



# *Sea Braggin'*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

***- April 2011 - Edited by Ray Moulang -***

***Included in this issue are Dive Reports from :..***

**Natasha Naude; Peter Flockart; Gary Dunnett; Ken Ridley,  
Jo Edney and Aengus Moran**

**Photograph Report from:.. Maxine HAYDEN**

**A BIG THANK YOU GOES TO THEM.**



Taken by Gary Dunnett on a recent Thursday club night dive.



# ***What's On - APRIL - 2011 -***

<b>WHEN</b>	<b>WHAT AND WHERE</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>WHAT AND WHERE</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
<b>Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd</b>	<b>WEEKEND DIVE TRIP - MERIMBULA / EDEN</b>	<b>PAUL PACEY 9527 2501</b>	<b>Sunday 17th</b>	<b>Boat Dive Wollongong</b>	<b>Jo Edney 4268 5448</b>
<b>Sunday 3rd</b>	<b>Deep Dive SS Tuggerah / SS Undola</b>	<b>Michael McFadyen 9545 5596</b>	<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Club Meeting Rowers Club 8pm</b>	<b>Jason Coombs 9345 4599</b>
<b>Saturday 9th</b>	<b>Shore Dive Bass point</b>	<b>Ron Walsh 0409 225 683</b>	<b>Thur 21<sup>st</sup> to Tue 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Easter / Anzac Day Weekend Jervis Bay</b>	<b>Ray Moulang 0403 437 974</b>
<b>Saturday 9th</b>	<b>Restauant Night <b>CANCELLED</b></b>		<b>Saturday 30th</b>	<b>Boat Dive Marley Point</b>	<b>Trisha Henry 9525 8860</b>
<b>Saturday 16th</b>	<b>Boat Deep Dive From Long Reef</b>	<b>Peter Flockart 9371 0265</b>			

# What's On – MAY – 2011 –

WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT	WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT
<b><u>SUNDAY</u></b> <b><u>1<sup>ST</sup></u></b>	<b><u>BOAT DIVE</u></b> <b><u>BARRENS HUT</u></b>	<b><u>Natasha Naude</u></b> <b><u>0410 074 677</u></b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>16th</b>	<b>CLUB MEETING</b> <b>8 PM</b> <b>ROWERS CLUB</b>	<b>Jason Coombs</b> <b>9345 4599</b>
<b><u>SATURDAY</u></b> <b><u>7th</u></b>	<b><u>Deep Dive</u></b> <b><u>SS Tuggerah/ SS</u></b> <b><u>Undola</u></b>	<b><u>Michael</u></b> <b><u>McFadyen</u></b> <b><u>9545 5596</u></b>	<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>21ST</b>	<b>BOAT DIVE</b> <b>WATTAMOLLA</b>	<b>DAVE</b> <b>CASBURN</b> <b>0405 186 184</b>
<b><u>FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> to</u></b> <b><u>SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup></u></b>	<b><u>WEEKEND TRIP</u></b> <b><u>SHEELHARBOUR</u></b>	<b><u>RAY MOULANG</u></b> <b><u>0403 437 974</u></b>	<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>28TH</b>	<b>BOAT DIVE</b> <b>K &amp; M REEF</b> <b>FROM THE HOLE IN</b> <b>THE WALL AND</b> <b>PORT BOTANY</b>	<b>GARY</b> <b>PERKINS</b> <b>9533 6869</b>
			<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>29TH</b>	<b>BOAT DIVE</b> <b>BLUE FISH POINT</b> <b>FROM ROSE BAY</b>	<b>Peter Flockart</b> <b>9371 0265</b>

## APRIL DATE FOR HMAS ADELAIDE SCUTTling

**April 13** has been set as the proposed date for the scuttling of the former HMAS Adelaide off the Central Coast.

NSW Minister Lands, Tony Kelly, made the announcement during a visit to what's been its temporary home at Glebe Island Wharf, with Member for The Entrance, Grant McBride.

"The Land and Property Management Authority (LPMA) has been working closely with the contractor engaged to prepare the ship, to meet the conditions set by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal," the Minister said.

"That work is scheduled for completion next month.

"The Tribunal upheld the permit issued by the then Federal Department of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts, while adding some extra conditions as a precautionary measure.

