

# WaterColumn

FEBRUARY 2015 ISSUE 4

Western Australian Underwater Photographic Society's Bi-annual Underwater Journal



Lembeh

Lena

Raja Ampat

Rotto's West End

PIXELS winners

2014 Overall PIXELS winner

Member profile

Creature feature: Squid



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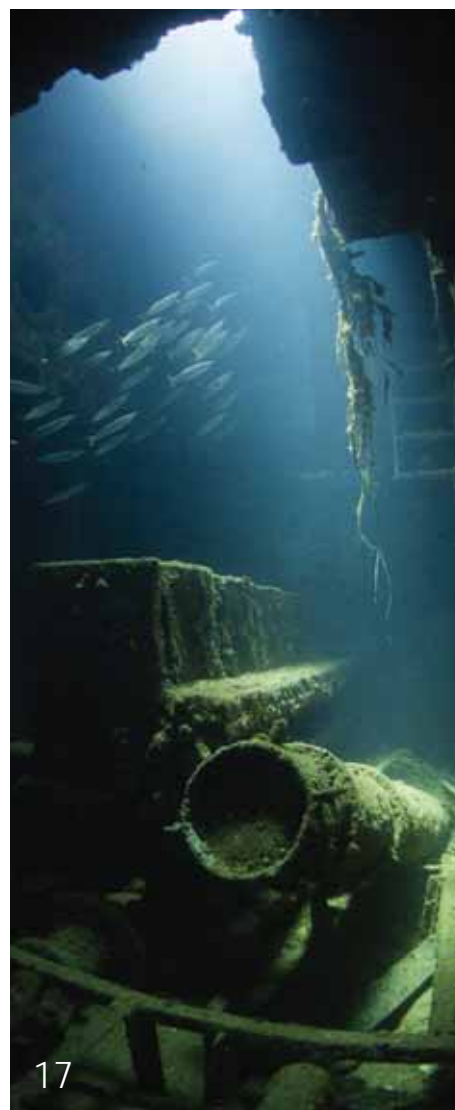
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February 2015 ISSUE 4



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Cover by Hayley Fairbrother – Shy bubble coral shrimp, Lembbeh. 1/160 ISO250 f16 - 60mm

# EDITOR'S BUBBLES

We say it every year, but didn't that year fly by! 'Out with the old and in with the new' and maybe a (broken) resolution or two.

What an amazing start to 2015 - the best underwater visibility ever, especially at Ammunition Jetty and the Wreck Trail in particular. Others enjoyed just as good conditions further south along our beautiful coastline.

In January the Golden Snapper Award competition began. Based on member participation throughout the calendar year it is a great way to acknowledge everyone's involvement in club activities.

The Novice Portfolio, sponsored by Perth Scuba was won by Hayley Fairbrother. What stunning images and great composition, a well deserved win. Congrats also to runner-up Mark Jeffs and well done to everyone who entered.

PIXELS 2015 is now on with a new format for this year's competition.

Our newer members and those who have not won any of the clubs major competitions will enter PIXELS. The remaining members will enter MEGAPIXELS.

Our monthly meetings have been very interesting. A huge thank you to our guest speakers and club members, who put on these presentations. The shark talks were well attended, partly due to all the media attention and the State's shark-cull policy. Some members of the club volunteered their time to put on Lightroom workshops, of which there will be more in the future. There was even a practical underwater photography session held in the Perth Diving Academy pool.

Being a member of WAUPS includes membership of the WAPF. They hold various events throughout the year that you all can participate in. Last years WAPF UnderWater Photography Competition Overall

winner was Brad Pryde. Second place went to Maryann Evetts. Congratulations, and well done also to everyone selected for the 'Top 20'.

We wound up the year with a Christmas Dive & BBQ at the Kent Street Jetty. While the visibility was not as good as it had been before the Fremantle Harbour was dredged it was still good to check out the area. In fact I think one of our divers was going for a world-record on how long he could stay under ;-). Thank you to all those who provided such a beautiful spread for everyone to dine on. It was hard to get motivated to pack up and go home with the riverside so full of activity.

Have a great 2015, may there be many great dive memories.

Keep blowin' bubbles

## Viv





## WAUPS pinboard



Brad Pryde



Maryann Evetts

### WAPF UnderWater Competition and the Nikon Mandurah event

by Leanne Thompson

October rolled around as did the annual WAPF Nikon event and the WAPF UnderWater photo competition, hosted this year by the Mandurah Photography Club. As one of the few competitions dedicated to WA's underwater environments, it's a great opportunity to showcase why so many of us spend our weekends getting wet. A total of 55 entries were submitted with the top 20 printed and hung during the event. The winner of this year's competition is Brad Pryde, with the runner up being Maryann Evetts. Congratulations guys on your beautiful images! Compliments and questions regarding

the how, when, where and what of underwater photography came throughout the weekend as the attendees saw the great images on display.

There were some great presentations throughout the weekend, from Stanley and Kaisa Breedon's talk on photo stacking for macro and Gavin Blue's innovative way of using speedlights on location. Karl Fehlauer even gave a presentation on underwater photography for those interested in the art.

The highlight of the weekend for me though was the opportunity to go out on location with David Rennie to learn more about

bird photography on the Peel Harvey Estuary. His amazing photos certainly provide a goal for where I want to take my own photography. Thanks to the generosity of Nikon, a whole plethora of cameras and lenses were made available for participants to borrow over the weekend. While it meant missing some of the workshops, I took off (with the lens firmly strapped into the front seat) with a \$9000 200-400 zoom lens to put into practice some of the tips provided by David Rennie. I must say I'm rather pleased with some of the results.

All in all it was a great weekend.



## Member profile – Hayley Fairbrother

A little over a decade ago, Hayley Fairbrother completed the boat dive component of her open water SCUBA course on a boat somewhere off Burns Beach. In a three metre swell and with about one metre of visibility, Hayley says she didn't see more than her instructor's fins! After finishing her course, her immediate thought was "I'm glad that's over and done with, and if that was SCUBA diving, I'd like never to have to do it again!"

