

August 2000

Club Dives
Weekends Away

Social Outings
Wreck Diving

Reef Diving
Boat Diving

Shore Diving
Night Diving

South Pacific Divers Club

Established 1960

Wet Rag

Monthly Newsletter



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The South Pacific Divers Club Newsletter WET RAG is published by South Pacific Divers Club and edited by Tom Byron. All material submitted to the newsletter should be sent to Tom Byron 1 Bastille Close Padstow Heights 2211 Sydney NSW. Phone (02) 97745965. E-mail: tombyron@telstra.easymail.com.au. Other correspondence should be sent to South Pacific Divers Club PO Box 823 Bankstown

EDITORIAL

Another year lies ahead of us with almost the same committee as last year the only new member is Gray McNeil as Photographic Officer, congratulations Gray.

On a more somber note, the club was informed last meeting by our Photographic Officer, Glen Percy, that due to the lack of entrants in this years South Pacific Divers Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year, club will not be hosting the event. Personally I think that this photographic competition has past its use by date and we should move on. In past years it was considered a major event on the annual diving calendar, however all things must come to pass and the club has to move forward with other projects, whatever they may be. It's sad to see the photo comp fold but what can be done when it seems that over all interest is not there any more among underwater photographers.

Our new Photographic Officer Gray McNeill has to look at this problem from another angle and come up with a new and attractive concept to entice entrants and sponsors to participate in the event, if there is to be another. If South Pacific Divers Club is to hold the photo comp in future years then it should be run every second year and open to all underwater photographers world-wide, be aligned with only one dive magazine in Australia, carry a string of attractive prizes and eliminate the presentation night. It would then be easier to organize, cheaper to run, and the sponsors would be guaranteed maximum coverage via the dive magazine not just a couple of hundred divers attending the presentation night.

Editor

Tom Byron

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Last months election of a new committee saw most of the previous members re-elected with the exception of the photographic officer, Glen Percy, who was replaced by Gray McNeil. We all welcome Gray to the new position I would also like to thank Martin Kandilas for filling in as returning officer. Making this years proceedings one of the quickest I have seen for some time. Before the elections took place the meeting was addressed by Glen Percy our then photographic officer who informed all that the Australasian Underwater, Photographer of the Year, would not take place as previously planned due to the lack of entrants. Sadly the competition under its present format has been cancelled until further notice. I would like to thank everyone who attended our last BBQ and dive outing at Kurnell on the 23 of July. It was encouraging to see so many members in attendance, the result was, we ran out of food.

President

Bernie Kraul

A SLICE OF DIVING HISTORY

1951.
FIRST AUSTRALIAN SCUBA DIVING REGULATOR
Michel Calluud a Frenchman who immigrated to Australia just after the Second World War, brought with him knowledge of the Gagnan-Cousteau aqualungs. Together with Ted Baker and George McGann, he made one of Australia's first aqualung. It was ready for testing in November

1951.

Two men from Newcastle developed a regulator unit for scuba diving. Brother's George and Trevor Davies fabricated a twin cylinder unit welded in two

sections. The first stage of the regulator was also welded to the top of the cylinder. First reported sighting of a white pointer shark underwater by a skindiver was in South Australia during June 1951. The spearman was Ron Ware.

1952

Some scuba diving 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.

From the book HISTORY OF SPEARFISHING AND SCUBA DIVING IN AUSTRALIA.

The first 80 years 1917 to 1997

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS COMMITTEE MEETING

11th J-JULY 2000

Attendees:

Bernie Kraul President

Sue Tate Secretary.

Lin La Treasurer.

Tom Byron Editor

Apologies from

Glen Percy Photographic Officer

Commenced 8.00pm

Finished 9.20pm

Newsletter:

Newsletter costing has risen, re GST now printing cost is \$65 .00.

Postage \$35.00.

Changing the newsletter was discussed. It was decided to leave the newsletter as is because it is the only functioning thing in the club at the moment.

Dives:

No dives planned. Awaiting new Dive Organisator after AGM. Magnetometer insurance has been cancelled.

Peter Foster to be asked if he has cancelled the mobile phone. A job he was given two months ago. He has not attended the last couple of club meeting to ask.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Diving the wreck of Collier *Birchgrove Park*

Martin Kandilas

Seeing I haven't been diving for the last 18 months or so I can't really give any recent dive report, so I thought about sharing an experience of many years ago with members, especially some of you newer divers or those who have not yet caught the wreck diving bug.

