
Club Dives
Weekends Away

Social Outings
Wreck Diving

Reef Diving
Boat Diving

Shore Diving
Night Diving

South Pacific Divers Club

Established 1960

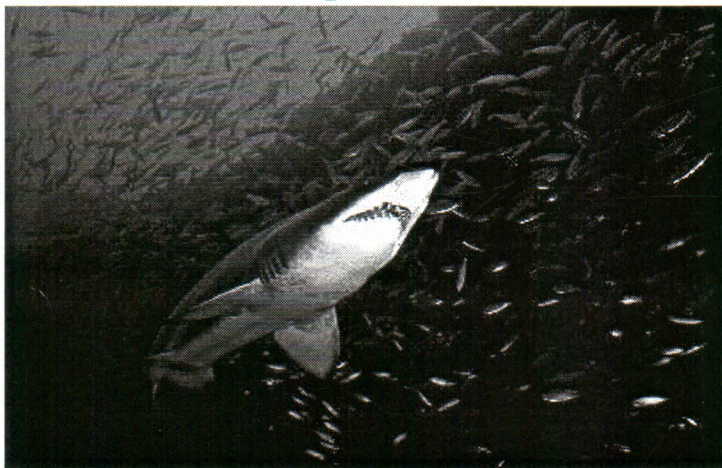
Wet Rag

March 2003

In Memory of Debbie Egginton

Sadly Debbie, a former club member and social secretary, succumbed to ovarian cancer in February after a 16 month challenge. She is survived by her three kids Craig, Elizabeth and Danielle.

www.southpacificdivers.com



Cover Photo by Dez Paroz

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The South Pacific Divers Club Newsletter "WET RAG" is published by South Pacific Divers Club and 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

Well here I am again, Sorry Folks, but we do need a new editor for the newsletter as I am really too busy to do it myself.

Our thoughts go out to the **Egginton** family for their loss of Debbie.

It's was good to see every ones interest in what Tim Bonner was showing us at the last meeting. I know of a few have already inquired about Dry Suits & Cameras. Hopefully we can keep this going as this is what we want at the meetings, good speakers and a little talk of whats happened and what is dives and social events we are going to have. Fun, Fun, Fun is what we are about.

Up and coming guest speakers will be Bernie Johnston of Pacific Health & Safety, Leo Hillyer of Aqua Sea Products, Dave Fagan will give us a workshop of working with digital images (*a must for all you new digital photographers*).

Amanda has gone to a lot of work with the George Roberts Comp so please support yourself and the club and bring your entries in no matter how they look. **YOU JUST NEVER KNOW!!!!**

I have included a bit of club history in this newsletter by including the results of the 1971 *Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year* as shown in Vol.1, No. 4 **SKINDIVING IN AUSTRALIA** from June 1971. Tom Byron was the photo officer and ran the competition **WAY, WAY, WAY** back then when some of you were not even a thought in your Mum and Dads eye's. Hope you enjoy

Ed: *Noel*

PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICER

Two weeks ago Sea and Sea withdrew their sponsorship for our Competition this year, it wasn't half expected however it would have made a huge difference to the advertising and production side of the competition. On Wednesday March 5th the committee met and decided to press on with the competition but had to move the date back 6 weeks to October 18th. This situation will need to have club members to put themselves out just that little bit more for this years comp to be a success.

Sponsors are starting to commit themselves over the last few weeks and it is starting to shape up as the years biggest U/W Photo. competition.

Yours truly has now his own U/W camera set up and although I can't enter the AUPY comp do not think that the George Roberts is safe. See you at the meeting.

Photo Officer Dave B.

PRESIDENTS POSSIE

Hi everyone!

I hope that you have enjoyed summer, although the diving conditions have not been so favourable. I have had many reports from dive shops in Sydney stating that the seas have been rough and the water has been dirty and cold. As winter approaches, I sincerely hope that the colder weather brings the clean water and we can set about taking some great shots.

We have had a few new members join the club over the past two months, and I would like to remind those of you that have not renewed your membership to do so. A membership form is attached to this month's Wet Rag.

As you will all know, this year has started off with a big blast with the Corporate Sponsorship Proposal from Sea n Sea. Much time and effort has already gone into this proposal from the AV committee members, and Dave Burns will update you all on the outcome for this year.

A reminder to all those budding photographers that the George Roberts Memorial Competition is in progress and it is not too late to enter. The competition is structured to give the novice entrant an advantage to accumulate points towards their final score. I urge you all to start taking some underwater snaps and you can find an entry form attached to this newsletter.

