

WET RAG

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

PO Box 823, BANKSTOWN NSW 2220



September 1995

1995 AUSTRALASIAN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION PRESENTATION NIGHT - 7 OCTOBER 1995 BANKSTOWN SPORTS CLUB

Tickets are still available for the presentation night. This year a record number of entrants will vie for the greatest prize list in the competition's history. The video section promises to be one of the highlights of the night while the outstanding number of entrants for the novice and individual sections ensures a night of amazing photography.

Tickets are available from Peter Flockart (371 0265 ah) or Suzanne Evans (891 1964 ah - answering machine provided).



Above: Rick Latimer presents Mike Ball (left) and Max Benjamin with plaques of appreciation for their support over the years for the Club's Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition.

Left: Some of the dive boats at the JB weekend, including from left URG, Les Caterson and Club member Bob May.

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. However, as mentioned above, this month the meeting will be held on the 4th Monday, 25 September 1995.

President's Message

Rapidly looming up once again is our annual awards night for the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year competition.

Recently I have received a few complaints about last year's night. One such complaint was justifying the cost of printing. Last year's program costs were met by way of advertising within the program, as will be the case this year. This year's tickets and the glossy brochure was done under a "contra" deal and cost the Club \$500. The 1993 awards night printing costs were also \$500. Last year, the total cost was \$80.

The current committee is aware of some of the surprises which appeared on the night. This year, Greg White of Corporate Theatre, will produce the show himself as opposed to one of his former staff as last year. Things like scaffolding appearing on the day unannounced won't happen. Ticket sales this year are well behind last year's. This year, more than ever, we need to fill the auditorium as cost are up all round.

If anyone has a complaint about last year (or even previous years), jot it down on a piece of paper and post it to the Club. If you prefer to remain anonymous, that's fine. To improve the night we need plenty of feedback. No-one will be offended by any remarks.

At our next meeting (remember, the 4th Monday of the month, 25 September), Yves Martin is coming down from Dubbo to show us the latest in strobes, video lights and torches. Should be very informative. Hope to see a big roll-up of South Pacific Divers' Club members.

Regards, Leo B.

Newsletter Editor's Message

How has the diving been? My recent European holiday over, I am keen to get back into the diving. Two dives in five weeks is definitely the longest time between dives for me. A couple of articles about my trip and the diving in Ireland are included in this month's *Wet Rag*.

You will have read Leo B's sheet added to last month's issue, especially the bit about the Waterways (ex MSB) attempt/threat to crack down on the use of private and club boats for diving. This unbelievable attempt to attack the rights of boat owners to use their boats in a safe and legal manner has been initiated solely by that unrepresentative throng, Dive Australia. This group (private company?) purports to represent divers but in reality pushes the needs and wants of only a few of the thousands of people who are attempting to earn a living out of the diving public (read, you and I).

This latest attempt is being made on behalf of one Paul Rosman, owner of Pacific Coast Divers. I would not have expected such a thing from Mr

Rosman, who I had thought was one of the few people in the dive industry who was actually someone to look up to. However, a fax in our possession shows that it was indeed Mr Rosman who had Dive Australia raise this matter with Waterways. Considering the contempt that Mr Rosman obviously holds divers, I urge members to think twice about utilising his charter boat and shops until he retracts from this view.

If Dive Australia believes that banning the use of private and club boats for diving will increase the use of charter boats by more than a couple of percentage points, I think that they are even more out of touch than I have always thought. If, for example, 100 people use private and club boats on every weekend and in the future they are banned from this, do they really expect 100 extra divers will want to use charter boats? What a load of crap! Out of the 100, I would imagine that maybe 5 or 10 would choose to use a charter boat while 30 or 40 would not even dive. The other 50 or 60 might do a shore dive instead. Not everyone has the money to be able to pay \$30 every weekend for a dive on a charter boat. The loss of the 30 or 40 people diving each weekend (air fills, wear and tear on their dive gear etc), would not be made up to scuba shops by the 5 or 10 extra charter boat divers that they may gain.

