

# WET RAG

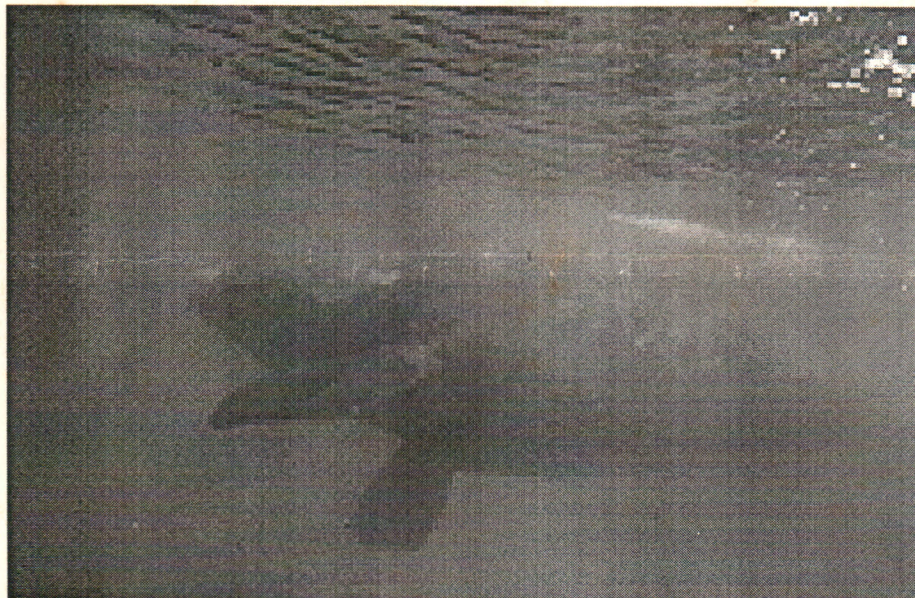
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS' CLUB** (established 1962)



PO Box 823, BANKSTOWN NSW 2200

TELEPHONE: 0411 343 200

September 1996



It is almost whale time for the NSW coast and the two photos below are just a sample of what can be seen. This is "Glenys and Dennis", the two southern right whales that visited Sydney in 1993. These photos were taken a few hundred metres off Manly Beach by Michael McFadyen.



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 Sept. 1996.



### **President's Message**

As you read this I am in the Solomon Islands on the *Spirit of the Solomons* with a group of South Pacific Divers' Club members. This is the third annual club dive trip and all the members were anxiously waiting for last Saturday to come around. Two weeks ago I dived the wreck of SS *Bombo* just out of Wollongong Harbour. The weather was perfect, although the water was not too clear. Nevertheless, the members of the club who came along really enjoyed themselves. This was the first time I had dived the *Bombo*, but it certainly won't be the last. A very good wreck at the right depth. As well, we had excellent service from Dive Time of Wollongong. I can recommend them.

regards Leo B

### **Club Diving Report**

This past month club members have dived:-

The SS *Bombo*, Leo actually got wet in preparation for the Solomons. Martin Aitkins and co dived the SS *Catterthun* for 6 days in strong currents. Two female club members dived Sydney Harbour out of a huge luxury yacht - hot showers and all - and saw a large octopus and a few land sharks as well. Two other club members dived a reef in 80m off Bondi near the *Koputai* - an expensive reef dive. Peter Flockart returned from his OS dive trip. And many other dives were had by other members. As well, one group is now in the Solomons on a liveaboard and another is preparing to leave for New Guinea very shortly.

And they say Dive Clubs aren't good for business.

Unfortunately, the Norah Head trip was completely blown out by bad weather and had to be cancelled but we hope to get back up there soon.

Good Diving, Scott Liemroth

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

As indicated above, quite a few of the club's members are away in the Solomons, including Russell Stoker, the usual Editor of this erstwhile newsletter. I have been asked to finish the editing this month as the crew left last weekend and Russell did not have the time to put the *Wet Rag* to bed.

