

Club Dives  
Weekends Away

Social Outings  
Wreck Diving

Reef Diving  
Boat Diving

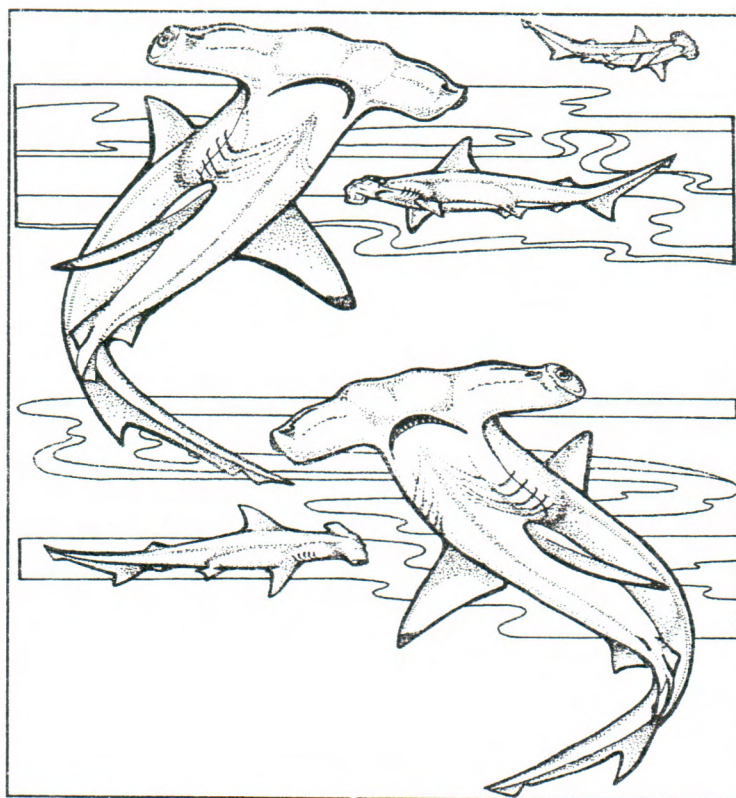
Shore Diving  
Night Diving

# South Pacific Divers Club

Established 1960

*Wet Rag*

*March*  
February 2001



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## EDITORIAL

Well at last we have it, South Pacific Divers Club have their own web site which is now up and running thanks to Noel Taylor and myself.

The web site consists of information regarding the Annual Underwater Photographic Competition. Club outings, a bit of information on the early days of the club, members profile, photo gallery, club sponsors, web links to other sites, information about the George Roberts Trophy, and so on.

The site is very informative and I think will attract plenty of attention among other divers. So at your first opportunity have a look at your web site. The address is: [www.netspace.net.au/~southpacificdivers](http://www.netspace.net.au/~southpacificdivers)

I would like to see more interest in the George Roberts Trophy, this is an in club photographic competition offering some wonderful prizes. It will also help to improve your photographic skills and put more "bang for bucks" into your diving.

Now for some blunt talk for which I do enjoy occasionally. We are a scuba diving club offering dive outings to members at least once a month and some weekends away diving. So where the hell are you all, I will bet "London to a Brick," most of you are diving but not with your club. What is the matter, do some members have body odour, bad breath or just grumpy and anti-social. Next time there is a club outing please turn up or you will get your bloody arms broken off.

*Tom Byron*

### COMMEETE

Bernie Kauri 96069731  
Sue Tate 96813287  
Linh La 0418648265  
Grey McNeil 96245938  
Glen Percy 97082826  
Tom Byron 97745965

## KURNELL NIGHT DIVE

On the 16th February five South Pacific Dive members plus one left Sydney in the wee hours of the morning to head for Mount Gambier to complete our Cavern/Sinkhole course.. This course is an ideal way to improve your comfort, safety and confidence when diving in the local ocean environment or anywhere for that matter in caves, overhangs and swimthroughs. The Sinkhole Divers Course is the natural progression to improve your comfort, safety and confidence when diving deep in fresh water where overhangs and caverns exist.

The course includes Deep Dive planning, Environmental Care, the Physics and Physiology of deep diving and an introduction to Vertical Cave Access (abailing and ladder climbing). Congratulations to those that passed.

