

WET RAG

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS' CLUB (established 1962)

PO Box 823, BANKSTOWN NSW 2220



February 1995

The photo at right was taken at Poutumotu on Grand Terre, the main island of New Caledonia. The site was called Le Pitons and had a lot of swim-throughs and caves.

Photo: Michael McFadyen

Photos wanted for front page. Please send or give b/w or colour prints to Editor.



Barbara Sweetman, John Fardoulis, Leo Bergagnin, Ben Butcher, Merridy Cairn-Duff, Scott Leimroth, Rebecca Davis (URG) and Russell Stoker enjoy a night out at the Hellfire Club a few days prior to Christmas. This Club function was very well attended and opened the eyes of even the most liberal of members.

DUE TO THE RESIGNATION OF LEO MAYER, ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE 20 FEBRUARY MEETING. ALL MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND THE MEETING.

Meetings of the Club are held at 8 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Emile McDonald Room of the Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Street, Bankstown. This month the meeting will be held on Monday, 20 February 1995.

Committee's Message

Just prior to start of the January meeting, the Club President, Leo Mayer, announced to the Club members present his resignation from the position of President. He also resigned his membership of the Club at the same time. Mr Mayer stated that he resigned because of conflict between himself and members of the committee and some Club members.

Therefore, the position of Club President is vacant. Under the Club's rules, the position must stay vacant until the next meeting where nominations for the position will be called. If necessary, an election for the position will be held. All members are encouraged to attend the February meeting.

The Committee regrets what occurred, but is of the view that the Club will recover quickly from the sudden resignation. The Committee is working well as a team and we are confident that the Club will prosper this year.

Photographic Officer's Message

The Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition is well under way and articles on the competition will appear in the February/March issue of *Sportdiving* and coming issues of *DIVE Log*. Entry forms and rules will also appear in these issues. The planning for the presentation night is also in hand.

Just a reminder, the Club's internal photographic competition, the George Roberts Perpetual Trophy, has opened and will close on 20 March 1995. The rules and entry form are included with this issue of *Wet Rag*.

The 1995 Scuba Expo will be held between 27 July and 1 August in conjunction with the Sydney Boat Show, thus guaranteeing a huge increase in visitor numbers. The Club has arranged to put a small display on the *Sportdiving* and *DIVE Log* stand courtesy of Barry Andrewartha and Belinda Barnes. We intend to advertise the Club and sell tickets for the Presentation Night.

At the February meeting, we have organised a presentation from Rick Latimer and John Fardoulis about their trip to Honiara in the Solomon Islands. Should be very interesting.

See you then, Peter Flockart

Treasurer's Message

A reminder that Membership is due at the end of each calendar year. Therefore, if you have not yet paid, please send the enclosed form to the Club with your cheque or pay at the February meeting. If you have not paid by the end of March, you will no longer be a member. If you are unsure as to whether you are current, check

the envelope this newsletter comes in. If there is a figure of 94 on the first line, you have not yet paid your fees. Regards, John Fardoulis

Newsletter Editor's Message

Well, where was I before I was interrupted? As some members may be aware, I resigned the Editorship of *Wet Rag* after my work was attacked at the December meeting of the Club by another member and I was not supported at or after the meeting by the then President. I had been accused of altering the member's article, presumably so that it was different and therefore inferior to what he wrote. This was not correct, the only changes I made were to correct spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors.

As you will see from the above message from the Committee, the President resigned at the January meeting and the Committee asked me to again edit the newsletter as I see fit. I have agreed. To avoid problems, the following is a summary of how this "pseudo-journalist" will edit the *Wet Rag*.

1. The newsletter will not exceed eight pages in length, with an appendix containing the minutes from the previous meeting and an occasional flyer or additional information.
2. The layout of the newsletter will basically stay the same from one month to the next.
3. Generally speaking, no item will appear more than once in the same newsletter. That is, the dates of diving trips and social events will not appear multiple times in the same issue.
4. Spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors in articles provided by members will be corrected at the discretion of the Editor.
5. Small changes to reduce the size of a submitted article so that it fits the available size will be made at the discretion of the Editor.
6. Any other changes will only be made after consulting with the author. If such contact cannot be made, the article will not appear.
7. All articles submitted will be published so long as they are not offensive or libellous. If a large volume of material is submitted, there may be a delay in publishing some articles. The priority for including items will be regular items first then dive reports then other articles.

As I indicated in the October issue of *Wet Rag*, I want to make the Club's newsletter something that you will want to read. It is my intention that it will consist of original items written by members rather than items copied out of magazines or newspapers. If anyone has any comments or suggestions, please contact me.

