

Sea Braggin'



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

- **NOVEMBER 2010** - *Edited by Ray Moulang* -

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE ARE DIVE REPORTS FROM :..

Paul Pacey

PICTURE PRESENTATIONS FROM :..

- **Ron Walsh, Brian Byrnes, Carole Harris and Peter Flockart** -

A BIG THANK YOU GOES TO THEM.



Bicolor Flabellina

© Ron Walsh

What's On – NOVEMBER – 2010 –

WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT	WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT
Saturday 6th	<i>Deep Dive SS Tuggerah/ SS Undola from Yowie</i>	<i>Michael McFadyen 9545 5596</i>	Tuesday 16th @ 7:30pm	2011 Club Dive Calender Agenda Setting Night	Jason Coombs President
Sunday 7th to Monday 15th	<i>North Solitaires Trip Wooli</i>	<i>Peter Flockart 9371 0265</i>	Wednesday 17th	Club Meeting at Rowers Club	Jason Coombs President
Sunday 7th	<i>Boat Dive Marley Point</i>	<i>Mark Ridsdale 9558 5196</i>	Saturday 20th to Sunday 21st	Dive and Drive 4WD Weekend. Swansea and Stockton Beach	Ray Moulang 0403437974
Saturday 13th	Deep Dive / Rose Bay	Peter Flockart 9371 0265	Sunday 28th	Double Boat Dive Bombo etc Wollongong	Eda DiCamillio 9560 6082

What's On - DECEMBER - 2010 -

WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT	WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT
<i>Saturday 4th</i>	<i>Deep Dive SS Tuggerah/ SS Undola from Yowie Bay</i>	<i>Michael McFadyen 9545 5596</i>	Sunday 12th	Boat Dive Blue Fish Point / Rose Bay	Peter Flockart 9371 0265
<i>Sunday 5th</i>	<i>Club Christmas Party Kurnell</i>	<i>Natasha and Digby Naude 9799 9785</i>	Wednesday 15 th	<i>Club Meeting Rowers Club 8pm</i>	<i>Jason Coombs President 9345 4599</i>
<i>Saturday 11th</i>	<i>Boat Dive Middle ground</i>	<i>Dave Casburn 9527 6279</i>			

Stockton Beach Dive and Drive.

A trip is planned for a Shore Dive at Swansea and a Four Wheel Drive and camp on Stockton Beach on Saturday and Sunday 20th and 21st November.



Philippines Trip

A flyer is being prepared for this trip by Dive Adventures.

Depart Saturday 12th February arrive back Saturday 26th February.

Sydney - Manila - Cebu - Legaspi - Manila - Sydney.

Thresher Sharks, mantas, Whale Sharks

Indicative is as follows:

13 nights / 14 days

Malapascua (6 days) 18 - 24 dives, Ticao Island (3 days) 9 dives, 2 days snorkelling with the whale sharks. All accommodation, transfers, airfares including Excess baggage for Cebu - Legaspi leg, nitrox at Malapascua, all brekkies, full board Ticao, Lunch and dinner at Malapascua -- allow say \$100.00.

All up cost \$2950 - \$3000 minimum 8 divers

See Mark Ridsdale for more details.





Thresher & Whale Sharks PHILIPPINES

15 Days / 14 Nights ex. Sydney **\$2950-\$3000**

This package is based on group rates with a minimum 8 divers - exact price will be reviewed with final numbers

Malapascua & Donsol 12th - 26th Feb 2011

Includes:

