

# WET RAG



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

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

JULY 1999

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**ANNUAL**

**GENERAL**

**MEETING**

**JULY 19TH**

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, 21<sup>st</sup> June 1999.



**From the Committee**

The July meeting will be the Annual General Meeting for the club and as has been previously advised. This will see the end of the current committee's term of office.

We would like to thank all those members who have assisted us over the past six months and hope that this level of support will be maintained.

**Photographic Officer's Report**

Attached is the entry form for the George Roberts Trophy, best of luck to all entrants.

There is an article from Noel Taylor further in the magazine on the Basics of Underwater Photography. This is the first in a series that will help some of the budding photographers in the club.

Since last meeting I have had a look at some of the scanners and CD writers available on the market. The prices obtained by Noel Taylor seem to represent good value for money. Listed below are some prices (retail) I have obtained for slide/print scanners:

Polaroid SS 35LE \$1218.00

Polaroid SS35 plus \$2582.00

Nikon LS 2000 \$ 2598.00

I was able to price two scanners:

Kodak Digital 4802 IDE CD - R/RW  
\$506.00

Ricoh RW 226 \$895.00

The shops I looked at said that if bought as a package they would be able to reduce the price. However if you know someone in the business still cheaper prices can be obtained.

They all do the same job but at different resolutions. As outgoing photographic officer I hope that whatever is chosen scans material at sufficient resolution to be of use to the club.

**NEWS FLASH**

**Aquatic Explorers** have purchased a new dive boat, Voyager that is 10m in length. It comes complete with radar, toilet and BBQ facilities.

It is 2/3 enclosed with the rear deck open.

It will replace Aquatic Explorer 2 (broadbill).

It has a capacity for 12 divers & 2 crew. Currently being trialed around Port Hacking, further details will be available shortly.

We hear along the grapevine that Aquatic Explorer 2 is for sale. Anyone interested PH Lee/ Steve at the shop on 9531 1518

**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.

**Beef & Burgundy Day 8<sup>th</sup> August****Frenchman's Bay**

Our last theme day at Frenchman's Bay in April proved to be popular and if the current blue water condition continue til August this will be a ripsnorter. Five boats at this stage have been organised so divers are needed!!!

Departing from Frenchman's Bay many varied dive sites can be accessed from deep to shallow. Anyone preferring to a shore dive can do so then join us for lunch at their leisure. No excuse for missing this club day as all levels of diving are catered for, all families are more than welcome and there is plenty of parking available and all conveniences are located nearby.

Please contact Jackie on 0411 343 200 or let us know at the next club meeting.

We need to know numbers so no one will miss out on lunch

**Ulladulla weekend:** 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August. 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



## SOLOMONS TRIP

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June 1999 the Sun Herald carried the following headlines " Guerillas shoot at Aussie divers" and it goes on to explain how a couple of Aussie divers were stuck in the water for four hours while one of the locals was using them for target practice.

How true this article is, I'm not sure so a call was placed to the department of foreign Affairs. Advice was given to avoid the Solomon's unless on essential business due to the current racial tensions. We have abandoned this trip and are now off to Vanuatu:

Departing on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September

Returning Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September

1 night in Vila

10 nights in Santo at the Deco Stop

Due to the nature of the diving on the Coolidge and the abundance of accommodation we still have space for three more divers.

Cost for the trip will be under \$1800

If interested call Leo B on 0419 517 285

## DIVE REPORTS

On Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> July, Peter's Flockart 7 Foster, Jackie R, Leo B and Tom B departed from Rose Bay aboard Southern Comfort and motored to the north side to dive the scuttled bucket dredge - Coolooli lying in 48 metres of water off Long Reef. On the way we stopped at Long Reef to collect an unknown diver. This person was a mobile dive store leading other divers to query whether we had picked up a hawker of dive gear. To the best of our memory some of the equipment on offer was twin tanks, nitrox hang tank, three computers a watch, curved around the forearm slate with dive tables, numerous knives torches strobe lift bag B/C wings and an EPIRB. Curiously looking at him as he climbed aboard a somewhat confused Leo B was heard to ask the obvious question where "the xyz abc !!" are you going to dive. We then proceeded to the dive site where Leo B suggested to a similarly attired Tom Byron you two guys should buddy together. Tom's reply - NO!! (The author has paraphrased Tom's reply)

Before we entered the water a large dusky albatross alighted on the water near the boat. As we stepped into the blue water and before descending to the wreck several divers were greeted by a seal, which quickly swam off. The limp rope and chain of the anchor lay next to

the stern of the Coolooli indicating a distinct lack of current.