As Leo mentioned, we dived the SS *Bombo* two weekends ago and had a great dive. If you have not yet dived this wreck, I urge you to get down to Wollongong and give it a go.

The day after the *Bombo*, Eddy Labour and I dived the SS *Tuggerah*. The weather was also perfect and the seas quite good, although the north-westerly did chop the seas up a little. There was a slight current as we descended and the visibility was not fantastic. However, when we hit 30 metres it opened up and we could see the wreck. On the bottom at 45 metres the visibility was at least 25 metres. As usual, there was prolific schools of fish hovering over the boiler/engine/stern. At the bow where we were anchored, there were more than 50 Port Jackson sharks lying everywhere. On this dive I also saw at least 10 numbrays on the sand around the wreck. Despite the current, which extended right to the bottom, we had a fantastic dive.

The current picked up after we ascended and by the time we surfaced after our decompression stops (30 minutes) we were more than one kilometre south of the wreck. Another boat which dived the *Tuggerah* after us said that the current was at least 1.5 knots when they got in but totally gone by the time they left the water. Very strange considering we only had 0.25 to 0.5 knot at the most while on the wreck and descending.

The weekend before last was a total write-off with cyclonic winds and huge seas. Did anyone dive? If so, they certainly qualify for the keenest diver of the year award. On the Saturday people were surfing at the mouth of the Georges River in Botany bay, at least seven kilometres from the ocean.

This past weekend has been excellent, although the water is still a bit dirty from the rain and huge seas of the previous weekend. Together with Scott and Debbie Eggerton, Rebecca Davies and a couple I did a drift dive from South Tumbledowns down past The Gullies (Underwater Wilderness) off Royal National Park. I had not dived most of this area for at least six or seven years. After this dive, I do not know why? We all had a great dive and I plan to do it again as soon as possible. The site consists of heaps of gullies/canyons, huge boulders and in the shallows, numerous overhangs right under the rock platform. It was so calm we could dive right against the rock platform. We found a huge cave, with five or more entrances and a few PJs inside. I did 60 minutes and only got out of the water because I was starting to feel the cool water (16°C). The next day I dived north Bondi and as it was so calm, we went in right off the very end of Ben Buckler Point. Once again, an excellent dive with heaps of caves and swim-throughs. Get out there now and dive, you won't regret it.

Enjoy your diving, Michael McFadyen.



# UNDERWATER TERMINATORS

## HAVE THEY GOT THEIR SIGHTS ON YOUR FAVORITE DIVE?

*You can pick a person who's been to South West Rocks. They will, unaided, waffle on about the peaceful, restful atmosphere, the beautiful beaches and if they're a diver - Fish Rock Have you been there? If you have then this will be near and dear to you.*

Recent events in our beloved South West Rocks have raised in me the indignities and outrage that I never believed were in me.

Recently a Sydney spearfishing club set up camp and competition in South West Rocks and devastated the Fish Rock dive area. This area, well known to all dive enthusiasts for its beauty and marine life has subsequently been irreparably damaged, the marine life destroyed, the locals disgusted and the spearo's declaring that *they will be back* just like the bad guys in the movies, to wreak havoc on the environment.

Fish Rock is considered one of the ten best dive spots in Australia by Australians and overseas tourists alike because of the marine life that is in abundance in this area. But sad to say, the majority of fish that we once saw there is now happily resting in the stomach of a pelican. It was the hauls made by this competition included such things as Garfish and Red Morwong that were consequently fed to these very happy pelicans. **Ten spear fisherman alone are alleged to have killed between 300 and 400 fish everyday.** The majority of fish killed in this competition were sedentary reef species, resident fish, if you like who live in an area regardless of tides currents etc. If these fish are killed off it could take years for their numbers to be replenished, if ever.

Another fact of the matter is this. These people left their own area (either because they've already ruined it or because they don't want to ruin it) and drove about 5 hours and ruined someone else's backyard. At the very least that's rude isn't it boys and girls?

*"... You (the Argus) must bear in mind the dive shops interest (in Fish Rock) is totally selfish. A great number SCUBA divers forget if it had not been for spear fisherman they would not have their sport. Spear fisherman pioneered the gear in the early days and formed the first scuba club's.... "* Macleay Argus ©19/08/96.

