



# *Sea Braggin'*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

***- JUNE 2011 - Edited by Ray Moulang -***

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

***Gary Dunnett, Aengus Moran, Ken Ridley & Team***

***Captain John Wright and Peter Flockart***

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



Picture by Mark Ridsdale from Jervis Bay trip recently.





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

<b>WHEN</b>	<b>WHAT AND WHERE</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>WHAT AND WHERE</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
<b><u>Saturday</u> <u>4 th</u></b>	<b><u>Special Night Dive</u> <u>Inscription Point</u></b>	<b><u>Gary Dunnett</u> <u>9542 6481</u></b>	Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> to 29th	Fiji Trip	Mike Scotland 0415 158 168
<b><u>Saturday</u> <u>4 th</u></b>	<b><u>SS Hilda</u> <u>Wreck Dive</u></b>	<b><u>Nancy Scoleri</u> <u>9533 6869</u></b>	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting Rowers Club 8pm	Jason Coombs 9345 4599
<b><u>Friday</u> <u>10th to 13th</u></b>	<b><u>Vacant at present</u> <u>Long Weekend</u></b>	-	Sunday 19th	Boat Dive Bypass Reef	Michael McFadyen 9545 5596
<b><u>Saturday</u> <u>11th</u></b>	<b><u>SS Kelloe</u> <u>Wreck Dive</u> <u>From Hole in the wall</u></b>	<b><u>Michael</u> <u>McFadyen</u> <u>9545 5596</u></b>	Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> to 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	North Haven Trip	Ray Moulang 0403 437 974
<b><u>Sunday</u> <u>12th</u></b>	<b><u>Boat Dive Wedding</u> <u>Cake Island and</u> <u>Sharks</u></b>	<b><u>Jason</u> <u>Coombs</u> <u>9345 4599</u></b>	Sunday 26th	Shore Dive Shark Point	Jason Coombs 9345 4599

# What's On - JULY - 2011 -

WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT	WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT
<b>SATURDAY 2nd</b>	<b>Deep Dive SS Tuggerahl SS Undola</b>	<b>Michael McFadyen 9545 5596</b>	<b>SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>Boat Dive North Head</b>	<b>Peter Flockart 9371 0265</b>
<b>SUNDAY 3rd</b>	<b>Shore Dive Bare Island</b>	<b>Diego Mainou 8004 5015</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 20th</b>	<b>CLUB MEETING 8 PM ROWERS CLUB</b>	<b>Jason Coombs 9345 4599</b>
<b>THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> to SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>WEEKEND TRIP Queensland EX HMAS Brisbane</b>	<b>Natash Naude 0410 074 677</b>	<b>SATURDAY 24TH</b>	<b>Boat Dive Yellow Rock / Magic Point Sharks</b>	<b>Jason Coombs 9345 4599</b>
<b>SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>Boat Dive The Apartments</b>	<b>Peter Flockart 9371 0265</b>	<b>FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> to SUNDAY 31st</b>	<b>Weekend Dive Trip To Nelson Bay</b>	<b>Brian Byrnes 0419 822 243</b>
<b>SATURDAY 16th</b>	<b>Restaurant Night</b>	<b>Ida DiCamillo 9560 6082</b>			

## 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).

Kelly McFadyen

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## 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!)

**All Full**

**Reserves list now**

## 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

## **La Perouse Loop Road at Bare Island**

The upgrade to the La Perouse Loop Road at Bare Island is due to start on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011 and will go through to November 2011. I have spoken to the project manager who advised that the work will start with the two new roundabouts one near the toilet block and the other down at the intersection near Frenchman's Bay.

At no time will the works close access to Bare Island however the works between the toilet block and the Bare Island access road will happen in June. It is likely there will be a longer walk at different times to dive the sites and that parking will be even harder to get than usual though it will be winter so should be quieter. Work will happen during the week only though Saturday is a catch up day so works will happen on an if required basis. Here is the announcement from Randwick Council.

