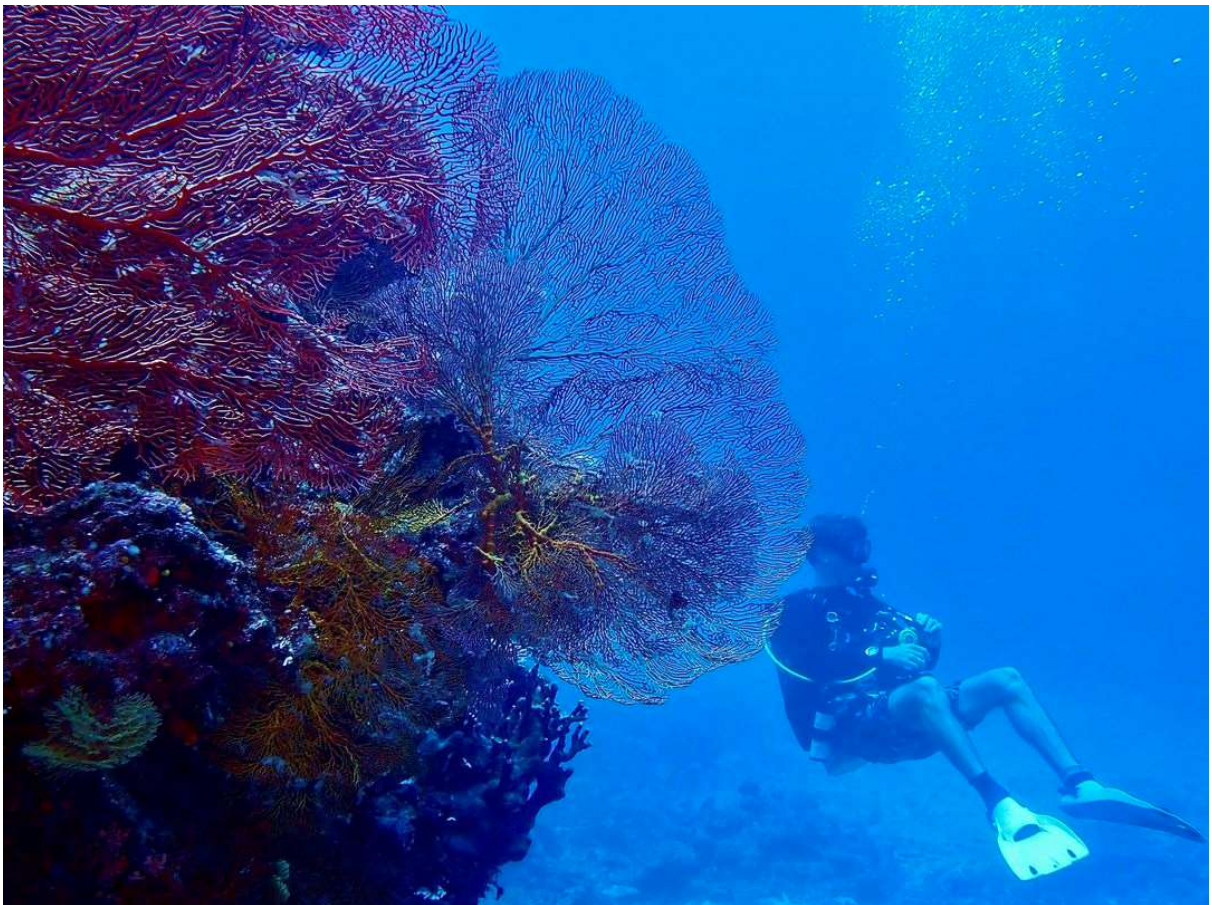




November /  
December 2022  
Newsletter



Cover photo by Russ Jones, Moso Island, Vanuatu.

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*Deep dive at Espiritu Santo*

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*Marine Knowledge Crossword (Good luck!)*

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*Paul Soares*

*Jane and Dave Casburn*

*7 litre twins F.S.*

*Lynne Tuck*

*Greg Blackburne*

*Phil Short*

**WALINDI Plantation Resort AND MV FeBrina**

**26 October-12 November 2022**

**Text and photos by Linda Morgan**

**\*Photo credits where different**

Those of you who have also been fortunate enough to visit Walindi Plantation Resort and join Alan aboard MV FeBrina will know I am not exaggerating by describing Walindi as an idyllic tropical paradise. Blessed with warm, clear water, numerous sensational and varied dive sites filled with abundant marine life, this was certainly a 'Bucket List' holiday!

