



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 453 Hurstville South 2221 NSW

June 2007

Pizza Reef

11th April 2007

By Jon Evans

I have wanted to dive with Les and the mid-week gang for months now. Family scheduling challenges or late bookings had always prevented me from participating in the Wednesday dives. On April 9 the family was out of town and I seized the opportunity to go.

Prior to this dive I had been on several club dives and even dived from the Le Scat. I hadn't met Les before though, so after sussing my dive experience and determining that I probably wouldn't drown myself he took me under his wing for the day.

I wasn't too sure about finding the launch ramp and gave myself plenty of time. Consequently I arrived about 45 minutes early. Les and the others were a well-oiled machine and after arriving exactly on time got the gear onboard and the boat launched with minimal fuss.

The target site for the day was Pizza Reef AKA Fish Reef. I had not dived this site nor anywhere else in Port Hacking so I was excited about the dive. After a short boat ride we anchored and Les and I descended first down the line to about 22 meters. We saw the usual variety of fish and a cuttlefish that alternated between fear of my exhaust bubbles and a desire to attack my orange dive gloves.

I was expecting another short ride back to the boat ramp and a few brief farewells, but there was another surprise in store. I don't like to eat before I dive and the combination of exercise and hypothermia leave me famished at the end of the day. We stopped short of the boat ramp in a protected cove and instantly people started pulling out food from every corner of the boat. Cheese rolls, sweet rolls, sandwiches, crisps, soup, tea and coffee; I was stuffed by the time we pulled anchor and headed back.

If you have time or can make time on Wednesday mornings before lunch I recommend making the trip. I give it two thumbs up.



Michael and Kelly tied the knot on Saturday 26th May making them officially Mrs President and Mr First Lady!

They buddied up for life at the headland overlooking Bare Island.

Oak Park Night Dive

3rd May 2007

By Brian Byrnes

There was a bright moon rising over the gently swelling water as we geared up for the night dive at Oak Park. The tide was high, and we entered the water south of the underwater tide pool, and finned out to deeper water.

Underwater we could hear the faint background clicking of countless tiny claws, which faded as we swam further out. The visibility wasn't great, but it was plenty good enough for the dive to be very enjoyable.



Note the eggs above the Blue Devil fish which it was protecting – by Ron Walsh

Oak Park is a great dive for people who like to see lots of interesting underwater life among its rocks, reefs and overhangs. From tiny, active brittle stars to the really big Giant Cuttlefish hovering near the divers, the dive was endlessly fascinating.

One of the highlights of the dive came early, at least for me, when we came across a juvenile Smooth Flutemouth, which seemed quite happy to pose for the camera. Not far away were a couple of small Weedy Seadragons, nearly blending in with the kelp. A bit further on was a Common Stingaree with the great misfortune to be missing its tail.

The half-way mark was notable for its very large flathead, well camouflaged with the sand. On the way back we came across an octopus, determinedly trying to be part of the reef it had latched on to. And just near the end was a large and impassive Sergeant Baker perched on its pectoral fins.



Sergeant Baker – by Ron Walsh

After the dive we had a barbeque in Oak Park itself, which most people stayed for. Thanks to Michael for organising another successful night dive.

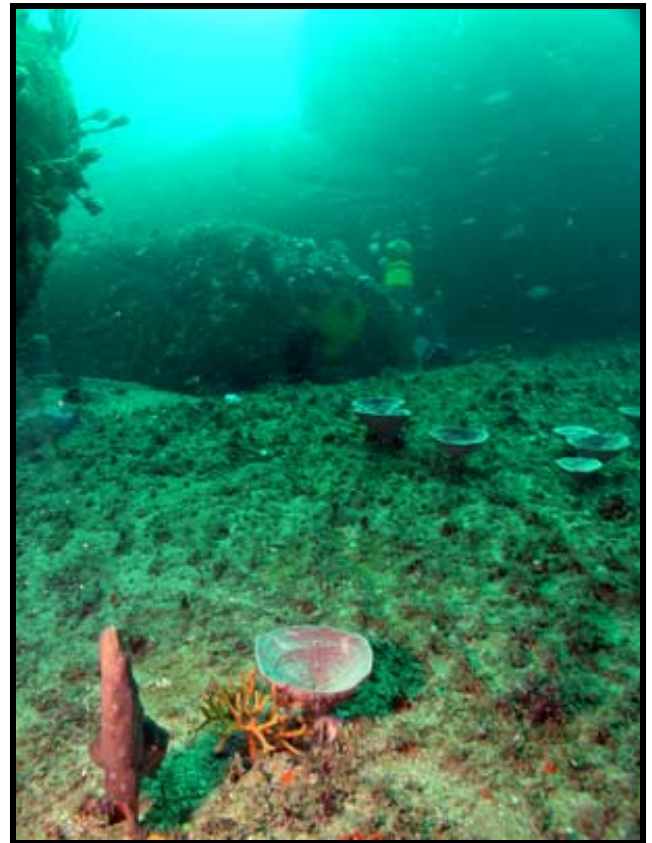
Green Wheelie Bin Reef (North Head) – Boat Dive

