



Established 1962

WET RAG

www.southpacificdivers.com

June/July | 07

Special Anniversary Issue

*45 Years of Diving
and Adventure*

Image by Gary Bell

www.southpacificdivers.com

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Club President's Report



Welcome to our June/July edition of the Wet Rag. This edition really helps reflect the essence of our club, a mixture of old and new - with a plenty of adventure thrown in for good measure.

A lot of the past was re-lived in preparing this edition as we gear up to celebrate the 45th birthday of our group. So many stories came back to life, helping remind us how adventurous our club has been. Many long-term and life members helped Scott with great pioneering stories about exploring and finding a number of shipwrecks, diving under the ice in the Snowy Mountains, members actually making their own equipment, trips away, plus a lot of comradery and adventure on land. This has led to creating Historian positions in the club to help document and preserve inspiring stories from the past.

Founding President, Denis Robinson helped summarise a lot in his story on pages 26 & 27, reinforcing the aims we still have as a club today. It was particularly interesting that back in 1962 the club decided not to run dive lessons because they would get in the way of adventure too much. "Let the dive schools do the teaching. South Pacific Divers will provide the experience."

We just had the club's 45th Annual General Meeting and an enthusiastic new committee has been elected to help guide the club over the next 12 months. A lot of behind the scenes organizing takes place and committee members deserve thanks for the time and skills they volunteer.

For those who might not realise, South Pacific Divers Club is a non-profit organisation, like a diver friendship society. Members have a range of experience and skills, both in and outside of diving. Our club isn't a place for lazy people, everyone is expected to help. Those who want everything done for them can go and pay a shop, charter boat or travel agent to wait on them. Even new divers help, perhaps not in the water but organising BBQ's and social activities.

Last year was one of rebirth, so over the next twelve months we can get back into pioneering, fun and adventure. Our club has a great mix of legends and new members, with an incredible amount of enthusiasm and experience, which will lead to life-long friendships spanning the next 45 years.

Come along and join the party on August 20th.

"South Pacific Divers, not just a club but a way of life"

John Fardoulis
President – South Pacific Divers Club
john (@) southpacificdivers.com

Editors Report

This month's Wet Rag has taken a huge team effort to get together so first up I'd like to thank all those who contributed. I'd also like to welcome Angela Jeffrey to the position of Assistant Editor. Ange will be working tirelessly over the next 12 months to help produce each issue...I'll make sure of that :)

It's our anniversary issue and it's been a real learning experience sifting through and piecing together a lot of archival material for this issue. It's been hard trying to decide what to put in and what to leave out, there is just so much that this club has achieved over the past 45 years. I am sure you will read more about it in coming issues and I hope we can put

something more substantial together in 5 years time for the 50th Anniversary.

The club Historians were no sooner voted into their new position then they were working hard helping to put together information for this issue. I definitely could not have done it without them. A special thanks to Denis Robinson, Tom Byron, Martin Kandilas, Leo Bergagnin and Noel Taylor for the information and images they provided.

Reading through the history of this club it's clear there is a real heritage to uphold as a member. I am proud to be a part the South Pacific Divers and I'll do my best to uphold the tradition of diving and adventure that this club has.

See you in the water sometime soon,
Scott Leimroth

The WET RAG is published by South Pacific Divers Club Inc.
Editorial content can be sent to scott (@) southpacificdivers.com
Deadline for each edition is the 5th of the Month.

AGM New Committee



The new committee reflects the club's strengths, with diving and special interest groups being well represented.

In this 45th year of the club it is also fitting to have the new position of club Historians so strongly represented and for our founding club president Denis Robinson to be yet again involved. It is clear the club has depth, with 3 previous club presidents as well as members who have only recently joined the club all working side by side on the committee.

I'm sure you'll agree that they all have the ability to be very capable in their new positions. Hopefully many hands will make light work. Anyone who's ever been on a committee will also agree that there is plenty of work involved. I'm sure we will all appreciate the hard work these people will put in over the next 12 months.



Above: L - R Matt Reeve, Mark Pinna, Jason Farlow, Dave Chillari, John Fardoulis, Kim Botha, Andy Del and Scott Leimroth. Just part of the new committee for 2007/2008.

President – John Fardoulis

Vice President/Communications Director – Scott Leimroth

Secretary – Karen O'Neil

Social Organisers – Kim Botha and Fran Thai Low

Wet Rag Assistant Editor – Angela Jeffrey

Dive Conveynor – Andy Del Riccio

Dive Organiser (Boat) – Peter Iwaszkiewicz

Dive Organiser (Shore) – Matt Reeve

Dive Organiser (Away) – Leo Bergagnin

Dive Organiser (All) – Jason Farlow

Dive Organiser (Night) – Dave Chillari

Historians

- Noel Taylor

- Leo Bergagnin

- Denis Robinson

Photography Group Leader – Dave Chillari

Boat Group Leader – Peter Iwaszkiewicz

Wreck Group Leader – Steve Loneragan

Rebreather Group Leader – Scott Willan

CLUB NEWS



Scooby has a Baby!



Congratulations to Scoob (Jeff) and his lovely wife on the birth of another little diver, Johnathan Drury, on the 9th June 2007.

SPDC in Dive Log

Just in case you missed it, the South Pacific Divers Club was featured on page 44 of the June issue of Dive Log magazine. The article truly celebrated and highlighted the diversity and growth of our club providing an opportunity for further exposure of SPDC to the dive industry and prospective new members.

Bon Voyage

Club member Joyce Lee is leaving us to work in San Francisco for a while. She's looking forward to diving the wrecks off Florida, reefs of Mexico, seals of Monterey and learning what psi & ft mean. Good luck Joyce and see you when you get back!

GET CONNECTED

If you're on line but not subscribed to our diving and events email group then you're missing out!

To subscribe simply visit

<http://groups.google.com/group/spdcdiving>
for all the latest dive organising and diving information.

Don't forget our Special Interest Groups either -
spdcwrecks@googlegroups.com
spdphoto@googlegroups.com

WARNING!!

Please note that the August Club meeting will NOT be held at Bankstown Sports Club.

We are having a 45th Anniversary Dinner at Piccola Trattoria, 9 Norton St, Leichardt.

7pm on 20th August

Contact Kim on kim.botha@spcorp.com
or 0411 518856 to reserve your spot now.

ONLY 51 Seats Available.



Swim with the Pac **South Pac that is...**

Where: Little Manly Beach

When: Sunday 19th August 2007

**Diving the wrecks and reefs accessible from
Sydney Harbour.**

Suitable for all levels of diving.

Contact Jason Farlow - jason@southpacificdivers.com

**Join us for a huge club dive day celebrating 45 years of
South Pacific Diving**

**Also the 150th anniversary of the Dunbar which we
hope to dive on the day depending on conditions.**



JOIN US FOR SOME FUN



Join South Pacific Divers Club!
With a 45 year heritage of exciting club diving
we have a lot to offer you.
Join us and be part of our ongoing club activities
including regular local club dives,
trips away and great social events.

Fill in the membership form at the back of the Wet Rag today!

First Deco Dive

Report by: Katie Walsh

On the 28th May John. F., Jon. E., and myself left little Manly boat ramp to Dive the 'Annie Miller'. This was my first Deco dive so didn't really know what to expect. The day was perfect. The sun was shining, seas were flat and water was clear. John. F. did not have the GPS reading for this wreck stored in his new GPS as yet. We were motoring around for a while before anchoring on the wreck.

There was a current. Jon. E., had descended first to ensure the anchor was secure, while John. F. was giving me the run down on what to do and expect for my first deco. Jon. E. descended first and we were not long after him. I went first and John. F. followed. It felt as if the bottom was never coming. It wasn't until approx. 35 metres that narcosis started to set in. I felt as if I had a couple of wines/beers. Loved the feeling. We all made it to the bottom safely. Water temperature was 16 degrees and maximum depth was 43.6 metres.

We swam around the wreck a few times. Saw a Wobbegong shark at the front of the funnel sitting minding his own business and many schools of fish. Visibility was approx 10 metres. Bottom time was approx. 14 minutes and we began the slow ascent. Had stopped half way, 12 metres and 5 metres. You could feel a bit of a surge and that a swell was starting to blow up when we were getting closer to the surface. We made it to the surface. The dive had felt great. Back on board the boat, it wasn't long until I was throwing up good burley for the fish. After a cup of tea and doughnuts/cup-a-soup on board the boat, the stomach was cured. John. F. always comes prepared I've been told. Thanks John !

So now I have had the taste of Deco dives I would like to do more to get the experience. It is great to be able to have the opportunity to try these kind of dives out with experienced divers to determine if this is the kind of diving you are interested in. And for me it is something I will be doing more off in the future.



Above: (L - R) Jon Evans, Katie Walsh and John Fardoulis, all smiles after a great dive.



Left: Katie is taking advantage of the mentoring available through the club to expand her diving skills.

CREATURE FEATURE

The Whale Shark

Western Australia is privileged to be one of the few places in the world known to be visited by the mysterious whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) on a regular basis. Each year, just days after the mass spawning of corals on the Ningaloo Reef (near Exmouth) in March and April, whale sharks appear in the waters along the front of the reef, remaining for up to a month. It is thought that they come to feed on an explosion of marine life that feeds on the coral spawn.

Most of these visiting whale sharks are immature males. It remains an intriguing puzzle why this particular section of the population visits our coast.

Whale sharks will grow to over 12 metres in length, which is about the size of a large bus. These gentle ocean giants are often confused with whales because of their large size and feeding habits. They are, however, sharks, albeit the least fearsome of this group, and their closest relatives are the nurse and wobbegong sharks.

Whale sharks are not aggressive, and like the second largest of all sharks - the slightly smaller basking shark - cruise the oceans feeding on concentrations of zooplankton, small fish and squid.

The whale shark's mouth contains 300 rows of tiny teeth, but ironically, they neither chew nor bite their food.

Instead, the sharks use a fine mesh of rakers attached to their gills to strain food from the water. These rakers are functionally similar to the baleen plates possessed by many whales. Biologists have speculated that whale sharks feed by literally vacuuming food from the water. However, researchers at Ningaloo have observed that the sharks usually feed by actively swimming through a mass of zooplankton or small fish with their mouths wide open.



Whale sharks have also been observed to hang vertically in the water and feed by sucking water into their mouths.

Very little is known about the reproduction of whale sharks, most information coming from a single egg found in the Gulf of Mexico. It is thought that the young develop in egg cases that are retained in the mother's body until hatching. Despite their large adult size, whale sharks are very small at birth, probably 40 to 50 centimetres.

Whale sharks occur world-wide in tropical and temperate seas and are thought to be highly migratory. However, there is little information currently available on this aspect of their behaviour.



NOKIA



Nokia 6110 Navigator

The new Nokia 6110 Navigator phone has in-built GPS. It also comes fully loaded with Australian maps and has voice-guided turn-by-turn navigation to get you to your destination with ease. Whether you're travelling on foot or by car^{*}, find your way there with the Nokia 6110 Navigator.

nokia.com.au/6110

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*Always obey the law. You must not operate handset with hands while driving.

South Pacific Whale Watchers

Report by: Katie Walsh

Saturday the 26th May was my first dive with South Pacific Divers. John. F., John. E., Scott, Kylie and myself set sail from Long Reef (Collaroy) boat ramp. It all started off a little late as the early morning divers made the most of the fantastic conditions.

While John F was gearing up and getting his tanks refilled the rest of us were waiting in the boat. Three spearos had came up to the boat while we were waiting and asked if they could grab a lift out to the point. As John F was still not ready he said to take the spearos out. We dropped the spearos off about 3km out. By the time we got back to shore John F was finally ready 1 1/2 hours later.

We set out for our dive approx 12 midday which was supposed to be a 10.30am dive and were going to dive "Dee Why Wide". On our way out we had spotted a group of 4-5 Humpback whales heading north. We decided to get up close and personal and follow them. We got within the legal distance then raced ahead and killed the motor of the boat hoping they would come up around us. Everyone forgot to bring a camera so John F was using his mobile phone to capture pictures and films. We got caught up with these amazing creatures for over 1 1/2 hours.

We had been travelling North for quite a while and just wanted to set out to do what we had came to do. As we ended up 10 minutes out from the Valliant we went and dived it. Conditions were great. Water temperature was 18 degrees. Visability was 10-15 metres. Maximum depth we reached was 26.8 metres and we were under for 32 minutes. It got a little chilli on the bottom so we decided to ascend from the dive.

