



St George Scuba Club Newsletter

The 2015 AGM Presidents Report—Natasha Naude

Over the past twelve months the current committee has tried to encourage increased attendance at the monthly meetings, by arranging the door prize of a bistro voucher kindly donated by the Rowers Club, and has aimed to encourage increased member involvement in planning items for the annual calendar by initiating a lucky door draw at the calendar planning night and entry into the draw for a new scuba tank for all event organizers, drawn at the annual Xmas party.

Membership is currently 135 – a drop of more than 50 members since last year. From reviewing the list of non-renewing members, many were not very active over the last 12 months, but it would be interesting to know if there are particular reasons why the level has decreased so much. If any of you are aware of former members who have decided not to renew for reasons we can address as a club, then the committee would be interested to hear from you. We are keen to make sure the Club meets the expectations of its members and to do what we can to ensure members get value and enjoyment from being part of it.

While there has been a lot of diving activity, several blocks of poor weather and/or marine conditions hampered planned boat and shore diving activity, particularly over the winter months, when we usually enjoy flatter seas and better viz. Still, some great dives have been enjoyed by members. Notable moments I can recall are Les Caterson having his first, thrilling encounter with a great white after more than 50 years of scuba, and new member Zhi being incredibly lucky in seeing a sunfish on his advanced open water dive course! Michael Roelens has inspired us all with his leafy sea dragon photos, and Ron Walsh's pictures of teeming fish and plentiful GNS on the recent BONG were enough to make the rest of us green with envy. The Frenchmans Bay dive day and BBQ was well attended with over 40 people enjoying the day and the Wooli trip in April was a great success for those who went along.

On shore, Ida managed to convince many of the shire folk to cross into the unknown and attend the anniversary dinner in far-away Five Dock, where an Afghani feast was thoroughly enjoyed. We have also had special guest presentations by Clearance Diver, Lieutenant Paul Darcey, RAN SO EOD / Diving systems (thanks to Caroline for organizing), and Allan Kessler, from the Asia-Pacific Historical Diving Association. Coming up next month will be a presentation on boating safety by a guest from Roads and Maritime/Service NSW. Suggestions for special guests are more than welcome, as are recommendations for places of diving/marine interest we could arrange site visits to as additions to our calendar.

I have enjoyed being part of the committee over the past year – although I have been out of the water a lot due to having Mahla and then Digby's heart surgery, being involved in the committee has allowed me to actively participate in the club and not feel like a bystander! I'd like to extend my thanks again to all of the committee, boat owners and very active participants in this club who contribute their time and resources for all of our enjoyment. I hope the coming year sees continued participation by an increasing number of members and the ongoing success of the club.

The 2015 AGM Treasurers Report is available in the secure area of the club website

Dive Reports

The Fourth Annual "Boys Only No Girls" Club Weekend Dive Trip.

I had nineteen keen athletic sort of divers ready and rearing to dive with the sharks again at Broughton Island for 22nd May but as per all too usual we were all set to go but the weather gods decreed against it so unfortunately we cancelled and deferred to 13th June and we had nine hardy souls front and centre. We arrived at The Halifax Holiday Park on the Friday all rearing to go.

Seven o'clock we were down to Lets Go Adventures at the Marina and doing forms etc. and readying our scuba gear. All loaded and on to the large twin cat which covers 20 divers easy and we were off. The forecast for a change looked fantastic for the two days with low swell and wind about 10 knots. Just to fill you in, the last two years here we have only been able to boat dive the Saturday due to the seas and enormous winds coming up untimely. Up to Broughton North Rock we go.

No to be disappointed at all, in we go and sharks everywhere. Fantastic. Best ever here by far.

Our second dive was on the south side of Looking Glass. Conditions were quite surgy so we dived the outside wall. A couple of sharks, 2 giant cuttlefish and a pretty sponge garden.

That night we feasted on beautifully cooked prawn starters and large chunky steak cooked perfectly by our stand-in Chef Mr Mark. Mind you the salad was a treat as well.





The night was a great time spent telling dive stories and general rubbish as usual and enjoyed by all.

Thanks to the club for the \$10 subsidy as well.

