

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB

Established 1960

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2000

CLUB DIVES

WEEKENDS
AWAY

SOCIAL
OUTINGS

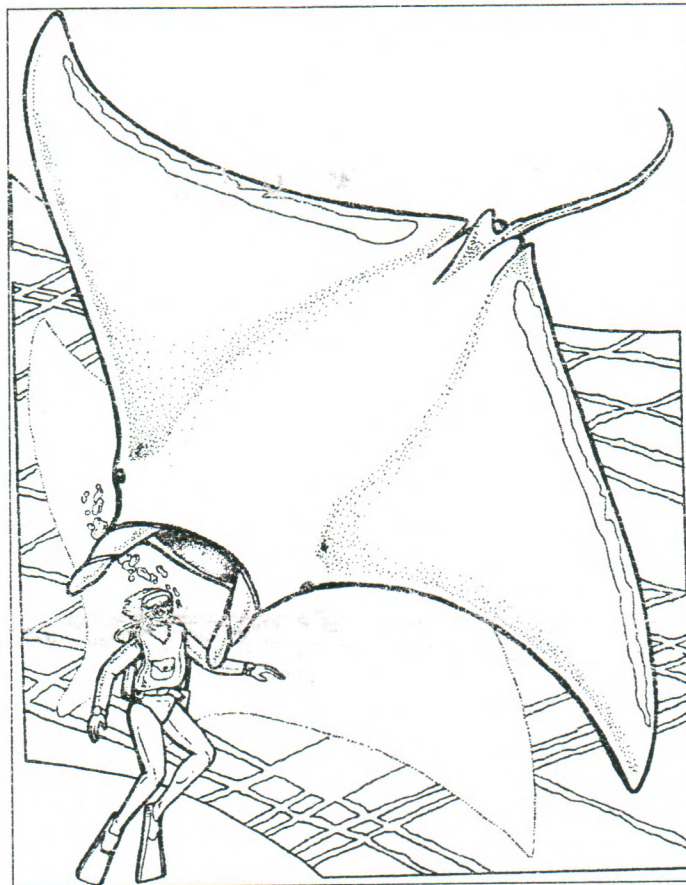
WRECK
DIVING

REEF DIVING

BOAT DIVING

SHORE
DIVING
AND BBQ

NIGHT DIVING



WET RAG

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EDITORIAL

Back in 1960 I was one of about a dozen members of the then recently formed South Pacific Divers Club, we were all keen to make a success of our new club. Each weekend would either find us away at Jervis or Nelson Bay, If we were not diving the full weekend nearly all would be diving either Saturday or Sunday locally at Bass Point or Terrigal. Among us was a feeling of "lets go diving no matter what the weather or sea conditions were like" within reason. Those days most club members dived purely for fun, some for excitement, others to discover new underwater locations and those who could afford underwater cameras were taking pictures and writing short articles for a new dive magazine that had just commenced publication. In our spare time we were all involved in activities that surrounded our club. All were young, keen and enthusiastic. I understand times change, so do people, their thoughts and habits, however we are still a scuba diving club and that has not changed but where are members that should support our dive club. Over the last four months on a couple of club outings and BBQ days we had a good number of members attend. When it comes to weekends away, boat or shore dives where are our members, very few turn up at these outings. They seem to either dive elsewhere or not at all. South Pacific Divers Club is what the name suggests, a scuba diving club formed to meet the needs of divers and to enjoy the company of others. At least once a month we would like to see more members turn up at club outings. Support your club, I am sure that's not too much to ask of any member.

Editor

Tom Byron

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Weather over the last couple of weeks have certainly been a mixture of good and bad for diving, however with the turn toward cooler months we can expect clearer water and better diving conditions. Which brings me to the point of our in-club photo competition that seems to have stalled. There are many good underwater photographers in the club so lets have some good entries in the forthcoming months. You will notice that the club is having a Family Day dive plus BBQ outing at Kurnell on July 23rd, so lets make it a success by bringing family and friends along for an enjoyable day. High tide is at midday so throughout the morning the tide will be incoming, a drift from The Steps to The Flagpole will be just what is needed for the experienced and not so experienced divers. One last thing, our Secretary Lin is having a baby so we may not see much of her for the next couple of months. The committee and all members of South Pacific Divers Club wish her all the best and may she have a healthy youngster. Lin, will the baby be born with fins, mask and snorkel?

Club President

Bernie Kraul

A SLICE OF HISTORY

1936

Pioneer diver and author Rod McNeill started diving at the Great Barrier Reef using native goggles to see underwater. His very early feats of courage during the mid 1930s attracted attention throughout Australia.

Bill Heffernan speared fish at the entrance to Tuggerah Lakes about 1938 and was nearly arrested a number of times for such activities.