- Return low season flights ex. Sydney to Cebu & from Legaspi - with Philippine airlines - Conditions apply
- 1 nights twin/double share Accommodation in Cebu
- Return Transfers to Malapascua by road (air con Van/Car) and Private boat
- 8 nights twin/double share accom - Tepanee Resort
- Breakfast daily in Malapascua
- 15 Dive package in Malapascua includes - Tanks Weights and Dive Guide with Thresher Shark Divers
- Bonus Special *** Free Nitrox *** Free Wi-Fi ***
- Sunset Cruise for the Group on the last day
- Flights ex.Cebu to Legaspi - with Cebu Pacific air
- Return Transfers, Legaspi to Donsol and to Ticao Is.
- 4 nights at Ticao Island in a beachfront Cabana
- All Meals at Ticao
- 9 Dive pkg at Ticao - Tanks Weights & Dive Guide
- 1 night twin/double accom Elysia Beach Resort Donsol
- 2 x Whale Shark Interaction
- 1 night twin/double share accom at Venezia Hotel - Legaspi
- Australian departure and applicable airline taxes (approx. \$360 & subject to change)



**NOT INCLUDED: ** departure/terminal fees in Philippines **
Meals (unless specified) * Travel Insurance * Spending Monies
Conditions apply. Prices Subject to change without notice.
\$300 Deposit required to secure a spot!**

DIVE
ADVENTURES

YOUR DIVING HOLIDAY SPECIALIST

SYDNEY Lic. No. 27A 003537
PH:(02) 9299 4633 FAX:(02) 9299 4644
MELBOURNE Lic. No. 31889
PH:(03) 9646 5945 FAX:(03) 9646 8589
0736000010



St George Scuba Club
Scuba Divers



MARK RIDSDALE Mob: 0419 243 717

Email: mrsrconsulting@aol.com

FOR BOOKINGS AND MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Wooli Trip in November

For those of you who may be looking for a trip away before Xmas why not come to Wooli in November.

There are still places available if you wish to attend.

Dates are from 7th till 15th November.

Come for the whole week or part of it

\$50 will secure you a spot

For \$130 per day you get a double dive / 2 air fills / snacks on the boat / accommodation.

All you need to do is supply food for breakfast & dinner. It is also BYO alcohol & bedding.

If you want to go get your deposits into our treasurer asap.

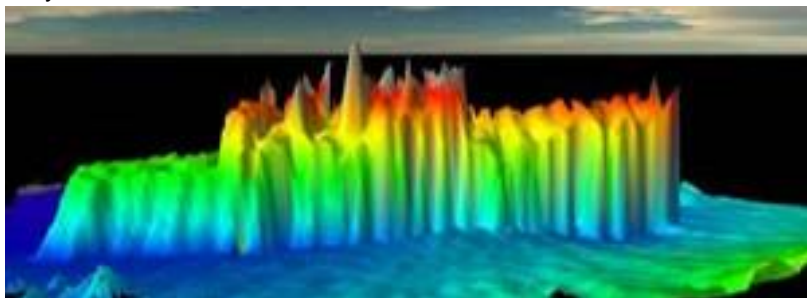
Any queries contact me.

Regards, Peter Flockart.

NEW ZEALAND TRUP

Friday 11th to Monday 21st MARCH 2011

Dive the **HMNZS Canterbury** and the **Rainbow Warrior** in the warm waters of the **Bay of Islands** for three days. Stay on a farm with all accommodation and meals included.



The HMNZS Canterbury, a 113 metre Leander Class frigate, was scuttled in 38m of water and is sitting perfectly upright.