The following summer, one of Hayley's friends returned from the Maldives, raving about how magnificent the underwater world was. Hayley was encouraged to log a few local dives to get some experience under her belt so they could do some dive adventures abroad. She joined a local dive club, who took Hayley under their wing, and the addiction started.

When she started to dive, Hayley owned a couple of small compact camera systems and would take photos on dives. However, she wasn't really happy with just taking snaps and wanted some control over the settings.

At the same time, she was starting to get a bit bored with just diving and needed something to keep her interest in the sport. After a few years trying to persevere with compact

systems, Hayley purchased a micro four thirds setup and a strobe and then added a second strobe a couple of years later (Inon Z240's).

Currently shooting with an Olympus EPL5 in Olympus housing, Hayley has certainly developed a talent for underwater photography. Six of Hayley's images were recently presented in her stunning entry for the WAUPS 2014 Novice Portfolio, taking away the top prize.

Hayley says taking photos has added that extra level of interest to her diving and as she's become more involved with the photography side of diving, she's learning a lot more about the amazing creatures and marine environments that make up our oceans.

Locally, Hayley loves dropping in at Ammo Jetty, with easy access and a huge variety of macro life. She says Tulamben in north eastern Bali is the next best thing to a local dive site.

Diving with graceful Manta rays in Raja Ampat features high on Hayley's list of memorable underwater moments, along with Grey Nurses at Rottneest and listening to whales singing underwater in Exmouth. She still has a few dives and destinations on her bucket list and we can't wait to see the images she captures while ticking them off.



**Top:** Spinecheek Anemonefish, one of the many colours of Raja Ampat.  
1/125 ISO200 f11 – 60mm

**Above:** Emperor Shrimp on Holothurian in Manado.  
1/250 ISO200 f16 – 60mm

**Right:** Antonbruunii Cleaner Shrimp in Coral Garden, Tulamben.  
1/100 ISO250 f14 – 60mm







**Top:** Batfish in Raja Ampat

**Middle:** Cuttlefish

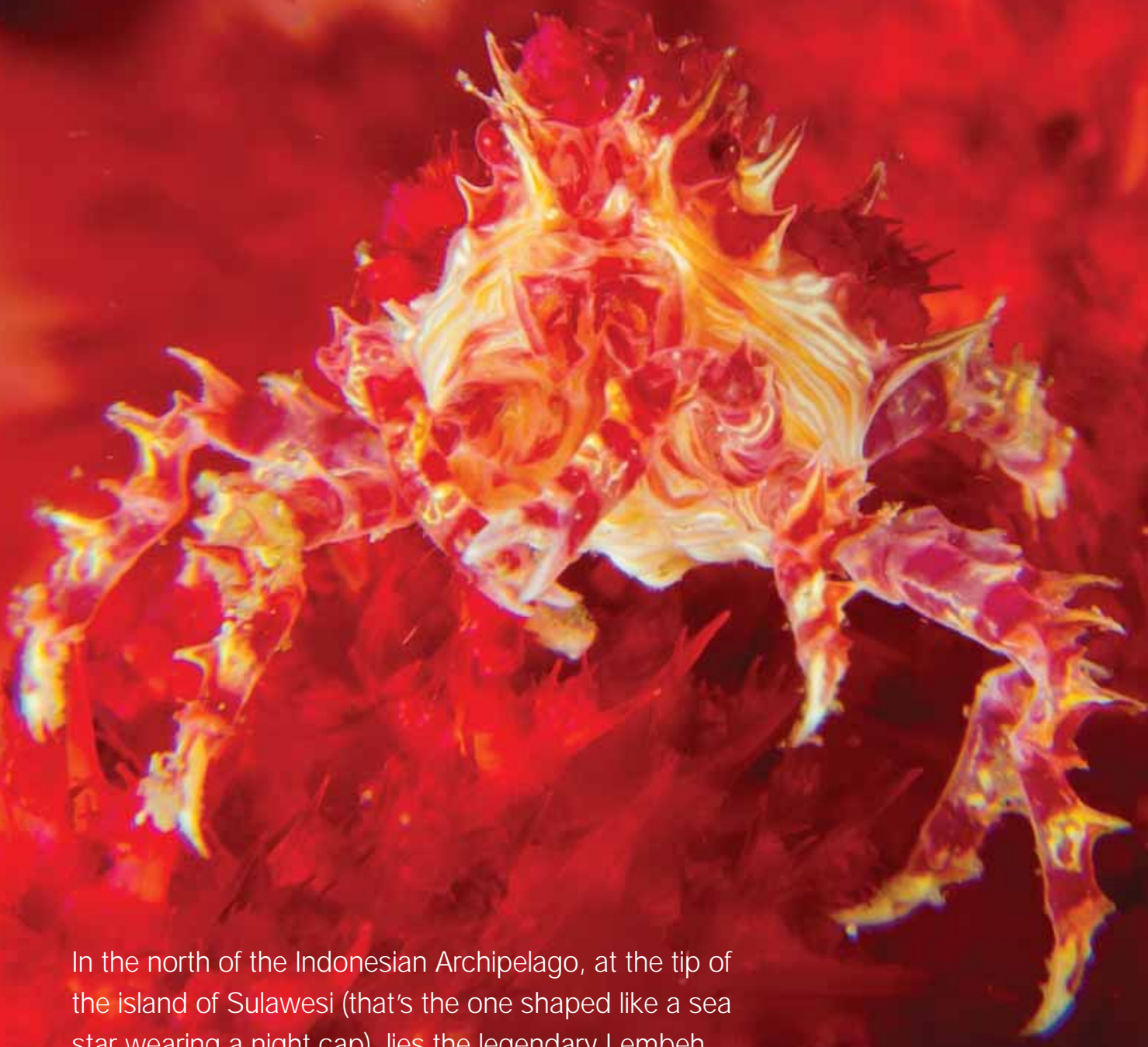
**Above:** Squat lobster in Bali

**Left:** Graceful Banggai Cardinal fish in soft coral, Lembeh.  
1/125 ISO250 f16 - 60mmw



# Lembeh

*A Magnet for Muck Divers*



In the north of the Indonesian Archipelago, at the tip of the island of Sulawesi (that's the one shaped like a sea star wearing a night cap), lies the legendary Lembeh Strait. Around twenty kilometres long, the strait separates the long thin sliver that is the Island of Lembeh from the mainland of north Sulawesi.