[http://www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/Your\\_Council/Whats\\_happening/News/8\\_million\\_La\\_Perouse\\_road\\_and\\_streetscape\\_upgrade/indexdl\\_8971.aspx](http://www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/Your_Council/Whats_happening/News/8_million_La_Perouse_road_and_streetscape_upgrade/indexdl_8971.aspx)

Here is the concept plan for the works though I believe there are some slight changes to this (e.g. it only shows one of the roundabouts):

[http://www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/library/scripts/objectifyMedia.aspx?file=pdf/62/57.pdf&siteID=1&str\\_title=Loop\\_Road\\_concept\\_plan1.pdf](http://www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/library/scripts/objectifyMedia.aspx?file=pdf/62/57.pdf&siteID=1&str_title=Loop_Road_concept_plan1.pdf)

Following on from this National Parks (who manage all of the off road areas) will be doing a masterplan for the toilet block and walkways to the museum etc. that may improve access to the water on the car park side of the bridge. Jason



# ***MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME***

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Your membership of St George Scuba Club will expire on 30 June. The **preferred option** is to complete the attached form (please update your details) and scan as a pdf and email to [membership@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au](mailto:membership@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au) and EFT your fee of \$25 to the Club's bank account.

The details are:

St George Scuba Club Inc  
BSB 062 028  
A/c No. 0080 0455

Make sure you put your name in the comments field of the EFT transfer so we know who the money is from.

You can also send the form to the Club at PO Box 453, Hurstville South, NSW, 2221 with a cheque (or EFT the money).

Finally, you can also print out the form and bring it to the next meeting and pay in cash.

Remember, to retain benefits of the Club, you must renew by 31 August.

*The planned trip Kavieng is now full . Paul Pacey.*

## Dive the HMAS Brisbane in JULY – only 3 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

## **Diving the HMAS Adelaide**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, the Ex HMAS Adelaide was scuttled at last! So let's go and dive this newest NSW dive site.

**WHEN:** October long Week-end, from Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of September to Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of October.

**DIVING:** Double boat dives Saturday, Sunday and Monday (two days on the HMAS Adelaide and one day on Froggy Cave and surrounding reefs). An additional dive per day can be organised if enough interest.



Terrigal Dive centre has 2 boats that can accommodate up to 7 divers each, so a maximum of 14 divers. Check <http://www.terrighaldiver.com.au/index.html> for more details.

Their retail rates for double dives are \$130 for the HMAS Adelaide (includes a Government fee) and \$110 for reef diving. These prices do not include any discount and will be a bit less depending on how many divers we got.

**ACCOMODATION:** Work in progress, I am looking at cabins in various holiday parks. Will get more details when I know how many people are coming.

If you are interested, please contact Nancy at [nancyscoleri@yahoo.com.au](mailto:nancyscoleri@yahoo.com.au).



# **- Recent Club Happenings -**

## **Sydney's tropical autumn**

**by Gary Dunnett**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> May Ken Ridley and I dived the Steps at Kurnell. The water temperature was a pleasant 21 degrees. A week later, with large seas closing out the open coast, we were back at the Steps. The big seas resulted in pretty ordinary visibility, but the real shock was the water temperature, which had our dive computers hovering between 16 and 17 degrees. The optimistic view was that this was just an isolated patch of cold water forced inshore by the severe conditions. Bare Island the following weekend suggested otherwise, with 16 degrees throughout the dive, while low tide at Shiprock on the 28<sup>th</sup> May saw the gauge stuck at 15 degrees. Beyond denial the season had changed. Winter had arrived.

The abrupt change of season set me to thinking about why the autumn months are far and away my favourite time for diving around Sydney. It certainly isn't the weather, which has been consistently abysmal this year. My reason for looking forward to the autumn is what is swimming around in the last of the warm water, the amazing diversity of tropical fish that appear in our waters each year.

Most of these tropical species can't breed successfully in temperate waters. Instead, a small proportion of those that breed in the tropics get swept southwards on the East Australian Current until they end up settling along the temperate coastline. During the winter months, when water temperatures fall below

their tolerance range, most disappear from Sydney waters, although a few of the hardier individuals might survive into the next summer.

A consequence of arriving throughout the warmer months is that their numbers tend to reach their peak just before the winter 'cull', that is over the autumn months.

Another factor in the tropical fish appearing to be more abundant in this season is that most arrive in Sydney as larvae or small juveniles. The longer they have to feed and grow, the larger and more distinctive they become.

