

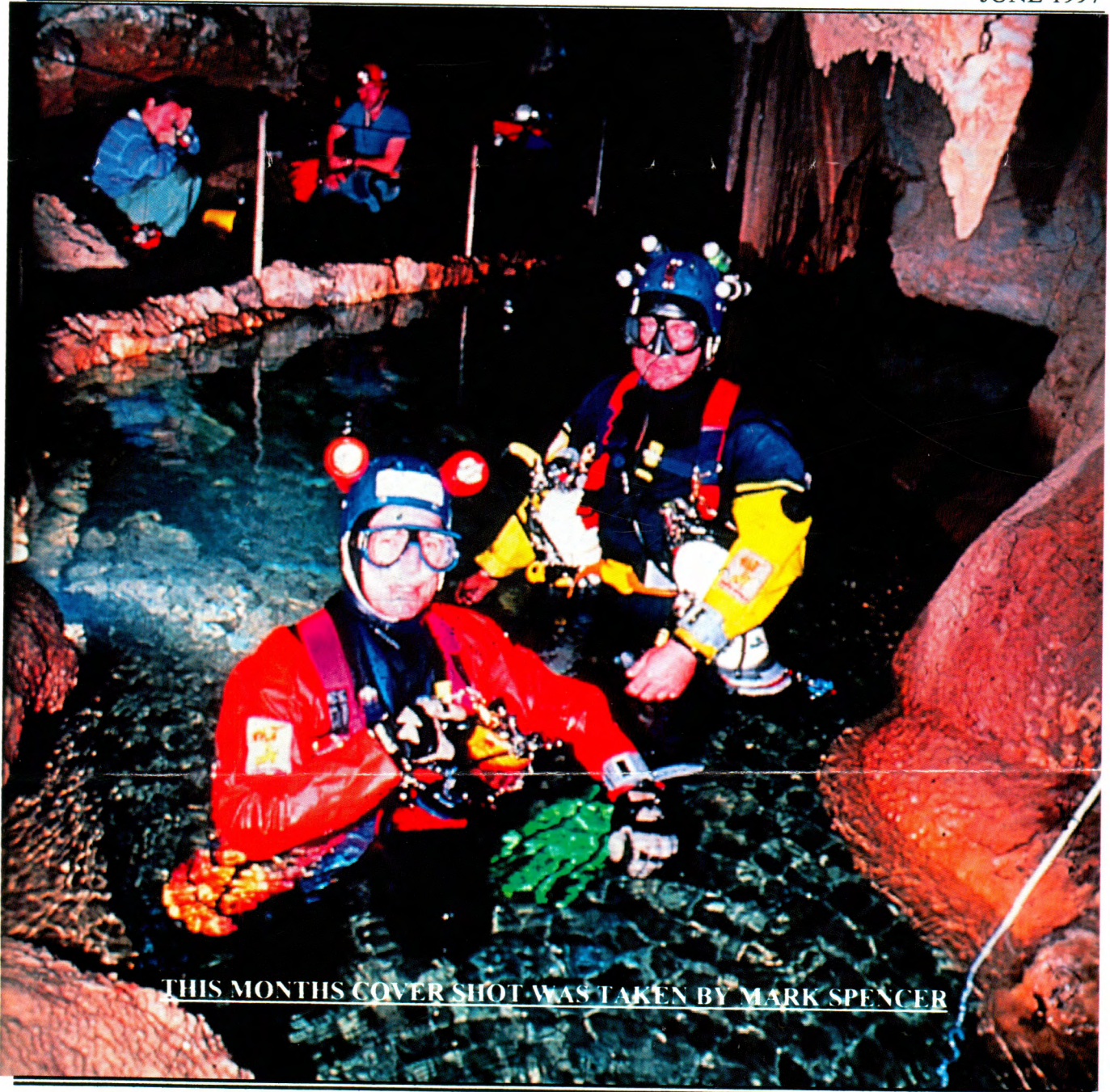
WET RAG



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

PO Box 823, BANKSTOWN NSW 2200
TELEPHONE: 0411 343 200

JUNE 1997



THIS MONTHS COVER SHOT WAS TAKEN BY MARK SPENCER

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, 16th June, 1997.

