

The ANU SCUBA Club in a nutshell

A guide for new members

The pre-requisites for joining the club are SRA membership, and an Open Water (basic SCUBA) certification. The club doesn't offer Open Water courses, but there's a number of operators in Canberra, including our local dive store in 7 Lonsdale St Braddon (Straightline Ski & Scuba). Contact Steve Harding for course details (and discounts) Tel: 62474911 steve@scubastore.com.au

After you've joined the ANU SCUBA Club, what now? No matter what level of experience, most new members have a lot of questions, as the club works a bit differently to commercial dive operators. In any case, this little pamphlet is designed to answer your most pressing questions. You can find more info on our comprehensive club website

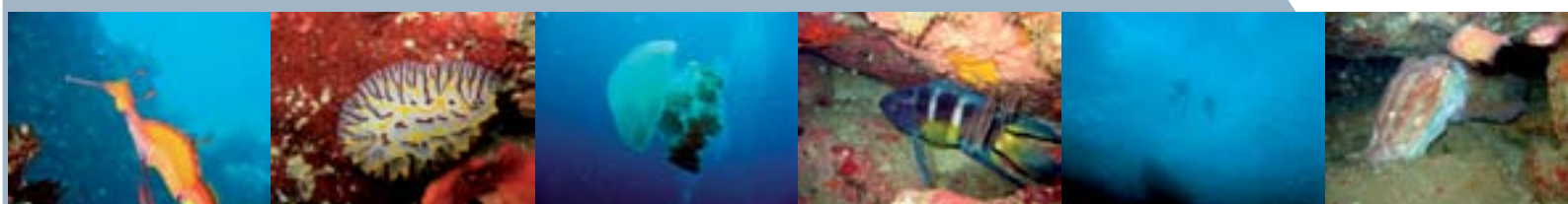
<http://scuba.club.anu.edu.au/>

We welcome new members with a club BBQ, usually held in February, and before our 'New and Rusties' trip which geared for new, inexperienced or out-of-practice divers – but you may sign up for any trip on our calendar. Gear issue is from 5:30pm, and it's a good chance for new members to view our gear and boats, and talk to members about club activities (even if you don't plan to come on the trip). Then, stick around for a free barbeque!



How to go on a club trip

The club runs regular trips to a variety of spots up and down the NSW South Coast from the Victorian border to well north of Sydney, with the occasional trip further a field on long weekends. You can find a list of scheduled trips on the front page of our club website. The coordinator will 'call' the trip by sending out an email to the club's mailing list with information about the trip in general, camping arrangements, dive sites etc. If you are interested in going on the trip, reply by the stated deadline and answer ALL the questions asked. You will (generally) receive a confirmation email, and closer to the weekend an email outlining the logistics for the trip (i.e. lift and camping arrangements, gear issue and boat prep time, dive shop locations). At gear issue (usually the Thursday before the trip at 5.30pm) you can hire the scuba equipment you need, talk to your 'lift' and arrange a departure time, and help out getting the boats ready for the trip. After that, it's time to get organised for your departure on Friday evening - make sure you are fully equipped (i.e. camping and dive gear, food, maps, information, and cash to pay for boat and camping costs) BEFORE you leave Canberra. --- Happy bubbling!



ANU Scuba New Members FAQ

In Canberra - Trip organisation and gear issue

I don't have a car, can I still come along?

Absolutely. Our trip coordinators will arrange car pooling and on most trips we are able to pair lift-offers with lift-seekers. Occasionally, if lifts are in high demand, people might be asked to hire a car. Generally, you will be picked up at home with all your gear from the person offering a lift.

How much will the weekend and the diving cost?

Costs to consider when coming on a club dive trip are gear hire, boat-dives, accommodation, petrol and food. A sign-up fee averaging \$15-\$17 (\$5 less for students, and the fee may be greater for more distant locations) to cover infrastructure and boat-towing, is incurred by all divers who have signed onto the trip by Gear-Issue (applicable from Thursday prior to the trip). Actual costs are of course variable and will depend on the trip location and the car you are travelling in, dive site location and type of accommodation. Some ballpark-figures for an average weekend trip are:

Gear hire	Snorkelling gear	Diving	Accommodation	Petrol	Food	Sign-up fee
\$0 - \$20	\$30-\$50	Student: \$7-\$10/dive SRA: \$12-\$17 /dive	\$7-\$12 / night	\$30 - \$50	variable	\$15-17
RGIO	Store	Trip coordinator	Trip coordinator	Driver	yourself	Trip coordinator

(RGIO = Rostered Gear Issue Officer) Please read the gear hire rules on our website. * Sign-up fee might be larger for longer trips.

What gear can I hire from the club, and how much will it cost?

The club currently has 12 sets of scuba gear, including BCD's, regulators and a range of aluminium and high-pressure steel tanks. We also have weight belts, diving computers and a few tents. You will have to pay a refundable deposit of \$30 in addition to the following hire fees:

Gear	Club trips			Private trips
	Undergrad students	Postgrad students	SRA members	All Club Members
Full set (tank, regs, BCD)	free	\$10	\$20	\$10 / Item / Week
Two items	free	\$10	\$20	
One item	free	\$5	\$10	

I don't have snorkelling gear (wetsuit, fins etc.), where can I hire it?

You can hire it at a discounted rate from the Straightline Ski & SCUBA Store (phone 62474070 or 6247 4911) in Lonsdale St, Shop 7, in Braddon (mention that you are an ANUSC diver). You can also arrange tank fills and courses here. Other stores in Canberra that might be able to help you out are Aqua Action in Philip and In Depth Scuba in Belconnen.

