

Club Dives  
Weekends Away

Social Outings  
Wreck Diving

Reef Diving  
Boat Diving

Shore Diving  
Night Diving

## South Pacific Divers Club

Established 1960

# Wet Rag

Oct/Feb 2002/3

A LONG TIME HAS PASSED SINCE MY FINGERS DID TYPE  
SINCE NOT HAVING DONE SO, I'VE HEARD NOTHING BUT GRIPE  
I WARNED YOU ALL A LONG TIME AGO,  
IF YOU DIDN'T PARTICIPATE,  
THE WETRAG AS YOU KNOW IT, WOULD NOT FIND YOUR GATE,  
WELL THE REALITY IS, IT'S COME HOME TO BITE  
AND  
UNLESS YOU FIND A NEW EDITOR, FOR THE WETRAG, "IT'S GOODNIGHT!"

[www.southpacifiedivers.com](http://www.southpacifiedivers.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 PO Box 823 Bankstown. NSW 1885



## EDITORS CORNER

October

Once again we honoured to have another great story by Neil Vincent, along with a few great shots. This time we enter the realm of the not so feint hearted side of the sport of, "Cave Diving." Thanks Neil.

You will also note there is an ad for a firm of Solicitors in this issue and all subsequent issue's. This firm has been a sponsor of SPDC since I have been the Editor and by virtue of this sponsorship, we have been able to print off the necessary copies of the Wet Rag at no cost to the Club. I might add that this equates to a respectable support for SPDC over the period Ledlin Partners have been involved and it is with pleasure that we the club, can return this support in a little way by virtue of this advertisement. I have been involved with Ledlin Partners firm of Solicitors on a professional basis for the last 16 odd years and have absolutely no hesitation in recommending them to any of our members, or the firms our members are associated with, that find themselves with the need for such legal services.

Jansen has run an ad for under water scooters and with the ad was a picture depicting the style of scooter, but for what ever reason, I was unable to get it to paste successfully to the wet rag

February

I wish to start this with a big thank you to the few of you who contributed to this and past newsletters and especially to the Vincent family. Without you guys and you know who you are, the past newsletters would have been impossible. So Thankyou.

To the rest of you, it wasn't much to ask to participate, by submitting a story, either small or large, but it was obviously too much to expect.

As you can see, I'm pissed, so to alleviate my dilemma, I quit.

Enjoy  
Ed

### Cover Photo

Courtesy of  
Neil Vincent

## HOMOSAPEAN CAVERNOUS

Encyclopedia a le'

No fear, No Brains, With a distinct desire to see what's on the other side whilst praying (a) the air supply lasts, (b) one's buddy doesn't do the silt up dance, (c) The torch batteries were made in Japan not China and (d) Someone remembers the way out.

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## PRESIDENTS POSSIE

October

G'day from the President's Possi!

Well, there are no excuses now, summer is here and it is time to get those dive suits wet, O rings greased and film out of the fridge!!!

AND we want to see more of our members attend our monthly club meetings. We have some fantastic door prizes just for turning up on the third Monday of each month!!

Summer is not all diving and taking underwater pics, (some may disagree) summer also means exploring the great outdoors. Recently I was fortunate enough to spend a weekend at a camp site named Coolendel, 30 km west of Nowra on the south coast of NSW. Coolendel is an idyllic setting of 127 acres on the Shoalhaven River. This beautiful river offers freshwater swimming (where's the dry suit Phill??) canoeing and rapids for liloing. There is an abundance of native birds and animals with its own colony of wombats wallabies and peacocks. Coolendel has a variety of accommodation ranging from fully self-contained cabins to bunkhouse that caters for larger groups, and for those who like to get-back-to-nature, there are the well appointed camp sites. AND for those of you that have the occasional pyromania urge, they have real campfires, great for toasting marshmallows! It was a great weekend, which our kids young and old thoroughly enjoyed.

We have also been to Montague Is diving with the seals and whale watching.

