



ESTABLISHED
1962

WET RAG

www.southpacificdivers.com

NOVEMBER | 06

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South Pacific Divers Club **39**

November is
**WRECK
MONTH**

Pic. Gary Bell

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with the word SUBSCRIBE in the Subject area.



Club President's Report



Hello again and welcome to the world of South Pacific Divers Club. For new readers, our club is a non profit organisation, a social club owned and run by the members to promote their interest in diving.

We're starting to get on a bit of a roll again, diving activities and membership are both growing, and attendance was excellent at last month's Shark Month Launch Night, with David Ireland putting on a great show.

REALLY SPECIAL

One dive does not fit all and because of this, our Special Interest Groups are becoming popular.

The latest idea for an interest group is for Teens, organising activities so younger divers can meet each other and go on specifically catered dives. Let me know if you or your children might be interested.

As for other Special Interest Groups, the Rebreather Group keeps going from strength to strength, our Photography & Video Group has grown, and it's time to kick off the Wreck & Archaeology Group.

Geoff Cook is the leader of the Wreck & Archaeology Group, please contact him: geoff@southpacificdivers.com to join.

WRECK MONTH

This edition kicks off Wreck Month. Our launch night included an audio visual presentation from well know wreck hunter, author, underwater photographer and film maker, Max Gleeson. Pioneer deep diver Samir Alhafith added even greater excitement as he talked about exploring deep wrecks.

MORE DIVING

Perhaps a nice problem to have is that due to growing numbers of active divers, we need more dive organisers. Ideally there should be 6 - 7 dive organisers taking it in turns to co-ordinate each outing. That way two or three people aren't overloaded and it helps mix things up a bit. Please contact me if you can help.

Once again, I'd like to remind readers that we're new diver friendly - experienced divers are more than happy to help mentor new divers. The same goes for intermediate divers, say those wanting to start on deeper, more challenging dives. Our club is non profit orientated - owned and run by the members, thriving off enthusiasm from everyone.

When I first joined over 12 years ago, I was taken under a Wreck Diving legend's wing, a good example how the club's ethos is based on the idea that one day new recruits will become mentors.

Come along and get involved!

Cheers,

John Fardoulis, President.

john@southpacificdivers.com

lagoon are well known to divers as premier dive destinations. If you haven't yet done a wreck dive I encourage you to do one sooner rather than later and discover for yourself the unique experience wreck diving offers. We have a number of wreck dives coming up this month so please check the dive calendar at the end of the Wet Rag and contact a dive organiser to book onto a dive.

Finally, we have our FREE buy, swap, sell section at the back of the mag so send me a brief description and if possible a photo of anything you'd like to get rid of. You'd be surprised what you think is junk someone else may just be looking for.

Also, I am always looking for articles and input for the Wet Rag, they don't have to be large articles, even just a short dive report will do, so please send your stuff in to me and get published.

Safe Diving,
Scott Leimroth
Editor



Editors Report

Welcome to Edition number 3.

This months focus is on Shipwrecks, a subject close to my own heart. There is nothing as mysterious and awe inspiring as diving a shipwreck. Most of the wrecks in Sydney and NSW are in deep water so there is the excitement doing a deep dive coupled with some narcosis and then the unique experience of diving on a time capsule of a piece of Australian maritime history. Who knows you may just stumble upon a piece of treasure in Davey Jones' locker as well.

Wreck dives are also quite varied, from the intact wrecks like the Currajong to the completely broken up like the Dunbar and all those in between. They all have something unique about them and many of them are covered in much more growth and fishlife than can be found on the average reef dive.

In this issue we have a number of wreck profiles describing just some of the many diveable wrecks in NSW. Other wrecks such as the Yongala, President Coolidge and the wrecks of Chuuk

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SHARK MONTH LAUNCH NIGHT SUCCESS!

Our September meeting was a huge success with a turnout of around 50 people. We had a lot of visitors to the club and it was not only an informative night but also a very social one.

Our guest speaker, David Ireland, was absolutely fantastic. He showed us some great video footage of hand feeding sharks and rays. Dave has some great stories which really kept the crowd enthralled, particularly his story of the Lion appearing right next to him while filming in Africa. His wealth of experience and knowledge made for a very informative night and I'm sure everyone went away with a little more knowledge than they arrived with. Dave's film "Hand Feeding Sharks" will be shown on Channel Nine at 4PM October 15th. The raffle on the night was won by club member Carina Gregory.



SPDC Memberships October



STEVE LONNERGAN
NEW Single Membership



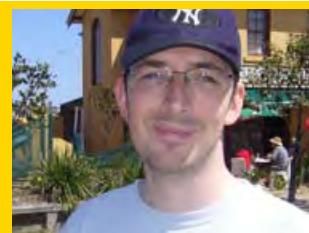
SIMON GAYLER
NEW Single Membership



BOB MAY
NEW Family Membership



ROB CREASER
NEW Family Membership



NICK HORN
NEW Single Membership



ANDY MYERS
NEW Single Membership



DAVID CHILLARI
NEW Single Membership

JOIN US!

*To become a Member of the South Pacific Divers Club fill in the application form on **page 39** of the Wet Rag or contact John Fardoulis - email john@southpacificdivers.com*



HIGHLIGHTS OF SPDC COMMITTEE MEETING

- Worked out ways of making Launch Nights run more smoothly
- Determined Dive Calendar for November, Wreck Month
- Due to there being so much variety, Wreck dives will span over both November and December
- Wreck month dive Calendar

Wreck Month Launch Night Success

Our Monthly Launch Night concept has been a great success so far. Following on from the September meeting where we had Dave Ireland as guest speaker and a huge turnout, October's meeting was also bigger than Ben Hur.

Max Gleeson and Samir Alhafith presented some fantastic video and still footage of the wrecks around Sydney and NSW as well as some lesser known wrecks like the Jacob in New Guinea and the Quetta off Cape York.

Both speakers are real authorities in their field. Max gave a great presentation providing facts and stories from some of the wrecks and sinkings which really gave the audience some insight into the background behind the wrecks they now dive. Samir described the wrecks down south such as the Iron Knight and the Cumberland as well as giving us some background on their discovery. He also explained the goals of the Sydney Project and gave us some idea of dives and wreck hunting they have planned for the near future. Thanks to both speakers for a very informative and entertaining evening.

The raffle prize was won by Laurie who has only just joined the club. Many new members were in attendance and it was a very social gathering with plenty of discussion and dives being organised among members and boat owners during the break and after the meeting.

For November's meeting we will focus on more of this social networking as there just didn't seem to be enough time to chat to everyone at the last meeting. For the meeting on Nov 20th we want all attending to "Phone a friend" ie. Bring someone along who may be new to diving or interested in starting.

We're hoping to make this meeting a real social event. We'd also like to make it a bit of a "Show and Tell" night so if you have anything such as a video, photos from your last dive, interesting book, partly finished rebreather project, stuff you've found underwater, maps and charts for a new wreck to look for, or any other interesting diving paraphernalia then feel free to bring it along. See you all on the 20th.



Dive Organizers Report Oct | 06

It's already October and now that Spring is well and truly here divers seem to be getting more adventurous or have just made up their minds to go diving. New faces pop up at every dive and some long remembered and experienced divers have come back to the fold.

John Fardoulis has been busy doing recruitment introduction dives at Manly Cove with interesting diving out along North Head. He even organized to be on TV with Kylie Suttor, Scott Leimroth and the representatives from SCANS with a 5 minute grab on the Divers Tax. It was great publicity and the footage was shot by Channel 7 photographer Dean Cropp the son of Ben Cropp. By all reports Dean Cropp was an interesting and capable diver to speak to away from the camera.

John has taken the next step in boat owner evolution and purchased his new toy, a 17ft Rigid Inflatable. It will soon be powered by a 70 hp motor and centre console steering. That should really move and be capable of carrying 6 or more single tank divers or 4 or 5 twin tank divers comfortably. John and I also took out the photography group for a dive at the Angel's Garden just inside Botany Bay followed up with a great seafood lunch at Frenchman's Bay.

The club boats have become the backbone of the club, with the majority (not all) of our diving being boat based at varying locations in the North and South of Sydney. There are those members that just love rock hopping too. It has been reported a 'heavily bearded member' was diving the Leap and scared off the fish. Diving conditions up until this weekend have been excellent with 15 and 20 metres viz reported. Unexplainably the viz had really suffered down to 3 metres over the long weekend right up and down the coast.

It's hard to beat the comfort of a Sharkcat but these new inflatables are so easily launched over the beach that it will make diving up and down the coast just that little more accessible.

A trip for the experienced divers to dive the wrecks of the 'Catterthun' and 'Satara' will be coming early next year.

How good is it to see newer divers gaining confidence and upping their skills under the wings of the experienced divers in the Club!

This month saw Kylie Suttor advance her knowledge to twin tank diving and decompression diving. Scott Hansman now is also keen to start diving with his new setup of twins under the watchful eyes of the more experienced divers.

In the coming weeks we will do a few dives with him and get him safely up to speed. It is also pleasing to see divers coming onboard our Club Dives fully prepared... With coffee, biscuits, cheese, deli meats and platters of nibbles... Scott Egginton you are a Legend and other divers should be aware that 'One up manship' with nibbles platters is very acceptable!

The Club Dive Calendar has been set, giving a wide range of diving to the members. If you want to go on a dive ring the designated dive organiser and book yourself in, the sooner the better, especially with boat dives so obviously you can be fitted into a boat.

There will be dives coming up where there will not be enough spaces for everyone to attend. Those in last will miss out. Some of you it seems want to be spoon fed and rung up and asked to come on a dive... Well I can tell you that is not going to happen! Dive lists for the next month will be at the club meeting at the front of the room. Step up and put your names and contact numbers on the dives that you wish to participate in. If you are new to the Club, step up and introduce yourself and I will get you started at the level of diving that you are comfortable with.

On that note I am still looking for three or four more dive organizers that would only have to organize a dive per month.

It would not be necessary for you to "lead" the dive. But basically if there is a spot that you would like to dive I'll bet that there would be others interested too. All you really do is plant the seed and momentum grows from there.

See you in the water soon...

Cheers

Geoff Cook

Barjumba.



Post-dive snacks by Scott Eggington

Birchgrove Park Wreck Dive & BBQ

BY GEOFF COOK, BARJUMPA

We've been attempting to dive the Birchy for a while but the weather has been against us. On Sunday the 17th of September, Spring had laid on a great windless hot sunny day.

A few people didn't hear about that stupid foot race through Sydney and had an exasperating time getting to the Harbour Tunnel and ultimately to Bayview Park where we met with Brett Collier the owner of Bottom Dwellers www.bottom-dwellers.com.au/documents/23.html our charter boat for the day.

Divers were John Fardoulis, Kylie Suttor, Scott Egginton Stephen Lonergan and myself along with three others from the 'Northside'. The two big events were that Kylie was doing her first deep decompression dive and Scott was placing the ashes of Debbie Egginton into the wreck as it was one of her favourite wreck dives.

Apart from that this was my first deep wreck dive since returning to diving following the injury to my back but to be honest it is like riding a bike you never forget (as long as you don't crash into a bus).

Anyhow 8 divers 2 crew, twins, rebreathers a couple of hang tanks filled the boat and it was shoulder to shoulder. The Wreck was buoyed with a sub surface buoy 8 feet under the water. Watching one of the other team dive in, without a weight belt to hook in was a little comic relief. Surface viz sucked with a lot of hanging sediment from the previous weeks huge storms, there was no current to speak of but the water was really cold. (I have got to get that tooth fixed)

I descended alone following the line the bow of the wreck about 60 feet down I am quite negatively buoyant and descending fast. No use wasting time going down. Viz has cleared up to 10 -15 metres and descending through a school of bait fish the wreck appears lying at 165 feet or 51 metres.

