

WET RAG



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

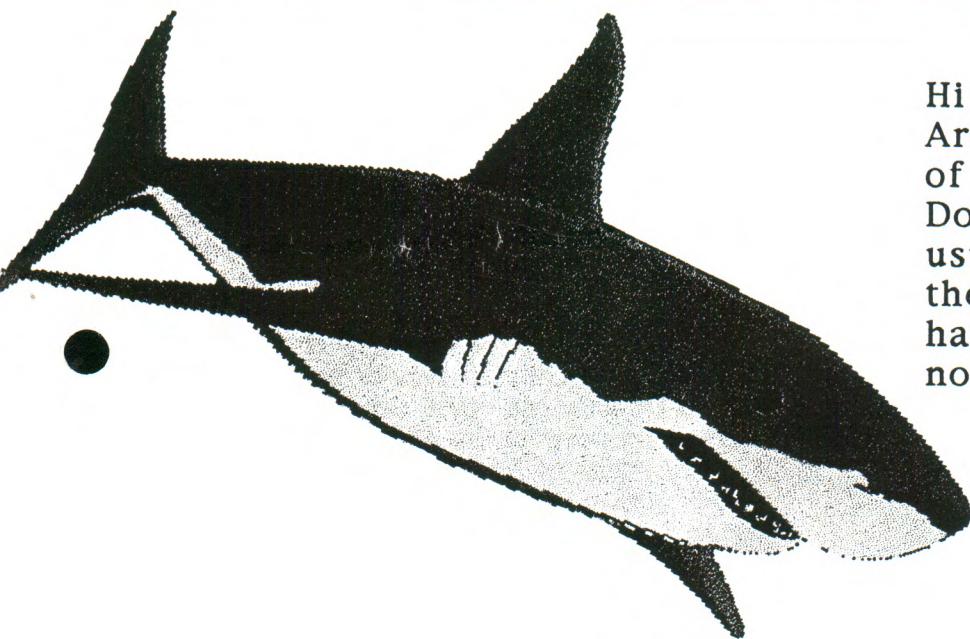
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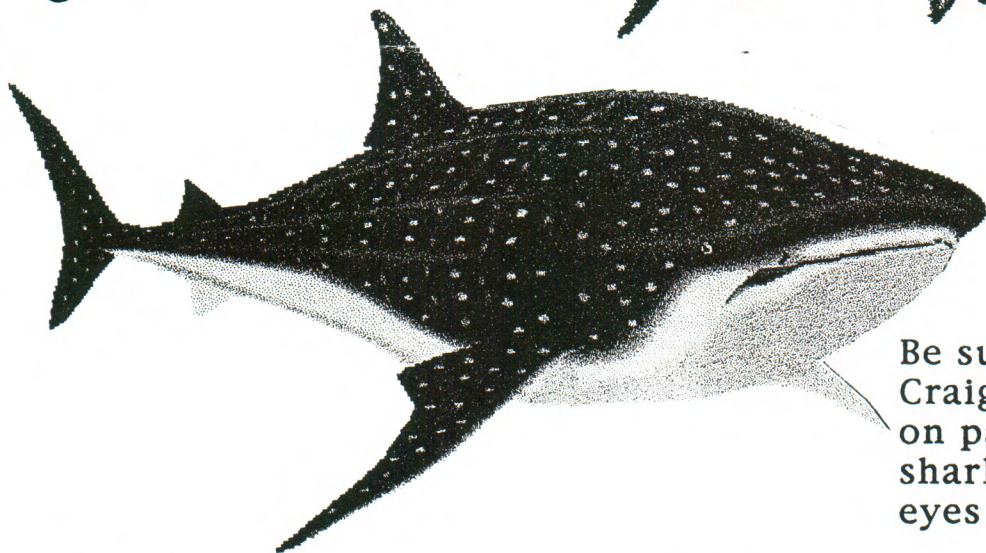
PO Box 201, ENMORE NSW 2042

(Fast delivery)

SEPTEMBER 1997



Hi Craig,
Are you sure it wasn't one
of these sharks you saw?
Don't forget divers
usually exaggerate about
the size of sealife. They
have longer arms than
normal.



Be sure not to miss
Craig Egginton's dive report
on page 9 for further
shark sitings, from the
eyes of a young diver.

Meetings of the Club are normally held at 8pm 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 15th September 1997. Members try and make it as I need your instruction and direction.

Thank You

On behalf of myself and my family I would like to thank South Pacific Divers Club and it's Committee for the making of Rick's Plaque and laying it to form a monument on the wreck of the "Birchgrove Park".

I know the work and organisation it took to have this take place, it's been greatly appreciated.

As you all know, this spot has been one of Rick's favourite dive sites and having a monument there has made it even more special.

Thanking you,

Anne Latimer
23/8/97



The heavily laden Birchgrove Park rounds North Head early in her career.

*"She's unsafe, one day she'll go,
I only hope I'm not on her".*



President's Report

Gordon McDonald

Hi Club Members since my last President's Report I have spoken to many of you, either to invite you to our Ladies Champagne Breakfast or regarding general Club business. At the same time I collected information to update our database.

Sunday morning (31st August) was a success at both the Champagne Breakfast and on Brighton beach. The kids (big and small) played basketball and soccer. Strangely enough I found a large sandstone block and convinced the kids it was off the Sirius. Unfortunately Martin would not help load it into the carry bag he had. Cookie's son "caught" lots of shells which he placed in a bottle with sand and water for display on their polished dining room table. A rusty piece of steel off "The Bounty" was also found and taken home. One particular young lady was seen, in the distance, topless bathing. (So deep wreck divers how much bootie did you find lately?)

The beach bums were: Geoff Cook, Martin Kandalis, Scott Egginton, Mark Spencer, Paul Aram and myself.

Moving onto a more serious note. I have been checking around to find ways of setting up a magnetometer group which will also carry out a mapping grid system. After an organiser has been nominated, this will put the magnetometer to work for us. As this will be used on Club organised dives, strictly for this purpose, no charge will apply. It will be in the care of the Group Leader and will be used by the group regularly. Insurance has been investigated in the form of an all risk policy. Because of the base rate we will include the remainder of the clubs equipment for replacement value on the policy.

I have been ascertaining the possibility of setting up a photographic workshop with the Club. I have a possible leader for the group. The group will learn the basic skills in the functions of a camera and video, from beginners to highly advanced photographers. I envisage discussions and exchange of information at additional for this group which will include physical camera workshop and take them into the water for practical experience. I shall help arrange presentations by Camera Companies, Film

Manufacturers, Video and Photographic Magazine Publishers.

This could be the beginning our very own Film and Slide Library including existing and new pieces. If you have any suggestions please contact me as I need your support and expertise.

We are currently organising an Audit of SPDC books and assets to comply with the Constitution. We urgently need an Auditor, any suggestions or recommendations gratefully received. Contact myself (Gordon) on 9519 7850.

Working with Peter this month has given me considerable satisfaction. He successfully negotiated a win-win agreement with Barry and Belinda representing Dive Log and Sports Diving. This agreement will ensure a positive outcome for our 1998 AV Night.

Paul Howlett has created, with Peter Flockart, our advertising layout for the next editions in both magazines. We will also be advertising the competition with Scuba Diver, and in the Asian/Pacific rim countries also in commercial photographic publications. This will complete our advertising coverage.

The club phone is now being used to it's full capacity, a voicemail message will be activated for information relating to current functions, on dive days the phone will be re-directed to the dive organisers phone. At other times the phone will be answered personally or your messages will be answered promptly, this may quell the problems.

