



January 2007 Newsletter

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President's Report

By Jules Holliday

Dear Members

May I first wish you all a happy new year which will doubtless be filled with plenty of UEC diving and social activities!! When I promised in the last newsletter that the President's future reports would be brief, you will soon discover that I was lying.....Mind you, I was once a lawyer so am used to using ten words when just one will do!!

Last year finished on a high note with our Christmas party hosted by Carmine and Carol Travaglione so my thanks to them for making the event a success. Later this month we will be having another annual social gathering which will be the Skyshow. The boat is already fully-booked and it promises to be yet another great night out thanks to Ilonka Jarvis who will be running the catering.

On other events and activities in the recent past and the near future we have the following:

New Members and Nominations

Plenty of new faces in and around the Club so a warm welcome to you and I hope that you will all contribute to make this a successful year. Keep up the good work on that front, Sue Knight!!

We will also be having a free evening cruise on the river for new members to come along and meet other people in the club on Friday 9th February. The evening will be a BYO barbeque and promises to be a great way to get to know the newbies.

President's Report continued...

Existing Members and Membership Renewals

For those of you who have not yet renewed membership in 2007, be aware that our Treasurer Clive Mitchell will be contacting you shortly and demanding cash with menaces. He is the sinister-looking one who sits out front at meetings and sleeps in a coffin. And yes, ladies and gentlemen, he does know where you live...

Boat Diving

Mark Maddern's attempts at getting people out on the boat this past couple of months have been very successful. We have even been in the enviable position of having to turn people away on occasion because the boat has been full.

Conditions are currently extremely good and where else can you have a super day out for just \$45? Please also spare a thought that boat diving is a great way for the UEC to fill its biscuit tin full of cash and that keeps our Fundraising Officer and Vice-President Rachel Stone happy. Rachel is the one that lives with Clive and therefore you have to figure she may also sleep in a coffin and is not somebody to upset. As a vet, she also gets paid to kill things...

Dive Trips

I have been busy arranging a couple of trips to Albany in March and June which promise to be rather exciting. Details and links appear in this newsletter which tell you exactly what is being offered for the March trip.

I am in the fortunate position of working in the diving industry and that means I have the chance to dive all over WA quite regularly. I have to say that the last trip we made to Albany back in October was one of the best I have been on and diving there can be fantastic. We are talking 30m visibility on a good day, ladies and gentlemen.

Remember that these dive trips are arranged purely for UEC members and attendance is one of the perks of membership. The UEC charges these trips out at cost and for less than \$400 you will be getting three nights' accommodation, three breakfasts, two lunches, a dinner and five excellent dives from a fully-equipped boat!

Book early to avoid disappointment...

Dive Training

Plenty going on with training in the next couple of months but keep an eye on the Thursday email for any changes.

Navigation training will be held at Bicton Baths on Saturday 20th January and will count towards the PADI Advanced qualification. There will also be the PADI Navigation Specialty running that afternoon for anyone keen to know more and get an additional qualification.

Remember that unless you can navigate, you'll always be the one who has the long surface swim!!

Cost is \$35 and email Andrew at training@uecwa.com.au if you want to attend.

President's Report continued...

We will also be running an Emergency First Response course in February, along with the DAN Oxygen Provider and the PADI Rescue courses. All three are very much worth doing to protect the safety of you and others. They will, as always, also be offered at mates' rates!

Skipper and DO Training

This formed part of a whopping three and a half hour committee meeting on 8th January so please bear that in mind those people who think all we do is drink wine and talk a lot!!

Former President and Life Member Dennis Stubberfield has kindly volunteered to run Skipper Training this year after Carmine decided to hang his boots up for a while. Our thanks go to Dennis in advance, as well as to Carmine for his efforts in the past. We are not sure whether Dennis' better half Maree will be thanking us or whether we should be thanking her for Dennis spending his evenings on the boat....

DO Training will be commencing in the next couple of months so watch this space for more details.

Remember that for a club like ours to be successful, it does depend largely on the efforts of volunteers putting their hands up to do things and make things happen. Also as a club we need a constant inflow of new blood to make sure we continue to flourish. That new blood includes new members and new committee members, as well as new people to drive and crew the boat.

Try Dive, Scuba Refresher and Snorkelling Morning

This will be held at Mettams Pool from 8am on Sunday 21st January and we already have 20 people wanting to give it a go. And for \$10 which will get them training, equipment and a snag in a bun, why would they want to do anything else that morning???

My thanks go out to a lot of people for helping to make that day happen. To Renee Barker for organising it and bringing in large numbers of the try divers. To Ilonka for catering. To Mark Walawski and Phil Riley who are voluntarily training students when they normally do that for a living. Also, to the various Divemasters like Andrew Mingay, Amanda Blanksby and Carl Wheeler who will be in the water, as well as the members who are lending their own gear.

Good effort to all concerned and I hope that many of those giving it a go will subsequently join the club and discover what the underwater world has to offer.

In summary then, the year has started with a stride rather than a stumble and we look forward to your active participation as 2007 continues!

Best

Jules

President
UECWA

Training – a great way to improve your skills

UEC Training Officer, Andrew Mingay

*Don't miss the
boat –
improve your
navigation skills*

NAVIGATION COURSE +/- PADI NAVIGATION SPECIALIST

Saturday 27th January @ Bicton Baths: Half or Full day courses.
HALF DAY [\$35] and will count towards PADI Advanced course
FULL DAY [\$135~ normally \$230] = PADI Navigation Specialist.
Take your lunch and there are BBQ's in the park above.
Book now with Andrew: training@uecwa.com.au 0429205208
booking closing date = Friday 19th January

*Be prepared,
with an
Emergency First
Response
qualification
–
then take part in
the PADI
Rescue Course
–
and make it a
hat-trick with the
DAN 02 Oxygen
Provider Course*

EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONSE

A course that is highly recommended for all DO's, Skippers, parents
- in fact everyone. COMPULSORY [or equivalent course] FOR PADI
RESCUE COURSE

Saturday 10th February \$80

Book now with Andrew: training@uecwa.com.au 0429205208
booking closing date = Friday 26th January

PADI RESCUE COURSE

This course is thoroughly recommended for your own safety,
awareness, and ability to help diving buddies.

Sunday 11th February & Sunday 18th February

Normally \$290; UEC MATES RATES = \$190

Book now with Andrew: training@uecwa.com.au 0429205208
booking closing date = Friday 26th January

DAN 02 OXYGEN PROVIDER COURSE

Again - thoroughly recommended for all. You never know when you
will need these skills and the more people with them the safer we
all are. Remember these certificates need to be renewed so this is
for both original course and renewal.

Saturday 17th February. Course: \$80; renewal fee TBA.

Book now with Andrew: training@uecwa.com.au 0429205208
booking closing date = Friday 26th January



UEC Weekend Dive Trip -ALBANY

2-5 March 2007 (Diving 3rd & 4th)

Trip Leader: Jules Holliday

Diving

- 4 day dives ~ 2 Saturday / 2 Sunday
- 1 night dive ~ Saturday night
- Includes at least one dive on both the [HMAS Perth](#) (36m) and the [Cheynes III](#).

Dive Boat ~ [Silver Star Cruises](#)

- Extensive open gearing up area at the stern
- Large viewing deck for whale watching (may be possible on this trip)
- Large indoor area with private bar and soft drinks for sale
- Free supply of tea and coffee
- Alcohol permitted post all dives for the day!! (BYO)

Level of Dives

This dive trip will suit all levels of divers

Equipment Required

- NB: No scuba equipment is included
- All divers **must** bring 2 tanks, torch, & a safety sausage (mandatory when diving with Silver Star Cruises)
- Recommend hangers to dry wetsuits overnight
- Recommend sleeping bag and pillow. Dormitory blankets are supplied, however may not be sufficiently warm
- Towels and all personal toiletries
- Snacks

Cost

\$395 package price, includes:

- 5 dives
- HMAS Perth diving fee
- 3 air fills
- 3 nights' accommodation (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)
- 3 days' Breakfast (Saturday, Sunday and Monday)
- 2 days' Lunch (Saturday and Sunday)
- 1 Dinner (Pizza dinner on Saturday evening)
- Partners and children are welcome at \$120 per person ~ includes accommodation, meals and boat

Accommodation

[Camp Quaranup](#) (P: 9844 4087) RMB1 Quaranup Road, Big Grove, Albany King George Sound facing Albany

- Dormitory accommodation ~ open area with bunk beds and single beds
- Shared shower and toilet facilities (individual cubicles)

Facilities

- Fully equipped kitchen
- BBQ area
- Private pier (dive boat pick-up and drop-off)
- 2 private beaches

RSVP: Renee Barker via [Email](#) or on 0439 965 378 by Friday 2 February 2007

Queries: Please direct queries to Jules Holliday via [Email](#) or on 0413 786 884

Deposit: 50% deposit due by Monday 5 February 2007 to reserve your booking. Bookings will not be made without a deposit. Deposit can be paid via EFT to the UEC bank account. Confirmation must be sent to Clive Mitchell, Treasurer UEC, via [Email](#). Please include "ALBANY1" and your "surname" in the bank reference and notify Clive of the reference in your email

Cancellation: If bookings are cancelled your deposit will be refunded less any costs incurred.

The weekend promises to be a memorable event for everyone with great diving and a lot of socialising. With Monday being a public holiday I hope everyone will stay in Albany on Sunday night. Not only will it mean that you can participate in a social event, it will also ensure your own safety and that of your travel companions. It is a long drive back to Perth, particularly after a full weekend of diving. There are many activities that [Albany](#) has to offer including a visit to the famous [Whale World](#) and many fine wineries in the area. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Diving on the Swanie and the Jettie

By Amanda Blanksby

“...a couple of humpback whales had been hanging out at the Swanie on the previous Monday and had utilised the area as a scratching post to clean off those sticky barnacles .”

Early December in 2006 a select bunch of us headed down to Busselton for a weekend of diving on the Swanie and the Jettie. The diving itself all happened on the Saturday with two dives on HMAS Swan in the day and a twilight dive on the Busselton jetty. Sunday was spent taking it easy with lunch at one of the local wineries.

The diving itself was fun. The Swan is an easy wreck dive with maximum depth at just over 30 metres. It has been purposely fitted out for divers prior to scuttling back in 1997 enabling plenty of exploration both inside and out. There is plenty of marine growth and fish swimming around on the outside. Some of the party however did spot areas that were free from marine growth. The dive master explained that a couple of humpback whales had been hanging out at the Swanie on the previous Monday and had utilised the area as a scratching post to clean off those sticky barnacles. It was interesting to see some different fish compared to those that you see regularly at Rottneest including smiley porcupinefish and the group of batfish that hang out at the crow’s nest area.



What lies beneath Busselton Jetty

The jetty dive is very different to the Swan, very shallow with maximum depth around 8 metres. It was interesting and fun to swim amongst the wooden piles supporting the jetty and around the underwater observatory. Being a maritime engineer I am always interested to see how manmade structures become colonised and ultimately form artificial reefs. As twilight turned to night the fish headed to their nooks and crannies for bedtime, and the critters headed out for their night time fun and games. The photos show one rather orange scorpion fish, soft corals growing on the piles, and the head of a catfish.



Jules did all the arrangements for the trip including chartering a boat from Cape Dive - so thanks for that.



Solo Diving - Why?

By Clive Cass

30th October 2000

There have been a few statements in the UEC magazine this year that bring solo diving to our attention. The statements have been of a negative nature and I take this opportunity to respond. As a solo diver I would like to give an indication of what is behind my decision to solo dive.

My life has been a succession of solo activities such as surfing alone, driving by myself, fishing alone, relaxing alone, living alone, bicycle riding by myself and swimming alone in the pool or the ocean. I also prefer to work alone and have travelled overseas alone for a period of seven months. These activities are recognised as being acceptable to the community, sometimes with risk, and at times they are desirable. I guess I am someone who enjoys spending time by myself.

It is only natural for me to take on diving as a solo activity, and I subsequently do so of my own accord. Of course I continue to obtain advice from experienced divers and have appropriate safe practices in place. I certainly enjoy diving with a buddy, and then there are times when I just enjoy the freedom of my own company.

There have been books written on the subject promoting the many benefits and safety aspects of solo diving. Solo diving, when practised with common sense and safety, is quite a safe sport - perhaps safer than diving with a buddy.

It is perhaps interesting to note that activities where solo participation is encouraged include flying a plane, parachuting, whitewater canoeing, bike riding and snow skiing.

Not everyone wants to live alone, surf alone, travel alone or parachute alone. However we give those people the freedom to choose the activity they want even if we disagree with it. I simply ask that I be given the same freedom to participate in a recreational activity that I choose.

It's no wonder that I progressed in this direction of diving, and I simply ask that any critics consider that solo diving may be not only an acceptable activity, but also perhaps a desirable one for some people.

See next page for PADI's view

*What's your
opinion?*

*For discussion
at the 17th
January UEC
meeting*

Solo Diving: PADI Worldwide's Position

By:

Drew Richardson Senior Vice-President, Training, Education, Environment and Memberships, PADI Worldwide

Why PADI advocates the use of the buddy system

The buddy system in use today for scuba diving came from a decades old water safety concept found in swimming and lifeguard training. It was adopted because it applied to diving and because it made good safety sense. Early support of buddy diving safety procedures was referenced by Jacques Cousteau and the crew of the Calypso in the book "The Silent World". The goals of training divers include developing the skills to take responsibility for themselves and to be self-reliant. The buddy system provides divers in training with a safety redundancy to this skill base that diving alone simply cannot provide. PADI has, and will continue to, train divers using the buddy system based on its proven benefit to diving, divers and diving safety.

Practicality & Convenience

The buddy system has provided tangible contributions to millions of dives. Buddies provide an extra set of eyes and hands for each other. Providing assistance in putting on equipment, adjusting straps, assisting with weights and tanks, entering the water, helping to load and unload gear are but a few practical arguments that support the buddy system.

Safety:

The roots of the buddy system arise from diving and water safety. Early days of diver training heralded the buddy system as an important safety procedure because only through the buddy system could a diver reasonably expect to escape from entanglement, entrapment, out of air situations, disorientation, a head injury, chest pains, cramping and dozens more. Diver training and diving equipment have improved, yet these same values apply today. Like all safety-based systems, the buddy system is not perfect. However, the simple fact is that without a buddy in the water, the distressed diver has little or no chance of assistance.

The buddy system is the most basic form of scuba diving fail-safe. Buddies have helped each other in subtle and profound ways for decades. Often the smallest buddy intervention averts a string of error chains occurred and negative outcomes or tragedy. The safety record of scuba diving has improved dramatically over the past few decades, while the number of certified divers has increased. During this time, buddy system training techniques have been an integral component of this training. While there is no way to quantify the accidents that were prevented or did not happen because of one buddy looking after another, empirical outcomes support the relevancy and integrity of this training.

Enjoyment:

Diving is a social activity, so the buddy system is more than a safety rule. Diving with someone *you know* and are *comfortable with* adds to the fun. Most divers actually enjoy companionship in and out of the water. It is fun to share exciting adventures and experiences with others. Fundamentally, the buddy system is about dive companionship, something that won't appeal to misanthropic personality types.

Can Solo Diving be done responsibly?

Yes, but let's be clear about what responsible solo diving is and what it is not. It requires experienced scuba divers willing to make the necessary commitment to train and equip themselves to accept the added risks involved. That is to say, a person with the required attitude and aptitude to pursue responsible solo diving. This is true in other adventure sport activities such as solo rock climbing.

It is important to clarify what responsible solo scuba diving is. PADI views it as a form of technical diving and not for everybody. To responsibly engage in solo scuba diving, a diver must first be highly experienced, have a hundred or so buddy accompanied scuba dives, be absolutely self-reliant and apply the specialized procedures and equipment needed to engage in the activity. This includes, but is not limited to redundant air sources, specialized equipment configurations, specific dive planning, and management of solo diving problems and emergencies. When solo diving is performed within this description, we see a place for it. Responsible solo diving is not diving alone without the mental discipline, attitude or equipment. That said, no amount of redundant equipment can effectively back up a diver's brain better than another individual.

What concerns does PADI have with regard to solo diving

When a problem occurs on a solo dive, or when the diver is alone in the water, there is little or no chance of assistance for the distressed diver. This decreases the chances of a diver surviving the problem or having a favorable outcome. Diving alone reduces the chance of survival regardless of the problem. Since 1989, there were at least 538 fatalities where it was clear divers were either intentionally diving solo, or became separated from a buddy and were de facto alone.

PADI is concerned by certain proponents of solo diving within the dive industry, including a major diving publication, who attempt to promote solo diving by bashing both PADI and the buddy system with headlines touting "Why the Buddy System is dangerous". This is both irresponsible and reckless. To suggest that the buddy system fosters a false sense of security and increases the likelihood of panic is outrageous and contrary to the empirical evidence. To claim that divers shouldn't use the buddy system for fear of being sued by a diving companion is ridiculous. The unfortunate reality in the litigious U.S. is that folks have sued one another for nearly anything. It is no surprise that there have been a handful of cases where one buddy has brought suit against another. Outside of the U.S., this argument doesn't hold up and smacks of the fear mongering to sell magazines. Besides, how long will it be before a solo death results in a suit against a magazine or other forum endorsing solo diving, a practice that is contrary to community practice. There is nothing to prevent such lawsuits from arising.

PADI's position is clear; solo diving proponents should advocate responsible solo diving on its own unique merits, requisite training, and equipment needs and not through sensationalized attempts to disparage a proven safety system, that has served the majority of recreational scuba divers well.

New Members report

By Sue Knight

I am having a busy start to 2007 with 14 new contacts since the Club Xmas Party.

These contacts are from various places in the world and I look forward to meeting some at the meeting on 17th January. I am hoping that some new members will come along to the try dive on the 21st January, as it has been a while since they have dived under the water and this will be a good way to get back into it.

I am also busy planning a New Members night with Mark, which will be on Friday 9th February, so if you're a *New Member* look out for an email from Mark [Dive Bookings](#) or myself Sue [New Members](#) soon, giving you all the details. Please try and make it as it will be a good way to get to know the committee and will be a fun night as well.

See you under the water soon.

Sue Knight

newmembers@uecwa.com.au

Did you know?

A handy tip from Mark Maddern

In recent years steel tanks have become the preferred standard for recreational diving, though as everybody knows steel and salt water don't necessarily go together very well. Due to rust, I have recently had a steel tank sandblasted, etch primed and painted at considerable expense. Unfortunately this is the second time it was painted as I took the "cheap" option the first time around and painted the tank myself without proper preparation.

I have just checked under the rubber boot of another steel tank I own and found rust there also.

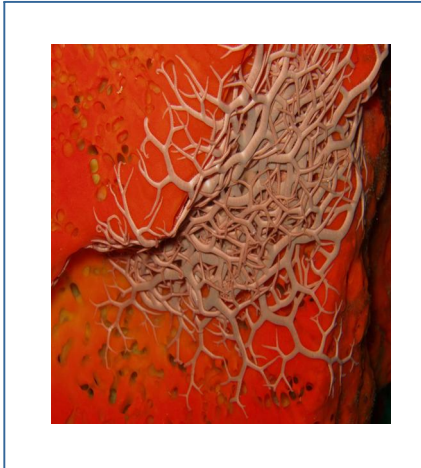
This was the first time that I had removed the boot to wash this tank properly. A thick layer of salt had built up around the base of the tank and no doubt had promoted the formation of rust - and I'm sure there are other divers out there who have never removed the boot off the base of a tank to wash it properly (i.e. are as slack as I am).

So the moral of the story is "be nice to your steel tank" because if they start rusting in can be difficult (and expensive, time-consuming, annoying) to stop.

Back in the Water

By Belinda Palmer

My last dive was in September 2006 in Talumben on the north east coast of Bali and because the water was so perfect and the fish so colourful and plentiful, I really haven't felt like getting in to local waters recently. However, I agreed to book on for the one-tank trip on Saturday 12 January.



Basket Star on Sponge

We arrived at Swan Yacht Club to see friendly faces we haven't seen for a while and straight away I knew it was going to be a good trip.

We dropped anchor at Hugal's Passage (always a favourite) and jumped in to the clear warm water. Within seconds we had spotted a large, curious cuttle fish, a couple of fin kicks on there were a pair of beautiful cowries inside a barrel sponge, then a feeding basket star (fascinating to watch), a couple of nudibranchs, lots of fish and of course Hugal's glorious landscape had the sun beating down on it; bringing all the vibrant colours to life.

Thanks to Carmine for skippering and Clive for DOing. I'm hooked again.

Belinda

Boat Report

By Martin Smith

The Boat as, per normal, is running well with only the usual ongoing maintenance needed. The rubber duckie had a minor mishap and needs the rope attachment patch to the right hand side fixed. Thanks to Clive Cass who is going to attend to these repairs.

Engine oil and filters are due to be replaced and the anchor has been straightened once again. Also I have had some welding done on the platform and the dive ladder care of my son-in-law Will Officer who is a welding instructor in New Zealand, many thanks. (The club only had to pay for the hire of the TIG welder)

Thanks to Dennis Stubberfield who did some running repairs to the manual bilge pump.

I look forward to seeing you all on "The UE" in the near future.

Martin

UEC Minutes of Meetings



Underwater Explorers Club

Minutes of General Meeting

Travagione Residence Saturday 16 December 2006

Apologies	Sue Knight Chris Cunnold	Spencer Shute Geoff Geard	Wendy Hutchison	Martin Arrowsmith
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The meeting was opened at 8.05pm.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1.0 The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Judy Cowen
Seconded by Pat Swallow

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

2.0 None

Correspondence Inwards

3.0 • Letter - Leask & Co

Correspondence Outwards

4.0

Nominations

5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Bavcevich • Briony Robinson • Paul Veder • Michael and Lisa Smeaton
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rob Arbuckle • Nicole Howard

New Memberships

6.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul and Debbie Stewart • Helen, Ian and Simon Barchem • Nicki Ryan • Paul Rosser • Miles Pedder
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dal Piggott • Tanya Dewhurst • Mark Walawski • Nat Ragus

Accepted by ??
Seconded by ??

[Post meeting note – secretary apologises for forgetting to ask for an acceptor and seconder]

Reports**7.1 President – Jules Holliday**

- Presidents report in December newsletter
- Future general meetings will all start on time at 7.30pm
- Requested for nominees for best hat after meeting
- Brief summary given on the latest sale details for the boat, further details in December newsletter

7.2 Secretary – Amanda Blanksby

- Requested for membership cards to be collected

7.3 Treasurer – Clive Mitchell

- Nothing to circulate at the meeting
- Taken a while to complete handover from previous treasurer
- Bank balance is healthy
- Requested for members to be timely when paying for dives by EFT

7.4 Vice President and Fund Raising – Rachel Stone

- Raffle tickets available tonight
- Wait for the new year for more

7.5 Dive Coordinator – Mark Maddern

- Plenty of dive trips organised over the Christmas period – see Mark to sign up for them
- Will gently persuade people to go diving
- 1st Jan dive planned - slightly later start than normal

7.6 Environment – Spencer Shute

- Not present – no report

7.7 New Members – Sue Knight

- Not present – no report

7.8 Newsletter – Pat Swallow

- December newsletter has been published

7.9 Web and PR – Martin Arrowsmith

- Have revamped the newsletter page
- Will be setting up some form of photo page in the new year

7.10 Safety – Steve Bright

- Nothing to report

7.11 Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- Social trip to Rottneest on Boxing Day
- River cruise on New Years Eve
- BBQ before general meeting on 16th January
- Try dive on 21st January – will have sausage sizzle
- Australia Day river cruise on 26th January
- See Ilonka to book for all of these events

7.12 Training – Andrew Mingay

- Try dive on 21st January – for potential new divers, open to all friends, family etc
- Will be running DAN O₂ and EFR in future
- Members to request if they want to do any specific training

7.13 Boat – Martin Smith

- Boat is running well and it needs to be used

General Business

- 8.1 Annual Rottneest holiday – there are 5 beds available for the week trip, and a waitlist for the weekend. Anyone interested see Clive Cass.
- 8.2 Jules presented some flowers to Carol Travaglione to say thanks for hosting the event tonight.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

The next general meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th January at 7.30 pm, at Swan Yacht Club.

**Underwater Explorers Club**

Minutes of Committee Management Meeting

Jules' Home Sunday 10 December 2006

Present:

Chairman:	Jules Holliday			
Committee:	«GreetingLine»	Clive Mitchell	Rachel Stone	Mark Maddern
	Andrew Mingay	Ilonka Jarvis	Sue Knight	Steve Bright
	Spencer Shute	Pat Swallow	Martin Arrowsmith	
Members:	None			
Apologies	Martin Smith			

The meeting was opened at 2.30pm

Action**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the executive committee meeting dated 2 November 2006 were circulated and accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Sue Knight
Seconded by Mark Maddern

The minutes of the special committee meeting dated 29 November 2006 were circulated and accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Steve Bright
Seconded by Andrew Mingay

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

Sale of boat – to be discussed in the items below.

Correspondence Inwards

- Renewal Schedule invoice for Club Marine Insurance.

Correspondence Outwards

- Letter to DPI on the vessel plans for Explorer 1.

Action**Nominations**

- Robert Bavceovich
- Briony Robinson
- Paul Veder
- Nicole Howard

New Memberships

- Nicki Ryan
- Paul Rosser
- Miles Pedder
- Dal Piggott
- Tanya Dewhurst
- Mark Walawski
- Nat Ragus

Accepted by Jules Holliday
Seconded by Sue Knight

- New membership process was discussed. Agreed to include names of potential new members in Thursday email two weeks before committee meeting. New members would then be agreed at the committee meeting and secretary would then send out a welcome email and issue membership card.
- When people complete their nomination dive will also ask them to fill out the membership form as well. Amanda to update the DO list of things to do.
- Need to discuss and agree how to deal with visitors. To be discussed at next committee meeting.

Amanda

Reports

We decided not to have individual reports from each committee member for this meeting, given the large number of general business items.

General Business**Boat Sale**

- Jules briefed committee members on latest events.
- Potential purchaser could not get the required permits, hence sale fell though..
- Will continue to keep boat on market.
- General goal will be to replace the boat in 3 years time.
- Will set up the BAD committee in New Year.

Getting Divers Back into Diving

- Mark to encourage people to go out diving with the goal to get the boat full one day a week.
- Will run some trips focused on deep diving, spear fishing, green diving, wreck, photography etc.
- Rachel to review the actual cost of using the boat from past records.
- Try dive and snorkelling morning at Mettam's pool to be organised in January.

Rachel

Policy on Young Divers

- Will follow the same age limits as PADI, but insist that they can only dive with parent/guardian.
- Will be charged same as adults.

Action

- Any kids on the boat will be required to provide their own life jacket.
- Need to prepare a policy on children in the dive club.

Boat Bookings for Private Use

- All private bookings are to be through Mark. Will need to find their own DO and skipper.
- Spreadsheet for boat private booking to be reviewed.

Amanda / Clive /
Mark**Dive Trips**

- Jules keen and happy to arrange dive trips. Will do more in the New Year.
- Mark to talk to Wendy about the Key Biscayne.
- Agreed to ensure that it is very clear to club members whether the cost of the trip includes profit for the club or not.
- Agreed to maintain profit for the club at about 5%.

Jules
Mark**Communication, Newsletter, Thursday email and website**

- Try to avoid duplicating the information that is communicated to the club members.
- Keep the newsletter as a newsletter documenting when has happened in the past. Pat to chase people for articles.
- Will include General and Committee Meeting Minutes in Newsletter in order to remain open to all club members. [PMN – Chris has advised not to publish the committee meeting minutes given Creswell affair. Instead have a few copies available for people to look at during general meeting – to be discussed further at next committee meeting].
- Thursday email to be short and punchy, to cover future events. Very entertaining so far!! Rachel requires input by Wednesday 6pm at latest.
- Words for scroll on website – Mark to organise with DO's to email Martin.
- Need to prepare an annual calendar, to cover meetings, social events and diving.

Mark
Amanda / Ilonka /
Mark / Martin**Fundraising and Sponsorship**

- Aim to try to raise \$30,000 over next year.
- Offer dive shops opportunity to advertise on website and also see if they would be willing to offer promotions/discounts to club members. Can be raised at each general meeting.
- Jules to write to all dive shops and visit them.
- Clive/Martin to prepare info on number of hits on website, and forward to Jules.
- Agreed to charge \$10 per month or \$100 per year for advertising.
- Photo competition, wine, club calendar for 2008 are other sources of fundraising.
- Dive Ball in August – ball subcommittee to be formed. Have raffle prizes etc.

Jules
Clive / Martin**Creswell Affair**

- Discussed the Creswell affair.
- Motion raised by Rachel and seconded by Steve to write to Chris and request a statement from the lawyers on the costs incurred to date in relation to the Creswell affair. Also any future costs will need to be discussed and agreed by the executive committee.
- Committee voted on motion, all present at meeting in favour.
- Jules to discuss with Chris and Amanda to prepare letter.

Jules / Amanda

Social

- Try dive 21 January.
- Will continue to do raffle at general meetings including the Xmas party.

Action

- Organise night at the Trots.

Dates for General and Committee Meetings for Next Year

- Agreed to have committee meetings on the first Monday of month, or second Monday if the first is a public holiday.
- Amanda to book SYC for all meetings in 2007.

Amanda

Any Other Business

Senior Advisor

- Andrew suggested that we should invite one of the long-term members of the club to the committee meetings to act as an advisor, given that the majority of the people on this committee are relatively new to the club.
- Agreed that they shall have been in the club for more than 15 years and also possibly an ex-president.
- Possible candidates - Dennis or Maree.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.05pm.

The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 8 January 2007 at 7:00 pm in the boardroom at SYC.

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: _____

(Chairman)

You can't catch me! Crayfish posing in the protected waters of Lancelin Lagoon

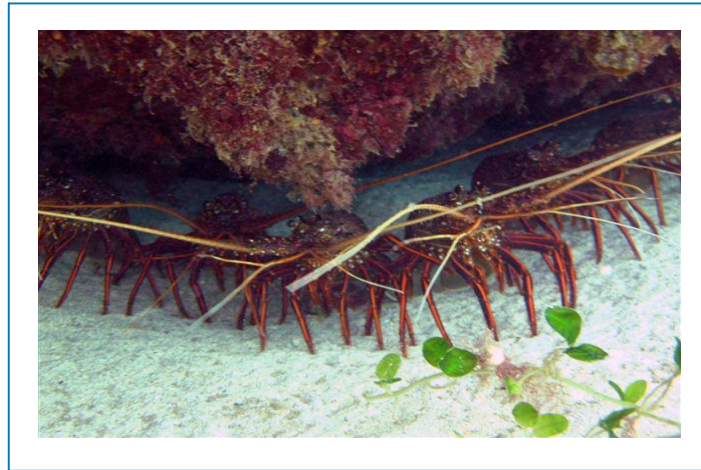


Photo courtesy of Rob Bavcevich

And last, but not least.....

A tall story courtesy of Susie Ashton

World's tallest man saves dolphins

Bao Xishun, the world's tallest man, helped to remove dangerous shards of plastic from the stomachs of two dolphins in China yesterday, according to state media.

The Mongolian herdsman was called in to utilise his extremely long arms after attempts to remove the plastic with tools failed.

An aquarium in Liaoning province noticed that the dolphins had lost their appetite and were becoming depressed.

Mr Xishun managed to remove the large shards and staff at the aquarium considered the exercise to be a great success.

Zhu Xiaoling, a local doctor, told the state media agency Xinhua: "Some very small plastic pieces are still left in the dolphins' stomachs.

"However, the dolphins will be able to digest these and are expected to recover soon."

Mr Xishun is over seven foot and eight inches tall, with arms that span well over a metre. He is officially recognised as the world's tallest man by the Guinness Book of World Records.



February 2007 Newsletter



*Mettams Pool - scene of the very successful Try-Dive Day on 21st January
Photo courtesy of Sue Knight*

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President's Report

By Jules Holliday

Dear Members

The year has continued well and we have new members joining on what seems like a weekly basis!

I shall not bother pretending this one will be a short article but hopefully my "bit" for this newsletter can be read before you die of old age...

Try Dive, Scuba Refresher and Snorkelling Morning

This was held at Mettams Pool from 8am on Sunday 21st January and we had 65 people discovering the underwater world for the first time.

I would like to say this is an excellent effort for the UEC. Getting people to try scuba diving was one of the principal reasons why we were founded over 50 years' ago. I am sure that all those who helped enjoyed seeing people experiencing their first scuba experience.

The overwhelming majority of those participating seemed to really have fun although, as with all activities, some probably did not! By and large the event passed without any major dramas - the occasional panic attack here and there were all staged to make sure the rescue swimmers were on their toes!

President's report continued

My thanks go out to a lot of people for helping to make that day happen. There are probably too many to mention but I shall try my best!

The Gear Monkeys:

Mark Maddern, Andrew Mingay, Clive Mitchell, Carl Wheeler, Paul Mamo, Gurmit Singh

The Rescue Swimmers:

Rachel Stone, Amanda Blanksby, David Purdie

The Barbeque Crew:

Ilonka Jarvis, Steve Bright, Zita Dobson

The Instructors:

Simon Vandenberg, Mark Walawski, Phil Riley

The Gaffer:

Renee Barker

A hearty thanks and well done to all of those who came to offer support and to those who lent equipment. Our thanks also to Australasian Diving Academy for lending 8 full scuba units free of charge.

As a result of the day we also managed to bank about \$500 and bring in at least three new members so all-in-all a good day!

The Boat

As you know, the boat has been out of the water for a couple of weekends to have maintenance done on it before the Rottnest holiday.

Our thanks to all of those volunteering their time and efforts to make this happen. Martin Smith, Pat Troy, Peter Horton and Adrian Taylor worked and worked and worked, so that we can all enjoy our boat cruising to Rottnest this weekend. Ilonka Jarvis, Rex Burke, Malcolm Roberts, Steve Bright, Dennis Stubberfield, Carmine Travaglione, Jasmine Smith, Jeff and Jenni Wake, Clive Cass, Mark Maddern, Chris Cunnold, Clive Mitchell and Rachel Stone, all contributed to the team effort that this club is all about.

Dive Trips

I'm hopeful that the March trip to Albany will go ahead in spite of the fact it coincides with the UEC Rotto holiday. Looks like it will be a very enjoyable trip with some excellent dives.

A more hardcore version of the trip is going ahead in the first week of June and details will soon be available on the website. The diving planned for this one will be of a more challenging nature and anybody keen to attend should be very experienced. I do not want to set any qualifications because I know some Open Water divers who are better than Instructors. However, you will at least need to be comfortable with deep dives between 30-40m and be prepared to enter fairly small caves.

Please email me at president@uecwa.com.au if you would like to come and the closing date will be by the club meeting on 18th April. Money for the trip will also need to be sent to the UEC account by that date and please put down your name and "Albany" on the transfer notification.

President's report continued

Dive Training

Navigation training was held at Bicton Baths on Saturday 20th January and congratulations to the three new Navigation Specialists: Pat Swallow, Kit Wareham-Norfolk and Renee Barker.

By the time this reaches you, we should also have completed an Emergency First Response course, a PADI Rescue course and a DAN O2 Oxygen provider course.

Obviously the more people we have in the club who are trained to deal with emergencies, the better it is for all of us so we very much encourage participation!

Solo Diving

In the last newsletter there was an interesting article by Clive Cass about solo diving which was discussed at the January meeting. A majority at the meeting seemed to be in favour of allowing solo diving off the UEC boat.

We discussed this more at the committee meeting and have decided that the current policy of requiring members to dive in buddy pairs should not change. There are a couple of reasons behind this even though most of us support the notion of solo diving.

First, if we are seen to encourage solo diving and there is an accident, the legal implications for the Club could be disastrous because most dive agencies do discourage the practice.

Secondly, some people are highly experienced and can easily do solo diving without a problem. They are not the ones we are concerned about, however. It is possibly a small group of divers who actually think they are better than they are which could cause problems. I see this all the time in my job as a scuba instructor. Ultimately most accidents in diving are caused by people going beyond the limits of their training and experience. In order to try and minimize the chances of having an accident, we therefore think continuing the buddy system is better.

I would like to thank everyone for their contributions and there were some very interesting points raised. So interesting, in fact, that I have another one for you to think about which is spearfishing!!

Spearfishing

Our Environment Officer Spencer Shute has done an informative piece about this subject in this newsletter. As you may know, we are discussing the possibility of having a spearfishing day on the boat and we welcome the subject being discussed at the February meeting.

All I would say in advance is that this is a big club and there are people in it with all sorts of views. Some people like diving in the river, some people like taking photos, some like penetrating wrecks, some like catching crays and some, no doubt, will enjoy spearfishing.

There is room for all sorts of activities and opinions in the UEC so I hope that we can discuss the merits of spearfishing and decide whether or not to go ahead with the idea.

One thing that is worth pointing out as a result of a recent incident is that spearguns are not allowed on the boat unless and until we decide we will do a special trip. Smokies are allowed, however, and can be used to encourage the skipper to go to a dive site of your choosing!!!

President's report continued

For those of you who don't know, a smokie is a homemade pipe device that can fire a pistol or rifle cartridge. Some of the more exotic divers who play with white pointers and crocodiles occasionally carry them. I also find them very useful when teaching adolescent children how to dive....

As for the immediate future, I shall be keeping a low profile over the next few months because this is the busiest season for me to train and to be doing outdoor education work.

Jumping into my grave before I stop twitching, however, will be Rachel as Vice-President and I am sure she has all sorts of exciting plans for the next couple of meetings!

In the meantime, happy diving!

Best
Jules
President
UECWA

UEC Try Dive Day

Extract from *The Stirling Times*

NEWS

Introduction to sea life

SEVENTY scuba diving novices flocked to Mettams Pool last month to 'try dive'.

The introduction to scuba diving was organised by the Underwater Explorers Club of WA, letting those who wanted to try do so without the price tag of an expensive course.

UEC president Jules Holliday said the beginners were given a basic introduction into how the equipment works and what divers need to do before heading into the water.

"From the beach you only need to swim about 50 or 60 metres to the outer edge of the reef," he said.

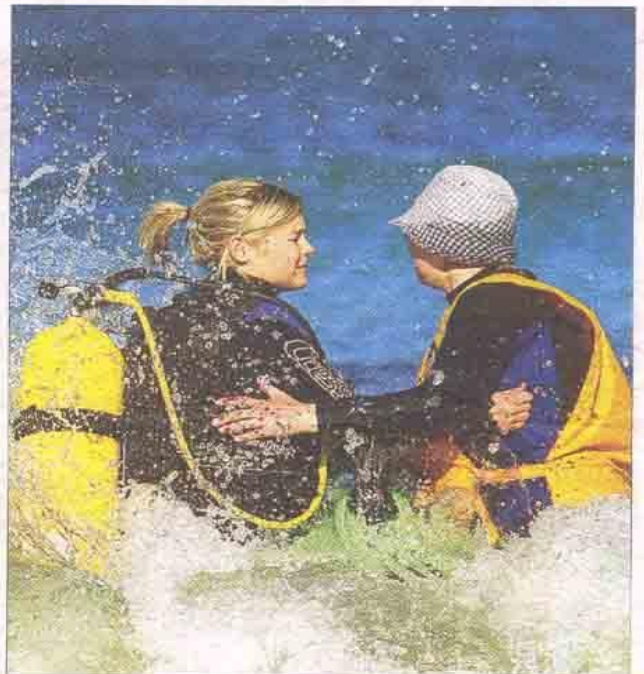
Taken to a depth of about four metres, Mr Holliday said divers were amazed to see the bustling underwater world.

"Mettams Pool is a great place to dive because it has a nice reef system that's easily accessible from the beach. The divers could see octopus, eagle rays, tons of types of fish, nice coral and sea plants – what more could you want?"

This was the first time the UEC has run the 'try dive', and Mr Holliday said it would become an annual event.

"It's just a great opportunity for people who have never tried to have a go. About 90 per cent said they would do it again, while the rest said it wasn't for them.

"That's the good thing about only paying \$10, rather than the hundreds of dollars it can cost for a course."



Amanda Blanksby with Amy Wiggers in the diving outfit and, left, Rachel Stone with Ben Rawson, also in a diving outfit, brave the briny at Mettams Pool.

Picture: Robin Komet

d253183

Training Report

By UEC Training Officer, Andrew Mingay

G'day,

Training has been going well, with three UEC members passing their Navigation Specialty Course in January. The Emergency First Response, PADI Rescue and DAN 02 Oxygen Provider Courses will also have been completed by the time you read this report.

The Club has a number of courses it can run to suit UEC members' needs, so if there is something that is of interest to you, let me know. As long as we have a minimum of four people we can put a course together for you.

Contact Andrew at training@uecwa.com.au for further information.

Cheers,

Andrew

Are you left in the DARK on night dives?

Underwater Kinetics LED Torches

are the answer and are available to UEC members at discount prices

Check them out in detail [HERE](#) and e-mail [Chris](#) to order or for more info.

UK Mini Q40 2w eLED plus - \$80 or UK SL4 eLED plus - \$115 or UK SL6 - \$80 or UK C4 eLED - \$160 or UK C8 eLED plus - \$200 or an UK HID Light Cannon (on request) or upgrade with a UK Mini Q40 1w LED upgrade globe - \$38

Join Carl Wheeler on an exciting trip to Timor

More details available [here](#).

Departing : 16 to 23 November 2007

7 Nights Ex Darwin **\$2164.00**



Experience the pristine waters of East Timor, the world's newest country

TOUR COST INCLUDES

- Return flights Ex Darwin / Dili / Darwin - Air North
- 7 Nights at The **Dili Beach Hotel – Dili** Twin Share - Ensuite with Private Facilities
- Includes Breakfast daily
- Return Airport Transfers
- 15 Boat Dives with **Dive Timor Lorosae** Includes: Tanks, weights and dive guide services
- Lunch is Included on diving days
- Australian Departure Taxes (**Value: \$145.00 - subject to change**)

Cost Does Not Include:

- Travel insurance, Visas and personal spending monies.

Note : Conditions Apply / prices are subject to change due to fluctuations in currency exchange rates.

Credit Card Payments:

Should you choose to pay via **Visa Card or MasterCard** a surcharge fee of 1% will be applied to cost of your holiday.
Should you choose to pay via **Amex or Diners** card a surcharge fee of 2% will be applied to the cost of your holiday.

FOR BOOKINGS AND MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Tour Leader : Carl Wheeler

Mobile : 0418 911 234

Email : carl@fme.com.au

Spearfishing: Sustainable fishing or ecosystem destruction?

A report by Spencer Shute



Given the fact that a number of UEC members used to be active spearfishers, and that there has been talk at committee level of a devoted ‘spearfishing day’, I thought that it may be helpful to review the facts and opinions on this subject.

Introduction

Humans have been spearing fish for thousands of years. However spearfishing as a popular sport is a post World War II phenomenon, underpinned by the technical innovations of SCUBA and neoprene wetsuits reaching the consumer marketplace. Spearfishing as a popular sport in Australia began in Queensland and New South Wales in the mid-1940s, and in Victoria in the late-1940s.

On the face of it, spearfishing would appear to be one of the most environmentally friendly fishing methods, with each target individually selected and therefore little or no bycatch occurring. However, while spearfishing has the potential to be one of the most environmentally-sound fishing activities, it is a mistake to believe that the effects of the sport cannot be important. Additionally the relatively unlimited time available to SCUBA divers, compared to free divers, can contribute to excessive and rapid harvesting by SCUBA divers.

Western Australia is one of the few states in which spearfishing while using SCUBA is permitted (bans exist in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria). Indeed, spearfishing while using SCUBA is banned within many countries (to name a few; Portugal, Bahamas, Mexico, Belize).

Spearfishing-impacts

So, why is it thought by some to represent such a threat to reef ecosystems? Several arguments are discussed below:

1. Size limits

The harvest of fish smaller than minimum regulatory size may occur due to “underwater magnification”, especially if the fisherman is inexperienced. I have witnessed an undersize dhufish speared in the waters off Perth. Similarly, poor-eating species may be speared if the fisherman is not familiar with the range of species likely to be present.

Spearfishing-impacts continued

2. Disruption of fish communities

Spear fishers often target the largest fish on a reef, thus drastically reducing the reproductive capacity of particular species in an area. The removal of the largest individuals, often predators, may greatly influence the composition of the reef community, with smaller species becoming more prolific. Spiny lobsters have virtually disappeared from reef environments all over the Caribbean, and Hawaiian groupers are now extremely rare in the main Hawaiian Islands. Other popular game fish, including groupers, jewfish, jacks, wrasses and snappers, have been significantly reduced throughout the Caribbean and other areas in recent years.

In Australia the majority of sought-after species are predators (trevally, coral trout, dhufish), and their removal is likely to lead to an increased abundance of smaller herbivorous fish which in turn will influence the rates of algal and coral grazing. Herbivorous species may also be speared, and their removal may be even more serious than the removal of large predators, since they are important algae grazers within the reef ecosystem, preventing algae from overgrowing and smothering coral communities.

3. Value of an area

The overharvesting of fish and other popular game species negatively impacts the overall health and diversity of near-shore marine and coral ecosystems. This loss of diversity, aside from threatening the overall health and integrity of the ecosystem, can also diminish the attractiveness of the area to potential tourists. Thus the activities of a few may impact the experience of many.

In many parts of the world, particularly along the coasts of Spain, Southern France, Italy, Jamaica and the Bahamas, spear fishermen have decimated populations of edible reef fishes. The same is now happening in parts of Australia. The inshore reefs for more than twenty miles each side of Sydney Harbour have been almost denuded of edible fish, and much of the remaining New South Wales coastline is also beginning to suffer. Similar damage to reef environments from spearfishing was observed in the USA.

Spearfishing on SCUBA is permitted within many Mediterranean countries (for example Cyprus and Malta) and I have observed the impacts. Diving around Cyprus it is very rare to observe any large (>30cm) fish, with the few locations at which they can be seen under some form of protection (for example within the waters of the British army bases at Larnaca and Limmasol). Having led parties of recreational divers around the wreck of the Zenobia, a huge roll-on roll-off car ferry located approximately 2km off the Larnaca beachfront, dozens of times (1998), I came to know the whereabouts of large moray eels and grouper. However, it only took two local spearfishers two dives to remove the majority of the 'dive highlights'.

Spearfishing-misrepresented

Having heard the arguments against spearfishing, we should now consider the alternative viewpoints.

In a recent study the size and abundance of several target and non-target species was assessed at Palm Island, in the GBR marine park, before the area was opened to spearfishing. Preliminary results obtained a year later indicated little change in the size or abundance of fish stocks, even when compared to those on a nearby reef which remained closed to spearfishing. It was found that, when compared to recreational line fishermen, spearfishermen caught fewer and larger fish. This, together with zero bycatch and zero gear loss, would suggest spearfishing as a preferred alternative to line fishing.

There is also evidence suggesting that at present, pressure due to spearfishing within Australian waters is relatively low, and likely to be sustainable. A recent study estimated the number of spear fishers in the GBR Marine Park region to be in the order of 400-500, approximately 0.2% of recreational fishers, and that this number was decreasing. The National Recreational and Indigenous fishing survey (July 2003) estimated that spear fishing makes up 0.25% and 0.05% of total effort (fisher hours) nationally and for Queensland respectively.

Discussion

The limited evidence discussed above suggests that intense spearfishing activity within a localised area may have devastating impacts upon the local fish community, with wider ecosystem changes also likely to be triggered. However, periodic, low-intensity spearfishing within an area may cause few impacts beyond the removal of individual fish. The key factor seems to be the intensity or frequency of the spearfishing activity.

The advantage of spearfishing over line fishing (selection of individual target specimens) may also be its greatest drawback; the selective removal of large breeding age individuals and large predators.

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Nakaya, S (1998) Understanding behaviour, motivations and attitudes of spearfishers on the Great Barrier Reef through the multidimensional specialisation concept. PhD Thesis, Department of Tropical Environmental Studies and Geography, James Cook University of North Queensland.

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What do you think?

Would you like a Spearfishing day on the UEC Boat?

For discussion at the UEC February General Meeting

Bunbury Dive Festival Weekend

23rd, 24th & 25th February 2007

This sounds like it will be a fun weekend - and you can win **over \$10,000 in prizes** - so get yourselves down to Coastal Water Dive at 87 Albert Road, Bunbury, or the Dolphin Discovery Centre. See [here](#) for details.

On Saturday 24th February there's an Underwater [Spud Hunt](#), followed by a Pirate Party and Treasure Auction.

There's also an underwater photography competition, and maybe you sent your favourite pic. - if so, you could be a winner!

Or you could try the Crayfishing and Spearfishing competition - registration details [here](#).

What about a dive on the Lena? Its supposed to be a great dive and there will be charters running all weekend to the wreck, including a night dive on Friday 23rd February.

Sounds like it will be too good to miss - you can check out the schedule [here](#).

Coastal Water Dive, Bunbury

are also running two fabulous diving trips to

The Abrolhos Islands

15th to 20th March

and

30th March to 4th April 2007.

For further details Ph: 08 9721 7786
Email: enquiries@coastalwaterdive.com.au

Yachting WA e-Newsletter article

The UEC is always keen to promote its association with the Swan Yacht Club and the benefits we enjoy by being social members of the Club. In turn, the Swan Yacht Club is a member of Yachting WA, the state body responsible for boating, and “*Making Waves*” is an e-bulletin which is sent to its members and other interested parties.

Jules Holliday and Carmine Travaglione recently had contact with Yachting WA and Jules submitted the following report for inclusion in its e-newsletter.

Underwater Explorers’ Club of WA Report February 2007

For those of you who don’t know much about us, the UEC has a long history and was formed in 1954. We are the oldest and largest dive club in WA with about 160 members and we meet every third Wednesday of the month at the Swan Yacht Club.

We also own and operate our own dive boat which goes out every Saturday and Sunday with a capacity of 20 divers. As we are a club and rely upon volunteers making things happen, that makes our diving operations extremely cost effective compared to the commercial operators (which, for the record, we do support as much as we can!). For \$30 members can do a single tank dive out at Stragglers or Carnac island, and for \$45 they can do a double dive out at Rottneest.

It is not only boat diving which members participate in but also shore diving. One of the most positive parts of being a member of the UEC is that divers are always guaranteed a buddy whether they want to dive for prawns in the river at night, take a look at the Port Jackson sharks out at Robb’s Jetty or explore the wrecks of the Rockingham Wreck Trail.

The monthly meetings we have start at 7.30pm and include various reports about what the Club has been doing and what we are planning. We also usually have a guest speaker who will generally have some kind of “water” themed talk, presentation or video to show us. Last month, for example, one of our members showed us his slides from a canoeing expedition in the Arctic circle. In March we will be joined by Mark Staniforth, Head of Marine Science at St Mary’s Anglican Girls’ School, who will be showing us underwater footage from the school’s recent trip to the Rowley Shoals.

We have all manner of social events happening, as well as diving and dive training. In the first two months of the year we have run or are running a PADI Specialist Navigation course, PADI Rescue course, Emergency First Response course and DAN Oxygen Provider course.

The biggest event of the year so far was on Sunday 21st January we had 68 people doing a “try dive” at Mettam’s Pool in North Beach for just \$10. That was an excellent opportunity to give diving a go and we are hoping to make it an annual event with the next one probably being held in November.

For more information about the club, please check out our website which is www.uecwa.com.au. Like all good clubs, we are always keen to encourage new members to join and anybody looking for an introduction should just send an email to newmembers@uecwa.com.au

With best wishes from the UEC!

Jules

Jules Holliday
President

Underwater Explorers’ Club of WA Inc.

Congratulations Martin and Jasmine



Point Walter, 21st January 2007

Sandy Webb's Christmas adventure

Gujarat. December 2006.

Not wanting to confront Xmas without family and old friends in Delhi, we decided to step off the beaten track in India and explore the state of Gujarat. Initial goals were to see the endangered Gir lions in Sasangir, to see some of the state's famed textiles and to see some of the ancient 'water works' that can be found around the state, some dating back as far as 2,500 BC. People in the know thought we were mad to spend the holiday season there, as the state is almost totally vegetarian and prohibition is definitely enforced! However, it was a fantastic trip in every way (liver cleansing?).

We saw some lions in the crackly dry teak forests of Gir..They seemed to blend in with the pale brown grasses and leaves, and those we saw were remarkably quiet, all three having apparently recently made a kill (and in fact one was lying near the huge buffalo it had killed). We also saw elegant blackbuck with massive spiralling horns and spotted deer that fitted well with the Xmas theme. We saw blue bulls and peacocks, Hanuman's langurs and a crocodile. And on the dried out mud flats of the Little Rann of Kutch we saw huge flocks of flamingos in the sunset and some tiny wild asses.

We visited Ahmedabad's famous museum of textiles (The Calico Museum) and out in the Kutch visited several villages among the flat plains and invading thorn trees where the women create vibrant and sometimes delicate embroideries (and contribute significantly to their families' livelihoods).

We saw extraordinary evidence of people of that dry state collecting and managing water from as far back as 2,500 BC. At Lothal there is what appears to be an ancient harbour, established at bend of a long-gone river that led to the sea. In Ahmedabad and Patan we saw wonderful ornate and deep step wells dating back over 400 years. But we also saw people today living a harsh life on the salt marshes, harvesting salt.



We also saw elegant blackbuck with massive spiralling horns and spotted deer that fitted well with the Xmas theme.

One day we walked up 3,500 steps to the top of a mountain in Palitana, where an ever growing sea of Jain temples is built..Thousands of people (not all Jain, but all fairly respectful) (and donkeys) plodded up with us, but we were tempted all the way by people offering to carry us up! Looked very politically incorrect but increasingly tempting..in the end though, I did not think I could have sat cross legged on the seat, even to be carried up! We declined a walk two days later that was to have been up 10,000 steps to see another Jain sacred site..I could barely walk for days after our first effort!

One wonderful aspect of Gujarat is that as we explored we often found ourselves in the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi...The Gandhi ashram in Amedabad, by the river, felt incredibly sacred to me.... being exactly where he had been...

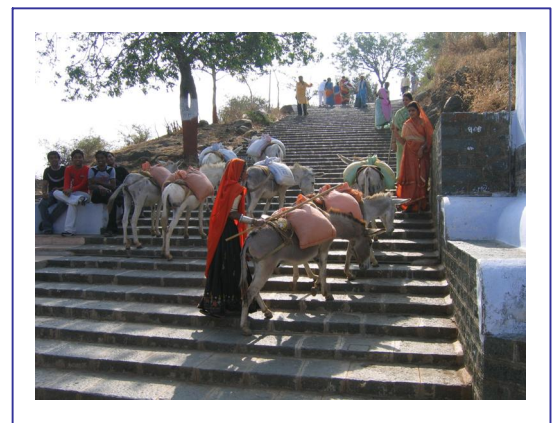
Perhaps the strangest and saddest thing we saw (in the two Maharaja's palaces we stayed in which are now quite quirky hotels, but especially in the very eery Prag Mahal Palace of Bhuj) was the very extensive evidence of mass slaughtering of the local wildlife that took place in the name of sport for the rich. Every palace was decked with tragic trophies and photographs of the hunters..but most tragic of all was the now government owned Prag Mahal..partly damaged by the devastating 2002 earthquake that killed thousands in Bhuj, but partly just being allowed to decay. It was totally ghoulish..more stuffed game than I have ever seen, rotting away on the walls, massive ornate chandeliers infested by pigeons..and open to the public for admiration?

All the way we saw the people of rural Gujarat living their lives under very difficult circumstances but with great dignity..Women in glorious sarees labouring on the roads or salt works or charcoal burners or fields. Old farmers in their pure white pleated shirts and jodphurs...and bright eyed children who did not ask for anything except to have their photos taken, and then to see the picture. Wonderful eyes lapping us up.

A small hip flask of brandy did not go far, but I drained it desperately on my birthday..hoping (paranoid me!) to kill off any bugs in the bite I had to take of a dreadful looking cream cake the travel agent surprised me with...(no ill effects).

All in all, fantastic!

Sandy



New Members' Night

Sue Knight, with help from our social butterfly Ilonka, organised an excellent evening at Rockingham on Friday 9th February.

It was a chance for new members to meet existing members and enjoy a relaxing barbecue on the foreshore at Rockingham, while waiting for the sun to set.

Once dark, the divers headed into the water to dive the Rockingham Wreck Trail.

Some of us decided to take the opportunity to relax on a warm summer's evening and keep watch until our more energetic friends emerged from the water.



Hurry up and take that photo, so we can hit the water!

left to right:

*Amanda Blanksby, Rachel Stone, Sue Knight, Steve Groen, Lawrence Billson,
David Ingram and Paul Burns*

Wild Weekend in Waychinicup

By Malcolm Roberts

Hello Happy People

The Australia Day long weekend I went with 6 friends to my 'secret' campsite on the south coast 6 hours from Perth - Waychinicup.

Having been before in the past, Mark and I went there same time last year and I shared my favourite photos with you then. This time I am sending you my favourite UNDERWATER photos. We had magic weather and the scuba gear and canoes got a workout. Low swell out in front of the rocks allowed us to dive where we had not before. Amazing marine life. The blue groper were so curious and HUGE. They swam up to us and hung around for awhile. Sad that here in WA people can legally spear them. Time we changed the law in line with other Australian states to protect these beautiful and friendly fish. Wouldn't that make a great eco-attraction - diving with Blue Groper?

We swam, hiked, paddled, dived and generally had a great time relaxing in a special place within a National Park and all the wildlife that entails.

I hope you enjoy the photos. Have a great week.

Malcolm



*Top left: Blue Groper
Right: Cuttlefish
Bottom left: Tubeworm*

Pay directly online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: **Commonwealth Bank**
 Name: **Underwater Explorers Club of WA.**
 BSB: **066136**
 Account: **00901972**

There is limited space to write what the payment is for. Please start with your name and then reason for payment.

In all cases you must email the Treasurer with the following payment information:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for (and from)
- Reason for payment, e.g. Dive Dec 4, T-shirt, etc.

Club Aims and Objectives

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self-contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedures and to acquaint both Club members and the public with the facts of safety and using safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, provide fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

Contact your Committee

President
Vice President & Fundraising
Secretary
Treasurer
Dive Co-ordinator
Boat Officer
Safety Officer
Training Co-ordinator
Social
New Members
Environment
Web & PR
Newsletter

Julian Holliday
 Rachel Stone
 Amanda Blanksby
 Clive Mitchell
 Mark Maddern
 Martin Smith
 Steve Bright
 Andrew Mingay
 Ilonka Jarvis
 Sue Knight
 Spencer Shute
 Martin Arrowsmith
 Pat Swallow

president@uecwa.com.au
vicepresident@uecwa.com.au
secretary@uecwa.com.au
treasurer@uecwa.com.au
divebookings@uecwa.com.au
boat@uecwa.com.au
safety@uecwa.com.au
training@uecwa.com.au
socialbookings@uecwa.com.au
newmembers@uecwa.com.au
environment@uecwa.com.au
webmaster@uecwa.com.au
newsletter@uecwa.com.au

Recycle your corks!

Never, ever throw a cork into landfill! Zita Dobson collects them and sends them to Guides Australia who recycle them and raise money.

Save them up and bring them to a meeting: Zita or Bob are usually there.

Next Issue:

Watch out for photos courtesy of Chris Wilkinson.

You thought we'd forgotten all about those Christmas party hats, but think again folks, they will be shown in public!

And if anyone can find a photo of the winner, Chris himself, please forward to newsletter@uecwa.com.au.



Underwater Explorers Club

Minutes of General Meeting
SYC Wednesday 17 January 2007

Apologies	Susie Ashton		Jeff Wake	Jennie Wake
	Warren Cummins	Judy Cowen	Geoff Geard	Dohn Taylor
	Andrew Mingay	Renee Barker	Terry Patmore	Chris Cunnold
	Wendy Hutchinson	Dennis Stubberfield	Jasmine Lyons	Martin Smith
	Besin Ceric			

The meeting was opened at 7.39pm.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1.0 The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Chris Wilkinson
Seconded by Rex Burke

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

2.0 None

Correspondence Inwards

- 3.0
- SPUMS 2007 Membership Renewal
 - DPI Moorings Fee Renewal
 - Letter dated 3 January 2007 from John Creswell
 - Letter dated 13 December 2007 from Department of Consumer and Employment Protection with regard to the Review of the Associations Incorporation Act 1987
 - Boat plans from DPI
 - Letter dated January 2007 from Entertainment book people

Correspondence Outwards

4.0

Nominations

- 5.0
- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| • Nathan Chappell | • Steve Groen |
| • Brendan Arrowsmith | • Vanessa Brooks (Social) |
| • Richard Arrowsmith | • Samantha Jacobs (Social) |
| • Tamara Yujnovich | • Suzanne Martlew (Social) |

New Memberships

- 6.0
- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| • Robert Bavceovich | • |
| • Briony Robinson | • Nicole Howard |
| • Paul Veder | • Wendy Poynton |
| • Michael and Lisa Smeaton | • Sharon Strawbridge |

Accepted by Belinda Palmer
Seconded by Martin Arrowsmith

Reports

7.1 President – Jules Holliday

- Has written to approximately 20 dive shops with regard to promotion of their diving goods, services and trips within the club. The letter also offers them the opportunity to place logo and weblink on our website for a small fee.
- BAD committee – meeting to be arranged for Wednesday 24 January. Names of those on the committee were read out.
- Promoted both Albany trip in March and try dive on 21 January.

7.2 Secretary – Amanda Blanksby

- Requested for membership cards to be collected.

7.3 Treasurer – Clive Mitchell

- Summary on November and December accounts were available for viewing.
- Bank balance is healthy - \$47,012.
- Had a quiet time on the bill front recently.

Accepted by Sue Knight
Seconded by Maureen Cox

7.4 Vice President and Fund Raising – Rachel Stone

- T-shirts are available for collection by those who ordered them.
- A number of email addresses are bouncing. Rachel read out the names and requested for those members, if present, to clarify their email address.

7.5 Dive Coordinator – Mark Maddern

- Will try to arrange the permits for a dive on the Saxon Ranger.
- Photography day and night dive off Rottnest are also being planned.

7.6 Environment – Spencer Shute

- Not present – no report.

7.7 New Members – Sue Knight

- New members evening planned for 9 February.
- Had 16 enquiries about the club during the past month.
- Try dive on Sunday 21 January will be a good time to encourage people to join the club.

7.8 Newsletter – Pat Swallow

- January newsletter published on 16th.
- Always looking for articles.

7.9 Web and PR – Martin Arrowsmith

- Will change website around.
- Will be setting up some form of photo page.

7.10 Safety – Steve Bright

- Has checked life jackets and there are 30 on the boat, all in good working order.
- Looking into purchasing a flotation device for DO's to wear whilst in the rubber duckie. Price ranges from \$89 to \$220.
- Provided a summary on an article published recently in the West Australian with regard to a bends victim on a 30m dive.
- Will try to arrange a talk by Robert Wong – medical director of Fremantle Hospital's diving and hyperbaric medicine department.

7.11 Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- Try dive event on 21 January – will have sausage sizzle, numbers are up to 80.
- Australia Day river cruise on 26th January – event fully booked.

7.12 Training – Andrew Mingay

- Try dive event on 21 January.
- Padi Navigation course on 27 January.
- Emergency First Response 10 February.
- Padi Rescue course 11/18 February.
- Dan O₂ Oxygen Provider course 17 February.

7.13 Boat – Martin Smith

- Not present – no report.

General Business

8.1 Annual Rottnest holiday – those going on the holiday to see Clive Cass afterwards for briefing.

8.2 Clive Cass raised concern with regard to raising money from outside of the club. It was clarified that this does not affect the club's status.

- 8.3 Solo Diving – Clive Cass presented his reasons behind wanting the club to consider solo diving. An interesting discussion followed with members voicing their opinions both for and against. Some of the comments raised were as follows:
- "Solo diving shouldn't be done in the confines of a club. Club should equal group"
 - "Great if you are wanting to do some serious photography - your buddy doesn't get bored then nor disturb the subject"
 - "If someone is suitably experienced then they can have the choice of diving with a buddy or solo"
 - "You can end up diving on your own sometimes, even though it is not intentional"
 - "You join a club when you learn to fly but flying is a solo activity"
 - "May need to specify extra gear for solo diving in case there were problems"
 - "What about the social/legal implications, duty of care?"
 - "Padi have a balanced view on the issue with it being acceptable as long as you have the appropriate back-up gear"
 - "Club may not be able to officially promote it, but may be able to set guidelines"
- A forum to be set up on the website for members to publish further comments. Committee to think about the issue further at the next committee meeting.
- 8.4 Creswell affair – Jules explained current situation, with the committee's aim to bring the matter to a close. Letter sent to Creswell's lawyers, was available for members to read.
- 8.5 Corks – Zita Dobson reminded everyone to bring in their corks as she collects them for the Guides Australia.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25 pm. Following the general meeting Malcolm Roberts gave a slide show presentation on his trip to Europe and in particular Svalbard region of Norway.

The next general meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st February at 7.30 pm, at Swan Yacht Club. The meeting will be held downstairs in the alfresco area, given that there is the half yearly AGM for the SYC upstairs.

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Jules Holliday
(Chairman)

UEC Minutes of Meetings



Underwater Explorers Club Minutes of Committee Management Meeting SYC Monday 8 January

Present:				
Chairman:	Jules Holliday			
Committee:	Amanda Blanksby	Clive Mitchell	Rachel Stone	Mark Maddern
	Pat Swallow	Ilonka Jarvis	Sue Knight	Steve Bright
	Martin Smith			
Members:	Dennis Stubberfield (part of meeting)	Maree Casley (part of meeting)		
Apologies	Spencer Shute	Martin Arrowsmith	Andrew Mingay	

The meeting was opened at 7.05pm

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the executive committee meeting dated 10 December 2006 were circulated and accepted as a true record. **Action**

Accepted by Sue Knight
Seconded by Ilonka Jarvis

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- Discussed during progress of the meeting

Correspondence Inwards

- SPUMS 2007 Membership Renewal
- DPI Moorings Fee Renewal
- Letter dated 5 December 2006 from Leask & Co
- Letter dated 3 January 2007 from John Creswell
- Letter dated 13 December 2007 from Department of Consumer and Employment Protection with regard to the Review of the Associations Incorporation Act 1987
- Boat plans from DPI

Correspondence Outwards

- None

Nominations

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| • Nathan Chappell | • Richard Arrowsmith |
| • Brendan Arrowsmith | • Tamara Yujnovich |

New Memberships

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| • Lisa Smeaton | • Nicole Howard |
| • Mike Smeaton | • Robert Bavceovich |
| • Wendy Poynton | • Briony Robinson |
| • Sharon Strawbridge | • Paul Veder |

Accepted by Mark Maddern
Seconded by Sue Knight

Reports**President** – Jules Holliday

- No specific report

Action

•

Secretary – Amanda Blanksby

- No specific report

•

Treasurer – Clive Mitchell

- Tabled account summary for November and December. All bills received to date have been paid.
- Plans to keep the books balanced.

Accepted by Mark Maddern
Seconded by Rachel Stone

Vice President and Fundraising – Rachel Stone

- Usual fundraising events planned throughout the year- wine, chocolate frogs, hats, calendars, cards, and bomber jackets.
- Rachel is researching options for the wine – mixed dozen a possibility.
- Letter to dive shops – Jules to finalise.
- Clive to be the dive shop contact and will read out promotions at the general meetings.

Jules
Clive

Dive Coordinator – Mark Maddern

- Will try to have the boat full one day at the weekend and provide a balance between single and double dives.
- Photography / deep dive / (and even possibly spear fishing) days to be organised.
- Agreed to reimburse mobile phone expenses.
- Rachel to finalise research on actual cost of diving using the boat.
- Dive trips to be organised down to Albany over long weekend in March and June.

Mark
Rachel
Jules

Environment – Spencer Shute

- Aiming to write some science articles.
- Will organise coral survey.
- Will hopefully organise Rottneest clean-up dive of some form.

New Members – Sue Knight

- To arrange a new members river cruise on 9th February. BYO and event will be free.

Sue / Mark

Newsletter – Pat Swallow

- Will aim to improve the newsletter month by month.

Web and PR – Martin Arrowsmith

- Agreed to remove the Bulletin Board from the website. It was not being kept up-to-date.
- Agreed to remove the training page on the website. Information on training courses to be included in Thursday email and newsletter.
- Snapfish not to be used as a method of viewing photos. Martin to review other options.

Martin A
Martin A
Martin A

Safety – Steve Bright

- Aims to increase people's awareness of the safety features on the boat, and to encourage proper buddy checks.
- Will present articles on safety issues at the general meetings.
- Steve to prepare a proposal to purchase a floatation device to be used by DO's in the rubber duckie and present at next committee meeting.

Steve

Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- Skyshow for Australia Day – need to finalise arrangements. 5pm start from SYC, no collecting of people along the way. Cost \$30.
- Ilonka to sort out catering.
- Mark to finalise on crew for the day.
- Planned BBQ before general meeting on 17th Jan to be rearranged.
- Trots night – Pat to see if she can get a discount.

Ilonka
Mark
Pat

Training – Andrew Mingay

- Renee to organise try dive on 21 January.
- Various courses planned – PADI navigation, PADI rescue, emergency first response and DAN 02 Oxygen Provider.

Action

Boat – Martin Smith

- Minor welding repairs completed and the anchor has been straightened.
- Important to discuss the financial aspects of the boat at the sub-committee.
- Will hold a boat busy-bee on 3rd February after the dive.

Martin S

General Business**Creswell**

- Jules circulated draft letter to Leask & Co before meeting for comment. Letter approved at meeting. Letter to be posted 9th January.
- Agreed on procedure at meetings if any issues occur.

Lawyer Fees for Chris Cunnold

- Jules confirmed he decided not to send letter as previously agreed at meeting on 10th December. Instead he did request for the information verbally.
- Agreed letter to be issued asap.
- Jules read draft letter to committee and contents were agreed.

Amanda

Skipper Training

- Dennis to organise. He explained what, when and how he intended to run the skipper training.
- Various prerequisites for potential skippers, need to be active members, already completed RST and also be committed from now until end of April.
- Dennis also commented on some maintenance issues with the boat.
- Discussed refresher training for existing skippers. Agreed to discuss further at next committee meeting along with DO training.
- Names of possible candidates for skipper training discussed. Rachel to check on their availability and commitment. Maximum number 4 to 5 only.

Rachel

Boat Maintenance Issues

- Dennis noted that the linkages to the gearbox on the boat were not functioning adequately. Agreed to discuss further at the BAD committee meeting.
- The shock absorbers on the berthing lines require pen weights. Martin to action.
- Dennis also mentioned that SYC might undertake a compliance check on the boat.

Martin S

Chasing Membership Payments

- Clive to prepare letter to all those previous members who haven't paid, once he obtains 2006 financial records from Wendy.

Clive

Membership List Server

- Cannot arrange this.
- Rachel to maintain master email list. Any changes to emails all committee members to ensure Rachel is informed.

Rachel

Solo Diving

- Will request Clive Cass to raise at next general meeting and get feedback from members.

ASU Liaison

- Rachel volunteered to be the ASU liaison person.

Distribution of Committee Meeting Minutes

- Agreed to include in the newsletter.

SYC Liaison

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| • Jules, Amanda, Clive and Rachel had a meeting with SYC before the committee meeting. Jules gave summary of meeting. | Action |
| • Clive to check to on SYC membership. | Clive |
| • Jules to provide monthly article for Cygnet. | Jules |
| • Agreed to participate in SYC sail pass on 19 May and the blind fishing day in March. Mark to include in dive calendar. | Mark |
| • Pat to provide SYC with copy of newsletter. | Pat |
| • Martin S agreed to be SYC liaison person. Contact person at SYC is Eddie Lynch. | |

BAD Committee

- Those agreed to be on the committee to be read out at next general meeting.
- Date of first meeting to be advised in due course.

Any Other Business

UEC Property

- | | |
|--|----------|
| • Martin S to collect boat parts from Clive and Rachel and determine what should be kept. Try to sell anything that is not needed. | Martin S |
| • Martin S to chat to Rex to see if he has any storage areas available. | Martin S |
| • Martin S to collect dive club records from Belinda if storage area is available. | Martin S |

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.35pm.

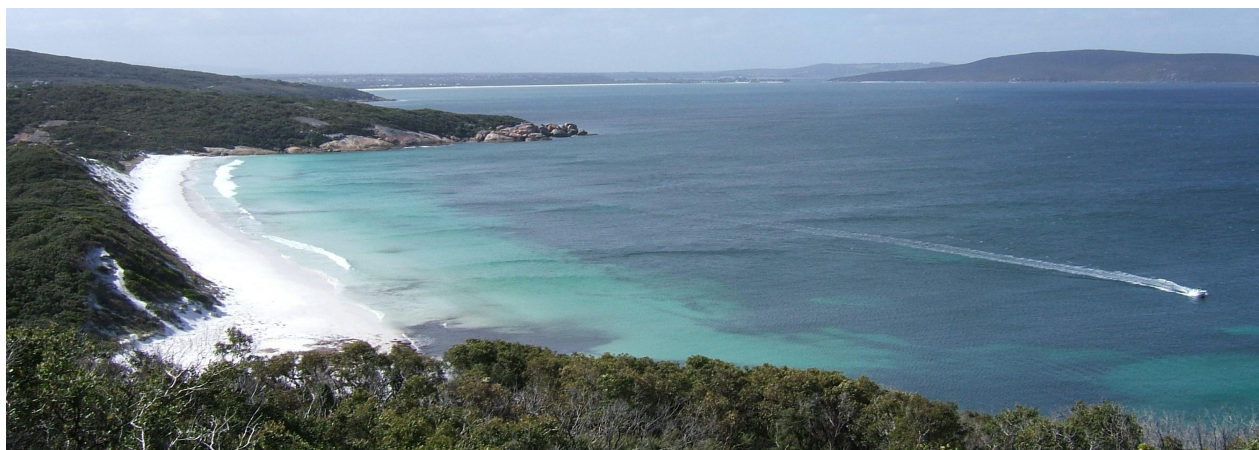
The next committee meeting to be held on Monday 5 February 2007 at 7:00 pm in the boardroom at SYC. Given there is no food served at SYC on Monday, remember to bring along some food (maybe able to BBQ).

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Jules Holliday
(Chairman)



March 2007 Newsletter



*Come and enjoy diving in the pristine waters off Albany.
More information in Jules' report below.*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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- 5** Environmental report
- 6** "Voices on the River" –
Have you a story to tell?
- 7** Rottneest holiday 2007
- 10** 2006 Christmas party
hats
- 12** Bowling social night
- 13** Pay directly on line,
Club aims and objectives,
Contact your Committee
- 14** Recycle your corks,
and Torch information
- 15** Minutes of Meetings

President's Report

By Jules Holliday

Dear Members

Quite a lot has happened since the last newsletter, including the very successful annual Rottneest holiday, which by all accounts was rather fun. Our thanks go to Clive Cass for organising that, and Clive will be letting us know what we need to do to book for next year later in this newsletter.

Dive Trips

The March trip to Albany did go ahead in spite of the fact it coincided with the UEC Rotto holiday. In total we had 11 divers making the trip over the holiday weekend in March and it was extremely enjoyable with 5 excellent dives in total.

I am hopeful that one of the participants will be able to show some of the photos of the trip on our website, because the first one on the seal colony in particular was great fun. It involved a 30m dive to look at the Gorgonian Fan coral followed by playing with the Australian fur seals for a good 20 minutes in about 2-5m of water - if you have never done this, I can recommend it because they are extremely playful and inquisitive animals.

President's report continued

After that, we did a penetration dive on the now infamous “Caves of Death”, 25m down, which is a granite formation with some extremely tight swim-throughs. The night dive that evening was on the HMAS Perth, and then the two Sunday dives were on “Five Fingers” at about 30m followed by the wreck of Cheynes III.

I have to say that Albany offers some of the best dives I have ever done and it is definitely worth trying if you have never done it. With the two trips we have made over the last 5 months, we have had 21 divers discover Albany for the first time and I think all of them would be very positive about it.

A more hardcore version of the trip is going ahead in the first week of June and details are also provided in this newsletter ([click here](#)). The diving planned for this one should be in Two Peoples Bay which I am told makes the rest of Albany seem like diving in a swimming pool!!

Please email me at president@uecwa.com.au if you would like to come, and the closing date is by mid-April. Full details, as ever, are on the website courtesy of Martin Arrowsmith.

Dive Holidays

Unfortunately, given the political situation in East Timor, Carl Wheeler has decided that this trip should be postponed until such time as it becomes safe to travel there again. I would like to thank Carl for trying to get this one off the ground - without people volunteering to organise things in a club like ours, nothing would ever be done and it is worth bearing that in mind!

We have no other plans as yet to organise another UEC dive holiday but, if anybody else has any suggestions or is willing to put one together and lead it, please let me know as soon as you can and we will promote it.

The general deal with dive holidays is that the UEC does try and make some money out of them, based on the fact that group deals generally carry a discount. Some of that discount is anticipated to be put back to the members and some of it goes to those who organise it which, in some cases, will be the UEC.

This October one of our new members is putting together a trip to Christmas Island which has some excellent diving. Details will be made available on a link to our website. Mark “Wal” Walawski does these trips on an annual basis and he can be contacted at walabydv@bigpond.net.au.

While there is no financial benefit going to the Club from this trip, we do try and encourage members to explore the underwater world whenever they can, and part of the problem is always finding the time and energy to create something and run with it. Therefore, if anybody like Wal does want to promote a trip which they are making, please feel free to contact me and we can promote it. Part of the reason the UEC was formed way back when was to discover new diving areas and I think we should really do all we can to foster that.

Dive Training

February was a big month for training and we completed an Emergency First Response course, a PADI Rescue course and a DAN O2 Oxygen provider course. All of these courses were well-attended and that is great to see.

President's report continued

Congratulations to the following members who qualified at varying levels:

Rescue Diver:

Renee Barker, Ian and Helen Barcham, Paul and Debbie Stewart, Lawrence Billson, David Morley, David James, Alan Rudland and Tom Bassett

Emergency First Response:

Ilonka Jarvis, Renee Barker, Tom and Dorothea Bassett, Ian and Helen Barcham, Paul and Debbie Stewart, Lawrence Billson and Alan Rudland.

DAN O2 Provider:

Lawrence Billson, Jeff Wake, Renee Barker and Mark Maddern.

Obviously the more people we have in the club who are trained to deal with emergencies, the better it is for all of us so we very much encourage participation!

Social Activities

I don't want to steal Ilonka's thunder but I do know there is quite a lot going on over the next couple of months including a new members' night on the boat on Friday 23rd.

We are planning a big Christmas in July dinner which will be the July meeting and this is designed to be a party as well as a fundraiser so we can keep Rachel happy. Bear in mind that we do have plans to buy a new boat so the more people who come along, the more likely that new boat will become a reality!

I should also mention that we have been toying with the idea of a Ball but have decided that this should happen to mark our 55th Anniversary as a club. It will not therefore be happening in the next couple of years.

Bear in mind, ladies and gentlemen, that the water is still warm and conditions are ideal for diving right now - it was a tropical 23 degrees in the river this afternoon and Rotto is between 20 and 21. Now is the time to take that dive you have been planning on taking all year and I know that Mark as Dive Officer is just dying to hear from you!

Best

Jules

President

UECWA

Training Report

By UEC Training Officer, Andrew Mingay

G'day All,

Why not grab this opportunity to become an Advanced PADI Diver -

Advanced Course
18th, 20th, 21st and 23rd April 2007

Wednesday 18 th April	Theory evening at the Swan Yacht Club
Saturday 20 th April	Practical - location TBA
Sunday 21 st April	Practical - location TBA
Tuesday 23 rd April	Night dive - location TBA

Cost \$175

**All places must be booked by 31st March 2007
with payment in full by this date.**

For further information and where to make your payment, contact Andrew at training@uecwa.com.au or 0429 205 208.

I'm also pleased to report that the Club ran some very successful courses last month, with several Club members completing their EFR, Rescue and DAN 02 courses. Its great to see more experienced divers in the Club, with a safer outlook on diving.

Finally, I was very happy to see many of you down in Albany - it was fantastic diving and I'm already looking forward to the June trip - it should be awesome! Look forward to seeing you there.

Cheers,

Andrew

This is your chance to improve your scuba diving skills.

Why not ask Andrew about a course to suit your needs?

Or, why not become a Dive Officer?

Contact Andrew for more information.

Environmental Report

By Spencer Shute

I thought Club members would enjoy reading this write-up of the UEC 2006 coral survey.

Spence

An extract from Cockburn Sound Management Council's

Sound News, February 2007

Coral in Cockburn Sound

A survey of coral in Cockburn Sound took place during 2006. Approximately 50 hard coral colonies were identified at two separate dive sites, representing a number of species within two families of coral. This survey was a joint initiative of the Swan Catchment Council (SCC) and the Cockburn Sound Management Council (CSMC) and aimed to provide an indication of the presence and diversity of corals in Cockburn Sound, as well as increase community awareness of the marine ecology of the area.

The survey was initiated by CSMC Community Member John Polglaze, who was intrigued by studies undertaken in the 1970s that identified coral at various locations in the Sound. He was also interested in involving community members in environmental monitoring programs.

The coral survey was carried out by the Underwater Explorers Club (UEC), a large recreational dive club based in the Perth Metropolitan area, and it involved a group of 10 divers searching for coral at two targeted sites. A report was then prepared that discusses abundance, size and types of hard coral present at the sites visited

Corals are sensitive to water temperature changes (e.g. coral bleaching), smothering by small algae, nutrient enrichment and turbidity. Monitoring for coral presence over time may provide useful information on the health of Cockburn Sound and give an early warning of change.

For more information on the Cockburn Sound Coral Survey contact Craig Wilson on 9439 0433. The Coral Survey report and a poster displaying the major types of coral found during the survey are also available from the CSMC office.

A copy of the February edition of Sound News, together with photos, can be found [here](#).

Have you an interesting story to share about the Swan or Canning Rivers?

Reproduced below is a copy of an email from Emma Ligtermoet, who is looking for interesting stories from rivers users to include in her forthcoming book.

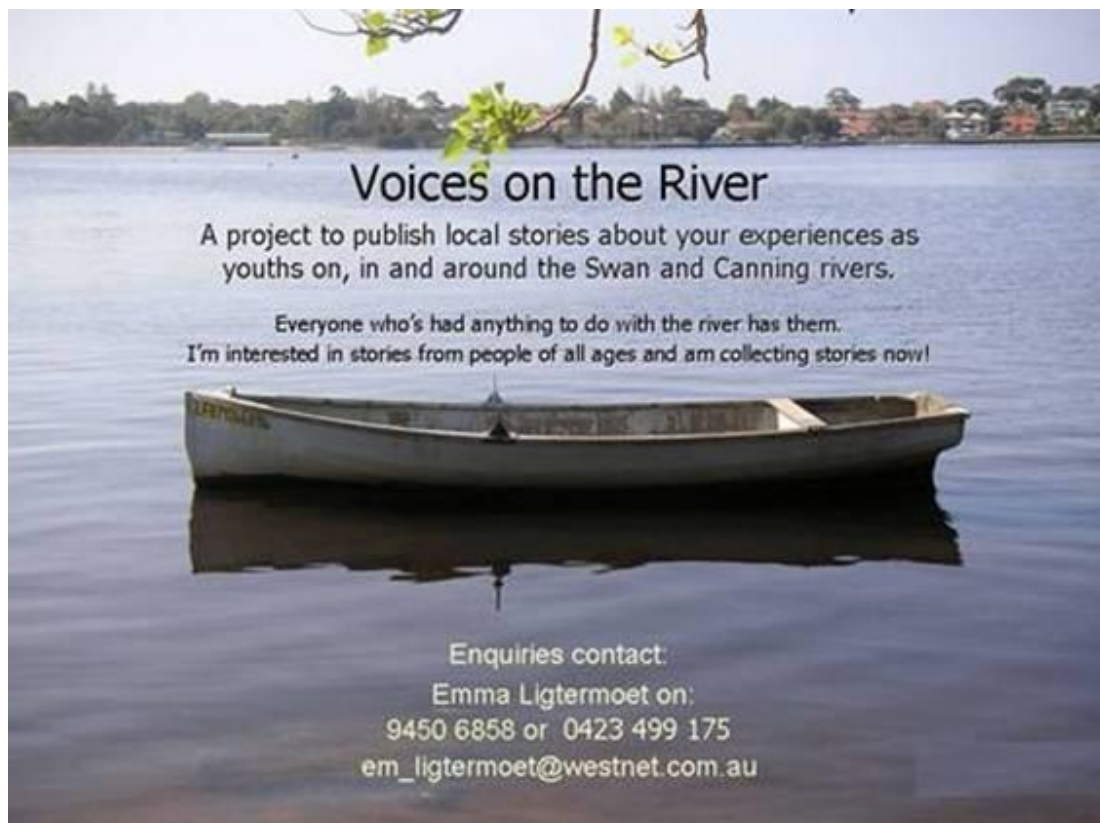
As significant river users I hope your clubs and organizations may be able to assist me in my project. I am targeting user groups such as the sea scouts, the yacht clubs, the divers and rowers among others.

I recently received a Spark Fund grant from The Foundation for Young Australians to gather stories from people of all ages, on their personal adventures or experiences on the Swan and Canning Rivers. This is the “Voices on the River” project.

I would love to hear, from children through to older people, what you enjoy/ed doing in relation to the river, particularly when you were young. For example any adventures had or recollections you may have on, or around the river, or equally what the children of today enjoy doing! By collecting stories from people of a range of ages I hope to see how river experiences and activities have changed, or stayed the same, with time. I hope to publish these stories into a collection for all Perth residents who enjoy the river. The River is a unique and much loved feature of the Perth landscape and features significantly in the lifestyle of many people. It is an opportunity to share stories and celebrate the river!

To contribute people can contact me individually by phone or email (please see details below) and I will be collecting stories up until Winter 2007. I am also happy to come and speak with any groups who may be interested in sharing their stories (eg the sea scouts). If you would like any fliers to distribute around your club centres please just let me know!

Kind regards,
Emma Ligtermoet Em_ligtermoet@westnet.com.au
0423 499 175 or 9450 6858



Rottnest Holiday 2007

Judging by the photos taken by Sue Knight and Clive Cass it looks like a great time was had by all those who managed to book on this year's Rotto holiday.



Carmine taking Carol to the General store to swap for a bottle of expensive wine?

Photo Clive Cass

Bob and Zita have to contend with lots of people queuing for chalets for next year. Fortunately this year the weather was quite favourable.

Photo Clive Cass



First one for the weekend!

Photo Sue Knight

Rottnest Holiday 2007



Flat Top Resident

Photo Sue Knight

The Weekend Mob!

Photo Sue Knight





Rottnest's superb sunsets – photos by Sue and Clive



***Stop press..... Quick, grab your spot for next year's Rottnest holiday.
Clive has released details for the 2008 week, and long weekend.
Click [here](#) for further details.***

2006 Christmas Party Hat Competition

It might seem a while ago now, but we really couldn't let such a great occasion go by unrecorded; so here, dear Members, are some photos to make you smile.