It was been a fantastic day. We got back to shore at approx. 3:30pm. The introduction to the club was great. First impressions are always good. Who would have thought whale watching would have been on the agenda.



Top: Jon Evans and Katie 'Phantoms' at the ramp.

Above: Two whales breach the surface.

Right: On the lookout for whales.

Bottom right: Steve fills tanks with his compressor.

Below: Katie Relaxes after the dive.



Above: Andy Del prepares to dive.

Below: Kylie is all smiles.





ATTENTION BOAT OWNERS!!!

LOOKING FOR CREW?

WE CAN HELP!



The club is now at a point where we have a large pool of active divers,
ready to assist as crew on most weekends.
Many hands make light work.

Fellow club members can help!

- Launch and retrieve your boat
- Pull up the anchor
- Provide experience in diving new sites
- Mateship
- Compare notes with other boat owners
- Trips away



Above: Just some of our club boats.

Whether you haven't been taking your boat out due to lacking crew or need experienced boat handlers to help you get more out of your diving.

WE CAN HELP!

Contact john@southpacificdivers.com if you're a boat owner wanting to find out more!

EAGLE REBREATHER

By Steve Loneragan

"Military Quality for the Recreational Market"

Well as many of you will no doubt be aware the Eagle Rebreather made its debut at the dive show in Sydney earlier this year. There was lots of interest and lots of questions for the Willcox rebreather team. Kane Willcox owns Eagle Reabreathers and manufactures this great little unit whilst his father, Colin, owns Colkan International who manufacture the CCR 155 (MK15.5), consult's to the military diving community and imports the Italian UBS40 and Azimuth semi closed rebreathers . At the time of the show the unit hadn't been officially dive tested and before going to the market this is an absolute must. Following is a report of that first dive.

The units, as displayed at the show, were almost ready to go diving except for last minute delays from suppliers, so it was not for another 6 weeks that the unit was actually ready to test dive. On the 4th May three divers (Barry Hallett – currently dives an Inspiration, Steve Pearson – currently dives a HEAVILY modified Mk 15.5 (it's been kissed) and Steve Loneragan – Used to dive an Inspo now Mk 15.5) made the trip down to the PRO Diving Services chamber at Botany for the first dive under pressure. Note: this is NOT the Pro Dive that many of you dive on the weekend with.

A photo of the constant add unit below.



Below: Pressure (depth) gauges and video monitoring



The chamber is BIG. Often used for hyperbaric medical treatments and I'm told for pressure testing BIG toys from the navy like – pressure housings on side scan sonar's – its also got a DVD inside for the really long decompression stops if you were really bent. Pun there somewhere.....



The main chamber



This is a seriously nice piece of kit and all I could think of was how it would look in my shed!!

Anyway the chamber is big enough to take the 3 divers and the 3 Eagles on test.

The breathers were rigged so that we could control, observe and report all the operations from the opposite side of the chamber – which you can see in the picture above. The clear tubes connected to the mouthpieces were attached to an inhale / exhale

measuring device (the white things hanging from the roof). More about that and the dive later.

More about the Eagle

It currently comes in two Variants

Fully Electronic (Eagle IV) – computer controlled solenoid and electronics

Constant Add (Eagle III)– constant mechanical injection (like a KISS)

The fully electronic unit looks like a mini MK15.5. The centre section and scrubber assembly are round and Kane has done a magnificent job of plumbing the unit with stainless steel tubing closely mirroring the layout of the MK15.5 series. The unit comes with a push button calibration module on the side of the centre section for the primary electronics.

The primary display is a HUD (Head Up Display) which is a simple red is bad green is good display. It also has a completely independent secondary display that shows the output of all 3 cells at once. Again this is a simple push button calibration type unit and can be found on many Mk15.5's mine included. It's very reliable and simple. Best of all it is completely independent of the primary electronics. Which means that you can completely turn off the primary and you can still "see what is going on" inside the loop. Of course in this situation the solenoid is not operating so you would have to inject oxygen into the loop manually. This is also a simple operation as the manual bypass buttons are conveniently located on the waist band.

The Constant Add unit has a non pressure compensated first stage, which means that the output pressure is the same regardless of depth. (a normal scuba regulator is opposite to this). Anyway, the constant pressure output is piped to a needle valve assembly that is set (and can be adjusted) to bleed oxygen into the loop at a rate at or just below metabolic consumption rate. Somewhere between 0.7 and 1.0 litres per minute for the average person. In this way there is no solenoid and no electronic control system. It is a very popular and arguably safe way of operating a rebreather. The oxygen content of the loop is monitored by an electronic secondary display the same as on the fully electronic model.

As the bleed rate of the O₂ through the needle valve and your metabolic rate are very similar the concentration of oxygen in the loop is very stable and only requires minor manual adjustments from time to time. A VERY well proven system.

Both units can be packed with 2.5 kg of sorb which is about the same as an Inspiration, so the duration is likely to be in the order of 4 hours. As yet we have not done any duration testing to the point of Co₂ breakthrough. Both units can be run with any diluent including trimix. I would suspect that this will be a unit that will be able to be dived to around 100m without any problems.



Although the manufacturer will ultimately recommend a limit.

Standard configuration is a 2 litre cylinder of oxygen (top cylinder) and a 3 litre of diluent (bottom / external cylinder) but you can run with just a 2 litre diluent cylinder if you wish.

Both variants are very light, probably about the same as a single 88 ally, although I didn't weigh them at the time. The wing and harness can be customised and you could use an existing BCD and harness if you had them lying around and were suitable for mounting up in this way. As they are currently configured they have Poseidon BeSea harness' which are VERY nice indeed.

THE DIVE

So enough of all the facts and figures, how did it perform?? Well, actually, pretty good. A few minor niggles but overall thumbs up all round.

We dived with air as the diluent and we had air in the chamber so if we needed to come off the loop for any reason we could just take the mouthpiece out and breathe normally. So in we go, door closes, thumbs up and the pressure comes on. Have to equalise pretty often in the first 10 meters and it is getting very hot. Just like filling a tank, except we are on the inside now!! Hold at 10m for a few checks and measurements. All seems to be well at this stage. The electronic unit which I was diving is holding set point and I have a green light on the HUD. The CAR units are working OK and the O2 in the loop is pretty steady. So down we go to 20 meters – seem to equalise much more than in the water..... and it's getting hotter !! Hold at 20m for a few minutes and make sure everything is working – we do inhale and exhale tests using the breathing resistance meters and record the numbers in a table according to depth.

We continue in stages down to 50 meters – pretty sweaty in there now and lots of squeaky voices – not too marked and the vis was pretty good too!!

So we stayed at 50m for 5 minutes and did lots of testing and recording of



Left: Here you can see the electronics port on the side of the centre section and the scrubber canister itself. A few last minute checks for the electronic unit from Kane Willcox prior to going in the pot.



Above: Steve and Steve – doing a few surface checks before the dive.

Left: Steve L doing some flow testing !!

data. The setpoint in the electronic unit held steady with normal breathing but if I flushed the unit with diluent which lowered the setpoint it took ages to come back to where I'd set it. No big deal and this is a simple fix. The software that controls the injection timing needs to open for maybe 1 second longer – easy – this is the point of the dive to figure out all the bugs that you can't find at atmospheric pressure on the bench. The CAR units held setpoint well but there was a problem with the seals on the secondary units – so they reset themselves and gave raw voltage outputs from the cells instead of calibrated data. As the raw outputs were steady you can extrapolate that the loop oxygen ppO2 was steady and the injection unit was working properly. I have recently found out that this was due to a leaky cable gland. Not the eagle in any way, and the problem has been rectified.

I tried breathing REALLY hard for a minute or so at 50m to simulate a high work load and I found that the breathing resistance (WOB – Work of Breathing) was OK even at high work load and with a dense gas. Deeper than 50m you would probably tend to add some helium to the mix which has the effect of reducing density, this in turn would lower the WOB and make this an even more comfortable unit to dive. The Mk 15.5 is one of the best WOB units available and I reckon that the Eagle is not far off that.

SO all in all a great little unit to dive and only a few minor bugs to sort out. I'm very impressed and money permitting I would get one of these for regular Sydney diving and just keep my MK 15.5 rigged for special occasions - reality is that 2 rebreathers are a bit of a luxury that most of us cant afford!! Still given the opportunity that's what I'd do.

So the trip back to the surface was cold as we were all hot and sweaty and the reduction in pressure made it a bit chilly up through the short stops. Only when we got up to the 6m and 3m stop did the chamber get warm again from the body heat. Again the Eagle seemed to work well on the ascent. Obviously the setpoint drops as you ascend and lower the ambient pressure, but the solenoid fired regularly and once at a stop it didn't take too long to catch up and settle the loop down. I was being hard on the electronics and making the breather do all the work during the ascent to see how it coped. In a normal situation you would usually manually add some O2 on ascent to keep the loop as stable and as close to setpoint as possible. Still impressed though.

Once we hit the 3 meter stop the chamber operator wanted us to go off the RB's and go onto the oxygen bibs inside the chamber. These are an oral nasal mask that allows you to breathe in pure O2 and the exhaled breathe gets dumped out of the chamber - very tricky -

We were at the 3 meter stop for ages as we followed the Canadian Navy air tables which are ultra conservative. So after 95 minutes in the chamber the pressure is equalised and the door pops open - back to ambient pressure and the bathroom!!

So a very satisfactory first dive for a new kid on the block. We did a second dive only a few weeks ago and I'm pleased to report that the bugs are out of the system now and the go ahead has been given for some wet dive testing in the next few weeks. I don't know for sure but my guess is that it will be available for sale in the next few months.

The Eagle in either of it's forms would be a great rebreather. Light and small enough to dive all the time on shallow dives but has a build quality and heritage that will allow you to take it a long way. Probably it has the capacity to go further than 99.9% of the dives you will ever do. Which is the best one - hard

to say - both have their advantages, personally I like the electronic unit but I know that there are many that inherently don't like mixing electronics and water and will go for the manual version every time - Either would do well it really depends on your diving style and what you feel most comfortable with.

As far as pricing and training is concerned the best thing would be to ring Kane 02 6644 5223 and have a chat. Or drop him an email at kw@colkan.com he's a good bloke and didn't pay me to write this stuff!!!

Safe Diving,

Steve L



Above: Last stop on BIB's before surface.



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MORE?

THEN WHY NOT JOIN ONE OF OUR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

PHOTOGRAPHY - WRECK - REBREATHING - ECOLOGY

Dives, events and projects are happening now!

Contact John (@) southpacificdivers.com to get involved

Image by Noel Taylor

Aquatic Explorers



BEYOND YOUR EXPECTATIONS

Aquatic Explorers is an SSI (Scuba Schools International) Platinum Facility offering new divers, as well as local and international scuba divers the best scuba diving training in Australia. Having Two Instructor Certifiers on full time staff enables them to provide quality training with all of their courses done 'in house'.

They are also a TDI/SDI Instructor Development Facility, providing courses using the latest training materials and teaching methods from TDI/SDI Australia.

Aquatic Explorers can help you with all your dive equipment needs. They have been Oceanic Dealer of the year 2003-2006.

SCUBA INSTRUCTION SINCE 1989

Aquatic Explorers understand the needs of Scuba Divers, whether you are just beginning or are a diving professional.

Drop in and see Lee and Steve at Aquatic Explorers for all your diving needs.
 40 The Kingsway Cronulla Beach, 2230 Sydney, Australia
 Phone: 02 9523 1518 Fax: 02 9523 1030
info@aquaticexplorers.com.au
<http://www.aquaticexplorers.com.au>



Aquatic Explorers

Beyond your expectations



Dry Suit Fitting

Dorota & Wojtek - Clare Gledhill

September 1st, 2006

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<http://www.direxplorers.com/dir-equipment-configuration-articles/2363-dry-suit-fitting.html>

How to fit a dry suit...and find a proper size?

A dry suit may not always look cool, but...always should be well fitted.

The basics of well fitting -

The Side Line.

It should allow you to easily reach here with your arm.



Side line and too short legs...then it hurts here and you can not reach here.



