

# WET RAG

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

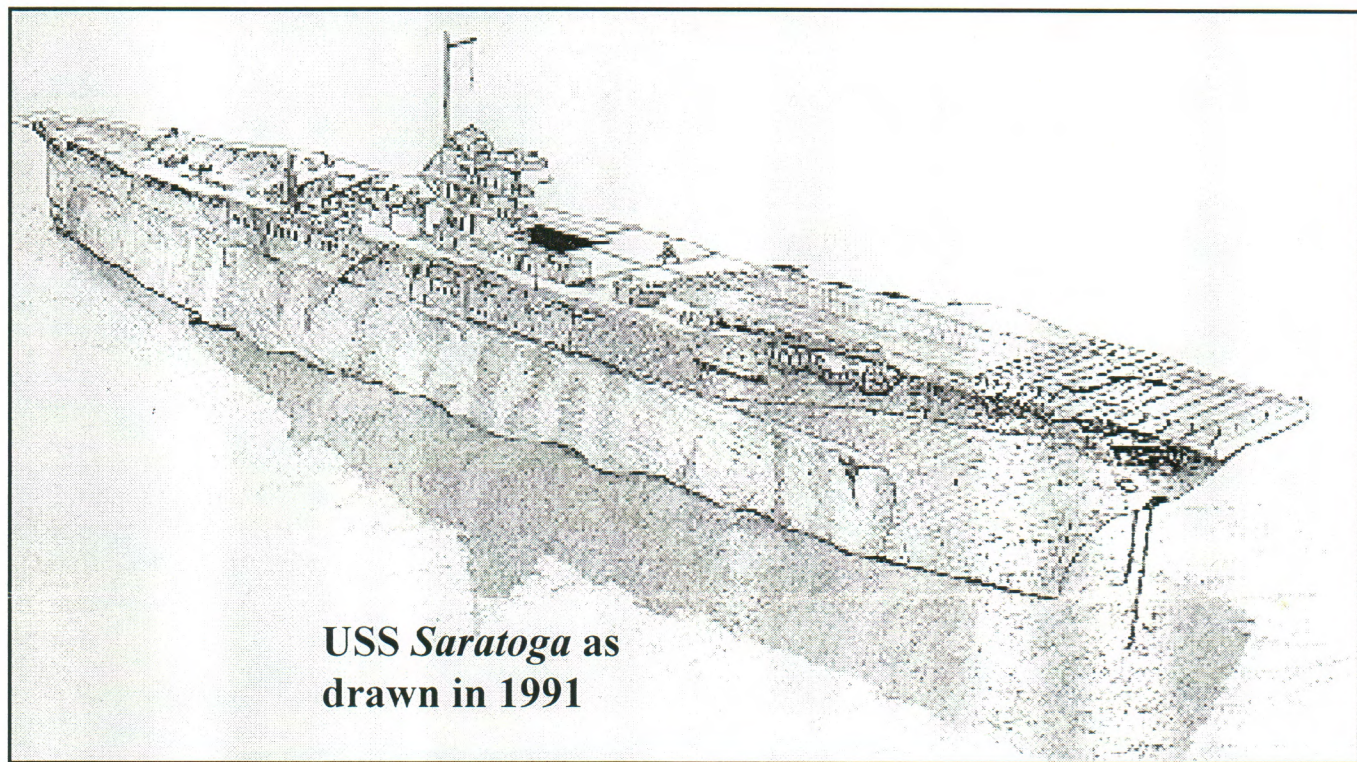
PO Box 823, BANKSTOWN NSW 2220



July 1995

## DYK \*

The SS *President Coolidge* (654 ft long, 21,936 tons) is not the biggest diveable wreck in the world. There are in fact at least three other ships that are bigger than the *Coolidge*. The title of biggest diveable wreck in the world in fact belongs to the aircraft carrier USS *Saratoga*. The *Saratoga* is 888 feet long overall and displaced 43,500 tons. The second largest wreck is the Japanese battleship HIJMS *Nagato* (708 ft, 43,581 tons) and the third largest is the battleship USS *Arkansas* (562 ft, 26,100 tons). At least one other vessel is longer than the *Coolidge*, although it displaces less. This is the USS *Prinz Eugen* (yes, USS is the correct term as she was commissioned by the US after she was seized as war booty). The *Prinz Eugen* is 692 feet long and displaced 19,553 tons.



