



- July 2009 - Edited by Ray Moulang -

Included in this issue are Dive Reports from -

Peter Flockart, John Beddie, Shelley Breuseker, Tanya Whitehead, Michael McFadyen and Peter Trayhurn.

A big thank you goes to them, without these reports we have no newsletter.

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



Soft Coral in Thailand - by Peter Flockart.

Trip to Thailand – The Other Half - By Peter Flockart.

MV Colona VI by Team Australia.

Peter Flockart, Ron Walsh, Sheila Baldock and Dick Fish.

After our arrival in Phuket the second half of the group, had a day & a half to rest up & sample the food & drink of the region. Some of us who were very tired after the trip over indulged just a little on the Saturday afternoon, which resulted in a couple of sore heads the next morning.

Sunday saw us packed & out of the hotel rooms by 12pm. This left us the afternoon to shop, have a leisurely lunch & swim in the hotel pool.



After dinner we were collected from the hotel (The Cottages) by staff from Colona Liveboards at around 7:30pm.

The collection was interesting as it consisted of a minibus for people, a truck for our gear & involved driving around Phuket & Patong for what seemed ages collecting all the other divers who were on the boat from various hotels.

With everyone collected we were deposited at a floating wharf at Patong for a boat ride out by a longtail vessel to the MV Colona VI a 28m timber boat that was moored in the harbour. With our gear aboard I thought we would get underway.

However not being versed in the local ways we were surprised to see them having a trip ceremony which was dedicated to the gods. They are devout Buddhists' in this area. It involves an offering of food, prayers & the letting off of an 8ft string of firecrackers to ward off evil spirits. I guess after the sinking of the MV Asia it was a good idea to pray for a trouble free journey.



After a smooth nights steaming over a flat sea most people awoke refreshed & ready to dive. Other divers on the boat consisted of Americans, Russians, Japanese, English, Singaporean Swedish & Scandinavian's.

We dived before breakfast at a site known as Anita's Reef which is between Islands five & six of the Similians Group. The site is a drift dive over a series of bommies & gutters that range from 5 to 30 metres on a sloping sand wall. It was designed as a check-out dive for most people so they could setup weights or check cameras. The creed over here is NO gloves & back with 50 bar or 1 hour. Over the course of the trip, though most of us exceeded this bottom time & used gloves for operational reason.

After this it was back for breakfast, a large buffet of fruit /eggs/bacon/noodles plus toast & jam & coffee/tea (no going hungry on this boat).

After a 2hr surface interval we dived East of Eden – a drift dive along Island seven thru scattered coral gardens filled with gorgonians, soft corals & huge schools of trevally & goat fish. On this dive very few nudibranchs were seen.



Lunch was another buffet – this time of Thai food.

You could then have a quiet nap or visit to Donald Duck Bay where you could go ashore or stay on the boat. Myself & Shelia stayed on board.

While the others were ashore, Hawksbill Turtles swam up to the boat & nibbled on bananas.

After this we went for the afternoon dive at a site called 3 trees, one of which was seen on the bottom.

This was the best dive so far being a combination of both wide angled & macro shots for the photographers with subjects ranging from fish/hard & soft corals, nudibranchs & sea whips.

Ron stayed in the water for some 70mins he was having so much fun that he almost missed out on the muffins that had been baked while we were out.

There was a fourth dive offered & all but the keen people went, Ron being the only one to go from our group.

Dinner was served after the last dive & again was a buffet consisting of Thai & Western cuisine. With a few drinks under our belts & a long day of diving most people retired to their cabins to sleep.

Tuesday saw the whole crew up early for a 7am dive at North Rocks.



This was a dive to 30m to see Leopard Sharks before swimming up the slope, past a ship's bow shaped rock & down a ravine filled with large gorgonian fans before passing over a gibber plain of rubble to coral bommies. At the end of your dive, you deploy your SMB & await collection by the boat.

It was then time for breakfast & surface interval before the next dive at 10am at an island called Koh Bon. This was where you find out how many boats are around. As we prepared to drop in there were 8 other boats with about 20 divers each around us. Talk about Pitt Street on the bottom. You had to concentrate on your buddy otherwise you got lost. They said it was a pretty dive but the strong current made it for me, the opposite. The bottom has been dynamite fished & is just a mass of broken coral. However there are lots of fish – snapper, long toms, jacks & trevally to name a few. Some soft corals are growing but the traffic in the water makes it hard for them to survive.