Whatever the environmental factors that lie behind the seasonal patterning of tropical fish in Sydney, autumn 2011 has provided a great example of the diversity of tropical fish at many of our local sites.

The following isn't any sort of systematic list of sightings around Sydney, it's really just an account of what I've enjoyed seeing over the last few months.

### **Butterflyfish**



Several butterflyfish species appear around Sydney, with the Gunthers, Threadfin, Dusky and Raccoon Butterflyfish the most common. I haven't seen a lot this year. The exception has been a few Dusky

Butterflyfish, which are always a frustrating species to photograph as they seem to specialise in lurking around cracks and crevices. However, while it may not have been a great year for the Butterflyfishes, a close relative, the Long finned Bannerfish, have been a regular sight in at Kurnell and Chowder Bay.

### **Sweetlip**

Juvenile Painted Sweetlip were abundant at Chowder Bay this season, while Ron Walsh and I saw a lone example at Shiprock in late May. The juveniles have stunning black and yellow colouration, a disproportionately high dorsal fin and a strange, undulating swimming motion. We definitely get the best part of the deal with the juveniles, the adults are a uniform sombre grey.

PHOTO; PAINTED SWEETLIP



## Surgeonfish and Unicornfish

The Sawtail and Spotted Sawtail Surgeonfish are large species that remain in temperate waters all year round. The Sawtails at Shiprock are one of the site's most distinctive features. Most years see the appearance of a range of smaller tropical surgeons, including the Convicts and Dusky Surgeonfish, both of which seem to be most common in the rocky shallows where they graze on filamentous algae. Other species encountered this autumn include a Ringtail Surgeon photographed by Eddie Ivers at Shiprock and a Mimic Surgeonfish in the Clovelly pool.

A related species, the Moorish Idol, was regularly seen on both sides of Botany Bay over autumn.

Unicornfish appear at many of the local sites, but I've only seen juveniles that defeat my identification skills.

PHOTO; MOORISH IDOL





## Grubfish

The Spotted Grubfish is one of the most appealing species of sandy substrates, watching intently as you approach then darting to cover as you get too close. A more colourful tropical cousin, the Pink banded Grubfish, has been resident at Chowder Bay this autumn.

PHOTO: PINK BANDED GRUBFISH

## Ghost Pipefish



The standout moment of the autumn was when Michael McFadyen gestured me over to inspect a fish sheltering against one of the bommies at Shiprock.

It was a Harlequin Ghost Pipefish. I am aware of the idea of 'disruptive camouflage'.



It is just hard to believe how it could possibly work when you see this brightly coloured speck with no hint of agility, speed or other ability to avoid predators. A really special fish.



### **Hawkfish**

The Blotched Hawkfish is present in temperate waters throughout the year. It is a photographic favourite, perching attractively on soft corals and with strange little pom poms on the end of each dorsal spine. A tropical relative, the Lyretail Hawkfish, was seen at Shiprock at the end of May. It shares the dorsal pom poms, but seems much more inclined to climb into the water column to avoid attention or snatch food.

PHOTO: LYRETAIL HAWKFISH

### **Damselfish**

There are plenty of temperate damselfishes around Sydney and each year these are joined by a variety of tropical relatives. From my observations this year was a little quiet on the damsel front, with plenty of Shining Puller, Australian Damsels and Neon Damsels but fewer of the various Sergeant Majors than usual.



I find the changes in which species of tropical fish turn up in any given year to be one of the most interesting features of our coastline.

## Cod

Moari Cod have been regulars at Shiprock and even turned up on one dive at Kurnell. I didn't see the Purple Spotted Cod that lasted through the previous summer at Shiprock, even though it was of a size that suggested it was more than a year old. At the smaller end of the size spectrum, there were plenty of Five lined Snapper at Chowder Bay. They seem to like locations where a wreck or other structure provides cover from which to dash across the sands.



## Emperor and Whiptails

Eddie Ivers and I stumbled across a Blue Whiptail at Shiprock in April. At 12 metres it seemed a small, relatively non-descript brown fish, but under the light of our strobes proved a vibrant yellow and electric blue.

