



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 453 Hurstville South 2221 NSW

July 2007

The Leap – Shore Dive 19th May 2007 By Ron Walsh

There were three of us for this dive - Paul Pacey (the organiser), my son Lachlan and me. The view from the top of The Leap revealed brilliant sunshine and a flat ocean. We had timed the tide for 2 hours before the high so we would have a nice drift in to The Steps.



Paul, Lachlan and Ron – by Remote control?

We climbed down the cliff face to the entry point and watched Lachlan end up on his backside - yep the old brown slippery rock trick.



Weedy Seadragon – by Ron Walsh

Entered off the bottom step and sunk in around 5m of water, then headed NE till we dropped off half way along The Leap wall to the sand at 20m. Vis was around 8m and water temp 20C.



Paul (no reg) Pacey – by Ron Walsh

Highlights were a huge bullray (which Paul scared before I could get a good photo), heaps of weedy dragons including a tail-less one, basket stars, blue gropers, orange sea pens, various nudibranchs, and a juvenile lionfish.

Exited at The Steps after 67mins then had cream buns, apple tea-cake and coffee in the sun at Inscription Point.



Potential new wreck dive the Pasha Bulker – by Heinz Bendinger

Michael McFadyen's Last Free Dive 26th May 2007 By Paul Pacey

It was advertised as Michael's last free dive but when I arrived, Michael had his tank on – old habits die hard I guess.



Michael at the last chance saloon with Heinz, Ian, Jason, Re-breather Boy(?), Dave B, John Prior & Stephen McFadyen – Photo by Ron Walsh (it should be noted Paul Pacey is out of the shot still kitting up and earning the privilege of writing up this article)

We were supposed to be ready to dive at 8:00am. I arrived at 8:00am to find everyone suited up and ready to roll – guess why I'm writing this report? I tried to explain to Jason that, whilst I was last to arrive, I was actually 2nd in the water, so technically... Jason wasn't having a bar of this argument – he's tough to deal with isn't he Roxy!



Great blue grouper shot – by Ron Walsh

The plan seemed simple – gather nine divers and take Michael diving so that Kelly could be

“fluffed and buffed” in peace ready for the major event of the day – namely their wedding at 3:00pm.

So that Michael wouldn't suspect anything, we let him organise and lead the dive too. The only thing that showed Michael may have been a bit nervous was that he organised to pick up the cake AFTER the dive instead of before the dive. This meant that we missed out on cake for morning tea.

The weather was superb and Bare Island was looking even better than it normally does.

Now, apart from me being late, the next problem was that some construction types had closed the bridge to Bare Island for repairs. This meant we had to snorkel across the channel then out to the western reef. By the time we got to the reef a few of us were already puffing and looking for a coffee shop!

As we snorkelled over the reef we saw a huge school of Luderick and, dropping to the bottom, we noticed that the viz was much better than expected at nearly 15 metres – which was surprising as it was nearly low tide.



Red Indian Fish – by Ron Walsh

We hadn't gone far when Michael was excitedly pointing into the gloom and signalling “Kingfish”. We couldn't see anything and signalled “huh?”.

A few minutes later I spotted a large Kingfish and pointed it out to Michael – his response was “whatever”.

We travelled west to the isolated reefs where we enjoyed the spectacular colour and diversity of the marine life out there. We saw Blue Devil nudibranchs, Weedy Seadragons, Giant Sea Pens (*Sarcophyton Grandis* – I sure hope Mike

Scotland reads this!), heaps of other stuff and one crummy octopus.

Along the way “Hawkeye” McFadyen spotted a 4cm Dwarf Lionfish (*Dendrochirus Brachypterus* – are ya still there Mike?) which was trying to hide in a sponge castle. Half a dozen divers and a few hundred watts of combined torch light didn’t make the poor blighters hiding any easier.

Rounding Seahorse Point we were not disappointed to find that the cute little fella is still there.



Here’s one for the girls! Brother’s Michael and Stephen after the dive. Stephen hadn’t dived for 7 years and said he couldn’t believe how much Bare Island has improved! That is until they start work on the port extension! – Photo by Ron Walsh

Thanks Michael, a memorable dive for many reasons....

Fast forward to 3:00pm...

It was great to return to the park overlooking Bare Island at 3:00pm to witness the wedding of Kelly and Michael. It was even better to see the large number of their diving friends in attendance.



An extreme close up of that tie!

A special mention for Les who looked really dapper in his black suit. Les really got into the swing of the occasion with his marine-theme tie. The tie looked like it was created by an explosion in a paint factory – well done Les!



Michael also looked smart for the occasion but was totally overshadowed when Kelly arrived. She looked absolutely sensational in her white gown.

