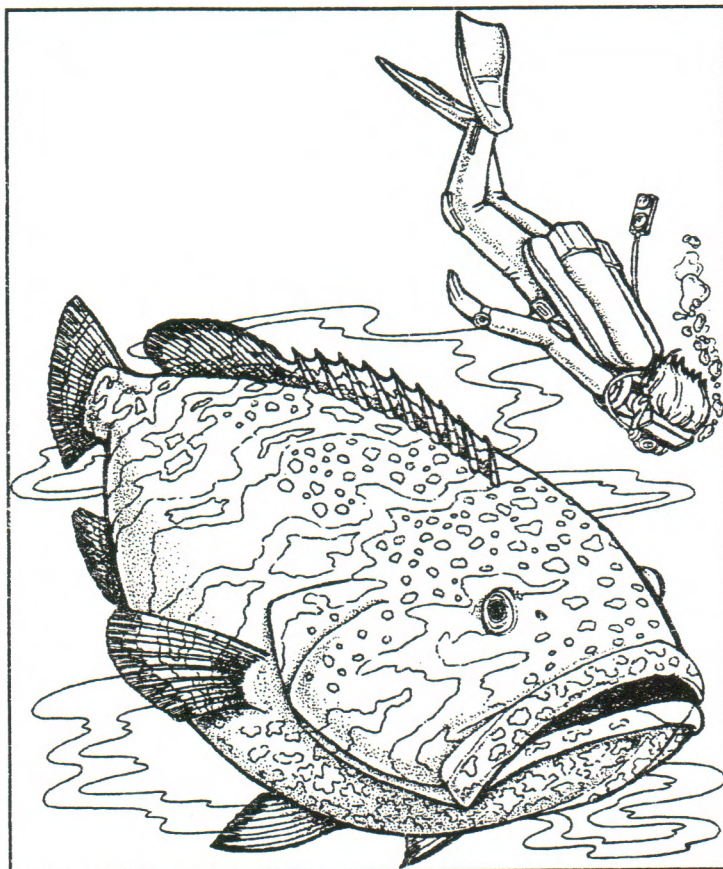


SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB

Established 1960

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2000



WET RAG

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EDITORIAL

Well, for the last four club meetings South Pacific Divers have had no arguments or serious disagreements. With the complete change of committee members we now have a club that works well together for the benefit of all members.

This shows in the numbers attending club shore diver as well as charter boat outings.

Prior to this change the old committee were unable to attract more than two or three members on boat dives and there were no outings planned for those who preferred to dive from shore.

South Pacific Divers have over recent months attracted a number of new members from various parts of Sydney as well as country areas. This is a wonderful sign of the clubs ability to pull itself out of the quagmire it was once in through years of short sighted leadership.

South Pacific Divers Club has now progress to a progressive and positive attitude catering to its many members with a number of different activities such as underwater still and video photography, different locations for shore and night diving, charter boat outings as well as weekends away and shipwreck diving, for those who are experienced in this type of scuba activity.

Since the change of committee there is now a positive outlook among members who see the club catering to their types of diving. This can also be seen in the number of new faces that have joined since the change, and some old members who have rejoined.

So its up to future committees to prevent Australia's top dive club from again sinking into the abyss of arguments and infighting.

Lets progress toward a far better future for all members.

Editor

Tom Byron

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It's amazing how time flies, about nine months from now our audiovisual presentation night will be over for another year. So get your slides or videos together and enter them in one of Australia's most prestigious underwater photographic competitions.

The last get-together at Oak Park was not exactly what we had planned, some members were not happy with last minute changes we made due to weather and water conditions. I would like to apologies for any inconvenience and confusion it may had caused.

A BBQ that was held after the dive was not as popular as others I have attended because of special sausages I cooked (fat free) it would appear that divers prefer sausages loaded with fat and other mysterious fillings.

I am happy to report that Gabby, daughter of past president Peter Foster, has successfully completed her open water dive course. The club wishes her lots of wonderful diving and good visibility, however diving with her father could be a problem.

My darling wife has found her way back to diving and used a dry suit for the first time had only one painful word to say when she came out of the water "squeeze".

As for the committee we are in need of a secretary, the last one Louise Wilson just disappeared into oblivion, so the club is in need of a new and reliable member to take up the position.

Last but not least, it gives me great pleasure to welcome all new club members who have joined South Pacific Divers Club since the last club elections and of course special thanks to members who renewed their membership. It is heartening to see old club members rejoining again. Thank you all for your support.

Club President

Bernie Kraul

PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICERS REPORT

At least I have a bit more time to compose this report. My apologies for the shortness of the last one. As I reported last time I have just been to Palau and Truk Lagoon. The trip was great but limited on the underwater photo side due to rough baggage handling by Continental Micronesia airlines.

However the trip was productive in other ways, which I will discuss at the next club meeting.

Don't forget the club has a mini photo competition running from this meeting as well as a slide show on Sipidan Island by Grey McNeil. So there is plenty happening at the next meeting, I hope to see you all there.