Our social calendar is filling fast with lots of exciting activities. The first social dive and BBQ at Oak Park was a hit and it was great to see so many new and old faces. The social functions will be posted in the calendar and I hope to see you there!

Lastly I would like to say thank-you to our club sponsors. You may have noticed in the last Wet Rag, a one page advertisement for Ledlin Partners. In case you were wondering??? As I was, they supply the photocopy hard copies of the Wet Rag for mail-outs to those members that do not have e-mail access. Tim Bonner from Apollo came along to our last club meeting and presented his range of products and generously donated a dive knife for our raffle. Not all our members are able to access information and see the latest diving gear available, and so it was a great treat to see what is happening in the industry. Again, many thanks Tim for you continued support.

Well that's all from me for this month.....

Hope to see you in the water!

Cheers

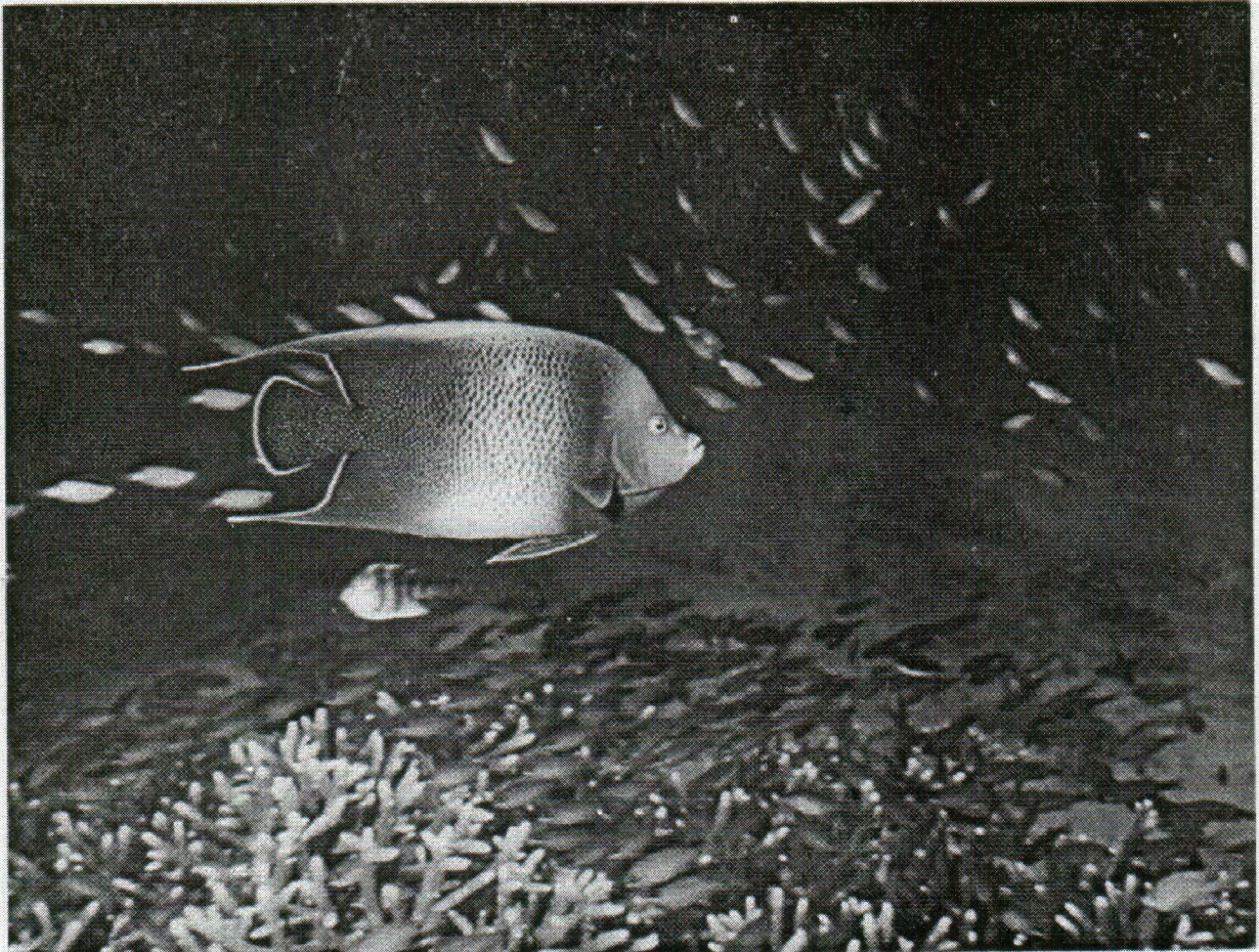
Amanda Taylor



Memberships are now Due!