Good diving, Michael McFadyen

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following members are on the committee for the 1994/95 year.

Position	Name	Home No:	Work No:
President:	Vacant		
Treasurer:	John Fardoulis	634 4607	831 9246
Secretary:	Suzanne Evans	891 1964 (answering machine provided)	
Photographic Officer:	Peter Flockart	371 0265 Fax: 374 2688	374 2382
Publicity Officer:	Merridy Cairn-Duff	630 6575 Fax: 868 2732	805 1748
Dive Organisers:	Scott Leimroth Geoff Cook	759 6501 543 5817 (018) 29 4897	529 4340 (018) 29 7891
Social Secretaries:	Barbara Sweetman Carina Gregory	550 1712 (046) 25 8630	(046) 20 1423
Newsletter Editor:	Michael McFadyen	558 8181 Mobile (015) 27 6556	585 6434

BOAT OWNERS CONTACT LIST

The following members of the Club are boat owners. They generally go out diving most weekends and often need extra divers to make up numbers. Why not give them a call one day. If you are a boat owner, why not give a non-owner a call (see the membership list distributed regularly) and invite them along with you.

Name	Home No:	Work No:
Sue Armstrong	(042) 94 2769	697 2248
Martin Atkins (lives in Jervis Bay area)	(044) 43 4631	(042) 74 0210
BJ	709 5535	
Peter Booth	529 3818	
Jean-Michel Cousteau	0011 1 805 899 8899	
Geoff Cook	543 5817	(018) 29 4891
Bruce Cremonesi	668 8126	645 0286
John Fardoulis	634 4607	831 9246
Martin Kandilas	725 7808	725 7808
Rick Latimer	645 4405	(042) 61 5631 (018) 64 7329
Bob May	(045) 79 1053	(045) 75 1177
Ron Mines	602 9851	602 3544
Robert Rubesa	740 6571	695 2063

Remember, the following dive charter operators support the Club. You are encouraged to utilise their services when diving in the area they serve.

Max Western, *Sea-tamer II* (Port Hacking area), 567 2658 or (018) 28 0791.

Peter Hall (a Club member), Twofold Dive at Eden, (064) 96 3384.

If you are going to Jervis Bay (or want to dive there) how about phoning member Martin Atkins who lives in the area. He is always looking for dive buddies. See his numbers above.

DIVE REPORTS

SS *Catterthun* (part two) by Scott Leimroth

(In our last episode, the intrepid heroes, John Fardoulis and Scott Leimroth, had barely survived a trip back to shore after diving the SS *Catterthun*. Their problems were the propeller had come loose from the driveshaft and putting up with Rick Latimer's singing. The story continues.)

The next day was a write off, strong southerly making the seas rough. The propeller wasn't going anywhere, so the crew was marooned. Many phone calls were made to boat shops within a 300 km radius but all wanted to treat us as tourists, quoting astronomical prices.

The team's morale was low, almost ready to quit. One last attempt was made, visiting one of the Foster marinas. A propeller was not found but the number of Dave, a propeller repairer, was gained. This was our last hope but he was not at the workshop.

The team was beaten. In despair, discussion regarding a Sydney dive took place. As agreement was not reached, Rick called Dave again and he answered. By chance, he had a suitable propeller in stock but when Dave examined the old propeller, he decided to repair it.

Our saviour was Dave. There is a God!

The team was now set to start again. "The seas will be calm, the propeller is replaced, vis should be excellent. What can go wrong?"

Well, actually quite a lot as we found out early the next morning when we again rallied forth. Again, "Wreck Diver" (aka the grey one) slotted [Ed: is there such a word] the pick first go into the *Catterthun*. A current was noticed so mermaid, current and all gear lines were immediately rigged. Slowly gearing up and taking care to avoid cliff-climbing like the other day, we helped one another gear up. Rick finished with the comment "go straight for the mermaid or anchor line" before he went over the side, stabilising the boat. John and I followed and soon we grouped on the anchor.

We began the descent. At about 20 m, I turned around to check and noticed that John was not there. I then saw him waving about 10 m away at the same level and amazingly, not holding onto the anchor line. Rick joined me at that point and together we realised that John, despite his efforts, was slowly disappearing into the gloom. Rick immediately went down to release the anchor while I maintained a vigil as John disappeared.

At this point, I turned on my torch to give John some kind of bearing. Meanwhile, Rick was on the *Catterthun* in 40 m visibility, mumbling to himself a few choice words about John. Rejoining

me, we both ascended to the boat, cleared all the lines and set out after John. Luckily, John had a safety sausage which made finding him much easier as he was 400 m away by now.

