



ESTABLISHED  
1962

# WET RAG

[www.southpacificdivers.com](http://www.southpacificdivers.com)

OCTOBER | 06



October is  
**SHARK  
MONTH**

## THIS MONTH:

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*Pic. David Harasti*

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# Club President's Report

*Wow, it's great how things are starting to take shape again. We've had plenty of positive feedback regarding changing the scope of the Wet Rag from just a club newsletter to an eMag. The Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year used to be something South Pacific Divers Club organised for the good of the entire diving community, and for now, the Wet Rag is our flagship, with similar goals.*

## THANK YOU

Once again, sincere thanks are in order for all the effort Kylie Suttor has contributed. Without her volunteering design skills and time, the Wet Rag wouldn't look as professional as it does. Scott Leimroth deserves praise this month as well as he's gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping organise activities and source suppliers for our new clothing and merchandise range. As usual, Geoff Cook has been pulling more than his own weight, and he's no waif either.

It's great to be back in touch with the diving community at large and gratitude is in order for people such as Dave Ireland in agreeing to be our guest speaker at the Shark Month launch night, David Strike for helping out with material, Barry Hallett for assisting the Rebreather group, and a number of other distinguished industry identities for their well wishes.

## LAUNCH NIGHTS

Speaking of launch nights, another innovation is running with theme months, gearing diving, social and other external activities in line with each month's theme. October is Shark Month, November is Wreck Month and December is Ecology Month.

Club meetings need to be more entertaining, hence changing the occasion to launch nights. From now on, most general business can be handled by the committee, without subjecting everyone to often dry, day-to-day matters. If anything important pops up, members are always welcome to address a committee meeting or have their thoughts published in the Wet Rag.

Dive reports are better in the Wet Rag as well, and we'd love members to be more active in sending information in regarding their adventures. You don't have to be a literary scholar, Scott Leimroth can help put things together, even from point form.

## PLENTY ON THE HORIZON

On a different note, please pay close attention to events planned over the next few months as there is plenty going on. Our October launch night will be on Wrecks, with October 16th being the launch night for November Wreck Month.

The big SCAN day is on the 12th of November, an Afternoon of Sea Stories, organised by Peter Fields the day before on Nov 11th, and 2006 An Ocean Odyssey will take place on November 17th, presented by Barry Andrewartha. These people have always been strong supporters of our club, it's only fair that we support them in return.

Cheers,  
John Fardoulis, President.

[john@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:john@southpacificdivers.com)

## Editors Report

### BY SCOTT LEIMROTH

Welcome to edition number two of the new look Wet Rag. Thanks for the support readers. At the time of writing this, the first edition has had over 2000 downloads... wow! From all the feedback we received it seems our readership is very happy with the new format. Since our first edition was such a roaring success we decided to try to do even better this time round so we hope you enjoy this edition even more than the last. Email me at [scott@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:scott@southpacificdivers.com) with your comments and feedback. Letters to the editor will be printed and all comments and suggestions for improving the Wet Rag will be taken on board.

This issue is the first focusing on the club's theme for the month and this month is 'Shark Month'. We have some great contributions for experts in the field on grey nurse sharks such as David Ireland and Carley Bansemer. Along with these we have our regular sections such as dive reports, special interest group updates and reports, Buy, Swap, Sell and our Dive calendar for the month. We even have a new 'gossip' column by the mysterious Bunyip.

Don't forget to come along to this month's club meeting where we launch Shark Month with a bang with some great guest speakers including David Ireland who will be de-mystifying sharks and showing us how most of our pre-conceived fear and prejudices against them are ill informed.

We have a great raffle on the night and

you can even sign on for one of the many dives we have organised. You don't have to be a member to attend or to dive with us. Meetings are at Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Parade, Bankstown. There is ample FREE parking in the club.

Meetings start at 8pm but we usually meet in the Greenfield Station Bistro for dinner before hand at around 7pm so come along and introduce yourself and I'm sure you'll be surprised by the welcome you receive.

Special thanks to all our contributors this month and we hope to make next month's edition even bigger and better so please send in your articles, dive reports and stories and get published in Australia's newest and possibly best looking dive publication/e-zine the Wet Rag.

Safe Diving,  
Scott



# SPDC AUGUST CLUB MEETING & MOVIE NIGHT

*The August club meeting was held in a new room of the Bankstown Sports Club, complete with digital lighting control, a movie screen that dropped down the wall like a James Bond movie and other hi-tech audio visual equipment.*



Past committee members Mark Pinna, Susan Tate and Duane Langley received framed certificates of appreciation in recognition of their hard work and effort over the past years.

Noel Taylor showed a variety of videos including footage of Solomon Island wrecks, The President Coolidge and even some old underwater footage of Oak Park in Sydney.

Geoff Cook was surprised at the end of the video session as the lights remained dimmed and we presented him with a birthday cake (we couldn't put a candle for each year or we would have had a major fire on our hands) and we all sang happy birthday.

We raffled off a blue tooth headset and will have another for our next meeting, so be sure you attend to have a chance at this great prize.

Dives were organised (see dive calendar) and the past months diving was discussed and deemed a success by all. Leo Bergagnin our social secretary was voted in as Vice President to help out when the President is unavailable due to work commitments.

You don't have to be a member, anyone is welcome to attend club meetings which are held at Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Parade, Bankstown on the 3rd Monday of every month at 8pm. We usually meet in the bistro downstairs for dinner around 7pm so feel free to come along and join in the fun.

**NEXT CLUB MEETING is Shark Month launch night 8pm, Monday September 18th at Bankstown Sportsman's Club. Come along, hear from shark experts and you could WIN!**



## SPDC Memberships September



**ANDY NELSON**

*NEW Single Membership*



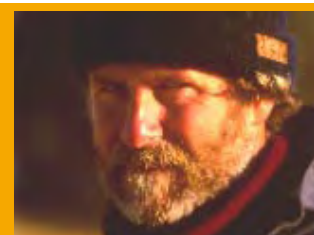
**NOEL TAYLOR**

*Renewed Single Membership*



**JACKIE ROTENSTEIN**

*Renewed Single Membership*



**NEIL VINCENT**

*Renewed Single Membership*



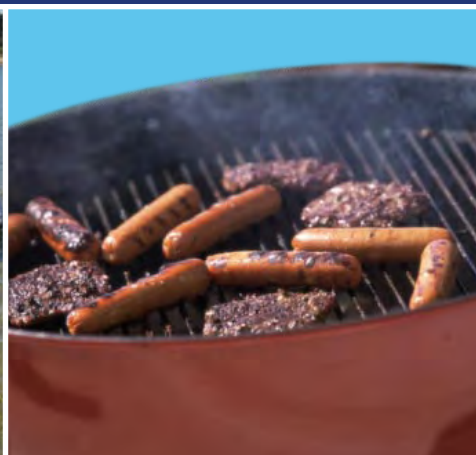
**SCOTT EGGINGTON**

*Renewed Single Membership*

## JOIN US!

*To become a Member of the South Pacific Divers Club fill in the application form on **page 41** of the Wet Rag or contact John Fardoulis - email [john@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:john@southpacificdivers.com)*

# FREE BOAT DIVE!



*Come along and have a dive with us.  
Everyone is welcome - you don't have to be a  
member of the South Pacific Dive Club.*

## SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16

Boats leaving Little Manly Beach 9AM onwards every 2 hours.

### **PLUS** POST-DIVE BBQ ON THE BEACH

**RSVP** by 12 mid-day Friday 15th September [john@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:john@southpacificdivers.com)



# Dive Organizers Report Sep | 06

*Spring is upon us and now with our extra dive organizers in, Scott Hansman, Brett Seriani and a part time role by John Fardoulis, when time permits, getting into the swing of things and the dive calendar is filling up.*

I suppose the big picture vision here is that in the near future we will have 6 to 8 dive organizers that each organize a dive a month providing an interesting variation of the sites and types of diving. If there is a spot you really want to dive then let us know and soon enough it will happen. Or perhaps if you really want to grow as a member, organize the dive yourself.

It really is not that hard. Most is done at the monthly meeting and then on a few emails.

As the Club is moving forward the more diving we do, it is creating a swell of enthusiasm and that swell is bringing back the old members, returning to the fold, and new fresh faces.

They are all are welcome because they to are here to see that South Pacific Divers Is not just a Club but a way of life. In the last month I have had several dives with new members and potential members.

I can say they are keen and we have impressed them as a nurturing club and a club that has something to offer. Socially too dives have been followed by food and stories.

I recently read an article that told of a group of divers that broke a world endurance diving record diving for 24 hours straight without surface breaks.



I remember Rob Casson did something some years ago with three days diving but with breaks on the surface. This was different as this was continuous. That seems like something we could do for a charity like the Careflight. 24 hours seems simple. Who else wants to get their name in the records books.

It has been pleasing to see the renewed enthusiasm of the club members and friends with attendance at each dive growing and growing.

Spring is here and the water is on the warm and you will see a few night dives and rock hops on the program.

I was even asked the other day to organize a night dive on the Tuggerah just to put bit of excitement in our lives when it gets a little warmer.

Another night dive in the pipeline is a night dive back at Barrens Hutt or Barrens Hutt North.

Other coming events include diving in the Manly Aquarium, a tour of a recompression chamber club family picnic and diving days at Bass Point, and that will include diving for some new site dives off the point.

I have been speaking with Neil Vincent of Terrigal Underwater Group and plans are in the early stages of a combined club day or Weekend at the central coast diving their wrecks and reefs. So a lot is happening in the background and the more organizers we have makes the work load lighter.

So there it is. Check out the dive calendar here in the wet rag. Obviously plenty is happening, you just have to make the decision to be there or better still hop in and run a dive.

See you on a dive soon, and bring along a friend too...

**Barjumpa.**

**For shark month, we have organized a trip to Forster on the weekend of 20,21,22 October diving with Ron Hunter and the beautiful Grey Nurse Sharks.**

**See page 6 for details.**



# SHARK MONTH LAUNCH NIGHT



**September 18th**  
**Bankstown Sports Club.**

Hear some of Dave Ireland's exciting true stories and gain insight into what goes on in wildlife TV production.

Be part of a cause helping to save an endangered species (grey nurse)

## **NEW DIVERS**

Come along to dispel myths regarding how dangerous Sharks are to Scuba divers

## **EXPERIENCED DIVERS**

Come along and find out how you see one of nature's greatest wonders in the wild, and learn about what makes them tick - particularly on regular Sydney dives



## Guest speaker: **David Ireland**

David founded the Cronulla Dive School in 1970. He soon built the business to be one of Australia's largest diver training centres in the southern hemisphere.



Awarded the National Association of Diving Instructors award for teaching the most amount of divers in Australia 1983 and 1994, he taught from 1970-1994 and qualified over 15,000 divers with a 100% safety record.

It was while spending countless hours underwater that he became interested in hand feeding and interacting with marine animals.

David formed a relationship with a pack of Grey Nurse Sharks off Cronulla which he hand fed over a seven-year period. The close relationship with the sharks led to the discovery of a formerly unknown shark behaviour.

David witnessed that the sharks "cracked" their tail when they became aggressive. This tail cracking behaviour David thus reported to government scientists who then requested film evidence. David's subsequent footage launched his career as a wildlife cameraman and film producer.

A home made underwater housing and a 16 mm Bolex camera were the tools that David used for his first underwater film. He held a fish in one hand and the camera in the other. When the shark took the fish David virtually stuck the movie camera in the shark's mouth. The footage literally blew away the producer of the Good Morning Australia show on channel 10 Australia. Within weeks David became a regular presenter on the national television show, and went on to record many short television specials for channel Ten.

The television exposure David received, along with the countless hours David had spent filming marine animals, attracted organizations to invite David to attend functions as the guest public speaker. Topics included behaviour of animals and photography and telling true-life stories of action packed adventures while on location filming animals.

David became a regular guest speaker on numerous national television programmes and numerous organisations.

# CREATURE FEATURE



## GREY NURSE SHARKS

### *Carcharias taurus*

**carcharo** - sharp pointed, jagged (Greek).  
Refers to the teeth.

**taurus** - bull (Latin). Presumably refers to  
the stocky body.

The Grey Nurse Shark grows to a length of 3.6m. Males mature at 2.1m and females at 2.2m.

There are over 370 species of sharks world wide, 166 occur in Australian waters. The family Odontaspidae contains two genera; *Carcharias* and *Odontaspis*. Two species (both genera) occur in Australian waters; the Grey Nurse Shark and Herbsts Nurse Shark *Odontaspis ferox*.

The family Odontaspidae is recorded throughout the world oceans. Grey Nurse Sharks are found in tropical and temperate waters in the Atlantic, Indian and western Pacific Oceans, although the species is known by different common names in different regions. It is recorded from all states of Australia except Tasmania.

The Grey Nurse Shark lives in shallow coastal waters from the surf zone down to 60m, although it has been recorded from water as deep as 190m.

During the day, they are generally found in the vicinity of dropoffs, caves and ledges. The image on the right shows typical Grey Nurse Shark habitat on the coastline of southern Sydney, New South Wales (view larger image).

The Grey Nurse is a distinctive fish which is usually grey-brown on top and a dirty white underneath. A distinctive character of this species is that both dorsal fins and the anal fin are of a similar size. It is a sluggish species which is not considered dangerous to people, although divers should never provoke it. Some sharks, such as the Great White, *Carcharodon carcharias* roll their eyes back in the sockets immediately before attacking prey. At this time, the electrosensory ability is most important because the shark cannot rely on sight.

The teeth of the Grey Nurse Shark are constantly being replaced. This means that older, damaged or blunt teeth on the exterior surfaces of the jaws are replaced by new teeth. In the whaler sharks, family *Carcharhinidae*, each tooth is replaced every eight to fifteen days.

They are sluggish sharks which feed on fish, which are pierced with the sharp teeth.



Pic. David Harasti



Pic. David Harasti





# Grey Nurse Sharks of Cronulla 1975...



## DAVID IRELAND

From 1970 to 1994, I owned and operated Cronulla Dive School. During this time I took student divers to my favourite destination, an offshore reef known as Jibbon Bombora. It rose from 90 feet of water to 8 feet, with a gutter running through the middle. Half way up it opened to a deep cave approximately 30 feet wide and 5 feet high. The cave's residents were: port jackson sharks, blue grouper, numerous sponges, soft corals and the occasional giant cuttlefish and moray eel.

In December 1975 a pack of seven grey nurse sharks took up residence in the cave. Their arrival, changed my life forever. When they turned up, I was fascinated. I wanted to study them, to know everything about them. Were they aggressive? Would they attack a diver? What did they eat? Could they be tamed? Were they as harmless as people said? In 1975 little was known about this shark species and I was determined to change that situation.

In the 60's human influence added greatly to the sharks demise. The expansion of long line fishing and stupid people with power heads being the main culprits. I felt it was time for some serious research to be undertaken in regards to the animals behaviour in the wild.

My first thoughts were to try and hand feed the sharks and find out what they eat and if they would take a fish from a diver. I took my boat to a reef off Cronulla and jumped in to spear some kingfish. This could be easily done as I had been a breath hold diver for many years and could free dive over a 100 feet.

Once I had speared what I needed, I would climb back in my boat and head for the grey nurse cave. My first attempt at handfeeding the nurse went terribly wrong. I swam down to the cave on SCUBA on my own, I had a bag of kingfish and a handspear for some protection. When I arrived at the entrance of the cave the ocean conditions were very poor with only 20 feet visibility. The nurse sharks with their counter shading bodies are hard to see in poor light and it was hard to see all the sharks. The smell of the kingfish soon created

a situation I was not prepared for.

The sharks became very excited and all approached me at once. Pushing them away with the spear only served to make them more angry, for the first time in my life I experienced grey nurse "cracking".