Membership form on page 11

THE AUSTRALASIAN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR



The "Best of Show" was this brilliant study of a Zebra Angel by a newcomer to championship photography, G. Millott.

Sponsored By: South Pacific Divers Club.

Judges: Mr. Fred Lindquist, Mr. Lionel Howes.

Section 1: 2 1/4" Square Colour Slides.

1st Place: Gold Medal, The Everglades — Richard Taylor.

2nd Place: Silver Medal, Measles — Valerie Taylor.

3rd Place: Bronze Medal, Delicate Anemones — Stephen Parish

Section 2: 35 mm. Colour Slides.

1st Place: Gold Medal, Angel Face — Valerie Taylor.

2nd Place: Silver Medal, No Title — Stephen Hanny.

3rd Place: Bronze Medal, Feather Duster — Valerie Taylor.

Section 3 (Beginners): 35 mm. or 2 1/4" Square Colour Slides.

1st Place: Gold Medal, Zebra Angel — G. Millott.

2nd Place: Silver Medal, Affectionate — Richard Taylor.

3rd Place: Bronze Medal, Feeding Chaetodon — B. Fluke.

Section 4: Black and White Prints.

1st Place: Gold Medal, Kissing Cousins — S. Parish.

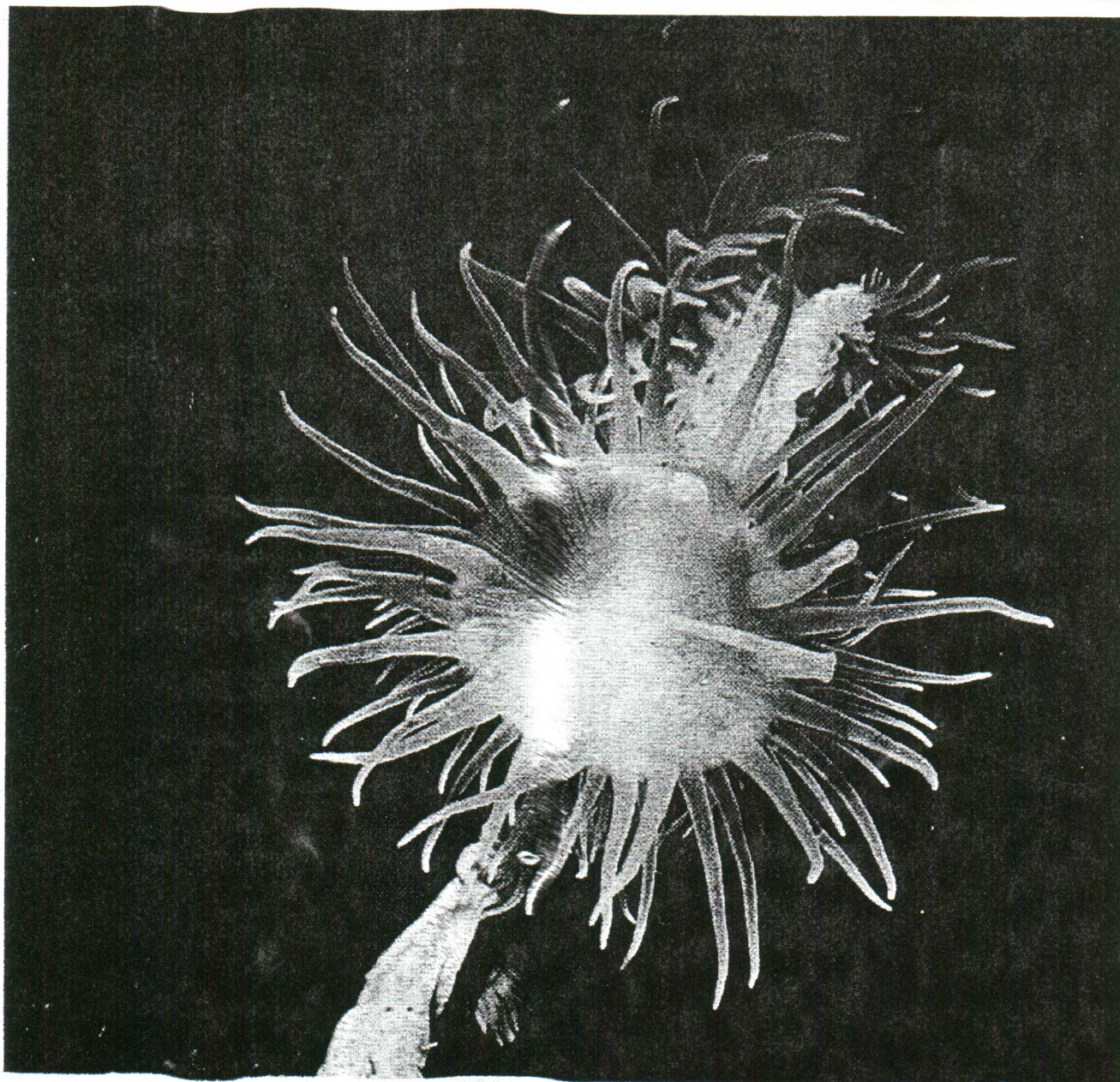
2nd Place: Silver Medal, Amplisepta Berrkauxi — R. Doughton.