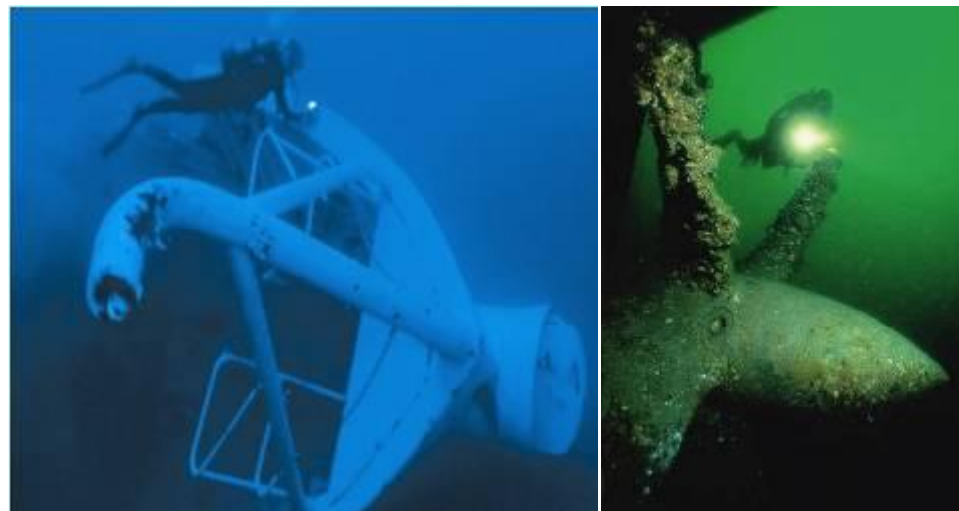


Since the Rainbow Warrior was sunk in 1987, she has become a living reef, covered in Jewel Anemones. She's 42 metres long and sits on a white sandy bottom at 26 metres.

All diving, accommodation and some meals	\$AUD	1276
Car Hire	\$AUD	167
Air Fare - purchase your own	\$AUD	431
Optional -1 night Airport hotel	\$AUD	150
Total	\$AUD	2024

All prices approx depending on exchange rate & numbers

Dive the **Poor Knights** Islands, the **HMNZS Tui** and **HMNZS Waikato** wrecks from **Tutukaka** for four days. Water temperature expected to be 19-22° in March. Stay at either the Tutukaka Holiday Park in self-contained cabins or at the Oceans Resort, both a short walk from the Dive Shop, Marina and Restaurants.



The ex-HMNZS Tui and ex-HMNZS Waikato were sunk in 1999 and 2000 respectively. The Waikato rests upright at 29 metres, and the Tui sits at 32 metres.



23 kilometres off the north east coast of New Zealand, the Poor Knights Islands are washed by a warm current that sweeps down from the Coral Sea.

Jacques Cousteau ranked the Poor Knights as one of the top ten dive sites, anywhere. UK "Dive" Magazine ranks them the "best sub-tropical diving in the world".

Maximum 12 divers

Contact **Shelley Breuseker** for more details

\$200 deposit to club to secure your place
shellsb@bigpond.net.au

6 SPACES LEFT

Proposed Great Barrier Reef trip over New Year 2011

Preliminary expression of interest

I am planning a trip to dive on the Big Cat Reality out of Bundaberg for 5 days of diving. At this stage, I have not decided on the exact dates. It will either be the trip on departing mon Dec 27 around 6 p.m. or the mon 3 Jan for 5 days of diving. I did this trip last January. It does a circuit of the Capricorn Bunker reefs from Lady Musgrave Island, to Lady Fairfax, Llewellyn Island and finally Lady Elliot Island. Last year we did 21 dives including 4 night dives.

We saw plenty of Manta rays at Lady Elliot Island.

The diving is excellent and totally changed my view of the GBRMPA. The fish life is wonderful especially the numerous coral trout and coral cod. The protection of the area by the reef authority has really made these reefs come alive and has been a great success.

We did have perfect weather and I decided that the trip earned a 9/10 for quality.

There are a couple of reality checks with the dive operation.

Diving is strictly controlled.

However, as long as we fit in with the system, they go out of their way to give you maximum dives, up to 5 a day.

The food is good basic wholesome food. It is not gourmet but there is always lots of fresh fruit, salads and is plentiful.

You sleep in 2 x 12 bed bunk rooms with very little privacy.

NO sleeping in your birthday suit! However, after 5 dives each day all you want is somewhere to crash.

It is a little tough on couples as there is no privacy.

Next problem is that it costs \$100 to hire tanks and weights for the trip.

The last challenge to overcome is transport. I drove to Bundaberg. It is 17 ~ 18 hours. You can fly. There are still cheap airfares about. You could fly to Brisbane and hire a car and drive the 5 ~ 6 hours to Bundaberg. The wharf is 20 + klms out of Bundaberg town and from the airport. I am going to drive again, probably stopping at Wooli on the way back for a few days. Having said all of that, it is a great trip with excellent diving and I thoroughly recommend it. That is why I am going back.

