
Water Column

FEBRUARY 2017 ISSUE 8

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



**Creature feature:
Skeleton Shrimps**

Shooting wide angle

Marine biosecurity

California

Cenderawasih

Busselton Jetty

Dryandra



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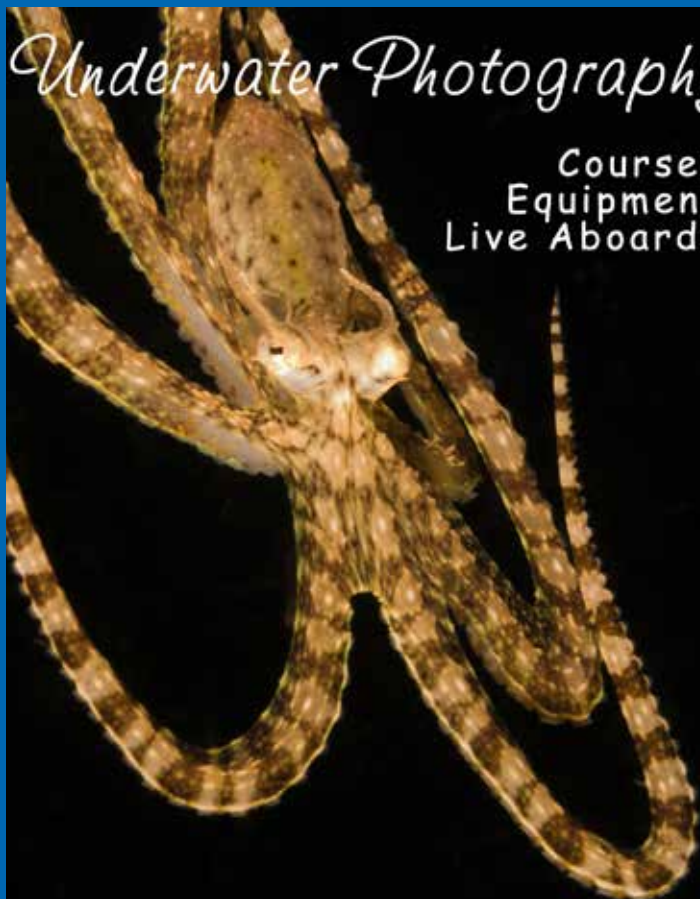
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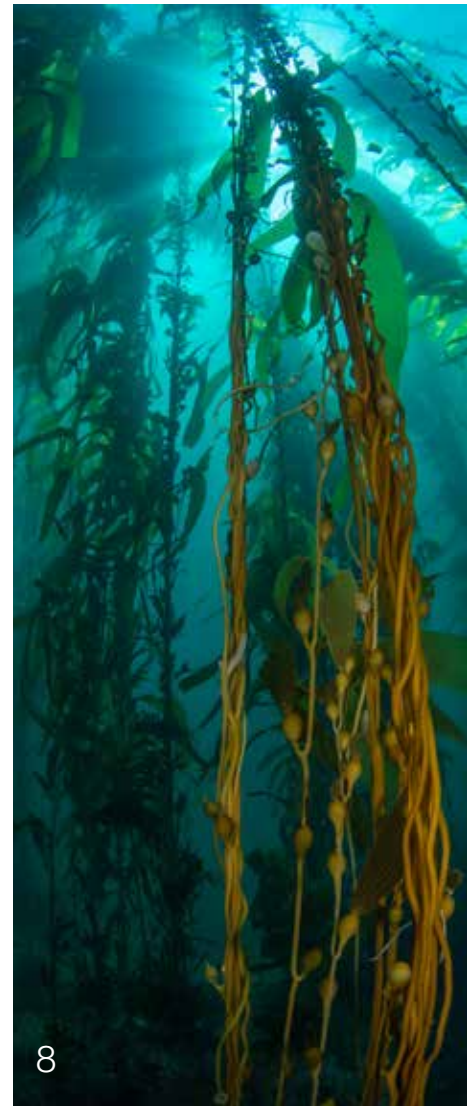
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WaterColumn

February 2017 ISSUE 8



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EDITOR'S BUBBLES

Howdy Members,

Happy New Year everyone! 😊

WAUPS wound up 2016 with a Christmas dive at the Grain Terminal, followed by a BBQ. Now you are all getting in lots of dives I hope some of you may like to write up an article on one of your dive adventures for a future issue of this magazine.

