



**- AUGUST 2009 - Edited by Ray Moulang -**

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Included in this issue are Dive Reports from Ron Walsh, Paul Pacey, John Beddie, Paul Watkinson, Jason Coombs, John Prior and Ray Moulang.

A big thank you goes to them.

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

**- Wattamolla – 14 June 2009 by Ron Walsh -**

Arriving at the Yowie Bay boat ramp parking was not easy. Even though I thought I was there early there were divers everywhere, and parking was at a premium. Dave Casburn had organized a dive to Wattamolla, down in the National Park.



Originally there were three boats - LeScat, Down Under & Seaspray - but there were four when I got there as Sea John was a late entry.

The weather was fairly overcast, with isolated showers. There was no wind, and seas were forecast to be flat.

I was on Seaspray with Garry, Nancy, Bob Walker and Ian. Unfortunately Ian had a cold and could not dive so he "volunteered" to mind the boat while we dived. The other boats were all full, making for 21 divers in all.

The run down to Wattamolla was easy. The forecast seas were indeed flat, with the only interruptions being to stop and watch whales on their annual migration north. After sounding out the site, all four boats anchored on the reef close to each other in around 20m of water.



My dive buddy was Bob, and we followed Garry and Nancy into the water. The anchor was on relatively flat reef, so after checking it was secure we headed east to the reef wall. The visibility was around 8 to 10m.

Here we came across divers from the other boats, including Michael and Kelly who pointed out a pygmy pipe horse – unfortunately not the sort of thing you want to see when your camera is fitted with a very wide angle lens!



We followed the reef/sand line to the north, checking small overhangs and fossicking amongst the sponges. Fishlife sighted included trumpeters, cuttlefish, bullseyes, mados, and various wrasses.

Our turnaround point was a small bommie completely covered in orange sea whips. By the look of the healthy reef I guess this site is not dived very often.

We back tracked to the anchor, and exited after the mandatory safety stop. As we had a boat minder we finished our dive a bit earlier than the other boats. So we pulled the anchor and headed out so Ian could check his GPS co-ordinates for the Tuggerah.

After successfully finding it we headed back to the other boats. On the way



back the sounder came up with a very solid sounding at around 20m deep, which we assume was a whale passing under us.

We arrived back at the same time as a small shower of rain arrived. We were very thankful to Ian for having a nice canopy fitted to his boat.

All boats then headed back into Pt Hacking for a shared morning tea. The boats rafted up on a mooring adjacent to the National Park and apart from another small shower of rain a jovial time was had.

Many thanks to Dave for organizing the dive, to the boat owners for the boats, and to all for a great morning dive.

## **- Boat dive to Baron's Hut on Le Scat – Sat 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 -**

After three weeks of really crook weather it was great to have a day of clear skies although it was a bit cool when we arrived at the Yowie Bay boat ramp.

The dive team was Les, Gary, Nancy, Paul and it was great to see Phil Rose pull into the car park to join us. It must be winter - Les put on a wetsuit that had arms and legs!!! (it was only 3 mm though).

The sea was pretty calm as we headed south towards Baron's Hut and you would have been able to dive pretty much anywhere you liked.

After dropping the big hook into the northern end of the split Gary, Nancy and Les jumped in to do their thing whilst Phil and I chatted amongst ourselves. The southerly wind was starting to pick up as we waited but not enough to worry about.

About half an hour later we noticed divers approaching the boat and Phil and I entered the water and passed them on the shot line.

There was a slight current from the south as we headed towards the anchor. We then dropped into the split and headed south. Viz was good – over 10 metres.

I just love Baron's Hut – especially the walls of the split. The variety of sea life is amazing and the range of colours would be the envy of any Dulux shop.

One of my favourites is the Gorgonians – they are not large ones but they are so intricate pretty. There's plenty of sponges to search for sea horses in and some come complete with their own basket stars. There are even sea whips in the split. After slowly cruising to the south end of the split we popped over to the south-east side of the reef and headed south towards the cave. All the usual suspects were in attendance – Blue Gropers, schools of pullers and yellowtail, morwong and a few striped trumpeters too. There are patches of sea whips along the way, one of which was supporting quite a large basket star which seemed to defy gravity.

Phil spotted a large bull ray trying unsuccessfully to hide in a crevice.

I thought we'd make it to the cave but when Phil signalled to turn around I realised that he was correct as deco-time was approaching all too quickly.

As we headed across the reef towards the split a couple of small Kingfish shot past before we again dropped into the split. After stopping to admire a couple of mosaic starfish we arrived at the anchor one minute short of deco-time – nicely done.