If dive shops and charter boats really want more people to dive with them, let them pull up their socks and make the attraction of their boat such that the average diver might prefer diving with them than going out on a club or private boat.

With the single exception of Max Western and *Sea-tamer II*, I cannot think of a dive charter boat in Sydney that really meets the needs and wants of divers. It is time for operators such as Mr Rosman to pull their own socks up and increase the quality of their services (and maybe decrease their prices - \$7 for an airfill is a bit steep!) rather than attack the hand that feeds them, that is, us the divers.

The above highlights one of the reasons why SCAN (Scuba Clubs Association of NSW) must succeed. For too long, Dive Australia has been purporting to the Government and the public that it represents divers. We must ensure that SCAN is a success and represents the real divers. For this reason, SCAN must not ever allow itself to be compromised by associating with Dive Australia and any person representing it.

The above are my personal views and do not necessarily represent the views of the Club.

Anyway, enough of that. ~~Thirteen~~¹⁷ members are off to Vanuatu on 10 September to dive Port Vila and Santo. We hope to dive numerous wrecks, including of course, the SS President Coolidge. A report in next month's *Wet Rag*, about the trip and diving. Regards, Michael McFadyen

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	(018) 29 4891
Social Secretaries:	Carina Gregory	(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
John Beddie	820 4272	046 20 1746
BJ	709 5535	
Peter Booth	529 3818	
Geoff Cook	543 5817	018 29 4891
Bruce Cremonesi	668 8126	645 0286
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.

I SPY

There is a devious KY Jelly user among the members of the South Pacific Divers' Club! He lingers around the Lilli Pilli Chemist, awaiting a chance to spend his wife's hard earned money.

On a recent boat dive, he secretly extruded the famous blue and white tube and applied it to certain hairy parts of his anatomy. When his disgusting habit was discovered, he said shaving was out of the question. When applying it, he was heard to say that it was very slippery but it was perfect for his rubber attire. After the dive in almost freezing water temperatures, where whale sounds were heard and blue groper attacks were not unheard of, the rubber man, eh, sorry, I mean

the KY King surfaced and immediately reported to all on board (namely Robyn with a leaky BCD and who prefers to just watch these days) that his recurring seepage problem had disappeared.

So for all divers with seepage problems, KY Jelly is for you and can be bought in bulk at any Lilli Pilli Chemist.

FOR SALE

Aluminium 72 cf tank in test. Excellent value, good condition, \$160. Scott Leimroth on 759 6501.

LOST

At JB weekend, gunmetal blue/grey aluminium 88 cf tank, serial no K8899. Phone Scott.

DIVE REPORTS**NORTHERN SAFARI '95 - Clownfish, Caves, Sharks and Seals (Part Two)** by Scott Leimroth

Scott and Rebecca have left Mullaway for South West Rocks

We spent the night at a farm near Kempsey owned by a friend of Rebecca. A diver as well, he was interested in our stories about the Solitary Islands and decided to dive Fish Rock the next day with us. The three of us arrived at South West Rocks to hear clear water and whales were awaiting us.

After a short trip to the wharf, we boarded the boat and headed out across the flat seas towards Fish Rock. Our first dive was at Colorado Pass [Ed comment: The Pinnacle?] on the northern side of the island. I knew this would be a great dive when I entered the water to be met by a huge loggerhead turtle sleeping right next to the anchor. We were guided through the "Pass" and we saw Moorish idols, groper, about eight grey nurse sharks and heaps of butterfly cod. In fact, in one small spot there was a group of four together, a great photo opportunity for someone gone begging. The visibility was at least 30 to 40 metres and while we did our safety stop on the top of a pinnacle with a shear wall dropping to the sand, we could clearly see a grey nurse shark and its accompanying school of fish 45 metres below.

We had lunch on the boat and then moved around the other side of the island to the deeper entrance of Fish Rock Cave. What an amazing dive experience! The water was blue - we saw grey nurse sharks, more butterfly cod, huge schools of long finned bannerfish and some kingfish on our short swim to the cave entrance.

