

Club Dives
Weekends Away

Social Outings
Wreck Diving

Reef Diving
Boat Diving

Shore Diving
Night Diving

South Pacific Divers Club

Established 1960

Wet Rag

December 2004

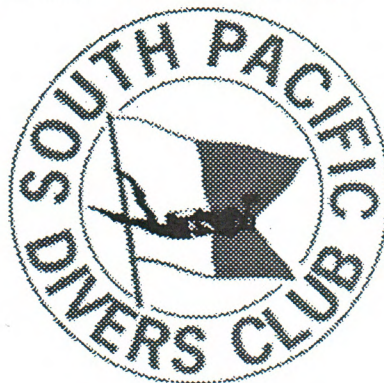
www.southpacificdivers.com

It's wet, it's frothy, it's rough & it's flat
It surges all around you and can knock you on your back
It's green and it's blue, it's brown and it's clear
And the one thing for sure, it does nothing with a sneer
It invites you, it embraces you, it entices you in
So everybody this Xmas, don your tanks and go in for a swim
MERRY CHRISTMAS ALL



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<i>And other associated flotsam</i>	



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 Other correspondence should be sent to South Pacific Divers Club PO Box 823 Bankstown. NSW 1885

EDITORS CORNER

Merry Xmas everyone. I hope you all have a very safe one and the New Year delivers that which you wish.

Enjoy

Ed

Duane

I wasn't able to dive, or for that matter do



much at all other than to enjoy the spectacle of our feathered friends at the Caravan Park.



Cover Photo

Some of the Port Stephens contingent having drinkies on the verandah of one of our cottages at Halifax Caravan Park. Note the Christine look a like with straight hair.

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

As your President, I would be remiss in my duties if I didn't mention that Club membership fees are due prior to the 31st of December. Remember, to be an active part of this Club you have to be a paid up member.

In conclusion to the George Roberts photographic competition, a big congratulations to the place getters and an extra big thank you to Peter Flockart for his efforts in conducting the Comp.

It was great to see those that attended to the Club weekend away at Port Stephens, it was a terrific time and I personally enjoyed getting away and getting wet. This was the first time that I have actually dived this area and even though the water was a little murky on some dives, I found the diving more than enjoyable and look forward to more trips to the area.

I have to say that for those of you who were unable to attend to the SPD Xmas party at Chelsea's Restaurant, you all missed out on a great night. It turned out to be an inexpensive outing with great entertainment and the food was good to boot along with the company.

In an anticipation, I am looking forward to a bright New Year for the Club. I wish everyone all the very best in both diving and in their health. I hope you all have a very safe Xmas and get lots of presents and the dreams you have for the new year all come true.

HO!HO!HO!

Merry Xmas

See you at the next meeting.

Bernd Kraul

President

Remember Members

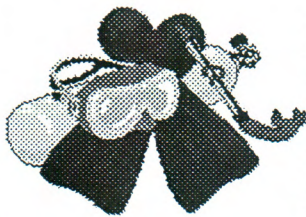
If you have a need, then think about our regular loyal sponsors.

**Ship Rock Dive
6/155 Taren Pt Rd, Taren
Point.
02-95262664**

**Will supply you with air, gear and travel there.
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

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

**Membership fees are now due for 2005,
with the last date of full membership
being the 31st of December 2004.**

**Should dues not be received and
recognised as received by the
Committee on, or before the 31st
December 2004, members voting rights
will cease. Should fees not be received
by the 1st February 2005, membership
will cease upon this date.**



Committee Members

Bernie Kraul	President	98232231
Susan Tate	Secretary	0428-241837
Mark Pinna	Treasurer	0414-227119
Peter Flockart	Photographic Officer	0409-304959
Vacant	Equipment Officer	
Duane Langley	Editor	0414-777778
Vacant	Web Page Officer	

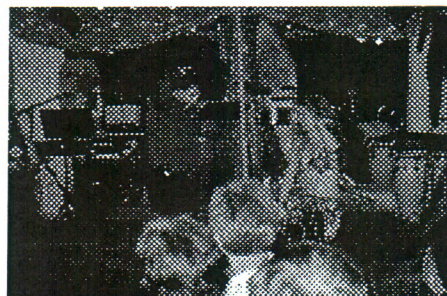
CLUB T/SHIRTS

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. The T Shirts are \$20.00 each. Caps are also available. \$15.00 each. Also there is the availability of having your own garment embroidered with the Club logo.