The dive sites range from muck dives rich in a wide variety of tiny critters to delight macro photographers, to pristine coral reefs of beautifully formed colourful coral of various shapes and sizes which are home to over 900 fish species. Pelagic fish included schooling barracuda, eagle rays, white tip, black tip and silver tip reef sharks, trevally, tuna and friendly green sea turtles complemented by thick shoals of numerous varieties of beautiful tropical fish, star fish, clams, crabs, technicolour sponges, red sea whips, and huge gorgonian fans.

All our dives were full of surprises.

Cecilie Benjamin in partnership with her son Cheyne, warmly welcome visitors to Walindi. The resort can accommodate 40 guests in 12 wonderfully romantic beachfront bungalows overlooking Kimbe Bay and 8 Plantation House rooms. Three dive boats operate day trips into Kimbe Bay offering two or three dives per trip. This includes mouth-watering lunches during a suitable surface interval.

Meals at the resort were delicious and varied including freshly caught fish with local fruit and vegetables followed by fabulous homemade desserts. After dinner I was entertained by the twinkling fireflies behind the resort just as an extra treat.

MV FeBrina liveaboard is a 22metre monohull vessel accommodating up to ten guests and catering to single travellers. On my trip we had one couple and five singles.

The crew are terrific and I felt very spoiled the whole time. Our dive guides have an intimate knowledge of all the sites.

The hostesses were delightful and the ship was immaculate. Our meals included fish caught from the boat. Fresh fruit and vegetables were traded with local villagers. They were unbelievably good especially considering the small galley.

Another important aspect of this holiday for me was to spend time visiting Kimbe and some of the local surrounding area to learn a little more, so I kept a few days free to explore. Walindi staff took me to the West New Britain Provincial capital town of Kimbe nearby to visit their local long market. The hot springs in the foothills of the active volcano named Gabuna, was a place to bathe in warm therapeutic waters in a rainforest setting. The local Walindi Primary School, (supported by Walindi Plantation Resort) was an interesting destination. Visiting two WWII aircraft, abandoned at the site of an old airstrip now overgrown by vegetation, was a reminder of the violent years Papua New Guinea faced during 1942-1945. Next visit, I definitely want to climb the volcano as I ran out of time on this trip.

MV FeBrina operates several different itineraries throughout the year. Next time I'd like to join a one-way trip from Walindi Plantation Resort to Rabaul in East New Britain Province for the Mask Festival or destination Kavieng, New Ireland Province. Who wants to come? 2024?