After collection, lunch and surface interval it was off to the much talked about site of Tachai Pinnacle.

It actually consists of two pinnacles that rise to 12m from the surface & drop away to 50m.

Around them are a series of boulders which give rise to overhangs & swim thru's.

While there are some hard corals here it is sea fans/ soft corals/sea whips & the variety of anemones which we had come to see.

The area is also known for leopard sharks & Manta Rays. We saw two leopard sharks but no mantas during the dive.



There was a fourth dive offered on a small reef in the Surin Islands where we anchored for the night. After the dive & over dinner which was highlighted by a magnificent sunset the group discussed our planned dive to Richelieu Rock the next morning. Steve & Patrick our dive guides said we could do it as an early morning dive with a second a 9am or wait until 10am & dive with the mob. By the mob they meant the 8 or 9 day boats that come out. We took the first option.

After a dinner of beef, vegetables & rice washed down with Gin & lemonade it was off to charge batteries & sleep.

Wednesday (Day 3) saw the boat up at 5am for the one hour run from the Surin Islands to Richelieu rock.



At about 6.05 the call came to gear up & prepare to dive. A boat had been sighted on the mooring at the dive site. Since we were determined to dive first we quickly geared up, it was to be a hit & dive – commando style. As we approached we noticed the divers on the other boat were still finishing their breakfast & they were surprised to see us to say the least.

As it was we arrived at 6.30am & the first group jumped in at

6.35am closely followed by the second group at 6.38am.

We descended into crystal clear water that was 20m deep. On three sides of this site it drops away to a darker water of 40+ m. Some 25minutes later we saw divers from the moored boat swimming past us.

Richelieu Rock is an isolated pinnacle that rises 1m above the surface before dropping away to deeper water. We were lucky today, no current.

It is known for both whale sharks & mantas, but they weren't home when we called on this day. The rocks are covered in a wide range of soft corals covering every colour of the rainbow.

In the crevices are banded coral shrimps, lionfish, ghost pipe fish, with clown fish & anemones seen on rocks.

There are also a huge number of fans, but unfortunately many show damage from anchors & fishing lines. Around all this swim large schools of snapper & squirrel fish. All in all, the spectacle is fantastic.

The site for me tended to be mainly a macro dive although if you worked for it there were a large number of wide angle possibilities to be had as evidenced by some of Ron's photos.



After the dive we surfaced to find that the day boats had arrived & the place was filling fast. With divers on board we moved away for the surface interval & coffee in the rain that was moving across the site. During this time we observed a series of large water spouts forming on the ocean.

Later at 9.30am we moved back into the 10 boats that were arranged around the site for our second dive. Again we were lucky as all the other boats were having their surface intervals and we had the site to ourselves. Most people descended with one of the guides while Ron & I swam off to do our own thing. We moved down the gutter before heading around to the back of the site to photograph marine life not normally seen by the divers. Here we saw pink gapers(very rare) & their escorts, large schools of snapper & other unknown fish, moray eels, spectacular soft corals, complete fans as well as pin cushion & teddy bear stars. During the dive, the tide changed & there were a series of cold patches.

After collecting all our crew we headed back to Tachai pinnacle for the third dive of the day while enjoying another satisfying lunch of Thai style food.

Tachai Pinnacle had a current but it allowed us to the other side of the pinnacle where bare rocks covered in algae led us into gutters full of fans & small clumps of staghorn coral.

Many of these deep gutters, some 6m deep had sandy bottoms but the walls were covered in a huge variety of fans, whips & other growth. We all agreed that for photography Wide Angle just doesn't do this site justice, it's just amazing. From my point of view this was the third best dive for the trip. After recovery, which was affected during a rain storm we steamed back to Koh Bon across flat seas & clearing skies. Upon mooring at Koh Bon the fourth dive set out, at around 4.30pm. The people who went on this were rewarded with the sight of a 6m Manta who stayed & played for some 20minutes. Lots of photos & video was taken for all enjoy with their pre dinner drinks.

During this time we were treated to a spectacular sunset that seemed to go on forever.

It was a great last night at sea. At this point in our trip they bought out the t/shirts & books for people to purchase.

As with other nights after dinner we sat around & talked for ages before slipping off to our respective beds for much needed sleep.



We all slept well & awoke to the banging on doors at 6.00am for a 7am dive.

