



# NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 453 Hurstville South 2221 NSW

**September 2006**

## **The Steps, Cape Solander, Kurnell**

**28<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

**By Dave Burns**

Temp 17-18C , Depth 12mtrs Viz 5mtrs (at BEST)

Having a rare day off from work and also knowing Mr Peter Trayhurn wanted to celebrate getting his licence back after 6mths suspension I saw last Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of July as an opportune time for a dive.

Getting away early we left Gympsea at 700AM and shot off to Kurnell to look at how big the swell was and if we could get in at least at the steps (Point Solander) if not we would dive Inscription Point (BBQ area at Kurnell Nat Park).

The swell wasn't that bad and after a quick observation and suiting up we were in amongst the crashing breakers and finning down to the well known Sponge Gardens.

The tide we found out was on the run in so we skirted the Gardens and swam up to about The Leap entry swung around to deeper water and drifted along the bottom to our chosen Dive Site.

Plenty of Sea Dragons (15 were counted) were present but the poor viz really restricted any distance viewing of the gardens. Having dived here for about the last 20 years I can say that the general appearance is waning as there is a lot of damage done to the sponges by whatever, (rough weather, runoff, pollutants etc) and the prolific presence of the algae *Caulerpa taxifolia*, where one rock was completely covered in the stuff.

This is a fine dive site and us divers should be aware of what is happening here so please be observant when diving the Sponge Gardens in the future.

Getting out of the water and up to the car is difficult enough but to face a flat battery with Peter's new car was all too much so I decided to walk to the nearest coffee shop grab a bit to eat while Pete waited for the NRMA. end

## **Annual General Meeting**

The 20<sup>th</sup> September club meeting (8pm St George Rowing Club) will also include the AGM. We will try to get through the monthly meeting fairly quickly and have a quick stretch break before continuing with the AGM. Geoff Sanders will act as returning officer once again.

I will not be standing for re-election for any position this year so we will need a new president. The only prereqs for the position are an Open Water Card, a desire to dive and to be a financial member. In other words the job is open to anybody in the club regardless of their diving experience or how long they have been a member.

Indeed it would be encouraging to see one of the newer members take the position.

All other committee positions will have to be filled as well and I'm sure the existing committee members would like a break. If you would like to see changes made in the club or just want to get involved with the running of it then please take this opportunity. You will have the full support of the club and the rest of the committee.

See you all at the September meeting.

**Steve Shaw - President**

**West of Osborne Shoals.****Sat 12th August. 2006.****By John Conolly**

In great weather, Michael steered us towards the Osborne Shoals, as he wanted to check out the West side of this well dived area.

We anchored about 100m WSW of the usual point and realized we could see the bottom! We descended into 16m of water, which was an amazingly warm (for August) 18C. Vis was a nice 15m. Les and Sheila took to the water first, then Paul P and Clint, then Michael and myself last.

Fish life was in abundance and one school of old wives against a West facing wall was hundreds strong. Yellowtails and One Spot Pullers were numerous. This proved to be an interesting area with good plant life and a distinct vertical wall varying from 1m to 4m in height.

There were many short splits back towards the East side of the reef. West of the reef back towards the beach was sandy bottom again, so this reef/shoal has a very distinct rocky ridge running approximately North/South.

**Great vis at Osborne Shoals**

I had always thought that the beach side of Osborne was sand up to the height of the top of the reef, rather like 6 fathom reef whose oceanside wall is much higher than the river side.

With a maximum depth of 18m we were able to enjoy a long and leisurely 50 minute dive before surfacing and heading back to Dark Bay and a delicious late morning tea. Or is that early lunch? Whatever - it was up to the usual standard of the St.George Scuba Club Gourmands.

**Magic Point****13th August 2006****By John Prior**

Water Temp 19, Swell <3ft, Wind slight westerly

I was looking forward to another depressing weekend of domesticity and alcoholism. Yet again missed the Thursday night dive.

On impulse I called Frog to see what was going, club dive he said, Magic Point he exclaimed, I'm a club member I informed, one spot left at 12md he stated, book me on I demanded.

Fast-talking to convince; she who must be obeyed; that this would be a good thing, or at least not as bad as other things, such as the earth being hit by a comet and really ruining ever ones weekend.

She didn't agreed with logic and found flaws in my argument, but gave me an A for effort, and her consent.

