



SEA BRAGGIN'

St George Scuba Club Newsletter

Boat dives

Osborne Shoals - Maxine Hayden

Barren's Hut - Sue Shaw

Pizza/Fish Reef - Peter Flockart

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OSBORNE SHOALS BOAT DIVE

23 March 2013

On Saturday morning, we left Yowie Bay wharf and headed up the Port Hacking past Bonnievale and the Royal National Park to the mouth of the river. It was a great day with beautiful weather. As we exited the Hacking River we noticed a large yacht (about a 42 footer) had run aground on the rocks about half way between Bass and Flinders and Oak Park, giving us high promise of a new wreck site to dive in the future! The water police and maritime services were there and I guess it had come to grief through the night as I had picnicked with friends on Bonnievale the evening before and had not seen it.

After taking the obligatory photos we headed north east for our dive site at the shoals. As we approached, the other boats were already there and we dropped anchor, taking care not to run over any of our members. The viz looked great and we quickly geared up and dropped in.



Our pick sat on top of the reef and we secured it before Ron, Chris and I descended over the ledge and headed left. The water was awesome, about 15m viz, but cold. Along the wall we encountered many nudibranchs: bennetts, black-margined and heaps of blue dragons. I dropped my reg and poked my tongue out at Ron who got up close and personal with his wide angle.

I got real excited when I spotted a pygmy pipefish on a hydroid but when I got in to take a macro shot, I realized it was just a small tube worm casing. Alas. We saw a few cookie starfish and the odd fire brick stars then one mosaic star. We caught up with a couple of divers who were gathered around a juvenile weedy sea dragon. Flashes were going off all over the place. The poor thing was trying hard to escape the paparazzi I'm sure.



We continued a little further before turning around and heading back past and into the cave. Here we saw the usual purple sea tulips, some small red gorgonians and a type of coral that resembled a miniature version of the giant cabbage corals in Palau. There was also a giant cuttlefish lurking near here too. Ron pointed out a long brown pipefish on the sand near the anchor. A lone pair of old wives hovered in suspended animation as Chris and I glided by.

We turned around again and spent some time at the anchor, where I spotted a mating pair of sweet ceratosomas. We explored the top of the reef before ascending and Trish and Ray got their chance to play. After warming up, we headed to my favourite spot, Jibbon Beach in my home town of Bundeena, where we gorged on rocky road, caramel crowns, pull aparts, pecan danishes and hot coffee and marveled at the crystal clear water beneath us. It was tempting to jump in.



Thank you to Ray and all the other boat owners for a wonderful day and to Shelley for organizing the day. Go get wet!

Maxine Hayden

101 USES FOR A FLOODED CAMERA (ABRIDGED TO THE TOP 10)

As some of you may be aware, I flooded my beloved Canon camera on a dive recently. The harsh reality set in at 22 metres when I went to turn it on and discovered the housing full of water. Canon had become a part of me, an extension of my right hand, like a sixth digit (I am from Bundeena!). He was my reason for living.

I laid him to rest on the desk next to my computer. Each night when I checked emails he gazed at me, like the big brown eyes of a faithful dog. How could I throw him out after all we had been through? I remembered with fondness our trips to Montague and Broughton Islands, days spent out on a boat together, nights spent lovingly lubricating his O-rings and how I held him close when he made his first terrifying Leap at Kurnell. Heck, he even got a passport and followed me to Palau last year.

And yet what could I do with a salt infested camera and housing? So I asked around my buddies.

1. Sea anchor! everyone said. No, too obvious.
2. Paper weight? Too tacky.
3. I could frame it or display it like a shrine to his glorious memory.
4. The clear housing would make an excellent mini aquarium to keep goldfish in.
5. It could be used as a terrarium with bonsai palm trees. This would also work in the desert if you plant cacti.
6. Nail it up under the eaves and pretend it's a security camera.
7. I could keep my earrings in it.



8. Put the camera in the housing and place it on the front lawn to detract the local deer from pooing in my yard. (Remember when people did this with water in P.E.T. bottles in the 90's to deter dogs?)*

9. Give it to the last buddy who turned my air off while I was underwater.

10. Put it on ebay.

Alas, I must farewell my dear Canon. Thank you, Bram, for performing CPR and please don't blame yourself, he was already done for. Goodbye my trusty friend, tight seals forever.

Go get wet!

*Footnote: It didn't work!

Maxine Hayden

BARRENS HUT BOAT DIVE

14 April 2013

On Sunday 14 April, five boats left Yowie Bay for a dive to Barrens Hut. It was a beautiful sunny day and the sea was pretty flat and calm. I was on Le Scat with Michael, Kelly, Eda, Les and Steve.

