

DOWN UNDER WITH THE B.R.U.D.G.

April 2026



CONTENTS

PG. 2-4

Committee Members information

PG. 5-8

Reports

PG. 9-13

Dive Reports

PG. 14

Other Interesting Stuff



EDITORS BLURB

Thanks to those who have provided feedback on my first edition. It was much appreciated and helpful.

With reasonably good and calm weather recently it looks like loads of dives are taking place and, in many dives, some nice crays, fish and abalone are taken.

Several divers are off to Raja Ampat (Indonesia) in April so we can expect some great pictures and dive reports from one of the world's best dive spots.

Boat ramp - trailer backing training has been arranged as well as boat licencing information and testing which will make crewing more flexible and safer for all concerned on board.

Craig has been busy putting in grant applications which will support our club and Tom has been busy with Nitrox, compressor and tank servicing processes to help operators via a common and safe operation.

I recently took a look at the Alfred Hospitals divers decompression services via a diver's information seminar. Being the only dive club attendee, I was privileged to meet with 6 of the country's best qualified ICU and technical staff and review the world class chamber and processes. Great to know its there if we need it (free of charge) and underscores our need to do (not do) things before and during dives to reduce the risk of decompression sickness.

There are several WhatsApp dive reports which are included here if you missed them and mentioning new members on 'check out' dives. Great to see we are getting more divers in the group!

Even as the weather gets cooler, let's continue to make 2026 one of safe, exciting, and memorable dives for those that can handle the sub 14 deg waters. (My pain – hyperthermia threshold)

Enjoy the read, and as always, we welcome your stories, photos, recipes, dive sites and feedback for future editions!

Safe and Happy Diving and look forward to seeing you at **next week's meeting.**

Peter Altis. Magazine Editor

PS: Excuse the clumsy formatting. I think Im getting better.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS & ROLES



President

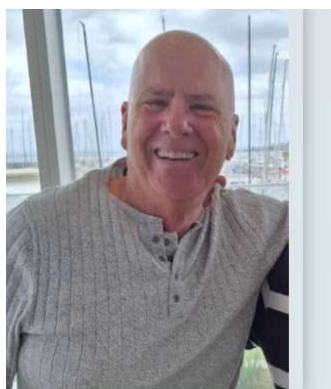
Darren Bell

President – Darren Bell

Leads the committee, oversees club operations, and represents the group in official matters.

Vice President – Craig Norrish

Supports the President, steps in when needed, and assists with strategic planning.



Vice President

Craig Norrish

Treasurer & Public Officer – Mike McCarthy

Handles finances, budgeting, and ensures compliance with legal requirements.

New Membership Liaison and SDFV Rep – Julian Tagell

Acts as liaison with the Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria and speaks to potential new members.



Treasurer

Mike McCarthy

Equipment Officer – Alan Conley

Maintains club equipment, oversees repairs, and manages gear inventory.

Safety Officer – Tom Dryer

Promotes safety standards, conducts briefings, and ensures compliance with safety protocols.

Secretary – Leanne Gradey

Manages meeting minutes, correspondence, and maintains club records.



Club Liaison / New Member Officer

Julian Tagell

Dive Coordinator – Cameron Grant

Organizes weekly dives and advises on the conditions. Single point of contact for dives.

Magazine Editor – Peter Altis

Produces the club newsletter.

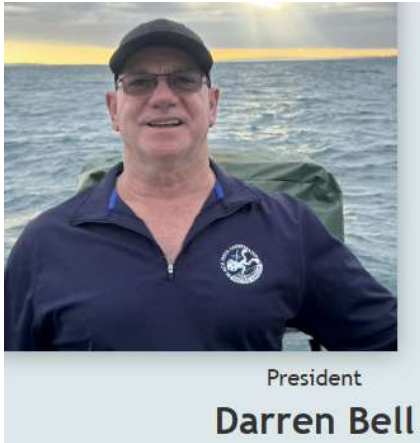


MEMBERSHIP

New Members Management

The committee continues to prioritize the effective management and integration of new members. Recent discussions and actions include:

- **Enquiry Handling:** Allan and Julian, are managing new member enquiries and conducting phone briefings.
- **Documentation:** All new members receive a comprehensive pack, including waiver, code of conduct, code of practice, and application forms.
- **Digital Engagement:** Website and social media channels are actively used for new member outreach.
- **Check-out Dives:** Arrangements are made to ensure new members complete a check-out dive.
- **Club Growth:** Strategies are being developed to manage club size and increase female participation.
- **Resource Updates:** The new member pack is under review for updates and will be circulated soon.
- **Inclusivity:** Skippers are encouraged to leave space for new members on dives to foster integration.



