



WET RAG

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS' CLUB (established 1962)
NOVEMBER 99



DUANE LANGLEY
57 BROUGHTON STREET
GUILDFORD NSW 2161

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

We need more input from different people.
As you will see from this edition only one
major story has been submitted by someone
other than Our Regular contributor.
Please help!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Meetings of the Club are normally held at 8pm on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Parade, Bankstown. This month's meeting will be held on **Monday 15th November**.

President's Message

For the last eight weeks I am sitting in a tunnel, searching for a light at the end of it. So there is not much to report, from my end, as I did nothing but work lately. Running around like my blummin' butt is on fire. October represents my own private silly season.

One of the bright spots of October was the German Beer Festival, otherwise known as the Oktoberfest. I had the pleasure to feed a multitude of expatriates worldwide. One of my duties was to destroy as much of the beer-stock as I possibly could. But I have to admit, I am getting old now, so three days of this treatment is my absolute limit.

Speaking of festive season, Christmas is not far away. And in this case, I have made a suggestion: that the upcoming club event, the Chicken and Champagne Dive Day would be combined with this year's Christmas party. I know it is short notice to some of you people, but we are running out of time.

Since I have become the president, a number of members have approached me to do something about the smoking of cigarettes in the meeting room, especially while the meeting is in progress. I would like to appeal to all members to please refrain from smoking during the meeting, out of courtesy to our non-smoking members.

Bernie

P.S.

We are putting out a call for any old copy's of the WET RAG from between early 1995 and mid 1998. We are trying to fill a gap in our clubs ongoing history files. If you have some old copies please contact Bernie, Whitey or Glen.



Photographic officers report

Well the first round of the George Roberts competition is over and judged. Congratulations to Loi for picking up first prize and to Grey and Katrina for scoring second and third respectively. What's heartening is that both Katrina and Loi are new to taking u/w photos. It just goes to show that if you're keen and give it a go you can do good things. The second round results will be announced at the next meeting and I'll be showing the entries. I know the prize distribution seemed a little odd but originally there was only one monthly winner and an over-all prize winner and that's how the rules went out. Since the response was pretty good we've added second and third and will continue to add prizes as their donated. So if you want a chance at a great trip to some of NSW best dive spots then get those shots into me.

Glen

Editors notes:

MORE INPUT NEEDED!!!!!!

This month we have yet again only one dive report, and even that was difficult to get. We are a club of Divers and I'm sure some of us have got in a couple of dives this month, if that includes you please take about half an hour to write up a short article about it. This way other members can see where to dive and what to expect, as well as providing you with a written account of your dive for posterity. There endeth the gripe!!!!

I can be contacted in a variety of ways:

E-Mail: whitey@nextcentury.com.au

Mail: PO Box 7018 Bass Hill, NSW 2197

Or call me on 0418 253 786 to arrange to fax me.

Cheers

Whitey

THE STORY OF GEORGE ROBERTS MEMORABLE UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC TROPHY

By Tom Byron

At 1.30 on Monday, May 28, 1973, a dairy farmer on a property where a particular sink hole, The Shaft, is located, was notified by a distressed woman that four divers in their party had not surfaced from a dive. They were presumed lost and drowned. No one had died in The Shaft before May 1973, and there had been over 8000 dives before that date.

Among the four missing was scuba diver by the name of George Roberts a 28 years old toolmaker, and at the time a member of South Pacific Divers Club.

George Roberts first commenced diving in mid 1950 as a young competition spearfisherman with the then Kingfishers Spearfishing Club, he enjoyed moderate success as a competitor throughout the late 1950s and into the early 1960's, he also served as committee member for the club. However, George had another passion, that of underwater photography and as time passed he gave away spearfishing, joined South Pacific Divers Club in the mid 1960s and with the rest of the club members who were at that time all underwater photographers progressed with his hobby.

In those days it was extremely difficult to obtain off the shelf underwater camera housing so George with his knowledge as a toolmaker manufactured his own.