**USS *Saratoga* as  
drawn in 1991**

And where are these four wrecks. Well, the first three were sunk in Bikini Atoll Lagoon (within a few hundred metres of each other) in the first two atomic tests carried out after the war and the last one is in Kwajalein Atoll Lagoon where she sank as a result of minor damage caused in the same tests.

The *Coolidge*'s correct title should be the largest accessible diveable wreck in the world. The other four wrecks are diveable, the maximum depth on the USS *Saratoga* is 180 feet, 30 feet less than the *Coolidge*. Contrary to common thought, the wrecks, lagoon or the atoll itself of Bikini Atoll Lagoon have almost nil radioactivity and a person living and diving there for two weeks would receive about one tenth the dose of radioactivity of spending the same time in an average US city. The only reasons you cannot dive the wrecks are the facts that there is no infrastructure at Bikini nor is there any dive operation located at or visiting Bikini. Kwajalein is a restricted area due to its use as a US base.

Reference: *The Archaeology of the Atomic Bomb* published 1991 by US Park Service.

\* Did You Know **Note:** The sizes have been calculated by multiplying each ship's length and tonnage.

Meetings of the Club are normally 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 17 July 1995.



### **President's Message**

In recent weeks while tidying up Club records, I have come to realise how much history there is to South Pacific Divers' Club. Members were explorers and achieved great feats over the years. The launching of the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year competition in the early 1980s was a huge gamble, but it certainly has received great accolades for the Club. In recent years it has dominated the Club, it is time now to spend more time on diving activities. The photographic side of the Club has been greatly supported but other interests have been neglected. The 1994 AUPY presentation night was only the third time the Club has made a significant profit on the night. It was by far the most financially successful in its 15 year history. We must use these funds wisely.

Our investment account now stands at \$11,000, the highest it's ever been, and we still have funds that were raised in the last 18 months. The wreck divers of the Club have put a proposal to the committee and the Club to purchase a magnetometer. The exploration side of the Club has been dormant for too long and it is time to wake it up. Finding a wreck will certainly be a great achievement and will rekindle the tradition of early members. The members of the early 80s were very positive when they launched the AUPY and we must look at the positive side of this purchase.

In this newsletter, Geoff Cook (Barjumpa) has outlined some of the positives. The main questions some members may be concerned over are: Can we afford it? The answer is simply yes. Will it end up in someone's possession and used exclusively by a particular group. The answer to this is no. If the purchase goes ahead, the committee will formulate a policy for its distribution and until the Club has a property officer (hopefully in the near future), it will be housed with our records and other equipment.

It will be hired out to Club members at a nominal rate on the "you lose, you pay" principle. We will monitor its use and report back to the members at all times. To alleviate any fears of a "riot" at our next meeting, after the break we will discuss this issue and a secret ballot will be held. All members will be scrutinised at the meeting to make sure there is only one vote per member. If you cannot make it to the meeting, there is a postal vote with this newsletter and details on how the ballot will be conducted. Consider this proposal carefully and make sure your vote counts. Every vote is important, majority rules, so have your say in this issue. If you want to enclose a statement to be read out, please do so. All postal votes will be counted after members have lodged

their vote and will be counted at the meeting in the presence of all members.

On the proposed Scuba Clubs' Association of NSW (SCAN), I am not quite sure where it's going. It appears that the word independent really needs to be defined. SCAN's objectives are to promote safe and responsible diving, promote friendship and co-operation between independent clubs and represent the views of the sport diver as a unified voice. Exclusion of all clubs associated with dive shops, which may or may not have elected representatives is being canvassed. Hardly a way to promote friendship and co-operation. Are not they not sport divers as well?

