

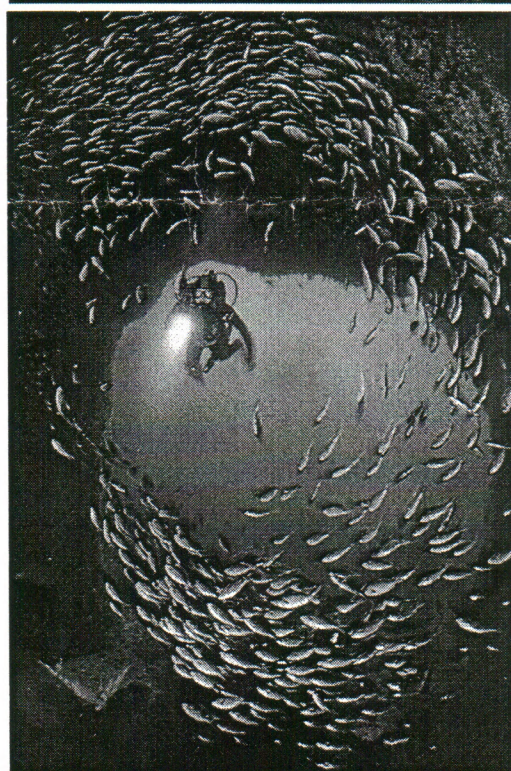
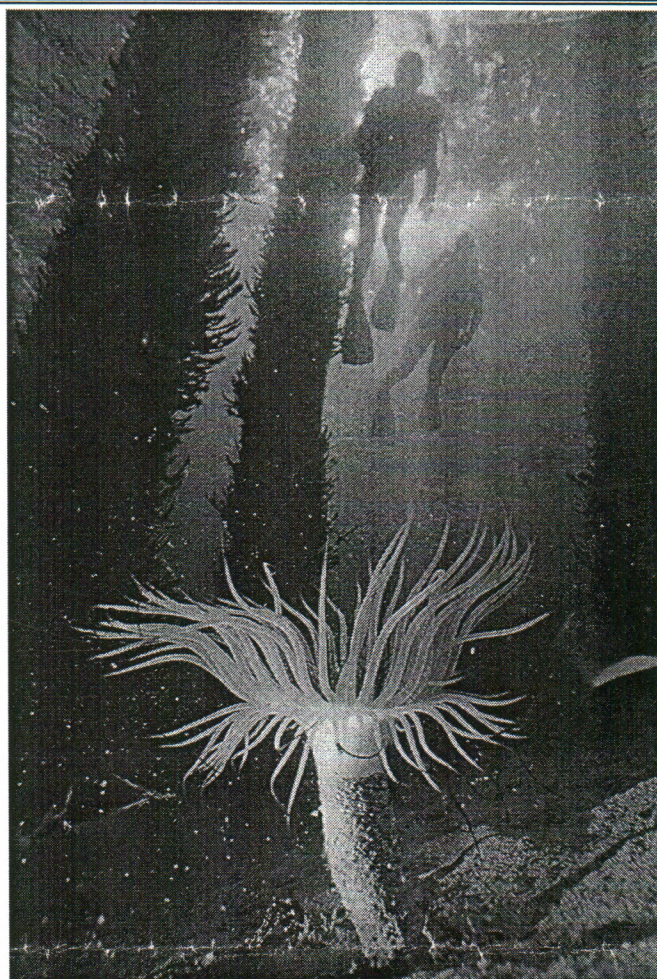
WET RAG

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

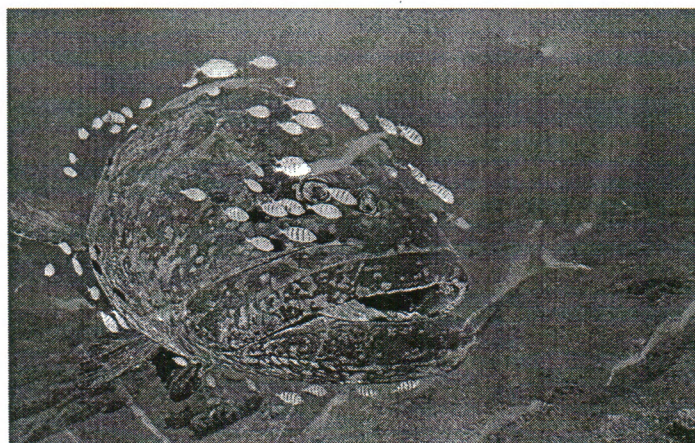
PO Box 823, BANKSTOWN NSW 2220



October 1995



The top scoring slides by: Left top and bottom: Darryl Torkler. Top: Peter Nicholas. Below: Andy Belcher.



