

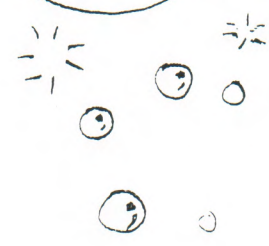
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"EXCALIBUR?"



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WETRAG



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HASS 86"

MINUTES OF MEETING OF SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB
Held on 20.10.86 at Bankstown Sports Club

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Meeting was opened at 8.15 p.m. by the President, John Blaszczak.

Visitors: D. Boyle, G. Brown, Tim Bennett.

Apologies: Steve Nadin, Kathy McDermott, Fab Fabreschi, Stretch.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read. No business arising from the minutes. Accepted by Kelly Smith, seconded by Brenda Park.

Correspondence: Incoming - Boomerang Cruises Pty. Ltd., State Library of N.S.W., Scuba Divers Association of N.S.W. (Bateau Bay), Capricornia Barrier Reef Island Cruises, Rockhampton Dive Club, Skipper of "Pentana", Taronga Zoo, Reliance Marine Charter, Aqua Photo, Ryde Underwater Club. Outgoing - State Film Library.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance b/fwd in Cheque Account	\$1115.84
Income	246.75
	\$1362.59
Expenditure	376.13
Balance in Cheque Account	\$ 986.46
	=====
Balance in Savings Account	\$3000.00

Accepted by Peter Flockhart, seconded by Peter Stratford.

Dive Reports: Cindy Belveal has been doing a scuba course and dived Bass and Flinders. Kelly Smith tells us that they all had a wonderful time in New Guinea with some spectacular diving. Tony Martin went diving at Bellambi - looking for an outboard motor which they never recovered. Gary Roberts has bought himself a new flash which he tells us is guaranteed to hold water.

Dive Organiser's Report: Bristol Point, 15 - 16 November. Camping style. Gary needs names and numbers.

Ulladulla 29 - 30 November. Only 34 vacancies, \$15 per night which includes breakfast.1

Social Secretary's Report: Tickets for Xmas Party are printed. Date of venue is Friday 5th December. Tickets are \$15 per head.

Publicity Officer's Report: Cindy needs a few articles please.

Photographic Officer's Report: Terry tells us that he received a letter from Mark Spencer to congratulate us on the A.V. and to thank us for showing his slide show.

General Business: Kelly Smith is standing down as our social secretary.

Nominations: Lea Hackett - declined

Ralph has a friend selling scuba equipment. Ring Lyn King 644-3172 after 5 p.m.

1 Seated Manta Vest)	
1 Manta Regulator and Combo gauge)	\$750 the lot
1 72 steel tank)	

Also has mask for sale and ladies size 14 wetsuit for sale. Price is negotiable.

Meeting closed at 8.32 p.m. and slides were shown by Terry Mansfield, Peter Stratford and Peter Flockhart.

GENERAL INTEREST

As the position of Social Organiser is vacant we will be holding nominations and election for this position at the November club meeting (17th November).

Terrigal Underwater Group are holding their 12th Annual Treasure Hunt on 28, 29 and 30 November. Anyone wishing to attend or for more information please phone (043) 84-1219 or (043) 42-1698 (ah)

*S.P.D.'s Christmas Party tickets will be available for purchase at the November Club meeting - \$15 each - this includes Smorgasbord (similar to the 25th Anniversary night), disco and door prize. Drinks can be purchased at bar prices; dress to be along the lines of the Bankstown Sports Club Code. Tickets can also be purchased from any of the Committee members so please see/phone them to book yours. (Phone numbers on Page 8)

BOAT DIVES: Available at reasonable prices from AQUA SPORTS, 430 Hume Hwy., YAGOONA. Talk to GLEN PERCY.

FOR SALE: VIVITAR 55mm MACRO. Would suit a NIKON mount, \$250. Phone Peter Nicholas 709-2631!