Wow has this wreck changed. Yet another wreck that is really breaking up fast. On the bottom I settled my self in with buoyancy and reg checks when that wonderful narcosis rolled in. Certainly not enough to be concerned about, but more like the feeling of '4 or 5 quick schooners'. I swam around the bow twice and the Greek, Eggers and Kylie still were nowhere in site. I swam off towards the bridge and located former Life Member, Rick Latimer's, plaque that we placed there 10 years ago. I scrapped off half of the pink coral growth that covered it before swimming off around the stern, propeller and boiler area. It is really collapsed down in this area.

Swimming into the bridge area for a look around had it's own little surprise when a 2 metre wobbly also swam in to see what was happening in his territory. The only thing that was happening then was I was leaving that confined space!!

I swam forward and met up with Kylie and saw she was doing just fine and made a photo opportunity.

We ascended and after 22 minutes on the bottom and 57 mins deco Kylie Suttor is now a deco diver. Yeah Har!

Back on land in fine South Pac tradition we had a bbq in Bayview Park. To finish off an eventful day.



The tale of the deco virgin!



BY KYLIE SUTTOR,

There comes a time in every diver's career where they need to push further and experience something new. After 6 years of diving and over 100 hours bottom time I decided to join the ranks of the deco divers.

It seems that no matter how many dives I do there is always more that I want to see. The latest challenge is to GO DEEPER!

So when I heard that SPDC was diving the Birchgrove Park it seemed like the perfect dive to get into deco diving, only 49m deep and luckily near perfect conditions helped to make this a text-book deco dive.

When I first started diving and throughout the years since I have amassed a large library of scuba books, mostly about deep wrecks and the tragedies of those divers not paying them the respect they deserve and finding themselves bent or worse. This research has always made me a bit of a conservative diver and because of this was very adamant that all precautions and plans were adhered to.

BEFORE THE DIVE:

John had sorted out a deco plan for me that involved a descent and perouse around the wreck until I hit 20 minutes then 10 minutes hang at 10m, followed by a further 25 minutes at 5m. I was interested to see what my dive computer would recommend as it is a new Suunto Vytac and has a deep-stop mechanism.

I borrowed a monster 18 litre/150cu ft tank with air from Geoff and a 40% Nitrox pony from John. I have an extremely low sac rate, so I had ample air for the rule of thirds.

THE DIVE:

Heading off from Bayview Park on Brett Collier's boat it was a quick 15 minute ride out to the site. My dive buddy for the dive was John F, with Geoff keeping a watchful eye out as well.

The descent was slow and I didn't have any problems equalising. The wreck seemed to loom up a lot sooner than I thought. I had done several dive down to 40m while in Sipadan last year, but that was in crystal-clear tropical waters. I expected it to feel a lot deeper here in Sydney.

John had brought along his very dodgy Chinese camera and was keen to get a few shots of me on the dive. Most of these turned out a bit shaky, but he did manage a couple of decent ones. I was keeping

it simple and didn't want to risk my new Canon and housing which is only rated to 40m.

We had a bit of a look into the holes in the hull. The usual suspects - bullseyes, wobbly's and others were abundant, plus it must be breeding season for nudi's, I saw about 15 tiny purple fuzzy-looking ones dotted across what is left of the deck.

The time was only 10 minutes and I wasn't feeling too marked so we did a quick cruise along the deck of the ship and saw Scott E laying the ashes of his wife on the boat. John shot off a pick of him and we headed on.

The visibility was good - approx 10m and the water wasn't too cold for me. I did wear a thermal, a 6mm semi-dry and a hood though.

Exactly on the 20 minute mark we started ascending for our hang time.

My Vytac computer wanted me to stop at 30m, but J was already heading up to the 10m stop, so I headed up to join him. Time flew by quickly, although my computer made me do 15 minutes at 10m and another 35 minutes at 5m. This is the extreme end of cautiousness as I was breathing 32% Nitrox from my pony during the deco.

AFTER THE DIVE

Felt great. Had a great sense of achievement and relief that all had gone to plan and my first true deco dive was a success. Was planning to do another on the Tuggerah on the October long-weekend, but the visibility was terrible and we ended up doing Marly Point instead.

Got to say though, I'm hooked. Have already got some tank bands, now I just need to get a back plate, some tanks and more experience.

I would like to say thanks to both John and Geoff for helping me out with valuable support and encouragement on this dive. You both rock!



SPDC Christmas Party

Join us for Barefoot Bowls

When: Fri Nov 24th, 5 - 10pm
Bowling from 5pm till sunset.

Where: Marrickville Bowling Club
91 Sydenham Rd Marrickville

RSVP By Nov 17th essential.



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2006, An Ocean Odyssey

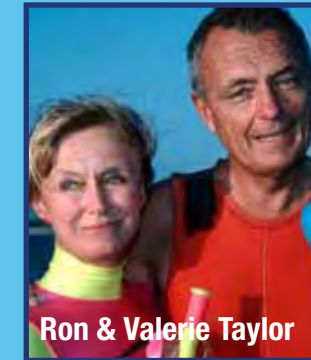
Date: Friday 17 November 2006
Location: Uni of NSW, Clancy Auditorium, Kensington, Sydney
Time: 7.30 pm (bar open 6 pm)
Host: Reg Lipson



Jean-Michel Cousteau



Bob Halstead



Ron & Valerie Taylor



Phil Newt

SPEAKERS:

Dr Phil Nuytten

(deep sea explorer and inventor of one atmosphere suit)

Jean- Michel Cousteau

(a fantastic and interesting speaker)

Bob Halstead

(PNG dive operator and another great speaker)

Ron and Valerie Taylor

(always interesting)

AS WELL THERE ARE SOME GREAT DOOR PRIZES.

Club members interested can get tickets for \$10 ea plus GST. Instead of the normal price of \$15 that's a saving of \$5.

It should be an interesting night with the guest speakers having many years of diving experience and many great stories to tell.

Jean-Michel Cousteau will be premiering his latest Film while Dr Phil Nuytten will be presenting a special presentation he prepared for the New York Show, "Our World Underwater" this month. Ron & Valerie Taylor have put together a presentation of their Adventures over the past year!! Finally Bob Halstead has put together the "Ultimate PNG Adventure!"

ALSO DON'T FORGET...

10 lucky audience members will walk away with a \$2500 PNG Dive Holiday on the night!! There will be thousands of \$\$\$\$ worth of Dive Gear to be given away on the night as lucky door prizes!! This is great night for Divers to celebrate the Ocean and have a great night out!!

CALL LEO THIS WEEK ON 0419 517 285 TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET AT THE DISCOUNTED PRICE.

WIN
one of 10
PNG Dive Holidays

(RRP \$2500 each)

*PLUS - lucky door prizes
thousands of \$\$\$\$ worth
of Dive Gear!*

FAMOUS DIVING COUPLES

HANS & LOTTE HASS:

She started off as his secretary and ended up a diving icon



RON & VALERIE TAYLOR

Shark Divers and Australian diving legends.



RODNEY NAIRNE & SUZIE DUDAS

(past SPDC club members)

Rebreather Pioneers, Wreck and Cave Divers, owners of Submerge Inc.

COULD YOU BE HALF OF A DIVING COUPLE?

To dive in perfect harmony you need:

COMPETENCE:

Both partners are good divers. They are capable of looking after themselves, can function independently of each other and should have no problem diving apart.

COMMON INTERESTS:

Both share a common or complementary diving interest. For example, both are fascinated by marine life, or one half of the partnership likes to take photos and the other to model.

TEAMWORK:

Good communication and understanding means that the partners find it easy to work together and complete underwater tasks, such as tying the shotline into the wreck or locating and retrieving lost objects.

You are entering Strop City if you have:

DEPENDENCY:

One half of the couple is more skilled or experienced than the other and constantly "looks after" their partner - for example, not trusting them to put their own kit together. Necessary equipment such as torch, compass or delayed surface marker buoy are carried only by the more competent person, leaving the other partner completely stuffed should they get separated.

DRAG FACTOR:

The partners have conflicting ideas about what they like to do on a dive, so that one half is constantly being dragged around by the other. A recipe for resentment.

DIVISION:

The roles, expectations (and rows) in the relationship are carried through under water. The partners find it impossible to carry out tasks jointly. They'll disagree about how it should be done, or not have confidence in each other to carry it out properly. One partner might take charge while the other takes no part.

Dawn Llewellyn Price found herself stuck in a relationship that wasn't working out.

"I was diving, but my [now-ex] husband had absolutely no interest," she says.

So was it diving that caused the split?

"No, I wouldn't say that, but I do think the fact that he couldn't share in my diving was symptomatic of the problems in the relationship.



"When I met Jeff (above with Dawn), I introduced him to diving and, as a couple, it has given us a mutual interest which has taken over our lives. We got married last February in St Lucia. Our social life with 3M Divers is very good; I'm the Entertainments Officer and Jeff is the Club Secretary.



HOWARD & MICHELLE HALL

Celebrity 3D film-making duo

"I do know of a few couples down the years who have split up through diving - separate interests, non-diving partners, etc. But it gives us great holidays, great outings and he carries my weightbelt." Sounds wonderful. "We still argue, of course" she adds with a laugh.

Jonathon Lewis and Rosie Feenan met on a dive weekend in Hope Cove, Devon. They fell in love and have lived together for eight years. Both keen divers, they find it virtually impossible to dive together comfortably.

"I worry about him on the dive and that spoils my enjoyment," confesses Rosie. "It's far easier to let him dive with someone else and then I don't have that anxiety. I think he suffers from the same problem - together we're a diving disaster area."

"We're both very experienced, but we have completely different diving styles," admits Jonathon. "I find it very stressful to dive with Rosie, because I feel that I want to look after her. She is quite capable of looking after herself, so she finds this very irritating."

"I think it's a leadership issue," explains Rosie. "With any other buddy, it wouldn't be a problem, you just agree who leads and get on with the dive. When it's your partner, it seems to get much more complicated. At least we have the good sense to recognise that it's better for our relationship to dive apart."

Paul Freedman is clear about his reasons for diving with his partner. "I love diving with Jane, she's a top diver - completely calm and sorted under water. Diving with anyone else - well, I have to do it, but generally speaking, it's always a bit of a disappointment."

Paul is a BSAC diver and Jane Millichip did a PADI course abroad with Oonadivers. "We're both keen on marine life and spend a lot of our dives on the look-out for bizarre sea creatures like sea lemons. Jane is the one of the few divers I know who is sharp enough to spot stuff like that. When I'm diving with other people, they often sail past some amazing sights, completely oblivious to them."

"Paul and I share a passion for conservation," explains Jane. "Our idea of heaven is to spend three weeks roughing it while carrying out marine surveys on the reefs in Sulawesi."

"I don't have a problem diving with people other than Paul, but it's nice to dive with someone who knows you so well that you instinctively understand what each other is thinking."

And what about dive rows? "We've never had an underwater row. We're much more likely to crack up laughing than to start an argument. Even though we trained with different agencies, it hasn't been a problem."

"I think couples who dive together will inevitably take the strengths and weaknesses of their relationship with them on a dive," admits Paul. "And some of the behaviour that goes on between couples wouldn't be tolerated by any other dive buddy."

Jane is quick to admit that she doesn't suffer fools gladly. "I actually resorted to thumping one guy on a recent trip to Scapa," she says. "Just playfully, you understand!"

Excerpt from Diver Magazine Feb 2000

TOP 6 THINGS TO DO WITH NON-DIVING PARTNERS

1.