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's meeting will be held on Monday, 16 October 1995.

President's Message

The Awards night is now over. Below, Michael has written a report on the night and I have little to add. Congratulations go to all Club members who won awards. The winner of the Novice and Individual Sections, Tim Whiteley, who recently joined South Pacific Divers' Club, will certainly throw down the gauntlet to the Top Five in the Open Section if he enters next year. What can you say about a photographer who cleans up like he did and to top it off he won the lucky door prize only to donate it back for a redraw. I am sure that everyone in that room were impressed by not only his photos, but that action. An exception may be the young lady accompanying him, hope she has forgiven you Tim.

At our next meeting, time permitting, we will show a couple of the videos which are of interest to Club members and also John Szwecow will do a slide presentation.

On a final note, the Awards night was not well attended but we should come out of it on the right side of the ledger.

The recipe for the night was good, ingredients were excellent, but the oven was not working. I will leave you with that thought.

Regards, Leo B.

Newsletter Editor's Message

Well, back to the grind. After two weeks diving and lying in the sun in Vanuatu, it was very hard to get back into the "civilised" life of Sydney. The two trips to Vanuatu organised by Leo B and myself were a great success. Seventeen members had a great time, diving Vila, North Efate and Santo. Of course, the main dive site was the SS *President Coolidge* and we did about eight dives on this enormous wreck. As I have written before, there is only one word to describe the *Coolidge*, awesome. Its size and variety of things to see is something that you cannot believe until you actually see it yourself. Whatever you do, you should try to get over there to see it yourself.

Last Saturday saw the presentation night of the Club's 1995 Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition. While we did not get a full house, it was a success, although a few hiccups did cause some murmurs from the crowd. This just goes to show that no matter how much effort and care goes into preparing a show like this, things both under our control and outside our control can happen and cause problems to detract from the otherwise professional running of the show. I think a major review of this night needs to occur, including whether the novelty of the night has gone. It may be that it is time to rid ourselves of both the competition and the presentation night and spend more time, effort and money on what we are really about - diving. I am sure that this has both

support and opposition within the Club. Think about it and what your views might be.

The front page of this month's newsletter consists of four photographs by the Open Section winners. The winner of the competition was Andy Belcher of New Zealand. After many years and a great deal of effort, Andy has finally cracked the big one again. Congratulations Andy. Second place went to Peter Nicholas of Western Australia and third was Darryl Torkler also of New Zealand. A great showing by the land of the long white cloud.

The Novice and Individual Sections were dominated by Club member Tim Whiteley. Tim took off the Macro, Wide Angle and Portrait parts of the Individual Section as well as the Novice Section main prize. What a night for Tim! Not only did he win this, he was picked out as the lucky door winner (a trip to the Solomons). Tim generously returned the prize for a redraw. What is even more amazing about Tim's night was that if he had entered the Open Section of the Competition, he would have won that Section and would have been the 1995 Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year. Ahh, so much for hindsight.

The other placegetters in the Novice Section were Alex Steefe (second) and Maria Kavallaris (third). The Lyn and Pat Manly Encouragement Award was presented to David Haines and the Club's well known John Blaszcak (BJ) won the Bob Smith Encouragement Award. Special congratulations to Tim and BJ.

In the Individual Section, Andy Belcher won the creative section while Club members Mary Malloy (Portrait) and Noel Taylor (Creative) were highly placed.

The video section of the competition was won by Les Gentle of Coffs Harbour, second was Murray Cornish from Queensland and third was Ivan Millington from the Central Coast. The encouragement award was won by Club member Glenn Townsend with a very funny story about the sinking of *OneAustralia*. However, for me, the fantastic surreal video set on the *Coolidge* by Ivan Millington was the real winner. I know that many other people on the night also thought this was great.