A friendly outgoing person George influence many new divers with his underwater photographic achievements. Throughout the latter part of the 60s many new club members became interested in taking photos underwater. George helped, encouraged, and suggested new ideas to further their interests and along with other members visited new dive locations as Bass Point, Jervis Bay, Coffs Harbour, Wollongong and then known dives sites around Sydney, to further their photographic skills.

As years passed by through the late 60s into the early 70s George improved his ability as a diver and photographer specialising in 6x6 format rather than 35 mm format. This led to larger housings and flash units that he made in his backyard workshop. Many members sought George's expertise to help them design and manufacture housings to suit their various cameras.

Always a person who enjoyed adventurous diving, in May 1973 George with eight other from South Pacific Divers Club set off to explore and photograph The Shaft sink hole at Mt Gambier in South Australia.

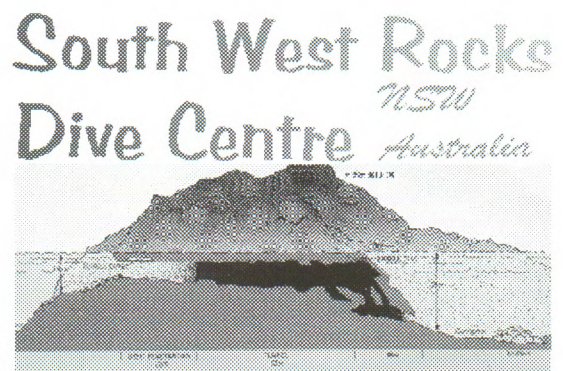
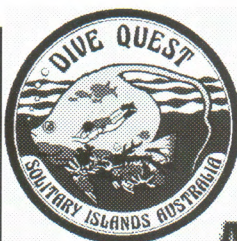
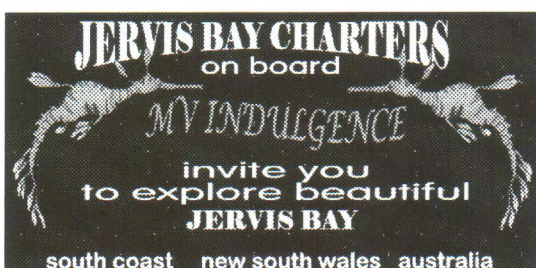
Scuba divers from all over the world had enjoyed its shadowed depth, and the spectacular rainbow coloured beam of sunlight that penetrates the dark subterranean water from a Small round hole at the surface of the paddock above.

On the day of the dive, all except one descended into The Shaft hole. George Roberts went down the shot line that terminated at the top of a rock pile in 33 metres of water then he started to swim slowly around the rocks, gradually descending to 60 metres below surface level. At this point the group could see one another and everything appeared in order, according to survivors. After five minutes some divers in the group decided to return to the surface whilst the rest descended further, George Roberts was among those that continued deeper. Within a couple of minutes and out of sight of the light that shone through The Shaft hole, total darkness descended upon the group. At this point there is no reference of direction and perhaps suffering from narcosis, lost their way.

George Roberts's body was located ten months later on March 12, 1974.

A short time later as a mark of respect to George, South Pacific Divers Club decided to hold an annual underwater photographic competition between club members only, to try and improve the ability of upcoming underwater photographers, as George did when he was alive.

This years George Roberts Trophy is Sponsored by the following Companies. Please support them.



ROYAL VOLUNTEER COASTAL PATROL – BOTANY BAY DIVISION

Hi, to all you Divers,

Like you, we have our own ways to let us know that the weather is hotting up and that summer is just around the corner. On the water we've noticed an increase in water craft, ranging from small fishing vessels to mega dollar cruisers. I'm sure you have noticed an increase in water temperature.