Tell them to find a good position on shore and keep an eye out for flares - that RIB engine is looking distinctly dodgy.

2.

Buy them a book on knots; that shotline is going to need a good splicing at some point.

3.

Make them Food Marshal for the weekend. They are in an ideal position to get into the queue for the teas and sarnies as soon as the boat is in view. By the time you've come alongside, they might be near the front. Well, almost.

4.

Get them a Pokemon Gameboy: it's cute, absorbing and all the rage. Just be warned - they are likely to get mugged by rampaging gangs of five-year-old children.

5.

Involve them in the subtle art of brass restoration: you're too busy bringing up spidge to bother polishing it as well.

6.

Best of all, get them on a boat-handling course - a non-diving skipper means fewer fights about who gets to dive slack. And they can haul up that shot without risking a shoulder bend - perfect.

Excerpt from Diver Magazine Feb 2000

Finding the KELLOE

BY JOHN SUMNER.

In the late 1960's, SCUBA was expanding and shipwreck diving in association with underwater photography was the flavour of the industry. Progressively all the easily accessible or well known vessels had been visited by divers and it became necessary to find other sites.

A wreck name that came to light was the CRONULLA but there appeared to be no details of the loss of a vessel with this name. How does one look when there are no details? Slowly scraps of information came to light about a salvage activity by Eric Buchanan, of ARROW DIVING, with Wally Gibbins and part time paid commercial divers.

In an interview with Eric, on 12 May, 1979, he told me about finding a shipwreck while looking for a sunken barge north of Botany Bay.

The wreck had a reasonable quantity of scrap non-ferrous metals worth recovering despite the depth of 170ft (51m) of water and the nearby Malabar sewer outfall.

By only working the site during the week few persons had any idea that they were diving and salvaging a wreck. If anyone asked it was just a job training commercial divers. Any materials recovered were said to have come from the CRONULLA.

On the last time Eric was working the wreck he said he had placed a sling and after freeing the condensor tubes was placing these 10ft (3m) brass tubes ready to lift later. Unfortunately, a ship arrived in Sydney Harbour with one of it's four blades of the propellor missing, thereby causing severe vibrations. Eric was called in to cut away the blade opposite the missing blade so the vessel could travel safely back to Singapore where a spare four blade propellor was available.

During this difficult job, using an oxy-lance, a blow back caused hot metal to strike Eric in the face.

Despite correct protection, Eric ended up in hospital with serious burns that left him scarred for the rest of his life. The hospital stay and recovery period seriously affected Eric's Underwater Business to the point that it almost failed. The CRONULLA

wreck was very much on the back burner for many years till one day he had the time and phoned the St. George Underwater Centre looking for a few keen wreck divers whom he offered to show where the CRONULLA wreck site was if they would recover his sling and scrap metal. Eric had the use of Ross Miller's KURABA fishing trawler for this venture and so four divers turned up to get details of a new wreck. We motored down from Sydney to Little Bay, to just off the Prince Of Wales Hospital, where marks for the wreck site, though known for some time, had become lost due to the demolition of the Bunnerong Power Station chimneys and the Infectious Diseases Building of the Prince Of Wales Hospital.

The KURABA was a bit large for this search and the water clarity prevented any sighting of the wreck and we returned home without a result. Talking around about the position of the wreck a fishing trawler owner, Mick Nesbit offered to show our divers where he knew a wreck would snag his nets if he ventured in too close to the rocks, near Little Bay.

A Syndicate of 10 divers put up the cost of running Mick's trawler for

the day and on a mid-week day we had another try of finding the CRONULLA.

With good seas we had no trouble in getting good results of the wreck's position but every attempt at dropping an anchor into it ended up it being dragged out by the strong currents and the drag of the trawler. It was decided to drop an anchor with a buoy, then, if it stayed in the wreck, send down a diver to secure it. All aboard wanted to only dive when it was certain the anchor was in the wreck, so it was left to myself and Phil Newman to do the first dive. When we arrived at the seabed the anchor was not in the wreck with only a long groove in the sand to tell that the wreck was somewhere ahead. Not to waste precious air for the likelihood that the anchor had not even been near the wreck I chose to return to the surface.



There it was decided that we had enough marks to come back another day for a better try. All agreed.

The following Sunday, 27/8/1978, Bill Marden took Doug and Chris Olding, and myself out through Botany Bay, into a very rough and wave crested sea to try for the CRONULLA. There were some thoughts that the sea was so rough it was unlikely that we would pick up the wreck on the depth sounder. However, as we came up on the marks, on the first run, up came the wreck on the sounder. The pick was promptly dropped, with care not to drift off the site, and it went down and held firmly! At 11.30am, Bill and I were in the first dive with the other four divers to get ready. If we did not return immediately they were to wait for us to do our dive and start decompressing then have their dive. Bill & I found the anchor hooked in alongside the boiler, which was the highest part of the wreck, and the visibility was about 80ft (24m), we could see both ends of the wreck! We started our decompression time and gave the other divers the 'ok' sign as they descended. When they returned to the surface after their dive they complained about the vis. It seems that the tide turned after Bill & I left the bottom and the murk of the Malabar Sewer Works had claimed the wreck.

A week later Bill returned to the wreck and recovered a pressure gauge which when cleaned showed that a name had been scratched into the back, presumably to show the vessel it belonged to when it was serviced, it was 'KELLO'. On the 3/10/1978 Doug Olding recovered the telegraph. In 1992 I was told that Trevor Thomas had on another dive recovered the Builders Plate from the engine. During one of my own dives to the KELLO I recovered a condensor tube and to this day it stands in my bedroom.

John Sumner.

P.O. Box 48 Canterbury
NSW 2193

Mob 0409 43 55 86



CREATURE FEATURE

WRECK LOVING FISHLIFE

Shipwrecks are often prime fishing spots and it's no wonder with the large amount of fishlife they can attract. Wreck structures provide sheleter for many species of fish, particularly when the wreck is on sand. They can be an oasis of life in an otherwise barren wasteland of sand on the ocean floor. Recks in Sydnye such as the Undola and Tuggerah are prime examples of this and the Tuggerah wreck in particular is absolutely covered in fishlife of all sorts. Some of the more common fish you will find on wrecks in Sydney are listed below.

NANNYGAI SCIENTIFIC NAME - CENTROBRYX AFFINIS

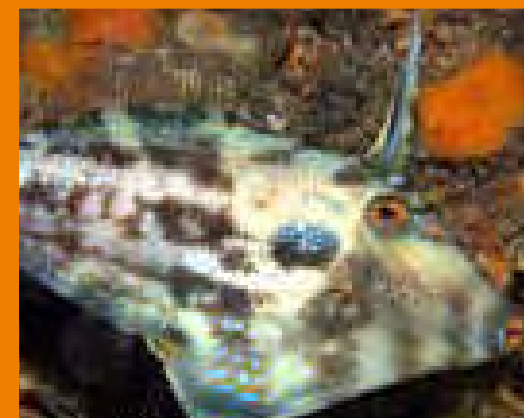
Also known as Redfish the Nannygai is probably the most common and abundant fish found on Sydney wrecks. On the Tuggerah wreck literally thousands on Nannygai can be found at times obscuring the divers view of the wreck completely. Nannygai have moderately short compressed bodies, a spiny head, large eyes and rough scales. The upper parts of their head and body are red and the lower surface silvery. The scales have red spots forming thin lines along their body, and their eyes are red. The tail is red and other fins are pinkish. The live in south-eastern waters of Australia and the species is abundant off the New South Wales coast. Spawning takes place in late summer and autumn. Nannygai are relatively slow growing, maturing at approximately 4 years of age and lengths of 20-25 cm. They reach a maximum size of 38 cm fork length for females at age 16 years and 33cm for males at 11 years.

SERGEANT BAKER SCIENTIFIC NAME - AULOPUS PURPURISSATUS

The Sergeant Baker is recognised by its long tapering body, blotched colouration and its behaviour. This species is commonly observed by divers as it perches on the substrate with its head raised. This species is endemic to (only found in) Australia. It is recorded from temperate waters from the central Western Australian coast to southern Queensland. The Sergeant Baker is probably named after Governor Phillip's orderly sergeant, William Baker. Sergeant Baker came to Australia as a Corporal of Marines on the transport ship Charlotte. He was reported to have been a keen fisherman, and possibly the first white settler to have caught this species.

SNAPPER SCIENTIFIC NAME - PAGRUS AURATUS

Snapper are usually pinkish to brown on the upper sides and silvery below. The body is covered by small blue spots that are most obvious in small fish. Young fish are known as Squires and old fish are called Old Man Snappers. Old fish develop a prominent hump on the top of the head. The hump develops in both sexes but is more prominent in males. Snapper can grow to 1.3m in length and at least 20kg in weight.



CREATURE FEATURE

MORE WRECK LOVING FISHLIFE

ROUGH LEATHERJACKET SCIENTIFIC NAME - SCOBINICHTHYS GRANULATUS

The Rough Leatherjacket has a compressed body, an acutely pointed snout and a small mouth. It is covered with course scales that make the skin very rough to touch. The colour of this species is variable from brown to greenish, grey or white. It usually has a dark blotch above the pectoral fin, three lines across the forehead and two dark bars on the "corners" of the caudal fin. There are usually other brown and blue markings. Juveniles often have a series of dark blotches along the side of the body. The Rough Leatherjacket grows to 35cm in length.



SPOTTED WOBBERGONG SCIENTIFIC NAME - ORECTOLOBUS MACULATUS

The Spotted Wobbegong can be recognised by the skin flaps around the snout margin and the distinctive colour pattern of dark saddles and white rings on a yellow to greenish-brown background. This species is about 20cm in length when born and reaches a maximum size of about 3m. Feeding occurs mainly at night and includes large prey such as fishes, crayfish, crabs and octopuses. Spotted Wobbegongs live in shallow coastal waters down to about 100m. They often lie on sand or rocky reef bottoms and are frequently seen by divers.



GIANT CUTTLEFISH SCIENTIFIC NAME - SEPIA APAMA

Birth size 1,5 – 2 cm and grows up to 80 – 100 cm. Cuttlefish have eight arms and two tentacles, which they use for capturing the prey. They have three hearts, one for main functions and one for each of their two gills. Cuttlefish blends superbly with its surroundings by curling its arms and sprouting spiky skin projections, called papillae, in imitation of the surrounding seaweed, rock or coral and changing color in less than a second – faster than any other animal. To compare the chameleon (lizard) takes just under 2 minutes. Both skin texture and color changes are directly controlled by the animal's brain. Messages enter the brain through the eye via the optic nerve and are then sent straight to the chromatophores (pigment cells).

GREEN MORAY SCIENTIFIC NAME - GYMNOTHORAX PRASINUS

Green Morays can be found in shallow, rocky and weed-covered marine waters, in estuaries and in deeper offshore waters. They are usually seen with only the head protruding from a crevice in the rocks or occasionally from other underwater objects such as a pipe.



TOP 10 AUSTRALIAN WRECK DIVES

1

Yongala

Consistently voted No1 for it's prolific fishlife.

2

Quetta

Rarely dived but an amazing wreck off the tip of Cape York.

3

SS. Catterthun

Deep, exciting and carrying gold.

4

Loch Ard

Situated at the base of the 12 Apostles. Only diveable a few days a year.

5

SS. Nord

Must see Tassy shipwreck.

6

Sanko Harvest

Second largest accessible wreck in the world.

7

SS. Tuggerah

Covered in fishlife.

8

SS. Currajong

Intact 1910 shipwreck in the middle of Sydney harbour.