The cost is \$1500 plus reef tax of ~\$20. [www.bigcat](http://www.bigcatreality.com) reality.com

If you are interested, we need to move soon to secure the booking.

My contact details: ph 9521 7720

Mob 0415 158 168

Email mikescotland@optusnet.com.au scubamagic@hotmail.com

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Truk trip for 2011.

Some trip points to note:

- The price does not include our Club discount (approx 10%) or our Free of Charge land base component for every 8th diver. The total discount cannot be determined until we finalise numbers.
- The prices are based on 95c US. The quoted price will not change unless there is a fluctuation of more than 2c either way. If the dollar goes through the roof, you can pay the balance in full to take advantage.
- The price does not include Sydney/Cairns/Sydney flights or accommodation in Cairns.

You need to organize this yourself (best to wait and watch for specials).

- We request that you take out a travel insurance policy that covers your diving activities.
- There is a 2 week option. • Truk is a third world country and as such you should adjust your expectations.
- The trip is not suitable for non divers.- The trip is suitable for experienced divers.

There is a maximum of 16 spots for this trip (8 are already pre-reserved), so please book on sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment.

To book you must contact me to: 1. Check availability; and 2. To get a booking form which you will need to complete and send to Sharon at Dive Adventures with your deposit.

Please give me a call if you have any questions (particularly if you have not been to Truk before).

Many thanks, Kelly.

-Recent Club Happenings-

Boat Dive Report

On Saturday 9th October SeaJohn motored out of Port Botany to further investigate a dive site which has been named Bypass Reef. On board were Sheila, Heinz, Ron, Bram and Paul (scribe) as well as John Beddie at the Helm.

Overcast skies greeted us at Port Botany as we prepared the boat. This was the first time I've been to the new Port Botany boat ramp facility and I must say I was most impressed – even though it's not finished yet. What didn't impress us was the smelly fuel slick and the yucky scum floating on the water at the ramp.

Bypass Reef was spotted on the depth sounder by John when returning from another dive trip some time ago and was first visited by Ray and Heinz. After dropping the anchor we drifted 90 metres off the reef before Heinz finally caught something.



It was decided to up-anchor and have another shot, but the anchor was happy and quite attached to what it had finally hooked onto!

The decision was unanimous, “OK, let's dive here”.

John said we were anchored west of the reef so Ron, Bram and I set off with our trusty reel and headed east from the well-set anchor and started looking for something interesting.

The water was really dirty on top but the viz was OK on the bottom - about 8 metres. It was a bit gloomy on the bottom as the dirty water on top blocked out what little light was coming through the cloud cover. We hadn't gone far when Ron noticed a reef wall to the north which we changed course to investigate. We followed this wall east and it eventually swung to the south thus verifying John's statement that we were anchored west of the reef.

The sand line is about 25 metre deep and we reached a maximum depth of 28 metres during the dive. The reef protected us from the surge there was a slight southerly current but nothing to worry about.

The reef itself is in pristine condition and has many overhangs and a couple of nice caves thrown in too. There is a lot of sponge and other growth making the reef very colourful but there were not many fish hanging around. We did find an Easter Blue Devilfish which Ron proceeded to fry with his dual Strokes.



The only problem with the reef is that it's pretty deep and I was running out of bottom time even before I ran out of line. On our way back to the boat we met Sheila and Heinz who had followed our line. I handed the reel over to Heinz – it was like the change of shift at the pit.

Nobody complained about the cold which hasn't happened for a while.

After the dive we motored back into Congwong Bay for morning tea. Considering the food that we devoured I'd say it won't be long before we'll have another Bypass Reef – but it was delicious.