SPD Christmas Party

Chelsea's Kogarah was the perfect place for this years Christmas Outing. Smorgasbord dinner, including seafood and an array of meat dishes, with salads and rice etc. Great value too. All you could eat with a very entertaining show – in both the skilful and funny categories.

Did you know your president could belly dance?? Well, those who attended were treated to a sight and a laugh to say the least.



We also had a treat watching 2 of Australia's finest ballroom dancers – what energy and perfect sync. They even shared a few step routines with various hand picked patrons – matched up from the audience, who then proceeded to enthrall us with their new found dance routines. That also was a load of laughs, as well as being pleasantly surprised by the grace of a few. All in all a great time was had by all. Again we found, great food, company and laughs!

Sue Tate.



Shiprock Dive



Leo Hillyer & Lesley Hillyer
AQUA SEA & SHIPROCK

DIVE

#6 155 Taren Point Road
TAREN POINT SYDNEY NSW
2229

Ph: 02.95404774 =3D Aqua Sea. Ph:
02.95262664 =3D Shiprock Dive
Fx: 02.95262906. Leo Mob:
0408.002315. Lesley Mob:
0418.285500.

info@aquasea.com.au www.aquasea.
com.au info@shiprockdive.com.au =
www.shiprockdive.com.au

Dive site in the Making



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 the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition, open to all underwater photographers in Australia and Overseas. 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.

Photographic Officers Report

Firstly, apologies for not having the report in for last months Wet Rag but I was attending the SCANS weekend at Ulladulla.

Based on the overall scores and in accordance with the rules I would like to congratulate the winners of the George Roberts Competition.

Water Theme was won by Sue Tate

Novice section & winner of the George Roberts trophy to Mark Pinna

Overall winner of the Novice Section was Matt Reeves.

I would like to thank all the judges who took the time to score the slides & the entrants for their time and dedication in entering the George Roberts competition for 2004.

Also I would like to wish all members / spouses & their families the very best for Xmas 2004 and all the best for the New Year.

Thank you,

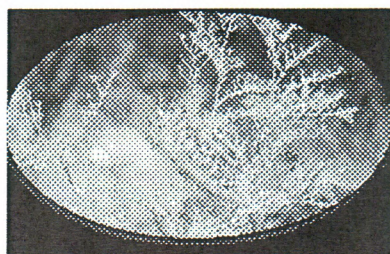
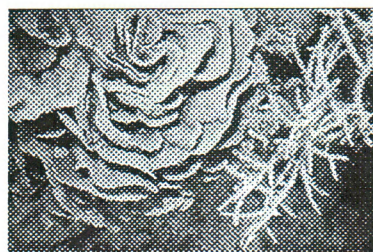
Peter Flockart.
Photographic Officer

More of Peter's Photo's



Coleman's
shrimp on
fire urchin

Lettuce Coral



Pink Aeolid

Port Stephens Club Weekend Away

Thank You to SPD Members, families and friends who made it an enjoyable weekend away at the beautiful Port Stephens.

Our accommodation was more than adequate with plenty of room for spreading out and drying



out our gear. That's right – we even managed a dive or two.

Phil took his boat, so there were boat dives on offer, scenic tours of the Bay and my personal favourite – dolphin tours. The weather was beautiful one day – perfect the next. Yeah I know that was stolen from Queensland, but it was true.

We all arrived at different times on Friday night which let for a sleep in for some and a late dive Saturday afternoon at Halifax.

