



Established 1962

WET RAG

www.southpacificdivers.com

June/July | 07



www.southpacificdivers.com

WET RAG August/ September | 07



Club President's Report



Welcome to our August/September edition of the Wet Rag. And wow, what a last couple of months we've had. From the 45th Anniversary dinner, to various different club days and dives, the club is really getting back to its roots of fun and adventure.

The Place to Be

It's also fantastic seeing so much teamwork taking place, with increasing numbers of people helping out. There are so many people to thank, I'm a bit scared to start listing names just in case I forget to mention anyone. Our club's culture is something we are really proud of. The pioneering spirit is back, with a number of members still exploring new frontiers but also hanging on to a really distinguished past.

Being a non-profit club, every single member is expected to help out in the best way that they can. We're not in it for money but because we love diving and adventure.

Sometimes it takes people coming across from the retail diving world a while to understand this, after paying money to be waited upon in a commercial environment. In our world it's a bunch of people who roll up their sleeves and help each other out. There's no one owner of the club, we all collectively own it and everyone plays a role in making things happen.

Modern Technology

One of the other new frontiers is using the internet to organise ourselves. We've got a group email list for things that need immediate action and now, thanks to Jason Farlow, our own online forum. The ability to all communicate electronically as a group, almost like a remote club meeting every day of the week.

The end result should be more diving, fun and adventure – and if August and September is anything to go by, it's already happening. One thing however, only financial members will be allowed into the forum. We're pretty casual about potential new club members coming along for a dive to check us out but will be enforcing a 'members-only' policy with the forum, because in effect it's a member's-only lounge.

Fun & Adventure

Catching up with a number of founding members of the club over the last month has reminded everyone of how adventurous SPDC was in the 1960's through 1990's – and highlighted how the club is unique in many ways. One of our newer members also got me thinking after a midnight dive

we recently organised on the Currajong wreck in Sydney Harbour, saying that sort of activity is a little eccentric. And he's right, our club has been a home for the eccentric. Why? Because of very flat structure. Where really experienced divers and rookies can co exist side-by-side. A place to find like-minded people to dive and hang out with.

You'll see a lot of what I'm talking about throughout this edition, have a close look at who attended the 45th Anniversary dinner for an idea regarding who we all need to thank for making the club what it is today. South Pacific Divers, not just club but a way of life.

Cheers,

John Fardoulis

President – South Pacific Divers Club

john (@) southpacificdivers.com

Editors Report

Well what a month or two it's been. We have had a huge time organising and planning our 45th anniversary celebrations and then seeing those plans come to fruition. This issue has reports on just some of the dives we have done as well as photos and a report on our 45th anniversary dinner.

Thanks to all those that got stuck into their keyboards this month and sent me articles. It's great to see more members getting involved. If you haven't already submitted something for publication please take the time this month to write a brief report on one of your dives or one of the club events you might attend. 750 words maximum and a couple of photos can really make a great article.

One of the outcomes of our 45th anniversary celebrations was the discovery of lots of historical information about the club. In coming issues I'll be presenting some of this history. Many thanks to Denis Robinson and other founding members for their continuing contributions in this area. Finally I'd like to say thanks to Ange the hard working Assistant Editor. It certainly makes putting the Wet Rag together a little easier with her help. Who knows I might even find a bit more time for diving now. Spring has sprung so get out there and dive and send me your articles so we can tell everyone about your adventures.

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.



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.
Regular local club dives, trips away and great social events.**

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

A Rare Encounter

By Larry Anderson

It's not often these days you get to see something no one else has ever seen, what with pay T.V., documentaries, videos and the World Wide Web, there is not much that's new. But that's exactly what happened to me the other day. I was completing my D.M with Fish Rock Dive Centre at South West Rocks on the Mid North Coast of N.S.W. I was diving with Jon the owner, Andy a Canadian from Vancouver Island and his girlfriend Clare from Perth. Andy was on a mission to get a cover photo of a shark, for a Canadian shark magazine he contributes to. Andy reckons in the sea there are sharks and everything else is shark food

None of the usual painted crays, turtles, black cod or any of the other dozens of varieties of fish could excite him, it was sharks or nothing. It was there last day after a great week of diving, but still that perfect cover shot had evaded him. The weather was on our side this day, a light nor wester, no swell and the sun was shining, the sort of day boat diver's dream of.

As I passed Andy's camera to him over the side of the boat, I wished him good luck and settled down for my morning's meditation.

Jon's smiling face was the first to reappear he had taken his newly repaired video camera housing with him for a test run. Excitement showed on his face, "What did you see?"

"An albino grey nurse"

"You're kidding, I replied.

"No I got it on tape", after a pause, "Well I hope I did".

Yeah he got it and I wasn't going to miss my chance to do the same. So before Andy and Clare had finished their safety stop on the mooring line

I passed them on my way down with an O.K signal. With my anticipation building I started adding air to my B.C to slow my decent. Below me I could make out the streamline shapes slowly cruising along the gutter. As I reached the bottom the nurses showed little interest in this new arrival to their neighborhood.

There in the distance was an apparition a ghost of a shark slowly approaching, what a sight and my camera was rolling. Nothing I've seen in my many years of diving could compare to the sight of this beautiful animal as it slowly cruised by. It seemed to be just that little more cautious just that little more hesitant than the other sharks to come near. I guess to survive standing out the way it did it needed to have just a bit more of the survival instinct in him. The same instinct that had helped him to reach maturity.

After what seemed like no time at all I was heading back up to the boat, to be greeted by Jon, Clare and Andy, who as his expression showed had his cover

shot, not of a wobbegong but of a shark to now only four people in the world may have seen.

There are many reasons why I dive, not only for the great friendships that you can make and different people you meet, not only for the beautiful places you get to see, but because in this every shrinking world there is still something ordinary people can do any day of the week and still see extraordinary things.

Thanks to Jon and the team at Fish Rock Dive for all your help with my D.M and for the extraordinary diving. Fish Rock is the must do dive on the east coast. For a look at some video of the shark go to www.fishrock.com.au.

News and Events

NEW STORE LOCATION FOR SHIPROCK DIVE



In case you hadn't heard Shiprock Dive has moved. Aquasea are still located at Taren Point.

To celebrate Shiprock Dive's big move they will be having a group dive followed by a few drinks and their first annual Chili cook off on Sunday 16th of September.

To join them for the dive be at the Shop 830am.
To join them for the drinks and cook off only be at the shop 12 midday.

There will be two categories for the chilli cook off, with prizes for each.

1. Best taste/flavor
2. Hottest!

Your dishes can be chili or curry based in any form you like!

The new address is Shop 2 Miranda Rd Miranda (next to Aqua Carwash on the corner of President Ave)

Congratulations to Scoob and John S on completing their TDI deco and advanced nitrox course. The course ran over 3 weeks involving a weeknight and weekends. They dived the Coolooli, Dee Why and Annie M Miller wrecks. Well done boys! Now it's time to sharpen those new skills with lots and lots of diving.



Congratulations also to SouthPac juniors member Nathan Saipai'a (Ange's son). Nathan has been selected to try out for the Central Coasts Under 17's Rugby Union Rep team for 2008.

DON'T FORGET!

The Club meeting on this Monday night
17th September 2007

Where: Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Parade, Bankstown.

When: Meeting starts at 8pm in the Garrison Room - members meet in the bistro around 7pm for dinner.

What: Come along and find out what's been happening, put your name down for some up coming dives, meet new friends, organise a dive, hear some interesting stories and dive reports.



Contact :
John (@) southpacificdivers.com for more information.

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

© 2007 Nokia. Simulated screen image.
*Always obey the law. You must not operate handset with hands while driving.

REVO II REBREATHER

by Dave Chillari

I have a grin on my face from ear to ear! I have just bought the first rEvo II rebreather in Australia, and my first rebreather. As a photographer I want longer bottom times, better buoyancy and most importantly NO BUBBLES! So I thought the rebreather is the way to go. I chose the rEvo on price, build and functionality. I wanted a unit around the \$10K mark and was attracted to the Revo by the visual heads-up display and build quality. The counterlungs are also at the back so this would leave my chest area free for my camera.

The rEvo II Rebreather is a manually operated closed circuit rebreather (CCR) manufactured in Holland with twin heads up PPo2 display and twin PPO2 (Partial Pressure of Oxygen) displays. It also features an extra oxygen sensor for the Delta P's VR3 Dive Computer with live PPo2 monitoring for redundancy.

The rEvo II is a low profile back mounted rebreather with the optional DiveRite harness. It features a unique Carbon Dioxide (CO2) scrubber design. It uses two scrubber canisters in series to achieve a much more efficient use of the scrubber system. By using the method of swapping and rotating the two scrubbers, scrubber life is increased by about 50%.

