



# NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 453 Hurstville South 2221 NSW

May 2007

## Shelley Beach (to Fairybower)

15<sup>th</sup> April 2007

By Jason Coombs

*(In the absence of any club dive articles, this is a recent and excellent dive Rox and I did.)*

On the 15th April 2007, utterly fed up with huge seas knocking out ocean-side shore dives and needing a break from Bare Island, we decided to take the big step and cross the bridge.

Rox and I had dived Cabbage Tree Bay Marine Reserve (Shelly Beach) at Manly only once before. That time we headed out and around the headland for a pleasant but non-eventful dive. But this time we were looking for the reported juvenile Dusky Whaler sharks.

We had been told to go to the left hand end of the beach and head back towards Fairy Bower, which we did. There's a convenient ramp down to the water and despite some big seas it was completely protected at the entry point.

We dropped into about 2 metres of water and immediately saw schooling juvenile black-spot goatfish filtering the sand, and large bream and trevally. We weren't that confident of seeing the sharks – reports suggested we might catch them whizzing past - and that would be it.



We saw one lone diver in the shallows and after that we had the site to ourselves. For the first ten minutes, we moved south across broken reefs, and sandy beds of seagrass in reasonable

viz. And then, across the sea-grass field, we saw the first one.



## Your Newsletter needs you!

As you can see we didn't receive any articles this month. It was a bad month for diving with Easter blown out and the website out of commission recently.

However we need articles from club dives – no articles no newsletter!

Club dive organisers are responsible for nominating someone to write up the dive. People normally nominate themselves by turning up late (I've been caught out by that one) or saying something stupid.

So please find someone to write up the dives and if you're nominated please write it up. It doesn't have to be a long article and with all the cameras in the club you can normally get some good shots to support it.

I don't always get a chance to follow up members in time – so it's up to you. We only get out of it what we put in.

These beautiful animals, only a metre or so in length, were the real deal. While only pup size, they have the same impressive profile of the adult dusky whaler (*Carcharhinus obscurus*). We watched as it slowly circled towards us, and even at 10 m we could see it eyeing us up as we entered its space. As if on cue, another smaller shark approached from the other side, just as interested in who these two cumbersome intruders were!



We settled on the reef remaining still and they kept coming back into view. Eventually one swam right between us, no more than 2m from us both. We kept taking photos for about 15 minutes and then moved on.

Swimming along the reef we kept seeing sharks going past us. Further out the reef became more defined with larger bommies, though the sponge life was relatively limited. As we turned a number of sharks started circling and I counted 5 individuals cruising the shallow gutters.

On the way back we got to the spot where we had first seen them and waited. This time I counted at least 7 individuals. We had them circling us and coming within 2-3 metres. All of the sharks were young, about 3-4 feet long (up to 1.2 metres). The longer we stayed still, the closer they ventured.

While this was in itself a great experience we also saw a huge variety of fish, including long nose boarfish, kingfish, leatherjackets, surgeon fish, mullet, wrasse, squid, yellow tail scad and pike, one spot pullers and a variety of tropical refugees.

Given this is one of Sydney's busiest urban beaches; it was great to see this small population thriving at Cabbage Tree. Amazingly we only got to 6m depth, the viz. 15m+ and the

temperature 21c – it doesn't get any better than this!

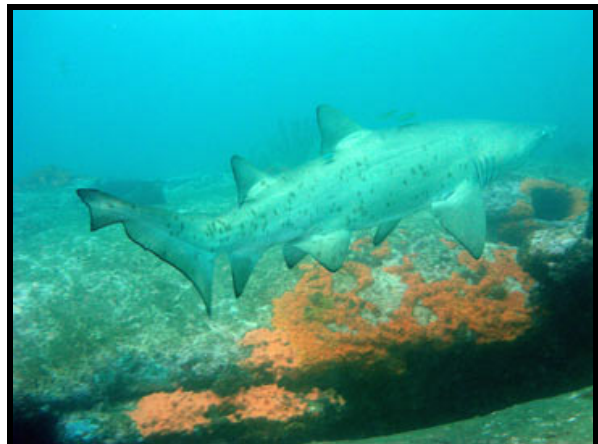


This didn't just introduce us to another Sydney dive site, but another Sydney dive experience.

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.

### Grey Nurse Shark at Bare Island

On the subject of sharks Michael snapped these shots recently at Bare Island Right.



## REGULAR EVENTS

### Monthly Meetings

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 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

Club night dives continue to be very popular with an average of more than 10 divers every week. The record stands at 15 divers!



Photos are from recent night dive at Lilli Pilli.



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 time to appear as it needs to be authorised by a web site administrator).

## UP AND COMING EVENTS

### Boat Dive – North Head (Sydney Harbour) 6<sup>th</sup> May 2007

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

### Shore Dive / BBQ – The Leap (Kurnell) 19<sup>th</sup> May 2007

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

### Boat Dive – The Colours 20<sup>th</sup> May 2007

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

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



### Michael's Last Bachelor Dive – Bare Island 26<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Come and join Michael for what could be his last dive – he'll need permission after this!

Contact Michael if you're interested. It will have to be in the morning, he's getting married in the afternoon!

### Queens Birthday South Solitary Island Away Trip – 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2007

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

### Boat (Deep) Dive – The Wanderers 17<sup>th</sup> June 2007

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

**Swansea Dive and Watagans 4WD Weekend  
30<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> 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@michaelfadyenscuba.info](mailto:michael@michaelfadyenscuba.info).

