



# Sea Braggin'

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August 2008

## Coolooli

19<sup>th</sup> July

By Peter Flockart

I had booked two other deep dives this year but both had been cancelled due to bad weather. However the weather gods played ball this weekend - must have been because the pop was in town - & after a couple of days that looked crook we had a reasonable day for the deep dive. However of the four keen souls who turned out for this one was unable to get to the wharf due the insurmountable number of road closures around Sydney for the Popes' big do.

Peter F, Peter T & Paul Watkinson plus three others & Yves had waited an extra 20 mins but to no avail. So we proceeded at good speed from Rose Bay to the site of the Coolooli. I might add since Yves boat has been fitted with a new motor it is considerably faster than in the past. The trip to Long reef at 23knots took only 45mins.

Conditions weren't the best with slight SE swell & a cold WSW wind; however we were out & determined to make the most of the conditions.

The other divers on board were using rebreathers so we let them go first. St George dived as one group of three. Bottom time was to be between 15 & 18 mins although Peter T lasted only 12 mins due to gas constraints & the fact that in his haste to gear up had forgotten to attach his pony bottle to his BC - he had left it on board.

Paul W (unjustly maligned for failing to front for a previous dive) & myself had a great dive despite reduced bottom visibility (between 50 & 10m). We swam over the side & along the buckets passing two small black coral trees before continuing down & along to the bow. In the crevices & structural overhangs were clumps of pink jewel anemones small - blue dragon - nudibranchs. On the bottom under the "bow" were 6 large Port Jackson sharks. It is the first time I remember seeing PJ's on the wreck.

I did not see much fish life which is often a highlight of this dive.

It was a rather gloomy dive due to the lack of light but the torches helped in brightening up the dive. We passed the bow & swam along the port side corridors to the anchor to begin our ascent on 18mins. Deco was cool at around 15 degrees but we had had a good dive.

Back on board Yves served up hot Chicken noodle soup which with the increasing amount of "warmish" sunlight helped in returning our body temperatures to normal.

## Club Constitution

In order to comply with relevant legislation, a new constitution has been drafted and is available for review on the website. Please take the time to look through the draft constitution, located under 'news' and vote on whether or not you agree with it. We will vote on the new constitution at the AGM.

## Bare Island Deep Drift

6<sup>th</sup> July

By Dave Burns

One of my favourite dives at Bare Island is to swim out to the east and travel around to the drop off and come in along the wall and eventually reach the outer reef.

However, as we had two new comers in the group I decided to split up the dive with Michael, Ian and SAB doing the full Deep Drift and I would lead off the south point of the island do the drop off and come in the westside of the island. The south point turned out to be impossible due to the 1.5 mtrs waves crashing into the point, so we headed back and began the dive at the shute and worked our way around to the old sea horse rocks and then on to the east point and out to the edge of the drop off. Carol cleaned up in the spotter's stakes bagging four weedy sea dragons and one sea horse. The two new comers enjoyed their dive and wanted to know when they can dive with us again (some people never seem to learn) anyway the viz was quite good for bear island even though it was about mid tide (HT at 12.45) and around sea horse rock it really opened up for some great diving (just goes to show you do not really have to go all the way to Truk Lagoon). Carol and Ada who had set a new world record for longest time for females under water breathing from one tank, finally left the water just before the closed the gates at sunset, of course we waited for them.

After the dive, we sat down on the grassy hill near where we had parked our cars and began to eat lunch. We bagged all the club divers that were there, we bagged all the club divers that were not there, then were surprised by a colourful Jason Cooms all kitted up in Rox's new wetsuit! Rox was so livid that she decided that Jason was not worth diving with and feigned a broken fin strap so she could pull out of the dive. A fitting end to a Sunday dive.

## Swansea Bridge Dive

5<sup>th</sup> July

By Dave Burns

A favourite dive of mine from years past when I used to work in the area, here there are never two bridge dives the same and you can mix it up depending on the tides either a drift dive or between tides just do the Bridge Dive.

This day the dive was the bridge dive or I as I call it a *Claytons* wreck dive; the wreck dive you have when you do not have a wreck to dive on, due to the fact that the various renovations and alterations to the bridge has provided divers with a variety of microdivesites. Long pipes protruding from the banks, discarded steel containers, and various sized metal housings and brackets all house an interesting array of marine life.



