

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB



February 1976 cover of quarterly newsletter. Note the old club logo of dive flag and shark.

W E T R A G
FEBRUARY 1994

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm sorry I missed the January club meeting, but I was down at Eden, along with John Beddie and Wayne and Kay Arnell, getting set to have a week of great diving with Twofold Dive. I'm sorry I missed seeing John Gordon's slides - I hear they were a real highlight.

As you know the Club's internal photographic comp. the 'George Roberts Perpetual Trophy' has started. The comp. this year is similar to a "shoot out" with each entrant being given 2 rolls of Kodak Ektachrome 100 professional film. The slide film has been marked but we are trusting members' honesty in genuinely submitting the film allocated to them. If you've missed out, there's still time if you haven't entered yet and it costs just \$15.00.

We've started receiving suggestions for amendments to the wording of the Rules of Incorporation. One of these is that the Club's boat owners should have a boat licence and also their own third party liability insurance. What do you think? So

if you have anything you feel needs mentioning, please put this in writing and submit it to the Committee (via the PO Box). Written suggestions must be received no later than 28 February. Also, please note the Committee has requested Brent Hedges, who is a litigation lawyer and fellow club member, to review the Rules of Incorporation and he will be reporting back at our next meeting.

At our February meeting we'll hopefully have a guest speaker from the NSW Police Divers Rescue Unit (no not Gary Sweet). This looks like being a very interesting talk. We've also lined up Mark Spencer in March and he will be featuring the Galapagos and some other interesting places he has dived. At our April meeting Becca Saunders will be covering Sulawesi Indonesia.

A feature of our newsletter this month is a couple of dive reports from members. If you have an interesting story about a recent dive, why not let Terese know and she'll include it in future newsletters. I might even write one about the Eden tugs.

P.S.: Please don't forget that the February Club meeting has been postponed to the 4th Monday - that is, 28 February. Hope to see you there.

Regards, Leo B.

LATE ADDITION TO NEWSLETTER

RESIGNATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

Unfortunately, due to work commitments, Paul Wildish has resigned as Photographic Officer. For the smooth running of the Committee, Leo Mayer has been nominated to the position as the new Photographic Officer and Ross Hipwell has been approached and he has agreed to take on the duties as Treasurer.

We believe this will be a popular decision as Leo being already on the Committee will be able to make the transition smoothly and Ross is also an ex-committee member and has held the position of Treasurer previously.

DIVING ACTIVITIES

DAY TRIPS

* 13 FEBRUARY, 1994: BASS POINT, SHELLHARBOUR:

Club members are doing either 2 shore dives or boat diving
Followed by a Bar-B-Q at Debbie Sanderson's house: 3 Jardine St, Bulli

CONTACT: JOE INEGNERI (018-862328 b/h & a/h or 743 3710 home)
or LEO MAYER (708 5742 a/h)

REGULAR SUNDAY BOAT DIVES

WHY NOT CALL ANY OF THE CLUB'S BOAT OWNERS
IF YOU WANT TO GO FOR A BOAT DIVE

CLUB BOAT DIVES

SUNDAY AFTER EACH CLUB MEETING

Dive locations advised at Club Meetings.

CONTACT: JOE INEGNERI (018-862 328 or 743 3710) or LEO MAYER (708 5742 a/h).

DATES: * 27 FEBRUARY (Members to contact Joe on 081-862 328, 743 3710 hm)
* 27 MARCH (Details arranged at Club Meeting).

*IT WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED IF BOAT OWNERS
COULD PLEASE CALL JOE IF THEY ARE GOING
AS THIS CAN HELP WITH ORGANISING NUMBERS FOR DIVERS*

SATURDAY SHORE DIVES

CONTACT: JOE INEGNERI (018-862328 b/h & a/h, 743 3710 home)
or LEO MAYER (708 5742 a/h)
by Thursday / Friday before.

DIVING WEEKENDS AWAY

1. MULLOWAY (near Coffs Harbour): 19 - 20 FEBRUARY (for photo comp.)
2. SOUTH WEST ROCKS: 12-13 MARCH (photo opportunity for George Roberts Comp.)
3. JERVIS BAY WEEKEND: 26 & 27 MARCH
4. EDEN WEEKEND: EASTER-FRI 1 APRIL TO MON 4 APRIL
5. SEALS ROCKS WEEKEND: 9 & 10 APRIL (\$169 - 4 DIVES, tanks, accommodation)
6. ULLADULLA WEEKEND: 4 & 5 JUNE

CONTACT: JOE INEGNERI (018-862 328 b/h & a/h, 743 3710 home)

NIGHT DIVES (tides & weather depending)

REGULAR NIGHT DIVE ON MAX WESTERN'S SEA TAMER II
DETAILS FINALISED AT EACH MONTH'S CLUB MEETING

[Meet at Dolans Bay Wharf, suited up & ready by 7.30 p.m. on selected night]

CONTACT: JOE INEGNERI FOR DETAILS (018) 862 328, 743 3710)

DIVING ACTIVITIES

COFFS HARBOUR / SOLITARY ISLANDS / NAMBUCCA

Peter Jermyn is taking his boat up
5 - 9 February and 20 - 25 February
Contact Peter on 708 2309

LATE ADDITION: EDEN WEEKEND 5 - 6 MARCH. Debbie Finlay (our Christmas Raffle winner)
will be down at Eden this weekend.

