

Club Dives  
Weekends Away

Social Outings  
Wreck Diving

Reef Diving  
Boat Diving

Shore Diving  
Night Diving

## South Pacific Divers Club

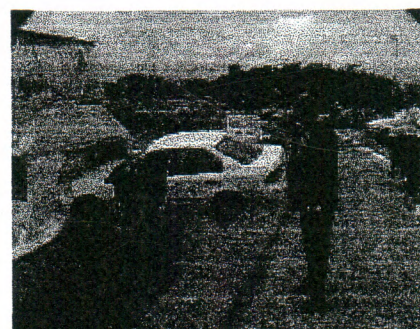
Established 1960

# Wet Rag

March 2002

It's Been a wonderful wet month, just full of rain  
& you poor members have an editor like Duane  
He puts these silly little ditties down,  
Just so you can sit there with a scowl and a frown.

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



BUGGER

### CONTENT:

Editorials.....	2
Miscellaneous.....	3
Minutes of Feb.'s Club Meeting....	4
Bends Research.....	5
George Roberts Competition.....	6
Tide Tables ( New).....	7
Camping SPD Style.....	8
2002 Photographer of the Year....	9
Event Calendar.....	10
Solitary Islands Issue (SCAN).....	11-13



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

Here we go again.

I have included a letter in this edition that was compiled by John Olsen of SCAN, which is in regards to the Solitary Islands issue. It is a good indication of the type of issue that SCAN takes up on behalf of all dive clubs and their members and the reason that we as a club are a member of this organisation.

Some kind person sent me in a letter in regards to a dive site called Tulamben.

I appreciate this story, but as it is 5 1/2 A4 pages long and hand written, I have to defer using this story until I have time to sit down and type it up. I am really pressed for time with this wetrag and would really appreciate if it was possible for large stories to be compiled on a computer and either e-mailed to me or sent on a disc.

This story also has no signature, nor any return address. Could the author please come forward, and do you have any photographs to go with this story? We do have a scanner available within the club and this is there for this type of membership use.

I have also compiled some time & tide tables. I hope there are not too many errors, but if there is one, it's a service with no responsibility attached. So if you doubt the veracity of the tables, please check an authentic table. Also remember about any applicable daylight savings and geographical position differences which affect times.

There is not much else for me to say, except enjoy the underwater netherworld.

Enjoy  
Ed  
**Duane**



\$

Just a little reminder that if you have not paid your club dues, then this will be the last newsletter you receive, as the grace period for dues payment is at the end of this month.

\$

### **Cover Photo's**

By Lyn & Neil Vincent

Centre:

*The wreck of the Valiant off Barrenjoey Point.*

Left:

*See Central Coast story last month*

Right:

*This is a ring in. New diving site in the making. Not Lyn & Neil's, not yet anyway. Wait until someone lets the spring go. Only in America.*

## PRESIDENTS POSSIE

Hello again,

As those of you who were at the last meeting will know, there was much talk about the difficulties in obtaining liability insurance. We have been inundated with this matter via the media and things do not look like getting any better.

I can only say that at this time we have tried many avenues to satisfy the requirements and to date have not been very successful. We are still looking about and hopeful that all will be settled in due course.

I understand the camping trip was great fun and am sorry due to work commitments I was unable to attend as planned. Good event Mim & John.

I also understand that Noel has been working hard on the final details of the George Roberts competition and it is all up, up and away, so get your pictures in for judging. See the details on the competition criteria and rules re-printed in this month's wet rag. Remember this is what we are about, photography.

Don't forget the Bass Point BBQ this Sunday as arranged by Simon. This is where you could get your photographs for the George Roberts Comp.

We still have not had anyone come forward and show an interest in the photographic officers position and this is a real disappointment, as the opportunity to work as an understudy to Grey McNeil is an opportunity not to be missed. Let me say at this point that the future of this Club rests in your ( the members ) hands. It really is time for others in the Club to start considering the possibility of taking on office positions, as the yearly elections are not that far off.

I would personally like to thank Noel and Grey in their efforts for making the competitions this year work, despite not being officially elected to their respective positions. They have carried out their tasks honourarily only.

See you all at the meeting!

**Bernie Kraul**





### **Tom's Offer**

Tom Byron is inviting experienced divers to attend a multiple dive trip to the wreck of the Lady darling on the south coast in April. This trip is to dive the same wreck for up to 4 dives over the weekend. It is to be noted here that this experienced, is for competent divers only. For details contact Tom Byron on 02 9774 9565. You'd better have a dollar in your pocket if you run out of air.