And the winner is...
Jellyfish-man
aka Chris Wilkinson



Chris's photo taken by Ilonka Jarvis, all other photos courtesy of Chris Wilkinson

More Party Hats

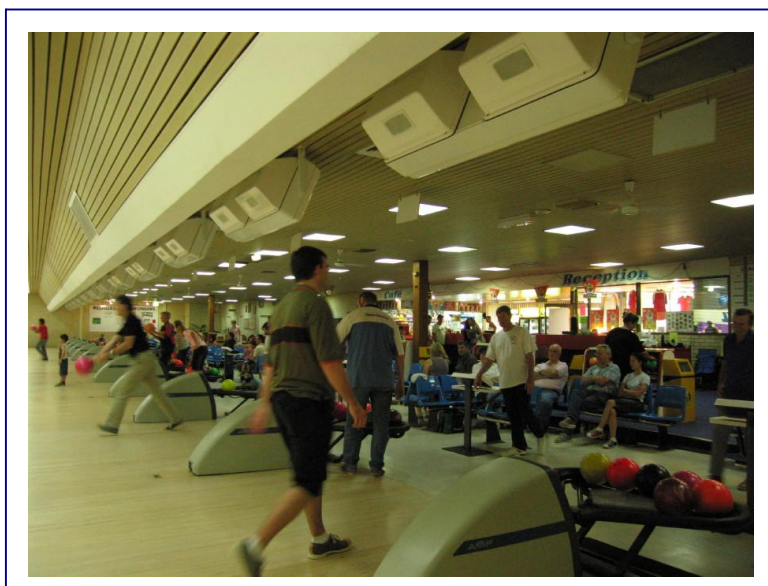


Social Report

Photos Ilonka Jarvis

Our very own social butterfly, Ilonka, put together another excellent social get-together on Saturday evening 17th March.

This time, we headed to Melville Ten Pin Bowling Alley for a fun time, trying our very best to keep our balls going straight, and knock down those sticky pins for an illusive strike or spare!



After working up an appetite, we headed downstairs for a sumptuous Indian smorgasbord at the local Indian restaurant. The perfect finish to a great evening.

Make sure you book on Ilonka's next social event, as you can be sure to have a good time.

Pay directly online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: **Commonwealth Bank**
 Name: **Underwater Explorers Club of WA.**
 BSB: **066136**
 Account: **00901972**

There is limited space to write what the payment is for. Please start with your name and then reason for payment.

In all cases you must email the Treasurer with the following payment information:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for (and from)
- Reason for payment, e.g. Dive Dec 4, T-shirt, etc.

Club Aims and Objectives

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self-contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedures and to acquaint both Club members and the public with the facts of safety and using safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, provide fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

Contact your Committee

President

Vice President & Fundraising

Secretary

Treasurer

Dive Co-ordinator

Boat Officer

Safety Officer

Training Co-ordinator

Social

New Members

Environment

Web & PR

Newsletter

Julian Holliday

Rachel Stone

Amanda Blanksby

Clive Mitchell

Mark Maddern

Martin Smith

Steve Bright

Andrew Mingay

Ilonka Jarvis

Sue Knight

Spencer Shute

Martin Arrowsmith

Pat Swallow

president@uecwa.com.au

vicepresident@uecwa.com.au

secretary@uecwa.com.au

treasurer@uecwa.com.au

divebookings@uecwa.com.au

boat@uecwa.com.au

safety@uecwa.com.au

training@uecwa.com.au

socialbookings@uecwa.com.au

newmembers@uecwa.com.au

environment@uecwa.com.au

webmaster@uecwa.com.au

newsletter@uecwa.com.au

Are you left in the DARK on night dives?

Underwater Kinetics LED Torches

are the answer and are available to UEC members at discount prices

Check them out in detail [HERE](#) and e-mail [Chris](#) to order or for more info.

UK Mini Q40 2w eLED plus - \$80 or UK SL4 eLED plus - \$115
or UK SL6 - \$80 or UK C4 eLED - \$160 or UK C8 eLED plus -
\$200 or an

UK HID Light Cannon (on request) or upgrade with a UK Mini
Q40 1w LED upgrade globe - \$38

Recycle your corks!

Never, ever throw a cork into landfill! Zita Dobson collects them and sends them to Guides Australia who recycle them and raise money.

Save them up and bring them to a meeting: Zita or Bob are usually there.



Underwater Explorers Club
 Minutes of General Meeting
 Swan Yacht Club Wednesday 21 February 2007

Apologies	Jules Holliday Bob Dobson Judy Cowen	Carmine Travaglione Maureen Cox Spencer Shute	Carol Travaglione Mark Maddern	Jeff Wake Pat Troy
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The meeting was opened at 7.32pm

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 1.0 The minutes of the previous meeting were included in February's newsletter, of which some copies were tabled. These were accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Andrew Mingay
 Seconded by Sue Knight

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- 2.0 None

Correspondence Inwards

- 3.0
- Commonwealth Bank Statement
 - SPUMS Journal
 - DOCEP Certificate of Incorporation
 - Email from Chris Cunnold attaching an invoice from Anthony Torre and Monaco
 - Letter from Australian Tax Office with regard to registration of online lodgement of BAS
 - Cadbury's fundraising chocolate flyer
 - Dive and Travel Expo in Thailand

Correspondence Outwards

- 4.0
- Letter to Anthony Torre and Monaco dated 6 February 2007

Nominations

- 5.0 The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fees in advance:
- Sandra Spinley (Social)
 - Peter Murphy
 - Kerryn Mason
 - Leo Nicolao

New Memberships

- 6.0 There has been no objection from club members to the following people becoming a member of the UEC:
- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Nathan Chappell | • Steve Groen |
| • Brendan Arrowsmith | • Suzanne Martlew (Social) |
| • Richard Arrowsmith | • Samantha Jacobs (Social) |
| • Robyn Spinley | • Vanessa Brooks (Social) |
| • Doug Spinley (Social) | • Mark Potten |
| • Anthony Spinley | • Sarah Potten |
| • Andrew Noordzy | • David Ingram |
| • Katherine Noordzy (Social) | |

Accepted by Paul Burns
 Seconded by Andrew Burkhill

Reports

- 7.1 **President** – Jules Holliday
- Not present – no report.
- 7.2 **Secretary** – «GreetingLine»
- Has a number of Coral Survey posters available if anyone knows of a suitable place to display them.
 - Membership cards available for collection.

7.3 Treasurer – Clive Mitchell

- \$53,000 in bank balance. Lots of outstanding expenses though in relation to boat maintenance and payment for the accommodation for 2008 Rottneest holiday.

Accepted by Dohn Taylor
Seconded by Bruce Fielding

7.4 Vice President and Fund Raising – Rachel Stone

- Try dive event was a huge success. Had 62 people attend. Rachel thanked Renee Barker for her hard work in organising the event.
- Various spare masks, snorkels and one pocket weight belt were left behind. If anyone is missing them, contact Rachel.
- Avon Descent – rescue training at Collie over weekend of 10/11th March. Sue Knight explained what the weekend involved. Good weekend for rescue training in warm weather and with flowing water.
- Looking for volunteers for the rescue aspect of the Avon Descent. Anyone interested contact Rachel.
- Will organise, in the near future, a batch of jackets and beanies with UEC logos printed on them.
- Plugged the offers from various dive shops currently available to UEC members.
- Clive Cass has dust caps for sale with the UEC logo printed on them. \$6 each.
- A big thank you was given to Martin Smith, Pat Troy, Peter Horton, Adrian Taylor, Ilonka Jarvis, Rex Burke, Malcolm Roberts, Steve Bright, Dennis Stubberfield, Carmine Travaglione, Jasmine Smith, Jeff and Jenni Wake, Clive Cass, Mark Maddern, Chris Cunnold, Clive Mitchell and Rachel Stone for donating their time and effort to assist with the recent maintenance of the boat.

7.5 Boat – Martin Smith

- Martin thanked Rachel Stone and Clive Mitchell for all their organising assistance and Peter Horton, Adrian Taylor and Pat Troy who spent lots of time last week working to get the boat up and running again.
- Boat is now going well and ready for the Rottneest holiday.

7.6 Dive Coordinator – Mark Maddern

- Not present – Rachel read his report.
- Night dive at Rockingham wreck trail was a success with 12 divers participating and others coming along for abit of socialising.
- Shore dive Saturday 24 February 2007, Boy in a Boat reef at Hillarys Boat Harbour.

7.7 Environment – Spencer Shute

- Spencer not present.
- Coral survey on 31st March – 7 places available to UEC members, contact Spencer for more info.
- Anyone with sea grass planting experience to contact Spencer.

7.8 New Members – Sue Knight

- Keeping track of new members.
- New members event down at Rockingham was successful, enabling them to meet committee members and get to know other people in the club.

7.9 Newsletter – Pat Swallow

- February's newsletter has been published.
- Had an article written by Jules, published in 'Making Waves', Yachting WA's newsletter.
- Had an article in the Stirling Times about the try dive event.

7.10 Web and PR – Martin Arrowsmith

- Homepage has been changed to include dive shop logos. Removed the scrolling text.
- Decided to retain bulletin board. Members requested to emails anything to Martin for the bulletin board.
- Requested for photos to put on the various pages of the website. Will swap them over on a frequent basis. If the files are large best to put them on a disc as Martin has limited download capacity on his personal Internet connection.
- The calendar page has attracted the most hits in recent months.

7.11 Safety – Steve Bright

- Thanks to Mark Maddern and Clive Cass for checking the O₂ cylinder and to Rachel Stone for arranging to fill it.
- Has arranged a talk for the July general meeting by Dr Ian Dey from the Fremantle Hospital's Diving and Hyperbaric Medical Unit.
- Reminded people of the importance of doing buddy checks before entering the water.
- Also important to remain as a buddy pair underwater, given recent diving incident at Rottnest.

7.12 Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- The Australia Day fireworks social event was a good fun on one of the hottest days of the year so far. Thanks to all those who helped out.
- Next social event will be ten-pin bowling and curry evening on Saturday 17 March.

7.13 Training – Andrew Mingay

- There has been lots of training recently with 9 members doing Padi Rescue and EFR course, and 5 doing the Dan O₂ course. Certificates will be available next month.
- A weekend of advanced diving in Lake Stockton is planned for 24/25 March – see weekly email for further details.
- UEC does not endorse solo diving. The policy for buddy diving still remains.
- There is one spot remaining on the Albany trip over long weekend at beginning of March. Another similar trip has been arranged for the long weekend in early June.
- Requested for people to provide mobile phone contact numbers when booking on training courses.

General Business

- 8.1 Members were reminded of the East Timor trip in November. Contact Carl Wheeler for more information.
- 8.2 Some members showed interest in a Spearfishing day.
- 8.3 Zita Dobson had 4 tanks shoes going free.
- 8.4 Steve Mitchell mentioned that the cost of dive tanks and valves was likely to rise in the near future due to shortages in supply.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

The next general meeting will be held on Wednesday 21 March at 7.30 pm

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Rachel Stone
(Chairperson)



Underwater Explorers Club

Minutes of Committee Management

Meeting

SYC Monday 5 February 2007

Present:

Chairperson:	Rachel Stone			
Committee:	«GreetingLine»	Clive Mitchell	Jules Holliday (part of meeting)	Mark Maddern
	Andrew Mingay	Ilonka Jarvis	Martin Smith	Steve Bright
	Spencer Shute	Pat Swallow		
Members:	None			
Apologies	Martin Arrowsmith	Sue Knight		

The meeting was opened at 7.25pm

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the executive committee meeting dated 8 January 2007 were circulated and accepted as a true record. **Action**

Accepted by Pat Swallow
Seconded by Mark Maddern

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- Discussed during progress of the meeting.

Correspondence Inwards

- Commonwealth Bank Statement
- SPUMS Journal
- DOCEP Certificate of Incorporation
- Email from Chris Cunnold attaching an invoice from Anthony Torre and Monaco

Correspondence Outwards

- Letter dated 9 January 2007 to Leask & Co
- Letter dated 10 January 2007 to Chris Cunnold
- Letter dated 13 January 2007 to various dive shops in Perth and southern WA area.

Nominations

- Sandra Spinley (Social)
- Peter Murphy
- Kerryn Mason
- Leo Nicolao

New Memberships

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathan Chappell • Brendan Arrowsmith • Richard Arrowsmith • Robyn Spinley • Doug Spinley (Social) • Anthony Spinley • Andrew Noordzy • Katherine Noordzy (Social) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Groen • Suzanne Martlew (Social) • Samantha Jacobs (Social) • Vanessa Brooks (Social) • Mark Potten • Sarah Potten • David Ingram |
|--|---|

Accepted by Steve Bright
Seconded by Andrew Mingay

Reports

President – Jules Holliday

- Not present until later on – no report

Secretary – Amanda Blanksby

- Revamped membership form, it was tabled for discussion and further amendments noted. Amanda to finalise and email to relevant people. Martin A to update on website.
- Mark raised issue with regard to requesting both nomination and membership fees at same time and that some newcomers may be put off by this arrangement.
- After some discussion it was agreed to revert back to the previous arrangement where newcomers will only be charged the nomination fee initially. Membership fees are then paid if they are keen to join, but will not be requested at the same time as nomination.
- Will need abit more coordination between Amanda, Clive, Sue and Mark.
- If person doing nomination dive is clearly not going to join the club then this should be written on the form.
- Only when membership fee has been paid will the person's name be put on the new membership list and included in weekly email two weeks before the committee meeting.
- Sue to ensure that newcomers are made aware of the social membership at the SYC and parking pass provided with membership.
- Status of amended membership system and DPI requirements to be reviewed. It is important to ensure newcomers complete membership form before their first dive trip.

Action

Amanda, Martin A

Amanda, Clive, Sue,
Mark

Sue

Treasurer – Clive Mitchell

- Current balance is \$53,500.
- Some cheques are outstanding.

Vice President and Fundraising – Rachel Stone

- Two t-shirts still to be collected. If not collected by next general meeting, will resell them.

Dive Coordinator – Mark Maddern

- Dive on 4 February was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.
- 12 people have signed up for Friday night dive in Rockingham.
- Undertaken some research on the permits for Saxon Ranger, \$25 for 4 divers. Looking into mooring arrangements at the wreck.
- The distance from Fremantle is similar to going out to West Patch on west side of Rottnest.
- May try to arrange trip once every 6 to 8 weeks.

Environment – Spencer Shute

- Prepared article for February's newsletter.
- Requested for people who have experience in sea grass planting in Cockburn Sounds to contact him. Rachel to put in weekly email.
- Tabled posters from 2006 Coral Survey. Amanda has them if anyone wanted to put them up somewhere.
- 2007 coral survey on Saturday 31 March. Seven places available for UEC, on first come first served basis. Pick-up / drop-off in Fremantle. Free for members.
- Some future federal funding may be available for future coral surveys – Spence to investigate further.
- Contacted relevant person at Rottnest Island Authority with regards to a dive clean up but has had no reply so far.

Spence, Rachel

Spence

New Members – Sue Knight

- Had six enquiries recently, is following up.

Newsletter – Pat Swallow

- Requested articles for February's newsletter by 12th at latest.
- Jules mentioned the Bunbury Coastal Dive festival. Pat to include in newsletter.

Web and PR – Martin Arrowsmith

- Not present – no report.

Safety – Steve Bright

- Arranged for Dr Ian Dey from Fremantle Hospital's Diving and Hyperbaric Medical Unit to give a talk on 18 July 2007.
- Projector to be organised for talk – see general business below.
- Selected a suitable floatation device – cost \$189. To check if can get cheaper via website recommended by Dennis. Will then order including a spare cylinder.
- Had a general discussion on use of rubber duckie to collect people.
- Discussed recent case where a diver was spear fishing on boat. Agreed to not allow spear fishing off boat.

Steve

Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skyshow trip was a big success. • No social event arranged for February given Rottneest holiday. • Will organise ten-pin bowling for March social event, possibly on 10 March. • Looked into organising an evening of lawn bowls. \$10/head, free use of BBQ. Will book for sometime in May. • Curry night – Rachel and Malcolm to organise. • Possible Bremer Bay trip for Easter. Mark to find out details from Wendy. | <p>Action</p> <p>Ilonka
Ilonka</p> <p>Mark</p> |
|---|---|

Training – Andrew Mingay

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training courses are going well. • Try dive was very successful. Official letter of thanks to Renee for organising the try dive to be prepared. Will include dive in lieu voucher. Amanda to action. • Jules noted that a number of dive shops have expressed interest in getting involved with the next try dive. Possibly organise one in November. | <p>Amanda</p> |
|---|---------------|

Boat – Martin Smith

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat will be out of water on Wednesday 7th for maintenance and inspection of legs. • Price for replacement of transom assembly – just under \$3800 per leg. Supplier has two available if required. • Will get legs serviced including shift gear lever and transfer box, if no other problems are evident after lifting from boat. • Already purchased parts for gear control unit and new cables. • Plan is to have boat back in water for Rottneest holiday. • Volunteers required for Saturday and Sunday. Rachel to include in weekly email. • Amanda to get concrete for pen weights. | <p>Rachel
Amanda</p> |
|--|--------------------------|

General Business**Creswell Affair**

- A settlement has been reached out of court between John Creswell and Chris Cunnold with regard to violence restraining order.
- Received lawyers invoice for \$652 and committee agreed to pay.

SYC

- Received no formal correspondence from SYC with regard to membership.
- Agreed to offer reciprocal membership to SYC members, similar to MUD. Normal boat diving fees apply.
- Received no further information on the blind fishing day to be held in March.

Solo Diving

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After some discussion, it was agreed that the committee's viewpoint was to retain the current policy on buddy diving, and encourage members to follow the buddy system. • Information to be put in newsletter. | <p>Jules</p> |
|---|--------------|

Business Cards

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel offered to prepare business cards, both paper ones and fridge magnets. | <p>Rachel</p> |
|---|---------------|

Phone Numbers on Website

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanda requested for her mobile number to be removed from website – same with Jules. | <p>Martin A</p> |
|--|-----------------|

Geoff Charlton

- Mark suggested we could offer dive-in-lieu to Geoff for his skipping duties. Agreed it was good idea but given his membership status as social only, it wasn't possible under club rules.

General Meeting Speakers

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No one arranged for February. • Jules to arrange speaker on outdoor education and Rowley Shoals for March. • Jules trying to contact someone to give talk on cave diving. | <p>Jules
Jules</p> |
|---|------------------------|

Data Projector

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew to look into the cost of purchasing a data projector. | <p>Andrew</p> |
|--|---------------|

	Action
MUD Affiliate Membership	
• Agreed to charge \$800 for this year. Jules to discuss with MUD president, Clive to prepare invoice.	Jules, Clive

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 12 March 2007 at 7:00 pm upstairs at SYC. BYO BBQ available from 6pm onwards.

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Rachel Stone
(Chairperson)



April 2007 Newsletter



*Sipidan inhabitant -
Nudibranch photo courtesy of Mark Maddern.
Full story in the next issue.*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** President's report
- 4** Sharks at Nurses Quarters
- 5** Training Report
- 6** Strange and beautiful things happen in the Swan River
- 7** Bremer Bay
- 9** Congratulations Andrew and Katherine Noordzy
- 10** New Members' cruise
- 12** SYC Busy Bee
- 13** Pay directly on line, Club aims and objectives, Contact your Committee
- 14** Torch information and Recycle your corks
- 15** Minutes of Meetings
- 21** Rotto 2007 Photos

President's Report

By Jules Holliday

Dear Members

Easter has come and gone and the diving season is still going strong. The Club has had a couple of trips since the last newsletter and our weekend dives are continuing to be popular which is great to see.

We are also very fortunate to have new members still joining at a steady rate, so welcome to all of you and well done to Sue for getting them on board!

Unfortunately I am going to be away quite a bit over the next few months as my defence was not accepted by the jury and my debt to society needs to be paid... Rachel will be firmly in command in my absence as she has not yet been caught. This means that I shall miss Craig Challen's talk at the next meeting which is a shame. I do recommend attending for all those members who have any interest at all in listening to a very experienced technical, cave and wreck diver.

It is funny because I was reflecting on the June trip to Albany recently where we will be doing several 40m dives and most of us consider that pretty deep. I then thought of Craig's 200m dives and it puts it all into perspective!

President's report continued

Dive Trips

Clive and Rachel did an Easter trip down to Bremer Bay to play with the sea dragons and the white pointers. I am hoping that they may be able to share their experiences with us at some stage and possibly even in this newsletter.

Clive will doubtless throw in some photos of car accidents he has witnessed.....Private story - he took more photos of a crashed car and caravan on our Albany trip in October than he did of the diving!!

A few strange people, including the author of this note, went to Lake Stockton near Collie and did 6 dives on the abandoned coal mine there a couple of weekends ago. It was a very strange experience but well worth doing. The water was a very vivid blue colour and had an almost milky feel to it. The cliff faces were a chalky white and it gave me the feeling of diving on the moon. It was the first proper freshwater dive for several of the party and almost an altitude dive. That said, the water temperature was not too bad - about 22 degrees on the surface and 15 degrees down at 25m. There were also some fairly gigantic marron down there - must be the nuclear waste from Collie that makes them so big...

On that trip we did not penetrate the coal shafts but on the next one we are planning to do that as a series of decompression dives. If anyone is interested, send me an email. I can also help you out with drafting a will before you go!!

Finally I am happy to say that the June trip to Albany is now fully booked. It is good for a club like ours to actively promote it as a dive destination because I personally do not think enough divers consider it. I have just come back from a trip to the Abrolhos Islands and I can say hand on heart that Albany is a lot better - it's also nearer, cheaper and has a better pub than the one on Rat Island!!

Dive Holidays

This October one of our new members is putting together a trip to Christmas Island which has some excellent diving. Details will be made available on a link to our website ([Details here](#)). Mark "Wal" Walawski does these trips on an annual basis and he can be contacted at walabydv@bigpond.net.au.

Wal has passed on the 15% discount he is getting from the tour company to our members and so it seems like a good deal for anyone interested.

President's report continued

Busy Bee at the SYC

I am writing this before the event as I flee again to the Abrolhos at 3.30am on Sunday 15th but I am hopeful that we will have a good turnout for the SYC busy bee. For those of you who don't know what a busy bee is, join the club!!

Unfortunately it doesn't involve telling people to "B Off" otherwise I'd be in like Flynn but apparently it is a clean up of the SYC. The UEC gets to dive under the jetties and I have been told that there are often some rich pickings to be salvaged.

I shall be back at the May meeting and in the meantime know that there will be plenty of diving on offer. So, if you feel like getting wet and taking a peak at the underwater world, just contact Mark and he will arrange for it to happen with just a waive of his little wand....

Best

Jules

President
UECWA

Stop Press:

See page 12 for photos of the SYC Busy Bee

Sharks at Nurses Quarters

By Bruce Fielding

On Saturday 7 April we dived at Nurses' Quarters. Carl Wheeler and I were first in and after being buzzed by a couple of dolphins we headed East. After a few minutes we came upon the large cavern where, in May last year, a number of divers spent some time with 8 Grey Nurse sharks. They were there again! Only four this time but from memory (we were both lucky enough to have been on both dives) these were bigger.

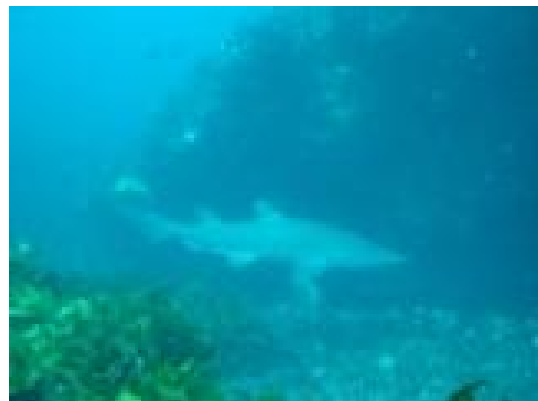
The sharks were certainly very inquisitive, coming right over to us at least a couple of times and cruising past within a metre of each of us. Needless to say we were both very still and stayed hugged to the bottom!

We stayed there for about 10 minutes and then slowly moved off. 4 other divers off the boat were also lucky enough to find them but many others had to make do with peering in the viewer of my camera!

Unfortunately my photographic skills and equipment were not really up to the occasion but the attached photo's give some idea.

Regards,

Bruce Fielding



Training Report

By UEC Training Officer Andrew Mingay

G'day All,

Dive Officer Training

We're all systems go for Dive Officer training on Sunday 20th May - time and place to be announced.

It's great to see so many UEC Members willing to get more involved in the Club by becoming DOs.

Advanced PADI Diver Course

I am pleased to announce that there will be an Advanced PADI Diver Course running in the near future. I already have enough people to make the course a runner, so watch this space for more information.

Lake Stockton Dive Trip

Jules has already mentioned in his report the Club's recent visit to Lake Stockton, and I am now organising a second weekend dive trip. So, if you want to experience something different, come along on 7th and 8th July. Its totally free, just bring your diving and camping gear for a great weekend of serious fresh water diving. Our last trip showed just how great the old mines are to dive, and this one will be even better, as we now have more information to explore the mine in greater depth.

Anyone interested, please contact me either by email or phone - details below.

Enjoy your diving,

Cheers,

Andrew

This is your chance to improve your scuba diving skills.

Why not ask Andrew about a course to suit your needs?

*Contact Andrew for more information –
email: training@uecwa.com.au, or
phone: 0429 205 208*

Strange and beautiful things happen in the Swan River

By Malcolm Roberts

The darkness of a warm summer evening in Perth settles over suburbia.

I get dressed into dive gear.

What will I find in this world of 'inner space' I am about to enter?

Despite the lights of the city - this is a world of darkness.

In spite of gravity on Earth - the diver's world feels gravity-free.

Despite our own comfortable lives - this is a place of life and death.

The bottom of the Swan River at night is an amazing world.

A world where seahorse couples court, King prawns prance, and crabs-in-disguise scurry.

Iridescent squid swimming past send timid fish darting to their hiding place.

It is a world that is both magical and strange - a world of vivid colour and fantastic shapes.

A wonderful place I LOVE photographing.

This inspiring world on our city's doorstep is our very own piece of paradise.

**Protect the Swan
River.....before it's too late.**

Bremer Bay Dive Trip Easter Weekend 2007

When I heard the Club was putting together a trip to Bremer Bay, I was one of the first to put my hand up, as I had long been eager to see the Leafy and Weedy Sea Dragons that can be found in the area. However, it was with some trepidation that I learned it was to be a camping trip. Camping, I hadn't done that for years, and didn't it always rain down South at Easter?

After borrowing a tent, airbed, sleeping bag, etc, I headed up to the hills to join Rachel, Clive and Tanya, where we loaded up the 4WD, as well as a huge trailer, with all our gear, and made our way to Bremer Bay.

The six hour trip was well worth the effort, even though we had to put our tents up in the dark, as the next morning we woke to sunshine and the anticipation of finding "leafies".

During our exploration of the area we came across Little Boat Harbour (we were actually trying to find the Dive Shop!). It's a very pretty spot and a great dive, as the dive trail is well signposted, both above and below the water.

And there they were! A Leafy and a Weedy Sea Dragon, and heaps more to see as well, as can be seen by Chris Cunnold's great photos below. Mine are the Sea Dragons - I know, nowhere near as good as Chris's, but at least I have a record of my first sightings of those wonderful creatures.

The weekend continued with a great night dive at Back Beach Bombie, and two double dives over the next couple of days from the boat chartered by the very helpful Craig Lebens, who runs the local dive shop.

At the end of the day, we all took home some wonderful memories, and quickly forgot the local kids letting off steam at the camp site when we were trying to sleep. and the rain and wind blowing our tents around on the last night (and yes, my tent did stay up!).

My thanks go to Rachel, Clive, Tanya, Kirsty, Rob, Wendy, Chris and Ann, for helping to make this a very special Easter.

Pat





Below:
Resident of Skippy Reef, Bremer Bay

Bremer Bay Camp Site



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Andrew and Katherine Noordzy on the birth of their son James Pieter. James was born on 9 March 2007, weighing in at 4.21kg at Attadale Maternity Hospital. Andrew and Katherine are both new members of the Club, having signed up in February this year. Both mum and James are doing well and Andrew even managed to be excused to join in on the Busy Bee at SYC!!!



New Members' Cruise and Social Report

Photos courtesy Ilonka Jarvis and Sue Knight



The recent New Members' cruise night was a great success, with new and existing members enjoying a warm summer's evening on the Swan River. The evening comprised a BBQ, glass of vino, or two - and even some pole dancing! Look out for the next cruise, it should be fun.



Jules, bids the new members' cruise goodnight

PIZZA, PIE AND PICTURE NIGHT

Saturday 21st April 6pm \$15

at Jasmine & Martin's place in Bicton

PIZZAS -Ingredients & new-you-beaut pizza oven supplied -
use your imagination

with some expert tips from Jasmine!

PIES - for dessert - never tasted better than when warmed on
those hot bricks!

PICTURES - bring your photos/videos along and see them looking
amazing

on a humongous plasma screen TV!

Please RSVP to Ilonka by Wed 18th April (gotta stock the
pantry!)

And don't forget those pictures!

socialbookings@uecwa.com.au

Ilonka Jarvis: 0412820817

SYC Busy Bee

It was a great turn out by both UEC and SYC members for the Busy Bee on Saturday 14th April, with 12 divers and 10 support crew. The team work by both Clubs paid huge dividends, as can be seen below.



Pay directly online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: **Commonwealth Bank**
 Name: **Underwater Explorers Club of WA.**
 BSB: **066136**
 Account: **00901972**

There is limited space to write what the payment is for. Please start with your name and then reason for payment.

In all cases you must email the Treasurer with the following payment information:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for (and from)
- Reason for payment, e.g. Dive Dec 4, T-shirt, etc.

Club Aims and Objectives

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self-contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedures and to acquaint both Club members and the public with the facts of safety and using safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, provide fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

Contact your Committee

President

Vice President & Fundraising

Secretary

Treasurer

Dive Co-ordinator

Boat Officer

Safety Officer

Training Co-ordinator

Social

New Members

Environment

Web & PR

Newsletter

Julian Holliday

Rachel Stone

Amanda Blanksby

Clive Mitchell

Mark Maddern

Martin Smith

Steve Bright

Andrew Mingay

Ilonka Jarvis

Sue Knight

Spencer Shute

Martin Arrowsmith

Pat Swallow

president@uecwa.com.au

vicepresident@uecwa.com.au

secretary@uecwa.com.au

treasurer@uecwa.com.au

divebookings@uecwa.com.au

boat@uecwa.com.au

safety@uecwa.com.au

training@uecwa.com.au

socialbookings@uecwa.com.au

newmembers@uecwa.com.au

environment@uecwa.com.au

webmaster@uecwa.com.au

newsletter@uecwa.com.au

Are you left in the DARK on night dives?

Underwater Kinetics LED Torches

are the answer and are available to UEC members at discount prices

Check them out in detail [HERE](#) and e-mail [Chris](#) to order or for more info.

UK Mini Q40 2w eLED plus - \$80 or UK SL4 eLED plus - \$115
or UK SL6 - \$80 or UK C4 eLED - \$160 or UK C8 eLED plus -
\$200 or an

UK HID Light Cannon (on request) or upgrade with a UK Mini
Q40 1w LED upgrade globe - \$38

Recycle your corks!

Never, ever throw a cork into landfill! Zita Dobson collects them and sends them to Guides Australia who recycle them and raise money.

Save them up and bring them to a meeting: Zita or Bob are usually there.



Underwater Explorers Club

Minutes of General Meeting
Swan Yacht Club Wednesday 21 March 2007

Apologies	Warren Cummins Carl Anders Maree Casley	Renee Barker Chris Golding	Richard Jefferies Dallis Strick	Zita Dobson Dennis Stubberfield
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The meeting was opened at 7.45pm

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1.0 The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Martin Arrowsmith
Seconded by Andrew Mingay

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

2.0 None

Correspondence Inwards

- 3.0
- Scuba 2 Logbook – Feb/Mar 07
 - ING bank on the Business Optimiser
 - Letter from ASU confirming requirement for UEC volunteers for 2007 Avon Descent

Correspondence Outwards

- 4.0
- Letter to Renee Barker dated 19 March 2007.

Nominations

5.0 The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fees in advance:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| • David Goynich | • David Norton- Wood |
| • Keith Whittaker | • Michael O'Brien |
| • Anne McCarrol | • Judy O'Brien |
| • Susan Arrowsmith (social) | |
| • | |

New Memberships

6.0 There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership to the UEC:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| • Sandra Spinley (social) | • Kerryn Mason |
| • Peter Murphy | • Leo Nicolao |

Accepted by Sue Knight
Seconded by Clive Cass

At this point in the meeting the guest speaker Mark Staniforth was introduced and he, along with Lana Goult, gave a presentation on the marine studies currently offered to students at St Mary's Girls School. Mark gave a very interesting presentation on the studies, including the course contents and presented a video of various trips around the Western Australia coast.

The meeting was resumed at 8.45pm

Reports

7.1 **President** – Jules Holliday

- Had a great trip to Albany at the beginning of March with some good diving.
- Next trip will be early June for experienced divers.
- Planning to run the Albany trips three times a year, over the long weekends in March, June and October.

7.2 **Secretary** – «GreetingLine»

- Membership cards available for collection.

7.3 **Treasurer** – Clive Mitchell

- Provided opening balance, closing balance and amount in outstanding debts.
- No income from diving during the month. Membership income is slowing down. Lots of expenses in relation to the boat maintenance and paying for the accommodation for the 2008 Rottneest holiday.
- From now on the main source of income will be from diving, so everybody needs to get out and get wet!

Accepted by Pat Swallow
Seconded by Tony Palmer

7.4 **Vice President and Fund Raising** – Rachel Stone

- The training down at Collie for the rescue training for the Avon descent was lots of fun.
- Looking for volunteers for the event – see Rachel if interested.
- Various promotions from dive shops including helicopter trip and diving at the Albrohlos Islands and a trip to Indonesia diving at Komodo and surrounding areas in April.
- Lost and Found - drink cooler (from xmas party) and various masks and snorkels (from try dive day). If unclaimed, then the masks and snorkels will become spares on the boat. Also still missing Jules' mask and Renee's weight pocket.
- Easter trip to Bremer bay – camping ground has been booked – see Rachel if interested.

7.5 **Dive Coordinator** – Mark Maddern

- Single tank dive on Saturday 24th, Saxon Ranger double dive on 25th.
- 31st March – day on Rottneest Island, no diving. 1st April double dive.
- 13th April night shore dive in the river on some wrecks near Fremantle.

7.6 **Environment** – Spencer Shute

- Coral survey on 31st March is full. Good response from UEC members. Spence has already contacted those who are doing the survey.

7.7 **New Members** – Sue Knight

- Contacts from potential new members have slowed down abit.
- New members trip on the boat up to the mooring this Friday evening 23rd March.

7.8 **Newsletter** – Pat Swallow

- March's newsletter has been published on the web.
- Always on the look out for articles.

7.9 **Web and PR** – Martin Arrowsmith

- Bell Scuba logo and link added to home page.
- Photo page is up and running again with some nudibranch photos taken by Chris Cunnold.
- Anyone wanting publicity for shore dives then email Martin and he will post it on the webpage somewhere.

7.10 **Safety** – Steve Bright

- The '50 bar back on the boat' rule needs to be adhered to.
- Incident during Rottneest holiday where a diver slipped whilst getting out of the water, and fell on to another diver in the water. Both divers were ok, just alittle shaken. Very important to ensure that divers stay well clear of the marlin board whilst other divers are exiting the water via the ladder.

7.11 **Social** – Ilonka Jarvis

- The bowling night was a successful event.
- Next social event is pizza and pie at Jasmine and Martin's home on 21st April. Cost to be determined.
- Christmas in July event will be held at Ilonka's home on Saturday 14th July. Will be combined in with the July general meeting. It is intended that this will be a fundraising event.

7.12 **Training** – Andrew Mingay

- Padi advanced course to be organised over 21st/22nd April. No one has expressed interest so far. Could be possible to arrange another course with minimum numbers of 4. Anyone interested to contact Andrew directly.
- For those people booking on training courses, Andrew would be grateful if contact phone numbers can be included in the booking email.
- Trip to Lake Stockton on 31st/1st April weekend. Weekend is free; bring tent, food and a few bebies.
- Congratulations to all those members who recently completed Dan O₂, Padi Rescue and EFR courses.

7.13 **Boat** – Martin Smith

- Boat is now going well.

General Business

- 8.1 Dennis reported via Rachel that the skipper training was going very well, and congratulations to Clive Mitchell, Martin Arrowsmith and Steve Bright on their progress to date.
- 8.2 Rottnest 2008 is open for bookings. 22 places for the week from 23 to 29 February and 22 places for long weekend 29 February to 3 March 2008. Clive Cass is collecting names to put on reserve list. If there are too many then a ballot system will apply. Closing date is 12 April 07.
- 8.3 Thanks to Bob and Zita Dobson who queued up over night to get the bookings for the chalets for 2008.
- 8.4 Tank dust caps with UEC logo are for sale for \$6 – see Clive Cass.
- 8.5 Clive Cass along with Pat Troy has inspected the chain on the mooring at Rottnest and thinks it may need to be repaired. Anyone with any expertise on this matter to speak to Clive Cass.
- 8.6 Jules said thanks to Clive Cass for all the hard work in organising the Rottnest 2007 holiday.
- 8.7 Jasmine Smith has more coins for sale from the underwater series. One with a biscuit star and one with a longfin bannerfish. Available for purchase after meeting.
- 8.8 Certificates were presented to Tom Bassett for completing the PADI Rescue course, to Ilonka Jarvis for completing the Dan O2 course and Mark Maddern for undertaking the renewal Dan O2 course.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

The next general meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 April at 7:30 pm

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Jules Holliday
(Chairperson)



Underwater Explorers Club
Minutes of Committee Management Meeting
 SYC Wednesday 7 March 2007

Present:

Chairperson:	Jules Holliday			
Committee:	«GreetingLine»	Clive Mitchell	Rachel Stone	Mark Maddern
	Andrew Mingay	Ilonka Jarvis	Sue Knight	Steve Bright
	Martin Arrowsmith	Pat Swallow		
Members:	None			
Apologies	Spencer Shute	Martin Smith		

The meeting was opened at 7.20pm

Action

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the executive committee meeting dated 5 February 2007 were circulated and accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Pat Swallow
 Seconded by Andrew Mingay

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- Outstanding actions are:
 - Spence to investigate into future federal funding for coral surveys.

Correspondence Inwards

- Letter from Australian Tax Office with regard to registration of online lodgement of BAS
- Cadbury's fundraising chocolate flyer
- Information on Thailand Travel and Dive Expo in Bangkok 24 – 27 May 2007
- Scuba 2 Logbook – Feb/Mar 07
- ING Direct with regard to processing of Business Optimiser Update Details form

Correspondence Outwards

- Letter to Anthony Torre and Monaco dated 6 February 2007.

Nominations

The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fee in advance:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| • David Goynich | • Anne McCarrol |
| • Keith Whittaker | • Susan Arrowsmith (social) |

New Memberships

There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| • Sandra Spinley (social) | • Kerryn Mason |
| • Peter Murphy | • Leo Nicolao |

Accepted by Sue Knight
 Seconded by Rachel Stone

Reports**President – Jules Holliday**

- There were 11 people on the dive trip to Albany and all went well.
- Agreed for all future dive trips to pay directly the person who is organising it, instead of via treasurer, in order to avoid paying inappropriate GST. Money can then be transferred into the club accounts at a later date if required.
- East Timor trip to be cancelled, given lack of interest and problems in the country.
- Mark 'Wal' Walawski is organising a trip to Christmas Island in October. It was agreed not to promote this as a club trip as Wal gets the trip for free. Instead it was agreed that he could promote the trip at the general meeting if he wanted to do so and that the terms and conditions would be spelt out. Club members could then decide if they wanted to go along or not.

- Fundraising Ball – had a long discussion and it was decided to not organise this event this year, given that it would take a lot of time and effort to organise and committee members are busy on other aspects of running the dive club.
- Rachel, Clive, Amanda and Jules to meet with Paul Jagger, Business Manager of Scouts WA. He has knowledge in obtaining funding from the Lottery’s Commission. Rachel, Clive, Amanda, Jules

Secretary – Amanda Blanksby

- Query from one member as to how to get their name on the diving list. It was clarified that this is the ‘Members Distribution List’ and is available to those who have agreed to have their contact details circulated to other club members.

Treasurer – Clive Mitchell

- Provided opening balance, closing balance and amount in outstanding debts.
- No income from diving during the month. Membership income is slowing down. Lots of expenses in relation to the boat maintenance and paying for the accommodation for the 2008 Rottrest holiday.
- Will move money from ING account. Clive
- Agreed need to promote the diving more given that this is our main revenue stream for the next few months. All committee

Vice President and Fundraising – Rachel Stone

- Rachel showed examples of the business card. All happy with them. Rachel to print out more. Rachel
- Fridge magnets to be sorted out. Rachel
- Will sort out beanies and jackets with UEC logos shortly. Rachel
- Will also see if members would like to have the logo put on their own clothes. Rachel
- Will finalise wine shortly. Looking at getting clearskin mixed dozen. Rachel
- Researched into producing a 2008 calendar and it is feasible for sale in September onwards. Will arrange a photo competition. Rachel
- Avon Descent – has not heard much from the organisers. Collie training weekend on 10/11 March.
- Will promote the Avon Descent at March’s General Meeting as need to start drumming up support from within the club. It is a good PR event to support. Rachel

Dive Coordinator – Mark Maddern

- Saxone Ranger dive will be on the weekend of 24/25 March.
- Will arrange an exploratory dive once a month.
- New members river cruise planned for 23 March. Will have BBQ on boat. Cost \$10 per person.
- Lake Stockton trip to be moved to weekend of 31/1, to enable Jules to attend new members river cruise.
- Thinking about organising Coral Bay trip sometime between June and September.
- Bremer Bay, has found a house available, sleeps 6 with plenty of room for tents in back garden. Rachel to pursue further. Rachel

Environment – Spencer Shute

- Not present – no report.
-

New Members – Sue Knight

- Had 6 people enquire about the club over this past month, of which 3 signed up at February’s general meeting.

Newsletter – Pat Swallow

- Tabled an email from Emma Ligtermoet with regard to a project to publish local stories about people’s experiences on and around the Swan and Canning Rivers. Will include details in March’s newsletter. Pat
- Will arrange for Heidi Taylor to speak at the October general meeting. Also Jules and Pat to look into joining in with the Cape-to-Cape beach clean-up over the weekend of 13/14 October. Jules, Pat

Web and PR – Martin Arrowsmith

- New homepage set up, not heard anything from Bell Scuba, Jules to chase. Jules
- Not received any payments from dive shops for sponsorship. Clive to prepare invoices. Clive
- Jules to chase other dive shops to see if they are interested. Jules
- Received email from Bekkers with regard to registering the domain. Clive/Martin to sort out. Clive, Martin

Safety – Steve Bright

- A few incidents that occurred over Rottnest holiday were discussed. Steve to provide some reminders at next general meeting including:
 - Requirement for club members to be fit and healthy;
 - For members to avoid retrieving objects heavier than 10 lbs, in order to avoid injuries to the diver themselves or the people on the boat lifting the object out of the water;
 - 50 bar back on the boat.
- Will request skippers and DO's to observe skills of divers and report on those not considered to be up to scratch. Steve to monitor.

Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- Ten-pin bowling planned for 17 March. Child friendly event, no max numbers, curry buffet afterwards \$25 per person.
- Pizza and pie evening at Jasmine and Martin Smith's home on 21 April.
- Lawn bowls evening planned for 19 May, from 5pm onwards at Mosman Bowls. Can use BBQ facilities afterwards.
- Curry and games night planned at Malcolm Robert's residence in June. Date to be confirmed.
- Christmas in July at Ilonka's home. Full Xmas dinner. Will have some form of raffle prizes for fundraising purposes. Charge \$35 including glass of champagne. Committee to start thinking about suitable raffle prizes.

Training – Andrew Mingay

- Padi Advanced course planned for 21/22 April. Maximum 8 no. Payment required by 2 April.
- DO training – will make a general call for interested people over next month and then decide on how to organise the course.
- Skipper training back on again.

Boat – Martin Smith

- Not present – no report.

General Business

Boat Maintenance

- Rachel gave a briefing on the events with regard to the recent boat maintenance. She also raised items discussed at the previous BAD committee meeting with regard to future maintenance to add value to sale of boat for relatively little cost.
- May consider moving more towards a more professional approach by having a project manager type role and then using professionals for the major repair works. Otherwise it becomes very time consuming for a few individuals within the club. To be discussed further at next committee meeting.
- May require a schedule of maintenance to be prepared, to keep boat in good working order.

Any Other Business

- None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

The next committee meeting will be held on 2 April 2007 at 7:00 pm in the boardroom at SYC.

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Jules Holliday
(Chairperson)

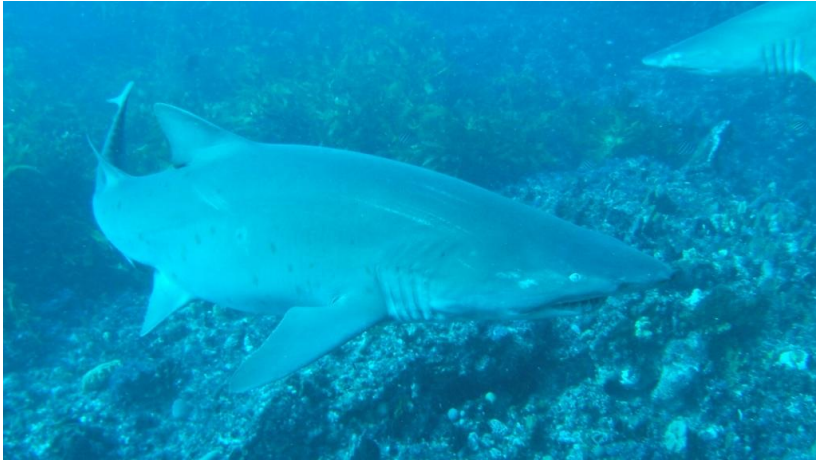
And finally, some photos provided by Steve Bright of the recent Rottnest Holiday - should whet your appetite for 2008.

Steve also took a great photo of the UEC boat, which can be seen on the UEC website homepage.





May 2007 Newsletter



Were you one of the lucky divers at Nurses' Quarters on Saturday 28th April? Check out Malcolm Roberts' story on page 6.

President's Report

By Jules Holliday

Dear Members

Winter will be upon us in a couple of weeks but that does not mean the UEC is going to be short of things to do.

Our top secret site where we visit grey nurse sharks is proving to be a real draw card and is highly recommended to anyone wanting to dive with these magnificent creatures. Mark as Dive Officer certainly has a couple of trips up his sleeve and is always ready to take requests from members wanting to do particular sites or activities.

We also have plenty of social trips being planned in the near future. There is lawn bowling on Saturday 19th May in Mosman Park from 5pm onwards. Don't worry if you are less than 70 years old or cannot bowl - apparently these are no longer compulsory at a bowling club! Should be a fun night so come along and have a bowl, a beer and a barbie.

New members are continuing to join at a good rate and we will be having a new members' cruise up to the Swan Brewery on 17th June (the day after the curry night at Malcolm's). It has also been suggested that we produce a new members' pack giving all kinds of details about the club to everyone who has joined recently and will be joining in the future. We think that is a good idea because it can be a little daunting joining a new organization and not knowing how it operates or who people are. I have been a bit naughty in that respect myself so watch this space for future news!

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- 9** Coral Bay
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- 14** Minutes of Meetings
- 20** Dive Bali with Dawn & Jeff Mullins

President's report continued

Christmas in July and Grand Raffle

Yes, we will be disproving the notion that we could not organise a raffle at the forthcoming Christmas in July celebrations. Hopefully we will also be disproving some other notions the month before at the Swan Brewery.....

Christmas in July will be held at Ilonka's house on 14th July and will be that month's Club meeting as well as a social affair. The evening is also planned to be a fund-raiser so that we can bring in some cash to buy a new boat.

As part of that, we have approached members and many of the dive shops here in Perth to provide raffle prizes. The response so far has been good and we have nearly \$2,000 worth of prizes to give away. These include:

- Two dives for two people on the wreck of the Lena in Bunbury worth \$320 (thanks to Coastal Water Dive).
- A dinner for 4 voucher at Gloucester Park's premier restaurant The Beau Rivage worth \$300 (thanks Red Pepper Catering).
- Two dives for two people on the Lionfish IV worth \$240 (thanks to Perth Diving Academy).
- A waterproof backpack with buoyancy device for underwater use worth \$199 (thanks to Bell Scuba).
- A PADI Advanced course worth \$175 - the catch is that I'll be teaching it therefore no thanks required!
- 1 x Fido or Puss'n'boots annual booster vaccination & 12 months supply of flea / worm treatment (thanks to Rachel Stone).
- Three water colour paintings (thanks to Margaret & Bill Pettigrew).
- Free membership of the UEC for 2008 worth \$160 (thanks to all of us!).
- Two free double dives on the Underwater Explorer worth \$90 (ditto!).

In addition, we have also been promised prizes by Dolphin Dive in Welshpool and Australasian Diving Academy.

Our thanks go to all of those generous enough to provide prizes and please keep them coming if you have anything at all you would wish to donate.

Now comes the exciting bit.....

This month some of your overworked and unpaid committee will be gathering at Rachel and Clive's house to put together a letter, print 10 tickets, stick them in an envelope, address them and post them.

Those tickets will be posted out to each and every member of the UEC. A book of ten will cost you \$20 (or \$2 per ticket). You can either buy them yourself or sell them on to friends or relatives.

Please let Amanda (secretary@uecwa.com.au) know if your address has changed in the last 12 months as our database of physical addresses may be a little outdated.

We will also be selling books at the June meeting and indeed at the July meeting so please be generous and support your club by buying them!! If every one of our 160 members buys just one book then that will raise over \$3,000 for the UEC which would be a fantastic result.

President's report continued

It was pointed out at the committee meeting last night that statistically there is a pretty good chance of winning a valuable prize. However, none of us could determine whether you would have more chance of winning with one \$20 ticket or ten \$2 tickets.....

Oh yes, and we will be arranging for a totally neutral person to pick the winning tickets at the party. Rumours that it is Brian Burke are totally without foundation, although I gather there are a few former cabinet ministers with time on their hands at the moment!!

Dive Trips

The June trip to Albany is fully booked which is great news and we hope to have video footage to show you at some stage in the future.

DO Training

Andrew has had an excellent response to this and an introductory training session will be held at the SYC on Sunday 20th May. As a club we are dependent on volunteers to organise events and give up their free time. These efforts do not go un-noticed and we are grateful to all of those who contribute.

With this batch of DOTs (Dive Officer Trainees!) we have decided unanimously at the April Committee Meeting that all should have certain minimum qualifications before they can actually become Dive Officers. These include the following or their equivalents - Rescue Diver, Senior First Aid or EFR, and DAN Oxygen Provider.

This is the first time the UEC has actually done this and all of those volunteering have been happy to comply with these conditions at their own expense. In that respect, at least, it should be the end of any possible debate if volunteers are happy to do it.

However, I have been made aware that some members may not be entirely comfortable with this but all I would say to that is if you were out diving and ran into difficulties, would you want the person rescuing you to have the necessary training to rescue you, assess you for injury and be able to deliver basic first aid to you?

I think when it is phrased like that, it is difficult to argue against the notion. If anybody answers “no”, then I would be very surprised and have to recommend that you go diving in Queensland!!!

Seriously though, the UEC is committed to running a safe diving regime and the fact that we are a club rather than a business does not change that. We strongly encourage safe diving practices at all levels and we will point out to club members who may have developed some bad habits what they are and how they might improve them. If that does happen to you, please don't take it personally.

Finally, and while we are on the subject of diving practices, don't forget that the Indian Ocean is on our doorstep and it would be rude not to take advantage of it. Ditto that for all of us as members owning a great dive boat. Our fearless Dive Officer Mark is always sat next to his phone waiting to take bookings so please don't disappoint him - they are the only calls he ever gets!

Best

Jules

President
UECWA

The Spamm Holiday to Sipadan

By Amanda Blanksby

Well if you have seen a few of us sporting t-shirts with SPAM written on it wandering round at the dive club meetings, we weren't just wearing them because we are into Spam. No it is a tour t-shirt for our trip to Malaysia. SPAMM stands for Sue Knight, Phil Doring, Amanda Blanksby, Mark Maddern and Malcolm Roberts and it became the acronym for the holiday.



Sipadan Island is located off the south east coast of Borneo Malaysia. It is very unique in that it is a very tiny island with steeply sloping rock faces and the actual seabed is around 600m deep. So there is no chance of recovery if you happen to drop your weight belt!! Diving generally comprises of swimming along walls or sloping faces and if you time it right you don't even have to fin as the current is sufficient for you to drift along. It is wonderful to watch the underwater activities as you float past. Shoals of triggerfish will swim past, maybe a grey reef shark or a white tip shark will swim below you, the barracuda gather in packs, moray eels pop out for a chat, and then you have the turtles just floating along.

It is an amazing marine environment with the walls flooded with corals and when you do reach the top for the safety stop even more soft and hard corals with fish in their abundance. You can watch a large shoal of bumphead parrotfish chomping on the reef, and depositing the remains back on the reef from the other end!!

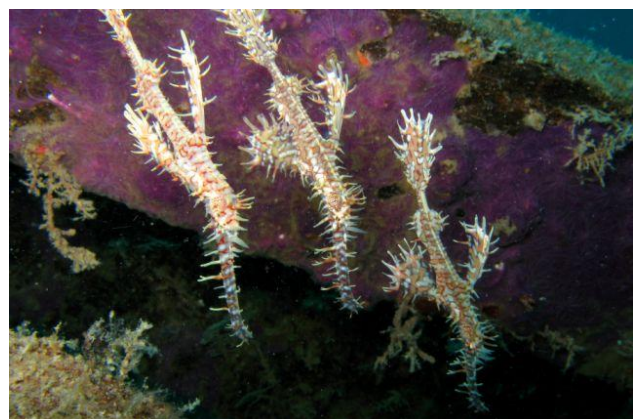


You are no longer allowed to stay on Sipadan Island but there are a couple of islands nearby with suitable accommodation. We stayed at Mabul at the Sipadan-Mabul resort. The accommodation was comfortable and we were well fed and watered. There was plenty of diving organized on a daily basis, with two boat dives at Sipadan Island and then a boat dive off Mabul or the other local island of Kapalai. They rotate the times round as well, so you get variety from dawn to afternoon dives off Sipadan. The dawn dives were certainly the most special.

The diving around Mabul and Kapalai is a complete contrast to Sipadan, with maximum depths of 20m, coral sloping reefs and a sandy bottom. Its muck diving at its best, hunting out those little things including frog fish, pigmy seahorses, pipe fish, trumpet fish blue ribbon eels, crocodile fish, ghost pipe fish, garden eels, and flamboyant cuttlefish.

The water is warm and inviting and you can easily manage four dives a day with the fourth one being a night dive off the jetty at Mabul, or you can arrange to do a night dive off the boat as well. The resort has built various artificial reefs that have now become home to a whole host of sleeping fish.

At the June general meeting we will be showing a slideshow with the best photos, and given that we had both Mark and Malcolm in their element you will be in for a treat!!



How many sharks?

By Malcolm Roberts

I usually write a few words to accompany the photos that I send you. I write now with no pictures to accompany.

Without a camera in hand, the diving experience I am about to share with you was enjoyed for what it was, not how I could best photograph it. In a sense that was part of my enjoyment - a shark experience that was appreciated to the full! What an experience it was!

The diving day in which I would have close encounters with sharks began innocently enough, leaving Swan Yacht Club on a Saturday morning with our dive boat full of members of the Underwater Explorers dive club. We were headed to Rottnest Island, our favourite weekend dive location. With blue skies and almost no wind, the weather was bliss!

Unusually-for-Perth flat seas allowed us to dive at the (further away and deeper) West End of Rottnest at a place we call 'Nurses Quarters'. This site is named after the discovery by the club at this time two years ago, and confirmed last year, that this is a place that Grey Nurse sharks like to be while the salmon are here. Last year some UEC divers at times saw 4-6 sharks on a dive.

A dive at by the club (www.uecwa.com.au) at 'Nurses Quarters' the week prior had been fruitless, but today, hopes were high as the wind continued it's non-existence, leaving us with flat seas.

My dive buddy Mark and I began our first dive with an early 'win', seeing a big female Grey Nurse shark swim past us less than 10 metres away. After literally hundreds of dives at Rottnest, this was a first for me and I was HAPPY! The large shark was so graceful as it glided past, as was the table-sized giant stingray that preceded it. WOW! My first Grey Nurse!

The rest of the dive was spectacular reef, but otherwise uneventful, with Mark and I catching a few crayfish between us. Uneventful that was until right at the end we spotted two Grey Nurse sharks. As we swam towards them I counted two more, and thought WOW! Four sharks at once, and until today I'd never seen any sharks at Rottnest except wobbegongs and harmless Port Jacksons.

Mark and I entered the large and well lit cave from which they'd appeared and we were at once enveloped in a cloud of circling Grey Nurse sharks! Unbelievable!

Ranging in size from 1 - 2 metres and very big and solid, were not one, or two; not 8 even, but **16 Grey Nurse sharks swimming around us**, often only arms length away. Sixteen wild sharks swimming around you was an amazing dive experience.

Rows of hooked teeth protruded menacingly from their mouths as they meandered lazily around us.

We stayed still, mid-water in the cave, as they swam at us, past us, over us and under us. All this in a confined space.

There might be credit cards, but this was priceless, and we knew it.

Two normally-quiet dive buddies became very animated in sharing their joy of the experience. So good was it, that we stayed until our nearly empty tanks forced us to leave the weightless world of ‘inner space’ of a diver and return to the boat.

Back on board we discovered that some other divers had also found the shark cave whilst others hadn’t seen any. Guided tours were offered by those in the know to the sharks for the next dive, as club members had a BBQ lunch on the back of the boat outdoors on a perfect autumn day. A very rare Rottnest resident, the turtle seen by some divers on the first dive made a regular appearance on the surface to breathe, often not far from the boat, as we enjoyed our ‘surface interval ‘ between dives. What a great day this was turning out to be.

Dive two was going to also be at ‘Nurses Quarters’ and this time no one would miss out on a shark encounter. Whether divers observed the sharks from a distance outside the cave swimming around the reefs as salmon schools gathered nearby, or saw the sharks from closer range inside the cave, this was a dive that will not be forgotten. Sharks that, despite displaying a ferocious-looking set of teeth, were placid and tolerant of our presence - even curious as they passed close by, their beady eyes looking at you.

All divers safe back on board at the end of all dives and this was a fantastic day for the Underwater Explorers Club. A full boat of divers having the time of their lives diving at Rottnest, our island playground. Why go overseas? This is the island on Perth’s doorstep! How lucky are we to have a place as good as Rottnest Island just a day trip away.

Spending that brief time in the world of Grey Nurse sharks is a diving highlight I will never forget.

...and people wonder why we dive?

Malcolm Roberts

Below:

Lucky for us, other Club members had their cameras handy.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Dallis and Chris on the birth of their son Noah James Golding. Noah was born on 10th March 2007, exactly four weeks early (four days after the Rottneest long weekend, so Dallis only just made it!), weighing in at 7 pounds eight ounces.

Dallis and Chris have a website if people want to see photos, its <http://www.noahgolding.blogspot.com/>.



Loggerhead turtle holds the world breath-holding record

25 April 2007

A turtle has broken a marine world record by holding its breath under water for more than 10 hours.

The loggerhead turtle was one of a number that had been tagged to establish behaviour and migration routes, when researchers realised that it had held its breath for 10 hours and 14 minutes. It was the longest dive recorded for a marine vertebrate and smashed the previous record, also by a loggerhead turtle, of seven hours and 25 minutes. The turtle's dive far exceeds that of any other marine vertebrates. Its closest competition comes from yellow-bellied sea snakes, which have been timed diving for three hours and 33 minutes. A Cuvier's beaked whale performed the longest verified dive of any mammal, lasting 85 minutes. Loggerhead turtles, *Caretta caretta*, can hold their breath for hours because they slow their internal systems and so need less oxygen. Researchers suggested that they were resting or sleeping under water.

Source & full text: <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,20867,21618944-30417,00.html>

Coral Bay

By Chris Cunnold

I spent six weeks in Coral bay last year so when the opportunity to do another week of diving came up this year we jumped at it. This time round it was purely leisure diving though ... no lugging around rocks and cages for underwater experiments.

We are lucky enough to know Bill Brogan who is a well known local Coral Bay-ian so we stayed at his place, *The Whitehouse*. Unfortunately Bills boat was on the hard at Fremantle Boat Lifters (we all know that feeling) so we hired a local dive boat between eight of us. Because we had exclusive use we could dictate the dives sites and enjoy all the space of a 50 footer.

The weather wasn't on our side early in the week but because Coral Bay (the bay is actually called Bill's Bay) is well protected by the fringing Ningaloo Reef we were still able to do some really amazing dives. Inside the reef and north of Coral Bay, spots like Quinns Bommie and the Porites are spectacular for Nudibranch's, Cuttlefish, Frogfish and every imaginable tropical fish.

Cuttlefish



Dusky Nembrotha



Close to the Coral Bay Township and still inside the reef is Asho's Gap (named after our Skipper for the week) which is a shark cleaning station. It's an amazing sight when Grey Reef Sharks, Black Tips and White Tips cruise over the huge Coral Bommie which marks the spot and adopt the head up posture which indicates to the cleaner fish that it is safe to munch off the annoying mite or whatever else grows on a shark. This spot also hosts turtles and we did spot Tripod, the three legged turtle again this year.

To the south of town and still inside the reef we dived at Lotte's Reef, Eel Bommie and Black Douglas. Again there is loads of small stuff on these dives and noticeably more white eels and a family of huge Queensland Grouper at Black Douglas.

Mid-week the unimaginable occurred; it started raining, and raining and raining. It rained so much that the locals re-labeled the eight kilometre signs in the main street with home-made eight knots signs. The good thing was that the swell dropped dramatically and of course being so far north the days were still over thirty degree's despite the rain (oh yes, I forgot to mention the water temperature peaked at 28 degrees while we were there). So with the swell down we got outside the reef; firstly just outside a notorious bit of water at South Passage.

Zebra Lionfish*Harlequin Shrimp and juvenile*

The South Passage dives were around 25m and is often the case when diving with photographers; they all ended up being deco dives. The visibility outside the reef was fantastic and because we fluked a nice spot we decided not to move and dived the same spot twice. This site had some enormous Moray Eels, spectacular soft corals and nudibranchs galore (I spotted 7 species on 1 dive; close to the Kangaroo Tail Wall record at the Abrolhos).

On the last day we got to the outside of the reef again but this time in the safer North passage. More deco diving ... Our first site was unbelievable. A huge wall of Gorgonian coral and other soft corals was the first thing we noticed but as we swam past to a huge vee in the wall we noticed huge schools of baitfish. Initially this was impressive enough but they were soon joined by a dozen Potato Cod and Rankin Cod possibly coming in to feed. Not long after that a school of 60 or 70 Golden Trevally arrived and they were definitely feeding. It was fantastic to watch them glide up and down the top of the reef with the surge, picking off a meal as they went. Another diver spotted a couple of Black Tip reef sharks on this dive too.

So put Coral Bay on the diving 'Must do' list and visit Exmouth while you are up that far. Next time we will aim for May as we were a bit early for the really good weather this year.

We are back at work for a couple of weeks now before heading off to Lissenung and Kavieng in New Guinea ... It's a hard life.

Moray Eel*Purple Lined Nembrotha*

Training Report

By UEC Training Officer Andrew Mingay

G'day All,

Dive Officer Training

Meet at 9.00 am on Sunday 20th May at the Swan Yacht Club.

All those on the list will need to bring their full scuba gear (one tank).

Advanced PADI Diver Course

This is a very worthwhile course and we are hoping to run the next one in June.

Please contact me for further details.

DAN02 / Rescue / EFR Combined Course

If you are keen to improve your skills, this is for you. Take part in all three courses, or just pick one. They should take place in July/August and once again, contact me for further information.

Lake Stockton Dive Trip

This is a great weekend of fantastic diving and social fun. We are organising the next trip now, so please contact me if you are interested in coming along.

Enjoy your diving,

Cheers,

Andrew

Ps When booking a course/trip, please supply your email address and contact numbers.

This is your chance to improve your scuba diving skills.

Why not ask Andrew about a course to suit your needs?

*Contact Andrew for more information –
email: training@uecwa.com.au, or
phone: 0429 205 208*

Pay directly online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Name: Underwater Explorers Club of WA.
BSB: 066136
Account: 00901972

There is limited space to write what the payment is for. Please start with your name and then reason for payment.

In all cases you must email the Treasurer with the following payment information:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for (and from)
- Reason for payment, e.g. Dive Dec 4, T-shirt, etc.

Club Aims and Objectives

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self-contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedures and to acquaint both Club members and the public with the facts of safety and using safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, provide fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

Contact your Committee

President
Vice President & Fundraising
Secretary
Treasurer
Dive Co-ordinator
Boat Officer
Safety Officer
Training Co-ordinator
Social
New Members
Environment
Web & PR
Newsletter

Julian Holliday
 Rachel Stone
 Amanda Blanksby
 Clive Mitchell
 Mark Maddern
 Martin Smith
 Steve Bright
 Andrew Mingay
 Ilonka Jarvis
 Sue Knight
 Spencer Shute
 Martin Arrowsmith
 Pat Swallow

president@uecwa.com.au
vicepresident@uecwa.com.au
secretary@uecwa.com.au
treasurer@uecwa.com.au
divebookings@uecwa.com.au
boat@uecwa.com.au
safety@uecwa.com.au
training@uecwa.com.au
socialbookings@uecwa.com.au
newmembers@uecwa.com.au
environment@uecwa.com.au
webmaster@uecwa.com.au
newsletter@uecwa.com.au

Still in the dark on night dives?

UEC members have access to the full range of LED Underwater Kinetics torches at discount prices.

Mini Q40 eLED plus This is the latest 2 watt LED 'focused globe' model . They are still not available in Australia but we have access to them. The Mini Q40 is the perfect back-up torch to strap to your mask or cray loop and the efficiency of the LED globe means that your battery life is 5 to 6 hours. It takes 4 AA batteries. It comes in several colours and has a lanyard but the mask strap is now an extra. **\$75**



SL4 eLED This torch takes 4 C size batteries with a burn time of more than 10 hours. It's bright enough to be your main torch for the 'occasional' night divers and is small enough to fit in a BC pocket as a good back up torch. The super tough LED globes means it is virtually impossible to break by being dropped. It comes with a lanyard and is also available in several colours. **\$120** (2 left at \$100)



C4 eLED This pistol grip style torch takes 4 C size batteries and is a perfect main torch for night diving. It has a locking switch to swap between the high and low beam settings. It also comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Silver and Black. Alkaline batteries included but it works well with NiMH rechargeables. **\$140**



C8 eLED plus This new pistol grip C8 is a great main torch. The completely new 10 watt LED 'water cooled' globe is incredibly efficient and has low and high power settings. It has a battery life of more than 10 hrs from 8 C size alkaline's (which are supplied) and can be used with NiMH rechargeable's. It comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Black and Silver. **\$260** (1 left at \$230)



Keep your torch safe at houses with a GearKeeper retractor. **\$35**



If you would like to order a torch or want to ask some questions e-mail Chris Cunnold at cunnold@iinet.net.au
Most of the torches are available for immediate delivery, depending on what colour you choose.

Have you seen the light?

Recycle your corks!

Never, ever throw a cork into landfill! Zita Dobson collects them and sends them to Guides Australia who recycle them and raise money.

Save them up and bring them to a meeting:
Zita or Bob are usually there.



Underwater Explorers Club
 Minutes of General Meeting
 Swan Yacht Club Wednesday 18 April 2007

Apologies	Jules Holliday Geoff Geard Michael O'Brien	Mark Maddern Steve Larter Judy O'Brien	Spencer Shute Martin Arrowsmith	Bob Dobson Richard Jefferee
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The meeting was opened at 7.30pm

At the start of the meeting Craig Challen was introduced as the guest speaker. He gave an extremely interesting presentation on technical diving and in particular on his recent diving expedition to RMS Niagara in New Zealand. Given that the wreck is at 120m depth, rebreathers, and long ascent times were the name of the game.

After the presentation and a short break the meeting was reconvened at 8.50pm.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1.0 The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Andrew Mingay
 Seconded by Dohn Taylor

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

2.0 None

Correspondence Inwards

- 3.0
- SPUMS Journal
 - Letter from Leask & Co dated 5 April 2007
 - Newsletter from Fremantle Volunteer Sea Rescue Group

Correspondence Outwards

- 4.0
- Letters to various dive shops requesting for prizes for raffle

Nominations

5.0 The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fees in advance:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Brooker • Gary Wyatt • Ross Henderson • Belinda McManus • David Cumber • Sean O'Brien • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean-Loop Dumas • Isaura Dumas • Jean-Charles Dumas • Jean-Philippe Dumas • Stephanie Geard |
|--|---|

New Memberships

6.0 There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philip Hayter • Terry McManus • Gavin Kristal • Tomas Borg • Laurence Hugi • Susan Arrowsmith (social) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael O'Brien • Judy O'Brien • David Norton-Wood • David Goynich • Keith Whittaker • Anne McCarrol |
|---|---|

Accepted by Sue Knight
 Seconded by Rob Bradbury

Reports

- 7.1 **President** – Jules Holliday
- Not present - nothing to report

- 7.2 **Secretary** – «GreetingLine»
- Nothing to report

7.3 Treasurer – Clive Mitchell

- Reported amount in the bank. Only went backwards small amount in the finances this month. Obtained membership fees, diving fees and had various expenses including GST payment.
- A question was raised on the Rottneest holiday 2007 and what profit was made from the event. Clive M commented that it was difficult to assess the profits as the payments and receipt of money is spread throughout the year. Clive Cass commented that the turnover was approximately \$12,500 with a net profit of \$3,600 plus \$1500 allocated to boat maintenance.

Accepted by Clive Cass
Seconded by Steve Bright

7.4 Vice President and Fund Raising – Rachel Stone

- Fluffy hats with club logo embroidered on the front for sale at \$20.
- Bomber jackets with club logo for sale at \$60. Rachel has a list to sign.
- Various boxes of fundraising chocolates have been dished out for sale by members. There are some fundraising lollies on the boat as well.
- Will be organising a photo competition for the wine bottles shortly.
- Currently thinking about doing a club calendar – would require support from club members to make it a suitable fundraising activity.
- Dolphin dive shop has good deals on run-out Mares BCDs and wetsuits.
- Entertainment books are available for order. People who pay early will also receive additional vouchers. Rachel has a list to sign. Has ordered a total of 50.

7.5 Dive Coordinator – Mark Maddern

- Not present.
- Single tank dive on Saturday, exploratory dive on Sunday, possibly to the Opera House if the GPS coordinates can be found.
- Double tank dive planned for Anzac Day.

7.6 Environment – Spencer Shute

- Not present.
- Amanda requested for members who did the Coral survey to pass photos to her. She will then pass to Spencer.

7.7 New Members – Sue Knight

- Has only had 2 or 3 enquiries about the club recently – understandable given we are heading into the winter months.
- The recent new members evening on the boat was a success. These events will be held every 3 months in the future.
- Have had about 50 members join the club during the current year.
-

7.8 Newsletter – Pat Swallow

- Current edition has been loaded onto the website. The PDF version is massive, given lots of photos. Will try to minimise the size for downloading purposes.

7.9 Web and PR – Martin Arrowsmith

- Not present.
- Pat presented his report, being that the website had been down due to technical issues and the whole site had been replaced with a month old back-up. Martin thinks he has since managed to get it all updated but if members notice anything that is missing then please let him know.

7.10 Safety – Steve Bright

- Nothing to report.

7.11 Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- Pie and pizza night this next Saturday. 6pm start.
- Jasmine Smith requested for some help putting together the pizzas given over 20 people were intending to attend, and for those attending to bring along a chair.

7.12 Training – Andrew Mingay

- DO training day planned for 20 May 2007.
- Andrew advised on the recent motion at the committee meeting that all new DO's were to have Rescue Diver and Dan O₂ qualifications (or equivalent).
- Has a number of club members interested in doing a PADI Advance course. Will arrange one in the near future.
- Trip to Lake Stockton is planned for the weekend 7th - 8th July – see Andrew for further details.
- Reminded those who have booked on for Albany trip over the long weekend in June that deposits were due now.

- Dennis Stubberfield briefed members on the recent skipper training that has been completed. He tabled a report on the skipper training with various proposals for consideration at the next committee meeting. Congratulations were given to trainee skippers Clive Mitchell, Steve Bright, Martin Arrowsmith and Wendy Hutchinson.
- Rachel said thanks to Dennis for donating his time in teaching the trainee skippers.

7.13 **Boat** – Martin Smith

- Boat is working well.
- Meeting of the boat sub-committee scheduled for 20 May, to discuss boat maintenance.

General Business

- 8.1 The club is looking for some advice on insurances. If anyone has such expertise, please contact Rachel.
- 8.2 The club is looking for a few people to assist Mark with the dive booking role, and in particular to encourage people to go out diving. Speak to Mark if interested or want further details.
- 8.3 Trip to Christmas Island planned in October. Contact Mark Walawski for further details or see club website.
- 8.4 Rachel requested for prizes for a raffle planned as part of the 'Christmas in July' event. This is intended to be a fundraising event for the club.
- 8.5 Ilonka Jarvis was presented her EFR card.
- 8.6 Clive Cass informed members that the Rottneest 2008 holiday was now full, but there is a waiting list for anyone interested. Payment of deposit due on 1 May 2007.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

The next general meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 May at 7:30 pm

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Rachel Stone
(Chairperson)



Underwater Explorers Club
Minutes of Committee Management Meeting
 SYC Wednesday 7 March 2007

Present:

Chairperson:	Jules Holliday			
Committee:	«GreetingLine»	Clive Mitchell	Rachel Stone	Mark Maddern
	Andrew Mingay	Ilonka Jarvis	Sue Knight	Steve Bright
	Martin Arrowsmith	Pat Swallow		
Members:	None			
Apologies	Spencer Shute	Martin Smith		

The meeting was opened at 7.20pm

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the executive committee meeting dated 5 February 2007 were circulated and accepted as a true record. **Action**

Accepted by Pat Swallow
 Seconded by Andrew Mingay

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- Outstanding actions are:
 - Spence to investigate into future federal funding for coral surveys.

Correspondence Inwards

- Letter from Australian Tax Office with regard to registration of online lodgement of BAS
- Cadbury's fundraising chocolate flyer
- Information on Thailand Travel and Dive Expo in Bangkok 24 – 27 May 2007
- Scuba 2 Logbook – Feb/Mar 07
- ING Direct with regard to processing of Business Optimiser Update Details form

Correspondence Outwards

- Letter to Anthony Torre and Monaco dated 6 February 2007.

Nominations

The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fee in advance:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| • David Goynich | • Anne McCarrol |
| • Keith Whittaker | • Susan Arrowsmith (social) |

New Memberships

There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| • Sandra Spinley (social) | • Kerryn Mason |
| • Peter Murphy | • Leo Nicolao |

Accepted by Sue Knight
 Seconded by Rachel Stone

Reports**President – Jules Holliday**

- There were 11 people on the dive trip to Albany and all went well.
- Agreed for all future dive trips to pay directly the person who is organising it, instead of via treasurer, in order to avoid paying inappropriate GST. Money can then be transferred into the club accounts at a later date if required.
- East Timor trip to be cancelled, given lack of interest and problems in the country.
- Mark 'Wal' Walawski is organising a trip to Christmas Island in October. It was agreed not to promote this as a club trip as Wal gets the trip for free. Instead it was agreed that he could promote the trip at the general meeting if he wanted to do so and that the terms and conditions would be spelt out. Club members could then decide if they wanted to go along or not.

- Fundraising Ball – had a long discussion and it was decided to not organise this event this year, given that it would take a lot of time and effort to organise and committee members are busy on other aspects of running the dive club. **Action**
 - Rachel, Clive, Amanda and Jules to meet with Paul Jagger, Business Manager of Scouts WA. He has knowledge in obtaining funding from the Lottery's Commission. Rachel, Clive, Amanda, Jules
- Secretary – Amanda Blanksby**
- Query from one member as to how to get their name on the diving list. It was clarified that this is the 'Members Distribution List' and is available to those who have agreed to have their contact details circulated to other club members.
- Treasurer – Clive Mitchell**
- Reported opening balance, closing balance and amount in outstanding debts.
 - No income from diving during the month. Membership income is slowing down. Lots of expenses in relation to the boat maintenance and paying for the accommodation for the 2008 Rottneest holiday.
 - Will move money from ING account. Clive
 - Agreed need to promote the diving more given that this is our main revenue stream for the next few months. All committee
- Vice President and Fundraising – Rachel Stone**
- Rachel showed examples of the business card. All happy with them. Rachel to print out more. Rachel
 - Fridge magnets to be sorted out. Rachel
 - Will sort out beanies and jackets with UEC logos shortly. Rachel
 - Will also see if members would like to have the logo put on their own clothes. Rachel
 - Will finalise wine shortly. Looking at getting clearskin mixed dozen. Rachel
 - Researched into producing a 2008 calendar and it is feasible for sale in September onwards. Will arrange a photo competition. Rachel
 - Avon Descent – has not heard much from the organisers. Collie training weekend on 10/11 March.
 - Will promote the Avon Descent at March's General Meeting as need to start drumming up support from within the club. It is a good PR event to support. Rachel
- Dive Coordinator – Mark Maddern**
- Saxone Ranger dive will be on the weekend of 24/25 March.
 - Will arrange an exploratory dive once a month.
 - New members river cruise planned for 23 March. Will have BBQ on boat. Cost \$10 per person.
 - Lake Stockton trip to be moved to weekend of 31/1, to enable Jules to attend new members river cruise.
 - Thinking about organising Coral Bay trip sometime between June and September.
 - Bremer Bay, has found a house available, sleeps 6 with plenty of room for tents in back garden. Rachel to pursue further. Rachel
- Environment – Spencer Shute**
- Not present – no report.
 -
- New Members – Sue Knight**
- Had 6 people enquire about the club over this past month, of which 3 signed up at February's general meeting.
- Newsletter – Pat Swallow**
- Tabled an email from Emma Ligtermoet with regard to a project to publish local stories about people's experiences on and around the Swan and Canning Rivers. Will include details in March's newsletter. Pat
 - Will arrange for Heidi Taylor to speak at the October general meeting. Also Jules and Pat to look into joining in with the Cape-to-Cape beach clean-up over the weekend of 13/14 October. Jules, Pat
- Web and PR – Martin Arrowsmith**
- New homepage set up, not heard anything from Bell Scuba, Jules to chase. Jules
 - Not received any payments from dive shops for sponsorship. Clive to prepare invoices. Clive
 - Jules to chase other dive shops to see if they are interested. Jules
 - Received email from Bekkers with regard to registering the domain. Clive/Martin to sort out. Clive, Martin

Safety – Steve Bright

- A few incidents that occurred over Rottnest holiday were discussed. Steve to provide some reminders at next general meeting including:
 - Requirement for club members to be fit and healthy;
 - For members to avoid retrieving objects heavier than 10 lbs, in order to avoid injuries to the diver themselves or the people on the boat lifting the object out of the water;
 - 50 bar back on the boat.
- Will request skippers and DO's to observe skills of divers and report on those not considered to be up to scratch. Steve to monitor.

Action
Steve

Steve

Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- Ten-pin bowling planned for 17 March. Child friendly event, no max numbers, curry buffet afterwards \$25 per person.
- Pizza and pie evening at Jasmine and Martin Smith's home on 21 April.
- Lawn bowls evening planned for 19 May, from 5pm onwards at Mosman Bowls. Can use BBQ facilities afterwards.
- Curry and games night planned at Malcolm Robert's residence in June. Date to be confirmed.
- Christmas in July at Ilonka's home. Full Xmas dinner. Will have some form of raffle prizes for fundraising purposes. Charge \$35 including glass of champagne. Committee to start thinking about suitable raffle prizes.

Training – Andrew Mingay

- Padi Advanced course planned for 21/22 April. Maximum 8 no. Payment required by 2 April.
- DO training – will make a general call for interested people over next month and then decide on how to organise the course.
- Skipper training back on again.

Boat – Martin Smith

- Not present – no report.

General Business

Boat Maintenance

- Rachel gave a briefing on the events with regard to the recent boat maintenance. She also raised items discussed at the previous BAD committee meeting with regard to future maintenance to add value to sale of boat for relatively little cost.
- May consider moving more towards a more professional approach by having a project manager type role and then using professionals for the major repair works. Otherwise it becomes very time consuming for a few individuals within the club. To be discussed further at next committee meeting.
- May require a schedule of maintenance to be prepared, to keep boat in good working order.

Any Other Business

- None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

The next committee meeting will be held on 2 April 2007 at 7:00 pm in the boardroom at SYC.

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Jules Holliday
(Chairperson)

D I V E Tulamben - Bali

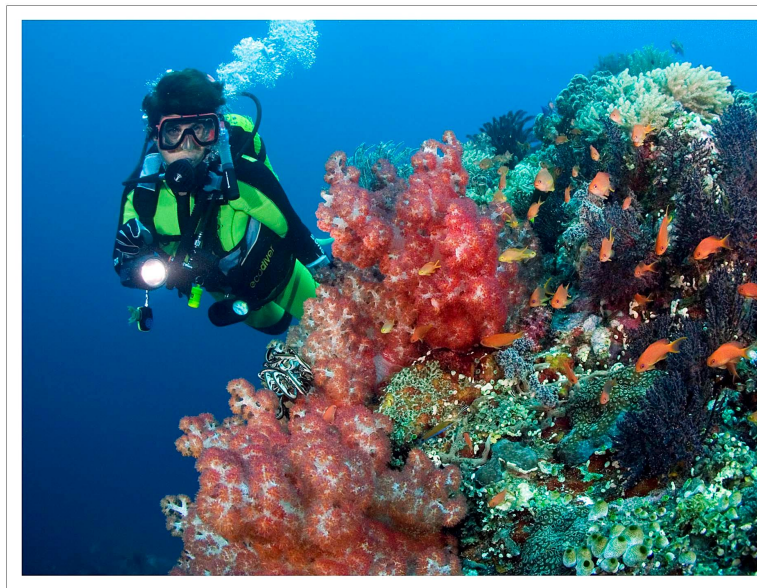
Reproduced below is an email and flyer sent to the Club by Dawn and Jeff Mullins (friends of Tony & Belinda Palmer). It certainly looks and sounds very appealing.

My wife Dawn & I are currently living on the north-east coast of Bali at a village named Tulamben. I am an underwater photo-journalist working as a correspondent to dive magazines around the World.

We are also now running dive tours in this area for experienced divers, and particularly for underwater photographers. We are offering the opportunity to be guided around the dive sites of Tulamben and surrounding districts by experienced expat West Aussies, who know the waters and marine life of the area intimately. I am also offering one on one u/w digital photography courses in Tulamben.

We can be contacted in Bali via e-mail at reefimages@ii.net or our website has more details at reefwreckandcritter.com

Best Regards
Jeff Mullins



Just three hours flight from Perth lies some of the World's best diving on the north-east coast of Bali at Tulamben, a tiny fishing village that in recent years has become a divers paradise.

Just 50 metres from the shores of Tulamben Bay is an American WWII shipwreck that is absolutely overgrown with lush soft corals and surrounded by hundreds of fish species. Along the beach is a sheer underwater wall that drops to over 60 metres deep plus a shallow coral garden where schooling trevally surround divers. Just nearby are shore dives where frogfish, ghost pipefish and nudibranchs are seen on every dive. This is the ultimate escape from Perth's winter weather - sunny skies and 30-32°C every day - water temperature a luke warm 27°C.

West Australian underwater photo-journalist Jeff Mullins and his wife Dawn now live in Tulamben and are offering the opportunity to explore the areas many and varied dive sites, without having to join a large group.

Jeff & Dawn offer guided dive tours for individuals / couples or small groups of experienced divers. Chose your style of accommodation from basic through to luxury. Diving is tailored to your individual requirements, from easy shore dives on shallow coral gardens through to boat dives on current fed pinnacles.

Jeff is also conducting one on one Underwater Digital Photography Courses in Tulamben. Half-Day Courses are available to:

- Learn how to optimise your own digital camera's capabilities.
- Use Adobe Photoshop to further enhance your underwater photos.
- Dive with an experienced photo-journalist to learn the correct techniques for capturing award winning photos with your own camera equipment.

Contact Jeff & Dawn by e-mail at reefimages@ii.net
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June 2007 Newsletter



President's Report

By Jules Holliday

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Dear Members

Apologies in advance for this being a bit of a long one but there is a lot to say and as Pat, our Newsletter editor is away, we needed to come up with some filler!

By now you will realize that we have not been telling fibs about the existence of the **Christmas in July and Grand Raffle** because you should all have received tickets in the mail.

Please do all you can to help us sell them because the proceeds will be going to help us all when we buy a new dive boat. There are some excellent prizes totalling over \$3,000 which are detailed below and we would like to thank all of those generous enough to provide them.

The Christmas in July party and dinner will be held at Ilonka's house on 14th July and will be that month's club meeting as well as a social affair. Her address is 9, Hollis Street, Samson and you should aim to be there by 7pm. It is certainly getting to be that time of the year when a turkey and ham dinner could go down very nicely so why bother having one at home when you can get one and all the trimmings thrown in for a mere \$30??? It's a BYO affair, by the way.

Please book with Ilonka as soon as you can because we need to plan for numbers by no later than Friday 6th July. Her email address is socialbookings@uecwa.com.au

President's Report continued

Any member who wants to just come along for the meeting is welcome to attend but it will be a short one as we are planning to be sitting down by about 8pm and you'll be told to clear off!!