President's Message

In the May edition of the "WET RAG" I informed club members of my intention to step down as club president, so obviously the new president should be elected at our next club meeting. This conforms, I believe with our rules of constitution. I feel that after three and a half years it is time for a change. In that time I was supported by some excellent committees, and of course many club members as well. Many thanks to you all. To the new club president, whoever that may be, I wish you well.

On Saturday the 30/5/97, the "Daily Telegraph" carried an article which reminded me of the disappearance and subsequent death of Pat Bowering. Pat was a club member and it is hard to believe it has been a year since his death. Many of you no doubt will remember the fruitless search on the Friday and Saturday, which ended on the Sunday, when his "Hydro-Tech" dry suit was found on the sand by Graham Elliot and David Greenhalg. The suit was found face up and it would appear the shark interfered with the body in this position on the ocean floor. A subsequent search by the R.O.V. which covered an area of 280,000 square meters, failed to find any of the still missing equipment.

The "Sydney Morning Herald" on that Saturday carried a story about some cave exploration at Jenolan Caves. Amongst those divers was club member, Mervyn "Nipper" Maher whose photo appeared in the article. One of the Photographer's on the expedition was none other than Mark Spencer. It is suspected that an area called the End Zone, may link to two tourist cave systems at Jenolan. Until now no one has been able to forge a trail through the caves that hold the underground Jenolan river. Recently after an 18 hour underground expedition, the underground explorers finally dug, squeezed and dived into the End Zone. Mark and Nipper will be coming to our July meeting to show us some of the slides and share with us some of their adventures and dangers of diving these caves.

There appear to be a couple of misconceptions floating around about the photo comp. and the awards night. This year we had four judges, they were Tom Byron, Martin Kandilas, Max Gleeson and Dave Baxter. We lost around \$50 only, so that wasn't too bad considering the '95 awards night. We also upgraded the trophies in comparison to past years. The admission price was set in 1993 and we have held that price and still we survived. The new rules and new trophies we hope will regenerate interest in the competition. The awards night ran at a profit, but we had to subsidise the photo comp a little more this year than in previous years, mainly

due to the cost of the trophies.

It now appears certain that there will be no Scuba Expo in '97, due to the fact that Dive Australia are experiencing some financial difficulties.

Next Monday at our meeting John Szwecow will be showing us some of his work behind the camera. John has taken some great shots in some great locations and it will be extremely interesting.

That's all from me, thanks once again for all the support, see you on Monday night.

Regards Leo B.

Photographic Officer's Report

After discussions with the committee and members, it has been decided that there is a sufficient level of interest within the club to run the George Roberts Competition this year.

The George Roberts comp opens at this month's meeting and will run over the next two months..

Entry fee of \$20.00

Opens June Meeting
Closes August Meeting
Presentation September Meeting

For those who don't know this is our annual "in house" competition 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 A.U.P.Y.

I hope members will take this opportunity to enter and in doing so support the club and maybe win for themselves a prize.

So lets Go ! Go! Go! and start snapping.

Meanwhile negotiations are underway to ensure that the tradition of great prizes continues, more about these in the coming months.

Also I am currently working on the revamped rules for next year's Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition based on the input received from members, survey replies and the forum held at the Gladstone Hotel. I am not certain which magazine we will ultimately run with as we are presently negotiating terms.

An item to think about for next year.

Who will be photographic officer, as I will be stepping down after the next AV night. If anyone is interested in finding out more about this position, please see me. Training & assistance will be provided.

Regards, Peter Flockart

Newsletter Editors Message

Scott Leimroth is due back from his holiday and the newsletter is back in his capable hands so if you have any thing for the newsletter you can get it to Scott A.S.A.P.

