
Club Dives
Weekends Away

Social Outings
Wreck Diving

Reef Diving
Boat Diving

Shore Diving
Night Diving

South Pacific Divers Club

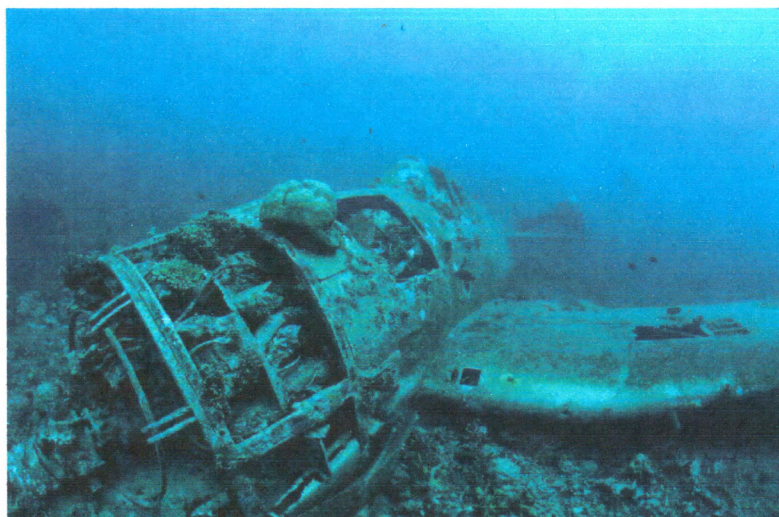
Established 1960

Wet Rag

January 2003

I KNOW YOU ALL CARE ABOUT THIS MAG THAT YOU
RECEIVE
SO LET ME HAVE YOUR STORIES WITH OUT HAVING TO
PLEAD

www.southpacificdivers.com



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The South Pacific Divers Club Newsletter WET RAG is published by South Pacific Divers Club and has been edited by Noel Taylor. All material submitted to the newsletter should be sent to the Editor, P.O. Box 823 Bankstown, NSW 1885.

EDITORS CORNER

Welcome to the first of this years' newsletters.

Well I hope everyone has had a great start to the New Year. "Wow" the last one went so fast. We hope you all had fun on New Years Eve and didn't over indulge yourselves to much. Talk about hang overs's, the Xmas Party for the club back in December was excellent with all having a great time. Many thanks to Rick James for the lone of his backyard.

Last year was very busy for a lot of people on the committee and a lot of the members. It was also an awkward one for the club with the insurance problems which has now been rectified. Now that a lot of the political stuff is out of the way. We can get back to what really matters "DIVING".

We welcome any contributions from our members or readers. If possible please can you send your contributions via email to any of the committee or bring it to the club meeting (preferably on a floppy disk in Word format.

Ed *Noel*

Cover Photo Courtesy of Matthew Reeve

PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICER

Happy New Year !!

This month should see the finalisation for the details of this Years Photographic Competition, with major Sponsor Sea and Sea coming on board this will enhance the prizes significantly.

Last years rules and results have been reviewed and there may been some changes to the format for the comp in 2003. Last meeting saw the Club Committee and the attending members give their support to this years competition and its future as a premier photographic event and as a stand alone competition world wide.

As photographic Officer I will look to the club committee and the rank and file members to ensure that this years competition will be up to the standard of previous years.

Please attend this months general meeting where the full details of this years South Pacific Divers AUPY Competition will be presented to the members.

David Burns.

PRESIDENTS POSSIE

Happy New Year !!

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful New Year, and hope that it is filled with great diving and underwater photography!!

A big thank-you goes to all the members that contributed their time and effort in making the SPDC though another successful year.

2003 has already proved to be an exciting year with the election of the committee members for the annual presentation night, and I must thank each of the committee members personally for volunteering for an arduous job ahead, which no doubt Grey and Noel can vouch for. We are all aware that this is a big ask of people, but the rewards and personal satisfaction are great, and hope that you will benefit in some way from the learning experience.

I trust that the presentation night will be fantastic as usual and a credit to our club, and to uphold a tradition that is expected within the Australasian scuba diving industry.

