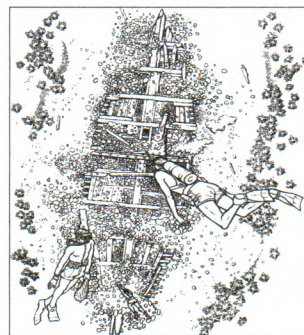


SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB

Newsletter Date 10-2-2004

Volume 1, Issue 1

Where Do You Want To Dive Today?



NEW LOOK NEWSLETTER

Inside this issue:

Editorial	1
Dates and Events	2
Schedule of Dive Events	3
Dive Gear for Sale	2
Cocos Islands	3
Face Masks 1949	4
SPD Club Meeting	4

Special points of interest:

- Editorial
- Important Dates and Events
- Club News
- Dive Outings
- Minutes of Last Meeting
- Dive Gear Sale
- Cocos Islands

Sadly for the last three or four months members of our club have not received a newsletter. The current editor has not the time to produce a single copy.

At our last club meeting (19/1/2004) I volunteered to take over my old job as editor until our current editor can continue.

One of the most important things that hold a club together besides scuba diving outings and other organized activities is a newsletter published on time every month, this way members are kept informed about activities within the club.

The success of a newsletter does not depend on the editor alone but requires input from members no matter how trivial it may seem at the time, to some member it may be of importance.

So you up and coming young writers lets have some stories about your last dive, overseas trip or weekend away at some exotic location, perhaps an unknown shipwreck you have just discovered or just make up some fictitious story.

One thing that has bothered me for some time now is the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition that our club has

held almost every year since 1980. This is my personal opinion and may not be that of South Pacific Divers Club or its members.

Our club should re-think its position regard running any more open photographic competition. I think the event has run its course. There are far to many other photo contests run by numerous other organisations all offering prizes from the same source as ourselves, making it harder each year to attract donations from scuba diving wholesalers.

Perhaps the course to take would be to hold a yearly photo contest with various scuba diving clubs participating, not the general public. Keep it at a club level and perhaps hold a small film night at our club rooms.

Looking at the whole picture from a photo judges point of view, I am sure a new format with new ideas, keeping the competition at a much smaller venue inviting photographers from other dive club only to participate would be a step in the right direction.

It would be less stressful organising the event, cost less and easier to judge.

I think the club should give it serious consideration.

How do you like the look of our new newsletter?

It's a bit different than others in the past and will be delivered to you by post not via email, there is something about reading matter that in my opinion does not go over very well via electronic communication, its impersonal and sterile, no matter how switched on you may think you are regards computers.

The newsletter may cost a little more to publish but in the long run I think it is well worth the expense.

Another thing I must say to members, and that is the lack of attendance at dive club outings and meetings. You are scuba divers, belonging to a scuba diving club but don't attend outings or club meetings. Are you just to lazy, don't care, or have other things to do? What is the use of joining a dive club and not attending its functions. So lets see more members at meetings and outings.

On page number 3 is a list of boat diver as well as shore dives throughout February, see you there.

Editor: Tom Byron

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

1959: Heron Island on the Great Barrier Reef held its first Annual Underwater Convention in November 1959 and has held the same event every year since.

The Shaft, a giant sinkhole at Mt Gambier was explored by scuba divers for the first time during mid 1959.

Australian-made "Porpoise" regulator were sold to an ever-increasing number of divers in this country and exported overseas.

1961: The only death so far in Australia from an exploding cylinder was on New Years Eve. Trevor Davies died in the explosion.

Foam rubber suits (neoprene) appeared on the market for the first time.

Wally Reynolds set a new deep diving record on March 12, he dived to a depth of 327 feet on compressed air.

There are now twenty three air filling stations in New South Wales, three in the Northern Territory, one in Tasmania, three in Queensland, three in South Australia and fifteen in Victoria. No record is kept in Western Australia or the Northern Capital Territory.

1962: Dave Burchell made a scuba dive to 215 feet to create a South Australian deep diving record.

The first group of scuba divers to tour in Australia were taken on a

four day trip to Broughton Island over the Easter Long Weekend.