1938

Rob Fackerall was one of the first men in Australia to shoot underwater movie film using an 8 mm camera. With the camera attached to his speargun, he shot interesting footage of fish being speared.

PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICERS REPORT



Has anyone seen our absent minded photographic officer? If so would you tell him that his report is overdue.

Video of New Shipwreck at next club meeting

At our next club meeting Bob May will be showing a ten minute video on a new wreck that sank only a short time ago at Point Perpendicular, Jervis Bay. It should be interesting, the wreck lies in about 60 metres of water and was at the time an entire boat. So don't miss the next meeting for some worthwhile entertainment.

Club Members Take Out Placing in Photo Comp

Two of our club members took out second and third placing in the recent Jervis Bay Shoot Out. They were Bill Matterson who came second and Grey McNeil who ran third. A very good effort. South Pacific Divers Club is proud of both members, keep up the good work. Let this be an example to budding photographers in the club, there are rewards for effort put into underwater photography.

Dive Weekends Away

Over the last couple of months there were two weekends away planned for Jervis Bay and Malua Bay both excellent locations for scuba diving, but only one or two club members seemed interested, this is most disheartening. We have another one planned for Forster in July so lets see a little bit of enthusiasm. Why do people join a dive club and don't go diving? There is also a lack of interest in local dives. Are you all frightened of the dreaded saba tooth plankton that lurks at every dive site? Come on you lot get your act together and go diving with the club.

MAY 2000

Date	Day	Location	Contact Person	Meet
3	Wednesday	Night Dive Camp Cove	Duane Langley 0414777778	Victoria Street Watsons Bay
6/7	Sat /Sun	Malua Bay Approx \$180	Peter Foster 95642654	Friday night at the 391, George Bass Drive, Malua Bay.
21	Sunday	Shiprock	Peter Flockart 93710265	Shiprock at 9.00am
28	Sunday	Kurnell and BBQ \$5.00	Duane Langley 0414777778	Kurnell at 10.00am

JUNE 2000

2	Friday Night	Shiprock	Peter Flockart 93710265	Shiprock at 7.00pm
4	Sunday	Wreck <i>Bombo</i> \$30.00	Noel Taylor 0414592410	Wollongong Wharf 9.00am
11	Sunday	Wreck <i>Dee Why</i> \$35.00	Peter Foster 95642654	Rose Bay Wharf 7.00am
25	Sunday	Oak Park	Noel Taylor 0414592410	Oak Park 9.30am

JULY 2000

8/9	Sat /Sun	Foster (Limit 8 divers)	Tom Byron 97745965	Foster
16	Sunday	Wrecks of Valiant and Birchgrove Park /2 seperate dives	Noel Taylor 0414592410	Barrenjoey 9.00am
23	Sunday	Kurnell Family Day/BBQ	Duane Langley 0414777778	Kurnell 9.30am
30	Sunday	Coolooli Wreck	Peter Foster 95642654	Rose Bay Wharf 7.00am

All monies for boat dives must be paid to the dive organiser on the day of the outing. A receipt for the money will be issued and no payments should be made to the boat skipper. All financial transactions will be handled by the club treasurer.

FACT PAGE ABOUT YOUR CLUB

What is South Pacific Divers Club?

The South Pacific Divers Club was formed in the early 1960s by a small group of underwater photographers. Early members of the club enjoyed many different facets of the sport, such as cave diving, setting deep diving records, underwater photography, wreck diving and exploring along the coast both north and south for different dive locations. Today at the beginning of the new century 2000, the club has changed from the early days, however it somehow remains the same. Major activities among its members are still underwater photography, wreck and reef diving. The club's major event is the running of the annual Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year.

Club Meetings

The South Pacific Divers Club meets every third Monday of the month at the Bankstown Sports Club. Meetings begin at 8.00pm. Enquirer at the entrance desk for the room number. All visitors are welcome to our meetings. Generally there are slide shows and drinks after general business.

Who are the members?

South Pacific Divers Club has members from various parts of Sydney and country areas of New South Wales as well as New Zealand. Its members come from all walks of life and enjoy one thing in common, scuba diving. Total membership is almost 100.

Who are the people that run South Pacific Divers Club?

A committee of five is elected once a year. The committee meets once a month generally one or two weeks before the main club meeting. It is the committee responsibility to run dive outings, produce a monthly newsletter, organise the yearly Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition and the George Roberts Trophy as well as fund raising and other activities.

Benefits of Membership

Meeting people who like yourself enjoy the sport of scuba diving.
Weekends away scuba diving along the coast of New South Wales.
Club dives almost every weekend.
Social outings.
Instance dive buddies.
10% discount to members at Aqua Sport Scuba Centre.

Internet Address

Soon you will be able to surf the web to South Pacific Divers Club Home Page.

