

Club Dives  
Weekends Away

Social Outings  
Wreck Diving

Reef Diving  
Boat Diving

Shore Diving  
Night Diving

## South Pacific Divers Club

Established 1960

**Wet Rag**

August 2002

If I was one who lived beneath the sea  
A Cuttle Fish is what I'd be,  
I'd look so neat being a kaleidoscopic treat  
That the photographers heart would just miss a beat,  
Then Lyn could say, that'll do me  
I'll beat Neil yet with a picture of thee.

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



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



## EDITORS CORNER

Well guess who is your editor for 2002/3. Too bad eh! Another year of me. I will try to stay on time this year, but to do so I will need your help. That is, give me stories and photographs.

Photographs brings me to a point that I must make, although I would expect all of you to already understand and respect.

The photographs that I use for the wetrag have been given to me, as editor, to use for the wetrag and only the wetrag. They can not be used for any other purpose whatsoever without the express permission of the rightful owner of such photographs and any attempt to do so would in fact breach copyright laws. So I will include a copyright warning as a permanent piece to this magazine.

To my knowledge, there has not, nor would I expect such a thing to happen, but in respect to those that kindly supply such works to our magazine, I feel the necessity to do this.

Oh! I had a dive the other Saturday with Sue and Rick and you know, I actually enjoyed it.

There are what I consider a few interesting bits and pieces this month, that possibly offer possibilities for some and interest for others.

SCANS by virtue of their web site are attracting a lot more strikes and information being sent to them and in turn this information is disseminated after vetting the useless out to member clubs. It is well worth SPD members with the ability just popping into their web site and keeping an eye on the controversial subjects that the dedicated members of SCANS are into. This work they get into is done on our, the general diving communities, behalf. There is always the opportunity to have your say through this organisation by contacting them directly or through your club representative that attends their quarterly meetings.

Enjoy  
Ed  
*Duane*

## **Cover Photo**

### **South Australian Cuttle Fish**

Collins Dictionary  
CUTTLEFISH

Any cephalopod mollusc of the genus "Sepia" and related genera, which occur near the bottom of inshore waters and have a broadened flattened body: order "Decapoda" (decapods)

By  
Lyn Vincent

*All photographs used in this magazine are the property of the person who submitted such photograph/s to the Editor of this magazine. There is no express or implied right to use such photographs for any other purpose whatsoever without the permission in writing from the rightful owner of such photograph/s.*

## PRESIDENTS POSSIE

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to all the club members who attended the Annual General Meeting last month, and an even greater thank you to those of you that nominated me to represent the club as president. (Madame President does have a great sound to it!) I would like to thank Phil for taking the position of Treasurer and Sue who has again taken-on the position of Secretary, and Duane who is still our magazine editor (no apologies this year Duane!) I am sure that everyone would agree that the exiting committee performed brilliantly last year and that it will be hard for us newcomers to follow in their steps.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Grey McNeil and Noel Taylor for their huge effort in producing the Underwater Photographic Presentation Night. The night was a huge success and it was fantastic to see such great support from the diving industry and our sponsors. Special thanks also go to the volunteers that set-up the venue. (I now have first-hand experience at filling promotional folders, and I do hope that each and everyone read all those pieces of paper!) Let's hope that we can have a repeat performance next year.

Lastly, as your new President, I have the daunting task of following in Bernie's footsteps, let me tell you this will not be easy. I hope that I demonstrate the same leadership qualities as Bernie has over the past 3 years and inspire you all to go forth and take great underwater photographs. I look forward to sharing with all our members some great diving and to continue to enjoy the spirit that makes SPDC the best dive club.

