



# Surface Interval

**August 2011**

[www.ruc.org.au](http://www.ruc.org.au)

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### RYDE UNDERWATER CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEES for 2011-2012:

**Single \$85    Family Concession \$130    Social \$30**

*Membership renewals are due 30<sup>th</sup> June each year.*

Pro rata membership fees are available for new members joining during the year.

### EMERGENCY & INFORMATION PHONE NUMBERS

Diving Emergency Service (DES) within Australia	1800 088 200
Diving Emergency Service (DES) outside Australia	61 8 8373 5312
Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick	(02) 9382 3575
Westpac Rescue Service	(02) 9311 3499
Coast Guard Sydney	(02) 9337 5033
Coast Guard Sydney Boating Weather	(02) 9337 5455
Coast Guard Sydney Boating Weather at 6.50 am and at 2 hour intervals	Radio 27 MHz
NSW Maritime Authority - Sydney Boating Weather	(02) 131 236 (opt 3)

**IF IN DOUBT - ALWAYS RING 000**

### BOAT LAUNCHING RAMPS

Map Reference (2003 Editions)

	UBD	Gregory's
Bayview	118 H13	169 B12
Tunks Park	216 H3	316 C3
Kyeemagh	275 C12	404 C12
Gunnamatta Bay	334 P13	493 J13

## From the PRESIDENT

Dear Rucites,

I am very pleased to announce that our AGM is now over and the following people have offered to take this club thru our 31<sup>st</sup> year.

Secretary	Susan Gay
Treasurer	Diego Molla-Aliod
Dive Officer	Ken Jackson
Equipment Officer	Paul Quinn
Social officer	Natalie McCallum (moving back in August)
Web Master	Aria Lee
Magazine Editor	to be appointed

We still need to fill the position of Magazine Editor so if you can help please let the committee know.

Being a new committee we have much to sort out and will keep you posted on up and coming dives and social events.

Don't forget subscriptions for the coming year are now due and if you want to receive the discounted rate you must renew before 31<sup>st</sup> August this year.

I am presently in the process of organising our Christmas camp for this year. We will probably head a few hours north this year and will be able to confirm what is planned over the next week or so.

I would like to welcome 2 new club members. Phil & Mark Marino have recently joined the club and look forward to seeing them on the water soon.

Our next general meeting is on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August.

Safe Diving,

Peter Hardman  
President

## From the EDITOR desk

The club is looking for some new blood taking on the editor role. After 4 years, I believe some new ideas are in order. Please contact me if you are interested.

The recent cold mornings seem to have had their effect on the dive reports arriving at the editor's desk.



Rob van der Zalm.  
(caretaker)

## From the DIVE OFFICER

### Dive Officers Spiel, August 2011

Rubber Lovers,

Well another month is over and even the year has ended. Its been an interesting year all up. I think we have had quite a good year, with dives and trips away. Maybe we can do better the coming 12 months.

The Photo comp entries were shown at Port Stephens. Some great shots were taken and voted on.



The new financial year has also been and gone and the new committee voted it. A big thank you to the outgoing committee and welcome to the new faces of the next committee. Let's hope the next 12 months can be a bit more active.

Ken Jackson,  
Dive Officer

## APRES DIVE

### *Social Officer – Natalie McCallum*

Thank you all for welcoming me back into RUC and I look forward to being your Social Officer! Before I drop in some hints or suggestions before the big move back to NSW, I would like to thank Dale Chadd for such a wonderful job done as Social Officer and to all those that have nominated into the new committee.

Whatever we plan to do we aim to have some fun and I would love to have some suggestions from you all as to what you would like to do. Here are some to name a few:

- Family picnic day combined with dives from Chinaman's Beach or Botany Bay.
- Social BBQ at my place, 7 Yeramba Place, Rydalmere.
- Winter warmer Curry night at Avari Indian Restaurant Baulkham Hills.
- 3D movies at the IMAX theatre. Darling Harbour where you can wear those fab 'mickey mouse glasses' – preferably some sea creature action movie, followed by dinner at Chinta Rai Thai underneath the walkway bridge to Darling Harbour or at the food court.
- Lunch at the Yacht Club near Southern Cross Divers (near Spit Bridge).
- Walk from Spit Bridge to Manly.