Toad Fish - By Dave Burns

Spotted were large schools of bream, luderick and yellowtail. Zillions of Fortescue, large numbers of gurnards along with a very good sized dusky flathead. Just before the entry and exit point (the old boat shed west side of bridge) some with a bunch a Coles Myers shares went bananas with about four shopping trolleys dumping them on the bank at about 4 – 6 mtrs down, fortunately it had attracted a few Sea Tangs and the Yellow-butterfly fish who as long as the stayed put made for some excellent photography.

I dived with AQUA ZERO who had an organised dive on the day and in the shops group were two ex-club members Paul and Danielle who now reside in Gladstone, Qld and they send their regards to the dive club.

**Christmas in July**

**25<sup>th</sup> July 2008**  
**By Mike Scotland**

Twenty members attended the Christmas in July dinner and dance at the Heathcote Services club. We had a great night of socialising and dancing to music from the 50's 60's and 70's. There was some nosh there as well.



**Elly, Sheila and Heinz enjoying Christmas in July**  
**- By Michael Mcfadyen**

Some rugby tragics snuck in to the next bar to watch Australia thrash the Kiwis. They had a two man band there and lots of us had a dance or three. It did not go un-noticed that Les danced with every woman in our group. Michael and Kelly were seen schmoozing on the dance floor to some mushy music. Everyone had a great time.

Thanks to Peter F and Les for organising the event.

**REGULAR EVENTS**

**Monthly Meetings**

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at the St. George Rowing Club, 1 Levey Street Woolli Creek at 8.00 pm. Come

along about 7 pm and enjoy a meal at the bistro.

**Thursday Night Dives**

If you do not currently get the email each week advising the location of the dive, please email michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info and advise that you would like to be added to the list.

Please make sure that you let Michael McFadyen know if you are coming in case the weather means we need to move or cancel the dive.

**Other Dives**

Many other dives are advised in the news section of the Club's web site.

If you are interested in a dive, have a look at the news section a few days before a weekend and you may find others already planning a dive.

You can also place your own news item there (but remember it may time to appear as it needs to be authorised by a web site administrator).

**UP AND COMING EVENTS**

**Port Stephens Away Trip**

Superb shore dives. Great boat dives. Warmer water. Yes, it has it all.

The trip is for the weekend of August 2nd & 3rd. The plan is an excellent shore dive each morning on the high tide, followed by a stunning boat dive with ProDive the afternoon.

The accommodation and boat dives will cost about \$220 each (depending on numbers).

To secure a spot contact Brian Byrnes (brian.byrnes@pobox.com, 41982 2243), and pay a \$50 deposit to Mark.

**Boat Dive – The Colours**  
**10<sup>th</sup> August 2008**

If you are interested in coming, please contact Jason Coombs Ph. 9345 4599.

## Palau Trip – Oct / Nov 2008

**FULL**  
Dave Campbell is organising this trip.  
Please contact him for details ph. 0405  
186 184.

### Morton Bay Trip on Big Cat Reality

Unfortunately, Big Cat Reality is booked out for the week-end that we had planned (18-21 July). However, they have spots available on the week-end of 8th – 10th August.

The cost is \$600 which includes:

- 8 Dives
- Tanks and weights
- Accommodation and all meals aboard Big Cat Reality, Fri (night), Sat, Sun + breakfast Mon
- Transport to and from Brisbane Airport
- Dive Master Services (required in QLD)
- Fuel levy

More info about the boat and diving can be found at <http://www.bigcatreality.com/>

Flights to/from Brisbane to be booked individually in addition to the above cost.

Please contact Kelly if you are interested in this trip.



### SKI WEEKEND

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> August 2008**

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

### Boat Dive / BBQ – La Perouse 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008

If you are interested in coming, please contact Kelly McFadyen  
[kelly@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info](mailto:kelly@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info)

### Foster Weekend Aay - September - 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 2008

I have a booking for 8 Divers for this weekend, diving with Ron Hunter out of Fisherman's Wharf.

Its really great diving up there, I will arrange the Sitara wreck dive, usually on the Saturday if there are enough divers to go out.

Other spectacular dives include

- THE PINNACLES
- EDITH REEFS
- SEAL ROCKS SHARKS

Please contact Dave Burns Ph. 9531 4403 if you are interested.

### Thailand March 2009

Feeling adventurous - the following is some prices for a trip to the Simian Islands leaving Phuket for 4 days (5 Nights) on a liveaboard. Total of 4 days diving = 16 dives. the average cost per dive after discount assuming 28 baht :\$Aud is about \$56.00. I have dived with these guys before and now they have a new boat which looks great.