### **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 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.



**CLUB SPONSER:  
Support This Business.**

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

**Shiprock Dive**



### **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**

1. 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](http://www.southpacificdivers.com)**

### **Simon Gayler**

Dive Boss  
Email Address: [simon@cougar.net.au](mailto:simon@cougar.net.au)  
Mobile: 0418 412235  
Fax: 46 213683



A dense smoke haze photograph over JB during the late fires of NSW by Peter Foster





**Chair:** Bernie Kraul

**Apologies:** Vivien,

**Correspondence in Meeting Minutes** – Bank statement, Doubtless & Diving Newsletter for Jan and Feb, SCANS correspondence re weekend at Nelson Bay, Re Marine Park/ Environmental/ Fisheries issues, re Wobbygong, Re Solitary Islands underwater Research group, letter from CBA re bank charges, URG bulletin, BOC invoice for oxygen, completed membership form, Jan minutes – accepted by Phil & Grey

**Treasurer:** She's here. Failed to bring data with her Newsletter: Good response for info.

**Web Site:** New link page running. Let Noel know if there are sites to add. Sponsors page updated.

**Photographic Officer:**

Grey advises all online for July 13<sup>th</sup>. Sponsors all arranged. Great door prize – Digital camera. Entries close 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2002. Will need volunteers to drop off tickets to dive shops etc.

**Social Organisers:** 23/ 24 February Camping weekend still on. Ice skating, go karting and horse riding – some future planned events.

**Equipment Officer:** Equipment still at Aqua Sports. Committee to see Glen to ask him to officially stand down, then Janson can officially take up the position.

## DIVES

Simon says This weekends 12pm sat cancelled.

Shell Harbour extra boat dive in there. \$25.00 per dive- changed to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Birchgrove 13<sup>th</sup> April 50m/ Valiant - still plenty of positions.

Night dive – boat dive coming up at Kurnell

## DIVE REPORTS

**Simon** - Stradbroke Island 28-29 degrees. Grey and Viv went to see manta's, leopard sharks, turtles 6 dives. Shorts and t/shirts all weekend. Viv went hungry when they failed to deliver

**Rick** - J.B. Point Perp. Docks – still nice little dives.

**Peter Flockart** - Kurnell shore dive from steps, murky and cold 10 mtrs viz. banjo ray. Max Western - Marley sponge gardens. 8-10 mtrs viz baylis shell eggs due to hatch in a little cave. All calendars sold now.

**Phil** - Stony Creek J.B. 40 mtrs viz. 35 minutes bottom time on rebreather. Awesome dive. Did 4 dives all told and spent 7 hours under water in total. Thai restaurant at Huskisson much better now.

**Phil Dale** and Nick Kurnell off boat. Dirty, cold but a good dive. Bitten by ocky. Phil advises nick actually found his way back to the boat.

**Loi** went to south west rocks but it was blown out and wasn't able to dive. Most pissed.

**Paul** 3 weeks ago at Fairlight. Not impressed. Just a dive.

**Dave Burns** - Shiprock got lost and ended up at the red channel marker

**Sally** went south to J.B. she thinks. It was good. Sunday at Oak Park with a Japanese diver with a 4 dive history. Backward roll into the pool. Noel left his mark on my fingers. Matt and Noel and Mark

**Matt** – Oceanrek - 6 dives in three days no 7, drank a lot ate a lot good trip

**Tom** – lots of dives lately

## GENERAL BUSINESS

Tom organising a dive on the Lady Darling in April 30 mtrs Sunk 1880. \$76.00 day for two dives see Tom. 4 dives on this wreck only for the trip .

Oxy Viva – Simon suggested it be upgraded so it can be used.

Lots of discussion re liability insurance problems with both this club and in general, with this being left as an on going matter.

**CLUB SHIRTS** – Any orders?? See Sue.

3/24 February Double boat dive organised – See Simon to book.

17<sup>th</sup> March – Shellharbour Club Dive and BBQ

13<sup>th</sup> April – Next proposed Club Dive and BBQ

To come – Night Dive at Kurnell

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

**Quotes of the night** - Apparently it happened – it was good.

Was it high tide or low tide? I dunno, it was morning!

Raffle

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize -	Max Western – Boat Dive	Loi Hang
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize –	Aqua Sports – Air Card	Mim Ford
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize –	Aqua Sports – Air Card	Mark Pinna
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize-	Shiprock Dive – 2 x Air Fills	Matt Reeve



## **Tear-bubbles could hold clue to the bends - researcher**

SYDNEY, March 4 AAP

Published: Monday March 4, 4:45 PM

Tiny bubbles in a scuba diver's tears could provide a clue they are suffering from decompression sickness - or what's commonly known as the bends.