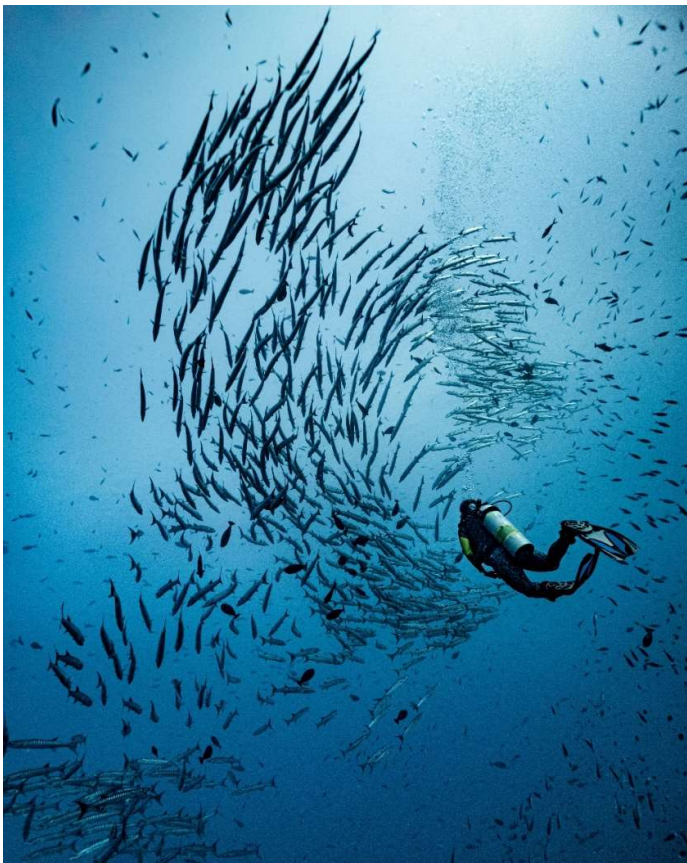


Photo credit Darren Jew



Photo credit Marcelo Krause



Photo credit Nat Sumanatemeya





Photo credit Simon Rogerson

### Deep Dive to 105m Espiritu Sant, Vanuatu

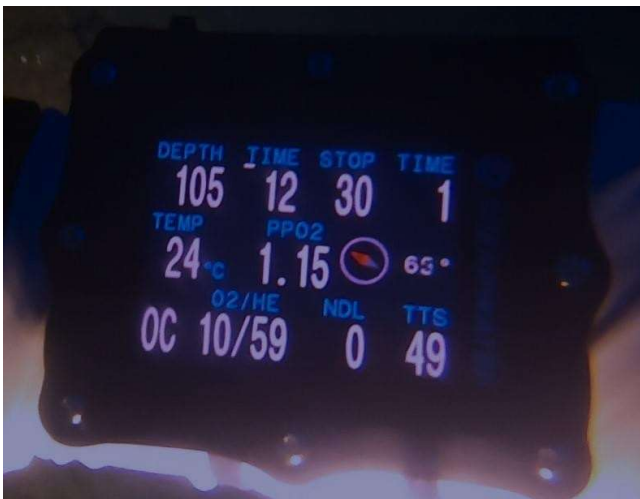
#### Dive, Text and Photos Russ Jones

Dived to 105 metres depth, 5 tanks, using 10/59, 25/35, 50/00 and 95/00 totalling ~6,000 litres of mixed gases, 96 mins run time, 13 mins bottom time, on phenomenal / pristine dive site. Only the 5th diver on this site at Tavanu Island (off Espiritu Santo), Vanuatu. The wall drops to 140m.

Saw an unusual and beautiful cowrie shell whilst on the deco stop.

Rare marine flatworm *P. cf. leptostictus* seen whilst at 6m deco stop at the SS Coolidge.

Swam with a dugong on the Coolidge - but it didn't happen as I didn't have my camera :)







**Wooli Dive trip (week 1) 13 to 18 November**

**Text Michael McFadyen**

A total of 12 members headed to Wooli for the first of the November dive weeks . An excellent Chinese dinner at the club on Sunday night had us thinking we would have great diving the next day, but wind and seas meant no diving. We did a walk along the beach instead. That night we had a great BBQ dinner.

Tuesday was much better and we ended up doing adrift dive at the Mackerel Run for the first dive. Reasonable viz but cool water (18C). Grey nurse sharks were seen as well as some turtles. The second dive was at Fish Soup but it was filthy on the eastern side. Lots of fish, but hard to see them unless they came close.

Tuesday night saw our traditional curry night, although some decided to go to the pub. More for the rest of us! Wednesday was similar to Tuesday, we dived the Bubble Cave and then Anemone Bay. There were about four grey nurse sharks in Anemone Bay and other things seen were turtles, shovel-nose rays (biggest one I have ever seen) and eagle rays. We also saw a leaf fish near the mooring.

Thursday was the pick of the days, despite the wind being much stronger from the south and the swell bigger. The only place to dive was Anemone Bay, but the first dive was the second best dive I have ever done at North Solitary Island I reckon. The viz was up to 20 metres, we saw a huge bronze whaler shark (we saw it briefly yesterday too), some grey nurse sharks, three shovel-nose rays, at least seven bullrays, turtles and much more. Brilliant. The water was also much warmer. The second dive was also here, but the viz dropped off a bit as did the temperature. Also saw some kingfish, a few egg cowries and more.

The trip back from the island was probably the roughest I have experienced, but then two thirds of the way back it calmed. I think the wind was holding up the current and making the swell much bigger than it should have been. That night we went to the pub for dinner, another great meal.

Thanks to Peter F for organising and to Stan and Clare for the dive operation and, of course, Mick for his skippering of the boat. One more great trip to Wooli.

