

# WET RAG



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

PO Box 823, BANKSTOWN NSW 2200  
O411 343 200

JUNE 1998



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, 15 June 1998.



**President's Tidings**

Dear fellow club members, I must start this month by explaining about SPDC having a stand at the Adventure Expo this year. I took the decision to have this stand late on Wednesday night just before the show was due to open. I made this decision without having time to consult with fellow club members or committee members. If you the club member feel my choice was wrong, I can only say sorry.

The expo stand itself lead to a series of brilliant results for the club. First and foremost was 10 new members joining SPDC, we welcome you. I also had the opportunity to speak with some of the past members of our club, in fact one person to whom I spoke was present the day Martin Kandilas recovered the bell from the Tuggerah. During the course of the weekend we took the chance to speak with and thank many of our club sponsors in person. When we spoke about the planned trade fair on the awards night things really did start happening.

The club was given yet another major prize by Mike Ball to be used as additional door prize, this prize and the trip to Western Samoa from PADI Travel Network gives us approx \$ 6000.00 worth of door prizes. To top off this we were given by Reef Adventures P/L from Cairns a trip for 12 days. The winner of this trip will dive the area from Cairns to Thursday Island. Some major highlights of this trip will be a dive on the SS Quetta, which sank in the Mount Adolphus Channel, Torres Strait. This vessel sank in Feb 1890 with the loss of 133 souls. The next wreck dived on this trip will be HMS Pandora, which sank with the mutineers of the HMS Bounty on board August 1791. The remains HMS Pandora were located in 1997, what a dive this will be!!!!

After this you will visit Raine Island just off the Cape York Peninsula. You will see places like Lizard Is, Cape Tribulation, Cooktown and then the Flinders group on your way to Thursday Island. This trip must be one of the best trips on offer at this years awards night. Oh!! Did I forget to mention this prize is the first place prize in the raffle. So if you wish to go buy your raffle tickets on the night.

As a direct result of the exposure we had at Expo a major sponsor came forward with an offer to print a full colour souvenir brochure and sleeve. This would normally cost between \$ 6 & \$ 8,000; we will get it for free. The services of dancers from Western Samoa were also offered to the club, this offer was gratefully accepted.

When you try and add up the value of our lucky door and our entire raffle prizes the figure is close to \$ 15,000.00. In order to win some of

this all you need to do is buy tickets and turn for up for the awards night.

My thanks go to the club members who came out in the rain last month for my birthday party; it was good to see some old faces. This leads me to the next point, please if you book into a club social event and later find out you won't be able to attend. Please phone Barbara Sweetman and not other members of the committee. Barbara spoke with myself at our last committee meeting about his matter; she finds it rude that people don't ring her when unable to attend. It's even worse if they find the time to ring someone else and say please pass the message to her. So if it is a social event ring Barbara, her number is in the Wet Rag, this is just good manners.

Last week a club member rang me and raised a very good point about the cost of tickets to club members for the awards night. After giving this matter considerable thought we have decided to offer a family ticket to financial club members only. A family ticket for 2 adults & 2 children will cost \$ 60.00. Tickets will be on sale at the June meeting.

I am hoping to have Mark Spencer at this meeting to show slides on the wreck of the SS Tasman. At the time of writing this is still subject to confirmation.

Regards Peter Foster

Final thought: You have to be in it to win it !!!!

**Photographic Officer's**

Not much to say this month except that all preparation for the Presentation night on 18<sup>th</sup> July is going very well.

We are ahead of schedule this year, which is good as it means we will be able to have a couple of dress rehearsals and iron out a lot of the problems.

As with last month's message I am still looking for club members to assist in a variety of jobs on the night please contact me. Let me know if you can help on the night

Tickets for the night will be on sale at the July meeting for \$ 25.00. The club has put aside 50 tickets and these are selling fast, so don't delay get in early or you will be missing out on some wonderful prizes. The combined value of the door/raffle and special prizes on the night is approx \$ 12,500. Just for attending you could win a trip to Western Samoa, be diving on the Pandora or relaxing somewhere in the Coral Sea on board Spoilspport.

So buy your ticket now and come along to a great fun night.

Peter Flockart



South Pacific Divers Club presents the 1998

Australasian

Underwater

# Photographer of the Year Awards Night



With Master of Ceremonies **Peter Fields**

Special Guest Speaker **Rodney Fox**

*Recognised as one of the worlds greatest authorities on the Great White Shark, Rodney has spent many years documenting and photographing this magnificent creature.*

*If there is a Hollywood movie or documentary being made about sharks... Rodney is usually there!*

This is the biggest & best underwater photo competition in Australia  
with over \$70,000 worth of **GREAT PRIZES** to be  
given away... door prizes... raffle draws... a great nights entertainment  
for the whole family.. **ALL FOR ONLY \$25!**

**Saturday - July 18, 1998 - 7pm**

**Bankstown Sports Club**

Ticket enquires, phone Peter Foster on 0411 343 200

E-mail: paulsd@hartingdale.com.au

or contact your local DIVE SHOP



## DIVE REPORTS

### A Week In Borneo part 3

By our roving photojournalist. Leo B.

