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# Water Column

FEBRUARY 2019 ISSUE 12

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



**Coral Bay  
Maumere to Alor**

**CREATURE  
FEATURE:  
Octopuses**

**WAUPS Spring  
Escape**





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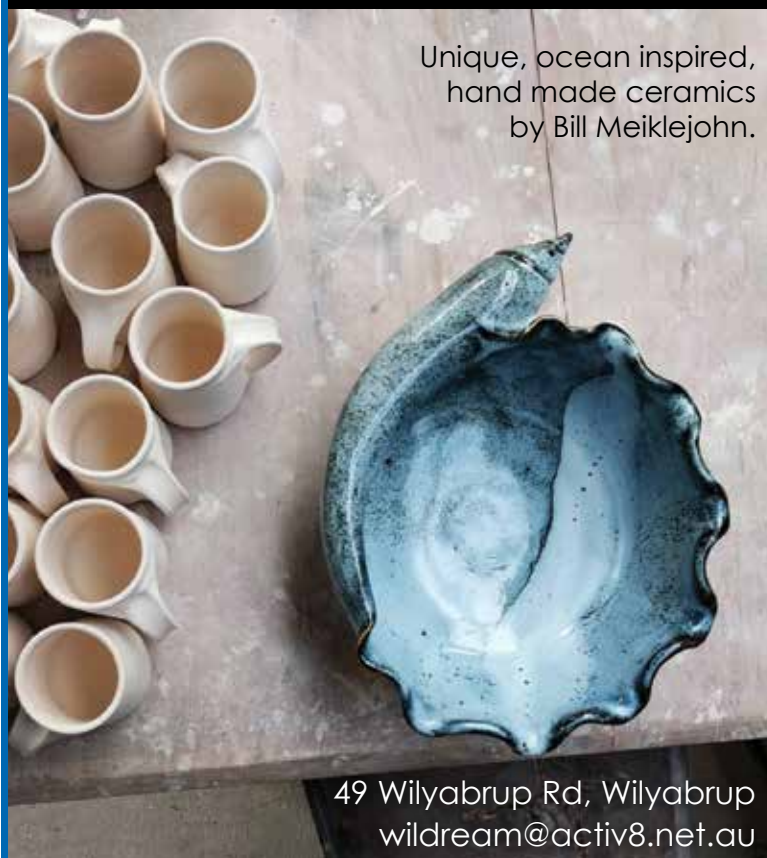


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Cover by Viv Matson-Larkin - Christmas Tree Worm at Coral Bay



# EDITOR'S BUBBLES

Howdy Members,

If I have not yet seen you this year, I hope you had a pleasant Christmas-New Years' break and happy Australia Day. It's nice to have the chance to catch up with family and friends, spend quality time together during the holiday break, and I know it involved flying interstate or overseas for a few of you. Maybe you received some dive or camera gear as Christmas presents, and the chance to get in some nice dives now it has warmed up. Due to the reasonable price of crayfish I tucked into many of those over this holiday period, a treat for me.

I was up north diving off Coral Bay when the WAUPS end of year Christmas Dive and BBQ get-together was on so missed saying Merry Christmas to you. On my return I've enjoyed quite a few extra-long dives under the Grain Terminal seeing a lot of WAUParians' cars in the car park with most of you arriving early, including Danny's mannequin Dieter acting as a burglar deterrent. Thanks to Harriet, who really, really wanted to break our usual dive time by making me wait 2 more minutes to clock up a 2hr dive 😊. Next dive we pushed that out to 2.5hrs at the KGT. Then 3hrs the following dive under that jetty, with me using a larger tank on my part to keep up with Harriet. On our return from that dive it was the first time she had ever come back to shore slightly under 50 bar!

Congratulations to our recent competition winners - Novice Portfolio won by Patricia Swallow, PIXELS 2018 overall winner Bert de Wit, and the Golden Snapper Award which went to Rusty Geller. A big thank you to our sponsors also, much appreciated. Like Lee from Perth Scuba mentioned in regards to Patricia's win, her set of images was awesome. Last year she was runner-up, and went one better this year to take out the winner's trophy. Don't forget to download your copy of the WAUPS Fridge Calendar for 2019 so you can pre-plan what images you may require this year if you don't already have something suitable in your photo catalogues.