The scrubbers have a rated life of about 3 hours, but in reality the life would be about 5 hours. The counterlungs are situated close to the diver's back with VERY large pipe connecting the two scrubbers to the counterlungs. This results in a very low Work of Breathing (WOB)

The rEvo II uses a constant flow orifice for the injection of oxygen (O2). At times the PPo2 will drop too low, so there is also a manual O2 injection button. This is fitted with an extra strong spring to minimise the chance of the O2 button jamming on and continually injecting O2, endangering the life of the diver. It also features an auto diluant valve and manual injection.

The heads-up PPo2 displays are two series of lights on the mouthpiece

visible at all times by the diver. This display is amongst the most important feature of the rebreather as it constantly lets the diver know their PPo2. It works by a series of green, orange and red lights. A constant green light means all is OK (PPo2 at its setpoint.) with slow flashes of orange indicating low PPo2 and slow flashes of red indicating high PPo2. If the PPo2 continues to rise or fall the flashing will increase in frequency, but as long as the green is on all is OK. If the problem is not rectified the flashing will increase and the green will go out. this means DANGER!

It seems like a fairly intuitive method of monitoring your PPo2. The handset PPo2 monitors are used when there is a problem to exact a solution. The unit is available with either 2 or 3 litre tanks, with mine having the 3 litre option. The tanks connect to Apeks DS4 first stages and have quick release brackets for ease of removal.

Another great design feature of the rEvo II is the extremely compact design. With the overall width just larger than the diameter of the tanks, this rebreather is very suited to diving into tight wrecks and caves with the counterlungs safely contained inside the housing of the rebreather.

I'm shortly will be putting one of my existing tanks on dive for \$300 (ono) and probably keep the other; also selling my regs Apeks and oceanic nitrox computer.

The rEvo II is available from Southern Cross Divers. Give Barry a call on 9969 5072 for more information. I eagerly await completing my training and getting out on my little baby! But that means my camera will have a bit of a holiday unfortunately. But more on that next month...





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.

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!

Secrets of the Seahorse

By Dave Harasti
(www.daveharasti.com)



There are many divers in New South Wales that have been fortunate enough to venture below the waters of Port Stephens or Sydney Harbour and encounter one of the ocean's shyest and most unusual animals... the seahorse.

Seahorses are bizarre and fascinating little marine creatures that belong to a family called 'Syngnathidae' which includes seahorses, pipefish, seadragons and pipehorses. They are known to occur throughout the oceans of the world (except in the coldest seas) and can be found living in various habitats including seagrass meadows, sponge gardens and coral reefs. They are closely related to ghost pipefishs (Solenostomidae) and seamoths (Pegasidae) and all seahorses belong to the one genus, *Hippocampus*, which is derived from the Greek words 'Hippos' (meaning horse) and 'Campus' (meaning sea monster). Most species are found in shallow coastal habitats (less than 20 metres) but some species are known to occur in water depths of up to 150 metres.

There is considerable conjecture over the number of seahorses that are found worldwide with Project Seahorse recognising 33 species in 'A Guide to the Identification of Seahorses' (2004) whilst Rudie Kuitert in his 'Comprehensive guide to syngnathiformes' (2006) indicates that there are at least 60 different species worldwide and the total figure could be higher than 100. The largest seahorse is considered to be the Australian Pot Belly Seahorse (*Hippocampus abdominalis*) that can be found on the protective swimming nets in Sydney Harbour whilst the smallest is the Pygmy Seahorse (*Hippocampus denise*) that lives on gorgonian fans in the tropics. However, there may be even smaller seahorses yet to be discovered as a new

undescribed species recently found in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea (commonly referred to as the Pontoh's Seahorse) is incredibly small and proves to be very hard to photograph!

Seahorse habitats are among the most threatened in the world. More than 25 million dead and live seahorses are traded globally on an annual basis with around 95% of these being used in traditional medicines; aquarium and the souvenir trade make up the rest. In areas such as Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines populations of seahorses have noticeably declined. To help minimise the decline in seahorse populations, all species of seahorses (Genus *Hippocampus*) were protected under CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) in May 2004. Listing means that exporting countries need to ensure that trade does not threaten wild populations of seahorses. Consideration is being given to list all species in the syngnathid family on CITES to ensure the trade of pipefish and pipehorses is ecologically sustainable.

There are at least 31 syngnathids (7 seahorses) and four solenostomids (ghostpipefish) species known to exist in NSW waters. Two of these species, the White's seahorse (*Hippocampus whitei*) and the pygmy pipehorse (*Idiotropiseis lumnitzeri*), are considered to be endemic to NSW (meaning they are only known to occur in NSW waters). Australia has taken several measures to protect seahorse populations with protection being afforded in NSW, VIC, SA, TAS and Commonwealth waters. All species in the Syngnathidae family became protected in New South Wales in July 2004 and it is illegal to take them from the wild or

Australian Pot Belly Seahorse (*Hippocampus abdominalis*) - with 2 orange tags.





Tiger Pipefish (*Filicampus tigris*) - this species is also being studied in Port Stephens.



Pygmy Seahorse (*Hippocampus denise*) - the worlds smallest seahorse.



Ornate Ghostpipefish - close relative of syngnathids.



Thorny Seahorse (*Hippocampus histrix*) - First confirmed sighting for Australia in Nelson Bay 2007



Male Hippocampus abdominalis showing pouch opening

possess any of the species in the Syngnathidae family. Therefore, if a diver notices an activity occurring with seahorses being taken from the wild they should report it immediately to NSW DPI-Fisheries.

Seahorses are a very unique species as, unlike the rest of the animal kingdom, it is actually the male seahorse that becomes pregnant, carrying eggs in a pouch-like opening. The female deposits her eggs into the males pouch which are fertilised by his sperm. In seahorses, pregnancy lasts about two weeks to one month and the male can then give birth up to 150 babies. The babies are left to fend for themselves as after birth the adults provide no parental care.

In Port Stephens and Sydney Harbour the most common seahorse that can be found is the White's Seahorse (*Hippocampus whitei*). This shy and elusive animal likes to live in the sponge gardens and seagrasses of the Port and is currently being studied by David Harasti from Project Seahorse and the University of Newcastle as part of his PhD research. His study is currently in its second year



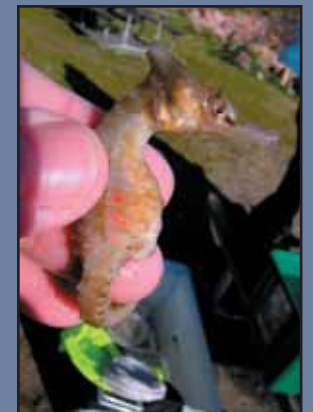
Left: Injecting a Seahorse with yellow elastomer.

and he is examining the habitat preferences of the seahorse and assessing the effectiveness of marine protected areas for seahorse conservation.

In March 2007, David discovered the Thorny Seahorse (*Hippocampus histrix*) which was the first confirmed sighting of this tropical seahorse in Australian waters – a very unusual discovery as this species is generally found in the Philippines and Indonesia! The Australian Pot Belly seahorse (*Hippocampus abdominalis*) has also been sighted during the seahorse surveys therefore at least 3 species of seahorses are known to occur within Port Stephens.

Additional elements to the seahorse research project include mark-recapture analysis by the tagging of seahorses, the role of artificial structures as seahorse habitat and the potential for releasing captive bred animals into the wild. The tagging involves injecting 3 small coloured fluorescent implants (elastomer) into different sections of the seahorse that can easily be seen by a diver. These small tags are fluorescent and are usually pink, yellow, orange or green in colour.

As of June 2006, over 400 seahorses and 50+ pipefish have been individually tagged in Port Stephens. It is believed that the population of



Right: White's Seahorse with three pink tags.



Left: Dried seahorses for sale in Vietnam.



Above: Thorny Seahorse (*Hippocampus histrix*) - a tropical spiny seahorse.



Above: Henriette in Port Stephens - the only seahorse that has been named so far.

Hippocampus whitei within Port Stephens is much greater than originally thought with initial mark-recapture estimates indicating that one of the divesites could have as many as 1500 animals.

Over the past 10 months research has also been conducted on the protective swimming enclosure at Manly (located between the Ferry wharf and Manly Oceanworld). Over 130 *Hippocampus whitei* have been tagged at this site and surveys are conducted each month to examine growth rates, seahorse movements and population size. This work will hopefully assist Manly Council with their management of the net, particularly in regards to net cleaning methods to minimise the impact on the seahorse population.

If divers are interested they can assist with the seahorse research by taking photo's of any of the tagged animals within Port Stephens or Sydney Harbour and recording the date, location, depth and water temp. Don't forget that both sides of the tagged seahorse must be photographed as all 3 tags must be seen to determine the individual identity. This seahorse research has been supported with funding from the Sydney Aquarium Conservation Foundation and the University of Newcastle and assistance has also kindly been provided by Ikelite and Mares through provision of equipment.

Right: White's seahorse with pink tags at Pipeline - Nelson Bay.



Below: Pontoh Seahorse (*Hippocampus* sp) - the hardest seahorse to photograph.



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
spdpdphoto@googlegroups.com

For Your Eyes Only

TOP SECRET

For members only....

