due to expensive boat repairs. The other is to replace our main asset, the boat. When we bought the current boat in 2011 the club had insufficient funds to cover the replacement and had to borrow to enable the purchase. This time round, when we decide Cape Cruiser needs to be replaced, hopefully we will have sufficient funds on hand to fund the replacement.

This year we were fortunate that boat maintenance costs were low and with increased activity in membership and diving income we had a good year. As a result, we decided to hold diving fees at the same level with only a small increase in membership fees to ensure that we keep on top of increasing operating expenses.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Paul Burns, our auditor, for checking the books again. Paul has been doing this for the club for a good number of years and it's great to be able to rely on his service.

Finally, the diver of the year award, which for obvious reasons I can't say too much about other than it's a personal best and I finally got over 60. Below are the top twenty divers in the club as of 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Place	Diver Name	Total
1	Mike Buchanan	71
2	Della Grunwald	31
3	Jonathan Anderson	30
3	Jeff Weston	30
5	Rachel Standish	28
6	Liz Davey	24
6	Shane Penny	24
8	Geoff Geard	23
8	Francois Leuenberger	23
10	Michele Hardesty-Munday	22

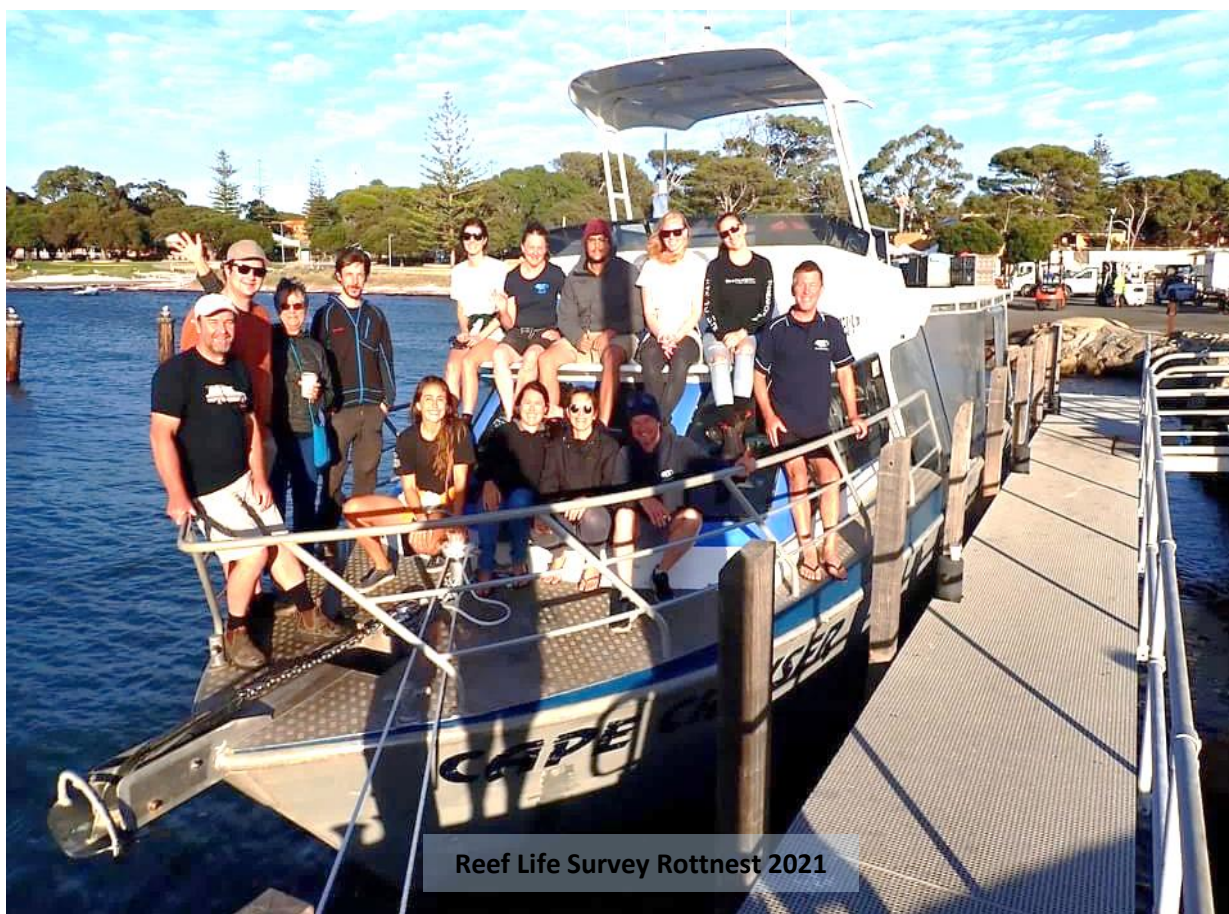
Place	Diver Name	Total
11	Cheryl Petty	21
12	Sae Kat Ng	20
12	John De Boer	20
14	Laura Thompson	19
15	James Matthews	18
15	Ross Henderson	18
17	Pete Northrop	15
17	Sandra O'Hara	15
17	Steve Day	15
17	Damien McAteer	15

As for next year, I am standing again for both this role and membership. This club means a lot to me, not only for the opportunity to go diving on a regular basis, which as you can see I make the most of, but also as a great way of meeting people from all walks of life, ages and interests.

