



Annual Newsletter

2018/19



2018/19 Office Bearers

President	Mike Buchanan
Vice President	Chris Cunnold
Treasurer	Steve Day
Secretary	Wendy Hutchison
Membership Officer	Mike Buchanan
Dive Coordinator	Mel Turner
Boat Officer	Chris Cunnold
Safety Officer	Pete Northrop
Marine Liaison	Chris Cunnold
Social and Fundraising Officer	Liz Davey
Training Officer	Trevor Higgs
Communications Officer	Iain Walker
Environment Officer	Bernie Riegler

Presidents Report



Overall it was a solid year by the club. We did lots of diving although the number of boat trips for the year was down from last year and hence total number of dives was less.

Mel did a great job of organising the calendar and keeping us all in line as far as paperwork is concerned. On top of that she also organised a fantastic trip to the Maldives, along with week-ends at Bremer Bay, Augusta (thanks also to Geoff for this), a couple of Busselton Jetty trips as well as laying the foundations to a club trip next year to the Rowley Shoals. A big thank-you and your help and presence on the committee will be sorely missed.



The boat ran well most of the year with only two cancellations in the year due to mechanical issues (a coolant leak and a poor electrical connection that stopped us within sight of the marina). Chris did a fantastic job of keeping her ship shape and ready for action every week. I know there are a lot of hours put in behind the scenes to keep her going and thanks also to Wendy who is often down there with Chris helping out.

Another solid year financially and a big thank-you to Steve for keeping on top of it all, particularly all his work in deciphering the cryptic account pay ins that accompany some deposits. The club has a healthy account balance to take into next year, which with a potential engine overhaul looming to address a number of oil leaks, we might just need.



The environment activities got off to a great start with Bernie organising the clean up under the bridges. A good pile of rubbish and fishing line was recovered along with some other interesting items and I think all that took part enjoyed the experience.

Liz was busy as usual on the social front with a number of great activities organised, the highlight of the year being another great Xmas party. Special thanks again to Bec for opening up the Type 1 Family Centre for us to use for this event.



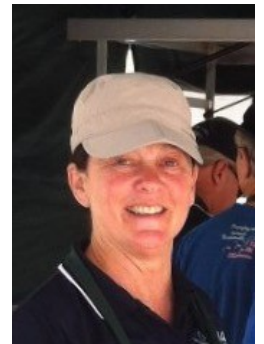
Pete kept on top of safety and I think as a club we have managed to avoid complacency in the running of boat and dive operations. It's was equipment malfunctions and momentary lapses of attention (and a poor jetty design) that resulted in the two incidents reported for the year.

A thank-you to Trevor for looking after training. We brought the number of DO's up to a healthier number with Jeff, Bernie and Donna all joining the ranks. We also completed the Lottery West training program with most of the Skippers completing their LROCP (Long Range Operator Certificate of Proficiency a.k.a. VHF radio) training and most of the crew attending the St John Advanced Resuscitation course, run by our very own John De Boer so particularly well-tailored to the needs of a dive boat.



Iain, our Communications Officer, got involved in the make-over of our website and dive booking system with special thanks to Steve Zoccoli for doing all the hard work. The driver for this was a move back to a simpler web development platform that anyone with a bit of IT knowledge can maintain.

Finally last but by no means least on the committee, Wendy our wonderful Secretary. Like many of the positions on the committee this is a role that entails much behind the scenes work with little visibility. Wendy looks after all our correspondence, meeting minutes, room bookings, document maintenance etc. etc. All this done to an incredibly high standard so thank-you Wendy for doing such a great job.