Look forward to seeing you all soon ☺

## WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

Free Willie:

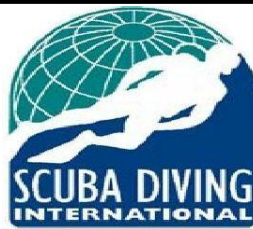
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcXU7G6zhjU&feature=feedf>

## GREY NURSE SHARK PROTECTION IN NSW

On 20<sup>th</sup> July the Sydney Aquarium Conservation Fund (SACF) held an information seminar about the current public consultation process for Grey Nurse Protection in NSW. Peter Gallagher of NSW DPI gave a presentation of the current efforts to identify number of GNS's, their habitats, growth and reproduction information as well as the dangers they face. There was detailed information regarding studies of the effect of different fishing methods and the risk of hooking a GNS. Over half the sharks at some aggregation sites were showing external hooks which have been identified as the primary cause of death among GNS. The latest government reverted the protection measures put in place and requested yet another research period during which the GNS again are unprotected. Please have a read on the website above and make your voice heard.

Help our Grey Nurse Sharks:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/species-protection/conservation/what-current/critically/grey-nurse-shark/gns-review>



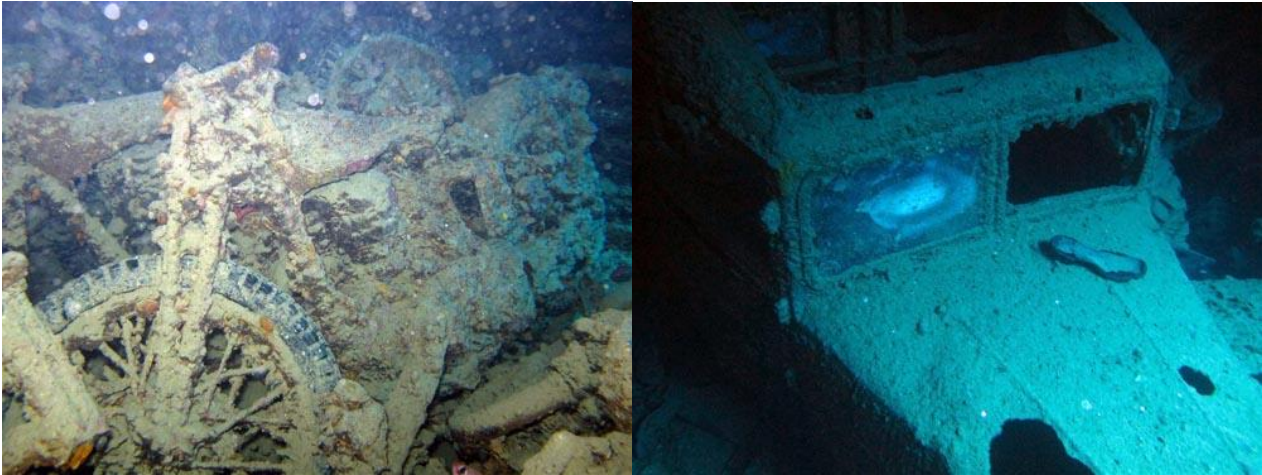
Extend the range of your diving with courses from TDI/SDI. Email [info@tdisdi.com.au](mailto:info@tdisdi.com.au)

