

#### **Local Dives**

 $\textit{Sea food and See food (Shiprock)} \textit{-} \mathcal{J} \textit{ohn Prior}$ 

Tuggerah - Phil Short

Magic Point - Wayne Heming

Pizza Reef - Ron Walsh

Pages 1, 5, 10, 13

#### Trips

South West Rocks - Bram Harris

Page 6

#### Other

Shed the Led - Ken Rids

First dives - Rianti Bieler, Bill Rowland, Bram Harris

Tie an eye splice - Wayne Heming

Marine quilt - Chris Barrands

Pages 3, 7, 8, 12, 13

### SEA FOOD AND SEE FOOD

This has become one of the must do things on the calendar, you go for a dive at Shiprock then back to the Pacey house for warm hospitality and great food, and this year way too much of the sweet stuff and you know my position on this.

I arrived in Shiprock road tail gated by Kim; evidentially the parking spot behind the no stopping sign is reserved for her, but not today. We arrived particularly early but it didn't take long, Shiprock road was full and so was the lower Shiprock road. I didn't count numbers but there must have been over 15 divers. We entered in a staggered pattern (it's good when people don't clump up!). I don't know who I entered the water with but I came out on my own. Saw the usual marine life with a wobbegong just in front of the pool.

Along the wall and under the overhang the pineapple fish still have the prime position, in the rocks were green morays, don't know if anyone had seen any anglers or pipe fish, but I am sure they were there. Further along the wall and back past the exit there were cuttlefish.

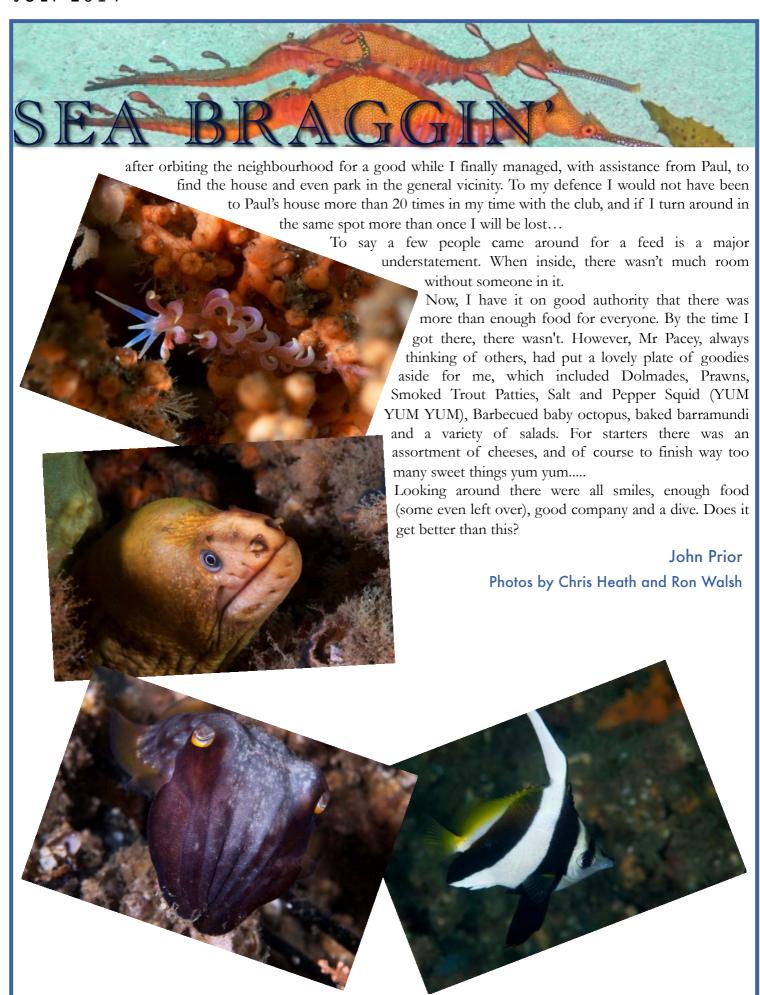
As I had a 12 Litre tank rather than my 10 litre tank I extended my dive by following the wall beyond the exit, spotting some lovely cuttlefish just trying to mind their own business. Some interesting slugs too - don't know what the hell they were.