A quick run back to the public mooring just north of Dark Bay for morning tea was a great way to end a great day. Thanks guys, Paul.

## JERVIS BAY DRUM AND DRUMSTICKS REVISITED

### JUNE LONG WEEK END 2009 -

The crew of Mike S., Eddie I., John P., Heinz B. and myself arrived Thursday night of the 4<sup>th</sup> at our normal rental house. No beer or Easter eggs this time – a pity?? (We all took a sickie / flex day - or already retired on the Friday ---- an escape long – long weekend with peace)?

We did 6 dives with 5 new locations around the Drum and Drumsticks area and north with a water temperature between 19°C and a cool 16°C in patches. Vis. was a clean 17 to 20 M on all dives. The seas were flat with a slight N.E. swell (roll) + strong NW wind - too rough for the caves.



Thursday due to repairs to the Murray beach boat ramp we had to go from Huskisson boat ramp. It's a long way to Point Perpendicular. 25 minutes trip with slight seas with a NE 1M swell, we travelled north, too rough at Crocodile Head with a SE wind, so we went behind the drum and saw the **mob** – only about 5 seals at Easter now the word is out regards the sunny spot on the N.W side of the drum – there is about 150-200 seals – don't get down wind the air is contaminated - bad (stink) – a dive with the seals

and the S.S. Wandra wreck was an enjoyment with 20m vis. depth of 26M with a bottom time of 35minutes.

Morning tea was in Drum Creek a bit rough getting in but no real trouble. A decision was made to try and find the grey nurse sharks north of Gun Getters Gorge – depth of 25M and a 40-minute dive, a lonely long nose boarfish was happy to have someone to swim with. This area is a great dive site - caves, fish life, rocky walls gutters but no grey nurse sharks.



Saturday - Good news we can go from Murray's beach - Seas are better so we travel to the Hat (Beecroft Head) just south of Currarong depth of 26.9M for 31minutes a slight current to the north – a great bottom life and fish all over the place great.



Back to the creek for coffee and the second dive on “Eddie’s Reef” which is located between the Drum and the southern headland 31M deep for a 23 minute dive – 2 large rocks with a caves underneath – Mike had a wobbie to keep him company, a very large jelly fish about 450mm diameter

- too big for a macro camera and a large long nose boar fish and a large silver drummer.



Sunday – We dived east of the southern headland entering drum headland a max. Depth of 30.1M for 48 minutes - sponge life, coral in deeper depths and drummer, bream, and heaps of fish life and the seals in the shallows along the shore wall. Then back to the creek for coffee and the second dive on “Eddie’s Reef” this time a bit further towards the drum in a depth of 26.8M for 32 minutes. A sheer wall was found of about 15M and Mike had no trouble finding more blue devils – more so than wobbies - things are changing?? Plenty of fish even with the seals swimming round.

On surfacing Eddie had a slight medical problem, so I immediately placed him on my 75% O<sup>2</sup> system, we up anchored and moved across to Lynn and Mick on Ocean Trek who were anchored in the southern part of the Drum and Drumsticks bay. After transferring Eddie to Ocean Trek they put him on 100% O<sup>2</sup>, stabilized him, then contacted Nowra hospital for an ambulance to be sent to Murray's boat ramp a.s.a.p. – The Coastal Patrol at Jervis Bay was also contacted. We took Eddie back on board “SeaJohn” for a “warp speed 10 + 2 “ - trip back to Murray's boat ramp – under the cliffs to Point Perpendicular, no problem but a strong westerly wind chop of 1.5M once we entered the bay was a bit rugged we met the coastal patrol boat and they followed us to the ramp.

The ramp was closed awaiting our arrival and the last we saw of Eddie - he was last seen being taken away by 2 blondes in a white van.

Eddie was taken to Nowra hospital and then taken by helicopter to the Prince of Wales Hospital. Eddie was released the following Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> with further tests to be done - they do not think it was a DCS problem.

We pulled the pin on diving and left early for home on the Monday morning with Mike going to check on Eddie's condition in the hospital (No; the nurses were not picking on him).

A big thanks to the crew for their help for their response in an emergency.

**Photos by Heinz B. and Mike S. Article by - John B.**

P.S. Warren on Ocean Trek told me of the location of the grey nurse sharks at the drum – we go over them each time we go to the creek for coffee break.  
Next Trip ???



**Other recent shots from our Jervis Bay Easter Club Weekend Away Dives.**



## **The Great Anchor Retrieval Expedition – 27 June 2009.**

John Prior was in a thoughtful mood. Looking at the anchor firmly wedged into a crack in the reef at 31m he was glad that it was not he that threw the anchor.

