

Club Dives
Weekends Away

Social Outings
Wreck Diving

Reef Diving
Boat Diving

Shore Diving
Night Diving

South Pacific Divers Club

Established 1960

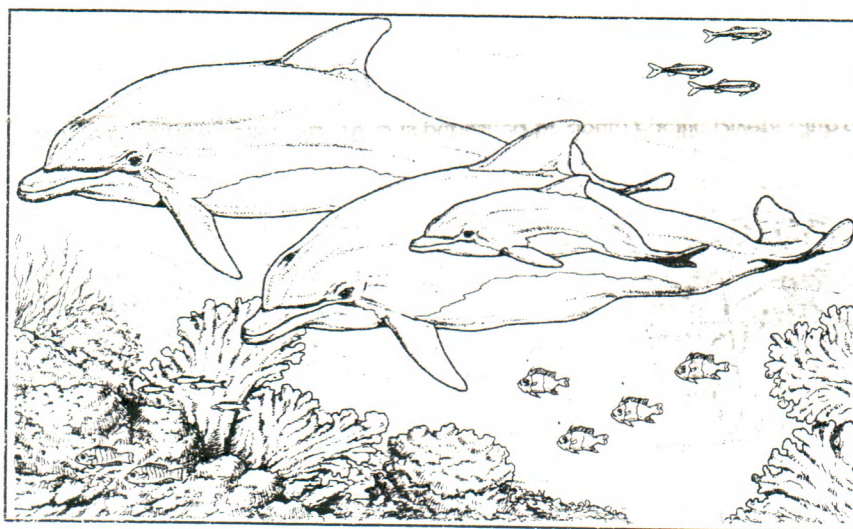
Wet Rag

July 2001

THE AUSTRALASIAN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR
COMPETITION 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 month or so the weather in Sydney has been wonderful, sea conditions clear and warm particularly at Jervis Bay.

I have been diving in Sydney waters to the far south coast of late and not once during this time has the sea been anything but perfect. I have always believed that during winter sea conditions are far better for scuba diving than summer, except for suiting up during cold mornings if you do not have a dry suit.

A couple of weeks ago two other members of South Pacific Divers Club, Simon, Steve and myself spent a day at Jervis Bay in perfect weather conditions. Our first dive was The Arch, an unusual rock structure that was discovered more than 37 years ago by a group of local divers. I was invited to dive the location a couple of weeks after its discovery. What a sight it was to see it for the first time. The Arch ceiling was covered with millions of colourful anemonies, however as the dive location became a popular site, expelled air from regulators slowly killed any growth that existed on the rock arch ceiling.

Steve and Simon saw it for the first time a couple of weeks ago and the dive location blew their mind away. It was a perfect day, warm water, flat seas and visibility almost unlimited. To add to the excitement we were accompanied by a couple of seals throughout the dive.

During the afternoon seas became smoother and our next dive was at Bowen Island at a dive site named East Bowen Wall.

For fixed growth, fish life and reef structure this dive site is one of the best on the eastern side of the island. Once again the water was warm, clear and alive with fish life and fixed growth.

The drop off is a buzz, the reef beyond covered in all sorts of growth, there are small valleys, caves and swimthroughs, add to a wonderful days outing.

Tom Byron

Check our web site address for next months club dive

SPD MEETING 18th JUNE 2001

Apologies: Viv, Glen and Peter Flockart

Incoming Correspondence: Numerous parcels for Grey McNeil re Photo Competition. URG Bulletin. Ryde Underwater Newsletter and \$80.00 deposit for a table of 20 people for the AV Night. BOC statement and letter. Bank statement and cheque book. Correspondence from SCANS re combined club day 11th November. Newsletter returned, Neil McDonald. Doubtless and Diving Newsletter. Roofing brochure. Brochure for Tom Byron.

Last Meeting Minutes: Accepted by Simon, second by Scott.

Treasurers Report: May 2001

Income: Raffle: \$77.00 Deposit T shirt: \$55.00 Interest on savings: \$1.31 WOW! **Total:** \$133.31.

Expenses: Susanne Evans \$350.00. Printing April and May \$79.20. Postage: \$48.43. Miscellaneous \$100.71 BBQ \$43.05 Bank Charges \$7.13. **Total:** 628.52.