For the phone to be fully utilised requires the information to be given to the phone custodian by the Group Organisers.

Our Committee Meetings will now be located at St George Rovers Club, Arncliffe. They will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 8am sharp. Inexpensive meals can be purchased at the Club's Restaurant prior to the meeting.

At the conclusion of our last Committee Meeting Barbara expressed her desire to resign from the Treasurer's position on the SPDC Committee. Barbara's believes her changing work commitments and lack of time will prevent her from giving the position her full attention. She has offered to continue on in the position until notice can be given at the September meeting enabling the position to be filled at the October meeting. I would like to thank Barbara for the work she carried out in the

position of Treasurer in monitoring the financial dealings within the Club and also assisting where ever possible at functions. Thank you again Barbara.

The entertainment at our September Club Meeting will be supplied by the members by way of slides and a videos. Feel free to bring along your own creative works and show them off. We will exhibit as many as time will allow.

As of this month all expenditures will listed in the Treasurer's Report for acceptance. As President and producer of the Wetrag I have acquired the following costs:

17/7/97	Diary	Newsagent	\$16.95
24/7/97	Stationery	Office Works	\$44.30
24/7/97	Stamps	Aust Post	\$180.00
25/7/97	Stationery	Office Works	\$11.94
28/7/97	Photocopy	Newsagent	\$3.00
28/7/97	O/S Stamps	Aust Post	\$3.95
28/7/97	Photocopy	Kwik Kopy	\$22.50
9/8/97	Meat	Metro Butchers	\$64.00
9/8/97	Bis/Cakes	Tim Products	\$32.00
9/8/97	Groceries	Franklins	\$82.10
10/8/98	Ice/Gas Fill	BP Mona Vale	\$16.50
12/8/97	O/S Stamps	Aust Post	\$5.60
20/8/97	Dive Log	Yrly/Sub	\$72.00
31/8/97	Copy Paper	Campbells	\$22.40
4/9/97	1Yr Ads	DiveLog/SD	\$180.00
5/9/97	Lg Envelope	Office Works	\$26.00
TOTAL			\$783.24

Breakdown of BBQ lunch on 10/8/97, catering for approx. 40 people costs as follows:

Meat	\$64.00
Pastries	\$32.00
Groceries/Vegies	\$82.10
Gas Bottle Fill/Ice	\$16.50
Total	\$194.60

Average cost per person \$5.00

Of this not used - stored in stock and freezer is 30% equalling \$58.38. Making the total cost of the BBQ \$136.22. As only 28 people attended the function (quite a lot less than expected) cost per head was \$4.86.

The above costs have accumulated since my election as President at our June meeting. Receipts will be available for your perusal at the September meeting.

I look forward to meeting you at our September meeting.

Yours sincerely

Gordon McDonald



Photographic Officer's Report

Peter Flockart
SPDC Inc Photographic Officer

Sub-Committee:

Paul Howlett
Lee Harvey
Leo Bergagnin
Gordon McDonald



The entries for the George Roberts Competition are in but there was no last minute flood of entries!! It is disappointing to think with all the talent in the club so few people bothered to enter.

The entries will be judged and the results tabled at the September meeting.

I do think that in order to keep the comp alive we will have to ask ourselves that we are doing wrong. In this case we will have to look at spicing it up for next year and trying to entice some of the cynics and slackers to get off their collective butts and enter the competition.

If anyone has any ideas about categories or prizes please let me know.

In regards to the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year - 1998, I am pleased to report that we will be advertising in a wide range of magazines to further enhance our exposure throughout the Pacific region. Our major sponsor, once again, will be Sportdiving Magazine - Mountain Ocean & Travel Publications. As dates and further information come to hand you will be advised.

Photographic Tips

In order to be a good underwater photographer one must first understand the behaviour of light below the surface/underwater.

As divers we are aware that light behaves differently underwater to the way it does on land. We know that light entering the atmosphere is scattered, refracted and diffused before it reaches the surface of the water. As light passes through water the lower wavelengths of red, yellow and orange are selectively absorbed, so that by 10 m only blue green light remains.

The amount of light that actually enters the air/water interface is determined by

factors such as brightness, angle of the sun's rays, water density and time of date etc.

Therefore theoretically the best conditions are a day with calm seas, bright sunshine and no clouds between the ours of 10 am & 2 pm, when the sun is at its best angle.

In practise, this doesn't happen very often. Usually we have choppy seas/clouds or sun at a low angle, all of which decrease the amount of light available to the photographer. This can be compensated for in relatively shallow water by using different film speeds (more about this later).

Photographers who wish to achieve "natural" colours below 10 metres can either use a red filter or supply their own "sunshine" in the form of electronic flash. This most practical is the use of strobes, as filters are restricted to the first few metres of the water column.

Light underwater is also subject to refraction, reflection, diffusion & distortion.

For a fuller understanding of these properties refer to:

"Underwater Photography" by Charles Seaborn pages 17-30

"The Manual of Underwater Photography" by H Gert de Couet & Andrew Green Chapter 3

"Divers and Cameras" by Joe Strykowski Chapter 3

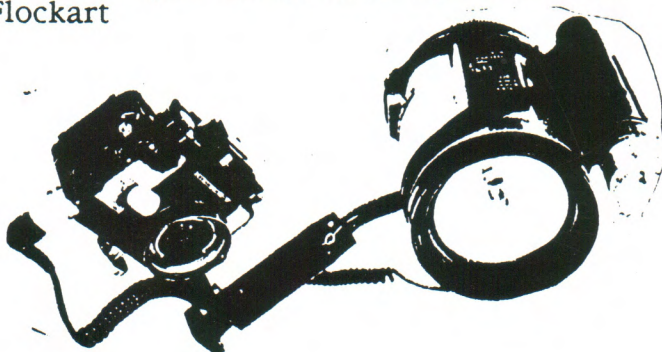
Peter Flockart

Stop Press - Late Extra

One of President's many roving reporter's has just made a scoop. An unnamed dive club has asked an unnamed member of SPDC to present to their members on a topic written up in last month's Wetrag. It is known we only have amateurs in our club but it would seem that this someone has dropped his guard and let us see the professional.

Disclaimer

It is not Ryde Under Club nor it is Peter Flockart



Guest Presenter

Diving Mexico with the Manta Rays

Becca Saunders Profile

Becca Saunders learned to dive in 1975 in a glacier-fed mountain lake in Colorado, USA, but didn't dive regularly until she moved to Australia in 1981. Her background is in computer science and mathematics, specialising in Navy and Army defence projects, but her move to Australia saw a career change to commercial project management, evolving into a corporate management.

From 1988 to 1990, Becca was a member of the management team that supervised the design, construction and operation of the Sydney Aquarium in Darling Harbour. Upon completion of the Sydney Aquarium, Becca decided to pursue her interests in journalism, diving and underwater photography full-time and she is now one of Australia's most published freelance writer/photographers, specialising in marine science, ocean related subjects, adventure travel and technical articles on underwater photography.

Becca has a monthly column on dive travel published in *DIVE Log Australia* and a column on photography in *DIVE Log New Zealand*. She is editor of *Scuba Yearbook* and editor of *Travel Bag*, a column on dive travel in *Sportdiving* magazine. She is also a regular feature writer for *Sportdiving* magazine specialising in travel destinations and photography articles.

As a trained writer and an accomplished topside photographer, Becca's articles and/or photos also appear regularly in non-diving publications, including *BBC Wildlife*, *Australian Geographic*, *GEO*, *Australian Natural History*, *Boat Directory*, *Club Marine* and many others both in Australia and overseas.