It was back in the good old days of twin hose regulators, Fenzy vests and those wonderful stem gauges. Don't know what a stem gauge is? Ask me or the newsletter editor at the next meeting.

It was way back in January 1977 and it ranks in the top three of more than three thousand dives I have done. I was diving with some of the members of the South Pacific Divers Club, even though I was yet to join the club. There was Rick Latimer, Bob Smith, both deceased, Terry Mansfield, and Dave Bailey. I had a smooth skin Lourme Spirotechnique wetsuit back then and it was probably the warmest, most comfortable wetsuit I have ever owned. I also owned twin 72cf cylinders a Siebe Gorman mark 7 twin hose regulator. It was affectionately known as a "Heinke Honker".

Our target was of course the wreck of *Birchgrove Park* known as "Birchie". It lays and still does, hard on its port side in 165 feet of water off Bungan Head having sunk in a storm in 1956.

Back in the late seventies the wreck was virtually intact, even the wheelhouse was attached. It had loads of portholes and other goodies for us ardent wreck divers.

There was a resident school of jewfish under the bow and thousands of kingfish and nannygai everywhere. On this glorious Sunday morning we all met at Palm Beach near where Atlantis Divers are now located. The six of us went out in two boats. Neither had depth sounders but that was not a problem as Rick could find

the wreck with his eyes closed. After about ten dives I could also do the same.

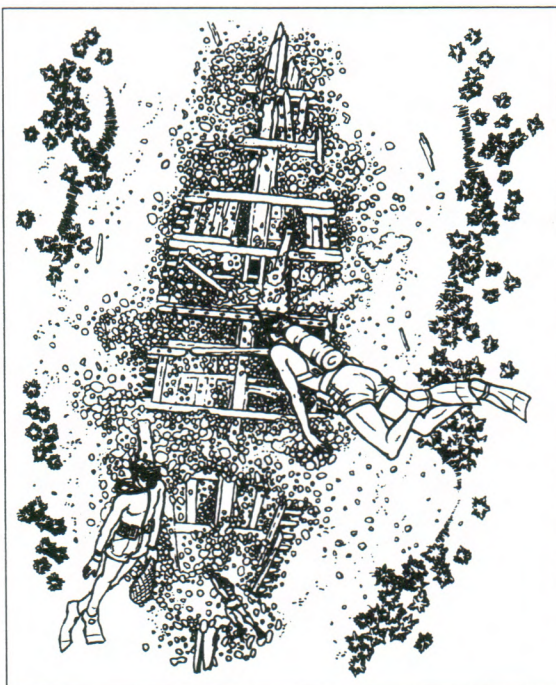
On the way out the first thing we noticed was the beautiful purple, aqua colour of the wake. The sea was a deep, deep blue, and even with the sun only about half way up from the horizon we knew we were all in for a treat if the visibility continued out at the wreck.

After we anchored, I was first in

Hasselblad and started taking photos. Dave, Bob and I were at the bow and Terry, Ray and Rick were at the stern. To give an idea of the lateral visibility, the *Birchgrove Park* is 160 feet long and we were waving to each other from opposite ends of the wreck.

Schools of fish cruised lazily by and you could see 150 feet plus out onto the sand. It was

freakish. Then the real treat, we went into the engine room, squeezing up over the top of the boiler and past the access ladder. I will never forget what I saw next. Lying on the boiler was a huge wobbe-gong, eerily lit by the six round deadlights on the coach house roof. It was the most spectacular sight and at that moment I decided I had to get an underwater camera. There was a prize winning shot waiting, with a diver and his torch



and down the anchor rope. We got to the bottom and quickly locked the two anchors in to the wreck, there was absolutely no current. The visibility was so great that we did very little apart from take the most leisurely swim I can ever remember on a wreck. Dave gestured to me and pointed up, I could not believe it. There were the two boats with divers going over the side, we could actually see their splashes from 165 feet below.

A couple of minutes later the others got to the bottom. Terry had

hanging over the wobbe-gong and sunlight from the six deadlights streaming down. Some things stay etched in the mind forever.'

January 1977 was a long time ago, but how could I forget? The old SOS decompression metre US Divers tables and stem gauge, where would we have been without them. Some dives just can't be repeated and to date this one has not.

Thanks Martin, a good story. ED

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 cove diving, underwater photography, wreck diving and exploring along the north and south coast of New South Wales searching for new 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 clubs 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. Enquiry 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. Its members come from all walks of life and enjoy one thing in common, scuba diving. Total membership is almost 75.

