

WET RAG



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

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

NOVEMBER 1998

NEXT MEETING 16TH NOVEMBER

GUEST SPEAKER

Rebecca Raap from the Marine & Coastal Community Network will give a short
Talk on Weedy Sea Dragons

DECEMBER'S MEETING CHANGED TO 14TH DECEMBER

Will be full of Xmas Cheer

Meetings of the Club are normally held at 8 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Emile McDonald Room of the Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Street, Bankstown. This month's meeting will be held on Monday, 16 November 1998.

Presidents Special Tidings

The meeting set down for the 26th October saw only three club members turn up. This only went to show that the members must be happy with the rules as they stand. I can now only hope **all** club members will now run with the rules as they stand. I now consider this matter of the rule changes to be closed once and for all, The End !!!!

After reading the dive report's in last months' wet rag or was it the month's before, I hope to read more about diving in our club mag in the near future. The club has now several confirmed dives up until Xmas; including The Myola, Midway Reef, The Satara, Seal Rocks a boat night dive and a dive with Max Western will finish off the year.

One or two spots may still be available for the long weekend trip to Jervis Bay in January.

Those club members who turned up for the dive at Kurnell on the 25th October had a great time, not only was it a great dive but they also found the lost president.

The following week I dived with the Mason's and swam from the leap to the Steps, a dive which I rate as one of the best ever shore dives I've done.

This meeting will see club member Glen Percy showing some of his slides from a recent trip to Papua New Guinea, which I hope members will enjoy.

I ask members to note that the meeting scheduled for the 21st December has been changed to the 14th December. At this meeting it is hoped to show a video of some very famous dives.

Please don't forget that the committee is still waiting for feedback on what we are going to do at our Xmas party.

Club members Graham Oates and his lovely wife have just returned from diving at Lady Elliott Island and from I hear had a fantastic time. If you have never been to the Island, go, as the reef here is some of the best Queensland has to offer. Maybe next year the new committee could arrange a trip up to the Island.

We still have some spaces available on the Seal Rocks trip at the end of the month, if you want to go please see either John Harlen or myself at

the next meeting. The plan is to do 2 dives on the wreck of the Satara and two on the Edith Breaker Cave System, subject to weather and sea conditions. We are staying in cabins (booked for our stay) at the Suncoast Caravan Park right in Forster, where the dive shop is only a short hop away. The dives will be leaving from the beach at Seal Rocks on both days.

I hope all members enjoy their diving this month.

Final thought

We act as though comfort and luxury are the chief requirements of life. When all that we need to make us happy is something to be enthusiastic about.

Charles Kingsley.

Peter Foster.

Photographic Officer's Report

Since the meeting last month the weather has again been patchy. Some dives have had excellent vis while others are only just there. This is making it very difficult to predict if it's worth taking the camera for a dip. Hopefully in the coming months of summer the weather will improve and make water conditions more stable for us photographers.

Over the last two months I have let members view the winning slides and videos from the 1998 AV night. Those who have seen them all agree that the material was excellent.

This month will see Glen Percy showing some excellent slides from PNG. Glen has returned from a trip on Mike Ball's new boat Paradise Sport and is sure to have great material. So come along and see his work.

Peter Flockart.

DIVE REPORTS

Night Dive at Shiprock 18th September

September's night dive at Shiprock turned out to be one of the best dives I have done at this site, and I have dived here dozens of times.

Nine divers made it on the night and we had nearly ideal conditions with warm air temperatures, little wind and very clear water. Being in the channel of the Port Hacking river, Shiprock can be prone to silty conditions but on this occasion the viz was great. Interestingly the number of sea pens seems to have increased in the shallow area of this dive. There were also several sea cucumbers with their tentacles extended feeding. The soft coral did not have its polyps open on this night. I don't know if this was because of the relative lack of particles in the water but there was no moon at the time of the dive. We did see plenty of decorator crabs, two of which were mating. Some divers also saw an anglerfish.

Our dive coincided with the top of the tide so we didn't have to contend with any strong currents. In the clear conditions the powerful torch beams of some of our companions could be seen well off along the wall.

If you haven't dived here before, or not in a while, it could be worth doing so soon. The water is still very clear without the summer plankton blooms and the amount of life at this site is probably the greatest of any spot in Sydney. It does need to be dived at slack tide however.

Give it a try sometime.

By John Harlen

Sunday Double Dive 11th October.

Being the tale of a pleasant Sunday morning spent diving off Sydney Harbour.

On the Saturday prior it looked like there wouldn't be any diving at all. The southerly was blowing hard enough to blow a dog off a chain. Tom Byron rang me and told me the sad tale of their attempts to dive the Tuggerah that day. With the feeling that the effort was probably futile I strapped together Sarah's and my double tanks and put the camera in the housing ready for the planned dive. We'd made our plans to go out for lunch anyway so we may as well be ready in the unlikely event that the weather improved.

