

# Sea Braggin'



December 2016/January 2017

## St George Scuba Club Newsletter

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A Weedy Sea Dragon with Eggs—By Eddie Ivers

# Frenchmans Bay Dive Day—20 November 2016

By Bill Rowland, Paul Pacey, Ron Walsh

Photos by Roger Lee, Lucy Schumeria, Michael McFadyen, Bram Harris, Ron Walsh

The club sponsored dive day was held at Frenchman's Bay on 20 November 2016. There were 5 boats in attendance and the diving was primarily around the entrance to Botany Bay at Bypass Reef, Minmi Trench, and Whale Watch Platform. The diving was followed by a fantastic BBQ and social event next to the beach at Frenchman's Bay.

The diving for the event was organized by Bill Rowland and the BBQ by Paul Pacey. Following are their thoughts and comments on the day.

## Bill Rowland Comments

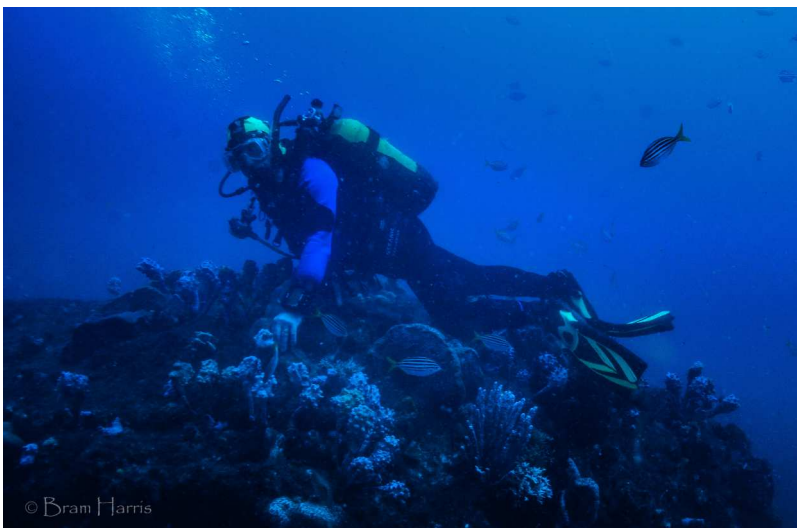
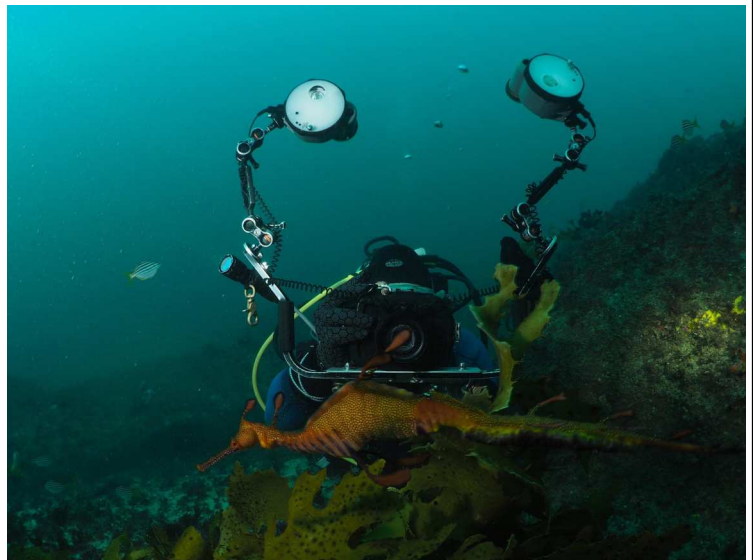
Hi Ron

I had a fun day (and it reinforced why I enjoy belonging to St George so much)

Definitely a team effort with congrats to the boat captains for coming along (and all the divers being ready where and when they needed to be). Paul Pacey did good with all of the land based work with so many folk preparing and helping for the day too

There were 52 'souls' who went out on the water across the two trips (which includes Captains and boat minders).

- 5 boats.
- 43 individuals got a dive out of the two trips.