SPDC now has it's very own internet forum.

That's about all we can tell you.....it is a secret after all....why so secret? Well you'll have to become a member to find out but it does have benefits including pricing and information on special deals for club members only as well as a wealth of information on diving and other topics, advice from our more experienced members and more!! Contact jason@southpacificdivers.com for more information.

Join Us



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

- **Like minded people** to dive with.
- **Mentoring** - Learn more about diving. Increase your diving skills by diving with others. Experienced members are keen to help you learn more. Group organised education such as first aid and boat handling courses.
- **Adventure** - New places to dive. New things to see.
- **Boat Dives** - Charter boats at discount rates and a number of members boats are available to dive from. Not for profit diving with new friends.
- **Develop Special Interests** - Rebreather, Photography, Ecology, Wrecks, Exploration.
- **Free Independent Advice** - Equipment, sites to dive, trips away, etc.
- **Social Activities** - BBQs, Barefoot Bowls, Wine Tasting, Movies, Charity events, Paintball, and much more.
- **Life long friendships** and contacts in the diving industry - Not just a club, it's a way of life.

To **join** simply fill in the form on the last page and post to
P.O. Box 823, Bankstown, NSW, 2200.

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](mailto:john(@)southpacificdivers.com) for more information.



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](mailto:john@southpacificdivers.com) to get involved

Image by Noel Taylor

August Meeting Highlights

After a formal vote at the last club meeting it was decided that boat owners are now eligible for a 50% discount on regular club membership fees.

Boats are expensive to buy and maintain, hence we're giving club boat owners a concession because they have a higher financial burden than regular club members.

Committee Meeting Highlights

Aim for an away trip the 1st Weekend of each month.

Need to hit the top 10 AOW locations away from Sydney, one a month.

Night dive survey

- for those who will come along, which night of the week is best?
- Better early or late?

Monthly club dive – 3rd weekend of the month

Andy's Wet Spot! A weekly pick of the best dive sites for that weekend.

45th birthday party – a time for fun

Dive calendar to go on www.southpacificdivers.com – even if just PDF page from Wet Rag.

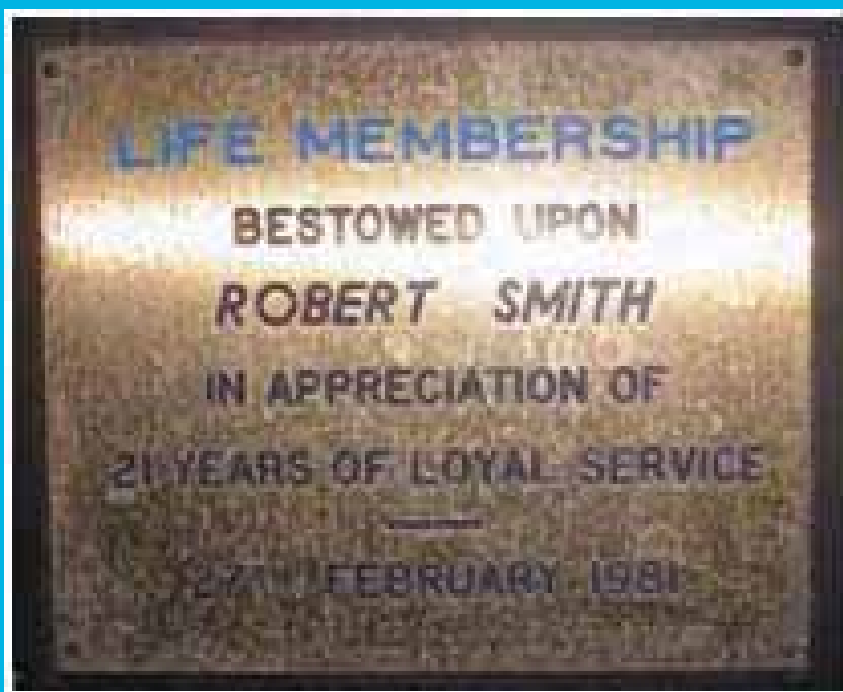
IMPORTANT DATES

FINAL 2007 SCAN DIVE DAY 4th November Frenchmans Bay

2008 SCAN DIVE DAY Ulladulla and the date for this will be 15-16 March

History File - Origins of the South Pacific Divers Club

Not long after our 45th anniversary celebrations we received the image below from Peter Booth. It is a plaque for Bob Smith's life membership dated 1981 and stating 'In appreciation of 21 years of loyal service'. This clearly implies the club was formed in 1960. Had we gotten the dates wrong? Was it really our 47th anniversary instead of our 45th? We decided to refer the matter to our club Historians for clarification and once again Denis Robinson came through with some very interesting club history..



With reference to the plaque presented to Bob Smith for his services to the club displaying the date 1960, I submit the following details to help explain the background of the origins of South Pacific Divers.

I can clearly remember the day Mr. Smith brought young Bob around to my parent's house in Kingsgrove. I operated an air filling station in the garage and several of my regular customers were waiting to have their tanks filled. Saturdays were always busy with divers coming and going off for a quick dive and returning in the afternoon for a refill for another dive on Sunday. At the time I ran "a shop" not "a club". I engaged Peter Harper to conduct dive lessons. Graduates of our school joined up with others to gain experience.

Following the introductions to "the group", we assured Mr. Smith that we would look after him and that someone would give Bob a lift home. He soon befriended John Allen who drove a massive Buick car and lived nearby to Sans Souci. It had a boot bigger than most station wagons. John literally needed a team to share petrol costs.

Bob was not the first or only teenager to dive with us. Lee Gilbert from Bondi was only 11 when he used to wait for us to arrive at Clovelly Pool for the lessons. Graham Dyson from Smithfield would catch one train into the city and transfer back on another line to Kingsgrove a journey of more than an hour. Joan Riley carried her tank on the bus from Hurstville and lugged it four blocks for a fill. Can you imagine kids doing that nowadays?

In 1960 several of us, namely John and Dave Allen, Don Lock, George Hunter and I were members of the URG of NSW, Bob Scott was in the Sans Souci Dolphins and Joan Riley

and Peter Harper were in the St George Sea Dragons. The idea of forming a new scuba group was often discussed but most preferred to stay an independent cohesive group without the formality. However the thought was there and after a couple of years of actively diving together the seeds eventually began to germinate.

Night diving was very popular especially in the warmer months and Ray Giles drew up a very artistic design of a scuba diver riding a seahorse brandishing a speargun (an activity later to become very controversial) with the acronym UNDA, Underwater Night Divers of Australia. The badge was canvassed but dropped in favour of a logo in keeping with the trend of Sydney clubs having an area identified and an animal/bird as a focal such as the earlier mentioned clubs.

We did not want our name to be confined to a particular suburban area and felt the South Pacific Ocean was our domain with the obvious choice of the mako (blue pointer) shark being the ruler of the area. Being a technical draftsman I drew up a new design based on the overall appearance of a label on Bob Leech's Waterlung wetsuit. The badge and the name South Pacific Divers was presented and accepted at the first formal meeting on 20th August 1962.

Starting as a junior Bob Smith was one of the founding members who formed South Pacific Divers. It was an honour to have him as my Best Man when Raina and I were married in our underwater wedding. He was elected to President following our departure to Western Australia.

"South Pacific Divers, not just a club but a way of life."
Denis Robinson 11 Sept.2007

.....NEW CLUB BOAT.....



Viva la Bijou

Congratulations to John Fardoulis on the acquisition of his new boat 'Bijou'. Bijou is a tri hull hybrid made out of Aluminum by the owner of Cairns Custom Craft originally designed as his personal project boat.

Capable of carry 6 tech divers or 8 or more rec divers it has all the comforts of home with an onboard hot shower, sleeping quarters, large central playtform for gearing up and comfortable cabin to shelter from the elements on those not so nice rides out to sea.

We're looking forward to seeing the latest addition to John's fleet out on the water soon.



Left; Bijou is towed by John's lowtech but practical alloy body beach bashing landrover.

Above: A solid ladder for entry and exit.

Above right: Plenty of deck space for gearing up and sunbaking after the dive.

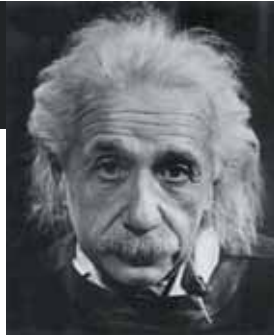
Bottom left: The cabin is comfortable with saloon doors leading down to the sleeping quarters.

Bottom right: Bijou moored at the 'Chateau Fardoulis' jetty on the Central Coast.



Bubble Brain Quiz

Ed note: The first person to email me with all ten **correct answers will get a free airfill** at Shiprock Dive so come on all you Alberts, get your thinking caps on.