The full list of prizes is as follows:

1. A Sea & Sea MX-5 II underwater camera and YS-20A strobe valued at \$980 thanks to **Australasian Diving Academy**.
2. A double dive package for two people on the wreck of the Lena in Bunbury worth \$320 thanks to **Coastal Water Dive**.
3. A \$300 dinner voucher at Gloucester Park's Beau Rivage Restaurant thanks to **Red Pepper Catering**.
4. A pair of Oceanic V12 split fins worth \$260 thanks to **Dolphin Scuba Diving** in Welshpool.
5. A double dive package for two people on the Lionfish IV worth \$240 thanks to **Perth Diving Academy**.
6. One cat or dog annual booster vaccination and 12 months supply of flea / worm treatment worth \$200 thanks to **Dr R Stone BVSc**.
7. A waterproof backpack with buoyancy device for underwater use worth \$199 thanks to **Bell Scuba**.
8. A family whale watching package in Albany between June and October worth \$180 thanks to **Silver Star Cruises**.
9. A PADI Advanced course worth \$175 thanks to **Jules Holliday**.
10. Water colour painting thanks to **Margaret and Bill Pettigrew**.
11. Water colour painting thanks to **Margaret and Bill Pettigrew**.
12. Water colour painting thanks to **Margaret and Bill Pettigrew**.
13. Whale print, Ocean Life book & Altimeter thanks to the **Pettigrews** again!
14. Free membership of the UEC for 2008 worth \$140 thanks to *all of us!*
15. One free double dive on the Underwater Explorer worth \$45.
16. One more free double dive on the Underwater Explorer worth \$45.

Finally I would like to thank all those involved in the process of putting together the raffle, organising prizes, ordering paper, printing tickets and sticking them in envelopes. These include Rachel Stone, Clive Mitchell, Amanda Blanksby and Mark Maddern. Thanks guys, that has been a great effort!

Dive Trips

The June trip to Albany went ahead with 12 people attending and there was some very good diving as well as some very choppy seas on the Sunday! The shallowest dive was about 25m and the deepest in Two People's Bay was a magnificent 45m which seemed like about 15m.

The highlight for me, at least, was spending several minutes with a large leatherback turtle on the night dive at Five Fingers which was close enough to touch, but we also saw a blind cat shark, wobbegongs and a variety of rays. Once again, I do recommend people to give diving in Albany a try. There are almost endless options covering a variety of different skill levels and some of the underwater scenery down there is breathtaking.

There will be another Albany trip going we think in around October or November but watch this space for further details.

President's Report continued

DO Training

Andrew Mingay, Rachel Stone and Mark Maddern threw an excellent day's training at the SYC on Sunday 20th May. We had eleven participants who spent the day doing all sorts of exciting things in rubber duckies and bouncing themselves off piers.

I would like to thank all those who attended and hope very much that the following Dive Officer Trainees will go on to become fully-fledged DOs in the Club:

Steve Bright, Martin Arrowsmith, Amanda Blanksby, John Ballard, Sue Knight, Keith Whittaker, Pat Swallow, Jasmine Lyons and Andrew Burkhill.

Dive Training

Andrew will tell you more about this but there is a wide range of courses at mates' rates being offered in July.

These include Emergency First Response, PADI Rescue Diver and PADI Enriched Air Diver. If you fancy sharpening up your skills and increasing your confidence underwater, please contact training@uecwa.com.au and we will take it from there.

WhaleNet Information Night - Tuesday 24th July

Some of you will recall that we had Mark Staniforth of St Mary's Anglican Girls' School speak to us about his diving and marine science programme in March.

Mark has a scientist called Michael Williamson coming over from Boston in the States and he will be carrying out some research on manta rays in Exmouth in July. Michael founded WhaleNet in 1993 which is an educational web site focusing on whales and marine research. He will be talking about the programme at St Mary's on the evening of 24th July and more information is available at <http://whale.wheelock.edu>

St Mary's has invited all UEC members to attend the evening which may also feature another talk by Dr Craig Challen who spoke to us in April. The school is located on Elliott Road in Karrinyup.

The catch is that I shall also be addressing the event and making things up about the UEC as I go along. So, if you want to learn about whales, wreck diving and the UEC, please feel free to come along and heckle!

More seriously though, this does give us an excellent opportunity to make ourselves known in the community. St Mary's trains about 60 divers every year and at least half of them go on to the Advanced programme and do various specialty courses. The school is very keen to see its students continue to dive in a cost effective way and Mark has been generous in offering to introduce them to the UEC.

This is something which the committee discussed at our June meeting and everyone agreed that bringing in younger members was to our advantage. We are aware that not everybody in the Club will see it like that but I think a club is like a family in some ways. New members must continue to join in order for it to flourish.

President's Report continued

The constitution of the UEC provides for Junior Members to join between the ages of 14 and 18. The annual fee is \$50 but they will have no voting rights until they become Ordinary Members.

In terms of using the boat, the first thing I would say is that we will follow standard diving agency practices. Anybody over 15 must dive with a buddy and anyone who is 14 will have to dive with an adult. We have also decided at the committee meeting that any Junior Member who wants to dive will have to come with a guardian (who may or may not be a diver). That guardian will be responsible for all the Junior Members on the boat which will encourage parents or teachers to bring groups of divers.

In terms of attending meetings, I have spoken with the Swan Yacht Club and there is no restriction on having Junior Members around even though it does have a liquor licence. Obviously we will not be buying them alcohol but they can have pop and crisps!!

If any member would like to raise any suggestions or comments then please feel free to do so at the next meeting or by contacting me on president@uecwa.com.au.

The Avon Descent

I do not want to steal Rachel's thunder on this one but I must say is that I had a good meeting with the Royal Lifesaving Society and the Avon Support Unit a couple of weeks ago.

The event has a long history with the UEC which we would like to continue. Quite apart from being great fun, the UEC does receive a payment of \$3,000 for its services which go towards buying a new boat. We have also negotiated free training from the RLS for Senior First Aid and Bronze Medallion Lifesaving. As both of these courses would normally cost about \$300, this is a great benefit which UEC members can receive.

So what are you waiting for? Go and sign up with Rachel immediately!!! (Check the August newsletters from 2005 & 2006 for articles on previous Avon Descent weekends - Ed)

We are also looking for crew who will be willing to help with the catering. In previous years the UEC has prepared and paid for all our own meals, as well as a thank you party for all attending. This year we have arranged with the ASU that they will pay for all the food provided we can lend people to assist them. This will include two breakfasts, two lunches and one dinner on Saturday night.

If you are willing to volunteer for the catering or for the rescue side, please let Rachel know on fundraising@uecwa.com.au.

New Members' Packs

In the current year we have had 57 new members join which is a fantastic result and my thanks go to Sue Knight for her efforts.

I have been threatening to produce a new members' guide for a month now and it is nearly ready. This will be given to all new members when they join, as well as all of those who have joined this year. If anybody else would like one, Sue is the one to ask at newmembers@uecwa.com.au.

President's Report continued

Club Buddy System

As part of the new members' pack, we are going to introduce a Club Buddy scheme. All this means is that a new member will be given the name of an existing member who will then meet them at the first meeting, introduce them to other people and help them while they are getting to grips with the new club. If that buddy wants to include being a dive buddy as well, that is entirely up to you.

We hope that as many of you as possible will put your hands up and volunteer for this one. As we have had 57 new members join in 8 months, I think we can more or less guarantee your services will be used!

If you are happy to be nominated, please send your details to Sue at newmembers@uecwa.com.au

New Members' Booze Cruise - Sunday 22nd July

This was scheduled to be on Sunday 17th but that has clashed with Avon Descent training so we have set another date being 22nd July.

The plan is simple - bring booze and barbeque stuff for a cruise up the river. We will depart the SYC at 12 noon and return at 5pm.

If you have joined the UEC in the past 6 or 7 months, we would love to see you there. We would also like to open the event for existing members but the shiny, new ones get first bite of the cherry!

History Buffs

Partly so we can give new members an idea of our history and partly so we can establish our credentials in the community to possible donors who might contribute to the new boat (that old chestnut keeps cropping up!), we are going to put together a short history of the UEC.

Just so you know, this will be a very, very short version and not the Encyclopaedia Britannica!

If anybody has any stories of underwater exploration over the years or community participation, could you please email me at president@uecwa.com.au. Better yet, if any of you have the time and inclination to take on the project yourself, that would be fantastic!

President's Report continued

Farewell and Thanks

Martin Smith has determined that he can no longer be our Boat Officer and a Skipper because of work and family commitments. Martin has spent a great deal of time in recent years on the boat and this is in some ways the most difficult position on the committee.

I would like to thank Martin for his contribution and I wish both him and Jasmine well for the future - we hope we will continue to see them at meetings, socials and on the dive boat.

We have a variety of people who can help out on the boat in the near future but we will be looking for somebody to replace Martin fairly soon. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know at president@uecwa.com.au as soon as you can.

In an ideal world the new Boat Officer will be somebody who can project manage the various on-going servicing requirements we have and organize volunteers to help with it. We do not necessarily need for that person to be a mechanic but obviously having mechanical skills would not be a disadvantage!

That is it for me and I hope to see many of you at our celebrations in July. Oh yes, and don't forget to keep diving - the conditions are excellent and there are so many prawns in the Swan River they're almost jumping into the nets!

Best

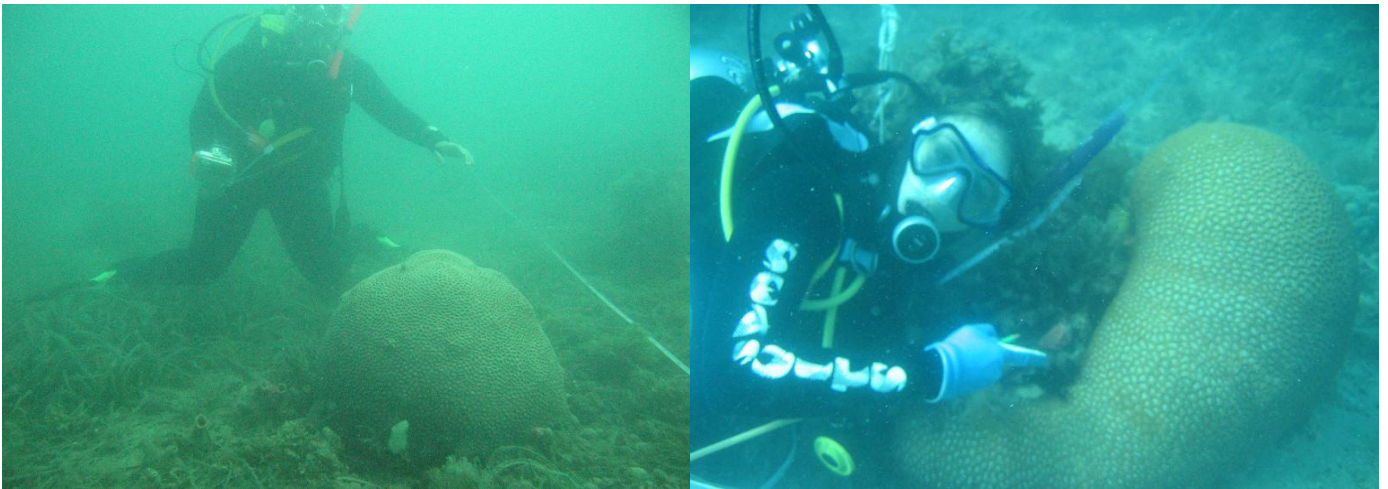
Jules

President
UECWA

Environment

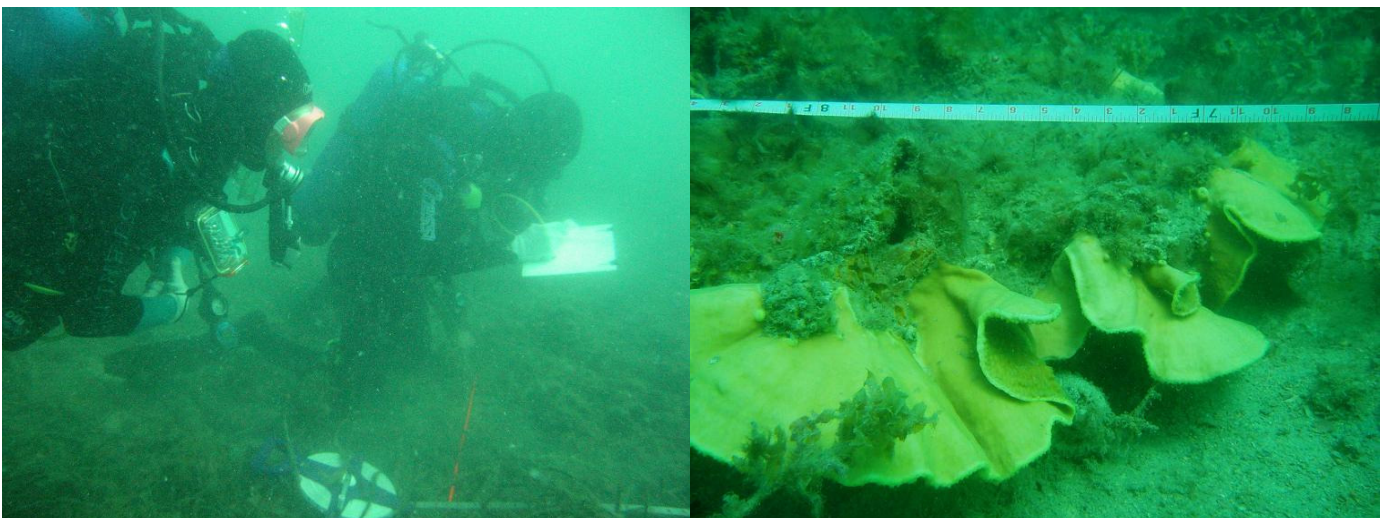
Coral Survey #2

On 31st March a second community coral survey was completed by members of the Underwater Explorers Club (UEC), the Murdoch University Dive (MUD) club and the Western Australian Underwater Photography Society (WAUPS). In total, eleven divers took part in the survey aboard the custom dive vessel the Sea Spirit, expertly skippered by Wayne Harvey.



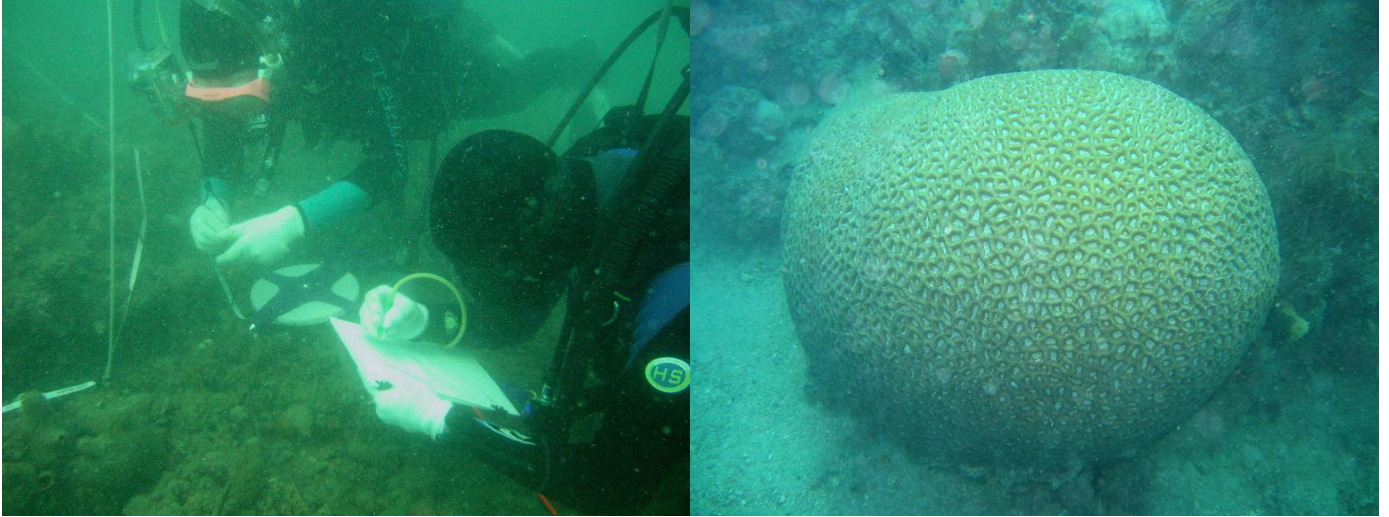
Background

The Coral survey project is a joint initiative of the Swan Catchment Council and the Cockburn Sound Management Council. It aims to involve the community in monitoring the marine environment of Cockburn Sound. Cockburn Sound is a highly utilised marine embayment close to an expanding urban centre. Corals are sensitive to water temperature changes, as can be seen by the phenomenon of coral bleaching, and other factors such as turbidity. Monitoring for coral presence over time may provide useful information on the health of the Sound and an early warning of change which may assist management authorities.



Environment continued

This time three sites in the northern half of Cockburn Sound, along the eastern shelf, were surveyed. Again we had success, with numerous relatively large hard coral colonies recorded where there is no recent record of them being found. A full report and poster are currently being prepared.



Photos by Ilonka Jarvis, Marko Di Lanvo and Spencer Shute.

Cheers
Spencer

Pay directly online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: **Commonwealth Bank**
 Name: **Underwater Explorers Club of WA.**
 BSB: **066136**
 Account: **00901972**

There is usually limited space to include a payment description so please make the most of it as tracing an unidentified deposit can be very time consuming.

Please follow up with an e-mail to the Treasurer with the following payment information:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for (and from)
- Reason for payment, e.g. Dive Dec 4, T-shirt, etc.

Club Aims and Objectives

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self-contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedures and to acquaint both Club members and the public with the facts of safety and using safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, provide fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

Committee

President	Julian Holliday	president@uecwa.com.au
Vice President	Rachel Stone	vicepresident@uecwa.com.au
Secretary	Amanda Blanksby	secretary@uecwa.com.au
Treasurer	Clive Mitchell	treasurer@uecwa.com.au
Dive Co-ordinator	Mark Maddern	divebookings@uecwa.com.au
Boat Officer	Martin Smith	boat@uecwa.com.au
Safety Officer	Steve Bright	safety@uecwa.com.au
Training Co-ordinator	Andrew Mingay	training@uecwa.com.au
Social	Ilonka Jarvis	socialbookings@uecwa.com.au
New Members	Sue Knight	newmembers@uecwa.com.au
Environment	Spencer Shute	environment@uecwa.com.au
Web & PR	Martin Arrowsmith	webmaster@uecwa.com.au
Newsletter	Pat Swallow	newsletter@uecwa.com.au



Underwater Explorers Club
 Minutes of General Meeting
 Swan Yacht Club Wednesday 16th May 2007

Apologies	Ilonka Jarvis Pat Troy Steve Larter	Carl Wheeler Carol Travagliano David Goynich	Warren Cummins Bob Dobson Sandy Webb	Martin Smith Zita Dobson Steve Bright
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The meeting was opened at 7.40pm

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1.0 The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Andrew Mingay
Seconded by Trevor Walker

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

2.0 None

Correspondence Inwards

- 3.0
- Cadbury's fundraiser information for Autumn 2007-04-30
 - Letter from Rottnest Island Authority Marine Administration dated 24 April 2007 with regard to mooring sites at Rottnest.
 - Scuba 2 Logbook April/May 2007
 - Raffle tickets from SYC
 - Information on new book called 'Oceanic Wilderness' from Crawford House Publishing
 - Letter from Leask & Co dated 15 May 2007

Correspondence Outwards

- 4.0
- Letter to Leask & Co dated 16 May 2007

Nominations

5.0 The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fees in advance:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| • Peter Glover | • Julie Houston |
| • Natassia Day | |

New Memberships

6.0 There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| • Gary Wyatt | • Jean-Loop Dumas |
| • Ross Henderson | • Isaura Dumas |
| • Stephanie Geard | • Jean-Charles Dumas |
| • Sean O'Brien | • Jean-Philippe Dumas |

Accepted by Martin Arrowsmith
Seconded by Dohn Taylor

Reports

7.1 **President** – Jules Holliday

- Christmas in July event – social and general meeting combined. In the process of organising a raffle to raise money for a new boat. Raffle tickets will be posted to all members for sale. Intending to raise around \$2000.
- DO Training – to commence on Sunday 20 May.
- Diving – still 6 weeks left in the cray season and the grey nurse sharks have been seen on a few of the recent trips out to Rottnest. Members were encouraged to book on and head out diving.
- It is planned to prepare and issue new members packs, providing loads of information on the club.
- Perth Scuba is planning to clean up Fremantle fishing boat harbour on Sunday 17 June, as part of PADI's Project Aware.
- ADA has got a 10th anniversary wetsuit clearance sale on Sunday 20 May.

Jules encouraged all members to use the dive shops being promoted, and mention about the UEC, as it helps to build up relationships for the future. The shops would then be more willing to offer prizes etc for various future events including a ball. They may also qualify divers and recommend our club as a means of further developing those diving skills.

- 7.2 **Secretary** – Amanda Blanksby
- Requested members to advise via email on changes to postal address, given impending posting of raffle tickets.
- 7.3 **Treasurer** – Clive Mitchell
- Clive read through the treasurer's report and circulated a copy.
- 7.4 **Vice President and Fund Raising** – Rachel Stone
- Jackets and hats were for sale, \$60 and \$20 respectively with UEC logo. Last chance to order them at the meeting.
 - Entertainment books were available for collection / sale.
 - Members with money from sale of chocolates, to pass money to Clive Mitchell.
- 7.5 **Dive Coordinator** – Mark Maddern
- A double tank dive planned for Saturday at 8am to hopefully see the grey nurse sharks.
 - Collated the opinions from those who did the Saxone Ranger trip. Some people enjoyed it, others thought it was too silty and a long journey. Will probably arrange another one later on this year.
- 7.6 **Environment** – Spencer Shute
- Coral survey went very well. Coastcare will prepare a promotional poster.
 - Currently researching into various voluntary based environmental projects that the club could get involved with.
 - Will contact RIA to arrange another clean up. Clive Cass noted that a clean up of the plinths at one of the snorkelling trials did happen during the Rottneest 2007 holiday.
- 7.7 **New Members** – Sue Knight
- Only had a couple of contacts this month.
 - Will be organising a new members event in June.
- 7.8 **Newsletter** – Pat Swallow
- Newsletter on line today.
 - Pat on holiday during the preparation of the next newsletter, but members were requested to still forward articles to her.
- 7.9 **Web and PR** – Martin Arrowsmith
- Has placed a link on the 'Links Page' for a publisher of dive books and videos in the US. Has requested for a book for the raffle in return.
- 7.10 **Safety** – Steve Bright
- Not present – no report.
- 7.11 **Social** – Ilonka Jarvis
- Not present – report done by Jasmine Smith
 - Lawn Bowls planned for Saturday 19 May. BYO BBQ
 - Curry and Games night planned for 16 June at Malcolm Roberts home.
 - Christmas in July event - Saturday 14 July.
- 7.12 **Training** – Andrew Mingay
- Sunday 20 May – DO training planned. Those participating were requested to bring along their dive gear. Other already qualified DO's were also welcome to attend for a refresher.
 - Lake Stockton – weekend away to be rescheduled, given clash with Avon descent training.
- 7.13 **Boat** – Martin Smith
- Not present – no report.
 - Jules reminded those on the boat sub-committee that a meeting was planned for Sunday 20 May, to discuss maintenance issues.

Accepted by Jeff Wake
Seconded by Sue Knight

General Business

- 8.1 Geoff Charlton queried why we used the 'Fremantle Group' call sign on the radio, rather than 'Explorer 1'. It was explained that the club pays membership to Fremantle Volunteer Sea Rescue Group and it provides some privacy as to who we are, given incidents in the past of people reporting the club to DPI.
- 8.2 Chris Cunnold noted that the call sign on the radio was incorrect. It should be 'FG739' rather than 'FG720'. Someone to amend.

- 8.3 Prize donations from members for the raffle were welcomed.
- 8.4 Carmine Travaglione mentioned that he had some aluminium tanks (which could hold around 70 to 100 litres of water) and records that belong to the club. Clive Mitchell to collect.
- 8.5 Malcolm Roberts encouraged all club members to head out diving to see the grey nurse sharks and suggested the club focus on this opportunity more next year.
- 8.6 Mark Maddern was presented with a certificate of achievement on completing 600 dives.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

After a 20 minutes break, some video footage of the grey nurse sharks was shown, as taken by Dohn Taylor. Mark Maddern then showed a photo slideshow on the Avon Descent event.

The next general meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 June at 7:30 pm

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Jules Holliday
(Chairperson)



Underwater Explorers Club
 Minutes of Management Committee Meeting
 Swan Yacht Club Thursday 12th April 2007

Present:

Chairperson:	Jules Holliday			
Committee:	Amanda Blanksby	Clive Mitchell	Rachel Stone	Mark Maddern
	Andrew Mingay	Ilonka Jarvis	Martin Smith	Steve Bright
	Martin Arrowsmith	Pat Swallow		
Members:	Jasmine Smith	Chris Wilkinson		
Apologies	Spencer Shute	Sue Knight		

The meeting was opened at 7.05pm

Action

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the committee management meeting dated 7 March 2007 were circulated and accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Pat Swallow
 Seconded by Mark Maddern

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- To be reviewed through the meeting.

Correspondence Inwards

- SPUMS Journal
- Letter from Leask & Co dated 5 April 2007
- Fremantle Volunteer Sea Rescue Group newsletter
- Letter from SYC dated 26 March 2007 on mooring gear (Dennis Stubberfield provided his copy of the letter – UEC have not received one directly from SYC).

Correspondence Outwards

- None

Nominations

The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fee in advance:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| • John Brooker | • Jean-Loop Dumas |
| • Gary Wyatt | • Isaura Dumas |
| • Ross Henderson | • Jean-Charles Dumas |
| • Belinda McManus | • Jean-Philippe Dumas |
| • David Cumber | • Sean O'Brien |
| • Stephanie Geard | |

New Memberships

There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| • Philip Hayter | • Michael O'Brien |
| • Terry McManus | • Judy O'Brien |
| • Gavin Kristal | • David Norton-Wood |
| • Tomas Borg | • David Goynich |
| • Laurence Hugi | • Keith Whittaker |
| • Susan Arrowsmith (social) | • Anne McCarrol |
| | • |

Accepted by Andrew Mingay
 Seconded by Steve Bright

Reports

President – Jules Holliday

- Keen to maintain the momentum through the winter months by organising some more social events at the weekends, even using the boat for a day cruise up the river etc.
- Thanks to Sue for her hard work in attracting all the new members and to Mark for maintaining a packed diving schedule.

Secretary – Amanda Blanksby

- Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Clive Mitchell

- Treasurer's report tabled.
- Discussed the issue of GST. Clive to look into the possibility of de-registering after the end of the financial year.

Clive

Vice President and Fundraising – Rachel Stone

- Entertainment booked will be available in May. Has ordered 50 no.
- Chocolates will be on sale at next general meeting. Pat to collect the order.
- Avon Descent – still asking club members on an individual basis if they are interested in helping out. Rachel to send letter to ASU with regard to the amount of money they will give the club for supplying the volunteers.
- Fridge magnets – to be ordered shortly.
- Beanies and jackets will probably be on sale at May general meeting.
- Wine – Rachel to chase.
- 2008 calendar, Pat to find out some costs. Chris Wilkinson mentioned that the calendar he did cost about \$20. Need to determine if it is a valid fundraiser.

Pat

Rachel

Rachel

Rachel

Pat

Dive Coordinator – Mark Maddern

- Saxon Ranger trip went well. Didn't use as much fuel as anticipated. It was a long boat trip though. The wreck is small, surrounded by a lot of silt. Mark to send an email to those who did the trip to get some feedback, and then decide whether to run the trip again at the beginning of the next dive season.
- Night dive on Friday night at the Fremantle wrecks has been cancelled due to lack of availability of dive coordinator. The dive will be rescheduled.
- Blind fishing day at SYC – Mark to check on this. [PMN – Jules checked with SYC and they did not need to use our boat].
- Grey nurse sharks were spotted during the dive on 7 April.
- Mark to push the diving over the next few weeks given that the visibility and water temperature are both good.
- Thanks to Jasmine for covering the dive coordinator role whilst Mark was away.
- Mark to request at the general meeting if there are some members willing to form a small subcommittee to assist him in persuading people to go out diving. They could also cover the dive coordinator role when Mark is away.

Mark

Mark

Mark

Environment – Spencer Shute

- Not present – no report.

New Members – Sue Knight

- Not present, however provided a report.
- New members event on the boat was a success. Suggested to arrange them once every three months. Committee in agreement with this.

Sue

Newsletter – Pat Swallow

- Heidi Taylor is booked to give a talk at the October general meeting.
- In the process of organising a weekend away in Dunsborough in October including two boat dives on the Swan on Saturday and a beach clean up event on Sunday. Looking into accommodation and will finalise the details by the May general meeting.
- Contributions for April's newsletter required by Monday at the latest.

Pat

Web and PR – Martin Arrowsmith

- Website is running smoothly. Some more photos have been added to photo page.
- Martin to look into putting a page detailing past dive trips organised by the club.

Martin A

Safety – Steve Bright

- Will try to reschedule Ian Dey as the July general meeting has been changed to 'Christmas in July' event. Steve

Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- Not many people have signed up for the Pizza and Pie event on 21 April 2007, so far. Rachel to send another email promoting it.
- Lawn bowls is planned for 19 May at Mosman Park Bowls.
- Curry night is planned for 16 June at Malcolm Robert's home.
- Discussed some options for a social event during the day, such as Supagolf or Lazerquest. Could also arrange a day boat trip up the river to the Swan Brewery.
- May general meeting – Martin S and Mark to arrange presentation on Avon Descent.
- June general meeting – slideshow of photos from Sipadan, given recent trip by some club members. Amanda to organise. Martin S, Mark Amanda

Training – Andrew Mingay

- Lake Stockton weekend – the diving was surprisingly good. 29m maximum depth, water temp 14 degrees. Will organise the trip again the future.
- Have 14 people interested in doing the Dive Officer course. Discussed the format to the training. Jules and Andrew to finalise. Jules, Andrew
- Andrew raised the following motion:
 - From now onwards members wanting to qualify as a DO shall have PADI Rescue and DAN O₂ qualifications or equivalent.
- Motion seconded by Steve Bright. 9 committee members for the motion, 2 absentees. Motion carried.
- PADI Advance course has been cancelled due to lack of interest.
- Raised a request from Dennis Stubberfield to have a skipper training night trip to Rottneest and back. It was agreed this was not acceptable, (from a financial point of view) and that practicing using the boat at night on the river would be sufficient for the training.
- Need to organise a log for use of the oxygen on board the boat. Andrew ?, Steve?

Boat – Martin Smith

- Mechanically the boat is working very well after the maintenance work completed in February.
- Martin requested for all skippers to ensure the boat was refuelled after diving. It was also re-emphasised that there should be no separate trips for boat refuelling purposes.
- Meeting of the boat sub-committee will be held on Sunday 20th May at 9am on the boat. Meeting will discuss the pen mooring issues raised by SYC and prepare a list of boat maintenance requirements. Martin S, Clive
- Jules noted that when the boat is next out of the water the situation requires to be better managed, both in terms of people's time commitment and the organisation of the purchase of parts. It is important to ensure that the boat is on the hardstand for the minimal amount of time. Martin S
- Martin to look into logistics of fitting a hot shower on the boat.

General Business

Christmas Island Trip in October

- Christmas Island trip will be advertised within club given that Wal has offered a 15% discount to club members.

Christmas in July Party

- Jules to see if can get some prizes from local dive shops. Jules
- Rachel to check on licence for raffle [PMN – Clive has actioned and advised the cost is \$35].
- Need to organise raffle tickets and logistics. Amanda, Jules, Rachel

Committee Members Attendance at Meetings

- If committee members cannot attend either the committee or general meetings, please let the secretary know and provide information on matters to be raised. All

Boat Sale

- Noted that the boat is not advertised for sale. Agreed to leave the situation as it is until things were clearer on the method of funding for a new boat.
- Will look into obtaining funding from Lotterywest during the winter months.

Jules, Rachel, Clive,
Amanda, Mark

Skipper Diving

- It was reinforced that skippers can only dive if there is another skipper or trainee skipper on the boat. This is the same for the dive officer.

Any Other Business**Complaint**

- Steve has received a complaint about the dive on 7th April, given that time was taken to repair the mooring at Geordie Bay on Rottnest Island.
- Jasmine noted that she had informed most people who had booked on, that the day would probably be longer than normal given the need to do the repair works.

Rottnest Mooring

- Martin S noted that there was still more repair work to complete on the mooring. Clive Cass and Martin S to action.

Martin S

Liability Insurance

- Club needs to look into obtaining some form of liability insurance. Rachel to ask at the next meeting if there are any insurance brokers in the club to provide advice.

Rachel

SYC – Pen Mooring Arrangements

- SYC have requested for penholders to update mooring gear, and for boats in jetty 5 to face outward by the bow from May 1st to September 30th each year. Martin S to discuss further with SYC and see if we can get an exemption, given difficulties with backing the boat into the pen.

Martin S

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.05pm.

The next committee meeting will be held on 14th May 2007 at 7:00 pm at SYC.

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Jules Holliday
(Chairperson)



July 2007 Newsletter



The 2007 Avon Descent Training Crew - full story page 8

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President's Report

By Jules Holliday

Dear Members

Merry Christmas!

Christmas in July

It is now fully booked which is great and raffle ticket sales are going well. You can still buy them even on the night itself which is 14th July so go ahead and treat yourself.

The meeting starts at 7pm prompt and all members are welcome. The dinner starts at 8pm and it's a BYO affair.

Please note that this event is NOT at the Swan Yacht Club but at 9, Hollis Street, Samson. You can go to the Yacht Club if you like but you'll be the only turkey there!

Swan Yacht Club Membership

This is something which has come up recently and which we have met the committee of the SYC about this week. I am sorry to bore you with it but it needs to be brought up and I have thrown in the occasional witty comment just to make it more fun!

President's report continued

Long before any of our current Committee came on board, there was apparently some sort of verbal agreement that UEC members would be associate members of the SYC. To my knowledge this agreement has never been enforced. I certainly have never been asked to join the SYC and I have been a member of the UEC for three years!

Anyway, many of our members did join as social members and this allows them to park without getting a ticket at the weekends and it also gets them the SYC newsletter every month. They paid \$30 a year for the privilege which came to the UEC and then we paid the SYC.

This year the SYC sent us a letter demanding that all our members become social members of the SYC which costs \$65 a year. The mathematical types amongst you will see that is the kind of price rise we only associate with houses here in Perth! They also wanted every member of a Family Membership at the UEC to become a social member and the President to become a full member costing about \$550 a year.

Our Treasurer and Secretary, Clive and Amanda, went in to meet with the SYC committee on Monday 9th July and discussed the situation with them. We have said that we will need time to consult our members but Clive and Amanda came away with the following revised deal which is nowhere near as harsh as the original proposition.

All of our Ordinary Members and one Family Member (per membership) are to become Social Members of the SYC for \$40 a year. That is a \$10 a year price hike and the proposal is that it will apply to everyone rather than be optional. Social Members will pay \$30 which is a reduced cost to reflect our reduced social membership costs. Life Members do not have to pay anything because they probably won't live very long anyway - you know I am just playing!! - and Junior Members don't have to pay anything either (presumably because they're not old enough to drink!!). Student Members, of which we have a few, do not pay anything either because they need to save all their money for alcohol...

We will also have to take out one full membership like all the other pen holders do and that has to be in the name of an individual, which they have suggested is the President. I have always wanted to be a member of the SYC so all my Christmases have come at once this July!!

The upshot is this - We as a club represent the interests of our members and we cannot force anything upon you. We have already said to the SYC that if membership is to be compulsory, the UEC will have to alter its constitution. What we would like is for any of you with any comments to email them to our secretary, Amanda Blanksby, at secretary@uecwa.com.au.

Please provide us with frank and open feedback - do not feel shy about saying whatever you think. We will also be bringing this subject up at Christmas in July just as we get the sharp knives out to stab the turkeys. Did I say stab? I meant carve!!!

So that is the proposal and now we want your candid feedback! Finally, my thanks go to Clive and Amanda for giving up their time to discuss this with the SYC. I am very grateful for their efforts so well done!

President's report continued

Avon Descent Training

Some of us spent last weekend jumping in and out of the river up in the Avon Valley. Trust me when I tell you it was a lot better than it sounds and everyone who participated had a great time - as some of you will see from the attached photo!

A number of our members also took advantage of the Royal Life Saving Society Senior First Aid course which happened the weekend before. As part of the UEC's commitment to the Avon Descent, they have responded by offering our volunteers free first aid training which usually costs \$150. This kind of training is excellent in the dive world but it is also a handy skill to have in any situation. I would just like to thank the RLSS and the Avon Support Unit for their assistance with offering us this facility.

Assisting the ASU is something which the UEC has now been doing for a number of years. Quite apart from it being a very worthwhile community project, we also are paid for our efforts which is excellent for the Club. Taking part is also a lot of fun and I can thoroughly recommend floating down rapids in a wetsuit and personal flotation device - it is quite an adrenalin rush and it doesn't cost us a penny!!

The race itself will be held on the weekend of the 4th and 5th of August and I would like to thank all of those who have put their hands up to help out. For those of you who are not involved, be sure to keep an eye out for us on Channel Ten news programmes over the weekend.



A case of gear failure perhaps, or maybe our readers could come up with a funny caption? Entries to: newsletter@uecwa.com.au.

President's report continued

New Skippers

I am pleased to announce that we have swollen our ranks of boat skippers by another four members. Well done to Clive Mitchell, Steve Bright, Martin Arrowsmith and Wendy Hutchison who have all now ditched their L Plates to become Provisional Skippers.

What this means in practice is that all four of them are now qualified to drive our boat alone in the river but they will continue to get experienced skippers driving with them over to Rottnest. At some stage later in the year they will be tested again by ex-President and Life Member Dennis Stubberfield and hopefully then they will be able to put their P Plates in the bin!

WhaleNet Information Night - Tuesday 24th July

The attached flyer tells us a little more about the event which I hope members can attend because it should be a good night. The event is free but please be sure to book with St Mary's School in advance. ([Access the Whalenet flyer here.](#))

Club Buddy System

So far we have had two volunteers and that is only because they both owe me money.....

Please start volunteering or I am going to start taking advantage of my speed dialing facility in the early hours of the morning.

Or I might just have a "Name and Shame" campaign running like they used to do in England for people caught kerb-crawling around red light districts!!! You think I am joking....

If you are happy to be nominated, please send your details to Sue at newmembers@uecwa.com.au.

If you are not happy to be nominated, please expect the unexpected!!

New Members' Booze Cruise - Sunday 22nd July

The plan is simple - bring booze and barbeque stuff for a cruise up the river. We will depart the SYC at 12 noon and return at 5pm.

If you have joined the UEC in the past 6 or 7 months, we would love to see you there. The sad news is that I won't be there because I will be on a school dive trip in Exmouth. Thus, there is more chance of you having a good time on the boat...

Dive Holiday in Vanuatu - 2nd-10th December

You will see an attachment in this newsletter about a trip to dive the SS Coolidge in Vanuatu in December. This is considered an excellent dive spot which attracts wreck divers from around the world. ([Access Vanuatu flyer here.](#))

President's report continued

Tracey Price from Dive Adventures in Melbourne will hopefully be giving a quick presentation on this at our club meeting in August. I believe she will just have returned from doing the same trip herself and is doing a quick visit over to the Golden State to see what she is missing...

The cost is just over \$1,600 for 8 nights' accommodation including breakfast and 12 shore dives. The reason we are doing shore dives is simple - when the ship hit a mine way back in 1942, the Captain drove her at full blast into the beach so that the troops on board could disembark safely. It is quite remarkable, in fact, that of the thousands on board there was only the loss of two lives as a result of it hitting the mine.

As shore dives go, this one is quite unusual because the bow of the wreck lies in 20m of water and the stern in 70m. There are not that many places I can think of where you can do a 70m dive off the beach!

Tracey has been able to secure a good price on this trip because there is currently a special fare available from Brisbane with the carrier. The other advantage is that there is no minimum number required to make it run. Consequently if only a couple of our members want to attend, they will not be disappointed as the trip will still happen.

Have a think about whether you might like to join the trip and then come along to hear about it in August. We will need to take bookings fairly quickly after the meeting, however.

In the meantime, I hope that you will all be out there getting wet in the near future. A couple of shore dives are being planned and the boat is still raring to get out so that you can all enjoy the crystal like waters at the moment!!

Best

Jules

President
UECWA

Stop Press:

Check out the end of this newsletter for an article from Renee giving an insight into the last Albany diving weekend.

Next Albany Trip 19th to 22nd October – email Jules for more information

president@uecwa.com.au

The Annual UEC Curry & Games Night

The annual UEC Curry & Games Night took place on Saturday 16th June. Rachel produced her famous tasty curries while Malcolm organised the games, including the infamous schlong. Judging by the photos taken by Ilonka, all those attending had a great time.



Ah, so that's schlong... and Jasmine was the winner!



More photos from the Curry & Games night...



Jo and Rachel prepare to “Flap the Kipper”!



Pinball Wizards at work

Avon Descent Training

By Rachel Stone

Thanks heaps to all who have attended the training sessions for the 2007 Avon Descent. I think everyone will agree they had heaps of fun & learnt far more than they expected about the river & how to stay safe. The rain has already started to fill up the river so it is shaping up to be a great event this year - so come along & join the fun! The valley run = 28/29 July - is often described as more fun than the actual event as we get to play at all the different rapids without too many competitors getting in our water! It is really important to get to some training before the event as they have heaps more gear to get familiar with in case we need it on raceday.

The UEC gets a substantial donation for our efforts [\$3000] and if we don't supply enough people to warrant this we will lose this opportunity to raise the ever needed funds to run the UEC and also to be seen to be contributing to community events. We intend applying to Lotterywest and it is our involvement in such events that makes us a worthwhile investment in the eyes of the community.

If you would like more information about what is involved & want to join our rescue squad please contact Rachel 0424940178 or info@uecwa.com.au.

Avon Descent Training of a different kind!

By Clive Mitchell

For the last few years I, along with many other intrepid UEC members, have volunteered to help out as part of the Avon Support Unit's rescue teams during the Avon Descent. This has always been an enjoyable and varied weekend, socialising around the worlds biggest camp fire on a Saturday night, awaking at some unearthly hour to the smell of bacon and eggs courtesy of our kitchen staff who got up even earlier, and at the business end, standing in freezing water or sitting on a nice warm rock watching hundreds of clearly mental people get washed down stream and pretend to enjoy it. At times I would think "You know, that might actually be fun, I should give it a try." or, as some particularly portly or elderly victim floated past, "Jeez, if they're giving it a go, I shouldn't have any problems!".

Alas last year I made the mistake of voicing those thoughts out loud and all of a sudden there was no turning back! So what to do? Having had pretty much no paddling experience I took what I thought was a logical approach and opted for an Endorfinn plastic ski. They seemed to be the most common boat in the race so that's a good choice right? Almost right, they are in fact a good compromise. Being long they're relatively fast for a plastic boat, faster than your average kayak, but not as stable or maneuverable so what you make up on the flat bits you lose in the rapids. Being made of plastic they're a lot heavier (22kg empty, think portage at Extracts weir!) than a fibreglass boat but if you've volunteered at the Avon Descent before you'll be familiar with the horrible sound of fibreglass hitting granite!

So, equipped with a shiny new green Endorfinn I hit the water. Then I hit it again, and again. After a couple of hours I stopped hitting it quite so regularly and managed to get some paddle time in. Paddling the Swan River can be very relaxing, I'd go out for 30-40 minutes of hard exercise and cover 5 or 6 km. No worries. How long's the Avon Descent? 133km, shit!

Gliding along on the dark water, the surface almost like a millpond reflecting the city lights, the odd fish or even dolphin for company...

Obviously I needed to put some time in and daylight saving was a real bonus here. Hit the water by 6pm, paddle for a couple of hours and still home in daylight, fantastic. I don't care how much you like outdoor cinema, daylight saving is great! Soon I was doing 12-13km on the trot. How long's the Avon Descent? 133km, shit!

After doing this for a while I decided it would be safe to front up for some lessons without making a fool of myself. So I spent a few Saturday mornings down at Sandy Beach Reserve with the excellent crew from "Canoeing Down Under" learning the basics of flat water paddling. It wasn't too strenuous but the tips you pick up from the instructors in conversation are invaluable.

Soon the weather's getting colder and it's only 3 months until race day. I decide I'd better start to put some serious time in and build some fitness so 2 or 3 nights a week it's on to the river after work and this is where the magic really begins. Gliding along on the dark water, the surface almost like a millpond reflecting the city lights, the odd fish or even dolphin for company. It's impossible to describe how beautiful and relaxing it can be. I'm soon comfortably doing 25km a session and feeling good.

I try and vary things a bit by paddling in different locations but my two clear favourites are Matilda Bay to Kent St Weir and return and Garret Rd Bridge to Barrack St Jetty and return. Paddling along the Canning River in Shelley past the old convict fence posts on a moonlit night is as good as it gets and Perth Water on a still night with the reflection of the city lights is simply stunning.

Being the social person that I am and paddling on my own I had no real benchmark to compare to so when I saw a marathon race advertised, 27km from Middle Swan Rd to Ascot, I thought it would be a good chance to see how I was progressing. Turned up at the start line at 6:45am (Is there something wrong with paddling at civilised hours?), entered the long plastics class in the masters age group (diplomatic but completely inaccurate) and started with about 50 boats of all types. After about 5 minutes of frenzied paddling trying to stay in touch with the lead bunch of 8 plastic boats, my arms are aching, we're about 1.8% of the way there, and I'm thinking "No way! This is insane. Surely I'm not that slow?". Fortunately, the pace slackened a wee bit and one by one the other paddlers fell away until, with a mere 4-5kms to go, there were just two of us. We continued neck and neck until with just 500m to go my fellow paddler, obviously more versed in the art of canoe racing (and not in a fatigue induced daze like yours truly) hitched a ride on the wake of a passing double kayak and got away from me. Still, second plastic boat home and first in my age group, I was pretty chuffed to say the least, even if I couldn't lift my arms for the rest of the day.

With the recent rains came the opportunity to get some whitewater practice. Along with a group of other novices I headed to Walyunga National Park for an introductory paddle down to below Bells Rapids. Water levels weren't that great (I'm told), better than they were for last year's race but still plenty of bouncing off rocks. What a blast, made it all they way through somehow, including over the big drop under the bridge, until disaster struck. Approaching the next rapid after the bridge I got completely off line, t-boned a large rock, got swept sideways and over the drop. All rather embarrassing but worse was the loud crack as my paddle gave way while trying to regain some semblance of control. Not a good start but a lesson learned!

Unfortunately the rain has now stopped for the time being and with the water level dropping as quickly as it rose it will be a little while before I get another go at it so it's back to the fitness work for the moment. Getting pretty excited about the event now and hopefully I will have some entertaining tales for the next newsletter. If you've volunteered to help out at the race this year, make sure you bring a snickers bar to throw when I swim past, I'll let you know my race number after scrutineering on the 22nd!

Cheers
Clive Mitchell

Training Report

By UEC Training Officer Andrew Mingay

G'day fellow Dive-a-holics and club members!

Dive Officer Training

The Dive Officer (DO) training held on 20th May 2007 received a great response. A huge thanks to Rachel Stone and Mark Maddern for stepping up at short notice to run the training.

We now have eight new DO trainees on their way to becoming Dive Officers - Steve Bright, Martin Arrowsmith, Pat Swallow, Amanda Blanksby, Sue Knight, Keith Whittaker, John Ballard and Jasmine Lyons - who underwent training in boat skills, boat handling, DO responsibilities and basic rescue techniques. Jeff Wake and Malcolm Roberts also attended to refresh their skills as a DO. This is a great example for all us to make sure that we are continually refreshing our skills and ensuring we are capable and competent in all of our diving activities.

DO training will be run on an annual basis, so if you're interested in becoming a Dive Officer in the future email your expression of interest to me at training@uecwa.com.au

Nitrox, Rescue and EFR Training

Training was scheduled for Rescue, EFR and Nitrox instruction on the 5th, 8th and 10th of July, respectively.

The response was disappointing, particularly due to the fact that the training was being offered at a significantly reduced rate for UEC members and friends.

It is very disappointing that we did not get any takers for the rescue training course. Safety is first and foremost within the UEC, and rescue training is an excellent course to give you the skills and awareness to improve your own safety and the safety of others.

The response has puzzled me and I am interested in receiving feedback from members to understand why we did not receive any responses or queries about the training.

We are in a unique position where we have the opportunity to participate in PADI certified training courses at a much cheaper rate than that offered by dive stores, and I would like your feedback on what we can do differently, or better, to make the training more attractive - be it timing, courses, promotions / awareness...whatever it is, let me know! @ training@uecwa.com.au

Refresher Training

For our members who have not been in the water for a while or who are new to diving, I am offering Refresher Training free of charge. Contact me at the usual address, training@uecwa.com.au, and we can arrange a suitable time.

Remember, our sport is developing all the time and we all have a responsibility to ensure we are up-to-date and competent in the water. Not doing so places yourself and those around you at risk.

Training Report continued

Other Training

As training officer my role is to provide you with information on, and access to, courses/activities that are of interest to club members. This includes diving and diving-related courses. If there are courses that are of interest, please let me know at training@uecwa.com.au. As a club we may be able to secure discounted rates for group bookings, whilst increasing our exposure and potentially our membership base.

Remember, the committee is here to coordinate club activities and improve the experience of everyone involved. We can only do that with your input to let us know what it is you want to make the UEC a valuable club to you!

Cheers

Andrew

Ps When booking a course/trip, please supply your email address and contact numbers.

Diving in a South Pacific Paradise - Lissenung Island, New Guinea

By Chris Cunnold

As usual the Friday night red-eye was the cheapest flight from Perth to Cairns so we took it and spent the following day and night catching up on sleep and acclimatising to the humidity in Cairns. Next day we skipped over to Port Moresby. We had to spend another night due to flights and the travellers rumours we had heard made us wary. The drive to our hotel in 'Moresby' only took five minutes and after driving through two separate security compound gates we were there. It seemed safe so a few of our group thought they would venture out of the compound during the afternoon but the security guards had other ideas "in the interest of safety" they said so they opted for pool-side bar instead. Our overnight stay passed without incident but we did spot a near new car with bullet holes in the bonnet as we headed to the domestic airport the next day to board a flight to Kavieng.

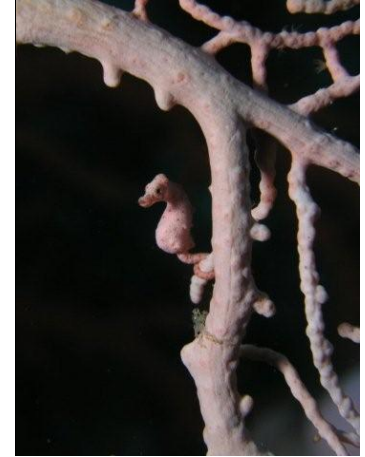
After walking past a huge sign asking us to declare our weapons and ammunition (which had a picture of some kind of assault rifle and grenades on it) we checked in quickly, a small miracle in itself for New Guinea as we now know a 2 or 3 hour delay is common. Two more of our group cut it very fine and joined our flight with two minutes to spare after flying into New Guinea that day. We boarded our milk run flight via Lae and Manus Island (home of one of Mr Howard's empty multi-million dollar immigration detention centres) and eventually landing at Kavieng in New Ireland. After a twenty minute boat trip we finally reached our destination of Lissenung Island.



I had joked to people that we were staying on Gilligan's Island and it is still a good analogy. The island is the size of four or five football ovals and covered in lush tropical vegetation and is possibly the most remote dive resort in the world. The beach has beautiful clean white sands and stretches around half the island. The accommodation is great with a limit of fourteen guests in chalets spread across the island. The main eating and gathering area is a huge structure built entirely of local timbers with a grass roof and walls and sand floor. It is a South Pacific paradise.

The trip was organised by a friends who dragged along friends of friends and work colleagues. All were very keen divers and underwater photographers ... several were very good underwater photographers. The UEC members present where myself, Wendy and Rex.

Day one of diving set the standard of what to expect. We travelled about fifteen minutes by boat to the outer edge of the island group and dived at Danny's Bommie. The first thing I realised was the water wasn't warm it was bloody hot. At thirty degrees you didn't need a wetsuit at all just a lycra skin or something light to prevent you getting grazed or stung. The visibility was astounding and at both of the sites we were able to anchor in five metres and drop over the wall down to 50 or 60 metres. The second site this day was Albatross passage which was to become our favourite spot during the trip with a total of five dives here.



Because Kavieng is the point where the Pacific Ocean and the Bismarck Sea meet the tides and currents are strong and totally unpredictable. Even local fisherman don't understand the tides and just say "it's the way it is" and because the current runs one way on the surface doesn't mean it's doing the same at depth. These same currents attract a lot of pelagic fish like Barracuda and Tuna as well as Sharks and Rays. We saw Reef Sharks every time we dived at Albatross passage and on a later dive spotted juvenile Manta Rays and Eagle Rays. The currents also make it a good spot for Gorgonian Coral which is where the hunt for Pygmy seahorses began (pictured).

With two dives done before lunchtime we headed back to the island for food. The meals were fantastic, all made with local produce. We were spoilt with all kinds of seafood including regular meals of Mudcrabs that came with pokers, nutcrackers and a large bib to prevent us wearing most of the meal. After lunch we had a quick siesta before doing a dive on the House Reef which is immediately in front of the dive shop. Part of the deal was that we got unlimited House Reef dives so we did plenty during the day and night. I finally got to see a Spanish Dancer on one of the night dives but my photos aren't the best.

Most days the routine was the same; we'd get two dives in before lunch and laze around for the afternoon or go for a shore dive on the reef.

The diving was mostly deep at 35-45m and it wasn't long before most dives became deco dives because there was so much to see. Because we were normally on a wall doing deco meant we could still look around at something instead of hanging in open water as you would expect. Of course with the currents we did a few drift dives too.

Before each dive our guides would brief us if the site had big stuff or macro creatures but the reality was that every dive had both if you looked. There were some dives that really stood out and deserve a special mention.

The *Der Yang* is a Taiwanese fishing trawler that was seized by the government for illegal fishing and eventually sunk as a dive wreck. Fortunately it was sunk as a whole vessel without being gutted and having holes cut in it; unfortunately it went down in eighteen metres but right on the edge of a forty metre bank so a large storm a few years later caused it to slide down to forty metres which restricts the dive time a bit. The wreck is close to Kavieng and therefore in the Pacific Ocean and the day we dived there was a good current straight from the deep water of the Pacific (check out the angle of the bubbles) giving us fifty metre visibility and some of the best photos of the trip.



Personally I enjoyed a muck dive we did at the Old Kavieng Slipway (called “The Bottle shop” by the island staff). It was great spot for nudibranchs and little stuff. I also enjoyed a great dive on the wall at Bauddison Bay mainly due to all the nudibranchs. In ten days I snapped about 20 species of nudibranch that were new to me. There wasn’t a dive that I didn’t see a new nudibranch. You must understand I’m not biased toward a dive where I see nudibranchs!



Another great dive was on a wrecked B25C Bomber called the *Stubborn Hellion*. It was in 15 metres of incredibly low visibility water in a silty channel between the islands. It was shot down by the Japanese in 1944 during an allied attack on the Japanese supply base at Kavieng. The Japanese took Kavieng during the war and had several fleets of water planes and an enormous supply base for land, sea and submarine forces. MacArthur had enough by 1944 and ordered a bombing attack of such ferocity that the Japanese packed up and left soon after without the need for Allied land forces to go in and mop up.

The *Stubborn Hellion's* fuselage was torn open by Anti-Aircraft fire while on a bombing run over Kavieng and the pilot was soon looking for a soft place to crash. With only small highly vegetated islands around the area he decided to drop it in the water close to land however he clipped a tree on the way in which broke an engine off and sent the plane skipping like a stone across a pond. Despite the Captain having been thrown through the windscreen while still strapped in his seat he survived. His seat still sits in the mud beside the wreck. Only one life was lost, that of the navigator. The rest of the crew were picked up by a Catalina rescue plane a couple of days later.



It was a bit of an eerie dive with the knowledge of how the plane had ended up there. Our Divemaster, Tomae also took some of us on a 150 metre sojourn to find the engine that had been knocked off. How he ever found it in that viz I will never know.

It is a bit of a marathon to get to New Guinea with 3 flights from Perth but once you are there you realise it offers some of the best diving in the world. With the variety of Deep, Drift, Wrecks and Muck diving there is something for everyone. The weather and ocean conditions were brilliant while we were there and apparently that's normal except we were told the water temperature does drop down to 29 degrees occasionally ... how awful. Lissenung Island resort is basic but beautiful, you wouldn't want to stay anywhere else (www.lissenung.com). Just remember to make sure you take an underwater camera, anti-malarial tablets and plenty of sun block as that equatorial sun has quite a bite.

I have forwarded more New Guinea photos to Martin and they are now posted in the club albums. Check them out. (www.uecwa.com.au/albumchoice.html)

And here are a couple of good articles on the area:

http://emarketing.xynergies.com/www/images/destinations/6_1pdfs/06-1_PNG.pdf

<http://www.actionasia.com/actionasia/Articles/index.jsp?aid=2597>

After three dive trips in two months we'll be spending some time at home for a while and looking forward to our next trip to the Rowley Shoals. There are a couple of vacant spots for this trip so get in touch if you've got nothing on toward the end of 2008.

Chris Cunnold

Environmental Report

By Spencer Shute and Phil Doring

Both Spencer and Phil thought this document important enough to bring to UEC members' attention.

The State of the Environment Report for Western Australia, 2007 has been released.

The Environmental Protection Authority will be holding a public seminar on the findings and recommendations in the report. The seminar is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Date: Wednesday 25th July 2007, from 4:30pm to 5:30pm.

Venue: Alexander Library Theatre, ground floor of the Alexander Library, Perth Cultural Centre, Francis St Northbridge.

Speakers:

Dr Andrea Hinwood, Acting Chairman, Environmental Protection Authority

Ms Joan Payne, Environmental Protection Authority

Dr Roy Green, retired EPA Deputy Chair; Chair of the Fundamental Pressures Working Group for the State of the Environment Report

Dr Libby Mattiske, Mattiske Consulting; Chair of the Biodiversity Working Group for the State of the Environment Report

Professor David Hedgcock, Dean, Faculty of Built Environment, Art and Design, Curtin University; Chair of the Human Settlements Working Group for the State of the Environment Report

The State of the Environment Report summarises the condition of WA's environment, assesses the major environmental issues and makes recommendations for addressing these.

This is the first comprehensive report on the state of WA's environment since 1998. Its findings indicate that although some of our environmental problems have improved since then, many have got worse.

While initiatives are in place to address most of the issues identified in the report, substantively more action needs to be taken to make significant progress in many of these problems. WA's current level of economic prosperity (much of which is derived from our natural resources) provides an opportunity to commit significant resources to protecting and improving our environment.

The EPA has called on all sectors of the WA community to respond to the findings and recommendations in the State of the Environment report, including the State Government, local government, industry, business and the broader community.

The EPA will provide an outline at the seminar of the strategic direction the State needs to take to achieve better environmental outcomes for WA, including actions that can be taken by government, industry and individuals.

The State of the Environment Report: Western Australia 2007 can be viewed at www.soe.wa.gov.au. Copies are available from the Department of Environment and Conservation (ph: 6364 6510).

Further enquiries about the State of the Environment Report can be directed to soe@dec.wa.gov.au.

From Phil:

There is a marine component to the report. Interesting reading!

The State of the Environment Report, Western Australia 2007 was recently released by the EPA. It is available at: www.soe.wa.gov.au <<http://www.soe.wa.gov.au/>> <<http://www.soe.wa.gov.au/>>. Of relevance to the UEC is the recommendation for heritage places to be on a formal list- the report notes that only the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 is effective in protecting heritage sites in WA.

2007 Alcoa Earthwatch Fellowship

By Phil Doring

I applied for this fellowship last year and was originally rejected. About 2 months ago I was asked to go as someone dropped out..See below:

"I am writing to advise you that we have had a cancellation from one of the Earthwatch Fellows. Since you are an alternate for the program, I would like to offer you the opportunity to go to Kenya to work with field scientists studying Tidal Forests of Kenya; your expedition is scheduled for 7-Aug to 17-Aug

With more than 300 applications for 15 potential fellowships, you stood out due to your interest and commitment to building a sustainable future. In accepting this fellowship, you are taking a big step toward helping Alcoa in its efforts to stop the effects of climate change. You're part of our efforts to develop and maintain the relationship between scientific organizations, businesses, and communities on which sustainable development depend"

This was the start of the E mail that greeted me at work. I nearly fell out of my chair!! This is my second year of applying and, although optimistic I knew I would be up against stiff competition.

I will Fly to Mombassa and then travel by car south to a village of around 1000 people called Gazi, on the Indian Ocean. Gazi bay has beautiful beaches. Nearby is Kisite-Mpunguti marine national park (with dozens of dolphins, sea turtles and spectacular coral reefs).

Our main task will be to study replanted, replant and experiment with Mangrove stands (3 species in total). Also to look at the crabs/fish that live amongst the stands.

It runs for 11 days. A typical day will include:

Daily briefing.

Fieldwork.

labwork.

Lectures/talks on mangrove ecology.

Debriefing.

Volunteer presentations about your home country, work, hobbies or obsessions..(I plan on talking about/showing pictures of our underwater life in W.A.)

We will have 1 leisure day where we will visit the marine park and snorkel, etc.

As well there will be social events with the locals and visits to local attractions(Remnants of slave trade, etc.)

I am very much looking forward to this "trip of a life time' and will put together a presentation to show at work and would love also to share it with UEC members at a club meeting..

Links: www.earthwatch.org/. , , , , : [Tidal Forests of Kenya](http://www.earthwatch.org/).

Kind regards .
Phil Doring

Pay directly online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: **Commonwealth Bank**
 Name: **Underwater Explorers Club of WA.**
 BSB: **066136**
 Account: **00901972**

There is limited space to write what the payment is for. Please start with your name and then reason for payment.

In all cases you must email the Treasurer with the following payment information:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for (and from)
- Reason for payment, e.g. Dive Dec 4, T-shirt, etc.

Club Aims and Objectives

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self-contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedures and to acquaint both Club members and the public with the facts of safety and using safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, provide fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

Contact your Committee

President

Vice President & Fundraising

Secretary

Treasurer

Dive Co-ordinator

Boat Officer

Safety Officer

Training Co-ordinator

Social

New Members

Environment

Web & PR

Newsletter

Julian Holliday

Rachel Stone

Amanda Blanksby

Clive Mitchell

Mark Maddern

Martin Smith

Steve Bright

Andrew Mingay

Ilonka Jarvis

Sue Knight

Spencer Shute

Martin Arrowsmith

Pat Swallow

president@uecwa.com.au

vicepresident@uecwa.com.au

secretary@uecwa.com.au

treasurer@uecwa.com.au

divebookings@uecwa.com.au

boat@uecwa.com.au

safety@uecwa.com.au

training@uecwa.com.au

socialbookings@uecwa.com.au

newmembers@uecwa.com.au

environment@uecwa.com.au

webmaster@uecwa.com.au

newsletter@uecwa.com.au

Still in the dark on night dives?

UEC members have access to the full range of LED Underwater Kinetics torches at discount prices.

Mini Q40 eLED plus This is the latest 2 watt LED 'focused globe' model . They are still not available in Australia but we have access to them. The Mini Q40 is the perfect back-up torch to strap to your mask or cray loop and the efficiency of the LED globe means that your battery life is 5 to 6 hours. It takes 4 AA batteries. It comes in several colours and has a lanyard but the mask strap is now an extra. **\$75**



SL4 eLED This torch takes 4 C size batteries with a burn time of more than 10 hours. It's bright enough to be your main torch for the 'occasional' night divers and is small enough to fit in a BC pocket as a good back up torch. The super tough LED globes means it is virtually impossible to break by being dropped. It comes with a lanyard and is also available in several colours. **\$120** (2 left at \$100)



C4 eLED This pistol grip style torch takes 4 C size batteries and is a perfect main torch for night diving. It has a locking switch to swap between the high and low beam settings. It also comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Silver and Black. Alkaline batteries included but it works well with NiMH rechargeables. **\$140**



C8 eLED plus This new pistol grip C8 is a great main torch. The completely new 10 watt LED 'water cooled' globe is incredibly efficient and has low and high power settings. It has a battery life of more than 10 hrs from 8 C size alkaline's (which are supplied) and can be used with NiMH rechargeable's. It comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Black and Silver. **\$260** (1 left at \$230)



Keep your torch safe at houses with a GearKeeper retractor. **\$35**



If you would like to order a torch or want to ask some questions e-mail Chris Cunnold at cunnold@iinet.net.au
Most of the torches are available for immediate delivery, depending on what colour you choose.

Have you seen the light?

Recycle your corks!

Never, ever throw a cork into landfill! Zita Dobson collects them and sends them to Guides Australia who recycle them and raise money.

Save them up and bring them to a meeting:
Zita or Bob are usually there.



Underwater Explorers Club
 Minutes of General Meeting
 Swan Yacht Club Wednesday 20 June 2007

Apologies	Chris Cunnold Mark Maddern Bob McLaughlin	Wendy Hutchinson Clive Cass Renee Barker	Malcolm Roberts Martin Smith Martin Arrowsmith	Pat Swallow Sue Knight Richard Jeffree
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The meeting was opened at 7.42pm

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1.0 The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Jeff Wake
 Seconded by Andrew Mingay

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

2.0 None

Correspondence Inwards

- 3.0
- Lottery Permit from Department of Racing, Gaming & Liquor dated 21 May 2007
 - Letter from Royal Life Saving WA dated 30 May 2007 about the Avon Descent
 - Letter from SYC dated 13 June on the pen weights
 - Letter from DPI dated 17 May with regard to the mooring 920.

Correspondence Outwards

- 4.0
- Letter issuing raffle tickets to all club members
 - Letter to Australian Clearance Diving Team dated 20 June 2007 with regard to a clearance diving presentation.

Nominations

- 5.0 The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fees in advance:
- Geoffrey Hancock

New Memberships

- 6.0 There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:
- Natassia Day

Accepted by Rachel Stone
 Seconded by Trevor Walker

Reports

7.1 **President – Jules Holliday**

Raffle and Christmas in July

- Issued raffle tickets to all members via post. All members encouraged to sell as many as possible, in order to raise as much money as possible towards a new boat.
- Deadline for signing up for the event is 6 July. People to email Ilonka. Cost is \$30 per person. Club meeting will start at 7pm and will be short.
- Tanya Dewhurst noted the committee had done a good job in producing the raffle tickets.
- Margherita Veroni raised a comment about the prize from the dive club of a free dive and what happens if the person who wins the prize is not a member. It was agreed that if they are not a member they would have to fill out the nomination dive form, and this would then be in accordance with DPI requirements.

DO Training Day 20 May

- 9 people completed the DO training day. Jules said thank you to Rachel Stone, Andrew Mingay and Mark Maddern for their help in organising a successful training day.

WhaleNet Information Night 24 July

- All members are welcome to attend this event. Jules to do 10 minute speech on the UEC.
- Discussed about the issues with the Japanese and the hunting of humpback whales. Spencer to see if he can find out more information and see how the club could become more actively involved.

New Members

- Jules is in the process of producing a new members pack. Also keen to introduce a club buddy system, with members being assigned a new member to look after, greet at meetings etc. Members who are interested to speak to Sue Knight.

Brief History of UEC

- Looking for information from club members on the UEC history in order to compile a short document. Anyone interested in contributing or even preparing the report please speak to Jules.

Dive Shop Deals

- Jules read out various deals available with Dolphin Dive including a trip to Exmouth in July, and heli diving at Geraldton.

Martin Smith

- Jules explained that Martin Smith has decided to step down as boat officer and also as a skipper, in order to provide more time for family and professional commitments. Jules thanked Martin for all his hard work and contribution to the club over the past few years and hoped him and Jasmine would continue to dive and participate in the social activities of the club.
- The club is looking for someone to take over the boat officer role. Anyone interested please speak to Jules.

7.2 Secretary – Amanda Blanksby

- Nothing to report.

7.3 Treasurer – Clive Mitchell

- Reported amounts in the bank at the beginning of May, and at the end. Included a number of deposits for the Rottnest holiday 2008.

Accepted by Steve Bright
Seconded by Ilonka Jarvis

7.4 Vice President and Fund Raising – Rachel Stone

- Raffle tickets available for sale. Not all the prizes are dive related.
- Avon descent – Jules had a meeting with ASU and Royal Life Saving WA. Agreed they would provide food for the weekend. Requested for volunteers as kitchen staff. Meeting to discuss the catering is Tuesday next week. Ilonka Jarvis and Chris Wilkinson have volunteered so far.
- Training for Avon Descent is over the weekend of 7/8th July. Any member wanting to participate in activities near the water are required to attend this training session. Valley run is weekend of 28/29th July.
- Also been offered the St John's first aid course for free for UEC members participating in Avon Descent. Course will be over weekend of 30/1st July.
- Rachel had more fundraising chocolates – a good fundraising item with 50% profit to the club.
- Tabled a sheet on various clear skin wines from Margaret River. Will be ordering a number of cases for sale. Will be advertised further once a liquor licence has been obtained.
- Members who ordered jackets, hats and entertainment books see Rachel.

7.5 Dive Coordinator – Mark Maddern

- Not present – no report.
- Single dive on Sunday. Jules explained the club procedure for the diving given there were 9 guests in the audience.

7.6 Environment – Spencer Shute

- Nothing to report.

7.7 New Members – Sue Knight

- Not present – no report.
- New members event to be organised for Sunday 22 July. Booze cruise, BYO BBQ, from 12 noon.

7.8 Newsletter – Pat Swallow

- Not present – nothing to report.

7.9 Web and PR – Martin Arrowsmith

- Not present – nothing to report.

7.10 Safety – Steve Bright

- Repaired trip hazards on the boat, in terms of curled up corners of the carpet.
- Will be reviewing and updating the first aid kit.

7.11 Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- Curry night was fun. Thanks to Rachel Stone for preparing all the fabulous food and to Malcolm Roberts for the loan of his home and for organising the fun games.
- Christmas in July event on 14 July. Still places available, see Ilonka. She will provide further details on location and available car parking nearer the event. BYO alcohol.

7.12 Training – Andrew Mingay

- Thanks to Jules Holliday, Rachel Stone and Mark Maddern for their help during the DO training.
- Has organised more courses; Padi Rescue, EFR and Nitrox. Just waiting for members to sign up, deadline is the end of June.
- Andrew is able to offer a whole range of courses, including underwater photography.
- Jules is currently finding out about the marine archaeology course at the Maritime Museum.
- Good time to go out training given clarity is good in the river, only problem is that the water temperature is cool.

7.13 Boat

- See presidents report above
- Rubber duckie has been repaired, including fixing of some new handles to assist when lifting it out of the water, rather than using the lanyards. All skippers and DO's to note.
- Bottom of the boat needs a good clean. To be organised shortly.

General Business

- 8.1 Clive Cass to organise a weekend away at Rottneest, Friday 31 August to Sunday 2 September. Anyone interested to speak to Clive for more information. It will be a social weekend away rather than diving.
- 8.2 Geoff Charlton wanted to know if there was a date fixed for the next trip to Lake Stockton. Answer was not at the moment.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

After a 20 minutes break, a slideshow was presented by Amanda Blanksby on the recent 'SPAMM' holiday to Sipadan Island in Borneo Malaysia. The slideshow included photographs taken by club members Mark Maddern, Malcolm Roberts, Sue Knight and Amanda Blanksby.

The next general meeting will be held on Saturday 14 July at 7:00 pm at Ilonka's house.

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Jules Holliday
(Chairperson)



Underwater Explorers Club
Minutes of Committee Management Meeting
 Jules's House Tuesday 12 June 2007

Present:

Chairperson:	Jules Holliday			
Committee:	Amanda Blanksby	Clive Mitchell	Rachel Stone	Steve Bright
	Andrew Mingay	Ilonka Jarvis	Spencer Shute	

Members: None

Apologies	Sue Knight	Pat Swallow	Martin Arrowsmith	Mark Maddern
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The meeting was opened at 6.45pm

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the committee management meeting dated 14 May 2007 were circulated and accepted as a true record. **Action**

Accepted by Rachel Stone
 Seconded by Andrew Mingay

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- Reviewed throughout the course of the meeting

Correspondence Inwards

- Lottery Permit from Department of Racing, Gaming & Liquor dated 21 May 2007
- Letter from Royal Life Saving WA dated 30 May 2007

Correspondence Outwards

- Letter issuing raffle tickets to all club members

Nominations

The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fee in advance:

- Geoffrey Hancock

New Memberships

There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:

- Natassia Day

Accepted by Clive Mitchell
 Seconded by Steve Bright

Reports**President – Jules Holliday****Christmas in July and Raffle**

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| • The raffle tickets produced look really good and sales are going well. 200 stubs returned so far. Jules to plug in this months newsletter. | Jules |
| • Clive commented that we have only dished out about half of the ticket books printed – plenty available for sale. Lots of plugging required by all. | All committee |
| • The general meeting will be held on the same night as the event. Meeting will start sharply at 7pm, with the event starting at around 8pm. Cost of the meal \$30 per person. | |
| • Final numbers to be confirmed a week beforehand for catering purposes. | Clive |
| • Clive to source a clear bin for the tickets. First ticket out of the bin will win first prize as stated in the rules of the lottery. | |
| • Andrew to attend Scuba 2 monthly meeting on Wednesday 13 June to sell raffle tickets. | Andrew |

Avon Descent

- Jules briefed the committee on the outcome of his meeting with ASU and the event manager Royal Life Saving WA. Discussed about the fundraising aspect of the event for the UEC. ASU only willing to pay maximum of \$3000 (assuming they get 30 volunteers from UEC), but will cover the cost of the meals for the weekend and RLS will provide a free senior first aid course for all participants. Normal cost of this course is \$300. UEC members are required to attend one of the training weekends. Jules

Junior Members

- Mark Staniforth who is a teacher at St Mary's is keen to encourage his students to join the dive club to enable them to dive more regularly. Amanda
- A general discussion was held on the junior membership status and the need to attract younger people into the club. Amanda
- Jules to explain to Mark Staniforth the criteria for junior membership and in particular the requirement for the junior member to have a parent or guardian on the boat. If there are a group of junior members, one guardian/parent would be acceptable. It was also noted that written consent is required from a parent or guardian for a junior member. All committee

Whalenet Information Night

- Jules will attend this event on 24 July. He will be doing a 10 min speech about the UEC including the video footage of the grey nurse shark sightings at Rottnest. All UEC members are welcome to attend. Amanda to prepare a flyer on the club.
- Agreed to offer a door prize for the event of one free membership for the 2007 to 2008 year. Amanda to prepare letter.

Next Year's Committee

- Jules reminded all committee members to be thinking as to whether they would like to stand next year. Deadline for decision is July.

Albany Trip in June

- Jules noted that the Albany trip was successful. Conditions were not that great on the Sunday.

Secretary – Amanda Blanksby

- Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Clive Mitchell

- Bank balance is slowly improving. No bills this past month.
- Agreed not to pay the renewal notice for 'Quicken' as it is not used as an accounting package by the club.

Accepted by Amanda Blanksby
Seconded by Steve Bright

Vice President and Fundraising – Rachel Stone

- Still awaiting some money from sale of chocolates – made \$432 profit from the sale. Has ordered more boxes for July and again in September.
- Sale of hats made \$45 profit.
- Sale of jackets made \$200 profit.
- Magnets are ready and available for members to use where appropriate.
- Still advertising sale of Entertainment Books.

Dive Coordinator – Mark Maddern

- Not present – no report.
- General consensus is to continue to plug diving.

Environment – Spencer Shute

- Spencer to document what the committee role of environment requires and think as to where the role can head in the future. Spencer
- Spencer handed over a document titled 'In Safe Hands' to Steve. The document is about managing volunteers.

New Members – Sue Knight

- Not present – no report.
- Noted that 57 new members have joined the club this year. This is great news. The mission now is to retain them for next year.
- Agreed to reschedule the new members event to Sunday 22 July, departing at 12 noon. Jules to email all new members.
- Amanda to determine the percentage of new members from the year 2006-2007 who have not renewed during this current year. Jules
Amanda

Newsletter – Pat Swallow

- Not present – no report.
- Clive to prepare June newsletter.

Clive

Web and PR – Martin Arrowsmith

- Not present – no report.

Safety – Steve Bright

- Investigating into the cost of a surfer's board to tow behind the rubber duckie.
- Will glue down the loose corners of carpet on the boat in order to mitigate the tripping hazard.

Steve
Steve**Social** – Ilonka Jarvis

- Ilonka to organise a daytime event on 18 August involving rock climbing.
- Jules to organise another daytime event in early September involving Lazar quest.
- Lawn bowls event was a success.
- Curry and games night fully booked.

Ilonka
Jules**Training** – Andrew Mingay

- Jules said thanks to Andrew, Rachel and Mark for organising a very successful Dive Officer training day in May.
- Noted that the trainee DO's will now just learn from being on the boat and assisting the Dive Officer. Anyone can comment as to whether a person is suitable for the role of DO.
- Organising some courses over next few months – details to be included in weekly email.

Boat – Martin Smith

- Noted that Martin Smith has resigned as boat officer and also from his role as skipper from 22 May. This was due to family and professional commitments. Jules thanked Martin for his contribution to the club over the past few years.
- Discussed the options for the boat officer role, until the start of the next year. Options include assigning jobs amongst the current committee or see if there is anyone in the club willing to pick up the role for the remainder of the year. Jules to raise at next general meeting. The role really requires someone who has project management skills rather than detailed knowledge on boat maintenance issues. They can then project manage the people when maintenance is being completed.
- Clive briefed the committee on the points discussed at the Boat Sub-Committee meeting held on 20 May.
- It was noted that the cost to refurbish the zodiac is in the order of around \$2000, and could sell to a training company for around \$700.
- It was queried why the boat lifting facilities at the Swan Yacht Club were not used by the club. To be reviewed.
- It was also discussed as to why we don't use the refuelling facilities at East Fremantle Yacht Club, given that it is much closer than the Bailey's facility at Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour.
- Mooring at Chidley Point – Andrew did some cleaning during the DO training day. He has replaced the shackle, just need to install a cable tie to secure the new shackle.
- Repair works at the Geordie Bay mooring still not complete. Need to cut off all the excess chain.
- Amanda to check about the fees for the mooring facility at Rottneest Island, and discuss further with the licensee.

Jules

Andrew

Amanda

General Business**SYC Liaison**

- Given that Martin Smith has resigned there is no one fulfilling the role as the SYC Liaison officer.
- Any committee member willing to undertake this role, please speak to Jules.
- Noted that the fees for SYC were due in July – Rachel to put a reminder in the newsletter before end of the month. Assume renewal fee is \$30.

Liability Insurance

- Andrew noted that he had discussed the issue with a friend who is in the insurance business. She noted that such insurance was relatively easy to obtain for hockey and football clubs as they had a fixed venue. However scuba diving was classified as a very high risk physical activity and very difficult to find a suitable policy on the market.
- Jules to discuss further with Horsell (who provide insurance to PADI Instructors and Divemasters) and also DAN.

Jules

Boat Keys

- Jules to email Martin Smith to obtain boat keys and pass to Steve.

Jules

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 2 July 2007 at 6:30 pm at Jules's home. Pizza will be ordered.

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Jules Holliday
(Chairperson)



Underwater Explorers Club

Minutes of Committee Management Meeting

SYC Monday 14 May 2007

Present:

Chairperson:	Jules Holliday			
Committee:	«GreetingLine»	Clive Mitchell	Rachel Stone	Mark Maddern
	Andrew Mingay	Martin Arrowsmith	Sue Knight	Steve Bright
	Martin Arrowsmith	Pat Swallow		
Members:	None			
Apologies	Ilonka Jarvis	Spencer Shute	Martin Smith	

The meeting was opened at 7.05pm

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the committee management meeting dated 12 April 2007 were circulated and accepted as a true record. **Action**

Accepted by Steve Bright
Seconded by Andrew Mingay

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- To be reviewed throughout the progress of the meeting.

Correspondence Inwards

- Cadbury's fundraiser information for Autumn 2007-04-30
- Letter from Rottnest Island Authority Marine Administration dated 24 April 2007 with regard to mooring sites at Rottnest.
- Scuba 2 Logbook April/May 2007
- Raffle tickets from SYC
- Information on new book called 'Oceanic Wilderness' from Crawford House Publishing

Correspondence Outwards

- Letters to various dive shops requesting for prizes for raffle

Nominations

The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fee in advance:

- Peter Glover
- Natassia Day
- Julie Houston

New Memberships

There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:

- Gary Wyatt
- Ross Henderson
- Stephanie Geard
- Sean O'Brien
- Jean-Loop Dumas
- Isaura Dumas
- Jean-Charles Dumas
- Jean-Philippe Dumas

Accepted by Andrew Mingay
Seconded by Steve Bright

Reports

President – Jules Holliday

Christmas in July

- Discussed the prizes for the raffle, including one free membership and some dives from the club. Agreed on the price of tickets \$1 per ticket. Books of 10 tickets. 2 books will be posted to each club member. [PMN agreed via email to amend cost to \$2 per ticket and issue 10 number to each club member – this would save on paper].
- Tickets to be prepared at Rachel and Clive's home on 24 May 2007. Assistance required from available committee members. Clive to purchase perforated paper.

All who can attend

DO Training

- Discussed about the format of the DO training. Theory in the morning, and practical on the boat in the afternoon. Mark
- Trainee DO's expected to gain hands on experience. Qualification of DO's to be judged by skippers and approved by the committee. Mark/Clive
Amanda

Boat Maintenance

- Mark to discuss with Martin S about the meeting on the boat maintenance on Sunday 20 May. Jules
- Mark/Clive to do the minutes, given Amanda is on DO training. Jules
- Amanda to email Mark with list of who is attending and who has apologised. Jules

Avon Descent

- Training planned for weekend of 7 and 8 July. All committee members
- Jules to prepare a letter on the fundraising aspect of Avon Descent and send to ASU.

Clubs Events During Winter Months

- Amanda passed some information from Ilonka to Jules, for consideration. Jules

2008 Committee

- Jules requested all current committee members to decide if they would want to stand for a committee position next year. The 2-2 rule to be applied, i.e. two months to decide (by July) and two months to find suitable replacement (by September). Amanda
Sue/Mark

New Members

- Jules is keen to encourage the new members to get involved more in the club. Discussed the option of a club pack and it was agreed this was a good idea. Jules to coordinate with Renee.
- Amanda to email the list of new members since November 2006 to Jules and Sue.
- New members event to be organised – agreed it would be a Sunday afternoon cruise up the river to the Swan Brewery. Date 17 June. Cost \$15 per person. BYO BBQ. Sue/Mark to organise.

Albany Trip

- The trip is full.

Secretary – Amanda Blanksby

- Will update the membership list, by moving members who have not paid their membership fees this year to the 'lapsed' status. Clive has already sent emails to various members requesting for fees before Christmas. Amanda

Treasurer – Clive Mitchell

- Clive briefed committee on content of treasurer's report. Had a better month.
- Still chasing dive clubs for their money for the placement on their logos on the homepage of the website.

Accepted by Mark Maddern
Seconded by Pat Swallow

Vice President and Fundraising – Rachel Stone

- Chocolates – will collect money at May general meeting, and have more for sale at June general meeting. Rachel
- Entertainment books for sale – sold 20 so far. Rachel
- Jackets and hats – have samples available; will take orders at May general meeting. Rachel
- Raffle in July – already discussed.
- Fridge magnets – has ordered them but not yet received.

Dive Coordinator – Mark Maddern

- Mark noted that he agreed with the recommendations in Dennis's report on the trainee skippers. Hence Clive Mitchell, Steve Bright, Martin Arrowsmith and Wendy Hutchinson have now obtained the qualification of 'provisional' skipper.
- The upgrade from provisional skipper to skipper to be decided by committee at a later date. Existing skippers to monitor progress of provisional skippers.
- The club has not received an official invite from SYC on the Sail Past, even though they said this would be issued. Decided to arrange a double dive given grey nurse sharks were still hanging out at the west end of Rottneest Island.
- Mark raised the issue that some people in the club were unhappy with the requirements for new DO's to be qualified as rescue diver, and Dan O2. This was discussed and agreed that it is really important to emphasis the need for people with responsibilities in the club to be adequately trained.
- Saxone Ranger – feedback from those who did the trip varied from they would be happy to go again to it was not very good at all. Will arrange another trip at start of next dive season.

Environment – Spencer Shute

- Not present – no report.
- Jules to discuss with Spence on attendance at committee meetings. Jules
- Jules wants committee members to be keen and committed.

New Members – Sue Knight

- Already discussed the forthcoming new members event.
- All relatively quiet on the enquiries front.

Newsletter – Pat Swallow

- Awaiting president and training report for May newsletter. Will publish before May general meeting. Jules, Andrew
- Got some info on accommodation for trip to Dunsborough in October. Agreed to book the house for weekend of 13 and 14 October. Pat
- Pat away on holiday from 25 May to 25 June.
- Clive may do the June newsletter if there are articles worth publishing. Clive

Web and PR – Martin Arrowsmith

- Work on adding details of previous UEC dive trips is slow but ongoing.
- Received email from Steve at Hammerhead Press, requesting for a link to his website to be put on the links page, in exchange for a book for the raffle. Agreed to this, Martin A to reply. Martin A

Safety – Steve Bright

- Will reinforce the buddy checks prior to diving.

Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- Not present – no report.
- Lawn bowls organised for Saturday – Jasmine Smith to obtain names whilst Ilonka is away.
- Curry and games night to be promoted for June social event, at Malcolm Roberts house.

Training – Andrew Mingay

- DO training – already discussed.
- Padi Advanced course – has 7 people interested – will arrange soon. Andrew
- Will arrange Padi Rescue, EFR and Dan O₂ in near future, especially for trainee DO's. Andrew

Boat – Martin Smith

- Not present – no report.
- Mark noted controls have been fixed and they are now even.

General Business

Lake Stockton Trip

- Trip to be rescheduled given Avon Descent training. New date to be confirmed. Jules / Andrew

Mooring No. 920 at Chidley Point

- Andrew to clean mussels off the mooring at Chidley whilst the DO training is happening. Andrew

Mooring at Rottnest

- Noted that for the mooring at Geordie Bay, Rottnest Island, it has been agreed in the past that the club undertakes the maintenance, pays the RIA authorised user fee and also \$100 to the mooring owner. This then provides priority usage for the mooring to the UEC. It was discussed as to why there is the \$100 payment to the owner. Amanda to do some further research and discuss with the mooring licensee. Amanda

Reserve Dive Booking Officer

- Mark commented that Jasmine Smith was willing to undertake the role when required.

Public Liability Insurance

- Rachel read out an email from Chris Cunnold with regard to some background information on this and the research he had completed whilst undertaking the role as president.
- Andrew to discuss further with someone he knows. Andrew

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

The next committee meeting will be held on 12 June 2007 at 6.30 pm at Jules' house. Pizza will be ordered.

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Jules Holliday
(Chairperson)

Albany June 1st – 4th

By Renee Barker

Rating:	Advanced
Depths:	30m - 50m

The splendours of our passion this weekend were largely determined by the big man above (be He God or Jules!). The weather threatened to ruin the pristine reputation that Albany had earned over the previous two trips.