Our last day at Laylang Laylang has arrived, both Liam and I were up early to check out the seas, we had decided if the seas were up we would call a rest day. We were fairly gased up by this stage and were flying out the next morning. Other members of our group decided to do the first dive of the day. The dive boat returned extremely late, fearing the worst Liam and I waited anxiously at the wharf. We suspected what was wrong and were pleased to see all divers had returned. One diver was put on report, and was later sent to the "sin bin". The rest of our last day here was spent packing and just lying by the pool.

We left the next morning and flew back to Kota Kinabula. A tour and lunch was organised for us at the Pan Pacific Hotel. This hotel was in the final stages of its construction, and was this a hotel or what. Walking through the front doors we were confronted with a lobby that would have been the size of a football field. Staff were everywhere, willing to attend to any request required of them. Every facility you require was here. Ladies only gym, men only gym, mixed gym, computer access, private office rooms, small conference rooms, medium conference rooms, huge conference rooms, and a massive ballroom, complete with hand painted murals on the walls. The grounds included an 18-hole golf course, a man made beach, marina, and of course a huge pool, with a bar right in the middle of it. The grounds also had a sports club, facilities

including more gyms, snooker room, cinemas, a chart room, childcare facility, complete with swings for the kids. By the way lunch here was as dazzling as the hotel.

Our flight to Kula Lumpur was uneventful, as to our flight to Melbourne. The service was excellent, I have become to expect this from Malaysian Airlines, but in transit in Melbourne we witnessed an ugly yank at his best. He was fortunately lucky enough to get back on the plane, but couldn't help himself, he belted an elderly passenger and was greeted by security on his arrival at Sydney.

Malaysia has a lot to offer especially to the travelling diver. A club trip should be considered, lets hope the bloody government fixes up our dollar, to make it even more attractive. I am currently putting together a proposal to do a return trip to Truk in April next year, if any one is interested please give me a call. Yeah I know we will need to win lotto if the dollar keeps dropping.

The End.

### DIVING THE BOMBO

By John Harlen

Well the run of bad weather finally had to come to an end and let us get some decent diving in. Saturday the 30th of May turned out to be the day. Despite some cancellations due to the flu we had the better part of two boatloads at Wollongong harbour early in the morning. The first dive left at 8 o'clock in sunshine and flat seas. The water temperature was a pleasant 19 degrees and visibility 15-20 meters. New member Heinz Bendinger took his 8-mm movie camera along, so perhaps he



can give us a screening sometime. Interestingly, despite the number of divers who have pored over the Bombo over the years, one long time club member noticed a brass gauge still on the wreck. Unfortunately despite the co-operation of the weather the shipping traffic was less than helpful. The second dive was scheduled for the top of the tide and three ships decided to make this the time to move in or out of Port Kembla harbour. The result was an hours sitting around for the next dive crew while we waited for the shipping channel to clear. Still on the boat ride out we were entertained by a small biplane doing aerobatics overhead. We finally dropped our anchor in the wake of the last ship and got into the water. I had only dived the Bombo once since the stern was ripped off and rolled over last year, on a club dive, and, as those who were there will remember, the visibility that time was pretty poor. This time however the viz. was great, giving an excellent view over the reconstructed stern. Large numbers of fish were schooled over the wreck with a big school of pike around the mid sections, a school of trevally in the stern and the usual masses of nannygai inside. We also saw a large squid and a couple of large cuttles. There were plenty of cuttle eggs on the wreck, especially inside the boiler. Sarah and I spent most of our dive around the stern area, photographing the propeller, engine and boiler. It really is a much more interesting dive since the stern has been opened up. Even the exposed ribs give the impression of the skeletal remains of some ancient sea monster. So if you haven't dived the Bombo recently it is

certainly worth a look. If you would like to see it organized as a club dive again let me know.

## **PETER FLOCKART,**

### **PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICER**

#### **An Alphabetical Profile by Samantha Oates**

##### **Aperture**

Approximately 2.4 x 3.5cm (see *Slides*).

##### **Bracketing**

A technical term. A means of ensuring that both boobs are in the picture.

##### **Camera**

Peter's first camera was one of those plastic ones, which is filled with water and used to squirt unsuspecting family members in the eye. It may not be seen as an auspicious start to his career that Peter flooded his very first camera.