As we approached, John gave the okay sign and I uttered "I'll give him OK! Run the b... over Rick!" But Rick said "No, we might damage the prop again". Before retrieving John from his leisurely position in the water, a promise of lunch at the most expensive restaurant of our choice was extracted from him, despite initial resistance.

It was decided that John and I would dive the wreck as Rick had already been to the bottom. After anchoring and preparing the boat again, we entered the water after making sure that John knew to hold onto the anchor line this time [Ed note: no wonder John was awarded the Club's 1994 Drift Diver of the Year Award]. With some doubt in my mind, I began the descent, behind John this time. Incredibly, what had been 40 m visibility only 45 minutes before was now 15 m viz. The anchor was right on the stern, with current remaining right to the wreck. The stern post rises high, however no propeller was visible on inspection. Broken bottles and porcelain litter the rear of the ship. A large moray was seen slithering through the wreckage and what appears to be sheets of aluminium at the rear of the ship. A small porthole was seen lying under a large sheet of wreckage which made it inaccessible. As before, our bottom time went too quickly and we freed the anchor and began our ascent. After decompressing, we surfaced and described what we saw to Rick. He immediately said "I hope you didn't disturb anything. It's a historic wreck don't you know."

With another excellent dive completed on the SS *Catterthun*, we then made our way home.

SS *MYOLA*

FIRST IMPRESSIONS by Michael McFadyen

As most Club members would be aware, the long lost wreck of the SS *Myola* was discovered off the northern beaches of Sydney in July 1994 by Peter Fields and John Riley. The *Myola*, a 54 metre long collier, had sunk on 2 April 1919 with the loss of four lives.

The location of the wreck was only known to Riley and Fields (and the NSW Department of Planning) until early-January. Around this time, a person stumbled upon Riley and Fields over the wreck and the word soon got out about the location. Local dive operators *Pacific Coast Diving* and *Manly Dive Centre* put two buoys on the wreck and started taking divers to it. They also gave the marks to people.

The first opportunity to dive the *Myola* was the weekend of 21 and 22 January. I had planned to

dive it on the Saturday but the weather was atrocious and no diving was possible. Australia Day, 26 January, saw good weather and at least nine boats visited the wreck, including three with South Pacific Divers' Club members on board. Unfortunately, I and the people I usually dive with had prior diving plans and we could not make it.

On 28 January, Eddy Labour and myself finally got to dive the wreck with our friend Les Caterson. Imagine our surprise when we got to the location and found seven boats already there. Talk about Pitt Street! After circling around, it became obvious that the two moorings were gone (they were there on Aust Day) and we would have to anchor.

Due to the large numbers of divers on the wreck, we could not anchor until they had returned to their boats. This took almost 45 minutes from the time we arrived. We anchored near the starboard boiler (the wreck lies bow to the south) and upon descending found visibility of almost 15 metres. Well, we soon knew where one of the moorings was, it was right next to the anchor, the rope neatly tied up and no buoy in sight.

The area in front of the boilers is very flat, reminding me of a concrete roadway. The outside of the starboard hull has collapsed inwards, lying horizontally. At the bow there are two large anchors and bollards. There is also a telegraph back towards the boilers.

The stern appears from my first dives to be the more interesting section. The starboard boiler sits where it probably did in the ship but the port one has rolled away about 15 metres or so and turned through 90°. A bollard lies in front of this boiler. In between there is considerable wreckage, including another large ship's telegraph.

Behind the boilers is the upright stern section, including the engine area. The engine sits in the front section, together with other machinery, including an object that looks like a turbine and the heat exchange pipes. On my first dive here there was at least one porthole visible to the south-east but by 4 February it had disappeared.

The stern post sits high and vertical, a photo of the year awaits. The propeller shaft is in place, with the prop still on the shaft. However, all four blades are destroyed, with some being totally sheared off. I guess that the engine was still turning when it hit the rocky bottom (the Marine Inquiry heard that it was still running). At least two of the blades appear to lie on the reef bottom about five metres away. The rudder lies on the bottom just in front of the prop.

The thing that struck me most on my dives was the fact that in even a few short weeks, the wreck has lost most of the portholes and gauges that have lain there for more than 75 years. Riley and Fields confirmed this fact to us later that morning and even the one porthole we saw disappeared inside a week.

In summary, a great wreck that I look forward to diving many times in the coming months.

Footnote: As of 4 February, at least nine members have dived the wreck. These include John Fardoulis, Rick Latimer, Scott Leimroth, Martin Kandilas, Sue Armstrong, George Nichols, Lynn Keller, Eddy Labour and Michael McFadyen. An number of the members have dived the wreck more than once.

