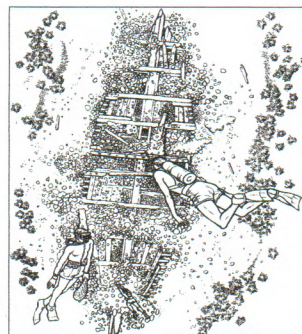


SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB

Newsletter Date 17/2/2004

Volume 1, Issue 2

Where Do You Want To Dive Today?



EDITORIAL

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Something To Think About

Courage is like a muscle, it is strengthened by use.

The charm of all power is modesty.

We are our choices.

In my last editorial I mentioned the Australasian Underwater Photographic competition that the club had organised successfully since 1980 and that I thought the yearly event had run its race.

Over the years there has been some wonderful nights as many as 800 divers or more attended these shows.

Unfortunately, through various reasons, this has changed over recent years, sadly it is time now I feel to move on.

Part of the problem was the bulk of organising that was left to a couple of members who did their very best, this is far too much to ask of anyone.

It is disappointing and disheartening to give many hours of your free time working under all conditions and then receive adverse comments from members who did little to help.

Imagine if you can the organising that goes into such an event. First of all there are the sponsors the very backbone of the event, you have to persuade them that the prizes they donate is worthwhile for them as far as advertising is concerned.

Then there is "free" advertising with various dive magazines which is no easy task. You now have to collect all entrances and categorize them. Organise the judges and select a two day weekend to hold the judging.

Following this is the very heart of the event, setting up the show in a

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AS PART OF THE APRIL (19TH) MEETING. The club needs as many members as possible to attend this important meeting.

computerised program, taking many many hours.

After this, is the venue to select, tickets to distribute among various dive shops, some are willing to sell tickets whilst others for reasons best known to themselves are not.

Then comes the big night, the setting up of tables, laying out of advertising sheets, making sure the computer program is working properly, selecting the right music for the night and dozens of unforeseen problems that may occur during the course of the afternoon, before the show starts.

It is too much to ask.

Editor: Tom Byron

Presidents Report

Welcome to 2004 (The Year of Scuba Diving)

Firstly, I would like to welcome all our club members to the New Year and hope that 2004 brings us great visibility underwater and that all our enthusiastic underwater photographers capture that elusive shot!

It appears that Grey and Viv have done just that with their trip to Tufi in New Guinea and North Stradbroke Island in Queensland. I am sure Grey is busting to show us his fantastic shots taken with his new digital camera.

The scuba diving and underwater photographic industry has seen a market drop enthusiasm over the last few years, however now that digital photography is well and truly upon us and prices are more realistic and affordable now is the time to change this trend and look forward to exciting new times.

I feel that our club now has a unique opportunity to present a new challenge to all those who are willing to venture into the realm of diving and underwater photography. We need a few suggestions on how we can best take advantage of this opportunity.

Continued on page 3:

Photographic officers report

Peter Flockart

I would like to thank Dive Pacific NZ for publishing the result of last years AV in the Dec/Jan issue of their magazine. These may be seen on page 57 of this issue. They have listed the winners of all the still sections plus one image from each of the first place getters.

We were lucky to have the winners also published on-line at Nekton.com, many thanks to Dave Strike for doing this. A copy of the winners was also sent to Barry Andrewartha but as yet no images have been reproduced in either of his publications.

Also in Dive Pacific is a reproduced thank you letter from one of our club member who was also a winner on the night.

Also in the Dec/Jan issue of Dive Pacific's "Product News" was mention of three new Digital cameras that are being released. Two are from Fuji. The first is a 3.1 million S-pixels whilst the other is a 3.1 million R-pixel or (6.2 million photodiodes) pretty impressive. The third camera is from Sea and Sea and is an amphibious 3.1 million mega-pixel.

Letters to Dive Pacific NZ Magazine:

Hi Dave

Just a short note to say thank you for donating your subscription prize to the Rick Latimer Award run by the South Pacific Divers competition. I was fortunate enough to win this and was thrilled when amongst my prize I was informed of your subscription. The night was such a big event and it's always good to be able to sit down and have a chat with old buddies whom you shared some special dives with a few years ago. The venue was exceptionally good and Neil was one of the guest speakers. After his talk we were both able to relax and enjoy the rest of the night and as always the effort that the South Pacific Divers had put in really showed throughout the evening. Thank you for your prize and it's a real incentive when sponsors donate great prizes.

Kind regards

Lyn Vincent

Dear Dave

On behalf of South Pacific Divers Club I would like to thank you for again sponsoring the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year in 2003 with prizes of subscriptions and Dive Pacific caps. Your magazine and annuals were placed on each table for people to take home. We look forward to your sponsorship for the 2004 competition.

Photographic officer

Peter Flockart

Letter to Photographic Officer:

Dear Peter

I was one of your entrants in the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year 2003. Your competition gave me inspiration to organise a local digital photographic competition in Port Douglas.

