



## **WET RAG**

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS' CLUB** (established 1962)  
FEBRUARY 2000

Duane Langley  
57 Broughton Street Guildford  
NSW 2161

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

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE FIRST  
MONDAY OF THE MONTH.**

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> February 2000**



## Presidents Message

Yes, I am still alive and kicking. That stomach bug I caught just before the last general meeting had me out cold only for 24 hours, so nothing serious it is rather sad that the weather is playing silly-buggers with us so far this year, but nevertheless there were some sunny days. One such day was our Australia day BBQ and what a day it was happy faces, sunshine, good diving, a positive time spend for everyone. Parallel to the Kurnell BBQ on Australia day, our South Pacific Divers Club had a team of divers booked on the charter boat 'MV Indulgence' down at Jervis Bay, led by our own Peter Forster. As much as I can gather the group had a great trip. But I am sure Peter will give us a detailed report later. Several members have complained to me about the wet rag arriving late or not at all, not to worry, the problem will not get any further from here. Our next land based dive and social day is coming up on Sunday 27 Oak Park Cronulla. Be there at 9am and bring the kids as there is a rockpool for them to play in and the divers bring the gear and a big hunger  
See you at the meeting

### *Bernie*

Our Secretary, Louise Wilson has not returned from her vacation as yet and we are in need of our Secretary. If anyone knows her whereabouts or could contact her please get her to contact either myself or any of the committee in order to ascertain whether we have need to elect someone into this position, as we will need to elect somebody in the very near future. Thanks

### *Bernie*

## Photographic officers report

This is a quick note for this month as I'm writing it at the airport about to leave for Guam. The mini comp is on at the next meeting. Noel will be running it so get those shots in. I'll hopefully have some shots when I get back.  
See you at the next meeting.

### *Glen*

## The Lady.

This email was forwarded to me by Noel Taylor.

Dear Friends,

Sometime in the early morning of the 26th January the "LADY" took a dive.

That part of the smoking room where the lady stood was getting old and finally gave way after 57 years & 4 months, she could not hold herself up any longer. Luckily however the lady is tougher than we thought and we believe greater powers were at work and as she fell, she somehow managed to fall on an angle and through a doorway, out of the wreck and was embedded in the mud and silt under the Promenade deck 90% untouched. Imagine the fright on approach to the lady and seeing she was gone. For a while it was not known if she had broken into small pieces or undamaged in the silt. Allan Power was first to inspect the area in the afternoon to clarify that she was in fact still intact, all but a section of the porcelain frame surrounding the LADY. Kevin dived at night to also inspect her. She was lying in 56m half in half out of the silt on the bottom side of the Promenade deck. Allan Power and his team, Dave Cross from Pro-Dive, and Kevin & I had emergency meeting to discuss the rescue operation of "The Lady". We decided "The lady" should be rescued to prevent any further possible damage due to other parts of the wreck falling on top of her. The Lady needed to be taken out of the ship, put somewhere safe, repaired, then placed back in an appropriate position away from danger.

This morning the 27th, Allan, Tony and Tim from Allan's, and Kevin and I met together at the beach, had quick discussion of a dive plan and what would be done. We went down together (the first time ever!). Allan's team took a wooden pallet, and we took rope, hacksaw. We swam down out side of the wreck, passed the skylights. She was in the silt lying on a rail. Kevin had to cut through a cable rail with the hacksaw so we could get the lady through the opening and slowly onto the wooden pallet, Allan went inside to get her out of the ship. After that, I can't do or see anything, so I try to go up little and away from silt, Then Kevin, Tim and Tony walking on the bottom (60 meters) carrying "The Lady" away from the ship. They found a spot, and tied her to the pallet with more silt around. I kissed her forehead and told her you'll be ok, and we left. Allan, Kevin and I talked after the dive, and we are going back again tomorrow morning to shift her to the top of the ship. Tomorrows rescue will involve the combined efforts of Santo Dive Tours, Pro Dive Santo, & Aquamarine businesses and staff. We have come together to combine efforts and ideas to rescue the LADY in the interests of protection and restoration of the Coolidge, diver safety, diving tourism in Santo. After that we will raise her to the surface and out of the water. After that we will discuss restoration and consider where to put her back as a group.

Whilst we feel this has come close to a national disaster we feel we have it all in good hands and all efforts will be made to complete the job safely and professionally. We thought we would give you the curtesy of finding out what has happened, what we have done, and what we intend to do BEFORE the coconut telegraph gets to work and stories get exaggerated and phones start ringing. No one operator is trying to attract glory and I am pleased for once we are working together for a common goal.