DIVING CALENDER:

November 14 - 16: Bristol Point. This is a diving/camping weekend (with amenities), dives will be arranged at the time depending on weather conditions. A relaxing social weekend that everyone will enjoy. Please let Gary Roberts know at the November club meeting if you want to go. Cost is \$3 per person for the entire weekend for people over 5 years of age (chronologically). Saturday night BBQ \$5 adult/\$3 child.

November 28 - 30: Ulladulla. Motel accommodation at Snuggle Inn. Cost \$30 per person for 2 nights this includes hot breakfasts. Saturday night Lamb on a Spit Cost \$5 per person. All money to be paid by November club meeting.

December 26 - 28: North West Arm (National Park). For anyone wishing to escape and recover Christmas overindulgence, a group of us will be going bush at this time. Anyone is welcome and with a few boats along, dives can be organised from this point. No cost and no amenities, small charge for boat dives to cover running costs. Bring your own food and survival kits.

Future Dive Plans.

February 1st: Picnic Day and Boat dives at Shellharbour. Meet at the carpark across the road from the Pub at 9.30 a.m. Bring your own picnic lunch and the family.

February 20 - 22: Bristol Point. Diving and camping weekend. Cost \$3 per person over 5 years. BBQ Saturday night \$5 adult/\$3 child. All bookings and money close at January meeting (Monday 19th).

March 6 - 8: Seal Rocks. Self-contained units, bring your linen, four people per unit. Cost \$16.50 per person. BBQ Saturday night \$5 adult, \$3 child. All bookings and money close at February meeting (Monday 16th) but get in early because this weekend books out fast.

Anyone wishing to do extra dives at any time please phone Gary Roberts on 771-3459 and something can be arranged to suit you.

TAKAROA ADVENTURE

OCTOBER 4 1986

The party of 9 met at the airport at 3 p.m. for our trip to Townsville. The party consisted of Lyn Moes, Miriam and Gary Roberts, Fab, Stretch, Peter Flockhart, Adam Hartok, Rick James and myself.

Diving gear was checked in at the counter and we headed for the nearest bar. The plane took off on schedule and landed in Townsville at 7.30 p.m.

At the airport we were met by Shane, Robyn's son who would be our deckhand for the trip. The diving gear was piled into a mini bus which took up most of the room and then the rest of us squashed in. Stretch didn't seem to mind sitting on Gary's lap and had a big smile when we got to the boat!

Here we met Alan (Harry) Johnson, Captain and Robyn our cook. After fighting over who slept where for 10 minutes, our gear was stowed away. The mini bus was then borrowed to head for the nearest bottle shop for our First Aid supplies - 30 cartons in all, this didn't include Rick and Peter's bottles of bourbon, Lynn and Miriam's spirits which included wine casks, champagne, alcoholic cider and bottles of wine. All of this was for eight drinkers as Adam did not drink.

We had a few social drinks and played Russian Roulette with beer cans. This is where one can has the living daylights shaken out of it and mixed in with the rest, everyone takes a can and holds it to someone else's head. Stretch lost, having a beer shampoo. After a lot more beer and trivia about old cartoon shows the boat left port around 12.30. We got to bed around 1 a.m. Gary was last because no one was left to drink with.

DAY 1: We arose around 6.10 a.m. and one hour later we arrived over the Yongala, and were met by scores of huge Batfish (turd burglars).

Rick was then volunteered to secure the Takaroa to the Yongala and we eventually took the plunge around 9.15 a.m. The water was warm and vis around 40 ft and the current a bloody ripper, so much so that it was decided to leave the camera behind as it was almost impossible to swim with it. The fish were everywhere, as were the resident sea snakes. After the dive to get to the surface you only had to hang on to the rope and absail to the surface. Gary for some reason couldn't remember the dive and he had also had a spit over the side the night before and was looking awful green.

I must admit Miriam looked a sight with all her new colour co-ordinated gear; Lycra suit, B.C., mask, fins, weight belt even painted fingernails - all in pink!

