



South Pacific Divers Club

Established 1960

December 2000

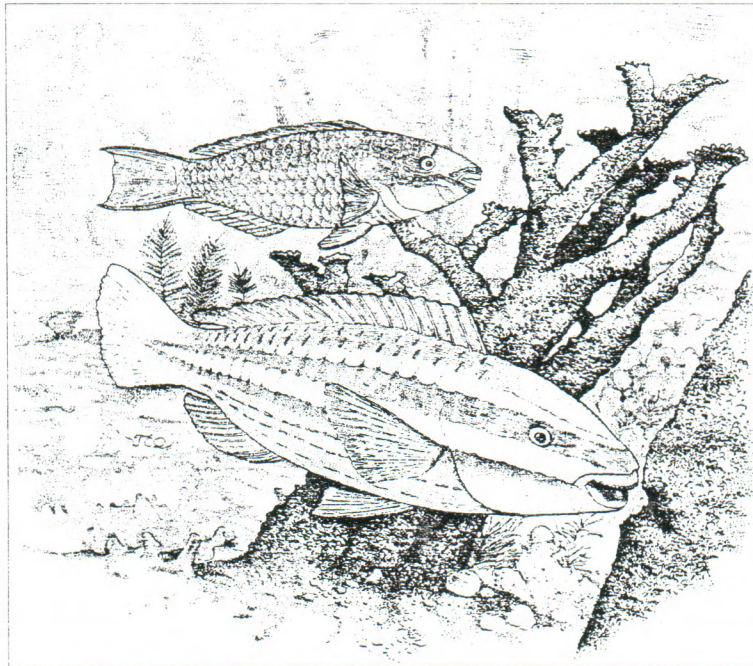
Wet Rag

Club Dives

Social Outings

Reef Diving

Boat Diving



Shore Diving

Weekends
Away

Wreck
Diving

Night Diving

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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

I am now back from my very short trip to South West Rocks. The weather rained, the wind blew like hell, and the seas were rough, so no diving. We went up one day in beautiful sunshine and no wind and came back the next raining and blowing a gale.

I start on our web page in December and by the end of that month it should be up and running. I will also hook it into about 2600 search engines so the club should have a good coverage world wide, this in turn will help our annual photographic competition as well as the George Roberts Trophy and bring in new members. You will be able to see where the monthly dives are being held, club news, dive trips overseas and a host of other activities. You may even, if you wish, down load the newsletter every month.

Being a club activity we will need all the input I can obtain from members. So if you have any good ideas just let me know as soon as possible.

I have cut down on the number of pages in the Newsletter to four (4), except this issue, as the cost is becoming far too prohibitive for eight pages, and the club fees are far too low to support the newsletters printing cost, so there is to be a rise in fees this year.

As this will be the last newsletter of 2000 I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and happy New Year. I hope the forth coming year will see the club prosper and with Grey McNeil behind the photographic competition I feel that it will be a wonderful success. Good luck to you all.

Tom Byron

PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICERS REPORT

GEORGE ROBERTS TROPHY 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

HOTOGRAPHIC OFFICERS REPORT

"Only 14 more shopping days until Christmas"
Doesn't that make you feel great!!!

Well the George Robert's Memorial and the Australasian Underwater Photographer of The Year comps begin on Jan 1st 2001. George Robert's first month entries have to be in by the close of the February club meeting.

There are some excellent prizes so make sure you have all your good NSW slides ready to go. There will be an entry form and rules in the Jan-Feb-March newsletter or I can post or e-mail you one.

The SPDC Australasian comp will be advertised in Dive Log and Sport Diving & entry forms & rules can be downloaded from our new web site which with a big thanks to Tom will be up and running early January. 1st can also e-mail or post them to you. Our sponsors have been most generous and a big thanks goes to them, without whom, the comp wouldn't be possible.

Remember the club has a slide & negative scanner so you can put all your slides or negatives on disc or play around with them in Adobe Photoshop. Please make use of this scanner as it has been bought for everyone and is easy to use. Give Glen a call if you would like to use it.

I don't know where this first year of the new century has gone but I sure as hell hope it slows down a bit next year or it will be 2010 before we know it!!

Finally for 2000 I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas, may Santa bring you what you asked for, may your cameras remain dry on the inside and lastly may you find that winning shot for next years comp!!!

Happy Snapping,
Grey

COMMITTEE MEETING 14th NOVEMBER, 2000

Incoming correspondence:

Scuba Scope newsletter, URG Bulletin, Bank Statement, a letter from All State Business Sales, Diving Magazine Christmas Gift Pack Flyer, Waves newsletter One Tel Bill, Sport Diving Directory Listing Renewal, Now Doubtful newsletter, Undersea Explorer brochures.
Christmas Party Saturday 2d December, 2000.