The sharks would approach slowly, swimming inches from the sea bed, then at the last moment only a few feet away, they would turn in their own length and crack their tail like a whip. The behaviour caused a loud deep thump sound and made me quite apprehensive. Once they cracked they were soon back, I offered the largest shark (a 10 foot female) a large kingfish from the bag, she opened her mouth to reveal rows of dagger like razor sharp teeth, she seized the fish from my hand and then gulped down the fish in a single swallow. She then disappeared into the cave.

Had I had only one fish, the whole situation would have become quiet. The smell of bloody fish would have slowly gone. However, because I had a bag of fish, the smell of blood was still very much around my body. This caused the other sharks in the pack to become more and more aggressive, with one shark repeatedly trying to push past my spear to gain access to me. I quickly pulled out another fish and gave it to the aggressive shark. Again other sharks approached and I had to do all I could to keep the hungry sharks away, bumping them with the spear and even at one stage punching a shark on its nose.

***Eventually, the situation became totally out of control as I was fighting for my survival with the whole pack snapping at the bag of fish. I abandoned the fish bag and headed for my boat with an 8 foot shark in hot pursuit.***

As now I was mid-water and extremely vulnerable, I tried to kick the shark away. This seemed to excite the shark more and it grabbed my white bladed fin and tore the

fin from my foot.

Leaving the water, I crawled into my boat. My breathing heavy as I pondered what I had done wrong. Firstly it was obvious that the grey nurse sharks were not harmless and if stimulated could be dangerous to divers. What I had done wrong was I had taken a bag full of fish to the cave, I should have taken only one fish. When the first shark approaches give that shark a fish, as it swims away it takes most of the smell and stimulation with it, leaving no real reason for the other sharks in the pack to be aggressive towards me.

I believed if I only took one fish down to the cave at a time, I could manage the sharks.

My next attempt worked far better and the one fish policy became my rule with grey nurse shark feeding. With other shark species I developed other methods of staying safe when feeding them. Over the next seven years I fed this pack of sharks hundreds of times, learning much about the behaviour of these magnificent sharks.

After paying visits to numerous other grey nurse shark locations up and down the NSW coast, I realised I had to do all I could to get the shark species protected.

The only way to do this was to record what I was doing on film. I bought a Bolex 16 movie camera and a 35 mm nikonis still camera for the purpose. I then made an underwater housing for the movie camera from a cut down SCUBA tank. I then proceeded to film the Nurse tail cracking; the different swimming including aggressive and non-aggressive behaviour.

After a few years the pack of sharks became conditioned with my feeding rituals and their behaviour changed. They became less aggressive and the tail cracking began to stop. I also found that they were less aggressive towards me, they identified with the bag and the feeds became slower. The largest shark being a 10 foot female I named "bigshot". Bigshot eventually allowed me to touch her without tail cracking or snapping. I only had to arrive at the cave and she and the other sharks would swim around me. This happened if I



had fish or if I had nothing.

I supplied the director of Fisheries Research Institute Dr. David A Pollard, B.Sc ( Hons) ph.D Principal Research Scientist with much of my research and kept him up to date with my findings on the sharks. Raising my concerns about the decline in numbers of grey nurse on the NSW coast and why they should be protected. Over 30 magazines and newspapers and over 12 television shows from 1997 to 1985 published the story about my grey nurse family. Many other people took up the cause including Ron and Valerie Tailor.

Eventually David Pollard pushed through the fisheries dept of Australia the total protection of the grey nurse shark in 1984.

In 1994 I was a guest speaker at the worlds first conference on the conservation of sharks, the venue attracted the world press and was held at Taronga Zoo. I spoke on the plight of the grey nurse sharks and showed numerous films and photos. Scientists came from all over the world to the conference. Other notable people also spoke, including Neville Coleman, the world renown marine book publisher and underwater photographer.

The grey nurse became protected, but all the publicity I had given my own shark pack off Cronulla achieved shocking results. A Sydney aquarium took two sharks from the shark cave for their display, a situation that I do not agree with as the sharks are protected and this greatly depleted the pack. Another shark I found dead with a shotgun wound to its head, probably killed by some stupid spearfisherman that disliked sharks. The remainder either were killed or never returned to the cave.

After my experience feeding the grey nurse and all the media exposure I had been given, I decided to expand my knowledge of filming wildlife and my knowledge of marine animals. I travelled to many locations around the world hand feeding and filming sharks and many other species of marine animals. I became a regular presenter on television networks showing my latest wildlife films. Eventually supplying encyclopedia multimedia companies with wildlife footage.

Grey nurse sharks are reputed to be harmless docile animals and sluggish swimmers. Nothing could be further from the truth, Grey nurse sharks are mostly docile and pay little attention to divers. However, if stimulated with fish in the wild, they can become very territorial and even refuse fish to bite the diver holding the fish. This behaviour I believe is similar to a tame dog in a backyard. The dog will leave its food bowl to bite a person coming too close to his food. Grey nurse have excellent weapons. Their sharp teeth and powerful jaws could cause severe damage to divers. But if treated with respect, the sharks will not normally have any interest in divers or swimmers as they are fish feeders not man-eaters. As for the sluggish swimmers statement published in most journals about the nurse sharks, this is not true. They swim slowly in their lairs of gutters and caves but can swim with amazing speed when they catch fish or when cracking. I have it all on film! I do not suggest divers attempt to hand feed grey nurse as they can and are dangerous when stimulated. Simply leave them alone.

The sharks came to the Jibbon Bombora cave in 1975. Their arrival allowed me to assist people like David Pollard and others to get the shark protected. Their arrival also changed my career from a SCUBA diving instructor to wildlife film producer.

# Forster Grey Nurse Shark weekend!

*Come along and dive with Ron Hunter and the friendly grey nurse sharks of Forster.*

**Max 12 divers**

**When: 20-22 October**

**Cost: \$210 per diver**

**Includes:**

**2 double boat dives**

**2nd tank**

**Air fills**

**4 boat dives**

**bunkhouse accommodation**

**light breakfast.**

**No doubt we will have a big Saturday night out for a tasty dinner.**

**Car pooling can be organised.**

**Fri October 20 to Sun 22.**

**Email [geoff@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:geoff@southpacificdivers.com) to book your place.**



# Snap a Shark!

## HELP GREY NURSE SHARK CONSERVATION BY PROVIDING YOUR PAST AND FUTURE PHOTOS!

Please provide photos of grey nurse sharks from any location along the NSW or QLD coast and assist with key research to obtain a wealth of new information about this endangered population. This project, funded by the Hermon Slade Foundation recognises the need for us to work together to help this critically endangered shark.

### WHY HELP?

The Grey Nurse Shark, *Carcharias taurus* is listed globally as vulnerable, with the Australian east coast population listed as critically endangered (with less than 500 thought to remain). Historically, the Grey Nurse Shark was wrongly identified as a 'man-eater' and was subsequently hunted to the brink of extinction. Today, incidental capture remains its biggest threat to recovery or survival.

A priority action in the 'Commonwealth Recovery Plan for the Grey Nurse Sharks' (Recovery Plan) is to establish long-term monitoring of the east coast's population status. This key action has not yet been fulfilled. While protection measures have been put in place at several known key aggregation sites in both NSW and QLD their effectiveness in stopping further population declines and facilitating recovery is unknown.

Without this information the need or justification for further protection measures cannot be determined (there are several aggregation sites that remain minimally or not protected).



### AUTHOR BACKGROUND

Carley Bansemer was employed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) as a Conservation Officer in 1998. In 2002, the Commonwealth funded her position with QPWS to action several key priorities prescribed by the Recovery Plan for Grey Nurse Sharks in Queensland. In 2003, four critical aggregation sites in QLD were protected (1.2 km around a central coordinate). However, Carley saw a great need for further research to ensure a brighter future for this species. So she began her PhD on the east coast population of the Grey Nurse Shark in 2004 with the University of Queensland, concentrating on noninvasive techniques to answer critical conservation and management questions identified in the recovery plan.



### HOW CAN YOUR PHOTOS HELP?

In 2004, the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage funded A/ Professor Bennett and myself to determine whether noninvasive 'image capture-recapture' would be a reliable long-term method to monitor individuals and the east coast population status through time (and gather a wealth of other key ecological information such as movements, migrations, incidence with fishing tackle, site fidelity/occupancy, behaviour, plus much, much more). Data from this study, together with subsequent research has shown that this method is viable through time (minimum of 14 years).

### WHAT PHOTOS DO WE NEED?

The best images are lateral shots including the sex of the shark. In most instances to avoid back scatter images without flash are best. Please see below for some good examples of usable images. However, please do not discard photos you think are not picture perfect; let me make that decision to avoid losing great data.

### PROVIDING IMAGES

Unless you only have a few images, please burn your images to CDROM at photo capture resolution (not edited) and in jpeg format. Alternatively if you only have a few images please e-mail them to [s3339916@student.uq.edu.au](mailto:s3339916@student.uq.edu.au). If required, CD-ROMs can be replaced and postage reimbursed.

CD-ROMs please mail to:

**Carley Bansemer**  
**C/O PO Box 402**  
**Cleveland Qld 4163**

Please ensure you scribe your details (e.g. photographer, location and date of surveys, and contact details such as an e-mail address onto the CD-ROM or enclosed on a separate note) and if photos are from more than one site or date please organise into folders or label accordingly.

All photographic images (captures from video or stills) retain the copyright of the photographer. If an image is to be published for a report, article etc. the photographers permissions will be sort and if the use of the image is supported acknowledgement will be granted to the photographer for that image.

Once your images have been analysed, you will be e-mailed and informed of how many 'new' sharks not yet on the catalogue you have identified (and given the naming rights to those sharks). Additionally, I will tell you of any other interesting facts such as movements of those sharks.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROJECT OR THE GREY NURSE SHARK PLEASE E-MAIL**  
**[S3339916@STUDENT.UQ.EDU.AU](mailto:S3339916@STUDENT.UQ.EDU.AU)**





# Great whites!

## ***From the archives - 1978***

Way back in 1977 or 78.... Yes I am showing my age here.... The era was such that Scuba Divers earned their stripes, training I feel was much harder than it is today. The FAUI course involved lengthy swimming tests and free diving down 20 feet and putting scuba gear on was just part of the "Hitler Youth Training".

It was basically a natural progression that people evolved out of the spearos into scuba diving. Hence, I feel, they were far more adept in the water, entering off rocks and the like... (I just know I am going to be crucified for that statement.) Gear was pretty basic suff. I couldn't even spell kom-pew-ta let alone have one.. Most of us had reserve valves, single reg and some even had pressure gauges, horrid rubber shark skin wet suits and bulky manually inflated fenzy vests. Anyhow if you recall this era too was the era of JAWS. It left people with a true fear of even going to toilets because those GWS could probably get you there too. Every shark back then was a man eater and the only good shark was a dead one. That was the era.

***Off Sydney at the time was a renowned Great White Shark that was reported to be enormous. (Bigger than the one caught by Alf Dean which weighed 2664 lbs.) It took a great liking to coming up on fishing boats and dive boats and doing a taste test on the side of the boat.***

Causing horrendous damage to the gel-coat in some cases! Causing even worse damage to the undies of the occupants of smaller boats!! If you remember JAWS well you may recall that they could jump up on trawlers and eat the occupants...

Well now we know that wasn't true but again that was the era. Anyhow this particular GWS had incurred damage to the left side of it snout back to it gills and had lost an eye. It was appropriately named around Sydney and Wollongong as "Lord Nelson". Up North it was called the Fingle Bay Monster.

One clear day we were diving in a 19 foot boat off Jibbon Bommie. It was quite a still day, very sunny, with the water reflecting the sun in that way it is hard to look at some times...Anyway we were anchored and gearing up ready for a dive. One of the crew went to the back of the boat to the 'marlin board' and was washing his mask. Very, very quickly he hopped back into the boat saying that



Pic. Don Silcock

"There was something huge under the boat lying in the current" that was running under us at the time. Sure enough Lord Nelson dropped by and was lying under our boat. I promise you it was as long as the boat that we were in....so this shark was in excess of 18 or 19 feet. and it was huge. I can still see in my mind the width of its back. After the initial s\*\*\* scared moment one of our intrepid bunch produced a 303 powerhead 'bang stick' that he carried on his leg next to his knife (remember that was the era) and announced to all aboard that he was going to "Get it with this". Even at that age I was thinking you're an idiot... it was around that point that Lord Nelson came up to the boat to announce in his own special way who actually was boss and

taste test the side of the boat, crunching off heaps of gel-coat. Sanity overrode the bravado as we held the diver with the bang stick down, dumped the anchor rope over the side and took off before the boat 'entree' became a "main meal" with 5 divers on the side as a 'garnish' (I was a lot skinnier back then)

We still dived that day but a couple of miles down the coast. I remember hearing that dom dom dom dom music the whole dive and stuck fairly close to Dave and his bang stick. On the way back we saw it on the surface ripping into a school of kingies and bait fish about half way between where we dived and where we originally were. Back at the ramp the boat looked trashed. The owner was spewing. It made front page in the Leader which is the local paper with a photograph. Lord Nelson was around for a few more years in reports in the news or folk lore. Fortunately I never



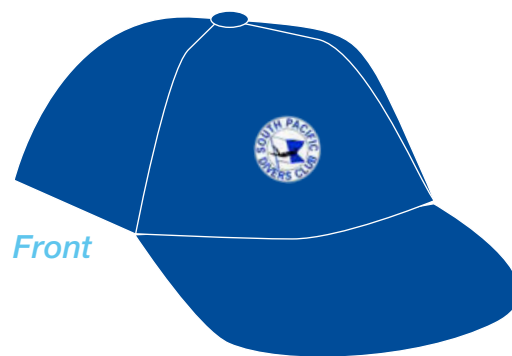
Pic. Don Silcock

encountered anything that big first hand ever again other than countless repeat dreams of the same thing along the theme that I was diving at Shiprock. In the dream the viz sucked as usual and I was swimming along the bottom of the wall and I swam into the enormous tail of Lord Nelson.. I would generally wake up at that heart stopping point but eventually the dream progressed that the enormous shark was dead on the bottom with a big powerhead hole in its head and just rocking back and forth... It took many years to go away so the episode definitely left an impression. Sharks always impress me but I know who is boss.



# Gear up for Summer with our new dive wear range.

Competitively priced, high quality gear for the discerning diver with attitude. *Order yours today!*



Front



Back

## SPDC Cap

Sizes: one size

**\$10**



## SPDC Polo Shirt

Sizes: S | M | L | XL | XXL | XXXL

**\$15**



Front



Back

## SPDC Beanie

Sizes: one size

**\$10**

**Orders email: [scott@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:scott@southpacificdivers.com)**





### Women's DIVA Tee

**\$15**

Sizes: S | M | L | XL



### "Live and let Dive" Tee

**\$15**

Sizes: S | M | L | XL | XXL | XXXL



### "Live it. Love it" Tee

**\$15**

Sizes: S | M | L | XL | XXL | XXXL



### "Do or Dive" Hoodie

**\$30**

Sizes: S | M | L | XL | XXL | XXXL

**Orders email: [scott@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:scott@southpacificdivers.com)**

## Wobbegong Shark

### *Orectolobus maculatus*

Common around the coastlines of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia. They are often witnessed by divers tucked away in rocky and weed covered reefs waiting patiently for any enticing meal to pass by before they pounce with fearful speed. Although often accredited with ugly references, their body is patterned with beautiful symmetrical shapes of brown and grey, providing the ultimate in camouflage for the types of common reef found in Australia.

Wobbegongs usually are seen to grow between 4-5 foot but some reports indicate 7 to 10 feet is possible. They are considered somewhat defensive and are prepared to bite humans, particularly when stepped on. Albeit painful, the bite is not fatal to man.

### NEW WOBLEGONG SPECIES DISCOVERED ON NSW COAST!

**BY DANIEL DASEY - THE SUN HERALD. SEPTEMBER 3, 2006.**

A previously unknown species of shark has been discovered in the shallows of the NSW coast.