The anchor landed very close to the Amphitheatre. From here we travelled along the Split at a depth of 25 metres for around 25 minutes. The temperature was a very comfortable 21 degrees. The viz was approximately eight metres.

This is a very colourful dive. The fixed life is wonderful and includes soft corals, sponges, bryozoans and anemones. We cruised past a colony of sea whips at the turn-around point at the Split. Some of the fish we spotted included red morwong hanging around on the



top of the reef, a pair of large, dark-coloured leatherjackets and various small wrasse species. We also saw a few assorted nudibranchs on the wall of the Split.

A couple of divers swam in the other direction to the Cave and swim through to see the resident school of trumpeter fish. Someone also reported seeing an octopus.

After we surfaced, we noticed a safety sausage about 200



metres from the reef. Dave Casburn went to pick up the divers who had missed the reef and had a memorable 'sand dive'.

Thanks to Tricia Henry for organizing the dive and the boat owners, Michael McFadyen, Dave Casburn, Phil Short, Ray Moulang and Daryl Brett for making it possible.

Sue Shaw

Stills from David Qi



BARRENS HUT PHOTOS

6 April 2013



© Ron Walsh



© Ron Walsh



© Ron Walsh

SEA BRAGGIN'

Christmas in July Saturday 27 July 2013

Tickets will be available to those on the list at the June and July meetings, so bring your money with you. Tickets can be purchased by cash or a cheque made out to the St. George Scuba Club.

If you are paying into the St. George Scuba Club account by electronic transfer, please reference your deposit with the word "Xmas".



Christmas in July \$30 per head

DATE:
Saturday 27th July

TIME:
6.30pm for 7pm Dinner

*Bookings close
Monday 22nd July*

**TRADITIONAL XMAS
2-COURSE DINNER**
with all the trimmings

**PLUS Complimentary
Glass of Wine**
entertainment by
'SWEET TALK' duo

**RAFFLES
LUCKY DOOR
PRIZE**

plus
special visit from
Santa

Club Heathcote

24 Oliver St. Heathcote NSW 2233

Contact Les Caterson Ph 9520 9421 Mob 0427 369 511
Lescat2@bigpond.net.au



Pacific Jewel “Live Aboard” Cruise and Dive Trip

Tuesday 9 July – Wednesday 18 July 2013

Cruise the Pacific and dive at each port!

The plan is for group of St George Scuba members to travel on the same Pacific cruise and to dive at all the ports along the way. With a minimum group of six divers we can pre-arrange the dive centres to pick us up directly from the wharf at each port, ensuring the maximum amount of dive time.

While in port, any non-diving partners will be able to arrange other activities either by themselves or together, making this trip ideal for members with non-diving partners!

As there is in effect no weight limit you can bring as much dive gear as you want, cameras and all. I have even taken my own lead on past trips (trim weights only)!

While many members may have dived in Vanuatu before, not many may have dived at Easo on Lifou. Lagoon Safaris is a boutique operation, in a pristine location, run from a shipping container by expat Annabelle. Lifou is part of the Loyalty Islands group: <http://www.lagoon-safaris.nc/>

With return airfares costing about the same as the whole trip it is a rare opportunity to sample diving at the Isle of Pines: <http://www.kunie-scuba.com>

In Port Vila, Vanuatu we may possibly dive with the new dive operator, Devil's Point Dive: <http://www.devilspointdive.com>

While on cruises I have scuba dived many times overseas and there is a lot to be said for it. No luggage limits; no need for non-diving days when travelling at sea level; personal fibreglass lined shower for washing and drying your gear. Also, you arrive where you dive (the Ocean) so direct transfer is possible and you get to sample multiple locations.

Finally, you have limited guilt over non-diving fellow travellers!!

Pricing and itinerary on next page...