## DIVE REPORT – RED SEA (PART II)

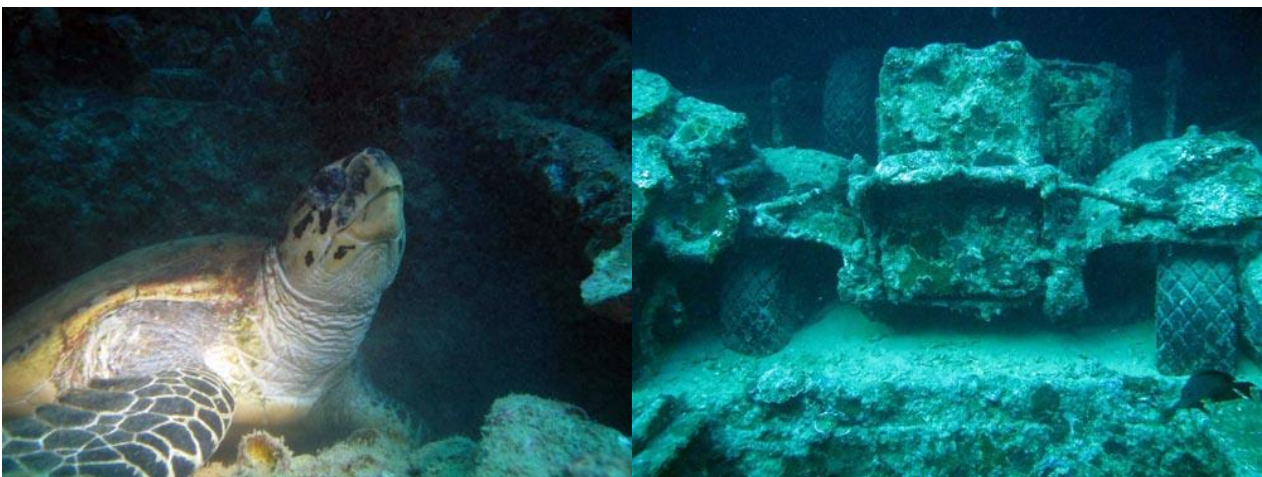
*Andrew Weeks*

The SS Thistlegorm was a British armed merchant navy ship that was torpedoed in 1941. Sailing from Glasgow to Alexandria she was bombed in the middle of the night with a full load of wartime cargo.

She sits in 30m of water looking nearly untouched from the night she sank, however protection of wrecks in Egypt is appalling. There are no moorings in the area so dive boats think nothing of dropping ropes and mooring directly on to the deck of the wreck (in very strong currents). I wonder how long it will last.



The value of a live aboard is clear on a wreck like this, it's like Piccadilly Circus tube later in the day, so we got up and hit the water before 6am. Diving with two buddies it felt like we had the wreck to ourselves. It's incredibly spooky and awe inspiring swimming through the holds. Swimming past the trucks, motor bikes and tanks– sitting just as they have for 70 years - it feels more of a museum than a dive site.



Each hold provides a new and fascinating set of cargo. From airplane wings to gumboots. Tanks to electronics. All dropped into a watery grave just weeks before they became part of an African war zone. Look one way you see a box of guns, another – grenades. All peacefully sitting in clear blue water providing a home for glass fish.



Once done with the holds and the cargo you can drop down to the propeller or swim over to a locomotive that was blown some 30metres from the deck in the bombing. Though to cover it all you need two or three dives.

This was definitely a unique dive for me. I've never been quite so emotionally affected by a wreck. Some list it as one of the top ten dive sites in the world, it's definitely one of the top few dives I've done.



## DIVE REPORT – PORT STEPHENS LONG WEEKEND (10-14 JUNE 2011)

*By Natalie McCallum & photos by Herb Ilic*

We couldn't wait to get away! We didn't end up towing the Palm Beach Dive boat down due to the usual crappy weather at this time of the year, but... We were in for a great social weekend ☺. And, I believe this weekend was one of the biggest social turnouts ever!

Now the diving! On Saturday morning Herb, Mark Mayhew, Richard, Rob, Aria and I all chatted away in Intrepid Close car park whilst Richard was gearing up in his warm dry suit and then headed for Fly Point. We decided it was a no go as the tides were still running and the viz looked terrible so we headed around to Halifax Park which looked a little calmer. It was then decided we would go diving although Rob, Richard and Aria opted out as it was cold and blowy – 16 degrees. After I walked to the loo block with the cold wind blowing in my face, I too chickened out! Mark was definitely going in the water and Herb didn't look too convinced but went anyway to keep Mark company. The pair has a great dive, water temp 16 degrees (Mark will do the write up) but boy they were cold! Herb got some nice shots of some moray eels – see enclosed.



So it looked like it was going to be a non-diving weekend. Most RUCites went home Monday lunchtime so Herb & I took a drive around Nelson Bay, noticing how calm the seas and the viz clearing.

Herb had to return his weight belt back to Feet First Dive shop (forgot his) at 4.30pm and then on the way back to the units we couldn't resist in checking out Fly Point. Ahhhrrr after a weekend of rain and gale force winds, Fly point was flat, calm and the viz was awesome! We just looked at each other and I said, "Let's go in"! Mad rush to go back to the dive shop to get some weights and an air fill for Herb who only had 39 bar left in his tank. Alas the shop was closed, back to the units to get our gear – nothing was stopping us! Us Queenslanders have to show New South Walers that we dive all year around!!