Dive Coordinators for 2000

Peter Foster at 905642654
Peter Flockart at 93710265
Noel Taylor at 0417658608
Duane Langley at 0414777778

DIVE NEWS

50% of Whale meat Laced with Pollutants

Over half the whale, dolphin and porpoise meat sold in Japan is so highly contaminated that it is unfit for human consumption, while a quarter is mislabeled or misadvertised to the public. A study conducted by scientists at Harvard University, Health Sciences University of Hokkaido and the University of Greenwich, UK found dangerously high levels of mercury and organochlorines including PCBs and the pesticides DDT and Dieldrin levels exceeding international regulatory limits.

One hundred and thirty samples of whale meat were purchased from a variety of regular retail outlets including shops, department stores, fish markets and restaurants, in six cities across Japan.

The samples include sashimi, salted and partially cooked meat, "whale bacon" (sliced blubber strips with attached skin), and canned and cooked meat.

White Shark Information Sheet

A fact sheet about great white sharks (*carcharodon carcharias*) and the white shark project being coordinated by CSIRO as part of the recovery planning process is now available on the CSIRO website at: <http://www.marine.csiro.au/LeafletFolder/whshark.html>

New Advisory Shelter

The new *Advisory Shelter for the North Harbour Aquatic Reserve* recently launched by the NSW Fisheries Minister. It is proposed to also create advisory shelters for the Long Reef and Bushrangers Bay Aquatic Reserve.

Aliens of the Sea

"Aliens of the Sea" is a locally produced documentary by Pawel Achtel, which features some of the most amazing footage of sea dragons you will ever see. The other "stars" of this film include trumpet fish, ghost pipefish and manta rays. This video is in a similar vein to Coral Sea Dreaming, but also features a small amount of narrative. You can preview and order this documentary

online at the following website
<http://www.users.bigpond.com/MSN/3D-Software/>.

More Members at Club Meetings

With a membership of close to 100 why is it that about twenty to thirty people at the best of times turn up at club meetings.

The meetings are friendly, we have slide shows for entertainment, there are drinks and sometimes goodies to nibble, so get with it you lot and attend your club meetings, also we would like to see more faces behind masks at club dives. Surly this is not too much to ask, you are all divers you know, although sometimes I have my doubts.

Members Input

The newsletter needs articles from members, surely among you lot out there is an inspiring young writer that would like to have his or her name in print, about a dive experience with a huge shark with big teeth or weekend away at some location along the New South Wales coast, perhaps the Great Barrier Reef, maybe an overseas dive trip.

You don't all stay at home on the weekends watching TV do you? I sometimes wonder about that.

Now let me see, all it takes is a little bit of imagination, you can even make it up if you want to, no one would know. Like myself perhaps you can only afford a broken pencil and a scrap piece of paper. Now, there you have it, no more excuses, exercise that piece of grey matter that sits on your shoulders and get to work.

Research on Diving Jervis Bay

During 1999, Jervis Bay Marine Park commissioned a research project into scuba diving in Jervis Bay. The main aim was to access the level of diving activity and the relative use of dive sites. Point Perpendicular and Bowen Island are the most highly used dive sites. The result of the research will enable further investigation into the impact of scuba diving in Jervis Bay.

MINUTES OF LAST

MEETING: 17th April 2000

Meeting opened: 8.00 sharp.

Apologies: Grey and Vivian McNeil, Ilona, Mike and Katrina.

Incoming Correspondence: Aqua Sports, list of sponsorship prizes for the raffle for the rest of the year. Letter re: GST, URG Bulletin, Pro Dive Milton Queensland, Bubbles newsletter, Pro Dive Milton liquidation sale, GIO reminder re insurance.

Out Going Correspondence: None.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Accepted by Phil Dale and seconded by Duane.

Treasures Report: Lin La. March.

Income:	Membership	\$130.00
	Raffle	\$86.00
	Bank Interest	\$1.67
	Total	\$217.67

Expenses:	Postage	\$42.75
	Printing	\$48.16
	Stationary	\$29.25
	Bank Charges	\$1.79
	Total	\$121.95

Financial Statement:

Cheque Account Balance	\$616.58
Investment Account	\$6,256.43
Petty Cash	\$957.65
Total	\$7,830.66

Treasures Report accepted

Primary: David Burns

Seconded: Rod Taylor

Dive Organiser: Tom Byron

Newsletter contains three months of club diving. Amendment *Dee Why* wreck dive Sunday 11th June instead of Saturday 10th of June. Magic Point grey nurse shark dive private boats only at Kurnell boat ramp at 7.30 Sunday 30th April. This will be a club BBQ day. Sunday 22nd April Bare Island dive postponed.

Newsletter Editor: Tom Byron

No intake from members re newsletter articles please submit anything related to diving.