The driving force behind the second "Jervis Bay Combined Clubs' Weekend with Channel 10's Blue Water Dreaming" is supposedly SCAN, but some of us have our doubts. What has happened to the word "independent"? Come on guys, who is driving this bus, representatives of the dive clubs or commercial interests.

Finally, we recently received some interesting documents from the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC). Many of the older divers will know about BSAC but for newer divers you may not have heard of this club. The opportunity to join BSAC should be considered. At the next meeting I will shed a little more information on this touchy subject. Leo

### **Newsletter Editor's Message**

What contrasting weather we have had recently. The June Long Weekend had very good weather and very good visibility. On the SS *Undola* on the Saturday, Geoff Cook and some other members had 27 metre visibility. The next weekend was a real wipeout. Huge seas and gale force southerlies meant there was no diving.

The last weekend in June again sported westerly winds and on Saturday, members John Beddie, Ross Mackay and myself dived the *Undola*. We had no trouble finding the wreck, but after three attempts at anchoring we had still not caught anything, let alone a shipwreck. The fourth attempt saw Ross and I follow the anchor down and find it about 25 metres off the wreck. Visibility was about 24 metres, blue water top to bottom. Another great dive on the *Undola*.

The next day I dived Long Reef and had one of the top three dives I have ever had in Sydney. See the article later on in the *Wet Rag*. Last weekend the winds were again from the west, even stronger than the previous weekend. Members Paul Angwin, Jim Glass, Eddy Labour and myself joined Les Catterson and Phil Short from St George Scuba Club to dive the SS *Tuggerah*. The seas and winds were okay until we got to Marley Point. (Continued bottom right of page 3)



**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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

Position	Name	Home No:	Work No:
President:	Leo Bergagnin	558 2592 Mobile: (041) 951 7285	517 2853
Treasurer:	Barbara Sweetman	550 1712	Pager 430 6285
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 Mobile (018) 29 4897	543 5817 (018) 29 4891
Social Secretaries:	Carina Gregory Nila Surjan	(046) 25 8630 487 4030	(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
John Beddie	603 7584	046 20 1746
BJ	709 5535	
Peter Booth	529 3818	
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

**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.

**CARTOON  
OF THE  
MONTH**

continued from page 2

The winds turned to gale force strength so we canned all diving.

I have received a letter from John Fardoulis. He is in Greece on a holiday and I have included an account of his trip so far in this *Wet Rag*.

Michael McFadyen

Thinking of going to the snow this year. If you are, you can get a 5% discount if you stay at the Corroboree Lodge which is owned by one of the Club's sponsors. See the attached brochure for more details on the lodge and how to book.



## DIVE REPORTS

After the two reports in last month's *Wet Rag* were published about the Club's 27 and 28 May Seal Rocks weekend, two alternative views were received. These relate to the sharks and the drift diving dives on the SS *Catterthun*.

### HELL ON THE HUN by Rebecca Davis

After my last dive on the SS *Catterthun*, where a whale scared the life out of me, I swore I would never do it again. However, the clear warm water, twin tanks and a hint of gold was enough to entice me back again. So I joined the blokes on the boats once more to dive the huge wreck.

As usual, the westerly wind was howling and it was difficult to anchor. Geoff Cook and John Fardoulis were about to sulk (like the last time when the elements beat us) but their faces lit up when we hooked in so hard that the boat driver nearly went over the side! His anchor rope was too short so we hung on grimly while John fiddled with our only bit of spare rope.

Scott Leimroth and I descended into the blue and we could see the whole wreck spread out on the bottom, lit up with the beams of the divers already there (Michael McFadyen, Jim Glass, Paul Angwin, John Szwecow, Geoff and John F). The visibility was magic and too good to spend time with our heads in a hole looking for artefacts, so Scott gave me a tour of the wreck and we swam past the engine and boilers up to the bow. We found the letters "HUN" on the side and the floor was covered with horse bones, bottles, coal and silt. I did not feel narked at all (58 metres) - with clear water and twin tanks I felt great - until I left the bottom.