Attending the Cave and Sinkhole course were: Ray Kerkmez, John Charmi, Matthew Reeve, Ben Rudd, Peter Lynam and myself.

*Noel Taylor*

## PREMIER SHOWING OF

### THE NATURAL WORLD

Midway: Island of Life

At the next club meeting on  
19th March

### WANTED

Urgent, one 35 mm Nikonos lens. Must be in good order and condition.

Ring Grey McNeil on his  
Mobile: 0418255081

## A SLICE OF HISTORY

### 1962

On Sunday, December 10, sixteen year old Jeff Corner, South Australian Junior Spearefishing Champion was attacked and killed by a white pointer shark at Caracalinga Heads near Aldinga.

Dave Burchell made a scuba dive to 215 feet to create a South Australian deep diving record.

The first group dive tour in Australia attracted 40 divers who were taken on a four day trip to Broughton Island over the Easter long weekend.

The 1962 South Australian Spearfishing Champion Rodney Fox was attacked by a white pointer shark at Aldinga, close to the area Brian Rogers attack took place in 1961. Fox was bitten under the arm and needed over 200 stitches. He survived the attack to become one of Australia's most authoritative guide tour leaders to the great white shark areas of South Australia.

### 1963

Ben Cropp won the World Underwater Photographer of the Year Award in America with his film called "Shark Safari."

### 1964

First Sea Tite underwater housing made in Australia was made in December by Barry Davies. The first Sea-Tite housing was designed and manufactured in Europe in 1959.

Melbourne scuba diver Henri Bource lost his left leg in a shark attack at a seal colony on Lady Julia Percy Island on November 26. The shark was a white pointer.

Extracts from the book:  
**HISTORY OF SPEARFISHING  
AND SCUBA DIVING IN  
AUSTRALIA**  
THE FIRST 80 YEARS 1917 to 1997

*By Tom Byron*



## MINUTES SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS MEETING

### SPD CLUB MEETING

15 th JANUARY, 2001 Commenced: 8.05pm-9.35pm

#### Apologies:

Glen Percy, Ray, Duane

Guest: Des

#### Incoming Correspondence:

One Tel bill, bank statement, Dive Log Listing renewal, Doubtless & Diving newsletter, URG Bulletin, Ocean Trek info for Tom.

#### Outgoing correspondence:

Letter to One Tel canceling service as soon as we can.

Due to late receipt of newsletter - Meeting minutes will be accepted at next months meeting

**Newsletter** - Late as printers are still on holidays.

Tom wants someone to take over the newsletter. He can do the next 2 or 3 issues but after that will not have the time.

**Web Page** - Over Christmas was hard to get replies from anybody. SPD's cheque and details have been sent off. We are awaiting the password and go ahead.

Bernie has seen the Web Page - very colourful. Contributions welcome.

Someone is needed to look after the Web Site, programme Microsoft Front Page. Gordon is interested.

**Photographic Officer** - SPD Comp - commenced 1st January, closes 31st May. Presentation approximately August, is all set and ready to run.

Sport Diving Magazine will give us 300 copies of our colour add to hang up in dive shops. George Roberts Comp - 1st comp - February meeting. Up to 5 slides can be entered. Highest scoring slide gets judged.

Getting the prizes together - Need Entries!!!

BBQ Dive Day - Kurnell - 14 th January, 2001 - short notice

Sydney Diver City - Kurnell. Night Dive Kurnell Wednesday 20 January 2001. 7.30pm Memorial end diving only.

Possibly no park fee's due - will check. See Noel

Christmas party - we needed 40 people to break even re budget. We had approximately a \$20-00 shortfall.

What a great time those who attended had!

#### Dive Reports:

Port Stephen's/ Halifax - 20 metres visibility - water warm - lots of fish.

Phil - Gap, Middle Head, Old army duck middle head 6 metres water

Tony - The Gutter, Shoalhaven. Last weekend - water filthy dive aborted. Lots of fishermen around, viz bad.

Bernie - The Leap Kurnell. Water clear 30 metres visibility, warm water - current into bay, big groper - schooling squid great dive.