This long held view of Spearos that claims that scuba enthusiasts owe their sport to them was completely shattered in the 1950s by a well known gentleman by the name of Jacques Cousteau. Remember him?

But this was not an isolated incident. The number of spear fishing clubs visiting South West Rocks to hold their competitions is increasing, raising questions as to why they can no longer hold these competitions in their own waters.

## FISH ROCK NEEDS YOUR HELP.

We need you to help preserve Fish Rock.

1. We need a ban on all spearfishing activities immediately so that the wildlife can have at least a chance of regenerating and For the ecosystem to correct itself
2. We need sedentary fish to be removed from the AUF (Australian Underwater Federation) competition score sheet immediately as they are being killed solely for points and being wasted.
3. There needs to be a ban on the killing and/or taking of sedentary reef species as they are under threat and their reduced numbers cannot sustain the pressure being placed on them.

**BUT MOSTLY WE NEED YOU.** Please fill out the accompanying facsimile cover sheet and stating the three points listed above send it off to the given number.

**YOUR CHILDREN WILL THANK YOU.**



**DIVE REPORTS****MY DIVE AT JERVIS BAY WITH SOUTH PAC DIVERS.....****By Martin Atkins..****Resident Southern Correspondent.**

It is often said that winter is the best time for diving....It is a sweeping statement. It is a statement that is most often said by people that haven't been diving very long...That is another sweeping statement.

About seven days prior to South Pac's pilgrimage to the Gods Country of Jervis Bay we had a good westerly blow. You know the kind of 'screaming banshee' winds that tears the roofs off of houses and uproots trees. The king of winds which some people will tell you flattens off the sea and brings in the clear water. Only 'offshore' it produces mountainous seas and big swells just like any other winds. When the wind drops off, the swell comes back at you on the coast around 12 to 18 hours later.

The sea presents against the coast with a huge swell of long wavelength (far apart), often with a smooth surface which is very comfortable to ride on. (If you find this boring it gets worse it I write about the dive) These swells travel very fast, often in the region of 40 - 60 Knots. Trying to keep up with them in a fast dive boat is an exercise in futility. One minute you are surfing the boat down the face of a swell, and the next minute the swell has overtaken you and your are clawing your way down it's back trying to catch it.

Many of you have been diving in shallow water and have been tossed around by wave action. A big swell produces wave action which penetrates down deep...and stirs up the bottom a long way offshore. It makes for dirty, rotten, filthy water which makes Jervis Bay diving weekends nothing to write home about...(Getting the picture?)

Want to hear a cock and bull story? On said Jervis Bay diving weekend, on the way out to the dive site I spied Geoff Cook cleaning his teeth with a toothbrush and paste whilst riding aboard a fast attack semi-submersible all weather dive boat. Upon further interrogation Geoff furnished me with one of the best cock and bull stories that I have heard in a long time. He told me..."That one day someone might collapse on the deck of the boat that he was on and that Geoff would bend down over them in a classic resuscitation pose. Geoff then told me that he doesn't give mouth to mouth to anyone. The poor victim lying on the deck would look up into Geoff's eyes thinking they were going to be saved....but the last thought that went through their grey matter before they passed

into oblivion was "No.... He's not going to save me, but Gees he got fresh breath.."

Yes the diving on this day was going to be worse than that sad tale. We dropped anchor on the wall which runs North from the Arch towards Crocodile Head. John Earl, Geoff and myself entered the water and couldn't see anything. We went down the anchor line and bumped into the bottom at 100 feet and couldn't see anything. All was not lost however.... Geoff clipped off a 'come home line' to the anchor chain and off he went into the gloom and doom. Following Geoff, we swam along the line until were we still couldn't see anything. Eventually by the light of my 100 watt torch I was able to ascertain our depth at 130 feet, it was then that we came across a large leatherjacket clinging to a rock. It told me that he was hanging onto that rock for dear life because the viz was so bad that he didn't know which way was up and if he let go he might fall off the face of the earth.....Bubble, bubble.

