

# WET RAG



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

PO Box 823, BANKSTOWN NSW 2200  
O411 343 200

April 1998



Photo by Leo Bergagnin

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, 20<sup>th</sup> April 1998



**President's Tidings**

It was very good to see so many club members and visitors at our last club meeting. I enjoyed watching Steve Purvis giving his slide show and talk about diving on the central coast, on behalf of all the South Pacific Divers Club members thanks Steve once again. March was quite a busy month for the club, our shore dive at Terrigal went off very well. Even a small whale was spotted swimming above the divers. After the dive we sat down to a chat, eat and have a quiet beer before the short trip home again. We are hoping to dive up this way again before too long, I am told that Grey Nurse Sharks are in Foggy's cave at the moment. After seeing the slides of a few wrecks last meeting maybe we can do both a shark and deep wreck dive trip.

After talking with Cookie this month it seems the trip down to the lady darling went very well once again. Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> March saw Mark, Rodney and myself leave Sydney at some ungodly hour for two dives in Jervis Bay. I really fail to understand why I was asked about helicopter departure times!! How would I know this kind of info anyway? One member of our little group was heard to say "Have you got everything old man?" before leaving Sydney only to realize on arrival in J.B that his fins were at home!

It was a shame the dive booked with Max Western had to be called off again due to rough sea's, or is Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> unlucky for South Pacific Divers Club? You may well ask why I have used my column to talk about mostly last month's diving. As with all things in life you only get out of it what you put into it. I often here people saying what can the club do for me? Well unless members get involved not very much. On the other hand last month saw members diving both up and down the coast. Last meeting Scott Eggington asked for a wreck dive on the Bombo, John Harlen now has this in hand, also the Birchgrove Park is being looked into. I feel this feedback only helps people enjoy the club even more, I hope so. Easter saw club members diving at Port Stephens, Byron Bay and Jervis Bay which are hot spots for diving in my opinion.

Our last meeting held a very nice surprise for one member, Martin Kandilas was proposed by Geoff Cook for life membership of the club.

Martin has put so much effort into building this club in so many ways. For all the hard work as a former president, photographic officer, party host and boat owner, on behalf of all past and present members of South Pacific Divers Club I wish congratulate Martin as our newest life member and thank him once more for the hard work over many years.

Regards Peter Foster.

Final Thought

Ask not what your country can do for you.

Ask what you can do for your country.

J.F. Kennedy 1963

You only get back what you wish to put in

**Photographic Officer's Report**

It is pleasing to report that entries are rolling in for the photographic competition in spite of the problems that manifested themselves earlier this year. Numbers of entrants may well be in excess of those received for the 1996 comp but I will be able to give you a final figure at the meeting. Since last month the photographic committee has secured most of our sponsors for the night and in fact we have picked up a new sponsor – Diving Solutions who import Sea & Sea equipment and Sunto dive computers.

We have a guest speaker almost confirmed and I am working with Peter Fields to organise a display of historical diving equipment (for the night) in conjunction with the Diving Historical society, more about as it comes to hand.

Once the guest speaker and door prize are locked in we will organise to have the tickets printed. It is expected that tickets will go on sale shortly.

I will need help from more club members as the night approaches, so if you can lend a hand in the lead up please contact me.

Peter Flockart.

**SPDC – AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW**

**By Samantha and Graham Oates**

There are always more ways than one of looking at something, and SPDC is no exception. One evening when we had nothing better (and legal) to do, we played around with the letters of people's names to see what we could come up with. Much tittering ensued. Some of the resultant anagrams are descriptive, some may be considered quite suitable and some have nothing whatsoever to do with the person whose name we mangled. Not all



members will find themselves here as some names do not lend themselves to anagrams. These members will probably be relieved when they see what we came up with for the others. Answers appear page.6. First an example:

The Club

Provide caustic fish = South Pacific Divers  
or

if cash is productive = South Pacific Divers

So who are these?.....