Rick - Jervis Bay. Christmas/ New Year - 3 dives in warm water, dived in a 5 mil water ski short sleeve and short leg wet suit - that's how warm the water was!

John Beddie - Valiant - good visibility, 15 metres visibility. Bombo, dirty on top then good visibility, front section collapsed, not penetrable.

Des - Shiprock Dives - had 26 degree water temp. on the 4th January, 3 metres visibility.

Viv and Grey - Maldives - current and big fish diving, hammer head, grey whalers, eagle rays.

3 dives per day - sometimes saw nothing - nice wall dives soft coral, warm water. Live aboard, another boat took them to the dive sites. Safety sausage type canvas tubing 12" round used as a 'diver below' signal. 3 years ago 38 degree water temperatures bleached the coral killing the reef. Soft coral coming back O.K. 3-5 metres deep most of the soft coral. Sri Lanker - very old place - 1500-2000 years ago huge temples and cities were built. Large Palace on top of a huge rock - 1.5 hours hike. Budda's carved into solid rocks. Poor place, Colombo close to 3 world, beggar's in streets, average wage US \$800.00 per year, lots of guns and road blocks. Will bring in some slides at a future meeting.

#### General Business:

Ice Skating next Friday night at Canterbury 8.00pm

**SCANS** - Picnic Day weekend 23/24th March - Huskisson Beach Resort - we have a tentative booking for cabins and caravans - need to pay a deposit ASAP - Cabin or camping sites - Need to know numbers at February meeting. Tom took the info to put into the next newsletter. Mobile phone - will be disconnected soon, Club Shirts - only have small sizes left. Will be getting more made for larger sizes. Sue to chase up costing before next meeting. Suzanne Evans - Tom and Bernie are seeing her this Wednesday to sort things out.

#### Membership Renewals due - \$30.00 single, \$40.00 family.

Usage of Club Equipment - Normally has a fee of \$20.00, Bernie suggested that financial members use for free. Just a thought to be discussed at future meetings.

#### Raffle:

1 Prize - Aqua Sports - 10 Air Fills — Won by Heinz

2 Prize - Max Western - *Sea Tamer 11* — Won by Sue    3 Prize - Shiprock Dive - 2 Air Fills — Won by Linh



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**CLUB SPONSERS: Support These Businesses.**

**SEA TAMER II** Max Western. Dive Charters from Port Hacking. Phone: 95241818

**SHIPROCK DIVE.** Sales - Air - Service - Overseas Dive Trips. Phone: 95262664

**AQUA SPORTS SERVICES.** Sales - Service - Air - Dive Schools. Phone: 97082826

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**ENTRY FORM**  
**GEORGE ROBERTS PERPETUAL TROPHY 2001**

**Name:**.....

**Address:**..... **Post Code:**.....

**Contact Number:**.....

**Slide Titles:** 1..... 2.....  
3..... 4.....

I hereby state that I have read all the rules of the competition and acknowledge that failure to comply or give false information can lead to disqualification.

**Signature:**..... **Date:**.....

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**SPECIAL DIVE:**

There is a shallow wreck dive coming up on Saturday 10th of March, to the *Malabar* wreck. This dive will cost only \$10.00 for as much diving as you can handle in one day. A good family day at the beach. The diving starts at 8-30 and continues all day. Meet at Fishermans Road, Wharf, Long Bay.

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**HISTORIC SHIPWRECK ACT 1976:**

The legislation does not stop divers using most historic wreck site for recreation, but they must not interfere with the wreck in any way. Some historic wrecks lie within protected no-entry zones and entry into this zone is prohibited without permit. To find out what areas are protected zones and information on how to apply for a permit you should contact the historic shipwreck Delegate in your State or Territory. Anyone who finds the remains of a historic ship, or an article associated with a historic ship, needs to notify the authorities as soon as possible and to give information about what has been found and its location.

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**NEW MEMBERS:**

The club would like to welcome this month four new members, they are **John Chami** from Bankstown, **Phillip Taylor** from Epping, **Hung Nguyen** from Baulkham Hills and **Ray Kerkmez** of Bonnet Bay. We would like to see these members along at club dive outings and functions. We also hope to see you all at our monthly club meetings at Bankstown Sports Club on the third Monday of every month, the meeting starts at 8pm.