Again, I would like to see our members attend our club meetings, and feel free to invite non-members along. Happy Diving

Cheers

*Amanda Taylor*

February  
Still Waiting

### 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.



### Are you interested in getting rid of some old dive gear?

South Pacific  
offers to all  
members a  
clean out your  
by posting  
advertisements  
gear on our  
And the best  
all...it's free! (Try getting that from E-Bay).  
For more information, contact the Editor.



Divers Club  
active  
chance to  
dive closet

for used  
web site.  
news of

### **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. 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.

#### Fellow Divers

I have had about 50 enquires for underwater scooters  
and only sold 1. And do you know why?  
Its the \$4000 price tag.

We have been offered an excellent opportunity to show  
you an affordable alternative check this out!!

#### Specifications

Depth 38 m (125 ft)

Run Time 60 continual minutes +

Battery Power 12 volt lead acid sealed battery

Static Thrust 25kgs

Weight 22kgs

Dimensions (L x W x H) 60 x 54 x 38 Centimetres

Speeds 1 Speed

Charge Time 8-12 Hrs (depending on battery condition)

Buoyancy Slightly Positive in Saltwater

Circuit Protection Auto-Resetting Circuit Breaker

The price is only **\$1500**

Janson Kane  
AquaSports Scuba Centre  
450 Hume Highway  
Yagoona NSW 2199  
Ph.02 9708 2826  
Fx.02 9708 3397

### JOKE OF THE MONTH

An 85-year-old man went to his doctor's office to get a sperm count.

The doctor gave the man a jar and said, "Take this jar home and bring back a semen sample tomorrow."

The next day the 85-year-old man reappeared at the doctor's office and gave him the jar, which was as clean and empty as on the previous day.

The doctor asked what happened and the man explained: "Well, doc, it's like this - first I tried with my right hand, but nothing. Then I tried with my left hand, but still nothing.

Then I asked my wife for help.

She tried with her right hand, then her left, still nothing.

She tried with her mouth, first with the teeth in, then with her teeth out, and still nothing.

We even called up Eileen, the lady next door and she tried too, first with both hands, then an armpit and she even tried squeezin' it between her knees, but still nothing."

The doctor was shocked!

"You asked your neighbour?"

The old man replied, "Yep.

And no matter what we tried we still couldn't get the lid off the jar."

#### FORSALE

#### FOR SALE

#### FOR SALE

ONLY 1 LEFT

NIKONOS IV CAMERA  
WITH AQUASEA 140 STROBE  
Sync cord, base and arm

**\$650.00**

Contact Grey McNeil 0407 774 555



1980 Nikonos IV-A

# BLANK



## SCUBA CLUBS ASSOCIATION OF NSW

### (SCAN) report by John Olsen

Dear John

I am following up on the email below you sent to Craig Macaulay at CSIRO Marine Research. CSIRO PUBLISHING have contracted to reproduce the Field Guide to Australian Sharks & Rays as a commercial project, and stock should be available in late November 2002. Details are now on our website

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/books/bookpage.cfm?PID=3459>

We are now looking for ways to promote this title to the dive market, amongst others. If you have suggested contacts who could act as retailers that we should contact, or have suggestions of state associations or newsletters where we could promote the title, I would be glad to hear of them.

Best regards

Jennifer Griggs  
Marketing Manager  
CSIRO PUBLISHING

PO Box 1139  
Collingwood VIC 3066  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel: +61 (0)3 9662 7645 Fax: +61 (0)3 9662 7555 jennifer.griggs@csiro.au  
<mailto:jennifer.griggs@csiro.au>

Visit our web site: [www.publish.csiro.au](http://www.publish.csiro.au)

## A Letter to The Premier

The Honourable R.J. Carr MP  
Premier of New South Wales  
Level 40, Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
Sydney NSW 2000

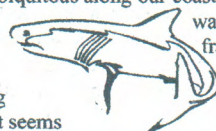
25 September 2002

Dear Premier,

I will keep this brief as I know that you have received a number of other letters detailing the scuba fraternity's recommendations to protect the Grey Nurse Shark.

