



## WET RAG

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

AUGUST 1999  
*September*

IF NOT DELIVERED WITHIN 7 DAYS  
PLEASE RETURN TO  
SPDC  
PO BOX 823,  
BANKSTOWN NSW 2200

- **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** If you or any member of your family are offered a De Walt power saw still in the box, back of the truck special, **OPEN** the box and make sure that it is in fact a power saw and **NOT** 100 copies of this months wet rag complete with **ALL** the disks containing the September Wet Rag. It was Stolen from my car on Wednesday last at Erskinville. So please excuse the fact that this edition is Late and may contain more than the usual amount of mistakes, typo's and bad formatting...

*Whitey*

In this edition of the Wet Rag:

- We look at the Third Part in the series of Noel Taylors Photographic hints
- Tom Byron writes an article on the history of SCUBA Diving in Australia.
- We hear about members recent dives
- And of course we find out when we are next Diving!!!!!!



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, 20 September 1999**



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Bernie Kraul

I could not help but notice that our Willow Tree has started sprouting fresh greenery, and my Wife gives me these strange looks!? Oh...Ohh, it must be Springtime. Yes its Springtime alright, the season of renewal and warmer Weather. The 'Weather', the most talked about topic by shy people and Meteorologists will finally be balmier. Just remember, Climate is what we expect but Weather is what we get. I have listened over the last three months, to much talk about how cold this winter has been, in fact, some say the coldest on record yet!! For me this is a load of Boobypops. Lets all go on a short imagined journey to a place on Earth where it is "COLD" ... To Antarctica. Do you know what Emperor Penguins do in the dark Winter months?? The Females stuff an egg into their mate's pocket and then walk off to the sea and Dive. That's not too bad, but what about the males?? Well the blokes do nothing but waddle around in circles while they're getting their backsides crystallised by a raging snowstorm!?! You can see now that our existence seems like a piece of cake compared to the Penguins'. So next time remember the next time when you are getting in or out of your Wet Suit in a cold, biting Wind originating from snow-covered mountain-tops, It could be a lot worse!!! So cheer up Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Fraulein's, have a great time over the next few months. Let our Dive organisers know you like to go diving, surely there is something or somewhere that takes you fancy to dive on.

As for now I'd like to see you all at the next club meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> Sept at 8 PM

Be there!!!

Bernie



## Photographic officers report

The George Roberts Memorial Competition is in action now and I'm pleased by some of the feedback from both old and new members who are getting slides together to enter. Remember this competition is one that **ANYONE** in the club can win because of the points and handicap system, but like they say (whoever "they" are) **"you gotta be in it to win it."**

We've got some great prizes for the talented winners donated by **Aqualung Australia, Sea & Sea, Dive Quest, Forster Fisherman's Wharf and South West Rocks Marine Centre**. So get your slides (up to 5 per month) sorted and remember you must have your first month's entries to me by the close of the September meeting.

As to the AUPY (I'll use AUPY in future articles instead of **Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Awards 2000** because it takes me too long to type!) the projection system was tested at the Sports Club last month and results were really encouraging. We're now looking at units with longer lenses to clean up the placement issues. But more on that later.

I have a base committee together now, but would like to hear from anyone in the club that is **GENUINELY** interested in working to make this the best night ever. Remember this isn't a one-man show, but **OUR CLUB'S SHOWPIECE** to divers all over the world, and we want to do the best we can. That means using the talent that lies in our members, so if your keen we'd love to hear from you.

See you at the meeting.

Glen

Don't Forget The Sponsors of the George Roberts Trophy

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Dive

**JERVIS BAY CHARTERS**  
on board  
**MV INDULGENCE**  
invite you  
to explore beautiful  
**JERVIS BAY**  
south coast new south wales australia



### Dive officers Report

**October-Friday** night night dive at Fish Reef (off Cronulla) Boat leaves from Dolans Bay wharf, 7pm. Cost \$35. [I need a \$20 deposit for this - have 4 places left].

Also double dive at the Myola (48m) and then Long Reef (24m) on **Sunday 17th October** (changed from 10th October). Have a few places left on this. Boat leaves at 7am from Rose bay wharf. Back at about 1-1.30pm. \$60 for the day. (need \$30 deposit to secure place for this day).

Also Club Chicken and Champagne day on Sunday, **28th November** at Frenchman's Bay- 8.30am. More details coming soon.

People can ring me on the club phone for further details and to book onto these events.

### **Dive Reports.**

(We need A few more people's input here) Email them to [whitey@nextcentury.com.au](mailto:whitey@nextcentury.com.au)

### Ulladulla

Louise Wilson

Ulladulla weekend, 14-15 August 1999. Jackie, Peter Flockart, Tom Byron and Louise had a very enjoyable weekend. Stayed at the dive lodge which was cheep and cheerful, could have done with some heating but as there were so few of us we could probably have managed to have two rooms each. Dived the Hole and Home Bommie on Saturday with 30m viz. Thought I was seeing a very strange arrangement of piled-up stones in the cave at Home Bommie but further investigation showed this was actually a statue of a seal balancing a ball on its nose - probably the tackiest thing I've ever seen underwater apart from an awful statue of the Virgin Mary to be found in a similar cave in Malta.

Lovely pair of Blue Devilfish in another small cave.

