
The ANU SCUBA Diving Club Newsletter



April 1996

There have been some fabulous dive trips over the past few months. In this newsletter we have reports of our recent forays to Brush Island and Eden! We have also had a recent dive planning meeting and the dive trips for the rest of the year are included.

Membership

By now just about everyone has paid their membership for 1996, but there are still a few people missing! The latest memberlist is available on the World Wide Web via the URL:

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

Please check that the details we have for you are correct and get in touch with the membership secretary if they are incorrect or incomplete. In particular check that we have a valid email address for you. You should have received an email announcement for the Ulladulla dive trip, if you haven't then we haven't got your email address!

Also if you are an ANU staff member and you are having your newsletter delivered to your home, tell us your ANU internal mailing address so we can send it (faster, cheaper) via internal mail.

Membership Secretary

Jason Haines

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Boat Cleaning

After every dive trip the boats need to be washed down on the first day back at work (usually Monday). What tends to happen is the same people wash down the boats after every trip. If you go on a trip, do your bit and come and help clean the boats afterwards. It is only half an hour of your lunchtime and helps keep everything in working order.

Brush Island

Tristan Armstrong

The thing about ANU SCUBA Club dives is that no matter where you go — or how bad the actual diving is — you always come back to Canberra with amusing tales of other peoples' sub-aquatic mishaps and so it was for the Brush Island dive weekend. One exciting spectacle (at least for those people lucky enough to witness it) was watching Jeremy throwing-up 600 mls of chocolate flavoured milk (he took his reg out) whilst hanging on the anchor rope 10 meters down. Was it Performance Art we asked? Was he trying to attract the attention of passing fish? Or was it just that he couldn't give a damn about visibility for the next bunch ready to dive on the incredible 'Pinnacles'.

Entertaining though this was, it had some stiff competition. Jerry, for example, was attacked by a Cuttlefish with an attitude problem. Why the

cuttlefish decided to single him out and rip off his mask with its tentacles remains a mystery. Revenge of the Cephalopods II occurred the following day when Jeremy narrowly escaped being locked in a death-roll with an octopus that fancied his company.

For the most part however, the many amazing sea creatures that shared the ocean with us realised that neoprene was not a great appetiser, and went quietly along with their own business. The highlights included seeing a fur seal (from the boat), Port Jackson Sharks, Boarfish, the light-shunning Bulls-eye fish at 'The Boiler' and large schools of the curiously named 'One Spot Pullers'. The less mobile forms of life (humans excepted) were even more fantastic — colourful Ascidians, Bryzoans, flamboyant Nudibranchs and extensive beds of Sea Tulip (which, just to make things confusing, are quite unrelated to their Dutch counterparts — looking more like the kind of knobbed, rubber implements some people prefer to plant in each other...).

The Diving around Brush Island was awesome and 'The Pinnacles' would have to be one of the best dive sites on the South Coast — very impressive seaward drop-offs, caves and heaps of fish. The Kioloa area has the advantage of being quite pristine relative to other areas, and is too far away from Batemans Bay or Ulladulla for most commercial dive operators to be bothered with. The coastline and escarpment remains unblemished by the excessive development which has transformed most of the Eastern seaboard. Looking back towards the coast from the Cherokee, I pondered that the view probably hadn't changed much since it was seen by the crew of the Endeavour.

Easter at Eden

Caroline McDonald

Being an exchange student from Scotland, joining the SCUBA Club is the best move I've made so far. The club members are so friendly and welcoming which makes for a good club no matter what the sport.

I just spent my Easter weekend away with the club in Eden. I had such a good time with them at Jervis Bay I didn't think this trip could be better...but I was wrong. I did five dives in four days including two night dives. There was a tunnel-like cave which was good, although you want to make sure your buddy has a torch in case yours just happens to slip off your wrist!!!

The other dives were the two tugs, the Tasman Hauler and the Henry Bolte. Since it was a first time for me to dive around boats and a night time, I thought I'd be apprehensive, but again I was wrong — it was so exciting! There were so many fish and beautiful coral on the tugs. Plenty of Bullseye, Bream, Hermit crabs and larger colourful fish, about a foot long, cruising around (sorry, I haven't become an expert on fish names yet). At night the conditions were perfect: calm seas, stars and phosphorescence galore! We were all literally surrounded in neon sparkles. I'd never experienced this before and will never forget it either.

Diving aside, I've made some good friends. Bush Rat and William "Holy Moly Uncle Tobes!" made excellent dive buddies, but if you dare to travel with them in the Combie Toy Mobile, make sure you either have a clothes peg or sit near a window!

I'd like to give a special thanks to The Keating Brothers for the "Entertainment", Pad for the music and to everyone else for making it yet another excellent and unforgettable weekend — boy am I going to be tearful when I have to go back to Bonnie Scotland.

Musgrave Island The Great Barrier Reef July 12 – 26th 1996

Jeremy Weinman

If you haven't heard of this magic holiday ask us! Apart from gourmet camping and classic diving, there is the chance to watch Humpback whales (ask Bill about the ones that startled the shit out of us by breaching within 15 metres of the boat when we went out to do the garbage run - or Kris about the mother she saw suckling its calf in the shelter of the reef as they came back to the boat at the end of their dive!), turtles galore, the chance to learn more than you ever wanted to know about gear repair, and generally 2 weeks of sitting on the tropical sand, diving 'sometime after breakfast' and having G&T's at sunset while the rest of Canberra shivers with the winter. You should do this at least once in a lifetime, but be warned - you may never be the same again!

