



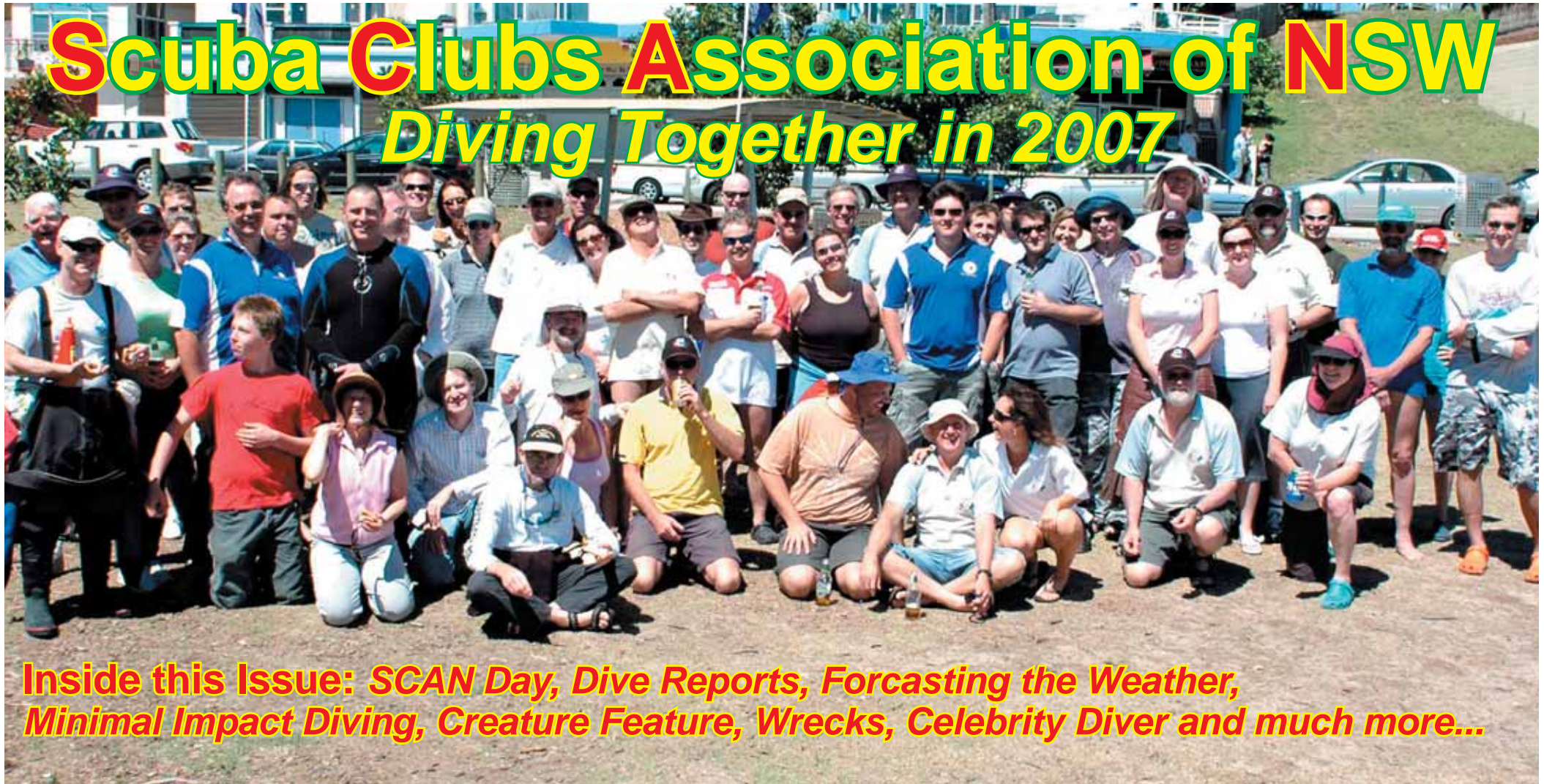
Established 1962

WET RAG

www.southpacificdivers.com

November | 07

Scuba Clubs Association of NSW *Diving Together in 2007*



Inside this Issue: SCAN Day, Dive Reports, Forecasting the Weather, Minimal Impact Diving, Creature Feature, Wrecks, Celebrity Diver and much more...

www.southpacificdivers.com

WET RAG November | 07



Club President's Report



Welcome to our November edition of the Wet Rag. The weather's getting warmer, so many are starting to think about diving again.

It's not a Competition

A few things have happened lately to make us think, particularly regarding diving safety. Something that needs to be made crystal clear is that we're a non-profit club. Pretty much a social club. We're not a training agency and don't take people diving for profit. We don't run courses, meaning everyone is responsible for their own actions.

The reason for spelling this out is for a few new members who think diving is a competition. It's not.

Diving isn't about merit badges. Courses are only a start. Further experience is what makes good divers. Our club has been built on experience. People aren't born with experience but being humble and diligent is what makes good divers, not cocky individuals needing an ego boost.

It seems as though there's a number of new 'tech' divers who have been loaded up with an incredible amount of gear and rushed through so many courses in their first eighteen months of diving. Twins, stages, drysuits and everything else that opens and shuts – before even doing 150 dives. Or at least 100+ boat dives. Most people would struggle to average a boat dive every week, meaning 25-50 a year. So it should take a few years before 'tech' training. Instead, those in a rush can't help but being ego driven to justify it all. Such people are the most likely to have an accident.

That's not to say we don't welcome new members or that you need to have done 1000+ dives to join, but individuals have to fit in socially, and diligence is regarded more highly than being cocky. We're not a place where people are spoon fed for profit either – everyone gets back as much as the effort they put in.

The Diving Speaks for Itself

In contrast, many of our seasoned members are some of the best divers around. The number of wreck dives certain members do per month is extremely impressive. And most of our people dive off small private vessels, meaning considerable boat handling skills in

addition to being competent divers. This has not happened overnight, skills and experience have grown through years (often decades) of independent diving.

We've had some great outings lately, particularly the SCAN day on Sunday which was a launch pad to kick off Summer activity. In some ways South Pacific Divers Club is still new again and a lot of people have made new friends to go diving with. Plenty of diving and adventure is expected over the next few months, with a bit of fun and comradery thrown in as well.

See you at the boat ramp,

John Fardoulis

President – South Pacific Divers Club

john (@) southpacificdivers.com

Editors Report

Wow, it's not even summer yet and we are already ramped up with lots and lots of diving happening over the past month. SCAN Day at Frenchmans Bay was a huge event and we have a wrapup of the day in this issue. I've done so much travelling and diving this past month I'm not sure if I'm coming or going. After 10 days in Truk Lagoon I still feel water logged and I'm off to dive Sangat Island and the wrecks at Coron in the Philippines next so look for a full report in the next issue of the Wet Rag.

It's great to see club members so active and the club forum is a great reflection of this with plenty of dive

reports being posted. Don't forget to include pictures and please keep the gear reviews and other interesting articles for the Wet Rag coming. Let's let the rest of the Australian diving public know what we are doing. Unfortunately for them they can't all access our forum so the Wet Rag is the only way they can find out what we are up to.