And before we go any further, the NEXT Albany Trip is from 19th-22nd October which will be five dives solely in Two People's Bay (weather permitting). There will be no boat rides out there but car rides as we'll join her out there - lessons about seasickness have been learned this time! Cost is \$300 and please email Jules by 1st September if you are interested (president@uecwa.com.au).

The dives planned were not for the faint hearted - all deep dives, all in excess of 30m. Some, including myself, exceeded 45m for the first time.

Initially planned for three day dives, Saturday saw two day dives at Blue Canyon and Ian's Nest, and a night dive at The Fingers. Blue Canyon commenced at around 16m and slowly descended to 40m. The canyon walls seemed to grow as we descended along the central corridor. There was a lot of life on the walls and as we peered in every crevice looking for movement a beautiful cuttlefish was spotted. Amongst bubbles and the vibration of what sounded like "Coopulpish", four others came over for a gander and some snaps.

Dive #2 was meant to be a 'dive not to be missed'. Even Tim, Silver Star's resident instructor (AKA Mr Selective) donned his wettie to join us. "Follow Ian," he said. "For the best dive, follow Ian". The site was named 'Ian's Nest', after all.

Well, we missed the 'dive not to be missed'! We descended into a small depression. The water was hazy but we still had fair viz. As we circled the site, Ian looked back, raised his hands, tilted his head to the side and shrugged his shoulders.

On entering the depression there was a large camouflaged rockfish sitting on a piece of coral. After 20 mins of nothing of great significance, the same coral and the same rockfish appeared. At that point it was evident we had missed the site! At best I collected a beautiful cowrie shell.

Our night dive was planned for the Fingers. It was not unfortunate that the boat dropped up slightly off target and we landed a great dive which is now named "Just off the Fingers near the Wrists" (well, at least those of us who followed Ian had a great dive!). Again, we were surrounded by amazing walls of abundant sea life. As we swam through narrow passages with walls extending metres above and below, we encountered blind catsharks, cuttlefish, blue groper and gurnards. A few of us were lucky enough to literally come face to face with a massive turtle. This graceful creature was easily a metre in diameter if not more. Camouflaged under seaweed, Ian gently brushed the seaweed aside and it turned to face us. Less than 30cm from us, it slowly turned and rose to swim above and away.

I quickly ducked! After a recent visit to AQWA, I learned that turtles take a snap shot of what is in front of them and they swim according to that image which they hold in their minds for 30 seconds! So if a turtle is ever heading towards you be sure to move out the way - they will hit! Andrew was much more daring than me, and caught hold of the bottom of the turtles shell. After a brief ride he lost grip for the power of the turtle through the water. We are looking forward to him trying the same stunt with 5m long salties in the Kimberley....

Surrounded by bright lights, a hundred colours of the ocean, gaping walls and abundant sea life this is a site that words cannot do justice. A site to be experienced first hand.

Sunday didn't afford us the sunny weather of Saturday, nor the calm waters. It was an 'expedition' to Two Peoples Bay. We weren't originally heading out to this site because of the reduced numbers, but Silver Star Cruises did us a deal and off we set!

The first dive of the morning was Phantoms. Surface conditions were rough but we all managed to descend together. There wasn't a lot to see on this site - I recall a small wobbegong that got everyone's attention. But this was the 45 - 49m dive! Being the fourth long deep dive a few of us found a nice ledge to decompress on for a while. I decided to lie down in the seaweed and roll with the surge until I came eye to eye with a Gurnard! On Rhys' affirmative response to them being poisonous my deco was finished in suspense!

If asked whether heading out to Two Peoples Bay was a good idea the group would likely be divided. The swell was intense and many people were sea sick, even those who weren't sea sick were sea sick! After the first dive we had to evacuate one our divers. The swell had no plans of easing up. Ian's wife came out to the beach for the pick up and was on all accounts was very hospitable.

The conditions really were excessive with equipment moving around the boat, dishes breaking in the cabin, and cutlery flying off the tables. It was obviously too dangerous for divers on the surface with the swell and current creating potential hazards from falling off the ladders, drifting away, getting bounced....So, after a tasty lunch in the sheltered bay we decided to abort Two Peoples Bay and head back to the Fingers for our next dive.

Amongst our group of avid and experienced divers, we had the option of two more dives (six for the price of five), but the group were spent! A final dive at The Fingers concluded our diving for the weekend. We seemed to be well off the Fingers this time, probably nearer the biceps, but at least it was wet!

There were many lessons and reminders that came out of this weekend. Whilst not exhaustive, these included:

- It is ok to say no to a dive
- It is ok to abort a dive
- Don't push yourself - safety is first!
- Remember your kwell
- Ensure you are familiar with your equipment before using it in hard conditions
- It is ok to change sites if the conditions are too challenging
- Know your limits

- Safety is paramount - getting on and off the boat poses a host of hazards which weather conditions can exacerbate, decompression is important - do not feel pressured by others to get out of the water
- Never accept lifts from strange men, even if they do have puppies to show!

The weekend was full of mixed reactions, mixed emotions and a variety of experiences. The weather, as expected, played a large role in that, and although it was outside the control of Silver Star Cruises they were disappointed and felt largely responsible. They'd provided us with two amazing experiences previously and wanted to maintain their track record. Nonetheless their service, hospitality and company were again unquestionable.

It wasn't the best diving we've had in Albany but it was in no way the worst we'll ever experience! Even with poor weather, Albany continues to offer beautiful diving and a great group of divers certainly helps!

Divers

Jules Holliday
Jo Bull
Andrew Mingay
Rachel Stone
Dohn Taylor
Renee Barker
Rhys Powell
Ian Ashby
Ian Barcham
Helen Barcham



August 2007 Newsletter



*Clive Mitchell negotiating the Avon Descent - full story page 6
Photo Anne McCarrol*

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President's Report

By Jules Holliday

Dear Members

It is that time of the year when the weather stops a lot of us from going into the water but there are still plenty of activities going on within the Club.

As the dive side is a little quiet, I would like to bring up a couple of matters which affect how the Club operates from a constitutional perspective. Fear not, I shall try and make them as exciting a read as possible and I would like your feedback as well please.

Christmas in July

A very successful evening all told and my thanks to all of those involved on the catering side and those who were involved in the raffle - Rachel Stone, Clive Mitchell, Amanda Blanksby, Martin Smith and Jasmine Lyons.

Most of all I would like to thank Ilonka Jarvis and her husband Eddie for putting on a splendid feast and sharing their house with us. It was a great night!

In total, the Raffle and Christmas in July raised about \$2,500 for the Club which is a good result at a time of the year when there is not much money coming in from diving.

President's report continued

My thanks go once again to all of those who were kind enough to attend the evening, donate prizes and all of you who bought tickets. Without this support, the night would not have been half the success it was.

Finally, a full list of prizes, prize winners and the winning numbers are included in this newsletter just so we keep the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor happy!

Avon Descent

My thanks again to all of those who participated in what was a glorious weekend. Apart from being a lot of fun, it also contributed nicely to Club funds which keeps Clive as Treasurer happy.

On the subject of Clive, he actually paddled in the event and came 28th so a hearty well done to him - especially as it was his first time!!

And he actually came 4th in the Geriatrics League (60 years of age and more)....

Swan Yacht Club Membership

Apart from a lively debate on the subject at the July meeting, we have had no feedback from Club members on this subject at all but we have had one from the SYC which is as follows.

The SYC say it is a requirement of their club's constitution that all affiliate club members (including the UEC) become Social Members of the SYC. By joining you will be able to use SYC facilities including their car park without the risk of receiving a ticket.

We are in discussions with the SYC about how this proposal will take effect, how membership dues will be collected and what the costs will be.

Once again, I would invite any member who has anything to say on the subject to email me at president@uecwa.com.au.

Committee Changes

With effect from August, I am happy to say that Steve Bright has become the Club's new Boat Officer. Steve will be contacting all of those members who are on the Boat Committee to discuss what works need to be carried out before the dive season commences and then we will hopefully be having a Busy Bee in September.

Also with effect from August, we have merged the roles of Safety and Training which will be performed by Andrew Mingay. Andrew was the Safety Officer last year and we feel that it makes sense to combine the two roles given they both encompass very similar matters.

Good luck to them both!

Committee for 2008

I would like to raise the subject now as we are only three months' away from our Annual General Meeting where a new committee takes over.

Just a quick word on this for the newer members:

President's report continued

Every financial member of the UEC can stand for the committee and can vote at the AGM. You need to pay your dues by October 31st. To stand for a position, you need to be proposed and seconded by a financial member. If more than one candidate is running for a position, they all have a turn at saying what they feel they can bring and then there is a vote.

I would like to say that we are always keen to get an influx of new blood which in turn brings new ideas. Do not feel that you cannot stand if you have not been a member for very long. For what it is worth, I became Training Officer just six months after I got off the boat in Australia!

If you would like to stand, please let Amanda know at secretary@uecwa.com.au,

Finally and for the record, I shall be standing for a second term as President just in case that decision influences anybody. That does not mean that I shall necessarily get elected, of course!

Constitutional Changes and Year End

Our constitution is a little out of date and needs some changes but I suspect this will be a job for the 2008 committee.

One change which the current committee has identified is to change our year end. This is currently October 31st which, apart from being Halloween, does not really have any other significance! It is not the end of the national financial year, nor is it the end of the calendar year.

We think it is a good idea to change the constitution to make our year end the same as the financial year. This would then run from 1st July to 30th June.

The most compelling reason we have for this is that then the new committee could be voted in at the July meeting rather than the November meeting. The problem with having a new committee coming in is that it takes time for them to start looking at what projects lay ahead and to start working together as a team. If the process starts in November which is the start of the dive season, we then have Christmas and the New Year. The work only starts to come together by about February and then we are already halfway through the dive season.

If we start in July, however, that really gives the new committee a good three months or so to plan the dive activities ahead and work out what needs doing with the boat before it starts going into active service.

We will debate the subject at our September meeting where the following motion will be raised by Andrew Mingay:

“The UEC shall change its financial year end with effect from the AGM in November 2007 to be from 1st July to 30th June”.

If accepted, this means that the next year will run from November 1st 2007 until 30th June 2008 which is an 8 month year. We would propose that fees are payable by October 31st 2007 for the new year in full and then a rebate is given at the start of the following year to reflect the shorter period. However, we are open to suggestions so don't be shy about making them and there will be a full debate at the meeting.

President's report continued

For the record and without wishing to sound like a bore, the relevant part of the Constitution is Article 23 as follows:

23. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION AND RULES

- a) No rule of the Club shall be altered or repealed and no new rule to be made save by a majority of members present and voting at a General Meeting.
- b) 14 days notice in writing of the intention to propose any new rule or alteration to any existing rule shall be given to the Secretary, who shall notify members of same by advertisement in the Club magazine at least seven clear days before the start of such meeting.

Dive Holiday in Vanuatu - 2nd-10th December

You will see an attachment on the website about a trip to dive the SS Coolidge in Vanuatu in December. This is considered an excellent dive spot which attracts wreck divers from around the world.

Tracey Price from Dive Adventures in Melbourne will hopefully be giving a quick presentation on this at our club meeting in August.

As an added incentive, I shall be going on this trip so that gives you all a good excuse to say why you don't want to come!

That's it for me - see you in September!

Best

Jules

President
UECWA

Proposal of a Change to the Club Constitution

Dear Members

Please note that a motion to change the Constitution of the UEC has been proposed as detailed in the President's report above to be voted upon at the Club General Meeting on Wednesday 19th September 2007. The motion is that:

“The UEC shall change its financial year end with effect from the AGM in November 2007 to be from 1st July to 30th June”.

Please take this as the advertisement of notice required to be given to members pursuant to article 23 of the Club's constitution.

Further note that for a Quorum to be present at a General Meeting, there needs to be pursuant to Article 18 b) of the Club's constitution at least 15 financial members present.

Amanda

Amanda Blanksby
Secretary, UECWA

Christmas in July Raffle Prize Winners

1. A Sea & Sea MX-5 II underwater camera and YS-20A underwater camera valued at \$980 (thanks to Australasian Diving Academy) - **Andrew Tilmouth, ticket number 01177.**
2. A double dive package for two people on the wreck of the Lena in Bunbury worth \$320 (thanks to Coastal Water Dive) - **Paul and Debbie Stewart, ticket no. 00770**
3. A \$300 dinner voucher at Gloucester Park (thanks to Pat Swallow and Red Pepper Catering) - **Gavin Kristal, ticket no. 01742**
4. A pair of Oceanic V12 split fins worth \$260 (thanks to Dolphin Scuba Diving in Welshpool) - **Mike Watson, ticket no. 00845**
5. A double dive package for two people on the Lionfish IV worth \$240 (thanks to Perth Diving Academy) - **Zita Dobson, ticket no. 00312**
6. One Fido or Puss 'n' Boots annual booster vac and 12 months supply of flea / worm treatment worth \$200 (thanks to Rachel Stone) - **Rob and Kirsty Bradbury, ticket no. 00520**
7. A waterproof backpack with buoyancy device for underwater use worth \$199 (thanks to Bell Scuba) - **Trevor Walker, ticket no 00892**
8. A Family Whalewatching Package in Albany between June and October worth \$180 (thanks to Silver Star Cruises) - **Geoff Hancock, ticket no. 01756**
9. A PADI Advanced course worth \$175 (thanks to Jules Holliday) - **Sue Knight, ticket no. 01553**
10. Watercolour painting (thanks to Margaret and Bill Pettigrew) - **Adam Johnston, ticket no. 00004**
11. Watercolour painting (thanks to Margaret and Bill Pettigrew) – **Jo Bull, ticket no. 00481**
12. Watercolour painting (thanks to Margaret and Bill Pettigrew) – **Anne McCarrol, ticket no. 01200**
13. Whale print, Ocean Life book, and altimeter (thanks to Margaret and Bill Pettigrew) - **Sam Vaneldik, ticket no. 00578**
14. Free membership of the UEC for 2008 worth \$140 (thanks to all of us!) - **Mary Bright, ticket no. 00009**
15. One free double dive on the Underwater Explorer worth \$45 (ditto!) - **Mark Fielding, ticket no. 00265**
16. One more free double dive on the Underwater Explorer worth \$45 (ditto!) - **Miriam Harmer, ticket no. 00001**

Stop Press:

Andrew Tilmouth already has an underwater camera and is offering prize number 1, the Sea & Sea Underwater Camera, to a Club Member. All you need to do is make a donation to the UEC. If you are interested please give Andrew a call on 9443 8189 to make arrangements to collect.

Avon Descent 2007 – A novice competitor's perspective...

By Clive Mitchell

If you have read the last newsletter you will probably know that this year I had decided, foolishly or otherwise, to experience the Avon Descent from the competitors' side. With a mere 2 weeks to go I felt I was well prepared fitness wise but had only managed a single day's practice in what passed as white water with the minimal rain we'd been having.

The day before scrutineering I decided to get dropped off at a place called 'Lookout', a few kilometres upstream of Walyunga, for another practice run down to Bells. I was duly dropped off by Rachel only to be confronted by having to carry my boat roughly half a kilometre down the side of a mountain and over a railway line just to get to the river!

After conquering the climb down, I set off down river towards Bells. It was overcast with the odd shower and made for a very enjoyable trip and I was very pleased to find that I was having no trouble negotiating such infamous rapids as Championships, Syd's and Terminator, though the fact they were barely flowing might have had something to do with that! I made it through to Bell's unscathed only to yet again come to grief on the rocks downstream of the footbridge. Oh well, at least I didn't snap a paddle this time.

The following day I was up early and set off for Hind's Reserve for scrutineering. Scrutineering ran from 8am to 11am but I wanted to get there early and hopefully avoid the chaos that was sure to eventuate with over 500 boats turning up. I was pleasantly surprised however at the organisation and the whole process ran like clockwork. I was finished by 8:30 and had to sit around for 2 hours until the mandatory briefing time.

The following weekend was the 'Valley Run' and I resolved to attempt as much of the course as I could. As the week progressed the rain started falling, and falling, and falling, such that by Saturday the river level was nearly a metre higher than it was on my trip the previous Saturday. I don't mind saying that the prospect of tackling my first Avon Descent in the highest water levels for many years did cause me some concern but there was no pulling out now.



Bells - scouting for the best way through

On the Saturday of the Valley run I was dropped at Katrine Bridge just before 0800 and planned on getting through to Cobbler's Pool and off the water by midday when the power boats were allowed their practise run. The trip was fairly uneventful though I did portage around Extracts and the Ti Trees were a bit of an eye opener. With the raised water levels you are literally paddling through walls of foliage and need to pick your line very quickly as any hesitation will see the current carry you into the trees regardless. Got hopelessly lost several times and the only thing I really learnt was which way not to go next time! Finally arrived at Cobblers Pool at 11:50 so had timed it well despite the detours.

On the Sunday I started just upstream of Super Chute where I immediately went for my first swim, much to the amusement of the watching ASU crowd! Determined to conquer my first real rapid I carried the boat back upstream and this time came through right way up. My confidence grew with every rapid and after powering through Emus I felt ready for anything.

A little further downstream I came to another fairly serious rapid known as Moondyne where a group of boats was milling around at the approach. They were waiting for a stuck boat to be freed so I pulled my boat on to some rocks and went to investigate. A double kayak had gotten offline and been pushed into a stand of ti trees, capsized and pinned against the trees. One of the paddlers had come out and been washed down the rapid but the other person was still in the kayak as it bent around the trees, deforming in the process and trapping his legs. Fortunately he had managed to grab a branch above the waterline and hold his head above water until the other group of paddlers happened by and came to his aid. The paddler was helped out and the boat freed from the current but it was a sobering reminder of how quickly things can go wrong in the water. I wonder how long he would have been able to hold on to the branch had no one come along...

The rest of the trip went well and again I sailed through Championships, Syd's and the Terminator but completely messed up at Bell's yet again. In light of the fact that I had now failed 3 times running to negotiate Bells I went down to the footbridge to look for a better way to tackle it. After inspection I resolved to stay completely right at the bridge and to keep right from there on. I picked out some landmarks which marked my chosen route and hoped I would be able to spot them from water level.

On the Friday before the race it was off to Northam for registration. After registering and dropping my boat at the starting compound, my support crew and I went and visited the key points for day one and decided to have one stop at Extracts during the compulsory (for novices) portage where I would grab some more water and a bite to eat. I had drawn starting grid 47 which means there were going to be over 300 paddle boats in front of me from the start!



Being marshalled for the start on day one

Day 1:

I had no idea what to expect at the start, all I knew was that I was on grid 47, starting at 08:52:30. Again I was pleasantly surprised and everything was organised with the proverbial military precision and worked like clockwork. Eventually grid 47 was called and the race had begun.

My resolve to paddle a steady consistent pace evaporated immediately as we dashed for the first obstacle, the chute at Northam Weir. I managed to arrive first but started to go sideways, threatening to spear off towards Jules who was keeping a watchful eye on proceedings from a rock beside the chute. Fortunately I was spared embarrassment when a following boat came through and straightened me up!



Tackling Northam Weir under Renee's watchfull eye

With Northam Weir successfully, though shakily, negotiated, we started on the 17km slog to the first checkpoint at Katrine Bridge with the river ahead just one long line of paddlers as far as the eye could see. After a cheery wave from the UEC crew at Katrines I soon came to the first rapid of the day, Glen Avon. Passed through unscathed and with a bonus cheer from Steve & Tanya paddled on towards my planned stop at Extracts.

Arrived at Extracts and completed my pit stop as planned before paddling on, marginally refreshed, for the second half of the day 1 course. Kept up a reasonable pace, all the way contemplating which way I was going to go at Ti Trees this time. Fortunately I arrived there in company with several other paddlers, at least one of who looked like he knew where he was going. I latched on to his tail and got a fairly good run all the way through. Before I knew it we were heading down Leatherhead rapids which signalled the approaching finish line.

Finished in a time of 4hrs 47min which put me up to 128th position for day 2 so I couldn't have been happier. Once again the organisation was exceptional and I was packed away and changed in no time. After nearly 5 hours of paddling I discovered I had developed a bit of an appetite and just ate and ate for the rest of the day!

Saturday night was the usual ASU campfire event though, feeling rather tired, I went to bed early.

Day 2:



7am and preparing for day two

For day 2 I was starting on grid 17 at 07:22:00 and again the starters got us all away on time. After negotiating the short ti trees section we came to the first rapid of the day Super Chute and after my practise run the week before I thought I had this one sussed. It wasn't to be however and while I got through the rapid itself I hit the downstream turbulence off balance and immediately went for a swim. I can attest that the Avon River at 7:30am in the middle of winter is COLD and to add further embarrassment I had fallen off directly opposite the rock Rachel was sitting on.

Marshalling for start on day two



With Rachel's friendly advice as to which way the finish line was still ringing in my ears, I set off again determined to not let it happen again. I regained my confidence negotiating the myriad minor rapids until I arrived at Emus where I promptly went for another swim, not a good start to the day.



Superchute

Things improved from then on however and I had soon breezed through Moondyne, Stronghills, Lookout, Championships and Syd's. Before I knew it I was approaching Bells, how would I go this time? Sticking to the plan I hugged the right hand bank and it worked perfectly, I had finally conquered Bells!

Next was a planned stop at Great Northern Highway for a refill and quick bite. This just left the nearly 30km to the finish line in Bayswater, 30km of flat water and boy was I feeling tired by then! Every km seemed to drag and all they time I was waiting to be overtaken by a flotilla of paddle craft. That didn't eventuate so I presume everyone else was feeling as tired as I was.

Eventually the finish line appeared and it was over after a mere 6hrs 42min paddling for a total race time of 11hrs 29min. The organiser's characteristic efficiency kicked in again and I was efficiently given my finishing medal, efficiently stripped of my bib and tracking anklet and efficiently asked to move my boat! Move my boat, I could barely stand up! My support crew came to my rescue however and dragged my boat clear just as the first power boat screamed through the finish line.

Finished at last!



All in all it was great weekend and the good water levels made the run down the valley simply fantastic and I could do that again every weekend. Seeing and hearing the UEC crew at each rapid was a bonus and really added to the event. While I hadn't entered with a view to being competitive, I managed to finish 28th out of 140 in my class and was over the moon with the result.

Will I do it again next year? Probably, and I would recommend anyone who's contemplated it in the past to give it a shot also. It's a great feeling to finish an event like this.



The crew at Northam Weir

For more photos of the Avon Descent 2007 check out the website

<http://www.uecwa.com.au/albums/albumavon07.html>

Social Report

By Ilonka Jarvis

After a fabulous Christmas in July celebration, Ilonka has prepared another fun evening for us all to enjoy.

Q-ZAR!

Social Event: 5:00 pm Saturday 18th August 07

Just because it's wet and windy doesn't mean we can't have fun!

Come and join us at Q-ZAR, 19 Essex Street, Fremantle

To try our skill at laser tag, and all the other challenges they have on offer

Cost: \$19-50 per head for 2 arena games and 10 tokens

**We can then kick on at any of the local watering holes
- the Sail and Anchor is nice and handy - grab a
bite to eat – hey, we'll make it up as we go along!**

**If you would like to join in the fun, contact
Ilonka at socialbookings@uecwa.com.au**

If you like your jokes nice and fruity, here's one from Belinda Palmer -



Mark Maddern has found an interesting website that you might want to check out -

<http://www.underwatertimes.com/>



New fashion for the ladies

Training Report

By UEC Training Officer Andrew Mingay

G'day All,

Advanced PADI Diver Course

If you are keen to improve your skills, this is for you. The next course will be run in September - check out the [flyer](#) for more details.

DAN02 Course

This is a very worthwhile course and the attached [flyer](#) gives more information - course to be held on 16th September.

Please contact me for further information on these two courses.

Lake Stockton Dive Trip

Dates: 8th and 9th of September

Location: Collie, off the Collie - Darkan Rd and Piavanini Rd (about 7 Km out of collie)

Stockton lake is a fantastic fresh water dive site that I dived in March and I have been keen to get back to one of the most interesting dive sites I have been to.

The lake its self is an abandoned coal mine that has filled with water and now offers some great diving for all levels of divers.

The Trip is totally free to come along and dive, camp and generally just chill out enjoy a good yarn and a few drinks by the camp fire.

You will need to bring along:

Camping gear and equipment

Food, water (there are toilets but no fresh drinking water)

Cooking appliance (gas cookers or bbq's)

Warm clothes as the temperature does drop at night. (But that's why we have a camp fire and the usual beverages.)

Any thing else you may require to make the bush your home

Diving equipment:

Usual diving equipment

Tanks: There is no air facility anywhere near the site so bring your tanks accordingly. If you plan on doing two dives a day then bring four tanks but I would suggest five just to be on the safe side, in case like myself you really enjoy the site.

Weights: This is a fresh water dive but bring along enough weight to dive in salt water just in case.

Wetsuits: The water is cold at depth (34m) I got to 14 degrees last time so bring extra layers of warmth. I have found that using a normal thermal top and wearing thick socks under your booties helps a lot.

What's the plan??

This is a totally relaxed weekend so its really up to you, what you do and how much you dive, drink etc.... But saying that, I will be getting there around five on Friday arvo so I can set up my tent and get comfy before it gets dark so if you're getting there later be prepared to set up in the dark!

On Saturday I will give a site brief and an introduction to the area. The first dive I am planning to take any one who wants to for a dive and buoyancy check but after that you're on your own. The rest is up to you.

Training Report continued

I will try to organise a get together with those coming in the week leading up to the trip so every one can go over where it is and how to get there and what gear we will share (cookers, bbq's etc..).

These are a few links to related websites.

http://www.collie.wa.gov.au/visit/discovery_drives/documents/discover_collie_map.pdf

http://www.traveldownunder.com.au/Western_Australia/South_West/Stockton_Lake.asp

http://www.trimixdivers.com/Navigate.do;jsessionid=E74378E8705AACDD9E8E7CBF1FF3699D?tableName=caves&code=stockton_colliery

This web site gives a really good run down on what the lake is and dives that have taken place. But the maps and the tunnel entrances are falsified.

This trip is not a caving trip unless you are fully qualified and experienced in caving and this site!!!

I hope to see you all there.

For any one who wants to know more or to let me know your coming contact me on

Phone: 0429 205 208

Or email: andrew_mingay@yahoo.com.au there is a _ between andrew_mingay

Enjoy your diving,

Cheers,

Andrew

Ps When booking a course/trip, please supply your email address and contact numbers.

Pay directly online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Name: Underwater Explorers Club of WA.
BSB: 066136
Account: 00901972

There is limited space to write what the payment is for. Please start with your name and then reason for payment.

In all cases you must email the Treasurer with the following payment information:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for (and from)
- Reason for payment, e.g. Dive Dec 4, T-shirt, etc.

Club Aims and Objectives

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self-contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedures and to acquaint both Club members and the public with the facts of safety and using safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, provide fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

Contact your Committee

President
Vice President & Fundraising
Secretary
Treasurer
Dive Co-ordinator
Boat Officer
Safety Officer and
Training Co-ordinator
Social
New Members
Environment
Web & PR
Newsletter

Julian Holliday
 Rachel Stone
 Amanda Blanksby
 Clive Mitchell
 Mark Maddern
 Steve Bright

 Andrew Mingay
 Ilonka Jarvis
 Sue Knight
 Spencer Shute
 Martin Arrowsmith
 Pat Swallow

president@uecwa.com.au
vicepresident@uecwa.com.au
secretary@uecwa.com.au
treasurer@uecwa.com.au
divebookings@uecwa.com.au
boat@uecwa.com.au
safety@uecwa.com.au
training@uecwa.com.au
socialbookings@uecwa.com.au
newmembers@uecwa.com.au
environment@uecwa.com.au
webmaster@uecwa.com.au
newsletter@uecwa.com.au

Still in the dark on night dives?

UEC members have access to the full range of LED Underwater Kinetics torches at discount prices.

Mini Q40 eLED plus This is the latest 2 watt LED 'focused globe' model . They are still not available in Australia but we have access to them. The Mini Q40 is the perfect back-up torch to strap to your mask or cray loop and the efficiency of the LED globe means that your battery life is 5 to 6 hours. It takes 4 AA batteries. It comes in several colours and has a lanyard but the mask strap is now an extra. **\$75**



SL4 eLED This torch takes 4 C size batteries with a burn time of more than 10 hours. It's bright enough to be your main torch for the 'occasional' night divers and is small enough to fit in a BC pocket as a good back up torch. The super tough LED globes means it is virtually impossible to break by being dropped. It comes with a lanyard and is also available in several colours. **\$120** (2 left at \$100)



C4 eLED This pistol grip style torch takes 4 C size batteries and is a perfect main torch for night diving. It has a locking switch to swap between the high and low beam settings. It also comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Silver and Black. Alkaline batteries included but it works well with NiMH rechargeables. **\$140**



C8 eLED plus This new pistol grip C8 is a great main torch. The completely new 10 watt LED 'water cooled' globe is incredibly efficient and has low and high power settings. It has a battery life of more than 10 hrs from 8 C size alkaline's (which are supplied) and can be used with NiMH rechargeable's. It comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Black and Silver. **\$260** (1 left at \$230)



Keep your torch safe at houses with a GearKeeper retractor. **\$35**



If you would like to order a torch or want to ask some questions e-mail Chris Cunnold at cunnold@iinet.net.au
Most of the torches are available for immediate delivery, depending on what colour you choose.

Have you seen the light?

Recycle your corks!

Never, ever throw a cork into landfill! Zita Dobson collects them and sends them to Guides Australia who recycle them and raise money.

Save them up and bring them to a meeting:
Zita or Bob are usually there.



Underwater Explorers Club

Minutes of General Meeting
Ilonka's House Saturday 14 July 2007

Apologies Steve Larter Martin Arrowsmith Martin Smith Geoff Geard

The meeting was opened at 7.40pm

Jules thanked Ilonka and husband Eddie for being the hosts of the general meeting and Christmas in July event.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1.0 The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Steve Bright
Seconded by Andre Mingay

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

2.0 None

Correspondence Inwards

- 3.0
- Letter from SYC dated 19 June on SYC fees and membership.
 - Letter from ASU dated 27 June on Emergency Control Organisation meeting.
 - Scuba 2 Logbook
 - Letter from Town of Kwinana dated 5 July 2007, with regard to the supply of goods and services

Correspondence Outwards

- 4.0
- Letter to DPI dated 26 June 2007 with regard to mooring 920.
 - Letter to SYC dated 11 July 2007 with regard to the meeting held on 9 July.

Nominations

- 5.0 The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fees in advance:
- Geoff Hancock

New Memberships

- 6.0 There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:
- NONE

Accepted by Tanya Dewhurst
Seconded by Rachel Stone

Reports

7.1 **President** – Jules Holliday

- August general meeting have two speakers – firstly Dr Ian Dey from Fremantle Hospital's hyperbaric unit and secondly Tracy Price from Dive Adventures. She will talk about the forthcoming club overseas trip to Vanuatu, being organised by Jules.
- Avon Descent – had a good training session last weekend – still looking for volunteers.
- Whalenet event – flyers about the event were on the tables. Jules will do a short presentation about the UEC.

7.2 **Secretary** – «GreetingLine»

- Nothing to report

7.3 **Treasurer** – Clive Mitchell

- Clive briefed the members on the current financial position of the club and the latest monthly financial statement was circulated. Noted that the SYC pen fees had increased by 33%.
- The club has now deregistered for GST.

Accepted by Jeff Wake
Seconded by Pat Troy

7.4 **Vice President and Fund Raising** – Rachel Stone

- Looking for more volunteers for the Avon Descent. Also in the process of organising car pooling.
- Jackets, for those who had previously ordered them, were available for collection.
- Requested for members who don't get the weekly email to let Rachel know – not sure if some of the email addresses are correct.

- 7.5 **Dive Coordinator** – Mark Maddern
- Boat went out today for a single tank dive, given good conditions.
 - Shore dive planned tomorrow morning at Robb's Jetty.
- 7.6 **Environment** – Spencer Shute
- Not present – no report.
- 7.7 **New Members** – Sue Knight
- Not present – Pat looking after new members role in Sue's absence.
 - New member's booze cruise organised for Sunday 22 July – depart from SYC at midday. \$10 per person.
- 7.8 **Newsletter** – Pat Swallow
- July's newsletter has just been posted on the website.
- 7.9 **Web and PR** – Martin Arrowsmith
- Not present – Pat noted that there were some new photos posted on the website taken by Chris Cunnold of his recent dive trip to PNG.
- 7.10 **Safety** – Steve Bright
- Steve reminded members to be mindful of the situations when trying out new equipment, given recent incident during the recent Albany trip. One member had problems controlling buoyancy with a new dry suit on one of the deep dives, and subsequently had to have a couple of sessions in the decompression chamber on return to Perth.
- 7.11 **Social** – Ilonka Jarvis
- No report – too busy in the kitchen!!
- 7.12 **Training** – Andrew Mingay
- Will be away next week – Renee will keep track of any emails to the training officer.
 - Lake Stockton is planned for the weekend of 8/9th September.
 - Looking for feedback from members on the training side of the club, given recent cancellation of course due to lack of response. Do members want more training course to be organised?
- 7.13 **Boat**
- Jules has contacted a number of members who would fit the boat officer role. Still awaiting feedback. If anyone is interested please speak to Jules. It is an important committee role.
 - Boat will probably be taken out of the water in August for various repairs.
 - Thanks to Clive Mitchell, Steve Bright, and Mark Maddern for cleaning the underside of the boat.

General Business

8.1 Increase in fees for SYC membership

Jules briefed the members on the recent events with regard to the proposed increase in fees for the SYC. The matter had been discussed at the committee meeting on 2 July. Clive and Amanda had a meeting with SYC on 9 July 2007.

It was noted that any change in fees would probably require a change to the constitution.

Jules requested feedback from members present on this issue. Some of the main aspects of the open discussion are documented below:

- The UEC has a large number of members who never go to the SYC. If we are required to pay an additional \$40 these people would probably not renew their membership.
- It is important not to lose the pen, given current shortages in Perth.
- Need to identify the pros and cons for the SYC and to determine if we are getting an appropriate return for our fees.
- Definitely get value for money on the parking side of things. Previous to joining with the SYC car parking was around \$8 for a day's dive, and that was over five years ago.
- Should really continue to be a voluntary payment, for those members who dive regularly, as they get the benefit of the car parking and the use of the SYC facilities.
- It is very good value for money compared to other yacht clubs.
- Is it possible to negotiate a flat rate for so many members, and then have a fixed number of parking permits that are distributed to those who are diving?
- There is a 6-year waiting list for East Fremantle Yacht Club.
- What is the possibility of the SYC chucking us out?

A motion was raised by Pat Swallow as follows:

“It is proposed that we accept amended membership terms of the SYC as follows:

- › UEC ordinary members - \$40 to obtain SYC social membership
- › UEC family members - \$40 for one member of the family to obtain SYC social membership
- › UEC social members - \$30 (reduced fee to reflect the reduced membership charged by the UEC)
- › UEC life, student and junior members - no SYC charge
- › UEC President to pay one SYC ordinary membership (nomination fee to be waived)”

Rachel Stone seconded the motion. ‘For the motion’ and ‘against the motion’ points were raised by both Clive Cass and Jeff Wake. Vote for 13, vote against 14, 2 absentees.

Hence motion rejected. Jules, Amanda and Clive to discuss further with SYC.

8.2 **Rottnest Winter Weekend Away**

Clive Cass reminded members of the winter Rottnest holiday at end of August. It will be a social non-diving weekend. Plenty of spaces available.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

The next general meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 August at 7:30 pm

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Jules Holliday
(Chairperson)



Underwater Explorers Club

Minutes of Committee Management Meeting

Jules's House Monday 2 July 2007

Present:

Chairperson:	Jules Holliday			
Committee:	Amanda Blanksby	Clive Mitchell	Martin Arrowsmith	Mark Maddern
	Andrew Mingay	Pat Swallow	Sue Knight	Steve Bright
	Spencer Shute			
Members:	Phil Doring			
Apologies	Ilonka Jarvis	Rachel Stone		

The meeting was opened at 7.00pm. Jules welcomed Phil who was here to get a taste of UEC committee life.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the committee management meeting dated 12 June 2007 were circulated and accepted as a true record. **Action**

Accepted by Andrew Mingay
Seconded by Steve Bright

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- To be discussed throughout the progress of the meeting.

Correspondence Inwards

- Letter from SYC dated 13 June 2007 with regard to pen weights.
- Letter from DPI dated 17 May 2007 with regard to mooring 920.
- Letter from SYC dated 19 June on SYC fees and membership.
- Letter from ASU dated 27 June on Emergency Control Organisation meeting.
- Letter from Steve Larter dated 21 June with regard to change of address.

Correspondence Outwards

- Letter to Australian Clearance Diving Team dated 20 June 2007 with regard to a clearance diving presentation.
- Letter to DPI dated 26 June 2007 with regard to mooring 920.

Nominations

The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fee in advance:

- Geoff Hancock

New Memberships

There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:

- None

Accepted by Sue Knight
Seconded by Mark Maddern

Reports

President – Jules Holliday

Raffle

- 56 raffle books out of 140 have been returned so far. Need to plug and get members to return their slips – Rachel to action in weekly email.
- For the free dives offered by the dive club, Amanda to prepare voucher for free dives offered by the club and ensure validity is clear i.e. for a qualified scuba diver only.
- Looking for a return of between \$1500 and \$2000 from the raffle.

Rachel
Amanda

Avon Descent

Action

- Only 3 members attended the first aid course over weekend of 31/1 July.

Provisional Skipper Status

- Discussed the letter tabled by Dennis Stubberfield at the April general meeting. The committee agreed to accept the following items:
 - Qualification of 'Provisional Skipper' be created.
 - Provisional skippers have full skipper accreditation, all hours, for all areas inside Fremantle Heads, from Fremantle Heads to Hall Bank light and back south to the Fishing Boat Harbour including refuelling, the Fishing Boat Harbour itself and Challenger Harbour.
 - Provisional skipper qualification be given to the following members; Clive Mitchell, Martin Arrowsmith, Steve Bright and Wendy Hutchinson.
 - Accepted that whilst the boat is at anchor, skippers can dive provided there is a provisional skipper on board.
- The following items were discussed but **not** endorsed:
 - Provisional skipper deemed competent on achieving the three points as listed in Dennis's letter.
 - Provisional skippers be permitted to take the boat from the pen with min of 3 people on board to practice manoeuvres and develop skills.
 - Updating of the UEC requirements for skippers.
- It was agreed that further training would be completed once Dennis returns from his travels up north if he is willing to continue to commit his time.

Amanda
Clive

Amanda / Clive

Rottnest Mooring

- Discussed the current agreement for this mooring. Payments include RIA authorised user fee, maintenance repair costs, annual inspection by the RIA Contractor and \$100 to the licensee. Amanda to discuss with RIA further on the costs in relation to the maintenance of the mooring. Clive to clarify on costs in relation to the Rottnest mooring over past couple of years.

Jules

SYC

- Discussed the letter received from the SYC with regard to membership fees. In general the committee was not in agreement to change the fee structure from associate member to social member, with an increase from \$28 to \$65.
- Agreed that Amanda and Clive would attend a meeting with SYC to discuss further.
- Clive has applied for a fuel card through SYC for the fuelling facility at East Fremantle. Still waiting for SYC to process.

SYC Liaison Role

- Still waiting for someone on the committee to volunteer for this role.
- Boating Officer
- Nobody in the club has volunteered to take this role on. Discussed possible members who may be interested. Jules to approach them on an individual basis. Could combine the boat officer and SYC liaison roles together.

Secretary – Amanda Blanksby

- It was noted from the club records that for the 2005/2006 year a total of 45 new members had joined. Only 14 of these had lapsed their membership this year.
- Amanda to prepare flyer for the Whalenet evening. Agreed to print a membership form on the back of the flyer.

Amanda

Treasurer – Clive Mitchell

- Clive briefed the committee on the monthly financial report, including start and end figures at the bank.
- Tax office has raised the threshold for GST payments to \$150,000 for the new financial year; hence UEC will not be required to pay GST from July onwards.

Accepted by Sue Knight
Seconded by Spencer Shute

Vice President and Fundraising – Rachel Stone

- Not present – no report.
- Clive noted that the next batch of chocolates had been distributed. Have received nearly all the payments for the jackets and entertainment books.

Action

Dive Coordinator – Mark Maddern

- Not much diving happening, given poor weather conditions.
- Mark raised a request from Chris Cunnold to take the boat out with a number of nomination divers from WARPS. Agreed this was acceptable, as long as the dive was promoted to other club members as well.
- It was noted that other dive organisations were still diving through the winter. Agreed that more shore based diving should be arranged. Agreed to organise a shore dive on 15 July and a night dive on 20 July and review the response from members.

Mark

Environment – Spencer Shute

- Nothing to report – Phil attending the meeting with the possibility of standing for the environment committee position next year.

New Members – Sue Knight

- Had 3 contacts last month.
- Agreed to email Renee Barker about the review of the new members pack.
- New member's booze cruise requires more plugging, as only 2 people have signed up so far.
- Sue is away from 13th July to 4th August. Pat to take over.
- Martin to amend email addresses to suit.

Sue

Rachel

Pat

Martin

Newsletter – Pat Swallow

- Thanks to Clive for doing the June newsletter.
- Deadline for July is next weekend.
- Has paid deposit for accommodation for weekend down in Dunsborough in October. The plan is to have two dives on the Swan on the Saturday, and then do the beach clean-up on the Sunday morning and a dive off the jetty in the afternoon.

Web and PR – Martin Arrowsmith

- Had a couple of emails from various people who would like their website put on the links page.
- Has received the books from the US. Will use as a general meeting raffle prize.

Safety – Steve Bright

- Checked first aid box and replaced out-of-date items where required.
- Will check all expiry dates on the flares.
- Jules raised an incident from the Albany weekend where two members decided to try out new dry suits on the deep dives. One member had problems controlling their buoyancy and had a couple of sessions in the chamber on return to Perth. It was noted that members should be reminded to try out new equipment in a more controlled environment rather than on deep dives.

Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- Not present – not report.
- Christmas in July event – dinner all sold out.
- Quasar possible social event in August.

Training – Andrew Mingay

- Not enough response from members on the recently promoted courses, hence has cancelled them.
- Discussed possibility of some form of affiliate membership with Scuba 2. They are a very active club with lots of shore dives organised and they don't own a boat. Jules and Andrew to look into it further.

Jules / Andrew

Boat

- Bottom of boat needs cleaning. Clive and Mark to sort out over the next weekend.
- Andrew / Steve to do some repairs on mooring 920 in the river.

Clive / Mark

Steve / Andrew

General Business

Lake Stockton

- Andrew noted that the weekend away to Lake Stockton is now planned for 8/9th September.

Albany Trip

- Jules noted that the next Albany trip was planned for the end of October.

Action**Vanuatu**

- Jules arranging trip to Vanuatu in December, from 2nd to 10th. 10 shared dives for \$1600 from Brisbane.

2008 Committee

- Discussed who was willing to stand again next year – so far about half of the current committee are willing to stand again.
- Those who are not keen where asked to try and find a suitable replacement.

Storage of Dive Club Records

- Clive currently has most of the records, and is happy to store them for the time being. Need to address in the future. May be worth looking through them one day to determine what is required to be saved and what can be disposed off.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday 9 August 2007. Time and venue to be advised.

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Jules Holliday
(Chairperson)

And finally, supposedly voted Best Australian Joke 2007:-

A bloke's wife goes missing while diving off the West Australian coast.

He reports the event, searches fruitlessly and spends a terrible night wondering what could have happened to her.

Next morning there's a knock at the door and he is confronted by a couple of policemen, the old Sarge and a younger Constable.

The Sarge says, 'Mate, we have some news for you, unfortunately some really bad news, but, some good news, and maybe some more good news'.

'Well,' says the bloke, 'I guess I'd better have the bad news first?'

The Sarge says, 'I'm really sorry mate, but your wife is dead. Young Bill here found her lying at about five fathoms in a little cleft in the reef. He got a line around her and we pulled her up, but she was dead.'

The bloke is naturally pretty distressed to hear of this and has a bit of a turn. But after a few minutes he pulls himself together and asks what the good news is.

The Sarge says, 'Well when we got your wife up there were quite a few really good sized crays and a swag of nice crabs attached to her, so we've brought you your share.'

He hands the bloke a sugar bag with a couple of nice crays and four or five crabs in it.

'Geez thanks. They're bloody beauties. I guess it's an ill wind and all that... So what's the other possible good news?'

'Well', the Sarge says, 'if you fancy a quick trip, me and young Bill here get off duty at around 11 o'clock and we're gonna shoot over there and pull her up again!'

September 2007 Newsletter

What follows below is the final President's report from Jules Holliday who, as you are doubtless already aware, has resigned from his position as president of the UEC. The Committee of the UEC would like it known, however, that it believes some of the report's accounts of recent events are, in part, factually inaccurate.

It is with a great deal of regret we view Jules' decision to resign, but it is a decision for him alone and one we respect.

On behalf of the club, the Committee would like to thank Jules for the time and effort he has contributed during the past 10 months. Jules' drive was key to the successful running of many events such as the "Try Dive" day, the "XMAS in July raffle" and a series of advanced diving trips to the south coast. His efforts have also made smooth sailing of many of the challenges which occur behind the scenes when running a club as large as ours.

Working in the diving arena, we're sure that Jules will have ample opportunity to catch up with our members from time to time. All the best for the future Jules.

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President's Report

By Jules Holliday

Dear Members

This month I have some rather sad news as you will be aware from an email which went out to members last week. Unfortunately I shall be standing down as President on 24th September.

I have decided to do this is simply because I believe we are at a crossroads in respect of our relationship with the SYC. What happens over the next month or so will determine the future of the UEC for many years ahead. I do not think that I have been able to get that message across sufficiently well over the past couple of months for which I apologise.

However, I believe now that everyone will be able to focus their attention on it and a decision can be made collectively for the long-term good of our Club.

This has been made more relevant because there is a significant difference of opinion between myself and our own Committee about what we do. Our Committee appears to have agreed to submit to all of the demands of the Swan Yacht Club at our September meeting.

President's report continued

As this is such a significant and potentially conflicting issue, I can certainly understand why there are many different voices raised. After all, it goes to the heart of whether we stay as an independent club or become taken over by stealth by another organisation. Unfortunately I was not present at that meeting and there are one or two different interpretations of what was agreed upon.

The Committee agreed to this because they had been told by a former President that the SYC had voted at its own committee meeting that week to evict the Club and remove our pen rights. It was therefore an act designed to save the boat and I have a great deal of sympathy for the motives in that case. The subject was debated and a consensus was reached. I respect the process, I applaud healthy debate and I respect the individuals involved but I think the decision made is not a good one for a variety of reasons. Our members may, of course, have a different opinion and that is certainly your right.

However, it is your right to determine the future of your club which is at the core of this matter and which I am seeking to protect.

I would just point out here that we have paid our pen fees for the year 2007/2008. I have no idea why the SYC is attempting to expel us because, as far as I can tell from a legal perspective, we have breached no terms of our agreement. Furthermore, at the time of our own committee meeting, we had received no written word of the reasons. Indeed, we still to my knowledge have not been officially informed of any such decision.

It is my personal belief once again that what the SYC is apparently attempting to do is in breach of basic property laws. While a club can have its own rules, those rules cannot override the common law. Maybe I was playing truant that day at law school when they taught us that a landlord can effectively throw a tenant out for whatever reason he or she likes even though the tenant has paid a year's rent up front!!

Moving Forward

All that having been said, what are we going to do about it?

Unfortunately we are in a position where the Committee and the President seem to have two different approaches. Ironically I think that many if not all of the Committee actually share my views that what the SYC is attempting to do is outrageous but we think differently as to how it should be resolved.

My own view is that we should challenge any decision to expel us through legal means. We certainly do not lack the funds to gain a legal opinion and have a letter from a firm of solicitors sent to the SYC Committee advising them that their proposed course is, in fact, unlawful. Certainly their demands for access to our database of members are unlawful because that breaches the Privacy Act 1988. Our members may in time wish to read their letter in this article and telephone the Privacy Commissioner on 1300 363 992 to advise him of the SYC's conduct. I shall certainly be doing so.

That will allow us time to consider alternative berthing arrangements and, if necessary, we can always use our mooring in Mosman Park as a short-term option. In the long term, I see no benefit in remaining at the Swan Yacht Club because it has shown itself to have no problem in using bullying tactics to force us to do what it wants.

President's report continued

I have no desire to be part of a club like that, do you?

Of course, I am aware that a large number of our members and several past Presidents do see benefits in being part of the SYC. All I would say is that we all need to consider the bigger picture - it is more than just a pen arrangement and a convenient place to have a meeting and buy a bottle of wine.

In terms of whether we accept compulsory membership, I guess it all comes down to whether you think unconditionally accepting whatever someone dictates is a good idea to have a quiet life. Personally I have always thought that such conduct always creates more problems than it solves.

I think Benjamin Franklin was right on the money when he said,

“Those who desire to give up freedom in order to gain security will not have, nor do they deserve, either one.”

Having applied a great deal of thought to the situation, I determined that the first step to resolve this problem is for me to resign as President. At least this way all members are aware of these important issues and can debate them to determine what happens going forward.

Not everyone will agree with my decision to resign and some will probably applaud it. However, I believe strongly that my departure will give our members a clear choice of where they want to go and that can only be a good thing. At least now nobody can say they did not realise there was a problem as I have heard many times in the past.

A Brief History of the SYC / UEC Relationship

In terms of the recent history, you will all be aware that the Swan Yacht Club has been trying to force all UEC members to join as Social Members and we have had various discussions on this in July and in August.

Logically speaking, the SYC should be forcing anybody who visits or takes a trip on any boat in its pens to be joining as Social Members as well because this is what it amounts to. I somehow cannot see a friend of the Commodore being required to join the SYC if he goes out on the Commodore's boat two or three times a year. Why then should all our members?

Attached to this newsletter is the correspondence from the Managing Secretary of the SYC dated 19th June 2007 which started the process off. I would like you to spare a couple of minutes to read that letter because this is the nature of a club which you may all about to be forced to join. It does not make happy reading and I would challenge any member to say that it is a benevolent message.

I have also attached a second letter from the SYC which is undated and which we received in late July. Frankly, it is more of the same. To date, this has been our only correspondence from the SYC.

At our own Club's July meeting we had a debate on the subject and a proposal was put to the vote that all UEC members be required to join the SYC. That proposal was defeated. This is a matter of record and not a matter of my own opinion. The members therefore said that we did not all want to be forced to join the SYC. If people want to join, then that is fair enough but they should only join if they want to.

President's report continued

I think that is a good example of democracy at work - a club which exists for the benefit of its members listening to its members' wishes. I also think it is rather a bizarre concept to force anybody to join any club. Surely someone would join a club of all things because he or she wanted to become a member, and not because he or she had to join? That concept applies to paying taxes and not voluntary fun activities.

Furthermore, it is certainly my opinion as a solicitor that for the UEC to make compulsory membership of another club as a joining pre-requisite, it would first have to change its constitution. With a majority of members opposing it, obviously that constitutional change could not happen. This would doubtless have consequences with the SYC but at least we would still be independent and be able to make our own decisions.

Let there be no mistake about this, ladies and gentlemen. Any decision to accept compulsory membership of the SYC will end the independence of our own Club which has been going strong since 1954. By definition, how can we be independent if all of our members are forced as a condition of membership to join another organisation? An organisation, I might add, over which we have absolutely no influence whatsoever because Social Members carry no voting rights.

There is at least one member of the UEC who believes that some agreement was made in the past about compelling all of our members to join the SYC. When I have asked about that in the past with past Presidents, nothing was mentioned. Indeed, when I spoke with Chris Cunnold, our last President, about any such arrangement he told me that this was something the SYC wanted but that we had never agreed to it.

That certainly makes sense from my perspective. I have been a member of the UEC for three years and, until June this year, I had never been asked to join the SYC.

For the record, I have attached a copy of past President Carmine Travaglione's email of 6th September to the UEC Committee which discusses some sort of arrangement and may certainly have influenced the decision taken. I have also attached a copy of Carmine's email to our Treasurer on 11th September for the sake of completeness. We both clearly hold very different opinions as you will note when Carmine explains he has joined the SYC as a full member and has applied for a 12m pen for his own boat.

Doubtless Carmine may well wish to bring this subject up at future meetings as is his absolute right, but I would say this. If an agreement really did exist, then how is it that it has never been enforced by the UEC? The answer I would suggest is that no such agreement was ever made and that is why nobody knows anything about it and why we were never required to join the SYC. The SYC can show nothing in writing about it nor could they even say who had made it when I met with them in January. Furthermore, there is absolutely nothing about it in our Club records at all.

I would also point out that talking about some kind of arrangement which may exist in the future dependent upon certain conditions certainly does not make a binding agreement. It is simply voicing possible future intentions and that does not constitute a valid contract in any legal jurisdiction of which I am aware.

President's report continued

Recent Correspondence with the SYC

A decision has been taken based on trying to keep the pen arrangement that Carmine should address the SYC Committee on Tuesday 18th September and present the letter from the UEC which I have attached. I did not write the letter, I am pleased to say.

I understand why this route has been taken but again I feel it is flawed. I genuinely believe that the way to deal with bullying tactics is not to accept them. History teaches us that when people give in to the unreasonable demands of others, those demands do not stop but just keep on coming and getting worse. Hitler was a classic example of that.

Practical Issues

Ultimately whether or not you decide to re-join the UEC and therefore, of course, the SYC is a matter for you all and I would not seek to influence you in any way. I can only speak for myself but it is my personal view that forcing us all to join the SYC is a very dangerous decision indeed. With the stroke of a pen, our membership fees have effectively gone up by \$65 per year which is a nearly 50% increase.

We will then be required to pay whatever fee a committee over which we have no control and in a club where we have no voting rights whatsoever determines to charge us. I doubt it will be long before the SYC social fee is more than the UEC joining fee. I would also point out that we have been asked more than once by the SYC to show them our financial accounts. I was personally asked this by the Vice Commodore, Chris Lee, in a one-on-one meeting I had with him less than a month ago.

Ask yourself this question: What possible legitimate reason can the SYC have for wanting to know how much money the UEC has? You do not need to be a conspiracy theorist to realise that it not a good sign of things to come.

Anyway, I apologise for the rather sad nature of my report this month and I hope that I have not offended anyone. If I have, then I am sorry but I think it is my role to tell you the way I see it and not to skirt around issues if they are difficult.

I also hope that you will all do what you believe is right for your own conscience.

Being a self-confessed history bore, I shall leave you with a quote from the 18th century Irish social commentator and politician Edmund Burke, a man who strongly supported the Americans wanting independence from the British.

“The only thing necessary for evil to flourish is for good men to do nothing”

I would urge you all to do something while you still enjoy the right to do so.

Best
Jules
President
UECWA

Ps: For anybody wanting to stay in touch, my email address is julesholiday21@yahoo.com.au.

Swan Yacht Club (Inc.)



(Established 1904)
PRESTON POINT, EAST FREMANTLE
Phone: (08) 9339 3520
Fax: (08) 9339 5995
Email: syc@iinet.net.au

All Correspondence to be addressed to the Secretary

P.O. BOX 20, PALMYRA W.

19th June 2007

Jules Holiday
Underwater Explorers Club
PO BOX 382
Melville, WA 6956

Dear Jules

The club records show that there are only 15 U.E.C financial Swan Yacht Club members for the 06/07 financial year expiring 30/06/07.

The original agreement with the club was that all the U.E.C members pay an associate fee of the Swan Yacht Club. The correct fee is \$28.

Your web site says you have over 150 members our records show 91 members.

Could you please explain the Difference and send a cheque for the unpaid members for 06/070.

As a result of your meeting with the Flag offices the Committee have changed the fee structure for the 07/08 financial year.

1. The President will be required to be an ordinary member current cost \$545.
2. All other U.E.C members to pay social membership current cost \$65.
3. Life members NIL
4. U.E.C to supply a complete list of all members including
NAME
ADDRESS
EMAIL (if applicable)

This list accompanied by a cheque for the appropriate amount to be received by the Swan Yacht Club no later than the 17/07/07.

Jules if you have any queries please contact Chris Lee on 0419 513 947.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Geoff Reynolds'.

Geoff Reynolds
Managing Secretary

Swan Yacht Club (Inc.)

(Established 1904)

PRESTON POINT, EAST FREMANTLE

Phone: (08) 9339 3520

Fax: (08) 9339 5995

Email: syc@inet.net.au

24/7/07

Jules Holiday

Underwater Explorers Club

PO BOX 382

Melville, WA 6956

All Correspondence to be addressed to the Secretary

P.O. BOX 20, PALMYRA W.A. 6157



Dear Jules,

Further investigation of club records show that for the financial 06/07 year there were 61 Underwater Explorer Members that were financial with the Swan Yacht Club. As mentioned in previous correspondence the original agreement with the club was that all the U.E.C members pay an associate membership of the club.

After careful review of the existing fee structure the committee notified you of the clubs intention to bring all affiliate club fees in line with our social membership fee. The new fee structure for 07/08 is as follows.

1. The President will be required to be an ordinary member current cost \$545.00
2. All other U.E.C members to pay social membership current cost \$65.00
3. Life Members NIL
4. U.E.C to supply complete list of all members including
NAME
ADDRESS
EMAIL (if applicable)
5. With a cheque payable to the club by the 31st July each year. The membership list is to include name and address and email (if applicable).
6. New members joining after the 31st July to be forwarded to the club on a monthly basis, with the relevant money.

At the Management Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10th July the Committee resolved after much debate and general discussion considering the points named at the meeting held on the 9th July between UEC and SYC Representatives.

The resolution was that the UEC to pay \$28 for all member for 06/07 financial year and that all Affiliate clubs be treated the same i.e. That UEC to pay

1. The President will be required to be an Ordinary Member with the current cost being \$545.00 pa.
2. All other members to pay a Social Membership cost \$65.00pa.
3. Life Members no cost.

Could you please advise of your acceptance of these terms and condition to Chris Lee 0419 513 947 by the 31/7/07.

Regards,


Geoff Reynolds
Managing Secretary

Report for the urgent attention of the UEC committee**6th September 2007 Written at 1500hrs**

To be read to the committee tonight at the regular committee meeting by Chris Cunnold and Tabled for entry in the minutes

Members of the committee.

Firstly I would like to apologise for not being able to deliver this personally but I have a prior engagement. This is of little consequence as I have the utmost confidence that Mr Cunnold will represent me well.

I should firstly explain as to why I have taken this unprecedented action by involving myself in the matter which will be explained in the latter part of this document.

Whilst having a meal at the SYC last night after a Skippers meeting I was approached by the managing secretary of the SYC Mr Geoff Reynolds who asked me if I would meet with him the next day. When I asked him what the matter was about, he did not go into any detail but hinted that the UEC and the SYC were having some difficulty in coming to agreement on the membership status and subsequent benefits provided by the SYC to the UEC. I advised him that I was no longer on the committee of the UEC and that maybe he should be talking to either the president or some other committee member. He said it would be better if he and I had a talk so I agreed to meet him the next day.

At the meeting earlier today Mr Reynolds explained that the SYC committee and the UEC committee were at an impasse in coming to an agreement as to how many members were paying the social membership fee and the amount of the fee. From my understanding the SYC have now asked that all members of the UEC should pay the full fee for annual social membership of \$65 and that the list of members and their addresses be provided to the SYC such that direct billing can be made.

Approximately 4 to 5 years ago I negotiated a deal with the SYC that they would endeavour to fast track the availability of a pen for our boat on the proviso that the president or any committee member become a full ordinary member of the SYC by paying the going rate for the day and that initially at least 20 members become associate members at the reduced rate of 50% which was then approximately 25 to 28 dollars. It was also understood that the club in due course would endeavour to convince the whole membership to become associate members at the reduced rates. This has never occurred.

The SYC committee are now ready to enforce their new requirements and it has been suggested that unless we accept their conditions the UEC may be requested to vacate the pen and find alternative arrangements.

I am not going to speculate nor give an opinion as to why we have gotten to this point in our relationship with the SYC. I would however like to elaborate a little as to the benefits of maintaining this hard won relationship and what alternatives we have.

For our one full membership of some \$500+ and the annual pen fees of about \$2500 and individual memberships of \$65 each we benefit by getting:

- 1) A 15m pen with 7 day surveillance.
- 2) Free clubrooms for members use 7 days a week.
- 3) Free meeting rooms for ordinary meetings, committee meetings and special functions such as our AGM.
- 4) We even were allowed free use of the whole upstairs area for our 50th Anniversary celebrations.
- 5) Each member gets one free lunch or dinner per annum.
- 6) We get free parking and if going away for some time such as the Rottneest annual holiday, long term parking with surveillance.

- 7) Free shower and toilet facilities.
- 8) Discounted meals and drinks.
- 9) Free water and power
- 10) Discounted slip facilities

And very importantly a place we can call home where we can meet other members and friends and bring potential new members. It is also the closest private club venue to the ocean on the river.

The alternatives have been tried and have never proved to be satisfactory nor cost effective; it would take me too long in this letter to elaborate on past alternatives, but basically, were we to return to say Challenger harbour:

- 1) The pen fees are double
- 2) We get no club rooms.
- 3) No free parking.
- 4) No Meeting rooms
- 5) No Free lunches
- 6) Very few facilities.

And more importantly we would achieve the status of smaller dive clubs and probably lose members until we actually became one.

If the committee agrees to continue our current arrangement I have negotiated the following which may help to convince our members to join the SYC.

- 1) Those who joined up for the open day fee of \$33 will for the next year be honoured to end of June 08 even though this was meant for new members' not existing ones.
- 2) All other members must join as social members and Geoff has agreed to reduce the fee to \$50.
- 3) This social membership fee must be brought up to full fee status within 2 years.
- 4) All names and addresses of members to be provided for direct billing.
- 5) A resolution and agreement to be communicated to the SYC as quickly as possible to avert the soon to be held SYC committee meeting which may result in a letter from the SYC requesting our departure.

I wish to entreaty the committee to seek to mend the current rift and continue with our mutually beneficial relationship with the SYC which I believe is of great benefit to both clubs.

Yours sincerely,

Carmine Travaglione

(Past president UEC)

-----Original Message-----

> From: Carmine Travaglione [mailto:austasia@iinet.net.au]

> Sent: Tuesday, 11 September 2007 9:20 AM

> To: 'Mitchell, Clive'

> Subject: RE: Letter to SYC

>

> Hi Clive,

>

> Further to our discussions yesterday, I just wanted to confirm in
> writing that I did meet with Geoff Reynolds yesterday and he sadly
said to me that try as he might he could not convince the members of the
> committee other than Chris Lee that they should reconsider and allow
the UEC to remain at the SYC.

>

> After some discussion and plaintiff appeals from me he agreed at my
> request to ask the SYC committee if they would allow me to address
their committee at their next meeting to be held on Tuesday the 18th Sept.
As yet he has not confirmed that they have or have not agreed but as
"hope springs eternal in the human breast" I would like us to be prepared
in the eventuality that he is successful. I am sure you are aware that
this really is the last ditch try and therefore I would if possible like
us to be totally prepared.

>

> I have already told you that in the main I will be approaching them
with cap in one hand and a white flag in the other. Besides confirming our
> understanding of the pecking order I would like to sweeten the deal
with a confirmation of what advantages we are and can be to the SYC and
our willingness to maintain an affable and long standing future
association.

>

> I ask Clive if you can provide me with any statistic which may aid me
to argue our case, such as number of potential SYC members, people who
> attend work days, whether or not our boat could be made available for
> some of their community based events as Blind Persons Fishing days
and the like, which in the past were provided by us either through me or
> sometimes our club or any other useful piece of information.

>

> I am prepared to help out to assist the club in any way I can so if
the committee agree, I am prepared to represent you in this matter. As I
> also said yesterday I would suggest that a letter along the line that
we are upset that the situation has got to where it is but that the club
is willing and keen to work towards a resolution suitable to the SYC;
would be a very important piece of armoury that I should carry with me to
the meeting. If I get a meeting.

>

> I want to also tell you that last Friday I decided to join the SYC as
a full member and I have already paid my deposit for a pen, which I
have requested as a 12m.

>

> I have only sent this to you but I am happy if you read this out to
the committee at the special meeting I have suggested you have about this
> matter.

>

> I hope to hear from you soon.

>

> Carmine



Underwater Explorers Club of WA (Inc)
PO Box 382
Melville WA 6956

E: info@uecwa.com.au
W: www.uecwa.com.au

ABN: 54 643 898 730

Geoff Reynolds
Managing Secretary
Swan Yacht Club
PO Box 20
Palmyra, WA 6157
16 September 2007

Dear Geoff and SYC Committee

We the undersigned, who represent the current committee of the UEC, wish to express our sincere regret that a rift between our clubs has occurred.

We have asked Mr. Carmine Travaglione to be our SYC spokesman. We hope that he may convince your committee to grant us a reprieve such that we may address the issues that have caused this rift.

The UEC committee is unanimous in its' resolve to do all within its' power to overcome any issues of dispute to your satisfaction. The majority of our members are mortified that we may be asked to leave the SYC and believe the UEC is privileged to be affiliated with the SYC. On behalf of the UEC we implore the Committee of the SYC to reconsider its recent decision and allow us to build a stronger relationship between our two clubs into the future

This Committee has recently been canvassing all UEC members on the subject of becoming full social members of the SYC. The vast majority, 120 at last count, have pledged their support for both clubs into the future. We hope you will consider this an example of the general feeling of the UEC membership and urge you to ignore any contrasting individual opinions which may have been presented.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Stone
Vice President

Amanda Blanksby
Secretary

Clive Mitchell
Treasurer

Boating Officer Report

By UEC Boat Officer Steve Bright

On Wednesday night the 5th of September, the Skippers and I (Boating Officer) had a meeting.

It was decided that the boat needs to come out of the water to be anti-fouled, repainted and have some mechanical maintenance work done, so it will be ready for the upcoming Spring and Summer diving season.

We hope to have the boat lifted on Friday the 21st of September, but the North Port Boat Lifters can't guarantee this; I will call them on the Wednesday before to see if they have space. If they have, the boat will come out at 11.30am Friday Morning.

So I am calling for all Volunteers to help with the maintenance (mainly cleaning and painting) on September 22nd & 23rd, and possibly 29th & 30th depending on the success of the Busy Bee).

People with orbital sanders are especially sought.

Please **RSVP** me the times you are available so I can best utilise the helpers and arrange access to this secure facility on Rous Head Rd.

Regards
Stephen Bright
Boating officer
0417937365

Social Report

By Ilonka Jarvis

TWILIGHT RIVER CRUISE

Sunday 21st October 2007 at 4:00 PM

You are invited to join us on a leisurely
Sunday evening cruising around the river
for about 4 hours on the Underwater Explorer
Eating Drinking and Socializing

All food (lots!) supplied

BYO drinks

Cost \$25 per head

For further details, contact Ilonka at socialbookings@uecwa.com.au



WANT TO GO UNDERWATER EXPLORING IN NEW AND SECRET LOCATIONS IN THE SOUTH WEST?

You don't have to be a pro diver!

Join a FREE Family Friendly Club with something for all levels at awesome dive locations in the South. All you need is to fill in your details at the bottom section of this brochure and wait for the Newsletter to come to you via email.

Email: danytink@aapt.net.au

Phone: 0419742336



Tear off this section and hand to the Dive Shop Owner

Yes I want to become a member of South West Divers & Snorkellers and to receive the Newsletter by email.

Name.....

Location.....

Email.....

Contact Phone.....

Club Sponsor/Phone 9751 3828



Responsible Diving is Safe Diving



South West Divers & Snorkellers

Check out some great UEC Trips on the following pages...

UEC Weekend Dive Trip to Dunsborough & Busselton 12th – 14th October 2007 (Diving 13th & 14th)

This weekend provides a great opportunity to enjoy some fantastic diving and also help our environment by taking part in the annual Cape to Cape “clean up” under the watchful eyes of Heidi Taylor, PADI Master Instructor (<http://www.tangaroablue.com>).

Diving and related activities

Saturday 13th October:

2 dives on [HMAS Swan](#), organised through Cape Dive, including a second tank.
(Does not include any other scuba equipment/gear.)

You need to be an Advanced PADI diver to take part in these dives.

Sunday 14th October:

In the morning, using your own transport, head to a beach nominated by Heidi around Cape Naturaliste to take part in the “clean up”. This involves collating data on the items found (providing a description, number found, and taking photos if you have your camera). Heidi will provide all materials, i.e. bags, gloves, data sheets, liability releases, etc.

It will be a beach clean-up, so no diving equipment required. Heidi will ensure that UEC participants are recognised in all reports, etc, and make sure copies of the results are sent to the UEC.

On Sunday afternoon it's a dive on the famous [Busselton Jetty](#) before heading back to Perth.

Accommodation

A relaxing house in Quindalup, which sleeps up to ten people ([view here](#)).

If the demand is greater than space allows accommodation can be booked separately at the local backpackers/Dunsborough Motel, though the cost may vary.

Cost

\$225, which includes

- 3 dives
- 2 nights accommodation

What you need to bring

Your diving gear

Bed linen/swag and towels

BYO food and drink

Bookings

Email Pat Swallow at newsletter@uecwa.com.au by 14th September if you are interested.

Payment

A 50% deposit is due by Monday 17th September 2007 to reserve your booking. Bookings will not be made without a deposit.

Your deposit can be paid via EFT to the UEC Bank Account. Confirmation must be sent to Clive Mitchell, Treasurer UEC, via Email. Please include “DUNSBOROUGH” and your “surname” in the Bank reference and notify Clive of the reference in your email.

Cancellation: If bookings are cancelled your deposit will be refunded less any costs incurred.

ROTTTO HOLIDAY FEBRUARY/MARCH 2008

WANNA GO TO ROTTO ?
DISCOVER LIFE, DISCOVER DIVING AT IT'S BEST

Sat 23 to Fri 29 February 2008
Fabulous Rottnest holiday in seaside chalets at Geordie Bay.

Two rare spaces available in refurbished chalets plus a chance to dive and party with other fantastic people. For just \$520 (6 days) you will dive, relax and enjoy a great time away. Only \$150 deposit.

For more info or to reserve your spot please contact Clive Cass on 0421 639 290 or email to clivecass@myaccess.com.au

Albany

Five dives at Two People's Bay,

27th & 28th October.

See Andrew's Training Report on page 16 for further details.

Training Report

By UEC Training Officer Andrew Mingay

G'day All,

It's great to see that both the DAN O2 and the Advanced Open Water courses have the numbers to go ahead this month. By the time you read this report the DAN O2 course will be completed and the Advanced will be well under way, with the theory being completed on Monday night and the practical work being done the following weekend.

It is fantastic to see, as the peak period for diving in Perth approaches, that the UEC is advancing its diving skill levels.

With only two more months of my term as Training officer (now Safety/Training) left to go, I would like to say thank you to all those who have helped-out at the various training sessions and thanks to Jules for his time and his skills with the running of the PADI and DAN courses.

I would also like to say I will be running again next year for the position of Training/Safety officer and I hope I can introduce more diverse courses for you all to enjoy. If there are any trips or courses you would like to do don't hesitate to contact me.

Lake Stockton Dive Trip

We had a great weekend of camping and diving, and whilst you all shivered and got soaked up in Perth, the weather held out for us brave ones in tents, and we had a rain free weekend!

The diving, unfortunately, wasn't the best with visibility being down to 1 metre in some places, but we still managed three dives with depths ranging from 20m to 30m (the deeper we went the clearer it became).

I am planning another trip in March for those who fancy the heat of summer and also to take advantage of the better visibility at that time of year due to lack of run off from the rain.

Albany Diving Trip

I would like to remind you all of the up-coming Albany trip, which is running from 26th to 29th October. This is going to be a great trip as the boat will be moored in Two Peoples Bay and we will drive round to her every day.

For any course or trip, information or ideas, feel free to contact me.

Email: training@uecwa.com.au.

Cheers,

Andrew

Ps When booking a course/trip, please supply your email address and contact numbers.

Chinese Governor to consider Whale Shark Protection Listing

Media Statement

9/9/07

Premier Alan Carpenter has welcomed the positive response from a Chinese Governor to help protect whale sharks.

Following media reports in July that a six-metre whale shark had been caught off the shores of Zhejiang by local fishermen, Mr Carpenter wrote to Mr Lu Zushan, the Governor of Zhejiang Province, expressing his concern over the incident.

“In my letter, I explained to Governor Lu that the whale shark is much-loved by Western Australians and is one of our best tourist attractions,” he said.

“I also said that the whale shark is a protected species in Australia, and requested that the Governor encourage Zhejiang fishers to join us in protecting this endangered animal.

“Significantly, Governor Lu has agreed to consider including the whale shark in Zhejiang’s province’s list of protected species.

“I am very pleased with this outcome and will closely monitor the Governor’s progress on this matter.”

The Premier said his letter prompted Governor Lu to implement a range of measures to help protect the whale shark. These included:

- an immediate investigation by the provincial fishery administration into the death of the whale shark off the shores of Zhejiang province;
- the notification to local fishers that if similar incidents occur, they are required to immediately release the whale shark and report to the local fishery administration; and
- increasing efforts to educate the local community about wild animal protection.

Mr Carpenter said Western Australia had a strong relationship with Zhejiang Province through a Sister-State relationship established in 1987.

The Premier visited Zhejiang in June to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the relationship as part of his trade and investment mission to China.

Premier's office - 9222 9475

Pay directly online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Name: Underwater Explorers Club of WA.
BSB: 066136
Account: 00901972

There is limited space to write what the payment is for. Please start with your name and then reason for payment.

In all cases you must email the Treasurer with the following payment information:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for (and from)
- Reason for payment, e.g. Dive Dec 4, T-shirt, etc.

Club Aims and Objectives

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self-contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedures and to acquaint both Club members and the public with the facts of safety and using safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, provide fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

Contact your Committee

President	Julian Holliday	president@uecwa.com.au
Vice President & Fundraising	Rachel Stone	vicepresident@uecwa.com.au
Secretary	Amanda Blanksby	secretary@uecwa.com.au
Treasurer	Clive Mitchell	treasurer@uecwa.com.au
Dive Co-ordinator	Mark Maddern	divebookings@uecwa.com.au
Boat Officer	Steve Bright	boat@uecwa.com.au
Safety Officer and		safety@uecwa.com.au
Training Co-ordinator	Andrew Mingay	training@uecwa.com.au
Social	Ilonka Jarvis	socialbookings@uecwa.com.au
New Members		newmembers@uecwa.com.au
Environment	Spencer Shute	environment@uecwa.com.au
Web & PR	Martin Arrowsmith	webmaster@uecwa.com.au
Newsletter	Pat Swallow	newsletter@uecwa.com.au

Still in the dark on night dives?

UEC members have access to the full range of LED Underwater Kinetics torches at discount prices.

Mini Q40 eLED plus This is the latest 2 watt LED 'focused globe' model . They are still not available in Australia but we have access to them. The Mini Q40 is the perfect back-up torch to strap to your mask or cray loop and the efficiency of the LED globe means that your battery life is 5 to 6 hours. It takes 4 AA batteries. It comes in several colours and has a lanyard but the mask strap is now an extra. **\$75**



SL4 eLED This torch takes 4 C size batteries with a burn time of more than 10 hours. It's bright enough to be your main torch for the 'occasional' night divers and is small enough to fit in a BC pocket as a good back up torch. The super tough LED globes means it is virtually impossible to break by being dropped. It comes with a lanyard and is also available in several colours. **\$120** (2 left at \$100)



C4 eLED This pistol grip style torch takes 4 C size batteries and is a perfect main torch for night diving. It has a locking switch to swap between the high and low beam settings. It also comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Silver and Black. Alkaline batteries included but it works well with NiMH rechargeables. **\$140**



C8 eLED plus This new pistol grip C8 is a great main torch. The completely new 10 watt LED 'water cooled' globe is incredibly efficient and has low and high power settings. It has a battery life of more than 10 hrs from 8 C size alkaline's (which are supplied) and can be used with NiMH rechargeable's. It comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Black and Silver. **\$260** (1 left at \$230)



Keep your torch safe at houses with a GearKeeper retractor. **\$35**



If you would like to order a torch or want to ask some questions e-mail Chris Cunnold at cunnold@inet.net.au
Most of the torches are available for immediate delivery, depending on what colour you choose.

Have you seen the light?

Recycle your corks!

Never, ever throw a cork into landfill! Zita Dobson collects them and sends them to Guides Australia who recycle them and raise money.

Save them up and bring them to a meeting: Zita or Bob are usually there.



Underwater Explorers Club

Minutes of General Meeting

Swan Yacht Club – Wednesday 15 August 2007

Chairman: Jules Holiday

Apologies Amanda Blanksby Malcolm Roberts Phil Doring

Guests: Shannon Bedford; John Holliday; Jason Daniels;
Marlies Kern; Aaron Haigh; Heidi Grinstead.

The meeting opened at 7:40pm.

All members and visitors welcomed to the meeting.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed and accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Jeff Wake

Seconded by Andrew Mingay

2. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

Nil

3. Correspondence Inwards

✉ Letter from SYC dated 24 July 2007 with regard to membership fees

✉ A flyer about National Science Week being run by the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre at Hillary's

4. Correspondence Outwards

✉ Letter to SYC dated 15 July 2007 with regard to the UEC membership fee with SYC

5. Nominations and New Members

Nominations

Joe Pestana

Richard Sallie

New Members

✉ There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC

- Geoff Hancock

Accepted by Andrew Mingay

Seconded by Robert

Bradbury

6. Reports

Presidents Report

✉ Xmas in July was a great success – thanks to Ilonka & Eddie Jarvis for their home and hard work for the event which raised approximately \$2500.

✉ Thanks also to the volunteers for the Avon Descent which raised \$3000 for the UEC. Congratulations to Clive Mitchell for not only completing the event but coming 4th in his class.

✉ A diving trip to Albany is being organised for October – anyone interested should discuss arrangements with Jules.

✉ A change to the constitution is proposed to bring the UEC financial and committee years forward to 1st July – 30th June. This requires

- Majority of members present and voting at a general meeting
- 15 financial members shall be a quorum for a general meeting
- 14 days notice in writing of the intention to propose an alteration to any existing rule
- Notice in Club Magazine at least 7 days before the date of a general meeting

Treasurer Report – Clive Mitchell

- ✚ Clive read the financial report for the month.

Accepted by Dohn Taylor

Seconded by Keith Whittaker

Fund Raising – Rachel Stone

- ✚ Wine fundraiser – complete order forms and return to Rachel – vino will be at September General Meeting.

Newsletter Report – Pat Swallow

- ✚ On web – user name uec password rotto.

Dive Report –

- ✚ Boat dive on Saturday 18th August – single tank trip.

Web – Martin Arrowsmith

- ✚ New Avon Descent 2007 photos on website.

Safety & Training – Andrew Mingay

- ✚ DAN O2 course Sunday 16th September
- ✚ Advanced course – September
- ✚ Lake Stockton Trip – Weekend 8/9th September.

Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- ✚ Quasar night – limited interest so far so if interested see Ilonka tonight.

Boat Report – Steve Bright

- ✚ Busy Bee on the boat is likely to be organised for September.
- ✚ Boat Committee [skippers, DO's and volunteers] to meet at SYC on Tuesday 4th September to discuss plan.

Environment Report

- ✚ None.

New Members

- ✚ None

7. General Business

- ✚ The SYC has informed the UEC that social membership of the SYC [@\$65] is compulsory for all UEC members.
- ✚ The Pro's and Con's of the issue were discussed.
- ✚ Contact Carmen Travaglione to ask if there was an original contract with the SYC
- ✚ Contact Dennis Stubberfield to ask if he would get us a copy of the SYC constitution.

The next general meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 September at 7:30 pm.



Underwater Explorers Club
 Minutes of Committee Management Meeting
 SYC Thursday 9 August 2007

Present:

Chairperson:	Jules Holliday			
Committee:	Amanda Blanksby	Clive Mitchell	Rachel Stone	Pat Swallow
	Andrew Mingay	Ilonka Jarvis	Sue Knight	Steve Bright

Members: None

Apologies	Spencer Shute	Martin Arrowsmith	Mark Maddern
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The meeting was opened at 7.10pm

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the committee management meeting dated 2 July 2007 were circulated and accepted as a true record. **Action**

Accepted by Pat Swallow
 Seconded by Andrew Mingay

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- To be discussed during meeting

Correspondence Inwards

- Scuba 2 Logbook June/July 2007
- Letter from Town of Kwinana dated 5 July 2007, with regard to the supply of goods and services
- Letter from SYC dated 24 July 2007 with regard to membership fees
- Flyer about National Science Week at the Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre

Correspondence Outwards

- Letter to SYC dated 11 July 2007 with regard to the meeting with SYC on 9 July 2007
- Letter to SYC dated 15 July 2007 with regard to the UEC membership fee with SYC

Nominations

The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fee in advance:

- None

New Memberships

There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:

- Geoff Hancock

Accepted by Rachel Stone
 Seconded by Steve Bright

Reports

President – Jules Holliday

SYC Open Day

- Will do a stall – starts at 11.30am on 12 August. SYC to provide a couple of tables. Will put the banner on display – plus some scuba gear.

Year End 31st October

- Jules outlined the benefits of having the club's year end in line with the financial year, including enabling the new committee to find their feet during the quieter winter months. Issue will be raised for discussion at the September general meeting, with a notice of intention to change the constitution issued in the newsletter in August.

Action

New Member Buddy System

- Jules is keen to get this set up, all committee members requested to ask members if they would be interested. Would only be for the purpose of looking after new members at the meetings. There is no requirement for members to become actual dive buddies with new members.

Secretary – Amanda Blanksby

- Not able to attend general meeting on 15th August. Rachel agreed to take the minutes. Rachel
- Rottnest mooring and maintenance costs - discussed situation with RIA. Under current terms and conditions the licensee is responsible for maintenance costs and they technically should not be transferred down to the authorised users. Agreed for Jules to discuss further with the licensee. Amanda to check further with RIA on whether they could guarantee an alternative mooring in Geordie Bay for the week of the Rottnest holiday. Jules
Amanda
- Also discussed possibility of UEC becoming a licensee. A motion was raised by Andrew as follows:
"To put the UEC's name down on the RIA waiting list as a licensee for a mooring in Geordie Bay"
- Rachel Stone seconded the motion. All committee members in favour of the motion therefore accepted. Amanda to action further. Amanda

Treasurer – Clive Mitchell

- Presented a summary of the accounts for July. Noted raffle and Christmas in July event raised \$2500.
- Jules noted that the raffle had been a good fundraiser. Had also learnt some valuable lessons in running a raffle. Will do another raffle as part of the ball event in a couple of year's time.

Accepted by Pat Swallow
Seconded by Amanda Blanksby

Vice President and Fundraising – Rachel Stone

- Currently collecting money from latest batch of jacket sales. Raised \$200 from latest batch of jackets and beanie sales. Rachel
- Wine tasting arranged for next general meeting. Will see what the response is from members. Rachel
- Avon Descent – the event went well with lots more water this year. Food provided by ASU was good and the arrangements worked well. UEC provided 23 volunteers. Clive to prepare invoice to ASU for \$3000. Clive
- May show some photos from the event at the September general meeting. Rachel
- Noted that the training provided by ASU could probably be condensed. Rachel to provide feedback to ASU at the debrief meeting. Rachel

Dive Coordinator – Mark Maddern

- Not present – no report.

Environment – Spencer Shute

- Not present – no report.

New Members – Sue Knight

- New member event planned for 22 July was cancelled due to poor weather. Event will be rescheduled to later on in the year.
- Will ask club members to see if they would be willing to become a 'new member buddy'. Sue
- Has a few guests coming to general meeting in August.

Newsletter – Pat Swallow

- Requires input to August newsletter by Monday 13th.
- Flyers have been prepared for Dunsborough weekend in October.

Web and PR – Martin Arrowsmith

- Not present – Pat noted that Martin requested for photos from the Avon Descent event so he could put together a page on the web site.

Safety – Steve Bright

- Checked all the flares on the boat. The parachute type flares have expired. Jules to check to see if ok to have out-of-date flares on the boat. If not, flares to be removed and disposed of in an appropriate manner. Jules

Action**Social** – Ilonka Jarvis

- Christmas in July event was a great success.
- Q-zar planned for Saturday 18 August at 5pm. Will do two games and then head to the pub for food.
- Will look into arranging a croquet event.

Training – Andrew Mingay

- Dan O₂ course planned for Sunday 16th September. A PADI advanced course planned for end of September. Flyers currently being prepared by Pat.

Boat – Steve Bright

- Steve Bright has offered to take over the role as boat officer until the end of this year. All committee members were in favour of this. Steve / Mark
- Some repairs to be completed this next weekend. Steve and Mark to action.
- Will arrange a meeting of the boat committee shortly to discuss boat maintenance and prepare a list of items to be maintained/repaired. Amanda to provide Steve with information on the boat committee members and their email addresses. Amanda
- Still need to sort out pen mooring issues with SYC, plus the damaged finger jetty. Steve to contact relevant person in SYC to discuss further on mooring issues. Finger jetty issue to be dealt with separately, after obtaining some form of resolution on the SYC membership – see general business below.

General Business

SYC Membership

- Jules explained the latest events to the committee. Noted that it was not unreasonable to pay for one ordinary membership for the UEC in the president's name. This was agreed as being acceptable.
- There was a discussion on the issue of social membership with the SYC. It was agreed to write a further letter to SYC after raising the issue again at the next general meeting. Possible approach could be to let SYC contact those members who are already affiliate, and advise on change of membership status and new fee. For all new members, could issue both the SYC and UEC membership forms at the same time. Agreed to not collect the SYC fee as part of the UEC membership fee, instead to keep the fees separate and have individual payments. Jules / Amanda
- Rachel to approach East Fremantle Yacht Club and see what their fees are for a pen and the current waiting list. Rachel
- Letter on the finger jetty and the request for a fuel card to be dealt with after letter on SYC membership is issued and some agreement obtained with SYC. Jules / Amanda

Next Years Committee

- Jules reminded those who did not intend to stand for committee next year, to try to hunt out possible replacements.
- Discussed the positions on the committee and the possibility of forming a communications position, merging together the Web, PR and Newsletter. Pat to think about the role of this position further. Pat
- Also discussed about the training and safety roles. A motion was raised by Steve as follows:
"Propose to merge together the Safety and Training officer positions from now onwards."
- Andrew Mingay seconded the motion. All committee members in favour of motion therefore accepted. Andrew to take on the safety aspects from Steve.
- Discussed the requirement to have a committee member who is the sole contact with the SYC. Maybe best to be boat officer – to be discussed further before AGM.

Lake Stockton

- Arranged for 8/9 September. Andrew noted that Scuba 2 were keen to liaise on trips and training. Will email flyers to them, however first priority would be for UEC members.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 3 September 2007 at 7:00 pm in the boardroom at SYC.