9

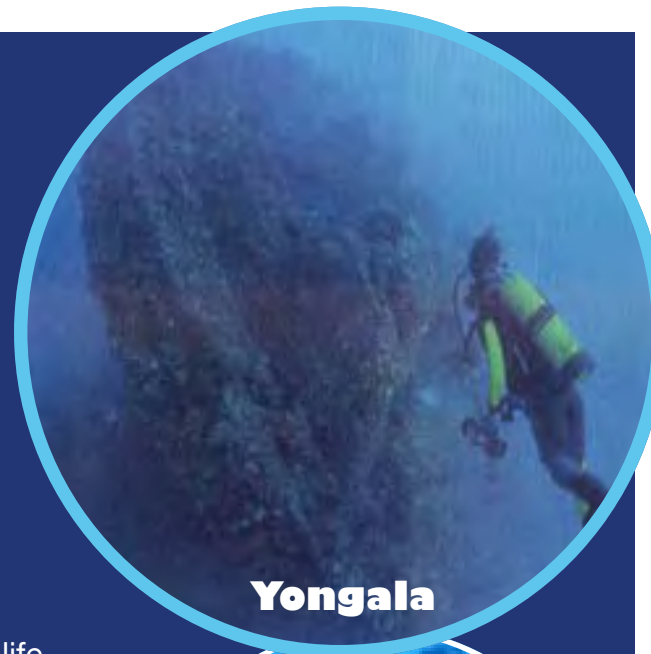
SS. Cambridge

Rarely dived – 10486 tons 524ft long.

10

Melbourne Subs

Unique and a must see when in Melb.



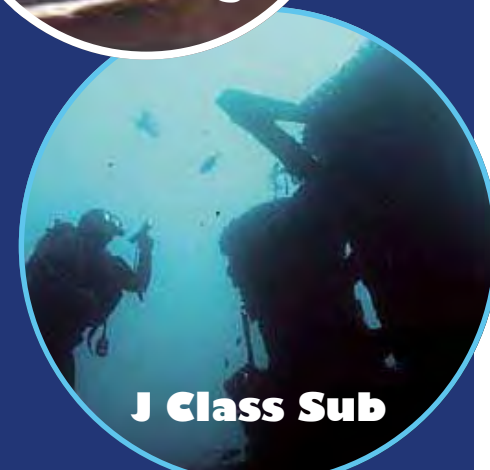
Yongala



S.S. Nord



Cambridge



J Class Sub

Wreck FACTS | P.S. Koputai

Built in 1876, and operating in New Zealand waters until 1917, the Koputai was a steam driven, paddle tug. While steaming out to pick up a sailing vessel on March 5th, 1920, the 'Koputai' sprang a leak and quickly foundered.

She now lies about 8 kilometres south-east of Sydney Heads at a depth of 78 metres. Discovered in 1994 by David Allchin and Barry Hallet from Southern Cross Divers by accident. They were attempting to dive the Encounter which is very close by.

The wreck is broken up but the boilers, engine and paddles are still the dominant feature, and makes for a great photography. There is a lot of Brass on the wreck, probably due to the depth and limited time for people to take anything.

Built: 1876
Sunk: 1920
Depth: 78m



Pic Mark Spencer



Pic Mark Spencer



Pic Mark Spencer

Wreck FACTS | S.S. Tekapo



Built in Greenock, Glasgow in 1881, originally known as the SS Cape Clear. First used to transport migrants from Europe to Tasmania. The ship was an iron hulled vessel 89 metres long, 12 metres wide, and displaced 2.439 tons, with a max speed of 11 knots it could carry 133 passengers.

Its final voyage commenced 16 May 1899, running into heavy fog just 14 kilometres out of Sydney harbour, it struck the southern headland of Maroubra Beach settling on flat rocks at 3:45 AM. The fog at the time was so heavy that the Captain gave orders for the lifeboats to be launched without realising they were already on the shore. The wreck is in 3 – 6m of water along the rocks in closer to Maroubra beach. It is best dived in calm seas or a southerly.

Information and Images from Randwick City Council, The Vanished Fleet of the Sydney Coastline by Max Gleeson, pages 31 to 35, and Michael McFadyen's Scuba Website www.michaelmcfadyenscuba.info/articles/tekapo.htm

Site: Maroubra
Sunk: 1899
Depth: 3-6m



Wreck FACTS | S.S. Keilawarra



When the 784 ton iron steamer Keilawarra plunged beneath the seas at night on 8 December 1886 it created history. The shocking loss of life rocked maritime centres around Australia. The scale of the disaster, the unnecessary waste of life and tales of cowardice raised alarm, then anger.

After 114 years, the historic wreck site serves as a permanent marker to those drowned and a reminder of the dangers of coastal sea travel during the nineteenth century. The 61 metre ss Keilawarra was a fine steamship powered by a compound marine engine generating 140 horsepower. Launched in Fife, Scotland in 1878, for the legendary Howard Smith line. The surviving crew of Keilawarra were housed at the Sailor's Home in the Rocks.

The site has all artifacts intact, with dishes, bottles, personal items from the passengers, and human bones!

Site: Solitary Islands
Sunk: 1886
Depth: 74m

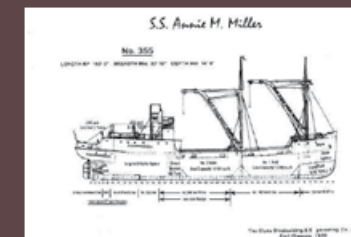


Wreck FACTS | S.S Annie Miller

After taking on a load of coal at Bulli, the Annie Miller took on a dangerous list. It got worse as the ship headed towards Sydney. At 7.35 pm as she approached the Macquarie Lighthouse near the outer South Head of Sydney Harbour, a rocket flare was fired. It was seen by the lighthouse keeper. The pilot steamer Captain Cook, was then sent from Watsons Bay to assist the ship. The launching of the lifeboat did not succeed as a large wave swept it away. Able Seaman Kenneth McRae leapt in after it and somehow managed to clamber aboard. He rowed back to where he last saw her, but she had sank. A total of six crew were in the lifeboat, rescued about 30 minutes after the sinking. No trace of the missing six crew members, including Captain Pilling, was ever found. Found by Rick Latimer and Peter Harper of SPDC in the mid-1970s. It lies on it's side and is broken up, the largest intact sections are the engine and boiler. Fishlife on this wreck is excellent.

Source and images: michaelmcfadyenscuba.info

Sunk: 1929
Depth: 43m





A CAGEY PROPOSITION INDEED!

IMAGES AND TEXT BY NEIL VINCENT

Tonight the TV news reported the first sightings of sharks at Bondi for this summer, and it's only spring. Soon the newspaper headlines will follow the same pattern. Doesn't it make you wonder why we divers and surfers go into the water. The headlines give the impression that there are so many sharks in the ocean that our chances of being eaten are huge. I saw it on TV it must be true.

For a couple of years I worked as an underwater cameraman with the production company Quest. One of the films we made was to be a study of some of the first Satellite tags to be fitted to White Sharks. We left Melbourne and sailed into Bass Strait, it was calm and the pink granite islands rising from the water was a spectacular sight at sunrise and sunset. Before we started burleying, we dived with the seals and sea lions who call these islands home. Once the burleying began diving outside the cage was banned. (Some OH&S rule). Burleying took place 24 hours a day, we used a mixture of minced Tuna guts, Tuna blood and Tuna oil. This concoction was the recipe of Rocky Strong a White Shark specialist from San Diego. Also on board were two of Australia's top shark scientist from the CSIRO, John Stevens and John Gunn. Once we found the shark it was

their jobs to fit the satellite tag.

After a week of feeding all the birds and other fish in Bass Strait without one shark sighting, we moved west to Lady Julia Percy island off Warrnambool. This island is the home to hundreds, maybe thousands of Australian Fur Seals. A tasty treat you would think for the ravenous White Shark. Again, before burleying, we dived. It was like being pack raped by Sea Lions, they wanted to play, pulling our hoses, heads, fins and anything else dangling. As we filmed, the other cameraman, Ronnie, spoke to me over the comms, telling me that a Sea Lion had just taken his Aladdin Pro computer... I suggested that he had forgotten to wear it before entering the water. Later, while watching the rushes, there on the screen, after a jerk of the camera, the thief was captured on video swimming off with the computer! Despite the video evidence no arrests were ever made.

After another week of no White sharks we moved to the Neptune Islands in South Australia. At both South and North Neptune Islands we burleyed. We exhausted our stock of Tuna guts and had to buy more from Port Lincoln. After two weeks at the Neptune's, five weeks in total, 3000kg Tuna guts, 1000 litres of Tuna blood and about 100 litres of Tuna oil, the directors called it a day and we gave up. Just one last shot of the empty

cage before it was pulled from the water, I was going to do it but Ronnie was already geared and wet so he jumped in the mobile cage, as he came up to the empty fixed cage looking through the viewfinder, a White shark came into view!!! Unfortunately it was too late, flights were booked people had other commitments, we had to leave. A film was still made but it was about the difficulty in finding White Sharks.

That was 1996... last year Lyn and I went to Whyalla to dive the Cuttlefish aggregation, it was great, calm and sunny, but this is another story. While we were there I decided that I wanted to go to the Neptune's and try to dive with the White Sharks again. Lyn had no interest so I talked two friends, Mark Jobbins and Stuart McGregor, into the trip. They flew to Adelaide and we were to pick them up at Port Lincoln airport. As normal when I dive, the weather turned to a gale, so bad, the flight to Port Lincoln was cancelled. As normal with cancellation of flights, the airlines postpone them ten times before they actually announcing what was always going to be the outcome some hours later. The final announcement was at about 10 pm so the boys hired a car and drove through the night to Port Lincoln arriving one hour before the sailing time. Tiredness, speeding tickets and stories of kangaroos seemed the only effects of their

nocturnal tour.

I had chosen Rolf Czabayski and his boat Calypso Star to take us south. I had met Rolf on my first trip to the Neptune's and his boat is big, very fast and sea worthy and he only takes 6 divers. He didn't seem concerned with the gale saying that once we arrived at the Neptune's we would be in a sheltered bay, and the sea crossing in the Southern Ocean was what Calypso Star was custom built for.

At sea, Calypso Star comfortably cruised at twenty knots across the building swells, we were at North Neptune in just over two hours and the bay was calm.

Mooring first, then an oil slick and burley, followed by the cage going into the water...we had a lesson in getting in and out of the cage, we were ready.... so bring on the sharks.

Just before lunch the first shark arrived, the first three divers geared up. Andrew (the decky, cook, shark wrangler) and Rolf used a half Tuna on a rope to keep the sharks interest. The first divers jumped into the cage and... nothing! The shark left.

Lunch turned to dinner, we watched some of Rolf shark DVD's then all of the Rocky movies, day two the gale was still raging but we were comfortable, on the island Seals and Sea Lions barked continuously, jumping in and out of the water at their leisure like there wasn't a shark for miles. Although the option to go ashore and photograph Seals was enticing, no one took up the offer for fear of missing a shark.

Day two passed with great meals and more shoot-em-up movies. Behind the boat was an increasing gathering of Albatross and Giant Petrels eating and fighting over the food meant for the sharks. With a digital camera, a big lens and plenty of time I tried to shoot full frame shots of birds on the wing. Shoot 100....delete 99....shoot 100....delete 99....it saved me from Die Hard 1, 2, 3, 4 etc.

Day three same as day two. Great food but we were feeling a little confined. Day four....we went ashore and spent about an hour photographing Sea Lion pups before the rain bucketed down and we risked flooding our cameras above the water. Back on the boat we packed

up and headed home. It was Rolf's second trip without sharks in 2005. One weekend later they had lots.

