

- \* Was it the thought of gaining the knowledge of plant recognition?
  - \* Was it the thought of helping the environmentalists in their quest to save the underwater world?
  - \* Was it the thought of putting into practice the theory from Thursdays club meeting?
  - \* Was it the thought of meeting up with your fellow SODS?
- or
- \* Was it the thought of just getting wet on such a nice day?

What ever the reason, I must say, it was great to see the turn out on Sunday the 11th Jan. What with all the other individual divers there, it looked like a divers convention, almost to the point on the jetty, where you had to take a number and get into the ck!

When James Brook from Reef watch arrived, he told us that his assistant couldn't make it, and seeing how many divers there were, he quickly had a pow wow with the SODS tribal elders, and it was decided to take six down to do the quad survey, and the others to do a fish recognition practice.

The lucky six were selected, and huddled in a circle, whilst James conducted a dive/survey brief.

Whilst this was happening the others gathered as many fish charts as they could and split into smaller groups, at this point one particular diver decided not to dive, in her opinion the viz looked \*rap, unfortunately for her it was deceiving, I dived at Victor last week, the air was still and the water was as calm as!, we could see the anchor rope for miles, the viz looked brill, at the bottom the viz was down to one metre, after 25 minutes we called it a day, so don't be fooled.

Anyway back to the reef watch, our plan was to meet at the bottom, we all descended, I counted four plus James, whilst we waited for the other two to arrive, Valerie had decided to wear her mask with the optical lenses in, as she's as blind as a bat without her glasses, unfortunately it kept leaking, she tried clearing them but to no avail [ thoughts of Aldinga dive and quasiermoto were going through my mind, but that's another story] Luckily we always carry a spare mask, to my amazement she calmly took off her mask and slipped on her spare, cleared it a couple of times and gave the OK signal, I don't know who was more impressed with the manoeuvre Me or James, who had just arrived back from resurfacing to find out what had happened to the other two, he signalled to the rest of us to follow him, soon we were dropping our quads and taking notes, we saw a lot of brown weed or was it red? Val said it was green, is she colour blind as well? just as well the teacher was there to keep us right. We all done a couple of surveys each, then the teacher allowed us a bit of play time before the next lesson, which was held in the carpark. James went through our reports and gave us all a gold star.

Mean while the others had started to arrive, buzzing with excitement of now being able to put a name to the black and white roundish fish with the big eyes and fins on its back. A few went back for another dive, others packed up and left for other commitments, and a few stopped back for a snag and a gag.

A great day was had by all, if you weren't there, try and get to the next one. You may just want to try one of those snags that's cooked on such a nice and CLEAN BBQ, isn't that right Hayden?

Le chef