The final person on the reserve list (Roger Lee) got upgraded to a dive spot at 6:50 pm the night before, so by sheer good luck we ended up with everyone getting a dive who wanted one. Some boats will need a bit of physio to recover as they were stretched to their permissible limits to fit all available divers.

We did Bypass Reef both times on Griffithi. Kraken & Mak Cat did too, I



think. Wayne did Minmi trench on the 2<sup>nd</sup> dive I can't remember his first. John B – not sure where he went

Thanks to the club for a great day

Cheers

Bill

### Paul Pacey write up

I have received many thank you emails from attendees at yesterdays Dive and BBQ day at Frenchmans Bay.

BUT, it wouldn't have been possible without the help of all the attendees pitching in to help make a Dive and BBQ for nearly 60 people a success (OK, the great weather helped too). THANK YOU ALL SOOOO MUCH!!!

Special mentions to...

The boat owners without whose generous help Frenchman's Bay is a boring dive location.

Bill Rowland who was in charge of scheduling divers with boats - always a tricky task. Bill probably went home and curled up in a corner with a bottle of scotch to recover.

The people that brought along the scrumptious salads and desserts that we all enjoyed. Thanks to you all - you know who you are!

Mark Arrowsmith who promised to bring a tarpaulin only to find it was falling apart. A man who lives up to his promises, Mark then ducks down to the camping store and bought a great shade shelter that he brought along. Thanks Mark, above and beyond the call of duty that one.

Jon Ba Khoa who, despite initially not knowing







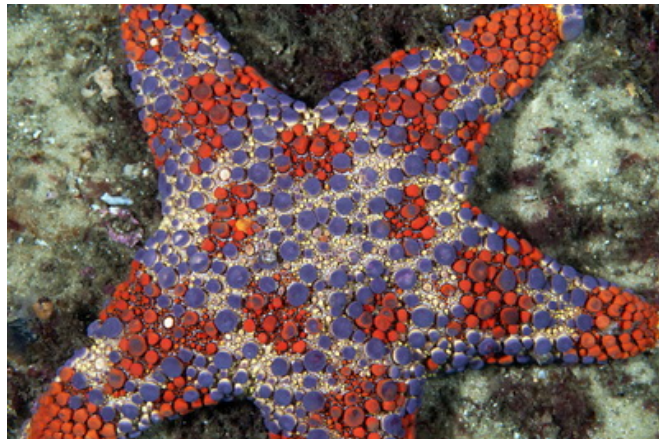
how to find us at Frenchmans Bay, jumped on the BBQ and cooked up a continuous supply of food. If Frenchmans Bay started sinking, Jon was going down with his BBQ! Also thanks owed to Ray Edwards and Peter Flockart for once again putting in a sterling cooking efforts.

Mike Scotland for supplying and cooking the marinated chicken (which, I might add, was totally gone by the time I got to the table). I noticed that there were a lot of people standing around with contented looks on their faces whilst licking their fingers!



The many other people helping to cook and erect shade shelters which, luckily, we really needed on the day.

Now a VERY special mention to Glennys Harris for the marine theme cupcakes. This was a special treat when you got to the end of the food tables! Nobody wanted to eat them until they'd first taken a photo. prolly going viral on Facebook by now...



Thanks and cheers,  
Paul

### **Ron Walsh Dive Report**

Donna & I were programmed for the 9:30am dive on The Kraken. Also on the dive were Bram Harris, Steve Shaw and John Prior.



It was an easy trip out to Bypass Reef and we anchored first go. It was a beautiful sunny day and seas quite flat. Bypass Reef is a reasonably deep dive with the bottom in around 30m depth.

Donna & I were the first divers into the water. There was a bit of surface current, but we got to the anchor line and descended without any problems. The visibility on the bottom was around



8m, and the water temperature cold at 17C.

We checked the anchor on the bottom then headed NW to the reef running a reel line till we hit the nice reef wall. Here we tied the reel off to make the return trek easier and headed along the reef edge. A feature of this site is the nice large walls with big under hangs with delicate temperate corals and southern gorgonians within. We also found a large cuttlefish, brick stars, mosaic stars, sea tulips, reef leatherjackets, and old wives.