The discovery by a Sydney researcher could revolutionise the way the bends is currently diagnosed and at less cost and inconvenience.

Decompression sickness is a painful, sometimes fatal syndrome caused by the formation of nitrogen bubbles in the tissue of people who move rapidly from high to low pressures.

When it occurs in the brain or spine, it can cause disorientation, severe pain, loss of consciousness and paralysis.

Air pilots are also prone to the condition but deaths among divers usually result from drowning.

When people become sick after diving in remote places there is currently no simple, on-the-spot test to see if they actually have the bends.

Instead, they have to be flown at great cost to specialist hospitals for tests and treatment - when they may not be suffering from the condition at all.

Dr Michael Bennett from the UNSW's department of hyperbaric medicine at Sydney's Prince of Wales Hospital said his new research could result in a test for the bends that could be done by any doctor anywhere.

Dr Bennett found that when a person has been scuba diving they have between one and three tiny air bubbles in the fluid lubricating the eyeball.

A diver with the bends often has between 20 and 30 bubbles in the fluid.

"We hope that a remote doctor, suspicious that a patient may have the bends, will be able to do a simple, inexpensive examination of the patient's tear film," he said.

"If it really works well as a test we may save a lot of people the inconvenience and cost of cutting their holidays short and flying back in air ambulances or with oxygen in an aeroplane."

Dr Bennett said the POW's hyperbaric department treated about 70 cases of the bends a year with an estimated 300-400 cases nationally.

An average of four to eight people died while scuba diving in Australia a year but the bends were believed to be responsible in only a minority of cases.

About 30 per cent of people who suffer the bends end up with a permanent problem such as aching joints.

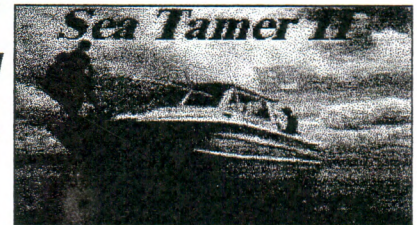
By Judy Skatssoon, Health and Medical Writer

## **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-ordinators

## **CLUB SPONSER:**

**Support This  
Business.  
SEA TAMER II  
Max Western.  
Dive Charters  
from Port  
Hacking.  
Phone:**



**95241818**

## **SPD CAMPING ADVENTURE**

The brave SPD campers consisted of a total number of 6. Mim and John, Phil and Sandra and Duane and Sue.

Although there were only 6 of us, we had enough gear for a dozen or more. Roughing it has never, ever been in the SPD dictionary. It's a shame none of you popped in for a visit.

We had a reasonably grassy spot, sometimes shaded, surrounded by wildlife - spiders in their dew moist webs, dive bomber kookaburras and the like. Duane and I arrived Saturday morning and after setting up our camp, I excitedly exclaimed 'Wow look there's a Kookaburra and it's so close!' Phil's comments - just wait till it wakes you at 5am - see if you still think it's great then. Mmmm, who's in who's territory?

After a lazy morning spent chatting and drinking we all headed off to the beach. Water temperature was perfect. No wetsuit and no goosebumps! The appearance of the beach was extremely alluring, blue water, white white wake and golden sandy beaches - just lovely. But boy was it rough. The waves were real dumpers and so close to the shore. You would catch a wave, body surf (if you were lucky otherwise it was an upside-down, rumble tumble ride) and when the ride was over - you would stand up in knee deep water and full of sand. But boy was it fun. After we had been knocked around enough we moved to the north end of the beach as it used far less energy to swim there.

The best part was that the others were so organised, they had their shower water getting hot on their cars - and it was more than they could use so I could have a warm shower too! And that surely was appreciated. (See I told you between us we had everything!!) It definitely pays to camp in a group.

Are you ready for this, are you sitting down. One of us even had remote control lighting. Think I'm joking! Kept us in light and amused for a while, didn't it John.

Anyway, we had a great time relaxing, communicating, swimming, (nearly diving) gourmet BBQing, drinking and more eating.

***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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup>	6	5	15
2 <sup>nd</sup>	5	4	14
3 <sup>rd</sup>	4	3	13
4 <sup>th</sup>	3	2	10
5 <sup>th</sup>	3	2	9
6 <sup>th</sup>	3	2	8
7 <sup>th</sup>	3	2	7
8 <sup>th</sup>	3	2	6
9 <sup>th</sup>	3	2	5
10 <sup>th</sup>	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 7.*



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 the 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**

### Joke of the Day

A College professor was doing a study, testing the senses of first-graders using a bowl of Lifesavers. He gave all of the children the same kind of Lifesaver, one at a time, and asked them to identify them by color and flavor.