Thanks go to those people who helped me out with input and getting the newsletter out during this brief interlude.

Russell Stoker

A CHANCE REDISCOVERY OF THE GOOLGWAI WRECK

By Barjumpa.

Very recently after doing a delivery at the Royal Hotel Sutherland I took time out to have a quick drink in the main bar area. I looked at the walls and saw a number of photographs depicting the changes in the area from early this century up to present times. One undated and unlabeled photo naturally caught my eye of a "largish" steamer high on the rocks with huge waves breaking over it. The cliffs adjacent to the wrecked vessel were unmistakably at Yellow Rock, Malabar where I had my lunch that same day. The resident boffin barfly claimed it to be the wreck of the Malabar which I unsuccessfully argued against.

Unwilling to admit defeat I went straight to the Sutherland Library which has a reference section and newspaper photofische records. A check of the Jack Loney Bible did not indicate the wreck (Good one Jack). So a 15 minute phone call to David Nutley at the Heritage Branch gave up the name of the 280 ton trawler Goolgwai. By coincidence that day of my inquiries was the 29 May 1997, the Goolgwai ran aground on the 29 May 1955. (Forty two years before to the day) David has requested the photo for copying from Ron the publican which he has agreed to but at present until arrangements are made it is still on display.

Briefly the Goolgwai, which was a 280 ton steam trawler which looks to be over 100 feet in length and was owned by Red Funnel Trawlers Pty Ltd, was heading back to Sydney Harbour about 7am in thick fog after 11 days at sea. They were taking sounding at 37 Fathoms and soon after surprise, surprise they had steamed up onto the rocks about 50 metres seaward from the wrecksite of the Malabar Wreck 11 crewmen, no deaths apart from the ship's dog. Within 4 days the seas had totally destroyed the Goolgwai dragging the wreck into deeper waters off the cliffs.

Six dollars in photocopying and a twelve dollar mobile phone call later I returned to the resident boffin and claimed my schooner. The only questions remaining are "Who's dived it?" and "When do we go and have a look ourselves?"

S.M.H. 30/5, 31/5, 1/6, 7/6/1955

BENEATH JENOLAN CAVES

By Mervyn Maher

Beneath Jenolan caves is a lot of unexplored river systems because a lot of wild and tourist caves choke out into water. Cavers try to find ways around the water. When these options run out the process starts again, this time by diving and the easiest access is taken because of the

amount of equipment cave divers require to safely complete a dive in a cave.

There are more lows than highs in this type of diving because it can take 2 to 10 hours of dry caving to arrive at the dive site to find the sump goes nowhere. None of which would be possible without the help of a large core of very talented cavers. Which brings me to what this is all about, a connection between Spider Cave and Mammoth cave which on the surface is only a gentle stroll of about 20 mins, but underground it takes a little longer. Without packs it would take good cavers 4 to 6 hours to do the round trip, add 24 gearpacks to be handled through the squeezes and a lot more hours are added on.

So Day (1) all the gear is packed 14 hours later 8 people left all 24 packs on the inside of the 1st sump near the "X" window and then exit the cave. Sounds easy but no it wasn't

Day (2) The divers went underground at 10am. We only had to move the packs the final 70m to the end zone, our respect for the cavers would grow because this was very hard and difficult work. For the dive it starts in a little muddy puddle about 2m round and drops to 16m where you wriggle under a ledge about 0.5m high and 2 m wide, this ledge seems to hold back the silt so the next chamber is clear. As you follow the passage you can appreciate the way the water has carved it's path through the limestone.

That is until at 30m it goes into a crevice and descends to 50m and becomes too tight, so the potential here is now the roof area where the dry caving maybe able to start again. Maybe?

Because we dive strictly to the rule of thirds it soon comes time to leave which means wriggling back under the ledge into the muddy tunnel back to the surface after some very lonely deco where the front of your mask seems very close.