The Club's annual George Roberts Underwater Photographic Competition will be commencing in February, and I am encouraging you all to beg, steal or borrow a camera and start snapping those underwater shots. The competition is structured to allow all entrants regardless of your level of proficiency a chance to compete for the first three places.

Lastly, I would like to say that I am looking forward to an exciting new year with you all at SPDC and hope that 2003 is filled with great diving locations, clean blue water and calm seas, and that your strobes are pointed correctly at your subject and that they all fire as anticipated!!

Cheers
Amanda Taylor

The logo features the words "Join Now" in a bold, stylized font. The letters are red with a thick white outline, set against a solid black rectangular background.

**It's that time again
Membership is now due**

GUEST'S OF 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.

History of South Pacific Divers

South Pacific Divers Club was formed about 1958 and held its first meeting in the backyard garage of Denis Robinson at Beverly Hills.

Denis was its first president and held that position for a number of years until he left Sydney to take up residence in Western Australia.

During the first few years of the club there were many exploratory, exciting and sometimes dangerous dives that took place among its young members. These were the days that everything was new and exciting and in many situations we dived where no one had been before. We were some of the early divers to explore the many sink holes at Mt Gambier in South Australia including Piccaninnie Ponds, The Shaft and The Blue Lake and others.

Those days there were no permits to dive these areas, you just explored as many sink holes and caves as possible without restrictions, everything was free and easy.

We mapped many new dive sites at that time along the Southern New South Wales Coastline. Jumped into the Blow Hole at Kiama many Sunday mornings, creating excitement among spectators until the police came and threatened us with arrest if we continued. Rafted down the Shoalhaven river when it was in flood, that was exciting. Tested scuba diving equipment, taught new members how to dive, this was before instructor agencies were formed in Australia. Some of our members discovered Shiprock Dive site whilst others commenced deep diving to eventually set an unofficial deep diving record at The Peaks that lie some kilometres off Maroubra Beach.

When seas were rough we did a lot of dry caveing. We were involved in locating a cannon and anchor from the shipwreck of the Clipper Dunbar that lies south of Sydney Heads. Many of the early members were expert

photographers, they made their own underwater camera housings and were leaders in submitting photos and articles for the early Australian Skindivers Magazine. Denis Robinson and myself became movie stringers for a Sydney TV station making a number of short underwater films for "Sunday Afternoon News."

As time passed the early members slowly left the club, new people entered and it changed from the times of free and easy diving to more controlled types of activities. Just before Denis Robinson left for Western Australia he asked me to organize a small film festival, we named it, "New South Wales Underwater Film Festival". This became the forerunner to The Australian Underwater Photographer of the Year that commenced in 1980 and has run through two decades to become one of the major events on the Australian diving calendar.

Today South Pacific Divers Club is a lot different from its early days. The club is independent from any dive shop or dive organization, it is run by a committee of five, elected once a year by its members. The club conducts local dives twice a month along with social activities and dives away weekends to locations such as Jervis Bay, Terrigal, Foster and Seal Rocks, Ulladulla, wrecks at Eden, seals at Montague Island, Nelson Bay, local night dives and day charter boats dives as well as overseas scuba diving trips.

Whilst the club promotes safe diving its members are free to dive the way they wish. However its newly certified members are buddied with more experienced club member. Morning shore dives are generally followed by a BBQ and get together. Boat outings, particularly wreck diving, are for the more experienced members. Age among club members range from under 20 to 60 years and over, so you can see there is an age group for just about everyone.

Experiences among members range from Open Water Divers through to Instructors.

Among its many members South Pacific Divers Club has a cross section of active divers, some enjoy shipwreck diving, others underwater photographers, new divers would rather dive on shallow reef sponge gardens, others are interested in marine biology, and many prefer to dive from charter boats.

If you want to meet other divers and enjoy the wonderful sport of scuba diving, mix socially with people of the same interest as yourself, go away on weekend outings or day diving trips, perhaps overseas diving, then join SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB Inc.