Although we could walk there, we cheated and drove – it was a bit too hot to walk that distance fully kitted up. Once in the water there were all sorts of critters to see. Peter

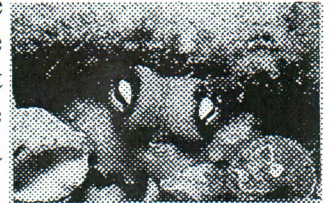


had his camera and was busy flashing around the place. Although there were dolphins everywhere, we didn't see any underwater. I tried to swim out to a pod but an untimely boat sent them diving and leaving me bobbing around looking for flipper so I could hitch a lift to the shore. (dream on)

Saturday night we had a special guest visit at our home – a blast from the past, an Aqua Sports local, Christine Grey Who defected up to Port Stephens some years ago and of course, loving

it! The boys cooked a great BBQ, girls sorted the salads and we ate, drank and laughed the night away. We even had the locals entertain us. Parrots at least 50 of them descended on the balcony of where we were, and we hand fed them with various handfuls of bread. They were very tame and thought nothing of landing on your head and finishing off their pieces of bread.

Sunday saw much the same as Saturday, with a visit to the local markets and shopping-centre. Back in time for our afternoon dive. Mark and I chose a boat dive, while the others made the same pilgrimage as Saturday. We fed and had a huge pat of the large, friendly blue gropers (friendly when fed) who followed us everywhere, not to mention the eels, wobbly's and port jacksons lying lazily around the rocks. We saw a huge snail minus the shell, various size nudis, lots of maiden hair and schools of fish – all different sorts, but the best of all was this eye we could see looking out a 6" roundish hole in the rock. It looked to be a rather large octopus.



All in all it was an enjoyable weekend and most of the members chose to stay the Sunday night as well, another BBQ, chicken this time for dinner – then with a tear in our eye, we bid goodbye for home.

Susan
Tate.



SPD MEETING 15th NOVEMBER, 2004

Apologies: Nick.

Incoming Correspondence: Bank statement, Ryde Underwater newsletter, URG Bulletin, Halifax Park Details.

Outgoing Correspondence: Newsletter.

Minutes: Accepted by Peter, seconded by Glen

Treasurer Report - Back from holidays – Italy. Office of Fair Trading have sent 2 letters – re the current submission (corrections required) and a list of past submissions not received.

Photographic Officer – Apologies, has been busy, next newsletter will contain a report. Final George Roberts.

Newsletter Editor – Still waiting for anyone wishing to supply photo's or articles, other than Peter.

Website – still working on the new website – currently looking for pictures from last AV night – Have you seen the new site (still under construction) any criticisms ? Click on photo's to enlarge – will try and make it more user friendly.

DIVE REPORTS

Mark didn't get to dive in Italy – but was shown numerous dive sites. Water temperature warmer than here, lots of coral diving. Boat dives cost 30 euro/ A \$45-50 approximately.

GENERAL BUSINESS

SCANS Weekend – Ulladulla – weather cleared up for weekend, approximately 70 divers from various Clubs, 8 boats, flat seas, 20m viz, seals, dolphins, whales 16 degree surface temperature, 12 degrees on the bottom – cold but clear and flat. Ulladulla diving is extremely underrated.

SPD XMAS PARTY - Friday 10th December - Chelseas Cabaret Restaurant – 10 spots have been booked \$35.00 per person – all you can eat dinner and show. Dinner at 8.00 pm. Call Bernie to book.

AV Discs – Peter has some that are too big for him to open, he will give to Michael or Mitch. Next AV penciled in for mid to late October, 2005.

Duane raised a motion to hold the AV in October 2005. Matt seconded. Members voted unanimously. Discussions re the AV night were held with some great ideas coming out.

SCANS Combined Clubs weekend – Port Stephens – suggested 12th and 13th May, 2005.

