

WET RAG

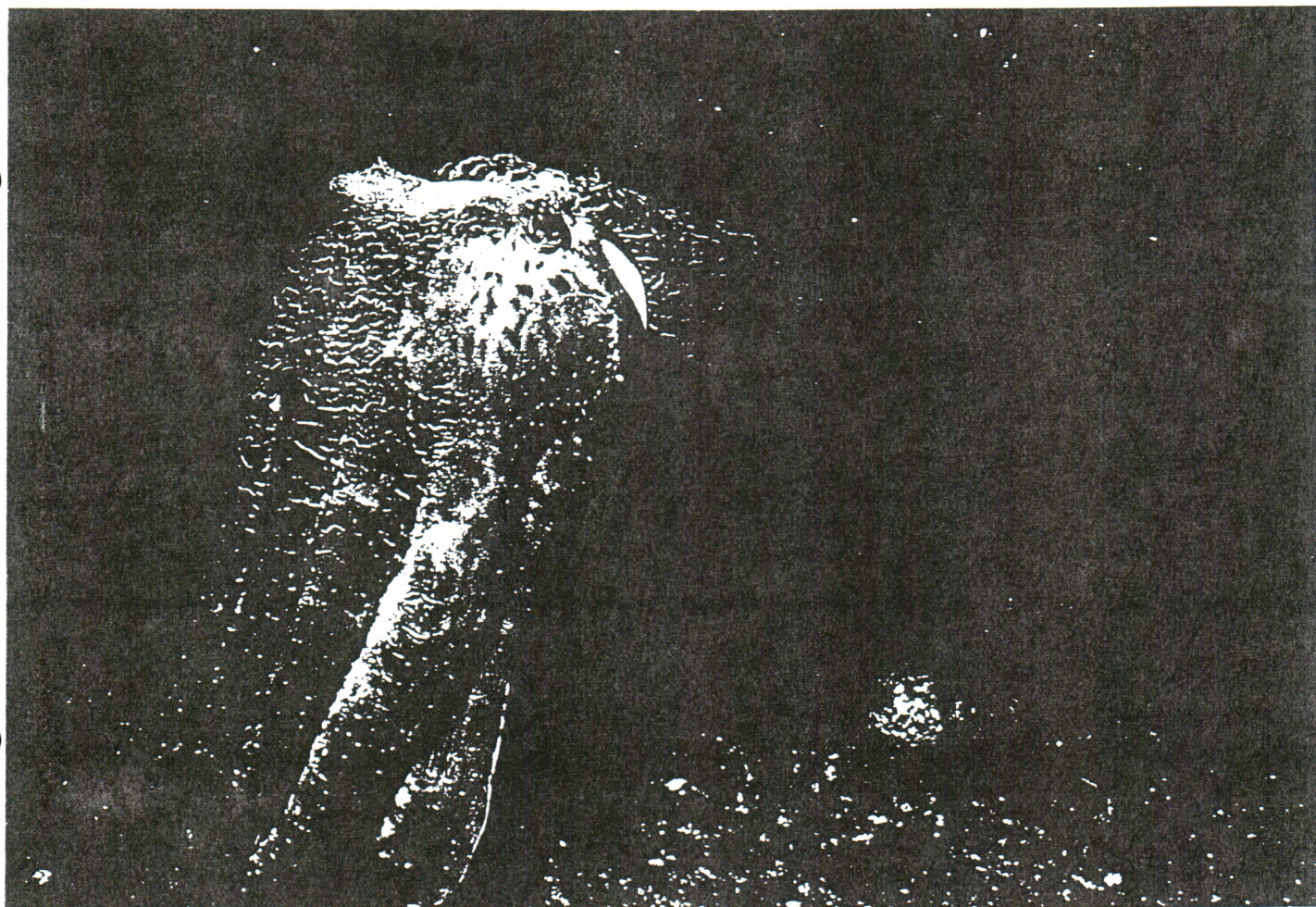
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS' CLUB (established 1962)



PO Box 823, BANKSTOWN NSW 2200

TELEPHONE: 0411 343 200

MAY 1999



Presentation of members slides and videos

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 Parade, Bankstown. This month's meeting will be held on Monday, 17th May 1999.