1. Where is the wreck of the USS Saratoga?
2. What is a Carcharodon carcharias commonly known as?
3. Who invented the SCUBA regulator?
4. What is the biggest of the dolphin species?
5. True or False The Great Barrier Reef is the longest coral reef in the world.
6. It is recommended to do a SCUBA refresher course when you have not dived for how many months?
7. What is 35m in ATA (Atmospheres Absolute)?
8. What is the tiny jellyfish found in tropical waters that are responsible for fatal stings?
9. Up to what percentage of oxygen does a nitrox course qualify you to breathe?
10. What should be done to equipment when breathing over 40% oxygen mix?

The Bubble Brain Quiz is proudly sponsored by Shiprock Dive.

Email your answers to - scott@southpacificdivers.com

Editors decision is final. Winners notified by return email and published in the next issue.



Serving Sydney Divers for over 20 years

Shop 2 105 Miranda Rd Miranda 2228

Phone: 02 9526 2664

- Scuba Training
- Openwater - Advanced - Divemaster and more
- Equipment Hire
- Repairs and Servicing
- Airfills - Nitrox

So why not drop in for a chat and find out what Shiprock Dive can do for your diving today.



GUEST SPEAKER October Meeting

Come and hear
Dave Harasti

Presenting
Seahorses and
Diving at Nelsons Bay.
Dave is an award winning underwater
photographer and marine scientist.
see www.daveharasti.com

He is currently researching the effectiveness of
marine protected areas for Seahorse Conservation.
Dave has dived extensively and probably has more
experience diving at Nelsons Bay than anyone else.

When: Monday 15th October 1997 8pm

Where: Bankstown Sports Club.



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Kelloe Calling

By Geoff Cook

During the month of August, Jackie Rotenstein, Scott Egginton and I have been diving the wreck site of the S S Kelloe @51 metres just north of Botany Bay. The S.S. Kelloe was an iron, single screw collier, She was 160ft Long, 501 tons gross. 340 tons net and was built by J.Laing of Sunderland in 1886. Using our combination of GPS and Land Transit Marks we chucked the pick in the middle of an unusual combination of winds from the SE and current from the North the boat basically hung directly above the boiler with the anchor line running in a weird slack S. On the May 13th, 1902 two ships, the S.S. Dunmore bound for Bass Point to load gravel, and the S.S. Kelloe, bound for Port Jackson with 150 tons of coal. The S S Dunmore rammed the collier and sent her to the bottom 50m below.

Dropping down the line behind Jackie the first 10 or 12 metres were literally "a bit sh*tty" being down current from the outfall... Yuk... But the viz opened up to 15+ metres deeper down but quite 'twilight dark' on the bottom. By the time I reached the bottom and settled in, Jackie had the anchor well wrapped into the 105 year old wreck. The Kelloe lay at rest for 65 years after the collision until a professional diver accidentally discovered her when searching for a sunken barge. He then set about recovering the copper and brass from the wreck. However, he was injured during a job in Sydney Harbour and never returned to finish salvaging the wreck. The condenser tubes from the donkey boiler still lie neatly slacked beside the compound engine to this day still awaiting salvage. In 1978 the Kelloe was rediscovered by wreck diver John Sumner. He paid a fisherman who had snagged his nets on the wreck to show him the location.

Torches illuminated the site revealing a very interesting wreck even though it had been salvaged in the early 70's. Fish life is sparse compared to the Tuggerah which gives you a chance to see the remnants of the wreck. Up forward are the large anchors which are the very spectacular signatures of the dive on the Kelloe. 24 minutes bottom time allows for two leisurely circumnavigations of the entire wreck before ascending to the sh*tty decompression stops.

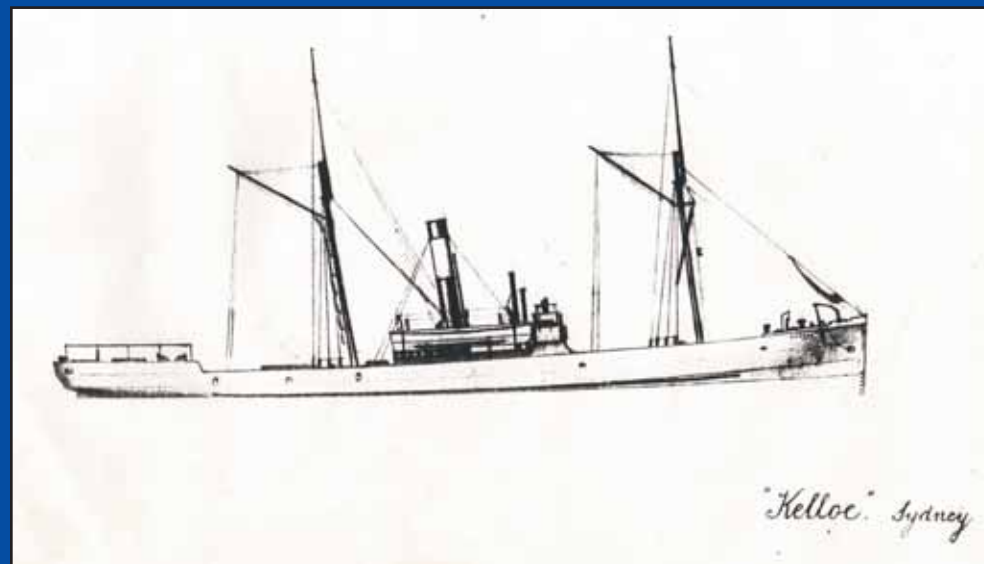
Three washes of the gear over the next three days before I was satisfied they were clean. All in all, a very good dive for the advanced deep diver and wreck enthusiast and the short boat trip out makes this a very easy dive.



Left: Diver with the Kelloe's anchor which makes an impressive sight at the bow.

Max Gleeson

Below: A drawing of the Kelloe. Unknown origin.



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The backplate and wing (or bladder) style BC is the closest thing to a generic design available. While there are some variations among manufacturers, the fundamental components of the system are the same. In fact, divers often buy different components of the system from different manufacturers and mix and match rigs. The foundation of the rig is the backplate itself, made of steel or alloy. The plate is worn by threading it with a single continuous piece of 50mm webbing, the same material as a weight belt. A single or double tank "wing" fits between the plate and tank(s) and is held in place by the tank cam bands.

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Left: The single tank wing fitted to the backplate and harness.



Right: Twin tank wing.

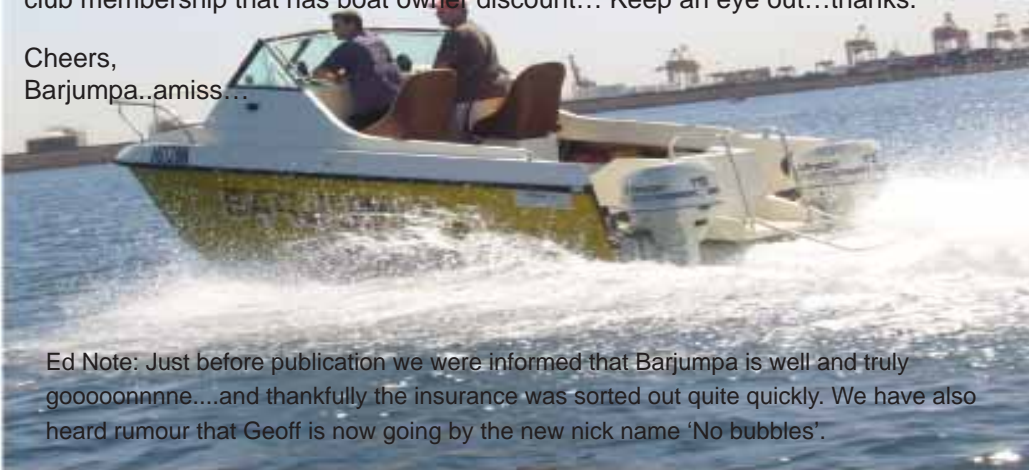
gone but sadly not forgotten....

Sad sad news... On Sunday the 5th of August 2007, Barjumpa was stolen from the street where it was parked outside of my house at Barden Ridge.... 20 years of diving gone in a flash... Sort of like losing one of your close family really... but actually like the family member that I kept through two divorces... Those of you that recall the rides in Barjumpa down to the Undola, Tuggerah or up at Palm Beach and the Birchy effortlessly from wave top to wave top may feel my pain at its loss now riding in other boats of less comfort. Memorable trips from Port Hacking to Jervis Bay via Wollongong, Bass Point seem but a happy memory of days when fuel was only 47 cents a litre. There were times it broke down. Sadly some of you never let me forget however over twenty years they were few and far between.

I still hold strong hopes for its return however now two weeks later and not a trace, not a word, and even less clues. Dive Ozonians, SCAN Clubs and other divers are looking high and low and probably have a far greater chance of locating it than the cops. I have received hundreds of replies from the Far North of Queensland down and around the coast to the North Western Coast of Western Australia... I feel that it will be rebirthed, perhaps a different colour but it will still be remarkably recognisable. That day will come and I will take it's 'custodians' for a long deep dive to show my gratitude for ripping my heart out.