Becca Saunders recently won first place in the Open division of the coveted South Pacific Divers underwater photography competition (the first women to achieve such status) and is the current Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year.

Her work is in great demand and her diary is usually booked months in advance. She is represented by seven international photo libraries and in her spare time she

shoots stock photos, lectures in marine topics, conducts escorted tours and presents seminars on underwater photographic techniques.

Thank You Becca

Becca's presentation at our August meeting detailed her 1985 Christmas trip to the Mexican Gulf Area. This trip was to photograph the giant manta rays.

Upon the conclusion of Becca's presentation Paul Howlett thanked her for the great insight into the manta rays and the very thought provoking slides shown.

I would like to further respond on behalf of myself and the other members present. I've been approached by many of those who attended praising the evening's presentation whilst saying they would have to "recount the cash in their piggy banks" before they followed in Becca's footsteps.

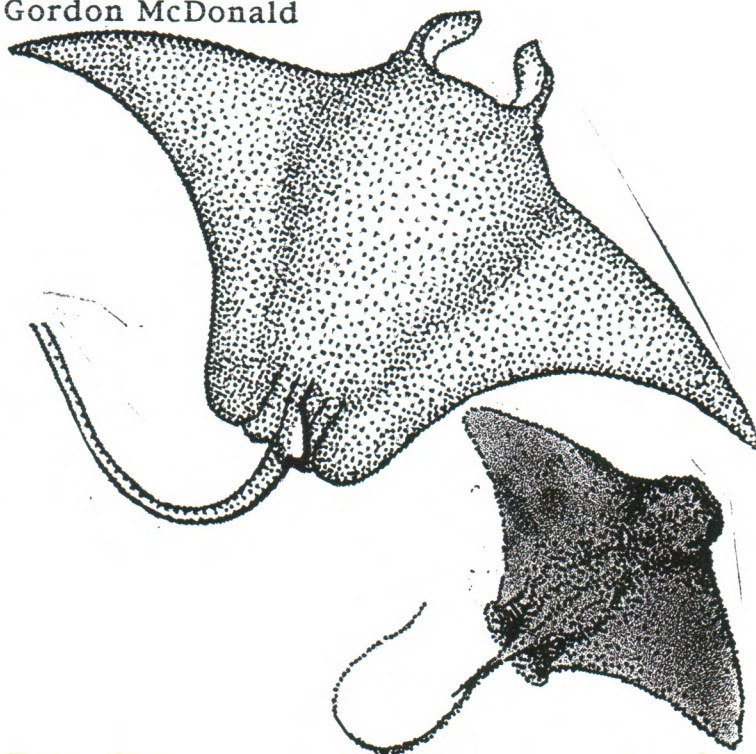
Becca's colourful slides and detailed monologue gave us the feeling we were gliding through the water and feeling as free as the mantas.

Once again we have been extremely fortunate to have Becca and Mark share their expertise at consecutive meetings. Thank you for your time and we look forward to your future visits to our meetings.

Now you have sharpened our appetite maybe we can look forward to a little "Turkish Delight" - World War One Submarine A.E.2.

We are fortunate to have Becca Saunders and Mark Spencer as Honorary Club Members. We wish you safe diving. See you upon your return.

Gordon McDonald



Overseas Correspondence

The following correspondence has been received during the month.

Dear Fellow Members,

On behalf of my husband and myself I would like to thank you indeed for including us in your distribution list for "Wet Rag" and other club information.

As I already explained in my first letter, we are living in Fiji and thus not in the position to become active members of your club in terms of attending monthly meetings or other sport and social activities. However, we appreciate the opportunity to join as sort of "passive members". Therefore, please inform us on any fee that we should pay in order to comply with the club's rules.

In return, we can offer to provide you and your members with information on dive locations, sites and other tourist information that somebody may need or is interested in.

Thank you once again and

Our best regards,

Mecki Kronen/Gerhard Zieroth

Post: GPO Box 14 986 SUVA, FIJI

Fax: +679-320 107

Tel: +679-320-106

Interstate Correspondence

Dear Fellow Members,

I am writing to advise you that my husband, Ron and I will be travelling to your area in the three month period from August to November this year. We are planing to dive the entire length of the east coast starting in Port Douglas and finishing back in Melbourne.

In planning for this trip we came to realise there is a need for a comprehensive and informative guide to diving in this region. Whilst travelling we intend to write a "Getaway" style publication on the dive sites, shops and boat operators along the east coast of Australia. We have been in contact with publishing companies to discuss the prospect of publishing this guide and to date have had

a positive response. We have also had discussions with Barry Andrewartha from Dive Log Australia and Sportdiving Magazine and he is keen for us to submit regular articles whilst we are away.

We would like to drop by when we are in your vicinity and hope you can assist us when travelling to the main diving attractions in your area. We would appreciate your input on issues we feel are important in the completion of the above mentioned publications. I feel that your inclusion in a dive guide or a mention in a magazine article would help to promote your business to the diving community. We will be in your area around the 20 October to the 24 October. I will contact a few days prior to our arrival to hopefully set up a time to discuss the issues and talk about the relevant diving locations. I look forward to talking to you in the future

Yours sincerely,

Mary & Ron Moskal (03) 9333 2741 (AH) & message bank.

Stop Press

What's HAPPENED TO THE LADY DARLING?

Immediately after the 2 August 1996 the diving fraternity was abuzz with the news that the wreck of the S.S. Lady Darling had been located by Burt (Floating Coal Theory) Elswyk. In the following months the bubble was burst by bureaucracy placing restrictions on the wrecksite until they had understandably carried out their surveys.

Now 13 whole months after the discovery what has changed at the site? There is still a restriction to diving boats other than those 5 commercial operators with permits. Surveys by the Dept of Heritage still haven't been done... Commercial operators still hate each other and are, at best, most uncooperative in the utilisation of the wrecksite.

Since the discovery of the S.S. Lady Darling, I have personally heard of three other major wreck discoveries. The finders of these wrecks have not notified the Dept of Heritage. I wonder why? Good reading on this topic is a book by Allan Robinson called "In Australia Treasure is not for the Finder".

Don't misquote or misinterpret me on the above, I believe that Mr Nutley and Smith are doing a necessary job but bureaucracy has taken over and is now working against them. Barjumpa.

Socialising Socialites

Debbie Davis and her ten fellow socialite organisers



Revenge of the Beach Bound & Mothers Club

At Rick's plaque laying day the usual members of the Beach Bound and the Mothers Club madly prepared the luncheon and tended to the tribes of kids while the big brave divers went off for hours and had their play timeWell enough was enough! We made a pact and planned the inaugural Beach Bound and Mothers Club Breakfast. The theme was simple. (1) No Men...! (2) Definitely No Kids....! (3) Breakfast at the Brighton Beach Novotel. (4) and our "Men" had to look after the kids on the beach for the morning while we enjoyed good food, good company, good view and had a good long chat about anything other than diving.

The morning was well attended by 11 great ladies, including divers (they get the best of both worlds!), starting at 9am and finishing at 11.15am. The men meanwhile on the beach played several games of baseball, soccer, football and rescue the fully clothed child repeatedly from the water. I believe they also resorted to the old favourite of buying ice-creams to silence the children.

At 10.30am they even gave us an urgent phone call asking us how long we'd be. Well with satire in our reply they were told we had "Plenty of air left & We hadn't even commenced our deco....!" The morning was wonderful and relaxing (for the mums) I believe too that the men and kids had a good time on the beach even though it was the absolute perfect day for a dive! Afterwards and reunited on the boardwalk, one the men said "Well this will earn us enough brownie points for about 10 dives!!!" But I think it was enough for probably 4 or 5 at most.... I believe the Novotel at Wollongong or maybe Doyle's at Watson's Bay has a suitable breakfast menu....