Defeat comes hard to all three of us, so it was not a surprise when I received a phone call from Mark, he had done a deal with Rolf, we had chartered the boat over the October long weekend, we organised three other divers and tried again.

This time we all flew, we stayed in Rolfs house on the keys in Port Lincoln where the boat is moored, and we sailed south again. I had a caveat on me, if we did not get sharks on this trip I was out.... never more would they invite me on trip nor go on one which I had organised. Harsh words from mates!!!

The crossing was calm, as was the bay, the oil slick spread, the burley stained the water red and the cage went in. On the first test dive a shark arrived!!!! And stayed!!!! We had ten different sharks over the trip and on a couple of occasions, two sharks at a time.

Watching these magnificent creatures is a rollercoaster ride of emotions, the beauty of this huge wild creature swimming just under the surface with the sun rippling along its back, the idiosyncrasies of each shark....one which had been satellite tagged would follow the bait but not take it because it remembered the feeling of being hooked, drilled and the humiliation the tag caused with it's mates....the cunning of coming from deep and straight up to the bait after a few times missing the bait on surface attacks....the huge mouth, agape, full of teeth slashing around the bait and the unforgettable black eye which never blinks but appears to be always watching.

There is lots of debate about cage diving and burleying for these sharks, on Quest we were embroiled in it, and I have had many discussions about it since our trips. Experience a White Shark trip from Port Lincoln before you make up your mind based on other people's information.

Ask how the fish farms work, ask how they are harvested but most of all experience being in the water with the oceans top predator.

If you are interested I would definitely recommend Rolf and Calypso Star www.calypsostarcharter.com.au



Rebreather Special Interest Group Report.

THE REBREATHER GROUP HAD IT'S SECOND MEETING ON SUNDAY 24TH OF SEPTEMBER.

We discussed various designs and options for manufacturing the scrubber and a design was decided upon that will be relatively modular.

Bob May was unable to attend due to bushfires in his area on the day but we are looking forward to the next meeting where he should be able to present his homebuilt in it's current form.

According to Bob it is almost ready to dive and just needs some absorbent for it's first dry test dive.

Production of the mouthpieces is underway. Scott Willan has also drawn up a rough costings document in excel which gives us some idea of what is needed for the final complete rebreather and rough prices of each part. This document is a work in progress.

A \$100 deposit towards materials is needed asap.

If you haven't already paid please get this to John as soon as possible.

We have a great range of skills in the group at the moment with Neil Vincent being able to CAD draft and design components and ideas for us along with Scott Willan's machine shop expertise.

If you are interested in joining the rebreather special interest group please contact either John or Scott and let them know so they can subscribe you to our rebreather design mailing list and keep you informed of any meetings or other get togethers.

Want to make your own rebreather?

Join South Pacific Divers Rebreather design Group. Email Scott at: scott@southpacificdivers.com to sign up today.



Some Guidelines for the Design of Recirculating Underwater Breathing Apparatus.

BY RODNEY NAIRNE, AARG.

Unfortunately the use of jargon is hard to avoid in the discussion of rebreathers, so you will need to have a good grasp of the terminology. Also, for the sake of brevity I have deliberately skipped detailed explanations of the components and functions of generic rebreathers. Look elsewhere for that! It's out there! Besides if you don't know what I'm talking about here you need to step back a little and get some background info first.

MOUThPIECE:

- Keep the bore at least 25mm, preferably 35mm to reduce breathing resistance.
- Keeping the bore below 45mm avoids severe buoyancy problems and associated jaw fatigue.
- Minimise the dead air space between the 2 check valves by keeping them close together
- O-ring seals are not preferred, as they are designed to seal under a significant pressure differential. You can make them work, but fine tolerances are required, and they will always be prone to extrusion, and frequent relubrication. If they are exposed during the operation of the valve they have an opportunity to extrude.
- A gasket or interference fit seal is to be preferred.

CHECK VALVES:

- The check valves must be resistant to inversion, to avoid rebreathing carbon dioxide
- Ensure the material used is not prone to shrinkage with age like the early atlantis units.
- Ensure the material does not warp with high temperatures if you plan to wash your loop with hot water.
- Often, a reduction in the modulus (stiffness) of the check valve material will yield lower breathing

resistance than a larger diameter check valve. This is at the possible higher risk of check valve inversion.

- Always keep a reasonable clearance for the correct operation of the check valves. You need to have clearance in the bore, and also clearance downstream to ensure the valve does not touch any other component.
- 25mm (1 inch) clearance or more downstream clearance gives a better path for gas flow than a sudden decrease in diameter or the start of the convoluted hose.

HOSES:

- Smooth bore hoses have lower flow resistance, but you will need corrugated hose at the mouthpiece for flexibility.
- Keep this hose bore above 25mm ideally around 35mm. Larger bores create buoyancy problems.

BREATHING BAGS/COUNTERLUNG:

- Should be large enough to provide a full breath.
- Useful secondary function is as a water trap.
- Smooth inner surface makes for easy cleaning; i.e. nylon coated wetsuit neoprene is a poor choice.
- Ideally you will use a material that can double as it's own gasket material, so you don't need glue or sealant on your bag attachments.
- Heavy weight bag material will not always lead to significant increases in breathing resistance, as is commonly believed. Ultimately the shape and positioning of the bags will have a greater effect on the breathing resistance.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH...

OLD SCHOOL DIVING!

**From the archives
1957/1963/1973**

Looking back at old issues of Skin Diver reveals through its pages those little nuggets of yesteryear - old equipment, trends of the time, new discoveries that echo the times and may surprise or shock us. It's good to know your roots and how discoveries of old have helped shape diving today.

1973 - PUMP IT UP

The divers who paved the way for us braved the elements with none of our splendid gadgetry. Even something as simple as a BC power inflator was a major advancement. Before the early '70s, divers had to inflate their buoyancy compensators either orally or by detonating a CO2 cartridge. Skin Diver featured one of the first inflators, Scubapro's Quick-Disconnect, in June 1973. This innovative company, which was already 10 years old in 1973, brought divers safety and convenience with the push of a button. In our race for more technology we often take for granted the little things that bring us comfort underwater.

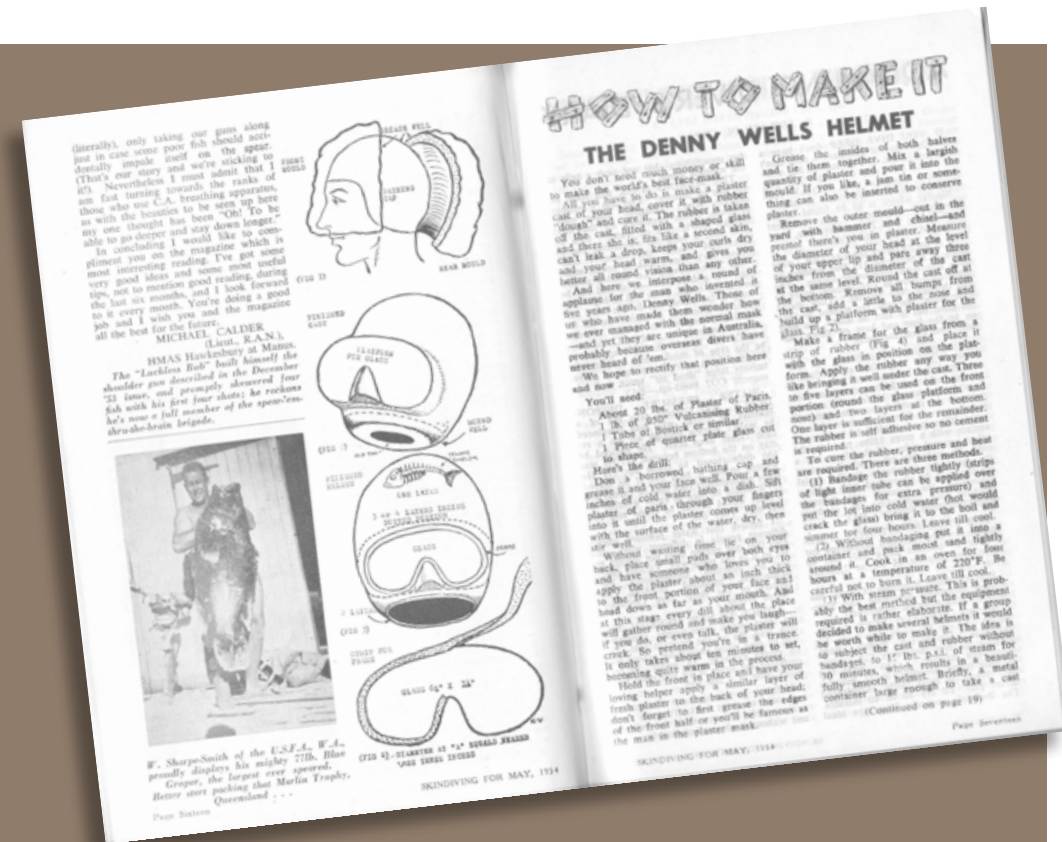


1963 - A SPLASH OF COLOR

For 12 years Skin Diver appeared on the newsstands with only its covers in color; sometimes even those were only a duotone. Inside, all those fantastic underwater scenes were displayed in black and white, limiting readers to a murky representation of the real majesty of the underwater world. In October 1963 the cover of The New Skin Diver appeared with the words "Special Bonus: Underwater Color Photos!" It was also the first issue to display something very familiar to us now-the Petersen logo. Two of the photographs that appeared in this issue were taken by men who are near and dear to us now: Paul Tzimoulis and Jim Church.

1957 - DIVERS DOWN

The Divers Down Flag has evolved into more than a mere safety device. It is now a diver's mark of distinction. But where did the idea begin? The September 1957 editorial mentions a diver from Michigan whose club newspaper included articles on "a divers flag that would...indicate the location of the underwater man...." Skin Diver asked for suggestions on the design of a national flag and created a raging debate. Divers were asked to choose between the Seven Flag, which had a vertical stripe down the middle, and Michigan's Divers Flag, which sported a diagonal stripe. The debate was finally settled in February 1958 and the Divers Flag has been a symbol of diving ever since.



ROUND THE CLUBS

WESTERN SUBMARINERS

...here are November, what happened to our early summer love? Can it be that the sun is wrong enough or the water temperature too cold, or is it just that the help of new suits spearos are becoming a bunch of us all sporting anemic sun tans? Our club recently held a competition against Enfield R.S.L. (sort of), men versus heroes. On the solar day of the competition a type wind commenced blowing a.m. making it practically impossible for the R.S.L. to fish, and later in the day our club found itself, to say the least. However, we managed to score up enough fish and produce a substantial gift to Legacy from the proceeds of a raffle held by the R.S.L. fishing club, who in turn entertained our club with a spread fit for kings. More than a few members left the club slightly unstable, and a certain singing group will be the best attraction at our presentation dance on 8th December at Scouts Hall, Ryde Bridge.

Our last competition was held at Bonny Vale. Unfortunately the weather was against us again and spoiled a good picnic day.

Despite this, a reasonable amount of fish were weighed-in, among which were several large Wirrah and nice Cod and a Sweetlip. (Where did they come from? someone asked, weighing in a Cocky.)

Now this whole club has caught aquanautitis and it would seem there is no cure for the disease.

AVAILABLE NOW!

THE GREATEST BOOK EVER ON THIS EQUALLY GREAT SPORT

- 150 Pages
- 100's Illustrations
- Ten Chapters

Written by one of Australia's most accomplished Skindivers **BEN CROPP**

'HANDBOOK FOR SKINDIVERS' will provide all the answers to open the door to the fascinating world beneath the sea.

skindivers' "Bible" and in years to come, will become a complete reference library for the skindiving enthusiast.