Every time I leave this wreck, something amazing (read "bloody scary") happens. Scott nudged me and I looked up to see a huge shark (about 3 metres) silhouetted in shafts of sunlight. I thought "Oh great, my first grey nurse ever!" but as it turned and swam off briskly I realised that it was not a nurse (I could tell by Scott's face).

Ah well, maybe it is just passing through I thought. But no, it came back, sleek and fat and checked us out. We peered over each other's shoulders all the way up to our deco stops. By this time we had seen three bronze whalers. I was very glad to get up among John F and Geoff who had not even seen one of the sharks! I never cease to be amazed that divers 30 metres apart or in the water five minutes apart can have quite different dives.

John F found the four of us together a bit cosy so he swam over to the anchor line. However, he soon came back to us when the sharks returned to circle us. In fact he squeezed right in the middle of the three of us!

Then, that inevitable time came - John F and Geoff left the water and our odds [of been the one

attacked] were doubled! Scott and I huddled together and peered out into the blue. The sharks always came in to us with the sun behind them and they were not going to go away. I held my torch tightly (my only weapon!) and I felt real anger (survival instinct?) as well as fear. I thought, "You aren't going to get me easily you bastards!" I kept thinking of how hungry they might be without pilchards at the bottom of the food chain. This was the longest 10 minutes of my life. We could not go up and risk a bubble in the brain but I was petrified and desperate to get out of there. Then, below us, we saw a big school of fast moving fish and I thought "Ah, the sharks must be feeding on tuna" when the true horror registered that it was a school of about 30 bronze whalers!! They were smaller than the first three but very agitated. Some sharks veered off like fighter planes and I thought "That's it. I'm out of here" and I leapt into the boat with 25 pounds of lead and half out of my twin tanks! Of course, the others did not believe us and laughed as we sat sucking on O<sub>2</sub>. We had blown the deco by about five minutes but I thought I would rather die from the bends than a feeding frenzy!

I felt a real tension in those sharks and I am sure it would have only taken one to bump us or do something stupid to set off the others.

I had no adrenalin left after this and slept for three hours in a safe warm bed.

*Believe it or not...*

### BLUE WATER DREAMING OR BLUE WATER NIGHTMARE? by Scott Leimroth

After an exciting day's diving on the Saturday and a relaxing evening consisting of spas, saunas, ping pong, pool and discussions around the fire place, we retired for the night to our comfortable rooms at the Pacific Palms Resort for a well earned rest.

We awoke at 5.30 am to Rick Latimer's loud Santa Claus impersonation (Ho! Ho! Ho!). It was still dark as we left for the pick up at the beach. Seven o'clock saw us anxiously awaiting another dive on the *Catterthun*. The wind was still blowing strongly from the west, although the seas were not as large as the day before. The water was dark with the sunrise beginning to break through the cloudy early morning sky. Geoff and John F entered the water first wondering whether a shark or 30 might be waiting. A few minutes later John Szwecow and I were on our way to the wreck. The viz was well down on the day before and the lack of sunlight gave the wreck a dark, eerie atmosphere. We checked the anchors of both boats near the engine and I headed for the stern. Among other larger items, I discovered an eye glass and part of the frame it belonged to. I wondered at the events someone had viewed through this eyeglass on that fateful day in 1895.



As my bottom time was nearly up, I headed back towards the engine where I found John again. At 18 minutes we still had a few minutes left so we decided to look inside the engine after noting that the anchor was nearby.

At 20 minutes I turned to find the anchor gone. Thinking that perhaps I was disorientated or slightly marked, I turned to John and asked him if he knew where the anchor was. Two minutes ago it had been right here but now it was gone. We searched briefly to no avail, so we began to ascend slowly, still scanning for the anchor line as we rose above the wreck. Shit! It was gone. We would have to do a blue water deco. The thought of this was just beginning to dawn on me when we noticed two torches below on the wreck. Great, I thought, they must be from the other boat and we can go up their anchor line.

