

Club Dives
Weekends Away

Social Outings
Wreck Diving

Reef Diving
Boat Diving

Shore Diving
Night Diving

South Pacific Divers Club

Established 1960

Wet Rag

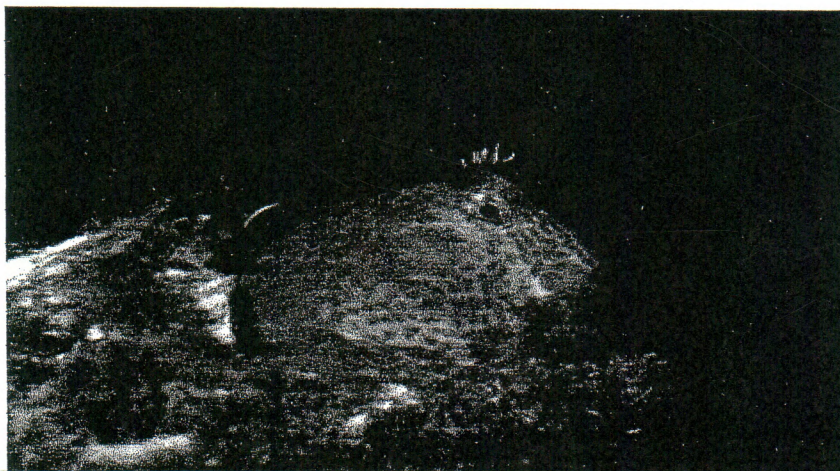
February 2002

SO NOW IT'S TIME TO CHECK THE DIVES WITH WHICH
SIMON TRIES TO ENHANCE YOUR LIVES

&

JOIN IN THE FUN THAT THAT WE ALL PONDER ON
THAT NOW HAS BECOME REAL FROM MIM & JOHN

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 Other correspondence should be sent to South Pacific Divers Club PO Box 823 Bankstown, NSW 1885

EDITORS CORNER

I would first like to thank those of you that have supplied material for the wetrag in one form or another. It certainly is a bright start to the year and I can only hope that this keeps up.

We had a few little problems with publication last month, but given that I am an expatriate Kiwi in the form of a shoop, what can you expect. *If you wish to know what a shoop is, you will have to ask MIM.*

I was going to insert background colouring to the pages to enhance the rag a little extra, but it has a tendency to increase the size of the file for e-mailing. Therefore I feel that it is better to have the file-size controlled by some of your photographs rather than this fill colouring, so you are stuck with black and white pages at this point.

There are still a few of you out there that do not have e-mail addresses. I know that this may be a problem for some and I would not expect you to go out and buy a computer just for the purpose of receiving the wetrag, but if you had a friend that would allow you to receive the rag via their computer and print you off a copy in colour, then you would get the full effect of the publication. The added benefit to having an e-mail address is that from time to time there is a addendum to the letter sent out electronically from me or Noel and this is only obtainable in the first instance via electronic media. This of course means that some of you may not get to hear about a snippet that may well be of interest to you until the next newsletter or meeting.

That's about all I have to say at this moment.

Enjoy
Ed
Duane



Hi Duane,

Just a quick mail to let you know that Phill and Amanda received your Wet Rag e-mail. As usual, it is always a great delight to read the Wet Rag. Keep up the wonderful work, and see you at the club meetings.
Cheers
Amanda

Thanks for compliment Amanda.

Cover Photo

By Lyn & Neil Vincent
A BLENNY

Of the family Blenniidae. A member of a large suborder of small mainly marine spiny-finned fishes having an elongated body with reduced pelvic fins. The group includes the blennies, butterfish, and gunnel. This member having a tapering scale less body, a long dorsal fin and long ray like pelvic fins.

Information re the Collins English dictionary

PRESIDENTS POSSIE

Well another month of this new millennium has gone on by and I have to say I am very pleased with the Clubs direction.

It is most important of all that I again mention, as I did last month, that it is still that time of the year again. That is, membership renewal is now due and out treasurer is geared up waiting to receive those dues. Also remember whilst submitting the dues, if you have any changes to your address etc, please ensure to notify us of your new contact details at the same time, so that our records are kept tidy and up-to-date. We would love to see new members, so if you can get your diver friends and the like to join, all the better. This month the application form has not been included in the wetrag, but instead, has/will be sent out as an extra notice. This has been done to attempt to keep the size of the wetrag down and also allow easier printing of the actual form, as it has only been zipped and not changed to PDF format. Please make sure you send this form in completed, along with your dues.
Thank you.