President
Darren Bell

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hi to all members,

A quick update on what's been happening around the club.

Craig has applied for several local and state government grants to help us upgrade and expand our safety equipment.

This is an important step in strengthening our overall safety capability, and we appreciate the work that has gone into these applications.

Tom has now set up the new electronic air-fill logs, which can be completed directly on your phone. This will streamline our record-keeping and make compliance much easier for everyone.

The club compressor filling procedures have also been completed for CV Tools, Alan Balmer's, and Tony Zarker's compressors.

Great work by Tom and Craig — thanks lads for the effort you've put in.

A group of members will be heading to Raja Ampat next week for a dive trip. We wish them safe travels and an incredible experience.

The next general meeting will be run by Cameron on 14 April.

Wishing everyone happy and safe diving!

BRUDG President Darren Bell

TREASURERS REPORT – MARCH 2026



Treasurer
Mike McCarthy

Bank Account:

Opening Balance: \$6,907.63

Deposits:

Wilson's Prom Deposits \$928.80

Membership Subscriptions \$70.00

Interest Received \$0.97

Total Deposits: \$999.77

Payments :

Nitrox Supplies \$52.23

Supa gas Oxygen \$298.35

Grease and laminating \$139.40

Interest Paid \$0.04

Total Payments: \$490.02

Closing Bank Balance : \$7,417.38

\$6,907.63

Prepayments & Accounts Payable:

Raja Ampat Deposits \$591.00

Wilson's Prom Deposits \$928.80

Monies owed to BRUDG:

\$ nil

Net Balance after prepayments/debts/debtors: \$5,897.58

SAFETY REPORT AND EQUIPMENT INFO

Below is an excerpt of Toms extensive report.

Risk Register with mitigation actions.

Scenario	Description	Risk	Comments
1	BRUDG diver suffers serious medical episode while diving and dies. There were at least two serious near miss incidents in 2025	H	Preliminary Risk Assessment by committee
4	Diver lost, requiring helicopter/police rescue. There were at least two serious near miss incidents in 2025	H	Preliminary Risk Assessment by committee
8	Compressor operation - all – e.g. Tank fails and kills operator or bad air etc. No significant incidents on club compressors but some in local dive industry	H	Preliminary Risk Assessment by committee

Scenario 1: Now only requires "maintenance" i.e. keep at top of mind for members. Present a reminder on "Medical Risk Minimisation" at upcoming general meeting - Roger J to do a brief talk

Scenario 4: Needs follow up. Committee to consider a working group to look into diving practices and use of PLBs.

Scenario 8: Good progress on deploying tank register and compressor operation instructions.

Nitrox Supply

Nitrox fills are working really well. Divers collecting Nitrox tanks are now required to test O2 level in each tank on pick up and fill in the tank label. It is considered that there is now an appropriate level of record keeping to demonstrate control over the supply of Nitrox to club members. Spare O2 analyser located at Graham L house at Rosebud for use by club members.

Next steps

Set up formal competency assessment for Nitrox compressor operation and assess all current fillers.

Consider switching the bigger 4-cylinder compressor currently at Allan C home onto Nitrox service to reduce the time load on the 3 x fillers

Tank registration

Tank registration has been progressing, but slowly - we have now set a deadline of 6 April for tanks to be fully registered to be filled at the Nitrox compressor.

Next steps:

- * Club President to chase up laggards in tank registration
- * Require full tank registration for each compressor which has a set of filling instructions'

Incident management

One minor incident reported via WhatsApp - coral sting through worn gloves.

Next Steps: Decide if incidents can be reported via WhatsApp

Basic Oxygen Therapy

About 10 O2 tanks are now pressure tested with only 5 outstanding.

Updated O2 therapy instructions issued and in the process of distribution to all Club boats.

Formal training O2 course for 5 members planned for Monday 27th April. Course provider is Sue King at a cost of \$175/per person

Compressor operation:

Filing instructions have been put in place for Nitrox, CV Tool and Tony Z compressors.

Tank logs are in place for all Nitrox and Air tanks

Next steps:

Look at formalising the compressor maintenance - e.g. filter change out

Develop filling instructions for Darren B and Allan C compressors

Deploy hard copy paperwork and QR codes at all compressors

Develop and implement competency assessment for all compressors

Post a copy of the tank register at all compressors

DIVE REPORTS

April Fools Day Dive by Yanni

Five divers—Glen, Tyler, Yanni, Heath, and Alan—headed out aboard Alan’s boat for a dive at Pyramid Rock.

Conditions were excellent, with 10 meters of visibility, no current, and only a slight surge. The underwater scenery was stunning, making it a truly enjoyable dive for everyone.

The team successfully collected eight crayfishes. As the dive concluded and the group returned to the boat ramp, light rain began to fall.



