

DIVE NEWS

Marine Survey

As part of Ocean Care Day 1999, Dragon Search NSW organised a survey of prominent marine species encountered along the NSW coast. The survey was carried out at Sydney, Wollongong, Jervis Bay and the far South Coast. Other species included: squid, ghost pipefish, eagle ray, octopus, goatfish, cardinal fish, bullseyes, moray eel, variegated lizardfish, polychaete worms, mados, sweep, one-spot puller, leatherjackets, nudibranchs, old wives, banded morwong and various wrasses.

Weedy Sea dragons: 88
Seahorse: 15
Wobbegong: 10
Port Jackson Shark: 14
Grey Nurse Shark: 11
Blue Groper: 129
Giant Cuttlefish: 11
Lionfish: 6

Deaths Of Australia's Native Sea Lion Pups

After a seven month survey, CSIRO's Dr Peter Shaughnessy says that researchers are baffled by the worryingly high mortality of Australia's native sea lion pups. Sea lion pups died in record numbers at a major breeding colony near Port Lincoln on South Australia's west coast during 1999. The mortality rate exceeded 40%. The deaths were recorded during a joint scientific survey by CSIRO Wildlife and Ecology, National Parks and Wildlife of South Australia and the South Australian Museum. They point to a very serious problem for sea lions. Of the 406 pups born last season at one of the sea lion's largest colonies, at Dangerous Reef, near Port Lincoln, 165 died. The highest ever mortality rate was recorded in 1996 at another major colony, The Pages Island, near Kangaroo Island. Possible cause of death included aggressive adult sea lions killing some of the pups and susceptibility to parasitic diseases like hookworm. A possible connection with pilchard that died in Australia's west coast waters in mid 1999 seems unlikely since the dead pups were in fair to good body condition. Unless we understand more about the sea lion we will continue to find stagnation or declining populations.

Members Input

The newsletter needs articles from members. Surely someone out there is an inspiring young writer that would like to have his or her name in print about a dive experience with a huge shark with big teeth or a weekend away at some location along the New South Wales coast, perhaps the Great Barrier Reef, maybe an overseas dive trip.

You don't all stay at home on the weekends watching TV do you? I sometimes wonder about that.

Now let me see, all it takes is a little bit of imagination, you can even make it up if you want to, no one would know. Like myself perhaps you can only afford a broken pencil and a scrap piece of paper. Now, there you have it, no more excuses, exercise that piece of grey matter that sits on your shoulders and get to work.

Secrets Of The Great White Shark



Scientists have opened up a window to the private life of a female great white shark, over a two month period when she swam in waters off the South Australian coast. The shark was tagged off Neptune Islands, South Australia, in August last year. Then caught in early November by a commercial fisherman about 600 kilometres away near the head of the Great Australian Bight. The 600 kilometre distance travelled is the longest recorded movement of a tagged white shark in Australian waters. The shark moved extensively between the surface and depths during the two months period, descending to a maximum depth of 94 metres. On some days, it spent a considerable amount of time at the surface. We don't know yet how far white sharks travel or, for example, if sharks in South Australia mix with white sharks in New South Wales or Victoria or even from other parts of the world.

MINUTES OF LAST

MEETING: 15th May 2000

Meeting Opened 8.05pm

Apologies: Martin Kandlis, Ilona, Mitch and Lin.

Incoming Correspondence: Drager Rebreathing Units brochure and information, Mountain Ocean and Travel Publication, GST news, One new club membership, request for information from Peter Odegaard re re-breathers, Waves, Autumn Newsletter.

Treasurers Report: None

Previous Meeting Minutes: Accepted by Phil Dale, seconded by Peter.

Dive Organisers Report: Tom went through all dives as listed in the current Wet Rag and encouraged divers to attend!

Newsletter Report/ Publicity: Nothing new to report

Photographic Officer: Is not absent. Glen has had lost of enquires for the competition. One entrant for the video section. Will get rules printed again in the Dive Log. Date of A. V. Night 4th November, 2000 Peter Foster asked re Sports Diver A.V advertising Glen said he thought it would be in the current magazine. Tom advises that it is printed 3 months in advance. Glen said he would check into it. Dive Log is providing more than \$1000.00 worth of adds for us.

Equipment Officer: All equipment present and accounted for.

Social Organisation: Next BBQ Dive day 28th May, high tide 10.00am.

Slide Competition: 3 entrants won by Grey McNeil.

Dive Reports: Matthew Decompression Course - hard course/ hard instructors.

John - Jervis Bay 5 days over Easter, Friday windy, Sunday 3 metre swell, dived Morimbula. Ocean Trek last weekend 3-6 metre viz.

Peter Foster - Wreck "Marina Star" Point Perpendicular. Rigging still intact only sunk on the 7th Feb, in 60 meters of water, is slowly rolling over.

