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· 3rd UWMP Group meeting 2015
Welcome to the first edition of the eMag in 2015. Now, we have changed from eNews (electronic Newsletters) to eMag (electronic Magazine). For the past 3 years we have been featuring beautiful photos each month that have been a source of inspiration for our members and many great articles. It is not just the number of pages that we have, but the quality of photos and articles that we feature inside. We are proud to bring the first edition of the eMag to you.

For this issue we have more than 37,300 members on the UWMP Group, and more than 23,700 Liked on the UWMP Page.

I would like to welcome two news judges, Fábio Freitas Silva and Matteo Visconti to our monthly theme photo competition, they will be working alongside last year judges, Alex Tyrrell, Jerome Kim, and Iyad Suleyman. With the vast experience of these five judges, I am confident that we will have a great competition and fair results every month.

I would also like to welcome onboard Celebes Beach Resort, in Pom Pom Island, Malaysia and Froggies Divers, Lembeh, Indonesia along with our sponsor from last year Lissenung Island Resort in PNG. Thank you very much for sponsoring us with fantastic prizes. It will be a great reward for members at the end of the year.

I will be presenting at DRT Beijing on 17-19 April 2015 and TDEX Bangkok on 14-17 May 2015 on how to improve your uw macro photography with UWMP. Please come and join me if you are around. Hope to see our local and visitor members there.

Thank you very much to all our contributors and UWMP admin teams, this eMag would not be possible without everyone. Also to all members for your great support as always. Enjoy the eMag.

Ken Thongpila
UWMP News

MERGULHO Dive Magazine from Brazil featured the UWMP 2nd meeting in Tulamben, Bali with 6 pages of member’s show case photos and activities.

It is a great article from Fabio Freitas who attended UWMP 2nd meeting and helped us to promote the group in his country.

We are very grateful to see UWMP being featured in other parts of the world, proving that we are a global family.

Thank you very much Mergulho Dive Magazine, Fabio, Flavia Mergulhao, Hellen Macedo and all members who supplied photos for this issue.

UWMP and EZDive magazine, the Number 1 Bilingual Diving Magazine have put together “MACROMANIA”. It is the first time for the magazine to dedicate the whole magazine for UW Macro photography. We have been working on this project for the past 4 months, it is the biggest achievement for UWMP. Inside this issue is: how UWMP began, the winners of the monthly photo competition, interview with compact macro user members, ‘Top 10 Best Macro Diving Destinations’, ‘2nd Anilao Shootout Festival’, ‘LightRoom Editing’, ‘Matteo - Winner’s Macro Portfolio’, and ‘Tips for Super Macro Photography’.

Thank you to EZDive magazine and all members who were involved with this project...
**Marcello Di Francesco** *(Italy)*

**Title:** Canned Octopus

**Critters name:** Octopus *(Amphioctopus marginatus)*

**Location taken:** Anilao, Philippines

**Personal Website:** www.marcellodifrancesco.com

**Camera:** Canon 5D Mark III

**Lens:** Canon 100mm Macro

**Housing:** Nauticam

**Strobes:** INON Z240

**Additional equipment add on:** Optical Snoot

*Camera Setting:* F13, 1/200 sec, ISO 200

*Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:*

I love coconut octopus! They are funny, cunning, brainy and very photogenic!!

It is so called because it often uses coconuts or shells to protect themselves but as you can see also an old tin, can be a comfortable home! Hope that this picture will be useful to understand that.

Nature has the ability to quickly adapt to changes but humanity must realise that we are pushing over the limit! To achieve this shot I simply used an optical snoot attached to my flash illuminating from above and isolating the subject from the sand below.
Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

Shooting flasher wrasse flashing is a bit difficult, but it's a challenge. I am just lucky. Maluku Divers Resort is home for this kind, where I can always go back to same spot. I like to shoot this subject with black background. So the camera setting used was always at 1/250 f 20 - f 22 with ISO 350- 400 max so the strobe recycles quickly. Best time to shoot this is in afternoon. In Ambon bay, best action starts at 4pm – 5:30, fighting, mating and other activity like cleaning station you can see in this picture.

It took me some time to get "good" picture of this subject as they move around too much and you'll get frustrated easily when you thought you have the picture but it's out of focus. After a while learning their moves, I finally got some result with reasonable picture.

This is how I get the result; I waited for them to flash with camera ready on hand to capture. Have to be ready because, they might flash in front your camera. Sometimes also I aim to one wrasse and wait till it is flashing. They'll flash for 2-4 seconds, move around so much, so I follow their move (up, down left or right) as I don't want to lose the focus/sight, and same time shoot as it flashes.

The one in this picture was very lucky. I was busy shooting the blue flasher wrasses, I saw this flasher wrasse being cleaned from a distance, so I approached slowly and it seems like the Fish did not even bother with my presence, so I did not waste time and I started shooting the action. The fish poses for me for around 5 seconds and this was enough time to capture this moment.
Edoardo Ruspantini (Italy)

Title: White butterfly
Critters name: Nudibranch (*Phyllodesmium jakobsenae*)
Location taken: Anilao, Philippines
Personal Website: facebook.com/edoardo.ruspantini
Camera: Nikon D3x
Lens: Nikkor 105mm Micro VR
Housing: Seacam
Strobes: 2 x Seacam 150D
Camera Setting: F40, 1/250 sec, ISO 100

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

This photo is taken at Anilao during UW Photo Competition at the end of November last year. The main difficulty was to fix the image with nudibranch’s cerata in the best position since there was very tide and waved. I also wanted to get a photo with the front maximum depth of field possible and with deep black background. I made so many sequential shots trying to anticipate the movement of cerata in the wave, I set a fast shutter speed and an aperture setting very small. The post production was very light: crop about 10%, removal of backscatters, adjustment of colour temperature, sharpness and contrast to balance the raw file.
Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

Loving Marco critters is one of my favourite subjects to play around.

Recently at Anilao everybody just talks about getting Hairy Shrimp, while I am telling myself to get one of the best Hairy Shrimp that I could, just simply walk down to "Basura" dive site, right in front of Anilao Backpackers.

The plan was just stay max at 5 meters and aiming Hairy Shrimp for whole dive, during the dive the condition was calm, cold, relax and later on my dive guide was calling come over have a look at this big parasite on the Hairy Shrimp, when I saw at first I was so happy and also my first time to see a parasite on Hairy Shrimp. Well during the shooting it wasn't that easy, a little shrimp totally not friendly at all, because the shrimp kept on moving like flying around, until he set down quietly for 5mins, it was a chance to let me get the best I could.
Massimo Zannini (Italy)

Title:  Broken eggs
Critters name:  Nudibranch (*Berthellina edwardsii*)
Location taken:  Anilao, Philippines
Camera:  Canon 60D
Lens:  Canon 100mm Macro
Housing:  Nauticam
Strobes:  INON Z240
Dioptre:  Subsee +5
Additional equipment add on:  Retra Snoot
Camera Setting:  F14, 1/250 sec, ISO 100

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

The shot was performed at dusk a few meters deep to Anilao, the use of the lens Subsee +5 it was necessary for the size of the subject and to reduce the minimum focus of the lens 100mm.

The lighting has been obtained by means of a single flash equipped with snoot Retra and mask with the small hole which has made the effect of the surf, difficult the correct positioning of the light positioned on the vertical of the subject.
Jeff Jioe (Hong Kong)

Title: Twinkle Twinkle Little Stars

Critters name: Soft Coral Snapping Shrimp (Synalpheus neomeris)

Location taken: Lembeh Strait, Indonesia

Camera: Nikon D800

Lens: Nikkor 105mm Micro

Housing: Nauticam

Strobes: NONE

Dioptre: Nauticam SMC

Additional equipment add on: 2 x Focus Lights

(1) Fisheye Neo 1200 with DIY UV filter
(2) Inon S700, with DIY pink colour filter

Camera Setting: F36, 1/200 sec, ISO 100

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

Instead of shooting with strobes, I started shooting with focus lights 2 years ago. DIY filter with different colours (include UV, pink, blue, green, orange, etc) are fixed at the lights.

For this photo, UV light is set at the top and pink light at the side; bigger aperture is applied to achieve broken effect of the surrounding coral.