Where do I find the boat shed?

The (green) boat shed is located at ANU's North Oval near the corner of Barry Drive / McCaughey Street just across the road from ANU campus (see map on the cover of this brochure).

What do I need to take on the trip, and where do we stay?

We usually camp on our club weekends, although some members only come for a day. Generally we try for the more rustic National Park campsites. However, sometimes we do stay in Caravan Parks that have all the facilities you can imagine. You will need to take your camping and cooking gear, and sufficient food supplies. If you don't have your own camping gear, try places like Camping World, BCF or Big W for low-cost equipment. The club also has some tents for hire to get you started. Depending on the location you might be able to buy lunch while you are waiting for your tank to be filled and/or head to the pub for dinner. You can find out about the campsites we visit frequently, their facilities and proximity to towns here. Also talk to people at gear issue (especially your lift) about general logistics and food options at the respective campsite, everyone will be more than happy to share information.

At the coast - Camping and Diving

How do I get to campsite X?

See our 'Commonly visited campsites' website for directions. It's a good idea to prepare an information pack before the trip, including directions to the campsite, phone numbers of fellow campers and dive related info such as location of dive shops for air fills, dive sites and tide tables.

How does is diving organised once we are at the coast?

Dive planning usually happens in the evenings prior to the diving day, with the help of our trusty whiteboard. This is where potential dive sites, boat runs and buddy pairs are discussed and people are coordinated onto boats. If you feel uncomfortable with the idea of going on a boat dive straight away, look out for someone more experienced to go on a shore dive with first. It's important that you speak up if you are unsure about how things work or don't understand what is going on. Make an effort before and during the trip to inform yourself about dive sites in the area visited. Talk to people at gear issue and check out (i.e.) Michael McFadyen's website. Sometimes the coordinator will enquire about your preference for the Saturday morning dive in their email. As a rule of thumb, first dives tend to go to deeper sites (20-30+m), while later runs will be shallower. If unsure, discuss your options with the coordinator.

I don't have a dive buddy. What now?

There are usually several people on a trip who don't have a regular dive buddy, and things usually sort themselves out at dive planning. It is fairly common amongst those divers to dive with different buddies over a weekend. If you are an inexperienced diver it could be an advantage to talk to the coordinator about potential dive buddies at gear issue, where you can be introduced to each other.

What sort of diving is done, and is anyone leading the dives?

We do all sorts of diving in the club, from shore to boat, from shallow to deep, from micro to macro - there's usually something for everyone. Keep in mind is that the club is not a commercial operator. We don't have dive guides and don't tell you what you have to dive. Every club member is a qualified diver, so you are expected to take responsibility for yourself and use your judgement and experience when deciding which dives you should consider.

What to do if I have any problem with the hire gear?

Report any problems with your gear to the trip coordinator straight away - they usually take spare gear. We have capable people in the club who might be able to fix gear on the spot. If the problem persists, report it to the gear officer upon your return to Canberra so that it can be repaired ASAP.

Back home - Gear return

Before you return the gear to the shed the following Thursday. Please have the tanks filled, and make sure you wash and dry everything thoroughly, rinse inside BCD's etc. - well looked-after gear will serve us longer! Our website details washing and taking care of our club gear.

What if I can't return the gear on the following Thursday?

If you have gear to return and you are not able to make it or don't have transportation, let the trip coordinator AND the gear issue officer know before the gear issue. We often have back-to-back trips and especially on bigger trips, gear is in high demand - so we need to make sure everything gets bad into the shed before the next trip. Furthermore, if you do not inform anyone about your inability to return the gear AND arrange for some alternative gear return time, \$10 will be deducted from your deposit for every week you are late returning your gear.

I am going on consecutive trips, can I carry over gear from one trip to the next?

Even if you intend to hire the same gear out for the coming weekend, you must return the gear and be reissued with it and pay the hire fee. This is especially important for upcoming big trips, where all the gear might be needed (and potentially has to be shared between divers), as carry-over would give individuals an unfair advantage.

Who's Who and the Committee

The current (2011) Committee is:

President: **Chris Bloomfield**
Vice-President (Gear Officer): **Peter Jones**
Treasurer: **Ray Vran**
Secretary: **Sharyn Wragg**
Boat Officer **Russel Patrick**
Environmental Officer: **Gosia Pilat**
Social Officer: **Michael Walker**
Student Officer: **Josh Christi**
Safety Advisor: **Jeremy Weinman**



Committee roles

The **President's** role is to facilitate, coordinate, delegate and generally keep on top of what is happening in the club.

The **Gear Officer** looks after our gear to ensure it's always in pristine condition and acts as Vice President where needed.

Our **Treasurer** is responsible for getting the numbers right, keeping our accounts in check and writing grant applications.

The **Secretary** deals with club correspondence, membership records, meetings and minutes.

The **Boat Officer** takes care of our two beautiful boats Tigger, and Capricorn (affectionately, "the Goat"), which was recently custom-built for us, after much effort and research by the boat officer and committee in general. There's a lot to break, so he's always busy fixing things.

The **Environment Officer** informs the club of environmental issues and legislation, encourages club participation in best environmental diving practices, arranges conservation, clean-up and survey activities; and makes submissions in response to (government) proposals on the club's behalf.

The **Student Officer** ensures student's needs are represented.

The **Social Officer** organises our monthly drinkie poohs and other social events such as the Welcome BBQ for new members and the Christmas party.

The **Safety Advisor** advises the Committee on any diving safety related issues.