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# HOW NOT TO GET BENT

From an old Fathom Dive Magazine

Professional divers Mal McLeod and Warner Power, both of Sydney, suffered severe attacks of the bends while working in the Solomon Islands. They attempted to re-compress with additional diving, but this probably added to their complaint. Mal McLeod, barely conscious and unable to walk, and Warner Power, who was paralysed on his left side, were both flown back to Sydney in an Air Force Hercules transport. From there they were rushed to the Naval Hospital at Balmoral and placed in the re-compression chamber for five and a half hours.

Mal McLeod is the nephew of Wally Gibbons, one of Australia's leading divers. Warner is brother of Alan Power, author of *The Great Barrier Reef in Colour*.

Dr Carl Edmonds who was in charge of treatment, summarised their accident: "The details of the dive, they themselves don't know. They did not have depth meters, just an 'SOS decompression meter'. Both divers had the belief that you can't get into trouble with a 72 cubic foot tank, which is quite wrong. In fact, four out of the last six people treated here have got the bends while using a 72 cubic foot tank. Furthermore, it is doubtful that decompression meters are good for calculating a second dive on the same day.

"It's alright if you don't go beyond 30 feet on your second dive, but where Warner Power went wrong was by going back into the water a third time while assisting McLeod to decompress. When this was the case, he should have combined both dive times to calculate his decompression. This is where their errors were made. They didn't understand the principles of diving.

"The SOS decompression meter is inaccurate when making a second dive on the same day. The manufacturers claim the meter has a six hour memory bank. Decompression must be calculated on a 24 hour scale. I'd advise anyone not to take the SOS meter below 180 feet as readings can be quite inaccurate. These, are opinions which we have tested. In this case where Power and McLeod relied on the meters, Power suffered a cerebral bubble (bubble in the brain) which paralysed the left side of his body. McLeod developed a bubble high up in his spinal cord. He would have ended up with paralysis in both hands, although he could have moved his shoulders and legs. We had both men placed on oxygen before and during their flight back to Australia.

This seems to have had a good result in minimising damage, and also helped with the recompression when they arrived.

"Power is all right now, but McLeod will take quite a few months before he is able to walk

around properly. At this stage it is still guess work to know if McLeod will have any disabilities. He still has a small bubble in the spinal cord which we are hoping to remove."

When admitted to the Naval Hospital, Warner Power and Mal McLeod were placed in a re-compression chamber with an atmosphere equal to 60 feet. Both breathed pure oxygen during this time. Normally the procedure is to return divers to 165 feet, but not on pure oxygen.

(To be continued next month.)

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I wish to apply for one years membership

NAME: .....

ADDRESS:.....

POST CODE:.....

PHONE:.....

WORK:.....

EMAIL:.....

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP FEE \$30.00 SINGLE AND \$40.00 FAMILY

## DIVING MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I/We.....hereby apply to join SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB INC. I/ We 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 judgment 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 my/our certifying agency.

I/We have read the above conditions and accept same as a condition of membership.

SIGNED.....

DATE.....



## SPD CLUB MEETING 19TH FEBRUARY 2001

Commenced 8.05pm-10.00pm

**Apologies:** Noel, Matt Reeves, and Ben Rudd. (All away Cavern/ Sinkhole course in South Australia)

**Guest Speakers:** George Bender, Atlantis Dive Resort, Puerto Galera Philippines, Jayne Jenkins Dive Adventures.

**Correspondence In:** Waves Newsletter, membership application Bill Atherton, BOC Gases account, Starship Cruises letter, bank statement, Sport (tour and travel) guide, URG Bulletin, Doubtless & Diving Newsletter, sport Diving re directory listing, Ryde Underwater outing.

**Correspondence Out:** Telstra letter re canceling white pages. December Minutes: Accepted by Peter, Seconded Tony Grey.

