

THE SOUTHERN SPEARO

July 2008 > www.southernfreedivers.org.au



FROM OUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Fellow club members,

What a fantastic season we have had! In 2007-2008 we have pushed the boundaries and broken new records. Blue Water hunting has been brought to Victoria increasing our enjoyment of the sport more than ever. I think you would all agree that Joseph's 19.6kg kingfish from the Prom was a brilliant and exciting event that heralded this new era. John Rae's 23.5kg southern bluefin tuna has capped off an unbelievable period in our history.

Overall, the comp scene has been strong with great participation as well as the rise of Drew as a force within the national scene. Runner up at the Nationals, winner in the Interpacifics, winner in Eden, Vic State Champ, Club champ...the list of achievements go on. Due to participate in the World Champs later in the year, let's get behind Drew and support him in his quest.

This season marked an increase in membership numbers as well as at the club meetings – in part due to the success of our website. I would say that this is something that Matt Koopman and I are most proud about in the time we have served the club. Would also like to note the great work that Kurt is doing with the web since the baton passed to him.

Jack has been instrumental in developing our photography comp and I think you would all agree that the framed photo he presented looks great and is worth striving for. Thanks to the committee and a special thank you and recognition for his ongoing commitment and dedication to Robbie Miler who is integral to the operation of our club.

The Great Australian Shark count run by the AUF has resulted in great exposure and credibility for us so let's keep the good work going.

In closing, I would encourage all to renew their memberships over the next month as your support is crucial to enable us to provide you the network and services required to fully explore this sport's possibilities.

Although I have stepped down as president, I must say that it has been an absolute pleasure to serve you during this season and I look forward to diving with you as well as hearing all your stories of your diving adventures.

Keep safe,
Louie Papadopoulos



▲ John Rae with Heaviest & Most Meritorious Fish trophies



▲ John with State Record 23.5kg Southern Bluefin Tuna

Southern Freedivers

Meetings held 8pm 1st Wed of each month at the
Showgrounds, Bennett St Dandenong VIC 3175

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SPEARING THE MENU

Spearfishing the Menu – spearfishing is coming to free-to-air TV by Matt Koopman, Andy Hallam, Kyne Krusic-Golub and Sean Blake.

There are lots of fishing shows on TV these days, especially if you near can pick up community TV. It had me and a few mates asking ourselves:

“Why isn’t there any spearfishing on TV?”

“Would a TV station even consider broadcasting a spearfishing show?”

“How would the public react?”

The answer to the first question is probably that spearfishing a comparatively small sport in Australia and if a show was made targeted at just that audience, hardly anyone would watch it. It is also a lot of hard work!

The second question was answered last January. We sent in an application to C31 Melbourne to make a new show called Spearfishing the Menu in October 2007. The idea of the show was to go catch some seafood, talk a bit about the biology of our target species, talk a bit about the gear we use, and then cook up what we had just caught. We waited patiently and then impatiently with no response. In the meantime we made a pilot episode in Port Phillip Bay spearfishing flathead and squid. We sent that in along with another application.

It didn’t take long before we were invited to a meeting at C31 headquarters and were met by the Station Manager who had a beaming smile and went on for ages about how much he loved the show. We were in!

Since then we have made 6 episodes including hunting kingfish and crayfish in Victorian waters, wahoo and dolphinfish off Coffs Harbour and the Great Australian Shark Count (no shark are speared in that episode!). We have one more episode film to finish off season 1.

Spearfishing the Menu is not only aimed at Spearfishers, but the wider community. We believe that anglers, divers, seafood lovers and others with an interest in the marine environment will tune in. And that’s one of our aims: to increase the exposure of Safe, Sustainable, Selective spearfishing.

With the help of Legendary Skindiving Equipment series 1 will begin broadcasting in September 2008 on C31 Melbourne.

TVS Sydney have also agreed to broadcast Spearfishing the Menu, but we don’t know when. We will also pitch it at community TV stations in other states.

How will the public react? We’ll let you know!