For those of you who have seen our vessel "Cape Banks" in and around Botany Bay doing her rounds, next month keep an eye out for her replacement vessel, an ex RNLI Waveney Class Lifeboat. (an English offshore rescue vessel). This is one of six that the RVCP has bought from England and are distributing to the appropriate divisions along the eastern seaboard of New South Wales. This vessel will enhance our offshore rescue services (should they be necessary) ((Not if people plan their trips carefully and competently))

We are a volunteer service, and in so being, it costs you absolutely nothing that you have not already spent, to use us, but, the possible cost for not using us is an open ended cheque book.

TIP- For those of you with radios on your vessels, please! turn them on and log on with us, or, for that matter any other rescue organisation you may prefer. Let us know that you are out there, and let us know that you have returned safely. Remember, essentially we are one big family out on the water, hopefully enjoying ourselves, but should the need for you to call us, or even us to call you, the radio has to be on. The use of your radio in mundane, routine, log on log off situations is invaluable experience in the form of radio operation and etiquette and will pay handsome dividends in efficiency should you need to use the radio in a real life emergency. We have found that the most common reason for boat operators not using

the working radio they have aboard, is due to lack of confidence and a fear of embarrassment, both to persons onboard their own vessel and interestingly enough to others that can only hear them over the radio waves. Many people fit this category and it can encompass people that have been using boats for a very long time. We as a rescue organisation, along with all other rescue organisations would much prefer you to make mistakes in your transmission, should this scenario sound familiar to you, on your path to radio competency than go through most of your boating life skirting around this necessity.

COURSES –

Safe Boating Course – Saturday 27th
November, 1999 9.30am to approx
1.30pm.

Cost- \$50.00 Bookings essential – Bob
Bunton on 02- 9661 5965 or bunton@ozemail.com.au

A Marine Radio Operators Certificate of Proficiency Course will be run before Christmas. Please let Bob know if you are interested and he will advise you when the date has been confirmed.

Until the next time, Happy Diving and Boating. I hope I have jogged you old salt's memory just a little and you new chums, I hope this gives you a little food for thought.

RVCP Member,
Sue.



SO YOU WANNA BE A WRECK DIVER...

This article was written by Martin Kandilas a long, long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, and hence may require some research into current rules and regulations regarding the collecting of relics, ie. Any shipwrecks in NSW waters listed under the historic shipwrecks act. cannot be tampered with, or have articles removed. For further information Contact your local Dive shop.

Nonetheless here is Martins article in full.

I am often asked to describe the big attraction in Wreck diving. I get comments like "What is so exciting about diving to 150 feet to look at an underwater scrap yard?"

Fair comment to some maybe, but not this little black duck.

If these divers who criticise wreck diving took off their rose coloured glasses, a whole new world of underwater exploration could be waiting for them.

For that matter, what is so exciting about reef diving? Sure, there are some tame blue groper that like to be fed sea urchins, the inevitable green moray, nudibranch, sponges and the odd red gorgonian. Coral reefs offer more fish, blue water and pretty colours, especially for macro photography. And of course, there are the various corals. But lets face it, one reef is pretty much the same as another regardless of where you dive.

Of course it is a matter of personal preference, but why not have all a reef has to offer, and even more?

Any wreck which has been submerged for more than ten years or so will harbour an incredible variety of marine life. In most cases wrecks support many more times the life than a reef of equivalent size. The reason for this is surface area. A ship has expanses of iron and steel in the form of hull, decks, bulkheads, cabins, stairways and all sorts of nooks and crannies for marine creatures to make their homes.

Every square centimetre of wreck will be covered in all types of marine growth. The fish life on shipwrecks is prolific, and in most instances rivals even the best reefs anywhere in the world. Oh and Sharks, dolphins, marlin....

As the diver descends into the depths, the light gradually fades, and depending on water clarity ranges from reasonably good to twilight and down to pitch blackness.

On a typical Sydney wreck, "The Tuggerah" for example, visibility can be as great as 100 feet and more; but this is the exception rather than the rule. Typical vis is around 25-30ft and the brightness can only be described as semi twilight. The human eye quickly adjusts however, and torches are generally not needed, but should nevertheless be carried.

