

ANU SCUBA DIVING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

October 1995

This newsletter contains a modified dive schedule. The Treasure hunt will be one month early, the dive to Bass Point will be roughly one month late and a bubbly trip will be made to Jervis to play with new toys. There will also be a working bee in honour of the Black Duck. Don't miss the opportunity to spend a few last tender moments with the deflating old bag. You'll also be able to have a few drinks and reverse an anchor line or two.

Bubble Bubble!

Housing for War Widow **ed.**

Who would have thought it could happen ? Days of our lives in the boat shed. Yes ... the Cherokee and the Black Duck are getting divorced because some tarted up yellow infiltrator has won the Cherokee's heart. We have decided that three boats is just one too many and that we will have to sell the faithful Black Duck to the first person who bids more than \$2500 when we advertise her.

The Black Duck is very fussy about exposure to the weather and so we are looking for suitable housing for her until we find her a new lover. She is currently hanging out at Ron's because of his generosity but he's got a paying customer with a car moving in. If you have a garage available now that we could store the Black Duck in until we sell her in about a month please let Bill or Jeremy know.

We plan to advertise the Black Duck after we cure her flatulence and doll her up at the 4th of November working bee. If you are even vaguely interesting in buying a good quack for those hot baths then contact us. Her dimensions are 34,24,36 and she is approximately 10 years old (but don't worry, no-one could guess that at public appearances). She has an eager 30HP motor that was bought less than 5 years ago. She's a fully equipped action lady eager to give

you the ride of your life and she's got all the fittings you could desire ... 2-way marine radio, EPIRB, flares, ropes and much more.

Bill : 2493460 (w)
Jeremy: 2547502 (h)

Diving the Internet

If you don't have access to the internet then you are missing out on huge amounts of information that you really don't want to know anything about. We have made the situation worse for almost the entire population of the planet by creating a World Wide Web site for our club. This site has everything you need to know about the club including gear rosters, newsletters, dive schedules and up to the minute information about the next dive trip (eg. who's going, who's towing and who's just hav'in a smoke). Check it all out at ...

http://student.anu.edu.au/ANU_Scuba_Club/

If you want to keep really up to date with what's going on in the club then why don't you send bill@cs.anu.edu.au your email address ?

Lady Musgrave 95 **Pete Franks**

This years trip to Lady Musgrave Island I guess had some similarities with other years - a lot of eating, drinking, sleeping and squeezing ourselves into funny looking rubber suits. But this year, once again, a whole new chapter of underwater intrigue, romance and adventure unfolded to ensure that the mother of all diving trips lived up to its name.

The trip over on the boat was remarkably smooth, and most people seemed to hold down the steaks consumed in our celebratory meal in Gladstone prior to our midnight departure. There were a few false alarms as a sickly smell would waft through the cabin and someone would scream "has someone been sick in here??", to which Eric would answer "Ah, zat will be my gorgonzola!"

Eric had carried about six kilos of gorgonzola cheese aboard in his hand luggage, which he later incorporated into one of the most gastronomic dinner delights of the trip.

Unloading supplies upon our arrival went ahead with military precision in order to beat the tide. New recruits like myself learned very quickly how to look busy under the watchful eye of our German commandantess. I was only flogged once, which was for incorrect rope handling.

We soon settled into the daily chores of eating, sleeping and diving. The diving of course was magnificent. Manta Bommie was by far the most popular dive site. Everything was there - mantas, turtles, sharks and fish of all descriptions. Robyn was even sighted wrestling with a centipede. A few people did manage a night dive or two, mainly for the extra finning practice.

Our encounter with the pirates that patrol the waters off Musgrave, posing as professional fishermen, was an experience to remember. Returning from a dive we were lured on board one of their vessels with the prospect of doing a deal for a small part of their cargo. They offered us weight for weight prawns for beer and/or wenches. Our wenches declined the offer, so we had to be content with sharing half as many prawns around twice as many people - but what a feast!!