Inside the cave there was only a slight surge and the visibility was crystal clear. A huge wobbegong was positioned in the middle near the entrance and below the chimney were two more accompanied by a large black ray. We went up the chimney and continued through the cave which contained many nooks and crannies jam packed with huge crayfish and slipper lobsters. Towards the exit of the cave (shallow entrance) we were met by another large black ray that led us out towards the shallow entrance. It stopped and waited until we caught up, at times as though it was our tour guide.

We examined the large bubble cave near the exit and a number of large and colourful gorgonian fans which border the shallow entrance of the cave. On the other side of the island now, we played with the various fish, particularly the many groper. We saw more grey nurse sharks here.

We all chatted about what a great day's diving we had experienced as we made the journey back to the wharf.

The next day we were not sure where to head, Port Macquarie, Forster, Seal Rocks, Nelson Bay, with so many diving options on the NSW coast north of Sydney.

As we had never dived around Port Macquarie before, we decided it would be our next destination and we wondered what to expect as we drove there.

SOUTH WEST ROCKS DIVE CENTRE

South West Rocks is famous for Fish Rock Cave which runs about 100 metres right through Fish Rock providing a unique diving experience. Starting off at 24 metres at the deep end, the cave main entrance is about 12 metres deep. Even if you are not too keen on cave diving, Fish Rock Cave is a must do dive. As well as the cave, The Pinnacle on the north side of the rock is a fantastic dive. Other dives include Green Island, Black Rock and the Macleay River drift. If you want to dive SWR, use the most experienced dive shop on the north coast of NSW, by phoning Noel or Belinda on 065 66 6474.

**PROUD SPONSORS OF
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS' CLUB**

IF YOU'RE IRISH, COME INTO THE WATER by Michael McFadyen

When I told people I was going to Ireland and Great Britain, I was continually asked if I was going there to dive. Although this was not the aim of my trip (see story later in *Wet Rag*), I had already decided that I would try to get a dive in if I could. After making a large number of phone calls, I finally tracked down the only Irish dive operator I could find that hired out more than "bottles and lead". This dive operation was called Waterworld and has a main shop in the south-western County Kerry town (city?) of Tralee as well as a dive shop and accommodation about 20 miles away (they still talk miles and even road signs are in a mixture of miles and kilometres, very confusing, but very Irish) past a small village called Castlegregory.

I stayed the night a few kilometres away from the dive operation and arrived at a leisurely 9 am for the first dive of the day. The owner of Waterworld, Ronnie Fitzgibbon Snr, warmly welcomed me and made me have a cup of tea before getting down to the diving. As can be expected from the Irish, much talk and laughter went on before we were permitted to get ready for the dive. Very relaxing indeed.

As I was hiring all my gear (I only took my dive computer), I picked out a 7mm semi-dry suit, BCD, fins etc and loaded all the gear except for the wetsuit aboard their truck. We walked the 100 metres down to the ramp/wharf where one of Ronnie's rigid inflatables awaited us. This boat was his newest and largest and it carried about 14 divers. The waters around the dive operation are named after seven islands, collectively called The Seven Pigs or The Maharees. The seas were millpond, something

you would only see off Sydney maybe twice a year. I was informed that this was their average seas. The 2.5 kilometre run out to our first dive site, Gurrig Reef, only took a few minutes. Located off Gurrig Island, the reef was a kelp covered top (21 m) with a few small walls and then a larger four metre wall dropping down to the sand at 28 metres.

Nearly all their diving is drift diving, although there was little, if any current. The calm seas enable you to easily drift and see twice as much of the reef as you would otherwise. There were not too many fish to be seen, although I did see a few small "blue groper" and "sergeant bakers". A few other fish darted around here and there, but what I did see on this dive were plenty of crayfish. While there was not too much sponge life to be seen, a large ray passed by me on the dive. After 23 minutes, it was time to ascend as I was nearly out of bottom time and my buddy was almost out of air (I still had about 120 bar).