3rd Place: Bronze Medal, Curious Nava-don — S. Parish.

\$50.00: "Best of Show" Cash Award. Zebra Angel — G. Millott.

\$20.00: "Best Beginner" Cash Award. Zebra Angel — G. Millott.

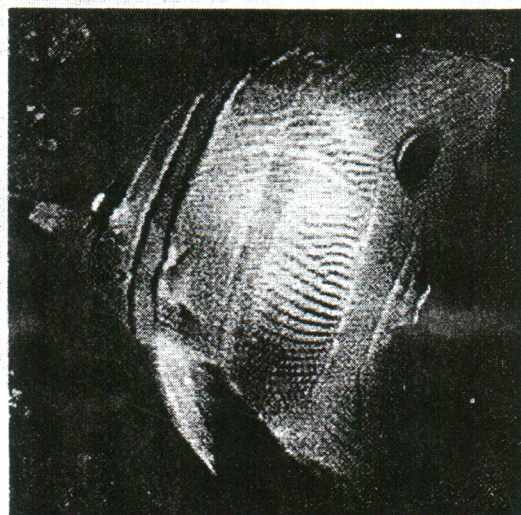
WATCH "SKINDIVING IN AUSTRALIA" FOR RESULTS AND PHOTOS OF OUR "NIKON UNDERWATER PHOTO OF THE YEAR".



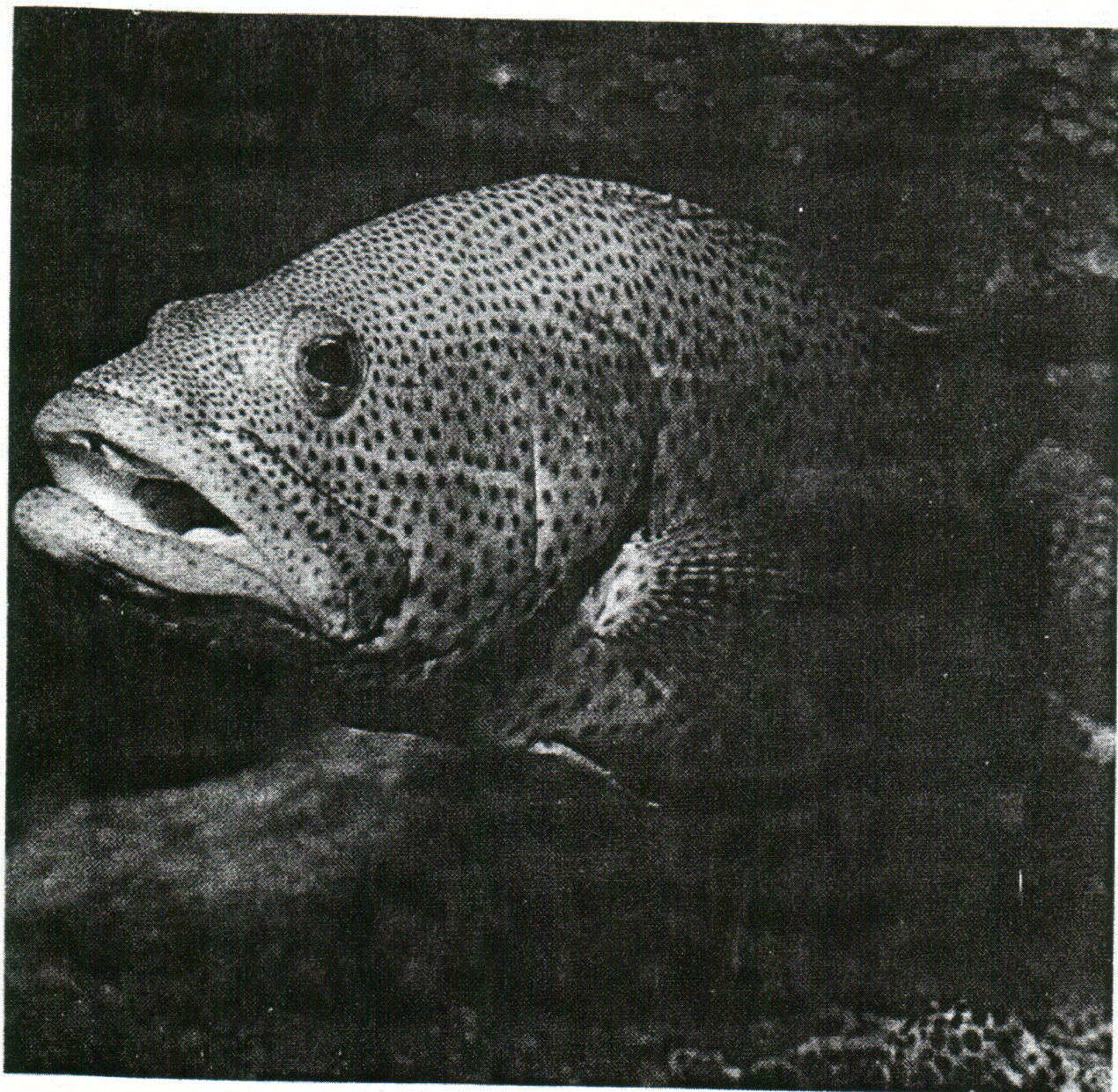
Above:
This beautiful Close-
Up titled "Delicate
Anemones" won a
Bronze Medal for
Steve Parrish.