After lunch we geared up and had a dive around 2 p.m., the current was gone but the water was very milky. This dive was had on the stern where large numbers of bream, two huge turrum, Humphrey the friendly cod and a huge Queensland grouper. Fab went under me as if he had rockets on, camera flashing away and kicking up so much dirt in the water I needed a white stick to find my way out. Lyn had a cosy time playing with a sea snake.

Just before tea Adam, Peter F. and myself geared up for a night dive and when we were in the water, Peter F. made a bee line for the bottom. We all thought he had dropped something. His idea was to follow the rope to the wreck - the only thing he found was Takaroa's anchor chain and had a dive on that! Adam and I penetrated the wreck and found a room lined with heaps of portholes and a few scattered bottles on the floor. The colours on the wreck give it a total change at night. After the dive we had tea, everyone had a good night's sleep; except Miriam who had to put up with Gary and Rick's snoring.

DAY 2: Just before breakfast, Peter F. had a chuck over the side. Our first dive was right after breakfast. The water was clean but the current had returned, it was decided by all to go to the room where we had discovered the portholes the night before. As I couldn't take one (not for lack of trying) I did the next best thing and took a picture. Gary found a lantern and was pretty pissed off at not being able to take it.

After this dive it was decided to leave the Yongala because of the current. We headed for Eagle Reef. On the way we had a dive on reef 18101. The vis was better but not great - around 60 ft. It consisted of one large bommie and one smaller, the latter being the better of the two. After the dive we moved over to Eagle Reef where the M.V. Water Sport was anchored.

They invited us over for a BBQ, so the night dive was abandoned. The Water Sport was carrying 28 divers and they all dived out of the one rubber duck in shifts. After the BBQ Gary decided to play Crocodile Dundee by putting a drink on Stretch's head and kiss him to spill some, but Stretch had him fooled and kissed him back (wretch!!!). Fab then played the sax (Bolero) which was excellent, followed by Adam who played the didgereedoo and then a game of SPOONS was organised. Harry was judge, the Takaroa won hands down due to a fine team effort. We eventually called it a night around 11 p.m.

DAY 3: I awoke to the aroma of used beer, onion and steak from the room next to me, enough to make my eyes water. I wondered how Miriam put up with it!

Everyone had a dive after breakfast, the only thing worth mentioning was that the water was clearing up. After the dive we had go at fishing - caught 2 sharks and 2 fish, the fish I hooked (one through the eye and the other through the lower jaw). One I did catch fair and square through the mouth, got away on the surface!

The second dive of the day took place mostly in a large swim-through about 60 ft to the floor and 35 ft on the roof of the cave. In the cave was a large lionfish and after four of us had got through taking its photo, it was swimming around bouncing off the rocks.

In the afternoon we moved over to 18105 for a night anchorage. Here we had a night dive but there wasn't much around.

DAY 4: We moved to a pair of bommies which was later decided to call kalidoscope bommie because of the diversity of fish life and terrain. On the dive I had trouble equalising my left ear and five minutes after I became dizzy, this lasted for about 10 seconds. I gave the afternoon dive a miss because my ear felt as if someone had jammed an earplug down it. Because of the wind blowing from the south west it was decided not to go to Flinders today but leave tomorrow.

In the afternoon we all had a go on the spinika. Stretch was good doing a somersault off it and Lyn, being the most vocal with her screaming. We got to bed, after some movies, at around 11 p.m.

DAY 5: This morning we moved to Manta Ray Reef. I snorkled with Gary, to check out my ear, while everyone else had a dive. I had no problems down to 33 ft so I went back and put my gear on. An excellent spot to dive, with swim-throughs, large plate corals and clams. Two more dives were had at this location, one a night dive, after which we had a birthday party for Rick with party hats, cake, birthday cards and presents.

DAY 6: A new dive site with lots of gorgonia and plate corals then on to another reef with lots of clown fish and a couple of formations that looked like huge steam puddings turned upside down. On this dive I found some sharks in the process of mating, only to find out later the photos I took didn't come out because I must have bumped the film speed around!

Later on we moved to another reef for a night anchorage, caught some more sharks. Rick had a go and as he brought the shark to the surface I jumped in with Stretch's camera and took some pics. Rick took great pleasure steering the shark as close to me as he could.