Web Site: Dive Oz. Website starter package \$385.00. Setup fee \$99.00. Domain registration \$125.00 Banner advertising is dive related.

Photographic Officer: A.V Night Glen now has written confirmation that one of the major prizes is a two weeks diving holiday at Palau. There are lots of feedback from divers. The A.V competition will close on the 1/7/2000.

Equipment Officer: Equipment is all present and accounted for. Please would club members use it.

Social Organiser: Bernie apologised for the cancellation of some dives.

Dive Reports: Peter Foster had 2 dives on the wreck of the *Birchgrove Park*. Dived *Valiant* wreck with his daughter. Good dive and could see the wreck almost from the surface. Peter also suggested that the club dive the *Satara* and *Catterthun*. To dive the *Catterthun* club members must be experienced in deep diving. Peter Flockart dived Barrens Hut. Mitch had a dive at Marley Point Pinnacles, he said that fish life was almost non-existent and the dive site had gone down in quality. Peter and Loi dived somewhere and Loi ask Peter "Where are we." They were at The Steps at Kurnell and then dived Shiprock at night Loi had his camera and Peter learnt the hard way when you are around

underwater photographers, he suffered flash blindness for the next couple of days. Sue dived Shiprock at night water visibility was 11 metres and lots of fish life. John Beddie dived the Cathedral Caves at Jervis Bay also the wreck of *Wandra*, then Wreck Bay and the wreck of *Corangamite*.

Slide Competition: No competitors.

Raffle: 1st Prize: 10 air fills Aqua Sports Susan Tate.

2nd Prize: Sea Tamer 11 Tom Byron.

3rd Prize: Air Fills Shiprock Dive Phill Dale.

Outstanding prizes to be collected. Peter Flockart has all copies of minutes/ newsletter so we can work out who is still to collect their prizes.

General Business: GIO Business Insurance, Public Liability and the Magnetometer. Suggested due to cost of \$350.00 magnetometer insurance be dropped. Problem is that the magnetometer is not being used therefore not generating any income. Duane, motioned to drop insurance on magnetometer. Second by Loi. (Later withdrawn in favour of the next motion. Mitch motioned to source alternative quote for insurance and report back next meeting. Martin Kandalis to investigate insurance. Bernie also suggested the club put the magnetometer on probation for 12

months and keep records of its usage. Some members asked if anyone had heard from Louise Wilson who has disappeared with some of the clubs records. The answer was not yet. Club mobile phone, President Bernie only received 2 calls and in the five months that Tom Byron had the phone he has only received one call. The contract has now expired. Mitch motioned to cancel phone account. Seconded by Martin Kandalis, Carried unanimously. Peter Foster to cancel phone as it is in his name. Peter Foster advised that last year the mobile phone was used extensively as the A.V. night neared. Glen Percy advised that advertising has Aqua Sports phone number. White pages and yellow pages advertising will also have to be cancelled. On a previous bill is the name and number of the person to be contacted to cancel listing. Club records still missing. Glen said he would make a few enquiries to try and contact Louise Wilson. Any invoices/bills that are still in individuals names that were being reimbursed are not to be paid by that individual but given to the Treasurer for payment. All invoices must be sent to the Club address at the post office box number. Club members did well at the Jervis Bay Photo Shoot Out. Bill Matterson came second and Grey McNeil ran third. Peter Flockart advised at Darling Harbour 5th and 6th of May a Photo Imaging Show. John Beedie brought up that the last Wet Rag, in-house fighting is still being mentioned although that was happening over 7 months ago. He said there is no reason for it to still be mentioned. President Bernie said that a lot of old members are not turning up to meetings and it is a way of letting them know that meetings are now conducted without discord. It was agreed that we would move on in this area. Meeting closed at 9.50. Peter Foster brought along a recent video about the wreck of *Birchgrove Park*. Thanks for that Peter.

Nitrox at Jervis Bay

Pro Dive at Jervis Bay now has Nitrox for divers skilled in its use. When diving at the Bay please phone the dive shop for further information on: 0244415255.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Bernie Kraul
96069731 H 97924333 W
Mobile: 0413500715

Treasurer: Lin La
93180142 H
Mobile: 0418648265

Secretary: Susan Tate
96813287

Photographic Officer: Glen Percy
Equipment Officer: Glen Percy
97082826 W
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aquasports@compuserve.com

Dive Organiser: Tom Byron
Newsletter Editor: Tom Byron
97745965 H
Mobile: 0410596501
byronscubaguide@telstra.easymail.com.au

CLUB SPONSORS

Please support our sponsors.

Max Western (Sea Tamer 11)
Dive Charter Boat. Port Hacking.
Phone: Max 95241818 or 0418280791

Southern Comfort 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.