I am a strong believer in clubs like ours as being the glue that holds communities together, bringing people together to support each other, particularly in these trying times so giving back my time is a small price to pay.

Mike Buchanan

President



Reef Life Survey Rottnest 2021



## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### TOM BASSETT



This year has been an interesting year for the Club with the Covid restrictions we have had to abide by. I took over the role as Vice President after Chris Cunnold had to step down due to changes in his life. Not having fulfilled this role for some years, I felt a bit apprehensive about taking it on, but I felt I could take the role on for the time. I shan't be taking this on next year and I am aware John de Boer has nominated for the position already. I thank him and wish him well in the position.

I haven't done much as V.P. this year, other than chairing a couple of meetings when Mike was not available, however the Club has had an excellent year really. Many new members joined and some excellent diving was done locally, as well as the trips to the Abrolhos and Cocos Islands.

I appreciate all the work Donna has done organizing those trips as well as the weekly boat bookings, a huge effort. We only had a few weekends of not diving due the Covid restrictions so this didn't impact the club too much.

I wish to thank Mike, Steve, Michèle, Donna, Liz, Jonathan, Tristan, Sue, Jasmine, Pete, Wendy and Chris for all the work they put in over the last year. Particularly Chis with all the help he gave Jonathan transitioning into the role as boat officer.

I wish the incoming committee well. I know there is a great deal of work involved in keeping the Club running.

Tom Bassett  
Vice President



The Augusta Trip November 2020

Left to Right: Nathan Cox, SK Ng, Chris Cunnold, Wendy Hutchison, Damian Mcateer, Pete Northrop, Adrian Taylor, Geoff Geard, Dave Freemantle, Leo Li, Eamon Hannon, Donna Gratton, Damien Herbert, Mike Buchanan



## TREASURER'S REPORT

### STEVE DAY



Our Club is in a very healthy financial position. Currently we anticipate a surplus of \$25,000 for the year with funds on hand at \$125,000.

We can thank Covid-19 for this. As predicted, our diving numbers have gone through the roof. Income from this activity has soared 120% whilst Membership income has jumped 17%. This uptake in diving, nomination, and membership no doubt took up a lot of spare time of both our Dive-Coordinator, Donna Gratton and Membership Officer, Mike Buchanan.

Other contributors to our most welcome position were the October Rowley Shoals trip organised by Mel Turner and the annual Rottneest summer trip marshalled by Life member, Liz Davey, and careful management of Cape Cruiser maintenance by new Boat officer, Jonathan Anderson.

Thanks also to Lifers, Wendy Hutchison, and Chris Cunnold for crewing the University of Tasmania's Reef Life Survey for the umpteenth time. This association was an initiative of both Wendy and Chris began over 10 years ago and has generated annual affiliation fees and survey income.

Special thanks to Michéle Hardesty-Munday who took on the arduous role of Club Secretary. In my opinion Michéle has done a sterling job. Our Club is very lucky to have her.

Apart from those mentioned above I would also like to record my appreciation to the other Committee persons, namely, Jazz, Sue, Peter, Tristan and Tom.

Also, a big thanks to Paul Burns for again auditing the clubs books.

Come January 2022 Cathy & I will be leaving home to check out the rest of Australia for a couple of years. I intend to renominate as your Treasurer but will hand over the job to Francois Leuenberger later this year.