Unfortunately I missed the last club meeting while I was over seas and I'll miss the next one too but the meetings have certainly grown and become real social events so don't you miss out, make sure you are there on November 19th
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.

October Club Meeting



We were fortunate to have highly acclaimed underwater photographer and marine biologist Dave Harasti as guest speaker for our October club meeting. He gave an interesting presentation about Seahorses, with some thought provoking questions regarding how protected zones might affect Seahorse numbers.

Dave's a Nelson Bay resident and dives extensively in that area, also showcasing diving up that way, with detailed briefings regarding some of the best shore dives in NSW. Thanks again Dave!

As a group, there's an opportunity in helping out with Seahorse research, perhaps also cleaning Manly nets. We'll liaise with Dave about these things.

It was great to see founding members Denis Robinson, Peter and Joan Harper join the group. They have so much knowledge to share. And a very pleasant surprise to see Kylie, Anne and David Latimer come along. We must have had four generations of club members in the room. Fantastic!

Can't repeat Robbo's Seahorse accounts in the second part of the meeting though.

Our November meeting is a social one, a time for dive reports, organising activities over Christmas and for everyone to network with each other.



Above:: L - R Denis Robinson, Peter Harper, Joan Harper, Anne, Kylie and David Latimer, Noel Taylor, Jason Farlow, Jon Evans and David Chillari (front)

Far left: Dave Harasti gave a presentation on Seahorses and Nelson Bay.

Left: Part of the crowd that attended the evening.

ATTENTION - RENEWALS OVERDUE

Some renewing members are still not financial. We had hoped to have online payment available but this is taking longer than expected. Please pay your dues via post ASAP. Simply print out the membership form at the back of the Wet Rag and send with payment to: South Pacific Divers Club, PO Box 823, Bankstown, NSW, 2200.



Above: L - R Standing - Max Gleeson, Scott Leimroth, Dave Pearson, Lesley Hillyer, Ian Griffiths, Bob Newman, Seated - Dive guide Chun (John) and boat driver Gladwin.

The view as you approach Truk is fantastic. Small islands surrounded by an outlying coral reef. As the plane approached Truk I noticed a small runway off to our right. 'Hey look there, it must be the domestic terminal' I joked. Next minute the plane banked sharply and headed straight for that small runway. The landing was an experience with the plane stopping only metres before the end of the runway and water. A quick minibus ride to the Blue Lagoon resort and that was it, everything else was a blur of diving, diving and more diving until we left 10 days later.

We all used twin tanks and had nitrox hanging under the boat for decompression. I managed 19 dives and of those 16 were on different wrecks. The bottom times were around 40 to 50 minutes at depths ranging from 30 to 57m and most dives had us in the water for 90 mins. Even though the diving was very easy, warm clear water, no current, doing two dives a day (3 hrs in water) for 9 days really takes it out of you. Equipment can certainly take a hammering with a number of running repairs needed to torches, regs, gauges and computers. Our dive guide Chun was great, he managed every dive on a single tank and really kept an eye out for us, even when his computer died and when he had to get something from the boat with 15 mins deco still to do. The highlight was him stepping off the front of the boat with tank and rope in hand, no mask or fins, to tie off to the bouy 9m underwater.

The wrecks were absolutely fantastic. Nowhere in the world can you find such variety and I'm really kicking myself for waiting so long to visit Truk Lagoon. My favourite wrecks were; the Aikoku, a massive passenger type ship blown in half, so big, water so clear and warm; The San Francisco, Nippo and Hoki Maru's and Fumitsuki (destroyer). So much coral and fish life and also brass bits and military hardware. Tanks on the San Fran and Nipo are a highlight.

Below: Tropical Paradise. The view from our room.



Below: On the boat ready for another wreck dive.



November Club Meeting

An underwater photograph featuring a dense field of vibrant red coral. A yellow diving frame is visible, partially obscured by the coral. The background is a deep blue, suggesting the ocean's depth.

**Come along and meet new
dive buddies, organise a
dive or just have a look
and see what we're all
about.**

When: 8pm Monday 19th November 2007

**Where: Bankstown Sports Club,
Greenfield Parade, Bankstown.**

FREE ENTRY - Visitors Welcome



DIVE WITH THE PAC



Join South Pacific Divers Club!

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

Come along to a club meeting or a dive. Fill in the membership form at the back of the Wet Rag today!



Top Ten Trim & Buoyancy Tips

1. Buoyancy is correct when you are able to maintain a vertical position in the water at eye level with a near empty tank and a deflated BCD.
2. Determine the correct amount of weight for neutral buoyancy and distribute across your body as required.
3. Streamline (horizontal) your body in the water to maintain minimal trim.



4. To check your trim and buoyancy stop completely in the water and remain still. If you sink head down you will have too much weight in your upper body; if you sink feet down you have too much weight in your lower body.
5. Keep movements slow and deliberate
6. Avoid using your arms excessively
7. Do not over 'accessorise' with non-essential equipment / gadgets
8. Develop good trim and buoyancy before additional task loading e.g. managing a camera
9. Use correctly fitted dive gear
10. Trim depends on your equipment, height and weight so experiment to find what works for you

Image by G Midgley

Denis Robinson Wins Sprint



Denis Robinson (Aus) beat Alan Sandford (Aus) for the Gold
Photo ©: Mike Gladu

Founding club president Denis Robinson showed the world just how good he is by taking out the Gold medal in the UCI World Masters track sprint. The UCI World Masters Championships were held in Sydney from October 16-21, 2007 and Denis travelled over from Perth to compete managing to time it perfectly so he could also attend the October club meeting at bankstown Sports Club.

Denis is now the masters track sprint world champ. He also got a silver medal in the scratch race and a bronze in the pursuit so has one of each color just to make a nice collection. How good is that!!

Denis tells us the bike he is riding in the photo above is the model the Aussie team will use in the Beijing Olympics. At just under \$20,000 they cost more than some small cars.

Well done Robbo and congratulations from everyone at South Pacific Divers Club.

CREATURE FEATURE

Eastern Blue Devil Fish

By Dave Harasti

"The Blue Devil is considered to be one of the most colourful and attractive fish species found along the east coast of Australia."

The Eastern Blue Devil Fish (*Paraplesiops bleekeri*) is also known as the Bleeker's Blue Devil Fish and is one of the most beautiful fish species in Australia's waters. It is a shy, secretive fish that is found inside caves and under ledges in inshore reefs in NSW estuaries and offshore waters from three to thirty metres. It occurs on the east coast from southern Queensland to Montague Island, but is most common in NSW from Sydney southwards to Ulladulla. Around Sydney it occurs in the more saline parts of estuaries, along the rocky coastline and around offshore islands

They are fecund breeders, however juveniles are rarely seen. They are often solitary and are most active during the night however little is known about their diet. The Eastern Blue Devil Fish is a protected fish species in New South Wales, and there are heavy penalties for taking, selling or possessing them. This species is popular with divers and photographers because of its striking iridescent blue and yellow markings.

The Eastern Blue Devil Fish is most easily recognised by its banded pattern of blue and white strips on the body, blue spotted head, blue dorsal and anal fins and yellow caudal (tail) fin and base and pectoral fins. The pelvic fins and posterior dorsal and anal fins are elongated. When the blue devil fish spreads these fins they overlap, making the fish appear larger.

