

Presidents Report

AFTER HER FRIST YEAR IN THE JOB WHICH INCLUDED GETTING MARRIED OUR PRESIDENT KELLY REFLECTS

06/07 was a great year to be a member of St George Scuba Club. Throughout the year we enjoyed;

- 13 trips away: Osprey reef on Undersea Explorer, Shellharbour, South West Rocks (twice), Port Stephens (twice), Solitary Islands, Forster, Jervis Bay, Ulladulla, Norah Head plus a few more to come before the end of this year.
- 23 Club dive days at Swansea, Wollongong, Bass Point, Bare Island (a few times), Kurnel, Pizza reef, Tabbagai, Shiprock, SS Hilda, Minmi trench, Marley Point, The Leap (a couple of times), SS Duckenfield, Middle Ground, North Head, The Colours and Barrens Hut.



Members at Bare Island for a night dive – August 2007

- 39 Thursday night dives in Sydney, with an average of 10 divers each week. All dives were followed by Pizza or a BBQ dinner.
- Social events including our anniversary dinner at Sutherland Thai, Christmas in July, Australia Day at the Catersons, Blakehurst Chinese dinner and Snow Skiing.

- A Free Club Boat Dive Day, with boat dives (at the value of \$25) subsidised by the club for members.
- In addition, members have travelled far and wide including, Truk, Vanuatu, Townsville, PNG, Palau, Christmas Island, Cocos Keeling, Vancouver, Bikini Atoll, the Gold Coast, plus many more.

Member numbers reached 96 during the year and the membership fee remained at \$25 (the same amount for around 9 years now).

Members have also benefited from an increase in the club away trip subsidy from \$5 to \$10 for financial members to either reduce the cost of the trip or to supply a BBQ dinner.

Recently, Club Beanies, Caps and Hats were purchased free for club members. I am sure you will all wear these with pride.

Our annual Christmas Party for members and their families was held in early December, with more than 50 members and family enjoying a feast of cold meats and salads.



Shellharbour weekend saw members and boats out in force – February 2007

The Club renewed its SCAN membership, which gives members 2 free BBQ's each year and the opportunity to mingle with other independent dive club members. SCAN continues to represent our members on issues such as the Diver Tax and submarine cables.

General meetings have been well attended by members with a minimum of 3 raffle prizes made available at each monthly meeting. Prizes have included 'St George Scuba Club Wine', diving books and dive equipment. A special thank you to those members who donated prizes during the year.

We have a healthy bank balance with some funds invested in an interest bearing account. Mark has also done a fantastic job in reducing our bank fees, saving us around \$300 pa.

Michael McFadyen selflessly updated the club website to a new and improved format. The website is a source of information for new and existing members. This work is genuinely appreciated by the members of the club.

Jason Coombs has dazzled us yet again with a series of club newsletters that bring tales of diving experiences and information on upcoming events. Thank you to those members who have provided stories and photographs to make us all envious.



A dive briefing on the Undersea Explorer - November 2006

On behalf of all the members, a very special thank you to the boat owners – Les & Michael, lan Gowan and John Beddie for making their boats available to members to dive from.

On behalf of all club members I would like to thank the Committee (Phil, Elly, Mark, Eddie and Jason) for volunteering their time and effort in managing the administration of the Club.

The future of the club remains prosperous with plenty of diving and socialising on the horizon. I look forward to spending time with you all under the sea.

Happy diving

Kelly

Jervis Bay Away Trip 24th – 26th August 2007 By Brian Byrnes

Where would they come from next? I was slowly turning around, trying to make out shapes through the green haze. For a minute, maybe two, nothing happened. Then suddenly three sleek shapes zoomed down through the water column, leaving trails of fine bubbles behind them. The were another two further to the left. And pretty soon the water seemed to be filled with cavorting, bewhiskered shapes twisting and tumbling through the water.



Seals playing - by Brian Byrnes

Only a matter of minutes earlier we had been on the Ocean Trek, approaching the Steamer's Beach Seal Colony.

"Now we're not going to anchor here." said Lynn, co-master of the Ocean Trek. "You have to get in the water as fast as you can while we're still moving. As soon as the seals see us here they're going to jump in the water. If the divers don't turn up soon, they'll get bored and leave. OK, get ready. Go! Go! Go!". In some ways it felt more like jumping out of a plane than off a dive boat. And while we were lining up to jump in the water, we could see that the seals were already tumbling off the steep rock walls to get in to the water too.