There are some serious issues in relation to liability insurance that require the attention of members and these will be discussed at the next monthly meeting on the 18th February at the Bankstown Sports Club. I therefore would request all that can attend this meeting please do so, as we may very well make some decisions at this meeting that may affect us all in a club sense.

Sue advises me that she has had certain discussions with the person who does our t/shirts and logo. As it would be very nice to see every member in a piece of apparel that reflects the club we belong to, at functions and events, I would like those who do not have a shirt to perhaps consider getting one. If you like, you can have our logo embroidered on a blazer or shirt that you already own, or buy one of a style of your choice, if you are not keen on what was chosen as the club colours. Sue will bring us all up to speed at the meeting of what this chap can do for us.

For all of you who know BJ, he is still about getting the wetrag. That is when the editor gets the address right. In fact he is merrily enjoying the warmth and waters of the bustling Gold Coast area. Duane tells me that he is awaiting a story from him re his diving escapades in that neck of the woods. Hello BJ.

Once again I would like to touch on the fact that no one has come forward to be the photographic officer for this term. It would be really nice to see some one put there hand up for this position. The AV night this year is once again going ahead thanks mainly to the efforts of Grey Mc Neil. Although the position for this year is no longer really an issue, now is the time for some one to stand up for the next term. By doing this now they could actually get an apprenticeship period by conferring with Grey and Noel on this years event. This I am sure would dispel any of the anxieties one might have about taking on the position. It is both an exciting and rewarding position to hold and one that I am sure no one will regret taking on. Past history has shown that there are plenty of helpers when you need them, which essentially makes you a manager of this event. It is also an event that will make a respectable inclusion in any resume'.

See you all at the meeting!

Bernie Kraul



What's Bubbling

- This position within the Club and I would imagine any other Club, is perhaps the most difficult of all, so as your President, I would ask you all to be part of as many of the events that are arranged this year as your time and desire allows, but most important of all, be definite in your decisions and reliable in your attendance please.
- Camping at Bouddi National Park in late February. This is a weekend for all and sundry, with camping, motor biking, swimming and diving, bush walking and best of all for you parents, kidding and for us ragers, drinking and eating. More details at the Jan meeting.
- See page 12 for the flyer.

For Sale

2 X NIKONOS IV,s with 35mm lens, Aquasea 140 strobes, sync cables, base and arm.
\$850 dollars each.

PH Grey on 0418 255089

Long time Club member Peter Flockart now has his 2002 Calendars for sale at \$14.00 per unit, including GST. These Calendars have an array of Peter's best underwater shots and make a nice addition to any wall.

Peter can be contacted on 02-9371 0265

Or

Through the Club contacts and we will pass on your requests. Peter will also have some of these Calendars at the meetings.

HMAS Perth scuttled

On 24 November divers received a rare and exciting opportunity when HMAS Perth was scuttled off the coast of Albany, Western Australia, creating one of the largest artificial reefs in the world. The 133 metre ship was scuttled in King George Sound for the use of recreational divers and ecosystem development.

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

South Pacific Divers Club offers to all active members a chance to clean out your dive closet by posting advertisements for used gear on our web site. And the best news of all...it's free! (Try getting that from E-Bay). For more information, contact the 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 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.

Simon's Corner Up & Coming Dive Events

1. 23/02/02 - With Max, first dive is Middle Ground departing 0700 from the wharf. 2nd dive with Max is at Fish Reef departing at 12.00. Cost for these dives is \$40.00 each. It would be good to see a good turn out as Max is a great sponsor of the club.
2. 16/03/02 - Is with Coast Wide Diving at Shellharbour. The first dive departs the wharf at 08.30 to dive the Pinnacles. 2nd dive is at 10.00 diving Lou's Reef. The cost is \$25.00 for a single and \$45.00 for a double dive. In addition to the dives there will be a club BBQ at Bass Point Reserve where non boat divers can enjoy a shore dive.
3. 13/04/02 - With Atlantis Divers at Barrenjoey boathouse, Palm Beach. The first dive departs 0800 for the Birchgrove Park wreck (50m) for a cost of \$40.00. 2nd dive departs 11.00 to dive the Valiant wreck (27m) at a cost of \$35.00.

Any thoughts of a club BBQ at this location.

If you would like to add some additional dives to the above calendar, please contact me so I can arrange the timings. **Divers will need to contact me 4 days in advance to cancel their dive so the vacancy can be filled. Divers giving less than 1 days notice to cancel their dive will still be charged.**

For a up to date information on the club dive activities for 2002, go to South Pacific Divers **web page**.....

www.southpacificdivers.com

Simon Gayler

Dive Boss

Email Address: simon@cougar.net.au

Mobile: 0418 412235

Fax: 46 213683

Shiprock Dive



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Overseas Dive Trips. Phone: 95262664**

SPD CLUB MEETING 21-01-02

Chair: Bernie Kraul

Apologies: Nick, Glen, Mitch.