If the suit is too small you can not do this (the crotch of the suit is too low) and this without some effort (the tension is on knees, boots and crotch)



You should also be able to easily reach to the back and while laying rise the legs and arms without restriction.



Examples of an incorrectly fitted drysuit.

Side line extremely tense ..so it blocks the movement of the arm. The short side line restricts all movements. Virtually impossible to reach the back & uncomfortable tension in crotch area.



Things to Remember

- Always try the dry suit with the thickest undergarment you will wear during dives.
- Do not hurry – take your time and spend some time experimenting with positions. You should have a good overall freedom of movement.

But please...

...do not take TOO BIG a suit – if it is too spacious you will need more weight, you will create more drag and you will have to dump plenty of air from all the „corners” of the suit – this can cause problems with descending and result with even more overweighting!

A good dry suit is a well fitted dry suit.

Dry suit is your friend take him everywhere you go.



At 123scuba.com you will find great deals on quality, brand new scuba gear and snorkeling equipment. Great gifts, Super Scuba Package Deals, dive accessories and more are always just a click away!

123scuba.com have been providing Scuba gear, equipment and service for over 25 years. For 25 years now they have been putting scuba divers before dollars and have the following to prove it. Organizations such as Sea World, US Army, US Navy, along with police and rescue divers from around the world trust 123scuba.com with their purchases... Shouldn't you.

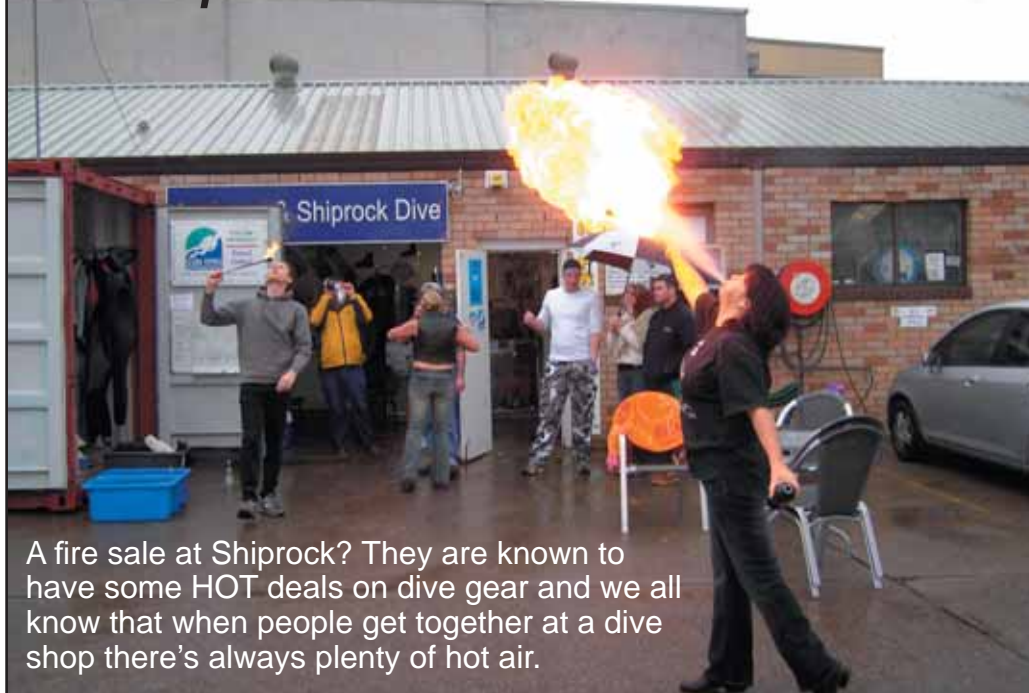
All of the scuba gear you order will come to you "Ready To Dive". That means that you will not have to assemble anything, just put it on and dive!

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Air, **Fire** and Water at Shiprock Dive



A fire sale at Shiprock? They are known to have some HOT deals on dive gear and we all know that when people get together at a dive shop there's always plenty of hot air.

After weeks of cold rainy weather and poor diving conditions what else would you expect to find at a dive store on a cold raining Sunday afternoon in July but a firebreathing demonstration and workshop.

Two expert fire breathers were on hand to demonstrate and educate us about fire and all things flaming. Lyn Watson and Di Porter have been making things hot for about 10 years now. They were even called upon to be part of the Sydney 2000 Olympics opening and closing ceremonies. Lyn has even taught her two children (8 and 10 years) to fire breathe. They use a combustible liquid called OMS fire water which has no colour or smell and tastes like oily water.

The photo above shows Di warming the crowd up out the front of the dive shop.



Above left: Lyn and Di explained they'd never had an accident....except the time Lyn spent 10 days in hospital with lung problems.

Above right: The crowd looks on in amazement.

Left: Lyn demonstrates how the flame is not hot....yeah right :)

Below left: Lyn shows how to put out a fire stick.

Below right: - Paul contemplates what could happen if it doesn't work out.



This month's Celebrity Diver

Tom Hanks

Birth Place: Concord, California, USA

Date of Birth: July 9, 1956

Thomas J. Hanks was born on July 9, 1956, in Concord, California. His parents divorced when Tom was 5, leaving the little boy and his three siblings, Sandra Hanks, Larry Hanks and Jim Hanks, under the guidance of their father. During his high school years, Tom liked to entertain his classmates with his comedic talents and acted in school plays. After watching a performance of Eugene O'Neill's *The Iceman Cometh*, he realized that he wanted to become an actor.

A two-time Academy Award-winning American film actor, Emmy winning director, voice-over artist and movie producer who starred in family-friendly and screwball comedies before achieving notable success as a dramatic actor in *Philadelphia* and *Forrest Gump*.

As of September 24, 2006, Hanks is the highest-grossing lead actor of all time, with a combined gross of over USD\$3.3 billion and a worldwide gross of nearly \$6 billion.

During his off time, Tom enjoys playing golf, surfing, scuba diving and jogging, as well as watching the TV game show "Jeopardy."



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Bare Island Wedding for Michael and Kelly

By Leo Bergagnin



I have known Mike for some 20 years, and in that time we have been in all sorts of places, to many parts of the globe, but the last place I thought I would ever be would be here, attending his wedding, and here it is 26/5/2007 at Bare Island (where the birds normally fly upside down) I am doing exactly that.

One could have been forgiven for thinking we were on the set of a Bazz (whatever his name is) movie. It was a perfect May Saturday afternoon. There I was standing on the cliff at Bare Island pondering over the clam seas, a slight breeze cooling the afternoon sun, the smell of freshly cut grass lingering in the air. The cast was awash with dignitaries. John Howard was there, (the actor not the P.M.) as were "The Hewitt's" Robyn and Chicha, (not Bec & Layton) Peter and Sandra Fields, Les and Elly Catterson, along with many fellow divers. I was also surprised to see how many Asian friends (with cameras in hand) Mike and Kelly had as well, but for some reason they only attended the ceremony.

There in front of me was a string quartet, an array of flowers, a parapet and of course, red carpet. Standing amongst it all was Mike, with best man and groomsmen, waiting patiently for the bride. On arrival, Kelly looked radiant as she walked along the red carpet, escorted by a beaming dad. (yeah I know it sounds a bit mushy, but that's the way it was).

The ceremony was going along nicely until the celebrant asked her dad the magic question. Kelly must have been a bugger of a kid because surely he could not have been that delighted at the prospect of gaining Michael as a son in law. The ceremony finalised, speeches completed, documents signed, it was photo time.

Many divers gathered for a group shot and as the photographer climbed his ladder to take the shot, a seagull flew over his head prompting a remark from Peter T. concerning the birds bowl movements. When the laughter had ceased a meek voice at the rear was heard "Elly do you have a tissue" upon looking around there was Les C. with a fresh dollop on his shirt. The bird obviously herd Peter's comment. Despite repeated assurances to Les about "good luck" by all and sundry, Les was not happy. Both Peter and the seagull kept a safe distance.

The reception was back at St. Michael's golf club, one of four along the coast. Food and drink were in abundance as was the music. A good time I am sure was had by all. On behalf of every one from S.P.D we wish them both all the best for the future.



Left: Kelly and Michael tie the knot.



Right: The happy couple.



Below Left: Les and Elli Catterson hit the dance floor.



Artificial Reef On Target For Cronulla



Representatives from Sutherland Shire Council as well as local businesses and other interested parties had a preliminary meeting on Tuesday 24th July to discuss plans for a wreck to be sunk as an artificial reef off Cronulla.

A Council representative spoke exclusively to the Wet Rag and said that at the moment the proposal was still in the early stages of consultation. We were told that wrecks sunk as artificial reefs cannot be privately

owned or owned by a business and that it must all be done by local government.

There are still many issues to be discussed such as the type of ship to be sunk and the position. Liability issues also need to be resolved before any plans can go ahead. The Wet Rag was also told that any proposal would probably take at least 5 years to complete so we shouldn't expect anything to happen for sometime.

A specialist in the sinking of such wrecks was also present at the meeting having come from Western Australia.

I'm sure divers from all over Sydney will get behind any push for an artificial reef. Hopefully commercial interests will not turn this into a spiteful fight over where it should be sunk as has happened in other states. A unified effort is needed if this proposal is to get off the ground.

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SPECIAL FEATURE SECTION

SPDC

BACK TO THE FUTURE

A long time ago in a Galaxy far far away.....

Well not that long ago actually, and just down the road in Bankstown.....

It started off like most diving adventures, with a bunch of mates, men and women, getting together to have some fun. They didn't dream that it would ever come this far. They were there for a good time not a long time and the South Pacific Divers Club was born, 45 years ago.

Since that inaugural meeting in August 1962 right through to today, diving has always been the glue that binds us. Early members were always seeking adventure and looking for something new to explore that involved diving. From some of the early dives in Mount Gambier's caves to exploring new reefs and wrecks off the Coast, it was always about the fun and adventure. Diving involves coming together as a group and the common goal to find new and exciting dives brought a divers group of people together from many different places.

In the 45 years since it's inception the SPDC has gone through many phases of growth, diversity, change and even disaster at times. Members have come and gone and many have stayed or returned again and again.

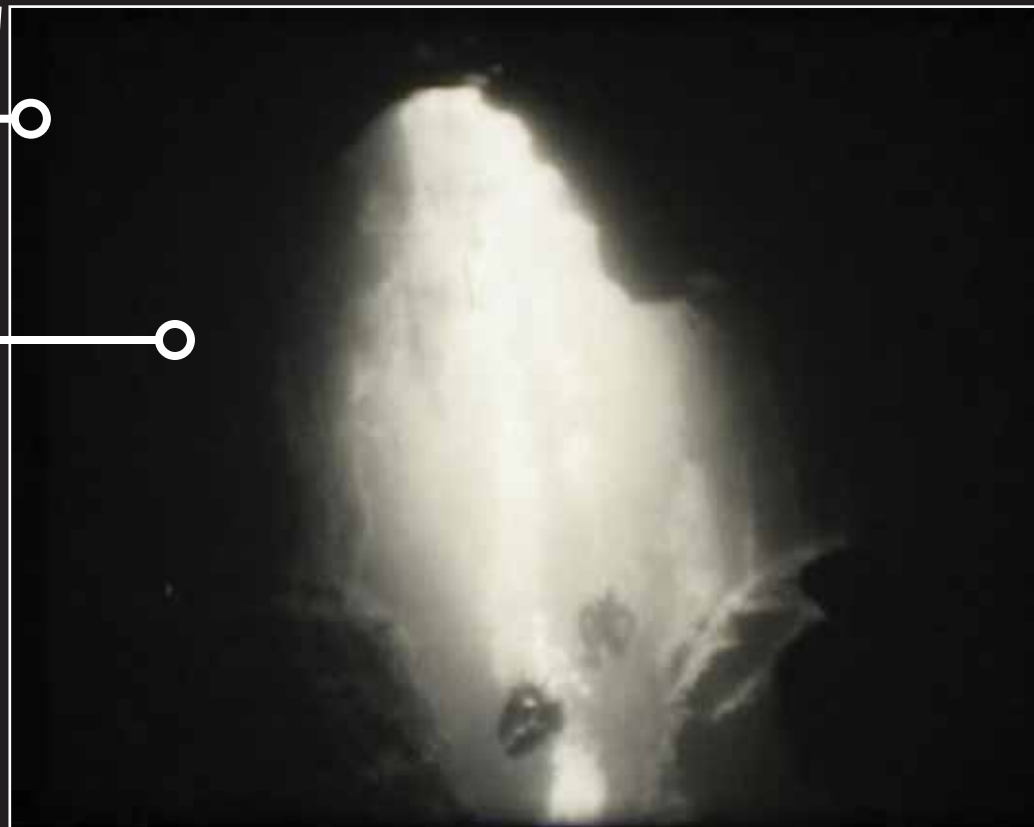


Image by Denis Robinson - looking out of the "Cathedral Cave" in Piccaninny Ponds. SA

The lure of the deep, the unknown, to boldly go where none have gone before, or just to have a go. Whatever the excuse it has always been a good one and the good times and the bad have made this club what it is today.