We did a leisurely return back along the wall to the reel line where we passed a number of other divers from the other boats. When we reached the safety stop the current had increased significantly and we hung on the drop line like flags in a strong wind.

Bram, Steve and John followed soon afterwards and with all divers onboard it was a pleasant trip back to Frenchman's Bay for a coffee and BBQ.



# The Wreck of the SS Birchgrove Park

## 12 November 2016

By Bill Rowland

Photos by Jane Scarsbrook

Lying off Barrenjoey Headland in 50m of water, the Birchy is not regularly dived in recent times by St George club members.



Jane kindly organised a group of divers and a charter boat and (after some fingernail biting watching weather forecasts) the day finally arrived. The boat was organised through Dive Spear and Sport, and it leaves from Bayview Marina. It's quite a trek from The Shire and several alarms were set for 4am. I savored one of the few occasions that living in Chatswood and diving with St Georgians afforded me a bit of a sleep in... One diver took advantage of the accommodation near the dive shop, making his 10 minute travel time a far more civilized morning for him

Conditions were grey & rainy, with some variable wind.

After a good safety briefing, the boat departed the marina and headed out to sea. There were 6 rebreather divers and two normal people. The St George folk were Jane, Gary Perkins, Bill & Corey. As we rounded Barrenjoey Headland, a decent sized seal lay asleep on the rocks—wishing us a good dive, I'm sure.

After about 30 minutes we arrived at the wreck and a shot line was cast. Corey and I headed down first. There was some current, and once we passed through 30 metres it certainly got cold : 14 degrees. Viz was around 5 to 8 metres. We headed to the stern and then around to the bow. There was some nice fish life but certainly not overflowing with PJ's tucked into the sheltered area as has been spotted on previous occasions. One wobbie was well settled, and fortunately did not take a liking to Corey and follow him around.





After 21 minutes, Corey quickly collected his strobe (before I could mistakenly lay claim to it) and up we went. Deco was uneventful and we surfaced to clear and calm conditions. The boat collected us one by one in a well executed process (and with a nice ladder!)

Once all were all back, soups were dispensed. It was also revealed that while we were diving, the Captain had discovered the deckie had brought a Banana on board... The banana was quickly dispatched over the side and the surface conditions then brightened to no wind and clear blue skies for our return.

The boat fitted 8 tech divers comfortably, and was a well run operation.

On the half hour trip back, we passed the same seal and then headed into the marina and onwards to home (hopefully with all making it back by sundown).

Thanks to Jane for organising the dive, and to all for coming. I look forward to next time. Jane advises she has booked the boat again later this year to dive the ex HMAS Adelaide (which saves divers driving back over the hill on their way home from Terrigal).



# Matt Lock Fundraiser

By Jane Scarsbrook

21 days in the making...

We did not do too bad for 21 days work!! In fact for a decision which was made over a glass (or two) of wine and no prior planning we did sensational and raised a sum of cash to be proud of for Matt Lock fundraiser.

My initial goal was to raise about \$500 by passing around a hat at the Frenchmans Bay gathering and SGSC Christmas party. This is where your generosity began, Phil Short, Peter Flockart Dave Casburn and Bill Rowland contacted me with an offering of prizes so I could develop a raffle to entice members to contribute into the fundraiser further. This encouraged me to initiate a large online campaign to sell raffle tickets and attract donations (difficult at a time when our email system was corrupt) - I pestered every diver in the club but it was all in the name of charity. Sorry, I don't normally hound folk!

At this point Aidan Selvin contacted me with a list of boat owners who were also willing to offer prizes to assist in raising funds. Thank you to Michael and Kelly, Ken Ridley, Dick Fish, John Beddie, Wayne Hemming, Aidan himself - it was unexpected and unbelievable offering from you all. Dive imports, D'Lish cafe and

Keith Williams also threw in various prizes and I was even contacted from a club member who lives in NZ with an offering of a \$100 Abyss voucher. At this point our prize pool was worth more than the tickets I had managed to sell but we had a decent raffle - one worth buying stakes in.