HANDBOOK FOR SKINDIVERS contains ten absorbing, highly-pictorial chapters which cover Equipment, Surfing Techniques, Underwater Photography, R.A. Gear, Australian Records, Decompression Sickness, Fish Species Encountered by Skindivers, Safety and Exploring. In addition, there is an absorbing chapter headed "Sharks - Facts and Fables."

Published by Afco Pty. Ltd., 'HANDBOOK FOR SKINDIVERS' is available now, 15/- (GST FREE) from Afco (Sales) Ltd., Box 166, G.P.O., Sydney, Australia.

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB - N.S.W.

Well now all you Lung Divers, here is a report as to what's been happening at the outings during the past month.

The club outing held at Kurnell on the 14th October turned out to be a very enjoyable day taking into consideration the water visibility and lack of sunbathing. They say first in, first served. Well the first in just about got all the Lobsters because Yours Truly was straight in after him and couldn't find a feeder. So I did the only natural thing. "Slowly picking up a small Octopus he proceeded to stalk his opponent. As the unsuspecting diver swam around a big rock with a creepy in each hand, an arm shot out of the gloom placing the slimy creature upon his mask." (That was nasty.)

Now just imagine a bloke with a Lobster in each hand (which he'll never let go) and an Oci on his mask in about 20 feet of Aqua. You guessed it, it did happen. But, that's how things happen. Poor old Don dropped his Lead Belt and put up such a performance that "Chin the Bar Dennis" had to go in and find it for him.

At the Oak Park outing, attendance was exceptional (there now being 26 members in the club) considering the foul weather conditions and a few bouts of sea sickness. Two boats came adrift off Ilbion Point on this particular day and there was a bit of a panic on to try and get them back. So take note all you boat owners and make sure your anchors are securely wedged into the bottom.

If you're doing nothing on a Friday Night how about heading over to Dennis's "Gym" where he'd gladly show you how to Chin the Bar 50 times and then doing a dead lift of 200 lbs. It's really something to see. Well that just about winds it up until next month, so remember the next club meeting will be held at Kingsgrove R.S.L. on the 19th Nov. New members welcomed.

MAKO I.

"I hope you won't scold me," said the woman to her husband, "but I was absolutely outpoken at the meeting today." "Well," replied the amazed spouse, "by whom?"

"Lady, I've found the trouble with your outboard. You've got a short circuit in the wiring."

"Well, for goodness sake, lengthen it!"



BY AARON MITCHIE

WHO IS GUE AND WHAT IS DOING IT RIGHT?

Global Underwater Explorers (GUE) www.gue.com was formed in Florida in 1998 by a group of cave divers from the Woodville Karst Plains Project (WKPP), www.wkpp.org, who are dedicated to exploring the Florida cave system. The WKPP became a very successful exploration team and as a result many divers wanted to join them.

As a pre-requisite to join the WKPP, divers had to meet certain criteria, some of those were:

- **Same equipment configuration for uniformity**
- **Same breathing gases: Nitrox, Helium and Oxygen**
- **Team approach to all dives**
- **Meet a certain skill level in the water**

As time passed the group realised that many of the applicants could not meet what they considered the basic fundamental skill level.

Good buoyancy control, propulsion techniques or effective air sharing techniques were lacking although a lot of the applicants were experienced divers.

The group decided that quality training available to divers was limited and that most training agencies were profit driven seeking numbers.

This lowered the quality of dive education allowing more numbers through to aid sustaining a profitable business.

Global Underwater Explorers a non profit training agency was formed by some of the key players from the WKPP aimed at delivering high quality education, research and exploration.

WHAT CLASSES DO THEY OFFER?

The classes available though GUE are categorised into:

- **Recreational Level 1 and 2 (similar to open water/advanced)**
- **Fundamentals of DIR (a pre-requisite class for Cave & Tech classes)**
- **Technical 1, 2 and 3**
- **Cave 1, 2 and 3**
- **Rebreather**

Over the last few years The Fundamentals of DIR which was set up as a pre-requisite for their technical and cave classes has been embraced by a huge number of recreational divers to simply improve their diving.

This class can be done in single tanks or for those wanting to enter technical diving can do it in twin tanks. The pre-requisite for this class is Open Water Diver or above from any agency and focuses on the 12 fundamental skills of diving and a comprehensive theory component involving team work, breathing gasses, gas consumption rates, equipment configurations and more. The dives are recorded on video and used as a teaching tool to help you improve on your skills.

WHAT IS DIR AND WHO IS IT FOR?

In brief, DIR is an acronym for Doing it Right. When one of the members of the WKPP was asked how come the group was so successful in their cave exploration he simply said "because we're Doing It Right", and from this statement DIR was born. DIR has 4 main pillars, Equipment, Situational Awareness, Unified Team and Breathing Gases.

Unfortunately some people took DIR the wrong way and felt that GUE were implying that if you were not trained by the agency you were 'Doing it Wrong' but nothing could be further from the

truth. GUE aims at educating divers of all levels, it makes no difference if you are only interested in raising the enjoyment of your family dive holiday or interested in deep wreck or cave exploration. The DIR approach is aimed at anyone who wants to get the most out of their diving.

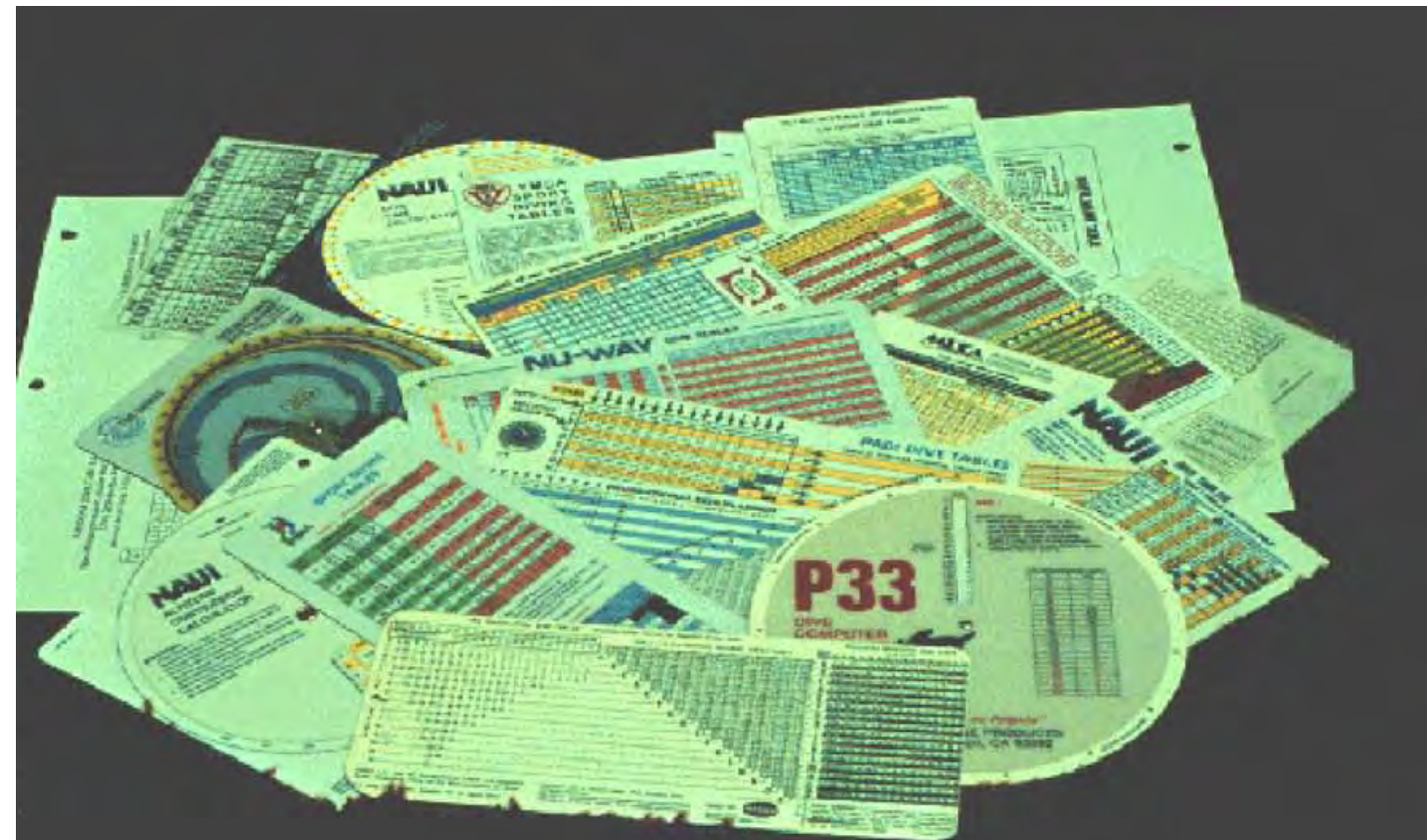
WHO CONDUCT'S THE CLASSES?

Although GUE has grown steadily over the last 8 years particularly in the US and Europe it is still very much in its infancy here in Australia. There are only a handful of Dive Centres who promote it but his will change in the future as divers see the benefit in GUE training.

As far as instructors go there are around 40 worldwide, this is due to the commitment and dedication required to gain the rating. Initially Dive Centres wishing to promote GUE training in Australia had to fly the instructors in from overseas to teach the classes. This was at the expense of the students and will give you an idea of the confidence the students had in the quality of education they were about to receive.

However times have changed and now there is an Instructor based in Sydney and in Melbourne. Classes are now available with more flexibility and at a lot less cost to the students.

If you are interested in taking a GUE class please contact liam@gue.com or strewava@bigpond.net.au or visit www.gue.com for all scheduled classes.



Dive Table Comparison

BY LARRY "HARRIS" TAYLOR, PH.D.

MY COLLECTION OF AIR TABLES

A number of years ago, at a Dynamics of Decompression Workshop given by Karl Huggins, participants were asked to work the following dive scenario for the purpose of comparing time allowed for no-required stop (No-D) for a number of tables.

THE PRELIMINARY PLAN:

1. Dive 85 fsw (26 msw) for 20 minutes
2. Stay on surface for 2 hours and forty minutes
3. Dive 65 fsw (19 msw) for 20 minutes
4. Wait on the surface
5. Dive 53 fsw (16 msw)

BELOW, FOR THE TABLES EVALUATED, ARE

1. The specific tables No-D time limit (in minutes) for a dive to 85 fsw.
2. After waiting 2 hours and 40 minutes, the maximum no-D time (in minutes) allowed by this table to dive a second dive to 65 fsw.
3. Following a 2 nd dive of 30 minutes to 65 fsw, the time needed to wait on the surface before doing a third dive to 53 fsw for 40 minutes

WORKSHOP RESULTS

So, the "correct" time to spend on the surface prior to that third dive varies between 24 minutes and 16 hours. It all depends upon on your choice of dive table/profile planner!

BOTTOM LINE: DIVE TABLES, LIKE RELIGIONS, ARE CHOSEN ON FAITH ... CHOOSE CAREFULLY!

Table	85 fsw 26 m No-D	After 2.67 Hr On Surface 65 Fsw No_D Limit	Surface Interval To Dive 53 fsw with No-D, after diving 65 fsw(19m) 20 min
US Navy	30	35	2:58
Jeppesen	25	25	7:36
Bassett	25	25	7:36
Pandora	27	28	4:03
Huggins	25	21	6:05
Swiss	20	23	4:00
DSAT RDP	25	35	1:00
DSAT Wheel	27	40	0:24
DCIEM	20	21	9:00
BSAC	24	10	16:00

Connect to the world of 3G



The sleek new Nokia 6233 has 3G connectivity for high-speed access to mobile TV, Internet and music.¹ Download music fast² and listen to it on the move with in-built MP3 player and superb quality audio speakers. Plus there's a 2 megapixel camera with 8x digital zoom and support for up to 2 gigabytes³ of memory - plenty of room for your files, music and images.

