



WHO'S WHO



AWARDS SEASON



CHOOSING A COMPUTER



NEW COMMITTEE

# DIVE NEWS

Next Meeting Wed 4th Sept Next Dive Sun 18th Aug

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## AFTER THREE CANCELLATIONS SUCCESS



Heading home tired but happy.

The weather had not been kind to the regular diving faithful, so with some trepidation, the true aquatic believers faced the next scheduled monthly outing and hoped that this time would be



The Admiral with Sarah Kirke

the charm. The weather started to darken as Sunday approached and even that morning there was a red sky and rain predicted. Though conditions were marginal a fully loaded boat set off for Rottnest and their faith would be rewarded with an excellent day's diving.



The first dive was at Salmon Bay Wall. New member Sarah Kirke made her first dives with us only her 8th and 9th dives since receiving her Open Water qualification. There were a few traumas. Three divers made uncontrolled ascents for various reasons. Fortunately,

no injuries appeared to have been sustained.

Sylvain Lyonnet distinguished himself with his biggest cray catch of the season.

Justin Rose served Hot dogs between the dives which went down very well. Though the water was warm, out of the water back on the boat felt cold. so hot food was greatly appreciated

The second dive was at the perennial favourite Crystal Palace. This popular site with its excellent caves and swim-throughs reminded everyone how lucky we are to have Rottnest as a dive location right on our doorstep.

Captain Jon Harvey guided by Gavin "The Guru" Baynes as usual saw us out and home safely.

Mission Accomplished.



A big *Welcome Aboard* to the new Dive section committee and Captain Neville Mader

The 2024/25 team are:

**Rear Commodore Dive and Fishing:**

Neville Norkett

**Dive Captain:**

Neville Mader

**Vice Captain:**

Wayne Carrigg

**Secretary:**

Ciaran Lavin

**Safety and Equipment:**

Barb O'Dowd

**Committee:**

Doug Glover

Justin Rose

Pelle Thambert

# Tips for buying a Dive computer

## Budget and requirements



Dive computers in 2024 range from around £200 to £1500, and all of them will handle the needs of entry-level recreational divers, but some are more suited to tech and may put divers without advanced-level knowledge at something of a disadvantage with confusing settings and menus. For easy, recreational holiday diving then pretty much any budget computer will suffice, but if you're planning on developing your diving further, then a more advanced computer that grows with your experience may be a better option – and

save you from having to buy another computer a few years down the line.

### Nitrox and gas mixtures

All computers on the market today are compatible with recreational (21–40%) 'enriched air' Nitrox, which is all that most recreational divers will ever need. Any serious venture into tech, however, will require a computer that can handle different gas mixtures, including helium (eg trimix) and pure oxygen. Most top-of-the-range computers cover all bases in a single model range, and an increasing number of mid-range computers feature programmable, gas-switching computers that cater to the tech/rec market, but not full-on deep technical diving.



### Air Integration

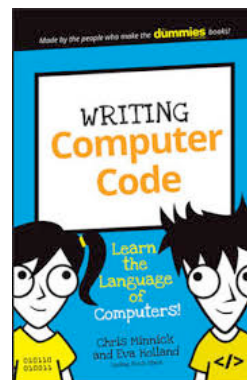
Some people love it, some people don't. On the plus side, all the information you need is in a single device, with the remaining dive time calculated both in terms of nitrogen loading and remaining gas supply. It is also the case that transmitter-integrated computers are now capable of monitoring multiple tanks, including those of other divers – a great safety feature. On the minus side, battery failure in either computer or transmitter means no diving unless you can either change or charge your batteries. Having a backup analogue pressure gauge is advised.

Wrist-mounted, wristwatch or console?

Mostly down to personal preference. Consoles can bash into things, wrist-mounted computers can fall off; wristwatch-sized computers may be hard for some divers to read. Wrist-mounted models with large displays are the most common. The choice is yours.