The Sunday dawned and off again to Broughton Island for more shark action where they did not let us down at all, followed by a dive on the North side of Cabbage Tree Island with those beautiful Seals. Talk about great, fantastic as they swooped and swerved right up to us then zoomed away.

If ever you are up that way I would encourage you to look up this "Lets Go Adventures" as they run a pretty good operation up there.

Thank you to all the guys that attended and looking forward to the next one.

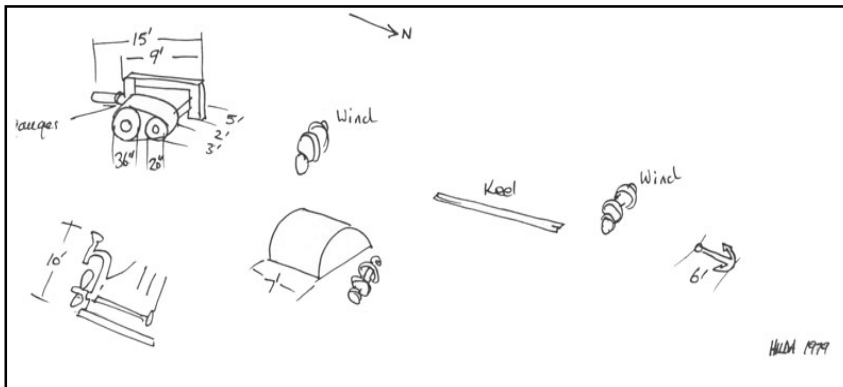
Ray Moulang



Dive on the SS Hilda - Nancy Scoleri

On Thursday 20th of July 1893, the *SS Hilda*, loaded with coal, was on a regular run from Port Kembla to Sydney. The seas for the trip were smooth and the weather fine. At around 1am, the *SS Hilda* suddenly crashed ashore on the rocks and sank within 5 minutes. The crew abandoned ship and rowed to Botany Bay in the lifeboat.

The wreckage of the *SS Hilda* is located less than two hundred metres off Cape Baily Lighthouse on the Kurnell Peninsula. This is where two club boats and eight divers headed on the morning of the 25th of July 2015. The seas were flat with very light winds and the sun was up.



A diagram of the *SS Hilda* by John Riley

We anchored on the wreck and sent the divers in. I was diving with Eda. The visibility was good so when coming down the anchor line, we could see parts of the wreck lying on the sea floor. We started our dive at the boiler and the engine and then swam to lots of pipes and some other parts of the wreck. We did a circular swim around the wreckage, finding the anchor and few random pieces now and

then. We also swam along the rock edge where we found a blue devil fish under a ledge. We noticed a few sea stars and nudibranchs lying around as well. We reached a depth of 24m and stayed in the water for 40 mins. The water temperature was 17 degrees.

While waiting on the surface for David and John to finish their dive, one officer from Maritime, on a jet ski, came to check that we had all safety gear on-board. It was interesting as it was the first time that most of us were on the Kraken. We managed to find all the equipment needed with some of them still in their packaging! David needed to do more work on the boat.

Club Boat Dive to Six Fathom Reef – 15 August—Shelley Brueseker

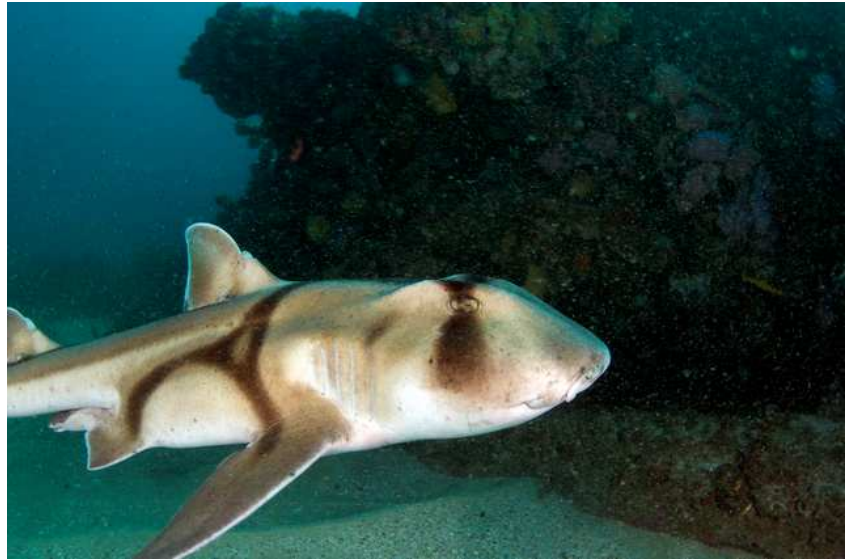
Six Fathom Reef is one of the less well known dive sites, reputedly only dived when conditions elsewhere make it the only choice, as it is protected from southerly and south-easterly swells. Greg dived it last year and it looked okay from the video I saw, so I put it on my list.