The children began to say:

"Red.....cherry",

"Yellow.....lemon",

"Green.....lime",

"Orange.....orange".

Finally, the professor gave them all honey Lifesavers. After eating them for a few moments, none of the children could identify the taste.

"Well, he said, I'll give you all a clue. It's what your mother may sometimes call your father."

One little girl looked up in horror, spit hers out, and yelled, "Everybody, spit them out - they're assholes!!!"

### **CLUB SPONSER:**

**Support This Business.**

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



### Tide Dates & Times

#### **MARCH**

<b>Mon 18th</b>	0442 0.5, 1045 1.4, 1648 0.5, 2308 1.5
<b>Tues 19th</b>	0526 0.5, 1125 1.3, 1721 0.5, 2348 1.6
<b>Wed 20th</b>	0615 0.6, 1211 1.2, 1800 0.6
<b>Thurs 21st</b>	0035 1.5, 0713 0.6, 1308 1.2, 1850 0.7
<b>Fri 22nd</b>	0134 1.5, 0826 0.6, 1422 1.1, 1959 0.7
<b>Sat 23rd</b>	0244 1.5, 0945 0.6, 1546 1.1, 2120 0.7
<b>Sun 24th</b>	0357 1.6, 1053 0.5, 1700 1.2, 2234 0.6
<b>Mon 25th</b>	0502 1.7, 1150 0.3, 1757 1.3, 2336 0.5
<b>Tues 26th</b>	0600 1.8, 1240 0.2, 1845 1.5
<b>Wed 27th</b>	0032 0.4, 0653 1.9, 1326 0.2, 1932 1.6
<b>Thurs 28th</b>	0126 0.3, 0745 1.9, 1410 0.1, 2018 1.7
<b>Fri 29th</b>	0219 0.2, 0834 1.9, 1453 0.1, 2104 1.8
<b>Sat 30th</b>	0313 0.2, 0925 1.8, 1535 0.2, 2150 1.8

#### **APRIL**

<b>Mon 1st</b>	0503 0.3, 1108 1.5, 1700 0.4, 2325 1.8
<b>Tues 2nd</b>	0601 0.4, 1202 1.3, 1745 0.5
<b>Wed 3rd</b>	0017 1.7, 0705 0.4, 1302 1.2, 1834 0.7
<b>Thur 4th</b>	0114 1.6, 0815 0.5, 1412 1.1, 1934 0.7
<b>Fri 5th</b>	0218 1.5, 0926 0.8, 1532 1.1, 2049 0.8
<b>Sat 6th</b>	0330 1.5, 1030 0.8, 1643 1.2, 2205 0.8
<b>Sun 7th</b>	0434 1.5, 1124 0.5, 1734 1.2, 2308 0.7
<b>Mon 8th</b>	0528 1.5, 1206 0.5, 1815 1.3, 2359 0.6
<b>Tue 9th</b>	0613 1.5, 1243 0.5, 1850 1.4
<b>Wed 10th</b>	0041 0.6, 0651 1.6, 1315 0.4, 1923 1.5
<b>Thur 11th</b>	0118 0.5, 0726 1.6, 1344 0.4, 1953 1.5
<b>Fri 12th</b>	0154 0.5, 0800 1.5, 1412 0.4, 2023 1.6
<b>Sat 13th</b>	0230 0.4, 0834 1.5, 1440 0.4, 2054 1.6
<b>Sun 14th</b>	0306 0.4, 0910 1.5, 1509 0.4, 2126 1.7
<b>Mon 15th</b>	0345 0.4, 0946 1.4, 1539 0.5, 2200 1.7
<b>Tues 16th</b>	0426 0.4, 1026 1.4, 1612 0.5, 2237 1.7
<b>Wed 17th</b>	0511 0.5, 1110 1.3, 1648 0.6, 2318 1.6
<b>Thur 18th</b>	0600 0.5, 1200 1.2, 1732 0.7
<b>Fri 19th</b>	0007 1.6, 0700 0.5, 1300 1.2, 1828 0.7
<b>Sat 20th</b>	0107 1.6, 0809 0.5, 1530 1.2, 2100 0.7
<b>Sun 21st</b>	0217 1.6, 0920 0.5, 1530 1.2, 2100 0.7
<b>Mon 22nd</b>	0330 1.6, 1023 0.4, 1636 1.3, 2215 0.6
<b>Tues 23rd</b>	0437 1.7, 1117 0.3, 1731 1.4, 2319 0.5
<b>Wed 24th</b>	0536 1.7, 1206 0.3, 1820 1.6
<b>Thur 25th</b>	0018 0.4, 0630 1.8, 1252 0.2, 1907 1.7
<b>Fri 26th</b>	0114 0.3, 0722 1.8, 1336 0.2, 1953 1.8
<b>Sat 27th</b>	0208 0.2, 0814 1.7, 1418 0.3, 2039 1.9
<b>Sun 28th</b>	0301 0.2, 0906 1.6, 1501 0.3, 2125 1.9
<b>Mon 29th</b>	0356 0.2, 0959 1.5, 1544 0.4, 2211 1.9
<b>Tues 30th</b>	0450 0.3, 1052 1.4, 1628 0.5, 2258 1.8