**RESULTS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC  
DIVERS CLUB  
GEORGE ROBERTS MEMORIAL  
UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC  
COMPETITION**

**By Tom Byron**

The annual George Roberts Memorial Underwater Photographic Competition run by the South Pacific Divers Club of Sydney was once again a success. Nine club members took part in the competition that covered the months of September, October and November. Photos taken during the three months were submitted to the judges at the end of each month and judged on their merits of impact, composition, aspect, lighting and creativity.

September winners were:

<b>Loi Hoang</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Grey McNeil</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>
<b>Katrina Kruse</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>

October winners were:

<b>Peter Flockart</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Peter Norris</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>
<b>Lynne Vincent</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>

November winners were:

<b>Lynne Vincent</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Noel Taylor</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>
<b>Neil Vincent</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>

Overall winner of the George Roberts Memorial Trophy was

**Lynne Vincent.**

Club members that took part in the competition were: Loi Hoang, Katrina Kruse, Peter Norris, Grey McNeil, Peter Flockart, David Crass, Lynne Vincent, Noel Taylor and Neil Vincent.

The history of the George Roberts Memorial Underwater Photographic Competition dates back more than three decades ago when George, a member of South Pacific Divers Club, with eight others members set off to explore and photograph The Shaft sink hole on a grazing property at Mount Gambier in South Australia. Scuba divers from all over the world have enjoyed its shadowed depths 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 George went down the shot line that terminated in approximately 33 metres of water at the top of a pile of rubbish that station hands over a number of years had tipped into the hole. Swimming slowly around the pile he gradually descended to about 60 metres below the surface. At this point George could see other divers in the group and everything appeared in order according to survivors. After about five minutes some of the divers decided to return to the surface whilst others 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's body was located and recovered 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 to try and improve the ability of upcoming underwater photographers as George did when he was alive.

The George Roberts Memorial Trophy is conducted over three months, September, October and November. The highest cumulative score at the end of three months is declared the overall winner.

South Pacific Divers would welcome young inspiring underwater photographers to join the club and become part of this annual event, also to participate in club photographic dives on wrecks and reefs around Sydney and along the New South Wales coastline



## **R.V.C.P. - A DUTY WITH A DIFFERENCE**

Sunday Duty – 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2000  
Uncle Toby Nutragrain Iron Man Challenge.

Sometimes our duties include fun things, just like the Uncle Toby Nutragrain Iron Man series. We had the Channel 9 Camera crew onboard to enable them to take their "on the water shots".

It started out as just another Duty, although with a *little* earlier start than usual. The weather was - what seems to have become typical weather for this time of year (overcast/ miserable/ grey/ promise of rainsqualls. Anyway we ventured out the Bay, out the Heads and north to our duty, anticipating a day with a pleasant difference.

As we turned into Maroubra, on the beach you could see where they had set up the tents, flags etc for the Kellogg Nutragrain Iron Man Challenge. The sun was actually shining over this area (only) with the rest of the beach remaining without colour. The closer we got, the sun went back into hiding and the thought of finally getting a suntan just faded away.

As soon as we arrived we went straight into action. The rest of the Channel 9 Crew arrived onboard and organised us for the day. The beach was a hive of activity and the brave athletes confronted the weather to show us just what they were made of. I had a "challenge" all of my own - from behind the helm. I didn't think it was that hot a day - well hot enough to make we sweat anyway!! Yeah, I certainly had to summon all sorts of strengths to successfully get through this job - maintaining position as requested by the Camera Crew with the

swell causing havoc and the surf breaking nearby.

I knew a shift change was needed when I was getting blisters on my hands from the constant adjustments needed for positioning our vessel, Cape Banks between the buoys as required. Another skipper took over from me and made the job look easy (not that he admitted it of course!) There were a few extra obstacles that he had to deal with. The tide was going out, the wind was picking up, the rain came and the windscreen wipers decided to quit - just to name a few. Meanwhile I was outside in the weather testing out my wet weather jacket and sending information from the Camera Crew to the helm, and of course finally watching the racing.

On the completion of our duties, another challenge was forced upon us. The trip home. This time, another skipper change. The wind was picking up delivering seas of 3 metres, with the occasional 5 metre "surprise". Yes indeed, just when you least expect it - fish were reportedly seen sliding down the windscreen with green water causing all sorts of action stations. The roller-coaster ride home held a few other, little surprises with a confused sea and no crystal ball to read it with.

To my way of thinking, we really had quite an adventure. Being part of a team, with a job well done, lots of learning - just watching the master's work the helm. Just about too much excitement for one day!

See you on the water

Sue



# South Pacific Dive Club Dive Calendar February to April.

## FEBRUARY

### SUNDAY 27

BBQ. COST: \$5

SHORE DIVE: Oak Park.

DEPTH: 4 to 10 metres. Some sponges, numerous fish life, good macro photography.

MEET: Oak Park at 9.00 am near swimming pool.