Thanks to Gordon & Shirley for organising the event.

Barjumpette (Amanda Cook)



Ladies Champagne Breakfast by the Sea - Sunday 31 August 1997.

Gordon McDonald rang me personally to ask me if I would like to come to the Ladies Champagne Breakfast at the Novotel, Brighton Beach.

I had a quick think of what was doing on 31st August and decided to go.

After a hard week at work I deserved a break from the mundane housework and husband. I arrived at 9.00am and headed straight to where breakfast was being served. I was a little worried as I did not think that I would know many ladies, but having arrived I knew a few of the ladies from the Club and was very warmly welcomed.

The view across the Bay was not the best this morning as there was rather a dense fog and as the fog started to clear there was a haze hanging around.

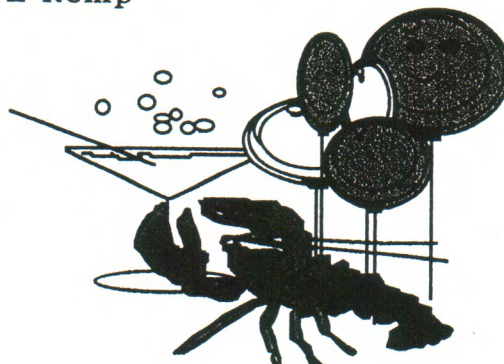
There were 11 of us who attended the breakfast this morning. It certainly was a wonderful way to start a Sunday having breakfast at a lovely hotel and not having to do any work but just indulge in the food and enjoy the pleasant conversation that was going on around in the table.

What a breakfast, your choice of fruit (already peeled and sliced), cereal, croissants, pastries and then the hot breakfast, pancakes and syrup, eggs and sausages, tomatoes and anything else that you fancied. It was a very enjoyable Sunday morning.

I know I enjoyed the breakfast and the company and I would like to thank the other ladies that attended the breakfast.

More important, I would also like to thank Gordon and Shirley for organising this wonderful social and civilised breakfast.

Robyn Kemp



Socialising Socialites Cont.

SPDC Ladies Socialite List - 31/8/97 celebrated

THE CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST

Ilona Kandilas
Anne Latimer
Robyn Hewitt
Kylie Hewitt
Robyn Kemp
Debbie Egginton
Amanda Cook
Eda Morena
Jeannine Aram
Debbie Davis
Shirley Wolfenden.



We were all given numbered name tags, as some of us had not met at club meetings. This made mixing much easier. The Lucky Door Prizes were drawn by Amanda. First prize being a vintage select bottle of Brut Champagne donated by Lo-Tech Divers and was won by Jeannine. This will surely be used to welcome their new daughter. Second prize was a T-shirt donated by Shiprock Dive Shop and Ilona will be it's proud wearer - we look forward to seeing you wear it at future events. It is not for Martin.

The Socialites Calendar

Are you ready to handle more exciting and relaxing social interaction.



Horse Riding and BBQ - 28/9/97

How long is it since you have been horse riding with the family, partner or with friends, especially after an early morning dive? What a way to relax. Join us in a bush setting with leafy trails in the country. I can smell it now (but don't tread in it). Following up with a real wood barbeque. Catering is BYO so the food should be to your liking. Maybe include a little good wine to complete the relaxing afternoon

DARKES FOREST

is 30 minutes south of Sutherland.

For bookings contact either:

Debbie Davis

Robyn Hewitt

Gordon & Shirley

Divers check dive organisers scheduling for the dive organised in conjunction with this function.

Can we top the Champagne Breakfast?

Ladies are you ready for our second LADIES ONLY FUNCTION. Can you make room in your social calendar for an afternoon tea on the promenade at Doyle's Restaurant Watsons Bay? We can promise you a spectacular sunset over the world's most captivating harbour, surrounded by sophisticated ambience, befitting only the ladies of South Pacific Divers. If it rains (it wouldn't dare knowing SPDC Ladies were there), we will have as an alternate venue, VAUCLUSE HOUSE TEA GARDENS to relax in and watch the rain. When? - you eagerly ask? Sunday 19th October at 3pm. Look forward to enjoying your company.

Child minding facilities available by your caring President (alias Santa)

Divers - a dive has been organised to coincide with the ladies function.

For bookings contact either:

Debbie Davis

Amanda Cook

Gordon & Shirley

Ten Pin Bowling at Nu-Vision Chesterhill Saturday 25/10/97

Bowling 4pm to 6pm.....Dinner 7.30pm

Enjoy a relaxing twilight experience of ten pin bowling and the chance to display and sharpen your bowling skills. Followed by a relaxing hour or so leisurely conversation with pre-dinner drinks. If you wish to attend the winner's dinner, at Premo Restaurant next door, to further discuss the skills of bowling and maybe a little TINY bit about diving (If anyone cares about diving) Divers check dive organisers schedule.

For bookings contact either:

Ilona Kandilas

Debbie Davis

Gordon & Shirley



SHIPROCK DIVE

Leo and Lesley

6/617 Port Hacking Road

LILLI PILLI NSW 2229

Ph: (02)9526 2664 Fax: (02)9526 2906

Young Vis for Nevilles Adult Watch_Get a life corner.au.giggle.giggle

Junior Reports

Craig Egginton

The Balconies - out off Port Hacking

On Saturday the 17th of August, my Mum and I buddied up together to dive out at the Balconies, off Max Western's boat.

It was a great dive with plenty to see. Only seconds after leaving the anchor line we were greeted by a HUGE Port Jackson shark. There was plenty of tiny Nudibranchs to see, plenty of schools of fish, there were two quite large groper, a couple of quite large Old Wives and a big Red Morwong.

So to top off a great dive Max had kindly provided some food for our enjoyment.

For advice on how to write a dive article, please don't hesitate to contact me on 93172126. (Young divers only no oldies.)

Max Western's Sea-Tamer II Dive Charters

Bookings and Information
Phone Max on 9524 1818 or
(018) 280791

This is the second article for this page by Craig, he assures me it's a piece of cake, and is curious why parents complain about it.

31st August 1997 - Beach Outing

We had some young members at the Beach Section of the Ladies Champagne Breakfast - they were as follows:

Kylie and Melissa Davis who also visited the markets held on the ground floor of the Novotel Shopping Centre. They made a point of mentioning that the next month's two articles will appear under their hand.