These times are Eastern Standard times, so daylight savings has to be added as needed. They are also Fort Dennison tides, so the appropriate additions or subtractions have to be applied. That's your job, I can't do it all for you guys.

#### 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.



---

# **THE 2002 AUSTRALASIAN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR**

## **\$40,000 IN PRIZES**

### **OPENS 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2002 –CLOSES 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2002**

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

This competition is open to all underwater photographers & videographers in Australia & its territories, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Thailand, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Philippines, Borneo, Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia and all Asia, and Pacific Ocean Islands.

Since 1982 SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB has conducted each year an annual underwater photographic competition with prizes worth many thousands of dollars.

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!!

-----

#### **CATEGORIES:**

##### **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.

This is a new prestigious category for past open winners only, with a portfolio of six slides.

##### **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](mailto:photocomp@southpacificdivers.com)

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



# March 2002

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				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

# April 2002

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Valiant 27 Metres & Birchgrove Park (Exp)	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



---

## YOUR SCAN & WORK

SCUBA CLUBS ASSOCIATION OF NSW (SCAN)  
Planning Officer  
C/- PO Box 144  
WEST RYDE NSW **2114**.

SOLITARY ISLANDS MARINE PARK  
PO Box J297  
Coffs harbour N.S.W. 2450  
March 2002

Planning Officer

Submission on the Revised Zoning 7 Operational Plans for Solitary Island Marine Park (December 2001)

### Overview.

**This reply on the revised draft zoning and operational plan for the Solitary Island Marine Park is made on behalf of the members of the SCUBA Clubs Association of NSW (SCAN). SCAN's membership comprises members of dive clubs in NSW. These clubs have active members who regularly dive up and down the NSW coast, elsewhere within Australia and internationally. Our membership have been diving in the areas covered by gazettal as a marine park for a period of in excess of 25 years. We vigorously promote marine conservation and safe, responsible diving within the club environment. Our divers revel in the wonderful underwater attractions that Solitary Islands has to offer. Similar to the well known terrestrial NP& W concept, we observe and leave the ecosystem the way we found it.**

**We are particularly glad to note the increase in size of both Sanctuary and Habitat Protection Zones in the Revised Draft Zoning Plan. There are considered to be some problems with the plan and we offer the following suggestions / comments later in this document. It is timely to mention as per the previous response that recognised good marine park practices (supported both nationally and internationally), are strongly advocating that as a minimum, between 15 and 20% of each ecosystem type within a marine park should be conserved and managed in 'no-take' sanctuary areas. The Revised Draft Plans fall short of these targets in all of the major ecosystems in SIMP and is considered to fail in meeting the first two objectives of the Marine Parks Act 1997.**

**With regard to protection of the Grey Nurse Shark (GNS), SCAN strongly supports the proposal to limit fishing methods adjacent to their known aggregation sites in the SIMP. This should see a reduction in the impact on this species. However, given the status of the GNS, and the requirement of Fisheries to have a recovery plan we believe Sanctuary zones where appropriate (identified by others i.e. SURGE) need to be amended to provide full protection. The Revised Draft Zoning Plan fails to achieve this necessary requirement.**

-2-

It should be noted that where not comment is made upon the location of a Zone or Section in the document then it should be read that SCAN strongly supports the proposals as presented in the Revised Plans. Thus we do not condone any changes to the proposals as currently presented by the MPA that we have not commented upon.