"In addition to the extensive preparation already undertaken, the extra conditions involved removing canvas and insulation from the ship and then any loose or flaking paint found behind it.

"This requires an extensive amount of work on all decks of the ship which is almost finished.

"This has enabled detailed planning for the proposed **April 13** scuttling to commence.

"The scuttling is highly dependent on favourable weather conditions, so alternate dates will also be determined."

The vessel was gifted to NSW by the Australian Government to create an artificial reef and dive site in waters off the Central Coast.

Mr McBride said the NSW Government recognises the important contribution and support of local community members, including the Central Coast Artificial Reef Project, which has worked tirelessly for more than a decade on this project.

"The dive site will be the first attraction of its kind in NSW and a world class recreational facility, delivering environmental, economic and educational benefits to the region," Mr McBride said.



Picture of Ex HMAS Adelaide by Graham Poole.



## **Dive the HMAS Brisbane in JULY – only 4 places left!**

**Arrive Wednesday 6 July – Depart Sunday 10 July (Max 13 divers/Min 6 divers)**

### **Itinerary**

Arrive Wednesday 6 July evening.

**Thursday 7 July** double dive on the HMAS Brisbane on **Thursday afternoon**

### **Friday 8 July**

**Friday morning:** Double dive Sunshine Coast Reefs

**Friday afternoon and night:** Double dive HMAS Brisbane – the second being a night dive (min 6 people)

**(Option)** Can opt for a single night dive Friday night rather than double afternoon/night (min 6 people)

### **Saturday 9 July**

**Saturday morning:** Double dive HMAS Brisbane (no minimum)

**Saturday afternoon:** relax and enjoy a Club dinner!

### **Sunday 10 July**

Enjoy the day and fly home Sunday afternoon/evening

### Accommodation:

- Mariner on the Pacific has 3 bedroom apartments with large balconies for \$250/night which sleep 6 people (<http://www.marineronthepacific.com.au/alexandra-headlands/accommodation.htm>)

### Diving:

Sunreef Dive Centre can cater for 13 divers, which would give us the boat to ourselves (<http://www.sunreef.com.au/local-trips.htm>)

- Double dives on reef or HMAS Brisbane will cost \$140
- Double afternoon/night dive option on HMAS Brisbane is \$160 (or \$110 for single night dive)
- 13<sup>th</sup> diver free of charge – as usual, this cost saving would be spread across all divers
- Tanks and weights (and divemaster!) included
- **Free nitrox** if we have more than 6 (certified) divers ☺
- **Nitrox certification available during trip - \$399 including 2 HMAS Brisbane dives**

Contact **Natasha** if you want to come along, and please remember to send Mark your deposit of \$50.

**Email:** natasha@bluecucumber.com      **Phone:** 0410 074 677



## Truk trip for 2011.

Some trip points to note:- The price does not include our Club discount (approx 10%) or our Free of Charge land base component for every 8<sup>th</sup> diver. The total discount cannot be determined until we finalized numbers.

- The prices are based on 95c US. The quoted price will not change unless there is a fluctuation of more than 2c either way. If the dollar goes through the roof, you can pay the balance in full to take advantage.
- The price does not include Sydney/Cairns/Sydney flights or accommodation in Cairns.

**ONLY TWO  
SPOTS LEFT**

You need to organize this yourself (best to wait and watch for specials).

- We request that you take out a travel insurance policy that covers your diving activities.
- There is a 2 week option. • Truk is a third world country and as such you should adjust your expectations.
- The trip is not suitable for non divers. • The trip is suitable for experienced divers.

There is a maximum of 16 spots for this trip (8 are already pre-reserved), so please book on sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment. To book you must contact me to: 1. Check availability; and 2. To get a booking form which you will need to complete and send to Sharon at Dive Adventures with your deposit.

Please give me a call if you have any questions (particularly if you have not been to Truk before).

Many thanks, Kelly.

## **Nelson Bay Weekend, July 29 - 31**

Two days spent with some of the best shore diving in NSW.  
The three main dive sites here are spectacular.

Accommodation for the two nights, at the Soldiers' Point Holiday Park, will be about \$110 per person.

Arrive on Friday night, and then go for a shore dive in the morning on both Saturday and Sunday.