Since returning from Vanuatu, I have not had much luck with the weather and sea conditions. A trip to the Port Macquarie area to dive the *Titan* crane was a bit of a disaster. I used the same (only) operator used previously by a couple of members and can only report that his operation leaves a lot to be desired. I had thought that these members might have been exaggerating a bit. However, if anything they probably understated the situation. (Continued bottom pg 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	(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.

The *Titan* is in 40 metres and about three kilometres off the coast. From all reports, it gets current most of the time and on the two days I dived it had a strong current from the north. This was about 1.5 knot when I dived and over 2 knots when a later group dived. After anchoring, there was a dive brief about the wreck but absolutely no warning of a current. Likewise, the mermaid line was only 10 metres long (I would put out at least 50 to 100 metres if it was my boat), the deco bars were so light that they were at 45 degrees even without anyone holding on to them and there was no deco bottle over the side. On later dives, the divemaster leading the dive could not find the anchor and the divers had to do a blue

water deco from 30 metres or so in a raging current. Not a great operation. Luckily all our divers were very experienced and we had already figured out that the current was a bit strong. If you do go up there, beware!

I recently attended a meeting of SCAN (Scuba Clubs Association of NSW) for the Club and I will report on the final constitution next meeting.

Regards, Michael McFadyen

I SPY

Who was the male Club member who recently walked into the ladies toilet in an international airport under the hazed impression that it was the male toilet?

DIVE REPORTS

PORT STEPHENS WRECKS by Scott Leimroth

The waters around Nelson Bay just to the north of Newcastle have become the resting place of many ships over the years since the early 1800s. After being tempted by stories of maritime disaster and being invited to dive on just some of these wrecks I took two days off work to travel to Nelson Bay. Just two and a half hours from Sydney, the drive is well worth the journey. As you near the destination, the blood stirs as you notice the remains of a once proud steamer [the Manly Ferry *Kuring-gai*] at Hexham.

I was diving with Max Gleeson and Steve Purvis on Steve's boat *Cats*. With both being avid photographers, the mission was photography on the wrecks of the *Macleay* and *Oakland* in particular. Steve had marks for various wrecks in the area and with Max and Steve both being well informed on matters of maritime history, information on the wrecks and their sinkings was abundant. The weather was good on both days and we set out into the impressive landscape that includes Cabbage Tree, Boondelbah, Little and Broughton Islands.

Our first stop was the *Macleay*, just off Little Island. Wrecked in October 1911, the remains of this 155 feet, 398 ton steamer now lie on reef and sand quite close to the island. The wreck is quite broken up, a little like the *Kelloe* or *Myola*. Sitting on reef, the boilers, engine, stern section and bow section with two large admiralty anchors make an impressive site (and sight).

Much still remains on the wreck and the bommies on the port side mixed with sand on the starboard create a varied topography. The most impressive sight is the school of red morwong around the boiler. At 43 metres, a 20 minute dive is sufficient to see the main sights.

After diving the *Macleay*, we decided to look for the wreck of the *Thordis* which an old copy of "Riley's Wrecks" had lying on Yaccaba Head at Nelson Bay. A few minutes of snorkelling revealed its remains. What was once a 10,000 ton 339 feet vessel had been severely battered since it sank in 1906. Two large boilers, which we initially thought were bommies, as well as the engine and prop shaft remain. Forward of these flattened sides of the hull are still visible while broken off are the large remains of the stern with a prop blade visible protruding from the sand. Elsewhere on the wreck, a huge spare prop is laid out. John Riley's 1986 drawing of the wreck notes the position of the telegraph and a gauge, however these were not found. After a 15 minutes dive in nine metres of water, we returned to the boat for lunch.

Our final dive of the day was the *Oakland* just off

Cabbage Tree Island. A great photographic subject at the stern and bow, this wreck was covered in PJs and other fish. An easy dive in 27 metres of water, the wreck resembles the *Undola* but more intact with the boiler and engine half buried in sand, but the sides intact. Sunk in 1903, the 398 ton *Oakland* is a good first wreck dive for open water divers. We headed home after a great day's wreck diving.

That night we talked wrecks and Steve told us about his great white encounter at Fish Rock Cave. He said that the experience changed his life and the story sent shivers down our spines but we figured Steve was now the safest diver to dive with, after all, no one would ever see two great whites in their life.