Obviously it would be great to stitch this excursion with an extended holiday. There are deals to be done or alternatively those that wish to stitch their own deal due to frequent flyers and timeshares can do so.

Indicative cost assuming Aud:28Baht and after 20% discount is detailed below.

The boat with all in cost is \$900 - \$1000 for the 16 dives.

Deals regularly offered is stay 8 nights, including airfares and transfers for about \$1300 - \$1400. Add some spending money (Guys add \$1.50, girls \$1500.00) and that would be about right. I guess a budget of \$3000 will see you sloshed, well feed and some tailor made gear to bring home.

Check out the website [www.diveasia.com](http://www.diveasia.com) the new boat comes on line in November 2008.

Thinking about the trip SM 28 - 14th - 18th March 09.

What I have done in the past is to arrive in Phuket in the AM of departure of the dive boat - check what I gear I don't want with the hotel I am booked to stay with when I get off the boat. Spend that day at the hotel (pool etc) and then get picked up and delivered back to the hotel - works well

For those that are serious a deposit will be required say 25% of the Dive boat cost (\$say \$250.00) to secure your spot. Let me know whether you want a Travel Deal or whether you want to do your own thing.

Will be confirming in about 60 days time with Dive Asia - so check out your holidays and \$\$\$cash availability.

Please contact Mark Ridsdale if you are interested Ph. 0419 243717

## OTHER NEWS

### For Sale: Olympus C-5060 Accessories

Janine Jenkins (m 0412 508 377) has the following items for sale:

Item	Paid	Used
Olympus PT-020 housing rated to 40m	450	twice
Inon D-180 Strobe with Difuser	792	once
Inon Fibre Optic Cable	143	once
Full Ultra Light Dual Tray, handle ball joint arm system	538	twice
Olympus 0.7x wide conversion lens	325	new
Olympus conversion lens adaptor	70	new
Inon UCL-165 M67 2x macro lens	275	new
Inon dual M67 lens holder	110	new
Athera optical 100 wide zoom port	660	new
Olympus wide lens and adaptor ring for C-5060	418	new

Reasonable offers will be accepted.

### Dive Gear Order

Michael McFadyen will be placing an order for dive gear from Dive Imports in August. If you are interested, look on the downloads page for a price list and look at their web site [www.diveimports.com](http://www.diveimports.com) for the items. Also see Michael at the August meetings to see a catalogue.

You must email Michael with your order.

### Tank Testing

Heinz Bendinger will collect tanks for testing at the August meeting. The cost of testing is approximately \$15 but it depends on time taken so it could be a little more. To get such a cheap price, there are some conditions:

1. Remove tank boots, mesh, valve caps, carrying handles, tank bands, sling rings and limpet mines.

2. Evacuate air from tank completely and close valve.

3. Write your name on the valve and on the tank and indicate with a YES if you require an air fill. Use of masking tape or tags is good.

4. Come to the August meeting and bring your tank/s with you. If you can't make it to the meeting, find someone who will be attending to do it for you.

5. Tanks will be taken AFTER the meeting in the car park.

6. No deviation from the above will be entertained. If this does not suit your itinerary feel free to do it in your own time at greater expense.

### Notice Anything Different?

Michael Wright is now the editor of the Newsletter. Please forward all articles to him by the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## Sydney Tides August 2008