Steve Day

Treasurer



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

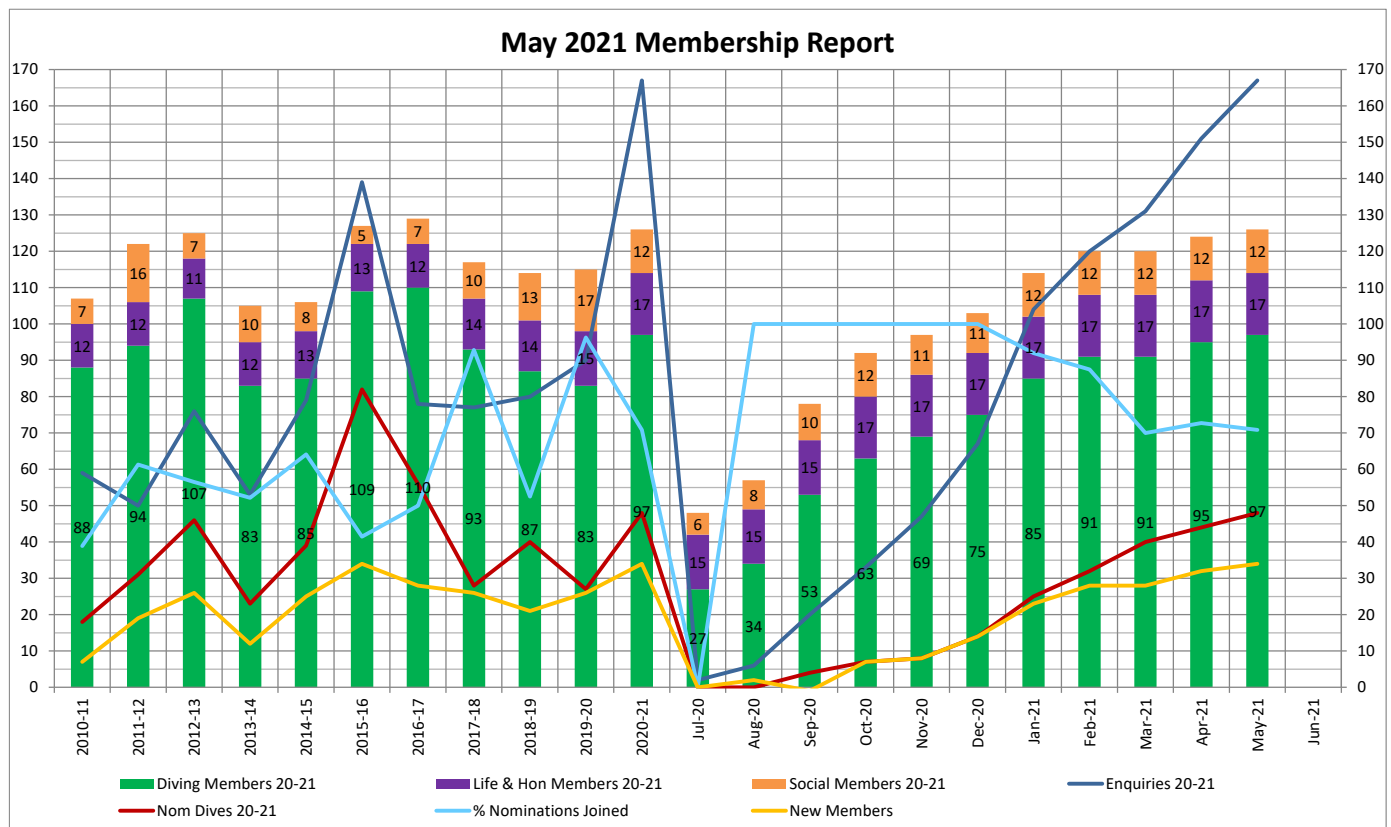
### MIKE BUCHANAN



My eighth year as Membership Secretary (and eleventh year straight on the committee) and I still haven't found a volunteer to take it on! Oh well, gives me a good excuse to play with spreadsheets and graphs, which as I'm sure most of you know is my second hobby after diving 😊.

