

Club Dives  
Weekends Away

Social Outings  
Wreck Diving

Reef Diving  
Boat Diving

Shore Diving  
Night Diving

## South Pacific Divers Club

Established 1960

# Wet Rag

October 2001

**SUMMER IS COMING, SOON IT'LL BE HERE,  
IF YOU DON'T SERVICE YOUR EQUIPMENT,  
YOU MAY ONLY BE BREATHING  
FREE AIR**

[www.southpacificdivers.com](http://www.southpacificdivers.com)



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The South Pacific Divers Club Newsletter WET RAG is published by South Pacific Divers Club and edited by Duane Langley. All material submitted to the newsletter should be sent to the Editor, P.O.Box 823 Bankstown, NSW 1885. Phone (02) 9681 3287. E-mail: [she@maxi.net.au](mailto:she@maxi.net.au) Other correspondence should be sent to South Pacific Divers Club



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## EDITORS CORNER

The Editors corner is very quiet this time around, I hear a great sigh of relief, but the feed-back I have been getting is great and I thank all those that have proffered their support.

I still need your input though. It is very slow in forthcoming and you all must realise that one can't put a newsletter together without news.

The big news, is the up & coming JB shootout on Ocean Trek early in the new year. With limited spots available I strongly urge all those wishing to be part of this get their name on the list ASAP. See the details for this event further on in this issue.

I do apologise for the lateness of this edition, but due to work commitments, along with the lack of response to my request for members to submit articles for publishing, I was just a little pushed.

I have to say that I am absolutely flabbergasted at the lack of response to the request for material for the newsletter. Having said this, the mere handful that have submitted, I thank-you and I especially thank Noel for his efforts in helping me out.

Ed  
*Duane*

WITH  
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## PRESIDENTS POSSIE

Well! Hello again. A month seems to go around before we all know it.

It was nice to see some new members at the meeting, welcome to Mim and John Ford. It was also good to see some very old faces in the in attendance also.

I must say, that it was a great pleasure for me to be able to present Grey and Noel with their embroidered SPD shirts, on behalf of the Club. This presentation was a small token of appreciation for a vast amount of work carried out by these two individuals.

I note that there is a sad lack of members putting themselves forward for the position of photographic officer for the coming year. This is extremely disappointing and I hope that at the next meeting there will be a person amongst you that will come forward for the position.

I would like to thank Steve Cross for a very informative talk on Bottle Hunting. It was very pleasing to that hear some of our divers have already started the treasure hunt with some success.  
Well done Matthew Reeve.

Now that we are in October, I would like to inform all members and please pass on to those old members that are in arrears of their membership dues can become financial NOW!!! And get October, November & December FREE!!!!

Membership is from 1st January - 31st December

Your President

*Bernie Kaul*





A big Happy Birthday to our Secretary, Sue, who celebrated her 40th birthday amongst friends at a horse riding ranch in the Tugalong Valley.



Two men fishing on a river bank in a remote area of New Zealand on a Sunday afternoon miles away from a radio or TV. Suddenly one man turns to the other and says "The All Blacks have lost again". The other man was astonished and said "How on earth do you know that?" The other man replied "It's quarter past 8."

## **South Pacific Divers "Slay-it at Seal Rocks"**

### **A story from the past**

A hastily organised trip to Seal Rocks paid off for the 7 Club members who attended on the 25th and 26th of March 1995. The prime objective was to dive the S S Catterthun, a 300 foot long steamer which sunk on the 8 August 1895 (almost 100 years ago), and now rests upright on the sand at a depth of 190 to 200 feet. The secondary objectives were to dive with the famous Seal Rocks Sharks or the wreck of the Satara.

All week phone calls to Seal Rocks told of dream like calm seas, 22 degree water, no current and great visibility. Our hopes and expectations were somewhat dashed when on Friday the bureau forecast bad weather and rising seas on the weekend. Arriving at Seal Rocks about 10pm we could clearly see that the sea was dead calm and there was not a breath of breeze.