That pleasure had been Shaun Reynolds's.

However John also knew that as last diver it was his responsibility to free the anchor. And he could not! There was no way the anchor was going to come out of the crack that Shaun had managed to drop it in.

You could almost see tears in his eyes as Dave cut the anchor line, and headed for the surface. On the deco stop all he could think of was how to explain to Eddie how they had managed to loose the anchor that had been kindly donated to Down Under.

That was the previous Saturday, when conditions were to put it mildly unpleasant. Although no current it was very bumpy on the surface with waves significantly larger than predicted. With the boat bouncing around on the surface extracting the anchor from the very secure spot that Shaun had managed to land it in had not been an option.

So one week later, with salvage crews assembled, two boats, Le Scat and Down Under, set out from Yowie Bay on the great anchor retrieval expedition.



Dave had briefed us in the anchor's location. It was way down in a crack, a very thin crack, on top of the reef. Somewhere on Middle Ground. To retrieve it would require skill, dexterity, perseverance.

On Le Scat there was Michael, Kelly, Mark R, Peter F and Trish. On Down Under we had Dave, John, Shaun, and me. We were pumped, we were primed, and we were ready to risk all to retrieve Eddies anchor.

The day was overcast with nice flat seas. We had a nice run out from Yowie Bay in the calm conditions, and in no time had both boats anchored at Middle Ground.



We watched whales in the distance as they headed north on their annual migration as we prepared for the dive. First retrieval attempt from Down Under would be the "A" team, with Shaun and me first in the water.

Once on the bottom Shaun checked

our anchor, secured it while I set up my camera, then we headed up onto the reef to search. It took about 10 seconds to find, as Dave had managed to place today's anchor not far from where it had been placed the previous weekend.



We admired Shaun's placement handy work.

(I bet he couldn't do it again) and then Dave's very neat cut of the rope.

Michael, Kelly and Trish then arrived. Michael took one look, stuck his hand into the crack from the side, and out came the anchor. It all looked so easy, especially after the stories Dave had told of its placement and the expected level of difficulty to retrieve it. After the obligatory trophy photos Michael took the anchor for later bartering purposes, and Shaun and I enjoyed the rest of our dive.



Visibility was quite good, with nice gorgonians, dusky sea fans, beds of sea whips, sea tulips, purple and orange sponges, hard corals, mados, one spot pullers, and a solitary weedy dragon.



On the safety stop we advised the descending Dave and John that the mission had been successful though I am not sure if the message got through.

I was told later that they spent half the dive searching for the anchor so I guess not. Morning tea was had at Jibbon, with deals being done between Dave and Michael for the anchor. Dave was so happy to have his anchor back that the crew from Down Under then did a second dive, this time to Pizza Reef.

Visibility was even better for this dive, with nice overhangs, a large school of bastard trumpeter, lovely bright red gorgonians, banded perch and southern sea fans.

All in all a very successful expedition. Not only was the anchor retrieved but we had two excellent dives.

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### **- Travels by Paul Watkinson -**

I have been driving around Aus hence not been around.

I'll be back in a week's time.

Did about 25 dives on the reef including 4 on the Yongala, and had an Awesome Minky Whale experience.



Also saw humpbacks and dolphins around the boat. Obviously the UTS (Usual Tropical fishes, I love the place with turtles, bull rays, sharks and sea snakes etc etc. I had a Bullray playing with me, he swam right up my body and another hovered above me on awesome night dive.

## - Dances with Dolphins -

Every now and then you have a dive that will live in your memory bank for the rest of your life. Saturday 18 July 2009 will rank as one of those dives.



The day started as a typical Saturday morning boat dive. At Yowie Bay boat ramp for the dive on Down Under were Mark R, John P, Andreas T, Dave C and me. Lovely sunny day but quite cold – typical winter diving.

After loading and launching the boat we headed out to dive Barren's Hut. Dave's GPS soon had us on the site and I had first go at picking in – no luck. So pull the anchor up, back to the site, throw again - no luck. John P then took over to show me how it is done. First attempt - no luck. We were only drifting slowly so Andreas jumped in with his rebreather to secure the anchor but all he found was sand so up he came. Another attempt and we finally managed to get the anchor to bite. First in the water was Mark, Andreas and me. The anchor was on a flat reef covered in kelp (no wonder we couldn't get the anchor to bite) near the reef wall so Mark relocated our tenuous anchor hold to a more secure location. The site did not look like Barren's Hut. We appeared to have drifted some distance south of



© Ron Walsh

the planned site while waiting for the anchor to bite (later confirmed) so we headed north along the wall looking for the cave. We had only gone about 40m along the wall when the dolphins arrived.

