



# NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 453 Hurstville South 2221 NSW

June 2006

## News Flash!

### *Big Congratulations to Michael and Kelly!*

Michael and Kelly got engaged on Friday 26 May. Michael asked Kelly to marry him on the edge of Dove Lake at Cradle Mountain while watching the sunset.



(NOTE: Picture may not be a true representation)

*The rumour is that they plan to marry on the wreck of the Tuggerah. The invitations will read: "Only experienced divers with the appropriate equipment can attend this wedding."*

*But what we really want to know is - what is the significance of the location for popping the question? After all we all know what goes in a cradle...*

*Watch this space for updates on that story!*

### Club Boat Dive – Voodoo

20th May 2006

By Ray Moulang

On our recent club boat dive to Voodoo Reef we departed Port Botany just after 7.30am. We rounded the heads in Sea John and went down the coast to Voodoo Reef. On board were John B, Sheila, Paul P, Mike S and myself.

On arrival we hunted for a good patch of reef. Didn't really find too much reef but we did pick in. Shortly we were joined by LeScat and Ian in his boat as well.

They jockeyed around and finally picked in. We all had a pleasant dive with an absence of fish life where we were and we soon were back in the boats and readying our morning tea, when our anchor wouldn't shift. We were going to do the right thing and move over with the other two boats and chat etc.

There was a call from the boat if anyone knew Dave Burns's as we all know he does like the odd anchor. It was stuck solid and just wouldn't budge. The other guys saw our problem and moved over to us and as the weather and swell were fine we all rafted up and shared the eats around.

We all feasted then Peter excelled himself by pulling out some large continental franks and skewers and proceeded to pass them around. I swapped a piece of apple pie for one and they were great.

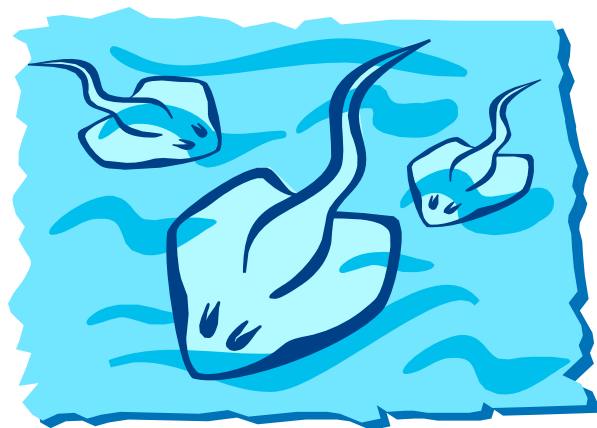
Anyway after about half an hour it was time to depart and good old Peter T went down our anchor line and relieved it for us and we headed back up to Tabiguy on the headland. We had to anchor around a small rocky outcrop as the southerly had come up.

We went down and found an anchor that John had stashed away for safe keeping awaiting a return with a hacksaw. Anchor recovered and floating on the lifting device after a good look around we all headed back to the boat and did a deco and met back in the boat.

Time to return home so Mike goes to pull the anchor and once again it was stuck solid. Moving and adjusting the boat it wouldn't move. Mike lost the toss and down he went to release it. Successfully done he rode back up the line and off we went back to the ramp.

A good days diving with good friends and a 100% tally on getting the anchor caught. John recons he can't even recall getting stuck twice in one day.

Thanks to John for making his boat available. We all look forward to the next club outing.



### **Do you know what Captain Cook originally called Botany Bay?**

Cook's diary entry for Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May 1770:

"In the evening the yawl returned from fishing having caught two stingrays weighing nearly 600 pounds.

The great quantity of huge stingrays found in this place occasioned me in giving the name of Stingrays Harbour...."

He then tried Botanist Harbour,

...then Botanist Bay

...and finally he settled on Botany Bay.

Apparently the stingrays were so numerous they just lay about under the ship and were so large they had to gut them before they could lift them up onto the ship.

It's just a shame they're not still there!

## **REGULAR EVENTS**

### **Monthly Meetings**

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2006 at the St. George Rowing Club, 1 Levey Street Wooli 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 and he will add you to the night dive email list.

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

## **UP AND COMING EVENTS**

### **Boat Dive - Deep Wreck**

**3<sup>rd</sup> June 2006**

With Les away, Michael McFadyen will be organising this dive. This month's dive will be on the wreck of the SS Undola. These dives are limited to suitably experienced and equipped members and only those who have previously dived such wrecks can come.