**Photos and Text  
by Danny Messom**





Using a cliché of “this is a muck divers paradise” just doesn’t seem to say enough. Lembah Strait must be the number 1 go-to place for muck diving. With more than 50 dive sites from north to south, there is plenty of room for the myriad of dive resorts dotted along each shore of the strait. When diving, you rarely run into divers from another boat let alone another resort.

Of course, the strait’s main attraction is its underwater life and it is probably best known for its Frogfish like the Painted, the Warty, the Giant and the Hairy. There are also the Pygmy Seahorses, so tiny and so well camouflaged, that you would miss them entirely without knowledge of their habitat or a sharp-eyed guide to point them out to you. One of the northern sites, Angel’s Window,

named for a swim through in a pinnacle, boasts three species, the Bargibanti, the Denise and the Pontohi.

Midway through the strait is a site called “Bianca”, so named for a vessel that seems to have been moored there forever. Living in a tangle of coral are some of the largest Mandarinfish that you have ever seen. They come out each evening for their ritual mating dance. I’ve never heard of anyone who has set out to see them being disappointed. Although red light is preferable, these Mandarinfish don’t seem to mind white light too much either.

On my most recent trip to Lembeh, I photographed many different species of crustacean. Squat Lobster, Glass Shrimp, Candy Crab, Peacock Mantis Shrimp, Anemone Crab, this list could go on.

A list that would be even longer would be that of the nudibranchs that can be found throughout the strait.

Scorpionfish aplenty including the Leaf, Red Indian, the Rhinopius and many more of the Lionfish types.

Large Stonefish and the odd Stargazer lay in wait for unsuspecting prey to venture too close.

Of the Pipefishes, there were Ghost Ornate and Robust along with the common and colourful Honshu.

And quite a few of Anemonefish clans as well like the Pink, Skunk and Clown.

If it’s the larger species that interest you, there have been sightings of Rays and Sharks including a Whale Shark, Dolphins and Turtles too will venture in.







Divers may travel to the strait seeking one or two species to tick off the “must see list” but invariably they will tick off things that they did not expect. It seems that all things tropical, in the undersea world that is, live somewhere in the strait. The famous Mimic Octopus along with the Coconut Occy and the Wunderpus are there along with various species of Eels and Sea Snakes. In fact, if you can think of a tropical fish then it is most likely in Lembeh.

The dive sites are mostly natural formations along either side of the strait with islands dotted here and there. There is at least one good sized wreck lying on its side in the middle.

Most of the resorts use good sized, comfortable boats with easy egress and access for divers with guides and crew that know their stuff. Comfort in and out of the water is a big priority for the resort operators of Lembeh.

I can think of only one negative of the strait and that is the rubbish in the water. To be fair, it's not a massive amount, more a noticeable amount and let's face it, although it's not natural a lot of the marine life uses the scrap for accommodation.

Getting there is easy: fly through Denpasar (Bali) or Singapore to Manado and then a road trip to the strait. There are plenty of resorts that will take care of your diving, accommodation and culinary needs.



# BHP Terminal Rockingham

The BHP Terminal often feels spooky to me. I guess it's because it's darker, has more pylons than the other jetties close by and the viz is invariably pretty poor. The floor is littered with fat cushion starfish and large razor clams, a choice vantage for the many sea cucumbers that climb up on them to feed. Heavily pregnant seahorses hide on the pylons amongst the colourful tunicates, sponges and feather stars in the summer. Dragonets, flounder and small rays forage beneath. The most striking thing about the BHP terminal is the large numbers and size of the Busselton Jetty nudis on steroids, at the far end of the jetty. Many other nudis, sea hares and pleurobranchs can also be found. Remnants of rope screens and large plastic containers have become host to pineapple fish, octopi, and cardinals brooding their golden eggs in their mouths. No lunch for them today!



Images and words by  
Maryann Evetts





# Blue Water Mangroves

by Amanda Blanksby



Amanda Blanksby

A bunch of us from WAUPS went on a luxurious 10-day liveaboard trip exploring Raja Ampat, in November 2014. It was a much anticipated trip, with many of us booking two or three years in advance. Our boat would be the Indo Siren, a 40m traditional “gaff rigged Phinisi” wooden yacht. The vessel was extremely well kitted out, comfortable and certainly hit the luxury mark!







Raja Ampat is an archipelago of four main islands; Misool, Salawati, Batanta and Waigeo, collectively known as the Four Kings to the west of West Papua in Indonesia. There are hundreds of smaller islands as well, all with lots of reef to explore.

Shannon Conway provided advice and presentations to get our photographic juices working with Graham Abbott providing local knowledge of the region. Graham is credited with finding a large number of dive sites in the Raja Ampat region.

The trip did not follow the usual liveaboard route around Raja Ampat but took in some different sites drawing on Graham's vast knowledge of the underwater world of Raja Ampat.

The trip started in the middle of the region diving sites within the Dampier Straits – Cape Kri and Mioskon. Wide angle was the flavour of the day.

We then headed to the mangroves – the first of two locations was Gam/Yangello. Diving in the mangroves is quite a unique experience. You are only one or two metres below the water line and the aim is to photograph your subject, and a reflection without the interference of bubbles from your regulator, or too much 'blown out' white from the sky as seen through the Snell's window. It is a case of hold your breath, and get the shot you want, and then breathe out or blow

out a very fine stream of bubbles. Or you can attempt to use a snorkel which is a challenge of its own – ask Daniel Lloyd!!