Correspondence in: Renewal from Netspace, Ryde Underwater & URG newsletter, Scans info re their weekend away. Term deposit renewal. Gained a little interest. Bank Statement. Registration of business name renewal. JB plans for reserve and a Waves magazine.

Meeting Minutes –

Nov minutes – accepted by Simon, 2nd Scott. Dec minutes – accepted by Noel 2nd Grey

Treasurer: not available

Web Site: Needs information.

Newsletter: Need e-mail update of members.

Social Organisers:

23/ 24 February – Camping at Bouddi. 6 sites left. \$6.00 per vehicle per day, \$7.50 per adult per day. Has gas BBQ and drinking water – See Mim or John ASAP for bookings.

Wednesday 23rd January (not 30th) Okori Teppan-Yaki Japanese Restaurant dinner night out, Harris Park .Set menu \$26.50 or \$32.00. Need to know numbers Now!

DIVES

Martin 22nd Dec with Max Western. New gear, every thing. Looked like a goober. Barons Hut. Warm water, plenty of viz and lots of fish.

Phil. Eagle Hawk Neck Tasmania. 12 or 14 degrees. Great viz 30+, Cray fish everywhere.

Grey & Viv dived the Poor Knights at Xmas. Lot of kelp, 2 metres or so. Had to dive down through it to get at the life below. Bay of Plenty dive also.

John Beddie dived numerous locations along with the Bombo and all surrounding locations. 2 Mako sharks sighted during a couple of dives. 14 sharks at the caves off Maroubra.

Noel, Bernie BBQ and dive at Kurnell Xmas day. 6 Divers with a BBQ at Diver City afterwards. Angler fish a plenty, school of kingies and a couple of boor fish. Absolutely great dive.

New Years Day dive at Oak Park purple tipped kauri shells, big bull eagle ray. Max Western – Balcony – good viz.

Good dive at Kurnell, Diver City's first boat dive. Lots of diving over the holidays.

Rick - Bear Island. Nice dive with an hours bottom time. Nudibranchs and weedy sea dragons. Very interesting dive.

Mim & John dived Cook Island at Tweed Heads. Water very murky with a lot of algae about. Warm water. Turtles were in a hurry. Clown fish about. Had a simple camera, but didn't allow for successful photography.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Dive Organiser:

Club dive on Sat night. Good turnout.

23/24 February Double boat dive organised – See Simon to book.

16th March – Shellharbour Club Dive and BBQ

13th April – Next proposed Club Dive and BBQ

To come – Night Dive at Kurnell

Ocean Trek January Long Weekend - Still spots available.

Aqua Sports

Janson introduced himself as the new proprietor. Took over last Tuesday. All services that were provided by Glen will be still continued. Saturdays will now be 0900 until 1400hrs and these are the only changes at this time to the past hours of trading.

New services being discussed at the moment are the selling on consignment of 2nd hand gear, warranted and serviced. Interested, contact Janson.

Club Equipment is being stored at Aqua Sports – OK at this time.

Re sponsorship continuation from old aqua sports . Will give it some discussion with Bernie, but will continue. Just the details to sort out. Welcome on board. Has put in a hydro test for this months raffle.

Simon suggested he take oxy viva on club dives.

John Beddie

Concerned about the JB Moves and the lack of anchoring ability. Janson to get in touch with dive business in JB for their opinion on this matter.

SCANS Weekend - 2/3rd March – Solders Point, Nelson Bay. Interested in attending, contact the committee for more information.

Raffle

1st Prize - Aqua Sports Hydro Test - Robert Doust

2nd Prize – Sea Tamer II Boat Dive - Dave Burn

3rd Prize – Shiprock Dive – 2 Air fills or T Shirt – Simon

Another good meeting. Thankyou all!

POOR KNIGHTS SOJOURN

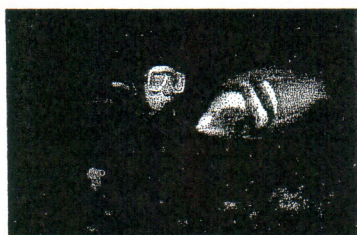
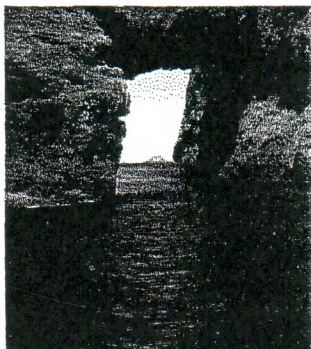
At Christmas last year Viv and I went to New Zealand to visit the relie's (and some of Duane's love children, I think you call them lambs here), and do some diving. We went about 3 hrs nth of Auckland to a little place called Tutukaka which is where you leave from to dive the Poor Knights. The day we arrived was the first fine day for 3 weeks!!