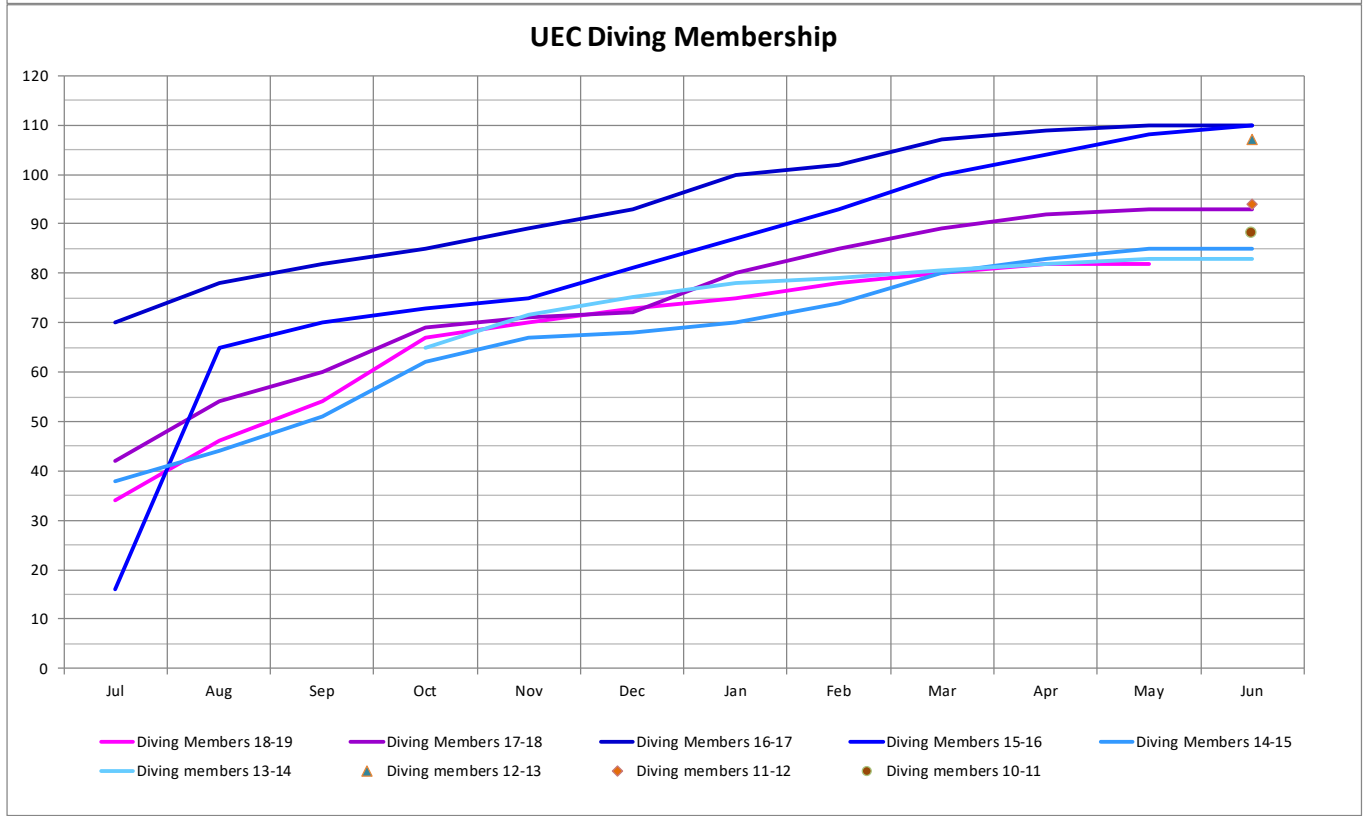
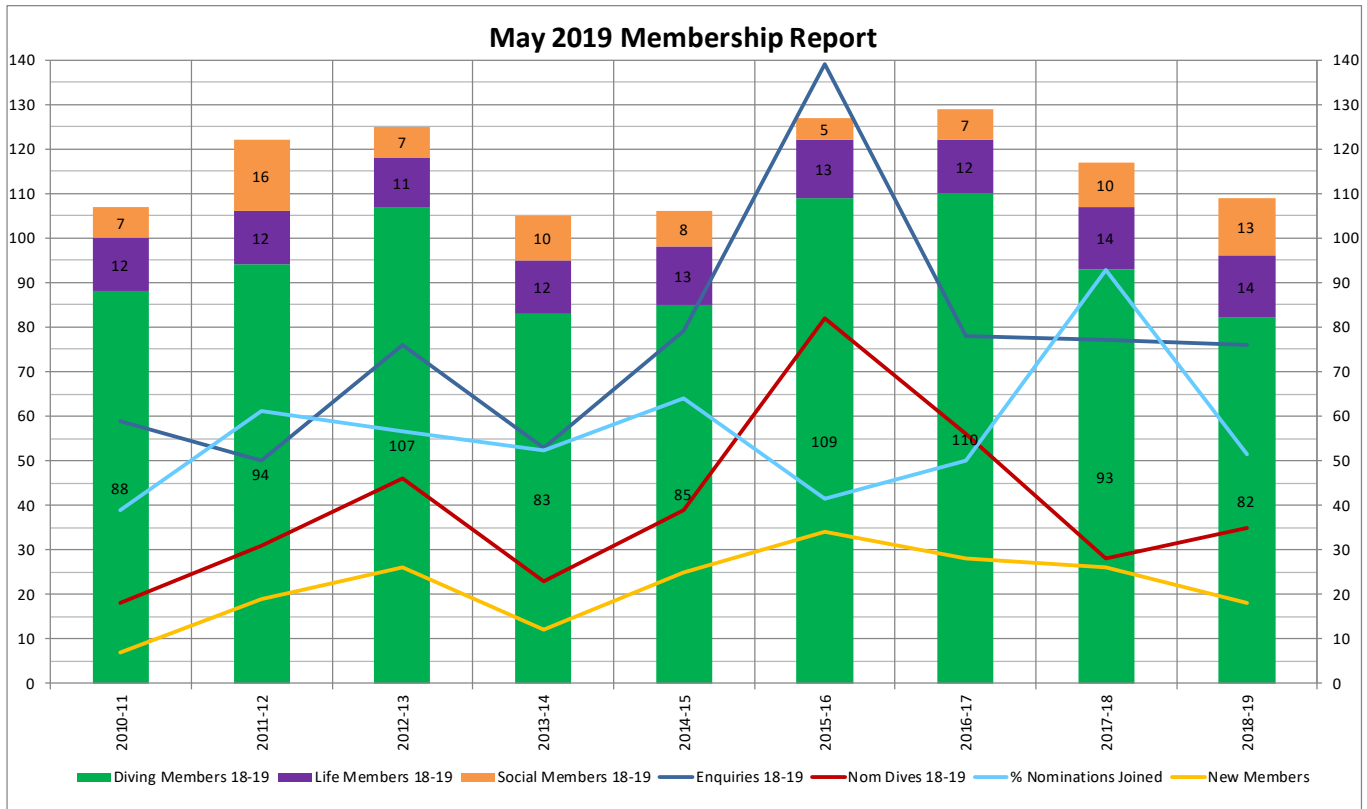
The committee is only one half to running a successful dive club operation. The other half is just as, if not more important, as without our crew we would be very much a pen based dive club which would be pretty dull diving. A big thanks to all our Skippers and DO's who show up week after week, on time and run what is probably the most professional dive outfit in Western Australia. On the Skippers roster this year we had Chris, Wendy, Steve, Rex, Carl, Geoff and myself. On the DO roster we had Mel, Adrian, Pete, Bernie, Jeff and new graduate Donna. Thanks also to all those who help out on the dive days and in particular to Dennis, who helps out every year on the Rotto holiday.