Take it easy for the rest of Saturday, and on Sunday have an easy drive home.





Contact Brian Byrnes if you are interested, and don't forget to give a \$50 deposit to Mark Ridsdale. [brian.byrnes@pobox.com](mailto:brian.byrnes@pobox.com) 04198 22243

# **Fiji trip plan June 18 to July 3**

World's best Shark diving?.... Certainly in the top 3 after the Great Whites in South Africa, Tiger beach in the Caribbean. Last August I managed to see 5 different Tiger sharks including "Joyce" the 14 foot giant with the girth of a 44 gallon drum. I did not see "Scarface", the 18 foot giant who has been visiting over the last few years. Maybe next time.

World's best Soft coral diving. The photo opportunities for those "pretty diver shots" are limitless. Beqa became world famous for some of these stunning dives with more colour than you see on an LSD trip.

The plan for the trip is 15 nights including a week at the Pearl Pacific resort and a week at Lalati resort on Beqa Island and one night in transit. There is a backup plan! If there is a problem with booking Lalati (It is a very small boutique resort) we might go to Octopus resort up the Yasawas.

I intend to plan at least 24 boat dives (12 each week at 2 per day) and possibly some free shore dives at Lalati. The cost is about \$100 a day for dives. (\$1200 for diving)

This is an excellent trip. It is great value at slightly under \$3000 and very comfortable. I am taking my non diving but keen snorkelling wife.

I have been to Fiji twice in the last 14 months.  
The magic Fiji that has always been famous is still there on the ground.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact me on

[mikescotland@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mikescotland@optusnet.com.au)

[scubamagic@hotmail.com](mailto:scubamagic@hotmail.com)

0415 158 168

02 9521 7720

I would encourage you to do some research. Here are some dub dubs for you to look over.

<http://www.lalatifiji.com/home/>    <http://www.thepearlsouthpacific.com/>

<http://www.begalagoonresort.com/>    <http://www.octopusresort.com/>

I also use a site called [www.Beautifulpacific.com](http://www.Beautifulpacific.com) and go to "fiji" link and then "Outer islands" and "Beqa Lagoon". It has plenty of pictures for each resort.

I can't wait. Mike Scotland.



# *A weekend in Jervis Bay in August!*

**Friday 12 – Sunday 14 August** Double boat dives Saturday and Sunday (including one dive with the seals)

**Note this is not *just* a seal diving trip – only one dive will be with the seals, conditions permitting! The remainder will be boat dives to local dive sites.**

We did this trip last year and it was just great! House is perfect for our group and Ulladulla dive did a good job (despite being unable to locate the Labyrinth/Whorehouse!!) Same plan as last year – same dive rates and same accommodation costs. Hopefully same dive conditions too, which were amazing.

## **Diving:**

Ulladulla Dive Centre can cater for 12 divers <http://www.ulladulladive.com.au/crew/duckunder.html>

- ✂ Retail rates for double dives is \$100 (\$85 for 10 divers or more, plus one free of charge)
- ✂ Airfills for \$7
- ✂ No tanks provided – if you take one tank and they provide one it will be an added charge of \$10.00, or you can hire both tanks (or take 2 of your own!)

## **Accommodation:**

I have booked the house, “Seahaven” <http://www.stayz.com.au/11509>

House comfortably sleeps 15 people, with 3 bathrooms and 3 toilets (main bathroom with large spa bath). There is a LUG for dive gear and a BBQ we can make use of. BYO linen! Total cost for 15 people for 2 nights is \$580 (plus \$250 refundable deposit). Dinner at Vincentia Golf Club (5 mins walk up the road) on Fri night, Club Curry night at home on Sat night.

Contact **Natasha** if you want to come along, and please remember to send Mark your deposit of \$50.

**Email:** natasha@bluecucumber.com **Phone:** 0410 074 677

**All Full**

**Reserves list now**

***The planned trips to Merimbula and Kavieng are now full .  
Paul Pacey.***

## **- Recent Club Happenings -**

### **Double Boat Dive with Scubaroo – Natasha Naude**

**Sunday 13 March 2011**



After initially having three club boats available, then two, and then eventually only one, I had almost given up hope on planning a boat dive on this date, but got information about Yves and Scubaroo from Peter Flockart, put the emails out and ended up with a group of 15 divers to come out for a double dive.