It is thought that the male defends a territory in a cave or overhang in order to attract a mate and will drive other males away. This fish is known to mate in spring. The breeding season for the Eastern Blue Devil is between the months of October and March. The species lays its eggs in a group or nest that is glued to the roof of a cave until they hatch. Free swimming larvae, approximately 4mm long, hatch from the eggs and settle around reef areas when they have grown to about 10mm. It grows to 40cm in length. This species is also known to reside in the same cave for long periods of times. There are a couple of individuals that have been observed in the same cave for over three years in locations such as Jervis Bay and Fish Rock off South West Rocks.



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.



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!

Undola Wreck - Royal National Park

By John Fardoulis



L-R Lynn, Scott and David

On Sat October 6th Myself, Scott W, David C and Lynn headed off with plans to explore a new site. Scott W had some info on a fishing site called The Hump, off Garie Beach, so we sounded around for a while seeing what the bottom looked like.

A southerly change was forecast though, so we decided to go back another day and spend a couple of hours sounding - moving onto the wreck of the SS Undola instead. This was Lynn and David's first time there, they seemed to enjoy it.

The water was more chilly and greener than the dive I did the day before, about 14 or 15 degrees on the wreck. We had about 10m vis on the bottom and a bit of a milky green haze on deco.

It was funny that Lynn said that she saw more fish on that single dive than all the dives she did in Italy, after returning from a few months over there.

We also came across about half a dozen pods of dolphins, spending about half an hour motoring around with them, which was very cool.

The southerly then blew up on our way back, meaning a wet trip and long delay at the boat ramp as all the other boaties pulled out their pride and joy.

Below: Lynn the dolphin whisperer at work.

A large, vibrant image of a clownfish, likely a Nemo, looking directly at the camera. The fish is orange with white stripes and a black collar around its neck. The background is dark and out of focus.

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

Understanding

and

Forecasting Weather

Good diving conditions are dependant upon a number of factors which include weather conditions such as rain, wind speed and direction, ocean surface temperature, swell and currents.

Synoptic Charts

Synoptic charts are the most commonly known weather map for most people and are the charts that are found in newspapers and websites.

The synoptic chart is constructed to display air pressure, wind movement and rain. Charts can be mapped to forecast (anticipate) weather conditions, or can show current weather conditions.

Aspects of Synoptic Charts

Before we can truly understand what we are seeing when looking at a synoptic chart, we first must understand a few symbols and concepts.

Air Pressure

The weight of the air directly above a given location. A barometer is used to measure air pressure in hectopascals (hPa) and can usually be seen along isobar lines. The average air pressure above sea level is

1013hPa, anything above is a high pressure system, any thing below 1030hPa is a low pressure system.

Isobars

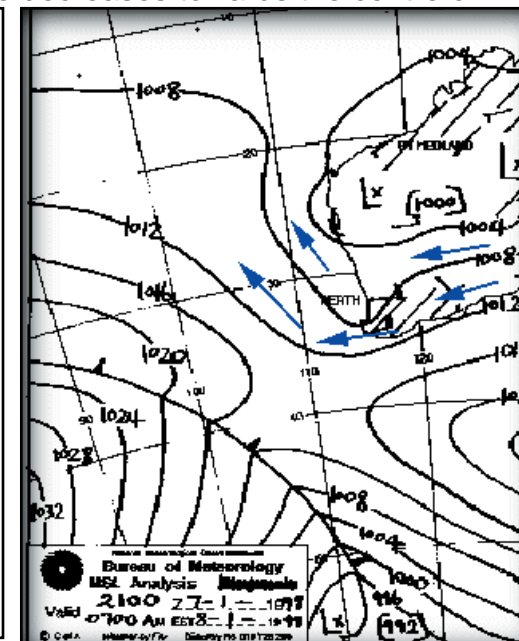
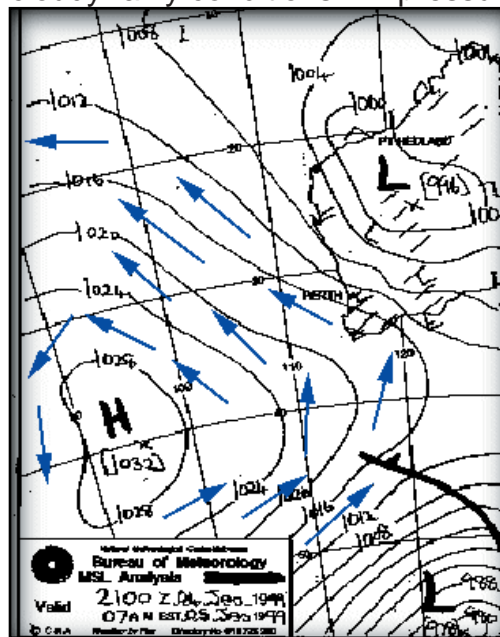
Isobar lines indicate same levels of air pressure within the atmosphere; the closer the isobar lines the stronger the wind speed.

High Pressure

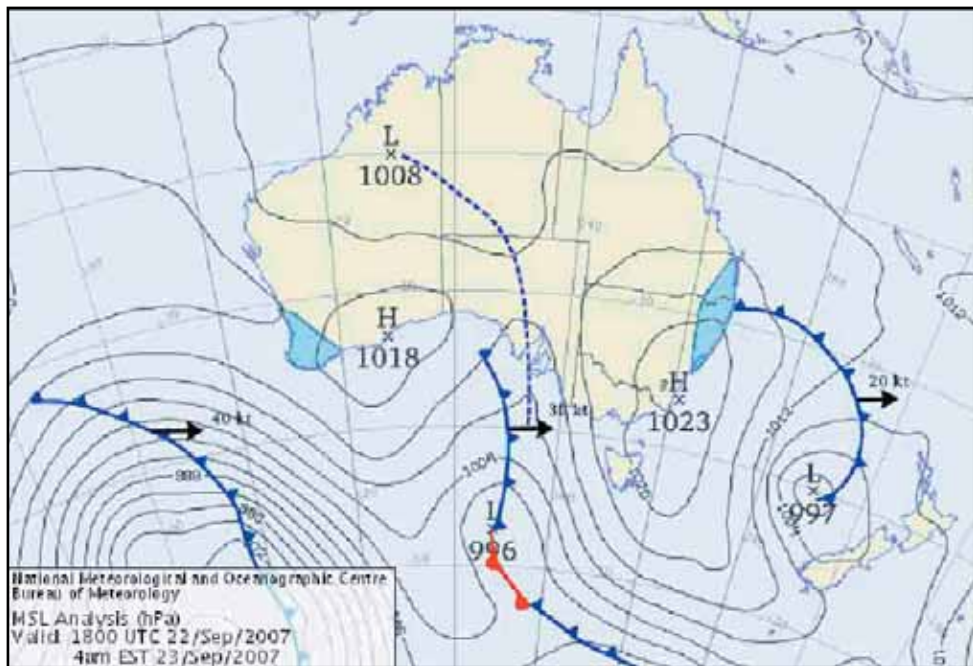
High pressure systems show areas of maximum atmospheric pressure. Isobars are generally further apart indicating light to no winds with fair weather. Pressure increases towards the centre of the pressure system. Air movement within a high pressure system will be moving in a clockwise direction. The centre of a depression is marked by an 'H'.