Mike Buchanan
President

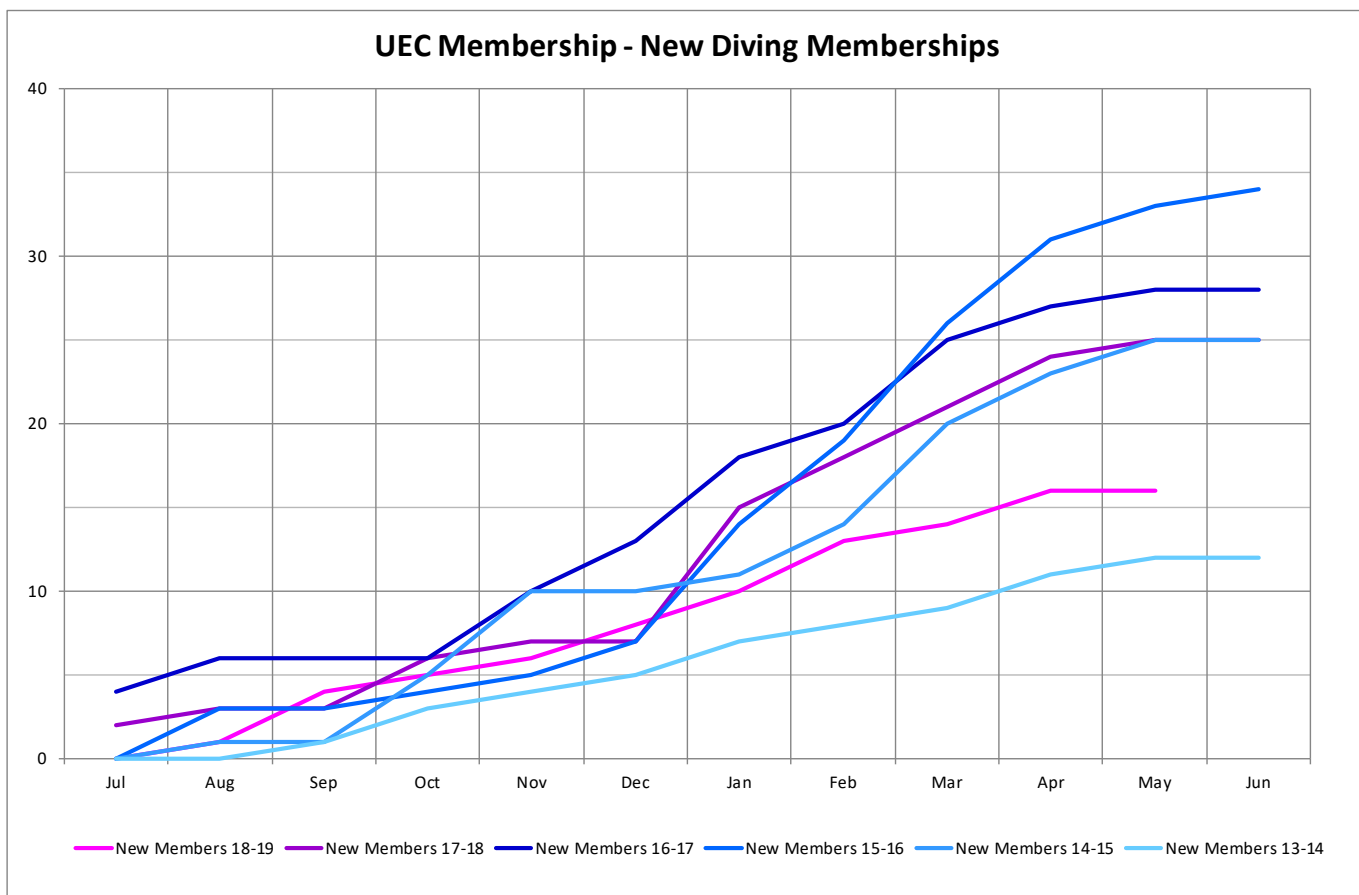


Membership Report

Membership numbers for this year were disappointing and continue a downward trend we have seen now for the last few years. While last years drop was mainly attributed to the ending of the Tec diving program in the club, this year there is no good explanation. It should be noted the numbers reported are to the end of April so we could expect one or two new members before the end of the club year but it will still be our second worst year since 2013.



The club typically turns over about 25% of members each year and thus to maintain overall numbers we need to recruit a similar amount. However, following a period of growth to a peak in the 15-16 year, this has been steadily dropping from 34 new diving members to only 16 this year.



The greatest ambassadors for club recruitment are you, our members. If everyone in the club spread the word and managed to bring in just one new member each we would not have a problem.

We continue to try and spread the word through participating in events such as the Dolphin Open Day, posting on the various Facebook sites and through general word of mouth but somehow we need to try and spread the word further afield so please think about how you can help. We can provide advertising material such as posters, stickers, business cards and brochures if you have somewhere you can display them such as work notice boards etc. Please contact me at membership@uecwa.com.au if you would like some material.

Mike Buchanan
Membership Officer



Treasurer's Report

At the time of penning this (April 29th) our year has been another smooth one for the Club. Our reserves are currently the highest they have been in six years.

After last year's annual Rottnest trip washout the Weather Gods cut new Life Member Liz Davey a break. Despite air fill challenges Liz ran another successful and profitable annual Rottnest trip. Other fundraising organised by Liz included our Xmas party, Food nights, Entertainment books and Club clothing.

Thanks also to Dive Co-Ordinator Mel Turner who organised several dive trips throughout the year. These included the Maldives and many local South-West trips.

Liz, Mel and the efforts of their many helpers not only contributed to the Club's coffers but to the social fabric of our club.

Apart from Liz and Mel I would also like to record my appreciation to fellow Committee persons, namely, Mike, Wendy, Chris, Peter, Iain, Bernie and Trevor.

