



May 2009 - Edited by Ray Moulang.

Included in this issue are Dive Reports from Kelly McFadyen, Carol Martin, and Tricia Henry. A big thank you goes to them.

Members please submit reports as you do them not just as the month draws to an end.

2009 St George Photo Competition - Ron Walsh.

This year the competition will be in two parts

Part 1 – Month of April. Submit two photos of a Weedy Dragon and/or Cuttlefish.

- Photos must be taken on a Sydney dive (ie National Park to Palm Beach) during the month of April 2009.
- Photos can be either taken from a shore dive or boat dive.
- Details of dive location and date are to be included with each photo.

There will be two categories – dSLR and Point and Shoot.

1. Part 2 – Saturday May 9 at Bare Island

Submit two photos of any subject. High tide is at 8:15am. Once again there will be two categories – dSLR and Point and Shoot. On Wednesday May 13 there will be a photographers gathering to show and tell all about the photos from the Saturday dive. This will be an opportunity to have your photos “critiqued” prior to submission.

General

- Manipulation of photos will be limited to cropping, despotting and color balancing.
- Photos are not to be watermarked to identify the photographer.

Photos are to be submitted by Friday May 15, 2008. The competition will be judged at the May Club meeting. Each category will be shown as a slideshow, with members then filling in a voting slip to select their choice. The photo with the most votes in each category will be the winner. Prizes will be awarded in each category

Ladies Week-end by Kelly McFadyen.

On the week end of 6th - 8th February 8 ladies from St George Scuba Club (Kelly, Shelley, Jessica, Carina, Eda, Carol, Carole, and Sheila) were joined by 6 ladies from DOUTS (Judy), RUC (Wanda, Sue, Margaret, Heather) and SPG (Hazel) on another Ladies Dive Weekend at Port Stephens. Leaving Sydney in peak hour Shelley and I had a good chin-wag about all the things happening in our lives since we last saw each other. Before we knew it, we arrived at the Big 4 Solders Point after taking a few customary wrong turns. The other Ladies had arrived earlier in the day and were finishing off their dinner at Soldiers Point Resort across road. So Shelley and I cracked open our first bottle and kept chin-wagging until the others arrived. We all retired early (12 am). We were up early for a 7:05 am high tide at Halifax Park. The sun was low but the birds were up and chirping and we were all keen to get in the water. We left our car keys with Sheila and dropped down into viz that was gloomy, but once on the bottom our eyes adjusted to the light and sticking close to the reef we had about 5 meters viz. As usual, we did the STG star burst and we were now a group of 3. We found a few eels, a couple of other things and a really weird critter that looked in between a sea hare, nubibranch and bubble shell. We found out later that it was an [Umbraculidae](#) –

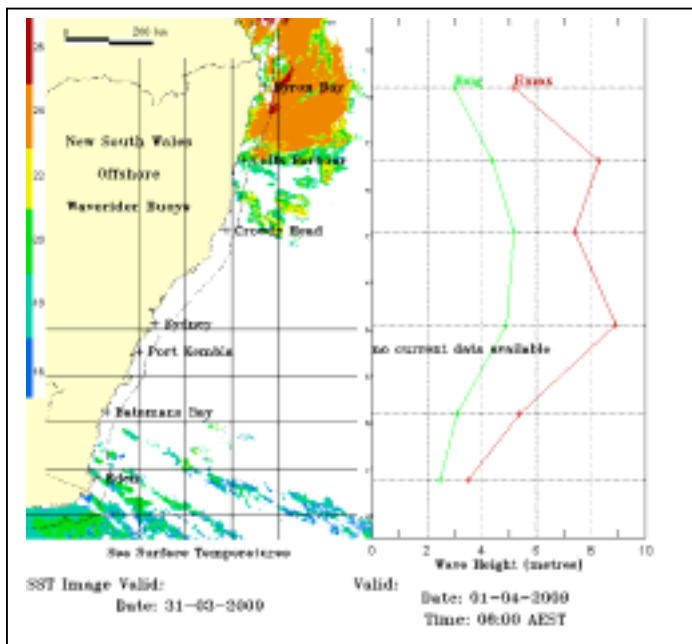


[Umbrella Shell](#) or maybe a [Tylodina](#).