Presidents Tidings

At the last club meeting members present were, to say the least, surprised with the announcement of the sudden decision by Peter Foster to resign his position as club president. This decision was brought about by the enormous workload that has been thrust upon him recently since being relocated to the Olympic site. He will probably resurface in a few months.

The committee on reflection decided to bat on without a president, as we are having our Annual General Meeting in July. It would seem pointless to appoint a president for such a short period.

So come on members you have 2 months to lobby somebody to take-on this position.

Also at the last meeting Dive Organiser Peter Mason handed a letter of resignation to the club secretary also citing work commitments as reason for his decision.

We are sorry to see them go and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Photographic Officer's Report

Last months meeting was interesting in that I saw a good degree of interest in the club for the running of the George Roberts Memorial trophy this year.

With planning in the early stages it is envisaged that the comp will run in four sections over several months with the final score based on an aggregate of points accumulated from these sections. I would like to point out that shots entered in this competition must have been taken in temperate water **not** the tropics. So lets get snapping and start getting some good stuff. Also the comp will be divided into four sections, the first of which will be Macro!!

There will more info regarding this in next months Wet Rag.

DIVE REPORTS**MYOLA DIVE**

The plan.

1. To meet at Rose Bay at 8.00 am
2. To take the magnetometer for a test run over the wreck of the Myola with the assistance of Peter Fields the discoverer of the wreck.
3. To dive the Myola
4. To test the mag over some shallower

wrecks in the harbour.

The plan starts off badly Leo B is late again blaming traffic and traffic lights and anything else he could think of for his bad timing. In reality he is always bloody late!!!!

The morning weather was a typical Sydney Autumn day pleasant but slightly overcast. Unfortunately the seas were a little bit sloppy, maybe if we had all been on time they would have been flatter.

After battling the swell we finally arrived at the Myola and anchored on. By the time we had geared up we realised we were off the wreck and the anchor was firmly entrenched in the reef unfortunately pulled away. We decided to proceed with the dive and would locate the wreck once on the ocean floor.

Upon entering the water we were greeted with blue warm water, about 30 m + vis, the best Sydney had seen for a while.

We descended to the bottom where Jackie's gear decided to malfunction and she was forced to return to the surface, steam could be seen coming off her ears!!

Peter Flockart & Leo proceeded to locate the wreck some 50m from the anchor. A huge cuttlefish that was lurking near the prop greeted us. After rummaging through various crevices looking for goodies we swam up to the boiler before noticing our bottom time and returning to the anchor. The recovery of the anchor proved difficult due to it being wedged firmly in the reef. After 25 mins we left the ocean floor with the prospect of a 50min-deco time ahead. Boy was Fieldsy impressed!!!!!!**NOT!!!**

While on deco we saw lots of interesting plankton drifting by but the highlight was the appearance of two, one metre long wahoo swimming past. No we weren't hallucinating!!!!

By this time the seas were too rough to run the mag over the Myola so we head straight back into the harbour where we carried out a series of tests over the Centurion and the Centennial. The mag appears to work satisfactorily but we feel we should more often to determine its range.

A great day thanks Peter Fields you're a champion.

By Peter Flockart & Leo B

SPDC CHAMPAGNE & CHICKEN DAY

On Sunday, 18th April, the Club held its first Champagne & Chicken Day for the year.

About 10 divers turned up to Frenchman's Bay bright and early at 8.30am, together with 3 boats (Martin Kandalis, John Beddie and Peter Fields – thanks very much guys!!).

The boats headed out in various directions. Peter Fields, Leo B, Peter Flockart and I attempted a dive on the Kelloe. Unfortunately, the seas weren't great and the viz was even worse. From 20m down, the water became blacker and blacker and blacker. We knew we'd hit the bottom when we felt the sand. We didn't bother leaving the anchor and ascended straight back to the boat. First dive I've ever done without seeing as much as a single fish swim by. Oh well, maybe next time!