Due to the limitation of lumens, when shooting with focus lights, ISO is required to set much higher (normally 400-1,200)
No focus light use is key to photograph Bargibant’s Pygmy sea horses head on. They don’t like it and turn the other way. Manual focus is crucial. This one Pygmy was facing me from the opposite side of a Moricella fan and it was placed in a natural frame. I didn’t want to disrupt this setup and so I took a test shot on a nearby and similar coloured Moricella, with open polyps like the one that hosted the pygmy. Here I first prepared the diopter and settings, then adjusted for magnification at a given distance on a similar sized branch and pre-focused the lens. I have the focusing drive separate from the shutter release to avoid focus hunting. After setting the strobes position and output I took several shots and adjust after each for magnification, light output and distribution. At this point I went back to the place and set the diopter in position, got my eye in the view finder and creep in until I saw the pygmy eye in focus. Click. Nop. Damn. I was lucky though that this creature was co-operating and remained in that position for another shot. That’s my photograph.
Title: Mouthful

Critters name: Cardinal Fish

Location taken: Anilao, Philippines

Personal Website: www.marcof8.com

Camera: Canon 5D Mark III

Lens: Canon 100mm L Macro

Housing: Nauticam

Strobes: Sea&Sea YS 250 Pro

Camera Setting: F16, 1/200 sec, ISO 100

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

The encounter with this cardinal fish happened in a night dive at the site of Anilao Pier, in the Philippines in April, a month rich in egg masses. Photograph it was very easy because the weight of the eggs transported did not allow the fish to swim easily, moved slowly and very oblique to the seabed. The pilot light was disturbing the fish often turned his back, but with due patience at the end I managed to make some shots front. A truly rare and exciting encounter.

I did not use special photographic techniques, I placed the flash at 45 degrees, set the power to about half of the maximum value and I focused on framing and focus.
**James Deverich (Australia)**

**Title:** Veins on the brain

**Critters name:** Bubble Coral Shrimp

**Location taken:** Wakatobi Indonesia

**Personal Website:** facebook.com/jdeverich

**Camera:** Nikon D7100

**Lens:** Nikkor 105mm Macro VR

**Housing:** Nauticam

**Strobes:** 2 x INON Z240

**Dioptre:** Subsea +10 & +5 stacked

**Camera Setting:** F36, 1/250 sec, ISO 100

**Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:**

The focus distance is very short with the two dioptre stacked, depth of field is also miniscule so manual focus. (Actually I use AFS or AFC with focus reassigned to a back button so the camera does not hunt when I use the shutter, hybrid manual & auto focus you might say). I was lucky to find this one exposed in a spot where I could steady the camera against some dead coral and move in and out watching the focus. Because the aperture is so small I had both strobes in very close next to the lens. Normally these shrimp don't move much but if you get very close with lights they will not stay for long so I only got a few shots before this critter ducked for cover.
Penny Liang (Taiwan)

Title: Christmas gift
Critters name: Nudibranchs Janolus sp.
Location taken: Anilao, Philippines
Personal Website: facebook.com/penny.sweet.75
Camera: Nikon D810
Lens: Nikkor 60mm Micro
Housing: Nauticam
Strobes: 2 xNON Z240
Dioptre: Subsee +10
Additional equipment add on: Christmas Gift
Camera Setting: F36, 1/200 sec, ISO 100

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

I had a wonderful time during 2014 Christmas holidays at La Cheverie Resort and Spa in Anilao. The resort hosted a festive and fun Christmas eve party. I took my Christmas present with me under the water, and came across this Christmas tree looking nudibranchs. I used my Christmas present in the background, an aperture to get the blurring effect, so all the focus lands on the nudibranch. The blur surprisingly adds a festive Christmas atmosphere to the photo.
February 2015 - Top 10 DSLR Photos
(in no particular order)

Yatwai So

Miguel Aleixo

Alessandro Cere

Amr A. Abdul-Majeed

Scott Lundy

Natalie Bondarenko

Irine Wiguno

Erjin Bao

Gaetano D. Gargiulo

Gabriel de Leon
Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

This nudibranch kept moving slowly and difficult to capture at this best moment. However, we are not able to take continuous shots like bird photography owing to the limitation of strobe recharging time. I have few tips on maximising the chance of taking best moment with super macro.

1: Use higher magnification viewfinder and strong focus light can maximise the chance of taking sharp focus photo. Since the higher power viewfinder will cut the cornea, therefore need to rely on viewfinder grid in composition.

2: Never check or review after every shot, wait and shooting until the critter doesn't face the camera or you should get one to two satisfy shots. Since it is quite hard to position and focus the critter in super macro, checking after every shot will let you miss the best moment.

3: Turn the camera shooting button to capture only by disable the auto focus function, set the back focus button for focusing instead. Once the critter get focus, just move the camera forward or backward to track the slow moving critter.
Miguel Aleixo (Portugal)

Title: Enter the void
Critters name: Nudibranch (Nembrotha chamberlaini)
Location taken: Anilao, Philippines
Camera: Nikon D800
Lens: Nikkor 105mm Micro VR
Housing: Nauticam
Strobe: INON Z240
Dioptre: Nauticam SMC +13
Additional equipment add on: Retra LSD Pro Snoot
Camera Setting: F25, 1/320sec ISO 100

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

To get this shot I've used a single INON Z20 strobe with a Retra LSD Pro Snoot, in order to isolate the subject from the background. The nudibranch was moving slowly so I was able to wait and compose the shot until he was in a perfect position. In order to get the colours I wanted, I’ve used one of the custom profiles I have stored in my camera with a custom curve that alters “reality” a little bit (same thing can be made in post processing, but doing it before allows me to see the results instantly and adjusting something if needed).
Alessandro Cere (Italy)

Title: Charging Mandarin
Critters name: Mandarin fish (Synchiropus splendidus)
Location taken: Koror, Palau
Personal Website: www.alecere.com
Camera: Canon 7D
Lens: Canon 100mm Macro
Housing: Hugyfot
Strobe: 2 x INON Z240
Camera Setting: F9, 1/250sec ISO 100

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

Until my trip to Palau, every time I saw a Mandarin fish has been with at least 20 plus divers around me, creating a chaos of lights, bubbles and noise that would scare the poor fishes and creating huge clouds of silt. This shot was taken in the house reef of the diving centre at sunset, the time of the day when the Mandarin fish engage in their mating ritual, and I was completely alone.

Once I found a good spot where to observe the movements of one group of Mandarin fish, I positioned myself comfortably with enough freedom of movement to follow its skittish movements. The shallow depth of these fishes dwellings allows very long dive times. After 15 minutes the fishes were used to my presence and lost their shyness, allowing me to shoot many portraits with different settings.

The portrait I prefer is this closeup with a relatively shallow focus: this little fish, a female I guess, started getting closer and closer to me, too fast for the camera focus to follow but, by chance, in one of the photos of this sequence I had the focus on the eye!
Amr A. Abdul-Majeed (Saudi Arabia)

Title: Silly Face!!
Critters name: Bluebelly Blenny
Location taken: Redsea, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Personal Website: facebook.com/digitalunderwaterphotography
Camera: Canon 5D Mark II
Lens: Canon 100mm Macro
Housing: Sea&Sea
Strobe: 2 x Sea&Sea YS D1
Dioptre: Subsea +10 & +5 stacked
Additional equipment add on: Sola800 Focus Light
Camera Setting: F13, 1/80 sec ISO 100
Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:
Blennies are good subjects for super-macro photography but it needs patience and steady hands, they move a lot some focusing will be hard, in this case usually I use a focus light to make the lens focus faster, approach small creatures slowly and without any jerky movements, usually I stay in front of the Blenny for a while till it started to get curious about my camera, that time I will take some shots with different angles, my favourite position is when the Blenny faces the camera, F13-F16 will give a creative DOF, and manual power strobes will help reduce the over-exposed areas.
Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

Giant Pacific Octopus (GPO) are the world’s largest species of octopus and can reach well over 50kg and 9m in length.

They have a 6-8 month gestation period, during which a single female GPO will guard her 100,000 eggs without feeding or leaving her den. Over several months, we closely monitored the gestation of one GPO whose den was at a popular local dive site, and during the critical window we performed nightly dives and we were fortunate enough to witness the hatch take place. As one of the newborn GPOs drifted upwards in the water column, I asked my dive buddy to pose in the background for several frames, and this was the result. Our dive profile was 45 min at a depth of 35m, and the total dive time was approaching 2 hours after decompression.
Title: Isn’t she lovely??