Bernie suggested hiring a tent as the weather has been so bad lately. Hire \$250.00 majority

committee stated too dear. Bernie to source out tarps etc. as an alternative.

Membership renewal: due 01/01/01- Renewal to go out in next newsletter- fees. Now \$30 single, \$40 family.

Bernie to bring in a Renewal Form.

Web Page: \$175.00 per year. Search engine \$45.00 to connect to 2600 search engines.

Cancellation of mobile phone will pay a major percentage of this cost.

Tom to set up web page. Bernie's friend has put together some examples for us to look at, will take to next meeting.

George Roberts Comp: Grey has secured Tom in donating books as prizes, x!#?!#+

Dive Log: Grey has organised them to help promote the George Roberts Comp - you have to be a member to enter, so it's a way to entice more people to join.

SPD Comp: Grey has organised a double page spread with Dive Log. Also being advertised in the next issue of Sport Diver. 1st Jan-31st May, 2001 in which to enter. Grey to have printed either A4 or A3 colour adverts for the shops to pin on their notice board to advertise comp. Tom will supply him with shop details.

From the Department of Fair Trading: Bernie has secured an original copy of the constitution.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes have not been received at the time of going to press.

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, 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. Enquire 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. Instant dive buddies. 10% discount on all equipment to members, at Aqua Sports Scuba Centre at Yagoona.

CLUB SPONSORS

Please support our sponsors

MAX WESTERN

(Sea Tamer 11)

Dive Charter Boat

Port Hacking

Phone: 95241818

Mobile: 0418280791

Dive charter outings to reefs and wrecks out of Port Hacking:

Six Fathom Reef Fish Reef
Tuggerah Wreck Marley Point
Middle Grounds Undola Wreck
Osborne Shoals Barrens Hut
The Balconies Magic Point

SHIPROCK DIVE

Lesley 95262664

Air Fills Sales Service
Repairs Local Dive Trips
Overseas Dive Excursions

AQUA SPORTS DIVE SERVICES

Glen Percy

97082826

Air Fills Sales Repairs
Day Dive Charter Trips
Overseas Diving Holidays
Snow ski equipment

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

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tombayron@telstra.easymail.com.au

MOLA MOLA WITH BANNER FISH

By Neil Vincent

Breakfast smells drifted from the kitchen as we entered the water, it was something to look forward to later. The water was warm, 29C, a slight current flowed through our legs as we geared up. It was flowing in the wrong direction so I hoped it was ending not just beginning.

We drifted with the current until our marks lined up, then descended quickly to the steeply sloping sand bottom. Now the current was stronger, and across our direction of travel, making swimming down the ridge more difficult. At 100 feet, (30 metres) my vision was blurred as I swam into a thermo cline, clearing only when I had entered the colder water on the lower side, the current ceased which made the cold water on my lycra suit more bearable.

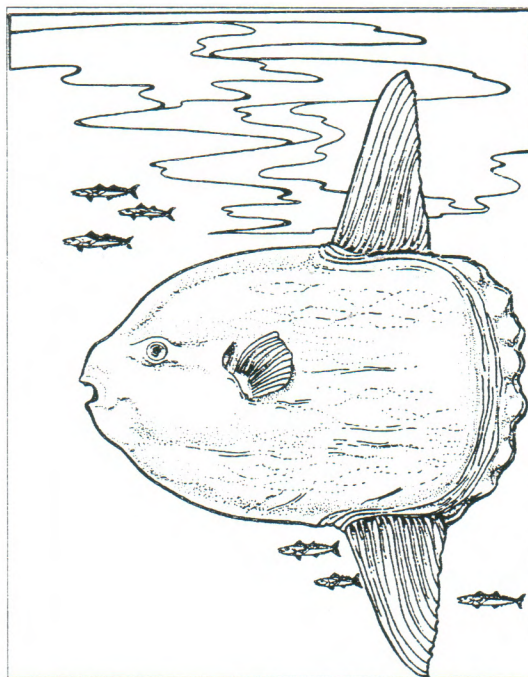
Our navigation had been spot on, two large white anemonies materialised on top of the sand ridge. Around them the bottom life was lush, barrel sponges, sea whips, soft corals and a myriad of fish. Despite all of this beauty, I was filled with disappointment, as the creature which was the purpose of this dive was not in attendance. Rather than waste all the effort we had consumed to get to this depth, I quickly framed up the gorgonian and took a light reading on the background. I took two frames and turned down the slope. I could not believe what I saw. They did exist, a sighting few days earlier by another photographer but none since, despite his daily visits to this location had us keen to dive this site. We had deferred doing however until the discoverer had his opportunities and had gone home, (well almost, he will leave today for the airport), as we didn't want to disturb his potential photos.