Also, a big thanks to Paul Burns and Gurmit Singh for auditing the clubs books.

Some interesting financial comparisons [April to April] were:

- Boat dive income down by 15%
- Membership fees down by 5%
- Nomination dive income down 30%
- Boat maintenance up by 37%
- Boat & liability insurance up by 19%
- Fuel costs up by 14%
- ING Deposit account up by 26%

I intend to renominate as your Treasurer

Steve Day
Treasurer
29th April 2019

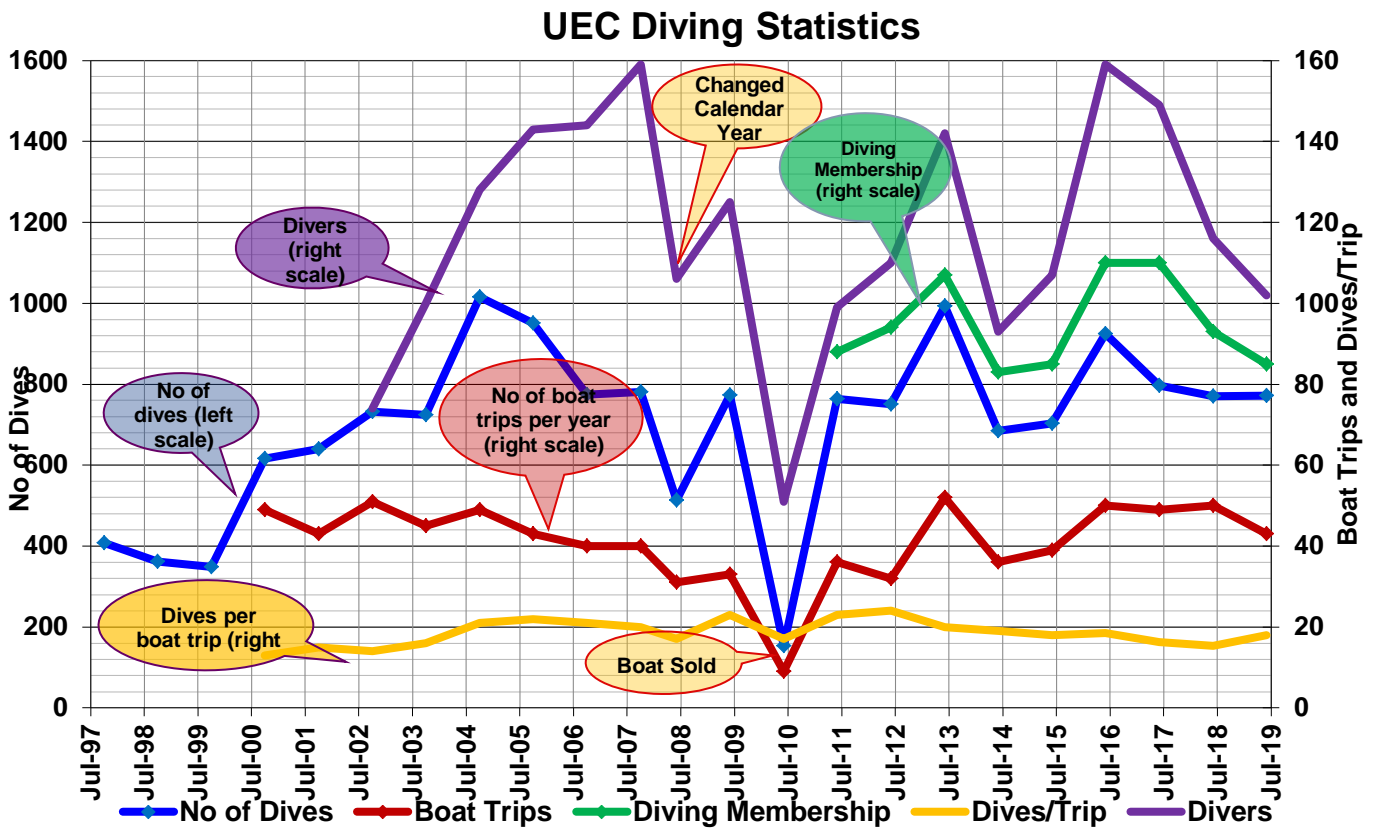


Dive Coordinator's Report

While the total dive numbers were down this year, we still had a fabulous year of diving shenanigans!

2018/19 saw the continuation of two-dive day weekends, single dive trips and the running of a winter roster. Add to this: a heap of exploratory diving, which saw us visit more sites than ever ...

It's been another fabulous year of diving with the best dive club on the planet!



Where did we go?

We visited a total of 42 different sites (some grouped into areas) over the course of the year compared to 36 different sites last year... in other words: we did some exploring!!!

New and/or rediscovered sites included Centaur, City Beach Sharks and Midway Point (a site directly between Anders Meanders and Kerry's Caverns) – plus a bunch of sites we tried but probably wouldn't visit again!

The Roe Reef area (Arch Rock, The Maze & Victoria Station) was dived most often – this being our go-to spot when the conditions prevented us diving elsewhere.