The next day we dived the *Macleay* again and then the *Wauchope*. Even the locals did not know where this one was, but with the marks we had, we found it first go. Anchoring was difficult as very little remains of the wreck. Lying on sand in 20 metres of water, only the engine, boiler and a winch remain of this relatively small 100 foot wooden steam drogher. Because there is nothing but sand for miles around the wreck, fish come from everywhere to congregate on it. It was covered in juvenile wobbies as well as schools of smaller fish, two strange nudibranchs were seen and a beautiful cod.

After the *Wauchope*, we looked for the wrecks of the *Pappinbarra* and the *Florence Irving*, sister ship of the *Agnes Irving* [wrecked at South West Rocks]. The final dive was on the *Oakland* again for yet more photos. As well as the many wrecks, there are reefs galore around Nelson Bay, including a great pinnacle and Broughton Island is quite close.

The Club has a trip to Nelson Bay on 27 to 29 October so come along to the next Club meeting and put your name on the list or ring me if you want to see the underwater sights of Nelson Bay.

A DIVE WITH THE PHANTOM WRECK RAT? by John Szwecow

Sunday 6 September saw Club members Bob May, Scott Leimroth and myself set off for a dive on the SS *Kelloe* which lies in 51 metres of water off Long Bay. Conditions were ideal, visibility was below average. My Aqua Sea torch lit the wreck as we checked out the boiler and engine parts before following the propeller shaft until it ended, where part of the propeller remains.

After a 16 minute bottom time, we followed our safety line back to the anchor and began our ascent and deco stops. We were near the end of our required stops when I checked Scott's gauges to see a zero air contents reading yet he was still expelling exhaust bubbles. I knew straight away that this was the man, the *Phantom Wreck Rat*

that I had heard and read so much about. He had no need for scuba, it was only worn for appearance to hide his identity.

This was exciting, diving with such a legend. I kept my thoughts to myself as we had a lunch break at Frenchmans Bay.

We headed for a second dive off Henrys Head, the northern headland of Botany Bay. This was an area that I have always wanted to explore. Scott and I descended to boulders near the sandline at 20 metres. The viz here was at least 20 metres and blue water. We headed south along the sand as I could see more reef in the distance. This was really nice diving, a large area of boulders, flat rock, sponges, sea dragons and I also saw a boarfish while Scott located some sort of engine housing [presumably from the SS *Minmi*].

We headed back north to shallow water where we found large boulders, swim-throughs and some sandy areas. It was in one of these sandy areas that I spotted a massive stingray, whose body was at least 400 mm deep. Scott was to the left of me, I tried to signal for his attention, not able to get a response, I stopped for a closer look at the ray. When I noticed it had caught Scott's attention, he was startled, vertical in the water and backstepping to get away. I found this very amusing, then I realised there was fear was all over his face, had the *Phantom Wreck Rat* met his match?

Then I thought that maybe Scott was not the *Phantom Wreck Rat*, the one that would dive to the deep depths of the ocean and call in whales, sharks and submarines at will, who could find immense treasure only to put it aside for safe keeping, who when trapped by a massive boulder could free himself with the flick of a wrist. Surely the real *Phantom Wreck Rat* that I have come to know so much about could not be afraid of a mere stingray? The excitement wore off as reality hit home, my search will continue for the *Phantom*.

TRAVEL TALK

FIRES FROM HELL by Michael McFadyen

The Vanuatu island of Tanna was first discovered in about 400BC when people arrived from the north. The first known European visit was in August 1774 when Captain James Cook in his boat the *Resolution* explored the New Hebrides (as he had named it). When in the vicinity of Tanna, Cook sighted a red glow in the night sky. He decided to investigate and in so doing discovered yet another island. Cook landed in Port Resolution (now home to a over friendly and amorous dugong). Mishearing the locals name for earth, muk-tana, Cook named the island Tanna.

The glow that Cook had seen was, of course, the Yasur Volcano. Located in the south-eastern corner of the island, Yasur does not rise too far

above the jungle and ash laden countryside. What it lacks in height, however, it certainly makes up for in other ways.

Tanna is 55 minutes flight south from Port Vila in a De Havilland Twin Otter. The landing at Burton Airfield is quite an experience with the runway going downhill and then uphill and downhill.

On my visit to Tanna I stayed at the Tanna Beach Resort. Tanna does not have a real town as such, just a small collection of shops and one bank. The Resort is located about five kilometres to the south of the airfield and three kilometres to the south of Lenakel, the island's only "town". Between the Resort and Lenakel but off the main road is the administrative centre of Isangel. This is merely a collection of Government buildings including the open air court, Police station, Public Works Department and the Provincial Government Offices.

The Tanna Beach Resort is located in a small valley right beside the sea. The cabins are very Pacific Islands and quite comfortable, although some people may consider them basic in nature. Hot and cold water and toilets are in each cabin and their verandahs overlook the Pacific Ocean. The food at the Resort (there is no other place to eat) was quite good and reasonably priced (for Vanuatu).

After booking in to the resort, we were off to the volcano. An hour's drive in a 4WD saw us looking into the crater of the active volcano. What a sight! Lava spurted out, hot rocks flew way above our heads, ash and smoke blew high into the air and the noise sounded like 20 747s taking off at once.

A fantastic and at the same time scary place to visit.

PUBS, HISTORY, PUBS, THE ORANGE AND THE GREEN AND MORE PUBS (Part Two) by Michael McFadyen

After arriving almost three hours late in Dublin, I was met at the airport by my sister Cathie, brother-in-law Joe and nephews Kieran (4) and Scott (2) who had arrived two weeks earlier to visit Joe's family. The next day, we spent a too short half day quickly seeing the sights of Dublin. Every corner seemed to have been the home of some famous person (eg Jonathan Swift) and of course there is the Guinness Brewery. History abounds everywhere, including the Trinity College.

After lunching in Phoenix Park, we headed north towards Belfast in our rented Fiat. Just south of Newry we entered Northern Ireland. What an eye-opener! We passed around the now abandoned checkpoint that was like a fortress. The gates were guarded by machine gun posts which were in turn guarded by another machine

gun post up the hill which was in turn guarded by a higher machine gun post. Thank God "The Troubles" appear to be over. After passing through Newry, we followed the coast to Kilkeel on the Irish Sea. We stayed the night at a fantastic farm Bed and Breakfast (B&B) at nearby Ballymartin. For about 12 punts (Irish Pounds) each we got very comfortable beds, a huge breakfast plus never-ending tea with home made cakes. In fact, B&Bs are the "only" places to stay. Their reasonable prices and the fact that every second house appears to be a B&B ensures these are the best way to get around.

However, I have jumped ahead of myself. For dinner that night we went to Kilkeel (Ballymartin is very small). Another eye-opener! The RUC (Police) Station was a concrete bunker surrounded by a five metre barbed wire fence and video surveillance. In the town we soon learnt why. Every house seemed to have a Union Jack outside and all the gutters and telegraph poles were painted red, white and blue. Obviously a unionist stronghold. We did not find any "Green" area, but considering the above, there must have been one somewhere.

From here we headed along the coast through Newcastle (the first of three we were to see) to Portaferry where we caught a punt across the entrance to Strangford Lough. A beautiful drive along the lough (lake) brought us to Newtownards and thence Belfast. Belfast had just removed its checkpoints into the city and was certainly different to what we generally see on TV. Continuing along the coast we came to Carrickfergus where there is the amazing Carrickfergus Castle. Started in 1180, the castle has been tastefully restored and contains excellent interpretative displays.

After lunch, we kept going along the coast to Ballycastle. This section of coastline was the equal in beauty of any I have seen. A mixture of rolling green hills and sheer cliffs drop to the sea, interleaved with sandy beaches. The temperature this day was in the low 30s and the beaches were filled with people. However, we noticed that although hundreds of people were in the water, no-one was in water deeper than their knees.

At Ballycastle, after a bit of a search (it is a seaside resort), we found a B&B with space. The air temperature was still in the mid-20s so Joe, Kieran and I decided to have a swim. Kieran never got past a small creek flowing into the ocean as he said it was too cold to cross. We should have listened to him (a four year old)! We walked into the water and Joe told me he could not feel his feet. IT WAS FREEZING!!! The water temperature must have been 8°C or so. We decided that us Aussies could not be wimps so we dived in and swam about 20 metres

out and back twice before getting out of the water as soon as we could. We were red and blue and despite the warm weather, it took 15 minutes to regain our warmth. No wonder no-one was in the water past their knees!

The next morning we headed off to the nearby Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge. This amazing bridge has been in existence for over 200 years, rebuilt every year to provide access to a small island for professional salmon fishers. The walk along the cliff to the bridge was one of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen. The water was extremely clear, the hills green and the cliffs a chalk white. Fantastic!! You are supposed to be able to see Scotland from here, but it was a bit misty so we saw nothing but water.

A short drive took us to The Giants Causeway. This natural phenomena consists of volcanic basalt pillars with five to eight sides. The pillars step up out of the water into the hillside. Further up the coast there are other similar outcroppings. The Causeway Hotel was quite nice for a beer after a bit of walking. The area here also apparently has a Spanish Armada wreck.

We continued on to Derry (Londonderry to the Northern Irish) and Strabane before leaving Northern Ireland. At Strabane we again passed through an abandoned checkpoint, this time between two towns separated by a small river and religion. Strabane was "Orange" while the other side of the river was "Green". Amazing!

That night we stayed at Knock. This town is a shrine, much like Lourdes or Fatima. In 1879 Mary, St Joseph, and St John appeared before 13 people in the local church. It was raining everywhere except where the three figures were standing. After a few hours they left. Since then the town has built a reputation based on miracle cures and now boasts an international airport, a huge basilica, a chapel, another church as well as the original church. Even at 10pm there were about 250 people praying at the various locations. Water flows from a series of taps and is collected into bottles sold in the thousands by local shops. There is not a religious item that is not sold there.

The town itself does not offer much. Considering the pubs in the rest of Ireland, the main street was a disappointment until we found a great pub just out of town. The Irish pubs are open to all, including children who can enter all parts of the hotels. During our seven nights travelling around Ireland we had most lunches and dinners in pubs as well as the occasional (well, four or five) pint of lager.

Galway was our next stop but the Galway Races were on and the town was absolutely packed. We gave up when we could not even walk on the narrow footpaths. This was fortuitous as we then

went on to Ennis where we found the finest pub in Ireland. A great lunch, the best pint and stone walls and slate floors made this a place to remember.

From here we went past the remarkable Ben Bullen mountain which is like a box sitting on the green landscape and then Bunratty Castle (a bit of a rip-off). After Limerick we continued on to Tralee and to Castlegregory where we stayed the night. Another pub with a few more pints and the next day I went diving at The Maharees (see last month's *Wet Rag*). From here we travelled over Connor Pass (fantastic views) to Dingle (another great pub with kids playing music and singing) and then to Killarney.

Problems here, it was the Saturday of the August Bank Holiday Long Weekend and it seemed like every person in Ireland was there. We must have passed 50 B&Bs that were full and went into 20 to find that they were also full before a man with dirty overalls pulled up at one B&B and asked if we had found a spot. When we said no, he told us to follow him. Out into the countryside we went, up one lane and down another, totally lost before pulling up at a farmhouse. This was his house and he had a converted garage that he rented out. This was room enough for Cathie, Joe and the kids, but I could not fit in. They sent a son over to a friend's place and I got his room! At least I got a bed, I thought that we would have to sleep in the car.

The next day we drove around the Ring of Kerry, surely one of the most beautiful roads in the world. We then headed to Kilkenny where Joe's family lives. We passed the Rock of Cashel, a church, castle and fortress started in the 12th Century. It is, as you would imagine, on the top of a rocky outcrop in an otherwise flat landscape.

The last week in Ireland was spent visiting sites around Kilkenny, including Kilkenny Castle and Jerpoint Abbey (both 12th ©), Dunmore Caves, Waterford (including the crystal factory) and a seaside resort called Tramore that was exactly like The Entrance in the early 1960s. As well as thousands of people on the rock beach (at least the water was a bit warmer - 18°C), there was a very old carnival and numerous indoor amusement parlours with poker machines, bowling games, dodgem cars and other very 60s entertainment. Of course, we went to a few more pubs, every one of them great. Kilkenny, a town of about 30,000 people has about 90 pubs. In one location there are six pubs and one Chinese restaurant (was a pub) all in a row. This one street has at least 12 pubs in about 400 metres!

All too soon our time in Ireland was up and we headed off to London, determined to return one day. If you ever get the chance to visit Ireland (including Northern Ireland), make sure that you

go, it is a fantastic place full of friendly people and great natural and cultural attractions.