Now for the fun part re-pack the gear and move it back to the outside of the sump and it's 10pm. We exit out of the cave at 5am to the waiting arms of the rescue party. Back to the cottage to pour beer on the cornflakes and then collapse in a heap,

Day(3) Most of the team from day (1) with a couple of ringins retrieved the packs and were out by 4pm.

We as divers are very thankful to the people who give there time and energy to be Sherpa's, just so we can dive which this time was Sydney Uni Spelo' Society (SUSS)

The connection wasn't made but we are 120m closer so the whole ordeal was considered worth it. I THINK!

DIVE CLUB DITTO'S**By Debbie Davis**

On the weekend of the 23rd - 25th May a few members of the South Pacific Divers Club made the journey to Jervis Bay for a weekend of diving.

On arrival we meet at the wharf to board the Victory - after loading the gear aboard dinner was at a local restaurant. On Saturday morning early we departed the wharf for a weekend of diving and great laughs.

Breakfast on day one, we anchored off the beach at Vincentia what a sight, white sand and blue water this was to be the start of a great weekend. Then off to the wild blue yonder for diving, first stop Bowen island, then a break at the Nursery with yet another dive. Anchored up that night for a Bar-b-que dinner. After a few drinks (not that any of us drink) there was one particular member of South Pacific Divers who knows the meaning of star-gazing in no uncertain terms, she saw a very bright light on this particular night whilst looking for a comet.

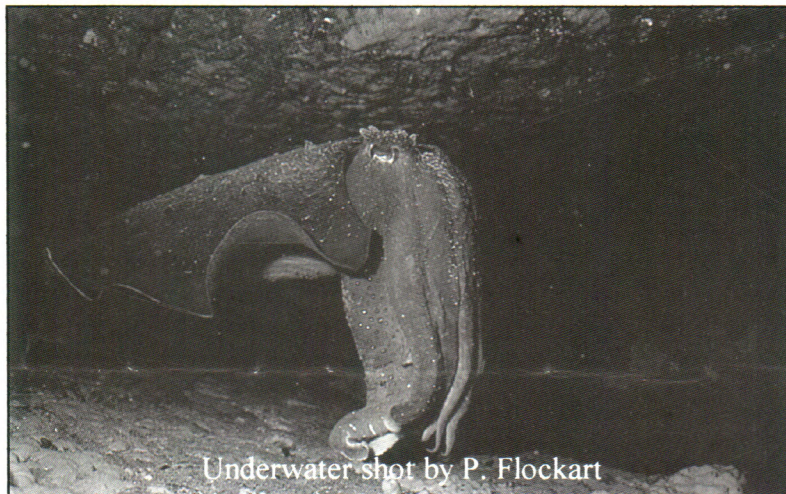
At breakfast a few of the members now have egg on their faces, all having been shown how to break eggs single handed, ask those aboard.

On day two the boat took us to east of Bowen island where yet another sight greeted us, three SPDC members who will remain nameless but are now known as the South Pacific Dildo Divers surfaced with safety sausages protruding from the water waiting for their pick-up. a really amazing sight to the non-diving fraternity.

A truly amazing weekend was had by all aboard the Victory - thanks to the Captain (Adrian) and the tireless cook (Annie) a great job guys

JERVIS BAY LIVABOARD**By Peter Foster**

Let me tell you a little story, it all started one dark night in May. My good friend and fellow pommy Adrian rang and said would I try to get a group together for a weekend trip. No problem said I, see you on the 23rd of May.

