JAN 87

U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A. INC.

Monthly Magazine

JAN 87

U.E.C NEWS
(UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB OF W.A. INC.)

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OH! WHAT A BEAUTY

By "Guess Who!"

I've never caught one as big as this before! Well here weare, all on time, 4.30a.m. at East St. Jetty. All bright and keen for the big fishing day. It always amazes us just how early we can rise when it's a pleasure day... Typical fishing day today, weather warm during the week but overcast and cold today. U.E.C.'s President is on board ready to show us all how to catch a fish on a dive boat, that is if he can stop his knees clanging together from the cold. Nobody told him about the weather change so he dressed for warm and sunny conditions! Never fear, old faithful (blanket) from the car, with the hole in it's middle to make it easier to slip over the head and the other old faithful (pipe) soon warmed him up. Making him even more cosier was the ocky strap around his waist.

Off we set, after 2 hours of steaming ahead a "suitable" spot was found... all lines over now and every man for himself. Lots of bites here and a $1 each donation is made for the first fish to hit the deck! By now our Secretary is wrapped up like an Arab (picture on the notice board) and in an awful pickle with the darn line not winding itself on straight.

Here it comes. Adrian catches the first dhufish. Looks HUGE but compared to the BIG ONE turned out to be a TIDDLER! (where did it disappear to). Never mind thought Adrian got the bonus! Great excitement now and the tension mounts, Adrian feels ill, the swells are just too much (surely he wasn't overcome by his catch). Left my line in Albert's experienced fishing hands to get Adrian a pill and came back to "I think you've got a bite". Wow! No muscle power here to pull this monster in, thought I'd let Albert share in my "good fishing" by letting him get the "feel" of the fish and what do you know, soon he had my whopper 25lb. dhufish on deck. Amid all the oohs, aahs, B... everyone quickly rebaits and throws in their lines wondering how the Dewy managed to pick my line and not theirs.

Looking around everyone seemed to look a little greener - is it from seasickness?? Plenty of bites again, Peter M. catches a dewy, boy was he happy, been trying to do this for years. This is the first time he doesn't have to go home with the old story. Next our skipper catches a beautiful queen schnapper and then Barry, still determined to catch a fish (although by now he'd settle for anything) suggests a "better spot".

Off we go, on this spot we all catch the bottom of the ocean, lose a lot of gear and catch some coral. Off we go again, soon I have another HUGE one on the line, so like a lady I try to get Albert in on the action (he hasn't had too much of his own today) but he must have misjudged as this one did get away. Barry is getting towey now, try as he might the fish won't even smell his hook let alone play catch with it. Never mind he can have his photo taken with my monster! (again see the notice board, Barry insists on holding his own). Peter catches a blue devil, by mistake, Martin another dewy, Tibi a red coral trout (I think) and Peter lands another?

Sun is coming through the clouds now making a perfect day. We all head to Rottnest to devour our "Black and Gold" label champagne and chicken breakfast and to have a laze in the sun. Who says fishing is not fun? Thanks for a lovely day Martin.

ARE WE WASTING TIME AT ROTTNEST?

English-born Michael Hatcher came out to Sydney in 1953, where he joined a surf club and became interested in diving.

To begin with, his underwater activitites were just a hobby, then he teamed up with a group who were salvaging metal from sunken Japanese warship near New Guinea. Eventually he was able to set up his own salvage business, basing himself in Singapore. He concentrated mainly on World War II wrecks until he stumbled on the wreck of a 17th century Chinese trading ship with a cargo of Ming porcelain.

The delicate china was in mint condition and the 23,000 pieces were auctioned in four sales for a total of $3 million.

It was in the same area of the South China Sea that he found a Dutch wreck last year. The ship was the Geldermalsen, a Dutch East India Company vessel which sank on January 4 1752, after striking a coral reef. Only 30 of her crew of 300 survived.

Two centuries of immersion of salt water left no mark on the cargo which Hatcher and his 12 man team salvaged with painstaking care. The cargo which arrived in Europe 234 years late, included 125 gold bars, 50 complete dinner services, 50,000 sets of tea bowls and saucers and 600 chamber pots. One of the chamber pots alone sold for $5,000!

The sale put Michael Hatcher right in the multi-millionaire bracket, it fetched an astonishing $20.6 million when it was auctioned by Christie's in a weeklong sale. Hatcher's share will amount to 40% of the total after the auctioneer's commission has been deducted and the Dutch Government has been paid.

According to Mike, historical archives in the Hague reveal that literally hundreds of Dutch trading ships never made it back to the Netherlands.

Many of them are still unaccounted for, lost with all hands when they were blown onto rocks off the coast of Western Australia by the infamous Roaring Forties.

RESEARCH.

ON FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY THE BOAT WILL LEAVE EAST ST.JETTY AT 8AM.TO LOOK FOR THE TWINKLING STAR NEAR GARDEN ISLAND. RING TIBI 3413001 OR MAREE ON 4573333.

REMINDER

COME TO THE BEEF ON SPIT AT 22 KEITH ROAD ROSSMOYNE ON THE 17 JANUARY. STARTS AT 7 PM. COST $ 10. TO BOOK RING SUE ON 3648014.

FISHING TRIP WILL BE ORGANISED ON THE 31 OF JANUARY. 4.00 AM, FROM EAST ST. JETTY. FOR DETAILS RING MARTIN ON 4582224.

CHECK YOUR TANKS FOR DATE OF LAST TEST. REFER TO DECEMBER MAGAZINE FOR DETAILS.

MAGIC MALDIVES

Albert & Janet Kramer

Recently we were fortunate enough to spend 12 wonderful days at the Maldive Islands. We chose the Club Med Island of Farukolufushi just 25 mins. by boat from the airport at Male. This is the closest island, other beings 6 hours or more away by boat. Having heard excellent reports of the diving here we were very keen to get into it.

We found the diving group very well run by very experienced divers who made sure that their rules were not made to be broken. All equipment was provided and in excellent condition. The diving here was very easy as there was no struggling into wet suits or cleaning your gear after the dive. This was done by the Club. Each person wishing to dive must pass a medical and fitness test before going into the water. Then there is a diving course of 5 lessons, one each day until you pass. One lady was doing her first lesson for the fourth time while we were there. She gave up in the end and stuck to the snorkling! Even if you have a diving certificate with you they still insist that you pass their tests. These include knowing and using the equipment, knowing ALL the handsignals (very strict on this one), taking off your gear underwater, buddy breathing and correct buoyancy. There was one instructor to 6 divers, no one was to dive lower than the instructor and to safeguard this, each dive finished on the decompression board. The deepest dive that we did was 35 metres.

Club Med has it's own 3 man decompression chamber and a resident dive doctor. One day the sea plane brought in a man from another island suffering from the bends. He spent 2 days in the chamber, luckily he was alright.

Diving in those warm, crystal clear waters was a fantastic experience. Each spot was different and such sights to behold. The coral was so beautiful and such a variety from huge fan corals to the famous black coral. Everything is protected in this paradise, so hopefully it will remain so. If you can imagine diving in a full salt water aquarium of fantastic, coloured, different species of fish, then that is what the waters of the Maldive Islands is like. Each day we were teamed up with a different instructor and group. The instructors went out of their way to point out different things to us. They clearly loved their jobs and thrived in the environment.

The dive spots were chosen each day depending on the currents which can be very strong. Only once did we experience these currents. One girl in the group used 40 ats of air descending and to every one's dismay she quickly used up the remaining air.

Each dive had it's spectacular moments. We saw graceful manta rays, eagle rays, turtles, playful moray eels, reef sharks, crayfish, beautiful lion fish and huge gropers. The highlight being the shark feeding. This was done by the chief instructor holding the fish in his hand and sometimes in his mouth then trying to attract the sharks while we all sat motionless behind him. This was the first feeding of the season and the sharks didn't seem too hungry (thank goodness). It took 20 minutes to feed them 4 fish. 9 or 10, 3 metre sharks circled around us sometimes coming in very close. Other instructors were amongst us hitting the sharks off with waddies.

This was the most relaxing holiday that we have ever been on. Even for the non divers there is snorkling trips each day and again the fish and coral were as abundant as with the diving. This was our first Club Med experience. The island is reported to be runas the closest thing to paradise, shiney white sand, plenty of palm trees. You can walk around the island in 15 minutes and across

LUNG RUPTURES. THE ART OF BREATHING.

You can avoid a lung rupture by not closing off any airway and by avoiding fully inflated lungs during any period when alveolar pressure may be rising. There is more to this than simply exhaling while ascending.

An airway may be closed off not only by holding breath. Small airways may also be closed off by unhealthy lungs, tumours, cysts, scars and excess mucous caused by smoking or a respiratory illness, for instance. Some say you should not dive for up to six weeks after a severe respiratory infection.

You may close off a small airway by exhaling too fast, or too much or by ascending too fast. The microscopically small airways that connect to the alveoli do not have cartilage rings to keep them open. Excess air flow may cause them to collapse and then trap expanding air behind them. It should be obvious that you should not "blow and go" (exhale completely and swim fast to the surface). Blockages in the lungs are frequently only partial. If you ascend slowly the excess air will have time to escape without over-expanding the alveoli.

Any restriction of the air flow even humming as you rise, may percipitate a lung rupture.

Remember also that the glottis closes as you swallow. Avoid swallowing whenever the water pressure may be dropping.

Since alveoli must be fully expanded before they can over-expand, you can give yourself a margin for error if you never take deep full breaths.

We all know that the drop in water pressure as we rise can cause a lung rupture if the breath is held, especially at depth. A quick rise from sixty to fifty feet can do it.

Diving when waves are high can be dangerous not only because they toss you arour on the surface. The quick passage of a deep wave trough overhead while divers ar below can cause long rupture accidents.

Lungs may rupture even without a drop in water pressure. If air pressure in the lung is increased, the result can be the same. Inhaling while pressing the purge bottom on your regulator may be another way to get an air embolism. How we breathe is very important to divers. Habits can help us by eliminating the necessity of remembering. If we habitually vent air as we rise (but not so much that may negate buoyancy), whether swimming, skin diving, or scuba diving, we will automatically, from force of habit, vent air as we rise after losing an underwater air supply.

Form the habit of inhaling only through the mouth when you are wet and you will avoid getting water up your nose. A habit of constantly exhaling a few bubbles of air through your nose will also keep the water from entering. Practice these habits while swimming.

On scuba, habitually continue even, slow breathing either in or out. Avoid exertion, stay shallow and surface before your tank air gets low.

COME AND SEE THE MOVIE OF THE 200 FT. DIVE AT THE NEXT MEETING.

BOAT REPORT D. Stubberfield

Our boat "Underwater Explorer" is operating very well, but as usual with boats like ours which are moored away from a convenient pen, maintenance is a continual hassle to keep her up to peak performance.

Keeping the bottom of the boat cleaned and anti-fouled is also a continuous process as she is now due for the usual half-season under water repaint. This season we are going to attempt to avoid this lengthly process by performing regular cleaning parties after the second dive of the day. If everybody helps, it will only take a few minutes per person every 3 weeks or so. Keeping the bottom of the boat clean helps to maintain her underwater structure in good condition and saves us about half an hours travelling time on a days outing due to reduced drag on the hull.

ROTTNEST ISLAND TRIP FEB/MARCH 1987

Once again we are off to Rottnest for a long weekend. This trip, due to being a little tardy with our bookings and the undoubted pressure of the America's Cup crowds, we were unable to get our usual best accommodation in town. However, being hardy types, I'm sure you'll cope with the situation. We have a boat pen booked on the E Jay jetty and fine chalets reserved in Tent land for the 28th February, 1st and 2nd of March, 1987.

Numbers must be restricted to 28 people and the cost will be finalised later, but will be approximately $95 per diver. A deposit of $25 per person intending to participate will be required as soon as possible to reimburse the club for holding deposits on the accommodation.

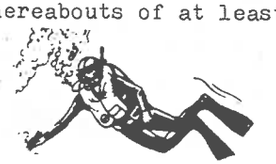
Please ring Maree on 457 3333 to book on as soon as possible to ensure your place on this trip. Remember the March long weekend usually produces our best diving weather of the season.

EXERTION BREATHING.

A diver breathing hard on the surface is probably fighting to stay afloat. He may be using his arms so vigourously that he cannot stop long enough to even reach down for, much less unfasten and drop a weight belt or inflate a BC. So commanding him to do so will not work. Asking him to give it to you to hold may present an even more difficult problem. He will not only have to undo his belt, but also hold it out for you while he sinks from inability to use that arm for support. Swim to him, inflate his buoyancy compensator and take off his weight belt. If you are not buoyant enough to hold it, drop it.

Ex Underwater Explorers Club member Alan Robinson has been immortalised in fiction.

The latest book by W.A. author R. Drewe called "Fortune" is based on Alan finding the Gilt Dragon. Alan once told that he knew the whereabouts of at least 100 other wrecks.



it in 2 minutes. You can do absolutely nothing all day or you can be busy with diving, snorkling, photography, windsurfing, archery, volley ball, catameraning arts or crafts or out all day on day trips on the boat. There were no cars, telephones (except the office), papers or T.V. The meals were fantastic and with lunch and dinner, French wine was served. After dinner there was some type of different entertainment including night fishing, beach bonfires, games nights and fabulous slide and video nights of diving at the Maldives and the Red Sea. We never made it to the nightly disco after these evening shows... hi the sack so that we were up bright and early for the days diving.

DIVING REPORT. MAREE CASLEY.

OVER THE PAST MONTH THE CLUB HAS BEEN DOING SOME GOOD DIVING AT A VARIETY OF LOCATIONS. THEY INCLUDED ADRIAN'S WRECK, ROE REEF. JACKSON'S ROCK, THE CITY OF YORK AND ULIDIA WRECKS. WE ALSO DISCOVERED A NEW SECOND DIVE SITE NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO GEORDIE BAY.

THE PAST MONTH HAS ALSO SEEN SOME PROBLEMS IN TRYING TO CONTACT ME. PLEASE NOTE THAT I AM ALWAYS AT HOME BETWEEN 7 AM. AND 7.3o AM ON WEEK DAYS. YOU CAN ALSO RING DENNIS AT WORK ON 2749606 AND HE WILL PASS ON ANY MESSAGES TO ME.

THE NIGHT DIVE SCHEDULED FOR THE 9TH JANUARY HAS BEEN CHANGED TO 23RD JANUARY.

THE WEATHER WAS FOUL ON THE EXPLORATORY DIVE TRIP DONE BY OUR SKIPPERS AND DIVE-MARSHALLS AT THE END OF DECEMBER. WE COULDN'T DO ALL THE THINGS WE HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED, HOWEVER WE RE-MARKED SOME SPOTS AND LOCATED TWO NEW SITES NEAR GREEN ISLAND. THE DEEPER DIVE IS ABOUT 24 METRES AND LOOKS TO BE A REASONABLE DIVE WITH SOME INTERESTING HARD CORAL FORMATIONS.

IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE ADVERTISED DIVE CALENDAR THAT MID-WEEK DIVES CAN ALSO BE UNDERTAKEN BY MEMBERS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN DIVING DURING THE WEEK GIVE ME A RING AND I WILL LET YOU KNOW IF ANYTHING IS HAPPENING. GENERALLY THOUGH, AS LONG AS AS A SKIPPER AND DIVEMARSHALL CAN BE FOUND PLUS MINIMUM NUMBERS OF FOUR AND SIX PEOPLE FOR SHORT AND LONG DIVE TRIPS RESPECTIVELY ARE MET THEN MID-WEEK DIVING WILL BE ON FOR YOUNG AND OLD. ALL NORMALL DIVING PROCEEDURES MUST BE ADHERED TO AND NO CLUB MEMBER WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM DIVING. THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT WANT A SITUATION ARISING WHERE THE BOAT MAY BE SEEN BEING USED FOR PRIVATE DIVING TRIPS TO THE EXCLUSION OF OTHER MEMBERS.

ALSO, DON'T FORGET THAT ANYONE INTERESTED IN WRECK RESEARCH SHOULD RING TIBI FOR DETAILS OF THE NEXT DIVE.

NOMINATIONS.

NICKY ROBINSON
DENIS ROBINSON 37 PRESTON POINT RD. EAST FREMANTLE.
KEITH D. MAY 11 GLENBROOK RD. THORNLIE 61o8
C.G. FLAHERTY 11 BATEMAN RD. MT. PLESANT.
DEBBIE GGODYEAR 44 CORONATION ST. DOUBLE VIEW.
G,A. & M.E. INGHAM.

TRIP REPORT FROM THE CHRISTMAS DIVE -- SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER 1986.

SUSIE SÖDERBERG.

I must write and tell everyone, especially those who did not attend, of all the fun and excitement of the Christmas dive!

At 8 am the Club boat left East Street jetty with 16 people aboard. We had three smaller private boats in tow, being skippered by Albert, Barry and Peter. Dennis was our very able skipper for the day. It was his job to manoeuvre us through the jungle of seagulls, surfcats and numerous other unknown crafts, sandbanks and the odd destroyer or two, which he did Admirably (excuse the punn).

The morning was absolutely beautiful, with no wind or clouds and heading for another scorcher, hopefully a seasick free one. As we headed out, we were thankful that there were no tidal waves in the area and that the Ocean was quite calm. On our way we had a good look at the American Aircraft Carrier (o'boy, was that one big yacht!). Made us look like a drop in the Ocean, and no doubt a speck of pigeon... to them.

By the time we had reached our planned dive site, Parker's Point, Barry and Peter had already disappeared 'round the corner'. Dennis decided to call them back and move on to Adrian's Reef because there was a little bit too much swell here now. (Thank you, Dennis!) Maree and Dennis soon very cleverly found the new spot, and we dropped anchor. We had a super dive, swimming in and around all the small caves, . This was definitely by best dive so far in these waters off Perth and Rotto since my diving career began in March 1986. The surge was still there, but not as bad as usual, and the visability was splendid!

Under water Kerry and I teamed up with our old friends Lis and Kimbal. Lis had brought a torch and it was really a great, new experience for me to see this big and very tasty looking crayfish just sitting there in the crevice, looking at us, just waiting to be picked up... so we did. To be completely honest though, it was Lis that plucked it... with her bare hands... with some help from Kimbal, who pushed the cray sideways so Lis could get a grip on the body (the cray's, that is). Kerry and I clapped our hands in joy and anticipation, thinking: "Surely our friends would share it with us for lunch". Suddenly it happened! Lis started to point at it, trying to tell us that she was going to put it back again. Oh, NO, what's happening? Is the getting narked? What's wrong with it? IT WAS A FEMALE, absolutely loaded with delicious roe, clinging to her legs, and I didn't know then, that you are not allowed to catch females wiht roe. (Makes sense - just as well I learnt that lesson in time.) But it sure was a beautiful sight and very clever team work by Lis and Kimbal. (I wonder who the bright spark was who got stuck on the cave ceiling during his efforts!)

We came to the surface after 44 minutes with a 14 meter dive to our credit. Off with the wetsuits (ooohh) and to some serious sunbaking on the boat's roof, awaiting the next team of divers to go in. All together again; we set off to Green Island for our BBQ lunch and socialising. Tim pushed the big, heavy, hired BBQ all the way along the jetty, up the sandhill to our camp site - the toilet block - only to find that the gas connection was of the wrong size so we couldn't use the plate at all. But being as organised as the trip leaders of this eminent club are, another hotplate was already going and we didn't have to eat raw food (my sausage was a bit off though). Guess it really made my day when Sylvana so generously shared her tasty satay sticks to round it all off.

There was talk about a snorkel round Green Island but nobody really seemed to make the effort to go back down into the water again after all the good food and drinks, so we remained in the shade of the toilet block. (I had thoughts of returning to my sausage.) Peter's boat went back a bit earlier (!) so they missed out on the 'grand finale show' when SOMEONE unmentioned pushed our Prominent President from the jetty, into the shallow waters... with champagne glasses, blankets, pipe and all... and off took his boat, with Margaret as acting skipper, literally flying through the waves, trying to hang on to the steering wheel or whatever else was getting away, and the course... the American ship! She was determined to get onboard this time to have a closer look at all the handsome sailors.

What an unforgettable day it had been! A great many thanks to all of you who made it possible for us to come along on this terrific Christmas dive. I must also say, I'm happy I chose to join the Underwater Explorers Club and appreciate how well organised they are, and specially the prompt departure times for excursions. This was my first dive with U.E.C. and definitely not my last!

(What happened to my sausage? Well, I decided to contribute to the poor blind quokka's diet!)

Become a Regular Contributor

PRESIDENTS REPORT BARRY KENNEDY.

I HOPE EVERYONE HAS ENJOYED THEIR CHRISTMASS BREAK AS MUCH AS I HAVE, NOW THAT IT'S BEHIND US, IT'S TIME FOR SOME SERIOUS DIVING ONCE AGAIN.

I HOPE TO SEE MORE OF YOU OUT ON THE BOAT. SOME MEMBERS HAVEN'T BEEN DIVING FOR SO LONG, THAT I HAVE FORGOTTEN WHO THEY ARE. SO THIS MESSAGE IS FOR THINGA-MA-BOB AND WHATS HIS NAME. HOW ABOUT COMING OUT DIVING AGAIN.

TRAINING

OUR CURRENT GROUP OF TRAINEES IS NOW NEARING COMPLETION, AND DOING VERY WELL. OUR NEXT COURSE SHOULD START EARLY IN FEBRUARY. INTERESTED PEOPLE PLEASE CONTACT ME ON 4536927 AFTER 5PM.

SOCIAL.

WE HAVE SOME VERY INTERESTING SOCIAL EVENTS COMING UP SOON. BUT FOR YOU TO ENJOY THESE YOU HAVE TO BE THERE. CHECK YOUR CALENDAR AND MAGAZINE AND BECOME INVOLVED.IT'S GOOD FUN.CHEAP TOO. SEE YOU ON THE NEXT DIVE, OK?

Don't miss out!

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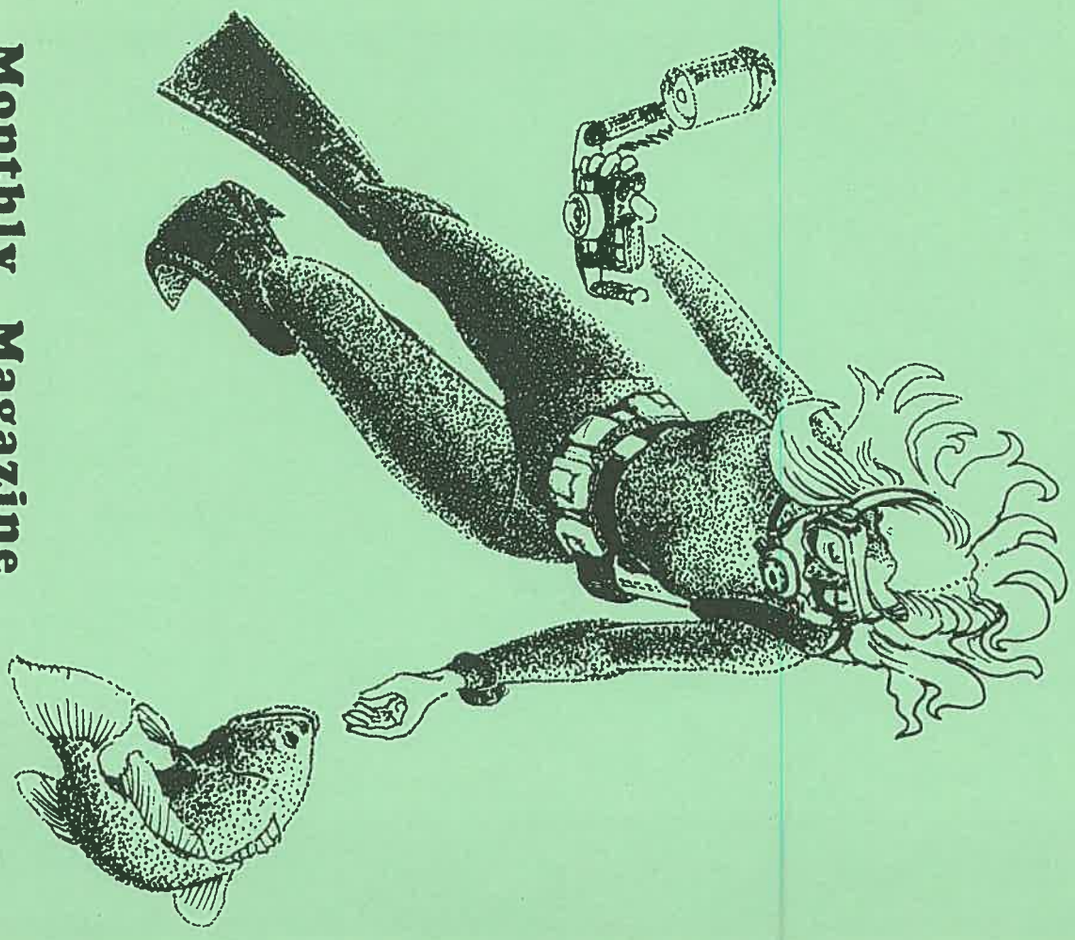

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FEB 87

9. BE AWARE ALWAYS (ESPECIALLY WHEN DIVING PRIVATELY) THAT YOU MAY HAVE TO ASSIST IN AN EMERGENCY. KEEP YOUR FIRST AID KNOWLEDGE UP TO SCATCH. YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO KNOW HOW TO COPE - HOW IS YOUR EAR/CPR?

10. FINALLY, KEEP YOUR GEAR IN GOOD CONDITION, REGULATOR SERVICED, HAVE YOUR DEPTH GAUGE CHECKED. ALWAYS CHECK HIRED GEAR BEFORE TAKING IT OUT.

CHEERS FOR NOW. ADRIAN.

LEEUWIN CURRENT

According to C.S.I.R.O. Oceanagrapher A. Pearce, the Leeuwin Current, a warm tropical current which flows south from North West Cape around Cape Leeuwin and into the Great Australian Bight, is unique in the world.

For one thing it makes our winter diving around Rottnest more pleasant. It also helps crayfish larvae and maybe those of the blue fin tuna float into breeding grounds.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM MARGARET 3610842 (WORK Nº)

U.E.C.

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

RAFFLE 00783

1ST PRIZE MINI 12 METRE YACHT WITH SAILS & TRAILER (VALUE $8,100).

2ND PRIZE 1 SET CHILDREN'S BRITANNICA ENCYCLOPAEDIAS (VALUE $1,500).

3RD PRIZE 1 SET WORLD BOOK DICTIONARIES (VALUE $100)

4TH PRIZE 2 MEMBERSHIPS TO UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB (VALUE $55 EACH).

20 CONSOLATION PRIZES 20 Underwater Explorers Club T-shirts (Value $10 each).

TICKETS $1 EACH.

Drawn Sunday 29th March 1987

Results published 'West Australian' Wednesday, April 1, 1987.

Permit No. A4141. Permit Holder: B. Kennedy, 8 York St, Forrestfield, W.A. 6058.

"LEARN TO DIVE" for full details phone 453 6927.

The seahorse has long been associated with mythological lore and legends. Neptune, the Roman god of the sea, was always portrayed in a sea chariot pulled by seahorses.

For centuries the seahorse was thought to have medical and magical powers. A compound of seahorse ashes, lard and vinegar was used for baldness and the ashes were also believed to cure leprosy, hydrophobia and rabies.

In Java seahorses are still placed in horses' drinking water as a tonic.

UEC BOATING OFFICERS REPORT.

THE BOAT AND ITS MACHINERY HAS OPERATED WELL, DURING THE PAST MONTH AND PROVIDED US WITH MANY ENJOYABLE HOURS OF DIVING. SINCE THE LAST BOAT REPORT, WHEN I HAD HOPED TO AVOID SLIPPING THE "UNDER WATER EXPLORER" FOR ANTIFOULING, IT HAS BECOME OBVIOUS WE ARE NOT GOING TO "GET AWAY WITH IT", AND IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO TO SLIP HER SOON.

THIS HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR THE 16.2.87 TO 19.2.87 AT ROYAL PERTH YACHT CLUB, THANKS TO DAVE KENNY. IT IS INTENDED TO CLEAN AND ANTIFOUL THE BOTTOM AND CARRY OUT A NUMBER OF MINOR MECHANICAL AND STRUCTURAL REPAIRS WHICH ARE MOST EASILY DONE UP ON HARD STANDING. THE MAIN PRESSURE WILL BE ON ANTIFOULING THE BOTTOM AND CHECKING THE PROPELLOR AND SHAFT BEARINGS.

THEREFORE WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR SKILLS AND LABOUR DURING THIS SHORT PERIOD TO MAKE SURE "UE" CAN BE REFLOATED WITHOUT INTERUPTION TO THE DIVING PROGRAMME. PLEASE CONTACT ME ON 457 3333 AND LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP. SHE IS YOUR BOAT AND IF WE USE YOUR LABOUR AND EXPERTISE IT WILL HELP TO KEEP THE COST OF YOUR DIVING DOWN.

I WILL BE CONTACTING THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE SPECIAL EXPERTISE OR TALENTS - SO DON'T LEAVE TOWN. IN ADDITION WE NEED PLENTY OF GENERAL HELP, NOTABLY IN CLEANING, SCRAPING AND PAINTING - NOBODY LEAVE TOWN DURING THIS WEEK.

SPEAKING OF BOATING AND HENCE DIVING COSTS I MUST POINT OUT THE RATHER OBVIOUS FACT THAT OUR BOAT WILL NOT LAST FOREVER AND MUST BE REPLACED IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. YOUR BOATING AND DIVING SUBCOMMITTEE DO NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHEN MAINTAINENCE AND DEPRECIATION COST WILL END THE ECONOMICAL LIFE OF "UE", ONLY THAT IT WILL BE EXCRUCIATINGLY EXPENSIVE TO REPLACE HER. LESS OBVIOUS IS THE FACT THAT THE SOONER WE INSTITUTE SOME SORT OF FORWARD PLAN TO ACCUMULATE FUNDS FOR SUCH REPLACEMENT, THE MORE TIME WE WILL HAVE TO DO IT IN AND THE LESS PAINFUL WILL BE THE PROCESS. IN ADDITION, RISING COSTS AND THE FACT THAT WE ENJOY THE LEAST EXPENSIVE DIVING OF OUR TYPE IN PERTH, WILL MEAN AN INEVITABLE INCREASE IN CLUB FEES. THINK ABOUT IT AND YOU WILL SEE THAT PUTTING OUR OWN LABOUR AND EXPERTISE INTO OUR BOAT WILL HELP MINIMISE THOSE COST INCREASES.

HOWEVER, LET ME GIVE YOU ALL FAIR WARNING: ALL MEMBERS WILL HAVE TO DO THEIR FAIR SHARE - THE DAYS ARE GONE WHEN A DEDICATED FEW ARE PREPARED TO DO ALL THE WORK, ALLOWING THOSE WHO DON'T HELP TO PARTICIPATE IN CHEAPER DIVING. REMEMBER ALSO THAT BECAUSE OF OUR ABILITY TO "BULK BUY" SO TO SPEAK, IT COSTS FAR LESS IN GENERAL, TO DIVE REGULARLY WITH A CLUB SUCH AS OURS THAN TO GO IT ALONE, FOR THE SAME AMOUNT OF DIVING, SAME DEGREE OF SAFETY AND SAME AMOUNT OF SOCIAL AND OTHER BOATING FACILITIES.

CHEER UP FOLKS.

DENNIS BLIGH-STUBBERFIELD.

VALENTINE CRUISE SAT 14th FEB

WIND YOUR WAY UP THE SWAN TO PERTH WITH A CHICKEN AND CHAMPERS SUPPER, ON BOARD OUR DIVE BOAT. BE IN SOMETHING RED AND ROMANTIC. PHONE NOW!! COST IS $10.-

'PICK UP POINTS' - 6.30pm POINT WALTER JETTY
- 7.15pm ROYAL PERTH Y.CLUB

Got something to say? Get it off your chest by dropping us a line. We'll do our best to publish it

TRIVIA A.

Did you know that in the early days of pearl diving at Broom, during the eight year priod between 1910 - 1918, there were 245 fatal "bends" cases. These divers, who were mostly Asian, refused to accept the then little known theory of diving medicine and instead wore "lucky" charms, to ward off the "devil of the deep". An unknown (larger) number of divers were paralised or crippled for the rest of their lives. The worst year was in 1914 when 33 divers died.

Then gradually, due to the theories of a Professor of Medicine, J.S. Haldane, (the father of the diving tables) and the generous donation to the Broome Hospital of the first recompression chamber by its manufacturers, Messrs. C.E. Heinke & Co., the number of fatal bends cases dropped to one during 1918. This low level of deaths and serious injury has been virtually maintained ever since.

The Broome cemetary today stands as a grim reminder to our pearling past with hundreds of diver's graves marked accordingly.

SAFETY OFFICERS REPORT. ADRIAN EDWARDS,

WITH OUR DIVING HAVING GONE SO WELL OVER THE PAST YEAR AND NOT TOO MANY "SAFETY INCIDENTS" OCCURING, THERE IS A NATURAL TENDENCY TO BECOME COMPLACENT AND RELAX OUR PROCEDURES A LITTLE.

NEWLY QUALIFIED DIVERS WHO LACK EXPERIENCE UNDERWATER MAKE UP FOR IT BY EXERCISING GREAT CAUTION AND GENERALLY OBEY THE "RULES" AND KNOW THEIR PROCEDURES WELL AS THEY ARE STILL FRESH FROM THEIR TRAINING COURSE.

SADLY, A LOT OF THE MORE EXPERIENCED DIVERS DO NOT DISPLAY THE SAME AWARENESS OR CAUTION, BUT RELY ON THE "IT HASN'T HAPPENED TO ME IN 10 YEARS" ATTITUDE. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU ARE SPEARING, COLLECTING SHELLS OR JUST LOOKING, WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE TO OUR BUDDY UNDERWATER.

AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING REPETITIOUS, I WOULD LIKE TO TROT OUT A FEW OF THE OLD CHESTNUTS AGAIN SO WE CAN ALL ENJOY A HIGH STANDARD OF SAFE DIVING IN OUR CLUB. SOME OF THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN RECENTLY NOTED AS LEAVING A BIT TO DESIRED.

1. BEFORE DIVING, SORT OUT WITH YOUR BUDDY SUCH THINGS AS: WHO IS LEADER, YOUR SIGNALS AND EQUIPMENT CHECKS.

2. CHECK YOUR OWN TABLES. CARRY THEM WITH YOU IN B.C. POCKET WHEN DEEP DIVING. DON'T RELY ON THE DIVE MARSHALL TO DO CALCULATIONS. KNOW YOUR OWN TIMES AND BUILD IN YOUR OWN SAFETY MARGINS FOR YOUR OWN FACTORS.

3. REMEMBER, BOTTOM TIME IS FROM WHEN YOU LEAVE THE SURFACE ON DESCENT UNTIL YOU LEAVE THE BOTTOM ON FINAL ASCENT.

4. WHEN DIVING, DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF YOUR BUDDY. IF YOU DO RISE A FEW METRES, LOOK AROUND 360° FOR BUBBLES (CHECK CAVES) AND THEN AFTER A MINUTE OR TWO (NO LONGER) RISE TO THE SURFACE, WHERE APON YOUR BUDDY SHOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME.

5. DON'T DIVE IF FEELING UNWELL OR WITH A HEAD COLD OR ON MEDICATION. KEEP FIT AND IF YOU HAVEN'T HAD A DIVING MEDICAL FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS YOU SHOULD CONSIDER DOING SO, ESPECIALLY IF OVER 40, UNFIT OR A SMOKER.

6. WATCH YOUR HEAD WHEN SURFACING NEAR THE MARLIN BOARD IN CHOPPY SEAS.

7. TRY NOT TO SURFACE TOO FAR FROM THE BOAT. THIS IS A CONSTANT PROBLEM AND HAPPENS FAR TOO OFTEN.

8. IF YOU EXCEED YOUR DIVE TIMES, DON'T BE EMBARRASSED OR FRIGHTENED TO TELL THE DIVE MARSHALL. THIS IS ESSENTIAL SO THAT IT MAY BE RECORDED AND YOU ARE NOT SUBJECT TO A POTENTIAL RISK ON YOUR SECOND DIVE. IT CAN HAPPEN AND CROPS UP EVERY SO OFTEN TO MOST OF US AT SOME STAGE.

PRESIDENTS REPORT. BARRY KENNEDY.

DIVING.... THE NEW MIDWEEK DIVING TRIPS AND TIBI'S RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY TRIPS HAVE BEEN TAKING SOME PRESSURE OFF OUR SUNDAY DIVES. THIS WILL BE APPRECIATED MORE AS WE MOVE INTO THE HOTTER SUMMER MONTHS AND MORE OF OUR TRAINEES QUALIFY AS OPEN WATER DIVERS. OUR DIVE BOAT WILL BECOME WERY POPULAR, ESPECIALY NOW WHEN OUR MEMBERSHIP HAS SWELLED TO WELL OVER THE 100 MARK. IT IS GOOD TO SEE OUR BOAT BEING USED TO ITS FULL CAPACITY.... GOOD WORK MAREE.

SOCIAL.... SOCIAL EVENTS ARE HOTTING UP UNDER THE EXPERT CONTROL OF OUR OWN ALLISON. THERE ARE SOME GOOD TIMES AHEAD IN THE SOCIAL SCENE BELIEVE ME. DON'T MISS OUT.

TRAINING.... THE NEW TRAINING COURSE IS UNDER WAY, BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN IN. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED CONTACT ME (4536927) THERE ARE STILL A FEW VACANCIES LEFT, BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO MOVE QUICKLY, OR MISS OUT UNTIL NEXT NOVEMBER. THE TRAINEES FROM THE LAST COURSE ARE NOW COMPLETING THEIR OCEAN DIVES TO QUALIFY AS OPEN WATER DIVERS, HAVING SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THEIR THEORY EXAMS. PLEASE MAKE THEM FEEL WELCOME .. WHEN YOU MEET THEM ON THE COMING DIVE TRIPS.

HISTORY.... JOHN WALDEN HAS KINDLY OFFERED TO DONATE SOME OLD TIME DIVING EQUIPMENT TO THE CLUB, THIS TOGETHER WITH THE CLUBS OWN RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER, SOON TO BE RETRIEVED FROM THE FREMANTLE HOSPITAL, WILL FORM THE BASIC BEGINNING OF OUR OWN DIVING MUSEUM, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT THE CLUB ROOMS AND END UP WHO KNOWS WHERE? THE CLUB GRATEFULLY APPRICIATES JOHN'S OFFER AS THIS WILL HELP TO TIE THE BONDS BETWEEN THE CLUB AS IT WAS, AS IT IS AND AS IT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE.

CREDIBILITY.... THOSE PEOPLE WHO KNOW OUR CLUBS HISTORY AND OUR CLUBS REPUTATION, ARE STILL SURPRISED AT THE PERSISTANCE OF SOME COMMERCIAL TRAINING PEOPLE STILL TRYING TO RUBBISH OUR CLUB AND OTHER NONCOMMERCIAL TRAINING CLUBS.
IT REALLY IS A SHAME.
THE ONLY PEOPLE THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO INFLUENCE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE LITTLE OR NO KNOWLEDGE OF DIVING AND DIVER TRAINING AS IT IS TODAY. THE TYPICAL THINGS THAT THESE PROFIT ORIENTED PEOPLE DO STILL LEAVE ME AMAZED. THE USED CAR SALESMAN TYPE, WHO SEEM TO MAKE UP THE BULK OF THEIR NUMBER, WITH THEIR GLOSSY COLOURED BROCHURES AND COLOURFUL SALES PITCHES ARE ABLE TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE POKETS OF PEOPLE INTO THEIR OWN BANK ACCOUNT WITH A MINIMUM OF FUSS.
I HAVE HEARD ABOUT DIVERS WHO HAVE QUALIFIED AFTER A TWO DAY COMMERCIAL "CRASH COURSE" BEING BEWILDERED AND CONFUSED ABOUT DIVING IN THE OCEAN.

EXPERIENCED DIVERS KNOW THAT TWO DAYS OF INTENSIVE THEORY AND POOL TRAINING DO NOT MAKE A SAFETY CONSCIOUS, CONFIDENT AND COMPETENT DIVER. CLUB TRAINING PROVIDES THE TIME NECESSARY FOR PEOPLE TO ADJUST TO OCEAN DIVING, THE TIME THEY NEED TO BUILD THEIR CONFIDENCE AND THEIR COMPETENCE. OUR CLUB TRAINING IS DONE MOSTLY IN THE OCEAN, SO OUR CLUB TRAINEES WHO QUALIFY, HAVE ALREADY EXPERIENCED THE CONDITIONS THAT THEY WILL BE DIVING UNDER.
SHOULD YOU HEAR ANYONE RUNNING DOWN OUR CLUB TRAINING, IGNORE THEM, I QUARANTEE YOU THAT THEY ARE SPEAKING ABSOLUTE RUBBISH.

DIVING REPORT BY MAREE CASLEY

The diving that we have done this past month has in general been very good,with some of our dive locations getting the lion's share of the action.Angela's Cave has been visited twice, which is hardly surprising because we always have good dives here.Rumour has it that coral trout have even been spotted there as well as some baldchin groper,so there is some good eating to be had for those lucky enough to nab one.The new spot at Geordie Bay and Stragglers have also been popular. Of particular note is the night dive of the 23rd.This turned out really good in spite of a really lousy weather forcast.We took the boat to Stragglers in record time, waited for the sun to disappear and the 12 of us on board then proceeded to have an excellent dive.It certainly makes a big difference to our diving if the weather is in our favour as it was on this night.

At the last General Meeting I spoke about the possibility of a weekend away down at Augusta on Saturday and Sunday the 14th & 15th of March. The good news is that I have managed to secure a booking down there so we go ahead as planned. For those of you that weren't at the meeting, the weekend will cost $65 which includes 2 boat dives, a night dive and a shore dive.There will also be 2 afternoons free so that you can organise other activities. The price includes chalet accomodation,air fills and lunch supplied on the Sunday.Unfortunately, the numbers are limited but there are a few places still available so if you are interested give me a ring for further details. I will need your money as soon as possible and would like to see all of those going at the next meeting so that I can fill you in on all the details.

Recently, there has been some interest among members to organise a field trip up North to Ningaloo Reef. I dived up there several years ago and was very impressed with the diving so would highly recommend it to anyone who was interested. If we were to have a trip like that away it would take a lot of organising, so I would need to know if you were interested as soon as possible. I think a project like this is well worth the effort and I would like to see Club members involved.If you would like to go give me a ring and we can go through the possibilities.

Coming up soon is the long-weekend at Rottnest.As usual this weekend should be a real hoot and a good time is guaranteed (well nearly!).There are still a few places left and at only $90 approximately you would be mad to miss out especially during the best part of the diving year.The cost includes all meals, chalet accomodation at Tentland and air fills so it is excellent value.Dennis is in charge of the Rottnest trip so give him a ring either at work on 274 9606 or at home but be quick otherwise you may miss out.Dennis will require money from you as soon as possible and he will also need to see you for a briefing so try and make it to the next meeting.

Well folks, that's about all there is to report on the diving scene.Watch out for my next article for a report on the Rotto weekend. Until next month, happy diving.

WRECKS

Three hundred metres southwest of the South Mole lie the remains of Lygnern. A Swedish apple boat, she was wrecked on Beagle Rocks when an industrial wrangle forced her out of the harbour in 1928. In 1947 the Samuel Plimsol was blown up with explosives in the harbour. Sections were taken out to Beagle Rocks by the floating crane Pelican and dumped beside the Lygnern. It is a good dive quickly reached, though a bit hazardous due to boat traffic. Look for the boiler near the channel marker. The rest of the wreck is well scattered as she has been used for demolition practice by the S.A.S.

NINGALOO MARINE PARK TO BE DECLARED IN 1987

A new marine park off the north west cape of Western Australia containing the most extensive and accessible coral reef in the country is expected to be jointly declared by the Federal and West Australian Governments by April 1987.

The Ningaloo Marine Park near Exmouth lies close to some of Australia's most arid coastline. The 260km long reef with its 181 species of coral and 464 species of fish is unique in the country because, unlike the Great Barrier Reef in North Queensland, it is not separated from the coast by a wide expanse of coastal waters. For more than 250km the outer reef is about 2.5km off shore.

On land the reef is overlooked by the rugged Cape Range running as a spine along the NW Cape Peninsula.

The Commonwealth Government under its Bicentennial Commemorative Program is providing $1.2 million for visitor facilities in the Park. The Park will encompass the reef between NW Cape and Amherst Point and extend 10 nautical miles out to sea.

It will be declared under both Commonwealth and State Legislation because Commonwealth and State waters are included. The WA Department will look after day to day management of the park but the Federal Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service will control the waters three miles offshore to the 10 mile limit. Correct management of these waters is essential to protect the reef and the nutrients it needs.

The Ningaloo Reef supports a diversity of marine life comparable to other major coral systems around the world. It is an important habitat for marine mammals, particularly hump back whales.

Ningaloo differs from the Great Barrier Reef because it is almost within paddling distance of the beach. At its closest point it is no more than 200m offshore and at its most distant, just 7km. Also, unlike the Great Barrier Reef, it has no coral cays like Green and Heron Islands.

Like the Queensland Reef it also has a Frazer Island, (spelt with a 'z') but the one on the west is a moving cay of sand.

The most comparable reef in the world is off the west coast of Madagascar.

Anglers, including big game fishermen searching for marlin, regularly visit this stretch of coast. The marine section covers an area of about 5000 sq km, while the onshore part of the proposed national park stretches 35,000 ha.

Structurally the reef is unique because it is a mainland barrier reef with a shallow lagoon between it and the shore. The Leeuwin Current which passes through the Torres Straits and

the islands of Indonesia, brings coral reef organisms into WA waters. It probably maintains Scott Reef, Rowley Shoals, the Abrolhos as well as Ningaloo as stepping stones in a chain of major coral reef systems. But Ningaloo is the only on-shore coral reef.

Management of the Park is complex because of the reef's ecological biographical and oceanographic circumstances. Long term research into management aspects of the Park will be necessary. This will involve Government agencies working closely with marine researchers.

THE NEXT RESEARCH DIVE WILL BE ON THE 20. MARCH. RING TIBI. 341 3001

NEWS... NEWS... NEWS... NEWS... NEWS... NEWS... NEWS... NEWS...

DONT FORGET THE RIVER CRUISE SAT. 14 FEBRUARY. RING ALISON 4468834

TEST YOUR DEPTH GAUGE AT THE NEXT MEETING. COST ONLY $4.oo

NOMINATIONS.

ELIZABETH MOTU
PAUL MOTU — U3 26 BANKSIA ST. JOONDANNA.
JENNIFER S. SMITH 28 CORBEL ST SHELLY.
DAVID SPEARMAN 28 CORBEL ST SHELLY.
RONALD INGENHOES 28 CORBEL ST SHELLY.
GRAHAM L. FARISS 34 YEOVIL CRES. BICTON.
SCOTT SPARKES 4 GAMA COURT PARKWOOD.

— — —

GOOD NEWS. CLUB TEE SHIRTS AND WIND-CHEATERS ARE AGAIN AVAILABLE. BE QUICK THEY GO LIKE HOT CAKES. RING PETER HORTON4449126. COSTS: TEE SHIRT $8, WINDCHEATERS $16, CARSTICKERS 50¢.

— —

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED AT THE ROYAL PERTH YACHT CLUB (TO CHEER THEM UP?) NO. TO HELP WITH TOUCHING UP THE BOTTOM OF A CERTAIN LADY, OUR "UNDER WATER EXPLORER". BETWEEN 16 -- 19 FEB. READ DENNIS'S REPORT.

— — —

BETTER NEWS.. A SKIPPER AND A DIVE OFFICER ARE AVAILABLE TO TAKE THE BOAT OUT MIDWEEK. IF YOU ARE FREE AND WANT TO DIVE RING MAREE 4573333 AND ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST, DONT FORGET ALL WE NEED IS FOUR PEOPLE TO STRAGGLERS AND SIX TO ROTTNEST.

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NEXT RESEARCH DIVE WILL BE ON THE 20 MARCH. INTERESTED?SEE TIBI.

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U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A. INC.

Monthly Magazine

MARCH 87

MARCH 87

Socialites

BARBIE, KIDS AND CRICKET

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH. COME ALONG TO POINT WALTER, MELVILLE WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS OR ON YOUR OWN AT 3:30 SOCIAL CRICKET AND A TUG-OF-WAR. THEN WE'LL BAR-B-QUE SO BYO MEAT AND DRINKS. WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO BRING A SALAD AND SWEET TO SHARE WITH EVERYONE.

Alison

SAINT VALENTINE'S NIGHT CRUISE.

We couldnt have ordered a more befitting night for February 14th. Not a breath of wind, a new moon and hardly a ripple on the water. Anchored beneath the city lights near Barrack St. Jetty, it was a night for the romantics, single or with your partner there was fun on for all.
A big Thank You to Dave for skippering and providing his boat the Nancy D for our Club and also to Dennis for skippering the Club boat and getting us all safely back to shore.
After a lovely evening cruise up the river both boats were anchored together. Dave provided fantastic dancing music and his boat became the dance floor.... and so we started. Some of us danced and drank the night away whilst others mingled and drank the night away, stopping only for the delicious chicken and salad supper.
The setting got everyone in the right mood and to help most people did wear something red, including Alison with her cute heart shaped earings and Bob Cotton with his red tie over a blue collarless T shirt. Adrian and Mary made a lovely matching pair in white shorts and red shirts.
We'll all remember this night. Many thanks to Alison for all her effort and organization that she put in to make the night something different.
And now for the prizes; Adrian and Janet won the "Best Valentine"-- maybe be cause of wearing the most red? Alas no one had red nickers on so Janet won that one for her bathers.

Come on - all you silent Club members - loosen up and kick up your heels now and then. Whether single or married, this is your Club welcoming you to join in the social side as well as the serious diving.

PRESIDENTS REPORT. Barry Kennedy.

DIVE PROFILES AND DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS.
READ THIS CAREFULLY.

Recent events have shown us, once again, that some of us divers do not pay attention to time and depth combinations and other predisposing factors, which can lead to decompression sickness. This often crippling, sometimes fatal condition, is taken far too lightly by most divers. Perhaps if it came in the shape of a great white shark, we would take more notice. However it doesn't, and we have to develop a healthy respect for this silent, invisible danger, that sneaks up on careless divers.

Each and every diver has a responsibility to take into account all of the predisposing factors that can increase the chance of decompression sickness. Things like being unfit or owerweight, suffering from alcohol consumption or exertion, fatigued, being over 40 years of age or simply being of the female sex. These are some of the conditions which increase the risk of decompression sickness. It is up to you to decide your own condition and to adjust your dive times to suit. Spend less time underwater by using the next greater depth on your dive tables. Never go to the limit of your time unless you are prepaired to spend a 5 minute precautionary deco. stop at 5 metres.

REPETITIVE DIVES.

Divers need a great deal of self disciplene and common sense when diving repetitive dives to a preset time or depth. Should you break your time or depth limit, dont just shrug it off, do something about it. If you carry a submersible deco. chart, (which all divers should) consult it and adjust your time to suit, or terminate your dive if necessary, making sure that you do all deco stops required.

TRAINING.

All trainees will have to bring two passport photos and $2.50. This is required so that you can be registered as an open water diver. Please try to get them to me as quickly as possible. Our current group is proceeding quite well and should soon complete the course. I would like to see all members cooperate with our training programe, by setting an example of safe diving practices that our newer members can follow.

FILLING COMPRESSOR.

Our compressor is now operational, and our air is the sweetest in town, leave your tanks at the clubrooms on Sunday after the dive and we will fill them for you for $2.oo per fill.

RESEARCH

NEXT RESEARCH DIVE WILL BE ON THE 2o MARCH
SEE TIBI.

UNDERWATER SEARCHES John Paskulich

From time to time we are required to conduct underwater searches. Last years student divers received several unscheduled lessons in these techniques to recover lost gear off North Mole.

The trick is "Method". Swimming willy nilly back and forth is wasteful of air and energy and rarely produces results. Outlined below are 3 typical methods. Each employs the use of lines. In each case the following points should be emphasised.

- Clearly mark out a reference point, otherwise you could end up going over the same ground.

- Swim slowly with buoyancy adjusted to clear the bottom. This way you don't kick up silt, you have more time to scan the area and you don't waste energy.

- Scan carefully side to side and slightly ahead. Look out for any abnormality in the bottom. Often lost gear gets a thin layer of sand or silt on and is only recognisable by its shape.

- Ensure a communication system is worked out, e.g. line signals:
1 pull = stop and wait
2 pulls = go forward
3 pulls = come in
4 pulls = go out

LINE SEARCH Divers place themselves at intervals along a rope. To prevent overlap the ideal spacing is almost twice the visibility. For safety you may wish to reduce this distance, but remember you still have line contact.

The centre diver and those at the extremities should monitor their direction with compasses, or ideally, the search area could be defined with parallel swim lines to keep divers on course.

SNAG LINE SEARCH This method is useful if the object is known to stand proud of an open flat seabed. A good example is a mooring block on the river bottom. The line is lightly weighted to drag along the bottom. Two divers swim parallel courses over the search area until the line snags.

CIRCULAR SEARCH Allows a single diver to thoroughly search an area. For safety's sake he should be attached to a surface tender. The method could be modified to allow multiple divers or a snag line search.

The line is fixed to a centre point (e.g. stake) and the diver swims out until the rope is tight. After marking his start point he swims in an arc, keeping the line tight until a full circle is done and the start point is reached again.

This continues with the line progressively shortened for each circle until the whole area is covered. Each successive circle should be swum in the opposite direction to prevent twisting of surface lines.

NOTICE OF MOTION. BY TIBI.
1.ALL PEOPLE INVOLVED IN INSTALLING OUR FILLING COMPRESSOR SHOULD BE PUBLICLY THANKED. 2. THE DIVESITES MARTIN'S ARCHES AND GEORDIE BAY ENTRANCE CAVES SHOULD BE DECLAIRED PROTECTED AREAS. (LOOK AND FEED ONLY).

HAS COME TO YOUR REPORTER'S ATTENTION THAT SOME OF OUR GROUP WERE SEEN AT THE QUOKKA ARMS. AFTER A SKILLED INTEROGATION I LEARNED THAT KAREN WAS CONDUCTING A "TALENT QUEST" . UNFORTUNATELY, I CANNOT BRING YOU NEWS OF THE WINNER OR AWARD WINNING QUALITIES.
MONDAY SAW THE WEEKEND QUICKLY DRAWING TO A CLOSE, SO AGAIN THE GANG SET OFF FOR ANOTHER 2 DIVES AT ROE REEF AND THE CAVES AT THE ENTRANCE TO GEORDIE BAY. NEED I SAY IT - BUT EXELLENT DIVES WERE AGAIN HAD BY ALL. SO IT WAS THEN BACK TO THE ISLAND TO TIDY THE "CHALETS", CART ALL THE GEAR TO THE BOAT AND HEAD FOR HOME. YOU CAN IMAGINE THE HORROR IN STORE FOR DENNIS AND I WHEN WE ARRIVED TO GREET THE BOAT AND FOUND ALISON'S TREADLY STILL ON BOARD. IT HAD NOT BEEN THROWN OVER-BOARD, AS ROGER HAD SUGGESTED, TO MAKE AN ARTIFICIAL REEF. I SUPPOSE IT WILL HAVE TO WAIT TILL THE JUNE WEEKEND TO BE CAST TO IT'S WATERY GRAVE.

JUST ONE FINAL POINT ON THE WEEKEND. I CAN ASSURE MY READERS THAT IT WAS NOT DENNIS THAT WAS SEEN STEAMING OFF INTO THE DISTANCE AFTER LEAVING THE OARS TO THE DINGHY ON THE JETTY. I AM QUITE CERTAIN THAT IF IT WASN'T FOR THE CHARITY OF OTHERS THAT BOTH BARRY AND HIS PIPE WOULD HAVE GOT VERY WET.
SOME GOOD NEWS FOR MEMBERS. DUE TO SOME LATE CANCELLATIONS THERE ARE STILL A COUPLE OF PLACES AVAILABLE ON THE AUGUSTA WEEKEND ON 14 and 15 MARCH. $ 65.00 REPRESENTS GOOD VALUE SO AS THEY SAY IN THE CLASSICS "GET IN EARLY TO AVOID DIS-APPOINTMENT".
THE ANZAC DAY WEKEND SEES THE CLUB GOING TO NORTH HEAD NEAR JURIEN. THE PLAN IS TO INVADE BARRY'S SHACK UP THERE AND INDULGE OURSELVES ON THE REEFS FOR SOME GOOD DIVING. FINAL DETAILS OF THE WEEKEND HAVE NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED BUT I WILL LET YOU ALL KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE NEXT MAGAZINE. SO WATCH OUT FOR THIS COLUMN FOR A REPORT ON AUGUSTA AS WELL AS DETAILS OF NORTH HEAD.
SEE YOU NEXT MONTH FOLKS.

Don't miss out!

NOMINATIONS.

Marilyn Motu U3 26 Bankshia St Joondanna.
Peter Chester 16 Yolan Court Huntingdale.
Joanne Sandra Maiden U6 44 McMaster St Victoria Park.
Harry Welmink 4 Bagot place Hillarys.
Stuart Bruce Burns 21 Braunton St Bicton.
Stacey Elaine Roach 1 Cantlebury Rd Bayswater.

SOCIAL REPORT.

Bar-B-Que coming up on the 21st March. Please make an effort to come.
New Social Sub-Committee formed- Maree Casley, Sue Churack, Mary Edwards Alison Keen, Janet Kramer and Karen Lawrence - so feed them with ideas. Plus, we are looking for homes for our Progressive Dinner in May.

SNAKES. Rottnest has only one type of snake, the Dugite (pseudonaja muchalis) Garden Island has two types, the Carpet Pythons (Morelia variegata) and the Tiger snakes (Notechis scutatus.)

DIVING REPORT BY MAREE CASLEY

THIS LAST MONTH HAS SEEN THE U.E.C CONDUCT SOME REALLY GOOD DIVES - THANKS MAINLY TO THE WEATHER BEING KIND TO US. FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS THE WEATHER HAS BEEN PERFECT WHICH HAS ALLOWED US TO DO SOME UNUSUAL DIVES.

OF PARTICULAR NOTE WERE THE DIVES OF THE 22ND FEB. AND THE LONG WEEKEND. ON THE 22ND WE SET OFF FROM EAST ST. FOR THE APPOINTED LOCATION, THE CARLISLE CASTLE AND THE ORIZABA WRECKS. FOR TWO YEARS WE HAVE BEEN TRYING IN VAIN TO GET THERE, SO THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE EXCITEMENT ON BOARD WHEN IT WAS DECIDED TO GO THERE. IT IS ABOUT 2 HOURS STEAMING TO THE CARLISLE CASTLE WHICH WAS WRECKED ON COVENTRY REEF DURING A STORM. I AM HERE TO TELL YOU FOLKS THAT THIS IS A REALLY RIPPER DIVE. IT LIES IN ABOUT 12 METERS OF WATER VERY CLOSE TO THE BREAKS OF THE REEF. STILL CLEARLY VISIBLE ON THE SHIP ARE THE BOW AND THE ANCHOR. THERE IS ALSO A LARGE NUMBER OF BRICKS AND BROKEN BOTTLES AS WELL AS 2 PLAQUES WHICH DESCRIBE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE WRECK.

AFTER A SUCCESSFUL DIVE AT THE CARLISLE CASTLE WE THEN STEAMED BACK TOWARDS GARDEN ISLAND TO WHERE THE ORIZABA LIES IN ABOUT 10 METRES. THIS IS A MUCH LARGER WRECK OF AN IRON PASSENGER SHIP AND SOME HUGE BOILERS AND A LARGE SPOKED WHEEL ARE READILY SEEN. ALTHOUGH THE WRECK ITSELF IS INTERESTING THE SAME CORAL GROWTH AND FISHLIFE FOUND ON THE CARLISLE CASTLE IS LACKING. NEVERTHELESS, IT WAS AN EXCELLENT DIVE ENJOYED BY ALL.

THE LONG WEEKEND OF THE 28TH-2ND MARCH SAW A FULL BOAT DEPART FROM FREMANTLE FOR ROTTO FOR ARGUABLY THE BEST LONG WEEKEND'S DIVING AT ROTTNEST THAT WE HAVE DONE. AFTER A FAIRLY HAIRY CROSSING IN A FOLLOWING SEA WE TIED UP AT E.J.'S JETTY IN RECORD TIME. LITTLE DID WE KNOW AT THE TIME THE SHOCK THAT WAS IN STORE FOR US. TO DESCRIBE OUR ACCOMODATION AS "SPARTAN" IS BEING TOO COMPLIMENTARY AS LIFE'S LITTLE LUXURIES SUCH AS A DUNNY AND SHOWER (OF ANY VARIETY) WAS SADLY QUITE SOME DISTANCE AWAY. I FELT REALLY SORRY FOR THOSE IN OUR LITTLE GATHERING WITH CHEAP-AND-NASTY JAPANESE BLADDERS! HOWEVER, WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO DWELL ON OUR MISFORTUNES BECAUSE WE HAD HUNDREDS OF SANDWICHES TO MAKE TO WARD OFF STARVATION IN THE HUNGRY HORDES. WE WERE SOON UNDERWAY AGAIN AND STEAMED OFF TO PARKER POINT. WE DROPPED ANCHOR AT JULIE'S CAVES WHERE WE ALL HAD A SUPERB DIVE. THIS AREA CONSISTS OF A LARGE ROCKY AREA WHICH CONTAINS A SERIES OF INTERLOCKING AND TIERED CAVES. ALTHOUGH THERE ISN'T MUCH LIFE WITHIN THE CAVES THE SURROUNDING OVERHANGS ARE RICH IN CORALS AND FISH. THE 2ND DIVE OF THE DAY ALSO TOOK PLACE AT PARKER POINT BUT CLOSER INSHORE. NORMALLY HUGE WAVES ARE BREAKING OVER THIS AREA SO WE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOME EXPLORATION.I FOR ONE WISH WE HADN'T BECAUSE ALL I SAW WAS SEAWEED AND IF ANYONE ELSE SAW SOMETHING DIFFERENT THEY DIDN'T OWN UP TO IT.I DON'T THINK WE WILL HAVE PEOPLE CLAMOURING TO DIVE HERE AGAIN.