The ceremony was simple and beautiful, the only concern being the enthusiasm with which Kelly's father was prepared to give his daughter away (you had to be there).

Kelly and Michael, on behalf of all your diving friends, we wish you a long and happy marriage.



Then there was the honeymoon! A couple of shots of Kelly diving the wreck of the Coolidge in Vanuatu – by Michael McFadyen



South Solitary Dive Adventure

8th – 11th June 2007

By Eddie Ivers

South Solitary Dive Adventure 8 June –11 June 2007, divers; Les Caterson, Heinz Bendinger, David Casburn, Robbie & Carol Mapstone, Paul Watkinson, Jason Coombs, & Eddie Ivers

Day 1 8th June - Leaving Hienz's place at 9.45am we encountered increasingly wild weather as we approached Newcastle on the Freeway.

Les & Elly phoned us about midday advising that they had to pull over due to the heavy rain and poor viz near Raymond Terrace and were understandably concerned about whether we would be diving tomorrow.

Not long after as we neared Grahamstown the downpour was so heavy Heinz also had to reduce speed due to poor viz and sections of the new highway was under water

We too were also having doubts about whether we would get to dive tomorrow

After Buledulah the heavy rain began to clear to passing showers and blue skies appeared.

Paul & Jason were about 2 hours behind us and were encountering even worse weather and were considering calling the weekends dive report 'Cyclone Eddies' dive weekend. *(I still can't believe we ended up diving after the extreme weather we drove through getting to Newcastle! – Jason)*

However this was not to be as the nearer we got to Coffs the better the weather was.

We arrived at sunny and warm Coffs about 5 pm and unpacked our gear at Harbour Terrace apartments which was close to Jetty dive with good ocean views from the large balcony.

Heinz soon paid his usual obligatory homage to the local Aldi store to check the specials and stock up on essential supplies for the weekend.

Robbie & Carol arrived soon after us and unpacked and after our long and adventurous dive we walked down to the local Thai restaurant which is where Paul and Jason meet us later.

Day 2 9th June - Great news Jetty Dive called and advised we will be doing a double dive at South Solitary island

Whilst having breakfast on the balcony basking in the warm sun we thought briefly of our Sydney friends unable to dive confined to indoors by the biggest wet in 50 years.

Soon the 8 St George divers like a well oiled machine were packed loaded aboard Jetty Dives Blue Wing bound for our days diving.



Getting our kit together on Jetty Dives great boat – by Heinz Bendinger

Jetty Dives Blue Wing is a twin engine Cougar Cat one of the most powerful & comfortable, safe, purpose built dive vessels on the east coast of NSW and with the operator, Mike Davey's years of experience adds value to a very professional dive operation.

Arriving at South Solitary Mike decided that Manta Arch could be dived as it provided some shelter from the swells coming from the weather further south.

After gearing up we jumped into beautiful warm blue water with 20+ metres viz and soon encountered a gutter with more than a dozen Grey Nurse Sharks ranging in size from 2-3 metres even a large turtle cruised overhead to see who was invading his territory.

It was disturbing to see that most of these sharks had hooks and traces protruding from their jaws.

After a max depth of 26.2 and a dive time of 57 minutes we were all back on board for our surface interval swapping stories about who saw

this and that while we enjoyed some hot drinks and snacks.

After a change of tanks Mike moved onto a mooring at North Boulder which is also sheltered from the swell coming from the south.



Grey Nurse at North Boulder – by Jason Coombs

After jumping in we were surprised that the viz here was even better and there was virtually no current.

Most of us chose to follow Mike around this site where we encountered at least 3 turtles, more grey nurse sharks, an egg cowries and a small juvenile angelfish, a school of Barracuda and lots of Blue Tangs

This dive was a little shallower than the first with a max depth for me of 17.9 metres and a dive time of 55 minutes.



Paul Watkinson get up close and personal with a turtle – by Jason Coombs

Back on board we were soon powering back to unload our gear and wash it up back at the shop and check on the weather forecast for Sunday.

Unfortunately this was not good with 5 metre seas so all diving was cancelled.

Saturday night we all enjoyed a BBQ of Scotch Fillet and sausages which was subsidised by the club and expertly cooked by Robbie and Dave under the supervision of Carol who coordinated the salads and veges.

Day 3 & 4 Sunday 10 & Monday 11th June No dives these days due to huge 5metre + swell and 30 knot winds



Eddie and David Casburn trying to work out what to do when you can't dive! – by Heinz Bendinger

Thankfully both days were warm and sunny which meant we could enjoy a healthy walk to the harbour headlands to see the waves breaking over the breakwater and a drive to Bellingen for lunch on Sunday at the historic Federal Hotel



More walking and waiting David, Rob and Eddie – by Heinz Bendinger

We walked to local Gaming Fishing Club on Sunday night where some of us were a bit disappointed with the seafood especially the calamari.