T-Shirts of the SS *Myola* will be available for purchase from Michael McFadyen at the February meeting for \$10.

SOUTHERN SAFARI '95 by Scott Leimroth
(Submarines, Shipwrecks, Sharks and Sinkholes)

On 2 January I left Sydney with Rebecca Davis from the Underwater Research Group for three weeks diving in Australia's southern ocean. The first stop was Melbourne, staying at the comfortable Diver Instruction Services (DIS) divers' lodge near Portsea. After three days of storms, we decided to at least do a shore dive. Our main aim had been to dive the subs but our first dive was to be a night dive at Rye Pier. Expecting an average dive, we entered the water. What we had was the most amazing night dive with literally hundreds of sea horses, lots of octopi - two of which were observed in a courting ritual and then mating - new varieties of nudibranch along with velvetfish, eels of different types, doughboy scallops and much, much more. This being our first dive in Melbourne or this far south, most of the sealife was different to that seen in Sydney. This made the diving that much more interesting.

The next day the weather subsided enough for a boat dive and we dived a reef inside Port Phillip Bay Heads. Now these heads are renowned for their currents and I have dived in extremely strong currents before (just ask John "Drifter" Fardoulis or read page 4 about the *Catterthun*).

However, the boat diving in Melbourne was an experience. We had to get fully geared up and a shot line on a buoy was dropped. No anchors here we were told, in case they have to rescue someone dragged off a mile or so by the current. "A mile?" he said. Gulp!! We looked reassuringly at one another as we hung at the back of the boat like Navy Seals. As the boat passed the shot line we heard "Go! Go! Go! Head straight down as soon as you see the line or

the current will get you and you'll have to try again." No kidding, this was high action stuff.

We made it safely to the bottom and found a reef covered in more colourful and prolific sponge and coral life than I have ever seen in NSW. We saw at least 10 blue devilfish as well as nudibranchs, a fiddler ray and new varieties of leatherjackets. As with all our dives in Melbourne, we were first in and last up - keeping the gung-ho image of South Pacific Divers' Club alive - but we were also the only ones to find the shot line each time. Thank God we did as the current was raging again - they time the dives so you get 15-20 minutes slack water in the middle of your dive. Apparently the local divers think nothing of doing a blue water safety stop and then surfacing a mile or so from the boat. This is standard procedure we were told.

Our next two dives were on the 26 Metre Sub and Lonsdale Wall. The sub was okay, but not a brilliant wreck. We could not go inside as the large swell running made it like a huge suction tube. In fact, I got a little close to one hole in it and almost got sucked in. On the other hand, Lonsdale Wall, was an incredible wall covered in growth and fishlife with ledges and crevices that descend to 70 metres or more. This must be one of Australia's best kept diving secrets, comparable to diving in the tropics except for the water temperature of 16°. This dive was a great way to finish off our Melbourne diving.

I would highly recommend DIS for their hospitality and comfortable lodge style accommodation. The staff were great and made us feel right at home and went out of their way to show us their best diving spots. We headed off towards the Great Ocean Road, perhaps to do a shore dive. Little did we know what lay ahead.

Continued next month.

DIVE SITES TO REMEMBER

Shark Point

Located at Clovelly, Shark Point is one of the best shore dives in Sydney. Most people do this dive by starting from inside Clovelly Pool, but the best way (and the only way to see its best bits) is to jump off the point itself. You will need fairly calm seas to dive this site, although even then it often looks too rough. The depth reaches about 27 metres due west of the point where are some great sponges and gorgonias. As well as the normal fishlife, there are sea dragons, huge flathead and sometimes firefish to see.

Mahon Pool, Maroubra

While this site can be done as a shore dive (you need millpond seas), the best way is to do it by boat from Botany Bay. Another great dive site, it

consists of a gully that runs from Mahon Pool at North Maroubra almost due east. Eventually, it reaches a north/south wall and a depth of 24 metres. Both the gully and wall harbour a myriad of fish and marine growth. If diving from a boat, run due east from the pool and anchor when the depth drops off.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

You can't butter your parsnips on both sides.

Leo Bergagnin talking about Nitrox
(no, we don't know what he meant either)

NEW MEMBERS

In recent months the following have joined South Pacific Divers' Club: Bill Rixon of the UK, Johan and Rochelle Erlandsson of Padstow, Lilian Colonques of Campsie, Nila Surjan of Chatswood, Denis Konstant of Blakehurst and John Cassidy of Campsie. Welcome to the Club.