Contact Marc Werner Mob: 0407239080





Pacific Jewel “Live Aboard” Cruise and Dive Trip

Tuesday 9 July – Wednesday 18 July 2013

Preliminary costing twin share

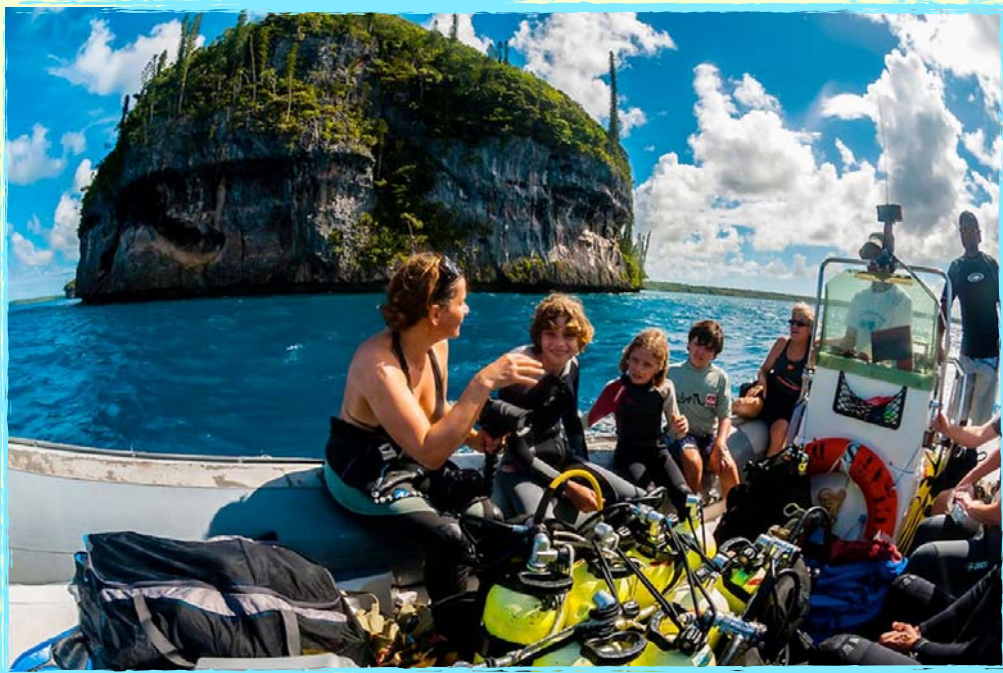
\$1200 non diver (cruise only twin share)

\$1550 diver (as above + 3 double boat dives) including tanks, weights and cruise ship transfers

Itinerary

Tuesday	09JUL2013	Depart Sydney 1600hrs	Australia		
		at sea			
Saturday	13JUL2013	Vila	Vanuatu	TBA	Double
Sunday	14JUL2013	Lifou	Loyalty Islands	Lagoon Safaris	Double
Monday	15JUL2013	Isle of Pines	New Caledonia	Kunie Scuba Center	Double
		at sea			
Wednesday	18JUL2013	Arrive Sydney 0700hrs	Australia		

Anyone with questions on this trip or diving while cruising contact Marc Werner.



Contact Marc Werner Mob: 0407239080



JERVIS BAY

Easter 2013

Our dive trip got off to a pretty lacklustre start. A chilly southerly had arrived and the sea was bumpy with three metre waves. The viz was about 5 metres and it was surgy but we still had a really good day.

On our first dive, Ray Moulang and Clint saw a Bull Ray, a solitary GNS, a seal, and a 7-foot wobbly passed us twice at head height to remind us that we were on his turf. We saw 4 Weedy Sea Dragons and did some nice swim throughs. Ian Roffey saw a Banjo Ray.

Day 2 by Mark Ridsdale

The Telfer boat (Mark, Vera, Debbie Cook and two Telfers), abandoned day 1 due to the big seas. On day 2, we launched at Callala Bay and raced across to Point Perpendicular to meet Ray's team. We dived at the Docks, with schools of Yellowtail and Pike, Friendly Groper, Blue Devils and a large Ray.

Triple D headed North on day 2. The seas had dropped a lot but were still lumpy. We dived on Ian Roffey's "Fern Gully", south of the Arch. Fern Gully is a spectacular "must do" dive that starts at 16 m and goes down to 38 m. We went down the gully and turned south along a huge wall that goes from 20 to 38 metres. On the north side of the face were gorgonian fan corals, ledges. The wall was covered in all sorts of

growth. Ian had a wardrobe malfunction: his full-length zipper went down as a result of a slip up yesterday. Our second dive was on the Docks. We saw a thousand Blue Devils and some very friendly Blue Groper. Ray was circled by Yellowtail.