If you are interested in also staying at Twofold Dive - Call Joe on 018-862 328, 743 3710.

SOCIAL EVENTS

CLUB BAR - B - Q 's:

BAR-B-Q THIS SUNDAY 13 FEBRUARY
AFTER THE BASS POINT SHORE & BOAT DIVES

Host: Debbie Sanderson

Address: 3 Jardine Street, Bulli

Time: After the dives, probably lunch time/early afternoon

B.Y.O. Please RSVP to Joe Ingegneri on 018-862 328, 743 3710
or Debbie Sanderson on (042) 837 630.

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY THIRD MONTH

Date : * 5 MARCH: Host: Russell (baseball bat) Stoker
36 Hanks Street, Ashbury
Around 3.00-4.00 p.m.
BYO Meat, drinks, etc.

R.S.V.P. TO:

- JOE (018-862 328 b/h, 743 3710 a/h) OR
- LEO MAYER (708 5742 a/h)

Please note: As a fund raiser for the club, beer will be provided for a small fee.

DINNER

FRIDAY 25 MARCH at 7.00 p.m.
DINNER & WINE TASTING AT BANKSTOWN RSL CLUB
\$30.00 PER PERSON (price includes 5 course meal + wines).

CONTACT: JOE INEGNERI (018-862 328 b/h, 743 3710 a/h)

If you have any suggestions to add to the Diving / Social Events,
please contact either Joe Ingegneri on (018) 862 328 or 743 3710
or Terese Mayer on 227 1677 (wk), 708 5742 (hm).



BOAT OWNERS HOT LINE



If you're interested in a dive, why not call any of the Club's boat owners. Club members with boats usually go out most weekends (weather/tides depending), so why not give them a call. This way, you won't miss out on your next dive. (Contributions towards fuel are appreciated).

Telephone No's:

SUE ARMSTRONG	(042) 942 769 (H), 697 2248 (W).
JOHN BEDDIE	603 7584 (H), (046) 201 746 (W).
B.J.	709 5535 (H).
PETER BOOTH	529 3818 (H).
JOHN FARDOULIS	634 4607 (H), 831 9246 (W).
PETER JERMYN	708 2309 (H).
MARTIN KANDILAS	725 7808 (H & W).
RICK LATIMER	645 4405 (H), (018) 647 329, (042) 615 631 (W).
BOB MAY	(045) 791 053 (H), (045) 781 177 (W).
LEO MAYER	708 5742 (H).
RON MINES	602 9851 (H), 602 3544 (W).
BOB NICKLING	645 2315 (H), 648 3442 (W).
ROBERT RUBESA	740 6571 (H), 695 2063 (W).
MAX WESTERN, SEA TAMEER II	567 2658 (H), 018-280 791 (W).

DIAL A DIVE BUDDY

HAVE YOU FELT LIKE GOING FOR A DIVE
BUT HAVEN'T HAD A DIVE BUDDY HANDY ?

WHY NOT LEAVE YOUR NAME AND DETAILS WITH JOE,
CLUB DIVE CO-ORDINATOR, AND HE CAN PUT YOU IN
TOUCH WITH OTHER CLUB MEMBERS WHO ARE LOOKING
FOR A DIVE BUDDY.

CALL JOE ON 018-862 328 (b/h & a/h) or 743 3710 (hm).



DATES FOR FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

**** Please Note Feb. Date **** 28 / 2 / 94 (fourth Monday) ******
 21 / 3 / 94
 18 / 4 / 94
 16 / 5 / 94
 20 / 6 / 94

Club meetings are held every third Monday of each month
 at the Bankstown Sports Club,
 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown
 at 8.00 p.m.

Come early and enjoy a meal at the bistro.

The meetings are usually in the Emile McDonald Function Room.
 (Please check at Reception if function room has changed).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

POSITION		HOME PHONE NO.	WORK PHONE NO.
PRESIDENT:	LEO BERGAGNIN	517 2853	557 5477 (018) 419 457
TREASURER:	LEO MAYER	708 5742	---
SECRETARY:	TERESE MAYER	708 5742	227 1677
DIVE ORGANISER / SOCIAL ORGANISER:	JOE INGEGNERI	(018) 862 328 or 743 3710	(018) 862 328
PUBLICITY OFFICER:	MICHAEL McFADYEN	558 8181	585 6454

ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:



**SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB
 P.O. BOX 823
 BANKSTOWN NSW 2200**

THE DIVE CHARTER FROM HELL

by Martin Kandilas

During the Christmas holidays I visited a dive shop on the north coast between Newcastle and Byron Bay (I won't mention which one). The proprietor (an instructor) had recently bought an aluminium boat of about 6.5 metres, and seemed a reasonable type so I booked a reef dive for 8.00 a.m. the following morning.