I encourage all our new members to enter in the annual photographic competitions - Novice Portfolio, PIXELS, Image of the Year, competitions run by the WAPF, and the Wayne Storrie Humour Award. It is a great way to improve on your photographic skills. You never know, your participation in those competitions, attending club meetings and other activities organised by WAUPS (like volunteering at the display table during Dolphin Scuba Diving's 'We Love Diving Day') could see you win the Golden Snapper Award. Me, a seasoned diver, I think a fresh pair of eyes is a wonderful thing. Viewing many of the entries I think 'Oh, why did I not think of taking an image like that'. So give it a go, you've got to be in it, to win it 😊.

Keep blowin' bubbles,

*Viv*

Recent dive conditions at KGT (by Isla Cath) and the WAUPS Christmas dive and BBQ (by Emma Burdett)

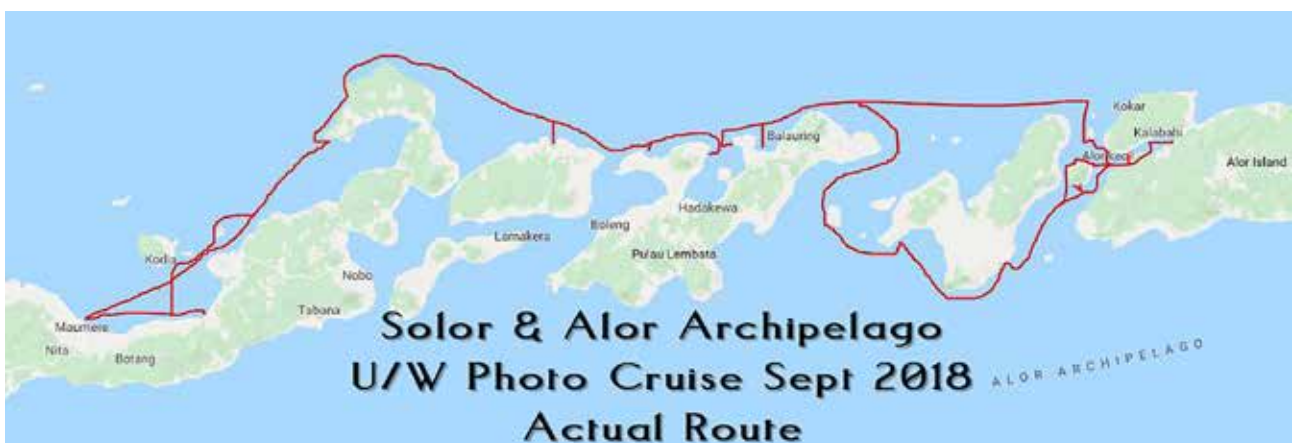


## Maumere to Alor, October 2018

In late September, early October I travelled to Maumere and Alor on one of Jeff and Dawn Mullins trips. We all arrived in Bali a day or two earlier and flew to Maumere from Denpasar. We arrived midmorning and were picked up from the airport by the crew of the Tarata and had a tortuous but interesting drive down to the harbour to board the boat. The Tarata is a hand built Indonesian Phinisi boat. I have seen these boats built on the beach on Sangeang Island in Sumbawa. It is a comfortable boat with twin share facilities, a great cook and a fantastic crew who have great knowledge of the dive sites. There were 11 divers and we did a round trip from Maumere to Alor and back. The first few days going towards Alor were pretty messy with winds and swell on the longer passages at night, especially when we went around the headland and turned west towards Alor. I love it when the seas are like this and slept through most of it.

We did 3 dives each day with a night dive when we had the opportunity. The water temperature in the Maumere area was a comfortable 28 degrees but as we neared Alor it dropped to 23 / 24 degrees. We were all organised for Bali diving not summer in Perth so all the extra gear came out. We stopped in Alor for provisions, water and fuel. We all trooped down towards the markets where I spied a truly glamorous sickly pink Hello Kitty boucle jumper, which I purchased for far too much, but it sure kept me warm when under my sharkskin suit.

The diving was a great assortment of wide angle and macro. The waters were clear with lots of interesting critters and fish. Highlights were fish traps, huge barrel sponges, spectacular walls, snake eels in biscuit corals, fish eyes, my first rhinopus and mandarin fish!





# PHOTO ESSAY

by Maryann Evetts





## *Maumere to Alor*





# Enigmatic Octopussy!



The octopus is a curious beast, inspiring myths of deep-sea monsters like the Kraken, a James Bond movie, erotic Japanese art, and appears on diverse menus. Octopuses hold great fascination for many SCUBA divers, and despite being an invertebrate in the mollusc phylum, octopuses are regarded among the most intelligent invertebrates.

