



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 453 Hurstville South 2221 NSW

April 2007

Minmi Trench Boat Dive

4th March 2007

By Jason Coombs

We had 15 divers and 2 boats, Le Scat and Ian Gowan's boat providing a shuttle service out to the dive site from Frenchman's Bay.

It doesn't get any easier than this and the diving was free as it replaced the Scan Day which was blown out late last year.

I hadn't dived this site before and I was looking forward to it. Almost as soon as Rox and I hit the bottom a large school of Australian Salmon swam past.

We made our way along the top of the reef. There were a number of overhangs packed with fish and a couple of giant cuttlefish.

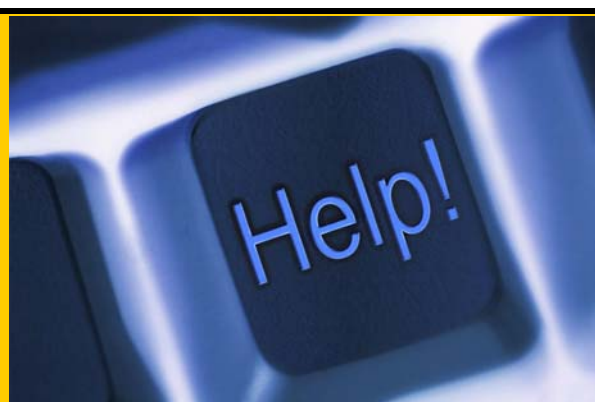


A couple of colourful egg cowries



There was a lot of very good life on the reef including several nudibranch and egg cowries. In fact the site reminded me a lot of Shark Point at Clovelly.

Others reported seeing Kingfish and there was an Angel Shark right next to the anchor but Rox and I missed it.



We've been Hacked!

As you're all no doubt aware our new website has been a big hit since Michael set it up. It's been so popular we even got contact from Eastern Europe a Lithuanian hacker has disabled the site.

Unfortunately anything posted since 12 February has been lost. If you have become a member since then, you will need to email Michael.

If you posted photos, articles or news items since then, can you please redo.

Steps have been taken to minimise such an event occurring again and to ensure that any such failure is much easy to recover from.

I think the Lithuanian was jealous - the diving isn't very good in the Baltic Sea!

After the dive we all headed back to Frenchman's Bay for a barbeque. Some members who couldn't make the dive turned up for the food and drinks.



Enjoying the BBQ afterwards

All in all a very good day.

Once again our boat owners made it all possible, this time providing their boats only for the cost of petrol reimbursed by the club. Thank you Michael and Ian.

SCAN Weekend – Port Stephens 9th to 11th March 2007 by Michael McFadyen

This year the SCAN Weekend was to be held at Nelson Bay so I headed off about 8:45 on Friday 9 March. After a long and slow trip, I arrived at Fly Point just after midday to find Peter Flockart waiting. Our plan was to do a dive here with Ray Moulang. High tide was 12:20 pm so we quickly geared up.

Ray had not arrived so Peter and I headed off for our dive. Apart from four divers on a course, we had the site to ourselves. We entered the water to find that there was no current at all so we headed off to explore. I promptly lost Peter and never sighted him again.

About 10 minutes into the dive the newbie divers passed me. What a cloud of muck! I do not think I have ever seen one diver create so much silt.

One girl was literally walking along the bottom she was so over weighted. At least the other two students were not too bad. The instructor did not even seem to notice how this diver was weighted.

Anyway, I headed out a bit deeper than normal and found a lot of interesting stuff. As well as six

pineapplefish, I saw some great black, white and yellow nudibranchs, huge numbers of bream, yellowtail, leatherjackets, seapike and luderick, some large silver drummer, lots of decorator crabs and a few eels.

We did not have any current at all except for the last couple of minutes. The visibility was about 15 metres and water temperature 22C (as it was for all the dives) and I did just over an hour in the water.

I exited the water to find Peter had just got out in front of me and was talking to Ray. We checked the tide tables and found that the difference between high and low tides over this weekend was going to be less than half a metre, meaning that the currents would not be a problem.

We headed out to the caravan park and I set up camp while Peter and Ray moved into their cabin. Here we found Geoff Sanders and Margaret also booking in.

I was using our new ShippShape car top tent. However, Kelly had phoned me just before the dive to tell me she would not be coming up in the evening as planned as her father had just phoned to say that he was flying back early from his 10 month overseas trip and would be arriving in the morning. Looks like I have to bach it!