*Amanda Taylor*

### 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

**For Sale**

1 Hot 'n' Dry Dry suit  
Self donning, 6 yrs old, in good condition  
Colour: Green and blue  
Hard sole boots and pocket on left side  
Connecting hose  
Suit person to 6ft in height

Asking Price \$500.00

Please contact Peter Flockart

Ph - Hm 9371 0265

Email: Nelson01@bigpond.com

*Haven't heard if this has been sold yet, so I'll run it  
again.*

1980 Ford F100 4X4, 351 V8  
Dual Fuel. SFZ545  
Ex Ambulance  
**\$8,000**

Yep! Cracka is for sale much to my disappointment and this is the first time it has been advertised. These vehicles are hard to find and I doubt that there is one available in NSW that has had the mechanical attention that this one has. Yes it's large and yes it's powerful. This vehicle would suit any person that requires towing jobs or wants to travel around Australia and get there no matter what the road conditions are like. Just been registered and had a diff rebuild. Has had the gearbox rebuilt and has done only a 125,000km on a Higgenbottom reconditioned engine that is designed for gas as well as fuel. Yes it's dual fuel. It has dual batteries. 120amp alternator. There is an air-conditioning unit installed, but not connected, but the outlets and inlets are sealed with plugs. Tape/radio and CB. Hayman reece towing system. Needs a little work to make it pretty, but pretty wont keep you on the road. Long registration. I offer this only once in the club magazine.

Duane 0414 777778

**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.

**DOUITS DINNER !!!**

All SCAN members are invited to join DOUITS club to celebrate end of winter blues with a fabulous gourmet dinner.

Thursday 26th September 6:30pm.

At the grand Ambassador Room restaurant, Ryde TAFE, 250  
Blaxland Road.

Pre-dinner drinks, three course meal, silver service. all for only  
\$25 per person.

We have booked the whole room for this function.

Formal evening wear welcome but optional...

Non diving friends/partners welcome.

reserve your seats ASAP.

DOUITS social coordinator

Judy: lesjudym@excite.com 02-97978291

Subject: Re:

Australian Geographic talk "Underwater World". Australian  
Geographic Society presents Mark Spencer.

Dive. Dive. Dive. Join leading Australian photographer Mark Spencer on an underwater odyssey. From cameras to cave diving. Mark will share both his trade secrets and passion for the planet's intriguing aquatic world.

Tickets \$12 - Tuesday 3 September 2002, 7.30PM  
Australian Geographic Centre,  
321 Mona Vale Road,  
Terrey Hills, NSW

Order tickets by phone: (02) 9473 6777, with your credit card handy; by faxing your credit card details direct to (02) 9473 6790, or by mail - send cheque (made out to "Australian Geographic Pty Ltd") to Mark Spencer Lecture, PO Box 321, Terrey Hills, NSW 2084, with your return address and phone number.

I should add that the lecture is one hour long and allows for say ten to fifteen mins of question time. I'll be showing **an** eclectic mix of wildlife (including mantas, dolphins and humpback whales), caves, shipwrecks, as well as talking about photography and showing some of my latest panorama work, hopefully with the use of six or more projectors.

*Mark Spencer*





## GIANT CUTTLEFISH



Late June was an interesting time for me. What had started as one of Neil's obsessions became a reality for myself and good friend, Angie Belcher, as we headed off to the town of Whyalla in South Australia.

Are you wondering why visit the Steel City, Whyalla? Well, Whyalla is said to be the only place in the World where the giant cuttlefish (*Sepia apama*) are known to aggregate in large numbers. Who would have thought that a big "BHP One Steel town" would ever have so much to offer a diver. Although I was very skeptical at first, I was well rewarded when I slipped my head under the water on the first dive. I couldn't believe how good the visibility actually was. What was more amazing was the first sight of a small cuttlefish only inches from my feet.

Angie and I quickly learnt that we didn't need to venture metres from the water's edge and we were greeted by lots of oblivious to humans. Well, that's how it seemed on our down on the bottom and just observed.

The object of my diving here was to photograph these reader which Angie thought was a good possibility. My overwhelming, especially when I realized that after Everything was happening, I didn't want to miss out on was seeing today wouldn't reoccur. I was also concerned I was certainly going to make the most of it whilst the

To put in bluntly, the Cuttlefish aggregation appears to be ratio is eleven males to one female. As the season four males to one female but the overall picture remains are the big attraction here.