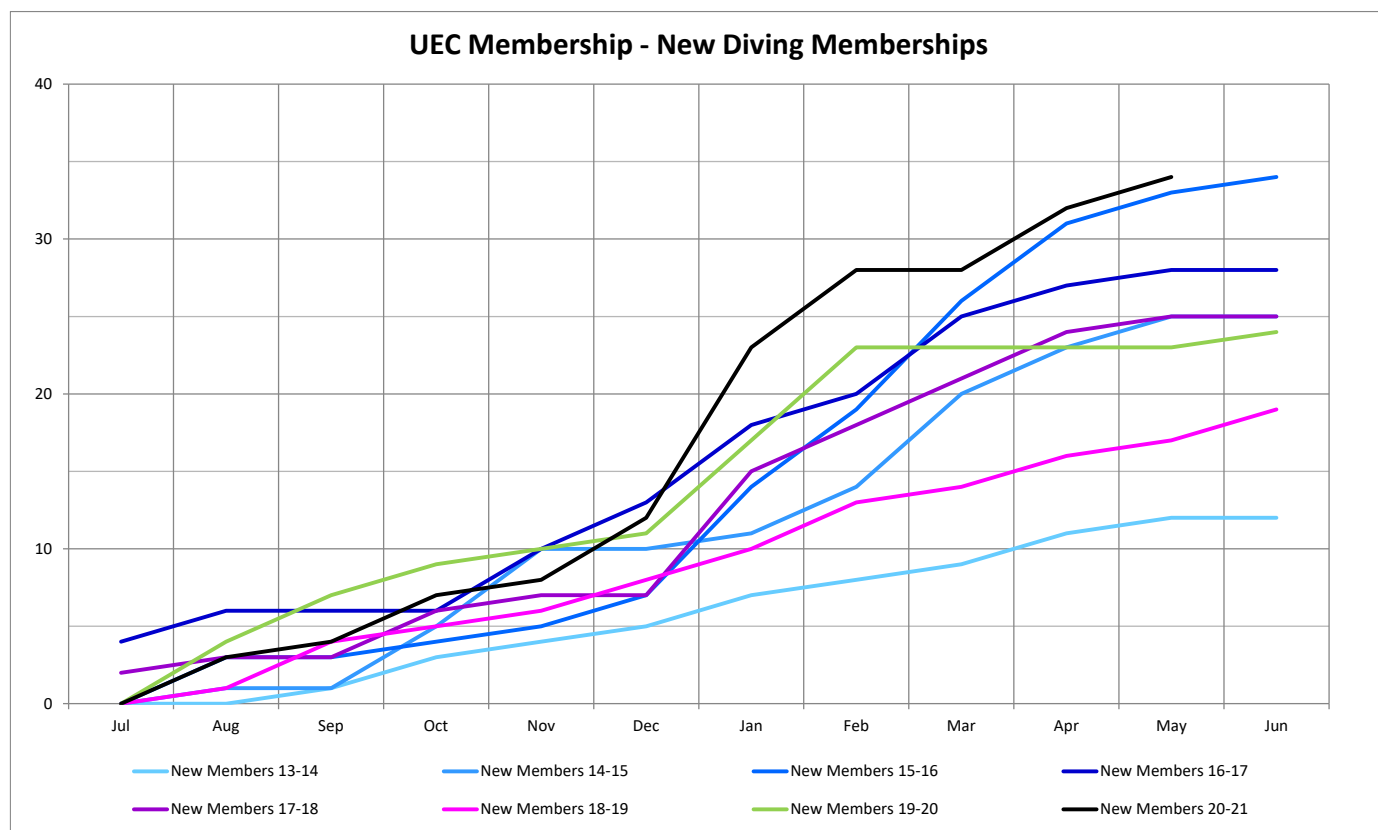
Last year we were heading towards one of our better years when Covid brought everything to a sudden halt in March 2020 with lockdown. So the seeds were sown for an uptick in membership numbers but I think the restrictions on travel meant the good people of Western Australia were looking around for something closer to hand to keep them occupied. Thus we have just experienced probably the second best year in terms of membership numbers and in diving activity as the graph below shows. In particular, enquiries about the club (dark blue line below) have gone through the roof. Nomination dives are 2<sup>nd</sup> highest on record and new members equal highest.

What most of you don't see is all the admin work behind these numbers in providing information to people enquiring, getting forms filled and signed, making sure all the paperwork is correct on the day of the dive and checking certification. A big thanks to Donna and all the Dive Officers for their help and efforts in keeping this all correct on the day.



New members are the life blood off the club. While it's the long term members that keep the club running, both on the committee and on the crew, it is largely the newer members that go diving. Every year the club loses about 20 to 30 members for various reasons, many, particularly the younger members, due to family commitments. It thus very important that we replace those members. This is where everyone can play a part by spreading the word and inviting any friends or colleagues along.

Facebook, Instagram and Google searches also provide a rich source of new members and I would encourage everyone to take opportunities to post interesting events, photos or experiences on all the various Facebook dive groups.



With no immediate prospect of international borders re-opening, I would expect the strong growth in membership to continue into next year. Having said that we do need to balance access to the boat with membership numbers. We are already seeing dives booking out several weeks in advance for the more popular sites like Nurses Quarters which is great for the club but can be frustrating for those wishing to book on. I guess my only advice there is get in early.

Looking forward to another successful year.

Mike Buchanan

Membership Secretary



**New Skipper John De Boer  
(and it wasn't that cold!)**



**Chris McCoppin & Mike Buchanan**



## DIVE CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

### DONNA GRATTON



Firstly, a huge thank you to the committee, the crew and everyone in the club who has supported me this year, you are all very much appreciated. The weekly dives were as usual this year, albeit often very full. I guess there is something to be said for no longer being able to travel overseas, people have more time to explore their own back yard, or in our case Rottneest.