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Jules Holliday
(Chairperson)



October 2007 Newsletter



*UEC Diving
weekend 13/14
October
HMAS Swan and
Busselton Jetty
- more photos
inside*



President of Vice Report

By Rachel Stone

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** President's Report
- 2** Notice of AGM 21/11/07
- 3** Social Report
- 4** Rowley Shoals Trip
- 7** NT Coastal Jewel saved from Industrial Development
- 8** Dunsborough – Busselton Weekend
- 13** Pay directly on line, Club aims and objectives, Contact your Committee
- 14** Torch information and Recycle your corks
- 15** Minutes of Meetings

Underwater Explorers Club of WA - A group of persons united for diving and social purposes. The club offers members certain benefits - camaraderie and belonging; a share in a boat & cheap diving by economy of numbers. The flip side is - members are required to contribute one's share toward joint expenses - but this is more than just the monetary fees. The club survives & thrives due to all the "free-time" given by members - Skippers; DO's; worker-bees; social butterflies; & committee. There is a time and a place for all to give that little bit of time to keep the club going so it can provide you with good value diving. Now when UEC & SYC membership fees are due many are asking - "what do I get out of these clubs?" Maybe the questions should be - "what am I putting into these clubs?" We all know you only get out what you put into life.

So now's the time to put your hand up - thanks to all those that turned up & helped at the SYC working Bee last Saturday. We look forward to seeing many hands make light work at the UEC boat working bee 17-24th October at SYC. Support the SYC events - we have 8 of us going to the Commodores' Ball and the U2 Sunday Sesh should be a nice way to spend a Sunday afternoon beside the river too! Also, a group is getting their hats ready for the Melbourne Cup Lunch!!

President of Vice Report continued

Now - the serious volunteering is on the table in November - what can you bring to the UEC committee for 2007-8? Some fresh ideas? Enthusiasm? Is it your turn to put the effort in? All positions are awaiting nominations - talk to those on the committee now to see what each position requires to make sure you can spare the time for the right position. Help keep the UEC a successful club so we can all keep enjoying the underwater world around us economically.

Cheers

Rachel

Notice from the Secretary

The UEC's AGM will be held on Wednesday 21st November 2007 at the Swan Yacht Club, starting at 7.30pm. Everybody is welcome to attend. The minutes from the AGM held on 15 November 2006 were published in the December's newsletter, for those of you requiring a refresher.

All committee positions are vacant and are waiting to be filled by enthusiastic people who are willing to represent the UEC over the next year. The committee positions are:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Boat Officer
- Dive Coordinator
- Environment Coordinator
- Fundraising Coordinator
- New Membership Coordinator
- Communications Coordinator
- Safety and Training Coordinator
- Social Events Coordinator
- SYC Liaison Officer

All nominees for the positions of President, Treasurer and Secretary must have been ordinary members for a minimum of 12 full months. All other nominators, seconders and nominees must be ordinary financial members of the Club - so don't forget to pay up!!

Nomination forms can either be downloaded from the web or collected from me. Please pass completed nomination forms back to me in the first instance.

Social report

By UEC's very own Social Butterfly Ilonka Jarvis

- Sunday October 21st** Boat busy bee at SYC. Invitation to members to assist with boat TLC and stay for BBQ and socializing afterwards, using SYC's BBQ area. BYO food, use SYC's bar, so no booking required.
- Friday October 26th** Night Dive on North Mole Wreck. SYC at 6.30 pm - Do a dive then have a sausage sizzle on board!!! \$25 including a snag in a bun!
- Sunday October 28th** **SYC EVENT** The Australian U2 Show. 4 pm to 8 pm session.
- Sunday November 4th** Red Bull Air Race. Boat will be moored in the viewing area on Perth Water. \$15 per head. BYO food and drink. More details at next club meeting.
- Tuesday November 6th** **SYC EVENT** Melbourne Cup Lunch. Table has been booked for UEC.
- Sunday November 18th** Lawn bowls and BBQ at Mosman Park Bowling Club 5.00 pm. \$10 per head plus BYO BBQ.

Rowley Shoals Trip

By Gary Browne

Four UEC members have just got back from a trip to the Rowley Shoals off Broome. Dennis Stubberfield, Maree Casley, Pat Troy and yours truly, and two non divers, left Broome on 29th Sept, Grand Final (fizzog) day, I'm glad we didn't hang around in Broome to watch the footy.



Dennis, Maree and Gary with Pindan behind

We had five days of absolutely amazing diving. Each day started off with four or five drift dives in the entrance channel where we were accompanied by the usual display of butterfly and angel fish, parrot fish, bump head maori wrasse etc this was followed by breakfast then a couple of scuba dives and more snorkelling. The highlight for us was the morning we snorkelled with two very large humpback whales accompanied by four smaller whales. We got to within 10 metres of these beautiful creatures. Just how the Japanese can go out and harpoon these whales is beyond comprehension. I think there were more and larger Potato Cod here this time than on my previous trip 5 years ago. Also this time I didn't see one grey reef sharks. The only sharks seen were the timid silvertips.

Each evening was spent discussing the day's activities with fine food and several cleansing ales.

We were on the good ship Pindan a 55ft gaff rigged schooner. We had three days at Clerke Reef, then two days at Mermaid Reef, and got back into Broome on the 5th Oct. Before leaving Broome, and when we returned to Broome, some of us stayed at the brand new Beaches of Broome backpackers which was quite reasonably priced and located a stones throw from Cable Beach and Divers Tavern.



Pindan

For those that are planning to go on the Rowleys trip next year I know you will thoughtly enjoy it. I have included some photos as well.

Gary Browne

Ps Pat Troy has broken new ground. Many UEC members will know that most of Pat's dive gear including his Barbie Doll bag can be found in many museums around the country. Well Pat has finally lashed out and bought a **brand new** BCD and regulators but alas no computer....not just yet, that would be too much for Pat to cope with.

Pat was very well behaved on this trip (don't ask Maree for her opinion on this). Although he got used to being told to get kitted up half an hour before everyone else he coped well and I'm sure he enjoyed himself with his old mate Dennis, his old sparing partner Maree and yours truly. I know we all enjoyed his company.

The Rowley Shoals Trip by Gary Browne



Clown Fish

Dennis and Maree on a wall dive



Pat Troy puckering up to Maree



Superman aka Dennis Stubbie

Pat and Gary at 20m



An interesting article sent in by Belinda and Tony Palmer

Northern Coastal Jewel Saved from Industrial Development

After spending more than two years campaigning to stop a large scale industrial development at Glyde Point in the Northern Territory, we have some good news! The Australian Marine Conservation Society and the Environment Centre NT succeeded in protecting this coastal jewel. Late last week the Northern Territory Government announced that Glyde Point would be protected for future generations!

Glyde Point lies 40 kms northeast of Darwin and is highly significant for conservation and cultural reasons. Back in 1990 the NT Government identified Glyde Point as having outstanding conservation values that required protection. In particular, the coastal region of Glyde Point has;

- Globally and nationally threatened and migratory species

- Important populations of dugong and turtle

- Rare rainforests and diverse mangrove communities

- Coral reefs

- Endangered species habitats

- Over 40 sites of cultural and archaeological importance.



A decade later the very same government department identified Glyde Point as the preferred site for a major new fossil fuel-based heavy industry development. This image shows the site where the development was proposed.

The decision to allow this heavy industry in such a sensitive ecological area outraged the Australian Marine Conservation Society, the Environment Centre NT and the majority of the community. Over the last few years we led a vigorous community campaign to protect Glyde Point and now our hard work has paid off and our vision has been realised. The NT Government is protecting Glyde Point by rezoning this precious area from industrial land to public open space. This means that the conservation and cultural values will be maintained for future generations.

Congratulations to all of you that helped support the campaign! In a world where short term economic interests seem to dominate decision making over environmental and cultural values, this is a victory for common sense.

Take Action

If do not live in the NT please contact the NT's Chief Minister Clare Martin to:

1. Congratulate her on her government's decision to protect Glyde Point
2. Remind her that a comprehensive and representative system of Marine Protected Areas needs to be established in the Territory to protect and enhance marine biodiversity in NT's waters. MPAs will act as a buffer against climate change impacts and protect our precious marine wildlife and habitats from destructive and extractive uses.

Clare Martin's contact details:

GPO Box 3146

Darwin NT 0801

e: clare.martin@nt.gov.au



Dunsborough - Busselton Weekend

Photos courtesy of Malcolm Roberts

Eight people took advantage of the UEC trip to Dunsborough/Busselton on the weekend of 13th/14th October.

We had great accommodation opposite the beach at Quindalup and made the most of the wonderful weather.

Steve Bright and his wife Mary arrived first, followed by Malcolm Roberts, who kindly chauffeured Tania Dewhurst, Pat Swallow and a new person keen to join the UEC, Shannon Bedford. Next to arrive were Jo Bull and Russya Connor.

Saturday dawned with perfect conditions for two dives on HMAS Swan.

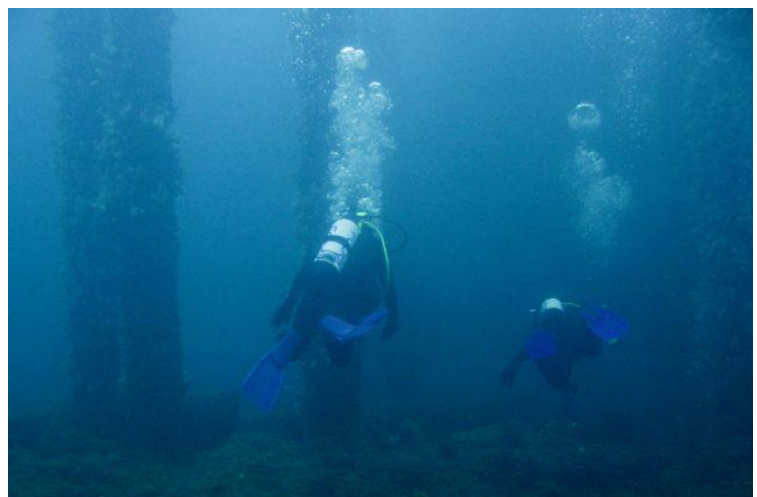


Exploring HMAS Swan



A different angle of HMAS Swan

Under Busselton Jetty

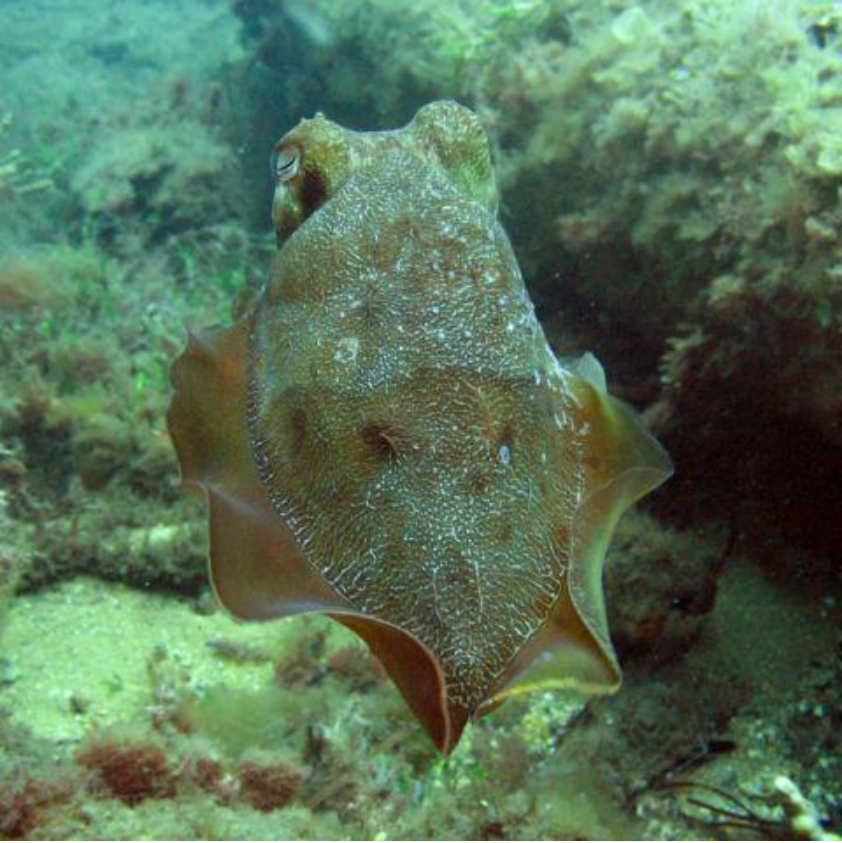
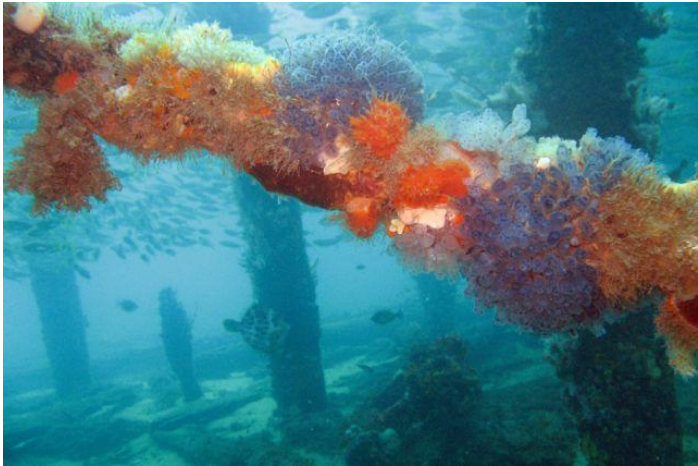


Saturday evening we relaxed and enjoyed a meal at a local Italian restaurant, discussing our diving experiences that day. We were lucky enough to see whales on the boat trip to HMAS Swan and could hear them calling to one another during our dive.

Sunday was our 'good deed' morning, taking part in the Cape to Cape Clean Up. Heidi Taylor (who is to speak at the UEC meeting on 17th October) had allocated our group to clean up Bunker Bay beach - not too hard a task, strolling along the beach in warm weather, collecting rubbish.

In the afternoon, although the weather was now quite cloudy, we had a great dive under the famous Busselton Jetty. There was so much to see - in fact we will have to ask Malcolm to give a slide show at one of our meetings as he has taken some great shots. In the meantime, here are a few to whet your appetite.







Pay directly online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Name: Underwater Explorers Club of WA.
BSB: 066136
Account: 00901972

There is limited space to write what the payment is for. Please start with your name and then reason for payment.

In all cases you must email the Treasurer with the following payment information:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for (and from)
- Reason for payment, e.g. Dive Dec 4, T-shirt, etc.

Club Aims and Objectives

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self-contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedures and to acquaint both Club members and the public with the facts of safety and using safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, provide fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

Contact your Committee

A/President	Rachel Stone	president@uecwa.com.au
Vice President & Fundraising		vicepresident@uecwa.com.au
Secretary	Amanda Blanksby	secretary@uecwa.com.au
Treasurer	Clive Mitchell	treasurer@uecwa.com.au
Dive Co-ordinator		divebookings@uecwa.com.au
Boat Officer	Steven Bright	boat@uecwa.com.au
Safety and	Andrew Mingay	safety@uecwa.com.au
Training Co-ordinator		training@uecwa.com.au
Social	Ilonka Jarvis	socialbookings@uecwa.com.au
New Members		newmembers@uecwa.com.au
Environment	Spencer Shute	environment@uecwa.com.au
Web & PR	Martin Arrowsmith	webmaster@uecwa.com.au
Newsletter	Pat Swallow	newsletter@uecwa.com.au

Still in the dark on night dives?

UEC members have access to the full range of LED Underwater Kinetics torches at discount prices.

Mini Q40 eLED plus This is the latest 2 watt LED 'focused globe' model . They are still not available in Australia but we have access to them. The Mini Q40 is the perfect back-up torch to strap to your mask or cray loop and the efficiency of the LED globe means that your battery life is 5 to 6 hours. It takes 4 AA batteries. It comes in several colours and has a lanyard but the mask strap is now an extra. **\$75**



SL4 eLED This torch takes 4 C size batteries with a burn time of more than 10 hours. It's bright enough to be your main torch for the 'occasional' night divers and is small enough to fit in a BC pocket as a good back up torch. The super tough LED globes means it is virtually impossible to break by being dropped. It comes with a lanyard and is also available in several colours. **\$120** (2 left at \$100)



C4 eLED This pistol grip style torch takes 4 C size batteries and is a perfect main torch for night diving. It has a locking switch to swap between the high and low beam settings. It also comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Silver and Black. Alkaline batteries included but it works well with NiMH rechargeables. **\$140**



C8 eLED plus This new pistol grip C8 is a great main torch. The completely new 10 watt LED 'water cooled' globe is incredibly efficient and has low and high power settings. It has a battery life of more than 10 hrs from 8 C size alkaline's (which are supplied) and can be used with NiMH rechargeable's. It comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Black and Silver. **\$260** (1 left at \$230)



Keep your torch safe at houses with a GearKeeper retractor. **\$35**



If you would like to order a torch or want to ask some questions e-mail Chris Cunnold at cunnold@iinet.net.au
Most of the torches are available for immediate delivery, depending on what colour you choose.

Have you seen the light?

Recycle your corks!

Never, ever throw a cork into landfill! Zita Dobson collects them and sends them to Guides Australia who recycle them and raise money.

Save them up and bring them to a meeting:
Zita or Bob are usually there.



Underwater Explorers Club

Minutes of General Meeting
Swan Yacht Club Wednesday 19 September 2007

Apologies	Spencer Shute David Purdie David Goynich Bill Pettigrew	Chris Cunnold Margherita Veroni Alison Keen	Wendy Hutchinson Renee Barker Mark Maddern	Judy Cowen Jeff Wake Sue Knight
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The meeting was opened at 7.35pm

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1.0 The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Andrew Mingay
Seconded by Keith Whittaker

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

2.0

Correspondence Inwards

- 3.0
- DPI boat registration renewal
 - Rottneest Island Authority Shared Mooring Authorised User Renewal
 - Letter from SYC dated 4 September 2007 with regard to the dingy racks
 - Flyer about SPUMS Annual Scientific Meeting
 - Thank you letter from Northam Avon Descent Association
 - Letter from Jeff Wake dated 9 September 2007
 - Letter from SYC dated 5 September 2007 – (the content of this letter was read out to all present at the meeting)
 - Sue Knight's resignation via email on 4 September 2007
 - Jules Holliday's resignation via email on 10 September 2007
 - Mark Maddern's resignation via email on 19 September 2007

Correspondence Outwards

- 4.0
- Letter to the SYC dated 20 August 2007 with regard to SYC membership
 - Letter to SYC dated 16 September 2007 with regard to SYC club affiliation

Nominations

- 5.0 The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fees in advance:
- Eddie Jarvis (Social)
 - Richard Sallie
 - Joe Pestana

New Memberships

- 6.0 There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:
- None

Accepted by Tom Bassett
Seconded by David Geary

Reports

- 7.1 **President** – Jules Holliday
- Jules stated he would resign as president on 24 September 2007, given that he did not share the same view as the committee with regard to the SYC membership and felt it was inappropriate for him to remain as president.
- 7.2 **Secretary** – Amanda Blanksby
- Nothing to report
- 7.3 **Treasurer** – Clive Mitchell
- Tabled the financial report for August. Discussed the items listed.

Accepted by Annie Boyd
Seconded by Bruce Fielding

- 7.4 **Vice President and Fund Raising** – Rachel Stone
- Wine available for collection after the meeting for those who ordered it.
 - Order forms available for download from the website.
- 7.5 **Dive Coordinator** – Mark Maddern
- Mark has resigned as the dive coordinator.
 - Night dive planned for 20 September has been cancelled. Next night dive planned for 4 October.
- 7.6 **Environment** – Spencer Shute
- Not present – no report
- 7.7 **New Members** – Sue Knight
- Sue has resigned as the new members coordinator.
- 7.8 **Newsletter** – Pat Swallow
- September's newsletter has been posted on the website.
 - Still places available on the Dunsborough trip over weekend of 12-14th October. Speak to Pat for more information.
- 7.9 **Web and PR** – Martin Arrowsmith
- Not much to report – just continuing to keep site up to date especially in terms of the diving calendar.
- 7.10 **Safety and Training** – Andrew Mingay
- 5 people completed the Dan O₂ course last weekend.
 - 8 people have booked to do the Padi Advanced course.
 - The trip to Lake Stockton was excellent, but the visibility was poor. Will organise another trip in March 08.
 - Weekend away in Albany planned for 26 – 29th October – still places available. Will be diving in Two People's Bay.
 - Andrew is open to suggestions on training courses that members would like to do.
- 7.11 **Social** – Ilonka Jarvis
- Boat trip out and about on the river planned for Sunday 21 October, leaving SYC at 4pm. \$25 per head, min number 20.
- 7.12 **Boat** – Steve Bright
- Held a meeting of the boat sub-committee on Wednesday 5 September.
 - Intended to take the boat out of the water on 21 September but there is no space in the boat lifters yard. Will have to wait until later on in the year.

General Business

8.1 SYC Membership

There was a detailed discussion on the relationship of the UEC with the SYC. Below is a brief summary of the discussion and highlights the main items raised.

Carmine Travaglione outlined to members the latest events with regard to the relationship with the SYC. He attended the SYC committee meeting on Tuesday 18 September and explained the current proposition on the table from the SYC in terms of membership:

- UEC members to be social SYC members at \$65 per year
- UEC to be responsible to pay the membership fee to the SYC rather than SYC direct billing members.
- UEC life members will not be charged membership of the SYC.

Carmine noted if these terms were not acceptable to the UEC then the boat would certainly be removed from the pen – as documented in the SYC letter dated 5 September. If the terms were acceptable then the UEC would effectively be on probation with the SYC until the end of June 08, when the relationship would be further reviewed by the SYC committee.

One member queried as to the current complaints that the SYC had with the UEC. Carmine stated that SYC felt they were not getting their worth from UEC members, given that a number are not SYC members but still use the parking, bar, washroom facilities and the discounted meals and drinks from the restaurant. They felt they were being taken advantage of by the UEC.

Pat Troy said thanks to Carmine for his efforts and time with these latest negotiations.

The discussion was opened to the floor with the following points raised:

- We need a home for the club and the boat.
- We should stick to the same procedure on the collection of the SYC fee as previously.
- It does feel like we have a gun to our head – join us or you are out.
- If you use the facilities then you would expect to be charged for them – this is quite understandable.
- Joined the dive club because it was an independent dive club, it is slowly becoming more like a diving arm of a yacht club.
- A UEC ordinary membership would go up to \$215 – that is roughly the equivalent of two trips out with PDA on their boat the Lionfish.
- If we want to maintain our independence then we should look for another pen somewhere else.
- Pen availability in Perth is very scarce at the moment.
- Noted that 68% of the membership replied to Rachel's recent email saying they were willing to join the SYC as a social member.
- The club needs to remember that being at the SYC can be fun – great facilities for club members to use.
- One new member noted that he was not aware of he need to join the SYC. He was told just to park on the verge, which is what he did. He has been quite amazed at the support in the club, especially the number of people who attend the general meetings.
- Is it possible to amend the UEC membership status given that some members are not active and may not want to pay the SYC fee as well?
- Do we want to be to the SYC what Creswell was to us?
- Keen to use the facilities this year but has concerns as to what will happen next year.

Jules presented his opinions as follows:

By law the SYC cannot kick us out of the pen on 31 October, given that we have paid for the whole year from July 07 to June 08. He feels the club has become nervous about this threat and that the SYC is acting unlawfully and as a bully. The SYC is not a very organised club. If the club decides to roll over then the situation could get worse. Feels the UEC should get a legal opinion on the current situation with regard to the pen agreement.

Rachel presented the opinions of the committee as follows:

Any agreement with the SYC is not forever, but it is recognised that at the moment there is a shortage of pens in Perth. The boat is secure at the SYC compared to being on the mooring. Having canvassed the club around 68% of the membership are willing to have their details forwarded to the SYC. This provides a good indication as to what the general membership feel on the subject. It is important to work to achieve an amicable solution and this is the aim of the committee.

Final comments from members:

- It is important that we respect individual's rights to their opinions. It is a voluntary club. Clearly the situation with the SYC has changed and it is up to the UEC to decide to accept the change or not. If we stay we would expect a level of fairness and a degree on consistency from the SYC and to document clearly the agreements.
- How does the relationship fits into the club's constitution? This is something that the new committee will have to review, along with other work to bring the constitution up to date.

A motion was raised by Rob Bradbury as follows:

"I move a motion that the UEC agrees for our members to be social members of the SYC and accept the proposed fee structure."

Anne McCarrol seconded the motion. All members present at the meeting were in favour of the motion, except for one person who was against. Hence the motion was carried.

8.2 Change of Year End

A motion was raised by Andrew Mingay as follows:

"I move that the UEC changes it's financial year with effect from the AGM in November 2007 to be from 1st July to 30th June."

Susie Ashton seconded the motion.

For and against the motion were raised by various members.

All members present at the meeting were in favour of the motion, except for two members who abstained. Hence the motion was carried.

Any Other Business

- 8.3 Annie Boyd requested Jules to reconsider standing down as president.
- 8.4 Steve Bright plans to clean the bottom of the boat on Sunday morning – needs a skipper, DO and 4 divers to volunteer.
- 8.5 2008 Rottneest holiday – two places available for the week. The recent winter break over at Rottneest went well and was a fun weekend.
- 8.6 Bob Dobson requested a show of appreciation for the recent negotiations completed by Carmine.
- 8.7 Certificates were presented to Ian and Helen Barcham on achieving 100 dives.
- 8.8 Nomination forms for 2008 committee are available from Amanda, or can be downloaded off the website.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.36pm.

The next general meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th October at 7:30 pm

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Jules Holliday
(Chairperson)



Underwater Explorers Club
Minutes of Committee Management Meeting
 SYC Thursday 6 September 2007

Present:

Chairperson:	Rachel Stone			
Committee:	Amanda Blanksby	Clive Mitchell	Martin Arrowsmith	Mark Maddern
	Andrew Mingay	Ilonka Jarvis	Pat Swallow	Steve Bright

Members: Chris Cunnold

Apologies: Jules Holliday Spencer Shute

The meeting was opened at 7.02 pm

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the committee management meeting dated 9 August 2007 were circulated and accepted as a true record. **Action**

Accepted by Ilonka Jarvis
 Seconded by Pat Swallow

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- To be discussed throughout the progress of the meeting

Correspondence Inwards

- DPI boat registration renewal
- Rottnest Island Authority Shared Mooring Authorised User Renewal
- Letter from SYC dated 4 September 2007 with regard to the dingy racks
- Flyer about SPUMS Annual Scientific Meeting

Correspondence Outwards

- Letter to SYC dated 20 August 2007 with regard to SYC membership

Nominations

The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fee in advance:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| • Eddie Jarvis (Social) | • Joe Pestana |
| • Richard Sallie | |

New Memberships

There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:

- None

Accepted by Andrew Mingay
 Seconded by Martin Arrowsmith

Reports

President – Jules Holliday

- Not present – no report

Secretary – Amanda Blanksby

- Updated committee in relation to the Rottnest mooring. Obtained confirmation from the RIA that they could not guarantee a rental mooring for the time frame we require for the annual Rottnest holiday.
- Clive Mitchell raised the following motion:
 “Despite paying what appears to be more than our share, we will accept the current situation with the mooring at Rottnest so as not to jeopardize the annual Rottnest holiday, but will put the UEC's name down on the waiting list to be a licensee of a mooring at Geordie Bay.”
- Steve Bright seconded the motion. All committee members were in favour of the motion therefore accepted.
- Amanda in the process of filling out the application form for the waiting list.

Amanda

Treasurer – Clive Mitchell

- Clive tabled the financial report for August.

Action

Accepted by Steve Bright
Seconded by Mark Maddern

Vice President and Fundraising – Rachel Stone

- Currently collating the wine orders.

Dive Coordinator – Mark Maddern

- No diving this weekend, due to winter weather conditions, and no available skippers.
- September and October has organised one dive trip per weekend. Will be back to two per weekend from November onwards.
- Organised some club shore night dives on Thursday 20 September and 4 October.

Environment – Spencer Shute

- Not present – no report

New Members – Sue Knight

- Sue has resigned as the new members committee representative.

Newsletter – Pat Swallow

- Arrangements are in hand for the weekend down in Dunsborough in October. 6 people have signed up so far.
- Deadline is the end of next week for the September newsletter – looking for interesting stories.

Web and PR – Martin Arrowsmith

- Martin to put the wine offer order form on the website and email Rachel with the link to include in weekly email.

Martin

Safety and Training – Andrew Mingay

- Padi Advanced and Dan O₂ courses are running having got the minimum numbers required.
- Lake Stockton trip happening over the next weekend.
- Albany at the end of October – only had 3 to 4 people have confirmed and paid.

Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- River cruise planned for Sunday 21 October. Ilonka will do the catering. Cost \$25 per person. BYO drinks. Minimum numbers 20 to make it viable.
- Booked the Mosman Lawn Bowls for Sunday 18 November.
- Has not got a speaker for Septembers general meeting. Maybe see if Phil Doring would be willing to talk about his recent trip to Kenya, or Chris Wilkinson who has some video footage from the Rowley Shoals.

Ilonka

Boat – Steve Bright

- Boat will be coming out of the water on Friday 21 September, for repairs and re-painting of the antifouling. Steve to request for helpers for that weekend via weekly email and at the September general meeting.
- Rachel and Clive noted that some parts required to be ordered ASAP, to ensure the boat is not out of the water more than actually required. Steve to check with Chris Cunnold
- Has fixed the depth sounder and the port throttle.
- Chaired a meeting of the boat sub-committee on Wednesday 5 September.

Steve

General Business

SYC

- Chris Cunnold attended part of the meeting to present a report written by Carmine Travagione. The report is attached to these minutes. Chris read through the salient points in the report. In summary Carmine had a discussion with Geoff Reynolds (Managing Secretary of the SYC) with regard to the current relationship between the two clubs. Carmine noted that unless the UEC accepts the current terms offered by the SYC, the UEC would be requested to vacate the pen and find alternative arrangements.

- | | Action |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue was discussed at length, and all present committee members were in agreement as to the benefits of being an affiliated club with the SYC. It was noted that the only real issue was the forwarding of UEC's members contact details to the SYC without their consent, given that is against the Privacy Act – as stated in our letter to the SYC dated 20 August 2007. It was discussed as to how to obtain consent with the possibility that when people renew their membership they fill in a new membership form with a box to be ticked to indicate that they are willing to have their contact details forwarded to the SYC. | Clive |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed on the following action points: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Clive to contact both Chris Lee and Geoff Reynolds to find out the latest situation. [Post meeting note – Clive spoke to Chris Lee on Friday 8 September, who advised that the SYC committee had voted the previous Tuesday to evict us from the pen. No formal letter has been received to date i.e. 11 September 2007]. 2) Amanda to amend the membership form so that a consent box is ticked to enable the UEC to forward contact details to the SYC. 3) Rachel to send an email out to all members advising them of the current situation, and that their consent to provide the SYC with their details may be requested shortly. [Post meeting note – On obtaining the news from Clive on Friday 8th Rachel included in the email a request for members to provide their consent for the UEC to provide the SYC with member's contact details for direct billing purpose]. | Amanda

Rachel |
| Next Years Committee | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel to encourage members to stand for next year's committee via weekly email. • Steve raised the following motion:
"Propose to merge together the newsletter and website/PR committee roles to form one communication coordinator role" • Andrew seconded the motion. All committee members were in favour of the motion therefore accepted. • Amanda to update the 2008 Committee Position Nomination Form and Martin to post on website. | Rachel

Amanda / Martin |
| Club Yearly Prizes | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decided to only have two this year – one for diver of the year and one for improved diver of the year. Committee to nominate people for improved diver – tell Amanda. | All committee |
| Any Other Business | |
| Raffle Prizes | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ilonka has a canvas donated by the Barchams as a raffle prize – will use as part of the Christmas raffle, along with the camera from the 'Christmas in July' raffle which has been donated back to the club, given the winner already had a underwater camera. | |
| New Members Joining in September and October | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clive clarified that for new members joining in September and October they get two months free as charge for 2007-2008 year only. Committee to promote this!! | All committee |

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.07pm.

The next committee meeting will be held on 2 October 2007 at 7:00 pm in the boardroom at SYC.

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Rachel Stone
(Chairperson)

From: "Chris Cunnold" <cunnold@iinet.net.au>
Date: 9 September 2007 6:32:59 PM
To: ""UEC Secretary" <secretary@uecwa.com.au>, <treasurer@uecwa.com.au>, <fundraising@uecwa.com.au>
Subject: FW: Re SYC UEC

From: Carmine Travaglione [mailto:austasia@iinet.net.au]
Sent: Thursday, 6 September 2007 6:14 PM
To: Chris Cunnold; wenrose19@iinet.net.au; :chris.cunnold@rac.com.au
Subject: Re SYC UEC

Report for the urgent attention of the UEC committee

6th September 2007 Written at 1500hrs

To be read to the committee tonight at the regular committee meeting by Chris Cunnold and Tabled for entry in the minutes

Members of the committee.

Firstly I would like to apologise for not being able to deliver this personally but I have a prior engagement. This is of little consequence as I have the utmost confidence that Mr Cunnold will represent me well.

I should firstly explain as to why I have taken this unprecedented action by involving myself in the matter which will be explained in the latter part of this document.

Whilst having a meal at the SYC last night after a Skippers meeting I was approached by the managing secretary of the SYC Mr Geoff Reynolds who asked me if I would meet with him the next day. When I asked him what the matter was about, he did not go into any detail but hinted that the UEC and the SYC were having some difficulty in coming to agreement on the membership status and subsequent benefits provided by the SYC to the UEC. I advised him that I was no longer on the committee of the UEC and that maybe he should be talking to either the president or some other committee member. He said it would be better if he and I had a talk so I agreed to meet him the next day.

At the meeting earlier today Mr Reynolds explained that the SYC committee and the UEC committee were at an impasse in coming to an agreement as to how many members were paying the social membership fee and the amount of the fee. From my understanding the SYC have now asked that all members of the UEC should pay the full fee for annual social membership of \$65 and that the list of members and their addresses be provided to the SYC such that direct billing can be made.

Approximately 4 to 5 years ago I negotiated a deal with the SYC that they would endeavour to fast track the availability of a pen for our boat on the proviso that the president or any committee member become a full ordinary member of the SYC by paying the going rate for the day and that initially at least 20 members become associate members at the reduced rate of 50% which was then approximately 25 to 28 dollars. It was also understood that the club in due course would endeavour to convince the whole membership to become associate members at the reduced rates. This has never occurred.

The SYC committee are now ready to enforce their new requirements and it has been suggested that unless we accept their conditions the UEC may be requested to vacate the pen and find alternative arrangements.

I am not going to speculate nor give an opinion as to why we have gotten to this point in our relationship with the SYC. I would however like to elaborate a little as to the benefits of maintaining this hard won relationship and what alternatives we have.

For our one full membership of some \$500+ and the annual pen fees of about \$2500 and individual memberships of \$65 each we benefit by getting:

- 1) A 15m pen with 7 day surveillance.
- 2) Free clubrooms for members use 7 days a week.
- 3) Free meeting rooms for ordinary meetings, committee meetings and special functions such as our AGM.
- 4) We even were allowed free use of the whole upstairs area for our 50th Anniversary celebrations.
- 5) Each member gets one free lunch or dinner per annum.
- 6) We get free parking and if going away for some time such as the Rottneest annual holiday, long term parking with surveillance.
- 7) Free shower and toilet facilities.
- 8) Discounted meals and drinks.

- 9) Free water and power
- 10) Discounted slip facilities

And very importantly a place we can call home where we can meet other members and friends and bring potential new members. It is also the closest private club venue to the ocean on the river.

The alternatives have been tried and have never proved to be satisfactory nor cost effective; it would take me too long in this letter to elaborate on past alternatives, but basically, were we to return to say Challenger harbour:

- 1) The pen fees are double
- 2) We get no club rooms.
- 3) No free parking.
- 4) No Meeting rooms
- 5) No Free lunches
- 6) Very few facilities.

And more importantly we would achieve the status of smaller dive clubs and probably lose members until we actually became one.

If the committee agrees to continue our current arrangement I have negotiated the following which may help to convince our members to join the SYC.

- 1) Those who joined up for the open day fee of \$33 will for the next year be honoured to end of June 08 even though this was meant for new members' not existing ones.
- 2) All other members must join as social members and Geoff has agreed to reduce the fee to \$50.
- 3) This social membership fee must be brought up to full fee status within 2 years.
- 4) All names and addresses of members to be provided for direct billing.
- 5) A resolution and agreement to be communicated to the SYC as quickly as possible to avert the soon to be held SYC committee meeting which may result in a letter from the SYC requesting our departure.

I wish to entreaty the committee to seek to mend the current rift and continue with our mutually beneficial relationship with the SYC which I believe is of great benefit to both clubs.

Yours sincerely,

Carmine Travaglione
(Past president UEC)



November 2007 Newsletter

Come on in, the water's lovely!
Book a place on the Underwater Explorer and it could be your chance to dive with the seals at Rotto.

Photo Malcolm Roberts 7/11/07



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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- 3** Night Dive to North Mole
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- 7** Diving with the Seals
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- 10** Sharkbreak.com
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Club aims and objectives,
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Recycle your corks
- 13** Minutes of Meetings

President's Report

By Rachel Stone

Phew - my second and last report as President - what an interesting year it has been!

A big thank-you to the committee, crew and volunteers for sticking in there and getting the work done. Everyone is so busy in their lives these days and I appreciate the time and effort you all put into the club to make things happen.

The Try-Dive was a notable success promoting our club and Dolphin Dive have already offered to be the prime sponsor of this event early in the New Year. The raffle was also a new and successful addition to the club fundraising, so well done for all the effort.

My hope for the future is for everyone to get behind the new committee to help them achieve all their aims and ambitions for the club. It is the responsibility of every club member to contribute to the success of the UEC so let's get diving and be involved.

All the best

Rachel

President of Vice & Fundraising

Swan Yacht Club – Loading and unloading the Underwater Explorer

Please be patient with your skipper.

If you book on for a dive and the boat cannot tie up at the loading jetty you may have to load/unload your gear at the end of jetty 4 (walk out to the UEC jetty, but don't turn left, go straight to the end). The boat can easily tie up there and you just have to load your dive gear onto a trolley for the walk to the boat.

It doesn't happen too often and your skipper of the day will brief you if this does occur, so please bear with us and demonstrate a little courtesy to our fellow SYC members.

Night Dive – North Mole Wreck

The UEC's recent night dive to the wreck off North Mole was a great success.

The conditions were just right and Chris and Wendy took good care of us, having put markers in place beforehand.

Divers spotted plenty of marine life living on or near the wreck and the photographers had fun trying to "catch" the fish.

After the dive we came up to discover the sausage sizzle was well underway, so we could eat our fill while the boat returned home.



Red Bull Air Race

Another social occasion that proved to be great fun was the Red Bull Air Race Day.

There was plenty of social interaction for those who weren't interested in the flying, as well as lots of good food onboard the boat.



Rottnest Island New Sanctuary Zones

The Rottnest Island Authority expanded the sanctuary zones around the island in July 2007, as part of its Marine Management Strategy. The zones are shown on the map below. Within these zones recreational diving is still permitted but catching of crays is not permitted. Good news for those of us who just enjoy looking at/ photographing marine life, but bad for those who enjoy catching it!!

The coordinates of each zone will be on the boat for all skippers and dive officers to refer to. If you want anymore information see

www.rotnnestisland.com/en/Marine+Management+Strategy/

Rottnest Island New Sanctuary Zones

Chris Cunnold sent the following information by email.

Cray season is here and a few people have asked about the new Rottnest reserves so below is link to the Rottnest page with all the sanctuaries on it. The main change is the West End which now a "Demersal zone" meaning we cannot take anything off the bottom. I plotted the coordinates in my GPS and West Patch, West Patch Cave, Nurses Quarters, Cathedral, Honeycomb, Martins Arches and Fish Hook Bay are all out for Cray-fishing now. I can't check Richards Pot Luck and Radar Reef as I don't have the coordinates with me but they will go close to being inside the sanctuary too. Kerry cavern's, Cray Canyon and Flat top are well outside the zone. We are going to have to think about looking for some new Cray sites now that we have lost these ones. (Dennis Stubberfield has come up with a few good ideas.) I will put the Coordinates in the boat GPS so they are in there ready for the next cray dive.

<http://www.rotnestisland.com/en/Boating+Information/Marine+Sanctuary+Zone+P>

Rottnest Island New Sanctuary Zones

And Malcolm Roberts sent the following alternative thoughts ...

Marine sanctuaries put the WOW into diving.

With all the talk at the moment of the many good scientific reasons for having marine protected areas it's important to also remember the intangible benefits of marine sanctuaries. Just as you enjoy land-based national parks and the way they allow you enjoy nature in an undisturbed state, marine sanctuaries are the diver's equivalent. Underwater parks for us divers to enjoy. Areas put aside where all manner of marine creatures can flourish and interact as nature intended. We divers get the privilege of a brief look – a peek at the underwater realm.

Diving in these marine sanctuaries will make us go “WOW!” with the abundance of all that we see. Compare that to the dives done in areas that are fished in and we all know the difference. Given time to mature, these marine protected areas will become awesome dive sites, true sanctuaries hosting a myriad of species not seen in such abundance elsewhere.

You get to be the underwater explorers.

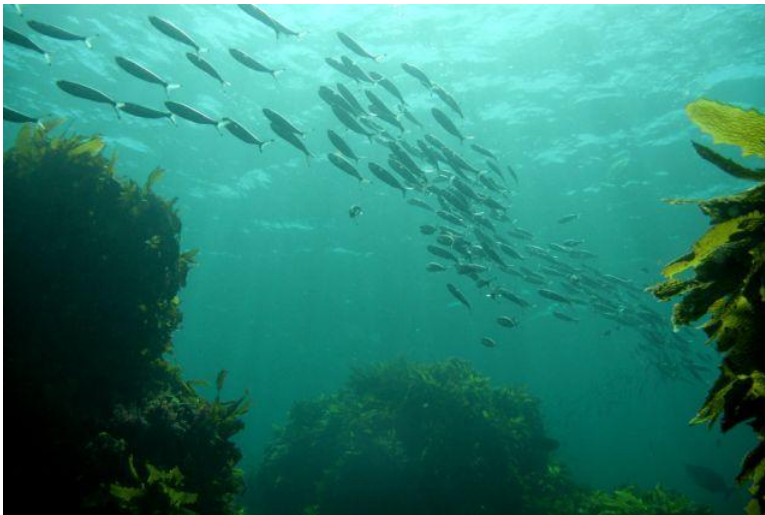
How good will it be to dive in these areas. Instead of ‘hunting’ for crayfish, we’ll be enjoying the intrinsic beauty of our local marine environment in the abundance nature intended.

Marine protected areas – good for everyone.

Diving with the seals

Photos courtesy of Malcolm Roberts

On 3rd November the Underwater Explorer set out for Rottneest and the following photos show what a great day was had by all on the boat.



Check out Malcolm's photo collections:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/malcolmsphotos/sets/72157602955255190/>
is the link to the Rottneest photos from 3rd November 2007; and

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/malcolmsphotos/sets/72157602495543116/> is the link to
Busselton Jetty.



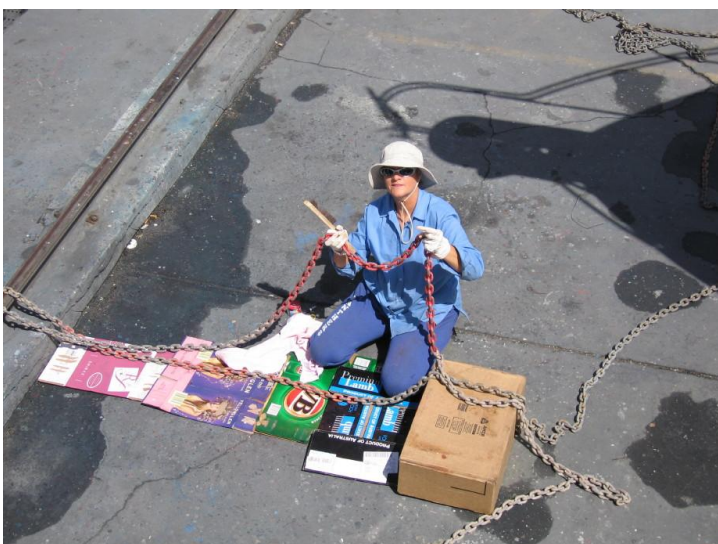
All in a day's diving when you take a trip on the Underwater Explorer!



Boat Clean-Up

Photos courtesy of Ilonka Jarvis

Thanks go to all Club Members who helped out. Here are a few photos from Ilonka.





Have fun at this website:

OPEN THE SITE BELOW, THEN CLICK ON THE SHARK OR THE ORCA (LEFT COLUMN,) WHO FOLLOWS YOUR CURSOR AROUND.

THEN CHANGE THE BEAUTIFUL UNDERWATER BACKGROUNDS

BY CLICKING THE RECTANGLES ABOVE THE SCREEN...

<http://www.sharkbreak.com/>

Pay directly online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: **Commonwealth Bank**
 Name: **Underwater Explorers Club of WA.**
 BSB: **066136**
 Account: **00901972**

There is limited space to write what the payment is for. Please start with your name and then reason for payment.

In all cases you must email the Treasurer with the following payment information:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for (and from)
- Reason for payment, e.g. Dive Dec 4, T-shirt, etc.

Club Aims and Objectives

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self-contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedures and to acquaint both Club members and the public with the facts of safety and using safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, provide fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

Contact your Committee

A/President	Rachel Stone	president@uecwa.com.au
Vice President & Fundraising		vicepresident@uecwa.com.au
Secretary	Amanda Blanksby	secretary@uecwa.com.au
Treasurer	Clive Mitchell	treasurer@uecwa.com.au
Dive Co-ordinator		divebookings@uecwa.com.au
Boat Officer	Steven Bright	boat@uecwa.com.au
Safety and	Andrew Mingay	safety@uecwa.com.au
Training Co-ordinator		training@uecwa.com.au
Social	Ilonka Jarvis	socialbookings@uecwa.com.au
New Members		newmembers@uecwa.com.au
Environment	Spencer Shute	environment@uecwa.com.au
Web & PR	Martin Arrowsmith	webmaster@uecwa.com.au
Newsletter	Pat Swallow	newsletter@uecwa.com.au

Still in the dark on night dives?

UEC members have access to the full range of LED Underwater Kinetics torches at discount prices.

Mini Q40 eLED plus This is the latest 2 watt LED 'focused globe' model . They are still not available in Australia but we have access to them. The Mini Q40 is the perfect back-up torch to strap to your mask or cray loop and the efficiency of the LED globe means that your battery life is 5 to 6 hours. It takes 4 AA batteries. It comes in several colours and has a lanyard but the mask strap is now an extra. **\$75**



SL4 eLED This torch takes 4 C size batteries with a burn time of more than 10 hours. It's bright enough to be your main torch for the 'occasional' night divers and is small enough to fit in a BC pocket as a good back up torch. The super tough LED globes means it is virtually impossible to break by being dropped. It comes with a lanyard and is also available in several colours. **\$120** (2 left at \$100)



C4 eLED This pistol grip style torch takes 4 C size batteries and is a perfect main torch for night diving. It has a locking switch to swap between the high and low beam settings. It also comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Silver and Black. Alkaline batteries included but it works well with NiMH rechargeables. **\$140**



C8 eLED plus This new pistol grip C8 is a great main torch. The completely new 10 watt LED 'water cooled' globe is incredibly efficient and has low and high power settings. It has a battery life of more than 10 hrs from 8 C size alkaline's (which are supplied) and can be used with NiMH rechargeable's. It comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Black and Silver. **\$260** (1 left at \$230)



Keep your torch safe at houses with a GearKeeper retractor. **\$35**



If you would like to order a torch or want to ask some questions e-mail Chris Cunnold at cunnold@iinet.net.au
Most of the torches are available for immediate delivery, depending on what colour you choose.

Have you seen the light?

Recycle your corks!

Never, ever throw a cork into landfill! Zita Dobson collects them and sends them to Guides Australia who recycle them and raise money.

Save them up and bring them to a meeting:
Zita or Bob are usually there.



Underwater Explorers Club
 Minutes of General Meeting
 Swan Yacht Club Wednesday 17 October 2007

Apologies	Trevor Walker Kerry Ashton	Malcolm Roberts Susie Ashton	Phil Doring Geoff Geard	Besin Ceric Andrew Mingay
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The meeting was opened at 7.45pm

The guest speaker Heidi Taylor was introduced to the club members.

Heidi Taylor runs the Tangaroa Blue Ocean Care Society, a non-profit organisation. She gave a presentation on marine debris, its impact on the ocean and in particular the marine life. The society undertakes monitored beach cleanups in order to collect data, with the aim in the future to present the evidence to government / industry. For further information see website www.oceancare.org.au

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1.0 The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Pat Swallow
 Seconded by Martin Arrowsmith

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

2.0 None

Correspondence Inwards

- 3.0
- Letter from SYC dated 19 September with regard to vessel compliance check
 - Invitation to a community workshop on regional marine planning for WA's south coast. To be held on 12 November.
 - Letter from SYC dated 28 September with regard to SYC membership
 - Letter from Department of Sport and Recreation dated 2 October with regard to an online search facility for clubs – Amanda has already registered the UEC.

Correspondence Outwards

- 4.0
- Letter dated 14 October 2007 to Northam's Avon Descent Association

Nominations

- 5.0 The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fees in advance:
- None

New Memberships

- 6.0 There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:
- Eddie Jarvis (social)
 - Joe Pestana
 - Richard Sallie

Accepted by Phil Hayter
 Seconded by Ilonka Jarvis

Reports

7.1 Acting President – Rachel Stone

- Thanks to Clive Cass, Clive Mitchell, Anne McCarrol, Steve Mitchell, David Geary, Chris Cunnold and Wendy Hutchison for helping at the recent SYC busy bee.
- Someone from the club sent a letter to Worksafe on the finger jetty, adjacent to the pen at SYC. The letter was rumoured to be on UEC letterhead but not sanctioned by anyone on the committee. It was illegal to do this. SYC and others have now repaired finger jetty.
- Various events with SYC coming up – encouraged members to participate.

7.2 Secretary – Amanda Blanksby

- Members renewing in 2008 require to fill out a membership form to provide signed authority to pass details to SYC. Available from Amanda.
- Nomination forms available for 2008 committee. Noted all positions are vacant.

7.3 **Treasurer** – Clive Mitchell

- Finances have gone backwards given no diving in September, plus payment of membership fees to SYC.
- Members urged to pay SYC membership ASAP.
- Given change in club year fees have been pro-rated hence ordinary membership is \$100 and family is \$140.

Accepted by Tanya Dewhurst
Seconded by Steve Bright

7.4 **Vice President and Fund Raising** – Rachel Stone

- Will do another ordering on the wine before Christmas.

7.5 **Dive Coordinator** –

- Jasmine Smith is filling in until November. Had 7 people go out last weekend for a single tank dive. No whales spotted this time. Whales were spotted on the trip at the end of September.
- No diving this next weekend given boat is out of water.
- Next dive is a night dive on Friday 26th October at North Mole Wreck. Depart SYC at 6.30pm. Will also do sausage sizzle after dive – cost \$25 including food.
- Skipper and DO needed for the planned dive on Sunday 28th October.

7.6 **Environment** – Spencer Shute

- Not present – no report.

7.7 **New Members** – Rachel Stone

- Had a couple of enquiries recently.

7.8 **Newsletter** – Pat Swallow

- October newsletter now on the web.
- Had an excellent weekend down at Dunsborough, flat calm conditions on the Swan and lots to see on the jetty. Will organise again next year.

7.9 **Web and PR** – Martin Arrowsmith

- Password changed for newsletter – new one is scuba4me.

7.10 **Safety and Training** – Andrew Mingay

- Not present – no report
- DO training planned for Sunday 11 November.

7.11 **Social** – Ilonka Jarvis

- BBQ planned for after busy bee on 20 October. BYO everything. Will need to be finished by 6.30pm given Commodores Ball.
- The Australian U2 show – Sunday 28th October from 4pm at SYC.
- Red Bull Air Race – Sunday 4th November \$15 per head BYO food and drink. People will have to make their own way to South Perth. Will collect people from the shore using the tender.
- Melbourne Cup – Tuesday 6th November – table booked at SYC, still places available.

7.12 **Boat** – Steve Bright

- Boat has been taken out of the water today. Hull has already been cleaned. Legs will be serviced. Busy bee planned for weekend 20th / 21st. Help required from members – work includes sanding down and painting hull. Speak to Steve at end of meeting. Bring along ice cream containers to hold the paint, rollers and brushes.

General Business

- 8.1 Fees for Diving – it was decided at the recent committee meeting that fees for diving would be increased slightly to \$50 for a double dive and \$40 for a single dive. It was also agreed to reduce the minimum number of paying divers on the boat from 6 to 4. This is for a trial basis to see if it does ultimately encourage more people to come out diving.
- 8.2 Anne McCarrol received a certificate for completing 50 dives. Well-done Anne.
- 8.3 Clive Cass noted that there were still 2 places available for the week's holiday at Rottnest. Members to speak to Clive if interested. \$510 per person including all diving and accommodation.
- 8.4 Jasmine Smith stated that she has coins for those who had ordered them. If members have ordered them and not received them, then let Jasmine know.
- 8.5 Tanya Dewhurst told members that the Navy Pier at Exmouth was again open for diving.
- 8.6 Bob Dobson recalled a recent incident with regard to a shark sighting in Rockingham and noted that the shark warning system works extremely effectively.
- 8.7 Carl Wheeler stated that he was arranging a diving holiday to Komodo next year in June. Anyone interested please speak to him. He also said the diving off Christmas Island was great having recently returned from a

- 8.8 Amanda Blanksby noted that there are some new 'no fishing zones' around Rottnest. She will put the information in November's newsletter.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

The next general meeting and AGM will be held on Wednesday 21 November at 7:30 pm

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Rachel Stone
(Chairperson)



Underwater Explorers Club
Minutes of Committee Management Meeting
 SYC Tuesday 2 October 2007

Present:

Chairperson: Rachel Stone
 Committee: Amanda Blanksby Clive Mitchell Pat Swallow Steve Bright
 Andrew Mingay Ilonka Jarvis

Members: None

Apologies Martin Arrowsmith Spencer Shute

The meeting was opened at 7.04pm

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the committee management meeting dated 6 September 2007 were circulated and accepted as a true record.

Action

Accepted by Clive Mitchell
 Seconded by Pat Swallow

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- To be discussed during the meeting

Correspondence Inwards

- Letter from Jeff Wake dated 9 September 2007
- Letter from SYC dated 5 September 2007 – (the content of this letter was read out to all present at the meeting)
- Sue Knight's resignation via email on 4 September 2007
- Jules Holliday's resignation via email on 10 September 2007
- Mark Maddern's resignation via email on 19 September 2007
- Letter from SYC dated 19 September with regard to vessel compliance check

Correspondence Outwards

- Letter to SYC dated 16 September 2007 with regard to SYC club affiliation

Nominations

The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fee in advance:

- NONE

New Memberships

There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:

- Eddie Jarvis (Social) Joe Pestana
- Richard Sallie

Accepted by Steve Bright
 Seconded by Andrew Mingay

Reports**President – Rachel Stone**

- Rachel has taken over the role of president until the end of the year.

Secretary – Amanda Blanksby

- Discussed various amendments to the 'Membership Form' to include the fees for the revised club calendar year and the SYC social membership.
- Amended UEC fees \$100 for ordinary, \$140 for family and \$35 for student/junior/social from 1 November 2007 to 30 June 2008.
- Agreed to remove the 'non resident/ country' membership category. Amanda to finalise form and publish. Amanda
- Amanda and Rachel to prepare notices etc for the AGM, to be included in October newsletter and the weekly email. Amanda / Rachel

Treasurer – Clive Mitchell

- Clive gave the treasurer’s report for September 2007. Overall balance has gone down due to payment of SYC membership fees but this will be recouped over the next month or so when membership fees are collected.
- Has informed SYC about the change in president for the ordinary membership held by the club.
- Has prepared a list of the SYC social members and discussed the process with the SYC administration staff. 107 club members of whom 45 have already joined, and 6 active life members.
- Awaiting feedback from club members to confirm name, address, date of birth and SYC membership number.
- Has re-applied for an East Fremantle fuel card via SYC.

Action

Accepted by Steve Bright
Seconded by Pat Swallow

Vice President and Fundraising – Rachel Stone

- Will only be promoting the wine as the club fundraiser until the end of the current year.

Dive Coordinator –

- Jasmine Smith has agreed to take over the dive bookings role until the end of the current year.
- Martin to amend contact details on the website and the email addresses.
- Chris Cunnold has suggested organising a couple of night dives off the boat. The committee was in agreement with this, but with a sound emphasis on safety.

Martin

Environment – Spencer Shute

- Not present – no report
-

New Members – Rachel Stone

- No report
-

Newsletter – Pat Swallow

- Will need input by weekend of 13th/14th.
- Heidi Taylor will be talking at the October General meeting on marine debris and its effect on marine life.
- Requested for a final plug on the Dunsborough weekend in the weekly email. Rachel to action.
-

Rachel

Web and PR – Martin Arrowsmith

- Not present – no report.

Safety and Training – Andrew Mingay

- Had 5 people pass the Padi Advanced course.
- Albany for end of October is still happening. Andrew will arrange these trips from now on given Jules’ resignation.
- Will organise another trip to Lake Stockton in March next year.
- Noted that Carl Wheeler was arranging a live aboard trip to Komodo in Indonesia in June 2008.
- RST course \$99 at Aquarama (next door to SYC). Will plug at next meeting and in weekly email.
- DO training – agreed to hold another training session on Sunday 11th November at 9am.

Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- River cruise has been cancelled due to boat being out of the water.
- Will organise a social for the Red Bull Air Race on Sunday 4 November. Steve and Clive to skipper – will probably take the boat up on the Saturday evening to secure a good mooring and vantage point. Cost \$15 per person – byo everything.
- Commodore’s Ball at the SYC on 20 October – one table booked.
- Australian U2 performance on 28 October at SYC.
- Will arrange a BYO BBQ after the boat busy bee on 21 October.

Boat – Steve Bright

- Boat went out twice over recent weekend. Bottom of the boat was cleaned.
- Boat will be out on the slips at SYC on 17th October for about one week.
- Need to get a pressure cleaner – Andrew to see if he can get hold of one.
- Will repaint anti-foul and replace universal joint – Steve to check with Chris Cunnold on this one.
- Rex Burke to sort out some new seat covers.

Andrew
Steve

General Business

2008 Committee Positions

- Agreed to include a new committee position 'SYC liaison officer' for the 2008 year. Amanda to amend the nominations form to reflect this.
- It was discussed if a separate position should be created to review the club's constitution. However it was agreed that a sub-committee could be set up to complete this instead.

Action

Amanda

Diving Fees

- Discussed the price charged for diving. It was agreed to recommend to the membership at the next general meeting that the fees for diving are to be amended as follows:
 - \$50 for a double dive
 - \$40 for a single dive
 - Lower the minimum number of paying divers to 4.
- Lowering the minimum is for a trial period (say a couple of months) to see if encourages people to go out diving and promotes using the boat more.

AGM

- Rachel will be the returning officer.
- Amanda to purchase trophies for prizes.

Rachel
Amanda

SYC newsletter

- See if Carmine is willing to action this, given Jules' resignation.

Rachel

Finger Jetty

- Discussed recent issues with regard to the finger jetty and the inspection by WorkSafe who have condemned the finger jetty next to our pen. Noted we could offer to repair it but given WorkSafe's involvement may need some form of certification by a professional structural engineer. It was agreed to leave it to the SYC but offer manual help for the repair works if required.
-

Any Other Business

Auditor for 2007

- Geoff Charlton has resigned from the club, hence agreed it was not appropriate for him to fulfil the role as an auditor for 2007. Clive to see if Clive Cass would be willing to undertake role.

Clive

Oxygen Bottles

- Discussed how many we have used over past year or so. Probably not as many as the supplier believes. Clive to discuss further with supplier.

Clive

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

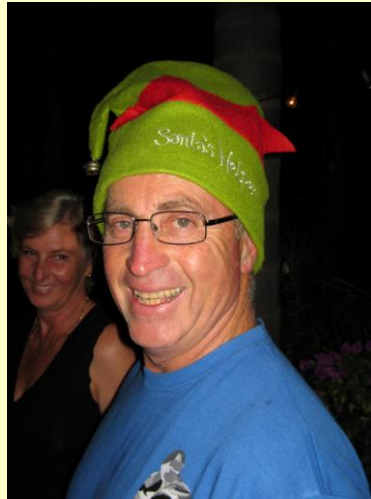
The next committee meeting will be held on 5 November 2007 at 7:00 pm in the boardroom at SYC.

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Blanksby

Minutes signed by: Rachel Stone
(Chairperson)



December 2007 Newsletter



President's Report

By Clive Cass

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** President's Report
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- 4** Ostentatious
- 6** Komodo Flyer
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- 8** Recycle your corks
- 9** Pay directly on line,
Club aims and objectives,
Contact your Committee
- 10** Torch information
Training promo
- 11** Minutes of Meetings

Hi All members

I am please to be writing my first report and to assure you that the committee is keen and looking forward to contributing to a good year for the club.

We have had the handover meeting from last year's committee and thank them for providing great support. Your committee are now active in their new roles and available should you have any constructive ideas to contribute.

Our first committee meeting on 5 December dealt with some of the many issues that arise in the course of the year. The main issues are diving, use of the boat by members for private events, new memberships, training and social functions.

President's report continued

If you know of a speaker who is knowledgeable in anything-to-do-with-water please let Ilonka know so we can invite them to a club meeting. Our preference is for a 30 to 40 minute presentation on something topical.

We are having a Skipper and DO meeting to discuss how to increase members diving, Skipper/DO availability, boat hull maintenance and the use of the boat by members and invited guests. The meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 January from 7 to 9 pm at the Swan Yacht Club. Please come along if you wish.

An important matter raised is a member taking the boat out for non-diving functions. We have had enquiries from members wishing to support the club and take family and friends on the boat. To comply with Dept of Planning and Infrastructure requirements please note that members cannot charge non-member guests to be on the boat at any time. This is extremely important, as the UECWA is a dive and social club, and not a charter boat. To protect and support your club please ensure we all respect this requirement.

Let's all improve our diving skills by getting out on the Underwater Explorer regularly. The committee will be leading the way and I would like to invite everyone to join me on 22 December for a two-tank dive off Rotto. I will alternate between crayfishing and photography, and any assistance with my new camera would be appreciated.

I will be in Adelaide from 12 to 16 December and unfortunately will not be back for the December Christmas meeting and social function, My apologies for missing such an important date in the Club's calendar.

I look forward to seeing you on the boat diving soon.

Regards
Clive
President UECWA.

ROTTTO HOLIDAY FEBRUARY/MARCH 2008

WANNA GO TO ROTTO ?
DISCOVER LIFE, DISCOVER DIVING AT IT'S BEST

One place only Sat 23 to Fri 29 February 2008 for \$510

One place only Fri 29 to Mon 3 March 2008 for \$290

Fabulous Rottnest holiday in oceanview chalets at Geordie Bay.

A week or a long weekend dive holiday is available for one lucky member in refurbished chalets plus a chance to dive and party with 21 other fantastic people.

For just \$510 (6 days) or \$290 (3 days) you will dive, relax and enjoy a great time away.

For more info or to reserve your spot please contact Clive Cass on 0421 639 290
or email to president@uecwa.com.au

My Ostentatious Review

By Rob Turner

We went into Freo last night to see Austen Tayshus, of Australiana fame, at Kulcha. The crowd was light on, but we bumped into Malcolm & Phil from UEC and ended up sitting up front in 'spittle range' of Austen who was up against it with a small group on a wintry December night in Freo.

Malcolm & Phil kicking off a few 'heckler exchanges' that spiced the evening Austen also zeroing in on my partner Carolyn when he discovered that she works for the 'Native Title Tribunal'.

A good evening for those who were there.

Regards,

Rob

Stage death for Austen Tayshus

It was a dismal night for Austen at Kulcha in Fremantle last night, where he played to a packed house of 6, plus the UEC Heckling Team of Malcolm & Phil. Seasoned, sharp heckling at it's best saw the tired, aged rhetoric of the former champ savaged in a precision display by the UEC duo.

Fresh from a tour of duty in Iraq, performing for the troops at a sleazy bar on Salaman Rushdie Bvd. in central Baghdad, where excited patrons had the disturbing habit of blowing themselves up. The audience spittle sprayed often with Mhuk Mud Mhadinnajhiad lines, finding Osama at the West Bank Pac Bank West Pac Bank - search Afghanistan, Pakistan and he's been living in Sydneykistan all along How much can that poor bloody Koala Bear ? Too much for Austen, but the UEC team were just warming up

Malcolm, fresh from a tentacular encounter with one of Robbs Jetty's finest occy's and Austen - left guppy like, writhing and scarred from the relentless retorts. Even his best Australiana delivery matched. Boomer may have rang - but a hot White Pointer delivered to where it hurts most had Austen holding back the tears of pain at a career at 50m on empty tanks.

Austen, only as good as his writers and the plunge that he can only afford an impoverished team of Chinese writers these days. Correct in saying that he would have to 'Wok'ard - dat cwowd at Kulcha tuf' - never more true. The writers will indeed be 'cwusht asyuns' when the Tay is finished with them - the dive team up to the bag limit by now. Go anna get relevant.

My Ostentatious Review continued

The 'Big Tay', lost in a mythical delusion of Uluroo .. oo .. roo .. oo being a contrived tourist attraction of wire and paper mache where a baby ate his pet dingo gently sauteed on the barbie no doubt. The Wagyl stirred by indigenous taunts and a far deeper demise awaits the 'Shusher' than when arrested by 12 coppers for profanities, at a time when Burkey had the fingers of both hands, and those of a few friends too - firmly in the till, milking the public tit.

Bizarre concepts of 'giving back the land' 22 million people living on Rottnest so that the indigenous owners could have their 'nativ tidle bak bloke'. A kwokashit ! 'It would be like Malta' - the sharp retort by UEC (you'd have to have been there). A dive paradise decimated and the main export not boxed Maltisers but a 'kwokashitbox' - Phil put him straight

The end result that the UEC Team scaled the heights and Austen took a dive (should join the UEC) Malcolm & Phil slaying the marsupial slayer Is Bass straight ? Is your car nackered ? Is his cousin Ben ? Did the Pope really live in Rockingham ? No free mantle for Austen - knocked right off it shoved right up his West End and banished to the Nurses Quarters to recover

By



Dive Komodo - Indonesia

Komodo National Park

10 nights ex. Perth From **\$4121** Diver

Package Includes :

- Airfares Ex Perth / Denpasar / Perth—Indo Jet
- 1 nights Twin share accommodation at The Hotel Sanur Beach
- Return airport transfers
- 9 nights aboard M V Mermaid I - Komodo Indonesia
Return airport transfers Ex Benoa Harbour
Twin share / Deluxe Cabin
All meals & snacks, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, soft drinks.
28 Dives: Tanks , weights & dive guide services.
- Australian departure taxes (\$ 240.00—Subject to change)

Cost Does Not Include :

- National Park Fee's \$ 50.00 USD , Nitrox Fills \$5.00 USD each, rental equipment.
- Travel Insurance, Personal spending monies, Passport & visa fee's, Non prepaid departure taxes.
- Alcoholic beverages

Note : Conditions Apply—prices are subject to change due to fluctuations in exchange rates .

Credit Card Payments :

Should you choose to pay via **Visa Card** or **Master card** a surcharge fee of 1% will be applied to cost of your holiday.

Should you choose to pay via **Amex** or **Diners** card a surcharge fee of 3% will be applied to the cost of your holiday.

Departing

9th July - 19th July 2008



Liveaboard—Mermaid I

Booking requirements

To secure your place on this expedition, an initial non refundable deposit amount of \$ 1000.00 per person is required. Throughout the booking process a payment plan will be introduced and additional installments will be required. This is required due to the booking conditions of the liveaboard.



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M-129150290808

Carl Wheeler or Tracy Price

Ph: 0418 911 234 or Ph: 1800 242 724

Email: carl@fme.com.au or tracy@diveadventures.com.au

Something I cut out of a powerpoint presentation



From the editor

Hi Folks

We have a slightly smaller than usual newsletter this month partly due to the season I think and partly due to me not knowing who to badger about supplying articles. I believe we are going to have a great summer diving with an even better summer for those lucky enough to have booked onto the Rotto holliday.

If anyone has an article or soap box rant you would like included in the newsletter please send it on for consideration photos need to be fairly well compressed to keep the size of the newsletter manageable, (kilobytes not megabytes).

We'll enjoy the holliday season

Hope to see you all at club meetings social functions and on the boat.

Chris.

Recycle your corks!

Never, ever throw a cork into landfill! Zita Dobson collects them and sends them to Guides Australia who recycle them and raise money.

Save them up and bring them to a meeting: Zita or Bob are usually there.

This is the photo of Zita with some (about 3000) of the corks sent to her to pass on to the Guides for recycling



Pay directly online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: **Commonwealth Bank**
 Name: **Underwater Explorers Club of WA.**
 BSB: **066136**
 Account: **00901972**

There is limited space to write what the payment is for. Please start with your name and then reason for payment.

In all cases you must email the Treasurer with the following payment information:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for (and from)
- Reason for payment, e.g. Dive Dec 4, T-shirt, etc.

Club Aims and Objectives

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self-contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedures and to acquaint both Club members and the public with the facts of safety and using safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, provide fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

Contact your Committee

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Dive Co-ordinator
Boat Officer
Safety & Training Officer
Social
Fundraising
New Members
Environment
Communications Officer

Clive Cass
 Martin Smith
 Steve Larter
 Renee Barker
 Jasmine Smith
 Steve Bright
 Andrew Mingay
 Ilonka Jarvis
 Carl Wheeler
 Anne McCarrol
 Dallis Strick
 Chris Wilkinson

president@uecwa.com.au
vicepresident@uecwa.com.au
secretary@uecwa.com.au
treasurer@uecwa.com.au
divebookings@uecwa.com.au
boat@uecwa.com.au
safety&training@uecwa.com.au
socialbookings@uecwa.com.au
fundraising@uecwa.com.au
newmembers@uecwa.com.au
environment@uecwa.com.au
communications@uecwa.com.au

Still in the dark on night dives?

UEC members have access to the full range of LED Underwater Kinetics torches at discount prices.

Mini Q40 eLED plus This is the latest 2 watt LED 'focused globe' model . They are still not available in Australia but we have access to them. The Mini Q40 is the perfect back-up torch to strap to your mask or cray loop and the efficiency of the LED globe means that your battery life is 5 to 6 hours. It takes 4 AA batteries. It comes in several colours and has a lanyard but the mask strap is now an extra. **\$75**



SL4 eLED This torch takes 4 C size batteries with a burn time of more than 10 hours. It's bright enough to be your main torch for the 'occasional' night divers and is small enough to fit in a BC pocket as a good back up torch. The super tough LED globes means it is virtually impossible to break by being dropped. It comes with a lanyard and is also available in several colours. **\$120** (2 left at \$100)



C4 eLED This pistol grip style torch takes 4 C size batteries and is a perfect main torch for night diving. It has a locking switch to swap between the high and low beam settings. It also comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Silver and Black. Alkaline batteries included but it works well with NiMH rechargeables. **\$140**



C8 eLED plus This new pistol grip C8 is a great main torch. The completely new 10 watt LED 'water cooled' globe is incredibly efficient and has low and high power settings. It has a battery life of more than 10 hrs from 8 C size alkaline's (which are supplied) and can be used with NiMH rechargeable's. It comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Black and Silver. **\$260** (1 left at \$230)



Keep your torch safe at houses with a GearKeeper retractor. **\$35**



If you would like to order a torch or want to ask some questions e-mail Chris Cunnold at cunnold@inet.net.au
Most of the torches are available for immediate delivery, depending on what colour you choose.

Have you seen the light?

This is your chance to improve your scuba diving skills.

Why not ask Andrew about a course to suit your needs?

Contact Andrew for more information –
email: training@uecwa.com.au, or
phone: 0429 205 208



Underwater Explorers Club
Minutes of Committee Management Meeting
 5 December 2007

Present:

Chairperson:	Clive Cass			
Committee:	Steve Larter	Jasmine Lyons	Steve Bright	Martin Smith
	Andrew Mingay	Ilonka Jarvis	Chris Wilkinson	Renee Barker
	Anne McCarrol			

Members:

Apologies	Carl Wheeler	Dallas Strict	Carmine Travaglione
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The meeting was opened at 7.45pm

Action

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the committee management meeting dated 5th November 2007 were read and accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Steve Bright
 Seconded by Andrew Mingay

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- No matters arising.

Correspondence Inwards

- Letter from Spums with annual subscription.
- Letter from Club Marine Boat Insurance renewal.
- Commonwealth Bank Statement.
- Cheque from MUD Divers.
- Domain Registration for Web Site.

Correspondence Outwards

- E-mail to SYC advising of election of new President.

Nominations

The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fee in advance:

- Natalie Dean.
- Greg Bastian.
- Mucha Hannes.
- Christine Schneder.
- Martin Brian

New Memberships

There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| • Andrew Black | • Roumen Bossilkov. |
| • Stephen Mitchell | • Tara Foreman |
- Accepted by Anne McCarrol
 Seconded by Renee Barker

Reports

President – Clive Cass

- Welcomed all the Committee. Hand over meeting went well. Minutes of handover meeting not at hand.
- Thanks to all for attending tonight's meeting apologise for SYC as no room available. Thanks for Martin and Jasmine for inviting committee to their home for meeting.
- Letter sent to SYC advising them of changes to the UEC committee,

Secretary – Steve Larter

All external correspondence of importance, E-mail and Letters on official headed paper to be copied to Secretary.

Treasurer – Renee Barker

- List of Members attending Rottneest holiday presented. Clive Cass will be organising payments and trip details.
- Phil Doring has withdrawn from the holiday.
- Accounts for payment.
- Club Marine INS Boat Insurance for 2008 \$1,365.10c.
- Spums Membership \$143.00.
- Payment for trophies. \$71.00,
- Committee agreed to payments,

Accepted by Steve Bright
Seconded by Chris Wilkinson

Fundraising – Carl Wheeler.

- No Report.
- Fundraising efforts to be directed to purchasing a new GPS.
- Consider organising a raffle for new GPS.

Dive Coordinator – Jasmine Lyons

- Weather forecast and recent conditions have not been good for diving.
- List of Skippers and Dive Officers including trainees to be sent to President to arrange urgent meeting to discuss a number of issues.
- January roster being put together.

Environment – Dallas Strick

- No report.

New Members – Anne McCarrol.

- New member pack sample given to Anne for review and report back.
- New recent Nominated persons to be contacted to check if they are proceeding with joining.
- Enquiry for Dive gear hire to be answered.
- Contact us button on web site to be directed to Secretary.

Newsletter / Web – Chris Wilkinson.

- Chris to arrange with Martin Arrowsmith for hand over of role.

SYC Liaison. Carmine Travaglione.

- No report.

Safety and Training – Andrew Mingay

- Recreational Skippers Training course for existing boat owners 1 Day training course \$200. Andrew to arrange details for members.
- Dolphin Dive meeting to be arranged by Andrew. UWA are using them for there training.
- .Meeting to be arranged with Carmine and Denis to finalize training needs for skippers and dive officers.
- Nautical Knowledge Tafe course to be promoted through UEC.
- 6 Divers attended Rusty Divers training event.
- Safety Incidents and reports Jasmine to provide list of Skippers and Dive officers to Andrew
- Brief discussion concerning formal qualifications for UEC Dive officers. Oxygen providers training requirement. View was expressed that voluntary dive officers may not want to be compelled to undertake formal qualifications and that this may lead to loss of active enthusiastic members. To be discussed further.

Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- UEC Christmas party. 15/12/2007 at Ilonkas home. Only 25 so far confirmed. Members to be advised that they can BYO if they prefer.
- Painting by Ian Barcher to be used for Fundraising events.
- Guest speakers. Ilonka requires assistance with organising guest speakers. Dallas to be asked about speakers from Fisheries. Renee has access to a projector.
- SYC 5 events for year to be confirmed.
- Survey at next general meeting members to be asked what social events would they like to be arranged.
- River cruise to be arranged for 11th January 2008.

Boat – Steve Bright

- Geoff Charlton boat keys given to Andrew.
- Chains for Penn to be measured.
- Mirror to be installed on boat.
- Safety Claw for anchor chain to be purchased and installed.
- Key register to be maintained with all keys listed.
- Care to be taken when filling up at East Fremantle due to water in fuel reports.

General Business

- Membership applications to be presented as rules of club in the constitution.
- Key register for boat keys to be kept by Boat officer and Secretary.
- Dive in Lieu vouchers to be disbanded as records are held electronically.
- Raffle money raised \$230.00 handed over to Treasurer.
- Dive Officer Prompts cards to be dated prior to sealing in waterproof covers.
- AGM to be held in July. Awards and AGM to be arranged.
- Trophies being held by Chris Cunnold, Trevor Walker, Julian Haliday.
- Dennis Stubberfield has a club O2 cylinder. UEC has 3 O2 cylinders registered with Air Liquid. Records to be checked to see if rental has been paid by Dennis.
- Private Boat trips. Further clarification to be discussed at Skippers meeting.
- Boat trip charges need to be reviewed.
- Clive to contact Chris Cunold and another member who has booked to boat for private trips. He will advise both parties of the club requirements that no charges can be made to the club or any person within the club for any trip by a none member of UEC.

Skippers and Dive Officers/

- Meeting to be arranged for 8th January 2008.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.40pm.

The next committee meeting will be held on 9th January 2008 @ 7:00 pm @ SYC.

Minutes prepared by: Stephen Larter

Minutes signed by: Clive Cass
(President)



JANUARY 2008 Newsletter



President's Report

By Clive Cass

Hi everyone

It has been a busy time for the club with very active diving and social events on the boat, until the starboard motor overheated two weeks ago.

The committee assisted by knowledgeable members has been assessing the motor for the best way to proceed and I recommend you read Steve's boat report or speak with him for the latest news.

Ilonka has been busy arranging social events and her report in the newsletter refers to the latest on the sky show river cruise. I look forward to it each year, and as usual expect a lot of fun, especially with the warm weather.

Diving will still take place with the boat and shore dives. Jasmine will be able to give advice on boat trips. Just email her for boat dives and she will let you know about planned shore dives too.

Many thanks to the committee and support from Pat Troy, Dennis Stubberfield, Geoff Geard and Chris Cunnold for their efforts with a resolution for the motor.

Chris Wilkinson is looking for more interesting articles for the newsletter. Any short anecdotes or latest dive activity will be appreciated.

And lastly I would like to wish Carmine a speedy recovery to his starboard knee which has gone out in sympathy with the starboard motor. We all wish him well with his knee reconstruction and hope our motor can recover just as quickly. I look forward to seeing you on Wed 16th at the club meeting.

Clive Cass
President

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ROTTTO HOLIDAY FEBRUARY/MARCH 2008

WANNA GO TO ROTTO ?
DISCOVER LIFE, DISCOVER DIVING AT IT'S BEST

One place only Sat 23 to Fri 29 February 2008 for \$510

One place only Fri 29 to Mon 3 March 2008 for \$290

Fabulous Rottnest holiday in oceanview chalets at Geordie Bay.

A week or a long weekend dive holiday is available for one lucky member in refurbished chalets plus a chance to dive and party with 21 other fantastic people.

For just \$510 (6 days) or \$290 (3 days) you will dive, relax and enjoy a great time away.

For more info or to reserve your spot please contact Clive Cass on 0421 639 290 or email to president@uecwa.com.au

Boat report

By Stephen Bright,

On The Sunday 30th of December at 9.30 am on the way to Stragglers the starboard engine broke down .The dive was abandoned and the Underwater Explorer returned on the port engine to the SYC pen.

The resulting investigation found the damage to the engine to be very serious. A meeting was held on Wednesday night the 2nd of January to discuss our best course of action. It was decided that we look into any possible insurance or warranty claims.

Unfortunately neither of these was successful. It was decided at the committee meeting to remove the damaged motor for repairs.

This will be done at North port boat lifters on Tuesday 15th January. We will be able to give you further details at the General Meeting on Wednesday 16th of January.

Thank you

[An article I lifted from FVRSG newsletter that is relevant to us as boat users, ED.](#)

Fremantle Volunteer Sea Rescue Group (fvsrg@bigpond.com)
PO Box 334, Fremantle 6959
Ph: 9335 1332
Fax: 9336 7758
www.freosearescue.org.au

When Right Can be wrong

The introduction of the compulsory Recreational Skippers Ticket has created a lot of debate as to its effect on boating tragedies and breakdowns. Is it working?

Possibly too soon to tell,

However one problem has arisen from the introduction of the course!

Many instructors not aware of the high volume of radio traffic in the metropolitan area are teaching selectively 'by the book' radio procedures.

Correct procedure list VHF16 and 27.88 as emergency and calling channels and therefore RST participants are being instructed to call in to sea rescue groups on channels 16 and 88 and then wait to be switched to a working channel (73 / 90).

If all log on calls were conducted in this way the radio network in the metropolitan area would become bottlenecked and perhaps even endanger lives.

The "radio operator's manual" also recommends that if you are aware of the limited coast station's working channel then you should make contact on that channel rather than the emergency and calling channel.

Using VHF16 or 27.88 as calling channels, is designed for vessels working in areas where they are unfamiliar with the working channel of the station they are calling.

However in the metro area the sea rescue groups operate on VHF73 and 27.90 so good practice suggests that you only use the emergency channels for emergencies and the working channels for all other communications.

We ask that all log in and non distress calls are made on either VHF 73 or 27.90 MHz as the traffic in the metro area is the busiest in Australia and this will assist us to better look after you. Your Boating Life Line

Well folks this is your newsletter and if you don't want it to be as boring as batshit you are going to have to lift your game!!!

I need some meat and potatoes in the form of articles and compressed pictures preferably not copyright infringements! It doesn't have to be all about diving but I only seem to get support from a regular few.

That's enough for that particular rant lets talk about something I spotted in the Scuba 2 newsletter.

One of their members is advocating not taking a snorkel diving as he feels it's one of the most useless diving accessories invented, the publications officer has a contrary opinion. Some of the publications officers applications are a bit suss in my opinion, the beer drinking straw I can relate to but unblocking a toilet! Well that's just like using your own toothbrush with a mixture of soap and toothpaste to clean your mask, it might taste of soap later so I use my partners toothbrush (she shouldn't leave it lying around)!!

My opinion takes a sort of middle ground, I never take a snorkel diving in the river because in that environment it is a 'useless accessory' but I always take it in the ocean here off Fremantle.

In the water round Rotto its invaluable for keeping you breathing comfortably when the sea breeze has roughed up the waves a bit while you are on the surface.

I use one of the newer technology dry snorkels built specifically for scuba divers; it has a soft corrugated lower section that allows it to fall away from your face while using your second stage and not interfering with it.

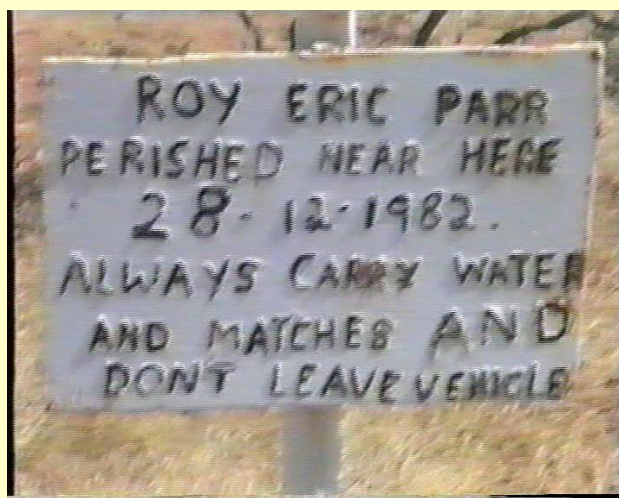
It has a convoluted entry that allows you to run a garden hose on it full bore and still breathe through it, with water dump valve and capacity pot on the bottom to ensure you are breathing air not water.

These snorkels are perfect for us to remain comfortable on the surface of a choppy ocean.

They are not really suitable for free divers as the internal volume leads to a build up of CO2 that tires the diver faster than the smooth bore low volume snorkels used by serious free divers

What do you think?

ED



Probably not good advice on a boat but good advice anyway I believe. Cut from a video taken by my dad in outback Queensland some years ago.

Who called the cook a comedian!!!

By Malcolm

Yep! I finally bite the bullet, and break a tooth. Hey! I'm a promising comedian. That's right. I might not be funny yet but I promise to get there one day.

As you may know, or can read below, I've entered Raw Comedy, which might get me all the way being on stage at His Majesty's in Perth, but one thing at a time, and that one thing is **ME DOING STAND-UP ON STAGE AT THE CHARLES HOTEL THIS THURSDAY**. It'll be a bunch of fun. I'm practiced and looking forward to it.

If getting up on stage in front of a rowdy crowd for a stand-up comedy routine wasn't challenge enough, I set myself a few extra challenges. Feel free to check me on them during my bit -

- No swearing
- No sexist jokes
- No racist jokes
- No offensive jokes
- Include a certain joke about a peach into my routine. Look out for that one.

I have succeeded on all counts and would love you to come along and see if, despite all that, I can still make you laugh, and make it through to the finals.

Rave reviews of my work so far include, "I laughed until I stopped."

Actual order will be determined on the night by lottery.

Show starts at 8, but I suggest you get there earlier to get a good spot. Hopefully I can meet up with you. If not before, then definitely afterwards, with a well-earned beer in my hand.

They serve 'pub grub' such as steak sangers, wedges, etc if you need food.

Hope you can make it. It may be the only time I do this.....More info below in official email.

Love to see you Thursday.

Malcolm

Does anyone have a video camera they can bring? I have a tripod. You are allowed to tape it, so why not. Hope you can help.

Thursday 17 January

The Comedy Lounge at The Charles Hotel

509 Charles Street, North Perth.

Doors open 7pm, Show 8pm – 10pm

Tickets \$15 for all and available at the door.

Some of you may have fallen foul of the new dress code at The Charles over the last few weeks, so we're taking this opportunity to get you all fully informed to ensure everyone gets through the doors to watch some comedy! The rules are that anyone wearing thongs, work boots or singlets can be refused entry at The Charles Hotel, so avoid those three fashion statements and you should be home free – just don't ask what the difference is between a pair of thongs and women's sandals! Werzel is right, the complexities of dress codes are a serious business for door people.

This is your chance to improve your scuba diving skills.

Why not ask Andrew about a course to suit your needs?

Contact Andrew for more information –

email: training@uecwa.com.au, or

phone: 0429 205 208

Still in the dark on night dives?

UEC members have access to the full range of LED Underwater Kinetics torches at discount prices.