We motored over to a site known as Koh Bon pinnacle where for the first time we had a raging current. The site is similar to castle ramparts & comes to 20m of the surface before falling away to some 70m. The boulders of this site are covered with fans & small corals. It is a site for leopard sharks, & several were seen



although not in the best photographic poses. By the end of the dive the mooring which had been on the surface was now at 7m making deco difficult. In the end some swam closer to the island while others unfurled their SMB's for deco.

The second dive was at 10am & was a drift dive along the side of the Island & back to the bay.

Here you got to see the full effect of dynamite fishing, absolutely disgusting. The practice has now been stopped but it will take a long time for the reef to recover given the pressures that it is under from divers.

The trip back over a dead flat royal blue sea involved washing & packing gear, lunch (spaghetti Bolognese, spring rolls & diced pineapple) & paying of bills.

We also took group photos & were treated to the sight of Stephan, one of the Scandinavian guys in a bright green mankini???

The boat tied up to the wharf at Thap Lamu a port about 1½ hrs from Patong due to the skipper wanting to reload provisions from a flat area rather than via the long shaft boats. We were loaded into a minibus & our gear onto a truck for the long ride home to the Karon Beach Resort at Phuket.

It had been a wonderful four days with great diving & company. The boat & crew had been fantastic in being able to fit us in at short notice & would use them again if we go back to Thailand.

This has been written by Peter Flockart in conjunction with Ron Walsh, Shelia Baldock & Dick Fish.



Duskies by Martin M.





These three shots were taken by Dave C. on the club trip to Thailand.



Club Anzac Day Boat Dive - By John B and Crew.

Well, I arrived at Yowie Bay boat ramp at 8:00am to be met by the crew Mark R, Heinz B, John P and Eddie I and them wanting to know why I was running a touch late.

I do admit the forecast for huge swells 3 Metres and a wind NW up to 25/30 Knots was not good boating information, worse still I heard over the radio that there was 2 fishermen where lost wash off the rocks at North Bondi - one died.



As we were going out at high tide we noticed that the swells were breaking at Jibbon Bombie and Osborne Shoals - not a good sign - Middle ground a better choice than Voodoo - don't have to travel so far - well we travelled there without much trouble - but the water was dirty on top - 2nd choice Pizza reef – a great club dive – as per photos.

John B.



(Quote by Heinz)

- I get seasick looking at the photos because it was so rough out there.

It's All About Food by Shelley Breuseker.

Pictures from the Dive by Ron Walsh.

I used to dive with Max Weston many years ago and one of the sites we dived was Fish Reef. Funnily enough, I'd never seen much fish life there.

On Saturday 9th May we dived there again, off Lescat. Michael told us they call it Pizza Reef and it was teeming with fish, with schools of Yellowtail, Seapike, and Silver Sweep hanging above the reef and a big school of good sized Kingfish came past.

At the end of the dive, on the ascent the One Spot Pullers ascended with us, as they often seem to do.

Michael told us about a reef just to the north called KFC, and a bit further north another string of reefs called Hungry Jacks, Maccas and Red Rooster. Hmm, a bit of a theme going there.

The following day we did the See Food and Seafood event. Sunday the 10th was Mothers Day, and the weather wasn't that good, so we were surprised to see a large turnout of divers.

We arrived at Shiprock relatively early, but only got a parking spot 50 metres up the road. St George had about 18 divers, but there were at least two other groups there.



As we started to gear up there was a torrential downpour.

Those already in wet and dry suits were happy, but the rest of us huddled under umbrellas until it passed. Gearing up was very cold as the rain had taken all the heat out of the road.

The path down to the dive was very wet and muddy and negotiated with extreme caution. Once at the bottom, Greg and I both realised we'd left our torches in the car. Neither of us was interested in going back for them, so even though the sky was dark, we opted to continue without them.

Consequently, we spent a lot of our dive on the isolated bommies as these are further out from the wall and in more direct sunlight. On one of these we spotted several Verco's or Parramatta Tambja. One of these was curled up and looked very much like it was having a sleep.



Tambja verconis (Parramatta Tambja)
Via Google search

There were a couple of Banner Fish doing a very good impression of Moorish Idols. They had quite a few divers tricked with their very long dorsal fins. I always check the snout for that yellow saddle that Moorish Idols have.



I love the school of Stripeys that always seem to be in the same spot and the schools of fish that hang just off the wall in about 6 to 9 metres, so on that way back you swim past them, with the sunlight behind them.