My initial reaction was “what the....” because it was so totally unexpected. We had up to eight dolphins swim around and over us for over a minute. You could hear their sonar going click, click, click as they weaved around us. One or two came quite close but most stayed a little in the background.

I could hear Mark or Andreas or both giving off excited squeals of delight as we got buzzed.



Then as quick as they arrived they were gone. We looked at each other and even with masks on I could see the huge grins on their faces. Then a single dolphin came into view, checked us out, and disappeared. We spent the next couple of minutes searching to the edge of visibility looking for another encore performance but alas it was not to be.

We continued the dive along the wall to where Mark’s reel ran out, and then returned back past the anchor and to the limit of Mark’s reel the other direction.



We didn’t find Barren’s Hut but we did find weedy dragons, sea whip gardens, brick stars, small overhangs, dusky sea ferns, temperate gorgonians, sea tulips, red morwong, silver bream and a myriad of small reef fish.

Dave and John arrived at the anchor to start their dive at the same time as we arrived to begin our ascent. It was a bit hard with sign language to tell them we had dived with dolphins so we just waved and started up the anchor line. We hadn't gone up far when we got buzzed by a small seal. It wasn't playful and didn't hang around for long but it did add a finishing moment to what had been a memorable dive.



In talking to Dave and John afterwards we found out that a large pod of dolphins had cruised past the boat while we were on the bottom and that they had had their own close encounter.

Morning tea was had in the sun at Bass and Flinders, before we headed back to the boat ramp to end a truly memorable dive experience.

Ron Walsh



## - North Head - 28<sup>th</sup> June 2009 by Jason Coombs -

With flat conditions and clouds that lifted early on to reveal sunshine it was a great day to be out on the water. We had 3 boats Le Scat, Ian Gowan's Boat and Scram2 for this dive.

We anchored up just in from the southern tip of North Head just inside from the dive called green wheelie bin reef.

Greg, Shelley and I waited on the surface while the first shift went off Ian's boat.



It certainly wasn't uneventful, we had a seal swimming around the boat (a number of divers saw it under water) and also a pair of whales past within a few hundred metres lifting their tails out of the water as they did so.

We entered the reasonably cold water with about 5-6 metres which improved during the dive as the tide was on its way in.

From the anchor we headed out to

the sand line where Greg had a close encounter with a giant cuttlefish which almost ended in a warm embrace.

I however stayed away as I've been chased by one before.

There wasn't a huge amount of fish life but the fixed life was excellent with fantastic range of colours. Greg and Shelley spotted the seal at the end of the dive but I was on the other side of a rock looking at an eagle ray.

After the dive we headed to Clifton Gardens for morning tea and the usual credibility stretching stories of what we had and would've liked to have seen.

Thank you to Peter Flockart for organising the dive and Michael, Ian and Ray for making their boats available.



## South West Rocks 4th to the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

Present on this adventure were Skippers John Beddie and Ray Moulang and their crew Michael McFadyen, Heinz Bendinger, David Casburn, John Prior, Martin Muller (Sunday afternoon), Peter Trayhurn (arriving Sunday Night) and last to arrive was Andrew Moulang (arriving Monday afternoon).

Sunday 05/07/09.

There were rumours and rumblings, the seas were up!

It was Sunday there was one boat with 5 crew-SeaJohn, John B the skipper; crew Michael, David C and John P against a predicted wild sea, (Seabreeze 0700 hrs).

The trip up the river was uneventful. As a first timer across this bar, I experienced some exhilaration and trepidation, this was heightened when the life jackets appeared and donned with instructions that I had best close my dry suit for the

crossing of the bar. There were assurances that this was required over all bars and that it was a safe exit. The bar was breaking on the north and calm on the south. The sea in the bay appeared flat. Exiting the bar life jackets were removed. Now secured we headed to the south past the old Gaol and then the point.



From this point Green Island can be seen in the distance and just beyond this approximately three kilometres, was Fish Rock. The seas were calm, two metres on a gentle roll. The trip was quick and uneventful. SeaJohn came to a rest at the Land of the Giants. We commenced here as this area is generally washed out and today promised the best diving.