Surfacing over an hour later our car key holderer was nowhere to be seen. 20 minutes later Sheila arrived with her tail between her legs and was very apologetic for enjoying her coffee at the lighthouse cafe and forgetting the time. The dive was followed by a cooked breakfast at a cafe in the main street and a spot of shopping in a couple of shops with 'sale' signs. By this time the sun was blaring so we retreated back to the tourist park for a swim in the

pool and a read of the paper. Drinks time began followed by a drive to Corlette for our Thai restaurant dinner. On the way, we stopped and had a look at the two koalas in the gum trees. They were there again the next day. Dinner was a lovely banquet of fresh Thai food at a table on the balcony. The next morning we rose a little later and had a dive at Fly Point. The viz was a little better and the deep sponge garden was full of life as usual. Eda and Carina startled a thing that looked like a ray-cuttlefish on the way back. We were a little cold on this dive and had again been in the water for over 70 mins. We also ran into some divers from the Jervis Bay Dive Club. The dive was again followed by a cooked breakfast, coffee and papers (at a different cafe this time) and by lunch time we all started going our different ways.

This was another great ladies week-end with good diving and great company.



Been wondering why the recent dives late March and early April were cancelled. Almost 9mt Wave Height near Sydney. From Manly Hydraulics Lab Information.

Pictures from Past Trips and Quotable Quotes.



The Infamous Peter T and that yellow hood on the recent club trip to Tasmania @ Eagle Hawk Neck. By RayM.

Cherie Moulang inverted with a friend on the recent club trip to Tasmania @ Eagle Hawk Neck. By RayM.

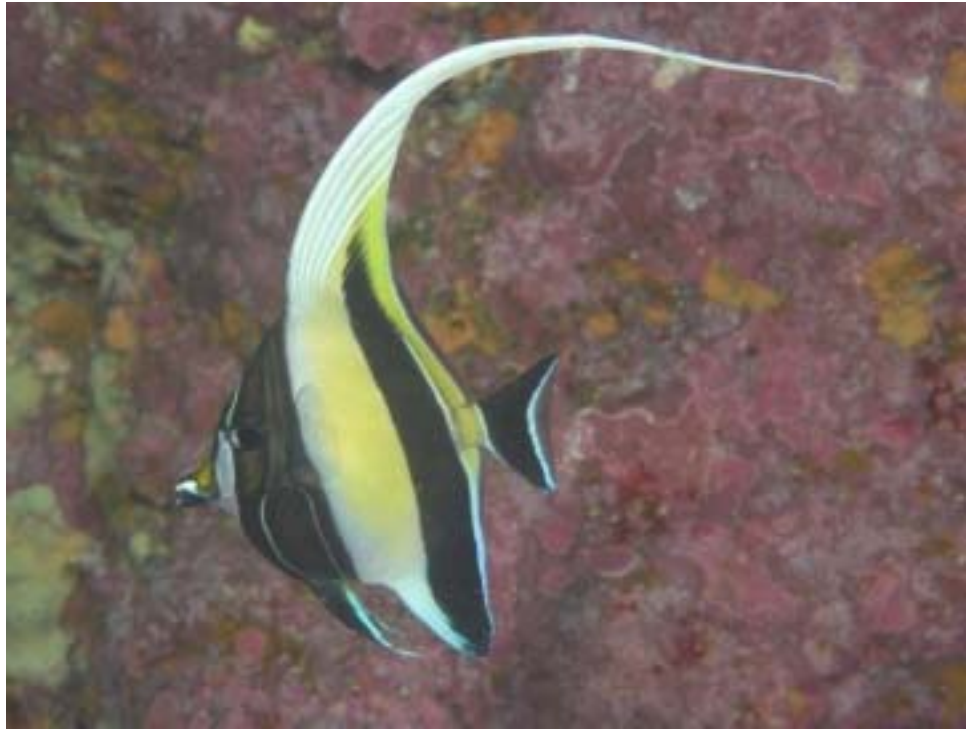


Sea Horse by Eddie Ivers on a recent club Shiprock dive.