Octopuses are in the class cephalopoda, family octopodidae. They are characterised by having a rounded head fused to the foot, bearing 8 arms in a ring around the mouth. There is no shell, but they possess a hard parrot-like beak and sharp-toothed tongue (radula). They range in size from the tiny *Octopus wolfi* around 2.5 cm and 1 g, up to the gigantic Pacific octopus *Enteroctopus dofleini*, recorded at 71 kg and 4.3 m arm span.

**Intelligence.** Octopuses have the amazing ability to learn and solve problems. Stories of roving aquarium octopuses raiding other aquariums at night for food are well known. They have also unscrewed the lids of jars to get at a tasty crab inside! Octopuses have the highest brain-to-body mass ratio of all invertebrates, with a central brain, many nerve cells in the arms and well-developed eyes, and are capable of complex visual communication. Not all species can detect colour, but all can distinguish light intensity and polarisation. Statocysts attached to the brain enable the octopus to sense the orientation of their body and also hears sounds! They have a wonderful sense of touch, and chemoreceptors on the suckers allow them to

taste what they touch – sometimes brave ones touch our hands or cameras!

**Colour change & camouflage.** The chameleon-like ability of octopuses to change colour is legendary. This is due to small 'chromatophores' in the skin containing dense pigment, that can be expanded or contracted to turn the colour 'on' or 'off'. There can be up to 5 colours with over 200 chromatophores in a square millimetre. The iridescent colours of blue-ringed octopuses is due to reflective crystals in tiny iridocytes. Octopuses can almost instantaneously change both the colour and texture of their skin to match their surroundings and so camouflage







themselves when hunting or to avoid predators. For defence, they can also eject a thick cloud of dark gooey ink, or even drop off an arm that continues to wriggle as a distraction! Fortunately the arm can be regenerated. The amazing mimic octopus has an incredibly flexible body that can imitate the shape and colour of more dangerous animals such as lionfish, eels and sea snakes.



**Feeding.** Octopuses are carnivorous, and are active predators feeding mainly on crustaceans, fish and other molluscs. They can rapidly catch and hold their prey with the suckered arms and then use the beak to kill or paralyse prey by injecting poisonous saliva. Some octopus also use the radula to drill through the shells of bivalve molluscs, inject the poisonous saliva to relax the prey, then pull apart the two halves of the shell to eat the inhabitant. This fishy diet supports a fast growth rate, but life-spans are short, ranging from a few months to 2 or 3 years. Although some larger or cold-water species may live longer, for example 5 years for the giant Pacific octopus.

**Locomotion.** Octopuses generally crawl slowly over the sea bed using their arms and suckers, but they can swim very fast if necessary, using the funnel to eject water from the mantle to jet propel themselves. The funnel can be pointed in different directions allowing the octopus to move forwards or backwards. Some deep-sea species lack a funnel, but have fins on the head they swim with.

Some beguiling species have been found that walk on 2 arms while mimicking plant matter, others 'stilt walk'

when carrying coconut shells - thought to disguise them from potential predators! Since the beak and radula are the only hard body parts, octopuses can squeeze through tiny holes, enabling them to escape predators and shelter in safe crevices.

**Reproduction.** Separate sexes exist in the octopus world. The octopus 'penis' is located in one of the 8 arms, the hectocotylus, which the male uses to transfer a sperm packet into the female's mantle cavity. After mating the male ages rapidly and dies within a few weeks. The female needs to hang on a bit longer after she lays the eggs in a rocky crevice, as she then needs to guard, clean and aerate the eggs for several weeks (or up to 5 months for the giant Pacific octopus). She does not feed during this time and dies soon after the eggs hatch. Exceptions are the blue-ringed octopuses that carry their eggs on the web between their arms and argonaut octopuses that brood the eggs inside a special egg case (paper nautilus shell). Many species have planktonic larvae that drift in currents for several weeks or months, while others develop directly into miniature forms of the adult and live on the sea bed.

**Pleurals.** Octopus, octopi, octopodes, octopuses or octopussies?! The long-running discussions continue, but authorities state that 'octopus' is a Latinized form of the Greek word 'oktopous'. The correct plural would be octopodes (not octopi), but common usage is generally octopuses.





# Why I will never tire of diving up North

by Viv Matson-Larkin



In my teens I was super keen to spend as much time as possible up on the Ningaloo Reef, a long fringing reef about 1200kms north of Perth. In particular, at a little spot called Coral Bay. At the time, other than the hardened fishermen, most people only thought of that place when it was whaleshark, humpback whale, and turtle watching season. Then tours started allowing you to swim with the mantas, which are now part of Project Manta.