Swimming around I was very aware of the different before my eyes and it didn't matter which mass of goes like this: The female is always guarded by the male either before mating or whilst the female is laying the egg. Females only lay one egg at a time and it appears that the male population has great respect for this and truly does defend his species for existence.

Males don't physically fight very often, instead they do their version of fighting, visually. This is the most amazing sight I've ever experienced. When a male is approached by another male the whole kaleidoscope begins. They stretch their bodies out and align themselves side on. They show their "masculinity" by rippling colour along the side that is facing their opponent. Looking from above you realize that it's only rippling colour on one side. This was truly an amazing sight to watch. The males were also "eye locking" each other and trying to prove who was the bigger bloke. Sometimes these males became so oblivious to what's happening around them that the female swam away or was mated by a "sneaker male". Sneaker males are aptly named. These little fellows are the smaller, younger males. What they lack in overall size they make up for in their brain size, cunning and very opportunistic nature. Remember, I said that the two males "eye lock" each other. Sometimes when this is happening, the little "sneaker" just waits for the right moment, then he gently nudges the female, they face each other, lock in their tentacles and swim away from



When we first were mating, male was

transfers a sealed sperm package to a pouch beneath the female's mouth with one of his arms. The female then moves to a suitable area and removes the egg from herself and passes it over her sperm-filled pouch finally securing it under a rock. These eggs then hang there in a rubbery state. There is a little embryo within and then a lot of white stuff for protection. As the embryo develops the little cuttlefish starts growing on one side of the egg, it sucks on the yolk, the yolk gets smaller, the cuttlefish gets bigger, after four months the new Cuttlefish pops out!

While we were in Whyalla we were fortunate enough to meet with a marine scientist who had traveled to Whyalla for the fourth year running to study these Cephalopods. The scientist commented that Whyalla was the only place in the world, that he is aware of, where the Giant Cuttlefish aggregate in such large numbers. Pretty mind blowing when you think about it.

While in town getting air fills one day we noticed a promising cafe. Cappuccino, We sat and spoke with the owner while savoring our coffee telling her our reason for visiting Whyalla. She was very interested and mentioned that her partner was a Cuttlefish fisherman. She then suggested we may like to meet with him to hear his side of the story. This was a great opportunity not to be missed. Next morning we met the fisherman at his boat and we invited ourselves onboard for the day's fishing.

First stop on the way to the Cuttlefish was a visit to one of the local fish farms not far up into the gulf where they farm Yellow-tail Kingfish. I couldn't help thinking that Neil would have loved this opportunity to view the operation so closely. I photographed the



too far to see the action. Just of Cuttlefish who were almost first dive. We rested ourselves

Cephalopods for a children's first dive was a bit 30minutes I'd shot 36 frames. any photographs in case what I about the weather conditions so sea was becalmed.

a mass orgy. At peak times the progresses the ratio changes to the same. The females definitely

rituals which were appearing cuttlefish I was near it basically

other and trying to prove who was the bigger bloke. Sometimes became so oblivious to what's happening around them that the away or was mated by a "sneaker male". Sneaker males are aptly little fellows are the smaller, younger males. What they lack in have make up for in their brain size, cunning and very nature. Remember, I said that the two males "eye lock" each when this is happening, the little "sneaker" just waits for the right gently nudges the female, they face each other, lock in their begin the mating process. Locked in this embrace, they casually the two males and stay that way for a few minutes.

observed the two smaller cuttlefish mating we weren't sure if they pretend mating or dueling each with other, as it looked like the devouring female. Cuttlefish mate head-to-head and the male



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(Continued from page 4)

circular fish pens. It was an eye-opener to see thousands of yellow tails on the surface just stirring up the water. Next, we were greeted by a few dolphins, they took a liking to the boat and decided that it was time to play. I was euphoric as these magnificent mammals just glided back and forth in front of the boat. Definitely not a time to run out of film so I learnt quickly that a speedy film change was vital.