**Sea Perch being
Codgolloped!
By Eddie Ivers**

Moorish Idol
by Mike Scotland



Sea Spider - by Mike Scotland



Grey Nurse Sharks.

Location was the shallow entrance at Fish Rock Cave, South West Rocks.

By Ron Walsh.

Sand Dollar - a type of urchin before it lost its spikes by **Steve Shaw.**



Boarfish

by Gary Perkins.

Quotable Quotes.

- 1/ I didn't know any caves existed north of Jervis Bay! - Mark R -
- 2/ Yes Dear! - Ron - Tassie Trip:
- 3/ This is marvellous! -MikeS- On the surface - Inside smugglers cave.
- 4/ Today thirteen virgins entered the caves at Jervis Bay. - John B -
- 5/ I've also never seen a SeaPerch being Codgolloped! - Eddie I –

What's Happening Soon.

SeaFood and See Food dive. Sunday May 10 Shiprock

Meet 8:15 for 8:50 a.m. High tide dive. After the dive you are welcome to return to Chateau Pacey for seafood lunch. This will cost you \$15 per head.

BYO drinks and a chair. (Coffee and tea supplied). We should arrive at Paul's house is at 7 Water Street, Caringbah around 11 to 11:30 a.m.

We'll be diving regardless of the weather conditions.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO PARTAKE OF THE SEAFOOD FEAST. WE ARE BUYING FOOD 2 DAYS BEFORE.

There are a few spots left. **Contact Paul or Mike to book.**

Entree - Smoked Salmon

Mains - fresh prawns on bread rolls - Thai marinated prawns - Salt and pepper calamari - baked Salmon - baby octopus - Caesar salad

Cheers, Paul and Mike Paul.Pacey@iinet.net.au 0418 410245 or 9527-2501, mikescotland@optusnet.com.au 0415 158 168 or 9521 7720.

Wedding Cake Island & Magic Point Sharks

A club dive is planned for 21 June leaving 8am from Botany Bay to dive Wedding Cake Island and a dive using residual air at Magic Point. Spots on boats are limited, so first in first served. To reserve your spot contact Kelly on 0410 599 186 or kelly@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info

Ocean Trek - The club trip to Jervis Bay on Ocean Trek has been cancelled for 15-17 May. Peter F.

Club Dive Weekend to South West Rocks.

From Friday 20th November to Sunday 22nd November, 2009.

A deposit of \$50 needs to be paid to Mark via cash or EFT to club account, (details available off Club Web Site Page.)

Please pay the deposit before the end of May to ensure your spot.

Based on 20 divers attending the cost is \$242 each. More can go if required up to 24. This includes a 10% discount for our Club and also takes advantage of a Generous Numbers Subsidy from **South West Rocks Dive Centre** and Air fills Free. We will be doing Double Dives Saturday and Sunday and the pick up start time is 7.00 AM and you should bring at least 1 tank each, 2 if you want steels and all air fills are free. Arrive on Friday and the Accommodation is above the Dive Shop in Double Bunk style beds. Any questions ask away by e-mail or in person at the meetings.

Thanks RayM.

Regular events

THURSDAY NIGHT DIVES

We have had some record turnouts in January and February for the night dives. A record equalling 15 attended the 22 January dive at Bare Island Isolated Reefs and two weeks later 18 members attended the 5 February Bare Island Deep Wall dive. Most of the dives have been very good, with nice visibility and good fish life.

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).