Mondays dive was also called off because the seas still had not settled enough to exit out of the harbour with safety.

Day 5 Tuesday 12th June Getting on the road from sunny Coffs at 8.20 am we made good time to Buladelah where we had lunch at the Hotel.



The Pasher Bulker – by Heinz Bendinger

We decided to check Newcastle's potential new wreck dive the Pasha Bulker which is hard aground on Nobbys Beach, possibly the biggest incident since the earthquake.



A helicopter takes off from the deck– by Jason Coombs

Returning back to the freeway we were amazed by the widespread devastation caused by the gale force winds and the large number established trees blown over.

Encountering worsening weather the closer we got to Sydney and were wishing to be back enjoying sunny Coffs Harbour. Maybe next time whenever we organise this trip the weather will be better, clearly it could not be much worse.

Thankyou to everyone for contributing to the enjoyment of this long weekend, our double dive at South Solitary was a bonus.

REGULAR EVENTS

Monthly Meetings

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

Thursday Night Dives

With swell dropping away over the last couple of days and some stable weather hopefully the night dives can start again after the last 3 Thursday's were cancelled.

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 – Barrens Hut

8th July 2007

Please contact Kelly McFADYEN! (Who is that?) if you are interested Ph. 9558 8181.

Forster / Seal Rocks Away Trip

20th – 22nd July 2007

ONE SPOT LEFT!

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.

Christmas in July 28th July 2007

At Heathcote Services & Citizens Club

24 Oliver Street

Cost is \$ 20 per person

For every booking of 4 people the club will supply a free bottle of wine.

If you are interested in going please contact Peter Flockart by phone or email as soon as possible.

The club needs final numbers by 21st July.

Shore Dive / BBQ – Bass Point 5th August 2007

Please contact Phil Rose if you are interested Ph. 9543 0748.

Weekend of 10th - 12th Aug on Ocean Trek.

You board the boat at Huskisson Wharf at 9 pm on Friday 24th

Enjoy two days diving in the lovely (cold- it will be by then) waters of Jervis Bay. You can expect to do a max of 6 dives for the weekend.

Water temp in August is generally around 15 degrees so bring your dry suit or a warm wet suit.

Weekend includes two night's accommodation, Maximum of 6 dives, air fills & all meals on Saturday + breakfast & lunch on Sunday. The only thing you need to bring is your grog.

Price for all of this is \$400 which is great value.

Limited to eight divers be quick to book & secure yourself a space.

Contact Peter Flockart. On 9371 0265
Or at pjflockart@speednet.com.au

Ski Weekend

17th – 19th August



If you are interested in this trip please contact Eddie Ivers Ph 9526 5910

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.

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 three spots left on the Mullaway Trip and one spot 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 –
FULL
Live aboard
October 2007

OTHER NEWS

Membership Fees

Membership fees of \$25.00 are due by 30th June. Just complete a renewal form (available on the website) and get your money to our Treasurer.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held on 19th September after our General Club Meeting. All committee positions will be vacated followed by position elections. The AGM is an opportunity to make changes to our Constitution such as positions and fees. Any financial member can propose an amendment to the constitution by submitting their proposal to the Committee prior to the July meeting on 18th July (this allows sufficient time to advertise the proposal to members).



The Truk Lagoon – Not Going Anywhere Trip

The SS Thornfin hit a reef in early June and is stuck there while all the parties argue over insurance liabilities. The engine room and first deck are submerged and work is ongoing.

The trip is likely to be delayed until next year. Please contact Paul Watkinson paul@watkinson.biz for further information.