RECENT CLUB DIVING ACTIVITIES

Big Seas and Bad Weather Mare Inaugural South Pacific Divers Chicken and Champagne Breakfast Dive by Geoff Cook

"All the best laid plans of mice and men must change with the weather..." is a phrase that comes to mind following the cancellation of the inaugural South Pacific Divers Chicken and Champagne Breakfast Dive which was planned on Sunday 22 January 1995 from Port Hacking with breakfast at Jibbon Beach.

Don't quote me on this, as I am but an ignorant and arrogant atheist, but I heard from a reliable source that at the arrival of Pope John Paul II in Australia to beatify Mary MacKillop, some person (obviously a non-diver) asked him to bring forth rain to break the drought.

Well, Johnboy apparently took the call to heart and along with the rain added an ample dash of storm and tempest of almost Biblical proportions which in effect created reported four to five metre swells off Cronulla. It was actually breaking whitewater over Osborne Shoals right across to the Merries Reef. Unfortunately, not exactly "perfect diving and breakfasting conditions". Therefore, an executive decision was made to postpone the event to the near future at a date to be fixed.

It was pleasing to note, from a Dive Convenor's perspective, that there were six or possibly seven boats, 31 Club divers and a hoard of wives, kids and girl/boyfriends intending to participate later in the breakfast. We in effect would have broken the apparent Club "diving drought" in a big way had it not been for the unfavourable conditions.

**The Next One Will Be Bigger And Better...!
So Be There Too**

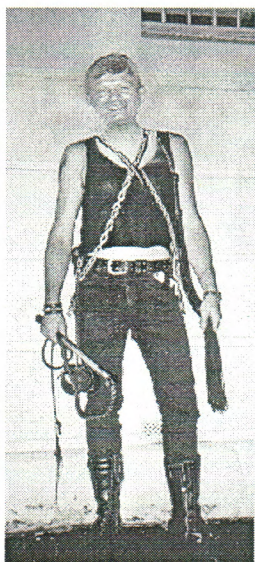
GEORGE ROBERTS PERPETUAL TROPHY

Just a reminder that the Club's internal photographic competition, the George Roberts Perpetual Trophy, is under way. An entry form, with the rules of entry, is attached to the newsletter. The comp closes on 20 March 1995. Contact Peter Flockart for more details.

The major prize for the Open Section is five nights accommodation and six boat dives at the Solitary Islands donated by **DIVE QUEST MULLAWAY**. The major prize for the Novice Section is five nights accommodation and six boat dives at Fish Rock donated by **SOUTH WEST ROCKS DIVE CENTRE, SOUTH WEST ROCKS**.

The presentation will be at the April meeting which will be on Tuesday 18 April 1995.

I SPY



This picture was taken at the Hellfire Club in Inner Sydney just before Christmas.

Is this chap, preparing for a night's pleasure, really who it looks like? We always thought he was into different activities, but nothing like this.

LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

Well, there was not exactly a quiz last month, it was actually December's. Anyway, there was a winner but I can't remember who it was due

to the hectic goings-on that night. The answers were the plane at the bottom of Port Vila Harbour is a Qantas Short Sandringham S25 flying boat. The accident that led to it been scuttled occurred on 10 June 1951 when it was attempting to take off. As it sped over the water, a powered canoe cut across the plane's path and when it swerved to miss the canoe, it ripped a hole in its hull. It was stripped of its engines and abandoned on Iririki Island, then the English Governor's Home. He eventually tired of it and ordered it to be scuttled. Its last flight was actually underwater as it ended up a long way from where it disappeared under the surface.

THIS MONTH'S QUIZ

In southern NSW there is a wreck that sank on 8 November 1879. The ship was 49 metres long and displaced 250 tons. In Honiara there is a US wreck that displaced 9,360 tons and was 135 metres long. It sank on 13 August 1943 in a

Japanese aerial attack. Both these wrecks have the same name. This month's questions are what is the name of these two wrecks and where did they get the name. The person with the closest correct answer at the February meeting will win a bottle of wine. Just tell the Editor your answer. A hint, John Fardoulis and Rick Latimer (who cannot enter) will no doubt mention it in their presentation about their latest holiday.

MORE RECENT DIVES

On Sunday 5 February, 10 members of the Club held a impromptu chicken and champagne dive. Using the boats of Rick Latimer and Geoff Cook, they dived the SS *Undola* and Barrens Hut.

Fairly flat seas meant a quick trip (very quick in the case of Geoff's boat *BarJumpa*) to the wreck where we found clean 20° water, heaps of fish and, strangely enough, a slight current from the south (first time I have seen). Worth noting is the fact that the huge fishing net at the bow has disappeared after being there numerous years.

The dive was without incident except for the moray eel which attacked John Fardoulis nether regions. A sergeant baker was also seen to gobble up a nannygai near the bow area.