This day, the vis had been a very reasonable 6-8 metres, but as we swam back, the results of the downpour started to show with a lot of silt coming in and visibility dropping to about 3 metres towards the end of the dive. This was probably more evident in the shallower water where we were, than at depth.

Greg and I were staying the weekend in Gynea, so had the luxury of a hot shower before returning to the Pacey residence with our beer and wine, for the Seafood part of the day.



There were just as many participants here, but not necessarily the same ones.

I'm not much of a seafood eater, so Greg was a bit worried that I wouldn't find much to eat, but I have to say the food was fantastic.

I didn't partake in the smoked salmon or fish cake entrées or the whole baked ocean trout, battered ling fillets or barbecued baby octopus.

But I did have a few tiger prawns and salt and pepper calamari. I am a great fan for salads and there were a couple of really great ones. Then the Thai prawns came out and they were just divine.

I think I had 3 helpings! I definitely got my \$15 dollars worth!

A big thank you to the PACEYS for the venue and the food (and everyone else that contributed) and cheers to the rest of the participants for the good company both below and above the waterline.

Our weekend away, in Sutherland, came to an end and we retreated to the northwest again.



Club Ulladulla Weekend Trip - By Tanya Whitehead – Pics by Pat Morin.

Eleven divers headed down to Ulladulla on May 1, 2009 for a weekend of diving. On the trip were Pat Morin, Peter Flockart, Robbie Mapstone, Brian Byrnes, Greg Blackburne, Shelly Breuseker, Janine Jenkins, Mark Ridsdale, Paul Pacey, Bob Trudgeon and myself.

Upon arrival, we were treated to a beautiful sunset and after sunset; a few resident possums came out to welcome us.

Once the majority of us arrived we headed out to the pub for our dinner and a few drinks.

On Saturday morning, we headed to the dive shop to fill out our paperwork and load the boat.



Once the boat was loaded we headed to the boat launch to begin our day of diving. The seas were relatively flat so we headed out to Burrill Rocks for our first dive.

This was a fantastic dive, the water was warm (19-20C), the vis was amazing and the geology was absolutely fantastic.

To top it off we saw two blue devils engaged in some kind of mating ritual, a couple of Moorish Idols and a giant cuttlefish.



After the first dive, we headed back to shore for morning tea and our surface interval.

After the surface interval we headed back on the water for our second dive at North Bommie.

The second dive had some great swim throughs, amazing sponge gardens and plethora of fish life. We ended the day with a great BBQ back at the tourist park - a feast fit for kings. Compliments to the chefs! On Sunday morning, we headed back to the dive shop. Full of excitement from the first day we quickly loaded the boat and left for the boat ramp. Only to realize we forgot to complete our paperwork. Oops! So we made a quick detour back to the dive shop to complete the paperwork and then we were on our way.



Our first dive was a drift dive along Lighthouse Wall.



Again, the water was warm, the vis was fantastic and the fish life was abundant.

Along the wall, we saw wobbegongs, a slipper lobster, groupers and much much more. In the sand we saw stingarees, large bull rays and a few sting rays.



For our second dive we headed to Home Bommie.

As we jumped in the water a huge 60 cm jelly fish floated by.

As we descended into the tunnel we saw the ship's anchor and then headed to seal cave.

This site has a few nice drop-offs with many large boulders and a kelp garden above.

All in all, it was an incredible weekend of diving with fun had by all.

Special thanks to Kelly McFadyen for organizing the weekend.

Terrigal June Long Weekend by Michael McFadyen

This weekend was originally planned to be at Norah head but the boat ramp there has fallen into such a poor state of repair that the charter operator can no longer launch from there. After exploring a few alternatives, the weekend was changed so that the diving was done out of Terrigal.

On the trip were Shaun Reynolds, Sharon Donoghue, Jason Coombs, Ron Walsh, Dave Casburn, Brian Byrnes, Mark Ridsdale, Kelly and myself. Unfortunately, Rox Fea was sick so she could not come up. We all headed up on the Friday afternoon or evening to the Toowoan Bay Holiday Park and all but Jason went to dinner at the local golf club.

Our accommodation was in the best cabins I have ever seen in a caravan park. They were huge and had everything.

Jason reckoned that his bachelor pad (with spa) was the place to be.

The next morning we met Bob Diaz from Pro Dive Central Coast at the Terrigal boat ramp. We headed off, bound for Foggy Cave. Unfortunately, the GPS would not start but after a bit of fiddling it came good. However, it was of no use as the co-ordinates for Foggy Cave were not in there. Bob has two boats and it seems that he has not used this one to dive there for some time.