Port Stephens Weekend away, Friday 3rd December, Sat 4th and Sun 5th - Halifax Caravan Park. Bookings are to be done individually on 4981 1522. Different sorts of accommodation is available, see www.beachsideholidays.com.au/halifax

Christmas Raffle- tickets on sale now. \$2.00 per ticket, will be drawn at Christmas. 1st & 2nd prizes. In your newsletter is a tear off that can be sent to us with a cheque, for those that cannot make the meetings.

George Roberts Competition - November

Matthew Reeve 1st Novice

Susan Tate 2nd Novice

Susan Tate 1st Water Theme

Matthew Reeve 2nd Water Theme

The Pending Scuttling of the HMAS Brisbane

Ø The project is managed by Sinclair Knight Merz, I believe the same mob who scuttled the sister ships, HMAS Hobart and HMAS Perth. The project is coordinated by the Queensland Park and Wildlife Services (QPWS)
Ø Scuttling is still planned between May and July, depending on how long it takes to prepare the ship
Ø The ship is docked at the Cairncross Dockyard in Lytton until preparations are complete. You can see the HMAS Brisbane from the river between the gateway bridge and Pinkenba but the dock partially blocks the view of the ship.
Ø If you haven't got a clue how a destroyer looks like and how big 133m in length is, I would suggest you visit the Diamantina at the south bank maritime museum. The Diamantina is 90m in length so add 1/3 in length for the Brisbane. The inside of the Diamantina is a real gem with her displays and the shiny polished brass in the engine room. The Brisbane is also steam propelled but the engine room is a couple of decades younger and it is jammed pack with pipes so you don't have the same feel for it!
Ø Scuttling location is about 3 nautical miles east of Old Woman Island and about 2 nautical miles north of the Gneerings. While assessing the area, a new potential site was identified close by, with a depth slightly better than the 28m site in question - I haven't got anymore details at this stage

Ø The area in question will become a marine park, managed by QPWS

Ø Fishing will be excluded from the zone

Ø I don't know the latest but the indication I got is the site will be accessed by licensed commercial dive operations only, limited by the number of moorings at the site (probably around 8), meaning no club or recreational boat access.

Ø A tender process will select the successful operators but they were talks of new operations being planned, some being very big boat operations so I guess the allocation of mooring may not prove popular with some.

Ø Given that we are talking Queensland and its regulation approach, the principles of the tourism in protected areas (TIPA) will apply to the site and potentially tour guide accreditation Don't ask me what TIPA covers as I haven't looked into it yet

Ø An audit of the ship hazardous materials has been completed and asbestos has been found in large quantities on the ship, much more than on the sister ships. The cost of asbestos would be very significant to the preparation budget cost and this is likely to dictate how much of the ship is open. I guess we will have to wait and find out when the cost of removal is known

Ø Roy Gabriel is the expert in charge of the ship preparation and scuttling, with expertise in scuttling many ships as artificial reef, including the sister ship

Ø The plan is to sink her as quickly as possible in an interesting is the use of tugs to hold the ship in
Ø 172 explosive charges will be set around the ship. mile of the ship when sinking occurs. I guess there day!

Ø 2 dives will be made the immediately after sinking ; discharged, and to remove all wires/debris from the shifted during sinking, and that the site is ready to
Ø At least two exit holes will be made into every area of each hole but they look like about 8 feet square. The on each corner, with the cuts resealed. During the so at to blast open each hole.

Ø The ship is professionally prepared, without help from volunteers. The cheapest option will be used to open up the ship, most likely cut and remove. No much recycling will happen from the removed material as it is probably not financially worth it.