Had a night dive at 6 p.m. directly under the boat - it reminded me of Shiprock.

DAY 7: Anzac Reef - blew a lot of film on different types of clown fish. Did not dive in the afternoon as my ear played up again. While the group were in the water a storm warning came over the radio, so as the last diver exited the water we up-anchored and got our arse out of there and headed for Chicken Reef.

Enroute the seas came up and the spray was covering the boat and tossing it from side to side (I think, as I was pretty wet on the inside by now!) On the way Rick and I decided to play cards against Lyn and Keith - easily slaughtering them, losing 7 games to 2. Tea was had around 10 p.m. and passed out in bed around 11 p.m.

DAY 8: Was woken up by Fab and his strobe in my eyes. After breakfast we moved over to Bowl Reef, arrived at 11 a.m. and had first dive around 11.01 a.m. Excellent dive with large gorgonia, swim-throughs and gullies and a diversity of large corals. Had two more dives on this before 5 p.m. Rick and Fab found a white tip sleeping under a ledge. After tea we put our very last carton of Fosters in the fridge.

DAY 9: This morning Gary decided that we should have a family photo taken underwater. The Takaoa moved over to where Water Sports were, unfortunately the water we decided to take the photo in was 110 ft deep! I set the camera up for Shane but because of the crud in the water, kicked up by everyone, they did not come out. When we exited there was a bit of confusion because some of us did not realise how deep we had just been. But everything turned out alright.

Straight after lunch we moved over to Coil Reef; on the way it was decided to hang off the back of the boat. Gary, Keith and Lyn lost their cosies but Rick being the gentleman kept pulling Lyn's up. Unfortunately Peter Flockhart jumped in and tried to hang onto the

rope but kept going - so after 5 minutes a vote was taken (5 to 3) that someone should tell Harry to turn the boat around to pick him up. (There goes my new B.C.)

As we dropped anchor 2 whaler sharks swam around the boat. The vis was excellent, around 120 ft, I tried to hand feed them but the closest they would come was 6 ft. After the dive we motored back to Bowl for a BBQ with Harry's mate aboard, Hero, and a group called Dive Bell. The group consisted of Lisa, Jillian, Col, Peter and Steve Cross, a D.J. from Townsville 4T0. The party got into full swing with Harry playing his harmonica and sing alongs - they returned to their boat around 9 p.m. and I got to bed around 1 a.m. After I went to bed Robyn decided to cut Gary's hair finishing up around 3 a.m.

DAY 10: Robyn was on strike in the morning because of a hangover. We had another dive on Bowl Reef during which I acted as model for Fab. A turtle swam around us, took one look at Fab in his lycra suit and took off.

We then bid farewell to the reef and headed back home, champagne and a lot of lite beer was had as we were out of super. We arrived in Townsville at 5 p.m. and organised accommodation and a hire car for tomorrow night. Tea was booked at Tony's for 7 p.m. where you could eat and drink all you could for \$25. Someone forgot to tell Fab that the lemon in the fingerbowl was for his seafood.

After a reasonably early night the next day was mostly taken up with sight seeing and shopping. That evening everybody split up - Adam went Chinese, Fab, Rick, Peter F. and myself had tea at the Motor Boat Club. Stretch, Lyn, Gary and Miriam went to the Casino for tea but they split up later.

In the morning we were packing up ready to leave and had a bed check only to find Gary and Miriam had not come home. A quick check of the town gutters, bridges and parks was made, only to find they had come back whilst we were out.

We arrived at the airport at 10 for our 11.45 flight only to find it had been delayed nearly an hour. The plane arrived in Sydney at 3.30.

This put an end to a most enjoyable trip with the diving and terrific company.

- Peter Stratford.

*SEA NEW GUINEA has sent us some information on their trips for next year as follows:

Itinerary - 13 nights/14 days (6 nights Rabaul/10 dives; 7 nights Walindi/5 days diving). Depart Sydney on a Wednesday returning on a Tuesday.