The following pages offer only a brief glimpse into the adventures of the past and the fun that is still being had by those that gather under the banner of the South Pacific Divers, SPDC, SouthPac.

South Pacific Divers Club Time Line.

20th August 1962
First formal meeting
of the SPDC

Club members recover a
cannon, anchor and other
relics from the Dunbar wreck.

Club members
notoriously dive into the
Blow Hole at Kiama.

Denis Robinson, Peter
Harper and Richard Taylor
dive to 340ft at the Peak
off Sydney.

Tragedy strikes the club
as 4 members fail to
return from a dive in
The Shaft at Mt
Gambier.

John Verren, Dave Bailey and
club member Martin Kandilas
find the Royal Shepherd.
Martins wife Ilona was the first
woman to dive on it.

1962

1966

1967

1970

1973

1976

The Early Years.

By Scott Leimroth as told by Tom Byron

In the early days diving was a new sport and there was no supporting infrastructure of dive shops, no certification, no instructors, in fact everything was exciting and new. Tom Byron recalls buying his first set of dive gear in 1958, in fact it was every bit of dive gear available in Mick Simmons sports store at the time. It consisted of one rubber hood, a rather small face mask, a 40 cf grey cylinder with canvas straps and a twin hose regulator. The problem with diving being such a new sport was that when Tom had used that first tank of air on his first dive in Clovelly pool there was no where in Sydney that could refill the tank! It wasn't until the following weekend that he happened to see another diver at Clovelly who told him about someone who had a compressor in their backyard to fill tanks. It cost two shillings and six pence (26 cents) to fill the tank which Tom thought was a rip off at the time. I wonder what he thinks nowadays with the average tank fill costing \$7 - \$10!!

Air was hard to get with only three dive shops in Sydney during the early 60's, Clovelly Divers, St George Scuba Centre and Rick Pool's dive shop at Coogee. Tom remembers that some industrious types had large submarine air cylinders which they had mounted onto the back of a truck. They would then drive to a popular dive spot such as Bass Point and provide air for the divers turning over a tidy profit in the process.

Diving was so new that you would draw a crowd just turning up to a dive site. Tom recalls "By the time you got your gear out of the car and had assembled it and put it on there was often a large crowd around. They would watch you enter the water and still be there when you returned. The first question they would ask was 'Did you see any sharks?' They would ask you where you would be diving next week and you say something like Watamolla and sure enough they would be there waiting.

They would follow you around week after week. Many of them became interested enough to buy their own gear and take up diving."

As with all new sports there are no rules and no boundaries so things we may now consider extreme were run of the mill and things we consider normal were considered extreme. For example, the average dive depth was initially around 20ft. Of course as time went on people went slightly deeper and the depth was extended. I guess the same thing can be seen nowadays with rebreathers slowly extending the depth of dives out to over 100m.

In the late 1960's South Pacific Divers members notoriously dived into the Kiama blowhole. One of the girls in the club (Joan Harper and Sylvia Sandler were regular divers) would pretend that she fell in and the guys would then have to jump in to rescue her. They'd all drift out through the blowhole leaving the crowd to think they had all perished. Great fun for a few months until the police turned up and stopped it.

Tom also remembers building a shark cage at work. The club then hired a fishing trawler to take them and the cage out to the Peak off Sydney. They had a 44 gallon drum of blood which they poured into the water and then waited for the sharks to arrive. Not one shark turned up. After spending the whole day and all that effort with no reward they pushed the shark cage overboard somewhere in Botany Bay and planned their next adventure.

The diving was all exploration diving. They dived Tuglo caves, spending all day underground dry caving to get to the water then diving to explore new caves. They dived wrecks and they dived reefs. They dived where ever and whenever they could. Not much has changed. The South Pacific Divers heritage lives on with members still exploring and looking for new dive sites and new adventures to be had underwater.

Rick Latimer finds the Cattherthun (location given to him by fisho's). Rick and Peter Harper also find the Annie M Miller in the same year.

1977

First Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year competition held in Bankstown Sports Club in 1981 (July)

1981

SPDC becomes an incorporated club in 1993

1993

Scuba Clubs' Association of NSW (SCAN) is established.

1995

The last AUPY competition was held in 2003

2003

A motion to formally wind the club up is the catalyst for many old club members returning.

2006

Today the club is going through renewed growth and activity.

2007

Forty-Five Years of South Pacific Divers.



by Denis Robinson (Founding President)

How it all began.....

The Oct / Nov 1962 Australian Skindivers Magazine records on page 39 that South Pacific Divers "second meeting was held on 17th September when an election of officers was held... President-Denis Robinson, Secretary- Robert Scott, Treasurer- Alan Moule, First Aid Officer- Sylvia Sandler.....and 20 active financial members'

In addition to the above, some of the names that I can recall either at the meeting or soon after were:-

George Hunter, John and Dave Allen, Bob Smith, Don Locke, Ron Hewitt, Colin Henderson, Lee Gilbert, Peter Harper, Joan Riley, Tom and Renee Byron, Ray Giles, Jacques Peronette. Alex Masseur, Bob Wilson, Bruce Chapman, Graham Dyson and Gary Dowse. I apologise to anyone not named, but it has been 45 years.

In 1953 I started my engineering apprenticeship in a workshop in Alexandria. It was there I met Les Wallis from Bondi who was a keen goggle and snorkel spearfisherman. At the time I was enjoying some success as an up-and-coming junior road cyclist. Later, one of the other apprentices, Don Ralph took up cycling and together we gave the opposition some curry.

Every Monday at morning tea time we would all tell stories of what we did on the weekend. Don and I were interested in what Les told of his exploits and what he'd seen, which at the time we doubted were true, until he challenged us to come and see for ourselves. That was it. The end of two brilliant cycling careers.

At St.George Tech College we met another engineering apprentice George Hunter from Peakhurst who had gotten hold of a copy of a French diving regulator which we all in turn promptly copied. The three of us then salvaged some air cylinders out of German torpedos and oxygen

cylinders from British aircraft. There were several Wartime Disposal yards scattered around Sydney at the time but mostly we went to one in Croydon Park. Add some high pressure brake hoses (ex-NSW Railways) and some tubes from gas-masks, a thick woolly jumper and mix in Clovelly Pool for your first breath underwater. Amazingly we survived. We completed National Service and our apprenticeships.

With our new sense of freedom and taste for adventure Don borrowed his father's Vanguard and we drove to Cairns and "the Barrier Reef". What a trip, 2000 miles for a one hour dive. Green Island was the nearest that the reef came to the mainland. Petrol was cheap then. Hamburgers were also cheap. But there were few air filling stations.



Above and below left: In the early days SPDC members dived off hired fishing trawlers as there were no club boats. These images were taken at the Peak during a record deep dive.



On our return George and I teamed up to start a business called St.George Diving Services, manufacturing diving accessory components; demand valves, regulators, manifolds, weight belts, weights, cylinder harness straps, buckles, back-packs, spearheads and supplying high pressure air. We undertook small diving jobs such as recovering boat shed moorings and inspection work on

undersea pipelines. At the time we were not allowed to use tools or carry out underwater work of an industrial nature.

The TV show Sea Hunt starring Lloyd Bridges as Mike Nelson helped to boost the popularity of scuba diving together with a trickle of off-the-shelf aqualungs being imported into the country. Word soon spread that there was an air filling station in the district. The nearest at the time was Barnes' Scuba Service in North Sydney, where the late Wally Gibbons was manager.

By 1960, the U.S.Divers' package of a Mistral twin hose regulator and a 72 c/f tank was the standard item being sold in just about every sports store in Australia. Working from a small garage in the suburbs soon became a restriction on what was developing into sporting phenomena. I couldn't pump and store enough air. I needed to get a bigger compressor and larger electricity capacity. I rented a shop in Beverly Hills and started Sydney's first dive shop – St.George Underwater Centre- retailing every item that divers require from wetsuits to watches without the clutter of other sports equipment.

In the interests of safety we offered diving lessons with the purchase of a scuba set and that's where Peter 'Prof' Harper came in. Those that qualified became assistants and soon our customers formed into a group, all keen to get more diving experience. We went diving of a weekend and sometimes during the week on night dives. Many of us were also members of the Underwater Research Group of NSW but felt we were a bit more adventurous and wanted to dive beyond the boundary of Sydney Harbour.

However there was a reluctance to form a new club. Rules, keeping minutes, fees, bun fights etc. all too hard. Everyone liked the independent idea ...meet at Robbo's Dive Shop every Friday night, go to the Chinese restaurant, have a few beers, get a weather report and decide where to dive on the weekend. That's where all the crazy stuff got a foothold. If the weather was off-putting we would go caving, skydiving, abseiling, 4-wheel exploring etc. So the hard question is when did we "start".

On the 20th August [third Monday] 1962 we held the first "formal" meeting in a hall, that is to say not in a garage at the back of my parents home. This was quite a definitive step. At this meeting everyone had their say on the pros and cons of forming a club; we decided our rules and objects. And interestingly there was an overwhelming decision not to run dive lessons. They took up too much of the time available for adventure. Let the dive schools do the teaching. South Pacific Divers will provide the experience. And it's been like that for forty five years.

"South Pacific Divers, not just a club but a way of life"

Denis Robinson

12 July 2007



Club members were always willing to try something new in order to fulfill their need for adventure. More often than not it involved diving and perhaps just a little bit of danger.

The photos above show Lindsay Ditchburn entering the "The Shaft". The only access is through this hole by way of a steel rope ladder. The photo on the right shows John Allen dressed in a "Captain Cousteau Constant Volume Dry Suit" diving in the frozen Guthega Dam in the Snowy Mountains of NSW.



A Lifetime of Freindships and Adventure

Divers such as Rick Latimer (right) epitomise the spirit of the South Pacific Divers Club. Rick, a previous club president and renowned wreck diver, was a driving force behind the club's world class photography competition, the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year, which was a landmark in the Australian diving scene for many years. Rick's legacy of exploration, fun and adventure lives on through the club still today.



Founding President Denis Robinson (right) was a film maker and documented the club's activities in it's early days. He began diving in 1953 and opened Sydney's first dive shop in the early 1960's. His enthusiasm for diving and adventure is infectious. He is still actively involved even though he lives in Western Australia, bringing real meaning to his quote "It's not just a club but a way of life."



Leo Bergagnin (left) was president of the club during the 1990's. His enthusiasm and common touch helped the club to experience a boom time resulting in a flurry of diving and social activities. Leo organised many club trips away and is still an active member of the club today.



Neil Vincent (right) has been a member for many years having joined the club in the 70's. He was introduced to the SPDC by members such as Pat & Lyn Manly, Gary Cameron, George Roberts and Karl Herald. Neil is a world renowned Underwater Photographer, a cave and technical diver, and has always embodied the spirit of adventure in the club.



Life member Tom Byron began diving in 1958. He has won many international photographic competitions and has published 11 books on diving. His Scuba Divers Guides to various locations are legendary.



Peter and Joan Harper met through the club. Diving and other shared interests led to romance and marriage. Peter and Joan travel overseas regularly to dive wrecks.



Life member Martin Kandilas attended his first club meeting in 1975 when they were held at the Bennelong Hotel in Beverly Hills. Martin loves wreck diving and has mentored many members in this speciality over the years.



South Pacific Divers Club - Photographic Heritage

THE STORY OF THE GEORGE ROBERTS MEMORABLE UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC TROPHY

By Tom Byron - reprinted from Nov 1999 edition of the Wet Rag

At 1.30 on Monday, May 28, 1973, a dairy farmer on a property where a particular sink hole, The Shaft, is located, was notified by a distressed woman that four divers in their party had not surfaced from a dive. They were presumed lost and drowned. No one had died in The Shaft before May 1973, and there had been over 8000 dives before that date.

