

Club Dives
Weekends Away

Social Outings
Wreck Diving

Reef Diving
Boat Diving

Shore Diving
Night Diving

South Pacific Divers Club

Established 1960

November 2000

HEAR YE!! HEAR YE!!
CHRISTMAS PARTY
SAT DEC 2ND 3 PM.
MORE INSIDE!!!

Wet Rag



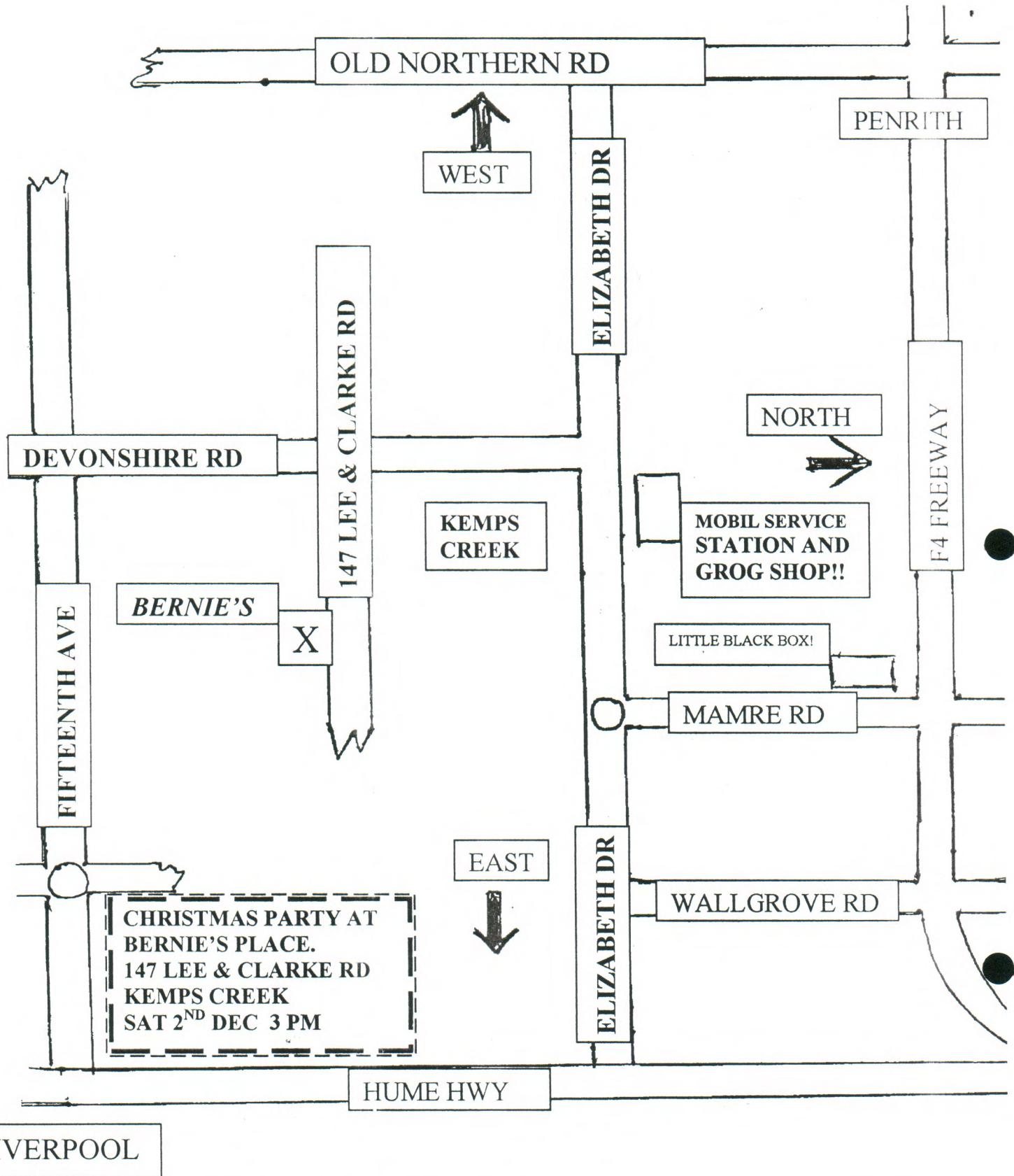
We need to know numbers for catering for the Christmas Party by the next club meeting, so could you please make sure you let us know and bring or send the \$15 by then so we can organise a great night!!
Thanks,
Santa.