#### DIVING TRIPS OFFERED 2020-2021

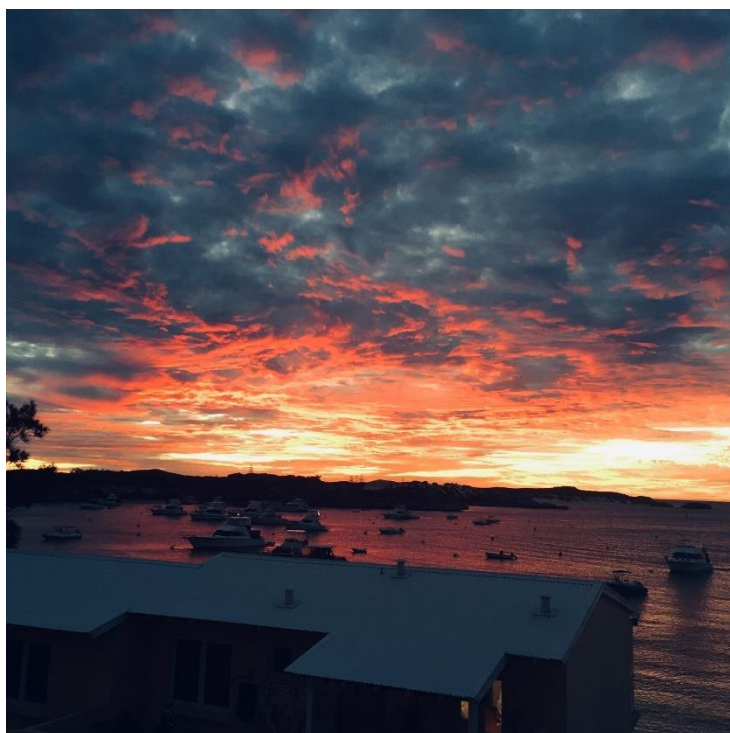
**The Rowley Shoals 2020 Oct** This trip was always oversubscribed and is definitely a bucket list one. Great reports have come back from this trip and it was a resounding success. Pristine waters, wonderful conditions and a comfortable liveaboard, what more could one ask for?

**Mindarie Trip Nov 2020** The weather wasn't as kind to us this year as it was in 2019, but we managed some good dives on the Gemini and surrounds with a nice midweek dive thrown in. Thanks to Steve and Pete for taking the boat up and Mike for bringing her home.

**Augusta Nov 2020** A great weekend and sold out within hours. Once again a special thanks to Geoff Geard for organising it. There was plenty of crayfish and abalone caught. Everyone is a little concerned that this may have been our last trip with our provider down there, as he has moved to Perth and we have lost our usual accommodation. We will keep you posted.

**Lena Wreck 2021** There were a couple of trips organised to the Lena with Kim on Octopus Garden which were well attended and only one of them having to be postponed due to the lockdown.

**South West Safari 2021** A well-attended weekend that was a resounding success. A huge than you to Wendy Hutchison and Chris Cunnold who put us up over the weekend at their beautiful property in Dunsborough. We had



a lovely night dive on the Busselton Jetty followed by a dive the following day at Canal Rocks. It was a little taster for a possible longer safari down south later this year.

**Abrolhos 2021 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May** Another successful trip to the Abrolhos, with people asking when the next one is. Weather conditions were brilliant with great visibility and calm waters. Plenty of crayfish caught and eaten.

**Rotto Week 2021** The talk of the club, thanks to Liz Davey for organising this huge trip and making sure everyone was well fed and had a great time. Apparently, there was a qualified chef among the punters this year, so culinary delights were plentiful. This trip is our Gold Badge and always enjoyed by everyone who attends. Thanks for everyone's support, but a huge thanks to Liz Davey who manages this trip and has done so for MANY years.

#### FUTURE TRIPS 2021 AND 2022

**Cocos Keeling Islands (JUL 6<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup>)** fully booked.



**Mindarie Trip (OCT/NOV 2021)** we are looking at options over two weekends and possible fishing during the week. We will keep you updated on this.

**The Rotto Week (MAR 2022)** will be going ahead in March next year. Thanks to Liz Davey.

**Abrolhos Trip (AUG 2022)** to be confirmed. It has become an annual trip and is always well subscribed.

Thanks again to such an amazing team on the committee and of course the crew.