This is a group (22-25 people) camping trip which WE ALL RUN so if something needs to be done YOU do it. We take ~10 tonnes of gear by cars up to Gladstone where we collect our pre-ordered shopping, make sure we've got limes for the G&T's and enough beer to trade with passing prawn trawlers (one year we traded a case of beer for 12 Kg of HUGE green prawns), then load everything (and I mean everything...-3 boats, compressors, moorings, kitchen marquee and stoves, LPG fridge, dry ice freezer and gear plus all of the food and fuel, then camping and diving gear for 25 people!) onto a boat we charter then 10 hours later we ferry everything by our small boats onto the Island and set up camp for 2 weeks. Only 50 people can camp on the Island at one time so we've only got 25 potential neighbours. You can walk around the island in 15-20 minutes, but to go around the fringing reef by boat will take around an hour (it's a big fringing reef with lots of dive sites we've worked out over the years). There is also another Island a few kilometres to the Nth. (Fairfax Is.) and a underwater reef (Stewart shoals) ~15 k's from the base camp. Check out the pictures on the web site at:

BOOK NOW As I write this there are only 20 people on the list and some of these will possibly drop out. So if you're interested, contact Jeremy straight away and let him know. We have to get our numbers sorted out as soon as we can. Usually we have a list of around 30 that compresses to 25 when it comes to the crunch so if you are interested act now. After we've given the first 25 on the list a chance to pay their deposits, if there are still places left (there always seem to be) we give the next on the list the chance to confirm their place with a deposit, and so on it goes until we have our final 25. There will be a planning meeting sometime around the middle of June to plan shared lifts etc. Final payment will be due on the 21st of June.

For those of you who have given Jeremy your name, now is the time to confirm your place on the list. You will have until the Monday 6th of May to place your \$100 deposit, refundable only if someone else can take your place. If you know now that you can't make it this year, let Jeremy know ASAP so that he can shuffle the list accordingly.

Cost: ~\$550 (at most \$595) includes everything except transport to and from Gladstone, your private stash of beer or wines, and your own camping & snorkelling gear. Then you can do as much diving as you can manage.

The boat loads in Gladstone on the 11th of July to depart early the next day and returns (travelling overnight) to Gladstone on the morning of the 27th. There will be 14 nights on the Island.

Contact:

Jeremy Weinman

Phone: 254-7502 (H)
249x5051 (W)

Email: weinman@rsbs-central.anu.edu.au

The Diving Calendar

If you want to come on a dive trip get in touch with the organiser about one week beforehand.

April 20 – 21st

Brush Island and Lost Reef

The Lost Reef (by Norm Schram)

Does it exist? Can it be found?

Is there treasure?

Or even pleasure?

A secret place where Neptune's friends abound

And are there yet more pinnacles below?

"The Hole" and more,

there lies in store

For only those who join the quest shall know.

Kristina Sands

Phone: 241-8712 (H)

249x2222 (W)

Email: Kristina.Sands@anu.edu.au

May 11 – 12th

Shell Harbour and Bass Point

There is some lovely diving around Bushranger's Bay on Bass Point. There is even a tunnel through the rocks at around 25m. What's more there are some wrecks that promise to be fabulous dives.

Phil Herrald

Phone: 288-7482 (H)

297-6031 (W)

June 8 – 10th

Jervis Bay

This time our accommodation at Jervis will be at Honeymoon Bay which should be excellent.

There are many dive sites at Jervis to provide plenty of variety and excitement.

Cathy Jorden

Phone: 282-3679 (H)

250-9480 (W)

Email: clj@anbg.gov.au

June 22 – 23rd

Burrewarra Point

There are some very nice dive spots around Burrewarra Point. Black Rock has a great swim through and even a bubble cave! Also Guerilla Bay provides a great launching spot for dives on the Burrewarra wall.

Jerry Keating

Phone: 236-6483 (H)

280-4499 (W)

Email: clouhall@pcug.org.au

June 29th 10am

Working Bee at the Dive Shed

This is our last chance to do work on our gear before the Musgrave Island trip. If you want to ensure that the gear is in good health and boats are working make sure you come along

September 11th 7pm

Dive planning get together

The Bridge about the Student Union

It's Spring and the time has come to plan the dives for the remainder of the year. Come along to have your say about where the club will dive over the coming months.

September 28 – 29th

Montague Island and Bermagui

It's seal time again! This is our traditional post-winter dive and we will go down to Montague Island to play with the seal colony that visits at this time of year. Accommodation will be at the Mystery Bay campsite in bushland surroundings.

Jason Haines

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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 \$10 deposit, 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: 248-7394 (H) x4425 (W)

email: wenger@rsc3.anu.edu.au

Gear Issue and Return

(Thursdays only unless you arrange otherwise)

*** Remember, people will only attend if you contact them beforehand ***

Bill Keating 241-8028 (H) x3460 (W) bill@cs.anu.edu.au	Eric Wenger 248-7394 (H) x4425 (W) wenger@rsc3.anu.edu.au	Jason Haines 285-2001 (H) x8175 (W) Jason.Haines@anu.edu.au	Karen Edwards 241-7807 (H) x3766 (W) karen@rsc3.anu.edu.au
25/04/96	02/05/96	09/05/96	16/05/96
23/05/96	30/05/96	06/06/96	13/06/96
20/06/96	27/06/96	04/07/96	11/07/96
18/07/96	25/07/96	01/08/96	08/08/96
15/08/96	22/08/96	29/08/96	05/09/96

In an emergency (only) call Bill 241-8028 (H) x3460 (**W**)