Arrived at the appointed time (8.00 a.m. at the shop, be ready to go) but no sign of anybody. By 8.10 a.m. a couple of other starters showed, and by 8.30 a.m. our skipper finally arrived. At 9.30 a.m. we actually were in the boat and on our way.

The original plan was to dive a local bombora, a spot I know quite well. About half a mile offshore and prone to surge but not a great deal of current. Very much like Gibbon Bommie but more fish life and a small wreck nearby. Of course !

There was some surge present, and little current, but the skipper opted ^{to} tell everyone on board there was a strong current there, and although unsafe, did anyone want to dive ? Not surprisingly the answer was a resounding "no" from everyone except me. I disagreed on the current, and having dived the spot before, I asked if he could maybe put down a shot line, which could be used as my anchor, saying I was quite happy to dive there and wait at the surface on the buoy until the boat came back later to pick me up. They all looked at me as if I had come from another planet. What, dive *alone* ? Gadzooks, it might give people the wrong idea !

Anyway, the skipper said we could dive another reef about 4 km up the coast and about 3 km. offshore, so off we went. Once at the site it was pretty soon evident that there *was* a *raging* current. I threw a twig over the side and did a quick calculation: nearly 2 metres per second, or a bit over 3 knots. That *is* raging.

The anchor went in and people started gearing up. The skipper threw out a mermaid line, all 10 metres of it, and the first two divers went in over the *stern*. You guessed it, straight to the end of the mermaid line. The first diver, (Who incidentally the skipper had told me was a very capable and experienced diver) did the macho and stupid act of trying to swim and pull himself up-current with his mask dangling around his neck while he gulped air and tried to imitate a dolphin. I suggested to him that he put his mask and snorkel on but he gave me that "from another planet" look. By the time he had got himself to the stern of the boat he was absolutely stuffed.

I suggested to the skipper that a current line would be a good idea, but he said he didn't have one. I convinced him it would be a *very* good idea, lest he lose a diver or two between the stern and the bow of the boat. (More about that later.) A line was then rigged from the anchor line to the port stern cleat and Mr Macho repeated his dolphin act to the bow, where he duly waited for at least three minutes to catch his breath.

Meanwhile three divers had rolled in overboard on the starboard side of the boat (yes, the side which didn't have the current line.) And they too ended up at the end of that mermaid line. Only just. One was a lady who promptly freaked right out and had to be assisted back to the boat. That was a story in itself.

I had sussed out one guy named Doug from Victoria who seemed to know what he was about, and I said I was going to do my own thing, and if he wanted to tag along he was welcome. As it turned out, he followed me around like a shearers dog and we had a top dive.

The current completely disappeared at 30 ft and it was completely still and calm all the way to the bottom (about 80 ft). I checked the anchor and remember saying to myself that whoever put it where it lay deserved a pat on the back, because nothing short of cyclone Tracy would have pulled it free. I was told later that no-one put it there, it just went into this big deep hole by itself.

Heaps of fish, warm water and no real need to venture more than 20 metres from the anchor as we were on a really pretty piece of reef. We hacked open a few sea urchins and set up a feeding station. Pretty soon there were literally hundreds of fish around us, baby morays, darts, tropicals, maori wrasse, white ears, banded perch, leatherjackets and to top it off, a nice 7 ft dusky whaler nosed in for a stickybeak.

In all there were 9 divers in the water, but I saw no-one at all on the dive, apart from my buddy. After 25 minutes he signalled he was low on air and headed back to the surface. I waited at the anchor as we were last down, but saw nobody. I went into deco and still no-one. Air was getting low so I headed for the surface, leaving the anchor undisturbed as there had been no arrangement made by the skipper for the last one down to pull the anchor out.

Once back in the boat I was somewhat surprised to find that we were four divers short. Two had surfaced well behind the boat and were apparently almost out of sight, and the other two were still unaccounted for. A couple of minutes went by and two divers surfaced about 60 metres abeam. The skipper called out to them and somewhat surprisingly found some more rope which he added to the mermaid. The divers managed to reach the line and were pulled aboard. By this time the two other divers were completely out of sight. I asked the skipper if he had binoculars on board. It came as no surprise when he replied that he did not.

Now comes the *really* stupid, and potentially lethal part of the story. The skipper started to pull up the anchor, to find it (naturally) still really hooked in. I told him that it would not come out, but he insisted in trying. He and two others got onto the bow and he asked me to drive. I said there was no way the anchor would come out, and asked him to quickly buoy the anchor as he was in real risk of losing a couple of divers lest he get his act together. By this time Doug, my buddy, had also become alarmed.