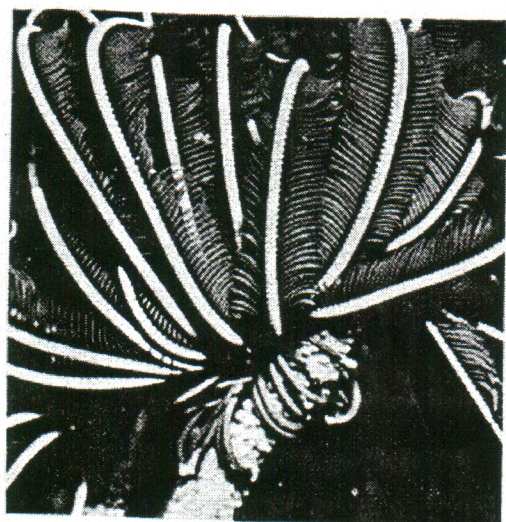
Left:
Taking off a Gold
Medal in the 2 1/2 sq.
section was this
photo titled "The
Everglades" by Rich-
ard Taylor.



Right:
Winning for B. Fluke
a bronze medal was
this photo titled
"Feeding Chaeta-
don".



Above:
World famous woman photographer, Valerie Taylor submitted this photo titled "Measles" to take off a silver medal.



Left:
Another prize winning photo by Valerie Taylor, "Feather Duster" took off a bronze medal.

Right:
This unusual close-up titled "Affectionate" won a silver medal for Richard Taylor in Section 3.



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY NEWS

January 2003

Qld dive firm fined \$20,000 over diver drowning

CAIRNS: A Cairns-based diving firm has been fined \$20,000 over Workplace Health and Safety breaches relating to the death of a diver off Thursday Island in June 2000. Oceantech Pty Ltd pleaded guilty in the Thursday Island Industrial Magistrates Court to failing to ensure the health and safety of its workers.

The court was told diver Fred Banu drowned while collecting sea cucumbers. An investigation found his air supply line had been caught between the stern of the dory to which he was attached and the leg of an outboard motor. The air line was also found to be significantly weaker than the Australian standard.

Qld Govt to tighten recreational diving safety code

BRISBANE: The Queensland Government will tighten safety regulations for recreational diving after a spate of snorkelling deaths.

The Government is drafting changes to diving codes of practice after the deaths of four men – in their 20s and all apparently fit – in snorkelling accidents since mid-December. At least two of the deaths may have been caused by a syndrome known as “shallow water blackout”, in which snorkellers hyperventilate in order to stay underwater longer.