Back at the beach at Frenchman's, we arrived to find about 20 - 25 people happily mulling around a heap of chicken, champagne, beer and the BBQ. A great way to spend the afternoon after a dive.

I was really pleased with the day. This was a chance for club members and their families to get together and get to know each other. Thanks very much to our boat drivers for providing your boats and to all the club members who came, for being part of the day. I'll definitely organise more of these club days later this year.

Regards,

Jackie Rotenstein

PS Just a word about the club phone – please use it!! A couple of people arrived after the boats left and missed out on having a dive on the day. If you're going to be late – not a problem, just tell someone so we know you're coming and we'll wait for you if we can.

CANCELLED DIVES

The Ulladulla trip for the 1st and 2nd May was cancelled due to 6-7m waves, hail and huge rainstorms. Apparently the viz wasn't all that great either!! I have re-scheduled the trip to the 24th and 25th July.

I also had to cancel the search day on Sunday, 15th May due to a lack of available boats. It seems that all the boats were headed to dive the Tuggerah that Sunday for the Tuggerah's 80th anniversary. I have re-scheduled this day to Sunday, 6th June (with the second club search day still happening on Sunday, 18th July).

UPCOMING DIVES AND DIVE TRIPS

We've got a heap of dives and dive trips organised for the next couple of months. If you'd like to come to any of these please let me know (preferably before the dives) or leave a

message on the club phone.

Jervis Bay weekend: Peter Flockart has organised a weekend on the MV Indulgence this coming weekend (Friday 21st May to Sunday 23rd May) I believe that there are still 2-3 places left. \$275 for the weekend, which covers all dives, food and accommodation on the boat. Please call Peter direct about this if you would like to come along.

Club Search Day: Sunday 6th June. The first club search day has been re-scheduled for this day. On this day, we will be showing club members how the magnetometer works by using it over a known wreck for a while and then search some "obstructions" on the sea charts. Bring your dive gear. If we find something, we can dive it; otherwise, we can always dive a known wreck and have another go with the mag on the next search day. Cost of the boat for the day to be shared amongst the divers.

Terrigal/Norah Heads: June long weekend (12th, 13th and 14th June). Cost of \$30 per dive or \$55 per double dive with Terrigal Dive Centre. Accommodation is still being arranged. Come up for a day or two or three. Dives include Foggy's Cave, the Skillion and the wreck of the Kiama.

The Bombo, Wollongong: Sunday, 27th June Double Dive 8am and 12pm. There are only a couple of places left for this dive on the morning and lunchtime dives. Please let me know ASAP if you would like to come on this dive. Cost will be about \$15 to 20 per person per dive.

Coolooli (Long reef) and Midway Reef: Sunday 11th July. Leaving 7am (sharp) from Rose Bay wharf. Cost \$60 for the double dive (including a light lunch). Back about 1.30pm.

Club Search Day: Sunday 18th July. Second club search day.

Ulladulla weekend: 24th and 25th July. Same deal as in May. \$160 includes 4 dives (2 dives on Brush Island on the Saturday, 3 airfills and 2 night's accommodation at the lodge next door to the dive shop (and a 1-minute walk from the pub and the shops). We can also do a night dive if any one wants to.

With all of these dives, I really need to know who's coming to what dive. If you put your name down for a dive - please let me know if

you later decide you can't make it. Equally, if you decide that you are coming - please tell me.
Cheers and good diving,
Jackie

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Here is the fourth in the series "Nudibranchs around Sydney".

COMMON NAME (None Known)

SCIENTIFIC NAME : Polycera capensis

DISTRIBUTION : Originally from Sth Africa, it is now common along the NSW Coast.

HABITAT : Rocky reef and weed.

DEPTH RANGE : 0 - 22 m

ADULT SIZE : 80 mm

NOTES:

This nudibranch represents one of the harmless arrivals from overseas via ships bilge water. First documented along the NSW coast in 1956 by Prof Dakin in Australian Seashores, who noted that it occurred in great numbers in the Spring / Summer months when the blue green algae *Bulga* sp is at its most abundant.