We settled into our rented unit looking over beach No 1 with the usual lack of maturity normally associated with a school camp, then followed by two hours of intensive dive gear and camera set-up and preparation. A bucket of water became our "wishing well" with the twist tops from a few beers which were almost praying for perfect conditions. Our prayers must have been incorrectly mailed because about 4.30am I awoke to a light breeze from the south. By 6am it had freshened and although Seal Rocks Beach was "mill pond" smooth off shore was blowing at 20 knots plus. Like fools we geared up, 6 divers with twin tanks, twin regs, cameras, videos in two local fishing boats and off we went. Well we should have stayed in bed as the seas had risen to mountainous proportions making 50 minutes of deco a death trap. At this point it was cruel to hear Steve, our captain, say the words that peeve divers the most. 'YOU SHOULD HAVE COME HERE LAST WEEK. IT WAS PERFECT.....!'

Scott and Rebecca on the second boat weren't as close to suicide as us and dived a reef to the North in the lee of the swell. Yes its a true story - Scott LEIMROTH went REEF DIVING On their return boasted how good the dive was but the damage had already been done for the day and depression had set in. The only one thing to do to salvage the day was go to Forster and EAT. With the best calamari, fish and chips in town we dined on the wharf and then in another childish public display JF and I commenced feeding seagulls above each other with the obvious result, Yes that's right, poor innocent Nela, was shit on.... We thought it was hilarious... Nela didn't...

Late Saturday the weather was abating and we again planned to dive the CATTERTHUN. By early morning the weather was acceptable but there was only 2 takers. Soon after there was 4 for the CATTERTHUN and 3 for the sharks.

Steve hooked up the anchor on the second pass, deco ladders, mermaids, and hang tanks soon set up and JF and I set off. At 70 feet down the wreck could be clearly seen below. We were "picked in" rear of the engine, viz was superb and equivalent to late afternoon light with absolutely no current. JF took his video and commenced filming as we explored towards the bow. The wreck is quite open having collapsed leaving the engine, boiler and large winches prominent. Amongst the steel plating and lumps of coal the wreck is covered with bottles, small fittings, crockery and piles of sheet aluminium. Towards the starboard bow area is a very large pile of animal bones and many bottles some still full can be seen. I saw very little in the way of fish life that make this a fishing Mecca. Narcosis made the 20 minute bottomtime pass in a hazy flash and we were soon ascending away from the best dive I've had in years. Tethered off to the deco ladders JF and I passed the fifty minutes of deco with a game of boxes. Scott and Rebecca soon joined us and claimed that while on the wreck that they heard a Killer Whale.....! At 200 feet narcosis does odd things.

Back aboard our boat it was difficult to get a word in with all having oneupmanship tales (and the rehash of the Whale Tale...!) after a great dive. We absolutely slayed it and now with Steve our local contact supplying boats as required, diving at Seal Rocks and the wrecks of the CATTERTHUN, SATARA (and some other wrecksites) and the sharks will become far more regular.

Cheers.. Barjumpa.  
Compliments of  
*Geoff Cook*

**Remember Members**  
**If you have a need, then think  
about our sponsors.**

**Max Western will get you out there on  
Sea Tamer  
&  
Ship Rock Dive  
&  
Aqua Sports Yagoona**

**Will supply you with air and gear.**  
With out the generous support of our sponsors, we as a Club  
would not enjoy many of the things we do.



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## **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 in particular underwater photography. Club dives are on our web site. The club also organises weekends away at Jervis Bay and Nelsons Bay as well as other dive areas. We also organise 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.

### **Next Meeting Points to Ponder**

- 1) Storage area for records etc. A cursory check about shows that storage is available for about \$70-\$80 per month. Can we do better? This is still on the agenda
- 2) Xmas is looming. Venues and ideas for an end of year bash?? Constructive, helpful ideas to aid Louise?? So is this.
- 4) Would anyone like to do a dive-skills update/ refresher? And this.
- 5) Would anyone be interested in a camera operations workshop?
- 6) Has anyone got a specific dive destination that they seriously would like to visit and would like to see the Club organise a trip to this site/area? Write your desired location down and submit this to Noel at the next meeting.
- 7) Are any of you guys in need of your First Aid Certificates to be re-qualified and if so, is there interest in having the Club arrange a First Aid course?
- 8) It wasn't that long ago that we had a guest speak to us about wreck archaeology. Would there be interest by the members in becoming involved in such a project?