The Industrial Relations Department's Workplace Health and Safety Division has posted a snorkelling safety alert on its website and confirmed officers were drafting safety code changes which could be implemented within weeks.

Trial unlikely over diver death in Gulf of Carpentaria

CAIRNS: A diver who disappeared while working on a cyclone mooring system in the Gulf of Carpentaria almost three years ago looked tired when on the surface not long before he went under and did not come back up, an inquest heard recently.

The inquest into the disappearance of Marcus Williams, 29, was completed in the Cairns Coroner's Court recently with coroner Trevor Black indicating the likelihood of anyone being committed for trial over the incident was low.

Endeavour Shipping, the Queensland company for which Mr Williams was working at the time of his disappearance and subsequent death, already has been convicted of Workplace Health and Safety breaches over the incident, receiving a \$10,000 fine for not maintaining dive plans or logs.

DIVE REPORTS

8th of March 2003

Dive Site: BOMBO, Woolongong

Viz: 20mtrs

Depth: 30mtrs

Sea: Calm **Weather:** Fine **Temp:** 21C

Well when it comes to dives this was a dive as I had only dived it once before and then it was lousy but this time it rated as a BGD (Bloody Good Dive). I stayed around the anchor line with the camera whilst the other divers covered the wreck stern to bow. I was always in sight of the line as there was so much to see and photograph. However it was a dive to remember there were pike, red mowries, big eyes under the back section and a trigger fish and I soon ran out of film.

The prop was in full view and you could see the broken parts of the wreck strewn around the sand., we have to go back..

Rating 9/10.

Dave B.



Think of a caption for this photo????

Story to follow next month.

GUEST SPEAKER

Bernie Johnston
on

FIRST AID in DIVING

Next

MONDAY MEETING

17th March 2003

CLUB MINUTES

CLUB MEETING 17TH FEBRUARY, 2003 8.10 pm - 11.00 pm

Apologies: Peter T, Jansen, Nick, Jenny, Bernie.

Guest: Tim Bonner - Apollo - discussions re dry suits, wet suits, bio fins, sea life cameras and housings, masks, knives etc – also donated a T-REX knife towards our raffle prizes.

Incoming Correspondence: Storage shed invoice, bank statement, re-investment statement, letter re bank charges, SPD membership's, Waves newsletter, URG Bulletin, Doubtless & Diving newsletter, BOC invoice, Ryde Underwater newsletter, Netspace letter, SCANS - emails re Scan Meeting dates, Coral Sea Trip, Combined Club's Day 23/03/03, Occupational Diving Standards campaign request.

Minutes: November, December and January - Accepted by Phil Dale, seconded by Peter Flockart.

Treasurers Report: Term deposit is still being looked at. Trouble getting Banks to give good rates as we are not a business. Memberships are due.

Website: Anyone with anything to add??

Newsletter: Thank you to Duane for your great newsletters. Due to Duane's resignation we are looking for another Newsletter Editor.

DIVE REPORTS

Peter F - Barrens Hut 6" viz. Cold. Fish Reef Sea Tamer II 5-8 mtrs viz better but still dirty, 21 degrees serge on bottom, king fish, nudis, bastard trumpeter.

Matt - Minmi Trench - Top 5 mtrs murky below that 16 degrees cold and clear.

Southern Comfort dive - very murky

Manly Ferry wharf - unreal. Found a push bike, 1 bottle, part of a clay pipe, nozzle off a fireman's hose, wallet - 2-3 mtr viz. Shells, octopus, squid, excellent dive. Entry 1.15am. 7 mtrs depth. Good pizza shop open till 4.00 am

Tim B - 8 miles off coast, whilst blue water spearing - 2 black marlin swam up to his friend and swam away. No camera in the water (was in the boat) viz good a long way out.

John O - Ulladulla, rain overcast 6 mtr viz 14-16 degrees, next day cloudless sunny 25 mtr viz, next day overcast bad conditions again. Divers Lottery!

Dave - Kurnell drift dive 2 mtr viz - took club banner door and took a few photo's.

Noel - Club Boat Dive - Kurnell - 7 people. Minmi Trench - lots of nudis. Sponges, swimming, 22 mtrs - big boulders form a crevice/ trench blue devil fish, lots of anchors.

Drift dive Henry's Head - started with half a mtr viz - cleared in deeper water to a good dive.

Grey - Nelson Bay Day and night dives - sponges back on pipeline, rays mating everywhere, Fly Point - all purple and orange in colour, growth now on sand patch 10 mtrs viz. 17 different nudi species.