During the afternoon others arrive, including Les and Elly Caterson and some from Ryde Underwater Club. After a few pre-dinner drinks, at 6:15 pm we head off to the bowling club where we have a few more before dinner. We have some really nice (and huge) meals. While we are at the Club, Mark Ridsdale, Janine Jenkins, Sheila Baldock, Steve and Sue Shaw and others arrive. After dinner, some of us walk back while others drive or catch the free bus. A couple of us have another drink before retiring for the night.

Saturday morning comes with a racket! All the birds in Port Stephens seem to be in the trees above the camping area. Well, at least they quieten down once dawn breaks and I get another hour's sleep. We find that Ron Walsh and Donna Cassidy have arrived during the night and set up their camper trailer.

This morning some of us have planned to do a drift dive at Fly Point. We leave the camp site about 9:30 am and find Ian and Luke Gowan waiting for us at Fly Point. As well as the St George crew (Ray, Peter, Janine, Mark, Ian,

Luke and myself), three divers from DOUTS join us for the dive.

The current is not real strong and we spend about 40 minutes before we exit on the beach or rocks to the west of the entry point. As well as the fish seen yesterday, we saw a few small wobbegongs, a cat shark. This was a nice dive, with visibility of about 5 metres.

Ray, Mark, Peter, Janine, Ian, Luke and I head to Halifax Park and park our vehicles early. There are some URG divers here already as well. We head off to the small kiosk nearby and have a really good lunch before walking back to find the car park now totally full. Glad we got here early.

As yesterday, there is virtually no current and we head off in the normal direction. The visibility is about 20 metres today. On the dive we see lots of large snapper, as well as huge schools of nannygai, seapike, yellowtail and bream. There are also lots of cuttlefish and squid, a few eels and more. We do about 55 minutes on the dive.

The remaining St George crew dived Fly Point (Les, Sheila, Donna and Ron) or the Sewage Pipe (Steve and Geoff). All reported a good dive. The other clubs mostly do Fly Point or Halifax Park. We drop off tanks at Pro Dive and then head back to the caravan park.

A bit of scouting in the afternoon shows that the BBQs that we normally use are out of order and the only working one has only one table. Les notices that the park opposite the caravan park has a BBQ and lots of tables so we decide to have the BBQ there.

At 5 pm we head over to the park. Over the next hour people turn up and we soon have a party in progress. There is a good mixing of members from the clubs. As well as the clubs mentioned above, the University of NSW Scuba Club is here. They have about 17 members present. Luckily, some of them have decided to do a night dive. Since one club has neglected to tell Les that they were coming, we are a bit worried that there will not be enough meat for the barbecue. However, as it turns out we have enough food.

The UNSW guys look after the BBQ and do a great job. Their night divers turn up later and there is still something for them to eat. It ends up being a very good night.

Thanks to Les and Elly for organising the food, the UNSW for cooking and the various people

who helped out with portable BBQs (Ron and Les) and food preparation.

Sunday morning sees a relaxed start. Since high tide is not till about 2 pm, there is no rush to do anything. Les and Elly head off as they have to pack for their trip to New Zealand. Eventually, most end up at one of the dive sites. Mark, Janine, Ian, Luke, Peter and myself decide to do the Sewage Pipe after Geoff and Steve reported a good dive there yesterday.

We have a great dive, with visibility of about 7 to 8 metres. There is lots to see and we all spend a considerable amount of time in the water. Like yesterday, there is little current so we get in well before the normal time and have no problems.

I do not know where the others dived, but I expect they also had a great dive. It was not too bad a trip home after the dive, with only a short delay at Cowan. Overall, about 50 to 55 people attended the weekend. It is a pity that these events are not better supported by some of the other clubs.

REGULAR EVENTS

Monthly Meetings

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 18th April 2007 at the St. George Rowing Club, 1 Levey Street Woolli Creek at 8.00 pm. Come along about 7 pm and enjoy a meal at the bistro.

Thursday Night Dives

A record 15 divers attended a recent dive, these are proving very popular. Details for all upcoming dives are on the calendar on the right side of the Club's web site. From February, the email advising about night dives will not contain the location of the dive but will refer members to the calendar. Full details will be available from this location about the proposed dive.

Other Dives

Many other dives are advised in the news section of the Club's web site. If you are interested in a dive, have a look at the news section a few days before a weekend and you may find others already planning a dive. You can also place your own news item there (but remember it may take a day or two to appear as it needs to be authorised by a web site administrator).