On the photography side, there were some great competitions, courses and events during the year, some run through the WAPF. We encourage you all to get involved, it's a great way to broaden your photography skills. Last year, WAUPS ran a wide angle lighting workshop and there was a WAPF judging course. This year, WAUPS plans to hold a Lightroom workshop and image critique course.

A huge thank you to our sponsors who generously support our Portfolio Competitions. In particular Perth Scuba, who provided prizes for the Novice Portfolio and Scuba Imports/Dive Tub who support the Open Portfolio. Do enter the Image of the Year and Humour Award, which are judged at the Annual General Meeting later this year. A revamped version of the original PIXELS underwater photographic competition started up this January, with an entirely different scoring system – Gold, Silver and Bronze. Please ensure your membership is current so you can enter all these photographic competitions.

If you happen to know of anyone who you think would be interested in being a future guest speaker, or would like to become a committee member, please let us know. We are very grateful to all our guest speakers and club members who put on these presentations. Our sincere thanks to the external judges we use for all our competitions, the members behind the scenes who organise the monthly dives, help with the scoring of the photography competitions, outings, etc. All those efforts go towards the Golden Snapper Award. We certainly had a very interesting year.

Keep blowin' bubbles

Viv



WAUPS members at the Christmas dive and BBQ

There are lots of wonderful things to see and explore in Cenderawasih..... including Whale Sharks.

by Maryann Evetts







Geographe Bay Shootout

by Jenny Ough

The 2016 WAUPS Annual Shootout was held down south, in the Geographe Bay region, from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th March. That gave members a fairly wide scope of places to dive, from north of the Geographe Bay Marina to south of Canal Rocks, encompassing Busselton Jetty and the former HMAS Swan. However, I think everyone did all their dives under the historic Busselton Jetty. Members had from 5pm Friday until midnight (for the ultra-keen!!) Sunday to capture their images.

Some made the journey down during the afternoon on Friday, whilst others headed down straight after work. Most took advantage of the great facilities and space at the Pylon Inn. After last minute camera checks on Friday night, the tribe descended on Busselton Jetty on Saturday morning, loading up their trolleys to individually wheel gear out to the end of the 1.8km long jetty. There is a train that takes passengers, but they will not take divers out with all their gear. They will take some tanks, if they have room and you ask nicely – and compliment the driver on the great job he's done polishing the shiny red engine!

If you put your tanks on, you need to be there at the end to collect them. It is quite a brisk walk (slow trot really) with a full trolley, if you leave at the same time as the train, to keep up with it.

The categories for the Shootout were Macro, Wide Angle and Abstract, giving entrants plenty of scope to demonstrate their talents and use whatever range of equipment they possessed.

The new access for the undersea walkers is a fantastic addition for divers too, making access really easy. There are ladders going from the platform to the bottom, intended for the crowd that takes undersea walkers down, but available for others as well. A step in entry is easy from that height, and they make exiting the dive super easy, just secure a rope to lower and retrieve your camera and all is good.

Conditions were fantastic – great viz for wide angle, great surface conditions, sunshine for sunbursts, plenty of macro life – it was magic all weekend. There was loads of life under the jetty, although it was a bit distressing



to see so many old pylons on the ground after the refurbishment. I've been diving the jetty sporadically for over 25 years, so I keep wondering if there may have been ways to retain the old pylons..... safety issues.....too many divers.....good to see growth coming back.

The undersea walkers are a bit of a spectacle, they look like Star Trek Storm Troopers – well ok, just the head bit! The crocs on their feet don't really fit the uniform, but are handy to protect them walking around on the sand. They hang on to an oversized wheel brace, and walk around with a dive master.