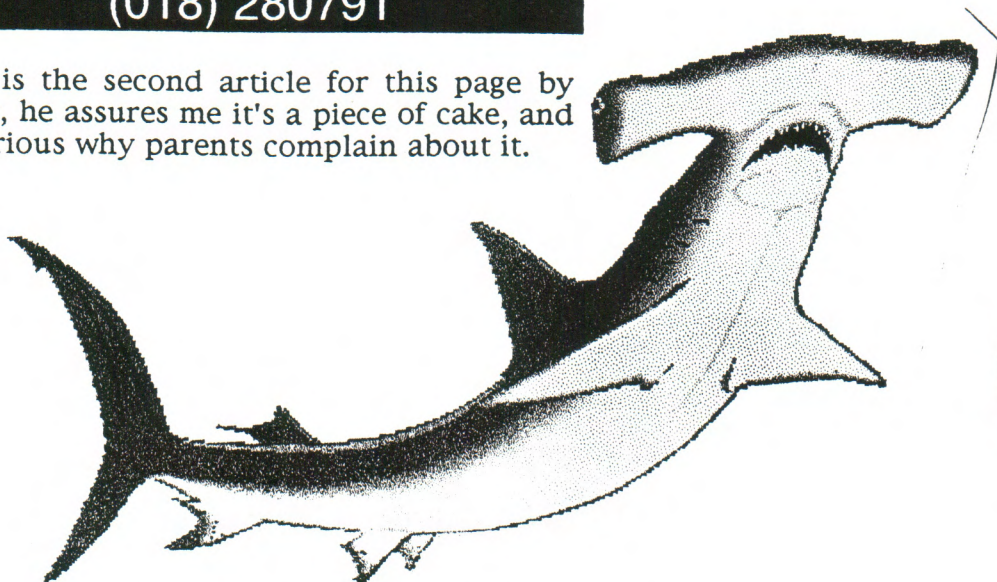
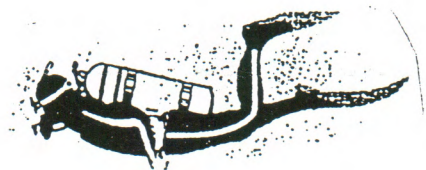
Young Miss Aram bought her own basket to sleep in the Novotel foyer while Dad read the paper. She is our youngest member of five weeks.

Young David and Natalie Kandilas played ball games until David chased the ball into the ocean and got wet. This was the go ahead for everyone to follow.

Master Mitchell Cook also played ball, then went onto a more intriguing game of catching shells.

Ms Danielle Egginton just hung about looking cute until it was her turn at baseball then she gave her father a lesson in batting. This is big job for a little girl but finally she was successful.

All the young SPDC members finished off with ice creams all round - even one for Martin Kandilas.



Dive Organisers Schedule

Scott Egginton & Rod Muir

Hi divers we are still taking names for the following dives that should inspire you to throw on the wet suit, cameras and, if needed, your tank. Now don't forget to buddy check, Petals.

21st September

Social dive from Port Hacking - Doylans Bay. This has been a great day in the past, with mystery sites, deep or shallow, wrecks and reefs, to your taste I'm here to please. Brunch for divers and non-divers will be supplied at \$5.00 per person (children free). BYOG. Ring Rod Muir for a great day.

19th September - Night Dive

Dive with Max Western - shallow dive. Sorry we are full but maybe with the amount of interest created we could fill another boat load and also put you on the reserve list. Who knows anything is possible!! Ring me Scott Egginton for something different.

24th October - Night Dive

Dive with Max Western this time on the Tuggerah. Apologies this is full also BUT check with me to put you down as a reserve, or maybe a later dive, depending on numbers. Again ring Scott Egginton

Make sure when booking you have a pencil and slate to write down the details.

Wishing you great safe diving.

Scott Egginton

Phone - (H) 9317 2126

Mobile - (041) 9619 866

Rod Muir

Phone - (H) (046) 571 827

Mobile - (041) 840 7106

Who has built up enough goodie points for diving??? Check with Land Buddies. Ref Socialite page.

Max Western's Sea-Tamer II Dive Charters

Bookings and Information
Phone Max on 9524 1818
or (018)280 791

News Flash

We have just got some inside information while on the deco bar. Scott and Rod are developing a comprehensive dive schedule for the next six months. After leaving the water I thought I might gather some more scuttle butt, but no-one would take their reg out of their mouths. Guess I'll have to wait impatiently like everyone else. GMCD&SAW

New Club Projects

Wreck Marks Log Publication
Editor & Organiser Geoff Cook
(Barjumpa)

Our first input of statistics has been received. They are:

Wrecks:

HMAS Encounter

Rose Bay Water Tower over Ben Buckler (Nth Bondi). Bondi Junction Microwave Tower over Bondi Road.


Woniora:

GPS 34°01.39 151°15.54

The above details have been supplied by fellow member Richard Taylor.

Come on members make an effort, a book is not one page.





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Special group rates. Dive the beautiful reefs of Southern Sydney.
7 Beachpark Arcade, Cronulla 2230. Tel (02) 9527 1518

Dive Reports

Dive Report

The Balconies Boat Dive
Port Hacking 24 August 1997

At the last club meeting, in some across the floor banter, several members claimed that winter is not the time to dive because the water was so coldBig Sooks.

On Sunday the 24 August, SPDC dived shallow at the Balconies. The wind was a howling Westerly. But in close to the cliffs it was an absolute millpond. The water was remarkably clear probably 50 feet plus and warm! 18.5C. We are talking 5mm wet suit and no hood type water temp.... It was far warmer in the water than out of it. Being first in and last out has its advantages. So time is here for the "fair-weather divers" to shake out the dust and cobwebs from their gear that is hiding in the back of the garage and take the plunge. There is some good diving coming up on the calendar like the Breakfast Dive on 21st September coming up so get involved. You might just be surprised.

The Balconies Dive site is just South from the Port Hacking and is suitable for both beginner or experienced divers. Situated just a few hundred metres South of the Barren's Hut and starts in close to the cliff face. This site is a set boulders forming steps, graduating deeper in 20 foot increments down to 85 feet. There are many gutters to swim along and swim throughs everywhere. Large fish are noticeably absent from the area as it is a very popular fishing site but there are heaps of little aquarium type fish to fill in a 70 min bottom time. Unfortunately for the wreck rats the area is totally devoid of rusting steel and brass. (We can fix that in the future.) Whilst swimming in close to the shore I picked up about 8kgs of lead from the gutters. There must be a tonne of it lying there in the cracks. Also there are heaps of good sized abalone and slipper crays in the area for the keen eyed diver.

Very large schools of yellow tail were just suspended in the clear waters, milling around the steps and in the gutters. Swimming through them caused them to part around the diver only to return in his or her wake. Some great photo opportunities went begging that day.

See Ya
Barjumpa (alias Mr Cook)

Jervis Bay Trip

Friday 8th - Sunday 10th August 1997

Friday 8th August 1997

It seemed that we had been here before doing the same thing, loading dive buckets & people onto the MV Victory at the Huskisson wharf. After a great dinner at Rhonda's - a local restaurant - everyone settled down for a well earned rest to prepare for the rigours of the next two days, who ever said diving was easy!!!

Saturday 9th August 1997

Dive 1

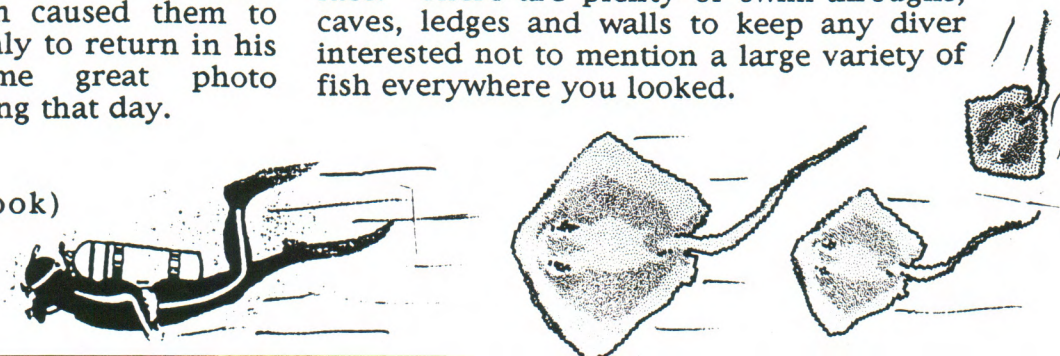
We left the bay just after a hearty breakfast that included bacon and eggs and steamed north to Drum and Drumsticks. These rocky outcrops which are remnants of the old coastline, are now also the final resting place of the wooden steamer SS Wandra which sank in a fierce gale on December 15th 1915 and now lies on 25 metres of water. These days not a great deal remains of the Wandra, except for the boiler, which towers over the site and the twin engines with their propeller shafts leading back to what remains of the propellers*. The boiler is covered in a fantastic variety of growth such as; barrel sponges, southern sea fans and yellow zoanthids, whose extended, swaying tentacles give the appearance of a shaggy carpet that has been draped over the wreck.