Mini Q40 eLED plus This is the latest 2 watt LED 'focused globe' model . They are still not available in Australia but we have access to them. The Mini Q40 is the perfect back-up torch to strap to your mask or cray loop and the efficiency of the LED globe means that your battery life is 5 to 6 hours. It takes 4 AA batteries. It comes in several colours and has a lanyard but the mask strap is now an extra. **\$75**



SL4 eLED This torch takes 4 C size batteries with a burn time of more than 10 hours. It's bright enough to be your main torch for the 'occasional' night divers and is small enough to fit in a BC pocket as a good back up torch. The super tough LED globes means it is virtually impossible to break by being dropped. It comes with a lanyard and is also available in several colours. **\$120** (2 left at \$100)



C4 eLED This pistol grip style torch takes 4 C size batteries and is a perfect main torch for night diving. It has a locking switch to swap between the high and low beam settings. It also comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Silver and Black. Alkaline batteries included but it works well with NiMH rechargeables. **\$140**



C8 eLED plus This new pistol grip C8 is a great main torch. The completely new 10 watt LED 'water cooled' globe is incredibly efficient and has low and high power settings. It has a battery life of more than 10 hrs from 8 C size alkaline's (which are supplied) and can be used with NiMH rechargeable's. It comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Black and Silver. **\$260** (1 left at \$230)



Keep your torch safe at houses with a GearKeeper retractor. **\$35**



If you would like to order a torch or want to ask some questions e-mail Chris Cunnold at cunnold@inet.net.au
Most of the torches are available for immediate delivery, depending on what colour you choose.

Have you seen the light?

Pay directly online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Name: Underwater Explorers Club of WA.
BSB: 066136
Account: 00901972

There is limited space to write what the payment is for. Please start with your name and then reason for payment.

In all cases you must email the Treasurer with the following payment information:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for (and from)
- Reason for payment, e.g. Dive Dec 4, T-shirt, etc.

Club Aims and Objectives

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self-contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedures and to acquaint both Club members and the public with the facts of safety and using safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, provide fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

Contact your Committee

President	Clive Cass	president@uecwa.com.au
Vice President	Martin Smith	vicepresident@uecwa.com.au
Secretary	Steve Larter	secretary@uecwa.com.au
Treasurer	Renee Barker	treasurer@uecwa.com.au
Dive Co-ordinator	Jasmine Smith	divebookings@uecwa.com.au
Boat Officer	Steve Bright	boat@uecwa.com.au
Safety & Training Officer	Andrew Mingay	safety&training@uecwa.com.au
Social	Ilonka Jarvis	socialbookings@uecwa.com.au
Fundraising	Carl Wheeler	fundraising@uecwa.com.au
New Members	Anne McCarrol	newmembers@uecwa.com.au
Environment	Dallis Strick	environment@uecwa.com.au
Communications Officer	Chris Wilkinson	communications@uecwa.com.au

Recycle your corks!

Never, ever throw a cork into landfill! Zita Dobson collects them and sends them to Guides Australia who recycle them and raise money.

Save them up and bring them to a meeting: Zita or Bob are usually there.



Underwater Explorers Club
Minutes of Committee Management Meeting
 SYC January 2008

Present:

Chairperson:	Clive Cass			
Committee:	Steve Larter	Jasmine Lyons	Steve Bright	Martin Smith
	Carmen Travaglione	Ilonka Jarvis	Chris Wilkinson	Dallis Strict
	Anne McCarrol			
Members:	Pat Troy, Rex Burke	Chris Cunnold	Denis Stubberfield	Kerry Ashton
Apologies		Andrew Mingay	Renee Barker	

The meeting was opened at 7.45pm

Action

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the committee management meeting dated 5th December 2007 were accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Steve Bright
 Seconded by Anne McCarrol

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- No matters arising.

Correspondence Inwards

- Spums magazine.
- Log Book Scuba 2 December/January
- Commonwealth Bank Statement.
- Cheque from Ultimo for \$30.00. Wine Sales.
- Cheque from M Cox Rottneest Booking.
- Dept of Planning Invoice for Mooring \$362.00.
- Dept of Planning Boating Communities Newsletter.
- S.Y.C statement for fuel.
- Demand for Payment Air Liquid.
- Entertainment Guide Questionnaire.
- E-mail from Andrew Tingay.
- Fremantle Sea Rescue newsletter received.

Correspondence Outwards

- New Members letter welcoming them to UEC.
- Andrew Black, Roumen Bossilkov, Tara Foreman.

Nominations

The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fee in advance:

- No Nominations received.
- Check records on boat.

New Memberships

There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:

- No New Membership Applications. •

Proposed by
 Seconded by

Reports

President – Clive Cass

- Committee Members to remain positive for diving and support activities.
- Members reports for newsletter to be sent to Chris urgently.

Secretary – Steve Larter

There was no minutes of General meeting held in December as it was the Christmas Party.

Treasurer – Renee Barker

- No report.
- Clive has been in contact with Air Liquid re outstanding invoice for O2 supplies. UEC has 2 cylinders on the boat. 1 cylinder which UEC is charged for is for Denis and is kept on his boat. Denis has advised he will be paying for the rental of this cylinder.

Accepted by
Seconded by

Fundraising – Carl Wheeler.

- No Report.
- Clive to contact Carl to discuss fund raising.

Dive Coordinator – Jasmine Lyons

- Dives well attended on boat over December.
- Andrew Mingay will be arranging some shore dives while boat is being repaired.
- Club events will still be organised while boat is being repaired.
- Club boat can still be used with single engine for short trip only.
- Weekly e-mail to members. Information to be sent out to be given to Jasmine.
- Dive charter operators can be used while boat is being repaired.

Environment – Dallas Strick

- Changes to Rottnest rules to be communicated to members in Newsletter.
- Sanctuary Zones at Rottnest have been changed.
- Articles of interest on the Environment to be sent to Dallas for possible inclusion in newsletter.

New Members – Anne McCarrol.

- New member pack Anne to report back at next meeting.
- Nominations from December have been contacted to see if they wish to join the club. Waiting for there response.

Newsletter / Web – Chris Wilkinson.

- Martin Arrowsmith is looking after the web site.
- Articles for the newsletter to be sent to Chris for inclusion in newsletter.
- Committee members should be submitting a report each month.

SYC Liaison. Carmine Travaglione.

- Carmine reports that Geoff Reynolds has not received any negative reports concerning UEC in the last 2 months.
- Carmine encourages everyone to attend the points events listed in the SYC newsletter and when booking ensure UEC is nominated as the member to ensure we receive the points.
- Carmine to write monthly report for the SYC newsletter.

Safety and Training – Andrew Mingay

- No report.
- We have 4 trainee skippers currently waiting to complete training. Martin Arrowsmith, Steve Bright, Clive Mitchell, Wendy Hutchinson. Denis and Carmine agreed that completion of there training would be a priority.
- The 5 point broad training outline currently in use is effective and there is no requirement to change this outline.
- Denis and Carmine have agreed to continue there work and the 4 trainee skippers should be qualified by the end of the Rottnest holiday.
- Denis advised that each trainee skipper needed to complete a night trip to Rottnest Island and spend 3 or 4 training trips to practise anchoring at the UEC dive sites.
- TAFE training courses to be considered as beneficial to qualification are. Coastal Navigation and Boat Knowledge.
- RST qualification is mandatory prior to commencing skipper training.
- Future trainee skippers to be provided with formalized 5 point broad training outline.
- Members wishing to become trainee skippers will be advised accordingly.

Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- Australia Day only 12 members booked on. Cost \$30.00. Member's guests can be booked on after next general meeting to fill all places.
- Members are given precedence over none members.
- Mussel on the mooring night to be arranged in April.
- Ilonka to contact members to establish a social sub committee to assist her with club events.
- Night Dive picnics to follow club night dive when daylight saving finishes.
- Suggestion for Movie nights and BBQs at SYC to be checked out for future events.
- Ilonka to arrange UEC table for the Trivia nights at SYC.

Boat – Steve Bright

- Starboard engine overheated during trip on 30/12/2007. Dive aborted returned to Penn MTU have carried out a survey report attached to minutes.
- Club maintenance schedules to be checked as preventative maintenance needs to be carried out on Port Motor to ensure impellor is working correctly and filters are clean.
- Discussion took place to either replace damaged engine or repair engine.
- Martin to contact Bell engineering in Mandurah to seek opinion on viability of repair. Also contact Tony Spetterie to establish if replacement engine is available. MTU advised that a new engine may take some months to acquire.
- Engine model number MD 204 LH is the damaged engine.
- Martin to report back to President once he has established details for committee to decide on next step. Members present to be e-mailed to consider options and report back.
- Interested parties to arrange removal of engine once procedure agreed upon.
- Discussion by members present on replacement of boat once repairs have been completed. It was agreed that the current boat needs to be replaced with a design which is more conducive to our operations and numbers to size ratio for the engineering. All members present agreed that once boat has been repaired we seek to sell existing boat and purchase a replacement craft. Previous committees have passed resolutions agreed to by members to replace boat. Committee of management does have the authority to proceed with resolution. Type of hull and engine requirements has been completed by previous boat committee. Records to be obtained for referral.
- Martin suggested engine monitoring system to be purchased for engines to diagnose problems in future.
- Hull issues to be considered at next meeting.

General Business

- Skippers and Diving officers to have a positive approach to diving events and are in a position to talk up advantages of diving with UEC when carrying out there duties.
- Porto Potty to be purchased for use during river cruises.
- E-mails from potential members from outside WA to be treated as potential members for UEC. New member officer to answer enquiries and to try and encourage Country membership for visitors and Ordinary membership for divers who maybe settling here in Perth.
- Club President to become more involved with the weekly e-mails to all members. Reporting back on club events from the President would provide positive forum of news.
- Stubby holders revamped for next meeting. Holders to be sold to members for fund raising and all attendees at Rottnest 08 holiday to be given one free.
- Kerry Ashton auditor for 2008 will be reviewing functioning of the club and will develop methods to assist with the smooth running of the club. Kerry to report back at next meeting.

Skippers and Dive Officers/

- To be arranged when boat is repaired...

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

The next committee meeting will be held on 6th February 2008 @ 7:00 pm @ SYC.

Minutes prepared by: Stephen Larter

Minutes signed by: Clive Cass
(President)



February 2008 Newsletter



President's Report

By Clive Cass

Dear Members

The main issue for the club is still the boat motor repair. The decision has been made to repair the motor and refit it into the boat. The contractor will provide a twelve month guarantee on the repair and a written agreement will be made for this purpose.

There has been a long delay; however it was necessary to ensure all alternatives were exhausted. And we have tried everything from a new motor, two new motors, pre-loved motors, up market u-beaut bigger motors. Based on cost effectiveness the overhaul of the existing motor offers us the best value for money, and we look forward to having two motors in and running soon.

The diving on Sat 9th was a treat. Read Jasmines report to see who caught crayfish. Check out the vis too. Book on for a dive next weekend

The club stubby holders are ready and look fantastic. Just ask the committee who have had a preview. They will be available at the club meeting on 20 Feb, so come along and enjoy the night. Meet us for dinner first if you can at 6.30pm.

Socially check out Ilonka's social bit and join us for some fun.

The boat is off to Rottneest from 23 Feb and back on 3 March. Hope you all enjoy your diving, wherever you go.

Regards to all

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Jasmines Dive Report

By Jasmine

Dive Report February 2008

Diving was going marvelously well with several full boat loads of divers going out during the Christmas break but then our beloved boat decided to take a break of it's own. Unfortunately a motor overheated and that slowed down our diving no end.

I must say a huge thank you to Chris Cunnold, Wendy Hutchison and Andrew Mingay for coming to the rescue and organizing some weekend shore dives. Places visited were Robbs Jetty, The Ammo Jetty, North Mole Wreck and Cottesloe and from the reports I had the dives were all very enjoyable.

The Ammo Jetty probably provided the most excitement when Octopus, Nudibranchs, Flatworms, Cuttlefish, one ENORMOUS Sea lion were spotted.

Last week we had confirmation that the insurance company is OK for us to take the boat out with one motor so a dive was organised toot sweet. Thank you to Martin Smith, Clive Cass and Anne McCarrol for stepping forward to crew the boat at short notice.

As we only could use one motor we decided to stay close and dive the Stragglers and what a wonderful idea that was. The conditions were wonderful, 22deg water, visibility for ever (well at least 30 meters) no surge and lots of creatures to be seen.

Hopefully by the time we all meet at the next club meeting we will have a definite date for the boat being 100% again and we will be back with a full calendar making use of the calmer autumn conditions. Until then there will be more shore dives and dives around The Stragglers.

I am presently sorting out details for a weekend at Busselton staying at the Abbey Beach Resort where we will have a great time diving the Swan, The Busselton Jetty (Day and night dives) and The Coral Gardens. The date is 11th – 13th April so mark it in your diary. We need 10 divers but the more the merrier.

Thank you all for your patience while the boat is on limited duties and I hope to see you all diving or having fun at a social event soon.

Jasmine Lyons
Dive Co-Ordinator

Some input from Mal

TOP 10 THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR FROM A DIVE CLUB

10. Hey! You're the first new member since 'the incident'.
9. Sorry! We can't take any new members until last weekend's group is found.
8. Welcome aboard Reef Diver 3. Our dive sites include Reef Diver 1 and Reef Diver 2.
7. We can discount your membership if you are a diesel mechanic.
6. We don't worry about currents. If we don't find you, Fremantle Sea Rescue will.
5. That creature photo featured on the website is the only one we've ever seen.
4. We don't have a whale shark dive, but how about a great white encounter?
3. Do you have a boat we can borrow?
2. Do you have a valid will and adequate insurance?
1. We have a boat, but it's missing one engine.

The New members Report

By Anne McCarrol

Welcome back to you all and a Happy New Year. Hope you had some great dives over the holidays with the weather being just superb.

Having gained so much from the club last year I wanted new members to experience all the UEC has to offer so have volunteered as New Members Officer this year.

For those of you I have not met yet let me introduce myself. My name is Anne McCarrol and I joined the UEC in February 2007. In June 2006 after 20 years of wanting to get out and enjoy the underwater world I gained my Open Water qualification. Within a very short time I knew I wanted to do more so I completed my Advanced Open Water. I found that not having a dive buddy limited me enjoying what I really found I loved. So in December 2006 I started looking around for a club that not only enjoyed scuba diving but got together socially as well. In January 2007 I found myself at the UEC monthly meeting and was so impressed with what UEC had to offer I joined up immediately.

Since then I have experienced some great dives off the boat. The most memorable one diving with grey nurse sharks, a huge turtle, wobbegong and a very large manta ray. How awesome for a new diver like me. I enjoyed the Easter weekend away in Bremer Bay diving with sea dragons with many other weekends away on offer I was unable to attend. I enjoyed a games night, curry night, Xmas in July just to name a few of the social events. I have been buddied up with some great divers who have taught me so much this last year. I froze my butt off night diving in the swan river during the winter months chasing people chasing prawns. And boy was it cold but how surprised I was to find out there was a little more than blowies, prawns and crabs crawling along the bottom of the river. They enjoyed the 13 degree temperatures slightly more than we did but we soon warmed up when the billy was boiled and we delved into an array of snacks.

To top my dive year off I was presented with the UEC's "Most Improved Diver of 2007" award. I experienced 63 dives in 2007 and enjoyed every one of them. I would not have been able to do that if I had not been a member of this great club. So thank you to all those buddies who have taught me so much this last year.

So who wouldn't like to be a member of the UEC with so many things on offer?

Report

I received 10 enquiries this month which was great to see. These were a mixture of rusty divers, people new to the country and people wanting to join the club and wanting to know what we have to offer.

Nominations

No New Nominations this month

New Memberships

Please join me in welcoming Greg Bastian to the club

New Members Information Pack

Unfortunately I was unable to spend any time this month on the New Members Information Pack. As discussed last month I am planning on putting a pack together to assist New Members when they first join the club. If there was anything you really would have liked to know or think new members would benefit from please email me at newmembers@uecwa.com.au.

New Members Cruise

As I mentioned last month I'm planning on having a New Members cruise on a regular occasion. If you're new to the club come join us for a relaxing cruise along the river and soak up some exciting tales from our current members while enjoying a great BBQ on the boat. Keep your eyes on the calendar for the first of our 2008 cruises.

Safe and exciting diving

Anne McCarrol

Social stuff

By Ilonka Jarvis

THE SKYSHOW!

Another Skyshow has come and gone and I'm pleased to report, the weather gods were in a good mood this year. Yes, the breezes blew and turned the paper plates into frisbees and the crisps into fish food but hey, that's all part of the fun. At least they blew from the right direction this year and kept things very pleasant.

(Note to self - paper weights next year, OK?)

Our skipper, Kerry, has the Skyshow thing down to a fine art now. He found the perfect spot for us away from the mad scramble near the Narrows. It gave us a great view over the lowest buildings in South Perth and allowed for a smooth getaway after the show. I thought I'd be brave and try for some hot dishes this year as well.

My trusty baking dish worked a treat, but I suppose I never will discover the origin of that pool of melted plastic on the stove. You were right Jazz, something was burning. Thank goodness it wasn't dinner!

(Note to self - you can never have too much garlic bread, ditto the marinated lamb riblets.)

Of course there was the usual exodus overboard between courses. The water did look inviting and just when I thought I might join them, there was an even quicker scramble back on board! Someone had spotted the Water Police. Apparently swimming at the Skyshow is a no-no (safety issues?). Ah, well, she who hesitates.....

Forgive the cliché, but the fireworks really were the best ever.

The soundtrack will always be a matter of personal taste, but the fireworks themselves were truly amazing. Of special note was the piece set to the Italian tenor (I wasn't the only one who got goose bumps) and the grand finale was just that. I did watch the replay on TV the next day, but it's just not the same - you really have to be there!

Our prime location meant we were on our way as soon as we pleased after the show and were tootling along nicely until we were run down by the AUTHORITIES! OOO-er. A fearsome fisheries officer gave us a stern talking to about our bum rear light (oh, you know what I mean) so we paid the appropriate fine in lamingtons (were they OK, Dallis?) and continued tootling.

Perfect weather - it was one of those nights.

(Note to the river gods - if you see a lonely trifle in a clear blue plastic dish floating down the river, in the interests of your good health don't eat it, but can I have my dish back?)

I can't sign off without a special word of thanks to Jasmine and Martin for helping me ready the boat in the morning. They gave it a much needed hosing down before decking it out with flags and bunting and it certainly looked all set to party when they had finished. Now here's a puzzle - how can a boat sitting in a pen, on the water, get so darn DUSTY!? Weird.

Don't miss the fun next year!

SYC/UEC Liaison Officer Report

By Carmine

Hello everyone. This is my first report as the past couple of months have been spent monitoring how we have been going in the eyes of the SYC after the rather urgent *kiss and make up* that was made necessary at the end of last year. I am delighted to report that the crises seems to have passed and though we are still on probation, the SYC Managing Secretary Geoff Reynolds has stated to me that he is so far pleased with the way the UEC are conducting themselves and doesn't foresee any problems if we continue in the same vane.

This new and more convivial relationship has been bought about by the UEC committee and members at large making an effort to assist in such events as clean up days, attending SYC social functions and general mindfulness that we are their guests and appreciate being afforded a home for the UEC with great facilities and services that allow our club to function well.

The way that our affiliation with the SYC works is simply that in return for all our members becoming SYC social members and one member representing the UEC being a full member (usually the president) we are able to use all their facilities including parking, bar and restaurant, the rooms for our general meetings and committee meetings and house our boat in an SYC pen at a very reasonable annual fee. We are expected to use the facilities as if we were normal SYC members such that we spend some money at the club and participate in club events such that the club benefits in some material way by our membership. This is basically what is expected by the UEC of its own membership. A club cannot survive if its members think of it as only a place to receive low priced services and facilities. The SYC are slightly different to the UEC in that they expect and now demand that its members contribute in some material way other than just the low annual membership fee. The SYC have for some time now introduced a points system whereupon every member must tally up at least 5 points in one year or if they don't, be asked by the committee as to why they want to be a member. They have recently introduced a point's purchase system where members who have not managed to accumulate the five points can purchase a maximum of two points at a cost of \$100 for the first and \$200 for the second. The other 3 points must be accumulated by services to the club. We at the UEC do not have such onerous prerequisites however our very survival is dependent on our members contributing to the greater good.

Carmine

Training

By Carmine

Last Month Andrew Mingay resigned his position on the committee and in doing so has left vacant two portfolios; the training and the safety portfolios. Rex Burke has very kindly taken on the position of safety officer and I have agreed to take on the training officer's role.

At the outset I will be focusing my efforts into completing the training of the skippers and DO's who have started the course with the help of Dennis Stubberfield. I would also like to run some refresher courses for existing DO's and skippers to try to keep up the standards.

A little further down the track I will be organizing First Aid courses for those of you who want them and especially for the new skippers and DO's who require this qualification as a prerequisite to their courses.

If there are members who require other types of qualifications such as advanced diving certificates and Dan O2 oxy then they will also be made available, depending on the demand.

At the next general meeting I would like to meet with any interested parties to any of the courses and this will aid me in scheduling a training programme which I hope to start in earnest after the Rottenest holiday. If you cannot make the meeting please feel free to contact me on 93561311 or 0408833115.

Carmine

By the way

Welcome to new members Hannes Mucha and Christine Schneder.

Some other input from Carmine

The Jokers Forum

Life's Little Lessons

Lesson One

An eagle was sitting on a tree resting, doing nothing.

A small rabbit saw the eagle and asked him, "Can I also sit like you and do nothing?"

The eagle answered: "Sure, why not."

So, the rabbit sat on the ground below the eagle and rested.

All of a sudden, a fox appeared, jumped on the rabbit and ate it.

Life Lesson:

To be sitting and doing nothing, you must be sitting very, very high up.

Lesson Two

A turkey was chatting with a bull; "I would love to be able to get to the top of that tree" sighed the turkey, "but I haven't got the energy."

"Well, why don't you nibble on some of my droppings?" replied the bull. "They're packed with nutrients."

The turkey pecked at a lump of dung, and found it actually gave him enough strength to reach the lowest branch of the tree.

The next day, after eating some more dung, he reached the second branch. Finally after a fourth night, the turkey was proudly perched at the top of the tree. He was promptly spotted by a farmer, who shot him out of the tree.

Life Lesson:

Bull shit might get you to the top, but it won't keep you there.

Lesson Three

A little bird was flying south for the winter. It was so cold.

The bird froze and fell to the ground into a large field.

While he was lying there, a cow came by and dropped some dung on him.

As the frozen bird lay there in the pile of cow dung, he began to realize how warm he was. The dung was actually thawing him out! He lay there all warm and happy, and soon began to sing for joy.

A passing cat heard the bird singing and came to investigate. Following the sound, the cat discovered the bird under the pile of cow dung, and promptly dug him out and ate him.

Life Lesson:

(1) Not everyone who shits on you is your enemy.

(2) Not everyone who gets you out of shit is your friend.

(3) And when you're in deep shit, it's best to keep your mouth shut!

Editors rant.

Well folks its February and the annual exodus to Rotto is on again thanks to the efforts of Clive and his group of helpers as I don't know all their names I won't try to list them but you know who you are and thank you for your efforts.

The Rottneest trip is a major event on our calendar and represents a fantastic opportunity for socializing drinking and oh yes diving. We have some great banquets from our skilled team of chefs utilizing available materials including crayfish we hope. We visit dive sites not normally accessed by the club for various reasons and include some Greenfield sites to see if we can add something fantastic to our database. Well it's only a few more sleeps and I will see you there I hope.

Something that I recently was forced to confront was my level of fitness, I had headed down south to Denmark where the daytime temperatures hovered between 20 and 25 while Perth was seeing 35 to 40 I enrolled in a 'Learning to surf' course with Mike Neunuebel of 'South coast surfing'.

My previous experience in learning to surf was at the same beach some 30 years ago (I got quite a shock when I wrote that down it doesn't seem that long ago) my surfer friends chucked me a board and said it's easy just go out there and surf!!! I got out there, got on a wave, tried to stand up fell off got hit in the head with the board thought I was going to die and haven't tried it again till now.

Well here I was again but this time with a competent teacher and equipment designed for us Gumby's, (I think the correct term is Grommets but I am outside the age range) the boards were soft with rubber fins. We sat on the beach for the lectures under a lean-to of shade cloth, burying Bull ants with handfuls of sand if they ventured to close, I was impressed with the amount of useful info about tides waves weather rips surfing history and stuff. Practicing what we had learned went very well; I managed to get up on my knees well before the end of the session.

The next day there were bits of me hurting that I was surprised about, we extended our training to getting up on the board in deep water (the two young girls I was with were already standing by this time). After taking the 'easy' option of using the rip to get us out to the back of the surf I realized I was completely exhausted and didn't have the strength left to pull myself up onto the board let alone stand up. I was puzzled by this until realizing that my scuba diving and bike riding only really keeps my legs strong and surfing centers round using your arms constantly.

As I moved into the shallows Mike came over and offered me some assistance, he was determined to get me up on the board so he was supporting the board while I practiced getting my knees under me and up into a crouching position, it was at this point I discovered that I couldn't fit my knees and my stomach through the gap between my arms holding onto the rails. To get into the first crouching position the best I could achieve was one knee and my stomach.

By this stage my exhaustion was getting the better of me so I floated into the shore and watched. I sat through the lectures the next day but didn't return to the water. Bits of me were still hurting days later

Diving like surfing can be quite a physical activity in an unforgiving environment lack of fitness and excess weight can work against us to predispose us to injury I speak about this to highlight our need for some degree of appropriate physical fitness. How many of us divers can still complete some of tasks that were originally set for us when we first started training for diving I know I can't even come close to the demands that were made of me during my 'Rescue diver' and 'Assistant instructor' course watch this space let's see if I do something positive about my discoveries.

ED

A couple of weeks ago I had the opportunity, as many of you have no doubt have, to dive Bussleton Jetty.

I dived with my sister Hilary and her fiance Sam.

Also on the dive was a genuine Bussel. Tamara.

That was quite something in its self I guess. I digress.

We went in off the catamaran from the Dive Shed around 2.30.

A ten or so minute trip from the marina to the north end of the jetty. A bit windy but not bad and a slight chop in the water.

In the water at about 2.45

It was a fifty minute dive and every minute was outstanding.

The variety of fish, large schools of yellowtails, old wives, dusky morwongs, box fish, leather jackets and some species I have never seen before. One in particular I did not get a shot of.

The light was beautiful at that time of day and the "vis" was around 10 to 15m.

I am not a great underwater photographer and the battery died in my camera after about 35 minutes. But just to get the snaps I did was a great memory of that dive. Only around 8 metres deep.

Certainly worth the drive down to Bussleton just for the day.

Photo's and script by Tom Bassett.



Environment Report

By Dallis

Editors note At the moment Dallis's full report has been posted on the [website](#) to try and keep the Mb size of this newsletter down I recommend you read it as it contains a lot of useful information pertaining to our activities. Included in this newsletter is a cut down version. I am also hoping to present a separate full version newsletter but it will be about 18Mb once I include Dallis's and Jasmine's reports in full.
Thanks.

The following information has been taken from the Department of Fisheries Website, and the Rottnest Island Authority. For further information please visit: www.fish.wa.gov.au

For the lucky people heading to Rottnest for the annual holiday I thought I would take this opportunity to refresh your memories on the rules for taking rock lobster! I have only included information relevant for around Rottnest Island and Perth waters. I haven't included information on rock lobster pots etc as we don't really use them on our boat. Further information can be found on the following website.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/index.php>

Please pay special attention to the night fishing bans in place, the current 76mm minimum size, and also the tail clipping and measuring of rock lobsters within five minutes of taking them out of the water.

I have also included some information on the new Rottnest Island sanctuary zones that have been put in place. The five conservation areas are at Parker Point, Thomson Bay, Armstrong Bay, Green Island and West End. Further information including commonly asked questions can be found on the following website:

<http://www.rottnestisland.com/en/Marine+Management+Strategy/INNER+MMS.htm>

If anyone comes across some interesting articles, photos or newspaper clippings which relate to diving, animals or the environment, then please send them along to me and I will include them in this report each month.

So happy reading.

Environmental officer

Dallis

Pay directly online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Name: Underwater Explorers Club of WA.
BSB: 066136
Account: 00901972

There is limited space to write what the payment is for. Please start with your name and then reason for payment.

In all cases you must email the Treasurer with the following payment information:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for (and from)
- Reason for payment, e.g. Dive Dec 4, T-shirt, etc.

Club Aims and Objectives

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self-contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedures and to acquaint both Club members and the public with the facts of safety and using safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, provide fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

Contact your Committee

President	Clive Cass	president@uecwa.com.au
Vice President	Martin Smith	vicepresident@uecwa.com.au
Secretary	Steve Larter	secretary@uecwa.com.au
Treasurer	Renee Barker	treasurer@uecwa.com.au
Dive coordinator	Jasmine Smith	divebookings@uecwa.com.au
Boat Officer	Steve Bright	boat@uecwa.com.au
Training Officer	Carmine Travaglione	training@uecwa.com.au
Social	Ilonka Jarvis	socialbookings@uecwa.com.au
Fundraising		fundraising@uecwa.com.au
Environment	Dallis Strick	environment@uecwa.com.au
Communications	Chris Wilkinson	communications@uecwa.com.au
Safety Officer	Rex Burr	safety@uecwa.com.au
New Members	Anne McCarrol	newmembers@uecwa.com.au
SYC Liaison	Carmine Travaglione	syc@uecwa.com.au
Website	Martin Arrowsmith	

Still in the dark on night dives?

UEC members have access to the full range of LED Underwater Kinetics torches at discount prices.

Mini Q40 eLED plus This is the latest 2 watt LED 'focused globe' model . They are still not available in Australia but we have access to them. The Mini Q40 is the perfect back-up torch to strap to your mask or cray loop and the efficiency of the LED globe means that your battery life is 5 to 6 hours. It takes 4 AA batteries. It comes in several colours and has a lanyard but the mask strap is now an extra. **\$75**



SL4 eLED This torch takes 4 C size batteries with a burn time of more than 10 hours. It's bright enough to be your main torch for the 'occasional' night divers and is small enough to fit in a BC pocket as a good back up torch. The super tough LED globes means it is virtually impossible to break by being dropped. It comes with a lanyard and is also available in several colours. **\$120** (2 left at \$100)



C4 eLED This pistol grip style torch takes 4 C size batteries and is a perfect main torch for night diving. It has a locking switch to swap between the high and low beam settings. It also comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Silver and Black. Alkaline batteries included but it works well with NiMH rechargeables. **\$140**



C8 eLED plus This new pistol grip C8 is a great main torch. The completely new 10 watt LED 'water cooled' globe is incredibly efficient and has low and high power settings. It has a battery life of more than 10 hrs from 8 C size alkaline's (which are supplied) and can be used with NiMH rechargeable's. It comes with a lanyard and is available in Yellow, Black and Silver. **\$260** (1 left at \$230)



Keep your torch safe at houses with a GearKeeper retractor. **\$35**



If you would like to order a torch or want to ask some questions e-mail Chris Cunnold at cunnold@inet.net.au
Most of the torches are available for immediate delivery, depending on what colour you choose.

Have you seen the light?

Recycle your corks!

Never, ever throw a cork into landfill! Zita Dobson collects them and sends them to Guides Australia who recycle them and raise money.

Save them up and bring them to a meeting:
Zita or Bob are usually there.



Underwater Explorers Club

Minutes of General Meeting
Swan Yacht Club Wednesday 2007

Apologies	Pat Swallow Chris Golding Chris Cunnold	Bruce Fielding Dalis Strict Wendy Hutchinson	Geoff Geard Racheal Stone Pat Troy	Martin Arrowsmith Carmine Travaglione
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The meeting was opened at 7.45pm

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 1.0 The minutes of the previous meeting held in December. No minutes taken as it was Xmas Party
Accepted by All Present.
Seconded by

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- 2.0 None

Correspondence Inwards

- 3.0
1. Statement from ING Direct.
 2. Invoice from Bekkers for Web Site maintenance.
 3. Entertainment Guide Survey and order for 2008.
 4. Letter addressed to Pat Swallow.

Correspondence Outwards

- 4.0 • None.

Nominations

- 5.0 The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fees in advance:
- Gregory John Bastian
 - Tanya Berthoud
 - Samuel Van Eldik
 - Hilary Bassett
 - Gordon McKellar
 - Andrew Patman

New Memberships

- 6.0 There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:
- None

Accepted by
Seconded by

Reports

7.1 President – Clive Cass

- Refer to Presidents Report in the Newsletter.
- President will in future be sending out the weekly E-mail communications. Items of interest to be sent to Clive each week for possible publication on weekly e-mail.
- President is working with Anne on the changes required for our Constitution to bring it into line with regularity requirements.

7.2 Secretary – Steve Larter.

- No report.

7.3 Treasurer – Renee Barker

- Presented the December financial report. See attached report.
- SYC parking stickers are available from Renee for those who have paid their SYC membership.

Accepted by Judy Cowen
Seconded by Bob Dobson

7.4 Fund Raising – Carl Wheeler.

- No report as Carl has been on holidays.
- Entertainment Guide Survey given to Carl for completion.

- 7.5 **Dive Coordinator** – Jasmine Lyons
- 3 Full boat loads prior to Engine break down.
 - Chris Cunnold is arranging for a night dive on Robbs Jetty for 19/01/2008
 - Andrew Mingay is arranging for Sunday morning beach dive and a Night dive on North Mole. Members to contact Andrew for details.
 - Jazz is arranging for a trip to Busselton at the end of March.
 - Anticipate boat repairs to engine will take 2 -3 weeks.
- 7.6 **Environment** – Dallis Strict.
- No report.
- 7.7 **New Members** – Anne McCarol.
- Enquiries received from overseas visitors to WA. Asking for tips about diving in WA and accommodation.
 - Overseas visitors and country membership details to be discussed at next committee meeting.
 - New member's packs are being developed. Any members who has ideas to contact Anne.
 - New members river cruise to be arranged when boat is back in the water.
 - Try dive event to be arranged.
- 7.8 **Newsletter – Web.** – Chris Wilkinson.
- January newsletter on the web.
 - Chris asked for articles to be submitted from members especially stories about club events.
 - Martin Arrowsmith is currently maintaining the web.
- 7.9
- 7.10 **Safety and Training** – Andrew Mingay
- Try dive being arranged with Dolphin Scuba sometime in February.
 - Lake Stockton weekend to be in May.
 - Possible Albany trip to be arranged for March.
 - Advanced Diver Training course to be advertised for club members to attend. Course to be run by Jules Holiday at date to be advised.
 - Dive Sheets on boat not being completed in full. D/Os to be reminded to complete all documentation in full.
 -
- 7.11 **Social** – Ilonka Jarvis
- Sky show 26/01/2008. Still have spare places on boat. \$30.00 includes food and trip. BYO Drinks. Boat will leave at 4.00pm from SYC. Kerry is skipper.
 - Trivia night at SYC 3rd Thursday of Month. \$5.00 per head. Table of 8 members. Ilonka to report back at next meeting.
 - Questionnaire sent out for suggestions by members for more social functions. Feedback from members required.
- 7.12 **Boat** – Steve Bright
- Boat engine overheated during trip on 30/12/2008.
 - Engine removed on 15/01/2008 at Northport boat lifters. Engine removed to be sent to Ron Bell in Mandurah for repairs or possible replacement. Denis and Martin removed the engine.
 - Port motor serviced no signs of any damage or wear caused by blockages.
 - Busty bee required to clean up engine compartment and tidy up the Hull.
 - Judy and Jon have volunteered to take engine down to Mandurah on Saturday 19/01/2008.
 - Boat available for minor trips and river cruises only. 2500 rpm maximum only on single engine.
 - Tony Spaterie to inspect engine before Mandurah if possible.
- 7.13 **Club Awards**
- General Business**
- 8.1 Rottnest holiday 2008 – Clive Cass has one space available for the week. \$510.00.
- 8.2 Skipper training nearly completed for 3 or 4 members to complete this season.
- 8.3 Members are reminded that any guest who is invited out for a trip on UEC cannot be charged for that trip. Member must pay trip charge for any guest. DPI rulings must be abided by.
- 8.4 Rottnest 2009 holiday. Volunteers required obtaining 2009 booking on 31/01/2008. Zita and Bob are unavailable for this years booking overnight quest. Volunteers to contact Clive for details. 1 person can only book 2 chalets. We require 4 chalets for 2009.
- 8.5 UEC members can obtain discounts from Dive Charter operators when booking boat dive trips.
- 8.6 Stubby holders design completed can be purchased for \$5.00 each.
- There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

The next general meeting will be held on 7:30 pm



Underwater Explorers Club
 Minutes of Committee Management
 Meeting

Present:

Chairperson:	Clive Cass			
Committee:	Steve Larter	Jasmine Lyons	Steve Bright	Martin Smith
	Carmen Travaglione	Ilonka Jarvis	Chris Wilkinson	Dallis Strict
	Anne McCarrol			
Members:	Pat Troy, Rex Burke	Chris Cunnold	Denis Stubberfield	Kerry Ashton
Apologies		Andrew Mingay	Renee Barker	

The meeting was opened at 7. 45pm

Action**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the committee management meeting dated 5th December 2007 were accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Steve Bright
 Seconded by Anne McCarrol

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- No matters arising.

Correspondence Inwards

- Spums magazine.
- Log Book Scuba 2 December/January
- Commonwealth Bank Statement.
- Cheque from Ultimo for \$30.00. Wine Sales.
- Cheque from M Cox Rottnest Booking.
- Dept of Planning Invoice for Mooring \$362.00.
- Dept of Planning Boating Communities Newsletter.
- S.Y.C statement for fuel.
- Demand for Payment Air Liquid.
- Entertainment Guide Questionnaire.
- E-mail from Andrew Tingay.
- Fremantle Sea Rescue newsletter received.

Correspondence Outwards

- New Members letter welcoming them to UEC.
- Andrew Black, Roumen Bossilkov, Tara Foreman.

Nominations

The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fee in advance:

- No Nominations received.
- Check records on boat.

New Memberships

There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:

- No New Membership Applications. •

Proposed by
 Seconded by

Reports**President – Clive Cass**

- Committee Members to remain positive for diving and support activities.
- Members reports for newsletter to be sent to Chris urgently.

Secretary – Steve Larter

There was no minutes of General meeting held in December as it was the Christmas Party.

Treasurer – Renee Barker

- No report.
- Clive has been in contact with Air Liquid re outstanding invoice for O2 supplies. UEC has 2 cylinders on the boat. 1 cylinder which UEC is charged for is for Denis and is kept on his boat. Denis has advised he will be paying for the rental of this cylinder.

Accepted by
Seconded by

Fundraising – Carl Wheeler.

- No Report.
- Clive to contact Carl to discuss fund raising.

Dive Coordinator – Jasmine Lyons

- Dives well attended on boat over December.
- Andrew Mingay will be arranging some shore dives while boat is being repaired.
- Club events will still be organised while boat is being repaired.
- Club boat can still be used with single engine for short trip only.
- Weekly e-mail to members. Information to be sent out to be given to Jasmine.
- Dive charter operators can be used while boat is being repaired.

Environment – Dallas Strick

- Changes to Rottnest rules to be communicated to members in Newsletter.
- Sanctuary Zones at Rottnest have been changed.
- Articles of interest on the Environment to be sent to Dallis for possible inclusion in newsletter.

New Members – Anne McCarrol.

- New member pack Anne to report back at next meeting.
- Nominations from December have been contacted to see if they wish to join the club. Waiting for there response.

Newsletter / Web – Chris Wilkinson.

- Martin Arrowsmith is looking after the web site.
- Articles for the newsletter to be sent to Chris for inclusion in newsletter.
- Committee members should be submitting a report each month.

SYC Liaison. Carmine Travaglione.

- Carmine reports that Geoff Reynolds has not received any negative reports concerning UEC in the last 2 months.
- Carmine encourages everyone to attend the points events listed in the SYC newsletter and when booking ensure UEC is nominated as the member to ensure we receive the points.
- Carmine to write monthly report for the SYC newsletter.

Safety and Training – Andrew Mingay

- No report.
- We have 4 trainee skippers currently waiting to complete training. Martin Arrowsmith, Steve Bright, Clive Mitchell, Wendy Hutchinson. Denis and Carmine agreed that completion of there training would be a priority.
- The 5 point broad training outline currently in use is effective and there is no requirement to change this outline.
- Denis and Carmine have agreed to continue there work and the 4 trainee skippers should be qualified by the end of the Rottnest holiday.
- Denis advised that each trainee skipper needed to complete a night trip to Rottnest Island and spend 3 or 4 training trips to practise anchoring at the UEC dive sites.
- TAFE training courses to be considered as beneficial to qualification are. Coastal Navigation and Boat Knowledge.
- RST qualification is mandatory prior to commencing skipper training.
- Future trainee skippers to be provided with formalized 5 point broad training outline.
- Members wishing to become trainee skippers will be advised accordingly.

Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- Australia Day only 12 members booked on. Cost \$30.00. Member's guests can be booked on after next general meeting to fill all places.
- Members are given precedence over none members.
- Mussel on the mooring night to be arranged in April.
- Ilonka to contact members to establish a social sub committee to assist her with club events.
- Night Dive picnics to follow club night dive when daylight saving finishes.
- Suggestion for Movie nights and BBQs at SYC to be checked out for future events.
- Ilonka to arrange UEC table for the Trivia nights at SYC.

Boat – Steve Bright

- Starboard engine overheated during trip on 30/12/2007. Dive aborted returned to Penn MTU have carried out a survey report attached to minutes.
- Club maintenance schedules to be checked as preventative maintenance needs to be carried out on Port Motor to ensure impellor is working correctly and filters are clean.
- Discussion took place to either replace damaged engine or repair engine.
- Martin to contact Bell engineering in Mandurah to seek opinion on viability of repair. Also contact Tony Spetterie to establish if replacement engine is available. MTU advised that a new engine may take some months to acquire.
- Engine model number MD 204 LH is the damaged engine.
- Martin to report back to President once he has established details for committee to decide on next step. Members present to be e-mailed to consider options and report back.
- Interested parties to arrange removal of engine once procedure agreed upon.
- Discussion by members present on replacement of boat once repairs have been completed. It was agreed that the current boat needs to be replaced with a design which is more conducive to our operations and numbers to size ratio for the engineering. All members present agreed that once boat has been repaired we seek to sell existing boat and purchase a replacement craft. Previous committees have passed resolutions agreed to by members to replace boat. Committee of management does have the authority to proceed with resolution. Type of hull and engine requirements has been completed by previous boat committee. Records to be obtained for referral.
- Martin suggested engine monitoring system to be purchased for engines to diagnose problems in future.
- Hull issues to be considered at next meeting.

General Business

- Skippers and Diving officers to have a positive approach to diving events and are in a position to talk up advantages of diving with UEC when carrying out there duties.
- Porto Potty to be purchased for use during river cruises.
- E-mails from potential members from outside WA to be treated as potential members for UEC. New member officer to answer enquiries and to try and encourage Country membership for visitors and Ordinary membership for divers who maybe settling here in Perth.
- Club President to become more involved with the weekly e-mails to all members. Reporting back on club events from the President would provide positive forum of news.
- Stubby holders revamped for next meeting. Holders to be sold to members for fund raising and all attendees at Rottnest 08 holiday to be given one free.
- Kerry Ashton auditor for 2008 will be reviewing functioning of the club and will develop methods to assist with the smooth running of the club. Kerry to report back at next meeting.

Skippers and Dive Officers/

- To be arranged when boat is repaired...

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

The next committee meeting will be held on 6th February 2008 @ 7:00 pm @ SYC.

Minutes prepared by: Stephen Larter

Minutes signed by: Clive Cass
(President)



March 2008 Newsletter



President's Report

By Clive Cass

Hi all

The past month has been a mix of excitement and uncertainty for the club and us all as members of the UEC.

The Rottnest holiday was terrific, both for the fun, enjoyment and camaraderie, as well as a solid regular fundraiser for the new boat. Plans are in place for next year, so please see the separate report, Rottnest Holiday 2009, to find out more.

We have also booked for our winter holiday to Rottnest for August 2008. This is our third year and the non-diving holiday has been most popular. See details further inside the newsletter.

The boat motors have been ordered and are due in Perth soon. The Boat Report (in this newsletter) was up-to-date when preparing the newsletter. It could well have changed by now. For the latest information, please contact the Boat Officer, Carmine or myself.

Please offer your support to assist in fitting the engines, cleaning the boat, painting or anything else you might be good at. By tradition everyone has pitched in and makes the shared workload a lot easier.

Diving has been continuing, so keep booking on and keep an eye out for the calm April waters when the diving can be at its best.

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Presidents Report continued

My thanks to all who have put in the effort so far to ensure the boat has continued running and to get the replacement motors ready for installation.

Fundraising for the new boat is most important for the club to grow. Any ideas to assist Anne with fundraising will be appreciated by the club.

Look forward to catching up diving or on Wed 19th at the club meeting.

Clive Cass

President

0421 639 290

president@uecwa.com.au

Dive Co-ordinators Report March 2008

These past few weeks I have been filling in for Jasmine while she and Martin are enjoying a well deserved holiday in NZ. I hear they are having a great time touring the countryside in their campervan. Before long she'll be back co-coordinating all you're diving. In the mean time I will do my best to keep it flowing as good as Jasmine has this last few months.

Rottnest

I believe a fantastic time was had by all at Rottnest. The Grey Nurse Sharks have already started to move in ready for the salmon season and some hanky panky Lots of great diving and just as good socializing too. If you missed out on Rotto this year be sure to get on the list early for next year so you can experience what many members come back raving about.

Busselton

Not many places left for the weekend at Busselton 11th to 13th April. Staying at the Abbey Beach Resort where you will have a great time diving the Swan, The Busselton Jetty (Day and night dives) and The Coral Gardens. So if you haven't booked your place yet email me @ divebookings@uecwa.com.au and I shall reserve your spot.

Boat Diving

Looking at the boat numbers this month it's been a bumper time on the boat. So continue to book your places early as the boat bookings fill up fast.

We may not have been able to get to Rotto lately on our weekend diving but I hear there have been some great dives happening at Stragglers especially some Jumbo Crayfish. So don't think you have to wait till we are back at Rotto to book some exceptional diving off the boat.

A Big Thank you

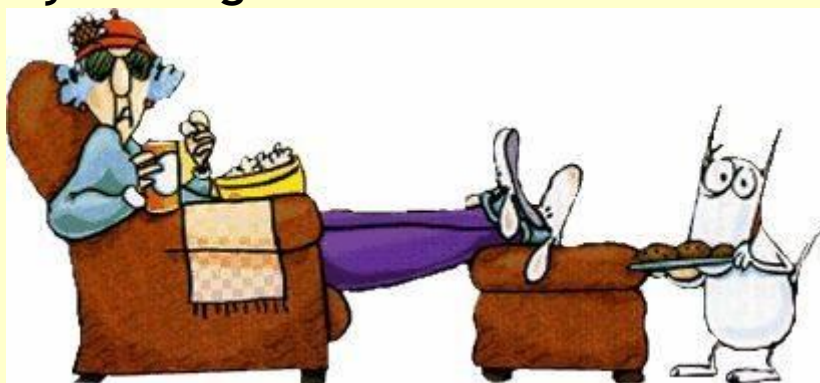
Last of all thank you to all the Skippers and Dive Officers that volunteer their time, if it wasn't for them we would not be able to enjoy the diving and socializing on the boat that we do.

We are always looking for new volunteers to lighten the load so if you would like to help out and become a trainee skipper or dive officer talk to Carmine at the next club meeting Wednesday 19 March at the Swan Yacht Club. He will be more than happy to explain what is involved in becoming a UEC Skipper or Dive Officer, If your thinking you can't wait that long you can contact Carmine personally on 9356 1311 or 0408 833 115. Or email training@uecwa.com.au

See you all diving soon.

Anne McCarrol
Temporary Dive Co-coordinator

My Living Will



By Carmine

Last night, my friend and I were sitting in the living room and I said to her, "I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug."

So she got up, unplugged the TV and threw out my wine.

She's such a bitch...

New Members Report March 2008

What a great start to the Year. 4-5 enquiries this month which initiated 2 new members joining Belinda Zaccaria and Tanya Berthoud. Welcome to UEC and we look forward to you joining in on our diving and the many social activities Ilonka has planned for the next few months.

Nominations

Tanya Berthoud
Alan Park
Andrew Alison
Kim McDougall

New Memberships

Greg Bastian
Barbara Zaccaria

New Members Information Pack

This is almost completed so keep an eye out for it in the near future. If you're quick you still have time to offer any advice you may have to assist a new member becoming familiar with the club sooner. Please email me ASAP using newmembers@uecwa.com.au.

New Members Cruise

Our first new members cruise will be a sausage sizzle and harbor cruise Friday 9th May. Come along and join us for an exciting cruise in the harbor and down to our mooring for the sausage sizzle. New members this is a great opportunity to meet some of our older (and usually wiser) members and get to know what the club is all about.

Safe and exciting diving.

Anne McCarrol
New Members Officer

By Anne McCarrol

Fundraising Report March 2008

Did I really put my hand up for this? Yes I did. And I did it with great enthusiasm. I am excited. But the real question is can I excite YOU.

What excites me is the challenge of raising enough funds to upgrade our current boat. A big ask but I think as a TEAM we can do it. Ever since I joined the club last year I have continued to hear talk about this elusive new boat. Our current boat has served our needs for some years now but with the average age of our members (mmmmmmmm careful now) in the prime of their lives (how good was that) a little comfort wouldn't go astray. A new boat would also allow us to explore further a field both north and south of the coast for day trips and weekends away.

In the past fundraising has been to ensure we have the funds to maintain the boat for a rainy day. And just as well as there have been a couple of downpours in the last few years. I think NOW is the time to step our fundraising efforts up a notch or three.

Now I know I AM up to the challenge but how about YOU?

To kick off this fundraising effort I am looking for a group of helpers who have the same enthusiasm I do. Or even just a fraction☺. Don't think if you volunteer you will be left responsible for a project. The idea is that you help out when you can or in what you have a flair for. The more helpers we have the more we can share the load and the sooner we reach our goal of a new boat.

So hold on to your seats and take a whiff of those sniffing salts.

My goal is
\$200,000
Over the next 12-18 months

You may think No Way, Dreaming, Not in my life time. But yes I believe WE CAN. As a TEAM, a UNITED TEAM we can reach our target.

It won't just be about nagging your family and friends to buy raffle tickets but organizing some great, no, outstanding functions that you, your family, friends and work colleagues will be itching to attend.

2008 Entertainment Book

So let's start off small and set ourselves a challenge with the 2008 Entertainment Books. Retail cost of book is \$65.00 and we raise \$13.00 for each book we sell. Last year we sold 40 books (\$12.00) and raised \$480.00. I reckon with 120 members we should be able to double that and sell 80 books (\$1,040.00). That's just over 1 book for every 2 members.

Now if you purchased one of these in the past you know what great offers are contained in the book. Restaurants, activities and accommodation are all on offer. Now me, I not only think that they are a great offer but I find it an easy way of trying out new restaurants. And as for the activities I shouted my friends to cheap movies, went indoor rock climbing and am booked in for a 2 hour surfing lesson just to name a few.

So think collectively. Make the most out of your books and swap vouchers with your friends or family and between you will be saving hundreds of dollars in discounts.

If you haven't already put your order in don't think about it too long. Although the books are not released till early May in past years the books have sold out quickly so get your orders to me as soon as possible so I can reserve your entertainment book. I have mine reserved how about you.

Fundraising Ideas

So your thinking \$200,000 - \$1,040 = \$198,960. Still lots to go. Yes, but little by little we will be celebrating cracking that \$200,000 and purchasing our new boat before you know it.

Check out my ideas below and give me some feedback on what you think. If it interests you let me know. If it doesn't also let me know. You may even have some ideas of your own or been involved in Fundraising in another club or school. Anything you can think of let me know at fundraising@uecwa.com.au.

Functions

Neptune's Quiz Night
Presidents Golf Challenge
Big Catch Fishing Day
Almost Famous Chefs Progressive Dinner
Olympic Games Day
Murder Mystery Night
Movie Star Cocktail Party
Who Wants to Be a Millionaire - Hosted by our stupendous President

Items for Sale

UEC Collector's Edition Wine
Environmentally friendly shopping bags
UEC Polo Shirts
Delicious Cadbury Chocolates (How many chocoholics amongst us?)
Entertainment Books
Stubby Holders
UEC tank caps

As I said earlier I want you, your family, friends and work colleagues to look forward to the fundraising functions and have a great time. Something for you while at the same time heading towards the target of our new boat. So let's make a start and get those orders in for your 2008 entertainment book.

Let's get excited.

Anne McCarrol
Fundraising Officer

Safety Report

Hi Everyone, I'm back. Back in the safety seat after a couple of years break from committee duties. As most of you know to fulfill the duties of the safety officer I need a lot of assistance and input from all members of the club. This will also make it a lot easier for me to find information to write these bloody reports. I ask you all to read these safety reports cause if you think I'm going to stand up at the general meetings and tell you all what's going on, it's just not going to happen!

The duties of the Safety Officer are:

- (1) Investigation and upgrading of the Clubs safety standards.
- (2) Advising the committee of Management on diver safety matters.
- (3) Acquainting members of technical developments and advances in diving practices and related equipment.

As you can see I am relying on you all for lots of feedback on safety issues whether it is boat or diving related.

Two years ago when I was safety officer I tried to introduce in my safety report an (incident report), each month. This could be a diving incident or an unplanned boat related event which reduced the safety margin for the person or persons involved. This error could have been made by anyone. It may also include equipment problems. It may or may not have been preventable. The incident may not have caused any harm, but reporting such incidents will give valuable information for everyone. I am sure these types of events occurred at the Rottneest Holiday, so to all who were there, we want to know. No Names, no hearsay reports.

As I said a couple of years ago when I tried to do this I got nothing, that's right, zilch. So if I get nothing again, this same bloody report will be going in next month. Over the next few weeks I will endeavor to make up an incident or event sheet and make it available with little boxes on it to tick to make it easier for us all.

Safe Diving
Safety Officer
Rex

Article

Great white 'ate anti-shark device'

Pia Akerman | March 01, 2008

AN electronic device designed to ward sharks away from surfers failed so spectacularly during a trial off South Africa that it was eaten by a great white. An inquest heard yesterday the Shark Shield surf model was activated on a float carrying bait when the 3.6m female shark approached. Rather than being deterred by the device, the shark, under the gaze of the Natal Sharks Board, bit into it. South Australian Deputy State Coroner Tony Schapel yesterday heard of the test failure during the inquest into the death of Jarrod Stehbens, who was taken by a great white shark while diving off Glenelg in South Australia in 2005.

The inquest has turned into a trial of Shark Shield devices, hearing concerns that the electronic fields generated to repel sharks may attract them.

Studying cuttlefish for the University of Adelaide at the time of his death, Stehbens had been provided with two Shark Shields on his dive boat by university staff - but he either didn't know they were there or chose not to use them.

University staff have told Mr Schapel they questioned the Shark Shields' efficacy and believed there might be long-term health risks from using them. As a result, the devices were not compulsory.

Rod Hartley, director of Sea Change Technology, which manufactures the Shark Shields, yesterday took the stand to defend his product.

"There is no doubt whatsoever that it does not attract sharks," he said.

He told Mr Schapel he believed a disgruntled surfer had started the rumour.

"Nobody wearing a Shark Shield has ever been attacked by a shark," he added.

Mr Hartley said the failed South African test on the surf unit - which has been held back from release into the marketplace - was due to a problem with the electrode's configuration. The device was now packaged with a large disclaimer warning it would only repel sharks when the surfer was still in the water waiting for a wave.

"The surf product only can be guaranteed to work when it's stationary, not when it's surfing in the wave or paddling," Mr Hartley said.

CSIRO shark expert Barry Bruce has told the inquest the shark that killed Stehbens was in "full predatory strike" mode and would have been nearly impossible to deter. His body was never recovered.

Mr Schapel will publish his findings at a later date.

SYC/UEC Liaison Officer Report

By Carmine

I must once again compliment the members for really trying to develop a better relationship with our hosts the SYC. I have seen quite a few of our members eating their dinner before our meetings and having pre-dinner drinks. Other members have booked for such functions as the Trivia Night and the fishing competition. All these things help in showing the SYC that we are really treating the club as ours and that we use the facilities as we are supposed to as members.

Last General Meeting we welcomed a visit by Mike Williams who is the Rear Commodore Power of the SYC. Mike came along, much the same as I do at their meetings, so he can get an insight into how we operate, such that he can report back to his committee. I have had a good chat with Mike and I am sure he approves of the way we operate, which is coincidentally much the same as the SYC.

You may remember that I mentioned last month that the SYC insist that members and especially pen holders must accumulate at least 5 points a year otherwise they will be brought up before the committee. We of the UEC have accumulated 3 points to date and are required to accumulate another 2. Up and coming events which will accumulate points for the UEC are:-

- 1) Fishing Competition one point Sunday 13th April

I am sure by then the boat will be up and running so why don't we get a few of us together and go out for a good day of fun and do both clubs a favor. Contact Ilonka to book and I am happy to be the Skipper for the day so all I need is a Deck Hand and we're off and running.

- 2) Busy Bee one point Saturday 19th April.

This is an event we always attend and is usually organized as a dive to clean the river bed under the jetties. As many of you as possible please try to attend as this is one where we always have a high profile and we get many brownie points.

Lets work together to get the UEC the last 2 points.

Carmine

By the way

Duck Pants

ROTTO HOLIDAY FEBRUARY 2008

You think the heading is colourful - try the duck pants

For our valued new members here is a little ritual we have had for the last 3 or 4 years to try and keep us thinking when we are kitting up and if you do such a thing you are required to wear the DUCK PANTS, for the next dive.

Everyone joined in the fun of the ritual at Rotto. Make a booboo and you have to wear the oversize and colourful orange Duck Pants while diving.

They don't exactly look trendy! In fact they are quite goofy and a lot of laughs follow.

Here are a few things that actually happened to #####. You shall remain nameless but hey, you know who you are!!

Putting wetsuit jacket on with long johns still around your waist - looks like a paunch

Leaving mask and snorkel on the BBQ back at the chalet - the spare is a size too small!

Camera not secured at 12 metres and rescued floating on the surface - finders' keepers!

Jumping in without a weight belt - we still do it!

Not doing up tank securely and banging Clive Mitchell on the head. Ouch!

Pirouette with tank attached and banging Chris Wilkinson on the temple. Ouch!

Putting BC on and not being able to stand up. It is still strapped to the boat seat!

Signed: Anonymous

Boat Status Report March 2008

Due to the failure of our almost new VM motor on our boat we on the committee and particularly on the boating committee have had to rethink our approach. We have tried to explore every avenue such that we in the end would make a decision based on knowledge and not on speculation or past emotional baggage. Those of you who attended the last General Meeting will have had most of this explained to you but for the benefit of the larger membership I felt I should put our trials and tribulations into our magazine.

When the engine failed the first response was to take the engine to someone who was dealt in these sorts of motors, for advice. After some time Ron Bell from Mandurah came up with a rather expensive estimate which was as much as the original cost of the new engine. More importantly it was a very loose document which was too open ended and could have resulted in a much more expensive price than was estimated.

To check Mr. Bells estimate we approached Ches Engineering who have been in the reconditioning of engines business for the last 35 years. They very promptly came up with not only a much cheaper quote but also a very accurate one where every last part was specified.

We have for some time wanted to change the types of motors on our boat as we have found that the VM's are quite unsuitable for our size boat and have caused us a great deal of grief over the past 5 years. To those ends we managed to locate two second hand engines which are highly respected as marine engines and have a higher horsepower.

The engines I speak of are called **Steyr 236 HP turbo charged diesels.**

To go into the advantages of these is not for this report. Sufficient to say that after much research and angst we made the decision and if I am not let down by the transport company they should arrive before Easter. We will have them installed and the boat up and going for the weekend after.

This whole exercise if all works out well, should end up costing us less than the estimate received from Mr Bell and will finally get us out of the VM vicious circle.

Carmine

Article

Dear Friend:

Here's your weekly Science Matters column by David Suzuki with Faisal Moola.

Kilroy was here!

Well, it seems we've finally done it. Humanity has finally made its mark - our own little place in history.

Even if we, as a species, snuff ourselves out now, the next hyper-intelligent creature that emerges from the muck, or one that finds our little planet drifting through space, will know that we were here. Millions of years from now, a scientist with six arms will be sifting through compressed layers of our collective detritus and ponder the most compelling question about our era: Who the heck was Britney Spears?

You see - it seems that we've entered a new epoch: a period of geological time usually reserved for distinguishing between massive periods of change on the planet. In this case we've moved from the era that geologists call the Holocene, which has been this relatively stable period since the last ice age 10-12,000 years ago, to the Anthropocene - a time when human activities have become the dominating force of change on the planet.

Changing epochs is not like changing your socks. In scientific terms, this is a big deal. Epochs tend to be delineated by periods of upheaval. Think ice ages and mass extinctions. When Nobel-prize winning chemist Dr. Paul Krutzen brought up the idea back in 2000 and again in 2002, it was still considered pretty radical and somewhat impetuous for our little species to have its own epoch.

But a team of scientists writing in a new paper in the journal *GSA Today*, published by the Geological Society of America, now argues that it's becoming increasingly difficult to deny humanity's growing influence on a planetary scale. In their paper, they examine the case for change and conclude that it's time to accept the obvious - we are in the Anthropocene.

According to the researchers, just about every natural process on the planet now bears a human signature. For example, if you look at the soils, humans are now the dominant force behind changes to physical sedimentation. Dramatic increases in erosion from agriculture, road and urban development, and dams have pushed people to be the largest producer of sediment by an order of magnitude over nature.

If you look at the air, humans are rapidly changing the composition of the atmosphere by burning vast amounts of oil, coal and gas. As a result, carbon dioxide levels are one-third higher now than they were 200 years ago - higher, in fact, than they have been in the past 900,000 years - and they are expected to double this century.

If you look at life on the planet, human activities are causing the extinction of many species - possibly leading to a "major extinction event" that rivals others, such as the demise of the dinosaurs. Humans are also rapidly replacing vast areas of natural vegetation with agricultural crops. As the researchers point out: "These effects are permanent, as future evolution will take place from surviving (and frequently anthropogenically relocated) stocks."

Continued

If you look at the oceans, sea levels have risen slightly due to melting ice and thermal expansion (water expands as it warms) and these levels are expected to continue to rise through the century. Our oceans are also noticeably more acidic now, again due to the human release of so much carbon into the atmosphere, with "potentially severe effects in both benthic (especially coral reef) and planktonic settings," according to the researchers.

So, there you have it, the case for the Anthropocene. We've done it. We've written our name on the wall. We're the king of the hill, lord of the sandbox. We're now the most powerful force of change on the planet - so much that we actually get our own epoch. A pretty big responsibility for a naked ape that emerged on the plains of Africa only 150,000 years ago.

So what now, little human? What now?

Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and learn more at (www.davidsuzuki.org)

Article

New sharks found in WA

Posted February 14, 2008 14:30:00

New shark species have been found in Western Australian waters.

The floral banded wobbegong was found between Geraldton, in the mid-west, and Augusta in the south.

The dwarf spotted wobbegong was found in waters from Green Head, in the mid-west, to Mandurah in the south-west.

There are now eight species of wobbegong sharks in Australia.

The Fisheries Department's shark researcher, Justin Chidlow, says he is amazed the two species had not been identified earlier.

"To find sharks that no-one's really seen before ... reasonably large animals, up to about a meter long each ... so to think that we can still come across these animals is very exciting," he said.

Fremantle Sea Rescue

The UECWA call sign is FG 739 (Foxtrot Golf 739)

A reminder that to log on we need to tune into channel 90 on 27 MHz or channel 73 on VHF and give our call sign to VN6DI.



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

In conjunction with Fotofreo 2008 and the
Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre

PRESENTS

SEALIFE IN SEQUENCE

A display of over 100 images of the groups of underwater animals and plants with information on each image



PLACE: Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre.
39 Northside Drive, Hillary's Boat Harbor.

DATE: 4th March to 2nd May, 2008
Daily, excluding Public Holidays.

TIME: 10:00am to 4:00pm

CONTACT: Discovery Centre: 9203-0339
Ann Storrie: 9385-9355

Rottnest Holiday 2009

We have booked chalets again already for the Rottnest holiday. The last one was so successful that people are starting to book on now.

The dates are:

Week 7 to 13 March 2009 cost \$510

Long weekend 13 to 16 March 2009 cost \$290

(Please note that the long weekend includes Monday 16th and it is not a public holiday. We will need to arrange the extra day off work or earn brownie points to get away from the gardening)

The holiday includes your boat trip to Rotto, accommodation, all dives and tank fills.

Please contact Clive Cass at president@uecwa.com.au or see me at the Club meeting on Wed 19 March 2008.

Winter on Rottnest 2008

Friday 22 to Sunday 24 August 2008

We have booked two chalets for this relaxing and social non-diving weekend getaway.

What's to do? Relax, walk the island, bus trip, train trip to the gun emplacement, eat, drink and be merry. We usually dine out at the hotel or cook in the chalet – NO! we don't cook!

This is the third year and we have 12 beds in twin share rooms.

Cost is \$100 per person for accommodation. Ferry will be an extra \$50 for the return trip.

Please contact Clive Cass at president@uecwa.com.au or see me at the Club meeting on Wed 19 March 2008.

Editors rant.

Well Folks another Rottneest holiday has just wound up it was a great holiday for all involved I think, though a bit too short for some who only came for the weekend I believe! Many thanks to Clive for organizing and driving this annual project.

A few pertinent reminders about safety and complacency gave us something to think about during the trip. I am aware some things were observed but not mentioned, if you did see something unsafe that's relevant to us as a club and the operation of our boat please drop the safety officer a line. Try to keep to specifics with no names and we will collate the info and take some positive action. Though I am led to believe that keel hauling is frowned upon these days, damm!!!

A great effort by certain club members involved in a real life emergency as a boat upwind of ours on the fuel jetty caught fire! They sprung into action to help, unfortunately expertise and action didn't overcome a serious lack of firefighting resources on the jetty. The criticism of our skipper for getting UE quickly away from the jetty and to safety, before too many of our members succumbed to poisonous smoke inhalation and not parking it up against the burning boat (honest officer we don't know how our boat caught fire) was probably unjustified, most of us didn't come up with the same cunning plan till it was too late to take advantage of the situation.

I still can't get back into the swing of real life, the pleasant environment and lack of pressure does wonders for you. We had probably the best weather conditions we could wish for significant numbers of photographs were taken and likewise significant numbers of crayfish, more than a few finding their way into dinner on several nights.

Like a severely overloaded bbq down in the communal area one night where there was no room for anything other than the crays.

A green curry to die for with a choice of Crayfish, Skippy or Wrasse was prepared one night it was, either that good or the company was such that it seemed that way.

Some lucky members got up close and personal with the Grey Nurse sharks. Me I met up with a shark that I assumed to be a wobbegong but it was different to most that I have seen previously if anyone can identify it for me I would appreciate it. We met (the Wobby and I) while Steve Bright and I were snorkeling through the wilds of Geordie bay, the sea life through the broken ground outside the bay is incredibly diverse with, for example large dusky Morwongs rummaging through the sea grass then moving along spilling sand and detritus out of their gill slits followed by smaller fish like wrasse picking up the missed bits. There were caverns and swim through's with ledges filled with feelers, legs and eyes. A schools of juvenile herring swept round us as we entered one cave system duck dived through a hollow and surfaced in another pool of sparkling water.

On a few nights we were treated to a twilight dive courtesy of Clive and Rachael a few of us dived in the area known as Geordie bay caverns I cruised around on the surface snorkeling, occasionally diving down and buzzing the divers below. The clouds of their bubbles rising to the surface in the last rays of the sun were quite spectacular it was like swimming in champagne! The setting sun was equally spectacular looking for all the world like a burning, grinning toothy face back at the chalets someone got a photo of it.

Well I am sure there more stories to tell but I will leave that to someone else. ED.





Training

UEC Training Report March 2008

By Carmine

Just back from Rotto which was just wonderful, even though I couldn't personally dive. The weather was excellent and the diving extraordinary. From the training point of view our trip to Rotto is always a good opportunity for trainee skippers and DO's to get their time up. This year Clive Mitchell managed to practice his driving skills to improve his chances of finally getting his skipper-ship certificate.

Some revelations surfaced from my point of view as a training officer that encourages me to have refresher courses which in conjunction with our safety officer Rex Burke I will be conducting very soon.

Partly due to being totally engrossed with trying to get the boat up and running I have not run any courses in the last week since Rotto. With some luck I hope to initiate some training soon and certainly right after Easter.

Carmine

Recycle your corks!

Never, ever throw a cork into landfill! Zita Dobson collects them and sends them to Guides Australia who recycle them and raise money.

Save them up and bring them to a meeting: Zita or Bob are usually there.

Pay directly online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: **Commonwealth Bank**
 Name: **Underwater Explorers Club of WA.**
 BSB: **066136**
 Account: **00901972**

There is limited space to write what the Payment is for. Please start with your name and Then reason for payment.

In all cases you must email the Treasurer with The following payment information:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for (and from)
- Reason for payment, e.g. Dive Dec 4, T-shirt, etc.

Club Aims and Objectives

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self-contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedures and to acquaint both Club members and the public with the facts of safety and using safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, provide fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

Contact your Committee

President	Clive Cass	president@uecwa.com.au
Vice President	Martin Smith	vicepresident@uecwa.com.au
Secretary	Steve Larter	secretary@uecwa.com.au
Treasurer	Renee Barker	treasurer@uecwa.com.au
Dive coordinator	Jasmine Smith	divebookings@uecwa.com.au
Boat Officer	Steve Bright	boat@uecwa.com.au
Training Officer	Carmine Travaglione	training@uecwa.com.au
Social	Ilonka Jarvis	socialbookings@uecwa.com.au
Fundraising	Anne McCarrol	fundraising@uecwa.com.au
Environment	Dallis Strick	environment@uecwa.com.au
Communications	Chris Wilkinson	communications@uecwa.com.au
Safety Officer	Rex Burr	safety@uecwa.com.au
New Members	Anne McCarrol	newmembers@uecwa.com.au
SYC Liaison	Carmine Travaglione	syc@uecwa.com.au
Website	Martin Arrowsmith	



Underwater Explorers Club

Minutes of General Meeting
Swan Yacht Club Wednesday 20th February 2008

Apologies	Dallis Strict	Chris Golding	Geoff Geard
Guests	Barbara & Kim	Mike Williams	Neil (Judy's Bro) Michelle (MUD Rep)

The meeting was opened at 7.45pm

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1.0 The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and accepted as a true record.

Accepted by Pat Swallow
Seconded by Andrew Mingay

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

2.0 None

Correspondence Inwards

- 3.0
- SYC Statement.
 - Statement Air Liquid.
 - Cheque for \$90.00 Ultimo Wine Sales.
 - Indianic Diving Services. Re Rottnest Mooring.
 - Club Marine Magazine.
 - Fundraising Directory.
 - Cadburys Fundraising Order Form.

Correspondence Outwards

- 4.0
- Dept of Planning & Infrastructure.
 - Membership acceptance to Christine Schneider.
 - Membership acceptance to Hannes Mucha

Nominations

5.0 The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fees in advance:

- Barbara Zacerihia

New Memberships

6.0 There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:

- Christine Schneider.
- Hannes Mucha

Accepted by Judy Cowen
Seconded by Malcolm Roberts

Reports

7.1 President – Clive Cass

- Update on boat motor. See general business.
- President reminded members that attending social functions assists the club.
- Andrew Mingay has resigned as Training and Safety officer. Carmine Traveliogne has taken on the role of Training officer.
- Rex Burke has agreed to take on the Safety Officer role. Welcome to Rex.
- Carl Wheeler has resigned as Fundraising officer.
- President called for nominations or expressions of interest from members to take on this role.
- Weekly e-mail has improved positive comment recieved from members.
- Jasmine will be away during coming weeks and assistance required for dive bookings.
- Mooring in river has been cleaned.
- Rotto 2009. Volunteers required to book chalets for night of 29/02/2008.
- Rotto 2008 Stubby holders now available.
- Rottnest 2008 trip will proceed with single motor on boat. Logistics to be worked out by attendees.

7.2 Secretary – Steve Larter

- No report

- 7.3 **Treasurer** – Renee Barker.
- See attached treasurers report.
 - Income low due to no boat diving.
- 7.4 **Fund Raising** – Position Vacant
- No report.
- 7.5 **Dive Coordinator** – Jasmine Lyons
- There has been 2 boat dives to Stragglers with single motor in boat.
 - Clean up Australia event 02/03/2008. See web site for details.
 - Sea grass planting event being arranged for 25-28/02/2008.
 - Busselton Dive weekend planed for 11/06/2008. Accommodation at Abbey Beach resort. 5 dives and dives including accommodation estimated at \$420.00. Per diver.
 - Jasmine and Martin will be away in NZ during March.
 -
- 7.6 **Environment** – Dallis Strict.
- No report.
- 7.7 **New Members** –
- There have been 10 enquiries for information about diving with UEC.
 - New members pack still being finalized.
 - New member cruises to be arranged on a monthly basis.
- 7.8 **Newsletter** – Chris Wilkinson.
- Newsletter for February on the web.
 - Please send any items of interest for newsletter to Chris.
 - Martin Arrowsmith is looking after Web.
- 7.9 **Safety** – Rex Burke.
- Rex requested any member who has any safety issues to contact him to bring to attention of the committee of management.
- 7.10 **Training** – Carmine Travaglione.
- Focus on Skippers and Dive officer training.
 - Emergency First Aid training courses will also be reviewed on an as need basis.
 - DAN 02 training will also be reviewed for interested members.
 - Trainee skippers to contact Carmine to arrange a timetable for signing off there training.
- 7.11 **Social** – Ilonka Jarvis
- Friday night cruise on mooring was successful with a BBQ and Fondue on board.
 - Picnic in the Park to be arranged for 16th march 2008. South Perth foreshore. Arrangements TBA.
 - Mussel's on mooring night 18th April 2008. Carmine to cook traditional dish.
 - Tonight's presentation is by Wally showing his DVD of recent trip to Rowley Shoals.
- 7.12 **Boat** – Steve Bright
- Single motor operation is limiting operations.
 - Thanks to all members who have contributed there time working on the boat. See newsletter.
 - Thanks to Judy and Jon for taking the damaged motor down to Ron Bell in Mandurah.
 - See general business for discussions on repair options.
- 7.13 **Swan Yacht Club Liaison.** Carmine Travaglione.
- Carmine has submitted articles in the Cygnet in the Diving section of the magazine.
 - Introduced Mr. Mike Williams Rear Commodore of SYC who was a guest for the evening.
 - Mike advised that he was interested in how UEC works and was good to meet members present tonight.
 - Carmine expressed the view that the SYC was the ideal location for the UEC. He also outlined the benefits of membership of the SYC and UEC.
 - Trivia nights now being organized by SYC Next 21/02/2008. Tables of 8 Cost \$5.00 per head.

Accepted by Judy Cowen
Seconded by Malcolm Roberts

General Business

- 8.1
- Clive advised the current position with the repairs to the damaged motor.
 - Ron Bell has provided an estimate of \$18-20K as likely cost of repairs. 12 month warranty.
 - Cost for 2 new motors + \$70K. Boat committee agreed to proceed with repairs by Ron Bell.
 - Chris Cunnold felt that repair estimate was not a fixed price and we could end up paying more. Clive Cass checked with Ron Bell and he confirmed that the estimate included Fully Re manufactured motor with 12 months warranty. Included new oil pump, servicing of cylinder head, new heat exchanger.
 - Carmine expressed his view that the repair estimate was too high and was against the decision to repair the motor. Put forward another option of purchasing a new engine Steyr combined with a reconditioned Steyr motor. Contact with Cheeze Engineering concerning suitability of existing legs attachment.
 - Possible cost of this option +/- \$33K. Possible sell existing Port motor for \$13K.
 - Martin advised that changing engine type may need additional engineering work on boat to get them to fit. He also advised that Ron Bell is a good reliable marine engineer and would provide good work.
 - Pat Troy asked for information concerning how long it would take to get motor fixed. Clive advised about 3 weeks to get parts from Italy.
-
- VM Motors currently in boat have not proven to be reliable and are no longer available.
 - Bob Dobson requested a cost analysis be carried out to compare VM and Steyr motors.
 - Judy's brother who is a marine engine mechanic gave his expert opinion and concluded that the VM motors were obsolete due to being boosted beyond their capacity. He recommended we change over to Steyr motors if we could to prevent future losses.
 - Steyr motors weigh about 30% less than VM. Warranty for 2nd hand Steyr motor would be 3 months from date started. Possible higher resale value of boat with Steyr motors.
 - Recommended by Mike Williams that we get test results for existing motor in writing before we remove motor from boat if we proceed with Steyr option.
 - Carmine to get full written quotation for Steyr proposal and submit to boat committee for consideration.
 - Clive and Carmine to circulate revised proposal and their recommendations to all committee members for decision to be concluded and action to be taken.
 -
- 8.2
- Clive presented stubby holders to Kirk and Malcolm for their permission to reproduce the photographs used on the 2008 Stubby Holder.
 - Thanks also voiced to Mark Maddern who was not present for his contribution.
- 8.3
- Jasmine demonstrated Lycra Suits which are available for \$85.00.
 - Chris advertised a size 18 wet suit to be given for a small donation.
- 8.4
- Nomination for the role of Fundraising officer. Anne McCarroll. To be confirmed at next meeting.
- There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

The next general meeting will be held on Wednesday March 19th 2008 @ 7.30pm.

Minutes prepared by: Stephen G Larter.
(Secretary)

Minutes signed by: Clive Cass
(Chairperson)



Underwater Explorers Club
 Minutes of Committee Management Meeting
 Meeting
 SYC 05/03/2008

Present:
 Chairperson: Clive Cass
 Committee: Steve Bright Rex Burke Chris Wilkinson Dallis Strict
 Carmen Travaglione Ilonka Jarvis
 Anne McCarrol
 Members:
 Apologies Steve Larter Jasmine Lyons Renee Barker Martin Smith

The meeting was opened at 7. 00pm

Action

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the committee management meeting dated 6 February 2008 were accepted as a true record.

Accepted by: Carmine Travaglione
 Seconded by: Ilonka Jarvis

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- Anne McCarrol looking after dive bookings while Jasmine is on holidays
- Invoice from Air Liquid for rental of Oxygen tanks finally sorted. Agree UEC has 3 tanks. Dennis to be invoiced for 3 years rental on 1 tank

Correspondence Inwards

- Fremantle Volunteer Sea Rescue newsletter, training courses, Handbook Operation of Radios, merchandise flyer

Correspondence Outwards

- Letter to DPI

Nominations

The following people have completed a nomination dive with the club, or have paid their nomination fee in advance:

- Marcin Kuzian

New Memberships

There has been no objection from club members to the following people obtaining membership with the UEC:

Barbara Zaccaria

- No New Membership Applications. •

Proposed by Steve Bright
 Seconded by Rex Burke

Reports

President – Clive Cass

- Our Club president has been enjoying 10 exceptional days at Rotto so has very little to report but check out the presidents report in the March Newsletter to hear all the goss and excitement

Secretary – Steve Larter

No Report

Treasurer – Renee Barker

- E-mail received from Renee with treasurer's report.
- Follow up with MUD divers on outstanding dive fees

Accepted by Carmine Travaglione
Seconded by Steve Bright

Fundraising – Anne McCarrol.

- As I have only just taken on this role I have been busy getting ideas together.
 - 2008 Entertainment Book
 - Cadbury Chocolates
 - Quiz Night
 - Pre Release movie night
 - Wine with our own UEC labels
 - Looking for ideas on how to get donations of prizes
- Put your thinking caps on and let me know if you have any ideas
- More information soon

Dive Coordinator – Anne McCarrol (filling in for Jasmine while on holidays)

- Email address not changed over so no bookings received. Chris W to follow up on update
- Clive to add Anne's email address to next weekly email to notify members of temporary change for dive bookings

Environment – Dallas Strick

- Possible problem with links in Environmental report in last newsletter Chris W to follow up
- If you have any ideas or articles of interest on the Environment send to Dallis for possible inclusion in newsletter.

New Members – Anne McCarrol.

- New member pack almost completed. Disappointed no feedback from current members. Anne to finalize and send with return email from new member enquiries.
- Gained one new member from the January contacts.
- New members Harbor Cruise and sausage sizzle on the mooring Friday 9 May

Newsletter / Web – Chris Wilkinson.

- Update committee member names on Website for Carmine, Rex and Anne
- All reports, photos and articles for the newsletter to be sent to Chris by Saturday 9th March AM for inclusion in newsletter.
- Committee members should be submitting a report each month by the cut off date.
- Work on getting the newsletter out 1 week prior to the club meeting

SYC Liaison. Carmine Travaglione.

- Writing brief history articles for the SYC newsletter each month
- Will put together a list of activities to be attended by UEC members for SYC points system.
- UEC to book table and attend next trivia night at SYC
- To enquire about UEC boat joining in on SYC sail past Saturday 17 May
- To follow up on SYC pennant

Training – Carmine Travaglione

- Carmine to follow up with trainee skippers and dive officers to organize completing training and having them signed off as UEC Skippers and Dive Officers.
- Following up on First Aid Training

Safety – Rex Burke

- 2 Near misses at Rottnest. 1. Foot almost caught between boat and jetty. 2. Someone jumping out of the boat. Ensure DO's highlighted safety precautions before each dive and before leaving jetty.
- Also whilst at Rottnest a boat caught fire after re-fueling. Thanks to some quick thinking by trained UEC members their assistance averted a further catastrophe.

Social – Ilonka Jarvis

- Table booked by Steve Bright for Trivia Night SYC 13 March 4 spots still free
- Sausage Sizzle Coode Street South Perth Sunday 16 March. Sausage Sizzle \$10.00 or take the UEC boat ferry from SYC to South Perth for \$20.00 which includes your sausage sizzle. And on the way drop a few crab nets and there may be more than just a sausage on the BBQ.
- Presentation of photos and video's from the 2008 Rotto Trip at the next Club Meeting Wednesday 19 March
- Busselton Dive and Social Weekend 13 & 14 April
- Wendy Vanden Board will give a presentation in April on Venetian Shipwrecks in the Med.
- Mussells on the mooring now confirmed for Friday 18th April.
- 19 April Working busy bee at SYC starting 7.30am
- May 9 New Members Cruise
- 17 May SYC sail past
- 21 May photo competition judging at club meeting
- 24 May pizza and pasta night Jasmine and Martins house
- Still looking for some suggestions for future guest speakers.

Boat – Steve Bright

- The one motor ran smoothly for the 10 days while it was at Rotto.
- Anchor needs repair. Carmine to follow up
- Motor
 - Received comparison quote from Ches Diesel and Marine. Cost to recondition motor to be \$15,160.18 + \$792 for quote.
 - Carmine received a quote from Marine Diesel Traders in Queensland for 2 second hand Stayr motors and leg adapters with a total cost of \$32,120 plus transport
- Carmine Travaglione moved a motion to Purchase the second hand stayr motors and leg adapter kits for \$32,120 plus transport as per quote from Marine Diesel Trader 5 March 2008 quote number 13578-BN-2 and to sell the VM engines.

This was seconded by Steve Bright with a majority vote from all present committee members.

General Business.

- Contact Fremantle Volunteer Sea Rescue to update contact name on database
- Good fundraiser for club for 9 days at Rotto. With only 1 motor available savings were made on fuel consumption
- Rottnest booked next year from 7 to 17 March 2009
- Winter Rottnest holiday (Social Only no diving) booked Friday 22 to Sunday 24 August 2008
- Advise Government body to change of constitution. Follow up with Dennis on process
- Set date for award night and invite all life members. Check on Club award categories from AGM newsletter Nov 06
- Dennis has returned oxygen bottle to Air Liquide and submitted receipt
- Fee increase for next membership year
- Replacement BBQ to be purchased for boat.
- Clive Mitchell nominated as completed skipper training after his efforts at Rottnest. Dennis to approve and present certificate at next club meeting.
- Suggestion made to advertise special Birthdays for Club Members.
- Article to be done each month by New Members Officer on a different member. Interview to include
 - Who they are
 - What they do
 - Dive Qualifications
 - Favorite dives or dive location
 - How long they have been a member of the UEC
 - What they do for a job

Skippers and Dive Officers/

- No Report.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.10 pm.

The next committee meeting will be held on 2nd April 2008 @ 7:00 pm @ SYC.

Minutes prepared by: Anne McCarrol

Minutes signed by: Clive Cass
(President)



April 2008 Newsletter



President's Report

By Clive Cass

Hi all members

It has been quite an eventful few months culminating in a successful beginning to April for us all.

The boat is up and running thanks to the dedicated ones who put an enormous amount of energy and time into the boat to prepare it for our diving and social events. We can all show our appreciation by simply making use of the boat and getting out diving. We had tremendous dives and wherever we went early in April the dives were terrific.

The first dive with the Steyr motors was celebrated with chicken and champagne and cheers for those who worked so tirelessly to get us there.

I was most pleased to dive the Nurses Quarters after waiting a year to get there. And it was awesome. Ask me to see the video if you want. They glided and glared within a metre and it was a great thrill.

The social events are gaining momentum, so check out the newsletter and website for the next event. I invite you to join us on the Mussels on the Mooring night and other social trips.

Rex has great ideas to make the boat safer, Carmine is busy with training and is refining the motors to run at optimum performance.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** President's Report
- 2** Nominations
- 3** Constitution Change
- 4** Wine Bottle Photo Competition
- 5** Social Report
- 6** Safety Report
- 7** Training Report
- 8** Diving Milestones at Bali
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- 15** New Members Report
- 16** Fundraising Report
- 18** Pay directly on line,
Club aims and objectives,
Contact your Committee

Presidents Report continued

Check out the photo competition organised by Malcolm and Amanda's enlightening Bali dive report and photos.

I look forward to wonderful diving with you all.

Clive Cass
President
0421 639 290
president@uecwa.com.au

Nominations

We have nominations for membership from

Kim McDougall
Alan Park
Tanya Berthold
Belinda McManus

Please advise any objections to the secretary within 14 days.
And please make them welcome at all club events.

Constitution change

At present the constitution requires the AGM and election of office bearers will take place in November each year. It was the intention of the club to align the AGM and elections with the SYC date in July. Hence the following amendments in blue have been notified to the Secretary and are advertised to the Club members here. They will be voted on at the club meeting on 16 April. The bold items are the changes with the deleted portions having the "strike through".

Alteration of Constitution and Rules:

23. (a) No rule of the club shall be altered or repealed and no new rule be made save by a majority of members present and voting at a General meeting.