Soon we were at Lowly Point, close to where we had been diving. He fished right on the border of the closed reserve. Using coloured jigs, which seem to mesmerize the Cuttlefish, he began hauling them on board. Without going into too much detail it was a big eye opener to see the Cuttlefish caught, unceremoniously dumped into fish bins to die. The catch is then used for both human consumption and for fishing bait. Watching how easily they were caught made me realize how very vulnerable the Giant Cuttlefish are. More research is definitely needed to establish the effects of fishing as the taking of Cuttlefish when they are gathering to breed must have an effect on future populations and possibly the actual existence of this species. This is the reason why the Whyalla Dive Club and other concerned individuals have kept lobbying the South Australian Government for a complete closure of the Cuttlefish spawning grounds. Some areas have been closed from March 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> but maybe more is needed.

So as you can see it's a happening thing in Whyalla at Cuttlefish time. According to the locals, May through to August is the best time to see the Giant Cuttlefish. I know I'll be going back and I know that Neil won't hesitate to get among the action since hearing Angie and my stories and seeing my photographs. I've just re-fuelled his obsession!

*Eyn Vincent*

### **CLUB DIVE** **SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2002**

There was a slight effort in dragging the butt out of bed on the sunny Saturday morning, but the thought that all had come together to enable the time to have a dive made the chance, one too good to refuse. We loaded up and headed off to Oak Park. Picture perfect conditions - blue sky, sunshine, flat seas and no-one in the water before us.

The Club Dive which consisted of the 3 of us – myself, Duane and Rick – geared up and made the splash. Two local blue groper increased our dive team to 5. Where we were, they were and of course, hungry. Plenty of small fish, sea tulips (a proper delicacy) and various other sponges and corals made for a pleasant dive.

No other divers around until we were headed back to shore, another bonus.

Best bonus of all was at Rick's place for the Club BYO BBQ. We were spoilt by Rick's hospitality - including munchies, drinks – and this man can cook! **THANK YOU RICK**, although obviously disappointed at the turnout, even when advised that more BBQ'ers were to come – We had a great time – doing what we do best!

*Susan Tate*



Picture this;

The cramped crew cabin was just 4 feet tall and 3.5 feet wide.

Power plant consisted of a crankshaft turned by seven men and linked to the propeller by a chain. A large fly wheel increased efficiency: as the crew cranked, the flywheel's momentum helped sustain speed.

Keel ballast in the form of iron blocks bolted to the bottom of the vessel could be jettisoned if the vessel became disabled on the bottom.

Snorkel pipes and a bellows drew air into the vessel, but could be used only near the surface. To see how long they could go without fresh air, crewmen in training once sat on the bottom for two and a half hours, though their candle wouldn't burn after just 25 minutes.

Seated at the helm, beneath the forward hatch, the Captain used a compass to stay on course, but had to surface and sight through a view port to locate targets.

Bow tanks in the bow and the stern were flooded to make the vessel sink and pumped out to make it rise.

Packed with 135lbs of black powder the barbed torpedo (mine) slipped on to a nearly 20ft long spar. Rammed into a ship, the charge held fast as the vessel backed off, spooling out a line tied to a detonating trigger.

This was the grandmother of submarines. The H L HUNLEY. On the 17th February 1864, this submarine attacked and sunk the steam sloop USS Housatonic some 4 miles to sea out from Charleston South, Carolina.

Alas the Hunley never made port again and all aboard her perished for unknown reasons. She was discovered by shipwreck hunters in May 1995, approximately 1000 yards from where she sank the Housatonic. On the 8th August 2000, this vessel again saw daylight as a salvaged, intact historic relic.