Got on all our dive gear before it turned dark, Herb found a suitable rock for his weight pouch and I was so excited and determined to find some sea hares. 17.32pm we entered the water expecting it to be freezing but found it surprisingly pleasant. (I did have my 2 mill shortie underneath my 7 mill suit!). Water temp was 18 degrees (sorry buddies!!) and the air temp was also 18 degrees. We turned left first and then ten minutes into the dive, my torch flickered out, swore and tapped at the thing several times to no avail. The battery was flat so I stuck with Herb. Next thing I noticed was that Herb was holding on top of my tank using my occy which was fine as he used his torch whilst I took photos! Lying low close to the seabed, I was conscious of treading on stonefish, sea urchins and in the jaws of a wobbygong! A large turtle sat underneath a ledge (not Heather's one!) that had a large blue patch on its back. Herb stated it was a satellite tracker to track the

turtle's movements. Found a really cute cuttlefish that changed colours several times but haven't the photos to show you as our house got broken into last Friday along with my laptop and my dive camera minus the housing so the thieves were obviously not divers. But... I have some of Herb's photos to prove it! ☺ No sign of any Sea hares but it was a bit hard with only one torch. We lasted 35 mins and it was a great dive.



Tuesday – we headed back to the Gold Coast after visiting Ned's pie shop in Port Stephens – if you haven't tried these pies, it is a must for the next trip! Our journey took 14 hours (should have taken 8 hours) as there was flooding at Grafton so we had to de tour back through the New England Hwy but the weekend was worth it! ☺  
Many thanks to Wanda for organising another great weekend and for all those that came along.



## DIVE REPORT – SHELLY BEACH (26 June 2011)

*Richard Ling*

On 26 June Mal Yeo and I headed to the very dependable Shelly Beach for a dive. It was a lovely winter's day with the sun beaming down. We decided to go off the right hand side, and if it got too murky, swim south to Fairy Bower – a trick Rob and I tried the previous week which worked very well.

As it happened visibility was not a problem as the water was crystal clear and lit up by sunbeams. Curious Maori wrasses escorted us as we headed out with the rock wall on our right. A big blue groper also quickly discovered us and tagged along hopefully. Out deep the water was still as clear and bright as in the shallows, and we were surrounded by shoals of tiny hulafish which made for nice photos. I found an interesting small stinkfish with red stripes trying to blend in with the sand.



Hopeful blue groper; Mal with his Maori mate



Mal with hulafish; some kind of stinkfish



Old wife; old giant cuttle

Around the outside of the point some huge hoary old male cuttles were trying to put the wind up each other, flashing their colours and puffing themselves up to look as big as possible! They looked a lot like bearded old sea captains, with their very long white tentacles hanging down below their faces. I guess this is the breeding season and they are trying to stake out their territories and attract a female. There were so many we couldn't count them -- many were well over a metre long with tentacles as thick as my arm. Sometimes two would meet at a disputed boundary, size each other up, turn red and purple with anger, and stretch out their tentacles to maximum size. If neither one backed down, then -- fireworks!!



Very hoary old giant cuttle



2 very hoary old giant cuttles size each other up; very hoary old giant cuttle sizing up Mal

Even Mal was not immune and was treated to a threat display, maybe his own hoary old captain's beard confused the cuttle into thinking he was a competitor! The only female we saw was cowering in a dark hole, as if waiting to see who was going to win, I don't blame her really!

After a good long dive, the air was looking a bit low, so it was time to turn around and head back. Both of us had huge grins on our faces and I took the opportunity to get some shots of sunbeams coming down through the water as we passed through schools of one-spot pullers and yellow finned pike. What a great way to spend a dive!



Happy Mal; happy one-spot pullers

## WET CALENDAR – AUGUST 2011 Wreck Dive Month

DATE	LOCATION	CODE	DEPTH (approx)	MEETING TIME & PLACE	DIVE ACTIVITY LEADER (DAL)
Sat 6	Royal Shepherd	R	28m	8.00am Tunks Park	
Sun 14	The Valiant	R	28m	8.00am Bayview ramp Pittwater	Ken Jackson
Thu 18	Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club	M		Denistone Room @ 7:30 pm	General Meeting
Sun 20	SS Hilda	R	16m	8.00am Kyeemagh ramp	
Sat 28	The Duckenfield	R	22m	8.00am Tunks Pk	