We Followed the line back to the anchor, ascended, decoed and safetied and jumped back in the boat. We all agreed that as far as this boat was concerned that the weekend's diving was over.....!

That night we had 24 heads at the Vincentia 'Chop Meow' for dinner, which was the high point of the day with plenty of talk and food. That pretty well sums up the great weekend that almost was...Company was fine but the viz was not quite at it's best. You should have been here the week before...It was perfect.

**WONIORA - SYDNEY'S DEEPEST AIR WRECK****By The Phantom Wreck Rat.**

The wreck of the *Woniora* lies off Botany Bay in 64 msw making it Sydney's deepest wreck that can be dived on air (66 msw being the recommended limit for air dives). It sank on the night of October 28th 1882 in what was described by the only surviving crewman as the worst sea he had seen on the Australian coast. The wreck was discovered by Max Gleeson and Mae Elliot in May 1987 however it is not dived regularly because of its depth.

Being only relatively small and in such deep water, the wreck can be quite difficult to anchor on. Although often swept by strong currents, on my last dive to the wreck there was no current at all and this, combined with flat seas, sunny weather and 20 metres plus viz made for a great dive.

The wreck lies on sand and forward of the boiler it is mostly covered by the sand except for two winches, a donkey boiler and a small section of the bow. The ship was one of the



NSW coast's 60 miler colliers and large chunks of coal can be found about the wreck site. The boiler has a large hole in the top, probably where a funnel once stood, and moray eels and large decorator crabs have made their home amongst the boiler tubes. On the port side just forward of the boiler lies a large spare anchor. The engine is behind the boiler and a large gauge can be found still attached. Aft of the engine is the flat rear deck and the stern rises five feet from the sand. The propeller is exposed showing only one of three blades. Various fish can be seen on the wreck as well as cuttlefish and other sea life. After exploring the wreck you begin the long haul to the surface and it's then that you appreciate how deep it is. After 18 to 20 mins on the bottom you can look forward to approx. 60+mins of deco on an Aladdin Pro. However when doing this sort of square profile dive, custom tables with deeper stops and oxygen for the final stop are usually safer as I find that the Aladdins first stop is usually only 12 or 9 metres.

An exciting dive, the Woniara should only be attempted after gaining considerable experience on the many other shallower wrecks in Sydney.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL CLUB MEMBERS...**

On Thursday the 29 August 1996 after making several phone calls to Narooma it was been confirmed that the 1880 wreck of the *LADY DARLING*, a 230 foot steamer, about 890ish tonnes has finally been located just off Mystery Bay just south of Narooma and Montague Island.... Amazingly the first report of the wreck is that it has collapsed around itself but is mostly intact...(for now)...and in less than 100 feet/30 msw, lying upright on the sand and is covered with fishlife. News travels fast and the operators that I spoke to were very surprised that anyone knew about it yet. But they will take us there. Come and see history before the *Myola* syndrome sets in. [Acting Ed's note: this has now been reported in the *SMH* on 6 September]

The weekend at Eden already had to be cancelled as Peter Hall had other commitments with a whale watching festival that weekend and we will reschedule a trip later in the year. Accommodation has been organised at the Oakley Farm at Mystery Bay, just south of Narooma, which has several bungalows and farmhouse accommodation great for divers and other family members or non divers. It's also a great place for the kids as our hosts Max and Jenny have their own mini zoo of farm animals. The facility also has a covered common room full of dive nic nacs and a BBQ for Saturday Night. Non Divers and Spouses,

don't forget that Tilba Tilba and the vineyard are just down the road.... plus a great view overlooking Montague Island and now from reports the actual wreck site.....!

Accommodation and bums on seats for dive charter boat MUST be confirmed prior to, or at the September Meeting. I Make No Exceptions! First in best dressed.

All late comers can "try" and make their own arrangements after this date.

Remember No Exceptions.

Deposit \$40.00. At September Meeting.