The wreck looms up quite suddenly, and materialises

almost from nowhere as the diver nears the bottom.

Exploring a shipwreck is like taking a giant step back in time. A true shipwreck, as distinct from the "Claytons" wrecks (Dee Why, Calooli, Valiant etc.) become so due to tragic mishap. Lives were nearly always lost, and so few divers these days realise that for the most part they are visiting maritime graves.

So many "Tourist" divers go out on organised charter boats to dive wrecks without realising what is really there. They swim along gazing at all this twisted metal, without fully appreciating it for was, and what is actually still there. A ship is a beautiful thing, whether sailing or steaming the oceans of the world or lying twisted and broken on the seabed. It makes no difference.

Many artefacts (we call them 'goodies') are still to be found on wrecks supposedly scavenged clean by divers over the years. Take the Dunbar for example. Hundreds of divers have made thousands of dives at this wrecksite, and yet gold coins, jewellery and even diamond rings (yes that's right) are still being found.

All it takes is a keen eye, patience and perseverance. And above all, a love of shipwrecks. That lamp or porthole may still be there right under your nose. The prospect of perhaps finding a souvenir or a decent 'goodie' adds to the excitement of the dive; and even if you come up empty handed, it still makes the dive more worthwhile.

A word here on recovering relics. Most shipwrecks, particularly those around Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong have long been declared TCL (Total Constructive Loss) by the insurers. In many cases the ships have been down so long that the owners and insurers have disappeared, and open salvage exists. But be careful though, I know a Sydney diver who legally owns a wreck which sank before the turn of the century! Whether or not he is willing to guard it 24 hours a day remains to be seen...

If you are lucky enough to find a nice porthole, it is not for me to say what you should or should not do with it. However, should you decide on its removal, do so with care. Many divers end up damaging the article, and in some cases damaging themselves.

A little planning can go a long way to a happy and successful recovery operation. Now comes the good part - cleaning it! Believe me, wreck divers who have nice collections of goodies have worked damned hard. Wrecks can be found in only a few feet of water, and down as far as you want, or dare to go.

On average the better wrecks are found in water at least 120 feet deep, away from current and wave

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

action.

Wrecks in 150 ft and more are considered deep dives and great planning should be carried out before any diving commences. The Birchgrove Park (165 ft) is a top dive, but is not for inexperienced divers. That is not to say the deep wrecks are unduly dangerous to dive, but we all must be aware of our limitations, and our gear must be in first class order.

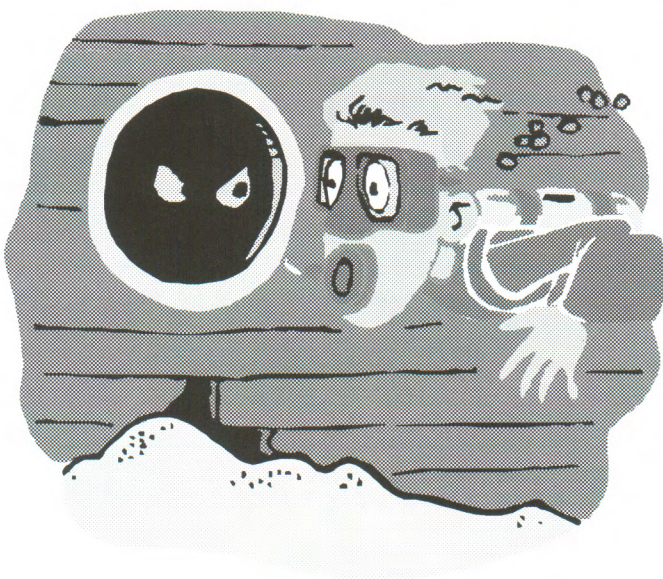
Twin cylinders are a must for any dive in excess of 150 feet, as decompression times can be long. Ample air must be carried on the divers back. Its great to have spare air on the deco line, but it's not much use if you can't find your way back to the anchor, or for some reason you have to do a free ascent...