On the wreck was sighted a purple fairy basslet, a fish normally found in tropical waters but very much at home here. In one of the compartments some gauges with glass are still visible. Underneath the wreck one of the divers located a sink whose taps can still be turned. However no water comes out these days.!!!

While completing deco the divers saw a number of long Salps floating by in the water column.

We reboarded the boat and headed back to Long Reef to drop off the mobile dive store before anchoring in calmer water for cup of soup. After a surface interval of 1 hr 30 mins we set off for the second dive site - Midway Reef.

This was a pleasant reef dive with plenty of colour but very little fish life and after reboarding Southern Comfort enjoyed a pleasant trip back to Rose Bay.

### FOR SALE

Sea Hornet Mark 1 First Stage

BRAND NEW \$200.00

Phone Heinz Bendinger on 9726 - 7060

### Memorable Quotes:

At a recent committee meeting Jackie r was overheard asking Peter Flockart "Have you had a leak in your Drysuit yet ???". A bemused Peter F allowed the comment to go through to the keeper!!

Overheard as Russell was parking his car the other day Graham Oates turned to his wife and said "Oh look Russell is wearing his car again"

It's one of those you had to be there comments.

For those of you who don't know< Russell drives a Mitsubishi Mirage.

### RAFFLE PRIZES for July Meeting

1<sup>st</sup> Boat dive on Sea Tamer II

2<sup>nd</sup> 1x Hydro test & fill from Aqua Sports (Yagoona)

3<sup>rd</sup> Two air fills from Shiprock Dive



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

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

<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
Martin Kandilas	0145 400 403	

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact:</b>	<b>Phone No:</b>
<b>Aquatic Explorers</b>	Steve or Lee at 3/82-84	9531 1518
	Captain Cook Drive, Caringbah	
<b>Aqua Sports</b>	Glen Percy at 430 Hume Highway	9708 2826
	Yagoona	
<b>Beverley's Restaurant</b>	Peter or Bev at 1 – 9 Meagher St	9310 4878
	Chippendale	
<b>Dive Quest</b>	Chris or Gary at Mullaway	066 54 1930
<b>Sea Tamer II Charter</b>	Max Western 9524 1818 or	
	018 280 791	
<b>Shiprock Dive</b>	Leo or Lesley at Lilli Pilli	9526 2664
<b>Southern Cross Divers</b>	Barry at The Spit Marina	9969 5072
<b>Southern Cross Divers</b>	Geoff at Stanmore	9568 1517
<b>South West Rocks Dive</b>	Noel or Belinda	02 6566 6474
<b>Twofold Dive Charters</b>	Peter or Lorna at Eden	02 6496 3384



## 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 0411 343 200 or by email

### August

14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 19th July 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

### AGM Brief description of Committee Positions

**PRESIDENT:** This position is for someone with enthusiasm who would enjoy being at the helm of a high profile dive club. Chair all meetings and be spokesperson for the club.

**TREASURER:** You don't need to be an accountant but need an ability to add up, keep neat records and assist with fund raising. Previous experience in extracting teeth from a puma is an advantage!!

**SECRETARY:** Be able to take neat legible minutes, circulate incoming correspondence and keep organised records.

The next three positions are important in the coming 12 months and go hand in hand:

**PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICER:** Have some photographic knowledge, organise the George Roberts and Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Comp, be organised and able to field dumb questions in a single bound.

**PUBLICITY OFFICER:** Oversee the club's exposure through media publications and assist with the development of the web site.

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Be able to produce an interesting and informative monthly newsletter.

**DIVE ORGANISER(S):** Organise interesting dives for members to undertake.

**SOCIAL ORGANISER(S):** Hasn't been filled for some time. Would be interesting to get the social side of the club moving again.

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.



# Underwater Photography Basics (Part 1)

by Noel Taylor

This article is the first of a series on underwater photography.