6th May 2007

By Peter Flockart

Generally when dives are planned the weather the week before is excellent but on the day, it goes pear shaped! Not this time, the weather was good all week & while not as good as Saturday it wasn't too bad, so much so that I had to fight people off with a stick. There were some last minute calls by members hoping to get on this much anticipated dive.

Sunday morning & not a breath of wind but heaps of cars & boats at Rose Bay due to a spear comp.



Green Wheelie Bin Reef – by Michael McFadyen

There were two boat loads of eager St George divers wanting to get out & enjoy the good conditions. Le Scat was crewed by Michael, Peter F, Shelia, Beverley plus Jason & Roxanne. The No Name boat boasted a crew of Ian, Luke, Steve Shaw, Dick & Eda. After

loading & jostling for launching spot & car space the intrepid crews headed set out over the flat harbour water for North Head.

As most people hadn't done much diving here it fell to Michael & Peter F to make an "informed decision" as to where to drop the pick. After criss-crossing the area just under the Nth Head look-out it was scientifically decided to drop the pick just out from the large rock on the shore line. It was here that some time ago there resided a Green Wheelie Bin. Thus this site was given the name of Green Wheelie Bin Reef.

Ian anchored some 20m up from Le Scat & divers prepared to roll over. Michael dived with Shelia & Beverley. They had a great dive with Michael getting some great shots. After the allotted time of 40 mins Peter F along with Jason & Rox proceeded to the bottom to begin what was to be a superb dive.

The descent from the boat brought us to a thick patch of Ecklonia kelp which after you turned south & dropped steeply brought you to a bottom of large boulders & gutters in 22m of water.

This area was a few metres wide before again dropping by about 2m to a wide area, scattered with rocks & overhangs that housed an amazing array of life. Some of these areas were covered by encrusting algae's, while others boasted a fine array of thin orange fans & lemon finger sponges. On one rock was a small "new" flatworm which was eagerly photographed by Rox.



Sheila get's up close and personal with a cuttlefish – by Michael McFadyen

Peter F wished he too had a camera. He was testing out his housing after a disastrous flood & was camera-less. Despite this he managed to

find not only the flatworm but a very small "Flabellina sp" nudibranch. (hallelujah for prescription masks).

The marine life here is spectacular & well worth more dives. Under an overhang was found a fin? Is there more of the diver to find?

The marine life is absolutely amazing & with every turn more discoveries await the diver/photographer.

Like the dive done at the end of 2006 on North head this site is well worth more visits.

After a great dive we retired to Camp Cove for "morning tea", interrupted only by the wash of passing boats. From here we were off to Rose Bay for the exercise in both patience & boat retrieval, which was due to along queue at the ramp.

Thanks to all that came, including the boat owners for their time & use of their vessels.

Ship Rock Night Dive 10th May 2007 By Ron Walsh

It started with a late Thursday afternoon phone call from Mike Scotland - the night dive that night at Long Bay was cancelled due to the weather. Did I want to dive Shiprock on the low tide? He had just spoken to Ian Gowan and Ian advised that the water looked reasonably clear out the back of his place.

So five of us turned up to dive. Mike Scotland, Dave Casburn, Ian Gowan, Eddie Ivers and Ron Walsh (me).