Accommodation Costs:

\$15.00 per night/adult(=\$30.00) and \$5.00 per night/child(=\$10.00)

Double Diving Charter aboard MV *Kato* will be \$60 or \$65/day.

There is also a club boat dive day on Sunday the 22 September (Sunday after Meeting) This date was misreported in the last *Wet Rag* due to a typo ...Please ring to confirm numbers, boat availability and depth range.

Also an important day out is on Saturday the 2 November 1996, SPD are going to "Helmet Fetish" at Manly who I spoke to at the Scuba Expo. Helmet Fetish has no connection to the 'Whipme Beatme Club' that our President frequents regularly on Thursday nights, but for this 'fetish' (to do a hard hat dive) we need a minimum of 4 persons maximum of 8 persons for the day. Lunch and instruction and dive in suits are included in the cost of between \$115 and \$145 depending on numbers. I hope to have a short promo video to display at the September meeting. Also they have a lightweight suit and helmet available for females and 'wooses.' Souvenir photos in dive dress are \$10.

Seeya or Call me....

Barjumpa.

#### **POETS CORNER**

##### **SUZANNE'S POEM:**

The sea appears dark and dangerous  
To those who've yet to know  
Of the intriguing magical beauty  
That awaits them just below

Her crystal clear vision  
Allows the eye to behold  
Secrets of the tall seas  
Still waiting to be told

The residents pass by  
And don't seem to mind  
Our awkward presence  
Though not of their kind

Silence spent in this mystical world  
Lasting only a very short time  
Allows each occasion to hold rare  
Recalling another great find.



**FIVE MOST TOLD LIES OF DIVE HOLIDAYS**

- 5 You should have been here yesterday, there was 40 metre visibility.
- 4 We often see mantas (sharks, whales, dolphins etc) at this site.
- 3 Of course we can take to the SS *Wreck*, even though it is 15 k up the coast.
- 2 Did you see the manta (shark, whale, dolphin etc) that swam right behind you.
- 1 Don't worry, the weather will be better tomorrow.

**WRECK UPDATE** by the Phantom Wreck Rat

The magnetometer has been getting a workout lately and one wreck we are after is the SS *Toncurry*. Built in 1903 and 160 tons, it was lost on the morning of Sunday 22 October 1916 approximately five kilometres off Broken Bay straight out from Barrenjoey.

It was carrying 1,500 bags of cement, 1,100 cases of explosives, 100 cases of whisky and 60 cases of jam. A leak in the forward chain locker was found to be above the waterline. However, at 3.15am, the vessel was found to be leaking badly. The pumps could not prevent the rising water so the ship was abandoned and sank 20 minutes later. The vessel was diving into a north-east sea and a pint of water was said to be coming in at each dive.

No reason for the leak was given, but there was a four foot gap between the cement and explosives and the mate stated that he fancied he saw the masts come together as she sank.

Thanks to the legacy of Rick Latimer, we have a position marked on the charts that is possibly the *Toncurry* at approximately 33° 35' 60" and 151° 23' 60" [Ed note: this is actually 33° 36' 0" and 151° 24' 0" - is there an error here?]. according to the Naval Charts, the depth is around 47 metres and lies about 5 kilometres off Barrenjoey, north of the Birchy. This wreck would be a great find. While only small, about the size of the TSS *Wandra* off JB, it would certainly be impressive if the 100 cases of Scotch were preserved by the cement! Boat owners interested in mounting a search can contact the committee for a map and info.

Rumour has it that a number of wrecks (including the *Nemesis*, *Nimbin*, *Comboyne*, *Rosedale*, *Wollongbar*, *Sumatra*, *Kielawarra*, *Bega* and *Corio* have either been found or could be quite soon. There are also a number of deep hulked wrecks to be found off Sydney Harbour, a few of which have already been rediscovered and dived.

**FIVE WAYS TO RECOGNISE A MALE DIVE INSTRUCTOR**

- 5 He talks consistently about himself.
- 4 He has the word "Instructor" on his cap, wetsuit and even fins.
- 3 He has a pony tail.
- 2 He has a huge watch.
- 1 He has a very small penis.