The animal colour is a greenish white with several black patches; a yellow stripe runs from the gills to the end of the tail.

Pistule, tentacles and rhinophores are yellow with the gills a dark green

The head has six tentacles, which are well evident also, the rhizophores and gills, which are protected from predators by a basket, shaped pistule.

Reference:

Dive Observations

Nudibranchs of Australasia by Neville Coleman

INTERESTING ARTICLE

The 4th June will mark the anniversary of the Battle of Midway some 57 years ago. In the April edition of National Geographic there is an article on the battle, which saw the destruction of a large part of the Japanese fleet. It also saw the sinking of the American aircraft carrier Yorktown by a Jap submarine.

The article details the search and subsequent discovery of this carrier in 16,650 feet of water on May 2nd 1998 by Robert Ballard. It has good photos and a computer enhanced drawing of the wreck-sitting upright on the bottom.

The 23 pages devoted to the article make for engrossing reading.

RAFFLES

NITROX COURSE

Last months first prize of a Nitrox Course, which was donated by Southern Cross Divers was won by Graham Poole

This an example of the fantastic prizes you can win if you come to the monthly meetings

We really do appreciate the support given to the club with these prizes and in this case Southern Cross - Stanmore.

Well done and thanks Costa !!

MEMO

Last months edition of the Wet rag promised a video on Truk Lagoon to be presented by Mark Dietz. Unfortunately Mark's dad's house had been severely damaged in the hailstorm and he had spent most of that weekend and the following Monday repairing this damage so that the house was in a habitable state.

Hopefully we will get to see thew video at the coming meeting.

Club members Glen & Maria Townsend's house was also severely damaged. We wish these members well in their hour of need.

SOLOMONS TRIP

Departing on Saturday 31st July

Returning Friday 13th August

12 nights / 11 days

5 days Tulagi and 5 days Honiara

Cost around \$2500.

Package includes all airfares and transfers

12 nights accom, meals whilst in Tulagi

For further information and exact itinerary contact Leo B ASAP.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS the following members are on the committee for the 1999-year.

Position	Name	Home No:	Work No:
President:	Vacant		
Treasurer:	Graham Oates	9769 0098	9722 4813
	Email:		
Secretary:	Mark Spencer	9821 3740	Mobile: 0148 975 398
	Email: Davis@3-net.com.au		
Photographic Officer:	Peter Flockart	9371 0265	9374 8324
	Email: Nelson01@bigpond.com		Fax: 9374 2688
Publicity Officer:	Leo Bergagnin	9558 25920	9517 2853
	Email:		Mobile: 0419 517 285
Dive Organiser:	Jackie Rotenstien	9904 7843	9930 7501
	E-mail: jackie.rotenstein@nortonsmith.com.au		
Equipment Officer:	Glen Percy (Aquasports)		9708 2826
Newsletter Editor:	Peter Flockart		

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
Martin Kandilas	9725 7808	9725 7808
		042 74 0210

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	9531 1518
	Captain Cook Drive, Caringbah	
Aqua Sports	Glen Percy at 430 Hume Highway	9708 2826
	Yagoona	
Beverley's Restaurant	Peter or Bev at 1 - 9 Meagher St	9310 4878
	Chippendale	
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

RAFFLE PRIZES for May Meeting.

- 1st
- 2nd 1 x Air Card (10 fills) from Aquasports(Yagoona)
- 3rd Boat dive on Sea Tamer II
- 4th Two air fills from Shiprock Dive

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.

UPCOMING DIVING ACTIVITIES

Contact Numbers: Jackie Rotenstien 9930 7501(wk) or by email

May

22nd & 23rd Weekend on the Indulgence at Jervis Bay. 2 days 5 dives. Great Boat Great Dives. If the Australia Day weekend was anything to go by – not one to be missed. \$275 per person. Any queries contact Peter Flockart 9371 - 0265.