The future is a bit hazy looking into my crystal ball. Certainly, there is insurance, but that amount seems a little under done if and when it comes finally through. But chances are that a "Barjumpa Two" may be out there somewhere. I suppose it is either buy a new boat or some bean counter will make me top up my club membership that has boat owner discount... Keep an eye out...thanks.

Cheers,
Barjumpa..amiss...



Ed Note: Just before publication we were informed that Barjumpa is well and truly goooooonnnne....and thankfully the insurance was sorted out quite quickly. We have also heard rumour that Geoff is now going by the new nick name 'No bubbles'.



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South Pacific Divers see Shark Action at Forster.

by Dave Chillari

Mother Nature had been unkind to us for the last couple of months. The constant bad weather and nasty sea forced us to delay our trip to Forster/Seal Rocks for almost a month, but as the weekend approached the forecast looked good so the trip was on!

9 divers eagerly made their way to Forster for what was to be the first diving for some of us in over 8 weeks! So it is pretty obvious that the mood would be one of eager anticipation.

After a quiet night on Friday, we all rose early, eager to get back in the water. Our plan was to be down at Forster Dive Centre by 8am to meet Nick the shop owner and skipper for the weekend. A few of our divers were accompanied by their families for the weekend and to make the most of their time at Forster, we chose



L-R: (Back Row) John S, Peter, Nick, Wayne, Rob, Jeff
(Front Row) Charlie, Kate, Dave, Ange



Seal Rocks for Saturday and dive sites off Forster for the Sunday. With plans made and a nice scenic drive we finally arrived at seal rocks. Ange wasn't diving with us at Seal Rocks so she hitched a ride out with Nick to the dive sites. After gearing up in our wet/drysuits, we had a short surface swim out to meet the boat. Once everyone was aboard we made our way south to Little Seal Rocks.

Apart from the somewhat rough seas (we're talking some 3m dumps here) the journey was fairly uneventful... until we approached the island. As

Nick anchored in, a Humpback whale was breaching 300m over towards Big Seal Rocks; we were given over a 5 minute show of breaching, then the humpback dived and disappeared. We were also now anchored and were ready for our own diving.

The rough waters made gearing up a bit tricky, but soon all the divers were in the water with the exception of one of our divers who was having a hard time with sea sickness and chose to abort this dive. After about 5 minutes of swimming we entered the first gully to be confronted by a rather large and healthy



3m female and a smaller male, however they were obscured by thousands of bullseye. A little further on we found a large group of about 8 smaller sharks. After observing their behaviour for a while, we reluctantly started our return to the boat.

With all divers accounted for, we started our trip to the next dive site. As we made our way over towards Big Seal Rock when a club member spotted SEALS surfing down our wake. Seals at Seal Rocks! Who would have thought! For 1 km they ducked and dived and surfed behind us, the humpback was also spotted again cruising along silently. Just to bring the marine creature count up to date that's: GNS, Humpback and Seals all within 90 mins.

After a short surface interval we returned to the water for a shallower dive near Seal Rocks beach. The familiar terrain of gullies greeted us with thousands of Yellow Tail Fusiliers; and after a little exploration we again found more Grey Nurse Sharks in a small congregation. A small cave was hiding a number of Port Jackson Sharks and Wobblygongs; and while still in the same area





discovered a juvenile Red Indian Fish. We crammed in 40 minutes diving and made our way back on board, and the long 2 minute boat ride back to the beach.

That evening ange, Wayne, Nick and Rob and I had a lovely Mexican meal...just the thing for on-gassing! The next morning we rose to a lovely day with two dives planned for the Forster area. The first dive was a nice drift dive on Latitude Reef. Our decent to about 20m and found a great reef covered in sponges and fish with 20m+ viz! In this area we saw lots of Old Wives, Mado and various Wrasse. A little further along the reef we

came to an area known as the amphitheatre which was cloaked in tens of thousands of Bullseye and a few large Wobbygongs. Past the amphitheatre the reef continued with a lot of sponge life, a few morays, some aelioid nudis (Blue Dragons) and a patch of about 1m diameter with hundreds of Fortesque fish.

Upon surfacing we were picked up by the boat and waited, and waited, and waited.....for ange and Nick to finish their dive along the reef. 20 mins later, she and Nick surfaced with huge smiles just having spent nearly an hour diving the reef! We still couldn't get her out of the water as she swam around the ocean while we secured the gear in the boat!

The next (and sadly last) dive site was a small bombie about 50m off the coast. With a max depth of 12m and more clear viz this was a nice relaxing way to finish a wonderful trip. On this site was a small cave that was filled with bullseye and a big ball of striped catfish. I entered the cave from the lower entrance and swam up a few meters through a small crevice. Leaving the cave we finned around the bombie coming across a few large Spotted Eagle Rays; and after an enjoyable relaxing dive we returned to the boat, only to be told ange was still in the water and that more importantly there was a pair of dolphins swimming around above us on the surface...another missed photo opportunity underwater, but still a sight to watch as the pair of dolphins fished in the shoals – and reason to return in the near future.

I would like to thank Nick at the Aussie Boat Shed Dive Centre for a great, funny weekend. If anyone is interested in diving at Forster, contact Nick on 6555 4477 for a special deal for South Pacific Divers Club members.





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INTRO TO TECH DIVING

By Ange Jeffery

It's a cliché – everyone dives for different reasons. Some for the opportunity to escape life above water; we've got divers who are in it for the 'groove factor', some enjoy the tranquility – taking pleasure 'napping' on safety stops; a handful enjoy the diversity of marine life, then there are the 'others' - divers keen on developing their diving onto a more challenging level. Recently a group of Central Coast divers from Dive Imports Erina and I traveled to Manly to meet up with Richard Nicholls of Manly Dive Centre for a day that was to provide a better understanding of technical diving.

So what exactly is tech diving? Well, most peeps think it's diving beyond 40 metres e.g. deep wrecks, using decompression protocols and/or relying on a variety of mixed gasses and air during a dive. Then there's the caving community, who are also considered technical divers. These explanations are true in themselves, and are probably the most common understandings that a regular diver might hear about; but the bottom line is (in a broad general sense) that if you delve into diving that takes you beyond NDL's or an environment that does not give you a direct ascent option to the surface (including a decompression obligation), you can probably consider it a technical dive.



Pic: (L – R) – Paul, Ange, Richard, Asha & Phil.

Richard was obliging with information, he should be as he contributed to the development of the PADI (DSAT) TecRec course we were investigating - and as our visiting divers' interest was primarily working towards deeper diving beyond the 40m mark, he tailored his presentation accordingly focusing on deep diving & showing interest in each individual current level of experience and knowledge.

For around 2-3 hours our group discussed weighting changes with depth; narcosis and some DCI; gear selection and configuration – Richard brought with him a Halcyon BP&W set up with twin tanks using a manifold configuration and talked us through each part of the equipment with a strong emphasis on the 'less is more' ideal. Drysuits were also covered and the benefits of having proper and appropriate thermal protection for decompression diving. He took us through some possible equipment malfunction scenarios, the impact considerations of equipment failure as well and possible solutions.

We also discussed the differences in using either a manifold between twin tanks and using independent hoses i.e two sets of regs and gauges - one for each tank. Rebreathers came up in conversation with pro's and con's covered with a strong emphasis on the added risks involved with RBs. We discussed risk mitigation; how to manage out of air situations (OOA) and possible options available to divers in an OOA situation.

Once the hurdle of signing the waivers was over, we moved from the class room into the dive store to set up our equipment. Each of us was required to set up our tanks under Richards guidance. The 'trolley' then came out and the blokes loaded the MDC Blue Bus with 6 sets of twins and we were off to Little Manly Beach. (Do you see the pattern yet, the 'blokes loaded the gear' I've got it figured all ready)

Richard took us through a quick site brief pointing out the boating area and where we'd be playing about underwater. After gearing up, Richard took demonstrated the 'ease' of putting on the dive gear. I was lucky to be provided twin 10L so the over all weight of the tanks and lead was about 35kg + 7kg of lead – not too bad. Balance standing up from a seated (bench) position was tricky, but with Phil giving me a hand, I was quickly on my feet and the 42 kg wasn't too bad to manage.

One lesson a member of our dive group learnt was to get your weight system on first before putting on twin 100s!! More instructions from Richard reminding up to enter the water with air in the BC, mask on and regs in – just in case one was to topple over, with the additional weight making it a difficult proposition to get up and being face down in the water, it could become a difficult proposition to breath. Most of our group remembered that instruction.

In the water we worked on our neutral buoyancy and trim – trim meaning as horizontal as possible mid water. We were then asked to fin within 30cm off the bottom without creating disturbance while balancing the new gear we had. We went through advanced air sharing protocols with OOA situations and while staying in buddy pairs again, finning along to a predetermined point using shared air – this may sound easy, but it's a skill that took a couple of goes to manage the additional 4 foot of primarily air hose. Other skills we worked on included emergency air shut off that involved reaching back to the tank valve, turning of your air, breathing down the air in the primary reg and switching to your back up reg. Then reverse the process, turning air back on, purging primary reg and replacing back up with primary. Sounds easy hey – well you just try it.