After trying unsuccessfully to find the buoy at the site (we later learn that it is missing), we head to an alternative site called The Pinnacle. This is off Bateau Bay. From what I could see, it is not really a pinnacle, but it was a nice enough dive site. A few of us saw some huge kingfish on this dive.

The seas were almost millpond so we had some morning tea at this site before moving to the next one, Two Poles. This is located at the northern end of Wamberal Lagoon. This site was a sand gutter that had reef on both sides.

We saw a couple of sea dragons here as well as some large wobbegongs.

On one side of the gutter the reef had lots of cracks and there were heaps of fish in and over them.

There were also dozens of gorgonians, all very colourful. Not a bad dive.

After the dive we headed back to the caravan park for some relaxing.

That night we had a barbecue dinner and a few drinks. Kelly headed home after dinner as she had a uni exam on Monday and needed to study.

Sunday morning saw perfect conditions yet again and this time we made it to Foggy Cave. However, the anchor was a little off the wall and only about half of the crew actually made it to the cave.

This was also Shaun and Sharon's deepest ever dive.

After morning tea on the boat, we headed to Bateau Bay Reef. This is a sort of shallow basin in a reef. It was only an average dive.

That night we shared a huge Asian feed, a curry beef dish that I made and a chicken curry Mark knocked up. After the dinner Ron and Brian left as they had other plans for the Monday.

The next morning we had a late start (great after two early ones).

After a leisurely breakfast, we headed to Terrigal. Shaun, Sharon, Jason and I dived the Skillion Cave, a first for all of us, while Mark and Dave went for coffee.

It was an easy dive, although next time we could spend a lot more time in the water as we were not sure of how easy the exit would be so we left a lot of spare air in our tanks.

After the dive we headed home.

Visibility on all dives was not great, perhaps seven metres.

The water was warm, 19 to 20 degrees. Another great Club weekend away.

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**Five Pictures from a recent dive with
SeaJohn and Scram2 to North Maroubra
by Pat Morin.**



Moreton Island etc. Trip by Peter Trayhurn.

I had dinner with Ellie and kids and left Ultimo 7pm, I drove straight through the night to Tweed heads and arrived at sunrise, see the sunrise shots over Cook Island, they were really inspirational. Went to sleep for 10 minutes and got up 7am to do a double dive off Tweed heads that turned out to be the best of the trip. The colours and changes of the sunrise; happens second by second, so I included a few. I found this sunrise very striking, maybe it was my sleep deprived state or an after effect of all the coffees and diet cokes I had drunk on the way up.

The bar crossing was easy, we headed out to sea in the general direction of the reef, which was obvious due to approx 50 boats on it. It was tricky to visually identify one dive boat out of 50 fishoes. We had to find the Tweed heads operator, who by prior agreement was going to take us to a special spot. And special it was. The reef covered in green weedy grass, it was like a football field that had been submerged in 12 meters of water with vertical walls down to 22 meters and a sandy bottom. The leopard sharks were plentiful but a bit shy but after a couple of 80 minute dives they started to get friendly.

I have not dived often if at all with my prospective Moreton Island trip buddies so I stayed with them for about a minute underwater and lost them. My regular buddy stayed with me, my Subal housed Nikon d300 camera. We followed the reef wall around very slowly in almost no current, the topology; the colours and marine life were striking. My camera felt like a machine gun. The sun was so brilliant here without a cloud in the sky to get in its way, the western edge of the reef was lit up as if it had 1000 Dave Casburn 20watt HID torches on it.

The visibility had to be 25 meters plus because you could clearly see the boat from the sandy bottom.

Lion fish, a variety of rays. I don't know why I felt so exhilarated, maybe it was the combination of the visibility, the sharks, the rays, the abundance of fish and the odd topology or maybe it was sleep deprivation.

I think it was the latter but my photos underwater from the Tweed Heads diving are my favourites from the whole Moreton expedition. The excellent light worked well with the magic red filter on my Nikon fish eye lens. I did not cope photographically very well with huge dynamic range that occurred when shooting the brightly lit sand and dark reef walls.

That night we went shopping for 11 people for a week, the Douts guys did not realise what the Trayhurn family would do to the food budget.

After 26 hours with no sleep I remember telling Jenny Olsen if we don't leave the supermarket right now they will have to carry me out in a trolley.