Low Pressure

Low pressure systems as also known as depressions and usually mean cloudy rainy conditions. Air pressure decreases towards the centre of



The Synoptic charts above show wind travelling in an anti-clockwise direction for the high (H) pressure system and in a clockwise direction for the low (L) pressure system .



High and Low pressure systems are clearly marked on the synoptic chart above. Fronts can be seen moving from Western Australia across to the East.

the system and when associated with higher winds indicated by isobars being closer together. Air movement within a low pressure system will be moving in an anticlockwise direction. The centre of a depression is marked by an 'L'.

Cold Front

Cold fronts are formed when cold air moves in and displaces warmer air. Showers at or near the line where the cold front touches the earth's surface usually occur. Cold fronts are shown as thicker lines with attached triangles traveling in the direction the triangles are pointing.

Warm Front

Warm fronts usually move more slowly than cold fronts and the associated rain is generally more extensive and continuous than cold fronts. warm fronts are shown as thicker lines with attached semi circles traveling in the direction that the semi-circles are pointing.

Rainfall

Shown by diagonal lines or shading drawn over areas that have received rainfall in the previous 24 hours. Not all charts will show rainfall so looking for low pressure systems or referring to the synoptic chart to look for low pressure systems, warm and cold fronts will generally indicate a possible level of rain fall.

Wind

Wind speed is determined by the direction in which it originates. Weather stations capture the data which is then drawn as a line to a dot know as a wind barb. Small lines attached to the end of the wind barb indicate the wind speed in km/p. If no speed lines are shown, wind speed is below 4km/p; the more lines shown the higher the wind speed.

Temperature

Although a specific TOC's are generally not provided on synoptic charts, high and low pressure systems can indicate warm-hot, cool-cold periods. A chart displaying specific location temperatures will usually be located next to the synoptic chart.

Wind Effect on the Ocean

Wind is a driving force upon oceans; as wind travels along the ocean surface the energy from the wind is transferred to the ocean surface creating waves. Duration, direction and speed of the wind upon the ocean are determining factors for ocean conditions.

Is it Swell or is it Waves?

Sea (or wind) waves: are generated by the local prevailing wind and vary in size according to the length of time a particular wind has been blowing, the fetch (distance the wind has blown over the sea) and the water depth. Swell waves are the regular longer period waves generated by distant weather systems. While there may be no wind present, a swell may present.

Westerly and north-westerly winds on the Australia's eastern coastline are dry warm - hot overland winds having a flattening effect upon the ocean.

North-easterly and easterly winds bring colder wetter conditions bringing in a north / north-easterly swells. Seek dive sites facing south. Easterly winds, seek enclosed dive sites such as in bays or harbours.

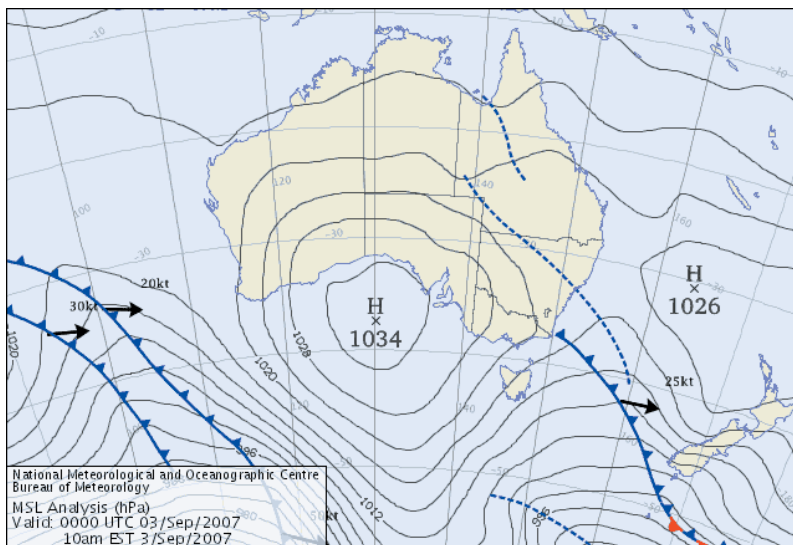
South-eastern and southerlies should have you seeking dives sites facing north and can bring wet windy conditions.

South-western winds are more of an issue during summer months as they bring in the Thunderstorm activity. Late arriving southerlies can also bring thunderstorms. Seek north facing sites and if there you hear thunder or see lightening exit your dive site as practically and as safely possible.

The above situations will depend on the wind conditions at the time. The stronger and longer an off-shore wind persists so may the height and regularity of ocean waves.

Sources:
Bureau of Meteorology
Weather Zone
Weather Channel

A large High sitting over the bite signals good calm weather for diving.



Bureau of Meteorology Safety Hints

1. Know the local factors that influence sea conditions and know where to reach shelter quickly.
2. Learn how to read the weather map.
3. Be aware that the weather map in the morning newspaper was drawn the day before.
4. Always check the latest forecast and warning before going to sea and know what conditions exceed your safety limits.
5. Beware of rapidly darkening clouds and lowering clouds – squalls may be imminent.
6. When at sea, listen to the weather reports on public or marine radio provided by the Bureau, Telstra or your State/Territory marine safety agency.
7. Be flexible – change your plans if necessary.



I beautiful music

Music now looks as beautiful as it sounds. The new W580i Walkman® phone, available in the stunningly slim frame. With up to 470 songs and Shake control, it's just as beautiful on the inside.
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Sony Ericsson

Minimal Impact Diving

By Ange Jeffery



Turtle with plastic bag Photo: Melbourne Zoo

Ever had a dive where you have come into contact with the marine environment causing damage? I have, and I'm ashamed to say that it was at Nelson Bay. I was so hooked on taking a picture of a friend that I didn't realise I had descended hitting into soft corals. I felt bad, ashamed and mentally bludgeoned my self for being so negligent through out the remaining dive.

Since then I've made a conscious effort to get be aware of my position in relation to the underwater environment I'm in. When I dive I also tend to take notice of others around me. I've seen divers (for some reason or another) do some of the following things:

- * Kneeling onto soft corals and sponges when there's been a sand patch nearby.
- * Finning vertically just off the sea floor bed (possibly an attempt to stay buoyant) and ultimately causing turbulence to aquatic plant life in a protected marine park.
- * Prodding, poking and harassing marine creatures for photo opportunities or

to get a response from an animal.

- * Throwing / dropping rubbish over boats and without an attempt retrieve the rubbish.

As divers, we are both visitors and guardians of the ocean; the old adage - "take pictures or memories, leave nothing but bubbles" is still a strongly held belief by many divers and non-divers. It is unfortunate that at times we do negatively impact the environment due to ignorance or to a lack of a developing better buoyancy skills, care or awareness of our surrounding environment or ignorance.