The Members

1. restores skull
2. Oh! A megastar!
3. zit marked
4. grand old condom
5. Arab basement war
6. go off coke
7. babies dived
8. fat Celt porker
9. reef protest
10. newly ironed flesh
11. pollute what?
12. an alarmist kind
13. A beer Longing
14. Aa, those mantas!
15. do fish journal
16. sperm canker
17. with rent boy
18. her anal rash
19. mediate zilch
20. a grainy grocer
21. earlier bliss (a.k.a. no. 22)
22. steel warts (a.k.a. no. 21)
23. more cloth tits
24. a normal guy
25. woke Janice
26. iron dry emu

The Sponsors

27. relax price quotas
28. viperish dock
29. translate beer survey
30. stroke cows thus
31. same rate
32. cross vendor hits user

Answers on page 6

## DIVE REPORTS

### Green Bra and a Grope

By John Harlen

On the occasion of the club's shore dive at Terrigal the weather decided to play difficult. Although the sky was bright and sunny a southerly had blown up in the night and the sea was a tad choppy. The assembled participants spent a great deal of time surveying the conditions at the entry point and debating whether to dive the cave as planned or retire to

the relative calm of the Haven. In the end valor won out over discretion and one after another the intrepid explorers dived like lemmings into the surf. Our president's regulator refused to play forcing him to the sidelines almost as soon as he begun. Conditions under the water were much more pleasant. The viz. was a respectable 13 metres and the temperature was pleasantly warm. The terrain here is quite dramatic with sheer underwater cliffs cut by vertical chasms. One of these is covered by a large boulder, forming a cave. The cave sheltered large numbers of nanagai while on the reef outside schools of yellowtail swarmed. Other sights included numerous banded coral shrimp, a Bleakers devil fish and a small cuttlefish. All in all a very nice dive. What's more everyone survived the exit basically unscathed. Back at the barbecue the wind had it's fun. Upon lighting the gas the wind would promptly blow it out. We moved the barbecue to the sheltered side of the table. The wind blew it out again. We erected the Southpac banner as a windbreak. No joy. We tried various combinations of banner and barbecue positions. Still no joy. We put the barbecue in the back of Peter Foster's Ute. Still no joy! Despite vigorous swearing and abuse the barbecue remained stubbornly extinguished. In defeat one of our number was dispatched to the fish and chips shop. She returned shortly, complete with our various lunch orders and a green bra. Now some of you dear readers may find it a little strange that one should return from a fish and chips shop with a bra at all, let alone a green one. Apparently for the individual concerned any opportunity to secure a bra, of a hue other than white, is to be seized immediately.

Suitably satiated we relaxed over post luncheon refreshments and conversation while another of our number indulged in the gentle art of kite flying. When his wife approached him to retrieve the car keys she seemed to get her hand stuck in his shorts pocket. When questioned on this she volunteered that it was a perfect opportunity to fondle his husbandly bits while his hands were occupied with the kite. No one felt the need to question this ascertainment or put it to the test.

To sum up: the diving was good, the barbecue was a disappointment and some of us



discovered a new slant on underwear shopping and kite flying. A good time was had by all. Some more than others.

### **BLIND SHARKS.... EATING HUMANS??**

From the junior diver with positive attitude, Michael Dietz.:

On Saturday 14th, March 1998. People from South Pacific Divers went diving at Terrigal Skillion cave. There were ten people including me, eight dived, but two didn't. The President 'Peter Foster' was walking along the rocks, when his regulator whammed against the rocks:) ain't that sad! So he got a sunburn during our dive and at the club meeting two days later, the super light has shone his polish or sunburn when his head faces down. So he is locally called 'chrome dome' and nationally called Mr Sheen.

When Peter Flockart and Mark Dietz and I were diving together, while other groups of people were somewhere else. Mark Dietz found a lycra sun-top, he then gave it to me, after he found it in the cave between some rocks. So I then carefully inspected the sun-top, when I saw a bit of rock attach to it, then I looked in the sleeve, when I found a small blind shark. This made me think of a topic, where a blind shark is chomping on someones arm that got stuck in it. It was hard for Mark Dietz to take the blind shark out, because it's skin is like sand paper and was attached to the lycra. So whenever you find a lycra sun-top just check the sleeves for goodness sake.

During the dive there were a lot of sea urchins and gropers. There was a cuttle fish about the size of 60cm long, and 30cm wide. If like to have it in inches.....just get your little primary school conversions out. There also was a lot of little different fish as well.

Well I gotta hop away now, just remember to check Mark Dietz's note to all ok, cha cha!!!!

### **A Week In Borneo**

By our roving (or is that raving) photojournalist.

