

ANU SCUBA DIVING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

May 1995

This newsletter contains rantings and ravings about recent adventures. It also includes things you'll soon see on the back of the leading cereal packs ... vital statistics about the new dugout canoe to be purchased by the club for intercontinental dive trips. A schedule of dive trips for the second half of this year is also contained in this newsletter somewhere and so are the details for a 1995 Musgravites pre-Musgrave meeting. Check this newsletter out for underwater hockey details. Oh yeah, there is a working bee in June too.

One more thing ... The ANU Scuba Club is now on the web. If you don't know what this means then ignore the following address..

<http://cap.anu.edu.au/~bill/ANUSC/>

Holey Moley!

Some club members travelled so far north over Easter that they drove off the continental shelf. Further south, hedonistic ANU divers looked for the garden at Eden. In darkness and suspended above the abyss they each found and swallowed an evil snake before exploring the relics of human existence in the underworld. At the beginner's and rusty diver's weekend we plundered lost bullion (dive sites) that had slipped from the memory of all but "ye club's old faithful". Looking in the crystal orb we can see that the dives of the future are filled with the weird elixir of eternal youth.

The New Canoe

Jeremy Weinman

The new boat has been ordered and we will take delivery in Brisbane on the way up to Musgrave Island at the end of June. For those who just have to know here are the details: NIAD 4.3 metre XL, 2.5 mm aluminium hull with 2 layer 0.4 metre diameter pontoons. Its about the size of the Black Duck but we'll use the floor space differently. The pontoon is on runners and the inner is butyl rubber (so we can patch it with a vulcanizing kit).

We are getting a yellow outer pontoon skin which is a *really* bright colour and should be easy to spot at sea. The boat comes with grey non-skid carpeting and will have a 2 person motor-cycle seat style centre console placed approximately two-thirds of the way forward. It will also have a double tank rack built into the back of the anchor bulkhead for the cycle commander and pillion. The passengers will sit on the pontoons at the rear and their tanks will fit between the deck and the pontoons along the sides. The whole thing will be powered by a 40 hp Johnston with electric start, tilt 'n' trim, oil injection and forward controls.

The boat will be equipped with radio, sounder, EPIRB, flares, V-sheet and the usual necessary tools, ropes, buoys and anchor. The boat has a *double* towing point on the front (for those long sea voyages back from Musgrave), winching points on the hull, a samson post and an anchor step in the bow for easy anchoring. We've also had the grab-lines around the boat changed from 10 mm to 16 mm (your hands will thank us). The trailer is a fully rolled REDCO galvanized with 9" alloy wheels (and mounted spare).

Underwater Hockey

The ANU underwater hockey freaks have been having a top time. Buzzing around on the bottom of the pool is excellent. The game is great because anyone who knows how to snorkel can participate. If you come along and play you'll be flipper'in around all over the place and having a (ball). For some reason the skilful playing of some ANU players combined with the completely random thrashing of some others has made the ANU team minor premiers in the wednesday night competition. But what does this mean ? It means that you should come along and play too. After all, you only need your own snorkelling gear.

The first "come and try it" sessions will be held at the AIS pool on the Wednesdays of the 7th and 14th of June (8.30 pm start) and at the Tuggeranong pool on the Mondays of the 5th and 12th of June (6.30 pm start). Competition fees for sports union members (you) are paid for by the sports union. There are also social games on Friday nights at Civic pool, starting at 7.15 pm. Another social game unfolds at the Tuggeranong pool on Sundays, commencing at 9.00 am. If you decide to come to a social game then you should contact Mr James Social Harris on 2412904 (h) to organise gear. oh yeah ... the ANU team will have played in the Wednesday night grand final by the time you get this. Did they beat the Duck Puckers, Ducking Pucks and Lion Fish ?

The Garden at Eden

ed.

A beautiful day for diving! ... that's what we thought as we sped across the mirror like water and out into the middle of Twofold Bay. Past some lazy seals with flippers flapping in the air, past a huge flock of fairy penguins and onwards to our destination. The salty spray forced our lips into smiles as the sun dried it into salt crystals. Onwards we travelled to the submerged wrecks - the relics of human existence. And yes ... the tugboats were still there!

As the sun set we rocked out to the relics so we could observe them in darkness. Just before we descended into the blackness Jeremy solemnly handed us each an evil snake to eat. These would ward off the enemies in the darkness below. Down at thirty metres in the dark was a bit

of a buzz. We left long trails of phosphorescence with our fins. There was a flash on, flash off experience down there as an oversized strobe light for paranoid divers demolished the scene with disco effects. The good thing about the strobe light was that it made its presence well known so that you could rip it off the diver's tank and hurl it into Egbert's (a blue groper) gangrenous gob. The little flowery things looked pretty groovy down there in the abyss. But the best thing for me was that fat blue groper effortlessly doing its security patrol around the wreck.