If you look carefully there is still quite a large amount of brass lying around on the bottom. The wreck is fully protected, so it's a case of look but don't take anything. Fish life here is prolific, as it is at most U/W sites around the sea.

Dive 2

The second dive of the day saw Victory just up from the Docks at a place called Shark Alley. This is the type of dive that keeps divers keen. We saw heaps of grey Nurse Sharks, freely swimming with divers and apparently unafraid of divers. I have now seen these sharks in both summer and winter and it seems that the numbers are steadily increasing.

On this dive Mark Dietz saw a small turtle swimming around the base of the cliff face. There are plenty of swim-throughs, caves, ledges and walls to keep any diver interested not to mention a large variety of fish everywhere you looked.



This is a spot for not only the avid photographer but also for those people who just want to spend the dive looking to their hearts content. It is such a great place.

There was a third dive but I was too tired to do it.

Saturday Night

I think that I can say the amount of good food on the Victory that was served up by Annie would keep even the fussiest of eaters happy. The lamb roast was washed down by large amounts of red wine, mostly consumed by our Peter Fl.

Sunday 10th August 1997

We left the bay to hunt for fast swimming hairy mammals. As Victory dropped anchor just off Steamers Head all I could hear was Gabby yelling from up on the bow "Adrian look seals!" After about a hundred seals had hit the water she stopped yelling and counting. Seal numbers must now be between 200 and 300 maybe even as high as 400.

Everyone geared up and hit the water fast, well not quite everyone. Peter Fl. was hung over big time and Gabby seemed to give him a harder time than normal.

As I dropped down to approx 30m just on the sand line I was buzzed by two or three large and about 10 or 20 smaller seals, it appears that it was seal mating area?? This dive just blew me away. It was a very happy group of divers that headed back north to smooth water and lunch. I find it quite sad that most people never dive with these playful seals and I will never understand why they don't!!

After another fantastic meal it was off to the Docks. This was a great dive with caves, fish, swim throughs and grey Nurse Sharks yet again.

This was to be my last dive for the weekend before returning to Huskisson. On the way back, a great weekend was to be become even better. 50 to 60 spinner dolphins mugged the Victory while the pod numbered almost 100 in total.

Just outside Huskisson Harbour 6 or 7 common dolphins came and played in the bow wake.

Thanks to all the guys for coming down and to Adrian and Annie for a great time yet again. Shame we have to wait two weeks before we can do it all again.

By Peter Foster

* Shipwrecks, Storms & Seamen of the NSW Coast by Max Gleeson (page 157).

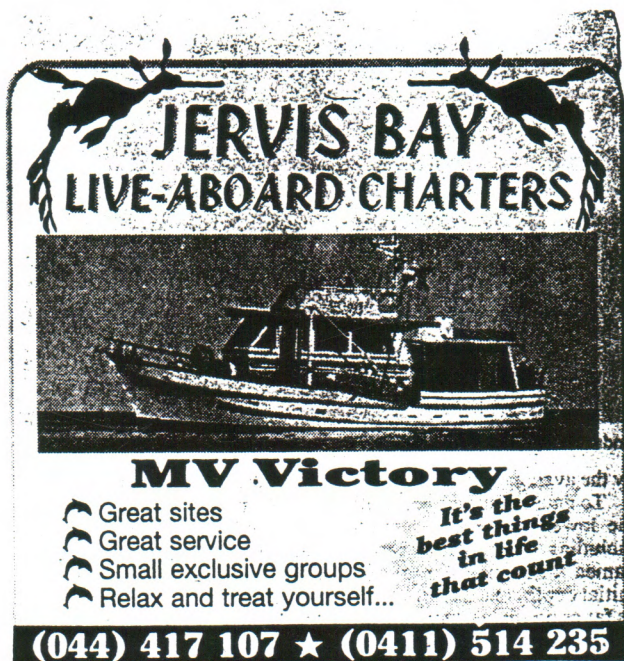
Future Dive Adventures

Try a diving adventure away from the city pressures.

M.V. Victory Diving Adventure
January Long Weekend 1998
Boarding Friday 23rd January

Four Day dive trip. Several spaces still available. For further information contact Peter Foster on 9564 2654.

Share in the diving pleasures of Jervis Bay.



JERVIS BAY
LIVE-ABOARD CHARTERS

MV Victory

- Great sites
- Great service
- Small exclusive groups
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It's the best things in life that count

(044) 417 107 ★ (0411) 514 235

Club Organised Charter Boat Dives and Dive Trips Away.

1. Deposit to be paid as normal, as soon as possible, to ensure your spot at a rate of 50% of the cost of the day trip and \$50 for trips away per person.
2. The full amount becomes due seven working days before trip date. If no payment is forthcoming there will be no place booked for you.
3. If any person pulls out of the trip before final payment is due refunds will only be made if spot is filled or at the discretion of the full committee.
4. If any person pulls out after paying, the full amount may be refunded dependent on the trip cost breakdown or at the discretion of the full committee.

This Month's Wreck Site

SS Bombo By Michael McFadyen

The twenty second day of February 1949 had been a typical late summer's day on the NSW South Coast. At about 3 o'clock a southerly buster had passed the Wollongong area and the sea conditions had dramatically changed for the worse. Since then the ship had battled the deteriorating seas, first in an attempt to reach Sydney and then in a battle to make the safety of Port Kembla. By 10.00 pm it was only four kilometres away from safety when suddenly the list on the ship worsened. Within minutes the ship had "turned turtle" and sank, taking four crew to their immediate death.

So were the last minutes of the SS *Bombo* a coastal steamer built for the NSW Government owned State Metal Quarries by H. Robb at Leith in the UK and launched in February 1930. The 540 ton and 46 metre *Bombo* arrived in Sydney on 23 April 1930 and commenced service transporting blue metal from the *Bombo* Quarry between Kiama and Sydney. In December 1935, together with the assets of State Metal Quarries, she was sold to Quarries Pty Ltd.

On 22 February 1941, the *Bombo* was requisitioned by the Royal Australian Navy and on 28 May 1941 commissioned as HMAS *Bombo*, an auxiliary mine sweeper. Two heavy machine guns and a 12 pound gun were installed. She apparently served between Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart until May 1944 when she was converted into a stores carrier. The *Bombo* served in this way until the end of the war and was paid off on 25 February 1946, returning to its owners on 25 July 1947.

The *Bombo*'s regular skipper, Captain Arthur Bell once again took control of her on the run from Kiama to Sydney. On 29 December 1948, the *Bombo* grounded on the Kiama bar, suffering some damage. It was quickly repaired and returned to work by mid-January.

At 11.55 am on 22 February 1949, the *Bombo* left Kiama for Sydney with 650 tons of metal aboard. Among the 14 crew was one Thorvald Thomsen who almost 30 years earlier had survived the wreck of the SS *Tuggerah* and was lucky to be absent ill when the SS *Myola* sank a few weeks earlier than the *Tuggerah*. Just off Port Kembla, a southerly change had hit the vessel turning

a pleasant day into a nightmare. At 4.00 pm when north of Stanwell Park, a huge wave went right over the ship causing a list to port as the cargo shifted.