Who are the people that run South Pacific Divers Club

A committee of six is elected once a year. The committee meets once a month generally one or two weeks before the main club meeting. It is the committees responsibility to run outings, produce a monthly newsletter, organise 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 Sports Scuba Centre.

CLUB SPONSORS

Please support our sponsors

Max Western (*Sea Tamer II*)
Dive Charter Boat Port Hacking
Phone: 95241818
Mobile: 0418280791

Aqua Sports Dive Service
Glen Percy 97082826

Shiprock Dive
Leo or Lesley
95262664

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

For year 2000 to 2001

President
Bernie Kraul
Phone: 96069731 H 97924333 W

Treasurer
Lin La
93180142 H **Mobile:** 0418648265

Secretary
Susan Tate
96813287

Photographer Officer
Gray McNeill

Equipment Officer
Glen Percy
97082826 W **Mobile:** 0414275179

Newsletter Editor

Tom Byron
97745965 W **Mobile:** 0410596501
Email:
tombyron@telstra.easymail.com.au

CLUB NEWS

OAK PARK

By Duane Langley

Well! It is, winter and we all expect the worst, but this Sunday at Oak Park was just an absolutely glorious day. A full sky of sun, not a breath of wind and flat blue seas with just enough shore break (12 inches) to let us know we really were at the beach facing a vast ocean.

All that remained was for a number of club members to show.

You guessed it, Loi and Hau were already on site and had been for the past hour. At least they had a good parking spot. What we didn't know, was that on this day there was a fun run through to Cronulla and the authorities had all the streets blocked off after 9am and this caused confusion to those that were trying to arrive on time, including our intrepid leader, Noel Taylor.

The last to arrive was Steve and being all the good buddies we are, we waited for him, even though by this time Hau was champing at the bit to get into the water.

Now we all know that 13 divers are not going to dive as a single group at Oak Park, are, they? Well we all got into the water at basically the same time, but this was the last each buddy pair really saw any other buddy pairs, except for fleeting glimpses. I did find Loi and Hau trying to set up some photographic poses, but I got the impression that Hau was not modeling in the right vane that Loi was after. Steve also flashed passed in drunken charge on a scooter.

The water was clear and yes! cool. It was because of these factors that this was a really pleasant dive.

There were small and very big cuttlefish, nudibranchs, port Jackson sharks actually swimming and not acting as normal, like my rottweiler (sleeping). There was even a school of dolphins in the exact spot Sue and I were an hour before.

A very friendly bright blue groper and lots of sea urchins to feed him. (There is a so called diver from Nelson Bay that once

once said to me "You could be fined for this dreadful display of flaunting the law by cutting up sea urchins", so watch out you lot. ED) A pretty school of bullseye and many other varieties of one kind or another.

I am not really a fan of Oak Park and this is probably due to being a sheep dog for Glen Percy and his dive schools on many occasion. I have to say that this was a very pleasant dive, in very pleasant conditions and to top it off Noel, Sue and myself finished the day off with a pleasant late lunch at LuLu's restaurant in Beverly Hills.

For those of you who missed the dive, I hope what ever you did was great as this was very much a dive not to be missed and very much why a club is a great way to get people together.

To Noel, Loi, Hau, Steve and Jodie and son, Tony, Craig, Peter, Sue, Julie and kids, Rod, Matt and 3 other guys whose names elude me, thanks for the company.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 17th July 2000

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS MEETING MINUTES

Apologies: Mitch, Ilona, Vivian, Peter Foster.

Incoming Correspondence: Institute Technology newsletter, Terrigal Underwater newsletter, Marine and Coastal Communication Network Species Survey, GST Start Up newsletters, Bonds Courier information, SCAN newsletter and Lonely Planet newsletter Previous Meeting Minutes: Accepted by Phil and seconded by Gray.

Treasurers Report: JUNE 2000

Lin La	
Revenue Raffle	\$ 61.25
Interest	\$1.63
Total 4	\$62.88

Expenses

BBQ at Kurnell	\$56.60
Printing & postage	\$96.95
Bank charges	\$0.60
Total	\$154.15

Financial Statement

Cheque account	\$1,277.10
Passport account	\$6,258.00
Petty Cash	\$236.75
Total	\$7,771.85

Last Financial Year 2000 (1st July, 1999-30th June, 2000)

Income	\$2,640.58
Expenses	\$3,028.92
Total	(-388.34)

Photographic Officers Report: A.V. Night

At this point there are not enough entries to run the AV. Night unfair to sponsors. Total Entrants/42. Total 60 slides Category Entries 12 open, 18 novice, 4 individual 7 video and 5 masters. Don't think we can justify to keep sponsors onside and do justice to the club.