With our bottom time rapidly approaching 22 minutes, we raced towards the lights to find Wreck Latimer and Michael McFadyen closely examining (read pilfering) a part of the wreck. I flashed my torch signalling we had a problem and needed an anchor but Rick shooed me away, not realising the situation, while Michael gestured that their anchor was nearby. I grabbed Rick and signalled that there was no anchor. By the look on his face I realised that he now understood what was going on. We began to move towards their anchor. To our shock, their anchor was also gone. With no time to waste looking, the four of us began our **John Fardoulis Catterthun Drift Diving Specialty Course** by doing a blue water ascent from 60 metres.

The next 60 minutes were spent wondering: What happened to the anchors? Where were the boats? Could we find some rope for Rick's safety sausage? Would we drift far (there was no current but we slowly swam on a westerly heading)? Would we have to swim to shore? Did we have enough air for our deco? Would Rick be able to stay negatively buoyant or would I have to ride him like a bull for the whole deco? Worst of all, where were those damn sharks and would we all live to receive our drift diver specialty awards?

Well, with 10 minutes left of this most exciting deco, we sighted the hull of one of the boats. We were saved! Mysteriously, our boat was still anchored on the wreck, not too far from where it should have been. Were those smiles on John F and Geoff's faces? John denied that they had unhooked the anchor, but we were suspicious, especially since the day before the Greek had been the last to touch John Szwecow's car keys. They went missing, leaving John S stranded at Seal Rocks for the day, just as the anchor had gone missing. Very suspicious!! Nevertheless, we all lived to tell the tale and we agreed from now on we would do blue water decos just to add that

bit of spice to our dives. After all, we were the four newest divers to graduate from the **John Fardoulis School of Catterthun Drift Diving Specialty Course**. Unfortunately, we may also be the last for a while as John is heading to Greece leaving the divers of Australia to assured safer diving until he returns. Another exciting weekend on the *Catterthun* had been had by all.

**FISH GALORE!!** by Michael McFadyen

What a dive!!! I have dived all over the Pacific Ocean, including the world's best wrecks, but on 24 June I had a dive that rivalled the best offered anywhere in the Pacific. What made this even more amazing was the fact that I could see the centre of Sydney from the dive location.

Together with Eddy Labour, I ventured to Long Reef to dive a site known as The Wall or The Apartments. As soon as we entered the blue water (16°C) I knew that this was going to be a very special dive. Within a few metres of the anchor we saw four or five huge cuttlefish. There were a lot of fish around, red morwong, bream, leatherjacket, silver sweep, yellowtail, sea pike and sergeant baker to name a few species.

We started exploring the numerous holes created by the large boulders. More cuttlefish. Soon my count was over 15. Near the anchor I realised I had dived this area the last time I was here. Yes, here was The Cathedral. Formed by two enormous sandstone blocks resting against each other in the shape of a church's roof. Entering from the southern side, we swam through the cavity towards the "altar" and exited out the "stained glass window". It is really easy to see how The Cathedral got its name.

Outside were more cuttlefish, my total now over 25. Then, something caught my eye. A huge dark, moving shape was beyond the rock. No, it was not a whale like John Beddie had seen the day before while anchored on the SS *Undola*. Getting closer, I saw that the shape was in fact composed of millions of fish (well tens of thousands at least). Yellow-finned pomfret, yellowtail, silver sweep and assorted fish of other species hovered over the gullies between a couple of the larger boulders. This was an amazing sight. Swimming in and under the fish it got very dark, even though it was a bright and sunny day above water. It was almost like a night dive, torches an essential requirement to see. I had never seen so many fish, not even on the normally covered wrecks of the SS *Tuggerah* and SS *Undola* on Sydney's southern outskirts. Certainly more fish than I have ever seen on coral reefs and these fish were bigger than the fish I had normally seen in large schools on coral reefs.