Among the four missing was scuba diver by the name of George Roberts a 28 years old toolmaker, and at the time a member of South Pacific Divers Club.

George Roberts first commenced diving in mid 1950 as a young competition spear fisherman with the then Kingfishers Spearfishing Club, he enjoyed moderate success as a competitor throughout the late 1950s and into the early 1960's, he also served as committee member for the club. However, George had another passion, that of underwater photography and as time passed he gave away spearfishing, joined South Pacific Divers Club in the mid 1960's and with the rest of the club members who were at that time all underwater photographers progressed with his hobby.

In those days it was extremely difficult to obtain off the shelf underwater camera housing so George with his knowledge as a toolmaker manufactured his own.

A friendly outgoing person George influence many new divers with his underwater photographic achievements. Throughout the latter part of the 60's many new club members became interested in taking photos underwater. George helped, encouraged, and suggested new ideas to further their interests and along with other members visited new dive locations as Bass Point, Jervis Bay, Coffs Harbour, Wollongong and then known dives sites around Sydney, to further their photographic skills.

As years passed by through the late 60's into the early 70's George improved his ability as a diver and photographer specialising in 6x6 format rather than 35 mm format. This led to larger housings and flash units that he made in his backyard workshop. Many members sought George's expertise to help them design and manufacture housings to suit their various cameras.

Always a person who enjoyed adventurous diving, in May 1973 George with eight other from South Pacific Divers Club set off to explore and photograph The Shaft sink hole at Mt Gambier in South Australia.

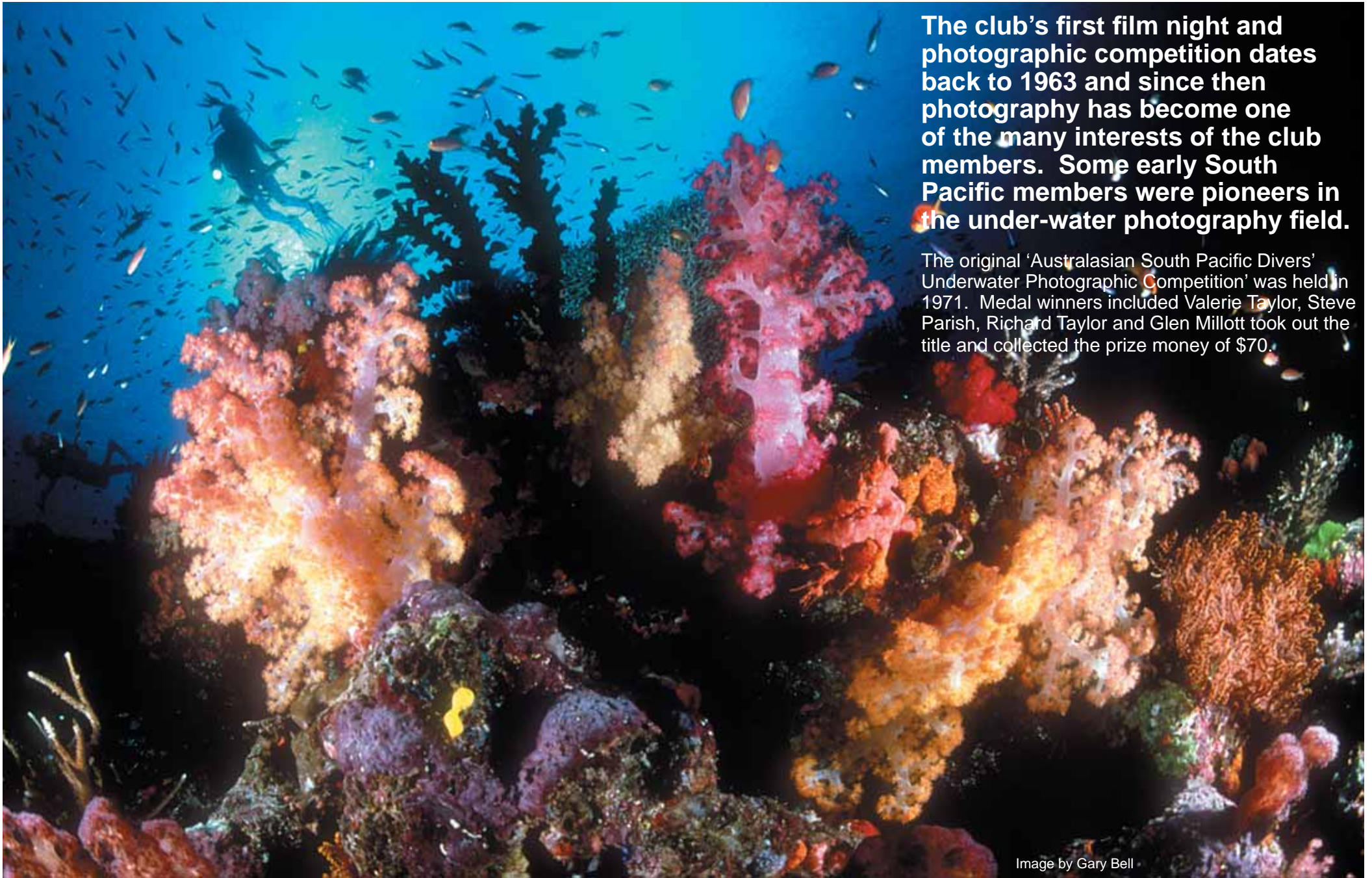


Image by Michael Cufer.

Scuba divers from all over the world had enjoyed its shadowed depth, and the spectacular rainbow coloured beam of sunlight that penetrates the dark subterranean water from a Small round hole at the surface of the paddock above.

On the day of the dive, all except one descended into The Shaft hole. George Roberts went down the shot line that terminated at the top of a rock pile in 33 metres of water then he started to swim slowly around the rocks, gradually descending to 60 metres below surface level. At this point the group could see one another and everything appeared in order, according to survivors. After five minutes some divers in the group decided to return to the surface whilst the rest descended further, George Roberts was among those that continued deeper. Within a couple of minutes and out of sight of the light that shone through The Shaft hole, total darkness descended upon the group. At this point there is no reference of direction and perhaps suffering from narcosis, lost their way. George Roberts's body was located ten months later on March 12, 1974.

A short time later as a mark of respect to George, South Pacific Divers Club decided to hold an annual underwater photographic competition between club members only, to try and improve the ability of upcoming underwater photographers, as George did when he was alive.



The club's first film night and photographic competition dates back to 1963 and since then photography has become one of the many interests of the club members. Some early South Pacific members were pioneers in the under-water photography field.

The original 'Australasian South Pacific Divers' Underwater Photographic Competition' was held in 1971. Medal winners included Valerie Taylor, Steve Parish, Richard Taylor and Glen Millott took out the title and collected the prize money of \$70.

Image by Gary Bell

The competition continued, but in the late 1970's members felt that more competition from other clubs (and individuals would improve their own standards as well as others. They decided to show their work for all to see in an effort to generate more interest in underwater photography.

In February 1980 the club held an audiovisual spectacular at Revesby Workers. Those present would remember the occasion as heralding a revival in underwater photography, not only as a collection of slides, but also as an art form by means of an audiovisual presentation. The venue only held 220 people. 60 tickets were held for sale at the door on the night. They sold out in about 15 minutes. At least 150 more people crammed in at the back, and many just sat in the aisles. Members that remember that first event describe it as 'Amazing!' The Photographic Officer in 1980 was Bob Smith.

In July 1981 South Pacific Divers' launched the NSW Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition and 650 people packed into Bankstown Sports Club to see five audiovisual productions by club members Bob Smith (Vision Graphics) and Tim Long. The production included almost 2,000 slides.

Building on the success of this competition the club decided to expand it to include the whole of Australasia in the following year. In July 1982, with Terry Mansfield as Photographic Officer, the club staged the inaugural Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition (AUPY). The winner was club member Pat Manly. Martin Kandilas was there and recalls; "The next year we printed 800



Left: NSW Premier Neville Wran presents Club member Pat Manly with the first Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Award in 1982.

Below: Part of the audience at the 2001 night.



Image by Andy Belcher

tickets and sold them all, more turned up at the door, so we had to let them into the mezzanine, and at least another hundred stood at the back. Those were the days!"

Held at the Revesby Workers Club that first competition was a huge success and really struck a chord with divers. Underwater photography had a massive grass roots interest and the club was in the right place at the right time to tap into this.

The auditorium was filled to capacity for the first AUPY with the crowd estimated at 1200. In fact a hundred or so people had to be accommodated upstairs, which caused a few problems with the projectors moving slightly when people went to and from the bar. The second time around people were banned from the mezzanine to avoid this problem.

Martin Kandilas remembers: "We probably could have squeezed a few more in but staff wouldn't let us. When we had the nights at the Revesby Workers Club they let us have the auditorium for free as they made so much profit from the bar takings. I recall them telling us that for a couple of years running the patrons at the AUPY night broke the Saturday night pokie and bar takings record. So much for sober scuba divers! We filled Revesby Workers and Bankstown every year with an average attendance of around 650 to 700 people."

In 1983 the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year was Bob Halstead, 1984 - Gert De Couet, and in 1985, Pat Manly again took out the coveted award.

The competition moved to the Bankstown Sports Club around 1986 – and about 3 years later it went back to Revesby.

In 1988 the club was saddened when one of the original members, Bob Smith passed away. Followed in later years by the deaths of other long term members Lyn & Pat Manly in 1992 and Rick Latimer in 1996 they were remembered through the Encouragement awards named after them.

In 1991 Video was added as a category.

In 1992 the competition returned to the Bankstown Sports Club permanently.

In 2000 the club was forced to cancel the competition due to a lack of entries in all categories. This is despite advertising in Dive Log and Sportdiving magazine and having a world class list of prizes donated by many sponsors. The club had to re-evaluate the competition. Had the impact of digital imaging and a downturn in the popularity of diving across the industry finally hit home?



Image by Michael Cufer



For 22 years the club held one of the most prestigious Underwater Photographic Competitions in the World. Completely run by the volunteer membership of the club, the AUPY was internationally acclaimed and set a new standard in underwater imaging. At the height of it's success there were offers of money from large multinational companies to take over the event and everyone wanted in on the publicity and potential earnings the event could generate. Although, when ran well, the club did turn a tidy profit to boost it's coffers there were many years when the event cost the club money or only broke even.

With the cost of volunteer man hours factored in it is clear that the AUPY was a labour of love. Sole responsibility rested with the clubs photographic officer although the event required every member of the club to help out in the months leading up to it and particularly on the night. Past Photographic Officers include Pat Manly, Kim Kohen, Graeme Wakeling, Martin Kandilas, Brian Colwell, Peter Flockart, Grey McNeil and Noel Taylor. There were one or two others for short periods. Peter Flockart took on the job a number of times with great success.

Competition was fierce with some of the best and most creative photographers often entering in order to gain the recognition needed to turn professional. Past Winners read like a who's who of underwater photography including; Glen Cowans, Bob Halstead, Steve Parish, Kevin Deacon, Pat Manly, Max Gleeson, Heinz Gert de Coet, Becca Saunders, Mark Spencer, Michael Cufer, Darryl Torkler, Andy Belcher, Gary Bell and Robert Westerdyk to name a few.

The event was the richest underwater photography competition in the Southern Hemisphere thanks to it's sponsors who included; Allen Power's Dive Tours/Deco Stop - Vanuatu; Air Nuigini; Apollo Australia; Cape Byron Imports; Dive Adventures; Dive Gizo/Gizo Hotel; Dive Pacific Magazine; Dive 2000; Diving Solutions/Sea & Sea; Deep Six; Frog Dive; Aqualung Australia, CIG Gas cylinders, P & O Resorts, Loloata Resort - PNG; Mike Ball Dive Expeditions; MV Febrina; Moray Australia, Ocean Trek Diving Resort; Pelican; Poroday; Scuba Warehouse; Sport Diving Magazine/Dive Log Australia; Solomon Air; TD Preece; Undersea Explorer; and the Walindi Resort - PNG, just to name a few.