I have never dived this location and only had Michael's articles as reference. In discussions with the Froggies lounging around Bare Island, like a bunch of well fed Koalas on a hot summers day, who informed me that the viz was good seas calm, no sharks on the 0800 dive, but they showed for the 1000 dive.

Suited and seated 8 intrepid divers, I think, with high expectations, I know, set off. After what I thought was quiet a long time, but in reality was probably only 20 min, we arrived at shark point, South Maroubra.

The water was unusually warm there was a sight surge at 10M but this dissipated with depth. We descended over the rock platform to the mouth of the cave.

.....from the shadows of the cave emerged a grey nurse shark...

There from the shadows of the cave merged a medium sized grey nurse, after some moments another and yet another.

I find it hard to believe these are the same three that Michael makes reference to in his article, unless they are animatronics.

After 30 min of watching the same three go in and out of this cave in a clockwise direction like

some very wet carousel, I felt the ADHD kick in and the need to wander.

After some time of following very small fish and Port Jackson's, like a giddy little school girl, I felt the gentle tap of the dive leader on my shoulder, it appears I had wandered a little too far, and the dive was over. Swimming up from the sand I was drawn to some small rock overhangs, as one is often prone to doing without Ritalin, underneath was a beautiful giant cuttlefish, rather antisocially hiding at the back, I took my photo thanked he or she and continued on my way, this ritual was repeated and repeated and repeated, there are a lot of giant cuttlefish there, hiding, till finally I arrived at the anchor.

All the others appeared to be on the boat, I had plenty of air, and an area in-front of me unexplored, after about 20 min I understood why it was unexplored, and why it should remain so.

I would definitely recommend this to any one; I agree with Michael if you had more than one boat out here there would be too many divers in the water. The observation area is small and would not accommodate more than 10 divers. Well that's my opinion.

But the area around there has a lot to offer the attention impaired, or the giddy little schoolgirl within.

**Marley Point**  
**Wednesday 16th August.**  
**by John Conolly**

In glorious sunshine we headed South to Marley Point. With sea conditions so idyllic we were able to anchor right in close to shore and just South of the huge submerged rock that is the trademark of this site.

It was 'Jackpot Time' - one of those days when the vis is so good it makes everything brilliant, sweeps away the memory of crappy dives, and keeps you coming back again and again. With no current, 20+m vis and 18C water, it was 'game on'.

First we saw a school of a dozen squid, then a big school of Yellowtail. Then another school, possibly whiting. Too many to remember! One big grouper was so enamored of Michael he kept getting in the way of Michael's photography subjects. I won him over (the grouper) with a sea urchin, so that freed up Michael. We frolicked round the big boulders off the point and then did

the swim-throughs under the big rock. Then we headed West.



**Blue Grouper at Marley Point**

What unfolded next was amazing. Ladder Finned Pomfrets, thousands of them, began cascading towards us through a gap between two big rocks. They just kept coming like water through a high cascade, and when we swam up past this point there were even more of them, blocking out the view of the rocks and bottom around us.

...one of those moments  
of oneness with nature  
that you can't explain to  
the landlocked...

I swam in to the middle of this lot, so numerous you could not see out. It was one of those moments of oneness with nature that you can't explain to the landlocked and only fellow divers are privileged to experience.

This area always delivers, I suppose partly because you need calm sea conditions to get in so close to the shore.

By the time I got back to the anchor, I had fed a little moray I coaxed out from under a rock, and delighted in the grace of a PJ as it swam around and between the numerous big boulders.

Then to top it off, as we ascended, a big school of bonito swam past above us.

What a great dive. Thank you Les and Michael! Robyn, Eddie and Laurie(with his rebreather) were the other luck divers.





## Harbourkeepers

### Fish Biodiversity Surveys

Bram Harris mentioned at the last club meeting that he has been involved in the harbourkeepers fish diversity survey.

So what is it all about?

The program involved Fish Survey Workshops and Dives aimed at Contributing to marine conservation by increasing our knowledge of "what's down there". By attending a workshop and completing training dives

HarbourKeepers can become involved in a Fish Biodiversity Survey and gain a PADI certification as a Project AWARE Fish Identification Specialty diver!