Opening up to a magazine, re-formatting as a comp itself, not necessarily a night out as well Richard Taylor has offered SPD the option of incorporating our competition as part of Oztec's comp, next year. Offered use of auditorium.

Larger number of competitions now running.

Suggestion was made to pan out with slides from other years.

If we cannot guarantee interest in competitors, can we guarantee interest in people turning up in 5 months time to view the function?

Cannot guarantee numbers, we cannot guarantee a successful show.

Where is the response for our show??? Appears we have lost entrants to other comps and need to look at promotion methods So far only 2 people have made enquiries re tickets to the show. Suggestion made re changing

format and still running the show, but to change the format under the circumstances and at this time in the schedule is not really a viable option. We were told about an e-mail address that lists names etc. of people entering underwater comps. Which also advertises up and coming comps.

For the sake of our Sponsors there is a need to hold competitors to the Australasian area and immediate Pacific regions.

Suggested extending the deadline cannot do would mean changing date of the night itself etc.

Cut losses now, re access, open night up for suggestions, web page would be an advantage re advertising. Bottom line regarding all the scenario's as discussed above was that there are not enough entries to make it feasible to proceed. We are faced with a no win situation. If we were to proceed with the present lack of response, we would undoubtedly upset sponsors which will put them off side with any further prizes etc and it will probably cost us our bank balance. Decided to send out letters to all entrants, letters to sponsors explaining situation, also stating to sponsors that we are concerned that they are not getting value for their dollars. Decision was made to keep comp. Within the Australasian region to foster Australian local photographers, which keeps prizes local so sponsors benefit.

Tried to open comp. to make it fairer keeping previous winners in the masters category.

Peter's suggestion was to run an article in say Dive log, Where are all our under water photographers?? Simply put, as photographic officer, the buck stops with me and I am not able to see a way of satisfying our generous sponsors needs., nor can I see us satisfying the attendees of the night with such a dismal entrant rate. It is therefore with regret that I have decided that the AV night as planned, will no longer go ahead and the procedures

to notify those needing to be notified will be put in to place. This has not been an easy decision to arrive at, but is one that had to be made.

Majority of club members in attendance supported Glens Decision.

Phil raised motion put forward to cancel this years competition. second by Martin with a unanimous show of hands.

Social Organiser - Bernie
23rd July-BBQ/Dive Day, Kurnell.
Volunteered Steve to shuttle people to the Steps.

Dive reports:

Peter Flockart *Cooloolie*, wreck 10 to 12 metres viz quite nice. Found another use for his dry suit when his B.C failed at 130 feet. Could hear whale noises underwater, but couldn't see any. Lots of kingfish.

Phil dived at Fairlight last Sunday not much viz but was O.K.

Whitey (he is back) spent 3 days in the Red Sea couldn't manage a dive due to rough seas. England Stoney Cove didn't get out to dive there either. Scored a BSAC Membership.

Matthew dived the *Birchgrove Park* for the first time. Saw 2 plaques cannot remember much else. Found a beer can and carried it around for the dive.

Oak Park Club Dive 25th June:

Fifteen divers in attendance. Peter ended up following some girls from another group. After we dried and packed everything away, dolphins were seen swimming right where we had been diving. Of course there were divers still in the water. Bugger!

GENERAL BUSINESS

Skirmish Day 13 August-please leave names. We are up against Bernie. Peter Foster was asked three months ago to cancel the mobile phone, but has not done so. Tom will see what he can do as its costing us money for nothing. Insurance magnetometer:

The Insurance has been cancelled Martin advises he has had discussions with someone in regards to the Torch Newspaper printing the club newsletter at no charge, no guarantee but it's in the process.

SCAN: Needs a club representative to attend their 3 monthly meetings at Haberfield Rowing Club.

Application for membership renewal was received from former member Leo Bergenen along with a cheque including GST. The committee decided that as the application was not received in accordance with the rules of incorporation, that the membership had in fact lapsed and this application was being viewed as an application for membership.