Mike Scotland, David Casburn, Ian Gowan and Eddie Ivers – By Ron Walsh

Kitting up in the shallows the water looked to be not too bad! Did the usual down the sand slope

and off the wall to the bottom in 12m. The vis was actually quite good - around 8m.

We did the tour of the bommies, including giving the plaque a cleaning rub. Lots of leatherjackets and cuttlefish, especially baby ones, through this section.



Blue Swimmer Crab – by Ron Walsh

Back to the wall and kept going south, gradually getting shallower till we turned at about 5m depth. A highlight here was finding a male blue swimmer crab holding onto a female waiting for the right time to mate.

On the way back we came across a wobbegong. Our torches set it off in motion and it proceeded to swim through the group. Poor Dave was having a close inspection of the wall, not paying attention, and nearly had heart failure when the wobbegong almost swam into him - he didn't see it coming. The rest of us nearly drowned we were laughing so much!



Disco Doris! – by Ron Walsh

Ian and I separated from the others near the bubble cave and we swam to the far seaward end of Shiprock. Finds here were a Fragile

Discodoris (I think) the size of a dinner plate, and another wobbegong around 2m in length.

After the dive we had our usual pizza and beer at the Lilli Pilli pizza shop (at our reserved table!)

Your Newsletter Thanks you!

Following the impassioned plea in last month's newsletter there's been a great response from members with loads of articles and photos.

In fact 7 members have provided combinations of articles and photos for this issue!

It is best summed up by this e-mail from Brian Byrnes:

Hi Jason,

I was planning to go diving tonight - until it was canceled. Since this was clearly due to the anger of the gods, I decided to appease them by writing up last week's dive.

Cheers,

Brian

Don't upset the dive gods – keep those articles coming!

Tuggerah Dives

May 2007

By Mark Ridsdale

The Tuggerah - Saturday 5th May 2007 - well it has been about six years since I had dived the Tuggerah. We set out in Les Scat with Les, Shiela, Bram, John P, Eddie and myself. Blue skies, a 6 inch swell, no wind made for a comfortable and fast trip, skippered by Eddie, to the site. Les and Shiela were first in followed by myself and Bram, with Eddie and John Prior as the anchor men.

What a fantastic dive - visibility about 15 -20 metres and 23 degree water. Stacks of fish life - in fact as I descended passing Les and Shiela on the start of their deco -- I thought wow there seems to be a stack of kelp growth on the wreck

--- it wasn't kelp, just schools and schools of fish - just fantastic. Plenty to see but the 15 minutes went quickly and we made our way up passing Eddie and John on their descent.

Having spent 20 minutes on the deco ascent we exited the water. We waited for Eddie and John - and we waited and we waited. It was clear that all was Ok as both were on the deco line - so up came the anchor and we started the drift aided by a 5 knot westerly - after a drift of 700 metres from the site and 1 hour and 20 minutes of elapsed time since I got back on the boat, John Prior exited the water and announced that Eddie's 2nd computer still had 5 minutes to go.

Well Ed, if you do the Tuggerah again you will have to go in first so that we can have lunch before 1.30pm next time!!!

Tuggerah - Saturday 12th May 2007. Six hardy soles set out from Yowie Bay on Le scat with Michael at the helm. Les, Shiela, Michael, Kelly, Peter Flockart and myself. The conditions were even better than the week before with blue skies, no wind, and almost glassy seas. Les and Shiela were first in, followed by Peter and myself. This dive was awesome with 20 metre plus visibility, 23 degree water and no current. Stacks of fish life, cuttlefish, 3 wobbies, sand eels and lots of Morwong on the sand around the wreck. Just Fantastic. After 15 minutes we started the ascent just as Kelly and Michael arrived at the bottom. Rumour has it that Kelly and Michael had a domestic whilst on the wreck - and she hit him deliberately with the ship's rudder.

Michael and Les agreed (wow!) that it was the best conditions for many years. I will look forward to the next time.



Serpent eel from a recent Night Dive at The Monument – by David Casburn

REGULAR EVENTS

Monthly Meetings

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 20th June 2007 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

Club night dives continue to be very popular with an average of more than 10 divers every week. The record stands at 15 divers!