We returned to the dive centre and had tea and biscuits while awaiting the time for the next dive. I chatted with Ronnie and his instructor son Ronnie Jnr about their diving. I found out that they get a lot of Irish divers from Dublin as well as many British divers. Quite a few of their regular divers have dived in Sydney when they were on working holidays in Australia. They go on dive trips to the Caribbean and Spain.

Our next dive was to a nearby island called Inistookskert Island. This was only a few hundred metres from the first island and was also a drift dive. The depth was about 20 metres and the terrain consisted of a criss-cross of canyons, each about a metre or two wide. Swimming above it reminded me of a city landscape, with intersections galore. The kelp here was taller, about 1.5 to 2 metres high. More crays were seen as well as heaps of edible crabs. I also saw a thornback ray (looks like its name), dog sharks (about 10) and a few spider crabs. The dive only lasted 25 minutes as the people in my group chewed up all their air (one even lost a fin which I had to retrieve as it floated to the surface). Nevertheless, quite a good dive.

The visibility on both dives was fair, say 10 metres or so. The minimum water temperature was 15°C, not too bad considering I only had 14° on my return to Sydney.

In summary, the diving was quite nice, the operation very casual but extremely well run, and the operators, Ronnie Snr and Ronnie Jnr, very friendly. If you are going to visit Ireland and would like a dive, phone the two Ronnies on 0011 353 66 25803 (dive centre) or 39292 (Tralee).

DYK*

On my recent trip to Ireland, I learnt of a

shipwreck that may be even bigger than those in Bikini Atoll. The wreck is called the *Kowloon Bridge* and it sank somewhere in England and is apparently at a diveable depth. More information as it comes to hand.

*Did You Know?

HUNTER VALLEY DREAMING by Scott Leimroth

The intrepid crew left Bankstown at 8 am and after a pleasant trip soon arrived at the first quaffing site, Lindemans. Numerous vintages were tasted and numerous bottles were purchased. While here, a prospective new club member was found, the guy serving the wine was a keen diver. Then it was off to the "Golden Grape". The effects of quaffing slowly became noticeable, some slurred speech, much laughing, more quaffing and another prospective member, this guy was also a keen diver. Must be something about divers and wine.

The next stop was lunch to fill our bellies with something other than wine. Then it was off to McGuigan Brothers and it did not take long to see that we would not be able to drink much more, the wine was flowing. It's not too clear what happened next, but I think we went to Draytons Winery - I can vaguely remember Martin Atkins playing a few brilliant piano pieces on the old piano in the tasting room. We got dirty looks as we devoured the cheese and crackers on offer and drooled over more wines. After purchasing a few \$5 bottles of plonk for the bus trip home, we left with Visa Cards overextended and smiles on our faces. Ten minutes into the trip, the cheap bottles are empty and the bus ride devolved into a dive talk and eventually degenerated into a snake fight. We arrived back in Sydney, a great day had by all.

TRAVEL TALK

HEAT, MOSQUES, HEAT, VEILS AND HEAT (Part One) by Michael McFadyen

In late July I ventured forth towards Europe for the first time to visit Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland. I had always wanted to visit Ireland and the United Kingdom but apart from a planned trip seven years ago that fell apart because of a new-found interest (not diving), I had never got around to it. Finally, this year my sister Cathie and her husband Joe decided to make a trip to Ireland so that Joe could return to his homeland for a few weeks and so that Joe's family could meet Cathie and their two children. After prompting from Cathie and Joe, I decided to join them two weeks into their holiday.

Leaving Sydney on *Gulf Air* (a pretty good airline, I must say) I journeyed via Melbourne and Singapore to Bahrain in the Gulf. I arrived mid-morning to find it hot, to say the least. The trip through customs was as I expected,

everything I had was searched. Books examined for their content, toiletries opened (even my soap and shampoo) as well as Panadol and penicillin bottles. As well as checking every piece of clothing, I had to rewind the tape in my video camera and replay it to the official. After about five minutes, I stepped out of the terminal into heat unlike anything I have ever felt before. I have been in Honiara in the Solomons in mid-January and I thought that there could not be a hotter, stickier place. I was wrong! The air temperature was 46°C and the humidity was 100%. Luckily, I went straight into an air-conditioned bus for the trip to my hotel.