Sydney Tides July 2007

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High
Sun 1		2:56 AM EST / 0.29 m	8:47 AM EST / 1.20 m	2:14 PM EST / 0.45 m	8:48 PM EST / 1.75 m
Mon 2		3:36 AM EST / 0.25 m	9:30 AM EST / 1.22 m	2:56 PM EST / 0.45 m	9:29 PM EST / 1.75 m
Tue 3		4:18 AM EST / 0.24 m	10:14 AM EST / 1.24 m	3:40 PM EST / 0.46 m	10:11 PM EST / 1.74 m
Wed 4		5:00 AM EST / 0.24 m	11:00 AM EST / 1.26 m	4:28 PM EST / 0.48 m	10:55 PM EST / 1.71 m
Thu 5		5:42 AM EST / 0.26 m	11:48 AM EST / 1.30 m	5:22 PM EST / 0.52 m	11:42 PM EST / 1.64 m
Fri 6		6:26 AM EST / 0.29 m	12:39 PM EST / 1.35 m	6:22 PM EST / 0.55 m	
Sat 7	12:34 AM EST / 1.55 m	7:12 AM EST / 0.33 m	1:34 PM EST / 1.42 m	7:31 PM EST / 0.58 m	
Sun 8	1:33 AM EST / 1.43 m	8:01 AM EST / 0.38 m	2:34 PM EST / 1.50 m	8:50 PM EST / 0.56 m	
Mon 9	2:42 AM EST / 1.31 m	8:55 AM EST / 0.42 m	3:36 PM EST / 1.59 m	10:10 PM EST / 0.51 m	
Tue 10	3:58 AM EST / 1.23 m	9:53 AM EST / 0.45 m	4:35 PM EST / 1.68 m	11:23 PM EST / 0.41 m	
Wed 11	5:10 AM EST / 1.18 m	10:50 AM EST / 0.46 m	5:32 PM EST / 1.76 m		
Thu 12		12:27 AM EST / 0.32 m	6:16 AM EST / 1.17 m	11:47 AM EST / 0.45 m	6:27 PM EST / 1.82 m
Fri 13		1:24 AM EST / 0.24 m	7:15 AM EST / 1.18 m	12:42 PM EST / 0.43 m	7:20 PM EST / 1.85 m
Sat 14		2:13 AM EST / 0.20 m	8:06 AM EST / 1.20 m	1:34 PM EST / 0.41 m	8:08 PM EST / 1.85 m
Sun 15		2:58 AM EST / 0.19 m	8:52 AM EST / 1.23 m	2:22 PM EST / 0.40 m	8:54 PM EST / 1.82 m
Mon 16		3:41 AM EST / 0.21 m	9:36 AM EST / 1.25 m	3:08 PM EST / 0.42 m	9:37 PM EST / 1.77 m
Tue 17		4:21 AM EST / 0.26 m	10:19 AM EST / 1.27 m	3:53 PM EST / 0.47 m	10:18 PM EST / 1.69 m
Wed 18		4:59 AM EST / 0.31 m	11:02 AM EST / 1.29 m	4:39 PM EST / 0.53 m	10:57 PM EST / 1.60 m
Thu 19		5:35 AM EST / 0.37 m	11:44 AM EST / 1.31 m	5:26 PM EST / 0.60 m	11:36 PM EST / 1.50 m
Fri 20		6:09 AM EST / 0.44 m	12:27 PM EST / 1.33 m	6:16 PM EST / 0.67 m	
Sat 21	12:15 AM EST / 1.39 m	6:44 AM EST / 0.50 m	1:12 PM EST / 1.35 m	7:12 PM EST / 0.72 m	
Sun 22	12:59 AM EST / 1.28 m	7:21 AM EST / 0.55 m	2:02 PM EST / 1.37 m	8:19 PM EST / 0.75 m	
Mon 23	1:53 AM EST / 1.19 m	8:04 AM EST / 0.60 m	2:58 PM EST / 1.40 m	9:34 PM EST / 0.72 m	
Tue 24	3:02 AM EST / 1.11 m	8:56 AM EST / 0.62 m	3:54 PM EST / 1.44 m	10:42 PM EST / 0.66 m	
Wed 25	4:14 AM EST / 1.08 m	9:53 AM EST / 0.62 m	4:46 PM EST / 1.50 m	11:39 PM EST / 0.57 m	
Thu 26	5:17 AM EST / 1.09 m	10:48 AM EST / 0.59 m	5:36 PM EST / 1.56 m		
Fri 27		12:28 AM EST / 0.47 m	6:10 AM EST / 1.12 m	11:40 AM EST / 0.54 m	6:22 PM EST / 1.63 m
Sat 28		1:12 AM EST / 0.38 m	6:58 AM EST / 1.16 m	12:28 PM EST / 0.48 m	7:06 PM EST / 1.70 m
Sun 29		1:52 AM EST / 0.30 m	7:42 AM EST / 1.22 m	1:14 PM EST / 0.42 m	7:47 PM EST / 1.76 m
Mon 30		2:31 AM EST / 0.24 m	8:23 AM EST / 1.27 m	1:57 PM EST / 0.38 m	8:28 PM EST / 1.80 m
Tue 31		3:09 AM EST / 0.20 m	9:04 AM EST / 1.33 m	2:41 PM EST / 0.36 m	9:09 PM EST / 1.82 m

The Committee for 2006 – 2007 is:

PRESIDENT:	Kelly Jandik	9558 8181	President@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
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Please send items for the Newsletter to me by the 28th of the month