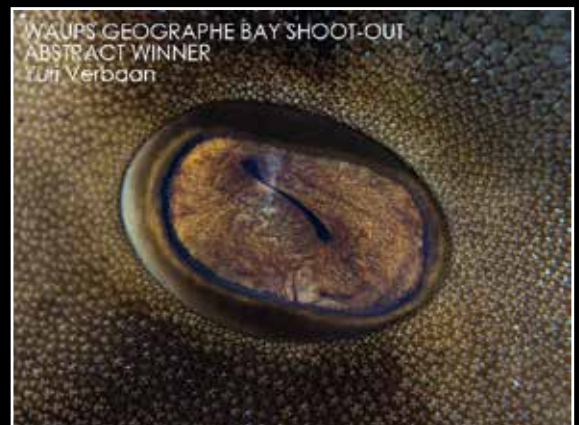
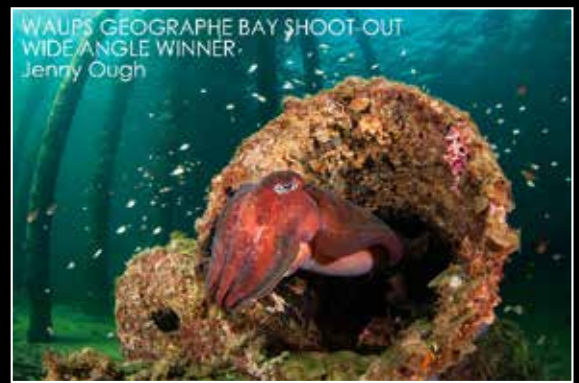
So after the long walk back on Sunday after the second dive, being the fourth walk along the length of jetty, most packed their cars in the carpark and headed home. For me, it was an awesome dive-intensive on the jetty – I've never dived it four times in a row before, and it was fantastic!! There is sooo much to see, whether you are shooting macro, wide angle or some other mix, it still rates right up there as one of my top dive sites in this state!

Check it out. ☺

SHOOTOUT WINNERS

Congratulations to Jenny Ough who was the overall winner of the WAUPS Geographe Bay Shootout. Jenny also won the Wide Angle category.

Congrats also to Yuri Verbaan and Amanda Blanksby who took out the Abstract and Macro categories.



CALIFORNIA

by Tammy Gibbs

It's home to Hollywood, the Golden Gate Bridge and Disneyland, and famous for its giant redwood forests, Yosemite National Park, and Alcatraz Island. But did you know, California is the most populous US State (around 40 million people call it home) and its geography is incredibly diverse - from snowy alpine mountains to temperate rainforest to arid deserts.

In August 2016, I headed to California for a three week roadtrip that included a few of the attractions above, as well as some of those below the water. With our flights from Australia to the USA including a 42kg luggage allowance, it made sense for us to pack a bag of dive gear and check out some of what California offered underwater.

The first place I dived was Lake Tahoe, the largest alpine lake in North America and the second deepest in the US at 501m. Lake Tahoe sits in the Sierra Nevada mountain range straddling the border between California and Nevada with a surface elevation of 1,897m. We were in Tahoe in the peak of summer break and it was bustling with holiday makers enjoying the sun and water as well as the mountain bike and hiking trails. In winter, this place is covered in snow and is a popular ski town, although the lake itself is too large and deep to freeze over.

I dived with Tahoe Dive Center, based a short drive over the border in Carson City, Nevada. With only a day to dive, my best option was to do an Altitude Speciality course which included two dives at Sand Harbor in the freshwater lake. My instructor Patrick and I arrived early at the dive site to find a long queue of cars already waiting for the gates to open. Luckily we found parking fairly close to the shore and were the only divers.

The lake itself is pretty barren underwater with some boulders, the remnants of an old wooden barge, a few interesting man-made props laying about with some minnows and crawfish (kinda like our marron). I had to do a few skills as part of the course but was able to take my camera on both dives. The water temp was around 18 degrees and the vis was eight to 10 metres.



Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe



Barge, Lake Tahoe



Metridium fields, Monterey Bay

Our next underwater stop was Monterey Bay. The dive shop, Breakwater Scuba, sits on the iconic Cannery Row with the Backscatter Underwater Photo Store right next door (very tempting but I restrained myself!). After kitting up in the shop, we walked the 100m or so across to Breakwater Cove to total millpond and foggy conditions. We were here to dive the giant kelp forests which grow right off the beach and we were told the kelp can grow 30-40cms per day.

For our first dive, our guide Bruce took us along the breakwater wall taking in the amazing light streaming down through the kelp. The vis was less than five metres and the water was a very chilly 11 degrees, drysuit highly recommended. Many types of fish hide in the tangle of kelp along with sea stars, giant nudibranchs, urchins and anemones. For our second dive, we followed a pipeline out to the Metridium fields, clumps of large, fuzzy white anemones surrounded by kelp. If you want to dive Breakwater Cove, I'd suggest mid-week. We called past Cannery Row on a weekend to find hundreds (yes hundreds!) of divers kitting up or in the water.