Captain Bell decided to make a run for Port Kembla Harbour where the *Bombo* could shelter while the blue metal was retrimmed. At 5.00 pm a message was sent to the coastal radio station at La Perouse that the *Bombo* had turned around. When only four kilometres from safety, the ship sank.

Ten men escaped from the ship, the other four going down with the wreck. Thomsen was one of the survivors clinging to two planks. Two crew decided to swim to shore but they never made it. At dawn, Captain Bell and another crew member were dead, six still hanging on to the planks. The land was sighted and the remaining survivors decided to set out at 15 minute intervals for shore.

At 10.00 am, Thomsen was dragged ashore by a beach inspector at Bulli Beach while Michael Fitzsimmons, the fireman, came ashore at Woonona Beach. Two RAAF Catalinas were brought into the search but no more survivors were found and only two bodies (of Captain Bell and Charles Barhen) were recovered.

When the *Bombo* sank, it ploughed into the sandy bottom bow first. This caused some damage to the bow area. Soon after, the bridge hit the bottom and then the great weight and momentum caused the ship's back to break and the *Bombo* buckled right across the hull almost in the middle of the ship. At the same time the weight squashed the bridge beyond identification. As she sank, some pieces fell and ended up on the sand next to the remains of the ship. This includes a hopper used to load coal/gravel and parts of the masts. Lying roughly north-south, the *Bombo* was now in water 32 metres deep and upside down almost in the middle of the shipping channel.

Nowadays, the *Bombo* is an excellent deeper dive for the experienced diver. The marks in Tom Byron's Southern NSW book (note the south western mark no longer exists), as well as the local dive operators, will generally put you on the wreck in the vicinity of the stern. The wreck's approximate location by GPS is 34° 26' 43"S and 150° 55' 25"E and AMG of 309240E and 6186502N.

For almost 48 years until last August 1996, the wreck of the SS *Bombo* lay upside down on the seafloor, almost fully intact except where it broke in half when it sank.

However, a huge storm on Saturday 31 August 1996 (I think) caused considerable damage to the wreck. However, as strange as it may seem, the damage has made the wreck a far better and more interesting dive. The photo at left shows the prop in January 1992 when it was upside down.

As you descend to the wreck (if you are anchored on the stern - which is likely as this is the only place anchors will easily take hold), you will see either the open engine area and boiler or the broken stern section. What has happened is that the section of the stern hull, from just behind the front of the boiler right back to the stern itself has broken off and is now sitting upright on the ocean side of the rest of the wreck. The prop is still attached to the broken away stern section but is now the right way up. One of the blades of the propeller broke off during the storm and is very obvious.

The main section of the wreck looks as if someone has used a giant can-opener and cut the side of the hull about 0.5 metre off the sand. The engine is now freely accessible with the steam engine's pistons, conrods and driveshaft visible as well as the donkey boiler on the eastern side. You can still enter the area in front of the twin boilers from either side and examine the boiler in detail.

The rudder still sits on the sand right at the stern where it fell when the *Bombo* hit the bottom in 1949.

Head north and you will pass the broken hull area. On this side the sand has covered the hull for a few metres. Past here the hull is opened up for a few metres giving another entrance to the inside of the *Bombo*. Swim through this very dark section right up to the bow area before exiting on the western side just behind the bow. Once outside, head to the bow and see the damage caused when she hit the bottom.

Return to the stern on the western side. Along the way you will see a hopper a few metres off the wreck before again passing the broken hull section. Examine the damage caused when she broke her back. When you return to the stern, you may still have a few minutes to kill before ascending. Have a look at the bits and pieces on the western side of the wreck before checking out the top (bottom) of the hull. This should enable you to travel straight to the anchor line.

This is a square profile dive, with a Aladin Pro dive computer allowing about 17

minutes bottom time. The visibility can be quite varied, often not matching the apparent sea conditions. It is probably best done on an incoming tide, although most times the tide will not be relevant.

This is another great dive for the experienced diver.

For more details about Sydney, NSW & overseas dive sites, look at Michael McFadyen's Web Site at www.ozemail.com.au/_diving.

References:

"The Vanished Fleet of the Sydney Coastline" by Max Gleeson, pages 145 to 154

"Sydney Morning Herald" 24/2/49 pages 1 and 3, 25/2/49 page 4

"Lloyd's Register" 1930-31, 1937-38, 1948-49

"Scuba Divers Guide Southern NSW Coast" by Tom Byron, pages 102 and 103.



"Dive Time"
Wollongong
with Geoff and Niki
Club Dived the Bombo

Davey Jones' Classified Page

For Sale

Semi-Dry West Suit, Neptune, Large size, Good condition \$270 ono

2, 72cf, Tanks, Need Testing \$50 each ono

Back Packs, parts for underwater torches, regulator parts lots of bits and pieces make an offer.

Contact Anne on 9645 4405.

For Sale

Viking Pro Dry Suit
Size 4. Complete with repair kit and accessories, also carry bag.
\$450.00 or ONO

Contact Mark Dietz on (046)482 511

For Sale

Featuring SPDC Fashion Boutique
In-house designer range for the coming season:

Wind Jackets featuring an embroidered SPDC logo in delightful blue and white.

SPDC stickers to proudly display on your car, boat, or to display on your school books.

Bumbags, including our logo, to protect your valuables when enjoying club activities.

Keep the harmful rays of the sun off your face with our SPDC caps.

Tee-Shirts Fashion tailored to suit the discerning eye, with colours for the new season, flattering cut & sizes to fit all.

- Discounted for members only \$35.00
- Club logo FREE with each purchase
- Personally hand sewn into place.

Personal distress towers in bright orange compacted into brightly coloured carry case to complement your diving attire.

(trade fashion name Safety sausage)

\$

SPDC Equipment

Russell Stoker Ph: 9799 2663 (H)

- Magnetometer and battery pack
- Two sets of oxygen equipment
- Gas Barbeque and gas bottle
- CB hand-held radio
- Various tarps, ropes and poles
- Large club pennant
- Two large eskies
- if in doubt ask we might have it.

Next month there will be a comprehensive list.



If are looking to sell anything place an ad on this page, be it dive gear, furniture, a house, car, a magnetometer or even flowers.

Don't smash it sell it.



Business Page - Committee Members - Club Sponsors

Committee Members for 1997

Club Phone: (041)134 3200

Position	Name	Home Number	Work Number
President	Gordon McDonald	9519 7850	(017)811 422 (mob)
Treasurer	Barbara Sweetman	9517 9176	
Secretary	Debbie Egginton	9317 2126	(041)9229 631 (mob)
Photographic Officer	Peter Flockart	9371 0265 (019)304 959 (mob)	9374 2382 9374 2688 (fax)
Publicity Officer	Paul Howlett	9746 6720 paulsd@rpi.net.au	9377 3019 (041)1179 489 (mob)
Dive Organiser	Scott Egginton	9317 2126	(041)9619 866 (mob)
Dive Organiser	Rod Muir	(046)571 827	(041)8407 106 (mob)
Social Secretary	Debbie Davis	9821 3740	(014)904 849
Equipment Officer	Russell Stoker	9799 2663 rstoker@one.net.au	9217 1484 (fax)
Acting Newsletter Editors	Gordon McDonald/ Shirley Wolfenden	9519 7850 9519 7850 (fax)	(017)811 422 (mob) (041)2077 446 (mob)
Special Projects	John Fardoulis	(043)422939	(041)9230 244

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.