Tom Byron

Remember Members

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

**Max Western will get you out there on Sea Tamer II
&**

**Ship Rock Dive or Aqua Sports Yagoona
Will supply you with air and gear.**

**Without the generous support of our sponsors.
We as a Club would not enjoy many of the things we do.**

2003 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:

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

1 FEBRUARY 2003
2 MARCH 2003
3 APRIL 2003
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.
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.

George Roberts
Photographic Officer
Amanda Taylor

CONGRADULATIONS

Wedding of Déborah and David Latimer

By Noel Taylor

David Latimer, the son of the late Rick Latimer (South Pacific Divers Club) was married on Sunday the 18th August 2002 to his loving French bride Déborah Magard.

Having met in Paris in April 2001, Déborah and David quickly fell in love and made plans to live the rest of their days together. Friends and family were invited to help them celebrate their marriage at one or two ceremonies -- one in Sydney and the other in Lorraine, France. They will be spending their first years of marriage living in Sydney.

Déborah and David followed the French custom of holding their legal and church ceremonies on different days. French people are legally married by their local mayor at the Town Hall, a few days before the church wedding.

By following this custom, David and Déborah have taken the opportunity to celebrate these two equal parts of their union in two cities, so none of their friends or family are disadvantaged by the tyranny of distance.

The ceremony was done by Susan Hurst a French-speaking civil celebrant who kindly offered to play the role of the mayor. The *hotel de ville* (Town Hall) was the historic federation pavilion which is set on the banks of Parramatta River in Cabarita Park where the ceremony was held.

Then it was off to the Clarence House Function Centre at Belmore which offered five-star facilities. Everyone enjoy the romantic, elegant and classical décor settings and their friendly, professional and efficient service. The food and beverage was excellent and was quite well consumed by us at the "Divers Table". Old SPD Club members in attendance were Peter & Joan Harper, John & Kathy McDermott, Sue Armstrong, Lynn Webber, Audrey Prusaczik & Myself.

We all wish Déborah and David a very happy and rewarding life together.



VIDEO SHOW
on
DIVING
COFFS HARBOUR
Next
MONDAY MEETING
20th January 2003

DIVE REPORTS

By Phil Taylor

Boat dives

Dive Site: Minmi Trench **Boat name:** Divercity
Viz: 6-8 meters **Depth:** 25 meters

Do you know the difference between sand and rock? Neither did our skipper who, when asked assured us that yes we were definitely picked into rock, and that we were off the marks but he had just let out a lot of line. Imagine our surprise when we descended to find not the promised Minmi Trench but lots of sand and a long tiring swim at 20-30 meters through surge to our dive site. Eventually we did find the anticipated rock shelf and scattered boulders and at the end of the dive the start of the trench. Difficulties aside this dive site promised to be an interesting one and worth a second visit, and of course we can now advise the driver where to drop anchor.

Shore dives

Dive Site: The Leap - The Steps
Viz: 3-5 meters **Depth:** 23 meters

After the climb down the cliff to the entry point the water sure looked inviting and with a fairly decent swell running the name of our dive site suddenly took on more significance. As I was camera bound, timing the entry was important, clutching my trusty housed Nikon I did a lovely giant stride and totally mistimed the swell. After dropping about 12 feet concern for a flooded camera was foremost in my mind but all was well. The viz looked good, right up until we descended where it dropped to about 3 meters. We allowed the incoming tide to carry us along over the bommies that lay scattered along the interface of rock and sand. The usual collection of nudibranchs, sponges, soft corals and friendly Groper were all out in force and begging to be photographed, if only my strobes had been working I am sure I would have taken some lovely shots.

Christmas Day at Inscription point

Dive Site: The Steps
Viz: 5 meters **Depth:** 14 meters

Turned out to be a nice easy dive with plenty to see. I entered at the Steps and made my way around to Inscription Point, as I had just missed the tide so the viz dropped a fair bit about half-way through the dive. Those giant nudibranchs were about and had been busy laying their unique pattern of row at frequent intervals amongst the bommies. After my dive I caught up with Noel and Bernie who had dived the Leap to the Steps respectively and had both enjoyed good dives. We sat down to a fine lunch and washed the lot down with some lovely Christmas pudding.