Ten feet (3 metres) from me hung a Mola Mola, head towards the surface, fins outstretched, being cleaned by a large school of banner fish, *Heniochus diphreutes*. This was why we were here! This was the ultimate cleaning station, one for the "big boys". Cleaning stations are common for smaller fish where cleaner shrimp and wrasse remove the parasites, dead tissue and other

unwanted bits from the smaller fish. Who grooms the big fish? It appears that in this location the big fish are cleaned by a school of banner fish I turned and looked back down the slope to the banner fish, they were still there, cleaning two more Mola Mola which I hadn't noticed!!!

Despite the excitement, reality told me to check all of my life support systems first, 180 ft, decompression requirement not too severe, air, not brilliant but manageable. I moved closer, the original Mola Mola had come into the group, I checked the strobe positions and began to shoot. Frame after frame, vertical, horizontal, closer, they remained, but I was out of time. Air was fast moving into the not manageable region of my gauge, so I began the long haul up the slope. The warm water and the current hit at the same time and despite the effort the quickest way to the shallow water was across the current not with it.

The photos are still to be processed but the experience is one that will forever remain imprinted on my mind.





SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB Inc

PO Box 823 BANKSTOWN NSW 2200

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

☐ I WISH TO APPLY FOR A
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP FOR ONE (1) YEAR

☐ I WISH TO APPLY FOR
A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP FOR
ONE (1) YEAR

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE: WORK:

E-MAIL:

DIVING CERTIFICATION

CMAS ☐ FAUI ☐ NAUI ☐ PADI ☐ SSI ☐ OTHERS:

CERTIFICATION NUMBER:

SPECIALITY OR ADVANCED CERTIFICATIONS:

.....

ARE YOU A BOAT OWNER?

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP FEES:

☐ SINGLE \$ 30.00 FOR ONE YEAR

☐ FAMILY \$40.00 FOR ONE YEAR

FEES INCLUDE COST OF MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

I.....hereby apply to join South Pacific Divers Club Inc.
I understand the club is non profit, non affiliated with any training organisation and is for certified divers.
South Pacific Divers Club Inc does not offer instruction, advice or supervise its members' dives. It is a condition of Club membership that members exercise their own judgement in accordance with their training in deciding whether and/or how to participate in any particular dive, the technique used, or choice of equipment and that any clarification in regard to these matters should be referred to a qualified instructor or agency.
I have read the above conditions and accept same as a condition of membership.

SIGNED: DATE:

Peter Flockart Photographics

2001 CALENDERS ORDER FORM

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Post Code:.....

Contact Number:.....

Number Required: Total Cost:.....

Calendar: \$20.00

Postage and Handling: \$5.00

Any member requiring a calendar should contact Peter on 93710265 after hours or his mobile 0409304959. Address: 56 Dover Road, Rose Bay, 2029

BLAST FROM THE PAST

From the book: **History of Spearfishing and Scuba Diving in Australia. The first 80 Years 1917 to 1997**

1959

For the first time in Australia, training began under the Guidance of ex-RAN frogman Wally Reynolds. The object was to free dive to a depth of 100 feet (30 metres). Reynolds said it had been done before, overseas, but not in Australia. Many divers thought it was suicide.

Ben Cropp's was the first Australian spearfisherman to compete in the World Spearfishing Championships. They were held in Malta and Ben Cropp placing was 9th over all. He was a one man team from Australia.

Heron Island on the Great Barrier Reef held its first Annual Underwater Convention in November 1959, and has held the same event every year since then.

The Shaft, a giant sink hole at Mt Gambier, was explored by scuba divers for the first time during mid 1959.

Australian made "Porpoise" regulators were sold to an ever increasing number of divers in this country and exported overseas.

1960

The Underwater Skindiver's and Fishermen's Association (USFA) affiliates with CMAS the world body for divers.

Edward du Cros wrote the first Australian book about the early history of skindiving in New South Wales.

In the early 1960's hundreds of underwater fishermen and scuba divers started to take out fishing licences to collect abalone, and the great rush was on to harvest this tasty shellfish for the overseas market. Popular areas were Eden in New South Wales, Mallacoota and Warnambool in Victoria, Port Lincoln and Streaky Bay in South Australia and also around the Tasmanian coast and Bass Strait Islands.