The unlikely happened. Sunday dawned clear and calm. The 6:00 am surf report said the seas were low so we headed off to the Spit to meet our boat. It was a small group that headed around south head for the first dive on the Annie M. Miller. There was no swell to speak of but the day before's wind had left behind a sloppy sea. After picking the anchor in on the second try we headed down the line in very clear viz.

Unfortunately once we got below 30 metres the viz was more like 5 metres, making things a little dark on the bottom. The darkness lent a bit of atmosphere to the wreck however, making it seem more grave like.

At least there wasn't much current. The anchor was positioned close to the stern, caught in a large mass of fishing net that covered the area. The engine and boiler are exposed and towards the bow there is a very nice area of exposed ribs sticking up above the more collapsed centre section.

Peter Flockart had discovered a small Wobby caught in the fishing net and had cut the unfortunate shark free, although with the amount of netting on the wreck it will probably end up re-entangled.

Bottom time up, we unhooked the anchor and dropped it in the sand before spending our obligatory half-hour hanging around under the boat. There were a large number of salps and other plankton floating past, which gave us something else to look at apart from each other.

Back on the boat our companions took turns following the boat skipper's example in donating their breakfast to the fishes while we re-anchored under the cliffs at the place of the Durbar's demise. The water here was very clear with the bottom clearly visible 15 metres below. Conditions were a little surgy to be grovelling in holes on the bottom so Sarah and I cruised around over the reef top enjoying the vista. Hearing Sarah yelling into her reg, I looked up to see a huge school of tailor circle her in mid water. There were a lot of fish in the area including a large school of squid and plenty of luderick in the shallows.

All in all the dives were a very enjoyable way to kick off a laid back Sunday.
Be there next time.

John Harlen

A Dive Report

By Anonymous.

"The time - early one Saturday, quite recently.

The scene - a well-known southern Sydney dive site, in a National Park.

3 divers are gearing up in a car park.

"Oh shit," says one (he who'd only dived here once before)

"What have you forgotten?" says another.

My bloody booties he replies

Decision--- Take the Nike runners for a swim!!

The walk to the entry point, very comfortable thanks you.

The dive?? apparently OK, so long as the shoelaces were firmly tied!!

The walk back to the car also OK, if a bit squelchy.

The looks from other divers was that of silent amusement and covert sniggers (if they only knew who this person was!!!!!!)

After the dive ?? well, we're not sure how or even if any explanation was given as to why the Nikes were so wet, or had to be washed with the rest of the dive gear. One wonders if they'll become part of the spare parts kit???????

Oh yes, we did see a few weedy sea dragons on the way and one even had eggs.

If you would like more details. Peter Mason is taking cash bribes to tell all, folding stuff only, no Coins.

ITEMS of INTEREST

From the Internet -

There is an On-line Scuba Diving Newsletter available as a free subscription to those that are interested scubanewsltr@hargray.com

Information available includes:

- ❑ Mail - Order regulators... Do you Dare?
- ❑ A stranger is your buddy, Now What?
- ❑ Dive gadgets to save your butt
- ❑ How to Survive 20 Dive Travel Disasters
- ❑ Everything you need to know about dive Insurance.

All the above have their own sites and provide interesting reading, there is even a gear guide. So if you are in the market for new equipment why not check out this site and maybe save money!!

Also if you want to check the tides, current and sea conditions before going out see:

www.fiohet.com.au

PHOTOGRAPHIC NOTES

MACRO TUBES AND FRAMERS.

Last month I talked about close-up lens this month I will explain Macro tubes and framers.

A macro extension tube fits between the lens and the body while the frame projects out from the lens. By using one or a combination thereof the photographer increases the magnification of the subject being viewed.

For a reproduction ratio of 1:1, the extension tube has to be twice the focal length (the distance between the primary point of focus and the film corresponds to the focal length). This is the case for a 35mm lens on land using a 35mm extension tube. However once underwater the apparent focal length of the lens increases by a factor of 1.33. This is because while objects appear further away underwater the magnification ratio stays the same. There are several makes available on the market, Nikon, AquaSea and gates to name a few. In order to prevent one forgetting the settings used with these tubes print them out onto Dymo tape and stick them on.

Examples are:

1:2 + 35mm lens using ASA 100 f22

1:2 + 35mm lens using ASA 50 f16

1:1 + 35mm lens using ASA 100 f16

etc.

You will need to experiment with the settings as some animals and backgrounds can be more or less reflective.

For a better idea on settings see page 284 of The Manual of Underwater Photography by H.Gert de Couet and Andrew Green

In order to test the alignment of your framers fill a tub with water and place a piece of grided paper at the bottom and take several frames. Once corrected you can shoot perfect pictures.

