

# ANUSC CLUB NEWSLETTER March 1993

**To those of you who have just joined us this year, welcome to the ANU Skindiving club! And to those of you who have been members before, welcome back and I hope to see you soon on a dive. For those of you who are new to the club, here is an article about diving with the club.**  
JJW

## 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 (the blue door next to 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 co-ordinator and one can be arranged. If you want to do a deeper or more adventurous dive there will surely be others who will wish to join you. The club owns two Zodiac inflatables, one which will comfortably take four divers and the other six, so can dive more than one site at a time. We usually dive in shifts 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 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.]

### **Club meeting March 4th**

A club meeting was held on the 4th March, where new members were welcomed to the club, some business conducted, an underwater movie viewed, and after some final discussions the meeting was concluded.

### **Matters Arising: The Club diving calendar**

#### **EASTER APRIL 9-12**

Despite our requests for those who were interested in Phil's Broughton Island trip to ring and let him know, only one person rang to say they were definitely interested. SO... we will do something else over this period. Phil will run either a trip to the famous Seal Rocks near Forster on the North coast, or we may join the Uni of NSW dive club for a jaunt to the Solitary Islands near Coffs harbour. Both trips would be excellent diving and I'm sad that I can't go. Seal Rocks is north of Newcastle (~6 hours drive from here) so the extra days are handy. From a camp-site possibly at Treachery Head there are some spectacular dives to be had. There is warm water, tame toothies and pinnacles with wall to wall fish. The Solitaries I don't know about, but it sounds great. It is the most recently gazetted Marine National Park, and described as where the coral meets the kelp. Students have a semester break beginning with Easter so here is the chance to head North for some diving and warmer weather. Call Phil early so that we can decide on which trip to run.

**Contact: Phil Herral** w 2976031,  
2974951  
ah 2375175

#### **ANZAC weekend April 24/25/26**

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

This area should be well known to most club members by now as it provides some of the easiest and most pleasant diving on the South Coast.

There is the Home Bommie, the Lighthouse Wall and, depending on wind and waves, Burril Rocks. So go along and rediscover some old favourites and maybe even try something new. We will camp at the Ulladulla Holiday Haven Van park on the headland.

**Contact: Phil Herral**  
(again)  
(thanks Phil!)

w 2976031,  
2974951  
ah 2375175

#### **May 15/16th WORKING BEE**

**Our boats need constant attention and this is usually left to a handful of people. There is some important maintenance that we need to do, and this is the weekend for it! If you dive with the club then you should try and help out with the maintenance. Even a few hours of your time would be useful. If you don't know about boats, then we will teach you as you help.**

**Contact Jeremy Weinman** h 2473173

w 2495051

#### **May 23/24th Kiola/ Brush island**

We've talked Steve into running his yearly dive. He's picked a choice spot. There is the boiler of the Northern Firth lying amongst Wobbies and BIG tassie trumpeters off Brush Island, and then our famous "current drop off", one of the nicest walls I've seen, dropping from 20 to 30m and covered in growth. Camping at Racecourse Beach Caravan park.

**Contact Steve Harding** 2513134 (w)  
2512834 (h)

#### **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. Last year we saw dozens of Grey Nurses (harmless) and had some great dives. Don't miss out this year.

**Contact Jeremy Weinman** h 2473173

w 2495051

**June 3rd** The next **Club Meeting** 8pm, Union Bridge. We'll show slides from some recent tropical expeditions.

#### **July 8-20 1993 MUSGRAVE ISLAND, Great Barrier Reef**

\*\*\*\*MAKE YOUR BOOKINGS NOW\*\*\*\*

**The club's classic camping trip is on again. Run away from the Canberra winter and relax under the tropical sun.**

Undeterred by the GBRMPA's latest efforts to make camping here difficult (no fires or generators, and even shorter hours for the compressors), we will return for another gourmet diving trip. Musgrave Is. is on the southern part of the Great Barrier Reef and is a true coral Island with a big lagoon, white coral sand, and a fringing reef that takes over half an hour to motor around. This is a group trip where everybody

participates in the running of the trip (ie. getting 3 boats, 2 compressors, moorings, kitchen equipment, and a ton of other diving and camping gear to Gladstone, loading, cooking, boat driving, tank filling etc..) and we assure you that you will come away with a whole range of new talents. The price will include all air, boat trips, camping, transport to Musgrave Island from Gladstone (~60 km) and then back again, and all meals on the Island. Club gear will be available free of charge as for all club dives. Each person will be responsible for their own camping gear and wetsuit, fins, mask etc. It's a great trip. **Listen to 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..." [Eric Wenger, Sept 1991]

(Returning last year was even better!! The food, company and diving were outstanding.)