As mentioned, because I had extended my dive a bit (well a lot), I was suddenly gripped by fear. The fear that comes from the realisation that everyone was back at the Pacey residence, eating, and I was still in the water just off Shiprock! What was I thinking?!

Shiprock was deserted, well of course it would be, and I made my way to Paul's house. I had, as is my way, a slight navigational problem, so









### SHED THE LED

# An exhortation, bearing in mind my ongoing concern for the safety, comfort and well being of fellow members. Presented for your edification and illumination.

Disclaimer. This document is a product of knowledge gained over my short 7 years of diving experience, combined with a bit of basic math and laws of physics. It is in no way to be viewed in the context of the observations or opinions of an expert. Far from it. Readers are encouraged to engage in independent thought and reach their own conclusions.

But first let us visit some knowns.

- \* All scuba divers know or should know that we carry lead weights to allow us to enjoy the effects of negative buoyancy in an aquatic environment. (It allows us to sink.) Without it we would be confined to the surface and may as well just go snorkelling.
- \* Why do we need to generate negative buoyancy? Because our bodies, thermal protection and some of the other stuff we carry on a dive makes us positively buoyant. (We float.)
- \* There is an immutable law of physics which states, when an object is placed in liquid, if the weight of the liquid displaced by the object is greater that the weight of the object, it will float. If the weight of the water displaced is less than the weight of the object, the object will sink.
- \* A given volume of muscle tissue will be less buoyant than the same volume of fat tissue. Not being sexist but when I first started diving I noticed that most women divers carry what seems a disproportionate amount of weights and that they were very experienced divers. The answer to this concern was quite simply they have a higher fat tissue to muscle tissue ratio than men.

#### Where am i going with all this? (somewhere.)

Am i going to reveal some hitherto unknown secret of physics that will free you from the tyranny of carrying 20 - 30lbs of lead? (ded weight) ... uuuuhhh ... "NO"!

But we can employ weight that gives us other benefits apart from sinking: let's name this weight "Useful weight". Ded weight only serves one purpose. It allows you to sink. Useful weight allows you to sink and has additional benefits:

- A great big PIG type torch;
- Some of Eddie's torches;
- A nice big heavy canister torch;
- Put some D rings, clips etc on your BCD to hook the torches to; and
- If you suffer from a bit of inflexibility some really heavy spring loaded fins.

Now for some seriously useful negative weight:

- Back plate type BCD; and
- TWIN UP

DRYSUIT DIVERS TAKE NOTE (in light of my previous observations of the effects of Boyle's law.)

- A litre of sea water weighs 1.027kg.
- My twin 7 Faber steelies (and fittings) displace 16.8l of water.
- The weight of that water is 16.8 x 1.027kg or 17.12kg
- My steelies (and bands etc) with 20bar or air weigh 21.7 kg.
- The air weighs 287g believe me.

You don't? OK a litre of air weighs 1.2g, 20b @ 14l = 280 litres of air times 1.2g = 336g.



My steelies when empty weigh 21.36 kg. Which means they are 4.24kg negatively buoyant. Or a bit over 9lb. (I did the math, it is close enough). Now I am able to take 9lb off my weight belt/pocket with the added advantage of a redundant air supply (very comforting in those "same ocean buddy" moments.) as I run my twins as singles and isolate them with a manifold.

I will leave the math to you for twin 9-10.5-12-15-s and god forbid 18s. If anyone twins up 15 or 18s I will pay good money just to see them.

Cylinder specs for 232 bar Faber steelies.