You are probably wondering what the hell I am doing stopping over in Bahrain. This thought flashed through my mind at this time as well. Well, *Gulf Air* had offered a great deal on a return flight to London including a night's accommodation in Bahrain, a guided tour of the city, dinner and breakfast for \$2200. I thought that I would not mind stopping in a place unlike any I had visited before, so I decided to try it out (by the way, John Fardoulis also flew *Gulf Air* to Greece after I told him of this offer).

Anyway, I went to my hotel and thought I would have a swim in their pool and lunch before the tour started. I settled into the Gulf Gate Hotel (very comfortable) and went to the pool for a dip. The water was the temperature of a warm bath, but at least it was relaxing, if not cooling. Before the tour I went on a short stroll around the waterside but the extreme temperature soon drove me back to the air-conditioned comfort of the bar area. Yes, although a "strict" Moslem country, alcohol is available for sale in the hotels, even to locals.

The tour of Bahrain was quite interesting. We saw the historic Portuguese forts and boat building areas and visited the numerous edifices provided by oil money. Virtually all the local women wore veils, some totally covering their faces and wearing gloves. A real highlight of the tour was being invited into the Grand Mosque to see the incredible workmanship that went into this prominent building.

After the tour I met a few USAAF personnel who were stationed in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. They told me that they had not had a beer in eight months nor had they seen a woman. At least they were going to make up one of those shortages in their few nights in Bahrain.

The next day I left Bahrain, albeit three hours late after the plane was late arriving from Tehran. This, of course, meant that I was three hours late in arriving at Heathrow Airport in London. As I was connecting with an *Aer Lingus* flight to Dublin half an hour before, I knew I was in a bit of trouble so I bolted for Terminal 1 (nearly all Asian overseas flights arrive at

Terminal 3). It did not help that the temperature was 34°C, London's highest ever temperature and not a breath of air permeated into the subterranean terminals. Heathrow is not only the world's largest international airport, it must also be the world's worst designed. I soon got lost as I sped through a maze of tunnels to the check-in counter to try and get on another flight. Finally I made it, but bad news, I had missed the next plane and the next three flights were not only full, but there were 30 people on standby to get onto them. Luckily, numerous other people were also late and missed these flights and I got on the second flight and finally arrived in Dublin where I was met by Cathie, Joe and their sons Kieran and Scott. (Next month, The Land of Pubs)

DIVE SITES TO REMEMBER

South Bondi

The best diving at Bondi is from the northern end of the beach, below the small car park near the headland. However, a good dive can be found at Flat Rock at South Bondi. Park in Wilga Street and walk down the street and then the pathway. From here you can see the dive site and entry point. The reef consists of a low flat reef off the shore and a nice reef edge along the shore. To the left as you enter the water there is a fantastic series of tunnels/caves. This is a good dive site, well worth doing, especially as a night dive.

Cape Banks

The outside of Botany Bay offers some excellent dive sites. Choose any location north or south of the headlands and you will not be unrewarded. The northern headland, Cape Banks, offers numerous very good dive sites. Around the point itself the remains of the SS *Minmi* can be found and further north there are some excellent dropoffs and swim-throughs. A very good dive is behind the Pistol Club. Line up with the fissure in the cliffline and you will find a nice wall just north of the underwater canyon. An excellent swim-through can be found in the canyon and the depth extends to 27 metres or so.

SCUBA EXPO by Michael McFadyen

Scuba Expo was held in conjunction with the Boat Show on the last weekend of July and the few days either side. While a huge crowd attended, the Expo itself was a bit disappointing. The number of exhibitors was down (at least the wholesalers) and the range of equipment on show was nowhere as extensive as previous years. I had been particularly looking for a couple of pieces of equipment for my new video camera and housing but there was nothing to be seen at all like what I wanted. The travel part of the show was fairly well represented (including NSW) as were the dive shops. Some of the very big wholesalers did not attend.