We returned to The Wall and saw more cuttlefish, our tally now over 30. Almost



immediately I found Andys Cave. The entrance to the cave is at about 15 metres and is formed by a large rock lying at 60°. You enter the space under the rock and then turn right to swim through a low, large cave, along a short passage into a longish cave with which has small and large "skylight" exits above.

Looking back now as I write this (and having re-read my report on this dive site in the November 1993 *DIVE Log*), I am still in awe of how good this dive site is. I remember my first dive here and it too was great. Whatever you do, make sure that this winter you dive The Wall.

### I SPY

Who is the Club member who has gained the new nickname of Oppie? It is understood that this is short for optometrist, so named because of his (there's a hint!) unerring (and unending) habit of saying "I did that...", "I know about..." and "I have already dived..." etc.

### DIVE SITES TO REMEMBER

#### Little Bay

The Sydney suburb of Little Bay is named after the small bay behind Prince Henry Hospital (former home to the hyperbaric unit). There are a number of dives you can do here, including the bay itself (very good night dive) and a dive from the small inlet to the south of the bay. Little Bay can be dived in nearly all but the worst seas while the inlet needs very calms seas.

#### Macquarie Lighthouse

Just south of Sydney Harbour and The Gap is the impressive old Macquarie Lighthouse. The area below the lighthouse is a very good dive site, with the bottom composed of huge boulders. The depth is suitable for all divers and you can stick to the sand edge or, if it is calmer, head up into the shallows. A great dive site.

### SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS' CLUB OWN MAGNETOMETER (A VERY

#### ATTRACTIVE PROPOSITION) by Barjumba

Have you ever been the first person to dive upon a wreck? Not many in our Club, apart from Rick and Martin, can lay claim to having been the first or "one of the first" divers to dive a wreck site. But who has ever wanted to be the first or among the first to dive a wreck? The rest of us can now put their hand up. It gets into your blood after a while and can become an obsession to some.

In the last four minutes available of the June South Pacific Divers' Club meeting, Scott Leimroth briefly raised a proposal that South Pacific Divers Club purchase a MAGNETOMETER (a scientific device that is towed behind a boat that measures the magnetic current fluctuations in the water which can pinpoint the location of large or small metallic

objects). Used in conjunction with a GPS and a computer plotter, which we already have access to, and searching a set grid pattern to locate a wreck site in a general area. Unfortunately time didn't allow us to put forward the entirety of the this important proposal due to the visiting guest speaker and photographer, Michael Aw, but we did create some interesting debate on the proposal.

Several months ago I stood up before the meeting and suggested that the club had been resting upon it's laurels and it's past reputation and that rather than "Reviewing History" again and again that perhaps we should go out and "Create some History". This emotive plea was in relation to finding some more historic shipwrecks which lie in diveable waters off our coast. In particular the whereabouts of the SS *Nemesis* which, quite contrary to the wild unresearched speculation of some club members, we believe will be found in quite shallow waters very close to the Port Hacking. But in the ten years since I have been investigating the *Nemesis* several other very interesting historic wrecks have been annexed into the search. SS *Corio*, SS *Koonya*, SS *Nimbin*, SS *Bega*, *Lady Darling*, *Diamond* and the *Marion Fenwick*. Research and other indicators put four of these wrecks at depths of 15 to 30 metres which is within the depth range of all divers from Novice to Experienced.

No-one in the Club can deny the impact that the finding of the SS *Myola* has had on the diving in Sydney nor the notoriety and prestige gained by Peter Fields and John Riley. Both Riley and Fields had spent considerable time and money over many years searching for the *Myola* the "hard way" and finally, after only four days of using a magnetometer, located the wreck site! It was on everyone's lips, in magazines and even on TV. But we are South Pacific Divers and we can do it better! We can capitalise on and publicise our discoveries.

When the SS *Duckenfield* was located, a "Wreck Discovery" night was held being advertised by word of mouth. Surprisingly, about 600 paying, interested divers attended and at \$12/head (total \$7,200 less expenses) were treated to the history of the *Duckenfield* from several guest speakers, question time and short AV and culminating the night with the handing out of copies indicating all the "marks" of the wreck's location. We can do the same and this investment will make money and give South Pacific Divers' Club further prestige and publicity. In this regard we already have the backing and support of David Nutley and Tim Smith from the Heritage Department of the Department of Planning.