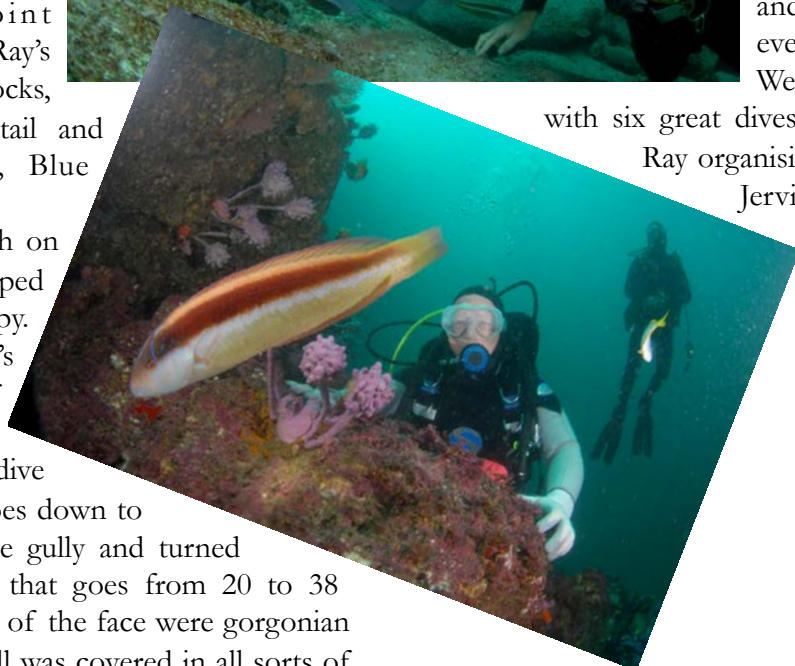
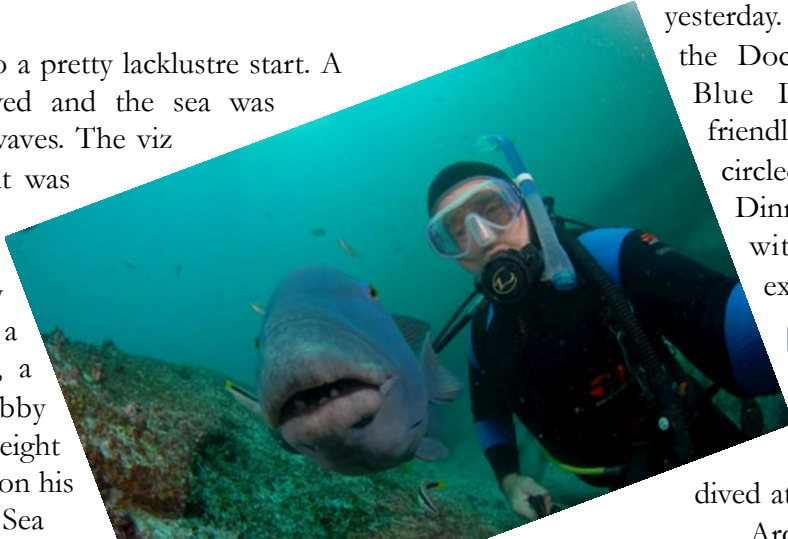
Dinner was a BBQ at home with great company and excellent food.

Day 3

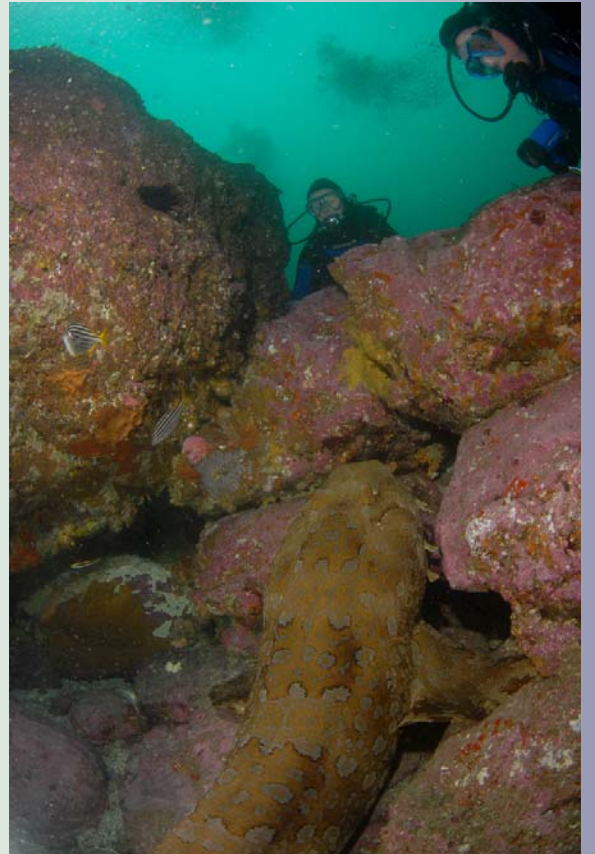
A westerly wind had arrived to flatten down the seas even more. We dived at Crossroads, north of the Arch, in 40 metres. This is another vertical wall dive going from 25 metres to 35 metres, which everyone enjoyed. Our second dive was at North East Bowen. It is big boulder territory. Clint and Ian posed with a big wobbly for Mike. Mark Ridsdale was videoing Vera and Debbie with another even bigger wobblygong.

We had an excellent weekend with six great dives. A big thank you for to Ray organising a great fun weekend at Jervis Bay.