We will first look at the basics of underwater photography and then concentrate on point and shoot cameras in housings and the Sea & Sea Motormarine II EX amphibious camera. Later topics include wide angle and macro techniques, advanced topics, and finally Nikons and housed SLR systems.

One of the more important things to understand about underwater photography is that it is very dim down there. Our eyes are marvels of imaging hardware and along with the software encoded in the brain we can accommodate very well to the low light levels, however the camera cannot. Not only is there limited light available, but it is pretty much one color, blue (or green in temperate waters). This is due to the selective color absorption of water, the opposite of a red sunset. So if you want to see color deeper than 3m, you need a flash unit (strobe).

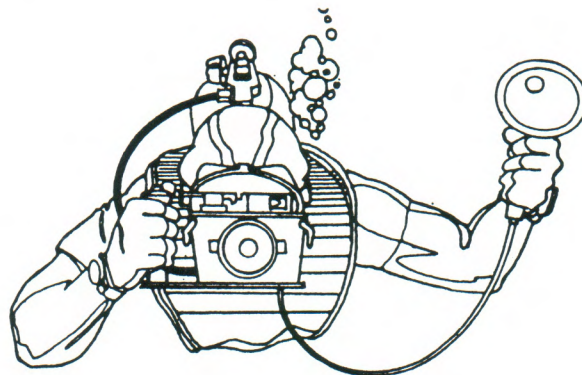
Another thing to realize about underwater photography is that there is a lot of stuff in the water besides water (also why it's so dim). These suspended particles block light and create backscatter from your strobe. So not only do you need a strobe, you need to place it correctly to minimize lighting the water between your subject and the camera--usually up and to the left (more on this later). I noticed a remarkable difference with an Ikelite aquashot when I started using the accessory slave strobe instead of the internal flash. Nonetheless, it is still possible to get great shots using only the internal flash on a point and shoot camera, particularly in clear water.

So it's dim and cloudy underwater. That makes it even more important to get close to your subject, to minimize the "stuff" you have to shoot through. Many point and shoot cameras only allow you to get 1 metre away from your subject, so get that close. Even a very powerful strobe won't light a subject more than 2 metres away effectively. This is why wide angle lenses are the

lenses of choice for underwater shooting as they allow you to get closer, but more on that later.

Part of the whole art of underwater photography is being stealthy and getting close to your quarry. Finally there's the background. If

you want a dim or black background, get deep and point your camera down. If you want some light in your background, stay shallow and point up. So not only do you have to get close to your subject, you want to try and get below it, remembering not hit the bottom and stir up all the backscatter particulate we've talked about avoiding. This is why buoyancy is critical in underwater photography, make sure you practice it extensively before picking up the camera. So it's dim, monochromatic and cloudy down there, you have to get close and shoot up. You must have a flash if you want to see color, and have it separate from the camera if you want to avoid particle backscatter. Confused yet? Wait, we've only just begun. Next time we'll get more specific about camera settings on housed point and shoots and the Sea and Sea Motormarine II and the many inherent trade-offs.



## Photo Tip

*How not to forget your photo equipment when packing for a vacation.*

*Set your camera up completely with lens(es) and strobe(s) before you pack it. Then break it down piece by piece and put it into a photo case. Do the same for your wide-angle and close-up/macro setup also.*



# SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB INC

## POSTAL & or PROXY FOR VOTING for the Annual General Meeting

PO Box 823, Bankstown, NSW, 2200

To be held in July 19<sup>th</sup>. At Bankstown Sports Club.

Please nominate your preferred candidate and position:

☐

Nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

☐

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

☐

☐

☐

☐

**OR**

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_ to vote on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

☐

☐



**ENTRY FORM**  
**GEORGE ROBERTS PERPETUAL TROPHY**  
**1999**

Name:.....

Address.....P'CODE.....

Contact No.....

Entry Fee enclosed .....

Slide Titles:        1.....        2.....

                         3.....        4.....

                         5.....

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I hereby state that I have read all the rules of the competition and acknowledge that failure to comply or give false information can lead to disqualification.

Dated...../...../.....

Signature.....