**Frenchmans Bay Dive / BBQ 12 November 2022**

**Photos Paul Soares.**



Geoff Sanders at Henry Head





Geoff and Kelly









**Club Christmas Party**  
**4 December 2022**  
**Organised by Jane and Dave Casburn**  
Text and photos Jane's FB

Thank you to everyone who attended the Xmas party. It was a superb event which brought together our club in its fine fashion. Special shout out to: [Debbie Cook](#) who despite being ill dropped the food tent off, picked it up and made an amazing Rocky Road. She really is a trooper xx [Jason Coombs](#), Roxanne, [Greg Blackburne](#), [Shelley Breuseker](#), [Ray Edwards](#) and [Ida Di Camillo](#) for superb salads that all got ate. Not just salads but cabanas, cleaning, carving and prepping foods - all stepped up to help. Geoff, [Steve Shaw](#) and a whole heap others for desserts. Lynne for her amazing handmade gifts too - they were really smart. I know I have not mentioned everyone who helped in various ways but acknowledge that this event cannot happen without the goodwill of members.



## Gear for Sale

Gear for sale:

I am selling my twin 7L tanks.

2 x 7L 300 bar tanks, 300bar din valves no manifold setup as independent tanks, stainless bands and tank boots.

Recent Hydro (certificates available if requested)

Tanks are approx. 15yrs old . They have been looked after and are in good condition.

Include a 300bar air fill if picked up in Sydney.

Price \$800.

If interested I can be contacted on [pjflockart@speednet.com.au](mailto:pjflockart@speednet.com.au)

Regards,

Peter Flockart  
PJF Photographics  
Ph 0409 304 959




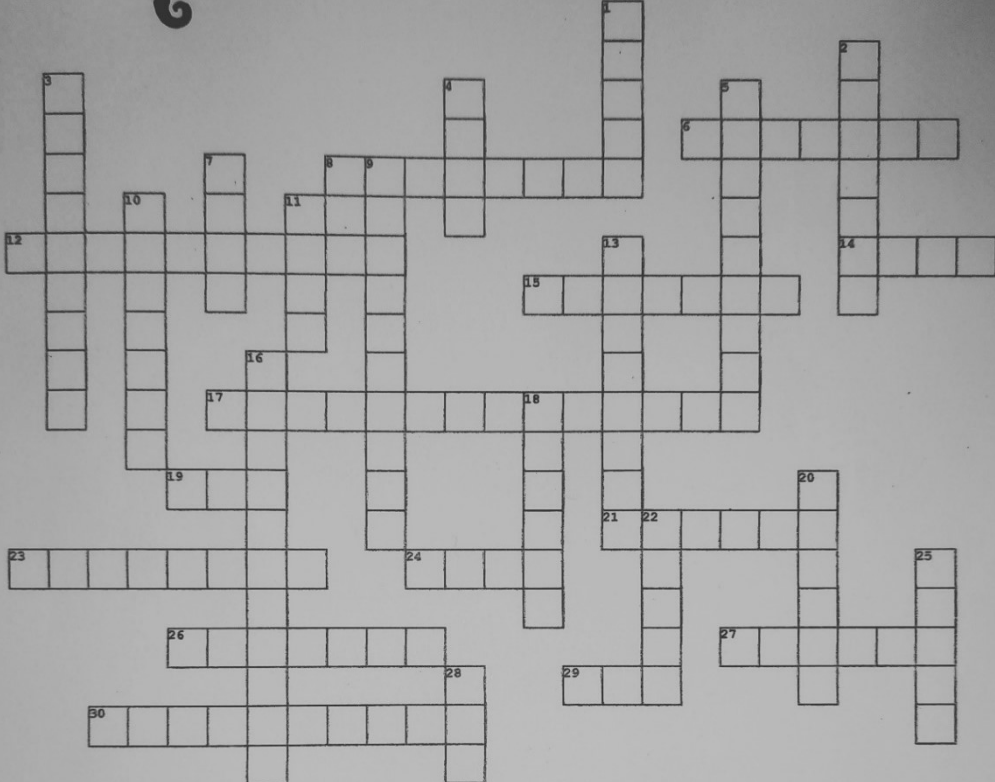


## Marine based Crossword Puzzle

Prepared by Lynne Tuck


Answers provided next month

 **Urchin.creations Marine Crossword 1**  
Have fun with the crossword puzzle below.



**Across**

- 6. Animal that flies underwater not through the air 7
- 8. A sharks claspers are modified ..... 8
- 12. A floating holiday/dive trip 10
- 14. The .... seahorse gives birth 4
- 15. A floating nudibranch 7
- 17. Nudibranchs are both male and female known as ? 14
- 19. Baby stingray is called a 3
- 21. Name of a cuttlefish 'bone' 6
- 23. A male sharks sex organs 8
- 24. Collective noun for turtles 4
- 26. This animal has nine brains 7
- 27. Land surrounded by water 6
- 29. A normal scuba cylinder contains? 3
- 30. The U in Scuba stands for ? 10