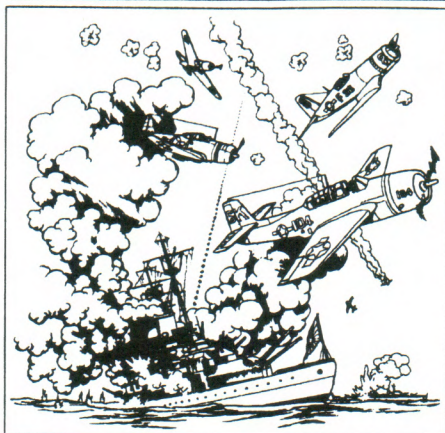
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Paragraph 5, CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Sub Section (a) Membership shall cease upon resignation, expulsion or failure to pay outstanding fees within one month of due date, defined as 31st January of membership year. It should be noted that the original Model Rules for Incorporation allowed 3 months grace for members to pay after the expiration of a members current year, but it appears that this has been changed at some time. Application will be made to the Department of Fair Trading for a true and correct copy of the Rules of Incorporation that they have and such will be made available to the members at the earliest convenient date. The Committee decided to decline this application at this time in the interests of maintaining the newly found harmonious atmosphere that has returned to the club's functions and meetings.

Paragraph 2, MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

Sub Section (d) The Committee
Continued on page 9



A series of articles about shipwrecks will appear on this page over the next twelve months.

DISCOVERY OF AUSTRALIAN CRUISER HMAS *PERTH*

Reproduced from the book:

HISTORY OF SPEARFISHING AND SCUBA DIVING IN AUSTRALIA

First 80 years 1917 to 1997 Retail \$43.95 including GST

By the time we arrived back over the wreck, everyone was sick of the deal. I had to badger the fishermen to try again as I was anxious to identify the wreck ship which I felt was another freighter so that we could leave it and work more to the west, where I thought the battleships *Perth* and *Houston* lay. After some trouble maneuvering, the fishermen again hooked the wreck, this time using a half-inch diameter rope and a ten-pound shot. The day was very hot, and even under water it wasn't much better. The sea was warm and thick with the porridge-like plankton sticking to the rope, making it slippery against my rubber gloves. At about 45 metres, schooling fish started to appear, and I knew I was nearly there. The fish, which were gray. With yellow backs and tails were about eighteen inches long and hung in thick clouds. I stopped to check my instruments and make a routine survey. All was well and I started again, cautiously, eyes probing ahead and around for signs of the wreck. For a while there was nothing, then from out of the gray mist a ship started to take shape under me. At first, it was just a confused pattern of steel plates and rivets, and I could not form a mental picture of how she was lying. Moving on, I realized the Ship was on her port side and that the weight at the end of the line must have caught on something beyond her. The visibility was improving and was now more than

twenty feet and I could make out the shape of her propeller with the rope leading straight to it. This was better than I hoped; once-on the propeller it should be easy enough to find hand holes to work back to the hull.

The last few feet were like a nightmare. I could not get close to the propeller no matter how hard I pulled against the current, and was just about worn out by the time I moved in behind the protection of the huge blade.

After a while, I stood up on the drive shaft and inspected the propeller. It was larger than the one on the freighter we had found earlier in the morning, with the blades more clover shaped.

Taking hold of the edge, I peered out into the current, immediately sprang back in haste and almost lost my footing. There was a shark pack gliding along in line astern making straight for me. They were heart stoppers and I do not mind admitting that the sight of them chilled me to the marrow.

Pressing back against the blade of the propeller, I watched as they circled, counting them. There were six, and each one looked lean and fast and had cold swiveling eyes. I reckoned that I was safe enough where I was, but I could not stay there. The only escape from the sharks seemed to be the rope stretching away into the fog across the hull. It looked open and unprotected,

and after first checking my air supply, I looked quickly around for possible alternatives. It was then, almost at the limit of the visibility, that I saw the second propeller. I experienced a chill far more sudden and severe than that brought on by the sight of the sharks. This was no freighter! Twin propellers on the starboard side could mean only one thing. This was a four screwed ship, a warship, and the only warships in the area were the *Perth* and *Houston*. For a moment my mind was numbed and, crouching down on the shaft, I stared at the metal without really seeing it, rubbing at it with my hand and blinking in disbelief. It was all too quick to comprehend. I was like a boxer who had mentally conditioned himself for a hard fifteen bout only to find that he had won by a knockout in the first. As my mind cleared, there came a feeling of almost overpowering awe at the knowledge of where I was, together with a strong sensation of trespass that made me doubt my right to be there. But this was a natural reaction, and I knew that if I was going to finish the job this psychological hurdle had to be overcome like any other problem. I looked again at the drive shaft, this time seeing it in detail. Which one was she, the *Perth* or *Houston* or some other World War Two wreck.