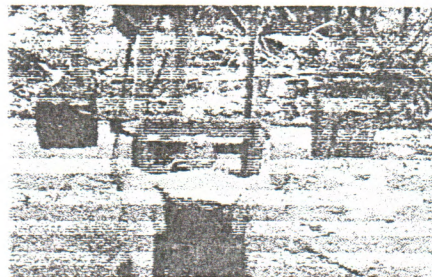
Leo B.

Recently, Melbourne based club member and owner of Allways Dive Expeditions, Ian Lockwood was organising a trip to Eastern Malaysia to dive the walls of Sipadan and Layang Layang. He asked if I would like to tag along. Making me an offer to good to refuse, I agreed and he told me to start packing as we are leaving on Sunday the 15th. Typically the best diving is in the most remote places, and these two locations are certainly remote.

Travelling with Malaysia Airlines for the first time was, to say the least, an eye opener. From

the lass I rang to confirm my booking at the start, to my last flight home, you could not fault this airline, no matter how critical you are.

The first flight from Sydney to Kuala Lumpur was naturally on a Jumbo. This particular one was obviously new and the deluxe model. The seats appeared slightly larger than other Jumbos with more legroom as well. Each seat had a T.V. monitor inserted behind the headrest, with the control handset mounted in



the armrest. The latest movies were on offer as well as video games. Bloody hell it also had a phone in the handset. Nearing the end of the flight I could not resist the temptation any more, so of course I had to try the phone to see if it works, it does. I can assure you, but next time I will check the price list first. Sorry Barb, I forgot Sydney was 3 hours in front by that time.

Over the years I have travelled to Europe many times on numerous airlines and I have found most Flight attendants are experts at being rude, evasive, and have the amazing ability "to smile on cue". Not the go here, They were constantly on the move attending to the needs of the passengers. Their courteous manner just flowed. It was too natural to be false. Now I know you will find this hard to believe, but when the main meal came around, it was not only hot, (I chose the beef) it was tender as well. But the best was yet to come. I asked for a red wine. A real glass, and a real bottle (Australian red to boot). The bottle was not left behind though, but without any prompting my glass was regularly topped up. What's for desert you ask? cop this chocolate-coated ice cream, I kid you not.

Upon arriving at Kuala Lumpur airport I met the other Divers on this trip. I soon buddied up with Liam a young lad from Melbourne (and of course now a member of S.P.D.) we both headed for the smokers room at the airport. (Civilised people the Malaysian authorities.)



Three and a half hours await us for our next flight to Kota Kinabalu. This is a large city in the north western region of Borneo. Another Four hour wait before we fly to Tawau a small city slightly south east of Kota Kinabalu. Here we board a bus and head east to the sleepy coastal town of Semporna a journey of a little over an hour. The staff of Abdillah Sipadan Paradise greet us and load our gear onto a boat for the last leg of our trip. A one hour ride to Sipadan Island.

Twenty four hours after leaving Sydney' we finally have arrive. The guest relations' officer introduces herself, a delightful lass named Ivy. We are given a rundown of the resort and a dive brief. First dive available to us is at "Half past quarter to". It's Island Time. A request for a bite to eat was greeted with what is now becoming the norm, a smile and the words "no problem". The other members of this trip were starting to drop like flies been hit with Mortien, not Liam and myself, we geared up and went for a dive. Our first dive was named "drop off", seems everywhere one goes there is a drop off. Being the main and most commonly used site I found it had been severely damaged, none the less it was full of fish life. Turtles galore at Sipadan every dive you are guaranteed to see them. There are that many of the bloody things I reckon they should start a culling program. (That will get the greenies going). After completing one particular dive we were heading back to shore when Liam who was sitting at the bow called out to me indicating I should look over the side. Here was a turtle swimming faster than the boat.



Abdillah Sipadan Paradise is one of four resorts on this island. They are all nestled in amongst tress just back from the beach, and are all next to each other. A delightful setting and it is very friendly. The various resorts all seem to dive at different times and locations giving one the impression there were not many people around,

wrong on one occasion at one of the other resorts I counted 36 scuba sets lined up ready to be loaded onto their boats. and each resort offers 6 dives per day. The resorts offer Night tours to watch the turtles but these are strictly monitored and permission from the military has to be obtained.