**Mike Scotland
and Mark
Ridsdale**



MAY 2013



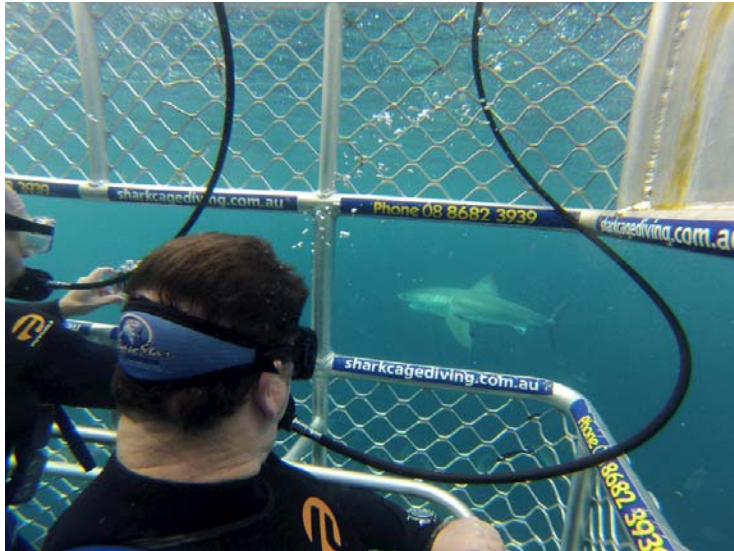


SHARK CAGE DIVE

PORT LINCOLN, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

I had the opportunity to get up close to Great White sharks in a cage off Port Lincoln recently. Although not technically scuba diving in the purist definition, you are sub surface with a wet suit on and having fun, so I say that's close enough.

After flying from Sydney to Adelaide and then from Adelaide to Port Lincoln, myself, my wife and another couple with their ten year old son settled into the Port Lincoln Hotel. This hotel is probably the pick of the accommodation in Port Lincoln and they offer free transfers to the marina on the day of your shark dive. Flying to Port Lincoln is by far the preferable mode of transport if you don't have a lot of time. It is only a 25 minute flight from Adelaide, but if you wish to drive north from Adelaide and then down the Eyre Peninsula it is about 700km!



The charter company we went with was Calypso Star Charters. There are only two operators who have the approval to burly up sharks and they go out on select days of the week.

The day starts early with a 6:00am pick up from the hotel for the 10 minute drive to the marina. When on board you are treated to breakfast and a cuppa, along with a briefing with regards to safety on board, the layout of the boat and of the day's activities.

The Calypso Star is about 50 foot long with two decks, inside and out side areas, hot shower, toilet and a rather large cage strapped to the back.

Fairly soon we were underway for the 3 hour steam to the Neptune Islands, south and then south west from Port Lincoln. The Neptune Islands are uninhabited by humans but are a hive of activity for seals and birdlife.

Soon after parking a briefing is given on the cage and its use and it is dropped off the back of the boat. The deckies then begin chumming the water with tuna carcasses and swill obviously obtained from the floors of several Port Lincoln tuna processing plants.

It was only about 15 minutes later that the first of our 5 sharks appeared. The first 6 cage candidates were fitted with wetsuits and climbed into the blue. Using hire wetsuits is always a bit uncomfortable but it is highly recommended here. As the water is always a bit awash with fish blood and burley you are best off leaving the wetty behind on the boat. If you wear your own gear, next time you go for a dive in Sydney you will most probably smell like a big tuna, which may attract some unwelcome attention! Whilst in the cage you are only about half a metre underwater and hooked up to the boat via a hose and a second stage reg.

The sharks put on a good show for us that day. They ranged in size from 4 to 5 metres and stayed around all day so all the groups in the cage could get a good look at them.

The boat takes around 25 people and you go in groups of 6. The crew are friendly and took extra time with my mate's 10 year old son.

The law allows the sharks to be burleyed up but not fed, antagonized or touched. Although by the nature of the beast they are lightning quick and if the deck hand is not sharp enough pulling the bait away the shark will come from below and out accelerate the retreating tuna carcass and score a treat.

All in all it is a good day out, not getting back to Port Lincoln till about 8:00pm.



Like any activity such as this it is not without risk. It is quite expensive at \$395.00 per day to go on the boat and another \$100.00 if you wish to get in the cage. If the weather is bad they will cancel. You do get your money back, but if the bookings are full and you only have a few days they may not be able to reschedule you. There is of course the risk that no sharks will turn up on your day.

A look at the Calypso Star website www.sharkcagediving.com.au will tell you the average shark sightings for the previous 12 months or so. They have had up to 12 or 14 sharks come around in a day.

The camera I used was a Gopro silver edition. I got some good video and then changed it to 3 per second rapid shoot.