Oh no, we were going to get that anchor. After ten minutes of stuffing around the anchor was still stuck fast. By this time the skipper insisted I give the 175 hp Johnson full stick in attempt to free the pick. I gave it about 80 % and after nearly burying the bow, he finally agreed that the anchor was not going to come out. By this time, Doug was getting pretty jittery, whereas the others still seemed to think it was all somewhat of a joke. *"They'll be right. There not in any danger."*

I ended up telling this clown that he could really have some explaining to do (Doug chimed in *"maybe to the Coroner"*) if he didn't forget the anchor and get the hell out of there. Then he found that the eyelet on the mermaid float was too small to tie the rope onto. Doug said he would loan his BC as a float if the skipper was so desperate to save his precious anchor. *Thirty* minutes after I surfaced, we actually got under way. After five minutes the skipper began to actually look a little worried, telling me to go flat out. I suggested that we might overshoot and miss them altogether, being then having to turn around and look into the glare of the sun on the waves. The divers were over 2 kilometres south of us when we finally spotted them.

They got into the boat laughing and joking about their great adventure, asking us why it took us so long to realise they were missing. Fortunately they had remained together, and the sea was reasonably calm. They were at least 2 nautical miles offshore, having drifted more or less parallel with the coast the whole time. Both conveniently forgot to mention that they had become totally lost on the bottom, and could not find the way back to the anchor. One was supposedly an advanced diver with 6 years experience. The other was an open water diver with 3 years experience.

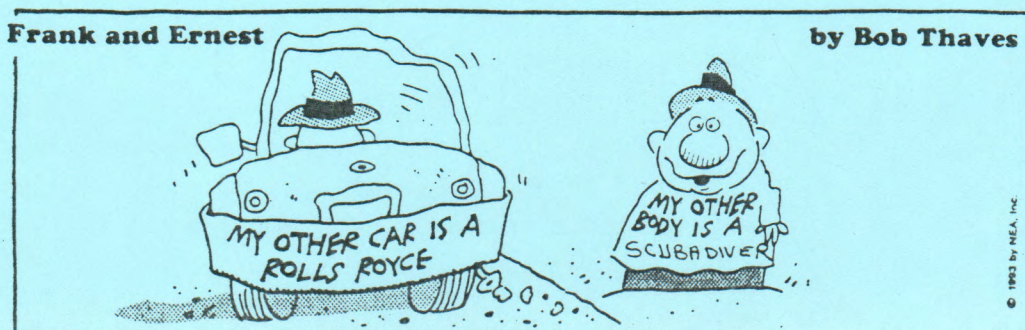
I later showed them my safety sausage. No-one on board had one, and five of them had not seen or even heard of one. Doug and I suggested to the lost divers that they did not realise how lucky they were. Yes, this time we both got that "from another planet" look.

To top it all off, the radio on the boat did not work ! There was only one circuit to power both the radio and the depth sounder, and I earlier observed the skipper having to disconnect the power wire of the depth sounder in order to try to get the radio to work. Wet, salty fingers and this type of wiring can be a disaster at the best of times.

Later at the dive shop the skipper asked me if I wanted to dive a "deepie" the next day, a wreck in 42 metres. I said "I'll get back to you shortly." Funny, I seem to have misplaced his telephone number.

Tank filling at this dive shop was another classic. A kid fills the tanks and when an "o" ring popped he nearly wet himself, saying *"I need to reach a cigarette to calm my nerves"*. To which Doug said: *"Son, you need to reach puberty first."*

TAKE CARE OUT THERE !



CLUB DIVE : SATURDAY 15 JANUARY HALIFAX PARK, NELSON BAY

By Robyn Hewitt

"Brilliant ! I'm coming back," said Russell (baseball bat) Stoker.

Thes sentiments were echoed by all divers who attended on the day, Joe Ingegneri, Russell Stoker, Sue Cambourne, Ben Butcher, Carina Gregory, myself and Leo Mayer. Terese didn't dive but came along for the trip and to take photos of us.

Leo hadn't been to the dive site for about 8-9 years and we had fun following him while trying to find the dive site at Halifax Park. For a very popular dive site, I was surprised to see only one other car in the car park, when we eventually found it. However, it was a different story 15 minutes before the dive divers appeared from everywhere. Due to swift currents, it is recommended to dive both Halifax Park and Fly Point half hour before to half hour after the high tide.

Access over the rocks is relatively easy and after a short distance over rocks and sea urchins the area is transformed into a magnificent sponge garden. At ten metres you are surrounded by beauty. The colours and variety of sponges, including barrell sponges, would make this a fantastic night dive. The area dropped off in small steps and it was interesting to see how the sponges changed with the varying levels. Ben, Sue and I went to 25m. before making a very slow ascent, total dive time being 59 minutes. Apparently there is little to see below 29 metres. Visibility was around 10 metres.