The recreational and commercial fishing lobbies are powerful and I appreciate their desire to maintain the status quo - essentially unrestricted access to key Grey Nurse Shark habitat. However, the government's own experts concede that the Grey Nurse is facing extinction.

I ask that you jump twenty years into the future and consider what history will say about us when this passive and majestic creature (once ubiquitous along our coastline) cannot be found in Australian waters. Converting the minuscule fraction of NSW reef that comprises their small and isolated breeding grounds into a protected habitat seems such a minor concession. It does, however, require leadership and vision. I humbly ask you to consider this request.

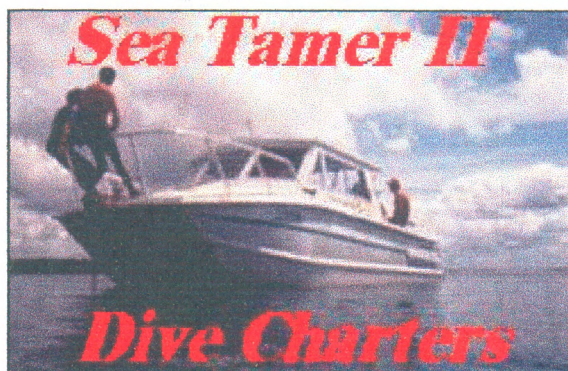


Yours sincerely,

*Darran Edmundson*

Secretary, Australian National University Scuba Diving Club

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



### Committee Members

Amanda Taylor	9876 2773	President
Sue Tate	9681 3287	Secretary
Phil Dale	0418 975649	Treasurer
David Burns	9853 7534	Photographic Officer
Jansen & Sophie	9708 2826	Equipment Officers
Vacant Position		Editor
Noel Taylor	0419 122629	Web Page Officer

### CLUB T/SHIRTS

Most of you have had a chance to look at the Club T/shirt. If anyone wishes to put an order in for one, please see Sue at the next meeting, or e-mail one of the committee members.

Also there is the availability of having your own garment embroidered with the Club logo.

### URGENT URGENT

We are about to put in an order for T Shirts. If you have not already done so, Put in your Order Now with Sue H-9681 3287 [she@maxi.net.au](mailto:she@maxi.net.au). List your size, and navy or white.



## A Dive in McCavity Cave

The air in the cave is cool but I am sweating. The exertion of crawling through to the Telephone Booth, clad in a rubber wetsuit, is only part of the reason. Anxiety, this being the first dive of the trip, has my heart rate thumping as I check each piece of equipment one last time.

Two people in any telephone booth is a crowd, this aptly named cave chamber is no exception. Squeezed together, an assistant is needed to help each diver with equipment, then into the Birth Canal, a tight flooded conduit leading to McCavity cave below. I breath deeply to regain my calm, as I prepare to dive.

Air from the surface supplied regulator tastes different from the musty cave air, I clench it tightly with my teeth to prevent it being knocked from my mouth as I pass through the restriction. With my arms over my head gripping a safety rope, I wriggle into the Birth Canal. Cooling water seeps up into my wetsuit, my face slips beneath the swirling, orange, muddy water, psychedelically lit by my helmet mounted lights. I wriggle



on. I can feel my fins emerging from the bottom of the Birth Canal into the clear waters of the main chamber, my body and mind settle, I am through.

Cave Diving is dangerous. For the foolhardy, the untrained and the inexperienced, entering a water-filled cave is a death wish. Between 1969 and 1974 eleven people died in water-filled caves in Australia. Some of those who have died were scuba diving instructors, skilled diving teachers but not trained in special dangers and techniques required to safely penetrate a water filled cave.

Very specialised training is available through the Cave Divers Association of Australia (CDAA). Progressing through the CDAA's four training levels from the basic techniques of Cavern Level to the exploration extreme of Penetration level is not for the faint hearted. Each level is exponentially more difficult and stressful, divers must refine their skills diving in caves for months sometimes even years before presenting for the next course.

