



Sea Braggin'



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

- MARCH 2012 - Edited by Ray Moulang -

***Included in this issue are Dive Reports from :..
Natasha Naude, Mark Ridsdale, Ron Walsh
Pictorials by Ron Walsh from Boys Weekend.***

A BIG THANK YOU GOES TO THEM.







© Ron Walsh



© Ron Walsh



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What's On - MARCH - 2012 -

WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT	WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT
<i>FRIDAY 2nd TO 4th</i>	<i>Boys Weekend SWR</i>	<i>Ken Ridley 9520 5598</i>	<u>WEDNESDAY 21st</u>	<u>CLUB MEETING 8 PM ROWERS CLUB</u>	<u>Jason Coombs 9345 4599</u>
<i>SATURDAY 10th</i>	<i>Boat Dive Middle Ground</i>	<i>Dave Casburn 0405 186 184</i>	<u>Friday 23rd</u>	<u>Blue on Tour Film Festival UNSW</u>	<u>Jason Coombs 9345 4599</u>
<i>SUNDAY 11TH</i>	<i>Deep Dive SS Kelloe</i>	<i>Michael McFadyen 9545 55 96</i>	<u>SATURDAY 24TH</u>	<u>Boat Dive ByPass Reef</u>	<u>Ray Moulang 0403 437 974</u>
<i>SATURDAY 17TH</i>	<i>Shore Dive and Overnight Camp Bass Point</i>	<i>Michael McFadyen 9545 55 96</i>	<u>SUNDAY 25TH</u>	<u>Shore Dive & BBQ Shark Island</u>	<u>Rob Mapstone 0414 636 927</u>
			<u>SATURDAY 31st</u>	<u>Boat Dive Wattamolla</u>	<u>Dave Casburn 0405 186 184</u>

What's On - APRIL - 2012 -

WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT	WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT
THURSDAY <i>4th to 9th</i>	<i>Jervis Bay</i> <i>Boat Dive Trip</i>	<i>Ray Moulang</i> <i>0403 437 974</i>	SATURDAY <u>14TH</u>	<u>Boat Dive</u> <u>The Balcony</u>	<u>Shelley Breuseker</u> <u>0438 998 199</u>
SATURDAY <i>7th</i>	<i>Deep Dive</i> <i>SS Tuggerah/ SS Undola</i>	<i>Michael McFadyen</i> <i>9545 55 96</i>	WEDNESDAY <u>18th</u>	CLUB MEETING <u>8 PM</u> ROWERS CLUB	<u>Jason Coombs</u> <u>9345 4599</u>
SATURDAY <i>7th</i>	<i>Special Night</i> <i>Dive - Kurnell</i>	<i>Gary Dunnett</i> <i>9542 6481</i>	SATURDAY <u>21st</u>	<u>Boat Dive</u> <u>Tupia Point</u>	<u>Gary Perkins</u> <u>0422 286 263</u>
SUNDAY <i>8TH</i>	<i>Shore Dive</i> <i>Shiprock</i>	<i>Paul Pacey</i> <i>9527 2501</i>	WEDNESDAY <u>25th</u> <u>Anzac Day</u>	<u>Shore Dive & BBQ</u> <u>Bare Island</u>	<u>Natash Naude</u> <u>9799 9785</u>
			SATURDAY <u>28th</u>	<u>Boat Dive</u> <u>Marley Point</u>	<u>Tricia Henry</u> <u>9525 8860</u>

Shore Dive Bass Point and Camping Robertson - 17 and 18 March

I am organising this weekend dive and camping trip. It will be similar to the one we did two years ago.

The plan is as follows: Saturday 17 March

- Meet at 9:00 am at Bass Point for a dive, probably at The Gutter or the Gravel Loader
- After, have a BBQ brunch here
- Then travel via some sites to Carrington Falls on the escarpment near Robertson
- Dive the Blue Hole, a small freshwater lake about 4 to 5 m deep
- Camp here overnight

Sunday 18 March

- Breakfast at camp site
- Depart late morning for a leisurely trip home

This is a chance to do a dive in the ocean, then a dive in freshwater and some camping as well. You only need one tank, the lake is very small and even 50 bar will be enough.