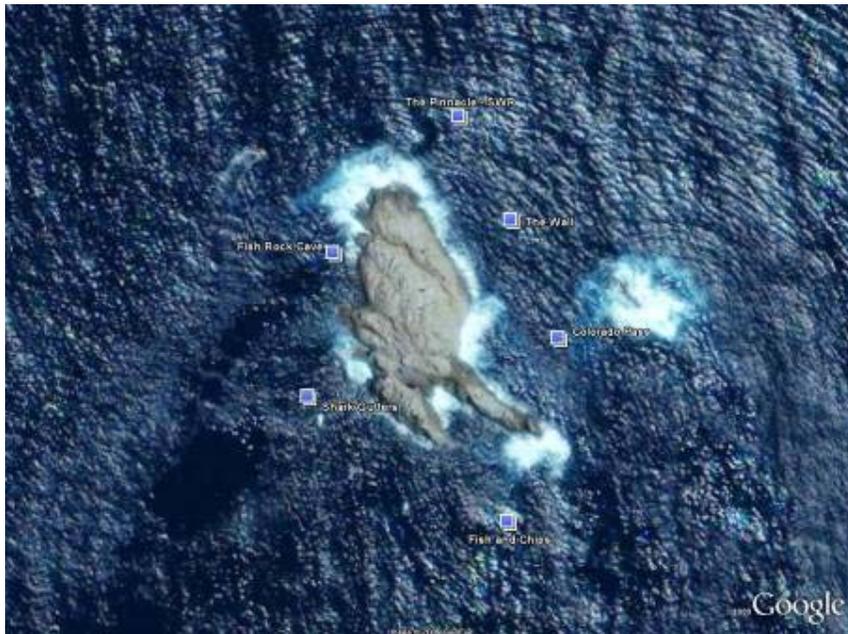
On the satellite picture this site is east of Colorado pass on the opposite side of the white patch, this patch is really a big rock.

The rock is the top of a wall that runs to a depth of 40 metres. Not the whole dive was spent at that depth; from about 35 metres the sharks become visible.

Very large grey nurse sharks some up to 2.5 metres in length, just cruising up the gutters and trying to ignore the intruders.

Besides all the sharks a green turtle was wedged under a rock trying to get some sleep. The others on the dive saw a number of Estuary cods, Banner fish, Moorish Idols, and Lion fish.

During the surface interval there was a constant procession of whales with one going directly under the boat blowing a thin curtain of bubbles as they disappeared to the stern of Sea John.



After such an eventful surface interval, the conversation quickly focused on the diving.

The second dive of the day would be at Colorado Pass. We anchored on the deep side of the pinnacle in the lee side of the island

Descending on the pinnacle we moved to Colorado pass, the return journey took all of 20 minutes.

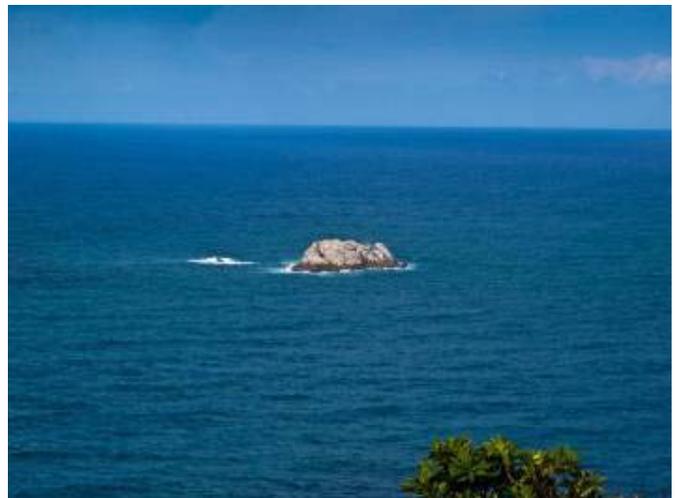
In the distance there was a large Queensland Gropser, the count of Grey Nurse Sharks just keeps rising this time to over 15. Other than sharks, so passé, there were Queensland Gropers and far too many Wobbegong sharks to count.

On the return boat trip there were smiles all round, but a concern! Starting on such a high note could it get any better!

### **Monday 06/07/09**

After Sunday the expectations were high for the days diving. However the weather being so changeable making definite plans was difficult. The crews had been mixed up with SeaJohn skippered by John B, crew being Michael, Heinz and David. On Scram was Ray (Skipper), Peter, John P and Martin.

Both boats were moored on the buoys set in the shark gutters. Descending the buoy we had 5 to 10 metre visibility and numerous two metre plus grey nurses cruising up and down the gutters. We left the buoy moving east along the gutters looking for more sharks, only finding them when we returned to the buoy. The moral of the story if you see sharks stay still and let them come to you. Conditions were deteriorating so Scram moved to the north side of Green Island. Visibility here was excellent more than ten metres. Unfortunately there were no sharks, so we headed to the east of the island swimming through and over some amassing topography, boulders and gutters. On the eastern side of the island there were Blue Gropers, Banner fish all over the place, and a large ball of Yellow Tail moving slowly. What a great dive.



