



# SEA BRAGGIN'

## St George Scuba Club Newsletter

### **Trips**

*BONG weekend - Ray Moulang & Paul Pacey*

*Rapid Bay Jetty - Peter Beaumont*

*Lord Howe Island - Phil Short*

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## THE GREAT ST GEORGE SCUBA CLUB THIRD ANNUAL “BONG” (BOYS ONLY NO GIRLS) WEEKEND

Well once again it's come and gone. For the third year in a row we have had this great event. You would recon we would get some good weather once out of that wouldn't you? The first one was at South West Rocks and it was rough, second one at Port Stephens good on Saturday, washed out Sunday and this year same again. What a pain.

We had 15 hardy souls of the club's finest this time and we arrived in dribs and drabs over the Friday all ready for our double dive the following morning. Dinner was up at the Leagues Club and some yelled at the Australia versus New Zealand test while the rest sat around and talked. Saturday dawned and we were off to the dive shop for 7am start. It wasn't too bad as it wasn't too cold, but a 7am start, please!

We had the big boat all to ourselves with just two tag-alongs as dive masters. All looked good, with a strong westerly blowing up to 30 knots. Off we went to Broughton Island. We all waited when we turned north out of the heads for the icy wind to hit but it wasn't that bad.





A good run of about an hour saw us anchoring on the eastern side of The Looking Glass, a good spot where you dive down and along a natural crack in the rocks. It would be maybe 100 metres from one side to the other and only



about 10 to 15 deep, but the best bit is the small boulders we have to go over to exit the crack. The surge was such that it funneled along and pushed us back and forth, but was most evident as we tried to get out at the end.

The old “get pushed then hang on, then repeat” was the way to do it, then with a good surge just kick like mad until you get spat out with the surge. Great fun, great ride, worth the dive just for this. Oh yeah the dive, well we were told if you could not touch the wall on the left you were too far from it. OK.

As we went along, we encountered a series of small to large Grey Nurse Sharks. Lots of 1.5 – 2m and a half size range. Didn't notice numbers of male or female.

Out the end a quick tour of the swim throughs, where we spied on a couple of good sized Wobbies, then back around and down the tunnel out to the boat. Quite OK.

A nice hot cuppa soup and cheese and bickies later and we were headed up to North Rock.

Our group melded really well, with everyone talking about the dive and how it all went. Before we knew it we were there and they were explaining the site but thankfully we had been there before and remembered the layout somewhat. Follow the



gully around north east then back then over south west to the rock, then out east then jump across the three gutters heading north and you're back to the boat. It was easy to pick the correct gutter where the sharks were because you couldn't see anything for the yellowtail that were there until the sharks swimming made them move.

Very nice dive with lots of life, except nearer to the island. We did about an hour on this and our previous dive so we had a good bit of a look. The wind had increased so on the way back near everyone was drenched by the continual spray.



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Now to the important stuff. Following on from previous Saturday night feasts I consulted with Dave Casburn and coerced him into cooking our T Bones. All were done to perfection. Well done, Dave. Oh, I forgot about our Horse Doovers. Paul Pacey is an expert at this and I put him to the test to come up with something with prawns and calamari. We are a diving club, hence the marine theme. He dipped the calamari in some special formula/flour mix and shallow fried them to perfection. Really, there was not one complaint. Then along with Eddie's help the prawns were garlicked and chilled and set out to cook on the bbq. The end result was so tasty and well received. Not to mention the copious amounts of red wine for medicinal purposes. As I remember there was a bottle of this honey stuff going around which was sampled by many just in case it was as good as Dave said. We had a freezing cold westerly to contend with the whole time and we did well to last until about 9pm before going inside.

Anyway the forecast for the Sunday was putrid. Seas rising and wind the same. Merit award goes to Paul and Eddie who drove out on time



heading towards the dive shop as I was onto the shop as it was called off right there and then. A quick call to Paul stopped him going too much further.

It was decided to go and have a nice breakfast coffee down at the marina and some pics around will show it was quite nice as well. Pancakes and bacon (really?)

Diving was called off for the day except for Paul and Ron's effort at Halifax, which they will report on. Thanks go to all the guys attending. It was good to meet and dive with some guys not met before from the club.