Critters name: Sydney Pygmy Pipehorse (Idiotropiscis lumintzeri)

Location taken: Bare Island, Sydney, Australia

Personal Website: www.dariogargiulo.com

Camera: Nikon D800

Lens: Nikon 105mm Micro

Housing: Sea&Sea

Strobe: 2 x Sea&Sea YS250Pro plus modified INON Z240

Dioptre: SubSee +10

Additional equipment add on: Red focus light Archon 32R

Camera Setting: F40, 1/100sec ISO 50

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

It is not easy to shoot Pygmy Pipehorses, they swing into the current imitating the weed they live into. You need to be patient and hope that the critter came in the proper position. I try to build the shot positioning the strobes before-hand and patiently waiting. As I like to saturate the colours, I intentionally bias the light meter of my camera -0.7EV. The 3rd strobe is used as slave to reduce the harsh shadows imposed by the lateral strobes intentionally placed far away.
Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

It's really rare to meet the giant octopus on Secret bay, Anilao, because it's almost no place for them to hide. It was the moment that you can see only one time in your life. The octopus sat exactly in the middle of the old tyre. When I come closer he hid inside. It was a lot of shrimps inside this tyre also. Good chance to do the picture like that.
Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

Picture was taken at one of my favourite macro dive sites, Segara Tulamben - Bali during a not so conducive week in December 2014, where the visibility was a bit poor. Since the object is very tiny I need to stack +10 Subsee and +6 INON UCL 165 together. I was pretty lucky that this tiny creature didn't move a lot and was willing to give its best pose for me.
Title: Hairy Frogfish
Critters name: Hairy frogfish
Location taken: Anilao, Philippines
Camera: Canon 5D Mark II
Lens: Canon 100mm Macro
Housing: Aquatica
Strobe: NONE
Dioptre: Aquatica +10
Additional equipment add on: FIT2400 & FIT2500 plus Snoots
Camera Setting: F8, 1/50sec ISO 250

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:
I have taken many hairy frogfish photos before, but most of them are with dirty hairy. This time it's luck to find a hairy frogfish with the clean hairy. It's a tiny one less than 5cm so I used my Aquatica +10. And this time I tried to use the two lights FIT2400 and FIT2500 with snoots instead of strobes. In order to avoid lighting the sand on the ground, I put the snoots on each side with an angle from bottom to top. I had to change my lighting each time after it moved, after almost 50 mins, finally I got this satisfactory photo.
Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

Photograph was taken during a night dive in Anilao, Philippines January 18, 2015. The dive guide spotted this squid on the reef with a beautiful red crinoid in the background. The squid allowed me to take multiple images before going on its way. Most amazing was the brilliant colours it displayed each time my strobes illuminated it. I used 3/4 power on Ikelite 161 strobes and had them turned in towards the housing port, so lighting would mostly fall on the subject.
January 2015 - Top 10 Compact Camera and Compact System Camera (CSC) Photos (in no particular order)

Rudo Hvzdos

Carol Cox

Chae Stone

Sema Akgün

Metin Tuncer

Stefano Scortegagna

KF Leong

Mickey Charteris

Ajix Dharma

I Nyoman Satria Wijaya
Rudo Hvizdos *(Slovakia)*

**Title:** Magic Hat  
**Critters name:** Pygmy Seahorse  
(Hippocampus Bargibanti)  
**Location taken:** Padangbai, Bali, Indonesia  
**Personal Website:** okdiversbali.com/sk/diving-photo-gallery  
**Camera:** Canon G15  
**Housing:** Fantasea  
**Strobes:** Sea&sea YS-01  
**Dioptrre:** Saga+10

**Camera Setting:** F4.5, 1/200sec, ISO 100  
**Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:**  
The key feature for this picture was the right moment and prepared stabilised camera. I was on this spot few times before so I already knew the place and that it is very common for Ladybugs to climb the pygmies. Basically I only waited for the right moment and then I did my best to capture it.
Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

I took this photo during a live-aboard trip to Belize. I saw hamlets pairing up during some of our late afternoon dives and had already captured a pair of barred hamlets mating. On my last afternoon dive of the trip, I saw these indigos hovering at the top of a coral head and knew what was ahead. I took a couple of test shots and then waited for them to get used to me. My patience was rewarded and I saw them couple several times. I was only able to get one shot each time they coupled, and it happened so quickly I missed a couple of times. This was my favourite shot because I was able to capture the faces of both hamlets.
It was my first encounter with this particular type of sea hare so I was very excited and eager to capture the encounter. I was on a 5m safety stop, the subject was on a sinker line and there was a surge so it was quite difficult to maintain my position. To complicate matters the sea hare started moving, and it was only my second time using my new diopter so focusing on a moving subject was very challenging. I positioned myself below the subject so I had the blue background, adjusted settings to take advantage of the unobscured background and then let myself rock with the surge while taking this shot.

**Chae Stone (Korea)**

- **Title:** Into The Blue
- **Critters name:** Freckled Sea Hare (*Aplysia parvula*)
- **Location taken:** Dauin,Negros Oriental, Philippines
- **Personal Website:** www.acquadive.com
- **Camera:** Canon G12
- **Housing:** Ikelite
- **Strobes:** Ikelite DS160
- **Dioptre:** Aquako III +13
- **Camera Setting:** F8, 1/250sec, ISO 320
Sema Akgün (Turkey)

Title: Horned boxfish
Critters name: Horned boxfish
Location taken: Lembeh Strait, Indonesia
Camera: Canon G12
Housing: Canon
Strobes: Sea&sea YS110
Dioptre: SubSee+10
Camera Setting: F8, 1/200sec, ISO 125

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

I took this photo at Lembeh during a night dive. That horned box fish (Cowfish) was playing with me nearly 5 minutes. I took some pictures then waited patiently about 3 additional minutes to take a photo of his face which I did aimed. Then the fish turned to me and looked for a second. I took the photo. It was a present for being patient enough. It was a great lesson for me. I realised that I was always in a hurry during diving. But it is not good always. You should look at the critters, understand their behaviour first then wait for the right moment to come patiently then success at least for me. I enjoyed that.
Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

I spend a lot of time at cleaning stations because fish tend to be less wary there and allow a closer approach. The problem is getting too close and disturbing the activity. Small cleaners will actually leave the fish and try to clean the camera or my hand, ruining a good moment. So I stay back a bit and zoom in more, opening the aperture to get more light in from a distance. (I'm usually set to f8 when looking for really small subjects, but went to f4 to wait on the action at this cleaning station). The cleaners are sometimes more skittish than the fish themselves, so as I'm waiting I turn my head to exhale to the side. This blocks some of the pressure waves from my bubbles from reaching the cleaning station, and is less intrusive.

I was shooting a small grouper when this French Angelfish swam in, obviously very agitated, and chased the grouper off. He kept his eyeball right next to the shrimp till it understood what cleaning job was needed, there must have been something stuck in its eye.
Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

Parrotfish have very strong teeth which can even crush the corals. Because of that it may be dangerous to take a photo with his/her teeth in the daylight dives.

Therefore it is a big chance to catch Parrotfish sleeping in the night dive. In order to capture the pose that I had previously thought, I focused on just teeth and took few pictures until it started to wake up. It is really an extraordinary experience and a photo for myself.
Stefano Scortegagna (Italy)

Title: White on White
Critters name: Egg Shell Shrimp (*Hamopontonia coralicola*)
Location taken: Talisay, Cebu, Philippines
Camera: Canon G12
Housing: Isotta
Strobes: 2 x INON Z240
Dioptre: SubSee+10
Additional equipment add on: UK Aqualite Focus Light
Camera Setting: F8, 1/500sec, ISO 80

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:
This picture was taken during a dive in the afternoon, with little light, the difficulty was in managing the light not to burn the white .... I have removed a lot of the flash at minimum power to get the light in an oblique and not direct.
Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

It was my first time shooting this shrimp. I have to thank Jesmar C. Tabangay, my dive guide and spotter, for finding this subject (and many others). He stayed with me the whole time when I was trying to get a good image and pointed the location of the shrimp every time it jumped or moved.

The subject is very small and moves a lot. The shrimp eventually moved to the bottom of the crinoid and stayed still for a moment, long enough for me to take a shot.

Having your strobe position, all other camera setting fixed helps as you can now concentrate on focusing and pressing the shutter button. Considering myself a beginner in UW photography, I am very happy the photo was one of the many favourites in UMWP.
Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

I was lucky enough to find and shoot this shrimp, love the colour and was sitting on a blue tunicate.