**I SPY**

Spring Fever is in the Air. Who is the club member from the North Shore spending a night in a southern suburb, and the person from an outer suburb of Sydney staying at another club member's place (more than once) in the inner city!

**FOR SALE**

Steel 72cf Tank, in test till June 97, excellent condition \$120.00 or near offer. Contact Suzanne Evans. B.C.D. Good condition \$100.00 call Scott "no-mates" Liemroth (also call him for garden furniture and arches)

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

"I don't get narcosis.... I just get slow!" Craig Harwood recalling his 50m dive on the "Birchgrove Park"

**FIVE MOST HATED THINGS ABOUT WHAT WE SEE IN DIVE PUBLICATIONS**

- 5 20 almost identical photographs of a smiling dive certification agency's CEO (or was it really a cardboard cut out?).
- 4 Dive certification agencies giving awards to their staff and shops.
- 3 People writing in glowing terms about themselves.
- 2 Master Instructors who are bald and always photographed wearing caps.
- 1 People who put their certifications and education qualifications after their name when what they are writing about has no relevance.



**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The following members are on the committee for the 1996 year.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Home No:</b>	<b>Work No:</b>
President:	Leo Bergagnin	9558 2592 Mobile: (041) 951 7285	9517 2853
Treasurer:	Barbara Sweetman	9550 1712	
Secretary:	Carina Gregory	(046) 25 8630	(046)20 1423
Photographic Officer:	Peter Flockart	9371 0265 Fax: 9374 2688	9374 2382
Publicity Officer:	Paul Howlett	9746 6720	9377 3030
Dive Organisers:	Scott Leimroth Geoff Cook	9759 6501 9543 5817 Mobile (018) 29 4897	(019) 99 0864 [m] (018) 29 4891
Social Secretaries:	David Bilbow	9564 1119	9566 4333
Newsletter Editor:	Russell Stoker	9799 2663 Mobile (041) 452 1507	9217 1739 Fax 9217 1484

**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.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Home No:</b>	<b>Work No:</b>
Sue Armstrong	042 94 2769	9697 2248
Martin Atkins (lives in Jervis Bay area)	044 43 4631	042 74 0210
John Beddie	9820 4272	046 20 1746
BJ	9709 5535	
Peter Booth	9529 3818	
Geoff Cook	9543 5817	018 29 4891
Bruce Cremonesi	9668 8126	9645 0286
Martin Kandilas	9725 7808	9725 7808
Bob May	045 79 1053	

**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, 9527 1518  
**Beverly's Restaurant** at Chippendale, contact Bev on 9310 4878  
**Dive Quest, Mullaway**, contact Chris or Gary on (066) 54 1930  
**Max Western's *Sea-tamer II*** charter boat, contact Max on 9567 8658 or (018) 28 0791  
**Selera Restaurant**, Level 1, 264 King Street Newtown, 9557 5186  
**Shiprock Dive** at Lilli Pilli, contact Leo or Leslie on 9526 2664  
**Southern Cross Divers** at The Spit Marina, contact Barry on 9969 5072  
**South West Rocks Dive Centre**, contact Noel or Belinda on (065) 66 6474  
**Twofold Dive Charters**, Eden, contact Peter or Lorna on (064) 96 1778



**Please ring the dive and social organisers or the club phone 0411 343 200 on the Tuesday or Wednesday before the event to confirm details etc.**

## UPCOMING DIVING ACTIVITIES

**Contact Numbers:** Scott Leimroth 9759 6501 [h] (019) 99 0864 [m] and Geoff Cook 9543 5817 [h] or (018) 29 4897 [w]

### SEPTEMBER

**Sat 21st** Dive the SS *Currajong* in Sydney Harbour (only for experienced and brave divers) Phone Michael on 9558 8181 [h]