## MARCH

### FRIDAY 3

NIGHT DIVE: **cancelled**  
SHORE DIVE LOCATION: Shiprock.

### SUNDAY 12

Bernies World famous Hot Dogs at the Coal Loader 12.00 midday. COST \$3

BOAT AND SHORE DIVE: Shellharbour and Bass Point.

BOAT DIVE LOCATION: Boat dive one of many excellent reefs off Bass Point. Very good general close up and wide angle photography.

SHORE DIVE LOCATION: Shore dive at the Coal Loader. General fish and close up photography.

DEPTH: Boat dive approximately 20 metres. Shore Dive 10 metres.

MAXIMUM DIVERS ON BOAT: 8

BOAT DEPARTURE: Shellharbour Wharf at 9.00 am.

MEET: Boat divers Shellharbour Wharf at 8.00. Shore divers at Coal Loader 9.30 am.

COST: \$25.00 for boat dive.

### SUNDAY 26

SHORE DIVE: BBQ and Dive at Kurnell.

DEPTH: 11 metres to 15 metres. Reasonable sponge gardens. Good macro photography.

MEET: The Steps at Kurnell 9.30 am.

## APRIL

WEEKEND AWAY - JERVIS BAY

**SATURDAY 1 and SUNDAY 2.**

BOAT DIVE: 4

DIVE LOCATION: Jervis Bay. Very good underwater photography.

DEPTH: 25 to 30 metres.

MAXIMUM DIVERS ON BOAT: 12

BOAT DEPARTURE: 9.00 am.

COST: 4 boat dives and two night's accommodation less meals, approximately \$150.00 to be confirmed.

### WEDNESDAY 5

NIGHT DIVE: **cancelled**  
SHORE DIVE LOCATION: Oak Park.

### SUNDAY 16

SHORE DIVE: Long Bay (Wreck of Malabar) Good for wide-angle photography.

DEPTH: 12 metres.

MEET: Fishermans Road Malabar at 9.00 am.

### SATURDAY 22

SHORE DIVE: Bare Island and BBQ. Close up, macro and wide angle photography.

DEPTH: 20 metres.

MEET: Anzac Parade La Perouse at 9.00 am.

### MONDAY 24

BOAT DIVE: Atlantis Divers.

DIVE LOCATION: Valiant Wreck. Wide angle photography.

DEPTH: 26 metres.

MAXIMUM DIVERS ON BOAT: 8

BOAT DEPARTURE: Wharf Barrenjoey Boatshed at 9.00 am (Rear of Palm Beach Golf Club).

COST: \$30.00 to be confirmed.

### SUNDAY 30

BOAT DIVE: Sea Tamer 11 (Max Western).

DIVE LOCATION: Marley Sponge Gardens. Good sponge gardens for medium close up photography.

DEPTH: 26 metres.

MAXIMUM DIVERS ON BOAT: 8

BOAT DEPARTURE: Dolans Bay Wharf at 9.00 am.

COST: \$35.00.



**COMMITTEE MEMBERS** the following members are on the committee for the 1999/2000-year

Position	Name	Home No:	Work No:
<b>President:</b>	Bernd Kraul	96069731	9792 4333 0413 500 715
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Lin La	9318 0142	0418 648265
<b>Secretary:</b>	Louise Wilson	9261 2929	
<b>Photographic Officer:</b>	Glen Percy Email: <a href="mailto:aquasports@compuserve.com">aquasports@compuserve.com</a>		97082826 0414 275179
<b>Dive Organiser:</b>	Tom Byron Email: <a href="mailto:byronscubaguide@telstra.easymail.com.au">byronscubaguide@telstra.easymail.com.au</a>		0411 343 200
<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

**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:
<b>Aqua Sports</b>	Glen Percy at 430 Hume Highway Yagoona	9708 2826
<b>Sea Tamer II Charter</b>	Max Western	9524 1818 or 0418 280 791
<b>Southern Cross Charter</b>	Bill Julie	<b>0413 360600</b> <b>0411 540885</b>
<b>Shiprock Dive</b>	Leo or Lesley at Lilli Pilli	9526 2664

*6 Pao 1/7 02 46256083*

## CLUB GEAR

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

*Peter  
Bill*

*Tony Grey 0412577314  
Ⓜ 9771 6554  
97527 Ⓜ 95674320*

*0745  
White  
0805*

## UPCOMING DIVING ACTIVITIES

Contact Numbers: **Club Phone 0411 343 200**

### FEBRUARY

#### SUNDAY 20

SCANS Picnic Day

Frenchmans Bay La-Peruse

#### SUNDAY 27

BBQ

SHORE DIVE: Oak Park.

DEPTH: 4 to 10 metres. Some sponges, numerous fish life, good macro photography.

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### MARCH

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DEPTH: 11 metres to 15 metres. Reasonable sponge gardens. Good macro photography.