Digby and myself, Gary, Nancy, Fiona, Stuart, Zorka, Dave, John, Anne, Brian, Catherine Anderson, Darren, Steve, and Marc all met up at Port Botany boat ramp on a beautiful sunny day and headed out to K&M Reef for our first dive.



Darren realised en route that he had to fly to Brisbane early the next morning so had to stick to only the first dive of the day!

Dave and the Frenchman entered into some complicated GPS discussions and we eventually we anchored on the northern end of K&M reef. The site is a multi-level wall and cave dive with many overhangs and crevices, with depth carrying from 18m – 28m. The visibility on the dive was only about 5m, which made finding all the walls and caves a close-up experience. As Dave was the only diver reasonably familiar with the site, the traditional St George starburst pattern resembled something more akin to a drunken conga line as we all tagged along in one way or another. Gary and Nancy exited stage left and found a weedy seadragon, while Digby and I skirted around the wall's edge and occasionally meandered over kelp in the vain hope of spotting one.

The usual cuttlefish and one eastern blue devil fish was found, as well as numerous nudibranchs. It was a pleasant dive with many new members enjoying the exploration of the area.

Back on board there was a bit of swell pushing us about and so we headed over to our second dive site and waited out the surface interval. Yves made more soup than you could poke a stick at while we all bobbed up and down and pleaded for him to stop with the soup already. It wasn't too bad but it was a relief to be back in the water.

The second dive was whale watching platform, where the visibility improved to about 8m. The whale watching wall runs north/south and is a great wall with many caves and swim-throughs.





We watched Gary practicing his cave diving techniques, as he shimmied through small nooks and crannies.

It is a really nice dive site, with lots of see and plenty of interesting trenches and overhangs to peer into, swim over, look under and squeeze through. We saw large cuttle fish, eastern blue devil fish, several types of nudibranchs, including lots of blue serpents having a wild time and laying eggs... as well as the usual damsels and other small fish life. Average dive depth is 15-20m.



Figure 1 Am I too close???

We were having such a good time on the dive that most people had to do an extended safety stop to off gas all the nitrogen due to computers saying we were in DECO or some very close. The average dive time was 40 to 50min.

All in all, it was a great day out on the water.

Many thanks to everyone who came along.



## - OzTek -

Over the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> March many club members took the opportunity to attend OzTek at the



Australian technology Park in Sydney.

This is a showcase of all things that make technical diving exciting & challenging & also allows people to check out the latest developments in cutting edge equipment. From new rebreathers to camera gear & places to go & use it all.

There were lectures on at a variety of times over the weekend allowing people to attend those that were of most interest to them. Everything from wrecks to caves to rereathers & a whole lot more (see program).

For those who couldn't get enough on Saturday night there was a special program from several underwater explorers (see program).

This program covered underwater pioneers such as Jeff Maynard – credited with developing the single hose regulator that is still in use today. The patent was bought by the French company who was making scuba gear in the 1950's.

Jill Heinerth a Canadian cave diver, now living in Florida who is passionate about the falling water quality on our planet.

Jarrold Jablonski & Casey McKinlay on a llllllllong cave dive at Wakula Springs (FL) covering some 7,856 m of tunnels & taking 27hrs.

Prof Simon Mitchell who spoke on the search for the hospital ship AHS Centaur off the QLD coast

For myself who attended this it was very hard to get up the next morning to be back there by 8.50am for a lecture on deep sea marine life off Tasmania run by Karen Gowlett-Holmes (Karen works at Eagle Hawk dive & is the senior marine invertebrates collector for CSIRO in Hobart)

It was as always a good show with plenty of great things to see & a chance to catch up with friends not often seen in the diving circles these days.

I can't wait for the next show in 2013

NOTE:

I was very lucky to win the door prize that was offer this year: A week's holiday to the Solomon Islands ( Rtn air fare from Bris to Honiara, a week's accom at the Mendana & 10 dives with Tulaghi Dive)

**Peter Flockart.**

A ten thirty high tide on a sunny Sunday morning pretty much guarantees a crowd at **Shiprock**.

