

# ANUSC CLUB NEWSLETTER MARCH 1992

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

This time of year we get many new members, so to tell you a bit more about diving with the club:

## WHAT IS A CLUB DIVE?

**Kristina Sands**

So, you've just finished your diving course and joined the club, or you've just joined the club, or you joined the club a long time ago but ever since you have been a name on a piece of paper but not a face on a dive. And 'what now' you say. 'I should be entitled to more for my \$5.00 (or \$10.00) than just a newsletter, perhaps I should go on a club dive.' But what is a club dive? You've heard about 'dives' before. They're expensive. You pay \$300 for a weekend away and stay in a luxury hotel and get two 'lead-you-by-the-nose' dives. This you say is not for you. But that is a 'commercial dive', not a 'club dive'. A 'club dive' starts with an intro in the newsletter. You know, those things which give a date, a place, a name, a phone number and a description of all of the fantastic things that you are going to see. But should you, you ask yourself, really ring up that number and talk to a stranger and commit yourself to a weekend away with a whole group of strangers? Certainly you should! The first step of a 'club dive' is to ring up the contact person. They are simply a coordinator. They are there to make sure that everyone knows where they are going, and that everyone can get there. They make sure a boat will be there, so that you can go diving. They are not there to tell you what to do, but to help you to do what you want to do. To attend a dive you should usually ring the coordinator on the Tuesday or Wednesday before the dive so that they can have time to organize lifts etc. (Remember that they have other jobs to do/lives to lead so give them as much warning as possible!). If you don't have a car, that's OK. You won't need to bus to the coast, but tell the coordinator that you need a lift and usually there is someone who is going who has a spare spot. If you have a car and a spare seat to take someone, then let the coordinator know. It's pointless paying petrol costs all by yourself when you can share it. Just keep in mind that when diving, you need to fit more than just people into a car and no matter what the size of the car three divers is going to be a pretty tight squeeze (many cars will only be able to take two).

Having decided that you are going on a dive and have rung the coordinator and organized a lift you have to make sure you have all the gear you need. If you own it yourself then no problem. If you don't then you can take some of the club hardware (that is, reg and gauges, BCD, and tank) on a club trip free of charge. Simply ring the person on gear roster for the week before the dive prior to the Thursday and they will attend the gear store (behind the office in the Sports Union Hall) at 5:30 to sign out some gear for you. If you need wetsuit, masks, fins etc then there are three dive stores in Canberra where you can hire these items (Steve's shop "The SCUBA Store" in Belconnen, "Aqua Medium" in Phillip, and "Pro-Dive" in Braddon- ring around and you'll soon find who has the best prices). You should make sure you are fully equipped before you leave Canberra and not rely on hiring down at the coast (chancy and generally more expensive).

Once at the coast with all the gear the fun can start. A 'club dive' is not an organized diving trip where you are told what you have to dive. If you want to do an easy, shallow dive then tell the coordinator and one can be arranged. If you want to do a deeper dive there will surely be others who will wish to join you. The club owns one boat [soon 2] which will comfortably take four divers so we usually dive in groups of four with outgoing divers kitted up and ready to take the boat when the incoming group returns. This way we try to minimize changeover time so that all going well you'll be able to get a second boat dive in the day (after everyone has had their first and depending on how many divers there are that day). The club goes to a variety of spots all up and down the South and East coasts so we are not limited to a single spot, though of course there are favourites.

On club trips we try to minimize costs. We are not a commercial venture and the average dive will cost you between \$10 and \$15 (\$5 for air and \$5 - \$10 for the boat ride, depending on length). We camp, usually in caravan parks with amenities but sometime in less populated areas at more rugged camping spots. People going down in the same car share petrol costs. It is a good idea to take

food with you and be self sufficient, though we usually go near a shop to get air fills so if you're desperate you can get take-away. When we stay in a town you will usually find a group of people will go down to the local pub for dinner, but at other spots you're a long way from town and will need to bring your own dinner. Ask the coordinator if you're unsure.

All in all, a club trip is good fun and a very cheap way to dive with experienced divers who know what they are doing and can keep an eye on you if you are a bit apprehensive, rusty, or unsure of what you are doing. Just remember to let us know if you're inexperienced or haven't dived for a long time and we can make sure that you have a buddy who will keep an eye on you and make sure you're OK. And don't be shy to say you don't really feel like going down to 40 metres and would rather stay above 25. There is no pressure to dive above what you feel comfortable.

So, if you were thinking that the only way to get any more experience in diving was to fork out big bucks and do another course, cancel that course and come diving with us. You won't regret it.

[Kristina joined the club after a OW course in March 1989, and so has a very good perspective of what a new club member can get out of the ANUSC. The piece was written in March 1991. Ed.]