What may be considered by some sections of the community, as unreasonable restrictions need to be measured against human pressures on the park, which will only increase into the future because of a growing regional population and the 'perceived attraction' of SIMP becoming more widely known. Also the need to exercise the precautionary principle now is an issue which we believe needs to be elevated in the discussion / negotiation process with all user groups.

SCAN's constituent clubs are non-commercial dive clubs and promoting responsible diving practices. The requirement for clubs to apply for a permit to utilise the Marine Park does cause concern, as permit application can easily be coupled to a fee structure. Our SCAN representative on the MPAC has expressed concerns about this and will continue to do so. We see little difference between the way private boat owners with divers on board and that of the clubs, yet the latter require a permit. It is appreciated that the permit system is useful as a means of obtaining data, to this end, and the club is supportive, as long as permits to clubs (of any kind) is not linked to a fee structure. We also would be concerned if the permit system restricted our usage of the park by either taking a significant amount of time to process or by limiting numbers allowed in the park at any one time. A limit on participants is already effectively in place due to the restricted size of club boats and the turnaround times to visit off shore dive sites.

The Solitary Islands is a focal destination for SCUBA divers and tourists from a number of major population bases i.e. Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and inland centres like Armadale where the University has an active dive club. It is regularly featured in Australian SCUBA diving publications and thus is a desired destination for visitors from other states and overseas. It is in this context of ensuring that a protective and sustainable rich marine environment as per public expectations of a marine park that our points are put forward.

Firstly on an Island basis:

### Muttonbird Island

**Proposal: Habitat Protection Zone In basic agreement.**

### Split Solitary

**Proposal: Disagree. The area on the south-eastern corner extending seawards some 200m is an area where Grey Nurse Sharks are observed. The Sanctuary Zone should continue along the southern margin of the island until reaching the easternmost point of the island and running seawards 200m to provide greater habitat protection for the Grey Nurse shark. At the very least, the current sanctuary zone should be retained given its acceptance by the local fishing community over the more than 10 years since the zone has been in place. The original zoning was promoted to protect unique habitat. The**



reasons for originally making this a sanctuary zone remains. Also this proposed zone “shift” denigrates the argument for Sanctuary Zones per se; i.e. if this area was so important in the past why not now? Reasonable question and of course opens up the debate re new/bigger sanctuary zones.

-3-

South Solitary

**Proposal:** in partial agreement. SCAN believes that the proposed Sanctuary Zone on the northern eastern end of the island will do little to protect Grey Nurse Sharks. The current Manta Arch mooring lies either on the edge of the proposed Sanctuary Zone or just outside it. Grey Nurse Sharks are very common in this area and thus are not afforded the level of protection they require in what is an identified aggregation site of state-wide significance. There is plenty of current anecdotal information re sightings of sharks with hooks embedded in their mouths, and other wounds indicating what impact is occurring. It is suggested protection for the Grey Nurse Shark is required by appropriate zone boundary amendment.

South West Solitary

**Proposal:** fully supported

North West Solitary

**Proposal:** Agreement provided our assumption that this sanctuary zone includes the current moorings at sites such as 'Tall Timbers' etc which are recognised as having quality / diverse benthic life.

North Solitary Island

Current sanctuary zone needs appropriate amendment / enlargement to “cover” Grey Nurse aggregation site.

North Rock

**Proposal:** in agreement

OTHER AREAS:

Corindi River

**Proposal:** total agreement. It is anticipated that there will be considerable criticism of MPA re here. As SCAN mentioned in the last MPAC meeting the “crab issue” last Christmas was not well received by local constituents and the “compliance response” was also an issue. Compliance management will be a specific point addressed at the end of this document as part of summary comments.

Moonee Creek

Proposal partially supported. We are concerned about potential alienation of “children fishing” re fly fishing in lower reaches which is not likely to be junior angler focused. Possibly a reversal of proposed fishing methods i.e. fly up stream “normal” fishing in the lower reached. We see this as being a classic compliance problem if left as present state.

Wrights Reef

SCAN has not noted any deep-water pinnacle being listed under Sanctuary Zone protection within SIMP. Given the rationale of having representative samples of each habitat this seems to be a significant omission in the zone plan. Thus the Authority must include Wrights Reef in a sanctuary zone. There is a large amount of anecdotal information in the diving community to indicate that there are numerous unique elements that are a feature of this location and deserve representation and protection.