Coral Awareness

Individual coral animals are called polyps. The illustration below emphasises how the fragile tissue of each polyp rests on top of it's own sharp skeleton. The polyp on the left is extended, feeding. The centre coral polyp is withdrawn as it would normally be during the day. The polyp on the right shows damage a diver would cause by brushing against it, smashing the soft polyp against it's skeleton. Once a few polyps are killed, that section of the coral head cannot grow again. A coral head is a colony of thousands of interconnected polyps who are clones of each other. A coral head the size of a hawksbill turtle began growing long before humans began using scuba gear. It takes millions of coral polyps and hundreds of years to build a reef. Let's respect coral so our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy living reefs too!

Living with a Razor-Sharp Skeleton

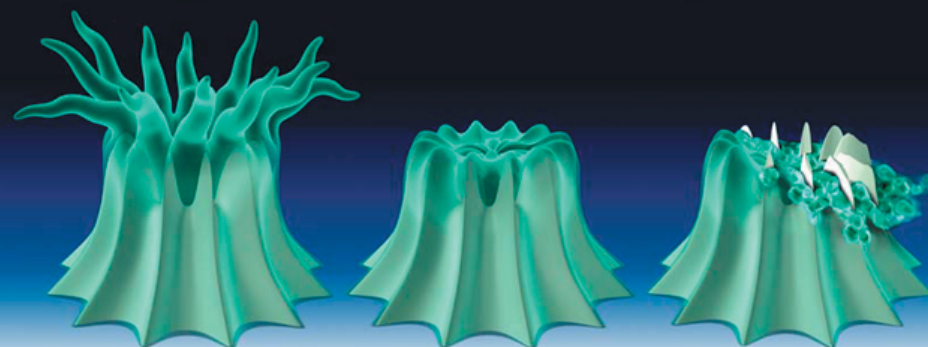


illustration: gcarlson.com

Neutralise Your Impact

- Take your rubbish with you, retrieve dropped rubbish (conditions allowing). A plastic bag takes up to 20 years to decompose on the ocean floor or may become an unfortunate meal for a marine creature.
- Pick up rubbish on your dive that you may come across, especially plastics and fishing lines.
- Don't provoke animals for response – this causes undue stress upon marine life
- Don't throw your cigarette butt (or any other rubbish) into drains, ocean or waterways. One cigarette butt takes up to 5 years to breakdown. Just like plastic bags, and bottle tops, cigarette butts are known to be confused as a food source to marine fish, mammal and seabird life which can cause serious harm to adult and juvenile marine species as a choking hazard and form of toxicity.
- Watch your dive technique - be aware of your fins and whether or not you are impacting (hitting, causing turbulence) plant life or animal life; practice good buoyancy; be aware of your position in relation to ocean features around you.
- Don't kneel into sponges and corals, look for a sand patch or bare rock platform.
- Don't be single focused while taking photo's.
- Let someone know when their actions are inappropriate, damaging or negatively impacting the marine environment in manner that is appropriate.
- Take care while diving and enjoy the underwater world in a minimal impacting way.



HISTORY FILE



February 1967 and the front cover has a good looking blonde riding a Sunfish - ahh the good old days! Imagine the response that would get nowadays. I'm sure the sunfish suffered no ill effects.

Page 31 of the February 1967 issue of Australian Skindivers magazine mentions the staging of an 'Endurance Dive' at Auburn swimming centre, commencing at 4pm on Friday 24th Feb 1967. "Ron Hanson, who endured 27 hours and 30 minutes underwater last year will attempt 30 hours. Other attractions at the pool will be an exhibition of helmet diving by John Allen - underwater films by Denis Robinson and an exhibition of relics recovered from the ocean floor." (Ed - Ah the good old days!) "Object of the dive will be to gain first hand experience on physical and mental effects of prolonged submersion. All interested parties are welcome to attend."



The article goes on the note:

"There are still a limited number of vacancies for new members in our club, so if you would care to attend our meeting at the Sportsman's Club, at Greenfield Parade, bankstown, on the first Thursday of each month at 8pm, we'll only be too happy to take \$1.00 from you, which is the price of membership."

Safe Diving,

Ted Kemp (Publicity Officer)"

Wow! Only \$1 membership!! How times have changed although we are still quite cheap to join compared to many other clubs which have to up-keep and run club boats.

Of note also is a full page ad for Custom made Wetsuits. Only \$29.00! Made from 'Sharkskin' - nylon lined material. I really love this bit "Free sample of material available on request - BITE IT - TRY TO TEAR IT - BOIL IT - STRETCH IT - Prove to yourself that this is the most fantastic material ever offered in wet suits."

Finally, the final page in that edition of Australian Skindivers Magazine lists the places where you can get an airfill. In 1967 it appears there were only 7 places between Newcastle and Port Kembla. Of course St George Underwater Centre at Beverly Hills is one of them.

SCOOP!

CUSTOM-MADE WET SUITS

Ron Harding's proudly present the world's finest custom-made Wet Suits. Extra heavy first quality Foam Neoprene with vulcanized super stretch Nylon Lining. CANNOT RIP — NEEDS NO POWDER. A fantastic NEW material with Ron Harding's famous custom-made construction — No other suit can even compare.

- Do like summer riding.
- Suit withstands colder weather clothing.
- Nylon zipper.
- Black vulcanized Neoprene.
- Extra-high price.
- All suits fully guaranteed.
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Just Arrived

"SHARKSKIN"

Nylon lined material in 1/2" or 1".

1/2" Deluxe Jacket Taped in either Blue, Black, Yellow or Red Tape. \$39.00

FACTS prove that the best of every one people buying a wet suit need them added to the facts the change, they also need wet suit generally designed to suit your own specifications.

FREE sample of material available on request — \$10.00 — TRY TO TEAR IT — BOIL IT — STRETCH IT — Prove to yourself that this is the most fantastic material ever offered in wet suits.

FILL IN ORDER		Suits		Accessories	
Chest	Waist	1" Nylon lined Head stretched \$35.00	1/2" Nylon lined Head stretched \$35.00	1/2" Nylon lined Head stretched \$35.00	1/2" Nylon lined Head stretched \$35.00
Waist	Neck	1/2" Nylon lined Jacket Taped \$39.00	1/2" Nylon lined Jacket Taped \$39.00	1/2" Nylon lined Jacket Taped \$39.00	1/2" Nylon lined Jacket Taped \$39.00
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RON HARDING'S
MANLY SKINDIVING CENTRE
16 Belgrave St., Manly — XU 5610
"FOR SKINDIVERS — BY SKINDIVERS"

1-HOUR MAIL ORDER SERVICE

CLUB CONCESSIONS LOCAL AND INTERSTATE

This month's Celebrity Diver

Joe Perry

Anthony Joseph "Joe" Perry (Born September 10, 1950 in Lawrence, Massachusetts), is the lead guitarist and a contributing songwriter for the rock band Aerosmith.

Aerosmith is a prominent American hard rock band, regarded by some as "America's Greatest Rock and Roll Band".

When asked what he would have done with his life if he hadn't become a famous musician Joe answered:

"It's tough to say this far into it. I probably could have answered you better 20 years ago. When I was growing up I was very much into being outdoors, by the ocean.

I love scuba diving, it's probably my favorite thing to do above some of the other sports that I do. My family loves to dive, and I was always thinking about it.