Thanks to Emma at Let's Go Adventures in the Marina for providing a discounted rate for us again and excellent service. To contact Let's Go Adventures for info email [fun@letsgoadventures.com.au](mailto:fun@letsgoadventures.com.au) or look at their web pages.

A mention also to the Hodges Butcher at the big shopping Centre at Salamander Bay. Recommended from the dive shop. The chilli sausages are great.

Thanks again guys for making it a great weekend.

Ray Moulang





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## HALIFAX PARK, NELSON BAY

**Sunday 4 May 2014**

This shore dive was undertaken during our BONG (Boys Only No Girls) weekend at Nelson Bay.

Our boat diving was cancelled on the Sunday due to a 35 knot NW winds (more like 60 knots, I reckon). This wind was stronger than we had last year when the Sunday diving was also cancelled. Does this happen every Sunday at NB or do they do it just for SGSC?

So, after we received word that the boat was not going out, we did what all good St George divers do in a crisis – we went down to the marina café for a bang-up breakfast! Nelson Bay is possibly the cholesterol capital of Australia. I would have shown you a photo of what Dave Casburn ordered for breakfast but a wide-angle lens can only achieve so much.

Over breakfast our thoughts turned to where we could shore dive in spite of the current weather conditions. A few of us decided that, with the howling on-shore winds producing good surfing conditions on the north facing dive sites we had better go deep - so Halifax Park was decided upon.

Now when I started diving I went with a group to Nelson Bay and I know that we dived Halifax Park but I cannot remember what the dive was like (like most dives I have done, really). But I do know that, over the subsequent years, the dive site was trashed by an influx of sand that was reported to have covered all the reef sections. Thus I was not optimistic about seeing a lot and I figured the vis would be pretty mediocre, with a 1 metre surf running at the dive site. But we'd come all this way so we waited until midday which was to be the ebb of the high tide and Ron Walsh and I geared up (the others took a look at the entry and decided reading a book was a better option). Even though the sun was starting to make an appearance, the wind chill factor felt like zero degrees and we weren't even wet yet. But we weren't the only crazy dive desperates, as half a dozen other divers had also turned up, so we didn't feel so bad.

I thought I had an advantage over Ron at the entry as I didn't have a camera to worry about. This thought

## South West Rocks

**Fri 11 July – Sun 13 July 2014**

A weekend trip up to South West Rocks - we have dived heaps with these guys and they are the best.

Here is the deal:

- 2 night / 4 dive package including 2 nights divers lodge accommodation
- continental breakfast
- four boat dives (double boat dive each day)
- use of tanks, weights and Nitrox
  
- Shared room/bunk accommodation \$320 per person
  
- Private/twin share accommodation \$360 per person
  
- Full equipment hire with dive package additional \$60

Please email me back if you are interested. Just getting numbers interested at present.

Also possible long weekend in Oct if interested.

**Contact Ray Moulang**

[rayscases2@gmail.com](mailto:rayscases2@gmail.com)



disappeared when, in only 50cm of water, I tripped over a stealth rock and then got belted by a wave – just to teach me a lesson. My dive plan was to get as deep as possible as quickly as possible (like going to Truk) to avoid the surge. But in only 2 metres of water all was calm and the vis was 15 metres - very impressive indeed. Ron was convinced that the vis would be good – I’m happy that he was right and I was wrong. Not only that, the water was warm too.

We stopped at 2 metres while Ron sorted out his electric digital picture box thingy and I spotted one of my favourite fish “Flathead Delicious” just lying on the bottom waiting for a dinner plate to come along. This fella was well over 1 kg (ed – kg? or 1m?) and they must know it’s a marine park as we spotted a few large specimens.

As we headed down to about 5 metres bits of sponge covered reef began to appear and, after a few minutes exploring, I’m thinking what a great dive site this is.

We started working our way west along these broken sections of reef, gradually working our way down to about 20 metres. We spotted many blind sharks, three different types of Moray eel, the usual nudibranchs and an Opera House Nudi. There were not clouds of fish



hanging around but there were some very pretty ones including a Vagabond Butterfly fish, a Maori Cod, Wobbies, a Spotted Moray, and more Flathead, one of which Ron managed to get a great close up shot of.