Dived the Arch (well, somewhere close-by!) on the Sunday when the weather was a bit better. Swell was still quite large so we were all getting pretty worried when Jackie still hadn't been spotted 20-30 mins after everyone else had surfaced. Everyone was very relieved when her safety sausage was finally spotted so a guy who'd come on the boat with us resolved to rush off and buy one immediately. Please consider getting yourself one of these very handy little things if you don't already have one - they fit easily into BC pockets and could well save your life one day - it's very tricky trying to spot a divers head in a big swell with a low sun.

### **Jervis Bay weekend - 28-29th August**

Louise Wilson

8 club members and two visiting divers from the YUK (sic) had a fine ole time of it recently in JB. Had booked in with Pro-Dive rather than the usual Indulgence in an attempt to get outside the bay for a change. Stayed at the Aqua-Shack which is superbly set up for a dive lodge. I THINK the dives on the Saturday were the Cathedral and the Seal Colony but as my ears point-blank refused to clear I didn't log any dives and instead spent a lovely half hour splashing about on the surface while the seals, including young 'uns, performed their tricks for me. Sundays dives were Stoney Creek and The Arch I think, but due to my ears I decided to go back to bed and then go into 'town' for some retail therapy.





## PIONEER DIVERS

First Scuba Diving Regulator Built in Australia

By Tom Byron

When Frenchman Michel Calluau immigrated to Australia in the late 1940s he started work at AWA

Australia where he met a spearfisherman by the name of Ted Baker. With Michel's good command of English and Ted Baker's minuscule French they got on well together.

When he saw Ted's mask and speargun Michel revealed that he knew the working principal of a

compressed air underwater

breathing regulator that he had learnt to make from Captain Cousteau before leaving France.

Never having heard of such a thing, Ted was sceptical, but Michel convinced him that he understood what was required and they each should build a unit. So off they went to a disposal store. "Yes," said the man. "We have plenty of pressure regulators, gauges, controls and fittings, salvaged from the war surplus aircraft. There is a stack of aviator's breathing oxygen cylinders down by the back fence. Be careful, though, some are still full."

Loaded with a selection of these items and a dozen gas masks, for their corrugated flexible hoses, they paid up and with the aid of a third person, set to work.

Three sets of equipment were manufactured at the one time. They did not even have a name and

labelled compressed air breathing equipment.

Ted's was ready for its first test, still without a webbing harness, in late November 1951.

Eager to see if it really worked, Ted filled his bathtub with water and was just able to submerge with the cylinder and regulator tucked under his arm. It worked.

In the days before wet suits, Ted wore any old clothing to give protection against cold, and on one particular day had on a ragged old green pullover, with aqualung, lead belt, harness and mask.

Lying on the bottom in four feet of water at the Tuggerah Lakes Entrance Channel, he could feel the reduction in air flow as the tank

approached exhaustion, but he waited a little longer to fully test its effect. Then with little air left, he crawled along the bottom and made his way up the shelving sand toward the beach.

With all air gone, and in only two feet of water, he lifted his head and shoulders above the surface. As he did so, a woman gave a terrified scream, grabbed her two children, and ran off along the beach.

Thus, the appearance of sport diving in Australia with compressed air began in 1951.

An interesting aspect of early scuba diving between 1952 and 1953 was that regulators in Sydney and to a lesser extent in other capital cities throughout Australia numbered no more than a dozen (12), all designed and made infringing the world wide French patent taken out by Cousteau and Gagnan.





**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>	Bernd Kraul	96069731	9792 4333
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Linh Lah	9318 0142	0418 648265
<b>Secretary:</b>	Louise Wilson Email : <a href="mailto:louise.n.wilson@aexp.com">louise.n.wilson@aexp.com</a>	9261 2929	
<b>Photographic Officer:</b>	Glen Percy Email: <a href="mailto:aquasports@compuserve.com">aquasports@compuserve.com</a>		97082826 0414 275179
<b>Dive Organisers:</b>	Jackie Rotenstein E-mail: <a href="mailto:jrotenstein@cowleyhearne.com.au">jrotenstein@cowleyhearne.com.au</a>	9904 7843	
	Leo Bergagnin Mobile:0419 517 285	9558 25920	9517 2853
<b>Social Organiser:</b>	Scott Eggington		
<b>Equipment Officer:</b>	Glen Percy (Aquasports) Email: <a href="mailto:aquasports@compuserve.com">aquasports@compuserve.com</a>		9708 2826
<b>Newsletter editor/ Publicity officer:</b>	Darren Wright (Whitey) Email: <a href="mailto:whitey@nextcentury.com.au">whitey@nextcentury.com.au</a>		Mob. 0418 253 786

### 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.

The Club Phone number is 0411 343 200 it will be taken to all Club Dives so if you are running late or unable to make it please call so as we can make the required arrangements and get diving.

**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
Aqua Sports	Captain Cook Drive, Caringbah 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

### CLUB GEAR

The Club has a variety of gear for the use of Members. This includes The Magnetometer, Two sets of Oxygen equipment, 2 BBQ's, a Marine Radio and more. Inquiries should be directed to the Equipment officer.

### UPCOMING DIVING ACTIVITIES

Contact Numbers: Jackie Rotenstien 0411 343 200 or by email

Prizes for the raffle next month are:-

- 1st - Regulator Service from Aqua Sports, Yagoona
- 2nd - Boat Dive on Sea Tamer II
- 3rd - Two airfills from Shiprock Dive

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, 20<sup>th</sup> September 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 Whitey

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