Techniques are important but when it all goes wrong, knowing panic is not going to cloud these well learned procedures is the difference between life and death.

Experiencing personal endurance levels is simulated in controlled conditions during the courses. Students spend hours in cold, dirty water, navigating along a guide line only by the feel of the line on their fingers, as the face masks they wear for training have black glass. They have the regulator though which life giving air is supplied removed without warning, forcing them to locate their buddy and share their air supply. Most traumatic of all, they are tangled in the very item in which they should have absolute faith, the guide line.

Pushing the students close to panic is achieved by task loading, creating situations where all of these incidents happen simultaneously as could happen in a real cave.

For some, the experience can be horrendous but dying must be worse. Since this training began in 1973, only two divers have died, they were untrained.



With my underwater light extinguished I am engulfed in total and absolute darkness. Turning it on, the pencil thin beam penetrates the gin clear water revealing cream coloured limestone passage. From the roof cling earthen coloured stalactites and shawls, Speleothems (cave decoration) which indicate McCavity was once a dry cave. Speleothems can only develop in air not underwater, so in the world of caves, McCavity is rare,

no other decorated water filled caves exist in Australia and there few others around the world.

Beneath me the floor is silt, smooth and soft like grey velvet, until a misplaced fin stroke swirls it's deadly choking particles into the water, reducing the visibility to zero. I avoid the floor, choosing instead to following the guideline which has been previously laid along the centre of the passage. I enjoy the beauty of McCavity's speleothems and it's gin clear waters.

Cave divers enter flooded subterranean passages for many different reasons. With few places left unexplored on this planet, water filled caves still provide a real avenue for exploration. During the past twelve months, one Australian Cave explorer and his team have discovered 4000 metres of new cave passage in the Nullarbor and North Western Australia. At Jenolan Caves, west of Sydney, cave diving is being used by Sydney University Speleological Society (SUSS) to link the northern and southern cave systems hoping to reveal the longest cave system in Australia. The excitement of going where no one has ever been, not knowing what discovery awaits passed the next restriction, of being first, is an instinct known since primeval times.



A water-filled cave is one of the most hostile places on earth, no light, no air, therefore no life.....wrong. Caves are also a place of exploration for the scientific community, whole new forms of life are there to be found.

A small "centipede - like" crustacean was found in McCavity, this previously undescribed species lives it's whole life in total darkness. It has no skin pigmentation nor any eyes. Yet it scurried around, adapted to it's world on the floor of the cave, feeding on microscopic isopods among the silt particles.

A species of bacteria has been found in a cave in



*(Continued from page 5)*

Western Australia which feeds and lives in the sulphurous layer created by the mixing zone of fresh and salt waters which exist with in the cave. These rare finds excite scientists as they are dealing with new species whose behaviour is unlike any previously known life forms. Caves have become a living laboratory to learn from these colonies.

Moving along the main passage my light reflects from an air pocket in the ceiling, as bubbles from my regulator disturb it, it quivers like Quick Silver floating on the surface of the water. In a small alcove, a formation of Stalactites and Stalagmites give the impression of a dragon's jaw filled with vicious teeth. Near the ceiling, in the zone where the water level fluctuates, grow the delicate, chaotic, Helictites, Calcium crystal straws which defy gravity, growing like thick tangled vines. Ahead hangs the icon decoration for McCavity Cave, Rapunzel's Trusses, a drapery covered, broken column, ten metres high and three metres in diameter, surrounded by smaller Stalactites.

Light sources within the cave are very directional and continually moving, the play of light and shadow on these carved stone structures is mesmerising. As a photographer this is what I enjoy and try to capture on film.

Cave diving by nature is an adrenalin pursuit, however along with Adrenalin, body movement and levels of fear must be controlled to safely execute a cave dive. Cave diving equipment is heavy and doesn't magically appear at the dive site, it must be dragged, lowered, lifted and hauled through dry passage. Cave divers need a high level of both mental and physical fitness, a reflexive knowledge of their equipment positions and calculated reactions to dangerous situations, all of these traits only comes with experience.