Contact Michael by email Michael.McFadyen@environment.nsw.gov.au or phone 9558 8181 if you are interested in coming. Spaces are limited.

### **Boat Dive – The Balcony**

**4<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

A dive is being organised for The Balcony on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

Please contact Carol Mapstone on Ph. 9398 5336.

### **Boat Dive – The Royal Shepherd**

**18<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

A dive is being organised for the wreck of The Royal Shepherd on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

Please contact Dave Vandervelden on Ph. 0414 240 992.

## Boat Double Dive – Wollongong 25<sup>th</sup> June 2006

A dive is being organised for Wollongong on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2006. There are 6 spaces available.

\$40 for a double dive with air fill.

Contact Philip Rose on Ph. 9543 0748 for more info.

## Boat Dive - Deep Wreck 24<sup>th</sup> June 2006

The deep dive for July is being held a week early as Michael will be on his way to South West Rocks with a few members on the scheduled date.

We will try for the Tuggerah. As with all deep dives, only suitably experienced and equipped members can attend this dive.

Please contact Michael McFadyen (9585 6434 w) if you are interested.

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

Originally scheduled South West Rocks on the calendar for Labour weekend but unfortunately it's a small place and it's fully booked!

So the plan is to head up to Nelson Bay only 2 hours north of Sydney.

The diving is with Pro-Dive Nelson Bay who have a very good reputation (see their website <http://www.prodivenelsonbay.com/>). The boat departs straight from their shop in the centre of Nelson Bay so no lugging gear, waiting at boat ramps or surf entries.

There are a wide range of boat dive sites including:

- Broughton Island – Grey Nurse shark (critical habitat) gutters and caves
- Fingal Island – pinnacle dive rising from 35metres to 5metres
- Wrecks – Oakland Collier (27m) Macleay (42m)
- Cabbage Tree Island – Sponge gardens, a couple of small shallow wrecks and home to one of the rarest nudibranchs the Donut nembrotha is commonly found here.



DONUT NEMBROTHA

The diving is with Pro-Dive Nelson Bay who have a very good reputation (see their website <http://www.prodivenelsonbay.com/>). The boat departs straight from their shop in the centre of Nelson Bay so no lugging gear, waiting at boat ramps or surf entries.

Alternatively if the seas are up we can shore dive at the famous Fly Point or Halifax park. These sites are high tide dives which will be at 1:24pm on Saturday, 2:39pm on Sunday and 3:53pm on Monday over Labour Weekend.

Accommodation will be at Pro dive – backpacker style opposite the RSL and right in the centre of Nelson Bay for convenience. We can structure it for 2 or 3 days boat diving.

The cost for 6 boat dives and accommodation is expected to be about \$300 - \$350 depending on how many people we get and the dive sites we go to. Also if we can get more than 8 we will have the comfort of the big boat (with toilet facilities) and be able to decide which sites we do.

I would appreciate initial interest from members at this point so that I can confirm approximate numbers and firm up the price and booking details. Please contact Jason Ph. 9345 0488 or [J.Coombs@unsw.edu.au](mailto:J.Coombs@unsw.edu.au).

## OTHER NEWS

### Message from your Treasurer

Membership renewal fees of \$25 are due from the end of June.

Please check your details on the attached list and fill in only any changes on the renewal form also attached and hand in to the acting treasurer (David Vandevelden) or post to our PO. Box. Make all cheques payable to the St. George Scuba Club.

### Dive Gear Order

Michael McFadyen has emailed out to all members information about the next order. This will close on 21 June.

If you did not get the email and are interested in ordering come cheap gear, please contact Michael by email at [michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info](mailto:michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info) or at home on 9558 8181.

