

What's Happening

Free!

Spring 2006 | Volume 10, Issue 1



Tourism Information For North Sulawesi

To our guests,

Welcome to Manado – Land of Smiling People – Bunaken National Park- Lembeh Strait and the Minahasan Highlands- whew and there is more- new restaurants, a bowling alley and new resorts in Lembeh Strait. What else could we want?

As a foreigner that has lived here for almost 10 years, I can speak for at least some of the persons that live here and are involved in tourism- WE WANT SUSTAINABILITY.

What does that mean- it means the ability to keep going without using up the resource that brings you the revenue that supports the community and our livelihoods.

In order to make this happen the resorts, dive operators, government and anyone involved with the hospitality industry needs to be following a tourism master plan.

Recently, I was lucky enough to be invited to a seminar where that topic was being discussed and in fact the outcome of that seminar was that a newly revised "TOURISM MASTER-PLAN" for North Sulawesi would be forth coming.

With North Sulawesi developing at a more rapid pace than other tourism areas of Indonesia, don't be surprised to see increases in rates for resort accommodations & diving rates, this comes as a direct result of fuel costs as well as hopefully trying to overcome the non-sustainable rates that some resorts were offering.

We hope that you understand and will agree that value for money is important but so is our sustainability- so relax, enjoy and have a good time while you are with us- and understand that rate increases are necessary.

Best regards,

Jeremy H. Barnes

Editor: What's Happening

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Lembeh's Leaps & Bounds

Lembeh Strait has by now solidified its position as the "muck capital" of the planet over the past few years. Most traveling divers are well aware of Lembeh's location and its claim to fame. Established as a veritable critter heaven, divers come again and again to find new photo subjects, which is not at all difficult, even for the most jaded of divers. In ten years of diving Lembeh I regularly find species new to me, whether on the productive black sand, verdant coral gardens, bommies, rubble fields or wrecks.

This biodiversity has translated to ever greater demand. The first resort in the area was Kungkungan Bay Resort, enjoying the strait for itself for years. Then a range of options appeared in quick succession: Lembeh Resort for the upmarket crowd, Divers Lodge Lembeh for mid-range divers and Sulawesi Dive Quest for budget travelers.

Along with the resorts there continues to be a steady stream of day diving



Help protect the reefs of Bunaken Marine Park!

Dive with the NSWA

The Eco-worried dive operators of Manado & Bunaken have joined together to make sure that you can come here and dive again, and again, and again

- Imposed a ban on anchoring by all members
- Organised rubbish management projects
- Initiated the entrance fee system to provide conservation funds
- Designed & constructed mooring bouys on some dive sites
- Sponsored a village handcrafts program
- Set up and run a scholarship program for local villagers
- Initiated patrols to stop dynamite fishing
- Produced reef-education booklets for children

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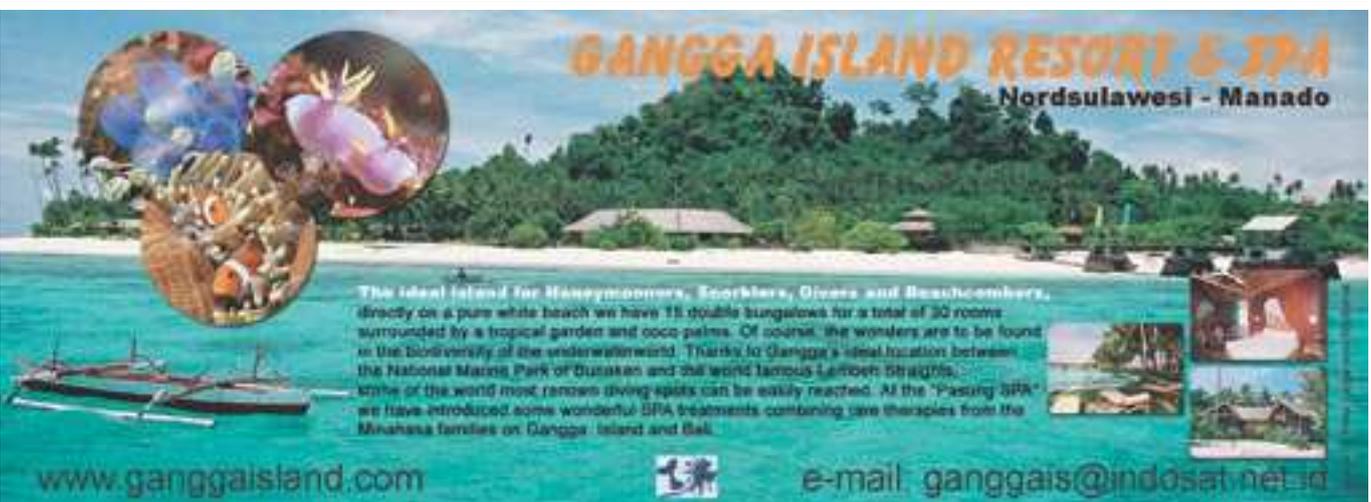
trips from both Manado-based operators and resorts in the Bangka / Gangga Island area along with a number of visiting liveaboards. Now a few years later the Aggressor Liveboard from Chuuk in Micronesia has relocated to North Sulawesi, based out of KBR. Also