NPA~Marine is holding free fortnightly Fish Survey Training Workshops and dives over the next few months. The workshops teach you how to identify 50 target fish species and about survey methodology and diver safety. This is followed by 2 training dives with equipment provided courtesy of Plunge Diving, our Primary Dive Supporter. The workshop and training materials are free but participants will need to cover their \$50.00 certification fees.

If you're interested in more information please go to the website:

[www.harbourkeepers.org.au/fishbiodiversity.htm](http://www.harbourkeepers.org.au/fishbiodiversity.htm)

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Monthly Meetings

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2006 at the St. George Rowing Club, 1 Levey Street Woolli Creek at 8.00 pm. Come along about 7 pm and enjoy a meal at the bistro.

### Thursday Night Dives

These are still very popular, with up to 10 members attending each dive in recent months.

If you are interested in coming along, let Michael McFadyen know via email [Michael.McFadyen@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Michael.McFadyen@environment.nsw.gov.au) and he will add you to the night dive email list.

Night dives will run right through winter every Thursday night (weather permitting).

So do you ever see anything good on a night dive?



Check out these shots from Ron Walsh that he took on the night dive at Bare Island on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2006.!



## UP AND COMING EVENTS

### Boat Dive – Osborne Shoals 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 2006

There is a boat dive to Osborne Shoals on 10<sup>th</sup> September. Please contact Les Caterson if you are interested ph. 9520 9421.

### Boat Dive – The Hilda 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 2006

The Hilda is a collier which went down in 1893 and is located about 200m out from Cape Bailey Lighthouse. It sits in about 27m but is a bit strewn around on the seabed. The dive was

filled at the last meeting but if anyone would like to put their name on a reserve list they can contact Steve Shaw ph. 9868 4056.

We have 11 divers on two boats. John's boat is leaving from Port Botany and Les's boat is leaving from Yowie Bay. We'll meet up on the wreck.

Anyone who has forgotten what boat they were allocated to should contact Les or myself.

The writer of the report will be decided during after-dive nibbles by drawing straws unless we get a volunteer.

## ST GEORGE SOCIAL EVENING

*Saturday 23rd September @ 7pm*

*Imperial Peking Restaurant*

*Corner King Georges Road & Stuart St  
Blakehurst*



*10 Course Chinese Banquet plus Coffee or  
Tea - \$31 per person*

*RSVP to Carol Martin (02) 9398 5336*

### Boat Diving – Labour Weekend 29<sup>th</sup> Sept – 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2006

This trip to Port Stephens is now full and \$50 deposits are due to be paid to the Treasurer.

### Boat Diving – School Holidays 30<sup>th</sup> Sept – 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2006

Crew required for diving -any day possible over the school holidays Saturday 30th September - 15th October.

Please contact John Beddie at home Ph. 9820 4272.

### Shore Dive – Oak Park 8<sup>th</sup> October 2006

A shore dive is planned for Oak Park at Cronulla. Please contact Dave Burns for details ph. 9531 4403.

### Boat Dive – The Colours 15<sup>th</sup> October 2006

A boat dive is planned for The Colours leaving Rose Bay wharf. Please contact Dave Vandervelden for details ph. 0414 240 992.

### Boat Dive – The Duckenfield 29<sup>th</sup> October 2006

Be quick to claim your spot for this club dive to the wreck of the Duckenfield.

Located off the northern beaches in 25 meters of water this wreck has a large boiler, engine and other small trinkets to explore.

Boats will leave Rose Bay wharf at 8am with morning tea at Clifton gardens after the dive. Contact Kelly on 9558 8181 or e-mail.

### Boat Diving – Ulladulla 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2006

We need to start hearing expressions of interest so we can arrange boats & accommodation.

Please contact Philip Rose on 9543 0748 for more info.

#### **For Sale: one reg & second stage.**

Unit comprises 1<sup>st</sup> stage: Sea Hornet Command Air Mark 6. - Diaphragm (2HP & 4 LP ports, in a non-swivel configuration)

2<sup>nd</sup> stage: Us Divers 'Titan' with adjustable air flow lever. Unit is 5 yrs old & is in good condition.

Asking price - \$275

Please contact Peter Flockart Ph.9371 0265

## OTHER NEWS

### 2006 - An Ocean Odyssey Friday 17 November 2006

After an absence of a few years, DIVE Log and Sportdiving are putting on another night of noted underwater adventurers.