There are no accidents when cave diving, only fatalities, but when executed correctly by properly trained divers, the rewards, the sense of achievement, the discoveries and the fun justify the accepted and calculated risks.

Neil Vincent



## GEORGE ROBERTS COMPETITION

BRING  
YOUR  
SLIDES  
ALONG

TO THE MEETING ON THE

17TH FEBRUARY, 2003 FOR JUDGING.

**CLUB SPONSER:**  
**Support This Business.**

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

**Shiprock Dive**



### NEXT MEETING

**17th FEBRUARY, 2003**

### SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

**TOM BONNER**

**Discussions on Wet Suits/ Dry suits  
etc.**

***So Come Along And Learn!***

**CLUB SPONSER:**

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**AQUA SPORTS SERVICES.**

**Sales - Service - Air - Dive Schools. Phone:  
97082826**





## SPD CLUB MEETING

18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2002

**Chair:** Phil Dale

**Apologies:** Phil and Amanda, Duane, Grey, Nick and Martin,

**Incoming Correspondence:** Doubtless & Diving newsletter for Oct & Nov, URG Bulletin, Bank Investment statement and bank statement, Ryde Underwater newsletter for Oct & Nov, NSW Fisheries re Grey Nurse Shark and Black Cod, AUF Certificate of Currency re public liability.

**Outgoing Correspondence:** Various emails re SCANS weekend and Christmas Party.

**Meeting Minutes:** September - accepted by Peter Seconded by Dave  
October - accepted by Rick Seconded by Peter

**Treasurers Report:** \$60.00 raffle from last meeting. Memberships due January.

**Website Officers Report:** Still has to be updated

**Newsletter Editors Report:** Apologies, too busy working to complete newsletter. Any takers for this job?

**Club Equipment:** Everything accounted for. Whilst moving, found a box of old Photographic Officers stuff. Noel will organise to take it to storage.

**Photographic Officer:** Dave Burns - has been nominated by Peter F. Seconded by Rick J. Thank you and welcome to the SPD Committee.

**A.V. Night Committee** - Dave Burns, Peter F, and Jansen. More volunteers needed. Remember - many hands make light work!

### Dive Reports:

**Dave** - SCANS weekend - great weekend. Weather messy. Sat - Spider Cave?? Sun - Nth End Bowen. Great BBQ.

**Peter F** - Middle Ground - Max Sea Tamer II - Viz bad, warm on top of the water, dirty water to 25 mtrs then cleared up. Saw sea spider (no camera) wobbys. Very pleasant. Tuggarah - couple weeks back - saw whales.

**Rick** - J.B. Water very green 10' viz - down from Arch - was like twilight diving through green mist!

**Noel Teaching, Matt** - Valiant 1<sup>st</sup> dive. 2<sup>nd</sup> dive on a Police Mooring (Pittwater) diving on a sunken yacht 25' still intact. His dive was good to the last mouthfull.

**Max Sea tamer II** - Osborne Shoals. North Head, Old Mans Hat - 30 mtrs off heads. Lot red weed.

**Phil, Nick & Glen** - Kurnell - was on website - bad viz. Steps fixed. Saw baby whale breaching off Solander, big dolphins.

### General Business:

**Dive Logs:** Not delivered to Aqua Sports.

Calendars 2003 - Peter Flockart \$15.00 each. Great Christmas presents.

Christmas Party - Dive at Kurnell 0900 at Monument - then late lunch/ dinner at Ricks house

Aqua Sports - moved to 450 Hume Highway - same block a few doors down.

TRY DIVES - Friends and family want to 'try diving' SPD special rates - Try diving in controlled conditions. Contact the Shop for more information.

New premises has a big room at the back, suggested he runs slide nights/ shown once a month for SPD using our photographers - help promote underwater photography and SPD membership.

More speciality courses to be arranged.

### AV Night -

Suggested full name of competition, then proudly sponsored by Sea and Sea. Then followed by the other sponsors names -or- Major sponsor Sea and Sea.

