

WET RAG



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

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

DECEMBER 1998

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

To all Members and Sponsors

We hope to see you in 1999

From

Peter Foster, Debbie Davis, Graham Oates, Peter Flockart,
Paul Howlett, John Harlen and Glen Percy.

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, 14th December 1998.

Presidents Special Tidings

As the year draws to its end so does the term of the present committee. As club president I would like to thank the current committee for its hard work during the past year.

From a personal point of view, this past year has taught me a lot about people, things are not always what they appear to be. I hope to see a few other members put up their hands for positions on next years committee.

So in closing I wish all members a happy and safe Christmas and a great New Year.

Peter Foster.

Final thought

If you have built castles in the air your work need not be lost, that is where they should be.

Now put the foundations under them.

Henry David Thoreau

Photographic Officer's Report

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all those members who have assisted me throughout 1998. I wish all club members the very best for Xmas and the New Year.

Hopefully in the coming weeks of summer the weather will be better, the water conditions more stable and members will be out snapping away.

Peter Flockart.

DIVE REPORTS

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE & AORE RESORT.

The family and I have just come back from Santo. I had dived the President Coolidge before in 1990 but I always wanted to go back and do some more adventurous dives.

We left Wollongong on the morning 16th October to get to the airport, only to be told when we got there that the plane had been delayed due to a major breakdown in Brisbane. We spent the next 36 hours in a hotel courtesy of Qantas.

We arrived in Vila at 1.30 am and Santo at

11.30am the following day. We were booked in at a new resort on Aore Island 3km from Luganville across the channel. Unknown to me there was a lot of ex SPD members staying at the Deco-Stop. However if you are going with your family I can't recommend the Aore resort enough.

Aquamarine picks you up at 8.30am and 2.30pm for dives. You can get a variation on the Henry Boneaud, Reef dives, Shark dives and of course the Coolidge.

I did 9 dives on the Coolidge, including the engine room twice and the galley deep inside the wreck at 55 metres.

Aore resort has bungalow or fare accommodation but only one place to there. You can get the punt across to the mainland for dinner in the evening at a cost of 2000vatu return (\$A26.00).

Things have changed a lot diving wise; the guides all use twin tanks with technical B/C's and there is 50/50 nitrox available as a deco gas. The latter makes it lot safer. There are also long ocky hoses of up to 8.

If you want to know more phone me on (02) 4226 -2422.

Yours Deeply,

Mark Hamilton

PHOTOGRAPHIC NOTES

FILMS FOR CLOSE-UPS AND SOME TIPS ON LIGHTING.

As the distance between camera and subject is only a matter of some 1 to 9" the photographer is able to utilise small f stops and as result of this is able to use slower film speeds. This means that the images produced are of a higher sharpness and resolution.

There are several films and brands available on the market that covers these requirements. For example Fuji, Kodak and Agfa all produce slow speed films. However it is mainly Fuji and Kodak that are used in Australia.

Kodak makes ASA 25, 50 and 64 films. The ASA 64 has been discontinued as an amateur film and is now only available as professional film outlets. This and ASA 50 are Ektachrome films, meaning they can be processed at any lab. The ASA 25 is Kodachrome and can only be processed by Kodak and some selected companies in Australia. (check in your camera

mags to see who in your capital city processes Kodachrome).

Fuji produces an ASA 50 or Velvia, which is best for this type of photography.

All these films give good colour saturation and sharpness on images photographed. Which film is best for your needs is up to you.

The f-stops used in Macro photography generally range between f/16 and f/22. However depending on the camera used and the reflectivity or lack of it may require the photographer to use f/11 to f/32.

Example:

For a white nudibranch on sand a photographer using ASA 50 Velvia and a Nikonos with a 1:2 macro tube may instead of using f/16 at infinity, decide to use f/22 to reduce the amount of light that will reach the film plane, or change the angle of the strobe.

LIGHTING

A properly lit macro subject is difficult as the camera/subject is small and the positioning of bulky strobes is difficult. Many people use two small strobes or one and a slave to produce even lighting in their subjects. If this is not an option then the careful positioning of one and the use of a diffuser can at least minimise the shadows in your macro shots.

Ideally to produce a soft overall light one could use a ring flash. Unfortunately no one produces one that can be used underwater as yet. However with some inventiveness a land based model could be adapted to housing.

It is also possible to use TTL strobes for macro work as it provides reliable and accurate exposures. This could also compensate for some manual errors that may arise on for example a highly reflective background.