CONTENT:

Editorial.....	2
Presidents Message.....	2
Minutes of Last Meeting.....	3
Club Sponsors.....	4
Committee Members.....	4



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



The annual SPDC Christmas party will be held on Saturday the 2nd of December at Bernie and Evelyn's place at 147 Lee and Clarke Rd Kemps Creek, starting at 3pm. Cost is \$15 per head with children under 12 free. All meat veges salads etc for the barby will be supplied along with nibbles, chippies etc. Soft drinks will be a dollar and bring your own wine, beer etc. Bernie has generously said there is plenty of room and any one wanting to stay the night is most welcome to bring a tent and he will cook breakfast as well!! We need to have payment by the next club meeting so know how many to cater for, so if you are coming please bring the money to the next meeting or give it to someone who is, or ring one of the committee members. We would love to see everyone there for christmas, it will be a top afternoon-late night!! SANTA.

EDITORIAL

As Tom our enigmatic, eclectic editor is away sunning himself in the big Bannana I thought we would have a joke from Santa instead, but before that I would like to say it's a pleasure to see 2 old members re-join. Welcome to Phil and Mandy Taylor.

Dear Darling Son and That Person You Married,
Merry Christmas to you, and please don't worry. I'm just fine considering I can't breathe or eat. The important thing is that you have a nice dive holiday, thousands of miles away from your ailing mother. I've sent along my last ten dollars in this card, which I hope you'll spend on my grandchildren. God knows their mother never buys them anything nice. They look so thin in their pictures, poor babies.

Thank you so much for the birthday flowers, dear boy. I put them in the freezer so they'll stay fresh for my grave. Which reminds me -- we buried Grandma last week. I know she died years ago, but I got to yearning for a good funeral so Aunt Berta and I dug her up and had the services all over again. I would have invited you, but I know that woman you live with would have never let you come. I bet she's never even watched that videotape of my hemorrhoid surgery, has she?

Well son, it's time for me to crawl off to bed now. I lost my cane beating off muggers last week, but don't you worry about me. I'm also getting used to the cold since they turned my heat off and am grateful because the frost on my bed numbs the constant pain.

Now don't you even think about sending any more money, because I know you need it for those expensive family dive vacations you take every year. Give my love to my darling grandbabies and my regards to whatever-her-name-is --the one with the black roots in her hair who stole you screaming from my bosom.

Merry Christmas,
Love, Mom

Well who does that remind you of????
Have a merry christmas
Santa

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The month of October was really quiet so there is really very little to report. As you will no doubt be aware, our illustrious news letter editor is taking this month off and in his place, this issue will be edited and compiled by Grey McNeil.

It was good to see that 4 members of SPD attended the SCAN meeting, 3 representing SPD and 1 representing Lo Tech Divers. There were a number of topics up for discussion throughout the meeting, with two of them having a potential bearing on our sport of diving in general. These were, the move by some to require permits to use National Park areas when the groups are either commercially oriented or the likes of club functions and gatherings, and the move to have a code of conduct introduced when diving with grey nurse sharks. There will be further information about this meeting and these topics at the next general meeting of SPD.

For all those that attended the Bass Point BBQ day, well done. I know it wasn't the best weather, but I think all that attended had a good time.

I have to say that the rock climbing day was a great lot of fun, and because Evelyn didn't climb she had all this energy to put into massaging my pooor muscles.

It was really great to hear that Toby Bauer's operation on his hip was a great success and he has recovered enough to start getting wet again. Good for you Toby.

I have to let you all know that the preparations are in full swing for the SPD Xmas party at Evelyn's and my Place, so prepare yourself for a great time.

See all you guys at the next meeting if not before.

Be Safe, Be Happy, Be Well!