Continued next month

GIZO HARBOUR and MV PETAJ

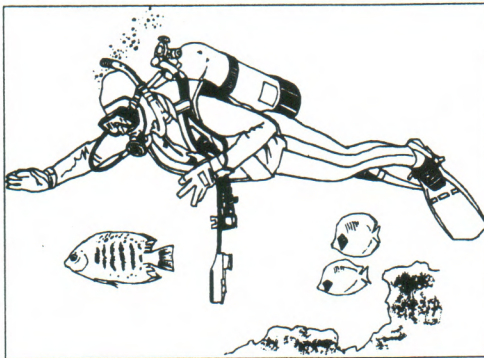
By Neil Vincent

Sitting on the wharf, small fish swim around my feet assessing their value as food, larger trevally menace a school of pilchards whose only protection appears to be their ability to move as a single entity. Clarity and calmness of the water reveal life beneath the surface, a pleasure no longer available in the polluted waters of my home country.

Across the rising sun, a small boy paddle his wooden canoe to school from his home in a village. Behind me, noises of a waking town overcome the night noises. Not cars or mechanical noises but people noises.

Roosters crowing, babies crying, low adult voices and singing from children. A new day begins in Gizo.

Gizo is a small town or a large village, it is the capital of the Western Province on the island of Ghizo in the Solomon Islands. Friendly people of many colours and origins call it home. Gizo is not a tourist town, it is typical of many South Pacific towns progressing towards western "ideals". Walking along the main street illustrates the changing culture, Asian merchant shops, which all appear to sell the same goods, are in the majority, smells of fresh baking bread drift from a new bakery, crowds of people already pack the open air market, both buyers and sellers, western and traditional clothing, commonly brightly coloured. Coconuts, paw paw, beetle nut chili, ginger all forms of fresh produce and fresh fish are laid out on concrete benches or on woven palm frond mats on the ground. People walk from other sections of the island, others come across the water by canoe, wooden dugout, aluminum and now the popular motorized fiberglass longboats. Living by the sun, the town is a bustle by 8am.



Many of the tourists who come to Gizo are divers, here to dive the ship and plane wrecks, a legacy of the fierce battles which took place in this area during World War Two, and to view coral reefs which are the living building blocks of the islands. White sand fringed islands lined with coconut palms are prolific enhancing the natural beauty of the region. By contrast Gizo Harbour heavily influenced by human habitation, refuse, freighters, motorized canoes and unsightly buildings and wharfs on the waters edge.

Despite all of this the ocean has survived and is still very clear and inviting.

Slipping beneath the surface reveals the beautiful side of Gizo. Sea grasses grow from the white sand, "snakes" move around the bottom scavenging for food, these "snakes" are in fact pipe fish. Sea horse like faces and long exoskeleton bodies make for an unusual creature. Delicate colours form patterns of lines and patches enabling them to disappear into their surrounding.

Among the upper ends of the sea grass is a school of Razor fish.

Artists of synchronized swimming, they hover vertically appearing as more leaves of sea grass to the unobservant eye or a predator. Fifteen meters ahead a dark

shadow materializes into the form of a boat sitting upright on the sand bottom. MV *Petaj* was scuttled as an artificial reef in 1997 after an adventurous life of fifty four years. MV *Petaj* began life as ML802 a Fairmile "B" type motor launch with the Royal Australian Navy, her most vital role was inducing Japanese soldiers on Muschu Island in Papua New Guinea to surrender in July 1945. Broadcasting nightly news and invita-

tions to the Japanese to surrender proved fruitless for many days until they were able to broadcast the news of other areas which had surrendered, it was then that groups of Japanese soldiers began emerging from the jungle carrying white flags.

MV *Petaj* is now home to a school of bat fish which greet the arriving divers, stingrays; hide in the sand and overhead the cruising trevally attack any small fish that ventures too far from the safety of the wreck. Anemones have attached to the flat deck plates, in turn, becoming home to several different species of anemone fish which range in colour from black and white to tomato red. Colour of these small fish is no indication of their temperament, they all defend their territory from intruders vigorously no matter how large the intruder.