Such was the case for the 20<sup>th</sup> February dive organised by Paul Pacey and attended by 20 St George Divers, a group from Pro-dive and sundry odds and sods.

Paul's warning about the need to arrive early weren't enough to stop some of us having to park well back towards the top of Shiprock Drive, making for an uncomfortable walk in the hot conditions.

Even Paul and Eddie were parked well up the hill, none of the normal trick of parking the day before to secure a spot.







It was a big 1.88 metre high tide with nearly 1.7 metres between the high and low.

A formula for strong currents, so everyone was keen to be in the water on the top of the tide.

This resulted in more divers than I've seen before in the gap between the 'Shiprock' and the hillslope.

The current was just as strong as expected but manageable by ducking into shelter in the lee of the boulders and against the reef face.

Shiprock provided its normal

smorgasbord of encrusting organisms, crawling critters and fish life.

A notable feature of the dive was the large number of mouth brooding Sydney Cardinalfish along much of the main reef.

You normally see a couple of these diligent males but every second cardinalfish seemed to be holding eggs.

Also of interest were the Blue barred Orange Parrotfish, some of which are into their second year on the site and are getting to a serious size.

The crunch as they chew up the reef is audible from 10 metres and more away.







On a more sombre note, yet another Yellow tail Kingfish turned up at the Old Wives' cleaning station with ganged hooks embedded and a long trace in tow.

You can't help thinking that they are hoping that the hooks will be removed along with their parasites.

Most kept the dive to around 60 minutes and saved some energy for the climb back to the street.

Then up the road for a coffee and second breakfast in good company to finish the morning.

**Cheers Gary.**

## **Postscript- one month later.**

The conditions on the 20<sup>th</sup> March could not have been more different than those on the 20<sup>th</sup> February.

Four metre plus seas left Shiprock as one of the few options for a Sunday morning dive, but heavy rain meant that only 6 St George desperates turned up for the 9:30am high. At least the appalling weather meant no hassles with parking.

Nearly 200 mm of rain in the previous 24 hours had the Audley weir overflowing and sending a big fresh down the river. The flood was holding as a distinct surface layer of cold water with plenty of leaves, branches and other debris. Below this dirty layer the visibility was surprisingly good at up to 10 metres, although when combined with the overcast sky the result was light levels more like a night dive than mid morning.

Eddie and I both had cameras in tow and spent the best part of an hour poking around the bommies in the deeper sections of the site. The slow approach paid dividends with some nice sightings over the rough ground, including a Spiny Gurnard stalking around on its pectoral ‘fingers’, a Painted Stinkfish, and a unfamiliar species that proved to be a Blue Whiptail. This last was less than 5cms long and flitted around in a very ‘uncamera friendly’ fashion. At 15m depth it looked like yet another species of brown and white striped wrasse, but when illuminated proved to be a brilliant blue and yellow.



Moving back up the slope the Old Wife's cleaning station was servicing several large Silver Trevally, a couple of Yellow tailed Kingfish and lots of luderick and leatherjackets.

We exited with a visit to the Brown Sabretoothed Blenny that guards the site from the shelter of his beer bottle. This little fellow took offence at some gentle teasing and took a small bite out of Eddie. No harm done, and yet again Shiprock delivered a wonderful dive.



# 19 -20 March Shore Dive Wrap

AKA (SGSCSDW) For you Ken.

Gary P dived Shiprock Saturday 10 m viz. (I can't remember who he dived with)

Gary P, Gary D, Jeff H. John P, Eddie and Ken dived Shiprock Sun. Weather lousy, Water Calm, 22 deg, Tide perfect, viz from 1 – 5. Dave C didn't dive but turned up for coffee and a chat. What a Guy.

Report from Jo.

The seas were very wild down here and lots of brown water from the huge amount of rain, so no diving. I did go for a swim in Thirroul pool at lunchtime today; water was so dirty I couldn't even see the black lines on the bottom! Pool water is pumped in from the sea which is still very brown. Water temp was still good though.

Pic here a bouts from Eddie of a Spiny Gurnard,





**Shiprock Seahorse** and from Gary D a Sabre toothed Blenny which according to Gary tried to have a piece of Eddie.





Also pic of a Pineapple fish (Ken) I think it was a pretty big one, about palm size.