If you do not have camping gear, do not worry, we have members who can lend you tents etc. All you really need is your dive gear, food, some eating utensils and perhaps a sleeping bag. You do not need a 4WD, any vehicle will do.

Of course this trip is suitable for spouses and children, so you are encouraged to bring your family along.

If you are interested in coming, let me know or if you have any questions, email me.

Michal McFadyen

Another seal diving weekend in Jervis Bay in August!

Friday 17 – Sunday 19 August

Optional shore dive Friday – come down early and we'll get a local dive guide to show us around.

Double boat dives Saturday and Sunday (including one dive with the seals).

At least one dive will be with the seals, conditions permitting! The remainder will be boat dives to local dive sites.

We have done this trip the last two years running and have been blessed with top conditions both times, so hope we can do the same again. The house is perfect for our group and Ulladulla dive are very accommodating.

Diving – costs to be confirmed with dive shop, but costs from last two years were as follows:

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

- ✕ Retail rates for double dives is \$110 (\$90 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!)
- ✕ Payment in full required beforehand – I will collect money in advance and pay in one transaction. Refunds for cancellation due to bad conditions.

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 \$600. Dinner at Vincentia Golf Club (5 mins walk up the road) on Fri night, Club Curry night at home on Sat night. Yummo.

Contact **Natasha** if you want to come along, and please remember to send Mark your deposit of \$50. Get in quick – this trip fills up real fast!!

Email: natasha@bluecucumber.com

Phone: 0410 074 677

Expressions of interest sought for an additional weekend in July or August – let me know if you're interested and I'll arrange a second group!

- Recent Club Happenings -

Australia Day dive – Kurnell, 26 January 2012



The Australia Day dive was held this year at Kurnell and, after yet another prolonged period of rain and generally crappy weather, the sun finally came out and we got to enjoy a hot and humid day. A few people (chickens) thought the visibility would be too lousy to be worth an early start so had a sleep in, while the rest of us (brave, intrepid, adventuring souls) had a great dive with pretty reasonable visibility and saw plenty of the usual as well as some unusual marine creatures.

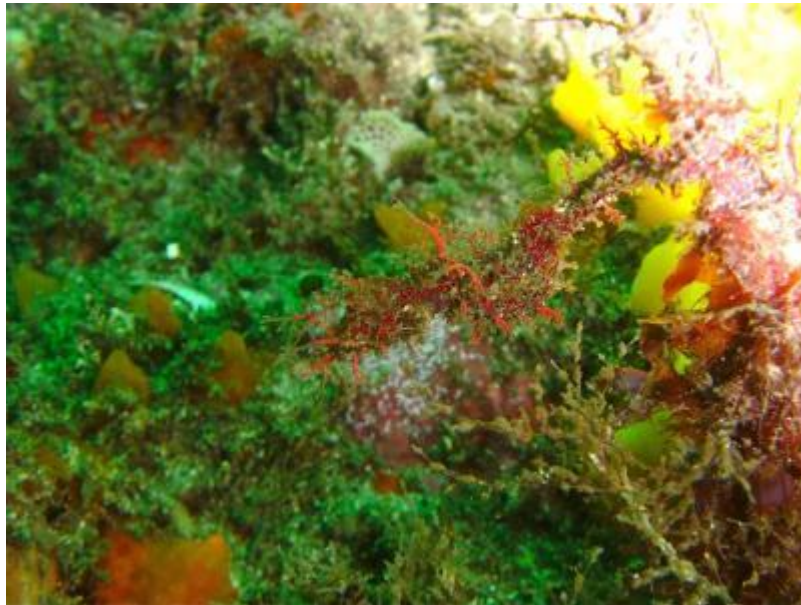
Divers took their chances at the Leap, the Steps and Monument. All reported a pleasant dive with surprisingly good conditions. Water temp was variable and got down to 16 degrees in some chilly places. Several weedy sea dragons were seen, including a couple of males carrying a heavy load of eggs and nudis were everywhere, but the highlights of the dive were a couple of pygmy pipehorses. These were a first for Digby and I, so we were very happy with Kelly's superb find!! My attempts at photography attached.