CYLINDER SPECIFICATIONS							
Water Cap.	Volume Cu Ft	Tare Weight	Len.	Dia.	Buoyancy		
					Empty	Full	
3 litre	25 cf	3.4 kg 7.5 lb	500 mm 19.7 in	100 mm 3.9 in	-0.5 kg -1.1 lb	-1.25 kg -2.8 lb	
5 litre	40 cf		460 mm 18.1 in	140 mm 5.5 in	-0.5 kg -1.1 lb	-2.0 kg -4.4 lb	
7 litre	55 cf	7.6 kg 16.8 lb	605 mm 23.8 in	140 mm 5.5 in	-1.0 kg -2.2 lb	-3.0 kg -6.6 lb	
9 litre	75 cf		495 mm 19.5 in	178 mm 7 in	-1.5 kg -3.3 lb	-4.0 kg -8.8 lb	
10.5 litre	85 cf	11.3 kg 24.9 lb	560 mm 22 in	178 mm 7 in	-1.0 kg -2.2 lb	-4.0 kg -8.8 lb	
12.2 litre standard	100 cf standard		625 mm 24.6 in	178 mm 7 in	-0.75 kg -1.7 lb	-4.25 kg -9.4 lb	
12.2 litre compact	100 cf compact	14.2 kg 31.3 lb	515 mm 20.3 in	204 mm 8 in	-1.5 kg -3.3 lb	-5.0 kg -11 lb	
15 litre	125 cf	16.5 kg 36.4 lb	610 mm 24 in	204 mm 8 in	-1.0 kg -2.2 lb	-5.25 kg -11.6 lb	
18 litre	150 cf		715 mm 28.1 in	204 mm 8 in	-0.75 kg -1.7 lb	-5.75 kg -12.7 lb	

#### FINAL NOTE

This is a no brainer for dry suit divers, you will hard pressed to get to a useful weight nil or negative buoyancy situation, you are always going to have to, carry some Ded Led. Wetsuit divers might experience some negative buoyancy issues. I have worked mine out and to counter a slight negative buoyancy issue, I am getting a nice 2 piece 7ml wettie. What's the benefit you ask? Toasty warmth. But bear in mind you should always configure your gear so you are able to shed some dead lead to be able to achieve emergency positive buoyancy. (Like dropping weight belt/pockets) The amounts of which I leave up to yourselves after proper consideration.

Ken Rids



# WRECK DIVE: TUGGERAH 5 July 2014

The club wreck dive on 5 July 2014 was originally set down for the Undola. Due to a forecast strong wind about 10.30am Wayne and I changed the plan and decided to dive the Tuggerah, which is closer to Port Hacking.

We arrived at the site a bit after 8am to see that Yes Dear Two was already anchored and Wayne, Leo and Rudy politely waited for us to throw our pick in. A short time



later Peter Fields turned up and he tied off from the stern cleat of Argonaut. Everyone was early as we wanted to beat the forecast strong wsw winds, which were predicted to reach 20 knots after 10.30am.

All up there were seven St George divers and four from Peter's boat, but Peter decided not to dive due to the forecast. Bill Rowland and John Black went first from my boat. Bill did a 25 minute bottom time which is an indication of how good it was. On descent I passed Bill hovering at about 35m and the wreck was still very clear at 48m. On the bottom the viz was very good and around the 20 metre mark. The big fat wobbies were still on the wreck and I counted five of them. As usual there were lots of fish around the wreck, but not many cuttlefish. Maybe that's why the wobbies are so fat. Dave and I did an 18 minute bottom time.

We reached deco and it was clear that the wind had come early and the deco lines were angled at 45 degrees. I was pleased to have three people up top. Bill, John and Peter were able to stop the boats from colliding and cast Peter off. Peter's wind device measured the wind at 22 knots and gusting over 25. It was a little bit uncomfortable getting back on the boats and we then headed back to the cliff face for a sheltered trip back to Port Hacking. The Tuggerah is nearly always a great dive and this was one of the better ones.