Donna

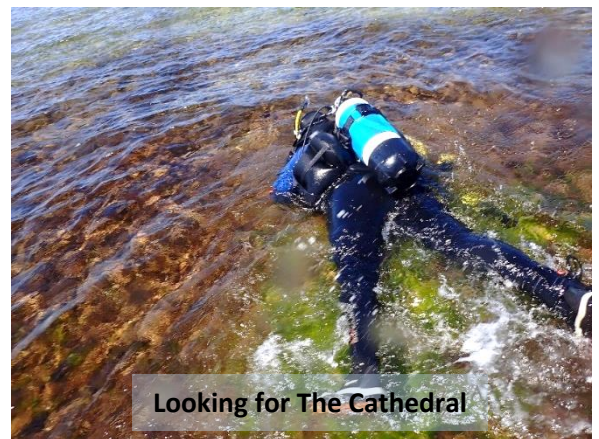
Dive Coordinator



Chris McCoppin and Donna Gratton looking for an anchor



Augusta Nov 2020



Looking for The Cathedral



Acrobatics in Eagle Bay



## SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING OFFICER REPORT

### LIZ DAVEY



When I wrote last years' report which was Covid 19 heavy, I imagined 20-21 as encumberment covid and free. Who could have, would have known we would be still living under the Covid cloud? Fortunately for us, UECWA has suffered little disturbance managing to roll out most of our scheduled dives.

It's becoming a little nippy out on Cape Cruiser now we are on the brink of Winter, so maybe you need a club beanie, hoodie, polo shirt or a Shell jacket to ward off the cold...If you do, please contact me I can arrange **club clothing** quite quickly...

This has been the first year **The Entertainment Book/ App** has been available in App form only. I was a little anxious about how members would react to this change, but I need not have. The App sells itself. Other changes include a rolling membership, e.g., if you buy the App in Oct for example your membership lasts until the following October. Previously memberships aligned with the financial year. The App renewal link is advertised each week on the left-hand side of the weekly newsletter. And don't forget each App sale generates \$14.00 for the club.

**The Christmas gathering and award lunch**, was again held at the Type 1 diabetes centre. Another roaring success, around 30 club members and guests attending. The Boat person of the year award went to Steve Day, who at short notice, arranged for the repair of the Port fuel tank leak, the annual lift, clean, reapplication of Antifoul and other repairs during the time Cape Cruiser was up on the hard. Pete Northrop was award Club Person of the year for his continued willingness to assist, and his dedication to the club, both above and below decks. Congratulations to you both, on your well-deserved awards.

**The Orphans Christmas Morning dive** at the Ammo Jetty saw fewer members attend than in previous years. Nevertheless, it was a fabulous morning, the dive was awesome and the morning tea legendary.



Rex Burke and Liz Davey work on the new seat covers

Steve Day and Jonathan Anderson skippered a full Cape Cruiser upriver into Perth waters on **Australia Day for our annual dinner and river cruise**. It was to be a firework free event as Perth City Council had cancelled Australia Day celebrations because of Covid. Despite the expectation of no Fireworks the event was a sell-out. Steve, and Jono worked their magic and found us a very special mooring out front of the 15-minute firework display generously provided by an anonymous Perth entrepreneur. Woo Hoo, it was awesome, especially as there were very few vessels in the water at the time. We had uninterrupted front row seats this time and were all thrilled which ensured the night was awarded a legendary status, and will no doubt be talked about for eons.



The annual **UECWA 10, day Pilgrimage to Rotto March 7<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>**, was a sell out with a wait list and was a huge success. Cape Cruiser was able to deliver a stunning 17 dives, including a twilight and night dive. Our hunter gatherers played their part too, bagging out on Crays several times. We ate Cray in many forms on most days, ranging from Garlic butter BBQ, Crayfish chowder to the sumptuous Crayfish Thermidor, expertly cooked by Francois in his Sous Vide machine. All I can say is Yum, Yum, Yum...

As Rottnest Island Authority has changed its booking procedure, I am unable to book the 2022 chalets at present. Don't be alarmed though, I phone in each week to check in on developments. The committee recently agreed to booking an additional chalet for the long weekend giving us an extra 4 beds. This should provide extra space for non-diving partners and friends of whom there appear more during the LWE. Have no fear, we won't separate couples, so please don't be put off.

That's a wrap from me, thank you so much for reading this far.... Happy Diving, hopefully see you on the boat sometime.

Liz

Social & Fundraising



Lunch at Caves House on the South West Safari 2021



## TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

### TRISTAN STANLEY-CARY

First of all I wanted to thank the committee for helping me in my first year, not just in this role – but in a committee position generally.

While I haven't dived as much as I would have liked this year – I helped organise two events – a rusty diver's day and a crew training day, The rusty divers day, held in early Dec was a chance to blow out the cobwebs ready for the summer season of diving. We ran this dive at



Robbs Jetty on a calm day, and all was a good opportunity for some first time boat divers to practice boat diving on a sheltered and easy to navigate site.

The crew training day was a chance to run through some lost diver drills, CPR on the boat and dinghy rescue scenarios. All the crew reported having learned something and the day was a success. I'm looking forward to updating the training manuals – as well as some more diving – when I find the time between work and young kiddos.



Crew Training Day

I'll happily help organise the events again if members and crew find them useful, and I'm open to suggestions for any other events or skills development anyone would like to see run by the club!