**CODES:** C = Commercial Operator    M = Meeting    N = Night Dive    R = RUC Tub    S = Shore Dive

### AUGUST TIDES

		Monday 1		Tuesday 2		Wednesday 3		Thursday 4		Friday 5		☾ Saturday 6		
Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	
	0313	0.17	0355	0.15	0437	0.18	0521	0.24	0607	0.32	0048	1.40		
	0915	1.48	1001	1.53	1049	1.57	1140	1.59	1233	1.59	0658	0.40		
	1500	0.31	1552	0.31	1646	0.34	1745	0.39	1848	0.46	1332	1.59		
	2124	1.90	2211	1.83	2300	1.71	2351	1.56			2002	0.50		
Sunday 7		Monday 8		Tuesday 9		Wednesday 10		Thursday 11		Friday 12		Saturday 13		
Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	
	0155	1.26	0312	1.18	0430	1.16	0536	1.20	0038	0.36	0122	0.31	0201	0.29
	0755	0.48	0900	0.53	1006	0.54	1108	0.51	0630	1.26	0715	1.31	0757	1.36
	1437	1.59	1545	1.61	1652	1.65	1750	1.70	1204	0.47	1253	0.44	1337	0.41
	2123	0.51	2240	0.48	2345	0.42			1841	1.74	1925	1.76	2004	1.75
☽ Sunday 14		Monday 15		Tuesday 16		Wednesday 17		Thursday 18		Friday 19		Saturday 20		
Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	
	0236	0.28	0308	0.29	0339	0.32	0408	0.35	0438	0.40	0510	0.45	0545	0.50
	0834	1.39	0910	1.41	0945	1.43	1019	1.44	1055	1.44	1133	1.43	1216	1.42
	1418	0.41	1457	0.42	1535	0.44	1615	0.48	1656	0.52	1741	0.57	1832	0.62
	2041	1.71	2115	1.65	2149	1.57	2222	1.49	2258	1.39	2337	1.29		
Sunday 21		☾ Monday 22		Tuesday 23		Wednesday 24		Thursday 25		Friday 26		Saturday 27		
Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	
	0023	1.20	0120	1.12	0231	1.07	0350	1.07	0458	1.13	0550	1.22	0040	0.30
	0626	0.56	0717	0.61	0821	0.64	0930	0.62	1032	0.56	1128	0.48	0636	1.32
	1306	1.40	1403	1.40	1508	1.42	1613	1.48	1709	1.58	1800	1.69	1218	0.38
	1934	0.66	2050	0.66	2205	0.61	2307	0.52	2357	0.41			1846	1.79
Sunday 28		☾ Monday 29		Tuesday 30		Wednesday 31								
Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height							
	0121	0.20	0201	0.13	0242	0.09	0324	0.10						
	0721	1.42	0804	1.53	0849	1.61	0936	1.68						
	1308	0.29	1358	0.22	1448	0.18	1542	0.18						
	1931	1.85	2017	1.87	2105	1.83	2154	1.73						

Time in 24 hour clock, height (Ht) in metres above Chart Datum, *red for low tide* and *blue for high tide*.  
 Times stated are Australian Eastern Standard Time. During **Daylight Saving Time** (when in force) one hour needs to be added to the times stated.

## WET CALENDAR – SEPTEMBER 2011

DATE	LOCATION	CODE	DEPTH (approx)	MEETING TIME & PLACE	DIVE ACTIVITY LEADER (DAL)
Sat 3	The colours	R	26m	8.00am Tunks Park	
Sun 11	Long reef wall	R	24m	8.00am Tunks Pk	Ken Jackson
Thu 15	Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club	M		Denistone Room @ 7:30 pm	General Meeting
Sat 17	Henry Head	R	20m	8.00am Kyeemagh ramp	
Sun 25	The Maroubra Sharks	R	14m	8.00am Kyeemagh ramp	