Your Presidente',

Bernie

CLUB SPONSORS

Please Support Our Sponsors

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

Aqua Sports Dive Service
Glen Percy 97082826

Shiprock Dive
Leo or Lesley 95262664

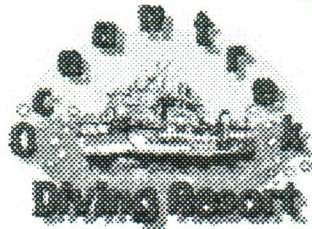
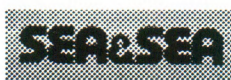
Well folks ,the George Roberts Memorial Competition is ready to roll, with our ever generous sponsors donating some fantastic prizes for the comp so make sure you are taking plenty of pics ready for the new year. Please make sure you support our sponsors where ever possible to thank them for generosity.

AQUA LUNG

apollo

SCUBA MECHANICS

DIVE

COLOURWORKSFISHERMANS WHARF DIVE FORSTER

Prizes are :

Dive Quest Mullaway : 1 week diving & accom, 10 dives for 1 person (Mon-Fri)

Southwest Rocks Dive: Weekend Diving 4 dives & accom. for 2 people

Fishermans Wharf Forster: Weekend diving & accom for 1

Ocean Trek Jervis Bay: Weekend diving on liveboard for 1

Seatec Aquasuits: 2 piece & semidry dive hoods

Dive Log Australasia: 4 x 12 month subscriptions

Scuba Mechanics: \$120 service voucher for regs or BC

Colourworks: \$100 voucher for film or developing

Apollo: 1 x pair of Bio Fins

Scuba solutions: Tee shirts & film

Aqualung: ??????????

The SPDC Australasian comp is going very well with trips to PNG, SOLOMONS, WEST AUSTRALIA, COD HOLE, JERVIS BAY, plus thousands of dollars worth of dive gear, photographic vouchers, repair vouchers etc so get those cameras and videos out of the cupboard and get your entries in next year and win yourself a prize!! Happy snapping.

Grey

SPD MEETING 16TH OCTOBER, 2000

Apologies: Tom, Lin, Martil and Ilona, Mitch.

Incoming Correspondence: GST start up info, Scuba Scope info, URG Bulletin, Genesis Catalogue, Bank Statement, C-Breeze Dive Centre information, Bankstown Theatre Restaurant brochure, Cavern & Sinkhole Diving Course info.

Outgoing Correspondence: Letter of Thanks to Dive Log for their continued support.

Photographic Officer: George Roberts Competition - Prizes, organising etc all running to schedule. February, March and April - results May. PLEASE ENTER!! Email Grey gmcneil@bigpond.net.au\

Equipment Officer: All present and accounted for.

Club Dive:

Shoalhaven - 8th October - Club BBQ Day. Poor turn out with divers for the boat dive. Dived The Pinnacle - dirty water. With clean water would have been a good dive. Shore dive had better viz.

Boat Dives - We must organise numbers better when we plan boat dives under SPD's name as a poor turn out reflects back on the club.

Club Outing & BBQ lunch - 15th October The Pitch Indoor Rock Climbing. 1000am \$20.00 includes lunch. All welcome.

Next Month - Glen - Aqua Sports - Dive Weekend away Foster 4th & 5th November, Merimbula Weekend Away 18th & 19th November - Call Aqua Sports 9708 2826 for bookings and further info.

Possible mid week dive - Ron Hunter, Foster has built a floatable type shark cage - mako's, big bulls - 6 on board approx \$240.00 for the day includes lunch - details sketchy at this stage as it's a new service.

Dive Reports:

Loi - Shiprock - clean water, lots of fish, strong current - but a good dive.

Vivien/ Grey - Jervis Bay long weekend - Nitrox Course - Spider cave viz 15 mtrs, blew up Saturday night - Docks day and night dives - counted 6 Red Indian fish of various sizes.

Matt - Oceantrek - 1 dive Wanderer, Docks, rough seas. Saw a shark but couldn't identify it. 1 big seal, 6 whales.