I thought that being a crew member on the Calypso would have probably been the most amazing job you could have. So I think that's kind of where I was leaning, until I got rock'n'roll under my skin."



Diving & Adventure!

By John Fardoulis

Saturday October 20th a few of us took boats out and had a great day. Plans weren't too formal, and casual diving days can end up being the most fun.

Simon Gayler put his new boat and drysuit through their paces, taking Dave Chillari and Wayne Phillips for a nice dive with him, a little south of Botany Bay. We saw John Beddie at the boat ramp, who gave Dave the GPS co-ordinates to one of his secret spots for a reef wall near the eastern side of Kurnell. Cookie, Eggers and Rob Creaser also did a reef dive, with the first two clocking up more time on their new rebreathers.

Myself and Jon Evans dived the wreck of the Kelloe. Even though I haven't dived it a lot of times, it was the best dive on it ever. The anchor picked in a little off the side of the wreck, with bits of scattered debris leading us to the boiler and other key features. Located near the mouth of Botany bay, it's usually pretty dark and murky on this wreck, but not today! Around 15m+ visibility and plenty of light.

Most past dives have been staying in one spot due to a low field of vision but we did a whole lap of the wreck today, making it seem new. Mixing my own bottom and deco gas also provided a new feeling of freedom. Custom mixes for every dive from now on.

Meanwhile, the other two boats from our group were having morning tea just off Frenchman's Bay, where we then connected, albeit about an hour late.

Then, more adventure...

Not too far from the container wall, Simon, Dave and Wayne spotted some whales. In Botany Bay!

There were three, moving back towards the heads at a pretty fast pace, so we got nice dose of whale watching. What a great morning! Just like the good ol' days of diving, fun and adventure.

Myself, Scott W, Andreas and Lynn dived the Kelloe again on SCAN day, November 4th. Visibility was about 10m-12m on the bottom, not as good as on the 20th Oct but better than average.

It was a nice dive, we picked the anchor in on the 2nd go. The water temp was a bit chilly on the bottom though, around 14 degrees.

There wasn't any current so the ascent was nice and easy, with the wind coming up a bit from the West while we were in the water.

The water in the bay looked a bit murky as we went past the other SCAN boats diving on the way back to the beach but everyone raved about the diving, being clear on the bottom.



Above; The guys having morning tea.



Above: Dave and his new rebreather.



Left: Whale watching inside Botany Bay!

Below left: John's boat back at the ramp after a great morning diving.



Below: Cookie, Eggers and Rob Creaser moving on after morning tea.



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Blue Hole - Guam

DIVE REPORT

The Blue Hole is claimed to be Guam's premier dive and as soon as you enter the water it's obvious why. The visibility is unbelievable and I'd estimate it was around 50m + on the day we dived it. The Blue hole itself is a large hole in the top of the rocky reef that opens up into a cavern. The cavern descends down to 40+ metres and there is an opening at the bottom of this. We entered from the opening at about 36m and swam up and out through the top. Inside the cavern we saw numerous tropical fish and corals as well as a very large moray eel near the top of the cavern.

After Blue Hole we did a second dive at Barracuda reef and although we didn't see any barracudas we did see a couple of turtles and also a number of lion fish as well as lots of other tropical fish, hard and soft corals and smaller schooling fish. The visibility was fantastic at the second dive as well and we were told that is normal for Guam.

The water was so warm we were able to dive in just our swimming costumes with no need for a wetsuit. I'd recommend the Blue Hole to anyone visiting Guam as it is such a spectacular dive.

The Undola

Excerpt taken from Pages 85 - 86 of *The Vanished Fleet of the Sydney Coastline* by Max Gleeson

December 20th, 1918, dawned a cloudy sultry day. The strong northeast winds which had been blowing the previous two days had continued throughout the night. Around 9.00 am the wind shifted around to a fresh westerly and with the change a dramatic rise in temperature.

Around 10.30 am, Undola left Sydney bound for the Bellambi jetty for another shipment of coal. With the northeast swell still prevalent the vessel made good time along the coast. It was going to be a long days journey into the night for the crew of the collier. Their intended schedule upon reaching Bellambi was to load up and immediately return to Sydney, travelling throughout the night.

John Bramsen, one of the wharf hands at the Bellambi jetty, felt the first hint of a southerly change at 1.30 that afternoon. It was a welcome relief from the oppressive heat of the day for him and his workmates as the buster passed through the area.

Fourty nautical miles north, at approximately the same time the Illawarra and South Coast Steam Navigation steamer, Bermagui, departed from Sydney Harbour. Her first port of call was to be Wollongong. The four hundred ton passenger cargo vessel was under the command of Captain William R. O'Conner. At 2.15 that afternoon when abreast of Coogee, the Bermagui encountered the same wind change moving its way up the coast.

Within the half hour from the time the Bermagui met the southerly, the sea's mood had changed alarmingly. O'Conner described the seas as "Pretty bad" and decided to track closer to the coast in order to obtain as much shelter as possible. However, he found the wind, instead of being true from the south, was more from the south east. The northeast swell, with the violent shift of wind in the opposite direction had now whipped

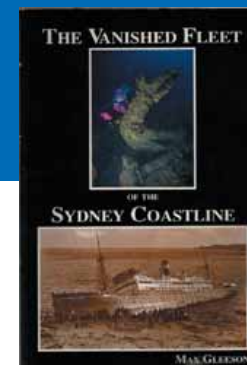
up a dangerous cross sea. The Bermagui continued on her course within a half mile of the coast, her decks constantly awash from the fourty mile per hour winds.

For the Undola it was the same situation further down the coast. In the first hour and a half after coming face to face with the

southerly, her speed had been cut down by a very confused sea. However, as the vessel steamed closer to Bellambi, the protection afforded by the Five Islands off Wollongong made conditions more bearable.

Shortly before 5.00 pm, John Bramsen recognised the familiar lines of the collier steaming bow on towards Bellambi jetty. Bramsen knew the Undola as he did all the coal boats, having worked for seventeen years on the jetty. Undola tied up at the wharf at 5.00 pm and the crew and the wharf hands went about their jobs filling the vessel to it's carrying capacity of four hundred and thirty tons.

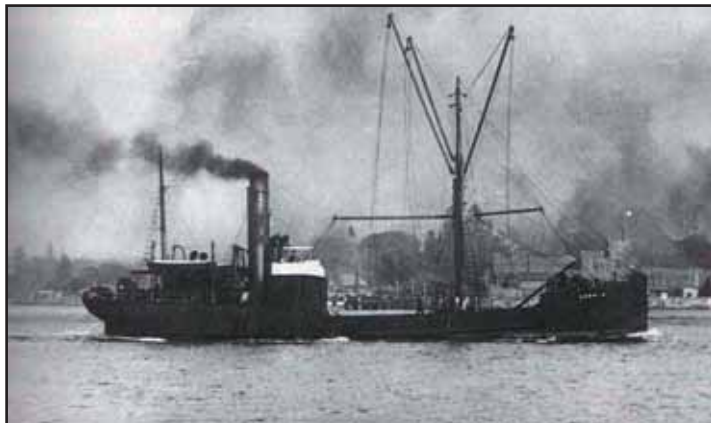
The master of the Undola was Arthur McDonald, a position he had held for the last eight years.