Cheque Account: \$673.06

Savings Account: \$6910.77

Petty Cash: \$185.65

Total: \$7769.48

Treasures Report: Accepted by: Phil Dale Second by Loi ?
AGM: NEXT MEETING 16th July.

Web Site: Noel now has a new computer, website will be updated this week.

Photographic Officer: AV night, looking good, 65 entries from all over the world. Judging 7th and 8th July, Dive Log has a half page add. AV night at the Greyhound Social Club all booked for Saturday the 4th August 2001, \$20.00 a ticket. Over 200 people have already booked seats. Raffle tickets will be printed, 6 prizes in raffle, door tickets with tear off ends. Help will be needed on the night. Bernie will check to see if he has any folders to put the brochures in from past events.

George Roberts Trophy: Thanks to the Judges: Tom Byron, Kim Cohen and Martin Kandilas.

Guest: From the UK Louise.

Club Dives: Saturday 23rd June, 5 o'clock at site, 6 o'clock in water. Shiprock 24th June 10 o'clock at site. Oak Park dive date will be on web site.

Dive Report: Simon: Magic Point sharks, 3 metres visibility, Ray with his camera was stirring up the bottom and everything else in the area. Jervis Bay Weekend OK diving Saturday/ sea caves/ walls awesome.

Noel: The Arch 20 metres visibility.

Simon: Magic Point 21 degrees water, flat seas 15 sharks.

Ocean Trek: Saturday good diving Spider Cave, Seals Colony, reports of a tagged great white was nearby. Sunday morning a southerly blew in with revenge. Monday North Bowen, Scallops Beds.

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LEAVING BOTANY BAY

It has always given me great joy, due to my mum's birthday; I was given the weekend off and this weekend the weather was perfect for a dive or two. I am at the moment building a block of units with a view of Sydney Harbour out toward the heads, so for five days a week I watch boats plying their trade up and down this great waterway. During the week the sea seemed to get flatter with each passing day. So when the chance came to go for a dive this Sunday I jumped at it, we were looking at doing two dives leaving from Botany Bay to the sponge gardens at Henry Head and a second dive to a real favorite of mine the wreck of *Malabar*. I started to ring a few people as we still had room on the boat I rang our esteemed editor [AGAIN] to see if he wished to join us and he was not able to as he was going to be away again to Jervis Bay. Well I guess that's how the other half live and after all I thought how can you compare Jervis Bay to Botany Bay? That's what I thought anyway but this turned out to be one of the best dives I have had in Sydney for many years.

As I waited on Sunday morning at the small beach near Bare Island I noticed how cold the wind was and it seemed choppy out on the bay how many times does this happen perfect all week and at the weekend, well that's how it goes. Even the sun seemed to be late turning up then low and behold the sun came out, the wind dropped and boat turned up. As Bob motored slowly toward the beach I looked to see who was onboard and could not see too many divers, only Bob the skipper and John and with myself a total of three. After placing my gear onboard we three brave merry men set out for Henrys Head as we headed over the smooth water we passed Bare Island to our left with its normal amount of divers and the mandatory dive school.

One of the best dive sites in the area was waiting for us and it looked to be free of any other dive boats. As we slowed the boat down to line up the dive marks we saw much to our dismay that the water was green. We held a quick onboard conference and headed for the south side of the bay. We were pleased to see upon reaching the other side clear blue water! We set course towards Cape Bailey Light, it was at this point due to only having the three of us onboard we decided to switch on the depth sounder and see what the bottom contour looks like and boy did we get lucky.

As we moved towards the Black Streak dive site the reef, which was still a fair distance away to the south, noticed the bottom jump straight up from 22 to 15 metres, we then turned around and motored back the other way.

Anchoring over the drop off we noticed the water was crystal clear.

As we geared up I noticed the mermaid line was still lying in the same spot, we had no surface current.

John was first to entre the water, I followed him a short time later and as I descended the line could see John on the bottom about 18 metres away and a huge school of fish that almost obscured the sea floor.