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### CLUB MEETING

The last club meeting was held on the 5th of March. New members were welcomed, and there was discussion of the purchase of the new club boat. The President reported that following many discussions it had been decided to seek the purchase of a 4.8 metre Zodiac Cherokee. This is a rigid hulled inflatable boat, a fact which will maintain the benefits of an inflatable, and at the same time remove the area which has proved to be the most maintenance intensive part of the current club boat - the fabric hull- with a more durable solution - fibreglass. We plan to equip this boat with stand-up console steering, a tank rack, and a 50 hp motor. In this configuration it should be able to carry 6 divers. This move will hugely increase our diver carrying capacity (from 4 to 10). If our plans go to schedule, the boat will be making its first appearance at the Seal Rocks dive over Easter (see below).

The meeting was also treated to a slide show put on by our two most recent photographers, Eric and Raphael.

The meeting also discussed forthcoming dive trips and set the following dive calendar:

#### **March 28/29**

##### **Ulladulla and environs**

This is the finishing weekend for the first Sports Union SCUBA course of the year. Come and introduce these new divers to the ANU club, and also a chance to visit some of those old favourites. Burril Reef, the Lighthouse wall and the Home Bommie.

Contact **Kristina Sands** **2592222 (w)** **2417812 (h)**

#### **Easter 17-20 April**

##### **Seal Rocks**

North of Newcastle so the extra days are handy. From a camp-site probably at Treachery Head there are some spectacular dives to be had. My map tells me there are some rocks with seals, also some famous shark gutters, underwater pinnacles and some deep wrecks. Phil raved about this place after his last trip there early last year. The December trip here had to be cancelled due to flooding, so now's the chance to see this spot.

Contact **Phil Herrald** **w 2976031** **h 2375175**

#### **April 21-28**

##### **POMPEY REEFS (QLD)**

This is an unique opportunity to see one of the most spectacular parts of the Great Barrier Reef, the Pompey Reef system north of the Swains, 150 km SE of Mackay. This is not an ANU club trip, but Jeremy's going and knows that there are likely to be places left if you're quick. Steve is organizing this trip through our good mates the Belldivers Club. You will cruise on the Undersea Explorer,

Captain Macgreggors new floating hotel/dive boat (25 meter/air-conditioned!!). This will be a luxury adventure holiday into little dived areas. If you can't make Musgrave this year, then this one may be a more than adequate consolation. Costs are \$975 ex Gladstone for all meals and as much nitrogen as you can get.

contact: Steve Harding w 2513134 h 2512034

### **May 9/10**

#### **Jervis Bay**

We keep coming back here for many good reasons. There's a large number of places to dive, depending on which way the wind is blowing. I still haven't seen all of them yet. The last dive at JB I was finally shown the famous Stoney Creek. Pity the murk got progressively worse below 30 metres so that at the bottom (54m) we needed to use our torches while the people on the boats above were getting sunburned. However, the macro life was great, and we were circled by a big school of Kingfish. Phil has offered to use this opportunity to take some people through the theory and practice of deep diving. So if you've only wondered what's on the other side of 30 metres and want to find out, Phil has extensive experience in this practice and would be an ideal tutor. Of course, you don't have to do deep dives, there are always places to see at depths to suit everyone. *Theirry wants to camp at Greenpatch this time, so let him know WELL IN ADVANCE (ie NOW IF YOU CAN!) so that we can make bookings for this popular place.*

Contact **Theirry Correge** w 2513134 h 2512034

### **May 16/17**

#### **Ulladulla based (but probably to include Brush Island)**

Eric and Raphael want to get their cameras wet again, so they're off on a photographic safari. If you snap shots too, or just want to join them in search of new things to focus on, this part of the coast is jam packed with underwater scenery and life. The old steam boiler off Brush Island, full of big Tassie trumpeter, or the delicate Macro galleries on the Lighthouse wall are MUSTS. This is also the last weekend of the second SU SCUBA course, so once again let's welcome the new graduates into the club.

Contact **Eric Wenger** w 2493641 h 2546874  
**Raphael Raptis** w 2493641

### **June 6/7/8**

#### **Queens Birthday Weekend**

#### **Montague Island**

Are the sharks still here? Are the seals back? Perennial questions we ask of Montague. Sharks, seals, magic vis and spectacular dropoffs: Montague has it all. Camping at Mystery Bay.

Contact **Jeremy Weinman** h 2473173 w 2495051

**JULY 18-31 MUSGRAVE IS. (QLD)**

**Our yearly pilgrimage to this blissful desert island.**

I won't say anything about this place, but I'll let Eric's 1991 trip report do this:  
"...just enough time to swallow a small jaffle and a beer before the whales came back again. We rushed to the Zodiac so that we could follow them. We missed the whales, but we met the dolphins again...we met a huge Manta ray which stood with us for at least 5 minutes. It was an incredible feeling to see it glide over us and I was happy to know it was harmless. Back to the anchor we started to return to the boat when a beautiful reef shark came to say hello. It was just swimming around us with an incredible speed. It is one of my best memories...A rescue expedition was organised and Rod saved the boat by making a crazy drive to the lagoon....Another dive at Guacamole Cave the following day, a final dinner, and it was a hilarious walk bringing the compressor onto the beach. The end was here... Just let me say that it was a fantastic holiday, without any stress of civilisation. The only problem I have now is to find the money and extend my visa, so that I can go back to Lady Musgrave Island next year." [Eric Wenger, Sept 1991]