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High
Fri 1		2:07 AM EST / 0.14 m	8:03 AM EST / 1.30 m	1:40 PM EST / 0.32 m	8:10 PM EST / 1.90 m
Sat 2		2:52 AM EST / 0.13 m	8:49 AM EST / 1.35 m	2:31 PM EST / 0.30 m	8:57 PM EST / 1.87 m
Sun 3		3:34 AM EST / 0.16 m	9:34 AM EST / 1.40 m	3:19 PM EST / 0.33 m	9:41 PM EST / 1.79 m
Mon 4		4:14 AM EST / 0.22 m	10:18 AM EST / 1.43 m	4:08 PM EST / 0.39 m	10:24 PM EST / 1.68 m
Tue 5		4:53 AM EST / 0.30 m	11:02 AM EST / 1.45 m	4:58 PM EST / 0.48 m	11:06 PM EST / 1.55 m
Wed 6		5:29 AM EST / 0.39 m	11:46 AM EST / 1.46 m	5:50 PM EST / 0.57 m	11:48 PM EST / 1.41 m
Thu 7		6:04 AM EST / 0.48 m	12:31 PM EST / 1.45 m	6:46 PM EST / 0.64 m	
Fri 8	12:31 AM EST / 1.27 m	6:39 AM EST / 0.56 m	1:19 PM EST / 1.44 m	7:49 PM EST / 0.70 m	
Sat 9	1:23 AM EST / 1.16 m	7:21 AM EST / 0.62 m	2:15 PM EST / 1.42 m	9:03 PM EST / 0.70 m	
Sun 10	2:30 AM EST / 1.07 m	8:14 AM EST / 0.66 m	3:17 PM EST / 1.43 m	10:15 PM EST / 0.66 m	
Mon 11	3:47 AM EST / 1.04 m	9:19 AM EST / 0.67 m	4:16 PM EST / 1.46 m	11:13 PM EST / 0.59 m	
Tue 12	4:52 AM EST / 1.06 m	10:22 AM EST / 0.64 m	5:09 PM EST / 1.50 m		
Wed 13		12:01 AM EST / 0.51 m	5:45 AM EST / 1.11 m	11:16 AM EST / 0.58 m	5:56 PM EST / 1.56 m
Thu 14		12:43 AM EST / 0.43 m	6:30 AM EST / 1.17 m	12:04 PM EST / 0.51 m	6:38 PM EST / 1.63 m
Fri 15		1:20 AM EST / 0.36 m	7:11 AM EST / 1.23 m	12:48 PM EST / 0.45 m	7:18 PM EST / 1.68 m
Sat 16		1:55 AM EST / 0.31 m	7:48 AM EST / 1.30 m	1:28 PM EST / 0.41 m	7:55 PM EST / 1.72 m
Sun 17		2:28 AM EST / 0.27 m	8:25 AM EST / 1.36 m	2:08 PM EST / 0.38 m	8:30 PM EST / 1.74 m
Mon 18		3:01 AM EST / 0.26 m	9:01 AM EST / 1.42 m	2:47 PM EST / 0.38 m	9:06 PM EST / 1.72 m
Tue 19		3:34 AM EST / 0.27 m	9:39 AM EST / 1.47 m	3:28 PM EST / 0.40 m	9:44 PM EST / 1.67 m
Wed 20		4:08 AM EST / 0.29 m	10:18 AM EST / 1.51 m	4:14 PM EST / 0.43 m	10:24 PM EST / 1.59 m
Thu 21		4:43 AM EST / 0.34 m	11:00 AM EST / 1.54 m	5:07 PM EST / 0.46 m	11:10 PM EST / 1.47 m
Fri 22		5:23 AM EST / 0.40 m	11:48 AM EST / 1.56 m	6:07 PM EST / 0.50 m	
Sat 23	12:03 AM EST / 1.33 m	6:07 AM EST / 0.47 m	12:42 PM EST / 1.56 m	7:19 PM EST / 0.52 m	
Sun 24	1:08 AM EST / 1.20 m	7:02 AM EST / 0.53 m	1:47 PM EST / 1.56 m	8:44 PM EST / 0.51 m	
Mon 25	2:33 AM EST / 1.11 m	8:12 AM EST / 0.57 m	3:03 PM EST / 1.58 m	10:08 PM EST / 0.44 m	
Tue 26	4:01 AM EST / 1.09 m	9:32 AM EST / 0.56 m	4:16 PM EST / 1.63 m	11:17 PM EST / 0.35 m	
Wed 27	5:13 AM EST / 1.14 m	10:44 AM EST / 0.50 m	5:20 PM EST / 1.70 m		
Thu 28		12:13 AM EST / 0.27 m	6:10 AM EST / 1.22 m	11:46 AM EST / 0.42 m	6:17 PM EST / 1.77 m
Fri 29		1:02 AM EST / 0.21 m	6:59 AM EST / 1.31 m	12:41 PM EST / 0.35 m	7:07 PM EST / 1.80 m
Sat 30		1:44 AM EST / 0.19 m	7:43 AM EST / 1.39 m	1:31 PM EST / 0.31 m	7:52 PM EST / 1.79 m
Sun 31		2:22 AM EST / 0.20 m	8:23 AM EST / 1.47 m	2:17 PM EST / 0.30 m	8:34 PM EST / 1.75 m

### The Committee for 2007 – 2008 is:

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Kelly McFadyen	6545 5596	<a href="mailto:President@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au">President@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au</a>
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**Please send items for the Newsletter to me by the 28th of the month**