Details for all upcoming dives are on the calendar on the right side of the Club's web site. From February, the email advising about night dives will not contain the location of the dive but will refer members to the calendar. Full details will be available from this location about the proposed dive.

Other Dives

Many other dives are advised in the news section of the Club's web site. If you are interested in a dive, have a look at the news section a few days before a weekend and you may find others already planning a dive. You can also place your own news item there (but remember it may take time to appear as it needs to be authorised by a web site administrator).

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Queens Birthday South Solitary Island Away Trip – 8th – 11th June 2007

Please contact Eddie Ivers on Ph. 9526 5910 if you are interested in this trip.

Boat (Deep) Dive – The Wanderers 17th June 2007

Please contact Peter Flockhart if you are interested Ph. 9371 0265.

Boat Dive – Tulip Reef 24th June 2007

Please contact Peter Flockhart if you are interested Ph. 9371 0265.

Swansea Dive and Watagans 4WD Weekend 30th June – 1st July 2007

The plan is to dive Swansea Bridge on Saturday morning about 10:30 am and then after the dive, head into the nearby Watagans Forests for some four wheel driving. Once some fun has been had, we will be going to the camping area

and setting up our camp for the night. On Sunday, we will do some sightseeing and also some four wheel driving before heading home.

Even if you do not have a four wheel drive, you can come on all or part of this weekend. You can either just do the dive at Swansea, or you can do the dive and head direct to the camping area (no 4WD needed) or you can hitch a ride with a member with a four wheel drive. Camping gear can also be provided for those without.

If you are interested in this trip, please contact Michael McFadyen at michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info.

Boat Dive – Barrens Hut 8th July 2007

Please contact Kelly MCFADYEN! (Who is that?) if you are interested Ph. 9558 8181.

Forster / Seal Rocks Away Trip 20th – 22nd July 2007

This trip is planned to include a dive on the wreck of the SS Satara which is at a depth of 35-44m. Minimum requirements for divers to undertake this dive are Advanced or Deep Diver certification with recent logged history of deep dives.

The cost is \$260 per person which includes 4 boat dives (2nd tank free) and two nights' accommodation (Friday and Saturday nights) including linen, bedding and breakfasts

Please contact Jason Coombs on Ph. 9345 4599 if you are interested in this trip.

Norah Head Long Weekend 6th – 9th September 2007

In early September the APEC Conference will be held in Sydney and as a result, we are getting a public holiday (well, at least if you work in the Sydney metropolitan area). This will mean that Friday 7 September is a holiday.

We have booked dives out of Norah Head for Friday and Saturday with a shore dive planned for Sunday. Cost will be \$80 for a double dive with air fills at \$8 (need to provide your own tank or cost \$18). Maximum of 10 to 12 divers. Accommodation will be at the Norah Head Tourist Park. Two 6 berth cabins have been booked. Accommodation will be about \$25 per person per night. Therefore, for an all up cost of about \$250 you will get three nights

accommodation, four boat dives, airfills, barbecue dinner on Friday and Saturday nights and a great time away from Sydney.

These spots are sure to go quickly so to get your name down, you need to pay a \$50 deposit to the Club. If you have any questions, contact Michael McFadyen as soon as possible.

Truk Lagoon - Away Trip September 2007

The Trip will be a liveaboard and we are going on a SS Thornfin, cost is \$3700, which will get cheaper if we get more people interested. Includes flights from Cairns up to 5 dives a day 7 days diving on board, food, soft drinks and accommodation, plus a night at Truk and a night at Guam.

If you are interested please let me know I am taking bookings now. A deposit of \$800 is required asap to secure the trip. If we get several more people the price will reduce by approx \$400 per person depending on numbers, which will easily cover flight up to Cairns as well.

This will be a fantastic trip departing Cairns 14 September and returning 23rd of September. If you are planning on going on the North Solitarys trip, and think they will clash one of our members is looking at combining this as well on his return from Truk, so you can combine both Trips, so no excuses.

Paul Watkinson paul@watkinson.biz

Solitary Islands and South West Rocks Trips

4 days diving (23rd - 28th September) at the Solitary Islands staying at Mullaway (\$495) followed by Labour Weekend 2 days diving (28th Sep – 1st Oct) at South West Rocks (\$280).