And with Bluetooth[®] wireless technology you can easily transfer files from your phone to other devices.

The Nokia 6233. Experience the power to connect.

NOKIA
6233

NOKIA
Connecting People

¹ Nokia 6233 supports 2 and 3 G networks. Some services/features may depend on network capabilities. ² Download speed may vary depending on network conditions. ³ Memory capacity may vary depending on network conditions. © 2006 Nokia. All rights reserved. Nokia and Nokia Connecting People are registered trademarks of Nokia Corporation in the USA and other countries. Bluetooth is a registered trademark of Bluetooth SIG, Inc.



Pic. David Harasti

Pic. David Harasti



SPDC MEMBER PROFILE

SCOTT HANSMAN

What's your nickname?

I have avoided one so far so no knick for me.

How long have you been a club member?

Since July 2006.

What sort of diving do you enjoy most?

The plus 16 degrees Celsius variety.

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

Pass.

What kind of music are you into?

Anything that rewards your attention and not demands it!

Any phobias?

Food past its used by date.

What temptations are you powerless to resist?

A good coffee!

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

Cricket, movies, sleeping.

Whats your favourite dive site and why?

Magic Point only cause it was my first dive proper after completing open water cert and 10 + Grey Nurse all over 5 ft up close and personal (yes it was many years ago). Couldn't have asked for a better day.

What's your most treasured piece of dive equipment?

It was my wetty but these days it seemed to have shrunk around my waist!?

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

Shining a dive light in my eyes would have to top it.

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

41o43'57" N, 49o56'49" W since its been of special interest to me since the age of 13.

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

Jim Cameron (sorry for copying you Brett) cause he can get to the location mentioned above.



This month's Celebrity diver Nicole Kidman

Born: 06/20/1967

Status: Married to country music star Keith Urban

Star sign: Gemini

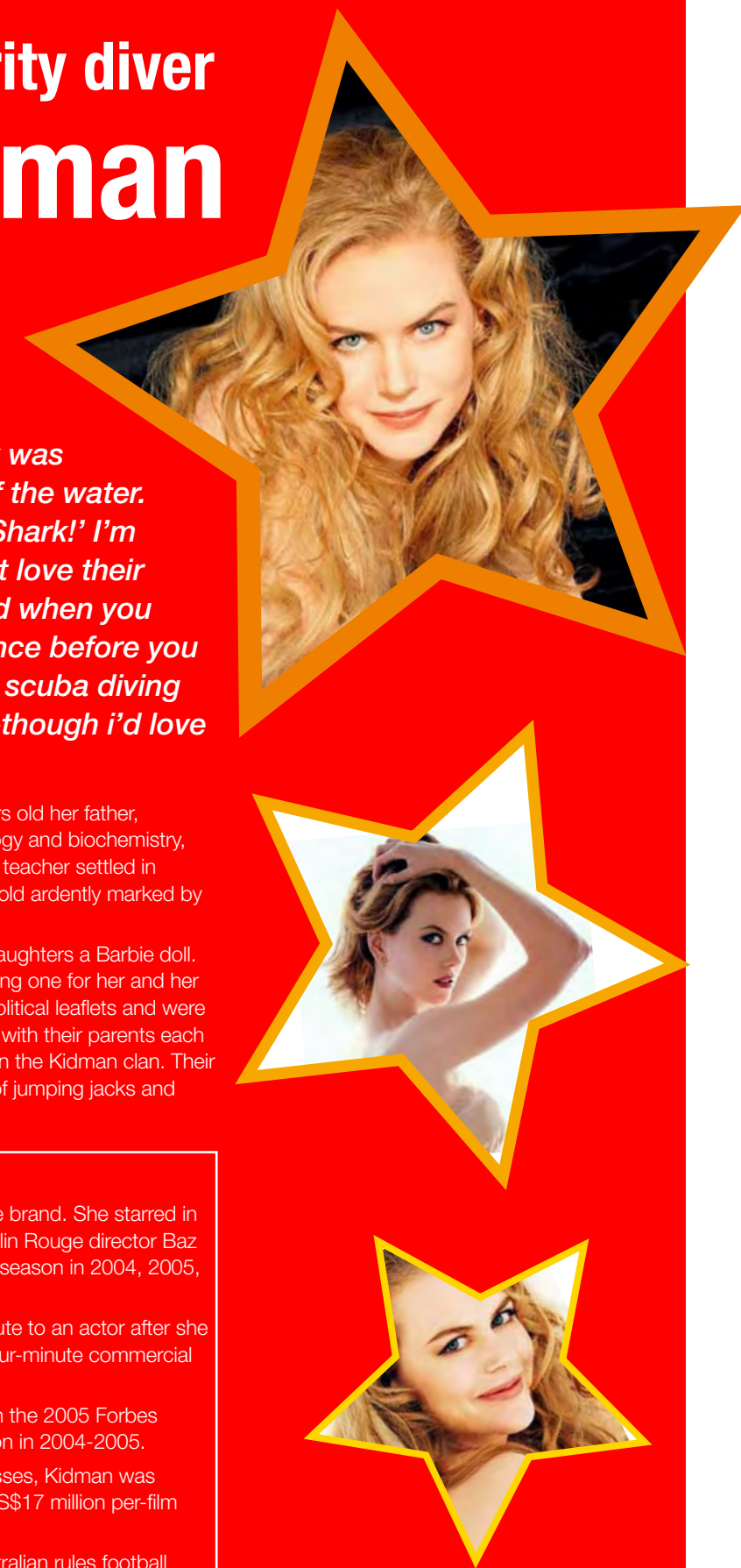
"As a child in Sydney, we'd be swimming in the ocean and then a bell would ring, meaning that a shark was spotted, and you'd have to run out of the water. And we'd all scream 'Shark! Shark! Shark!' I'm not a daredevil or a thrill-seeker, I just love their peacefulness and their elegance. And when you scuba drive, you can feel their presence before you can even see them. I've done a lot of scuba diving with sharks, but never a great white -though i'd love to go down in a cage near one."

Nicole was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. When she was 4 years old her father, Anthony, an author and an assistant professor for psychology and biochemistry, along with her mother, Janelle, a nurse and nursery-school teacher settled in Australia, with her younger sister. She grew up in a household ardently marked by the social activism of her parents.

Her mother was a devout feminist who refused to by her daughters a Barbie doll. Nicole showed her independence and strong will buy stealing one for her and her sister. The Kidman girls were also known for passing out political leaflets and were expected to debate and discuss at least one current event with their parents each week. Activity and exercise were also a point of emphasis in the Kidman clan. Their father would have them start each morning with a regime of jumping jacks and push-ups.

TRIVIA

- Kidman is the current face of the Chanel No. 5 perfume brand. She starred in a campaign of television and print ads directed by Moulin Rouge director Baz Luhrmann to promote the fragrance during the holiday season in 2004, 2005, and 2006.
- She holds the record for the most money paid per minute to an actor after she earned a reported \$US3.71 million (\$A5 million) for a four-minute commercial for Chanel No. 5 perfume.
- Kidman is listed as the 45th Most Powerful Celebrity on the 2005 Forbes Celebrity 100 List. She made a reported US\$14.5 million in 2004-2005.
- On People magazine's list of 2005's highest paid actresses, Kidman was second behind Julia Roberts with a US\$16 million to US\$17 million per-film price tag.
- Kidman is an avid supporter of the Sydney Swans Australian rules football club in the Australian Football League and attends many live matches. Her favourite player is Barry Hall.



NOVEMBER DIVE NEWS



DIVERS TAX, LONG REEF ANCHORING BANS, AND NOW THIS...

We have recieved information from Jeff Groth (Aquazero Swansea) regarding action the RTA intends to take at Swansea. We'd encourage all divers to get behind this as once this action has been taken there will be no sealife left at Swansea bridge for quite some time.

Jeff has asked for divers help as he said he will be seen to have a vested interest, which he does, but he also believes in stopping this action to protect a great dive site.

Basically the RTA in the next 4 to 6 weeks is going to cover the sand bottom under both bridges, completely across the channel, and 50 metres up and down stream of the channel with half a metre of rock about 100mm round.

This is to prevent souring of the pylons which they claim is happening. As they are doing this as routine maintenance they do not have to do an environmental impact statement (EIS).

Many of you have dived the area and still do, you know the amount of life that exists under the bridge. If you feel strongly enough about this dive site please contact local ministers, RTA.

At minimum we must force them to comply with the rest of the world and do an EIS. Contact Jeff (4972 0266) and speak with him if you wish to add your support. They are already working on the site prepar ation so the time to act is now.

BASS POINT DIVE SITES CLOSURE!

Many of you will be aware the a number of years ago Shellharbour Council made the decision to close its reserves - Blackbutt and Bass Point on total fire ban days in the Illawarra. This means that after the long drive down from Sydney. The Southern Highlands or even Canberra there is nothing that p**es folks off more, than to find the point is closed and that the only site is the Western side of the Loader or head to Kiama.

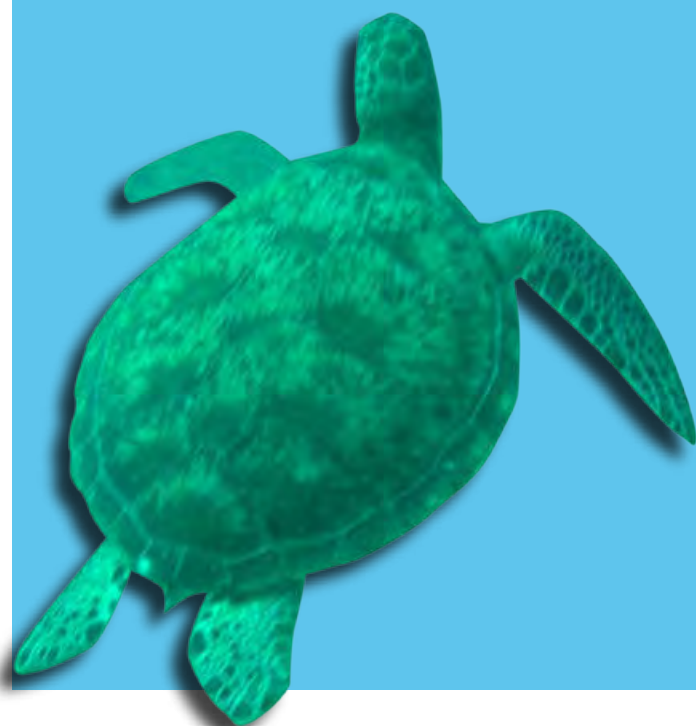
Over the last two summers Council has handed the control on total fire ban days to the local bush fire emergency services. This means that it is entirely their call as to wether it is closed or open, and to date there has been no consistency to the closures. One thing they instigated is to call the local dive centres the afternoon before and let them know (9 out of 10 times, anyway) that the point is to be closed.

Non local divers need to be aware of a couple of things..

- Total fire ban in your area does not necessarily mean total fire ban in the Illawarra.
- Ring either of the dive shops Leisure Coast Dive 02 4296 3644 or Shellharbour Scuba centre 4296 4266 they usually know by about 4.30 pm the day before the closure.
- If you do get there and its closed its not the local dive shops fault so please aim your aggression at the weather or council, you'd be surprise the number of folks who have gone off at the local dive shops because it's closed.