THE NEXT DAY STARTED BRIGHT AND EARLY AND WE ALL TROOPED DOWN TO THE WEST END.THE OCEAN WAS FLAT CALM WHICH ENABLED US TO DIVE ON MARTIN'S ARCHS WHICH IS NORMALLY A MOUNTAINOUS WALL OF WHITE WATER. WITHOUT DOUBT THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST DIVES WE HAVE DONE.THE AREA CONSISTS OF A LARGE ROCKY AREA WITH ARCHS OF REEF AND SOME BIG CAVES. THE DEPTH IS ABOUT 15 METRES. ONE OF THE MORE OUTSTANDING ASPECTS OF THIS DIVE IS LARGE AND DIVERSE NUMBER OF FISH TO BE SEEN HERE. A LARGE WOBBYGONG HAD MADE ITS HOME IN ONE OF THE CAVES AND BARRY RECKONS THAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN HUNGRY BECAUSE IT SIEZED HIS CRAY-CATCHING DEVICE AND IT TOOK BARRY SOME TIME TO PRY IT LOOSE FROM ITS JAWS. WE THEN STEAMED OVER TO THE INSIDE OF RADAR REEF FOR ANOTHER GOOD SHALLOW DIVE. THIS REEF CONTAINS A LOT OF OVERHANGS AND CAVES AGAIN ABUNDANT IN FISHLIFE AND CORALS.

THE DAY CONCLUDED EARLY AND EVERYONE WAS BACK IN THOMPSONS BAY BY 1PM. APPARENTLY, OUR INTREPID DIVERS WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH A WONDERFUL DAYS DIVING SO THEY SET OFF AGAIN FOR NIGHT DIVE AT BARRY'S CAVES ON KINGSTON REEF.AGAIN ANOTHER GOOD DIVE WAS REPORTED,BY THOSE WHO WENT. IT

safety: A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SAFETY OFFICER.

by Adrian.

I know a lot of people don't bother to read this magazine and others tend to skim through the lighter bits and pass over the technical stuff. I guess if you are reading this so far, then I am preaching to the converted, so, could you please help us by doing your bit for the club and keep an"eye" on those who haven't bothered to heed our message, which is;

We must maintain our standards and never relax our procedures. We must all be aware of our dive profiles (i.e. depth, times and surface intervals) if we are to continue to enjoy this great sport. As you are aware, scuba diving at the moment is not enjoying a very good press. The Navy (rightly so) is very concerned about the availability of their chamber and the'jurnos' are having a field day with the anticipation of the next "victim" and are obviously waiting eagerly for a real beauty or, dare I say it, a fatality!

The commercial training organizations are all ready to pounce on any amature body or club(such as ours) should we be singled out for unsafe diving

We are constantly striving to ensure that our new trainees recieve the correct instruction with all the up to date information and as one who has recieved training from the two major bodies certificate level, I can assure you that the current UEC training standard is equal to and in some aspects exceeds those. At present we are spending a lot more time with students in the classroom on the dive tables and our new exam includes many new problems which have to be passed before qualifying.

When I did my "internationally recognized" certificate some years ago with a professional dive shop we quickly did a couple of simple dive table problems in class and then these exact same examples appeared in our exam! However, I was keen and enthusiastic enough to follow this up with extra reading and always worked my own dives out until the tables became second nature. Every diver should be 100% sure of how to use the tables. Don't rely on your buddy, he or she might not have a clue! Also, don't leave all the calculations to the dive marshall. The workload with 16 divers is very high. Offer to assist your dive leader and earn their everlasting gratitude, in return you get to become pretty familiar with the tables.

Another very important point I would like to make is that of individual predisposing factors which contribute to decompression sickness. These include obesity, age, fitness, smoker, alcohol, drugs, female, exertion,

injury or illness and recent or previous exposure to deco. problems. The list is very long so you should read up on these factors and know your own.

The tables we use,(RNPL/BSAC), are widly used by sports divers and are in fact taught by one of Australias largest instructor organizations. We have chosen these tables because of their simplicity to read underwater and while they are fairly conservative on most profiles,do have some areas which are not perfect. Also, as in all dive tables the accuracy becomes less as depth increases and in all tables a small chance of deco. sickness can be expected when used correctly. This is why you sometimes read or hear about divers being admitted to the "pot" even though they dived within the tables. I wonder what other "factors" were involved?

Nobody in this club, especially myself, wants to see military type discipline appearing on the deck of our boat. We are all here for the fun of diving and having a good time. Anyone who has attended our social functions and long week-ends away knows how well this club can perform in that direction. So lets all strive to be just that little bit better in our diving and do it safely. There is no room any more in the club for "machos" or cowboy acts,or the diver who blatently disregards the diving marshalls instructions. Remember, the dive marshall has an enormous responsibility and if there is an accident, then they will be up there to explain why and in the extreme case (heaven forbid!) to give evidence. If all this sounds a bit melodramatic, it's meant to. Diving is a sport with a certain risk factor, but with a bit of care and knowledge can be the most beautiful sport in the world. The diver who reports back false depths and times to the log keeper is not only fooling themselves, but risks (especially at the moment) bringing the whole club into discredit for the sake of few extra minutes or an extra metre. Believe it or not, but you can actually see more underwater in 30 mins. of relaxed looking than in 45mins. of tearing around and pushing the tables. You will enjoy it also.

Finally, a reminder about the minimum equipment required by our club when on UEC dives. We require that every diver, in addition to normal gear, has a BC vest or jacket, knife and an air contents gauge even if using a J valve with pull rod. Also, each buddy pair must have an accurate depth gauge and reliable underwater watch between them. These are MINIMUM requirements. I would like to see every diver equiped with a watch and depth gauge with a maximum depth indicator (MDI). This would go a long way towards increasing our safety margins and if anyone does inadvertently

go over their depth, the dive marshall can record it and apply the correct times etc. for the second dive or rest any suspect diver. Whenever a diagnosis of a diver is made it is essential that the maximum depth reached is known. Those of us who use MDI's will soon tell you that we often are surprised by the depths recorded when we could have sworn to a lesser depth.

BOAT REPORT. Dennis Stubberfield.

"Underwater Explorer" is back in the water again spruced up and running superbly, with at least another knot to her credit. It was a great effort from all who helped, but in particular Tibi Csomay, Brian Jury, Peter Horton and Karen Lawrence put in a fantastic effort deserving special mention. Our thanks once again go to Dave Kenny for the use of his hard standing, doughty blacksmiths arm in beating our prop off and straight and his expert advice. I know many others did and would have helped more but in such a short time during the week it gave them little opportunity. Don't despair folks our more extensive winter slipping will give you plenty of chances to get in the act. We will need you then even more urgently.

Our river trip proved to be highly succesful as far as the boat was concerned in that picking up and ferrying larger than usual numbers on the river after dark caused no problem. "U.E." was joined by Dave Kenny in "Nancy D" for this event and the combination of the two boats made for a great social vennue on the Perth City waterfront.

Rottnest.

LONGWEEKEND MAY 3o-31 JUNE 1.

Several chalets have been booked in Thomsons Bay . There is room for 19 persons. The cost will be $75.00 . See Dennis if you are interested.

C. POISONING.

The habit of smoking a cigarette just prior to diving leaves an abnormally high level of CO in the divers lungs and if the dive is to be a short deep one the diver might suffer mild symptoms of CO poisoning.

HYPOTHERMIA.

Divers who sit around in wet wetsuits between dives are asking for trouble. They can be affected by wind chill. The body is extremely sensitive to changes in deep body or core temperature, a drop of as little as 1 C causes shivering and discomfort. It is better to remove wetsuits and to dry your body, change into warm clothes drink a hot high energy drink and at all costs avoid alcohol.

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U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A. INC.

Monthly Magazine

Socialites

CAR RALLY

SATURDAY 2ND MAY 10:00AM

CAUSEWAY NO 4 CAR PARK.
WE'LL SET OFF ON A TWO HOUR MYSTERY TOUR AND FINISH WITH A BBQ LUNCH IN A BEAUTIFULL SPOT.
COST: $3. PRIZES. BYO.
RING ALISON ON 446 8834

PROGESSIVE DINNER

ADVANCED NOTICE!!
23rd MAY 1987. $25
SIX COURSE MEAL
DRINKS AND TRANSPORT
LIMITED TICKETS
RING ALISON 446 8834

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jamming 8 people and their dive gear into a Land-Cruiser? Don't, especially at Elephant Rock. The trip is horrific. Again the dive was nothing to write home about and for Dennis and I the swim back from India was not that thrilling either. The beach exit and the 100 metre trudge up the the sand dunes, combined with the journey back in the Land-Cruiser really made my day!

Perhaps the highlight of the weekend came at Busselton. It was here that a group of us encountered service at a cafe that rivals that of Basil Fawlty. It appears that our crime was that we wanted a meal - strange you might say considering we were in a cafe. These people had the unmitigated gall to dictate to us what we could have to eat and then charge us an arm and a leg for the privelage. An all-out brawl nearly took place when I complained about paying $1.40 - yes, you heard right - $1.40 for a cup of tea! Denzil nearly came to an untimely end when he suggested that for that price I was entitled to keep the cup and saucer. After paying a King's ransom for our meal we were all on the road again by 4.00PM.

Well folks, that was the Augusta weekend. As I mentioned earlier the diving was lousy but I think most of us had a good time. Of course, I can't speak for John or Tim because they were suffering terrible headaches and the mere effort of talking sent them into paroxyims of pain. I am sure the diving down there is good - all we have to do is find it!

SAFETY OFFICERS REPORT.

One disturbing thing which has been brought to my attention recently concers some members making unqualified and in some cases, inaccurate remarks on the boat regarding diving practices and procedures. This is particularly dangerous when it comes from longer standing and experienced divers in front of newly trained divers.

I am of course, refering to various theories and ideas going around at present regarding precautionary deco. stops.

There is one school of thought which supposes that doing a precautionary stop (when not needed from the tables) adds to ones bottom time and thus increases the risk of D.C.S.

Please let me put the record straight, and this information is current and has been endorsed by the Senior Medical Officer at HMAS Stirling, (recompression chamber) and is the recommended procedure for sports divers.

1. If the "NO STOP" times have not been exeeded, only do precautionary stops at depth less than 9 metres, i.e. don't do stops at 10 metres or deeper as a single stop alone at 10 metres will increase your bottom time.

2. After doing a deep dive (say 18 metres or more) close to the limits of the "no-stop" times, always try to work in a stop before surfacing. A good stop is 5 mins at 5 metres.

3. Stops are only of any use if done at complete rest on a proper shot line and while neutrally buoyant.

4. Even if your bottom time is very conservative on a deep dive, take into account your own factors and amount of exertion, like hard swimming etc. and do a stop.

One other point. The RNPL/BSAC tables are quite satisfactory for our type of sport diving, however they are, like all tables, prone to inaccuracies with increasing depth and when exiding the no stop column. Also, the second dive is very broad in its time interval department and care and common sense should be exercised there too.

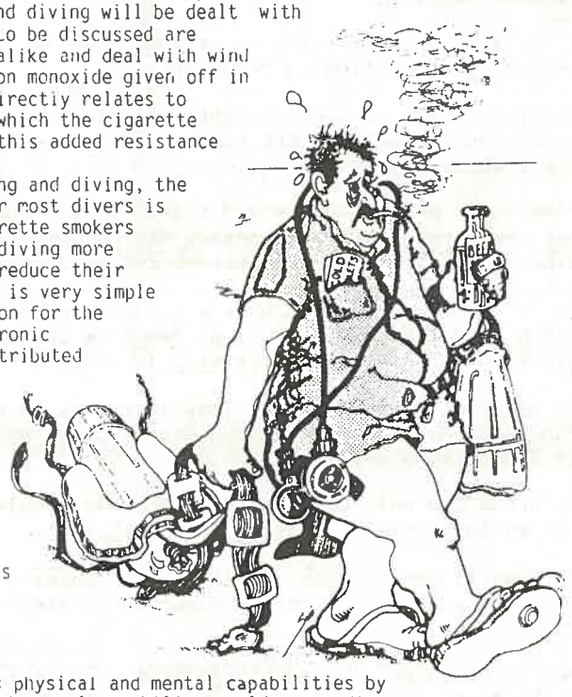
The S.M.O. at Stirling has advised me that a couple of cases of D.C.S. requiring recompression this year have been well trained divers who have dived well within the "no-stop" limits.

Female divers, especially those who are a bit on the cuddelly side, should take their times to the next deepest depth and still subtract at least 5 mins off the no-stop times.

I hope this clears the air on this one folks. Adrian.

CIGARETTES AND DIVING:
a wise combination?

"Warning: The Surgeon General has determined that cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health". This quotation is quite common, and there is nobody that disputes the validity of it. All divers realize that cigarette smoking is hazardous to one's health, but few realize that there are additional dangers for divers who smoke cigarettes because of the added effects of pressure associated with the diving environment. Three of the problems associated with cigarette smoking and diving will be dealt with in this article. The first two to be discussed are applicable to divers and nondivers alike and deal with wind capacity and the effect of the carbon monoxide given off in cigarette smoke. The final topic directly relates to divers and discusses the manner in which the cigarette smoke increases airway resistance; this added resistance can be very dangerous to divers.



When thinking about cigarette smoking and diving, the first thought that comes to mind for most divers is the reduced wind capacity that cigarette smokers experience and that this will make diving more strenuous for them and accordingly reduce their breathing efficiency. This outlook is very simple and is generally correct. The reason for the decrease in the wind capacity of chronic cigarette smokers can largely be attributed to a narrowing of the air passages, damage done to the delicate lung tissues, and the formation of carboxyhemoglobin. The second consideration deals with carboxyhemoglobin. This is formed when the carbon monoxide component of cigarette smoke binds to the hemoglobin in the blood, which in turn greatly reduces the oxygen transport ability of the cardiovascular system. The reduced level of oxygen transport caused by the carbon monoxide from a single cigarette may reduce both a diver's physical and mental capabilities by 10%. This reduction of physical and mental capability could prove disastrous should an emergency situation arise.

A more subtle problem associated with smoking is that inhalation of the smoke from a cigarette causes a two-to-threefold rise in airway resistance within seconds, which may last 10 to 30 minutes. The causative factor is not nicotine as one might expect but is instead particles that have a diameter smaller than one micrometer and that affect the sensory receptors in the airway path. This in turn causes the cilia in the respiratory tract to become non-motile for several hours and also stimulates mucus secretion. Coupling these two reactions together may result in partial or complete airway obstruction by the stationary mucus. IT IS THIS PARTIAL OR COMPLETE AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION THAT IS OF GREAT DANGER TO A DIVER. Should air become trapped in small pockets within the lungs by stationary mucus, it is readily apparent that the delicate tissues of the lungs could be damaged during a normal ascent from depth, which of course would result in an air embolism. In other words, cigarette smoking

AUGUSTA WEEKEND

Maree Casley

All the signs wre good for an excellent weekend's diving - muggy,overcast and no wind. From this point onwards things deteriorated rapidly. All 15 of us finally arrived down there at varying times during the afternoon and night. Dennis and I decided to use a "short" cut and ended up using the scenic route through the State forest in the middle of the night. Thanks to some skillful navigation on my part and a neat little drawing from a farmer we finally made it. Immediately we knew we were in the right place - the "Mario-Mobile" was seen parked right outside the local watering hole. Mario and his band of friends had just finished devouring some mighty T-bone steaks and salad. Because of the lateness of the hour Dennis and I had to content ourselves with a packet of salted peanuts!

We then all lobbed back to the caravan park(except Peter Leach who was off somewhere checking out the local scenery!) for a briefing by Richard,the local dive-shop owner, on the weekend's diving. Most of us hit the hay soon afterwards and it wasn't long before we discovered that the chalets were infested with millions of mozzies. Sleep evaded us while we evaded the carefully choreographed dive bombs of the marauding hordes. Brian Jury had double trouble - he was sharing a room with Denzil who sleeps in a cocoon of cellophane. Everytime he moved a cacophony of sound ensued.

We were all up bright and early the next morning down at the beach for the rendezvous with the boat.You know that sinking feeling you get in your stomach sometimes - I had a big one. The boat was there all right except that it was separated from us by 50 metres of water, 10 metres of rotten seaweed and a sandy embankment from the road. All credit to the skipper and his crew though. They had rigged up the dinghy to the winch on the boat and it was a simple matter of loading up the dinghy and winching it to the boat. The boat itself was much the same as U.E. in its design but that was wre any similarity between the two ceased. Suffice it to say that it was a cray boat and it certainly looked like it.

With the boat fully loaded with gear, divers and (motly) crew we headed off to a "ripper" spot 5 miles offshore near Seal Island. The weather was perfect, the diving was not. It wasn't long before the first bunch of divers were bobbing up on the surface reporting a flat bottom (I wish I had one!) and being sent off to all points of the compass by Richard in search of the elusive reef. Needless to say we didn't find it. The second dive of the day was a bit better. There was a bit of reef around, some fish to see and heaps of seaweed.

We were all back on shore in the early afternoon for a clean-up and a rest before the festivities of the evening took place. Richard and his wife Anne put on a barbie for us at the caravan park and by the time the captain,his crew, his kids and sundry women turned up there was a fair crowd.The jumbo cray that Denzil captured was also enjoyed by everyone even though it took 3 hours to cook. A few of the gang that still had some energy left wandered off to the local hall to enjoy the hospitality of the cricket club at their wind-up. The only problem was that the wind-up had wound-up when they got there and there were only 2 drunks left struggling to hold their cans to their lips. I don't think our friends stayed long.

The plan for the next day was to motor to Hamelin Bay for Richard to ferry us out to Hamelin Island for 2 dives. As luck would have it,just for a change, the weather was too rough to launch the boat. We all took off to Elephant Rock a few miles south for a shore dive. Have you ever tried

namely Tibi and Roger deserve much praise for thinking of it. Irrespective of your own personal feelings towards the idea, please try and respect it and just to make sure you do, our DO's will be keeping a close eye on you all!

There is some good news and some bad news to report on the August weekend. The bad is the diving wasn't much chop but the good is that everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. See my separate report for more.

Plans for the Anzac long weekend have now been formulated. We will have two boats going up to North Head and they will be moored in the bay for easy access. Barry's Shack is in fact a large shed, capable of sleeping heaps of people, so everyone will be comfortable. He has also assured me that the pet python that previously inhabited the shed has now moved on to greener pastures (where perhaps, a snake of the opposite sex lives). Give me a ring for more details on the weekend.

Well, that's all for this month.
Stay tuned for the another enthralling chapter - next month!

DOLPHINS

The mammalian dolphins are small, streamlined whales, usually with a well-defined beaklike snout. They are often called porpoises but that name is reserved for a similar but beakless whale of that family.

Dolphins are noted for grace, intelligence, playfulness and friendliness to man. The most widely recognised species are the common and bottlenose dolphins and are widely distributed in warm and temperate seas.

The family dephinidae contains 14 genera and about 32 species of dolphins distributed throughout the world's oceans. Most are gray, blackish or brown above and paler below. Most are about 1 to 4 metres long. The pilot and killer whales also are membersof this family but are much larger. Because of their size they are not usually thought of as dolphins. The majority of the delphinidae family feed on fish. Most of this family are gregarious, appearing in groups of a few to several hundreds.

The platanistidae or river dolphins comprise of four genera and 32 species of small mainly freshwater dolphins found in South America and Asia. They have long slender beaks, reduced eyes and poor vision.

The long snouted dolphins comprise of three genera and eight species of this little known dolphin, also with long, slender beaks. They are found in tropical rivers and oceans and are sometimes included in the family delphinidae.

The fish dolphin also called diorado is a popular food and sports fish. Famed for the rapid changes undergone by its bright blue and gold colouration as it dies, this dolphin inhabits tropical and temperate waters throughout the world. It has a large blunt head, a tapered body and a slender forked tail. The male is considerably larger than the female and may reach the length of about 1.5 metres and the weight 30 kilograms. A swift and carnivorous fish, this dolphin lives alone or in schools. It and the similar though smaller pompano dolphin are the only living members of the family coryphaenidae

could lead to lung overexpansion problems (just like holding one's breath during ascent would) even though the diver is breathing normally. Ideally, the information presented would discourage divers from smoking altogether. Realizing that this is unlikely, it is highly recommended that divers avoid smoking cigarettes for at least two hours prior to any dive.

****

North to Adventure

PRESIDENTS REPORT.

TRAINING.
There have been some changes to the S.D.F qualifications. They have now become National Qualification System. All students must now pay $8 to become an open water diver. Those of you who still have not sent photos or the $8 please do so. You will not be registered until you do. Club training will begin again in October. Students will complete the course for the summer season.

DIVE SHOPS.
We have recently encountered some problems with dive shop proprietors refusing to serve club members who haven't obtained qualifications through commercial instructors. The club intends to publish in the magazine recommended dive shops who are willing to sereve our members regardless what sort of qualifications they have. The committee is working on this at present. With well over 100 members in the club and an intake of about 30 newly trained divers each year all requireing equipment and service any dive shop proprietor who is unwilling to cooperate with our club will find himself on the loosing end of the deal.

HISTORY
In the last magazine I mentioned that John Walden was to donate some old type diving equipment to the club for display in the club rooms along with the recompression chamber. It seems that John has now changed his mind and is unwilling to part with his goodies. However the extentions to the club rooms into the storage area will still go ahead.

NORTH HEAD LONG WEEKEND.
Read Alisons report. I hope to see some of you take advantage of this oportunity for an adventurous weekend away from the hussle and bussle of the city to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of this beautifull area.

NEXT MEETING.
As you know the next G.M. falls on Tuesday after Easter and I will be away soaking up the sunshine on a deserted beach at North Head. The meeting will be chaired in my absence by Alison who you should all know is Vice President I hope we will have a good attendance for her first meeting as a chairperson?

See you soon Barry

*BARBIE, KIDS AND CRICKET**

On a day of thunder, lightning and storm warnings, our intrepid ocial leader, Alison, arrived at Point Walter expecting to sit n the car, read for awhile, and then go home. What a suprise when group of strange looking people, listening in on a "blessing" of he Swan River, turned out to be U.E.C. memders and their families. hey had been watching a group of gospel singers while waiting to e organised. All through the afternoon members arrived just 'to see if nyone else turned up'. We dive all kinds of weather so I guess we an cricket (and drink) in all kinds of weather.

After the traditional half hour selecting the site we started he cricket. Unfortunatly I can't report any great catches, bowls r sixes, but everyone landed in a heap in the middle at one stage. fter one innings someones children were hungry so the group retired o tea.

The area used for the barbie turned out to be perfect, it was heltered, had barbecues that worked and, a long table for the ine etc.. Potato salad was the flavor of the day with three varieties eing offered. Although Karen and Ron had obviously tried there as no doubt that Kennie (Mario's wife) takes of the potato salad aking title. Mary made a lovely dessert with chocolate biscuits nd cream that also proved very popular.

As the evening progressed the guys seemed to settle in to rink around the barbie, the ladies around the table.

For a day that looked so bleak it was a great turn out. verybobies children (and young adults) got on fine. It was ood to see some new members, Crawford and Dawn and, yet another ilot, Bruce Burns, come to socialise. Well done Club.

BOATING REPORT

D.STUBBERFIELD.

'he boat operated satisfactorily since slipping in Feb-uary doing 8 trips to Rottnest, 1 trip to Coventry reef . trip to Carnac and 4 training trips one of these being to Rottnest. The cooling system on the engine has been over-hauled and although still giving some minor problems has not affected the safe operation of the "Underwater Explorer"

Some two months after antifouling, the boat is due for her first bottom clean. This should be done with rags in a gentle manner with only sufficient force to remove the algae and not the paint. So expect your old matey Captain Vice Admiral Squadron Commander pip pip Bloght-Stubber field to be stamping the deck with Maree's cat of nine tails to get this chore done folks. It only takes 5 minutes and about 7 atmospheres of air to do your bit about once every four dive trips. Keel hauling is still in - for those who don't.

NOMINATIONS.

Luke Van Der Leeden 24 Rowe Ave Rivervale.
Peter Brockhoff 178 Marine Parade Cottesloe.

SOCIAL.

I hope those who turned up to "Barbie, Cricket & Kids" enjoyed themselves. We were lucky with the weather.

Car Rally next on Saturday 2nd May. Please turn up.

Places on the next Progressive Dinner an Saturday 23rd May are limited and you are not on till you cross my palm with silver. Last years was a great success so commit yourself and pay.

NORTH HEAD LONGWEEKEND.

Coming Event

25th - 27th April at Barry's Shed near Jurien Bay. Small boat dives and possibly a Crayboat Dive. It's a weekend away from everything but there is a cooker fridge toilet, some beds , B.B Q but no shower. Phone Alison on 446 8834 to book a place. For final details and to gain a map to the treasure.

DIVE REPORT

Maree Casley

For those of you who didn't know March is/was the ideal month for diving. The seas settle down and the easterlies last a lot longer during the day - no more battling with screaming south westerlies.

The conditions were perfect for exploring the west end of Rottnest and during March we had a couple of really good dives there. A new spot has been found that consists of caves upon caves which means really exciting diving. A torch is a necessity to see where you are going - real Jacques Cousteau stuff. Again, like Martin's Arches, there is a lot of fish life around, but unfortunately, not in quite the same quantity.

We also went out to the Sepia Wreck for a dive. After a lot of fooling around we finally discovered we had been on the spot all along. It transpires that the Ancient Mariner (Dennis) had taken the wrong photograph to use as a mark. Nevertheless, we all had a good dive. There are still heaps of bottles to be seen on the wreck as well as some containers of concrete that have solidified in the water. This is an interesting wreck, well worth the couple of visits a year that the Club makes.

I am sure that the divers on the 4 small boats from a rival club enjoyed the dive also. For a while there, the water looked like Hay Street Mall on a Saturday Morning!

The second dive on that day was to the wreck of the Ulidia on Stragglers Reef. There is not much to see on this wreck - even if you are lucky enough to beat the surface current to be able to descend. However, the reef to the north west of the wreck is a pretty little dive with lots of coral covered overhangs.

Probably one of the most curious aspects of last month's diving was the lack of divers. Everyone was staying away in droves and missed the best diving in the whole year. UE is still afloat, so make sure you ring me to book for dives. The best time to ring is between 7 and 7.30 am - mornings - not Weekends though!

Another point I want to bring to everyone's attention is GREEN. To be more precise, it was decided at the last General Meeting to ban the removal of ANY marine life from either Martins Arches or the caves at Geordie. The reasons for this decision are to conserve and promote marine life in these two beautiful areas, for all our divers to enjoy. If anyone takes along some bread to feed to the fish on these dives it won't be long before the fish become "tame". As far as I am aware, this is a first in Club history and our resident club conservationists

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U.E.C. NEWS

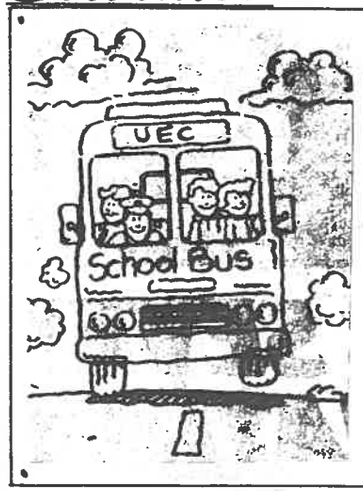
UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A. INC.

MAY 87

Monthly Magazine

MAY 87

Socialites



PROGRESSIVE DINNER - 23rd May 1987

Six course meal, drinks & transport.
Meet at the clubroom - Saturday at 6pm.
Limited tickets, so send money to
Alison at 24, Parsons Way, Innaloo 6018.
Should be a fun evening.
Possibility of staying at the clubroom
if you don't want to drive home.

Alison.

SOCIAL REPORT.

Disappointing turn out for the car rally on Saturday 2nd May did not deter those who turned up from enjoying themselves, Carolin French, Ron Phonemynt and friend won first prize. Susie and Kerry Ashton amazed us all with their monster carrot, but lost points when their live ant passed away. Thanks to everyone who turned up. I really enjoyed the B.B.Q lunch away from it all.

UNDERWATER SEX PLOT SUNK

Gold Coast detectives are hunting a scuba diving sex fiend who has assaulted 10 women in the past two weeks.

The man advertised in a local newspaper last Wednesday for diving assistants. He took female applicants to a hotel pool at Mermaid Beach where he purported to test their swimming ability.

The man told the women that an ability to massage pressure points would be necessary and proceeded to demonstrate on their bodies.

Senior Constable Conrad Martens of Southpost CIB said the man was now wanted for questioning about a number of sexual assaults.

If you have never seen the U.E.C.'s recompression chamber, come to the General Meeting on the 18th and have a look.

DIVE REPORT

Maree Casley
457 3333

I know it is hard to believe, but I am stuck for words. There is not a lot to report except that we have been doing lots of diving this last month with all the public holidays we have been blessed with.

Most of the diving has been good, although the weather on a few days wasn't too flash. During this month the boat went to two new locations at Rottnest and one new spot at Stragglers was found. I believe the deep dive located north of Roe Reef is a real ripper with a big cave area on the bottom. For the devotees amongst us of the "deep dive", Dennis has the marks and I am sure the boat will be visiting this spot again. The new spot on Stragglers is also worthy of visiting again.

Unfortunately, the boat has not been feeling very good lately and is suffering from "dehydration" i.e. loss of water somewhere. This problem has meant that our speed has to be kept down to avoid serious damage, so our arrival time back at East Street has been a bit later than usual. Please bear with us until the boat can be repaired and lend your support to Dennis when he requires assistance. Remember that the boat belongs to all of us and for us all to enjoy the benefits of using her, we all have to help keep her maintained.

As you all know, the Anzac long weekend saw a large contingent of members making their way to North Head to enjoy Barry's hospitality. Unfortunately, Dennis and I couldn't make it and from what I've heard, didn't miss much - diving that is because they didn't do any! Should have stayed in town folks at least we got wet. I will leave a report on North Head to those in a better position to comment, but from my understanding, a more appropriate name for North Head is perhaps "Sore Head!"

I have had a few expressions of interest in a trip to Ningaloo. At the moment two weeks in the middle of September is the most likely time that we will make our expedition north. Please ring me if you are interested in doing some real good diving.

Don't forget the Rottnest long weekend at the end of this month. Last year was enjoyed enormously by everyone who went and this year is shaping up the same way. Even if the diving isn't much chop the social activities that we partake in, are a joy to behold. There is only a few spots left so get hold of Dennis A.S.A.P. to book on.

No more news for this month folks. Watch out for my report on Rottnest in the June edition.

LONG WEEKEND AT ROTTNEST

Dennis Stubberfield
274 9606 W

There are still a small number of places left for the forthcoming long weekend at Rottnest on 30th and 31st May and 1st June. If you wish to have a ripper all mod. cons lap of luxury diving holiday in Thomsons Bay, just call me and have your name put on the list. I will require a $25 deposit payable at the General Meeting of 18th May to assure me of your good intentions!!!

I can promise a fun weekend whatever the weather or the swell or seas.

the next General Meeting on Monday 18th May, Janet and Albert Kramer will showing various videos of social events that have happened at the Club. I lieve they are great fun and should not be missed.

oking forward to seeing you all on the night.

ATING OFFICER'S REPORT Dennis Stubberfield

ll our beloved (to some) "Underwater Explorer" has had her ups and downs is month, but with some tender loving care, has managed to serve us without terruption, albeit a little slower than usual.

e motor cooling system is still giving some problems and a massive busy bee to be mounted on Saturday 9th May and hopefully will fix it completely and nally. On Tuesday 28th April an emergency slipping of the boat took place replace a couple of rivets in the hull near the stern as she was taking water sufficient to be a problem between our Sunday dive trips.

anks to Dave Kenny and his favourite shipwright - I say favourite because he the only shipwright I know who can tell Dave what to do and apparently get ay with it. Nevertheless I was particularly pleased to have Dave and his aff on hand to help us over a tricky spot when we needed it most.

e boat is now back on the moorings and safe once more. Many thanks also to bbi and Richard who I was able to drag away for the day - kicking and screaming help. They also fixed the toilet and cleaned her bottom as well, so you can ank them for not having to clean your 2 square feet of hull for a little while.

at's all for now folks, see you on the boat!

FETY OFFICERS REPORT Adrian Edwards 4572117

ll folks, although we have been diving steadily, our numbers have been down bit thus resulting in a fairly quiet period. Since I last reported in the gazine, no glaring safety issues have arisen which from the club's and my int of view is great.

realise that sometimes when diving away from the club that local procedures d other diving codes practices have to be followed. However the basics ouldn't alter too much and after all, the bottom line is your own safety d of course that of your buddy. Once in the water it's up to you to look ter yourself. Commonsense and awareness about what you are doing is really e keynote to safe diving so don't be embarassed to state your case and air ur fears if ever a doubtful situation, that you are not happy with should ise.

member the old diving adage - "BE THE BUDDY YOU WISH TO DIVE WITH."

K.L. For a dive weekend that had no diving I had a great dive weekend

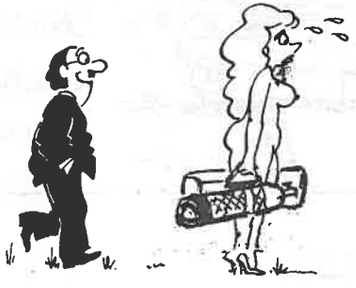
C.F. Very relaxing. The scenery was great when Barry went into the water.

N.R. We didn't even had to get into the water to get wet, it came in through the roof.

S.R. I had to run for miles along the beach and do hundreds of situps to use up all the energy I saved for diving.

R.P. It was a bit too quiet for me.

Martin Smith is seeking his fortune selling dried elephant droppings turned into jumbo-sized paperweights, doorstops and other ornaments.
No it's not what you think. Martin Smith is a London zoo keeper.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

I would like to voice my concern over the seeming lack of divers coming out on our Sunday dives. I am not trying to "drum up trade" for the U.E.C., rather am a bit worried that we may not be either offering what people want or, worse, turning divers away, inadvertently say by imposing too many rules etc. or perhaps our days are a bit too long, or do you find difficulty in booking on the boat?

S.S.

RESPECT WRECKSITES.

In the early years of wreck-diving, divers thought that whatever they found on the bottom, belonged to them. There was no real thought about the archaeologica value of the wreck and the wreck site.

Nowadays, Mr. McCarthy believes most divers have a greater respect for wrecks and wreck sites and content to explore without taking sourvenirs. Salvage ideas have changed with divers and they tend to realise the public value of wrecks.

WHAT NEXT?

A new toothbrush has been named after our boat. It is the (gum) Explorer.

them partly trained and unqualified, some still desire to "go diving".

If we must have legislation to cover our sport, let's hope it achieves the desired effect and removes some of these problems.

Margaret has a copy of this letter should you wish to view it and perhaps add your own suggestions.

NORTH HEAD LONG WEEKEND.

Thanks to Barry and Roslyn Kennedy for providing us with an exellent place for a dive weekend. What a pity the diving was not possible although some shore diving was undertaken by a few. Thanks to Peter Horton for taking his boat up there - perhaps he would need a 4 wheel drive trailer next time for the boat. Despite the poor diving all managed to have a good social weekend with walking, 4 wheel drive trips swimming and looking around shed town. Plenty of stories ports, good food and jokes around the fire at night.

North Head is approximately 20 km north of Jurien Bay where our President owns a beach shack. The following is a collecton of contributed, made up or forcefully extracted statements.about what happened;

K.A. The winds were high
The waves were long
Our friends were nigh
With a happy song.

P.H. I cannot remember.

S.A. As a diving weekend, lousy.
As a social trip , great.

A.K. I had my nose pressed against the windscreen to see where we were going,in the storm and I wasn't even driving.

Why not? Everybody will think we did anyway!

They'd come quicker if you put your bra in!

B.J. It was a turning point in my life I have decided to become a Guru. (B.J. also suggested that rubbish bags should be pulled over some of the rocks at the Pinnacles.)

T.C. It's great fun going 4 wheel driving in a storm at the dead of night but to stand around in the rain with the President for 2 hours?

B.K. We will have to do it again.

THE OCEANS INSIDE US — Diane Ackerman.

Before there was a cradle of civilization, there were the oceans. endlessly rocking. We were born in their blue fathoms right along with porpoises, damselfish, groupers and painted sea shrimp, which devour starfishes' soft bellies. So was all the rest of that kaleidoscopic marvel, life on Earth, which include such unlikely cousins as bread mold, polar bears, golden shouldered parakeets marine iguanas and human beings who share an ecosystem and watery beginnings.

Odd though it may seem, we have much in common with the iguana.We have the same genetic code. The wardrobe of our cells is identical. Our elements were forged in an early chaos of the sun. We move because carbon is a molecular wild card that bonds easily. We spend a large portion of our lives in an odd fantasia called sleep. Our earliest versions began in the oceans. Just imagine a brand-spanking-new biology. Part of the thrill of discovering life elsewhere in the universe will be how similiar it makes all life on Earth suddenly appear There are days when in an exess of modesty, I slide off the present and remember that eons ago we began as fish flopping from pond to pond until legs seemed less effort. The rest is history.

To some extent, we are here because water freezes to ice, and ice floats. Otherwise the oceans would have frozen solid and no summer would have been able to thaw them, at a time when life trying to develop or just hang on woudn't have stood a chance. Remember that in winter your roof leaks because a sheet of ice is trapping a small ocean against the shingles.

we still carry the primodial ocean within us. Our blood is mainly salt water. Ebbing and flowing, our veins mirror the tides.In a sense. we are the ocean's way of thinking about itself. When I scuba dive, a human woman with a womb in which eggs lie coded as roe, I often feel that I am returning to the womb from which I sprang. Skin is the thinnest layer between our salt water and the ocean's, our monthly tides and its. No wander we sit for hours on beach towels and deck chairs with patience powerful as thick, geen glass, and watch the wave rolling without plot or purpose, as we will be in time. We watch the gulls glide overhead like a pair of brackets and the waves run like herds of white ice between the hypnotic tantrums of the surf. Early in the twentieth century a kinky disciple of Fraud, Sandor Ferenczi, went so far as to write in Thalassa A Theory of Geniality that men made love with women only because women's wombs smelled of herring brine and they were trying to get back to the primordial sea Remember that, at the wrong moment and life as we know it will end.

What it boils down to is water - hydrogen and oxygen. Mainly it's hydrogen, the simplest atom, consisting of nothing but a nucleus and one electron- or one positive charge and one negative, if you like. The positive charge is 1800 times as massive as the negative, the electron, a mere insinuation of matter, its whereabouts iffy (somewhere within a radius of 1.15 angstroms from the nucleus, a range scientists like to depict as shadow). Who can say where the electron really travels? You watch it the way you watch a cat run behind a slat fence.

n thinking how hydrogen gave rise to everything in the universe: limestone es, sweaty and cool in summer, gladioli, ocelots, adenoids, jealousy, bombs, sars, star-nosed moles, pouting, the fetlock stars by which racehorses are ntified, video games, desire. I am thinking about the cosmos before the Bang, when the universe was all in one place and solid, a hard object in an less ether, which exploded into a prowling radiant fog of hydrogen and ium, which coalesced into stars- some hot enough in their innards to forge elements - and into planets - some cool enough to harbour life. What a long ey journey from that tough, silky ball of hydrogen to a sac of chemicals t can contemplate its oceanic origins.

ike to think how even the old-fashioned word fathom comes from an ancient man word, Fathmaz. which means the distance between two outstreched arms. whenever we use this word we are, as it were, embracing the ocean itself even when we use the word as a verb we are subconsciously paying tribute depths that we can measure as acurately as we wish but whose mysteries tinue to charm and elude us. Just the other day I discovered in a medical tbook what struck me as an amazing fact, That the ions in the muscle of heart- sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium- are the same as those sea water. I don't know why that should surprise me. After all, the heart a bivalve, too.

TTNEST LONGWEEKEND As seen by Rodger Smith 2721740

r big shock of the weekend was on our arrival at our so called "chalets" tentland. Chalets was hardly the word to describe these fibroboard tents. think Norm summed it up best when he said it reminded him of a primitive llage he had once visited in New Guinea. All that was missing was the pigs d chickens running about but I think that the seagulls and scruffy little okkas more than made up for them. As primitive as our home was to be for e next few days, we all decided to muck in and make the most of it. Good d club spirit.

e of the more memorable dives of that weekend was at a site near the west d of the island named "Martin's Arches". No folks, this is not a foot mplaint, it is actually named after one of our members. It is a huge cavern about 15 metres of water full of the most colourful marine life. Nearby found a large wobbegong under a rock ledge. Karen Pollock soon convinced me was quite harmless by almost putting her head in its rather toothy jaws. other discovery I made this fine weekend was how to get to really know your llow divers. Try sleeping with them! Now before you all start rushing in th your deposits for the next long weekend or throwing your keys into the ntre at the next club meeting, I don't mean it that way at all. Just try aring a small chalet with some of them for a weekend. Why is it that such parently nice people turn into such monsters at night. One of our nicest ub members who chose to sleep next to me, spent all night trying to impsonate a chainsaw with his snoring. Another rather meek female must be a mpire the way she acted when I returned a little late and turned the light . The abuse was dreadful and the threats to tear out my throat if I didn't rn it off really convinced me that this normally cheerful lady was one of acula's daughters. The other petite female not just content to talk in her eep, had to sit upright and yell the place down, scaring the hell out of eryone and leaving all wide awake while she slept on and then denying it all e next morning.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Barry Kennedy 4536927

MORE ADVENTURE: The Underwater Explorer's Club has once again shown its initiative (thanks to Tibi) and has been accepted as the official in water rescue team for the Avon Descent White Water Race.

Ten club divers will attend this year's race. Working in buddy pairs, each pair will cover a pre-determined section of the river and working in conjunction with the Westrail rescue teams will be required to perform any in water rescue that may become necessary. Under the leadership of Tibi, five divers have so far been selected, each will now choose a buddy of his choice. If you are interested in playing a part in this adventure, contact Tibi or myself.

you know, this is a two day race and involves an overnight stop. However, ould you volunteer and are accepted, be prepared for some rough overnight accommodation. All divers participating will be covered by a "Workers Compo" type of insurance which will cover any injury suffered during the event. Rescue divers will be supplied with meals only. Accommodation and transport will be up to ourselves to arrange.

NORTH HEAD: This turned out to be a good weekend away. Although weather conditions prevented us from diving, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. All were able to locate and negotiate the track into North Head, although heavy rain on Friday night produced some rather deep puddles along the way.

The atmosphere at North Head dictates that people will relax and enjoy themselves. I had expected everyone to do so and I wasn't disappointed. People were letting their hair down in droves. Some of our quiet and respectable members drank themselves legless. I won't mention who.

The weekend was taken up by exploring around the headland, walking along the beaches, one aborted diving attempt, skinny dipping in the bay, bbquing, sitting around the camp fire, singing songs and telling the odd joke or two and of course constantly filling up the dunny tank. I hope we can do this again soon.

LEGISLATION: Recently the Club received a letter from S.P.U.M.S. regarding proposed legislation to cover sports SCUBA diving.

It was written by a prominent doctor who asked for suggestions from interested rties and suggestedsome thoughts of his own. One of these was an excellent ggestion to separate completely the training bodies and the retail traders. I believe this would go a long way in improving the standard of diver training. It would certainly reduce the risk of trainees being pushed through a course simply to increase sales of SCUBA equipment. If in fact there is some way of reducing the commercial influence over sports diving this, in my opinion would almost certainly lead to improved training standards.

There is a need to remove greed as the prime motive for training sports divers and replace it with a desire to produce competent and safety conscious divers, as now happens with club training. I'm not suggesting that commercial instructo are incompetent or careless, just that the high degree of competition among these people and the need to make a profit, produces a high risk of short cuts in SCUBA training and "production line" type training techniques where each student receives the very minimum of attention with the possibility of border line students either pushed to complete the course or unfairly dropped out. Leaving

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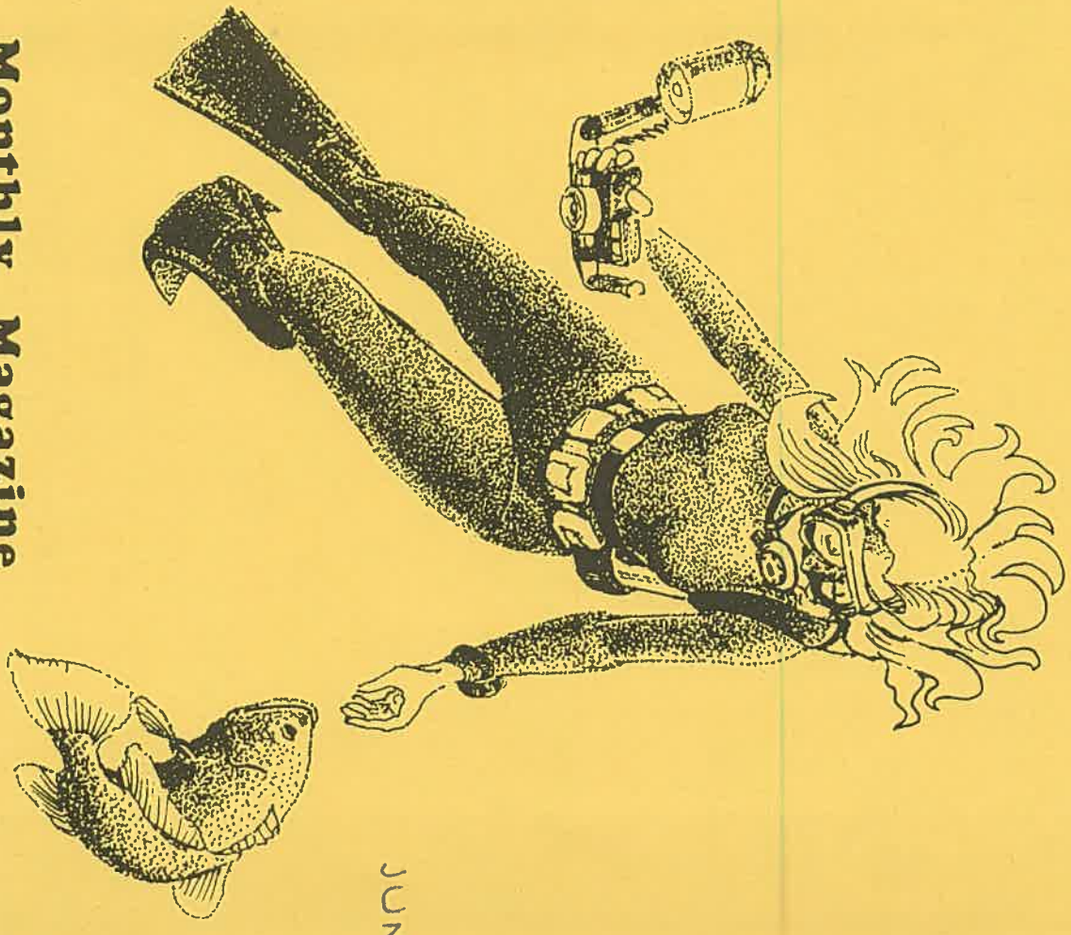
JUNE 87



Monthly Magazine

JUNE

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

The recent Progressive Dinner has emerged in the Club as the social event of the year. In other words it was a real hoot! The evening started out at the clubrooms where the Community Aid Abroad bus was waiting for us. After loading up the bus with the "travelling bar" we were off to Suzie and Kerry Ashton's place for our delicious first course of prawns and assorted nibblies. It was on the way to the Ashton's residence when Kerry produced a very strange receptacle for wine. It looked like something vaguely rude but it looked a lot ruder when people attempted to drink from it. Have a look at the photos in the clubrooms for proof.

The next course was entree at Janet and Albert Kramers. The journey there got louder as the refreshments in the bar began to get attacked by our band of gourmands. The entree, pasta and Italian salad was exceptional and got us all in the mood for the yummy soups that Deidre Smith had prepared.

I wonder what the neighbours thought when they spotted a large group of people tramping around their front yard carrying extra chairs? It was during the soup course that most of the men were found huddled around the T.V. What could have been so rivetting on the telly to keep our red blooded men away from our lovely ladies? Could it have been, perhaps, a movie of the (light) blue variety?

It was during the trip back to the clubrooms for the main course that the noise and merry making increased in direct proportion to the decrease of refreshments in the bar. The people in the back of the bus were seen playing "football" with the bladder from a wine cask while the less rowdy people sang dirty ditties "quietly" amongst themselves.

The roast meal at the clubrooms was nothing short of superb. The room was decorated with candles, flowers on the tables and red tablecloths that lent a certain air of romance and elegance to the evening. The stereo that Lyn Jones had donated to the club had its first workout playing Bolero and a few other background albums.

After the social committee ladies had whizzed around and tidied up the room, we were off for the last course, a veritable smorgasboard of desserts at Karen Beard and Norm Richard's place. Karen had done a magnificent job preparing sumptuous sweets to go with our port and coffee. By this time most of us had had elegant sufficiency, but we managed to squeeze the last little bit in. It was here that Adrian was seen on numerous occasions trying vainly to keep the wall from falling over (or so it seems). It may have been that the wall was trying to keep Adrian from falling over!

At about 1a.m. it was onto the bus again for the short trip back to the clubrooms where the party kicked on for a while longer. Sue Churack must have been suffering from insomnia because at 2a.m. she was all set to go to the Casino. I am not certain if she got any takers but the last time I saw the diners they didn't look much like gamblers. Everyone agreed however, that it was an excellent night, so watch the calendar for the next dinner.

There are about 20,000 species of fish, only 300 of which are sharks.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy 4536927

The recent spate of diving accidents requiring treatment in the recompression chamber is the reason given for the Government to look into sports diving with a view to bringing in legislation to control divers. If we consider and compare diving accidents with accidents in other sports and recreational activities, (a recent newspaper article stated that private boating accidents over the past five years resulted in an average of twenty deaths per year. It did not mention the number of injuries) it soon becomes apparent that the number and seriousness of diving injuries are not as disasterous as we are led to believe. Three divers who I know personally, recently underwent recompression treatment for unrelated incidents. All had dived within the no decompression limits of our tables, all are qualified divers with an excellent knowledge of sport diving procedures. One diver suffered a mild subcutanous decompression problem known the "itches". The other two were treated as a precautionary measure for mild pains in the limbs which continued after treatment and leads me to believe that they didn't actually have decompression sickness to start with.

Although I agree with the treatment (just in case) I wonder how many other cases were similar to these and how many otheres were not sports divers (abalone or pearl divers) and how much the intense publicity about decompression sickness and the intense awareness of this problem by sports divers has played a part in the increased number of sports divers being treated for suspected decompression sickness. Nowadays whenever a diver feels some pain or discomfort, he or she is inclined to suspect decompression sickness and consult a doctor. In the past most minor pains were dismissed as sprains, strains or some other unrelated problem.

However, regardless of whether it is warranted or not, we are now faced with the prospect of legislation to control our sport. Some of the recent developments to come as a result of this are as follows:

Three of the most prominant organisations of professional diving instructors and retail traders have recently formed a cartel, calling themselves Australian Scuba Council. They have proceeded to formulate a scheme which if it should succeeed would give them complete control over sports diving including training, supply and sales of Scuba equipment. By excluding all otheres they would then have the monopoly that they are seeking.

What is considered by us as a recreational sport is seen by these people as an industry with the potential for high incomes if they are able to influence our government into passing legislation which would give them control of our sport. Should this happen, clubs like ours would become a thing of the past. By restricting the importation of diving equipment, particularly scuba cylinders and with the resultant increase in prices, it would become impractical for all but the richest of divers to own their own gear. We would then be at the mercy of the retail traders.

It would become necessary for divers to hire from dive shops which would have no competition. Hire rates would rise as high as the market could stand. Our recreational sport would become a huge hire business. As unpallatable as this situation would be to most sports divers, these people in order to further their business interests, will persist until they have their way, unless we resist and oppose this type of "master plan"

Let me warn you, should they succeeed, it would be the biggest backward step in the history of our sport. Don't let it happen.

The Government of Western Australia has formed a committee to advise on the preparation of legislation to control sports divers and diving in Western Australia. This committee will be sitting in the very near future. I feel that this is a very important issue which should be given very serious consideration by all sports divers. Our club intends to submit its own ideas and suggestions through the representative of the Scuba Divers Federation and also through the Australia Medical Association representative who also happens to be a member of the S.P.U.M.S. organisation. Any club member or other interested person who would like to voice an opinion, is invited to do so by writing to or phoning Adrian Edwards, Safety Officer of the U.E.C. on 457 2117. Adrian will be collecting submissions for our club to consider. The guidelines for the committee are:

1. The preparation of appropriate legislation to control diving in W.A.
2. The formation of an educational campaign.
3. To assess the current level of insurance for divers.
4. To make recommendations on costs and the use of the recompression chamber at H.M.A.S. Stirling.
5. To examine the needs for appropriate medical examination of current and prospective divers.
6. To make any further recommendations relevent to the sport of Scuba diving in W.A.

See you at the next meeting.

MEDIA WATCH

J. Smith reported in 1833: In Aix a sea port in France in the Mediterranean Sea a shark was taken by fishermen, 22 feet long which had in its stomach, among other undigested remains, the headless body of a man encased in complete armour.

YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW.

Searching through old club records, I found that in 1968 one of the club members Bill Marshal wanted to find out what was in the bottles found in the Sepia wreck. He found some initials on a metal cap and cork.

Deciphering it, he got the name of Robert Porter and Co.of Kings Cross, London. He sent the cap and cork to London and received the following reply:

Many thanks for your letter of the 23rd April and we were indeed interested to learn that you have recovered a bottle from the wreck of a vessel sunk in 1898 which appears to have been produced by this company.

The only products we were exporting to Australia and the Far East at that time was Bass Ale or Guinness Stout and the liquid content in your recovered bottle would be one of these two products. P.J. Furnell, Man. Director.

don't forget

SOCIALITES

The next item on the social calendar is a Film Night. The evening has been changed from 12th June to Friday 26th June to enable us to find some really good flicks to watch.

The plan is to obtain a big swag of short movies from the State Film Library and show them in the airconditioned comfort of the clubrooms. Of course refreshments from the bar and piping hot popcorn and hotdogs will be available so don't have too much to eat for tea.

Films to be shown will include dolphins, corals, Jacques Cousteau and whales so turn up about 7.30p.m. with the family for a cheap entertaining evening.

At a glance

The only light emitting shark is the Isistius brasiliensis which grows to about 20 inches. The entire surface of the body and head emit a vivid greenish phosphorescent gleam giving it a ghastly and terrific appearance.

DIVING REPORT

Maree Casley 4573333

Apart from the Rottnest long weekend not much out of the ordinary has occurred during the past month on the diving scene. Everything has been going smoothly and now that the boat is back into top gear, the days should be shorter. On the question of short dive trips, it was decided at the last Dive Officers meeting to experiment a bit with short trips. If you think you would like to do some quite short dive trips watch out for them in the forthcoming calendar. As far as possible we will try to satisfy everyone but if it doesn't work, we will revert to the present system of full day trips.

We also had the idea that if some members with families want to, they are welcome to use the boat at any time (when it is not already being used) for trips to perhaps Carnac for family outings. The current rules for use of the boat would apply but ring me if you are interested. Also, don't forget that mid week diving can be arranged.

During the past 6 months problems have emerged in respect to night dives. Inevitably, the nights advertised in the calendar for night dives turn out lousy, so in future night dives will be organised on a more casual basis. What has been suggested is that if the weather forecast looks good and you want to do a night dive, give me a ring and I will try and organise it. Again, this will be an experiment so for the next 6 months we will give it a go to see if it works out.

The club is now the proud owner of a telephone answering machine so there need now be no problems associated with trying to book on for dives. I know that most of you dislike talking to "machines" as much as I do, but I promise not to laugh at you if you promise not to laugh at me! As far as possible I will keep you up to date about planned dives, cancellations due to bad weather and possibly up and coming social events - so keep those phone calls coming.

4. Do you think that shops who sell diving gear should also issue diving tickets?
5. Would you like to see one Australia wide sport qualification?
6. Why pick on diving when there is so much more time and expense associated with boating accidents, (a lot of them fatal)?
7. What are your thoughts on diving medicals and diving doctors?
8. Would you like to have to pay an extra loading on your insurance premium just because you are a diver?
9. What about sighting of qualification cards and retesting every few years if not current or haven't dived for some time?

Please help us help you. We urgently need your material, as we only have less than a month to prepair a formal document.

Thanks in anticipatation .....Adrian.

SUBMISSIONS from interested groups and individuals are being invited by the Underwater Diving Task Force investigating dive safety in WA.

The task force, which had its first meeting late last month, has been set up by the WA Government to plan action which can be implemented to reduce the number of diving accidents.

The task force has been given wide ranging terms of reference. It will prepare appropriate legislation if necessary and will also formulate a water safety campaign relating in particular to diving, to be implemented next summer.

At the same time, the task force will examine insurance levels for divers and it will make recommendations for appropriate medical examinations.

Another area to be investigated is the possibility of charging for the use of the Navy's recompression chamber at HMAS Stirling.

In addition, the task force can make recommendations for action on any other issues in underwater diving.

Written or verbal submissions can be made to the task force and they must be received before July 6.

Written submissions should be sent to: The Executive Officer, Underwater Diving Task Force, PO Box 66, Wembley 6014. For more information the Task Force's executive officer, Simon Leunig can be contacted at the Department of Sport and Recreation, telephone number 387 9700.

We have to look on the bright side — with any luck we could be here for weeks'

In a shark caught in the Adriatic they found a raincoat, three overcoats and a car's licence plate.

Other things found in sharks around the world were:

three bottles of beer,
a handbag containing 3 shillings,
a fully grown dog,
a tomcat,
six hens and a rooster,
a nearly whole rheindeer.

Nominations:

Patrick Troy,
35 Chapman Street, East Perth,

Take my advice :

No diver should operate beyond the reach of immediate effective assistance!

Adventure

ROTTNEST LONG WEEKEND

Maree Casley 457 3333

All the signs were promising for another really good weekend at Rotto and the hardy crew of 18 on "U.E." and 3 on "Amajaz" were not to be disappointed. Apparently the trip over was incident free - I wouldn't know, I was enjoying the luxury of Bruce Burns boat "Amajaz". It took me all of about 2½ minutes to get accustomed to it and I am certain thatthe club could negotiate a good deal with Bruce to swap boats. "Amajaz" is too much boat for just one family Bruce, so how about giving it some thought?

It didn't take long for everyone to sort themselves out once they arrived at the island and the only thing to decide was where to dive. With the weather conditions as they were, it was decided to dive at the West End. On Barry's advice, we slipped into a bay near the wreck and all of us enjoyed a superb dive. This spot turned out to be really good with lots of caves inhabited by lots of very small crayfish and some huge rays. On this basis we decided to name the spot "Stingray Bay".

The highlight of the day however was not the diving perhaps, but the spectacle of watching a large group of dolphins body surfing on the waves coming in and exiting from the waves as they broke. It was a fantastic sight which everyone enjoyed.

That evening a few of our group braved the cold to go on a night dive at the Geordie Bay caves. Between bouts of uncontrolled shivering, your reporter learnt that everyone enjoyed the dive. The euphoria of the day's activities and the evening's socialising quickly disappeared at about 10p.m. when it was discovered that Adrian's, Peter's and Dennis' dive bags had been stolen. At about that time all hell broke loose and a large contingent of angry club members started searching the island for the culprits. Thanks to Richard, most of the gear was found on the beach that night and Dennis recovered the rest of it the following morning. As well as leaving a very sour taste in our mouths, the episode taught us all to be a lot less trusting of our fellow holiday-makers.

Perhaps I should point out at this moment that not everyone went diving. We had amongst our number some "Island Explorers" in the form of Ron, Tibi and Alison who went trekking about the island on a discovery tour. It was on the first of these expeditions that Tibi and Alison encountered a snake (according to Alison it was a gigantic viper). Tibi assures me that the sight of Alison screaming her lungs out nearly frightened the creature to death! During the course of the weekend our little band of historians were often spied tagging along on hysterical - sorry historical tours.

The next day saw a casual and relaxed approach to diving - the first boat load of divers leaving for Roe Reef for a ripper dive at about 10a.m. and the second lot jumping in the water about 2p.m. A wonderfully relaxing lazy day of diving was complimented that evening by an equally wonderful roast meal before a roaring open fire. Barry, Karen, Roger and Norm kept the party alive for the rest of the evening with a host of good and not so good jokes. A small hint for Roger though - how about a better joke book next time?

Monday followed in much the same vein. Some people lazing about the island and the rest off diving at Daydream Rock and Porcillipora Reef. By all reports both dives were enjoyed by all. The weekend quickly drew to a close after the chalets were cleaned and the boat loaded up for the journey home. The trip

BOAT REPORT D. Stubberfield

Once again our beautiful "Underwater Explorer" has given us good service over the past month with cooling system working properly and log cable repaired and more conveniently repositioned, so that it does not take up space up front. The automatic bilge pump has been connected and tested so she will not sink at the moorings if an accident should happen and she takes in water. She will ride with all the red chine protection strip and a bit more out of the water bow and stern and just that strip of red showing amidships, so if you are passing and can't see any red showing, she's too low in the water - please ring me immediately and I will then instantly panic. No, no, that's a keel hauling offence, you panic and I'll get somebody down there to save her.

While on the subject of keels, she's got a dirty bottom again, so folks it's back to your 2 square foot per diver, per week of cleaning. Remember keep her clean and treat her with pride and she'll serve you well.

I must also say a word about our deck handling abilities too this month, as I've noticed our skippers not only fighting wind, tide and current, but somewhat inept or perhaps unthinking seamanship. When you are on the boat please think about what is going on, lend a hand where possible. Remember she's your boat too and you are all deckhands, so don't let her pump things, if you can possibly help. Get someone to show you some basic knots and keep in practice, they'll be useful in other places as well. One final point. The bollards we tie up on at the East Street wharf are in pairs and specifically designed for quick tieing up and casting off. Therefore when using them don't put ties, under tucks or hitches around them. A quick figure of eight, lay off the mooring lines is all that is necessary. This saves much valuable time and effort tieing up and casting of.