Macquarie University academic Charlie Huveneers listened to the tales of anglers and divers to track down the newly discovered species.

The shark - *Orectolobus Halei* or **large ornate wobbegong** - can grow to three metres and, if provoked, deliver a painful dog-like bite.

"They are pretty harmless", said Mr Huveneers, whose findings were recently published in the taxinomical journal Zootaxa.

"But they are cranky sharks. If you stand on their tail, they will bite and they have nasty teeth."

Mr Huveneers made the discovery while studying wobbegongs in collaboration with NSW Fisheries.

It was widely thought there were only two species of wobbegong, the spotted and ornate. However some anglers and divers Mr Huveneers interviewed insisted there were in fact three varieties - the spotted and two types of ornate.

He consulted academic texts and found a researcher in the 1940's had suggested it was possible there was a 'sub-species'. Studying the catches of commercial anglers, he made the textbook-changing discovery that some small wobbegongs, assumed to be juveniles, were in fact sexually mature. Genetic testing established there were actually two different species of ornate wobbegong.

The name *Orectolobus ornatus* is retained for the smaller species, which grows to about 110 centimetres and will be known commonly as the dwarf ornate wobbegong.

The larger species' habitat extends from Brisbane to the waters of South and Western Australia. The dwarf species is found between the Greater Barrier Reef and Sydney.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources considers wobbegongs vulnerable in NSW and 'near-threatened' on a global scale.





# MOVIE REVIEW: *INTO THE BLUE*

*Into the Blue is a thriller set in the gorgeous, but shark-infested waters of the Bahamas. Four young divers discover a legendary shipwreck rumoured to contain a fortune in gold.*

They think their dream of buried treasure has come true however a nearby sunken plane loaded with illegal cargo threatens their find.

They decide to keep quiet about both discoveries, this way they can excavate the wreck before a rival treasure hunter uncovers their secret and beats them to the gold. Their plan goes off course when malicious and precarious smugglers close in on the missing plane, and one of the divers makes a deadly decision that swiftly turns the treasure hunters into the hunted.

"Into the Blue" is an adventure story, not a high-powered thriller with special effects, but a story about people and hazards, treasure and love, in which every single thing that everybody does is physically possible for people to really do (except that they can apparently hold their breath indefinitely).

The movie is written, acted and directed as a story, not as an exercise in mindless action. It is not an essential film, but if you go to see it, it will not insult your intelligence, and there's genuine suspense toward the end.

## WHAT OTHER DIVE MAGAZINES HAD TO SAY

### "The New Deep"

(Sport Diver, September 2005) by Clay H. Wiseman. "Not since that great and influential action film from the '70s The Deep, starring Nick Nolte and a T-shirt clad Jacqueline Bisset, has there been a major studio film with more action-packed underwater scenes and cool diving gadgets than MGM's Into the Blue.

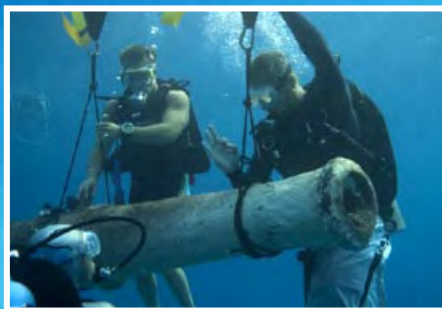
This huge-budget feature, filmed on location in the Bahamas and starring Paul Walker, Jessica Alba, Scott Caan, Ashley Scott and Josh Brolin, is sure to lure the masses."

### "Endless Summer"

(Scuba Diving, September 2005) by Bucky McMahon. "Into the Blue" tells the tale of Jared and Samantha (played by Paul Walker and Jessica Alba), two expat divers in love and living the sweet life island-style. Jared is a hard-working divemaster for a commercial dive op near Nassau, but what he's really into is maritime history—i.e. treasure hunting. Samantha, a marine biologist with a dolphin encounter outfit... Three events complicate their idyll: the discovery of a sunken drug plane; the discovery of a sunken Spanish galleon cheek-by-jowl with the contraband; and the arrival of not-quite-trustworthy houseguests."



There's a great little online game at [www.sonypictures.com/movies/intotheblue/site](http://www.sonypictures.com/movies/intotheblue/site) and some other info about the movie. If you haven't seen it yet and are wondering what to do on a Saturday night then head up to the video shop and hire it. It's well worth a look.





# And the winner is...

*The 2005/06 underwater.com.au photo competition has come to an end and we are excited to be able to bring the winning entries here to our Wet Rag readers before just about any other magazine.*

SPDC has a well known history of being underwater photography friendly having run the prestigious Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition for many years.

We have recently launched our Underwater Photography (and Video) Special Interest Group and if you'd like to become a member of that group to learn more about photography contact [john@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:john@southpacificdivers.com) for more information.

The underwater.com.au competition had nearly 1000 entries - the judging was performed by Michael Aw, Richard Vevers and the Underwater Team and was extremely difficult with the quality of shots being so outstanding. If you didn't win this time, the new competition is already underway - to send in your best shots go to [underwater.com.au](http://underwater.com.au)

Underwater.com.au would like to thank all the sponsors of this competition, past, present and future. It's great to see sponsors supporting divers and diving in this way.

## Open category



# 1st

'Dolphinfish in Splendour'  
**Andrew Read**

**PRIZE:** 7 day Nimrod Explorer trip for TWO.



# 2nd

'Short-head Seahorse'  
**Michael Morris**

**PRIZE:** APOLLO Dry Suit



# 3rd

'Fire Dart Fish' **Mark Thompson**

**PRIZE:** A full set of 'Bright Weights'



# Novice category

## 1st

'Moray Eel' - **Michael McEvoy**

**Prize** - a Sealife Digital Underwater Camera



## 2nd

'Mother and Calf'

**Richard McLatchie**

**Prize** - a Chris Benz divers watch



## 3rd

'My Swansea Blenny'

**Megs Freeman**

**Prize** - set of APOLLO Bio Fins

**WIN**  
HOLIDAYS, DIVE GEAR  
AND MUCH MORE.

## Enter the 3rd Annual Photography Competition

Join the 3rd annual underwater photo competition which runs from July 2006 to June 2007 with massive final prizes and monthly T-Shirt winners - win a 2 week holiday on Cocos & Christmas Islands, A TAKA liveaboard trip, dive gear and much more.

**Underwater.com.au** has information on underwater related issues in Australia, Oceania and the Asia pacific region - like what to see, where to go and who to go with - extensive local info, galleries, stories and discussions, you can't go past this site.

They also publish the "Guide to Underwater Australia" This FREE guide is a beautiful A2 map of Australia that folds down to a handy information brochure and is a tribute to the beauty and diversity of the Australian underwater world.

Pick up the underwater.com.au "Guide to Underwater Australia 06" at your local dive store or major coastal Tourist Information Centre. If you have problems finding one, but would like a copy - just email them **info@underwater.com.au** and they'll post one to you for FREE.

For those dive shops, resorts, liveaboards and charter operators of Australasia that are not yet part on the underwater network - visit the site and register your details.

 **underwater** dive in.  
www.underwater.com.au explore.  
discover.

# Glen Cowans | underwater photographer

*Our first photographer profile is on Glen Cowans - winner of the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Novice section in 1998. He has since gone on to become an outstanding and successful professional underwater photographer, winning numerous prestigious awards and having his photos published in Sportdiving magazine and other diving and photography magazines regularly.*



The National Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour is currently exhibiting Glen's work so I would encourage all club members and those interested in quality underwater images to get down to Darling Harbour and check out his work before November 5th.

West Australian marine photographer Glen Cowans, ANZANG nature and landscape photographer of the year 2005 in the underwater category, presents the passion of his photography – "The UnderView Collection" in his first east coast exhibition at The Australian National Maritime Museum in Darling Harbour Sydney.

Cowans is a unique and passionate photographer. His inspiration is our ocean. His subjects are the breathlessly beautiful life forms that live there.



Cowans was born in Western Australia and developed his passion for the ocean and all that it holds when he began snorkeling at the age of ten. His interest in photography began in his early twenties but it wasn't until 1995, during his first lengthy ventures underwater on scuba that he began capturing images of the ocean through his photography.

In March 2005, he made the turning point decision to devote all his time to underwater photography ending his trade career as an electrician and in just 18 months has held eleven successful exhibitions culminating now in his east coast debut.

**Where:** Australian National Maritime Museum – Darling Harbour Sydney

**Dates:** August 28, 2006 until November 5, 2006

Today, Cowans' is taking photography to a new level by bridging the gap between photography and art. His goal is to reproduce each subject as accurately as possible.

His philosophy is to allow Nature to be the artist and let the shapes, colours and life forms of the ocean create the masterpiece.

And masterpieces they are. Cowans' work offers viewers a rare experience, one where we can contemplate the wondrous life found in our underwater world. His lens is our microscope, exposing colour and species with a complexity and sculptural form normally invisible to the naked eye. The resulting works from his Equilateral, Vertical, Panoramic and Retina Series have been warmly welcomed into contemporary and traditional spaces alike.

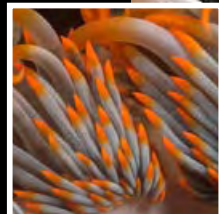
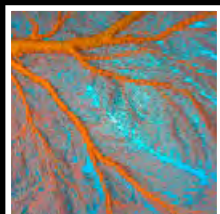
Since his first underwater photographs, Cowans has received numerous awards



for his work, including the Underwater Category of the ANZANG nature and landscape photographer of the year award in 2005. All this aside, his most rewarding moments have actually occurred since first exhibiting his Photo Art at the Fremantle Maritime Museum in March of 2005.

Cowans says "It is the interest and joy that I have received from the viewers and collectors of my work from around the world that motivates me to continue my pursuit of unique and challenging subjects in contemporary underwater photography."

Besides the exhibition at Darling Harbour, Cowans' work can be viewed online at [www.glencowans.com](http://www.glencowans.com)



Don't forget, if you're interested in learning more about underwater photography or video then you can join our Underwater Photography Special Interest Group. They regularly go on photography dives and get together to discuss the latest techniques and share photographic/video tips and information. For more information contact [john@southpacificdiver.com](mailto:john@southpacificdiver.com) or call John on 0400 888 888.

# AN AFTERNOON OF SEA STORIES

## AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND CHAPTER, THE EXPLORERS CLUB

**WHEN:** SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2006 at 1:00pm  
**WHERE:** THE ANZ THEATRE, AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM, DARLING HARBOUR, SYDNEY

**M.C. :** DAVID STRIKE, EXPLORERS CLUB FELLOW

**PRESENTERS:** **Keith Gordon, Explorers Club Fellow**  
GOLD FROM THE SEA, EIGHT TONS OF GOLD FROM THE RMS NIAGARA IN NEW ZEALAND  
**Don McIntyre, Sailor & Adventurer**  
ROUND-WORLD AND ANTARCTIC SAILING  
**Mark Spencer, Explorers Club Fellow**  
MODERN AND HISTORIC EXPLORATION AND SALVAGE OF NSW DEEP-OCEAN SHIPWRECKS  
**Steve Carruthers, Author & Historian**  
JAPANESE SUBMARINE WARFARE NEW SOUTH WALES 1942  
AND THE SYDNEY HARBOUR ATTACK

**TIME:** Program will run from 1:00pm to 5:00pm

**COST:** \$25. Tickets at the door or reserve in advance

**RSVP:** by 6 November to Ann McFarlane [amcfarlane@bigpond.com](mailto:amcfarlane@bigpond.com)

For further information contact: David Strike [striking1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:striking1@optusnet.com.au) or Ann McFarlane [amcfarlane@bigpond.com](mailto:amcfarlane@bigpond.com)





# The sad story of a gentle giant and a true blue Aussie environmentalist



Steve Irwin is known around the world for his popular television series, *Crocodile Hunter*, where he manhandled dangerous animals for his audience. While filming a documentary, on September 4, he was killed by a stingray off the coast of Northern Queensland. Police said that he died from a sting to the heart.



## HOW STINGRAYS KILL

The graceful birds of the sea can swiftly kill humans. Stingrays are portrayed as graceful creatures gliding through the sea.

Television viewers are often treated to scuba divers hitching a ride on some of the larger species. This activity, though, can be lethal because if a stingray is threatened, frightened, or handled roughly, it flicks its tail, where a venomous barb is attached, into the person directly above it, either penetrating or lacerating the skin of the victim.

The stinger is a razor-sharp, barbed or serrated cartilaginous spine which grows from the ray's whip-like tail and can grow up to 37 cm long.

The barb is coated with a toxic venom. This gives the animals their common name of stingrays.

The United States registers more than 1,500 stings per year, mostly to the legs because people can easily step on the bottom-dwelling creatures. In Colombia, health authorities register more than 2,000 cases of freshwater stingray attacks annually.

Death from a sting is rare. In most cases, the venom from the stab is more troublesome than the stab injury. But when the flesh-tearing barb pierces or lacerates a vital organ or artery, the structural mechanical damage may be more dangerous than the venom effects.

According to the *Medical Journal of Australia*, in 1938, an adult woman died after a stab wound to the heart by a stingray. The autopsy showed that the ventricles had been completely transfixes by the barb.

## VENOM

The venom contains toxic proteins including serotonin which causes the severe pain in the region of the injury.

Because serotonin produces severe and immediate onset of local pain, any sting that is free of pain indicates that poison was not inserted into the wound.

The effects of the venom may be local and/or systemic. Local effects include pain at the site of the trauma, or tissue necrosis where the flesh around the wound dies.

Other effects for those who are stung above the legs include nausea, vomiting, salivation, sweating, respiratory depression, convulsions, cramping abdominal pain, cardiac arrhythmia, myocardial ischaemia, and death.

In "Venomous and Poisonous Marine Animals" published University of New South Wales Press in 1996, an autopsy detailed the stingray envenomation to the chest of a 12-year-old boy.

The stingray was caught on a hook and line and hauled into a boat where it slammed against the child, using its spine to penetrate the left lung and pericardium, perhaps penetrating the heart itself.

There was no immediate effect after the incident, but the venom slowly caused necrosis of the myocardium, culminating in the rupture of the right ventricle and cardiac arrest.

*The broken-off stingray spine (at left) is 20cm in length. This is what killed The Crocodile Hunter in the tragic error of judgement last week at Batt Reef, off Port Douglas.*

# This month's Celebrity diver

# Geri Halliwell

*For decades, Hollywood's fascination with scuba diving has taken the hobby and glamorized it into huge films such as the 007 flicks, "Thunderball," "The Abyss," "Open Water" and now with the upcoming film 'Into the Blue.'* (See review on page 15.)

But beyond Hollywood, actors have taken this passion behind the camera and turned it into real-life hobbies. Among these famous scuba divers includes Lauren Hutton, Lloyd Bridges, Patrick Stewart, William Shatner, Sandra Bullock, Nikki Taylor, Tom Cruise and fiancée Katie Holmes.

Every month we'll try to bring you information on a celebrity scuba diver and this month's pick is Geri Halliwell of Spice Girls fame.

Geraldine Estelle "Geri" Halliwell born August 6, 1972 . Halliwell rose to prominence in the late 1990s as one of the five members of the girl group the Spice Girls, where she was known as "Ginger Spice".

Halliwell was born and grew up in Watford, in the county of Hertfordshire to a British-Swedish father and Spanish mother. She was raised in a Jehovah's Witness household. Geri first found fame as one of the five members of the girl group the Spice Girls. The group joined the most successful musical artists of the 1990s



selling over thirty-five million albums with the studio releases Spice and Spiceworld.