Back in those days for a little adventure you could do a land-based turtle tour with a guy called Peter Mack and witness turtle hatchlings making a run for the ocean north of Point Maud. Walking along that strip of beach heading further north you'd see each turtle nest marked by long sturdy sticks dug in deep to not only protect the nest from vehicles, but lessen the chance of foxes digging out the eggs for a snack.

I have a soft spot for turtles, there's something about their eyes. One day while doing an adventure dive, where I just pick a new spot doing a quick scout around to see if it's worth a longer dive, I chanced across the oldest looking and largest loggerhead turtle I have to this day ever seen. As it tried to pick up speed to get away from me I realised that poor turtle, while showing no obvious injuries, had something wrong with one side of the body. Only able to fin on one side of his body, in ever increasing circles he



went around me till there was enough momentum to get above the coral bommies to take off. A magical moment! Just like my first encounter with a massive grouper on the outer reef. It came out of nowhere startling me. Well, to be honest, it scared the crap out of me! There I was checking the anchor was secure so the boat would not drag, and the next minute there was a monster fish right in my face eyeballing me. Then with a crack of his tail that sounded like a gun going off, he was off. This one was even bigger than ol' Merv, the current grouper that turns up now and again under the boat jetty.



If you have never been to Coral Bay before and do decide one day to venture north taking in this area there are a few popular dive and snorkel sites that should be on your must-see list. The diving is pretty shallow within the reef so non-divers won't feel like they have missed out. I've done many a dive from the shore looking for macro opportunities, hard corals don't move! There's even a magnificent porites coral head that is so huge you can see it peeking slightly out of the water when there is an extremely low tide. Not surprisingly someone decided to call it Ayres Rock.

Along the boat route that heads out to the North Passage is the most popular dive and snorkel spot. Called Asho's Gap, lying off one side of that rocky outcrop is a massive cabbage patch coral which is a popular cleaning-station. The sharks frequent this spot for their daily grooming sessions. The turtles have become so accustomed to divers and snorkelers you can't but laugh when they cruise in right in front of you and decide to have a little snooze while the cleaner fish give them a going over.

Down south there a spot the fishermen call Black Douglas which is a popular snorkel spot. Close by that are two long large coral formations I take divers to. One has an overhang where sometimes the groupers hang out in the shadows. Before the Coral Bay Progress Association and Carnarvon Council set up a dedicated fish filleting station ashore those who fished outside the South Passage stopped here to clean their catch. Having so many fish skeletons near the mouth of that overhang, and also because of the groupers we nicknamed this spot Skeleton Bommie.

Not far from there is a very shallow dive spot called Eel Bommie due to the number of eels we noticed there at the time. It has multiple little bommies sitting around one large reef outcrop so always has heaps of critters to look at. My last trip out here in November I chanced across a very pregnant wobbegong. So huge she could not settle down flat on the sea floor so rocked backwards and forwards in the slight swell. Bet she could not wait for that little bundle of joy to pop out!

Slightly south of the boat ramp there is a dive site called Lotties Lagoon. Slightly deeper than the other sites due to the boat mooring over the sand there are lots of coral outcrops to check out. A leopard shark has become a regular sighting at this spot having chosen one of the larger bommies as a resting spot.

Up north past Oyster Bridge are two of my favourite dive sites - Quinn's Bommie and Yellow Bommie. Depending on the wind and swell the dive charter boat sometimes heads to Porites Corner, which is in the same area - a great area for divers and snorkelers alike. Many have been buzzed by the mantas in the area.

All the dive sites I mention appeared in the latest underwater footage released by local film-makers Prospero Productions titled Ningaloo – Australia's Other Great Reef. Shot in 4K with a 200-degree fisheye lens it was shown on a pop-up cinema dome at the WA Maritime Museum. When the call came out for must-see dive sites while the film crew were up at Coral Bay to film the mass coral spawning I passed on all my GPS coordinates to cover the areas I knew the dive boat never went to, and was pleased to see footage from all of those sites in the film.





by Amanda Blanksby

## Yallingup Spring Escape

We had our third spring escape weekend away in September 2018, and for this one we headed south to Yallingup. We had a small crew of six and as always the weekend comprised of land-based photography and food!!!

The accommodation at Yallingup Forest Resort was perfect – a large cabin located amongst the bush.

We woke up early both mornings and headed down to Yallingup and Castle Rock for sunrise. Unfortunately the weather was not really behaving with lots of clouds and we didn't get a great sunrise on either morning.