The dive at Barrens was also quite good with a new member, Nila Surjan, joining us for her first Club dive and only her fifth dive out of her course. Ably looked after by John Fardoulis, she proved to be a diver of great skill despite her lack of dives.

CARTOON OF THE MONTH



The monster snorkell: Allows your child to breathe comfortably without exposing vulnerable parts to an attack.

UPCOMING DIVING ACTIVITIES

Contact Numbers: Scott Leimroth 759 6501 [h] and Geoff Cook 543 5817 [h] or (018) 29 4897 [w]

February

A trip to **Eden** and **Tathra** for the weekend of **17 to 20 February** is being organised by Barbara Sweetman. Contact her on 550 1712 [h] for more details.

On **Sunday 26 February** a Club boat dive and BBQ is planned for **Bass Point** at Shellharbour. Members (especially boat owners), please phone Geoff Cook to let him know if you're coming.

March

A night dive with **Max Western** on **Sea-tamer II** is planned for **Wednesday 1 March**. Phone Scott Leimroth or Geoff Cook if you are interested.

On **5 March** the Club will be participating in the **Clean Up Australia Day** at **Little Bay**. We will dive and collect rubbish and after have a BBQ on the beach. Contact Scott Leimroth or Geoff Cook.

The weekend of **10 to 12 March** will be a really big one with the first ever **Multi Club Dive Weekend** being held at **Jervis Bay**. South Pacific, Ryde Underwater, Underwater Research Group and the Dive Club of University of Technology will be attending. More details from Scott Leimroth or Geoff Cook. Numbers are needed by the February meeting so accommodation can be booked.

Wrecks and sharks at Seal Rocks on 25 and 26 March. Cheap accommodation. Get in quick as limited spots available. Another boat owner (with small boat for beach launch) needed. Phone Scott.

The monthly boat dive and BBQ will be held on Sunday 26 March at a location to be decided at the February meeting. Phone Geoff Cook for more information and to book.

The trip to Jindabyne has been cancelled. Scott says it is too cold, he wants a dry suit to dive there.

April

The Easter Long Weekend is 14 to 17 April and a trip to Nelson Bay has been planned. As well as boat dives, shore dives are planned. More details at the February meeting or call Scott Leimroth now.

NEXT CLUB MEETING "Shitty Diving in Paradise"

The next meeting will be held on Monday 20 February 1995, starting at 8 pm in the Emile McDonald Room of the Bankstown Sports Club. Club members Rick Latimer and John Fardoulis will be showing underwater video footage of their recent dive trip to Honiara in the Solomon Islands. Noel Taylor (1988 Novice Section Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year) will be showing slides of the trip. As well as 30°C clear blue water and huge wrecks, video/slides of the seldom dived *Azumasan Maru* (Deep Ruiniu) will be shown.

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

Monday 20 March 1995 (Peter Norris Guest) and Tuesday 18 April 1995 (changed due to Easter).

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

As at 2 February 1995, the Club has 39 Ordinary Members, 12 Family Members, 2 Life Members and 3 Honorary Members. Unfortunately, 59 members have yet to pay their membership fees. Including non-renewals, members live in four overseas countries and four States of Australia.

If you have not yet renewed your membership, send off the enclosed form right now as you only have until the end of March to renew it.

CLUB SPONSORS The South Pacific Divers' Club is honoured to be sponsored by the following:

Dive Quest, Mullaway, contact Chris or Gary on (066) 54 1930

Max Western's Sea-tamer II charter boat, contact Max on 567 8658 or (018) 28 0791

Platform One Restaurant at Bankstown Sports Club, 709 3899

Shiprock Dive, contact Leo or Lesley on 526 2664

South West Rocks Dive Centre, South West Rocks, contact Noel or Belinda on (065) 66 6614

Twofold Dive Charters, Eden, contact Peter or Lorna on (064) 96 1778

Wet Rag, the South Pacific Divers' Club Newsletter, is published by South Pacific Divers' Club. Edited by Michael McFadyen.



Send material to 46 Gannon Street, Tempe, 2044 or fax to 585 6401. Phone: 585 6434 [w], 558 8181 [h] or (015) 276 556 [m]. Deadline for material is the last day of each month.

MINUTES OF SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB
HELD ON MONDAY 16 JANUARY 1995 AT BANKSTOWN SPORTS CLUB

Before the meeting, Club President Leo Mayer, presented his letter of resignation to the committee and verbally advised all in attendance the reasons of his standdown from the position. He also withdrew his membership from the club, then left the meeting.

OPENING:

Our club's Publicity Officer, Merridy Cairn-Duff proceeded to chair the meeting.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER MEETING:

Minutes of December meeting sent to all members in the "Wet Rag" were accepted by Leo Bergagnin and seconded by Russell Stoker.