Tobias Bernhard



Dianne Armstrong

Gary Bell



The last time the club held the AUPY was in 2003. The advent of digital imaging and computer enhancement changed the world of underwater photography and the nature of the competition. The skill in capturing the best image in the moment through the camera lens was suddenly blurred as new technology meant that missed opportunities or flaws in the image could be corrected later on the computer screen.

Interest within the club waned and there was a lack of interested volunteers who were needed to stage such a massive event. Perhaps sometime in the future the club could stage this event once again. It all depends on the interest and enthusiasm within the membership of the club.

New Diver?



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<http://groups.google.com/group/spdcdiving>



South Pacific Divers Club - Maritime Heritage

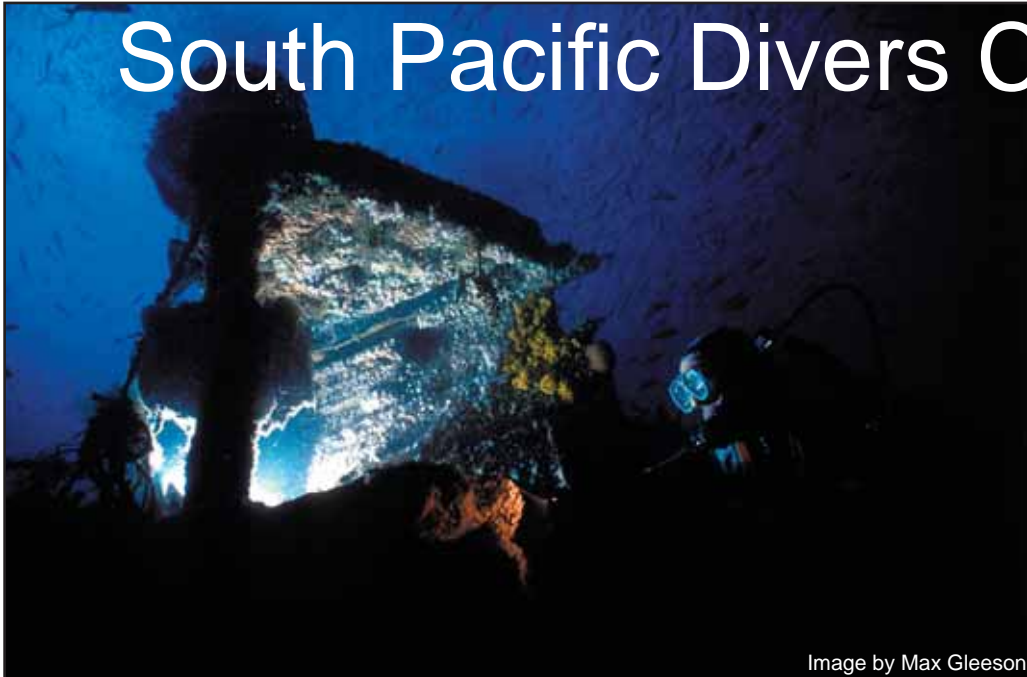


Image by Max Gleeson

Throughout the club's history there has always been a group of members who have had 'Wreck Fever', an inordinate love of diving on rusty bits of metal.

It's easy to see why when you consider that most wrecks have more fishlife and growth on them than the average reef. Combine that with the interesting stories of disaster and history involved, as well as the investigation and research, and finally the adventure involved in diving them - most are in deep water which on some can be shark infested and current prone - and it is easy to see the attraction.

In 1966 members of the club successfully recovered a cannon off the Dunbar wreck at the southern headland of Sydney harbour. Ben Cropp had previously recovered a cannon off the Dunbar so not wanting to be out done the SPDC members decided they would get one too. They located the wreck and brought the cannon up onto the beach at Watsons Bay.

Club members Tom Byron, Peter Harper, Denis Robinson, Ted McCulloch, Peter Rogers, Joan Riley (Harper), Peter Lines and Sylvia Sandler had recovered a large anchor off the Dunbar wreck a month earlier. The cannon and anchor were on display at Denis Robinsons' St George Scuba Centre during the 1960's.

Over the years members of the SPDC have have been involved in the discovery of a number of historic wrecks. The 1970's was an era when scuba became increasingly popular and as equipment became more refined and divers became more game they began to explore deeper water. This led to the discovery and diving of deeper wrecks. Club member and past president Rick Latimer found the Cattherthun in 1977 after being given the location by fishermen. Rick and Peter Harper also found the Annie M Miller in 1977. It was a good year for shipwrecks.

A year earlier John Verren, Dave Bailey (not members) and long time member Martin Kandilas found the Royal Shepherd in 1976. Martin's wife, Ilona, was the first woman to dive on it.

During the 1990's the club went through a boom period with a large and active membership. A number of new wrecks were being discovered such as the 'Myola' off Sydney. Club member Scott Leimroth was part of the group that discovered the 'Tasman' in Tasmania. Club members had been actively searching for a number of wrecks along the NSW coast. It was decided that some of the club funds would be spent to purchase a magnetometer to assist in the discovery of a wreck.



Right: Photo of the Dunbar cannon being raised using two 44 gallon drums.

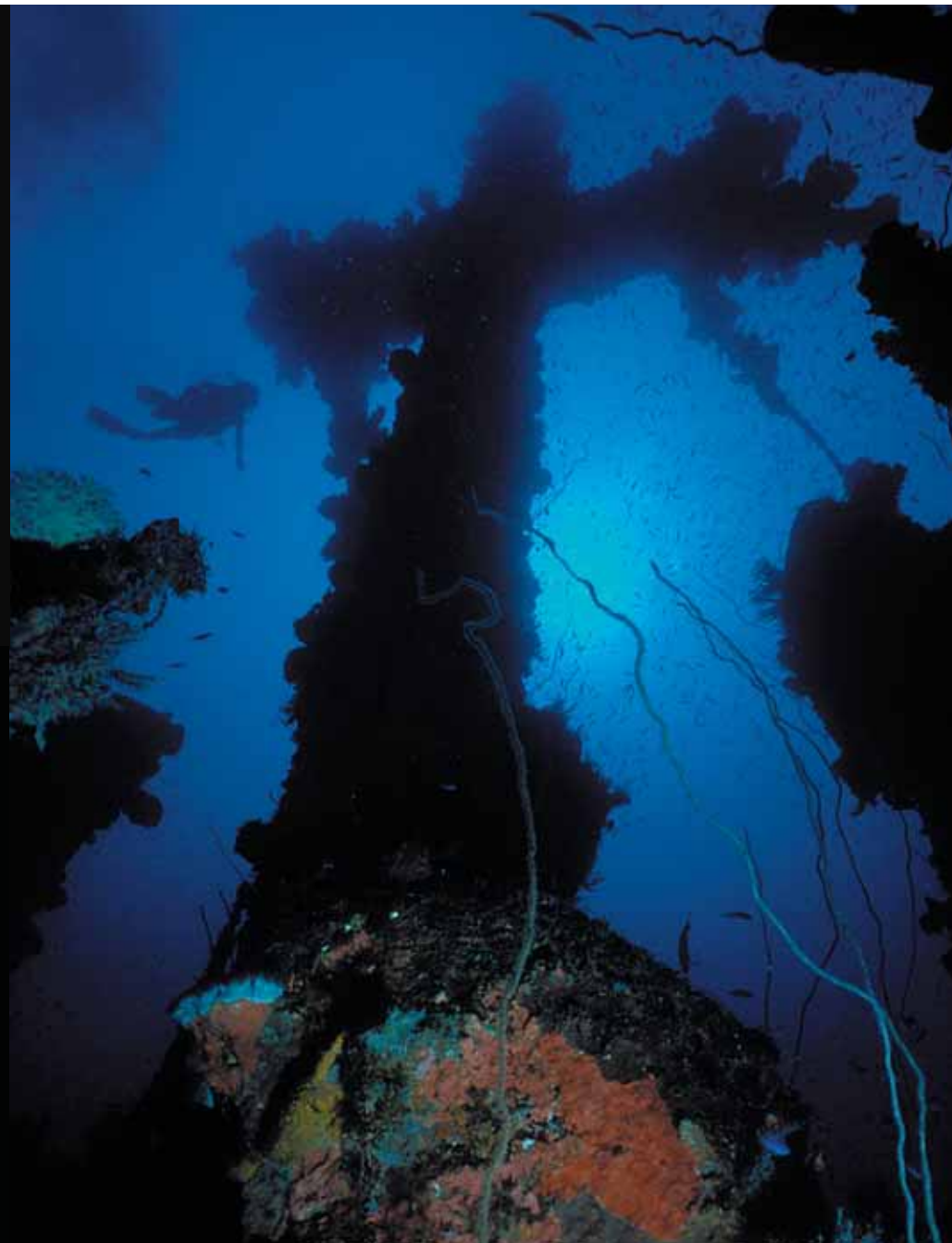


The magnetometer was used extensively by a number of club members. A few targets were able to be confirmed as not being metallic but unfortunately no new wrecks were discovered.

There is still an active wreck hunting group within the club and members are currently liaising with fishermen regarding suspected wrecks both to the north and south of Sydney. Wreck diving is still actively pursued with club members now exploring the deeper wrecks using mixed gas and rebreathers.



Left: A diver on the remains of the Wandra wreck off Drum and Drumsticks near Jervis bay. Image by Max Gleeson.



SO YOU WANNA BE A WRECK DIVER...

written by Martin Kandilas. First published in the Wet Rag in the early 1980's



This article was written by Martin Kandilas a long, long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, and hence may require some research into current rules and regulations regarding the collecting of relics, ie. Any shipwrecks in NSW waters listed under the historic shipwrecks act. cannot be tampered with, or have articles removed. For further information Contact your local Dive shop.

Nonetheless here is Martins article in full.

I am often asked to describe the big attraction in Wreck diving. I get comments like "What is so exciting about diving to 150 feet to look at an underwater scrap yard?"

Fair comment to some maybe, but not this little black duck.

If these divers who criticise wreck diving took off their rose coloured glasses, a whole new world of underwater exploration could be waiting for them.

For that matter, what is so exciting about reef diving? Sure, there are some tame blue groper that like to be fed sea urchins, the inevitable green moray, nudibranch, sponges and the odd red gorgonian. Coral reefs offer more fish, blue water and pretty colours, especially for macro photography. And of course, there are the various corals. But lets face it, one reef is pretty much the same as another regardless of where you dive.

Of course it is a matter of personal preference, but why not have all a reef has to offer, and even more?

Any wreck which has been submerged for more than ten years or so will harbour an incredible variety of marine life. In most cases wrecks support many more times the life than a reef of equivalent size. The reason for this is surface area. A ship has expanses of iron and steel in the form of hull, decks, bulkheads, cabins, stairways and all sorts of nooks and crannies for marine creatures to make their homes.

Every square centimetre of wreck will be covered in all types of marine growth. The fish life on shipwrecks is prolific, and in most instances rivals even the best reefs anywhere in the world. Oh and Sharks, dolphins, marlin....

As the diver descends into the depths, the light gradually fades, and depending on water clarity ranges from reasonably good to twilight and down to pitch blackness.

On a typical Sydney wreck, "The Tuggerah" for example, visibility can be as great as 100 feet and more; but this is the exception rather than the rule. Typical vis is around 25-30ft and the brightness can only be described as semi twilight. The human eye quickly adjusts however, and torches are generally not needed, but should nevertheless be carried.

The wreck looms up quite suddenly, and materialises almost from nowhere as the diver nears the bottom.

Exploring a shipwreck is like taking a giant step back in time. A true shipwreck, as distinct from the "Claytons" wrecks (Dee Why, Coolooli, Valiant etc.) become so due to tragic mishap. Lives were nearly always lost, and so few divers these days realise that for the most part they are visiting maritime graves.

So many "Tourist" divers go out on organised charter boats to dive wrecks without realising what is really there. They swim along gazing at all this twisted metal, without fully appreciating it for was, and what is actually still there. A ship is a beautiful thing, whether sailing or steaming the oceans of the world or lying twisted and broken on the seabed. It makes no difference.

Many artefacts (we call them 'goodies') are still to be found on wrecks supposedly scavenged clean by divers over the years. Take the Dunbar for example. Hundreds of divers have made thousands of dives at this wrecksite,

and yet gold coins, jewellery and even diamond rings (yes that's right) are still being found.