Injury report for the day consisted of Digby's broken ankle bone (an avulsion fracture from bashing his right ankle into a rock upon entry at the Steps), and Debbie's bleeding chin from landing on my fins as I was trying to get in! Digby will do anything to make me designated driver for 6-8 weeks, but I thought actual bodily harm was taking it a bit far... Thanks to Dr Sarah and Nurse Jess, and to everyone else who looked after the poor fallen soldier throughout the day.

After the dive we had a build your own burger bar, with hamburgers, peri peri chicken, or plain chicken, or snag sandwiches on offer for lunch. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food, and certainly the company throughout the day. There were approximately 60 people attending and all seemed content and comfortable.

The (finally) hot weather enticed a few of us back into the water for a swim later in the day, but the weather decided to take a turn at about 3.30 and the heavens opened



once again, dumping rain on the remaining few of us as we scrambled to pull down the tarps and pack everything away. But despite the rain (and Digby's busted ankle that saw us at doctors, radiology and then hospital all Friday!) it was a great day over all.



Thanks very much to everyone who assisted with BBQs, cooking, setting up etc etc – all very much appreciated. My apologies but I can't recall everyone who was lending a hand – there were many hands on deck, but special mention to Ken and Shalene, Peter Flockart and Ron for long stints at the BBQ, and to everyone who brought their

shades and shelters to keep us all comfortable.

Frenchman's Bay --- 26th February 2012.

The Club's FREE Dive day and BBQ held on Sunday 26th February at Frenchman's Bay was a great day with rain gods being kind. Many thanks to Dave Casburn, Ray Moulang, John Beddie, Wayne Heming and Peter Beaumont for making their boats available to club members for the diving programme - 40 divers took to the water with diving at the Whale Station, Henry's Head and Minmi trench being the popular locations. Conditions varied slightly with visibility better than 10 metres on the bottom and the water a coolish 18 degrees.

Back on land – a number of helpers were busy - special thanks to the club members who pitched in at the BBQ plate (too numerous to mention), the helpers preparing the salads etc.

Over 60 members and their family and friends ate their way through gourmet sausages and chicken souvlaki, accompanied by salads, bread rolls, cheeses, fruit and some delights prepared by Avril.

Thank you to all - many helping hands make it a pleasure to co-ordinate this type of an event.

Mark Ridsdale.

The Boys Weekend – South West Rocks – by Ron Walsh

For the days leading up to the weekend the weather in Sydney was not good. There was rain, rain and more rain. However, a look at the BOM radar showed that north of Newcastle was fine and sunny.

Advice from the dive shop was that it was lovely weather but the water was still a touch dirty from the rain and floods over the previous month.

Chris Heath and I headed off early on the Friday, and a review of the BOM radar showed we should hit sunshine just north of Newcastle. It rained all the way to Newcastle, stopped raining just north, but by the time we got to Taree it was raining again. And it rained (drizzled) the rest of the way to South West Rocks.

We arrived around 4pm, and after talking (and a few beers) with my brother in town found out that the day had been beautiful until about 2 hours before we arrived!

Most people arrived in time for dinner which was had at the pub in town. It was great to see our northern members (Eric, Shaun, and Ian) and many stories were told over a couple of beers.





© Ron Walsh

Saturday morning dawned overcast and showery. The dive shop advised that conditions, although not ideal, were still OK for diving and that the boats were running. We all kitted up, loaded the boats, and headed down to the boat ramp and boarded for the trip out to The Rock.

The trip out was interesting. The skipper described the ocean as confused – southerly swell, easterly wind, northerly something – which made for a very slow and bumpy trip, with lots of potholes in the ocean.