The next day, we headed to Point Lobos State Reserve, considered the 'crown jewel' of the California state park system. Only 15 dive pairs are allowed to dive the park each day (you need a permit so book in advance) and diving/snorkelling is only permitted at two sites, Whaler's and Bluefish Coves. There is only one entry/exit point for divers and all animals and plants are protected. It's cold again here (11 degrees) but the vis is better and the giant kelp is stunning as too are the giant dinner-plate size fish-eating anemones. We saw harbour seals and California sealions frolicking in the kelp but none came to visit us underwater.

After the dive, Bruce took us for a drive around the reserve where we watched from the rocks as a Southern sea otter munched on freshly collected urchins. There were also dozens of seals and sealions basking on the rocks.



California sealion, Monterey Bay



Southern sea otter, Point Lobos



Our final dive destination was the Channel Islands and we booked on a three day northern islands trip with Truth Aquatics. The Truth fleet is docked in Santa Barbara harbour and there's a small dive shop located on the jetty for any last minute dive needs. We went out on the Conception, a 79 foot steel hulled vessel with bunks for 46 people. The boat is pretty simple - open bunks below deck (byo bedding), shared bathrooms (2 showers, 3 toilets, byo towels), a galley and sundeck. The food is excellent and plentiful and the crew are helpful.

We headed out to Santa Cruz Island, 23 nautical miles off Santa Barbara, north of LA. The diving is pretty flexible off the Conception – there are no time, depth or air limits and you can dive when you want and on your own if you wish. Our first and third days in the water were on kelp forests with our second day on rocky and rubblely slopes. It gave me the opportunity to shoot both wide angle and macro. My goal was to photograph the orange Garibaldi damselfish, the official marine fish of California. There were plenty around and many were protecting clumps of eggs attached to the weedy rocks.

It was a different experience for me to dive California's giant kelp forests. Photographically it was challenging, balancing the bright sunrays against the dark canopy of kelp while trying to remain focussed in the cold water. I really enjoyed it and along with everything else California has to offer (and cheap flights to the USA from time to time), it's certainly something to think about for a diving roadtrip.



From Santa Cruz Island. Top: Garibaldi fish with eggs. Middle: Seafans in the giant kelp. Bottom: Spanish Shawl nudibranch

Creature Feature

by Sue Morrison



Skeleton shrimps are tiny little stick-like crustaceans that are only seen once you get down to the macro level. These shrimps are easily overlooked as they can resemble wispy bits of 'sea matter' hanging off algae or marine invertebrates such as hydroids, bryozoans and gorgonians, plus they are very well camouflaged.

For those who enjoy naming things (like me!), they belong to the family Caprellidae (often called Caprellids) that are in the order of Amphipoda and occur in almost all marine and many freshwater habitats. Marine amphipods include caprellids, sandfleas, beach hoppers and whale lice, plus some other obscure beasts that inhabit floating sea squirts and jellyfish.

The body is very minimalist in form with three parts: a distinct head, a body mainly consisting of a long, skinny thorax and a very reduced abdomen. The head has two pairs of antennae and mouthparts. The thorax has pairs of thin little 'legs' or appendages on each of the seven segments. The front two pairs of legs look like claws and are very versatile, being used for feeding, defence, grooming and locomotion. The female has no legs on the third and fourth segments, allowing space for her brood pouch to develop. The rear legs are much smaller, but have strong claws for grasping. They breathe using small gills suspended under the middle of the thorax.

Skeleton shrimps cling onto the substrate with the hind legs and hold themselves upright, slowly waving the long antennae and front legs (with menacing claws) in the water column, waiting to capture passing food. They have a varied diet including detritus, diatoms, protozoans, smaller amphipods, crustacean larvae and worms. Some use their antennae to filter feed, others use their claws for predation and some are even parasitic on whales (they must have good rear legs to hang on tight!).

They can only mate when the female has just shed her exoskeleton (i.e. while her shell is still soft). The female broods the fertilised eggs in her brood pouch and gives birth to fully formed juveniles. In some species the female kills the male after mating by injecting venom from a claw. They are thought to

Skeleton Shrimps



Image by Sue Morrison



live for about one year.