We booked to do a double dive at the Knights (\$50 per dive plus tank and weight belt hire!!! NZ\$125 for 2 dives) and a double for the next day on the wrecks of the Navy ships the Waikato and the Tui.

The trip to the Knights takes about an hour and as you get closer you can see the sheer cliffs and huge arch ways through the rocks. The Islands are a marine reserve and no one is allowed to land on them.

The viz was about 20 -30 meters but a lot of plankton in the water, temp was about 20-21.

There is a huge amount of kelp growing there but as soon as you get under it there is beautiful and prolific growth everywhere. It didn't take long to find some beautiful nudis. Most of them were far to big for my 1-2 macro (of course) but got some good shots anyhow. The fish are every where, and friendly as you like. The Wrasse in the photo actually sat



in my hand and let me pat him!! Huge schnappers all over the place there was even some Orcas there in November.

The dive shop is straight across from the jetty and has a bar and restaurant next door, great after a

days diving!

That night the good Lord was obviously pissed of with something and the Heavens opened up with thunder and lightning and rain like Noah must have got with the Ark!! Needless to say the wreck diving was all cancelled next day so we headed down to Mt Maunganui in the Bay of Plenty for some merriment and diving. We couldn't get on a dive boat anywhere but were told about a guy with a 21metre catamaran who did charter work out to Mayor Island. As luck would have it he was taking a group of Japanese out to the Island to snorkel and bush walk so we booked in for the next morning. Well the Japs were all spewing before we even left the harbour and it was a 2.5 hr trip out there!!! poor buggers !! I fished all the way but caught nothing.

The diving was very similar to the Poor Knights with the bottom covered in kelp, there was a lot of King fish around but not much else so on the second dive I went

after some crayfish instead. You are allowed 6 per day on scuba over there. I caught 3 but had to put 1 back as it wasn't legal and they are very strict on it over there which is good. They were great fresh on the bbq that night.

We then headed to Wellington to dive the Lermontov, but the weather didn't let up so we couldn't dive that either never mind good excuse for another trip.

It is a beautiful country with Tropics to snow within a 5 hour drive down the North Island. I would recommend it to anyone any Duane's relies are very friendly!!

Grey McNeil

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
Mim & John Ford	95872797	Social Organisers
Noel Taylor	0414592410	Publicity Officer
Simon Gayler	0418412235	Dive Co-Ordinator



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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. We need to order at least 10 in each lot.

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

THIS
SPACE
IS
FOR
ME
TO
FILL

YES! THAT'S YOU

Test your knowledge

Q: A bounce (short duration) dive to free an anchor after repetitive dives is not a risky venture because you do not absorb much nitrogen.

- A). True if the time on the bottom does not exceed two minutes.
- B). True if the depth does not exceed 60 feet.
- C). False because the issue is not the absorption of nitrogen.
- D). False because you do absorb a significant amount of nitrogen.

(You can find the answer below...but no cheating!)

Answer: C. False because the issue is not the absorption of nitrogen. You have bubbles in your body following repetitive dives but the bubbles are a symptomatic—they do not cause symptoms of bends. Immediately after a dive the capillary beds of the lungs trap many bubbles until the bubbles break up and dissolve their gas into solution for elimination. A bounce dive releases bubbles from the lungs into normal circulation. The bubbles absorb additional nitrogen, expand, and may no longer be a symptomatic when you ascend following a bounce dive.

Q: Practicing ear clearing techniques on land increases the ease of ear clearing underwater.

- A). True
- B). False

(You can find the answer below...but no cheating!)

Answer: A. True. Equalization is a natural process that takes place without thought when you swallow or yawn. Making the process voluntary so we can cope with pressure increases underwater require straining muscle groups we are not used to controlling. By working the muscles of the throat and tongue, we can learn to control them and open our Eustachian tubes voluntarily.

NASA's

Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory

What's 102' by 202' by 40' deep and holds 6.2 million gallons of water?

Give up?