The club has mostly experienced divers, but for those with a bit less experience a word of advice. Sometimes the weather forecasters get it very wrong. Winds can arrive early and be much stronger than predicted. When strong winds are predicted and you are diving from a boat off the coastline, be aware that if you don't find the anchor you will need to perform a blue water ascent. Its normal practice to inflate your safety sausage and then do a drifting deco/safety stop. The boat skipper can then monitor your drift. In strong gusting wind conditions the safety sausage will not be as effective in providing a visual indicator of where you are. In strong winds the safety sausage will be knocked flat and much more difficult for a skipper to see amongst all the white caps and swell. So take a bit more care if conditions are predicted to deteriorate.

**Phil Short** 



# SOUTH WEST ROCKS TRIP 12-13 July 2014

Thanks to Ray for organising a trip to my favourite NSW dive location. After a couple of last minute withdrawals, four people travelled to the magnificent South West Rocks – Ian Hittman, Chris Heath, myself, and recent St George member Gary Solomon. There was some concern about the weather, especially on Sunday (some forecasts indicating 3m swell and up to 30 Knot winds), but those undaunted by that were rewarded with a weekend of good-great diving.

Saturday saw a day of sunshine and moderate swell, accompanied by a seemingly endless supply of Grey Nurse and Wobbegong sharks, with a myriad of associated fish life for when you got bored with sharks (didn't happen). We dived the shark gutters first on Saturday. As we descended down the mooring line, there was a large GNS sitting right at the bottom of it, seemingly waiting for us to drop in, because when we hit the bottom, it was like the signal went out that it was show-time, and the merry-go-round of GNS started up, with them cruising around and around for our viewing pleasure. The usual collection of hooks trailing tracers was unfortunately evident in a number of the sharks, with a range of sizes from about 1.5m to around 2.5m. Rock crevices were dotted with Wobbys, with lots of fish hors d'oeuvres at hand and the occasional small White-eyed Moray and even smaller nudis. Vis 12-15m and a bit of surge, 20 degrees.





Next up, the famed Fish Rock Cave. The usual Wobbys and Lobsters (some just shells), and assorted other Latin-sounding fish. No GNS in evidence at the shallow exit (saw some near the deep entrance), but as we came over the reef at the exit (remarkably little current), a school of over 100 small bat rays glided past – spectacular! Chris would have gotten a great shot of this. but he didn't. Then on to the Aquarium to spend some quality time with masses of Big Eyes, Stripeys, and other ones, plus some more W/E Morays, GNS and Wobbys before a leisurely cruise back to the mooring. What a great place this is to dive!

Chris bailed after the Saturday dives, leaving the Three Amigos to take Pot Luck for Sunday. When Sunday came and went, there were HALLELUJAH's all round, as we had more very enjoyable diving. The boys (?) at SWR used their impeccable local knowledge to get us fairly comfortably through the 2+m swell and building wind (unless you were on the side getting the spray) to some nicely sheltered spots at the Pinnacle and Green Island. The water was less bumpy at the sites on Sunday than on Saturday (although it would have been a different story if we were up near the cave entrance). Whilst vis was down from Saturday (5-7m), and the surge notched up a minor bit, the water was still 19-20 degrees (and who cares anyway if you are in a dry suit?), and the same range of sharks/fish were on duty at all sites. A number of the divers on the boat were getting a bit chilly out of the water, with the wind making



sitting in a wet wetsuit a bit uncomfortable (did I mention who cares anyway if you are in a dry suit?), but the Chicken Noodle or Tomato soup helped.

All up, a very enjoyable weekend of diving, thanks to Ray and the SWR Dive Centre, and the Dive Gods.

**Bram Harris** 





### FIRST DIVE WITH ST GEORGE CLUB

I joined the Club in December 2013 but my first dive with the club was not until 1 February 2014, which was the Memorial Day to remember Carol Martin. I never knew Carol but it was very clear from my conversations with other club members that morning that she was a very much loved friend and she is very lucky to have so many people who continue to remember her after she's gone.