Glenn - Over the months of June, July and August - Shiprock - found a cluster of octopus eggs - over the months did 8-10 dives - couple of them night dives and watch the eggs form from pure white down to black - between 15-80 days for the

eggs to mature (depending on conditions) The mother octopus does not leave the eggs, does not eat (can actually starve to death protecting her young) You can see the mother deteriorating in the video footage that was taken. They lay their eggs in strands and only 1 in 10,000 eggs mature. Video footage will be shown at a future club meeting.

Glenn also kept us amused with a true story of a 29 mtr dive on a new \$900.00 reg which was very hard to breathe – the front of it came off, only leaving the diaphragm. He also had problems with a leaky dry suit coming apart from the wrist seams. Anyone wanting gear tested – feel free to see him about it!! No guarantee's

Heinz – spent 1 week snorkling around the wrecks at Tangalooma.

Phil – Welcome back from overseas – Europe 5 weeks – England, Ireland, Holland France, Switzerland Germany etc – lots of photo's will sort them out and bring them along to a meeting.

Next newsletter will be brief as Tom is away and it will be run by 'others'.

Sorry, no Dive Logs available as we forgot to collect them.

General Business:

Glen – Re: Suzanne Evans. Glen has spoken with Andrew Robertson who will be doing a course in February and is happy to have her claim her prize. Glen will provide her with Andrew's new contact details. Apparently he runs the courses for other dive shops and only runs one a year himself, this being in February.

Web Page – Tom has set up a blueprint on his computer re SPD Web Page – will take approximately 1 week to set up properly and will contain photo club info, advertising for our sponsors, buy and sell category with a perimeter of sales only in Australia and whatever else we feel we need. \$175.00 per year. It's up to members to help in any way with information etc – as it will be your Web Page and can be updated as required.

General consensus was "Just Do It!!".

Norah Head Boat Dive - \$30.00 - 5 spots left – see Noel.

Cavern & Sinkhole Diving Course – See Noel – theory in Sydney, diving in Mt Gambier SA.

SPD CHRISTMAS PARTY - Confirmation of SPD's Christmas party to be held at Bernie and Evelyn's place at Kemps Creek - no objections at all were raised. Saturday 2nd December, 2000.

Commencing 3.00–4.00pm. Food from 6.00pm. \$15.00 per head, children under 12 for free. BYO drinks and alcohol. Cans of soft drink will be available for sale at \$1.00 per can. There is room for you to pitch a tent and sleep over if you so desire.

PLEASE – let us know you are coming so we can cater properly, payment in advance required.
More detailed information forthcoming in the next newsletter.

SCAN – Meeting next Monday at the Rowing Club at Arncliffe. We will be represented by Duane, Glen and Tony.

Ice Skating – next Friday at Canterbury Ice Rink 8.00pm. All welcome – just turn up!

It's a pleasure to see 2 old members re-join. Welcome to Phil and Mandy Taylor.

Raffle: 1st prize Aqua Sports diving knife – Phil Dale

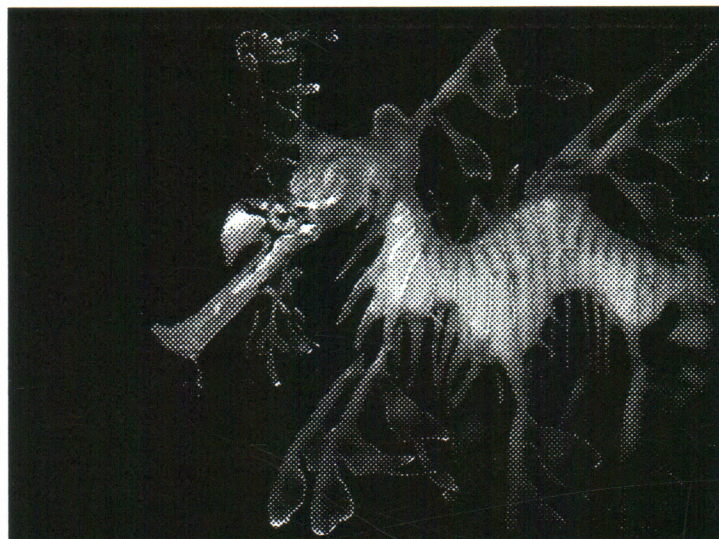
2nd prize Max Western sea Tamer II Boat

Dive – Paul Reyntjes

3rd prize 2 x Air Fills or a T Shirt Shiprock

Dive – Matthew Reeve

Thanks to Grey for the entertaining Slide Show of SPD 1988-1990 post entrants of our photographic comps. Various slides, some novice, some winning. My! How some dive sites have changed over the years.