Tristan Stanley-Cary

Training Officer



Eamon Hannon & Geoff Geard Augusta 2020



## BOAT & LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

### JONATHAN ANDERSON



I have enjoyed being the Boat Officer and Marina Liaison for the past year as I have learned the internal workings of the vessel and the club's marina arrangements. But more importantly I have really enjoyed being part of the clubs committee and playing an active role in the club.

I am very grateful to all the people who have assisted me keeping the vessel running during the past year, including but not limited to: Dennis Stubblefield, Steve Day, Chris Cunnold, Mike Buchanan, Chris McCoppin, Shane Penny, Francois Leuenberger, Pete Northrop, Geoff Geard, Liz Davey, Sue and Gary Haste. My apologies to anyone I forgot to mention. Without assistance from these people it would be so much harder keeping the vessel in good shape!

This year the club has spent significant money and effort on:

- New mooring lines
- New winch
- Fuel injector #2
- all three battery banks (10 batteries in all)
- EPIRB
- Rebuilt dive ladder
- Anchor swivel configuration
- Numerous and unending small jobs!

To the future Boat Officer, I highly suggest engaging with the people listed above and many of the club members who have heaps of knowledge about the vessel and its history, it has made all the difference.

Jonathan Anderson

Boat and Marina Liaison Officer



**Francois Leuenberger & Gary Haste on battery changeout duty**



**Jonathan Anderson takes the dinghy for a run – Fish Hook Bay**



## ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER'S REPORT

### SUE HASTE



Well, we started the **Cash for Cans** last year and as our marvellous Treasurer reported we made more money than the latest interest rates! Big thanks for those taking part and of course that a few more into recycling and less in the environment. We will have to think of something it can go towards for the boat possibly more shade upstairs!

I did attend the **Mussel reef restoration in the Swan River project** last year the aim of the project is to restore the Swan Canning Estuaries lost shellfish reefs great to know about these projects and if we can get involved.

**"Reel It In" line bins.** You may have seen them on the river at different locations. I know a good number of us dive at Ammo Jetty so I thought it would be a great place for one of the bins. -ongoing might be something for the future new jetty?

Liz and myself attended the working party for the planning of **the new Woodman's Point Jetty** dive shops and dive clubs were able to provide information on what we need and what's not working so that was great UEC was involved.

Folk may not be aware of **Red Map** This site and app allows us to identifying any invasive species and a place to put photos of fish /critters you see that are difficult to identify could be a new one !

I was off galivanting up to the Rowley Shoals end of last year (can I say if you haven't got that on your bucket list it is a must...) anyway that took me out of action to organise **Clean ups** which all seem to happen around October. So



let's see if we can get some divers together for **Tangaroablue** usually in September, **Lucus Legacy** Mandurah way in October and possibly **NARC Dive Club Annual Land and Underwater Clean-up**. I would love to hear from anyone that has heard of a clean-up they want to be part of and we can join. UEC might consider a River spot I will keep you posted.

I know a lot of us are doing clean up all year round on the beach especially Liz Davey send us your photos so we can show how marvellous you are. Liz and I have found chairs, crab nets (cut not by us!) hats, sunglasses and even a computer under Ammo Jetty I even found a cool pair of Ray Bans under Busselton Jetty. Send photos to [president@uecwa.com.au](mailto:president@uecwa.com.au)

[IDEAS PLEASE ...environment@uecwa.com.au](mailto:environment@uecwa.com.au)

That's all from me.

Sue H

Environment Officer

And the rest of the committee.....



**SECRETARY**  
**MICHÈLE**  
**HARDESTY-MUNDAY**



**Geoff Geard on the Rottneest Run**



**SAFETY OFFICER**  
**PETE NORTHROP**



**COMMUNICATION**  
**OFFICER**  
**JASMINE LYONS**



**Rottneest Weekenders Celebrate**





## UEC BOATS THROUGH THE YEARS – DENNIS STUBBERFIELD

The first UEC Boat was bought early in 1984 for I believe about \$8000 and a further \$4k renovating the engine and minor other stuff. She was originally named "Bombo". The picture shows her tied up at the Nedlands jetty where "Jo Jo" the restaurant used to be.



We had just launched her from Royal Perth YC (We kept some pretty high end Company back in those days!!) after an annual slipping probably late 1985 and went to pub up the road - "Steves Place" I think. We had not yet put the anchor box up front.

We sold her for \$10K in September 1991, Pat Troy and I taking her for her last voyage with UEC, the new owner on board. I wrote an emotional eulogy to her in the Club magazine, probably October 1991.



I was the boating officer at the time and for a couple of years after. As Boating Officer I was hell bent on getting us a boat asap and led the Club on a merry dance looking at every conceivable floating monstrosity in the quest to get one - given that it was the Club's lifeblood.