There are 2 (two) spots left on the Mullaway Trip and 3 (three) spots left on the SW Rocks trip.

These vacancies will not last, so please advise asap if you have an interest. Ring Mark Ridsdale on 0419 243717.

Undersea Explorer – Liveaboard October 2007

See flyer at the end of the newsletter for this very popular trip.

Undersea Explorer & Yongala Trip

Saturday 13th October 2007 to Sunday 21st October 2007

Undersea Explorer is so popular that our scheduled trip in early October was booked out! So too were the other expeditions around October. Undersea have come to the party and re-scheduled a Ribbon Reef Expedition and Maintenance period to provide us with a 5 day Osprey Reef Expedition. It's the same expedition itinerary as last year, with one less day on the Ribbon Reefs. Due to popular demand, we have added an optional Yongala diving extension.

Undersea has a maximum capacity of 20 divers and Yongala Dive has a maximum of 12 divers. Undersea will hold as many spots as we have deposits for. So be quick!

ITINERY

Saturday 13th	Own transport arrangements ready for boarding, 5pm Port Douglas
Sunday 14th	Cod Hole and Ribbon Reefs – 4 dives, steam overnight to Osprey
Monday 15th	Osprey Reef – 4 dives
Tuesday 16th	Osprey Reef – 4 dives, steam overnight to Ribbon Reefs
Wednesday 17th	Ribbon Reefs – 4 dives
Thursday 18th	Ribbon Reefs – 2 dives, Return to Port Douglas 5pm
Friday 19th	Own transport arrangements to Cairns and Sydney Yongala extension (approx details)
Friday 19th	Travel to Ayr, Accommodation Yongala Dive
Saturday 20th	Morning Dive Yongala – 2 dives, Accommodation Yongala Dive Ayr
Sunday 21st	Morning Dive Yongala – 2 dives, Accommodation Yongala Dive Ayr
Monday 22nd	Own Transport arrangements home.

Cost

Transport to Cairns	Own Cost
Transport from Cairns Airport to Port Douglas	\$25 approx
Undersea Explorer, 5 Day Osprey Reef Trip	\$1735 (less, with more than 10 divers), plus uel Levy and Reef Tax \$90
Accommodation Port Douglas	\$80 approx
Transport to Ayr and Ayr to Townsville Airport	\$110 approx
Yongala Dive	\$370 approx
Transport to Sydney Own Cost	

Payment Deposit required now, for Undersea \$250

Deposit required now, for Yongala Dive \$50

Further Deposit required by 2nd April, Undersea \$300

Balance Due by 2nd August \$TBC due to volume discounts

EFT Details Saint George Scuba Club Inc

Commonwealth Bank

BSB: 062 028

Acc: 00800455

For more information on diving Osprey Reef and the SS Yongala have a look at www.undersea.com.au and www.yongaladive.com.au or talk to some of the members that went last year.

To book, pay your deposit and contact Kelly Jandik at kelly@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info or 9558 8181