All it takes is a keen eye, patience and perseverance. And above all, a love of shipwrecks. That lamp or porthole may still be there right under your nose. The prospect of perhaps finding a souvenir or a decent 'goodie' adds to the excitement of the dive; and even if you come up empty handed, it still makes the dive more worthwhile.

A word here on recovering relics. Most shipwrecks, particularly those around Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong have long been declared TCL (Total Constructive Loss) by the insurers. In many cases the ships have been down so long that the owners and insurers have disappeared, and open salvage exists. But be careful though, I know a Sydney diver who legally owns a wreck which sank before the turn of the century! Whether or not he is willing to guard it 24 hours a day remains to be seen...

If you are lucky enough to find a nice porthole, it is not for me to say what you should or should not do with it. However, should you decide on its removal, do so with care. Many divers end up damaging the article, and in some cases damaging themselves.

A little planning can go a long way to a happy and successful recovery operation. Now comes the good part - cleaning it! Believe me, wreck divers who have nice collections of goodies have worked damned hard.

Wrecks can be found in only a few feet of water, and down as far as you want, or dare to go.

On average the better wrecks are found in water at least 120 feet deep, away from current and wave action.

Wrecks in 150 ft and more are considered deep dives and great planning should be carried out before any diving commences. The Birchgrove Park (165 ft) is a top dive, but is not for inexperienced divers. That is not to say the deep wrecks are unduly dangerous to dive, but we all must be aware of our limitations, and our gear must be in first class order.

Twin cylinders are a must for any dive in excess of 150 feet, as decompression times can be long. Ample air must be carried on the divers back. Its great to have spare air on the deco line, but it's not much use if you can't find your way back to the anchor, or for some reason you have to do a free ascent...

Even the buddy system can and does fall apart sometimes on really deep dives, so twin regs and contents gauges are good insurance. Having 2 independent systems on your back is very comforting when you are poking around at great depth.

Compass? Forget it on wrecks. All that steel makes a compass useless. Leave it on the boat. Oh and two more things. Watch out for fishing line. It's easy to get very tangled, and in low vis it is very difficult to see. Take a sharp knife always. And WOBEGONGS. They may look pretty sluggish and dopey, but if you have ever seen one catch a fish from an apparent comatose condition, you will know what I mean. They bite and they love fingers.

Happy wreck diving and save some portholes for me!
Martin.



A diver examines the prop on the Birchgrove Park. by Neil Vincent

Diving to Adventure

since 1962

From a group of divers who came together in the late 1950's, South Pacific Divers' Club formally came into existence in August 1962 as reported in the October edition of Australian Skindiver Magazine.

On 17 September 1962, Denis Robinson was elected the first president, Robert Scott Secretary, Allen Moule Treasurer and Miss Sylvia Sadler First Aid Officer. Other early members included Tom and Renee Byron, Peter and Joan Harper, John, Jill and Dave Allen and Bob Smith.

The report in the magazine went on to describe the club's first dive at Clontarf to find a lung (tank and reg) which had been lost by a member in 96 feet of water. This was the first of many club activities, both underwater and above. Other activities included cave diving, rapid riding, skydiving, jumping in the Kiama Blowhole, wreck and ice diving.

Our founding members pioneered dive sites such as Kiama Blowhole, Friars Cave, Bushranger's Bay, The Peak off Maroubra, Whale Beach Cave and Crocodile Head at Jervis Bay. Individual members also discovered Ship Rock, the 'Undola' wreck and the 'Annie M. Miller'. Away trips included Blue Lakes of Mount Gambier, Piccaninny Ponds, The Shaft and Ewens Ponds.

Below: Anything for a thrill. Club members diving into the Kiama Blowhole.



Clockwise from left:
Bell off the Undola.

Entering The Shaft in Mount Gambier.
Jack Robertson in the weedy waters of Hells Hole near Mt Gambier SA



Some of the diving done around this time was at the limits of sportdiving. Deep dives to over 200 feet were carried out to investigate the effects of nitrogen narcosis. Ron Taylor recorded these dives for posterity. In September 1963 club members, including Joan Riley, recorded a dive to the depth of 241 feet, while in March 1970 Denis Robinson recorded a depth of 340 feet at the Peak off Maroubra, Sydney.



South Pacific Divers Club members are as diverse a group of people with many different occupations and vocations but with one common interest, a keen appreciation of all things underwater. Over the years the club has also sought excitement and adventure above water and the following pages give us just a glimps of what has gone on in the past.



Above: SPDC members at Kurnell on one of the many Clean Up Australia Day dives over the years.



Above: In 1995 the club fielded an entry in the Kings Cross Charity Bed Race. 20 members attended in full scuba gear to push their float, complete with mermaid, down the main street of Kings Cross on a Sunday morning.



Left: Club dive days are always popular and have a good turnout. Club members at Jibbon beach with club boats in the background.



Above and right: Club members during the 70's enjoyed skydiving and abseiling when they weren't diving.





Top L-R: Various club boats and divers at a SCAN weekend at Jervis Bay. Club members at a SCAN day at La perouse. The SPDC Juniors Group at a recent SCAN day in Sydney.

Left: Club members on a trip to the Solomon Islands all in club shirts.

Right: Club members on a recent trip to Truk Lagoon.



Below: The series of pictures below shows scenes from "Down the Kangaroo River Raft Trip", a film jointly shot by Denis Robinson and Tom Byron for Channel 7's Weekend Magazine. On the trip were John Luton, John Allen, Bob Smith, Peter Newton, Tom Byron and Denis Robinson.





Above left and left: The SPDC stand at the 1997 Scuba Expo in Sydney had relics from wrecks as well as information about the club and it's activities.

Above middle and above right: Club members John Fardoulis and Nila Surjan organised and manned a stand at the 16th London International Dive Show promoting the club and diving in Australia to thousands of divers.

Below left: Club members enjoying a BBQ after another successful club dive day at Malabar.

Below: Club members staged a mock 'Say No to Dirty Water' protest at a dive day at Little Manly beach after a long period of poor diving conditions. They were also interviewed by Channel 7 regarding the proposed 'scuba tax' at the time.

Below right: Club members with past member Jean Michelle Cousteau at the Dive Log 'Night to Remember'.



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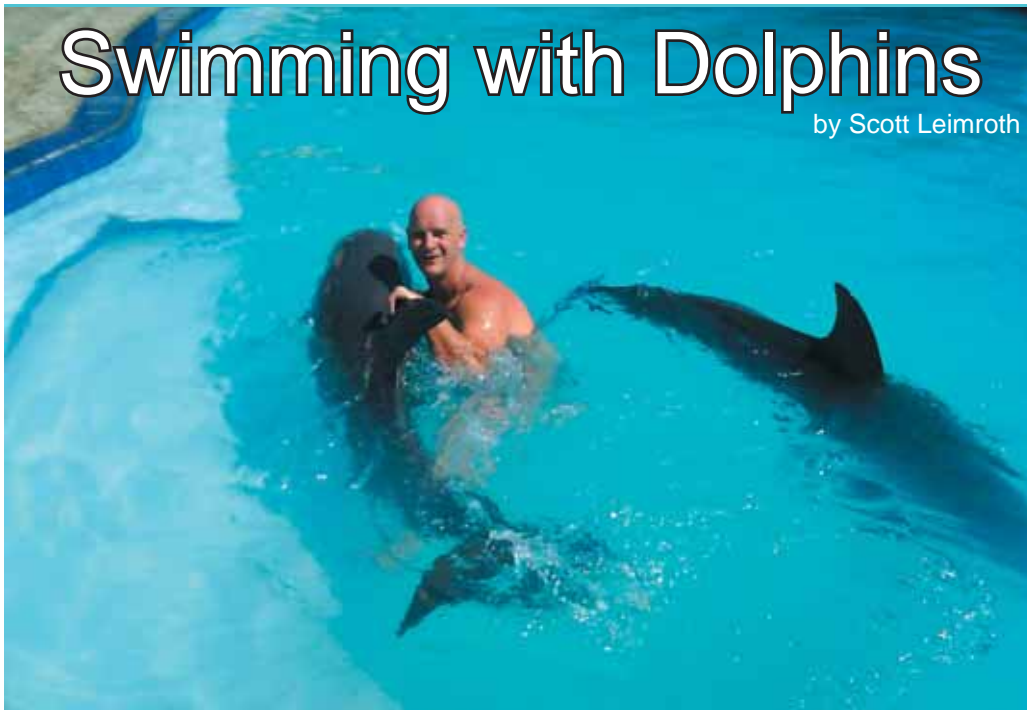
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Submit your articles or images by emailing them to: [scott \(@\) southpacificdivers.com](mailto:scott (@) southpacificdivers.com)

Swimming with Dolphins

by Scott Leimroth



On a recent trip to Bali I discovered Melka resort, in the town of Lovina on the north west coast. Melka is no ordinary resort but one that includes a zoo within the hotel grounds. In fact, to our surprise, when we got into our room and headed onto the balcony to enjoy the sunset we noticed two dark shapes in the pool just below our balcony. They were Jack and John, two of the four resident dolphins at Melka. We stayed two nights and swam with the Jack and John each morning. If you haven't done it before it is an interesting and rewarding experience.



The pool at Melka is huge and actually consists of three pools that are joined together. With a breeding program in place Jack and John were separated from the other two dolphins, a male and female. Each pair had a large pool area in which to swim. Guests at the hotel can enjoy the zoo within the grounds, at any time of the day or night, which consists of a large number of animals including; monkeys, orangatangs and chimpamzees, bears, otters, snakes, turtles, rays and sharks, birds, unique Indonesian native animals as well as a couple of Australian rock wallabies.

The hotel rates are cheap by Australian standards and the rooms are luxurious. The added bonus and the highlight of the stay is the fact you can swim with the dolphins. So as not to stress the dolphins only 2 or 3 guests are allowed in with them at a time and only for 30min session. The dolphins are fed and well looked after by a number of handlers. They are amazingly friendly but also incredibly strong. Once in the pool they continually bump and play with you enjoying all the attention. You are advised not to touch their blowhole and to keep your hands away from their mouth and eyes but at no time did they become aggressive in any way. I even managed a lap of the pool holding onto Jack's fin while John pushed from behind. I have swam with wild dolphins in the ocean once before but have never been able to touch dolphins as you can with these two. They are certainly very comfortable with people and appeared to enjoy the experience as much as we did.



Oposite page: The dolphins are quite comfortable being handled.

Left and right: Guests are encouraged to hand feed the dolphins before swimming with them.

Top: The dolphins perform daily for the public.





MOTOKRZR

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Minke Magic

By Max Gleeson

The first five months of this year along the NSW coast were some of the best I can remember, constantly calm seas and clear water. Then came June. Wind, rain, Pasher Bulker, and more rain. I was driving home along General Holmes Drive looking out on a chocolate brown, wind swept Botany Bay. "No diving for weeks" I thought, I need a holiday.

My prize in this years Oztek Photo video competition was a trip on Mike Ball's Spoilsport along the Ribbon reefs north of Cooktown, perfect. It is also the best time to see Minke whales up close. A week later I arrived in Cairns and after dropping my gear off at the shop I wondered around the town like the rest of the back packers, killing time until the vessels departure.

At 7pm we were welcomed on board the magnificent MV Spoilsport. I suppose over the last 25 years I been on a half a dozen voyages on Mike Ball boats. And like all the previous trips you can't help but be impressed with the professionalism of the crew. Of course safety is a priority, after all it is Queensland and the crew has to cater for the less experienced. However, it is not regimented by any means, and one has no trouble enjoying themselves.



Facing page: Clockwise from top left - The divers, Spoilsport, Great White or Minke whale?, Max relaxing after a hard days diving.

Above left: Wreck of the Emily as viewed from the low level return trip from Lizard island to Cairns.

Above right; The large comfortable interior of the Spoilsport.

Below: L - R ~ Lisa and Julia, 2 of the crew, Max ashore at Lizard Island, Lisa prepares for a night dive.



We were soon underway on a flat sea with a light 10 knot south east winds pushing us up the coast. By next morning we were cruising through the ribbons reefs, stopping several times during the four days to dive the reefs.

From that initial dive the Minke whales made the first of the many appearances. The closest encounters took place while hanging a line at the back of the boat snorkelling. These creature around six metres in length would often come right up to the diver, putting their head out of the water and rolling over, seemingly trying to communicate with the divers.