The mangrove habitat is interesting to observe, with the roots hanging down through the water and effectively forming a wall along the edge of the land formation. They are not silty like the usual mangroves as they are flushed out daily with the tide. Looking back out to the ocean through the mangroves roots you see stunning blue water. Red, orange, turquoise, and purple coloured colonial ascidians or sea squirts grow on

the roots. Archerfish scoot around just below the surface, along with estuarine halfbeaks. Cardinal fish live amongst the roots and Shannon was lucky enough to find a cuttlefish. Plenty of interesting scenes to photograph and perfect for wide angle rectilinear or fisheye lens behind dome ports. The other surprise about the mangroves was that they were located just above stunning coral reefs. So if you didn't want to hang around in 1 or 2 metres of water you could always find other things to photograph, a little deeper.











*Tammy Gibbs*



*Eleanor Hodgson*

After five dives in this mangrove area we headed off to find mantas at Manta Sandy but we timed it badly in that there was no current and hence no mantas. We visited the village of Arborek, well known for its development of local regulations for community-based marine conservation. They understand that manta rays alive provide tourist dollars, manta rays dead provide very little monetary reward. There were some handicrafts for sale including straw hats (even one in the shape of a manta ray as purchased by Sue Morrison), and the children had fun with their drawing of marine creatures in the sand before we gave them gifts of crayons and colouring books. Our night dive was at Arborek jetty after the sun had gone down and time was spent finding the nocturnal walking shark, endemic to Raja Ampat.

The next day we had a day in the muck at Kofiou, which provided some macro time. In places there was lots of rubbish which is always sad to see underwater but you do also find some interesting creatures in and amongst it.

The following day it was back in the mangroves, this time the Blue Water ones in the southern area of Nampale. These were even better than the Gam/Yangello ones given that lots of stunning red, pink and orange soft corals have grown on the roots. I dived the same site three times and it was interesting to see how the tide levels, and sun position affected the light, with the photography challenge being to capture the mangrove roots, some soft coral, the archerfish and some of the blue water behind. While in this area, we also had the amazing experience seeing a large pod of pilot whales. We piled into the dinghys and followed them as they jumped, whistled and showed off their babies right under the boats.

After six dives in the mangroves we headed toward the Misool region with pristine stunning reefs jam packed with life. We dived some of the well known sites including the Four Kings, Boo Windows and Magic Mountain. The diversity of marine life was amazing and it did not disappoint. At some of the dive sites huge balls of silverside fish would

swirl around and dart this way and that as trevally flew in for a feed. Another dive site known as PCP or Plucked Chicken Paradise, presented us with a vertical wall, gorgonian fans, and the challenge to spot and shoot pygmy seahorses. There were plenty of fans and plenty of pygmies.

As with all trips it soon came to an end and all that remains are the memories and the photographs.

I would highly recommend a trip to Raja Ampat and being on board the Indo Siren was definitely a luxurious way of visiting. Thanks for coming along fellow WAUPS people - Michael Lee, Tammy Gibbs, Eleanor Hodgson, Gary Browne, Daniel Lloyd, Sue and Peter Morrison, and to Shannon Conway for his wide angle teaching and inspiration.

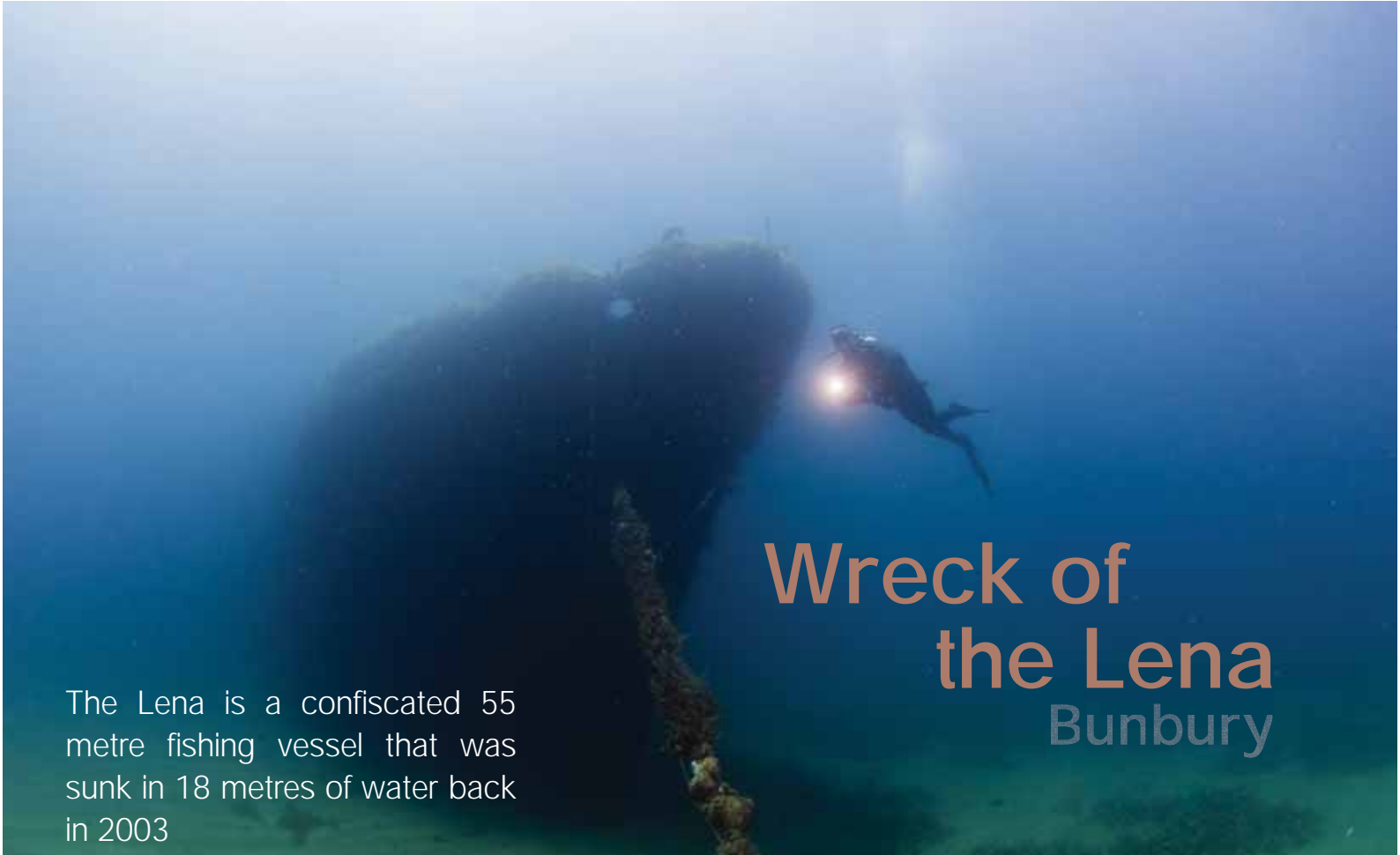


*Sue Morrison*



*Mick Lee*





# Wreck of the Lena Bunbury

The Lena is a confiscated 55 metre fishing vessel that was sunk in 18 metres of water back in 2003