##### **Computer Enhancement**

May be used to further enhance prominent parts of the composition ie: female models with flat-chests

##### **Depth of Field**

A measure of the number of cleavages, stretching off into the distance, which can be kept in focus in the same shot.

##### **Developing**

Peter was brought up in Vacluse and has not looked back since (see *Housing*). He was educated at the University of Armidale where he studied accountancy, which probably accounts for a lot of things. He didn't turn out too badly considering.

##### **Enlargement**

Happens periodically when Peter doesn't watch what he eats, but is easily rectified (see *Framing*).



**Exposure**

Yes please - the more the better according to Peter (see Lenses and Filters).

**Filter**

Peter has no need for filters as most of his subjects are naturally rose-tinted (see Lenses).

**Fish-Eye**

The result of the thousand-plus dives Peter has logged to date. Like a Napoleon wrasse, he can actually swivel his eyes around the side of his head if a busty woman walks by.

**Flash**

Peter has not yet been arrested, but it can only be a matter of time (see Exposure).

**Focus**

Generally good, but starts to go downhill after a few beers.

**Framing**

Getting smaller due to Peter's recent weight loss.

**Housing**

Peter lives in Rose Bay with Milo, his cat.

**Lenses**

Peter has many specialist lenses, but his favourite is the wedge-shaped one used for really close up cleavage shots.

**Lithium Batteries**

Peter needs these to keep up with the triple demands of work at the taxation department, photographic officer duties for SPDC and his slides (see Slides).

**Macro**

Due to the joint pressures of work and organisation for the photo competition,

Peter's love life has suffered in recent weeks.

**Photo Album**

Not applicable as Peter prefers slides. This may be considered unusual as it is generally accepted that most men prefer blondes.

**Reprints**

Peter does not have any children (that he will own up to).

**Rewind**

Peter is well known for a tendency to talk in his sleep.

**Slides**

Due to the temporary lack of an active love life (see Macro) Peter has been reduced on recent weekends to mounting slides.

**Snap-shot**

Not in Peter's vocabulary. Peter's work consists of technically accomplished photographic compositions and the odd tasteful (and very artistic) cleavage shot.

**Travelling Case**

Peter's car is a Ford Explorer 4WD (the roads around Rose Bay can be particularly treacherous in inclement weather).

**Tripod**

Not much in evidence lately (see Macro).

**Underwater Photography**

Peter's main love in life apart from his slides. Peter Flockart Photographics® is the main outlet for his expertise.

**Zoom**

A necessary activity for Peter to keep up with all his myriad commitments (see Travelling Case and Lithium Batteries). He is often seen as a mere blur, especially by speed cameras.



**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Home No:</b>	<b>Work No:</b>
President:	Peter Foster	9564 2654 Mobile: 0418 435 774	
Treasurer:	Graham Oates Email: oatesg@cegelec.com.au	9769 0098	9722 4813
Secretary:	Debbie Davis	9821 3740	Mobile: 014 904 849
Photographic Officer:	Peter Flockart Email: Nelson01@bigpond.com	9371 0265	9374 2382 Fax: 9374 2688
Publicity Officer:	Paul Howlett Email paulsd@hartingdale.com.au	97466720	9377 3019 Mobile: 0411 179 489
Dive Organisers:	John Harlen Email: John.Harlen@dealer.bmw.com.au	9521 7210	
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 extra divers to make up numbers. Why not give them a call one day. If you are a boat owner, why not give a non-owner a call (see the membership list distributed regularly) and invite them along with you.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Home No:</b>	<b>Work No:</b>
Sue Armstrong	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:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact:</b>	<b>Phone No:</b>
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:** Peter Foster 9564 2654

#### **June**

20<sup>th</sup> Weekend away to Ulladulla Dive Saturday/sightseeing Sunday \$15 accommodation \$55 Double  
dive to Brush Island and "Northern Firth" wreckage Contact John

#### **July**

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Weekend to South West Rocks contact Graham Oates for details

#### **Easter 1999**

Proposed trip to Truk Lagoon contact Leo B for details

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

#### **July**

**18<sup>th</sup> THE 1998 AUSTRALASIAN PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION  
NIGHT**

Get your tickets now contact the committee for details

#### **Upcoming Events**

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

#### **NEXT CLUB MEETING**

Remember that this month's meeting will be held on **MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> June 1998**, starting at 8 pm in  
the Emile McDonald Room of the Bankstown Sports Club.

#### **FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 17<sup>th</sup> August, and 21<sup>st</sup> September 1998

Wet Rag, the South Pacific Divers' Club  
Newsletter, is published by South Pacific Divers'  
Club.  
Edited by Russell Stoker.