Peter Foster - 3 dives Jervis Bay, weather bad, excellent dives although viz not the best.

Bernie Tugs Eden too windy over Easter, managed one dive only.

Noel - Easter Monday - Club dive Valiant. Full boat with 3 waiting. Viz good 8 to 10 metres, choppy. Engine room / forward and rear hulls full of sand.

Vivien - Magic Point Club Dive grey nurse sharks, 15 sharks around cave. 2 boats went out. BBQ after-wards. Peter .

enjoyed the dive although Tony grabbed his leg and nearly gave him heart failure **Tony Camp Cove Club** night dive clear, warm water, very comfortable. Sue was using a dual beam torch (leaked but did not go out).

General Business: Peter Foster still has to sort out the club mobile phone and cancel it. Glen advises Martin Kandlis checked out the insurance re the magnetometer he rang 3 companies basically same sort of price as existing or they wouldn't touch it. Do we keep it up? Motion raised by Duane to self insure? Glen reminded us re Murphy's Law no insurance, something will happen. Bernie said will discuss it at the next committee meeting and present a solution at the next meeting. Peter Foster said it was previously discussed re Leo's time. Duane suggested past entrants of the A.V. competition be contacted and sent a invitation to all entrants. Glen has sent out invitations to the past winners, not entrants. Should we consider doing it? Suggested that divers are transient. Peter Foster advises that there was a book listing the names of previous entrants. John advises that everyone interested will know it's on via the Dive Log anyway. Glen advised he has previously requested help in various areas but no one is volunteering to help out. Wobbeong sharks now fully protected. Peter Flockart advises that Pacific Coast Divers/ Deep 6 Diving is closing down for 3 weeks renovating. Will re-open under 3 shops and will give Pro-Dive a run for their money. Bass Strait Forum 2000 30/11/00-02/12/00 this year being held in Launceston TAS Interested contact Marine & Coastal Comm. Network. Craig Bohm c/UTS (CSB) Westbourne Street, St Leonards. 2065. Phone 94360176/fax 9436 0376. E-mail mccnsw@ozemail.com.au

Raffle:

1st prize-Aqua Sports—Hydro test Won by SusanTate

2nd prize Max Weston —Boat Dive Won by Scott

3rd Prize Ship Rock Dive—Air Fills Won by Matthew

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Cosmos Coroneos and Stirling Smith from the Australian Institute of Maritime Archaeology (AIMA). Spoke to us regarding Maritime archaeology and their training courses. They supplied slides and spoke of the various courses

.available to everyone, even non-divers. As there are approximately 6,500 shipwrecks known to be situated within Australian waters and the location of only 20% are known, there are a vast number of opportunities yet to be explored.

AIMA web page <http://aima.net.net.au>
NAS Nautical Archaeology Society
<http://www.Wortsmouth.org.uk/>
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Cosmos Coroneos 46 Gate Rd,
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Camp Cove Night Dive 3rd May. Text by Sue

The hustle and bustle drive through the city was well worth the hassle once we arrived at the dive site and parked in the street access to the beach. Off to a good start I thought. We suited up and the 4 divers set off. Slight breeze and flat seas saw us submerge and the underwater creatures of the night came out to play. It was an extremely pleasant dive. No currents and plenty of fish life to peruse. Green weedy fishy thing, plenty of schools of small fish and shrimp, sea star, octopus trying to hide beneath leaves and shells, a pike fish had a love affair with Duane's torch and was truly memorised by it's beam. The boys even found a decent blue swimmer crab which used all 6 of its legs in swim mode to try and escape and when it was let go, it swam just far enough out of our reach then sat in the beam of the torch. Not a lot in the way of sponges or coral life most of that was contained on the navigational pole. I suspected my torch had sprung a leak when I had 2 beams, one big solid beam and a smaller glowing one beaming into a different direction. Tony gave me his little spare torch just in case. It's good to dive with boy scouts! We lost Loi to his camera early on, A.V. night here he comes! Ground crew Lin waited patiently for us to return and tease her with details of our dive.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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CLUB SPONSORS

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Max Western (*Sea Tamer II*)

Dive Charter Boat. Port Hacking.
Phone: Max 95241818 or 0418280791

Aqua Sports Dive Services

Glen Percy 97082826

Shiprock Dive

Leo or Lesley 95262664

CLUB GEAR

All club diving equipment is permanently held by the Equipment Officer Glen Percy, you can contact him at 97082826.

All dive gear is present and accounted for.

Members wishing to avail themselves of any piece of equipment should give one week's notice before hiring is required.

Skirmish Day
Second weekend in
August
Contact Glen or Bernie

Club meetings are held at 8 pm on the third Monday of each month at Bankstown Sports Club, Greenfield Parade, Bankstown. Please ask attendant at entrance door for room number and location.