INCOMING MAIL:

Other club's newsletters, Christmas cards, "Minelab Excalibur" brochures and article, "Padi Australia" letter regarding August A.V. presentation night, " Aust. Underwater Federation" application form for Public Liability Insurance.

DIVE ORGANISER'S REPORT: Geoff Cook;

- Scott Leimroth - Dive trips.
- Chicken/Champagne dive day.
- April trip - wrecks at Central Coast.
- Discussion held on "Liability Insurance" for the club.
 - A few opinions from members and committee were given.
 - Recommendations from Solicitor were read.
 - Conclusion: continuous legal opinions to be sought and discussed at future meeting.
- Jervis Bay multi club dive weekend in March.
 - Suggestion made to draw up a program for boats in attendance to avoid confusion on the day.

TREASURER'S REPORT: John Fardoulis;

- Request for suggestions on spending of club funds.
 - Suggestion of a photocopier - John will approach "Sharp".
- December statement - \$732.00 Incoming, \$1,234.00 Outgoing.
- December Xmas party spent about \$500.00.
- Reminder of Membership renewals due.
- Request for interest in "Club Sloppy Joes" - will price.

PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICER'S REPORT: Peter Flockart;

- "George Robert's Trophy" photographic competition opened this meeting. Discussion of rules in general.
- "Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year" competition **opens** 6 March 1995 and **closes** 26 May 1995. **Presentation night** is 12 August 1995.

SOCIAL ORGANISER'S REPORT: Barbara Sweetman;

- February diving trip to Eden/Tathra.
- Report on "Hellfire Club" social night.

MEMBERS' DIVE REPORTS:

- Peter Flockart dived Barrenjoey with "Atlantis". He dived the wreck of the *Valiant*, which is 15m long and rests in 26m depth. The water was dirty with only 5m visibility.
- Michael McFadyen and Eddy Labour attempted to dive the *Valiant* but the "fisho" wouldn't move off the only mooring, so they dived on a bommie near Maitland Bay instead.
 - They dived on the wreck of the *Birchgrove Park* through the week.
- John Szwecow had 7 dives down the South Coast including Long Nose Point and The Arch.
- Whilst gearing up for a dive with Rick, John noticed a "decent sized" fin cruising through the water, but to his relief the owner didn't make its presence known to them throughout the dive.
- Gordon McDonald dived a weekend at Nelson Bay which included Looking Glass and the Bubble Cave.
- Rick Latimer and John Fardoulis enjoyed "10 Shitty Days in Paradise" in the Solomon Islands through December/January.
 - They did 17 dives on 7 different wrecks over 8 days in Honiara and had superb weather the whole trip.
 - Rick enjoyed his trip so much that he is planning another to the Solomon Islands in April.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Club Publicity Officer, Merridy Cairn-Duff declared the position for Club President as vacant and open to members and outlined the general requirements for the position.
- Word from Peter Hall, says *Provincial Trader* still intact.
- Seminar for "Prism" Re Breather - April 21 at The Concordia Club.
- Copy available of "Scuba Yearbook" by Barry Andrewartha.
- Suggested letter to all members declaring Club President position vacant and open.
- Requested letter of thanks to Leo Mayer sent by the committee.
- Details of dive trip to Vanuatu/*President Coolidge* available from Michael McFadyen.
- John Sumner's books available to buy from Martin Kandilas.
- Meeting closed at 9:20pm.

Monthly raffle not held this meeting due to Club President vacating his position and not passing on to the Committee the tickets or prize details.

GUEST SPEAKER:

- Richard Nicholls and Joe Ellams from Manly Dive Centre and **ANDI** (American Nitrox Divers Int.)
- Richard gave a very informative and detailed lecture on the mixture content blends, equipment needed and benefits of using Safe Air/Multiple Gas mix/Tri-Mix.
- Richard also demonstrated the Closed Circuit Scuba Unit's unique gas management properties.
- A big thank you goes to Richard, his excellent instruction and education skills certainly pulled a lot of us out of the dark about the subject!

GEORGE ROBERTS PERPETUAL TROPHY

South Pacific Divers Club
 Members Underwater Photographic Competition

OPEN CATEGORY

- 1st Place: Five nights accommodation and six boat dives at the Solitary Islands donated by Dive Quest Mulloway.
- 2nd Place: Will receive a certificate.
- Best Macro Slide: Will receive a certificate.
- Best Wide Angle Slide: Will receive a certificate.