## Algorithms

Haldane, Bühlmann, RGBM (and others), algorithms are the mathematical models used to calculate nitrogen exposure, based on your depth and time underwater. Technical divers may have a preference, but for easy recreational diving – apart from small differences to no-decompression limits and surface interval credit – it really doesn't matter. As we learn more about the physiological effects of diving on the body, however, the algorithms are evolving to cater to personal dive fitness levels and the demands of multi-day, repetitive dive holidays, so adjustable levels of conservatism are definitely a thing to look out for.



## RTFM!



Computers do not make your diving safer. Read The FULL Manual before jumping into the water, and don't expect your buddy or instructor to know how to work your computer. Dive computers will not prevent you from doing stupid things, such as making 'sawtooth' dive profiles, an easy way to end your vacation in the chamber. Remain conservative, don't push limits, and adhere to safe diving practices.

## CONGRATULATIONS BARB O'DOWD

## CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR 2024

At the recent AGM to popular acclaim, our own Barb was voted Club Person Of The Year 2024. Barb is a very active club member. With the anode team, she dives all year round checking and replacing the jetty anodes. Barb manages all the dive shed equipment and oversees our dive activities drawing on her experience as a professional marine safety expert, a master mariner and a master Scuba instructor.

Always ready to pitch in wherever help is needed with the marks and moorings Barb also sets up the equipment needed for every club dive during the year.

As if that was not enough she crews aboard Ron McArthur's champion racing yacht and still finds time to have a low golf handicap.

Well done Barb for receiving this much-deserved award.



# THE AGM

Our annual review took place at the August dive section meeting as did the annual election of office bearers. It was good to see that there was no shortage of enthusiastic volunteers willing to put their hands up to serve on the committee and help to keep our very successful section on track.

Congratulations also go to our Diver of the Year **Lud Farka**.

Ludvik our superhuman Octogenarian continues to dive all year round servicing the club anodes. He always assists with the Hard Hat divers and is there for the refresher courses.



Doug, talking in tongs

A special mention also goes to Doug Glover who has radiated positivity and enthusiasm for all our activities this year and was responsible for organising and making our dive dinner a resounding success. Doug even stepped in at short notice as a presenter at a monthly meeting.



DOTY Lud Farka

# EXPERT DIVER CLINIC

Congratulations to Doug Glover, Samantha Tai, Betsy Wibowanto, Mark Blackburn Allen Vaughan and Wayne Carrigg for completing the first part of our Expert Diver Clinic held in July at FSC.

The course was themed "Deeper, Longer and Safer" and sought to bridge the knowledge and skill gaps between the somewhat misnamed "Advanced" Open Water courses and Technical Diving.

The participants began with some pre-reading at home, followed by a classroom theory session at the Club on a Sunday morning.

The importance of planning and building in redundant air capacity and spare equipment was emphasised.



Unfortunately as has been the case so often this winter, the weather was against us and the in-water technique exercises had to be rescheduled to a future date.

The session was fortunate to have such experienced divers both instructing and participating so the opportunity for everyone to share ideas was particularly enjoyed by all.



# Dive Section 2023/2024

## Report submitted to the Club board in June.

The dive section is happy to report a successful season so far during which both attendance at events and meetings has increased.

We continue to carry out a variety of activities.

The **anode program** protecting the club jetties from corrosion was continued under the supervision of Lud Farka , Barb O'Dowd and Colin Enderbury. This year, it has been enhanced with the ability now to electrically test each anode and check that it is electrically performing. This was a massive task involving hundreds of connections.

Andrew Brockis with Dive and Bosuns volunteers have maintained all 17 of the **club racing marks** as well as servicing the six **club moorings**. All inshore marks were replaced at the beginning of summer.

We also have **assisted the harbourmasters** and members on many occasions by retrieving lost equipment and placing catamaran moorings on the T jetties..

This year we have had a guest speaker at each of our well-attended monthly meetings. I am pleased to report that the quality of these speakers has been consistently high.

Most recently we had a hundred members from all sections attend a very successful evening featuring TV star Johnny Debban and diving legend Hugh Edwards.

Numerous members have travelled far and wide to dive locations around the world and then reported back to the group.

We also utilised a club RHIB which was already in Geographe Bay for a regatta and conducted a series of successful club dives between Dunsborough and Bunbury. in February

Our monthly newsletter goes out to the dive email group and has been well received.