On 12-13 February Graeme and I participated in the AIMA/NAS Introduction to maritime archaeology course at the Big Dig Archaeology Centre in The Rocks. The course was an introduction to the principles and practice of maritime and foreshore archaeology. We learnt about basic archaeological principles, ship construction and technology, conservation, survey methods and search techniques.

As well as learning about the theory, we also had fun applying the skills we learnt. On the first day we were sent out in our buddy pairs onto the Big Dig site to do a 2D survey of objects along survey lines our tutors had laid out. When we did the field work we came back inside and drew it up to scale. The next day the class worked together as a project team and we did a 3D survey of a little boat. When we finished collecting all of the data we were given NAS software that allowed us to enter our data and produce a 3D plan of our survey, and it was very satisfying to see the results of our survey accurately represented on our computer screens. We were also able to keep the software for future use.

We would have loved to have been able to stay for another two days and complete the Part 2 course but couldn't because of other commitments. The Part 2 course was held at Sawmiller's Reserve at Berry's Bay and the group recorded a wreck that is in shallow water, and are continuing their research into the identity of the vessel.

We will do the Part 2 course sometime soon. But now that we have our certificate in Foreshore and Underwater Archaeology we are able to participate in surveys being conducted anywhere throughout Australia and around the world!



It was a very enjoyable and informative two days and we would both recommend it to anyone with an interest in wrecks and/or history. Our Senior Tutor was Sarah Ward, one of the Maritime Archaeologists from the NSW Heritage Branch of the Department of Planning. If you want to find out more about the AIMA/NAS training there is some information available on the NSW Heritage Branch website at: [http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/09\\_subnav\\_04.htm](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/09_subnav_04.htm). Or you can contact Sarah at [sarah.ward@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sarah.ward@planning.nsw.gov.au) or on (02) 9873-8533. There are three more Part 1 courses planned for this year.

\* Australasian Institute of Maritime Archaeology/Nautical Archaeology Society

Jo Edney





**Pictures from a dive**  
**at The Steps taken by**  
**Maxine Hayden.**



## **Sea Week Article**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> March I attended a series of lectures at the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) at 7.30pm.

These were part of SeaWeek 2011 & are designed to raise the community's awareness of marine science in our changing environment

The lectures were in the old Drill hall, Chowder Bay & were free of charge.

First speaker was Associate professor Ross Coleman from the University of Sydney.

He is currently researching the Ecological Impacts of Coastal Cities on the environment (EICC). One of things he is looking at is the effect of sea walls on the marine growth. What he is seeing is that steep vertical sea walls do not allow for the growth of marine life that would otherwise be found on naturally sloping rock platforms.

He is experimenting with a variety of structures such as pans & half flower pots in an effort to promote marine growth



The second speaker was Dr Moninya Roughan from the University of Sydney.

Her work involves the compilation & understanding of temperature/salinity/climatic & biological data gathered by IMOS. This is an Integrated Marine Observing System designed & monitored by the CSIRO & other Marine Universities around Australia & funded by the Commonwealth Gov.

Information is gathered by an array of both mobile & static collecting stations from the seas around the continent before being passed to a variety of researches for interpretation.

The last speaker was Professor Bill Gladstone from University of Technology, Sydney.

His topic was sex in the sea with a focus towards Fish reproduction & conservation & how it is being influenced by sea temperatures.

We looked at Trigger fish from the Ribbon Reefs in QLD, Parrot fish on Farasan Is in the Red Sea strangely enough on Great White Sharks & their nursery areas (Stockton Beach off Newcastle & Corner Inlet off Victoria.

All lectures ran for approx 30mins each & were accompanied by either a PowerPoint presentation or a short video.

Peter Flockart.

## **Thanks Donna and Ron! (by Aengus Moran)**

Saturday Feb 26<sup>th</sup> I headed to Bare Island with my good dive buddy Jayne and her mate Richard Vevers.

I missed seeing Donna and Ron as I parked, but Ron came by soon after and filled us in on the location of a Seahorse, “just out from Seahorse corner on some finger sponge”, perfect for us 3 photographers.

Donna and Ron headed off on their dive; they were maybe 10 or 15 minutes ahead of us.



