



P.O. Box 453 Hurstville South 2221 NSW

Visit our web page at

<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~diving/stgeorge/stgeorge.htm>

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## March 2005

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### COMING UP

#### THURSDAY NIGHT DIVES

A reminder that the Club has a night dive every Thursday night. The site will be chosen on the Monday or Tuesday by Michael McFadyen or Dave Burns and advised to those on the night dive email list. If you are not receiving these emails and would like to, send an email to Michael as per the Club address list. The meeting time will be about 7:15 PM for till daylight saving ends.

After the dive, we normally have a BBQ or go to a local pizza place. In Summer we will be trying to have a BBQ. In January we had up to 8 divers and 4 non-divers attending these dives.

#### MARCH

Saturday 12th.- Sunday 13th. SCAN event  
Weekend diving Nelson Bay  
Contact Les Caterson 9520 9421

Sunday 20th. Boat Dive Bluefish Point  
Contact David Vandervelden on 9662 8115

#### Easter Weekend at Jervis Bay

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March  
We have booked a house at Sanctuary Point.  
\$33 per person, per night.  
Address: 4 Vicary Avenue, Sanctuary Point  
Bed Linen Supplied  
Secure drying room for Dive Gear  
\$50 deposit required now please.

One lucky member will have their accommodation paid for!!

Further details at the next meeting  
RSVP PLEASE TO CAROL MAPSTONE  
(02) 9531 1467

#### CLUB WEEKEND AWAY IN APRIL 2005.

Diving Days are Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> and Monday 25<sup>th</sup>.

Accommodation is staying at the SWR Dive centre lodge (above shop). Fare includes Three night Accommodation, three Days diving (Double diving with second tank provided) and breakfast on the mornings of diving.

Divers price \$370.00.

Deposit \$50.00 by February 28th payment to Les.

If there are at least SEVEN DIVERS we will have one of the boats to ourselves so we will be able to dive the out of the way places around Fish Rock, other than the cave, if you wish.

If you are interested or want any more info email me [David.Burns@integral.com.au](mailto:David.Burns@integral.com.au) or phone me on 0407.219.100.

Lets Go diving.

#### SHELLHARBOUR WEEKEND

Friday 20 to Sunday 22 May 2005

After an absence of a year, we have scheduled a weekend of diving at Wollongong and Shellharbour. As in previous years, we will stay at the Warilla Bowling Club which provides very cheap and excellent accommodation and facilities.

We will use members boats for the diving. The plan is to arrive at Warilla on Friday evening and dive Saturday at Wollongong and Sunday at Shellharbour. Some members are also planning to dive Friday, so if you can, come down in the morning for a couple of dives. Hopefully we can dive the SS *Bombo*, the Five Islands, The Arch, The Pinnacles as well as Bass Point Island.

If you are interested in this weekend, please contact Michael McFadyen as soon as possible. We have booked four cabins and already only a couple of spots remain. He can be contacted via email as per the membership list or 9558 8181 [home]. Cost for the weekend will be about \$50 for accommodation and diving as normal.

## LAST MONTH

### Australia Day dive report

By Bram Harris

“Australians all let us rejoice, For we can dive Kurnell...”. Well, sometimes diving Kurnell is worth singing about, but this Australia Day was not one of them. Most of us had to repeat Les’s mantra (there is no such thing as a bad dive, it’s just that some are better than others) as we braved the rough entry and exit for about 2 meters of vis and fishlife that was swimming about 3 meters away. While there were reported sightings of a weedy sea dragon, a small ray (I can personally verify those), 5 (!) octopusi (if it’s not a real word, it should be – it has a certain presence about it, don’t you think) and a larger ray, I doubt that it will be a dive that becomes one of legendary sighting fame. About 20 or more divers joined in to celebrate Australia’s birthday underwater, with a few more groupies on shore. Dave Burns and one other intrepid/lost diver decided to turn right when they hit the water at the bottom of the steps for the long route back to the monument, arriving back sometime after most of us had finished lunch, while the majority of divers stuck with

tradition (it was a day of tradition, after all) and headed straight for the monument. Luckily, the conditions above the waterline were much better, and a good time was had by all telling lots of lies (maybe about octopusi) and sharing the good company of St George Scuba Club in a BBQ in the park. The club provided plates (bread) and nicely cooked snags/onion/meat, along with some wicked home-made chili sauce. The National Parks did their best to confuse everyone with the new, improved roads/carpark arrangement, which results in having to wind around looking for the carpark and park much further from the water in smaller carparks – good one NPA. Due to everyone’s superior navigation skills, we all managed to end up at the same little corner in the carpark. Of course, after having ripped up the old roads and carpark and replacing them with lots more nice parkland, temporary carparks were set up on the new parkland close to where the old carparks were – after we had all parked in the new carpark.