(b) Fourteen days notice in writing of the intention to propose any new rule or alteration to any existing rule shall be given to the Secretary, who shall notify members of same by advertisement in the Club magazine at least seven clear days before the date of such meeting. The Constitution which needs amendments are:

Financial Members:

13. The clubs financial shall commence on the first day of **November July** when the annual subscription shall be due. No member shall vote or speak at any meeting or be eligible for any office until subscription or any other monies due have been paid.

Nomination Fee and Annual Subscription:

14. (b) The nomination fee and first subscription shall be paid when the nomination is lodged with the Secretary and all future subscriptions shall be due and payable prior to the first day of **November July** in each and every year.

(c) ~~An Ordinary or Junior member joining the Club between the first day of July and thirty first day of October of any year shall only be required to pay the nomination fee and half of the ordinary or junior members annual subscription for the remainder of that financial year.~~

Any new member joining the club between the first day of March to the last day of June of any year shall only be required to pay the nomination fee and a pro-rata portion of the membership fee for each full month they join until the following 30 June"

General Meeting clause :

16. (d) The Annual General Meeting shall be held within thirty days following the end of the month of ~~October June~~ in each year for the purpose of balloting for all official positions for the ensuing year and any other business that may arise.

UEC wine bottle photo competition 2008

Judged at May Club meeting

Malcolm Roberts has kindly offered to organise the photo competition.

3 winners for a red, white and bubbly/2nd red
Prize is one bottle with your photo on it and club bragging rights.

Photos to be sent to Malcolm at Concept1@iinet.net.au by Friday the 16th of May.

Submit your SQUARE (crop them with any photo editing software) digital photographs. Photos to be square to suit wine bottles which are always square.

Don't shrink them – leave file size to improve quality if we print yours.

You may enter up to 3 photographs. Malcolm will not edit or delete any. All photos received will be collated and displayed in a slideshow at the club meeting on Wed the 21st of May. People present at the meeting will vote and winners will be announced on the night.

Entry is open to all UEC members. Photos must have been taken in the last 2 years. Subject is open, but bear in mind people will be voting on what they want to see on a wine bottle. Think underwater creatures / diving.

Copyright remains with the photographer, but by entering the competition you agree to allow UEC to use the image on the 2008 wine bottles and any related promotions.

Social Report

By Ilonka Jarvis - UEC's very own social butterfly!

Social Calendar

April	Wednesday 16 th	UEC Meeting Guest speaker: Wendy van Duivenvoorde (shipwrecks in the Mediterranean)
April	Friday 18 th	Mussels on the Mooring
May	Saturday 3 rd	SYC Busy Bee
May	Friday 9 th	New members cruise and sausage sizzle
May	Saturday 17 th	SYC Open day and sail past
May	Wednesday 21 st	UEC Meeting Guest speaker: Wendy Yorke, Communications manager of the Swan River Trust Photo competition judging (for the wine bottle labels)
May	Saturday 24 th	Pizza & Picture night at Jazz & Martin's place

Swan Yacht Club Trivia Night

If you want to have a good giggle, do come along to one of the SYC's Trivia nights. They are usually held on the 3rd Thursday of the month. They had the one in March a week early, but I'm guessing that was because of Easter. Thursday night is schnitzel and pasta night at the SYC. They served spare ribs as well and the dessert was individual meringues with a berry sauce. It was all rather good, actually. I understand the pasta was vegetarian, for our grass eaters.

Steve and Mary Bright took the initiative and organized a table. There were eight of us altogether and the evening was an absolute hoot! The questions cover a broad range of topics so it's a pretty level playing field and they keep things going at a cracking pace. When the answers are being read someone usually barks a frustrated "I TOLD you so!" which cracks everyone up.

The UEC made its mark in fine style. We managed to take three bottles of wine off them during the evening. I reckon we would have been the final winners too, except we have to fine tune our strategy concerning the bonus points system. Now that we know how that works, we will slaughter them next time!

Now that I have been there, I can definitely recommend it as a cheap, fun evening out. It only cost \$5 per head for the competition. Dinner is the usual \$15 for members and what you put over the bar depends on how thirsty you are! The next one is going to be held on Thursday 17th April. Steve and Mary have again booked a table and if you would like to join in, contact socialbookings@uecwa.com.au or call me on my mobile. It's definitely a very painless way to do our bit to support the SYC.

Ilonka Jarvis
Mobile: 0412820817

UEC's Mussels on the Mooring

Our next social function will be a Mussels on the Mooring cruise on Friday 18th April. The plan is to leave the Swan Yacht Club at 6:30 pm, cruise to our mooring at Chidley point and spend a very enjoyable evening consuming a mussel feast which our chef, Malcolm Roberts, will prepare for us. Salad and crusty Italian bread will also be provided and of course, dessert.

The cost is \$25 per head. Please BYOG drinks. Tea and coffee will be available.

To book, please contact Ilonka on socialbookings@uecwa.com.au

Safety Report

By Rex Burke

The duties of the Safety Officer are:

- (1) Investigation and upgrading of the Club's safety standards.
- (2) Advising the Committee of Management on diver safety matters.
- (3) Acquainting members of technical developments and advances in diving practices and related equipment.

Hi everyone,

for the last couple of weeks I have been working on the new Safety Incident/Event form which I will have available by the next general meeting. Hopefully I will distribute some of these forms at the meeting. They will also be available on the boat, and soon you will be able to download a copy from the website when needed.

Please use these forms no matter how trivial the event may seem. This could be anything from a diving incident to an unplanned boat related event which reduces the Safety margin for anyone involved.

This month I have had two Incident/event reports sent to me.

1. A club member pointed out the care needed in removing rechargeable batteries from your torch. On this occasion he was lucky to escape serious injury to his face after an explosion while opening his torch. He pointed out the importance of removing such batteries between using your torch to prevent the build up of gas within.

2. This member reported on the care needed in the removal of weight belts from the boat. This is the third person I know of who has injured themselves this way. A couple of years ago the same happened to myself. I thought this report was serious enough to be brought up and discussed at the last Committee meeting. In most charter operations, divers are responsible for removing their own weight belts. I believe this should be so on our boat. However it was declared that:

1. Divers should be made aware of the possibility of injury, and care should be taken in removing weight belts from the boat.
2. No weight belts are to be placed in dive bags unless that person removes such bag from the boat themselves.
3. Perhaps the D.O. of the day can warn divers of the dangers and procedure in their briefing.

Safe Boating and Diving, Rex

Training Report

By Carmine Travaglione

UEC Training Report

April 2008

Happily we have now reached a stage where I can start to offer some training. You have all no doubt been aware that up to now a few of us have been rather busy putting new engines in our boat and getting it ready for some great winter diving and social events.

The first training I will be offering is the First Aid Training Refresher Course which I am sure a lot of you will want to attend; especially Skippers and D/O's, as part of their training requires that they hold a current first aid certificate. Would all interested parties please contact me ASAP and I will put you on the list. The numbers will dictate the cost and naturally the more enroll, the cheaper it will be.

By the time you read this I will already have started training some of the existing skippers (now that we have a boat) and also a Dive officer/Deckhand course. At this stage I have only a few who have put their hands up so if you are interested please hurry as otherwise you will have to wait until the next course which will be later this year.

Rex and I will also run some safety oriented refresher exercises such as emergency procedures to follow when losing a buddy whilst diving, deployment of safety sausages, signals if help is required and getting in and out of our rubber ducky when being rescued.

Feel free to approach us at the meetings or contact us anytime if you wish to discuss courses or other training and safety concerns.

Carmine

Fremantle Sea Rescue

The UECWA call sign is FG 739 (Foxtrot Golf 739)

A reminder that to log on we need to tune into channel 90 on 27 MHz or channel 73 on VHF and give our call sign to VN6DI.

Diving Milestones at Bali

By Amanda Blanksby

It's always great to achieve those diving milestones but even better when you are diving on holiday. And how about your buddy also achieving another diving milestone the day afterwards!! Well that is what happened to both myself and Malcolm Roberts during our recent diving expedition in Bali.

We arranged to do six days of diving at three different places on the island. The whole safari (as it was termed) was organised and customised by AquaMarine. And we would certainly recommend them to other club members - click on www.aquamarinediving.com. They arranged the accommodation, transport, tanks, equipment etc and also an excellent dive guide Ketut, who was always on a mission to find those small things to satisfy his two macro photographers following behind, or as sometimes happened following a long way behind because we were still photographing the previous creature he had spotted!!

We started our safari at the northwest corner of Bali, diving along the walls and sloping reefs forming Menjangan Island. The reef was alive with a whole variety of fish, corals etc. However no large fish or pelagics given its close proximity to West Java and the masses of fishing vessels that can be seen on the horizon at night. We also did a day of muck diving at Secret Bay. This was very much like diving in the Swan River in the daytime, but with much better visibility. We found a host of interesting things such as ghost pipefish, shrimpfish, both small and large frogfish, fingered dragonet and snake eels.



Fan plus Amanda

Scorpion leaf fish



Diving Milestones at Bali continued...

After three days in the northwest we headed over to the northeast for two days diving at Tulamben. This is famous for the Liberty wreck - an American supply ship bombed by the Japanese during WWII, and was beached at Tulamben. In 1963 nearby Mount Agung erupted and caused the wreck to fall onto its starboard side on the black sand shelf with a depth range of 6 to 36m. What a perfect wreck for a dive site and it is excellent as you can walk to it from the shore. Interesting portage of the equipment as well - the local women have an amazing talent to balance two sets of scuba gear on their heads - see the photo below. It is also quite a treasure of a dive site, teeming with life at every fin kick. Our first dive in the early afternoon, was not only teeming with life but teeming with other divers. However on our second dive later on around 5pm we had the wreck to ourselves - quite a feat given its popularity. The sandy seabed surrounding the wreck also contains loads of small critters including the delights of dumpling squid, squat lobster, mantis shrimp, sawblade shrimps to name a few.



Sawblade shrimps



There are other dive sites close to the wreck which we also enjoyed hence it is easy to have a full two days of shore diving with some fabulous things to see. We were lucky to time our night dive on the Liberty with a near full moon and also my 300th dive. One of the highlights 3 pygmy seahorses on one gorgonian fan, one of the 'lowlights' was swimming around the wreck without a torch given the natural moonlight!!!

Coral reef with Malcolm



Diving Milestones at Bali continued...

The day after we headed down to Padangbai harbour, jumped on the Aquamarine speedboat for a trip to Nusa Penida. We did two dives there - firstly at Manta Point and then at Crystal Bay. Yes we did see three mantas popping for a quick scrub up, given that it is a favoured cleaning station. The currents at Crystal Bay are infamous and you could clearly see where the current was changing, with fish and whip corals facing in the opposite direction. The soft corals both on the slopes and various large bommies were quite stunning. Our third dive was back at the Blue Lagoon near to Padangbai. This was Malcolm's 400th dive and we had a mixture of sloping sandy seabed with clumps of life for the macro stuff including scorpion leaf fish and a pompom crab, through to a wall packed full of corals, crinoids and plenty to photograph. We would highly recommend diving in Bali, there is a great variety of dive sites and things to see.

Amanda Blanksby



Pompom crab

Crinoid



SYC Liaison Report

By Carmine Travaglione

SYC Liaison Report

May 2008

Our relationship with the SYC is improving by the week. I feel it is a conscious effort on our part and I am just as certain that many in the SYC are also making an effort to make us welcome. There are still a few on both sides who would choose to take a less than conciliatory approach. This gives us the opportunity to prove them wrong and further strengthen our relationship with the SYC. In an effort to do so we are doing our part by participating in points events such as fishing days, busy-bee days and attending meetings. Basically all we are doing is showing an interest in our host club and helping to further their agenda while at the same time furthering ours.

A very important part of this is that members of the UEC are now required to become social members of the SYC. Whereas in the past this was semi optional it has now become part of and included in our annual UEC fee structure. As I have pointed out before this is a very small price to pay for all the advantages we enjoy as a club by being located at the SYC. We have access to restaurant and bar facilities, the use of rooms to hold our meetings, slipway and boat maintenance facilities, parking and boat pen facilities to name but a few.

I would encourage all our members to avail themselves of the excellent SYC facilities and to continue to show regard and consideration for our host club such that the past is soon forgotten and replaced by a convivial and mutual respect which will allow us both to move forward.

Carmine

And finally from Carmine...

A farm girl from Saskatchewan walks into a bar in Calgary and orders three mugs of Bud. She sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn.

When she finishes them, she comes back to the bar and orders three more.

The bartender approaches and tells the farm girl, "You know, a mug goes flat after I draw it. It would taste better if you bought one at a time."

The farm girl replies, "Well, you see, I have two sisters. One is in Australia, the other is in Cranbrook. When we all left our home in Saskatchewan, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days when we drank together. So I'm drinking one beer for each of my sisters and one for myself."

The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there. The farm girl becomes a regular in the bar, and always drinks the same way. She orders three mugs and drinks them in turn.

One day, she comes in and only orders two mugs. All the regulars take notice and fall silent.

When she comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your loss."

The farm girl looks quite puzzled for a moment, then a light dawns in her eyes and she laughs. "Oh, no, everybody's just fine," she explains, "It's just that my husband and I joined the Baptist Church and I had to quit drinking. Hasn't affected my sisters though."

2008
FOTOFREO

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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

In conjunction with Fotofreo 2008 and the
Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre

PRESENTS

SEALIFE IN SEQUENCE

A display of over 100 images of the groups of underwater animals and plants with information on each image



- PLACE:** Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre.
39 Northside Drive, Hillary's Boat Harbor.
- DATE:** 4th March to 2nd May, 2008
Daily, excluding Public Holidays.
- TIME:** 10:00am to 4:00pm
- CONTACT:** Discovery Centre: 9203-0339
Ann Storrie: 9385-9355

Rottnest Holiday 2009

We have booked chalets again already for the Rottnest holiday. The last one was so successful that people are starting to book on now.

The dates are:

Week 7 to 13 March 2009 cost \$510

Long weekend 13 to 16 March 2009 cost \$290

(Please note that the long weekend includes Monday 16th and it is not a public holiday. We will need to arrange the extra day off work or earn brownie points to get away from the gardening)

The holiday includes your boat trip to Rotto, accommodation, all dives and tank fills.

Please contact Clive Cass at president@uecwa.com.au or see me at the club meeting on Wed 19 March 2008.

Winter on Rottnest 2008

Friday 22 to Sunday 24 August 2008

We have booked two chalets for this relaxing and social non-diving weekend getaway.

What's to do? Relax, walk the island, bus trip, train trip to the gun emplacement, eat, drink and be merry. We usually dine out at the hotel or cook in the chalet – NO! we don't cook!

This is the third year and we have 12 beds in twin share rooms.

Cost is \$100 per person for accommodation. Ferry will be an extra \$50 for the return trip.

Please contact Clive Cass at president@uecwa.com.au or see me at the club meeting on Wed 19 March 2008.

New Members Report April 2008

Another month gone already. How time flies. Membership enquires have been steady with 9 enquires to me this month. Of those 9 2 completed their nomination dive at Nurses Quarters. How lucky were they. Please welcome Lisa Terrusi and Rachel Burgess to the UEC and we look forward to you joining in on our diving and the many social activities Ilonka has planned for the next few months.

Nominations

Lisa Terrusi
Rachel Burgess

New Memberships

New Members Cruise

Our first new members cruise will be a sausage sizzle and harbour cruise Friday 9th May. Come along and join us for an exciting cruise in the harbour and down to our mooring for the sausage sizzle. New members this is a great opportunity to meet some of our older (and usually wiser) members and get to know what the club is all about.

That's all the news this week.

Safe and exciting diving.

Anne McCarrol
New Members Officer

Fundraising Report April 2008

\$200,000
Over the next 12-18 months

It's been a busy month but we are making a good start to our goal of \$200,000.

Fundraising Volunteers

I have a few volunteers for the fundraising committee but I need a few more. If you can help in any way please email me at amccarrol@iprimus.com.au and let me know.

2008 Entertainment Book

There are some great offers contained in the book. Restaurants, activities and accommodation are all on offer. Don't forget about your friends, family and work colleagues. They may want to order one too. See if you can get an order of 10 books, that's what I am aiming for. If 10 of us can sell 10 books each that's \$1300 towards our new boat.

We are almost half way to our target of 80 books so if you haven't placed your order yet send me an email or complete the order form at Wednesday's monthly club meeting. Books are released mid May so get your orders in to me by April 30 deadline. I will have the books for distribution at the May Club meeting.

Delicious Cadbury Chocolates

Well they are here and ready to be picked up at the April meeting. Yummy Cadbury Chocolates and Natural Confectionery Co. Snakes and Mixed Jelly's. Take them home, to work and your sporting events and see how quickly they sell. \$1 and \$2 boxes so take one or a few and watch those chocoholics come running. \$24 dollars profit from each box goes to our new boat. And remember you don't have to eat the whole box yourself. But if you have to you have to 😊

UEC Collector's Edition Wine

We have had a couple of taste testings but we haven't quite found what we're looking for yet. I'm off on holidays down south and plan on doing a little taste testing myself. With all there is to offer I'm hoping to come back with some exceptional wine suitable for those fantastic labels from our photo competition. Get your orders ready as they won't last long. They will be ready for pick up at the June meeting.

Environmentally friendly shopping bags & UEC Polo Shirts

Still sourcing these and other great things I think you will enjoy and get a lot of use out of.

Stubbie holders and Dust Caps

On sale at club meetings so bring your loose change and pick up a couple.

Almost Famous Chefs Progressive Dinner

All you famous chef's out there now is your chance. We have 3 volunteers to host the dinner but we need one more. So if you're willing to open your home for one of the courses please let me know. You don't have to prepare the meal but if you would like to even better. I also need volunteers to assist with the cooking and preparing so all the hard work is not just left to a few. If you can help in any way please give me a call on 0414 729 488 or email amccarrol@iprimus.com.au.

The progressive dinner is our first fundraising function for the year so come join in the fun and tempt your taste buds. We have a tentative date of July 12th with confirmation at the May meeting. You will be transported by bus to each destination so you can sit back and enjoy the evening. There will be 4 courses: Welcome drinks and hors d'oeuvres, entree, main and finishing with dessert and coffee/tea. All complemented by some wonderful wine and port. Stay tuned and all will be revealed soon.

Let's keep thinking NEW LUXURIOUS BOAT. Keep up all your fantastic efforts and before long we will be christening our new boat.

Thanks' for all your support

Anne McCarrol
Fundraising Officer

Pay directly online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Name: Underwater Explorers Club of WA.
BSB: 066136
Account: 00901972

There is limited space to write what the Payment is for. Please start with your name and Then reason for payment.

In all cases you must email the Treasurer with The following payment information:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for (and from)
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Contact your Committee

President	Clive Cass	president@uecwa.com.au
Vice President	Martin Smith	vicepresident@uecwa.com.au
Secretary	Steve Larter	secretary@uecwa.com.au
Treasurer	Renee Barker	treasurer@uecwa.com.au
Dive coordinator	Jasmine Smith	divebookings@uecwa.com.au
Boat Officer	Martin Smith	boat@uecwa.com.au
Training Officer	Carmine Travaglione	training@uecwa.com.au
Social	Ilonka Jarvis	socialbookings@uecwa.com.au
Fundraising	Anne McCarrol	fundraising@uecwa.com.au
Environment	Dallis Strick	environment@uecwa.com.au
Communications	Chris Wilkinson	communications@uecwa.com.au
Safety Officer	Rex Burke	safety@uecwa.com.au
New Members	Anne McCarrol	newmembers@uecwa.com.au
SYC Liaison	Carmine Travaglione	syc@uecwa.com.au
Website	Martin Arrowsmith	



May 2008 Newsletter



President's Report

By Clive Cass

Hi everyone

We have quite a few opportunities to get out and dive in wonderful weather in April and May.

The social events have been a pleasure to attend and mix with active current and new members. Especially the new members' cruise was most enjoyable with a cruise to Perth City and tying up to the Swan Brewery jetty for drinks and a bbq sausage sizzle. And the water was like a mirror. Great photo opportunity!

The club meeting on Wed 21st will be tightly run to fit in the meeting and the photo competition. We will finish by 9.15pm, so please arrive on time for a 7.30pm start. Yes, we will finish in time to chat and socialize after.

It is nearly time for elections for a new committee. It is always best for 3 or 4 members to be replaced with new committee, so fresh ideas are available. Please consider who you would like to nominate including yourself for a position.

We will have awards presented at the AGM to be held in July. Forms will be available at the club meeting for you to nominate for those most deserving for Boat person, Club person, Most Improved Diver and others. Please consider and make an effort so we can reward worthy members.

Hope to see you all on the boat, diving or socially.

See you at the Photo Comp.

Clive

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Jasmines Dive Report

By Jasmine

Busselton Weekend Spectacular

On the weekend of 11th - 13th of April 13 intrepid divers and one non diver headed down to Busselton for a weekend of food, fun and a bit of diving. We all arrived at our digs for the weekend on Friday night and decided that if the diving was going to be as good as the accommodation then we were in for a treat. The Abbey Beach Resort lived up to all expectation with big rooms, a fully equipped kitchen and a spa, all of which were made full use off.

It was up bright and early on a perfect Saturday morning and off to the Port Geographe Marina where we were to meet Peter from The Dive Shed who was going to be our skipper for the weekend. Unfortunately we couldn't dive the Coral Gardens as there was a fishing boat right on our spot so we headed out a bit further along 4 Mile Reef for our first dive. We anchored over sand right next to the coral reef wall so there was no trouble finding the dive site or getting lost. You jump in, hit the bottom at about 18 metres, turn left at the wall, use up half your air, turn right and hey presto, there's the boat. The visibility was great and there was quite a bit to see. Huge Cuttlefish, Gurnards and my favourite Western Blue Devils. Then it was back on the boat and off to do our first dive on the Jetty.



I know many people from the club have dived on the Jetty many times so I won't wax too lyrical but I will say this "it was magical". After a gentle float over to the jetty from the boat, courtesy of a cooperative current, we descended into a fairyland of fish and coral gardens. There was lots of everything, schools of Herring, Bullseyes, Yellowtail, Cuttlefish, a Fiddler Shark, an Octopus and way too many other species for me to remember. Oh yes, Nudibranchs, lots and lots of them.

Then it was back to the rooms for a quick feed and off again for our night dive on the Jetty. Man, that was fun. Not as many fish as day time but still lots to make you go ooooh.

After a full day diving we were very happy to get back to the Abbey Beach for dinner and a show and tell photo session. We all agreed that it had been a simply splendid day and had fingers crossed that tomorrow would be just as good.

Sunday morning did not disappoint. Bright and clear woohoo. Perfect for our day of diving on The Swan.

There was a little more chop on the water this morning and we had to swim against a current to get to the descent line but once we were down it was all good.

Everyone formed up in their groups to explore different parts of the ship and away they went. Oh yeh, have to mention the

Batfish. They are mesmerizing, so serene. They provided a silent escort down the decent line and back up again once we had finished our dive. I wonder if they consider it heir mission in life to welcome every diver who visits their ship.

When people got back on the dive boat there was a variety of comments made about the Swan. From “that was amazing” to “Yeh, it was OK”. I’m afraid I was in the later group but most were in the former. Guess dead ships just don’t do it for me but I can tell you right now I was definitely out numbered in my opinion.



After a lunch break and surface interval it was back in again to check out the rest of the Swan. Martin, Joel & I were on a mission to find the little pleasure craft that has sunk about 50 metres from the Port side of the Swan. We found it sitting on the bottom, perfectly upright, complete with motor and life jackets still in the cabin. Then back to the Swan for a bit more exploring and our safety stop which the upper sections of the mast are perfect for. Just sit there and enjoy the view for a while.



When we got back to the Abbey Beach we had enough time to finish off the food and have a relaxing spa before our very civilized late departure time of 4pm.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Peter at The Dive Shed for looking after us so well and giving us so much diving for so little price and to our club member Paul Burns for helping to organize the accommodation.

Keep your eyes peeled for information on next year’s trip and come to the June UEC Club meeting to see a photo show of the trip.

Summary

Accommodation - Perfect

Diving - Wonderful

Weather - Hate to use that word again but PERFECT

Company - Lots of fun

Food - Lots

Enjoyment - Huge

David Suzuki Dear friend

From Steve Larter

Dear Friend:

Here's your weekly Science Matters column by David Suzuki with Faisal Moola.

Message in a Bottle

The water that comes out of most city taps in Canada is pretty clean. Yet many people prefer to spend money on bottled water, believing that it is somehow safer. Now we're learning that the stuff in plastic water bottles may be more harmful than anything in our tap water. Bisphenol A is just one chemical that's been in the news and in many plastic bottles recently. This compound mimics estrogens (human female hormones) and has been linked to breast and ovarian cancers and childhood developmental problems. It is found in clear, hard polycarbonate plastic commonly used in household and commercial water coolers and some reusable bottles, and it's just one potentially harmful substance associated with plastic containers.

The presence of chemicals isn't the only reason we should try to wean ourselves from the bottle, though. For one thing, bottled water is expensive, costing more than a comparable amount of gasoline. Unlike most nations on Earth, Canada has a vast quantity of fresh water. Have we so polluted our water that we feel compelled to pay a lot for it? And from beginning to end (and for plastics, that end is a long time away), plastic bottles contribute to environmental problems. To start, the manufacturing process is a factor in global warming and depletion of energy resources. It takes close to 17 million barrels of oil to produce the 30 billion water bottles that U.S. citizens go through every year. Or, as the National Geographic website illustrates it: "Imagine a water bottle filled a quarter of the way up with oil. That's about how much oil was needed to produce the bottle." It also takes more water to produce a bottle than the bottle itself will hold. Canadians consume more than two billion liters of bottled water a year, and globally, we consume about 190 billion liters a year. Unfortunately, most of those bottles more than 85 per cent, in fact get tossed into the trash rather than the recycling bin.

The pollution from plastics affects our air, land, and water. Many plastic bottles end up in landfills or get incinerated and burning plastic releases toxic chemicals into the air. Plastic that stays on land or that is buried can take hundreds of years to break down, and even then, it doesn't completely biodegrade.

One of the most disturbing things is what happens to plastic that ends up in the oceans which is about 10 per cent of all plastic produced, according to Greenpeace. About 900 kilometers off the coast of California, a massive, expanding island of plastic debris 30 meters deep and bigger than the province of Quebec swirls in what is known as the North Pacific Gyre. In a recent column for CBC's website, writer Heather Mallick described it as "a hideous chyme stretching and pulsing in the sea like an underwater gob of spiky phlegm." Plastic doesn't biodegrade; rather, it photodegrades, which means that, under sunlight, it just keeps breaking down into smaller and smaller pieces. The tiniest bits of plastic, called nurdles, enter the food chain when they are eaten by marine animals and birds. Nurdles also soak up toxins, adding to the poisons consumed by animals and every creature up the food chain. More than a million birds and marine animals die every year from eating plastic waste or from becoming entangled in plastics.

If the environmental damage caused by plastic bottles or the existence of potentially toxic chemicals in the bottles isn't enough to make you avoid them, how about some reasons that hit closer to home?

First there's the fact that many bottlers get their water from municipal supplies. Coca Cola filters and bottles water from municipal sources in Calgary and Brampton for its Dasani brand. Pepsi's Aquafina comes mostly from Vancouver and Mississauga. That's right: they're taking your tap water and selling it back to you at a markup that can be as high as 3,000 times the price you pay for it through your taxes.

There's also a danger that governments may use the growing reliance on bottled water as an excuse to avoid their responsibility to ensure we have access to safe drinking water. The federal government must address any existing concerns about drinking-water quality with enforceable standards designed to protect human health.

If you're worried about chlorine in your drinking water, put it in a pitcher and let it stand overnight to allow the chlorine to evaporate - or consider buying a carbon activated filter for your tap. To carry water with you, fill up your stainless steel or glass bottle from the tap, and enjoy. Water is a precious resource that belongs to all of us. Let's not take it for granted. And let's not put it in plastic. Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org.

Social stuff

By Ilonka Jarvis

MUSSELS ON THE MOORING

It had been a lovely fine day all Friday, that is until it was time to bring the boat around to the loading jetty at the SYC, and then the weather gods turned NASTY! It rained, the wind howled and the whole enterprise started to look decidedly iffy. Nothing daunted, our brave skipper, Kerry, who managed to bring the boat around without demolishing either the pen or the jetty. Chef Malcolm loaded up his supplies and his cooking pots, we all piled on board and sailed off to the mooring to our eagerly awaited mussel feast.

And what a feast it was! Fortunately the rain disappeared as quickly as it had started and the rest of the evening was fine. So was the food - very fine indeed. The platter of gourmet sandwiches Malcolm had brought on board disappeared in seconds flat. The mussels were fresh and plump, Malcolm's sauces were absolutely delicious and there was a good supply of tasty Italian bread to mop them up. Tiramisu, meringues and fruit salad were on hand to fill any gaps anyone may have had left.

The evening had quite a romantic ambience as well, compliments of the fact that the only lights working on the boat were the one right at the back where Malcolm was cooking and fortunately, the one in the heads. A tiny little lantern Susie brought on board did allow us to see as least a little (a very little!) in the cabin. It was, however, a great deal better than nothing.

All in all, it was a most enjoyable evening. Now speaking from very pleasant experience, if in future something comes up where Malcolm is donning his chef's hat, do yourself a favour and sign on!

SYC/UEC Liaison Officer Report

By Carmine

UEC/SYC Liaison Report May 2008

In the last few weeks we have managed to accumulate a further three SYC points for the UEC. We have participated in a fishing expedition, for one point, where one of our members took out the top prize; namely Judy Cowan who won a splendid rod and reel. About 20 members took part in the clean up day, for another point, and once again pulled out some chairs and other rubbish in quite testing current conditions. Clive attended a mooring meeting for another point and that gives us now a total of 6 points for the past SYC 12 month period. We only need 5 to justify our position but it doesn't hurt to attain more to show we are really trying to be part of the SYC. This augers well for the UEC and I am pleased to report that we are really re-establishing ourselves as affiliates and the past is all but forgotten.

I was to be the skipper on the 17th May for the Power Boat Opening Day Sail Past but I had forgotten a previous engagement. Fortunately Martin has agreed to step in and skipper the boat for me. If this report gets to you before the weekend all are invited for a free-of-charge trip up and down the river while the Admiralty of the club salute you with a glass of Champagne. Bring along a bottle and dress up in some sort of Olympics Regalia for a fun afternoon and a few drinks with your friends. This will also serve the dual purpose of giving us yet another SYC point. I am sure Clive will have put the event in the weekly mail out.

I am sure you are all able to see that it is not too hard to be part of our host club and join in some of the fun at the same time.

Carmine

Training

By Carmine

UEC Training Report May 2008

As promised in the last report we are now right into our training schedules for our two skippers and our three D/O - Deckhands. I am glad to report that all is going well and we are up to date and will probably have them ready to qualify for the June general meeting. The Skippers are really quite advanced as both Martin and Wendy have already been training for some time and are really only in need of more practice to hone their skills with our boat. The D/O - Deckhands are coming along quite nicely and have now completed the required 4 theory lessons. We will be carrying out several practical exercises in conjunction with our skippers and I am sure they will be right up to speed by the examination day around the middle of June.

You will already have been advised that the Avon Descent Association have offered a free first aid course to all who will attend the event and some of the training days. I am taking a list of people who are interested and will then pass it on to whoever will be running the event on behalf of the UEC, as I will be in the Kimberly at the time of the event.

I encourage as many of you as possible to not only avail yourselves of this opportunity to get a free course but also to help our club. If we muster enough people the ADA will as usual donate a goodly sum to the UEC which will help our cause immensely. For those of you who have not previously attended an Avon Event before I can assure you it is very worthwhile indeed. Just the scenery alone along the most beautiful part of the Avon River is something everyone should see. The event itself is very exciting and if you attend as part of the rescue team you will have front row seats in what is the longest whitewater event in the world.

Carmine

By the way

Carol is a rather keen gardener and has potted some plants she would like to sell at the next general meeting. The cost will be either one, two or three dollars per item and all proceeds go to the UEC. I will bring them to the next meeting

Some other input mostly from Carmine

The Jokers Forum

I was depressed last night so I called Lifeline.

I got connected to a call centre in Pakistan.
When I told them I was suicidal.

They got all excited and asked if I could drive a truck.

You Gotta Love the Irish

Walking into the bar, Mike said to Charlie the bartender, 'Pour me a stiff one - just had another fight with the little woman.'

'Oh yeah?' said Charlie, 'And how did this one end?'

'When it was over,' Mike replied, 'She came to me on her hands and knees.'

'Really,' said Charles, 'Now that's a switch! What did she say?'

She said, 'Come out from under the bed, you little chicken.'

Flynn staggered home very late after another evening with his drinking buddy, Paddy. He took off his shoes to avoid waking his wife, Mary. He tiptoed as quietly as he could toward the stairs leading to their upstairs bedroom, but misjudged the bottom step. As he caught himself by grabbing the banister, his body swung around and he landed heavily on his rump. A whiskey bottle in each back pocket broke and made the landing especially painful.

Managing not to yell, Flynn sprung up, pulled down his pants, and looked in the hall mirror to see that his butt cheeks were cut and bleeding.

He managed to quietly find a full box of Band-Aids and began putting a Band-Aid as best he could on each place he saw blood.

He then hid the now almost empty Band-Aid box and shuffled and stumbled his way to bed.

In the morning, Flynn woke up with searing pain in both his head and butt and Mary staring at him from across the room.

She said, 'You were drunk again last night weren't you?'

Flynn said, 'Why do you say such a mean thing?'

'Well,' Mary said, 'it could be the open front door, it could be the broken glass at the bottom of the stairs, it could be the drops of blood trailing through the house, it could be your bloodshot eyes, but mostly.....it's all those Band-Aids stuck on the hall mirror.'

Editors rant.

Well This is a fairly small newsletter this month we all seem to have some sort of hickup.some very serious.

In my case not, I wrote a short article (2 pages) on my recent dive trip to the Solomon islands and now can't find it anywhere on any of the computer equipment I use, rats!

I was asked to welcome 2 new members and I cant find the piece of paper I wrote their names down on,though I blame the cat for that as she gets destructive if I ignore her, this includes pushing things off desks and tables and shredding paper till I get up and chase her round the house. Mission acomplished I've given her some attention and now have 2 uncashable cheques their so badly damaged.

So Welcome to new members #####and #####

Thank you to the contributors for this month.

Also thank you very much Pat for doing Aprils newsletter while I was away I am sure everyone noticed the improvement in the quality of the tome.

Recycle your corks!

Never, ever throw a cork into landfill! Zita Dobson collects them and sends them to Guides Australia who recycle them and raise money.

Save them up and bring them to a meeting:
Zita or Bob are usually there.

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The holiday includes your boat trip to Rotto, accommodation, all dives and tank fills.

Please contact Clive Cass at president@uecwa.com.au or see me at the Club meeting on Wed

Winter on Rottnest 2008

Friday 22 to Sunday 24 August 2008

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What's to do? Relax, walk the island, bus trip, train trip to the gun emplacement, eat, drink and be merry. We usually dine out at the hotel or cook in the chalet – NO! we don't cook!

This is the third year and we have 12 beds in twin share rooms.

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President	Clive Cass	president@uecwa.com.au
Vice President	Martin Smith	vicepresident@uecwa.com.au
Secretary	Steve Larter	secretary@uecwa.com.au
Treasurer	Renee Barker	treasurer@uecwa.com.au
Dive coordinator	Jasmine Smith	divebookings@uecwa.com.au
Boat Officer	Steve Bright	boat@uecwa.com.au
Training Officer	Carmine Travaglione	training@uecwa.com.au
Social	Ilonka Jarvis	socialbookings@uecwa.com.au
Fundraising		fundraising@uecwa.com.au
Environment	Dallis Strick	environment@uecwa.com.au
Communications	Chris Wilkinson	communications@uecwa.com.au
Safety Officer	Rex Burr	safety@uecwa.com.au
New Members	Anne McCarrol	newmembers@uecwa.com.au
SYC Liaison	Carmine Travaglione	syc@uecwa.com.au
Website	Martin Arrowsmith	



June 2008 Newsletter



President's Report

By Clive Cass

Hi everyone

As perhaps expected the diving has been affected by the winter weather and the boat has not been out as much as we would like.

It is time to consider our participation in the Avon Descent, our traditional winter activity. Carmine is busy coordinating the UEC involvement and has a strong base to start with. More people are needed, so please let us know if you can complete the numbers needed to gain much needed funds for the Club.

Socially we are gearing up for dinners, the AGM and social functions on the boat, which take little effort and are great fun.

The awards night will be held at the AGM on 16 July and I am looking for the perpetual trophies for Most Improved Diver and Most Safety Conscious member that are still held by the last person to receive the award. Can you help locate them?

Remember memberships to UECWA and SYC are due for renewal at the end of June, so please everyone assist by paying direct or at the next General Meeting. Details are included further in the newsletter.

Support your club by enjoying the Almost Legendary Chefs Progressive Dinner on 12 July.

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Toms Dive Report



On Saturday the 14th 4 divers turned up for the one tank dive.

Kerry, our skipper took us out to stragglers.

‘Thanks for that Kerry and crew.’

The weather was fine, a bit windy and the sea was choppy but not uncomfortably so.

Once in the water though it was great. Very little surge and excellent visibility! It was quite a shallow dive, only about eight meters however this gave us plenty of bottom time.

I was diving with John and we both had cameras and hoped for the best. Here are five I took.

Tom Bassett.



Safety officers Report

By Rex

The duties of the safety officer are!

- (1) Investigation and upgrading of the clubs safety standards
- (2) Advising the Committee of Management of diver safety matters
- (3) Acquainting members of technical developments and advances in diving practices and related equipment

The Safety Incident/Event Reporting sheets are now on the boat. I would like to encourage all members to use these forms no matter how insignificant the event may seem. Any incident that reduces the safety margin for our members should be reported. There is no necessity to name persons involved and the reporting person's anonymity is assured.

This month there have been two reports handed to me, both of which I have taken to the committee for discussion and action if necessary.

1. This report concerned the motor covers on our boat. This member reported that several people have slipped on these covers when they are wet and has asked that the covers be painted with non-slip paint. The committee has agreed and this will be carried out in the near future.

2. This report by a member states; the shot/stop line is regularly suspended next to the ladder on the boat. If a person removes their weight belt and drops it while another diver is directly below, that person could be struck by the falling weight belt. The shot line should always be suspended on the side opposite the ladder. This was agreed by the committee and all DO's will be advised of this procedure. All members should take note of this and make sure for everyone's safety this is carried out.

See you all at the June general meeting and keep the reports coming in.

Safe Diving, Rex

Bali Holiday

From Gary Browne



Bali Trip 2008

Back in Jan Vicki and I started planning another trip to Bali so I contacted by Balinese Dive Buddy Wayan Segara and told him to arrange a dive trip up to Menjangan, Tulamben and Nusa Penida.

We arrived in Bali on the 25th April, Segara and his wife met us at the airport and drove us to our Hotel, the Bali Mandira in Legian where we unwound for a few days before heading off for Menjangan which is a three hour drive up through central Bali through some very pretty country we stopped at a warung for a coffee and a chat with the locals overlooking a very large lake, we have stopped here several times before on previous trips and never get tired of the view over the lake and terraced hillsides, we then drove out to the Northwest tip of the island to an area called Permutaren where there are several Resorts catering for divers we checked into the small but very neat and clean Aneka Bagus, Segara had booked into a Garden View Room close to the pool, beach and restaurant all this for just \$50 US a night including a good breakfast.

The next morning after a hearty breakfast we left Vicki by the pool and Segara and I headed off to Labuan Lalang, which is next door to the Mimpri Resort where we were allotted to our boat for the 30 minute trip to Menjangan Island, after dropping off snorkellers on the beach we headed off to the eastern end of the island for our first dive like most of the sites here this was a wall dive with deep gullies that dropped down to over 60m lots of gorgonian fans and an array of colorful hard and soft corals and the fish life was just beautiful lots of butterfly fish, angel fish, surgeons, trigger fish, huge bump head wrasse etc.





Lunch and surface interval was spent on the beach at a place referred to as Pos2 which is midway along the south side of the island, second dive was straight out from the beach at Pos 2 then off with a slight current towards the west once again another great dive in very dramatic country water temperature was 26C and viz was at least 30m, very comfortable diving, On this dive Segaras eagle eyes picked out a beautiful tiny pygmy seahorse that was camouflaged amongst a small gorgonian fan, we also saw a juvenile spotted sweetlip which looked like a spotted Spanish dancer, beautiful.

This evening we went down the road to the Taman Sari resort for dinner, this is a beautiful larger resort catering for divers set in very pretty surrounds right on the beach.

On our last day at Menjangan Vicki came out with us “just for a snorkel” however during our surface interval Segara managed to persuade Vicki to put my scuba gear on and have a try at scuba, Vicki did a dive course over ten years ago but didn’t continue with it, Segara was very patient with her and got her confident in shallow water then gradually coaxed her down to about 6 meters she was very pleased with herself.

After three days of great diving we left Permutaren and drove down to Tulamben where Segara had booked us into the Mimpi Resort in an Ocean View Room which was just stunning, the resort is situated midway between the wreck and the drop off.

After a meal at a nearby restaurant and a few quiet beers at the Mimpi we had early night ready for an early start in the morning. We were up at 6.30 and in the water by 7.15 diving on the wreck, I never get tired of diving here this is my third time here and it wont be my last, it is much better to dive the wreck first thing in the morning before the day trippers arrive from down Kuta way at about 10am when things can get a little congested, even though this site gets a hammering it is still worth a visit the fish life and coral growth are still thriving. We had breakfast during the surface interval then went over to the drop off, I managed to get down to around 40m and checked out some white tip sharks and several very large “smiling” bivalves that looked like oysters, I just got the camera ready and they decided to close there “mouths” so no photos.

Before leaving Tulamben Vicki and I spent an hour snorkelling over the wreck we were surrounded by surgeon fish and massive schools of trevally and fusiliers a wonderful way to finish off our five day get away, this afternoon we drove back to our hotel at Legian for a few days R&R .

A few days later we headed off to Lembongan Island for a one night stop over at a friends luxurious hilltop villa at Lembongan Island Beach Villas, a great location when you want to get away from the hussle and bussle of life and need to chill out, we only stayed for one night but will be spending three or four nights here on our next Bali trip. Check out the website at www.lembonganbeachvillas.com



The day after we got back from Lembongan Segara picked me up and we headed off to his brothers dive shop Golden Sea Dive on Turtle Island, from here we headed off to Nusa Penida to a dive site called Manta Point we dropped into 20m of water and were soon surrounded by five very large inquisitive manta rays which was a real buzz.

From here we went into the channel that runs between Nusa Cennigan and Nusa Penida to a site in Gamat Bay this site can be quite difficult to dive as there are strong downward currents and depending on the tide the surface current can be very strong however on the day we dived conditions were not too bad, once in the water we made our way out towards the channel, the current became stronger at about 20 meters, a strong current suddenly pulled us to south and we had to hang on to the reef and gradually make our way to shallower water where conditions were much better. This is an amazing and beautiful dive site, hard corals and fish life seemed very healthy with lots of gorgonian and soft coral,. There are several large bommies, surrounded with thousands of small fish there are several small caves which were home to moray eels, a large school of Giant Trevally passed us by, apparently there is a resident giant Potato Cod here but we didn't meet him but I did meet a pretty black and white banded sea snake about 1.5 m long and about 3cm diameter, there was also quite a few different species of colourful nudibranchs.

The fish life in Gamat Bay is like many other dive sites in Bali, Blue spotted stingray (*Taeniura lymma*), Yellow margin moray (*Gymnothorax flavimarginatus*), Giant Moray eel (*Gymnothorax Javanicus*), Ribbon eel (*Rhinomuraena quaesita*), Squirrel and soldier fish (*Myripristis & Sargocentron*), Trumpet fish (*Aulostomidae*), Scorpion fish (*Scorpaenidae*), Sweet lips (*Haemulidae*), Butterfly fish (*Chaetodontidae*), Clown Anemone fish (*Amphiprion percula*), Barracuda (*Sphyraenidae*), Clown trigger fish (*Balistoides conspicillum*), Titan Trigger (*Balistoides viridescens*), and my favourite fish the Emperor Angel Fish (*Pomacanthus imperator*)

And so ended my very enjoyable Bali Diving Holiday I cant thank Segara enough for organising the diving and the accomodation while we were away at Menjangan and Tulamben, he is also a great dive buddy, I can thoroughly recommend Segara and his dive shop Golden Sea Diving you can contact Segara by email at

segara.diver@gmail.com

Check out the dive shop website at www.goldenseadivebali.com



SYC/UEC Liaison Officer Report

By Carmine

UEC/SYC Liaison Report June 2008

Very soon the SYC will be issuing their Pen License Renewal Agreements and I am pleased to report that we have certainly achieved our prerequisite points. This simply means we will receive our renewal license. Achieving this has not really proved to be too onerous a task and we have just simply shown that we are part of the SYC and are interested and concerned in its future well being, while still maintaining our autonomy as a diving club.

With this years UEC renewal of membership you will also be invoiced for the SYC social membership. This is now part and parcel of our yearly membership and is payable by all UEC members. Please be prompt in its payment as the club will need to pass this on to the SYC. I am sure I don't need to remind you all what benefits we get from our affiliation with the SYC both on a club and personal level. Don't forget to pick up your parking stickers.

In this months Cygnet (the SYC magazine) there are several entertainment events such as the Neil Diamond show, Christmas in July and the usual trivia night. I would encourage you, our members, to get a table together and book in the name of the UEC as this will benefit both clubs.

All in all our inter club relationship is going well.

Carmine

A group of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, accompanied by two female teachers, went on a field trip to the local racetrack to learn about thoroughbred horses and the supporting industry, but mostly to see the horses.

When it was time to take the children to the bathroom it was decided that the girls would go with one teacher and the boys would go with the other. The teacher assigned to the boys was waiting outside the men's room when one of the boys came out and told her that none of them could reach the urinal. Having no choice, she went inside, helped the boys with their pants, and began hoisting the little boys up one by one, holding on to their "wee-wees" to direct the flow away from their clothes. As she lifted one, she couldn't help but notice that he was unusually well endowed. Trying not to show that she was staring, the teacher said, "You must be in the 5th grade." "No, ma'am", he replied. "I'm the jockey riding Silver Arrow in the seventh, but I really appreciate your help."

Training

By Carmine

UEC Training Report June 2008

Our schedule to try to get our trainees qualified for our June meeting has been put back due to busy schedules. Gee people have lots of choices in their lives nowadays. It's great but it makes it hard to schedule everything in. Certainly the days of looking forward to the weekend to go fishing or maybe to go for a drive or to a restaurant are well and truly in the past. Nowadays these things are all achieved by Tuesday night and it's a battle to fit the other 17 things to do in the remaining 5 days. No problem; there are the nights.

Seriously though our training has been going well and the budding Skippers and DO's seem to be well and truly up to the task and once we have ticked off a few more boxes it will be confetti and parades for their qualification ceremony.

I must admit I have been a little disappointed at the response to the call for participants in the Avon Descent. We only need to muster 20 people to achieve our target so we can provide support to the ADA and qualify for the \$3000 donation for our club. I am sure you will all appreciate that for a club to survive it needs the support of its members. It is because of this support that the club is able to provide great advantages to our members such as less than half priced diving and less than quarter priced boat use. We are a non profit organization but to survive and plan for the future we need income over and above the annual subscriptions. The Avon Descent is a great way to provide this income because members who cannot contribute to the club in other ways have a real opportunity to do so by giving of their time for the benefit of both the Avon Descent and the UEC. It has been a tradition for some 16 years for the UEC to participate in this event. Apart from the financial benefit we receive we also gain recognition as a club with a social conscience wherein we give of our time to participate in a very important world event for the benefit of our profile as Australians on the world stage.

Your Club Needs You!!

No wait a minute.

Your Country Needs You!!!

Carmine

Some other input

The Jokers Forum

14 reasons to suspect your dive buddy wants more

- Its 18° C water and they still suggest, “Let’s dive in the nude.”
- Their offer to help you apply sunscreen extends to places not requiring it.
- Your surface interval comes complete with a 3 course dinner and champagne.
- They ask you to join them in the ‘10m Club’.
- They always double-check your crotch strap.
- They can’t say, “Going down.” Without smirking.
- You seem to make an appearance in every photo they take underwater.
- They offer to massage you after every dive, “To prevent bubble build-up.”
- They tell you with a wink they only wear rubber, “For protection”.
- Their mask steams up every time you take off your wetsuit.
- You haven’t drowned, but they will insist on giving you mouth to mouth.
- They insist that diving is NOT better than sex.
- They say, “Who needs RSVP when you have the UEC?”
- They put kisses after signing their name in your log book.

Malcolm Roberts

Editors rant.

Well a big thanks Gary for your write up on your recent Bali trip! makes me want to go there myself, have you ever considered a job as a travel consultant Gary?

There's not much (read 'nothing') from me this month, at work we are getting to the pointy end of a big overhaul and I am spending an unnatural amount of time at work. My brain has turned to mush or more so than usual for those that can't pick the difference. and the only thing I want to do after work is sleep, I even bailed on a dive!

I had started a bit about pressure gauges but that will have to wait till next month.

Keep diving

Thank you to the contributors for this month.

Recycle your corks!

Never, ever throw a cork into landfill! Zita Dobson collects them and sends them to Guides Australia who recycles them and raises money.

Save them up and bring them to a meeting: Zita or Bob are usually there.

Membership is due 1 July 2008

Remember your membership is due by 1 July 2008

Ordinary \$160 + \$66 Swan Yacht Club = \$226

Family \$220+ \$66 + \$66 =\$352

Student/social \$50

Please pay direct or at the Club meeting on 18 June to assist your treasurer.

You need to be a financial member to have a say in the election on 16 July 2008.

The elections are coming!

It is time to prepare for the AGM to be held on the Wed 16th July.

Do you think the committee can be improved? Then please make your move.

Each year three or four committee should be replaced to keep ideas fresh.

Will you nominate for a role? Who else do you think will be able to contribute?

Contact complete the Nomination Form below and forward to

president@uecwa.com.au.

Positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Boat, Social secretary, New Members, Fund Raiser, Dive Bookings, Safety, SYC, Communications (Newsletter and web, Training, and Environment.

Nomination form for committee member The Underwater Explorers Club of WA Year July 2008 to June 2009

Position being nominated

Person being nominated

I nominate the above

I second the nomination.

*OPTIONAL (to assist with elections)
Agreement from person being nominated*

I, the person nominated above, accept the nomination

(signed).....

Rottneest Holiday 2009

We have booked chalets again already for the Rottneest holiday. The last one was so successful that people are starting to book on now.

The dates are:

Week 7 to 13 March 2009 cost \$510

Long weekend 13 to 16 March 2009 cost \$290

(Please note that the long weekend includes Monday 16th and it is not a public holiday. We will need to arrange the extra day off work or earn brownie points to get away from the gardening)

The holiday includes your boat trip to Rotto, accommodation, all dives and tank fills.

Please contact Clive Cass at president@uecwa.com.au or see me at the Club meeting on Wed

Winter on Rottneest 2008

Friday 22 to Sunday 24 August 2008

We have booked two chalets for this relaxing and social non-diving weekend getaway.

What's to do? Relax, walk the island, bus trip, train trip to the gun emplacement, eat, drink and be merry. We usually dine out at the hotel or cook in the chalet – NO! we don't cook!

This is the third year and we have 12 beds in twin share rooms.

Cost is \$100 per person for accommodation. Ferry will be an extra \$50 for the return trip.

Please contact Clive Cass at president@uecwa.com.au or see me at the Club meeting on Wed

Pay directly online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: **Commonwealth Bank**
 Name: **Underwater Explorers Club of WA.**
 BSB: **066136**
 Account: **00901972**

There is limited space to write what the payment is for. Please start with your name and then reason for payment.

In all cases you must email the Treasurer with the following payment information:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for (and from)
- Reason for payment, e.g. Dive Dec 4, T-shirt, etc.

Club Aims and Objectives

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self-contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedures and to acquaint both Club members and the public with the facts of safety and using safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, provide fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

Contact your Committee

President	Clive Cass	president@uecwa.com.au
Vice President	Martin Smith	vicepresident@uecwa.com.au
Secretary	Steve Larter	secretary@uecwa.com.au
Treasurer	Renee Barker	treasurer@uecwa.com.au
Dive coordinator	Jasmine Smith	divebookings@uecwa.com.au
Boat Officer	Steve Bright	boat@uecwa.com.au
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New Members	Anne McCarrol	newmembers@uecwa.com.au
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July 2008 Newsletter



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President's Report

By Clive Cass

Hi everyone

I would like to thank the committee members who have all put in a mighty effort to enable us all to dive and socialise on and off the boat. There have been elected committee members, and also members who have been called into take over roles left vacant for various reasons. We can thank them all for fulfilling their roles admirably as a contribution to your club. I have been honoured to have been supported by the committee.

The year is coming to a close and it will be pleasing to see the new committee lead the club forward with new vigour and progress the sale and purchase of our next boat.

It is pleasing to see the jump in photographic activity by club members, and I expect this to lead to more dives in the sanctuary zones to complement the cray dives that many of us love so much.

Please continue to support the new committee and participate actively in all diving and social functions available for your enjoyment.

I look forward to seeing you at the Awards Night and AGM on Wed 16 July 2008 with the many life members joining us and supporting the Club.

Clive

Progressive Dinner a Winner

By Malcolm Roberts

'Twas a cold winter's night in July, but the warm-spirited UEC socialites more than made up for it. The 2008 UEC Progressive Dinner was soon to start.

With Geoff Geard at the wheel, the rented bus did the rounds of pick-ups and soon we were off to our first stop – drinks and tapas at Susie and Kerry's. With a glass of sherry or Muscat in one hand and a piece of octopus or chorizo in the other it seemed a million conversations all started at once.



Before you knew it the bell rang and we were back on the bus to our next destination – soup at Jasmine and Martin's. The tables were laid with cloths and flowers, and aromas of seafood chowder and pumpkin soup filled the room. Conversations and wine flowed freely as we tried hard to resist filling up with seconds of soup it was so yummy. Tempting, but we knew Ilonka had been preparing a feast, so move on we must.

With hosts joining us on the bus, our entourage was growing fast.

The bottle-bearing hordes descended en masse on Ilonka and Eddy's doorstep and were ushered through to the back patio area familiar to those of you who were at the UEC Christmas party. You'd also know what an awesome spread of food Ilonka creates. Her buffet dishes got a hiding as we all tucked into a range of delicious food, with something there for everyone. By now, there really did seem like a thousand people all talking at once and the travelling party was in full swing.



Ding a ling!

"Is it time to move on already?"

Time flies when you're having fun.



Courtesy of Anne, desserts were waiting for us at Fiona and Bessam’s place nearby and it was a short, but giggly bus trip. (Whoever thought beetroots could be SO funny?)

Anyone who thought no one would have room for sweets, was as mistaken, as was the person who thought UEC members didn’t drink much. Desserts were demolished in a flash.

Annie serenaded us with her favourite flute and a wonderful UEC social event came to an end all too soon.

A BIG THANK YOU to all the hosts for all your hard work with preparation (and clean-up to return to), to Geoff for driving the bus, and especially to Anne McCarrol for organising such a great night.

Next year?



Fundraising Report July 2008

\$200,000

Over the next 12-18 months

It's been a great year and quite successful too. I didn't get a start till late but have had a great time. Now it's time to hand the reigns over to someone new with some fresh ideas to working towards our \$200,000 target for our new boat.

Your great efforts below have raised a **Total of \$2456**. Give yourselves a big pat on the back and get behind and support the coming events in the new year.

2008 Entertainment Book	\$780
Delicious Cadbury Chocolates	\$576
Stubbie Holders & Dust Caps	\$100
Almost Famous Chefs Progressive Dinner	\$1000

A great thank you to everyone who assisted in selling the Entertainment books and Cadbury Chocolates.

Progressive Dinner

The progressive dinner was a fantastic evening and everyone was already talking about the next one before this one even ended. You can read all about it as told by Malcolm Roberts further in the newsletter.

UEC Collector's Edition Wine

Carmine has graciously volunteered to finalise the wine sales and they should be ready for sale at the September meeting.

Thanks' for all your support
Anne McCarrol, Fundraising Officer

New Members Report July 2008

Another month gone, well in fact it's another year gone and time for a new committee. It's been fun and I have enjoyed this role immensely. It's a great chance to meet new people and introduce them to the club we enjoy being a part of. Each new member adds their little bit to our club making it a very diverse place to be. If you have wanted to get involved in the committee this role is a good start. How about nominating for New Members Officer. It's a good way to get involved and a great way to learn more about the club.

It's been another quiet month with only the odd contact enquiry. Oh how so many divers avoid the winter cold and would rather stick to the warm summer diving. They just don't know what they are missing. But once they hear about all the other things the club has to offer we'll have to move out the way of the stampede.

Safe and exciting diving.

Anne McCarrol
New Members Officer

Google Oceans

Google diving into 3D mapping of oceans

Check out the following web link sent by Chris Cunnold -

http://news.cnet.com/8301-10784_3-9931412-7.html?tag=blog.2

More on Bali

From Chris Cunnold

I hope you all enjoyed Gary Browne's excellent article about Bali last month because here is another one on the same subject ... except this one is just about Tulamben.

A handful of UEC members (and others) recently did a week of diving at Tulamben in the North East of Bali. Tulamben has become Bali's most popular diving destination due the WWII transport ship *USAT Liberty* being wrecked just off the shore here.



We stayed at [Tulamben Wreck Divers](#) which is right in the middle of the village and has the advantage of being only 200 metres from the wreck dive. The accommodation here is great, with lush gardens and a lovely swimming pool and the apartments are large, clean and are air-conditioned. Tulamben Wreck Divers is owned by Australians Tony and Dot Medcraft formally of Exmouth dive.

The first couple of days diving were a bit slow, we only dived the wreck as we had also arranged for each of us to do a half day underwater

photography course with Jeff Mullins from [Reef, Wreck and Critter Dive Tours](#). Jeff and Dawn are also West Aussies who spend most of their time in Tulamben leading dive tours and conducting photography courses. Because one of us was always up and Jeff's house we couldn't cram in all the dives we would have liked in the first two days but it was well worth it as the results of Jeff's tuition on our underwater images is incredible.



Inside the Liberty wreck

The *USAT Liberty* was built in 1918 and was being used as a transport ship during WWII when it was torpedoed in the Lombok Strait. Under tow, she was limping toward Java when it became impossible to keep her afloat so she was run aground at Tulamben. From 1944 she sat on the shore until in 1963 when Mount Agung erupted just behind Tulamben and the ship slipped off the shore into the water. She is 120 metres long and lies parallel to the shore and after you scramble and then swim across the vast area of rounded volcanic rocks you encounter her at 5 metres and on down to 30 plus.

Despite the rounded rocks, all the shore diving here is really easy. Your gear is carried to the water's edge by a porter and far from the commando style shore entries sometimes needed in Perth; here you just walk in to the water.

As Gary mentioned in his article, early morning dives are best at the wreck so that you miss the hoards of ‘once a year’ divers who travel up from Kuta by bus. Twilight and night dives are pretty special as you usually have the wreck to yourself then.

This wreck is unique as normally a dive of this type would be in deep water and involve major logistical planning. Here you just slip in to 28 degree water and see everything from the smallest nudibranchs, crabs and shrimps, to beautiful soft and hard corals and large pelagic fishes such as Tuna, Barracuda and huge Bumphead Wrasse. It is also home to smooth Pygmy Seahorses which you find at around 27 metres on Gorgonian Fan Corals. The wreck was a favoured site and we ended up doing five dives on the *Liberty* during our week stay.

The other two dives sites that are close the village are the Coral Gardens and the Drop Off. For one reason or another we only managed one dive at the Coral Gardens but it was a good one.

The first amazing sight was a huge Barracuda sitting down at 15 metres, nosed into the current and hovering in one spot. It seems this big guy is the same one who frequents the wreck and although he is diver friendly one look at those teeth meant my dive buddy couldn’t convince me that the photo ‘op’ of me patting him on the head was worth it regardless of how hard he tried. We also came across an area that had more Anemone Fish that we had ever seen. We were discussing afterwards and we had all assumed that each species of Anemone Fish had a specific Anemone it lived in, but here we saw five different species of fish in a small area all living in the same species of Anemone.



Twin Chromodoris



Pygmy Seahorse

The Drop Off is a great site too. We did a heap of dives here spotting numerous Nudibranchs, cleaner shrimps and even an Ornate Harlequin Pipe Fish.

We did a couple of boat dives near the Drop Off, one called Palong Palong and another called Alam Ander. The highlight of which was the ‘lumpy’ Pygmy Seahorse.



Harlequin Shrimp



Hairy Squat Lobster

Boat diving involves hiring a local Outrigger type canoe which has a small engine and a long shaft drive attached.

With two divers per boat it's very cheap to skip around to the next bay for a dive.

Speaking of the next bay, Seraya Beach is my favourite spot in Tulamben. It is 'muck diving' heaven as nearly everything is small and it lets you concentrate on macro photography. We did three dives at Seraya and spotted Harlequin Shrimp, Zebra Crabs, Coleman Shrimps, Nudibranchs, Moray Eels, Lionfish, you name it and it was there.

If you have never dived overseas but are keen to do so, this is the place to start. If you are like me the thought of Bali (the Kuta part) really put me off going the first time but the real Bali to the north is beautiful, the people are gentle and friendly and the diving is easy and spectacular.

Don't be fooled though, Tulamben has little else 'touristy' other than diving. It is a small fishing village with a couple of diving resorts. Diving in Bali is very inexpensive. Our week (6 diving days) including flights, transfers, quality accommodation and 14 dives was around \$1600 and we ate cheaply at a local restaurant for around \$7 a sitting each. We had such a good time we've already booked a handful of rooms for 2 weeks at the same time next year.

If you are interested in some really good photos of Tulamben under water and topside, check out the images on <http://reefnet.ca/gallery/>. The site is the work of a Canadian family we met in Tulamben.

Travelling to Surya Beach with
Mount Agung in the
background



SYC/UEC Liaison Officer Report

By Carmine

UEC/SYC Liaison Report July 2008

As predicted we just recently received our pen renewal certificate which has been submitted by Clive upon the request of the SYC. This ensures we have security of tenure of our Pen for another 12 months.

Also just recently we have been allocated our own dinghy rack which is number 42. This means for \$85.00 per annum we can now keep our dinghy on that rack as otherwise we would have to find some other place to keep it when not on the mooring at Rottneest.

To remind you, the members, why we want to remain affiliated members of the Swan Yacht Club especially as some of the new members will not be aware of the advantages, I just want to list a few of the facilities we enjoy. We have the use of an excellent pen for our boat, at very competitive rates, whereas pens are indeed in short supply and more expensive in other venues. We have the use of excellent club facilities for functions and meetings. The SYC is the private club on the river closest to the heads at Fremantle. We also have the use of boat slipping and cleaning facilities at very competitive rates. We enjoy free security patrolled parking. All social members also receive a free birthday meal voucher. Most importantly the location on the river is complementary to our function as a diving club and is also very conveniently located to our mooring on the river at Chidley Point.

We are very fortunate indeed to be allowed to be affiliates of the SYC and I hope the next twelve months will be as enjoyable and successful as the last six months have been.

Carmine

East Fremantle Yacht Club - Marine Fuel Access

Please note that due to a change in our marina contractor's work programme, our marine fuel facility will not be available from Monday 14th July for approximately four weeks whilst the dispensers are being relocated to the new extension of D Jetty.

You still have time to "top up" before 14th July.

The closest alternative marine fuel outlet is Aquarama and I would suggest you discuss their requirements with them as soon as possible if you anticipate you will need fuel whilst our facility is not available.

We apologise for any inconvenience and will contact you when our fuel facility is available after the relocation.

Training

By Carmine

UEC Training Report July 2008

In spite of all the busy schedules and other commitments we managed to get all the five prospective DO's to sit for their final exam. They all passed with distinctions and either made it clear that I set easy exams or they are indeed not only intelligent but have retentive memories. I personally think they are a good crop of DO's and will help to make your diving experience both safer and more enjoyable. They will all receive their certificates at this AGM however a few of them will need to update their first aid courses; as this is a prerequisite to the course.

Also this AGM will herald two more, well deserved and long awaited certificate receivers. They are of course two skippers who have both been training for some time and well deserve the clubs members' accolades and gratitude. Becoming a skipper is a fairly drawn out and onerous task and requires many hours of training and practice to learn to drive our boat which is one of the most difficult tasks to master. They also need to learn and master the use of the GPS and echo sounder not to mention such other tasks as knowledge of the engines, radio communications, basic navigating and developing the character traits of being able to think clearly in stressful situations and give instructions.

As an aside I would just like to advise all the members that although skippers and DO's are in charge of the running of the boat, we are still a club and therefore all club members have an interest in assisting them, if requested. This simply means that those who volunteer for these positions are not burnt out by being expected to carry out their duties as though the club were a commercial operator. At the end of a dive or function please ask if you can help in any small way such as taking the rubbish to the bins or helping to unload. The result will be a happier and more cohesive club.

Carmine

UEC Training Report July 2008

This is not from but via Carmine regarding our involvement in the Avon descent. This is a significant fundraiser for the club and something we have been involved in for a very long time. It's in August, it's usually hard work, but might be considered a fun weekend by some who like rubber suits, biting cold, very early starts and living on the edge, (so you can rightly say "I'm not taking up too much space") let's face it you wouldn't be there if you weren't an adrenaline junky would you, standing on the edge of the most dangerous spots in the river system waiting for a disaster to happen. If you have the time it's well worthwhile getting involved. I have been one of the cooks for the last 4 years now (no deaths that I am aware of so far) but this year with my work commitments it's going to be a last minute decision to go. Please support this club activity; it makes it so much easier for you the volunteers if we have more people than we need.
ED

Hi All,

The ASU has asked me to collate an exact volunteer list on all who are going to the Avon Descent this year.

I need the following:

Name and contact phone number

The best contact email address

Previous experience in the event -

- In water.
- Shore based
- And how many times involved.

The ASU needs this to set up the teams with the relevant experience in each.

There will also be a team meeting on the 20th July to sort out equipment and meet fellow team members.

The ASU will email everybody regarding times etc for this day.

Please get this info to me ASAP so I can forward this on.

Cheers,

Andrew

0411 430 667

Andrew McGhie

Dive Report July 2008

Hello fellow UECers.

I wish I had lots of diving to report on but unfortunately the weather has not been kind and those beautiful clear calm winter days that we say are the best for diving just haven't happened. We have only managed to get out an average two weekends a month lately but I have been told that on the days we did manage to get wet a great time was had by all.

Some highlights this year have been several trips to 'The Nurses Quarters'. (It's always a joy to see our lovely Grey Nurse Sharks in the wild). We also had a weekend away at Busselton where the diving was wonderful and the accommodation at the Abbey Beach was terrific, also many trips to our favorite spots around Rottneest and The Stragglers.

I am certainly keeping my fingers crossed that the weather will improve and we can get wet on a more regular basis.

As this is my last report as UEC Dive co-ordinator I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our Skippers, Dos and deck hands for all their support and hard work during the past year. These people are truly amazing and several times were called upon at the last minute to crew the boat and always came up trumps. I would also like to thank Andrew Mingay, Chris Cunnold and Wendy Hutchison for organizing shore dives while our boat was unavailable.

This year we had many of our MUD friends join us on dives and they were always made to feel welcome on the boat. I have had some lovely feedback from them.

Finally thank you to the people who took time out to let me know how they went on their dive trips. I'm sure you will all continue to support and encourage our next dive co-ordinator just as much.

I wish you all well and many happy bubbles to come.

Cheers

Jasmine Lyons

Don't forget to check out the last page for Jasmine's excellent Progressive Dinner soup recipes

Boat Report

by Martin Smith

This being my last report for the year I would like to thank all those who have helped with the boat and kept it in ship shape condition ('scuse the pun).

During the last year the "UE" has presented us with various challenges which we have done our best to overcome. She certainly does like to keep us on our toes.

As with all boats there will always be those ongoing bits and pieces of maintenance that need to be attended to and I am sure you will all be there to help out the new Boat Officer as you have always been in the past.

Thanks and I wish you all happy diving

Some other input

The Jokers Forum



Editors rant.

Keep diving

Thank you to the contributors for this month.

Recycle your corks!



Never, ever throw a cork into landfill! Zita Dobson collects them and sends them to Guides Australia who recycles them and raises money.

Save them up and bring them to a meeting: Zita or Bob are usually there.

Have recently taken this lot to Guides Australia.....keep those corks popping my way. Zita

Membership is due 1 July 2008

Remember your membership is due by 1 July 2008

Ordinary \$160 + \$66 Swan Yacht Club = \$226

Family \$220+ \$66 + \$66 = \$352

Student/social \$50

Please pay direct or at the Club meeting on 18 June to assist your treasurer.

You need to be a financial member to have a say in the election on 16 July 2008.

The elections are coming!

It is time to prepare for the AGM to be held on the Wed 16th July.

Do you think the committee can be improved? Then please make your move.

Each year three or four committee should be replaced to keep ideas fresh.

Will you nominate for a role? Who else do you think will be able to contribute?

Complete the Nomination Form below and forward to president@uecwa.com.au.

Positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Boat, Social secretary, New Members, Fund Raiser, Dive Bookings, Safety, SYC, Communications (Newsletter and web, Training, and Environment.

Nomination form for committee member The Underwater Explorers Club of WA Year July 2008 to June 2009

Position being nominated

Person being nominated

I nominate the above

I second the nomination.

*OPTIONAL (to assist with elections)
Agreement from person being nominated*

I, the person nominated above, accept the nomination

(signed).....

Rottnest Holiday 2009

We have booked chalets again already for the Rottnest holiday. The last one was so successful that people are starting to book on now.

The dates are:

Week 7 to 13 March 2009 cost \$510

Long weekend 13 to 16 March 2009 cost \$290

(Please note that the long weekend includes Monday 16th and it is not a public holiday. We will need to arrange the extra day off work or earn brownie points to get away from the gardening)

The holiday includes your boat trip to Rotto, accommodation, all dives and tank fills.

Please contact Clive Cass at president@uecwa.com.au or see me at the club meeting on Wed

Winter on Rottnest 2008

Friday 22 to Sunday 24 August 2008

We have booked two chalets for this relaxing and social non-diving weekend getaway.

What's to do? Relax, walk the island, bus trip, train trip to the gun emplacement, eat, drink and be merry. We usually dine out at the hotel or cook in the chalet – NO! we don't cook!

This is the third year and we have 12 beds in twin share rooms.

Cost is \$100 per person for accommodation. Ferry will be an extra \$50 for the return trip.

Please contact Clive Cass at president@uecwa.com.au or see me at the club meeting on Wed

Pay directly online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Name: Underwater Explorers Club of WA.
BSB: 066136
Account: 00901972

There is limited space to write what the payment is for. Please start with your name and then reason for payment.

In all cases you must email the Treasurer with the following payment information:

- Date paid
- Who the payment is for (and from)
- Reason for payment, e.g. Dive Dec 4, T-shirt, etc.

Club Aims and Objectives

- To promote and participate in diving and its allied activities with the use of self-contained breathing equipment or other suitable apparatus.
- To encourage safety methods and procedures and to acquaint both Club members and the public with the facts of safety and using safe, reliable equipment.
- To organise social events and meetings, provide fellowship, instruction and exchange of ideas among members.

Contact your Committee

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Dive coordinator
Boat Officer
Training Officer
Social
Fundraising
Environment
Communications
Safety Officer
New Members
SYC Liaison
Website

Clive Cass
 Martin Smith
 Steve Larter
 Renee Barker
 Jasmine Smith
 Steve Bright
 Carmine Travaglione
 Ilonka Jarvis
 Anne McCarrol
 Dallis Strick
 Chris Wilkinson
 Rex Burr
 Anne McCarrol
 Carmine Travaglione
 Martin Arrowsmith

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secretary@uecwa.com.au
treasurer@uecwa.com.au
divebookings@uecwa.com.au
boat@uecwa.com.au
training@uecwa.com.au
socialbookings@uecwa.com.au
fundraising@uecwa.com.au
environment@uecwa.com.au
communications@uecwa.com.au
safety@uecwa.com.au
newmembers@uecwa.com.au
syc@uecwa.com.au

Soup Recipes from the Progressive Dinner

by Jasmine Lyons

Seafood Chowder

Please feel free to adjust quantities to suit your tastes. I tend to like LOTS of seafood in my chowder so tend to over do it. This is what I did to feed 30 people for the Progressive Dinner.

1kg Seafood Marina Mix from Sealanes in South Fremantle.
(They make THE best I have found). Frozen marinara mix is OK but nowhere near as nice as fresh.

500g Mixed fish pieces. (Doesn't matter what type of fish).

8 potatoes

Fresh Garlic cloves to taste

4 onions (Brown or white depending on your preference)

250g frozen corn kernels

1 cup Milk

Corn Flour or Potato Flour

Cream

Chicken stock or vegetarian substitute

Nutmeg

Black pepper

Peel and cut potatoes into small cubes. (If you use baby potatoes you do not have to peel them.) Place in a bowl of cold water so they do not discolour.

Chop or slice onions, not too finely, and cook in butter or olive oil with crushed garlic until transparent.

Add stock and heat to simmer and then add potatoes and their water and corn kernels. Liquid should just cover vegetables. Boil till potatoes are almost soft.

Add Seafood mix and fish pieces. Bring back to a simmer until seafood is just cooked.

Mix milk with some corn flour or potato flour (enough to just thicken soup) and stir in slowly while stirring.

When soup comes back to simmer add cream (once again as much or as little as you want).

When it's not my own waist line I have to worry about I add LOTS.

Bring back to simmer and test seasoning.

Add lots of freshly ground black pepper and some nutmeg to suit your taste.

Serve immediately.

(If you want a low fat version use skim milk, omit cream and add 1 tub of low fat Philadelphia Cream Cheese.)

Soup freezes well.

Pumpkin Soup

Quantities are variable.
This is for 30 people.

1 Jap Pumpkin chopped into large chunks.
(If you like extra flavor do not peel till after roasting)
4 Onions peeled and chopped into quarters
1 whole bulb garlic peeled
Chicken stock or vegetarian substitute
Cream or low fat Philadelphia Cream Cheese.
1 cup Milk
Corn flour or Potato flour

Place pumpkin, onions and garlic in large roasting pan. Drizzle over olive oil and add fresh ground black pepper. Roast in hot oven till pumpkin cooked and has crispy brown bits on the corners. Don't worry about using so much garlic, it gets sweeter as it roasts.
Heat stock and add vegetables. Cook until they are very soft. Blend till smooth.
Mix flour with milk and add to soup while stirring till soup is thickened slightly.
Add cream or cream cheese and bring back to simmer.
Add lots of nutmeg and freshly ground black pepper to taste.

Variations

- 1) Add Thai Green Curry Paste and substitute Coconut Cream for cream.
- 2) Add Curry Powder and cooked rice

UEEC NEWS

AUGUST 2008



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- Fridge Calendar



Avon Descent by Andrew McGhie

So the 2008 Avon Descent has come and gone again and the UEC managed to supply only fourteen volunteers. This is a few down on previous years and I think the ASU were expecting twenty with most being in water people. I know we will do much better for the 2009 Descent as we will start organising things much earlier and see if we can get to some training days.

Anyway the water levels were the highest seen since 1996 and the water was flowing fast. Katrine's bridge was closed, the left river of Extracts Weir was not recommended, and all novices had to carry their craft around the Weir. I was on duty at Extracts on river right with fellow UEC members Tom Bassett and Cameron McGhie, (and other ASU volunteers). We were told not to access the water unless it was absolutely necessary because of the fast flowing water. Also rescues from the shoreline would be difficult and dangerous for the rescue people, (this was much the same for most patrolled areas).

The only real drama for the morning was to pull out a capsized power boat so they could get it started, and later we pulled out a paddler that had corked his leg when he came off his ski. High water levels made this section fast and most paddlers made it through safely.

Day two saw us at Syd's Rapids. River right was not recommended and most of those who went down this side ended up swimming. River left was where all the action was and looking up stream we could see a constant hail of yellow throw bags being tossed to all who had lost their craft. There must have been over fifty paddle craft that went through Syd's without a paddler. Only one power boat capsized and the crew managed to untangle it from the rocks.

The water was cold as usual and we had to carry out one unfortunate paddler who was suffering from hypothermia. It's certainly a fair walk from the bank up to the access road carrying a stretcher! Bells was fast also and with the high water there was little to do and only a few paddlers were pulled out when they were parted from their craft. It's always a long day at Bells, and according to Bruce Fielding it ended around 3.30pm.

The ASU camp site was the usual hive of activity, the food was good, the campfire was hot and the company excellent. Thanks to all who gave up their valuable time and sat on a rock for two days, as it can be a little boring at times but you won't get a better view of the action anywhere else.

I hope to get better numbers from the UEC next year with a lot more of us attending training sessions, as the ASU wants us to supply more in water people as we have in the past.

Remember folks this is a major event in the UEC social calendar and it's also a major fundraising event for the club. The more people we can get the more we will get paid, so we will be aiming for 30 plus next year with at least 20 in water people.

Thanks again, Andrew McGhie

On the world wide web by Chris Cunnold

I'm not really sure how it happened, I wasn't even at the AGM but somehow I'm your new Communications Officer. That makes me responsible for the website, newsletter and PR.

I've kicked off by giving the website a lick of paint, just tidying, centralising and standardising pages. Most of the content is the same but its remarkable what some new pics and colour can do.

Two changes you will notice are the 'Members Page' where now you will find the Newsletters and other general club forms and references all in one spot. With some help from Chris Golding I have also managed to get all our old electronic Newsletters archived on the State Library's PANDORA project website, check out the links in the 'Members Page'

The other big change is the Album page. I have found a program that manages images with a minimum of fuss. Maintaining albums has been a big job until now but 'Jalbum' looks like a winner for us. I have loaded a sample of some Busselton photos but I need *YOUR* images. Send them to me, any size, I'll soon whip them in to shape.

As usual I will be looking for plenty of input for the website and newsletter so e-mail all your stuff to me at communications@uecwa.com.au.

DCI and the ex-HMAS Swan by Rex Burke

A review of Decompression illness and the HMAS Swan; a few extracts taken from the June edition of the SPUMS Magazine

Decompression Illness (DCI) is the term given to the clinical manifestations of bubble formation in the blood or tissues following a reduction in ambient pressure. The term covers two different problems: arterial gas embolism (AGE) caused by the presence of bubbles in the arterial blood vessels; and decompression sickness (DCS) caused by bubbles in the veins and tissues. The two entities are difficult to distinguish clinically and are treated with similar strategies.

The number of reported cases of decompression illness in divers in Australia has fallen considerably over the past decade and based on the latest available diving activity surveys, the Australia-wide DCI incidence rate can be estimated to be 10.74 per 100,000 dives.

The HMAS Swan was sunk in 30m of water off the coast of Western Australia in late 1997. Over the first three years there were 27,000 dives conducted through a single operator on the wreck. These resulted in eight known cases of DCI, an incidence rate of 30 per 100,000 dives.

Of interest, at the time the reported data were collected from the HMAS Swan in Western Australia, the typical dive profile consisted of two dives separated by a surface interval of one hour. Concerned about the high incidence rate of DCI and in an attempt to reduce this, the dive operator increased the surface interval to two hours. There have been very few DCI cases resulting from dives on the wreck since then.

A total of 3,558 divers have been treated for DCI in Australian chambers from the year 1995 to 2007.

A couple of club members have promised to give me a report on their DCI events which I hope to be able to report in my future safety reports. Also one of my own as I am off to see the diving doctor tomorrow night to discuss my recent DCI event. On that cheery note I will sign off.



'Over the first three years there were 27,000 dives conducted through a single operator on the wreck. which resulted in eight known cases of DCI'



'DCI belly'

From the President by Wendy Hutchison

It was tremendous to see so many of you at the General and Annual General Meetings in July; and it was a particular delight that two of our longer serving life members, Elaine Airey and Dave Kenny, gave their time to attend and participate in the awards ceremony at the General Meeting preceding the AGM.

Proceedings of the General Meeting

Congratulations to the all those who received awards and were recognised for their contributions to the UEC; special mention is due to our Club Person of the Year, Pat Troy, for his innumerable hours sponging out the bilge, de-cluttering the hold and generally keeping the boat ship-shape. In these "time-poor" days it is not easy to find time to devote to the Club and its members; so thank you on behalf of us all.

While on the subject of generously making time to support the Club, I particularly wish to acknowledge and thank Dennis Stubberfield and Carmine Travaglione for the many, many (and sometimes/often maddening) hours spent training crew. Without their generosity, we would not have witnessed six new crew members receiving their particular certification on the night. Of course it is now up to everyone to get out on the boat so they may be put through their paces!

The Annual General Meeting

I guess you could describe the AGM as the night of the reluctant Committee; and it may have left some thinking... oh dear! Certainly I was a reluctant contender for President, and quite a few of the new Committee took on their roles with some reservations.

Fear not! By the next day I'd fully and enthusiastically embraced the opportunity and the challenge, and the buzz at the first Committee meeting left all in attendance with no doubt we have an excellent and enthusiastic team.

In a balanced way, and mindful that we are volunteers who have our own family, social and work lives, and hence need to keep our expectations of ourselves and each other in perspective, we will certainly do our best for all members of the club, our Club, the Underwater Explorers Club of Western Australia.

While I didn't do this well on the night of the AGM, on behalf of all Club Members, the incoming Committee and myself, I extend sincere thanks to the outgoing Committee for their work over the previous year, and for their support in the transition process. Thank you.

Already Stars

The stars are already shining in the UEC. Once again members of the UEC supported the Avon Descent and kept alive a very long running tradition. However, it may not have been without the huge efforts of Andrew McGhie in pulling the UEC team together.

We owe a tremendous vote of thanks to Andrew McGhie for organising the UEC effort, and huge thanks to all those who participated in our team. Please enjoy Andrew's article in this newsletter.

Events

The Committee has received many offers to assist with events and trips which we welcome. The Curry and Games Night in September kicks off the events calendar (thanks to Malcolm and others); a Dunsborough dive and clean-up trip (thanks Pat and others) and the annual Mussels on the Mooring event (thanks Carmine et al) in October keep things rolling along.

We have lots of other ideas bubbling away, so keep an eye on the Club Calendar, website and weekly emails for more details.

Finally ...

I'm truly looking forward to the challenges this year will hold; and I look forward to seeing you on the boat, at a meeting or an event.

On the Environment by Tom Bassett

This is my first report as Environment Officer for the club. I have been in contact with many people but little research seems to have been done on what is happening in our dive areas around Rottneest and its immediate environs. The only study lately is on Fish stocks.

The restrictions on the five main Demersal species, Pink Snapper, Dhufish, Baldchin Groper, Red Snapper/bright red fish, Breaksea Cod, as reported in the press last month. From Oct 15th to Dec 25th this year SCUBA Divers are restricted to one Category and one fish per day.

There was an algae species linked to fish deaths around Esperance recently, which is raising concerns of a new environmental threat. Noctulia - a tropical species. The Noctulia blooms known as "Red Tides" is non toxic to humans but off Esperance is a concern, that far south. (West Australian newspaper).

It is currently recommended not to eat mussels from the Swan River due to heavy metals in the river and algal blooms.

With the inevitability of Global warming, we are likely to see increased Coral and Tropical Fish species occurring around Rotto as sea temperatures rise as we head toward a more subtropical climate in the future. We can play an active role in this as far as recording changes. When we dive our regular dive sites, it would be great if one or two of us just keep a log of any changes we see. Nothing technical or scientific, just observations such as more or less coral, increase or decrease in fish numbers or diversity of species, more or less weed growth... you get the picture. The people on Rotto would love to get some feed back on a regular basis. If we are concerned about the environment for now and the future, its not too much to ask. Just a quick note on the trip back to Freo after the Dive. I'll put together a file and a log style report on the boat to fill out.

There was a report in the paper about some 250 Seagulls dying around Woodman Point. At the time the cause was unknown and I've not been able to chase this up yet to see if the cause has been determined. Hopefully I'll get some update on this when I can.

Pat Swallow has mention the Tangaroa Blue organisation has their Cape to Cape Clean-up coming up in October on the 11th 12th. Those who can participate would be greatly appreciated. I have all the organisational skills of a stuffed chook, but if we can get a group of us to go down and help we can sort something out I'm sure. All the info is on their website. *(info on our website soon, I believe accommodation is booked and the trip is 'all go' for UEC -ed)*

Dive Coordinators report by Andrew McGhie

Since taking over the reins of Dive Coordinator there is not much to report on the dive front this month and I have yet to see the boat go out.

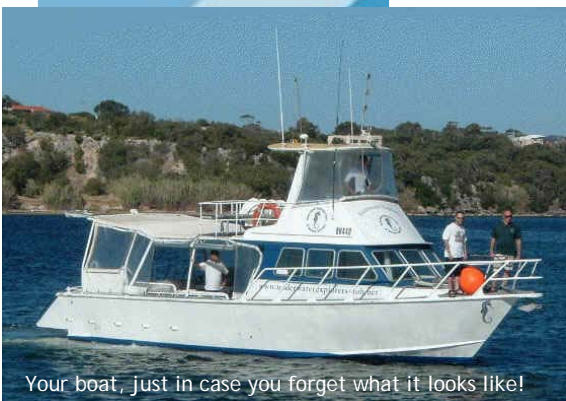
Getting out of a warm bed and going diving can be a little tough especially on these cold winter mornings but the water can't be that cold, so come on UEC members, get on board and get wet! Anyway the weather will only get better and spring and summer will soon be upon us, so there will be nothing better to do on a Saturday or Sunday but go diving. So clear the cobwebs from your equipment, book a dive and get wet.

Cheers

Andrew McGhie - book at divebookings@uecwa.com.au



**From Oct 15th to
Dec 25th this year
SCUBA Divers are
restricted to one
Category and one
fish per day.**



Your boat, just in case you forget what it looks like!

The weather has been against us but we have still had a number of New Member enquiries and as usual these have mostly been 'word of mouth' referrals.

Steve has spoken to all the prospective New Members, providing the basic info and club contacts. These people will be added to the mailing list for a couple of months so they get to hear about what we are up to and hopefully we'll see them on the boat soon.

Tripping ...

Have you really checked out the new-look website? If you have, you will have noticed a huge number of UEC dive trips planned for the next 12 months.

The list so far is;

- October 11th and 12th '08, Cape to cape Clean-up weekend in Dunsborough organised by Pat Swallow and Tom Bassett.
- November-ish '08, talk of an Abrolhos Heli-dive weekend ... it is expensive though.
- January 11th to 20th '09, Christmas Island organised by Mark 'Wal' Walawski : flyer on website
- March/April '09, the legendary UEC Busselton weekend organised by Jasmine Lyons
- May 24th to June 7th '09, Tulamben Bali organised by Wendy Hutchison : flyer on website

Another perspective on diving

Below is a poem and pre-ambule taken from the June edition of the SPUMS Magazine.