The night will be held at the Clancy Auditorium, University of NSW, on Friday 17 November 2006. Guest speakers will include Jean-Michel Cousteau, Phil Nuytten, Ron and Valerie Taylor and Bob Halstead.

From experience, all of these speakers are quite interesting and worth hearing. Cost of tickets is \$16.50. As well, there are some trips to PNG to be won as door prizes.

Michael McFadyen is putting together a group of St George Scuba Club members to attend. If you are interested, please email Michael by 6 August and give him your money at the next opportunity so he can purchase sufficient tickets. Michael can be emailed at [michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info](mailto:michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info).

## THE NEW WEB SITE

As most members would know, the Club's new web site is up and running at [www.stgeorgescubaclub.org.au](http://www.stgeorgescubaclub.org.au). If you do not know this, it is probably because the Club has no record of your email address and you did not receive the notification. The web site has sections that anyone can view and there are other parts that only members can see and access. To access the extended parts, you need to have a login. To do this, you must have an email address (this is a requirement of the software). If you have not been given a login, please contact Michael McFadyen by email at [webmaster@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au](mailto:webmaster@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au). Note that people who share an email address cannot have separate logins, again a limitation of the system (hint - make a Hotmail one and advise Michael).

This article provides some help to access the web site, especially its member-only features.

First off, as part of this, dedicated email addresses have been set up for most members of the Club committee. These are President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter (Editor) and Webmaster. The email address is [xxxx@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au](mailto:xxxx@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au) where xxxx is

the title of the position (for Editor is it just newsletter). Any emails sent to these addresses will divert to the incumbent's personal email. Therefore, when positions change, there is no need to change the contact pages on the site nor anywhere else it may appear. Therefore, for submitting articles for the newsletter, just send to [newsletter@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au](mailto:newsletter@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au) and Jason will receive it.



Open the Club's web site. Have a look at the menu panels on the left and the amount of information you can see on the main screen. Check out the right hand side as well.

On the left side of the screen there is a panel title Login. Enter your Username and Password. If you do not recall what these are, please go to the site contacts page and send an email to the Webmaster and advising what you require. If you wish to be automatically logged in when you next open the site, tick the box next to Login. Click Login (you may also then be prompted by Windows to remember your password - up to you to decide).

Once logged in you will notice that there are more menu options on the left panels and more information in the main centre panel. In addition, there may sometimes be more information/options in the right panel.

The first thing you should do is change your password and update your details. On the bottom of the left screen you will see a panel entitled FIRSTNAME LASTNAME. Click on Edit Profile. Change your password to something and update your date of birth (if you want other members to see that it is your birthday in the month it occurs). You can add an Avatar. This is a photo of yourself. Make a photo with a maximum of 100 pixels high or wide. Load it by clicking on Browse and find the file on your computer, then click Open. The photo should



now appear on the profile page. You can also change the theme (colours etc) of the web site. This will only affect how it looks to you. Once you are happy with all the information, click on Update Profile.



Go to the Login panel again and click on Members List. This will open a new page which has a list of members. The first ones are the system administrators and then the normal members. These are in alphabetical order by first name (sorry - this is how the system works). You can find others by clicking on the letter of their first name. If you click on their name, you can see details about them as well as a photo if they have uploaded one. You can also email them or send a private message by clicking on the links (email or PM) under the photo.

Private messages can also be accessed by clicking on Private Messages on the bottom left panel with your name. Private Messages are sent within the web site and are only visible when you login (you get a note telling you there is a message to read on the bottom of the login panel - click on the note to see the message). You can also send messages and/or emails from here as well as getting the system to email you if a PM has been sent to you).

On the right side of the screen there is a panel called Member Poll. This can be set up for anything by an Administrator. At the moment it is asking what you think of the site. Please take time (a few seconds) to vote. The results will be shown to you once you vote.

On this same side there is a Calendar Panel. This shows the current month. Days with events are bold. Put your cursor over them and the event title will appear. The bottom of this panel shows (or at least should show - there is a problem that needs to be solved) the next five events. You can click on them to see more details. Above this there is a heading Events

with Click for more details under it. This will open in the main screen the Events Panel.