Once were were in the water we quickly swam down in to the greenish waters of the cove. And there it seemed like the whole seal colony had come out to play. The seals joined us pretty much as soon as we arrived, and they were still darting around us when was time for us to head back to the boat about half an hour later.

It was magical. We'd just had the surreal experience of being surrounded by dozens of playful seals, and we weren't even half way through the first day yet. What kind of weekend was this going to be? A contingent from the St George Scuba club had headed down to Huskisson on Friday night to board the Ocean Trek for two days of diving in the refreshingly bracing waters of Jervis Bay.

There was an interesting group of divers on board. Most were from Canberra. But there were also some from the Ryde Underwater Club and two from the UTS diving club (DOUTS), along with the two of us from St George.



Reaper Cuttlefish - by Brian Byrnes

The conditions were nearly perfect, with very little wind or swell, and Lynn and Michael, the welcoming owners of Ocean Trek, had no hesitation in motoring out of the protected waters of the bay. Our first stop on Saturday morning was the South East Bowen Wall, near the southern entrance of the bay. Right near the anchor Peter found a strikingly geometrical Halgerda nudibranch, looking like the side of some psychedelic pineapple.



Peter Flockhart swims over the port Jackson sharks – by Brian Byrnes

We spent most of the dive at about 26 metres and, as with most the sites we dove over the weekend, we were in a rich sponge garden, with brightly coloured sponges, sea tulips and ascidians encrusting the rocky sea floor. On the same dive I found I cute, colourful cuttlefish who was helpfully willing pose for the camera.

The next dive was the close encounter of the seal kind, after which we broke for lunch, followed in many cases by a nap. The afternoon dive on Saturday was at The Docks, which is on the northern side of the bay. This was a less interesting dive, with visibility being perhaps 10 metres, and not a whole lot to see. We saw one Port Jackson Shark, one shy Blue Devil Fish and lots of sea tulips. One of the highlights of the dive was Peter's discovery of a strikingly coloured Hypselodoris nudibranch.



Hypseloloddoris Nudibranch – by Brian Byrnes

We anchored at The Docks for the night, including for the night dive, which Peter and I decided not to do. Those who did go on it reported seeing even less than on the afternoon dive.

The morning dive on Sunday was at a dive site outside the northern entrance of the bay, one which had a very complex arrangement of big tumbled rocks on the sea floor, with lots of boulders, crevices and swim-throughs, and which goes by the name of The Whorehouse.

There were two great things about this dive. One was the large number of Port Jackson Sharks - in some cases piled on top of each other like cute grey logs. Peter even had one swim in to him, seemingly not watching where it was going. The second great thing was the visibility - about 30 metres. We were 25 metres down, and the boat was clearly visible above us. It was great to be able to look around and

actually see lots of other divers covering the site, marked by their trails of bubbles fizzing up to the surface.

The second dive of that day, and the last of the trip, was at Boat Harbour Cove, on the northern side of the bay. This was a fairly shallow dive, at about 16 metres, and the visibility was perhaps 10 metres. The site was a rocky reef covered with a very colourful sponge garden, one which seemed to have a fair number of quite large nudibranchs.

At one point Peter found a small cuttlefish hiding behind a piece of kelp from a much larger puffer fish holding position nearby, and took photos of both of them.

While we were swimming back along the reef towards the boat we saw a fair-sized bull ray swimming in the opposite direction along the sand, just off the reef. As it swam by, the large spikes on its tail seemed to be very prominent. Further along the reef another diver was kneeling on the sand, intently focusing his camera on something in front of him on the reef, seemingly oblivious as the bull ray swam right behind him, almost touching his fins. It's funny when these things happen to other people.

Afterwards was lunch, packing, and return to shore.

All up, a very enjoyable weekend, full of memorable sights and adventures, good food and good company. Thanks go to Peter Flockart for arranging it.

Invitation

This is just to let the club members know that I have officially now moved to Ballina. This is about 30 minutes away from the Byron Bay dive shops.

I have a couple of spare rooms and spare beds so I'd like to invite any divers that want to organise a dive trip to Julian Rocks to stay at my place. Free rent, coffee and the use of my BBQ.