Would it be at all possible if you could give me some helpful advice on the do's and don'ts of an event like this.

I am involving local boat operators to provide a service to those willing to participate which will be conducted over a full week.

Yours faithfully

David Miller

Fuji F100 digital camera: \$1399.00.

FUJI Super CCD SR with 3.1 million S-Pixels and 3.1 million R Pixels delivers 6.03 million recorded pixels. Newly-designed, ultra-sharp Super EBC Fujinon 3X zoom lens (optical zoom). 2.2X Digital zoom. Ultra-fast start up (1.2 seconds). Improved auto focus performance. High quality VGA motion capture at 30 frames per seconde with sound matching camcorders for motion picture smoothness. RAW mode enabling unprocessed file saving. High sensitivity setting (up to ISO 800,1500, 1600) with low noise. XD picture card. Underwater housing for this camera is priced at a low \$300.00.

For more information:

www.humminbird.co.nz

Follow the instructions under software downloads.

Sea and Sea Aquanaut:

The AquaPix fully functional 3.1 mega pixel digital camera that is fully amphibious, greatly reducing the chances of water damage and flooding. Features a meniscus lens for above or below the surface. The standard lens is a 38mm and the AquaPix utilizes all of the lenses designed for the MX10. It has a built in colour correction filter and macro lens with the flip of a switch the diver can move between using the colour correction filter. No filter or use the close up lens. This is all done internally. It also has a built in flash diffuser. Utilizes multi flash function. Contains a built in 16 MB memory. Comes standard with a complete storage, editing and image manipulation software. Capable of capturing 2 minutes and 43 seconds of video which is saved in the AVI format.

For more information:

www.fujifilm.co.nz/digital



**It's a funny thing
about life; if you
refuse to accept
anything but the
best, you very often
get anything but
the best.**

Raffle Winners:

**Phil Dale
Matt Reeve
Divemaster Don**

Sponsors:

**Sydney Diver City
Shiprock Dive**

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

Position Vacant at the Next Meeting:**President:** Keep order at meetings, spokesperson, chair meetings, agenda for meeting.**Secretary:** Keep minutes, keep all records, make records available to members for inspection.**Treasurer:** Monies due received and payments made, keep books and accounts, etc.**Photographic Officer:** All matters related to photographic competitions**Social Secretary:** Organising social events land based.**Dive Organiser:** Scuba Diving related events.**Publicity Officer:** Mailing and Publishing newsletters.**Weekend Away**

Jervis Bay aboard the
Ocean Trek live-
aboard.

Diving some of the
best locations on the
planet.

Weekend the 3rd and
4th of April 2004.

Anyone interested?

For the sum of
\$374.00. Deposit
\$150.00 must be
paid by the end of
February.

Contact Tom Byron
Phone: 46214504

Scuba Dive Outings (March) 2004

Saturday 6th: Boat Dive 8.30 *The Bridge*. 10.30 *Pussy Cat Bay*. Shore Dive 1.00 *Windy Point*.

Sunday 7th: Boat Dive 10.30 *Tupia Head*. 10.30 *Drift Dive in Bay*. Shore Dive 1.00 *Oak Park*.

Saturday 13th: Boat Dive 8.30 *The Slide*. 10.30 *Minmi Wreck*. Shore Dive 1.00 *The Leap*.

Sunday 14th: Boat Dive 8.30 *Tobbagai Gap*. 10.30 *Henry's Head*. Shore Dive *The Steps*.

Saturday 20th: Boat Dive 8.30 *Exploratory Dive*. 10.30 *Bare Island*. Shore Dive *Windy Point*.

Sunday 21st: Boat Dive 8.30 *St Michaels Drop*. 10.30 *Exploratory Dive*. Shore Dive *Voo Doo*.

Saturday 27th: Boat Dive 10.30 *Yenna Gap*.

Sunday 28th: Boat Dive 8.30 *Potter Point*. 10.30 *Don's Hole*. **BBQ at Shop about midday.**

Ring Divemaster Don on 96688200 for further information.

SPECIALS:

New Ladies size 14 Mares Isotherm semi dry suit \$500. New Mares Volo Fins \$275.

New Mares Regulator System MR12 Epos/Axis \$1150. See Divemaster Don on 96688200.

President Report continued from page 1

I would like to thank Tom Byron for producing our first newsletter for 2004 and what a fantastic job. Also I thank Tom for his thought provoking suggestions and would encourage all our members to contribute and keep our club vibrant and moving forward.

Lets make this year, 2004 the year of the scuba diver and hope to see you all under the water and at club meetings. May I remind all members that the "Clean-up

Australia Day" is Sunday March 7th. I have checked with Don from Divercity and he has a boat dive on that Sunday and there are vacancies available. I would like to suggest a BBQ at Kurnell. High tide is 09.27, this would make a great opportunity to do a shore or boat dive and a bit of a clean-up of Kurnell foreshore.