I use a strobe INON Z240, I always position the strobe above the lens facing forward. That is also depending on the subject you shoot.
I Nyoman Satria Wijaya (Indonesia)

Title: Sad little sheep
Critters name: Nudibranch (Costasiella sp)
Location taken: Tulamben, Bali, Indonesia
Camera: Canon G11
Housing: Canon
Strobes: INON Z240
Dioptre: SubSee+10
Camera Setting: F8, 1/500sec, ISO 80

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

This little critter even small but they actually move around avoiding camera maybe because of the heat or light that the strobe produces so we need to wait for the right moment until we have good composition and get real sharp focus. In this picture I used digital zoom to get object more magnified and as we know when we use the digital zoom of camera we really need steady hand to keep the object still focus. Last we need to be lucky, lucky and lucky.
February 2015 - Top 10 Compact Camera and Compact System Camera (CSC) Photos (in no particular order)

Yuri Verbaan

Chandy de Wit

Dennis M. Corpuz

Andrew Marriott

Tine Kinn Kvamme

Yansu Junk

Violet Ting

Amy Hung

Lynn Wu

Ben Sarinda
Early 2015 me and a dive buddy decided it was time to go for a dragon hunt in Bremer Bay, WA. We did our homework before the trip by contacting the Bremer Bay Dive shop and talking with the owner Craig, we learned a lot about their behaviour and where they were sighted recently. Sea dragons use the sea grass to camouflage themselves, and they are masters at it. For us this means it takes some time to find them, however once understand their behaviour, it’s a lot easier to find them again. Moral of the story, if people tell you they are around: keep looking...

Like any critter, the Sea Dragon needs some time to get used to you as a diver, this particular picture was taken on our last dive and by then he was a lot more relaxed, which allowed us to get a bit closer and take some good pictures.

As shown in this picture, and as general rule in underwater photography, it’s always good to shoot on eye level and upwards. I used a high shutter speed aperture to create a darker background. Although I did make the picture applying the rule of thirds, I cropped the picture afterwards such that the dragon is in the middle - just liked it a bit more.

If you decide to go for a dragon hunt - please don’t handle them, don’t push them up out of the grass or anything like that. Their numbers are rapidly declining, and I think we all would like that our kids and grandkids can enjoy these magical animals like we did.
Chandy de Wit (Australia)

Title: Summer Snow

Critters name: Coral Polyps (Carijoa sp.)

Location taken: Ammunition Jetty, Western Australia

Personal Website: www.fotomeer.ch

Camera: Canon G12

Housing: Recsea

Strobes: 2 x Sea&Sea YS-01

Dioptre: Nauticam SMC

Camera Setting: F8, 1/250sec, ISO 80

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

For me it is all about Exposure, Timing & Patience.

Working with the surge in this case to get the top polyp as sharp and even pane as possible was my challenge.

This was taken on a night dive though that is fairly irrelevant to the outcome in this case or to most macro shots for that matter.

The best tip ever is probably to review your image before you move to a new subject & adjust it while you still have the chance...
Title:  Kiss me baby

Critters name:  Nudibranch (Hypselodoris purpureomaculosa) and Imperial Shrimp (Periclimenes imperator)

Location taken:  Anilao Philippines

Personal Website:  www.anilaocritter.com

Camera:  Canon G15

Housing:  Meikon

Strobes:  INON S-2000

Dioptre:  NAquako IV

Camera Setting:  F8, 1/320sec, ISO 100

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

Perhaps, just a lucky shot to have gotten this angle. The shot was taken at 22 meters depth at slight drop-off bottom. The nudibranch was continuously moving, I observed first and worked on patiently until I managed to photograph them at this angle.
**Andrew Marriott (China)**

**Title**: Mealtime  
**Critters name**: Ornate Ghost Pipefish 
**Location taken**: Anilao, Philippines 
**Personal Website**: marriottphotoandart.smugmug.com 
**Camera**: Olympus EPL-3  
**Lens**: Olympus M Zuiko 60mm Macro  
**Housing**: Nauticam  
**Strobes**: 2 x Sea&Sea YSD1  
**Camera Setting**: F22, 1/160sec, ISO 200

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

The shot was taken while photographing the pipefish floating, got very lucky to have one strike out and grab the little fish. The picture is full frame, I find focusing on faces makes things much easier and makes the pictures more "human". Lights were positioned pretty much in line with lens and close to port. This can cause backscatter, but in clear water can work very well.
Amy Hung (Taiwan)

Title: Shake Your Body
Critters name: Baby Squid
Location taken: Lembeh Strait, Indonesia
Personal Website: facebook.com/amy.hung.925
Camera: SONY RX100
Housing: NB Housing
Strobes: Sea&Sea YS-D1
Dioptre: Subsee+10
Camera Setting: F11, 1/250sec, ISO 100

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:
Lembeh Strait is one of the best muck diving places in the world. Lots of amazing and incredible critters. When my dive master showed me these eggs and asked me to shoot, I put my camera close to the eggs and I also maintained a low angle shot. Every time after shooting several times, I enlarged the photo and checked I can get a sharp shot or not.
Violet Ting (Taiwan)

Title: Elegant Mama

Critters name: Nudibranch
(Eubranchopsis virginalis)

Location taken: Anilao, Philippines

Personal Website: facebook.com/violettingpei

Camera: Canon G12

Housing: Canon

Strobes: Sea&Sea YS-D1

Dioptre: Subsee +10 and +5

Camera Setting: F4.5, 1/400sec, ISO 100

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

Since last June, I began my new hobby, underwater photography. As a beginner, some seniors taught me to use F8 to shoot, as it is more easy to focus, but in this my fifth macro diving trip in Anilao, I wanted to try something new, so I used F4 or F4.5 to shoot. This is the first time I met this nudibranch, I saw a few shots of this nudibranch before, mostly they shot it from above and I feel it is too hard to show its beauty because it has got a long and skinny body, so I decided to shoot it in front, and surprisingly it looks beautiful.
Yansu Junk (Indonesia)

Title: Rhinopias
Critters name: Rhinopias (Rhinopias frondosa)
Location taken: Tulamben, Bali, Indonesia
Personal Website: facebook.com/yansu.diver
Camera: Canon G16
Housing: Canon
Strobes: Ikelite AF35
Camera Setting: F8, 1/400sec, ISO 80

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:
Perhaps I was very lucky at the time. I was ready with my camera settings then tried to approach and take the time to wait until the fish is going to open his mouth and this also only in fairly shallow depths. This is my first fortune that I never saw it before or lifetime I take a photo, just take the time to wait until every other minute and just Patience.
Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

In Lurefjord, on the Norwegian west coast you can experience the Periphylla periphylla or the Crown jellyfish, which is a bioluminescent, deep water living creature. During the winter months scuba divers can encounter these creatures closer to the surface. They feed and breed in shallower water at night, but need to go back to the deep the same night as sunlight will kill them. They have no natural enemies in the fjord and they are actually able to attack prey, unlike other types of Jellyfish. They can also live to be 30 years!

There's one buoy free floating at the surface, a rope attached to it with weights at the end to keep it vertical. Strobes are also attached to it at the surface, at 15 meters and at 30 meters. This is our reference point during the dive. We drift away in the slow current, looking out in the dark water. We are lucky. Several of these creatures emerge one by one from the deep, just to disappear in the next second back to the dark. They are quite good swimmers, and you have to concentrate more and often on buddy, depth, camera, light and certainly your reference line. Needless to say, you need good buoyancy skills!
Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

This bright snapping shrimp lives inside a large Didemnum molle tunicate. I did a night dive, and many of the Didemnum molle tunicates contained critters living inside of them. I waited to get this picture took over half an hour.