## 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 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).

### Tide Times for June 2006 (Fort Denison)

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High
Thu 1		6:15 AM EST / 0.39 m	12:16 PM EST /	5:33 PM EST / 0.65 m	
Fri 2	12:02 AM EST / 1.50	7:01 AM EST / 0.43 m	1:08 PM EST / 1.12	6:28 PM EST / 0.70 m	
Sat 3	12:50 AM EST / 1.43	7:46 AM EST / 0.47 m	2:02 PM EST / 1.15	7:29 PM EST / 0.73 m	
Sun 4	1:41 AM EST / 1.37 m	8:32 AM EST / 0.49 m	2:58 PM EST / 1.21	8:35 PM EST / 0.74 m	
Mon 5	2:36 AM EST / 1.33 m	9:16 AM EST / 0.50 m	3:48 PM EST / 1.29	9:42 PM EST / 0.72 m	
Tue 6	3:32 AM EST / 1.29 m	9:57 AM EST / 0.50 m	4:33 PM EST / 1.38	10:41 PM EST / 0.67	
Wed 7	4:26 AM EST / 1.27 m	10:37 AM EST / 0.50	5:14 PM EST / 1.48	11:35 PM EST / 0.59	
Thu 8	5:18 AM EST / 1.25 m	11:16 AM EST / 0.49	5:53 PM EST / 1.57		
Fri 9		12:25 AM EST / 0.51	6:08 AM EST / 1.24	11:55 AM EST / 0.47	6:33 PM EST / 1.65 m
Sat 10		1:12 AM EST / 0.42 m	6:58 AM EST / 1.23	12:36 PM EST / 0.46	7:13 PM EST / 1.71 m
Sun 11		1:58 AM EST / 0.34 m	7:47 AM EST / 1.22	1:19 PM EST / 0.45 m	7:55 PM EST / 1.76 m
Mon 12		2:43 AM EST / 0.27 m	8:34 AM EST / 1.22	2:02 PM EST / 0.44 m	8:38 PM EST / 1.78 m
Tue 13		3:29 AM EST / 0.23 m	9:23 AM EST / 1.21	2:48 PM EST / 0.44 m	9:24 PM EST / 1.79 m
Wed 14		4:17 AM EST / 0.20 m	10:14 AM EST /	3:36 PM EST / 0.45 m	10:12 PM EST / 1.78 m
Thu 15		5:08 AM EST / 0.20 m	11:07 AM EST /	4:30 PM EST / 0.47 m	11:03 PM EST / 1.75 m
Fri 16		6:00 AM EST / 0.21 m	12:02 PM EST /	5:29 PM EST / 0.51 m	11:57 PM EST / 1.69 m
Sat 17		6:51 AM EST / 0.24 m	12:59 PM EST /	6:33 PM EST / 0.54 m	
Sun 18	12:54 AM EST / 1.61	7:43 AM EST / 0.28 m	1:59 PM EST / 1.33	7:44 PM EST / 0.56 m	
Mon 19	1:55 AM EST / 1.51 m	8:35 AM EST / 0.32 m	3:00 PM EST / 1.42	9:02 PM EST / 0.56 m	
Tue 20	3:02 AM EST / 1.41 m	9:27 AM EST / 0.36 m	3:58 PM EST / 1.53	10:17 PM EST / 0.52	
Wed 21	4:09 AM EST / 1.32 m	10:17 AM EST / 0.40	4:51 PM EST / 1.64	11:25 PM EST / 0.45	
Thu 22	5:13 AM EST / 1.26 m	11:05 AM EST / 0.42	5:42 PM EST / 1.73		
Fri 23		12:27 AM EST / 0.38	6:13 AM EST / 1.21	11:52 AM EST / 0.44	6:30 PM EST / 1.78 m
Sat 24		1:22 AM EST / 0.32 m	7:09 AM EST / 1.18	12:38 PM EST / 0.45	7:17 PM EST / 1.81 m
Sun 25		2:10 AM EST / 0.28 m	7:59 AM EST / 1.17	1:24 PM EST / 0.46 m	8:01 PM EST / 1.80 m
Mon 26		2:54 AM EST / 0.27 m	8:44 AM EST / 1.17	2:08 PM EST / 0.47 m	8:43 PM EST / 1.77 m
Tue 27		3:35 AM EST / 0.28 m	9:27 AM EST / 1.17	2:51 PM EST / 0.49 m	9:24 PM EST / 1.73 m
Wed 28		4:15 AM EST / 0.30 m	10:10 AM EST /	3:33 PM EST / 0.52 m	10:05 PM EST / 1.67 m
Thu 29		4:55 AM EST / 0.33 m	10:53 AM EST /	4:17 PM EST / 0.56 m	10:45 PM EST / 1.61 m
Fri 30		5:34 AM EST / 0.37 m	11:36 AM EST /	5:02 PM EST / 0.61 m	11:25 PM EST / 1.55 m

#### 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	9531 1467	<a href="mailto:cmartin@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au">cmartin@nscchahs.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).