I saw a second species, the Exquisite Whiptail, at Chowder bay a couple of weeks later. Once again, nothing special in



the gloom but well named when illuminated with a little extra light.

Spangled Emperor were regulars at Shiprock and even in the Clovelly pool. They like to keep their distance and are easily mistaken for bream as they dart off on the edge of vision.

## **Morays**

Sawtoothed Morays share sites such as Shiprock with the local Green Morays, often in the same crevices. The Sawtoothed seem to get to a larger size and maybe a bit more inclined to get out in the open on overcast days.

## **Wrasse and Parrotfish**

In the late 1990s a colleague and I started doing surveys of migratory waders around Botany Bay. We were interested in getting a handle on the impact of coastal developments on their distribution around the bay. All of the waders have distinctive breeding plumages, but by the time they arrive from breeding grounds in the northern hemisphere they have reverted to looking like 'little brown birds.' This leaves identification to subtle differences in size and the relative proportions of bodies, bills and legs. With a lot of tuition I became marginally competent in distinguishing between the different species, but never really got to the point of enjoying the surveys.

For me, many of the tropical wrasse fall into the same frustrating category. Wrasse typically go through multiple changes in colour and pattern as they mature and I've really struggled with the juvenile forms we tend to encounter in Sydney. A couple of the easier to identify species are the Clouded and Three Spot Rainbowfish, and of course the Cleaner Wrasse, all present within Botany Bay and in the Hacking River sites.



Notwithstanding my difficulties with wrasse, one of my favourite tropical fish is the Blue banded Orange Parrotfish schools that seem to have become established at Shiprock. Looking a bit like immature Blue Groper, they identify themselves by the surprisingly loud noise as they take bites out of the reef, trailing a cloud of crushed particles in their wake.

### **Lionfish**

Dwarf Lionfish were remarkably common for much of the last year, turning up well before autumn at sites such as Bare Island, Kurnell and Shiprock. They seem to have an affinity for hiding against sponges. A handful of the larger Lionfish species are usually spotted each season, but I missed out this year.

PHOTO: DWARF LIONFISH

### **Odds and sods**

A sprinkling of 'odds and sods' turned up over the course of the autumn, including a Cornetfish in the Clovelly Pool and Yellow Soapfish at Shiprock. Over the next few weeks this parade of autumn tropicals will depart the Sydney scene. Time to start casting jealous looks at the drysuit rack in the local dive shop and thinking about what's on offer over the Sydney winter. Not such a bad thing, Giant Cuttlefish and Port Jackson Sharks are nothing to complain about.



## Commemorations for Carol Martin

Thank you to everyone who suggested ideas to commemorate our great friend and club member Carol Martin. Most suggestions were variations on two main themes:

- 1) A memorial plaque; and
- 2) An annual event or prize.

Following consultation with Carol's closest friends in the club and the Committee, and keeping in mind the setting of precedents as well as not committing the club to future expenditure that may not be sustainable, the following have been agreed:

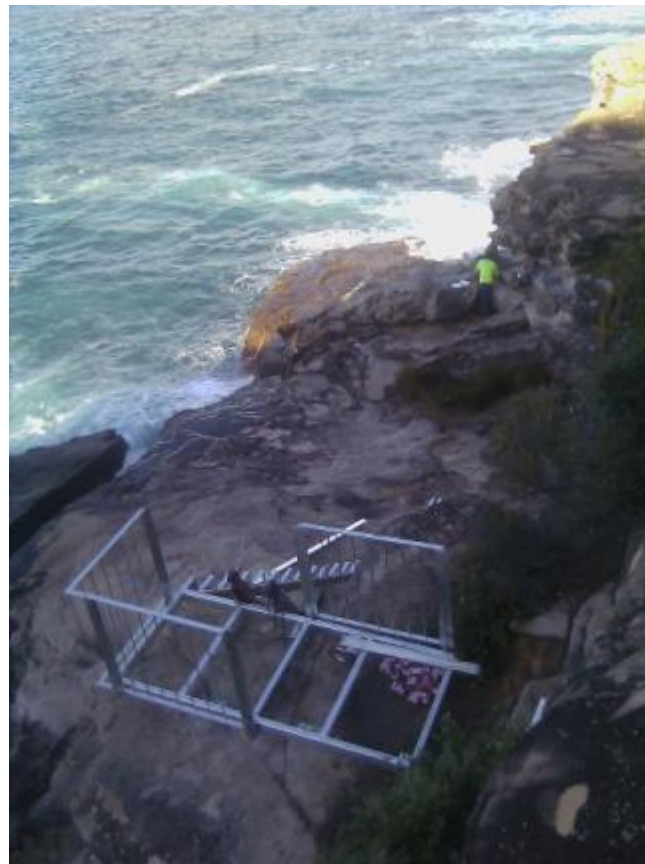
A memorial plaque in the intertidal zone at Bare Island near where Carol died – While we received some suggestions about an underwater plaque Carol's family has expressed an interest in visiting the memorial so it was decided to focus on the intertidal rock platform. We have sought and received approval from NSW Maritime for the plaque. Carol left her dive gear to Michael and Kelly who are selling it and donating the funds to the memorial. Additionally Ida DiCamillo bought a show ticket Carol had and donated the proceeds toward the plaque. Due to their generosity the plaque is not expected to cost the club any money. The plaque will be designed with the St George Scuba Club logo and I will update the club on progress with getting it installed over the next few months.