Dive Sites	No dives	Dive Sites	No dives
Roe Reef Area	11	City of York Outer Reef	1
Nurse's Quarters	5	Cray Canyon	1
Crystal Palace Area	5	D9 Wreck	1
Carpet Emporium	3	Everywhere Nowhere	1
Kingston Spit/Shark Cave	3	Flat Cave & Gunbarrel	1
Midway Point (Anders/Kerry's)	3	Geordie Bay/Parakeet Bay Reef	1
Opera House	3	Halls Bank	1
South Mole Lygnern	3	Jackson Arch	1
Swirl Reef	3	Julie's Cave	1
Barry's Cave/Denton/Macedon	2	Maree's Aquarium	1
Fish Hook Bay	2	Mario's Patch (Tonya's Trashy Terrain)	1
Flat Top Reef	2	Marjorie's Small Hole	1
Geordie Caves	2	Mike's Mound	1
Rogers Rock	2	Not Angela's Cave	1
Mewstone Rock	2	Orizaba	1
18m Reef	1	Parakeet Bay Shark Cave (not)	1
Catherine Bay	1	Parker Point Drop-off	1
Centaur	1	Sandy Cave	1
Cigar Reef	1	Sepia	1
City Beach Sharks	1	Shithot (not)	1
City of York	1	Stragglers Ltd	1

Diver of the Year



Congratulations go to Mike Buchanan for taking out the win for the fifth year in a row – with a total of 54 dives this year (slightly down from his 57 dives last year)... still a highly impressive total given the amount of crewing he does, plus the number of holidays he went on this year!

Special mention must go to Damo Mcateer for giving Mike a scare... he really gave Mike a run for his money!

Other honorable mentions go to Crew Members Wendy, Adrian, Bernie, Jeff and Geoff – who all made the Leaders Table despite spending many weekends crewing (and not diving)... a super impressive effort by all!

Place	Name	Dives
1	Mike Buchanan	54
2	Damien Mcateer	47
3	Mel Turner	30
=4	Wendy Hutchison	28
=4	Liz Davey	28
6	Andrew Keary	27
=7	Malcolm Roberts	25
=7	Adrian Taylor	25
9	Cheryl Petty	22
=10	Elise Brigden	20
=10	Gino Ferreri	20

Place	Name	Dives
12	Bernie Riegler	19
=13	Jeff Weston	17
=13	Karlie Duchow	17
=15	Alex Fitzpatrick	16
=15	Geoff Geard	16
=15	Steve Zoccoli	16
18	Donna Gratton	14
19	Sue Haste	13
=20	Tonya Campbell	12
=20	David Freemantle	12
=20	Calina Montabello	12

How much diving did we do?

It's important to note: we have changed our calendar this year. These statistics take us to the 30th June, whereas in previous years we have run through to the 31st July.

A total of 102 divers (including Affiliate Members) had a total of 772 dives off Cape Cruiser this year – an interesting statistic compared to last year (116 divers completed 770 dives last year). In other words: we had less divers completing around the same number of dives.

Of these trips, 31 were double dives, 10 were single dives and 2 were triple dives.

It was great to see our “double weekends” (i.e. Sat & Sun trips) continuing this year, as well as the continuation of the “Winter Dive Roster.

In terms of non-diving days – the weather was (as always) responsible for a few cancelled trips. But the good news was: we only had two trips cancelled due to mechanical issues.



Year	Boat Trips	No of Dives	Dives per Trip	Divers	Diving Membership
2010/11	36	764	23	99	88
2011/12	32	750	24	110	94
2012/13	52	993	20	142	107
2013/14	36	685	19	93	83
2014/15	39	703	18	107	85
2015/16	50	924	18	159	108
2016/17	49	797	16	149	110
2017/18	50	770	15	116	93
2018/19	43	772	18	102	85

What type of diving did we do?

We continued to offer a variety of dives this year, including:

- ✓ Single Diving Days
- ✓ Wreck Diving Days
- ✓ Exploratory Diving Days
- ✓ Deep(er) Diving Days
- ✓ “Hunting for Crays” Days

Our wonderful Crew

I know I say it every year, but – without these fantastic people giving up their time, we wouldn't be able to go diving... you can't dive if there's no one to take out the boat! A big thank you! to our wonderful volunteers!

Special mention (and congratulations) goes to Jeff Weston and Bernie Riegler for earning their Dive Officer “wings” this year. Also, it was great to welcome John De Boer back to the roster.

It was great to see the number of Dive Officers increase this year... it certainly takes the pressure off those on the roster, including our Skippers, who had been filling the gaps in previous years.

One final special mention goes to Adrian, who commenced his Skipper training this year... good on you Craydrian!

Crew Member	No times = DO	No times = Skipper	Total Trips
Mike Buchanan	3	10	13
Chris Cunnold	1	12	13
Mel Turner	12		12
Wendy Hutchison	3	5	8
Steve Day		7	7
Pete Northrop	6		6
Rex Burke		5	5
Adrian Taylor	5		5
Bernie Riegler	4		4
Jeff Weston	4		4
Dennis Stubberfield		3	3
Carl Anders		1	1
Geoff Gead	1		1
Maree Casley	1		1
John De Boer	1		1
Geoff Gead	1		1

Skipper	No of Trips
Chris Cunnold	12
Mike Buchanan	10
Steve Day	7
Rex Burke	5
Wendy Hutchison	5
Dennis Stubberfield	3
Carl Anders	1

Dive Officer	No of Trips
Mel Turner	12
Pete Northrop	6
Adrian Taylor	5
Jeff Weston	4
Bernie Riegler	4
Wendy Hutchison	3
Mike Buchanan	3
John De Boer	1
Chris Cunnold	1
Maree Casley	1
Geoff Gead	1

Nearly finished ☺

After 5 wonderful years I've decided it's time to give someone else the opportunity to take up the Dive Coordinator's role. I've enjoyed every single minute of it – we have the most amazing crew and the loveliest bunch of Members, all of which have made my time in the role an absolute joy.

We really do belong to the best Dive Club on the entire planet! I look forward to seeing you all out on the boat one of these days soon! (WOO!!!)



Mel Turner
Dive Coordinator

Safety Officer's Report

The 2018/19 dive season was a very good season for safety on the Cape Cruiser and diving activities from her, with only 2 incidents being recorded. We can and should do better and aim for no incidents.