There are a couple of methods you can use to align your shots:

Gun sight – over the top of your camera

Sideways – cut one framer off slightly and use it to set up the shots

Or point and run (not the most effective but sometimes, especially in current situations it's the only thing you can do)

A final point “ When using close-up equipment, the depth of field is equally distributed in front of and behind the plane of focus”

Next Month:

Films for close-ups and some tips on lighting.

Reference:

The Manual of Underwater Photography by H.Gert de Couet and Andrew Green

Peter Flockart

Photographic Officer

CAMERA EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

2 x Stainless steel homemade base plates to suit Nikonos macro/wide angle \$5 each

2x Aquasea strobe arms with attachments \$10 each.

2x Aquasea macro arms with attachments \$10 each

1 x Aquasea wide angle bracket arm \$10

1 x Aquasea twin synch cord \$120 (\$200 new)

1 x Aquasea single synch cord \$50 (\$80 new)

1 x Nikonos V camera, 35mm lens. Bought 1991. \$750 ono

1 x Aquasea, 140 strobe 3 power settings, modelling light Nicad pack. Red. \$500 ono

1 x Aquasea 140 strobe, '3 power settings, no light, Nicad pack, Red. \$450 ono

Nicad packs are 1.2Ah and -1.8Ah

1x homemade aluminium macro base plate \$5

5x 1.5Volt batteries for Sekonic lightmeter 11 \$3 per pack (2 in each pack)

4x Sanyo Cadnica C size Nicads - unused. \$15

1 x Aquasea 140 strobe single charger \$15

Interested in anything?

Contact Merridy at mcdimagery@one.net.au

Or on 9630 - 6575

REMEMBER:

The Christmas meeting of 21st December has been changed to the 14th December.

Editors Note.

I am receiving consistent dive reports from one member only, isn't anyone else in club diving or going away??? Without material apart from one members' dive reports and the committee members, the newsletter may probably go the way of the dinosaurs. So support your club and start writing articles.

Remember all contributions are gratefully accepted.

COMPETITION RESULTS

Obviously diving doesn't mean anything to our members as no one bothered to enter this.

STOP PRESS.

Rebecca Raap from the Marine & Coastal Community Network will be giving a short presentation on Weedy Sea dragons at meeting on Monday 16th November.

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	9769 0098	9722 4813
	Email: oatesg@cegelec.com.au		
Secretary:	Debbie Davis	9821 3740	Mobile: 014 904 849
Photographic Officer:	Peter Flockart	9371 0265	9374 2382
	Email: Nelson01@bigpond.com		Fax: 9374 2688
Publicity Officer:	Paul Howlett	97466720	9377 3019
	Email: paulsd@hartingdale.com.au		Mobile: 0411 179 489
Dive Organisers:	John Harlen	9521 7210	
	Email: John.Harlen@dealer.bmw.com.au		
Equipment Officer:	Glen Percy – Call Aquasports Dive Store Yagoona.		
Newsletter Editor:	*** Position Vacant***		

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 No:	Work No:
Sue Armstrong	02 44 437 606	9385 2248
Martin Atkins (lives in Jervis Bay area)		044 43 4631
		042 74 0210
Martin Kandilas	9725 7808	9725 7808

If you are a boat owner and would like to be added to this list contact the committee.

CLUB SPONSORS Remember to support the Club Sponsors:

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

Name	Contact:	Phone No:
Aquatic Explorers	Steve or Lee at 3/82-84 Captain Cook Drive, Caringbah	9531 1518
Aqua Sports	Glen Percy at 430 Hume Highway Yagoona	9708 2826
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
Southern Cross Divers	Geoff at Stanmore	9568 1517
South West Rocks Dive	Noel or Belinda	02 6566 6474
Twofold Dive Charters	Peter or Lorna at Eden	02 6496 3384

DON'T FORGET THE CLUB PHONE NUMBER 0411 343 200

CLUB GEAR

The Club has a variety of gear for sale, hire or loan. This includes T-shirts, Stickers, BumBags, Shirts, Sweaters, Caps, The Magnetometer, Two sets of Oxygen equipment, BBQ, and much much more. Inquiries should be directed to the Equipment officer.

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

- November**

22nd Dive on the Myola on Southern Comfort leaving Rose Bay at 7am Cost \$ 30.00

27th to 29th Weekend with Action Divers at Forster. Weekend includes 4 dives/accom/ airfills. Diving will be on the Satara, Edith Breaker Caves, Seal Rocks and sharks. Cost is \$173.00 per person. Contact Peter Foster.