- 4 -

Northern Sanctuary Zone

**Proposal:** We strongly support this proposal.

Central Sanctuary Zone

**Proposal:** We support the proposed central section sanctuary zone.

Southern Habitat Protection Zone

**Proposal:** In total agreement.

Spear fishing

With regard to this activity, it is noted that spearfishing is allowed in Habitat Protection and General Use zones. Our only concern is where spearfishing as an activity is not compatible with other activities taking place at a particular site. Specifically in confined waters like creeks. Conflict between different user groups (swimmers / paddlers etc). This conflict situation also exists for other user groups i.e. divers & fishers at common/ popular sites. General awareness is the issue.

Anchoring and Mooring in Sanctuary Zones.

The marine park legislation and regulations prohibit anchoring in sanctuary zones unless in designated anchoring areas or on moorings. This is accepted and in general SCAN endorses such conditions. With reference to the restriction on anchoring in sanctuary zones we are seeking some clarification. There is no recognition that where moorings are not provided in Sanctuary zones that a Designated Anchoring Area (DAA) in some form will be available. Whilst there will be a limit to mooring provided by the SIMP due to cost, navigation hazard and other reasons thought / recognition needs to be given to DAA's where moorings are not available.



(Continued from page 11)

No moorings / anchoring would require a skippered boat to be motoring / drifting adjacent to where the divers were dropped off. Such an approach does not promote safe diving practices. As a responsible organisation regarding our members safety SCAN sees this as a potentially dangerous situation. Our membership consists of a high number of students who are relatively inexperienced divers and ascending without the aid of a fixed line be it anchor or mooring is unacceptably dangerous. If the public is to be encouraged to visit and look at marine life in the sanctuary zones, and to help enforce the 'no take' provisions of these sanctuaries, it does not make sense (at any stage) to effectively exclude such conservation allies (especially students) from the fully protected areas.

Also some estuaries include soft sandy sediments within sanctuary zones does the MPA intend to prohibit users, for instance bird watchers or photographers (typically in canoes / punt style boats), from anchoring by any means in these areas? For instance, the use of a weighted sand bag or small reef or Danforth anchor on soft sediment is unlikely to have any impact on the substrate. The regulation relating to no anchoring in sanctuary zones was, we believe, designed to prevent damage to fragile benthic biota resident in offshore ecosystems.

-5-

#### Compliance.

SCAN and their constituent clubs believe that there must be community ownership / support of the plans if the plans are to meet their stated objectives. We all know voluntary compliance is the desired outcome. To achieve this desired outcome the compliance management strategy needs to direct most effort at those who are less inclined to be compliant and or at times when users have a low level of compliance awareness i.e. Christmas. We are aware of some "pub talk" that it doesn't matter what the MPA proposes, some individuals in the community will continue to undertake any activities they see fit. SCAN's recent comments at the MPAC meeting re visibility at peak times i.e. Christmas period is highly relevant. The "crab issue" was a good example. Sanctuary zones at the Islands will need a specific "visible" compliance strategy linked to follow up action on information received. Timely response to "information" will be a key element in "keeping the faith" and there needs to be a "service timeframe response" for such offerings of information. Such a protocol will help reinforce with those who are already compliant that compliance is taken seriously and it soon becomes known within the wider community. The appearance of the MPA boat at sanctuary zones during the last Christmas period was a noted and a commented event (Positive compliance response). More of the same for the ocean sanctuary zones will be needed and supported by land based work in the creeks etc.

Once the public see that the MPA are serious, community support and compliance will closely follow.

#### Other Issues.

A matter SCAN considers needs investigation is private access points in the marine park. The existence of these questionable access points is of concern. Specifically the dilapidated 'wharves /jetties' that fringe the lower reaches of the Wooli Wooli River. Are any of them correctly registered as wharves and do any have planning approval? One way of testing their veracity is the public liability risk associated with such structures and with whom does it rest. This issue was not mentioned in our previous submission and should be addressed as part of the revised operational plans.

#### Anchoring & Mooring Policy Development.

We are in partial agreement with the proposal to prevent multiple vessels attaching to moorings provided by the MPA [Clause 20 (3) Marine Parks Amendment (Solitary Islands) Regulation 2001]. If the vessel is over a certain size, say 7 metres, then we support the proposal. However, if there are two vessels under this size rafted up to a mooring we believe the mooring should have the capacity to cater for this. Offshore islands are subject to variable wind and sea conditions that occasionally necessitate all small vessels mooring within a relatively confined area where conditions are 'safer'. We believe that because of the distances travelled by vessels to use these facilities, they should not necessarily be disadvantaged if the moorings are currently in use by a like-sized vessel.