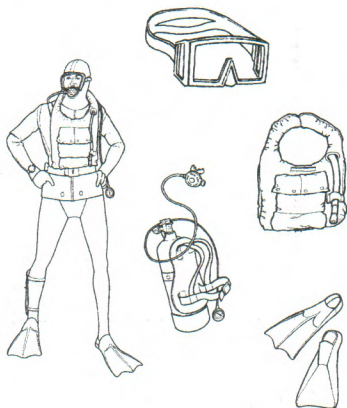
The 1962 South Australian Spearfishing Champion Rodney Fox was attacked by a white pointer shark at Aldinga close to the area where Brian Rogers's attack took place in 1961. Fox was bitten under the arm and needed over 200 stitches. He survived the attack to become one of Australia's most authoritative guide tour leaders to the great white shark areas of South Australia.

1963: Ben Cropp won the World Underwater Photographer of the Year Award in America with his film called "Shark Safari".



The club would like to see more members attend meetings held on the third Monday of every month at Bankstown Sports Club

DIVE GEAR BARGAINS



Twin gauge analogue consol with hose normally \$265 now **\$190.**

Mares Surveyor Nitrox computer normally \$935 now **\$725.**

Avid Snorkel normally \$90.00 now **\$45.**

Reflex PRO lift bag normally \$35 now **\$25.**

Hot Specials

Temperate water fish Identification slate normally \$15 now **\$10.**

Regulator Oceanic Delta 1st 2nd and ocky with 2 gauge console only **\$490.**

Sherwood Nomad B/C green/black **\$150.**

Contact Divermaster Don at 96688200

Raffle Winners:

Susan Tate Gloves
Loi Hoang 2 Air Fills

Sponsors:
Sydney Diver City
Shiprock Dive

The club would like to think that its members support our two sponsors.

WEEKEND AWAY AT JERVIS BAY

By far the most popular scuba diving region along the New South Wales coast is Jervis Bay. Visited by thousands of divers each year, it has just about every type of scuba activity possible, from shallow water fish nurseries to deep blue drop offs.

Along the ocean foreshores of Jervis Bay colours and exotic sea life are displayed in graphic detail from the smallest

nudibranch to giant manta rays.

On the 3rd and 4th April 2004 I am organising a weekend away aboard Ocean Trek an excellent live-aboard stable boat that, weather permitting, will take us to some of the best dive sites Jervis Bay has to offer.

Cost \$374 Deposit \$150.

Contact: Tom Byron



Scuba Dive Outings (February) 2004

Events:

(Boat Dives)

Sunday 1st.	Tabbagai South 8.30 am	Tabbagai South 10.30 am.
Saturday 7th.	St Michaels Drop Off 8.30 am.	Exploratory South 10.30 am.
Sunday 8th.	Tupia Head 8.30 am.	Henry's Head 10.30 am.
Saturday 14th.	Pussy Cat Bay 8.30 am.	Yenna Gap 10.30 am.
Sunday 15th.	The Bridge 8.30 am.	The Container Wall 10.30 am.
Saturday 21 st.	Tabbagai Inner 8.30 am.	Exploratory North 10.30 am.
Sunday 22nd.	The Slide 8.30 am.	Henry's Head 10.30 am.
Saturday 28th.	Back of Bare Island 8.30 am.	Minmi (Rescue Course) 9.00 am.
Sunday 29th.	Tabbagai Outer 8.30 am.	Yenna Point 10.30 am. Plus BBQ

Events:

(Shore Dives)

Sunday 1st.	Cape Solander Windy Point 1 pm.
Thursday 5th.	Night Dive. Phone for details. 96688200 ask for Divemaster Don.

Events:

(Overseas)

Friday 13th.	Depart for Truk Lagoon
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For any of the above dives outings ring Divemaster Don on 96688200

Weekend Away

Bookings are filling fast for Forster. March 26-27-28th.

Two nights including accommodation and breakfast. Plus two double boat dives. Cost \$295.00

Loads of fun.

Don't miss out on a wonderful weekend.

Contact :
Divermaster Don on
96688200

Cocos Islands

Browsing through our mailing list I noticed that we have a club member residing in the Cocos Islands. If you get out your world atlas you will note these islands are situated in the Indian Ocean not far off the Western Australian coast at the same level as Cairns. Now you should know what that means, coral type waters.

For those club members that

possess a little sense of adventure I was wondering if a week or two diving the Cocos Islands would be worthwhile.