After breakfast on the Saturday we headed into the bush with our macro gear. We were generally on the hunt for orchids and our south west WAUPS residents, Sue Morrison and Ann Storrie, gave us a few tips on where to find them and joined us for a hunt.

Afterwards, we had a wander around some galleries, and also visited Willyabrup Dreaming Pottery, and got to say hello to Bill Meiklejohn, who sponsors the Wayne Storrie humour competition.

We were treated to a delicious meal on Friday evening prepared by Angela Rossen and Saturday evening was another shared meal followed by one of Peter Morrison's home made bumbleberry pies. Delicious!

The clouds hung around all day and it also meant we could not head out to shoot the milky way, so we enjoyed a few more reds instead!

Sunday involved more bush walks and hunting for orchids.

We will probably return there again in Spring 2019, as there is plenty of flexibility in when, where and what you can photograph and we have found more orchid spots!!!





Congratulations to our Gold award winner for the second half of 2018. Leanne Thompson was awarded Gold for September's theme of Just Below the Surface.

Well done Leanne!



Seventeen members participated in PIXELS during 2018 and 63 images were judged. Our thanks to our judges during the year - Joss Woolf, Bob Litchfield, Jasmine Carey, Diana Fernie, Kristin Anderson and Chris de Blank.

Congratulations to those who received an award and well done to those who entered consistently and made the Top 5.

## OVERALL RESULTS

First - Bert De Wit  
Second - Leanne Thompson  
Third - Amanda Blanksby  
Fourth - Danny Messom  
Fifth - Rusty Geller

## GOLD

Daniel Barker  
Shannon Earnshaw  
Leanne Thompson



## SILVER

Amanda Blanksby  
Gary Browne  
Isla Cath  
Bert De Wit  
Chandy De Wit  
Rusty Geller  
Danny Messom  
Mark Short  
Leanne Thompson



## BRONZE

Daniel Barker  
Amanda Blanksby  
Gary Browne  
Isla Cath  
Bert De Wit  
Shannon Earnshaw  
Rusty Geller  
Danny Messom  
Jenny Ough  
Marjon Phur  
Patricia Swallow  
Leanne Thompson  
Joanne Watson





# RED SEA TRIP

### SEPTEMBER 2018

by Gary Browne

After many months of planning I finally flew out of Perth on August 30 bound for Hurghada via Doha and London.

Joining Alex Mustard and several other divers at Gatwick airport on Saturday morning I boarded the flight to Hurghada arriving that evening exhausted after very little sleep. There we were met by Mohammed a local representative at the airport. After securing visas and collecting baggage we were bussed to the marina, then onto the Whirlwind, a 36 metre timber dive boat built in 2006.

We were assigned to our twin berth cabins and met the rest of the divers for this dive trip. After dinner and a talk from Alex Mustard about the week's schedule I fell into bed exhausted.

Up early Sunday morning we left Hurghada around 0700. Assembling our camera gear we got ready for a shake-down dive on a Sha'ab Ali reef. There was the prospect of schooling dolphins, but they didn't show up.

Next stop was the SS Thistlegorm, a WW2 wreck launched in April 1940. She left Glasgow on 2 June 1941 destined for Alexandria in Egypt. She was part of a fleet of 16 ships heading to Alexandria to resupply the British 8th Army at Tobruk.

The cargo included Bedford and Morris trucks, armoured vehicles, M20 BSA motorcycles, Norton 16H motor cycles, Bren guns, cases of ammunition, Lee Enfield 303 rifles, aircraft parts, railway wagons, two LMS Stanier Class 8F locomotives and Wellington boots.

Because of German and Italian naval activity in the Mediterranean Sea the convoy sailed via Cape Town where they refuelled and carried on up the east coast of Africa.





Due to a collision between two ships in the Suez Canal the convoy couldn't transit the canal to reach Alexandria so in early September the convoy was directed to anchor in a safe anchorage until the wreckage in the Suez canal was cleared.

In the early hours of 6th October 1941 the Thistlegorm was attacked by two Heinkel He 111 bombers each carrying a 2.5 tonne high explosive bomb. Both bombs landed in Hold No. 4 which contained ammunition. The bombs and the exploding ammunition wreaked havoc and caused the ship to sink. Four of the ship's crew and five Royal Navy gun crew died.