_Lynn Wu (Taiwan)_

**Title:** Snapping Shrimp

**Critters name:** Bright Snapping Shrimp

**Location taken:** Anilao, Philippines

**Personal Website:** www.jimandlynn.net

**Camera:** Olympus E-PL5

**Lens:** Olympus 60mm Macro

**Housing:** Olympus

**Strobes:** 2 x INON Z240

**Dioptre:** SubSee +10

**Camera Setting:** F16, 1/250sec, ISO 200
Ben Sarinda (*Indonesia*)

Title: The Eye

Critters name: Baby ghost Goby

Location taken: Lembeh Strait, Indonesia

Camera: Olympus EPL-3

Lens: Olympus M Zuiko 14mm-42mm

Housing: Olympus

Strobes: Sea&Sea YS-D1

Dioptre: Subsee+10 plus Goso +20

Camera Setting: F22, 1/160sec, ISO 200

Additional information or tips about how to get this photo:

So many different kinds of goby I have found before but this kind of goby is just amazing, super tiny and transparent. I found this goby on the blue sea star, the body is transparent (king of camouflage) I only can see the eye. It's also very difficult to focus with the compact camera.

Sometimes the goby will swim away from the sea star so I have to wait for it to come back to the sea star. I took a couple of shots from the front but can not get a good result, and then a couple of shots from the top angle but still can't get it. So I decided to shoot from the side angle so I can get the blue background, the result came out nicely and more drama.
2014 November Theme “Couple” Winners

1 Christian Gloor

2 Matteo Visconti

3 Raoul Caprez

3 Ulisses Josei Turati
2014 November Theme “Couple” Positions 4-12

6 points
Position 4
(tie score)

4 Dennis Corpuz
4 Taiwan Stone

4 Yatwai So

7 Bo Mancao
7 Marco Maccarelli
7 Giancarlo Zambelli

4 points
Position 7
(tie score)

8 Marco Maccarelli
8 Yury Ivanov
8 Randi Ang

2 points
Position 10-12

10 Taner Atilgan
11 Yury Ivanov
12 Randi Ang
2014 December Theme “Christmas Card Photo” Winners

1 Ulisses Josei Turati

2 Leo Virgo Cabrera

3 Yury Ivanov
2014 December Theme “Christmas Card Photo” Positions 4-12

6 points
Position 4 & 6

4 Walter Bassi

4 Chandy de Wit

6 Tommi Kokkola

7 Taiwan Stone
7 Suhodo Kartarahardja

7 Matteo Visconti

4 points
Position 7

2 points
Position 10 & 12

10 Raoul Caprez
10 Fabio Freitas
12 Marli Wakeling

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2015 February Theme “Anemone Fish or Clown Fish” Winners

1 Jonathan Sala

2 Sofi Aida Sugiharto

3 YamMo Tanakit
2015 February Theme “Anemone Fish or Clown Fish” Winners

6 points
Position 4 & 6 (tie score)

4 Massimo Max Giorgetta
4 Marjon Phur
6 Gareth Bowen

7 Emmanuelle Camallonga
8 Natalie Bondarenko
9 Yoshikazu Takeuchi

4 points
Position 7-9

2 points
Position 10-11

10 Flavio Vailati
11 Dennis Corpuz
11 Ruggero Pastorino
11 Jim Chen
Spotlight UW Macro Photographer  
2014 November Theme “Couple” Winner

I was born in Lausanne, Switzerland. Definitely not a sea country, but my parents got me acquainted with the aquatic realm very early. I dived for the first time in 1994 and got certified in 1997. I left Switzerland in 2009 to work as a dive instructor in Greece, Thailand and now, Indonesia.

My first experience with underwater photography was in the Philippines in 2001 with a film camera borrowed from a friend. I flooded it on the first dive. Some would learn better, but I’m stubborn and since then, I went through a few digital point and shoot cameras. And no, I never flooded one of mine… yet. Three years ago, I left behind the automatic settings of my camera and my skills really improved. Last year, I invested in a micro 4/3 setup. It works like a charm for the critters I love to shoot. I’ve been a dive resort manager in Lembeh for the last two years. This gives me a great opportunity to keep working on my technique and I still try to find creative ways to light my subjects. I think my next objective is to experiment with a snoot. 

Favourite macro diving trip (Holiday): 
Lembeh Strait, Indonesia

Favourite macro subjects: 
Hairy shrimp

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Equipment for Macro photograph:

- Camera: Olympus OMD E-M5
- Lens: Olympus 60mm Macro
- Housing: Nauticam
- Strobe: Sea&Sea YS-110a and YS-01
- Dioptre: Subsee +10 and INON UCL-165
- Additional equipment add on: i-Torch Pro6

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The Winning photo - Hairy Frogfish
1/80s, F13, ISO 200

Flickr.com/photos/christian_gloor
Christian's Portfolio

Synalpheus neomeri's - ISO200, f/11, 1/250s

Caprellid sp - ISO200, f/13, 1/250s

Tube sponge shrimp - ISO200, f/11, 1/250s

Lizardfish and its prey - ISO200, f/8.0, 1/250s

Synalpheus neomeri's - ISO200, f/11, 1/250s

Phycocaris simulans - ISO200, f/11, 1/250s

Thyca crystallina - ISO200, f/9.0, 1/250s

Cuspivolva formosa - ISO200, f/10, 1/250s

Ascidian - ISO200, f/11, 1/250s

Zebrida adamsii - ISO200, f/13, 1/250s

Lizardfish and its prey - ISO200, f/8.0, 1/250s
I am an orthopaedic surgeon fascinated by scuba diving and photography. I start shooting using a MX-10 in 1995 and switched to a Nikon F90X with Sea&Sea housing the following year. Interested in developing my photo’s quality took part in photography and underwater photography courses and also read lots of books and specialised magazines. As a participant of the Brazilian Underwater Photography Championship (Community of photographers that seems more like a family) since 2009 had much learned with information exchanged. Here in Brazil, Cabo Frio, which is located in Rio de Janeiro state, is the best place for microphotography and I invite all UWMP members to make this worthwhile trip.

My wife is also my scuba partner and always demonstrates incredible patience to withstand a macro photographer who stays long minutes in the same place trying to get the perfect picture. It is very rewarding to reveal almost invisible animals and small details to the most of others divers.

- Equipment for Macro photograph :-

Camera : Nikon D800 and Nikon D300
Lens : Nikkor 60mm Micro
Housing : Nauticam and Sea&Sea
Strobe : 2 x INON Z240 and 2 x Sea&Sea YS-120
Dioptre: Subsee +10 and INON UCL-165
Additional equipment add on: 2 x i-torch video pro 3 and Archon W40VR

The Winning photo - Multiple corals and Ascidians
F20, 1/125s, ISO 200

Favourite macro diving trip
(Holiday):
Lembeh Strait, Indonesia

Favourite macro subjects:
Nudibranch
Filefish eye - F32, 1/125, ISO 200
Crinoid shrimp - F16, 1/100, ISO 200
Pygmy Goby, Bryaninops sp - F9, 1/100, ISO 200

Blenny, Ecsenius namiyei - F16, 1/100, ISO 200
Cerianthus sp - F20, 1/100, ISO 200
Amblycirrhitus pinus - F10, 1/100, ISO 100

Spine-cheek anemonefish - F14, 1/160, ISO 200
Crinoid shrimp - F18, 1/100, ISO 200
Pygmy Goby, Bryaninops sp - F9, 1/100, ISO 200

Flabellina engeli - F18, 1/160, ISO 100
Fiabellina engeli - F18, 1/160, ISO 100
Felimare marci - F20, 1/100, ISO 100
I was born and raised in Switzerland, in the mountains and in the snow. I always loved photography and nature in general, but my passion were sharks. But over time I met the fabulous world of macro, obviously submarine and I'm loving it. I was lucky enough to go diving everywhere, but my favourite place is Malapascua Island in Philippines. My dream is to relocate with my wife to Malapascua Island. I do underwater photography since 2007, every day for me has the objective to improve the technique and to continue to study, to become a true UW Photographer, maybe professional...

Favourite macro diving trip (Holiday):
Malapascua Island, Philippines

Favourite macro subjects:
Harlequin Shrimp

Spotlight UW Macro Photographer
2015 February Theme
“Anemone Fish or Clown Fish” Winner

Equipment for Macro photograph:

- Camera: Nikon D800
- Lens: Nikkor 105 VR and 60 mm Micro
- Housing: Ikelite
- Strobe: 2 x Ikelite DS 161
- Dioptre: Subsee +5 and +10
- Additional equipment add on: 2 x Sola 1200 and Snoot Retra
Jonathan's Portfolio

Mandarin fish - F18, 1/125, ISO 200
Sargassum Frogfish - F10 - 1/250 - ISO 400
Juvenile Boxfish F25, 1/125, ISO 125
Hymenocera Picta - F25, 1/160, ISO 125
Hapalochlaena Lunulata - F32, 1/125, ISO 125
Hypselodoris Bullocki - F25, 1/12 - , ISO 160
Dasycaris Zanzibarica - F25, 1/200, ISO 100
Pericoimenes Emperor on Nembota Milleri - F25, 1/125, ISO 100
Platydoris Cruebta - F36, 1/125, ISO 125
I started out taking underwater photos on a compact camera in 2003, getting more serious by 2006, when I upgraded to DSLR. After working as a dive instructor in Thailand and then spending a season on a live-aboard in Borneo, I worked as the Photo Pro at Atlantis Dive Resorts in the Philippines, spending nearly 4 years diving and shooting at the macro hot-spots of Puerto Galera and Dauin.