Over the next few days everyone on board enjoyed the experience and some good diving, capped off at the Cod Hole with visibility of around 60 metres, the clearest water I have seen on the reef.

Our last night was spent anchored off the beach at Lizard Island before departing the next morning, enjoying a low level flight over the reef from there back to Cairns.



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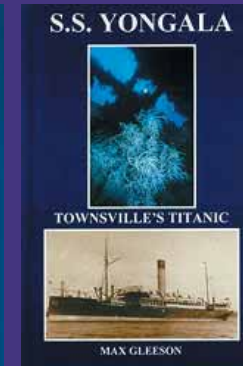
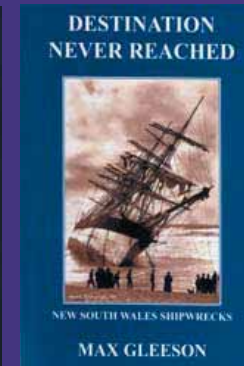
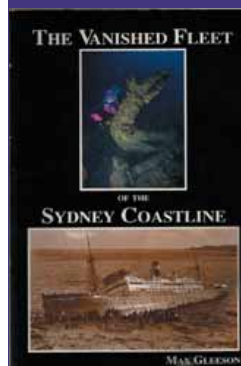
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SPDC MEMBER PROFILE

Glen Percy



What's your nickname?

McGyver, I was given it because I fix things on dive trips

How long have you been a club member?

Since about 1980

What sort of diving do you enjoy most?

Nowdays I'm happy just cruising around the local reefs or overseas somewhere warm. I've done a lot of wreck diving over the years and the local stuff doesn't grab me the way it used to. If I dive wrecks now it's PNG or Micronesia

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

That I'm a nice guy! No really, I don't know.... What people think of me is none of my business.

What kind of music are you into?

All sorts. I love my ipod. It's got everything from Verdi to Linkin Park on it.

Any phobias?

"Snakes! I hate snakes Jacque, I hate em'!"..... except sea snakes.

What temptations are you powerless to resist?

Jose Cuervo Tequila and Japanese food...not necessarily at the same time.

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

Flying Aerobatics. I fly a Robin 2160 whenever I can. I won my grade at the Sydney Aerobatics championships last year and have a desire to compete at the States and the Nationals one day. Other than that, still love taking photos and riding my horse.

Whats your favorite dive site and why?

Walindi in PNG. It's got the best diversity of benthic life I've ever seen and It's a beautiful place to stay. Really though, I'll take anywhere in New Guinea. I first went to Milne Bay with Bob & Dinah Halstead in the early 80's and just keep going back. I also loved diving the wrecks in Rabaul prior to the volcano eruption

What's your most treasured piece of dive equipment?

Hmmm, tough one. I collect vintage scuba gear and a couple of sentimental favorites are a pretty rare Looseco twin hose regulator given to me by Barry Davies (founder of Sea TITE) and an SOS deco meter I bought from Mick Simmons for \$30. I used that meter on countless deep and wreck dives in the 70's & 80's and never had a problem.

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

Wave at the camera while I'm filming. That and expect me to give them air if they run out.....!

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

Probably Antarctica. Diving under the ice looks pretty damn spectacular and it's something I haven't done yet. Make a nice change from coral and tropical fish.

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

Easy..... Jessica Alba. Hey, I'm only human !!



Boat Owners & Dive Organisers



BOAT OWNERS

John Fardoulis

Email: john (@) southpacificdivers.com

Phone: 0400 888 888

Location: Lilyfield

Boat Type: RIB, 5 shallow, 4 deep + 7.5m half cabin,
6 shallow, 6 deep

Favourite type of diving: Helping novices



Bob May

Email: bobmay (@) hotkey.net.au

Phone: 0428 295 516 or 02 4579 1053

Location: Windsor

Boat Type: 6.5m Marlin Broadbill, 8 shallow, 7 deep
Favourite type of diving: Reef & Photography



Scott Leimroth

Email: scott (@) southpacificdivers.com

Phone: 0413 717170

Location: Cronulla

Boat Type: Inflatable, 3 shallow, 3 deep

Favourite type of diving: Wrecks



Peter Iwaszkiewicz

Email: pf_plate (@) tpg.com.au

Phone: 0424 812 483

Boat Type: 4.3m inflatable - 3 divers

Favourite type of diving: Various



Scott Egginton

Email: pennynscott (@) optusnet.com.au

Phone: 0406 049 449

Location: Milperra

Boat Type: 5m, 4 shallow, 3 deep

Favourite type of diving: Wrecks and Deep



John Shidiak

Email: john (@) pulset.com

Phone: 9756 5000

Boat Type: 5.5m Half cabin - 4 divers



Martin Kandilas

Email: mdk (@) speednet.com.au

Phone: 0415 400 403

Boat Type: 5.5m, 5 shallow, 4 deep

Favourite type of diving: Wrecks



Max Gleeson

Email: maxglee (@) optusnet.com.au

Phone: 0416 041 021

Location: Caringbah

Boat Type: Marlin Broadbill, 4 deep

Favourite type of diving: Wrecks



Boat Owners & Dive Organisers



BOAT OWNERS

Michel Kisso

Email: michel (@) engravingking.com.au

Phone: 9436 0999

Boat Type: 4.9m Quintrex - 4 divers



Scott Willan

Email: swillan (@) thomascoffey.com.au

Phone: 95437095

Location: Bangor

Boat Type: Runabout, 4 shallow, 3 deep + Yacht

Favourite type of diving: Fun Dives



Geoff Cook

Email: geoff (@) southpacificdivers.com

Phone: 0404 554 554

Location: Barden Ridge

Boat Type: Shark Cat, 5 shallow, 4 deep

Favourite type of diving: Wrecks



Contact a dive organiser if you would like help organising a dive or subscribe to our diving and events email list at:

<http://groups.google.com/group/spdcdiving>

and post the details of your dive. We currently have around fifty active members on that list and one or two dives a week are organised via the email list.

Please remember that our club boats are not charter boats and therefore you may be required to pitch in and help during launching and retrieval of the boat. Introduce yourself to a boat owner and see what you can do to help. Respect the requests of the boat owner/captain at all times and treat the boat with care.

DIVE ORGANISERS

Andy Del - Dive Conveynor

Email: diverandy (@) optusnet.com.au

Phone: 0411437323

Favourite type of diving: No Bubbles



Peter Iwaszkiewicz - Boat Dives

Email: pf_plate (@) tpg.com.au

Phone: 0424 812 483

Boat Type: 4.3m inflatable - 3 divers

Favourite type of diving: Various



Jason Farlow - All Dives

Email: jason (@) southpacificdivers.com

Phone: 0417040285

Favourite type of diving: All types.



Matt Reeve - Shore Dives

Email: zero (@) bigpond.net.au

Phone: 0404730707

Favourite type of diving: Shore, Cave.



Dave Chillari - Night Dives

Email: davidchillari (@) yahoo.com.au

Phone: 0425 209576

Favourite type of diving: Night dives, shore dives





BUNYIP ON THE PROWL

Which club members had a near miss with a tanker diving a wreck near the shipping lanes?

Which club member's semi-dry suit smells worse than a urinal?

Which club member is onto his third drysuit from three different countries so far? We hope this one finally fits him or it might be summer before he gets a drysuit that fits.

Which two club members were seen making eyes at one another at a recent club event? Is there romance in the air?

WEBSITE STATISTICS

The Website, in particular the Wet Rag, is being accessed by a huge number of people online. Total Wet Rag downloads are in excess of 55,000!! With over 100,000 visits to our website. We have had steady growth over the past few months and expect it to continue for some time yet. We will be updating the website in the near future so stay tuned for more.

Many club members are also now active online, particularly with MySpace. Have a look for our myspace group at <http://groups.myspace.com/spdc>

If you're not on myspace yet it's a great way to meet divers and diving friends from all over the world.

Don't forget to subscribe to
<http://groups.google.com/group/spdcdiving>
for all the latest dive organising and diving information.

Join Us



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

- **Like minded people** to dive with.
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- **Adventure** - New places to dive. New things to see.
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To **join** simply fill in the form on the last page and post to
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Better yet, come along to one of our **club meetings** held every
3rd Monday of the month at Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Parade, Bankstown. Email
john@southpacificdivers.com for more information.

Sydney Tide Predictions

Fort Denison

No responsibility taken for omissions or errors within the table
Always check local tides and conditions prior to setting out on your dive.
Times provided in AEST.

July 2007	August 2007	06 MO	12 SU	17 FR	22 WE	27 MO
27 FR	01 WE	H 0121 1.29 L 0729 0.44 H 1407 1.56 L 2044 0.53	L 0159 0.25 H 0753 1.29 L 1326 0.41 H 1958 1.81	L 0443 0.37 H 1059 1.39 L 1655 0.51 H 2257 1.40	H 0224 1.02 L 0804 0.65 H 1502 1.38 L 2211 0.63	L 0125 0.24 H 0718 1.30 L 1255 0.37 H 1926 1.80
L 0034 0.50 H 0616 1.15 L 1142 0.58 H 1825 1.65	L 0351 0.1 H 0951 1.40 L 1530 0.35 H 2156 1.83	07 TU	13 MO	18 SA	23 TH	28 TU
28 SA	02 TH	H 0235 1.17 L 0828 0.51 H 1514 1.59 L 2210 0.50	L 0237 0.24 H 0833 1.33 L 1411 0.39 H 2037 1.78	L 0511 0.42 H 1135 1.39 L 1740 0.56 H 2334 1.29	H 0348 1.01 L 0916 0.66 H 1610 1.43 L 2315 0.55	L 0202 0.16 H 0800 1.39 L 1342 0.29 H 2008 1.84
L 0116 0.41 H 0702 1.19 L 1228 0.52 H 1908 1.74	L 0430 0.18 H 1036 1.44 L 1622 0.37 H 2241 1.74	08 WE	14 TU	19 SU	24 FR	29 WE
29 SU	03 FR	H 0400 1.11 L 0934 0.55 H 1623 1.63 L 2326 0.43	L 0312 0.25 H 0912 1.35 L 1452 0.39 H 2115 1.71	L 0542 0.48 H 1215 1.39 L 1931 0.62	H 0501 1.05 L 1024 0.62 H 1709 1.51	L 0240 0.11 H 0841 1.48 L 1430 0.24 H 2051 1.83
L 0155 0.33 H 0744 1.25 L 1313 0.46 H 1950 1.81	L 0512 0.21 H 1123 1.48 L 1716 0.40 H 2329 1.61	09 TH	15 WE	20 MO	25 SA	30 TH
30 MO	04 SA	H 0517 1.13 L 10430.54 H 1728 1.70	L 0345 0.28 H 0947 1.37 L 1533 0.42 H 2149 1.62	H 0017 1.18 L 0618 0.54 H 1302 1.38 L 1933 0.66	L 0006 0.45 H 0554 1.12 L 1119 0.55 H 1759 1.62	L 0317 0.10 H 0924 1.56 L 1519 0.22 H 2136 1.75
L 0233 0.26 H 0825 1.30 L 1357 0.41 H 2031 1.86	L 0554 0.28 H 1214 1.51 L 1816 0.45	10 FR	16 TH	21 TU	26 SU	31 FR
31 TU	05 SU	L 0027 0.35 H 0619 1.18 L 1144 0.50 H 1824 1.76	L 0415 0.32 H 1023 1.38 L 1614 0.45 H 2223 1.52	H 0122 1.09 L 0704 0.60 H 1358 1.37 L 2051 0.66	L 0047 0.34 H 0638 1.21 L 1209 0.46 H 1843 1.72	L 0357 0.13 H 1009 1.61 L 1613 0.23 H 2224 1.6
L 0312 0.21 H 0907 1.35 L 1443 0.37 H 2113 1.87	H 0021 1.45 L 0639 0.36 H 1307 1.54 L 1924 0.50	11 SA				
		L 0116 0.29 H 0710 1.24 L 1238 0.45 H 1914 1.80				



ESTABLISHED
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Join the Club.

Membership Application Form

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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Post Code: _____

Phone: _____

Work: _____

Home: _____

Mobile: _____

E-Mail: _____

Diving Certification: _____

Certification Number: _____

Are You a Boat Owner: ☐ yes ☐ No

If yes, type of boat: _____

Join now and membership lasts until end financial year 2008

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 _____