Phil N - Nelson Bay Christmas time - Night Dive Halifax across bottom spotted long tentacles of green everywhere, light sensitive - common name - snot monsters.

Double Boat dive - Jervis Bay 16 degrees, some clear currents.

Bass Point - Cold and dirty - surface current 4 kn., under that no current at all.

CLUB MINUTES cont.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Thank you Bernie for the Australia Day BBQ & Club Dive - Phil T took a video of the dive and will bring it along to a meeting soon, was a good day. Approx. 25 people in attendance.

Taronga Wharf dive - check out Aqua Sports web page.

George Roberts Entries - hand in at break.

Raffle -

Tim from Apollo donated a T-Rex Knife - won by Angelo
Aqua Sports - 5 air fills - both won by Matt
Lucky Door Prize - Aqua Sports - John Olsen

Max Western Boat Dive - Sue
Shiprock - 2 air fills - Noel

Photographers Report - Finally received a reply from Sea & Sea re AV Competition. Still a few points to sort out.

First Aid Course - Noel will organise a talk on First Aid and a course later if required.

Noel suggested a Club Shoot out - on a Saturday prior to the club meeting - Club Dive day all using disposable cameras- equal playing field. The cameras get purchased off SPD. After taking the photos the cameras are returned to us for processing - photos- given back to the photographer to choose their 5 best photos and then put on display at the club meeting for members to vote on.

Phil suggested a White Water rafting day - Penrith - would be a good day \$62.50 90 minutes of fun. Phil to get info together for Noel to email out.

John O - President SCANS - Linkage to all independent dive clubs.

23rd March - Combined Clubs Dive Day - Kurnell high tide 1.20 pm BBQ Inscription Point boat dives available.
\$2.00 or \$3.00 for BBQ lunch. Will need SPD BBQ

SCANS - have also organised tank testing for \$16.50 including GST for lots of 20. 20 or more free pick up and delivery - but they will not be filled. Ryde Underwater are doing a run now if anyone is interested in taking onto their run.

Standards Australia - Occupational Diving Operations has just been completed. Next one refers to Underwater photography - suggested SPD view and make public comment. Dave Burns to look out for the Standards Aust. Information.

Suggested - another Club Skirmish Day.

Club Dive Date - Members decided on the Club Dive Day to be on the Sunday AFTER the Club Meeting as a standard 'put on your calendar day'

Noel - will have a boat dive going over the weekend - Contact him for further details.

Newsletter - we need to get one done. Dave suggested he may know of someone who would be able to help out. Will discuss further at next committee meeting.

At a future club meeting - Guest Speaker - Leo from Aqua Sea Products re: underwater strobes, video lights etc.



CLUB SPONSORS: Please Support These Businesses

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

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

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

LEDLIN PARTNERS - Business & Commercial Lawyers.

Phone: 9524 1818

Phone: 9526 2664

Phone: 9708 2826

Phone: 9708 2811

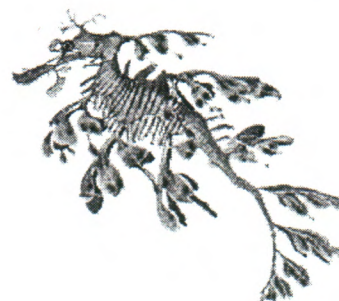


Shiprock Dive



Committee Members

Amanda Taylor	0407-690 077	President
Sue Tate	9681 3287	Secretary
Phil Dale	0418-975649	Treasurer
David Burns	0407-219100	Photographic Officer
Peter Flockhart	9371 0265	Asst. Photographic Officer
Janson Kane	9708 2826	Equipment Officer
To be advised		Newsletter Editor
Noel Taylor	0419-122629	Web Page Officer



CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Northern Diver Drysuit.

Im 175cm 36cm neck and 18cm wrist.

It's pretty thick, maybe 5mm neoprene and extra tough type material. With knee pads. Large boot size (Im a 8 1/2 or 9 and they are too big for me. Good condition.

\$300 ono

Wetsuit.

4 slim size 6mm thick DM70 model wetsuit by Seatec in great condition with built in hood, knee padding and extra comfort padding in spine. I'm 175 cm about 78kg would suit slightly smaller up to my size. email me for pics.

\$250 ono

You can contact me via email on srl@ihug.com.au or by phone on 0413 717170

WHAT'S BUBBLING

We are going to have a Work Cover approved

FIRST AID COURSE

Running over a weekend, dates will be announced at the club meeting. The course will be covering a lot on situations that can affect us as divers.