June

12th – 14th Long Weekend diving at Terrigal & Norah Head diving with Les & Fran Graham For further details see the Dive Organiser at the meeting.

27th Dive on the Bombo. Dives will be at 8 am and midday. Places are limited, so if your name isn't on the list yet check with Jackie at the next meeting

July

11th A Double dive on Southern Comfort. Leaving from Rose Bay at 7am Cost will be \$60. Dives will include the Coolooli and Midway Reef.

18th Club Search day using the magnetometer

24th & 25th Ulladulla This is the weekend originally set down for May. Cost \$160 Incl 4 dives / air and accom.

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.

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, 17th May 1999.**

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

Solomon's Trip

Proposed dates : first two weeks of August

The plan is to travel to Honiara: the first group of six divers will travel to Tulagi for 5 days while the second will go to Munda for 5 days. Returning to Honiara, where the two groups will regather for the balance of the trip. Costs will differ depending on which location you choose.

Contact Leo B for further details.

Wet Rag, the South Pacific Divers' Club Newsletter, is published by South Pacific Divers' Club. Edited by Peter Flockart.



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 April 1999**

Meeting Opened: 8.20pm members & visitors welcomed by Mark Spencer handed over to Leo Bergagnin in Peter Fosters absence.

Apologies: John Beddie, Mark & Debbie Dietz, Glen Townsend, Martin & Ilona Kandilas, Peter Foster

Secretary:

Mark Spencer

Minutes of previous meeting accepted by Jackie Rotenstien seconded by Darren Wright

Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:

Douglas Hoffman, CBA, GIO, Maritime Museum, Dept of Fair Trading-business registration, BDSC, One-Tel, Two Fold Dive-Eden, Florist, Doubts newsletter, URG newsletter, TUG, Liverpool City Council

Treasurer's Report: April 1999

Graham Oates

to follow

Accepted by Louise Wilson Seconded by Debbie Davis

Dive Organisers Report

Jackie Rotenstien & Peter Mason.

All information in Wet Rag, Sunday 18-04-99 Chicken Champagne A good day, 20 people attended, worthwhile having in future 1st & 2nd May Ulladulla. 2 vacancies left, June long weekend Terrigal \ Norah Head. 27th June Bombo 8.00 and 12.00 possible extra dive with United Divers. Used mag last Friday, works OK. Organise club search days, 16th May, 18th June junior divers & new members welcome, look for new wrecks, BBQ afterwards. Members unable to arrive on time to ring on club phone Jackie asked for any e-mail addresses

Social Organiser: Position Vacant

Photographic Officer:

Peter Flockart

Article in Wet-Rag form Sportdiving magazine on photographic gear. Asked for interest in "George Robert's Comp", little interest shown only 2 people to date, need 12 approx. How many persons within club are doing photography? (12 replied), will arrange format for next month. (Noel Taylor will organise 1st prize.) Run comp over 2-3 months, 1 section each month NT-restrict comp within NSW waters. GP-Keep within temperate water, run comp over several months, show sections at meeting. PFL-macro 1 month portrait next, wide angle etc., members to judge slides at on night

Publicity Officer:

Leo Bergagnin

Equipment Officer:

Glen Percy

All equipment OK. Mag being used, Fee for Mag-charge for looking for wreck, rather than doing test. LB-part of original discussion-to use mag on your own there was a fee, \$20 for a search day & kept information for yourself. GP-if mag is out for 4 days & on water for 1 day the fee is \$20. LB-treat it as any other club equipment, there to be used. John Beddie replaced damaged connections cost \$30. JR mag works well,

small amount of corrosion on battery pack, loud speaker not working \$10 to replace
Dive Reports: Martin-Night dive at Stoney Creek, old wreck, Sea Whips, Basket Stars, good vis. Next day dived The Banks 3-knot current drift dive holding onto anchor line

Noel-Night dive 3 weeks ago at Kurnell, saw Harlequin Ghost Pipe Fish, rare species-usually found in tropics. Darren-lost MX-10 camera on same dive. Glen saw pipe fish at Legends-Shellharbour. Two weeks ago dived at Foster saw White pointer shark. PFL-dived Myola 1 mtr vis.