Just one other thing I would like to thank all sponsors of the George Roberts Memorial Trophy for their wonderful support. Without their generous help it would not be the success it was, thank you all.

Photographer Officer

Glen Percy

Good By Whitey

By the time you receive this news letter our Editor for the last nine months, Whitey, will be on his way to Europe for a lengthy holiday. The club wishes him all the best.

He has left the edit of the newsletter to me (Tom Byron). So while he is away I will take the opportunity to change things a little and bring to the club a different type of layout and content.

The way I see it, along with the change of leadership so there should be a change in our newsletter to bring it into the 21 century.

It will feature Future Dive Outings, a Slice of History, Dive News, Club Reports and the usual information relating to club affairs and other items of interest.

To receive this newsletter **YOU MUST BE A FINATIONAL MEMBER.**

CLUB DIVES

Upcoming Dives MARCH

SUNDAY 12

Bernie's world famous hot dogs at the Coal Loader 12.00 midday.

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 25 metres. Shore dive 10 metres. Maximum divers on boat 8. Boat departs Shellharbour Wharf at 9.00 am sharp. Shore dive at Coal Loader 9.30 am. Cost for boat dive \$25.

SUNDAY 26

Shore dive: BBQ and dive at Kurnell.

Depth 11 to 15 metres. Reasonable sponge gardens. Good for macro photography. Meet at The Steps 9.30 am. BBQ will be held at the picnic grounds.

APRIL

WEEKEND AWAY - JERVIS BAY

Saturday 1 and Sunday 2

Maximum number of divers 12 and cost approximately \$150.00. Four boat dives and accommodation less meals.

SATURDAY 22

Shore dive and BBQ Bare Island .
Meet at Bare Island 9.00am

MONDAY 24

Wreck dive *Valiant* at Palm Beach.
Depth about 26 metres. Number of divers 8. Boat departs wharf at Barrenjoey Boatshed at 9.00 am. Rear of Palm Beach Golf Club. Cost \$30.00.

SUNDAY 30

Boat dive *Sea Tamer 11* (Max Western)
Dive Location: Marley Sponge Gardens.
Depth about 26 metres. Boat departs Dolans Bay Wharf at 9.00 am.
Cost \$35.00.

There has been a number changes to the original organised dive plan.

The above cover the months of March and April.

DIVE NEWS

DIVER LOST IN WAVES

The Daily Telegraph: January 27.
A diver is missing after disappearing off a Sydney beach yesterday.

Water police, surf rescue teams and the Westpac helicopter combed Clovelly yesterday afternoon after the diver disappeared as he attempted to climb to safety.

The search had to be called off at 5.30 pm as weather conditions deteriorated.

Clovelly surf lifesavers saw the man trying to clamber on to rocks at the northern end of the beach about 2 pm and went to his aid.

But before they could reach him, he was hit by two waves and disappeared.

"We conducted a very intensive search of the area but located nothing," rescue coordinator, Stephen Leaky said.

The search will resume on Monday morning.

Once again we are confronted with the sad news that another diver lost and drowned whilst attempting to climb out of rough water over rocks near Clovelly.

The report over the radio said that the diver tried to climb over large boulders to safety but was washed back into the ocean by large waves.

Sunday was an extremely rough day with waves sometimes higher than 2 metres according to coast guard reports.

That day I had scheduled a private boat dive in open water near Maroubra, we were to search for a special dive location.

After checking with the local coast guard, decided to cancel our dive arrangements to another day because of rough seas. That same afternoon I heard the sad report.

One cannot pass judgment in a case such as this because we do not know the circumstances leading up to the divers death until a full coroners report is released.

However in the mean time there are a few questions that perhaps

need answering.

What was the diver doing in seas under such rough conditions?

Was he a beginner or so called experienced?

Had he been trained properly in his open water classes and undergone further advance training?

Was he informed about the sea and its elements, what to look for before entering and how to assess its dangers?

Is there enough time in open water or advance classes to equip divers with the knowledge and dangers of rough conditions?

Whatever happened, it's a tragic loss to his family.

If each dive is conducted properly and all safety precautions followed, scuba diving is a safe sport.

Unfortunately fatal accident such as this brings the claws of Work Cover a little closer to strangling the sport of scuba diving in this state.

A SLICE OF HISTORY

1952

Some scuba units started to appear in about mid 1952. Most were home made, but one or two were imported. No one in Australia had started to manufacture aqualungs on a commercial basis at that time.

1953

Three girls Cynthea Leech, Pam McGee and Diana Dewer made an all girl scuba dive in June 1953, a first in Australia for women scuba divers.

1954

Three scuba divers reached a record of 200 feet off Sydney Harbour. They were Dave Rawlings, Ron Harding and Dave Brown all from New South Wales.

Scuba divers discovered the wreck of the *Dunbar* south of Sydney Heads. They were the late Don Linklater, Keith White, Rod McNeill and "Mad" Mick Shanahan.