All in all, let’s all join in for a rousing Australia day sing:

*Australians all let us rejoice*

*For we can dive Kurnell*

*There’s no such thing as a bad dive*

*Just some are better than others*

*Dave Burns turned right and wandered far*

*The sea did not play nice*

*The Sun was warm, the barby beaut*

*The chili sauce still burns*

*The St George Scuba Club contends*

*That octopusi are cool.*

### Club BBQ - 5th Feb '05

By Robyn Hewitt

Once again Les & Elly opened their home for a club BBQ. The weather could not have been better! Around 30 attendees relaxed & mingled in the outdoor entertaining area, the beautifully groomed grounds and in the swimming pool. Raelene, Kelly, Michael, Dave, Peter, Elly, Ray and of course the kids, including Evan and Melly, all took the plunge. The boys only left the pool to eat.

A few drinks & the BBQ with salads featuring home grown vegetables all went down well.

### **Xanadu Reef**

By Ian Gowan

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2005

The original plan was for thirteen members and two boats. However, due to the unfortunate demise of Lescat the number of divers had to be reduced. Poor weather and rough seas on the Saturday saw the numbers further reduced to just four. After some discussion at the Yowie Bay ramp it was decided to take a run out to sea and have a closer look. Braving the conditions were Eddy Ivers, Ray Moulang, Craig Flynn and Ian Gowan aboard Ian's boat. On the way out we had a look at 6 fathom as a potential site due to being somewhat protected from the southerly swells. When we arrived there three boat loads of divers were already in the water.

As a result it was decided to head out to Xanadu for an inspection. We drifted for about 15 mins having a close look at the swells. The wind was just starting to come up and the swell was 2-3m. At this stage we had 3 options, get wet, go home or go back to 6 fathom. Within minutes Ray and Eddy were in the water. We were anchored on the top of the reef in about 23m. The wall was only a short swim south. Eddy and Ray swam to the wall and onto the sand. While on the bottom they were buzzed by a school of kingfish. They returned to the anchor and decided to explore a little further a field. After 35mins there was no sign of them on the deco line.

The poor conditions also made it difficult to spot their bubbles. Craig and I realized there was a fair chance they had lost their bearings. We started to scan the water looking for them. A short time later our thoughts were confirmed when they surfaced about 40m from the boat. At this point we were unable to get the anchor up in order to go and get them. Instead we joined a longer rope onto the mermaid line and fed it out. Fortunately they were down wind from the boat. After a short swim they were soon aboard. They informed us the anchor was wedged firmly in a crevice and it was going to be difficult to remove. By now the seas and wind were starting to build and if we had been able to get the anchor up Craig and I would have been happy to forgo our dive or look for a more sheltered spot.

However as the anchor was only on its second outing I wasn't keen to lose it just yet. Craig and I decided to go and retrieve it. The plan was to have a short dive and stay out of deco, release the anchor and do a blue water ascent. I didn't want to run the risk of the anchor grabbing again. We descended to the bottom and had a look at the anchor. I decided that it wasn't going to be too difficult to release it. As a precaution I clipped on my reel prior to swimming out to the wall and onto the sand. We got down to about 33m. We spent some time exploring and encountered the usual variety of reef species. We returned to the anchor and headed west exploring the top of the wall. The visibility was good and even on the bottom you could feel the surge of the swell. The conditions underwater were excellent compared to the surface. We had a very enjoyable dive. We returned to the anchor a few minutes short of going into deco. The anchor was released and it quickly retrieved by Eddy and Ray. We had a very enjoyable rise to the surface where we were picked up. By now the conditions had deteriorated and we headed for the sheltered waters of Yowie Bay for morning tea.

<b>COMMITTEE</b>			
<b>The committee of the Club for 2004 - 5 is:</b>			
<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Steve Shaw -	9868 4056	<a href="mailto:srcshaw@au1.ibm.com">srcshaw@au1.ibm.com</a>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	Phil Rose -	9543 0748	<a href="mailto:pvrose@bigpond.com">pvrose@bigpond.com</a>
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Carol Mapstone -	9531 1467	<a href="mailto:cmartin@doh.health.nsw.gov.au">cmartin@doh.health.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>TREASURER:</b>	Les Caterson	9520 9421	<a href="mailto:lescat@dot.net.au">lescat@dot.net.au</a>
<b>ASSISTANT SECRETARY:/TREASURER:</b>			
	David Vandervelden	0414 240 992	<a href="mailto:davidvan@tpg.com.au">davidvan@tpg.com.au</a>
<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR:</b>	Russell Stoker -	0412 963 527	<a href="mailto:rstoker@optusnet.com.au">rstoker@optusnet.com.au</a>

## INFO OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

Many members are still enjoying “*Le Scat*” boat dives on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, with Wednesday being the most popular by far. Don’t forget that to book a boat dive aboard “*Le Scat*” it is only a matter of contacting Les by phone on 9520 9421 for Wednesday or Saturday dives or Michael by phone on 9558 8181 for Sunday dives. (Of course St.George Scuba Club members take preference.)

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2005 at the St. George Rowing Club, Levy Street Arncliffe at 8.00 pm. Come along about 7 pm and enjoy a meal at the bistro.

## NEWSLETTER

Please send items for the Newsletter to me by the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month [rstoker@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rstoker@optusnet.com.au)T. Please note that if you want to send any digital photographs for the newsletter, they be resized to about 150 dpi and a size of about 75 mm wide or high. Change them to black and white and save as a jpg file. This will make the file much smaller and quicker for you to e-mail but still good enough to print.