there are an additional four operations newly opened or under construction: a branch of Bunaken's Two Fish Divers, a dual purpose dive resort / fiberglass boat-building operation named Bakri Cono, Kasawari Lembeh Resort, which is affiliated with the Thai-based Aqua One

liveaboard and Black Sand Dive Retreat, a long-term dream on Kambahu Bay coming to fruition for this writer.

A mooring system was installed at 30 sites within the strait last year, which will help alleviate anchor damage. This was an important step, especially considering the increase in boat traffic from the dive industry. The largest resorts maintain communication on a daily basis to avoid crowding at the most popular dive sites. Divers are not allowed to wear gloves, guest-to-guide ratios are a maximum of 4-to-1, and dive groups are kept apart. The primary objective of all involved is to protect the environment and its inhabitants by working on improved guide training and heightened environmental awareness.

Lembeh still hosts far fewer diving guests compared to the Bunaken Marine Park. With 40+ sites there is room for growth. But with more divers, many of whom are photographers and most of who do not want to be near other dive groups, guides, if conscientious, are compelled to find new dive sites. There have always



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been divers who enjoy the risks and rewards of survey diving and Lembeh dives in unfamiliar locales tend to favor the brave. In the past two years alone, a number of "hot" new sites have been pioneered, with promising sites being found often. In Lembeh what is crawling with critters one month, can be devoid of inhabitants the next and back to being "hot" shortly thereafter. So it pays to dive around.

Each year is different and every month there are seasonal comings and goings. 2003 was the year of the frogfish. 2004 offered octopus overload. I myself had two dives, in October and November of that year, finding twelve individuals representing five species in a single jump. 2005 did not have any particular critter seen in overwhelming numbers, but there were notable highlights. There were an unprecedented number of blurring octopus sightings in July, sometimes three in a day. There continued to be occasional harlequin shrimp or *Rhinopias* (the Holy Grail for critter hunters) sightings; both of those species, once found, tend to hang around for a few weeks if not harassed. Oddities such as "hairy" octopus and tiger shrimps were seen more often and higher numbers of ambon scorpionfish were encountered than ever before. There was truly something for everyone.

So how are things in 2006? This year promises to be better than ever. With guides gaining experience, their sharp eyes are finding more and more of the strange and beautiful critters that makes the Lembeh experience unique. More *Hippocampus pontohi* (the new pygmy seahorse species), more *Rhinopias* at three different sites, a pair of the very rare hispid frogfish, with many more exciting finds to come.

By: **Bruce Moore**
info@blacksanddive.com

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Endangered coral reef fish released in Bunaken



Feb 2006-- Bunaken, Indonesia – Hundreds of humphead wrasse were released back into the waters of the Bunaken National Marine Park after being confiscated from a fisherman who was intending to illegally sell the internationally-protected fish species abroad.

Humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*) – also known as the Napoleon wrasse – is an endangered species whose trade is regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The species is one of the most valuable fish in the live reef fish trade, and the rarity of this species leads to higher demand and prices (up to US\$130/kg retail).

Suspecting the illegal operation for days, police confiscated over 200 specimens of this large coral reef fish, which were found in a cache kept under a net full of live grouper.

“We are grateful to the law enforcement authorities,” said Luther Papalangi, Head of the Bunaken National Park Authority. “As a result of the action, the park authority will increase patrolling and management of the sustain-

able use of natural resources, to ensure fish stock for future generations.”

Bunaken National Marine Park was formally established in 1991 and is among the first of Indonesia’s growing system of marine parks. The park – covers a total surface area of 89,065 hectares – is an important marine area for spawning humphead wrasse. Bunaken also has one of the highest marine biodiversity ecosystems in the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Eco-region.

“Populations of this fish species are declining in Indonesia due to the increase of unsustainable fishing practices and over fishing in this area,” said Angelique Batuna, WWF-Indonesia’s project leader in Bunaken. “It is important to release these [confiscated] fish back to their habitat so as to maintain the ecosystem.”

** Adult humphead wrasse are identified by thick lips and a prominent hump on their forehead, while juveniles are a light green colour, with two black lines extending from behind the eye. The species changes in body form, colour and sex during its lifetime. Adults are found on the reef during the day. At night they rest in reef caves and under coral ledges. This species reaches a maximum length of more than 2 metres and up to 190kg in weight.

For further information:

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Fresh Water Fun

Wow! What a ride. What an adventure! Those are the first words that come to my mind as I write about our white water rafting trip this past Saturday. My nine year old son Cody and I had the awesome opportunity to try something different, something new for us as a family here in the Manado area. Safari Tours, run by Jeremy and Ninny Barnes set us up with Manado Adventures for what can only be described as a fantastic day trip.

The trip from the center of Manado to our destination was only about one hour. Once out of the city area we enjoyed a nice, relaxing, and leisurely scenic drive through the woods until we reached

Riverside Park just on the other side of the quaint village of Sawangan.

Upon arrival, we could only smile with nervous and apprehensive excitement as the water roared, crashing and splashing

over the rocks below. Our outfitters had arrived in plenty of time ahead of us in order to arrange the various and complete array of equipment such as rafts, paddles, life vests and safety helmets. The first few minutes were taken up with getting to know each other and then listening to safety instructions. Since neither Cody nor I had ever done something like this we were quite glad to get thorough instructions in three areas. First we were given the proper protocol

Continued to page 10



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Competition for Love, Attention



*Within the first five minutes underwater in Gorontalo, we discovered a dark sea fan decorated with four orange pygmy seahorses (*Hippocampus denise*), including a very pregnant one. These tiny gems proved to be a small sample of the marine treasure in store for my wife Takako and I during our three weeks*

there. The Gorontalo Provincial government had invited us to shoot for a book featuring marine life, scheduled to be published next year.

Looking back on our trip, what Gorontalo has in abundance is variety. Deep walls, shallow coral, sponge gardens, pinnacles, wrecks, muck – what choices! The substrate is amazingly complex. The walls

Gorontalo Quick Facts

Population: ± 900,000 (2003)

Size: 12,215,045 km²

Became a province: Feb. 16, 2001

Distance by road: ± 400 km, 9 hours

Distance by air: ± one hours

there are pocked with crevasses, caves, and see-throughs. We never did make it to the tunnel. Pinnacles tower like giants on parade. Because the continental wall comes within a few meters of the beach, surface area for coral is extremely limited. This makes for fierce competition for available space. I even have a shot of coral encrusting a bottle, true to form. Gorontalo has some of the best (if not the BEST) hard coral colonies that Takako and I have encountered in our travels.

But as photographers keen on macro, we kept requesting the muck sites. We found Mimic octopi at three sites, as well as the rare Gurnard Lionfish (*Parapterois heterura*) with the neon blue bands on its wings. I added many shrimp gobies to my collection. I am still longing to see and photograph other fish available in Gorontalo. But with so much begging for attention, we simply ran out of time.