The TecRec experience day was long, but full of information and well worth traveling to Manly Dive Centre. Although I would have liked to have discussed more of the content that that would be covered in the TecRec course itself, Richard was obliging and very open to discussion on the various aspects of technical diving. TecRec is just one possible training avenue to take enabling a diver to advance their diving education; others include SSI and TDI. Another member of the club is currently looking at TDI and I'm keen to see what this training course has to offer compared with TecRec.

Tech diving isn't for everyone, there are divers out there with no inkling what so ever to go beyond 30m, everything they want to see and experience is within the recreational diving limits – and this is absolutely fine. There those of us who have a desire to discover and experience more challenging environments or to extend our bottom a bit longer that results in the need to manage decompression obligations. If you are one of these people then something like a TecRec Introductory course might be beneficial to you. The Intro course provides an opportunity to gather information on what you'll need to consider when it comes to equipment, diver mindset, understanding and respecting limitations as well as the opportunities that advance diving knowledge can bring, in a controlled environment.

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IF YOU CAN'T BEAT THEMJOIN THEM...

THE JOURNEY FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF REBREATHER DIVING.

By Geoff Cook

I learnt to dive 34 years ago and in the following lifetime there wasn't that much in the diving realm that I did not achieve. Deep diving on air was the norm and to be honest, the intoxicating rapture of the deep or nitrogen narcosis became addictive. The penalty for deep diving on air was longer and longer, deeper and deeper decompression stops. I must admit I became a master of underwater slate boxes, underwater knuckles, O rings and tying off and falling asleep on the long stops.

Some years ago Nitrox came on the scene. It was a diving science that older divers viewed with a type of mistrust and as a passing 'appendage extension' to those divers that started using this "new magic". I continued diving and I suppose dived the same deep dives and stayed the same bottom times and was content to stay on deco just those extra minutes after the Nitrox divers had left the water. Anyhow I figured that I had the 'fat factor' to contend with which essentially meant that I would stay on deco just an extra 4 or 5 min to be safe and avoid a bend. All in all nitrox did not seem to offer the advantage I need to make the change.

I need not really expand on views of the early technical divers with tanks a plenty, heaps of regs generally speaking a different language and keeping generally in their own circle of 'techies', dropping down

to initially depths that we were doing happily on air. Later they dropped into deeper and deeper dives, deeper new wrecks and then it started to get my interest. But the cost of this technical diving was astronomic. Helium for a dive @\$170 put it in the too hard basket. Cutting tables for the gas blend you used at the depth you used it arrrrrrgh... The new breed of computers accommodated these extra gas mixtures and started to make that type of diving easier and more exact and effectively amendable during the dive.

In past years the emergence of rebreathers were viewed as either "Dr Kavorkian Death Machines" or even bigger "Appendage Extensions". The cost was prohibitive, or the home made jobs looked like a pvc plumbers nightmare and an accident waiting to happen. However now 10 or 12 years since the appearance of what started as a trickle has become an avalanche and now they quite common in some diving circles.

Last year I was diving the Birchgrove Park wreck (52 Metres) off Palm Beach, with two divers with rebreathers. Steve Lonergan in his Mk15.5 and I dived down about the same time on this 'square profile dive' After 27 minutes I left the bottom towards an extended decompression. Steve happily swam on for another 12 or 13 minutes of bottom time. As I hung on



Above: Geoff's New Toy.
The same colour as Barjumpa!



Above: Geoff's shiny new Inspiration rebreather.

the decompression stages I watched and waited and waited and waited. It was like a 'race' between the 'tortoise and the hare'. Soon Steve was hanging at the same level and sadly for me he then gave me a wave and was in the boat before me...! Longer Dive... Shorter Deco... Bingo...!

At that point a small hook on light line had my interest. Longer dives, shorter decompression, effectively safer decompression, effectively endless gas and clear as a bell on the bottom at depth.... But the cost.. damn.... For many years I have had a test called the dive equation.. which was the duration of the dive divided by the length of time to hook up the (former) boat, tow it to the ramp, launch it motor to the site, hook in, hook in hook in some more, dive, deco, watch someone else pull in the anchor in back home wash the boat and wash the dive gear and then there was the rest of the week. If I could make the dive equation bigger then that was a good thing.

Following the trip to Chuuk I watched in awe a group of Inspiration Re-breather divers and the ease of the dives. I was hooked now with a big hook. So like when Darth Vader hissed to his son Luke in Star Wars I was drawn to "The Dark Side."

I commenced to listen to their talk, read and read, look and listen... The dark side was a powerful influence and this week I bought a brand new Inspiration Vision Re-breather and commence training at Southern Cross this week with my partner in crime and diving, Eggers.

So there it is... If you can't beat them... Join them... and I did.



Right: The Inspiration from the front and from the back with the cover removed showing the scrubber canister.



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Club Dive Day August

No Sea Too Rough

By Scott Leimroth



We planned our 45th anniversary dive day perfectly with food and drinks for the BBQ ordered and prepared, 4 boats organised, divers rostered onto boats and all manner of perfect planning done to make to day go off without a hitch. The only problem was someone forgot to tell that to the weather gods.

Perfect weather all week but come Sunday the 19th it was blowing hard from the South with rain squalls and ominous cloud cover. This certainly wasn't going to stop us from enjoying ourselves and since there was not much swell but just wind chop it didn't stop the diving either.

4 boats and 20+ divers turned out at little Manly beach and although the weather wasn't the best some great diving was had by all and we even managed some shelter for the BBQ and a 45th anniversary birthday cake. We must have looked cold after we returned to shore from the Annie M Miller as the resident near the boat ramp came out of his house

and gave us cups of freshly brewed coffee for which we were very thankful. After a number of boats had made trips out and the majority of divers had dived at least once we set up the club BBQ under the shelter of the canteen block and cooked up a great BBQ lunch. Perry Begg cooked up a great birthday cake and we all sang happy birthday to celebrate the clubs 45th anniversary. Today also marked the 150th anniversary of the sinking of the Dunbar and as we passed the wrecksite on the way to the Anni M we thought of that fateful night all those years ago.

The viz on the Annie M was good however it was very dark on the bottom because of the cloud cover. Conditions up top were pretty poor although one friendly Albatross didn't mind keeping me company as I boat sat in the wind and rain.

Scott Willan ran Johns RIB out a number of times with different divers and Bob Mays BRB (Big Red Boat) took divers to the Annie M and then a second batch to Quarantine reef.

In true SPDC style we didn't let the weather effect our fun. Everyone had a great time talking and socialising over the BBQ and drinks and it wasn't until mid afternoon that we decided it was now cold enough and time to go home.



Club boats and one charter boat were the only ones on the beach in this weather.



Above: The council thoughtfully provided a shelter for the BBQ.



The BBQ was a hub of activity and socialising.



mmmmm....chocolate cake!



Fran with her new playmate.



Right: Andreas and Jon get ready to dive.

Left: John's new VR3 said he was bent but the trusty Aladdin Pro said he was ok.



Above: Dave's all weather dive shelter.



New club members Greg and Monique enjoyed their first club dive day despite the weather.

Below: John cuts the birthday cake.



The Beggs, thanks to Perry we all enjoyed a beautiful birthday cake.



Recovering and launching club boats requires everyone to pitch in and lend a hand.



South Pacific Divers Club

45th Anniversary Dinner

The club's 45th Anniversary Dinner was held at La Piccola Italian Restaurant on Monday 20th of August. Exactly 45 years to the day that the club was officially declared.

Many of the club's original founding members were in attendance including founding club president Denis Robinson. Original members such as Tom Byron and Peter and Joan Harper were there and shared some fantastic stories and anecdotes of the early days of the club and diving in Australia. Joan Harper particularly told some great stories to the audience of her experiences as a female diver in the early days of the sport when it really was considered a unique pastime for a woman to be involved in. The footage of a young Joan getting dressed into full hard hat divers kit, complete with 1960's beehive hairdo, really had the audience in awe.

Early footage and stills of the club's diving adventures were shown and Denis brought with him from WA a number of books which consisted of just about every issue of the early Australian diving publication 'Australian Skindiving Magazine' dating from about 1962 onwards. These were carefully passed around the tables and provided plenty of insight into the early years of diving in this country. South Pacific Divers Club was clearly well represented in those early years with many mentions and stories of the club and club member's exploits throughout the magazines.



Denis, Peter and Tom told stories of some of their early diving adventures, from making and acquiring their first sets of gear to diving with sharks, deep diving to study the effects of narcosis, diving with homebuilt submarines and discovering many of the popular shipwrecks along the NSW coast.

With 45 people in attendance ranging from old time members to the newest club members it was certainly a great mix of people. The food was fantastic and the staff at La Piccola really looked after us well. The conversation flowed easily and many people were catching up with old friends some who they hadn't seen for many years.

The new club shirts were delivered just in time and really looked great.