The Boat Show section was quite good and I really drooled over a couple of the boats, especially the Sailfish cats manufactured up near Lismore. If only I could win a million or two!

AUSTRALIAN MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY by Adrienne Hill

At the Scuba Expo, the Australian Marine Conservation Society had a stand. Until now, the Society has been located only in Brisbane. However, they are currently setting up branches around the country. On 15 August I went to a meeting of the Sydney Branch at the Museum.

The Society recently changed its name from the Australian Littoral Society, a group that had been established for a long time and was apparently a key player in the designation of the Great Barrier Reef as a marine park.

I gathered that various people have been meeting for a number of months in order to establish the Society's branch in Sydney and they have had one previous meeting. It is aimed at attracting anyone with an interest in marine conservation, which might include a range of people, not only divers. This group will, at this stage, act as both the NSW Branch and the Sydney Branch until other branches are formed in NSW.

The Society operates on two levels. The head office, based in Brisbane, has a role of policy development and branches and members are encouraged to develop an interest in issues at the local level, in particular, in their local communities. Members will be deemed "development officers" of the society.

The three main policy areas of the Society this year are marine protected areas (MPA). For example, the Solitary Islands are an example of a model of a marine protected area, yet there are still concerns over the way this operates and improvements to this model could be made.

Another issue related to MPAs that was highlighted is the lack of understanding and confusion by the general community about MPAs, intertidal zones and other classifications and the kind of activities that can occur in them. The Society will be working on developing uniform terminology for all these kinds of areas so that people know what they can do in the areas. The Society aims that by the year 2000, 10% of coastal areas will be designated MPAs. Currently (excluding the Great Barrier Reef), only 1 to 1.5% of our coast is an MPA.

I understand that two other policy areas that the Society will work on this year are Water Quality Management and Coastal Management, although the main area of focus is the MPA.

The Society publishes a number of Fact Sheets which about marine conservation in general, marine protected areas, marine pollution,

stormwater pollution etc as well as a newsletter. Quite informative and easy to read.

I have lost the information about the membership, but have requested some more (still waiting...). it seems there are student, individual and club memberships. Should South Pacific Divers' Club or individual members be interested in the Society, I will provide Leo with more information as I get it (plus fact sheets I have) and take it from there.

THE SEA IN ACTION (Part One) by Merridy Cairn-Duff

Some weeks ago, Brad and I headed up to Cairns to partake in the shooting of *Metamorphosea*, the world's first and only 24 hour underwater shoot. The idea was that of Michael Aw, the producer of the book you have probably seen, *Beneath Bunaken*, and of Chris Taylor who runs Taka Dive and Cairns Underwater Camera Centre. There were to be four principal photographers, Chris, Michael, Nick Tonks (who used to own the Camera Centre) and myself. I was invited to join in when I met Michael by answering an ad he had placed in the paper for an photographic assistant...I did not get offered the photographic assistant position, I got offered *Metamorphosea*. I was far from disappointed.

The other photographers were putting in substantial financial support to the project. Lacking any form of that entirely, my contribution was the oodles of time I had available. I thus became the acting Publicity Officer....a much bigger job than I had predicted. As Michael was away overseas for about 16 of the 20 weeks we had until the shoot, there were lots of things which had to be done by someone; me. There was a lot of organisation involved.

The first task was to try and get sponsors. Michael easily got the support of Land and Sea Sports and Sea Horner who have supported previous projects of his. I sent out heaps of letters to people like Dick Smith but alas did not raise a cent as we were asking for money when they did not have any...right at the end of the financial year. That was the first lesson I learnt.

Next we had to coordinate who was coming and all the gear needed and come up with the diving profile. The gear was easily supplied but we had to make sure it all fitted and worked properly. Another big task on top of this was organising a stand at the Scuba Expo. I had to do everything but pay for the thing. This was another interesting experience...trying to fit all the stuff we wanted to in a tiny 3 x 1 m spot. It was too difficult to do on paper, so in the end I measured out a spot at home and actually set up a dummy display. Only to have Michael rearrange everything when we actually got to the Expo!! (Continued next month)

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]
September

On the weekend of **23 and 24 September** there will be a trip to **Seal Rocks** to dive the *Catterthun*, the *Satara* and with the **grey nurse sharks**. A great time was had on the last trip, so phone Scott or Geoff now to book your spot. Diving will be arranged suitable for all divers.