We then started working our way back up the slope, heading in an easterly direction, and found the best section of the reef so far. I’m sure that there would be sea horses and angler fish hanging around here. It will just take a lot more looking to find them.

Our dive time was just over an hour and I’ll definitely be returning to Halifax Park.

Even though all the good stuff has been supposedly covered by sand, there’s more than enough to keep me happy for an hour under water.

Many thanks to Ray Moulang for organising a great weekend (in spite of the weather) and to Ron Walsh for supplying the great photos.

**Paul Pacey**

Photos by Ron Walsh



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## MIDDLE GROUND

21 April 2014

Easter Monday and conditions for boat diving were forecast to be good. There had been a large swell running for most of Easter but divers had been able to dive the Tuggerah on the Friday and the Sunday with reports of exceptional visibility.

Donna and I were booked aboard Le Scat with Michael, Les and Phil Short. We met at Yowie Bay boat ramp at 7:15am, loaded the boat and headed out of Port Hacking. The swell had dropped considerable from the previous 3 days, making conditions quite comfortable.

Middle Ground is located straight out off Cronulla and is a small reef in just over 30m of water.

We soon had the boat anchored and Michael and Les kitted up and went as the first group. With an expected bottom time of 20-25 mins Phil,

The visibility was quite good, being in excess of 15m, and the water was a lovely 23C. Phil ran a line from the anchor to the reef edge, then we explored along the reef edge to the south.



There are a number of crevasses and walls at this site, which make for lovely temperate gorgonian fans and give a nice place for critters to hide. We found a number of giant cuttlefish in the under hangs, black reef leatherjackets, schools of mados, a large octopus, old



Donna and I entered the water after 25 mins, waved to Les on the deco line and commenced our descent.



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wives, red morwong, and snapper. There were lots of orange finger sponges with a number having curled up basket stars attached.

All too soon it was time to turn back and return to the anchor and explore a bit more to the north, with the line Phil having run making it easy to find. Phil freed the anchor as Donna and I ascended, we all did our safety stops, then back on the boat.

Morning tea was had at Darkes Bay in the sunshine before we headed back to the boat ramp. A really enjoyable morning dive.

Ron Walsh





## RAPID BAY JETTY

**Monday 5 May – Thursday 8 May 2014**

Keen to dive Rapid Bay Jetty and photograph some Leafy Sea dragons, I checked the Willy Weather South Aus forecast and it was looking good for Monday 5 - Thursday 8 May, with a mixture of Southerly, ESE, E and NE winds averaging 12 knots, with Friday set to be blown out with a cold front and 25 knot Northerlies.

With accommodation booked in Normanville, Judy and I set off on the Sunday and stopped overnight at Murray Bridge where we had dinner at one of the local pubs. We arrived at Normanville at 1230 the next day then proceeded on to Rapid Bay to check the dive site and surrounds. For those who like camping the Rapid Bay campground is approx 300m from the jetty and has non-powered campsites available with public toilets (no hot water showers only cold open air showers) for a daily fee of \$7.00 per person.

BHP began quarrying Rapid Bay limestone in 1940 as it had been partly metamorphosed to marble, a fine white chemically pure rock suitable for industrial uses. BHP used the marble for flux in its various blast furnaces. Adelaide Brighton Cement bought the works in 1980 and the quarry continues to operate in a limited manner. The loading jetty, since closed to the public, is now derelict and has fallen into disrepair. Waste rock material from the quarry has been dumped into the bay which has built up the beach by approximately two metres above its natural level.