UP AND COMING EVENTS**Boat Dive – Duckenfield Wreck
15th April 2007**

Please contact Peter Flockhart if you are interested Ph. 9371 0265.

Chinese Dinner

Reservation under the Saint George Scuba Club

Date 21st April, Time 7.00pm

\$31 banquet mixed entree, sweet corn soup, pork spare ribs, beef, satay prawns, mongolian lamb, fried rice, dessert bomb alaska, coffee, drinks from the bar.

Imperial Peking Restaurant Blakehurst

Cnr Princes Hwy & King Georges Rd
Blakehurst NSW 2221

Please contact Peter Trayhurn if you are interested Peter_trayhurn@bigpond.com.

**Boat Dive Anzac Day - Middleground
25th April 2007**

We have three boats for this trip to Middle Ground but all spots are gone.

If you want to go on the reserve list, please contact Michael McFadyen at michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info.

**Double Boat Dive – Coolooli / The Apartments
29th April 2007**

The dive off long reef scheduled for the 29th of April has to be postponed. We only had one boat available for the dive, Michael's and he is no longer available to take the boat that day.

When the dive has been rescheduled Paul Watkinson m0405464973 contact members. Positions on the boat will still stand if you are available to dive.

**Boat Dive – North Head (Sydney Harbour)
6th May 2007**

Please contact Peter Flockhart if you are interested Ph. 9371 0265.

**Shore Dive / BBQ – The Leap (Kurnell)
19th May 2007**

Please contact Paul Pacey if you are interested Ph. 9527 2501.

**Boat Dive – The Colours
20th May 2007**

Originally posted in the calendar for 13th this dive has been moved out a week to the 20th.

Please contact Jason Coombs if you are interested Ph. 9345 4599.

Queens Birthday South Solitary Island Away Trip – 8th – 11th June 2007

Please contact Eddie Ivers on Ph. 9526 5910 if you are interested in this trip.

**Swansea Dive and Watagans 4WD Weekend
30th June – 1st July 2007**

The plan is to dive Swansea Bridge on Saturday morning about 10:30 am and then after the dive, head into the nearby Watagans Forests for some four wheel driving. Once some fun has been had, we will be going to the camping area and setting up our camp for the night. On Sunday, we will do some sightseeing and also some four wheel driving before heading home.

Even if you do not have a four wheel drive, you can come on all or part of this weekend. You can either just do the dive at Swansea, or you can do the dive and head direct to the camping area (no 4WD needed) or you can hitch a ride with a member with a four wheel drive. Camping gear can also be provided for those without.

If you are interested in this trip, please contact Michael McFadyen at michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info.

**Forster / Seal Rocks Away Trip
20th – 22nd July 2007**

This trip is planned to include a dive on the wreck of the SS Satara which is at a depth of 35-44m. Minimum requirements for divers to undertake this dive are Advanced or Deep Diver certification with recent logged history of deep dives.

The cost is \$260 per person which includes 4 boat dives (2nd tank free) and two nights' accommodation (Friday and Saturday nights) including linen, bedding and breakfasts

Please contact Jason Coombs on Ph. 9345 4599 if you are interested in this trip.

Norah Head Long Weekend**6th – 9th September 2007**

In early September the APEC Conference will be held in Sydney and as a result, we are getting a public holiday (well, at least if you work in the Sydney metropolitan area). This will mean that Friday 7 September is a holiday.

We have booked dives out of Norah Head for Friday and Saturday with a shore dive planned for Sunday. Cost will be \$80 for a double dive with air fills at \$8 (need to provide your own tank or cost \$18). Maximum of 10 to 12 divers. Accommodation will be at the Norah Head Tourist Park. Two 6 berth cabins have been booked. Accommodation will be about \$25 per person per night. Therefore, for an all up cost of about \$250 you will get three nights accommodation, four boat dives, airfills, barbecue dinner on Friday and Saturday nights and a great time away from Sydney.

These spots are sure to go quickly so to get your name down, you need to pay a \$50 deposit to the Club. If you have any questions, contact Michael McFadyen as soon as possible.

Truk Lagoon - Away Trip**September 2007**

The Trip will be a liveaboard and we are going on a SS Thornfin, cost is \$3700, which will get cheaper if we get more people interested. Includes flights from Cairns up to 5 dives a day 7 days diving on board, food, soft drinks and accommodation, plus a night at Truk and a night at Guam.