Because this was my first dive with the club, it was decided that I should dive with Michael's group. I was supposed to dive with Michael, Julian and Caroline while Kelly would be with Janine and John. There were at least 40 other divers from both St George and other dive clubs/shops getting into the water at around the same time, making it a bit hectic underwater! Michael's dive brief was short, "We swim first, DO NOT look at things and then we'll do a slower pace coming back", so huffing and puffing I blindly followed his green fins.

After a while he stopped and we got sorted into buddy pairs. No one pointed at me so I continued following the green fins, this time at a much slower pace. I had only one mission on this dive: Find a weedy sea dragon! So I spent a big chunk of my dive time staring at kelps. Where there were no kelps, I saw two yellow nudibranchs with white spots and various other fish but I really wasn't paying much attention as I was so busy thinking about sea dragons!

About 30 minutes into the dive (still no weedy sea dragons), I noticed that the green fins buddy I had been following had a blue patch on the chest and arms of his wetsuit. Michael was wearing a black Neptune and I remembered because I was wearing a black Neptune wetsuit as well. A closer and subtle inspection revealed he was actually a she and it was Kelly! I had been following the wrong buddy all along...

We exited up the ramp near the bottom of the stairs and I'm proud to say that I can now exit the water from a shore dive a lot more graciously. Progress!

Rianti Bieler



#### How to tie an Eye Splice

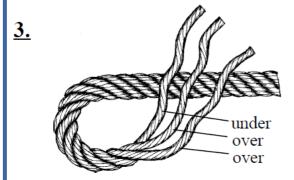
1. Starting with the end of a 3 strand rope, count back 5 turns on the first strand, or 13/14 strands.



2. Unravel the strands back to the count point from above.



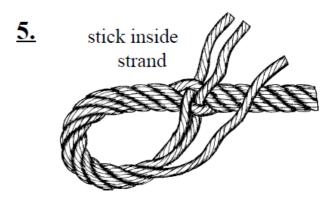
3. Turn the end into a loop and pass it over the length, lay the strands across the rope so it shows 1 strand under and 2 strands over, the under closest to the inside of the loop.



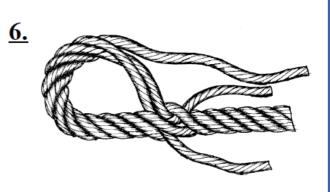
4. Using the middle strand, the first "over" strand, stick it under one the strands in the rope.



5. Now using the first strand, the "under" strand, stick it under the strand to left or loop side of the strand in step 4.



6. Flip the loop over

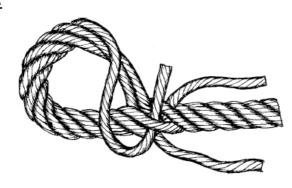




7. Using the last strand come from the bottom and stick it under the strand where the "under" strand comes out

If you fold the ends back over the loop you should see that under each strand there is one going in and one coming out between each of the strands of the rope

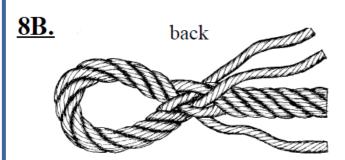
<u>7.</u>

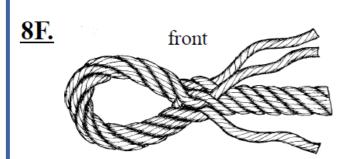


8. Flipping the loop back and front it should look like this. Now continue to feed the strands into the rope. Over the strand and under the next.



Submitted by Wayne Heming (source unknown).







## MAGIC POINT AT ITS BEST 26 June 2014

On 26 June 2014, Rudy and myself had a late start to our Saturday and ventured up to Magic Point. What a pearler of a day Sydney put on for us, with absolutely flat seas and a light westerly wind.

We anchored over the cave and while setting the dive flag and our drop line we could see the bottom at 18m.

We took our Apollo Scooters with us, our plan was to spend about 15 to 20 mins with the sharks and then go for a run south west to see what is around.