Well...It's NASA's *Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory* at the Johnson Space Center in Houston Texas. This training facility provides controlled neutral buoyancy operations to simulate the zero-g or weightless conditions that's experienced by both spacecraft and crew during space flight. It is an essential tool for the design, testing, and development of the International Space Station and future NASA programs. This web site has the lab features, construction, picture gallery, an even a virtual tour. So get into your space suit and hop on in! The water is fine...

<http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/dx/dx12/index1>.

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Nudibranchs of the South Pacific Vol.1

Neville Coleman

64 pages. Paperback.

First published 1989.

ISBN0 947 325 02 6

This small field guide includes pictures of 170 Nudibranchs from the major groups with a basic description of each. Some of the species have yet to be named. The photos come from Neville's Australian Marine Photographic Index, a truly remarkable achievement on his part. Over many years Neville has personally collected & photographed thousands of marine animals & with the help of experts who have helped in identify the photos, built the AMPI into a valuable library of Australasian marine life.

The guide gives a basic introduction to Nudibranchs & the photographs make this a useful resource for visually identifying species on the Australian shores as well as further afield.

1001 Nudibranchs - Catalogue of Indo-Pacific Sea Slugs

Neville Coleman

ISBN 0947325255

This new book with 1700 colour photos is due for publication at the end of July 2001. Neville tells me the book includes information on the biology and natural history of many species and as well as including many of his photos from over 30 years searching, he has also been able to fill some gaps through the willing agreement of other photographers to participate in this project.

Andy Belcher burns rubber

Andy Belcher has recently achieved his dream to race in the Dunlop Tyres Targa New Zealand Rally. Andy, better known for his internationally recognised underwater photography skills, needed a co-driver and who better for the camera lens than a past New Zealand entrant in the Miss World competition, Coralie Waburton. Dive New Zealand magazine are proud to be a sponsor for this aging petrol head and we wish him all the best in the final rally in October in his Toyota MR2.

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.**

OCEAN TREK – now that's comfort!

Never been on a Live Aboard? Want to know what it's like?

Well it's like being on a holiday with a purpose. Everything is set up for easy diving.

We spent the Australia Day Long Weekend onboard OCEAN TREK – with a total of 10 organised dives for us to participate in.

0930 dive, morning tea, 1130 dive, lunch, 1530/ 1600 dive, cheese/ biscuits and other goodies, dinner, night dive, dessert. Eat and dive - what more could you want! And good food too.

After breakfast is served, the first dive begins. All your gear is set up and just needs to be put on. Wet/ dry suits are all hung up (hopefully drying). After a brief of the dive area, you finish gearing up, buddy check, one long step (fully geared) give the boat dive master the I'm OK signal and you're off – only proviso is that you preferably dive with a computer and do a 5 minute 5 mtr safety stop. After your dive you are helped from the water, you sit down and take your tank off, take the reg off so they can re-fill your tank, remove your wet/ dry suit if you prefer and use a Ocean Trek supplied, warmed towel to get the salt off. They log down time and depth of your dive (which you can use for your reference at a later time if required).

Some sort of a snack is available after each dive, with coffee/ tea/ soup/ milo or cordial available at all times, complimentary. Leave your dirty cups on the sink and they will take care of them. Soft drinks, chips and chocolate are available for a small fee.

Plenty of books, photographs, stories of past trips, games and puzzles – are available to relax and laugh by. Video and T.V. are also there for our amusement.

Berths are located against the hulls and on the main deck. The galley, saloon area, bathrooms etc are also located on this main area. Top deck encompasses the bridge, conference room and back lounge around in the sun area. Even with 22 people onboard, you could still find yourself a space. Even though the berths are 'single' size, they were comfortable enough and you could easily get to sleep. The people who had problems sleeping, usually had a snorer with them, or close nearby. Each morning over breakfast you could easily tell who was effected by the snoring, by the looks on their faces and the black circles under the eyes. Next evening I'm sure a few more medicinal drinks were consumed to help the sleeping process.

Pure luxury is— after a great dive being able to have a hot shower with limitless hot water. Part of the engine cooling system had the salt water re-directed to a shower head on the dive deck where the hot water flowed constantly. Another good thing this was used for was to warm up a wet wetsuit and booties just before putting them on. Now that is luxury. If you came up from a dive cold, you could fill your wetsuit with hot water and warm up instantly. (not recommended for dry suits though). That's another fun thing to watch, divers getting into and out of their dry suits. Imagine being in your cossies one minute and then preparing for a dive and putting on your thermals. Thermals come in all sorts of colours and stripes—some were very colourful indeed.