Even the buddy system can and does fall apart sometimes on really deep dives, so twin regs and contents gauges are good insurance. Having 2 independent systems on your back is very comforting when you are poking around at great depth.

Compass? Forget it on wrecks. All that steel makes a compass useless. Leave it on the boat. Oh and two more things. Watch out for fishing line. It's easy to get very tangled, and in low vis it is very difficult to see. Take a sharp knife always. And WOBEGONGS. They may look pretty sluggish and dopey, but if you have ever seen one catch a fish from an apparent comatose condition, you will know what I mean. They bite and they love fingers.

Happy wreck diving and save some portholes for me!

Martin.



Equipment Report: Entry Level U/W Cameras

By Noel Taylor

Have you ever wished that you had photo's to show everyone at home or work. To show them the dive sites and the fish life you encounter on your dives. But thought underwater photography was beyond your budget.

Well , now Sea & Sea and Sealife Camera's have answered your wishes. Both of these manufacturers have in their range an excellent entry level camera which are fun and easy to use for everyone.



Sea & Sea
MX10-with strobe

The Sea & Sea MX10-with strobe, is a compact user friendly camera, which enables people with limited

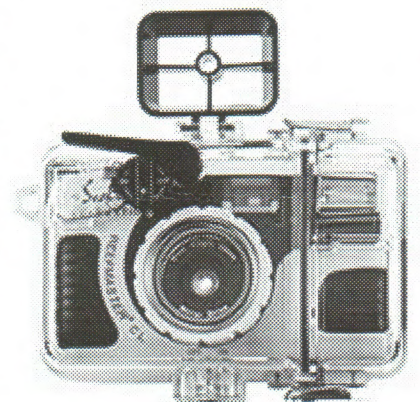
or no experience in photography to take above and underwater snap shots.

The SeaLife ReefMaster CL is a rugged, easy to use camera. It takes incredible pictures, both on land and in the deep blue sea.

One-step "PUSH HERE" shutter lever Big sports finder, Automatic winding, Built-in Underwater Flash, Triple element, 35 mm wide angle lens, Optional Sealife Macro 3X Close-up Lens snaps easily onto lens port.

The pricing on these systems is very reasonable and you are also able to buy the Sea & Sea equipment duty free through your local dive shop which gives you even greater savings.

Aqua Sports Dive Centre at Yagoona offers entry and advanced level photography courses, recognised by SSI. Dive 2000 at Neutral Bay offers courses in photography through the PADI system. In addition both shops will also have these cameras available for hire, so the next time you are in the store, check out these cameras and try your hand at underwater photography. You will be surprised at the results.



UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY BASICS (Part V)

Final Thoughts

By Noel Taylor

In this final episode of a basic look at underwater photography, we will take a brief look back at our earlier topics to summarize and then discuss a few advanced techniques.

In the first article of the series we discussed the underwater world and the unique challenge it presents to underwater photography. "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". In the second article we talked about the various settings on the camera (focus, aperture, and shutter speed) and the interplay between them in making the shot. Because you have to "guess" at the focus with amphibious cameras, you usually want the biggest depth of field you can get, which means a small aperture (f/16 or f/22). But this will make the picture dark unless you slow the shutter speed down, which can make things blurry. Fortunately the strobe freezes the subject motion and TTL strobe metering then automatically adjusts the intensity of the strobe. In the third article, we discussed how to use TTL to successfully shoot macro and standard (35mm) shots. We then discussed wide angle. Focus is not as much of a concern because when you "de-magnify" the image you increase the apparent depth of field, so you can open the aperture up a little bit, giving you more flexibility. However, TTL strobe metering is not typically as effective since the subject now occupies less of the scene. Wide-angle lenses also force you to get really close to your subject so you shoot through less stuff.