A new jetty running parallel to the now derelict loading jetty was opened in 2009. Whilst shorter in length than the loading jetty, it has diver friendly entry/exit points suitable for a giant stride entry or one can enter from the lower landing in approx 0.5-1m water. As the jetty faces north to the sea it is affected by



Northerly, NE-NW winds which will cause the swell





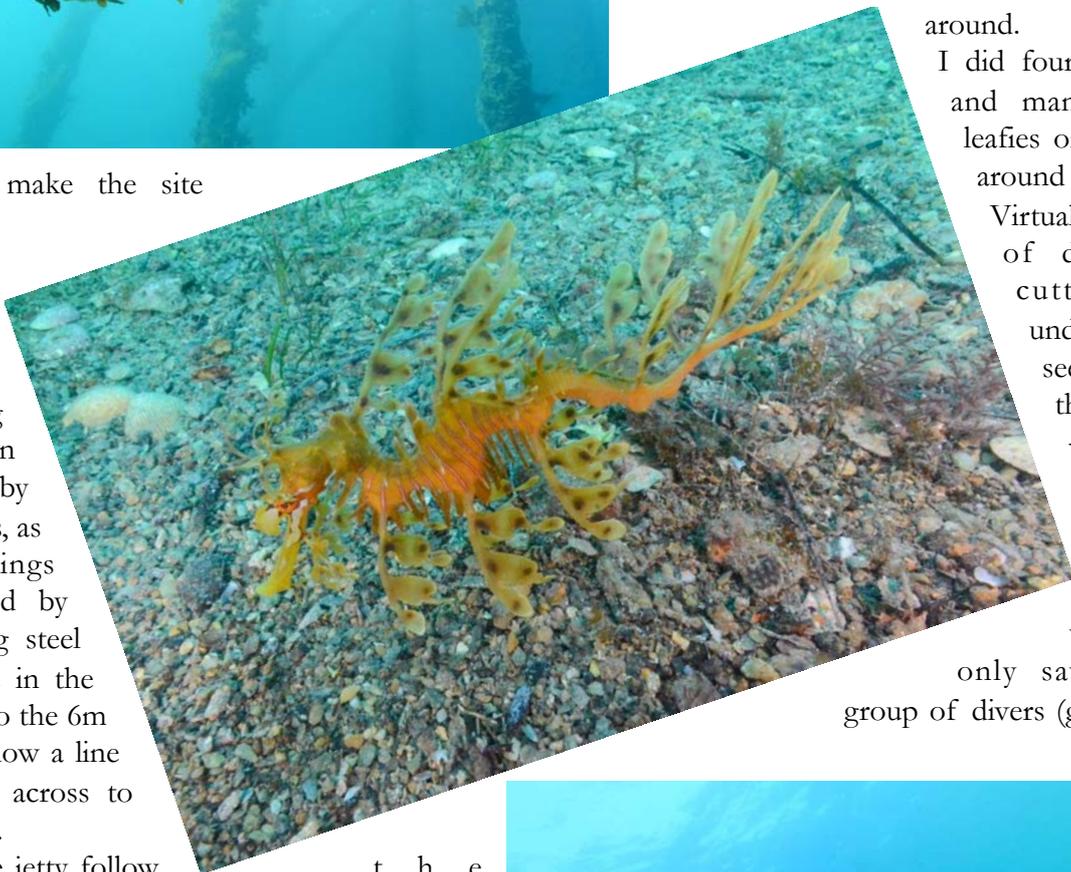
other materials which have fallen from the jetty over the years.

Out at the eastern end on the seaward side one can find leafy sea dragons hiding in amongst the pylon growth and out over the sea grass. On all the dives I did I found leafies on the seaward side in amongst the pylon growth, whilst at the "T" junction it was not unusual to find leafies on the sandy bottom plus at least five cuttlefish (within a 5m radius) out in the open/sticking their heads out of the debris to have a look around.

I did four dives in total and managed to find leafies on every dive at around the 8m mark.

Virtually every piece of debris had a cuttlefish living under it. I've never seen so many at the one dive site - everywhere I looked there was a cuttlefish.