**Sun 22nd** Club Dive Day Port Hacking deep/shallow (Geoff/Scott)

### OCTOBER

**18-20** Narooma/Montague Is. Diving with the Seals and the wreck of the *Lady Darling* (Geoff)

### NOVEMBER

**Sat 2nd** "Helmet Fetish" at Manly (Geoff)

**10 Nov** Scuba Clubs' Association of NSW dive day out of Port Hacking and BBQ at Jibbon Beach afterwards. Both deep and shallow diving available. Should be a great day. (Geoff)

**29 Nov-1 Dec** Combined Club weekend with St George Scuba Club at Ulladulla - charter boats. Excelent diving. (Scott)

### HEROS NEEDED

Six days liveaboard on "The Hero" leaving 11th Nov diving the Yongala and *Gothenberg* wrecks off Townsville. Only \$750.00. Limited spots. Fully escorted by Max Gleeson - author of the book "SS Yongala - dive to the past" (Scott)

**SOCIAL ACTIVITIES Contact Numbers:** David Bilbow (h) 9564 1119 (w) 9566 4333

### ON DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED

Interclub trivia night, Interclub Skirmish match (See Joe) and the club Christmas party (yes it is getting towards that time of the year!)

### NEXT CLUB MEETING

Remember, this month's meeting will be held on **Monday 16 September, 1996**, starting at 8 pm sharp in the Emile McDonald Room of the Bankstown Sports Club.

### FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

Monday 21 October, 18 November and 16 December 1996

**INTERNET** by (<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~diving>)

If you are thinking of going to the United States or to the Caribbean, then the Internet is the place to look for information about diving. Over the past few months I have been doing a bit of "surfing" and can report that there are some excellent home pages that provide great information. In Australia, we are a long way behind but some dive shops/others have great sites. Very few Australian dive shops (or for that matter, manufacturers/importers) appear to have Internet sites as yet. I know that a few NSW shops are having sites built right now, so soon it may be quite different.

### FIVE MOST TOLD LIES OF DIVING

- 5 Anyone can learn to dive.
- 4 Instructors get all the girls/boys (as the case may be).
- 3 Becoming a divemaster/instructor will mean you can easily get a job in a tropical location.
- 2 Diving is cheap.
- 1 Diving is such a friendly recreational activity.

### BSAC NEWS

A meeting will be held at 8pm on **Wednesday 25 September** at Middle Harbour 16ft Skiff Club at The Spit to elect **BSAC Branch** committee members. This branch committee should then serve as the South Pacific sub-committee to report to South Pacific Divers' Club committee. The meeting will also be an opportunity for you to find out more about BSAC. BSAC activities such as training will also be discussed. Any questions, please call Barry Hallett (9969 5072), Robert Usher (018 46 5791) or Adrienne Hill (9960 3578 h).

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: (02) 9799 2663[h] or (0414)521 507 [m].  
Deadline for articles is the last day of the month.



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## Minutes of the meeting of South Pacific Divers Club Bankstown Sports Club, Monday 19 August 1996

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Meeting opened 8.05pm and members and guests welcomed by Club President, Leo Bergagnin. Leo mentioned that Club member Max Gleeson will be giving a presentation tonight. Max has a new book out called *Shipwrecks, Storms and Seamen of the NSW Coast*.

**Apologies:** Lee and Steve Grow, Peter Flockart and Peter Foster.

Acceptance of previous Club minutes by *Mark Dietz* and seconded by *Mark Spencer*.

### Incoming/outgoing correspondence

Other Clubs newsletters from URG, Terrigal Underwater Group, RUC, Douts and Brisbane Water Aqualung Club.

### Dive Organisers Report: Scott Leimroth/Geoff Cook

#### August

24 *Bombo Dive*, Boat leaves from Wollongong Harbour at 8.30am.

31/1 Sept. *Norah Head weekend*; diving with C-Breeze dive; accomod. is \$15/night; boat  
and shore dives available; \$10 deposit required.

Geoff mentioned the upcoming dive weekends at Eden with Peter Hall and at Narooma diving with the seals. See Geoff if you are interested.

Martin Atkins mentioned he will be diving the *Catterthun* and the *Satara* between the 24-31 August.