Only a few of these special 45th anniversary shirts are available so if you would like one please contact John.



Above: Founding Club President Denis Robinson cuts the cake at our 45th anniversary dinner.

Later in the evening past Club President Leo Bergagnin was presented with a special appreciation award for service to the club. Leo guided the club through a prosperous period during the 1990's and is presently actively involved once again. For probably the first time in living memory Leo, master of the one liner and blessed with the gift of the gab, was speechless. The presentation of the award had been a closely guarded secret as we know that if Bunyip got a hint of anything like this that Leo would find out...and we all know how good



Above: Plenty of club and diving history here. L - R Peter Harper, Peter Booth, Karin Smith, Ron Verkirk & Maike Smith, Joan Harper, Denis Robinson, Sue Armstrong, Lynn Webber.

old Bunyip is with the gossip. After a 20 min break and a few drinks Leo returned to the floor to thank all involved for the award. Thank you Leo, once again, for your service to the club over the years.

A huge raffle was drawn on the night although in true SPDC style it was almost embarrassing. Leo B dug into the bag for the winning ticket of dinner for two at La Piccola and promptly drew current club vice president Scott Leimroth's name from the bag. Second prize went to current club president John Fardoulis. Yes it appeared rigged by this time so it was time for a new person to draw out the next prize...and guess who's name should come out of the bag...none other than Leo B himself!

The evening finished up with a great birthday cake and a rousing rendition of 'Happy Birthday'. The four hours that we spent at the restaurant went incredibly quickly and it hardly seemed like we had time to chat to everyone. Many old friendships were renewed and a few new friendships started. After the night had finished at the restaurant a number of people continued the celebrations at John Fardoulis's place at nearby Lilyfield.



Above: L - R Glenn Percy, Sue Tate, Dwayne Langley, Mark Pinna, Simon Gayler, Tom Byron.



Above: John Fardoulis presents a very well deserved appreciation award to Leo Bergagnin.

It really was fantastic to see so many founding members there on the night and in the lead up to the evening we had been contacted by a number of other founding members who, although they were unable to attend, sent their best wishes. It was also great to see so many new members there with the newset only having joined the club the day before. This certainly says something for the spirit and the continuity in the club. The spirit of living life to the full and never overlooking an opportunity for a bit of fun and adventure was really summed up well when someone mentioned to Denis Robinson that they were surprised he had come all the way from Perth just to attend the night. His reply was "Well at my age you might not make it to the next anniversary so you might as well make the effort and enjoy this one." I'm sure Denis will be around for many more club anniversaries and it really was fantastic to have him attend this one.

To all those who helped organise the event I'm sure everyone who attended would like to say thank you for your efforts. The night was a huge success and resulted in some fantastic links being made with new opportunities to dive and new information and history about the club coming to light.

I'm sure we'll all look forward to the club's half century in 5 years time. Who knows what adventures we'll have and stories to tell between now and then. I'm sure they will live up to the club's tradition of fun and adventure through diving.



Above: Just some of the current crop of enthusiastic SPDC members. L - R Fran Thai-Low, Peter Iwaskiewicz, Karen O'Neil, Kim Botha, Joyce lee, Dave Chillari, Kylie Suttor.

Below far left: Leo Bergagnin, Karina Gregory, John Fardoulis, Simon Gayler and Tom Byron, the party in full swing.

Near left: Denis Robinson entertained with stories of some of the club's early adventures.



Left: Joan Harper told some great stories about early women in diving.

Below: Peter Harper described some of the early wreck discoveries made by club members.





Above: Dave Chillari



Above: John Fardoulis, Karen O'Neill and Scott Leimroth spot something of interest.



Above: L-R Hazel Storey, Andreas Thimm, Jason Farlow, Scott Willan, Max Gleeson, Louise Miller, Scott Leimroth.



Above: Peter Harper



Below: Scott Willan enjoying himself.



Left: John and Scott having a great night.



Right: Joan Harper telling stories about some of the fun diving in the early years of the club.

Below Right: Kim Botha and Fran Thai-Low

Below: Scott on the phone trying to track down the fashionably late club president John F.



Below: Greg James, Leo B (rear), Glen Percy (front), Jackie Rotenstein, Russle Stoker.



Below: Peter and Joan Harper.





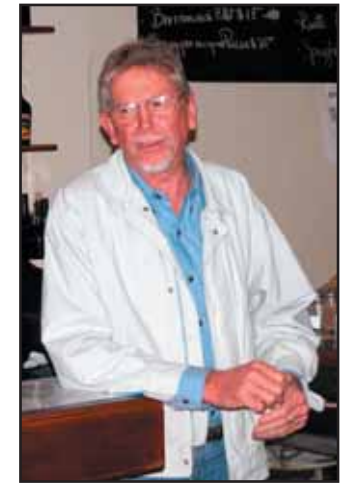
Above: Joyce Lee, Kim Botha and Karen O'Neill



Above: Jason Farlow captured the speeches and stories on video.



Above: Michel Kisso, Sam and Ed.



Above: Denis Robinson.

Below: Joyce Lee, Geoff and Mitchell Cook



Left: Joyce Lee, Kim Botha, Karen O'Neill.

Below: Michel Kisso having a great time.



Left: Karina Gregory, Scott Willan and Kylie Suttor.

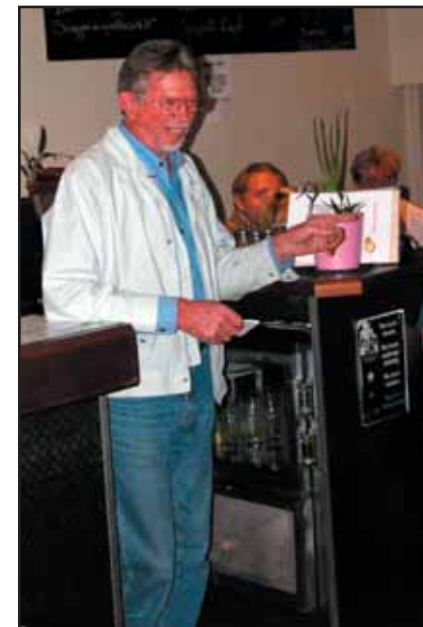
Right: The night ran smoothly thanks to the organisation of Kim Botha and Karen O'Neill, seen here discussing to details with John F.





Above: L-R Mitchell Cook, Michel Kisso, Sam, Ed and John Fardoulis enjoy the great pasta at La Piccola.

Below: L-R Monique James, Geoff Cook, Russell Stoker, Julie Brown, Karina Gregory, Jackie Rotenstein, Greg James.



Founding club members kept us entertained with amazing stories of the early days of diving in Australia and the clubs early adventures in diving. Above: Peter Harper, Top right: Denis Robinson, Below: Tom Byron, Below Right: Joan Harper. Right: Jason Farlow recorded everything on video, a great record of the evening.





Above: A very happy Club President John Fardoulis.



Right; The club birthday cake, complete with club logo.



Below: Leo B is lost for words after receiving his award.



Below: Leo Bergagnin looking pretty chuffed with a well deserved award.



Top and Right sequence: Founding club president Denis Robinson came all the way from WA to celebrate the 45th birthday of the club he and a few mates started all those years ago. Here Denis is seen cutting the cake. We didn't ask what he wished for but we're sure it was something to do with diving.





Above: Nothing up my sleeve.



Hey Presto! Scott wins dinner for two.



Karen then draws Leo's name out for second prize. A blue tooth headset!



A what? Says Leo...I'll take the bottle of wine instead.

Kim reaches into the hat and....



It can't be!!...



John wins third prize.



I promise the raffle wasn't rigged!



Kim and Dave look on.



Below: Louise Miller and Scott Leimroth



Below: Dwayne Langley



Below: Scott Willan



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Midnight Dive on the Currajong

By Ange Jeffery.
Contributors: DJ Nicke,
Jason Farlow, Claire Fahey



On Saturday September 1st at 00:30 hours 17 divers met at Rose Bay Wharf to dive the TSS Currajong. For a handful of divers this would be a return to fond memories of previous dives, but for the majority of people who would dive the TSS Currajong this night, it would be a first for their log books.

The TSS Currajong is located in 26m of water off Bradley's Head in Sydney Harbour's main shipping channel. An iron screw steamer built at Lanark, United Kingdom in 1875, the vessel has a length of 67 metres. The Currajong sank after a collision with the steamer Wyreema in the 8th March 1910, which resulted in the death of one of the crew members.

As the evening of the dive drew closer logistic communications stepped up to a furious pace as divers organised tank fills, lights, meeting locations and equipment. A number of divers used John F's house as the meeting point, while others met up at Rose Bay Wharf. Being one of the members to congregate at Johns, we were treated to a photograph side show from Steve L while we waited for Scott L to ready his gear.

By midnight we had made our way to Rose Bay Wharf and started to gear up. Parking was easy and right at the wharf where Yves of Scubaroo Charters was to pick us up. The atmosphere of the divers was electric; high on the adventure ahead and the excitement of being able to do this particular dive.