Diving, I haven't mentioned the wonders under the sea yet! Every dive was at a different location, with some divers being dropped off out of the dinghy whilst it was still moving, something like a parachute drop. Lots of fish life, huge schools of small fish were everywhere. Lots to explore with a few big friendly cuttlefish, rays, eels, weedy sea dragons, nudi's, colourful sponge life etc etc. It just had the lot. Always something interesting to look at, caves to explore, swim-throughs, some areas had rather bare boulders but the fish life was plentiful. I had

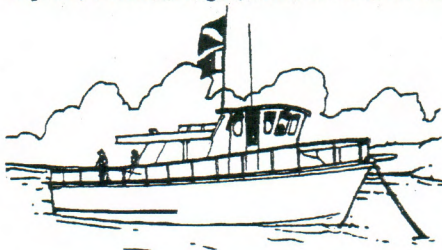
a snorkel with 'scooter power' the only way to go anywhere. Why swim when you can just hold on! This way I could get up close to the cliffs and really check them out. Plenty of dinner size fish sunning themselves just out of arms reach.

Lots of stories of the night before were discussed (and denied) each breakfast. (I missed heaps whilst I was sleeping) Huge amounts of alcohol were consumed. Mixed, mixed drinks were all the go, and mixing your drinks from spirits to beer etc. cast iron stomachs I'm sure. I think one of our own members had the best overindulgence story, I'm sure glad there were people around to look after him/ her. What's even more interesting is that some guys can still have their cages rattled—but you had to be there!

So, next time come and be there!

We all had a ball, great diving and the best of friendship and I would like to thank all my weekend buddies for a great time.

Sue Tate



South Pacific Divers Club

2002 GEORGE ROBERTS MEMORIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

This club competition is one that all the divers in the club should enter. There will be prizes and certificates for all the monthly winners and the overall winner.

As the competition is handicapped, any consistent underwater photographer has an excellent chance of winning.

Remember, the aim of this competition is to upgrade the standard of photography by encouraging the novice photographer and by making the established photographer strive harder. The competition has already proven a success and should encourage all club members to "dabble" in underwater photography.

COMPETITION RULES

1. The competition will be conducted over three months.
2. Each month's competition will close at 10.00 p.m. on the night of the Club meeting for that month:
1 FEBRUARY 2002
2 MARCH 2002
3 APRIL 2002

Late entries will be entered into the following month's competition.

3. The competition is open only to members of South Pacific Divers Club who are currently financial.
4. February Competition is open only to those people who have not gained 1st, 2nd or 3rd in any competition with the exception of past George Roberts Novice Sections.

March Competition is open to any person except those people who have won 1st, 2nd or 3rd open in past S.P.D. Competitions.

April Competition is open to all members.

5. Each entry may be up to five slides per month. They will be judged and only the highest scoring slide counted.
6. There will be a prize-winner each month and a major overall prize-winner.
7. The winner and entrants each month will receive a score for the place they achieve (different from their slide score). This score is cumulative through the competition. The highest cumulative score at the end of the competition will be declared the overall winner.
The scores each month will be:

	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>
1 st	6	5	15
2 nd	5	4	14
3 rd	4	3	13
4 th	3	2	10
5 th	3	2	9
6 th	3	2	8
7 th	3	2	7
8 th	3	2	6
9 th	3	2	5
10 th	3	2	4

8. The George Roberts Memorial Open Trophy will be presented to the overall winner. The George Roberts Memorial Novice Trophy will be presented to the highest scoring entrant from February and March competition only.

Continued on page 9.

CENTRAL COAST

Ninety minutes north of Sydney is the Central Coast. Defined by the Hawkesbury River in the South and Swansea Channel in the north. During the late 1800's through to the 1950's coal, passengers and general cargo was transported from Newcastle to Sydney by sea, passing close to shore along the Central Coast. Many of these ships never completed their journeys. They are now frequented by divers, some in deep water, some are accessible from the shore.

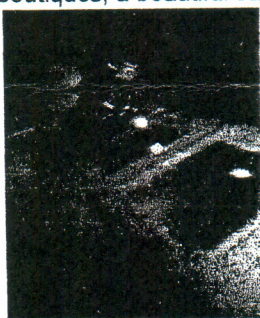
The collier Shamrock can be dived by swimming out from the surf club at Catherine Hill Bay. It is a good dive after the westerly winds have been blowing for a day to flatten the sea. I was surprised at what remained of the hull being in such shallow water. It is a large wreck with lots of coal laying around the site as it had just loaded 2000 ton at the nearby wharf. The hull from bow to stern sits out of the sand, the propeller tube, boiler and stern section are all predominate.