The first 30 tickets sold instantly and then I received an email from Ray Maulang requesting a sequence of numbers ending in 597. For a club of 150 or so members - I did not even imagine reaching 300 tickets let alone 600!! I was to rise to the challenge - a good target had been set and a quantity must be sold.

I reached the \$1000 mark and was really chuffed with the efforts of the whole club as this was double my initial prediction. A final call of tickets sales was shouted at the Christmas party bringing the sales to excess of 630 tickets in total! Final donations raised a further \$210 and then to my surprise Greg Blackburn called a flash member vote to make a further contribution of \$300 from the club - it was unanimous YES. Whoop whoop....





On 10th December, I visited Prodiver with Greg and Dave to deliver our efforts in a Christmas card which listed all donators names. Not being a woman of many words - I was extremely nervous, however, Matt is a very outgoing well-balanced person. He seems to have come through the accident quite well and is determined to not let it hold him back. He mentioned that he 'is the 13 person in the world to live after an accident of this nature' and then boasted about his recent trip to Fish Rock. His colleagues at Prodiver seem to be an amazing team and very supportive of him - I get the impression he is looked after within the business.

It was evident that Matt still experiences low days and I hope our \$1510 total raised will assist with bringing him joy over the Christmas season. We are a club known for our experience and knowledge but I hope this gesture increases our community citizenship further within the shire.



YOUR INVITATION TO  
AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST  
WATER ENTHUSIAST'S EVENT

# AIDE



Based on growing interest about the marine world, the Australia International Dive Expo (AIDE) in collaboration with the Sydney International Boat Show (SIBS) brings marine lovers a bigger, better and more comprehensive event. We would like to invite your esteemed organization to showcase your products and/or services at AIDE2017.

# SYDNEY

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE  
COCKLE BAY, DARLING HARBOUR



INFORMATIVE  
EXCITING  
INSPIRING

AIDE2017 features scuba diving, snorkelling, free diving, dive gear and apparel, dive travel, water sports, spear-fishing, hi-tech gadgets, underwater photography as well as ongoing conservation practices. Your participation at this Event is essential since your product and/or services will be targeted by divers and non-divers alike, seeking awareness and generating great new business opportunities for you.

For more information,  
please contact us at:  
[info@australiadiveexpo.com](mailto:info@australiadiveexpo.com)  
and visit our website at:  
[www.australiadiveexpo.com](http://www.australiadiveexpo.com)



# 2017

AUGUST 3-7

## Upcoming Events

### Carol Martin Memorial Dive — 11 February 2017

**Organiser: Kelly McFadyen**

On Saturday 11th February we will be getting together to commemorate and celebrate the life of our dive buddy Carol Martin.

For newer members who are perhaps unaware, Carol was a long-time member of our club who passed away on 3 Feb 2011 on a Thursday club night dive at Bare Island. This is our sixth annual memorial dive day to celebrate our dearly missed friend.

Although it is a memorial dive, don't feel you need to have known Carol to come along. In fact, Carol loved parties and socialising - she would say 'the more the merrier'. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this great dive site and (free) brunch. Only request is that you please wear something red!



**Where:** Bare Island

**When:** Meet 8am to get parking and to help set up. 8:30am dive (high tide 9:26 am of 1.9 meters). Brunch/lunch to follow, provided by the club.

**Theme:** RED! Carol's favourite colour and favourite drink (sparkling shiraz). Prize awarded for the reddest attire.

**BYO:** Cutlery, plates, drinks, chairs, shelter etc.

**RSVP:** ESSENTIAL BY EMAIL for catering purposes by Sat 4 February. If you have special dietary needs, please alert me to them.





## Upcoming Events

### The Ladies Weekend—24-26 February 2017

**Organiser: Kelly McFadyen**

The next Ladies week-end will be on Friday 24 February through to Sunday 26 February in Port Stephens.