▲ *The boys in action.*

PRESENTATION NIGHT



▲ *Drew Fenney - State Champion and Club Champion*



▲ *Murray Peterson - B Grade Champion*



▲ *Leigh Elliott - C Grade Champion*



▲ *Ryan Harris - Photography Winner*

VIC CHALLENGE

The Victorian Challenge this year has again been won easily by Brett Illingworth. This competition, which is run throughout the duration of the main dive season, has again been very successful with a record number of participants and fish submissions.

Biggest Sweep(1230gm), Snapper(2020gm), Snook(3100gm), Trevally(2310gm), and Squid(2630gm) were landed by Brett; Biggest Flathead(2260gm) and Whiting(910gm) by Matt Koopman; Crayfish(3620gm) by Murray Peterson; Kingfish(19.6kg) by Joseph Bednarek; and Salmon(2020) by Rob Torelli.

Brett finished on 86 points out of a possible 100. Second on 54pts was Murray Peterson; Third on 50.5pts Chris Monaghan. A full list of the results makes for interesting reading, and can be found on the club website.

Every year at the presentation night, Paul Dorfstatter from Legendary Spearfishing Equipment is very generous in providing prizes for the Vic Challenge lucky draw. This year Matt Koopman won the prize which was a Torelli blue water wetsuit. Over the years, Matt has been Bretts main competition in the Vic Challenge and was a worthy and grateful winner of the main prize. The competition starts again in September.

2007/08 CLUB RESULTS

LOCATION	Pyramid Rock	Mornington	Aireys Inlet	Sorrento Boat	Harmers Haven	Kennett River	Fossil Beach	Pyramid Rock	Total
Drew Fenney	90	55	100	-	82	100	100	98	570
Chris Monaghan	91	100	86	66	100	87	68	82	546
Murray Peterson	70	-	62	100	61	90	66	100	487
Leigh Elliott	78	47	53	65	69	92	21	63	419
Christian Hughes	48	76	77	-	57	57	76	43	392
Louie Papas	77	71	-	92	-	80	-	68	388
Aaron Crocombe	81	30	-	-	37	83	32	-	264
Brett Illingworth	100	55	-	92	-	-	-	-	247
Paul Dorfstatter	-	-	65	-	75	87	-	-	228
Jake Torelli	47	-	31	31	-	51	-	37	198
Ryan Harris	19	-	-	10	36	26	37	57	185
Ivor	-	14	54	25	-	-	10	59	162
Joe Bednarak	29	-	-	23	30	-	57	-	138
Kurt Wise	21	-	31	41	-	-	32	-	125
Luke Donnison	19	-	44	-	-	44	-	-	107
Jordan Whitmore	31	17	33	-	8	-	-	-	88
Russell Pickens	-	-	44	25	18	-	-	-	86
Rob Torelli	-	-	-	-	-	84	-	-	84
Greg Sperring	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	53	83
Jordan Hill	-	-	-	-	-	72	11	-	82
Ashleigh Illingworth	-	-	11	-	-	39	-	30	80
Tim Fitzpatrick	19	-	-	25	25	-	-	-	69
Conor Mc	-	13	21	-	-	-	32	-	66
Grant Temple	-	-	-	62	-	-	-	-	62
Marek	-	-	-	17	30	12	-	-	59
Mario Scarpuzza	-	-	-	-	6	6	21	18	50
Justin Goss	-	-	-	48	-	-	-	-	48
Bobby Evans	-	-	-	-	-	37	-	-	37
Jake D	-	-	-	-	-	31	-	-	31
Daniel Attard	-	-	-	-	-	31	-	-	31
Nathan	-	-	21	8	-	-	-	-	28
Colin K	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	19
Adam	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	8

A Grade. 1st Drew Fenney 2nd Chris Monaghan 3rd Louie Papas

B Grade 1st Murray Peterson 2nd Brett Illingworth 3rd Joe Bednarak

C Grade 1st Leigh Elliott 2nd Christian Hughes 3rd Ryan Harris

Juniors 1st Jake Torelli 2nd Kurt Wise 3rd Jordan Whitmore

Ladies – Ashleigh Illingworth