I supply images and write articles for various dive publications, including shooting techniques for the Photo Pro section in UK DIVE Magazine, EZ Dive from China, Dykking in Norway & Scuba Diver TTL, as well as popular websites DivePhotoGuide. I am now based in Thailand, operating a dedicated underwater photography training facility, Dive4Photos, providing tuition at all levels, as well as running Photo Workshops and Tours throughout Asia.
He began diving in 2008 and at the same time he was amazed with the beauty of seascapes and underwater inhabitants. Short time after that he bought his first compact camera and UW photography became his passion. In a little while he switched to D-SLR cameras.

Several times a year he travels to different interesting dive destinations to take underwater pictures. The waters, where he dives, are at the different sides of our world (the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Jordan, Egypt, Djibouti, Ukraine etc.), but as he is based in Emirates - almost every week he dives and takes UW pictures in Indian Ocean, UAE coast.

He likes every kind of underwater photography, but especially he is carried away by the macro and super macro photography. He likes to capture small subjects in details to show their hidden beauty and singularity. His favourite subject is Blenny and his collection of Blennies’ portraits is quite big and impressive.
Born and raised in Korea, Jerome Kim has been based in the Philippines for the last 13 years. One of the reasons he moved here was for diving. He considers Anilao as his favorite dive spot in the whole Coral Triangle because of the great macro opportunities. Coincidentally it was also on Anilao where he got his first taste of diving in early 1990’s.

He became a certified open water diver in Boracay, and four years ago became a certified SSI Instructor in Anilao. Currently he has logged over 1,500 dives and hits the water at least twice a month. He got into underwater photography around the same time he moved to the Philippines. By then he needed a new challenge when diving so he started off with film cameras. In 2006 he made the jump to go digital.

He likes Macro photography and taking photos of small critters. He has won a bunch of awards from several UW photo competitions in Korea and abroad. His photos and columns were published in several dive magazines.

Jerome Kim
(Korea/Philippines)
www.jeromekim.com

Brooding Black Cardinalfish
1/200 F16 ISO 100

Skeleton Shrimp - 1/200 F22 ISO 100

Bumblebee on Seastar - 1/200 F22 ISO 200

2015 Monthly Theme Competition Judges
Born in the city of fashion, Milan, when I was 12 years old I couldn’t wait until the summer season to go on holiday in south Italy with my parents. Armed with mask and fins I’ve spent hours and hours in the cold Tirrenean sea, water temperature 15°C.

My father decided to tie me a buoy with written “sub” because I always used to swim very far. My first camera has been a disposable film camera until I turned 16. After almost 10 years, lost between disco and parties in the night life, when I turned 25 I heard again the call of the sea and in the red sea in March 2000 I took my OWD. In 2006 I bought my first underwater camera a canon G7 with canon housing. I’ve fallen in love with macro pictures so in 2009 I bought my first reflex a canon 500D with canon lens 100macro in Sea&Sea housing but just in 2010 I learned to shoot in manual. 2 years later (2012) the big step at full frame, canon 5D MK II and until today, with more than 300 dives all around the world, I’m appreciating the quality of the full frame sensor with the quality of canon lens. Dive by dive I’m improving my skills using snoot, playing with the lights and the strobes, changing point of view, subjects and background. I love to take pictures of our beautiful creatures that inhabit our ocean and share it to promote their conservation.

Matteo Visconti
(Italy)
www.matteovisconti.com

2015 Monthly Theme Competition Judges

Spotted Moray Eel
1/125sec, F/32, ISO 500

Tiger Shrimp
1/80sec, F/32, ISO 320

Goby With Eggs
1/80sec, F/13, ISO 100
Fábio Freitas Silva  
(Brazil)  
www.fabiofreitas.zenfolio.com

Fabio lives in Niteroi city, Rio de Janeiro, working as a dentist. Suffered an accident that left him with physical limitation and started scuba diving in 2006 as a means to aid in their recovery. Soon developed a passion for underwater photography.

By showing the interaction of animals and the beauty of the seas through your photos believe that arouses people’s interest in marine life and helps create a mindset of preservation and conservation of the oceans.

In 2009 began to compete in the national championship reaching good results, which led to buying a DSLR in 2010, since then, has traveled the world photographing various places such as Red Sea, Honduras, Bahamas, Indonesia, Cuba, Madeira Island and others.

Scollop - ISO 250, F20, 1/125s  
JellyFish - ISO 200, F11, 1/160s  
Clown Fish - ISO 100, F13, 1/160s
1. Who is Steve Smith?

Originally from England, I have lived in NSW, Australia, since 1979. I am one of those fortunate people who gets paid to do what they love. In my case, as an Associate Professor at Southern Cross University’s National Marine Science Centre, I conduct research to promote conservation of our marine environment and teach about the amazing biodiversity of our oceans. I dive regularly, both for research, and also to take photos to illustrate my lectures and to more publicly showcase marine biodiversity.

2. How did you get interested into the underwater world and scuba diving? Was it linked to your desire to be a marine scientist?

I can’t remember a time when I wasn’t interested in marine life. From a very early age, my family used to spend our summer holidays at the coast, either visiting relatives in South Wales, or on camping trips to the Mediterranean coast of Spain. At the age of 13, I already knew that I was going to be a marine scientist and read anything I could find about the marine world, and even attended a summer course on marine biology at my local university (Sheffield). However, it was undoubtedly the amazing stories and footage in Jaques Cousteau’s Underwater World that cemented my desire to dive to observe the creatures in their natural habit.

3. You are fortunate indeed to dive both for work and pleasure. Where does your work take you underwater? What aspects of the marine environment does your research focus on?

While most of my diving work is in subtropical eastern Australia, I have also conducted research diving in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Heron Island on the Great Barrier Reef. The overall theme of this work is measuring, monitoring and managing marine biodiversity. In many cases, this involves surveys of marine organisms, mainly fish and molluscs which we have found to be excellent indicators of broader diversity. Over the last 5 years, I have also focused on assessing marine debris, a recognised threat to marine life, and working with volunteer divers to clean this up. For example, with the help of over 300 volunteers, we recently assessed marine debris at more than 120 sub tidal sites across the entire coast of NSW. One of my more enjoyable community-based projects is the documentation of biodiversity of key groups of molluscs (e.g. nudibranchs and ovulids/allied cowries) through photographs taken by divers. At Nelson Bay, we now have a Sea Slug Census every season in which divers have 24 hours to photograph as many species of sea slugs as they can. This is not only lots of fun, but also generates valuable scientific data. Only a few weeks ago, we celebrated 1 year of this program with the Nelson Bay Nudibranch Festival, which ran over a full weekend and was a great success.

4. In UWMP eNews Issue 16 you talked about your approach to photography being focused primarily to support your research and facilitate identification. Will you integrate in your work the more aesthetic approach you have been exploring?

Most of my work photography involves getting images which show the main parts of the animal that aid in its identification. These are then used in identification sheets to assist students doing work in coastal environments; some have also been used in identification books. However, mainly because of the amazing examples of “wow factor” shots taken by members of the UWMP group, I now make sure to examine the subject carefully for some more creative angle. So, while I always take those identification shots, I probably take more shots from other aspects to improve the aesthetic appeal. This can generate stunning images that are much more valuable than identification shots for highlighting the amazing diversity in our oceans and the need to protect them.

Magnificent nudibranch (Miamira magnifica)
ISO 100, F18, 1/100
5. After the success of the Nelson Bay Nudi Festival, where will your next diving adventures take you?