Bare Island Dive Sunday 29th March

A beautiful day sunny day greeted us as we met at the pre-arranged spot. Everybody got there early so we were all geared up and ready to go by 9.15. Seas were relatively flat so we got in at the back intending to swim round and dive off the deep wall.

We had 16 divers, 7 non-divers (good on you Eric and Shaun – so many brownie points earned) 4 kiddies (I think) and 4 dogs. Brian unfortunately had equipment malfunction and couldn't dive. Viz wasn't the best but improved as we got to the deep wall and got some depth. Still lots to see amongst the sponges with lots of nuddies, sea horses and sea spiders amongst many other things. We managed to



separate into two groups when we got to the end of isolated reef with the second

group going a bit off course – don't know who was leading that one..... but, we all got back safely for the BBQ.

Shaun and Eric had already put up the shade tent and Michael quickly assembled the BBQ and popped the champagne – we probably could have done with another BBQ but we all eventually got fed – nobody was in a hurry it was such a gorgeous day. Lots of lazing around drinking, chatting, having ice cream and hearing about Mr.T's latest holiday.



It was also open day at the fort – so lots of people walking about in period costume and they even put on a bit of a show for us with cannons going off with smoke rings the lot much to the cheers of the club.

Many thanks to all those who came along helped with the BBQ and made it a great day.

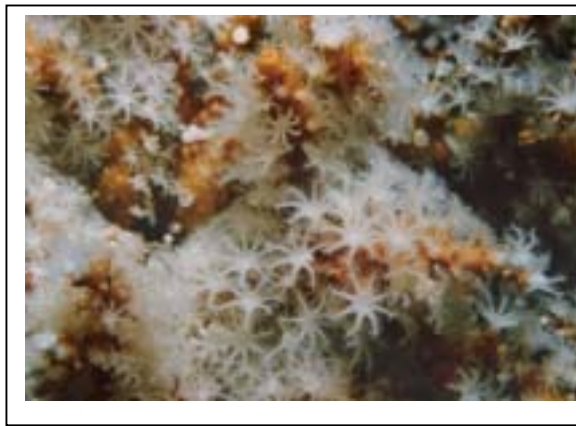
Text by Carol Martin and Pictures by Jason Coombs.



Shiprock Club Dive – 11th April 2009

Autumn must be the nicest time to dive in Sydney - the water is still warm, and the air temperature has reduced so that our wetsuits are not too hot for the walk to the dive site. A group of divers met for a dive at Shiprock on Saturday 11th April - Ian Gowan, Eddie Ivers, Dick Fish, Graham Poole, Paul Watkinson, Stewart ?, Rob Trudgeon, Greg Blackburne, Shelley Blackburne, Paul Pacey, Tricia Henry, Richard Arnott and Guy ?.

We dived just before high tide which was at 9:20am. The visibility was reasonable for Shiprock (about 8 metres) and the water a pleasant 21 degrees - warm enough to entice a small Moorish Idol and a juvenile Butterflyfish to southern Sydney. The tide change was small, so there was not much current to contend with, though this meant that the polyps on the lovely orange and white Carijoa were not fully out. **Shown here on the right. Picture by Tricia.**



Although Shiprock is not a large dive site, there's lots of marine life to see. We first travelled away from the wall to check out some of the bommies.

I have dived Shiprock a few times, but it was the first time I have seen the plaque (in memory of a past president on the Underwater Research Group, Howard Couch). Then out to the sand where there was a numbfish, a few estuary catfish and, after a bit of searching, Paul found a lovely pipefish on the sand. Back to the wall and plenty more to see, including a couple of magpie morwong, a juvenile yellow boxfish, an octopus, cuttlefish, a moray eel, Sweet Ceratosoma and Verconis Tambja nudibranchs, a stream of stripeys, lots of leatherjackets, and up at about 6 metres on the return, a wobbegong and a large estuary rockcod, both hidden under some ledges. A few of the divers were also lucky enough to see a couple of Pineapple fish.