Above: The manufacturers name is still evident on the Undola's toilet



Above: The stern of the Undola
Below: The Undola under steam



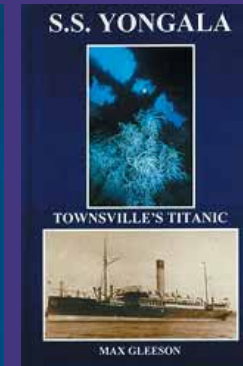
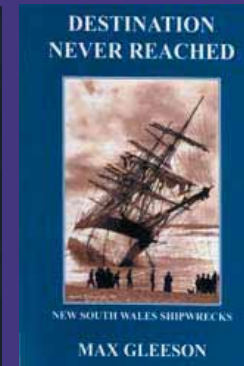
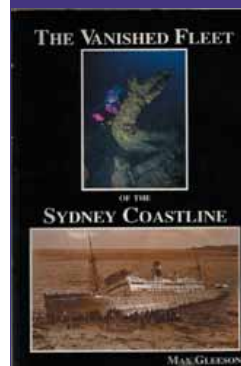
A native of the Shetland Islands he was regarded by his peers as a careful competent mariner. McDonald did not leave the vessel during the loading. From the bridge he spoke to Bramsen. As a former seaman himself, Bramsen asked how the ship had fared on the trip down against the southerly. According to Bramsen, the captain appeared happy and showed no signs of any anxiety. Within the hour loading from the wharf was complete. The only job remaining was to level a small quantity of coal that was above the combings of the main hold. Three men were told to trim the coal and while this was taking place the mate went forward to the windlass and the master himself let go of the lines that were holding the ship to the wharf. At 6.00 pm, Undola pulled away from the Bellambi jetty for the last time. From the wharf

the ship looked in fine trim. The three men above the main hold could be seen tidying up the coal as she started her return journey back to Sydney.

Continued in 'Shipwrecks Storms and Seamen of the New South Wales Coast'

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One Dive - Two Wrecks

Diving the Toakai Maru and SMS Cormoran

By Scott Leimroth



On our recent trip to Truk Lagoon we had a 3 day stopover in Guam. After a few enquiries I realised there was perhaps one of the most unique wreck dives in the world to be had in Guam. Two wrecks lay beside one another, in fact they are touching. What makes them unique is that one is a German raider (SMS Cormoran) sunk in WWI and the other is a Japanese transport ship (Tokai Maru) sunk in WWII. You can actually touch the two wrecks at the same time! Two wrecks from different wars in one dive, I just had to do this one. To my luck the dive boat just happened to be scheduled to do this dive while we were there.

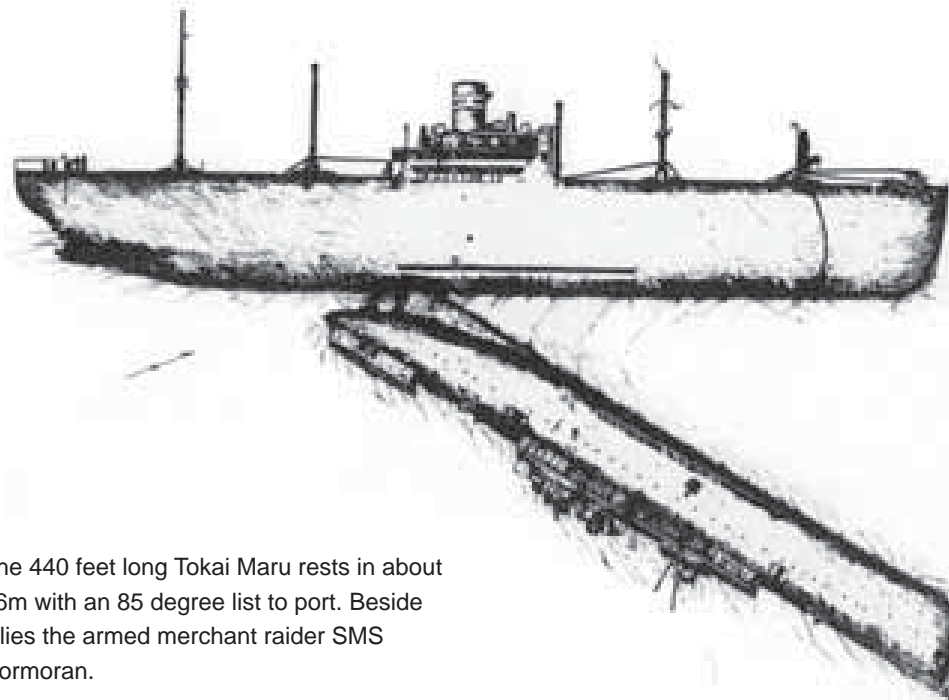
My buddy was local instructor Louis Cabral. We descended onto the stern of the Tokai Maru and then swam down to keel where we came upon the stern of the Cormoran which is just touching the keel of the Tokai. We then swam along the Cormoran which is a great wreck. The water was warm and although not covered in growth like the wrecks of Truk lagoon there are colourful tropical fish and hard corals to be seen.

The vis was about 15 - 20m which is considered bad by local standards but expected when diving in the harbour. Vis outside the harbour is 50m + on average!

Once we reached the forward section of the Cormoran we then headed off over the sand at a 45 deg angle until we came upon the bow of the Tokai Maru. We headed along the hull looking into the holds and bridge area until we came back to the bouy at the stern. After a surface interval we did our second dive for the morning on the American tanker, another wreck inside the harbour.

I'd recommend Guam as a stop over on the way to Truk lagoon every time. The diving is great and there is plenty to see and do in Guam with the locals being very friendly. A special thanks to Guam Tropical Dive Station and Louis for helping me out when my reg had an o-ring issue. I really look forward to returning in the future and diving these two wrecks again.

For diving in Guam contact GTDS www.gtds.com



The 440 feet long Tokai Maru rests in about 36m with an 85 degree list to port. Beside it lies the armed merchant raider SMS Cormoran.

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SCAN Day 2007 - Frenchmans Bay

The final Scuba Clubs Association of NSW combined clubs dive day for 2007 was held at Frenchmans Bay on Sunday 4th November. With around 100 people attending and 10 boats doing numerous runs out to various dive sites it demonstrated just how active the independent non profit dive clubs of NSW really are.

Although it rained the night before and we awoke to dark rainy skies but by 8.30am the clouds had gone and we had a beautiful sunny day. The BBQ was going by 11am and with SPDC food connoisseur Leo Bergagnin in charge of the snags we were guaranteed a good feed. Unfortunately we nearly had a riot on our hands when it was realised Dave Chillari was out diving and the beer supply was locked in his car. Although some wanted to smash the window to gain access to the amber liquid it was decided we would wait until Dave returned.

Plenty of socialising and diving was had by all and it's always great to catch up with old friends in diving and to make new ones on these days. The next SCAN combined clubs get together is a weekend away and is scheduled for 15-16 March 2008 in Ulladulla so make sure you put it in your calendar. The following pages show just some of the fun we had at Frenchmans Bay.