Cheers folks.

* ROTTNESTN LONGWEEKEND. Cont.

home was idyllic with the seas relatively calm and the sunset over the island at our stern. Even the seagulls enjoyed it. They spent the whole trip pigging out on our left over cheese and bikkies that were fed to them by Norm and Adrian.

We finally pulled alongside East Street jetty about 6p.m. after a thoroughly enjoyable weekend with most of the group queuing up to sign on for the next weekend away. Watch out for more news about the September long weekend at Rotto.

Become a Regular Contributor

From the Editor

Typed contributions to the magazine can be sent to The Editor, T. Csomay, 47 Lewin Way, Scarborough. 6019

Handwritten articles should be sent to D. Smith, 38 Galaxy Street, Beckenham. 6107

FROM YOUR SAFETY OFFICER. Adrian Edwards 457 2117.

Hi, Folks. What a great longweekend. Just the right mix of diving, socializing and weather AND everybody home safe on Monday. Special thanks to all of you who made the diving incident free.

Now onto a matter which concerns us all as divers. You may or may not be aware that the W.A. Government has now set up a body to study sport diving safety in this state and if necessary implement legislation and changes as they (Govt) see fit.

Briefly, for those of you who don't know. last summer saw (according to statisticts) an increase in the number of divers admitted to HMAS Stirling's recompression chamber, for treatment of diving related ailments. The press went wild and some commercial bodies saw it as an excuse to put their oar in and press for more control, while openly malign amature diving clubs.

As club divers we should be very much aware of what is happening, because if we just sit by and do nothing then we will have to live with any regulations and restrictions that may be imposed upon us.

Your committee is very keen to get the UEC. involved by means of our own submissions and through our affiliated body, the S.D.F. of Australia and other clubs we pose quite a degree of clout, as our safety record is as good as, if not better than any other diving (or sporting) body in this state.

WE DO NOT INTEND TO SIT IDLY BY AND LET THE COMMERCIAL DIVE SHOPS DICTATE TO US AS TO HOW WE SHOULD CONDUCT OUR OPERATIONS, VIA THE GOVERNMENT.

Your committee and myself as safety officer, are prepaired to do the work in prepairing a submission however,

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

If any of you have any ideas or anything to say on this subject, (no matter how trivial or obvious) please jot it down and post it to me.
ADRIAN EDWARDS 7 VERBINA ROAD. WILLETON. WA. 6155, or phone me anytime 4572117.

Have your say as a club member, no names will be used of course and all ideas will be considered. We just want to get all your thoughts together so we can present a UEC submission.

Some of the points that have been raised so far, (just to give you some guidelines) are;

1. What do you think of our training?
2. What is the breakdown of diver qualifications of those who have been treated at Stirling?
3. If you obeyed all the rules and got bent, would you like to be charged many hundreds or thousands of dollars for your recompression?

U.E.C NEWS
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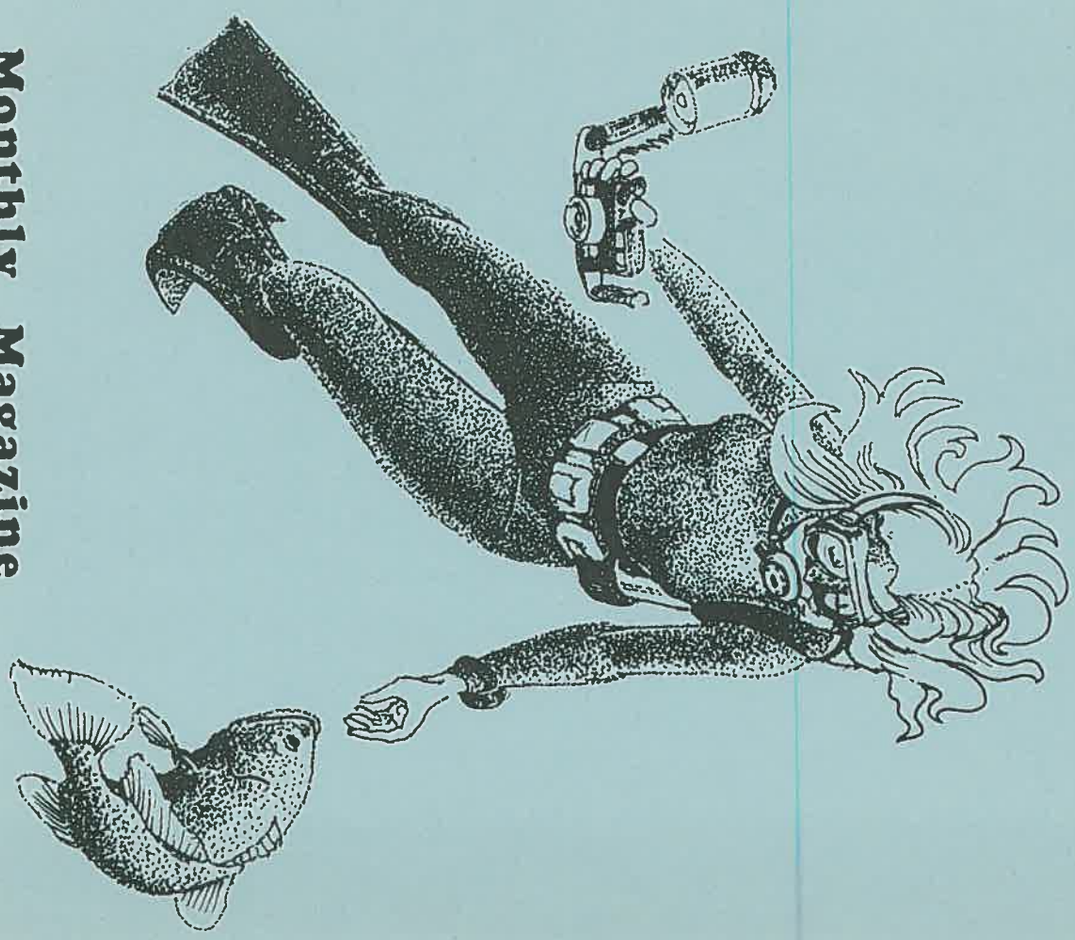
U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A. INC.

July 87



Monthly Magazine

Socialites

NOTICE.

The last rescue practice for the Avon Descent will be held at Bells Rapids, Brigadoon on the 18th July starting at 10.00 a.m. After the practice a barbecue will be held to which all U.E.C. members and friends are invited. It is BYO, that is bring your own food and drinks, we provide the scenery and the fire.

(ring Tibi 341 3001).

THE CHALET HEALY

This is advanced notice (so you can all save up) for FRIDAY 21ST AUGUST. A bus trip to the hills followed by beer, wine, softdrink, 3 course meal (with choices), party hats, streamers, a sing-a-long, dancing and a bus trip back to the club. Cost is $32.50 per person. Please see Karen or Maree at the club meeting or ring Maree on 457 3333 to book a ticket.

BOAT REPORT

Dennis Stubberfield

There has been little activity on the boat this month except for a few minor repairs, replacement of the anode and removal of an almost complete seagull nest from the foredeck. But all that will change because once again we come to that timeof the season when mountainous swells, rough seas, roaring winds and freezing waters - sounds like hell out there, doesn't it - bring our diving to a shuddering halt. Well nearly. So! you think, to sit at home snug and warm. "Not on your Nelly" - Vice-Admiral Bligh-Stubby will prick that little bubble - it's boat painting time me hearties!!!?

Think of it; the smell of tar, pipe tobacco, linseed oil, hemp and chain, (and dirty oil, smelly bilges, rancid grease, paint fumes and burnt electrical insulation) and fresh paint awaits you at the slipping pens.

What glorious tales of heroic seafaring to be swapped to the busy clatter of industrious club members painting and scraping happily. What comradeship to enjoy after the long days labour. (If you fall for that you'll go far anything). It's dull, rainy, smelly and there's grumbling and squalid smutty stories to bicker and argue about over a pot of freezing beer as you sit sodden after 3 hours work. BUT there are those that get a perverse pleasure from it and a sense of pride in maintaining THEIR BOAT. She is yours and we need your help.

She will be slipped at Royal Perth Yacht Club thanks be to our long suffering and patient Dave Kenny, who has to put up with enjoying all that lot referred to above. Dates to be advised, so I'll be in touch folks - don't leave town. .S. She's got a dirty bottom too, so be warned divers - 2 square feet of barnacles each!

AVON DESCENT

This year is the 15th successive year of the Avon Descent. But it is the first year that the Underwater Explorers Club will take part assisting the Westrail Rescue Teams.

The Avon Descent attracts the largest spectator audience for any single W.A. sporting event, television and newspaper coverage goes Australia wide. Our club will receive fabourable publicity and possible new members from it. Already the rescue training at Brigadoon was featured on Channel 9 news and in the Avon Descent race book the history of the club was published. The article is reprinted below.

The Underwater Explorers' Club of W.A. Incorporated, is an independent organisation of recreational SCUBA Divers, dedicated to preservation and exploration of our marine environment and pioneering of underwater activities.

Many of their more experienced divers have played an active part in marine archeology and some have helped the W.A. museum in surveying wrecks.

Their assistance to the Avon Descent Rescue organisation with five teams of two divers is in keeping with the aims of the Club, and is enthusiastically supported by members who gain new experience and knowledge from it.

The U.E.C. was founded in 1954, by ex Navy divers and in those days was responsible for pioneering recreational and some commercial diver training. In fact the original police diving team was trained by U.E.C.

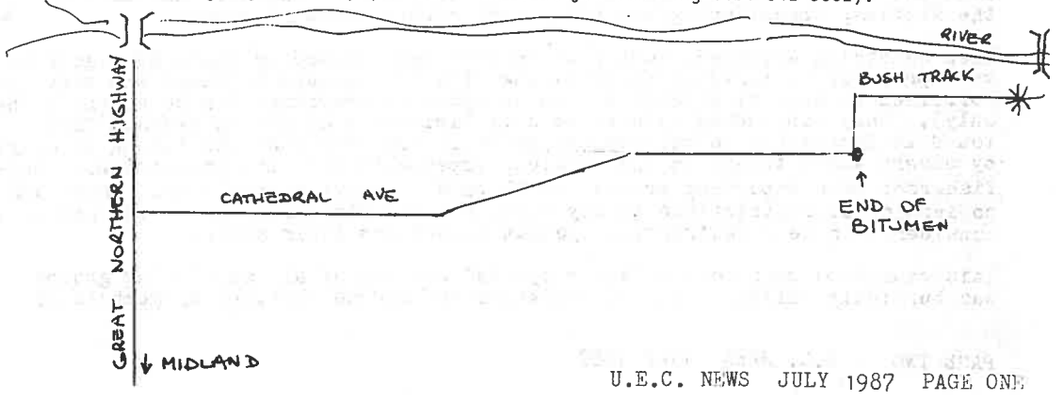
The Club has its own dive boat, the 10 metre crayboat "Underwater Explorer", premises Unit 22 Shields Crescent, Booragoon W.A. 6154, and a training base at Woodmans Point in Cockburn Sound.

The Club may be contacted through its Secretary Margaret Langson on 361 08 42.

NOTICE.

The last rescue practice for the Avon Descent will be held at Bells Rapids, Brigadoon on the 18th July starting at 10.00 a.m. After the practice a barbecue will be held to which all U.E.C. members and friends are invited. It is BYO, that is bring your own food and drinks, we provide the scenery and the fire.

This sketch will get you there, (if still in doubt you can ring Tibi 341 3001).



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy

HISTORY

The 1950's saw the beginning of our sport in this state. Skindiving was a popular sport. Clubs were formed and membership began to grow. However, in those days spearfishing was the main activity of skindivers.

Now spearfishing as it was, had to be seen to be believed. This was at best an horrendous sport which consisted of divers spearing fish for competition points in order to win prizes and trophies. The more fish and the bigger they were the more points gained. Competitions were very popular and were organised all over the country. Sadly though, after the fish were counted and weighed in, they were often left to rot on the beaches.

These were the days of the macho diver. Divers developed amazing skills in breath hold dives, diving to depths of thirty metres or more, sometimes for period of up to two minutes. Divers would undertake long endurance swims from Fremantle to Rottnest, Woodman Point to Garden Island. They were competitive and adventureous, real hairy chested he men.

In 1951 the Underwater Spearfishermen's Association (U.S.F.A.) was formed. They later changed their name to the Underwater Skindivers and Spearfishing Association and kept the same initials (U.S.F.A.). They became the state body for spearfishing competitions, until this role was taken over by the Council of Underwater Activities (C.U.A.). In 1954 the Underwater Explorers Club was formed. In the years to follow many clubs were formed. Some of them were: The W.A. Undersea Club (W.A.U.C.), The Fremantle Intrepid Seahunteres (F.I.S.H.) of which my eldest brother was a member. Five Fathom Club (F.F.C.), Western Command Frogman (W.C.F.), later to become The Western Command Skindiving Club (W.C.S.C.), Carnarvon Undersea Club, Neptune Submarines, Black Octopus Club, W.A. Postal Sub-Aqua Club, Blue Water Wanderers, Cockburn Cobblers, Mundijong Mudhoppers, The Mermaids, The West Coast Explorers, White Water Wanderers, Great Southern Spearo's, Y. Divers, Great Southern Undersea Club, Central Midlands, Undersea Searchers.

The U.E.C. was a leading club having made the transition from skindiving, spearfishing to S.C.U.B.A diving, research and discovery of historical wrecks and of course the training of S.C.U.B.A. divers. The U.E.C. was for many years the only qualifying body in the state. All S.C.U.B.A. divers were trained by the U.E.C. including police divers and commercial divers, but old habits die hard and most club members still enjoyed their sport of spearing fish and in those days spearing crayfish was quite acceptable and so well i the sixties, spearfishing was still very popular amongst divers.

Then something happened. Our club members were amazed to learn of a government proposal to restrict spearfishing with bans around Rottnest and they were horrified to hear of a complete ban on spearing crayfish, (to be caught by hand only). They considered this to be a victimisation of diving clubs. They found it impossible to believe anyone could consider that the taking of crays by divers was a threat to the species, especially when the professional crayfishermen were exporting around 12,000 tons of crayfish per year. There was no mention of restrictions to any other amateur fishermen, so it was generally considered to be a restriction against divers and their sport.

This caused so much conern that a special meeting of all skindiving groups was hurriedly called. This was spearheaded (excuse the pun) by members of

THEY SAID IT.

I am bloody disgusted and annoyed at the general attitute of many members. This magazine is yours and a journal of diving. For months now I have been asking and pushing for material to no avail....
Dennis Parker in May 1970. (Nothing has changed Dennis, it is just as hard to get articles now. This month all I received were two and a half pages. The rest (5½) I can dream up, which is getting harder and harder.

I wish someone had pushed me overboard .... Stacy on the last fishing trip.

Many divers have been observed in shallow breading areas within 200 m. of shore, using Scuba gear and spears to plunder crays....
R. Watson in the West Australian June 30 complaining about the lack of crayfish at Rottnest.

It's going to be a mint day for fishing .... Martin. 3.30am. Saturday June 27.

Things talked about most, exist least .... Tibi.

CONSTITUTIONAL UPDATE.

Our tired and battered constitution has been revised and up dated for the Committee and will be presented for discussion at the August General Meeting.

Copies of the draft may be obtained by contacting Margaret Langson 361 0842.

FEES.

Fees are due in November and must be paid before voting at the Annual General Meeting on the 16 November 1987.

HOW FIT ARE YOU?

90% of club member do not dive in winter, but as soon as fine weather and summer comes along they turn up ready to dive.
Ask yourself before you do. "Am I fit?"
If the answer is "No" do something about it
before you resume diving.

Become a Regular Contributor

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

FOR SALE

Nikonos IV a, Underwater camera + case. Near new, $600 O.N.O. Phone 381 3829 or 307 3775 (home)

NOTICE OF MOTION

That all life members be given all routine diving at no cost as part of their Life membership.

NEWS.

Good news for UEC members in the Northern Suburbs. At last something is happening in our neck of the woods. (Ed).

Here is a chance to be involved in an area uniquely ours, the Marmion Marine Park. I am organising a group of volunteers, (so far I have 10) to participate in a survey of the park, which will be in conjunction with the Conservation and Land Management. (CALM).

The program for the survey has yet to be finalised however it will commence about spring. (Sept. Oct.). I do have to indicate to CALM the resources we are offering to finalise the programme.
Please contact me: Kerry Ashton 331 2385 (Pref. B/H).

BE WARNED A BOAT COULD KILL.

A boat can become a lethal weapon in the hands of an inexperienced or irresponsible driver.

BAN ON SPEARS.

Hand spears, gidges and spear guns have been banned on Stirling City Council beaches.

The declaration of the Marmion Marine Park prohibited the use of such equipment from Trigg Point to Burns Rocks and at the last council meeting it was decided to extend the ban to all beaches.

REEF REFUSED.

Stirling City Council refused to consider a proposal to develop artificial reefs off its coast. The council expressed concern that the reefs would not create surf but only damage the coast. It was decided to shelve the proposal. The request for artificial reefs made of tyres chanined together was put forward by the West Australian Surf Riders Association.

NOTICE OF MOTION

The Club should adopt a dive site off the Mainland shore for preservation and taiming of fish. Dennis Robinson.

NOMINATION: Timothy G. Carswell, 53 Bournmouth Crescent, Wembley Downs.

Don't miss out!

ROTTNEST

Remember Rottnest 1986/87? Well it's on again in September 1987/88 - come out of hibernation and soak up the sun in Geordie Bay. Get in early as it's nearly book out already. Deposits will be required at the August meeting - $25 each. Please 'phone Maree our Diving Officer or myself, Dennis, to secure your berth.

The hand pump displayed at the club was used by divers in 1907.

The first U.E.C. News was issued in August 1961.

the U.E.C., a committee was formed and delegates from the various clubs were chosen to approach the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna. They were up in arms and confident that they could prevent such laws being passed. Not realising the government's concern for employment and export earnings of the crayfishing industry, they were subsequently shocked and dismayed when the laws were passed. The combined efforts of the diving clubs had made no impression on the government decision.

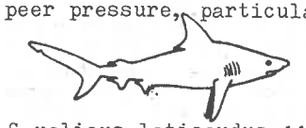
Traditionally governments tend to make decisions which favour commerce and industry over the private sector. This is understandable as they are concerned with keeping the economy healthy. They also tend to react to the greatest pressure. (Oil the squeakiest hinge first). We should keep these things in mind with the current push by the commercials to take control of our sport. The governement's method of reducing the number of crays being caught was to restrict the amateur divers. They could have reduced the number of pots being used by the professionals or reduced the size of the fishing fleet, however this would have certainly produced a far noisier hinge.

The government also increased the size of the escape hatch in professional crayfpots so that less undersize crays would be caught. The crayfishermen were not as upset as they might have been had not the diving amateurs also had restrictions placed on their activities. There has always been some friction between divers and crayfishermen, mostly because both use the same areas of reef to conduct their respective activities. Now the fishermen have a morbid fear of divers raiding their craypots underwater. Divers often tend to dive in areas where there are craypots because these are often the best diving areas.

Some time ago a diver, who was then a member of the U.E.C., had a frightening experience at the hands of an angry crayfisherman who thought our diver and his buddy were too close to his craypots. The divers were diving on hookah and the fisherman ordered his crew to pull the divers up by their air hose. At the time both were inside an underwater cave. Our diver had his regulator torn from his mouth and his weightbelt dislodged. He was forced to risk his life with a buoyant free ascent while his buddy managed to hold on to his regulator but was forced to ascend at a rapid pace risking his life also. At the surface both divers were threatened with violence. Later the crayfisherman was convicted of assault, but released with no penalty.

Nowadays we tend to stay a healthy distance from craypots. We expect crayfishermen to respect our dive flags and so we should allow them sufficient room to pull their pots without interferring with our diving. These days we seem to have a different type of diver.

Divers today tend to be better informed and more educated in areas of conservation and content to look at the fish and perhaps photograph them with less desire to kill, although there are still some macho types who are generally kept in line by peer pressure, particularly in the club situation.



The smallest known shark is Squalious laticaudus 11.5cm or 4.3 inches long. The Japanese named it Tsuranagakobituzame which means "the dwarf shark with a long face."

DIVERS UP THE CREEK.
(Or CARRY ON SHIVERING.)

Explosive white water action, record crowds, rain or biting cold will set the scene for the Avon Descent again this year.

This year, low water in the river may turn the event into more of an equipment - wrecking and bone - breaking exercise than a race.

A number of potentially hazardous situations in the tricky water in previous years pointed to the fact that there should be some person who could go to the aid of a competitor, possibly hurt, in the middle of the river.

Who is better qualified than a diver? Not because diving is required but because divers are used to cold water and rescues from water.

That is why ten club members have been spending their Saturdays at Bells Rapids for the last month to get used to river conditions. (Those rocks really hurt.)

It didn't take us long to find out that the muddy waters of the Upper Swan at Bells Rapids is much colder than the ocean at Rottnest. Teeth were chattering on the first practice day. Another discovery was that the river was deep and it had a one track mind, it tried to sweep you down river.

Not only the rocks but the submerged logs and bushes are all against you, bruising and pricking you as soon as you get into the water. The best part of the first practice day was standing in the rain enjoying a barbecue on the river bank.

The second practice day went better, the sun was shining. Channel 9 helicopter turned up and made instant stars of Dennis and Barry who were embracing each other in the middle of the river. A barbecue followed.

On the third practice day we decided to venture further up the Avon Valley to have a look at some of the danger spots we would cover on the actual race days.

Syds Rapids, possibly the most dangerous part of the river took everybodys breath. (Its a long way to climb back to the road) Here Angela was nearly eaten alive by enourmous Avon Valley cannibal ants when she mistook their nest for a rock and sat down on it.

Next we admired the washing machine - a collection of large rocks where water swirls and races through at great speed.

At Emu Point Falls the scenery was breath taking and so was the emerald green water in the Criss Hill Quarry when Luke decided to go snorkelling in it. After a few minutes he turned into an ice cube and hastily left the water. (The water in the quarry is 9½ metres deep).

Next we were treated to a climbing demonstration when Tibi took off and didn't stop until he reached the top of the quarry face (Everybody resembled ants from up there).

As by now it became a custom we were ready for our barbecue. Not finding any wood in the quarry for the fire we followed Barry who said he knew a nice spot on the river bank, down a side track off the road. We all followed. An old fallen tree blocked the track. Barry in the lead with his four wheel drive pushed and tugged at the tree, Tibi chopped waist thick branches off with an axe, (this picknick spot better be good.) After about half an hour the track was cleared. Barry took off again, we followed like sheep. Two minutes later after crossing a ricketty bridge we were back on the road we started from. After everybody expressed their admiration and praised the wisdom of our President we eventually found a suitable spot to have a barbecue only because the track this time chosen by Barry didn't go any further.

Who said we have no fun in the club?

THEY CALLED IT HAVING FUN
(Explanation: Lungs = Scuba tanks
Bottles = Beer bottles).

DITCH AND RECOVERY time allowed 4 minutes.

Contestants to be kitted up ready at the appointed time. They will enter the water from the landing and swim to a buoy. Signify readiness when time will start. Course consisted of; Swimming down a shot line to a marker on the bottom where the mast and flippers were removed and left at a marker. (Stage 1). Weights were provided for those requiring them for floating type flippers etc. Swim along a bottom line to another marker where weights and Lung were ditched and again left at the marker, (Stage2) A swim along another bottom line to two plastic buckets from which a bottle had to be retrieved from each (Stage 3). Return to lung with bottles (Stage 4) Replace lung and weights (Stage 5) return to staring point and replace mask and flippers (Stage 6) Surface carrying bottles. All stages had to be carried out in dequence however more than one attempt was permitted for each stage provided that it was still within the allotted time for the event. (4 minutes).

Surfacing at any stage other than at the Marker buoy disqualified. Time was calculated to the time contestant surfaced at the marker. Four of the contestants only completed this event.

SPEED & STAMINA; was run immediately following the previous event on the Saturday afternoon. This event was under the control of Ken Kennedy. Each contestant was required to run 100 yeards along the beach (without gear) and then swim 100 yeards to a bouy. Duck dive in 10 feet of water and pick up snorkel mask and flippers and put on, swim to a further buoy in 30 ft. water and complete as many duck dives as possible in 10 minutes. Over all the total time for this event was 20 minutes.

Next on the agenda was Bob Wallis's Obstacle Course which the competitors carried on with immediately following the previous event. This usually takes the form of diabolical sequence of event conjured up in the mind of the organiser. The pattern in this instance was that each contestant was blindfolded and given a thin rope which was tied onto the landing where from, it ran to the seabed and along under several large boulders to a tub. Instructions were to follow the line and where possible around and under all objects excepting such obvious things as boulders used for weighting the line. The first obstacle was a tub containing a number of nuts and bolts of various sizes which were to be mated up and screwed together. To add to the interest a few rods without threads were included. No other instructions were given regarding the course.

On leaving the tub the line forked with a thicker line going off as a decoy, to a dead end. The thin line continued to a wire netting tube in a collapsed state except for the entry. This tube was about 15 ft long and 3ft wide. The entry required the necessity of removal of the lung to proceed which was done by the competors by pushing it ahead.. Once out of the netting and on about 8' the rope ran up a Painter's trestle weaving in and out of the rungs which were at 2' intervals, over the top but still well in the water and down the other side. Not only did the contestants complain about this one but the painters are none too happy about carrying rusty trestles with white overalls.

From here the rope continued on through a truck tube which was partly inflated and secured to the bottom at what point causing the tube to be oval in shape, necessitating the tube requiring to be pulled apart to pass through. The line contined to the landing where contestants had to follow it through a few awkward stys and around the legs etc. It continued onto an anchor then to the surface buoy indicating the end.

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U.E.C. NEWS

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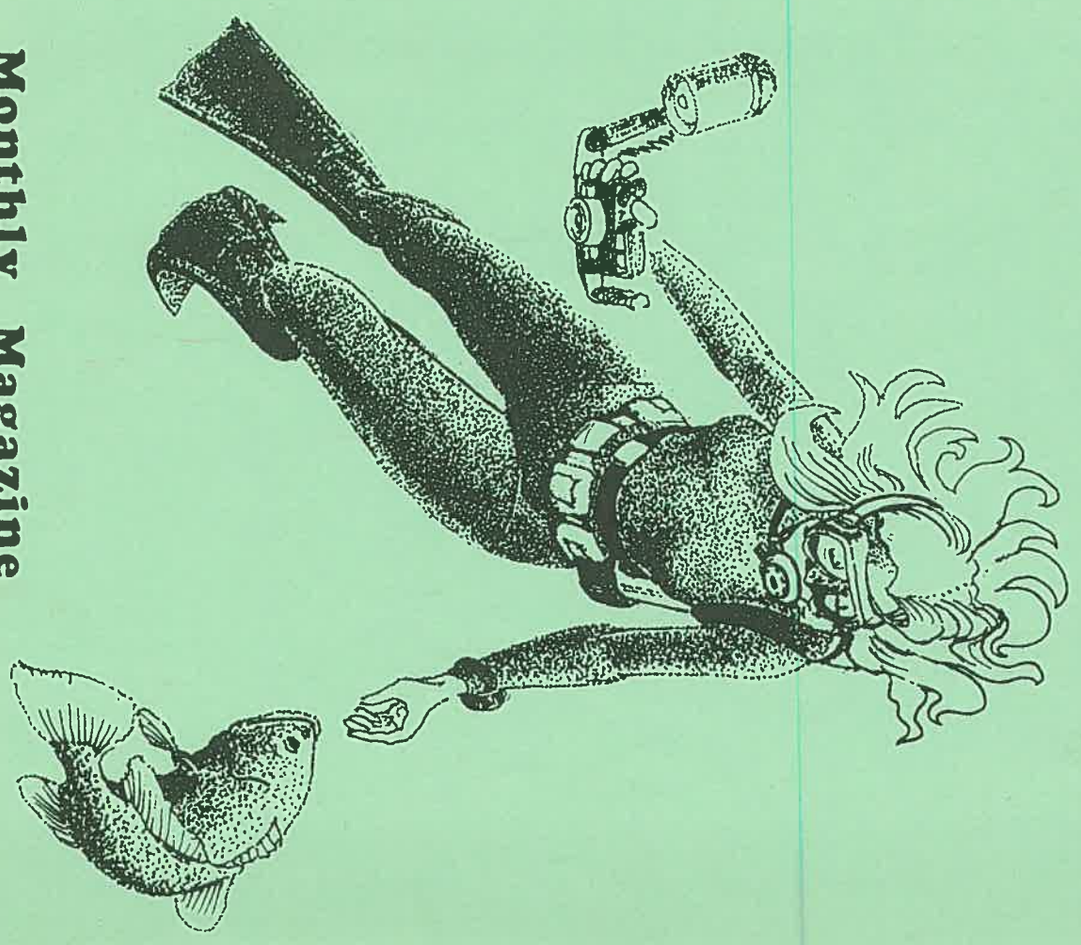


Monthly Magazine

August 8

SPEARGUNS

Tim Moore

The use of spearguns and handspears will always be a point of contention, considering the strong tendencies towards conservation that the U.E.C. as a whole displays. I, as a speargun user, appreciate all the negative arguments involved and as such believe I am qualified to comment on the subject.

Certainly there are people who use spearguns indiscriminately, to kill and maim fish and other creatures often with no other purpose in mind, than a little sport. However, I believe most wielders of these weapons, at least in the club situation, are as conservation minded as people who dive only to take photographs. A contradiction? No, taking myself as an example, I choose very carefully what fish I will shoot - never going for a fish which is to small, or one that I'm not sure of, hoping someone else will know if it's good to eat, after the deed is done. It helps if the fish you're chasing is fairly common and also ugly - this will stop the girls saying "How could you kill such a pretty fish you cruel ....."

From what I've seen, the club controls it's speargun users well. If people are seriously offended they should say so and I for one will agree (temporarily). Also if the rules of spearfishing are broken (nothing too small and shoot only useful fish) a few friendly jibes will soon teach the offender the error of his ways.

I know I'll continue to use spearguns - in my conservation-minded way, unless requested not to, and I believe really the only differences between a good speargun user and a person fishing with a line is that shooting a fish is possibly more cold-blooded and that you have more choice in what you catch with a speargun.

IF ONLY THE ANCIENT MARINER HAD KNOWN...

Tib.

As every mariner knows, if you find yourself adrift on the ocean you must never drink from the sea. But according to Z. Etzion and R. Yogil of the Ben Gurion University of Negrev, Israel, this need not be the case. Sea water is bad for you because your bod accumulates sodium from salt. Mammals can get rid of this excess sodium only via the kidneys, in the urine. So the more sodium you consume, the more urine you must produce. But, the more urine you produce, the more water you lose, which causes dehydration.

Unfortunately, the problems faced by shipwrecked sailors were aggravated because, believing that they should not drink sea water, they postponed it as long as possible. By the time they were driven to drink it they were already dehydrated. The best strategy would be to use any available fresh-water to dilute sea water which can be drunk in gradually increasing concentrations; so putting off the moment when it becomes necessary to drink it full strength. (By which time you might be rescued).

NEWS

Anyone who would like a FAUI crossover from SDF, PADI etc., contact Brian 293 4487 home or at work 277 1644. Also those who would like to take part in an advanced diving course, let him know.

Welcome Back to Pam Goodrich. Nice to hear from you again.

BOAT REPORT

By Admiral Bligh Stubby

Attention! Attention! All you swabo who thought it was a good time for a rest had better think again. All hands are required on deck (and under it) for the annual slipping of U.E.

As in past years the boat is now on the hard at Royal Perth Yacht Club courtesy of Dave Kenny. This year the bottom of the boat is going to receive a lot of attention. We have to remove all the existing anti-fouling and primer and start all over again. This will provide a good surface on which to apply the anti-fouling and it is hoped that by using this approach we will avoid 6 monthly slipping to reapply anti-fouling and ultimately conserve funds. So there will be lots of painting and scraping to be done. Bring some overalls or old jeans along and join in the fun. The more people working the less time it will take and U.E. will soon be back at her mooring.

In addition to the bottom being revamped, the bit above the water also needs some attention. Basically, a few touch-ups to the paintwork and some mechanical repairs are all that is needed. The relatively minor nature of this work however, does not exclude any of you from turning up and lending a hand. Be fore-warned, any non-attendances will be recorded and explanations will be required! The cat-o-nine tails has been dusted off, ready for use.

Seriously, if you can spare a few hours, the boat is located at R.P.Y.C. on Australia II Drive in the centre row of the compound or you can give me a ring for more details.

Annual subs are due on the first of November. However, it would be appreciated if part of your sub could be paid now (or all of it). The idea is to make it easier on your pocket by paying in two instalments.

DIVING REPORT

Maree Casley.

The last month has seen some really excellent conditions for diving and it is very disappointing as Diving Officer to note that no one has been interested in diving. It is true that some days have been abysmal but I would have thought that rotten days would only heighten your desire to dive on good days

The success of the club depends on our members diving and if everyone insists on staying away in droves, the club cannot continue to operate successfully. The boat still costs a lot of money to own even if it is just sitting on its mooring. Payments still have to be made and maintenance still performed. As you know, the boat is up on the hard at the moment for paint and maintenance so please make an effort to contribute some time down at Royal Perth Yacht Club. I can assure you that you won't have to get wet! Ring Dennis if you can offer any assistance on either 274 9606 or 457 3333. The boat should only be out of action a few weeks, so I hope to hear from you all soon to book on for some dives. Also, if you are in any doubt about whether a dive will still go ahead, please ring me on Saturday and as far as possible I will let you know what's happening. It is your responsibility to ring me not for me to contact everyone and let them know what is going on.

That's all for this month folks, but stay tuned next month for more news.

OMMUNITY CLUB AWARDS

.E.C. IS NOW REGISTERED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY CLUB AWARDS COMPETITION. THIS WILL IVE ALL MEMBERS A CHANCE TO HELP BUILD UP THE CLUB FUNDS.

ORE ABOUT IT AT GENERAL MEETINGS.

VON DESCENT

he storms which drenched Perth a few days before the Avon Descent added at least two feet of xtra water to the river. A week before the race we stood beside Emu Pt. Falls trying to pick ich trickle of water the boats would be dragged down on, but after the rain the falls almost isappeared in the torrent of floodwaters.

don't think any of us really looked forward to jumping into the treacherous waters to rescue ny of those competitors - who must have rocks in their heads to endure 133 km of bone cr ing iver in the middle of winter, when you have to break the ice in your boat before you can s own!

ere are some reports on the weekend:

CHECKPOINT ONE ★KATRINE BRIDGE

Alison

he 15th Avon Descent is over and there is just the photos and the stories left. UEC made its resence known for the first year with the Westrail Voluntary Emergency Rescue Unit and I must ongratulate those who took part. Tibi, Tim, Bob, Luke, Maree, Dennis, Richard, Brian, Barry nd Ron put a lot of time in training up in the Avon Valley and I think in return got an xcellent weekend. The club got its presence known but most people seemed to refer to us as the underwater mob". Westrail spoilt us with meals, good company, a monster fire, a sing-a-long ven a shower and the gentle purr of at least 15 trains whistling through the campsite during he night. Rumour had it that someone in our tent was so warm they slept through all the trains.

he campsite near Cobbler Pool was huge stretching for miles along the river with campfires rying to dry all the gear out. The Friday night was quiet but Saturday night was alive as all he competitors rested for the next day.

he river was very full changing the whole look of some of the weirs. We had two divers to each f the five rescue units and on the first day we struggled out early to our allotted rescue spots. omeone forgot to tell the army that the start had been delayed one hour so they rattled out of he camp at six! We were at Katrine Bridge with Barry and Ron and covered in a mist. The ilence was soon broken by the whine of the first power boat bursting through the mist and traight through our obstacle. The crowd soon increased as people came from the start and people houted encouragement to competors in the motor boats. The sun had decided to stay by th me he first kayaks, canoes and surf skies arrived mixing in with some of the straggling power oats. People came out of their crafts, hit the pylons but no one needed rescuing at our spot. y the time the sweep boat rounded up the stragglers to our bridge we had had no injuries. We eard the first motor boat had reached the halfway stop by 9.30 a.m. from an 8.00 a.m. start.

he second day started with a bang - a huge army gun behind our tent at 6.00 a.m. I think I refer my radio alarm clock! Channel 2 TV zoomed in on our 'moring after look'. Luckily no one aw the footage.

Rescue Team Three ended up at Syds Rapid with Barry and Ron and our team showing their true olours and rescuing people on a very treacherous stretch of the rapids. It was a very exciting tretch of the river which had been created by the swollen river. Competitors didn't ecognise where they were and took a few bad decisions including going over a sheer drop in a ower boat and landing on top of the other boats crumpled at the bottom. We did a lot of rescues at the end when the sweep boat was on its way as the tired competitors fought to keep oing. I got to do all the exciting bits, stopping the race with my red flag until Barry and Ron were out of the water.

Syds Rapid

ON THE ABROLHOS

There they got among the perilous banks of the Abrolhos, called by the Dutch the "Frederick Houtman Cliffs". The Commodore Francoys Pelsaert was unwell and kept his cabin, as it was a clear moon, light and fine weather, two hours before sunrise, and the skippers watch. Suddenly he felt the ship shaking terribly, the rudder touching ground, and keel running against the cliffs, so that he tumbled out of his berth. Running on deck immediately, he found all the sails hoisted the course N.E. by North, a South Westerly wind having blown all night. The ship was surrounded by a thick foam,but no great breakers. This however changed soon, since all at once they heard the sea, breaking them again. Then the Commodore spoke sharply to the skipper, and accused him of having brought them into this dager of life by his reckless negligence. The skipper answered that it was not his negligence, that he had not slept but that he had been awake and carefully watched everything. Seeing the surf in the distance, he had asked Hanade Bosschister, who was on the watch with him, what "that white" could be. The latter answered that it was the reflection of the moon, and with this they had contented themselves. The Commodore then asked what could be done and whereabouts they were. "God only knows" said the skipper, this is an unknown dry bank, which must be a good distance from the mainland. I think we on a shallow, and perhaps it is low tide. Let us drop our anchor astern possibly we may get off yet".

When the Commodore asked what depth of water they were in, the reply was that they did not know; so he sent for the lead line which was in the steermans charge and found that there were but 17 or 18 feet of water astern and far less forward.

Therefore, they had to accept the skipper's surmise that they had got on an unknown shallow in the sea, and they consequently resolved to lighten the vessel by throwing the heavy guns overboard, and to put out to sea with the boats, in hopes that the ship might float again. Meanwhile that had sounded round the ship and found 7 fathoms of water astern for a distance of a bow shot; but forward it was all shallow, so that they prepared a small anchor to be thrown out astern. Meanwhile rain set in with a strong wind, so that the boat was washed overboard by a heavy sea. She drifted away, and they were obliged to send the "sloop" after her, to be able to row her back. Before they were on board again it was day, they then found themselves surrounded by cliffs and shallows.

The rapid fall of the water caused the ship to bump violently and to lurch, so that they could no longer retain foothold on the deck. It was evident that they had run on these shallows during the tide. They resolved to bring down the mainmast trusting that the other mast would not cause so much danger every time the ship struck on the rocks.

When they had done this, they found that they had made a great mistake, for they could not get rid of it overboard, and it caused them a great deal of trouble when they tried to bring the boat on board on account of the violent breakers. Nowhere could they see any except one island about three miles away from the ship. The skipper was therefore sent off to two little islets not far from the ship, to see whether it would be possible to deposit there safely, the people and some of the goods. Coming back about nine o'clock, he reported that apparently those would not be flooded, but that the rocks and cliffs made them difficult and dangerous of approach, since on one side the sloop could not land on account of the shallows, while on the other side there were several fathoms of water. Nevertheless it was resolved because of the wailing and weeping of the women, the sick and the children and also because of the dejected state of the less courageous ones, to land the people there first and meanwhile to bring on deck the money and the most precious goods. To this end the chief officers tried their utmost. But the wrath of the lord seemed to be upon their heads, for in spite of all the efforts and endeavours to cant the vessel to leeward, the uneven and steep cliffs on which she rested would make her lean over the other side, so that the people could only be got off very slowly.

.....TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH .....

HISTORY RESURRECTED

Recently while going through some old papers and books, retrieved from a shoe box that had been kicking around the clubrooms, I came across a small binder containing a type - written manuscript of compilations of reports of the saga of the 'BATAVIA' tragedy.

After reading this account of this sad event of our historical past, I have decided to present it in this magazine as a series of several parts.

This original account was not written in a popular journalistic style to titillate the sophisticated palate of contemporary twentieth century tastes, but originally in seventeenth century Dutch, then translated into rather pendantic nineteenth century English.

So without further ado I present the first installment, complete and unabridged in it's rather quaint vernacular for your perusal and enlightenment. Read on,dear reader, read on.

"DISASTROUS VOYAGE OF THE VESSEL "BATAVIA" TO THE EAST INDIES"

As compiled by a dilettante from various writings and published as a warning to all persons sailing thither.

JAN JANSZ, Anno 1647
AMSTERDAM

Original translation made by William Siebenhaar of Perth, Western Australia, February 1899.

JOURNAL and HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE DISASTROUS VOYAGE MADE TO THE EAST INDIES BY THE WORTHY FRANCOYS PELSERT OF ANTWERP MERCHANT (CAPTAIN) ON THE VESSEL "BATAVIA" WHICH SAILED FROM TEXEL ON THE 28TH OF OCTOBER, 1628.

The fact that in June 1628 General Pieter Carpentier came home safely from the East Indies with five richly laden merchantmen, and that the Government succeeded in releasing three of their ships from the embargo under which they had been placed by the English the year before, when returning from Suratta under the command of Jan Karsbensz of Emden, this fact tended not a little to encourage enterprise, and to occasion fresh equipments. In consequence of this the said Government resolved to send another fleet of eleven ships hither, with which General Jacob Specks was to sail.

On these ships embarked also a man of wide experience, the mathematician, Johan Walbeck, who was anxious to study closely the nature and conditions of Eastern Countries. The senate of Amsterdam having in good time two ships and a yacht ready to sail, sent those to Texel in order to [illegible] no time. The name of these vessels were "Batavia" under the command of the worthy Francoys [illegible]art of Antwerp, "Derdrecht", having for her merchant-captain the collector of revenue Isaac Van Swaenswyck, of Leyden; and the yacht "Assendelft" under the command of the second merchant-captain, Corneliuos Vlack of Amersterdam. These being ready to sail, and the wind having become favourable, they left Texel for the open sea on the 28th of Octber.

How they continued their journey, how they separated by storm or other incidents, how nothing but the ordinary events of daily nautical routine took place, which it is unnecessary to mention and publish in print, since so many similar printed accounts of voyages have been repeated ad nauseum for every reader. All this we pass in order to emphasise only that which is memorable.

JUNE 1629

The ship "Batavia" continued on her course alone and her voyage had now lasted to the 4th of June 1629, being Whit Monday. She had readed the Southern Latitue of 28 1/3 degrees, about nine miles from the Southland.

An exhausting weekend full of fun and action. Well done everyone. I'm so glad I joined you an[illegible] refused Alan's offer to sip Champagne from the marque overlooking Bells Rapid!

CHECKPOINT SIX EMU FALLS

Maree Casley

The weekend of August 1st and 2nd heralded the entrance of the U.E.C. into the Westrail rescue teams for the Avon Descent. For the previous couple of months, ten of our members, supervised by Tibi, had put in hours of rescue practice up at Bell's Rapids. As the big day drew near we all felt confident that our participation in the event would be a huge sucesss. Even the massive rains during the preceeding week didn't "dampen" (get it) our spirits.

W[illegible]ll arrived at various times during the day (and night) to the campsite at Cobblers Pool outside of Toodyay. Tibi and some other members had turned up early to help the Westrail team set up camp. When Dennis, Richard and I lobbed at about 7.30p.m., we were greeted with the sight of a huge bonfire and the aroma of beef stew cooking in the pot.

After being briefed on the following day's procedure, we all climbed into bed early for the worst night's sleep any of us had ever had. Brian Walker has in his possession a huge tent capable of sleeping about ten people (it's a bit squeezy with 10) but unfortunately a couple of the sides had shrunk. The ensuing breeze through the tent was frigid - everyone had frost-bite on their feet the next morning!

Even worse than the cold was the unholy racket caused by trains travelling through the middle of the camp. In an effort to avoid running over people, the train drivers were instructed to give a mighty blast on the horns. Varying estimates of the number of trains that went hurtling through the camp with horns blasting ranged from 593 to 7,623! It was no wonder we were all wide-eyed, frozen zombies at reveille the next morning at 5.30a.m. After a hearty breakfast most of us had recovered enough to be ready for departure to our various rescue points at 7.00a.m.

None of us had to perform any rescues on Saturday, but each of us had some pretty hairy tales to tell of crashes and near misses that we witnessed on t[illegible] day. Bob Cotton and Luke Van der Leden were at the start and they regaled us with stories of broken noses, teeth etc. when all the power boats made their first dash to the weir at Northam. Dennis, Tibi, Tim Carswell and I copped "Extracts" on the first day. Extracts is a weir located just before Toodyay where there is a drop of about 3 metres across huge rocks. It was a spectacular sight early in the morning where the mist was too thick to see much until 9.30a.m. It was an eerie experience hearing the motor boats tearing down the river and crashing over the rocks with a loud thud before finally coming into view. It would have been suicidal jumping into the river in those conditions to try and rescue someone. Thankfully the opportunity to test our luck was skilfully avoided.

The first day finished quite early and we were all back in camp by about 3p.m. after waiting in a massive queue for an hour just to get back in. The rest of the day was spent wandering around the camp looking at futile attempts by boat crews to repair some pretty sick crafts. As usual I had a nap to revive myself ready for the unsurpassed splendour of hearing Tibi singing around the campfire. For those of you who haven't heard, Tibi sings like a bird.

Again we had another early, cold night's sleep although Dennis and I got smart and slept in the car. It was still cold. Reveille the next morning was a spectacular eye-opener. The early morning quiet was shattered with the explosion of a mighty canon from the Army's howitzer. The result was shocking (to say the least). About 4,000 people were all found to be sitting bolt upright shaking their heads saying "What was that?" and stumbling about looking for the cause of the ear shattering noise.

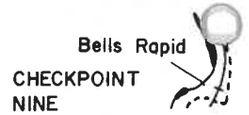
Again it was an early start to our various posts down stream. You would be amazed at the number of people seen scrambling through the hills to their vantage points at 7.00a.m. Fortunately, it was another relatively quiet day and only Ron and Barry had to perform any feats of bravery. They copped Syds Rapids which was a raging torrent of white water and at one stage Ron was seen being carried down river before he finally managed to scramble to safety.

Dennis and I scored Bell's Rapids. To me it looked quite dangerous and although there were a few crashes and people falling out, no one needed our assistance. It was a very sophisticated gathering at Bell's - Alan Bond had set up a huge marquee and viewing platform perched precariously on the steep embankment. Nothing looked quite incongruous as a bunch of wealthy citizens sipping a Swan and nibbling on hor d'ouvres amongst the thronging masses of white water racing enthusiasts.

The weekend ended quietly on Sunday afternoon with all of us anxious to get home and tackle the task of tidying up and winding down after a hugely successful event. The general feeling was that the U.E.C. acquitted themselves very well and will be welcome back next year. There seems to be a little dissention amongst the team however, as to who was the biggest hero of the weekend. Barry is claiming the title for performing the most rescues, whilst Bob Cotton is yelling "unfair" because he appeared on the telly being interviewed. On the whole I think everyone did a magnificent job and the exposure that the club has had as a result, is invaluable.

Thanks to Tibi for arranging our involvement, to Barry and Dennis for organising our distinctive tabards and to everyone else who participated on the weekend and made it the success it was. Special mention should also be made of the crews from Westrail who made us all feel welcome and who organised the rescue aspect of the race to such a professional degree. I would highly recommend involvement in this event to anyone lusting after some adventure and excitement next year.

Barry Kennedy



I am quite pleased with our contribution to this year's Avon Descent and the effort made by those who braved the cold conditions to become part of this exciting event. I can see that this will become a permanent annual activity for our club.

I know I want to be there again next year, although it takes some getting used to sleeping alongside the railway lines with the constant roar of seemingly endless freight trains and then being gently woken at 6.00a.m. by the shattering boom of the army field gun, which not only signals the beginning of the day but also leaves everyone suffering ear barotrauma. Getting undressed in the icy conditions and pulling on a wet wetsuit in the thick fog in the dark at 6.30a.m. while standing around a campfire which barely warms the tips of your fingers, is all part of the fun.

Some interesting questions were asked by some spectators along the river bank, like "How can you guys see under that muddy water?" and pointing to my buoyancy vest "How long does the oxygen in that thing last you when you are underwater". What did make me feel good though was the look of gratitude on the face of the competitor who was clinging to a rock in the middle of the raging swirling muddy torrent, with his face bleeding and his front teeth smashed, looking frightened and forlorn, when I suddenly appeared at his side with a rope and offered him a lift back to the safety of the river bank.

THE JOYS OF DEEP SEA FISHING

Stacey Roach

As I had never been ocean fishing before I thought - why not? The boating forecast prediced perfect weather, and although bleary eyed at 4.00 in the morning, I looked forward to experiencing deep sea fishing (although my enthusiasm didn't surpass that of Martin!).

After approximately 1½ hours of travel towards a fishing site I began to feel slightly green around the gills (to put it VERY mildly). I staggered to the front of the boat in an attempt to make myself more comfortable. It didn't work.

3 hours later sunrise revealed huge grey stratocumulus clouds and heavy rough seas. Definitely not what was predicted on the boating forecast.

Meanwhile I hadn't moved from the front of the boat - but was I lonely? Certainly not! About every 20 minutes I was visited by just about all the other boat members, who greeted me with a friendly "ralph" and "heave ho" over the side. Almost all that is except Martin, who kept me company most of the trip by draping himself over the roof of the cabin, occasionally groaning just to let me know he was still there!

Apparently through all that excitement, somebody actually caught a fish!

After trying to look as pitiful as possible in the hope of someone pushing me overboard, I endured 3 more hours of drift fishing.

To my great relief we finally headed to home. At 11.30 we made it back to Fremantle, to discover to my surprise, that I was not dead, but in fact very much alive! Apart from all that I think we all had a good time!

TANK FILLS

Our tank filling compressor is waiting to fill your scuba tank. It's the cheapest fill in Perth. Come a bit earlier to the meetings and the tank will be filled.

NOMINATIONS

Patricia and Scott Hill	4/1 Brentham Street, Leederville, 6007
David Newhall	10 Lynton Street, Mt. Hawthorn.

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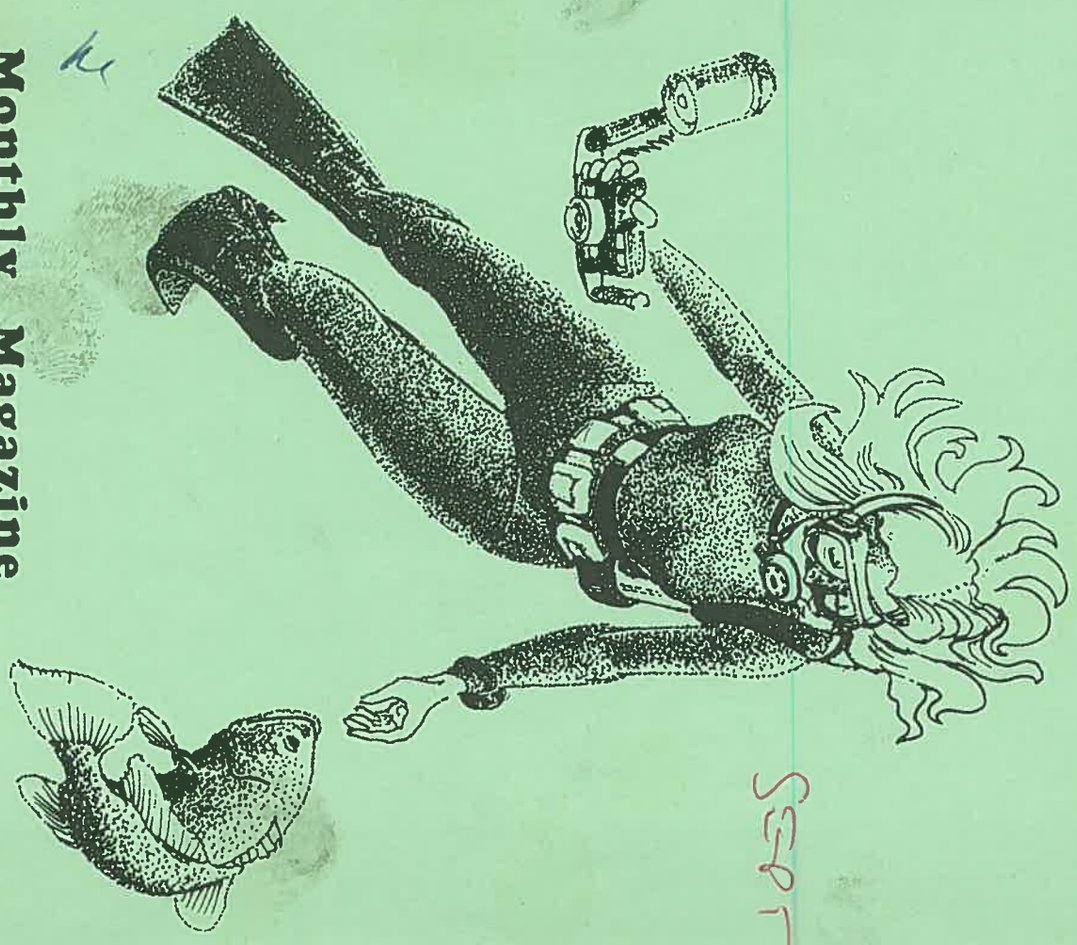


Monthly Magazine

SEPT 87

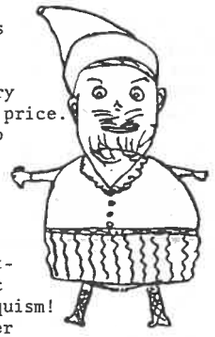
SEPT

Socialites

By Maree Casley

The recent social evening at the Chalet Healey was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended (a measly 10 of us) - where were the rest of you? Instead of the usual red double-decker bus,Karen had arranged for a mini-bus to transport us to our destination. She was right - it was a two stubby trip, although most of us were too busy enjoying Bob Cotton's champers to notice how much beer we consumed.

The theme for the evening was a Christmas celebration and to add to the hilarity, a drawing competition was organised and the subject was none other than Santa himself. It came as little surprise to me that our table produced the best drawings and that the overall winner on the night was Irene Walker. Irene's winning entry is reproduced here. As you can see it is quite tame. I assure my readers that some of our member's drawings were far more lewd but they can't be reproduced here because of our strict censorship. This is a family magazine after all.



The atmosphere at the Chalet Healy is very cosy and rustic and the food and service is excellent for the price. There were about 6 choices for every course and we all enjoyed it immensely. Even the hooch was included in the price. This no doubt added to the relaxed atmosphere. In fact Albert Kramer was so 'relaxed' he mistook the table for the dance floor and proceeded to 'bop' to the beat. The Club's (and mine) favourite little shutter-bug, Dennis, has photos to prove it.

It seems that Ron Phoneymynt was rather dirty with me for reporting in last month's magazine that Tibi sung like a bird - he obviously thought he was also pretty flash. By way of retribution he refused point-blank to participate in the sing-a-long. He reckons he was singing but our photographic evidence shows his lips aren't moving. Perhaps Ron is practicing ventrilouquism!

I believe it is this writer's moral duty to bring to the attention of her readers a most shocking revelation. It can no longer remain a secret - yes, it was Janet Kramer not Angela thomson who spent the most time in the kitchen gazing at the naked bodies of male pin-ups. It was a close contest however. I know, because I was there keeping a close eye on them keeping a close eye on the offending pictures. This growing trend of unabashed adulation of the naked or semi-naked male body is fast approaching epidemic proportions in the Club and I implore every Club member to do their utmost to stamp out this unhealthy practice.

Apart from this one unfortunate incident the rest of the evening was taken up with dancing and generally having a ball. The evening wound down at the midnight hour and it was time for the long journey home. Well, not everyone made it home but Angela has sworn me to secrecy about where she spent the night. My lips are sealed - so don't try and get any information out of me.

TANK FILLS

Our tank filling compressor is waiting to fill your scuba tank. It's the cheapest fill in Perth. Come a bit earlier to the meetings and the tank will be filled.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Due to rising costs it has been necessary to increase membership fees, which are due on the 1st November 1987 or sooner.

Single Membership	$40.00
Family Membership	$60.00
Junior Membership	$30.00
Nomination	$25.00 each
Social and Country Membership	$10.00

It has been agreed that an approximate increase of 15% will be necessary each year.

President's Report

BARRY KENNEDY
PH: 453 6927

TRAINING

A pre-training meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 October, 1987 at 8.00 p.m. in the clubrooms at 22 Shields Crescent, Booragoon.

This is the first Tuesday in October. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss with all prospective new divers, the dates and times of training sessions and theory lessons. Where we will train and when. What will be required by students. Equipment, Medical Examinations what type and where to get them.

All those who are interested in doing a diver training course should attend this meeting. If there are any questions, or if you are unable to make this meeting, phone me after 6.00 p.m. 453 6927 any night.

BOAT

To the members who came down to Royal Perth Yacht Club, and helped us work on the boat thank you. To the members who didn't, well there is always next year isn't there??? Our luck with the weather was excellent, and BOMBO...ER Underwater Explorer is looking her very best, glowing and radiant.

She is also in the water and ready for diving, those of you who haven't been diving for a while, now is your chance, our first few dives will be safe easy dives so you can adjust once again to the ocean and the fascination of Scuba Diving.

CONSTITUTION.

The updated version of our constitution is now complete, thanks mostly to John Paskulich. We will have more copies printed later in the season.

BOAT REPORT

D.R. STUBBERFIELD

"Underwater Explorer" is now back on her moorings after an intense effort to make her shipshape. My thanks to all concerned, especially Tibi, Richard, Pat, Dave and Barry, who rate a special mention for a tireless effort above and beyond the call. To the others many thanks also, and I hope you all enjoyed the river trip on Saturday organised especially for you. To those who couldn't make it and would have wished to - better luck next year!!! I realize opportunity in most cases played a big part in your not being able to. To those whod did your efforts have been rewarded by a very marked increase in the boats performance and improvement in her looks! A few old salts around Royal Perth gave us some unexpected praise on how good she looked. And, if I've got it right with paint, a very much less arduous slipping next year. I'm pleased to report speed trials in calm water had U.E. planing at 17½ knots, and absolutely bone dry on the moorings after nearly a week. Enough of this self praise "ye swabs" now we have to keep her clean and spotless and work her hard - thats what she was built for and does best - see you on the high seas!
Cheers me hearties.

Bligh Stubby

COMING EVENTS

BOOK EARLY

Meet the First Fleet Re-Enactment sailing ships near Rottnest and escort them into Fremantle Harbour. Chicken and Champaigne celebration Thursday 10 December ring 457 3333.

Fishing trip on the 19th September, 1987 ring Maree 457 3333

HISTORY RESSURRED PART 2. BY BOB COTTON

'BATAVIA'

The story so far:

Captain Pelsaerts ship has foundered on the Albrolhos Islands. During this time he has organised a small reconnaissance of the various islands closest to his ship and decided to abondon the ill-fated craft.

However this does not all go as well as he would have wished. To add to their problems the weather, which had been fairly reasonable till now, began to deteriorate rapidly. His predicament not being helped by the fact that some of the crew were becoming rather recalcitrant.

THE SAGA CONTINUES.

At ten o'clock the ship burst asunder and they had to bring up some bread from the store room in great haste. They had great hope of getting water on the shore. But everything, heaven and earth themselves seemed to be against them. Their zeal was made useless by the godless, lawless gang of soldiers and sailors, who could not be kept out of the hold on account of the drink, so that they could not succeed in bringing anything in in safety. The entire hold became flooded. They scarcely filled one cask and a half, which lay ready on the deck, with buckets and jugs. The whole day passed in this manner, and they could make three trips with the people, in which one hundred and eighty souls, twenty casks containing bread and a few barrels of water had been saved.

When the skipper had taken ashore some people and a casket of jewels and had returned on board with the sloop after sunset, he declared to the Commodore that it was no use their taking water and bread on shore, since it was all devoured in the most lawless and ravenous manner, and everyone drank as much as he liked. His own order had no force or effect, unless most stringent measures were taken. Thereupon the Commodore himself jumped in the sloop and went ashore, intending to return as soon as possible and having decided to bring the money ashore in the next journey.

The great number of people and the scarcity of water made it necessary to fix rations, for there was no appearance of the possibility of getting more water soon, and they would be obliged to make it stretch as long as possible if they wished to save their lives. No sooner, however, had he left the ship when a strong wind began to blow, so that it was out of the question to get help to the ship again. In fact they found it hard enough to get ashore being in great danger of being swamped by the sea or carried away by the current; so that against their will they were compelled to stay on the land that night.

DIVIDED IN TWO PARTIES.

On the 5th they put some of the people with some bread and water ashore on the largest island, so that till further orders they were divided into two parties. The Commodore with the sloop and the skipper with the boat returned to the ship, and with much labour, difficulty and hard rowing the sloop reached here in the afternoon; but those in the boat were less fortunate for the high seas prevented their completing the journey by rowing and still more when they hoisted a sail to tack, principally through the want of sweeps, and they were compelled to return to the island.