It is encumbered on all UECWA members and UECWA guests taking part in UECWA activities to comply with UECWA rules and procedures. These rules and procedures have been developed over a number of years to ensure all participants not only enjoy their UECWA activities but do it in a safe manner.

Members should also be aware that should they see any unsafe actions or activities occurring during UECWA activities, they have a responsibility to bring these matters to the attention to the boat or dive personnel at the time.

With winter fast approaching, a number of you will reduce your dive frequency, if not stop diving altogether. This is the time to have your dive gear checked and serviced to ensure a safe and enjoyable start to your diving when the weather improves. You don't want to miss out on dives next season, due to faulty gear on the day.

(Pirate) Pete Northrop
Safety Officer



Social and Fundraising Report

Here we are again, another year, another report. It's the time when I stop and reflect on the past years achievements, and sometimes, lament the failures.

The idea of Social and Fundraising, is not only about raising necessary funds to keep Cape Cruiser well maintained and afloat, it's about offering social activities for those club members who no longer dive, or who are warm water divers. But social activities are open to all club members, and if you haven't attended one, you should, they are FUN.



Have you ever taken part in a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser? The club did, last year we were fortunate enough to be granted two very successful dates. Club members stepped up to the plate or should I say BBQ and napkin. An abundance of sausages and onions were cooked and sold, some club members also displayed their expertise at sprooking raising additional coin for Hugs...and much laughter abounded. We are hoping for similar opportunities again this year, once I have those dates, I will advertise them.

Most club members now have hats, beanies, caps, hoodies, fleeces, and polo shirts. We look very smart especially when seen collectively leaving and returning to the Coogee Marina, and in addition and importantly, snug and warm whilst aboard. If you want to order a piece of club clothing, please let me know.



The Entertainment Book/App has long been a favourite with club members. Purchasing a book or, the now more popular Phone App, provides the club with \$14 per sale. The book/app costs \$70 to buy, but is cram full of offers and discounts. If you eat out twice using a buy one, get one free deal you will have recovered the cost of the book. I have 3 books in my possession to sell (at time of writing) Why not contact me to buy one. Alternatively go the link in the weekly Newsletter or find it on our Face Book Page.



The annual Rottnest Pilgrimage is without a doubt the pinnacle of my WA diving year and that of many other club members too. UEC rents chalets in Geordie Bay for up to 14 people for 9 days. Members choose to come along for the week or the long weekend or indulge their passion and stay for the full 9 days. UEC has a mooring in Geordie Bay, weather permitting we have 2 dives each day, with the possibility of a night dive if enough people are interested. Several meals are provided, we eat collectively, and if we are extremely lucky and, our hunter gathers are successful, we eat Cray most evenings. Have you ever had Cray Rogan Josh? You

should and, you may if you decide to join us at Rotto 2020, it is superb... we have our tanks re filled at Peddle and Flipper, the bike shop in the settlement, however this year because their compressor had broken down, there were no fills to be had on the Island. Our holiday was in jeopardy. Thankfully our President Mike Buchanan, researched negotiated and work tirelessly (2 weeks prior to our departure date) to hire our own compressor have it shipped to the Island, set up and, as luck would have it, filled by Island personnel. Perfect, well done Mike, and a huge THANK YOU from all who attended...

The Dates for Rotto 2020 are 7th – 16th March. Let me know if you are interested and stay tuned for the holiday advertisements which will appear in the weekly newsletter.

The Amazing UEC Curry night, did not proceed this year (sob, sob) due to a nasty Flu bug which did it rounds at that time and, late in the proceedings, wiping out and confining many eager souls to their bed. However, all was not lost, and those who remained abled bodied, enjoyed a great night of fine Indian/ Nepalese, food at the Durbar restaurant in South Fremantle. I will advertise in the weekly newsletter when this event is scheduled again so keep a look out. Oh, that food was soo good... (PS and there was a voucher for the Durbar in the Entertainment book)

Sky Show on Australia day 26th Jan is a club favourite, celebrated by a trip either up river to Perth Waters or down South to anchor off the Rockingham Jetty to watch the fireworks. The Cruise is always accompanied by a delicious smorgasbord of food and is certainly something you should not miss out on. Sadly, this year (2019), the weather was not in our favour, and the event was cancelled last minute as a result of a forecast of high winds. Step in Jasmine Lyons... Jasmine generously offered her house, back yard and BBQ as an on-land alternative to ocean travel. Jasmine lives in close proximity to the ocean so a short spin in the car enabled us to watch the fireworks safely from the beach. Our sincere thanks go to you Jasmine, you saved our day.



For the past few years our Lunch Time Christmas meeting, award presentation and shared meal has been housed at the Type 1 Diabetes centre at Osbourne Park Hospital, thanks to club member and CEO of the centre Bec Johnson. The centre is fortunately large and bright and has its own BBQ. Around 30 members attend this fun filled meeting during which club awards for the year are presented the date in early December. It's a meeting not to be missed... again, date and time will be advertised in the newsletter. A tip for this one, don't have a big breakfast before attending this lunch...



The Christmas Day Orphans Dive, offers members the ability to have a sneaky dive on Christmas Day, and share some great food, before sliding off to that Family Do. Usually held at The Ammo Jetty at Woodman's Point Reserve, approx. 12 divers and friends attend (there is no charge for the day and all are welcome to attend). If you come along just look out for the UEC banner, we gather around 8-8.30 am.

Who doesn't like Pasta and a Movie? Jasmine opened her doors once again and hosted a very successful Pasta and Movie Night... thank you Jasmine. We all enjoyed the evening and the "Doggy Bags" were soooo good the next day... so was the Black Panther movie...