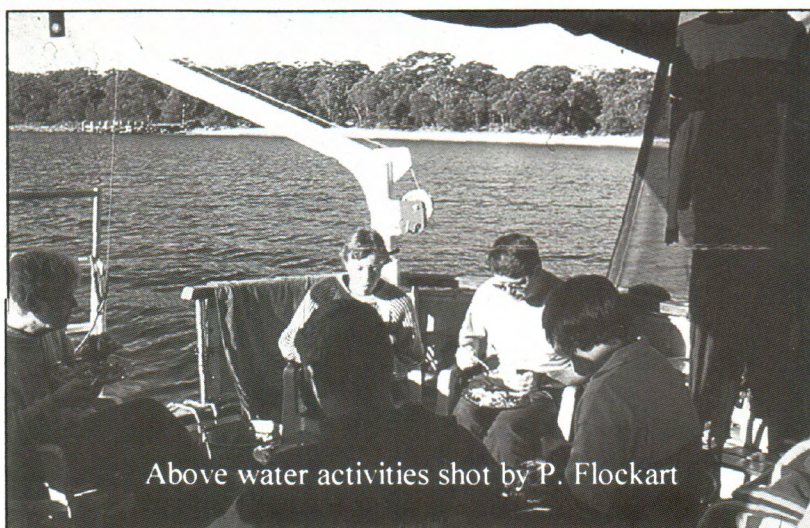


Underwater shot by P. Flockart

Well we all know how bad the weather was that week rain, rain and bloody wind. So when all the group reached JB the weather was the main worry. Over dinner we became aware that Adrian's only real worry was what to eat for dessert. Then the real problem

raised its head! Who was to share cabins with whom? We put all the people that snored in one cabin, the back one! This trip was the first time that I have seen Adrian silenced by outside noise.

I was smart (or so I thought) and decided to sleep up the pointy end and share with Peter Flockart! Was the snoring a big problem? Not really but does this man talk in his sleep! Talk about knowing state secrets! (Secret tapes are for sale)



Above water activities shot by P. Flockart

Saturday morning came and so did breakfast, the weather was still quite rough so it was off to Bowen island for the first dive. This was a nice and easy dive down to about 28 metres heaps to see at this spot as there always is. We followed Adrian's dive briefing to the letter, go down,

swim around the bottom then come back up, what a guy! We spent the next two to three hours eating (Annie's food was great) then a second dive again only quite shallow at 15 metres which allowed a long bottom time. We spent the rest of this great day eating and drinking. Some ratbag even went water skiing

behind the tender boat. Annie then yelled "Dinner's ready" and we ate again, all washed down with Peter the sleepwalkers red wine.

Sunday came as it always does the day after Saturday. The weather was better but still too rough for the trip down to Steamers to dive with the seals. After eating yet again! We went diving, Adrian gave his normal in-depth briefing, "Go down, swim around and come back!" The dive site was inside Bowen down to about 32 metres so everyone had a long bottom time in this kind of depth. The second dive of the day meant crossing to the north side of the bay, so just to pass the time we ate, just for a change.

The second dive was in my view the best. We were at the bottom in only 20 metres. Swam up into about 10 metres to the shark cave. I think all the divers saw at least 3 - 4 Gray Nurse sharks, it would seem JB has a shark dive to add to the seals, the Arch, Crocodile Head, the Docks, the Nursery, Stoney Creek and some great sea caves. Jervis bay may not suit everyone but in my 18 years of diving still rates as one of the best spots on the east coast. We have two trips booked for the Victory in August both of which still have space at the moment, so if you wish to come down make sure you put your name down on the dive sheet as only eight spots will be booked on each trip.

DIVING AT NELSON BAY.

By Paul Howlett

The first dive was at 27 metres deep on an old wreck called the Oakland, (sank in 1903). Just the outline of the ship on the sand, it is a pretty and easy dive. The second dive was called the Looking Glass, a dive with plenty of action and excitement.

Looking Glass is the water passage between two islands 11 kilometres off the coast at Nelson Bay. The island mass is called Broughton Island (a narrow gap between) of some 4 metres by fifteen metres deep.

The second dive was the best dive for me. It was a rock and roll dive. The water surges between the gap between the island and the depth is only 15 meters. (45 feet) It just makes

for an interesting exploration dive., fighting the surge and hanging on to all those rocks. You hang on and let the surge work for you, you can use it to work your way through the passage, in either direction.

Jean Claude talks on Rebreathers

by Paul Howlett

Jean Claude once again in Australia took time out from his busy schedule to talk to many members of SPDC and guests at the Gladstone Hotel, on Thursday night the 15th May 1997.