I’m hoping for many more underwater adventures in 2015. At this stage, my only firm plans are for a family holiday to BC, Canada, where I hope to get a few dives in to photograph some of those amazing critters I see posted on the UWMP pages. I will also continue my diving and rock-pool work in northern NSW which provides fantastic opportunities to take images of spectacular creatures. On top of that, there are 4 more Sea Slug Censuses and a Nudi Festival to look forward to in Nelson Bay. I’m planning to develop the census program further during the next few years, and who knows, maybe we can roll out simultaneous censuses all around the world through the UWMP network. Now wouldn’t that be something!
Shallow Shots on the Solitary Islands’ Rocky Shores

by Matt Nimbs

The Solitary Islands Marine Park on the mid-north coast of New South Wales, Australia incorporates five rocky islands, subsurface outcrops and reefs, and an array of beaches, rocky shores and estuaries. Its unique location on the Australian east coast means that currents from the warm tropical waters of the Great Barrier Reef in the north and cooler currents from the temperate south result in a unique area where species from tropical, sub-tropical and temperate marine bioregions can co-exist. Such conditions, and the presence of extensive reef habitat due to the seaward extension of rock from the adjacent coastal range, support more than 550 species of fish, and of importance to me, more than 270 species of heterobranch mollusc (including nudibranchs).

How to get there: The main population centre is Coffs Harbour, located at the southern end of the park, which is the 6th largest town in New South Wales, 529 km north of Sydney and 390 km south of Brisbane by road. Multiple daily flights are scheduled from Sydney and daily train and bus services are available from both Brisbane and Sydney.

Diving Details: There are several excellent dive sites at the offshore islands, which are often teeming with fish life. South Solitary Island is deservedly renowned for its Grey-Nurse Shark (Carcharias taurus) population, occasional manta rays, turtles, whales and giant cuttlefish. My favourite dive sites are ‘Cleaner Station’ and ‘Shark Gutters’ where the sea-bed topography provides areas of refuge from prevailing swell and currents and support many of the fragile benthic organisms such as hydroids that host small, cryptic nudibranchs and provide a welcome haven for the macro photographer looking to maintain good buoyancy and a steady hand for camera focus.

Aside from offshore dive sites there are often excellent macro opportunities available in the larger intertidal pools found on rock platforms around several headlands, particularly those in sheltered areas with abundant foliose algae. These areas are, for me, the most rewarding. At one headland in particular, Bare Bluff at the southern end of Sandy Beach, I consistently find at least 15 - 20 heterobranch species. At the northern end of the same beach an area of shallow intertidal lagoon with scattered boulders has yielded Pycnogonids (Sea-spiders) and undescribed species of both Placida and Eubranchus which are new to science. Most importantly these sites allow me tick two boxes in my list of macro photography needs: light and time. On headlands the target animals are often few and far between and the freedom of snorkelling in only two metres of water allows me to search thoroughly through a habitat for 3 to 4 hours at a time. I can also take plenty of time to set myself up for a shot and at low-tide there is frequently no water movement at all. In such shallow water there is also very little light attenuation and the abundant natural light is not only important for finding very small animals but provides the warm light that I want to achieve in my shots.

Macro Marine Life Highlights: Nudibranchs and other sea-slugs

Matt Nimbs, 2015
What you DID LIKE about this trip: As a marine science student, I live and study in Coffs Harbour so I have a strong affinity with the Solitary Islands Marine Park. There is so much to like – particularly the weather which is often superb.

What you DID NOT LIKE about this trip: Occasionally, particularly in winter, the water can be cold and, depending on coastal currents and the passage of storms, visibility can sometimes be poor.

Extra details: Most visitors to the Solitary Islands Marine Park have usually taken quite some time and effort to get there. Such effort needs to be rewarded with a long vacation to explore the area, take plenty of photographs and to fully relax. Public transport is poor so visitors should plan to use a car.
Shallow Shots on the Solitary Islands’ Rocky Shores (cont’d)

Stiliger smaragdinus - 1/80, ISO 100, F6.3
Placida sp. - 1/125, ISO 800, F3.4
Lobiger viridis - 1/400, ISO 100, F3.2
Baeolidia australis - 1/125, ISO 100, F2.3
Hermaea evelinemarcusae - 1/100, ISO 100, F2.3
Phyllodesmium serratum, speed, 1.250, ISO 100, F5.0
Eubranchus sp. - 1/400, ISO 100, F4.9
Stylocheilus striatus - 1/125, ISO 100, F2.3
Phyllodesmium macphersonae - 1/160, ISO 100, F3.2
I am always looking for new macro diving destinations to visit for the first time. I was so excited when I had an email from Jennifer Phaik Hun Tan, the manager of the Aquatica Dive Resort, who invited me to check out their resort and diving in East Timor.

After a couple of emails back and forth, and seeing some photos from Desmond Lee, the owner of the Aquatica Dive Resort, who posted on UWMP, I said yes to them without hesitation. I knew from the emails with Jennifer and photos from Desmond, they would look after me and find some great subjects for me to photograph.

They have also been very kind to sponsor us for the 2nd prize for the overall winner last year, and for the UWMP admin team to join me. So, I invited Chris Spence and his wife and also Pipat Cat for this trip.

We were very happy when we arrived at the airport, Desmond picked us up, took us to the resort and welcomed us with a beautiful ocean view from the very large restaurant. It didn't take long for us to unwind and relax and we felt that we would have a good time with diving and dining here.

The Pier was very nice and an easy dive. I saw a lot of swimming nudibranchs (**Bornella anguilla**), for the first time. I didn't know Nudibranchs can swim fast like that before. For a nudibranch lover it's always exciting to see something like that and there were lots of them at this site.

The night dive is a must, there are good dive sites close to the resort and it took only 20 minutes to get there. There are lots of interesting critters which come out at night which can’t be seen during the day.

Apart from the great dive sites we hardly saw anyone diving in the pristine water. We came back to the resort with great food to re-charge our energy. The food in the restaurant was amazing, not just good quality meat and seafood but so delicious too.

Extra details...

Make sure you bring boots with a strong base, as there were small rocks around which can be slippery.

---

**Diving Details:**

The diving plan each day was pretty relaxed and flexible. Starting with breakfast around 7.00-8.00am then getting ready for 2 dives around 8:30-9:00am, either shore or boat. We had lunch at the dive site and headed back to the resort around 2.00-3.00pm. Then it was flexible for a late afternoon dive or night dive.

The resort has 2 comfortable vans which can accommodate 10-15 divers at a time. Also, 1 boat which is able to take 6-8 divers to dive around the island. But most of the good dive sites are shore dives, it takes around 15 to 45 minutes to the dive sites and also for the boat ride too.

One of my favourite dive sites was called K41. It was a shore dive, sand base to the coral reef wall dive. It is an amazing macro site. We found so many critters with many different species of Nudibranchs, Yellow Ghost Pipefish, Tiger Anemone, Dragon Shrimp and many different fish. I absolutely recommend this dive site.

**How to get there:**

East Timor is 1 hour and 50 minutes only from Bali and has 2 airlines, Garuda Airline and Sriwijaya Air fly there. I went with Sriwijaya Air and it was pleasant, better than the other budget airline from what I had experienced before. Also they only charged US$2.50 per kilo for extra weight.

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**What you liked about this trip...**

Apart from the great dive sites we hardly saw anyone diving in the pristine water. We came back to the resort with great food to re-charge our energy. The food in the restaurant was amazing, not just good quality meat and seafood but so delicious too.

---

**Extra details...**

Make sure you bring boots with a strong base, as there were small rocks around which can be slippery.
Untouched Macro Wonder in East Timor (Continued...)

This page photos by... Desmond Lee
Untouched Macro Wonder in East Timor (Continued...)
Untouched Macro Wonder in East Timor (Continued...)

Resort Rating: 4 (Good)
Dive Operator Rating: 5 (Excellent)
Dive Guide Rating: 5 (Excellent)
Macro Diving Activity Rating: 4 (Good)
Marine Life Rating: 5 (Excellent)
Visibility: 4 (Good)
Overall Rating: 5 (Excellent)

Resort and Dive Operator Name:
Aquatica Dive Resort
www.aquaticadiveresort.com
dive.aquatica@hotmail.com
Ph: +67078038885 or +67077005121
UWMP Survey Results

Top 10 Gifts for Underwater Macro Photographers under $100

We thought we would do something a little different for the January survey. As Christmas had just past we decided to ask our members to vote for Gifts under $100 so we could provide a Top 10 gifts for under $100 list. This will give all our members something to consider as stocking fillers for their dive buddies.

