

Club Dives
Weekends Away

Social Outings
Wreck Diving

Reef Diving
Boat Diving

Shore Diving
Night Diving

South Pacific Divers Club

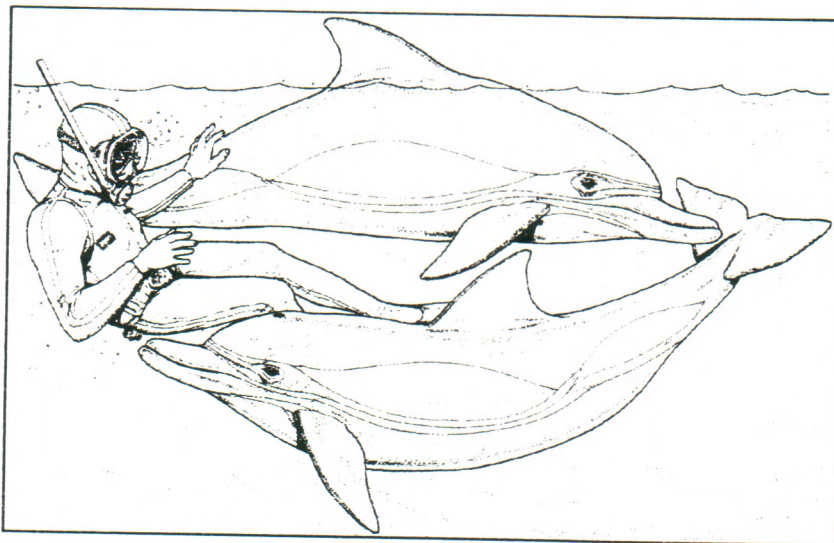
Established 1960

Wet Rag

June 2001

**THE AUSTRALASIAN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR
WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY 4TH AUGUST 2001 AT THE GREYHOUND
SOCIAL CLUB AUDITORIUM, 140 ROOKWOOD ROAD YAGOONA.
Book your table for the night: \$20.00 per head.**

www.netspace.net.au/~southpacificdivers



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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

Over the last twelve months or so I have noticed that there is still little participation among members in attending club dive outings. It's a pity because there are so many different types of dives ranging from shipwrecks and reefs to popular shore locations. I know winter is upon us but the diving now is better than ever. Water is much clearer, seas calmer, less people at launching ramps and popular dive sites or even on dive charter boats. On our internet web site is a dive program for the remainder of 2001 for all members to see. So why are fewer people diving? Have you lost interest in the sport? Is the dive program to your liking? Do members suffer with BO? If you don't want to dive then why join a scuba diving club. Within the next few months our club will be holding the prestigious Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition. The club would like to see every member attend this night. It will be a wonderful event and you will get to see first class slides from some of the top underwater photographers in Australia and from overseas.

Tom Byron

AQUATIC RESERVES

NSW Fisheries have just released a consultation paper on the proposed introduction of 15 Aquatic reserves up and down the coast on rocky foreshores.

So, what is an aquatic reserve? I hear you ask. Well to many of us it is a place like Fly Point, Halifax Park (Nelson Bay) and Shiprock (Sydney).

These places are fully protected ie no Fishing, no anchoring, no extractive activities. That is the true meaning of a sanctuary area.

So what are fisheries proposing well not quite the above. Basically you can still catch cray fish, abalone and do line fishing. So the only protection is to fixed growth. The protection goes 100 meters from the high tide mark.

So for Divers it would offer a slight improvement on the current situation. Following is a copy of a detailed examination of the proposal by a person I know who is very protection orientated.

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Check our web site address for next months club dive

SPD MEETING 21st MAY, 2001

Apologies - Viv, Glen, Paul, Phil Dale, Illona, Duane and Peter Turner.

Incoming Correspondence - OneTel Bill (which has since been credited) plus 2 other letters with 'great offers' from OneTel, 10 x parcels for Grey McNeil, URG Bulletin, Ryde Underwater newsletter, Statement Mountain Ocean & Travel Publications (re Dive Logs and Listing), BOC Statement \$56.76 and letter, Bank statement, letter from Bonds Couriers, Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal, brochure from Revesby Press, brochure Asia Pacific's International Dive Exhibition 25-27 May in Malaysia, Receipt Tatra Press, returned newsletter from Darren Wright, Lonely Planet newsletter and new phone/fax details, Sport Tour & Travel guide questionnaire, letter from John Fardoulis advising of new address, Correspondence from SCANS Dr Nick Otway, Dept Fisheries re a presentation on the 9th May re Grey Nurse Sharks, Combined Club Day 11th November, Coral Sea 2001 dive trip, few spots left, draft paper on aquatic reserves up and down the Coast and Pimpernel Rock, North Solitary Islands. - If you require a copy of this draft, contact Sue and I will supply same phone (9681 3287).

Last Meetings Minutes: Accepted by Simon, 2nd by Noel.

Treasurers Report - APRIL, 2001

Income		Expenses	
Raffle	\$93.00	Printing	\$138.89
Membership	\$100.00		
Social function	\$252.00	Bank charges	\$5.70
Deposit T Shirts	\$165.00		
Interest Savings acc.	\$1.79		
	\$611.79		\$144.59
Cheque account	\$1,255.23		
Savings Account	\$6,909.46		
Petty cash	\$100.00		
	\$8,264.69		

Treasurers Report: Accepted by: Peter Norris 2nd Noel

Newsletter Editor - Still need someone to take over Newsletter duties.

Website: Up and running.