Annual Shore Dive at Bare Island in Carol's Memory – Timed close to the date Carol died this will be scheduled on the calendar next year. In practice this will only rely on a member being prepared to organise the event. It is likely that there will be a BBQ paid for by the club afterwards, which given the current financial situation of the club, we offer for all similar club events.

## Upgrades to Dive Site Access in Sydney

A number of our favourite dive sites are going to have access upgrades improving our experience in getting to and from the water:

The Leap – Ken Ridley recently arrived at the Leap to find work underway to improve the access down the cliff to the rocks (see photos). A welcome improvement National Parks expect the work to be completed by the end of June subject to weather conditions. A thank you goes to Gary Dunnett for following up on the details and getting the photos.



Shiprock Reserve - Sutherland Shire Council have confirmed that current projections are for a construction start date at the end of June 2011 and completion by end September 2011. Access through the reserve will not be available at all during the construction process and diving activities will have to be launched from Wally's Wharf.

La Perouse Loop Road - The upgrade to the La Perouse Loop Road at Bare Island has started and will go through to November 2011. Work is currently taking place on a new roundabout near the Boatshed cafe. Access to Bare Island and parking nearby are currently unaffected. At no time will the works close access to Bare Island however the works between the toilet block and the Bare Island access road are planned for June. Work will happen during the week only though Saturday is a catch up day so works will happen on an if required basis.

Jason Coombs

President

## We're on Facebook!

Are you on Facebook?

We have setup a group, just search for “St George Scuba Club” and ask to join (should be spotted by one of the admins and approved within 48 hours).

With so many people already on Facebook and having mobile phones with cameras and data connections, we are seeing if a Facebook group is of benefit to the club.

In particular there should be benefit for the likes of “live” reports of conditions and maybe last minute buddy hook-ups...and who knows what else?

So, if you are on Facebook why not join but remember, not everyone has been sucked in to Facebook so don't forget to keep your really good pic's and stories for the newsletter and use the email to be sure to reach everyone!

Aengus Moran  
+ 61 419 465 263  
Skype; AengusMo  
[www.aengusm.com](http://www.aengusm.com)  
[www.aengusmoran.com](http://www.aengusmoran.com)





## **For Sale.**

1 x DS 125 Strobe & Battery Pack

Includes Charger (Plugs for multiple countries)