First scuba diving school in Sydney was Underwater Swimming School of Sydney. Its founder the late Edward du Cros. The school began operations in 1954 with four self-taught instructors, two were women.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: 21st February.

Meeting opened—8.05pm.

Apologies:

Our secretary has disappeared with numerous club records, Glen Percy, Vivien, Peter Norris, Tom Byron, Mark and Fiona Wyman,

Incoming Correspondence:

Institute Technology newsletter, Moray Dive Tours, Terrigal Underwater, URG Bulletin, Lonely Planet, Scuba Association, Waves.

Publicity Officer:

Whitey advised his last newsletter has been published as he is going overseas for some time.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

Were read out by Bernie Kraul, accepted by Mitch and seconded by Noel.

Treasures Report:

Revenue: Membership	\$370.00
Raffle	\$99.00
BBQ Aus Day	\$180.00
Soft drinks	\$23.00
Divers Fee	\$20.00
Total	<u>\$692.00</u>

Expenses: Slide Scanner	\$900.00
Salad	\$21.75
Drinks, Bread	\$36.95
Total	<u>\$958.70</u>

Financial Statement: Account	\$852.38
Investments	\$6254.98
Petty Cash	\$792.90
Total	<u>\$7900.26</u>

Treasurers report accepted
Primary Noel. Seconded Ray.

Social Outings: 26th Jan BBQ 45 divers.
27th Feb BBQ and diving 38 divers.
12th March Bass Point plus BBQ.
26th March Kurnell plus BBQ.

Question was brought up as to why the night dive Friday 3rd March was cancelled, Bernie will check into it. Peter Flockart will organise the dive as he is diving anyway. April 5th, night dive cancelled. Question as to why night dive was cancelled so far in advance. It was suggested in a general discussion that if the Dive Organiser cannot make the dive then someone else will be appointed to take over so the dive will not be cancelled. Peter Flockart suggested it would be more "cuddly" to be a little less organised.

Dive Reports:

Peter Foster dived the *Undola* wreck, Kurnell and Jervis Bay 12 dives total. Mitch went to Thailand, spent 7 days diving with whale sharks on island called "Kartar". John Beddie dived Barrens Hut, weekend on Ocean Trek at Jervis Bay. *Malabar* wreck and *Hilda* wreck also dived St Michaels Golf Course, Kurnell and Container Wall. Graham Poole had 4 dives at Jervis Bay and one at Oak Park.

Special Guest Speaker:

Alan Stewart from St Johns Ambulance. National Principal Training Officer demonstrated Trauma Management Workshop.

Raffle:

1st prize: John Beddie Aqua Sports
2nd prize: Mitch Radomir *Sea Tamer 11*
3rd prize: Heinz Benninger Shiprock Dive.

General Business:

New Secretary Elections. The club is trying to locate Louise Wilson. Please advise if you know of her whereabouts. Will get Tom to call Jackie Rotenstein to try and find the whereabouts of club records. Sunday 20th February SCANS BBQ dive day. Discussion as Gordon paid for SPD membership in SCANS. He explained the benefits of the club being a member i.e. Having a voice within the industry. It was voted that Gordon would be reimbursed. Unanimous vote to stay with SCANS. Peter Foster wants to talk about advertising the AV night, this was deferred to the next meeting. Peter Jerymn, St Johns Ambulance Officer mentioned all skippers duty of care re training and equipment. Senior First Aid Divers, combined 3 day course 8.00am to 5.00pm. Extensive course. Advance resuscitation will be included. All courses are run at Bankstown Sports Club. Details requested of cost, and coverage etc to be placed in the next newsletter.

REMINDER THAT CLUB FEE'S ARE NOW DUE. THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER RECEIVED IF FEE'S ARE NOT PAID. MEMBERS THAT HAVE PAID PLEASE DISREGARD THIS NOTICE.

SINGLE: \$15.00
FAMILY: \$25.00

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Bernie Kraul
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Mobile: 0418648265

Secretary: Vacant

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Equipment Officer: Glen Percy
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Dive Organiser: Tom Byron

Newsletter Editor: Tom Byron
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CLUB SPONSORS

Please support our sponsors.

Max Western (*Sea Tamer 11*)

Dive Charter Boat. Port Hacking.
Phone: Max 95241818 or 0418280791

Southern Cross Dive Charters.

Sydney Harbour.
Phone: Bill 0413360600 or Julie 0411540885.

Aqua Sports Dive Services

Glen Percy 97082826

Shiprock Dive

Leo or Lesley 95262664

CLUB GEAR

All club diving equipment is permanently held by the Equipment Officer Glen Percy, you can contact him at 97082826.

All dive gear is present and accounted for.

Members wishing to avail themselves of any piece of equipment should give one week's notice before hiring is required.

Club meetings are held at 8 pm on the third Monday of each month at Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Parade, Bankstown. Please ask attendant at entrance door for room number and location.