This is a communal trip where we bring everything [3 boats, compressors, dive gear/kitchen tent/generator/freezer/water/fuel etc] onto a desert Island in the Capricorn Bunker section of the Great Barrier Reef. We have a booking for 22, and from last years experience a list of 30 at this stage shrinks to ~20 by the trip. So far we have only 23 names on a list, so now is the time to include your name. Jeremy will take deposits from the first 22 on the list until the 17th of May, and then the list will be open to the others, in order of their expression of interest.

Costs are \$500 ex Gladstone for everything except your XXXX/wine etc and chocolate hoard.

**Any and all queries to Jeremy h 2473173 w x5051**

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**NEXT CLUB MEETING**

**AUGUST 13 at 8pm Upstairs in the ANU STUDENTS UNION**

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**Club Fees:**

**Are now due for 1992. Those who haven't renewed their membership need to do so. Those remaining unfinancial will be removed from our lists. Remember that if you are not a student, you need to be a ANU sports union member (students are automaticly SU members). We can only expect to continue to receive grants from the sports union (last year we got a bit over \$3,000 and this year we're asking for about the same) if our members maintain the sports union membership.**

**Full-time student \$5.00 other sports union member \$10.00**

\$

**Snippets**

Those with university access to the Computer Services Centre supported Usenet News system may not be aware that an international Electronic SCUBA bulletin board exists. Postings from this are archived at two sites and can be accessed remotely.

- > The SCUBA archives on ames.arc.nasa.gov (USENET node ames) currently contain
- > the following files. The archives may be accessed via anonymous ftp
- > (directory is /pub/SCUBA), or by e-mail. To retrieve files by e-mail,
- > send a letter to archive-server@ames.arc.nasa.gov (ames!archive-server).
- > As the text of your message, use archive server commands, such as "help",

> "send scuba index", or "send scuba hawaii.txt".

•To use the other archive, mail to uunet!bywater!scifi!scubasearch or bywater!scifi!scubasearch@uunet.uu.net.

You place the search pattern you want in your Subject: line. The search is case independent. Up to 10,000 result lines will be sent to you if you put in a general enough search pattern. As an example, to find articles which contain the string "dive watch", "diving watch" or close approximations, send mail to scubasearch with "Subject: div.\*watc". "div.\*wat" would not be good because that would get you "dive...water". You can get further information about egrep patterns by sending mail to scubasearch with "Subject: help".

A useful example from the REC.SCUBA bulletin board is the following:

**Air needed for a safe ascent**

[The following table]...assumes a 60 fpm ascent rate, which is considered too fast by many computer models and some training agencies. Therefore, these numbers should be considered minimums, and any deviation from these conditions would be likely to cause these numbers to increase.

Depth	Consumption rate (ft^3/min)				#	Consumption rate (ft^3/min)			
	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0		0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0
60	1.66	3.32	4.98	6.64	#	2.75	5.50	8.25	11.00
80	2.33	4.66	6.99	9.32	#	3.42	6.84	10.27	13.69
100	3.10	6.21	9.31	12.41	#	4.19	8.39	12.58	16.78
130	4.45	8.90	13.36	17.81	#	5.54	11.08	16.63	22.17
150	5.48	10.95	16.43	21.91	#	6.57	13.13	19.70	26.27
200	8.48	16.96	25.45	33.93	#	9.57	19.14	28.72	38.29

Notes:

[1] Total consumption includes 30 seconds at indicated depth, and a 60\_ft/min ascent rate.

[2] Assuming a 1/2 consumption rate during a 15\_ft safety stop for 3 minutes.

[3] 1 ft^3 = 28.32 litres.

The numbers beyond sport diving depths are here only for reference, and not to encourage you to dive those depths. Redundant air only reduces one of the dangers you would face in diving to those depths.

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**GEAR ISSUE AND RETURN**

(Thursdays only unless you arrange otherwise)

**Remember, people will only attend if you contact them beforehand.** Also, try to contact people at home. They need to work during the day to support their diving.

<u>Eric Wenger</u>	<u>Steve Harding</u>	<u>Kristina Sands</u>	<u>Michelle Karas</u>
2493641 (w)	2513134 (w)	2492222 (w)	2016089 (w)
2546874 (h)	2512834 (h)	2417812 (h)	2411281 (h)
9-4-92	16/4/92	26-3-92	2-4-92
7/5/92	14/5/92	23/4/92	30/4/92
4/6/92	11/6/92	21/5/92	28/5/92
2/7/92	9/7/92	18/6/92	25/6/92
6/8/92	20/8/92	16/7/92	6/8/92

**In an emergency (only) call Jeremy.**