First dive was to the shark gutters and then through the cave. Vis was not special, being only around 8m (which for this site is not that good). There were a number of sharks in the blind gutter, and it was great to

just sit there and watch them circle around. There were small schools of baitfish, and from time to time large kingfish would come in and try to pick a couple off (though I think they were just playing!). In the cave there were the usual large wobbegongs, a large bull ray and the myriad of lobsters. The surface interval was on the boats and was not the most pleasant, due to the motion of the ocean.



Second dive was a copy of the first, including a trip out to Fish and Chips before going through the cave. At Fish and Chips there were large schools of bullseyes and a large turtle. The trip back was again a long slow slog with a rough ocean.

Saturday night was dinner at the club.

The forecast for Sunday was similar to Saturday, and a number of divers were not keen to challenge the ocean again. Only Gary and I decided to brave the conditions with the rest

deciding an easy breakfast and leisurely trip back home was more in order.

Although the ocean looked similar to the previous day, the potholes had somehow disappeared and it was a smoother ride although still slow. When we arrived at The Rock the conditions were similar to the previous day.

First dive was again with the sharks in the blind gutter before going through the cave. This was probably the highlight dive of the weekend. We sat at the top of the blind gutter for around 25 mins, with at least 10 grey nurse sharks casually swimming around us as they looped up and down the gutter.





© Ron Walsh

The kingfish were having a great time still picking off the bait fish.

By the time we surface the conditions had changed. The ocean was much calmer, and the sun even came out!

Second dive was to the sharks again, then we explored Fish and Chips before back to the sharks. The trip back was on a much flattened ocean and only took 33 mins from The Rock to the boat ramp – a vast improvement.

After washing gear, lunch in town, we hit the road back to Sydney at 2:30pm, arriving back to Hornsby at just after 7pm.

A great weekend marred to a degree by the ocean conditions.

Many thanks to Ken and Ray for organising.

Australia Day 2011 - a day of sharks in Sydney Harbour

- □ □ □ □ Malcolm Holland
- □ □ □ □ From: [The Daily Telegraph](#)
- □ □ □ □ August 25, 2011 12:00AM *Source:* The Daily Telegraph

AUSTRALIA Day, 2011: A glorious, sunny day when tens of thousands of people splashed about in Sydney Harbour and, it can now be revealed, shared the water with seven mature bull sharks.

Government scientists have released an amazing map of shark movements in the Harbour on its busiest day of the year. The sharks' presence alongside so many people shows they are not mindless killing machines, Dr Amy Smoothey said.

Each of the bull sharks was fitted with transmitters which alert a series of 370 acoustic listening stations around the Harbour and along the coast.

All of the sharks in the Harbour on Australia Day were males, ranging from 2.2m to 2.96m long.

They swam everywhere from the upper reaches of the Parramatta River to North and Middle Harbour, including the main harbour waters where the Ferrython was run.

A 2.75m-long shark swam 37km on the day, moving from [Point Piper](#), past [Mosman](#) to [Manly](#) and the Spit Bridge and near Balmoral Beach where hundreds were enjoying a holiday swim.

NSW Primary Industries department shark researcher Dr Smoothey said knowing which parts of [Sydney](#) Harbour the sharks preferred would help minimise the risk of an attack on humans.

"The project is determining if there are any areas within Sydney Harbour that are favoured by the species, what times of the year the sharks visit the Harbour and whether factors such as water temperature and presence of bait fish influence their movements," she said.

Given the number of sharks and people in the Harbour on the same day, and the fact there were no incidents nor any reported sightings, "one could argue bull sharks may not be the voracious predator we once thought", she said.

Sixteen bull sharks - six females and 10 males - have been fitted with the tags since navy diver Paul de Gelder was mauled by a bull shark and lost a hand and a leg during a training exercise at Woolloomooloo Bay in February 2009.

Dr Smoothey's research shows at least two bull sharks were in the same general area on Australia Day this year.

Her research has so far found that bull sharks on average spent up to 17 days at any one time in the Harbour, and travel similar distances during the day and night.

