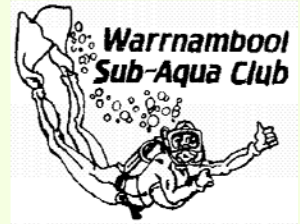




Newsletter



WARRNAMBOOL SUB AQUA CLUB

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Pres says
- Recent happenings.
- Club dives
- Members go diving.
- Dive calendar

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

A belated Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all of all our members. The weather has been a bit kinder to us all recently with many divers getting into the water and enjoying some ocean diving. Even I have been able to get back into the salty stuff and very enjoyable it was also. The water temp has rising to a pleasant 16 -17 degrees on the dives that I attended which was just as well seeing that I had left my undergarment safe and warm at home

on two of the dives. Many thanks to those who loaned me some socks and a t-shirt. —who needs expensive undergarments...

In this months newsletter we have a report from Paul Harris about his recent Fiji trip and a story from Mick and Michelle about a dive in The Shaft in Mount Gambier.



Another Mt Gambier Amazing Experience

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Dive Fiji

By Paul Harris

Hi all, just a little line about our dive in Fiji with my son Max late last year.

The weather was around 34 degrees every day and the water temp about 22 degrees and very calm which was great, the snorkeling was almost as good as the diving, visibility was 20—30m. Ok, that's enough of the crap now its time to get into the good stuff. The first dive we went to is what they call the Pinnacles which is a large reef that is about 10 meters round and 17—18 meters deep with the most amazing tropical fish that you could see from top to the bottom ,and I am talking about hundreds of fish! As we

approached the bottom there was a swim-through cave which was great—however I was a little disappointed because we did not see any sharks. This dive was 20m deep.

Our second dive was called the gardens which I thought , it cannot be as good as the other dive. How wrong I was, this spot was the most unbelievable dive I have ever done in my life. It was like being in another world complete with sharks and manta rays. Once again the fish were everywhere, little sand worms and corals in all different

colors. Divers—all I can say if you are lucky enough to go to Fiji and stay at Plantation Island, do the Gardens dive! Please don't worry about wet-suits a you will not need them—even at 20m deep. Dives cost \$150 for 2 dives including all gear.



Wookey Cave... an excerpt from Linda's log book.



05/09/2007 21.7m 53mins 9 degrees

Entered the water at chamber 3 – really muddy! Chris forgot his hood so Gary had to run back to get it while we stood in thigh deep 9 degree water with our sidemounts on. Martyn led Paul, Lorraine, myself and then Chris, Andy called the dive with a leaky HP hose. Swam through to chamber 9, surfaced, then dropped down and continued on to sump/chamber 20. When we surfaced in 9 there was loud music, bright lights and a sea of faces—very impressive. The vis was better than I expected, maybe 2-3metres. Each section was different, silty, muddy, sandy, rocky, or a continuous rock slab. Ended up in chamber 22, surfaced, had a chat, turned around and resurfaced again in 9 where we exited up and over a ladder we had attached to the railing earlier. That was interesting in sidemounts! I noticed the flow (or lack of) on the way out—much easier. I found it difficult (no glide) swimming through the tunnel towards chamber 20. Much easier on the way back! Walked out through the cave in my sidemounts to the grassy area outside to de-kit.



Divers in Chamber 9 prepare to exit the water

Pres Says...

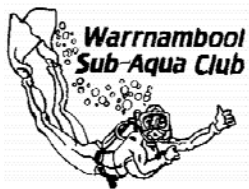
Hi again to all, now that Christmas is come and gone here is hoping that we all have a bit more time to catch up and get some diving in. The February meeting was held at Gary and Linda's house, with them present of course along with Doug, Mick and Michelle, Kelli and I and Jeff. Thanks to the others who let me know that they couldn't make it. There have been a few dives organized and placed on our calendars but if you are available any other time and want to get in or catch up please feel free to give Doug or I a call.

You will see that there is a Portland dive booked for the 1st March at this point the boat is booked out but if you let me know, if there is a pull out I will let you know. There is going to be a morning boat dive, followed by BBQ and then Break wall dive to finish. The boat won't be available for the PM dive sorry.

Hope to catch up with everyone soon we are looking at a BBQ/meeting in March but will be in contact further as we get closer.

Remember if you have any ideas about a dive you would like to do let us know and we will try and help out.





RECENT CLUB DIVES

We have done a few dives in the last month or so. In December we traveled across to Mount Gambier to do a bit of Sinkhole Diving, destination The Shaft. From the club there was Parko and Kelly, Mick and Michelle, Gary and Linda. Access to the dive site is by walking through a Paddock and coming across a small hole about 1metre wide. Setting up the A frame for the dive took about 20 minutes. We all lowered our gear down into the Shaft first and then suited up and abseiled down about 8 meters until we hit the water. Condition in the Shaft were a bit dark initially until your eyes adjust. Visibility was excellent and water temperature was about 16.9 degrees. Gary also brought along his camera with the new lens and strobe, so he did get a bit click happy while we were all down there. Everyone enjoyed the dive and Mick, Parko and Gary did a second dive later in the day. Gary was some excellent photos of his dive on the Waves n Caves website.

Also in December Mick and Michelle did a nice dive at Pickering Point. Easy access here except the flies were pretty annoying on the way down to the beach! Water was absolutely beautiful and the visibility was also was also excellent. We did a bit of looking around and there are certainly a a lot of large crays down there, plenty of fish and one particularly large octopus.

Mick, Paul, Doug and Ross did a boat dive in December as well. Heading east towards Childers there was a bit of fish spearing on the way with Mick and Doug catching a few sweep.

Mick, Doug and Michelle also did a boat dive near Helens Rock. Nice spot with a few small caves, plenty of fish and the conditions on the days

ere excellent.

Another recent dive in the boat with Mick, Doug, Paul and Max was pretty interesting with Paul and Max having a very close face to face encounter with a thrasher shark. He was pretty interested in the fish that they had on the end of their spear gun and I'm sure the heart rate would have kicked up a notch or two on this occasion! Paul gave him a nice little nudge with the end of the spear and fortunately they are both still here to share the experience with us.

Mick, Michelle, Gary and 2 new divers did a recent dive in Stingray Bay. Water was pretty nice, visibility was a bit limited but a nice spot to have a

poke around.

As the weather has been a bit warmer recently, it is always nice to get the wetsuit back on again (its never that warm...Editors Note) and dive in a single tank. We'll pull out the dry suit and twins when things cool down again. Also a big thank-you to Gary and Linda for the Christmas bash that they put on, I think everyone had a great time and we all had plenty to eat and drink (some of us more than the others!!!!!!) Thanks again guys maybe we can do an Easter Party next.

Mick and Michelle.



Mick After Dive on LA BELLA shipwreck



Jeff cottrill looking at La Bella Wreck



Club members returning from another great dive. December 2007