Reference:

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

Peter Flockart
Photographic Officer

ARTICLE OF INTEREST

Rebreathers currently seem to be a topic for discussion among divers and in the diving press. Their popularity in other countries is significant and on the increase and their use by Australian divers, although still small, is clearly growing. Although this technology is not new it is becoming more prevalent due to availability and the increase in the 'technical' diving market.

As with any new technology, understanding and awareness, usually in the form of standards or modes of acceptable practice, take a while to catch up with popular use. Understanding is the first step to awareness with regards to safety issues and rebreathers.

Perhaps the most important point is that rebreathers, although technically Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA), are totally unlike common open circuit scuba where gas of a fixed oxygen percentage is inspired and exhaled directly to the water. The oxygen content of the gas you breathe is not changed except by the pressure of depth.

In rebreathers, because the gas is rebreathed, the oxygen content can change. It can rise due to adding more oxygen, or fall by failing to add oxygen to replace that which is metabolised by your body. In either case there is a potential for a dangerous level (high or low) which is not inherent in normal open circuit scuba. Add to this the increased danger of CO2 build up, which can occur with the failure of the CO2 scrubber found in all rebreathers, and it is clear that these two modes of diving are very different.

A few points to consider could be:

- 1) Always carry adequate open circuit bail out. This cannot be stressed enough as the time you need it and don't have it only happens once.
- 2) Always know your PO2 - the level of oxygen you are breathing. (oxygen sensors are commonly used)

3) Always be fastidious with recommended checks and maintenance. Many equipment failures can be avoided through proper care. Failure to do loop integrity checks can lead to failure of the breathing loop through leaks and flooding. Failure to check mouthpiece one-way valves (the only two moving parts in the breathing loop) can lead to hypercapnia (CO₂ build up). Failure to check gas supply and addition can lead to dangerous oxygen levels both high and low. A thorough log needs to be kept of the usage, or running hours, of the CO₂ scrubbing material, the batteries that may be required for the electronics and the oxygen sensors if these are used.

4) It is important to receive proper manufacturer recognised training and also to supplement that training with additional 'home study' and information on the design, or type of rebreather being used (there are many different types) and it's idiosyncrasies.

Finally, the fact rebreather use is growing, particularly in the areas of scientific research and filming, is testimony to their usefulness in many diving situations. If they are used in an informed manner they can provide great benefits, but uninformed or careless use of this mode of diving apparatus can be extremely dangerous.

Courtesy of Scott Leimroth

REMEMBER:

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

The **January meeting** – 18th January- will be the **AGM and the election of a new committee**. If you are interested in becoming committee member and are not sure what the individual members' functions are, ask them at either the December or January meetings

STOP PRESS.

On the 25th November club member Scott Egginton rang to say that all his diving gear had been stolen from his house. If anyone has been offered cheap gear or may have any information, please contact Scott on 9602 9918.

The equipment stolen consists of the following:

8 x 88 cu ft tanks (half of which are out of test)

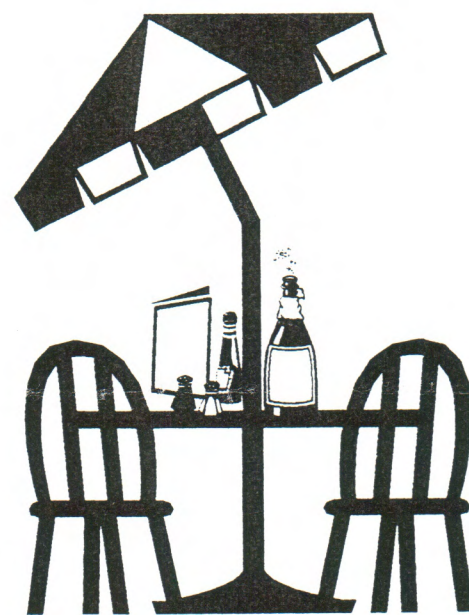
6 full sets of regulators/gauges

3 B/C's (Tusa Imprex, Sherwood Silhouette and a Dacor)

3 Computers-all wrist models (2 Sherwood Impulse and one Aladin Sport)

Three sets of Masks/Fins/Snorkels and weight belts

Scuba tool Kit



**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year**

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

- 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)

18th Night Dive and Cruise on Southern Comfort leaving Rose Bay at 7pm Cost \$ 30.00

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). Starts at 12.pm BYO meat and drinks. Club to supply BBQ and salads.