Although this submarine killed 21 of it's own crew in it's short life and only accounted for 5 of the enemy, it is considered to be to submarine warfare, what the Wright brothers were to aviation, without doubt changing the course of naval history.

The July 2002 National Geographic Magazine has a great story on this Confederate "Infernal Machine".



## **SCANS BBQ PICNIC DIVE WEEKEND**

### **JERVIS BAY**

**8TH—9TH & 10TH NOVEMBER**

Remember the last one of these, well SCANS is having another.

We have booked on behalf of the Club, 3 units. These units will take 5 persons in a double bed and a triple set of bunks and have , TV, ensuite and a microwave.

You will need to bring pillows, sheets, blankets and towels.

The cost of these units are \$150.00 per unit that includes 2 adults, with an extra \$24.00 per adult. By filling the unit, it works out at about \$44.00 per person for the weekend. Given the ability to take Friday off work and scoot down there, this becomes a cheap long weekend.

There are also powered and unpowered campsites. \$48.00 for powered, including 2 adults, with an extra charge of \$14.00 for each extra adult

And

\$42.00 for unpowered, with \$14.00 for each extra adult.

Spots are limited so be in quick for your booking.

This will be an issue at the coming meeting, but for those not able to attend this, please contact Duane ASAP, so as not to miss a spot should this be a n event you want to have on your calendar. 0414-777778, or e-mail me at she@maxi.net.au

There will be other Clubs boats down there and arrangements can be made to get in on the charter dive operations as well. Hopefully we could have some one from SPD with a boat attend as well.

This is a cheap weekend even if your partner is not a diver. Don't miss out by procrastinating, just make it a date and get in first. This is a first come, first serve basis dive weekend.



### **CLUB SPONSER:**

**Support This Business.**

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

*Shiprock Dive*



### **Committee Members**

Amanda Taylor	96069731	President
Sue Tate	96813287	Secretary
Phil Dale	0418648265	Treasurer
To be advised	Photographic	Officer
Jansen & Sophie	97082826	Equipment Officers
Duane Langley	96813287	Editor
Noel Taylor	0414592410	Publicity Officer

### **CLUB SPONSER:**

**Support This Business.**

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



### **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.

**BE  
NICE  
TO  
HAVE  
“YOUR”  
STORY  
IN  
THIS  
LITTLE  
SPOT**



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**SPD CLUB MEETING    A.G.M.   15<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2002    8.10 – 9.20pm**

**Apologies:** Bernie, Martin, Linh, Peter Flockart, Ben, Simon and Paul.

**Incoming Correspondence:** Doubtless & Diving newsletter, URG Bulletin, Bank statement, various cheques for AV night AUF policy details, SCAN membership form (which has been paid)

**Meeting Minutes:**            **May** – Accepted by Phil   Seconded by Janson  
   **June** – Accepted by Mim   Seconded by Amanda

**Photographic Officers Report:** THANK YOU to all who helped out on Saturday. Have already received a few 'happy' emails through, sponsors were happy – and the night a success.

**Club Dive** — 20th July — Oak Park 0900. Then later for a BBQ (byo everything) at Ricks place.

**Dive Reports:**

**Matt** – Tuggerah Max Western – 2' seas on entry, 4 meter seas on exit, 6 meter deco bar was sitting in 2 meters of water – cold.

**Janson** – Night dives – last Wednesday Long Bay – golf balls everywhere. Highlight 1.5 mtr wobby, then a bronze whaler visited!!  
**Sunday** – Kurnell entry point half way to steppes. Lots to see. Wobby's in cave.

**Louise** – Scotland, Wales. 11 degree water temperature, saw quite a few wrecks.

**Nick** – Fiji 3 weeks ago. 1 week on the Coral Coast – reefs. Flat sea's lots to see, warm water.

**Tom** – Bateman Bay researching dive sites – clear water, cold, mapping 12 degree water temperature.

**Rick** – Royal Shepherd – not a bad dive, not much left – boiler & prop shaft 40-45' viz.

**General Business:**

**AUF Association Liability Insurance** – we can nominate 3 office bearers for coverage based on risk assessment, at a cost of \$50.00 per bearer – suggested photographic, social, equipment ??  
Need to compile job statements for all positions covering all the 'risks' involved – then continue discussions.