Their debut single "Wannabe" became the first of a string of number-ones in the United Kingdom (nine in total) and reached the top

position in thirty-seven countries around the globe, including Australia, Canada, and the U.S. Other successful releases followed including "Say You'll Be There" and "2 Become 1" from Spice, and "Spice Up Your Life", "Too

Much" and "Stop" from Spiceworld.

On May 30, 1998, Halliwell departed from the Spice Girls to pursue a solo career. Her actions left a great deal of controversy concerning her former band which had yet to embark on a North American tour, one they would eventually complete without Halliwell. Although she had already left the group, the Spice Girls released "Viva Forever", the final music video to feature Halliwell.

In 1999, after having left the Spice Girls, Geri Halliwell became a representative for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). As a goodwill ambassador, Halliwell toured the Philippines on a fact-finding trip.

Halliwell visited with staff and clients of family planning clinics, women's groups in slum areas, and college students.

She enjoys scuba diving as one of her pastimes to help get away from the hectic celebrity lifestyle.



# GEAR REVIEW

## APEKS ATX200 regulator



BY SCOTT LEIMROTH

*A few months ago when I decided to start doing some diving again I realised my old regulator was just way too old (about 10 years) and had been used and abused even back then so I decided to look around for a new regulator.*

I searched high and low and looked at all manner of new and old designs but finally decided to stick with Apeks as that was the brand of my old reg and it had served me well for many dives.

The first thing that hit me was the price. When I got back up off the floor I decided to try the internet to see what sort of prices were available when purchasing online. The discount was huge so I ordered an ATX 200 (I had used TX100 in the past) and waited for it to arrive. It arrived quite quickly and I used it on a shore dive at Kurnell to test it out. One thing I noticed straight away is that you get what you pay for.

The reg was top notch, but it had not been set up or serviced and god knows how

long it had been on the shelf in storage before I had bought it. The main reg breathed like a dog and the occy wasn't much better so I took it to the local LDS for a service. A dollars and a few days later I had a perfectly functioning, setup new reg.

Since then the reg has worked flawlessly. It breathes very easily and the adjustment allows for a ton of air to be delivered. In fact at full adjustment it almost forces the air down your lungs.

Although I haven't dived with it much yet I am quite happy with the small size and low profile of the second stage. In the current on our last dive to Barrens Hut the reg delivered more air than I could have needed.

The ATX 200 has a satin silver chrome first stage. The ATX200 second stage is smaller and lighter than the TX100 (25% lighter than the TX100) and has diver adjustable venturi and cracking resistance controls with an ergonomically designed venturi lever and breathing resistance knob for ease of use.



### SPECIFICATIONS

#### FIRST STAGE

- Compact one piece body
- 4 angled medium pressure ports, 1 x 1/2" UNF + 3 x 3/8" UNF
- 2 angled high pressure ports, 2 x 7/16" UNF
- Environmentally dry sealed system
- Attractive black and luxurious satin silver chrome finish
- Balanced for superior performance

#### SECOND STAGE

- Pneumatically balanced system - reduces breathing effort
- Heat exchanger for cold water diving
- Integrated Venturi Control
- Cracking Resistance Control - alters breathing resistance to suit individual diver preference
- Micro adjuster
- Compact integrated exhaust
- 25% lighter than TX models
- Comfo Bite mouthpiece

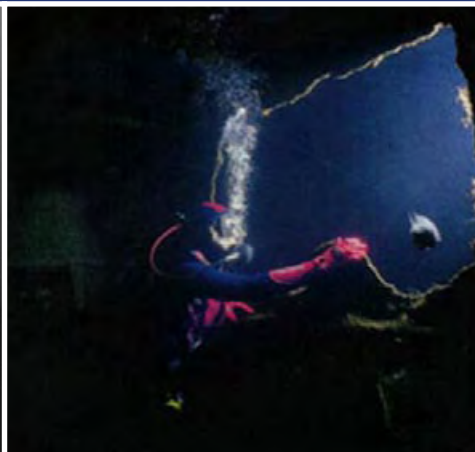
## Top 10 worst excuses for not turning up to a dive.

- 10 I left the bath on and my unit flooded.
- 9 I drank too much last night and am afraid I'll puke in my reg.
- 8 I couldn't find the dive site."
- 7 I just caught a cold...before cancelling.
- 6 I "accidentally" had a big night out, the evening before.
- 5 I only have 190 bar not 200.
- 4 I watched Open Water the night before and am a bit rattled to dive.
- 3 I had to wash my hair.
- 2 I know you rang and reminded me yesterday but I thought it was for next week.
- 1 It looked like it was going to rain and I didn't want to get wet.





# WRECK MONTH LAUNCH NIGHT



## TRAGEDY. DRAMA. MYSTERY.

FEATURING A NUMBER OF PRESENTATIONS FROM  
SHIPWRECK EXPERTS INCLUDING MAX GLEESON  
AMONGST OTHERS.



WRECKS ARE UNDERWATER TIME CAPSULES. HISTORY YOU CAN DIVE!

# 8pm MONDAY OCTOBER 16

BANKSTOWN SPORTS CLUB.

RSVP to reserve your seat [john@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:john@southpacificdivers.com)

## MAX GLEESON

Confirmed guest speaker for Wreck Launch Night will be discussing Sydney and other shipwrecks as well as showing video on the Undola wreck.

Max Gleeson is recognised as one of Sydney's most experienced wreck divers and authorities on local shipwrecks. His interest in diving began with spearfishing in the mid 1960's. He has written numerous articles for Australian

dive magazines and is a multi-award winning underwater photographer. Included in these awards is the prestigious Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year. Max has also been a judge for the AUPY. He is the author of five books on Australian shipwrecks. Max's diving includes the Australian Great Barrier Reef, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Borneo, New Guinea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Truk and Palau. He can be found diving the wrecks off the Sydney coastline most weekends.



# OCTOBER DIVE NEWS



## FUR SEALS KILLED IN ISLAND SHOOTING

Thursday Aug 31 15:00 AEST

By ninemsn staff

More than 40 Australian fur seals have been shot from a boat off the coast of south-eastern Victoria in a macabre attack which left scores of the animals dead.

The shootings were reported to police by Deakin University students, who were on the island studying the seals and were unharmed by the gunfire.

According to police, shots were fired from a fishing boat not far from the shore of Kanowna Island, near Norman Bay at the mouth of Tidal River, late Wednesday afternoon.

Detectives have already questioned two men and searched a boat in relation to the shootings, and are seeking more witnesses.

Locals told National Nine News it was not uncommon for fishermen to shoot at seals as the animals take crayfish from their pots.

**Anyone with information on the shootings are urged to contact the police through Crime Stoppers**

Phone: 1800 333 000

Web: [www.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.crimestoppers.com.au)

## UNDERWATER RELAY TEAM CROSSING THE ENGLISH CHANNEL (AFP)

5 August 2006

LONDON - An intrepid team of divers were attempting Saturday to become the first to swim across the English Channel from Britain to France in a scuba relay four metres under water.

Organiser Colin Osbourne told AFP from the support boat that the fine weather gave the seven-strong squad every chance of making it, despite the risk of running into giant ships while crossing the world's busiest seaway.

*The team took to the sea at Dover on the southeastern English coast at 6:10 am (0530 GMT) and were heading for Cap Gris Nez in northeastern France some 21 miles (34 kilometres) away.*

"It's going really well so far," Colin Osbourne, 44, told AFP by phone.

"We've been extremely lucky with the weather, the water's calm—that's what we needed and we've got it. Hopefully we've got a window to get over."

Osbourne said the sight of huge ferries passing by and the sound of their giant propellers chopping up the water was terrifying.

"We've seen huge ships going past us. When you're under water, you don't know where they're coming from and you think God, it's going to hit me!"

The six men and one woman were spending between 30 and 90 minutes underwater each before their compressed air tanks run out and they hand over the baton—a surface marker buoy—to another team member.

The team have been in training for two years. Osbourne, from Hainault, northeast London, is hoping to raise 50,000 pounds (95,000 dollars, 75,000 euros) for his

Orchid Cancer Appeal, which he founded 10 years ago after discovering he had testicular cancer.

The charity funds research into the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of testicular, prostate and penile cancer.

The other relay team members are Lieutenant John Bainbridge and Lieutenant Commander Mike Leaney from the Royal Navy, and keen divers Warren Brown, Paul Cushing, Mark Evans and Rosemary Lunn.



## Tank Tests

Club member Simon Gayler can get tank tests for \$18 (excluding fill), min 5 tanks at a time.

Hydro place is in Ingelburn.

Simon lives in Camden and can pick up from club meeting or travels to and from Liverpool for work if we can arrange pick up/drop offs near there.

Contact details are;

**Simon Gayler**

Email: [sgayler@exemail.com.au](mailto:sgayler@exemail.com.au)

Mobile: 0418 41 22 35

# SPDC MEMBER PROFILE

## BRETT SERIANI



**What's your nickname?**

Polar bear

**How long have you been a club member**

A few months

**What sort of diving do you enjoy most?**

Wreck dives

**What is the most common misconception that people have about you?**

That I'm a normal person....muuhahh ahhh hhahhh!

**What kind of music are you into?**

Trance and Electronica

**Any phobias?**

Snakes and Spiders

**What temptations are you powerless to resist?**

Peanut M&M's

**What do you like to do in your spare time when you're not diving?**

Looking for new places to travel to so I can dive there too.

**Whats your favourite dive site and why?**

Porteau Cove, North Vancouver, BC Canada: 4 shipwrecks, 1x 20 foot octopus, 2m agro Ling Cod and only 20m deep...gotta love it!

**What's your most treasured piece of dive equipment?**

Atomic M1 Regulators

**What's the most annoying thing someone could do to you on a dive?**

People who don't stay close to their buddy or can't stay with the group and people who don't know how to pack their dive bag.

**If you could go anywhere on the planet to dive where would you go and why?**

Belize...Whale Sharks, warm waters and spicy food.

**If you could have a 'celebrity' dive buddy who would you choose?**

James Cameron...he's got all the cool toys!!





# Special Interest Groups

*South Pacific Divers Club has a diverse membership, individuals with different perspectives, wants and needs. With this in mind, we're better catering for such diversity by creating a number of special interest groups.*

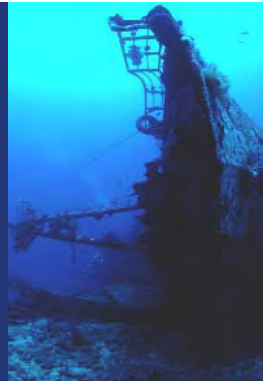
*A great wealth of experience exists through long term members, many of whom have been diving for decades. Specific knowledge can be shared with new and intermediate divers through each special interest group. Being a non profit organisation, our club is more like a friendship society. What better than making new friends to dive and socialise with, especially those passionate about similar interests?*

*The success of the club also depends on activity, meaning that enthusiasm will be self generating within each interest group. We're owned and run by members and the more you put in, the more you'll get back.*

# Nostalgic about Rust & Ruins?

Joining the Wreck & Archaeology Group might be exactly what you need. Learn more about 60 milers and get a chance to see how the dark side of mother nature has affected vessels on the bottom over the last seventy five years. Help organise external experts for workshops and tours of historical significance. A lot of Sydney's wrecks are relatively deep, meaning that decompression diving may be part of the learning experience.

**email: [geoff@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:geoff@southpacificdivers.com) to join the Wreck & Archaeology Group**



# Capture the Moment underwater

Want to bring back more than just memories when diving? Joining the Digital Photography Group is a perfect way to compare notes with budding underwater photographers. Workshops comprising of both theoretical & practical sessions will take place, and over time you will see the difference in results. Dives will be arranged to accommodate specific needs, so you're not rushed when shooting for that image in a million. You don't need thousands of dollars of equipment, amateurs are welcome, all that's necessary to get started is a compact digital camera in a housing.

**email: [scott.h@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:scott.h@southpacificdivers.com) to join the Digital Photography Group**



*Pic. David Harasti*

# Pioneering Spirit?

Join our Explorer group and be part of the team seeking out such new frontiers. Study charts and find potentially new dive sites, then organize boat owner support and document your new find.

Collaborate with the Digital Photography Group and present new locations at workshops or club meetings.

**email: [brett@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:brett@southpacificdivers.com) to join the Explorers Group**



# Environmentally Aware?

Interested in learning more about the underwater environment? Perhaps even be part of a cause studying and protecting our precious marine resources. Whether an amateur enthusiast or passionate activist, our Ecology Group might be for you.

Stage an expedition with boat owners observing and photographing Red Indian fish. Or Grey Nurses. Nudibranchs, Port Jacksons, plus various underwater fauna and flora.

**email: [john@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:john@southpacificdivers.com) to join in. There's also a vacancy for a Group Leader.**



*Pic. Rob Westerdyk*

# Other Special Interests?

Why not talk to the committee about starting your own special interest group? It only takes a handful of people to kick off. Benefits include growing individually and as a collective - by sharing your enthusiasm with others.

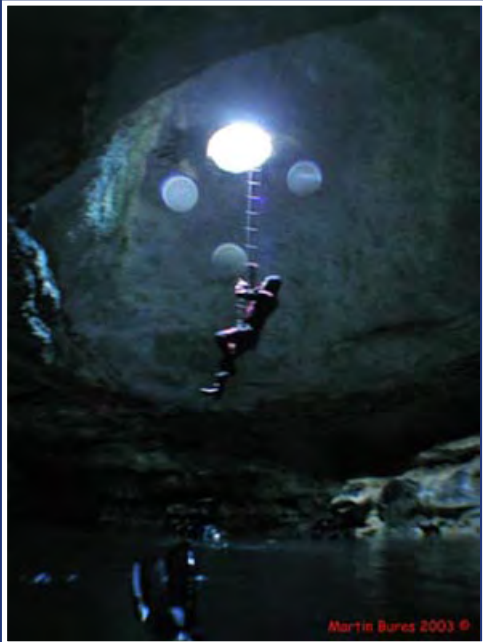
Groups will also collaborate with each other, say the Digital Photography Group helping visually capture wrecks, marine life and new dive sites.

**South Pacific Divers... More than Just a Club but a Way of Life!**



# DOWN THE SHAFT

## AND INTO THE CLEAR BLUE BELOW



Martin Bures 2003 ©



Photo by John Renwick



A dive in the shaft is probably like no other dive you've ever done before. For me it had a lot to do with the club why I wanted to dive there. When you first join and people are talking about the George Roberts photo comp. Not much to do with cave diving until you find out who George was.

So you rock up to the small town of Allendale just south of Mt. Gambier in South Australia at around 7:30 in the morning and wait for more intrepid divers to turn up before heading down the road to a property owned by Mr Trevor Ashby. After a meet and greet it is decided how many cars will be allowed into the paddock on the day. On the day we dived it was to be only 2 cars so everything had to be loaded into them and there trailers. Other times its had to be walked the 200 odd metres from the road. So in we walk amongst the thistles and cow dung into what is just a flat paddock with a pump house on it and not much else. All the way up and past it. Then realize that the 2x2 metre bit of grate on the ground is the hole we are going to dive in. Then the fun begins.

After unloading and gearing up the A-frame is set up to lower all the gear into the hole. Yes that's right the water doesn't come to the top. It doesn't come to near the bottom of the hole either. Its another 8 metres straight down to it. So whoever is ready first is lowered in with ropes and then the gear starts getting lowered as well as more people as they ready. This is not the time to say smartass comments to the people that are lowering you in.

***The 8 metre drop is a lot further than you think when your eyes aren't adjusted to the dark. Did someone forget to mention how cold the water is? 14-17 degrees all year round.***

So once you get your breathe back and get into your gear its time to start the dive. Descending down you start to realize how clear the water is when you can make out rocks on the bottom anywhere from 35 to 55 metres below you. And wheres this shaft thing they all talked about? On the first dive the guide usually goes down to sawtooth rock and shines their light down the tunnel into the dark depths then you go for a bit of a swim back up and around the rock pile to the other side of the chamber then come back and look around the rock pile before ascending back to your deco stops and the surface. The site has a very strict 40 metre depth limit that is enforced so deco isn't that long.