There were relatively few stuff-ups for a trip of this size. All the boats ran like a dream, including the new yellow inflatable, which somehow took on the cute (but frightfully whimpy) name of "Daffodil". Even the Cherokee ran well, being fresh from the workshop after an unsuccessful attempt by Jeremy to perform an Eskimo roll with it. The one stuff-up that did happen in spectacular fashion occurred when someone (who was distracted by something or other at the time, and has paid me to delete his name from this document) left a tank on the compressor unattended. BOOM!! The force smashed the pressure gauge on the compressor and would have put it out of action for the rest of the trip had Jeremy not come to the rescue. After gathering up the pieces Jeremy sat down for a couple of hours and, with a few dabs of Perkins paste, rebuilt the gauge and had tanks being filled again before the next boat load of divers had finished their toasted avocado and cheese sandwiches.

Over the course of our visit a mysterious illness crept its way through the camp, striking people down for up to 48 hours. Symptoms ranged from nausea and vomiting to diarrhoea, and in some cases large black pustules all over the body. Theories as to the cause range from the innocent looking silver eyed finches (who admittedly can crap eleven times their body weight in 24 hours, most of this landing in peoples drinks) to choosing not to hover and hold ones breath while visiting the "modern style" long drop dunny (affectionately known as the *Clivus multrum*, which is Latin for long drop). Even Ray's jerry can of Betadine, known to have cured everything from dandruff to impotence on past trips, offered little relief from the symptoms of this particular strain of Musgrave belly.

Some of the bigger mysteries of the trip may never be solved. Just who did order ten sticks of salami, and for what purpose? What did Ron see on that dive that left him glassy eyed and muttering "...shark..." for days? Exactly what formula does Bill use to calculate his surface interval?? The answers to these questions still lie somewhere in the waters off Lady Musgrave Island.

Musgrave 96 ed.

The dates for next year's Musgrave trip are fixed : July 11th -> July 25th. If you want to put your name on the list then you must come on a dive trip or two. We'll only take names while on club trips until February next year. After that, if there are still places, you can wack your name down anytime. We prefer to give active divers and club helpers an opportunity to get their names on the list first.

Diving With The Seals Oliver Freitag

On a beautiful sunny morning we cruised out to Montague Island. It was an exceptionally smooth ride at top speed. Our target, the seal colony, was easy to find because we could already smell it half way out to the Island. This is just one of the reasons for going diving rather than sight seeing by the way.

The seals on land, handicapped looking creatures, developed an amazing ability of acceleration and agility once in the water. With their big hypnotic eyes and their pretty scary looking teeth they left a very deep impression in all of us, so much so that the groupers, huge black sting rays and a shark seemed irrelevant.

Back in the boat, overjoyed by the experience if this dive, the seals waved at us and we headed off to see some humpback whales and a couple of dolphins.

Is there more to see on only one diving trip? Of course there isn't. But there is more to do - and we did After an excellent seafood dinner in Narooma's best restaurant we finished the day sitting around the (gas) fireplace drinking hot wine.

Special thanks to those who organised the trip. See you next time.

The Diving Calendar

If you want to come for a dive call early - one week before the dive is ideal.

Note the new dates for the treasure hunt weekend and the Bass point dive weekend.

October 21/22 Treasure Hunt weekend

Steve's Beldivers club has run a Treasure Hunt and Inflatable Boat Race at Bawley Point for 5 or 6 years. In the Treasure Hunt numbered discs are hidden on the sea floor, on top of Numbrays, under octopuses, behind Morays etc.. Later at the BBQ each disc you have found gets you a chance to win a prize. To strengthen the traditional links between our clubs we've gone down and tried to win all the booty, and have been determined to win the inflatable boat race. Last year the sacred rule 'the Callagari wins' was overthrown. The Cherokee came first in the boat race and the Black Duck came second - however, both boats were consequently disqualified from the race. What's more we won the best prizes (holidays, wetsuits etc).