Pineapple Fish
from Michaels Web Pages.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable dive, despite the walk up the 'goat track' at the end. And the prawns and salad rolls at the end were great way to finish it off - thanks Paul.

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- Shaun Reynolds is after people interested in purchasing some Sharkskin Products. Contact Shaun re details.
 - Also Eric has some underwater lamp bulbs for sale.

Vanuatu Trip

August 2009 Trip to VANUATU

We'll be living in a tropical paradise and diving spectacular reefs and wrecks including the world's largest and most intact WW2 wreck - the SS President Coolidge.

The trip includes Port Vila and Santo (16 dives, 11 nights accommodation) **\$2335**.

Itinerary – REGULAR (\$2335):

Depart Sydney on Monday 10th August 2009 flying Air Vanuatu to Port Vila.

Depart Port Vila on Thursday 13th August 2009 flying Air Vanuatu to Santo.

Depart Santo Friday 21st August 2009 flying Air Vanuatu to Sydney (via Port Vila).

Paul Pacey (Home 9527-2501) (Mob 0418 410245) Paul.Pacey@iinet.net.au

Forster

We are organising a weekend dive trip to Forster - Friday 11th September -> Sunday 13th September 2009. Package price of \$305 per diver includes...**Double boat dives on Saturday 12th September and Sunday 13th September diving with Action Divers (four dives). Second tank supplied both days plus one air fill on Saturday (so you only need to bring one tank). 2 nights accommodation (Friday and Saturday nights) in two bedroom villa's at Lani's Caravan Park in Forster (a nice place to stay). Continental breakfast provided. Barbecue dinner on Saturday night. Action Divers will provide the meat, salads, etc. and all we have to do is find someone to burn it using the big BBQ near the Villa's (Dave Casburn, come on up!).** Here are the fine details...

Action Divers office is at shop 4/1-5 Manning Street Tuncurry, cross the bridge and it's on the right in the first group of shops. On Saturday we'll board the boat in Forster but on Sunday we'll board the boat from the beach at Seal Rocks. Dive sites, as always, will depend on the weather but "The Pinnacle" and "Latitude Reef" are obviously prime targets for Saturday and "Seal Rocks" and "Jimmy's Cave" are potential targets for Sunday. The price is based on 9 divers (one is a "free" and the saving has been apportioned) and three persons per Villa.

Please pay your \$50 deposit to Mark Ridsdale A.S.A.P. and please let me know by email or SMS that you have done so. www.lanis.com.au www.actiondivers.com.au

Paul Pacey (Home: 9527-2501) (Mob: 0418 410245) (Email: Paul.Pacey@iinet.net.au)

Solomon Islands Trip – September

The trip to the Solomons will be to Tulagi and Honiara. The diving here is a mixture of wrecks and some reef dives. The dives at Tulagi are deeper and would suit people experienced in deep diving. Details as below: **Thursday 17 September 2009**

6:30 am - fly out of Sydney via Brisbane - 2 pm - arrive Honiara, Transfer by boat to Tulagi, Stay at Vanita Lodge for 8 nights. 10 boat dives with Solomon Islands Diving.

Friday 25 September 2009. Transfer by boat to Honiara

Stay at King Solomon Hotel for four nights. Four shore dives with Sunreef and Wreck Dive.

Tuesday 15 September. 2:50 pm - fly out of Honiara, 5:05 pm - arrive Brisbane then to Sydney

Total cost for the above, assuming we get 8 divers, is \$2770. It will cost slightly more if we have less (the boat transfers cost more).

If we get the maximum of 8 divers, then we will get a substantial discount (free accommodation and diving for one).

If you are interested, contact Michael McFadyen as only 8 spots are available and 6 are taken already.

The Committee is:

PRESIDENT:	Jason Coombs	9345 4599	President@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
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Please send items for the Newsletter to me as you do them during the month with a deadline of 25th of the month.