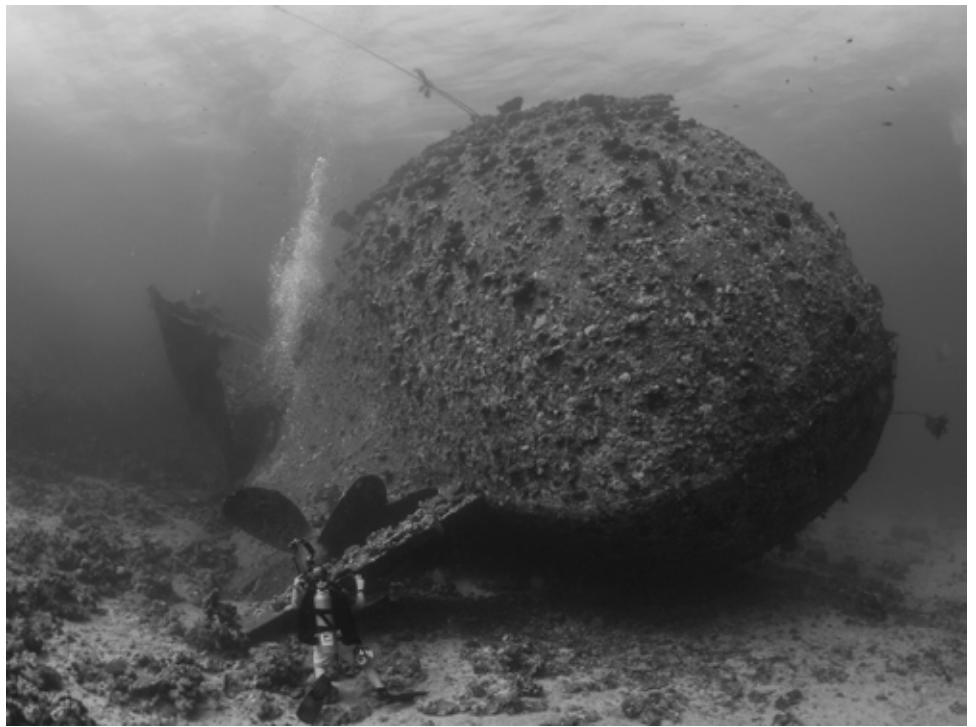
The aircraft that attacked Thistlegorm were originally ordered to search for and sink the Queen Mary cruise liner which had been converted to a troop carrier. The Queen Mary, which was carrying 1500 Australian troops, managed to escape unscathed.

I did three dives on Thistlegorm over two days exploring the forward two holds containing the trucks and motorcycles. Patience was required when waiting for photo opportunities because there were at least two or three other dive boats on the dive site at any one time. Consequently there were many divers getting in each other's shots.

Monday afternoon we dived at a site called Alternatives which was a system of pinnacles or bommies with colourful soft corals.

Tuesday morning I came down with a tummy bug that kept me boat bound, until out of frustration, I managed a dive in the afternoon at Jackfish Alley at Ras Mohammed. That was a steep wall dive containing a couple of small caves which have cracks in the roof allowing sunlight to penetrate which provided a great photo opportunity. However, with so many in the water it was difficult to get a decent shot without divers or their bubbles appearing in those.

Wednesday I was feeling much better after dosing up on the local Egyptian cure for tummy bugs so did two dives at Shark and Yolanda reef. A beautiful dive site consisting of two large bommies. Separated by a shallow saddle, with steep walls dropping down to several hundred metres, here there were lots of schooling Jacks and Batfish. It's



called Yolanda after the ship which sank here in 1980, with a cargo of toilets and bathtubs scattered across the seabed in about 18 metres of water.

Late Wednesday afternoon we experimented with some sunset split shots at nearby Ras Katy with mixed results.





That evening there was a twilight dive at a site called Temple in Ras Um Sid Bay, a system of large pinnacles in an otherwise flat sandy bottom.

Thursday morning we are moored by Abu Nahas, a reef at the bottom of the Gulf of Suez. There are several wrecks on Abu Nahas reef including Carnatic 1869, Chrisoula K 1981, Kimon M 1978 and Giannis D 1983.

That morning we dived on the Chrisoula K wreck. She lies on her port side on the NE corner of the reef at about 25

metres. Built in 1953 in Germany she was 98 metres long 15 metre beam and had a draft of 9 metres.

In August 1981 the Chrisoula K left an Italian port with a load of ceramic tiles destined for Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. She made it safely through the Mediterranean Sea, through the Suez Canal and down through the Straits of Suez and ran aground on Sha'ab abu Nahus Reef.