This year, the club has decided to offer members the ability to have "Fun in the Pen". A social BYO get-together on the boat in the pen or moored out a little from the Coogee Marina. Sunday has been chosen as the most likely day and will be held sometime in March and September. I will bombard you with information via the Newsletter closer to the time. Please keep reading it.

So, from a Social and Fundraising perspective, that's the wrap from me... I am sincerely interested in trying new ideas or supporting members if they have an event, idea, revelation, or inspiration they would like to share. Please don't be shy.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report, I do look forward to hearing from you, and I can be contacted on, socialbookings@uecwa.com.au

Liz Davey
Queen of Social and Fundraising



Dive Travel

Maldives Trip

This year Mel pulled out all the stops and organised a cracking overseas dive trip. I think all who came along would agree it was a very special trip and one we will all remember for years to come. After we boarded the boat and had the briefings it was drinks up on the top deck waiting for our Pommie friends to arrive. Straight down to business - beer and sun bathing.



We left harbour and headed off to our first

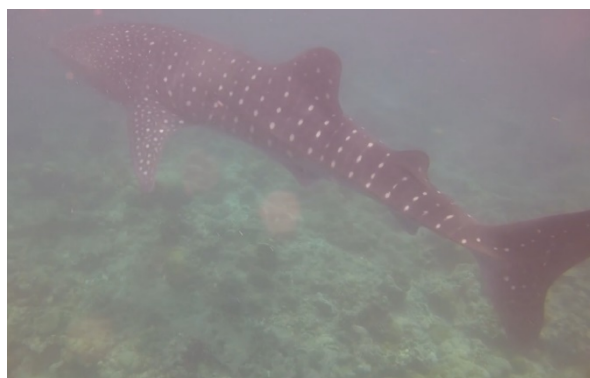
location. It didn't take long to learn the routine. Wake up, dive, eat, dive, eat, dive, eat, drink.

The exceptions were two very special night dives. The first was diving with the Mantas. This involved



sitting under the boat in the dark with torches pointed up. The light attracts the plankton and that attracts the Mantas. After about 15 mins I think we were all losing faith when suddenly out of the dark appeared a huge Manta. The next 30 minutes was the most spectacular show with these huge creatures flying over our heads close enough to touch.

The second night dive was with Nurse Sharks (very similar to our Wobbies). Similar set up, sitting on the sand with torches. A few squirts of some scent in the sand and it didn't take long before there were 10 or 15 large Nurse sharks cavorting around us. They were like puppies playing in front of us.



Of the day dives the highlights were the Whale Sharks and the Stingrays. The Stingrays were the last dive of the trip and what a finale. We were dropped near a jetty where they dump the remains from the filleted Tuna. Sounds lovely I know but as you can imagine, if you dump a lot of food you attract a lot of fish. This was utter mayhem with Stingrays flying everywhere.

The one thing we all remarked on was the poor state of the coral reef. The Maldives had a serious bleaching event in 2016 and the result is clear to see. If ever you needed a reminder of how fragile our marine environment is then this was it. Of course there were lots of great things to see, with Turtles, Clown fish, Scorpion fish, eels and too many other things to mention. Unfortunately all good things come to an end and so after what seemed like a flash we were back in Male harbour for the final group photo.



Busselton Weekend

(Written by Tonya, embellished by Mel)

A stormy weekend meant no HMAS Swan dive on Saturday. So while a few went off to visit friends in the area and/or find that perfect kitesurfing spot, Mel and Tonya were lucky enough to listen in on a long “whale conversation” off Eagle Bay.

Thanks to some local knowledge from CIO Members Colin Roberts and Yvette Louwers, we made our way through the surf at Eagle bay to find some magnificent bombies 200m offshore. A blessing and somewhat eerie experience to hear the whales who were in close proximity! (I should note here that the entry was not pretty and apparently quite entertaining from shore... according to Donna – a random couple pulled up and, after seeing us rolling around in the surf, asked if we were “brand new divers” – to which Donna replied “actually no... in fact, one of them is an Instructor!” haha... oops!)

So while we were doing this, Charlie and Donna enjoyed the whale show from the shore – there were so many swimming through (and apparently a couple that “looked like they were right on top of you!”)



Sunday’s clean up under the Busselton jetty proved a continuation of challenging weather. The good news was, we pulled up a smaller than expected amount of rubbish... a fantastic effort by keen divers from UECWA. It was wonderful to have our gear driven out to the end of the jetty on buggies – thanks to Busselton Jetty for organising this transport for us (and an even bigger thanks to Bernie for organising this with the Jetty staff!) Special mention must go to Brock Campbell for staying above the water n being a champion rubbish sorter... he was wet and nearly blown off the jetty’s lower landing in the process.

Donna Gratton celebrated her birthday by helping our marine environment with the clean-up (that’s dedication! You’re a champ!!)

Huge thanks to those organising this enjoyable weekend... I just love this club!!

Augusta Weekend

We had another cracking club week-end in Augusta. On Friday morning the majority of the group met at Busselton Jetty for a dive. Chris McCoppin kindly towed his tinnie down so that we wouldn't have to transport our gear to the end of the jetty. We all kitted up, threw our gear in the boat and then walked out to the end of the jetty to go diving. A quick swim out to Chris's boat and we were ready to go. Our activities caught the interest of a small crowd who lined the jetty to watch us struggle into BCDs and weight belts in the water.



Underwater the viz was beautiful and all enjoyed a leisurely dive to the end and back. A chilly wind greeted our exit from the water so a brisk walk back to the car park and a quick lunch stop at the bakery sorted that out. Then it was off to Augusta, where we enjoyed a few drinks on the balcony followed by more drinks and food at the local pub – before turning in for an early night.