**Down**

- 1. Deepest part of our oceans 5
- 2. Fast moving ocean wave generated by an earthquake 7
- 3. A relationship where both animals benefit 9
- 4. Baby Whale 4
- 5. Turtles excrete excess salt through their ? 9
- 7. Weedy, leafy and \_\_\_\_ are the three types of seadragons 4
- 9. Also known as a sea slug 10
- 10. Animals that live in the water column 7
- 11. What we use to see underwater? 4
- 13. Cephalopods include squid, octopus, cuttlefish and ? 8
- 16. What determines the sex of turtle hatchlings 11
- 18. A nitrox mix has more... 6
- 20. Breath in 6
- 22. Juvenile eels are called? 5
- 25. Dive partner 5
- 28. Baby seahorses 3

**Created by Lynne**

**Information links and:  
Home made key safe for shore dives  
Greg Blackburne**

One of our members, Greg Blackburne is a member of Recreational Vessels Advisory Group and he has provided the following links from Maritime which enable you to have a say on maritime related issues.

**The remake of the Marine Safety Regulation (MSR) 2016**

**Maritime Safety Plan 2026**

Read or download:

<https://www.future.transport.nsw.gov.au/future-transport-plans/maritime-safety-plan-2026>

**Marine Safety Regulation Have Your Say portal**

<https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/marine-safety-regulation>

**The development of policy options for managing end of life vessels (ELVs)**

This is a multi-user survey, that is open to anyone.

**End of life vessels Have Your Say portal**

<https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/end-of-life-vessels>

**Shore Diving Security - A Key To Success**

**By Greg Blackburne**

Shore Dive Security can be an issue with the new Fangled Electronic Car Keys, or any car for that matter!!

What To Do?!?!?

What To Do?!?!?

Search Online.....??

Yes,, But at a huge variation in cost!

No Guarantee the unit will fit, according to many online reviews!!

So, I chatted with our neighbour Grant, who needed a hand moving some heavy rubbish.

Eureka, he shows me his stash of metal Bar, Plate, Sq & Round Tube, & Angle!!

All Stainless Steel!!

Sweet!!!!

So, discussion begins about what he may have lying about!! It wasn't long before he found what he thought would do the trick, being a length of 50mm square tube.

He was only too happy to clean out some Junk as he called it, & I was only too happy to oblige!!

Being a qualified Metalworker/Welder he has some very useful equipment!!

So, we've got the stock we need.



The edges were of a suitable radius (rounded enough) not to jam in the tow bar assembly on the car, by comparing it to the tow bar tongue, the bar with the tow ball attached, which I took with me.

In the 10 minutes I took measuring the depth in the tow bar assembly, to ensure it wasn't too short, or long (the Goldelocks Process) also measuring the distance of the hole where the securing pin goes through, Grant had already measured, & cut a suitable hole to fit the keys through (checked beforehand) which I had already shown to him.

He used a fine blade the thickness of Sandpaper attached to an angle grinder, which cut the stainless like a hot knife through butter!!

As he was called away to do an errand, I drew up the box, & as Grant had also cut a flap to bend over, weld to form the container, so I drew one for the other end.

When he returned he cut the other end, hammered the ends down ready to be TIG welded.

After some initial issues pushing/holding the ends flush to weld, he produced a G Clamp, & some Locking Pliers (google it) he has adapted his for welding, by adding small sections of angle to hold round tubing. These things certainly made life easier!! I think I got a month's dose of UV from the welding flash's!! Because of the thinness of the metal a few holes blew out, but he really is an exceptional welder!

Once he'd finished the welding, he smoothed the welds on a Linisher (belt sander on a bench grinder - google it) producing the Smooth, Shiny finish on the container in the images!!

After that I checked it for size, compared the Locking pin hole marks for accuracy, then off back to his garage to drill them with a Tungsten Step Drill (google that too!!) another neat piece of kit!!