The Ladies Week-end generally involves shore diving in Port Stephens, going out for lunch and dinner, a BBQ dinner, browsing the shops, relaxing, lots of laughs and having a good time.

Accommodation is booked in Fingal Bay staying in a brand new three bedroom duplex. It has 2 living areas, and 2 large decks with views. Linen is not supplied, so you need to bring sheets, pillow cases, towels and tea towels.

Accommodation will be approx \$175 for the weekend depending on numbers. Spots are limited so you will need to book early.

#### Getting There:

Port Stephens is approximately 3 hours drive from north of Sydney along the F3 Freeway. Check-in to the accommodation will be from 2 pm and check-out on Sunday morning.

#### Food:

The accommodation has a large kitchen. You can bring your own breakfast and lunch or go to café/bakery. Friday night dinner, will be at a restaurant in Port Stephens for those who arrive in time for dinner. Saturday night dinner, will be a dinner using the \$10 per member dive club subsidy.

#### Diving:

The high tide is at 10:48 am on Saturday and at 11:23 am on Sunday, which is when we want to be in the water and start our dive. We can dive Fly point, Halifax, the pipeline, the seahorse garden with the location to be determined by the group on Friday night, depending on conditions.

To book, please email me and pay your \$100 deposit to the Club account. The balance of the accommodation cost approx \$75 will be due on 10 February. Spaces are limited so you need to book and pay early.



# Dive Club Calendar

## February 2017

Date	Description	Location	Organiser
4 February	Deep Dive	TBA	Peter Flockart
5 February	Rebreather Try Out Day	Engadine Pool	Ian Griffiths
11 February	Carol Martin Memorial Dive Day	Bare Island	Kelly McFadyen
12-16 February	Dive Week Away	North Solitary Islands/Wooli	Michael McFadyen
15 February	Club Meeting	Rowers on Cook	Greg Blackburne
17-19 February	Dive Weekend	South West Rocks	Jason Coombs
18 February	Double Shore Dive & BBQ	Oak Park, Cronulla	Natasha Naude
19 February	Boat Dive	The Bombo, Wollongong	Aiden Slevin
24-26 February	Girls Weekend	Port Stephens	Kelly McFadyen
25 February	Boat Dive	Pistol Crack	Bill Rowland
26 February	Shore Dive	Oak Park	Eddie Ivers

## March 2017

Date	Description	Location	Organiser
4 March	Anniversary Dinner	TBA	TBA
4 March	Deep Dive	TBA	Peter Flockart
5 March	Clean Up Australia Day	Kurnell	Roger Lee
9 March—7 April	Overseas Trip	The Philippines	Mark Ridsdale
11 March	Shore Dive	Swansea Bridge	Shelley Breuseker
12 March	Frenchmans Bay Dive & BBQ	La Perouse	Jason Coombs/Peter Flockart
15 March	Club Meeting	Rowers on Cook	Greg Blackburne
18 March	Boat Dive	Hole in the Wall	Greg Blackburne
18-19 March	Oztek Dive Show	International Convention Center	
19-26 March	Overseas Trip;	Lombok/Komodo Indonesia	Roney Rodriques
19 March	Shore Dive	Fairy Bower/Shelley Beach	Natasha Naude
25 March	Boat Dive	Barrens Hut	Ian Roffey
26 March	Shore Dive	Oak Park or Shiprock	Eddie Ivers

Thursday Night Dives – every week – email sent out early in the week advising location and time

Regular Shore Dives – advice is via email or facebook



## Your Committee

President	Greg Blackburne	<a href="mailto:president@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au">president@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au</a>	
Vice President	Peter Flockart	<a href="mailto:vpresident@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au">vpresident@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au</a>	
Secretary	Aidan Sleiven	<a href="mailto:secretary@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au">secretary@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au</a>	
Treasurer	Roney Rodrigues	<a href="mailto:treasurer@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au">treasurer@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au</a>	
Assist Secretary/ Treasurer	Dave Burns	<a href="mailto:ast@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au">ast@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au</a>	
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