

DIVE SECTION

As the newly elected Rear Commodore for the dive section, firstly I would like to extend a big thank you to Darren Woolgar, the outgoing RC for his contributions to the running of the section over the past couple of years. Darren has been a "key player" in organising many of the previous year's trips, and contributed his time to the compressor cage fabrication, new children's play facility, and various other club related activities. September and October tend to be a quiet period in the Dive calendar, and therefore I thought I would take the opportunity to remind you all of the coming dive season trips that are planned, and have a brief look at what we have been doing during the winter and early Spring months.



During the winter months, a new Bauer compressor was installed and connected to our existing bottle bank. Training has been provided for those members who wish to use the new tank filling facility. The compressor will provide efficient, dry air fills for many years to come. Thanks to all section members who contributed to the research, installation, compressor cage fabrication and training. It would be remiss of me, not to thank Graeme Cole in particular for his time and effort put into the compressor project.



In early July eighteen club members and partners departed from Perth for Borneo, for a weeks diving at the world renowned offshore dive location at Sipadan Island. Diving up to four times a day, amongst the crystal clear waters of Sipadan Island, with the amazing variety of marine life, divers were not disappointed. The photographers of the section, Graeme, Heidi and June had a field day, each capturing hundreds of shots. The second week of the trip was spent at the five star Magellan resort at Kota Kinabalu for some relaxation before returning to Perth. There is already talk of repeating this trip again next year, so those that missed out last July, watch this space.



At the beginning of September, our annual trip to Nanga takes place. This year we had just under fifty adults and children attend the weekend. Canoeing on the Saturday, and a four wheel drive route to a local pub for Sunday lunch, proved as popular as ever. Again we were full to capacity. On Saturday 22nd October we are booked with Dolphin Dive charter, departing Fremantle for a days diving at Rottneest. Although many of the section members have their own boats, Charter dives are generally well attended, and give boat owners an opportunity to relax, without having to undertake skipper duties. If the weather has been kind to us, by the time you are reading this article, we would have had great day over at Rotto.

This year's Christmas BBQ will be hosted by yours truly and Mrs S on Saturday 3rd December. I hope that as many as possible from the section will be able to attend. Details will be sent out nearer the time.

February 3rd to 5th will be our annual trip down to Point Peron for a weekend of crabbing and socialising. Accommodation will be at the 5 star (you can see the stars through holes in the roof) API units. Putting the standard of accommodation aside, this is a great family weekend, which is proven by the numbers attending.

The weekend of 25th and 26th February we will dive with Jurien Bay charters, using the Apex units as a weekend base. There are still places available for this trip, please contact me if you would like to go.

For a number of years we have gone over to Rottneest towards the end of October for a long weekend. This year we have decided to move the weekend towards the end of March 23rd, 24th and 25th, in the hope of hitting more settled weather. The weekend is fully booked, but if you get the opportunity and can get across for the day, it would be good to see you.

Easter will see about 16 section members making the long trek North to 3 mile camp at Gnaraloo, about 150km North of Carnarvon. Gnaraloo is at the southern end of Ningaloo Reef, and will offer up some excellent remote diving opportunities. We plan to take several inflatable boats and the portable compressor.

As the dive section continues to grow, we are not able to cater for the numbers that want to attend the various trips. Details of trips are discussed at the monthly (fourth Wednesday of the month) section meeting and names and deposits are taken for places. Available spaces for trips are often filled on the night of the meeting. For the best opportunity of securing a place on trips, it's best that you attend the meetings.

Don't forget that the second Friday of the month is the section Dine-in. I would like to see more of you attend this monthly function. It's a great way to catch up with fellow diver's and discuss recent and planned dive activities, and of course support the club by using the galley and bar facilities. By now you should have all had your cylinders pressure tested; regulators serviced and evicted the Red Back spiders from your kit bags. Here's looking forward to a safe dive season.

Steve Sullivan
RC Dive section