Once I ground down the raised metal edges left from the step drill, I put a piece of wetsuit neoprene on the end, to give it some resistance when fitted, & so it won't rattle whilst driving.

I may either paint the exposed end black, or attach a blank cover, which are available at most Auto Parts Stores.

The beauty of this design is you put the key under your diving suit, I bought the locking pin from a Marine Parts store years ago, & are now easy to find online. <https://www.whitworths.com.au/ark-trailer-tow-bar-lock>

It appears online prices vary greatly!!

So it pays to research It!!

I intend to get another piece of stainless steel to make a cover for it, to see if it will shield the keyless Ignition car fobs, which would make life much easier for those who have them.

This key security case is much less obvious, & less likely to attract the attention of any potential thieves, & it will live in the boot with the tools, so it's always on hand for use!!

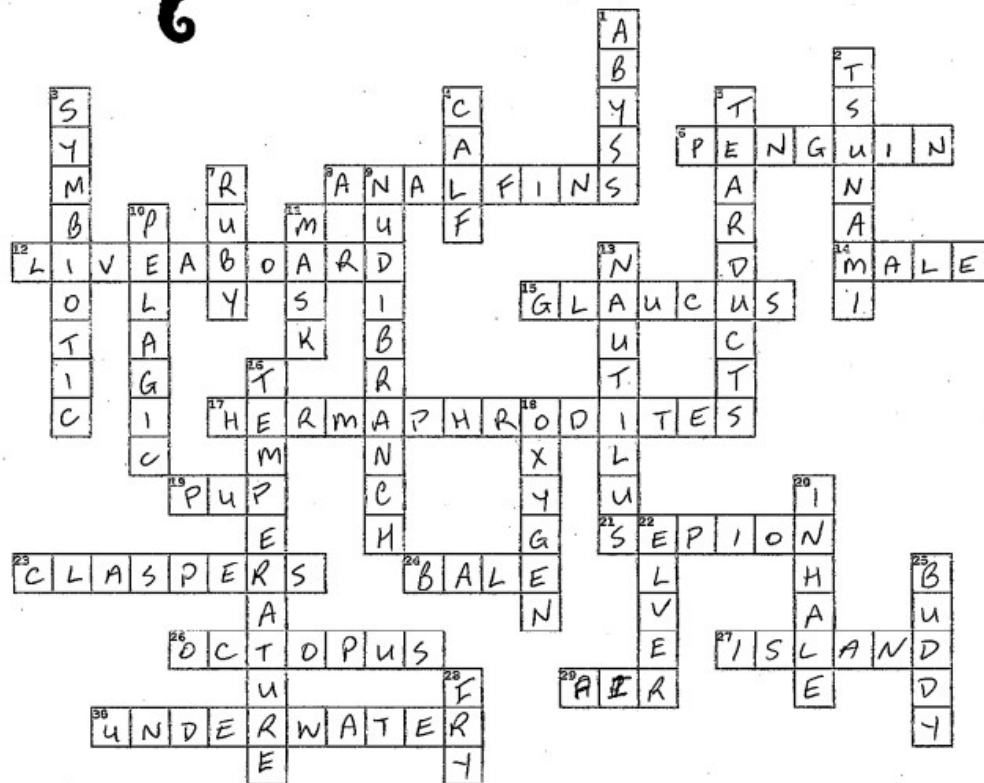
All in All, Grant has done an excellent job!!





## Urchin.creations Marine Crossword 1

Have fun with the crossword puzzle below.



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Created by Lynne





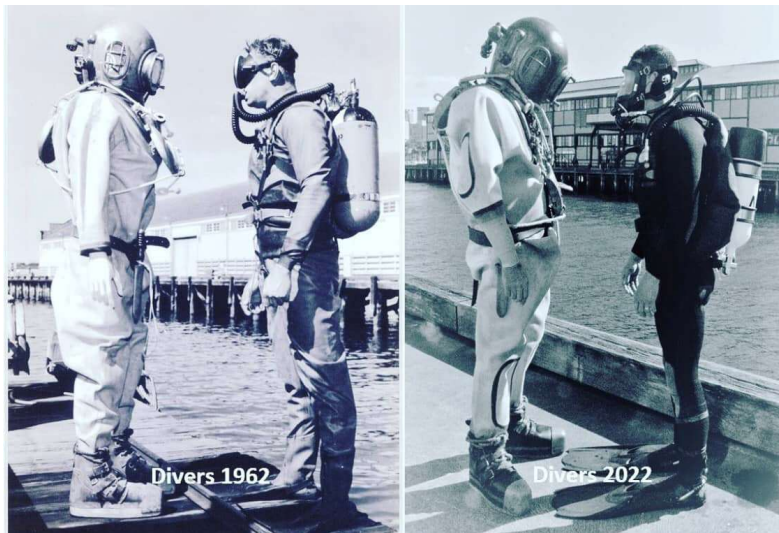
## Police Divers Hyperbaric Chamber launch and Reunion Day