The next morning we ate breakfast and then woke up. After a hangover removal operation we decided to go for a dive in the tunnel of squeezes. Jann and I were reasonably keen to park the boat some way from the emergent bommie but the anchor kept slipping and taking us back to our past. Fortunately, Phil the 200HP motor decided to anchor our boat for us and towed us on SCUBA to a good anchor point in Norway. Now that tunnel is excellent and leads directly to the centre of the planet. Jann and I made the arduous voyage through and examined alien life forms. I then had to practice my suicide jumps from the underwater cliffs near the tunnel entrance. We all went home with the salt encrusted smiles that nearly lasted until Easter.

The Beginner's and Rusty Diver's Weekend in April

Peter Bailey

Well, this was it ... my first dive with the ANUSC, and my first dive since last August. Canberra was looking cold and unpleasant, so it was a relief to be heading down to the coast where Bill had assured me the weather was going to be "beeuuwttttiful"! And it was quite superb in fact - sunny and warm and not much wind about. This was a definite contrast from my previous dive, which had been off the east coast of Scotland in grey overcast conditions with a strong swell, carrying torches and wearing drysuits, hoods, and gloves against the cold.

Found the boat ramp at Mosquito Bay without much problem - excellent descriptions from the trip organiser there - we were in the second boat trip so had been able to leave a bit later on Saturday than the others. Ray and Paula were also waiting around for the next trip too, so met them. The boat came back, and everything was happening. It was about 14 months since my buddy Jo had dived, so there was lots of refreshment for both of us and familiarisation with the ANU gear. (So that's a K valve in the off position! No wonder the air was breathing with some restriction ...)

The Cherokee was a rather dramatic difference from my previous dive boats - which have either been serious hard-shelled diving boats on the Great Barrier Reef or a seriously dilapidated gray version of the black duck (ie. transom delaminating with the possibility of the outboard suddenly becoming a new form of anchor) in Scotland. This ANU boat could move! Well, at least when Ray was behind the wheel or could get his hands on the throttle it moved along very quickly.

After some preliminary discussions about diving down and what to do and look out for, we all jumped into the water. The water was fairly clear, and there were some interesting

things to look at, though we were too far from Black Rock to see the best stuff (as was discovered in the second dive by people later that day). Still, those purple rocks are always fun to see, and there were some gropers and starfish and lots of sea urchins. Jo and I stayed some time with Ray and Paula, but then headed off for some other exploration and returned to the surface a couple of minutes before they did. We all got back on board - though getting back on with no help from anyone in the boat is much harder than getting out without help.

One dive for the day was about enough on this "first time in a while for these rusty divers", so after some lunch and chatting, and appreciation of the immaculate gardening of a local house-proud sea-sider, we headed off to fill tanks, relax, and find the campsite at Mogo Goldfields Caravan Park. Some of the more enthusiastic divers were out on a second dive after discovering where the bubble cave was to be found and arrived an hour or so later at the camping grounds, by which time it was tent-construction, wood-gathering, and beer-drinking time. A fire was started, and some classy fire-appreciation bench seats put in place, plus camp chairs for the better organised among us. BBQ on the fire, MSR's and Trangias completed the cooking facilities as the evening wore on, with an extremely timely injection of espresso coffee from Linda's espresso pot. The extremely enthusiastic divers (Bill, Jason, and an arm-twisted Rod) headed off for what Bill promised would be an amazing dive! The rest of us thought instead of sleep, and so zzzzzzzz..... There appeared to be some dissent the next morning on the superbness of the dive, but since I wasn't there, I can't say any more.

The next day saw us heading off to dive off Burrewarra Pt. Everyone else in the area seemed to be having the same idea with the carpark chock full of cars. Capt'n Rod, Linda and Bill had launched the boat back in Mosquito Bay and piloted it around to the dive alighting point. Six of us went out on the first dive, in a rather stronger swell than the previous day which had some of us eager to leap in the water to avoid any unnecessary fish-feeding. We kept an eye out for a trawler wreck but didn't find it much evidence of it. Regardless, the point was much more interesting, with a wall-like structure to examine and lots more fish; all of the fish and us being pushed around quite a bit with a strong swell even down at 25 metres. Jason kindly redid the strap holding on my tank, preventing an interesting experience of trying (with my teeth) to hold a tank up by its regulator mouthpiece - thanks Jason! On surfacing, we found Ray and Paula had swum over to help people with re-boarding. They had been off on a lunch-catching expedition, and we dropped them over the side again on a run back to the beach (and they were ultimately successful). The remaining sun-bathers quickly became divers, and headed out to dive. After some sun-worshipping ourselves, we started to pack and head back to Canberra.