## **Tuesday 07/07/09**

SeaJohn didn't go out, Scram went out late, Ray the skipper, and crew Andrew, Peter T and John P.

Due to the lateness of the of the departure we had agreed to only do one dive and because of the excellent dive on Monday we thought a return to Green Island, the north side, would be a good start to the day.

Unfortunately unlike Monday the visibility was poor. Less than three metres but the water temp was a balmy nineteen degrees centigrade.

On reaching the bottom I was extremely surprised and a little startled by the sight of a shark's tail, a very large sharks tail, disappearing into the gloom. This shark must have been over 2.5 metres. I could only clearly see about 1/3 of the shark at any time. Interestingly this shark was being followed by a school of smaller fish which looked like small yellowtail.

When the shark had moved off I again noticed how bad the visibility really was and moved over to the sand line and followed it back to where we had agreed to anchor for the pickup.

Due to depth sixteen metres and as we had plenty of air left so we swam back to the wall for a look at what was hanging about we came across Blue Gropers and a large school of small Yellowtail, and of course the large Grey Nurse Shark which was just hanging about.

## **Wednesday 08/07/09**

The weather was deteriorating,

on rounding the point the seas were lumpy with further deterioration predicted.

Aboard SeaJohn was Michael, as skipper, Heinz John P and David; on Scram was Ray as skipper and the crew Andrew, Martin and Peter.

The plan was to have a look at Fish Rock and dive if possible. We had a look at the gutters in front of fish rock cave. With the swell coming from the south it was a bit rough so there was a unanimous decision to dive the pinnacles, which offered some protection.

The anchors were set to the south side of the pinnacle; we descended the anchor to poor viability and moderate surge. The base of the pinnacle was visible and easily accessible; we managed one loop around the pinnacle then back to where we expected the anchor to be only it wasn't.

The anchor was now over on the southern face of the pinnacle itself, the chain was resting over the reef, and in very close proximity to scrams anchor. Ascending, I did my deco on Scram's deco line and then up our anchor line to the boat. What did we see; over 20 grey nurse sharks, numerous wobbegongs under



foot looking very menacing, eagle rays and bull rays, and a well camouflaged slipper Cray under the anchor chain.

The second and what turned out to be the last dive of the trip was to dive the North side of the Pinnacle. We remained anchored on the Pinnacle descending the line to the wall then continuing on the sheltered side of the pinnacle.

There were even more wobbegong here, you really need to be careful where you put your hand, one diver nearly put a hand on the head of a particularly pissed off wobbegong. It appeared as though every shelf was occupied with a very grumpy Wobbegong.

There was a resident Blue Gropper and a large Queensland Groper cruising the deep waters. The visibility was very poor possibly only five to ten metres and sadly dropping, we had lost the protection of the Pinnacle with the seas apparently changing direction, and we experienced some surge.

On surfacing there was a large school of black fish hanging about under the boat, very pretty.

**Thursday 09/07/09** - 0800 hrs we decided to go to Smokey cape and have a look, what we saw was not encouraging, oh well the day in front of the TV watching movies and playing Euchre.

**Friday 10/07/09**

0600hrs the house is quiet, there is a bird outside the window softly chirping and no other sounds.

0700 hrs Martin surfaces and wonders into the lounge room.

0730 Heinz wonders through the kitchen.

0735 to 0900 hrs other less Peter T wonder through and around the house. Peter has come down with a nasty upper respiratory infection, a cold.

I fear that there will be no diving today, by 1000 hrs its official no diving today, bugger.....

Out came the cards again, Photoshop tutorials and the movies.



As per expected the food played a big part of our away trip. Decorated with names and fish shapes on tops.

- Chicken and Steak Pies thanks to Michael and the boys.





Here a bouts we have pictures of Pie preparation, cooked and feast devoured - all gone.

I assure you that we didn't go hungry.



In the balance an excellent week, the diving was great; the food was exceptional and of cause thanks to the chefs, the BBQs and the pies need special mention they were creative, and of cause the company was superb.

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## **Dive report for Club Dive on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 to Pizza Reef by Ray Moulang.**

Just as a starter, when you get nominated to do an article then you actually get to tell the truth about what actually happened.

What happens on a dive stays on a dive. Yea sure!!!

Well anyway, you city types and shire-ites don't know how good you have it.

We folks in the country awoke to getting the boats ready in minus one degree on a lovely winter's morning. Arriving at Yowie bay it was great to feel no wind to speak of and beautiful blue skies.