In addition to the Saturday morning activities, in the afternoon and on the Sunday we go diving, and there is a big BBQ on Saturday night. Camping will be in Ulladulla (where the BBQ will be). Come down, have some fun, and meet a larger crowd of divers.

Ring Bill Keating **2493460 (w)**
2418028 (h)

November 4 Working Bee 10 am sharp Boat Shed North Oval

This is an ideal opportunity for you to come and do your bit to help ensure the boats are well prepared for those big south coast swells. You'll get an opportunity to help service the club SCUBA gear and there are lots of interesting things to be done. For example, we have to reverse ropes, attach EPIRBS, shuffle inside BC's, massage the Cherokee's hull, rewire trailer lights and do all sorts of other weird and wonderful things. What's more you can

have a nice cold beer while you watch John being spun around as he tries to hold onto his oversized jack hammer drill.

Ring **John Storey** **w 2493766**
h 2515971

November 25/26 Bass Point (around Shell harbour)

There's some very pretty diving around Bushranger's Bay on Bass Point. What's more, there is a tunnel/arch through the rock at approximately 25 metres. Norm mentioned that wrecks such as the Bombo are also pretty good. In fact, they could be excellent.

Ring **Phil Herral** **w 2976031**
h 2887482

November 30 Thursday 8pm AGM, upstairs in the Union.

Come along and nominate your friends for a year of fun times!! Also, we'll plan our next set of diving adventures. This is a pretty important sort of meeting that requires a few drinks afterwards to allow us to fully comprehend the crucial decisions that are made. The meeting is good fun. Hope to see you all there, if not before.

December 9/10 Jervis Bay

Yeeeeee haaaaaaa ! Off we go again. The water should be pretty warm by December and Geriapopolous will have descended into the deeps to lure us into some fluffy diving. If we're lucky we may be able to cross the chasm of perpetual pleasure or if that's a bit weird, you could always just sit upside down and cross legged under the Arch. This trip has been designed to coincide with a trip by the University of Tasmania and Flinders Uni. They asked us to show them around and maybe one day they'll show us around their giant kelp forests. Hopefully we'll be able to have a social BBQ or big party with them and tell all our tall tales. Come along and meet a different crowd of divers.

Ring Bill Keating **2493460 (w)**
2418028 (h)

EQUIPMENT RULES -TANKS/VESTS/REGULATORS

The ANU SCUBA Diving 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 in the green double garage on North Oval, 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 SCUBA Diving Club and the Sports Union. Persons not known to the issuing officer may be asked to show their Sports Union/Student card and may be checked against the list of current members. You can not borrow a 2nd set for a non-member,
- 2) Gear is available free of charge on club dives - subject to a deposit (currently \$10), refundable when the equipment is returned **the next week**, 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) 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. **If you don't ring a gear officer, or a club official if you can't contact one, to arrange return of your gear you must expect to lose your deposit.**
- 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.**
- 7) 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.**
- 8) **NEVER EVER leave tanks or hoses or vests in your car in the hot sun.**
- 9) **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 by the borrower.**

Gear Maintenance Officer: Eric Wenger - phone 2493641(w) 2487394(h)

GEAR ISSUE AND RETURN

(Thursdays only unless you arrange otherwise)

Remember, people will only attend if you contact them beforehand

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|---|--|---|--|
| <u>Eric Wenger</u> 2494425 (w) 2487394 (h) 1/6/95 29/6/95 27/7/95 24/8/95 21/9/95 19/10/95 16/11/96 | <u>Bill Keating</u> 2570107 (h) 2493460 (w) 8/6/95 6/7/95 3/8/95 31/8/95 28/9/95 26/10/95 23/11/95 | <u>Kristina Sands</u> 2417812 (h) 2492222 (w) 15/6/95 13/7/95 10/8/95 7/9/95 5/10/95 2/11/95 30/11/95 | <u>Kirsten Balding</u> 2471417 (h) 2492633 (w) 22/6/95 20/7/95 17/8/95 14/9/95 12/10/95 9/11/95 |
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In an emergency (only) call Jeremy (h) 2547502, (w) 2495051.