Borneo Divers have an on site recompression facility, does not come with any guarantee and I don't recommend its use, nice chamber though. Sipadan also has a police station, this trip I only saw it from the outside. The Abdillah resort also boasts a well equipped outdoor gym.

The sports stadium hosts the basketball court, volleyball court, and ping pong facilities, fair dinkum see the photos.

(to be continued next month)

### Life Is A Lady

By John Harlen

Saturday morning dawned gray and overcast. The dulcet tones of Jeff Cook drifted through the door advising us that it was time to get moving. Rolling over in bed I regarded the low silhouette of Montague Island across an oily sea, barely disturbed by wind. The sea conditions looked perfect, just not much sun. We dragged on some clothes and stumbled out into the kitchen where Sue provided life-support with a fresh cup of filtered coffee. Sarah didn't partake of the caffeine, but then Sarah wasn't partaking of a great deal at this time of the morning. In her defense we had only arrived at Oakleigh farm at 1:30 that morning. Greeted by the squabbling of the fruit bats in the tree outside and the melodious chain sawing issuing from Russell Stoker's room inside.

By the time our dive boat headed out over the bar Sarah was still not partaking of very much. And what a dive boat. A huge catamaran with as much space indoors as on the dive deck, a galley for preparing the food, a toilet and a hot shower for after the diving. We arrived overhead the Lady Darling whereupon began a great deal of to-ing and fro-ing and casting of



grapnels in an attempt to hook up the submerged mooring line. Sarah was lying down again by this time. Finally they threw the dive master overboard to locate the thing. Poseidon accepted our sacrifice and we were finally secured. Although the sea was nearly dead flat, the current was running swiftly. I was wondering if my decision to bring the camera was such a brilliant one and Sarah was finally awake. At around 15 metres the current slowed and we could drift down to the shadow of the wreck, visible below. The conditions on the bottom were about as good as it gets. The clear water meant that light levels were high even with the overcast and my computer showed a water temperature of 21. Masses of nanagai were schooled inside and under the stern of the wreck and a large estuary cod was residing inside the main boiler. For those who aren't mad wreck divers, the Lady Darling is still a great dive as every square inch of the structure is covered in colorful invertebrate growth. The clear water meant that the layout of the wreck was clearly evident, great for photography and easy for navigation (for most of us that is). Bottom time up we headed back up the mooring line to spend our precautionary deco streaming like flags in the current. We surfaced to find the cloud had burned off, leaving a brilliant sunny day. Our skipper dropped the mooring and we headed off down current to collect those of us who had completed their tour of the wreck somewhere out over the sand. Names have been withheld to protect the guilty. As we steamed back to Montague at a leisurely pace we enjoyed fresh bread rolls and soup. We dropped anchor in 30 metres of water with the bottom clearly visible below the boat! Unfortunately the current and wind were proceeding in different directions and the anchor refused to hold. That was the skipper's explanation anyway. After being treated to nearly as much drama as our previous mooring effort it was finally decided to simply motor close to shore and drop us in. Beneath the surface almost perfect diving conditions awaited us. At least 36 metres visibility and 25 degrees water temperature. Masses of chromis were schooled over the reef and inside the bubble cave were banded coral shrimp and a lion fish. We dived to the endurance of our air supply, not wanting to waste such an opportunity.

Having completed the diving part of the weekend we eased ourselves into the non-diving activities. Fish and chips in the sunshine overlooking the entrance of the Narooma river and relaxing over a few bottles of red (or a bottle of champagne) and a barbecued steak in the convivial surrounds of Oakleigh farm. On

the Sunday people headed off in their own directions to enjoy such delights as cheese and wine tasting or simply experiencing the sights. To those who didn't go, all I can say is you should have been there. The diving was simply superb and the company was, as always, the best. Be there next time.