Back on the lake surface its time to get back out of your gear and ready for the climb back out. Here is a bit of a fun time as people that don't inflate their BCDs and don't have a strong grip get to watch them travel all the way back to the bottom. Usually landing in a plume of silt. Now its time for the real fun. Those 8 metres of easy drop to get in are now 8 metres of hard climbing on a wire ladder. Boy does your body weigh so much more when it goes from weightlessness back to full weight on your arms and legs climbing.

So everybody and any tanks that need refilling out its time to get dressed and head to Port Macdonald for lunch and airfills.

Over lunch out comes a pretty old looking A4 size book and people that have just done their first dive are asked to sign it. After signing you can have a look at all the names from the past. David Doubilet, Rodney Fox, Sheck Exley and Barry Andrawatha just to name a few of the well know ones. Further flicking through amongst the names there are four that stand out in a group of eight. Christine Millot, Steve Millot, John Bockerman and George Roberts. All dived here on the 28th of May 1973. All died here on the same day. Some were members of S.P.D. A very sobering reminder of how dangerous cave diving can be even in crystal clear water.

Matthew Reeve

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	OTHER
28-5-73	X CHRISTINE MILLOTT	47-5000 IN RIVE SHOP	STAYE	
"	GAEN MILLOTT	" "	"	
"	X STEVE MILLOTT	" "	"	
"	X JOHN BOCCERMAN	PHATA SYDNEY	NEW	
"	Jean Hunter	8 Keshonk Ave	SYD	
"	Bab Smith	SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS	SYD	
"	X GEORGE ROBERTS	" " "	SYD	
"	LARRY REYNOLDS	" " "	SYD	
28-5-73	Peter Burr	freemane Sydney	S.P.I.	
21-1-75	常田 吾 郎 (Miyata)	JAPAN Tokyo	TOK	
"	阿部 正	Tokyo JAPAN	"	
"	山本 正子	"	"	
"	山本 正子	"	"	
"	Terry Bell	38 Baker St. Fremont CA	SA	

6/6/92	Sheck Exley	218 Bow 374 Wre Oak Florida 32060 USA	254 9054	
10/7/92	ROGER WRIGHT	57 BULLER TEE HENDONTON 5014	2524	
11/7/92	Stephen MURRAY	1 COOPERSON AVE Reckard PK	CDAA 2128	
11/7/92	GARY BARCLAY	BOX 15 KORAT 3282	CDAA 735	
11/7/92	Pete ROBERTSON	6 SWEST CRT HILDAWA	1771	
11/7/92	Paul OLIVE	Box 1950 MT SAMBARI CATHAN	1773	
11/7/92	Peter WYLLIAMS	60 WYLLIAMS RD. DIE	2118	
11-7-92	John ARMSTRONG	53 PARKES RD GREENSBORO	1717	
11/7/92	MARIE DUNITO	30 LORRAINE AVE CLAYTON VIC	518	
11/7/92	DAVID ANDERSON	11 Eddell Rd. Keltie Hill	1713	
11/7/92	Max HERRON	55 ALISON AVE Blackwood	1759	
11/7/92	Nail M'LENNAN	27 Adams Ave HAYWARDS	7015 4th floor	
11/2/92	JASON ROGERS	61 HELLINGTON St Bury	2828	
12-7-92	L. CROUCH	Box 15. Kilmory	22111	

# SHAFT FACTS

*The site is named “The Shaft” after the spectacular lighting effect witnessed when the summer sun shines directly down the solution pipe and forms a blue laser beam through the water.*

The Lake of The Shaft is approx 20m in diameter and lays 10m beneath the paddock above. At the shallowest point of the rockpile (35m) beneath the entrance, The Shaft is more than 80m wide at it's shortest diameter. The circumference at a depth of 60m is at least 600m.

The Shaft is one of the three deepest natural freshwater sites in Australia – the others being Piccaninnie Pond (110m+ Mt Gambier, SA) and Slug Lake (100m+ Jenolan Caves, NSW).

**THE SHAFT INFORMATION COURTESY  
OF TRIMIXDIVERS.COM**

**IMAGES BY MARTIN BURES**



# SPDC Rebreather try dive day

BY MATT REEVE

*Well after the try dives on the weekend I'm hooked. I dived the Evolution and Mk15 and both had good and bad points. As a complete novice I've got to say it was very different and like nothing I've done in diving before.*

*Bouyancy was completely absent. No breathing in to rise blowing out to descend. I just crawled along the sand. The small amount of fish that were there never shied away like usual.*

*They were a bit wary but still closer and more comfortable than when on scuba. I even saw a crab underwater for the first time. Looked tasty and was in arms reach but it's still swimming.*

## WHAT I LIKED ABOUT THE UNITS:

### EVOLUTION.

- **Small and compact.** Great on small boat.
- **Integrated everything.** No need for other computers. Its all there.
- **Good breathing.** Was so much of a shock like I thought it would be.
- **Very available.** Whole or in parts they are readily available to joe public.
- **3rd party parts.** A lot of add on extras that aren't standard.
- **Hud.** Didn't have to look at the display every 5 seconds

### MK15.

- **Tough.** Built like a brick xxxhouse.
- **Capable.** 8 hour scrubber and can have offboard gas plumbed in easily.
- **Excellent breathing.** After Bazza explained about the counterlungs positioning I thought it would be harder breathing but I thought it was better. Just my opinion others may vary.
- **No clutter.** Everything at the back of you so there is room at the front for other attachments. Cameras torches.
- **Simple system.** Nothing to go wrong.
- **Proven design.** Dived for 30 odd years has to count for something in the design.
- **Black.** Its proper technical black and looks hardcore not some fancy colours.



## NOW WHAT I DIDN'T LIKE:

### EVOLUTION.

- **Clutter.** Maybe it wasn't set up right for me but it just seemed way too crowded at the front. The counterlungs and hose seemed to be all there squashing you in. I personally don't like things at the front of me.
- **No independant secondary display.** Would be nice to know exactly whats going on if the main computer shits itself.
- **Choice.** Seems like everything is included whether you want it or not. BC intergrated computer...
- **Made in UK.** Not knocking the UK but it's a long way there and back if something breaks and has to go back to them.(editors note: Southern Cross can supply most parts and service locally)
- **Mouthpiece.** I thought it was a bit fiddly if you had cold or slippery hands it may be hard to open or shut.

### MK15

- **Old.** How long will the parts last for? Who's still making main parts for it?
- **Basic.** Nothing extra on it only what's needed.
- **Comfort.** I'm not sure if it would be any different with a plate or softpack but it seemed to have me bent at a weird angle with my back against it.
- **Spheres.** Cant just be swapped for tanks and I think people that didn't know about them would shy away from filling them with no test stamps.
- **Duration.** Would be nice to get a smaller scrubber so your not carrying all that sorb when its not needed.

## BOTH UNITS:

- **So much air everywhere.** Lungs wings counterlungs. Coming up it all expands and you would have to be on the ball 100% with it so you didn't look like a polaris missile about to fire. (Editors note: You get used to this quickly and it really isn't that bad)

If I had the choice between just the 2 what would I pick? Mk15 hands down. I think the good outweighed the bad on it more than on the Evolution.

If the choice was wider? Id love to try an Ouroboros. Just seems like the Mk15 running gear with Evolution electronics. But it does come at a price considerably higher than the 2 comparisons.

I do suggest to the guys and gals that didn't have the chance to test dive them to get a date organized and go do it. Even talking to Bazza doesn't do the machines justice but it does take a few of the myths away. I'm very keen now to get the project going and start getting things done.

These are just my opinions. Bob and his son who both dived may say things different to what I've said and Steve might be different again.



## Rebreather information and supplies on the www

The following websites have a lot of good basic information about rebreathers and are well worth a look.

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rebreather](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rebreather) and [www.bishopmuseum.org/research/treks/palautz97/rb.html](http://www.bishopmuseum.org/research/treks/palautz97/rb.html)

Information on a large variety of commercially available and some homebuilt rebreathers.

[www.therebreathersite.nl/Foto's\\_CCR\\_RB's.htm](http://www.therebreathersite.nl/Foto's_CCR_RB's.htm)

[www.nwdesigns.com/rebreathers/Default.htm](http://www.nwdesigns.com/rebreathers/Default.htm)

Information every rebreather diver should know – a variety of safety articles.

[www.silent-submersion.com/articles/index.htm](http://www.silent-submersion.com/articles/index.htm)

Links to homebuilt rebreathers. [www.portup.com/~dfount/drflinks.htm](http://www.portup.com/~dfount/drflinks.htm)

Below is a list of websites that might be of interest to the homebuilder.

Homebuilt supplies: [www.purplepig.com.au](http://www.purplepig.com.au)

Low pressure associated fittings and lay flat hoses

[www.blackwoods.com.au](http://www.blackwoods.com.au) for industrial supplies

[www.Tradelink.com.au](http://www.Tradelink.com.au) for plumbing supplies

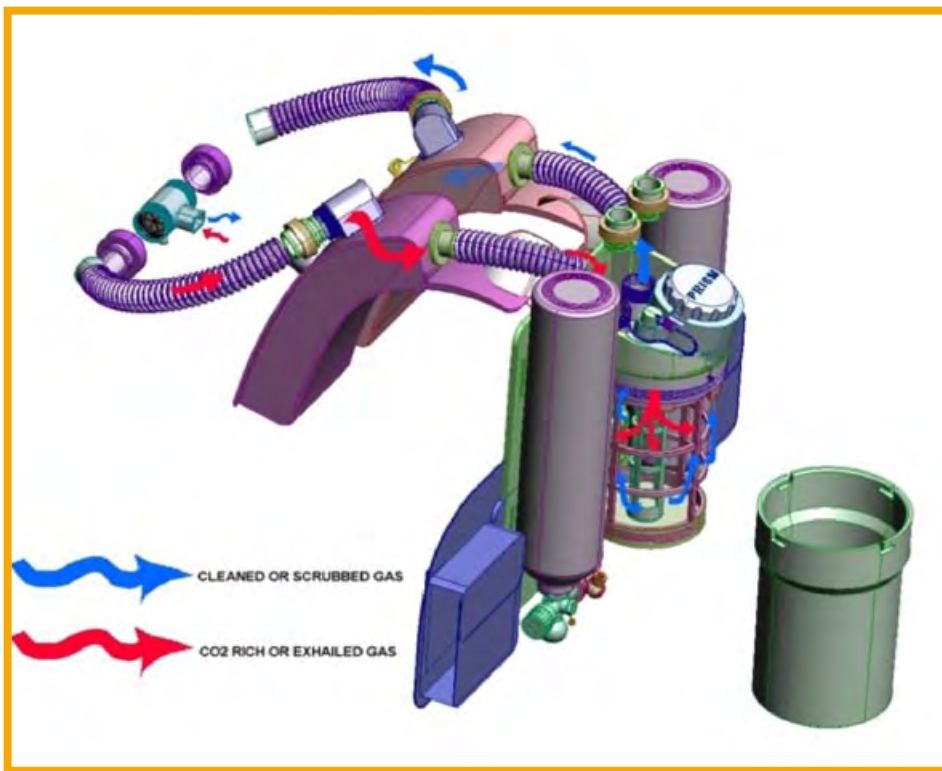
[www.reece.com.au](http://www.reece.com.au) for plumbing supplies

[www.swagelok.com](http://www.swagelok.com) for small Stainless steel valves and fittings these can be got through most of the hosing companies such as [www.pirtek.com.au](http://www.pirtek.com.au) or [www.blackwoods.com.au](http://www.blackwoods.com.au)

Lay flat hoses from irrigation suppliers | [www.irrigationwarehouse.com.au](http://www.irrigationwarehouse.com.au)

Kits for po2 displays [www.ppo2.com/default.htm](http://www.ppo2.com/default.htm)





## SPDC Rebreather Group Report

*We've had our first meeting a couple of weeks ago. We all got to look and play with some of the style of equipment that we shall need to produce. We're getting a group together to do some try dives on a variety of different commercially available rebreathers in the next few weeks.*

### WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE?

It is my belief that we are trying to construct a good, low cost, high quality, safe Fully Closed Circuit Rebreather (CCR).

The unit should be suitable for pure O<sub>2</sub> and a diluent gas (air, tri-mix or heliox, etc). I would see that both the diluent and the O<sub>2</sub> would be added manually to the loop.

The unit should be suitable for the gas in the breathing loop to be monitored. This shall be done via oxygen sensors (typically 3) and then O<sub>2</sub> manually injected into the loop to maintain a set partial pressure of O<sub>2</sub> should. There should be an O<sub>2</sub> bypass addition set at a rate just below the at rest metabolic rate.

### WHERE WE ARE AT TODAY

I have got Scott L's mouthpiece and I have had a couple of guys from the fabrication and machine shops look at it. Basically I can get these started once we get a mushroom check valve so that the unit can be designed around this item (all the rest can be machined to suit) Scott L is going to have a look at a couple of these valves on Monday. Once this is done they should be able to be machined up in approximately 2 weeks (to fit in with workshop loads)

### GOING FORWARD

I have a couple of suggestions so that we can achieve a good quality unit

- 1 We should look at making approximately 8 to 12 units so that what we do we do well and that if we buy items we purchase enough for the group (i.e. if we use lay flat hoses as the breathing bag that we get approximately 20 meters rather than have 8 people getting 2 meters each). This also helps for anything that I get manufactured in one of our workshops as it is easier to make approximately 12 units once rather than 12 separate units
- 2 We should look at allocations of tasks so it is not all lumped on a few individuals. This will additionally allow people to specialise and look at how to achieve the best answer to give us all the best answers. Also we should set time lines to these tasks.

- 3 We should look at getting a kitty together to help with the above.

### TASKS/AREAS THAT WE SHOULD GET A PERSON TO CHAMPION

1. Breathing loop:
  - a. Mouthpiece. I have got this partially underway  
**Action Scott Willan**
  - b. Check Valves. Scott L to source and pass on to myself for the fabrication of the mouth piece.  
**Action Scott Leimroth**
  - c. Counter-Lung(s) and diluent addition valves. We should get someone to look at the best positions of the lung (over the shoulder, on the front or on the back), best forms of construction (lay flat hose or some other materials), where to source materials and addition valves  
**Action TBA**
  - d. Scrubber and internals I should also be capable of getting these fabricated in the workshop  
**Action Scott Willan**
  - e. Breathing Hoses and fittings for the counter lung and scrubber (ideally some quick fitting system or if worm screw clamps how we can remove some of the shape edges  
**Action TBA**
2. Gas Addition/Replenishment System.
  - a. Compressed gas cylinder can we get any small cylinders for O<sub>2</sub> or diluent (eg CO<sub>2</sub> fire extinguishes)  
**Action Scott Leimroth**
  - b. Regulators, gauges, hoses fittings (BC quick fits) we may need a few bits here and John has all the contacts  
**Action John Fardoulis**
  - c. Oxygen measuring device We should look at O<sub>2</sub> sensors, displays both numerical and simple heads up  
**Action TBA**
  - d. Gas addition controls again I may be able to get this underway but would appreciate a hand  
**Action Scott Willan**

**Want to make your own rebreather?**

**Join South Pacific Divers Rebreather design Group.**

**Email Scott at:**

**scott@southpacificdivers.com to sign up today.**

# Ex-HMAS Canberra

## FROM JULIE DUNCAN

Secretary Illawarra Artificial Reef Project

## TO DIVE LOG FORUM

While we all have our preferences and opinions as to where the exHMAS Canberra should be sunk, and assurances are that all these opinions hold merit in some form or another. We seem to be missing the point NSW has not yet been given the vessel.