Being weekdays I only saw one other group of divers (getting ready to

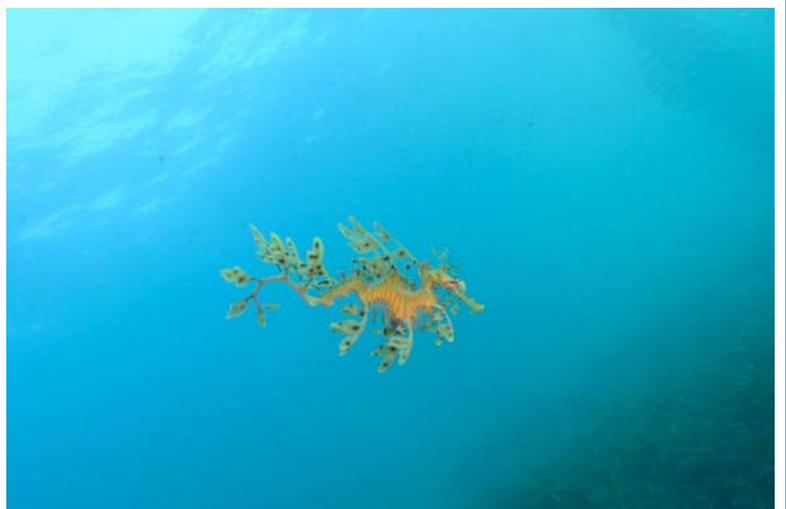


to build and make the site undiveable.

As metal was used in the construction of the loading jetty navigation is best done by using the pylons, as compass bearings will be affected by the surrounding steel structure. Once in the water descend to the 6m bottom and follow a line of star pickets across to the loading jetty.

Once at the jetty follow the pylons to the "T" section then head east and to the ocean side where the depth will reach approx 11m at the end of the jetty. You may also encounter a 1-2 knot E-W current, which combined with an outgoing tide will require a bit of effort to reach/return from the eastern end.

Along the way you will find sections of concrete which have broken away from the base of the timber pylons, old deck gratings, timber/steel beams, steel plate, pipe work, conveyor belt rollers and various





go in after I'd finished for the day) so I had the site all to myself with 10-15m vis (near perfect conditions) sea < 0.5m, before the cold front came through on Thursday night and blew the site out with a 25 knot northerly, 2m seas and torrential rain.

This is a dive site I would recommend (providing Willy Weather has a favorable forecast) for those considering a camping/diving trip. As there are n o dive shops nearby for air fills one must either:

Carrying sufficient tanks to do the number of dives you plan to do;

BYO petrol/electric powered compressor (Beachside Caravan Park at Normanville has 15amp outlets at it's powered camp sites); or

Drive 75km to Adelaide Scuba at Patawalonga Frontage in Glenelg North (08 8294 7744) for air fills/tank hire.

**Peter Beaumont**





## EASTER DIVING

Friday 18 April 2014

We left the RMYC on Dave Casburn's boat Down Under along with Gary Perkins and Nancy Scoleri and headed south to the wreck of the SS Tuggerah some 8 km away. The run down wasn't too bad given the large swells that were present. En route we saw LeScat heading south as well. They were the first to pick into the wreck as we kept missing it. Finally we anchored in and set up all our lines prior to getting in. On LeScat were two SS Tuggerah wreck virgins – Caroline Corcoran and Nicholas Stojanovic, as well as Michael McFadyen, Ron Walsh and Michael Wright.

Anchoring was difficult in the swell, with the anchor lines at one stage crossing but the divers were able to untangle them so that when Michael's divers were finished on the bottom the boats didn't touch each other. By this time waiting in the wings was Peter Fields, waiting for his turn to anchor and dive on the wreck also.

The water was a warm 23 degrees on the surface and 22 on the bottom. Vis for this wreck was exceptional at 20m and there was no current or swell present on the bottom despite the swells above. The 22 minutes that Dave and I spent on the bottom just flew as there was plenty to look at. Three huge cuttlefish –



*Sepia apama* – approx 1.5m in length were in various spots on the wreck including under the boiler, this one gave me a fright as he moved out into the open.

We also noticed a very large and pregnant wobbly on the ribs of the wreck as well as a large number of the Baler Shell egg towers. (When the balers lay their eggs in November they are laid as a tower like structure that comes out as a froth that hardens in to a leathery like skin which protects the eggs until they hatch). There were also the usual large schools of Bulls eyes and some bonito.

After pulling the pick Dave and I settled down for a long deco of 20 mins. This had been reduced from a longer time by the use of higher Nitrox mixtures carried in our stage or deco bottles.

We then ran back to Jibbon for morning tea.





### Saturday 19 April 2014

Today we went and dived Shiprock, thinking we would have good vis. Wrong!!

It was bloody awful. The best was about half a metre with 1m being questionable. As Ken Ridley remarked vis – what vis!