There were mad divers running all over the place trying to load gear into four of the five boats going on this dive. The cold had kept the general public off the water which was good for us this time. As the fifth boat arrived it was smiles all

round and down to the business of enjoying ourselves.

Those present were 26 of our clubs best looking and most talented divers that there were too many to name.

Some new to the club and the usual regulars. All in the water ok from the ramp and off we go.



Pizza reef is small and it was a challenge to park five boats on that small reef without incident but true to form it all happened like clockwork as usual.

On our boat we were indebted to Greg and Shelley for digging in our pick on the last bit of south end rock ridge they could find. My buddy for today was Dave G, we have dived together before down at JB. We looked around and there was no one else left to get in, just us and some were starting to return so we jumped in.

The viz was pretty low at about 10mts and temperature was about 14 to 15 degrees. We followed around the reef to the north – west and over most of the reef. We found some Tassie Trumpeter and lots of large red morwong in the crevices. The usual leatherjackets and other small strippey things were around. We had a good look around. Back on the surface we were the only ones in the boats left out there.



Beautiful sunny day and a really low rolling swell. We could have stayed out there all day. Anyway back to reality.

My crew were telling us of Pitt Street underwater and macramé anchors.

We headed back in to see the Jibbon Beach moorings bare.

Off to Darks Bay we go. Upon approaching this area, it looked like there had been an approval for a block of flats to be built across the bay opening but then we realised that it was only the other boats rafted up and all enjoying themselves with coffee, tea and soup in hand.



You should have seen the feast going on.

We joined in of course and enjoyed our cupper in the sun. All too soon we finished and headed on a scenic route back to the ramp.

Job well done to Dave C for organising this dive. I still don't know how he organises the good weather but I hear he got a few clues from Peter F.

Well done again to all those that braved the winter. Pictures by Ian G.

# **What's Happening Soon-etc.**

**FOR SALE**, Dacor Outback BC (rear inflation), Suitable for twin tanks / integrated weights, Good condition - Asking price \$300 Contact Peter Flockart either by phone 0409 304 959 or email [pjflockart@speednet.com.au](mailto:pjflockart@speednet.com.au)

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- Gear Wanted – Mares Fin buckles, old style (no red locks)

contact Kelly McFadyen 0410 599 186.

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## Club Dive Weekend to South West Rocks.

**From Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2009.**

Trip Booked out with 24 divers. Names taken for stand-by list now. RayM.



**The Club Away Dive Weekend to Forster trip is now booked out.**

**Dates are 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2009.**

**Standby list exists contact Paul Pacey.**

## **AGM Reminder**

Just a quick reminder that the Annual General Meeting will follow the club meeting on the 19th August. In order to be able to vote at the AGM you need to be a paid up member of the club.

One the reasons that the club is so successful is that many members contribute their time including as members of the committee. The committee positions are:

President  
Vice-President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Assistant Secretary / Treasurer  
Newsletter Editor

If you would like to be nominated for one of these roles you will need someone to nominate you on the night. Anyone nominating another member should get that members permission in advance.

Happy Diving  
Jason Coombs  
Club President

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## **Tank Testing**

Heinz will collect tanks for testing at the February meeting.

The cost of testing is \$15. To get such a cheap price, there are some conditions:

1. Remove tank boots, mesh, valve caps, carrying handles, tank bands, sling rings and limpet mines.
2. Evacuate air from tank completely and close valve.
3. Write your name on the valve and on the tank and indicate with a YES if you require an air fill.  
Use of masking tape or tags is good.
4. Come to the February meeting and bring your tank/s with you. If you can't make it to the meeting, find someone who will be attending to do it for you.
5. Tanks will be taken AFTER the meeting in the car park.
6. No deviation from the above will be entertained. If this does not suit your itinerary feel free to do it in your own time at greater expense.

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## **Important Matters.**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Just a reminder that under clause 4 (1) of the new St George Scuba Club Constitution that was adopted at last year's AGM, a member now only has one month's grace period after the end of the membership period (30 June) to gain benefits of membership. As such, if you have not renewed your membership by next Friday, 31 July 2009, you will no longer be a member of the Club. Soon after 1 August, your access to the Club's web site will be removed and you will also be removed from the Club's email lists and no longer receive emails or newsletters.

If you have not yet renewed your membership, you need to either send a cheque for \$25 to the Club at PO Box PO Box 453, Hurstville South, NSW, 2221 or transfer your membership fee to St George Scuba Club Inc BSB 062 028 A/c No. 0080 0455 and put in the details your name. Please also email [treasurer@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au](mailto:treasurer@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au).