Steve Villa





SEA BRAGGIN'

TRUK LAGOON

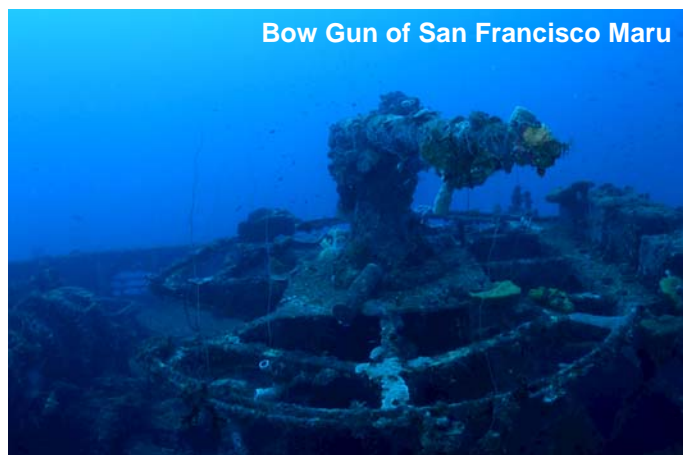
February 2013

In February of this year I again headed over to Truk for some more diving. This time to the deeper and lesser known wreck of the lagoon, or so I hoped. I went with Max Gleeson and Lesley Hillyer, both long time friends, and eight others.

After the usual fuss and bother associated with an overseas trip we arrived to a hot and windy Blue Lagoon Resort on the island of Chuuk (pronounced Truk).



Amargisan Derricks



Bow Gun of San Francisco Maru

We were hoping to dive the following wrecks over the next 10 days: Amagisan, Fujisan, Hanakawa, Hokuyo, I169, Kikukawa, Katsuragisan, Momokawa, Nagano, Oite, Reiyo, Shotan and Seiko.

Many of these vessels were sunk in over 50m of water and are only for experienced deep divers. The

deepest of these are the destroyer Oite, which lies almost at the edge of the lagoon in 64m, and the Katsuragisan, which lies in 72m. For me the latter would just be an over flight, as the maximum operating depth of air is 66m. Although this can be pushed to 70m for short periods it is better to use Trimix for depths past 66m.

In the days ahead the weather did not co-operate at all. We had winds every day that created a nasty short chop on the water both out and back, which were only reduced when we were in the lee of Dublon Island on the run to the Amagisan Maru and the San Francisco Maru, which we ended up doing several times. In fact for several days it poured with rain that was so heavy at times you had to wear your mask just to see, as the rain drops made keeping your eyes open impossible!

On the island after the rain there several large puddles of water, as it took a long time to drain away.

Subsequently in the time available for diving we only got to do 8 of the wrecks we had planned to do. To fill in the time we dived the San Francisco Maru 4 times (in different groups as we ran two boats), the Nippo Maru, and the Futagami – which is a tug lying in 28m just off the tip of Dublon. This was not sunk during Operation Hailstone but rather was scuttled after the war.

The wrecks we did dive during our stay were: Amagisan Maru (2) , San Francisco Maru (2), Sankisan Maru (2), Nagano (1), Shotan (1), Nippo (1), Futagami (1), Oite (1) Shinkoku (1), I 169 – Jap Sub (1), Hoki Maru (1), Unkai Maru (1), Betty Bomber, Kawanishi “Emily” flying boat, and a new one, a Jill torpedo bomber (1 each)

The three aircraft dived were done on air left after dives on the ships so we got to dive some of the



