

Club Dives
Weekends Away

Social Outings
Wreck Diving

Reef Diving
Boat Diving

Shore Diving
Night Diving

South Pacific Divers Club

Established 1960

October
September 2000

Wet Rag



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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

As you may have noticed, and I imagine some have not, the newsletter is a little thin this month. No it's not because there's nothing to write about, and I'm not too lazy, the fact is it saves money, also work has caught up with me and I am too darn busy. You see I have a business to run and must pay the rent, feed the dog, buy seed for the bird, pay my board so I can have half a bed to sleep in and eat at McDonalds.

This month I am off to do some videoing for a new CD I'm making for my Scuba Divers Guide books. That's going to take a little time, about two or three weeks out of next month.

What I am trying to say is the fact that the club may not have a newsletter next month, unless of course the seas become a little rough.

I hear a roomer that there are some underwater photographers in the club, I have a funny feeling that they do not exist because no one has seen any of these strange looking creatures about.

This is what they look like, and their strange habits. You can use the following for identification.

Strange Habits:

They have a one eyed view of the world, a crooked right index finger and whilst underwater carry around a metal box with their head stuck to it. Two flashing lights on long poles that blind other divers swimming within the vicinity of these poor dejected soles.

What they look like:

A more miserable bunch of people you have never seen. They complain about film being too dear. Blame the camera for their over or under exposed images. All ways nicking from the piggy bank to buy this lens and that to improve their skills. Many times they forget to put film in the camera but do you ever hear of this, O! no I don't think so. You see they all seem to stretch the truth a little from time to time and have a bad habit of telling everyone

just how good they are, but you never seem to get a look at their results, because for some reason or other they all seem to end up in the waste paper basket. So, just where are all you underwater photographers? Do you know there's the George Roberts Trophy coming up soon, so dust your funny looking metal boxes you take underwater, get out there and click some "snaps", I don't want to hear any excuses, do you hear me. See our photographic officer, Grey or is it Gray, "Will somebody please tell me", for further information about the upcoming club photo comp.

Tom Byron

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

At the moment there is little else to report, all this was done at the last club meeting. Most members I imagine have been more interested in the Olympic games than diving, however this will change when it is all over, thank God. One of our club members Toby Bauer has been admitted to hospital in Melbourne for special treatment. And according to his father we cannot expect him out of hospital and back in Sydney before the beginning of October. We all wish him well and a speedy recovery.

I would like to see more members at dive club outings, these get-togethers are a lot of fun and there is generally a BBQ after the dive, so those members we have not seen for some time now is the time to come along and enjoy the company of other club members.

President

Benie Kraul

PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICERS REPORT

GEORGE ROBERTS TROPHY

The club competition is one that all divers with cameras should enter. There will be prizes and certificates for all the monthly winners and the overall winners. As the competition is Handicapped, any consistent underwater photographer has an excellent chance of winning.

COMPETITION RULES

The competition will be conducted over three months. Each months competition will close at 10.00pm on the night of the club meeting, February-March-April.

Late entries will be entered into the following month.

The competition is open to all club members.

February competition is open only to those people who have not gained 1,2,3 in any competition with the exception of past George Roberts Novice Section.

March competition is open to any person except those who have won 1-2-3 open in past SPD competitions.

April competition is open to all members.

Each entry may have five slides per month. There will be a prize winner each month and a major overall prize winner.

All entries must be Transparencies.

All entries must be taken in New South Wales.

Each entrant must have taken all entries.

Entries may be cropped or masked to achieve desired effects.

All entries will be returned at the following meeting.

See enclosed sheet for further information.

Photographic officer

Gray McNeil

SLICE OF DIVING HISTORY

1957

"Mad Mick Shanahan of the Underwater Explorers Club was the first civilian to assist the New South Wales Police Rescue Squad.

First divers to enter the world famous Kiama Blow Hole south of Sydney, were Keith White, Jack Mathisson and Ron Clissold on Sunday, January 13.

First woman in Australia to free ascent from 75 feet was Mrs M. Gallaspie of the URG of New South Wales.

COMMITTEE MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 2000 SPD COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 12, 2000

Apologies: Tom and Glen.