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## What's Bubbling

Welcome to Louise's Social Activities column. I am going to organise one social event per month but will need some help at first, as most of you will know I have only been in Australia since June and live the other side of the harbour, near Manly.

### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October

We are going to do the Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb at 5.05pm in those sexy grey outfits!! It takes 3 hours for the whole experience. It's great fun but you need to pass a breath test before you climb – so no lunchtime drinks ☹. The cost for a night climb is \$150. Meet at 5 Cumberland Street in the Rocks. Let me know if you are interested as I will need to book tickets in advance.

This will be followed by dinner in the rocks at 8.30pm, so if you don't fancy the climb outfit, join us for dinner and drinks later. We are going to Imperial Peking, Harbourside, 15 Circular Quay West, The Rocks.

### Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November

2001 An Ocean Odyssey, as advertised in Dive Log Magazine, at Clancy Auditorium, Sydney University. Cost \$10.00. An evening with Dr Sylvia Earle, Jean-Michel Cousteau, Dr Phil Nuytten, Ron & Valerie Taylor with host Reg Lipson. Thousands of dollars worth of lucky door prizes too.

### December

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December.** Any ideas for a Christmas party.

Here are some of the ideas I have had for future social activities:

- Go Karting
- Ice Skating
- Roller Blading
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Hunter Valley Wineries
- Horse Riding
- Maritime Museum
- Sydney Aquarium
- Bushwalking
- Skirmish (Paintball)
- White water Rafting
- Pub crawl
- Hot Air Ballooning
- Indoor Rock Climbing
- Outdoor Activity Day
- Rally Driving
- Canyoning
- Treasure Hunt
- Theatre
- Archery

Any suggestions or help with organising events is most welcome.

*Louise Bernstein*  
**Social Secretary**

## What Clothes To Pack

Just now I've returned from my trip to Vanuatu. Two weeks of blissful diving. That was my twentieth overseas diving trip. So I think I have it down to a science on how to pack and what to bring when doing a dive holiday.

The key word when packing is "**MINIMAL**". Bring only the bare necessities, anything more is a waste unless you like dragging luggage through the airport! If the dive resort or live-aboard is your only stop on your vacation, these are some tips of what to bring.

**Clothes**, who needs clothes! Tee shirts, shorts and swimsuits. That's it! At a dive-resort, that is pretty much the dress code. Since you are diving so much, why bring anything else. If I bring long pants, I usually wear them on the plane although it is good to put a change of clothes in your carry-on. This way you can change into something cooler before you get off the plane. The long pants should be of a light material as you can wear them at evening in Malaria infected areas for protection. Sandals, thongs or surf shoes are good for walking around the resort or boat, but if you plan to do some land tours, bring socks, hiking shoes or runners. Be prepared for that sudden rainstorm, a poncho, light raincoat is a good thing to bring. And do not forget your hat and sunglasses. The sun in the tropics can burn you to a crisp!

Speaking of sunburn, here are some extra things that are good to bring:

- Sunblock** – In some of these places the sun is strong. You don't want to get sunburned after your second day!
- Panadol** – Pain relief is a good thing.
- Sudafed** – You don't want to dive all stuffed up.
- Aquaeear** – To keep those tropical ear infections away.
- Seasick tablets** – No explanation necessary.
- Betadine** – For those nasty coral cuts.

And of course don't forget those things you usually forget like:

Toothbrush, toothpaste, shaver, soap, shampoo and hairbrush. You can leave the blow drier at home!

To close, let me mention some good stuff for the carry-on:

Books, magazines, gameboy and a neck pillow. This is a "U" shaped pillow that you blow up. It supports your head and helps you sleep on the plane. Earplugs are also good if you want to get some undisturbed sleep. Snacks, in case the airplane food does not do it for you.