Scott Leimroth mentioned that a combined Club weekend at Ulladulla is being planned with St. George on 29 November/1 December 1996.

### Treasurers Report: Barbara Sweetman

Expenses for the month of June: \$455.50 in / \$1953.13 out

Balance of Cheque Account: \$3572.75

Balance of Investment Account: \$11228.67

Treasurers Report accepted by *Craig Harwood* and seconded by *Gordon McDonald*.

### Presentation by Max Gleeson

Max Gleeson gave a presentation of the many places and wrecks he has dived in the Pacific and Asia regions such as the Solomon Islands, PNG, Truk Lagoon and Sipidan. Also included were winning slides from previous AUPY's. Thank you Max for a very interesting and entertaining talk.

## B R E A K

### Raffle prizes and winners

**1st Prize:** Aircard donated by Aquatic Explorers, Cronulla  
**Won by:** Suzanne Evans

**2nd Prize:** Dinner for 2 at Anna and Aldo's Trattoria, Leichhardt  
**Won by:** Russell Stoker

**3rd Prize:** Boat dive on Max Western's *Sea Tamer II*  
**Won by:** Scott Egginton

**4th Prize:** 2 airfills compliments of Shiprock Dive, Lilli Pilli  
**Won by:** Craig Harwood



After these prizes were drawn, all tickets went back into the draw for a copy of Max Gleeson's new book, *Shipwrecks, Storms and Seamen of the NSW Coast*. This prize was won by Suzanne Evans.

### **Photographic Officers Report: Peter Flockart**

There is no photographic officers report as Peter Flockart is on holidays.

### **Publicity Officers Report: Paul Howlett**

Paul said that the Club has 2 articles in the next edition of *Dive Log*.

### **Members Dive Reports**

Debbie Egginton dived the *Narong* with C-Breeze Dive; had flat seas and approx. 20 metres vis.

Scott Leimroth dived the *Birchgrove Park* with Tom Byron and John Sumner. Scott also dived the *Coolooli* with 4 tanks and his new drysuit.

Craig Harwood recently spent a weekend on the *Victory*, a liveaboard at Jervis Bay; they were pampered on board; dived with the seals, The Arch, Spider Cave, The Whorehouse; Witnessed a shark attack - a diver disturbed an Angel shark which was buried in the sand and the shark ended up biting a hole in his wetsuit.

Michael McFadyen dived the *Himma* with Eddy Labour, John Beddie and Mark Dietz. Their second dive was at North Head - Bluefish Point, where the old sewerage outlet was. They swam 50 metres up the old pipe. Had a good dive and saw a seal on the surface.

Paul Howlett has been doing some exploratory dives in Sydney Harbour; Also dived Obelisk Beach and Bottle and Glass Reef; had 5 metres visibility.

### **General Business**

Michael McFadyen congratulated Paul Howlett for the publicity the Club has been receiving in *Dive Log*. He also congratulated Russell Stoker on a job well done with the newsletter.

Maria Townsend congratulated the Club on the brochure the Club prepared for Scuba Expo.

Suzanne Evans spoke about the weekend she recently spent at JB on the *Victory*. She has invited the owners, Annie and Adrian to make a presentation about the liveaboard at a Club meeting. The tentative month set for this presentation is November.

Suzanne said that she also has a tank to sell for \$120 ono.

Suzanne mentioned that she was recently speaking to Sylvia Adam, an early member of the Club. She said that the former Committee had discussed Sylvia becoming a life member of the Club and that she would like to receive the Wet Rag. It was resolved at the meeting for Sylvia to become an "honorary" member: this was accepted by Craig Harwood and seconded by Gordon McDonald. It was also suggested that the Club invite its early members to make a presentation showing old slides etc. at a Club meeting. Michael McFadyen said that this matter should be considered by the Committee.

**Meeting closed 10.15pm**



The Hon. Bob Martin, MP  
Minister for Mineral Resources and Fisheries  
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**SPEARFISHING AT FISH ROCK, SOUTH WEST ROCKS**

Dear Mr Martin,