Caprellids are preyed on by larger shrimp, sea anemones, jellyfish and occasionally fish. They occur in many different habitats down to great depths, although they are usually in the shallow intertidal and subtidal zones. They play an important role in the food web by eating detritus and other small items.

They only reach 20 to 30 mm in length (with the males

usually much larger than the females), but once you have spotted these strange little crustaceans, you see them surprisingly often. They are not the most co-operative photographic subjects as they constantly wave around in the water column. However, it is worth the effort as they have the most intriguing and rather scary-looking little bodies once you've magnified them on the computer screen.



Busselton Five-O

West Australian Photographic Federation
Interclub anniversary weekend. A WAUPed View.
by Danny Messom

The weekend of the 30th September to the 2nd October was the WAPF's annual interclub gathering. This year the honour of hosting the event went to the Busselton Camera Club and it was the 50th Anniversary of the WAPF Interclub, hence the title "Busselton Five-O".

Five WAUPS members and one spouse, who happened to be a member of the Rockingham Photographic Club, ventured south for the weekend's proceedings.

It kicked off on Friday night with a dinner, after which, our own Gary Browne presented the underWATER competition results. Photos for this competition must have been taken underwater in Western Australian waterways. A little embarrassing for Gary as he was the winner of the competition with his photo of a manta ray. Amanda Blanksby, our President was runner-up with her photo from the Busselton Jetty and Chandy de Wit with a Poindimie's Phyllodesmium nudibranch was third, a WAUPS triffecta!

This was followed by a very encouraging talk by guest speaker Tony Hewitt, an honorary fellow of the AIPP and grand master of photography with more than 300 awards to his name including Canon AIPP Australian Professional Photographer of the Year.

The next morning was to be a dawn photo shoot at Cape Naturaliste lighthouse or whale lookout with a picnic breakfast. However, the weather put paid to that. Only a few adventurous souls went out to play on that inclement morning. A few more people did head out later in the morning for the orchids, seascapes or winery shoots but the weather was not being nice.

As lunch was consumed, the images entered into the 'As Time Goes By' competition (main subject had to be 50 or more years old) were shown on the large screen and the winners announced. Adobe influencer and Photoshop guru Mark Galer gave a very informative lecture on Adobe Lightroom-Photoshop to finish off the day's learnings.

During dinner, the WAPF Interclub 2016 competition photos were shown and the winners announced. WAUPS did extremely well in this event coming

second in the mono section, eleventh in the colour section and fifth overall, not bad for first timers!

The evening finished with an extremely inspiring presentation by the second guest speaker Ken Duncan OAM. Ken is also an honorary fellow of the AIPP and is recognised internationally as a prolific landscape photographer.

With better weather on Sunday morning, a lot more photographers were out of bed early for a dawn photoshoot and group photo at the Busselton Jetty. After breakfast, it was out to the various photoshoots that had been organised around the Busselton area. Morning tea was served back at the Busselton Senior Citizens Club where last minute purchases were made from the event sponsors before WAPF President Kingsley Klau closed the event.

The weekend did not end there for the WAUPS group who were invited to a BBQ lunch with Sue and Peter Morrison, founding members of WAUPS, at their home in the Quindalup area. After a scrumptious lunch and a look around the property, we went out for an orchid hunt around the fire break lanes at the back of Sue and Peter's property.

What a great weekend!



Top: Busselton Jetty. Bottom left and right: Guest speakers Ken Duncan and Tony Hewitt at the Jetty dawn photoshoot and a Hammer Orchid from the back of Sue and Peter Morrison's property. Photos by Danny Messom.

Congratulations WAUPS

In the 2016 WAPF Interclub Competition, WAUPS came second in the mono category, eleventh in the colour category and placed fifth overall. These results are based on all 30 images submitted by our club - 15 mono and 15 colour. The seven images shown here are those that made the Top 50 in their category from the 370 mono and 385 colour entries submitted by 26 WAPF-affiliated clubs.

An outstanding effort for our first time entering this competition. In 2017, this competition has been renamed to PrintWest and we hope to do even better so get your best images in.



Top to bottom:
Dragon on Black by Tammy Gibbs
Last Standing by Shannon Conway
Bubble Coral Shrimp by Amanda Blanksby
Angelita's Island by Shannon Conway



Top to bottom:
Hammerhead by Tammy Gibbs
Morning Mist by Shannon Conway
Dragon on White by Tammy Gibbs

WAUPS WIDE ANGLE COURSE

by Amanda Blanksby



Image by Lindsay Preece

One of the objectives of the club is to promote an improvement of underwater photographic skills amongst its members.