As I reached the bottom I was in awe of this reef that seemed to be running parallel to the coastline. I swam

toward the wall and started to peer into the small cave and overhangs, which seem to be everywhere. It was at this point I noticed John calling me to come and look at something that was on a sea fan, he pointed to some Sea Fleas, there were no less than five. None of us had a camera

At this point I started to swim north along the wall all I can say it was fish city, as you looked under ledges and overhangs nannygai were everywhere. In dark recesses, caves and small valleys were all chock-a-block with fish life.

To the south the wall line was similar to the north, so I followed the drop off which was as good or better than the north section. My air was now running a little low so I followed Bob's comeback line to the anchor. As I ascended the anchor line I could see the reef fading away in each direction and clouds of fish that hung in the clear water above the dive site.

This is the best reef I have dived in the last 20 years so close to Sydney.

Peter J. Foster

BLAST FROM THE PAST

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS INTEND TO HOLD ANNUAL UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

September 1969: A committee, led by Tom Byron, has been formed to operate a South Pacific Divers Annual Underwater Photographic Competition.

The competition will be held once a year and will be open to underwater photographers living in Australia.

There will be two classes. One for 6x6 slides and the other for 35mm slides.

There will also be an array of prizes for the winner of both categories. Other categories may be held in later years.

As the club gain more experience at running the photographic competition it will include other countries.

The first competition will commence next year.

CLUB SPONSERS: Support These Businesses.

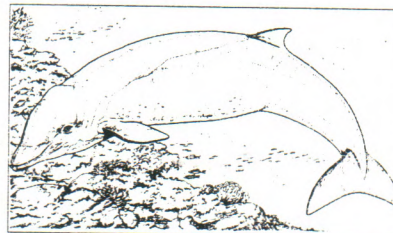
SEA TAMER 11 Max Western. Dive Charters from Port Hacking. Phone: 95241818

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

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

Committee Members

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



NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND OUR CLUB MEETINGS AND DIVE OUTINGS

South Pacific Divers Club is a social scuba diving club whose members have a common interest in scuba diving and particular underwater photography. Club dives are on our web site and not advertised in this newsletter. The club also organizes weekends away at Jervis Bay and Nelsons Bay as well as other dive areas. We also organize once a year the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition, open to all underwater photographers in Australia and overseas. We also have a slide show after every meeting.

South Pacific Divers Club holds monthly meetings at the Bankstown Sports Club on the third Monday of every month. Meetings start at 8:00 and generally a slide show follows.

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Tickets are selling fast for this wonderful night, so book as soon as possible for a table. There is a limited number of tickets so its first in best dressed. More than two thirds have already been sold. The AV night will be held at the Greyhound Social Club on 4th August 2001. Tickets are \$20.00 each and can be booked by contacting Grey McNeil Photographic Officer at 96245938.

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Rick: Jervis Bay Long Weekend, Cathedral Cave, small grey shark, nice dive, Bowen Island Sunday another grey nurse shark.

Peter Flockart: *Lady Darling* wreck at Narooma 30 metres deep, visibility lousy, dived from the *Dallas* in 15 degrees water temperature, saw 6 seals, 3 whales, too rough to dive Saturday so did the tourist thing. Dived Sunday wreck covered in sponges very good dive. Wreck is upright sitting on the bottom. Must organize a weekend diving the *Lady Darling* wreck. Cost \$75 .00 double dive and \$50.00 accommodation. In Sydney the *Scubaroo* dive boat is available for wreck or reef diving for \$30.00 a dive.

General Business: Club T Shirts available for \$30.00 each.

Greyhound Social Club, Max Gleeson will be giving a talk covering all the wrecks along the coast. (What! over a thousand of them, hell Max its going to be a long night). ED. All welcome.

Club Public Liability Insurance: GIO will not insure the club anymore. AMP wants \$900.00 without liability. We need to have the insurance re Duty of Care. Check with SCANS to see if they can organize or advise, Duane to check into it. Grey will contact a couple of other dive clubs and see what they have. Another suggestion was to contact the Dive Lawyers.

AV Night: Club table for AV Night, table of 10. Limit of 350 people. Grey will reserve 4 tables.

Raffle:

1st:	Aqua Sports. Safety Stop Anchor.	Matthew Reeve.
2nd:	Max Western Boat Dive.	Duane.
3rd:	Shiprock Dive 2 air fills.	Sue.