Ø The plan is to open one engine room and boiler room but all depends on the cost of asbestos removal and whether there is enough money for this

Ø The wheelhouse will be recreated as a shell so as to give back the appearance;

Ø The mast will be cut off and will probably end up as a piece museum somewhere

Ø The Navy has requested one of the gun but this may or may not happen, given the agro and cost of removing it. I guess a fake gun will be put instead in this happens

Ø Mooring will be installed about 30m away from the ship but link to her by ropes. I guess the same moorings as the sister ships

Ø The project will be self supporting regarding funding. Fees will contribute towards the cost of management of the site - I guess a similar system that of the sister ships

She will be sunk in shallower waters than her sister ships, her mast cut off, her wheelhouse replaced by a fake shell, potentially a fake gun and some prospect of one engine room opened up.
So what will makes the HMAS Brisbane special as a dive site? I guess the location on the sunshine coast, being close to Brisbane, what I rate as a popular doormat to the great barrier reef given that most tourist shoot off straight up north without checking out the wonderful diving we have around here! As for the rest, it will all depends on how much the HMAS Brisbane is opened up so as to make her a cut above the sister ships!

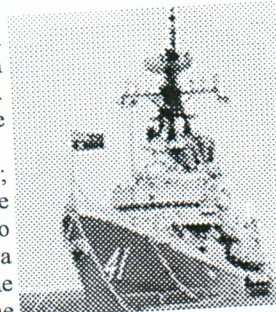
There is a group representing recreational divers at the Stakeholders Advisory Group but the group in question doesn't seem keen to inform people and clubs not affiliated with their body so the above information is what I know and may not be up to date.

Please treat this information as indication rather than gospel!

The QPWS has a website on the Brisbane
http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/about_the_epa/coming_events/sink_the_brisbane/

This letter was sent to John Olsen from a colleague and John has passed it on to us for an interest article. The original pre-amble has been deleted to allow single page inclusion.

Ed.





upright position in about 2 minutes. What I found position as it sinks.

No spectator craft will be allowed within 1 nautical mile. There will be a very long queue at the boat ramps on the



the first to check all explosives have been ship, and the second to ensure no materials were dive.

opened up for penetration. Don't know the exact size outer holed will be oxycut except for about 4 inches scuttling the explosive charges will cut the corners

December 2004

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3 SPDC Dive &	4 Social Weekend @	5 Port Stephens
6	7	8	9	10 SPDC Xmas Party @ Chelseas	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Club Meeting	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2005

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

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB

P.O. BOX 823 BANKSTOWN 1885

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2005

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, advise 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.

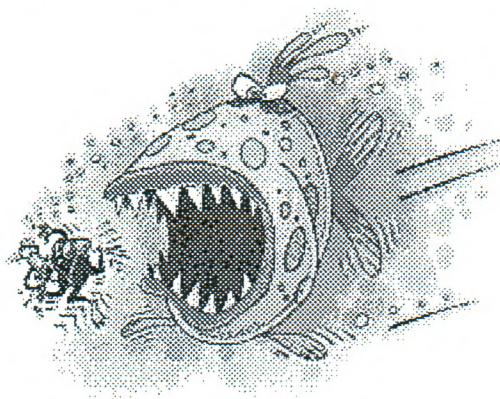
SIGNED.....

DATE.....

Committee Use: Receipt No. Email/ Member List

FEELING OUT of YOUR DEPTH...
TEAM UP WITH LAWYERS THAT SUIT YOU!

LEDLIN



PARTNERS

BUSINESS & COMMERCIAL LAWYERS

Call Terry Ledlin (LLB) or Chris Swanson (LLB) on (02) 9708 2811, fax (02) 9796 2886,
email them at mail@ledlin.com.au or call at our offices at 410 Chapel Road in
Bankstown or 99 Elizabeth Street in Sydney, NSW

THE NEXT
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS
UNDERWATER
PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION
COMING
LATE
2005

**THIS EVENT WILL SET THE BENCH MARK FOR ALL OTHER UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC
COMPETITIONS.**

THE FORMAT WILL BE FRESH, CRISP AND PLEASING,

THE SPONSORSHIP IS ALREADY STRONG,

THE WORK LOAD FOR OUR CLUB MEMBERS WILL BE DEMANDING,

SO GET READY TO SHOW THE WORLD WHY SPDC MEMBERS DO IT BETTER.