We did spend some 50 minutes in the water thinking it would improve but it wasn't to be. Saw a few green morays and the pineapple fish and sponges but not much else.

### Sunday 20 April 2014

Today we left Yowie bay at 7.30am on LeScat with Michael McFadyen, Ahmad Omran (another Tuggerah virgin), Dave Casburn and myself.

The big swell was still present but it had flattened out a lot from Friday. Again Peter Fields arrived just after we had anchored. Michael and Ahmad went in first and indicated to Peter that if he dropped his anchor they would find a spot on the wreck to place it as they had been dragging past it and not holding.

The vis looked to be almost as good as the other day when Dave and I jumped in, just as Michael and Ahmad reached their deco stop. They indicated vis was good and Ahmad who had finally seen the wreck was ecstatic. He had dived around it several times on a charter boat but never seen the wreck, now he has

and wants to go again! Ah! Another successful convert.

The vis on the bottom was milky and there was a current present, especially around the stern of the wreck. The large cuttlefish were still around and came out to greet us as we arrived on the bottom. Our anchor was in the ribs of the wreck about midships. There weren't as many fish as Friday but still enough to form a living cloud above the wreck.

I noticed a lot of nudibranchs of several different species as well as some green morays in the pipes. Also I saw that the sand has been scoured out from under the plates in the middle of the wreck, exposing more lumps of coal and possibly other goodies yet to be found.

After 21 minutes the anchor was carried off the wreck and ascent begun to our deco stop. Run time for this dive – including deco – was 50 minutes. We both dived on EAN 21 and I used a 40% deco mix and Dave a 60% to shorten our deco times.



### Monday 21 April 2014

Dived Shiprock with Ida Di Camillo on the high tide.

Vis was much better at 5 – 8 m and consequently we saw much more marine life. Eight pairs of small cuttlefish, a small “disturbed PJ”, several painted shrimp and the pineapple fish. There were the usual suspects in the form of nudibranchs, black fish, sweep and red morwong.

It was a nice cruisey dive with the water temp being 22 degrees for most of the dive dropping to 21.8 on the bottom at 15m.

After 67 minutes we rose slowly to the top of the wall for a safety stop and to be checked out by the “watch” blenny before exiting the water into the warmth of the afternoon.

### Wednesday 23 April 2014

A perfect day to go diving. Clear skies and warm sun and most importantly flat seas.

After a perfect run south on LeScat with Michael McFadyen, Les Caterson, Kim Dinh, Corey, myself and one other, we dropped the anchor just off Marley Point and rolled into gin-clear warm water. The sand at the bottom of the anchor was so cleaned it almost appeared that it had been vacuumed for us.

Vis was exceptional at around 20m and you could see the bottom of the boat clearly. I had brought my new 105mm macro lens to test but now wished I had put on my Wide Angle – oh well there’s always the next time. We saw a huge cuttlefish and Les was able to touch his tentacles - hand of god touch (ref is the painting on roof of the Sistine Chapel in Rome). I was lucky to find a Red Indian fish in a sponge and took some photos of it. On our travel back to the anchor Kim and I spotted a BIG wobby possibly 2m in length and half a metre wide, as well as a couple of large gorgonians. Deco wasn’t required but we both did a safety stop of 4 minutes to be sure.

As the divers on the second dive ascended to the boat we could read the stickers on their tanks clearly at 10m away.

Anchor up and lines in, we ran back to Darkes Bay for morning tea before motoring back to Yowie Bay.

Dives planned for Anzac Day were not done due to the large Easterly swell that came up on Thursday night of the 24th.

### Saturday 26 April 2014

After placing a post on the club’s Facebook page for desperate divers I arrived at the Monument Car Park at Kurnell at 8.30am to find four other divers who needed a fix. They were Jason Coombs, Eddie Ivers, Gary Dunnett and Glenn Freeland.

After checking the conditions and finding it suitable we geared up and entered the briny. The outgoing current made it hard for a while but it slowly abated and we got to enjoy the dive. Although it was dark, vis was better than expected at around 5 – 8m. Water temp was 22 degrees on entry and 20.5 on the bottom.