We descended into clear blue water with a lot of sharks swimming around.

Setting the scooters near the kelp bed we ventured over, I counted 14 sharks. In February 2014 there was a shark rescue here, http://www.sydneyaquarium.com.au/news/dramatic-shark-rescue-february-2014/

and you can see by the photo of this shark that it is healing well. However you can see by one of the other photos there was another in danger. I reported this on Sunday 22nd to Sydney Aquarium and I notice on Monday they also rescued this

one. http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/news/all/2014/successful-rescue-shark

After 15 minutes we picked up our scooters and headed south west. Not a lot around, a few overhangs and a lot of Bullseyes and the same old schooling fish. At about 300m south west we came across a weight belt, been there a while and very overgrown, but it had 30lb of lead in it. To much to just leave. We set an SMB on it and recovered it after our dive.

We headed back to the cave and found that Pro Dive dropped about 15 divers on the sharks, and the visibility dropped to 5m so we headed back to the boat.

Our second dive for the day was on Bypass Reef. This is a reef east of Minmi Trench and 27m deep. It has 3 main sections, each with small caves. Just outside the southern most cave is a rock with resident Sea Horses. There is usually a Blue Devil Fish in the cave and today a giant Bull Ray and a number of Port Jackson Sharks.

Diving in Sydney doesn't get much better than this.

Wayne Heming









### FIRST DIVES

How did I get into diving? Easy: Heron Island! I went when I was about 5 years old, and it really turned on a light for observing nature, especially marine life. The walks out on the coral at low tide, watching (and poking!) sea cucumbers were fascinating. Similarly the turtles agonising their way up the beach to lay eggs, where only 1 in 100 (or less) hatchlings would reach maturity, was a great insight into the world's foodchain.

I did see scuba divers there (and diving in the early 70's must have been quite pioneering), but even snorkelling at such a premier location was a great way for me to enjoy the underwater world.

I did an open water course on the Fairstar in my early 20's. It seemed a good idea to pass the days, whilst waiting for the bar and dancefloor to open at nights. I enjoyed the freedom of weightlessness, but also felt cluttered. I think that helped me to realise my dislike of snorkels!

Family and life intervened and I didn't continue diving until I was working in Malaysia and at a loss for what to do over a Chinese New Year Holiday. I went to Kota Kinabalu, and re-did my open water course and have never looked back. For Visa reasons, I had to leave the country on a few occasions, so it was nice being forced to dive in Thailand for a weekend or so from time to time.

I moved from KL to Melbourne and made the mistake of diving in October there... the first warm place I went diving once back in oz? Heron Island. It was, still, fantastic!

How did I get into tech diving? Chatting with a couple of divers discussing their exploits on the Coolidge. Every story ended with "but I only went into deco a little bit". I had never had a mandatory stop and figured if I wanted to dip my toe into that particular deco pool, I should learn how to swim and do it properly, and so started on my tech adventures.

How did I get into cave diving? The very unfortunate deaths of Agnes Milowka and Wes Skiles (coinciding with the rather morbid movie Sanctum). The coverage showed such underwater beauty too, and after my first trip to Mount Gambier, I was hooked.

St George has helped me appreciate, and learn so much more about the under water environment. Not to mention being a fun and supportive group, with plenty of advice and help on torches, tanks, and all matters diving. Thank you!

**Bill Rowland** 



Marine inspired quilt - an entry in this year's Quilting Comp!

Submitted by Chris Barrands



### FIRST DIVES

### Why I learned to dive

A bit over 15 years ago, my first daughter was a scary teenager. She grew up in quite a conservative environment and all her schooling was at a caring Christian school. Once she got to her mid teenage years, a lot of that seemed to be going out the window, and the friends she was hanging out with were certainly not those who I would have chosen. I got a crash course in the Goth idea of sartorial elegance, mostly based on the premise that Doc Martins go with anything and everything.