As far as practice goes, it's the only way you'll ever get better at u/w photography. Practice every chance you get, not only in the ocean, but also in lakes and pools. If you want to see what the depth of field is for a given lens at different apertures. One way to do this is to place a 1 metre ruler on the bottom of the pool, weight it and put "targets" (you can use plastic fish) every 15cm so you can see what was in focus for a given aperture setting. Take good notes.

Film choice is tough topic. I really like Fuji Sensia 100 slide film. It has a very blue bias, which is handy in our green waters (I usually find a blue water background more appealing than green). Many professionals and more experienced people use Fuji Velvia for its extremely dynamic color range and saturation, but 50-speed film is usually too dark to use around here, but is excellent for macro work. The new Kodak films are the really hot topic now, both E100s and E100sw because of their "warm" red bias, I've only had one chance to try these out and I am very pleased with the results.



They are slowly replacing the old underwater film standard, Kodachrome 64. As far as slides vs. prints, the rule of thumb is if you want to primarily make prints to share with friends or hang on the wall, shoot prints, but if you want to make presentations or ever sell your work, slides are the way to go.

Maintenance of underwater photographic equipment depends entirely on the type of camera you use, but the key to keeping the water out is O-rings. And the key to keeping O-rings working is the correct O-ring grease. Using the wrong grease will dissolve or stretch the O-ring over time. Using too much grease will cause dirt and hairs to adhere to them, and break the seal. It's estimated the vast majority of cameras floods are caused by excessive grease use.

The real art to underwater photography is composition. Most instructors say you really can't teach it; we all have our individual styles. There are the "rule of thirds" and other guidelines, but generally I would suggest that you look at as many pictures as you can, and try and determine why you like the ones you do. And come up with your own creative style.

The best instruction I ever got was had for the price of a couple of beers. while working in the Solomon Islands as an Instructor in 1992. I met Chris Newbert, he's a professional photographer who has shot many award winning photo's, Ocean Realm cover's and has 2 magnificent books (*In a Sea of Dreams* and *Within a Rainbowed Sea*) out. He gave me all sorts of hints and tricks; He even showed me what I was doing wrong with my 15 mm lens, as I hadn't thought to bring the manual with me (duh). All he would accept as payment was a beer at the bar next to the dive store. I hope your underwater photographic journey of learning is at least as colorful as mine has been so far!



Jervis Bay October Long W/E '99

Noel Taylor

15 would-be divers left Sydney on a sodden Friday night. 3 inches of rain had fallen across Sydney, and by the look of the sky, there was plenty more where that came from. Undaunted by the weather, we all piled into the cars and made for Jervis Bay. It was fine and calm when we turned up at 9 pm on Huskisson wharf at J.B. to be transferred to our new home, *OCEAN TREK* for three days.

We awoke Saturday to overcast skies, but we still headed for the seals down past Bowen Island, where we were rewarded with 15 metres plus vis, and at least half a dozen seals in the water at anyone time. After everyone finished his or her first dive at the Seal colony Maggie was going up to the top deck and dropped Rays mobile phone in the water only in 50 meters deep water. Can you believe the shock on "Ray's" face he just can't live without his mobile phone? He was on the phone to Telstra with Maggie's telling them the story, we think that's going to be the story of the century.

The other dives for the day were Pyramid Rock and The Docks, both on the North side of Jervis Bay. Good vis, lots of swim throughs, sponge gardens and a sensational cross-section of marine life were hallmarks of both sites. The structure of The Docks is just magical...big walls, laden with cracks and caves. The excitement does not stop there, just when you sit back with a nice hot cup of coffee and some freshly maid muffins and cookies a yell, "WHALE", on the port side or "DOLPHINS" on the bow had you jumping to your feet. Later that night we were at The Nursery for the night dive. I think the non-divers got the better show as we saw on the surface swimming around the back of Ocean Trek, Squid, Penguins, Dolphins and a Seal, all divers missed seeing these critters on the bottom but they did hear them.