Leisure Coast Dive usually/always run the boat on total fire ban days - at least it gets folks away from the loader and into some of the other sites. They can be contacted at:

Leisure Coast Dive,
2/17 Addison Street, Shellharbour NSW 2529
Ph 02 4296 3644
www.leisurecoastdive.com.au



The X2.

Loves mud and water as much as you do.



The World's First Water Resistant* Headset



- Double-sided adjustable ear mount
- **Standby time: up to 500 hours**
- **Talk time: up to 14 hours**
- Bluetooth 1.2 interface
- Weight: 15 grams
- Two colour LED

X2



*Conforms to IP54 Standard for dust protection and water resistance.

To obtain IP54 certification, the product is subjected to dust and spray water tests. The dust test calls for the product to be placed in a dust test chamber and subjected to 8 hours of agitation. The spray water test subjects the product to 10 minutes of continuous water flow from 25 different spray nozzles.

...And introducing the latest arrival

The E2.

- Double-sided adjustable ear mount
- Standby time: up to 500 hours
- Talk time: up to 11 hours
- Weight: 13 grams
- Bluetooth 1.2



CALL 1300 666 676



BUY • SWAP • SELL

FURUNO LS-4100 FISH FINDER DEPTH SOUNDER

Still in box, in AS NEW condition \$250

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



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. Resolution 240 (H) x 320 (V) pixels - 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.

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

DOLPHIN DSV + HOSES \$

(ends cut off), a big alu knob as replacement for the small plastic one, the original hose weights and 4 anti collapse rings in the hoses.

DOLPHIN/ATLANTIS SHELL \$65.00

White some scratches, no cracks.

OCEANIC REG \$175.00

swivel 1st stage, Alpha7 2nd stage (new, with barcode sticker still on!) and inflatorhose, needs service therefore included an O2 service set with viton o-rings.

ATLANTIS/DOLPHIN SCRUBBER \$85.00

TWIN STRAP SET NEW \$20.00

Basically a long camstrap with moulded bracket in between.

DRYSUIT ZIPPER (6X) \$45.00 (EACH)

Drysuit zip, new, opening 81 cm/ 32", seems to be able to open to the left and right, 5 "normal" size teeth, 1 fine teeth.

SPORTSKISS HOSEMOUNTS \$75.00

Hosemounts L + R, NON QD.

KISS VALVE \$275.00

Kiss valve new/current model, incl 15 micron filter and hoses, used 5 or 6 times, like new.

SPORTSKISS SCRUBBER \$200.00

3 SENSOR DISPLAY SET \$100.00

Mark munro "PPO2.com" 3 display sensor set, new unused, not even assembled.

Prices in US\$ Excl postage, items located in Perth, Australia.

Contact Denzel via EMAIL or by phone on 0405483417.



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

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 for more information.

SUUNTO SPYDER (GOLD)

brand new condition. Just had battery change \$450

Contact Glen on 47352012 or 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 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 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 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



WANTEDWANTED***WANTED**

Leisure Coast Dive are looking for people who hold a current coxswain certificate. They will get to drive their big boat. Contact Julie if they are interested in a couple of days a month of cash money.

Leisure Coast Dive

www.leisurecoastdive.com.au

2/17 Addison Street, Shellharbour NSW 2529

Ph 02 42963644



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**

Dive report | Marley Point

MONDAY 2ND OCTOBER

Marley Point Algae Style

Divers: Geoff Cook, Kylie Suttor, Scott Hansman, Steve Banks

The weather turned on a show for us on the final public holiday before Christmas and thankfully with the omission of a Sydney based team in the NRL Grand Final the night before, there was no reason for a hangover to spoil the day.

I cannot offer the same compliments to the seas however as even after a couple of clicks down the Royal NP coastline the vis was clearly unclear.

Whilst scarred with the disappointed of the sea's offering, the next best thing to look forward to (apart from being in good company) was the chilled cheese platter and olives awaiting our sustenance intake back on the boat.

The early dissapointment on deck was dissolved however as we hopped overboard to discover that our underwater neighbours were still out and about.

Marley Point has some fantastic rockscapes for ducking and turning thru and not to mention several small gaps under boulders large enough to get in and swing about. This offered a surprise around every corner - Lonesome PJ here, Green Morays there!

Back on deck and over to Bundeena for the anticipated cheese platter, olives, biscuits and Steve's cheese, olive, bacon, chilli roll thing.

The day concluded with a bit of minor sunburn and a phantom leak in Geoff's boat but overall a good day to be out on the Shires' beloved waterways and much better than the hangover!!!



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

For further information contact: David Strike striking1@optusnet.com.au or Ann McFarlane amcfarlane@bigpond.com



Dive Report | Henry's Head



BY JOHN FARDOULIS

The photography group had an outing last month, with two boats carrying photographers, videographers and general divers to Angel's Garden, at the mouth of Botany Bay. Visibility was about 10m with the water being a little chilly. Quite a few good shots and nice video footage were taken.

Marine life was abundant, with a number of Weedy Sea Dragons, Port Jackson sharks and a variety of fish life putting in an appearance. We are really lucky to have such great dive sites and fishlife right on Sydney's doorstep. Many major cities in the world are so polluted that their waterways are really not worth diving. A reminder that we should all take care of the environment so we can continue to see such sites in years to come.

I finally got to christen my new SPD branded dry suit and it performed really well. The water was quite cool so it was a relief to be able to stay dry and warm for a change. This drysuit will certainly come in handy during the winter months and on long deco dives.

The outing was topped off by Calamari and chips at Frenchmans Bay, a great morning for all who attended.

I saw John Beddie back at the boat ramp who did two dives around the corner from Kurnell. He's found a new double decker cave site that we should check out soon. Momentum in the club is building with every dive so it is clear that summer's going to be great time to dive this year.



Boat Owners & Dive Leaders



BOAT OWNERS

GEOFF COOK

Email: 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
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
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
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
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
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
Contact Number: **(M) 0403 843 521**
Located: **Cronulla**



EXPLORER GROUP LEADER

BRETT SERIANI

Email: brett@southpacificdivers.com
Contact Number: **(M) 0415 688 974**
Located: **Glebe**



PAUL STRANGER

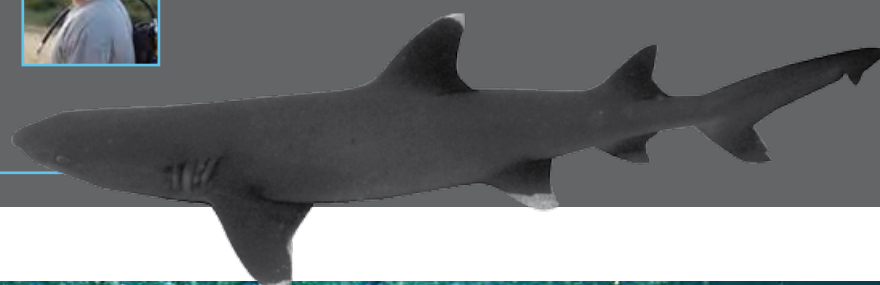
Email: paulstranger@hotmail.com
Contact Number: **(M) 0432 860 501**
Located: **Newtown**



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

MORE DIVE LEADER VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Email geoff@southpacificdivers.com to be added to the list.



Join us for a dive...



October

DATE	TIME	SITE	DEPTH	PURPOSE	DIVE LEADER
Fri 27	8pm	Oak Park	<20m	Night dive	Scott Hansman

SOCIAL DRINKS AFTERWARD IN CRONULLA PUB.

November dives

DATE	TIME	SITE	DEPTH	PURPOSE	DIVE LEADER
Sat 4		Hilda	<25	Wreck	Geoff Cook
Sun 19		Tuggerah	45m	Wreck	Geoff Cook
Sun 26		Kelloe		Wreck + SCAN Day	Geoff, John or Leo


THIS IS A BIG COMBINED INDEPENDENT CLUBS DAY, HELD ANNUALLY. EVERYONE SHOULD COME ALONG, TO SHOW OUR CLUB IS BACK AND BRIMMING. BBQ AT FRENCHMANS BAY. NEED TO KNOW NUMBERS IN ADVANCE TO ALLOCATE SPOTS ON BOATS, CATERING ETC.

November social events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT
11th	1pm-5pm	An afternoon of Sea Stories, Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour	Geoff Cook
17th	7.30pm	An Ocean Odyssey	See page 9 for details
20th	7.30pm	Club Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club "Show & Tell" and "phone a friend"	
24th	Xmas Party 5pm until dark, drinks afterwards	Barefoot bowls at Marrickville Bowling Club	

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 SPDC club members were seen dancing the night away at the Iguana bar recently? One was more interested in under-the-weather photography than dancing and almost ended up with a winning score for his efforts.

5 Sydney dive shops have agreed to the proposed dive tax

Who recently passed out on trip away, head-butted a cupboard and is now awaiting a medical report before returning to the water

Which elderly 2 adults have found love recently? Apparently a bucket of cold water is needed when ever they see each other.

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 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



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.



Join the Club. Membership Application Form

ESTABLISHED
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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 _____

Tell Em They're Dreaming!

BY JOHN FARDOULIS

The joke of 2006 has got to be the NSW Government's proposed Scuba Tax (Scuba Diving License). Originally mooted as a user pay Grey Nurse Shark levy, the idea has blown out into a silly and sketchy (underwater) breathing Tax. What's next? A Tax for breathing on land?

HAIR BRAIN IDEA

NSW's Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries is the culprit behind such a floored concept – an idea that doesn't add up either in principle or economically. There's a hidden agenda, as they hope that a Scuba Tax will be the first in a range of new revenue raisers around water related activities. Don't be surprised if a Tax or Levy is then proposed for swimming, surfing, dipping your toe in at the beach etc. if they get a Scuba Tax across the line.

The last I knew NSW was a democracy, not dictatorship.

COMMERCIALLY UNSOUND

It's surprising how low the number of active divers in NSW is. Les Graham from Terrigal Dive estimates the number of active NSW divers at around 3,000-5,000 people, with Lesley Hillyer from Aquasea suggesting the rough number of active participants is around 4,000 people.

So do the sums. Say an upper figure of 5,000 active divers at \$50 each per year. \$250k per year revenue. Take out wages of a few staff to administer the program, say \$130k per year - leaving a maximum yield of \$130k per year. Minus the cost of implementing the policy in the first place. It's not worth the grief to launch the Tax for that sort of money.

NETT LOSS

According to Ron Hunter of Dive Forster, the previous Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries valued the Scuba community's contribution to marine research at approximately \$500k per year. That is, \$500k of pro bono work by volunteers.

Scuba divers, not Primary Industries and Fisheries employees have been extensively involved in Grey Nurse Shark research, which will cease if the silly Scuba Tax alienates the diver community.

A Scuba Tax is hence flawed, financially. Lose \$500k in volunteer work from the diving community in exchange for a Primary Industries and Fisheries win fall of \$120k a year.

Perhaps backing such a hair brain scheme should be grounds for the dismissal of Minister McDonald?

NEED HELP FROM EVERY MEMBER OF THE INDUSTRY

The dive industry has to be really careful about what they say because the NSW government is grasping at straws in trying to get the silly Scuba Tax over the line.

Loose lips sink ships, meaning that every dive shop and associated entity has to rally against the Tax. Time for them to help us, the Scuba public – people from who they make a living.

Any support, even from a SINGLE dive shop will be misconstrued by Primary Industries and Fisheries as industry backing and make us all suffer.

Imagine the ramifications if you were a single dive shop - blamed for making thousands of divers pay an unnecessary and silly Tax.