This is an easy wreck to explore. Starting from the stern area checking out the rudder and propeller I then moved into the aft cargo hold where the ships side has torn away from the rest of the hull, the cargo hold is still full of Italian tiles. I then entered the accommodation area and checked out the galley complete with the still

intact galley stove. From here I went down into the ships workshop area with workbenches, drill press and bench grinder still in place.

Second dive today was on another wreck, the Giannis D, which is not far from Chrisoula K. The Giannis D was built in Japan in 1969. She is 99.5 metres long with a beam of 16 metres. She left Rijeka in Croatia bound for Jeddah with a load of timber and ran aground on Abu Nahas reef on 19 April 1983.





Alex Mustard encouraged us to try using a Magic Filter on this dive which I did with mixed results. This meant not using strobes and using custom white balance for the depth where images were taken, and keeping the sun behind the camera.

I was particularly interested in diving on these two wrecks. Way back in the 1970s when I first went away to sea I was employed by a British shipping company on very similar ships to the Chrisoula K and the Giannis D. Thankfully none of the ships I worked on suffered the same fate as these two ships.

Friday morning we dived on Sha'ab Ali reef where we did our first dive for the trip, this time the dolphins did make an appearance. Then cruised back to Hurghada where we spent Friday evening on the boat in the marina before flying out to London on Saturday afternoon.

I spent a few days in London on my own being a tourist before heading home. While in London I took a train down to Portland in Dorset and collected my new dry suit from O Three, which I had ordered a few months prior to the trip.

The cost of the trip with flights from Gatwick was £1595. The return flight to London was about AU\$1500.

I'm glad I did the trip. Alex Mustard's trips are always a great learning experience. But I won't be going back as it is a long way to travel for six days of diving, and the number of boats on some of the dive sites made for lots of divers in the water which was a real pain.





Broome boys and Minni, Gary Browne

## In My View

The In My View Competition is quite unique as it involves not only a print, but accompanying text to tell a story. That could be a poem or prose, the choice up to the writer.

With the theme "We are Australian", Gary Browne submitted an image titled *Broome Boys & Minni*, and was one of 20 finalists in 2018.

There are great cash prizes for cover photo, finalist, 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Each finalist (photographer and writer) also receive a copy of the photobook showcasing the top 20 entries.

Next year's theme is 'Broken'. Give this competition a go as land-based images are accepted also. Note, there is a different entry and timeline for images and text so register on the WAPF link if interested.

## Fishing WA 2019

Entries for Fishing WA open on May 3 2019 and close on May 31. The theme encompasses anything related to fishing in Western Australia - fisher persons, fishing boats, ocean, beach or river fishing. More details on the WAPF website soon.

## ClickWest

The goal of ClickWest is to recognise and celebrate diversity across various genres of photography and to identify and reward individuals who have excelled across multiple genres through the portfolio prize.

This competition has some great prizes and is currently open for entries, closing midnight March 31st. This year there are four categories with set topics. If you enter an image in each of the four categories there is a portfolio prize also.

- Landscape – with topic After Sunset, Before Sunrise
- Monochromatic – with topic Solitude
- Portraiture – with topic Relationships
- Close Up - with topic Inorganic

## West Australian Photographic Federation

All WAUPS financial members also gain membership to the WAPF so sign-up to their mailing list and get involved in some of their competitions, workshops and events.

Find out more about these competitions and the WAPF at [www.wapf.org.au](http://www.wapf.org.au)