Although we are enamored with the little stuff, Gorontalo has some big boys, too. That's the variety. Two-meter sponges of several species jut from the walls. We saw tuna, Spanish mackerel, marlin, and Napoleon wrasse. I watched in awe a mobula ray slowly winged its way passed us one morning, no doubt checking out the tourists. It came within a couple meters of my dive buddy, but I was farther away, so no photo. Rats! Takako saw a full size White-tip reef shark on a deep ledge while shooting Blue-head tilefish. She also had schooling barracuda one day after her film ran out. One morning we swam with a pod of six juvenile Risso's dolphins.

In all of our countless dives around the world, we saw so much in Gorontalo that we had never seen before. Beauti-

tion, and Space Underwater

fully checked Long-fined dottybacks and maroon-striped Randall's anthias were a first for us but common in Gorontalo. Then there are the endemics, like the Orange-back fairy wrasse, brilliantly colored in orange and purple and blue. And the new species, like the Coleman's coral shrimp (*Vir colemani* 2003) with its purple joints. And the ghostly tangles of meter-plus-long Foxtail colonial tunicates. And the incredibly weird and huge Salvador Dali sponges. But you have to dive in Gorontalo to see these.

I was particularly struck by the appearance of an un-described slingjaw wrasse specie. It has several color phases ranging from shiny white with gray checks and yellow edging to a dark chocolate phase. It has a traffic light yellow dorsal spot that it turns on and off. While following one around the reef one day with my camera, I witnessed the range of its color patterns in about ten minutes. Try to shoot that!

Currently, my most favorite fish worldwide is the Solar fairy wrasse – simply the most beautifully colored critter. Only in Sulawesi's Tomini Bay where we were diving can you find the male consistently in nuptial phase. Since Orange-backs and Solar form mixed schools there, I guess the males have to look their best every day. This was great for me in my many attempts at shooting this fish. Think of a peacock with attention deficit disorder

in constant three-dimensional motion and you can imagine the challenge of photographing the Solar.

Takako immediately fell in love with the Soft Coral Pipefish (*Siokunichthys breviceps*) after seeing two eyes peering up in her viewfinder. She found these cuties at two widely separate dive sites. But worse news for me came after frustrating encounters with the local Flasher wrasse males, which would in no way cooperate with me. One day I came around the side of one of Gorontalo's wrecks and found a male Flasher wrasse brilliantly displaying within centimeters of my wife's lens and Takako happily shooting away. Hey, I'm the husband here! What – do I need a different haircut?!

Seriously though, we had a great time in Gorontalo. Its people are such friendly folks. Waving at divers traveling in the dive boat is standard. In town everybody seemed to be smiling at us. I am sure everyone was thinking about Takako's incredible fortune to have me. But actually, it's the reverse.

PROFILE:

Stephen Wong & Takako Uno are sought-after marine photographers. They met underwater and married in February 2001. Their newest book, *An Ocean Odyssey* (2005), exclusively features blue water photographs.

www.stephenwong.com

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Fresh Water Fun

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for entering the river raft, the second was the procedure while in the river raft such as how to paddle and when not to paddle, when to duck down into the raft, what commands to listen for and obey from our raft captains, and then lastly we were instructed on what to do if we were to fall out of the raft into the rushing rapids.

Once it was assured that we all understood the various and sundry instructions it was time to hit the rapids. Our company consisted of three rafts, each containing two guides and four guests. The first one to off was the rescue boat, just in case anyone from the other two boats fell out. It was good to know that safety was important, not only to us but to our outfitters and guides as well.

Right from the get go our raft went racing over the rapids as the river was roaring over the rocks and splashing fountains of water over us. It was hard to imagine that it could

be given so that you don't get knocked into the water by tree branches, bamboo and such like hanging over the river. More often it was given when we were ready to hit some steep rapids rushing down into deep waters. Several times we heard "Boom boom boom!" and just as we ducked down into the raft and crashed into the steep rapids, water would gush over us like a geyser and all you could hear were the exciting yelps of rafters having an awesome wet and wild time!