We have a contact member there who could send back information regarding day charter boats, tour guides, availability of compressed air and accommodation.

Are there any interested members willing to organise the trip?



So you up and coming young writers lets have some stories about your last dive, overseas trip or weekend away at some exotic location, perhaps an unknown shipwreck you have just discovered or just make something up.

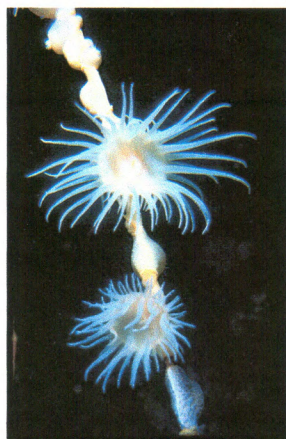
SPD Club Meeting 19th January 2004

Apologies:

Amanda, Nick, Duane and Noel.

Incoming Correspondence:

URG Bulletin. Bank Investment statement to 26/12/03. Term deposit notification account is now closed, a bank statement and an old savings passport book was returned from the bank. Magazine from Dive NZ for Peter Flockart. Big monthly invoice re storage. SCANS re Cod Grounds. Queensland Government reply re Grey Nurse sharks and a member change of email address.



Committee was unaware until the night that our President would not be present so no agenda was raised. Peter chaired the meeting.

Treasurers Report:

Term deposit has been closed and all club monies is now in the one account. We need to find a way to raise money, any suggestions?

Dive Pacific:

Published an article by Peter Flockart.

Continued page number 4

Organization

South Pacific Divers Club
PO Box 823
Bankstown 1885

Editor: Tom Byron
Email: tombyronpublishers@hotmail.com

WWW.southpacificdivers.com

Contact Phone Numbers:

President:
Amanda Taylor 0407690077

Secretary:
Susan Tate 96813287

Continued from page number 3

Social Activities:

Club BBQ and Dive to be organised bi-monthly on the weekend after the club meeting.

Shiprock Dive:

Now at Unit 6/155 Taren Point Road (same premises as Aqua Sea)

George Roberts Comp:

More details to come via Amanda, will be run but will be pushed back, possibly in another month or two.

Noels Invoice Re AV Night:

Still waiting on receipts as requested. Amanda to chase up.

Membership Fees are Due:

Forms are included with this months newsletter.

GENERAL BUSINESS :

New Dive Business:

Ayr Queensland—they are diving SS Yongala shipwreck in 40 minutes.

Dive New Zealand:

Running an interesting series of articles on diving deaths for the next couple of months.

AV Night:

Tom raised the question that the AV night has run its race and that we should hold a smaller comp in future combining all other dive club members.

Club Dive:

Sydney Divers City. Saturday 7th February, 2004. Eight o'clock at Kurnell. Boat dive Ring Peter Flockart or Divemaster Don.

BACK PAGE STORY: Face masks 1949

To see underwater
you must make
your own mask
1949 style.



Whale vertebrae found at Ulladulla
near a dive site called The Lighthouse.

In the past, most people have been reluctant to tackle this exciting sport because it was thought that complicated gear was required. This is not the case. The only essential for practical skindiving is an efficient face mask.

A face mask is a single piece of flat glass extended over both eyes. This

eliminates the distorted bifocal vision obtained when wearing the older type of native wooden frame goggles.

The wearer sees two of everything, a discomposing state of affairs when ten feet under water, even for a teetotaller.

The glass is fixed in the front of a wooden frame with thick black

rubber cement which is then allowed to dry. The frame is glued into the end of an already cut section of inner tube. A circular clamp made from a strip of round brass the ends are applied and bent at right angles to form lugs with holes.

Two brass screws clamp the rubber into position around the wooden frame of the mask.

The tube is cut away carefully as required and shaped to fit comfortable over the ears and around the back of the head.

The glass of the mask may fog on the inside. This can be overcome by moistening it inside and out with saliva, then soak it in water for a moment or two. After this, the inside of the mask will not fog and a diver can see clearly throughout the dive.

The next time you go spearfishing the same thing will

have to be done over again.

In future years someone will invent fog proof glass, perhaps not in our lifetime but it is an interesting thought to work on particularly if you are interested in glass manufacturing.

Next month:

Face masks made before 1940.



Face mask 2004 style.