With regard to the development of a Vessel Mooring Management Plan, we believe a mechanism should be provided to allow for input from all users of the marine park. For example, many private boat owners would like to have input into the location of the moorings. Spearfishers are one group who certainly would have a grievance if not consulted. The Action should thus be aimed at a community consultative process requesting submissions from interested stakeholders, with reasons justifying their suggestions.

-6-

If you have any questions regarding points made in this document please do not hesitate to contact me. The below listed contact options are provided to facilitate any future contact.

Yours sincerely  
John Olsen  
President

tel: 02-92132915 (B)  
Email: john.olsen@customs.gov.au



SATURDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2002



Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink

Phillips Avenue  
Canterbury

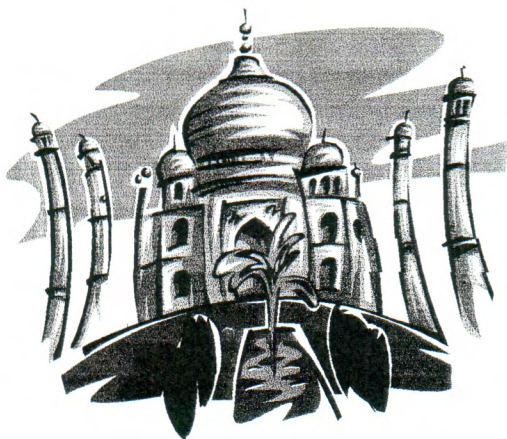
2:15pm – 4:15pm

\$13.20 per head  
(includes Skate Hire)

RSVP by 18<sup>th</sup> April



**AND / OR**



Bombay Great Clove Indian Restaurant

153 Old Canterbury Road  
Dulwich Hill

6:00pm

Set Menus \$25 and \$30

Entrees \$3 to \$10

Mains \$9 to \$20

RSVP by 18<sup>th</sup> April



**RSVP ...**

**Mim (0408) 614 401**

**John (0418) 290 603**

**mjf97@hotmail.com**

**... by 18<sup>th</sup> April**



SATURDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2002



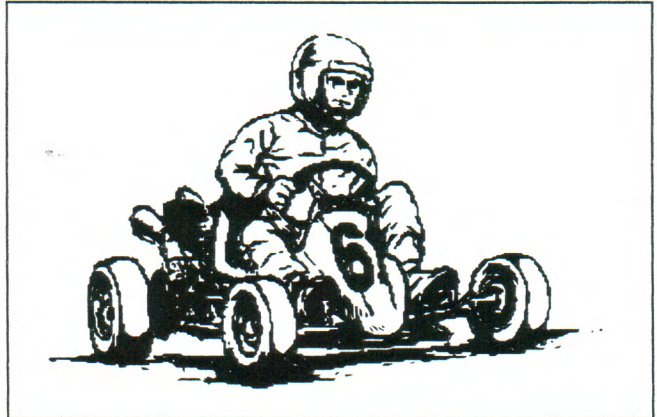
We need a minimum of 16 people for this event to go ahead . . .

50% deposit **MUST** be paid 2 weeks prior to the event . . .

Fast Lane Go Karting Centre  
20 Swettenham Road  
Minto

5:30pm – 7:00pm

approx \$41.00 per head  
(cheaper if more than 16 people attend)  
plus \$4 per person – licence fee



**RSVP and 50% Deposit . . .**

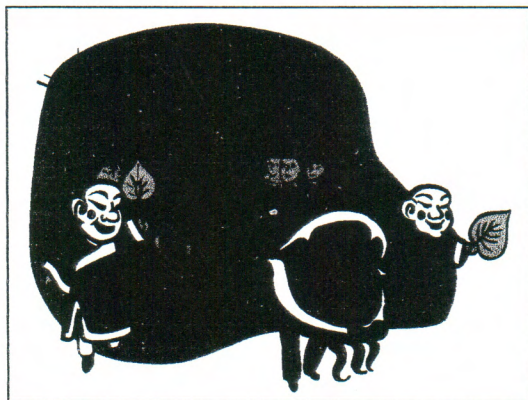
**Mim (0408) 614 401**

**John (0418) 290 603**

**mjf97@hotmail.com**

**. . . by 10<sup>th</sup> May**

**AND / OR**



House of Bamboo Chinese Restaurant

59 Queen Street  
Campbelltown

7:30pm

Set Menus \$19, \$21 and \$24

RSVP by 23<sup>th</sup> May



Restaurant Night will go ahead, even if the Go-Karting has to be cancelled . . .

**RSVP . . .**

**Mim (0408) 614 401**

**John (0418) 290 603**

**mjf97@hotmail.com**

**. . . by 23<sup>rd</sup> May**