**BOAT ETIQUETTE AND CLUB DIVES** A reminder also that the Club has adopted a boat etiquette for when we dive out of Club members' boats. This is found at [http://www.stgeorgescubaclub.org.au/viewpage.php?page\\_id=11](http://www.stgeorgescubaclub.org.au/viewpage.php?page_id=11).

Some main points:

- you need to help loading and unloading the boat, with not just your own equipment, but of anyone else who is on the boat
- this especially includes the gear of members who may at the time be setting up the boat and not able to load their own gear
- when unloading boats, again, you need to assist with taking gear off the boat, not just your own – please do not carry your gear to your car, leave it near the boat till the boat is fully unloaded
- you need to help launching and retrieving boats – please do not just stand watching while one person attempts to do everything
- all of our dives are organised by fellow members, in their own time and for no reward.
- members are reminded that despite the best efforts by the member organising a dive, sometimes things will go wrong with the organising. For example, sometimes mistakes will be made and names forgotten and a dive overbooked.
- if a dive changes or is cancelled, the organiser will make appropriate attempts to contact the members on the dive. However, it will sometimes happen that a member cannot be contacted. Members need to accept that this will happen on occasions.

- even if there is no doubt about the weather conditions for a dive, members are recommended to at the very least, check their home phone answering machines, mobile phone voicemail and SMS and their emails.
- if there is poor weather forecast for the day of the dive, members should contact the organiser if they have not heard from them about the dive. It is not acceptable to blame the organiser if you turn up at a dive and find no-one there, no matter what has happened. This is certainly the case if you have not even checked your phone for messages.
- wherever possible, you will be allocated to the most suitable boat available or on the same boat as a nominated buddy and it may be possible to allocate you to a specific boat upon request
- sometimes due to experience of the divers involved in a dive, it may be that you will be allocated to a boat leaving from a location that may not be as suitable as may be otherwise requested

Adherence to the etiquette will ensure that boat owners continue to be happy to take members out diving on Club dive days.

### **CLUB DIVING GUIDELINES**

The Club also has a series of guidelines about diving with the Club. See [http://www.stgeorgescubaclub.org.au/viewpage.php?page\\_id=13](http://www.stgeorgescubaclub.org.au/viewpage.php?page_id=13) for details.

The main summary of this is that you need to have the appropriate experience and equipment for a dive and that the dive organiser and/or boat owner have absolute authority to refuse to take a member on any dive for any reason.

**TRIPS AWAY** The Club's Dive Trip Away policy can be read at [http://www.stgeorgescubaclub.org.au/viewpage.php?page\\_id=16](http://www.stgeorgescubaclub.org.au/viewpage.php?page_id=16). The main points can be summarised as:

- you are not booked on a trip till you have paid your deposit
- you should speak to the organiser about the diving and accommodation before paying your deposit so that you are aware of these
- any special requests for accommodation and diving outside those organised may/will incur you with extra costs
- if you cancel out of the trip within a month of the trip and a replacement cannot be found, you will almost certainly forfeit your deposit as well as being required to pay the remaining share of the accommodation that you would have had to pay had you attended
- all questions about diving before and during the trip should be addressed to the trip organiser, not the dive operator. Michael McFadyen St George Scuba Club. [www.stgeorgescubaclub.org.au](http://www.stgeorgescubaclub.org.au)



## Regular events

### THURSDAY NIGHT DIVES

We have had some record turnouts for the night dives.  
Most of the dives have been very good, with nice visibility and good fish life.  
Contact Michael if interested.

## 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 take time to appear as it needs to be authorised by a web site administrator).

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### The Committee is:

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Jason Coombs	9345 4599	<a href="mailto:President@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au">President@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au</a>
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT:</b>	Peter Flockart	9371 0265	<a href="mailto:pjflockart@speednet.com.au">pjflockart@speednet.com.au</a>
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Eddie Ivers	0403 014 241	<a href="mailto:Secretary@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au">Secretary@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au</a>
<b>TREASURER:</b>	Mark Ridsdale	0419 243717	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au">Treasurer@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au</a>
<b>ASST SEC / TRES:</b>	David Casburn	0405 186 184	<a href="mailto:dcasburn@iinet.net.au">dcasburn@iinet.net.au</a>
<b>WEBMASTER:</b>	Michael McFadyen	9545 5596	<a href="mailto:Webmaster@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au">Webmaster@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au</a>
<b>EDITOR:</b>	Ray Moulang	04034 37974	<a href="mailto:Newsletter@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au">Newsletter@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au</a>

Please send items for the Newsletter to me as you do them during the month with a deadline of 25th of the month.