Though the Commodore was close to the ship yet the breakers prevented their boarding her, in spite of all their trouble and the dangers they found; for the seas ran even over the poop, so for a long time they beat about hoping that a favourable opportunity would at least offer. But everything was in vain. At last a carpenter of Amsterdam named Jan Egbercz, was bold enough to swim through the surf from the ship to the sloop. He begged that they should come to the rescue of the second merchant-captain, Jeronymus Cornelitz (who was in the ship with seventy men) in order to save them, since their lives were no longer safe on the ship. It may easily be inferred from this of what mind they were in both parties, on one side with the wish to help, on the other with the anxious desire to be rescued. As it seemed impossible to effect this, the

Socialites

MAREE CASLEY

After the raging success of the social night at Chalet Healy, Ron has taken it upon himself to keep the social aspect of the club alive and well. The next item on the social calendar is a Bowling Night on Friday 2nd October at 7.30 pm. Ron has booked 6 lanes so about 30 of us can go along. In his excitement to tell me about the evening, Ron forgot to tell me which centre he had booked - but this is a minor detail after all. If you want to go give me a ring or leave a message on the answering machine and I will let you know where it is. The cost for the night is only $5.20 per person and the centre is throwing in a room for us to use as well as supper. Please make an effort to come along - bowling is good fun and lots of you have requested such an evening.

The Presentation Night is fast approaching and this year the Social committee has booked the Higgins Park Tennis Club in Victoria Park to stage our annual "bash". The date for this extravaganza is Friday and while we are busy organizing a fun-fill night for your all, how about the rest of you organizing yourselves to be there? As usual costs will be kept to a minimum and the entertainment planned for this year should ensure you all have a good time.

The Presentation Night is the one night of the year when awards are made to our members for their outstanding contributions to the Club and for trainees to receive their certificates. It is also an ideal opportunity for them to meet the rest of the crew - including our life members who did so much to establish the club. If everyone makes an effort to be there a good night is guaranteed. More details at the next general meeting, and next month's mag - so stay tuned.

Here is a chance to be involved in an area uniquely ours, the Marmion Marine Park. I am organising a group of volunteers, (so far I have 10) to participate in a survey of the park, which will be in conjunction with the Conservation and Land Management. (CALM).

The program for the survey has yet to be finalised however it will commence about spring. (Sept. Oct.). I do have to indicate to CALM the resources we are offering to finalise the programme.
Please contact me: Kerry Ashton 331 2385 (Pref. B/H).

THE U.S. UNDERWATER DEMOLITION TEAMS

On November 20, 1942 the Japanese held island of Tarawa was invaded by United States amphibious forces. Tragedy struck when a submerged reef caused the Marine-laden landing craft to stop far off shore forcing the troops to wade several hundred yeards to the beach. To the heavily laden men the water became as lethal as enemy bullets and hundreds drowned.

To provide better pre-assault hydrographic information, and to demolish beach obstacles, Navy Combat Demolition Units were formed. The original personnel were gathered from Navy Construction Battalions and Navy/Marine Scout and Raider Volunteers. All were in excellent physical condition and had previous swimming experience. Training began at Fort Pierce, Florida in the summer of 1943.

In the winter of 1944 the graduates were organized into 6-man Navy Combat Demolition Units and most were sent to England to join the large invasion force being gathered there.

After months of additional training the men were embarked with the massive invasion force which set off for the beaches of Normandy. The Navy CDU teams were assigned to clear the way to Utah and Omaha beaches. Working under intense enemy fire they painstakingly set their charges. Four gateways to France were unveiled in a series of trimphant explosions. But the Navy CDU teams paid a price - losses at Utah were 30% and at Omaha about 60 - 70%. The survivors were shipped to the Pacific where they were re-structured and renamed Underwater Demolition Teams (UDT).

SAFETY OFFICERS REPORT ADRIAN EDWARDS

Hi there, back again after a bit of a lull.

Some of you may have seen an article in the West Australian on the 4 September where mention was made of scuba equipment being linked with the respiratory infection legionnaire's disease.

I presumed that what was inferred was that the virus or organism responsible could become present in scuba air tanks!

I contacted the State Health Departments Acting Director of Health Inspection Services, Dr Paul Psaila-Savona, who was quoted in the article and he was very interested in our concern but could not offer much more in the way of further information than had appeared in the newspaper. He was not familiar with scuba equipment or diving and was not aware that only air was used in sport scuba cylinders. (He asked if we used oxygen!)

He had made the comment during an address to a conference and had quoted from a pamphlet he had obtained saying that, quote,

"potential sources for the virus were believed to be saunas, scuba equipment and decorative fountains."

Dr Psaila-Savona suggested that the theory could perhaps arise from the fact that any moist air in any sort of equipment (e.g. airconditioning units etc.) if not kept clean and well maintained and filtered could attract the organisms which are already most certainly present in W.A.'s soil, water and dust.

He said that these organisms needed to multiply in certain conditions before there was a health risk and hastened to add that there was no alarm for us divers.

I am going to follow this one up with the SPUM'S people to see if we can find out anything more. This article of course assumes that club members know that for health and maintenance reasons it is necessary to keep your B.C.'s well rinsed out and not to rebreath orally inflated vests.

While mouthpieces (even shared underwater) should not pose any health risks, the inside of the B.C. bladder, if not occasionally rinsed out with a mild disinfectant, can be a good breeding ground for bacteria.

Anyhow, folks we will keep you up-to-date.

Cheers for now.

FIRST DIVE AFTER THE REPAINT ALISON

Weather looked promising as we proudly purred out from East Street Jetty. The sun sparkled away on our shiny paintwork and it felt good to be diving again. The trip over to Rottnest was spectacular as we took only 1 hour from Jetty to Thompson Bay. It must be a record for Underwater Explorers Club and Barry and I were pleased to leave charter dive boats behind in our wake as we purred over to Rotto. All that scraping and sanding and filling seems to have paid off. Lovely dive at Swirl Reef, lunch at Geordi Bay soon got the old dive spirit going but some did opt out of the 2nd dive due to a chilly wind. Well done Dennis the boat is looking good.

Become a Regular Contributor

From 1st July this year, antifouling paints that prevent marine encrustation of boat hulls are classified by the British government as pesticides instead of paints. The move is the latest in a series of attempts by the government to control the use of these paints, which are known to harm marine creatures.

Commodore asked for five or six planks from the ship, if it were possible to throw them overboard so that they might fish them up, and make sweeps for the boat out of them. Further he advised them to make a couple of rafts to take refuge on in case of need. Finally he sent word to the effect that he, the Commodore would certainly take the first opportunity of reaching the ship with the sloop and the boat, in order to get the money, and bring it safely ashore. With these messages the said carpenter, Jan Egbercz swam to the ship again. When he had arrived there safely they immediately threw out six planks, which were secured by those in the sloop. The latter were then obliged, to their sorrow and regret, to return to the island.
When they reached the land, they found the carpenter busy making a sweep out of a boom that had floated ashore. In the afternoon it began to blow and storm very hard from the northwest, so that the ship was entirely buried by waves, that they could often not see her, and that it seemed more than a miracle that it kept together. Those on shore calculated in the evening how much more there was of the fresh water that they had saved in small casks, and found that on the smallest island, where with the boat and the sloop they counted forty people, there were eight cans of water, and on the larger island for one hundred and eighty people there were still less. Therefore it was an anxious prospect, and those of the crew began to mutter, asking why they should not go and look for fresh water on the island or there abouts, since they could not remain without very long or they would die of thirst. The skipper mentioned to the Commodore also that unless an order was given, there was a danger of mutiny and of the mutineers leaving with the boat. The Commodore, however did not yet see his way clear to consent to this, for they would have to answer before God, the authorities and the government in Batavia for leaving all those people and the rich possessions of the Company this lightly without any further attempt to save them. Many protested against this decision and those who were willing to search for water on the islands or on the southern mainland, promised that as soon as they should find fresh water anywhere, they would return, in order to provide the others with as much water as should be found necessary. Finally, after having waited and discussed everything, the Commodore was persuaded after much begging and praying, to resolve (as will be seen from the resolution hereafter) that they should steer with the boat for the islands or the mainland to look for water, so that they might not perish of thirst; that if they found none, they should continue their voyage, by the grace of God, till they reached Batavia, in order to inform the General of their sad plight and unheard of calamities, and at the same time to ask for help to rescue the remaining people. One consideration was that there was no hope of getting more water out of the ship, unless she should burst open and the casks should float ashore and be secured. It was true it night rain for many days, and much water might this be collected for their use, but all this was very uncertain and not to be depended upon.

TO BE CONTINUED.....

catch the action

DIVING REPORT. MAREE CASLEY

As you all know the boat has been up on the hard (sounds rude doesn't it?) for the past few weeks so diving has been temporarily suspended but the good news is that she is back in the briney rearing to go. This year she really looks wonderful thanks to the untiring efforts of a few of our members. Her red bottom has been replaced with a ripper new blue one to match the chine and rubbing strip. The deck is now also colour matched with the outside is painted in grey. In other words whe looks very sharp.

Now that UE is up and running again, I hope to see you all drag out the wetsuits and dust off the cob-webbs and go out on the boat for a dive. Keep your eyes on the calendar for the short dive trips if you are interested and for fishing trips. Lets make the best use of the boat that we can. All this new paint costs money and the best way to pay for it is to utilize the boat!.

BLUE RINGED OCTOPUS.

The deadly blue-ringed octopus has been blamed for the death of a young surfer at Margaret River.

The 21 year old surfer died within minutes of being dragged from the water.

A pathologist has told police that the death had all the symptoms of a blue-ringed octopus bite.

Dr. S. Sutherland, a medical consultant at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, said the blue-ringed octopus was the most poisonous octopus in the world and the only one known to have killed people. He said one octopus had enough venom to paralyse 10 men.

Death resulted because the venom paralysed the body and prevented breathing.

A victim had a chance of survival if he received artificial respitation until the venom wore off (which could be many hours).

Here is a report originally compiled by Mike Pollard and reprinted for the third time as a warning to all club members.

The blue ringed octopus (Hapalochloena Maculosa) rarely exceeding 20cm across the outstretched arms. At rest it has brown to ocre bands over its body and arms with blue circles superimposed on these bands. When the animal is angry, distrubed or anoxic the colours darken and the blue rings become a brilliant irridescent peacock blue.

The brilliant blue rings and small size make identification easy, but unfortunately also make it an attractive animal to pick up.

Human fatilities and near fatalities follow a fairly similar pattern. The octopus is found stranded in a rock pool, placed on the back of the hand or arm while it is shown to interested people or carried up the beach. The victim does not feel the bite but symptoms of poisioning develop within five to ten minutes of the octopus being placed on the skin. The symptoms start with weakness, numbness about the face and neck, difficulty in breathing which progresses rapidly to complete paralysis with cessation of breathing. Heart function remains normal until anoxia becomes severe.

Remember: use gloves when touching or picking up things in the sea. Never put shells on bare skin. If anybody is suspected of being bitten by a blue ringed octopus, breathing must be maintained - if necessary for hours - by artificial respiration. Call for help but don't stop giving artificial respiration!

Don't miss out!

BOWLING NIGHT

Will be held at the Supper Bowl Melville on the 2nd October 1987 7.30p.m.

FISHING TRIP is on again on 19th September 1987 come and have a good time (like always) 4.00a.m. leaves East Street Jetty.

CAR TRIAL AND DIVE.

H. Threlfoll

On Sunday 28th July (1971) a car trial was conducted ex Causeway Carpark to Serpentine Falls, the duration being approximately 2 hours, over 52 miles. Thirty cars entered this and all but 4 papers were accounted for at the end of the day. (At the last car rally the club organised, some three months ago, three cars turned up!) Two visiting clubs also had a few entries, these being the B.S.A.C. and the Y divers.

The eventual winner of the trial was Mr. B. Lindsay of the Y Divers with 80 points followed very closely by our own Mr. L. Jones with 79 points.

The dive was conducted in the falls at 3.00p.m. and took the form of a treasure hunt for man made junk. One hour was allowed. Everyone was a quivering block of ice after this time and the Medicinal Plonk prize was most appreciated. Phil McWhirter won this treasure hunt with 108 objects and L. Bevan close behind with 100. Mrs. Dorothy Davies had the booby prize for the most spectacular exit from the diving area. She was sucked through the sluice gate in the upper pool and fell backward down the 10ft high falls to the lower pool thus emulating a trout (with an aqualung). She sustained bruises and a few scratches to the legs but otherwise unharmed.

The day was a success as was shown by the 90 odd attending and a fantastic profit of $2.75!

NEWS .....

LAST YEARS STUDENTS

You will receive your certificates at the Presentation Night 2nd November 1987. Don't forget to come. Higgins Park Tennis Club, Playfield Street, East Victoria Park.

NOMINATE SOMEONE ...

TO GET A TROPHY

List of Trophies:

- Conservation
- Research
- Writer of the Year
- Most Safety Conscious Diver
- Club Member of the Year
- Most Improved Diver
- Dolphin for Diving Prowess
- 6 UEC Appreciation Awards.

$1,000 prize in treasure hunt

Malibu Diving and Perth Diving Academy are also joining together for a treasure hunt with $1000 cash as first prize. It starts at noon on November 8 opposite Bell Park on the Rockingham foreshore.

Tickets cost $5 and entrants can use either snorkle or scuba equipment. The hunt is organised every year and usually attracts hundreds of divers.

You can fill in nomination forms at the next meeting or phone in your nomination to Maree 457 3333.

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U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A. INC.

Monthly Magazine

OCT 8

Dive Report

Maree Casley 4573333

Since the boat has been back in the water, she had been out every week with divers. Although it has been a bit chilly on occasions, from all reports, good diving has been had by all. Some old favourites like Jackson's Rock and Angela's Cave have provided some excellent dives. A new spot on Transit Reef was also located and has proved to be an excellent 2nd dive location. Fish life and corals are in abundance in this area as well as some large crayfish waiting to be caught when the season opens. Their hide-outs have been carefully noted for a return visit.

Perhaps the hightlight of recent dive trips was the arrival of two humpback whales on a return journey to Fremantle. Bob Cotton tells me that the whales which appeared to be a mating pair, came within a few feet of the boat. They frolicked around for a while, entertaining the crew, before turning on their sides and disappearing.

For those of you that ring the boat weather forecast or watch it on the T.V., you may have noticed that the expected ocean swells are now described in "height in metres" rather than low, moderate and heavy. As you know, moderate swells very much determine where and if we dive. Under the new scheme, a moderate swell is defined as being between 2 and 4 metres. Obviously, the higher the swell the worse the conditions are likely to be. Please continue to monitor the boating weather reports for unfavourable conditions and let me know if you wish to cancel from a dive. Usually dives will not be cancelled until Sunday morning when a better idea of the conditions is known.

Also, for those of you who ring and leave a message on the answering machine, unless I ring you back, assume that there is enough room on the boat for you

FISHING TRIP 3RD OCTOBER . 4582224

4a.m. down at East Street jetty, Albert and I contemplate to fish or not to fish. It's raining with a slight S.E. wind blowing. Luke and friends are as keen as mustard. Tibi looks not so sure, but me being a confirmed optimist, decided to give it a go. Leaving the heads the wind picks up and I put it to the vote. Thumbs up and we continue.

At approximately 9.30a.m. we reach our destination, approximately 2 miles N.W. of the west end of the Island. By now the wind has eased and conditions were quite confortable. During the morning we drift fished, moving from spot to spot. Numerous fish were caught plus the occasional "jewie". Lunchtime found us off the west end and Luke's mate pulls up a 10lb "jewie". This inspired all of us to continue fishing instead of having lunch on the island.

By now the ocean was flat. Even Tibi was smiling. He had just pulled up another parrot fish.

Well time to move again, this time to Radar Reef where Luke said more "jewies" were being caught. Sure enough his mate pulled up another 8lb to 10lb fish.

3.15p.m. and it's time to go. All of us have had a good time. I myself did not suffer from sea sickness, thanks to the "scop" patch behind my ear - they really work.

Martin S.

What's on...What's on... What's o

OCTOBER

	Time
19TH GENERAL MEETING	2000
23RD SOCIAL NIGHT	2000
25TH DIVE TRIP - WRECK DIVE	0800

To book ring 457333.

NOVEMBER

1ST DIVE TRIP - MARTIN'S ARCHES - WEST END	0800
2ND COMMITTEE MEETING	2000
6TH PRESENTATION NIGHT	2000
8TH DIVE - DAY DREAM ROCK	0800
15TH DIVE TRIP - NORTH OF SWIRL REEF - DEEP DIVE	0800
16TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	2000
22ND DIVE TRIP - ROE REEF	0800
28th)	
29TH) EXPLORATORY DIVE	

BOOK EARLY!!

Meet the First Fleet Re-Enactment sailing ships near Rottnest and escort t. into Fremantle Harbour. Chicken and champagne celebration on the way back the harbour. Provisional date is Thursday 10th December, 1987 (which date might change with the wind).

October General Meeting is on the 19th. Come and see the 1987 Avon Descent action filled video which will be shown after the meeting.

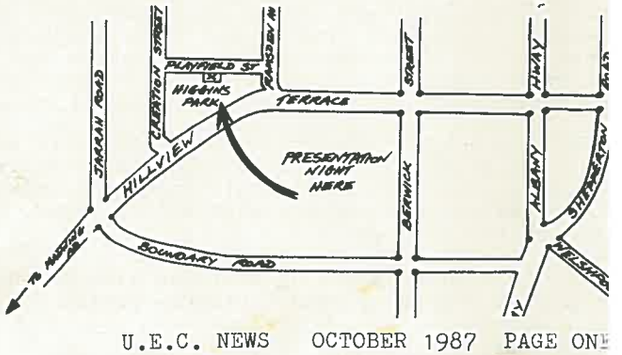
IMPORTANT NOTICE

PRESENTATION NIGHT IS ON THE 6TH NOVEMBER AND NOT AS PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED THE MAGAZINE. ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FRIENDS ARE INVITED. IT WILL BE HELD HIGGINS PARK TENNIS CLUB, PLAYFIELD STREET, EAST VICTORIA PARK. COST, ONL

WA has scooped the pool again.

Just a few months after securing the right to host the 1990 World Swimming Championships, Perth has been awarded the Olympic Water Polo qualifying tournament in 1988 — the only Olympic event in 1988 that will be held outside Korea.

The successful Perth bid was mounted in the face of strong opposition from Amsterdam Paris, Sofia and Mexico City.



President's Report

Barry Kennedy 4536927

At the moment in Western Australia there is a lot of confusion and controvery over diver qualification. What is accepted and what is not accepted. There is no legislation covering diver training. There are no legal requirements for the training of scuba divers. Scuba divers can be trained by anyone who chooses to do so.

However, recreational diving is self regulating to the point where those bodies have certain rules and regulations which they adhere to. These are internationally accepted as the correct procedures for training recreational divers.

The training bodies in Western Australia are divided into two main groups. There are:
Professional diving instructors and
Amateur diving instructors.
There has always been much conflict between these two groups.

The words amateur and professional can be misleading to most people. The only real differenc between the two is professional instructors work for monetary gain. They train divers in order to make a profit where as amateur instructors work on a voluntary basis in a club situation in order to benefit the club as a whole.

For this reason we prefer to refer to the two groups as commercial and non commercial. This brings a more accurate picture to mind. The professional diving instructors are made up of three groups, (FAUI, PADI and NAUI). All operate in similar fashion. To become an instructor in the above groups literally costs thousands of dollars and for this reason it is impracticable for amateur clubs to operate under this system. The amateur instructors are made up of club instructors, operating under the Scuba Divers Federation of Australia (S.D.F. of A). This is a federation of amateur clubs similar to the British Sub Aqua Club and operates along similar lines as the British system where instructors are trained in the various clubs under the guidelines of a common qualifying body. In our case the S.D.F. of A.

Our club feels that the training of sports divers is extremely important and the motives and reasons for doing so should be a desire to produce safety conscious divers as the end result, rather than make a profit. The reason why clubs are involved in training divers is mostly to increase club member - ship. We look at this in the long term. Wewant divers who will become a part of our club and remain as members over a long period. We require our members to be well trained and safety conscious, bearing in mind the fact that we will be diving with these people and our own safety will depend to a great extent on how well our new divers have been trained. For this reason we concentrate on producing good divers.

Club training is the safest most effective way to learn to dive. Despite all the political back stabbing by the empire builders and self declared experts, we know that club training produces good divers. Our club has been training divers for over thirty years. Our good reputation has been earned the hard way.

Experience has taught us it takes time to adjust to open water diving. Our training course is over a minimum period of eight week with extensions for

TRAINED SHARKS

A. Maurer

Although sharks are usually perceived as dim-witted eating machines, trainers at the Naval Ocean Systems Centre in San Diego, have taught nurse sharks to retrieve hoops, nuzzle targets and perform other common dolphin like tasks.

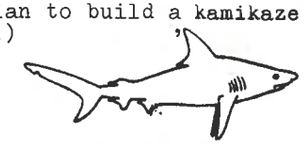
Sharks have one advantage over dolphins. They don't have to come up for air.

The trainers used the same techniques that worked with dolphins, teaching them to nudge a trainer's fist and to respond to buzzers and other electrical stimulation.

Most people think sharks are just swimming mouths. Actually they're brighter than many big, dumb fish and a lot of animals.

But the researchers discovered that sharks tend to rebel against the training. You can only do so much with them before they get upset and bang at the gate to get back to their habitat.

Researchers have no plan to build a kamikaze shark. (If they could do that I give up diving. Ed.)



In 1492 you know who sailed the ocean blue. Every school child can tick off the names of his ships on that voyage, but few know the names of the 27 caravels Colombus commanded on return trips in 1493, 1498 and 1502. Today archaeologists believe the remains of five of them lie somewhere in the Caribbean. Although they contain no glittering fortune, they constitute a rich historical prize. "The caravels would be a concentrated representation of the technology that got man to America and transformed the world" says Roger Smith of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology in College Station, Texas. The institute has asked Haiti to allow a search for the remains of the Santa Maria, which ran aground on a coral reef. St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica is currently being scoured for two vessels, the Capitana and the Santiago from Colombus's fourth voyage. Although the bottom of thebay is dark, muddy and layered with five centuries of shipwrecks, the institute would like to recover one of Colombus's caravels in time for the 500th anniversary of his maiden voyage.

Tubi

GENERAL NEWS

NEW CRAYFISH PROPOSAL

The Rock Lobster Industry Advistory Committee is gathering feedback on the six point proposal before making a recommendation to the Fisheries Minister.

The proposals are:
1. A ceiling on licences issued to amateurs.
2. A shorter season.
3. Individual bag limits to be reduced from eight.
4. One pot per person only.
5. A larger minimum size limit for amateurs.
6. Bans on all divers taking crayfish.

On the 10th, they had to move about for a period 24 hours on account of the strong wind and storm, which blew harder and harder from the North West, so that they were obliged to let go the sloop which they had taken with them and even to throw overboard some of their bread and other things that were in the way, as they could not otherwise bail out the water. In the night they were still in greater danger of sinking on account of the strong wind and high seas. They had no means of keeping off the shore. They could carry no sail. They were at the mercy of the sea. That night a steady rain poured down, and they hoped that the people on the islands might have some of it, and provide themselves wiyh water.

On the 11th at noon, the weather steadied down and cleared up. They kept close to the shore, the wind being South East; but they had no opportunity of nearing the land with the boat, for the breakers were too strong and the coast too steep and jagged, wiyhout any foreland or inlet, as is usaally found on other coasts, so that it seemed to them a bare and cursed country devoid of green or grass.

On the 13th at noon, they were at a latitude of 25 40'. They found then that they had drifted North a good deal, and had doubled the cape, keepping mostly Northward during these 24 hours, as the coast now stretched North North East and South South West. The rocks were of red stone, a good deal battered and broken. There was no foreland. These rocks were all along of very much the same height, and made landing impossible on account of the breakers and high seas.

TO BE CONTINUED.....

NEWS

Anyone who would like a FAUI crossover from SDF, PADI etc., contact Brian 293 4487 home or at work 277 1644. Also those who would like to take part in an advanced diving course, let him know.

Don't miss out!

Socialites

Maree Casley 4573333

It's not long now folks 'till the Presentation Night on November 6th. Most of the details have now been finalised including the cost which is only a measly $8. The venue is the Higgins Park Tennis Club in Playfield Street, East Victoria Park - see the map below for destructions, er instructions on how to get there. The show will get on the road at 8p.m. and included in the cost is all the food you can eat plus music to dance to. This year we have a juke box so you can select your own. Drinks will be provided on the night (at a moderate cost), so there is no need to bring eskies. I will be selling tickets at the next general meeting on the 19th October, so come along to get yours (ticket that is).

We hope to see all the traineees from last year so they can be presented with their certificate as well as all our life members. As I said last month, this is probably the only night of the year when we can all get together and congratulate trophy winners and trainees, as well as have an enjoyable evening. Hope to see you all there.

those who require extra time to develop the self confidence required to become a good diver. There is no pressure to complete a course in a set time period. We do not offer "crash courses" or training which lasts for the period of one weekend. We know better.

After an initial period of pool training, all further training is done in the ocean. This allows students to adjust to ocean conditions over a long period under controlled instruction. This produces divers who are more confident in the ocean and so become better divers and this is really what it's all about. The end product - competent safety conscious divers.

LIVING FOSSILS

Coelococnths are the only known survivors of a group of fish closely relate to the lobe-finned ancestors of modern four legged terestrial animals. The are only found off the Comoros Island in the Indian Ocean.

EQUIPMENT

Now is the time to have your gear checked and serviced.

Are your tanks in test?

Don't leave these things to the last minute, as you may be disappointed or worse should yo equipment fail you.

Avon Descent organisers thanked the U.E.C. for their involvement in the la Avon Descent.

BOWLING NIGHT

Maree Casley 4573333

The bowling night on Friday 2nd October was another very successful social evening. About 20 of us turned up at the Superbowl in Melville for a fun filled couple of hours trying to knock down the pins located 500 yards awa at the end of the alley. Some people like Frank Hubbard and Kerry Ashton little difficulty on the night. Their pins seemed to fall over at the ver sight of them, where as my pins stood up there and laughed when they saw m coming. I think my singular lack of success was a result of my style. I understand now that I have to bowl the ball, not try and throw it. My excuse though is that Irene Walker was in the next lane using the ball lik a shot put and she put (excuse the pun!) me off my game.

I must report also on Tibi's gymnastic ability. From my angle it looked he was trying to do cartwheels and handstands on the alley, but it was poi out to me later that these antics were Tibi's attempts to stop running, af he had bowled the ball. Nice one Tibi!

After we finished bowling most of us went back to the clubrooms for a few nibbles and beverages and spent the rest of the evening either bragging ab our bowling prowess or trying to escape snide comments about our lack of bowling prowess. In any event, we all had a good time and I look forward t another night bowling. Go to it Ron.

Tall Ships Australia, is one of the major events of Australia's Bicentennial Celebrations. It involves a fleet of large square-rigged sailing ships brought together from around the World to participate in a race from Hobart to Sydney. This will be the first time that a Tall Ships Event of such magnitude has been held in the Southern Hemisphere.

To participate in a Tall Ships Event, a ship must be a single hulled sailing vessel with a minimum length of 30 feet. At least half the members of each crew must be trainees between the ages of 16 and 26. Ships will arrive in Fremantle in December.

The club is organizing a welcome party, meeting the ships somewhere around Rottnest and escorting them into the Harbour. If there are lots of interested members we might do the same when the Tall Ships depart Fremantle for Adelaide.

The ships will gather in Hobart in January and either race or cruise to Sydney arriving around 19 January. The Tall Ships Event will end as the fleet departs Sydney in a grand parade of sail on 26 January-Australia Day 1988!

IMPORTANT

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the 16 November at 8 p.m.

All Members are invited to attend.

All positions will be vacated and you can decide who is going to run the club next year by nominating your choice.

This year there is a slight change, all Committee Members will have a section to manage.

You are invited to nominate and vote in a:

President)
Secretary) must have been members of the club for
Treasurer) 12 months or more.
Boating Officer)
Diving Officer)
Magazine Editor) Vice President to be elected from
Safety and Technical Officer) one of these officers.
Social and Public Relations Officer)
Training Officer)
Building Officer)

All officers will be elected for 12 months on an honorary basis.

All nominators, seconders and nominees must be financial members. The Returning Officer will be J. Pasculich Lot 2 Wattleup Road, Wattleup.

Nominations for any position may be lodged in written form with the Returning Officer, in the event of a member not being able to attend. Any member unable to come to the Annual General Meeting may be represented by Proxy nominated in writing by the member and the Proxy, on submitting this Authority to the Returning Officer shall be entitled to exercise the voting power of the absent Member in addition to the Member's own voting power.

Remember to come to the Annual General Meeting and have a say in who is going to be elected, or nominate yourself for one of the positions.

Remember to organise a Proxy if you are unable to come.

Against the evening they saw the sloop rowing towards them, which they had left about the ship. Gillis Fransz, second mate was in her with ten men, gone out to find fresh water also. Seeing that their efforts in this direction were in vain, and that those in the boat were inclined to sail for the mainland, South, they asked to be allowed to go thither also in the sloop. this was accorded, partly because if the weather was rough they would thus get the water more easily across the breakers, for they were disinclined to let the sloop return to the people on the islands and on the wreck.

The 8th when the boat was in good trim and everything ready, in order to sail in the morning from the islands to the mainland, the Commodore read out to his crew the following resolution, drawn up beforehand, to which all consented with a solemn oath.

RESOLUTION

Since on the islands and cliffs roundabout our foundered ship "Batavia" there is no fresh water to be found, in order to feed and keep the people who are saved, therefore the Commodore has earnestly requested and proposed that an expidition should be made to the main southland to see whether it is God's gracious will that fresh water shall be found, of which so much may be taken to the people that they shall be certain of having enough provision for a considerable time; that meantime someone shall be told off to go to Batavia, in order to let the Lord General and his councillors know of our disaster, and to ask him for early assistance. To which we the undersigned have all voluntarily consented since necessity forces us thereto, and since, if we acted otherwise, we could not answer for our conduct before God and the high authorities. therefore we have unanimously agreed and resolved to try our utmost and to do our duty and to assist our poor brethen in their great need. In certain knowledge of the truth we have signed this with our own hand and have all of us sworn to it on the 8th of June, 1629.

Was signed

Francois Pelsaert
Claes Gerritsz
Jacob Jansz Holoogh
Claes Jansz Dor
Adraien Jacobsz
Hans Jacobs-Binder
Jan Evertsz
Claes Willemsz Graeft
and Michiel Claesz

SAIL FOR THE MAINLAND

Therefore they commenced their voyage in the name of the Lord, and sailed into the open. In the afternoon they were in latitude 28 13' and shortly afterwards sighted the mainland, probably about six miles north by West of their foundered ship, the wind blowing from the West. They were in about 28 or 30 fathoms of water, wherefore in the evening they turned away from the land, but went near it again about midnight.

On the morning of the 9th they were still about three miles from the shore, the wind with some rain, being mostly North West. They guessed that during these 24 hours they had made from 4 to 5 miles in a north westerly direction. The shore in these parts stretches mostly North West and South East, a bare and rocky coast, without trees, about as high asat Dover in England. They saw an islet, and some low sandy dunes, which they thought they could approach. But coming closer they found that near the beach the breakers were very rough and that the sea rolled high on the land, so that they could not very well risk the landing since the wind rose more and more.

HISTORY RESURRECTED PART 3 BY BOB COTTON 3672222

'BATAVIA'

The story so far:
The 'Batavia' has been all but abondoned by crew and passengers. These were now organised into two parties and placed on separate islands. Some of the crew members had become generally unmanageable. Captain Pelsaert meanwhile, along with a small band of trusted crew organised themselves to go in search of water on other nearby islands. Once this was achieved they then would proceed on to Batavia to inform the Dutch East India Company of their disaster and the plight of the remaining survivors.

THE SAGA CONTINUES.

Before carrying out the resolution just made, the Commodore asked the skipper to order some of the crew to go with him in the sloop to the other islet in order to aquaint the people there with the preceding resolution. He was dissuaded from doing this, because they feared that they might keep the Commodore there, and he might have occasion to regret it, and also because none of the men were very much inclinedto start out with him. But he persisted in his intention, stating that if they would not consent to his going to the other island, he would tell the people of their intentions not to go and find fresh water for the whole number. He was ready to die with the people honourably, and not to leave the Company's ship and goods. Then they consented. He obtained a boatswains mate and six men at his service, who were ready to take him in the sloop to the island, though on condition that, if he should be retained there, they be allowed to leave with the sloop and go on. This being agreed they started with Commodore, taking with them a cask of water for those on the other island, but when they came near the shore, the boatswain and his men refused to land, saying "they will keep you and us there. We don't wish to go nearer. If you have anything to say to them you can call out.We are not going to run any risk for your sake". The Commodore was very indignant at this slight, and wanted to jump overboard in order to swim ashore. But the boatswain pulled him back and held him, telling his crew to row back. The Commodore thus being hindered in carrying out his kind intentions, recommended his unfortunate brethren to God's care, and much against his wish returned in the evening.

In this sad state of affairs, the Commodore at last resolved to go and look for fresh water on the islands. Therefore on the 6th of June in the morning, he wrote on a leaf of the book of tablets - That he and the others thereby named, were going out with the boat to find fresh water on the neighbouring islands or the mainland in the South, promising to make haste and return to their friends as soon as possible.

THEY GO TO FIND FRESH WATER

This document he placed under one of the bread barrels, which they left on shore. Then he sailed with the boat and for three days searched two islands for fresh water. On the cliffs of the larger one they found some in the small hollows left by the rain, but the washing ashore of the sea had spoilt most of it, making it salt, so that it was not good to drink and therefore useless.

On the 7th they stopped with the boat at the largest island in order to get her into better repair. For it was plain that they would not find any fresh water on the islands. They had already dug a good many holes in vain, so that they would be obliged to seek the mainland to the South, which they durst not try in a boat that was not well founded, fearing that they would not be able to withstand the sea.

Boat Report

D. Stubberfield

The season has well and truly started for Skippers and crews of U.E.C. wit 3 successful dive trips, 1 very successful fishing outing (of a social natur and a rough but , I'm told , highly enjoyable long week end dive trip t Rottnest. The weather has been the only factor which has in any way held u back.

Speaking of weather, divers and skippers are now hearing forecasts givin sea and swell conditions in metres of wave height rather than the old "sligh sea and low swell" type of reporting. Maree has also mentioned this in he diving report and I will elaborate to give you an idea of how skippers wil assess conditions to advise the D.O. of the day what he can expect.

Swell heights of up to 2 metres are regarded as "low", 2 metres as "low t moderate" and heights between 2 and 4 metres as "moderate". Swell contribute mainly to surge and poor visibility under water and any swell height much abov metres must be regarded as being undivable for most of our divesites however, conditions can change quite rapidly at times, so dont assume a trip i cancelled until the very last moment, or until notified by the Dive Officer.

Sea conditions are imposed on top of the swell and are classified a follows; Smooth 0.3 to 0.6 metres; Slight 0.6 to 1.5 metres; and Moderat 1.5 to 2.5 metres. Seas much above 1.5 metres will make conditions almos impossible for normal recreational diving in open water. Wind speeds above 1 knots will cause many "white caps" on the waves and generate seas over 1. metres if given sufficient time and distance to do so.

Obviously our boat and skippers can therefore handle conditions quite a bi more severe than normal diving operations can tolerate and this is always kep in mind by skippers when advising D.O.'s.

"UNDERWATER EXPLORER" is performing extremely well, gaining about 3 to 4 knot from the efforts put in on achieving her smooth bottom. Hopefully we will no be involved in much bottom cleaning with our new DRP antifouling.

Finally, I feel I must advertise the newly affirmed Club policy on use o the boat. She is designed for hard work and it is intended for you the Cu members to use her as much as possible.

All that is required is to have a Skipper and D.O. and any group of diver may use the boat at any time. The equivalent of 6 divers (apart from skippe and D.O.) are required for Rottnest trips (or points as far distant a Rottnest). For short trips. eg. Carnac, Garden island and Stragglers, th equivalent of 4 divers are required. Skippers have been instructed that th boat will not go to divesites unless these conditions are met. The boat i also available for Saturday dives so please see Maree to find out what is goin on.

All trips and boat usage should be cleared through the Club Diving Office who will then be able to coordinate the various activities.

South to southwest winds at 10 to 15 knots, increasing to 18 to 25 knots during the day. Seas at 2m on a 2.5m swell.

Cheers folks "Bligh-Stubby".
4573333 H 2749606 W

Here is a chance to be involved in an area uniquely ours, the Marmion Marine Park. I am organising a group of volunteers, (so far I have 10) to participate in a survey of the park, which will be in conjunction with the Conservation and Land Management. (CALM).

The program for the survey has yet to be finalised however it will commence about spring. (Sept. Oct.). I do have to indicate to CALM the resources we are offering to finalise the programme.
Please contact me: Kerry Ashton 331 2385 (Pref. B/H).

=Safety Officer's Report= By Adrian Edwards

4572117

Hi there folks.

Well hopefully we should be back into regular diving by the time you read this, so there may be a few club members who would like to brush up on a few things prior to getting back into the water.

At the next general meeting on the 19th, I will be asking if there are enough members interested in doing a short refresher course to make it worthwhile holding such a course in the near future. Please help us to help you and turn up if you are interested.

DIVE TABLES

These are the foundation of our diving safety and all divers should be able to work them out easily and refer to them on all dives in excess of 9 metres depth of sea water.

Dive tables are constantly being reviewed by Navies and medical bodies and many different tables exist. Most tables have their drawbacks and merits and no one set of tables provides the perfect answer. For example, the RNPL/BSAC tables we use are quite conservative and well suited for single dives but can be well over on some profiles. These tables lack the scope of the U.S. Navy-based tables such as PADI and NAUI when repetitive diving is needed but these tables while providing more flexibility tend to push the time limits too close (I think) for unfit sports divers.

Just so there is no misunderstanding, our club is still currently using the RNPL/BSAC tables and all dives with our club will be planned on these tables. I ask all divers on our club outings to assist the dive leader by adhering to the briefed times and depths. While sometimes these may seem slightly restrictive, I honestly

believe that our excellent safety record over the last couple of years has been due to our close attention to conservative depth/time profiles. Also, use the surface interval for what it is intended ...REST! Do not run about the beach and drink fizzy brews, go for strenuous swims in the sun or smoke heavily - YOU will probably get away with it, but you don't set a very good example to those who are unfit.

I also strongly urge divers who are using PADI or NAUI tables when away on diving holidays or charters to quietly build into them their own "fudge factors", and not dive the tables to the limit. You can do this easily by referring to the next "box" under your time/depth table. Choose a buddy who also wants to be extra careful and you will not be restricting anybody else! Be in command of your own dive times. Don't be a dummy and blindly follow the other diver who may not know as well!

Finally folks, it's a good idea to see to your gear after it has been lying in your bag all winter. Some things to check before diving EVERY TIME are :-

(1) Regulator correct function and no hose leaks. Mouthpiece not perished.
(2) Depth gauge checked for accuracy.
(3) B.C. no leaks and inflation valve working. Manual dump working.
(4) Back pack clips and straps secure.
(5) Mask and fin straps not perished.
(6) Scuba hose feed connection to B.C. easily connects and disconnects.
(7) Air contents gauge working and no leaks.

Cheers for now
Safe diving
Adrian

Don't hesitate to contact us if you need help of any kind.

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U.E.C. NEWS

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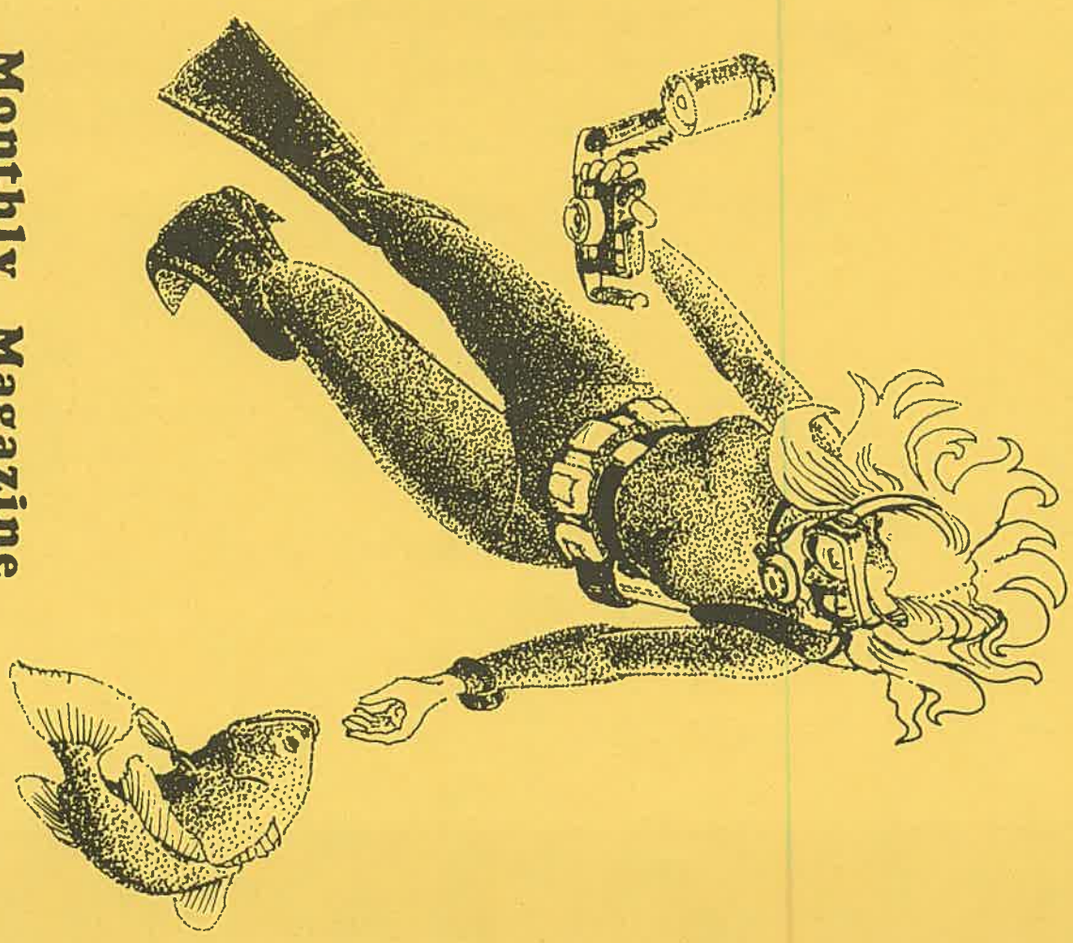
Monthly Magazine



NOV 87

THE TALL SHIPS ARE COMING

An historic and spectacular sailing event for all West Australians

The very first event a weekend voyage from Fremantle to Mandurah and back starting on December 5 is for WA "tall ships" only a mixed fleet of training ships, luggers and yachts.

With the guard ship HMAS Derwent the voyage will start at 0830am off Fremantle Heads on December 5 and follow a route north off Scarborough, then west around Rottnest Island, before turning for a southerly run to Mandurah they return on the 8th December.

The Tall Ships proper are the 16 sail training vessels coming from Poland, Britain,the USSR, Spain, The Netherlands, India and France.

Led by their flagship, the beautiful Polish Dar Mlodziezy, they will make a ceremonial entry into Fremantle harbour on Tuesday, December 8. All the W.A. Tall Ships (about 50) will join the ceremonial entry. Docking is planned at 11.00am.

The First Fleet re-enactment ships, which sailed from Portsmouth, England, in May, are due on December 10.

This is the group which found itself short of funds when it reached Rio de Janeiro, and includes the replica of the Bounty.

The Parade of Sail, on Saturday December 12, will have both overseas fleets, plus WA's own training ship Leeuwin, leaving the harbour and sailing along the coast to Scarborough before heading away round Rottnest Island for Adelaide and, eventually, Sydney.

To welcome the international fleet of Tall Ships into Fremantle on Tuesday 8. December, and to welcome the First Fleet re-enactment ships on Thursday 10. December and to fairwell all of them on Saturday 12 December the Club is organising boat trips with chicken and champaign.

It is very important to book. Ring Maree on 4573333 h. 4207683 w.

All those members who booked; please ring again and advise Maree on which of the three days you would like to go.

Skippers on Tuesday, Saturday Dennis Stubberfield, on Thursday Barry Kennedy. (The actual time the Thursday boats arrive, has not yet been decided).

afternoon, when they saw an opening where there were no breakers. But it was very dangerous, very stony, and not holding two feet of water. The shore had a foreland of dunes of about a mile broad, before the higher land was reached. When they had gone ashore they commenced to dig holes in the said foreland, but found nothing except salt water. Some of them therefore went higher up and fortunately found some small hollows in the cliff full of fresh water that the rain had left there. The quenched their great thirst greedily, for they had almost succumbed. Since they had left the ship they had been without wine or other drink except a daily allowance of one or two cups of water. They also collected a fair provision, about 80 cans of water, remaining there the whole night. It seemed that the blacks had been there just before, for they found the bones of crabs and ashes of the fire.

GREAT ANTHILLS AND MULTITUDES OF FLIES

On the 16th as soon as it was light they resolved to go further inland, hoping to find more such hollows with fresh water in the mountains. But their search was in vain. They found that there had not been any rain in the mountains for a long time, nor was there any appearance of running water, for behind the mountain chain the country was flat again bearing neither trees nor vegetation nor grass, and being everywhere covered with high ant hills built of earth, which in the distance were not unlike indian huts. There were also such multitudes of flies that one could not keep them out of one's mouth and eyes. They saw eight black people each carrying a stick in his hand. These approached them to a musket shots distance, but when they saw our people coming towards them they took to their heels and would neither speak or stop.

Seeing that there was no chance of obtaining more water they resolved towards noon to leave, and setting sail they passed another opening of the aforesaid reef, a little more to the North. They were then in latitude 22 17' and imagined they were approaching the river of Jacob Kemmessemsz. But the wind ran to the North East and would not keep to the shore. They were therefore obliged to resolve on trying to continue their voyage to Batavia as soon as possible, with God's help, in order to inform the worthy Lord Governor and his councillors of their disaster, and to ask them for immediate assistance to rescue those that were left behind. For already sailed away from their ship and people more than 100 miles, without finding enough water to assist the others, and just obtaining sufficient to keep themselves on a ration of two cupfulls daily.

TO BE CONTINUED.....

MARMION MARINE PARK.

KERRY ASHTON 331 2385
Before 0700 hrs.

It is finally happening. A mixed bag (forgive the pun) of us have met twice, once with Greg Robar, the C.A.L.M. Manager of the park, and again amongst ourselves. Basically we are informal but keen and willing to lend a hand in surveying and mapping the park. For me, it will be a tremendous experience one that will be both rewarding and enjoyable.

For information and as to how to get into this alternative diving, please contact me Kerry on 331 2385 before 0700 hrs.

Got something to say? Get it off your chest by dropping us a line. We'll do our best to publish it

HISTORY RESURRECTED PART 3

'BATAVIA'

The story so far:

The wrecked Batavia has now been abondoned by crew and passengers. These were now organised into two parties and placed on separate islands. Some of the crew members had become generally unmanageable and had consumed more than their fair share of the meagre amounts of food and wine that had been rescued from the ill-fated 'Batavia'. Captain Pelsaert along with a picked crew had gone off to nearby islands in search of water. This was not very successful and now Captain Pelsaert and his crew had resolved to proceed to Batavia to inform the authorities there of their disaster and the plight of the survivors that they had left behind on the Abrolhos Islands.

On the 4th in the morning, there was a gentle breeze but during the day a calm set in. At noon they were in latitude 24, keeping North, with an east wind, the current still took them every day much around the North, greatly against their wish, for but with little sail they were close to the shore.

THEY SEE SMOKE ON THE SHORE

In the afternoon, seeing inland some smoke, they rowed thither, hoping to find an opportunity of landing. They were quite rejoiced, for they imagined that were there people there would also be fresh water. Having reached the shore they found the ground to be a steep and rough incline, stoney and rocky, against which the breakers beat violently, so that they saw no means of landing. It made them very dejected for they feared they would have to depart without landing. At least six men, trusting themselves to their swimming powers jumped overboard and reached the shore with great difficulty and peril, while the boat remained at anchor outside the breakers in 25 fathoms of water. The swimmers having reached the shore, looked the whole day for fresh water everywhere, till in the evening they became convinced that their search was in vain.

THEY FIND PEOPLE

They then happened upon four people, who were creeping towards them on their hands and feet. When our men, coming out of a hollow upon a height, suddenly approached them, they leaped to their feet and fled full speed, which was distingctly observed by those in the boat. They were black savages, quite naked, leaving even their male parts uncovered like animals.

NO FRESH WATER

As those on the shore had spent the whole day without finding water, they swam aboard again towards evening, being all a good deal hurt and bruised, since the breakers had dashed them roughly against the rocks. Then getting ready and lifting the grappling iron, they started in search of a better opportunity, sailing along the coast all the night with but little sail, and keeping outside the breakers.

On the morning of the 15th, they came to a point where a large reef extended at about a mile from the coast, and so it seemed, another reef along the shore so that they tried their best to steer between the two, for the water there appeared to be calm and smooth. But they did not find an entrance until the

What's on...What's on... What's on.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 16TH NOVEMBER 1987 **8 P.M. at the Clubhouse** - DON'T MISS IT.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER	15TH DIVE TRIP - NORTH OF SWIRL REEF - DEEP DIVE	0800
	16TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	2000
	21ST FISHING TRIP ROTTNEST	0400
	22ND DIVE TRIP - ROE REEF	0800
	28TH)	
	29TH) EXPLORATORY DIVE ROTTNEST	
DECEMBER	06TH DIVE TRIP - ORIZABA - CARLISE CASTLE - WRECK DIVE	0800
	07TH COMMITTEE MEETING	2000
	08TH WELCOME THE TALL SHIPS	0800
	10TH WELCOME THE FIRST FLEET	
	12TH FARWELL THE SAILING SHIPS	0900
	13TH DIVE TRIP - MORTIMERS HUMP	0800
	18TH CHRISTMAS PARTY CLUB HOUSE	
	20TH DIVE TRIP - CHRISTMAS DIVE - GREEN ISLAND	0800
	21ST GENERAL MEETING	2000
	27TH DIVE TRIP - STINGRAY BAY - WEST END	0800
	28TH)	
	29TH) EXPLORATION DIVE ROTTNEST	

State Scuba Diving Championships organised by the A.U.F. and hosted by the U.S.F.A. will be held on the 29 November. Details at next meeting.

Divers face tough laws

A STATE Government task force will consider radical changes to scuba diving regulations following a 300 per cent rise in cases of the "bends" last summer.

The head of the task force, Bunbury MLA Philip Smith, said some of the more radical submissions suggested divers should be required to take out accident insurance and pass more rigorous medical tests.

It had been suggested that they take out the insurance to pay for their treatment in recompression chambers.

There had been 75 divers treated for the bends in this State since 1984 and more than half of these had been treated this year.

Mr Smith said it was also likely that the hire and purchase of scuba equipment would be made much harder for unqualified divers.

BRIGHTON Beach, Scarborough, will be the site for the third round of the State wave sailing championships on the weekend of November 14-15.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

1st November 1987

Single Membership	$40.00
Family Membership	$60.00
Junior Membership	$30.00
Nomination	$25.00 each
Social and Country Membership	$10.00

WITH one of the biggest events on the WA windsurfing calendar less than a month away some of the world's best windsurfers are heading down under.

The promoters of the Leighton to Trigg Giant Slalom to be held on November 21 are expecting a world class field to give the local stars some tough competiton.

Editorial

Stop killing

The most important meeting of the year is on Monday the 16th of November. If anybody from the Committee ever stepped on your toes or if I censored your article, at the AGM you can get even. All you have to do is be a financial member and to come along.

If you noticed that something is missing out of your Saturdays , then you must be one of those who trained or assisted with the training of new Club members. Ever since the Club was formed, training was the backbone of the Club, providing an avenue for social contacts and new members.

Talking about new members, did you know that the Club membership is around the 100 mark and has been for years? Are we loosing divers because we neglect them? Read about my idea of addopting a new member.

Those who experienced diving with seals and know the beauty and the thrill of such an encounter will be sad to know that the Tasmanian Government has issued five licence to kill seals, because they might interfer with fish farms. **SHAME ON YOU TASMANIA!**

President's Report

Barry Kennedy 4536927

I find it very difficult to write this month's report. I can't remember when I last felt so down in the dumps over the future of our sport. Having to concede defeat to the commercial instructor organisations, now that the Government Task Force has been influenced into allowing only F.A.U.I., P.A.D.I. and N.A.U.I. to train divers in this state.

Watching the depressing effect that this has had on some of our committee members and officers really hurts me. Knowing the way our club encourages people to become involved in scuba diving and knowing how hard our club works at making our sport as safe as we possibly can, while keeping the costs to the individual diver to a minimum, it now seems that all our effort will go towards fattening the bank account of some business men.

All of this had to happen on the eve of our Annual General Meeting. I kn the results of the Task Force recommendations will adversely effect the election of this year's committee.

We all must try to keep up our interest in the club, even after a "kick in the guts" like this has happened to our club. We still have so much to offer the sports diver. The benefits of our safe diving practices have been enjoyed by many divers over the years and we should try hard to continue to provide this service in the years to come. To do this we must keep the key people in our club working with the same dedication as they have in the past.

One of the ways I can see to avoid being trampled on and to have some say in what happens with our sport in the future, is to have good representation for all amateur clubs. Perhaps the best way to do this is through the Australian Underwater Federation (A.U.F.) which is supposed to represent amateur divers and has some influence with the Government. If we were to affiliate with the A.U.F. and encourage other clubs to do the same, we may find that we do have a voice after all, and we can use this to moderate the effects of the decisions of the task force.

is NOT as docile as a lot of divers would have you believe but is actually quite potentially dangerous if annoyed or disturbed. Look for them in caves, under weeds and camouflaged on rocks. They also like to rest down at the bottom of wrecks and in amongst jetty pylons.

They won't bother you if you don't disturb them but can take a nasty bite if trodden upon or have their tail pulled. Also don't dong them on the head with your torch!! Wobbys are not to be confused with Port Jackson sharks which can be pretty tame and can be held. However, as in all natures creatures, still treat with respect. Pt. Jacksons still have a venomous spine at the front edge of each dorsal fin.

Another "sport" creeping in seems to be the teasing of cuttlefish. These strange creatures can fascinate divers and photographers by "blushing" or changing colours when disturbed. This might be good fun, but if provoked too much they have been known to retaliate and have a "go" at their assailant. They have a sharp beak like a parrots and are capable of using it!!

Also, watch where you put your hands when groping in holes and weedy cr ces. Wear gloves.

8. EQUIPMENT.

Keep your gear in good condition, especially B.Cs. and Regs. Gear is very expensive thesedays but with good care it can last for years. Try not to ruin your day out or that of your buddys by having some part of your equipment fail at the vital moment.

YOU CAN NOW HAVE YOUR DEPTH GAUGE CHECKED AT THE CLUBROOMS. SEE PETER HORTON.

9. KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING.

Hows your 1st. Aid and resusitation? A bit rusty? Might be time to brush up a few basics eh! Never know when you might need it.

10. DIVE PLANNING.

Finally, plan your dive. Take notice of the weather, current and conditions. Dive within your own limitations. Skippers and dive leaders should consider the least experienced diver when choosing dive sites. Build in your own "fudge factors" when deep diving and repetive diving. Remember, it is possible to contract decompression sickness (the bends) even by diving within the tables if your predisposing factors are against you. These include; age, overweight, female, smoker, on drugs, unfit, unwell, fatigue, cold, exertion, alcohol and many others. Also WATCH YOUR ASCENT RATES. SLOW DOWN.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

ELIZABETH BEADLE	17 CHICHESTER WAY
HOWARD BEADLE	NOLLAMARA 6061

* *

IS YOUR DEPTH GUAGE ACCURATE?

SEE PETER HORTON AT THE CLUBROOMS ==== ONLY $3.00

* *

THE FOLLOWING TOPICS ARE ONLY GENERAL AND ARE AIMED AT THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS WHICH COULD OTHERWISE SPOIL YOUR DIVE AND SOMEBODY ELSES DAY ALSO !

You could always tell them you walked into a palm!

1. BOARDING AND DISEMBARKING.

When a very low tide is at East St. jetty a potentially dangerous situation exists. Please be very careful when climbing between boat and jetty. Seek assistance if unhappy. Also, throw away those bloody thongs. Sneakers or bare feet are safer. At high tide take care not to get arms or legs caught between canopy supports and jetty during backwash.

2. OCCY STRAPS.

These are handy for lashing down tanks but can be damn dangerous if they break or release under load. Dont get your eye in line with the hook when stretching them and any with weak or rusted hooks should be tossed away.

3. SPEARS AND GIDGEES.

If you must bring them along please be responsible for their safe keeping and stowage. These have sometimes been observed with the sharp end sticking up above the gunwales and on more than one occasion have had to be moved away from poking into somebodys BC. Please be considerate.

4. BUDDY CHECKS.

Remember these? The boring little ritual you went through with your partner when you were training! During a couple of recent dives we have seen divers who should know better enter the water in various states of unpreparedness such as, no weight belt,air not turned on, 1st stage not properly on tank, mask not on and equipment getting caught on boat during entry. Dont spoil somebody elses dive by your slackness. You all know the score, check each other out.

5. BUDDY SEPARATION.

The whole idea of the buddy system is that of being able to quickly render assistance to each other if necessary. If divers do not stick closely together then they might as well dive alone! Next time you dive and are separated a long way from your buddy, or even out of sight, just imagine you are in dire need of help very quickly and see how you feel !! Also, remember your lost buddy procedure? It is; DONT PANIC, look all around 360 degrees, look for bubbles(maybe under a cave!) and after a short time, not more than a couple of minutes, SURFACE, whereapon your buddy should do the same and you can continue on.

6. ROUGH SEAS AND SWELLS.

Be extra careful diving in these. Watch for upsurges, and dont forget to expell air from lungs if forced up. Special care must be taken when surfacing near the boat in choppy seas. Do not get head under marlin board.

7. DANGEROUS MARINE ANIMALS.

Contrary to popular opinion the Wobbygong shark

BOAT REPORT

D.R.Stubberfield

This month has seen the pace quicken a little to the extent that the 1987/88 season is really underway. The boat has continued to perform well and maintain her faster pace. However, we need to have a day working bee on her to clean up and get done a host of small jobs which, as the season progresses and boat usage reaches a peak, we never seem to have time for, and which were too minor to worry about during slipping.
Included on this list, among many other things, are two items I have long felt we should do - reduce engine noise on deck and in the cabin, and provide some form of increased seating or handholds for our trips over and back from Rottnest. So, once again don´t leave town folks - as I´ll be looking for a few helpers - my final fling before the A.G.M. and the new Committee´s year.
As this is my last report for the Club year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped and supported me as Boating Officer, all those who put in their much appreciated time and effort working on the boat and all those willing and unwilling deckhands who jumped to our Skipper´s, often "barked" commands. Many thanks to you on behalf of the other Skippers as well, because it´s a sometimes tough, always responsible and often thankless job.
There can only be one Skipper and he is obliged for the safety of the boat to have things done as he says, when he says - not when somebody else gets around to it! Therefore we do appreciate the tolerance, understanding, instant and cheerful help when called for, that you have given this year.
So Folks, I´ll hang up the "cat." till the A.G.M. when I or our future "Admiral of Vice" collects it again and starts lashing about next year. (Always nice to look forward to - a bit of "flage....." don´t you think! joking of course!)

Socialites

Maree Casley.

At 8 aclock on Friday 6 November the highlight of the Club social calendar came to fruition. About 65 of us turned out in force to wine - dine - and dance the evening away as well as be on hand to congratulate winners of trophies and last year's group of trainees.

The event didn't go off without a hitch or two, for a start the fridge didn't get cold, the oven didn't get hot and at one stage there was serious doubt, dare I say it, we were going to run out of liquid refreshments. However, some hasty last minute arrangements and all our problems were solved. It wasn't very long before everybody settled down to the serious business of enjoying themselves.

Of course the whole idea of the night was to present trophies and certificates, so after our slap up feed of chicken, fish, salad and pavlova, the presentations were made.

Some of our members, such as Barry, Dennis, Ron and Richard wore a path to the stage collecting trophies. But my sympathies went to Tibi. He really scooped the pool, collecting the three biggies plus a door prize.

Dennis added the finishing touches to the evening by giving his own personal

awards to Ron for Engineering exellence and Alison for Whip-Master. Adrian reckons we were all ganging up on him, because his trophy for most safety conscious diver were two beauty beer mugs, then was later awarded the two pot screemer award for temperance. I can assure all my readers there was no collaboration between the donors.

With the presentations of trophies over the night came to a rapid screeching halt. Everyone nicked off. Well nearly, thanks to Barry, Dennis Tibi, Bob, Ron and Margaret for cleaning up. Many thanks also to Karen Lawrence for her assistance in preparations for the evening and cleaning up.

Come to the Christmas Party,it will be at the club house on the 18 Dec. It will be a barbie night.

Don't forget Christmas dive trip and barbique at Green Island on the 20 Dec. B.Y.O.

EVERYONE PLEASE NOTE

NO NAME ON TANK ====== NO AIR FILL

DIVING

By Maree Casley 4573333(H)
4207683(W)

Although the weather in recent weeks still hasn't been that flash,some good diving has been had nevertheless. A particularly interesting dive was one we had at Jackson's Rock in a new area. This spot is similar to the one we dive on regularly but with lots of different caves and swim-throughs. Fish life in this area is also abundant.

Another good dive was had at Hugall Passage. This area,near Stragglers Reef,has lots of very pretty soft corals around. Unfortunately, the depth here is about 12 metres, so it is unsuitable as a second dive location after a deep first dive because of lack of remaining dive time or divers inability to remain above 9 metres. From a dive officer's point-of-view, this type of diving is a nightmare and for everyones safety it would be much better not to tempt fate.