With low vis we concentrated on macro life which suited everyone as all but one of use had cameras. Some of the marine life sighted included: a small cuttlefish, several bennets and marginate nudibranchs, a small octopus in some kelp, a yellow seahorse, a red lined flabellina, two very small dark pink Atkinson’s Okenia, a sand anemone – Cerianthus - and some phoronids, several types of sponges, blue throated ascidians.

The others were out first with Eddie and myself exiting the water after 90 minutes and an excellent dive.

Post dive was at the Kurnell Coffee shop where we found Dave Casburn partaking of breakfast.

It was a good dive and thanks to all who attended.

Peter Flockart

Tuggerah photos by Ron Walsh



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## LORD HOWE ISLAND

### March 2014

Mary, David and I recently visited Lord Howe Island for a couple of weeks with 7 other family members and friends who also dive. It is our second trip to the island, having visited it a couple of years previously. We liked it so much we have decided to go there every couple of years.

Lord Howe Island is 600 km off the Australian mainland, basically east of Port Macquarie. The island is 11km long and 2km wide and has a permanent population of 350. Only 400 tourists are permitted to visit the island at one time and generally there are fewer people than this. The two main peaks of Lord Howe are Mount Lidgbird (777m) and Mount Gower (875m). Lord Howe is the most southerly coral reef in the world. The peaks overlook a huge lagoon. The lagoon is very sheltered and was great for a swim every day.

We dived with Pro Dive Lord Howe. The owners, Aaron and Lisa are very accommodating and it is not a sausage factory tourist dive facility. I did 24 dives during our stay and also snorkeled every day at Ned's and Settlement beaches. At high tide every day the turtles come into feed on the sea grass at Settlement Beach and are quite used to snorkelers. Mary did a few less dives as she hurt her lower back towards the end of our stay.

The diving at LHI is great. It is mostly a marine park so there are plenty of fish and crays are everywhere. There is a large variety of tropical fish and hard corals are surprisingly abundant given its southerly location. Kingfish are the dominant pelagic and they feature in pretty much every restaurant menu.

We were lucky enough to visit Balls Pyramid (BP) during our visit. BP is located about 20 miles off LHI and is a huge cathedral shaped pinnacle which is clearly visible from LHI. There are factors which can prevent you visiting BP: weather, charter boat being available and sufficient experienced divers to make up the numbers. So if you get the chance, don't pass it up. We were lucky in that we had a party of 9 as well as Peter Deacon, his wife Cherie and son Troy from Dive 2000 were also on the island so we teamed up and Aaron chartered a local fishing boat, a Steber 38 to take us there. It took about an hour to get to BP.

We did two drift dives at BP. Anchoring is not allowed, and it shows. Every inch of the bottom is covered with some form of hard coral, sponge, whip or fan. We had about 30 – 40 metres of viz for both dives. I managed to get some video of a Ballina Angelfish. I am informed that BP is the only place where it is found in recreational diving depths. Crays were literally everywhere (and not scared of divers! – they were out in the open just hanging on walls).





My thoughts of a nice pepper sauce and BBQ cray came to me a lot more than once. We did not see a lot of large pelagics on our dives at BP, which was surprising. Our captain, who runs a fishing charter business told us that currents which brought the small stuff that the pelagics feed on had basically missed the island this year and he had noticed a drop off in the number of kingies in the area. It didn't matter, we had two cracking dives. It's a bit more expensive to go out to BP, I think it was about \$200 or a bit more, but they pay \$3 for diesel, so its not bad value.



My other favourite dive locations were a small rocky island named North Rock and another location named Twins Caves. North Rock is a 30m dive and an exposed location. We had 30m plus viz on both dives there. My highlight of those dives was filming a school of large kingies circling our divers when a large ray slowly swam right beside me and then swam off with the kingies. Twin Caves is a dive of about 20m and as the name suggests has two submerged caves at the bottom of a cliff. There were literally thousands of small fish in the caves and Lionfish were drifting amongst them have a great feed. On entering the cave the fish swarmed when a light was shone onto them. Hard to put into words but it was one of my favourite dives.