**Storage Unit – Big M Storage** – Cnr Hume Highway and Brunner Road. 10x7 unit rented, has good hours of operation and gave us a good rate.

**SCANS Meeting** – 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2002    Interested attendees – St George Rowing Club

**AV Night – CONGRATULATIONS to GREY and NOEL**

**Max Western Boat Dive Certificates** now only last 2 months before they expire. Only one certificate will be permitted per boat load. So let Max know when you book the dive that you are using a certificate.

**Ice Skating** – 26<sup>th</sup> July at Canterbury Ice Rick.

**Presentation to our absent former President of 'The Enemy Above' framed poster.** Accepted by Evelyn.

**Raffle**    raised \$82.00

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Aqua Sports</b> 1 x 5 fill air card	Phil
	<b>Aqua Sports</b> 1 x 5 fill air card	Tony
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Sea Tamer II</b> Boat Dive	Des
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Shiprock Dive</b> – 2 Air fills	Phil

Thank you Noel for your video entertainment.



## **Would you like to share GPS coordinates?**

***This is an interesting article which I thought many of you  
may well be interested in.  
This came through SCANS***

### **Dear fellow divers and GPS enthusiasts!**

We invite you to submit your favorite GPS dive sites and other locations of interest to GPScape (<http://datamining.anu.edu.au/gps>) which is a novel search engine specializing in locality-aware information retrieval.

### **What does this mean?**

If you search for the word "coffee", say, on google you will get close to a million results. With a location aware search engine, such a query can be restricted to a search center and a radius and thus return far fewer but presumably more relevant results.

Such a search hinges, of course, on the availability of location information in the underlying database. Hence this request to get started.

By submitting your waypoints to GPScape you make them available to the community at large and your name (only if you wish) will appear with each point such that people who make use of your waypoints can give you feedback.

### **TO SUBMIT:**

Collect your waypoints in a file, preferably in XML (see below) or OziExplorer format, and email to Ole.Nielsen@anu.edu.au along with your name, email, whether you will allow your email to be published along with the points (we will respect your privacy), and any comments or suggestions you might have. Try to put in descriptions for each point - this will make it more useful.

### **BACKGROUND:**

When I went to Fiji last year I was searching the WEB for interesting waypoints in the region. I was especially interested in marks for dive sites but also tracks, ATM's, summits and points of interest in general would have been useful. I didn't find anything. Therefore I decided to create a free on-line database of GPS coordinates where everyone interested can share their favorite locations.

Examples include: locations of speed cameras, public toilets, geocaches, moorings, dive sites, trail heads, summits, etc

### **SEARCHING:**

The database can be searched by specifying a search center, a radius and optional keywords. Here are some search examples that will yield results with the data currently available in GPScape.

To find all waypoints related to skiing in the Australian alps:  
Center: S37, E148, Radius: 200km, Keywords: skiing

To find all ship wrecks off the Australian east coast:  
Center: S30, E150, Radius: 800km, Keywords: wreck

To find all dive sites near the island Nananu-ira in Fiji:  
Center: S17.30, E178.22, Radius: 50km, Keywords: diving

### **DOWNLOADING:**

When you are satisfied that you have found a useful collection of waypoints for your purpose, you can download them to your own computer - and then subsequently upload them to your GPS unit for use in the field.

We support an XML format containing all available information and the format used by OziExplorer 1.2 for use

with OziExplorer and ease of communication with your GPS. OziExplorer - as the GPS units - does not support all the information available in the database, so with that format you will lose some of the descriptive data.

### **PERFORMANCE:**

The waypoints are indexed by an R-tree which makes use of locality. A search with a small radius can be very fast irrespective of the total number of coordinates.