The Leafy photo was taken by Peter Norris. Thanks Pete!!



Pigmy Sea Horse photo was taken by GreyMcNeil

Scuba Clubs Association of NSW Meeting

Monday the 23rd saw the Scan Meeting held at the St George Rowing Club, Arncliffe. As SPD is now attending these meetings with new faces, Bernie, Tony and myself attended. I find that this indeed may well be an organisation for all divers to be involved in through their club being a member.

First of the other clubs that are members to this organisation are URG, St George Scuba Club, SPD, Lo-Tech Divers, D.O.U.T.S and Ryde Underwater Club. This combined gives SCAN the voice of some hundreds of divers and by club participation in this organisation gives the SPD members much more clout in at the very least, of getting their combined voice listened to and the very best of being instrumental in shaping legislation.

SCAN is putting a new web site together and the address is scan_nsw@yahoo.com.au and when our web site is up and running, as an affiliated member we will have a link from them to us and I suppose this would be reciprocal.

URG has an Ikelite Video housing for sale at a really cheap price and anyone interested in such an item should contact them about it.

Topics of discussion were upon such things as the desire by some to consider permits for organisations such as clubs to use designated parks for events.

The moves to put restrictions and a code of practise in force re Grey Nurse Sharks in designated areas that have been identified as Habitats of this shark. This could have far ranging effects on divers ability to swim with these creatures. There is such talk as making dives upon these habitats only to take place if they are led by qualified shark divers etc. There is a discussion paper out titled "CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCUBA DIVING WITH GREY NURSE SHARKS" This document is available for perusal at the next club meeting or I can e-mail a copy to anyone wishing to read such. There also is a questionnaire that goes with this document that SPD, given time, will submit to the appropriate person as a club response to this paper. Time is extremely short here and the committee may well be obliged to decide the clubs response prior to the next meeting. This will have to be a committee decision on approach due to this shortness of time.

There is discussion being held in regards to Shiprock track and area being upgraded and SCAN has offered a limited input to this upgrading. Possibly in the form of a few dollars and/or some physical labour in the planting of shrubs etc. I mentioned that I am sure that there are some of us within SPD that would put a bit of time aside to pitch in should this actually come about. We must all owe Shiprock something, I know I do.

The annual SCAN picnic day is set down for the Saturday the 10th March 2001. Please mark it on your calendar as a day to show that we really are a club. They

have, apparently about 200 divers and friends turn up for this event. We should be part of it. Yes?

The coming meetings of SCAN will be 5th Feb 2001, 8th May 2001 6th August 2001 and 5th November. These are all the 1st Monday of the month in 3 monthly increments.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

For Year 2000 to 2001

President

Bernie Kraul

96069731 H 97924333 W

Treasurer

Lin La

93180142 H Mob: 0418648265

Secretary

Susan Tate

96813287

Photographic Officer

Grey McNeil

96245938 Mob 0418255089

E-Mail gmcneil@bigpond.net.au

Equipment Officer

Glen Percy

97082826 Mob; 0414275179

Newsletter Editor

Tom Byron

97745965 Mob 0410596501

E-Mail

tombyron@telstra.easymail.com.au

Picnic Day

Sunday the 8th of October was the day of the Shell Harbour picnic day. Boat dive early in the morning and a picnic and shore dives during the remainder of the day at Bass Point.

First I would like to say a big Thank You to those that attended. It was not the best of weather but it still was a club outing and a good day. The numbers were down, but hell, what's new.