If you are interested please let me know I am taking bookings now. A deposit of \$800 is required asap to secure the trip. If we get several more people the price will reduce by approx \$400 per person depending on numbers, which will easily cover flight up to Cairns as well.

This will be a fantastic trip departing Cairns 14 September and returning 23rd of September. If you are planning on going on the North Solitarys trip, and think they will clash one of our members is looking at combining this as well on his return from Truk, so you can combine both Trips, so no excuses.

Paul Watkinson paul@watkinson.biz

Solitary Islands and South West Rocks Trips

4 days diving (23rd - 28th September) at the Solitary Islands staying at Mullaway (\$495) followed by Labour Weekend 2 days diving (28th Sep – 1st Oct) at South West Rocks (\$280).

There are 2 (two) spots left on the Mullaway Trip and 3 (three) spots left on the SW Rocks trip.

These vacancies will not last, so please advise asap if you have an interest. Ring Mark Ridsdale on 0419 243717.

**Undersea Explorer – Liveaboard
October 2007**

See flyer at the end of the newsletter for this very popular trip.

OTHER NEWS**Michael and Kelly's Wedding**

As you would be aware, Michael McFadyen and Kelly Jandik are getting married on Saturday 26 May. Unfortunately, Michael and Kelly were not able to invite all members to the wedding and reception. However, they would like to extend an invitation to everyone to come to the ceremony and to stay for a drink with them before they have their wedding photographs taken.

The ceremony will commence at 3 pm at La Perouse Headland overlooking Bare Island.

Gear For Sale

Peter Trayhurn has an Olympus housing for an Olympus 5060 camera available \$200. Please contact Peter if you are interested
Peter_trayhurn@bigpond.com.

Undersea Explorer & Yongala Trip

Saturday 13th October 2007 to Sunday 21st October 2007

Undersea Explorer is so popular that our scheduled trip in early October was booked out! So too were the other expeditions around October. Undersea have come to the party and re-scheduled a Ribbon Reef Expedition and Maintenance period to provide us with a 5 day Osprey Reef Expedition. It's the same expedition itinerary as last year, with one less day on the Ribbon Reefs. Due to popular demand, we have added an optional Yongala diving extension.

Undersea has a maximum capacity of 20 divers and Yongala Dive has a maximum of 12 divers. Undersea will hold as many spots as we have deposits for. So be quick!

ITINERY

Saturday 13th	Own transport arrangements ready for boarding, 5pm Port Douglas
Sunday 14th	Cod Hole and Ribbon Reefs – 4 dives, steam overnight to Osprey
Monday 15th	Osprey Reef – 4 dives
Tuesday 16th	Osprey Reef – 4 dives, steam overnight to Ribbon Reefs
Wednesday 17th	Ribbon Reefs – 4 dives
Thursday 18th	Ribbon Reefs – 2 dives, Return to Port Douglas 5pm
Friday 19th	Own transport arrangements to Cairns and Sydney Yongala extension (approx details)
Thursday 18th	Travel to Ayr, Accommodation Yongala Dive
Friday 19th	Morning Dive Yongala – 2 dives, Accommodation Yongala Dive Ayr
Saturday 20th	Morning Dive Yongala – 2 dives, Accommodation Yongala Dive Ayr
Sunday 21st	Own Transport arrangements home.

Cost

Transport to Cairns	Own Cost
Transport from Cairns Airport to Port Douglas	\$25 approx
Undersea Explorer, 5 Day Osprey Reef Trip	\$1735 (less, with more than 10 divers), plus Fuel Levy and Reef Tax \$90
Accommodation Port Douglas	\$80 approx
Transport to Ayr and Ayr to Townsville Airport	\$110 approx
Yongala Dive	\$370 approx
Transport to Sydney Own Cost	

Payment Deposit required now, for Undersea \$250

Deposit required now, for Yongala Dive \$50

Further Deposit required by 2nd April, Undersea \$300

Balance Due by 2nd August \$TBC due to volume discounts

EFT Details Saint George Scuba Club Inc

Commonwealth Bank

BSB: 062 028

Acc: 00800455

For more information on diving Osprey Reef and the SS Yongala have a look at www.undersea.com.au and www.yongaladive.com.au or talk to some of the members that went last year.

To book, pay your deposit and contact Kelly Jandik at kelly@michaelsmcfadyenscuba.info or 9558 8181

The Committee for 2006 – 2007 is:

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Please send items for the Newsletter to me by the 28th of the month