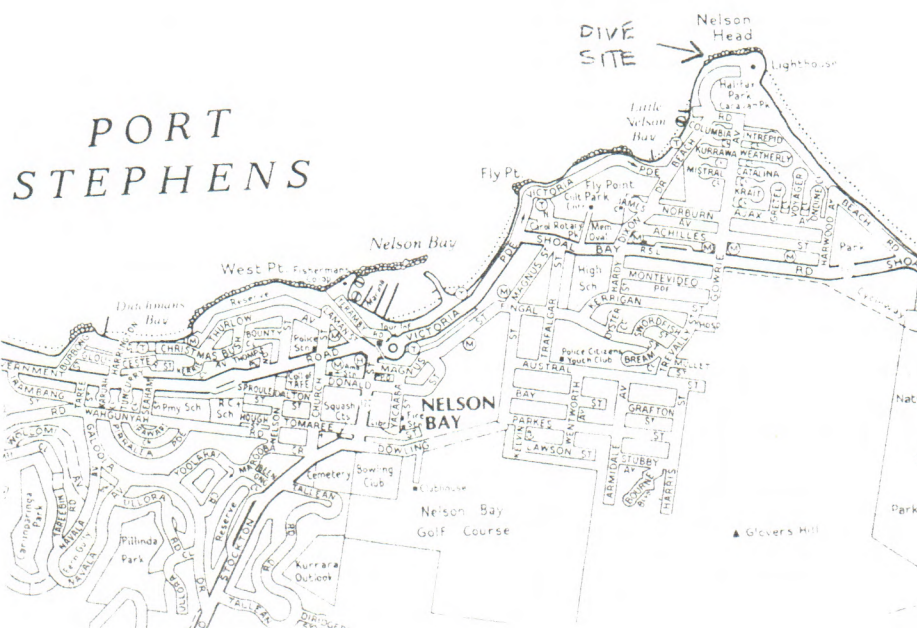
The area **abounds** with sea life those that I can name are gropers, bream, mados, stripies, wrasse, morwong, wobbegong, leather jacket, cuttlefish (at one point, Sue had rounded up 7 baby cuttlefish into a group), nudibranchs and eels. Under one rock, we found three moray eels ! It was easy to coax them out to feed on the sardines and then, right out of their holes. Joe had one come up between his legs !

Leo, Ben and Joe each took cameras while Russell experimented with the new video. I know we'll all look forward to more of Joe's pictures !

Greg from Action Divers Nelson Bay was very helpful with directions, a run down of the dive sites and suggestions for accommodation. Joe will be looking into going back up there for a weekend maybe taking in a night dive.

Paul Wildish and Ida were unable to make it on Saturday but dived on the Sunday and Monday. They were both equally impressed with the area.

All in all, it was well worth the 6 hour round trip I did from Jannali.



DO YOU HAVE ANY OLD MINUTES OR RECORDS OF THE CLUB ?

A FEATURE OF THE NEWSLETTERS WILL BE REGULAR
"BLASTS FROM THE PAST" — BUT THE CLUB RECORDS AVAILABLE
ONLY GO BACK TO THE EARLY 1970's !

PLEASE TELEPHONE TERESE MAYER (CLUB SECRETARY)
ON (02) 227 1677 (Wk) OR (02) 708 5742 (Hm)

PHOTOCOPIES CAN BE MADE IF YOU WISH TO HOLD ON TO THEM.
BUT PLEASE, DON'T LET THE HISTORY OF THE CLUB BE LOST OR ACCIDENTLY THROWN AWAY.

February, 1976.

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS

Meetings: 3rd Monday of each month at the Haberfield Rowing Club, Dobroyd
Parade, Haberfield, at 8 p.m.

Committee

President: Bob Smith, 124 Alfred Street, Sans Souci. 2219.
Phone: 529-7872

Secretary: Gary Ryan, 18 Beach Road, Stanwell Park. 2509.
Phone: (042) 29.2111 (office)

Treasurer: Larry Reynolds, 14 Carlene Avenue, Padstow Heights.
Phone: 772-1810

Publicity
Officers: Barry Lines, 803/15 Wyagdon Street, North Sydney.
Phone: 929-6329

Peter Stenbo, 3/50 Banks Street, Sans Souci.
Phone: 587-7794.

Social
Secretaries: Brenda Taylor, 2 Scarborough Street, Bundeena.
Phone: 523-4403

Mike (Hassel) Byrnes, 37 Chiltern Road, Willoughby.
Phone: 42-6901

Committee Changes

The editors draw your attention to Bob Smith's new address, and congratulate Gary Ryan on his election to secretary. Gary replaces Greg Hawken (a hard act to follow) who's work caused him to move to Woolgoola. Greg has written a letter to this magazine which follows, unedited, in full. I know that the committee and members will want to thank him for his invaluable contribution to the club, and wish him well for the future.

To the Newsletter

I would like to thank the club members for electing me to the position of secretary, last election. As you probably know by now, I have taken a teaching position at Grafton (close to Woolli), and as such I regretfully have to resign. The position of secretary is not a difficult one, but it is one in which a person can put alot into; and often get very little in return. I hope that a few things I have begun (e.g. the club newsletter, etc.) will continue to develop.

My new residence will be:
C/O Arrawarra Caravan Park,
Arrawarra.

or

C/O Lot 1, 1st Avenue,
Arrawarra Headland,
Woolgoola.

So if anyone is passing through, for Christ's sake drop in and say good day, and stay around a while.

Greg Hawken.

Club Calendar

Monday February 16:

Monthly club meeting, although not with guest speaker as previously advertised. Brenda Taylor will take money and names for the 'Jaws' theatre party. So, if you want to see ecology's answer to 'Le Grand Bouche' mob her quickly for your place in the queue.