We received some very inventive gift ideas. If you want to see the full list just search for “Survey” on the Group Page and look for the January Survey.

The top gift idea not surprisingly was Critter ID Books with a massive 51% of the vote followed by Memory Cards and Underwater Photography books.

Thank you to all our members who took time to vote. We appreciate your participation to share your knowledge and opinions.
3rd UWMP Group meeting 2015

on 25-30 May 2015 for 6 days 5 nights
at Crystal Blue Resort in Anilao, Philippines

Anilao is one of the favourite Macro Diving Destinations that our UWMP group members voted for the past 2 years. It has so many photo opportunities from rare Nudibranch, Shrimp, Crab and many colourful fish species. Anilao is also known as Underwater Macro Photographers Paradise.

Crystal Blue Resort (www.divecbr.com) is one of the highest rating resorts in Anilao which is dedicated to Underwater Photographers. It has beautiful rooms with ocean views over the bay. It also has one of the best Camera rooms and photography working stations, great dive guides with good knowledge of macro critters and everything we need for diving and Underwater Photography.

Diving package US$799

Included :-
1. 5 nights accommodation based on twin share
2. 12 Dives, can be 12 dives (daytime) or 10 dives (daytime) and 2 night dives
3. Group pick up around 10:30am on 25 May 2015 around Manila Airport areas or Hotel near Airport
4. Group drop off around 11:00am on 30 May 2015 to Manila Airport areas or Hotel near Airport
5. All meals… breakfast, lunch and dinner
6. 4 divers per 1 dive guide per boat
7. Tanks and weights
8. Free Crystal Blue Resort T-Shirt
9. Free UWMP Group T-Shirt and UWMP Baggage Tags and Lens Cleaner and more…

Excluded :-
1. Nitrox at cost US$52 for 12 tanks or US$5 per extra tank
2. Dive gear rentals
3. Arrival and departure at different times will cost US$115 per car (for 2-4 people)
4. Extra dive US$30 per dive

Other Notes :-
1. Collection of marine animals is strictly prohibited.
2. A 30% deposit or US$240 will be required to confirm and secure a place and full payment will be required 60 days before event start.

The group activities will be announced nearer the time. It is going to be good fun and educational, learning from each other’s personal experiences.

If you need more information or want to reserve a place, please contact Ken Thongpila on Facebook or email ken.thongpila@gmail.com
3rd UWMP Group meeting
Anilao Critter Highlight
Photos from our members

Jerome Kim
Skeleton Shrimp
F22, 1/200 sec, ISO 100

Iyad Suleyman
Marble shrimp
F11, 1/60 sec, ISO 100

Mike Bartick
Peacock Mantis Shrimp
F14, 1/100 sec, ISO 250

Enrico Somogyi
Crinoid Shrimp
F20, 1/160 sec, ISO 200

Jerome Kim
Juvenile Hairy frogfish
F22, 1/200 sec, ISO 100

Enrico Somogyi
Crinoid Shrimp
F20, 1/160 sec, ISO 200

Iyad Suleyman
Marble shrimp
F11, 1/60 sec, ISO 100

Mike Bartick
Peacock Mantis Shrimp
F14, 1/100 sec, ISO 250

Enrico Somogyi
Crinoid Shrimp
F20, 1/160 sec, ISO 200

Alexis S. Principe
Nudibranch (Ceratosoma alleni)
F10, 1/250 sec, ISO 100

Qing Lin
Nudibranch
F22, 1/200 sec, ISO 100

Dennis Corpuz
Humpback Soft Coral Shrimp
F7.1, 1/250 sec, ISO 100

Carl-Johan Nilsson
Hairy Goby
F18, 1/320 sec, ISO 100

Matteo Visconti
Ribbon Eel
F32, 1/100 sec, ISO 100

Ah Chee
Nudibranchs (Thecacera sp.)
F22, 1/200 sec, ISO 200

Dennis Corpuz
Humpback Soft Coral Shrimp
F7.1, 1/250 sec, ISO 100

Carl-Johan Nilsson
Hairy Goby
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F22, 1/200 sec, ISO 200
3rd UWMP Meeting in Anilao
on 25-30 May 2015 at Crystal Blue Resort

2015 Goodie Bag (Gift for members to take home)

Dive Philippines Team Shirt

DIVE TEAM

In partnership with:

underwater MACRO photographers
It's more fun in the Philippines
3rd UWMP Meeting in Anilao
on 25-30 May 2015 at Crystal Blue Resort

Gift for members
(Water Bottle)

Prizes for Critter Hunts
(Model of Diving Helmets)

In partnership with:

Diving Resort Travel

EZDIVE
www.ezdivemag.com
3rd UWMP Meeting
In Anilao, Philippines
Sponsored by...

Crystal Blue Resort, Anilao
www.divecbr.com

Giving us
in the Goody Bag....

Resort T-shirt and Anilao Stick
and Award night....

Mask, Gift Certificate / Nitrox Pax
3rd UWMP Meeting
In Anilao, Philippines
Sponsored by... SAGA

Giving us their famous Diopter Lenses....

Saga +5, +10 and +15 including a 67mm adapter ring to stack 2 lenses together to any member who wants to try them at this event

www.sagadive.com

Please visit the website for more... Saga underwater photography accessories and different brands
Asia Pacific UW Photo Challenge (UWPC) aims at finding excellent underwater photographers, and understanding their works thoroughly. We hope to promote the art of underwater photography and scuba diving in the Asia Pacific Region, and to promote the protection of the marine environment and guide a green and healthy lifestyle through the challenge.

Here are the matching categories for our UWMP members to submit:-

- Macro/Close Up
- Digital Manipulation

The deadline is April 3, 2015

Welcome to participate the Asia Pacific UW Photo Challenge!
Upload and submit your photos online at: www.uwphotochallenge.com

Over $US7,000 worth of prizes including Cash

Previous winners from our group members

**The Best Show and Reunion Category - Marco Chang**

Title: 2 Frogfish
This is only the reflection of the frogfish swimming close to the surface
Nikon D600 - 1/250sec, F22, ISO 100
We can’t have fun and exciting prizes without our official Partners and Sponsors

Thank you for supporting UWMP...
8 Days 7 Nights Diving Package

- 7 nights in a single room with ensuite bathroom
- 6 dive days with 2 boat dives per day
- Afternoon shore diving on our house reef
- 3 meals per day (breakfast, lunch & dinner)
- Return Kavieng airport transfer
- Tanks, weights, dive guide & snacks onboard

Website: www.lissenungisland.com
Facebook: facebook.com/Lissenung-Island-Resort
Our official sponsor for 2015 Second Prize

7 Days 6 Nights Diving Package

- 6 nights in private beachfront bungalow
- 15 boat dives
- Tanks, weights, dive guide & snacks onboard
- All Meals
- Transfer from and to Manado airport

Lembeh

Website:  www.froggieslembeh.com
Facebook:  facebook.com/Froggies.Divers
Our official sponsor for 2015 Third Prize

6 Days 5 Nights Diving Package

- 5 nights in Seaview Chalet
- 12 boat dives with unlimited shore dives
- Tanks, weights, dive guide & snacks onboard
- All Meals
- Transfers from and to resort

Pom Pom Island, Semporna, Malaysia

Website: www.celebescuba.com
Facebook: facebook.com/celebescuba
Pom Pom Island, Malaysia
The World's First Bilingual Diving Magazine

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ezdive
Upcoming events...

**Beijing**
China National Convention Centre
17-19 April 2015
“UWMP will be there”
Improve your UW Macro Photography Skill

The Largest Diving and Resort Expo in Asia!
Serving more than
800
Exhibitors in a year

underwater macro photographers

Diving Resort Travel EXPO

DRT SHOW
Hong Kong
Shanghai
Beijing
Okinawa
Philippines

Beijing
17-19 April
2015
Join us for.... Presentation
How you can improve your UW Macro Photography Skill with UWMP
Thank your very much for your kind support for this group and I hope you like this eNews and are enjoying learning with us. For the next few issues we are looking for:

- Macro diving trip article or report
- Tips and Tricks for UW Macro Photography
- Any topic to help our members take better photos
- Any interesting Photo Competitions and Shootouts

If you have any comments or feedback or want to be part of our eNews, please feel free to email me at

ken.thongpila@gmail.com