Whilst cruising back to the boat ramp we spotted a lone seal sunbaking in the middle of nowhere with his fin up – obviously to warn passing boats of his presence. After we stopped to look the seal drifted to within metres of our boat and he wasn't at all concerned with our being there.

I must say that it's jolly nice of John to take us out for a dive when he's not yet able to dive himself – THANKS JOHN!

Bypass Reef – highly recommended! Paul Pacey.



Please don't forget our

*******CLUB NEXT YEARS PLANNING NIGHT TUESDAY 16TH NOVEMBER*******

- Nelson Bay Dive Report –

22/10/2010.

A diver, calmly swimming along, admiring the things of wonder around him.

He spots a broken bottle lying in the sand, and, preferring things to be neat, picks it up and carefully puts it back in the sand, jagged edge down.

A sting ray, peacefully sleeping under sand.
It knew it was safe, because it was completely hidden from view.
Suddenly, it feels a piece of jagged glass being ground in to its skin.

An explosion of sand, and the club almost loses a valued member when Edward nearly dies of a heart attack.

(I never did ask what happened to the broken bottle.)
The sea is fully of surprises, but it seems that Port Stephens has more than its fair share.



From ridiculously pink nudibranchs and gorgeous cowries, To pipe fish and playful cuttlefish, it's a place where where an easy shore dive turns up an amazing variety of fascinating creatures.

Which, of course, was why we were there.



Brian Byrnes

Kelly had organised a club trip for the weekend of October 23.

Those who went were Ron Walsh, Donna Cassidy, Carol Martin, Brian Byrnes, Greg Blackburne, Shelley Breuseker, Bob Walker, Debbie Cook,

Margaret and Geoff Sanders, Bram Harris, Edward, Jan and David Fyvie, Peter Flockart, Sarah Lockley and her sister Annette, Carole Harris, Leon Betts and Michael McFadyen.

We were all staying at the Halifax Holiday Park, which is easy walking distance, for those tough enough, to the Halifax dive site.

The other two main dives sites are the nearby Fly Point, which is also part of the marine park, and the Pipeline, which a great dive site conveniently close to the dive shop.

Everyone arrived on Friday, and those who arrived in time met for dinner at the local RSL club.

On Saturday morning the divers split up, with some going to Halifax and the rest to the Pipeline. Both groups had a very enjoyable dive.

At Halifax there were lots of other divers - in fact, after taking a photo I was forever looking up and taking off after the wrong set of fins.



Bram Harris

On that dive, people saw a variety of colourful nudibranchs, free-swimming, speckled moray eels, small wobbegongs and a yellow sea spider. The viz wasn't great, but it was plenty good enough to enjoy the site.



That evening we had a really enjoyable barbeque with juicy steaks, paid for by the club subsidy, and with lots of tasty nibbles provided by members.

It rained quite a lot that night. In fact, in the otherwise silent camp, it was about the only thing you could hear. But despite the rain the conditions were again quite good on Sunday morning.

Some dove at Fly Point, and others went to the Pipeline.

Fly Point was busy that day, but those club members at the Pipeline had the site to themselves.

Those at Fly Point saw, among other things, spectacular nudibranchs and beautiful spindle cowries.

Those at the Pipeline also saw lots of nudibranchs, along with tiger pipefish, small, friendly cuttlefish, an octopus or two and a some very big flathead.

About half-way through the dive, everything suddenly went dark and the rest of the dive was quite gloomy.

When we came back up, the rain was pelting down, and so our gear got rinsed on the walk back to our cars.

After the dive most people headed back to the camp for a shower, and then packed up and went home.

Michael and Kelly stayed on for another dive on Monday at the Pipeline and reported a great dive with improved viz of 10 metres. I was told at the dive shop that it takes a few days for the sites here to become dirty after rain.

Thanks to Kelly for organising another great trip.



Peter Flockart

From a recent club trip to JB.









Four nice shots from Carole Harris





From Carole Harris



Ron Walsh



Peter Flockart

The Committee is:

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Please send items for the Newsletter to me *as you do them during the month.*