We had so much food, the car was full to overflowing with food and groceries and it was fantastic. This was a top day but I was pleased to collapse in my bed and dream of Moreton and our 4.30am wakeup.

Honestly, getting everything to Moreton was just oh so easy, it's barely worth mentioning. Getting the boat and fuel, the food and an entire liquor stores worth of grog (the DOOTS guys can drink like some of the Saint George club guys) , all our gear, people and dive and camera gear, and two 4wds cars was a piece of cake. It was just so easy getting all our stuff up the 100 stairs to our beach front palace; it only took two hours to get squared away in the hot, hot sun. We had a quick gourmet lunch and some refreshments. Then someone said, today's the only days we can do the Saint Paul wreck is today, 10 minutes later we were geared up and on the boat heading to the Saint Paul.

The seas were rough and it was touch and go if we were going to drop anchor, but we did and it was great. The fish life was overwhelming was satisfying and I took heaps of shots.

The Saint Paul wreck was exciting with a big school of king fish buzzing us half way down and then on the bottom which is 42 meters. It's well documented on the web, especially its sinking which is worth a read. Up on the boat we all joked about the old diving rule, "never pull the pick out while your mates are on the wreck!" enough said in this regard. The visibility was good, 10-15 meters.

The rest of the diving was on the western side of the island which was protected. The main site was the curtain artificial reef, the visibility was not great, but the variety of tropical fish and all the snappers made up for this. The 15 or so wrecks are around 20 meters deep and are all close together. The currents were also very strong when the tides were running, which regrettably we experienced once. At this site I remembered a couple of other great diving rules "always go down the anchor line" and "always ERECT your sausage when needed". Spend at least \$80 on a real good SMB surface marker buoy, and test it regularly, it's a really essential piece of safety equipment. Trust me; I know what I am talking about here.

Towards the end of the week all the rain helped to decrease the visibility down to 5-10 meters.

The doutless3 boat was fine, but we needed to get some oil from the dive shop, so remember that. We took over about 8 jerry cans and the boat was full. The fuel lasted the week. The moorings in front of the beach house were very convenient. We got pulled over by the water police and was advised of the dugong protection zone which is a no wash zone and it's really a large area. Basically we had to get into 15 meters deep water, which was along way off shore. Apparently its dugong breeding season, anyway, we may have seen one while we were on the boat playing find the diver.

The days were spent diving and the evenings eating and drinking to excess on a few occasions. I really enjoyed having my family with me on this dive holiday trip, its been a while and the Tangalooma resort facilities kept the kids and Ellie and Aunty Val occupied while I was out diving. The weather was awesome, strong winds, torrential rain storms and sunny days.

We still got heaps of diving in. The shots are on my website www.petertrayhurn.com under Moreton Island. The password to access the locked gallery is "diving".

I took Melanie for a little 1 meter shore dive on the Tangalooma wrecks, which she loved.

The wild dolphin feeding is pretty special. It's a bit of a con. For Melanie and me, it was going to cost \$150 to give a couple sardines to some dolphins that have been turning up since 1992 for a free feed. Well it's free for the dolphins, but the resort knows how to charge. Every way they could get a buck out of us they did, I was very unimpressed by the resort operation and facilities. No hot spa anywhere and the swimming pools were freezing and they wanted \$360 a night for a basic hotel room.

The 12 minute helicopter ride cost \$190; we all went around the parts of island we explored on the ground and at sea. It is well worth experiencing. I asked the pilot about being buffeted around by the winds and he looked at me and smiled and said this weather is "flyable"

What the hell does that mean, I asked myself. Ellie the kids and I loved the flight, the winds and seeing calm seas on the western resort side and then the rough seas on the eastern side.

We saw all the places we went diving and 4wd. The 4wd on the beaches and though the island is great fun, the desert was also worth visiting.

One memorable 4wd moment comes back to me. We had driven across the island to the eastern beach. We were admiring the incredibly wild waves while deciding if we were going to explore down the beach for a couple kilometres, when this wave just kept on coming. It washed under our wheels; I could see Wayne's XTrail in front of us floating. Luckily Wayne closed his door. I was in the drivers seat and Wayne was standing next to me smiling as his Xtrail floated away. Only joking it just rocked gently side to side. As the wave receded, we looked at each other. One of us said, maybe we should skip exploring further down the beach and lets get the PLUCK out of here. Previously Ellie had mentioned she did not like the look of the beach. I should have listened to her.