Arm for Ikelite Housing

2 x TTL cables

Diffuser

In good condition

Asking price \$500

Contact Peter Flockart

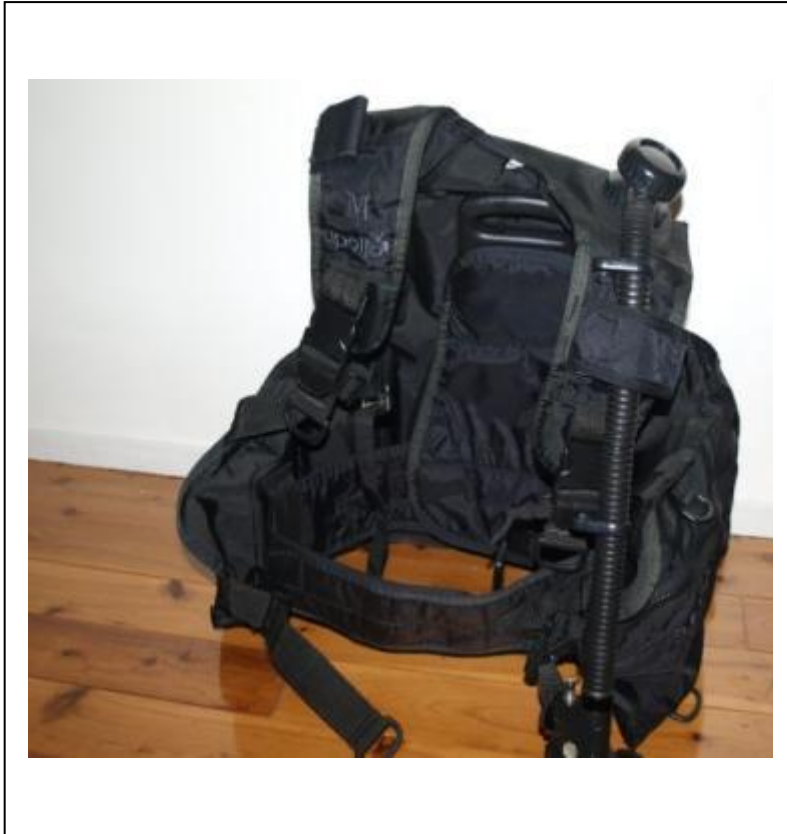
Either by email : [pjflockart@speednet.com.au](mailto:pjflockart@speednet.com.au)

Or phone : Mb 0409 304 959

Hm (02) 9371 0265



Contact Kelly on 0410 599 186



Apollo BCD – excellent condition \$75

Sea Hornet Aluminum Pony Bottle out of test \$100



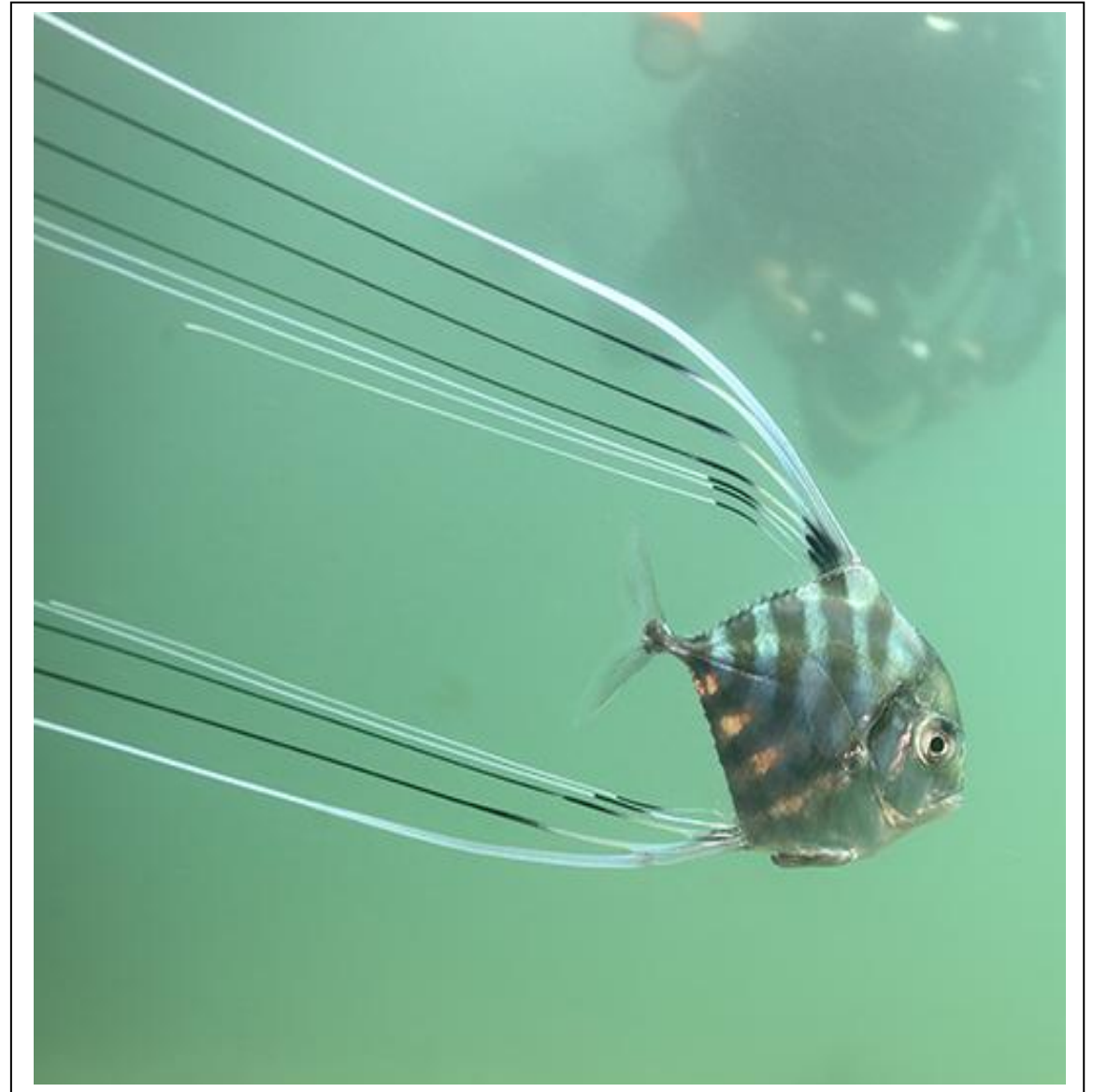
## Oih! ... who's taken my Batfish!