The second day's diving took us back to Point Perp. and at Long-nose Point inside the bay. The night dive was at the Docks.

The third day we were on the North Western side of Bowen Island to stay out of the southerly winds that had picked up the night before. Thanks go to the boat crew for their dedication and hard work.

This trip achieved a number of discoveries, milestones and unique events, these being....

- Noel was finally able to fit into his dry suit. However he needed help of two people to do up the zipper.
- Tom Byron went for a night dive with Mitch's torch and only got a 10-minute's only amount of burn time.
- Ray attempted to perform an underwater scientific experiment utilising a mobile telephone. The experiment proved one thing... You can not make a mobile phone call under water using an Ericsson phone...
- Phil ignored the first principle in the utilisation of technology in diving. Phil needed to be reminded about the "K.I.S.S." principle. "K.I.S.S." has nothing to do with Phil's fantasies involving Mimi McPherson'. Phil learned Keep It Simple Stupid 'means using a hair drier.
- Mitch finally shared a cabin with a person who does not snore. Mind you it took 20 years to find a person who could put up with Mitch's snoring.
- Youth, enthusiasm and speed will always beat old age when it comes to getting your hands on the ships underwater scooter
- When you have two sets of lovebird couples in the forward cabins.... You do not need waves to make the boat rock. A second scientific discovery also proved that rocking on one side does not cancel out the other sides rocking.
- Dale, who works on Ocean Trek not just for the money but also for the opportunity to get a proper feed. Dale usually lives in a vegetarian household and being a carnivore, needs meat.
- New nudis, red-indian fish, whales, seals, penguins, angle sharks, baby port jacksons,

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT MONGREL STOLE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following are committee members for the 1999 year

Position	Name	Home No:	Work No:
President:	Bernd Kraul	96069731	9792 4333
Treasurer:	Linh La	9318 0142	0418 648265
Secretary:	Louise Wilson	9261 2929	
Photographic Officer:	Glen Percy Email: aquasports@compuserve.com		97082826 0414 275179
Dive Organisers:	Jackie Rotenstein E-mail: jrotenstein@cowleyhearne.com.au	9904 7843	
	Leo Bergagnin	9558 25920	9517 2853 Mob:0419 517285
Social Organiser:	Scott Eggington	9602 9918	Mob: 0419229631
Equipment Officer:	Glen Percy (Aquasports) Email: aquasports@compuserve.com		9708 2826
Newsletter editor/ Publicity officer:	Darren Wright (Whitey) Email: whitey@nextcentury.com.au		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.

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	0415 400 403	9793 9822

REMEMBER: ... 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 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 Geoff at Stanmore	9969 5072 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 much, much 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 this month are:-

- 1st - Boat Dive from Max Western,
- 2nd - Accessory hanger,
- 3rd - 2 Air fills

Meetings of the Club are normally held at 8 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Street, Bankstown.

This month's meeting will be held on **Monday 15th November 1999**

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.

**Minutes of the meeting of South Pacific Divers Club
at Bankstown Sports Club
Monday 18th October 1999**

Meeting Opened: 8.15pm.

Apologies: Scott Egginton, Nick Nasr, Mitch Radomir, Llona Kandilas, Tom Byron.

Secretary

Louise Wilson

Minutes of previous meeting accepted by Peter Flockart, seconded by Rod Taylor.

Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:

Active Australia Day, URG, TUG, bank statement, phone bill.

Treasurer

Linh La

Delayed till next month as forgot to bring the stuff.

Newsletter Editor/Publicity Officer

Darren Wright

Need a lot more input from the members if we're going to have an interesting Wet Rag! If possible get articles to Whitey for the first of the month. Anything diving related or relevant to the members would be useful. The proposed website is still under review, the prices we were looking at have been upped and this looks like it could happen again.

Equipment Officer

Glen Percy

All intact and accounted for. Proposing a Magnetometer day where we run the Mag over a couple of known wrecks – could be as cheap as \$20 per head (no diving) for four hours. 4th December 2-6pm provisionally booked – BYO grog!