Send material to 36 Hanks Street, Ashbury. Or  
Email **Error! Reference source not  
found.**  
Phone: 9799 2663[h] or (0412 963 527) [m].  
Deadline for articles is the last day of the month.



**Minutes of the Club Meeting of  
South Pacific Divers Club at Bankstown Sports Club  
Monday 18th May 1998**

Meeting Opened: 8.15 John Sumner, Wally Gibbons and club members welcomed by Club President, Peter Foster.

Apologies: Paul Howlett, Martin and Ilona Kandalis, Scott and Debbie Eggington, Judd Cook, Sarah Harlen, Debbie Davis.

**Secretary:**

Acceptance of club minutes: Accepted by Glen Percy  
Seconded by Gordon McDonald

**Incoming/Outgoing mail:**

World of Adventure, NSW Fisheries, Doubts, Brisbane Water Club, Ryde Underwater Club, URG, Southern Comfort - Thankyou letter, Scott Eggington - Re: A copy of Rules of Incorporation.

<b>Treasurers Report - Graham Oates</b>	April:	Income	\$2422.00
		Expenses	\$ 618.17

**Breakdown - Income**

Membership Fees	\$ 130.00
Equipment Hire	\$ 20.00
Raffle	\$ 62.00
AUPY Fees	\$2210.00

**Expenses**

Dive Costs	\$ 20.00
Postage	\$ 90.00
Printing	\$ 64.00
Telephone	\$160.00
AUPY Comp	\$227.10
Misc.	\$ 55.00
Bank Charges	\$ 2.07

Cheque Account Balance	\$ 2393.98
Investment Account	\$10119.03
Petty Cash	\$ 105.90

**Dive Organisers Report - John Harlen**

Southern Comfort dive cancelled. Dive to be re-scheduled to 22nd May.

Saturday 30th May - 2 Dives on the Bombo. 8am and 9.30am. Cost \$20.00.

20th June - Ulladulla - Brush Island. Cost \$55.00 two tank dive. \$15.00 a night accommodation.

John has spoken to Hawks Nest Divers. Cost \$125.00 sat and sun two tank dives, cheap accommodation.

Graham is organising a weekend to South West Rocks, 4th and 5th July. Looking for numbers before confirmation.

**Social Organisers Report - Barbara Sweetman**

Thankyou for the people that turned up to Bev's Restaurant. Very disappointed at the lack of attendance. 15 booked in and only 6 turned up. Only one phone call. If you can't make it to any social or dive event, please make sure to contact the person organising it.

Skirmish to be organised for August.



### **Photographic Officers Report - Peter Flockart**

40 confirmed sponsors. Door Prize - Trip for two to Western Samoa. Tickets to be printed next week. 650 people to fill auditorium, nearly full. Rodney Fox and Dixie Ford are guest speakers. There will be a display of historical diving gear on display on the night. Looking for club members to help on the night. Barry Andrewartha is doing run-ons for presentation night. Might have magazine ready for the night. Most people who made the top 10 in the novice or open section will be there on the night.

### **Publicity Officer - Peter Flockart for Paul Howlett**

Two article to be published in Dive Log next month, one on the A.U.P.Y. and another on the guest speaker. The Web site should be moved from the temporary site at new media to it's permanent home. Web address TBA.

If you type in South Pacific Divers Club on any of the big web search engines, you should be able to find it. There will be more scanned pictures from the AUPY on the web site very soon. Any suitable material will be welcomed. To have a good web site it must be updated at all times. There will be a Guest Book placed on the website, which you can sign in and place your comments or post a dive story or report.

### **Equipment Officer - Russell Stoker**

All equipment is OK.

Geoff Cook - Magnetometer has not been used.

### **BREAK**

### **Raffle**

1st Prize won by Russell Stoker

2nd Prize won by Tadeusz Stoebner

3rd Prize won by Robyn Hewitt

John Harlen showed us some slides of a trip to Tasmania.

### **Dive Reports**

*Martin Atkins* - Dived Saturday at Stoney Creek. 190ft, clear water, easy dive. Dived Sunday at Crocodile Head. Plateau at 30-50m, clear blue water, no current.

*John Harlen* - Dived Bass Point. 15m vis, lots of fish.

*Ray Moulang* - Dived Vanuatu. Vila for a week, 10 dives on Coolidge.

*Peter Foster* - Group to go to Mount Gambier for a cave diving course.

### **General Business**

Gordon McDonald - Re: Scott Eggington's letter, we should give him a copy of rules of Incorporation.

John Sumner T-Shirts for sale for \$8.

**Meeting Closed: 9.30pm**