**CODES:** C = Commercial Operator    M = Meeting    N = Night Dive    R = RUC Tub    S = Shore Dive

## SEPTEMBER TIDES

														Thursday 1		Friday 2		Saturday 3	
														Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
														0407	0.15	0451	0.24	0539	0.34
														1024	1.71	1115	1.70	1209	1.66
														1637	0.22	1736	0.29	1842	0.37
														2245	1.59	2339	1.43		
Sunday 4		Monday 5		Tuesday 6		Wednesday 7		Thursday 8		Friday 9		Saturday 10							
Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height						
0039	1.28	0148	1.17	0309	1.12	0425	1.14	0525	1.20	0015	0.37	0055	0.33						
0631	0.45	0733	0.54	0845	0.58	0957	0.57	1101	0.53	0613	1.28	0654	1.35						
1309	1.61	1416	1.56	1530	1.55	1638	1.56	1735	1.59	1155	0.48	1242	0.43						
1956	0.43	2115	0.46	2228	0.45	2328	0.41			1822	1.61	1902	1.62						
Sunday 11		Monday 12		Tuesday 13		Wednesday 14		Thursday 15		Friday 16		Saturday 17							
Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height						
0129	0.31	0200	0.30	0229	0.31	0257	0.33	0325	0.36	0355	0.40	0427	0.46						
0730	1.40	0804	1.45	0837	1.49	0909	1.52	0942	1.53	1015	1.53	1052	1.51						
1323	0.40	1400	0.38	1437	0.37	1514	0.38	1551	0.40	1631	0.44	1714	0.49						
1939	1.60	2014	1.57	2046	1.53	2120	1.47	2154	1.40	2230	1.32	2311	1.24						
Sunday 18		Monday 19		Tuesday 20		Wednesday 21		Thursday 22		Friday 23		Saturday 24							
Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height						
0501	0.51	0544	0.57	0052	1.10	0201	1.06	0318	1.09	0427	1.17	0520	1.28						
1133	1.48	1220	1.44	0635	0.63	0741	0.65	0856	0.63	1005	0.56	1105	0.46						
1802	0.54	1900	0.58	1317	1.41	1423	1.41	1532	1.46	1634	1.55	1729	1.64						
2357	1.16			2010	0.59	2122	0.55	2225	0.47	2316	0.36								
Sunday 25		Monday 26		Tuesday 27		Wednesday 28		Thursday 29		Friday 30									
Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height								
0001	0.26	0045	0.17	0127	0.12	0209	0.11	0252	0.14	0337	0.21								
0608	1.41	0653	1.55	0738	1.67	0824	1.77	0912	1.83	1000	1.84								
1200	0.34	1252	0.23	1345	0.15	1438	0.11	1531	0.10	1629	0.15								
1819	1.72	1907	1.77	1957	1.76	2046	1.70	2138	1.60	2232	1.48								

Time in 24 hour clock, height (Ht) in metres above Chart Datum, *red for low tide* and *blue for high tide*.  
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## YOUR COMMITTEE

### **PRESIDENT**

Peter Hardman  
president@ruc.org.au

### **SECRETARY**

Susan Gay  
secretary@ruc.org.au

### **TREASURER**

Diego Molla-Aliod  
treasurer@ruc.org.au

### **DIVE OFFICER**

Ken Jackson  
dive@ruc.org.au

### **EQUIPMENT OFFICER**

Paul Quinn  
equipment@ruc.org.au

### **MAGAZINE EDITOR**

editor@ruc.org.au

### **SOCIAL OFFICER**

Natalie McCallum  
social@ruc.org.au

### **WEB MASTER**

Aria Lee  
rucwebmaster@ruc.org.au

## MEMBER ONLY CONTACTS

### Email Groups:

All Members: [ruc01@yahoo.com](mailto:ruc01@yahoo.com)  
Committee: [rucom@yahoo.com](mailto:rucom@yahoo.com)

### Yahogroups:

ruc01: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ruc01/>  
rucom: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rucom/>

## CONTRIBUTE TO SURFACE INTERVAL

Regardless of whether you have been on an exciting dive lately or just been surfing on the internet, if there is something you would like to share with your fellow club members, why not contribute to the next edition of Surface Interval.

Just e-mail your contribution to the editor either as an attachment, or in the body of the message. A page is around 1,000 words and the closer you get to that (or 500 for a ½ pager), the better. There's a word count function in MS Word under the "tools" pull-down menu, which does the job for you.

Remember articles submitted may be posted to the Club's website.

## SURFACE INTERVAL DEADLINE

The deadline for each issue of Surface Interval is the third Wednesday of the preceding month. That means

**The deadline for the September edition is 25<sup>th</sup> August.**



## Frog Dive Scuba Centres

395 Guildford Road, Guildford

9892-3422

539 Willoughby Road, Willoughby

9958-5699



Our members have a common interest in SCUBA diving. Dives are organised and conducted nearly every weekend around Sydney using the club boat and sometimes boats owned by club members.

Our club also organises weekend and holiday trips to interesting dive locations north and south of Sydney. A variety of social activities are organised throughout the year for members and their families.

Our club conducts meetings at **7.30 pm** on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** of each month at:

Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club  
117 Ryedale Road, West Ryde

**New members are always welcome to attend our meetings and join in with our activities.**

**RYDE UNDERWATER CLUB INC.**

PO Box 144 West Ryde NSW 1685

Website: <http://www.ruc.org.au>

Email: [info@ruc.org.au](mailto:info@ruc.org.au)

Ph: 0422 504 553