**....OR from last years trip..**

"..Beach-Volleyball is always a nice diversion from other, stressful (!) activities on an island like Lady Musgrave. The tight schedule of the DOUTS' allowed them to play between 4pm and sunset. After two or three games an interstate test match was organised. Due to the poor play of the DOUTS and the fact that

we had several players in our team with experience in the ANU competitions, we were assured of an easy win. Do we really have to mention that we were absolutely thrashed and some players were sent home to practice their serving?

Eating was the central activity and all the cooks put a lot of effort into preparing mouthwatering dinners that will be remembered for years. A few members of the group were competing in getting as many "seconds" as possible. The strong wind that was blowing for some days even helped us to top up our kitchen supplies. Fishermen from a trawler, which couldn't leave the lagoon, were running out of beer. They approached Rod and he was able to exchange a **whole** slab of beer for only 12kg of prawns. We enjoyed them (the prawns!) for the rest of the holidays.

We know that not everything has been covered, e.g. a president who arrived by plane, thousands of birds we never saw, Eric's camera which worked this time and plenty of sharks dressed up as Spanish Mackerels. But it happens every year." [Siggi & Irene, 1992]

**\*\*\*\*\*July 8-20th. Cost \$500-550\*\*\*\*\***

**Reservations have commenced. Usually a list of 30 shrinks to 20 when deposits have to be paid. We have 20 on the list now so BOOK NOW! Deposits will be taken from financial members in May in order of reservation (then open slather!) Call Jeremy:**

h)2473173

w) 2495051

## 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> 2546874 (h) 2493641 (w)	<u>Steve Harding</u> 2513134 (w) 2512834 (h)	<u>Kristina Sands</u> 2417812 (h) 2492222 (w)	<u>Michelle Karas</u> 2411281 (h) 2016089 (w)
1/5/93 6/5/93 Eric is away 3/6/93 call Jeremy	8/4/93 13/5/93 10/6/93	15/4/93 20/5/93 17/6/93	22/4/93 27/5/93 24/6/93

**In an emergency (only) call Jeremy (h) 2473173, (bh) 2495051.**

## EQUIPMENT RULES

### TANKS - VESTS - REGULATORS

The ANU Skindiving Club has several sets of SCUBA equipment, purchased and maintained with a combination of Sports Union grants and Club generated funds. This equipment, stored in the **relocated** ANUSC gear store next to the Sports Union recreation office, is subject to constant and demanding use so the following rules have been formulated in the interests of all club members, of the Sports Union, and of the issuing and maintenance officers.

•1) One set of gear is provided only to qualified divers who are current members of both the ANU Skindiving Club and the Sports Union. Persons not known to the issuing officer may be asked to show their Sports Union card and may be checked against the list of current members.

•2) Gear is available free of charge on club dives - subject to a deposit (currently \$10), refundable when the equipment is returned on time, complete and unabused, clean and with the **tanks full**. Borrowers are not guaranteed exclusive use and may be required to share with other club members on a dive.

•3) When not required for club purposes, equipment may be hired for private use at a fee of \$20 per set, plus the usual deposit. Equipment is for the support of diving as a club, and is not available for private use when a club outing is scheduled, regardless of however many sets appear to be spare. The club does not accept advance bookings for the use of equipment.

•4) **Note that Sports Union staff do not have a key to the club storage room and do not accept gear for return.** If you leave returned gear at the office you must expect to lose your deposit.

Equipment may be borrowed and returned around 5:30 pm on Thursdays, via the rostered issuing officer, **who attends only on request**. In order to allow everybody fair access, gear **must** be returned by the Thursday following the week of issue.

•5) The member signing for gear remains fully responsible for it until it is signed back in. Negligent loss or damage will be treated in accordance with current policy of the Club and the Sports Union, which retains ownership of all club equipment. Borrowers are expected to keep track of all gear issued to them, particularly on dives where it is shared.

•6) **To avoid damage, please remove jacket vests from tanks before transport.** After use wash ALL gear in fresh water, rinse out vests internally, and return them half-inflated. Hose down your tanks and tank boot. **Ensure that the dust cap is tightly fitted to the reg before soaking. Water in the reg will damage it and can result in total failure of your reg or gauges. Apart from the danger to you or other users, this costs us lots of money to replace.**

•7) **NEVER EVER leave tanks or hoses or vests in your car in the hot sun.**

**In the interests of safety and to avoid inadvertent re-issue, all faulty gear must be labelled as such on return, AND reported personally to the gear maintenance officer.**

Gear Maintenance Officer: Steve Harding - phone 251 3134 (w)

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## WANTED

### A GARAGE OR CARPORT

OUR CLUB IS IN DIRE NEED OF PLACES TO STORE OUR BOATS.

WE ARE TRYING TO NEGOTIATE STORAGE OF OUR BOATS IN A UNIVERSITY OWNED FACILITY, BUT WE CAN NOT GUARANTEE SUCCESS. IF ANYBODY CAN STORE A BOAT (IE PROTECT IT FROM THE SUN AND THE ELEMENTS) PLEASE CONTACT OUR BOAT OFFICER, MARK LEONARD, ON 2417812(H).