**Minutes of the meeting of South Pacific Divers Club  
at Bankstown Sports Club  
Monday 21st June 1999**

**Meeting Opened:** 8.10pm members & visitors welcomed by Jackie Rotenstien.  
Chairpersons comments:- Next month in the Wet Rag the club will outline all the details of the committee positions vacant, if people are interested in these positions please advise accordingly or accept nomination on the night, we need people of diverse interest which will benefit the club.

**Apologies:** Peter Mason, Graham Oates, Glen Percy

**Secretary:** **Mark Spencer**

Minutes of previous meeting accepted by Heinz Bendinger seconded by Duane Langley

**Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:**

CBA, One-Tel, URG, Douts, TUG, Three letters of reply from sponsors for AUPY 2000

**Treasurers Report: May 1999**

**Graham Oates**

No report Graham absent

**Dive Organisers Report**

**Jackie Rotenstien**

All information in Wet Rag, July 11th Coolly/ Midway reef, 18th July Club search day using the Magnetometer Ulladulla set for 24th-25th July. . August 8th Beef & Burgundy day at Frenchman's Bay Tour of Hyperbaric Chamber at Prince Henry Hospital need minimum of 15 people Asked for any e-mail addresses

Leo:- Tour to the Solomon Islands has been cancelled due to civil unrest. In September a tour to Vanuatu has been organised, diving of the "Coolidge" leaving on the 6th Sept returning approx. 18th Sept

**Social Organiser:** Position Vacant

**Photographic Officer:**

**Peter Flockart**

Peter thanked Noel Taylor for helping with a format for the "George Robert's Competition", the comp will start in August, slides presented in Sept will be judged in October etc. Final prize will be awarded at the December meeting. In the July Wet-Rag an entry form for the comp will be enclosed. This will be my last year as Photographic Officer as work commitments prevent me from standing again, will help the new Officer.

**Publicity Officer:**

**Leo Bergagnin**

Beef & Burgundy day at Frenchman's Bay 8th August.

**Equipment Officer:**

**Glen Percy**

Not report Glen absent

Heinz:- has Sea-Hornet regulator for sale

**Dive Reports:**

**Jackie-** Asked members to contribute dive reports to the News Letter editor.

**Phil Dale-** dived North Solitary island, saw whales & dolphins.

**Jackie-** dived the "Myola", good vis I am enjoying deeper dives now, "Annie Miller last weekend.

**BREAK**



## **General Business**

**Duane**-Matter of scanner & CD writer the club has decided to purchase

**Jackie**:-several meetings ago we decided to buy a scanner & writer, has been approved by the members, the only question remains, which scanner to buy.

**Duane**:- last meeting we decided to look into stores in which to purchase from.

**Jackie**:- asked Peter for report.

**Peter**:- apologised for not having done so, too busy at work.

**Noel**:- I submitted the prices last meeting.

**Duane**:-a) we've decided to buy a scanner, b)had some discussion on it, c)People will look at it next month. If it is a problem of raising money for these items as far as raffle tickets are concerned, ask members for a donation.

**Leo**:-no question about raising money, the original proposal was thrown out to raise funds

**Duane**:-decided 2 months ago to buy scanner & writer, last month there was info from where it could be purchase from, I believe Mitch has some contacts within this field.

**Leo**:-haven't seen any thing yet apart a slip of paper passed from Noel. As a club member I would like to see brochures of the items to be purchased

**Noel**:-asked to supply prices only

**Leo**:-not going to go back to original motion which said "we will raise funds first", no one said we should stay with that motion.

**Mark**:-at the end of last months minutes is the list of items and prices presented by Noel

**Martin**:-when these items are purchased where are they stored

**Jackie**:-the equipment officer or the photographic officer

**Noel**:-it should be stored with the equipment officer, then anyone can book it out

**Jackie**:-any club member can use it on their PC

**Martin**:-have to be careful with licensing

**Leo**:- I thought part of the original proposal was that this was to be decided before the items purchased anyway. If you read the original motion part of the deal was to have a set of guidelines issued

**Jackie**:-Peter, myself, Noel & Mitch have some homework to do before next months meeting, will have brochures available

## **Raffle**

1st Prize	Boat dive on Sea Tamer II	Phil Dale
2nd Prize	1x Dive slate kit from Aqua Sports	Graham Poole
3rd Prize	Two air fills Shiprock Dive	Duane Langley

Meeting Closed: 10.20pm