May 2011 – Chowder Bay, Ron, Michael and myself meet for a morning dive.

I tend to call that harbour side site Clifton Garden's but technically, Chowder Bay is probably more accurate.

Any which way I like this dive site, it's safe to say I'm very familiar with it and that morning I was looking forward to seeing some Batfish that I had heard made a home under the wharfs.

Alas, it wasn't to be, we didn't see any Batfish and while we had a pleasant dive, the only event I have to report was a Pipefish that looked like it was hyperventilating.



I've never seen that behaviour before, even when it wasn't in front of me I could see it puffing up its cheeks and then emptying them.

For a moment I thought it might be having a hard time going to the toilet but aside from the thought, no indication of that happening 😊



My mate Jayne came back from a couple of months overseas during the following week and I agreed to head to Clifton Chowder the following weekend.

The water looked cleaner so I decided to go wide angle with the camera.

Chowder is primarily a macro site but when it's clear and the sun is high there can be great wide angle photo opportunities, particularly under the wharfs using not just the streams of light through the cracks but also using the pylons to frame shots.

I still held out hope for the Batfish when I arrived but my hopes were soon dashed when Jayne informed me that Sydney Aquarium had come over and taken all the Batfish.

WTF! Oih! ... who nicked me Batfish!

I calmed down after a while, I have seen it before where the tropical' s come down and then the water turns cold, their metabolism slows and they either die or are consumed by something bigger.

We entered via the pool and as we approached the nets we came across two fish we have never seen before that turned out to be 2 juvenile Threadfin Trevally (*Alectis ciliaris*).

At first glance they didn't look like Trevally as we were distracted by the long trains after them, but when you focus on the body, yeap they were Trevally.

We continued on our merry way and then half way through the dive, at the end of the Wharf (Clifton Gardens side), what did we spot but a Batfish ☺ A single Tall Fin Batfish.

Poor little Batfish, all on its own, left behind. I took a few shots, I thought for half a second about telling the Aquarium to come get him, and then I moved on, see ya later mate, hope you make it! Aengus Moran

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Here are a couple of photos I took at Bare Island.

There was a surfer out but no divers (wonder why?)

Regards,

Peter Flockart







While playing with my Navman recently I found a page on the menu which holds a memory of all the trips I have done with the GPS. This includes the longest journey, average speed, highest altitude and lowest altitude, which was -84 metres!!! At that depth I would have had to have been underwater. So officially my Navman has dived deeper than I have!!!