To this end and at the request of some members, we organised a wide angle underwater photography workshop. This was held over a weekend in late November 2016.

On the Saturday afternoon, Peter Nicholas ran through the basic theory of wide angle photography including equipment, strobe placement, and the essential exposure triangle. He shared his top ten tips to achieving good quality wide angle images and showed a series of images and their settings.

Sunday morning it was time to practice and luckily the visibility under the Ammo Jetty was very favourable.

A big thanks to Peter Nicholas for providing the teaching and critique on images, taken by members who attended.

Also thanks to our sponsor Perth Scuba who provided their theatre as a venue for the course.

We will be running more training courses in 2017 so keep your eye on the enews.



Peter © Nicholas
2014



TEN TIPS FOR WIDE ANGLE PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Get in close

Reduce the amount of water between your camera and the subject, if possible. This will help reduce back scatter issues.

2. Direct strobes outwards

By directing your strobes outwards, you only illuminate your subject with the peripheral light from the strobe and not the intense direct light.

3. Get low, shoot up

This helps balance lighting by using the ambient light from above and balancing the scene with light from the strobe from below, great for overhangs and ledges.

4. Use slow shutter speeds at depth

Using a slower shutter speed at depth will allow the ambient light to expose the scene while maintaining a higher aperture for improved depth of field and balancing strobe output to light the subject.

5. Use fast shutter speeds in shallow water

Faster shutter speeds in shallow water helps define light rays from the sun as it passes through water.

6. Foundations

This means just start with a set ISO, shutter speed and aperture then just use the strobes by adjusting their power

output and position. Once you start to understand what the strobes are doing, then start playing with the setting of the exposure triangle (ISO, shutter speed, aperture).

7. Balance sunlight with fill

Goes with *get low, shoot up*, once you determine the ambient light from the sun, then set your strobe output to balance the foreground and expose the subject.

8. Shoot verticals

Vertical images help reduce the unwanted parts of the scene and helps give the illusion of depth to an underwater scene. Often used to have the sun in the picture or a diver.

9. Use light (torches, strobes - off camera, natural light)

This helps add interest to a picture and also helps direct the viewers eye to the part of the image that is the main point.

10. Force perspective

Getting close to smaller subjects will make them appear bigger than they are.

11. Take a breath and look!

Often you will see much more than you normally would as subjects need to be part of a story rather than species or ID shots. Creating an image becomes more important with wide angle as your canvas is much larger and you have more room to move around the scene.



© Amanda Blanksby



Joanne Watson

Spring in Dryandra by Amanda Blanksby

WAUPS traditionally has arranged a weekend away in the spring time to Dryandra Woodland. So in 2016 we decided to reintroduce the tradition.

Dryandra Woodland is around a two hour drive south-east near Narrogin and we enjoyed an entertaining weekend away, with the aim to get out into the countryside and take photos.

Saturday morning started with a frosty sunrise shoot, with kangaroos in the paddock. After breakfast we headed off in small groups exploring some of the local walks in the hunt for wildflowers and other wildlife.

After lunch we had a wander together in the bush just behind the accommodation. This provided an opportunity to share photography ideas, find orchids and other macro subjects. We even came across an echidna!

After a big evening feast we did some light painting and long exposure practice. Gary Browne provided the light toys, ably assisted by both Leanne Thompson and Tammy Gibbs. Sunday morning offered more opportunities to get out into the bush, before returning to Perth.



© Amanda Blanksby



© Amanda Blanksby



Tammy Gibbs

WAUPS PINBOARD



Congratulations to
Emma Burdett winner
of the 2016 Novice
Portfolio Competition

The winner of the 2016 Wayne Storrie
Humour Award was **Gary Browne**
with this shot called *Yuri Yuri Yuri*.

It certainly got a lot of laughs when
shown on the digital projector at the
meeting.

Well done Gary, a great example of
using Photoshop to create something
different and very funny!



PROTECTING WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S WATERS FROM MARINE PESTS

By Jessica Nghé and Marion Massam,
WA Department of Fisheries

Western Australia's coastal industries and marine environment are under threat from introduced marine pests.