Finally, Madam President (no prizes for guessing who) and I went to Geraldton early Jan 1992 and saw "Roxanne III" up on the hard at Geraldton Crayboats Pty. Ltd. She was at the time the 100% ideal boat for us. She had been there since the end of the 1990 - 1991 cray season and advertised for \$52k. After a week or two of intense effort We got her for \$35k and half the Club went to Geraldton on the weekend of the 19/1/92 to sail her home. Four sailors and six support crew following us down the road. It took two weekends. We left Geraldton at 4am in a blustery Souwester instead of the normal summer Easterly. I knew as I navigated out we were in for a hard time. We



made Jurien Bay by 4pm, somehow, in a screaming southerly Gale. I personally have never seen the like of those seas, before or since. (about 70 years and that includes a couple of Pt Lincoln to Adelaide yacht races.)!

We got her Home on the Saturday of the OZ day week end, rigged her for diving by Monday, then took her up river with 23 people on Board for the Sky Show! She was (as our normal practice) renamed 'Underwater Explorer'.



When the time came to upgrade we advertised her for \$45k and she was bought by a group of doctors operating out of Carinya hospital in East Fremantle for \$42k, fairly quickly.

"Roxanne III" is now on a mooring just downstream from the Leeuwin boat ramp in Fremantle and renamed "Lazy Bones". Currently for sale she is totally indestructible and will last forever. Even in the roughest seas she felt safe and you could not tip her over if you tried. I well remember her bashing home from Rotto in a 25 - 30 kt sea breezes virtually submarining home with the radar just above the wave tops showing us where we were!



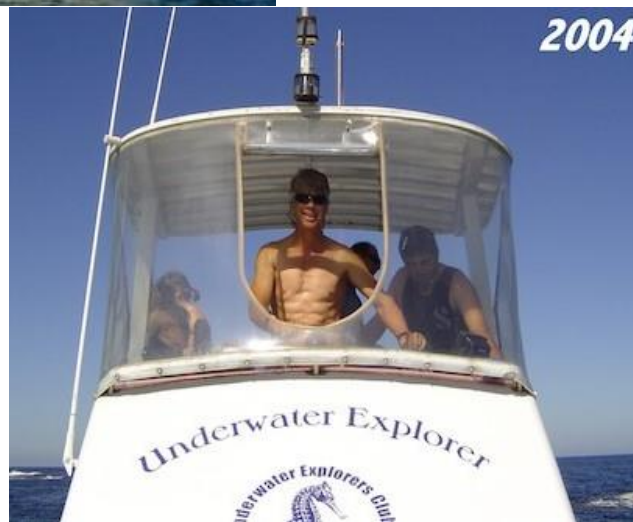
The UEC's 3rd boat was bought for \$154k in mid 2002 and financed by the sale of the Club rooms and a small member loan.

She was called 'Dawn Star', a Star Boat with a semi deep Vee hull and not one but two Bravo 3 legs and MTU 200HP engines both which had quite a few dead horses in the team. By Xmas she was

renamed "Underwater Explorer" but irreverently nicknamed 'Death Star' by those who manned and maintained her.

Not renowned for her reliability, the one saving grace of Dawn Star was that she made us a fortune in social outings which went a long way to paying for a couple of blown up engines and legs and the final replacement of the MTU's with twin Steyrs! These were "a few bob short of a quid" too.

She eventually sold in December 2009 for \$75K to an aboriginal corporation and went to Wyndham. She was originally built for dive/fishing charter and spent most of her useful life in Darwin and brought to Perth by Harry Whellmick of "Dive Surf and Ski". My guess is she has been sold for scrap long ago.







Following the sale of 'Death Star' the club set up a boat committee to find and purchase a new boat. There were two schools of thought for the replacement boat. One school wanted to go big and Fibreglass. The other wanted a similar sized aluminium boat as Death Star, just something more reliable and easier to handle.

After looking at a lot of boats the committee recommended the purchase of Cape Cruiser and it was

bought in July 2010, partially funded by club member loans.

Cape cruiser had been a dive boat down in Geographe Bay and also spent a few years with Malibu Diving on Rottnest Island. This meant she came ready fitted out for diving with tank racks and so needed little modification for use.



After a brief spell on the hard stand to be cleaned up and antifouled she was off on her maiden voyage with the club on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

Since her acquisition she has been fitted out with full clears downstairs (now on their last legs and in need of replacement), a proper Bimini canopy upstairs, a redesigned anchor/chain locker and of course her name and club name on the side.



Whilst not the fastest boat on the water, she has proved to be a reliable and trusty dive boat, just about the right size and should hopefully do the club for many years to come.



# ROWLEY SHOALS 2021