In a convivial, perfect world, what would be happening within the dive industry in NSW, is a unified, concerted lobbying at both levels of the government, with assistance and support from the wider diving community, for the EX HMAS CANBERRA to come to NSW. Once this is achieved then the interested groups (currently 4) should, as we have been informed by the Premiers Department, then put forth their case, and the area whose case shows the best merit be awarded the vessel.

In the interim-we believe that the NSW dive industry should be looking at the merits of each of the 4 areas -taking into consideration all aspects of the creation of the artificial reef, while at the same time looking at the long term effects on the wreck, the chosen sites have.

Rather than the vessel be given to an area for political manoeuvring -i.e. vote acquisition.

· Should not, the vessel go to the area which can show the most accessible site, for dive-

ability as well as the ability to offer alternative sites in the area, for when those weather patterns arrive, which would not allow access.

· The area whose local infrastructure could cater to any increase in tourism,

· As well as the area who could benefit from the added economic growth.

In the real world - all four groups have been too busy with the WIFM mentality, than to try and work together and achieve something for the better of the dive industry in NSW, and diving in general. Maybe that time has come?

So if you would like to lobby the local, state or federal politicians please feel free. If you would like a sample letter that is available via the following link

[www.leisurecoastdive.com.au/html/iarp\\_inc\\_.html](http://www.leisurecoastdive.com.au/html/iarp_inc_.html)

Should you have any questions on how to help, we can be contacted via email.

[julie@leisurecoastdive.com.au](mailto:julie@leisurecoastdive.com.au)

Or if your questions are more about the individual cases than I suggest you contact the individual groups concerned.

## ABOUT THE CANBERRA

A long range escort frigate that undertakes roles including area air-defence, anti-sub warfare, surveillance, reconnaissance and interdiction. Capable of countering simultaneous air, surface and sub-surface threats.

Canberra and her five sister frigates HMA Ships Adelaide, Sydney, Darwin, Melbourne and

Newcastle, were the first Royal Australian Navy (RAN) ships to be powered by gas turbines for their main propulsion. This, combined with a modern repair by replacement policy, has allowed both a reduced complement and a high availability for sea. Canberra can be underway in less than 30 minutes. In addition, two forward mounted retractable auxiliary propulsion units are fitted to provide excellent manoeuvrability in confined waters.

Principal weapons are the Standard medium range anti-aircraft missile and the Harpoon anti-ship missile, both of which are fired from the Mk13 launcher on the forecastle. A 76mm gun to counter both anti-aircraft and anti-surface threats is fitted forward of the funnel, NULKA decoy system and one 20mm Phalanx close-in weapon system are fitted for anti-missile defence.

For long range anti-submarine tasks, Canberra is equipped with a flight deck and hangars for two S-70B-2 Seahawk helicopters. For close-in anti-submarine defence the ship is fitted with two Mk 32 triple torpedo tubes.

The ship's sensors include long and short range radars and an electro-optical tracking system for air and surface surveillance, electronic warfare surveillance sensors and a hull mounted sonar. A computer based command and control system processes information as well as a data link from other ships and aircraft. Sophisticated suite

## FAST FACTS

Scheduled to decommission in November 2005.

### Launched:

01 Dec 1978

### Commissioned:

21 Mar 1981

### Displacement:

4,100 tonnes

### Length:

138.1 metres

### Beam:

14.3 metres

### Armament:

76mm rapid fire gun, Harpoon anti-ship missiles, Standard surface to air missiles, Phalanx Mk15 close-in weapon system, 2 triple anti-submarine torpedo tubes for Mk 46 torpedoes

### Main Machinery:

2 General Electric LM2500 gas turbines geared to a single controllable pitch propeller

### Speed:

More than 30 knots

### Ship's Company:

Approx 210

of communications equipment allow it communicate with other ships, aircraft and the shore. HMAS Canberra is the third ship to bear this name.



# BUY • SWAP • SELL

## FURUNO LS-4100 FISH FINDER DEPTH SOUNDER

Still in box, only used a couple of times, in AS NEW condition \$250

5" Monochrome LCD Dual Frequency (50/200kHz) 300W Fish Finder (Display Only)



The LS4100 is a dual frequency fish finder designed for small pleasure craft. It features a waterproof 5" high-definition silver bright LCD screen that offers a remarkably detailed picture of fish and bottom structure. With a resolution of 240 (H) x 320 (V) pixels, it has the highest resolution in its class! The LS4100 offers dual frequency capabilities, both 50 and 200 kHz, and has an outstanding 300 W RMS (2,400 Watt peak-to-peak) output power, making this fish finder the leader in its class.

**CALL MAX GLEESON 02 95248077 OR EMAIL  
MAXGLEE@OPTUSNET.COM.AU**

## DRYSUIT SEATEC MAGNUM EX

In excellent condition, hardly used, maybe 10 dives max.

This is a Seatec magnum EX model

(manufacturers size 4) size 9 feet.

More info on their website

**[www.seatec.com.au/drysuits/magnumex.html](http://www.seatec.com.au/drysuits/magnumex.html)**

Used to fit me when I weighed 80kg now nearly 10kg heavier :(

Only wore it a few times and stored correctly then went to put it on this winter and....doh!! Im bigger than I was....or I prefer to say the suit shrunk :)

Contact me if you have any questions.

I'm in Cronulla, and you can contact me to look at the suit if you wish.

In good condition, first to see will buy. \$550

Contact Scott on

**[scott@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:scott@southpacificdivers.com) or 0413717170**



## 4.2M (14FT) INFLATABLE BOAT

Sick of shore dives? Why not buy your own boat? Cost to set up is only a little more than a deluxe set of new dive gear.

**Width:** 1.75m

**Tube Size:** 50cm

**Net Weight:** 100kg

**Load capacity:** 980Kg

**Rated to:** 30hp

**Max people:** 7

Aluminium floor

Inflatable keel

3 air chambers + keel

**Condition:** Brand new in the box

Comfortably dives 3

Can view exactly the same model on Boeing trailer (pictured) to see what it's like inflated.

**Price:** POA, will sell at cost to club member if they regularly dive on club outings.

Reason sale: Directly imported three from overseas, one for me, one for Scott and this is a spare.

**Note:** Sale is for boat only but we do have a contact to order a custom made Boeing trailer directly from the manufacturer.

**Contact:** John Fardoulis [john@mobility.com.au](mailto:john@mobility.com.au)

**Located:** Lilyfield



# BUY • SWAP • SELL

## CITIZEN ECO DRIVE AQUALAND

New (Done 1 dive) cost \$560 wholesale \$450

Contact Glen on 47352012 or [essentialsolar@bigpond.com](mailto:essentialsolar@bigpond.com) for more information.

## SUUNTO SPYDER (GOLD)

brand new condition. Just had battery change \$450

Contact Glen on 47352012 or [essentialsolar@bigpond.com](mailto:essentialsolar@bigpond.com) for more information.

## APOLLO DRY SUIT

size 5 big feet (11) as new \$950

Contact Glen on 47352012 or [essentialsolar@bigpond.com](mailto:essentialsolar@bigpond.com) for more information.

## SHERWOOD AVID BCD XL

brand new with accessory kit (Knife, torch and retractable lanyards \$300 worth \$900) Note needs one weight pocket.

Contact Glen on 47352012 or [essentialsolar@bigpond.com](mailto:essentialsolar@bigpond.com) for more information.

## MARES HUB INTEGRATED BCD, REG AND OCCY

\$1100. (less than the price of reg alone)

Also if there's any skiers out there.....

Contact Glen on 47352012 or [essentialsolar@bigpond.com](mailto:essentialsolar@bigpond.com) for more information.

## NEPTUNE SEMI DRY SUIT

Size about 4-5. Bargain if it fits you, need to be around 5'10 but Bought it off eBay but doesn't fit.

Asking Price: \$150

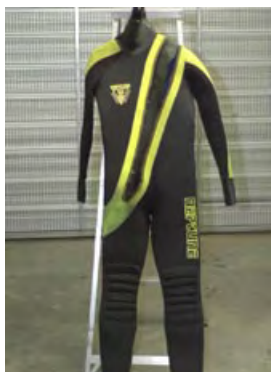
Condition: Reasonable

Advertiser: John Fardoulis

Located: Lilyfield

Contact Details:

[john@unitedpress.com.au](mailto:john@unitedpress.com.au)



## JET (STYLE) FINS - IDI POWER FINS

rrp \$240, only \$90

size medium

Contact Scott on

[scott@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:scott@southpacificdivers.com) or 0413717170



## Got some gear you want to buy, swap or sell?

Send us a photo of the gear and a brief description of what you want to buy or sell. Don't forget to include the price, your contact details and the location (Suburb or general area).

Email your ad, including pics to [scott@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:scott@southpacificdivers.com)



# Dive Report | Photography group



*Underwater photography is a long-standing institution under the banner of South Pacific Divers Club. History has seen unparalleled support by SPDC to run the richest Underwater Photo Comp in the Southern Hemisphere for many years.*

It was a time where the essence of the underwater world was captured on negative and photographic paper. Whilst this media is still considered just as superior in the present, it is also not too cost effective for the entry level or amateur photographer. Digital cameras and housings technology now open the doors to a greater diver/photographer community primarily due to their relatively low costs and overheads.

The Photography Group recently armed themselves with empty flash cards and charged Li-Ions and went for a splash off North Head by means of the club boats. It was humble beginnings as the new faces got the chance to understand each others' shot habits – namely the patience of getting that perfect pic. We were treated immediately with curious juvenile Port Jackson Sharks on the seafloor, which opened our session of testing different cameras and angles.

Some cuttlefish also presented a good photo challenge with its skin reflecting light in a range of colours as it camouflages with its surroundings.

The South Pacific Divers Club Photography Interest Group is for any diver keen to begin (or continue) their underwater activity so for more information please contact Scott Hansman on **0403 843 521**.

## KEY FEATURES OF THE PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

- Collective underwater photography interest amongst members
- Developing and shared skills knowledge base
- Photographic orientated dives with full diver / boat support and no interruptions
- 1 organised photographic dive per month
- Under Construction – Online Diver Galley & Discussion Forums, Digital Workshops & Group Buys

**PHOTOGRAPHY INTEREST  
GROUP DIVE DAY  
NORTH HEAD SEPTEMBER 16**





## SUNDAY DRIFT DIVE | 27 AUGUST 2006

**DIVERS: MARK PINNA, ROBERT DOUST, ANDREW NELSON, SCOTT HANSMAN.**

The week leading up to Sunday the 27th of August saw some of the most stable sea conditions this winter with zero chop nor swell and it certainly gifted us with some great vis at The Leap.

The time of entry left us in no position to "catch the ride" however left us with the opportunity to venture back on forth down the strip till our air said so. As with most of the times at the leap, the sea life didn't disappoint with the sighting of a healthy 80-100 cm Green Moray, the resident weedy sea dragons and wedged sand anchors – a snapshot in time of ones ill-fated outing. The gropers are as tame as any at Kurnell, span the distance during one of these dives and sure enough, the blue feller is in range to keep monitor of your habits.

The cool wintry start to the morning also meant for us all an easy descend down the cliff face without losing copious amounts of sweat and energy. I don't believe the same could be said for the hike back up however all would agree it's much preferred than trying it on same time in January and 35 degrees!

The dive marked the first of many regular local rock hops to be organized by South Pacific Divers Club, giving everyone the opportunity to go for casual "quickie" dive without impacting too greatly on their busy schedules. It was a great chance for some new faces to mix it with the seasoned South Pac divers for the first and as the dive ended we left knowingly it won't be the last!!

## Relaxing North Head dive...

**BY JOHN FARDOULIS**

We had another great Saturday morning diving near North Head on August 20th. I took two separate loads of divers out in the inflatable, the first run an official Photography Interest Group outing, with myself, Scott Hansman, Kylie Suttor and Brett Seriani in attendance.

A couple of Port Jackson sharks were waiting for us at the end of the anchor line, and once again diving was better in the shallows. We haven't had a bad dive in that area yet, with a lot of marine life in and around the boulders. A nice relaxing dive, also a good location for photographers. Surrounding locations also offer variety with several different sites between the Eastern tip of North Head and on the inside of Quarantine station.

Caitlin, Andy and Nick, were joined on the second dive in a

special appearance by Geoff Cook, diving reef (instead of his trademark Wreck passion), out of my inflatable rather than his precious Sharkcat, Barjumpa. This was probably the best test of how many divers the new inflatable could carry, performing well with four divers and gear, plus two passengers.

I'd previously spoken with old club member John Beddie for information regarding where his secret Red Indian Fish spot was and he kindly met us in his boat near Quarantine head after a dive off Long Reef.

Another great morning, topped off by a lovely waterfront lunch at the Manly 16ft Skiff Club.

Little Manly ramp is less than 10 minutes boat ride away from half a dozen different dive sites, so we'll probably do a lot of diving around as the weather gets warmer.



Putting the new inflatable to the test with a full diving load.



Happy divers.



John Beddie shows us his secret Indian Fish spot.



Busted! Diving reef instead of wreck, and out of an inflatable, not his Sharkcat!



# Connect to the world of 3G



\* Nokia 6233 supports 2 and 3.6 networks. Some services/features may depend on network. © 2006 Nokia. All rights reserved. Ask your operator for details of 3G availability/charges. 44 megabytes of storage is in-built. Additional 2GB of storage is available for purchase separately. & is subject to availability. Colour availability may vary by country. Nokia is a registered trademark of Nokia Corporation. Nokia Connecting People is a registered trademark of Nokia. Inc.

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# Join us for a dive...



## September

DATE	TIME	SITE	DEPTH	PURPOSE	DIVE LEADER
Friday 15	8pm	Oak Park	<20m	Night Dive	Scott Hansman 0403 843 521
Saturday 16	9.30am	Little Manly	<20m	Red Indian Fish Hunt	John Fardoulis 0400 888 888
	11.30am	<b>RSVP FOR FREE BOAT DIVE BY FRIDAY MID-DAY</b>			
Sunday 17	9am	Birchgrove Park	<50m	Wreck dive	Geoff Cook 0404 554 554
					<b>HURRY - only 2 spaces left!!</b>
Monday 18th	8pm	Bankstown Sports Club	<b>CLUB MEETING &amp; SHARK MONTH LAUNCH NIGHT</b>		
			<b>FEATURING "UP CLOSE AND DANGEROUS WITH DAVID IRELAND". SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS.</b>		
Saturday 23	9.30am	Bass Point	<20m	Club Dive & BBQ	Geoff Cook 0404 554 554

## October

DATE	TIME	SITE	DEPTH	PURPOSE	DIVE LEADER
Sunday 9	9.30am	Magic point	<20	Grey Nurse Sharks	Scott Hansman
Sun 15	4.30pm	Manly Oceanarium		Tank dive	Scott Hansman
					<b>DON'T MISS OUT - UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO DIVE WITH THE SHARKS AT MANLY AQUARIUM!</b>
Monday 16th	8pm	Bankstown Sports Club	<b>CLUB MEETING &amp; WRECK MONTH LAUNCH NIGHT</b>		
			<b>FEATURING TALK BY MAX GLEESON AMONGST OTHERS. SEE PAGE 23 FOR DETAILS.</b>		
20-22	TBC	Forster	<30	Grey Nurse Sharks	Geoff Cook
					<b>WEEKEND AWAY \$210 PER PERSON INCLUDING DIVES, FILLS AND ACCOMODATION.</b>
Fri 27	8pm	Oak Park	<20m	Night dive	Scott Hansman
					<b>SOCIAL DRINKS AFTERWARD IN CRONULLA PUB.</b>

Please contact the dive organisers if you'd like to come along to a dive at least 3 days prior to dive day.