October

On **Sunday 15 October** there will be a **Chicken, Colslaw, Champagne and Crumb diving day** out of **Sydney Harbour**. The Club's boats will leave Rose Bay at 8 am (or thereabouts) and various dives will be arranged. As well as deeper diving on wrecks, there will be dives to suitable shallower reefs like **North Head, South Head, the Apartments** and possibly the *Dunbar*. Bookings will be taken at the next meeting or phone Scott or Geoff now.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Contact Numbers: Carina Gregory (046) 25 8630 [h] or (046) 20 1423 [w].

October

Attention all serious wine drinkers. On **Saturday night, 28 October**, a **wine tasting of Australian red and white wines** will be held at **Liquor Affaire at Chippendale**. Numbers are limited and the cost is only \$5, refundable if you purchase wines. Wines to be tasted include *Salisbury* in Victoria, *Capelvale* and *Alkoomi* in WA, and *Coriole* in SA.

Another skirmish match may be held in October or November. More details as they come to hand.

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Remember, this month's meeting will be held on **Monday 25 September, 1995**, starting at 8 pm in the Emile McDonald Room of the Bankstown Sports Club, not on 18 September. Special guest will be Yves Martin who will be showing a range of strobes, video lights, torches and accessories. If you have not been to a meeting in a while, come along for a informative and social night. Who knows, there may even be a few interesting stories to hear from the Vanuatu trip.

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

Monday 16 October, 20 November and 18 December 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

AUPY PRESENTATION NIGHT

Just another reminder that this year's Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition Presentation Night is certain to be the best ever 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. To get your seat for the night, send \$22 to the Club's PO Box right now. If you would like to book your own table, contact either phone Suzanne or Peter now or see them at the September meeting.

Remember, get in early to get the best seats.

NEWS

Club members Steve Grow and Lee Harvey recently purchased Miranda Dive at Cronulla. If you are diving at Inscription Point, Oak Park, Bass and Flinders or out of Port Hacking, why not drop in and visit Steve and Lee and at the same time get an airfill and browse through the shop for that item you need.

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.
Phone: 558 8181 [h] or (015) 276 556 [m].
Deadline for articles is the last day of the month.

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB MEETING AT BANKSTOWN SPORTS CLUB MONDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER 1995.

Meeting opened and members and guests welcomed by Club President, Leo Bergagnin.

Apologies: Suzanne Evans, Craig Harwood, Eddy Labour, BJ and Rhonda, Robyn Hewitt, Ilona Kandilas, Merridy Cairn-Duff.

Previous Club minutes distributed to all members with the "Wet Rag". Previous Mins were not accepted at this meeting (Oct Meet)

Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence: Other clubs' newsletters, PADI letter (AUPY), Competition's sponsors confirmation letters and promo slides, monies for Presentation night.

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Sweetman;

Bank Statement for month: \$2206.00 In / \$1803.52 Out.

Barbara gave a breakdown of expenses for the month.

Bank Balance: \$9817.85, Investment A/C \$11000.46.

Treasurer's Report accepted by Martin Kandilas, seconded by Gordon McDonald.

George Moore could not do voicovers for Presentation Night.

Social Organiser's Report: Carina Gregory;

Presentation Night tickets are available.

'Night To Remember' November 10; club has purchased 40 tickets.

Skirmish rematch is organised for November 26.

Dive Organiser's Report: Scott Leimroth;

Information from "The Undersea Explorer".

This Sunday on TV at 1:00pm will screen 'Blue Water Dreaming'.

October 15: Chicken and Coleslaw Club day, pick up for diving from Rose Bay boat ramp.

October 20: Night dive.

October 28-29: Nelson Bay, \$20. p/p per night accommodation.

Solomon Islands trip planned for December 1995.