### Last year 60 entries.

**Advertising** - SPD mainly Dive Log - drawback - lot of dive shops do not carry dive Logs. Although Dive Log's advertising was at the right price, over the last 2 years we have not received a lot of coverage from them. Advertising through Sea and Sea will give us a lot more Australasia exposure.

Sea & Sea will put in prizes in all categories, better scanning capabilities, paperwork logistics. A3 colour photocopier to over 300 dive shops they currently deal with.

Entries being pushed- more advertising.

We control the night. Not negotiable. Everything approved by SPD - applies to all advertising and picking of the Judges.

Will have to have a Digital Section.

Decided the SPD committee & AV Night committee will meet and discuss a proposal to go to Sea and Sea with. But first, will have to be emailed to members for their feedback. Then we meet with Sea & Sea before next SPD meeting so we can discuss same at our December meeting.

### Raffle

Sea Tamer II Boat Dive	Noel
Aqua Sports 1 x 5 fill air card	Dave
Aqua Sports 1 x 5 fill air card	Phil
Shiprock Dive - 2 Air fills	Peter

**Lucky Door Prize** - David Burns



## SPD CLUB MEETING 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2002

**Apologies:** Duane, Nick, Bernie and Jansen

**Incoming Correspondence:** Doubtless & Diving newsletter, URG Bulletin, Bank Investment statement and bank statement, Ryde Underwater newsletter.

**Outgoing Correspondence:** Various emails re AV Night and Christmas Party.

**Meeting Minutes:** November to be accepted next meeting

**Treasurers Report:** Memberships due January. Term deposit – look for a better rate

**Website Officers Report:** Still has to be updated - computer down. Offers for someone with a good computer to take over and help out – Dave Burns to confer with Noel re same.

**Newsletter Editors Report:** Apologies, again too busy working to complete newsletter. Suggested we do a 'rough' newsletter page to get the relevant information out to members then a proper newsletter when time permits. Amanda to consider putting this together.

**Club Equipment:** Appears in order. BBQ is at the shop.

**Photographic Officer:** AV Night – Indications are that there's no problem with our points of concern. We didn't get anything in writing as yet. Major Sponsor title as supplying prizes in all categories.

Scuba Expo early September – we can either have the results at the show/ or advertise for attendance for the night- providing the AV Night will be held later in the year.

### Dive Reports:

**Peter T** – Kurnell (1<sup>st</sup> dive in 2 years – sea slug nickname) Steps viz 3 mtrs – Bear Island – 1<sup>st</sup> dive really nice, 2<sup>nd</sup> dive murky.  
**Peter F** – Fish Reef – 7 mtrs viz – had camera with correct lens. Sea Tulip Reef – blue dragons, nudis, cuddle fish 6-7 mtr viz 20 degrees.

**Matt** – Steps Monument – In front of others dives alone – not murky! 2 weeks earlier, Barons Hut with Sea Tamer II – Pretty good.

**Dave B** – Oak Park 2 weeks ago – very dirty – got lost or took a short cut - not too bad.

**Rick** – Kurnell – baby cuddle fish asleep in sand

### GENERAL BUSINESS:

**Christmas Dive:** Kurnell all welcome

**Dave Burns** now has a vehicle and will be diving every Sunday – call him.

**Dive Logs:** The reason for non delivery is that the account has not been paid. We have a Cheque book entry from previous treasurer, which we thought was the payment for the log books, which in fact was for a directory listing in Sports Diving. Account will be sorted out asap and back on line for January.

**Calendars 2003** – Peter Flockart \$15.00 each. Great Christmas presents.

**Christmas Party** – WELL DONE RICK! Peter Turner apologised for not attending as bush fires caused a lot of orphaned wildlife and as an active member of WIRES - he was kept very busy. THANK YOU BERNIE for once again SPOILING us with your expertise at cooking and quality. Martin we discovered was a 1920's D.J. with his vast knowledge of music and artists. We all had a great time and thanks also to Amanda, Phil and Sue for their feeding/ drinking efforts. Food was plentiful and great weather and the best of company – who could ask for more!