So what was it like for a rusty and not-too experience diver? Lots of fun, particularly if you like relaxed and low-key diving with a bunch of other relaxed and low-key divers. There are obviously lots of people with a lot of experience; they don't want to do too much hand-holding, but are happy to keep a watch on you as you dive and help with remembering things for the less experienced divers. The diving is also cheap - main costs being tank fills and a few dollars in petrol for the dive boat tower. There aren't

too many 5 star hotels or dive instructors putting your gear on for you, but if that doesn't worry you, and you fancy the idea of spending a weekend doing some diving, camping, and chatting round a camp-fire down at the coast, then this could be the right place to be. Will I do it again? You bet!

The North Coast Jaunt

Kristina Sands

Over Easter and beyond, a few of us took off to more northern climes to check out the diving and enjoy the warmer weather. After an early start on Thursday evening (at midnight) we battled the Sydney traffic in the rain to arrive at Booti Booti National Park (close to Seal Rocks). The northern weather was not all that it was promised to be and Saturday we were all disappointed with the overcast skies and large seas. We found a lot to be disappointed with that day as we battled the swell out to Big Seal with the sworn promise of Grey Nurse Sharks. However, having lost our guide overboard before the dive even started, we stumbled around in the murk on the bottom for a very boring dive, and not a shark in sight. Ulladulla was looking pretty good at this stage. As the rain started again we pulled the boat in out of the surf and decided to head into town for tank fills and dinner. However, even dinner was to disappoint us that day as apparently the king fish was mushy, and probably off, and we all got sick of ACDC on the juke box.

After such a start things could only get better, and get better they did. Sunday morning we awoke (or rather, we were awoken by Ray's tribe of children discovering their easter eggs and fighting over who had the green one and who had the red one) to beautiful skies and calmer seas. The diving also improved and the Grey Nurse Sharks were waiting for us at the anchor. Small 1.5m ones which would come right up to you and literally swim 6 inches in front of your mask. After that, both the weather and diving just got better and better. We had a superb dive at Skeleton Rock with the thickest schools of fish I've ever seen and Wobbegongs which just carpeted the bottom. I even found a niche full of baby sharks as I was unhooking the anchor.

After Easter we moved on to Trial Bay/South West Rocks to dive the Fish Rock cave - according to Phil 'the best dive site in NSW'. I have to say that I have no arguments with that and certainly had two of the best dives I've ever had. There is a fantastic mixture of temperate and tropical life with the fish we are accustomed to seeing here living side by side with turtles and colourful tropical fish. I never thought that I would call a moray eel cute but the eels outside the tunnel were really cute as they went free swimming around you. the baby wobby that me and Jeremy tried to excavate was also very cute and big blue groper that would come up for a pat and burp in your face was a real buzz. Trial Bay itself must be one of the most beautiful places around and emerging from a superb dive to a gorgeous sunset is certainly magic.

From there we moved on to Coff's harbour to dive in the Solitary Islands. I'd never heard of them but apparently this is where 'the weed meets the coral'. We had again one of the best dives on a flat calm day on a pinnacle in the middle of the ocean. After Jeremy and Jann decided that they wouldn't dive that day but would play tourist on the way home (thereby guaranteeing that it would have to be a great dive) we put the kids in the boat and dropped the anchor right on top of a tunnel with a resident Grey Nurse. The 6 kingfish that swam endlessly in perfect formation through a very large school of fish was one of the best sights I have ever seen. We then took the kids for a snorkel (and dive) around S.W. Solitary and gave Fiona Herrald the thrill of her life with a snorkel that had absolutely everything.

We ended the diving on this high note as the next day dawned very windy and with rough seas. As our planned destination was 14km out to sea we abandoned that plan and headed inland to check out the rainforest instead. The 'Skywalk' proved to be a huge disappointment with only 50m of board walk over the trees. And just when we thought all the excitement was over and there was just the trip home we camped at Dangar's falls near Armidale for the night. In the morning we found ourselves next to a wonderful looking canyon (definitely worthy of a further exploratory visit) and were entertained by two abseilers doing a 150m abseil on a single rope. Certainly very impressive. After a few exciting stop-offs to watch the BMX races, to visit the cutest church in the world, to climb up Thunderbolt's rock and to eat McDonalds at the Big Guitar we finally set off for home after a great trip away. The diving had certainly been well worth checking out, the weather was all it was meant to be and the company was some of the best.

Gear Maintenance Course

[Ed].