Photographic Officer's Report: Peter Flockart;

Voice-overs for Presentation Night at Corporate Theatre this coming weekend. Guest Speaker is organised for the night.

Issue raised to change structure of next year's competition;

- * keep individual category for purely basic novice entries.

- * novice category structured to allow pure novice entries.

- * introduce an intermediate section between novice and open entries - organise a think-tank to clarify criteria.

Rick Latimer suggests hold over for General Business discussion.

- * discussion needed on selling 2 of 3 club-owned projectors.

Member's Dive Reports:

Joe Ingegneri recounted the story of the wrestling match on the propeller of "The President Coolidge", stern in 68m.

At 50m Ross Hipwell's torch lanyard got caught in Gorilla's 1st stage, both struggled to untangle, eventually set free.

Michael McFadyen lost divers through heavy silt whilst diving "The President Coolidge", eventually Ross Hipwell popped his head through, to Michael's amusement.

John Beddie dived South West Rocks, 6 days and 16 dives.

Saw Queensland Groper, Jewfish and Turtle. 30m+ vis.

Night dive in Fish Rock cave, excellent conditions.

Noel and Belinda looked after them very well during the stay.

Michael McFadyen dived "The Tuggerah", 30m+ vis on the bottom and an excellent dive.

John Szewcow dived with Martin Atkins at Jervis Bay, had 20m+ vis. They dived Cathedral cave and a Steamer at Wreck Bay.

John also had a 'dry' dive on "The Catterthun", bad visibility. Lots of Bronze Whalers on the surface.

Leo Bergagnin spoke of the Shark feed dive in Vanuatu; 17 club members on 2 boats. Fish head tied to buoy enticed the sharks to feed, one shark got hooked but eventually broke free.

Scott Leimroth dived "The Kelloe" with John Szewcow and Bob May, had a good dive. Diving at Henry's Head they saw a huge Stingray. Rebecca Davis and Scott dived a reef at Tathra and "The Empire Gladstone". Diving at Nelson Bay they did 6 wrecks which we can read about in the next issue of 'Wet Rag'.

Michael McFadyen in Vanuatu dived a Qantas flying boat, had 2-3m vis but a good look over the plane wrecked in 41m.

Dived "The Star Of Russia", a sailing ship in 33m, good dive.

Dived a freighter which was deliberately sunk in 44m, a good dive 30m+ vis, the engine room was huge.

Mark Spencer and Ross Hipwell dived "The President Coolidge" and had a good plod around the chain locker and porthole room.

General Business:

BJ and Rhonda were married on September 16, club to send card of congratulations.

Rick Latimer mentioned that John Fardoulis is in Turkey having a good time diving and Nila is still with him.

Bob May has a trip to Jervis Bay from this Thursday to Monday, staying at Leisurhaven caravan park, shallow reef diving if anyone is interested in going.

Yves Martin, our Guest speaker for tonight, lives in Bathurst and cannot make it due to bad weather and blocked roads.

Peter Flockart has "The Myola" books on sale for \$15.00.

Scott Leimroth is organising a 'Hellfire Club' night for Thursday week.

Break.

Raffle:

1st Prize of dinner for 2 at **Salera's Restaurant** won by:

Scott Leimroth.

2nd Prize of boat dive on 'Sea Tamer II' donated by **Max Western** won by: Gordon McDonald. ✓

3rd Prize of 2 Air fills donated by **Sub Aquatics** won by:

Ross Hipwell.

4th prize of 2 Air fills donated by **Leo and Lesley Hillyer of Shiprock Dive** won by: Paul Howlett. ✓

Volunteers for 1995 Presentation Night, 7 October:

Day / Night; Russell Stoker, Ross Hipwell, Paul Aram, David Bilbow, Roslyn Phillips, Greg (Gorilla).

Day only; Mark Spencer and Debbie.

Night only; Margaret Provan, Rebecca Davis.

Comments on 1994 Presentation Night:

Rebecca Davis made mention that the music was a bit too loud.

Martin Kandilas suggested the announcement of winners be adjusted this year.

The End