In November and December. Andrew Brockis and Barb O'Dowd ran a well-attended dive refresher courses for members. This was so successful that popular demand obliged us to run a second course.

Probably our biggest success this year was increasing the summer dives to two per month. These have been sellout occasions with full boats every time. This represents a doubling of member participation in diving activity.

Looking forward we have a full calendar of events through to August, including a charter dive trip to Jurien Bay, a hard Hat diver display, A night dive treasure hunt, and an offshore night dive, as well as an advanced training course for our regular divers.

I would like to compliment and thank both our excellent harbourmasters Jason Hands and Sam Blackburn as well as the magnificent Arthur John and his fellow bosuns for their ever-ready assistance.

A special thanks to Neville Norkett as Rear Commodore Fishing and Dive for continuing to look after the interests of the section.

Andrew Brockis  
Dive Admiral FSC





## OLD GUYS *DON'T* RULE OK

Colin Enderbury, Ewan Rowell and Andrew Brockis have decided it's time for the non-Boomers to run the dive section and have resigned from the Dive committee. They will all remain active with the section and Andrew and Colin will continue to be involved with the Anodes and Marks and Moorings teams.

Ex Captain Andrew a.k.a. *The Admiral* ,is rumoured to be retiring to a hammock in the dive shed next to the Sauna.

A big thanks go to all of them for their contribution over many years.

## FUN IN THE TROPICAL MUCK

Betsy Wibowanto reports

Having a two-week trip to Bali, of course, I did some TLC for myself on the first couple of days. But then the most important thing was the diving in Tulamben and near Nusa Lembongan Island. We spent 8 days in Tulamben. Although the area is not a national park, the locals have looked after the area pretty well. Apart from the famous USAT Liberty, which was run up onto the beach and later slid into deeper water, there are many other good dive sites there.

Boga wreck in Kubu which is a bit further north from Tulamben, was a patrol vessel that was intentionally sunk in 2012. Then, there are many other muck dive sites around Tulamben too.

Continuing the trip, 4 days of diving in Lembongan was a bit of a change from Tulamben with strong currents and colder water. However, a bonus dive to see over 20 mantas at Manta Point in Nusa Penida was worth the trip!



Overall, my favourite sea creatures out of my dives during my trip were, the mantas in Nusa Penida (of course!), then the ghost pipefish in Tulamben and the colourful frogfish .



Tulamben Village from the sea



# 2024 Dive Section Events

6 MARCH MONTHLY  
MEETING

1 MAY MONTHLY  
MEETING

10 MARCH SUCCESS  
DIVE

5 MAY SUCCESS DIVE

13 MARCH NIGHT DIVE  
TREASURE HUNT \*

11 MAY SUCCESS  
NIGHT DIVE\*

24 MARCH SUCCESS  
DIVE

5 JUNE MONTHLY  
MEETING

3 APRIL MONTHLY  
MEETING

9 JUNE SUCCESS DIVE

7 APRIL SUCCESS DIVE

3 JULY MONTHLY  
MEETING

12-14 APRIL JURIEN  
BAY DIVE TRIP

7 JULY SUCCESS DIVE

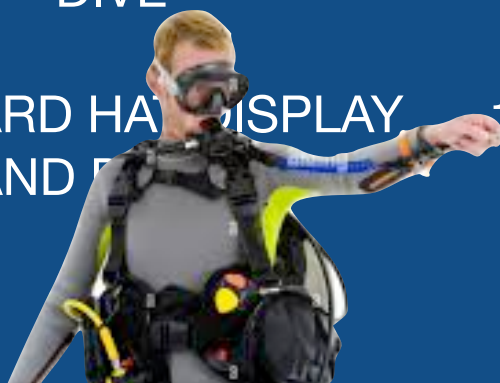
21 APRIL SUCCESS  
DIVE

TBA ADVANCED/TEC  
BRIDGE COURSE\*

TBA HARD HAT DISPLAY  
AND...

7 AUGUST AGM

11 AUGUST SUCCESS  
MONTHLY DIVE



ALL FSC MEMBERS WELCOME  
\*DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE