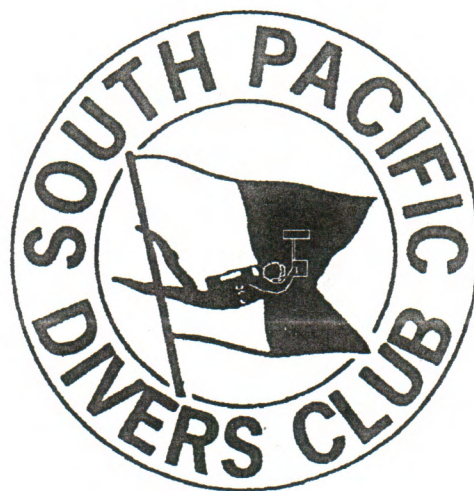


# WET RAG

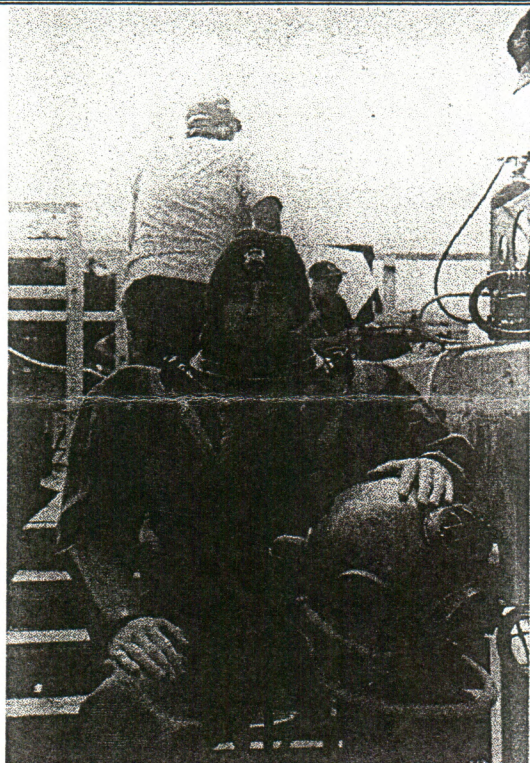


MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS' CLUB (established 1962)

PO Box 823, BANKSTOWN NSW 2200

February 1996

**NEXT CLUB MEETING MONDAY THE 19TH OF FEBRUARY 1996 THE GUEST SPEAKERS ARE PETER FIELDS AND JOHN RILEY AND THEY WILL BRING THE MYOLA BELL, THE MODEL, A VIDEO AS WELL AS DISCUSSING ITS DISCOVERY.**



Jason MacHatten about to go for a quick and easy  
dive in the latest "Technological" equipment!  
If the year was 1918 that is.



Club members Jason MacHatten, John Saford and  
Stan Dehaviland watch as Chris Vautin prepares  
himself for his experience.



**President's Message**

January saw the A.G.M. come and go. Changes to our committee from last year were minimal which should ensure that S.P.D. continues to thrive. Suzanne steps down after two years on the committee and will be surely missed. Carina takes over the important role of secretary and no doubt will do an excellent job. Merridy's position of publicity officer goes to a new member Paul Howlett. Joining Scott and Cookie as dive organizers is another new member Malcom Van Tiels. Barbara stays on as treasurer. Peter also continues as Photographic officer but with the aid of a sub-committee, Peter will fill you in with their details. Russell takes on Michael's role of newsletter editor.

Speaking of Michael he certainly ruffled a few feathers of late, with some of his rhetoric. Late last year he jumped into the ring with Dive Australia, and a flurry of punches were thrown. He landed a few that certainly did sting one or two were well below the belt, but most were harmless. Michael's views are his own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the club or its members unfortunately some members of Dive Australia do not see it that way and in retaliation are trying to persuade some of our sponsors to withdraw their support. I'm not sure, but I would have thought that Dive Australia's role in life would be to promote diving in general, no matter what the event. It would appear on the surface at least, that Dive Australia in fact are trying to undermine our photo comp and presentation night, but then again they have thrown their weight behind the PADI photo comp.

Unfortunately someone has been saying that SPD has released the names of a number of dive shops who initiated the complaint by Dive Australia to the waterways authority about club dive boats. At a meeting with other dive clubs some six months ago when this matter first raised it's ugly head, Scott and I along with (from memory) Les Catterson argued against naming anyone. To this date we still hold this view. All we have ever said on this matter was that a Sydney retailer (who has been named by others) raised the matter at a Dive Australia meeting. The retailer referred to an article which "the Greek" and I compiled for Dive Log about the combined clubs first weekend away, the issue, one would assume was debated and a "RETAIL ACTION FAX" was issued by Dive Australia for feedback. That's all we have ever said. If any of our club members knows who is out there using our clubs name in vain tell them to cut it out.

In 1996 SPD have far more important goals to achieve than to worry about all this and other bullshit that a few Sydney retailer's go on about. If they are not traveling real well maybe they

should look at themselves to find what their problems are and stop looking to lay blame at everyone else's feet. After all we are only the consumers.

regards Leo B

P. S.

At our next club meeting Peter Fields and John Riley will be presenting a short video on the MYOLA. They will discuss how they discovered the MYOLA. The Bell will be on display as well as the model John Riley has made. Lets ensure a big roll up for this night To mark this auspicious occasion Barry Hallett from Southern Cross Divers has donated a NITROX course as first prize in our raffle. Barry has also become a finical member of SPD.

**Photographic Officer's Report**

The George Roberts Comp opens at this month's meeting. We will be using a shoot out format which proved popular in a past competition. Entrants will be supplied with two rolls of ASA 100/36 film or one E30 VHS Video tape(for the presentation). For those club members who don't own an underwater camera, there will be underwater cameras available.

**There will be an entry fee of \$20.00**

It is hoped that we will be able to attract some more sponsors to increase the prize pool for those wonderful photos you are going to take & submit. For those who don't know this is our annual "in house" where a lot of photographers get a chance to hone the skills needed, in order to impress the judges later in the year at the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year. Format of the comp will be as follows:

**February** : film or video handed out to entrants.

**March** : film to be returned for processing(a club weekend has been organized for early march to Nelsons Bay to obtain those winning shots)

**April** : processed film handed back to entrants.

**May** : slide / print selection to be given to Photographic officer.(no extensions will be given).

**June** : Presentation night for comp.

I hope a lot of people will take this opportunity to enter this interesting event, support the club and maybe win themselves a prize.

So lets GO! GO! GO! and start snapping

Regards, Peter Flockart

**Newsletter Editor's Message**

As newsletter editor I basically intend to be a compiler, retyper and printsetter so I need as much of your input as possible. It's your newsletter so the more effort you put in the more interesting it will be for everyone to read.

Good Reading and diving, Russell Stoker



**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The following members are on the committee for the 1996 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:	Carina Gregory	(046) 25 8630	(046)20 1423
Photographic Officer:	Peter Flockart	371 0265 Fax: 374 2688	374 2382
Publicity Officer:	Paul Howlett	746 6720	377 3030
Dive Organizers:	Scott Leimroth Geoff Cook	759 6501 543 5817 Mobile (018) 29 4897	(019) 99 0864 [m] (018) 29 4891
(Nichtdives Only)	Malcom Van Tiel Michael McFadyen	567 6266 558 8181 Mobile (015) 27 6556	316 5100 585 6434
Social Secretaries:	David Bilbow	564 1119	566 4333
Newsletter Editor:	Russell Stoker	799 2663 Mobile (018) 96 3527	217 1739

**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.

Steve Grow and Lee Harvey (Club members), Aquatic Explorers, Cronulla, 527 1518 or 018 55 3858.

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.

**SCUBA CLUBS ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W.**

The inaugural A.G.M. of the new association was held recently. Michael McFadyen representing Lo-Tech Divers was elected as its first president. John Chadd from Ryde Underwater is vice president, Les Catterson from St. George is Treasure and Julie Duncan from Illawarra club is secretary.

Continuing on from the success of the previous

combined club events. The next one not to be missed will be held at the Prince Of Wales Hospital, the new home of Hyperbaric Unit. Friday the 3rd of May is the date. John Lippmann will be traveling to Sydney from Melbourne to talk on how to manage a dive accident. Paul Newland from the Westpac Helicopter Rescue service will also talk, and finally a tour of the refurbish chamber. More details as they come to hand.



## DIVE REPORTS

### Home Grown Down South -- Tasmania

by Adrienne Hill

My Christmas this year rolled the family do in with a dive holiday in Tasmania. I headed south from Sydney for what I was sure was going to be a white Christmas it was that cold. Christmas Day however turned out to be sunny and relatively "warm", biding well for diving over the next few days at Bicheno and Eaglehawk Neck. I had already organised a 5 day trip to Bicheno on the east coast of Tasmania, inspired by slides I saw a few years ago and was also inspired by the hopes of experiencing diving in giant kelp forests.

Being carless, Bicheno Dive Centre collected me from Hobart in the morning and I had my first dive in the afternoon at Muirs Rock. I was most impressed with this dive seeing amongst other things one huge crayfish, yellow sea spiders, everything covered in growth of some kind or another - sponges etc, and the biggest thickest leatheriest kelp in the world. It was like nothing I'd ever seen and is different to the famous kelp of the kelp forests. I have since learned that not all Tasmanian's are fond of their seaweed, but when you don't see such kelps at home, they are quite amazing.

The next day the first dive was a deepish dive at around 30ish metres at the Canyon. I had thought that one huge crayfish was quite a sight, but this dive location had countless cray's including "mothers", "grandmothers" and "great grandmothers" of crayfish, as well as abalone the size of dinner plates, more yellow spiders, cuttlefish, globefish and other fish. Such was the case for this and most of the subsequent dives.

Morning dives were deeper dives and saw me plunging down to a land of walls and bommies covered in hundreds and hundreds of seaweeds and sponges adorned with basket stars or thick with white and purple jeweled anemones, wallpapered with yellow zoanthids (yellow anemone looking things), and other sea growth (I have no idea what it all was) at sites like Paradise Reef, Mr Whippy and the Golden Bommies. While there were fish around, and quite big ones, I paid little attention to them. One thing I did notice was a dearth of nudibranchs. I saw only three or four in all my dives, ranging in size 1/4" to 4" long. Afternoon dives were shallower dives, more swim throughs and just as many things to see.

It was not until the afternoon of the third day that I dived the kelp forest. I had been earlier informed that this dive is subject to "weather conditions", which seemed somewhat odd to

me, as by my guess the boat ride was not a long one and the seas always appeared reasonable. A fuller explanation came forth later - that in certain weathers/seas it can be "like a washing machine" in the kelp forest. I assumed this meant bad viz and surge, but I still wanted to see the kelp forest.

Like many other mainland and overseas diving visitors, I was attracted to Tasmanian diving by the thought of awesome kelp forests which I had seen advertised in the media - in regular advertising, on "leisure and travel" television shows and in articles in dive magazines. I was lucky. That third afternoon divers were taken to the kelp forest, but I believe that some visitors to Bicheno who were attracted by the kelp forest were denied this opportunity and left Bicheno less than satisfied.

Although the visibility was not at it's peak, this was a magic experience for me and I liken it to swimming through a rainforest, all vines and thin kelp trees, reaching up and up towards the sky, suspended by little gas filled balls. Big fish swam through the kelp, feeding here and there, as small animals might do in a land based forest, scurrying amongst the trees. All levels of the of the kelp forest could be explored, from the bases of the kelp trees, midway and up towards the surface. This is a little difficult on land unless you are a monkey. Nearer to the top you could look up towards the surface, and with the sun shining through, the kelp shimmered golden, as if you were in a golden domed cave.

To be sure Bicheno is a photographer's paradise. While the visibility during my stay averaged only about ten meters (like Sydney on an average to good day), it is purported that winter visibility is fabulous.

Many of the dive sites are in close proximity to each other which means that you jump in at around the same spot and depending which way you swim determines the dive you do. Also, most of the dives are in a marine reserve. The reserve classification has allowed the creatures to multiply to population sizes you would not normally see. Crayfish don't seem too frightened of divers, indeed on one dive one crayfish stroked my finger with it's "antennae"!

My stay at Bicheno was most enjoyable, not only because of the diving, but also because of the people that I met and the opportunities that I was advantaged. On my list of things to do was eating seafood, in particular crayfish, watching fairy penguins come to shore at dusk, and seeing Freycinet National Park, in particular, walking to Wine Glass Bay. The crayfish I bought fresh and flapping from a cray-fisherman at the dock. I took it back to the



Divers Den at the dive centre where it suffered death by drowning in a fresh water filled dive bin, was cooked to perfection in a pot by me and eaten by me with great delight. There is a little tour that runs each night to view the penguins coming back to their burrows. At this time of the year penguin chicks are hatching and we were lucky to see some little gray fuzz-balls of fairy penguin chicks either in or outside their burrows squaring and eagerly waiting for their parents to return and feed them. Wine Glass Bay is reached via Coles Bay. After a half hour climb up to a pass through a granite bouldered landscape you are afforded with a magnificent view of a white sanded crescent shaped beach, like a champagne glass, with deep sea-blue water. The walk down to the beach was worth every step, as on our arrival we collapsed on the white sand. Dined on champagne and wine, cheese and salad and more crayfish. After this we could not contemplate a walk with any hint of the vertical and so we returned to the car the long and flat way round via Hazzards Beach, affording us more beautiful scenes.

Diving in Tasmania is not confined to Bicheno and I later spent two days at Eaglehawk Dive Centre. Unfortunately my time was limited and I only had one dive. This was at Horseshoe Cave. Although the visibility was down - at around 5 -7 metres, and it was somewhat surgy, it was an interesting dive exploring the two caves, peeking into holes and tunnels where crayfish, crabs and abalone hide, spying a conger eel, and finishing off with a small kelp forest before returning to the boat.

This dive together with videos that the dive centre has for viewing whet my appetite to brave a visit in winter when the water is said to be calm and clear and a variety of sites can be dived including spectacular cathedral cave and the wreck of the Nord.

To be sure Tasmanian waters are cold, and while this was no problem to me in my dry suit, both Bicheno and Eaglehawk Dive centres hire out 7mm wet suits which reportedly keep their wearers adequately warm.

For dive destinations with a difference and within Australia (good for our economy). consider Tasmania. Both Centres offer cheap accommodation for the budget conscious diver, with a pick up service from Hobart (and Launceston for Bicheno) for those without transport. Both offer reasonably priced hire gear and boat dives. Both areas have a full range of accommodation from Backpackers. B & B's, guesthouses and motels. Tasmania also offers all manner of land based sightseeing opportunities in a non-polluted environment - wilderness, mountains, walking, cycling, rafting

and other adventure activities, the island is full of colonial history, architecture, museums, arts and crafts, and some great food. Try it down South!

Fellow club members! Does this entice you to try winter diving in Tasmania in pristinely clear water? It certainly does me. I am thinking of returning there at some time during winter for another budget diving holiday, depending on the cash flow. is anyone else interested? If you are please let me know and I will look into the costs. My initial idea is about a week in Tasmania which would allow diving at both Eaglehawk and Bicheno. The diving and accommodation themselves are very reasonable eg. Bicheno cost me about \$370 which included them picking me up, 4 nights accommodation, 8 dives, hiring tanks. Eaglehawk boat dives range from about \$28-\$50 (don't quote me), with more expensive ones being those that require a long boat ride. Accommodation at the dive centre was \$5 per night.

There are two options - driving down and catching the Spirit of Tasmania across. This means you have all your gear including tanks, and are mobile so that you can also take the opportunity to go sightseeing etc. However time is needed as the ferry is overnight and you also have to get to Melbourne. Costs include yourself on the ferry each way, plus the car. plus petrol to and from Melbourne etc. The other option is flying down to Hobart (and there are often quite good deals around) hiring a car between a couple or few people - giving mobility. this is an option for more time conscious.

Think about it!

### **Helmet Fetish - A Dive Odyssey**

What weighs around 300lbs, looks like something out of a bad 1950's Hollywood sci-fi movie, walks around on the bottom of the ocean blowing more bubbles than a burst high pressure hose and wears a grin from ear to ear? Well, take your pick because it could have been any one of the 4 south pac club members who recently participated in a truly unique diving experience provided by a small Sydney company - Helmet Fetish.

Helmet fetish by the way is not a term used to describe some kind of bizarre sexual practice (as one club-member thought!) It was the name chosen when it was decided to set up (possibly) 1 of only 2 operators in the world who provide recreational divers with the opportunity to experience diving 1918 style. The equipment used is a genuine 1918 Siebe Gorman brass helmet as used by most of the western navies right up to the 1950's when Scuba became



widely accepted as the preferred diving system. This is the type of equipment described in all the old underwater adventure stories when hairy chested heroes ventured beneath the waves to search for gold laden treasure ships and to fight the inevitable giant octopus. Leave your computer, SPG's, BCD's and magnetometers at home when you dive in this gear as these hi-tech items weren't even dreamed about in 1918.

Contrary to the comment from one club member during the pre dive briefing that this was the gear I must have learned to dive in (I'll get you for that Jason!) I was interested to learn (for the first time!) how it all works and how to operate the simple controls in the water. I was gratified to see the brand new compressor that would be feeding us with air from the surface and the back-up scuba tank that would cut in if there was a failure in the main air supply. Even so, with my main concern over air supply satisfied, I was still feeling a little apprehensive as I prepared for my dive.

It takes at least 3 assistants and around 15 -20 minutes to get you geared up in this outfit and this gave me plenty of time to wonder why the hell I was sitting on a wharf in Manly while my mates strapped 20lb lead boots to my feet (not to mention the 160lbs around my waist) in preparation for throwing me into the water. Were they trying to tell me something? Finally with the helmet firmly secured and after some final instructions, I was led to the edge of the wharf where I could just see the water 2.5 metres below through my viewing port (the tide had gone out). "Go" said the voice over the comms system and then followed one of the most interesting giant strides I have ever taken. I didn't go straight to the bottom as I had expected and the impact was not nearly as jarring as I thought it would be. In fact, almost immediately I found myself (and all that lead) floating helplessly on the surface while I tried to sort out the buoyancy situation. With the expert assistance of the support diver, things were soon under some sort of control and I was standing on the bottom ready to start my dive.

The first thing I noticed was that all that weight that had made me feel so ungainly on the surface had disappeared and I had to keep dumping air to stay on the bottom. The next was getting used to strange feeling of no regulator in my mouth. Looking around I could see the surface above me through the upper viewing port and through the front port the support diver waved at me to follow him and I set off diving 1918 style. It wasn't long before I was jumping over rocks and by playing around with the air controls I was able to lay forward and stand up again (push ups with no hands). A

few inquisitive fish looked on as my confidence grew and I headed for deeper water with the support diver tagging along to make sure I didn't get into trouble.

Time passes quickly when you are having this much fun and I was suprised when John's voice came over the intercom to tell me it was time to get out (it was his turn!). Back on the wharf I was able to reflect what had been a truly unique experience and I gained a lot of respect for the old-timers who had performed some very difficult tasks in these suits. Later I donned scuba gear to take some video and the contrast in the equipment made me appreciate the huge impact that scuba had made to the diving industry. Over a couple of post dive beers, we all agreed that this had been one of the most enjoyable dive days ever and well worth the effort. Now, maybe if we could get the compressor onto the boat and with a bit of extra hose.....!!!

### MAGNETOMETER UPDATE ...

On Saturday 20 January, the builder of the Club's new magnetometer, Bob Ramsay, visited Sydney and gave members of the Club instruction in the correct use of the magnetometer. Ten members of the Club came along (Leo Bergagnin, John Fardoulis, Rick Latimer, Geoff Cook, Sue Armstrong, Sue Evans, Craig Harwood, Russell Stoker, Paul Howlett and Michael McFadyen as well as Les Catterson from St George Scuba Club and Peter Fields, discoverer of the *Myola*). After theory lessons at the Gladstone Hotel in Chippendale, the students adjourned to Rose Bay for practical use.

Les Catterson generously donated the use of his Broadbill and took out the first six members and Bob. Unfortunately, the north-easterly wind was very strong, making the harbour very choppy. In addition, there were more boats on the harbour than anyone had encountered for a long time. Despite Les dodging 18 foot skiffs, large yachts and ferries over the wreck of the SS *Currajong* off Bradleys Head, the test turned out to be a bit of a disaster. The one thing that was really discovered was the fact that the magnetometer that the Club had purchased was not working correctly. Luckily, Bob had another new one with him and this had worked intermittently, despite the problems.

For the second run, the remaining students decided to go over to the *Centurion* which had the double advantage of being protected from the wind and in a less crowded section of the Harbour. The wreck was picked up some 100 metres or so away from the centre of the wreck and it was clearly "visible" even when well off to the side of it. After about 10 runs we were



satisfied that the (new) magnetometer was working correctly. A quick run along North Head showed a couple of small possibilities before we decided to give the SS *Royal Shepherd* a go. It is a bit deeper (27 metres) and in very choppy seas we picked it up at least 100 metres from the wreck (easily distinguished as there was a group of divers on the wreck). We made four runs over the wreck and we picked it up a minimum of 75 metres away.

Bob Ramsay has now taken the original magnetometer away for repairs and adding of a couple of features while leaving the other one with us. Despite the problems with the first run, the magnetometer worked okay and looks very promising. It is planned that there will be a test run to "look" for the wrecks of the *Centurion* and *Annie M. Miller* to test the magnetometer and our own plan of operation. Details later.

### Convenors Year Ending Report Card.

1995 has now passed and we are now in the dawn of 1996. As a retrospective glimpse of the year passed I witnessed several club milestones passed. These included several weekends away, Seal Rocks, Nelson Bay, Jervis Bay, Eden to name but a few. Members also organized trips to Europe, Greece, New Guinea, Solomons, Vanuatu and the Philippines and many more. We also had the many "down to earth" (and budget) local dives and Michael's Night Dives along with the introduction to SPD of the Beef and Burgundy, Chicken and Champagne, Prawn and Chardoneay breakfast dives which without exception always proved very popular at time with 60 Club divers and Spouses in attendance.

As a dive convenor I must acknowledge the assistance in 1995 of the Club Boat Owners as without their generous input, to the planned dives, would have been a flop. Most Boat Owners agree that owning a boat is akin to having a hole in the water into which you keep pouring money. Unfortunately with a Diving Boat you have to pour money in at twice the rate to repair the "accidental" dinosaur bumps and scratches but to their credit they kept on turning up for club dives. Please look after their boats or you may find yourself swimming back from a divesite for being careless!!!!

We have a great diversity in the experience of our club divers and I hope that the our dive calendar for 1995 provided a diving adventures on a wreck, reef, deep or shallow, day or night (either with or without thirty threatening bronze whalers) to suit your expectations of our club.

As an Organised Club of SCUBA DIVERS, 1996, already threatens to be a big year. The wreck rats will be happy with the arrival

of the Mag. Those wrecks are beckoning our club members to complete the final chapter in their history. The camera buffs have the challenge line drawn in the sand by Tim after his blitz of the photo comp. And the reefies, let me tell you confidentially we know of several virginal hot spots.

But as a club we must DIVE.....! Lets not talk about times of the past. That is history. Support the Club Dives and Weekends. Strengthen bonds within the club involved your wives girlfriends and family as we have attempted in 1995 to an end 1996 will be good a year for South Pacific Divers Club and Diving.

See Ya Barjumpa.

### BSAC

A number of club members have already taken advantage of the benefits of joining BSAC. At £56 for inwater worldwide insurance as well as free courses up to instructor level it's well worth it. If your interested call or talk to Leo or Scott at the next meeting.

### CLUB BBQ

The next Club BBQ, will be held at Russell Stokers residence (36 Hanks Street, Ashbury) on Saturday the 24th of February 1996. The BBQ will begin at 5pm. The theme for this monumental event will be "false Nose Day". There will be prize for the most unusual nose worn to the event. BYO Meat. Beer, Wine and soft drinks will be available on the day.

### FOR SALE

One 88cf aluminum tank, good condition and in test till December 1996, \$130. Phone John Fowden on 665 9727 [h].

One men's wetsuit size 6 Trident 2 piece 5mm, knee and spine pads unwanted Xmas present never used \$460. Phone Brian Shields 543 6883

3 BC's \$100 each 1 pony bottle \$100 Contact Scott Liemroth 759 6501 or (019)99 0864 mobile

### WANTED

A 100cf or 120cf scuba tank Contact Scott as above.

### DIVE AUSTRALIA ON OUR MAILING LIST

It has come to our attention that apparently we have a few closet readers of the "WET RAG". We have found out that some of Dive Australia's board members are obtaining the WET RAG so as to make it more convenient for them and insure they don't miss a copy we have put them on our mailing list.



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

### UPCOMING DIVING ACTIVITIES

**Contact Numbers:** Scott Leimroth 759 6501 [h] (019) 99 0864 [m] and Geoff Cook 543 5817 [h] or (018) 29 4897 [w]

**Night dives:** Michael McFadyen 585 6434 [w] 558 8181 [h] (015) 27 6556 [m]

#### March

1st to 3rd. Weekend to Nelsons Bay. Boat dives, shore dives, wreck dives and reef dives perfect for the George Roberts Comp. Pay as you dive. Accommodation \$20 per night and the house we are staying in has a compressor for air fills.

11th Night dive with McFadge

24th breakfast dive Jibbon Beach

#### April

20th-21st Seal Rocks. Catterthun, Satara and sharks. Pacific Palms

25th-28th Anzac long weekend to South West Rocks

#### September

In September the Club is organising a dive trip to the **Solomon Islands**. See leaflet for details.

#### October

In October, Michael McFadyen is organising a dive trip to Madang in **Papua New Guinea**. Nine members of the Club have already booked on the trip and a very limited number of spots remain. The cost will be about \$1700 for 11 nights accommodation, airfares and 16 dives. See Michael as soon as possible if you are interested.

### NIGHT DIVING

The next in a regular series of fortnightly (or thereabouts) **night dives** will occur on **Monday 26 February** at **Shark Point** at Clovelly. Led by Michael McFadyen, the dives will try to be to a different site each time and will start at about 8.00 pm. Meet in the street to the north of Clovelly Pool at 7.30 pm. After the dive, we will have a sausage sizzle using the Club's new portable BBQ. Beer and wine will be available for a nominal charge and a dollar will get you a sausage or two. You could also bring a thermos of tea or coffee for warming up after the dive. There will be another night dive on **Monday 11 March** at **Oak Park** at Cronulla. Contact Michael on 558 8181 [h] or 015 27 6556 if you are interested in coming or wish to check the location in poor weather.

**SOCIAL ACTIVITIES Contact Numbers:** David Bilbow 564 1119(h) 566 433(w)

**February:** There will be a BBQ at Russell Stoker's on **24 February**. See previous pages for details.

**March:** Surf the Internet for dive sites on the 5th

**May:** The revenge **skirmish match** has been rescheduled for **12 May 1996**. A three way battle between URG, Ryde Underwater and South Pacific will take place. Stay tuned for more details.

### NEXT CLUB MEETING

Remember, this month's meeting will be held on **Monday 19 February, 1996**, starting at 8 pm in the Emile McDonald Room of the Bankstown Sports Club.

### FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

Monday 18 March, 15 April and 20 May 1996.

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

**Aquatic Explorers**, see Steve or Lee at 7 Beach Arcade Cronulla, 527 1518

**Bev's Restaurant** at Chippendale

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

**Max Western's Sea-tamer II** charter boat, contact Max on 567 2658 or (018) 28 0791

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

**Shiprock Dive** at Lilli Pilli

**Southern Cross Divers** at The Spit Marina

**Sub Aquatics Divers** at Beverly Hills

**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 Russell Stoker.



Send material to 36 Hanks Street, Ashbury.  
Phone: 799 2663 [h] or (018) 96 3527 [m].  
Deadline for articles is the last day of the month.



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## Minutes of the meeting of South Pacific Diver's Club

**Bankstown Sports Club, Monday 19 February 1996**

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Meeting opened and members and guests welcomed by Club President, Leo Bergagnin. A welcome also to our guest speakers tonight, John Riley and Peter Fields.

**Apologies:** Ross Hipwell, Ilona Kandilas

Acceptance of previous Club minutes by *Rick Latimer* and seconded by *Paul Howlett*.

### **Incoming/outgoing correspondence**

Other Clubs newsletters; information from Dive Mullaway - Dive Solitary Islands; brochures about Reg Lipson's Marine Life 1 and 3 Courses and Whale Shark trips with Sirius Encounters; and a letter requesting further information about the Club.

### **Treasurers Report: Barbara Sweetman**

Bank statement for January:	\$742 in / \$1509.15 out.
Balance of cheque account:	\$7601.65
Balance of investment account:	\$11062.68

Treasurers report accepted by *Eddy Labour* and seconded by *Michael McFadyen*.

### **Photographic officer's report: Peter Flockart**

Tonight is the opening of the George Roberts Competition; rolls of film and disposable cameras both land and underwater are available; \$20 entry fee. The Nelson Bay weekend on 2/3 March is a shootout weekend for the Competition.

The sub-committee has had its first meeting and a database system has been set up with sponsor details.

### **S C A N S: Scott Leimroth**

The annual general meeting was held on 5 February 1996.

The Committee elected follows:

<b>Michael Mc Fayden</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>John Chadd</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Les Catterson</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Julie Duncan</b>	<b>Secretary</b>

Scans have organised a tour of the Hyperbaric Chamber at the Prince of Wales Hospital on 3rd May 1996; Guest speakers include John Lippman and the Westpac Helicopter Service; a minor cost is involved.

### **Dive organisers report: Scott Leimroth and Geoff Cook**

Geoff has prepared a dive calendar for this year and stressed the importance of booking for boat dives.



Upcoming dives include:

**February**

26 Night dive with Michael McFadyen

**March**

2/3 Nelson Bay; boat/shore dives; wreck/reef dives. Accommodation is \$20/night.

20 Night dive on Max Western's boat.

24 Breakfast dive; Jibbon Beach; chicken and champagne; cost is \$5 for Club members and \$10 for non members.

**April**

19/20/21 Weekend diving the Catterthun/Sharks; staying at Pacific Palms Resort.

25/26/27/28 South West Rocks weekend; diving Fish Rock Cave.

**Social organisers report: David Bilbow**

**February**

24 BBQ at Russell Stokers place; 'prize' for the best nose; 36 Hanks St, Ashbury.

**March**

5 Surf the Internet at Glebe; Beer and steak sandwiches available; see David if you are interested.

10 Kings Cross Bed Race; last year the Club won the prize for the 'best dressed bed'; see Leo if interested.

**May**

3 Scans tour of Hyperbaric Chamber.

12 Multi club Skirmish Challenge; URG, RUC and SPDC.

Suggestions made for possible social events include: wine tasting, Comedy Store night out, Go Kart racing.

**Publicity officers report: Paul Howlett**

Paul introduced himself as the new publicity officer for the Club and said he was looking for ideas to promote the Club, especially in magazines outside of "Dive Log".

**Members dive reports**

*Michael McFadyen* and *Eddy Labour* dived the Undola recently; had 20m vis and no wind; saw heaps of fish and a huge snapper.

*Eddy Labour* also dived Shiprock; heaps of sealife and warm water; a good dive.

*Peter Flockart* dived Fish Reef with Max Western; had warm water 22°C and about 15 metres vis.

*John Beddie* recently dived in Eden with Peter Hall, a Club sponsor. Dived the wrecks of Green Cape including the New Guinea and the City of Sydney; had 30 metres plus vis on both wrecks. John also dived the Tugs, the Empire Gladstone and Jacko's Cave.

In Sydney, John dived the Bucket Dredge at Long Reef with good vis.

*Paul Howlett* dived Fish Rock Cave recently; has good vis and a good time.

*Rebecca Davies* dived Halifax Park, Fly Point and the Pipeline at Port Stephens recently; had poor vis at Halifax Park (about 3m) and saw a huge Silver Drummer; had very good vis on a night dive at Fly Point and the Pipeline had heaps of fish and soft corals.



### General Business

Mark Spencer raised the issue of oxygen equipment for the Club. Leo advised that the Club has recently purchased one set of oxygen gear (excluding cylinder), and needs two other sets for boats. The recent death of a diver at Thompsons Bay has driven home the importance of oxygen. Oxygen should be available on both boat and shore dives.

It is proposed to put some members through a St. John Ambulance First Aid Course shortly. However, a prerequisite to doing the Oxygen course is the Senior First Aid Course.

Steve Grow, a Club member and co-owner of Aquatic Explorers, Miranda runs a DAN Oxygen course over 2/3 nights. Numbers for the course are restricted to a maximum of 6-8 people and the cost is to be advised. Steve will take names tonight.

Steve also mentioned that Ron Peardon, a local aquarist, will be giving a talk at the dive shop on 28 February about breeding and caring for seahorses, fish etc.

Peter has brochures for Reg Lipson's Marine Life 1 and 3 Courses @ \$295 per course to be held at St. George Underwater Centre and Sirius Encounters trips to Whale Sharks in W.A. at \$2195 ex. Exmouth if anyone is interested. Peter also has Myola Books for sale.

Scott mentioned that he has 3 BC's for sale @ \$100 each.

Ian Lockwood from Allways Dive in Melbourne will be giving a presentation on 29 February at Bankstown Sports Club on diving in the Solomons.

The newly purchased magnetometer needs battery and battery charger.

A thank you is extended to Noel Taylor from Scuba Pro who is present tonight and has donated to the Club 2 snorkels, masks and torches.

### Break

### Raffle: Drawn by new Club members, Scott and Debbie Egginton

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 1st prize: | Nitrox Course donated by <del>Manly Dive Centre</del> <i>Southern Cross Divers.</i> |
| Won by :   | Russell Stoker  |
| 2nd prize: | Tank test and fill donated by Aquatic Explorers, Miranda                            |
| Won by:    | Michael Foster  |
| 3rd prize: | Dinner for 2 at Bev's Restaurant, Chippendale                                       |
| Won by:    | Michael Foster  |
| 4th prize: | Boat dive on 'Sea Tamer II' donated by Max Western                                  |
| Won by:    | Mark Spencer  |
| 5th prize: | 2 airfills donated by Shiprock Dive   |
| Won by:    | Anna Sedlak   |
| 6th prize: | 2 airfills donated by Sub Aquatics, Beverly Hills                                   |
| Won by:    | Russell Stoker  |

**Guest speakers** John Riley and Peter Fields gave an interesting insight into the discovery of the Myola. Two segments from the TV show "11am" were shown after which John and Peter answered many questions from Club members about the wreck and the Historic Shipwrecks legislation. Thankyou John and Peter for your time and for bringing along the Myola's bell and model which engaged much interest from Club members.

Meeting closed.