Jean Claude LE PENCHON, is an internationally known Frenchman. He is involved with hyperbaric work on the Mascot to Central Underground. He is an expert in many fields of hyperbaric work. Jean has worked with Cousteau. He held a world record for pressurization at 400 ft, some years ago.

The topic of the nights talk was very interesting. 'Rebreathers'. As the price of rebreathers has come down, more and more Scuba divers are for the first time, looking at buying a rebreather. Are they affordable, if one buys a rebreather, what does go on inside of them? No bubbles, some bubbles, some have open systems, some have closed?? That and many other questions have been asked by many Scuba divers in recent years. Jean Claude opened a few of those doors and answered some of those questions in his talk.

Jean Claude's talk was broken up into the following sub topics:

- 1) Oxygen Consumption and Ventilation
- 2) Gas Rebreathers
- 3) Gas Breathing in Immersion
- 4) Closed circuit systems (Oxygen consumption is not a function of depth)
- 5) Semi-closed Circuit Systems
- 6) Risk Analysis and Prevention

I absorbed a few beers and also absorbed a few pointers on rebreathers.. Not that I would go off

and buy one tomorrow, but those black boxes that house the rebreather systems, no-longer are a complete mystery.

Everyone was happy that Jean-Claude could again spend some of his valuable time to give



Looking Glass shot by P. Howlett

the Club some of his expertise in things associated with diving. Quiet a number of questions were asked from the floor.

Many thanks Jean-Claude, I hope that we will again, at some time in the future be able to say Bonjour!

DIVING AROUND BARE ISLAND

by Paul Howlett

Sunday was spent diving and soaking up the sun. I dived with Peter Flockart.

We dived at Bare Island, an island named by Captain Cook, went he discovered Australia in 1770. I arrived early in the morning, parked my car, got out, looked around..no one in sight! HA! Then I remembered that the meeting place for everyone was Frenchman's Bay, just around the corner.

This has been my first dive for a long time, with a underwater photographer, with camera. What a difference, the whole effect for me, was to slow me down, get out of *zoom zoom* mode and into *LOOKING* mode. You begin to see all the little things, the macro life as it is called.

We snorkeled across a little channel and headed for the reef. Halfway across Peter got sick of snorkeling, as he was loaded up with bulky camera gear. We dropped down under the water (about half way across) and continued on our way to the best underwater reef area.

Peter stuck his head under various rocks, looking for that odd fish, a 'photo opportunity', as they now call it. I swam over the reef and down the other side, turned around and I could just see Peter in the distance, head under the usual rock ledge...so I waited, and started to look around and much to my surprise I saw the tiny little fish. It was no longer than the length of my little finger. out from each side of the fish were the most fantastic purple fins. The fish was a neutral gray colour, this made the contrasting colour of it's fins even more spectacular...all in a little fish. I waved Pete over and he took a photo of it.

Just a few metres away I spotted an octopus, so I approached rather slowly, as not to frighten it off, and waved my fingers at it. it "sat-up", changed colour and I was quiet surprised...what I did not know was that another octopus was using me as cover and approaching the other one. Well they both changed colour to a deep black and proceeded to fight!! What a

performance!!

A little further on we slid over and down into a deep (20 metres) channel and swam along admiring the changing scenery, all too soon we had reached the limits of our air and it was time to return. On the return journey, I stayed at the top of the "drop-off" and Peter swam along on the bottom...suddenly he stopped and took several photos, then he waved me down and showed me a small spotted jelly fish...looked very different from your normal jelly fish.

We made it all the way back (underwater) to the exit site after spending a good 97 minutes underwater.

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

Saturday 12th JULY

At 7.00pm at the cellar

Bush Christmas in July including trip to Vicary's winery, free wine tasting, dinner and dancing in the Woolshed. \$34 a head, Kids also welcome

Travel by mini-bus pick up and return to Bankstown Sports Club approx. \$10 Departing 5.45pm

Deposit of \$20 per person (\$8.50 kids) required by June meeting (16th) or else you miss out.!!