Name	Home Number	Work Number
Sue Armstrong - Jervis Bay	(02)44 437 606	9385 2248
Martin Atkins	(044) 434 631	(042)740 210
John Beddie	9820 4272	(046)201 746
John Cassidy	95463538	(041)139 675
Peter Cassimatis (Bris)	(07)3847 8082	
Geoff Cook	9543 5817	(018)294 891
Mark Dietz	(046)482 511	(046)482 254
John Fardoulis	(043)422 939	(041)9230 244
Martin Kandilas	9725 7808	9725 7808
Bob May	(045)791 053	
John Fardoulis	(043)422939	(041)9230 244

Some of our Club Sponsors

The South Pacific Divers' Club is honored to be sponsored by the following:

Sponsor Name	Contact	Phone Number
Aquatic Explorers	Steve or Lee at 7 Beach Arcade Cronulla	9527 1518
Beverly's Restaurant	1-9 Meagher Street Chippendale	9310 4878
Dive Log Magazine	Barry Andrewartha	(03)5944 3774
Sportdiving Magazine	Belinda Barnes	
Dive Quest, Mullaway	Chris or Gary	(066) 54 1930
Max Western's	Max	9524 1818 or (018)280 791
Sea-Tamer II - Charter		
Shiprock Dive	Lilli Pilli - Leo or Lesley	9526 2664
Southern Cross Divers	The Spit Marina - Barry	9969 5072
South West Rocks Dive Centre	Noel or Belinda	(065)666 474
Twofold Dive Charters	Eden - Peter or Lorna	(064)961 778

Minutes of the meeting of South Pacific Divers Club at Bankstown Sports Club -
Monday 18th August 1997

Meeting opened at 8:20pm, members and guests welcomed by Club President,.

Apologies: Debbie Davis, Suzanne Evans, Peter Foster

Re: Previous Minutes:

Due to a misunderstanding there were no hard copies of the last Club Minutes, consequently they were read out.

Acceptance of previous Club minutes:

The previous minutes were accepted by:
and Seconded by:

Ann Latimer
John Beddie

Incoming/Outgoing correspondence:

Letters from other dive clubs, Divers Journal

Treasurers Report:

Barbara Sweetman

Expenses for the month of August: \$ 259.00 in / \$ 357.31 out

Balance of Cheque Account: \$ 1,498.11

Balance of Investment Account: \$11,534.36

Treasurers Report accepted by:
and Seconded by:

Geoff Cooke
Michael McFadyen

Dive Organisers Report:

Scott Egginton & Rod Muir

- 7/9/97 Bombo - this ever popular dive is on again, don't miss out. - Scott **FULL**
- 21/7/97 Jibbon or Bundeena Day - another of Sydney's' great diving areas. - Rod
- 19/9/97 Night Dive with Max Western - Shallow. - ~~Scott~~ **Full**
- 24/10/97 Night Dive with Max Western on the 'Tuggerah'. - Scott **Full**

Peter Flockart & Paul Howlett are going to be organising shore dives once the weather gets warmer. Geoff Cooke says that being Dive Organiser is a thankless job and we should try to support Rod as a new Dive Organiser.

Michael McFadyen announced that he was doing Shark Point at 9:00am on Sat 23/8/97 and the 'Undola' at 7:30am Wed 20/8/97 - anyone interested is most welcome.

Social Organisers Report:

Debbie Davis

- Novotel 'Ladies Champagne Breakfast' 9:00am 31/8/97. Husbands & kids at the beach opposite.

Paul Howlett welcomed and introduced our Guest Speaker for this month:

Becca Saunders

Becca learnt to dive in a glacier fed lake in Colorado and has been a regular diver in Australia since 1981, she helped design the aquarium at Darling Harbour. Becca gave an exciting presentation and talk on diving with the Manta Rays during a trip to Mexico at Christmas time 1995. Thank you Becca for a delightful presentation.

BREAK

Rod Muir showed some footage of the 'Birchy' when the plaque was put in place on the 10/8/97.

Photographic Officers Report:

Peter Flockart

- 'George Roberts' - Was supposed to close now, but is looking to hold open until month end, only 2 entries to date with 1 more known entry to come.
- 'AUPY' - still trying to get things finalised, should have a proposal to put forward at the next meeting.
- PF wants to start a photographic hints column - would like in put and questions.

Publicity Officers Report:**Paul Howlett**

- 'Net Site' - it will happen, there should be an article in the next *Wet Rag*, it should be a professional site.
- Mark Spencer asked can you tell how many enquires on the site? PH replied yes you can get a hit counter, but in order for it to be accurate it must be an active site or you will get mostly one time hits.

Raffle prizes and winners:**Drawn by: Kylie Latimer**

1st prize		Sweat Shirt donated by Aquatic Explorers, Cronulla
Won by	:	Paul Howlett
2nd prize		A boat dive on Max Western's <i>Sea Tamer II</i>
Won by	:	Darrell Gibbs
3rd prize		Shirt donated by Ship Rock Dive, Lilli Pilli
Won by	:	Carina Gregory

Members Dive Reports:

John Beddie - Dived at Jervis Bay, water about 14 -16.5 deg. Heaps of seals, Arch about 8Mtr viz, bad winds but good diving.

Peter Flockart - Jervis Bay - Victory, but perhaps Mark should give the dive reports.

Mark Dietz - They did the Seals in the morning, grey nurse sharks and turtles in the afternoon. Good Time.

Peter Flockart - Jervis Bay - Saturday was about the best diving he'd ever done, grey nurses were good and the PJs were mating.

Robyn Hewitt - Did the Leap, Barons Hut, Osborne Shoals, Marley Point & Tumbledowns - new dry suit diver.

Scott Egginton - Dived the Balcony - no rust but plenty of fish, we took Craig on his thirteenth and deepest dive to date.

General Business:

Gordon McD - Peter Flockart does have the right to decide things like the inclusion of US, however it will not be included in the next comp.

Leo B - Wednesday week, meeting at the Coogee Bay Hotel, after there will be a presentation at 7:30pm by the Diving Historical Society. All welcome.

Scott E (for Geoff Cooke) - Steve Grow is after some volunteers to help strip out a tug that is to be sunk in about 30Mtrs - hey guys a new dive site!! Anyone interested in helping out please contact Steve at Aquatic Explorers.

Rod M - Regarding the Club Mobile Phone, How come it was unavailable for 10/8/97? BS replied that the phone was on it never rang and was turned off at 11:30. Comment made that the club doesn't need it. Leo B - the idea of the club phone is to catch enquires, also said that Dive Organisers should collect the equipment needed - it is part of the job. BS commented that prior to the AV night she had approx 10 calls per day. PFI said that from previous experience it is essential prior to AV night complete with voicemail to catch all enquires. Leo B sited a customer that wanted 7 tickets from a shop contacted through the mobile, also it can be diverted.

Rod M - then went on to ask exactly what equipment does the club have and where is it? Scott E said that 1 set of oxygen gear is on a club boat - authorised by Gordon McD. There was discussion between Leo B & Scott E about exactly which set is where. Leo said he would have to check out who has what with that. Rod M - then requested that a detailed list of what we have and what is on hire be made available.

John Beddie asked about insurance on the mag and what cover it has. Gordon McD replied that it is an All Risks Policy.

Peter Flockart mentioned that Peter Foster still has 2 spots on this week-ends trip on the Victory - contact him if interested.

MEETING CLOSED 10:55pm