At this time of the year our diving activities are starting to increase and pressure on the boat, skippers and D.O's is mounting. I would like to remind everyone that if you cannot make the dive, please let me know so that others can be given the opportunity to go. We also don't want a repeat of a recent episode where the skipper and D.O. were left standing like shags on a rock at the jetty because nobody turned up. It was a pretty poor show when you consider that these people gladly give their time to the club only to be treated so shabbily.
This is my last report before the A.G.M. so I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support during the last year and in particular all the skippers and D.O.s who have made my job a lot easier. I am sure you will all agree they do a wonderful job often with little or no thanks, but without whom our diving activities would be severely hampered. So to everyone a big Thank You and happy diving.

Safety Officer's Report

Adrian Edwards

This will be my last article in the capacity as Safety Officer of the club. I will not be standing for re election to this position at the next (forthcoming) AGM. Having served two consecutive years, I now feel as if someone with a fresh approach to safety should be given the oportunity to take over what I think is a very necessary and important role in our club.

The UEC at the moment, has a good safety reputation and this must be preserved at all costs. I am sure that you would all agree with this. Therefore, I would hope that any member who takes on this position would be prepared to devote the time and effort in keeping up with safety issues and have the conviction to keep safe diving procedures in the foremost of the minds of the other club officers and committee. This is sometimes a difficult path to tread as it involves a balance between insisting on basic diving procedures to be adhered to and not over regulating club members in a rigid military sense. To this end, I don't know whether or not my approach has been correct, but at least I have been supported at all times by the President, Diving and Boating Officers. To them I offer my thanks for their backing.

1987, in terms of UEC history, will be remembered as a time when we had to make a committed contribution to the W.A. State Govt. Diving Task Force and stand up and be counted in trying to preserve the role of the amateur clubs. We believe our submission was a good one and although changes are inevitably going to come about in the diving industry, we are sure the UEC will continue to thrive and be one of the better clubs to belong to. With all your continued support, it could easily be THE best.
Here I would also like to thank all those club members who contributed to the input and preparation of the UEC Task Force submission and helped by offering their "two bobs worth" and criticisms.

One important aspect to have emerged so far from the Task Force findings is the fact that clubs like ours have enjoyed a higher standard of safety as opposed to individual sports divers. It seems at this stage that the Government, in their diving education campaign, will be urging newly qualified sports divers to join a club. The UEC, by virtue of its very good safety record, is in a good position to be recommended as a club to dive with. While all this may sound like "heady stuff" and a bit presumptious to the cynics and our critics, I can assure you that those of us who have worked hard to raise the standard of the UEC have no intention of resting on what ever laurels there may be, rather we want the club to be really something to belong to.

We have stuck our necks out a bit in the Task Force submission by constantly saying how good a club we are, so please folks, do the right thing and continue to dive safely and help us support this claim.

Finally, as your outgoing Safety Officer, I would like to especially thank all of you who have helped the clubs safety record over the last couple of years by adhering to the rules and acting with common sense when diving.
After all, in the final analysis, when the water closes over the top of your hood, it's just you and your buddy. Nobody else is there to hold your hand or watch you. Your safety is then up to YOU.

Cheers for now and safe diving,

Adrian.

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U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A. INC.

Monthly Magazine

LB 73E

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Barry Kennedy

If you concentrate on developing your safety awareness, you will become a better, safer diver and the little things which seem to constantly repeat themselves like divers surfacing too far from the boat, and divers becoming confused about time/depth combinations, should eventually become a thing of the past. The club supplies submersible decompression tables on the boat for members use and I urge you to use these, especially on the deeper dives. Constantly check your depth and time and don't take any chances on trying to remember your tables - take them with you.

Having the diving flag flying from our boat is supposed to keep other boat fifty metres clear of our flag. This doesn't always work in practice. However we have to rely on this for our safety. Every diver should try to return to the boat before surfacing, for safety's sake. Using the "swim up stream of your boat" system, you should never allow yourself to surface more than fifty metres from the boat, preferably in front of the boat, definitely not behind the boat. The area you should be diving in doesn't correspond with the area of protection, under the diving flag. You should make every effort to surface somewhere in the area between the anchor and the shot line.

I feel there is a need to tighten up on our safety procedures and in future you will notice the effects of this. Remember a good safety record speaks well of any club.

WEST AUSTRALIAN DHUFISH (Glaucosoma Hebraicum)

Would you know one if you saw one? The Dhufish is umistakeable once you know what to look for. It's a big fish from 18 inches to 4 foot long, silver grey with a dark diagonal band from the eyes going down and back. It has athick set body with large eyes and mouth, It prefers deeper water (25m). You find them among limestone reefs, caves and ledges.

DETERGENTS - SHARK REPELLENT?

The Moses sole, a Red Sea flatfish, secretes a poison that repels sharks. Professors Eliahu Zlotkin and Yechezkel Barenholtz of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem wanted to know how the secretion, tardaxim, worked. They found that its shark-off-putting qualities and toxicity are due simply to its detergent properties - it lowers the surface tension of water, foams, and reduces the size of water droplets.

This made them wonder if household detergents were equally abhorrent to sharks. So, along with Professor Solomon Gruber at Miami University, they tested the Moses sole's toxin against the aggressive Florida lemon shark. To their delight, they found it worked - and that two common household detergents are even more effective. They even repel ferocious Californian blue sharks.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

JANUARY

Sunday	3	Dive trip to Swirl Reef	0800 hours
Monday	4	Committee Meeting	2000 hours
Saturday	9	Fishing - Rottnest	0400 hours
Sunday	10	Dive trip - Parker Point	0800 hours
Sunday	17	Dive trip - North Point Reef	0800 hours
Monday	18	General Meeting	2000 hours
Saturday	23	Dive trip - Adrian's Wreck	0800 hours
Sunday	24	Short dive trip - Carnac	0800 hours
Tuesday	26	Social day/night - river cruise to watch fireworks	
Sunday	31	Dive trip - deep dive	0800 hours

RESULTS OF THE A.G.M.

President	B. Kennedy	453 6927
Vice President	M. Casley	457 3333H, 420 7600W
Secretary	C. French	361 5694
Treasurer	P. Horton	444 9126
O.C.Diving	M. Casley	457 3333H, 420 7600W
O.C. Training	A. Edwards	457 2117
O.C. Boat	D. Stubberfield	457 3333H, 274 9606W
Magazine Editor	T. Csomay	341 3001
O.C. Safety & Tech.	B. Price	
O.C. Building	M. Branchetti	337 9655
O.C. Social & P.R.	K. Lawrence	367 2787
Auditors	L. Jones, D. Parker	
Radio	B. Wallis.	446 2888

NOMINATIONS

Janet Caroline Skelton	37 Watson Street, Gosnells
Wendy Joyce Hudson	37 Watson Street, Gosnells
Brian Murray	5 Miners Close, Thornlie
Paul Frederick Boddington	5 Fraser Street, East Fremantle
Morris Anthony Newton	45 Alexandra Road, East Frem.
Charles Snow	97/6 Manning Terrace, S. Perth

THE LONGEST DAY

I had the feeling it was going to be a long day when the boat pulled up at East Street and Captain Stubby stopped everyone from getting on board. Just when I'm about to ask what's happening, Dennis and Barry drag out enough wood to make a garden shed, pull off the engine cover and start sawing, hammering and banging. In no time at all the deck is inches deep in sawdust and the engine cover doesn't fit anymore!

Eventually we're all aboard and on our way and despite the delay, I'm feeling really good. It was a beautiful day, lots of divers on the boat and Karen Pollock (she really should change that surname) was keeping her laughing down to a minimum. The bubble burst when I asked Barry, "Where are we going?". "Cathedral Rocks" says Barry. I'm sure I could have ben heard groaning on Rottnest. Roger Smith likes spear-fishing more than I like going to the West End, but no amount of winging, begging and pleading could change their minds.

I settled down for the long slow slog to the West End, thankful for the fact I brought a water bag and bickies with me. As we got closer to the proposed dive site (ha, ha), surprise, surprise, the swell got bigger and bigger and bigger, until people were falling about all over the place. It was then decided that diving on the West End wasn't such a good idea after all and that we were now going to dive at Swirl Reef.

The dive at Swirl Reef was quite good and was incident free. The most noteable thing about my dive was pointing my speargun six inches away from a fishes head, pulling the trigger and missing by about three feet. I'm such a great conservationist aren't I?

The second dive was at Barry's cave where Barry assured us he'd seen four dhufish only the week before. He must have been on something before he dived, because fifteen divers looked into every nook and cranny that day and never saw one, let alone four! Whatever it was you were on Barry, save some for me.

The trip back always seems to be slower than the trip out doesn't it? When there's a 25-30 knot S/Westerly blowing it seems a lot slower, as a few people found out. Isn't it funny how the conversation tends to dry up as the sea gets rough and boy did it get rough.

Karen Pollock seemed to lose her temper and on a number of occasions, leaned over the side and started shouting at the sea. I know it sounds daft, but it's true, I saw her myself. She was shouting"Yoo hoo" or "Hughie" or something like that. If it hadn't been for Peter Bishop hanging on to her pants, I'm sure she would have jumped in, she seemed that angry. When she calmed down she threw her arms around Barry, who was steering the boat and wouldn't let him go until we go to Freo.

Barry was doing alright because apart from Karen throwing herself at him, Stacy who had been in the cabin, said she wanted some fresh aid and as soon as she stepped outside, wrapped herself around Barry too! Now I might be a little slow, but I'm not daft. I mean who in their right mind would stand next to Barry to get some fresh air when he's smoking

Socialites

Maree Casley

The next month sees the U.E.C. embark on not less than 3 social extravaganzas.

The first is our annual Christmas bash which this year is on Friday 18th December starting around 7.30. The venue for this gala event is at Suzie and Kerry Ashton's place at 5 Ralston Road, Kardinya. To add to the festivities there is a pool just waiting for those wishing to indulge - watch the children though, we don't want any accidents. The cost for the evening is only $2 to cover the provision of salads, plates etc. Bring your own meat and drinks. And for the smokers amongst us - no butts in the garden please.

Next on the agenda is our Christmas dive at Green Island on Rotto. Be quick to secure a spot. As in past years, only one dive will take place followed by a BBQ on the beach. Bring your own meat, salad and drinks and be prepared to have a good time.

The piece de resistance is on Tuesday 26th January, 1988. The annual 96FM Skyshow in the Bi-Centenary Year promises to be an event not to be missed. Final details have not yet been determined, but we will have to be out on the water bright and early to secure a spot. Ring Karen Lawrence on 420 9224 at work or 367 2787 at home to book a place. Be early for this one and watch this space next month for more details.

DIVER EMERGENCY SERVICE 008-088-200

Safety Officer's Report

BRIAN PRICE.

Not much to report this month. As a result of the motion passed at the last meeting to review diving procedures and general club practices, a group of three has been appointed to carry out this task.

The group is as follows, Brian Price Safety Officer, Maree Casley Diving Officer, and Adrian Edwards Training Officer.

The group will undertake a complete review of methods and practices in diving, both on and off the clubs boat, levels and standards of gear used by club members on club dives, procedures adopted when using the club compressor, and emergency procedures adopted when and if such occasions arise as well as training.

It is anticipated that opinions and feelings of club members will be solicited so as to involve as many people as possible in determining whether or not some procedures should be changed and if so what should be the new method.

So if you are active in the club, expect to recieve a call. If you have any opinions or suggestions you might like to ring me at home on 4502642, or at work on 2201790. Have a happy Christmas everybody and safe diving.

TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

A. Edwards

This is my first magazine report as T.O. and while those of you who don't spend much time about the club may think that nothing is happening, in the training scene these days, then the following may be of interest.

Currently Brian Jury is putting through an open water course of 8 new members who should all be fully qualified by the time you read this. Due to a change in circumstances in the club, this course will qualify as F.A.U.I. divers (more on this later.)

We hope to see them all in action soon on club dives and I urge all you more experienced club divers, to look out for them and help and encourage them in their diving. Please be considerate, patient and don't hurry them to keep up with you under water. Remember your first few dives and the buddys who made your dives enjoyable or otherwise!

Also in the training scene, a club refresher course was recently held for any members who wished to attend. We did some theory on the dive tables and resusitation in the club rooms on the evening of 23rd November followed up by a pool session on water skills and rescues on the 28th November.

Our efforts were rewarded by some positive comments indicating that we should hold another such course soon. Quite a few members who wished to attend could not do so due to other committments, so I will try to get another refresher going early in the new year. I would like to thank those club members who gave up their valuable time to assist me with the resusitation and pool work.

Oh, also, some members may have felt a bit left out by not being advised that it was on! Well, I tried very hard (within the limits of my telecom budget) to let as many of you as possible know it was on and next time I will give it plenty of notice in this magazine and at the general meetings. So keep in touch with the club. Probably a good idea for anyone wanting any special extra training, refresher or just a "brush up" dive, would be to phone me at home on 457 2117 and I will try to arrange something. Also, if anyone wants anything cleared up or explained theory wise, then I will endeavour to help out whenever possible.

Finally, as soon as the club decides which way it is going to go re training (depends on the final outcome of the Diving Task Force) and we can get some of our instructors crossed over to the accredited bodies, then we will be in a better position to plan our training for 1988. Also, we look forward to having some good news for club members who hold S.D.F. qualifications regarding crossovers in the new year. We'll keep you posted. Cheers for now.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

A GENTLE REMINDER

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS TO BE PAID

Single Membership	$40.00
Family Membership	$60.00
Junior Membership	$30.00
Nomination	$25.00 each
Social and Country Membership	$10.00

that pipe.

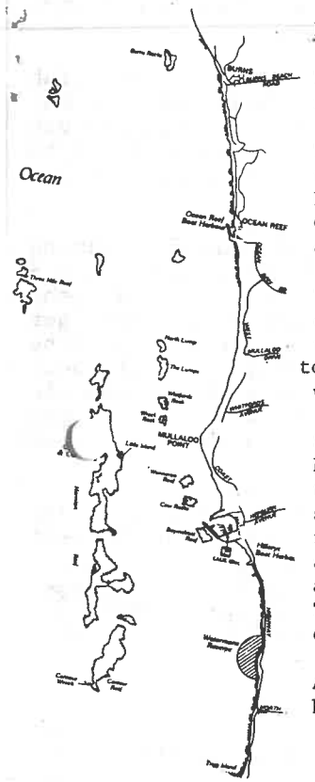
I discovered that bad tempers are catching, because shortly after Peter had Karen's pants in his hands, he's pulling the same stunt himself, leaning over the side shouting the same things at the water. Who is this Hughie bloke anyway?

We eventually got back to Freo at some ungodly hour, way past my bedtime anyway.

If you think this story is just a winge about the long time it takes to travel to the West End only to find that it's too rough to diver there it is.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Sorry about the story "History Resurrected". Part 4 has arrived too late for publication.



MARMION MARINE PARK VOLUNTEERS

The group is alive and well! Numbering some 20 odd, adding another facet to their diving.

The group is assisting C.A.L.M. to survey the flora and fauna within the park. Boyinaboat Reef, a shore dive from the western sea wall of Hillary's Marina, was our first choice. In fact, the obvious first choice, and excellent chance for the more experienced divers to pass on their knowledge to us new chums.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of the group, especially Charlie Snow, who clocked up many hours and collated the first resports. Greg Pobar, the Manager of the park, is happy with the progress and the results to date. We will now be aiming at the reefs further out which of course will require a boat, so if you can help us out.....

Sunday 6 December was opening day for "Friends of the Park" at the Marina. With only three days notice, a number of the group put together and manned a static diving display. The theme was education, safety, observation and conservation. We understand it was well received by the public and certainly the organizers expressed their appreciation. U.E.C. did well by the exposure with a number of enquiries about the club and training, which are being followed up this week. Thanks to Adrian and Mary Edwards, who shouldered the lion share of the organisation and presentation of the display.

Any enquiries about the group, please contact Kerry Ashton on 331 2385 best at 7 AM.

BOAT REPORT: D.Stubberfield.

This month has presented us with some real extremes of activity, ranging from extended periods of nothing at all, to feverish efforts to keep "Underwater Explorer" afloat and busy.
Firstly the weather, always bad at weekends, has kept us tied up at the moorings, with strong wind warnings invariably occurring Saturday night/ Sunday mornings, until not only us but "U.E." herself, could'nt stand it any longer. She took mean advantage of strong winds, rough seas, a possibly flawed shackle and a fast current, broke free of her moorings and headed off to Rottnest by herself. She knows the way very well by now, and managed to negotiate two traffic bridges in an attempt to go diving.

Fortunately She dropped in on the Pilot Berth on the way (probably hoping for a Skipper or something) and thats where She was when found, restrained between the bridge and the wharf. Unfortunately, while there a submerged pile scuffed a large area of ply away under the bow section of Her hull, causing a crack and leak to develop below the waterline.

The full extent of this was later seen at Rottnest on a trip when our automatic bilge pump was heard to operate, indicating what was found to be a bad leak. Shored up to get her home Barry, Pat and I later reinforced Her ply with a plate and extra sub-frames on the inside to allow the Sunday dive trip to proceed safely next day. But again the weather made this unnecessary by causing the trip to be cancelled.

On the following Wednesday She was slipped at Royal Perth Yacht Club where Dave Kenney and trusty Associates, Warren and John, repaired Her professionally. Club members assisted with painting and filling and took the opportunity to do other odd jobs while She was up. Thanks again to these Guys who I hope never get sick of us. Thanks also to those other Club members who also helped.

She was launched again Friday 4/12/87, touched up and looking spanking new again, with a clean bottom and handling as lively as a young colt - like me! Meanwhile back at the moorings an arduous cold day was spent adding extra shackles, lines, chain and tie wire to ensure "U.E." cant get away again. There are now two new 3/4" shackles on a separate rope line above the buoy, a 3/4" and a 9/16" shackle below the buoy and additional 3/4" shackles on the bottom. Incidentally the offending failed shackle still had it"s pin attached to the buoy ring by the tie wire. This pin showed little damage or corrosion and will be on display in the Club rooms shortly.

One wonders what we have to do to win sometimes! - I suspect, like any frisky filly - take "U.E." out and work her hard, then She'll be content to rest at Her moorings.

Cheers Folks! See you on the Boat.

Bligh Stubby

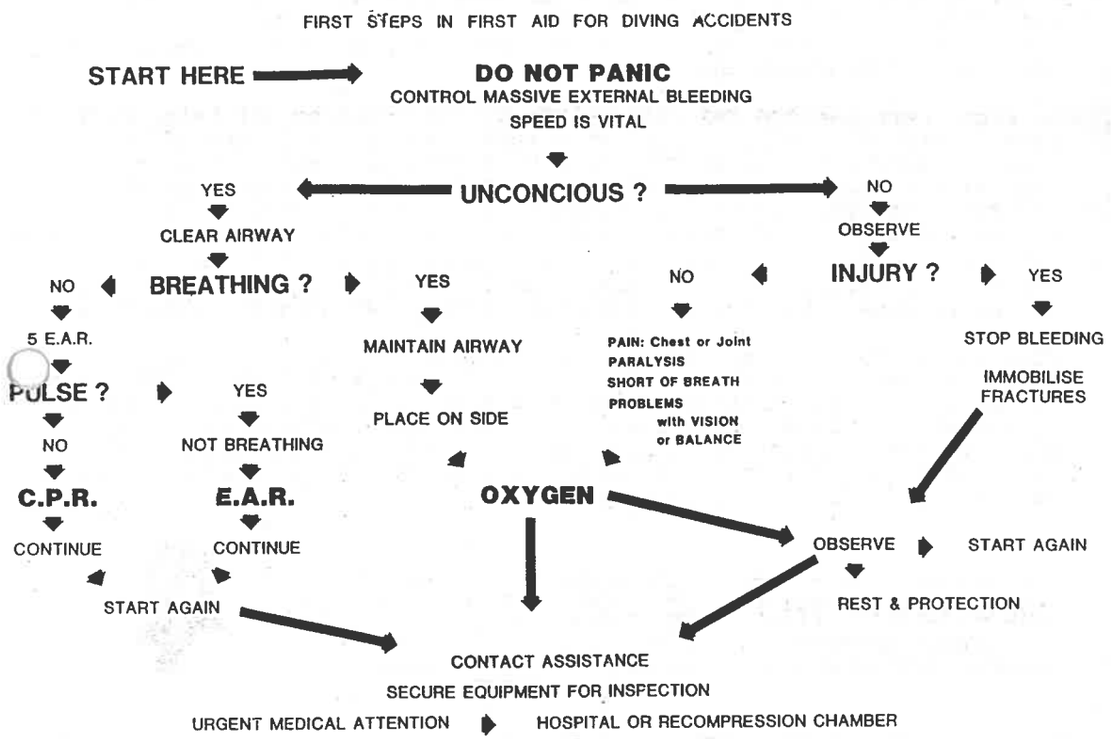
MARINE STINGER HOTLINE 008-079 -909.

For expert advice about the treatment of marine stingers dial 008-079-909 toll free.

DIVING REPORT By Maree Casley

Well folks, there's not much to report on last months diving. 3 out of the last 4 weeks has seen a strong wind warning current, which effectively puts the mockas on diving. As it happens, the boat was being slipped on one of those days for a repair job on the hull, so it didn't make much difference anyway. Goodness knows when this long, hot summer that has been predicted by the meteorology gurus will eventuate. The shouts of joy will be heard throughout the length and breadth of the country when it finally starts.
The boat did manage to make it through the heads on Sunday 6th Dec. although getting back tested the fortitude of the 14 passengers on board. After diving at Swirl Reef and Barry's Caves and contending with the strong currents and wind (which saw some of our happy band drift some way from the boat) everyone headed for home. I understand the huge seas on the way saw some of our members stomachs cave in under pressure. A fair bit of time was spent rushing to the side of the boat relieving their stomachs of everything that had entered it during the previous 24 hours. The diving, by the way, was reported as being quite good. Barry even caught some tea.
Sorry gang, but that's all. Maybe, just maybe, the weather will allow some diving to take place next month and I should have something more to report.

P.S. Dennis and I are going away on holidays from 15th Jan. to 8th Feb. If you want to book on for a dive give Adrian Edwards a ring on 457 2117 and you can listen to his dulcet tones on the answering machine instead of mine.



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U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A. INC.

Monthly Magazine

NOT THE LONGEST DAY

Peter Leach

All the signs were good, calm sea, low swell, cloudless sky, boat full of divers. Yes it looked as if the 3rd January was going to be a top day for diving.

Leaving East Street on time we set off for the best dive site on Rottnest, Jackson's Rocks. I could hardly contain myself. No long boring slog to some other dive site today, we were heading for the Rottnest site closest to Freo. In fact Jackson's Rock is so close and easy to find a blind man on a foggy day could find it or could he?

On the way across Margaret Langson found out I had two tanks for sale and set about driving me mad with her bargaining to buy one of the tanks. At one point in the proceedings she wanted me to fill the tank, give her $280 and she would kindly take it off my hands - what a woman! She eventually wore me down and I agreed to give it to her for virtually nothing.

Twenty minutes out we started to get kitted up thinking we were almost there and would soon be entering the water. Martin and Adrian however had other ideas and had planned a little treat for us all.

We had a few new members on board who were about to be a little confused and the rest of us were about to feel very nostalgic. On reaching "the site" we began to drive around in circles, brings back memories doesn't it. We were driving around for so long I'd eaten all my lunch and then checked the batteries in my torch - any more circling and this was going to be a night dive. Not to worry, Martin and Adrian knew where we were all the time and at 10.30a.m. we started to dive.

The water was beautiful and clear and the coral terrific and as always at Jackson's Rock there was lots of fishlife. I spotted a lovely harlequin fish and feeling a little concerned that other divers may not have seen it, I brought it back to the boat to show them (I'm so considerate).

The second dive was at Barry's Cave, or as near as our intrepid navigators could get to it. It's a nice place to dive but it has funny effects on some people. Peter Horton surfaced with reports of dhufish around every corner. Two of our newer members saw a school of dhufish! I've really got to keep my eyes open or else start taking what everyone else is taking.

After the second dive we pulled into Thomson Bay where four of us went to the pub for a drink while the rest stayed on the boat. It was very pleasant for all concerned.

The trip back saw three idiots, two blokes and a bird, sitting on the cabin roof who, when they weren't getting soaked to the skin by bow waves, were getting skin cancer on the back of the neck. I have it on good authority that the two guys wanted to get down but were too macho to make the first move and the girl - well, there was no way she was going to move when she was jammed between two guys, even though they weren't U.S. sailors.

Yes, it was a great day.

DON'T FORGET MEMBERSHIP FEES

What's on...What's on... What's on...What's on

JAN.

18TH.	MON.	GENERAL MEETING		
23RD.	SAT.	DIVE TRIP - ADRIAN'S WRECK	P.HORTON	T.CSOMAY
24TH.	SUN.	SHORT DIVE TRIP - CARNAC ISLAND	M.SMITH	A.EDWARDS
26TH.	TUE.	SOCIAL NIGHT - BI-CENTENNARY TRIP	1500 HRS	
31ST.	SUN.	DEEP DIVE TRIP - NORTH ROE REEF	B.KENNEDY	P.MORTIMER

FEB.

1ST.	MON.	COMMITTEE MEETING		
7TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - JACKSON'S ROCK	M.SMITH	A.KEEN
6TH.	SAT.	FISHING TRIP 0330 HRS	B.KENNEDY	
H.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - MARTIN'S ARCHES	P.HORTON	M.CASLEY
TH.	MON.	GENERAL MEETING		
20TH.	SAT.	DIVE TRIP - ROE REEF	D.STUBBERFIELD	T.CSOMAY
21ST.	SUN.	SHORT DIVE TRIP - STRAGGLER'S REEF	B.KENNEDY	A.EDWARDS
26TH.	FRI.	SOCIAL NIGHT 1900 HRS		
28TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - WRECK DIVE - ORIZABA	P.HORTON	P.MORTIMER

NIGHT DIVES

Anyone keen to do night dives, please register their names with the Dive Officer on 457 3333 or if no answer 457 2117. This is to enable you to be contacted at very short notice (during the day at work) when weather conditions are right for night diving.

THE NEXT PROPOSED NIGHT DIVE IS FRIDAY NIGHT 29TH JANUARY. Be in touch.

Ring Adrian to book dives from 17th January to 7th February on 457 2117

Watch the 96FM fireworks from our boat on theSwan River. Chicken and champagne, 3p.m. Tuesday 26th January. Cost $ 20

Dive with the sharks and dolphins at Atlantis. Cost is $30, 19th March.

Night dive and barbecue at base, 7p.m. 26th February. Bring your own meat and drinks and dive gear.

NOMINATIONS

Bownes: Kenneth John, 17 Roberta Street, Daglish, 6008
Hull: Michael James, 8 Kerhsaw Street, Subiaco, 6008
Petrie: Helen Ruth, 8 Kershaw Street, Subiaco, 6008
Kelly: Rebecca, 656 Beach Road, Hamersley, 6022
Branchetti: Sandra Adriana, 8 Stone Court, Kardinya, 6163

DIVING REPORT

Maree Casley 420 7683
H 457 3333

Hi folks. This month I have several things to report on and I may as well get the first one out of the way as soon as possible. I am going to have a whinge (not another one you say)so read carefully. Despite repeated requests the Club still has some members, who by their in-considerate attitude, cause me a lot of aggravation and fellow Club members a lot of disappointment. Let me explain. Twice in the last month I have had to refuse people on the boat, for the Tall Ships cruise and diving, only to find on the day that people haven't arrived but haven't bothered to let me know. Remember that it is my job to take bookings and that's why we have the answering machine so there is no excuse! I am* all of you people that insist on not arriving after you have booked on would change your tune if you had the unenviable task of refusing people then finding out the boat went out with spare places available. The last Committee Meeting enpowered me to fine people who offend in this way - so be warned.

Now that I have had my little grizzle, I'll get on to the more pleasant items on the agenda. Last month saw the U.E.C. Annual Christmas Dive take place. The response this year was enormousand we ended up taking 28 people over to Julie's Caves and then onto the island for a barbie. The location on this occasion was not a particularly good choice,as it was a bit swelly,however, from all reports the diving was very successful. Getting back onto the boat wasn't easy but everyone made it safe and sound. After a short trip we were soon on shore enjoying a few Christmas drinks, steaks and snaggers. Many thanks to Bruce,Barry and Peter for bringing their boats along to enable more divers to attend. Commiserations to Janet and Albert who didn't make it because their boat was on the blink.

The dive on the 3rd of January also proved to be a big hit. Adrian and Martin took a boatload of divers over to Jackson's Rock followed by a shallow dive at Kingston Reef. The weather on the day was perfect and everyone enjoyed a great days diving as well as a short time rubbing shoulders with the locals on the island.

Now that the good weather is with us, there is a big chance that perhaps we can get in a few night dives. As I have mentioned before, I am no longer advertising night dives on the calendar because of the impossibility of predicting the weather 6 months in advance. What we have decided though is to create a register of people interested in night diving so that we can contact you when the weather permits. Of course, if you don't register, we won't ring you.So if you are interested and can make it at fairly short notice, let either me or Adrian know you home and work numbers and we will get in touch with you.

Don't forget that Dennis and I are going on holidays until 7th of February,so ring Adrian on 457 2117 to book your diving.

* SICK OF

MEMBERSHIP FEES

1st November 1987

Single Membership	$40.00
Family Membership	$60.00
Junior Membership	$30.00
Nomination	$25.00 each
Social and Country Membership	$10.00

FEBRUARY MEETING

The February Dive Club meeting will include a guest speaker. Charlie Snow, a new member who has dived just about everywhere, is preparing a slide presentation for us which includes underwater shots from the Red Sea.

It will be a chance to see some varied and special underwater scenes, so thanks Charlie and see you all there next month.

TALL SHIPS - TUESDAY

Karen Lawrence

We started out at a time when I'm normally sleeping, but it was worth it.

Our boat was one of the first out and one of the first to greet the Polish sailors. All morning our skipper managed to get us in to all the best spots and even held the boat in reverse so Barbara could get a particular shot (love to have been a photo processor that week).

U.E. made her entrance to the port right beside the big Polish boat. I started to feel like royalty sitting on a deck chair waving to the poor people on shore. We got to putt up and down chatting to sailors and really checking out the different 'Tall' ships.

After all the activity, sitting moored in Lombardo's taking refreshments wasn't too hard. When it all felt too decadent U.E. moved on around the harbour. One by one our brave band entered the icy water. The highlight of the day was Margaret's swim. I think the guys thought the impromptu display was something to do with Christmas.

Funny how no one drank more than a couple of glasses of champagne and some people didn't drink any at all, yet we still got through more than a bottle a head! The only sad bit for me was thinking of everyone back in the office working.

President's Report

Barry Kennedy

I have just spent the Christmas New Year period enjoying a leisurely past time of sunbaking, swimming, diving, fishing and eating crayfish. Sounds good doesn't it. Two weeks away at my own little hideaway on the coast at North Head.

Dennis and Maree dropped in to visit for a couple of days and I enjoyed the pleasure of their company on several dives. The weather was excellent and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Right on top of the North Head, there stands a monument in memory of Bob Bartle who was taken by a shark in this area twenty years ago. The monument can be seen for miles in any direction and is a constant reminder that there are large preditors out there in the ocean. These thoughts were reinforced for me while attempting to catch a large fish of some sort which kept returning to my set line each night and proceeding to take the baited hooks and simply straighten them out as though they were made of soft metal. Several 800lb. breaking strain steel wire traces were simply snapped off.

I never did find out what was doing this to my fishing gear - I had nothing strong enough to hold onto whatever it was. However, I did carry a power head with me while we were diving. I even managed to take a pot shot at a large groper which wandered into range. The subsequent explosion startled Maree into biting through one of the rubber lugs on her mouthpiece. I believe that I can tell when people swear underwater by the way the bubbles come out of the regulator. Maree had a profusion of bubbles streaming out.

It is extremely difficult to leave a place like North Head and return once again to the hustle and bustle of city life, where the only relief is our club diving. But return we must and now I'm looking forward to some good diving around Rottnest.

CHRISTMAS DIVE

Stacey Roach

After having a good dive and a relaxing barbecue at a prestigious site outside the ladies loo's, it was time to leave.

Barry Kennedy had taken his own boat and on the return trip to Perth, cleverly arranged to get rid of any excess weight - like Ron - to leave him alone with two extremely attractive females (Typical!).

Just when you thought it was safe to go back to Perth - Margaret Langson took the skipper's wheel! The Club Boat rapidly disappeared from view as Barry's Boat went faster and faster. Margaret kept screaming "Yeehah" or "OOOOOOOoooeeeee!" etc. when the excitement of it all became overwhelming. Margaret continued to skipper the boat apparently attempting to break the speed record from Rotto to Perth - which was OK - except that the waves kept getting in the way. Maintaining a deathgrip on the edge of the boat was the only way of actually staying IN the boat. Margaret was very determined and tried constantly to make the trip back more exciting - by almost tipping Barry overboard and carefully manoeuvering the boat to hit this wave "just right" to make everybody in the boat go flying.

Not content with the somewhat hair-raising trip back, Margaret - Thrillseeker - Langson entered Fremantle Harbour and attempted to observe the Tall Ships at VERY close proximity. After experiencing a very close encounter with one of the Tall Ships she went back for another go. For some reason Barry was trying to hide underneath some dive bags as people on the Tall Ships were calling out these strange calls in response to Margaret's "COOOOOOoooooeeeee!"

Safely back on dry land Margaret then thanked Barry for the use of his boat by pouring water all over him!

For an experience you will not forget - until the bruises go away at least - TAKE A RIDE WITH MARGARET!

****
CONGRATULATIONS ANGELA
****

BOATING REPORT

Dennis Stubberfield

U.E. however, is experiencing some minor problems with her cooling system when we work her at high revs as she is tending to overheat. We are currently trying to determine what the problem is and keeping all our fingers (and toes) crossed that the problem can be cheaply and easily solved. In the meantime though, it is business as usual on the boat, with little or no disruption to normal diving pattern.

ROTTNEST LONG WEEKEND

Dennis Stubberfield

Don't forget the Rottnest Long Weekend on March 5th,6th and 7th. March traditionally treats us to the best diving weather of the year.You would be mad to miss a weekend at Rottnest in our premier diving month. Previous long weekends have proven to be a smorgasbord of fun, frivolity and naturally diving and all for $100 or less. Final costs have not yet been determined but should be between $85 and $100.

Accomodation once again this year is in Thomson's Bay in Chalets L,M and Young which will give us plenty of room to spread out whilst still being close to all th action. Once again we also have our own pen for everyone's convenience.

There are still a few places available so let Tibi know on 341 3001 in my absence and be at the next General Meeting on Jan. 18th. with your $25 deposit. This weekend, as always promises to be bigger than Ben Hur, so be quick to secure your place.

Socialites

Karen Lawrence

Our 1988 social year kicks off with the Bi-Centenary 96FM Skyshow river cruise. Departing from Point Walter at approximately 3.00p.m. on the 26th January (the Tuesday extra holiday) we will wander around the river until other boat traffic gets heavy then moor and wait for dusk and the fireworks.

The "Underwater Explorers" regular escort "Nancy D" has a prior engagement so this year's partner will be "Amajas" with skipper Bruce Burns. She's a cabin cruiser with alot of class so she should be just right moored beside the "U.E

The club diet of chicken, salad and champagne along with beer, soft drink and nibblies will be provided at a cost of $20 per person. Please ring me at hom on 367 2787 or at work on 420 9224 to book a space - B.Y.O. deck chair. ookings so far are good, so don't leave it late. Friends are welcome too, t we can take only a maximum of 35 people.

I would like the money at the next club meeting if possible, but if not possible, then the 26th is fine.

Let's be patriotic.

Next up after that is a barbecue, bonfire and shore night dive at the old training base at Woodman Point on Friday 26th February. Starting time is 7p.m. but Mario says get there early if you want to fish for cobbler. Rumour says there's lots of mussels and crabs around as well.

It's B.Y.O. everything including a bit of wood. So this time, this social event is free!

The March social event is Ron's idea - diving with the sharks at Atlantis. The date has been changed from the original 5th March to Saturday 19th March because of the Rotto long weekend. At this stage the trip is fully booked. If anyone booked can't make the new date, please let me or Ron know. Anyone who would like to be on a reserve list, also let me know.

The cost is $30 per diver and includes the rest of the Atlantis show. Non divers can get in for $8 and children $5. I'd like to make it a bit more and include a barbecue. If you're booked in, let me know what you think of is idea.

Looking ahead, the annual Progressive Dinner is pencilled in for May 28th. As usual, we will need home and volunteers to host a course. If you're willing to consider it, please see Maree or myself.

Talk to me if there is anything social you would like to do. I need ideas, especially ones that make a little money for our club.

WE NEED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES

Don't be inconsiderate to other club members. If you cannot make a dive date, please cancel early and give someone else a chance to go.

HISTORY RESURRECTED. THE STORY SO FAR:

The "Batavia" now wrecked on the Abrolhos Island has broken up, leaving passengers and crew stranded on one of the island. Captain Pelsaert has organised several search parties to try and locate either fresh water or local inhabitants. Meanwhile some of the crew have become unmanageable and were consumer what little water and food that were salvaged with no regard to the well being of the other survivors. Finally Captain Pelsaert along with some trusted volunteers has set sail for Batavia (Java) to inform the authorities there of the desperate plight of the survivors. After an eventful trip they finally sight the mainland of Java.

Read on:

THEY SAIL TO BATAVIA

On the 17th the sky was clouded, so that they could not take their bearings at noon. But with a North West by North topsail breeze and dry weather they ran safely north east for about 15 miles.

On the 18th they could again not take their bearings at noon but guessed that during those 24 hours they had sailed about 10 miles with a West North West wind having rough weather with rain and wind, the latter running to the North East slightly North at noon. They then steered East.

This rough rainy weather continued on the 19th and again they could not take their bearings. But they guessed that with a North West by West wind, they had come about 7 miles North North East.

On the 20th at noon they found themselves in Latitude 19 22', and calculated that during the last 24 hours they had made about 22 miles North, the wind being West South West, with a shaky topsail breeze and sometimes rain.

On the 21st they were once more unable to take their bearings at noon. They guessed they had made about 25 miles North, while the wind changed from the South West to theSouth East. The breeze subsided now and then to a calm.

On the 22nd at noon, they were in Latitude 15 10' at which they were not a little astonished, as they could not make out how they had gained so much Latitude. It appeared that the storm had driven them rapidly North during these 24 hours. They sailed north about a distance of 24 miles, the wind being mostly South East with a shaky topsail breeze.

On the 23rd they were unable to take bearings. They guessed that they had sailed North West about 16 miles. That day the wind ran to and fro from East to West, the weather being variable and rainy and frequently calm. In the evening the wind became South South East with a breeze.

On the 24th the weather was dry, a topsail breeze blowing from the South East by South. At noon they were in Latitude 13 30' and had during those 24hours made 25 miles North by West.

On the 25th they had a South East wind, dry weather and a topsail breeze. At noon they were in Latitude 11 30' and had made 31 miles North by West. That day they saw floating on the water much rockweed.

On the 26th they had reached 9 56' having sailed about 24 miles North by West with a South Easterly wind and dry weather.

THEY SIGHT JAVA

On the 27th the wind was South East, a topsail breeze and rainy weather so that they could take no bearings. In the afternoon they sighted the coast of Java being then as they guessed, in Latitude 8 and four to five miles away from the shore. They therefore took their course West North West along the coast until in the evening, they saw a cape in front of them, off which lay an islet covered with trees. They sailed past this cape in the dark, finding that a reef extended away from it and that behind it there was a deep inlet. Into this inlet they sailed North North West and dropped anchor in eigt fathoms of water on hard ground. There they remained all night.

Having weighed the anchor on the morning of the 28th they rowed ashore to find fresh water as they were very much exhausted by thirst. On the shore they found to their great delight, a running streamlet and thanking God for their mercy, they quenched their great thirst. Having filled their casks with water they sailed again at noon continuing their journey to Batavia.

On the 29th at midnight, in the second quarter of the moon, they saw an island ahead, which they passed on the starboard side. At day break they had reached the western inlet, thence the course lies West North West, though one loses sight of the shore on account of the curve, for before one reaches the Trouvene Islands on the most westerly of which there are a good many coconut palms. In the evening they were still a mile away from the southern corner of Java, and at the third hour-glass of the second watch they began to approach the straits which separate Java from the Prince's Islands.

On the morning of the 30th, being close to the aforesaid Prince's Islands, they were becalmed and that day they only made two miles, but towards evening a slight breeze came up from the island.

On the 1st July the weather was calm in the morning and at noon they were still about three miles from the island of "DWars-inde-wagh" (Eight in the way). The wind was changeable and towards evening it began to blow more from the north west, so that they could pass the said island "DWars-inde-wagh". In the evening it was quite calm again and the whole night through they had to row.

TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT Adrian Edwards

With the exception of a couple of finishing off dives for a couple of students, the first club course run by Brian Jury has now been completed.

At this stage no further initial course is currently planned but a FAUI conversion course will be held by Brian Jury through the club on Sunday, 17th of this month (January 1988). This course is to allow any club divers who hold diving qualifications of any sort to cross over to FAUI certificatior

Candidates will need a current medical conducted by a diving doctor (within the last 12 months), 3 passport photos and a fee for course notes and text book. Anyone interested in booking for this course should contact Brian Jury on home 293 4487 or work 277 1644 for further details.

Also, any club divers who hold qualifications of any sort who haven't dived for a while and who want a brush up dive or any help or theory information of any kind, should contact the club Training Officer, Adrian Edwards on 457 2117.

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U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A. INC.

Monthly Magazine

Feb 88

der Mylan: Coenraldt van Huyssen took Judigh Gysbert Schestisensz, who had to suffer this patiently if he would his life . Furthermore Tryntje (Catherine) and Susan Fredericks, sisters, also Annie Beeschietstere, Annie Herders, and Mary Lewijssen, would have to be at the service of the remaining men. To this end various laws were prescribed to these women, to which they had to bind themselves under oath if they would save their lives, as will be seen from the following act:-
"We, the undersigned bind ourselves on our soul's salvation and by the help of God to be true to each other and stand by each other according to our oath aforesaid, nor to have secretly or publicly any designs against each other or to suffer such designs to exist, but in everything to consider the commonwealth first and foremost and to content ourselves, according to the laws hereby framed with the following women: Lucretia Jansz; Judigh Gybert; Annie Herders; Mary Lorrysen; to keep them accordingly and to do everything to keep the peace. In knowledge whereof we have signed this contract on the 16th of July 1629 on the island of Batavia's Kerkhof".

At the last the arrogant boldness of this Jerome Cornelisz rose so high that the name of merchant was too insignificant for him, since there was no trade to be done there.

For this reason he assumed the title of Captain-General making his people, numbering 36 recognise him as such on oath of fidelity and obedience as may be seen from the following document: "We, the undersigned, all here present on this island being Councillors, soldiers, ship mates and also our minister, nobody whomsoever excepted, accept as our chieftain, as Captain-General Jerome Cornelisz, to whom we swear severally and unanimously in the name of God to be faithful and obedient in whatever he shall command us; and whosoever shall do aught to the contrary shall be the Devil's own. Herewith we cancel and retract all previous public and private promises and oaths, comprising all secret comradeships, tent mateships, and other alliances of whatever name or nature they may be. We further desire that the ship's crew among us shall no longer be called shipmates but shall equally with the other soldiers be named and reckoned as belonging to one and the same company. Thus given and signed on the island, named Batavia's Kerkof on the 20th August 1629. Signed by all the mutineers.

Take care of code flag Alpha

Boating regulations covering the internationally recognised divers' flag may have to be changed in Western Australia following a recent court case.

Charges against a boat owner were dismissed when three divers were unable to prove they were snorkelling within the three-mile limit over which the West Australian Department of Marine and Harbours has jurisdiction.

The display of a divers' flag on a boat or buoy in West Australian territorial waters warns masters of all other vessels there are divers in the vicinity, and they should not approach within 50 metres.

Marine and Harbours safety superintendent, John Brooker said the magistrate had been correct in dismissing the charges.

While the WA Marine Act under which the charges were laid, specified a distance of 50 metres clearance around a vessel or buoy displaying a divers' flag, Commonwealth and international marine law did not specify any distance.

"Within the jurisdiction of State waters, it is very simple," Mr Brooker said. "Any vessel must keep clear of a boat or buoy displaying flag alpha."

However, outside the three-mile limit the flag is just a warning to masters that the boat displaying the flag is unable to manoeuvre, and they should keep clear.

President's Report

Barry Kennedy 453 6927

I find myself growing more and more impatient with our Government task force.

At a recent meeting of representatives of amateur diving clubs which I attended, it became very clear to me that none of the clubs were happy with the performance of the task force. After having made some drastic decisions which appear to me to have nothing to do with the original purpose of reducing the incidence of decompression sickness, they now appear to have become bogged down with indecision and loss of direction. After printing pamphlets for distribution to the public, they recalled them for redesigning and reprinting. It seems to be very difficult to communicate with them and almost impossible to extract any definite answers to the multitude of questions that have arisen due to their actions so far.

We now have a situation in the diving community where many hundreds of experienced divers, who have held qualifications for many years, are now being told they are no longer qualified and now must attend classes to be retained as divers, if they wish to continue their sport. These divers include some well known diving personalities who between them have successfully trained many thousands of divers. The task force now considers these divers and many many more equally experienced divers, to be unqualified.

The shame of it all is that one of the few positive revelations to come out of the task force inquiries was the excellent safety records of the amateur diving clubs and their combined low incidence of decompression problems. These same amateur clubs now seem to be the target of suppressive regulation which will hinder their activities and reduce their ability to promote safe diving practices.

The influence of the commercial operations is now clearly showing itself. The often quoted statement that the professional instructors associations are <u>not</u> commercial is misleading, for although the associations themselves are non commercial, the same can't be said for all the individual members who make up the three professional associations which now appear to have been granted exclusive rights to training of divers and sales of diving equipment. In fact the individual members of F.A.U.I., P.A.D.I. and N.A.U.I. will now represent all of the retail outlets in this state, exclusively.

They were also responsible for training most of the amateur divers who were treated for the 'bends'. In fact several of the 'bends' victims were professional association instructors themselves. The purpose of the task force was to reduce the incidents of the 'bends'. They seem to be going about it in an unusual manner to say the least.

In my mind there is and always will be a need for an amateur training body totally removed and free from any commercial interests whatsoever. It seems there are some people who are trying their hardest to prevent this from ever being possible. Well, I think it's time someone made a stand before it becomes too late.

It has been my experience over the years to notice that many divers newly trained through the professional instructor organisations have lacked confidence in themselves, have received inadequate training, particularly ocean training, some have never been taught the basic water entry from a boat and many have had no training in scuba rescue This makes a complete mockery of the buddy system. What is the point of having a buddy who is unable to perform a rescue.

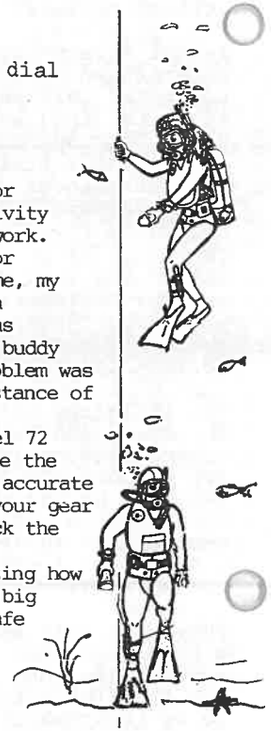
If the government goes ahead with its plan to allow only professional instructors to train divers, you can be sure of one thing only - new divers will be well equipped with the latest fashion colour co-ordinated super duper expensive diving equipment.

MARINE STINGER HOTLINE 008-079 -909.

For expert advice about the treatment of marine stingers dial 008-079-909 toll free.

SAFETY REPORT. BRIAN PRICE.

Since Christmas the safety group has met and identified the areas for discussion with the people responsible for the various areas of activity within the club and once everybody is back off leave we will start work.
On another matter of safety we had what could be described as a minor incident recently whilst diving from the club boat, it occurred to me, my tank slipped through the b/c harness and in a 3 metre swell became a potential problem. I have always considered myself a safety conscious diver, paying particular attention to my gear and the principles of buddy checks and the like however it still happened. Fortunately the problem was quickly solved, having to dekit on the boats ladder with the assistance of the rest of the team.
The problem came about because when I change from my 88 to the steel 72 I need to readjust the b/c harness, there were no marks to indicate the adjustment. I have now painted two stripes on the webbing to ensure accurate readjustment. If you have to readjust equipment between dives, set your gear up so as to make it as foolproof and simple as possible. double check the adjustments and get your buddy to check to.
The forgoing had the potential of becoming an accident, it's amazing how things like that can develop, particularly on a heaving boat with a big swell. I learnt a lesson I hope you do in reading this. Happy and safe diving.



Few people realise that the cuttlebone we give to cage birds to keep their beaks in trim is the internal bone of the cuttlefish.

There are probably ten or more different species found in Australia and their bone is often washed up in large numbers on the beach. The bone is made of very thin layers. The cuttlefish fills the gaps between the layers with gas and uses the bone both as a skeleton and a flotation chamber.

The second merchant, Jerome Cornelisz, having been on the island for about a month after the ship had run aground, and seeing the ship reduced to fragments, began to realise that his first intention of seizing the vessel to be abandoned. Therefore, he considered that his next alternative, being at the head of affairs during the absence of the Commodore, was to murder all the people except 40 men and then with the scoundrels that remained under his command, to seize the yacht that was expected to arrive from Batavia to rescue them and go pirating with her, or to run into port at Dunkirk or somewhere in Spain.

Daily meditating this scheme of his, he selected the following miscreants for his councillors and helpers:- David Seevangh: Gisjsbert van Welderen: Coenraedt van Huyssen: Cornelisz Pietersz of Utrecht Jan Hendrieksz of Bremen: Rutgert Frederiksz of Groningen: Hans Jacob Heylwerck or Basel: and others making them sign the following contract and swear to it:-

"We the undersigned, in order to take away all distrust that exists or might arrive among us, bind ourselves herewith, on the salvation of our Souls, and on the solemn oath that God shall truly help us, to be true to each other in everything and to love each other as brothers, also promising not to do each other any injury whatsoever in person or possession without first declaring verbally to each other the breach of the peace, in knowledge whereof we have signed this contract on the 12th of July 1629 on the Island Batavia Kerkof".

Webbys Hays and his men who were still away looking for fresh water and who, as has already been related were successful after a 20 day search, made three fires as a signal. But this signal was taken no notice of, for that was the day of the general murder. Some that escaped the carnage and came to his island on wooden rafts, brought him the terribly sad tidings of what had happened. He therefore having with him now 45 men, resolved to defend himself and his men, and to be ready for resistance if they came to fight him, making for this purpose, weapons out of hoops and nails which they tied to sticks.

Now that the people, all except 30 men and 4 boys, were most massacred and put out of the way, these miscreants resolved to go to the high island with two flat bottomed sloops, in order to attack Webbye Hays and his men by surprise and to kill them, thinking that otherwise he might give warning of their intention to any yacht that should come to their rescue, and thus their design would be frustrated.

Another party of people being on another little island, David Seevangh went thither towards the end of July with a well manned sloop, attacked them by surprise and massacred them all except seven boys and some women.

These blood thirsty tyrants were well nigh intoxicated with murder and were roused to such bold pride and arrogance, that they did not hesitate to lay hands on the Company's previous materials, that had been saved, making all sorts of new fashioned clothes out of them, which they trimmed with as much gold as possible.

Jerome Cornelisz set the example, and had his helpers, whom he trusted, and who were most ready to take part if the massacre dressed in red cloth, trimmed with two or three bands of gold lace. Giving a still freer course to their viciousness they further divided among themselves as booty, some of the remaining women, in the following manner:-
Jerome Cornelisz took for his share Lucretia Jansz, the wife of Boudlwign van

HISTORY RESURRECTED. THE STORY SO FAR:

The "Batavia" now wrecked on the Abrolhos Island has broken up, leaving passengers and crew stranded on one of the island. Captain Pelsaert has organised several search parties to try and locate either fresh water or local inhabitants. Meanwhile some of the crew have become unmanageable and were consumer what little water and food that were salvaged with no regard to the well being of the other survivors. Finally Captain Pelsaert along with some trusted volunteers has set sail for Batavia (Java) to inform the authorities there of the desperate plight of the survivors. After an eventful trip they finally sight the mainland of Java.

Read on:

THEY SEE A SAIL

On the 2nd, arriving in the morning at the island called "Topper's Hat", they had to drop the anchor till eleven o'clock on account of the calm, waiting for the sea breeze. But no wind came, and that whole day they had to row again, making only 2 miles before that evening. In the setting sun they saw a sail astern, wherefore they ran under the shore, dropping the anchor in order to wait for her.

Having weighed anchor before daybreak on the morning of the 3rd, they make for the strange ship in order to ask for some guns to use in their defence as they did not know whether it was war or peace between the Dutch and Javanese. But when they came nearer they saw three ships, the nearest being the yacht Saardan which took Commodore Franccis Pelsaert on board. From the merchant captain, Van Dommelen he learnt that the largest vessel was named "Frederick Hendrick" and hadon board the member of the Privy Council for India, Mr. Ralsburgh. He sailed thither and coming on board gave this dignitary, with a sad heart, the account of their great calamity. He was treated with the greatest kindness and advised to remain on the ship till she reached Batavia. The other vessels were the "Bromvershaven" and the "Wesop" under the command of Captain Grijp who had sailed from Surat in the company of the worthy Pieter Van den Broech, but had been parted from the others when at sea.

On the 4th the vessel "Bommel" coming from Surat, sailed up to them, bringing word that some more vessels had been sighted by her crew outside the straits, but that they could not tell whether they were English or Dutch.

On the 5th, at the fall of darkness, they arrived in the harbour of Batavia. not knowing how they might sufficiently that God the Lord for his mercy.

CRUEL INTENTIONS

The second merchant, Jerome (Jeronimus) Cornelisz a chemist of Harlem, together with some of his men as David Seevangh, an assistant; Gijsbert van Welderen; Coenraedt van Huyssen and other accomplices, had formed the intention to float the ship off if she had not come to grief. This second merchant and some of the crew remained on the wreck ten days after the ship had been reduced to this condition, until at last she was almost entirely broken to pieces. He did not know how to get ashore. For another two days he found refuge in the bowsprit. Then he succeeded in flating ashore on a spar. Together with him there floated ashore a cask of fresh water, a cask of wine and a cask of vinegar.

Meanwhile Weybbe Hays, who had been sent with some men to a long island to look for fresh water, found some after twenty days' search.

FISHING TRIP 6.2.88 M. Smith

It was time to get up and go. It's 2 a.m. and I wonder sometimes if it's all worth the effort. Barry will be here in 30 minutes - I'll have to get m act together. The weather was looking good. The winds were coming from the east, there was a brilliant moon and we were expecting a one metre swell.

We all assembled at East Street jetty. Tibi and his mate Merv., Luke, Peter and Albert as usual. Stacy was there to have another go and I had asked two of my mates.

After watching the sun come up while rounding the West end and the easterlies showing no sign of letting up, it was time to start fishing. One hour passed two hours passed - nothing. Barry suggested we move to another spot north of the island. Pulling in our lines, Barry had hooked a Queen Snapper, but still no jewies. Meanwhile Tibi decided to trawl a lure and had instant success with a 2kg bonito. Another spot, line in and we fished for a while but still nothing significant. After moving again, I hooked a Queen Snapper. Tibi then followed by throwing in a lure. After some time I also hooked a bonito.

We then decided to go north of Roe Reef where we found a really good spot. Lines in and a few minutes later, surprise - a jewie, the only one for the day. By this time it was about 2p.m. Time to head back and re-fuel the boat. A very pleasant day. (?)

The ancient ancestor of the octopus, squid and cuttlefish had external shells just like other molluscs do today. Five hundred million years ago, before fishes evolved, the nautiloid and ammonoid shelled ancestors of today's cephalopods were the major marine carnivores.

Today, only a few shelled cephalopods survive and the chambered nautilius is the best known. This species which grows to 200mm in diameter is found throughout the tropical West Pacific.

NIGHT DIVE 29.1.88

Well, our first night dive for the year and the weather was fine and hot. I was rostered to take the boat out. After rushing home, rushing to the club rooms and getting the boat to the jetty on time, I forgot my sea sick pill. As it happened I was not the only one as Albert followed suit and later paid the penalty.

We left the jetty and decided to head for the Stragglers. The winds were light from the S.E. and the swell was low. On reaching the Stragglers we did a few delicate manouvres to position the boat just north of a small reef. By this time the wind had picked up and the surface conditions were very uncomfortable. Once in the water though it was quite pleasant. The visibility was good and lots of fish asleep. We swam the length of the reef and after 45 minutes arrived back at the boat.

While in the water, the wind had picked up and was gusting to 20 knots. By the time the second party was up it was 9.30p.m. Everyone had enjoyed the dive but agreed it was time to go.

What's on...What's on... What's on...What's on.

FEBRUARY 1988

14th	Sun.	Dive Trip - P. Horton
15th	Mon.	General Meeting
20th	Sat.	Dive to Roe Reef - D. Stubberfield, T. Csomay
21st	Sun.	Short dive to Stragglers - B. Kennedy, A. Edwards
26th	Fri.	BBQ and night dive at Base 1900 hours
27th	Sat.	West End Fishing. - M. Smith 0600 h.
28th	Sun.	Dive on wreck "Orizaba" - P. Horton, P. Mortimer.

MAR.

5TH.	SAT.			
6TH.	SUN.	ROTTNEST LONG WEEKEND	TO BE DECIDED	
7TH.	MON.			
8TH.	TUE.	COMMITTEE MEETING		
13TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - WEST END	D.STUBBERFIELD	A.KEEN
19TH.	SAT.	DIVE TRIP - JULIE'S CAVES	M.SMITH	M.CASLEY
20TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - WRECK DIVE - SEPIA	B.KENNEDY	T.CSOMAY
21ST.	MON.	GENERAL MEETING		
26TH.	SAT.	FISHING TRIP 0600h.	P.HORTON	
27TH.	SUN.	SHORT DIVE TRIP - CARNAC ISLAND	D.STUBBERFIELD	A.EDWARDS

Dive with the sharks and dolphins at Atlantis. Cost is $30, 19th March.

Night dive and barbecue at base, 7p.m. 26th February. Bring your own meat and drinks and dive gear.

Members get your free car stickers at next meeting.

Do you know an ex member of the U.E.C.? Tell him/her about the club. Th diving, the fishing, the socials, the dive buddies eager to dive.

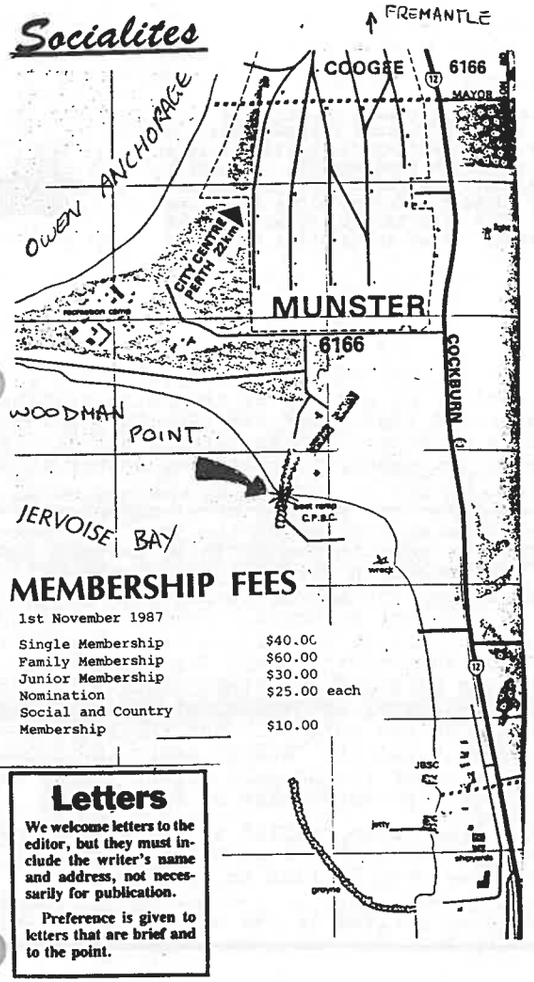
To rejoin doesn't cost much. Just the annual subscription - no nomination fee. Once a U.E.C. member always a U.E.C. member.

The stonefish is a close relative of the scorpion fish and it also feeds by hiding and waiting. The stonefish has developed a pair of poison glands to each of its 13 sturdy dorsal fin spines. It can be fatal to step on the camouflaged fish.

Don't forget to book for the nextfishing trip! 457 3333

Got something to say? Get it off your chest by dropping us a line. We'll do our best to publish it

Socialites



MEMBERSHIP FEES

1st November 1987

Single Membership	$40.00
Family Membership	$60.00
Junior Membership	$30.00
Nomination	$25.00 each
Social and Country Membership	$10.00

Letters

We welcome letters to the editor, but they must include the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication.

Preference is given to letters that are brief and to the point.

SOCIALITES

As promised here is the map showing the location of our Woodman Pt Training base. Don't panic - although the road leading in has no name it is signposted for both U.E.C and the Recreation Camp. It's nowhere near as hard to find as it looks.

We are holding a barbecue, bonfire and shore night dive there on Friday, 26 February with 7.00 being approximate start time. For those of you who have never been to base there is a car park, toilet and some sheltered rooms so it's not to primitive.

Its BYO everything, so if you plan to get some mussels/crabs/cobbler bring the gear you need as well as dive equipment, food, etc. Someone said Barry and Adrian were going to lead a sing-a-long ?! Not to be missed.

Because of our Clubs enthusiasm for spending time with sharks I've made a tentative second booking. The extra date is 2 April, the cost is still $30.00. Please contact me on 420 9224 (work) or 367 2787 if you are interested.

Our trip to 'Quasar' is planned for 22 April - more information next magazine.

Our only progressive Dinner volunteer (so far) hasn't got his house built yet!

We have a number of T shirts, childrens' sizes $4.00 and adult size $8.00.

U.E.C NEWS
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U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A. INC.

Monthly Magazine

MARCH 88

MARCH 88

367 2787

Socialites

Finally it's time, we're going to see the sharks. As it turns out there is only one trip - Saturday 19th March. We start in the dolphin's pool at 8.00a.m., so could everyone please meet at the Atlantis entry at 7.45a.m. The trip out is approximately 1½ hours so it's an early start (but not as bad as the fishing trips!)