Above: Leo B watching over the snags.

Main: Around ten boats from different club attended the day.

Below left: Just some of the divers who were there.





Above left: Hazel and Louise preparing to board Bob Mays big red boat.

Above: Les and Ellie Catterson. Note Les still dives in shorts and the water was 15 deg!!!

Left: SCAN president John Olsen.

Below left: Les Matthews DOUTS

Below: Peter Trayhurn from St George

Below right: Dave Casburn from St George



Left: Simon Gayler enjoying the Sunday paper.



Right: Dave Burns from St George



Left: John Beddie and his boat.



Below left: Peter Flockhart and Carina Gregory

Below right: SPDC Club Pres John Fardoulis





Above: Ellie Catterson



Above: Les Catterson



Above: Hazel Story relaxing before a dive.



Above: Boats returning to shore.



Left: John Prior, Dave Chillari, Dave Casburn and Mike Scotland looking over Dave Chillari's rEvo rebreather.



Right: David Hytche and Wendy with Les Matthews



Left: Fran kept the puppy on a short leash.



Below: Judy Matthews - DOUTS



Below: Wayne helps Ange with her reel while Leo tries to avoid the camera.



Above left: John's boat returns from diving the Kelloe.
Above: Andreas after the dive.



Above: Scott Egginton



Left: Scott Willan



Above: Dave and Andreas talk new rebreathers.



Above left:
Geoff and
Mitchell Cook.

Left: Wayne
Phillips



Left: Lynn and
John.



Right: Geoff Cook and John
Beddie enjoying the BBQ



Left: Sebastian DeLautier and Avril Davey from Wollongong Uni dive club.

Right: Greg Blackburn and Scott Leimroth

Below: Peter and Fran with their boat.



Below: Jason used an umbrella to keep the sun at bay Geoff used a pair of old shorts on his head!



Left: Kelly Mc Fadyen enjoyed the BBQ after her dive.

Below: URG and SPDC boats on the beach.



Left: Leo Bergagnin and Louise in deep discussion.

Right:
Ben Trevethan





Left: Carol Mapstone and Ange Jeffrey

Right: A Rose between two thorns. Shelly Breuseker and Greg Blackburne from Ryde Underwater Club (RUC) with Kelly McFadyen.



Above right: Carina Gregory, Elly Caterson and Sheila Baldock from St George



Left: L - R Dave Burns, Heinz Bendinger, Peter Trayhurn, Scott Egginton and Peter Flockart

Right: The URG boat unloads divers at the beach.



Far left: Bob May.



Left : John Evans

Right: Louise and Jason Farlow after their dive.





Above left: Happy members of the URG dive club enjoying the sun. L -R Jane, Laura, Reg, Jonathan.



Above: Janine Jenkins and Peter Flockart.



Above far right: Divers from St George prepare to board Le Scat.



Left: Dave Chillari gets geared up and ready to dive.



Above: Bob Mays big red boat takes on another load of divers.
Right: Ange Jeffrey heads down the beach ready to dive.



Right: Michael McFadyen was all smiles after returning to the beach with another load of happy divers.



Far Right: Andreas Thimm with his shiny new Mk15 rebreather.



Left: Hazel and Andreas prepare to board the boat.



Some underwater shots taken by Michael Mc Fadyen of St George during their dive near the Whale watching platform at Kurnell.

Top Right: Underwater cave.

Below middle. An interesting wall/corner almost looks man made. Below right: The reef covered in growth.





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SPDC MEMBER PROFILE

Peter
Iwaszkiewicz
&
Fran Thai-Low



What are your nicknames?

Pete: 'inky' (but would not suggest using it unless you wake up next to me every morning)

Fran: I don't have one

How long have you been a club member?

Pete & Fran: About a year – since sometime in 2006

What sort of diving do you enjoy most?

Pete: Anything really as long as the vis is reasonable.

Fran: I love diving where there is lots of marine life; I could sit and play with a groper for an entire dive.

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

Pete: That I'm a human

Fran: I have no idea what people think of me.

What kind of music are you into?

Pete: That funky tune that plays in our elevator

Fran: All sorts; mainly like English bands and artists.

Any phobias?

Pete: Farting in my drysuit, then my metal zipper creating a spark which in turn ignites the gas. Consequently the explosion that follows – not only blowing me into pieces but also creating a tsunami, wiping out Australia and a large part of Asia. There isn't a dive I don't think about this scenario and it really scares me.

Fran: Before I started diving I had a phobia of being stuck in the middle of the ocean with no land in sight. Now I can't wait for that!

What temptations are you powerless to resist?

Pete: Repeating myself, repeating myself, repeating myself, repeating myself, repeating myself...

Fran: Playing with a groper every time I see one and that's usually on every dive.

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

Pete: Ride my motorbike

Fran: I love reading, learning about astronomy, watching movies, riding

my motorbike, baking, swimming in the ocean and being around animals. Oh and spending time with Peter.

What is your favourite dive site and why?

Pete: Don't have one, that way I won't be disappointed when some man-made disaster wipes it out.

Fran: I don't have a particular favourite dive site, but I love fly point at Nelson Bay because there is always so much to see. In Sydney I love diving Shark Point as a shore dive because again there is so much to see. Magic Point for a boat dive is another one I never tire of – finding GNS and watching them is always amazing.

What's your most treasured piece of dive equipment?

Pete: I don't have one. By the way, didn't you mean what's the most interesting aquatic creature you've ever seen? That would be a whale shark.

Fran: Not sure if I have one but my mask is very valuable to me because without it there would be no point in diving, and my fins – wearing them makes me feel like a fish.

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

Pete: Ask me about my favourite piece of dive equipment

Fran: Someone telling me how to dive, equipment wise and in general and kicking me while diving.

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

Pete: As far south as you can get, punch a hole through the ice and see what it is like to dive under it.

Fran: I don't know if I'll ever dive there but South Africa, there's an abundance of marine life lots of sharks, dolphins, seals, clear waters, tropical weather etc.

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

Pete: Fran, she's my celebrity and I'd dive with her anywhere

Fran: I'm willing to dive with anyone who loves diving for diving, first on the list Peter, lucky I get to dive with him 99% of the time.



BUNYIP ON THE PROWL

Which club member has done only 26 dives but with 19 of them being different wrecks? Quite a record.

Which club member doesn't know if they are coming or going?

Which two club members got some swimming practice in after a recent dive?

Which Sydney dive shop couldn't top a tank with air because it contained some left over trimix and they weren't "a certified PADI trimix dive centre" ?

TIPS FROM THE GURU

Regulator hoses aren't always what they seem.

With many cheaper regulators now becoming available from manufacturers in Taiwan and China it's important to remember that not all regs or reg hoses are created equal. Next time you get the chance have a look at the internal bore size of your regulator hose. Some cheaper brand hoses have a smaller internal bore size. This isn't a problem for recreational dive depths but that's all these hoses are designed for. At depths over 30m or in situations where large volumes of air are required the smaller hose size just won't be able to deliver and divers could find themselves in trouble.



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Diving Certification: _____

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Are You a Boat Owner: ☐ yes ☐ No

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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 _____