Well that's all for now, next newsletter I will go into what dive gear you should bring.....

Dive Safe – Have Fun





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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



**Shiprock Dive**



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**Committee Members**

Bernie Kraul	96069731	President
Sue Tate	96813287	Secretary
Linh La	0418648265	Treasurer
To be advised	Photographic	Officer
Glen Percy	97082826	Equipment Officer
Duane Langley	96813287	Editor
Louise Bernstein	9907 7398	Social Organiser
Noel Taylor	0414592410	Publicity Officer

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**Note:**

If you have a problem receiving the newsletter because your ISP controls the size you are able to receive via this medium, then let me know. I am going to make different mail-out groups and I will need this information so as to know which group you should be in. Those of you with a hotmail or telstra easymail account seem to suffer this malady and will be e-mailed without pictures to cut down on byte size. Personally, I would change my account, as very little being sent about today is less than 250 kilobytes and this seems to be the cheap accounts maximum size limit.

Also, if when you open up the letter, you find spelling highlights, I suggest you adjust your spell checker to read in Australian English and even then, add most of the highlighted words to your dictionary. This newsletter is compiled in REAL English, not some American/Australian/English Pidgin.

I don't profess that my spelling is fool-proof, but it is better than most I read now days.

ED.



**Last Meeting!!!!**

A very BIG THANK YOU must go to our guest speaker at the last meeting. Steve Cross from Scuba Mechanics treated us all who were there to a great lecture about "BOTTLE COLLECTING".

A very informative talk about some of Steve's interesting experiences while diving in the Parramatta River looking for old bottles brought a few worried looks to some of the ladies at the meeting.

Steve brought along some samples from his collection for us to see and showed us briefly how to identify the age of the bottles.

In the near future we will be organising a weekend course on "BOTTLE COLLECTING". This will entail a theory day on the Saturday learning search techniques and how to research for information on bottles. Sunday will be a practical day diving looking for some old bottles.

Anyone interested in doing this course please contact me on 0414 592410 and I will put your name down on the already growing list of people.

**Noel Taylor**  
**Publicity Officer**



## **BAD DAY AT THE OFFICE?** **IT COULD BE WORSE**

Next time you think you have had a bad day at work, think about this guy.

Tom is a commercial saturation diver for Global Divers out of Louisiana and performs underwater repairs on offshore drilling rigs. Below is an e-mail he sent to his sister. She sent it to Laughline and won the contest (he wasn't thrilled with her for that one).

Hi Sue

Just another note from your bottom dwelling brother. Last week I had a bad day at the office. I know you've been feeling down lately at work, so I thought I would share my dilemma with you to make you realize it's not so bad after all. Before I can tell you what happened to me, first must bore you with a few technicalities of my job.

As you know my office lies at the bottom of the sea. I wear a suit to the office. It's a wetsuit. This time of year the water is quite cold. So what we do to keep warm is this:

We have a diesel powered industrial water heater. This \$20,000 piece of junk sucks the water out of the sea. It heats it to a delightful temperature. It then pumps it down to the diver through a garden hose, which is taped to the air hose. Now this sounds like a damned good plan, and I've used it several times with no complaints. What I do, when I get to the bottom and start working, is I take the hose and stuff it down the back of my neck. This floods my whole suit with warm water. It's like working in a Jacuzzi.

Everything was going well until all of a sudden, my ass started to itch. So, of course, I scratched it. This only made things worse. Within a few seconds my ass started to burn. I pulled the hose out from my back, but the damage was done.

In agony I realized what had happened. The hot water machine had sucked up a jellyfish and pumped it into my suit. This is even worse than the poison ivy you once had. Now I had that hose down my back. I don't have any hair on my back, so the jellyfish couldn't get stuck to my back. My ass crack was not as fortunate.

When I scratched what I thought was an itch, I was actually grinding the jellyfish into my ass. I informed the dive supervisor of my dilemma over the communicator. His instructions were unclear due to the fact that he along with 5 other divers were laughing hysterically.