Yves was right on time pulling up to the wharf at half past twelve. Sixteen kits of dive gear were loaded onto the boat which included singles, twins and even a Mk15 rebreather. The boat ride over to the TSS Currajong was calm with a spectacular view of the Sydney skyline lights and Harbour Bridge. The city lights danced off the harbour – with a howling Southerly buster blowing we were the only ones that were on the harbour and it was a wonderful feeling in itself.

Yves picked into the wreck and the mermaid line was put out. Due to a swiftly moving outgoing current a line was run from the mermaid to the anchor line to access the anchor with a bit more ease for our descent.

Steve Loneragan was to be in the water first with the task of getting a couple of strobes onto the anchor line for diver reference. As Steve was on his rebreather he was also nominated as last to surface with DJ Nicke our Dive Master at Arms.

Getting 16 divers into the water with current went as smoothly as it could possibly go. One diver lost a fin (red and black scrubapro split fin for anyone who might come across it outside the Heads) just prior to descent when the



Excitement builds as divers prepare gear.

fin clip unlatched, but Yves was quick with the offer of a spare fin. All divers were in the water just after 1am. Later a member noted that it seemed surreal to be staring at the Opera House and Bridge as they descended, such was the beauty of the location we were in.

Those who had dived the wreck years previously noted that the wreck has deteriorated somewhat over the last ten years; the wheelhouse is completely gone and the donkey boiler had a covering around it too but that's broken and gone. The decks are a lot more exposed and a lot more open at the stern and bow. The hull plating at some sections seem to be starting to peel away slowly, particularly on the starboard bow where they seem to have lifted approximated 5cms. At the stern, the props are buried with only the rudder visible. The impact point where the "Wyreema" slammed into her is massive and quite impressive creating a V crush point into the hull of the Currajong.

Covered with fish life, moray eels, decorator crabs and the odd resident wobbegong! Bream seemed to flourish on the wreck with seemingly 100's of them schooling into the larger crevice and hold areas. The many torches shining over the wreck in the dark harbour waters provided a silhouette to the wreck as divers combed and covered just about every inch of the ship.

Making our way up the anchor line at the end of the dive, we were treated to the bioluminescence within the surrounding waters. A couple of divers turned off their torches and with gloved hands made sweeping motions in the water creating the 'living light' to glow green in the darkness.

Upon surfacing the wind created a real chill factor and soup was the next priority. The excitement of the dive filled every conversation. Our trip back to Rose Bay wharf was full of smiles and laughter and recounts of what each diver had just experienced.

It was just past 3:00 am Saturday morning when we unloaded our dive gear from the boat. The long trip back home for a few of the divers would be as much as 90 minute drive ahead of them. The TSS Currajong has got to be one of dives that each diver should endeavour to dive. It's well worth the late night and the effort to get to.



Above: Steve and John looking a little sleepy at 12 midnight while Jon Evans looks bright eyed and ready to add yet another Sydney wreck to his repertoire.

Below: L-R (Front) Scott Leimroth, Ange Jeffrey, David Coultahrd, Claire Fahey, DJ Nicke, (Rear) Matt Reeve, Jason Farlow, Kevin Hazeldine, John Fardoulis, Steve Loneragan, Wayne Phillips, Jon Evans, Geoff Cook, (Greg and Monique James not shown)



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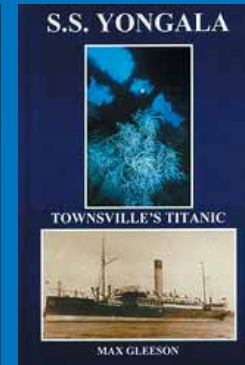
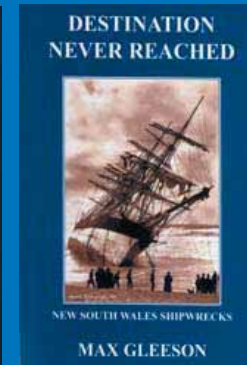
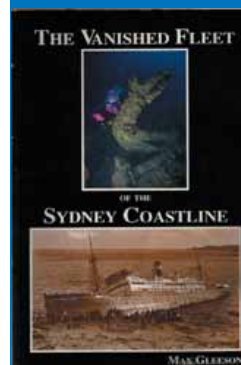
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Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre

Central Coast Community Environmental Network

By Jane Smith



Hawksbill Turtle by Matt Dowse

Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre official launch was held on Friday, 17 August, 2007 at the Newcastle University's Ourimbah Campus. This evening included speakers such as Prof. Stephen Crump, Pro Vice-Chancellor & Director of Central Coast Campuses. Attendee's were also treated to talks provided by Dr. Ken Zimmerman on Diving Helmets of the World and Lindsay Walsh on Fishing on the Central Coast.

The concept of a Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre was initiated in 2004 with a working group formed to develop the concept. The Working Group includes broad representation

including the University of Newcastle, Gosford City and Wyong Shire Councils, State agencies and community organisations.

The vision of the Marine Discovery Centre is "To provide for the sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of our coasts and oceans". More importantly, it's about having fun and engaging individuals from all walks of life and all ages in discovering the mysteries of our marine and coastal environments. Professor Crump of Newcastle University has also added during a recent press release that "Research into the impact on fish stocks by sinking the HMAS Adelaide off the Central Coast is just one example of the work the centre could undertake. It's a significant boost for education, at both a secondary and tertiary level. We hope it will eventually provide a unique field-study location that will be of great benefit to students studying Marine Science and Sustainable Resource Management at the University."



Weedy Sea Dragon by Greg Evans

The working group is currently developing the proposal for a long-term facility to house the Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre. The primary activity of the centre will be a working Research and Education Centre with an "outer layer" of activities being tourism and associated businesses. The Centre will build on a high level of community involvement and partnerships.

While the longer term vision takes shape, an operating committee is coordinating a number of events, programs and activities that can take place now to begin the work of the MDC. To date, these have included:

- A snorkelling course.

- An In-service Course for High School Marine Science Teachers.
- An evening of talks to launch the "Friends of the Marine Discovery Centre".
- A series of Marine Discovery Talks and Activities scheduled over the Summer period.
- A competition to design the logo of the Marine Discovery Centre.

The Marine Discovery Centre is a long term project and we need your support! We are looking for community and business members to assist the continued development of the Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre in areas of:

Below: Caulerpa Filiformis by Steve Lindfield



- Development and distribution options of a CCMDC “Friends of” Newsletter.

- Development of a functional, educational, fun and interactive website.

- Promotion of the CCMDC at community events.

- Organisers for special events at varying opportunities during the year.

- Education volunteers for events / activities / projects that aim to educate the community.
Fundraising opportunities

The Central Coast region of New South Wales lies between Sydney and Newcastle. In spite of its growing population, the region still boasts magnificent natural features. Within a relatively small area of the Central Coast the main marine and coastal ecosystems are all represented including beaches, rocky shores, sub-tidal rocky reefs, coastal lagoons, estuaries and the open coastline.

The easy access to each of these environments provides an outstanding opportunity to investigate these different

but linked ecosystems. Many representatives of the marine biodiversity of south-eastern Australia have levels of endemism approaching 80%. These are all compelling reasons to ensure that we discover more about these environments through research and education.

Becoming a Friend of the CCMDC is free and is an easy way of showing your support. For more information visit www.cccen.org.au/ccmdc or email: ccmdc@cccen.org.au

Photo Credits

Marine photography Marine Watch Central Coast www.cccen.org.au/Marinewatch/MW.htm

Teachers Workshops Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre

Below: Anchor at Terrigal haven by Paul Cook



Above: Research Photographing Quadrant by Bill Gladstone



Top Right: Teachers exploring the tidal flats during a workshop.

Right: Teachers Workshop group Bateau Bay.



Below Right: Comparing notes during the workshop.

Below: Teachers exploring a rockpool.



SPDC MEMBER PROFILE

Dave Chillari



What's your nickname?

Deco

How long have you been a club member?

18mths

What sort of diving do you enjoy most?

My fave diving always involves my camera

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

Im an a\$\$%#&@

What kind of music are you into?

60's, 70's and 80's yeh im showing my age

Any phobias?

Moths. when i was a kid my dad convinced me a big monitor moths was a vampire bat...cant choose your family...

What temptations are you powerless to resist?

Temptation Weekdays 7pm channel 9

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

Edit my photos and think about diving.

What's your favourite dive site and why?

Yongala. Its the best wreck I have dived on. HEAPS of fishlife and turtles everywhere

What's your most treasured piece of dive equipment?

My canon 350D in Ikelite housing of course.

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

Kill me.

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

I want to dive a volcano...off the coast of NZ. I think it would be great seeing lava spew its way out of the crust and solidifying when it hits the water.

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

Pamela Anderson...could double as a BCD...or SMB.



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 Willan

Email: swillan (@) thomascoffey.com.au

Phone: 95437095

Location: Bangor

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

Favourite type of diving: Fun Dives



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



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





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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 _____