I've checked on a few points:

1. You will need all your dive gear - including fins and one extra weight
2. We go in with the dophins first before the park opens. We will probably be in with the sharks when the public arrive at 10.00a.m.
3. An S.D.F. ticket is O.K.

Because it's been so long since I took the original bookings the following is a list of the people down to go: Ron Phonemyint, Rebecca Kelly, Margaret Langson, Jan and Albert Kramer, Barry Kennedy, Steve Gorman, Brian Walker, Maree Casley-Stubberfield, Dennis Stubberfield-Casley, Wendy Hudson, Jan, Denzil Talbot, Suzie and Kerry Ashton, Karen Pollock and me. If you can no longer make it, please let me know; 420 9224 work, 367 2787 home.

Our $30 fee includes the rest of the Atlantis show so let's make a day of it. I've been told the counter lunches at the nearby are both cheap and good.

Next up is 'Quasar' on the 22nd April. 'Quasar' is a space game where two teams run around shooting each other with lazer guns. The cost is $9 for two games. Starting time is 8.00p.m. There is a maximum of 20 people, so book with me if you would like to come.

We are one home short for our Progressive Dinner. Please consider volunteering, we can arrange help if need be and it assures you of a spot on the most popular social night of the year. All that is required is that you prepare a course (not main) and let us all into your home. You are allocated money to cover the cost of ingredients. The date will be 28th May.

For all of you who had to stay home on the Abrolhos weekend the eleven of us who went will let you look at some of our slides and photos at the Monday meeting.

TRICKERY

Cuttlefish are not fish at all but molluses, related to the squid and octopus. They are active over the reef all day long and hunt for prey in the waters off the reef at night. They have excellent vision with eyes very similar in structure to human eyes and fantastic ability to change colour to camouflage themselves. Not satisfied with good vision, speed and ability to change colour, this creature also practises trickery, or "sleight of hand". When threatened by a predator it may suddenly go very dark then eject a blob of ink into the water which takes a similar shape to its body. The Cuttlefish then goes light in colour and swims off rapidly leaving the predator to lunge unsuccessfully at the blob.

President's Report

Barry Kennedy 453 6927

As you know, the commercially oriented professional instructor groups have been given exclusive rights over diver training in this state. That is, if the Government accepts the recommendations of the task force The individual members who make up the professional instructor groups are of course the same people who run the dive shops, sell dive courses, sell diving equipment, operate charter boats etc. etc. Professional instructor groups, by their very nature attract the type of people who are intent on making money. They now have exclusive rights to train divers and issue qualifications. By comparison, this is like making car salesmen responsible for issuing drivers licenses.

The task force had hoped to create safe practices. They will now possibly have achieved the opposite effect, because there is plenty of incentive for these professional instructors to cut corners and take short cuts in diver training. The more divers they train, the more equipment they sell, the more money they make. The quicker they train the divers the more divers they are able to train etc. etc.

There is evidence of this in some of the compact streamlined dive courses that are now available. An unsuspecting learner can obtain diver qualifications by doing a whiz bang course which lasts for the period of one weekend. As an instructor, I know I can teach the practical skills necessary to qualify and also enough theory to pass the theory exam. However no one can produce competent divers in a weekend. The physcological adjustments necessary to become a good diver simply cannot be developed in this period of time. Even so, divers are still qualified in this manner. The lucky ones find their way into clubs like ours and are able to be taught safe diving practices. The unlucky ones simply go out into the ocean and experiment with their new found skills.

Meanwhile all of the amateur instructors are considered by the task force to be unqualified. Not only this, but all of the divers who have ever been trained by the amateur training bodies, are now considered to be unqualified. Over the years many thousands of divers have been trained through the amateur system. The task force has now decided to wipe out the entire amateur training system.

Training clubs like ours are now denied the right to train their own members. In fact, the only option open to us, is to adopt the professional instructor system into our clubs. This is not only undesireable, its impractical and far too expensive. For one of our divers to qualify to instructor level through the professional system would cost around two thousand dollars. Very few amateur divers could afford this. Very few amateur clubs could afford to do this and even if the Government subsidised these costs, the amateur clubs would be denied any control over diver training or any involvement with the training.

All diver training would be under the control of the professional instructor associations. The task force has gone to great pains to justify its actions and all of this borders around the 'coaches accreditation scheme', which has nothing to do with decompression sickness or safe diving practices or ability or skills of instructors.

The A.U.F. runs what it calls "Australian Scuba Championships", which consist of minor underwater taks like swimming a straight line with a compass, fitting together pieces of wood with different joints and such like nonsence. Because of this recreational Scuba diving is classified as a competitive sport by the government and must have coaches who are recognised by the coaches accreditation system. Unfortunately this is formulated in such a way that only the large professional organisations are able to qualify. Anyone involved with recreat ional diving knows that sports scuba diving is not a competitive sport and any kind of serious competition is completely discouraged by all of the clubs and all responsible instructors alike. So it should be, as any type of competitiveness would dramatically increase the potential dangers and likelihood of diving accidents.

As I have mentioned before, there is an urgent need for an amateur training body that is completely removed and free from any commercial involvement what so ever. The willingness of the amateur clubs and instructors to accept any standards that the task force considers necessary, in order to maintain the role of the amateur clubs involvement in diver training is being completely rejected. It seems to me that the commercial interests have achieved a fait accompli.

BOAT REPORT

D. Stubberfield.

During the months of January, February and March, boat usage has increased with several night dives, Saturday trips and the long week end in March at Rottnest.
As always, "UNDERWATER EXPLORER" has given us good service with minimal problems apart from one or two small continuing maintenance items which all boats generate due to the salt water environment.
The engine cooling system is showing no sign of further deterioration and provided we keep our revs down below 2050 rpm. water is not expelled from the over flow.
This is being monitored very closely indeed and at the slightest sign of worsening, the boat will be taken out of service and the problem fixed. We do not want to stop operations at this stage with the pressure on boat useage at a maximum, hoping to get through till say Easter when we will have the time to work on the boat without affecting diving too much.
Our anti-fouling is still providing good protection with little or no maintenance and appears to be holding up well. Hopefully we will only need one can of anti-fouling next slipping.

I am pleased to see the standard of rope handling, boat sense and crew work on the boat steadily improving as members gain more experience. Skippers and D.O.'s have a much easier and safer time of it if the help you give is of a high standard.
We hope to spend a few Saturdays on the river in the next few months giving Skippers practice, checking the compass and training sessions on boat handling and basic crew work. This will also give all members the opportunity to get some practice at handling the boat in an emergency - something all members may have to do, if not on our boat but on someone elses.
We could also have a river dive in the process, so if you are interested please contact me through the Diving Officer, Maree, on 457 3333.

DIVING REPORT

Maree Casley
420 7683 (W)
457 3333 (H)

Hi folks, I'm back. Nothing much out of the ordinary has occurred except I suppose some excellent diving. After waiting months for it to happen, the good weather finally caught up with us and allowed us to really enjoy ourselves in the water. We have had some ripper dives at Cathedral Rocks, Mortimer's Hump and Jackson's Rock not to mention the Rotto rort, which I will report on later.

A new spot we have recently re-discovered is Mortimer's Hump on the East of Rottnest. Peter Horton was our trusty skipper on the occasion when we were engulfed in an enormous fog bank. There were some anxious moments (only in [illegible]ds of the disbelievers though) as Peter's renowned navigational skills [illegible]e put to the test. Within seconds we were surrounded by an eerie (and cold) fog. It passed after a few minutes but I can assure you all that it creepy - just like a Hitchcock movie or something. After a bit of the old "ever decreasing circles" trick, we were soon on the spot - 8 metres on the top of a large arch, down to 18 metres on the sand. This is an ideal location for diving as it is virtually impossible to get lost on this large isolated lump of reef. There are some large arch-like overhangs and swim-throughs covered in lots of corals and surrounded by masses af fish.

We have also had a few night dives at Hugall Passage in recent weeks. I think that the ring-about method of organising night dives is working quite well, so don't forget to register with me or give me a ring if the weather looks O.K. Also keep your peepers open for short dives, Saturday dives and fishing trips. All of these have been included in the calendar but will have to be cancelled if there isn't enough interest, so all of you divers who badgered me to organise something can now go for it.

One last thing before you can give your eyes a rest. If you have any queries about diving, please ring me not Dennis. My work number is listed at the beginning of this article. I am generally available and if I'm not you can always leave a message. Some people are in the habit of ringing Dennis and expecting him to relay messages to me. This is tedious, to say the least, so please ring me in future.

FISHING FOR JEWFISH

If you fish for jewfish you can drastically lessen your chances of success if you use suntan lotion, aftershave or tobacco, or if you have the smell of bananas or oranges on your hands. If it's on your hands it will get onto your bait.

If it burns your eyes and tastes awful then imagine its effect on a fussy and delicate feeder that is hunting by smell.

Engine oil and detergents are in the same category. They are substances to be avoided at all cost.

Jean Coos de Sally to the island merely on account of Jean Thierson who was sent because he had drunk out of the casks. For we feared that Jean Coos might help him. Afterwards we learned that we had misjudged in this, for Jean Coos offered to stab Jean Thierson if he might only be allowed to die with us. Should he still be inclined to do this, it would be an act of friendship and a service most agreeable to us, together with Jean Coos, help us in the cause of justice and in the punishment of the criminals. In particular try to deliver unto us alive those who robbed us so treacherously the day before yestereday of our chief help, the boat, namely Lucas, the bottler's mate; Cornelisz the fast trumpeter; Cornelisz the assistant; deaf Jan Michielisz Adrisen the musketeer; squinting Heyndrick Theumis Claesz, Cornelisz Hellincks; and other shipmates who are with you, for unknown to you they haave a compass, with the help of which they intend to leave secretly with the boat, for the mainland. The merchant has an especial liking and confidence in Webbye Hays, and wishes that you shall secretly inform him of this. For further details we refer you to the report which the bearer, your comrade Daniel Conrelisz will give you verbally if you will give him a safe guard. Dated the 23rd of July, 1629 on the island Batavia's Kerhof.

THEY DO NOT SUCCEED

This letter having come into the hands of Webbye Hays and his men, they at once perceived that a trap was laid for them and were on their guard. When the scoundrels and their captain Jerome Cornelisz, in all numbering six came next day with the promised stuffs in order to confirm the concluded peace, and went ashore without any suspicion that their treachery had come to light, they were immediately attacked by Webbye Hays' men. Four of them were killed, being David Seevangh, the assistant, Coenraldt van Huyssen of Utrecht, soldier; Jerome Cornelisz their self made captain was prisoner and Wouter Loos escaped.

Wouter Loos of Mastricht, having escaped the danger, and brought tidings of their unfortunate experience to his comrades, they unanimously proclaimed him provisional captain in Jerome's place. In order to carry out his new function well, he did not leave Webbye Hays in peace long, but attacked him again the next day with two well manned boats hoping at last to succeed in their blood thirsty design or to deliver Jerome Cornelisz from their hands.

But Webbye Hays was a prudent man, and being on the watch he saw the boats approaching. He immediately drew up his men on the beach and they defended themselves so successfully, thatthe rascals were compelled to go back. Four of Webbye Hays' men were severely wounded.

These are the principal events that happened during the absence of the Commodore Francois Pelsaert among his unfortunate people.

new members

Christopher John South - Lot 24 Brookton Highway, Roleystone
Eva Boogaard - 232 Mary Street, Wanneroo
Vic Russel, 16/46 East Street, East Fremantle

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING.....
Reprinted from The Stirling Times

Thousands of amateur underwater divers are incensed by a proposal which will see their qualifications denied recognition.

To gain recognition, these divers will have to be retrained.

The State Government set up the Underwater Diving Task Force under the chairmanship of MLA Phil Smith earlier this year, after the number of diving accidents increased dramatically.

Figures for civilian diving accidents in W.A. issued by the Australian Navy, showed that in 1984 there were 12 accidents; in 1985 there were 16; in 1986 some 20 accidents and in January to April 9, 1987 some 28 cases. The total figure to date for this year now stands at 40.

The amateur diving fraternity is far from happy with the results of the inquiry.

The task force has proposed that the Australian Underwater Federation (AUF) be the controlling body.

This group has to submit its recommendations to the Department of Sport and Recreation by March 31, 1988.

One of the proposals is for the three professional groups, Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), Federation of Australian Underwater Instructors (FAUI) and National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI), to act as agents to issue all underwater diving qualifications.

This means that scuba divers who were trained and are members of the Scuba Divers Federation of WA (SDFWA), the W.A. Skindivers and the W.A. Skindivers Association (WASA) and other card or certificate holders from other independent instructors or bodies, have to be retained as their qualifications are not acceptable.

And this is where the crunch comes.

Scarborough diver, Bill Marshall claims that commercial interests have finally managed to get the Government behind them in outlawing the amateur ing groups, thus putting more money into the pockets of the Dive Shops.

Mr. Marshall, the spokesman for the Ocean Explorers Club, which dives out from Hillarys and Ocean Reef, said thatin his 20 years of diving he had never had an accident.

"These are the same groups that will be "retraining" divers with 20 or more years experience.

"This situation would be comical if it wasn't so serious.

"The amateur groups also train the SAS, commercial divers and the Police divers. This means that all these people will have to be re-trained because our qualifications are not good enough."

"Surely they must find it strange that over the past 20 years there have been so few diving accidents when most of the training was done by the amateur groups, " he said.

"Were divers with no vested interests contacted and asked their views or did all the answers come from the professionals"

"The amateur underwater divers are asking for a fair go and for their qualifications to be recognised."

"We agree that some form of control is required, but not to the detriment of amateur divers," Bill said.

"We have a chap who is 75 years old and still dives. "What this proposal says, is that people like Jack Sue will need to be retrained because their qualifications are not recognised. What a lot of rot.

"Thousands of divers taught by the amateur groups will have to pay to be retrained by the professionals. "And this is despite the fact that 90 per cent of accident victims this year were trained by the three professional groups.

What's on...What's on... What's on...What's on.

EASTER LONG WEEKEND

This Easter there will be a diving trip to Hamelin Bay. We will be staying at the camp site there so B.Y.O. tent, sleeping bag, kitchen sink etc. Activities will include shore diving, exploring the caves and of course having lots of good fun.

Further details can be obtained from M. Casley 42o 7633 W. 458 3333 H.

CALENDAR

20TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - WRECK DIVE - SEPIA	B.KENNEDY	M.CASLEY
21ST.	MON.	GENERAL MEETING		
26TH.	SAT.	FISHING TRIP 0400 HRS	M. Smith	
27TH.	SUN.	SHORT DIVE TRIP - CARNAC ISLAND	D.STUBBERFIELD	A.EDWARDS

APRIL.

2ND	SAT	TWINKLING STAR.		
3RD.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - ANGELA'S CAVES	M.SMITH	T. Csomay
4TH.	MON.	COMMITTEE MEETING		
9TH.	SAT.	DIVE TRIP - CATHEDRAL ROCKS	P.HORTON	A.KEEN
10TH.	SUN.	SHORT DIVE TRIP - STRAGGLER'S REEF	B.KENNEDY	M.CASLEY
16TH.	SAT.	FISHING TRIP 0800 HRS	D.STUBBERFIELD	
17TH.	SUN.	DEEP DIVE TRIP - NTH. SWIRL REEF	P.HORTON	P. Mortimer
18TH.	MON.	GENERAL MEETING		
22ND.	FRI.	SOCIAL NIGHT QAZAR $9		
24TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - RADAR REEF	M.SMITH	A.EDWARDS

HISTORY RESURRECTED.

THE STORY SO FAR.....

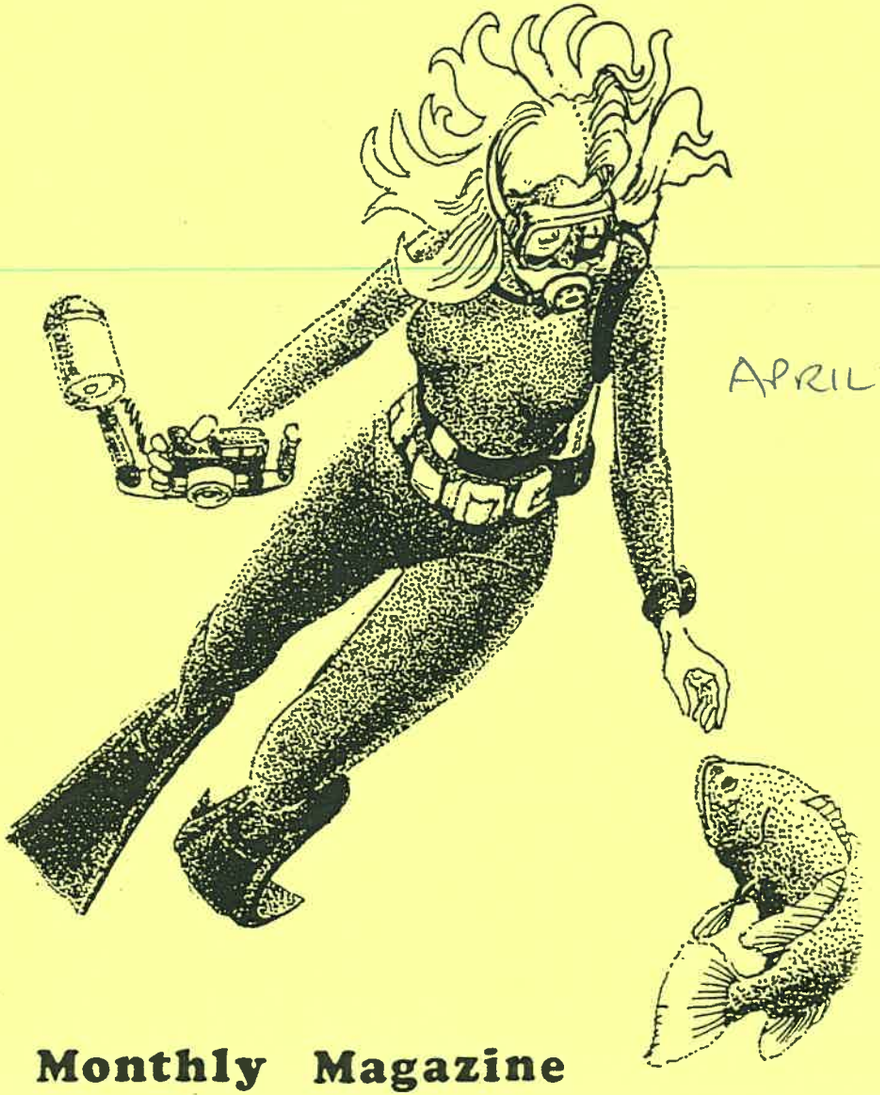
The survivors, who were kept behind on the Abrolhos Islands, have now polarised into two groups. One group under the dubious command of Jerome Cornelisz and the other under the command of Webbye Hays. Cornelisz along with his blood thirsty band plot and attempt to overthrow and subdue Webbye Hays and his group.

Seven or eight days after this they sat in Council once more and resolved to attack Webbye Hays and his men. If they were put out of the way, they would have no one to fear. Moreover one Pieter Lambertsz, a boatsain's mate had escaped with a little boat that had been roughly put together and made his way to the other island. Him and the boat they wanted to bring back intending to punish the deserter. Selecting 22 of the lustiest rascals they went thither but after a hard fight they were obliged to return unsuccessful. A few days after, it was in July, they made another attempt. Three boats were manned by 37 men, Jerome Cornelisz went personally trusting that his own presence would give them the upper hand. Coming close to the island, they steered straight for the shore. But Webbeye Hays and his men stuck to their post, defending themselves bravely standing off the beach up to their knees in water. Then these cursed assassins, seeing that they could do nothing with violence, dropped the lion's skin and tried that of the fox. They asked their former companions to unite with them, making use of the minister to persuade them. The latter, after a good deal of going backwards and forwards induced them to cease fighting for that day, under promise that the next day the agreement should be confirmed with oaths and that they should give Webbey Hays and his men some pieces of cloth for clothing, in return for which they should once more enter into possession of the misappropriated boat. When the other heard that Jerome Cornelisz, through the intermediation of the minister, had made this agreement, they were by no means contented with it. Coenraldt van Huyssen declared in anger that he would fight the next day in spite of those who wished otherwise. David Seevangh who also regretted these peace negotiations, meanwhile tried to persuade to his side, some French soldiers belonging to Webbe Hays' company, promising them 6,000 guilders. They were to come over to them next day while the settlement of peace was taking place and then they would more easily despatch all Webbye Hays' company. When the two companies had parted on the said conditions, David Seevangh told Jerome Cornelisz of his action with regard to Webby Hays' soldiers. The latter was pleased with this piece of felony and in order to offer a still stronger inducement to the soldiers he secretly sent them the following letter by one Daniel Cornelisz, on the 23rd July.
Dear Brethren andFriends, Jean Hongner, Jean Renour de Mirinbry, Thomas de Villier, Jean Boniver and Edward Coe. The more we consider your former faithful and fraternal friendship for us, the more we wonder that you, who left willingly at the request of me, your merchant captain, in order to take a survey of the high island, do not return to report on your mission, for we have always esteemed you and taken you for our best and truest brethren and friends, and have continued and still continue to seek your alliance and comradeship, which we hold in as much esteem as our own lives. But we think it strange that you seem to lend an ear to the intentions of a few miscreants who had here deserved death for mutiny and were therefore sent to another island. They found their way into your midst without our knowledge. We sent

A 88

U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A.



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BOATING REPORT D.STUBBERFIELD

This month has been quite a milestone in the Club history in relation to boating. "UNDERWATER EXPLORER" is now paid for and is ours, yours and mine and all Club members. She has operated satisfactorily this month, which has been one of our busiest for the season; with 7 dive trips, 3 of these being in the nature of "exploratory" in which we attempted to find a couple of new night dive sites - with much promise but little success. An expedition to find the "Twinkling Star" wreck - again showing promising beginings but no concrete success. With 3 navigators and 2 boat skippers on board I can at least report that we knew exactly where we were and when, all it required was a lump of rock shallow enough to ground a 63 ton, fully laden wooden sailing ship. We will certainly persevere with all the exploratory trips.

I have high hopes that the boat machinery and hull anti-fouling will get us through to the annual slipping in August/September, based on our performance thus far. A new canopy is also being made from good quality tarpaulin material which should last some years to improve our image and comfort.

The dive trips this month have tended to be short and impromptu, which is pleasing to note since members have begun to get together and use the boat when it is not booked for scheduled dives. Please keep this up while the weather holds. While on this subject it is relevant to remind members of the requirements for minimum numbers to take the boat out. These were set down at the March Committee Meeting and are as follows; Rottnest Trips - 6 people plus a qualified skipper and approved diving officer; Short Trips (Carnac etc.) - 4 people plus skipper and D.O. Finally, social events on the river, at least 4 Club members and a skipper.

It is intended to call a meeting of the boating sub-committee on 28 April at 57 Keslake Way, Parkwood (home of Maree and I). If any Club member has any suggestion, whinges or items of business which they would like this meeting to consider please jot it down and pass it on to any of the skippers, diving officers or Committee members.

What's on.

16TH. SAT. FISHING TRIP 0600 HRS
17TH. SUN. DEEP DIVE TRIP - NTH. SWIRL REEF
18TH. MON. GENERAL MEETING
22ND. FRI. SOCIAL NIGHT QUASAR
24TH. SUN. DIVE TRIP - RADAR REEF

MAY

01ST.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - WEST END
02ND.	MON.	COMMITTEE MEETING
08TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - RADAR REEF
14TH.	SAT.	FISHING TRIP 0700HRS
15TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - PARKER POINT
16TH.	MON.	GENERAL MEETING
22ND.	SUN.	SHORT DIVE TRIP - CARNAC ISLAND
28TH.	SAT.	SOCIAL NIGHT PROGRESSIVE DINNER
29TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - JACKSON'S ROCK

Norm earned the infamous "Gannet" award. Our cook absolutely adored him as throwing food scraps away became obsolete with him around. The best tale was when Ian and Norm were feeding fish with a few meagre leftovers that had managed to survive. Ian seeing that Norm had fed all his scraps to a bunch of hungry wrasse handed Norm a large lamb chop which he had hidden away from the previous evening's meal. Norm got quite overcome by this, he quickly ripped out his regulator and began to passionately devour this unexpected snack, while Ian and a couple of dozen amazed fish looked on in wonder. He later complained it was a bit salty and that he had chewed his mouthpiece up a bit while trying to eat and breathe at once.

The final dive of the trip had to be one of the most spectacular of my whole life. As instructed by our skipper, we swa forward of the anchor to the edge of a steep drop off which went from 5 to 27 metres. As we peered over, we saw the amazing site of a large shoal of Spanish mackerel, all over 1 metre in length cruising back and forth in the crystal clear water before us. The whole area was teeming with millions of shimmering silver baitfish. As we descended this drop off, which large plate corals had formed into terraces, large clumps of staghorn coral burst through like huge multi coloured flower beds. Everywhere we looked we saw coral trout hanging around the plate corals in pairs like blue spotted muggers waiting for their next victims. Hundreds of other multi coloured coral fish swan around us. To swim about seemed pointless, so we just stayed still at about 25 metres and watched the whole show happen around us like a pleasant dream. Above us the shoal of mackerel continued their parade imitating a squadron of jet fighters, occasionally one would break formation, dart out and seize a mouthful of baitfish from the edge of the silver cloud and swiftly return to the tightly packed bunch.

Well this is just a few of the things to tell. We all certainly agreed that it was really good value and hope to return again next year.

RESEARCH Tibi 341 3001

Several U.E.C. divers spent one Saturday last month trying to find the Twinkling Star. After checking out several likely locations with the echo sounder, we decided to tow several divers behind the boat. This second method showed great promise and we shall use it next time we go out.

Several returning divers were questioned at theCockburn boat ramp some months ago. One question asked was "Have you come across anything that looked like a shipwreck?" Imagine our surprise when one diver told us about two anchors beside a large perpendicular rock that came up to within 6 feet of the surface. "It's the Twinkling Star" we shouted. "Is it west of the island?" "No, it is north west." "It couldn't be the Twinkling Star". Even 100 years ago when they said west of somewhere, they usually meant it." But it could be another unknown wreck!

Unfortunately, no. Mike McCarthy from the Fremantle Maritime Museum tells us that the anchors were used in the old times when buoys attached to them to mark the challenger passage

One of the best dives was at an extremely beautiful location named "Anenome Reef", so called because it is covered with large beds of anenomes and their accompanying clownfish. This is where Margaret fell for a large turtle and spent most of the dive taking photos of this unco-operative creature. (It must have been a female).

Our first night dive was along a most spectacular gully where all sorts of marine life was seen, including lionfish, big crays walking out in the open and some large green and pink parrot fish sleeping in a cacoon of mucus. Unfortunately, Alison and Ian had been menaced by a large Killer Ray. They had seriously considered returning to the boat and calling everyone from the water before this dastardly creature wreaked havoc amongst the rest of us unknowingly endangered divers. Meanwhile, Karen P. and myself had also run across this terrible creature, but we only recognised it as a 1.5 fiddler ray and spent 5 minutes patting and stroking it, not knowing what terrible danger we were in.

Two minor accidents happened on the trip. The first was when Janet Kramer slipped on a wet stairway and fell heavily, badly brusing her thigh and ankle. She soon recovered enough to thrash everyone at "Scrabble" while only missing out on one dive - tough breed these estate agents. The second incident was when Karen P. pricked her fingers while trying to chop up an innocent little sea urchin (serves you right). She returned to the boat complaining of pain and numbness in her fingers. Our poor gullible skipper, not knowing Karen too well, fell for it, hook, line and sinker. Of course Karen went straight into her injured little girl act. Quivering bottom lip, tears on her blushing cheeks, quiet simpering moans, but just loving all the attention. The club's number one tart had found her first victim.

After an hour of pampering, bathing her fingers in disinfectant and picking spines out with a scalpel, the skipper approached me and asked if he could give her a "stiff" drink from my unopened bottle of best scotch, as she had been such a brave little girl. Well, being my usual Mr. niceguy self, of course I agreed. Two hours later as I was returning from a night dive, I heard Karen's ear shattering laugh. I thought to myself "She's recovered well." (I was still 2m under water at the time). I climbed aboard, went for a shower and returned to the lounge area to see how the patient was doing. The first thing I saw was my half full bottle of scotch. Next to it, eyes glazed and slumped back in a chair with a big grin on her face was Karen. On seeing me she slurred "Hey Wodger, I can't stand whisky, but I can't fing my feelers anymore. I'll bet she couldn't feel anything anymore.

The resident comedien for the trip was our own Ian Cowan, who kept us all amused with his zany antics, such as turning up for breakfast wearing a black t shirt and a dog collar fashioned from a paper towel. He then proceeeded to read a sermon from a book. The astounded crew took quite a while to realise he was only joking. Another evening he just appeared among us wearing Alison's bathers. Alison got quite peeved at this, claiming that he had stretched them out of shape. (ever mind Alison it will give you somewhere to keep your purse next time you go swimming).

Things started to get a bit rowdy when Ian and Norm started to compete with each other over who had the brownest eyes in any group photos, but that's another story.

DIVING REPORT

By Maree Casley 457 3333 H
420 7683 W

Once again the weather has been kind to us with a glorious long Indian summer exdending into summer. Unfortunately, not many of you have taken advantage of it and numbers on the boat have been low. I suppose many of you followed Dennis' and my example and sneaked off for a break over Easter. Nevertheless, the boat went out 3 times over the break, with only a few people on board. Good diving was reported, even though our friends felt a bit lonely out there virtually on their own.

Tibi and his gang of "wreck finders" set off at the crack of dawn on Easter Saturday on an expedition to try and find the wreck of the Twinkling Star. Dennis went armed with charts, parallel rules, dividers and about 107 compasses which all proved useless in locating the elu-ive wreck, which at the time of writing still remains elusive. Dennis is quite adamantthough that he has discovered that a rock has been pinched by a person or persons unknown. He swears that although it appears on the chart, it certainly doesn't appear under the boat when it is supposed to. All of that steaming around the ocean for hours wasn't wasted after all, was it? Rumour has it that the "hunt for the Twinkling Star Club" are still rearing to go despite their recent failure and will soon be out and about eagerly searching out their quarry. Good luck fellas!

Lately, we have been doing a lot of diving around Carnac and have discovered some very nice spots. There are several really good locations that are all about 13mtrs and have lots of caves and overhangs. One problem, if you can call it that, is making sure we don't exceed our time limits because the scenery is so nice that we want to stay down a lot longer than permitted. Another spot we looked at was Challenger Rock which is very similar to the Carnac Island dives. Once again we had to keep an eye on our depth and times but we still had a very good dive,even with a shortened bottom time.

The highlight of last months diving for me was the dive we did with the sharks and dolphins at Atlantis. We all had to be up with the chooks to be up at Two Rocks by 7.45 and there were a few moments when we didn't think we would even get wet. After first gaining entrance to the complex with an employee we were confonted by a "gentleman" who was really steaming because we weren't supposed to be there he reckoned. Next, the dirty, big dog they have guarding the place started barking at us with a view to tearing each of us limb from limb. I'm not joking - the animal was about the size of an elephant! Finally, we were all kitted up and ready to jump into the large pool that was the home of the dolphins. The procedure was that we congregate on the bottom of the pool around the trainer whilst he fed them. The dolphins were really beautiful as they came up to be fed and stroked by us. The acrobats that they can perform underwater 's phenomenal. Some of them sort of stand on their noses as they are being fed whilst the others tear around the pool at break-neck speed. They appear to expend no energy as they race around the pool.

Next, it was off to the shark pool for a dip with the bities. About 3 of us were allowed in the pool with 6 grey nurses and 2 bronze whalers. Although the bronzies are quite a bit smaller they are considerably more frisky than the whalers and we were warned not to touch them. After going in feet first (so as not to stand on them) we were soon swimming around with them. The large grey nurses looked bored senseless and you couldn't raise their ire to save youself! Although they are very big creatures, they don't bat an eyelid, so to speak,if you reach up and stroke them. I must admit that I only patted them near their tails - just in case! I even have photos to prove it, thanks to Margaret, who made a real welter of it and conned the fellow in charge of it to let her stay in the pool for an hour taking photos of everyone. We were getting desperate in the end and thought that she would never be seen on land again.A thoroughly

enjoyable day was capped off by watching the seal and dolphin shows followed by a lovely meal in a nearby tavern.

Last on the agenda is that due to the lack of interest in Saturday dives, from now on they are cancelled and I will only consider them if there is enough interest. It is not fair on either the skippers or dive officers that have been rostered on and arrange their plans around the roster to have the dive cancelled at the last minute.

ABOUT THE LONG WEEKEND DIVES FROM ROTTO

S. ASHTON

I really feel sorry for you folks who couldn't make it to Rottnest in March. It was great fun, not a "dead" moment, except for when we just passed out from pure exhaustion - after dives, lifting and loading tanks, pushing them back up to the houses and the midnight partying. No incidents or accidents to report, except for the Club boat's antenna which MELTED because of the magnificent lightning storm that was going on during our excellent Saturday nightdive. The flashing above our heads under the water was like the greatest drama.

Being my very first dive in the dark will make me never forget the whole spectacle. We dove on Alison's Rocks with superb visibility. I was quite fascinated by a kind of thin worm the way he was wiggling along, and he could also divide himself. Anyhow, this "spaghetti worm" got caught in a beautiful gorgorgian-like coral and was slowly gobbled up as the coral curled up around him. I hung in there for about 5 minutes to study this 'nature adventure'. So much more is happening down under at night time! We also saw several little sting rays swimming around close to the bottom plus a cuttle fish that I stayed away from.

I also have to tell you about this other dive at Mortimer's Hump (day time) where Kerry and I saw a normal looking fish BUT SO HUGE that I almost dropped my mouth piece! As we saw him, he was as long as the width of our dive boat and at least 1 metre high. His colour was greyish (it was pretty murky in the water - about 16 m down). The outstanding feature though was that his fins had white fringes. We could not find anything like it in Dennis' fish book. What could it have been? It all happened at Morton's Hump at about 16 m depth.

Big hug and heaps of thanks to Skippers and Dive Masters for that weekend. These were the best dives I ever have had in Perth waters! The morning dive at Angela's Cave was also a great experience where we all had much fun. It's a super dive site that!

NOTHING WAS CROOK ON THE TALLAROOK

Roger Smith

The early start we had planned soon fell by the wayside when Margaret rang to say she would be late as she had mislaid her sunglasses. She eventually turned up two hours later with a long story of how her sunnies had been kidnapped and held for ransom and that she had spent most of the day leaving bags of used banknotes in telephone boxes. Well, it brought tears to my eyes - I'm a real sucker for a sob story.

I had spent the earlier part of the day packing my modest amount of luggage into my car. On Margaret's arrival I was told "You've got too much, take some out." The fact that she had twice the amount as I did, was of no consequence.

Next stop was North Beach where I was greeted by Karen Pollock's dog Sonny who has spent so much time by the beach he thinks he's a shark and tried to bite my leg off. We then went through the same routine as before, when Karen who had even more luggage than Margaret, started hurling abuse and said "Wodger you've brought too much, take some out."

The journey to Geraldton seemed to take forever with Margaret constantly whining that she wanted to stop for cups of coffee (meaning that she needed a fag) and Karen yelling from the back, "Faster Wodger, faster."

On arrival at Geraldton harbour we were met by two of the owners of the "Tallarook" a 75ft ketch that cruises the Abrolhos Islands and Rowley Shoals. They were Ron and Gilda, two very nice people who really pampered us for the four days we were aboard. The boat itself was far above our expectations. We were very pleased to find it most comfortably appointed, extremely clean and exceptionally spacious. All fittings were of good quality and no expense had been spared to make this the best boat to cruise the Abrolhos Islands.

Being the first to arrive, my two passengers began to stake out their territory changing cabins at least six times in the next half hour. Finally we all settled in and spent a quiet hour in thevery comfortable lounge sipping wine from crystal glasses. Ooh, this was starting to look good.

Most of us spent that evening dining at a local restaurant with the skipper for the trip John Mangini who proved as good as his reputation at knowing all the islands' best dive sites. We all felt good thatnight as we left for the seven hour trip to the islands.

The next four days was spent diving, relaxing, fishing, relaxing, eating great food, relaxing, beach combing and more relaxing. It would take a book to tell it all, so I'll just tell of some of the highlights.

The one setback to our first dive was when Brian Jury discovered that he had picked up the wrong bag at the airport. Instead of his dive gear he had become the new owner of two Hawaiian shirts, some tattered shorts, smelly socks and a pair of plastic "Gucci" loafers with holes in the soles. Not what the best dressed divers are wearing this summer. This was soon sorted out over the ship's radio and his gear arrived on the island supply boat the next day.

Socialites

Karen Lawrence 367 2787

Our next social event is 'Quasar' on the 22nd April. 'Quasar' is a space-age game like the ones in Timezone, only it's not on a screen - it's real. Apparently it's a large, dark, old warehouse converted to look like the moon or something. Two teams are formed and the idea is to get to the other team's base without being shot. Everyone is armed with a laser gun and power pack (very weak!).

The cost is $9.00 per person for two games. We will meet at 'Quasar', 160 Beaufort Street, Perth at 7.45p.m. for an 8p.m. start. The word is to wear dark clothes that aren't your best. Hopefully we can all adjourn to a local after all the shooting. Because there is a limit on numbers, please call me (367 2787) if you would like to attend.

This year's Progressive Dinner will be on Friday 28th May starting at approximately 6.30p.m. and at a cost of $25.00 per head. If you would like to come please (as usual) let me know.

The June social night looks like being another bowling night - more later.

I have not organised a speaker for the April meeting, but I think we may have a guest from C.A.L.M. for the May meeting. So far I've asked him to talk about the Marine Park, cowrie shells, crayfish and marine biology career opportunities! Greg is very knowledgeable and seems willing to spend time with us.

***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****

BOAT PAYOUT CELEBRATION

We have now cleared our boat loan and are out of debt! So after the April meeting let's celebrate. Please B.Y.O. champagne or nibblies (to share) and dress nautical.

***** ***** * ***** ***** *****

SWIMMING SPEED OF SHARKS

A 6 foot 6 inch Blue Shark was clocked at a velocity of 21.3 knots (24.5 miles per hour, 35.9 feet per second , or 39.4 km per hour, 10.96 metres per second).

Don't forget to book for the nextfishing trip! 457 3333

Be a part of the action

NOTICE

Anyone interested in research and would like to help with looking for undiscovered shipwrecks, please register your name with the dive officer 457 3333.

THE ATLANTIS TRIP

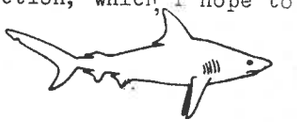
Keith May 4592182

After a late start, picking up Margaret, Ron, Jan and Wendy (who still had a mouthful of cornflakes), we made the hour and a half journey to be rewarded by the most exhilerating dive of all, the shark tank of Atlantis.

The $30 fee to donate ourselves as possible brunch for the mean looking grey nurses, wobbleygongs or bronze whalers, proved no deterrent for our heroic band and taking a head count, I seem to remember thirteen were also involved in a last supper once before. The shark tank was preceeded by an interesting twenty minutes at the bottom of the dolphin pool. They swam happily among us as their trainer satisfied their permanent hunger with a continual supply of small fish, allowing us to give their sleek bodies a friendly stroke in passing.

The shark tank absolutely teeming with fish of all shapes and sizes allowed only enough room for four of us at a time and gave us more confidence should we encounter one of these preditors in the ocean. It still proved quite exciting to stroke a grey nurse or hold the tail of a large stingray, while being photographed. Even the under water flashes did nothing to stir up a feeding frenzy. Apparently they only eat every three weeks so this must have been week one or two. We did give the sharp beaked turtles a miss though and also found a few sharks' teeth on the bottom.

We watched the seals and dolphins give their spectacular bicentenary display before adjourning to the tavern for a counter lunch, then home. Apologies to Margaret for demolishing her treasured coral collection, which I hope to reimburse from Coral Bay shortly.



Safety Officer's Report

BRIAN PRICE. 4502642

Firstly I should apologise to fellow members for the lack of a report last month and in fact my non presence at club dives lately.
The fact is I've been out of town almost every week just recently.
Now that the season is three quarters over most of us who are regulars to this sport of ours will be pretty fit and if relatively new to scuba diving, getting fairly confident in how we handle ourselves in the water. This is just the time when we become a little blase' with our procedures in kitting up, buddy procedure, and general dive management. This period is potentially dangerous, things can happen!. I once new a diver in Tasmania who, suffering from over confidence or oversight or both, stepped off the boat with 30 pounds of lead round his middle and no fins. He **DROWNED** He was an experienced diver, in fact I myself had dived with him in Melbourne. Suffice to say I don't know him anymore!.
I guess the message I want to impart is **DON"T TAKE THINGS FOR GRANTED.** it is easy to do and mostly we will get away with it but there's always that once to often. Remember revue what you've been taught constantly, think what you're doing, don't be side tracked when kitting up,just because your reg has worked perfectly for the last three seasons, don't assume it will continue to do so. What about the valves in your b/c, are your fin straps OK, **CHECK THEM.**

ROTTNEST LONG WEEKEND.

By Maree Casley

Once again my predictions of a ripper long weekend came true.(Sometimes I think I should go into business with a crystal ball - I always see to be right about these weekends.) Anyway, after loading U.E. in our customary fashion - to the gunwale, the gang of 25 set off for a fun-filled long weekend.

It wasn't long before we were tied up to the watering jetty at Rotto and set about carting all the gear up to the chalets. Roger and Dennis had done the shopping for the weekend and had arranged for it to be delivered for us - clever of them,don't you think? The usual ritual of selecting a chalet and a bed in which to sleep then took place. This always produces some laughs as the snorers of the bunch wander aimlessly from room to room in search of a spot where they can lay their heads for the night, only to be greeted with cries of "That's someone else's bed" every time they walk into a room.
Sometime during the afternoon, it was realised that we hadn't even got wet y so we slipped out to Roe Reef for a quick dive. As usual, we weren't disappointed, this location always provides us with a really good dive. On the way back we put a bouy on Alison's Rocks in readiness for the night dive we had planned.

As it turned out this was to be a spectacular dive, in more ways than one. During the day the clouds had built up and it became obvious that a storm was brewing. It broke just as we arrived on the spot about 7.30. The lightning lit up the whole sky and it was even visible underwater. Combined with an excellent dive site, this turned out to be a night dive to remember.

Back on terra firma about 9.30 to find the place virtually deserted, everyone had donned their glad rags and had invaded the Quokka Arms. Needless to say it was a late and sometimes rowdy evening. Thanks to Norm Richards for supplying the "Golden Oldies" for us to dance to. Rumour has it that the last of the revellers hit the hay at 3.30.I believe there is a great deal of truth in that rumour because I saw a few bleary eyes and several people with the obvious symptoms of the dreaded hangover.

Diving that day started very late. Dennis find anyone interested in an early early dive - I wonder why? For those of us capable, it was off to Mortimer's Hump for a pleasant dive. As I reported last month this is a good spot marred only on this occasion by less than perfect visibility. Nevertheless, we all enjoyed ourselves in the glass calm conditions.

It may apear on the surface that diving didn't occupy top priority. This is quite true - most people were more intent on having a good time and relaxing. This is evidenced by the extravaganza planned on Sunday night. To celebrate Barry's --? birthday a costume party, complete with cake, was organised. What a rort this turned out to be. The night diving devotees returned from a fabulous dive at Barry's caves to be greeted by Wonder Woman, Rambo, Minnie Ha Ha Ha,a crocadile attack victim, etc. (alias Mary Edwards, Karen Lawrence, Alison Keen & Adrian Edwards.) Everyone had gone to a great deal of trouble to make a suitable costume for the evening. Once again the festivities were on for one and all, including some passersby who gatecrashed our party - Ron Phoneymint's cousin being one of them. We can't choose our rellies can we Ron? Our neighbour, a recently departed Premier and future Ambassador to Ireland,who can't be named for ethical reasons, observed protocol and steadfastly remained in his chalet.

Perhaps he had nothing to wear? The partying continued on into the small hours of the morning, although thankfully, not as small as the night before.

Monday morning was a work morning - we were all supposed to have vacated the chalets by 9.00. We worked like slaves to clean up and leave the chalets in some semblance of order and only just missed the deadline,as the incoming guests found, when the found us still running around like headless chooks at 9.30.

This year we didn't have a chalet for an extra day as we have had in the past and thisproved to be very inconvenient. We had to leave all our personal gear out on the street with "minders" taking it in turns to keep an eye on it while the rest of us went off for a dive at Angela's Cave. Whilst the more sane of us actually dived some of the reprobates played Cowboys and Indians. There is no accounting for some people is there?

Back at the settlement the task of loading up U.E. was once again undertaken before we all spent the remainder of the food kitty on fish & chips and a few lagers a the pub. This weekend, as in the previous ones, had now come to a screaming halt. We all boarded our respective crafts for the journey home. The good news though, is that another weekend has been planned for 4,5 & 6 June so get in early. A word of warning to those wishing to go. Check first to see if Karen, Karen, Karen, Margaret, Alison, Norm or Roger are going. If they are you may want to think twice because all they did this weekend was run around playing charades and saying "sounds like----."

A WORD OF WARNING

Pat Troy

During the last long weekend trip to Rottnest, I made the mistake of leaving my car in the car park at East Street, Fremantle. When I returned, after having left the vehicle in the car park during Saturday and Sunday nights, it had been cleaned out for me by a local car cleaning gang. Unfortunately, they didn't leave their card so I've no idea where the contents have been stored. Fortunately, I didn't leave any papers in the car that would indicate my home address. I was later advised by the police that to leave house keys and identification papers in a car is an open invitation to have your house cleaned out as well.

Since the incident I've visited the "J Berth" car park on Fremantle Wharf and was told that port security officers check vehicles regularly and they have never had any reports of cars being broken into or stolen from J. Berth. The parking fee is the same as that charged at the East Street car park. If the gates (north) are closed when you return to collect your vehicle, you can drive up the wharf to the Cliff Street exit.

So, if you're going to leave your vehicle at Fremantle during future long weekends, don't leave any identification papers or house keys in it and leave it in a more secure place than the East Street car park.

J. Berth is just west of the railway bridge behind the Port Authority fence.

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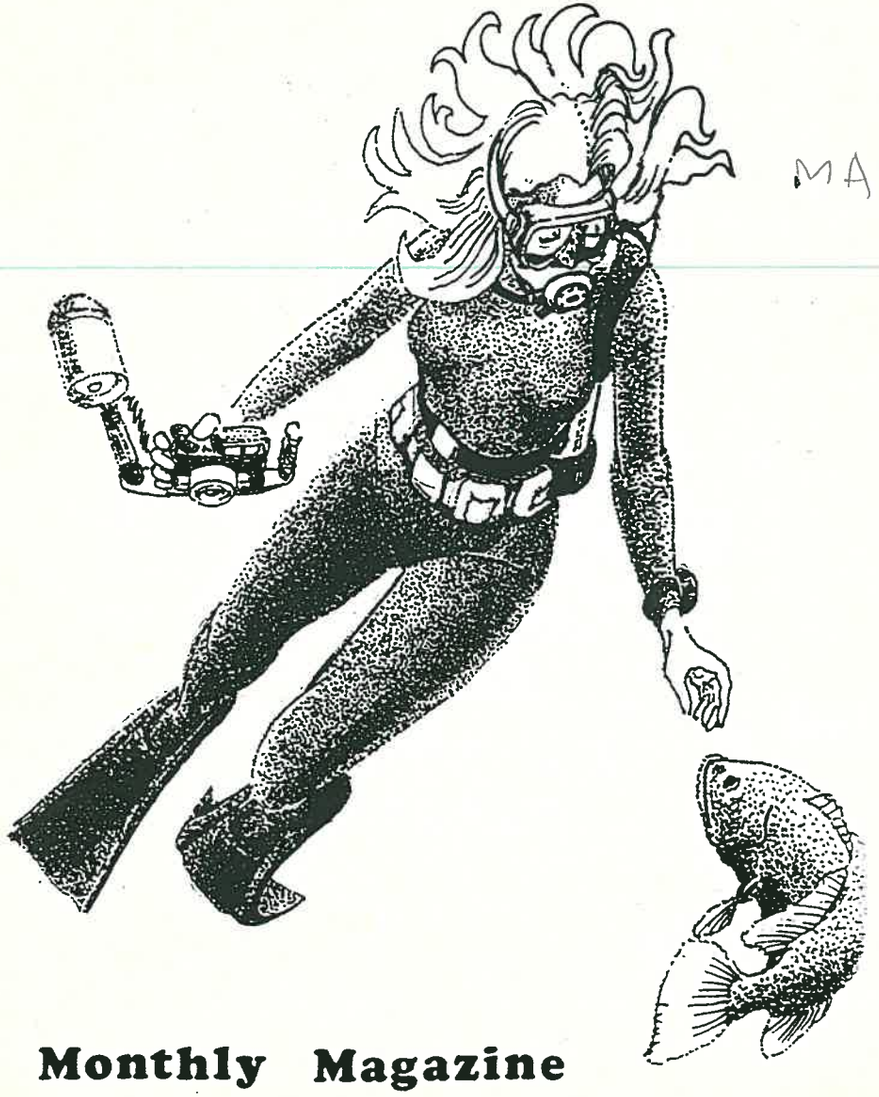
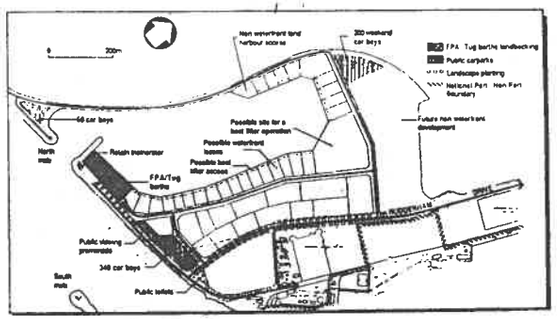
UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A.



MAY 88

Monthly Magazine

NEWSWATCH



A HUGE area of seabed near Fremantle's North Mole must be reclaimed to ensure the future viability of the port, the Fremantle Port Authority has decided.

The North Mole would be closed to the public from September 1988 to March 1989 and a 300m stretch of beach — called isolated and degraded by the FPA — would disappear.

The wreck of the barge Gareenup, a popular spot for novice scuba divers, would be engulfed by a 1.7km sea wall around the industrial site.

The Royal Australian Navy's 'state of the art' Submarine Escape Training Facility (SETF) was officially opened on April 22, 1988.

Located at HMAS STIRLING, the Navy's west coast fleet support facility, the $17.5m facility was opened by Defence Minister, Mr Beazley.

The central feature of the facility is a 5.5m diameter steel tank of fresh, heated water, 20m deep. This is heated by 36 banks of six solar panels situated adjacent to the building, that will ensure water temperature is maintained at a comfortable 34 deg C.

The RAN's escape facility is the sixth of its type in the world and the only one in the southern hemisphere.

The other five are in England, Norway, Sweden, West Germany and Turkey.

THIS season's WA crayfish catch is up 51 per cent on last year — an estimated $50 million boost for fishermen.

The Department of Fisheries said the catch to the end of March was 8648 tonnes, compared with 5700 tonnes in the same period last year.

★ "YOU'RE blocking my view of the sunset."

MARINE STINGER HOTLINE

For expert advice
008-079-909 toll free.

GET AWAY FOR A DAY

JUNE

04TH.	SAT.	
05TH.	SUN.	ROTTNEST LONG WEEKEND
06TH.	MON.	
07TH.	TUE.	COMMITTE MEETING
11TH.	SAT.	FISHING TRIP 0600HRS
12TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - JULIE'S CAVE
17TH.	FRI.	SOCIAL NIGHT
19TH.	SUN.	SHORT DIVE TRIP - STRAGGLER'S REEF
20TH.	MON.	GENERAL MEETING
25TH.	SAT.	DIVE TRIP - ADRIAN'S WRECK
26TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - DUFFIELD RIDGE

ANYONE FOR SCALLOPS

A lot of my time in boats has been spent idling along looking for a jump in the echo sounder trace that would indicate a drop offor a bommie. Such terrain has been proven by divers as it is invariably a focus for fish congregation, provides holes for crayfish and a home for sponges and corals. But one of my favourite dives is on a flat sandy bottom in 25 metres of water. What could such a dive have to offer? The answer is - scallops.

But what makes scallops so special? They provide a tasty morsel for an apres dive snack, but how do they make up for the excitement of grovelling through caves and extracting crays from their holes? Easy - they provide one of the most ridiculous sights you're likely to see above or below the water!

Scallops are pale flat creatures that blend well with a sandy sea floor. They also camouflage themselves by squirting a fine layer of sand over themselves so it takes a diver a while to develop an "eye" for them, but when he does he must be quick as scallops have fast reflexes and they can swim faster than a scuba diver. And if you think that the sight of a shellfish leaping off the bottom and taking off like a pair of false teeth in a cartoon isn't funny - well you just haven't seen it! The only thing funnier is the sight of a scuba diver - two long with hundreds of dollars worth of high tech breathing equipment strapped to his back, futilely attempting to catch a tiny scallop that he was too slow to pounce on.

But scallop diving is not all fun. One of my worst scares whilst diving was on a scallop dive. I'd left my buddy to chase an elusive scallop and returned (empty handed) to find her curled up on the sea floor, her face screwed up, and huge puffs of air bubbles pouring from the exhaust ports of her regulator. I mentally ran through the symptoms of all the diving ailments I knew of, but none fitted. Eventually I realised that this is what hysterical laughter looks like at 25 metres.

Most of my experiences with scallops have been in Geographe Bay. Launching at Dunsborough Ramp is easy, and after a short trip along the coast towards Bunker Bay, I head out to sea until the hue of the water tells me that the depth is about right and over goes the anchor followed shortly by a group of divers.

There are three species of scallop inhabitating the sea floor of Geographe Bay. The most sought after is the Southern Saucer scallop - Amusium Balloti. Saucer scallops are quite thin, each shell is only slightly convex, and it seems impossible that they contain much meat. But Saucer scallops can swim distances of 8 to 20 metres at speeds of up to 2 knots. To perform this feat they need a large adductor muscle which pulls the two halves of the shell together and ejects a jet of water which propels the scallop along. It is the adductor muscle along with the orange gonad that is the edible part of the Saucer scallop. The Southern Saucer scallop grows to a maximum diameter of about 11.5 cm, and lives for about 3 years. It has been fished commercially (by trawling) at Shark Bay, the Abrolhos Islands and Rottnest. The population in Geographe Bay was surveyed to determine if stocks were sufficient to support a commercial fishery - they weren't, but there's enough there for recreational divers to have a lot of fun.

BOAT REPORT:- D.R.Stubberfield.

Boat trips are becoming more arduous affairs as the season tends to rougher weather and "UNDERWATER EXPLORER" approaches the time for her annual maintenance slipping. However, she is performing satisfactorily, doing 4 dive trips this month, 2 of which were quite rough. The fishing trip was cancelled on Saturday 16/4/88 due to strong winds and instead some minor maintenance was carried out, part of which was to ensure the automatic bilge pump operates, by repairing corroded electrical terminals.

On Saturday 23/4/88, 7 members manoeuvred a new mooring block, consisting of about 2 tonnes of concrete and steel from trailer to seabed alongside the existing mooring. This exercise involved sliding the block off the trailer along steel faced wooden runners and then towing it into position with the boat. This proved difficult and complex, both from a rigging and boating aspect, taking into account the enormous weight, wind, current and a crowded anchorage. Peter Horton virtually saved the day with an idea to use the 2 long "skids" in a vertical shear leg configuration with the tow rope put up over the top of the legs. The boat then pulled the legs over, lifting and moving the block forward. After the 3rd. pull, instead of stopping and repositioning, we just kept on with the momentum of the pull, to be rewarded with the sight of this huge weight taking off behind the boat and virtually surfing for about 60m, across the shallows into deep water. It was then pulled up on a short tow and manoeuvred by the boat into final position.

The boat, no doubt in a towing mood, was given the opportunity to prove herself again next day when she towed home another boat with engine over heating problems. The tow proceeded at a comfortable 1500 rpm. without incident in fairly rough conditions.

A meeting of the Club technical Sub-committee,ie Skippers and D.O.'s, was held on 28/4/88, and all aspects of the Club's diving and boating was discussed. In particular, Bob Cotton was nominated as a boat Skipper and this was ratified by the Committee at its last meeting on 2/5/88. Bob will be included in the next duty roster and will be available for relief or cancellations in the meantime.

Finally, two matters which I should mention:-

(a) Those of you, including Skippers, using chart Aus 117 (Cockburn sound) to navigate and keep yourself posted on our dives sites, should be aware that this chart was updated in 1987 and has some very significant changes to it, in respect of buoyage around Carnac and the Woodmans Point area, which concern us. Make sure you are aware of these changes before navigating in the area. I can give you details or you may purchase the new chart, with correction sheet plus the temporary notice to mariners on this chart from Marine and Harbours.

(b) A day out in the boat is being planned for Skippers in particular but D.O.'s as well, and if room (max. 10) interested parties. This day will be a training work exercise to check compasses, speed log and try some improved boat handling and anchoring practices. Please advise me of your preferences for dates, Skippers in particular.

Cheers Folks!

DRStubby!

SOCIALITES KAREN LAWRENCE 3672787

1. PROGRESSIVE DINNER. OUR ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER IS ALL SET TO GO. WE MEET AT THE CLUB ROOMS AT 6.00 ON SATURDAY MAY 28TH. APPERTISERS ARE AT SUZIE + KERRY ASHTON'S, SOUP IS AT RON PHONEMYINT'S, ENTREE IS AT THE STUBBERFIELD-CASLEY RESIDENCE, MAIN IS AT THE CLUB ROOMS, SWEETS ARE AT KAREN + NORM'S AND BREAKFAST IS BACK AT THE CLUB ROOMS FOR THOSE WHO STAY OVER.

THE COST IS STILL $25.00 PER PERSON AND INCLUDES WINE, BEER, SOFTDRINKS, PORT, FOOD AND CORNFLAKES. IF POSSIBLE I WOULD LIKE THE MONEY AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING.

WE HAVE A FEW SPACES AVAILABLE SO IF YOU HAVEN'T BOOKED YET CALL ME. IN CASE I'VE FORGOTTEN SOMEONE OR YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOU'VE BOOKED HERE GOES A LIST OF BOOKED SEATS: MAREE + DENNIS, TIBI + MARIA, KAREN + NORM, RON P., DENZIL, SUZIE + KERRY, KAREN POLLOCK + PARTNER?, ALISON, STACY, BRIAN + IREANE, ROGER + [illegible]E, PETER + VAL MORT., IAN COWAN, RICHARD, ADRIAN + MARY AND ME.

PLEASE THROW A SLEEPING BAG IN THE BOOT OF THE CAR AND STAY AT THE CLUB ROOMS IF YOU PLAN TO DRINK. IF YOU BRING ONE AND DON'T USE IT YOU'VE DONE NO HARM, AND WE WILL HAVE BREKI STUFF FOR ANYONE WHO STAYS OVER.

SORRY, NEARLY FORGOT, DRESS STANDARD IS THE USUAL EXTREMELY FORMAL ATTIRE SO DRY-CLEAN THE TUX AND GET OUT THE FAMILY JEWELS.

2. BOWLING. OUR JUNE 17TH. SOCIAL NIGHT WILL BE 10 PIN BOWLING. WE PLAN TO GO TO THE MELVILLE SUPER BOWL ON THE CNR. OF STOCK RD. AND LEACH HWY. MEETING THERE AT 7.15 FOR TWO GAMES. AFTER THE GAMES WE'LL GO TO THE CLUB ROOMS FOR PIZZA.

THE COST WILL BE $10.00 INCLUDING THE PIZZA. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOURE INTERESTED. AS THIS EVENT IS BEFORE THE JUNE MEETING CALL ME OR SEE ME AT THE MAY MEETING.

3. PHOTOS. THE CLUB HAS INVESTED IN SOME PHOTO ALBUMS. BECAUSE WE HAVE SO MANY PHOTOS IT WOULD BE A HUGE JOB TO GET THEM ALL IN STRICT ORDER. WHAT I PLAN IS WHEN YOU GET A MOMENT AT THE CLUB ROOMS PUT SOME PHOTO'S IN THE ALBUMS. IF YOURE AT A PHOTO IN AN ALBUM AND KNOW WHO'S IN IT AND WHEN IT WAS, WRITE IT IN UNDER THE PHOTO WITH THE PEN PROVIDED. THE COMMITEE HAS STARTED THE WORK SO THERE IS SPACE ON THE BOARD IF YOU HAVE ANY NEW PHOTOS TO PUT UP.

PS. IF ANY PHOTOS IN THE ALBUMS ARE YOURS AND YOU WANT THEM BACK, PLEASE TAKE THEM.

4. SPEAKER. I'M SORRY, I'M STILL NOT CERTAIN GREGG FROM C.A.L.M. WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE MAY MEETING. I SHOULD KNOW BY MOND. 8TH. IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT BEFORE ATTENDING THE MEETING ON 16TH.

QUICKIE CONVERSION COURSES

It has come to our notice that a lot of people are taking " quickie" conversion courses for about $40 and the standards of some of them are doubtful.

Evidently if you can spin a good yarn about your diving and can answer a few diving questions, you are in. Is it good enough?

CONTINUATION OF THE VOYAGE

When the Commodore, Francois Pelsaert had arrived as we related before, in the harbour of Batavia, he waited but till the next day before he went ashore and made his appearance at the Court. There he acquainted the Governor General, Jan Pietersz Coen and his Councillors with his misfortune asking for speedy help to rescue the shipwrecked people and to save as much as possible of the Company's goods. Then the "Saarden" was assigned to him, which had to be manned with a sufficient crew and provided with victuals.