Tyler and Yanni are making sure we don't miss the days fun. 😊

Yanni and the boys at The Rock. (Easter Monday)

A 5.45am start by Yanni, Arnaud and AB in Camberwell was greeted with gentle rain, which continued all the way to Newhaven. Thankfully the rain eased, to a flat but gloomy ocean.

We dived the east side of the pyramid rock, not alone, as we were joined by SS Norrish and the Melbourne University Underwater Club.

Beautiful country and plenty of fish, vis in the deep of 10+m, down to about 8m in the shallows.

Forgotten and broken hunting gear curtailed our endeavors, but we came home with a couple crays, our bag of abalone and some fish.

Great day.



From The Presidents Deck by Yuting (Easter Monday)

SS Bell launched from Sorrento this morning with Belly's mate Brad skippering, myself and new member Chris. The weather was gloomy as we headed for the Sorrento back beaches and soon dropped anchor. First dive, Belly landed this 4.6kg draft horse with my girl coming in a mere 4kg smaller at 600gm.



During the dive, I found a ledge with 5 port Jackson's snoozing inside good country for green lips too!

Next dive wasn't as fruitful - we didn't land on good reef (lots of sand), the surge was up and the viz was down to 3m, but a fun potter none the less. Chris did well staying with us and surviving the conditions out there.

Thanks for a fun day, Belly!Nice Sandle's 😊



On the Rock with Craig and Tyler

What a perfect day on the water today. SS Norrish went to Pyramid Rock. Smooth as a baby's bump, no wind, bit of current but vis about 7 mt, it was fantastic.

Craig, Roger, Leanne & Tyler bagged out with 8. Thanks Guys and Gal for a wonderful day out.



One More from the Rock by Craig

What a fantastic day the boys (Tony, Mike, Kane & Craig) had on the water today - we went out to Pyramid Rock and the boat bagged out with 8 monsters. Weather was perfect, very little Nth wind, water flat as a pancake and good vis of 8-10mt.

What spectacular country we found for all our dives as we have honed our sonar and maps and are venturing into other areas which is proving very fruitful.

Great canyons, huge caves filled with PJ Sharks & rays, bommies everywhere They were all just fabulous spectacular dives- we are so lucky in Vic.



OTHER INTERESTING STUFF

This section is included to allow for a variety of topics which come up from time to time.

In the recent past Len has provide Fish Facts and we have notified you of sales at Adreno, and Prom camping.

We have discussed different ways to cook cray fish and abalone so if you have a tried and proven way, please let me know. To kick things off, I picked these 2 recipes from an old Fish Cook Book I have. Who knows, they may be OK.

STEWED PAUA (abalone)

Serves 5
Cooking time:
15 minutes

6 paua
1 medium onion
2 tablespoons butter
1 cup seasoned flour
5 cups water
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons flour

Wash the paua in salt water, discarding the stomach and pressing out the two teeth. Cut into approximately 1cm cubes and pound with wooden mallet, taking care, however, not to tear the fibres. Dice the onion and fry in hot butter until cooked, then add the diced paua which has been lightly dusted in seasoned flour. Fry quickly for about 30 seconds each side, then cover with two cups boiling water and simmer gently for about 15 minutes. Mix the salt and flour with a little water to a smooth paste and use to thicken the paua.

NOTE: For added flavour, the paua cubes can be marinated beforehand for about 15 minutes in a mixture of 2 teaspoons of salt, 1 teaspoon of paprika and 2 tablespoons of fresh lemon or lime juice.

CRAYFISH ON THE SPIT

Serves 2

1 crayfish (yabbies and freshwater koura can also be done this way)
melted butter for basting
pinch thyme
glass dry white wine, cider or champagne
fresh lemon
fresh orange

Drown your cray in **fresh** water (your yabbies or koura in **salt water**). Impale on metal skewer, and tie securely with fine wire, straightening him as much as possible. Put a dish beneath the spit to catch the juices and proceed to cook over a hot fire. Baste with seasoned, melted butter and the wine. Cray should be done when shell is bright red and flesh has gone white. Now add a good squeeze of lemon to the juice of the orange and add this to the liquid in the pan. Split the cray in two, and give half to each person after pouring the sauce over the meat.

Another method is to split the cray in two after drowning, and cook on barbecue, shell down, basting frequently with butter. Serve with individual bowls of butter sauce and finger bowls.

See also: Barbecued Trout, Grilled Salmon, Marinated Grilled Fish.

In addition, we could use the newsletter to advertise **Buy and Sell** of dive gear so if you have an item(s) for sale or are looking for something in particular. Let me know, I will put up a wanted add. Anyone need a new catch bag???

The End