**Newsletter:** Tom available to produce newsletter for the next few months - Relief editor required.

**Website:** Up and running, looks good.

**Equipment Officer:** All equipment accounted for. Magnetometer is being used!

**Club Dive:** February 25th Sea Tamer - see Tom.

**SCANS Weekend:** 23/ 24 and 25th March. See Duane.

### Photographic Officers report:

George Roberts starts tonight - next meeting will show the slides. Main comp is coming along nicely. All info on web site (and other sites) is looking good! Colour add coming - thanks to Dive Log - will need bodies to distribute same to all the dive shops. Should be here by next meeting. Have compiled a letter to send to previous audience/s taking the names and addresses off the lucky door prize tickets. Vivien has typed labels. Duane will envelope same. Lin will mail.

**Members Dives:** Glen - Barrens Hut, school. Could see the bottom as soon as you dived in.

Nigel - Kurnell Saturday. Barrens Hut Sunday - great dive - what a buzz to see the bottom.

**Australia Day** - Malabar - crystal clear - terrific dive Craig - Revesby Pool 2 weeks ago. Peter - Jervis Bay - North Bowen Island 2 metres swell, 24 metres viz. Crystal clear - weedy sea dragons. 2nd dive - nursery. Wendy (new diver) enjoying it! Night dive Balmoral Beach - huge number of sea horses. George - 2 months ago in the Philippines not yet in Sydney.

Vivien - Night dive Kurnell - dwarf pipe horses, nudibranches, and eagle ray. Grey did a letter to thank Diver City as they organised the dive for us. Noel - Barrens Hut but with Glen's school. Guess What! ! New divers are diving - not the regulars!!!

**General Business:** SCANS Weekend - 23/24 March Jervis Bay Booked in 8 for cabin accommodation. 2 x cabins x 4 bodies. Approx \$22.00 per night, per person. Plus caravan campsites available. Need to know definite numbers. See Duane. Saturday 1st March- Boat Dive Day - Long Bay - Malabar. 3 boats will be running back and fourth - \$10.00 for the day's dives. Take own lunch. Wreck at 8 metres. 8.30 am at Fishermans Road. Thanks to Craig.

Re Suzanne Evans - re raffle prize 2 years ago. SPD has offered to pay her for half of the cavern diving course. The other half she will have to pay herself as the course is now run together with a sinkhole course or a cash sum to settle this matter. She has previously been offered alternative courses but we now need to have this matter resolved. John B. is worried about setting a precedence re future comps. Grey is one step ahead with all prizes coming with a time limit - that way if they forget or cannot organise it, unfortunately they miss out. Suzanne has a time limit till August to decide, as that's when the next course will be run.

**White Pages** - add has been cancelled as the phone as advertised is no longer in use.

**Club T Shirts** - next meeting manufacturer Warren will bring some samples and give details of his offer.

**BOC Gases** - Oxy Viva - SPD has 2 units and rent 1 cylinder. This equipment is being used more than most of the other equipment put together. Glen has offered to use one of his bottles for this so we can cancel the BOC account. ST Johns Ambulance - has also offered to help out with other gear.

**Ocean Trek** - Truk Lagoon - 29th June - 8th July - There's a few spots left. Odyssey live aboard - pure luxury - unlimited diving, 5 star meals \$4,950.00 - special price. See Glen - would be a good trip. They are also offering a free weekend beforehand to get to know everyone.

**Raffle** (Takings \$87.00)

**1st Prize** - Aqua Sports Dive Torch **PLUS** \$50.00 gift voucher from **Dive Adventures** - Craig Mann.

**2nd Prize** - Max Weston - Sea Tamer boat dive - Paul Cootes.

**3rd Prize** - Shiprock Dive 2 x air fills - Noel Hogan.

Big Thank you to George Bender, **Atlantis Dive Resort**, Puerto Galera and to Jayne Jenkins **Dive Adventures** for their informative talk and video, tempting us to dive the Philippines - See Glen Aqua Sports for more details..

### Photographic Officers report for March 2001

Hi all you happy snappers,

All is going well for both Photo comps, with a lot of interest from Malaysia, Singapore and NZ for the South Pac Comp. Make sure you get your entries in for the George Roberts Comp by next meeting!! The February entrants have been judged and the winner is:.....????? See you at the next meeting!

*Grey McNeil*