10 + 1 FOC Tour Leader: \$2245.00 per paying participant.

15 + 1 FOC Tour Leader: \$2150.00 per paying participant.

During the period 15 September - 15 November a special fare is applicable for stays in New Guinea of 123 nights or longer. Travel can only commence on or after the first date and must be completed by the last date.

The application of this special fare to tour costings would mean that your price for the thirteen night itinerary would reduce to the following:

10 + 1 FOC Tour Leader: \$2125.00 per paying participant.

15 + 1 FOC Tour Leader: \$2045.00 per paying participant.

Again, the accommodation is based on using The New Guinea Club. Upgrading to The Kaivuna Motel would be an additional \$210.00 per participant.

Tour Prices Include:

*At Walindi - Transfers; Share Accommodation; All meals; Use of sporting equipment; Nominated number of days unlimited diving including night dives; Dive Guide; Dive boat where required; Tanks, Backpack, Weights and belt, Airfills; A days diving may be exchanged for a days land touring.

*At Rabaul - Transfers; Share Accommodation; Breakfast at The New Guinea Club only; Nominated number of dives as two dives per day; Dive Guide; Dive boat where required; Tanks, Backpack, Weights and Belts, Airfills.

*General - Return economy class airfares ex Sydney; Processing of visa applications; Trip notes and itinerary.

Tour Prices Do NOT Include:- Australian Departure Tax \$20.00; P.N.G. Departure Tax Kina 10.00; P.N.G. Visa Fee \$7.00 per person; Insurance; Duty free items or items of a personal nature.

NOTE - The New Guinea Club: The quoted tour prices are based on accommodation at The New Guinea Club, this accommodation is basic and in terms of value for money it is excellent as it includes breakfast every day except Sunday. If you or anybody in your group are particular about the standard of accommodation then we must advise you that it is preferable to pay the extra to upgrade to The Kaivuna Motel.

We have included sufficient material to enable you to put together a group of 10 plus one FOC tour leader should you require more material please let us know.

We have also included one set of standard trip notes for you, each participant will receive a set of these on payment of their deposit for the trip. The usual procedure of booking groups is for you to select a date that you wish to travel, we then confirm the flight and accommodation details to you and you sell into this date either on a group or individual basis. There is no financial commitment until 60 days prior to departure at which time full payment becomes due, as a show of good faith we request a \$200.00 per participant deposit within 14 days of being advised of the participants name. The deposit is fully refundable up to 60 days prior to departure, if cancelled inside the 60 day period there will be a 50% cancellation fee i.e. \$100.00. If cancellation takes place inside 30 days prior to departure there will be a \$100.00 cancellation fee levied by us and also any cancellation fees levied by the operator or airlines.

- Owen Conex, SEA NEW GUINEA PTY. LTD.

FOC will not be taken advantage of and therefore taken off the tour price.

If you require any further information contact Gary Roberts.

* * * * *

President:	John Blaszczak Ph: 709-5535	Photographic Officer:	Terry Mansfield Ph: 628-8172
Treasurer:	Ross Hipwell Ph: 773-4406	Social Secretary:	Vacant
Secretary:	Lyn Vincent Ph: 624-1287	Publicity Officer:	Cindy Belveal Ph: 534-1883
Dive Organiser:	Gary Roberts Ph: 771-3459		

Any contributions to the Wetrug will be gratefully accepted.
Please forward these to: Cindy Belveal,
49 Central Rd.,
NARWEE 2209

Correspondance to: South Pacific Divers Club,
P.O. Box 823,
BANKSTOWN 2200

NOVEMBER 1986

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*30 Miriam's B' thday						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	*14 BRISTOL =====	*15 POINT =====
*16 W' END =====	*17 CLUB MEETING	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	*28 ULLADULLA WEEKEND	*29

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DECEMBER 1986

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	***** * 5 SPD* * XMAS * * PARTY*	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	*22 CLUB MEETING	23	24	25	*26 W' END =====	*27 N.W. =====
*28 ARM ===	29	30	31			

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