### Club Meetings

Just a note to say that the last club meeting was what club meetings should be like and its good to see the club or large "conch" back on track. One suggestion though if the president insists on wearing a hair doo like the one at the last meeting the club should provide sunglasses to all members to counter the glare

Mark Dietz

### The Answers

1. Russell Stoker
2. Graham Oates
3. Mark Dietz
4. Gordon McDonald
5. Barbara Sweetman
6. Geoff Cook
7. Debbie Davis
8. Peter Flockart
9. Peter Foster
10. Shirley Wolfenden
11. Paul Howlett
12. Martin Kandilas
13. Leo Bergagnin
14. Samantha Oates
15. John Fardoulis
16. Mark Spencer
17. Robyn Hewitt
18. Sarah Harlen
19. Michael Dietz
20. Carina Gregory
21. Sir Les Bailer
22. Les Stewart
23. Scott Leimroth
24. Ray Moulang
25. Jackie Owen
26. Rodney Muir

### The Sponsors

27. Aquatic Explorers
28. Shiprock Dive
29. Beverley's Restaurant
30. South West Rocks
31. Sea Tamer
32. Southern Cross Divers



**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The following members are on the committee for the 1998 year.

Position	Name	Home No:	Work No:
President:	Peter Foster	9564 2654 Mobile: 0418 435 774	
Treasurer:	Graham Oates	9722 4813 Email: oatesg@cegelec.com.au	9722-4813
Secretary:	Debbie Davis	9821 3740	Mobile: 014 904 849
Photographic Officer:	Peter Flockart	9371 0265 Email: Nelson01@bigpond.com	9374 2382 Fax: 9374 2688
Publicity Officer:	Paul Howlett	97466720 Email: paulsd@hartingdale.com.au	9377 3019 Mobile: 0411 179 489
Dive Organisers:	John Harlen	9521 7210 Email: John.Harlen@dealer.bmw.com.au	
Social Secretaries:	Barbara Sweetman	9517 9176	Mobile: 0412 588 213
Newsletter Editor:	Russell Stoker	9799 2663	9217 1539
& Equipment Officer	Email: rstoker@one.net.au	Fax: 9217 1484	Mobile: 0412 963 527

**BOAT OWNERS CONTACT LIST**

The following members of the Club are boat owners. They generally go out diving most weekends and often need a tail diver to make up numbers. Why not give them a call one day. If you are a boat owner, why not give a boat owner a call (see the membership list distributed regularly) and invite them along with you.

Name	Home No:	Work No:
Sue Armstrong	02 44 437 606	9385 2248
Martin Atkins (lives in Jervis Bay area)	044 43 4631	042 74 0210
John Cassidy	9564 3538	041 139 675
Peter Cassimatis (Bris)	07 3847 8082	
Geoff Cook	9543 5817 / 0418 294 897	018 29 4891
John Fardoulis	043 422 939	0419 230 244
Martin Kandilas	9725 7808	9725 7808
Bob May	045 79 1053	018649249 / 015469028

**Remember to support the Club Sponsors:**

Name	Contact:	Phone No:
Aquatic Explorers	Steve or Lee at 3/82-84 Captain Cook Drive, Caringbah	9531 1518
Beverley's Restaurant	Peter or Bev at 1 - 9 Meagher St Chippendale	9310 4878
Dive Quest	Chris or Gary at Mullaway	066 54 1930
Sea Tamer II Charter	Max Western	9524 1818 or 018 280 791
Shiprock Dive	Leo or Lesley at Lilli Pilli	9526 2664
Southern Cross Divers	Barry at The Spit Marina	9969 5072
South West Rocks Dive	Noel or Belinda	065 666 474
Twofold Dive Charters	Peter or Lorna at Eden	02 6496 3384



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

### UPCOMING DIVING ACTIVITIES

Contact Numbers: John Harlen 9521 7210

Shore dives: Les Stewart 9637 1023

#### April

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Bass Point Shellharbour 11am with B.B.Q. Lunch, contact John

#### May

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Harbour night dive on Southern Comfort \$30 includes dive, Sausage sizzle and harbour cruise, contact John

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Harbour night dive on Southern Comfort \$30 includes dive, Sausage sizzle and harbour cruise, contact John

**SOCIAL ACTIVITIES Contact Numbers:** Barbara 0412 588 213

#### April

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Bev's Restaurant Chippendale 7.30 raffle prize on the night of a free dinner, contact Barbara

#### May

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> B.B.Q. Peter Foster's Birthday 5.30pm contact Barbara or Peter

### Upcoming Events

A skirmish match has been proposed so get your camouflage ready, more details soon

### NEXT CLUB MEETING

Remember, this month's meeting will be held on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 1998**, starting at 8 pm in the Emile McDonald Room of the Bankstown Sports Club.

### FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> June and 20<sup>th</sup> July 1998

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