We have stress tested the GPScape engine millions of artificially generated points and still been able to achieve fast response times.

### **XML FILE FORMAT (uploading and downloading):**

GPScape works with an XML format (see example below).

We require for the time being that all points are given in WGS84 and altitudes are in meters.

Latitudes and longitude must be given in the formats

[N|S|E|W]- {DD.DDDDD | DD:MM.MMM | DD:MM:SS.SS}

i.e. one letter designating the orientation and then either degrees as a decimal number, degrees and minutes or degrees, minutes and seconds. Examples of valid coordinates are N34.17342, E148:34.743 and S17:32:6, W150:12:6.32 and -17.123, 148:23.

The minus sign indicates south for latitudes and west for longitudes.

Example of a waypoint described in XML (not all fields need to be entered).

```
<waypoint>
<latitude>S36.471</latitude>
<longitude>E148.62603</longitude>
<altitude>951.8904</altitude>
<name>Carinya</name>
<keywords>ski, skiing, alpine lodge</keywords>
<description>
Ski lodge near 30 km away from Perisher Blue.
They have self contained units at reasonable prices.
All ski equipment available.
</description>
<url>http://www.carinya-village.com.au</url>
<date>15 Aug 2001</date>
<country>Australia</country>
<state>NSW</state>
<city>Jindabyne</city>
<creator>Ole Nielsen</creator>
<email>Ole.Nielsen@anu.edu.au</email>
</waypoint>
```

### **GEODESIC DATUM:**

No waypoint is complete without a reference to the geodesic datum. However, an emerging standard on most units is the World Geodesic Society 1984 (WGS84) datum and this is the one we assume for all coordinates within GPScape. Most GPS units and GPS software is able to do the conversions, so we ask you to ensure that any point you upload follows this standard before submitting. Future versions of GPScape might take of other datums.

### **CAN WE TRUST THE POINTS?**

We assume no responsibility for the accuracy of points downloaded from GPScape. However, we strive to ensure correctness as follows:

- 1 Anyone uploading points must identify themselves.
- 2 Anyone who find errors or wrong information is entitled to upload corrections and the waypoint deemed wrong as well as its creator will be flagged so.
- 3 Anyone who can verify the correctness and usefulness of a waypoint are encouraged to do so. The waypoint and its creator will be flagged with positive points as will the person



(Continued from page 8)

volunteering the information.

In the long term waypoints appear with different scores based on their perceived correctness and users who are actively supporting the system will become known as reliable sources of information. At the moment - we request this process to be carried out through email to Ole.Nielsen@anu.edu.au.

#### SOFTWARE:

GPScape is written in the programming language Python using WebWare for the interface. The underlying engine is a combination of Python and MySQL. The platform is Debian Linux and the Apache Web server. All components are licensed as open source with all the benefits of affordability, robustness, quality and generally good karma. Needless to say the source code for GPScape will be made publicly available once it has matured.

#### BUGS/TODO:

GPScape is by no means finished, but now at a stage where we can start entering waypoints. Hence this mail. In the near future we will setup a user account system to allow registered users to directly upload points to the data base and give scores to existing points and users.

The keyword searching will be improved to allow advanced queries using OR, AND, NOT, exact phrases etc.

In the more distant future we plan to hook GPScape up to other search engines where locality information is available.

#### THE AUTHORS:

Ole Nielsen (<http://datamining.anu.edu.au/~ole>) is a researcher in data mining, high performance computing and high dimensional smoothing at the mathematical sciences institute, Australian National University. Darran Edmundson ([Darran.Edmundson@anu.edu.au](mailto:Darran.Edmundson@anu.edu.au)) works as a developer of 3D visualisations at the ANU Vizlab, Australian National University. (see <http://anuf.vizlab.edu.au/Vizlab>)

Both are keen scuba divers and belong to the worlds best Scuba Diving Club (see <http://www.anu.edu.au/clubs/scuba/>)