Continued next month



SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1999-2000

Income		Expenses	
Membership Fees	1045.00	Social Functions	292.65
Dive Fees	20.00	Club Equipment	900.00
Social Functions	539.00	Stationery, Postage, Printing	857.22
Raffles	1025.55	Phone	372.71
Interest	11.03	Bank Fees	13.39
Total Income	2640.58	Misc	592.95
		Total Expenses	3028.92

Assets		Liabilities	
Cheque A/C Balance	1277.10		
Passbook A/C Balance	6258.00	Liabilities	None
Petty Cash	236.75		
Magnetometer	1500.00		
Oxygen Equipment	600.00		
Total	9871.75		

Income and Expenses

For a detail financial statement for 1999-2000 please contact Tom Byron for an income and expenses computer print out.

Continued from page 6

if requested in writing by the applicant, is required to advise the applicant of the grounds upon which the applicant has been rejected. The Committee may at its discretion provide information to any member upon receipt of a written request for information regarding applications for membership, either considered or to be considered by the Committee.

This matter along with the Committee's decision was given over to general debate by the members present at this AGM. The matter was debated and it was apparent that there definitely was going to be an immediate adverse re-action for the club should this application be accepted, with some members being prepared to resign should such a decision be in favour of this application being accepted.

A motion from Gordon was put to reject this application this time. This motion was seconded by Noel.

Vote 12 for, and 3 against, 5 abstained from voting.

The resulting decision from both the Committee and the attending members of the AGM were in the negative in respect to this particular application, Leo Bergenen, and in the due course of business the applicant will be notified by mail of this decision and his cheque returned.

Raffle

1st Prize Max Western: Sea Tamer 11 Noel

2nd Prize Aqua Sports: Hydro and air fill Phil

3rd Prize Shiprock Dive Shop Two air fills Gray

Election of Office Bearers for the next financial year:

Martin Kandilas stood once again as returning officer. Thank You from all members

New Committee voted in as follows:

President: Bernie Kraul

Treasurer: Lin La

Secretary: Sue Tate

Photographic Officer: Gray McNeil

Equipment Officer: Glen Percy

Newsletter Editor: Tom Byron

Dive Organiser: The club members will nominate these people as needed at each monthly meeting and decide where to dive for the next month.

A big **THANK YOU** to both the old and new committee.

Please note that the above people have accepted their positions for the coming term and as members we have an obligation to help each and everyone of them during the coming year. Please do not wait until asked to help. If you are able to assist some where along the line offer your assistance. If we all do a little, nobody has to do a lot.

BACK PAGE

A good turn out of members rolled up at the BBQ and Dive Day at Kurnell on Sunday 23 July. Over 30 members attended. It was a glorious day with little wind, smooth seas and on top of that the water visibility was in excess of 15 metres. Some of us would like to know who ate most of the food as there was none left before the end of the day.

I have noticed over the last six months a number of old members of the club showing up at meetings and outings. We hope they will rejoin in future months.

We all welcome Leo Mayer a past president back to the club. Leo attended our club BBQ day at Kurnell and actually went for a dive.

Most members know that our trusty Treasurer Lin has just had a baby girl. Lin brought her baby along to the outing on the 23rd. It's the sweetest little thing you have seen, even if it had its eyes closed and yelled all the time. Good on you Lin you have a right royal Aussie there.

Our past newsletter editor "Whitie" as we all affectingly know him and some of us wish we didn't, has returned from a long trip overseas. Two of his stops were at the Red Sea where he claims the weather was bad and could not dive, the other stop over was in England at a place called Stoney Cove, where he also claims the weather was too rough to dive. Now this particular chap has been known in past years to absorb a little too many schnapps, so some of us are speculating maybe he was under the weather instead of the weather being somewhat inclement. However one good thing came out of the trip as far as the English were concerned, he was given membership to the BSAC Club and then transported back to the Colony in chains.

The club needs a representative for SCANS quarterly meetings. Anyone interested?

The newsletter needs articles of true life adventures, now there must be some of you out there that can write. Surly you all learnt to read and write whilst at kindergarten, didn't you?. So lets have some of those riveting, death defying, shark wrestling, heroic dive to the bottom of the sea stories you all talk about at club meetings.

If there are any typing mistakes in this newsletter then the buck stops with me, as I have, this month, no time to proof read before the deadline for postage to members. Sorry.

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