To book this contact Debbie on 9750 4317 or 014 904 849

or leave message on 9644 4125.

WANTED TRUK DIVERS

South Pacific Divers are off to Truk Lagoon. We will be leaving on Sunday November 2 & returning on Thursday November 13. We will spend 1 night & day in Pohnepi then off to Truk for 7 nights.

In Truk we will do a minimum of 12 dives, more will be available & extensions are possible.

One wreck we will dive is Fumitzuki. It was a destroyer of 320' length and is 116' deep, you can see bow gun, torpedo launcher and stern guns

CONGRATULATIONS

Club member Peta Williamson got married in South West Rocks a couple of weeks ago. Best wishes for the future go to the happy couple

SHIPROCK DIVE IS HAVING A SALE

It's the end of the financial year and Shiprock is having a clearance sale with discounts from 10% to 50%. So if you need any gear now is the time to talk to Leo or Lesley about a deal

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following members are on the committee for the 1997 year.

Position	Name	Home No:	Work No:
President:	Vacant		
Treasurer:	Barbara Sweetman	9517 9176	9233 1402 before 12 & after 3
Secretary:	Deborah Egginton	9317 2126	
Photographic Officer:	Peter Flockart	9371 0265 Fax: 9374 2688	9374 2382
Publicity Officer:	Paul Howlett	9746 6720	9377 3030
Dive Organizers:	Scott Eginton	9317 2126	0419 619 866(m)
	Peter Foster	9564 2654	0418 435 774(m)
Social Secretaries:	Les Stewart	9728720	9715 4302
	Debbie Davis	9750 4317	Mobile 014 904 849
Newsletter Editor:	Scott Leimroth	97596501 or (048)771256	(048)771236
	Email: anscott@hinet.net.au	(019) 99 0864 [m	Fax (048)771239
Special Operations Officer:	John Fardoulis	(043)422939	Email: jandj@terrigan.net.au
Property Officer	Russell Stoker	9799 2663	9217 1739
		Mobile (018) 963 527	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.

Name	Home No:	Work No:
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	
John Cassidy	9546 3538	0411 398 675
Peter Cassimatis (Brisbane area)	07 3847 8082	
Geoff Cook	9543 5817	018 29 4891
Mark Dietz		
John Fardoulis	043 422 939	0419 230 244
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 2658 or (018) 28 0791
Selera Restaurant, Level 1, 264 King Street Newtown, 9557 5186
Shiprock Dive at Lilli Pilli, contact Leo or Lesley 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 Eginton 9317 2126, 0419 619 866(m) Peter Foster 9564 2654 0418 435 774(m)

June

Sunday 22nd Pittwater diving and picnic day (Peter)

July

Sunday 27th Botany Bay Diving from La Perouse (Scott)

August

Sunday 17th Harbour Day out of Rose Bay (Scott)

Weekend 22nd-24th Victory weekend trip Jervis bay Liveaboard (Peter)

September

Sunday 7th Bombo day trip (Scott)

Sunday 21st Jibbon or Bundeena diving

November

Sunday 2 to Thursday 13 Truk Lagoon with Leo B contact him on 0419 517 285 or 9558 2952 (a.h)

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES Contact Numbers: 0411 343 200

July

Saturday 12th Bush Christmas in July including trip to Vicary's winery, free wine tasting, dinner and dancing in the Woolshed. \$34 a head plus coach travel pick up and return to Bankstown Sports Club approx. \$10 to \$15. Deposit of \$20 per person required.

To book this night contact Debbie on 9750 4317 or 014 904 841. A.S.A.P.

NEXT CLUB MEETING Remember, this month's meeting will be held on **MONDAY 16th JUNE 1997** starting at **8 pm sharp** in the Emile McDonald Room of the Bankstown Sports Club.

FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

The 21st of July, the 18th of August and the 15th of September