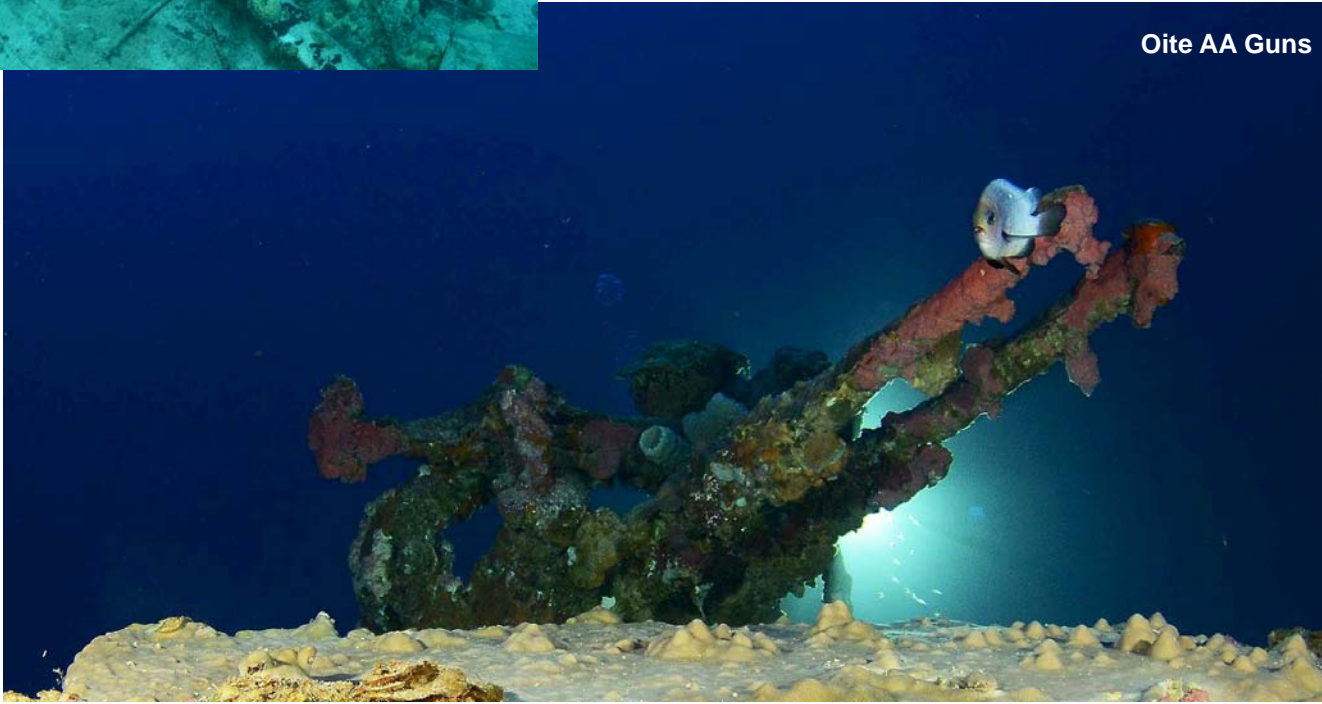


shallower aircraft in the lagoon – Zero, Betty Bomber, Kawanishi “Emily” flying boat, and a Jill torpedo bomber.

The visibility on the wrecks sometimes exceeded 40m and with the water at 28 degrees C it was tough to cope with.

While the weather and the diving conditions weren’t as good as they have been on other trips, we all had a great time regardless and Max was able to get the remaining footage for the videos he is producing for the resort. Seeing as we didn’t get to dive some of the wrecks, I guess I’ll just have to go back again some time in the next couple of years!

Peter Flockart





Diver & BB Fuselage



Port Tank HO



Sankisan Bow



Truck & shells in Shotan



EAST TIMOR

Ultimate Dive Expedition

19 - 31 August 2013

13 Days / 12 nights Ex Darwin

Diver from **\$2,090** per person

Price Includes: (Non Diver - \$995)

- Return flights ex. Darwin to Dili flying with Air North
- Return airport transfers in Dili
- 12 nights twin share bunk room air conditioned guest house accommodation at The Dive Guest House (shared kitchen and bathroom) - Dili, Sat TV, Internet Connection, swimming pool
- Breakfast daily at the Castaway Bar
- Half Day Dili city tour
- 22 Dives (6 shore local dives, 10 shore Dili surround dives and 4 boat dives and 2 complimentary night dives) Includes: tanks, weights, dive guide services, & transfers
- Australian Departure taxes (Value: \$240.00 - subject to change

Cost Does Not Include:

- Travel Insurance & Personal spending monies and Excess Luggage Surcharges
- East Timor Entry visa USD 30.00 (subject to change)
- East Timor departure tax USD10.00

Room Upgrade:

Upgrade to Twin Share (1 x Queen + 1 x Single) - additional \$92 per person for 12 night stay

Conditions Apply:

Prices are subject to change without notice due to fluctuations in exchange rates.

Booking Requirements:

To secure your place on this expedition, you will need to complete a booking form and return it together with a non refundable deposit amount of \$300.00 per person.

Booking Reference # S12695

Date : 06/11/12

FOR BOOKINGS AND MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

DIVE
ADVENTURES
YOUR DIVING HOLIDAY SPECIALIST

www.diveadventures.com.au



Contact: Paul Pacey
Mobile: 0431 691 173



Timor Dive Trip 2013

We will be diving with Dive Timor Lorosae (DTL).
Check out their website at: www.DiveTimor.com

We will be staying in the guesthouse, which is located alongside the dive shop right on the beachfront in Dili. Above the accommodation is the Castaway bar and restaurant. The complex has its own pool. It is located in Dili itself so it's a short walk to other restaurants, shops, markets, etc.

The four boat dives will be to Atauro Island - see the DTL website for details.

We have also arranged with DTL that we can have an optional third dive per day, which will be at Pertamina Pier. This is one of the best muck dives in East Timor. If we choose to do a third dive, the dive operator will supply a driver to take us to the Pertamina Pier (a 5 minute drive) and wait for us to do our dive before transporting us back to our accommodation.

These additional dives are \$25 per diver.