Now, just in case you were wondering, there were points in the river that brought us into a slower mellow pace to afford the rafting company a little bit of rest in between the many sets of rapids. This allowed us to enjoy the beautiful pristine scenery along the river bed. From time to time we came upon the friendly locals who lived along the river area, smiling and waving to us as we paddled by. At other times we would just take in the lovely array of forest vegetation and views of local gardens and Mount Kalabat.



Once we came to the end of our white water rafting trip that lasted just over an hour, we enjoyed a short 15-20 minute ride back to our starting point, Riverside Park, where we could change into some dry clothes and get a bite to eat.

get any better than when we first started. As we adventured further down the river our guide was bellowing out commands to "Paddle forward!" on the left side and then "Paddle back!" on the right side in order to keep us aligned with the course of the river and the rapids that quickly approached us.

Several times we would hear the command "Boom boom boom!" which means to quickly duck down into the raft. This command may

Cody and I were quite thankful for our competent, professional guides who helped us enjoy a great father and son day together. If you are looking for a wet and wild hoop hollering adventure that is exciting and thrilling for both the 9 year old and the 43 year old, then you need the adventure of white water rafting in Manado!

By: **Craig M. Cassel**
Expatriate living in Manado

Let's Blow Bubbles...

Today many children are spending most of the time alone in front of computers or with a videogame in hand. They never get to see things outside, or do things with their parents or friends. They grow up fast, and want to do grown-up things. Well here is an opportunity to have them do grown-up things but outside and healthy!! Go diving.



Over the last 5 to 10 years plenty has happened in the diving world. But one noteworthy change is that manufacturers are now making equipment for children not only adults. So why not introduce diving, to your child. At the beginning of February, Nadya came with her family to visit Gangga Island Resort,

for a weekend. Nadya is an 8 year-old girl, who likes the water a lot. She has been snorkeling and swimming for some time and her brother now 11 and a Jr. Open Water Diver wants her to hurry up and catch up to him. You don't have to be a very good swimmer, or know how to snorkel for

that matter, but if you would like to try something new and fun underwater, the instructors on Gangga Island Resort, will show you how. First Nadya's instructor, Henriette, prepared the equipment poolside, and

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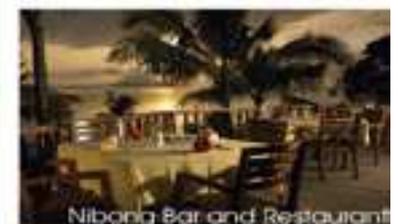

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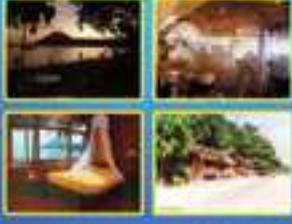
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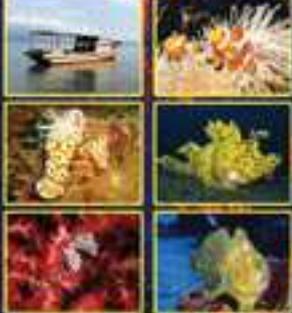
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Working together for the co the North Sulawesi Watersp

One of the success stories of the past few years has been the way the marine tourism community has learned to cooperate in order to uphold high standards of conservation, safety and service in North Sulawesi. This has been achieved through coordination under one banner - that of the "NSWA" (the North Sulawesi Watersports Association).

The NSWA is the official watersports division of the North Sulawesi Chapter of PATA www.north-sulawesi.com (the Pacific Asia Travel Association). Established a few years ago as a means of giving tourism in North Sulawesi one voice, the NSWA has in recent years come to be recognized as an effective organization, which has managed to influence in a positive way the development of the province as an outstanding eco-tourism destination.