Best regards

*Ole Nielsen*

**Hi everyone, just received this from Richard Todd, this years video winner.**

**This could be one of you or someone you know. If it is please drop Richard an e-mail.**

**Many thanks.**

**Grey**

Hi Grey,

How are you. I am in Newcastle. Grey a little favour to ask. I have had a nibble at the possibility of my first documentary series with the ABC. May finally get a chance to make a dollar from what I love. It is about people with Ocean Obsessions. The characters have to be mad on "one" specific thing, eg Neville Coleman-nudibranchs. Having said that, I am more interested in, emerging or lesser known characters, eg not Val and Ron Taylor.

They need to have a good character (not quiet or shy types) and have an interesting story to tell about there obsession. A few characters I'd like to find are, someone mad on seals or sea lions, whales (humpies or Southern right), sea horses or weedy

sea dragons, nudis apart from Neville), octopus etc etc, can be male or female. Mate love to pull in on your local knowledge. I am here in Newy till the weekend, then Sydney next week, then Brizzie and Straddie end of the month. So anyone from or near any of those districts, though happy to hear from all. Really appreciate it if you could spare 15 minutes to have a bit of a think about it and could recommend or pass on some contact details. Possibly ping this to your diving web. Finally, thanks a million for the award and hopefully it will spring board me into the professional world. Also could you let people know this is the save "Ningaloo website" and it is really important that people get involved anyway they can, because in the next 2 months the decision will be made and if we don't make a hell of a lot of noise, the first nail could potentially be driven into the coffin.

Please check out [www.save-ningaloo.org](http://www.save-ningaloo.org).

Cheers for that Grey.

e-mail is [aquarius33@bigpond.com](mailto:aquarius33@bigpond.com)

#### Joke of the Month

A guy walks into a bar with his pet monkey. He orders a drink and while he's drinking the monkey jumps all around the place. The monkey grabs some olives off the bar and eats them, then grabs some sliced limes and eats them, then jumps onto the pool table, grabs one of the billiard balls, sticks it in his mouth, and to everyone's amazement, somehow swallows it whole. The bartender screams at the guy, "Did you see what your monkey just did?"

The guy says "No, what?"

"He just ate the cue ball off my pool table... whole!"

"Yeah, that doesn't surprise me," replied the guy, "He eats everything in sight, the little bugger. Sorry. I'll pay for the cue ball and stuff".

He finishes his drink, pays his bill, pays for the stuff the monkey ate, then leaves.

Two weeks later he's in the bar again, and has his monkey with him. He orders a drink and the monkey starts running around the bar again. While the man is finishing his drink, the monkey finds a cherry on the bar. He grabs it, sticks it up his bum, pulls it out, and eats it. The bartender is disgusted.

"Did you see what your monkey did now?"

"No, what?" replies the guy.

"Well, he stuck a cherry up his bum, pulled it out and ate it!" said the bartender.

"Yeah, that doesn't surprise me", replied the guy. "He still eats Everything in sight, but ever since the cue ball incident, he measures everything first."

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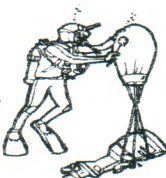




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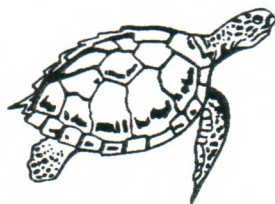
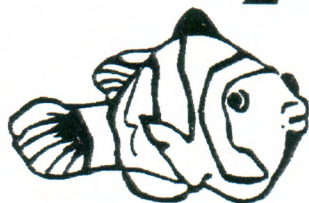
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3 Mark Spencer Odyssey	4 Sue's Birthday. 41 But don't tell	5 I bet she feels older now	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Club Meeting	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Douts Dinner @ Ryde Tafe	27	28	29
30						

# October 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	19	20
21 Club Meeting	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	SCANS Huskisson picnic weekend	8th-10th November	



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