Wednesday Feb. 25:

The ultimate nosh-up. 'Jaws' theatre party. 8.15 p.m. at the state, 49 Market Street. Scream with hysterical rib-tickling laughter. Meet old friends, on and off the screen. Flog your bath tub. Become a hermit in Menindee.

Sunday Feb. 29:

Shattered nerves day. A Free trawler trip to the wreck of the Undola, leaving Gunnamatta Bay, Cronulla, at 7.30 p.m. Sign on quickly or your place will be taken by some idiot who hasn't seen the film. Larry and Peter will go out earlier to mark the wreck, and pick what they can from it before you lot turn up.

Saturday p.m. March 13:

Sterilization day at Herr Larry Reynolds place. Leave the pooch and moggy at home. The club requires bottle washers (which means you all qualify) for our next wine tasting soiree.

Sunday March 14:

For those members who don't want to drive more than 200 zillion miles for a party or dive, a local dive at Whale Beach. Meet at the northern end of Whale Beach Road, at the top of the hill, at the respectable hour of 9 a.m. Hassel promises a 40ft. paddle, with reasonable visibility, and good marine life, excluding himself.

Monday March 15:

Monthly club meeting. A chance to lick your wounds and get back at Hassel.

Friday March 19:

Cabernet - Sauvignon perhaps. A little young. But ah, so innocently pre-tentious: and exactly the right side of the field. Ok you Uncle Bill wine boffs, another heady little drop from the Hunter. S.P.D.'s bottling and fall about evening, 7.30 p.m. at Doc Harper's backyard, 8 Rosebank Crescent, Hurstville. (phone 574 903).

Only one dollar a head for ample wine tasting, and the chance to cram your horrid little mouths with handfulls of prawns and oysters. Lots of big red and a limited white. After which, both will be sold for \$1 a bottle, bearing S.P.D.'s own distinctive label. Buy a few or buy by the dozen. Stock up your depleted cellar. Excellent body and bouquet. Improves rapidly with age.

Sunday March 21:

Mystery trawler dive. Details March club meeting.

Saturday/Sunday March 27-28:

Ulladulla diving weekend. Meet at the camping area on top of the hill overlooking the light house.

April:

No club meeting this month due to Easter and Anzac Day diving.

April 10-26:

For the week before, and after Easter (April 16-19) the club will be emerging their sallow little bodies at Wooli. Wooli is off the Pacific Highway, on the coast, a pub's crawl before Grafton and offers Barrier Reef ichthyology at a S.P.D. price. Late comers may meet the club at the second camping/caravan area, closest to the bowling club.

Saturday/Sunday May 8-9:

Jervis Bay weekend. Meet at the Currarong camping area, right hand side of the southern end of the amenities block. Good, clean diving. 8.30 a.m. starts.

Monday May 17:

Monthly club meeting. Spin a few yarns. Tilt a few glasses. Bring along friends and loved ones to an evening of slides and nostalgia.

Saturday/Sunday May 22-23:

Boat dive weekend, off Bass Point Island. Meet at the Shell-harbour camping area.

Contributions

All contributions over 50 words should be block printed or typed double spaced, enclosing a self addressed envelope with a respectable bribe in cash. No verbal contributions, in future, will be entered into.

Late 1975 Citations

The Midnight Cowboy Award:

To Ben (Buffalo Bill) who having dropped a prop at Solitary Island, Wooli, threw Dita over the side to find it (Dita's first dive) After one day, countless news flashes, and a well timed flare, the dynamic duo were picked up by a trawler. All are alive and well, especially Ben who's alive and well and living shackled up with a local moll. Some mothers do have them.

Father of the Year

Ian Lines, who forgot his daughter's name at the christening. Great; I always wanted to have a niece called, Sam

S.P.D. Underwater photo competition

The club has purchased suitable trophies (we're scratching out the old names and getting rid of the little silver golfer at the top). The competition has been put forward, due to bad weather over Christmas, and details will be announced later.

THE SINKING OF THE BIRCHGROVE PARK

by Mark Brindle

On Friday August 2, 1956, the 640 ton collier Birchgrove Park, went down just 4 miles off Broken Bay. The time of sinking was 2.40 am and distress signals were sent and picked up by South Head signal station.

The cause: 500 tons of coal, had shifted to the port side.

One of the survivors, Erl Olson, said later, in hospital, "The ship developed a slight list shortly after leaving Newcastle when the cargo shifted. The ship was listing badly and we could'nt get the life boats clear of the davits. Finally we stood huddled between the mast and funnel waiting for the last moment, as the captain tried to run the ship for Broken Bay. The list became worst and we were ordered to jump into the sea. The ship keeled over so suddenly that we had only a few minutes to swim clear of the mast as it fell."

Of the crew 8 drowned
 2 were reported missing, and 4 were rescued.

The Birchgrove Park's owners had a similar loss in the same area, years before, when the Annie M. Miller sank on February 8, 1929, off South Head.