John Parker writes; I am presently in Iraq working another mission with Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF or "Doctors Without Borders"). I am the Medical Director of a Burns, Plastic and Trauma hospital treating victims of the ongoing violence. We are taking some of the burden off the overloaded Iraqi medical system. There is plenty of work with daily bombs and bullets, most of which never get reported by media. It is like living in a hornet's nest!

But sitting here telling my Iraqi colleagues and friends about my interest in diving medicine has been interesting. Recreational diving is not big here. They show a mixture of amazement, amusement and astonishment at my stories and this poem evolved from their reactions.

Diving Madness

You've got to be mad to go diving,
To go where you can't even breathe?
And if you stay too long down under,
You can't even choose when you leave?

OK, you take your air with you,
In a tank that's strapped to your back?
Is your time spent constantly watching
To ensure that there isn't a lack?

You say you have a computer
That tells you how long you can spend,
So when you finish your diving
You trust it is safe to ascend?

And hey, you get this narcosis
That's greater the more you have sunk
So as you slowly go deeper
You're suddenly daft and act drunk



And yeah, your body is pressured,
Its air spaces squeezed on descent,
And if you surface too quickly
Your lungs burst and you're heavenly sent!

You play with dangerous creatures?
They bite, poison or sting
Causing pain, weakness, infection,
Convulsion, arrest or bleeding?

No way I'll ever go diving,
Risking a bend or attack.
I'm going to stay dry and breathe easy,
In the madness I know,
In Iraq

John Parker

Creature feature by Susie Ashton

We are thinking that this area in the newsletter can be used for members to submit photos and ask other members to identify an unknown creature or to spruik about a fantastic or rare discovery or just to spread information about sea critters they are interested in. (Oh Yes, there will be nudibranchs here soon—ed.)

First cab off the rank is an item from Susie Ashton about Mudskippers ... Can you believe that Susie hasn't put forward a Seahorse for her first effort?

FISHY FACTS:

MUDSKIPPER - caught my attention this time (not *seahorse* for a change!) maybe because that reminds me of what they said in Stockholm about the diving when I asked around. Right! I didn't take the plunge there - for many reasons actually and that could be another story. So, back to the *mudskipper*:

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

Like other fish, the *mudskipper* receives oxygen through its gills, but to some extent it can also 'breathe' air through its mouth and throat, which are covered by a mass of tiny blood vessels. The gills are contained in an enlarged chamber that the fish keeps full of water to allow for oxygen exchange. The *mudskipper* splashes in small pools and puddles to fill the pulpy reservoirs above the gills.

The *mudskipper* uses its arm-like pectoral fins to drag itself across land. He digs a burrow 50 cm deep or more by swallowing large mouthfuls of mud and spitting it out later.

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

The *mudskipper* spends at least 3/4 of its time out of the water. At high tide, however, it can remain completely submerged in its burrow for up to two hours.

Cheers!
Susie



Life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

Underwater and Snap-happy

Drawing from one-on-one lessons and personal experience or just plain hearsay, each month we will bring you a brief underwater photography or camera tip. This month ...

Get in Close

It sounds simple, but we often just don't get close enough to our underwater subjects. Getting close is a key principle of good underwater photography and one that Jeff Mullins drummed into us during our recent Tulamben trip.

Go from this



It's a passable shot, but the subject, does not maintain your attention due to distracting background and foreground features

To this

This shot makes a better connection to the viewer. It has greater impact because the subject fills the frame, the colours are vivid and you are not distracted by features in the background.



Most compact digital cameras have adequate macro functions to allow you to greatly improve your images if you remember to get close and fill the frame.

Ah, but having a "fancy-pants" macro lens does help!

Pay Online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

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Name: Underwater Explorers Club of WA
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There is limited space to write what the payment is for in the EFT fields. Please start with your name and reason for payment.

In all cases please email the [Treasurer](#) and advise the date paid, who the payment is from and what it is for.

Contact your Committee

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Amanda Blanksby, Secretary, secretary@uecwa.com.au

Renee Barker, Treasurer, treasurer@uecwa.com.au

Bruce Fielding, Vice President, vicepresident@uecwa.com.au

Steve Groen, New Members, newmembers@uecwa.com.au

Chris Cunnold, Communications, communications@uecwa.com.au

'Wal' Walawski, fundraising, fundraising@uecwa.com.au

Andrew McGhie, Dive Coordinator, divebookings@uecwa.com.au

Tom Bassett, Environment, environment@uecwa.com.au

Carmine Travaglione, SYC Liaison, syc@uecwa.com.au

Rex Burke, Safety Officer, safety@uecwa.com.au

Martin Arrowsmith, Training, training@uecwa.com.au

SYC Liaison Report by Carmine Travaglione

By the time you read this report I will be sailing around one of the most beautiful rugged and unspoiled areas in the world. Sure it will be tough and we'll have to fight off the occasional crocodile, to stop them eating our Barra-mundi, but this travail will pale into insignificance as we feast on Mangrove Jacks in a lemon sauce, Black-lipped Oysters Kilpatrick, Threadfin Bream fillets with chips, Mangrove Crabs with chilli and garlic and Sea Salt Chilli Squid. I've done it all before but Carol hasn't and I am sure she will enjoy it immensely. Bob and Zita will also be with us on Peter and Gail's 54ft yacht. We will be making expeditions down creeks with the two aluminium dinghies we have on board, visiting deserted islands and going for walks in the remnant rain forests. To cap it off we hope to spend a week diving on the Rowley Shoals.

I have in no way told you all this to make you envious it was just to explain why I will not be at the next General Meeting and to tender my apologies. Carmine

Safety Report by Rex Burke

The duties of the safety officer are;

- (1) Investigation and upgrading of the Clubs safety standards
- (2) Advising the Committee of Management of diver safety matters
- (3) Acquainting members of technical developments and advances in diving practises and related equipment

The Safety Incident/Event Reporting sheets are now on the boat. I would like to encourage all members to use these forms no matter how insignificant the event may seem. Any incident that reduces the safety margin for our members should be reported. There is no necessity to name persons involved and the reporting persons anonymity is assured.

Due to lack of diving in the last few weeks no Incident/Event reports have been received. Please note that these forms can now be downloaded from the Member Page of the UEC website . Safe Diving, Rex



UEC

Fridge Calender

print this page and stick it on your fridge

August

Sunday 17th, double dive to Angela's Cave & Roe Reef

Wednesday 20th, General meeting with guest marine plant expert, John Huisman

Saturday 23rd, single dive at Mini Swirl

Sunday 31st, double dive at Kerry's Caverns and Cathedral Rocks

September

Saturday 6th, single dive at Hugal's Passage

Sunday 14th, double dive at Martin's Arches and Fish Hook Bay

Wednesday 17th, General Meeting

Saturday 20th, single dive at Stragglers

Saturday 20th, Curry and Games night

Sunday 28th, double dive at Parker Point drop off and Jackson Rock

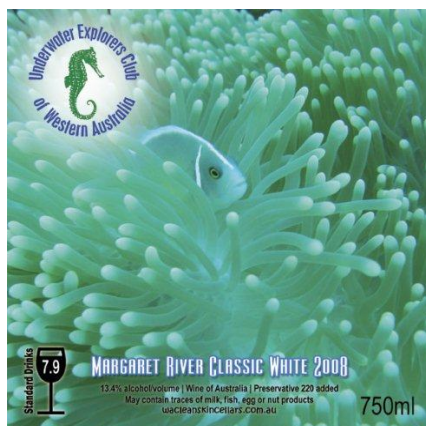
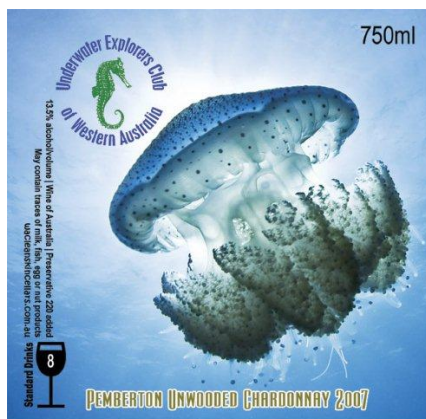


UEEC NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2008

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UEC Club Wine

We promise not to make a habit of advertising on the front page of the newsletter but this is a great offer...

This year the club is offering 4 wine varieties:

- Pemberton Unwooded Chardonnay
- Pemberton Cabernet Merlot
- Margaret River Classic White
- Blackwood Shiraz

The wines tasted at last month's General Meeting were well received.

The bottles feature unique UEC labelling with the competition winning images from club members Ian Barcham, Gary Browne and Malcolm Roberts.

WA Cleanskin Cellars are handling the sales so all you need to do is print the order form from the front page of the website (or from the pink link below) and e-mail, phone or fax it to Nat at WA Cleanskins along with payment.

Alternatively bring your order form and payment (cheques made to WA Cleanskin Cellars) to the September General meeting and we can arrange it to be sent in for you.

The cost is \$125 per dozen. A mixed dozen featuring 3 of each wines is also available.

Orders close on Tuesday 30th of September and the wine will be delivered to Carmine and Carol's place in Wilson on Thursday 16th October.

Order form here

www.uecwa.com.au

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The Safety Incident/Event Reporting sheets are now on the boat (and on the website). I would like to encourage all members to use these forms no matter how insignificant an event may seem. Any incident that reduces the safety margin for our members should be reported. There is no necessity to name persons involved and the reporting persons anonymity is assured.

Over the past few years we have continuously heard about the difficulty our Skippers have in the handling of our boat, mainly because of the lack of a keel which makes it difficult to steer. Since nothing but major surgery to the hull will fix this problem we have no choice but to live with it and focus on how we use and operate our boat to reduce the risks to people and property.

What concerns me as Safety Officer is that we have very little in the way of policy or guidelines set down as to how we operate our boat.

We have made two insurance claims related to incidents with the current boat, incurring an excess of one thousand dollars each time. We have had incidents that have damaged both boats either side of our pen (one of these was an insurance claim) and been involved in quite a few near misses. These incidents have not only cost us financially but damaged our reputation in the Swan Yacht Club. I think it is past time we addressed these issues to prevent further insurance claims for damage to property or worse still, a person.

At the last committee meeting I raised my concerns, and stated that I believe it should be club policy that:

1. There should be at least two Deckhands plus the Skipper on our boat while it is operating at all times.
2. Anytime our boat is entering or leaving a pen or approaching or leaving a jetty these Deckhands should be ready with the large red buoys that we have on board to fend off if necessary.

Last week I spoke to the Commander of the Whitfords Sea Rescue, a club similar to ours with 120 members. They operate a 12m ally monohull boat (same size as UE) as well as a 8m Cat. Their standing orders state that these boats do not leave the jetty unless there are 4 crew on the large boat and 3 crew on the Cat. The Commander stated the vessels could be handled with less but they are manned this way purely for safety reasons. They say they have a Duty of Care to their volunteers, the public and property and for this reason they have implemented this strict policy.

It was agreed at the UEC Committee Meeting that the two points I proposed would become a recommendation only. I do not believe this is good enough. We have a duty of care to the Swan Yacht Club and its property, other boats and to our own club members to operate our boat in the safest way possible. I don't think this is too much to ask from ourselves. Are we prepared to sit back and wait for the next insurance claim, or damage to property, or worse still we wait until someone is hurt before making some hard and fast rules, because it will happen again.

Safe Diving, Rex

Up-coming Dive Trips

- Cape to Cape Beach Clean-up weekend at Dunsborough - October 11th and 12th, e-mail social bookings for details
- Christmas Island with 'Wal' Walawski - January 11th to 20th '09. e-mail [Wal](#) for details
- UEC trip to Tulamben Bali - May 24th to June 7th '09 (or just go for 1 of the weeks), e-mail president@uecwa.com.au for details.

President's Report by Wendy Hutchison

It's difficult to drag ourselves away from our warm homes on these chilly evenings so it was great to see so many of you at the August General Meeting.

We were very lucky to have the opportunity to hear John Huisman's Seaweed presentation deftly sprinkled with great images and information about Scott Reef and the Rowley Shoals. It was most informative; ah, except for the shark nibble tale, I probably didn't need to know about that so close to our trip to the Rowleys in mid October.

The wine tasting was a real treat... it's been a while since a General Meeting has been quite that rowdy. Thank you Bruce for organising the tasting ... it was excellent fun.

UEC Wine

Having had the opportunity to sample the UEC Wine, everyone may safely order a case (or several) knowing that all four varieties are quality wine and excellent value. Further information and order forms are on the website and will be available at the September General Meeting (this week).

Diving

Weather and boat challenges contributed to it being a somewhat uneventful diving month although a few of us couldn't resist a couple of shore dives to keep the gills damp.

Things are looking up... there's warmth in the sun, the water is warming and the issue with the starboard motor is resolved, and while we had the opportunity we've undertaken some preventative maintenance. On the less bright side, the propeller puzzle persists, however UE will be out diving this weekend (weather permitting). Trips may be a little leisurely as Skippers are under instruction to limit revs in order to minimise load on the engines until the correct propellers are in place.

Socially

Speaking of warmth; consider an evening of warmth. Hot (well not too hot) and spicy curries and crazy games to warm you up - even if you don't play the games, you are sure to get a glow laughing at the others.

The now famous Curry and Games night is on this weekend (20th September); there are a few places left so book on as we'd love to see you there.

September General Meeting (Wednesday, 17th September)

Our guest speaker for the General Meeting this week is Peter Buzzacott. Peter is a great dive adventurer, an enthusiastic and prolific contributor to various dive magazines, and he is doing his PhD in recreational diving. Not sure how he fits it all in...

Enjoy your week and I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

Photo Albums on the web

We've been having great fun with the Photo Albums on the website and it has reminded us of the importance of people pics. It's all very well having amazing underwater photos of killer sharks and giant octopus but it is people who make the club.

Check out Malcolm's UEC Rottneest Winter Weekender album as well as a new UEC People Album. We are always looking for input from members to fill the albums.



A Blast from the past: Diving with the Underwater Explorers Society in the Bahamas by Susie Ashton

UNEXSO was founded in 1965 by Al Tillman, who became NAUI Instructor #1. They operate out of *Port Lucaya* on Grand Bahamas Island in the Atlantic Ocean (and still do). The following stories are excerpts from my diary when Kerry and I were there in 1991.



Thursday 3 January - The Shark Dive

Great excitement! Today is the day we had booked in for *the shark dive*. Early afternoon found ten of us divers sitting in UNEXSO's class room for a briefing by Mike Stafford, assistant dive operations manager and 'shark feeder extraordinaire'. We also had to sign papers saying that we were aware of the dangers on this dive.

A short boat ride took us out to the *Shark Junction*. We had been told to go to the bottom and sit still with our backs to an old decompression chamber, very similar to the one we used to have in our old UEC club rooms. As we descended we were met by schools of yellowtail. Soon some really big Nassau groupers appeared. Mike started to hand out dead herring from a big tub he had brought with him. As from out of space, eight Caribbean reef sharks silently approached from all directions. I managed to get some good video footage of them snatching the herring from Mike's out-stretched hand and some good close-ups as the sharks circled and darted in and out above and around us divers, in explosive bursts of speed while observing us with cold, steely eyes.

Friday 4 January - The Dolphin Experience

If you've ever fantasised about diving with dolphins in the wild, you can make your fantasies come true here at UNEXSO. This is the only destination in the world where scuba divers can swim freely with dolphins in the open ocean on a scheduled basis. Divers come from all over the world to participate in this unique experience. You have to book this dive well in advance - the waiting list is long!

After a briefing about dolphins, their behaviour and what to expect at the encounter on the reef, twelve of us divers went aboard the dive boat Explorer II. At the dive site we descended 15 m and sat down on the sandy bottom. Here we took turns to feed the dolphins that had followed us from the pen. They periodically rise to the surface for air and then ever so gracefully glide back to us for more fish from the goody-bag. But the ultimate experience was when we were allowed, one by one, to swim around freely with one of the dolphins, feeding and stroking him. That was an experience I will never forget!

Tuesday 8 January - Theo's Wreck

It took UNEXSO's dive boat about 20 minutes to arrive at this dive site. The current was SO strong on the surface that we had to pull ourselves on a line along the side of the boat to the anchor line in the front to use it to get down. This was a pretty tricky manoeuvre with a video camera and housing in one hand!

Theo's wreck is a 70 m steel freighter with a five-level superstructure, lying on its side in 30 m of water. The prop and rudder are dramatically perched on the edge of the famous Grand Bahama Ledge, a 600 m drop-off. Visibility was about 25 m today and it was an awesome sight when the ship appeared as we descended. A beautiful Queen Angelfish abandoned the ship when we approached. The big Blue Parrotfish didn't take any notice of us. Open cargo holds allowed us easy and safe access into and around the ship's hull, where we found ourselves surrounded by dozens of varieties of sea life.

This was just some of the diving we did with UNEXSO in the Bahamas. We also attended a 3-day PADI Marine Identification course, including dives on the nearby reefs as well.

Seahorse Susie



SCUBA Myth Busted

There's a long held misconception amongst SCUBA divers that if a high pressure hose bursts underwater you are in serious trouble. They make a lot of noise when they go due to the high pressure and they are prone to fail more often than low pressure hoses, once again because of the high pressure but if you were to have a hose fail under water you should pray it is your high pressure one.

The thing that everyone forgets is that the high pressure hose has a restrictor in the fitting that screws to the first stage and in the event of a failure this restriction means that it takes nearly 30 minutes to empty a normal size cylinder, plenty of time to surface (you even have time for a safety stop).

In stark contrast a ruptured low pressure hose can empty a cylinder quickly. It takes only 1 minute to get to the point that you can no longer get a full breath and it is totally empty in 2 minutes.

A dive shop in the U.S. has posted a humorous home-made video example of this on YouTube. It also shows high pressure hoses are pretty tough; they had to use bolt cutters. www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-dhP_jSO6I



UEC/SYC Liaison by Carmine Travaglione

Firstly I would like to thank Rex and Martin A. who attended the SYC mooring meeting in my absence and to Wendy and Chris who attended to some of the liaison business for me.

Having just returned from a trip to the Kimberley I want to report that we saw so many whales that it was almost a matter of having to keep a lookout so we didn't run over them. Most of the whales we saw were mother and calf and it vindicates the decision, recently made, to create a whale reserve in the Kimberley for whales. The trip was great but we missed out going to the Rowley Shoals because of very strong easterlies. Never mind we'll book with the club when they have another trip there, as this year's trip is filled.

The SYC have had a bumper year and have posted a great profit. It's a good thing they have, as from the projections they will be spending a lot of money in the future. Such expensive projects as jetty repairs, security upgrades and renovations to the clubhouse will certainly claim a lot of the funds. From our point of view it can only enhance our enjoyment and use of the club. The SYC have also introduced a house support scheme of \$60 a quarter for all full members. This will not affect most UEC members as it does not apply to social members. The SYC have also very kindly waived this responsibility on our club's full membership, vested in our President.

I would like to continue to encourage our members to use the SYC facilities as much as possible as this will assist in maintaining our high profile in the club and augment our good relationship.

Finally those of you who have not picked up their parking vouchers can do so at the next general meeting.

Carmine

Here's one to make you smile

A man is dining in a fancy restaurant and there is a gorgeous redhead sitting at the next table. He has been checking her out since he sat down, but lacks the nerve to talk with her. Suddenly she sneezes, and her glass eye came flying out of its socket toward the man. He reflexively reaches out, catches it out of the air, and hands it back.

'Oh my, I am so sorry,' the woman says as she pops her eye back in place. 'Let me buy your dinner to make it up to you,' she says. After paying for everything, she asks him if he would like to come to her place for a nightcap and stay for breakfast. They had a wonderful, wonderful time.

The next morning, she cooks a gourmet meal with all the trimmings. The guy is amazed. Everything had been SO incredible! 'You know,' he said, 'you are the perfect woman. Are you this nice to every guy you meet?' 'No,' she replies. . . 'You just happened to catch my eye.'

The Environment Report by Tom Bassett

Hello again,

Following on from last month's report, more Seagulls have been found dead at Woodman Point. As yet the cause is still unknown. Some of the carcasses were sent East for testing and no results as to the cause has been found.

A report in last Saturday's *West Australian* told of leaking oil from WWII shipwrecks in Chuuk Lagoon, Micronesia. The total quantity of oil is unknown but could be huge. One ship could contain up to 4 million gallons of oil. If the wrecks deteriorate more an environmental disaster is quite possible for the area.

All up there are some 3,800 WWII shipwrecks in the Pacific and at least 300 of these are oil tankers, all slowly rusting away...

On the Global warming front reports of glaciers melting in both hemispheres is increasing particularly in Greenland but also in Argentina in winter! Places in the Arctic which used to get maximum temperatures of 5 deg.C were recording temperatures of 20 degrees. Landscapes were reported to be melting before the eyes of the Scientific Research teams there. Chief Scientist Ursula Schauer is reported as saying "The ice cover of the North Polar Sea is dwindling, the oceans and the atmosphere are becoming steadily warmer, ocean currents are changing."

At home, low oxygen levels have been found in the Swan River in a 15km stretch upstream from the Narrows Bridge creating a potential Dead Zone in the river. These dead zones are a global occurrence from fertiliser run off which depletes the water of oxygen thus causing problems with the ecosystems and the marine life.

There are also in our waters some 250 introduced feral marine invaders. 92 can be found in our state. Specifically the following 12 have been specially pinpointed. They are the Northern Pacific Starfish; Green Crab; Pacific Oyster; Aeolid Nudibranch; New Zealand Screw Shell; Asian Mussel; Black Striped Mussel; Chinese Clam; European Fan Worm; Japanese Goby; Japanese Seaweed; Bryozoa. Fishwatch wants anyone who see's these to report them.

Check out the Introduced Marine Aquatic Invaders Field Guide at www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/pub/IMPMarine/IMPMarinePage06.php?0506

If you spot any of these the Fisheries Department is keen to hear from you on 1800 815 507.

If anyone has any more information they wish too forward to me please do so.

Tom Bassett. environment@uecwa.com.au .



Aeolid Nudibranch Invader, not to be confused with several similar native species.

Photo: Clay Bryce

We need you to keep an eye out for the 12 species described in the field guide. If you think you have seen one please snap a photo and contact the Department of Fisheries' FISHWATCH service on 1800-815-507 to report your sighting.

UEC Boating Report by Carmine Travaglione

Hi everyone. I have been requested by the Committee to take on the role as Boating Officer. I was not at all keen at first as I consider the role to be quite an onerous one and I will be going away a fair bit during my tenure. I did eventually agree because we have a great support structure within the committee and the club at large, so I am happy to take it on.

So this is my first report and I will hope to keep you, the members, informed as to the goings on, such that you are all aware of the moves we make and they will not appear irrational, when in fact we on the committee spend quite a bit of time discussing what we should or should not do.

First of all I am happy to report that the motors are both still going well in spite of the fact that we have had some difficulty in procuring the correct sized propellers such that they will work efficiently. We have recently trialed 2 new propellers under an exchange scheme available to us through the supply company and have found that they worked somewhat better, but still did not achieve the recommended performance. We are right now in the process of getting the next recommended size and will only have to wait for their arrival before putting them on and hopefully announcing that they are the correct ones. If they are not then we will simply have to exchange them again until they are the correct ones. This of course will not cost us any more as they have guaranteed to supply us the correct size propellers.

In the meantime we will be able to use our boat but may have to use it for shorter trips as we do not wish to stress the motors and will need to travel at lower speeds and motor revs. Certainly trips to the Stragglers or river trips will be no problem as we can just amble along at low revs and it will have no ill effects on the motors.

Last week Pat and Wendy cleaned the bottom of the hull so we should now be able to go a little faster and more efficiently. It's probably a little early to advise you but very soon we will have to dry dock our boat to carry out some normal maintenance. In case you may not know we try to do this twice a year and hopefully avoid any surprises and keep the boat up to a high standard.

Just recently Rex has replaced our somewhat tired cupboard tops and cabin carpet so it's looking quite swish. Paul Burns kindly moulded some hard wearing material on the surfaces, which looks nice and neat. For safety reasons Rex has also, with the help of others, painted a non-slip surface on to the back motor covers. Many other small but essential items are being attended to on a continual basis and gladly when we ask, we are receiving the support we need to carry them out.

Carmine



New Bench Top thanks to Rex Burke and Paul Burns

Boat Info on the website

For those who are interested we have started a Library of technical information related to our boat in the Members Pages of the UEC website.

Click on 'Boat Page' under the Boat Technical Reference heading to find everything about the engines and also a register of parts and when they were last replaced.

It is hoped this electronic library will help present and future Boat Committees by making the info easy to access. Ed.

Creature Feature by Chris Cunnold

I did say it wouldn't be long before a Nudibranch appeared in this section but I didn't think it would be initiated by another member.

Malcolm Roberts sent in this Nudibranch photo he took on recent winter dive at Rottneest. Mal has seen this species in the river too, which is intriguing for me as I'm always on the hunt for nudibranchs and this is one I haven't seen in the river.



Mal's creature looks like *Phyllidiella pustulosa*. If that sounds a bit vague it is because there are several species which look very similar. It is fairly common around Rottneest and sometimes found buried in a hollowed out section of sponge that it has eaten in to.

Mal has a good exposure which shows the true white of this creature. Often when you see these with the naked eye underwater, the white lumps (or pustules) appear pale green. This species becomes more common as you head north, they are very common at the Abrolhos, Coral Bay, Exmouth and Indonesia.

If you are into Nudibranchs there are a couple of excellent Australian websites worth checking out. Sea Slug Forum at www.seaslugforum.net is the Australian Museum's website and therefore is quite scientific in it's approach. A great amateur site is Nudibranchs of the Sunshine Coast at www.nudibranch.com.au/index.html which even has a way of identifying Nudibranchs by colour.

I realise it is a subject for another article but not all the slugs you see are really Nudibranchs. Broken down the word Nudibranch means 'Naked Lung' .. *Nudi* is Latin for Naked and *Branch* means Lung. You will have seen heaps of true Nudibranchs, they have a feathery appendage toward the rear of their back which is their 'Naked Lung'.

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Bruce Fielding, Vice President, vicepresident@uecwa.com.au

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Chris Cunnold, Communications communications@uecwa.com.au

Andrew McGhie, Dive Coordinator, divebookings@uecwa.com.au

Tom Bassett, Environment, environment@uecwa.com.au

Carmine Travaglione, SYC Liaison, syc@uecwa.com.au

Rex Burke, Safety Officer, safety@uecwa.com.au

Martin Arrowsmith, Training, training@uecwa.com.au

Underwater & Snap-happy by Wendy Hutchison

This month ... Patience ... move in slowly

In the excitement of seeing a beautiful or strange new creature we tend to rush towards our subject. In our haste we startle the creature and our chances of the award winning (or pretty good) shot vanish.

With a little patience, a slow and slightly indirect approach, and minimal eye contact you will be amazed how close you can get.

Go from this



It's a passable shot for identifying the fish, however, it lacks impact and the background makes up most of the image.

To this

This is a better shot with greater impact because the subject fills the frame.



Had I positioned myself at a lower angle, that is, at eye level the image would have improved markedly.



UEC

Fridge Calendar

print this page and stick it on your fridge

September

Sunday 28th, double dive at Parker Point drop off and Jackson Rock (*Skipper Chris, D.O. Wendy*)

Monday 29th, Queens Birthday dive - pending

October

Saturday 4th, single dive to Stragglers (*Skipper Wendy, D.O. Chris*)

Sat 11th & Sun 12th, Cape to Cape Beach clean-up

Saturday 11th, double dive Victoria Station and Dark Cave (*Skipper Martin A, D.O. Tom*)

Wednesday 15th, General Meeting

Saturday 18th, single dive to Mini Swirl (*Skipper Carmine, D.O. Clive C / Amanda*)

Saturday 25th, Mussels on the Mooring

Sunday 26th, double deep dive to The Pinnacle and Skippers Choice (*Skipper Kerry, D.O. Steve*)



UEEC NEWS

OCTOBER 2008

Fun and Games by Chris Cunnold

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The Annual Curry and Games night at Malcolm's has become legendary as has the very competitive UEC Schlong Championship held at the same time. This year's event was another corker.

Alison organised a beautiful buffet of Indian dishes and desserts, along with dishes cooked by Ilonka, Carmine, Wendy and Jasmine we all enjoyed the over-indulgence of a typical UEC food-fest.

But the serious business of 'Games' was on everyone's mind as the last of the Rogan Josh disappeared from the buffet table.

'Flap the Kipper' was a new game this year and involved getting a cardboard cut-out fish (some named after local politicians like 'Carp') to 'swim' across the carport floor powered only by the wind created with a folded up newspaper.

'Pass the Pretzel' saw a number of members getting to know each other better by relaying Pretzels on a drinking straws clenched between their teeth.

The evenings premier event was 'Schlong'. It is still one of the funniest things to watch and one of the most embarrassing to participate in. After hard fought heats Jasmine defended her 2007 title and beat Clive Cass by well ... Clive indicated it was 6 inches (a blokes 6 inches), but anyway Jasmine won again.

Well done to the Organisers, Cooks, Competitors and to Malcolm. It was another terrific night.



I tastefully named this image 'Missed it by that much' but it doesn't take much imagination to think of an alternative ... There are more photos on the website album page.

President's Report

Yes, October already! But let's have a quick look back at September.

The *Curry & Games* - what a great success! With plenty of sensational food, more than enough to go back for seconds ... or thirds, there wasn't a hungry look in the place. And the games...what a hoot! "Flap the Kipper" may not make it to the Olympics, but I'm pretty certain it will pop up at future UEC events. (*No kippers were harmed in this event!*). Thank you to everyone who contributed to the event by catering or turning up and joining in. Have a read of the article by Chris. I haven't read it yet, but if the chuckling emanating from his study is anything to go by, you'll get a laugh. Oh, and there are a few images in Club Albums on the website.

We'll stop spamming you about the *UEC Wine* now as the offer has closed. This offer enjoyed an excellent response and we suspect that once a few people settle down to enjoy their case or three they'll wish they'd ordered more... and you might too if you missed placing your order. Thank you Bruce, for all your work on this fundraiser.

Did you enjoy *Peter Buzzacott's* presentation as much as I did? I'm not sure I'd like to be a human guinea pig for NASA; especially the part about being threaded like on a wire like a bead!! Mind you, our technology dramas for his presentation probably topped the stress levels. Peter is such a passionate and informed speaker that we may need to call him back next year some time to talk about his underwater cave penetration exploits. I'm claustrophobic just thinking about it.

SCUBA Dives have been few and far between for September; but we did manage to get the boat and nine divers out to Stragglers on the long weekend and then seven of us enjoyed 3m visibility at the Rockingham Wreck Trail on the holiday Monday. Still, you won't hear a complaint from me ... we are blessed to live on such a fabulous coastline. You'll find the fridge calendar in this newsletter and keep an eye on the website for upcoming scheduled dives.

On behalf of the Committee and Club Members, we welcome four *New Members* to the UEC of WA:

Tony Martens
Sarah Drew
Liam Donnelly
Gavin Stewart

Sarah and Liam wasted no time getting into the social and trip side of the Club. They attended the Curry and Games night and secured the ensuite room for the Cape 2 Cape Clean Up trip.

Tony and Gavin are keen to dive and have both already been out getting wet with us; with or without the boat.

Upcoming Social Events

For an evening of delicious mussels cooked by our own Chef in the Galley, Carmine; relaxing at our mooring near Chidley Point and enjoying a crisp wine white or several, join us for our Annual *Mussels on the Mooring on Saturday, 25th October*. I'm still working on a few of our musically minded members to come along and play a few tunes too...

The Boat

The replacement propellers have arrived; these will be fitted to UE and trialed over the next week or so. Carmine will provide a status update at the October general meeting.

In the meantime, we will continue to treat UE gently and limit dive destinations to the Stragglers region. Trips will continue to be leisurely as Skippers are under instruction to limit revs in order to minimise load on the engines until the correct propellers are in place.

October General Meeting (Wednesday, 15th October)

Our guest speaker for the General Meeting this week is our very own Malcolm Roberts. Malcolm will delight you with his stunning images from a recent trip to Bali; this may even whet your appetite for warm and exotic waters to such an extent that you decide to join the UEC trip to Tulamben in May 2009.

At this point I make my apologies for being absent from the October General Meeting. Bruce will ably chair the meeting in my absence. I expect that at about the same time I will be sitting back reflecting on a day of pristine diving, aboard Odyssey about 300km off the mainland at the Rowley Shoals... well, someone's gotta do it!

Stay safe in whatever you do...

Yet another report on Tulamben... by Bruce Fielding

You all remember what a wet & wintry month July was ... well Cathy and I needed some warmth badly so inspired by Gary Browne & Chris Cunnold' reports on diving in Bali and Tulamben in particular I jumped on the web and booked flights and accommodation.

Gary and Chris have both reported on the diving and Chris' description of the critters in particular is far superior to my capabilities - I still get confused between cods and gropers - so I won't try and compete. What I will say is what a relaxing week just diving and laying about in Tulamben is! No street vendors, no traffic, no shops! Dive, eat, sleep, dive, read, lie by the pool, dive again, eat then sleep...and so it goes. We booked at Tulamben Wreck Divers (www.tulambenwreckdivers.com) as recommended by Chris. Tony Medcraft would have to be the worlds most hospitable and easy going resort operator! He rang me to discuss our booking and when I asked him about paying a deposit he said not to worry and he'll sort it all out at the end of our stay! And true to his word that's exactly what he did - "lets have a look and see what we can get it down to" he said when I finally nailed him down to pay for our stay before we left the next morning.

Cathy and I stayed at their beach front bungalows - about 1.5 kms north of their main location but very new, comfortable and right on the beach with a lovely tropical pool area - essential because the beach is constituted by volcanic rocks and barely able to be walked on! The distance away was no problem because they gave us a scooter to zip around the village on.

The diving was great - really easy (especially as all the heavy work was done by the local bearers - just leave your tank & BC on the beach!) just pushing off from the shore and you're over the USAT Liberty (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USAT_Liberty_Glo) wreck or the Drop Off in a minute of gentle finning. We dived the three main Tulamben sites - the wreck, the Drop Off and the Coral Garden - plus Alam Anda, Batu Kelebit and Emerald Point (all by local boat less than 10 mins away) and Kubu reefs north and south. Emerald Point was one we would definitely have liked to go back to again - here the sand was white as opposed to the dark volcanic sand at Tulamben plus sharks, turtles and a big Napoleon Wrasse!



Cathy and a big fan on the Drop Off

Jeff Mullins (<http://reefwreckandcritter.com>) lives most of the year in Tulamben and runs underwater photography courses. I did a half day course with him and had immediate results although my excitement was dampened (pun fully intended!) by drowning my camera the next day! Jeff will probably spend December - February in Perth and if a few members were interested we may be able to get him to run a photo workshop. Stay tuned for more info on this.



My last photo before the Sony breathed its last breath was this shot of a cuttlefish beautifully camouflaged on the coral. Moments later he changed in a flash to a smooth dark skin and was off - obviously not keen on divers.

Sitting under the threatening presence of Mt Agung, Tulamben is a great diving location with unique yet very easy and accessible diving options and well worth a visit

Speaking of Tulamben .. It is getting close to the time that we need to lock in people for the UEC trip in May - June 2009, mainly because you will need to make airline bookings early to get a good deal.

If you are interested in one week or two weeks at Tulamben give Wendy a call or send her an e-mail.

Seven UEC members are already confirmed on the trip but as the accommodation is flexible (as Bruce mentioned) and because you have a 1 week or 2 week option, quite a large number of divers can be accommodated.

On the Safety Front by Rex Burke

The duties of the Safety Officer are:

- (1) Investigation and upgrading of the Club's safety standards
- (2) Advising the Committee of Management of diver safety matters
- (3) Acquainting members of technical developments and advances in diving practises and related equipment

The Safety Incident/Event Reporting sheets are now on the boat. I would like to encourage all members to use these forms no matter how insignificant the event may seem. Any incident that reduces the safety margin for our members should be reported. There is no necessity to name persons involved and the reporting persons anonymity is assured.

This month there have been two Safety Incident/Event reports received. The first was a boat/diving event which occurred on a dive trip to the Stragglers. The report states:-

'After arriving at a dive site at The Stragglers a group of divers entered the water and started making their way to the anchor line to make a descent. The conditions were fairly average with a 1.5mtr swell. Shortly after the divers had descended one diver surfaced due to having insufficient weight. The diver started to drift away, unable to grab the safety line. The D.O. decided to take some weights to the diver in the inflatable tender however the motor did not start. Soon after the divers buddy ascended and helped the diver to the safety line. The inflatable motor eventually started and the situation was resolved.'

I would like to recommend to all D.O.'s that the inflatable's motor be started and be in operating order before the divers enter the water.

This event was discussed at the last committee meeting and it was agreed that the safety margin for one of our members had been reduced and this event could have turned into a more serious incident. The committee has decided that indeed the inflatable should be in operating order and the motor test run before divers enter the water especially under certain conditions, such as diving in open water (such as The Stragglers), where there is strong current, windy conditions or there are inexperienced divers on board. It is up to the D.O. to ascertain whether it is necessary to run the outboard before divers enter the water, but I would encourage all D.O.'s to do so or to delegate the task to the Skipper as it is a busy time.

The second Safety/Event report sent to me states:-

'I would like to know how you, as Safety Officer, and the current committee, have addressed the situation concerning the damage done by our boat to the finger jetty of the Swan Yacht Club. I know this incident has cost our club one thousand dollars in insurance excess. The finger jetty has now been repaired but I'm sure it will take a lot more time to repair the damage to the UEC's reputation at the SYC. With respect, what are you and the Committee doing to prevent this type of incident happening again?'

Myself, as Safety Officer for the UEC have urged the Committee to make it compulsory for at least two crew to be on our boat while being operated (plus the Skipper) and that the two red fenders we have aboard should be on deck and the crew to have them ready anytime the boat is coming onto the pen or a jetty. I believe at the time of the incident our boat was manned by a Skipper and only one crew member.

These recommendations have been accepted by the committee and will be discussed further. I have also had good feed back from nearly all the Skippers I have talked to that this practice should be adopted. I intend to recommend at the next committee meeting that the finger jetty of the SYC and the adjacent boat ramp be 'no go' zones for our boat as I truly believe our boat does not have the behavioural characteristics to be taken into these situations with safety. My belief of this was reinforced in conversation recently with Frank Pisani of the Fremantle Volunteer Sea Rescue Group who used to Skipper our boat when it was used as a dive boat for the Rottneest Dive shop.

To safety of a different kind. There's been a couple of reports that the boat's 12 volt electrical system has been left 'on' either after several dive trips or when work has been done on the boat. Please make sure this and the *Cole Hersey* switches are off when you lock up. The last thing we need is flat batteries or worse.

Thankyou to the concerned club members for the time they have taken to report their concerns, and once again I would encourage any of our members to do the same no matter how small the Incident/Event may seem. I assure you of your anonymity if you wish. The forms can now be downloaded from the members page.

New Nudibranch Book



Most Nudibranch enthusiasts already own a copy of Neville Coleman's *1001 Nudibranchs* but now it's time to reach into your pockets because he has released the follow up reference book *Nudibranchs Encyclopedia*.

Some say that searching for Nudibranchs is like train-spotting underwater but it is the colour of these little critters that gets you hooked and the new book features more than 3000 colour images to help make identification of them a bit easier. Species that have variable colouring usually have images showing the colour variations too. As with this all of this authors books he includes the scientific name for each slug as well as a common name (sometimes made up by himself) as he maintains common names make it easier for us non-scientific types to learn and remember (he may have a point there).

The first 40 or so pages of the book features biology of sea slugs, including behaviours, senses and how to differentiate between Nudibranchs and other slugs like Side Gill Slugs or Sap Suckers

It is an excellent reference book for amateur enthusiasts. It is only available by postal order from the author at www.nevillecoleman.com.au or some other online dive sites like Underwater Australasia at www.underwater.com.au.

On the down side, it is a hard cover book which adds to the weight in your dive travel bag and it is \$95.



Martin Edge presented by WAUPS

The WA Underwater Photographic Society proudly presents a special presentation on lighting techniques by internationally-renowned underwater photographer

Martin Edge

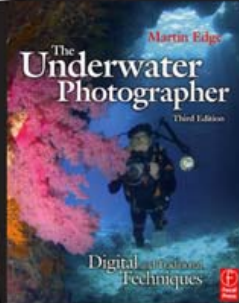
Thursday October 30, 2008 at 7:00pm
at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research
100 Roberts Road, Subiaco
Entry by gold coin donation

RSVP is essential

tammyg@ichr.uwa.edu.au
Inquiries to 9489 7963 during office hours



Generously printed by Abbott & Co - 9353 1166.



Copies of Martin's book will be available for purchase and signing on the night.

About Martin Edge

Martin Edge learnt to dive on the Dorset coastline in 1977 and despite no interest or tuition in photography, has gone on to become one of the world's most renowned underwater photographers.

Frustrated by a lack of knowledge of camera equipment and how to best use it underwater, Martin set out to understand the 'minds eye' of those underwater photographers whose work he most admired. He participated in numerous underwater photography competitions obtaining many awards and began to write articles on a diverse range of subjects. Once judges and peers had vindicated his efforts in competitions, he quickly identified that his passion and potential was to teach and develop other aspiring underwater photographers.

The third edition of his book *The Underwater Photographer: Digital and Traditional Techniques* was published in 2006. This has taken the underwater world by storm and is the Bible on the topic, winning awards in the UK and overseas and being voted as "The best book ever written on the subject."

For more info visit, www.edgeunderwaterphotography.com

Here's a great opportunity to attend a presentation by Martin Edge, the author of several books, including "The Underwater Photographer: Digital and Traditional Techniques". He will appear for one night only and entry is by gold coin donation. RSVP to tammyg@ichr.uwa.edu.au

Creature feature by Chris Cunbold

There were no Creature Feature submissions this month so you have another Nudibranch. I did warn you.

This is a *Mexichromus macropus* or Orange-banded Mexichromus that I recently photographed at the Wreck Trail in Rockingham on one of those bad viz days when you have no choice but to look for small stuff like Nudibranchs.

If you are paying attention you'd be wondering how a Sea Slug has the same scientific name as a Kangaroo or Wallaby; *macropus*. It is because it was first discovered off Kangaroo Island in South Australia.

I had heard rumours this species was on the Wreck Trail and the only previous Metro sighting I have made was a tiny juvenile at Elisabeth Reef off Cottesloe. Those who travelled to Busselton on the last club trip saw heaps of these under the Jetty, it must have been the right time of year as they were everywhere. It was great to spot this one in Rockingham.

I suppose I should own up. The real reason we have another Nudibranch featured is because of the brilliant colour of this one. It really brightens up the page .. The same reason it's on the front page of the website.



Up-coming Dive Trips

- Christmas Island with 'Wal' Walawski - January 11th to 20th '09. e-mail Wal for details
- Busselton 'Abbey Beach Resort' Dive weekend at the end of March
- UEC trip to Tulamben Bali - May 24th to June 7th '09 (or just go for 1 of the weeks), e-mail president@uecwa.com.au for details.

Historically speaking by Chris Cunnold

We recently became the proud keepers of a pile of historical UEC meeting and financial records and although there's nothing specific in the pile it is interesting to try to piece together some of the goings-on that occurred in years past.

For example in 1968 there are references to the UEC Underwater Exhibition for the Royal Show including a floor plan of the exhibition and copies of correspondence to the Fremantle Hospital Hyperbaric unit requesting the use of 'our chamber' (which appears to have been permanently loaned to the hospital at this time) so it can be used in the display. There is a request in the minutes to create a roster of volunteers to be compressed and de-compressed in the chamber during the show. It is also noted that Harry Welmink (later to own Dive, Ski and Surf and a previous owner of our current boat) intended to sleep at the show grounds for the duration as security. ('Our chamber' is now looked after by the WA Museum)

From time to time we will endeavor to include some of this information in the newsletter and although none of it creates a complete story we will get a feel for what was going on in the club at the time.

It reminds me of a fantastic tale I was told by an ex-member I was lucky enough to have a chance meeting with a few years ago. Amongst stories of a number of wrecks they pillaged before the Maritime Archaeology Act of 1973 and the federal Historic Shipwrecks act of 1976 (which are the result of the behavior of wreck hunters of the period, including some UEC members). The story that caught my attention was of the discovery of the Gilt Dragon and how his version differs from the official one, although a number of the same people are involved. The ex-member who I spoke to claimed that he had worked out where the shipwreck was during many visits he made to the Edwards property at Seabird and he was all set to uncover the ship that transported the Dutch Guilders found in the sand dunes 30 years earlier. A chance meeting with a fellow shipwreck hunter caused his undoing though. During the road side chat in a sleepy South-West town he happened to mention his idea of the possible location. The wreck was found the next weekend by that fellow ship wreck hunter. The controversy surrounding the Gilt Dragon discovery and subsequent pillaging, sometimes using explosives to free concreted treasures, still carries on today.

I love this stuff. Some of it may be folklore or myth but it makes for a great yarn regardless.

Pay Online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Name: Underwater Explorers Club of WA
BSB: 066136
Account: 00901972

There is limited space to write what the payment is for in the EFT fields. Please start with your name and reason for payment.

In all cases please email treasurer@uecwa.com.au and advise the date paid, who the payment is from and what it is for.

Contact your Committee

Wendy Hutchison, President, president@uecwa.com.au

Amanda Blanksby, Secretary, secretary@uecwa.com.au

Renee Barker, Treasurer, treasurer@uecwa.com.au

Bruce Fielding, Vice President, vicepresident@uecwa.com.au

Steve Groen, New Members, newmembers@uecwa.com.au

Chris Cunnold, Communications communications@uecwa.com.au

Andrew McGhie, Dive Coordinator, divebookings@uecwa.com.au

Tom Bassett, Environment, environment@uecwa.com.au

Carmine Travaglione, SYC Liaison, syc@uecwa.com.au

Rex Burke, Safety Officer, safety@uecwa.com.au

Martin Arrowsmith, Training, training@uecwa.com.au



UEC

Fridge Calendar

print this page and stick it on your fridge

October

Sat 11th & Sun 12th, Cape to Cape Beach clean-up

Saturday 11th, double dive Stragglers area

Wednesday 15th, General Meeting

Saturday 18th, single dive to Hugal Passage

Saturday 25th, Mussels on the Mooring

Sunday 26th, double dive to Roe Reef and Barry's Cave

November

Saturday 1st - single dive to Chris' spot (*Skipper Martin A. D.O. Carl*)

Sunday 9th - double dive to West Patch Cave and Fish Hook Bay (*Skipper Chris, D.O. Tom*)

Saturday 15th - single dive to Murray's Chambers (*Skipper Carmine, D.O. Amanda*)

Wednesday 19th - General Meeting

Sunday 23rd - double dive to Barry's Cave and the Macedon / Denton Holme wrecks (*Skipper Martin S, D.O. Pa S*)

Saturday 29th - single dive to Mini Swirl (*Skipper Kerry, D.O. Steve*)

Coming Up, Christmas Meeting and Party - December 13th



UEEC NEWS

NOVEMBER 2008

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The Environment By Tom Bassett

There is quite a lot of concern as to the environmental impact the proposed Kimberley Browse Basin LNG site will have. The waters off the coast there are one of the major breeding grounds for Humpback whales in the world. Some estimated 20,000 whales breed there each year along with 5 species of marine turtles, Dugongs and rare Snubfin Dolphin. Need I go on !!

The increased shipping plus the possibility of further mining developments in the region may have substantial detrimental effects on the whales and the other marine life in the region. Although some marine life may also be able to adapt, however one must wonder at our develop at all cost mentality.

The new Liberal government has decided not to go ahead with the restrictions on recreational fishing in W.A. as proposed by the previous State government. I for one do not think this is a good idea. (see Crayfish season article regarding proposed restrictions ed.) Most recreational fishermen I have met will rarely restrain themselves if they get into a good spot and will fish till their freezers are full. With the already dwindling numbers of fish as we see when diving, I can't understand the thinking of the government, other than they just have to be different to Labor, or lobby groups have got their hooks into them.

The commercial industry however is getting restrictions placed on it as of January so expect to pay a lot more for your Fish and Chips !



I spoke to a couple of people after last Sunday's Dive 9th Nov, and the general feeling is that the area around Rottnest is still quite healthy. The dive was off Roe Reef, and there was very positive feedback in regards to the general state of the area, the vis was apparently really good that day too.

Some more developers have come up with a plan to build a new marina between Swanbourne and City Beach. However according to last Saturday's *West Australian* the mayor of Cambridge described the plan as "complete idiocy" and the council would never approve such a plan. However the transport Minister was willing to look at the proposal.

The latest Cockburn Sound Management Report has been released and there are some areas of concern. In general it is deemed to be healthy, but parts of Jervoise Bay had high levels of Tributyltin and other areas had excessive amounts of phytoplankton biomass (micro-algae). Also at some of the swimming beaches Toxic Algae and Bacteria were detected. In all some 5 cases of the environmental guidelines were found to be breached.

The major concern is the proposed new port and its impact.

I can't get a current health report on the Swan River specifically but there was a pollution spill late last month between the Narrows and the Causeway. I'll keep trying with the web to get more info.

Tom Bassett

From the President by Wendy Hutchison

The local waters have already warmed to 20C; the dry suit is back in the cupboard till next winter (unless I head to Bremer Bay); and *whales* are frequenting our waters on their way back to the Antarctic.

The other weekend while heading out for a dive at Rottneest, we were blessed to see several humpback whales, including a mother humpback teaching her calf to breach and other *whale stuff*. Keep your eyes open over the next few weeks when traveling out to Rottneest as you're nearly sure to see a few of these amazing mammals frolicking in our beautiful ocean. Fabulous!

Diving

November is certainly looking up on the *SCUBA Diving* front; for the last two weekends "Underwater Explorer" has ventured from Swan Yacht Club with a *boat full* of divers. It is easy to forget what wonderful dive country we have right here off our local coastline, especially since we've enjoyed a lot of warm water tropical diving of late; the temperate water around Rottneest never ceases to delight me with some truly splendid country to explore... and when you are really lucky, like fifteen of us were the other weekend, visibility of 20+ metres. (*Remember we are on summer time departures, the boat leaves at 8am*).

The Boat

There will be a pause in our dive calendar: our boat "*Underwater Explorer*" will be up on the hardstand at North Port Boatlifters at Rous Head for the coming weekend (22nd & 23rd) for *routine maintenance* (anti-fouling, oil changes, leg rotation, etc). This will put us in a good position to have the boat out diving every weekend through till after the Rottneest holiday in March.

Carmine and Chris will complete the bulk of the mechanical maintenance on Friday, 21st when they bring her out, but we would appreciate *help with painting anti-foul* on the hull and a few other clean-up tasks over Saturday and Sunday. The hull will have been pressure cleaned so very little (if any) in the way of scraping will be required prior to painting. If you are willing to help, please contact Carmine at boat@uecwa.com.au or Wendy at president@uecwa.com.au for details. (*Thank you to those who have volunteered already.*)

Community

It's great to see our Club getting involved with *community events* that support the marine environment. Pat Swallow (thank you Pat) organised the participation of eight UEC members in the *Cape to Cape Clean-up* over the weekend 11th/12th October. The Busselton Jetty benefited this year with our troupe lifting out a huge array of rubbish including bottles, cans, batteries, knives, mugs, plastic bags, fishing line and jigs. I look forward to the day such clean-ups are unnecessary, when people have learned to respect the environment, but until that time, I'm grateful that our very own members take the time to participate in clean-up events to improve the underwater environment.

Social Events

We rescheduled the *Mussels on the Mooring* event so that a few more of the Avon Descent volunteers could attend, and our rescheduled date is not going to work because it falls at the January long weekend. We'll get ourselves sorted out and the event will occur *early in the New Year* while the weather is balmy.

Our annual *Christmas Meeting* will be a social event though; the date is 13th December and we will announce the venue shortly.

November General Meeting (Wednesday, 19th)

Our very special guest speaker for this month's General Meeting is our very own quite nomadic underwater explorer, Annie Boyd. Annie will give a presentation on her search for the "Koombana", lost off the north-west coast of Western Australia.

I look forward to catching up with many of you at the Meeting on Wednesday night...

The Boat Report By Carmine Travaglione

A lot of us have tried very hard to achieve a better outcome for our boat. The motors have not been performing as we were assured they would and as we had hoped. We tried almost everything and finally we scored a bit of success in that it was found that some sensors had defaulted to slow down mode. They were damaged and therefore replaced. Further tests still showed poor performance and it was subsequently found that the boost hoses had been disconnected. Upon correcting this fault the engines were shown to perform much better when the boat was empty but not much better when full.

The latest trial with the new adjusted props shows some promise, empty, and we will find out before you read this report, how it performs with a full boat; on the 'first day of the crayfish season dive'; on Saturday the 15th November. I will let you know at the general meeting.

Notwithstanding all the work that has been done, we are still committed to placing the boat on the market.

Our bi-annual maintenance is due and we have planned to dry dock the U.E. next weekend to scrub and paint the bottom and replace such items as the worn anodes and change leg oils, among other things.

Some volunteers to help carry out this work is appreciated and you can contact me on;- 040 8833115; to find out how.

Carmine

Kevin the Chicken

Trevor the farmer was in the fertilised egg business. He had several hundred young layers (hens), called 'pullets' and eight or ten roosters, to fertilise the pullets' eggs.

Trevor kept records and any rooster that didn't perform went into the soup pot and was replaced. That took an awful lot of his time so he bought a set of tiny bells and attached them to his roosters. Each bell had a different tone so Trevor could tell from a distance, which rooster was performing. Now he could sit on the porch and fill out an efficiency report simply by listening to the bells.

The farmer's favourite rooster was Kevin, and a very fine specimen he was too, but on this particular morning Trevor noticed Kevin's bell hadn't rung at all!

Trevor went to investigate. The other roosters were chasing pullets, bells-a-ringing. The pullets, hearing the roosters coming, would run for cover but to farmer Trevor's amazement, Kevin had his bell in his beak, so it couldn't ring. He'd sneak up on a pullet, do his job and walk on to the next one.

Trevor was so proud of Kevin, he entered him into the Brisbane Exhibition and Kevin became an overnight sensation among the judges.

The Result?

The judges not only awarded Kevin the No Bell Piece Prize but they also awarded him the Pulletsurprise as well.

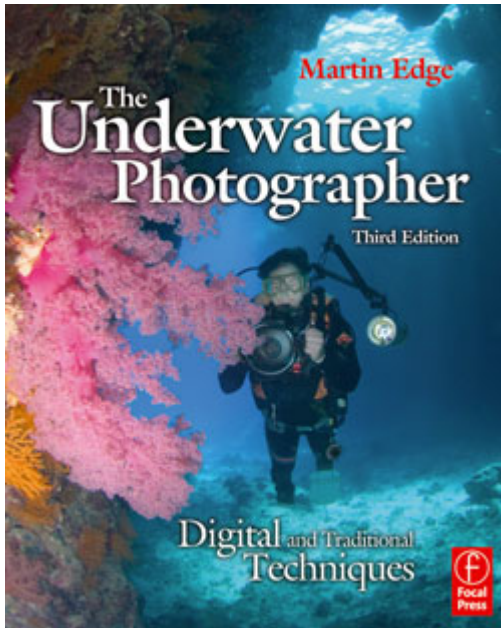
Clearly Kevin was a politician in the making: Who else but a politician could figure out how to win two of the most highly coveted awards on our planet by being the best at sneaking up on the populace and screwing them when they weren't paying attention.

Do you know a Pullitician called Kevin?

Boat Page update

The Boat pages on the website have been updated with exploded parts diagrams of our Mercruiser Bravo II X sterndrives. www.uecwa.com.au/news/boattech.htm

The Underwater Photographer



Martin Edge's latest version of *The Underwater Photographer* is fast becoming 'the' reference for any amateur underwater photographer who is interested in getting just that little extra from their images.

Those who attended Martin's lecture held by WAUPS last month will testify that his straight forward non-technical style makes it easy to understand the techniques and the book is written in the same style.

The book focuses on the practical art of taking underwater pictures through the author's popular 'think and consider' system. This system explains how, with careful planning, thought and consideration of the subject matter, lighting and environment prior to taking the picture, beautiful effects can be captured.

As well as the psychology of taking a beautiful image the author offers practical examples that take you step by step through the basic techniques; from photographing shipwrecks, divers, fish and abstract images to taking photographs at night and 'dual lighting',

plus up to date advice on selection of equipment.

In Perth the book is available from Boffins Technical Bookshop In Hay Street (opposite His Majesty's theatre).

It's Cray Season

The season has arrived and as is the norm it's time for a reminder about the do's and don'ts of Cray-fishing. It's surprising that despite greater restrictions for professional crayfishermen this season and all the talk in the print media that no changes have been made for individuals, but they are coming. In October the fisheries Minister Norman Moore announced his intention to reduce bag limits to 6 per individual and 12 per vessel. This was to be done by December 1st. It appears the intention is Dec 1st '08 but the press release was not clear. What is clear is that next year the start of our season will be moved to November 25th in line with the commercial season. www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=590

Skippers, remember the new(ish) Demersal zone at the West End of Rottneet. This area was a popular Cray-fishing spot for us but is now a "no take" zone. We can still dive there just as long as we only look and take photos.

First the stuff we should already know. To catch a Crayfish you must hold a Recreational Fishing License that covers you for Western Rock Lobster (Crayfish). The argument that you just caught it for someone else on the boat that has a license doesn't work, trust me.

At this stage you are permitted to take 8 Crayfish per person and a limit of 16 may be carried or held onboard a vessel (we will keep you posted if this changes). The problem of one diver coming back with half the boat limit is usually solved by the Skipper enforcing what is commonly known as "Skipper Tax" ... the gloating diver can soon be left with a lot less than he or she thought.

Seriously though, the minimum size from Nov 15 to Jan 31 is 77mm then until the end of the season on Jun 30 it is 76mm. Crayfish that do not measure correctly must be returned to the water within 5 minutes but it is preferable that you measure your catch underwater and don't bring them to the boat at all. The survival rate for a undersize or setose Crayfish with only half it's legs remaining because it has been rammed into a catch bag is very low. Remember, this years undersize cray is next years 'keeper' so look after them now.

Females that are "In Berry", carrying "Tar Spot" or are "Setose" cannot be taken. As the female prepares to breed it becomes "Setose" which means the fine forked egg carrying appendages under her tail begin to grow fine hairs (setae). Even the finest of hair means she must be returned to the water. During mating the male deposits a packet of sperm under the tail of the female usually between the hind most legs, this is "Tar Spot" and also means she must be returned. Finally, after the eggs are laid the female carries them under her tail until they spawn. If you catch a crayfish with a large bundle of orange eggs under the tail it must go back also. Females in this state are usually slow and easy to catch so be suspicious if a crayfish jumps into your loop. It is pretty easy to check for these 3 conditions on the Females while you are underwater and it is a good habit to get into. More Crayfish info on our website www.uecwa.com.au/linked_pdfs/FishingforRockLobster2008.pdf

There was no report for October as I was away for part of it but there was also not a lot to report. After the return of the Rowley Shoals group Wendy attended the SYC mooring meeting for me. At that meeting they spoke about the new repaired finger jetty and that some pen tackle had been replaced by the club's contractors and billed to the pen holders. The inspection was carried out by the club's inspection troops and we were informed that our pen is in conformity with their requirements.

The SYC had a clean-up-day on November 1st but it was only put in the magazine at the last minute and we were not given enough time to organise a response. We were down there on that day and spoke to Geoff Reynolds (SYC Managing Secretary) about it and he agreed that it was short notice and was not too concerned.

Carmine

SYC Parking

During a recent dive trip one of our associate members received a parking fine from the Town of East Fremantle whilst parked inside the SYC boundary. If you are not a SYC member and therefore don't have a current SYC parking permit you cannot park in the SYC carpark. All members should have a parking permit so this will only apply to nominee divers, MUD divers or guests.

You will have worked out that this is not a SYC issue and pleading with them won't do any good as the carpark is policed by Town of East Fremantle Rangers due to SYC's lease conditions. A parking map has been added to the calendar page of the website. www.uecwa.com.au/images/SYC%20Parking.jpg

Dive, Dive, Dive (upcoming trips)

- Christmas Island - January 11th to 20th '09. Talk to Wal or e-mail him at info@uecwa.com.au
- Rottneest Annual Holiday - March 7th to 13th (week) and March 13th to 16th (w/end). See Clive C or e-mail him at info@uecwa.com.au
- Busselton 'Abbey Beach Resort' Dive weekend March 27th to 29th. Talk to Jasmine or e-mail her at info@uecwa.com.au
- Jurien Bay @ Easter - April 10th to 13th. See Malcolm or e-mail him at info@uecwa.com.au
- UEC trip to Tulamben Bali - May 24th to June 7th '09 (choice of 1 week or 2) talk to Wendy or e-mail president@uecwa.com.au for details.

Pay Online

Make it easy on yourself and pay for UEC diving and social events directly to our bank account.

Payment can be made to:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Name: Underwater Explorers Club of WA
BSB: 066136
Account: 00901972

There is limited space to write what the payment is for in the EFT fields. Please start with your name and reason for payment.

In all cases please email treasurer@uecwa.com.au and advise the date paid, who the payment is from and what it is for.

Contact your Committee

Wendy Hutchison, President, president@uecwa.com.au

Amanda Blanksby, Secretary, secretary@uecwa.com.au

Renee Barker, Treasurer, treasurer@uecwa.com.au

Bruce Fielding, Vice President, vicepresident@uecwa.com.au

Steve Groen, New Members, newmembers@uecwa.com.au

Chris Cunnold, Communications communications@uecwa.com.au

Andrew McGhie, Dive Coordinator, divebookings@uecwa.com.au

Tom Bassett, Environment, environment@uecwa.com.au

Carmine Travaglione, SYC Liaison, syc@uecwa.com.au

Rex Burke, Safety Officer, safety@uecwa.com.au

Martin Arrowsmith, Training, training@uecwa.com.au

UEC Training by Martin Arrowsmith

DO and Skipper

At present our Skipper roster is a bit thin, so anyone with boating experience is encouraged to consider becoming a club skipper. Skippers need to be qualified as DOs but the training can be undertaken concurrently. One of our members is keen to start training, and a couple more would add some value to the exercise. Anyone interested in becoming a DO or Skipper should contact training@uecwa.com.au ..

On a related note, I've had interest from a couple of existing DOs to get some practice in the rubber ducky: times for this are pretty flexible and may be evenings after work or on weekends after the boat returns. Let me know if you wish to join us.

Deckhand Course

In line with Rex's concerns about the number of deck-hands on the boat when getting in and out of the pen and coming alongside the jetty, the committee thought it would be a good idea to run training for anybody interested in helping out when they are on the boat. This is not at all an onerous task and would not involve being on a roster or making any special commitment. Training would only involve learning which ropes are used for what, and what the skipper needs from the crew when berthing; this could be arranged for after work, weekends, or after diving.

Diving Refresher Course

I'm told some club members feel a bit rusty and would like to take part in a refresher course. Please let me know if this is of interest and I will see about organising an instructor or dive master. It may be you just want to practice buoyancy control and navigation at, say, Bicton Baths with someone experienced by your side, and that should be fairly easy to arrange.

Please let me know if you are interested (training@uecwa.com.au),

Thanks,

Martin.

Fremantle Long Jetty

Did you see the recent article on the online news service perthnow about SCUBA divers stealing artefacts from the old Long Jetty in Fremantle?

It is common knowledge that after the winter storms a lot of material is uncovered at the old Long Jetty site. Before the Inner Harbour was built all of the Metro imports and exports left via the jetty so it is not surprising there are many years of bits and pieces that have been dropped over the side. The Maritime Museum have surveyed the site and discovered thousands of objects like toys, sheep bones, pieces of coal, watches, bottles, coins and ships fittings. The site is protected under the WA Maritime Archaeology Act.

Originally built in the 1873 it was called the Ocean Jetty and went from Bathers Beach (just in front of what now is McDonalds) out on a SW direction. In 1887 it was extended to cope with the increased use, mainly due to the gold rush and became known as the Long Jetty. A further extension was completed in 1896 but the jetty was already obsolete as Fremantle harbour opened the following year.



More info at www.museum.wa.gov.au/collections/maritime/march/longjetty.asp (4 pages).

Tulamben Bali 09

The water is warm and the diving easy. Dive the Liberty wreck, the Coral gardens, the Drop Off, Alum Ander and Palum Palum all just minutes from your accommodation in Tulamben village

The sleepy little fishing village of Tulamben in the north of Bali is really a sleepy little diving village. It boasts some of the best diving in Indonesia ranging from a large wreck dive and huge Coral expanses to deep, deep Drop-offs and extraordinary muck-diving. It is an underwater photographers heaven, the water is warm and it is a very economical dive trip.

UEC have booked a swag of accommodation (pictured below) at Tulamben Wreck divers in May and June 2009.

The accommodation has large, clean, air conditioned rooms and a beautiful pool. It sits in the shadow of Mount Agung just moments from all the diving you can handle. Food is from local restaurants, all tested by a UEC exploratory team in 2008. Diving is what you do here, no bargain Bali shopping (although a day of this can be arranged on the way home), no bus-trips with photo op's... Just diving, and laying by the pool with a book and a beer (after your massage!). Check it out at www.tulambenwreckdivers.com



We are getting close to having to finalise the numbers for this trip. Mainly to give participants time to book cheaper air fares.

You can choose either a 1 week trip (7 nights) or a 2 week trip (13 nights) that include transfers to and from Denpasar, Accommodation, all your diving (12 for 1 week, 24 for two weeks) with gear supplied and breakfasts. (additional dives are inexpensive).

Not included are Air fares, Arrival and Departures taxes and main meals (but food is very cheap). A number of UEC members have already committed to the 2 week stint. The cost will be around \$650 ea for 1 week and \$1250 ea for 2 weeks.

1 week dates are May 24th to May 31st, 2 week dates are May 24th to June 7th



If you are interested talk to Wendy on president@uecwa.com.au or Chris on communications@uecwa.com.au or phone us on 9204 1858.

Creature feature by Chris Cunbold

I'm always amazed on dive trips by how anxious divers become over the need to see and photograph Pygmy Seahorses. When an Indonesian dive guide starts a briefing by saying "What do you want to see?" you can be sure of the answer.

I guess I shouldn't be so surprised as it is easy to be dragged into the frenzy by these amazing little creatures. I have often been the one hovering cross-eyed with my mask against a fan coral trying to focus on a pea size critter with perfect camouflage hiding in the craggy coral branches. I always struggle when I remind myself they are actually fish.

There are two described species of Pygmy Seahorses, I call them smooth and lumpy but officially they are Denise's Pygmy Seahorse and the Bargibant Pygmy Seahorse. Because of their miniature size and unique camouflage these species are only recent discoveries.

Hippocampus Bargibanti (lumpy) was discovered in 1969 by Georges Bargibant while collecting Gorgonian fan coral samples for research in Noumea. It wasn't until he got his samples back to the laboratory that he spotted the tiny seahorse he had inadvertently collected.

Denise's Pygmy Seahorse (*Hippocampus Denise*) is named after the American photographer Denise Tackett who first informed the scientific community of its existence. It is the smallest Pygmy with a maximum length of 2.1cm and has smaller or less tubercles (lumps) on its body.



Hippocampus Denise
from New Guinea



Hippocampus Bargibanti in Bali

Bargibant's Pygmy seahorse is slightly larger with a maximum length of 2.4cm having been recorded and it's the more popular of the two for photographers as its colour is usually brighter and more attractive and it has large tubercles all over its body which match its host coral.

We suspect the Bargibant pictured is a male as it appears to be pregnant. As with other seahorses the male has a 'Kangaroo pouch' in to which the female lays her eggs. The young develop in the pouch and are born live and fully formed from a slit in the top of the belly. They generally measure a massive 2mm at birth.

The exciting news is that in recent years two new species of Pygmy Seahorse have been discovered. Neither of them have been scientifically described yet but they look like being called *Hippocampus Colemani* and *Hippocampus Pontohi* (which has become known commonly as a Weedy Pygmy Seahorse).

Pontohi was first found off Sulawesi and once described it will become the smallest species.

So on your next trip, keep your eyes peeled. These guys are tiny and even when they are pointed out to you they can still be hard to see (let alone photograph). They also like it deep or rather the Gorgonian Fan Coral they live on does, it's rare to find one under 18 or 20 metres.



Hippocampus Pontohi

Sea Shepherd's Captain Paul Watson in W.A.

Whether you agree or disagree with the tactics of Sea Shepherd Founder and Director Paul Watson, when it comes to raising the profile of conservation issues you can't help but admire his dedication. The story of Watson's actions as the Skipper of Sea Shepherd's flagships over the years is a captivating read. He has no hesitation in ramming Whalers or supply vessels, He has even sunk a Sealing ship. Dropping propeller tangling devices in the path of ships is everyday stuff and at one stage he welded a huge 'can-opener' to the side of his vessel with the intention of ripping open the hull of any whaling vessel he could get close to. He openly admits that losing his own ship while trying to save the life of a whale is definitely something he has a contingency plan for.

Watson will be in W.A during late November for a couple of public events before departing from Brisbane on December 1, heading south aboard Sea Shepherds largest vessel *Steve Irwin* to try to protect Minke and Fin Whales from another season of Japanese 'Scientific Research'. The fifth year of Sea Shepherds Antarctic campaign is being called Operation Musashi in honour of Miyamoto Musashi Japan's greatest Samurai warrior, strategist, and tactician. The name Operation Musashi was chosen to reflect Sea Shepherds' November approach of confrontational yet non-violent whale conservation as well as to assist in increasing global awareness of Japan's ongoing illegal whaling activities.

Paul will be appearing at a number of fundraising events while in WA.

Tuesday 25th November 2008 - DUNSBOROUGH & MARGARET RIVER EVENTS

Whale Watching Cruise with Paul Watson and Naturaliste Eco-Charters, Dunsborough

Time: 2.00pm to 5.00pm
 Venue: Aboard the *Cetacean Explorer* and cruising Geographe Bay
 Departs: Pro-Fisherman's Jetty, Geographe Bay Road, Dunsborough (Quindalup end)
 Tickets: \$100 from Naturaliste Charters including light refreshments
info@whales-australia.com or by phoning: 9755 2276

The Capes Crusade: Paul Watson presents the South-West release of the stunning internationally acclaimed documentary *Sharkwater*

Time: 7.00pm
 Venue: Margaret River Cultural Centre, Wallcliffe Road, Margaret River
 Tickets: Adults \$15 and Children \$10 from Beach Life Surf Shop, Bussell Highway, Margaret River.

Further details contact: Blair Darvill on 0427 333 664.

Wednesday 26th November 2008 - ONLY PERTH EVENT

A Conversation with Paul Watson

Hear from the man who protects the gentle giants of the oceans from the harpoons of the Japanese whaling fleet.

Named as one of the "50 People Who Could Save the Planet" Paul Watson is the ultimate environmental hero of the 21st Century.

Hosted by Simon Beaumont and featuring Fremantle Mayor Peter Tagliaferri and former Australian Federal Environment Minister and current Sea Shepherd Advisory Board Member, Ian Campbell - this event is not to be missed.

Time: Doors open 6.45pm for an 8.00pm kick off
 Place: Fremantle Town Hall, William Street, Fremantle
 Ticket: \$20 admission; light refreshments available



For More Information visit www.seashepherd.org



UEC

Fridge Calendar

print this page and stick it on your fridge

November

Wednesday 19th - General Meeting with guest speaker Annie Boyd

Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd - boat maintenance

Saturday 29th - single dive to Mini Swirl (*Skipper Kerry, D.O. Steve*)

December

Saturday 6th - single dive - Rottnest Swim thru trip

Sunday 7th - double dive Parker Point Drop off and Crystal Palace (*Skipper Wendy, D.O. Rex*)

Saturday 13th - *Christmas Party and meeting*

Saturday 13th - double dive Cray Canyon & Swirl (*Skipper Carmine, D.O. Carl*)

Sunday 14th - single dive to Stragglers

Saturday 20th - double dive

Sunday 21st - double dive

Friday 26th - single - Boxing Day dive

Saturday 27th - double dive

Sunday 28th - single dive to Hugals passage



UEEC NEWS

DECEMBER 2008

In this Issue

- President's Report
- Boat Report
- SYC Report
- Training Report
- Safety report
- Dive Trips
- Committee Contacts
- Fridge Calendar

Merry Christmas

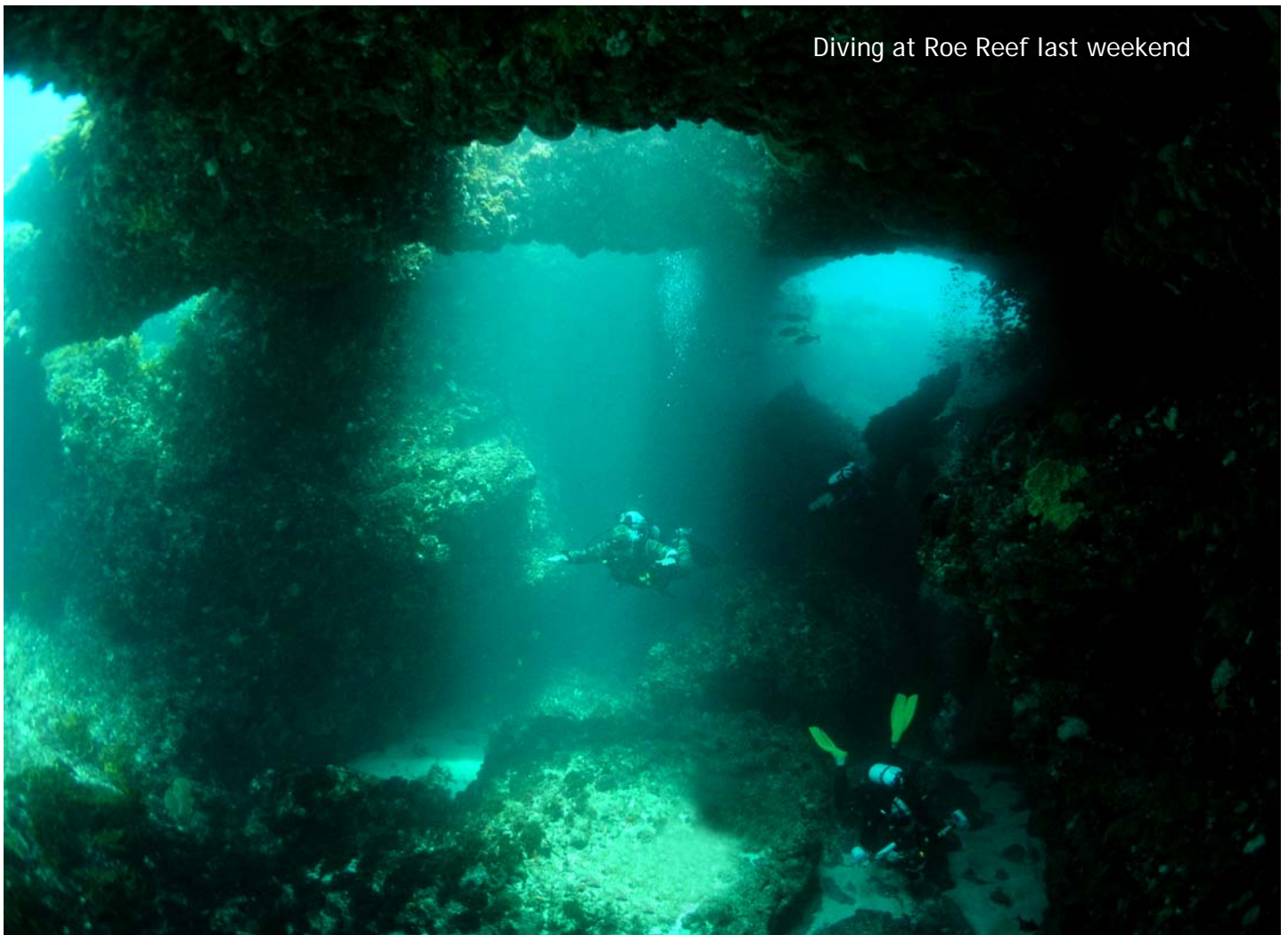
The newsletter is short and sweet this month. Hopefully it will get back on track in the New Year with the help of some contributors.

The Committee would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year ... Maybe you'll get on the water over the break and celebrate the season with some fantastic diving ... See below.

Chris Cunnold



Diving at Roe Reef last weekend



President's Report

It is summer, it is Christmas and everyone is frantically buying stuff they don't need and trying to finish all those jobs they'd resolved to get done this year, last New Year's Eve! Sound familiar?

It is a time when you realise that a whole year has gone by and you have only managed one phone call to the person who pretty much saved your life only a few years earlier. How could that happen?

We are so time poor or are our priorities screwed. We will take no comfort in saying "I've been meaning to catch up with {insert the name of your dear friend} for ages" at their funeral or saying "I remember when the waters around Rottneest were teeming with magical marine life". Hmm, it's all a bit somber... grim words indeed!

Hey guys, here is our chance to make the decision and make the choice to be the best we can be; to respect our colleagues and our environment and to honour our friends, our family and our world, and perhaps, just perhaps, we will be wonderfully surprised by just how good things can be. We are blessed.

So, in closing for this year of 2008, I wish you and yours a safe and joyous Christmas season and I wish for us to all work together for a more caring world in 2009.

I look forward to catching up with many of you at the UEC Christmas Meeting and on the boat in 2009...

Happy Christmas ... Wendy

UEC Boating Report

As promised we have now put our boat on the market and we are hoping for a quick sale so we can purchase one more suitable for our club and get out there diving.

The boat is operational and has been used lately with a full complement of divers aboard. It is achieving 11 to 12 knots with a full boat and even achieved 15 knots sliding down a wave. Almost everyone who went along on the dives was not concerned by the slightly slower speed and we have had some great dives. The fisheries department has stated that this year would be the worst on record for crayfish so we won't tell them that the last two times we have been to flat rock it has been crawling with crayfish.

There have been quite a few member bookings for the boat over this pre-Christmas period. This is good for the club and also for the members who 'use' the boat as they will never find a boat cheaper anywhere else and it's a great way to celebrate the festive season. Try to give us a fairly long notice period and remember you will need to arrange a club skipper and crew and they also have commitments at this time of the year.

The only thing left for me to say is that I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and happy new year and of course happy diving.

Carmine

UEC/SYC Liaison Report

Stop Press!!!!

The SYC is now publishing their magazine electronically! That means from now on you will no longer receive the Cygnet in the mail. Already some of you will have received the electronic version this month. In future we will make sure all paid up members receive their E-copy. In case you don't receive it let me know and I will forward a copy to you.

People who are not on the net will no longer be able to receive their hard copy as the SYC will cut out all hard copies in due course.

I have spoken to Geoff Reynolds about the possibility of loading divers and other passengers and gear on Jetty 6. This is a little used jetty which runs off the most westerly main jetty. In fact this is the main jetty where our pen position runs off as well. Jetty 6 is not the first left turn off this jetty which leads to our boat but the second left turn. You go right out to the end after the left turn and viola you are there. Geoff has approved the use of this jetty for our purposes and providing all skippers are happy to use it we will not have the problem of the jetty being occupied as I have not seen anyone use it yet. We have used it a couple of times and apart from a very shallow section, (which all skippers need to be made aware of), it promises to be a much better option for us. In fact the SYC has had government approval to dredge the shallow areas and that is due to start straight after the New Year. If and when we use jetty 6 it will be advised by the dive coordinator prior to the trip.

Drive safely over this festive period and have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Carmine

Tiger Woods drove his BMW into a petrol station in a remote part of the Irish countryside. The pump attendant, who knows nothing about golf, greets him in a typical Irish manner completely unaware of who the golfing pro is.

'Top of the mornin' to yer, sir' said the attendant.

Tiger nods a quick 'hello' and bends forward to pick up the nozzle. As he does so, two tees fall out of his shirt pocket onto the ground.

'What are those? Asked the attendant. 'They're called tees' replied Tiger.

'Well, what on the god's earth are dey for?' inquires the Irishman.

'They're for resting my balls on when I'm driving', says Tiger.

'Well I'll be darned', says the Irishman, 'BMW thinks of everything.'

UEC Training

Diving Refresher Course - A big thank you to Mark 'Wal' Walawski who gave up his time on 29th November to run the refresher. The emails I've received about it say Wal did a fabulous job and as a result all concerned came away far more confident under water. Not everyone who wanted to do the refresher was able to make it last month, however, so Wal has decided to run a second course this Saturday 13th December. It will be at Bicton Baths starting at 8 a.m. - so it shouldn't take too much out of your day. Anyone interested should contact Wal directly at walabydv<at>bigpond.net.au [replace with @] so he knows to expect you.

Crew Training - We have nine people interested in the various aspects of crew training which got underway this week. Great news for those currently on the boat roster is that five people are interested in becoming club skippers! There is still time for anyone else interested in either DO, deck hand, or skipper training to get on board.

Senior First Aid - Many members have expressed an interest in obtaining a Senior First Aid certificate - which is a requirement for club DOs and skippers - and to that end Wal (a St John's trainer) has again put his hand up to run a course. At this stage Wal is expecting the course will be some time in February '09, and would like to have an idea of numbers by mid-January. Please let me know if you are interested [training@uecwa.com.au];

Happy diving, *Martin*

The duties of the safety officer are;

- (1) Investigation and upgrading of the clubs safety standards
- (2) Advising the Committee of Management of diver safety matters
- (3) Acquainting members of technical developments and advances in diving practises and related equipment

The Safety Incident/Event Reporting sheets are now on the boat. I would like to encourage all members to use these forms no matter how insignificant the event may seem. Any incident that reduces the safety margin for our members should be reported. There is no necessity to name persons involved and the reporting persons anonymity is assured.

Last Sunday was the first time I performed the duties of Dive Officer aboard our dive boat Underwater Explorer. I now fully realise what a demanding and important duty this is. I would like to thank all who assisted me, especially our skipper Wendy, with the duties the Dive officer needs to carry out, during the two tank dives to Rottnest.

By the end of the day after putting the boat away and cleaning up I was quite exhausted. I urge all our members to assist the DO where ever they can to ensure the smooth and safest running of our boat.

For those of you who have booked or are contemplating dive trips in the new year to remote diving locations, I thoroughly recommend the taking out of D.A.N. (Divers Alert Network) insurance. This is very cheap insurance for the peace of mind it can give you.

Don't risk going on a dive trip without DAN! With DAN from the moment you make that emergency or advice call, you're instantly connected to a highly trained person, who assesses your call and transfers you to a doctor specialised in diving medicine. Within seconds you're talking to a diving medical professional. If they're not certain, they activate an immediate internal colleague-to-colleague collaboration.

DAN Membership & Dive Injury Treatment Insurance. *Are You Covered?*

When renewing your DAN AP Membership & Dive Injury (Treatment) Insurance it is imperative that you consider the diving that you will be undertaking over the coming 12-months.

Remember, while DAN Membership covers the cost of emergency medical evacuation for a diving and non-diving injury or illness, it does not cover subsequent treatment costs.

Once you have selected your level of Dive Injury (Treatment) Insurance and the policy has been submitted it cannot be changed for the next 12-months. So it is essential to think ahead and ensure you take out the right level of cover.

It is also essential that you know what you are in fact covered for. *Did you know that the three Dive Injury (Treatment) Insurance policies differ beyond the level of depth coverage they provide?*

A significant difference exists between the Standard Plan and the Master/Preferred Plans. The Standard Plan only provides coverage for decompression illness (DCI), which includes arterial gas embolism (AGE) and decompression sickness (DCS) on a covered dive or Repetitive Dive Series. It DOES NOT provide treatment coverage for other in-water injuries sustained on a dive or Repetitive Dive Series. Other in-water accidents include drowning, ear barotraumas, coral scrapes, injuries from marine life, injuries sustained by propellers, among others. The injury must have been sustained in the water during diving or snorkelling.

So, do you have Dive Injury (Treatment) Insurance?

Take out your Membership Card and if it has a "0" next to the heading "Insurance Type" then you do not have treatment insurance coverage. Also, if your card indicates a "1" this means you have Standard Plan insurance. Do you have the right level of coverage for your diving needs?

Con't

"But wait", you say to yourself, "Isn't the treatment insurance included with my membership?" Dive Injury (Treatment) Insurance is separate to your DAN AP Membership (evacuation coverage). That is why you are asked when applying online for your coverage: Do you want to add optional Dive Injury (Treatment) Insurance to your Membership? You will then be given the opportunity to select the plan of your choice (Standard, Master or Preferred) on the application form.

If you have selected "No", you need to ask yourself, "How would I pay for the cost of treatment? Do you have a plan? DAN encourages divers to assess their personal needs in the light of a dive emergency. We encourage all divers to consider the optional DAN Dive Injury (Treatment) Insurance plans in addition to their Membership.

[CLICK HERE](#) to review each of DAN AP's Dive Injury (Treatment) Insurance Policies.

See you all at the December meeting/xmas party, if not have a safe and Merry Xmas

Cheers Rex

Dive trips

- Busselton 'Abbey Beach Resort' Dive weekend March 27th to 29th. Talk to Jasmine or e-mail her at info@uecwa.com.au
- UEC trip to Tulamben Bali - May 24th to June 7th '09 (choice of 1 week or 2) talk to Wendy or e-mail president@uecwa.com.au for details.

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Renee Barker, Treasurer, treasurer@uecwa.com.au

Bruce Fielding, Vice President, vicepresident@uecwa.com.au

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UEC

Fridge Calendar

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December

Sat 13th - *Christmas Party and meeting*

Sat 13th - double dive Cray Canyon & Swirl (*Carmine/ Carl*)

Sun 14th - double to the Pinnacle (*Kerry/Steve*)

Sat 20th - one dive at Mini Swirl (*Chris/Amanda*)

Sun 21st - Parker Point Drop Off and Crystal Palace (*Wendy/Pat*)

Fri 26th - Boxing Day single; Murrays Chambers (*Dennis/Chris*)

Sat 27th - single dive at Hugal's Passage (*Martin S/Tom*)

Sun 28th - double to West Patch and Fish Hook (*Geoff/Malcolm*)

January

Sat 3rd - single to Carnac Island (*Kerry/Jo*)

Sun 4th - two dives; Jackson Rock/Skippers Choice (*Carmine/Wendy*)

Sat 10th - one dive at Stragglers (*Chris/Clive*)

Sun 11th - double to Victoria Station & Troy's Well (*Wendy/Carl*)

Sat 17th - single dive to Chris' spot (*Martin S/Pat*)

Sun 18th - double dive to Kerry's Cavern & Cathedral (*Kerry/Malcolm*)

Wed 21st - General Meeting

Sat 24th - single to S/E Stragglers (*Carmine/Tom*)

Sun 25th - double dive to Angela's Cave and Sue's Spot (*Chris/Wendy*)

Mon 26th - dive or Skyshow TBA