Photographic Officer

Glen Percy

Entries for the "George Robert's Competition" are in and round 1 has been judged and will be shown tonight. Re the Scanner, the Nikon National Sales Manager is also a diver and will hopefully be sympathetic to our plight. Will have a much better idea by next meeting.

Social Organiser:

Scott Egginton (Debbie filling in)

BBQ at the Egginton's planned. Chicken and Champagne day on the 28th November.

Dive Organisers

Leo Bergagnin/Jackie Rotenstein

31st October Coolooli/Long Reef double dive.
12th November Friday Night Dive, cost \$35 with Max Western. 7pm Dolans Bay.
28th November Chicken and Champagne day.
3rd December Camp Cove shore dive.
11th December Skillion at Terrigal shore dive.

Dive Reports:

Phil Dale - dived a freshwater river as the North Solitary was too rough and saw a tiger snake.

Peter Flockart – dived the Coolooli and Long Reef on the club double dive day. 30-40 ft viz, Coolooli was v. pleasant, Louise got the last bit of brass off it. Jackie dropped the pick off the wreck but "we couldn't get it up". Skipper retrieved it from a hole in the wreck – dunno how it managed to get there. Very pretty fairy basslets. Second dive on Long Reef was only done by Jackie and Louise, got back to Rose Bay late at 11.45. Booked it again for the 31st October as it was such fun!

Noel Taylor – took about 17 students to Jervis Bay for the long weekend on Ocean Trek and it was very good. Dived the Seal Colony, Point Perpendicular, the Docks. The Nursery at night was better from the boat as the non-divers saw baitfish scooped by the squid that came shooting in, penguins and seals and even a dolphin. On the Sunday dived Point Perpendicular, Longnose Reef and the Docks and on Monday the NW side of Bowen. Saw a whale at Point Perp. on the Saturday and about 6 on the Sunday.

General Business

Martin Kandilas and Tom Byron did the judging of the photo comp and Martin stated the standard was not too bad but pointed out that step 1 in a good photo is getting the focus right. Several entries were less than perfect and this really shouldn't happen in a competition.

Glen raised the point that the PO Box is broken so we need to provide the post office with a letter from the president telling them to fix it.

Leo then raised the query as to who would pay for it – this should be Australia Post.

Louise stated that looming unemployment meant she had the chance to take off for a few weeks diving and asked for recommendations, lots of places were suggested including the Solitaires, Julian Rocks, Pimpernel, Byron Bay, Fish Rock, Seal Rocks, Wooli (56K east of Grafton), Mullaway, South West Rocks, Broughton Island, Nelson Bay, Forster Pinnacles.

Jackie asked for a list of who's sponsoring what in the AUPY.

Glen said he'd bring a list next meeting but so far included Mike Ball, Scuba Warehouse, Cape Byron, Aquatic Explorers are not sure and neither are Aqualung, P&O said no.

Leo asked what was happening with AUPY.

Glen said an ad in Sport Diving was planned and the A/V night in July. December Sport Diving should be the start of the build up. Need to be aware of publishing deadlines as it's printed offshore.

BREAK

Raffle

1st Prize	Safety Knife from Aqua Sports Yagoona	Michelle Johnson
2nd Prize	Boat Dive on Sea Tamer II from Max Western	Graham Poole
3rd Prize	Two air fills Shiprock Dive	Paul Sciberas

The slides from the first round of the George Roberts were shown.

1 st Prize	Loi Hoang	6 points
2 nd Prize	Graham McNeil	5 points
3 rd Prize	Katrina Kruse	4 points

1st prize was a trip to Jervis Bay on the Indulgence kindly donated by Annie and Adrian Nute as well as a mask and snorkel and other goodies, second and third received rolls of film.

Noel then showed slides of Vanuatu.

Meeting Closed 10.15pm.