The organization's membership is currently made up of 18 resorts and dive centres, all of whom follow the rules of the NSWA's charter in order to provide a consistent standard or service, safety and environmentally-friendly operations. All member-resorts are required to follow certain guidelines and principles, for example:

- No wearing of gloves, touching, harassment or removal of marine fauna
- A maximum guest-to-guide ratio of 6:1 in Bunaken/Bangka, 4:1 in Lembeh
- No more than 3 boats per reef

One of the fundamental pillars of the NSWA's success is that it sees itself as an "inclusive" association, meaning that any new member is welcome, whether Indonesian or foreign – so long as they can prove that they are licensed to operate and that they intend to follow the guidelines of the Association. Also, the NSWA believes in working closely with the local community, as it sees that the tourism sector

and the local community are not as different as some people might believe; both look to the marine environment for their livelihoods, so it is hoped they can cooperate to protect and sustain that environment that brings them both a living. The NSWA has a close understanding with the local community forum, or "Forum Masyarakat".

The NSWA's School Sponsorship Program is each year committed to sponsor up to 150 underprivileged school children from within the Bunaken National Park – that's 5 children from each of the 30 villages.

Very significantly, from 2005 Hyperbaric Health Australia, the management company of the recompression chamber in Manado General Hospital, selected the NSWA to act on its behalf in coordinating treatments for diving accidents. HHA trained a number of NSWA-member-staff in hyperbaric medicine, as well as giving training updates to the hospital's own staff, to ensure the treatments meet current international standards. (The Manado chamber is regularly serviced by the hospital, ensuring it stays in good working order.)

Other worthy projects the NSWA has spearheaded in 2005 include:

- A marketing campaign to attract divers to North Sulawesi
- Beach clean-ups
- Lobbying the local government to improve the solid waste management system
- Training new Park Rangers to dive
- Supporting a new turtle hatching project for Siladen Island
- Installing "Eco Reef" artificial reef systems in 2 places in the Park
- Raising awareness of a potential environmental hazard from a proposed new gold mine
- Regular crown-of-thorns removals
- The production of conservation books for schools
- Supporting the sales of locally-produced

Common good – Sports Association (NSWA)

artifacts and jewelry
Dive with an NSWA Member Resort or Dive Centre and you dive knowing that your safety, comfort and the environment are in the best hands North Sulawesi has to offer! “The dive centres and resorts that make up the membership of the NSWA, although strictly speaking competitors, understand that there are some things which cannot be achieved alone, so often they get together with their neighbors and cooperate in order

to achieve those things – a principle often practiced in any Indonesian village.” For further information about the NSWA and the community projects it is involved in, or for the list of member resorts, please visit www.divenorthsulawesi.com or write to Mr. Josi Dien, NSWA Liaison Officer: liaison@divenorthsulawesi.com.

Jim Yanny
NSWA Promotions Officer



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Handicrafts in North Sulawesi?

Indonesia is known to have many unique and interesting handicrafts, each province boasting those which are specific to their region. Although Bali & Jogjakarta may be better known as producers of handicrafts, North Sulawesi also has many such items, which are a result of traditional creativity and necessity.

Most crafts came from articles which were essential to everyday living such as kitchen utensils (Tomohon), ladies accessories including earrings (Likupang) and the replicas of the traditional Minahasan Houses (Tomohon) and in fact were passed down from generation to generation.

The search begins, but for those who love adventure, hunting for the craftsmen and



buying it from the location where the items are made is another interesting activity, don't look in the normal places as the situation is so different with Bali or Jogjakarta, to find handicrafts, you will still have to hunt.

If sustainable eco-tourism is what you are searching for, some of the crafts especially the ladies accessories are made from discarded fish scales. This kind of a product is certainly sustainable and should be promoted and supported as much as possible. These items are beautiful, unique and can add extra income to the families which live in these rural areas.

Diverse sustainable eco friendly handicrafts are important in supporting tourism growth in North Sulawesi. As international and domestic tourism arrivals increase, so will the quality

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Gangga Island Turtle Program

Sea turtles are large air-breathing reptiles remarkably adapted to life in the sea. They live in all but the coldest of the world's oceans, but nest only on tropical and subtropical beaches where it is warm enough to incubate their eggs. Although sea turtles are protected by Indonesian laws and by international laws, Indonesians by tradition and culture have considered

turtles as part of their food chain, with the result that these beautiful and peaceful animals are on the way to extinction.