The trip is limited to 8 divers and as at 18 May **only 1 spot left!**

Contact Paul Pacey for more information or to book.

Contact Paul Pacey
Paul.Pacey@iinet.net.au or 0431-691173



FISH/PIZZA REEF

28 April 2013

This was a club boat dive but with only one boat, as most people had gone away for the ANZAC weekend.

I met Michael and Kelly along with the other divers Dave Casburn, Graham Poole and Eda Dicamillo at the Yowie Bay ramp at 7.15am. We were geared up and ready to go. The weather had been good all week and the morning was no exception.

After an easy run out of Port Hacking we found a flat sea in front of us and we could select from a number of great sites. We decided to do Fish (or Pizza) Reef and headed over to it.

After anchoring, the first group entered the water and descended the anchor line. Those on the boat could see their bubbles almost to the cross-over line about 20m below.

While waiting our turn we could see in the distance a pod of dolphins approaching.

As we rolled in some 35 minutes later and began our descent Michael remarked afterwards we should have looked up, as the pod passed very close to the boat and the ascending group had a great view.



As we passed them Michael gave me a double "OK" signal indicating the good vis on the bottom, which it was, around 15 to 20m.

Dave, Graham and myself circumnavigated the reef, which is done easily in about 20 minutes, before spending time playing with the school of Tassie Trumpeter near the cave on the eastern side of the reef, and two Eastern Blue devils who were out

of their hiding spots in the open water.

It was hard to see the surface from the bottom despite the good vis due to large schools of yellow tail and ladder-finned Pomfrets. The reef itself is covered in sponges and sea tulips. Small fish inhabit the crevices, octopi are seen and as we ascended Dave located a large pink nudibranch – Brevicadium.

Water temp was more than 20 degrees and air temp somewhere around 24, making for a very pleasant day out. After enjoying morning tea at Darkes Bay it was time to head back to the ramp.

Peter Flockart





For sale

1. Yellow torch like those Eddie uses. Price \$14.
2. A pair of Mirage booties Size 9 only worn a couple of times. Price \$25.
3. Combination depth & pressure gauge from Oceanic (slimline style) Max depth of 70m almost new , only used twice. Price \$120.00

If interested contact Peter Flockart or see Peter at the next meeting.
Mob 0409 304 959 Hm (02) 9371 0265 Wk (02) 9374 1233





Great Barrier Reef and Yongala Liveaboard – “Kalinda”
10 – 16 November 2013
Ex Townsville

Come and have a great week's diving on the Great Barrier Reef, including the wreck of the Yongala. Diving for six days, with up to four dives per day. Sail from Townsville on Sunday evening, giving us a chance to fly up on Sunday (or earlier if you wish). Arrive back on Saturday, after a couple of dives in the morning. We will then overnight in Townsville and you can make your way back to Sydney on the Sunday.

Costs (ex gst) are:

- Trip cost \$1,000 per person, share cabin
- Airfares approx \$350-\$400 return Sydney – Townsville – Sydney via Jetstar
- Saturday night accommodation, approx \$130 for share accommodation
- Reef taxes etc. approx \$100, depending on number of days on Yongala (anticipate a maximum of two).

Optional extras could include a few days on Magnetic Island or try to win the cost of your trip back at Townsville Casino (or not).

To secure your place please pay a deposit of \$200 to the club account as soon as possible. Email the club treasurer and Ian Roffey when you do. Min of 10 required to secure this trip and there will be a maximum of 16 to make the trip reasonably comfortable.

First in best dressed for boat accommodation.

Contact Ian Roffey Ian.Roffey@team.telstra.com



WHAT'S COMING UP?

WHEN	WHAT/ WHERE	CONTACT	WHEN	WHAT/ WHERE	CONTACT
Sat 25 May	Boat Dive Barrens Hut	Ian Roffey ianroffey@gmail.com	Sun 26 May	Shore Dive Shiprock	Paul Pacey paul.pacey@iinet.net.au
Sat 1 June	Deep Dive SS Kelloe	Michael McFadyen michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info	Mon 10 June	Boat Dive Mistral Point/ Sharks	Jason Coombs j.combs@unsw.edu.au
Mon 16 June	Shore Dive & BBQ Bass Point	TBC	Wed 19 June	Club Meeting Rowers on Cook	Jason Coombs j.combs@unsw.edu.au
Sat 22 June	Night Shore Dive Kurnell	Gary Dunnett garydunnett@exemail.com.au	Sat 29 June	Boat Dive Wattamolla	Shelley Brueseker shellsb@bigpond.net.au

CLUB COMMITTEE

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Please send any photographs as separate .jpg files rather than inserted into the article.

If you don't mind, please don't insert a copyright symbol and your name into the image files.