BREAK

Leo-called for speakers for and against keeping of mag.

Mark Hamilton-How many people within club will actually use mag?

Martin-that may depend on the terms of usage

Leo-If members want to use the mag for nothing, up to members to stand on the floor & say we want to use the mag for nothing.

Martin-I'll propose that now

Leo- can't do, on the point that we are voting on the mag

Glen- as equipment officer it has been 7 months before it was taken out, since discussion started it has been used several times, the whole debate is based on a piece of equipment not being used all the time. It does cost the club money, paid for as an investment it should show some return or cover cost. \$20 fee should only be paid for days in water, it is a \$3500 piece of equipment.

Leo-stay on the point

JR-A point to reply to Mark H, asking how many members will have use, is important to note that a lot of members within the club have never seen a mag before, have no way of knowing if they will get use of it. With search days we can teach members this is a mag, this is what it can do and promote the use of it.

Leo-Bearing in mind, young people coming through the system may get a passion for wrecks & start looking.

NT-Answer question just raised, I'm the one that proposed the sale of the mag in the first place, reason was to calm the problems we had and for the last 7-8 months, when it had not been used. My intention in the long run was to give it up or use it

Alan Greig-Have 3 targets up the coast, been working in Tamworth for last 12 months. If we happen to find anything, everyone can share, divers & photographers. I'm in favour of keeping it.

Leo- anyone to speak on selling the mag (no response). Are members happy to vote by hand (unanimous)? Motion Put. Those people wanting the mag sold raise hands

Attendance 34 Proxy vote-5 Abstain 5 Vote to keep mag 33. Vote to sell mag 0

Leo-called for members to speak of purchase of scanner

Glen- In favour of purchase. We do run the AUPY & by history are a photographic club, the club should foster under-water photography. A number of previous SPDC members have taken up photography & have won the AUPY. In past production, duping, in housework was done within the club, over years has thinned out. The points Noel put, as usage is concerned are there. Benefit photographers within club.

PFL- Worth buying. If decide to purchase, rather than dipping into club funds, organise raffles etc. to raise money to purchase scanner. We have \$8k in bank, the basis of AV costs, if dipping into kitty any further as will not have enough money to

back ourselves for AUPY 2000

NT- Will benefit club in promoting the club, within the dive industry, which is where we want to sell tickets. Do presentations on PowerPoint, put into stores to help with sale of tickets. Willing to help write program, promoting club & night

PFL. Cost \$400 for duping, slides have been duped & sent to magazines for promotion, unfortunately slides have not been returned in some cases. On CD we have a permanent record.

PM What is the cost?

NT- Slide scanners \$990 RRP, CD-Writer \$700, Aluminium case \$200, all up change from \$2000.

Tom B- Where will it be installed, has the club a computer

GP Stand alone item

DW- CD writer are external, plugs into parallel or printer ports

Leo -Any more comments?, go to vote then.

Attendance 34 Proxy-5, Abstain-6, Vote to purchase-18, Vote not to buy-8

Leo- Can I ask members to support the committee in conjunction with Noel Taylor to look for the equipment & report to next club meeting with proposal of costs?

PM- And discuss & decide the method of finance, leaving the club funds as they are and organise funds for it etc.

Leo- Approval for purchase of CD-Writer & Scanner subject to final proposal & proposal of finance (hire rates). The members to have final say when it is time to purchase equipment

Raffle

1st Prize	Nitrox Course-Southern Cross Divers	Graham Poole
2nd Prize	1x Air Card (10 fills) Aqua Sports	Peter Flockart
3rd Prize	Boat dive on Sea Tamer II	Heinz Bendinger
4th Prize	Two air fills Shiprock Dive	Rod Taylor

Slide and Video presentation by Peter Flockart & Leo B

General Business

Two resignations were tendered those of Peter Foster-President. Peter Mason-Dive Organiser

Meeting Closed: 10.20pm