Needless to say I aborted the dive. I was instructed to make 3 agonizing in-water decompression stops totalling 85 minutes before I could come to the surface for my dry chamber decompression. I got to the surface wearing

nothing but my helmet. My suit and gear were tied to the bell.

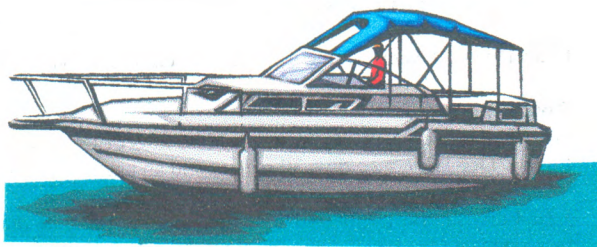
When I got on board the medic, with tears of laughter running down his face, handed me a tube of cream and told me to shove it 'up my ass'; when I got in the chamber. The cream put the fire out, but I couldn't crap for two days because my asshole was swollen shut. I later found out that this could easily have been prevented if the suction hose was placed on the leeward side of the ship., or better still, if they had thought "maybe a screen filter???"

Anyway, the next time you have a bad day at the office, think of me. Think about how much worse your day would be if you were to shove a jellyfish up your ass. I hope you have no bad days at the office. But if you do, I hope this will make them more tolerable.

Your Loving brother  
Tom

**Authenticated by**  
*Martin*

## **Words of Wisdom**



## **BUYING USED BOATS**

Boats experience fundamental deterioration at a very slow rate, in fact strongly built fiberglass hulls may never completely disintegrate, although engines and other equipment experience various rates of corrosion that lower the worth of a used boat. In general-with cautious choice and a willingness to re-equip, an owner can realize tremendous value in a used boat. A 25 year old boat in active use is not uncommon and among well cared for wooden boats, there are many examples of 50 year old models still being used today! Properly examined prior to purchase a used boat can become your new dream boat. Very often it is better equipped than a new boat. A lot of times the seller can provide a valuable service to the new owner by passing on important information and advice about his or her former boat.



## September 11th GENERAL MEETING

**Time:** 2007hrs

**Chair:** Bernie

**Apologies:** Phil, Scott McGregor, Peter

**Incoming Mail:** Letter from Neil Vincent in appreciation, Bank Statement, Ryde Underwater newsletter, URG Bulletin, details on Asia Dive Expo 2002, Rent a Space info.

**Editors Report:** Feedback for previous newsletters is very positive – Need members input to compile the newsletter. Duane will compile it, not write it.

**Equipment Officers Report:** Glen not present

**Treasurers Report:** Not present

**Photographic Officers Report:** No takers for the position, need someone good at organising, does not need photographic experience (there are others available to help out in this area). Noel volunteered to run the George Roberts for the time being. Presentation of Shirts to Noel and Grey.

**Web Page:** Noel advises now updated with new Club activities.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting Acceptance:** Accepted By: Noel Seconded By: Grey

### **Business Arising from last Minutes:**

#### **Social Events:**

Drive in at Bass Hill on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 7.30pm

Next month Sydney Harbour Bridge climb. Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 5.00pm \$150. Then dinner in the Rocks at the Imperial Peking restaurant. 8.00pm (You can just turn up for dinner)

November. 2001 Dive Odyssey \$10.00 ticket special via Noel Friday 16<sup>th</sup>.

December. Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. Xmas party. Where?? Club members need to decide what they want to do for a Christmas outing. Something like a BBQ for families and/or a night out for the adults?? We need your input.

SCANS Combined Club outing – 11<sup>th</sup> November, Bernie to provide sausages.

**Club Dives** – Check out the web site. Web Site activity read out by Bernie.

#### **Dive Reports:**

Peter Flockhart, dived balcony with Max. Lots of fish, wall with jewel anemones

Louise, Dee Why, nice dive 30 metres and an anchor, Harbour dive, was great except for the ferries passing. Long reef was good too.