The Seahorse was as far out as we wanted to go so we decided to go straight to it and then potter back at a nice relaxed pace.

That Seahorse was great for a photographer, it was golden, it was on red finger sponge and the sponge was on top of a little ledge so I could stabilise myself on the sand without damaging anything (Yes, I had a good look before I settled down). However, there was one problem, the sponge was moving and I had a very fussy lens that's mega slow to focus.

I could feel the other two photographers giving my back the death stares..."C'mon, take your shots and get out of the way"...but I wasn't going to be bullied and I wasn't going to just shoot carelessly and blind the poor seahorse, I wanted a couple of half decent shots and then I'd move aside.

5 minutes must have passed and then I looked to my left, another photographer...oh, that's Ron, he has just arrived.

Pressure is on now, 3 photographers behind me and I'm thinking this poor Seahorse is going to get fried, not good!

I suspect it's because I'm slightly red-green colour blind that I find it hard to spot Pygmy Pipe horses.

I have done two or three dives at Bare Island where I have limited myself to a 10 square meter area and tried to find Pygmy's, but no joy. I knew they were there but I just couldn't see them.



With one exception, where I was given very precise directions, I've never found a Pygmy myself.

I had enough, I gave in to the queue behind me but just then, to my right, Donna pointed out a Pygmy.

Jackpot, and the perfect lens on the



camera for Pygmy's. I quickly moved to the Pygmy.

Donna says she pointed the Pygmy out to distract us so that Ron could get a shot of the Seahorse...

Ron, didn't stand a chance.

I was by the Pygmy, Jayne by the Seahorse and Richard photographing another Seahorse he had found.

I looked up for a moment to see Ron's fins disappear into the haze.

Thanks Donna, Thanks Ron...Sorry Ron!

(\* facts have not been allowed to get in the way of telling this story)

## **Canvas Prints – Special for Underwater Photograph's (Aengus Moran)**

Most Australian Underwater Photographers will know of Ross Gudgeon aka Gudge.

Gudge and Mary have recently moved from Exmouth to Tweed Heads where they have started a Breeze Photo's franchise.

To establish business they are offering a 20% discount on standard rates but for Underwater Photographers they are also offering up to an hour of pre-print enhancement work. This is of note because Gudge is a top Photographer!

Here is the low-down;

Breeze Photos – Tweed Heads can print your photo onto canvas or high quality photo paper. We are offering a 20% discount on all our standard pricing to members of the **St George Scuba Club**.

All canvas prints come stretched on frames ready to hang and are coated with a protective urethane coating that is scratch resistant, heat resistant, waterproof, UV blocking and antifungal. Printing is done on an Epson Stylus Pro 9900 printer capable of printing on media up to 1117mm wide. The inks are pigment inks and are very resistant to fading (they have been rated lightfast up to 108 years for colour and 406 years for black and white).

Cost of all prints includes up to one hour of photoshopping/enhancement to ensure that the print comes out just how you want it. In addition to ensuring that the monitor and printer are colour calibrated, all enhancement is done by an award winning underwater photographer who knows what underwater colours should like and is very particular about getting them right on the print.

Email: [tweedheads@breezephotos.com.au](mailto:tweedheads@breezephotos.com.au)

Phone: 0412 862 305

## **A Recent e-mail advert for divers for the week end dive.**

All

As my dear mother in law says. “Things are grim in Salabim” (wherever that may be.)

Things are also looking grim Diving wise for the weekend”. Ugly seas, ugly water, ugly weather, ugly viz.

In the absence of any suggestions. I am putting forth a Steps/Monument.

Tide is dead low about 9.30am, weather is rainy to possible rain, viz is guaranteed to be about zero, unless some amazing current sweeps in and clears all the murk away.

As Gimley said in LOTR *Return of the King*. When asked to join the final battle for middle earth. “Little chance of success, facing certain death, count me in.”

Anybody interested contact me. Either sat or sun. Majority wins.

NB Desperate divers, this dive will earn maximum points to maintain or re-instate your DDD (Desperate diver designation.)

Non DD accredited divers, will upon completing the dive, if they so desire, receive the DDD.

Ken Ridley

## The Committee is:

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**Please send items for the Newsletter to me *as you do them during the month.***