The waters also was a little murky. Bernie, Paul, Peter, Leo Mayer and myself all dropped over the side above the pinnacle. Yep! It was murky and still a little cold. To me the curious thing about this dive was that the Bryzoa was hard. This surprised me a little, as very little growth in this latitude is of the hard variety. Bottom was about 97ft and then decreased as one ascended the sides of the pinnacle to around the 50ft mark. Leo found that his 63cuft tank actually did have air in it, even if it was 5 years old. This would undoubtedly be a great dive if the water was clear. We did get the spiel from the skipper of the boat how Tom has a dive in this area and all other are not to be considered if Tom is on board. The boat actually has the ability to carry 8 divers, we were only able to provide 5. Tsk Tsk Tsk.

For the rest of the day we had the regulars, Simon and family, Ray and John, Loi and Lin, Bernie and Evelyn, Peter Lord and John, Me and Leo, Peter, Paul and Tony, and I know I have forgotten a couple and I apologise for that. I know Hung is one.

Bernie's cooking was once again welcome and superb, but I took the tossed salad in bits and forgot the dressing.

Peter and John had a dive in the gutter and the report was that they needed satellite navigation to find their way about.

Loi, Hung, Peter and myself had a dive in Bushrangers Bay after the meal and the viz there was o/k. it was a normal Bushrangers Bay dive pleasant, but not mind boggling.

One has to say that the work that the Parks and Wildlife have done to the pathway down to the Bay is fantastic. All timber work in the form of stairs and platforms. I couldn't help wonder though what would happen to all this work should there be a bush fire in the area. With the fuel in the bush at the moment, this is not really just a passing comment, but would have to be a constant worry for the appropriate authorities during the coming summer.

Given the just passable weather and what we do have to consider a less than impressive turnout, the day was great with a congenial and friendly atmosphere.

Duane

Rock Climbing Day

Sunday the 22nd was our non-diving club event day and this time it was Indoor Rock Climbing at the Pitch Indoor Rock Climbing Centre in Wetherill Park.

It is with a little regret that once again I have to say that the turn up was a little less than impressive. (13)

Thanks go out to those that did attend, Tony, Grey and Vivienne, Bernie and Evelyn, Sue and myself, Mark Wyman, Loi and Lin, Heinz and Matt.

This is a lot of fun and the beauty of this sport is that almost anyone can participate as it is done at the level and ability of the climber with almost total safety. It has to be a far superior form of exercise over attending a gym and mindlessly pumping steel or the like. Not one of us came away feeling anything other than completely satisfied with the days climbing and completely drained of energy.

Bernie found it hard to get to the top of the chimney, mainly because he didn't fit. Tony achieved this particular climb with ease and speed, but this was mainly because as soon as he was out of sight inside the chimney he pulled himself up with the rope instead of climbing the walls.

Mark made a gallant attempt to conquer the overhead roof, but found that as he gets older he gets less ability. The roof is an amazing climb and just to get to the roof portion itself is a feat, let alone make ones way out along it upside down. I must point out here that by upside down I mean exactly that, 25ft of the deck and nothing holding you there except the power of your fingers and other muscles. We all now know what it is like to be an obese spider now.

Matt found that supplying his foot as a hand hold in the wall race has the tendency to impede his own progress.

Sue, with her slight build made us fat ones all look like we were in need of some further exercise.

Loi tried his best to kick one of the regular experienced local climbers in the teeth as he swung past him in uncontrolled descent.

Grey proved that Kiwis still have it and age shall not weary us. Hang on a minute aged seemed to weary me o/k.

Heinz cheated as he brought his own harness and that had padding in all the right places, especially if you were male.

Bernie once again put on a superb BBQ. This time Bernie made hamburger patties like you have never tasted before. He really should open up his own shop supplying such tasty treats that he supplies us with. There isn't a butcher shop in the world that could compete. Once again a very big thanks to Bernie and Evelyn.

What can we say, but thanks to all who attended and another good day was enjoyed.

Duane

SPD MEETING MINUTES 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2000

Apologies – Lin and Loi, Duane, Phil and Peter Flockart.
Comm 2005 - 2150 hours

Incoming Correspondence – OneTel Bill, returned newsletter from Southern Comfort Charters, letter from Canon re photocopiers, NSW Fisheries re discussion paper re Grey Nurse Sharks, Bank Statement, Information request from a gent in New Guinea requesting info re Aust.U/W Photographer of the Year '1983' and also a late entry into the A.V. night.