words by Leanne Thompson  
images by Amanda Blanksby



December 6 dawned, clear and still and seven of us left Perth in the wee hours to head to Bunbury for a double dive on the wreck of the Lena. It was a great for a day dive, with the wreck visible from the surface and some stunning natural light shots possible in the hold. Divers darted everywhere looking for those great shots and cuttlefish, globe fish and crayfish occupied many. The day just got better thanks to some excellent hunter/gatherers and the fresh crayfish was an excellent end to an awesome day.



# PIXELS 2014

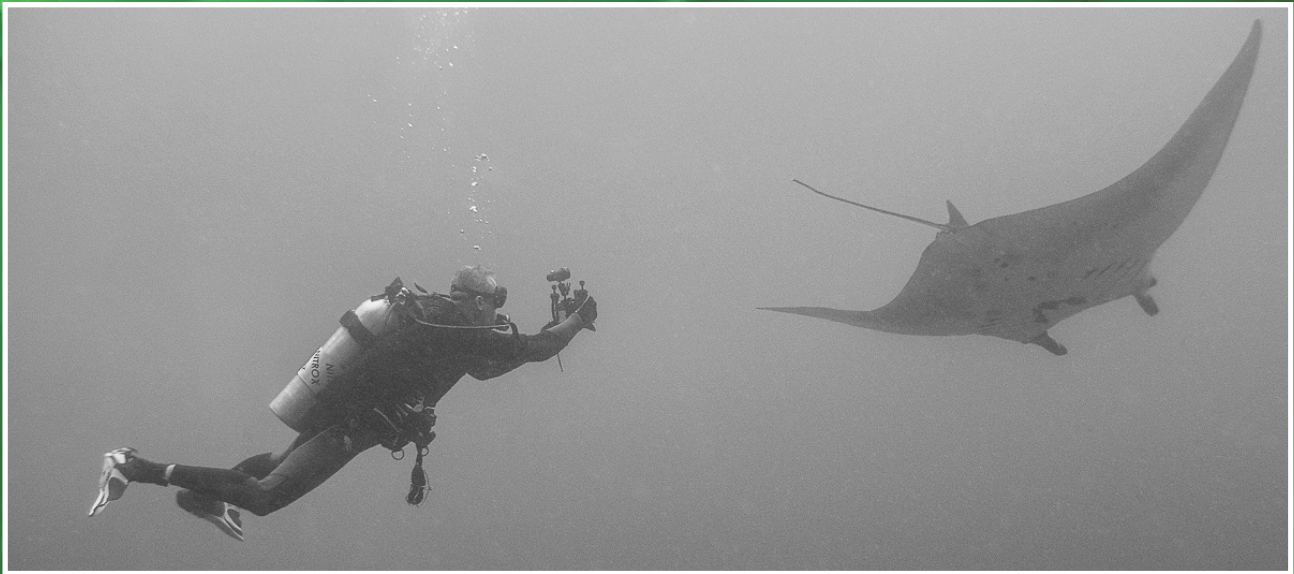
## Overall Winner

Chandy de Wit.