Go get wet

Maxine Hayden

I am New Member, Thanks to Michael McFadyen, Just got back from Fantastic Diving at Nautilus Watersports and Diving Centre Port Vila, Vanuatu, I did over 40 Dives there in 30 Degree Water with The Best Dive Instructors in the Business.

The Visability and Fish Life was the Best I have ever seen, and Yes for My 100 Dive and Now My PADI Master Scuba Diver achieved.

I was sitting on the Star of Russia at 38 Metres with My Dive Instructor Jared with Massive Swams of Trevally, BIG Snapper and GT Trevally all around us, What a Dive Trip.  
Regards, Captain John Wright



## **Shore Dive Wrap 16 – 22 May, 2011**

19/5/11 Matt Wildermuth... did this morning steps to leap. easy exit at leap, viz around 10 meters or more weedy seadragons around

21/5/11 From Eddie Ivers

dived Shiprock with Bob Trudgeon and Ron Walsh Quite a crowd of other divers from Abyss and St George U/W. However we entered early, dived for 84minutes and when we came out the crowds had gone Only saw a few other divers while we were under and found 1 wobby, a small pipefish, pineapple fish, blueringed ocy, the curious scribbly cod, lots of schooling pike and whiting I think Ron got a few good pictures Before our exit we went towards Wallys wharf and encountered an anchor and a dead Rock Cod and a 6 spine leather jacket dying after being thrown out by a fisho, However by the time we got to the exit they had up anchored and moved.





21/5/11 Gary D & YT. Bare Island. Despite my enthusiastic exhortations Friday nite, we got 2 out of 3 (aint Bad) Tide, surface conditions, Viz 2 -3 on the deep wall. Excellent Blue devil photo Gary (spotted ken) and interesting kelp scape by Gary. Just go to show photographically, you have just got to look at things differently.







21/5/11 Simon, Evan , Yt .....Shark Point, my first time, 2 out of 3. Viz 1 – 2 metres, a really dirty dive but saw 2 blue devils in a cave, honest??????Scouts honour, my pic was lousy, but if you really want to see it, let me know. (I wriggled as far as I could into the cave.)

22/5/11 ..Did the Steps left with an Old DD, Ritchie Newham nice easy drift down and back viz 5 – 8m. Saw weedies.

22/5/11 Jason & Kelly (new members) and Maxine did the monument X 2. report from Jason.

2 dives viz 2-6mtrs

stacks of mixed nudis including clusters of tiny babys aprox 20+ usual school fish

1 unfriendly big blue groper

1 big bull ray

Thanks for the reports and pics. It makes the SDW more interesting .

I think I got all reports in. Apologise if I missed anyone.

Please feel free to put names to unidentified critters in the pics.



Not all pics submitted were included as I try to keep email size down.

Live Long and Dive well

Ken ridley

## **NEW TOYS**

**Introducing the Nautilus Lifeline**, a GPS for Divers a full featured VHF marine radio and GPS with 13 kilometre range and a depth rating to 130m.

Away with clunky GPS units with primitive technology or units that require hand held direction finders. No to sausages, reflectors, mirrors and smoke signals for us. Heck, the **primary call and distress frequency** on every marine radio in the world is **VHF Channel 16!**

As a diver, wouldn't it make sense and be an **elegant solution** to simply call for help as needed on the channel that every boat in range is listening to anyways?

So started an odyssey by the Nautilus team to build a super cool, strong and beautiful **VHF radio & GPS** that you can put in your BCD pocket or in a pouch on your wetsuit or dry-suit **and forget about**. The unit has a great feature where you depress a single button and the DSC marine radio on **EVERY boat within range** will light up with a horn, flashing lights and your **GPS position** displayed on their radio accurate to 3 decimal points.

This is a **one of a kind unit for divers** and will make sure you never get left behind. The unit has a chat channel and non-emergency functions, with a 24 hour battery life in emergency mode. The **LCD display** shows GPS position, VHF channel in use and battery life. The units also have a USB connection and come with a **two year warranty** and lifetime service plan.

While they are not yet available, the first shipment is due at the end of March.

If people are interested they can contact Scuba Warehouse on (02) 9689 1389 for more info

Peter F

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