Ten days passed before everything was ready. He was not able to sail until the 15th of July. A land breeze was blowing. In the afternoon they reached Man Easter's Island where they met the ship "Leyden". This vessel had left the home country on the 8th of May, 1628, sailing from Texel together with the ship "The Arms of Enckhuysen". The latter ship had been blown up through explosion of the powder magazine on the Sierra Leone. The ship "Leyden" had only succeeded in rescuing 57 of her people, 170 having been killed. But the people on the "Leyden" were now in very fair condition, for they had spent a month at Sillebor in the island of Sumatra, which had set them up again.

Towards evening they also saw the "Beets" or "Wiggs" from Hoorn, which had likewise sailed among the fleet of the worthy Jacob Specks.

On the 16th it was rather calm and that day they did not make much headway with the sails, though the current carried them pretty fast out of the Straits for in the evening they saw the Prince's Islands.

On the morning of the 17th they had Prince's Islands East North East of them, being becalmed the greater part of the night, but before sunrise the breeze started from the South and they steered south South East. About noon the wind changed slightly to the East, so that they could only bear South by East.

In the afternoon of the 18th, they took their bearings at 8 25' southern latitude, the wind being South East, their South South West. They calculated that they had made that day 25 miles South West by South.

In the afternoon of the 19th they were in Latitude 9 5' steering South by West with a South wind a having made about 24 miles South West by South.

On the 20th at noon, they were in latitude 11, the wind being South East by East, their course South by West. That day they had made 20 miles.

On the 21st the wind was changeable and sometimes fell to a calm. In the morning they had rain, catching 30 or 40 cans of water. At noon they were in latitude 10 38' and calculated that they had sailed 11 miles, South West by South.

On the 22nd, the wind blew with a topsail breeze from the South East, and they steered South South West. Taking their bearings at noon they found themselves in latitude 12 41' so that they must have made 19 miles South West by South.

BEWARE OF THE 'ALKIMOS'

The Alkimos which lies just off shore a few miles south of Two Rocks has developed for itself quite a reputation. However it has not become well known for its record breaking sea passages, its beauty, or even its years of faithful service. It's noteriety stems from its ability to catch fire, run aground, break tow lines, supposedly cause financial ruin and death and last but not least for its resident ghost.

The reputation of the 'Alkimos' was nearly front page news again a few years back when I thought I was going to become its latest victim.

It was Easter 1979 and two dozen or more of the UEC were having their annual long weekend at Yanchep. On the Saturday a group of divers set out on the 'Nancy-D' to dive on the 'Alkimos'. The weather was not the best, it was overcast and a fair breeze was blowing from the North. We anchored a hundred odd meteres down wind of the wreck and as O/C for the day, I buddied up the divers aboard.

Anne Smith and I went in a foursome with anewly trained couple. We surveyed the wreck from the outside bow to stern on the sheltered side.

For those of you who haven't seem the 'Alkimos', let me digress a little to describe it. The vessel is virtually fully intact, its back is broken and in about the midships some large sections of the sides of the hull have been removed. More plates have been removed from the port or north side of the hull than from the starboard side.

Back to the story - As we swam past the largest hole in the starboard side of the hull, I poked by head inside, just itching to get in and have a look about. Anne didn't appear too enthusiastic and I didn't think it would be wise to take the two novices into the confined spaces so we continued to swim along the outside.

After we had toured the hull by three companions wished to return to the 'Nancy-D'. Having seen them safely on their way, I lept at the chance to go inside the 'Alkimos' alone.

Now digressing again slightly let me explain that I am a strong believer in the buddy system and if dvers are buddied up, it is their duty to look after each other. But if someone wishes to dive on their own, they must be prepared to take the consequences if the need arises.

Back to the story again - the inside of the 'Alkinos' was a jumbled mess of pieces of machinery and sheets of steel and the wholeship creaked and groaned as water passing through the hull moved things about. A pile of ballast bricks were lying on the bottom and naturally I availed myself of one for a momento. After having inspected the hole I was in, I moved through a large opening in the bulkhead which lead towards the bow section. I had just passed through the opening and was deciding in which direction to swim when without warning, I was spun around vilently several times. I was completely powerless against the force of the water and would liken the sensation as to being caught in a dumper while body surfing at the bach. My biggest fear

was of being thrust upon one of the many jagged pieces of metal about the place, or of being extruded through one of the small holes in the side of the hull.

When spinning stopped, I immediately swam onto the bottom hoping to find calmer conditions or some secure hand holds if the procedure was to be repeated. With a pounding heart I hurried out through the bulkhead and across the first hold I had inspected, stopping only momentarily to pick up a ballast brick to replace the one I had dropped during the malstrom. Then it was out through the side of the hull and back to the security of the 'Nancy-D'.

My hectic few moments within the 'Alkimos' were not caused by some supernatural or even extra-terrestrial power, rather by the swells coming from the north and entering the hull through the large openings on that side of the wreck. Because the openings on the south side are smaller the water increases its velocity to complete its journey through the hull. (For the technically minded a venturi action occurs.) The fact that the openings on each side are not opposite one another tends to make the water more turbulent as well. With the final result being like a scuba diver in a large washing machine.

I hope I haven't put anyone off diving or snorkelling on the 'Alkimos' because it is interesting, plus it is a novelty to dive on a wreck that can be recognised as a ship and not just a scattering of remains around a reef However take care and only dive in the calmest of conditions.

NOMINATIONS

Chris Pa pa s, 58A Congdon Way, Booragoon, 6154
Iva n David DUFFY, 15 Killowen Road, Hackney, London E 97 AG

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

14TH.	SAT.	FISHING TRIP 0700HRS
15TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - PARKER POINT
16TH.	MON.	GENERAL MEETING
22ND.	SUN.	SHORT DIVE TRIP - CARNAC ISLAND
28TH.	SAT.	SOCIAL NIGHT PROGRESSIVE DINNER
29TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - JACKSON'S ROCK

The following article is reprinted in full from "SKINDIVING IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND" magazine, Vol.5 No.5 of 1975. It should be of particular interest to the female members of the Club.

Before most of you ladies lose your temper and plan all sorts of retribution for your male counterparts for their chauvinist leanings, check the authors name and place of research. No doubt this article was written tongue-in-cheek, however, I know of some men who still harbour these same thoughts - 13 years after publication of this article when our membership list shows that 33% of our members are women and the numbers are rising. Food for thought - isn't it?

the role of women in diving

Frederick J. Porce'

As 1975 is "International Womens Year" it is appropriate that some consideration be given to the role of women in diving, and their relationship with diving and divers.

Diving is to a great extent a male dominated sport, and because of the nature and psychology of the sport from both the male and female point of view, likely to remain so.

Most women tend to have an aversion to physical discomfort and to situations which will present them in their least attractive aspects. It is very difficult to hide under a tight fitting wet suit a body shape that does not conform with the idealized standards of feminine beauty, or to avoid losing makeup and retaining a smooth, babysoft skin after immersion. Water and wetsuit hoods play havoc with carefully coiffured hair. The sport does however offer excellent opportunities for women to drape themselves seductively over boats, cars or the shore and either be suitably impressed by the truthful descriptions of the underwater exploits and prowess of their male diving companions, or offer much needed solace and comfort to the serious injuries incurred during a hand to hand struggle with a 25 foot shark.

Generally women tend in their underwater activities to collect objects and observe, whilst males engage in the more aggressive aspects. Thus the relevance and prestige of the subtle annihilation of an "Old Wife" (note Freudian overtones) with a 12 gauge powerhead is completely lost on most female divers.

The female has a relative disinterest in proving herself through heroic deeds and in a diving connotation this is alleged to lead to a more safety conscious attitude. This of course is very far from the truth. The ability to show that one can consistently accomplish feats of physical endurance and heroism is an essential part of diving safety.

One attitude which appears to have a significant effect on diving behaviour is the traditional and natural female dependence on males for protection and guidance. In buddy diving situations the female always pays her male buddy close attention and it is therefore very unlikely that the two would become seperated. The female will develop by example excellent diving habits. Their dependence upon the physical and mental strength of their male buddy eliminates any need or motivation to develop independently. Such demands made upon women which are beyond their capabilities lead to lack of self confidence and serious psychological problems.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Dr. Frederick J. Porcé is a French Canadian who came to Australia about 18 months ago to take a position as Associate Professor in Applied Psychology at Latrobe University. He gained a Doctorate at Chauvan College University of Quebec for research into psychological aspects of prolonged periods in underwater habitats carried out in conjunction with world renowned underwater scientist, Dr. Joseph B. MacInnes. In this article he relates some aspects of his research into women in diving to Australian conditions.

Any suggestion that females should develop the necessary reserve strength to apply rescue techniques in an emergency, or any initiative to learn and apply these techniques should be discouraged. By relying on her male buddy to solve problems relating to and an understanding of the technical aspects and function of equipment, a woman removes the automatic problem solving mental attitude which detracts from the inherent freedom of mind and body basic to pleasurable diving. In a buddy diving situation, both sexes must recognise that their responsibilities are not equal and the male decision must always be followed because he is in a better position both physically and mentally to analyse a situation and solve it.

The shape, size and composition of a body has a great deal to do with capability and performance in physical pursuits. In general women have smaller bones, smaller tendons and small ligaments than men. Muscular strength is directly related to muscle mass. This of course does not mean that all men are stronger than all women. Women have considerably higher body fat content than men and this affects bouyancy, temperature, regulation and gives more thermal protection. Cardiovascular differences are reflected in the physical or aerobic working capacity. For example, most women athletes are far more superior in their aerobic capacity than a non-athletic male, but as the female haemoglobin level is generally less than that of a male their heart must work harder to maintain tissue and muscular oxygen level. These factors aside, men are physiologically far superior to women in a diving context.

Female divers should be aware of the extent of their own depression syndrome of premenstrual tension which displays irritability, emotional instability, less mental alertness, less efficiency and difficulty in concentrating. It can dramatically alter their normal behaviour and reactions and create serious safety hazards. Thankfully not many men are prone to this affliction.

In instruction it is suggested that it is possible that female students would relate better to female instructors and have more confidence in them, however such suggestions do not take into account the capricious and jealous nature of women and a knowledgeable male instructor will command the respect and admiration essential for a good instructor/pupil relationship. Male students of a female instructor could possibly not feel a sense of competition as they might with a male instructor and either gain more knowledge by attempting to impress the instructor; or not take instruction properly because of their inherent acceptance of feminine shortcomings. Female instructors do however appear to have a mental attitude and capability of handling a young, smaller or weaker diver and tend to spend more time with them. From a purely commercial aspect, attractive instructors appear to be in greater demand by the predominantly male proportion of students.

In a male dominated sport women still meet some social resistance to taking the training needed for diving and getting the opportunity to prove themselves underwater. However, more women are entering the fields of marine biology, underwater archeology, oceanography, working with sea animals in aquariums and teaching subjects related to ocean industry. Provided women realize and accept that because they are women they cannot meet all of the stringent and demanding aspects of the sport as a whole and seek to provide essentially supportive roles, their future in diving is assured.

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JUNE 88

U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A.

JUNE 88

Monthly Magazine

HISTORY RESURRECTED

THE STORY SO FAR....

Commodore Francois Pelsaert has now acquainted the Governor General of Batavia of the misfortune of his small fleet. He has persuaded the councillors to provide him with ships and supplies to rescue the unfortunate victims of the wrecked "Batavia". Much of their time during the next month or more was taken up attempting to return to the Abrolhos Islands.

The first part of this chapter is taken up with the daily log of the variable wind conditions, this made the voyage back frustrating and arduous.

Now read on....

In the afternoon of the 18th, they took their bearings at 8° 25' southern latitude, the wind being South East, their course South South West. They calculated that they had madethat day 25 miles South West by South.

In the afternoon of the 19th they were in latitude 9° 5', steering South by West with a South wind and having made about 24 miles South West by South.

On the 20th at noon, they were in latitude 11°, the wind being South East by East, their course South by West; that day they had made 20 miles.

On the 21st the wind was changeable, and sometimes fell to a calm. In the morning they had rain, catching 30 or 40 cans of water. At noon they were in latitude 10° 33' and calculated that they had sailed 11 miles South West by South.

On the 22nd, the wind blew with a topsail breeze from the South East and they steered south South West. Taking their bearings at noon they found themselves in latitude 12° 41' so that they must have made 19 miles South West by South.

On the 23rd the wind was gusty with showers and at noon they were in latitude 14° having made about 22 miles.

On the 24th the wind was South East, their course South South West, bearing gradually more South; at noon they were 15° 14' and had made about 22 miles.

On the 25th with an East South East wind having made about 17 miles South South West they were at noon in latitude 16° 16'.

On the 26th the wind was East, their course South South East, bearing South, at noon they were 17° 32' having made23 miles.

On the 27th at noon, they were in latitude 18° 55' having the wind East by South, with alternate calms; they had made about 15½ miles South.

On the 28th the wind ran to the South South East with a fair breeze and a heavy shower, so they steered more Easttheir course being South; at noon they were 19° 45'.

On the 29th the misty weather prevented their taking their bearings, but they guessed they had made about 20 miles South.

GLEN·MILLER·NIGHT·

Socialites

HI, IF THE MAGAZINE GETS TO YOU BY FRIDAY DON'T FORGET THE BOWLING & PIZZA NIGHT. WE MEET AT 7.15 AT THE MELVILLE SUPERBOWL CNR. STOCK RD. AND LEACH H'WY. THE COST IS $10.00 FOR TWO GAMES AND PIZZA BACK AT THE CLUB ROOMS.

OUR NEXT SOCIAL NIGHT IS THE GLEN MILLER NIGHT. THE DATE IS THE 23RD. OF JULY. NOT THE 22ND. AS SHOWN IN THE CALLENDAR. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND PLEASE LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE THIS TIME I'M REQUIRED TO BOOK AND PAY IN ADVANCE. THE MUSIC IS REALY SOMETHING SPECIAL SO IF YOU LIKE THE BIG BAND SOUND AND DANCING IT SHOULD BE A GOOD NIGHT.

I'M PLANNING A GROUP VISIT TO THE HILLARYS UNDERWATER WORLD FOR AUGUST. THERE IS NO DISCOUNT. BUT IF WE GO AS A CLUB WE WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A GUIDE. TENNATIVE DATE IS 20TH. AUGUST.

WE NEED IDEAS FOR OUR ANNUAL PRESENTATION NIGHT. THIS YEAR WE ARE GOING TO COMBINE OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY + PRESENTATION NIGHT LATE IN NOVEMBER (THERE WILL STILL BE A CHRISTMAS DIVE WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR IS A CHEEP PLACE WHERE WE CAN DANCE, EAT AND DRINK. IDEALY WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE PLACE TO OURSELVES (USUALY 50-60 PEOPLE ATTEND).

PS. YES GREG POVAR FROM C.A.L.M. IS SPEAKING AT MONDAYS MEETING.

PPS. THANKS AGAIN TO THE MEMBERS WHO HOSTED A COURSE OF THE PROGRESSIVE DINNER. EACH COURS WAS REALY NICE. LETS HAVE THE RECEPIES MAREE, RON AND KAREN. NO COMMENT ON THE MAIN COURSE- WE WILL NOT USE THAT CATERER AGAIN!!

Bowling at Superbowl Melville, 7.15p.m. 17th June. Cost $10 with pizza after.

An Invitation for you to attend

ROTTNEST LONG WEEKEND

STACY. R.

Despite weather conditions and no actual diving, the weekend was filled with indoor and outdoor activities which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. All you wimps who chickened out because it was too cold, or working, or some other flimsy excuse missed out on a top weekend.

We have some would-be golfing pros in our midst! Norm, Ron and Denzil decided to check the local golf course out. Their caddies witnessed some memorable shots, but they didn't have an easy job. It was extremely difficult to choose a club for Denzil who played a carefully maneouvered drive which landed the ball on top of a clump of trees. Despite weather conditions we still had the opportunity to do a few lake dives at the water trap on the 17th hole, but no-one had the foresight to bring their dive gear on the golf course.

Tibi took us all on one of those traditional cross country 10 mile hikes, and checked out the tunnels under the old army guns. A few of us thrillseekers then ventured into the museum which was very interesting indeed. But you really can't take some people anywhere can you. Denzil disgraced himself in front of everybody by undressing the female dummy at the back of the museum!

I feel I must warn everybody against Bob Cotton's golf putting techniques. He came very close to being forceably removed from the putting course when he outdid everybody else by getting about four hole-in-ones. He reckons they were flukes but for that sort of behaviour there can be excuse.

Our resident gourmet chef (Brian) tantalised our tastebuds with mouthwatering delicacies like pepper soup with some pumpkin added to it and bacon croutons for entree, however he really outdid himself with the roast and vegies which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Way to go Brian!

The night time entertainment consisted of the usual wine and beer tasting, interspursed with card and board games. Peter H. plays a ruthless game of monopoly and Denzil's right jumper sleeve was severely stretched due to having half a pack of playing cards up there.

The rest of the weekend comprised of an exhausting schedule of boozing, cruising and snoozing, with the odd shuffle to the tennis court for a bash.

* * * * * *

NOT RECOMMENDED

U.E.C. members are advised that if they miss the dive boat at the East Street Jetty, it would be unwise to follow the example set by a Sydney tourist.

He was found swimming on his way to Rottnest after he missed the last ferry. The fully clothed man was pulled from the water by two surprised fishermen 2 km. from Fremantle.

was so terrible no-one even got their feet wet. I have heard no other reports from the weekend, so I will have to leave the social aspect of the weekend to someone else.

Lastly, just a reminder to check the weather reports on 11541 and ring me if you have any doubts. As far as possible I will let you know what is happening on Sundays.

Safety Officer's Report

Peter Mortimer 4598067

A few points in what is required and expected of club members on our boat dives:

Minimum safety equipment required:-
1. B.C. or appropriate life jacket
2. Watch
3. Cylinder contents gauge
4. Depth gauge
5. Snorkel
6. Knife.

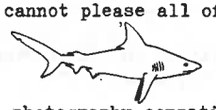
Desired safety equipment:-
1. Octopus Rig.
2. Compass
3. In winter, good weather proof clothing

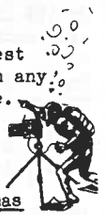
NOMINATIONS

John Wesley Platten
12/4 Nautilius Crescent Scarborough 6019

Richard John Copperwaite
P.O. Box445 Nedlands 6009

Conduct
1. Conduct oneself safely and sensibly on the boat at all times.
2. Pay attention to the instructions given by theD.O. and skipper.
3. Buddy check is required before entering water.
4. Don't enter water until being advised to by the D.O.
5. Adhere exactly to the dive profile described by the D.O.
6. Don't surface more than 50 metres from thedive boat unless it is necessary to do so.
7. Consider at all times yourown and your buddy's safety.
8. Signal the boat on return to the surface O.K. or otherwise.
9. Keep accurate times and max depth and advise the D.O. on return to boat.
10. Surface after approx. 1 minute if you lose your buddy.
11. On return to boat clear away all your equipment as soon as possible without being asked to.
12. Don't dive if you feel unwell or if you have had too much to drink the night before.
13. Don't drink alcohol before or during the dive.
14. Take medication for seasickness if you are likely to suffer from it.
15. Give some consideration to the D.O.'s and Skipper who endeavour to locate the best dive sites allowing for the weather and sea conditions current and forecasted on any particular day. Accept that we cannot please all of the people all of the time.





The CMAS is organising an underwater photography competition called the "Jacques Dumas Trophy" in remembrance of this unforgetable pioneer ofthe underwater world who for many years was the president of the CMAS and was also an underwater pictures enthusiast.

Details of the competition on the noticeboard at the next meeting.

towline to take over and relay signallers were required from mid-water to surface, to boat, to advise when the operator was ready. When under tow at about two knots it handled quite well even to planing on the surface When way was lost down to the bottom it went. It was on these occasions that free ascent training cameiinto its own if one wished to bail out ason many occasions the air supply was from hookah with the hose taped to the tow line to the board. This factor also applied to any passenger.

Both Markscould bespiralled and swung out from the lineoftow in much the same manner as a skier behind a boat.

Mark II was given buoyancy to permit itto be held by one person on the surface but it never really floated. This unit was used when the Club carried out a Mantarun from Fremantle to Rottnest. The hookah was the main air supply and members took it in turns for the extent of the distance. Even then, 1963,it would have been possible to navigate underwater from either direction solely by following the discarded bottles.

A survey was made of Duffield Ridge, S/W Rottnest the top of which is about 90 ft. Lyn Jones and others carried out a deeper run N/W of Rottnest taking the board down to 150 ft.

I cannot recollect having seen any specific plans for either board, or where in fact it ended its days. It was beginning to show signs of corrosion by the mid '60's and the Club at that stage was in the throws of fundraising with annual exhibits at the Royal Show, two week long U/W World Exhibitions at th Perth Town Hall and numerous other venues we could find.

With modern technology and materials, new ideas and enthusiasts for something different, why not try a new model.

DIVING REPORT:

Maree Casley 457 3333h
420 7683w

Sorry gang - not a lot of news this month (although it is a lot more than last month when I failed to furnish a report at all!). Twice this last month strong wind warnings have lead to the cancellation of dives and for the other two weekends it wasn't much better, although the Boat did venture out past the heads at Fremantle.

The first dive was a "quickie" out to Jacksons rock, where from all reports, a spectacular dive would have been had by all except, that the visibility was abysmal and no one saw anything (very much). The very strong surge also produced some pretty hairy moments with Dennis and Russell reporting that they were caught up by the surge and rocketed uncontrollably up and down a rock cliff.

The second dive of the day was at Pocillapora Reef. Most divers reported a pretty scabby dive on the seaward side of the reef, and only a couple of divers headed off towards the "Point" of Parker Point. It is here that the beautiful clumps of mauve coral surrounded by scores of sub-tropical fish are to be found. It is a very shallow dive and can easily be snorkelled on. If you are holidaying on the Island at all, it is well worth the bike ride over there with your fins mask and snorkel to have a look.

The other weekend when the Boat got any use was the long weekend, when a hardy group of divers headed to Rottnest. Unfortunately, the weather

On 6-7th of August, '88, its on again, t
water classic the Avon Descent. Once again the Westrail
team has indicated it would like The U.E.C.'s assistanc
Divers to act as water rescue personnel for this event.
We need several volunteers to make up the team of d
required to attend a couple of practice sessions up
(Brigadoon) and will accompany the Westrail team up thro
a reconnaissance picnic day on the 2nd of July '88.

The Avon Descent starts for us on the Friday aftern
full weekend of thrills and spills, hopefully not for u
to stay dry - for that would mean no accidents and nobod
at the main Westrail campsite with the rescue teams o
Saturday nights and enjoy the frosty awakening with th
race contestants down the Avon Valley, to Bell's R
stationed at strategic trouble spots along the way.

Normally our magazine Editor Tibi handles the arra
event, but this year he has deserted us for warmer c
bones in tropical sunshine, so would Divers interested
this year's Avon Descent rescue, please contact the
Diving Officer Maree on 4573333.

ATTENTION

Avon Descent

WARNING. ITS NOT EASY.

The water in the Avon River in August is near freezing poin
Rescuers might have to enter the water early in the day and
their wet wetsuits for up to 6 hours.
The rocks in the Avon River are very slippery, falling ove
Rescuers might have to enter the water when crafts are appr
of those guys are flying blind. You could be hit.
Rescuers are not insured.

If you are still keen to be a rescuer come to the first res
the 25th June at 9.00 am. It will be held at the Bells Rapi

Bring with you a; wetsuit, booties or an old pair of jogg
snorkel, knife, hood, a belt and a canoeists helmet if y
forget food for the barbique after.

After you prove that you can take it, we select 10 divers wh
come training at the same place on Saturdays 9th, 16th, 23r

All Club members are invited to come along to this picturesq
10 not quite sane divers in the water on any of those dates
to have a BYO barbique right beside the river.

Rescuers will have to come rain or shine.

For directions ring Maree 4573333 or Tibi 3413001 (I wont
until the 29th.)

Dennis Stubberfield

he Boat and it's machinery has performed well this month, ome rough weather and again allowed "UNDERWATER EXPLORER" ery good sea keeping qualities. Two trips only occurred being to Jackson's Rock and Parker Point. The other was the long weekend where "U.E." was securely moored in Her there safe and sound till time to come home after the d. Several other boats did not fare so well, it would f craft breaking moorings, being beached and other trauma

r is performing satisfactorily with no sign of water loss 2000 engine revs, and will certainly now see us through pping. The Club's diesel mechanics will then be much in hull fitting for the Sum Log will be required as the old maged/corroded beyond repair with a vital part having Iam currently investigating a couple of alternative s, including an entirely new all electric system.
ing on the hull has successfully weathered a full season 3 hand clean ups, the last of which was carried out late here are one or two areas where the anti-fouling has worn parently the initial thinner spots, allowing barnacles to are minor. Although the remaining coat is very thin it and will hold up till slipping. This current system, DRP Copper Charged anti-fouling, will be the basis of

8 a working and training river trip for Skippers and overing some advanced boat handling techniques, rope mpass work, including checking the Boat compass will leave the East Street jetty at 0900 sharp.

annual Boat slipping and maintenance period is is is the time when U.E.C.'s Admiral of Vice (Stubby), "Cat." out justifies his existence - and you my dear w divers, put back into "U.E." the care and attention She ver the past diving year. I'll be in touch - be warned, , it will be tough and it will be cold. There will be no nly the odd port or two (bottles that is) and the l of the thing to keep you going.

Cheers Folk's!

D. Stubby!

tee Meeting, the disappointing late cancellations to attend social ed.

d that to organise these takes a lot of effort and the club has to pay ms of money, some of which is lost when you don't turn up.

nest trip. Two chalets were paid for but one would have been enough ations. The Progressive Dinner had late cancellations and a club er full of ocy bought for fishing trips where people didn't turn up.

THE MANTA BOARD

Denis Parker

At the last General Meeting I was interested in a search technique used by one of our members whilst in the U.K. Those present at the meeting will recall the cufrent drift system as described by him. It would obviously save much time and energy in strong currents with the added safety factor of being followed by the support craft.

Following the meeting I spoke to a couple of members and asked if a Manta Board had recently been used by the Club. The reply was in the affirmative but only by a few using the snorkel. It was then brought out that the board used was in fact what came to be known as a 'Giggle Board' - a fun thing.

The 'Giggle Board' consists of a flat board about 2 ft. by 15 ins. with the corners cut off. At the widest point are two handles with rings on the underside of the handles from which is attached the tow rope. It was found early that a saddle was required to relieve the weight off the arms. This was accomplished by a bar on a pieceof rope of the required length being suspended from the rings on which the body weight was taken leaving the arms free to manipulate the board.

Most of the earlier members had a board to use with their respective boats and a number of wrecks and dive sights were found by their use. The restriction of this type of board was the arm strain andthe path of the board being in line with that of the towing vessel also a maximum depth of 30 to 40 ft.

These boards were in use by members from the late 1950's.

With the potential of the boards being realised, many suggestions were brought out to improve performance. The main two being that a rigid frame was required and that elevators independent of the frame were essential.

A number of types weredevised and tried. However, the first really practical one was that of Harold Roberts (Beachmaster) an ex F ighter Pilot. He at the time was employed by 'BEX' and I remember this original wooden contraption made of pinewith 'BEX' glaring out from all angles.

From memory the original version had only one central control lever on the elevator surface which was soon modified with a separate lever for each aileron and this operated in the same manner as those on aircraft. The ailerons were centrally pivoted with a lever attached to each one. These too were Bex boards.

Harold was succesful with the use of this board in locating sunken Yacht in Cockburn Sound. He ploughed straight into the mainsail.

This boardwithstood the ravages of the ocean to a depth of about 80 ft. It required constant repair owing to its construction. It was reasonably manouvreable and floated when not in use. There was still the strain on the arms of the operator particularly with a passengerwho just clung to the operator or end of the board.

Mark II

At first sight this reminded meof a single bed hit by a truck. It was the brainchild of Kevin McMAHON andLen COHN together with consultation of others. As can be imagined it sank like the proverbial leadballoon and it was rather disconcerting when in 30 to 40 ft. of water it was time to change operators. The relieving diver swam down the

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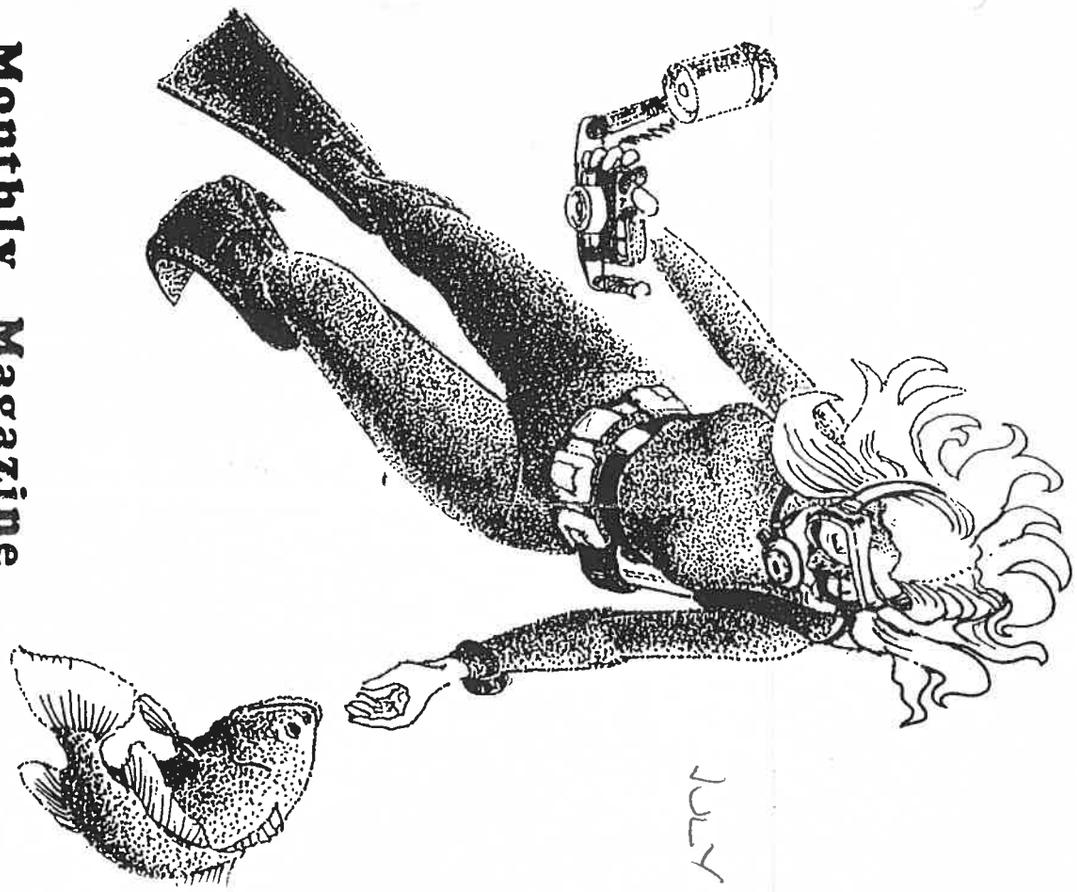
THE BEST DIVE CLUB IN W.A.

U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A. !



Monthly Magazine

JULY 88

JULY 88

Calendar.

AUGUST

1ST.	MON.	COMMITTEE MEETING.
6TH.	SAT.	DIVE AT ROE REEF.
7TH.	SUN.	DIVE AT DUFFIELD RIDGE.
12TH.	FRI.	SLIPPING THE BOAT.
13TH	SAT.	BOAT REPAIRS.
14TH.	SUN.	BOAT REPAIRS.
15TH.	MON.	GENERAL MEETING.
20TH.	SAT.	BOAT REPAIRS.
21ST.	SUN.	BOAT REPAIRS.
27TH.	SAT.	BOAT REPAIRS.
28TH.	SUN.	BOAT REPAIRS.

SEPTEMBER

04TH.	SUN.	SHORT DIVE TRIP - STRAGGLERS REEF
05TH.	MON.	COMMITTEE MEETING
10TH.	SAT.	FISHING TRIP 0800HRS
11TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - WRECK DIVE - SEPIA
17TH.	SAT.	DIVE TRIP - NORTH POINT REEF
18TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - JACKSON'S ROCK
19TH.	MON.	GENERAL MEETING
23RD.	FRI.	SOCIAL NIGHT
25TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - DEEP DIVE - SUE'S REEF

OCTOBER

01ST.	SAT.	ROTTNEST ISLAND
02ND.	SUN.	" "
03RD.	MON.	" "
04TH.	TUE.	COMMITTEE MEETING
09TH.	SUN.	SHORT DIVE TRIP - HUGALL PASSAGE
15TH.	SAT.	DIVE TRIP - ROE REEF
16TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - JULIE'S CAVES
17TH.	MON.	GENERAL MEETING
22ND.	SAT.	FISHING TRIP 0600HRS
23RD.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - RADAR REEF
30TH.	SUN.	DIVE TRIP - DEEP DIVE - NORTH ROE REEF

Socialites

There has not been a lot of interest in the 'Glen Miller' night so I'm cancelling it for another time. Because of the demands of the 'Avon Descent' and the forthcoming 'Slipping of the Boat', I'm not replacing the function but hope you'll enjoy a barbi at 'Bells' with the Club's macho men one Saturday.

The August Social Event will be a tour of the Hillarys Underwater World. The date is 20th August, meeting at the entrance at 3.00pm. I couldn't get a club discount but if we have the numbers we will be provided with a guide so please let me know if you'll join in. Its a chance to show your family and friends what you do out there all weekend. The cost is $9.00 per adult, $6.00 per student/pensioner, $4.00 per child or $22.00 for a family of 2 adults and two children.

For September I'm looking at a trip to the 'Omni' Theatre. Although their current feature is flying, not diving, I've heard some good reports and they do give club concessions. The tentative date is Friday, 23 September. Once again, I need to know if you're interested.

Tibi's suggestion for October is a trip on the Hotham Valley Railway, probably to the Brunswick Show because it fits in with the Club calendar. The cost will be $18.00 per adult and $10.00 per child. Please indicate your interest so I know if its worth pursuing as a Club venture.

Another thing we are planning for latter on is a Golf Day, but we still need suggestions, especially for the Christmas/Presentation Night in November.

JULY MEETING - After the July meeting we will be showing a video of a previous Avon Descent and also displaying some of the media stuff from our own involvement.

Nomination.

Julie Raines. Wanneroo.

Sign in a Fish and Tackle Shop.
Fins $22.40 or a pair for $44.00

AVON DESCENT

AUG. 6-7

NEW YORK, Tues: A jellyfish claimed the life of a veteran swimmer taking her daily dip off Palm Beach, Florida.

Emily Small, 67, screamed "I've been stung" before being dragged unconscious from the surf with the tentacles of a large Portuguese man-of-war still wrapped around her arms.

Hospital staff said they could do nothing to reverse the effects of the venom.

A man-of-war will normally release a toxin called physalia - 10 times more powerful than the venom of a rattlesnake - in doses small enough to cause severe discomfort, but not death.

DIVING TRIP - JANUARY 1989

Peter Mortimer

I am organising a living trip/holiday to Esperance for the period 1 - 9 January 1989. There will be placesfor four divers and their friends or families. Any member interested please contact me as soon as possible on 459 8067.

BOAT REPORT

D.R.Stubberfield

This month has been such a disaster, weatherwise, that there is very little to report, in fact so bad has it been, that the working trip for Skippers' and D.O.'s, had to be cancelled. This event will take place, but has been deferred until after the annual maintenance slipping, when any alterations or additions which may affect the compass, have been made.

On the subject of boat slipping, I have been talking to our friends at Matilda Bay Marine and they have as usual been most helpful. At this stage the boat will be slipped on Friday 12th. of August, and remain up for approximately 3 weekends. We must appreciate as a Club, that increasing pressure for hard standing at Royal Perth Yacht Club has made it impossible for Dave, Warren and John to allow us the virtually unlimited hard standing we have tended to enjoy in the past. This means we must in fairness to Dave (and of course to us and our boat) pull out all stops to get the work on "UNDERWATER EXPLORER" completed as soon as possible, because she must be back in the water before the beginning of September. The quickest way to wear out our welcome at Royal Perth and Matilda Bay Marine is to have the boat sitting up on chocks with nobody working and nothing being done to her. I will keep Members informed fully, as to details of what is required and how you can best be of assistance during this very important period of the Club calendar.

Now, a word on general seamanship and good boating practices which all members, not only Skippers and D.O.'s must heed. With diving being so scarce these days and most of us suffering from withdrawal symptoms, we tend to get a bit slack with our generally good boating habits. Two examples serve to illustrate this sometimes costly problem. The first, was the loss of our main dive flag and mast which, left tucked under the canopy lashing, slid overboard at the moorings and now, swept away by the current, has been lost. Cost to replace around $100, or considerable voluntary effort by someone, usually one who is already working his/her butt off for the Club. The second, potentially disastrous, concerns the stowing of our spare Danforth anchor in the stern hatchway. The next person who gets this wrong may end up joining the whole crew in a long swim home! I found it stowed such that the two sharp ends of the stock could slew across the hold and smash into the hull and the fuel tanks. In rough seas this could punch a big hole in her side. Skippers of course will be on the watch for this, but if you're not sure how it stows please ask. This applies to all heavy and/or sharp objects or gear stowed any where in the boat, so please take care, think about what you are doing and ask if you're not sure.

Finally, a very brief mooring report:-I dived on the mooring accompanied by Maree on Sunday(3/7/88), and found a bit of a tangle with a couple of pieces of old steel wrapped around the chain, but once cleared all else was in good order. A doubled piece new chain was shackled between the new block and the old mooring steel as an added safety measure. Further work will be carried out on the mooring as soon as possible after the boat has been slipped, to ensure a full season of trouble-free operation.

"Hope to see aboard soon folks!" Cheers! Stubby!

AVON DESCENT

KAREN LAWRENCE

Last Saturday I travelled up to Brigadoon to check out the Rescue Squad activities. The place is absolutely lovely and the guys must be absolutely mad. The day was sunny and warm, but when I ventured a hand in the water it was ice. Some of the other spectators and I wandered off to check out the view, the waterfall and the great 'keep fit' terrain. By the time we got back our valiant rescue team had turned blue. They could only stop shaking briefly to pose for a few press photos! Although none of them wasted a lot of time in the water after photo time, getting carried down a rapid in a wet suit looked quite fun. (Bring your wetsuit).

Those of us left on land hadn't even bothered to light a fire (it was shorts and t-shirt weather), but it took a whole 10 seconds for wetsuits to be off and barbi on once the guys got back on land - some interesting scenery in the process, thanks Bill.

After a gentle barbeque meal, basking in the sun, the group split with a small party heading to a local vinyard - surprise, surprise - there's hundreds up there. If you've got a Saturday to spare, come to Brigadoon - its a magic place.

Our Club members will be training and barbequing at Bells Rapids each Saturday morning from now until the Avon Descent in August. On Sunday, the 17th, we will be touring through the valley to check out some of the rescue sites. Bring Barbi food and anyone you like, any time you like. If you need to check details, call Dennis or Tibi - 457 3333 or 341 3001.

Ten years ago it was noted that Greenland Eskimos and Japanese fishermen who rely heavily upon fish as a staple food have a surprisingly low incidence of heart attacks. Scientists now believe this is due to high levels of the Omega-3 fatty acids present in certain fish. Omega-3 fatty acids are a family of essential nutrients also found in alfalfa sprouts, black walnuts, wheatgerm, olive oil, spinach and beans including soybeans. Why is seafood so naturally abundant in Omega-3 fatty acids? Phytoplankton, a microscopic plant present in the sea and fresh water, manufacture good quantities of polyunsaturated Omega-3 fatty acids. Through feeding on phytoplankton either directly or indirectly, small and large fish contain abundant supplies of Omega-3. Omega-3 fatty acids are present in all fish to some degree but it has been found that saltwater fish, living in the deep colder temperatures of the sea contain greater quantities of Omega-3. Such fish are mackerel, herring, sardines, salmon and tuna and it is recommended we eat these at least four times weekly.

THE STORY OF THE URIBES.

The Uribes began life as a Barque at Stockton on Tees in the U.K. in 1868 and was owned by afamily namedUribe who sailed her between English ports and Bilboa in Spain. In 1881 she was registered at Liverpool by a merchant named Alexander Cassels who sold her three months later to Andrew Shewan of London. He sold her in 1883 to the Adelaide Steam Tug Co who sailed her to Adelaide and converted her to a lighter. From then on the story became obscure until 1934 when new owners rebuilt her as a 3-masted schooner and sold her to Cossack Lightering and Trading Co to supply materials for the rebuilding of the Onslow jetty in W.A.

In 1940 the Uribes went aground off Yanchep and wasrefloated and in 1942, while delivering suppliesto the Army depot on Rottnest, she dragged her anchors and hit the reef where she now lies. Some vehicles and large machinery were recovered but she filled with sand so quickly that a lot of machinery and a load of 6-inch shells remained behind, and are presumably still there under the sand.

dart out from their hideaways like charging bulls, only to turn away centimetres before striking the diver, and head back to their refuge.

The hull, in the vicinity of the boilers, has what appears to be the lower deck still intact and through some small openings the inside of the hull can be seen, the sides and part of the bottom are visible on either side.

These areas are occupied by big schools of bullseyes, and buffalo bream darting in and out of the hull. A little further South East of the boilers, a huge crankshaft sits on mounting blocks attached to the bottom of the hull, it appears that this is where the ship 'broke its back' as here the bottom starts to slowly get deeper and the crankshaft and propellor shaft angle slowly towards the sand at the stern at a depth of 12 metres.

At the stern is a huge steel wheel and axle, possibly a wheel which activated the rudder from inside the hull, the bottom in this area is mainly sand and a few rocks, I have seen schools of yellowtail kingfish feeding around the stern on two or three dives. Not a particularly common fish, the yellowtail kingfish is one of the fastest moving predatory species in local waters.

The Royal Mail Steamer Orizaba was built by the Barrows Ship Building Co in 1886. She was a four masted steamer 460 feet long, with a gross rating of 6300 tons. Owned by the Pacific Steam Navigation Co., but on charter to the Orient Line when leaving London on January 13th, 1905, bound for Fremantle and other Australian ports, she had on board 160 passengers and 250 tons of general cargo; the last port of call before being wrecked was Columbo, Ceylon, on 6th February. While approaching Fremantle on the 16th February, the land was hidden from sight by smoke from bushfires in the Darling Ranges, the master first spotted dry land when the ship had already passed over the Five Fathom Bank.

When he realised that the land was not the coast near Fremantle he had expected, it was Garden Island, he immediately ordered 'slow steam' and the ship be turned around on a westerly course, soundings were taken but it was too late. On her way over the bank the Orizaba must have been very close to running aground with her 24 foot draft, but on the way back she bumped bottom once and then struck hard where she rests today. The passengers and mail onboard were unloaded onto the tug Gannet on the same day as she ran aground, but the next day things looked a little grim and there was some doubt that the ship could be refloated, owing to water in engine room and a bad list to port.

After the cargo was unloaded and some fittings salvaged she was left for a number of weeks while salvaging attempts were planned, but these were to no avail, and she was eventually stripped of all furniture and fittings and left to the elements.

The Orizaba is not an 'Historic Shipwreck' as it sank after 1900, but is still privately owned by the Orient Line who has agreed to allow diving on the wreck, but no removal of artifacts or destruction of the wreck is allowed.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Both of these wrecks make interesting dives, but a little note of warning! The Five Fathom Bank is no place to be if the ground swell is above low

FIVE FATHOM WRECKS

Buzzing along at 15 knots past Penguin Island, we can just see Coventry Reef breaking five kilometres South West of us. Our planned dive site today is the North side of Coventry where eight metres below the surface, lies the wreck of the Carlisle Castle. A 25 knot easterly breeze has chopped up the surface, making our trip a very wet one in my open aluminium runabout, this hasn't dampened our enthusiasm though as we know that the water is usually very clear around Coventry during a strong offshore breeze.

The Five Fathom Bank is a shallow line of reef and sand which rises out of considerably deeper water on either side, it lays in an approximately North-South line starting five kilometres West of Carnac Island and runs 30km South to finish North West of Mandurah.

Coventry Reef is the only part of the 'Bank' that normally breaks and was once thought to be the southern end of the bank, but today we know differently, the bank extends South of Coventry for at least five kilometres even though in some areas it appears to be only sand bottom, it re-appears as large outcrops of limestone and kelp weed after a short distance, those being its main features. North of Coventry it forms an almost continual line of reef with an average depth of ten metres. The water along and around the Bank is generally clearer than the inshore reefs, and are also much richer in marine life, but more importantly to the wreck enthusiast the bank is the resting place of two very interesting wrecks, the Carlisle Castle on Coventry Reef, and the Orizaba 4.8kms North of Coventry.

THE CARLISLE CASTLE WRECK

As we approach Coventry Reef the water clears very quickly over the last kilometre and we can clearly see the kelp covered reef dotted on the generally sandy bottom in 13 metres of water below us, we anchor on the wreck site and prepare our gear for the dive. On entering the water we find the visibility even better than we expected as we can see the reef face perhaps 35 metres away, we stop at the anchor of the wreck, the only one left on the site, it points skyward from a piece of wreckage on the North West end of the reef and after taking a few photos, we move on to a section where there are hundreds of bricks under tight ledges formed by the iron hull.

The bricks all bear the name CARTCRAIG engraved into their upper flat face. A short swim along these small ledges and a larger ledge, big enough for both of us to swim through, invites us to inspect its interior. Inside it is quite dark but we are able to recognize long water pipes sticking out of one side on the ledge, trapped by large sections of the broken hull. Close by there are some large caves in the reef itself and in these we come across more bricks and some broken bottles.

The marine life in these caves is colossal, the strong currents caused by the breaking swells overhead, maintain a never ending supply of food to the many sponges, ascidians, bryozoans, and corals which cover every inch of the roof and walls of the caves. One particularly large ledge near the caves, glows gold on an overcast day with the extended polyps of tubastrea coral covering its

ll nine metre length.
e caves are also home to dozens of
ie devil fish which hang like
spended puppets in the quiet dark
cesses, crayfish are also in
undance during early summer.
We then head back out to the
ecksite and search for any more
rgo remains, we come across a
dge full of whisky bottles which still
ve the remains of their packing cases
ried beneath the sand, some of the
ttles are still complete with cork
d lead seals, although the contents
pear to have 'thickened' during
eir 85 year stay on the seabed.
ose by is a large sand hollow which
oked as though it could be a good
ot to search. After dropping into
e hollow we fan the sand and find
re bricks, broken bottles and some
eces of china, probably the
mnants of plates or bowls.
this time our air is getting low
we make our way back to the boat,
bbing away in the metre high chop on
e surface.
The Carlisle Castle is regarded by
e government as an 'Historic Ship-
eck' as it sank before the year 1900
is to the diver means that any one is
ee to dive on the wreck, but that
thing must be disturbed or picking
a brick or a bottle looking at it
d placing it back where it came
om, although the law states that
thing should be disturbed!
The wreck actually occurred on
ther the 11th or 12th July, 1899, but
st probably on the night of the 11th,
on this night one of the worst gales
hit the South West of WA in many
ars, caused many shipping mishaps
Fremantle Harbour and also led to
e sinking of the City of York near
ttnest Island.
On the 12th July, wreckage was washed
hore in the Rockingham area, and along
the Penguin Island shoreline, among the wreckage two boats and some lifebuoys bearing the name Carlisle Castle were found. The next day the Government Steamer Penguin was sent to look for survivors and wreckage in the general area, but after searching and finding only more wreckage, the Penguin returned and resumed the search the next day - but no bodies were ever found. The captain of the Penguin saw a mast sticking above the water West of Coventry Reef, and on July 17th inspected the wreck from the surface with the aid of 'water glasses' and could see the name 'Carlisle' on a broken piece of timber near the bow - satisfying beyond doubt that the Carlisle Castle had sunk, and that all 22 crew were presumed drowned. For a week or so wreckage came ashore in the form of baltic masts, yardarms, cedar fittings, clothing, cabin furniture, barrels of spirits, and bottled whisky and ale.

The Carlisle Castle left Glasgow, Scotland, on March 22nd, 1899, with a cargo of water pipes, railway lines, bricks, whisky, general cargo, and according to some sources $100,000 in gold! She was built by R.H. Green of London in 1868 and had been re-rigged as a barque for a few years before being wrecked, she was 229 feet long, had a beam of 37 feet, and had a gross rating of 1484 tons. She was once a fine example of the faster ships of the era, but today her remains are a long way from bearing any resemblance to a ship.

The wreck site covers an area approximately 70 metres along the North face of Coventry Reef and wreckage can be found up to 40 metres North and West of the reef, the easiest way to locate the wreck is to anchor in one of the sand patches North of the reef and as close to the reef as conditions will safely allow, from here a short swim South will bring a diver over the bulk of the wreckage. Other interesting caves and reef can be found all around Coventry especially in the deeper water (15 metres) on the South West end of the reef, here I have seen jewfish, large schools of herring and during Autumn, schools of migrating salmon.

R.M.S. Orizaba

In complete contrast to the wreck of the Carlisle Castle, the wreck of the R.M.S. Orizaba is not particularly easy to find, has no artifacts or cargo visible, and sank under much different circumstances to the aforementioned wreck. But the Orizaba site is also more recognisable as a shipwreck than many of the wrecks in WA and is also the largest diveable wreck in local waters.

My first trip out to the wreck a number of years ago was a dead loss as I simply could not find anything but kelp covered reef, this was due to the instructions I was given by someone who obviously didn't want anyone else to dive his favorite wreck!

I was at least a kilometre away from the actual site, which I was to find a few weeks later from directions given to me by a local diver - Steve Stimson (now proprietor of the Malibu Diving store in Rockingham). Those directions I have now adapted to my own way of locating the wreck and are as follows: Head out from the southern end of Garden Island on a compass course of approximately 240 degrees for a distance of five kilometres, while travelling out, looking astern you will notice one of the industrial chimneys in the Kwinana area is higher than any others visible, by the time you are five kilometres out, this chimney has to be lined up over the southern-most end of Garden Island. About this distance out the water will become gradually shallower and the bottom should be clearly visible as you come onto the Five Fathom Bank, the wreck is only a few hundred metres from the edge of the bank and is located by searching, from the boat, for the boilers of the ship which appear yellow-green among a generally brown kelp weed bottom, the boilers are large and close together and are clearly visible if the surface is not too chopped up and the water clear, they are in the direct line of the chimney and Garden Island 'line up'.

The wreck lies in a north-westerly direction and the basic shape of the hull is still visible, starting at the huge bow (the most intact section of the hull) in eight metres of water. One gets an idea of the original size of this once proud ship - a diver can enter chambers in the bow which lead out through corroded plates to the outside. Inside these chambers is a huge array of invertebrate life forms, and usually a few port jackson sharks (although they appear to be a little scarce of late) lie amongst the colourful ascidians and sponges.

Heading South East from the bow the wreck is made up of large box sections covered in kelp weed, these were the framework of the hull, the outside plates having corroded away.

A little further along this framework are two boilers on the left and still further are another five to the right, one of these appears to have had the outside sheathing stripped exposing the many internal pipes. The general area around the boilers is also home to some of the most territorially aggressive scaly fins I have come across. These fish

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THE BEST DIVE CLUB IN W.A.

U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A.

Monthly Magazine

SEPT 88

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SCUBA CERTIFICATE CROSS OVER COURSES.

Included also in this magazine are details of the venues and dates of the previously advised Govt. subsidised courses to enable trained divers to obtain a NAUI, PADI or FAUI qualification. The only thing that is not mentioned is that you must show proof of a diving medical certificate passed as fit to dive, within the last 12 months. Also, the cost of your passport photos is over and above the $40.

Any UEC members thinking of doing a cross over are urged to contact me for our reccomendation on which qualification and dive shop to choose.

Cheers for now, see you soon,

Adrian.

Dive Shop Cross-Over Scuba Diving Courses

Course Locations

PACE Sports (FAUI)
189 Marine Tce
GERALDTON 6530
Contact - Trevor Beaver
(099) 214229
2 courses on 3-4 Sept 1988

Diving Ventures (PADI)
384 South Tce
FREMANTLE 6160
Contact - Peter Hall
(09) 3361664
1 course on 8-9 Oct 1988

Dave Budd Water Sports (PADI)
Shop 3 Plaza Shopping Centre
MANDURAH 6210
Contact - David Budd
(095) 351520
1 course on 22-23 Oct 1988

Frog Dive (NAUI)
222 Main St
OSBORNE PARK 6017
Contact - Brian Blake
(09) 3445545
1 course on 17-18 Sept 1988

Busselton Diving Specialists(FAUI)
99 Queen St
BUSSELTON 6280
Contact - Craig Briggs
(097) 522096
2 course on 24-25 Sept
and 15-16 Oct 1988

Dive, Ski and Surf (NAUI)
413 Hay St
SUBIACO 6008
Contact - Denise Sheir
(09) 3812480
1 course on 17-18 Sept 1988

THE SEA STARS method of feeding is unique. It turns its stomach out trough its mouth and externally digests the film of detrius and microscopic organisms that lie on the surface of dead coral.

***.**

DON'T FORGET Rotto longweekend 24.25.26 September.
Brunswick Show 22nd October.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE OF THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LONGWEEKEND ROTTNEST TRIP IS THE 24TH, 25TH, and 26TH OF SEPTEMBER. DEPART EAST ST. JETTY SHARP 8AM. IF YOU BOOKED PLEASE RING ALISON TO CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE COMING. 4447216

Barry is the skipper so the Rotto long weekend is on. If you would like to come there are places left. The cost is $80 per diver and $50 per non diver. This includes food, fills and the trip over etc.

Alison and Karen are organising the trip this time so to book call Alison on 4447216.

Safety Officer's Report

As the new diving season is about to commence, I feel there are a few points to be made.

1. Firstly, make sure that your diving equipment is in good working order, this includes a regulator service.
2. Make sure your fitness is up to scratch.
3. Attend the refresher course that our Training Officer is organising.
4. Read through once again, your diving manuals.

On the boat dives this year, I would like to see a positive attitude to buddy checks, a more proficient attitude shown by dive leaders and a greater use of hand signals both under and above water. I would like to see all divers, when returning to the surface, signalling the Dive Marshal whether they are O.K or otherwise.

We will not accept any excuses for a diver losing his or her buddy and not carrying out the appropriate procedure. Alcohol should not be consumed for at least one hour after completing the days diving. Alcohol can contribute to decompression sickness.

Since I joined the UEC 8 years ago, I have seen our dive trips become far better organised. We have had very few problems with safety over the last two or three years. If we can continue this very high standard into the 88-89 season, we will all dive safe and have a club to be proud of.

If any members has any queries on safety or technical points, they are not sure of, please talk them out with either myself or our Training Officer, we will do our best to help.

DIVING REPORT

By Maree Casley

As you all know, the boat has been at RPYC for maintenance work, which means that we have only had 1 dive in the last month. A group of 8 went over to Jackkson's Rock and Parker Point for a most enjoyable dive. The weather was perfect and everyone reported excellent diving. The swell had been quite low for days, which always makes for pleasant diving

As a result of the dive it has come to my attention that not all of our newer members know that the Club uses RNPL/BSAC tables on all Club dives. The reason we use these tables is that essentially everyone needs to use uniform tables. i.e. the D.O. needs to know so that times can be checked and buddies also so that dive plans can be formulated and adhered to. It is not hard to imagine a situation where a serious accident can occur simply because a D.O. or buddy didn't know that divers were using different tables. If any of you don't know how to use the tables or need to brush up on them give Adrian a ring to enrol in his refresher course that he will be running sometime in October probably.

On the subject of tables, the reason we use them of course is to avoid DCS. However, the use of tables only, may not prevent some people falling prey to the dreaded "bends". It is imperative that every diver take a good, long look at themselves and honestly appraise any pre-disposing factors they may have and modify thier dive times accordingly. Things to take particular notice of are:

1. Being overweight.
2. Being unfit.
3. Getting on in years (over 40 is a good place to start)
4. Being female.
5. Consumption of alcohol or drugs before diving.
6. Overtiredness.

If any of the above apply to you, please shorten you dive time, depth or both. As a precaution it never does any harm to do a couple of short deco stops- 1.5 mins. at 6mtrs and 1.5 mins at 3mtrs is recommended if you are within your times.

After your dive, you are still not out of the woods. Some things to keep in mind are:

1. Don't indulge in vigorous exercise.
2. Keep out of the sun.
3. Don't drink too much alcohol too soon.
4. No very hot showers immediately after diving.

I suppose many of you are thinking to yourselves that there are a lot of "do's and don'ts" in this sport and the simple answer to that is a resounding "YES" It is not my intention or that of the DO's to stand over you all with a big stick but simply to guide you in safe diving practices. After all it is your own health and wellbeing that we are concerned with and each diver should take responsibility for their own safety.

ARE YOU READY ?

Training Report. by Adrian.

Things are starting to move again in the club. The boat is now back in the water and the weather improving. Divers are coming out of the winter woodwork and looking ruefully at crumpled, creased wetsuits (Oh! why didn't I hang the bloody thing up ?) and suddenly discovering their tanks are out of test etc, etc.

All of a sudden a beautiful clear, calm, warm Sunday will dawn and you will be left behind because; (a) You didn't book on the dive, and (b) Your gear is not up to scratch.

DO IT NOW! DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT!

One of the most common stages in a sport divers life is that often seen syndrome of the "drop out diver". We all know people who start diving with great enthusiasm every weekend, devour books and dive magazines, browse through dive shops buying gear (necessary or otherwise) and then, as suddenly as they start, they lose interest and stop diving!

This generally happens after a long bad winter when the diver develope new interests and moves in a new circle of friends. It is at this point that the diver either gets back into it when the season starts again or loses interest completely, and possibly never dives again.

I believe this "lost interest" is mainly due to a couple of factors;

1. The diver loses confidence due lack of "in water" exposure,
2. is apprehensive about making elementary mistakes, (eg. donning gear etc,) in front of "proficient" divers,
3. other interests and new found non-diver friends make spending a whole day out inconvenient,
4. and finally, simply forgetting what a good day out they used to have and the sights they enjoyed so much underwater... winter does that to you!

Well, if you want to get back into diving and need a prod, here's how to help overcome each of the above mentioned factors;

1. Come along to one of our next refresher sessions,
2. this problem now solved.
3. bring your new friend along too!
4. go for a dive and find out again. Who knows, you may get hooked as before!

SO WHEN IS THE NEXT REFRESHER COURSE ?

At this stage we plan to do something early in October. Possibly the 1st. (Saturday), and/or the weekend 8th. and 9th. These things all depend on volunteer involvement and the number of members who want to attend.

If you are interested in taking part, please help our planning by turning up at the next General meeting on Mon.19th. or giving me a ring at home 4572117.

I am sorry that I won't be able to do much in the way of club matters for the rest of September due work commitments, however early October is much better for myself and some assistants. So let me know if you want a brush up dive.

The Western Australian Government Department for Sport and Recreation (DSR) is offering a subsidised two-day cross-over course for scuba/hookah divers who wish to acquire a nationally and internationally, recognised diving qualification.

First priority will be given to those divers who have completed a course that is not recognised by the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS). Any vacancies in the course will be open to experienced, uncertified divers.

The courses will run over two days and include two theoretical and practical sessions, including a boat dive. Divers will be assessed throughout the practical sessions and corrected where necessary, and a theory exam will culminate the weekend.

Two options are available:

1. * Courses conducted by selected dive shops.
2. * Residential courses at Woodmans Point co-ordinated by DSR. NCAS Level 2 instructors will conduct all these courses.
   (see attached sheet for venues and dates)

The dive shops involved are taking enrolments at present. Divers wishing to enrol into the courses at Woodmans Point in January, are requested to book by Monday 28 November 1988, by ringing Lisa Chivers (421 4666) at DSR. Experienced, uncertified divers can leave their name with Lisa and will be enrolled in the event of a vacancy.

The cost is $40.00 which includes a log book package, air fills and a diving manual. Two passport photos are to be supplied by the diver. The cost will be slightly higher for the residential course to cover accomodation and meals.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Chivers at the Department for Sport and Recreation (09) 421 4666.

An Invitation for you

KAREN LAWRENCE 3672787

OMNI THEATRE

NEXT UP ON THE SOCIAL CALENDAR IS OUR TRIP TO THE OMNI THEATRE. WE MEET IN THE FOYER AT 7.45 ON THE 23RD. OF SEPTEMBER. THE COST IS $8.00 PER. ADULT AND $5.00 PER. CHILD. PLEASE CONTACT ME FOR MORE INFO. OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BOOK.

HOTHAM VALLEY RAILWAY

THE HOTHAM VALLEY RAILWAY TRIP TO THE BRUNSWICK SHOW IS DEFINITELY GOING AHEAD. AS QUITE A FEW CLUB PEOPLE HAVE INDICATED INTEREST I'M THINKING OF BOOKING MORE TICKETS. IF YOUR INTERESTED PLEASE LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ITS SATURDAY THE 22ND. OF OCTOBER. LEAVING AT 9.00 AND RETURNING AT ABOUT 7.00. COST IS $20.00 PER. ADULT $18.00 PER. PENSIONER AND $10.00 PER. CHILD. ENTRANCE TO THE SHOW IS INCLUDED.

PS. A CHILD IS DEFFINED AS OVER TWO AND STILL AT SCHOOL.

MEETING

AT THE SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING LISA CHIVERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SPORT AND RECREATION WILL SPEAK TO US ABOUT THE DEPTS. PLANS FOR OUR SPORT AND ABOUT THE DIFFERENT RESOURSES AVAILABLE TO US. I GUESS ITS OUR CHANCE TO FIND OUT WHATS REALLY HAPPENING AND WHY. WE PLAN TO START THE TALK AT ABOUT 9.00.

HOW DANGEROUS ARE CUTTLE FISH?

This is the question divers throughout Australia asked following the death of a diver at Rottnest in September, 1984.

At the inquest in Perth , City Coroner David McCann found that an attack by a cuttlefish had probably led to his death on that sunny day, 20 metres below the surface, a kilometre off Rottnest Island.

Experienced divers may at first find this hard to comprehend, for the local cuttlefish is not a sea monster by any stretch of the imagination. It is only distantly related to the giant squid (which may achieve a length of 30 metres with hooked tentacles extended) and is a very different kettle of fish.