Bernie Johnston

From



Pacific Health & Safety

Will be our first aid instructor who also is a dive instructor to boot.

Don't miss!! his talk this Monday evening!!!

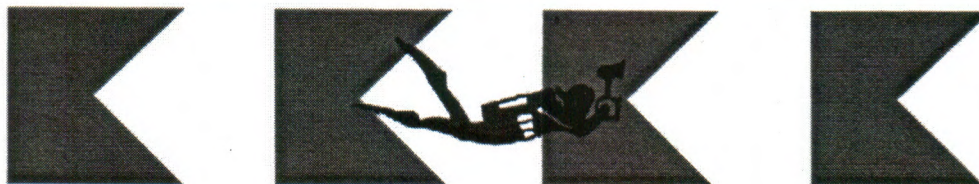


March 2003

<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thur</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>	<u>Sun</u>
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Oak Park Dive 9.30am
17 Club Meeting 8.00pm	18	19	20	21	22	23 SCANS Combined Clubs Day Kurnell
24	25	26	27	28	29 	30 Club Boat Dive

April 2003

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Club Shore Dive
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Club Meeting 8.00pm	22	23	24	25	26	27 Club Boat Dive
28	29	30				



SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB

P.O. BOX 823 BANKSTOWN 2200

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I wish to apply for membership for one (1) year tick.

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

..... Post Code.....

TELEPHONE: Work:.....Home:.....Mobile:.....

E-Mail Address:.....

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

Are You a Boat Owner:..... Type of Boat:.....

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

DIVING MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

I/We..... hereby apply to join South Pacific Divers Club Inc.
I/We understand the Club is non-profit, non-affiliated with any training organisation and is for certified divers. South Pacific Divers Club Inc does not offer instruction, advice or supervise its members' divers. It is a condition of Club membership that members exercise their own judgement in accordance with their training in deciding whether and/or how to participate in any particular dive, the technique used, or choice of equipment and that any clarification in regard to these matters should be referred to a qualified instructor or my/our certifying agency.

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

SIGNED..... DATE.....

Trips



HIDEAWAY ISLAND SEA & SEA DIVEFEST
 8 fun-filled and relaxing days in Vanuatu
 on a tiny slice of paradise
25 MAY - 1 JUNE 2003

8 days / 7 nights - ex Sydney from \$1229 + tax; ex Brisbane from \$1238 + tax;
 ex Melbourne from \$1475 + tax.*

The Dive Fest features the Sea & Sea Photography Event with tutorials by photo-pro
 Kevin Deacon, great prizes, and a Presentation Night. This year there's also a theme party
 and off-the-beach water events for everyone to share.

Hideaway Island is just 3.5 hours from Sydney and Brisbane with thriving reefs just
 minutes from the dive shop, beachside restaurant, excellent snorkelling sites
 and nearby Port Vila wrecks are a perfect warm-up for diving the Coolidge.

* Conditions apply and prices may alter without notice. Accommodation upgrades are available (bunk-share)

For Festival package details contact Leonie - sydney@divoadventures.com.au
 Check out Hideaway Island Resort and the great diving at www.hideaway.com.vu

VANUATU

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

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

FOR BOOKINGS AND MORE
 INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

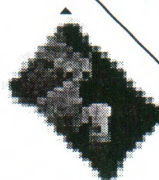
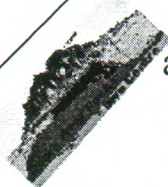
Janson Kane
 02 9708 2826

\$1099pp!



\$210pp!

Want to spend a weekend diving at
 South West Rocks and dive
 around Fish Rock and its amazing
 cave dive. You can do it for just
 \$210.00 per person.



SOUTH WEST ROCKS

Weekend Away
 June 2003
 30km south of
 Port Macquarie

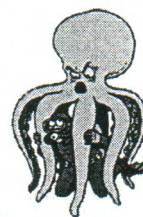
We will be staying at the
 Woongarra Motel for two nights
 acc, and have 4 boat dives with
 Scuba Haven Laurieton. Some of
 the dive sites include: The TITAN
 (wreck) - 40m, Cod Grounds -
 18-32m, Mermaid Reef (shark
 dive) 12-30m, Telegraph Bommie
 - 0-18m

\$185pp!

OCEAN TREK
 2 Days / 2 Nights
 October / November 2003

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

\$340pp!



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SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB

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Web Page: www.southpacificdivers.com