# BUNYIP on the prowl

***Which well known and respected skipper/diver recently, on an unfamiliar boat, fell overboard and was hit by the propeller?  
We believe he has recovered.***

***Recently one of Sydney's better photographer's flooded his camera! Who was the dive shop proprietor scrubbed off his Christmas card list?***

***Who was seen playing tongue tennis at a dive related bash recently? Her partner will not be happy if found out, could be the end of a loving relationship. Our spy claims his lips are sealed, a bottle of scotch will keep them that way.***

## www.SouthPacificDivers.Com

A refresh of our web site is currently being organised and in the mean time, it will be more of a placeholder for editions of the Wet Rag. As you can see, this edition of the Wet Rag is very comprehensive, providing contact information for boat owners, dive organisers, a calendar of events and outlining current club business. Almost like a compressed copy of the web site in a single document.

## Tell Your Friends

Forward a link to the Wet Rag available from [www.SouthPacificDivers.Com](http://www.SouthPacificDivers.Com) or attach the PDF and email it to your friends. South Pacific Divers Club is basically a friendship Society for divers, so why not let your buddies in on the secret?

## WANTED - Wet Rag Contributors

Feel like your 15 minutes of fame? Or is there a cause that requires more attention? Got a good experience to share? Perhaps share knowledge with others. All good reasons for contributing to the Wet Rag. After all, it's your magazine, why not be more hands on by contributing?

Email submissions at the end of each month to [scott@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:scott@southpacificdivers.com)

## We want YOU!

Like to join South Pacific Divers Club?  
Membership has many benefits including:

- **Like minded people to dive with.**
- **Mentoring** – Learn more about diving, increase your diving skills by diving with others, experienced members are keen to help you learn more. Group organised further education such as first aid courses, boat handling etc.
- **Adventure** – New places to dive, new things to see.
- **Boat dives** – charter boats at reduced rates and a number of members boats are available to dive from. Non profit diving with new friends.
- **Develop special interests** – Wrecks, Photography, Rebreathers, Ecology, Exploration.
- **Free independent advice** - Equipment, trips, sites to dive etc.
- **Social activities** – In the past we have run wine tasting, movie nights, 10 pin bowling, paintball, charity events and much much more.
- **Life long friendships and contacts in the diving industry** – Not just a club it's a way of life.

To join simply fill in the form on the next page and post to **P.O. BOX 823 BANKSTOWN NSW 2200** with payment.

Or why not attend one of our club meetings held every 3rd Wednesday of the month at Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Parade, Bankstown.

Email any of the committee members or check our website for more details.





ESTABLISHED  
1962

# Join the Club.

## Membership Application Form

Complete this form and post to: **South Pacific Divers Club, P.O. Box 823 Bankstown NSW 2200**

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

☐ I wish to apply for 1 year's membership.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Post Code.

Phone:

Work:

Home:

Mobile:

E-Mail:

Diving Certification:

Certification Number:

Are You a Boat Owner: ☐ yes ☐ No

If yes, type of boat:

#### CURRENT MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Single \$50.00      Family \$75.00

*Please Note that Membership for 2006-07 has been increased to cover Insurance*

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_



## GUIDE TO SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES SHIPWRECKS

Guide to Southern New South Wales Shipwrecks - by Tom Byron - 2006

This book is the latest in a series of divers guides - it features 87 wrecks along the southern New South Wales coastline. Packed with site information, shipwreck specification, well illustrated location maps, and GPS numbers for accurate location. The book also contains a CD with video clips of 10 wrecks also on the same CD is a chronicle of shipwrecks dating back to 1797 and a colourful photo gallery.

The Guide to Southern New South Wales Shipwrecks is a black and white book with 160 pages full of shipwrecks and lots of useful information for those divers interested in wreck diving.

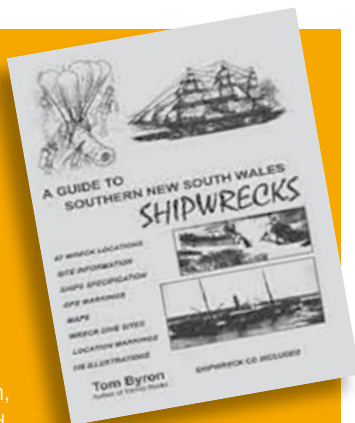
**Ten Shipwreck Videos:** Tug Provincial Trader - Tug Tasman Hauler - SS Hilda - SS Lady Darling - SS Royal Shepherd - SS Tuggerah - SS Undola - MV Malabar - SS Kelloe - Tug Henry Bolte.

**Compact Disc Information:** The book comes packed with a CD. This disc contains new shipwrecks videos as well as update information, underwater maps, GPS markings, shipwreck index dating back to 1797 and movie clips all in colour, also interesting sea tales of bygone years plus a photo gallery.

Many hundreds of rusting shipwrecks lie on the bottom of the ocean floor along the southern New South Wales coast, some in shallow water, whilst others are in deep water way beyond the reach of recreational scuba divers.

Over the years, literally hundreds of wrecks involving passenger vessels, colliers, migrant clippers ships and privately owned vessels have gone to the bottom. The vast majority of these have involved ships of minor importance with almost no loss of life. Then, there are those that have gripped the attention of all Australian's.

**Black & White soft cover - 160 pages - ISBN 949490-10-5**



## SPDC IS off to Truk Lagoon!

Our last trip to Truk was way back in October 1997. On that trip 22 SPDC divers made the Journey. We will limit this trip to 12 divers as 22 was just too many. We will travel in February '07, we will go to Cairns, Guam and Truk where we will stay at the Blue Lagoon resort for 12 nights 18 dives (that leaves a couple of free days to do different things). We return to Guam for maybe 1 or 2 nights then back to Cairns to stay overnight (we get back at 11pm so no choice) then home to Sydney. I am still fiddling with plane flights and \$\$\$\$. Full details in the next issue of the Wet Rag.

**CONTACT LEO BERGAGNIN ON 0419 517 285 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GOING ON THIS TRIP.**



## Highlights from SPDC committee meeting

1. Club Clothing range finalized and being ordered **See page 12 to order yours!**
2. Theme months decided until the end of the year
3. Change in nature of Club Meeting to Launch Nights for themed month eg. October is Shark Month
4. Launch Night guest speakers planned until the end of the year
5. Seminars and other non diving activities to be organized according to theme
6. A better planning framework is now in place



## THE VANISHED FLEET OF THE SYDNEY COASTLINE

This book covers 15 ship wrecks

in Port Jackson and nearby ocean sites.

Wrecks include the Birchgrove Park, Undola, Annie M Miller, Tuggerah, Kelloe, Royal Shepherd, Woniora and others. A must for all wreck divers and those interested in maritime history.

Includes colour photos of their current state plus historic black and white images of them in service.

*Soft cover, 168 pages.*

## SHIPWRECKS, STORMS AND SEAMEN

This book covers in detail the events surrounding the wrecks of the Catterthun, Cawarra, Keilawarra, Oakland, Bega, Advance, Currajong, Satara, Macleay, Wandra, and Merimbula.

Includes both historical and colour underwater images, diagrams of the wreck sites, stories of heroism and maritime marine in Australian history.

*Soft cover, 168 pages.*



## DESTINATION NEVER REACHED

Book number three in the series will

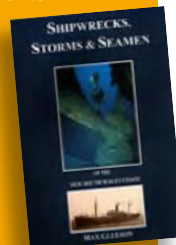
appeal to those interested in maritime history as well as scuba divers and anyone who loves a great story. Details the sinkings of various wrecks along the New South Wales Coast not covered in the previous two releases, including the Lady Darling, Dandenong, Bonnie Dundee, Maitland, Lyee-Moon, Nerong, New England and others.

*Soft cover, 168 pages.*

## S.S. YONGALA TOWNSVILLE'S TITANIC

On the afternoon of March 23, 1911, the Adelaide Steamship Company's steamer Yongala left Mackay, North Queensland for Townsville. Within twelve hours, all 121 crew and passengers went down with the ship during a fierce cyclone. This excellent, revised book, tells the story of events leading up to her loss, and the subsequent discovery of her last resting place.

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# Boat Owners & Dive Leaders

## BOAT OWNERS

### GEOFF COOK

Email: [geoff@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:geoff@southpacificdivers.com)  
Contact Number: 0404 554 554  
Located: **Barden Ridge**  
Boat Type: **Shark Cat: 4 deep 5 shallow**  
Favourite Type of Diving: **Wrecks**



### SCOTT LEIMROTH

Email: [scott@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:scott@southpacificdivers.com)  
Contact Number: 0413 71 71 70  
Located: **Cronulla**  
Boat Type: **Inflatable: 3 Shallow, 3 Deep**  
Favourite Diving: **Wrecks, helping novices**



### MARTIN KANDILAS

Email: [martin@mdk.au.com](mailto:martin@mdk.au.com)  
Contact Number: 9525 9399  
Located: **Dolans Bay**  
Boat Type: **5.5 metre: 5 shallow, 4 deep**  
Favourite Type of Diving: **Wrecks**



### JOHN FARDOULIS

Email: [john@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:john@southpacificdivers.com)  
Contact Number: 0400 888 888  
Located: **Lilyfield**  
Boat Types: **Inflatable: 4 Shallow, 3 Deep & Solid hull 7.5m half cabin, 6 deep, 6 shallow**  
Favourite Type of Diving: **Helping novices**



### SCOTT EGGINTON

Email: [pennynscott@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pennynscott@optusnet.com.au)  
Contact Number: (m) 0403 336 133  
Located: **Milperra**  
Boat Type: 5 metre: **4 divers shallow 3 deep**  
Favourite Type of Diving: **Wrecks and Deep**



### SCOTT WILLAN

Email: [swillan@thomascoffey.com.au](mailto:swillan@thomascoffey.com.au)  
Contact Number: 9543 7095  
Located: **Bangor**  
Boat Type: **Runabout and Yacht**  
Favourite Type of Diving: **Fun Dives**



## DIVE LEADERS

*All boat owners are also Dive Leaders. In addition, the following are also Shore Dive Coordinators and Dive Leaders.*

### PRIMARY NIGHT & SHORE DIVE COORDINATOR

#### SCOTT HANSMAN

Email: [scott.h@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:scott.h@southpacificdivers.com)  
Contact Number: (M) 0403 843 521  
Located: **Cronulla**



### EXPLORER GROUP LEADER

#### BRETT SERIANI

Email: [brett@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:brett@southpacificdivers.com)  
Contact Number: (M) 0415 688 974  
Located: **Newtown**



#### PAUL STRANGER

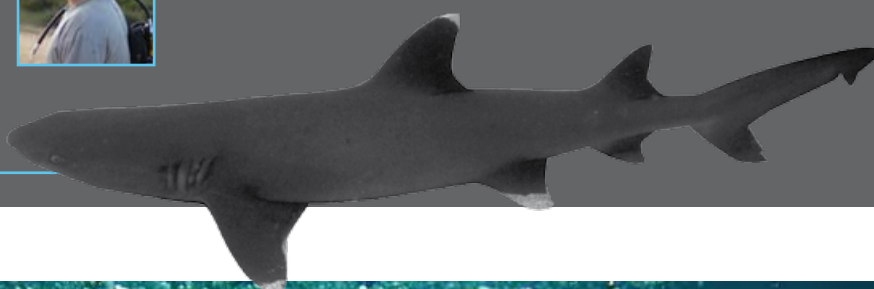
Email: [paulstranger@hotmail.com](mailto:paulstranger@hotmail.com)  
Contact Number: (M) 0432 860 501  
Located: **Newtown**



Favourite Type of Diving: **Night dives, Shore Dives**

## MORE DIVE LEADER VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Email [geoff@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:geoff@southpacificdivers.com) to be added to the list.



# Whitsunday Fantasea Barrier Reef Diving.

BY GEOFF COOK.

*Kicking off "Spring Diving 2006" with a short R & R at Hamilton Island. Beautiful one day. Perfect the next so they say...*

What was even better the trip was paid for by the deep pockets of telco industry with no expense spared. On Fathers Day we hopped the "Fantasea One" for a 40 minute trip out to the diving platform Reefworld.

That's right Reefworld, not a bit if rust or brass within miles. Trip out was interesting with a running swell from 4 days of 30 knot winds. With a few uneasy looks on the passengers of our group I directed the conversation to the curdling effect that tuna oil has on milkshakes set a few scurrying to the burley post at the rear.

Reefworld has two permanent floating



platforms, a submarine and a heliport about 25 kilometres off the coast on the reef. Primarily catering for reef snorkelers but also has a well equipped facility for scuba.

## DIVE 1

The water is warm and clear with 15 to 20 metres viz. Under the platform you are immediately met by two 1.2 metre 'humphead maori wrasse'. Just at the limit of viz was an enormous 2.6metre grouper called Eddie. Following the guide ropes to the reef wall the coral immediately near the platform was a little damaged but the fish life was amazing.

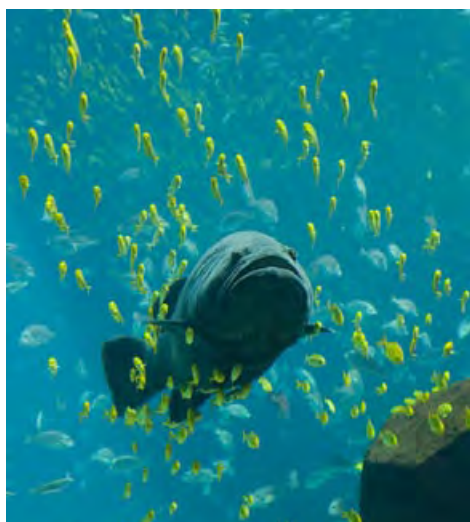
There were countless colours, shapes and sizes. Clams were everywhere amongst the coral. Traveling along wall it got better and better. Within a short distance I located two spanish dancers, one about 4 cms and the other about 15 cms nearby I also located a small valley of opaque tube worm that even the dive master had never seen before. 55 minutes at 16 metres water temp 22 deg.

## DIVE 2 - THE WALL DRIFT DIVE.

Later in the afternoon I participated in a drift dive along a site known as The Wall. A short boat trip away to a marker bouy Encounters with Lion fish in the overhangs as we effortlessly drifted in the current. Big schools of giant trevally walled around us chasing our bubbles to the surface inviting an O ring bubble blowing competition between myself and the instructor.

I really impressed myself by getting two of them to almost reach the surface 12 metres above. I don't think I ever have been able to do them as well. The noise of the approaching 'viewing submarine' was amazingly noisy. All the fish that were immediately around us all shot off as it approached returning as the sub had moved away.

Nemo turned up as did his cousins and their cousins in an area covered in anemone. The dive was an effortless 47 minute drift in the current.



## Magic Point Grey Nurse shark dive

Join us as we visit the realm of the graceful grey nurse sharks.

**Date:** Sunday October 9

**Time:** 9.30am

**Meet:** Malabar Beach

**Contact:** [scott.h@southpacificdivers.com](mailto:scott.h@southpacificdivers.com) or call 0403 843 521







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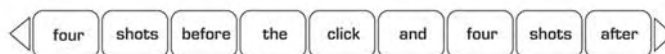




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HOURS  
TALK TIME

UP TO  
800  
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### PRODUCT FEATURES

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HOURS  
TALK TIME

UP TO  
180  
HOURS  
STANDBY

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# CHOPPERED OUT!

BY PETER FIELDS

**THE SCENE:** Midwinter and a fine, clear, calm Sunday after a wet, cold week. We motor north out of Sydney Harbour bound for wrecks off Long Reef three miles North. A dying swell, dolphins cavorting and a lone swooping, soaring albatross. As good as it gets.

**THE DIVE:** We drop anchor on an old dump barge. Of the crew of three of us, Phil wants to photograph the wreck, Andreas just wants to bum around so I forgo my scooter and take a light to back-light for Phil. I'm last in. Two minutes down to 43 metres on the deck of the barge, then a nine minute, on 26 per cent nitrox, bottom time illuminating some big bastard trumpeter in the deckhouse, then the the diesel engine in the hold. No current, good viz, no sweat. Dolphin-chirping loud in our ears.