Text and photos Phil Short

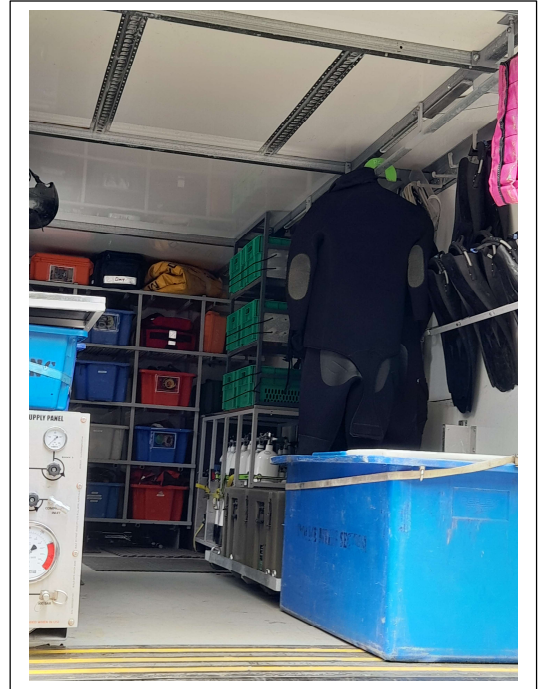
On 9 December 2022 the NSW Police Divers held a combined event at the Marine Area Command (MAC) to launch their new mobile hyperbaric chamber and a reunion of former Police Divers, kindly referring to us as “old boys”. The Police Divers commenced operation in 1935 and since that time there have been 167 divers, of which I am number 102. The MAC has a service board listing all divers that have served since 1935.

To be a Police Diver you undergo an initial training course, which is a month long full time course with a failure or withdrawal rate of around 90 percent. Most withdrawals occur during what is aptly called hell week where you are given tedious tasks to perform and spend long hours underwater. In the 1980's that meant no hood, no gloves, no boots, no wetsuit pants and for many of us a loose fitting wetsuit top. An unpleasant cold month for everyone. Additional courses are held to qualify for surface supply with communication, full face helmets, hyperbaric chamber operator and deep dives which during my time was 40m and are now qualified to dive commercially to 50m.

The current dive team were very generous with their time and provided demonstrations about their current equipment and methods of operation which were impressive. It was a great day to catch up with a few old divers and meet the current crew.



The above photo shows a current diver with inverted twin tanks. Why inverted tanks? On many dives the visibility is zero and you cannot read gauges so the tanks are inverted with one tank closed and the other open. When the air gets low on the open tank, you open the closed tank and equalise the tanks via a manifold and then close the reserve tank. Typically you would equalise three times and then signal to surface. The inverted tanks make it easier to get to your valves.



Above photo: Police divers truck and recompression chamber trailer. The truck and trailer each have their own high capacity compressor.



The new recompression chamber which received a blessing from the Police Chaplain. The old chamber is on the right and used to be transported in a shipping container on a flat bed truck. Both units have a smaller lock chamber that can be lifted on Police launches for off shore deep dives.

