



SEARCH NEWS

SEARCH



## NEWS

- Top Headlines
- Oman
- Soccer World Cup
- Other Top Stories
- Middle East
- Business
- Sports

## WORLD

- India
- Pakistan
- Asia
- Europe
- Americas

## COMMENT

- Columnists
- Editorial

## LEISURE

- Oman Mirror
- Special Features
- Cinema

## USEFUL INFO

- Weather
- Travel
- Currency Rate
- Hospitals
- Pharmacies
- Services
- Flight Timings
- Museum Timings

# OMAN TRIBUNE

The Edge of Knowledge



Home

About Us

Advertising Information

Archives

Subscribe

Jobs

Oman Mirror

Wednesday

Leisure &gt;&gt;



## Guardian Angels

Hyperbaric Medicine doctors Roswitha Prohaska and Wilhelm Welslau ensure that divers get expert attention when required, David Solomon writes

ROSWITHA Prohaska from Austria likes nothing better than doing what she is best at and that is administering her gentle care to divers who are afflicted with ailments and physical conditions that usually arise from diving underwater. The lady with her mop of golden curls and a beautiful smile tells you that "those people who dive on a regular basis, whether in a pool or at sea are prone to develop problems with their lungs, their sinuses, and inside their middle ear and need a specialised treatment inside a recompression chamber and as a sub-category this branch of medicine is referred to as Hyperbaric Medicine". Dr Roswitha, president of the Austrian Society for Diving and Hyperbaric medicine) was recently here in Muscat at the invitation of the Oman Disabled Divers' Association (ODDA) for the Fifth Dive Challenge meet for handicapped divers in Muscat (October 14,15 and 16) and Sohar (October 17 and 18), lending support to the event with her expertise in hyperbaric medicine and her experience as a diver and diving instructor as well. Another expert who was here for the event was Dr Wilhelm Welslau (president of the German Society for Hyperbaric Medicine). Both these doctors share their thoughts with the Mirror about their passion for diving, their commitment to their job as specialist doctors and what makes them keep coming back to Oman year after year.

Alongside her passion for diving and her work as a specialist doctor, Roswitha has this insatiable love for Oman and its warm, gentle and large-hearted people. "I never miss the opportunity to come to Oman and that is the most important reason why I've been coming to Oman since 2010 and between now and then I've made three trips to this wonderful country in my capacity as a doctor of hyperbaric medicine. I first came here in December 2010 to attend the disabled divers event at Salalah. I was here again in March this year for a sports festival held in Nizwa and now I'm here again for the Fifth Dive Challenge that is being held in Muscat and Sohar". Roswitha is ecstatic as she talks about Oman. "This country is so amazing. The natural landscape is just beautiful and it is wonderful the way in which government lays so much stress and preserving the environment. One particular area where you can see how serious the government is about the environment is the way in which the skyline is not obscured and cluttered with high-rise buildings".

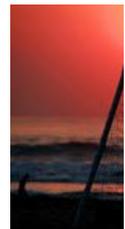
She has been attending similar diving events for handicapped and non-handicapped divers, in most of the European countries, Poland, Italy, Istanbul, Egypt, Yemen, Djibouti, Morocco, Tunisia, China and Sri Lanka. "But in spite of visiting so many different places, the excitement, thrill and happiness I experience when I come to Oman is incomparable".

## NEWS

Oman

- 26 agree 1.5m rials manpowe
- PACP o Khasab
- Divers b season w
- Salalah holds mee
- Nabhan Centcom
- NRAA c leave for :
- Diwali b sales

## PHOTO GA



Int

Roswitha says the scale and magnitude of the events that are held here in Oman are not to be seen anywhere else. "For all this the organisers at the local level, besides the selfless dedication and hard work put in by Tarek Al Khabori and Stefani Trier, founding pillars of the Oman Disabled Divers' Association (ODDA), and the remarkable zeal and enthusiasm of disabled who want to prove themselves, is fantastic".

While Roswitha has almost 22 years of experience as a hyperbaric medicine doctor, she also has 25 years of experience as a diver and sailor. "In Germany and Austria doctors of hyperbaric medicine need to be certified divers with a fair amount of experience.

Besides being an expert diver, she is also a keen sailor. "I was one of a crew of 5 persons that successfully completed a four-week trip from Yemen to Sri Lanka; all we saw during that trip was the moon, the stars, the sun and dolphins".

Roswitha says that when she retires she'd like to take up the study of art history and architecture. "That is one reason why I love Oman so much because this country has preserved its heritage. The things the doctor like to do to unwind and relax is to sit in my garden and read books and try my hand at cooking, especially some of the exotic Arabic recipes. I'm particularly fond of Tahina salad.

Wilhelm Welslau, (president of the German Society for Hyperbaric Medicine) was visiting Oman for the first time for this year's dive challenge, also as a doctor of hyperbaric medicine which he has been practicing since 1987. "Now that I've seen Oman, I would unreservedly state the fact that I would love to come here as many times as the opportunity arises". Wilhelm categorically asserts that "you need to be a diver before you become a doctor of hyperbaric medicine simply because it place you in this irrefutable position where you can better understand the stress and strain that divers experience underwater and the medical problems they encounter as a result of it".

The soft-spoken doctor says that he has been diving since 1977 as a teenager and gained further experience as a rescue diver back home in Germany. He is also a diving instructor licence-holder.

According to Wilhelm, the level of progress and development that has been made in this country with regard to disabled divers is phenomenal. "I have not seen this kind of thing anywhere else in the world". He is all praise for the generous support that has all along been given by corporate sponsor. "This is indeed a very positive aspect and augurs well for the future of diving as a sport in this country".

david.lucknow@gmail.com

Oman Mirror

© 2010 Oman Tribune. All rights reserved. Best viewed in 800 X 600 resolution