Photographic Officer: A. V. Night/ competition - looking good - entries pouring in from all over. Get your entries in before 31st May, 2001. A. V. Night - Greyhound Social Club all booked for Saturday the 4th August, 2001 - \$20.00 a head. Can book tables - see Grey.

Equipment Officer: Equipment accounted for.

Dive Reports: Peter Norris - Hideaway

Island - 7 days - very photogenic - cyclone has done some damage and has removed the tops off the coral. 40 mfr viz, reasonable pictures. Local dive operator is charging \$40.00 per dive.

Heinz - Barrens Hut - 20 mtr viz - 20 degree, stingray, wobbys, old wives, seal playing around.
Sunday Herald is giving away weekend packaged to New Guinea.

Noel - Night dive Kurnell. 5 dived. Was raining hard enroute to site. Stopped raining on arrival. In water by 6.00pm - great dive - 10-12mtr viz, warm. Lots of critters - macro. Kurnell Steps - dirty thick layer in first 3 mtrs, then was clear and warm. Peter Flockart - Philippines. Nothing big at all - lots of nudi's, not many fans, 2 purpose sunk wrecks, eels, lots of fish life, ghost pike fish (white and red) stone fish, frog fish, Very easy diving. Mostly boat diving. Boat broke down had smoke and steam pouring out of it, but made it back. Vehicles have huge bullbars (sometimes when overloaded the shopping was placed here) Very pretty, pure luxury - beer brought to you whilst you refreshed in the water, beach massages etc.

General Business

Club T- Shirts - members voted on colour of diver to be embroidered on shirt. Black or red. Black was voted in. (Black on navy blue does anyone have a sense of colour appreciation.) Ed.

Please get your orders in for club shirts \$30.00. Choose either navy or white (or both)

Raffle: 1st - Aqua Sports \$40.00 Mystery Prize. Matt Reeve
2nd - Max Western Boat Dive. Loi

3rd - Shiprock Dive 2 Air Fills. Evelyn

George Roberts Comp: April 1st prize - Neil Vincent, 2nd prize Noel Taylor, 3rd Viv McNeil.

George Roberts Overall Winners

1st Viv McNeil,

2nd Noel Taylor,

3rd Matthew Reeve

AQUATIC RESERVES

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So what are the places I hear you ask, good question, and the names are (remember rocky foreshore and 100 meters out). Tudibaring Head; Barrenjoey Head; Narabeen Head; Shelly Beach; Bronte-Coogee; La Perouse; Boat Harbour; Brickyard Point; Bass Point; Bombo Head; Inyadda Head; Preservation Point; Warden Head (Ulladulla) and Wagonga Head.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

1964

For the first time in Australia, television station TCN9 in Sydney ran a program for scuba divers and spearfishermen every Saturday morning. The program was called "Focus on Skindiving" and was hosted by Wally Reynolds.

In July Del Fielding became the first woman to dive the deep wreck of the *Birchgrove Park* that sank in a storm off the coast of Sydney.

Kathy Trout, a 17 year old girl, became the first lady to dive to 302 feet and set a new deep diving record for women.

1965

Ron Taylor is the only competition spearfisherman to win the Australian Spearfishing Titles 4 times in a row, 1962, 1963, 1964 and 1965.

Ron Taylor wins the Worlds Spearfishing Championships in Tahiti, and is the first Australian to do so. Other members of the team were Peter Kemp, Wally Gibbins and George Davies. Overall in the world Championships Australia came second.

1966

South Australian diver Dave Birchell conceives the idea of locating the HMAS *Perth*. He eventually dived on the wreck in Sunda Straits.

1967

Champion underwater fisherman Bob Bartle was attacked and bitten in half by a huge white pointer shark at Jurian Bay 155 miles north of Perth.

The Australian Underwater Fishing Championships for the first and only time so far, was won by two competitors, John Black and Vic Ley.

Dave Burchell of South Australia received the British Empire medal for services to diving. Birchell discovered the HMAS *Perth* single handed. In diving circles it is considered one of the most outstanding achievements in the history of the sport.

Valerie Taylor is the only lady so far to win the Ladies Spearfishing Championships three times in a row, 1965, 1966 and in 1967.

CLUB SPONSERS: Support These Businesses.**SEA TAMER 11 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**

**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:.....

Letters to the Editor

As a participant and monthly winner in the 2001 George Roberts Photo Competition I would like to thank the Photographic Officer, Grey McNeil for all his hard work in running the comp. I am sure he has to put in a lot of work staging the Australasian Competition. Many thanks to Noel Taylor for setting out the new format it gives us novice still photographers a chance to improve our pictures by competing with each other. We are all winners in this regard. The judges are the unsung heroes and without the sponsors all would be lost. It's a credit to the dive industry that they show so much support to our club and its photographers.

Peter Norris

T Shirts: South Pacific Divers T Shirts all sizes \$30.00 each. Every diver should have one.

North West Island Reef Trip: Cost \$875 ex Gladstone. 2 weeks camping and diving on North West Island in October 2001.

Our island is situated on the Tropic of Capricorn 60ks off the Queensland coast. It is an idyllic spot surrounded by coral reefs and the clear waters of the Coral Sea. Our group is highly organised and we take all our creature comforts with us. If this sounds like you, call us for a full information package.

Phone: Laurie O'Grady 02 95240168 Mobile: 0419140168

AGM Meeting: This month 18th: All committee positions will become vacant for re-election.

Committee Members

Bernie Kauri	96069731	President	Glen Percy	97082826	Equipment Officer
Sue Tate	96813287	Secretary	Tom Byron	97745965	Editor
Lin La	0418648265	Treasurer			
Grey McNeil	96245938	Photographic Officer			