Eric, John, Linda, James, Kris and myself (all ANU divers) are currently doing a gear maintenance course on Thursday nights. For your hundred and twenty bucks you get five long and excellent lessons from John gear master Wilson. The course is held at the Braddon dive shop and is top value for money ... you learn heaps. Its not all theory either. A lot of time is taken up with YOU dismantling valves, first stages, second stages and anything else you can lay your hands on (Steve's new dive computer ?). You learn how to identify and rectify a large number of problems. You also learn about cylinder testing, compressors and ordering pizzas.

John is an excellent and patient bloke and a great instructor. I think we are all grateful for his tuition. We all laughed as I tested the first stage I had rebuilt. Excitedly I attached it to the tank, turned the air on and heard the air rushing through about fourteen gaps where I had forgotten to replace o-rings. My face was only saved by the fact that other dodgy repair students had the same problem. The funniest bit was when John was warning us to treat all suspect gear with great care. Especially, when someone comes up to you and says "my high pressure hose has got a leak". For example, John warned us not to place the high pressure hose in our mouths to see if there were bubbles

escaping from the hose. Just after he had finished saying this, the high pressure hose that my hand was resting on exploded! My hand felt as though I had just had a visit to the headmaster for saying a naughty word. Anyway, by the end of the course you really do know how to do a lot of stuff (non-dodgy repairs). If you don't do this course then you are wasting your money.

The Diving Calendar

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

**June 6th (Tuesday)
1995 Musgravites Pre-Musgrave rave
Bridge Meeting Room (the bridge)
(between Sports Union and student Union)**

This is a meeting for all people booked on the 1995 Lady Musgrave island trip. We need to organise things like lifts, food and wine. This is an ideal time to ask questions that have no answers. There is probably heaps of stuff that you need to know. See you there.

**June 5th,7th,12th,14th
Underwater Hockey
"come and try it" sessions**

The first "come and try it" sessions will be held at the AIS pool on the Wednesdays of the 7th and 14th of June (8.30 pm start) and at the Tuggeranong pool on the Mondays of the 5th and 12th of June (6.30 pm start). Competition fees for sports union members (you) are paid for by the sports union. There are also social games on Friday nights at Civic pool, starting at 7.15 pm. Another social game unfolds at the Tuggeranong pool on Sundays, commencing at 9.00 am. If you decide to come to a social game then you should contact Mr James Social Harris on 2412904 (h) to organise gear.

**June 10-12th (Sat, Sun, Mon)
Jervis Bay**

The water will still be warm blue people ...

Jervis bay is a top place for diving and nocturnal activities (night dives?). That arch in 40 metres of water is a pre-winter's buzz to be remembered. Point Perpendicular, Bowen Island, Stoney Creek, thick bush, great walks, good company, a healthy pub, a banded Morwong and the chance of sunshine; what more could we possibly desire ? The water will still be warm so come and dive, dive, dive.

Ring Jeremy Weinman

**2547502 (h)
x5051 (w)**

**June 17th, Saturday,
10am at the North Oval Gear Shed,
Working Bee**

Come and be sociable and help do your bit to keep the club's boats and gear in good working condition. As for 1995 Musgravites, unless you are going canyoning near Armidale then you should definitely be there to ensure that all the gear YOU will use for two weeks is in good working order.

Ring Jeremy Weinman 2547502 (h)
x5051 (w)

Musgrave Is.
July 3- July 14

Yes. Its fully booked.

HOWEVER, Steve has spaces on the Beldivers trip (June 19-July 2). You will need to ring him immediately if you are interested or he'll develop a rash and do something rash.

August 12/13
Brush Island
Pleasure Domes Exploration

After exploring the new 'pinnacles of doom' that were not pinnacles but nice lumps with great scenery that drops off to 40m we decided we'd have to go back and get a better handle on those domes. As Chuck couldn't go on the Pinnacles of Doom trip, he's agreed to organise this trip.

Ring Chuck Young x 3493 (w)
2902145 (h)

September 23/24/(25)
Montigue Seal Diving

It's seal time again!! Once again we're going to do the Montague Island seal colony before the crowds arrive on the long weekend. This can be a long weekend for those who can manage it (you can always go to work on the real long weekend). Playing with the seals is great fun. They have big googly eyes, hardened fur covered nuts (skulls) and teeth that could rip your jugular out. They are very friendly though ... unless you try and experiment with a hot poker.

Ring Jeremy Weinman 2547502 (h)
x5051 (w)

October 28/29

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 25/26
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 ! 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 and have some fun, and meet a larger crowd of divers.

Ring Bill Keating 2493460 (w)
2570107 (h)

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.

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

<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.