NOVICE CATEGORY

- 1st Place: Five nights accommodation and six boat dives at South West Rocks donated by South West Rocks Dive Centre.
- 2nd Place: Will receive a certificate.
- Best Macro Slide: Will receive a certificate.
- Best Wide Angle Slide: Will receive a certificate.

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY

- Best Macro Slide: Will receive a certificate.
- Best Wide Angle Slide: Will receive a certificate.
- Best Wildlife Slide: Will receive a certificate.

RULES OF ENTRY

OPEN FROM:

- The competition is open to all members of the South Pacific Divers Club.
- Categories this year are:

Open — Available to all members.

Novice — An entrant who at the time of entering the competition, has not received monetary remuneration for any underwater photographic work in Australia or elsewhere and who has not won any prize in a recognised National or International photographic competition (with the exception of the South Pacific Divers Novice Second or Third, Encouragement Awards or Honourable Mentions).

Individual — This is open to all members who wish to enter but have less than the five slides required for the other two categories.
- A maximum of five (5) 35mm. slides per entrant in glassless mounts are required for the Open and Novice sections.
- All slides must have been taken underwater by the entrant.
- The portfolio must contain a minimum of one macro, one wide angle and one wildlife shot. (Wildlife is defined as marine life other than macro and excluding divers).
- Fish tank, aquariums, swimming pool and the like photographs are not acceptable.
- Photographs taken that resulted in the injury or death of marine animals are not acceptable.
- Any special effects are limited to "in camera" and any unusual shots should be accompanied by a description of the technique so as to avoid possible disqualification. Slides that have been manipulated, altered or enhanced by means other than that detailed above will be disqualified.
- All slides are to be in glassless mounts with the entrant's name, slide name and a contrasting dot in the lower left hand corner when held to be viewed naturally.
- The Club reserves the right to use entered slides for the promotion of the competition, the Club or diving at its discretion.
- Entrants are to either hand their entries to the Photographic Officer or post them to South Pacific Divers Club, P.O. Box 823, Bankstown, NSW, 2200.
- The judges and photographic officer's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE

Entrants should select their slides to demonstrate the range of their technical ability as well as creativity. Slides will be judged individually for technical ability, composition and creativity, then the portfolio will be assessed for range and depth of ability.

ENTRY FORM — GEORGE ROBERTS PERPETUAL TROPHY

Name:	OPEN FROM
Address:	16 / 1 / 95
Contact Phone Numbers: / P/CODE	TO
Tick the Category you are entering:	OPEN NOVICE INDIVIDUAL	20 / 3 / 95
Titles:	1. 2.	
	3. 4.	
	5.	

I hereby state that I will be bound by the rules of the competition and acknowledge that failure to comply or give false information can result in disqualification.

Dated: / /

Signature:

Summary Of Meeting Held Mon Jan 30th 1995

Subject: Rules Of Incorporation, Club Diving & Insurance

- Issues:
1. The Club's liability in relation to club organised dives.
 2. The appropriateness of rule 29 (b) of the rules of incorporation.
(This is the rule regarding what boat owners must have, to participate in club organised boat dives.)
 3. The adequacy of the club GIO public liability insurance policy.

- Conclusions:
1. The club is not liable for any mishaps resulting from club organised activities. Rule 30 of the rules of incorporation states;

Risks

- (a) Diving members are responsible for their own in - water actions.
- (b) Members and family members participate in boating and club activities at their own risk.

This should be highlighted to all new and existing members
(see recommendations).

2. Rule 29 (b) should be amended with more appropriate conditions (see recommendations).

3. Further investigation regarding alternative public liability policies is required to find one that may be better suited to club activities.

- Recommendations:
1. Club liability. Two options;
 - (i) That the rear cover of the rules of incorporation booklet be changed to include a tear out portion for application for membership/renewal. This is so that a signed section acknowledging the rules, in particular rules 29 (b) and 30 can be collected.
 - (ii) As a minimum, have rules 29 (b) and 30 stated on membership application/renewal forms.
 2. Provide notice through the newsletter that at the March club meeting that a vote will be taken regarding the amended wording to rule 29 (b).
 3. Alternate public liability policies to be investigated through the GIO (the current underwriter) and through the Australian Underwater Federation (who currently has a policy).

Notice Of Proposed Change Of Rule 29 (b) Of the Rules Of Incorporation South Pacific Divers Club Inc.

The following is the new wording for Rule 29 (b)

Members who are boat owners are entirely responsible for all statutory requirements, insurances, maintenance and condition of their boats, and that the Club or its committee members shall not be responsible for statutory requirements, insurances, maintenance and condition of boats, or for any loss, damage or injury resulting from the boats or use of them.

A vote re the above change will be held at the March Club meeting.