MEET: The Steps at Kurnell 9.30 am.

Any further activities you would like to have organised contact Tom Byron our Dive organiser.

**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.**

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

This month's meeting will be held on **Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2000.**

**Deadline for articles is the First Monday of the month.**

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



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



## **South Pacific Divers Club – Meeting Minutes 17/01/00**

Meeting opened 8:05pm

### **Apologies:**

Bernd, Elona, Whitey, Leo, Viv & Grey

### **Stand in President:**

Glen

### **Previous Meeting Minutes;**

Accepted – However the winners of last month's raffle were absent and the results are to be promulgated in the next newsletter.

Primary: Peter Foster – Seconded: Mike Luff.

### **Treasurers Report – Lin La**

#### **1999 December Financial Report**

##### **Revenue**

Membership	\$ 15:00
Raffle	\$123:95

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$138:95</b>
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##### **Expenses**

One-Tel Phone	\$ 29:65
Bank Charges	\$ :30

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 29:95</b>
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##### **Financial Statement**

Cheque Account Balance	\$712:38
Investment Account	\$7154:98
Petty Cash	\$299:60

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8166:96</b>
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Treasurers Report Accepted

Primary: Mitch – Seconded: Duane



## **Dive Organisers Report – Tom Byron**

From now on all payments for dives organised through the club will have to be paid to the club and South Pac will pay the charter operator.

The next newsletter will have a form to be filled in before dives.

Tom has the club's mobile phone and you can reach him on it between 7am and 7pm.

## **Incoming Correspondence:**

URG Newsletter

Scuba Shop price list

Dive Log – form to be completed for the cost of postage.

## **Photographic Officers Report – Glen Percy**

South Pac will be running a photographic “mini-comp”. Members can bring up to three slides, three prints, or one video (max 3 minutes long), to be judged at each meeting by the members. Prises will consist of a bottle of wine or a six pack of beer.

Ocean themes are the only criteria.

It starts at the February meeting and will run indefinitely.

The club purchased a new Polaroid slide scanner at a cost of \$899.

Glen has put together a presentation of the scanner's capabilities to show this evening.

## **Equipment Officers Report – Glen Percy**

All equipment present and accounted.

## **Dive Reports**

Peter Foster – Dived JB. Did a great wall dive with a huge boulder the size of a house near by – he called it “ Martin's Wall”. Tom informs us it has another name – he just can't remember what it is. Peter also dived the Coolooli.

John Beddy – spent a week in Eden diving some good wrecks with great vis.

Neil Vincent – Dived the Coolooli and dived the Holcaine with 30 m vis. Dived Birchgorve Park, again with brilliant vis.

Peter Norris – Dived Bear Is, had 10 m vis

Glen – Dived Kurnell, had 15 m vis. Found short snouted pygmy seahorses.



## **General Business**

Gordon McDonald – Our membership of SCANS is in question – does the club wish to remain members?

Glen – Suggest we defer vote to next meeting due to letter only coming out in January's Wet Rag. All agreed.

GM – SCANS is an independent dive representative for commercial diving, photography and Marine Parks & Wildlife. They work to establish diver's access to marine parks and waterways. They deal with local and federal government regarding diving regulations. Contact Gordon for more info on this and about the SCANS Day (and BBQ) on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February.

John Beddy – wants to know if Wet Rag will be posted and he has missed a few back issues, he would like them.

Glen – apologises and explains some of the problems of the last few months.

John – Are most club dives on charter boats and do you intend to use private boats.

Tom – first question is yes. The second is no because they're too unreliable.

Noel Taylor – Aqua Sports had a Trauma Management Demonstration and lecture by Alan Stewart. Suggested that South Pac have one as well.

This was put to the vote and was agreed to organise it. Noel will book it.

Duane- What was the saving to the club on normal retail of the scanner?

Glen – we saved \$550

## **Raffle**

1<sup>st</sup> – Dive torch from Aqua Sports

2<sup>nd</sup> - Dive with Max

3<sup>rd</sup> - Two air fills from Ship Rock Dive Store

won by Audrey

won by Matt

won by Phil

Meeting closed at 9:15pm





# South Pacific Divers Club

Membership Renewal 2000

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Members first name(s)

Email:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Hm) \_\_\_\_\_

(Mob) \_\_\_\_\_

(Bus) \_\_\_\_\_

(Fax) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership type: Single (\$15) \_\_\_\_ Family (\$25) \_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive your "Wet Rag" by email? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes what format? Word 95/97 \_\_\_\_

Adobe Acrobat \_\_\_\_

Other (Pls Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a Cheque or Money Order made Payable to **South Pacific Divers Club** with your renewal.

Postal address:

South Pacific Divers Club, PO Box 823, Bankstown, NSW 2200