(Next month, the best and worst of the UK, including the Queen and Phil the Greek)

DIVE SITES TO REMEMBER

Bare Island

I have probably mentioned Bare Island before, but it is a great shore dive site that can be dived in all but the biggest southerly seas. The best dives are to the south west of the island (a very good wall) and the bommie to the south (heaps of old man snapper). Basically, you can dive anywhere you like and still have a good dive. Excellent night dive location.

Voodoo

At the northern end of Wanda Beach Merries Reef juts out to the south from Boat Harbour. Along the eastern side of the reef there are numerous dive sites, most of which are not visited by divers. One of the reasons for this is that there is a sewage outfall located just to the north of here. However, if you pick the right day with westerly winds, you can have a great dive at Voodoo. Voodoo is named after the adjacent surfing location and consists of a reef that drops from 12 metres down to 24 metres or so. The reef is very good, quite untouched as not many divers or fishers tend to visit due to the aforementioned reason. Worth diving in the right seas. Contact the Editor for the marks.

NEWS FROM GREECE

Nila has been too busy partying to dive however the Greek [John Fardoulis] has been breaking the law as usual. We cannot mention some of the things he has been up to, but it includes English girls!!!

WANT A BOAT??

The ex-Navy submarine *Otway* is for sale. At about \$80,000 it is a bargain. While it does not come with torpedoes, salvage of battery lead and other fittings could recoup the investment and a great new wreck dive could be had if it was bought and scuttled. Perhaps a project for SCAN or some group of interested divers.

METAMORPHOSEA

Due to time and space restraints, we cannot fit in the remaining bit of Merridy Cairn-Duff's article on *Metamorphosea*. The official launch of the book will be on 22 November (unsure of time or location - check with Merridy, see page 2 for phone details). The world's only record of 24 hours beneath the seas shot on our own Great Barrier Reef.

By the way, did you hear Merridy and Michael Aw on *Tony Delroy's Show* on ABC Radio (right around NSW and maybe Australia) on Friday night, 29 September? They got a very good run.

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]
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**. Phone Scott or Geoff now.

On **Friday night, 20 October**, there will be a **night shore dive**. The site will be decided at the next meeting. If you are interested, come to the meeting or phone Geoff or Scott after 16 October.

Over the weekend of **27 to 29 October**, the Club is running a trip to **Nelsons Bay**. See Scott's article earlier in this issue of the *Wet Rag* for what to expect. The diving around here is excellent, some of the best NSW has to offer. More details at the October meeting or phone Geoff or Scott now.

Scott and Rick's on and off again trip to the **Solomon Islands** is on again for **December or January**. If you are interested, phone them now to put your name down.

MORE NIGHT DIVING

The first in what hopefully will be a regular series of fortnightly (or thereabouts) **night dives** will occur on **Monday 6 November**. Led by Michael McFadyen, the dives will try to be to a different site each time and will start at about 7.30 pm. The first site to be visited will be **Bare Island**. Meet at the gate above Bare Island at 7 pm. After the dive, we will probably stop off at a nearby **pizza** joint for dinner. You could also bring a thermos of tea or coffee for warming up after the dive. If the dives prove popular, we might even introduce a BBQ after the dive. The second night dive will be on **Monday 27 November at Clovelly Pool**. Contact Michael on 558 8181 [h] or 015 27 6556 if you are interested in coming or to check location if seas up likely to be rough.

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.

November

Another **skirmish match** has been scheduled for **26 November at Yarramundi**. More details soon.

Friday 10 November sees the third "**A Night to Remember**" sponsored by **Sportdiving** and **DIVE Log**. The night will be held at Centrepont Tower conference rooms and promises to be another great night. Guests include **Marty Schniederman** (I think that's the spelling) and **Bob Halstead**. The Club has not purchased any tickets yet, but they are available for \$10 from SSI and presumably SSI shops.

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Remember, this month's meeting will be held on **Monday 16 October, 1995**, starting at 8 pm in the Emile McDonald Room of the Bankstown Sports Club. Club member John Szewcow will be showing some of his slides and if time permits, some of the video entrants from the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition may be shown.

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

Monday 20 November, 18 December 1995 and 15 January 1996.

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

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.