Marine biosecurity is about protecting our precious and unique marine environment from the spread of aquatic pests and diseases. Introduced marine pests (IMPs) are marine plants or animals that have been introduced to WA and are one of the greatest threats to our State's marine biodiversity and coastal habitats.

Once well-established, IMPs are virtually impossible to eradicate. Therefore, prevention of arrival and early detection is essential and provides the best chance of a timely response and successful eradication.

How can they get here?

There are various ways that IMPs can arrive in WA including on vessels as biofouling, in ballast water, attached to dive and fishing gear and ghost nets. IMPs can be transported across thousands of kilometres of ocean and some have the potential to survive long voyages, establish viable populations and become significant problems.

How can you help?

The community are essential partners in the fight against pest species. Members of the public such as divers, beachgoers, coastal volunteers, boat users and fishermen with their valuable local knowledge are the front-line of defence and usually in the best position to notice anything new and unusual.

You can help protect our beautiful aquatic environment by keeping an eye out for the following marine pests whilst out in our coastal areas and waters including in the river, at the beach, on moorings and whilst out diving and fishing.

For more information on marine pests visit www.fish.wa.gov.au/biosecurity

Keep an eye for new and unusual species in your area. If you think you have found or seen a marine pest:

1. Photograph it – from different angles. Include a scale or ruler next to the specimen and photos of the location where you found it.
2. Record it – size, colour, depth and how and where it was found, using GPS readings if possible.
3. Collect it – collect a sample in a plastic bag and refrigerate it or keep it on ice but do not freeze it.
4. Report it - Contact our FishWatch 24 hour hotline on 1800 815 507, or report it using the WA PestWatch app. (NOTE: If you collect samples please report it to FishWatch immediately.



Asian paddle crab detection

Since 2012, four Asian paddle crabs have been captured by recreational fishermen in the Swan River.

The Asian paddle crab is an aggressive non-native crab that could spread devastating disease to prawns, crabs and lobsters. It can carry a disease that causes poisoning in humans, and could out-compete native crabs like our iconic blue swimmer. The paddle crab is not currently established in Australia, but has significant potential to do so and to become a major pest.

Following the discovery, the Department of Fisheries undertook extensive trapping, netting and diving activities and embarked on a massive awareness-raising campaign. Despite the effort made by the Department, huge support from the community and great interest by the public with over 400 crab reports made, no further paddle crabs have been found.

Your vigilance will help stop pests from entering and establishing in WA.

Have you seen these marine pests?

Japanese kelp, Wakame (*Undaria pinnatifida*)

- Mature plants commonly grow to 0.5 - 1 m, but up to 3 m long.
- Green/brown with a prominent raised mid-rib.
- When sexually mature, plants may have a frilly growth near the base of the stalk.
- Smooth thin fronds with marginal 'leaves' and naked stalk.
- Found in cool temperate coastal waters on hard substrates from lower intertidal areas to depths of 20 m.
- Established in Tasmania, Victoria and New Zealand.



Asian paddle crab (*Charybdis japonica*)

- Shell up to 120 mm wide with six spines on each side of shell.
- Six sharp spines between the eyes.
- Shell colour varies from mottled cream and purple, pale to olive green and yellow to deep chestnut.
- Last set of legs are shaped like paddles for swimming.
- Found in temperate to tropical, estuarine and marine waters.
- Subtidal waters at depths up to 20 m.
- Mobile – found on or buried in firm, fine sand or mud.
- Not known to be established in Australia but a very small number of specimens have been caught in Adelaide and the Swan River, Mandurah and Dampier, WA.



Northern Pacific seastar (*Asterias amurensis*)

- Mature at around 100 mm, but can grow up to 500 mm in diameter.
- Five arms with pointed, often upturned tips.
- Yellow/orange colour with purple markings, yellow underneath.
- Found in cool temperate waters but is able to adapt to warmer waters.
- Intertidal to depths of 25 m in estuaries, bays and rock pools.
- Found on soft sediment, artificial structures, rocky reefs and in seagrass beds.
- Established populations in Tasmania and Victoria.



Green mussels (*Perna spp.*)

- Both Asian green mussels and New Zealand green-lipped mussels could be significant pests here.
- Adults commonly 80-100 mm long.
- Bright green to greenish brown with a smooth exterior and concentric growth lines. Juvenile shells can be vivid green or brown with zigzags.
- Found in lower estuarine to marine waters, from the low tide mark to 40 m.
- Inhabits hard substrates (e.g. vessels, artificial structures, wharves, aquaculture equipment, intake pipes, buoys, mooring ropes) with a preference for floating surfaces. Could also be washed up on the beach.
- Not known to be established in Australia, but has been found on vessel hulls and port infrastructure.