Incoming correspondence letter from Canon re photocopier, NSW Fisheries re discussion paper Grey Nurse Sharks.

Bank statement.

Skirmish Day/ Reimburse to Club. Bernie has sorted out the "missing money"

Cheque drawn to Sue - reimbursement for postage and printing re A.V. night \$61.65

SPD Clothing is with Evelyn who is now looking after sales. She will bring same to next meeting.

SPD Stickers will be taken to next meeting. Suggest we mention the purchase of the SPD clothing in the next newsletter.

Grey has the photographic stuff and is going through it.

Grey - Next years comp - Novice, Open and Video category.

Grey will see sponsors to see if they are still interested in supporting us, if there is no presentation.

Australia and South Pacific areas.

Suggested advertising in January, and running comp before the AGM in July.

Grey to get as many email addresses as possible re the comp - so he can send out constant reminders and updates.

George Roberts Competition (members only) will probably be run under the same format. but will get another judge to assist. Membership drive needed.

** Want a decision from members if the photographic officer can enter club competitions as he will be directly associated - but not with judging. Also their spouse's and family can they enter.

** How many members do under water photography and video's - Email details to Grey. Tom - Grey's details need to be put in the newsletter. Greys line of attack. Talk to sponsors collation of a database - Grey to get books/ lists etc of previous entrants, including this years entrants. Add in newsletter and dive log re sending him email addresses of persons interested so we can send them information and updates. Delegate jobs as the need arises. From Current Newsletter - social days planned

8th October - Shellharbour. Need to know numbers - Tom to organise. Both shore and boat dives available, Suggested BBQ in area near toilet block near The Gutter. 22nd October - Indoor Rock Climbing - 4th Sunday not 3rd as previously stated.

The Pitch Wetherill Park - Duane to organise BBQ day.

Other suggestions 10 pin bowling. Weekend away Port Stephens end Jan/ Feb after school holidays. Accommodation caravan park or holiday houses.

"Christmas Party Suggestions ** Need to know - day time venue, night time venue - or both. Then same weekend or different weekends.

Suggestions - Beach party possibly staying overnight at a caravan park - Party at Bernie's place at Kemps Creek - can stay overnight in tents. Will try and get a permit for a bonfire.

Champers and chicken at Kurnell car park. Club members to supply boats.

ee if our sponsors - Aqua Sports, Max Western and Ship Rock Dive want to advertise their dives in our newsletter so our members know what's happening around their shops. Plaque to these sponsors from SPD thanking them for their continued support. Raising Club Funds: Have a major raffle with a good sponsored prize with tickets say at \$20.00 each. Money to go into club kitty. Check with Martin re printing of newsletter for free. Bernie to get a copy of the Clubs constitution from the Dept of Fair Trading as Sue has a couple of different variations. That way we can work off the current one. Suggested we work together with local rescue/ emergency services - giving members extra interests. Can be useful in cutting rope off props, recovering anchors etc. May be worthwhile in seeing if they are interested.

UPCOMING WEEKEND DIVE TRIPS

MONTAGUE ISLAND

Seals

28/29 October 2000

FORSTER \$210.00

Sharks

4/5 November 2000

MERIMBULA

Wrecks

18/19 November 2000

Bookings:

Contact Glen Percy at 97082826

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Club Dive Shellharbour: Sunday 8th October boat dive and or shore dive with BBQ.

Indoor Rock climbing: Third Sunday 22nd of October.

See Newsletter for further information or contact Burnie at 96069731 Home or Work at 97924333.

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 on all equipment to members, at Aqua Sports Scuba Centre.

CLUB SPONSORS

Please support our sponsors

MAX WESTERN (Sea Tamer 11)

Dive Charter Boat Port
Hacking

Phone: 95241818

Mobile: 0418280791

AQUA SPORTS DIVE SERVICES

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:** 418648265

Secretary

Susan Tate 96813287

Photographer Officer

Gray McNeill

0418255089 **Mobile**

96245938

Email: gmcneil@bigpond.net.au

Equipment Officer

Glen Percy

97082826 W **Mobile:** 414275179

Newsletter Editor

Tom Byron

97745965 **Mobile:** 410596501

Email:

tombyron@telstra.easymail.com.au