Following purchase the device has no further running cost nor upkeep and it would be proposed



that the device would be either for free use, or at a nominal cost (say \$40 to \$60) per day, to club members/search groups or club sponsors. Its use would be by appointment and application to the committee or equipment officer. There is obviously ample scope for hire of the device to other clubs, commercial divers or external parties at say \$120 to \$150 per day which would effectively pay for the device in due course but the cost to club members/search groups could be negated or reduced in the future following a wreck night positive return.

Enquiries revealed that a magnetometer would cost \$2,500 to \$3,250, which admittedly is a substantial outlay, but this must be placed into perspective by noting that although we are one of the largest dive clubs, we do not have any large capital assets such as boats or club rooms etc to maintain. Currently we have \$11,000 in our investment account, a further \$8,000 in our working account, the latter being funds raised in the last 18 months. We can afford to fund this investment for the betterment of our Club and our diving for all levels of diver.

#### LETTER FROM GREECE by John Fardoulis

I have been on the Greek mainland, the Attica Region, for just over a week. The weather consists of humid 30°C+ days and 25°C nights. Just scratching the surface with two dives on scuba and two days free diving (yes, free diving!!), I'm starting to get a feel for the place. The second day in Greece I went free diving near a place called Marathon, north of Athens. The overwhelming feeling was that I dropped into a scene from *The Big Blue*. Clear, blue water that dropped off into the abyss.

So far, the diving in Greece is similar in many ways to that of the Solomon Islands. Clear, blue water with a very steep incline for the bottom near the shore. The water temperature has been about 22°C but thermoclines on the bottom drive the temperature back to about 14 to 16°C.

My first dive was nothing spectacular, we went down a well that dropped about 10 metres down from a 20 metre bottom. I have been diving with a South African ex-pat who has been living in Greece for 10 years. He is a PADI Staff Instructor so 30 metres was a "deep" dive.

One fact about the Mediterranean is that there is a lack of fishlife and bright coral. That's OK, I've seen plenty of fish and coral in Australia. What I came to see are old shipwrecks, amphorae and ancient ruins.

That's where the second dive was more interesting. A shore dive off the rocks, the stepped wall we swam across dropped from the surface to 70+ metres. Many pieces of broken pottery were evident and in one place, a pile

reminded me of the *Ruinui* wreck in Honiara. Out of the group of five on the dive, I was the straggler, looking in every nook and cranny (as I have been taught) for something more intact.

To my surprise, guess what I found? An ancient wine pitcher, with the neck and handle exposed. Fine craftsmanship from possibly thousands of years ago, intact, embedded in the coral. I tried to move it but it would not budge.

Suddenly, I had a flashback to a dive in Sydney, where a certain dive buddy on a certain wreck, spent the entire dive with hammer and chisel dislodging bits of old brass fittings embedded in hardwood. At the time, it seemed to me to be a lot of work for little reward.

Now, I could go back with a hammer and chisel and, in a single dive, recover an intact artefact that could be thousands of years old. There are certain obstacles:

1. I don't have a car and the dive site is about 50 kms away.
2. Should I recover something that has been part of a dive site for possibly thousands of years? (A rhetorical question I think).
3. Will I be caught and locked up for recovering an ancient artefact?

#### THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION

#### AUPY PRESENTATION NIGHT

With the record entries for this year's Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition, it is certain to be the best ever presentation night held. The gala night will be held at the Bankstown Sports Club on Saturday 7 October. The Club has reserved 50 seats for Club members which will be sold on a first in, best seat basis. Tickets will be available from Carina Gregory and Nila Surjan shortly. To get your seat for the night, send \$22 to Carina or Nila c/o the Club's PO Box right now. If you would like to book your own table, contact either Carina or Nila now (see back page for their phone numbers) or see them at the July meeting. Apart from these two offers, Club members will not be able to get preferential seating for the night.