The cuttlefish concerned in the fatal encounter - fatal for both man and sea creature - was a mere 30 cm long. About the size of a football.

Size, of course, may not always be a measure of danger. The deadly blue-ringed octopus, whose toxin bite can kill, is a tiny fellow who could (if you were foolish enough to let him) sit comfortably on the palm of your hand.

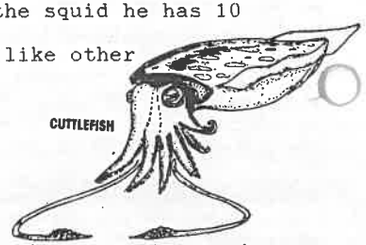
But though other species of octopus also have a poisonous bite of varying power, cuttlefish are not known to be toxic. It is rare for one to bite a human at all.

Most cuttlefish I have met personally have been friendly fellows. In fact they are - approached in the right manner - curious and intelligent creatures. They can be tamed remarkably quickly to the point where they will pick morsels of food out of a diver's hand with delicate tentacles , watching with large golden eyes.

Basically they are soft-bodied, having no skeletons. They squirt black ink when they wish to escape enemies, and can propel themselves by squirting water. The cuttlefish is a reef-dweller, usually found in caves or under ledges, seldom venturing out in the open.

Where an octopus sits on the bottom looking out at the world from the untidy spaghetti-like mess of his own tentacles, the cuttlefish hovers with a rippling motion of the fin around his body. He is thicker than the squid, though his abdomen is also leaf-shaped. Like the squid he has 10 tentacles, two of them long ones.

Cuttlefish seldom grow very big, and they have (like other cephalopods) a life cycle of only about one year.



So how did a humble cuttlefish contribute to the death of a diver?

Some divers have claimed "attacks" by cuttlefish in the past, inasmuch as the creatures have advanced towards them and extended their tentacles when the divers have peered under ledges. I believe this is mainly an act of curiosity rather than aggression. When we wish to play with a cuttlefish we use a bright "toy" to attract him.

A knife-blade angled to catch the sun, or a silver belt buckle will bring them out of hiding. A mirror fascinates them - they pose, change colours,and give every indication of excitement and pleasure, forgetting all shyness.

I think that when a diver looks under a ledge the cuttlefish sometimes is attracted by the glint of a mask, which may become a mirror depending on the angle of the light.

Once on the 1629 wreck of the Dutch ship Batavia, in the Abrolhos Islands, Max Cramer and I were photographing Merv Brown with an astrolabe. This was an ancient navigation instrument of considerable value and we were very pleased at its discovery.

The bronze surface, polished by sand, glinted brightly. The photography was interrupted by a large cuttlefish which arrived and politely, but firmly, fastened his tentacles on the astrolabe and attempted to make off with it. He lost the ensuing tug of war, and retired offended.

The diver who died had an encounter of a different nature.

He was diving at 20 metres with a companion whose air supply ran low. The companion returned to the boat, and two other divers saw him attempting to remove a cuttlefish from his hand-spear. It was the last time he was seen alive.

When he did not return to the boat a search was made. Meantime the severed body - but not the eyes, beak or tentacles - of the cuttlefish was seen to float to the surface.

"I'll check for clues" said Father D hurrying into the bedroom "Yes I think there's a slight dent in my mattress"
"Someone's been lying on my bed" said Mother D "there are 2 more broken springs"
Junior D raced to his room and when he'd looked inside called out quietly "I'm feeling a bit tired, I'll just go back to bed for a while" and silently closed the door. Fortunately for Mouldysocks he tripped over his reg. in his haste bringing the attached tank crashing down and awakening her quite thoroughly. Seeing the look in his eye she leapt up, threw the fins at him and jumped out the window to run all the way back to her surfie boyfriend in Tentland vowing never to trespass in a UEC holiday cottage again.

Residential Cross-Over Scuba Diving Courses

Venue: Woodmans Point

Proposed Dates: January 1989

Sat	7	-	Sun	8
Sat	14	-	Sun	15
Sat	21	-	Sun	22
Mon	23	-	Tues	24
Wed	25	-	Thur	26
Fri	27	-	Sat	28
Sun	29	-	Mon	30

For more information, contact Lisa Chivers
at the Western Australian Government
Department for Sport and Recreation
(09) 421 4666

new member

Julie Raines
16 Mega St. Wanneroo.

MOULDYSOCKS AND THE THREE DIVERS

A Modern Fairytale

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Mouldysocks who went to Rottnest for a holiday. Actually she wasn't really that little being 19 years of age (and quite well-developed) and she wasn't really called Mouldysocks except by her former schoolmates who resented her anti-social habit of keeping damp Reeboks in her locker for months at a time.

On the first bright sunny morning of her holiday Mouldysocks set off on a walk to check out the local scenery. Passing a cottage with the door open she wandered in to investigate being the nosy type and saw three pairs of fins lying on the verandah. "Just what I need" thought Mouldysocks sitting down to try on the first pair of fins but they were so big and heavy she could hardly lift her feet. She slipped on the second pair but they were a bilious pink colour and she didn't really fancy open heels so she tried on the third pair and they were just perfect so she slipped those in her backpack thinking "I'll drop these back later".

Mouldysocks was feeling a bit peckish by now so she strolled into the kitche.. and found breakfast already on the table as the occupants had gone for a walk. She sat herself down in the first chair and tasted the first bowl which was porridge - it was cold and lumpy, the owner had obviously forgotten how to make porridge without a microwave - so she moved onto the next place. This plate contained a heap of Special A cereal - pretty tasteless because the owner was trying to fit into the new mini she'd foolishly bought after watching the TV commercial so Mouldy gave that a miss. The next chair had a covered plate in front of it and when Mouldysocks lifted the lid she found a big steaming hot serve of bacon and eggs so she scoffed the lot.

Feeling a little thirsty Mouldysocks looked around for a drink - next to the porridge was a big mug of coffee, she took a sip but it was so strong and bitter she left it. ext to the cereal bowl was a cup of insipid-looking herbal tea, she decided to give that a miss without trying. Beside the empty plate where the bacon and eggs had been was a delicious mug of hot chocolate so that went down the hatch and Mouldy felt quite replete and in need of a little rest.

In the first bedroom Mouldysocks found a large bed with a traditional Rottnest mattress stuffed with limestone rocks and quokka eggs - she lay down for a minute or so then realised this was not for her. Next to the big bed was a stretcher so Mouldy gave that a try but the 3mm mattress was too awful so she tried the next bedroom. In here she found the occupant had thoughtfully provided a blow-up bed with plenty of warm blankets so she sank into that and was soon fast asleep.

Meanwhile strolling back from the wharf where they'd been seeing off the UEC boat came the Diver family - there was 6-foot Father D, not quite 11-stone Mother D and teenage son Junior D. As they approached the cottage verandah Father D said "Someone's been messing with my fins, that's not where I left them". Mother D gasped "Someone's been trying on my fins, they're all out of adjustment". Junior D yelled "Someone's nicked my fins, they've disappeared altogether!"

They rushed inside hoping to find the missing fins then pulled up at the kitchen table. "Someone's been eating my porridge, the spoon's standing upright in it" growled Father D "and my coffee has gone down".

"Someone's been eating my cereal" said Mother D "but not very much of it " she added with a touch of disappointment.

"Someone's been at my breakfast and there's not a thing left!" shouted Junior D angrily.

The diver was later found drowned. His air supply was exhausted and there were bite marks on his ear and round presumed sucker marks on his neck. He had lost one fin. The reserve lever on his tank was down, but he had not released his weight belt.

The scenario is tragically obvious. The diver, physically fit and an excellent swimmer but a novice with breathing apparatus, was close to the end of his air supply.

He had either already activated his reserve air supply (which would give him five minutes extra time) or it had inadvertently been down when he entered the water.

He speared the unfortunate cuttlefish with a hand-spear. When he wrestled it off the barbs, the wounded cuttlefish in panic or anger - who can say? - wrapped itself around his head and bit him on the ear.

Now it was the diver's turn to panic. He tried to tear the clinging creature from his head, with such force that he ripped the body from its own head and tentacles , and the dismembered piece floated to the surface.

He lost his mouthpiece , and probably unable to see, kicked so hard for the surface that he lost a fin. At that moment his air ran out, and diver and cuttlefish perished haplessly together.

Accidents often result from a culmination of bad luck, or combinations of unfortunate incidents. All divers should learn something from this tragedy.

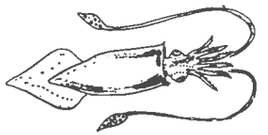
If he had been with a companion (one of the first requirements of apparatus diving)....If he had had his reserve lever correctly positioned on starting to dive, or if he had headed for the surface, as he should, as soon as he needed to activate it.....If he had released his weight belt... Above all, of course, if he had not speared the cuttlefish, it would have been a story with a different ending.

One important thing to remember is that the undersea can be a friendly place, but equally it can be hostile.

Even small and apparently harmless creatures can fight back when speared or molested by man. Pain, panic, desperation are powerful and dangerous ingredients.

If you want pleasure or interest on a dive with a cuttlefish, approach it as a friend. You will find it a fascinating creature. In those circumstances the answer to the question at the beginning of this article is simple: No, cuttlefish are not dangerous to man.

Reproduced by kind permission of Hugh Edwards, underwater explorer and author.



SQUID

CAN YOU HELP?

Alison is going overseas for two months. She is looking for somewhere to store her gear. If you can help ring her on4447216.

Avon Descent

By Maree Casley

This years Avon Descent produced a mixed bag of results for those attending - non-stop action and high drama at times and abject boredom at other times. Overall though I'm sure everyone enjoyed the weekend, with many people wanting to make a bee-line up there again next year.

The camp this year was again at Cobblers Pool, however, the section set aside for the Westrail group and us was about 3 inches from the railway line. This didn't present any problems though,until of course the sand-man came and then sleep was impossible. The first night everyone had pitched their tents early and had settled in for a pleasant evening of socialising around the huge campfire that was burning. That wasn't the only thing burning - some hapless soul from the competitors area had gone into Northam for the Mardi Gras to find his Kombi van a burnt-out shell on his return. Not much fun for him but it provided much to look at and talk about for everyone else.

The evening wore on with everyone enjoying themselves over the odd glass of port, scotch, beer or anything else they could lay their hands on. Meanwhile, Alison, Liz and a few of their friends joined us to partake of a few beverages. It was only after quite a few of them had been consumed that everyone finally crawled off to the cot. Sleep still eluded most people as the racket produced from the profusion of trains going through the camp ensured that shutters remained firmly open. Even the noise from the trains though, could not compare with the wailing of Alison when she discovered her red scarf had been purloined. The noise of her uncontrolled weeping paled into insignificance though compared with the embarressment she caused when she accosted every spectator wearing a red scarf.

Long before dawn, there we all were bright-eyed and bushy tailed (some of us were at least) desperately trying to keep warm. At 7am we were all on our way to the various locations along the river, from the start at Northam to Toodyay Bridge. Day 1 was a fairly dull affair with very little action for our intrepid rescuers. From all accounts the most excitement of the whole day was when the Channel 9 chopper blew the build-up if foam away from Extracts Weir.

Saturday night followed in much the same way as the night before, everyone enjoying a few quiet drinks before hitting the hay. Sunday morning saw us all up and about bright and early to eat a quick brekkie and hastily dismantle our tents. The fellow that fired the huge cannon last year must have been a bit under the weather because even I beat him out of bed by about 2 hours. That must be some kind of world record because I've never beaten anybody out of bed in my entire life! By 7.30 the camp was virtually deserted as we all made our way through the valley to our various locations. The only people left were a few Westrail fellows left to tidy up.

The drive through the valley this year was spectacular as there was no mist to hinder our view. Even the leisurely drive along the river proved to be fraught with danger as a 4 wheel drive vehicle failed to make it to the other side of the river at Emu Falls. The group that I was with consisted of Kerry, Tim and Dennis as the rescuers and Suzie, Monica and I as interested bystanders and general dog's bodies. We were nearly dead bodies after trying to negotiate the steep slope down to the river at Sid's Rapids. I managed this death-defying feat by scuttling down on my derriere (I was glad of the extra padding on this occasion).

The action at Sid's Rapids proved to be pretty scarce with no real macho stuff to bolster their sagging egos. Towards the end they invented their own game which basically consisted of "Who can get to the other side of the river without falling over?".I'm not sure who won this inaugural event but there is a strong suggestion of a perpetual trophy for contestants to compete for next year. Based on past performances my money is on Tim.

At other spots along the river though the action was non-stop. Denzil, Karen Stacey and Brian all reported busy days, constantly in the river rescuing everything from bodies to paddles. Rumour has it that our 2 lovelies Stacey and Karen really put in a sterling performance, especially as neither of them had done any training - they were last minute stand-ins for Martin who could not make it. Those of you with very keen eyesight may even have seen Brian on the box with a bloodied nose of proof that he actually did rescue someone(or something).

Overall, most people agreed that the week-end was enjoyable and successful, with our members again aquitting themselves very well and proving themselves to be fine ambassadors for the Club. As a result of the last 2 years involvement in the event I am sure that U.E.C.'s future in the rescue team is assured. Thanks must also go to all the rescue participants and staff of Westrail who not only made us welcome but also fed us and made us comfortable. The hot shower was most appreciated by everyone,especially those who spent most of the day in the drink. Well done to everyone involved.

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*************************************************************
*                                                           *
*                    EVERYONE PLEASE NOTE                   *
*                                                           *
*       YIPPEE!! I AM GOING ON HOLIDAYS. PLEASE RING        *
*       PETER MORTIMER ON 459-8067 IF YOU WISH TO DIVE      *
*            ON SEPTEMBER 11TH, 18TH                        *
*                                                           *
*                                                Maree      *
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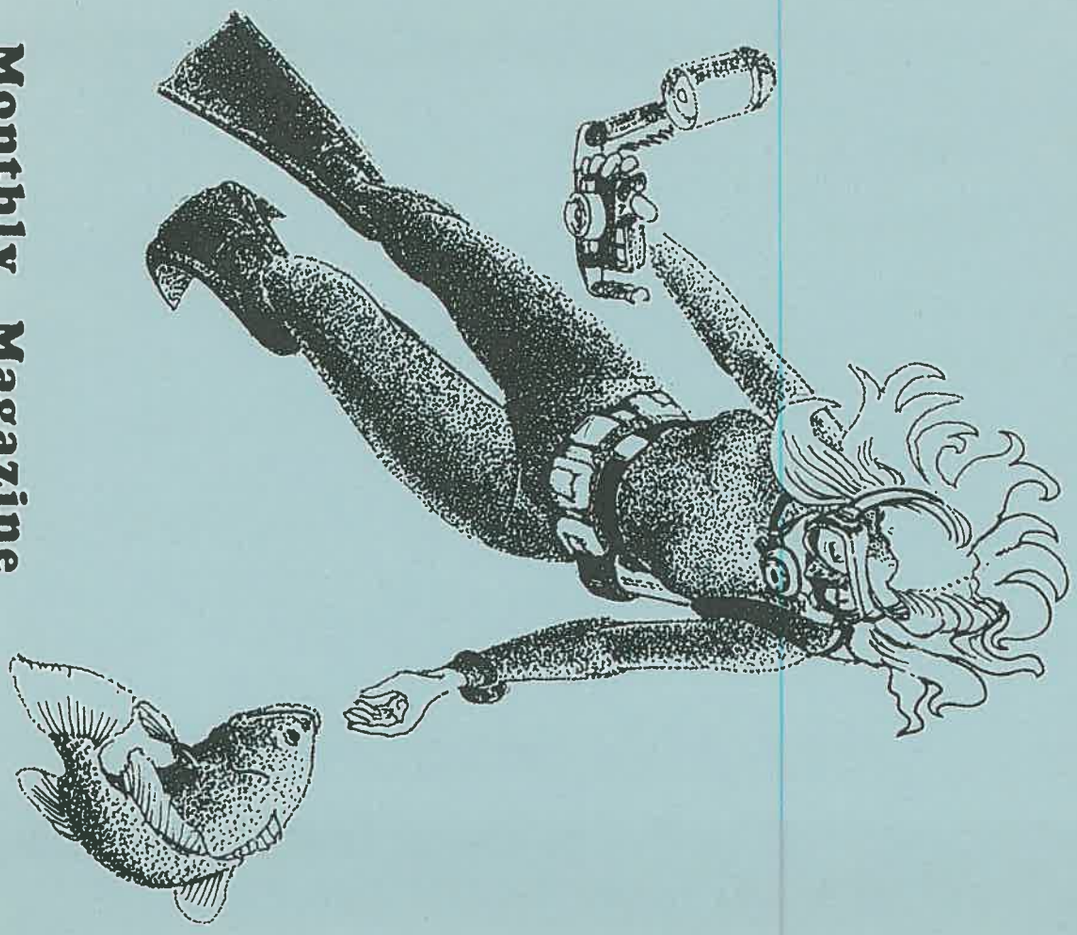
U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A. INC.

OCT. 88



Monthly Magazine

TRAINING REPORT. ADRIAN EDWARDS.

The refresher course has been cancelled due to lack of interest.
There were a couple of keen starters but apart from one diver who has been away from diving for a while, the only others interested were club members who dive regularly.

My main aim was to offer rusty divers an oportunity to be helped back into the water after a long absence. We can accomodate the regulars at any time because they are nearly always around the club scene.
As advised at the last two general meetings and in the last two newsletters, the invitation to ring me resulted in only two enquires. For this reason, I could not justify giving up my or any other assistants valuable time.

In future, if we get inundated with requests from club members wishing to update, then I will certainly reconsider organising another course and set the date.

YOUR SUBS ARE NOW DUE!!

ORDINARY	$42
JUNIOR	$27
SOCIAL	$12
COUNTRY	$12
FAMILY	$64

HAVE YOU GOT A FRIDGE YOU NO LONGER USE? THE CLUB NEEDS ONE! TELL MARIO.

oooooooooooooooooooooooooo

The Bond Corporation plan to build an island off the coast of Perth. A site near Rottnest had been identified. Well, there goes one of our dive sites!

oooooooooooooooooooooooooo

On November 21st all positions of office bearers of the Underwater Explorers Club will become vacant. Come to the Annual General Meeting and offer your services. You can be or vote for ;

President	Magazine Editor
Vice President	O.C. Safety & Tech.
Treasurer	O.C. Building
O.C. Diving	O.C. Social & PR.
O.C. Training	Secretary.
O.C. Boat	

oooooooooooooooooooooooo

A million dollar crocodile farm has been given the all-clear by the Fremantle City Council. Divers will be employed to clean the pools.

oooooooooooooooooooooooo

BOAT REPORT D.R.STUBBERFIELD

Since the last Boat Report, which was in August during the time the boat was slipped, much water has flowed under Fremantle bridge, and not the least of important happenings, was my very welcome 2 weeks break, diving North in the sunshine! I've almost forgotten what that was like and am beginning to crave a diving trip in the sunshine in OUR boat for a change.

First and most important, our thanks to Dave Kenney and Warren of Matilda Bay Marine at Royal Perth Yacht Club, without whose help we simply could not have maintained "Underwater Explorer" to the high standards demanded of our operations. Their advice and help is much appreciated, especially as they were in dire need of hard standing, but still managed to cram us in. Next year I've promised to give them a break, us too, and slip the boat much earlier, to take the pressure off and make use of the "off season" hard standing.
Many thanks again Dave and Warren.

The boat was taken back to Her moorings on Monday 29/8/88, following the usual run around Matilda Bay in carefully controlled bursts of full power to check running gear and the prop. gland. This year was a bit of a romp for "U.E" and very arduous for crew, as high winds, some rain and choppy seas accompanied the event. With all systems "Go" and looking like a million dollars in Her new paint, our lively Lady galloped off to the moorings in the wind and slop like a young filly after a spell. Peter, Adrian and Bill rode her to Fremantle in the wind and flying spray-sounds a familiar scene.

Two lightly loaded boat trips and a long week end at Rottnest have occurred since slipping and these events proved tough for both boat and divers, again due to adverse weather conditions. The long weekend did prove to be a success, I understand, with the crew observing the Rottnest wild life (beach mammals) during the long inactive periods between dives. Rough weather caused minor damage to our new paint on the rubbing strips.

Some problems are still to be rectified since slipping, most being minor, but at least two needing urgent attention. The motor problem still exists, with no change to the water expulsion from the cooling system above about 2000 r.p.m., indicating almost certainly a fault in the engine head. Bill Bousted, Barry and helpers have the work on this problem under control and will hopefully have it fixed by the time this goes to print. Our smart new deck paint is proving to be somewhat slippery as the old, lumpy, non-skid coating was worn off and coated over, and this will require a repaint with a much higher degree of non-skid in the paint. I have this in hand and fortunately it will not be a big job.

While I was away we did some diving on a Charter Diving/Fishing boat at Exmouth, and learned some interesting things on how the Commercial Boys operate. ($45/day for two dives, lunch, 2 hours fishing, and keep your fish)
We thoroughly enjoyed being "just tourists" on big roomy well run boat and while we, for obvious reasons, cannot really compare our operations with a commercial enterprise such as this, there are many things in common, many things that we do rather well (even better than most) and a number of things we can learn.

Firstly, we do run our diving in a well organised almost ultra-safe way by any standards, as good as the best and better than most. Our boat is equipped quite well for diving and although it would be nice to own a big, roomy, highsided, boat we found it a little high for comfortable backroll entry down the sides (that method of water entry has some advantages):and a 45' boat is a bit big for our needs and budget. Our marlin board exit is still the best method of getting groups of divers out of the water, but I would have to concede it would probably be inappropriate to have a charter boat fitted up similar to ours, for more general work.
The standard of boat handling and skippering we met was of the highest order, and I was impressed.
However, not beyond our capabilities and our existing best efforts. The use of Photo transits taken with tele-lens, combined with echo sounder gives us a bit of an edge in navigating on to divesites, and our skipper did express interest in the method as a means of documenting fishing and dive sites. The use of transits for navigation is very common by all skippers, its our method of recording them that is rare.
We need to become very skilled at using such transits to anchor right on the spot to make the best of that edge, and some practise at it would not go astray.

We could improve our running gear, anchoring, and passenger comfort a little without becoming ridiculous about it and I will be discussing this in detail with Skippers and D.O.'s. I have meanwhile, been day dreaming about such things as new C.Q.R. anchors, anchor winches, colour echo sounders, digital sum logs, galley stoves, places to actually sit down, and a number of other such like pipe dreams, some of which, just maybe, might come true before I retire from diving.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8 P.M. at the Clubhouse

21 st. November 1988.

Club members are able to get a discount on tank testing at

Australian Safety Engineers Pty Ltd
26 Yampi Way
Willeton

Just say you are a member of the U.E.C. to obtain a discount.

However, if you are the person that had a tank tested there last year and skipped off without paying, they still remember you. You caused a lot of bad feeling, resulting in the discounts being cancelled for all other members for the last year. Please don't be so inconsiderate.

Socialites

BRUNSWICK SHOW

OUR HOTHAM VALLEY RAILWAY TRIP TO THE BRUNSWICH SHOW IS ALL SET TO GO. THE COST AS PREVIOUSLY ADVISED IS $20.00 PER ADULT AND $10.00 PER CHILD INCLUDING ENTRANCE TO THE SHOW. I'VE BEEN ASKED TO COLLECT THE MONEY IN ADVANCE SO PLEASE SEND IT TO ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU CAN. MY ADDRESS IS U2 50 FORREST ST SOUTH PERTH. THE LIST OF PEOPLE GOING IS ; MAREE + DENNIS, TIBI, PETER HORTON, RON P.,JOHN PASKULICH + FAM., STACY, DENZIL, FLORA, JUDITH, KAREN(ME),CAROLYN + RON. IF YOUR NO LONGER ABLE TO COME LET ME KNOW URGENTLY. IF YOU HAVEN'T PUT YOUR NAME DOWN BUT WOULD LIKE TO GO RING ME AND I'LL TRY TO GET YOU A TICKET.

THE TRIP LEAVES FROM THE MAIN WELLINGTON ST RAILWAY STATION AT 9.00AM AND RETURNS AT APPROX. 7.00PM. PARKING IS AVAILABLE AT THE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE. IF YOUR PLANNING TO ALSO ATTEND THE FREMANTLE SAILING CLUB CABARET YOU CAN BE PICKED UP FROM THE KELMSCOTT RAILWAY STATION AT APPROX. 9.50 (BE EARLY) AND SHOULD BE BACK BY 6.30.

YOU CAN EITHER BRING A PICNIC LUNCH, BUY IT FROM THE DINNER CAR OR BUY IT FROM THE SHOW. ONLY SOFT DRINKS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE TRAIN SO B.Y.O. ALCHOLIC DRINKS IF REQUIRED.

PRESENTATION NIGHT

THE DATE FOR OUR COMBINED CHRISTMAS PARTY + PRESENTATION NIGHT IS FRIDAY 2ND DEC. SO PENCIL IT IN YOUR DIARY. COULD THE PEOPLE HELPING TO ORGANISE IT (PETER HORTON, MAREE, RON P. + BILL) PLEASE COME TO THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING AT 7.30 INSTEAD OF 8.00 SO WE CAN START PLANNING.

FREMANTLE SAILING CLUB

INAUGURAL W.A. UNDERWATER DIVERS CABARET

THE FREMANTLE SAILING CLUB (DIVING SECTION) ARE HOLDING A CABARET ON THE 22ND. OF OCTOBER. THEY HAVE INVITED ALL THE DIVE CLUBS IN W.A. AND PLAN TO MAKE IT AN ANNUAL EVENT. FOR A COST OF $20.00 PER HEAD THEY WILL PROVIDE A DELUXE SMORGASBORD AND DANCE IN THE FREMANTLE SAILING CLUB.

IT SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GET TOGETHER WITH OTHER DIVERS AND HAVE A GOOD TIME. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FORM A TABLE WITH OTHER U.E.C.MEMBERS PLEASE LET ME KMOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE - BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING OF YOU CAN.

VENUE : FREMANTLE SAILING CLUB
MARINE PARADE
SOUTH FREMANTLE
DATE : SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER
TIME : 7.30 ONWARDS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DON'T MISS IT.

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U.E.C.

THE BEST DIVE CLUB IN W.A.

U.E.C. NEWS

UNDERWATER EXPLORERS CLUB of W.A.

Monthly Magazine

Nov 88

Socialites

KAREN LAWRENCE

CHRISTMAS PARTY/PRESENTATION NIGHT

Don't forget our party on December the second. Start time is 7.30 with our usual invitation to sleep over if need be. We're using the club rooms this year and are spending the money saved on a good compare and music set up.

The cost of $10.00 per head will cover meat, fish (for a change) salad etc with drinks the usual prices. It looks like the new members John is training will be qualified by then, so we will be able to welcome them to our club in style.

Please contact me to book on 367 2787 or see me at our A.G.M. on 21/11/88. I would really like to collect the money then also, but we will sell tickets on the night!

CHRISTMAS DIVE

Our legendary Christmas Dive is on the 18th of December. This year we are going to be based at the public picnic area on Garden Island it will be one dive day with the usual 8.00 start from Fremantle.

Bring B.B.Q. food, family beverages etc. The site sounds really well set-up and even has a volley ball court! Please let Marie know if you want to be in it, (instead of just hearing about it for months) so she can plan the convoy of boats accompanying the U.E.C.

P.S. In case no one writes an article, the trip to Brunswick Show on the Hotham Valley Railway was GREAT! - highly recommended for next year as a club or individual outing.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8 P.M. at the Clubhouse

Be a part of the action

21 st. November 1988.

CUTTLE FISH. A FEW FACTS.

PAT TROY.

After reading the article in the September 1988 newsletter about a divers tragic encounter with a cuttlefish, I sifted through an encyclopedia and found some interesting information about these unusual little creatures.

My interest incuttlefish started early in 1988 when I was diving near Rottnest and came face to face with one as I was sight seeing near the entrance to a small cave. The cuttlefish was larger than most and approached me and my diving buddy as if to let us know that we were not one bit welcome in his house. Those huge pale eyes looked at us as though we were door-to-door salesmen who had got him out of the shower to buy a set of brushes.All that they have to do to make you think twice about annoying them is to just simply look at you. Those pale murderous eyes that have a 360 field of vision, give the impression that they are as mean as junk yard doogs. The one that we encountered stopped near some seaweed growing at the edge of the cave and his colour comouflage so good that itwas very difficult to tell where theseaweed stopped and the tle fish srtarted.

While on the subject of colour, the good book goes on to tell us that the rich repertoire of colour is attributable to chromataphores in the skin. The colours are orange, orange-red, and brown-black. The intesity of the colour depends on the degree of contraction or expansion of radial muscles.These muscles are controlled by nerves located in the brain. Colour changes occur quickly in response to the environment as seen through the eyes of the cuttle fish.

As grotesque as he may look, the cuttle fish really does have his act together. The cuttle bone itself acts as a buoyancy device, the densety of which is changed by pumping liquid in and out of a series of chambers within the cuttle bone. Changes in the buoyancy of the cuttle fish accompany alterations in light intesity.Towards evening, the cuttle fish becomes buoyant and swims around until dawn. During the day he becomes slightly denser than sea water and tends to remain in deeper water.

Well, by now you are either getting all exited about cuttle fish or you are bored to tears. So, I will put the brakes on at this point and wait for some feedback before I write any more on the subject. Before I close do me a favour. Next time you meet a cuttle fish down under, dont go poking a spear into him. He wouldn't do it to you.

What do you mean? Of course my tank is in test.

the rest of Western Australians not in one of the minority groups recommended? Or is the Abrolhos Islands for a chosen few. With the protection of certain professional interests and cavalier dismissal of anyone else's rights to the location, it would certainly seem so.

Going back over our files it seems that every so many years someone tries to carve up the Abrolhos or the fishing rights in the area for professional use, and each time we have to struggle to maintain a presence for ordinary people like us.

What can we do apart from writing to you in case you do not know what is going on? To start with we will make sure the thousands of divers around the State know what is happening. Then we will take a recently-received offer to meet with the Leader of the Opposition the Hon Gordon Masters MLC and the Shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation the Hon Max Evans MLC in November, to see if they are interested enough to help.

Our members will be interested to hear your comments and to know what you plan to do about this unfair situation.

Three hundred and fifty million years ago a vast tropical sea covered much of Australia's north-west.

In the warm shallows surrounding what we now call the Kimberley grew an enormous barrier reef, probably 1,000 km long, and over 20 km wide.

At Geikie Gorge, Windjana Gorge, and Tunnel Creek National Parks, about 2,500 km north of Perth, the flood waters of three rivers have carved deeply into the Geikie and Napier ranges. Layers of fossils and the limestone strata of the ancient reef have been exposed in cross-section, opening a fascinating window on life in the Devonian period before the evolution of reptiles or mammals.

The Kimberley has a wet season and a dry. During the 'wet' the Fitzroy River at Geikie Gorge rises about 16.5 m, polishing smooth the walls of the Gorge, and flooding the national park with 7 m of water.

In the dry, between April and November, the river transforms itself into a quiet stream strung out beneath the towering cliffs of the Devonian reef. Clear hot days and cool nights make this the best time of year to journey through the Kimberley.

The limestone ranges formed by the ancient barrier reef wind across the country between 50 and 100 m above the surrounding plains, in much the same way that the reef would have reared above the Devonian sea floor. From the air it is easy to imagine that the sea has just withdrawn, leaving the reefs uncovered.

Unlike modern reefs, corals in the Devonian world took a minor part in the construction of the limestone reef-platform. Calcareous algae, and a group of now extinct lime-secreting organisms, the stromatoporoids, built the bulk of the reef.

Ranging from atolls of a few hectares, to hundreds of square kilometres, the wave-resistant reef platforms grew close to sea level, rising 200 m or more above the sea floor.

As the ocean floor slowly subsided over the 50 million years of the Devonian period the reef-building organisms were able to keep pace, building up and up until in places the reef became over two kilometres thick.

Sawfish and stingrays, whose ancestors left the sea and journeyed 300 km up the Fitzroy River are also common in Geikie Gorge and have completely adapted to freshwater life.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DON'T MISS IT.

BOAT REPORT 1987/88 D.STUBBERFIELD.

The slow opening of the 1988/89 season continued this month with three diving trips cancelled, two due to bad weather and one due to urgent work on the boat motor. However, there is some good news, three good diving trips were held, one with a full boat load, along with some successful mechanical, work made up the months activities.
A Boating sub-committee meeting was also held to discuss future modifications and planned activities for the boat, and to organise work for urgent motor maintenance. A set of operating procedures to serve as a check list for Skippers and crew alike in the starting, operating, mooring and shutdown and refuelling of the boat were reviewed and these are now on board, in plastic, for all to read and observe.
Finally, the best news for last! A massive operation was carried out this month by a number of members to replace the motor head and carry out other maintenance urgently needed to ensure the safety and seaworthiness of the boat. This resulted in successfully correcting water leakage problems, improving the boat's performance by allowing us to operate at full motor revs at last. The half an hour less time spent in steaming was most welcome! The sum log cable and sheath was replaced and this instrument is now working, a water leak into the front cabin has been sealed and a new radio aerial base and lead installed to improve communications. We are now ready for the season, in top form and rearing to go - if this weather ever gives us a break.

In closing the monthly part of this report I would like express mine and the Club's appreciation to those members who worked so hard on the boat this month, all day Saturday and Sunday 15 -16th.,the following Thursday evening, and again the following Saturday all day, to get us up and running. Well done!

Since this is my last report for the Club year a brief review of the year's activities is appropriate. First and foremost my thanks to the members who have given me their support, I heard no grumbles and always received the help I needed to fulfil my obligations to the Club. As a result we truly have a Club boat which belongs to us all and of which we can be proud. Included in these remarks of course is Dave Kenney, who does share in ownership, and his partners and staff Warren and John.

It has cost around $4000 to maintain the boat and moorings and about half that to operate her over the year, so you can appreciate where your annual subscriptions go! This season routine slippings were reduced from 2 to 1 due to better anti-fouling which just managed to last the year, and this season an even better anti-fouling (for the same price) was put on. We had one emergency slipping and a major top overhaul just mentioned in which a "new" (second hand) reconditioned head was installed on the motor. This head was donated to the Club by President Barry who says the relief of having the mtor finally repaired was worth it. I'm sure the Club will find some way to approriately thank Barry for this extremely valuable gesture. The practice of putting good heavy coats of finishing paint on has paid off, in a better looking and easier to maintain boat over the year. A new propeller was also installed and the shaft realigned, which has noticeably reduced vibration at maximum revs. The marlin board was also removed and regalvanised.
Finally, a number of small mods. have been made to increase comfort, facilitate berthing and decrease noise, and this will be carried on in the new season, members willing.

Finally, now "UNDERWATER EXPLORER" is in top order I draw your attention to Club boating policy, which is in effect to use her as much as possible. Any group of members wishing to use the boat outside of scheduled trips only have to organise an approved Skipper and D.O. for the day. A minimum of 6 members are required for a Rottnest trip and 4 members for a short trip, say to Carnac.

Well thats all for the 87/88 season, I look forward to seeing you bright and fresh for 88/89, both on the boat and at any of the Club functions.

Merry Xmas and Cheers Folks!

Admiral of Vice Bligh-Stubby!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8 P.M. at the Clubhouse

21 st. November 1988.

DIVING REPORT

By Maree Casley

The last month has seen the Club returning to some semblance of normal diving operations i.e. nearly every Sunday instead of every month or so which had become the norm through winter. Quite good diving has been reported from new spots near Roe Reef and Jackson's Rock.

Certainly the best dive that I have had at Jackson's Rock is at a new area we visited last month. The area is very extensive with some huge caves, black tunnels and a huge sandy-bottomed overhang. Surprisingly, there was very surge which made the dive even more enjoyable. Fish life didn't seem to be as prolific as in other parts of Jackson's Rock, although Dennis caught some tea for us and Roger Smith reported seeing some Port Jackson sharks.

Apart from enjoying some very good diving, the crew was also treated to a most momentous occasion _ Shock' Horror! Margaret Langson was actually first in the water. However, she wants it known that this will not become a regular event and promptly proved it on the second dive by once again returning to form and being last in the water _ well done Margaret!

Another interesting but somewhat treacherous dive was also had earlier in the month in an area near Roe Reef. This was an 18m. dive to some gullies and caves. Barry and I found ourselves in quite a dangerous situation at a cave we found there. The cave was wide and sandy on the bottom with a small opening about 4m. up on the top of the reef. As we were peering through the top opening, the surge was so great trying to pull me down, that I was hanging on for grim death while Barry was dragging me out by the fins. The same sort of thing would have happened if we had entered the bottom of the cave and it is not difficult to imagine a nasty situation arising. Thankfully, Barry and I were sticking rigidly to the buddy system which greatly lessened the danger to both of us. The dive site was not too bad, although not very extensive and opinion is divided as to whether the spot was good enough to return to.

That's all from me so until next time happy and safe diving.

ABROLHOS ISLANDS.

Copy of a letter written to Barry Hodge Minister for CALM by Trevor Still State Pesident of the AUF.

Dear Mr Hodge

ABROLHOS ISLANDS PLANNING STRATEGY : COMPLAINT

This letter concerns the work of the Abrolhos Islands Consultative Committee, Abrolhos Islands Task Force.

In November 1987 we submitted our proposal for the future use of the Abrolhos Islands. A copy is attached, and as you will see it is a fair and balanced submission.

A few weeks ago we received a copy of the planning strategy which we expected to contain a reasonable blend of everyones interests. However, after reading the report we were stunned by the absence of our requirements and the concentration on the needs of tourism in Geraldton and the professional fishermen. Our wishes seem to have cast aside.

For example, we asked for education camp style accommodation for special interest groups such as ours. Instead (point 3.3 of the report) we got back weak excuses about widespread tourism and brick and mortar facilities, a review in five to seven years, with accommodation provided in Geraldton and nearby towns!

It seems it is OK for professional fishermen to inhabit the islands for decades, but not for anyone else. That looks like discrimination to us. And we certainly don't want to stay in Geraldton and "commute" to the islands (four hours by boat) as recommended. We go there for the islands not to see Geraldton.

In 3.2.2. - Marine Reserves - it is recommended in 2 that marine parks be established, with commercial rock lobster fishing allowed, but not amateur or other fishing. How can it be a marine park with <u>any</u> form of fishing allowed - particularly one that accounts for about 98 percent of the total rock lobster catch? Also, why discriminate against the amateurs again - why cannot we take rock lobsters in the area, especially since we account for such a small percentage?

Under 4.1 - Strategies - the recommendation is for a committee completely devoid of anyone not: a professional fisherman, involved in tourism, from the Fisheries Dept, with CALM, connected with regional development or local interests. What about our interests, and for that matter

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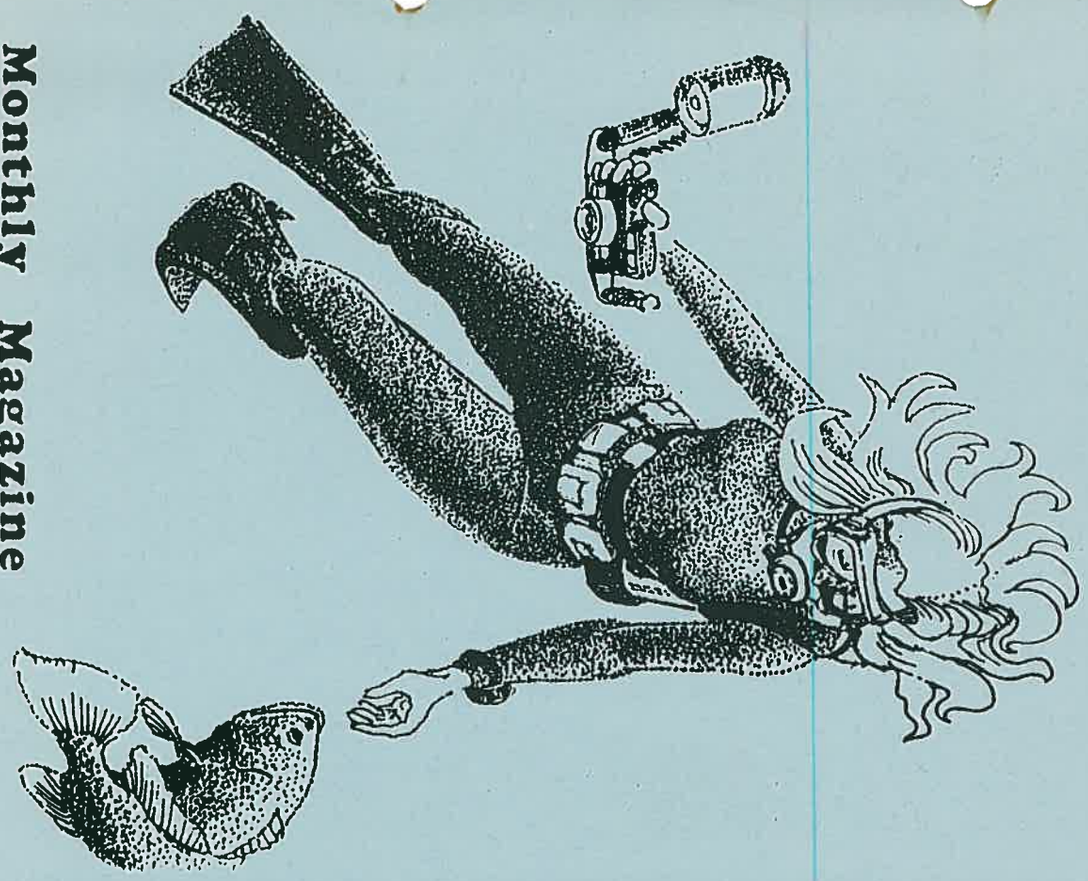


Monthly Magazine

THE WA GOVERNMENT DIVING TASK FORCE'S REPORT ON UNDERWATER DIVING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

* You will be unable to obtain scuba and hookah equipment without FAUI/NAUI/PADI certificate.
* If you give, lend, hire or sell dive equipment to anyone without the above qualifications, you have committed an offence.
* If you don't have the above qualifications and you use another diver's certificate to obtain dive equipment or services, you have committed an offence.
* Only FAUI, NAUI, PADI can teach diving.
* The Government will keep a record of all instructions, schools, shops and filling compressors.
* All compressors must be tested every six months by a Government department.

These proposals are contained in Section 1, Recommendations 1 to 9 of the Report. Additional legislative proposals apply to commercial divers.

CONTACT THE MINISTER FOR SPORT AND RECREATION NOW AND VOICE YOUR OBJECTIONS!

FROM THE EDITOR...

G'day! I'm SUSIE ASHTON, your new Editor. I was nominated at our last AGM on November 21, in case you didn't know, if you weren't there!

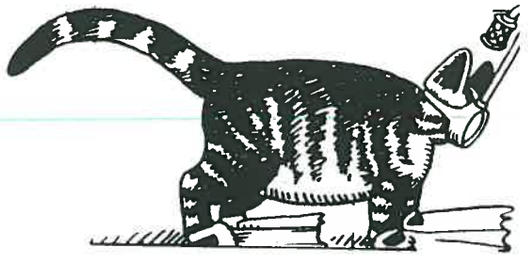
Although I don't know all of you members out there, I certainly know quite a few from my four years membership of this excellent club called U.E.C. - W.A.'s oldest diving club. I hope that we'll stimulate a good relationship throughout the coming newsletters, and of course you are always welcome to write to me about anything that concerns our type of club.

ed me with articles or information that you find in newspapers or come forward with any ideas.

I see this position as a challenge and I'm determined to do my best to provide you, our most precious club members - without whom we could not exist - with an interesting and informative newsletter once a month.

Now, I would like to take the opportunity to give our former Newsletter Editor, TIBI CSOMAY, my warmest thanks for all the time and effort he spent on the newsletter for so many years. Well done, Tibi, and thanks for your continued support, which I couldn't do without!

My address is: *Susie Ashton, 5 Ralston Road, Kardinya WA 6163. Phone: 331 2385 (all hours).*



WELCOME SUSIE By Tibi Csomay

The "U.E.C. NEWS" has a new Editor. I do not know who is more pleased about it, Susie Ashton - the new Editor - or I.

As you know I have edited the "U.E.C. NEWS" for several years with the help of some club members. This help gradually got less and less until it disappeared all together in later years.

Putting the magazine together was no great problem, I liked it and I will probably miss it. Finding suitable material to put into the magazine, when only a few faithfuls contributed, got harder and harder. It was difficult to get uniform print as well, when the articles started to come from different typewriters.

t all this will change with the new Editor, who has the latest word-processor, printer and reducing photocopier at her fingertips! The only thing she will not have is articles. It will be up to you, the members of this Club, to provide material for the magazine. You can do it two ways; be on the look-out for suitable articles from newspapers and magazines or report on some club activity or unusual dive experience of your own - other club members are interested in what you do.

If every member provides just one page a year, the "U.E.C. NEWS" will always be full!.

I know, with your help and Susie's enthusiasm, we can look forward to a much improved "U.E.C. NEWS".

TO ALL MEMBERS...

If you have any of the club's library books around the house, would you please notify the club of the titles you are holding. If you have finished with them, please arrange for their return to the club room by the next general meeting. It doesn't matter if you've had a book out for 12 months or more... we'll be very happy to see its return! **THANKS!**

At the General Meeting on the 19th December, CHARLIE SNOW will introduce and present a video film on the Handicapped Scuba Association, which he bought in USA, where it all started. After seeing this film, ask yourself if you would make dives like this! DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL EVENING, our last meeting for 1988!

YOUR NEW COMMITTEE:

		Phone A/H
PRESIDENT	Barry Kennedy	453 6927
VICE PRESIDENT	Dennis Stubberfield	457 3333
SECRETARY	Carolyn French	387 5021
TREASURER	Peter Horton	445 2336
DIVE OFFICER	Peter Mortimer	459 8067
TRAINING OFFICER	John Pasculich	450 0111
SAFETY OFFICER	Adrian Edwards	457 2117
BOAT OFFICER	Dennis Stubberfield	457 3333
BUILDING OFFICER	Richard Naylor	458 7105
SOCIAL & P.R.	Ian Cowan	381 3891
EDITOR	Susie Ashton	331 2385

PRESIDENT'S PLATFORM by Barry Kennedy

Our AGM is over once again and the summer is with us.

Welcome to the new committee members SUSIE, JOHN, RICHARD and IAN.

Thank you to the outgoing committee members TIBI, KAREN, MARIO, MAREE and BRIAN.

TRAINING

Once again, thanks to JOHN PASKULICH we now have a trickle of newly trained members coming into the club. TIBI has suggested that experienced club members 'adopt' a newly trained member, encourage them and look after them. I will be asking some of you to do just that, so be prepared to volunteer!

TASK FORCE

I am both disappointed and disgussed at the final recommendations of the Diving Task Force, although the outcome does not surprise me in any way. This is almost precisely what I had expected. It wasn't hard to predict the result. It is up to the recreational diving community now, to show our disappointment by writing to the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Edwards, and make him aware of our views on this subject.

CLUB FEES are once again due! Those of you who haven't paid yet, dig deep, and prepare yourselves for some good diving this summer. We are finding new dive sites all the time, come out and see for yourself.

SEE YOU ON THE NEXT DIVE! GOOD LUCK!

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DIVING FOR A WHILE

HAVE YOU ?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

M.U.D. DIVER BENT -
the first and hopefully the last!
By Julie Raynor

Get even a mild dose of the bends and it can wipe you out for three weeks! As for diving - forget about it for a couple of months or more, or maybe forever!

This insidious disease took me by surprise. Normally a ca[illegible]l and well organized diver, I came home from a wo[illegible]rful Abrolhos Island dive trip feeling great. What a super time I had and how I looked forward to doing it again. However, I was in for a surprise - I had the bends!

Insidiously, the symptoms crept over me. Initially I did not recognize them. I blamed bouts of tiredness and mild dizziness on the trip and the sleep I didn't get. The muscles in my legs felt strange - "must be because I have been on a boat for three days", I said to myself. It occurred to me that I might have decompression sickness, but what nonsense, I had no joint pain and I had dived well within the tables as usual. I consulted my PADI dive manual but could not find a description of any symptoms that resembled my own.

Four days after my return from the Abrolhos Islands, I was still feeling bad. I decided to pull out my log book and PADI tables and do some double checking. In horror, I realised I had not been as safely within the dive tables as I had thought. I decided to seek medical advice and ended up on H.M.A.S. Stirling where I was diagnosed as having a Cerebral Bend.

TH[illegible]ENDS -
A SUBTLE DISEASE

Those that know me, will know that I am not a "gung-ho" diver, nor a "dumb blonde". Furthermore, I am not a novice and there is no evidence that suggests that I am particularly susceptible to getting the bends. So you might ask "HOW DID YOU GET THE BENDS?" My answer is, "SUBTLY". I believe that no one dive or incident alone led me to that condition, but rather it was an accumulation of occurrences.

It started with a harmless night dive during our second night at the Abrolhos. We dived on a fascinating drop-off absolutely smothered in fragile staghorn corals. It was an acceptable 6-12 metres dive. Unfortunately, I had some buoyancy problems whilst trying to avoid breaking some coral. I accidently descended an extra 8 metres for a few minutes without my ears telling me! I had my dive tables with me but didn't use them - it was far too awkward, and my buddy was swimming off ahead of me. "It shouldn't be a problem" I thought. It was only 3-4 minutes - a very small proportion of a long shallow dive. I ascended with my buddy to about 5 metres where I levelled out and spent the next 10-15 minutes on a leisurely swim back to the boat. Back on the boat I consulted the tables; I was a little closer to the edge than I normally liked to be, but I concluded that all I needed was a good night's sleep and a break of 12 hours. Then I would be right for our morning dive, which generally seemed to occur at about 10.00 a.m. following a leisurely breakfast.

At 7.30 a.m. I was awoken. "*Come on you guys! Get your gear on, we are going for a dive*", yelled somebody. Unknown to some of us, there was a plan to get in 2 dives and a snorkel that morning before leaving the Abrolhos Islands. In my usual early morning daze, I staggered out. There was excitement on-board and most people had nearly finished kitting up, including my dive buddies.

With a splash I hit the water to start another day's diving. I had completely forgotten that 12 hours had not passed. I still had a repetitive group rating of A. **But wait!** This in itself is not likely to have caused the bends - there is more to come.

READ ALL ABOUT IT IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!!!

When the presentation was over, we found IAN COWAN, our new Social Officer, busy grilling meat and snaggers in the back yard and RICHARD NAYLOR was "sweating" behind the bar (especially when that crazy woman gave him a lesson on Australian wine).

BRIAN WALKER had fun, trying to get us all wet by playing "his" game (Singing in the rain), whilst others had a little jive on the dancing floor. The music was great! We had a live D.J. with a very fancy machine. The hula-hula-ring competition prize, a bottle of champagne, went to KAREN (with the laugh) for her efforts. As you can understand, we all had a lot of fun, so don't miss out on next year's party! You'll regret it, as you should also regret if you don't **BOOK ON OUR NEW YEAR'S TRIP TO GINGIN!!!!**
And don't wait too long with that, because Ian has to confirm the booking on the 20th!

Ed.

GOSSIP COLUMN

RON PHONEMYINT had a wide grin on his face when he came back from the Golf Course last time we were at Rottnest:

- "You are very happy Ron. Did you lower your handicap?" I asked.
- "No," Ron replied, "but I found more balls than I lost!"

...

"The Laughing Karen" had the last laugh... she's finally thrown the loop; can she tie the knot??

...

Will STACY and DENZIL be the next couple?

...

Guess who is back in town?
Yeah... our hero CHARLIE SNOW!
Welcome back!

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

The following NOMINATIONS have been put forward to the Committee:

Ian Peter Heeks, 11 Harewood Street, Forrestfield.
Phone 453 2680.
David Charles Millward, 7/6 Waterway Crt, Churchlands.
Phone 387 8718.
Christine Alison Hutchison, Unit 1/111 Marmion Street, East Fremantle.

CONSERVATION CORNER by Tibi Csomay

"And The Good News is..."

that our favourite wreck, the one at the North Mole, has been saved! At one stage it was to be covered with limestone and would have formed part of the new sea-wall, protecting the new harbour extensions.

Thanks to the Fremantle Port Authority this valuable recreational wreck has been moved westward of the new works, out of harms way. Now the Club should make an effort in establishing the wreck's name.

DIVING REPORT by Peter Mortimer

With my appointment to the position of O/C Diving for 1989 members will not see a very great change. I believe as a Club we have been conducting our diving very well and safely over the last few years. All the Dive Marshals from January 1989 awards will be qualified to at least Dive Master or equivalent standard, which I believe will make our Club diving as safe as any in Australia. We will need at least two more Dive Marshals for the year of 1989, so any members who wish to train to that level, please contact me personally A.S.A.P.

Training will start in January. The small changes that I will make are for the members' well being and are aimed at improving the quality of our Dive Marshals.

There will be a number of Saturday dives on next year's calender, and I have tried to include deep and shallow dives and some new sites. I wish you all the best for Christmas and look forward to diving with you in the new year.

SAFETY SPOT

by Adrian Edwards

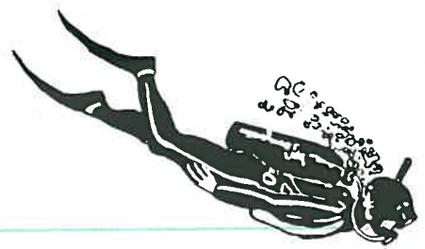
Well folks, here I am again as your elected Safety Officer for the '89 club year. We are now well into the Summer diving scene and looking forward to some good outings on the club boat.

Safety wise, things are going along pretty well in the club and as you are all trained divers, I see no reason why this happy situation should change. After all, safety as applied to scuba diving really **rests with the individual.**

The club can get you safely onto the diving site, advise you on the depth and dive time and remind you of the correct procedures, etc., but the bottom line (no pun') really comes down to the individual and buddy pair.

Divers with lots of experience do things instinctively and know their limitations. New divers, or those with little diving time, should apply what they have been taught and always seek advice or assistance from others if in doubt. In turn, you will become a good, safe diver, able to pass on your help to new club members.

THIS MONTH'S SAFETY MESSAGE:
Sea breezes can cause a bit of the old "rock & roll" on the boat, so always secure your tanks when you have finished your dive, and also be extra careful on wet, slippery decks! (We hope to address this problem soon.) Thongs on a wet boat deck are dangerous. Deck shoes are much more preferred - or bare feet!
Cheers for now - safe diving and have a Happy Christmas!



TRIP REPORT FROM SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER 1988

This was a beautiful, sunny morning, and 13 intrepid club members took off over the blue waters with MARTIN SMITH as the Skipper of the day, and ROGER SMITH as the able Dive Marshall.

The first dive took place at SWIRL REEF and we were accompanied by another big boat load of divers there. 18 meters depth maximum and a bit of a surge, but fair visibility made the dive enjoyable (except that my ears played up a bit in the huge cave). By the time we were all out of the water, the wind had become stronger and it was actually pretty "chilly" out there on the high seas. It turned a few of us off the idea of a second dive, which took place at the Geordie Bay Caves. Then back into Thompson Bay on Rotto for a "tank up" and "warm up" session before the seemingly endlessly long journey back to Freo against the wind and by this time, accompanied by a huge swell! We all got really drenched and looked more like drowned rats, but who cares....? We are DIVERS, aren't we? And, as usual, it always comes down to the same small print... you have a great day out with your club mates. And this time we also had the pleasure of meeting MICHEL, our "Guest Diver" from Switzerland. (Com'on man, join the Club!)

Ed.

BOAT BITS by Dennis Stubberfield

Well Folks, as you can see, I seem to have survived the AGM and a pretty lively Presentation Night. The result of all this, it seems, is that I am now your Admiral of Vice (a purely fictitious title), your President of Vice, and the part owner of a "ripper" Cat o' ninetails! (The "Cat" has actually got 12 tails). The latter was presented amid much jubilation and flagellation at the club's Christmas Party, and, not having any sense of humour when it comes to looking after Boats and Skippers and Deckies of same, I quite fail to see the significance of that gift! Anyhow, it will come in handy this season, because it is the club's intention to extract even greater heights of performance and qualification from it's Diving, Boating and Safety group. Yes, it's true, the non-commercial diving fraternity is under heavy siege from the Government and commercial interests, and it behoves us to continue the pursuit of Standards of Excellence in our organization, Diving, Boating and Safety, which will be regarded as second to none - commercial or non-commercial. (I suppose, I would have to grudgingly concede that you would be allowed to have a small amount of fun with your boating and diving whilst achieving these standards - but only a bit!!)

Back to the boat! She has continued to perform well, in all respects this month, with heavier loads and more frequent trips (at a steady 11 knots). This month, an exploratory diving weekend was held at Rottnest, which provided a good opportunity to evaluate recent improvements and repairs, and I am now pleased to report that our "UNDERWATER EXPLORER" is in Her best working condition ever. Recent modifications, the chart table in particular, are proving highly useful and much appreciated.

Since the boat is in such good working order, NOW would be the best time to sell Her and buy a bigger and better boat! "WHAT!!??" I see your eyebrows fly upwards and slam against the stops. I'm actually quite serious (almost), when - not if, we sell "U.E." and buy another boat, it will have to be at this time of the year when She's in top condition. "U.E." is an older wooden boat, and her resale value cannot remain high, so we will have to move on this fairly soon. Let me fly this next para past you (quickly, so you haven't time to catch your breath) as a sample of what might apply:

This is suggested to take place this time next year or at the latest, the year after. We would expect to pay $50,000 for the new craft, get perhaps $15,000 for "U.E.", borrow $15,000 (like it or not, we really cannot service a loan much above that), put in $5,000 of club funds, leaving $15,000 to find. Now, realistically, we simply cannot fund $15,000 by frugal saving, fund raising or even putting diving subscriptions up. The only possible way to raise this amount quickly is for members to put in the cash in the form of "Debentures" as occurred previously. Pay back to be in the form of reduced fees properly accounted for.

If 50 members put in $300, we could have a "new" boat by virtually X-mas 1988 (the new one would only cost $45,000 now). Three hundred dollars is not much (if you say it quickly) to pay for the privilege of diving from a comfortable, fast, low maintenance, fibreglass boat and there are those of us who would welcome the chance. I commend the idea to all members; think about it and I will no doubt hear of your reaction in due course.

Finally, the committee is now developing a system whereby more frequent boat usage may be organized at short notice, for week days and spare Saturdays. It seems pointless for the boat to remain moored when members wish to dive, can organize Skippers and D.O.'s and have the minimum number of 4 and 6 to take the boat out. Such a system must be open and fair to all and be cleared through the Diving Officer. However, a word of warning; No one person will be going on the expense of ringing around to fill the boat. Individual members need to be generally aware of the possibility of extra trips and then keep in touch with the Diving Officer, who will advise what is available. Remember, there is only ONE of him and there's 100 of you - so YOU do the phoning!!
Cheers Folks!

Blight-Stubby
ADMIRAL OF VICE

SOCIAL SCENE

NEW YEAR'S EVE - TRAIN TRIP TO GINGIN!

Would you like to invite some friends on our own carriage, enjoying a few cocktails along the way, arrive in Gingin, adjourn to the local Hall and dance to live music, party and eat with the town locals? Party until 1 am and then return to Perth at 2.50 am. Taxis can be arranged to pick you up, if required. Well, for $49, WHY NOT!!

Refreshments are available on the train and at the Hall. It's OK to bring your own on the train. Food and live band supplied. Departing 7.30 pm from City Station in Wellington Street.

I would prefer if you pay me at the meeting on 19th December for your tickets, or phone me home on 381 3893 or at work on 361 5444.

IAN COWAN
Your Social Secretary

U.E.C.'s Presentation Evening

on 2 December this year was an absolute success! Many thanks to the hardworking Social Sub-committee for their efforts... and you couldn't have found a better venue! Our club room was beautifully decorated with ADRIAN EDWARD's help and his old fishing nets hanging from the ceiling. It really created that cozy atmosphere you want for such an occasion as the biggest social club event, the Presentation Night.

JOHN PASKULICH, being our Training Officer, presented 5 new FAUI Card Holders in the Club, namely: BETTY and JAMES CHRISTIE, TROY KENNEDY, IAN (sorry, didn't get your surname, Love) and CARL SHULZ. Congratulations to you all! John also mentioned the good assistance that BARRY KENNEDY had been giving him during the training.

Then followed six Appreciation Awards from the Club, presented by Barry, of course.

KAREN LAWRENCE
for her social work for the club;

MAREE CASLEY
as a Diving Officer and her influence on the club;

BILL BOUSTED
for supervising the work on the boat motor;

MARIO BRANCHETTI
for all the work he has (mostly himself) put into the building;

RON PHONEMYINT and RICHARD NAYLOR
for their helping hands and always being there when you need something/someone! (AGAIN!)

TIBI CSOMAY received the "Highest in the Club Award" for his faithful participation since he joined in 1980. Tibi took up the position as the Club's newsletter Editor 1982 and has also dedicated his time with so many other things, e.g. training of the blind, Avon Descent rescue. Tibi has constantly promoted the club through his work and involvement, especially in conservation and preservation of marine life. Tibi is "The Quiet Achiever" said Barry, which is a relevant description of our friend "Tibi, the Great". Tibi was therefore awarded a Life Membership in U.E.C. We all wish you many more happy dives, Tibi!

MOST IMPROVED DIVER AWARD, presented by Ken Kennedy (who is still diving since 1962) went to PAT TROY.

MOST SAFETY CONSCIOUS DIVER AWARD, presented by Lyn Jones, went to ADRIAN EDWARDS, of course.

The CONSERVATION AWARD, a beautiful silver tray donated by Dennis & Barbara Parker (not attending) went to EVA BOOGAARD who knew nothing about it, and wasn't there either. Though the undersigned had the pleasure of watching her surprised face grin the next day when she was given the Award by another representative of the committee. Her comment was: "*I'm pretty chuffed about this thing!*" (She did allow me to print that expression.)

(The Writer of The Year is not being awarded any longer.)