Treasurers Report –

Income	Raffle	\$ <u>87.00</u>
Expenses	Drinks BBQ Kurnell	\$ 32.10
	Deposit Skirmish \$400.00	
	Printing newsletter	\$126.00
	SCAN Membership	\$ 20.00
	Onetel phone bill \$100.05	
	Bank charges	\$.71
		<u>\$678.86</u>

Cheque account \$ 389.28

Passbook \$6,908.00

Petty cash \$ 96.30

\$7,393.58

Accepted by Tony Gray, 2nd Peter Taylor.

Previous Meeting Minutes – accepted Peter Taylor, 2nd Paul Reyntjes.

Newsletter – Bernie brought up that it needs to be dated.

Photographic Officer –

George Roberts comp - running February, March and April.

S.P.D. Competition – Novice, Open and Video categories. Grey will check with sponsors and see if they are still willing to sponsor the event, without a presentation night. We will go back 4-5 years and compile a database of past entrants to invite to enter this years comp. Tom to see Dive Log.

Grey needs to know – How many underwater photographers are in the club. Please email him with your details.

Web Page – Tony Gray suggested plenty of people around offering Web Pages for nothing – he has a friend who has set up his own and has offered to do ours. Tom said that he can set it up – biggest problem is getting a provider. No need to pay someone to set it up. Need to work on what we want and how we want it.

John brought up that dive log have advertised the list of People they support – suggested a letter of thank you be drawn up.

Code of Conduct re Diving – after the recent diving related deaths – there is a survey out looking for comments for a mandatory code of conduct – Suggested contacting SSI, Naui or Padi as these organisations will be able to provide further information.

Equipment Officer – not here.

Social Organiser –

8th October – Shell Harbour – Tom to organise numbers for Boat dive.

Both boat and shore dives. Suggested BBQ be set up in area near toilets, near gutter.

22nd October – Indoor Rock Climbing – The Pitch, Unit 3, 268-270 Victoria Street, Wetherill Park. Duane will organise and will get numbers at next meeting. BBQ lunch.
Diving – where do we want to dive??

Dive Reports –

Noel – last 2 Sundays – Kurnell/ Stepps. 1st Sunday algae bloom, 15 weedy sea dragons, port jacksons. Matt found a big star gazer in the sand. Good dives 17degree warm water, viz O.K.

3 Sisters/ Hanging Rock – Max Western boat dive – Noel advises 20 mtr viz, port jacksons, lots of fish life, but some divers need work re fin techniques!

Peter – dived Camp Cove.

John – 6 Fathom – small angler fish, nuidi 100ml long, Last Sunday Bombo – 10 mtr viz, lots of plankton, starting to buckle so get and dive it soon. Big Island – big sponge garden, large column of vertical fish, 4' jew fish, clean water. Magic Point – mid week dive, sharks are still there.
John also told a story of a white pointer at The Gutter “buzzing divers”

General Business

Christmas Party suggestions –

Matt suggested we bring him presents.

Weekend at Bernie and Evelyn's home at Kemps Creek

Beach party – Kurnell near boat ramp.

Will need to be discussed further at next meeting – appears weekend at Bernie's was favourable.

Q – Want a decision from members if the photographic officer can enter SPD competitions – past rules have been that they cannot enter. When the slides are judged they are numbered, not named so the judges are unaware of who's work they are looking at. After general discussions it was de

Report – Port Macquarie Dive – Shark Survey - grey nurse sharks, up to 100 in one gutter. Cod Grounds, Camden Haven.

Raffle 1st – Aqua Sports Reg Service labour only – Paul Reyntjes

2nd – Max Western Boat Dive

Tony Gray

3rd – Shiprock Dive 2 Air Fills

Susan Tate

Club Clothing – for sale

7 jackets - \$50.00 each

5 Shirts - \$20.00 each

3 Bum Bags ??

“Local” Slide Show – Thank You to Noel for the entertainment.