Day one saw us all up nice and early and down to the harbour where we set about loading the boat and Bernie set to cooking breakfast. Note for future trips - cook breakfast at the house as 200Kg of bacon takes a long time to cook on a stove! We set off with a reasonable sized swell running which limited us to the lee of St Alouarn Island, and a favourite from last year, Port Jackson Canyon and Cave. There was a lot of surge which made for a fun dive on the top of the reef, but in the Canyon itself things were a bit calmer. No Port Jackson sharks this year but still a lovely dive and a few Jumbos came along for the ride. We moved a few hundred meters for the second dive which gave good access to the wall of the reef. On the way back to the Marina we had a quick stop at Thousand Pound Patch to pick up our boat limit of Abalone and then it was back to the house for more drinks and nibbles (this time Bernie produced the most delicious curried Crayfish) followed by a BBQ and a game or three of cards.

On the Sunday morning, following another hearty breakfast of Bacon and Eggs at the house, we set off in choppy conditions to dive a set of three bommies called Cole Rocks just off the Marina and Barrack Point. After swimming round the first bommie, the group made up of Mel, Mark and Tonya, led by Mike headed off to find the second bommie when we stumbled across what looked like a very old anchor sticking out of the sand. After poking around we continued our swim to the second bommie. The bommies made for an interesting dive with large plate corals covering much of them.

After getting back to the boat I sent an email to the museum asking about the anchor and on Monday I got a response suggesting that it could be from the Kitty Coburn, wrecked on the 3rd December 1875 on Barrack Point after parting its anchors!!! That means if indeed the anchor is from the ship, its 143 years old - looks in pretty good shape.

We upped anchor and set off across the bay to Bessie Reef. Another interesting dive but very surgy and the viz was not great but all enjoyed it. Another quick stop to pick up more Abalone and then it was back to the house to pack up for the long journey home.



Bremer Bay Easter Long Weekend



A group of intrepid divers headed off to Bremer Bay for the Easter Weekend however some pretty wild weather threw up some challenges. Strong wind and swells saw the planned boat trip cancelled on Saturday... we tried hard to rearrange Bremer Bay for the Sunday and had it all lined up (even getting as far as the harbour), only to be told the swell was just too big to dive.

Despite this, our little crowd were undaunted by the weather (well a little bit daunted) but still managed a few shore dives. David Freemantle led the charge going diving

at least twice every day in some of the most miserable and cold conditions possible. For the rest of us it was a single on Saturday and double on Sunday, the second of which was a pea souper in Fishing Boat Harbour.

We did hit the jackpot on Sunday's first dive with eagle eyed Liz spotting a Leafy Sea Dragon within the first minute of the dive at Little Boat Harbour... a big bonus, as the Leafy's hadn't been spotted from shore for some time.

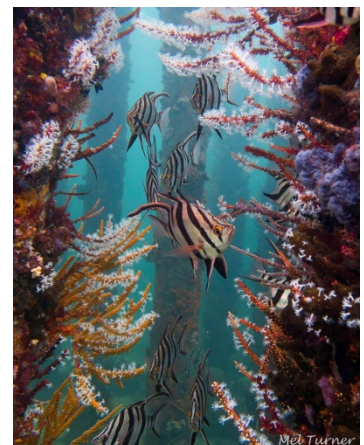
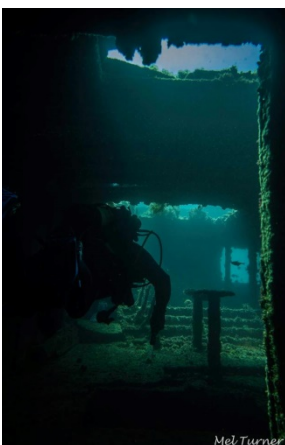


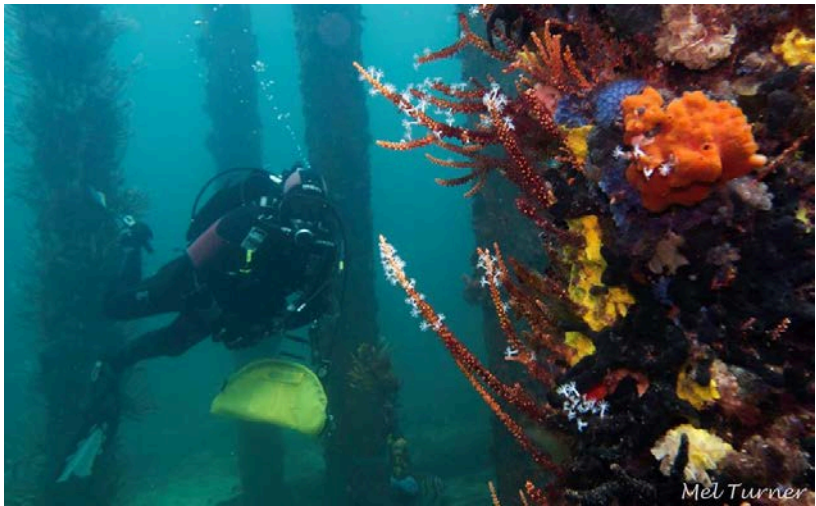
Despite the miserable weather and conditions, a great weekend was (still) had by all with lots of laughs, drink, food and footy consumed.

Day Trips – Lena Wreck Dive (Bunbury) & Busselton Jetty

This year we managed two day trips – one to dive the Lena (Bunbury) and the other – diving Busselton Jetty.

Both of these day trips were well-supported by Members and friends – and we snagged great weather for both.





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Meetings

Esplanade Hotel
The Esplanade, Fremantle, WA

Boat

Port Coogee Marina
Chieftain Esplanade, North Coogee, WA
North Coogee