Things to know  
Lord Howe Island is not a budget holiday, but for what you get it's not overly expensive.  
Getting there: Qantas Link flies to



LHI. The planes are a Dash 8 – 36 seater. From memory about a \$1,000 return. They are strict on baggage getting there as the plane has to take enough fuel for a return trip. If the wind is up, the plane can only circle for 30 minutes before it must return to Sydney.

Taking your gear: Baggage is limited to 20kg. You can buy another 20kg for about \$20.00, but there is no guarantee that it will go on your flight. It may come the next day – or the day after. So take your dive gear. If your clothes don't turn up, turn the stuff you are wearing inside out and wear them again! At least you got your dive gear.

Accommodation: We had a self-contained unit at Blue Lagoon which cost about \$250 per night. One of the better places to stay. Lord Howe Island has a flat section and after that there are some serious hills. My advice – stay on the flat. There are no taxis and you either walk or ride a bike. Bikes are hired for about \$6 a day.

Restaurants: There are a number of restaurants and also a bowls and golf club. They share the business by not opening every night, so one night the bowls club will have a pie night, next night the golf club has a pizza night etc. The restaurant mains are about \$25 - \$35. Pretty much Sydney prices. If you like fish you are in a good place. But there are also plenty of other options. Your accommodation does a drop off to the restaurants at 6.30pm and then the restaurant will run you home. You can walk home but take a torch, on a moonless night it is black as.

Dives: Double boat dives are \$120. We got a pretty good discount due to the amount of diving we did and the numbers. Firm this up before you go. All dives are dive master lead. Do not be misled by the term dive master. They will be interns that have less dives than some of us do in a year. It didn't matter, we still did our own thing, sometimes showing the DM where the boat was and seeing them off when they ran low on air. As soon as they see that you can dive it's pretty laid back. Always check your air pressure prior to packing the boat. The interns have a habit of hot filling and we sent back quite a few tanks to be topped up. They eventually learnt.

Day to day cost: Food is expensive, ie a packet of Saos was \$7. We sent gear, wine and food over by ship. Another method is to make an order on line with Woolworths before you go and have it shipped to your accommodation. I think the cost was \$20.00 (non perishables). When you fly, take some frozen meat in your carry on. Carton of beer was \$65.00 (I would have paid double that – a good day's diving must be followed by some beers).

There are wood BBQ's around the lagoon which are stacked with wood every day. Our best nights were BBQ's on the lagoon with our group and the dive interns/slaves (who always seemed hungry).

If you are thinking of going to LHI and want to know a bit about the place, give me a call. If you want to see what the diving was like email me at [phsasso@optusnet.com.au](mailto:phsasso@optusnet.com.au) and I'll send you a link to a short vimeo clip of our dives there. We are going back again in 2016.

Phil Short





# SEA BRAGGIN'

## WHAT'S COMING UP?

WHEN	WHAT/ WHERE	CONTACT	WHEN	WHAT/ WHERE	CONTACT
Sun 7 June	Boat Dive Maccas Reef	Bram Harris <a href="mailto:bram_harris@eml.cc">bram_harris@eml.cc</a>	Sat 14 June	Deep Dive Coolooli	Kelly McFadyen <a href="mailto:kelly@michaelmcfadyen.scuba.info">kelly@michaelmcfadyen.scuba.info</a>
Sun 15 June	Shore Dive Bare Island	Ken Ridley <a href="mailto:kenridley49@gmail.com">kenridley49@gmail.com</a>	Wed 18 June	Club Meeting Rowers on Cook Club	Gary Perkins <a href="mailto:perkinsdive@gmail.com">perkinsdive@gmail.com</a>
Sat 5 July	Deep Dive Undola	Peter Flockart <a href="mailto:pjflockart@speednet.com.au">pjflockart@speednet.com.au</a>	Fri 11 - Sun 13 July	SWR Weekend	Ray Moulang <a href="mailto:rayscases2@gmail.com">rayscases2@gmail.com</a>
Sat 12 July	Boat Dive Bypass Reef	Ron Walsh <a href="mailto:rondwalsh@gmail.com">rondwalsh@gmail.com</a>	Sun 13 July	Shore Dive Shiprock	Eddie Ivers <a href="mailto:eddieivers@ipri.mus.com.au">eddieivers@ipri.mus.com.au</a>

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