I enjoy organising boat dives and I like to get as many people in the water as I can. After all, we are a dive club! Early on I had two boats and managed to get enough divers to fill them both. Then another boat became available and with a few cancellations it meant I had some vacancies, so I put out an email calling for more divers.

Another boat became available and with some optimistic divers emailing me on the Thursday I managed to fill all the boats with a few phone calls during a pub dinner on Thursday night. I love it when a plan comes together.

Saturday's forecast was for flat seas and light winds, with a southerly coming in around midday. Argonaut anchored on the easterly side of the reef and the Kraken anchored on the west side, with the other two boats, Katz and The Rover, between and to the north of us.



Greg and I dived with Bob Hill. We headed westward, over the top of the reef, across a field of kelp and when we found the far edge of the reef we stuck our heads into crevices and found a Giant Boarfish. After filming him for a bit we turned left and followed the edge of the reef in a counter-clockwise direction.

Port Jackson sharks were dotted about on the sand all around the reef. There wasn't a lot else to see and the schools of Pomfret that Greg had filmed a year ago were absent. Still, the water was relatively warm for this time of year, the vis was pretty good and we had started with 240 bar in our tanks, so we mooched around enjoying our time underwater.



I had deployed my reel at the beginning of the dive, so I went back up to the kelp to discover the line was tangled in the kelp by all the surge. It took me about 10 minutes to free it up – I even got an excess breathing alarm! Greg wound it in as I freed it up, in a team effort.

We still had plenty of air left, so we mooched around some more, waving to passing divers. I wandered off and found a very sad looking Weedy Sea Dragon. This one really was a "Seedy Weed Dragon", as he had very few appendages left and appeared to be quite old.

Back at the anchor we shortened the shot line as this was banging on the reef, much to the pleasure of a couple of Silver Morwong. We clocked up over an hour and a max depth of 18 metres. Water temperature was 17°C.

After the second shift finished their dive we all motored the short distance to Jibbon Beach for morning tea and tales, tall and true. The sun almost came out and we warmed up with hot drinks, chocolate and camaraderie.

On the way back to the ramp The Kraken picked up a couple of canoe hitchhikers riding in her wake. She was stuck in the 8 knot zone, so they got a free ride for a few hundred metres.

Check out our video at <https://vimeo.com/137681665>

Jervis Bay seal dive weekend - Friday 21 to Sunday 23 August 2015

Natasha Naude

It was a full house for the annual JB seal diving trip, which coincides closely with my birthday each year. Divers attending were Natasha, Digby, Mahla, Jason, Ida, Ray, David, Zhi, Roger, Chris, Nancy, Ian, Ahmad, Greg and Shelley.

Most of us travelled down to JB on Friday, with Jason, Digby, Mahla and I getting there in the afternoon and spending some time building sandcastles (Jason) and knocking them down (Mahla) and having a beer or two (us, not Mahla). Others arrived throughout the day, but Ahmad and Roger left home early Saturday morning to get there in time for the dives, and Dave arrived later on Saturday in time to make us a butter chicken curry for dinner. A number of Friday crew went up the road to Vincentia Golf Club



for a good chinese feed, while Digs, Mahla and I stayed in so we could get Mahla settled early for the night.