Jeff: 4 dives in Bali. Liberty wreck in 105ft. Breaking up due to volcanic action being prevalent. Top metre of water like milk and then opens up to crystal clear viz. Reef dive at ulawatu. Get out to dive site in big fat canoes. Clear, beautiful and sensational.

Locals carry your gear. Advised to take your own regulators due to poor reg's supplied by the operators. Also dived Marley Point and this was a nice dive.

Rick, dived the torpedo tubes at Jervis Bay. Not a lot of fish, but lots of sinkers etc.

Annoyed a few fisherman.

Dave, Dived Shark Point using scooters, number of sea Dragons

John Beddy, Dived the Hilda, Good dive. Did Shark Dive, Divers scared off the sharks by inconsiderate diving. Straight into the cave and the other hovering over the top of the entrance. Took no notice that John and buddy were lying off just watching.

Possible new dive sight of Martin Island. Yet to be investigated.

**New Members.** John & Mim Ford joined the club.

#### **General Business:**

Storage room rental to have a decision made at the next meeting

Insurance now in the hands of Grey and will let his Broker have a look at it. Mim will ask her motorcycle club and see who they use.

John Beddie on holidays for two weeks and is happy for interested people wanting to go diving during his holidays.

Guest Speaker, Steve Cross, Talking about bottle collecting. Very interesting, much more to it than you originally think.

#### **Raffle.**

Aqua Sports – Mystery prize - Matthew Reeve

Max Western – Boat dive- Heinz

ShipRock Dive – 2 x air fills or T shirt Peter Flockart

Another great congenial meeting.



# October 2001

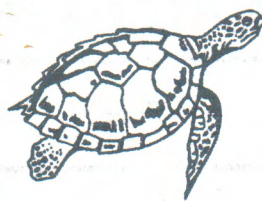
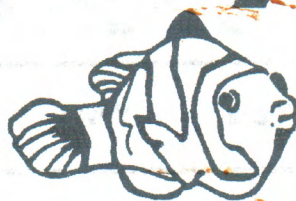
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 (18m) Shark Point Shore Dive
14	15 Club Meeting	16	17 (10m) Camp Cove Night Dive	18	19	20 Go Solomon Islands
21 (BBQ) Bear Island La Perouse	22	23	24	25	26 Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb	27
28 Back Solomon Islands	29	30	31			

# November 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 SCANS BBQ Day	12	13	14	15	16 An Ocean Odyssey with Reg Lipson	17 North Havern W/E Away
18 North Havern W/E Away	19 Club Meeting	20	21	22	23	24
25 (48m) Tuggerah Wreck Dive	26	27	28	29	30	



# Trips



## SOLOMONS!

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3 – 18 August 2002

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Noel Taylor

0414 592 410

**\$2100pp!**



**\$315pp**

**\$415pp!**

**OCEAN TREK**

3 Days / 3 Nights

26 – 28 January 2002

*In-Club Photo Shootout* this trip  
Jervis Bay is a short two hour drive  
down the coast from Sydney  
with excellent diving to be had.  
More about the shootout in  
future Wet Rags. There will  
be prizes to be won. Photo  
comp will be for  
mem- bers only.



**Weekend Away**

17–18 November 2001

30km south of Port  
Macquarie

We will be staying at the  
Woongarra Motel for two nights  
accommodation and have 4 boat  
dives with Scuba Haven  
Laurieton. Some of the dive sites  
include: The TITAN (wreck) -  
40m, Cod Grounds - 18-32m,  
Mermaid Reef (shark dive)  
12-30m, Telegraph Bommie-  
0-18m

**\$175pp!**

Want to spend a 3 day weekend diving at  
South West Rocks and dive around Fish Rock  
and its amazing cave dive \$315.00 per person.

Limited spots, so don't dawdle.

Contact Noel Taylor

0414 592 410

**FISH  
ROCK**

**CAVE**

## SOUTH WEST ROCKS!

**SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB**

P.O.Box 823 BANKSTOWN, NSW 1885

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