They swim to Sydney in late November or early December and head back north by late April or early May.

Several tagged bull sharks have also spent time around Port Stephens, while a 2.93m male shark tagged in Sydney Harbour headed north to [Yamba](#) - more than 550km - before heading south to Sydney Harbour nine days later, while another has recently been detected meandering north and was last spotted off the coast of Townsville.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/sydney-nsw/australia-day-2011-a-day-of-sharks-in-the-harbour/story-e6freuzi-1226121582147>

REEF PROJECT TAKES GOOGLE STREET VIEW UNDERWATER

By Jemima Garrett for Radio Australia

Updated March 01, 2012 11:46:18

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-02-29/reef-project-takes-google-streetview-underwater/3861036>

<http://www.catlinseaviewsurvey.com/>



A new marine research project is aiming to create an underwater version of Google's street view, offering 360 degree views of parts of Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

The University of Queensland is teaming up with Google and not-for-profit group Underwater Earth to photograph sites along the length of the reef to a depth of 100 metres.

Marine photographer Richard Vevers has spent 12 months refining the camera technology.

"It is just an amazing experience to be using one of these cameras and going round the corner and not knowing what is on the other side," he said.

"We are looking at doing surveys of around four kilometres at a time and these are areas that really don't get any visitation at all, so you just do not know what is round the next corner."

He says the survey will be conducted at representative sites along 2,300 kilometres of the reef.

"We've actually got three parts to the survey," he said.

"There is the shallow reef survey, where divers are using underwater scooters with a camera attached and that is across about 20 sites along the Great Barrier Reef.

"There is also a deep reef survey but that will be driven really using robots.

"And then, there is also the megafauna part of the survey, where again divers will be used, and that is really involved with the tagging of animals."

Early images from the pilot project are available on the Catlin Seaview Survey website, and the project has teamed up with search-giant Google to make them available in a street-view style format.

Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg from the Global Change Institute at the University of Queensland says there could not be a more powerful way to bridge the gap between science and the general public.

"If you don't know the reef, you don't know what is at risk from things like climate change," he said.

"So, taking these 360 degree shots, they are like little image bubbles, and then incorporating them into panorama on Google, we'll be allowing people to literally select locations on the reef and go for a dive, and more or less experience what a diver would experience.

"So you could be 81 and in your armchair and diving the Great Barrier Reef. Very exciting from that perspective."

David Casburn 12:21pm Mar 11

I had a look at the progress at shiprock this morning, all that appears missing from the top is some hand railing. If the weather holds up for a few days it might be open in a week or two.





We have some very Talented Divers here in the Club.
Thanks Martin.

For Sale

1. The camera setup is still for sale but at a revised price of \$800.00 all inclusive

2. The list of other items has been reduced after the last meeting to :

- Safety Sausage Price: \$5 - Anti Fog Stick Price: \$2
- Three mesh bags with drawstrings. Good for drying gloves or boots Price: \$0.50 each
- Dive Flag (46 x 27cm) Good for a float Price: \$5
- Black weight belt (never used) & plastic buckle. Price: \$5

If you are interested in any or all of the above email me at pjflockart@speednet.com.au or contact me on 0409 304 959

- Oceanic regs Dx4 Din 1st stage and zeta second stage just serviced. asking \$250
Call Nunzio on 0414329723



A Rundown of how its been.

John Delezio

2:58pm Mar 12

For all wanting a run down on current water conditions because you could not be bothered getting in yourself, read on. Ken and myself met at Leap 11am. looked at water neither good or bad expecting up to 5 m vis. We then geared up and returned to find an all consuming blob of brown engulfing all in its path. The fishermen were most amused to see us go in. But as per rules and regulations for desperate divers we entered the water expecting to hold hands all the way to the steps. we were shocked when we went below the brown poo soup to have at least 7 m vis to 50 metres before the steps. we did however on exiting from the deco spot have to put our hands in front of us to ensure we did not crash into anything as viz was down to 5cm.

Hope this helps.

The Committee is:

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