### Membership Drive in the New Year

**Aqua Sports** are already putting our membership forms in with his scuba and specialty courses

**Q – What Boats to use at Kurnell?** Diver City give SPD a good deal with Double boat dives \$50.00. (Magic Point/ Henrys Head)

**George Roberts Comp** – Rules are on the website. 1<sup>st</sup> Novice Competition – bring your slides along to the January meeting, judging advised at February's meeting. Suggested judges are Tom and Martin. Sponsors yet to be organised.

**Ocean Trek** 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2003 \$340.00 for the weekend – Positions Vacant.

### Raffle raised \$58.00

Sea Tamer II Boat Dive	Audrey
Aqua Sports 1 x 5 fill air card	Matt
Aqua Sports 1 x 5 fill air card	Evelyn
Shiprock Dive – 2 Air fills	Mark P.
6 pack VB	Phil, Noel, Grey

**Lucky Door Prize** – Shiprock Gift Voucher - Sue



**Apologies:** Grey, Peter, John & Jenny, Nick and Duane.

**Incoming Correspondence:** Bank statement re term deposit and account, URG Bulletin, Invoice for Self Storage, Receipt re Dive Logs, Scubaroo email re dives.

**Guests:** Brett and Lisa Coff's Harbour update and video's.

**Treasurer:** Memberships Due. Can be paid through Aqua Sports by credit card. Term deposit, committee will make a decision of where to invest for the best rates.

**Minutes:** November - accepted by Phil. Seconded by Noel. December's - Were not included in the last newsletter, will be deferred till next month.

**Equipment Officer:** All good. SPD banner will be left at Aqua Sports.

**Newsletter:** Thank you for the newsletter Noel. We need 'help' with putting out the newsletter, any format? Any takers?? Please!

**Photographic Officer:** AV night still needs to be discussed with Committee. Waiting on a confirmation of a meeting with Sea and Sea, Dave already has a few sponsors on line.

**Website:** Now updated. Dave needs to be added to committee list.

**George Roberts Competition** - Slides due next month, rules and regulations available. Suggest we resurrect the Old Novice plaque as found in the storeroom.

#### **Dive Reports**

Bernie - Club Dive weekend - Jervis Bay - Ocean Trek

The Streets, Point Perpendicular, Docks, Boat Harbour, Cove, Nursery.

1<sup>st</sup> 10-15 mtrs murky, then clear. Cold 16 degrees. Good weekend. Maximum 6 dives 1 x night dive.

Point Perp./ lighthouse 2-3 mtr swell plus. Wind changed southerly flattened bay out nicely.

Dives were good. Food excellent - Bernie's Snapps?? Still undecided. Call Up Ocean Trek's website for a look. [www.oceantrek.com.au](http://www.oceantrek.com.au)

Phil McP - Magic Point - 6 fully grown sharks. 40 divers in the water. 30 mtr viz. Sharks were 'happy'. Big rays deep, also big wobbys.

Des - Bear Island Malabar - Fantastic along the back side, 6-7 mtr viz, lots of sponge gardens.

Dave - Shiprock - high tide, dirty but a good dive (up close!) Fish Reef - seal playing on ocean surface (apparently)

Clifton Garden - surprisingly good - viz average, saw seahorse at end of dive, huge school of whitebait.

Matt - Diver City - Midnight Trench - missed it initially - had to dive sand then rock (towed the anchor closer) was a great dive on arrival - however somewhat short! (depth sounder in being repaired)

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Aqua Sports** - New hours of operation (on trial) Open 8.00am every day. Thursday nights till 9.00pm, Saturday till 4.00pm and 1200 Sunday.

**Aqua Sports** - Dive Manly wharf Midnight February 1<sup>st</sup>. Will be very good for macro. Contact the shop 9708 2826

**SPD Club Dive** - Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Oak Park 10.00am. Bernie cooking his famous Hot Dogs. Noel will email details out to members.