The lighthouse at Norah Head is a beacon to protect ships the breaking reef just to it's north in the entrance to Cabbage Tree bay. Within the bay are two wrecks that can be dived from the shore Gwydir and Patterson. The Gwydir collided with another ship the New Hebrides, badly damaged the captain decided to run the ship ashore rather than allowing her to sink in deep water. He ran it onto rocks at the northern end of Jenny Dixon Beach. This wreck is 100 metres from my home. The Patterson sank at the wharf which once projected out into the bay. Both the Gwydir and the Patterson are very broken up but can be rock hopped.

The collier Nerong sank in 1917 in about 45 metres of water 3 kilometres east of the Norah Head lighthouse. It is upright in sand with the bow and stern in tacked. One interesting feature which has survived the years underwater is the galley stove.

In 1940 the coastal trader, Nimbin, gained the dubious honour of being the first ship lost to enemy action in Australian waters. It struck a mine and she sank off Bird island. This wreck is still undiscovered.

Terrigal is a vibrant tourist town with lots of very good restaurants and boutiques, a beautiful safe surf beach and sheltered boats. It also is point for much the Central Terrigal by Kiama (46 Commonwealth Galava (49 Hall Caine (42 dived. All are at different buoyed by the The Kiama is the most frequently buoyed as it is difficult to find on the sounder as it lays on reef not sand as do the others.



bay for mooring the best access of the diving on Coast. From boat, the wrecks metres), (36 metres), metres), and the metres) can be good dives and times they are local dive clubs.

Foggy Cave is a thrilling dive, even more so if you happen to dive the cave when it's seasonal inhabitants are home. Grey Nurse sharks, both male and female cruise in and around the cave which is carved about twelve metres into the cliff. The roof of the cave begins at

33 metres from the surface and the bottom is approximately 36 metres so good management of air and keeping an eye on your bottom time is a must. Often sharks teeth can be found in front of the cave. The easiest ones to retrieve are those in the sand rather than those still in the shark's mouth.

Skillion Cave can be a boat or shore dive. As a shore dive, pick a day when the sea is calm. The entrance is at a depth of 17 metres, just north of the entry point. It is not a true cave but a very large gutter over which has been laid a large slab of rock. Swim to the back of the cave along the right wall and you'll see nudibranchs (even the occasional Blue Dragon), Red Rock Cod, Starfish, Moray Eels peer out from crevices, toward the back of the cave you may find big Wobbegong and Schooling Catfish. If dived in the morning, when you turn back towards the entrance you will see bullseyes silhouetted by streams of sunlight. Skillion cave is a an uncomplicated pleasant dive with plenty of bottom time, for a photographer or videographer it can yield good macro and wide angle. For directions and a map to the cave ask Les Graham at the dive shop in The Haven.

As your can see there is a mixed range of diving on the coast. Best time to dive for water clarity seems to be from January through to about the beginning of May.

There are dive shops at The Haven Terrigal, The Entrance and at Norah Head. Also consider organising a weekend with the Terrigal Underwater Group. We have our own boat moored at the Haven and know almost all the spots. Bring some good weather and the club will show you a good time.

For any other information about diving on the Central Coast I will be happy to reply to your questions. (No, Martin, I don't have the GPS marks for the Nimbin)

Picture insert (KIAMA)

Neil Vincent
neilv@ozemail.com.au

Continued from page 8

9. All entries must be transparencies.
10. All entries must have been taken in New South Wales or Its Territories
11. The entrant must have taken all entries.
12. Entries may be cropped or masked to achieve desired effects.
13. Slides may not be manipulated after the development of he original film other than cropping as in Rule 11.
14. Slides taken in aquariums, bathtubs or similar or on land are not acceptable.
15. All entries will be returned at the following month's meeting.
16. Results are final and no correspondence will be entered into.
17. Winners will be announced in May.

The postal address is: South Pacific Divers Club PO Box
823 Bankstown 2200

If you have any queries please e-mail me on
photographic@southpacificdivers.com
Or phone on: (02) 0414 592410

Happy snapping
Noel Taylor

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OPENS 1ST JANUARY 2002 –CLOSES 30TH APRIL 2002

This underwater photographic competition conducted by SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB will lead the way for subsea photographers into the 21st century.

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Now in the second year of a new millennium the club will hold the biggest and richest underwater photographic competition in Australia, with prizes worth more than \$40,000.

On behalf of South Pacific Divers Club all Underwater Photographers are invited to participate in this fantastic Photo competition, so dust off the cameras and videos and get your best selection into this years 2001 competition!!

Please read all conditions carefully, as failure to do so may result in disqualification!!

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MASTERS:

The Award Title: Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year 2002

Open to all past winners of the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Open Category only.