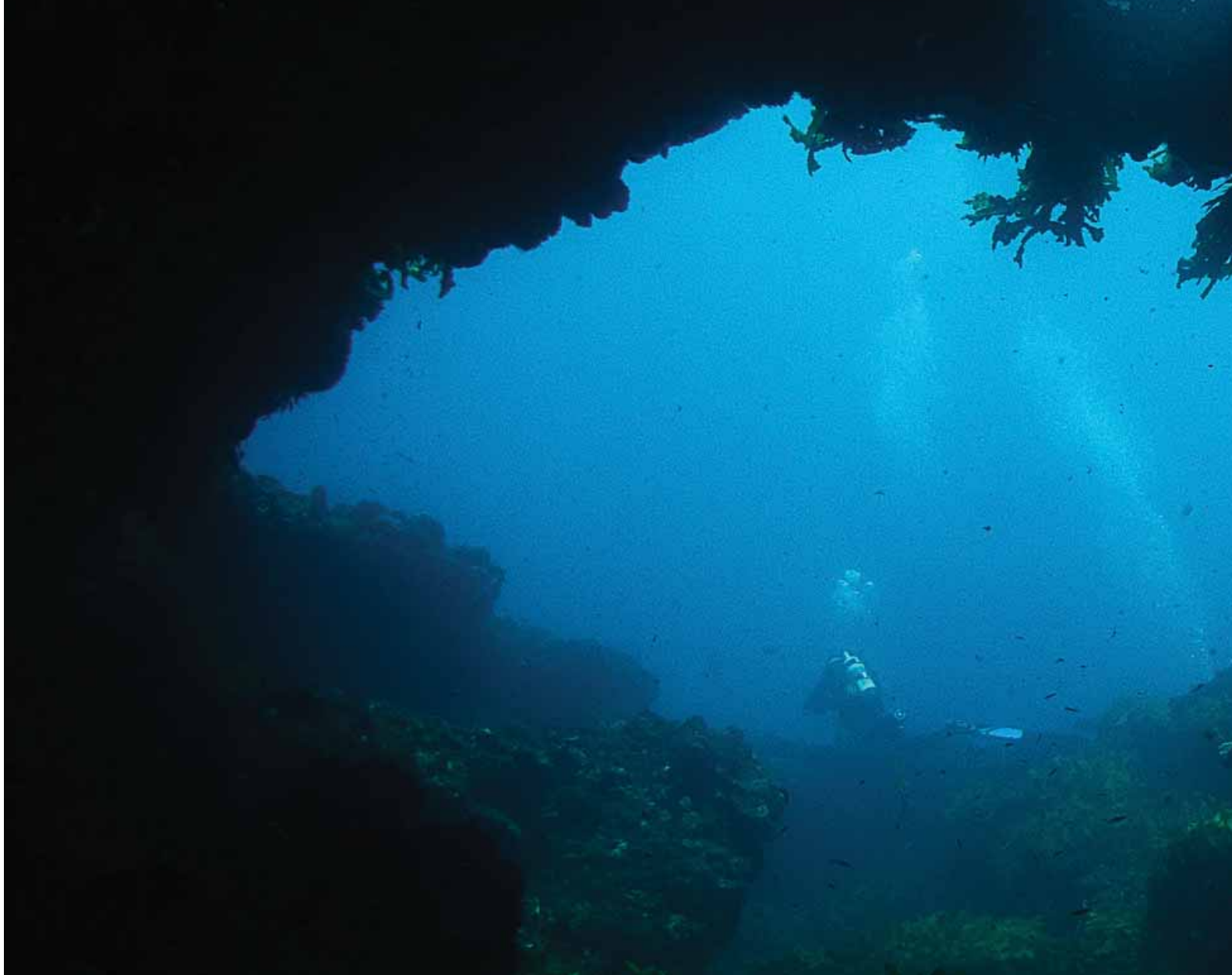




A big thanks to Ningaloo  
Whaleshark Swim for  
sponsoring PIXELS. Chandy  
will enjoy a day on the reef  
snorkelling and photographing  
the magnificent whalesharks.







From limestone caves, deep wide canyons, rock walls and reef outcrops, Rottneet Island has it all. But when the swell is low and the seasonal summer morning easterly breezes, the West End has some of the best diving locations on the island.

Whilst many divers have their favourite sites, there are three that are stand outs.

## Nurses Quarters

For many this is a stand out dive to see the elusive Grey Nurse Sharks. The dive itself is as easy as they come and if the Nurses are in it surely is spectacular. Up to 14 sharks have been seen in the cave at one time. The cave itself is shaped on the South Western side like a natural amphitheatre which allows divers to

sit back and watch the sharks circling within the cave. Positioning here at the start lets the sharks get used to your presence and the strobes. It is possible to move closer and the more inquisitive larger sharks will come in for a look.

Entry into the cave initially is not recommended as it may scare the sharks off so take your time and enjoy. At a depth of about 25m there is time to get some decent images before having to ascend.

If, and on more occasions than not, the sharks are not home the cave itself is a great to explore with lovely soft corals and windows to the surface providing great wide angle opportunities. This site is in the marine sanctuary so there are large amounts of other marine life in the area also.



**Above:** Kerry's cavern, one of the many caves and swimthroughs at West End.

**Left:** Grey nurse shark

**Right:** Nurses quarters, alive with life as well as a large number of sharks at certain times of the year.



# The Wild West End of Rottnest Island

Rottnest Island is a diving mecca for most Perth divers. Whether it is recreational diving, cray fishing or photography, the lure of Rotto is just too great.

**Words and images by Mick Lee**

## Cray Canyon

Towards the northern side of West End is Cray Canyon. Named for being a relative hotspot for cray hunters, this is also a fantastic dive site and one of my favourites. Two long deep canyons running north / south provide magnificent wide angle opportunities with large fans and corals reaching out from the walls.

Running off the main canyon is a cave system that is just massive. Large schools of fish circle through the canyon and then back out the many openings in the cave. With great conditions and visibility this is an outstanding dive.

## Kerry's Cavern

Another cave system at West End, this site provides further opportunities to get the wide angle out. This cave is a little tighter than that out Cray Canyon but it does have more soft corals and sponges to enjoy. Kerry's Cavern can be little more difficult to find at times due to the flatter reef but its still fun poking about the holes in the reef until you find the main cave.

Diving the West End of Rottnest is always a joy and something I really look forward to when the conditions are right. However, it is unprotected. Being in open water, the swell and wind does play a major part in deciding whether or not to go. Also things may look perfect on the

surface but the currents under the water can be strong. Sometimes it is advisable to drop a shot line off the boat to try and gauge any currents before diving. But the next time the swell is low and those easterly winds are in, West End is where I'll be trying to get to.





# PIXELS winners

July to December 2014



August – Divers *Peter Nicholas*



September – Fifty shades of grey *Chandy deWit*



December – Weird and Wonderful *Garry Browne*



Once again, the second half of the year showed that the standard of images is only getting better for PIXELS



November – Scorpionfish *Peter Nicholas*



July – Night time *Jenny Ough*



October – Cardinalfish *Brad Pryde*



# Creature Feature

by Sue Morrison



## *Of bottletails, bobtails, pygmys and pyjamas*

What is jet-propelled, has 10 arms growing out of its head, has its head attached to its foot and a soft body with a thin, bendy skeleton? These are the family traits of bottletail, bobtail, pygmy, pyjama, dumpling, ram's horn, giant and calamari squid (to name just a few of the 21 family members).

*Southern bobtail squid – Vivien Matson-Larkin*

*Ram's horn shell – WA Museum/Sue Morrison*



*Squid suckers and sprula – WA Museum/Sue Morrison*



*Southern calamari squid – Gary Browne*



*Squid eggs – Sue Morrison*



Squid belong to the class of molluscs called cephalopods or 'head-foot' animals, (derived from the Greek words *kephalos* and *podos* for head and foot respectively). This class also includes the cuttlefish, octopus and nautilus. Squid range in size from the tiny southern pygmy squid under 2 centimetres long, to the giant squid up to 18 metres long.





## Squid family secrets:

**Multiple arms.** Squid have eight arms, each usually with 2 rows of suckers, and two longer feeding tentacles with thickened ends bearing four rows of suckers, that are used to shoot out and grab prey.