Leave the bottom with 143 bar, deco stop at 18 metres for one minute and, by the time I reach the regular shallow deco stop, after a very leisurely ascent, my computer has come out of deco mode, putting me in the clear. None-the-less I do another eight minutes of deco because I've got the time and the gas, bouncing on my bungee cord jon-line in the swell, half asleep.

**THE POST DIVE:** I want out of my dry suit so, because there is no assistance, I use my old trick, which is very frowned upon, of securing one of the overboard lanyards to the toggle on my zip at the back and, by walking slowly away, drag the zip open. While I'm doing this another dive boat chugs over to exchange pleasantries and absent-mindedly I unclip the lanyard. Visitors depart and I find I have only opened the zip three-quarters of the way. No matter how I struggle I can't get out. Try and twist and turn to re-attach the lanyard. Can't reach. An annoying twenty-five millimetres away, no joy no matter how I strain. Now my neck starts to hurt -and gets worse. I think I know what's going on: years ago I crunched my swan-like by being dumped while drunken body surfing at Coogee beach. My neck looks as though it's been through a million Wallaby scrums.

Still no sign of the others. I sit on the gunwale and breathe more 26 per cent - just in case. Finally Phil boards. I ask him to finish unzipping me, divest the suit and have him

massage my, by now, very sore neck. He can feel a knotted muscle. "Give it heaps", I say. Which he does. Slightly relieved I reach for a cup of tea. Before I get to the Thermos my right arm goes partially paralysed with stabbing pins and needles. "Shit- I've got a hit", I say, and head for horizontal on the deck clutching the 26 per cent regulator and saying "Get me out of here".

**THE RESCUE:** Phil who's a quiet and very capable ex-Detective Sergeant, and one-time trainer of police divers, is on the blower, triple zero, smartest.

"Do you want an ambulance at Rose Bay wharf?" to me.

"No. Get me choppered, WestPac Rescue."

In short order they're on the phone.

"D'you have VHF?"

"Affirmative"

"Stay on Channel 16. We'll contact you airborne".

"Vessel's name and position?"

Me: "Tell them MAGNOLIA Phil. If you say the full name, MAGNOLIA THUNDERPUSSY, they'll think we're a pack of jokers."

Inside 15 minutes they come up on VHF.

"As soon as you hear us coming throw smoke."

Andreas fires off a red smoke flare.

(At least that works- not like the emergency O2. Un-serviced in four years, the valve is frozen shut, the oral-nasal mask is so mouldy it's dangerous and the reducer and gauges are salt water-destroyed to a rotten mess of muck metal. No joy there at all.)

From the moment the red smoke rises, inside three minutes Westpac have a swimmer in the water towing the hoist winch wire to the boat, climbing on our transom, slinging me

for a watery entry, towing us both 50 metres sideways through the sea with a vicious downward blast of air from the rotors, then a 150 ft high hoist and both of us are aboard the helo. Done like clockwork.

I'm stretched out on the helo floor, O2 oral-nasal on and my T-shirt, I'm dressed in only wet cotton pants and T, slit right open and monitor wires attached to my chest. It's cold-super cold. I'm shaking badly. Core temperature is going down fast. They can't hear me mouthing. They give me a headset and boom mike. I tell them my plight and they tuck a space blanket around my torso and throw a heavy coat over me. It helps.

I have long had tremendous admiration for these guys. They are consummate professionals and funny, knockabout blokes as well. By now with the headset on they are quizzing me the details of the dive and expressing amazement at my unusual water entry off the boat. It was the standard divers back flip but they found that highly amusing.

**THE AFTERMATH:** 10 minutes pass and I'm assisted out of the helo right outside the casualty door at Prince of Wales Hospital. Core temperature still below 34 degrees. Two hours on O2 and a litre of saline fluid and the decision is what I innately thought, and hoped. A severely pinched nerve at C4 vertebrae, possibly dive exacerbated, produced the frightening symptoms, DCI was discounted and I was free to go.

**THE CONCLUSION:** I have long preached that any untoward symptoms-post dive-must be regarded seriously and medical intervention sought as soon as possible. My very first thought was to deny- who'll get the boat home and sorted out?- but training and beliefs, and fear, kicked in and I did what I have preached. I've zero regrets. It was the right thing to do and the Westpac guys loved the opportunity to put their training into practice. I urge everyone of you who reads this and who dives to do the same should the need, perceived or actual, ever arise. There are too many ex- divers damaged by a DCI who will tell you they wish they had sought help sooner. Some of them are walking around stiff-legged or peeing into diapers. Not a pleasant prospect. I'm fine and all's well that ends well.





# Coping with a critical incident.



## BY DAVID STRIKE

It's a delicate subject and one that – rather than being openly discussed – is often skirted around, or even avoided altogether. But as an adventure activity that takes place in an alien environment, recreational diving carries with it an element of risk.

That those risks can be reduced to a manageable level through appropriate training and a rigid adherence to proper procedures and protocols doesn't nullify the fact of their existence. They are real and have their basis in the many variables that divers have to consider. That's not to suggest that a properly considered and executed dive plan is any more dangerous than, for example, crossing a busy intersection when the traffic lights are in your favour: Although the potential for mishap is always present, it's reduced when everybody observes the rules.

A diving incident, of course, comes in many forms. It may be something as seemingly trivial as a badly leaking mask that causes both you and your buddy to abort the dive. It might be a major equipment malfunction that's resolved by carrying out an air-sharing ascent back to the boat: Or, and at the more extreme end of the scale, a bad judgement call that can result in severe injury or even death.

Perhaps because serious incidents are comparatively rare when balanced against the tens of millions of dives that take place each year, few people ever give thought to how they might manage an emergency: Not only in the flurry of the crisis itself and their immediate ability to respond to the needs of the victim but, and of equal importance, how they will cope once the situation is resolved?

There are three distinct phases in any incident; the events that precede it; the episode itself; and the aftermath. An appreciation of each is important in determining how well people will cope when the unthinkable happens.

## PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

It may sound trite, but the first step in learning to cope with a critical incident is to ensure that all reasonable precautions have been taken to prevent one happening!

Many of the so-called 'accidents' that occur in diving are avoidable. Rather than being, 'events without apparent cause', they are often the result of a failure to safeguard against what – in retrospect – becomes the obvious.

With the benefit of hindsight, it's usually easy to determine what went wrong:

- The dive plan was flawed.
- A diver failed to adhere to the dive plan or follow the pre-dive briefing instructions.
- The person giving the pre-dive briefing omitted key facts.
- Nobody thought to check the qualifications of a diver allowed to participate in a dive beyond the level of their experience.
- Pre-dive safety drills and equipment checks were overlooked.
- An appointed dive leader allowed people to dive in less than perfect conditions rather than be criticised for calling it off.
- A qualified person failed to properly check rental equipment before it left the dive store.
- A diver caved in to peer pressure and undertook a dive that they didn't feel comfortable performing.
- Unsuitable equipment was used.
- A seemingly minor incident or malfunction went un-reported and subsequently escalated into a major one.

The list is endless and highlights the fact that in diving nothing should be taken for granted and that nobody should relinquish personal responsibility for his or her own safety and well being.

However – and regardless of effort – it's impossible to plan for the totally

unexpected. One day, despite all reasonable care, a diver or dive operator may still be confronted with a crisis. It's then that any precautions they've taken to protect themselves or their customers from harm will pay dividends, not least as regards the insidious effects of later self-recrimination and nagging doubt about what they might have done to prevent the incident.

## “WE HAVE A PROBLEM!”

Although they might appear similar, no two diving incidents are ever exactly the same. Both the circumstances and the actions taken will differ.

How each individual responds to an emergency will largely depend on their level of training; their experience; whether they've mastered and absorbed the information taught; and how much thought they've given to the, “What if ...?” questions of diving.

(In this regard the ability to visualise what could happen is a useful technique. Not only for its value in spotting in advance any possible causes of an incident but also in influencing the outcome. In the emotion-charged atmosphere of an emergency most of us lose sight of the fact that an ill-considered and inappropriate response may actually compound a situation and prove worse than no action at all!)

In extreme circumstances, particularly when the victim is beyond immediate help, it may be necessary to call on specialised assistance to affect a rescue or recovery. It's at times such as these when, frustrated by inactivity and their inability to assist in what they believe to be a positive fashion, those at the scene of an incident are at their most vulnerable.

As a useful tool in ensuring the best outcome to an incident, the value of an emergency contingency plan cannot be over-emphasised. Documenting all of the procedures to be followed – including the assignment of small tasks to keep peoples minds occupied – an

Emergency Plan is a reference source that can be used by anyone at the scene. Providing step-by-step instructions on what to do, and when, a well-formulated contingency plan can, quite literally, be a life-saver.

## COMING TO TERMS WITH AN INCIDENT

It's human nature to feel sympathy for any victim of an incident, even those who've fallen in harm's way through their own lack of good sense. But after the emergency, when its impact finally hits home, it's just as important to extend that same compassion and understanding to everybody involved.

It's something that Public Safety Dive Team members, like Mike Wallace, from Alabama, have to contend with as a matter of course during rescue and retrieval situations.

"Many people attempt to hide their human feelings by showing a certain callousness towards the event that caused injury to the victim," he says, "but it's impossible not to feel some sense of shared hurt or loss.

"Public safety personnel see this everyday, and each of us develops some way of dealing with it on the scene. But after it's all over and we're back somewhere private, we spend a lot of time coming to terms with what we've had to do.

"Personally, it takes me a long time after each call-out before I can let go of the scene and the results. We each handle it in our different ways. But at least, in the Public Safety sector, we have others whose experiences match our own and with whom we can talk through and share some of the stuff that we have to deal with."

Rather than maintaining a stoic attitude towards adversity and being left to cope by themselves, those involved in an incident should be encouraged to take part in a 'hot' de-brief. Held as soon as possible after the event – and out of sight and hearing of anybody not involved – the supportive atmosphere provides positive help in reducing the likelihood of post-traumatic stress.

It may even be necessary, to follow this up within a day or so with a more formal counselling session conducted by a trained professional.

Nobody, of course, plans a diving

incident! But preparing in advance for something that may never happen is the first step in learning to cope appropriately should one occur.

## REDUCING THE RISK

The first step in reducing risk is to eliminate unnecessary worry about something that may never happen. Imagine the worst that can possibly happen: And then calmly try to improve on procedures so that it doesn't!

Everyone who dives must accept responsibility for his or her own well being and safety. Exposure to risk – for themselves and others – can be reduced if divers ensure that:

- They regularly practice all of their diving skills.
- Their qualifications and experience are adequate to the dive being undertaken.
- They are fit, well, and have a positive mental attitude towards the dive.
- They have the strength of character to say, 'No!', when they're uncomfortable with any aspect of a proposed dive.
- Their equipment is appropriate for the dive; that it's well maintained and operational in every respect; and that they are completely familiar with its use.
- They plan every aspect of the dive in meticulous detail; that they are familiar with the plan, adhere to it; and know when to abort the dive if any aspect comes "unglued".
- They have familiarised themselves with all emergency procedures and the proper use of safety equipment.
- They ask questions about any aspect of a dive briefing that gives them concern.
- Regardless of experience, they respect all acceptable safety conditions imposed on them by an operator.
- They recognise their limitations and dive within them.
- They keep in mind that today's dive starts the night before!

The above represents a very small number of all the steps that divers can take to ensure that they don't learn to handle a critical incident the hard way.

# David Strike



One of the true identities of the Dive Industry is Englishman Dave Strike. Speaking to Dave recently after the posting of last Wet Rag he agreed to become a article contributor. Before we launch into his stories here is a biography I have lifted from Dive Oz

Born in the UK, David's earliest memories are of diving and divers. Entranced by the stories told to him by his uncles - one a commercial 'hard hat' diver, the other a Royal Navy Clearance Diver - his burning ambition was always to become a diver. His formal entry into diving began in 1961 when he joined the British Sub-Aqua Club, followed two years later by qualifying as a Royal Navy diver. During two shipboard postings to the Far East ('64 - '65 and again in '68 - '69) he had the opportunity to dive many of the locations that have, today, become popular diving destinations. In 1966 he was posted to Malta, on detached duty from the Royal Navy, where he worked with Dr John Woods in photographing and studying Thermocline characteristics.

On leaving the R.N. he completed a refresher course at the legendary, Siebe-Gorman works before joining a consortium of ex-military divers working on the North Sea gas and oil platforms. During the early seventies the mortality rate among the North Sea offshore diving community was reaching alarming proportions. Following two 'near misses' and attracted by the prospect of warmer waters - he and his family migrated to Australia.

In 1974 he began teaching recreational diving and until recently was a former PADI, SSI Instructor Certifier and ANDI Instructor. He continues to dive regularly and is particularly fascinated by the advent of 'Technical Diving'.

Today he and his wife live in Sydney where he writes about all aspects of diving and dive travel. A regular contributor to a number of diving publications, he is co-convenor – with Richard Taylor – of the OZTeK Diving Technologies Conference.



# Around the Clubs



**BY LEO BERGAGNIN**

(continued from last month's issue of the Wet Rag)

## **RYDE UNDERWATER CLUB.**

Report good rollups at away weekend's. Swansea, Eden, Port Stephens and Scan trip to Shellharbour.

Ulladulla is next on the list. In November along with Doubt's and St. George they will be of on the Undersea Explorer.

100 members and guests attended their recent 25th. Anniversary dinner.

## **ST. GEORGE SCUBA CLUB.**

Trips away include girls trip to Nelson Bay, large rollup at scan weekend at Shellharbour, J.B. at Easter,

A good day was had at Wollongong and gave United Divers a big wrap, another day is planned. Trips on the agenda

will see them off to Foster and South West Rocks. Thursday night dives continued throughout winter. "Le Scat" continues to go out most Wednesday's and weekends.



Pic. Andy Heath

## **PORT HACKING DIVERS CLUB.**

Their divers are ageing with many of them now retired. They still dive every Sunday morning, went to J.B. in June.

## **UNI OF WOLLONGONG.**

Diving has slowed down over winter, but with the end of exams, warmer weather and influx of new students this will turn around soon. Boat runs well after a few repairs, a new trailer is now on the shopping list. Another club with concerns to funding from the VSU.

## **SOLITARY ISLANDS UNDERWATER RESEARCH GROUP.**

This group are currently devoting much of their time researching the Solitary Islands Marine Park and with the aid of Harim Cha from Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center in Kansas, some specimens of Corallimorphs (bloody hell that was a mouthful) were identified. Coral bleaching and coral diseases are still a concern in the park.

They have revamped their photographic inventory and now have 400 species in the inventory. CD's will be sent to all NSW High schools teaching marine studies, courtesy of Coastcare.

## **GORDANS BAY DIVERS CLUB.**

Still maintaining the dive trail at GB, and still meet every 3rd. Tuesday of the month at the Clovelly pub

## **ANU DIVE CLUB.**

Each dive is an away dive for this club, so far this year they have completed 22 visits to the coast. Through winter 5 trips are on the agenda. VSU funding may change their operations next year.

# DON'T MISS - Ocean Odyssey night.

St George Scuba Club has at least 25 members attending, so why not make a night of it for SCAN:

### **2006 - An Ocean Odessey**

**Where:** Clancy Auditorium at the University of NSW

**When:** Friday November 17th.  
See pages 59, 60 & 61 of Dive Log!!

**Cost:** Tickets are normally \$15 ea, plus GST!  
If your club buys in bulk the price is just \$10 per ticket plus GST!! The difference can go into Club funds or directly to your members!!

### **Featuring talks by:**

Jean-Michel Cousteau

Dr. Phil Nuytten

Ron & Valerie Taylor

Bob Halstead

MC - Reg Lypson

*It's is bound to be a great night! Hope to see you there...*