From last years meeting, we

had talked about a get together dinner in March, 3rd Saturday/Sunday of the month. We had named it "Debbie Does Dinner" I will confirm the booking and details with Debbie and let you all know the outcome.

President

Amanda Taylor



Success in
underwater
photography comes
from experience and
experience comes
from bad photos in
underwater
photography.

SPD Club Meeting 16th February 2004

Incoming Correspondence:

Bank statement, Big M reminder invoice, URG Bulletin, British Sub Aqua Club letter re advertising, Bankstown Sports Club invoice (mistake), BOC Invoice and statement, Doubtless and Diving Newsletter.

Guest Speaker:

Historical Society John Summer. During a "pep" talk John advised that he has dived over 100 shipwrecks along the coast and still has another 50 or so that he wants to do.

John is leaving for the Solomon Islands soon. He sells lots of books and is looking for someone to continue his business. Will haggle a price.

Treasury:

January quite, paid Big M storage, few memberships in, again spent more than what came in.

Photographic Officer:

Not a lot happening, George Roberts Trophy will be run later in the year we need a few months to get organised,

Amanda will run the contest and Peter will help her.

Might also do an interclub competition possibly through SCANS.

Diving:

Sydney Divercity 8.00 Saturday, will need to know by Thursday. \$40.00 per dive. Weather depending.

SCANS:

Combined Club Day 21st March, Frenchman's Bay area. Come for a dive and a free BBQ lunch. Many clubs
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Organization

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Email: tombyronpublishers@hotmail.com

WWW.southpacificdivers.com

Contact Phone Numbers:

President:
Amanda Taylor 0407690077

Secretary:
Susan Tate 96813287

are supplying items of food. Drinks are available for sale (beer and soft drinks). Need to know numbers. Maybe at Yarra Bay or Long Bay as Randwick Council are working around Frenchman's Bay. Some boats will be on hand to shuttle divers back and fourth to Bare Island. High tide 9.30am.

Website:

Vacant, Phil Taylor will liaise with Noel to get everything up to date and obtain various codes, passwords etc. Peter Flockard will also be given access.

Sydney Divercity:

Divermaster Don advises last weekend was a good weekend for diving. (Valentines Day). Saturday had a boat full of girls, champers, chocolates and chicken sandwiches. May have found the wreck of *Advance*.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Clean Up Australian Day, March 7th:

Both Sydney Divercity and Sea Tamer 11 are doing clean up dives, contact them for further information. SPD will have a BBQ lunch, will list details on the web. High tide 9.27am.

Club Dinner:

Big Johns on Rocky Point Road, BBQ and licensed is back on the agenda again. A date will be chosen when Debbie and Mark return.

AGM:

Will be held in the April meeting. A list of positions will be placed in this newsletter. The Club will have to look at a business/working plan, fundraising ideas would be appreciated. See a committee member with your ideas.

Sponsors:

Sydney Divercity, Shiprock Dive, and possible a third sponsor, Wilderness Sea and Ski from Liverpool. Discussion that it should have been brought up to members for discussion and not decided on or deals made without consulting the members. Amanda advised to put any grievances in writing for discussion at the next meeting's agenda.

Secretary's Position:

Appears that we maybe in breach as we have been running since November's meeting without a secretary, although Sue has been maintaining that position. According to the rules we need to hold a special resolution at the next meeting wherein members will be given 21 days notice to vote on the position until the next AGM.

BACK PAGE STORY: Face masks 1940

Members of the Underwater Spearfishermen's Association have for some time been using, and extolling the virtues of a remarkably successful development of the face mask, the Denny Wells Helmet.

Its chief claim to fame is that it does not leak and cannot be torn off in rough weather or by kicking vigorously from the bottom to the surface.

It's cheap, it's light, does not have dead air space to cause discomfort at depths, and protects the ears from ingress of water, but not from pressure. The difference the wearing of the helmet makes to comfort and warmth is unbelievable.

This is how to make it:

Take about 20 pounds of quick setting Plaster of Paris, a one pound roll of rubber dough (vulcanising rubber for tube repair), a tube of Bostick or similar fortified rubber cement, a few strips of calico or sheeting and a piece of quarter plate glass cut to the shape of your eyes and nose.

The first part is the hardest. Tuck your hair underneath a bathing cap and then smear your face and cap with Vaseline, sump oil or anything greasy, so the plaster will not stick.

Once you have mixed the plaster reasonably thick, lie on your back and get someone to apply the plaster, about an inch thick, to the front half of your head and face, down to your mouth.

Plaster in the eyes is annoying, so protect them with small pads of cotton wool. Do not talk for about ten minutes until the plaster sets and if you must breath, do so without moving your face, as the plaster will crack. Mix more plaster and holding the front half of the mould in place, lie on your tummy and have your assistant repeat the process on the back of your head. Do not forget to grease the edges of the front half, or you will become famous as the man in the plaster cast.

Continued next month: How to get yourself out of a plaster cast.

Plaster Cast Helmets For Divers 1940 Style