So we all went to Moreton Island for a week full of fun and action, a little more than I expected to be honest. It is a really beautiful island with some great dive sites nearby and it's on Brisbane's door step. The accommodation was absolute luxury (we paid about \$3000 for 6 nights) but it was well worth it. The food was exceptional; we ate all meals in, and had heaps of food leftover at the end of the week. We never made it flinders reef which is apparently the site to visit. So I have dreams of going back next year, any takers? Shoot me an email and we can start planning an expedition.

What's Happening Soon-etc.

Coming up fast is an night at a **Brazilian Restaurant** on 1 August .
"Another Brazilian "Churrascaria" Restaurant (all you can eat barbequed meat) night at Leichhardt is being organised for Saturday 1 August 2009.
Set price menus are \$38-\$40 per head (alcohol not included).
The last one we had was very traditional and totally enjoyed by all and the food was excellent.
If you are interested in coming please contact Eda at edas@iprimus.com.au or 0403 239 020.
I will need to have definite numbers one week before as the restaurant won't alter the seating after then."

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So Paddy asks Murphy:
"Why do Scuba divers always fall backwards off their boats?"

To which Murphy replies:
"You thick idiot - If they fell forwards they'd still be in the friggin boat"

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

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Up for sale is some ladies dive gear.

Haven't seen it and told her that if anyone was interested they could call her Ladies 2 piece wetsuit --- 5mm size 12; Fins size small; Boots size 7/small; gloves size Xsmall; weight belt & weights. Contact Sarah Mobile 0416162295
Regards Sheila

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Regular events

Thursday Night Dives

Most dives have been well attended with nice visibility and good fish life. Planned dive every Thursday night. Contact Michael to find out more.

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).

Forster

We are organising a weekend dive trip to Forster - Friday 11th September -> Sunday 13th September 2009. Package price of \$305 per diver includes...**Double boat dives on Saturday 12th September and Sunday 13th September diving with Action Divers (four dives). Second tank supplied both days plus one air fill on Saturday (so you only need to bring one tank). Continental breakfast provided. Barbecue dinner on Saturday night. Action Divers will provide the meat, salads, etc. and all we have to do is find someone to burn it using the big BBQ near the Villa's (Dave Casburn, come on up!). Here are the fine details...Action Divers office is at shop 4/1-5 Manning Street Tuncurry, cross the bridge and it's on the right in the first group of shops. On Saturday we'll board the boat in Forster but on Sunday we'll board the boat from the beach at Seal Rocks. Dive sites, as always, will depend on the weather but "The Pinnacle" and "Latitude Reef" are obviously prime targets for Saturday and "Seal Rocks" and "Jimmy's Cave" are potential targets for Sunday. The price is based on 9 divers (one is a "free" and the saving has been apportioned) and three persons per Villa.**

Please pay your \$50 deposit to Mark Ridsdale A.S.A.P. and please let me know by email or SMS that you have done so. Paul Pacey (Home: 9527-2501) (Mob: 0418 410245) (Email: Paul.Pacey@iinet.net.au).

Solomon Islands Trip – September

The trip to the Solomons will be to Tulagi and Honiara. The diving here is a mixture of wrecks and some reef dives. The dives at Tulagi are deeper and would suit people experienced in deep diving. Details as below: **Thursday 17 September 2009** 6:30 am - fly out of Sydney via Brisbane - 2 pm - arrive Honiara, Transfer by boat to Tulagi, Stay at Vanita Lodge for 8 nights. 10 boat dives with Solomon Islands Diving. **September 2009**. Transfer by boat to Honiara. Stay at King **Friday 25** Solomon Hotel for four nights. Four shore dives with Sunreef and Wreck Dive. **Tuesday 15 September**. 2:50 pm - fly out of Honiara, 5:05 pm - arrive Brisbane then to Sydney. Total cost for the above, assuming we get 8 divers, is \$2770. It will cost slightly more if we have less (the boat transfers cost more). If we get the maximum of 8 divers, then we will get a substantial discount (free accommodation and diving for one). If you are interested, contact Michael McFadyen as only 8 spots are available and 6 are taken already.

The Committee is:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--|
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| VICE-PRESIDENT: | Peter Flockart | 9371 0265 | pjflockart@speednet.com.au |
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Please send items for the Newsletter to me as you do them during the month with a deadline of 25th of the month.