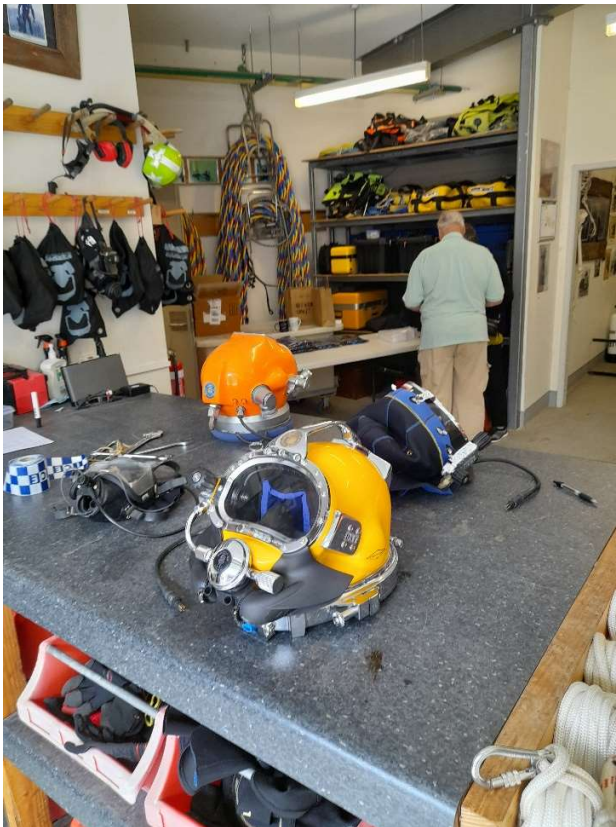




The above device is an underwater radar unit waterproof to 110 metres. It was explained that the unit sends out a forward looking radar which shows up on the screen and shows discrepancies on the sea floor. It can be used by standing in shallow water on a river bank or dam and observing the abnormalities. The diver is then sent out to check out the abnormality. It has been used this way in many recoveries. The unit can also be used by the diver swimming or using a scooter which can then cover large areas. The unit can also map out the area searched and where the items were recovered. That can then be overlayed on an aerial map. It was used for the crash of a helicopter off Newcastle which claimed five lives. A remarkable piece of equipment.



The divers put on a display by being dropped into the water from Polair.



**Full face helmets.**



## Upcoming Calendar Events

### January 2023

**Saturday, 7 January 2023 Boat Dive Magic Point** Sylvania/Port Botany Peter Flockart 0409 304 959  
pjflockart@speednet.com.au

**Thursday, 19 January 2023 Club Meeting Ramsgate RSL** Ramsgate Michael McFadyen 0407 276 556  
michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info

**Saturday, 14 January 2023 Deep Wreck Dive SS Tuggerah** Yowie Bay/RMYC Ian Roffey 0418 208 125  
ianroffey@gmail.com

**Saturday, 21 January 2023 Boat Dive M & K Reef** Sylvania/Port Botany Peter Flockart 0409 304 959  
pjflockart@speednet.com.au

**Thursday, 26 January 2023 Australia Day - Shore Dive/BBQ The Monument** Flat Kurnell Mark  
Arrowsmith 0478 661 626 mra67@live.com

**Saturday, 28 January 2023 Boat Dive Middle Ground Yowie Bay/RMYC** Greg Blackburne 0419 977  
390 blackburnegnb@gmail.com

**Saturday, 4 February 2023 Carol Martin Memorial Dive/BBQ** Bare Island La Perouse John  
McPherson 0439 481 683 jjmcpersoncarlton@gmail.com

### February 2023

**Saturday, 4 February 2023 Carol Martin Memorial Dive/BBQ** Bare Island La Perouse John  
McPherson 0439 481 683 jjmcpersoncarlton@gmail.com

**Saturday, 11 February 2023 Boat Dive Whale Watching Platform** Sylvania/Port Botany Peter  
Flockart 0409 304 959 pjflockart@speednet.com.au

**Thursday, 16 February 2023 Club Meeting Ramsgate RSL** Ramsgate Michael McFadyen 0407 276  
556 michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info

**Friday, 17 February 2023 Sunday, 19 February 2023 Girls Weekend Jervis Bay** Huskisson Maxine  
Hayden 0418 630 146 maxinehayden5@gmail.com

**Saturday, 18 February 2023 Boat Dive Bypass Reef** Sylvania/Port Botany Shelley Breuseker 0438  
998 199 seashellsb01@gmail.com

Please submit any articles and photos for inclusion in the newsletter by replying to my club emails which are sent out every month. The newsletter will be published every month or bi monthly depending on content received.

Dive stories and photos are not restricted to organised club dives. Things like “I learned from that...” recent courses, equipment and general interest diving / diving photography articles are also welcome. If you don’t have time to write anything, just send me photos with where and when details.

Many thanks to all of the contributors.

Cheers. Phil