**Mouth.** The mouth has a hard, sharp beak (similar to that of a parrot) and a rasping file-like tongue (radula), used to tear up and chew the food.

**Body/Mantle.** The mantle is a muscular bag-like structure that contains all the body organs. It is the mantle that is cut up into squid rings that humans eat.

**Brain.** All cephalopods have a simple doughnut-shaped brain located around the oesophagus.

**Eyes.** Squid eyes are very well-developed, and similar to mammalian eyes.

**Blood.** The blood is transparent blue due to a copper-based respiratory pigment (mammal blood is red due to an iron-based pigment).

**Heart.** Squid have not one, but three hearts! One over each gill and one centrally located.

**Gills.** The gills are leaf-like plates in a cavity under the body. To breathe, the muscular mantle pumps water in over the gills via the wide opening, then it is expelled via the narrower funnel.

**Funnel.** The muscular funnel is flexible, enabling accurate movement and also jet-propulsion if necessary.

**Ink.** Ink is produced by a gland in the liver and can be expelled via the funnel as a screen to deter predators.

**Skin colour.** Squid have a remarkable ability to rapidly change skin colour using 3 specialised structures in the skin: chromatophores can have up to 5 different colours (yellow, orange, red, brown, and black) and are contracted or relaxed to display different combinations and quantities of these colours, leucophores reflect light to appear white, and iridiophores produce an iridescent blue or green sheen.

**Weird sex.** Some squid have elaborate and colourful courtship displays, others gather in huge breeding aggregations, while some meet by chance. Most cephalopods mate by the male passing a packet of sperm to the female using a modified arm called the hectocotylus. The sperm can be used immediately or in some species is stored in special pouches. Successive male suitors then try to remove this sperm and replace it with their own! For most squid, fertilisation is external and they produce <100 to millions of eggs, depending on the species. Eggs are either in single capsules or in multiple groups in a jelly-like matrix. Most squid attach their eggs to hard surfaces on the sea bed. No parental care is provided. Most species have a single breeding season, after which they die.

**Feeding.** Most squid eat fish. They kill by biting through the spinal cord rather than using poison.

## Squid varieties

**Calamari:** The Southern Calamari, *Sepioteuthis australis* represents a typical squid. It has a long, slender body, large well-developed eyes, eight arms and two feeding tentacles, and a fin surrounding the body (or mantle), rather like that of a cuttlefish. Inside the soft body is a thin, transparent, feather-shaped 'pen' made of cartilage that gives the body support.

**Bottletails:** Small, spherical body with kidney-shaped fins. Most are bottom-dwelling and bury in soft sediment, emerging mainly at night. Slime or mucus glands on underside of body, activated when disturbed or attacked. E.g. Striped Pyjama Squid, *Sepioloidea lineolata* and Southern Bottletail Squid *Sepiadarium austrinum*.

**Bobtails/Dumplings:** Similar to bottletails but with rounded fins. Many have a light organ. Glue glands in the skin that attaches a coat of sand for camouflage, but if attacked it detaches the sandy coat by dissolving the glue with acid, then swims away naked. E.g. Southern Bobtail Squid, *Euprymna tasmanica*.

**Pygmys:** Smallest cephalopods, long and slender in shape. Special glue-producing gland on upper body between rear fins used to attach themselves to seagrasses or seaweed. Can detach rapidly by secreting acid to dissolve the glue. Feed on small crustaceans. E.g. Southern Pygmy Squid, *Idiosepius notoides*.

**Ram's Horn:** A single species, *Spirula spirula*, with a tiny spiral shell, often found washed up on beaches. It has a squid-like body covering a nautilus-shaped shell. It lives in deep waters so is rarely seen alive.

**Giant Squid:** Largest invertebrate in the world, weighing >250 kg. Deep ocean inhabitants between 300 and 1,500 metres. Feeding tentacles make up 2/3 of body length. Suckers and knobs on tentacles that can be zipped together – thought to be used as a strong gripping claw. Suckers on tips of feeding tentacles have rings of horny teeth. Three known species around the world.

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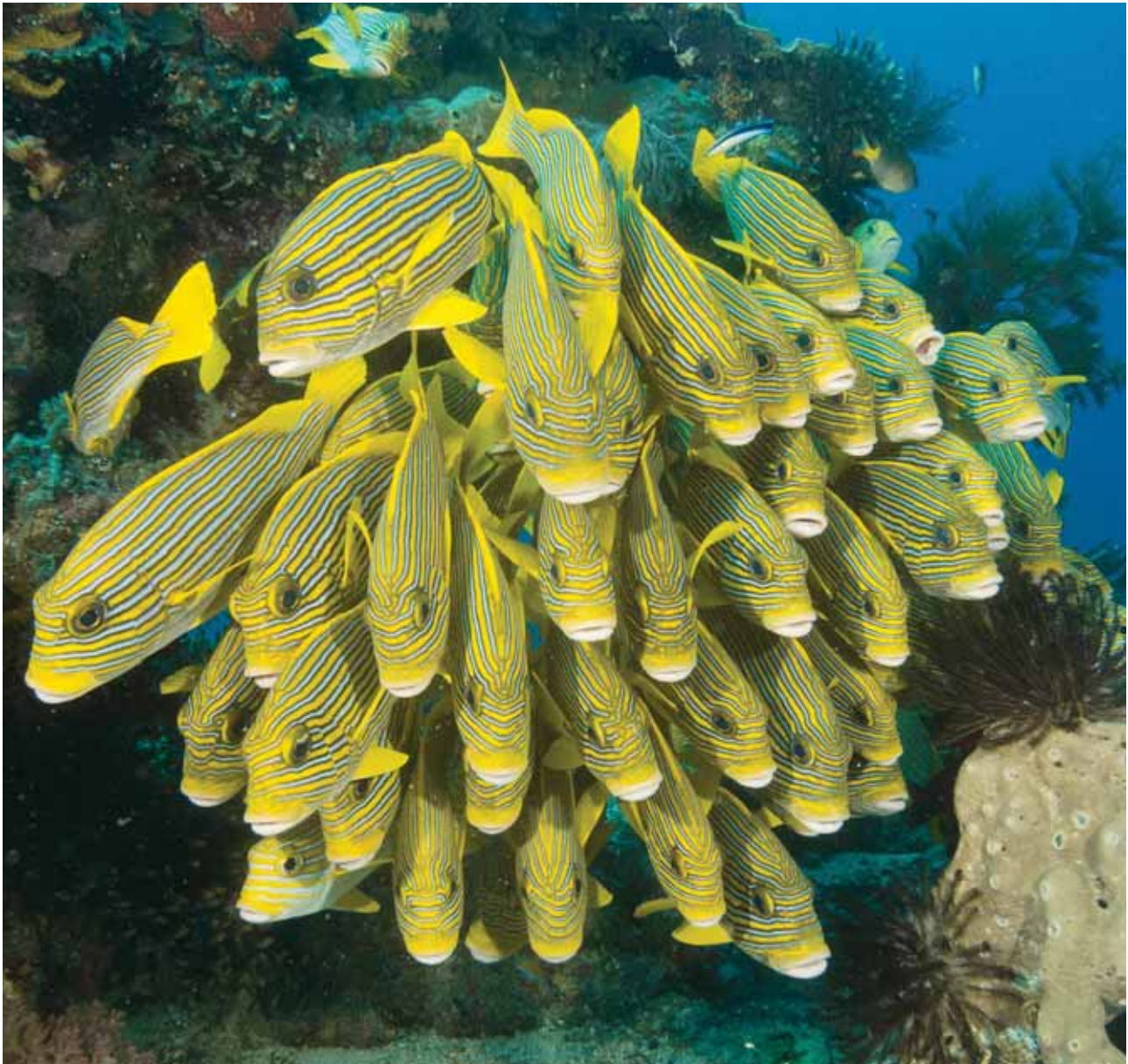
Pygmy squid with prey – Tammy Gibbs