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OPEN:

The Award Title: Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year 2002

Open to all underwater photographers whether amateur or professional. This category gives the winner a special standing in the field of underwater photography.

Outstanding winners of past years have been Pat Manly from New South Wales he won the award twice, 1982 and again in 1985. New Zealander Andy Belcher took out the title twice, 1987 and then in 1995. Gary Bell from Victoria won the prestige award three times, 1990, 1991 and then in 1992. The only person to win three times in a row. Michael Cufer from New South Wales won the title twice in a row, 1993 and then in 1994. The first woman in to win the prestige award was Katie Scotland in 1981.

NOVICE:

The Award Title: Australasian Novice Underwater Photographer of the Year 2002

The Novice section is open to all amateur underwater photographers. That is those divers who have not received more than 5% of their income from any underwater photographic work.

VIDEO:

The Award Title: Australasian Underwater Video Photographer of the Year 2002. This category is open to all amateur video photographers. That is those individuals who have received no monies for footage shot or receiving wages or commission for video footage.

Six points that make video footage flow smoothly and at the same time entertaining are Titling, Narration and Music, Good Camera Work, Continuity, Editing and Entertaining.

PHONE ENQUIRES: (02) 9624 5938 (Business Hours)

E-MAIL: photocomp@southpacificdivers.com

Entry forms: www.southpacificdivers.com

February 2002

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Club Meeting 8pm B'town Sports Club	19	20	21	22	23 Camping Weekend. Middle Gnd & Fish reef	24Camping Weekend. Bouddi Nat Park
25	26	27	28		With Max	

March 2002

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	13th April Valiant wreck 27 metres	13th April Birchgrove Park. Exp Divers Only		1	2	3 Scans w/end Port Stephens
4 Scans w/end Port Stephens	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Shell Harbour Boat & Shore BBQ	17
18 Club Meeting 8pm B'town Sports Club	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Camping Weekend

Pretty Beach Campsite

Bouddi National Park

Work is not know

For those who aren't camping but would like a day out, bring along your snags and fizzy drinks and come join us for lunch! There are gas barbeques on site and entry into the National Park is \$6 per vehicle for the day (unless you have a National Parks Pass – then it's free!).

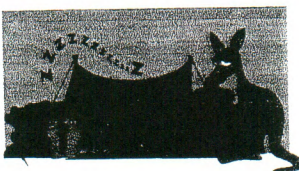
DATE: 22-24/02/2002

COST: \$7.50/PERSON PER DAY FOR CAMPING

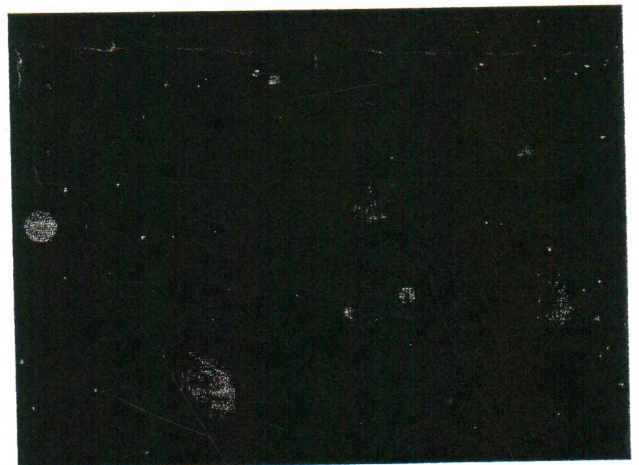
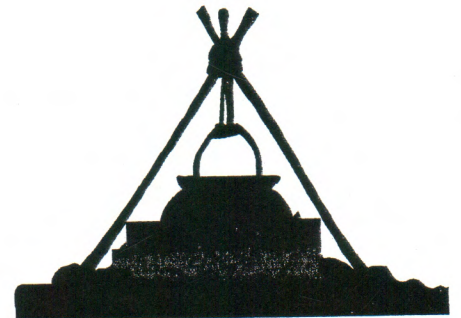
PLUS

\$6.00/VEHICLE PER DAY FOR PARK ENTRY

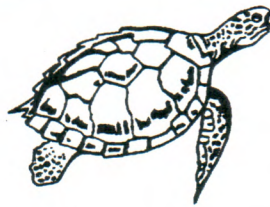
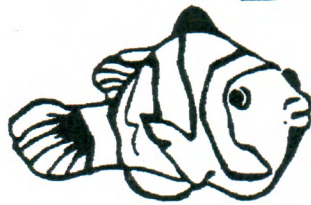
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