Sea turtles once roamed the oceans by the millions, but over the past few centuries the demand for sea turtle meat, eggs, shell, leather and oil has greatly reduced their numbers. Populations continue to decline as habitat is lost and the trade in sea turtle products continues. Every year, thousands of sea turtles drown in shrimp trawls and other fishing gear and others die from pol-

lutants or from swallowing trash mistaken for food. In Gangga and surrounding islands very few turtles are to be seen by the many enthusiastic divers visiting these magnificent waters every year.

The Management and Staff of Gangga Island Resort, amongst other projects for the protection of the sea, have taken upon themselves the responsibility to rebuild in time the turtle's colonies in these waters.

A series of educational projects are targeted to the children of all schools on Gangga Island. Children are received weekly at the resort by Gaspare and Hanne and together with Dive Masters, Dive Instruc-

tors and Guides are given lectures about environmental protection at sea and on land and the importance of protecting the turtle from the abuse of all local fishermen.

They have formulated a Mission Statement that clearly defines the responsibility of Gangga Management, Staff and the communities of the islands. Turtles being kept in captivity while waiting the special occasion to be served as delicacy are bought and regularly liberated to their natural environment by the children. The local fishermen eat turtle eggs as they believe that they improve their potency; hence we now buy the eggs from market and place them back into proper hatching ground for the re-



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mainder of the incubation period. After incubating for about two months, the two-inch long turtles hatch and collectively escape in the cool of the night, scurrying down the beach to the open sea. Many hatchlings swim offshore to live for several years in floating seaweed drifting along the edges of ocean currents. Eventually the young turtles take up residence in coastal waters. Many years pass before the few hatchlings that survive reach maturity. A sea turtle may live for 40 to 60 years or more but at an age of approximately 25 years the adult turtle returns to the place of birth for the nesting... conclusion : 25 years from now Hanne and Gaspare may not be in Gangga, but the future inhabitants and the tourists may again enjoy diving and swimming in the company of this beautiful animal.

Since the beginning of the project in June 2005, 75 adult turtles have been sent back to the sea, and more than 600 new born hatchlings have found their way to the oceans.

MISSION STATEMENT

Turtle Unlimited consists of group of nature lovers with the main aim to re-populate Bali's coastline with endangered marine turtle. The management and Staff of Gangga Island Resort & SPA aware that the same problem is being faced in North Sulawesi and the archipelago of Gangga/Bangka, has enthusiastically joined Turtle Unlimited and has adopted the same MISSION and OBJECTIVES.

Our conservation activities will positively contribute to the image that North Sulawesi has around the globe. In no way we will ever interfere into the traditions, the culture or religion of the local people. We foster good relationships with The

Government, local authorities, and the community.

Our Conservation activities include:

BREEDING

We will collect eggs from the markets, place them back into proper hatching grounds and hatch them under ideal conditions.

RELEASING

We will keep the new hatchlings for a few weeks in captivity before releasing them to their natural element.

NURTURING

We will give misplaced and sick turtles in our ponds a new home, feed them well and give them the strength they require in the wild.

EDUCATION

Develop with local and international bodies educational programs for the children of our villages, which will reduce the trade of artifacts, produced from endangered marine animals.

TOURIST ATTRACTION

It is the dream of Turtle Unlimited to develop a marine park in the Gangga and Bangka archipelago which is 50% devoted to Marine Turtles, and 50% to the marine life in the waters around Gangga. This will create work for the community.

TURTLE UNLIMITED

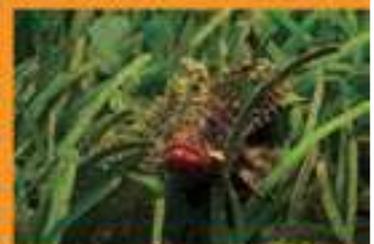
IT IS A NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION. All funds raised will automatically be reinvested in to protection and educational efforts. It is our wish to give our grandchildren the chance to see these lonely wanderers of the oceans in nature and not in wild animal books.