If there are any birthdays in the month, these will be shown on the top. Under this is a calendar of the current year with each month. Months with events have a red dot. Under this are all the events planned for the current month. You can also click on Next Month or Last Month or any of the year's months to see the events. These events can only be added by an Administrator but so far I cannot see how to edit them if a mistake is made!

On the left side you will see an expanded panel with is headed by Search. This panel is where you can add information to the site.

For the web site to work properly for all members, some rules are needed. Articles are stories about things that have happened in the past such as Club dives, non-Club dives, social events etc. News is for when you want to advertise a non-Club dive or social event or highlight a Club dive or social event. It is also for advertising the Sale of dive gear, seeking dive buddies or other similar things. Photos are for photos of any Club dive or social event or for any photo relating to diving. Links are for dive clubs or member's own web sites (of course only if they relate to diving in some way).

Articles - to add an article, click on Submit Article. This will take you to a main screen where you can type your article. Select the Category, add a Subject (the Title), a Snippet (summary) and then the article itself. It is possible to add photos to the article but this can really only be done by an administrator as some knowledge of html is required. Email the photos (no more than 400 pixels high or wide) to [webmaster@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au](mailto:webmaster@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au) and they can be added.

Once an article is submitted, it will not appear automatically on the web site. It has to be vetted and approved by an administrator for content and correct category etc. This is a simple matter that takes a few seconds but which will only occur every few days. A couple more administrators are required, if you are interested, contact the Webmaster.

You can add news by clicking on Submit News. Again, it is similar to the article submission process, although you can preview if before submitting.

The most complicated one is to add photos to the Photo Gallery. Note that photos must be no larger than 400 pixels high or wide. This is also the preferred size. The files must also be smaller than 50 kb, although it is preferable that they are smaller than 30 kb. You will need to resize your photos before starting this operation.

Click on Photo Album Upload. This takes you to a main photo album page. The photos need to be placed in albums. These are like categories. You can either add photos to an existing album (for example there is one dedicated to photos at Bare Island, no matter who took or when they were taken) or create a new album. To create a new album, type a simple title in the Title box (eg Club Dive Barrens Hut 20 June 2006) and then in the Info box put a short summary of what the album is about. You need to add one photo here which will be used as an introduction to the album. It can be also put in the album proper (see later) if you wish. Click on Browse and find the file on your computer and Click Open. Once you are happy, click on Save Album. This will add the album to the list underneath.

To add photos to the album, click on Enter next to the album of choice. This will open a new page. Type a Title and select the photo off your computer as before. Click Save Photo to add the

photo. The photo will now appear in the list of photos below. Add more photos.

What else is there on the web site?

- Information and History about the Club
- Club Committee
- Contact Details
- Meeting Dates
- Newsletters - all newsletters for the past 20 months are there
- Calendar - there is a pdf file of the year's events
- Member List - there is a pdf file of current members with email, phone and addresses
- Tide Tables for Sydney
- Link to Michael McFadyen's Web Site for dive site information
- Link to Other Club and Member's Web Sites

There is also a discussion forum but to date no-one has submitted anything nor have I thought

If you have any questions about the site, or want to become an administrator, please contact Michael McFadyen using the Webmaster email address.

## Tide Times for September 2006 (Fort Denison)

Due to a glitch I have been unable to update the tides. However Michael has put them on the website.

### The Committee for 2005 – 2006 is:

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Steve Shaw	9868 4056	<a href="mailto:srcshaw@au1.ibm.com">srcshaw@au1.ibm.com</a>
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT:</b>	Phil Rose	9543 0748	<a href="mailto:pvrose5@bigpond.net.au">pvrose5@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Carol Mapstone	9398 5336	<a href="mailto:cmartin@nsccahs.health.nsw.gov.au">cmartin@nsccahs.health.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>TREASURER:</b>	Les Caterson	9520 9421	<a href="mailto:lescat2@bigpond.net.au">lescat2@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>ASST SEC / TRES</b>	Dave Vandervelden	0414 240 992	<a href="mailto:davidvan@tpg.com.au">davidvan@tpg.com.au</a>
<b>EDITOR:</b>	Jason Coombs	9345 0488	<a href="mailto:j.coombs@unsw.edu.au">j.coombs@unsw.edu.au</a>

Please send items for the Newsletter to me by the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month [J.Coombs@unsw.edu.au](mailto:J.Coombs@unsw.edu.au).