Sydney Tides June 2007

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High
Fri 1		2:33 AM EST / 0.36 m	8:22 AM EST / 1.22 m	1:53 PM EST / 0.48 m	8:28 PM EST / 1.70 m
Sat 2		3:13 AM EST / 0.33 m	9:05 AM EST / 1.20 m	2:31 PM EST / 0.49 m	9:06 PM EST / 1.69 m
Sun 3		3:55 AM EST / 0.32 m	9:49 AM EST / 1.18 m	3:10 PM EST / 0.51 m	9:46 PM EST / 1.67 m
Mon 4		4:39 AM EST / 0.31 m	10:34 AM EST / 1.16 m	3:52 PM EST / 0.53 m	10:28 PM EST / 1.65 m
Tue 5		5:24 AM EST / 0.31 m	11:22 AM EST / 1.15 m	4:39 PM EST / 0.56 m	11:13 PM EST / 1.63 m
Wed 6		6:11 AM EST / 0.32 m	12:13 PM EST / 1.17 m	5:33 PM EST / 0.58 m	
Thu 7	12:02 AM EST / 1.59 m	6:59 AM EST / 0.32 m	1:07 PM EST / 1.21 m	6:34 PM EST / 0.60 m	
Fri 8	12:56 AM EST / 1.55 m	7:49 AM EST / 0.33 m	2:05 PM EST / 1.28 m	7:43 PM EST / 0.61 m	
Sat 9	1:56 AM EST / 1.49 m	8:40 AM EST / 0.34 m	3:05 PM EST / 1.38 m	9:00 PM EST / 0.58 m	
Sun 10	3:03 AM EST / 1.43 m	9:32 AM EST / 0.34 m	4:02 PM EST / 1.51 m	10:15 PM EST / 0.51 m	
Mon 11	4:11 AM EST / 1.38 m	10:24 AM EST / 0.35 m	4:56 PM EST / 1.64 m	11:24 PM EST / 0.41 m	
Tue 12	5:17 AM EST / 1.33 m	11:13 AM EST / 0.36 m	5:48 PM EST / 1.76 m		
Wed 13		12:28 AM EST / 0.30 m	6:20 AM EST / 1.30 m	12:04 PM EST / 0.36 m	6:39 PM EST / 1.85 m
Thu 14		1:27 AM EST / 0.22 m	7:20 AM EST / 1.26 m	12:55 PM EST / 0.38 m	7:30 PM EST / 1.90 m
Fri 15		2:21 AM EST / 0.16 m	8:16 AM EST / 1.24 m	1:45 PM EST / 0.39 m	8:20 PM EST / 1.91 m
Sat 16		3:14 AM EST / 0.15 m	9:09 AM EST / 1.22 m	2:35 PM EST / 0.41 m	9:09 PM EST / 1.87 m
Sun 17		4:04 AM EST / 0.17 m	10:01 AM EST / 1.20 m	3:25 PM EST / 0.45 m	9:58 PM EST / 1.80 m
Mon 18		4:54 AM EST / 0.22 m	10:52 AM EST / 1.19 m	4:16 PM EST / 0.50 m	10:47 PM EST / 1.71 m
Tue 19		5:41 AM EST / 0.28 m	11:42 AM EST / 1.19 m	5:09 PM EST / 0.56 m	11:34 PM EST / 1.61 m
Wed 20		6:25 AM EST / 0.35 m	12:31 PM EST / 1.21 m	6:03 PM EST / 0.62 m	
Thu 21	12:20 AM EST / 1.51 m	7:07 AM EST / 0.41 m	1:21 PM EST / 1.23 m	6:59 PM EST / 0.68 m	
Fri 22	1:05 AM EST / 1.41 m	7:47 AM EST / 0.47 m	2:13 PM EST / 1.27 m	8:01 PM EST / 0.73 m	
Sat 23	1:54 AM EST / 1.31 m	8:28 AM EST / 0.51 m	3:05 PM EST / 1.33 m	9:09 PM EST / 0.74 m	
Sun 24	2:50 AM EST / 1.24 m	9:10 AM EST / 0.54 m	3:55 PM EST / 1.40 m	10:14 PM EST / 0.71 m	
Mon 25	3:48 AM EST / 1.19 m	9:53 AM EST / 0.55 m	4:40 PM EST / 1.48 m	11:12 PM EST / 0.64 m	
Tue 26	4:45 AM EST / 1.16 m	10:36 AM EST / 0.55 m	5:23 PM EST / 1.55 m		
Wed 27		12:03 AM EST / 0.56 m	5:40 AM EST / 1.15 m	11:20 AM EST / 0.54 m	6:05 PM EST / 1.61 m
Thu 28		12:51 AM EST / 0.48 m	6:32 AM EST / 1.15 m	12:04 PM EST / 0.52 m	6:46 PM EST / 1.66 m
Fri 29		1:35 AM EST / 0.40 m	7:20 AM EST / 1.17 m	12:49 PM EST / 0.49 m	7:28 PM EST / 1.70 m
Sat 30		2:16 AM EST / 0.33 m	8:04 AM EST / 1.18 m	1:32 PM EST / 0.47 m	8:08 PM EST / 1.73 m

The Committee for 2006 – 2007 is:

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Please send items for the Newsletter to me by the 28th of the month