WAPF underWATER comp

By Gary Browne

This competition highlights images taken in this challenging environment - WA waters - and is hoped to motivate, demonstrate and give due applause to the efforts made to gain these terrific and interesting photos. Fifty entries were received from 18 people from WAUPS, Belmont Camera Club and Workshop Camera Club.

Our judge for this event was well known Melbourne photographer Matt Krumins who did a great job of judging and for providing critique on all twenty images



Third place was Chandy de Wit for her nudibranch macro image

The Light Within taken at Ammo Jetty using a Canon G12 in a Recsea Housing with a Aquako IV 2.5 diopter and two Sea and Sea YS01 strobes. Shot at 1/1250, f8.0, ISO 80.

Second place went to Amanda Blanksby for her lovely wide angle fisheye image titled Swirling Bullseye Fish taken under the iconic Busselton Jetty. Amanda uses an Olympus OMD EM5 camera in a Nauticam housing with two Inon Z240 strobes. Shot at 1/100, f9.0, ISO 640.

I managed to win this competition with my shot taken while swimming with a couple of playful manta rays off Point Maud at Coral Bay in about four metres of water. These mantas seemed to enjoy the interaction with us and hung around for quite a while. I use the Olympus OMD EM5 in a Nauticam housing with a 9-18mm lens and a single Z240 strobe mounted above the housing. Shot at 1/125, f8, ISO 200.

This competition would not be possible without the sponsorship provided by Team Digital who provided the \$200 voucher as first prize and Perth Scuba who provided second and third place prizes of \$150 and \$100 vouchers respectively. Team Digital also printed the top twenty high resolution images, so a big thank you to our sponsors for their continuing support, it is really appreciated.



PARTING SHOT

Sensory overload in Amed by Joanne Watson

Diving in Bali activates my entire sensory system. There is a special smell - rich and heavy - that I associate with Bali and I notice it as soon as I get off the plane. Even the resort linens have a Bali-fragrance to me. My taste buds are treated to the delicious Indonesian food that just can't be replicated anywhere else (and certainly not in my kitchen), my auditory system is flooded with a huge variety of sounds from the mad street noises in the built up areas to the hauntingly beautiful bird song to be heard away from the city environments and I experience pure physical pleasure when I enter that gorgeous warm water.

Visual stimulation is a given in Bali but my most recent dive trip included several days in Amed where the views both topside and under the water were simply stunning. I stayed at the Baliku Dive Resort and enjoyed a most magnificent view over the bay from the room's outdoor area. The village community of Amed itself seemed well-developed and vibrant but also very scenic as it's nestled in a lush tropical bush setting.

We dived several different sites during the 5-day dive period and this trip I had an opportunity to



use my 8mm Fish Eye lens on the Olympus EPL-6 camera. Jemeluk Bay offered so many wide angle opportunities that I could have easily dedicated more dive time to just that site. Jemeluk Bay is thronging with colour, creatures and plant life. Getting into the water was almost a 'champagne moment' for me as this site is minus the boulders and bashing waves that can feature at Tulamben and I stayed on my feet. Multiple varieties of huge corals abound and some areas were just teeming with small colourful fish. At times I would forget to capture

those images because I was too busy soaking up the beauty before my eyes.

Water clarity was superb. Excellent visibility so no trouble keeping my dive buddy in sight but also shallow enough to enjoy sunbursts, shimmering surface movement and that fabulous blue we don't see too often in Perth waters. This trip also featured 'model' moments when critters or fish would cease their activities long enough for me to get a decent 'parting shot'. I will be back there again - no doubt about it!!!








WESTERN AUSTRALIAN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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:

-  To promote an improvement of underwater photography amongst its members.
-  To promote underwater photography in the community.
-  To encourage an understanding and preservation of the marine environment.
-  To promote an exchange of skills and ideas from within the society and from external bodies.
-  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 regular competitions including an annual day dive shootout, annual open and novice portfolios and image of the year competition, and a range of trips and social events during the year including monthly photo dives.

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.**



Find us on Facebook

www.waups.org.au