Amanda Blanksby

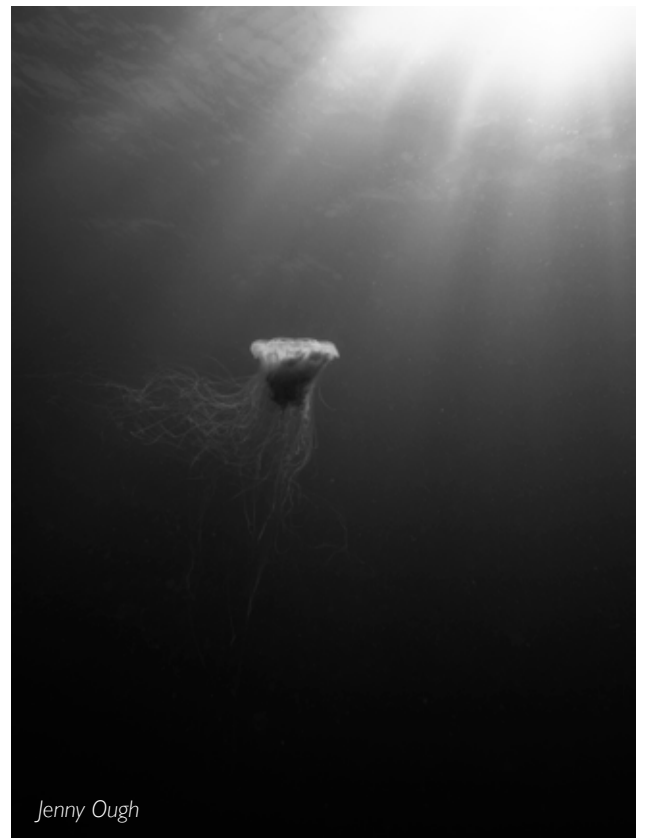
## PrintWest

Another annual interclub competition I encourage members to enter is PrintWest. This competition is held to engage participation and social interaction between member clubs across the state and to promote the value of a printed image.





Amanda Blanksby



Jenny Ough



Amanda Blanksby



Janet O'Brien



Tammy Gibbs

This competition begins with digital submission for the first stage, with the top images printed in the second round for exhibition. There are two categories to this competition - Monochromatic and Colour. Not only do the winners receive prizes, but points are also awarded

to each Camera Club. In 2019, entries will open in August.

Last year, WAUPS had six images selected for the print round and exhibition. Well done to Amanda Blanksby, Janet O'Brien, Jenny Ough and Tammy Gibbs.





## NOVICE PORTFOLIO 2018

Congratulations to Patricia Swallow, winner of the Novice Portfolio Competition in 2018! The runner-up was Jason Milligan! Congrats to both of you! Well done to all the entrants, the standard continues to rise each year. Our thanks to ongoing sponsor of this competition, Perth Scuba.





# PINBOARD



Golden Snapper 2018 Rusty Geller

## Golden Snapper

Congratulations Rusty Geller, winner of the Golden Snapper Award for 2018. This award is presented in recognition of club participation and Rusty was certainly a great contributing club member during 2018.



# Before and after: how I developed this photo in Lightroom

by Tammy Gibbs

I took this image at Ammo Jetty in 2018. It was taken with a Nikon D7100, Tokina 10-17 fisheye lens, iso 200, f14, 1/320 sec.

I liked the composition, however, when shooting directly into the sun, trying not to blow-out the bright sunburst has resulted in the pylon being dark and flat, even with my strobes on full power.

By shooting in raw, I can develop it using Lightroom Classic and bring back some of the colour and detail in the image.

**1. Dehaze.** Found within the Basic palette of the latest version of Lightroom, this is a great tool for underwater photos. Increase the dehaze until you are happy with the look. For this image, it's +24.

**2. Tone and Presence.** I wanted to add more brightness to the darker areas of the image and reduce the highlights in the sunburst. In the Basic palette, I adjusted the exposure (+0.36), highlights (-12), shadows (+60) and whites (+7).



**3. Local adjustment brush.** I wanted to add some brightness on the lower half of the pylon so I used the local adjustment brush to paint over this part of the pylon and then increased the exposure a little as well as the shadows.

**4. Chromatic aberration.** I ticked the 'Remove chromatic aberration' box in the Lens Corrections palette. Chromatic aberration is purple/green fringing around the edges of parts of your image caused by a lens distortion.



**5. Local adjustment brush.** I wanted to darken the top part of the image so used the local adjustment brush again to paint over this part of the jetty structure and then decreased the exposure a little as well as the shadows.



**6. Spot removal.** I used the spot removal tool to remove the backscatter that I found most distracting, mostly those spots in the blue water.



**7. Local adjustment brush.** I wanted to boost the brightness, colour and texture across the entire pylon so painted over the pylon with the brush and increased the shadows, clarity and sharpness.

**8. Luminance.** Found within the HSL palette, the luminance sliders allow you to adjust the lightness and darkness of particular colours. I wanted to increase the lightness of the blues so moved the aqua and blue sliders to the right to increase the lightness of just these colours.



BEFORE



AFTER



# PARTING SHOT



by Danny Messom

After our first trip to Africa in 2010, where we spent time on the Maasi Mara and in other Kenyan wildlife hotspots, we had a five day stopover in Mauritius. I had heard that the diving in Grande Bay, on the north of the island, was quite unique so of course my undersea gear had to come with me. I have to admit that the undersea life in the area was a little disappointing but this picture has remained one of my favorites. It is a deliberately sunk fishing vessel that had been impounded for breaking some local fishing law.










## 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](http://www.waups.org.au)**