# PARTING SHOT

by Joanna Watson



The last day's diving at a recent trip to Raja Ampat with Jeff and Dawn Mullins was such a mix of love and loss.

There were three dives on that day and as each one ended, my sense of sadness increased knowing that the trip was over. However, the entire trip comprised excellent diving, an increase in my photography skills, a wonderful team of fellow dive photographers and of course total immersion in the Raja Ampat environment.

I had heard a lot of talk about the special place called Otdima Reef where the Sweet Lips hang out and the sight of that gorgeous bunch of fish exceeded my expectations. I followed the group down through the corals and colours scanning left and right and suddenly, there they were just doing their Sweet Lip thing.

I am new to wide angle and tensions increased as we queued for our turn with me busily adjusting, tweaking,

framing and reviewing for the photo opportunity unfolding. This Sweet Lip crew really turned it on and I was thrilled to see them bunched placidly in such a good group for me to take my five or so shots.

This trip provided me with multiple opportunities to practice wide angle photography but the opportunities culminated with this image taken with a Canon S95 1/125 f4 ISO200 and using an Inon 100mm wet lens.



## Close-up strobe position

by Peter Nicholas

When it comes to close-up or macro photography one of the most important considerations is how you light the subject.

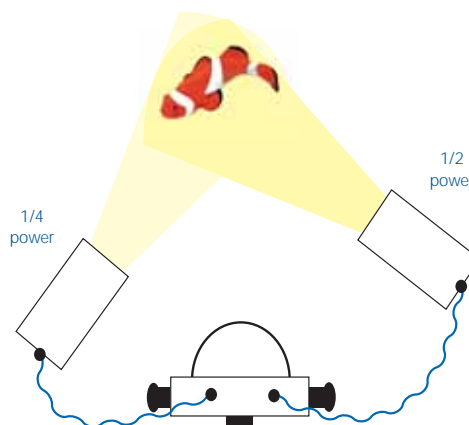
Lighting the subject with a single light source will often, but not always, create solid or harsh light from one direction, often leaving the subject with dark shadows or looking flat with no tonal value to help separate it from its surroundings if the strobe is directly in front of the subject.

By using a second strobe at a lower output setting you can soften the shadows created by the primary strobe and in turn create an image that has the appearance of depth and a greater tonal gradient across the image or subject.

Power settings will depend on the camera settings, what ISO you're using, what aperture or shutter speed has been chosen, are you shooting manual or auto, using TTL and so on.

Also consider where the strobes are facing, often if you are illuminating the background too much then you need to think about the position of the strobes. Place them further around or towards the back will help reduce light pollution in the image. This is a matter of trial and error, but the results are worth it.

Also try and clean-up the picture by trying to create black backgrounds or only including a secondary subject in the picture. Example of this would be an anemone fish with just the anemone in the picture, no rocks or coral. Often the use of a snoot will help achieve this but stopping stray light exposing the picture.



*This Freckled face hawk fish was taken with a 105 macro using two Metz 20BC flashes (manual), one on full power the other down 2 stops or 2/3 power, also care was taken with the background so it appeared black. F22 @ 60th*



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## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY INC.

waupsnews@gmail.com

The Western Australian Underwater Photographic Society (WAUPS) is a non-profit organisation, which was established in January 1984.

The aims of the Society are:

- n To promote an improvement of underwater photography amongst its members.
- n To promote underwater photography in the community.
- n To encourage an understanding and preservation of the marine environment.
- n To promote an exchange of skills and ideas from within the society and from external bodies.
- n To have fun and enjoy socialising, diving and photography.

WAUPS holds monthly meetings which include guest presenters on a range of photography and diving topics along with a digital show-and-tell of images from members.

We hold an annual Rottnest day dive shootout, a monthly themed photo competition called PIXELS, monthly photo dives, annual portfolio and image of the year competitions and a range of trips and social events during the year.

WAUPS members also get membership to the WA Photographic Federation and can participate in their events and trips.

Anyone interested in underwater photography is welcome any time including all levels of experience.

**WAUPS meetings are conducted at 7:30pm  
on the FOURTH TUESDAY of every month.**



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