By : **Gaspare Davi**, General Manager
Gangga Island Resot

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Let's Blow Bubbles...

continued from page 11

after a short briefing to Nadya on how the equipment worked and what to do underwater, they slowly walked into the pool, put the equipment on, and before going underwater reviewed hand signals, so they could "talk" underwater. Before going under, Nadya tried breathing through the regulator above water, and Nadya gave Henriette an ok signal, and under they went.

After swimming around in the shallow end of the pool, for a few minutes Nadya was ready to swim to the deeper end, which is 2 meters deep, the maximum depth for a 8-9 year old child. Soon, Henriette could see that Nadya was ready to have fun with the toys Gangga uses when the children are comfortable during discover scuba diving in the pool. As there are no fish to look at it doesn't have to be boring, diving in a pool, there are lots of games you can play.

Finally, after swimming around for 30 minutes the session was over, and Nadya was now a Bubblemaker, (PADI designa-



tion for children between the ages of 8 and 10 years old who complete a discover scuba diving session) deserving the diploma from PADI, proclaiming that she was now a diver.

Nadya is not yet old enough to start diving with her mom, dad and brother in open water, she will need to wait until she is 10 years old, then she can do a PADI Junior Open Water Diver course. However, it

is possible for her to continue her diving on PADI's seal team, by participating in 5 aquamissions where she will acquire additional knowledge about diving thereby receiving the rating of a Master Seal Team Diver.

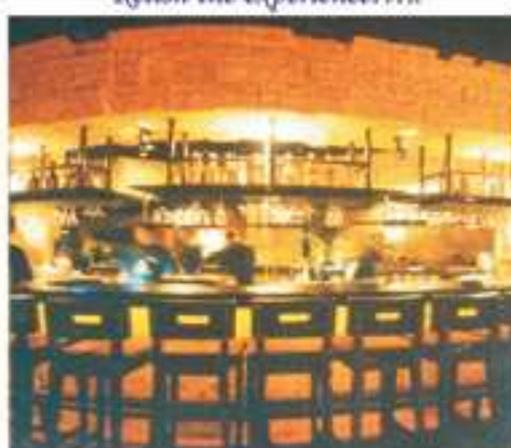
If I am not mistaken it's not the last time Nadya will blow bubbles underwater, she found, like most people do when they first try scuba diving, a whole new world, with lots of fun, things to see and do with friends or family.



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Trumpets, Flowers & Fireworks



New Years Eve is a long awaited break from the humdrum day to day life on our island! In order to celebrate with gusto, locals do their best to use their creativity - trumpets of all sizes, shapes and colors, line selected streets of Manado city, creativity is an understatement. From my perspective as a westerner I could not begin to compile the list of needed plastic throwaways, aqua bottle, sambal bottle neck, colored foil paper, plastic film canister, a bit of balloon and a bit of tube for the mouthpiece, done.



Next stop, the fireworks store, only kidding no store but lots of temporary booths set up- and I have to say that every year I buy a few more varieties as the choice keeps getting better and better- more bang for the buck!!



Lastly, what event would be complete without flowers??

So there you have it TFF, come and see us this year and experience the Trumpets, Flowers & Fireworks of North Sulawesi.

By: **Jeremy**

EATERIES OF THE MONTH

Manado can be an excellent place to sample the savory flavors of Asia. If you have the time, try the following for an inexpensive sampling of truly Manadonese cooking.

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Jl. Sam Ratulangi – Chinese, Indonesian *Babi Bakar.

Pizza Hut- Mega Mall

Great pizza, delivery phone

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Jl Achmad Yani Sario – AC, good frothy yogurt drinks with nice atmosphere

Save The City

Kompleks Mega Mas – try the mie seafood and pastry

New Kartini

Jl Sudirman 31 – Pastries, Fresh Bread & Indonesian Food

Oh La La Café

Mega Mall ground floor – croquette madame, soups and cold beer- inside or outside

Excelso Café

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Manado City Map



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LEGEND

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| ② Logam Jaya Gift Shop | ⑨ Money Changer | ⑭ To Gardenia Highland Resort
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To Airport Sam Ratulangi
To Lembeh Resort |
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Oh La La Cafe, Pizza Hut | ⑪ Star Express Tour & Travel | ⑯ Museum |
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