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, 14th December 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 16th November 1998

Meeting Opened: 8.05pm members & visitors welcomed by Peter Foster and was declared an informal meeting as only two committee members (Peter Foster and Peter Flockart) were present.

Apologies: Debbie Davis, Sarah Harlen, Gaynor Mason, Graham and Samantha Oates Paul Howlett, Jackie Owen,

Secretary (not present)

Minutes of previous meeting accepted by Gordon MacDonald seconded Peter Mason, after Gordon said that in the previous minutes that he had been against some points raised in the Marine Park proposals from Parks and Wildlife.

Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:

Amateur Rebreather Group newsletter, Terrigal Underwater newsletter, Doubts newsletter, URG newsletter, (list is incomplete)

Treasurers Report: November 1998

Graham Oates

Income (M'ship)	\$ 15.00	Cheque account balance	\$466.97
Expenses	\$159.60	Investment account	\$8143.67
Breakdown of Expenses:		Petty Cash	\$215.05
Postage	\$ 61.60		
Club Phone	\$ 26.00		
Dive Log Subscription	\$72.00		

Accepted by Martin Kandilas and Mark Spencer

Dive Organisers Report

Seal Rocks 27-29th November some places left (see Peter Foster)

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

6th December dive on Southern Comfort 7 am Rose Bay \$30.00

18th December night dive and cruise on Southern Comfort 7pm Rose Bay \$30.00

20th December a double dive with Max Western (Tuggerah and a reef dive) 10am Dolans Bay
\$ 60.00

Social Organiser: Xmas party Sunday 13th December at Gunamatta Park. Due to a lack of response from members it was suggested that it be BYO alcohol but people would have to book for meat and salad. Some people thought this difficult so Martin Kandilas moved a motion that people should self cater. The club will supply the BBQ and salads. This was all due to uncertain attendance and a problem that some members may have with wasting of funds. Party to start at 12pm
Motion accepted by John Beddie and Martin Kandilas.

Secondly a motion was moved that at the December meeting \$100.00 of the club funds would be placed on the bar so that members could enjoy a Xmas drink courtesy of the club.

Motion accepted by Peter Mason and John Harlen.

Photographic Officers Report: Nothing apart from what was in Wet Rag.

Publicity Officer: Not present

Equipment Officer: Glen Percy said all equipment present and accounted for anyone who can use it contact Glen at shop.

Dive Reports:

Martin Kandalis had a surprise trip to Lord Howe Island. Being in the right place at the right time he was able to fly over on trip where one person had dropped out. He dived with Jeff Deacon and his divemaster – Joel. Martin was at this stage one day short of 30 yrs of diving. Saw lots of kingfish, octopuses, crays and even a Spanish dancer. DM insisted that martin begin ascent at 100 bar however Martin stayed until had just 30 bar left and was consequently barred from diving by the DM for the rest of trip- the rest of the day. He also climbed Mt Gower.

Peter Foster had dived the Leap in November and had surfaced before the rest of the group due to a cramp. He asked directions from a fisho and ended up trying to mountain climb up the cliff face in full scuba gear. As Peter said, so much for the directions. The dive however was pleasant.

John Beddie dived last week (location not noted by minute taker) had 6 dives, attended a fancy dress where the prize was a weekend in Jervis Bay. Saw 9 grey Nurse sharks, weedy sea dragons and several juvenile Port Jackson's

Guest Speaker: This month was Rebecca Raap from The Marine & Coastal Community Network who gave a talk on the monitoring of sea dragons along the NSW coastline. She spoke on how the MCCN is trying to put together a map showing the distribution of both the weedy and leafy sea dragons around Australia. She asked if anyone was interested in helping with the program and took names of people to whom she would send information to later. (If anyone is interested please contact the committee for further info)

General Business: On the 21st November there will be a Ball(The Neptuna Ball) to raise money for Save the Ocean Foundation. This will be held at the Bondi Beach Pavilion and cost per ticket is \$75.00 – black tie.

Peter Mason spoke re the rules. He suggested that he add all the proposed changes to the current constitution. Peter will type them in, photocopy and hand them out at the AGM. The disc with all the amendments will then be returned to Debbie.

BREAK

No raffle to be held tonight - due to small number of members present it will be held over til next meeting.

Slide show by Glen Percy.

Meeting Closed: 9.50pm