The club's last dive on the Birchgrove Park was not a bad one. The day was nice and sunny, apart from a little cirrostratus cloud. It took some time for us to get to the site for the trawler was late (as usual), and when we arrived at the dive spot, Rick Lattimer gave us a hand to find the wreck's exact location.

Roger chose who was going to be in the first party to go on down: Roger, Peter, Garry and I.

First we put a spare tank on the line.

Peter had on his twin 72's with two regs and two pressure gauges; he really did look like a octopus.

On the way down Roger led, then Garry, Peter and I followed. Roger got upset because in trying to stop my twins and weight belt from falling off, I wasn't hanging on to the drop line as I should have been (my fault as usual).

We got down eventually and Roger almost sat on a large Wobbegong laying on the upturned side of the boat, just near the anchor. We continued down the side to the sandy bottom, and as usual spent some time making sure that everyone was OK. After that we actually got to see some of the boat. Every time that I have gone on the wreck I have only ever seen the arse of it. First of all we went around and had a look at the prop, and then the hole at the back. As we went up to the ship's side, I put my hand on top of the Wobbegong and nearly shitted myself because I hadn't realised what had happened, until I saw it swim off into the distance.

The 'viz' was not too good on the wreck itself: about 30-40 feet. But at 40 feet from the bottom the layer of sediment had cleared and once again we had a good 110-140 feet of visibility. At 120 feet we could see the spare tank on the drop line set 20 feet below the surface.

After the decom. stops, we got into the boat, and the next party to go came up complaining that we had stirred up the bottom so much that taking photo's was almost impossible.

Bad luck fellows, better luck next time.

For sale:

One twin yoke, ex Stenbo at the amazing low price of \$15. Never been used. Worth \$55 new.

The Club congratulates Karen Nadin on her twenty first birthday, March 19.

TERRIGAL UNDERWATER GROUP

Presents

DIVING HISTORY

An Evening of Entertainment

I would like to invite the members of SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB along to an evening of entertainment with **MAX GLEESON & TOM BYRON.**

Dive history may sound like a dull subject, right out of the schooldays but I can assure you that with the two speakers that we have, it will be anything but dull.

TOM BYRON is the author of many well known & well researched guide books about diving the east coast of NSW. Tom has now turn this ability to research & to write, to a labour of love, the recording of the history of scuba diving in Australia. He is compiling this information from the people who actually made this history & recording it so that it is not lost forever. Each person involved has their own story to tell about the days of diving before "off - the - shelf courses, equipment & regulations". Tom will show archival slides & retell some of these incidents that have shaped diving into what it is today.

MAX GLEESON an author & researcher who has just published his second book. Called "**The Vanished Fleet of the Sydney Coastline**" It is a history of the shipwrecks that lie off the Sydney coast & are quite often dived. It is a history with a difference, as it is so well researched that personal details & items of day to day information that affected the incidents surrounding the sinkings have been uncovered. Max's information comes from both the living & the newspaper & inquiry reports of the day. Listening to Max talk will add a complete new perspective to the wrecks that you dive, you will be able to appreciate a little better what it would have been like during those last few hours.

COME TO THE CENTRAL COAST FOR THE WEEKEND make it a club weekend away, bring your boat, come up for the weekend & go diving. We have many great reefs & wrecks to dive & dive shops from Woy Woy to Swansea who would be only too pleased to take you diving if you don't have your own boat. There are lots of great motels & caravan parks to stay in & we are only about 1hr.30mins. from Sydney CBD. On Sunday morning **TUG** will be holding a Bar-B-Que breakfast in the Haven at Terrigal while we go diving, so bring your boats or book with one of the local operators & join us diving.

WHEN:- SATURDAY 19th FEBRUARY 1994 at 8pm

WHERE:- CENTRAL COAST LEAGUES CLUB
Dane Drive, Gosford.

COST:- \$10 PER PERSON Tickets available by sending your money to
TERRIGAL UNDERWATER CLUB, PO BOX 82, TERRIGAL NSW, 2260
For more information about the night or diving contact
NEIL VINCENT 043 971798 or GREG CUTBUSH 043.281302

Your Dive Club is now eligible for bulk Sportdiving Magazine subscription discounts!

Not only are your members entitled to a 10% discount, every 25 paid subscriptions earn bonus free subscriptions for you!



For example:

*25 one-year subscriptions = 1 free subscription
50 one-year subscriptions = 2 free subscriptions
75 one-year subscriptions = 3 free subscriptions*

Your club members can now subscribe to Sportdiving Magazine for just \$33.75 for 6 issues - even less than our previous rate of \$34.50. Call now for our special Dive Club Registration Kit; it contains all the information you need.

PLEASE CALL TERESE MAYER (CLUB SECRETARY)
ON (02) 227 1677 (wk) or 708 5742 (hm)

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS SUBSCRIPTION OFFER
FROM MOUNTAIN OCEAN & TRAVEL PUBLICATIONS

CLUB WEEKEND AWAY TO EDEN

EASTER: FRIDAY 1 APRIL to
MONDAY 4 APRIL

\$15.00 per night accommodation

\$25.00 per boat dive

(Bring own bed linen)

There are about 6 spots left
so call Joe Ingegneri, Club
Dive Co-ordinator on
(018) 826 328 bh/ah or
743 3710 hm.