Dive Site: Bass Point, Bushrangers Bay
Viz: 6 meters **Depth:** 20 meters

We walked to the southern tip of the outer bay and entered in a small cove protected from the north east swell. We dived along the wall that leads to the mouth of the outer bay then dropped down to the center of outer Bushrangers then headed back to finish our dive at the pebbly beach at the foot of the stairs in inner Bushrangers Bay.

The outer wall proved to be a really nice dive with the usual friendly blue groper and plenty of large morays inhabiting abundant nooks and crannies.

The center of the bay has several large rock outcrops that support a healthy variety of sponge life and soft corals. The Inner bay was pretty ordinary by comparison with outer due to low viz and not a lot to see, but proved to be a better snorkelling dive than scuba.

CLUB SPONSERS: Support These Businesses.

SEA TAMER II - Max Western. Dive Charters from Port Hacking.

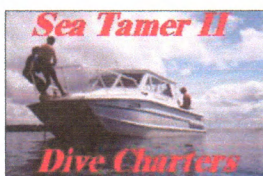
Phone: 95241818

SHIPROCK DIVE - Sales - Air - Service - Overseas Dive Trips.

Phone: 95262664

AQUA SPORTS SERVICES - Sales - Service - Air - Dive Schools.

Phone: 97082826



Shiprock Dive



Committee Members

Amanda Taylor	9876 2773	President
Sue Tate	9681 3287	Secretary
Phil Dale	0418-975649	Treasurer
David Burns	0407-219100	Photographic Officer
Peter Flockhart	9371 0265	Asst. Photographic Officer
Jason Kane	9708 2826	Equipment Officer
To be advised		Newsletter Editor
Noel Taylor	0414592410	Web Page Officer



CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Nikonos IV camera
with an AQUASEA 140 Strobe
Sync Cord, Base & Arm,
1-3 Macro
\$650



1980 Nikonos IV-A

There are two of these for
sale

Contact Grey McNeil:
0407 774 555

WHAT'S BUBBLING

Here are some of the ideas for future social activities:

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

Any suggestions or help with organising
events is most welcome.



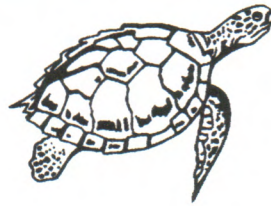
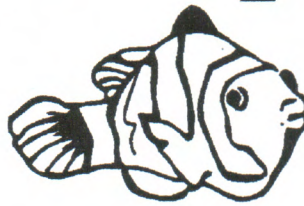
January 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Club Shore Dive	13	14	15	16	17	18 J.B. Ocean Trek Weekend
19 J.B. Ocean Trek Weekend	20 Club Meeting	21	22	23	24	25
26 Club BBQ Shore Dive	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2 Club Shore Dive	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Club Dinner Blacktown	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Club Boat Dive	17 Club Meeting	18	19	20	21	22
23 	24	25	26	27	28	

Trips



VANUATU!

• Wrecks • Big Fish • Coral Reefs • Beaches • Palm Trees

8 Days / 7 Nights Ex. Sydney
17-24 May 2003



Weekend Away
June 2003

30km south of
 Port Macquarie

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

\$185pp!

FOR BOOKINGS AND MORE
 INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT;

Janson Kane
 02 9708 2826

\$1099pp!



\$210pp



OCEAN TREK
 2 Days / 2 Nights
 18 - 19 January 2003

Jervis Bay is a short two hour drive
 down the coast from Sydney
 with excellent diving to be had.

\$340pp!

Want to spend a weekend diving at South
 West Rocks and dive around Fish Rock and its
 amazing cave dive \$210.00 per person.
 Limited spots, so don't dawdle.

Contact Noel Taylor
 0414 592 410

**FISH
 ROCK**

CAVE



SOUTH WEST ROCKS!

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB

P.O.Box 823 BANKSTOWN, NSW 1885

Web Page: www.southpacificdivers.com