**Forster / Seal Rocks Away Trip  
20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:paul@watkinson.biz)

**Solitary Islands and South West Rocks  
Trips**

4 days diving (23<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> September) at the Solitary Islands staying at Mullaway (\$495) followed by Labour Weekend 2 days diving (28<sup>th</sup> Sep – 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



## 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 uel 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](http://www.undersea.com.au) and [www.yongaladive.com.au](http://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@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info](mailto:kelly@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info) or 9558 8181

**Sydney Tides May 2007**

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High
Tue 1		1:30 AM EST / 0.44 m	7:22 AM EST / 1.37 m	1:18 PM EST / 0.41 m	7:44 PM EST / 1.64 m
Wed 2		2:08 AM EST / 0.40 m	8:01 AM EST / 1.35 m	1:50 PM EST / 0.42 m	8:17 PM EST / 1.67 m
Thu 3		2:47 AM EST / 0.38 m	8:40 AM EST / 1.31 m	2:22 PM EST / 0.45 m	8:51 PM EST / 1.67 m
Fri 4		3:26 AM EST / 0.37 m	9:20 AM EST / 1.26 m	2:55 PM EST / 0.49 m	9:25 PM EST / 1.65 m
Sat 5		4:08 AM EST / 0.37 m	10:02 AM EST / 1.20 m	3:29 PM EST / 0.53 m	10:02 PM EST / 1.61 m
Sun 6		4:53 AM EST / 0.38 m	10:47 AM EST / 1.15 m	4:07 PM EST / 0.56 m	10:43 PM EST / 1.57 m
Mon 7		5:40 AM EST / 0.40 m	11:36 AM EST / 1.11 m	4:51 PM EST / 0.60 m	11:29 PM EST / 1.53 m
Tue 8		6:32 AM EST / 0.40 m	12:30 PM EST / 1.08 m	5:44 PM EST / 0.63 m	
Wed 9	12:21 AM EST / 1.50 m	7:27 AM EST / 0.40 m	1:31 PM EST / 1.09 m	6:47 PM EST / 0.64 m	
Thu 10	1:20 AM EST / 1.49 m	8:25 AM EST / 0.38 m	2:36 PM EST / 1.15 m	8:01 PM EST / 0.63 m	
Fri 11	2:27 AM EST / 1.48 m	9:22 AM EST / 0.35 m	3:38 PM EST / 1.25 m	9:18 PM EST / 0.58 m	
Sat 12	3:34 AM EST / 1.50 m	10:14 AM EST / 0.31 m	4:32 PM EST / 1.39 m	10:28 PM EST / 0.49 m	
Sun 13	4:36 AM EST / 1.51 m	11:02 AM EST / 0.28 m	5:22 PM EST / 1.55 m	11:31 PM EST / 0.39 m	
Mon 14	5:36 AM EST / 1.50 m	11:48 AM EST / 0.26 m	6:11 PM EST / 1.69 m		
Tue 15		12:32 AM EST / 0.28 m	6:33 AM EST / 1.48 m	12:34 PM EST / 0.27 m	6:59 PM EST / 1.82 m
Wed 16		1:30 AM EST / 0.19 m	7:30 AM EST / 1.43 m	1:19 PM EST / 0.29 m	7:47 PM EST / 1.90 m
Thu 17		2:26 AM EST / 0.14 m	8:25 AM EST / 1.37 m	2:05 PM EST / 0.33 m	8:35 PM EST / 1.92 m
Fri 18		3:22 AM EST / 0.12 m	9:20 AM EST / 1.29 m	2:52 PM EST / 0.38 m	9:24 PM EST / 1.90 m
Sat 19		4:18 AM EST / 0.15 m	10:16 AM EST / 1.22 m	3:41 PM EST / 0.45 m	10:16 PM EST / 1.82 m
Sun 20		5:15 AM EST / 0.20 m	11:14 AM EST / 1.17 m	4:35 PM EST / 0.52 m	11:09 PM EST / 1.72 m
Mon 21		6:12 AM EST / 0.27 m	12:13 PM EST / 1.13 m	5:33 PM EST / 0.58 m	
Tue 22	12:04 AM EST / 1.61 m	7:06 AM EST / 0.34 m	1:12 PM EST / 1.12 m	6:35 PM EST / 0.64 m	
Wed 23	1:00 AM EST / 1.50 m	8:00 AM EST / 0.40 m	2:13 PM EST / 1.15 m	7:41 PM EST / 0.68 m	
Thu 24	1:57 AM EST / 1.41 m	8:50 AM EST / 0.45 m	3:11 PM EST / 1.20 m	8:50 PM EST / 0.70 m	
Fri 25	2:55 AM EST / 1.35 m	9:35 AM EST / 0.48 m	4:02 PM EST / 1.28 m	9:55 PM EST / 0.69 m	
Sat 26	3:49 AM EST / 1.30 m	10:14 AM EST / 0.49 m	4:45 PM EST / 1.37 m	10:51 PM EST / 0.65 m	
Sun 27	4:38 AM EST / 1.28 m	10:50 AM EST / 0.49 m	5:23 PM EST / 1.46 m	11:41 PM EST / 0.60 m	
Mon 28	5:24 AM EST / 1.26 m	11:25 AM EST / 0.48 m	6:00 PM EST / 1.55 m		
Tue 29		12:27 AM EST / 0.54 m	6:09 AM EST / 1.25 m	12:01 PM EST / 0.48 m	6:37 PM EST / 1.62 m
Wed 30		1:10 AM EST / 0.47 m	6:54 AM EST / 1.24 m	12:37 PM EST / 0.47 m	7:13 PM EST / 1.67 m
Thu 31		1:52 AM EST / 0.41 m	7:39 AM EST / 1.23 m	1:15 PM EST / 0.48 m	7:50 PM EST / 1.70 m

**The Committee for 2006 – 2007 is:**

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Please send items for the Newsletter to me by the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month