Digby and Mahla stayed home Saturday while I dived with everyone else. With some wind and swell coming from the north we decided to head to the seal colony south at Steamers Beach. Weather was beautiful – warm and sunny. We saw whales and dolphins as we crossed the bay and turned south past Bowen. I dived with Jason and we were met by four seals as soon as we got in the water,

and that was it! The seals were decidedly unimpressed by us all and none of us got any interaction at all – at best a few idle passes, but no curious play, which was disappointing. The dive site has little to offer apart from the seals, and despite spending a cold 50 minutes in the water, we saw little apart from a green moray during the dive. The most excitement had was swimming along and realizing my finger reel had unraveled and the resistance I could feel was my SMB trailing along behind me on the surface at the start of the dive. Jason and I spent some time reeling it in and stuffing it into my recently-installed thigh pocket on my wetsuit. Knew it would come in handy for something...



After moving out of the shadow of the cliffs to warm up in the sunshine for our surface interval (during which time we watched some whale spouts and more seal action than had occurred during the dive), we headed back to the cliffs for our second dive. I think the dive site was called Lizzie's playground, a short distance south of the seal colony. The site consists of a large square boulder the size of a house, which you follow around and then head towards the cliff face and follow along towards the seal colony. The site is quite beautiful, with sponges and sea tulips and some lovely small swim throughs and interesting topography. The skipper said that at least 5 sun fish had been seen at the site in the past (not all at the same time, and I am not sure how recently), as well as fairly recent sightings of tiger and great white sharks.



Jason and I jumped in first and (after spending a few minutes disentangling me from my freshly unraveled reel and SMB again!) sped around the large boulder in the expectation of seeing at least 10 sun fish being groomed by two great whites, but alas none were to be seen. We spent another 50+ minutes, braving the cold and enjoying the underwater landscape. We saw boarfish and a smallish giant cuttlefish, amongst other things of less interest. Nothing outstanding, but a really enjoyable dive nonetheless.

Saturday night was curry night. Dave made his butter chicken, Greg and Shelley a fish curry and I made an okra curry, accompanied by rice, paratha/roti, papadums and pickle/chutney. Bloody delicious, all of it. Followed by chocolate mud cake for my birthday. A fun, tasty night! The house is equipped with a fabulous massage chair, which was given a work-out during the post-dinner debrief.



Sunday saw fewer divers. Ahmad had to leave early and Ray, Ahmad and Ida also decided not to dive. Digby took my place on the boat and they headed north to the seals at Drum and Drumsticks. It seems those seals were similarly disinterested in the divers, and little interaction occurred there. As with the previous day's experience, there was little at the dive site of interest apart from the seals, so it was largely uneventful.

Second dive was Point Perpendicular. Digby has little to tell me about the dive, and I can't really make it up, so that's that.

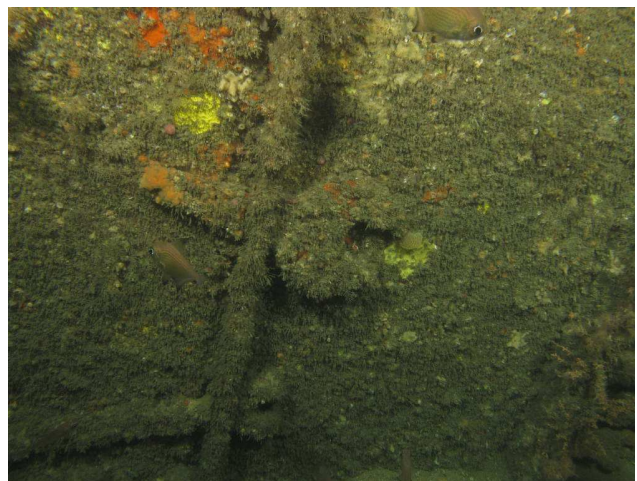
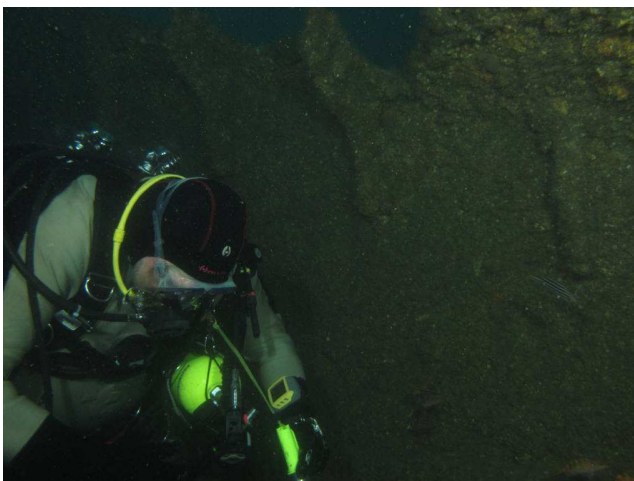
We dived with Dive Jervis Bay, off their boat Avalon. Service was good and everything ran smoothly. It is a comfortable dive boat, if a little slow in traversing the bay compared to the RIB we have chartered in the past. After the dives everyone pitched in to get the house back into shape and we all made our ways back home. It was a fun weekend, as always. Thanks to all who came along and made it so enjoyable.