- December**

6th Dive to Midway Reef on Southern Comfort leaving Rose Bay at 7am Cost \$ 30.00

13th Dive prior to the Xmas party (location to be decided)

20th Double Dive with Max Western (Tuggerah and a reef dive) leaving from Dolans Bay Wharf. Cost \$60.00

January

Long weekend trip on the MV Indulgence. This trip will cost \$ 385.00 for three days or \$ 495.00 for four days and may be booked by calling either Peter Foster or John Harlen.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER

13th Christmas Party, to be held at Gunamatta Park (Cronulla). Details to be finalised

Meetings of the Club are normally held at 8 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Emile McDonald Room of the Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Street, Bankstown. This month's meeting will be held on **Monday, 16 November 1998**.

Deadline for articles is the last day of the month. Wet Rag, the South Pacific Divers' Club Newsletter, is published by South Pacific Divers' Club. Edited by Peter Flockart



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Send material for the Wet Rag to the Committee c/o club PO Box as on front cover.

**Minutes of the meeting of South Pacific Divers Club
at Bankstown Sports Club
Monday 19th October 1998**

Meeting Opened: 8.10pm members & visitors welcomed by Peter Flockart.

Apologies: Peter Foster, Alan Crick, John & Sarah Harlan, Leo B, Gaynor Mason, Jackie Owen, Paul Howlett.

Secretary:

Debbie Davis

Minutes of previous meeting accepted by John Beddie seconded Mark Spencer.

Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:

Amateur Rebreather Group newsletter, Terrigal Underwater newsletter, Marine & Coastal Community Network re Weedy Sea Dragons, Doubts newsletter, Maverick Films re "Atlantis", URG newsletter, Snowy Mts Trout Festival brochure, Central Coast's Best Shipwrecks brochure, Double D Dive Charters, Waves newsletter, Robert Westerdyk - letter of appreciation for presentation night, Dependable Distributors - storage cylinders, Live/Dive Pacific Inc - re diving the Solomons.

Treasurers Report: September 1998

Graham Oates

Income \$ 93.00

Cheque account balance \$548.97

Expenses \$286.41

Investment account \$8143.67

Breakdown of Expenses:

Petty Cash \$287.65

Stationery: \$ 26.30

Postage \$ 58.00

Club Phone \$ 83.81

AUPY postage \$113.05

Bank Charges \$ 5.25

Dive Organisers Report

Dive Kurnell - Sunday BBQ (byo)

Seal Rocks 27-29th November

Narooma Montague Island (see Margaret Proven) \$25 accommodation \$70 double dive

Social Organiser: Xmas party Sunday 13th December, dinner at Bev's cancelled due to lack of interest.

Photographic Officer:

Peter Flockart

George Roberts contest not running this year, will run next year when no AV night.

Publicity Officer: no report .

Equipment Officer:

Glen Percy

All equipment present and accounted for anyone can use contact Glen at shop.

Dive Reports: Peter Flockart dived Annie Miller, very lumpy, 7-8 people listed only 4 turned up. Vis down, large net over boiler with shark caught he cut it lose. Reg broke apart underwater but fixed it, plankton in water 1 hour surface interval - Dunbar second dive - non event. Neil Vincent dived in Vanuatu snorkelled in cave through to lake, definitely worth doing - 3/4hr trip by road to cave by road. Sam & Graham Oates dived Lady Elliott Island - 6 dives, turtles,

manta rays above and below water. 15 people in dive groups very pleasant, good accommodation.

General Business: Peter Mason article from St George Leader (Marine & Coastal Network re Weedy Sea Dragons- sent survey form to list all sightings. Rebecca Raap available to speak at meetings will contact Peter Foster. Pam Parker- Dept of Fisheries - survey on Grey Nurse sharks. Byron Bay to South West Rocks -survey completed. Coastal network of divers needed to survey from Coolangata to Eden. Tom Byron & Noel Taylor will assist. John Beddie suggested Jarvis Bay - Bass Point. Peter Flockart said Mark Spencer discovered AE2 in Turkey in 72m - clip in pay early October. Gordon McDonald - SCANS letter of disagreement against National Parks & Wildlife regarding presentation of proposed rules for marine parks. Kinghorn Point to Sussex will be covered by national marine park, if proposal goes ahead divers will need permits, boats anchoring, training etc. Gordon requested info from Pam on shark survey and also Weedy Sea Dragon survey. John Beddie- Alan Grey did not receive newsletter, Peter Flockart to post copy. 26th October special meeting re constitution and amendments. Peter Mason offered secretarial services and photo-copying if needed, all issues should be dealt with on the night and finished. Peter Mason needs copy of amendments - Peter Flockart to fax copies. John Beddie going to Eden 16th January would like to take mag.

BREAK

No raffle to be held tonight - due to small number of members at meeting, held over till next meeting.

Slide show by Peter Flockart.

Meeting Closed: 9.40pm