**Club Equipment** - We need to compile a list of club equipment. Maybe start a usage book so we know where our equipment is. Storage Unit needs a clean up.

Was suggested we Scan all old Wet Rag newsletters to a disk, therefore there would be less of a need for so much paper.

Any volunteers to scan old copies of the Wet Rag onto a disk for your Club?

Any type of SPD Advertising has to be run via the Committee first before it goes out anywhere - we need more control over what goes out on behalf of the club and we need more communication between the committee.

Send to Sue (she@maxi.net.au) and then she will forward to the correct recipient ie. To the website, newsletter etc.

Re Filing Cabinet - Thank you Phil and Bernie for finally moving the old President's files to the Storeroom. No objections were raised at the meeting and the filing cabinet was donated to Bernie.

Life Membership - Discussions were raised re the requirement for someone to be nominated as a life member. The committee has a nomination but we need to know the Club's criteria. The committee will investigate and advise.

Club Dinner - Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2003 La Porchetta Pizza Restaurant 10 Bungaribee Road, Blacktown 6.00pm.

Contact Noel Taylor 0419 122 629. Cost approx \$19.00 - \$29.00.

It was brought up at the meeting that last year was a strange one for the Club - it was proposed that numbers at meetings were down due to politics?? Was suggested we need to promote that we are a Social Club. More discussions to come at committee level.

It was suggested that maybe SPD should look at an associate membership with another Dive Club, one with their own boat. Member benefits would be 2 different club newsletters, more social outings, dives, weekends away etc. Noel to jot down some obvious benefits and forward same to the committee.

Dave Burns received an email from SCANS Re possible litigation against your dive buddy should something go wrong in a dive. Des advises that a precedent has already been set in the U.K where \$250,000.00 damaged granted.

#### **Raffle**

Shiprock Dive - Noel

Aqua Sports - Des and Mark P.

Sea Tamer II - Mark Pinna

Lucky door Prize - Phil McPherson.

BIG THANK YOU to Brett and Lisa Vircoe for their excellent presentation on the value of diving in Coff's Harbour.



**SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB  
P.O. BOX 823 BANKSTOWN 1885**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**I wish to apply for membership for one (1) year**

**NAME:**.....

**ADDRESS:**.....

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

**TELEPHONE:**

**Work:**.....**Home:**.....**Mobile:**.....

**E-Mail Address:**.....

**Diving Certification:**.....**Certification Number:**.....

**Specialty or Advanced Certification:**.....

**Are You a Boat Owner:**      **Yes/**      **No**      **Type of Boat:**.....

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP FEES:**      **Single \$30.00**      **Family \$40.00**

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

**SIGNED**.....

**DATE**.....



# February 2003

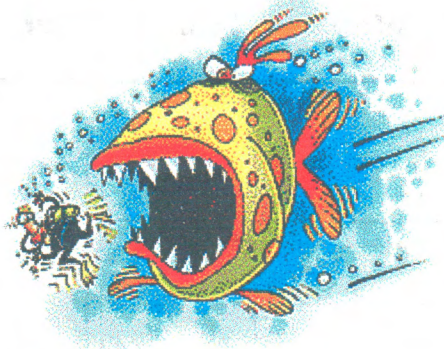
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Club Meeting B'Town Sports	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Scans Meeting St George Rowing	26	27	28		

# March 2003

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Club Meeting Sports Club	18	19	20	21	22 Don't forget to vote	23 Scans Combined Club day
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



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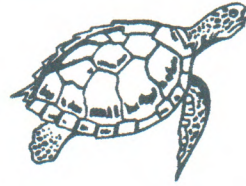
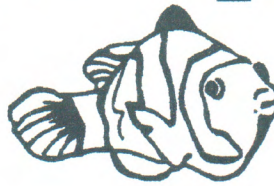
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**9524-1818**



**VANUATU!**

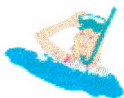


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**\$210pp**



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WEST  
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**SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB**  
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