Club Deep Dive Report 5 September 2015 – The Tuggerah—Wayne Heming

A glorious Sydney morning full of sunshine and a great start to the club deep dive to the Tuggerah wreck. There were 4 of us on the boat, 3 divers, Peter Flockart, Leo Jones and myself, with Heinz as a boat sitter.

We anchored first go and the water was green. When we hit the bottom the vis was around 5m. We headed south past the boiler and over to the prop. As soon as we got to the prop a seal buzzed between myself and Leo. Then we headed to the engine room where the large spanner sits proud on the wall and then back to the anchor for the 30 min deco.



Digby returns to diving

After spending 32 months out of the water it was a great to see Digby return to diving. Ably assisted by Donna & Ron and with Nancy providing shore support for Natasha all went very smoothly. Welcome back to diving Digby!



Upcoming Events

Australia International Dive Expo 2015



AUSTRALIA INTERNATIONAL DIVE EXPO (AIDE) 2015

AUSTRALIA INTERNATIONAL DIVE EXPO
AIDE 2015
DIVE & DISCOVER

**ROYAL HALL OF INDUSTRIES
MOORE PARK, SYDNEY
12 - 13 SEPTEMBER 2015**

JOIN US AND EXPLORE "BUSINESS FOR DIVING" AT AIDE 2015

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- AGENCY SEMINARS
- PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOPS
- MAIN STAGE PRESENTATIONS
- POOL TRY-DIVE FOR NON-DIVERS
- PHOTOGRAPHY & CONSERVATION PAVILIONS
- PHOTO COMP - UNDERWATER PROJECT
- B2B MEETING FOR TRADE
- EXCITING HOLIDAY PRIZES TO BE WON
- FACEBOOK CONTEST FOR VISITORS
- FUN KID'S ACTIVITIES

FREE ENTRANCE FOR UNDER 17 YEAR OLD, DISABLED DIVERS AND SENIOR DIVERS OVER 60 YEARS OLD

Exhibition Organizer - Support Association: **AEE**

Official Media Publication / Online Media: **PADI**, **SCUBA**, **DIVING**, **DIVELOG**, **underwater**, **SCUBADIVER**

Official Media Partners: **DIVE**, **Diveguide.com**, **CEAN**, **DPG**, **be diver**

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www.australiadiveexpo.com

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DIVE & DISCOVER



Dive Club Calendar

September 2015

Date	Description	Location	Organiser
4-26 September 2015	Overseas trip	Lembeh & Bunaken	Paul Pacey
4-6 September 2015	Weekend away	Port Stephens	Natasha Naude
5 September 2015	Deep dive	SS Undola	Peter Flockart
12 September 2015	Boat dive	Barrens Hut/The Split	Nancy Scoleri
16 September 2015	Club Meeting	Rowers on Cook	Natasha Naude
18-20 September 2015	Weekend away (deep)	Seal Rocks/SS Satara	Jane Scarsbrook
19 September 2015	Boat dive	SS Hilda	Natasha Naude
26 September 2015	Boat dive	Red Flag/The Sharks	Caroline Corcoran

October 2015

Date	Description	Location	Organiser
2-5 October 2015	Weekend away	Seal Rocks	Ray Moulang
10 October 2015	Boat dive	Barrens Hut/The Split	Ron Walsh
17 October 2015	Deep dive	SS Annie M Miller	Bill Rowland
18 October 2015	Shore dive	The Leap	Eddie Ivers
21 October 2015	Club Meeting	Rowers on Cook	Natasha Naude
24-25 October 2015	Camping weekend	Honeymoon Bay	Ron Walsh
31 October 2015	Boat dive	Pizza Reef	Tricia Henry

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