* * * * *

LETS MAKE THIS A BIG
EASTER LONG-WEEKEND FOR
THE CLUB

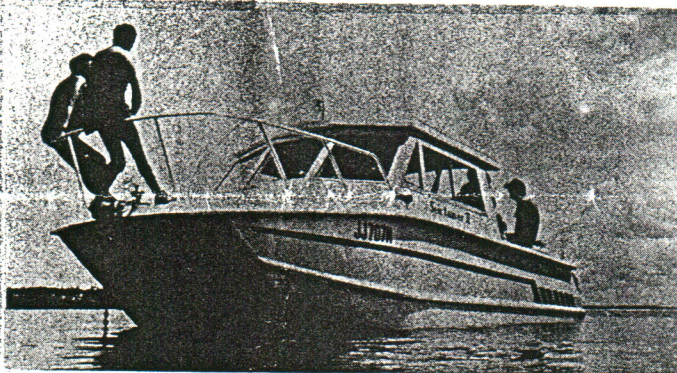
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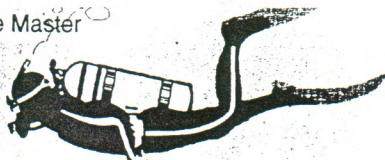
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018-280-791

Bookings: 567-2658



- Fully surveyed Marlin Broadbill built specifically for diving
- Friendly and relaxed atmosphere
- Light snack after dive
- Licenced Coxswain and Dive Master
- Mid-week dives
- Club and group bookings available
- Night Dives



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ALL WEATHER DIVING MERIMBULA TO GREENCAPE

*Fast Airfills at the BP Main Wharf.

*Scuba Gear Hire.

*PADI Open Water Instructor
& Licensed Coxswain onboard.

*Bait & Tackle provided

*Boat available for daily charter.

DIVING

Daily Scuba Diving Trips leave from Eden Wharf,
on the 7 metre Sharkcat "Everard Legend".

DIVE THE TUGS

The "Henry Bolte" or "Tasman Hauler".
Then there's also the "Empire Gladstone", "North Bombie",
"Dragons Dungeon", "The Steps", "South Bombie" or Greencape.

FISHING

Daily fishing trips depart from the Eden Main Wharf.
*Reef fishing, Game fishing and bottom bouncing trips
available on demand.

BOOK AT BP MAIN WHARF

PHONE: (064)961778 or (064)963384

AFTER HOURS

CLUB NIGHT DIVE

=====

- 2nd March

- 20th April

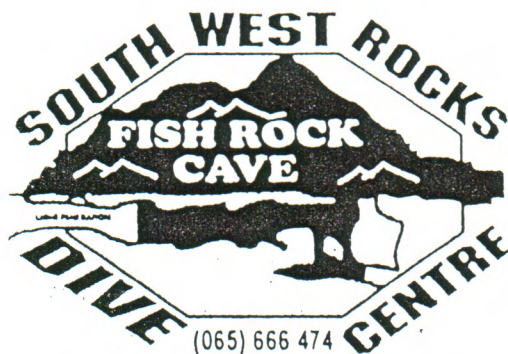
(a second date in March may be
decided at next Club meeting)

One Wednesday night
each month

Details usually arranged
at each Club Meeting.

Contact Joe Ingegneri
Club Dive Co-ordinator
on (018) 862 328 bh/ah
or 743 3710 ah.

100 GREGORY STREET
SOUTH WEST ROCKS, 2431



PHONE: (065) 666 474
FAX: (065) 666 959

AT THE SOUTH WEST ROCKS DIVE CENTRE WE OFFER A VARIETY OF
PACKAGES TO SUIT MOST NEEDS. LISTED BELOW ARE THE MOST
POPULAR.

WEEKEND PACKAGE

- * 4 dives (two double dives)
- * 2 nights share accommodation
- * 1 airfill
- * 2nd tank provided on double dive
- * refreshments during surface interval
- * use of sheets and pillows
- * Continental breakfast

ALL THIS FOR ONLY - \$145 PER PERSON

LONG WEEKEND PACKAGE

- * 6 dives (three double dives)
- * 3 nights share accommodation
- * 2 airfills
- * 2nd tank provided on double dive
- * refreshments during surface interval
- * use of sheets and pillows
- * Continental breakfast

ALL THIS FOR ONLY - \$220 PER PERSON

MID-WEEK PACKAGE

- * 9 dives - 4 double dives
 - 1 night dive
- * 5 nights share accommodation
- * FREE airfills
- * 2nd tank provided on double dives
- * refreshments during surface interval
- * use of sheets and pillows
- * Continental breakfast daily

GREAT VALUE AT ONLY - \$295 PER PERSON

PACKAGES CAN BE DESIGNED TO SUIT THE INDIVIDUAL
REQUIREMENTS OF YOUR GROUP

PRICES VALID UNTIL 31ST MARCH, 1994

South West Rocks Dive Centre