I felt that things got as bad as I'd imagined they could get when the new boyfriend she brought home had black nail polish on! I was concerned about having less and less in common with her, and was struggling to find things that she wanted to do with me.

We were both adventurous spirits, so I thought we would try scuba diving. We did our Open Water certification with Pro-Dive Parramatta and did a lot of diving together, moving on to our Advanced Certification with a Doctor from Glenhaven who ended up becoming our family GP, and still is her GP today.

Diving was just about the only thing there was no dramas around doing together at that time, including a very enjoyable weekend on Ocean Trek at JB. My daughter is now a fantastic mum of three boys, and the nicest person you could meet, I would like to think, partly due to our shared experience

of diving helping to keep us together in a difficult time.

**Bram Harris** 

## PIZZA REEF 12 July 2014

The club calendar said boat dive to Bypass Reef. However this was changed at the last minute to a dive out of Yowie Bay due to pressing issues with a certain larger boat that had to be addressed!

I was programmed to dive on Le Scat, with Michael, Kelly, Les, Sheila and Donna. Travelling across the Woronora River bridge the temperature gauge on the car registered a balmy 6C. By the time we got to Yowie Bay it had warmed up to 7C.

We kitted up loaded and launched the boat and we were off. Then the question – where are we going to dive? Donna had never dived Pizza Reef so that was where we decided to dive. Conditions were sunny with a light westerly wind and a small southerly swell.

First thing we spotted were a couple of seals playing on the surface. We all thought "I hope they hang around and are there during the dive" – but alas no. After anchoring Donna, Les and I had the privilege of diving first while the other





three minded the boat. Les set the anchor then we set off anticlockwise around the reef. First stop was the cave, where there was a small school of 7 bastard trumpeters in residence. A few photos later we headed past the beautiful temperate gorgonians to the east side of the reef where we were buzzed by a couple of swimming Port Jackson sharks. There was also a large school of yellowtail just hanging out above the sand.

A nice eastern blue devilfish was found in a small underhang but he became very shy after just one photo -

simply did not want to pose. The sponges in this area were covered in white squid eggs, and Les and Donna even got to play with a cute squid.

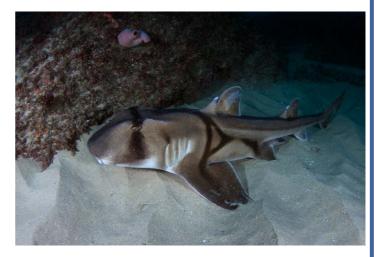
Approaching deco we headed up the anchor line, meeting the other 3 divers at the safety stop on their descent for their dive.

Morning tea was had on the new McFadyen catamaran while they attended to minor works on the mooring. Many thanks to Michael and Kelly for the dive.









Ron Walsh





### WHAT'S COMING UP?

WHEN	WHAT/ WHERE	CONTACT	WHEN	WHAT/ WHERE	CONTACT
Sat 2 Aug	Boat dive	Peter Flockart	Sun 3 Aug	Shore Dive	Paul Pacey
	Wattamolla	piflockart@speednet. com.au		The Leap	paul.pacey@iinet.net.au
Sun 10 Aug	Boat dive	Nancy Scoleri	Fri 15 - Sun	JB Seal Trip	Natasha Naude
	Hungry Jacks	nancyscoleri@yahoo.	17 Aug		natasha@bluecucumber.
		com.au			com
Sat 16 Aug	Boat Dive	Jason Coombs	Sun 17 Aug	Shore Dive The	Eddie Ivers
	Osborne Shoals	J.Coombs@unsw.edu		Leap	eddieivers@iprimus.com
		<u>.au</u>			<u>.au</u>
Wed 20	Club Meeting & AGM	Gary Perkins	Sat 23 Aug	Deep Dive	Peter Flockart
Aug	Rowers on Cook Club	perkinsdive@gmail.c		The Wanderers	pjflockart@speednet.co
		<u>om</u>			<u>m.au</u>

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