Remember, get in early to get the best seats.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The deadline for the August *Wet Rag* will be Sunday 23 July. This is because the Editor will be away from late July for three and a bit weeks and he needs to get the newsletter out before he goes. If you have material to be included in the issue, make sure you get it to him early. This is the absolute deadline and cannot be extended. The deadline for the September *Wet Rag* will be 30 August as normal. However, no late material can be accepted as the issue must be completed early as members of the Club (including the Editor) will be travelling to Vanuatu to dive the *SS President Coolidge* in early September.



**Please ring the dive and social organisers on the Tuesday or Wednesday before the event to confirm details etc.**

## UPCOMING DIVING ACTIVITIES

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

**Sunday 23 July** will see another fantastic dive day. This dive, called the **SPDC Mid-Year Yuletide High Tide Prawn and Chardonnay Boat Dive and Breakfast** will depart from **Rose Bay** for parts as yet unknown. Both reef and wreck diving will be available to suit all divers. After the dive, the Club will meet at Watsons Bay Beach where Geoff Cook promises that there will be the Watsons Bay Hotel and Doyles Restaurant and Dancing Girls and Nude Volleyball. Non-divers should meet the divers at Watson Bay Beach at 11 am. Already more than 25 people have booked to go on the dives. Phone Geoff or Scott if you are interested.

## August

On **Sunday 6 August** there will be **wreck and reef dives** out of **Wollongong**. The dives will be using a commercial dive boat. The first dive will be on the wreck of the **SS Bombo** (30m), an excellent and easy dive. The second dive planned is for the **Five Islands Reef** drop off. A maximum of 8 divers on each dive can be catered for, so get in early. The cost of each dive is \$20 and this must be paid at the next Club meeting. Phone Geoff or Scott to book.

On the weekend of **11 to 13 August** the second combined clubs' dive weekend will be held at **Jervis Bay**. If you are interested, phone Geoff or Scott now to get your name on the list. Once again the camping will be at **Bristol Point** (no cranky rangers this time) or in more luxurious caravan accommodation at Huskisson. A great weekend is guaranteed.

## September

Rick Latimer and Scott Leimroth intend to go to the **Solomon Islands** to dive **Honiara in September**. The many **wrecks of Guadalcanal** are really worth diving. **Bonegi 1 and 2, Ruinui, the B17 bomber, the I-1 submarine and the deep Ruinui** are just some you can enjoy. If you are interested, phone Rick (645 4405 h, 042 61 5631 w or 018 64 7329) or Scott (759 6501 h).

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

**Contact Numbers:** Carina Gregory (046) 25 8630 [h] or (046) 20 1423 [w] and Nila Surjan 487 4030.

## July

The revenge **paintball/skirmish** rematch between **South Pacific** and **Ryde Underwater Club** is scheduled to be held at **Yarramundi** (out west) on **Sunday 16 July**. However, RUC appears to have chickened out on the rematch. Despite this, the day is still on, with a battle planned between South Pacific members. Contact Carina or Nila as space for four more players is still available. The cost starts at \$55, including heaps of shots and your lunch.

## August

A day trip to the **Hunter Valley wineries** is planned for **Sunday 20 August**. The cost will be \$20 and will include your bus trip. A great way to visit the many wineries of the Hunter Valley safely. A strict limit of 30 people applies, contact Nila or Carina if you are interested. 50% deposit required next meeting.

## NEXT CLUB MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 17 July 1995**, starting at 8 pm in the Emile McDonald Room of the Bankstown Sports Club.

## FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

Monday 21 August, 18 September and 16 October 1995.

**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

**Selera Restaurant**, Level 1, 264 King Street Newtown, 557 5186

**Shiprock Dive**, contact Leo or Lesley on 526 2664

**South West Rocks Dive Centre**, South West Rocks, contact Noel or Belinda on (065) 66 6474

**Twofold Dive Charters**, Eden, contact

Peter or Lorna on (064) 96 1778



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