My email is ronbryant@optusnet.com.au and the new phone number is 02 6681 6778.

Cheers Ron Bryant

Mistral Point SeaJohn Boat Dive 28th July 2007 By Paul Pacey

The crew of Heinz Bendinger, Ray and Andrew Moulang and myself joined Captain John Beddie on SeaJohn for a double-dive on Saturday 29th July.

There was a short delay to the boat launch whilst the crew gave Ray's dive gear an overhaul as air was leaking out of everything except the regulator mouthpiece - and we hadn't got near the water yet). My turn for equipment problems came later.

The weather was glorious until we swung around the point from the ramp and encountered the SW "breeze" the Weather Bureau had forecast - it was about 25 knots - hmmmm...

We headed north so we could escape the "breeze" and found ourselves just south of Mistral Point. The water looked clean but with some "speckly stuff" (that's a scientific term) out wide of the cliffs but close in to the cliffs it looked good. John, Heinz and Paul hit the water first and the viz was excellent at 15m+ but a bit cool at 15-16 degrees.

The bottom topography along the coast here is spectacular with large areas of boulders interspersed with piles of huge sandstone slabs creating many gutters, swim-throughs and hidey-holes for all sorts of interesting critters (and one crummy octopus).

Whilst there weren't any spectacularly large fish swimming around the great viz allowed you to easily see that we were constantly surrounded by schools of Sweep, Yellow Tail, Luderick, Mado's and Pullers. In one gutter there were three PJ's having a siesta (I told you it was cold).

Returning to the anchor after about 50 minutes I noticed John well up the anchor line and I could see him enthusiastically pointing to something on the bottom. Well, I looked and looked - but it was a Paul look - and I couldn't see a darned thing except rocks. Eventually John, with the look of a frustrated TAFE teacher on his face, descended to the bottom and almost put his finger on the Tasselled Flat Head laying on the bottom (right under my nose). Gee, they have amazing camouflage, don't they? (that's my excuse anyways). See attached photo of Boggle-eyed Flathead.



Tasselled Flathead – by Paul Pacey

Ray and Andrew were in the second team and we watched their bubbles from from the boat as they were diving in right up against the cliffs as the swell was negligible. They said they were going to try and find some sinkers if they could get in close enough.

Well, I think Andrew was on a mission to set the world record for sinker recovery and, if the Guinness Book dudes had been there, I'm sure he would have won hands down. I'm darned if I know how Andrews BC had enough lift to get him back on the boat - he must have had 15Kg of lead in his BC pockets! True story - we discovered a broken weld on SeaJohn's ladder after Andrew got back on board. I believe that John is briefing his lawyers as we read...



Ray and Andrew - by Paul Pacey

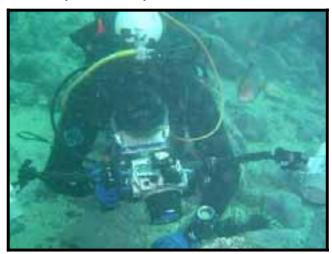
After a pleasant surface interval (read pig-out) and more deep and meaningful radio conversations with the RVCG we decided to move a little further north to the bay just south of Magic Point where we anchored in about 18 metres of water.

We only managed to get one team for the second dive (it really was pretty cold) so Andrew, Ray and myself headed off towards the cliffs again cruising around the boulders and through the myriad gutters. I was a little worried about being press-ganged into sinker harvesting but it seemed that Andrew realised he was already close to sinking SeaJohn with the collection from the previous dive. With the great visibility this was a really relaxing dive even though we didn't see anything spectacular. Again, I think we were running around 50 minutes of dive time.

At the end of the day, John Beddie had scored a nice new reef anchor, Andrew has enough sinkers to fish for three lifetimes and I found a new-looking Titleist (it's a shame that I don't play golf).

Bass Point Shore Dive 5th August 2007

Photos by Paul Pacey



Focused photography and the BBQ afterwards



REGULAR EVENTS

Monthly Meetings

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 19th September 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

After some poor weather night dives are back.



Some of Peter T photos from a recent night dive.



Details for all upcoming dives are on the calendar on the right side of the Club's web site. 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 time to appear as it needs to be authorised by a web site administrator).

UP AND COMING EVENTS

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 boat accommodation. four 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.

The Apartments Double Boat Dive 16th September 2007

The Apartments boat dive at Long Reef on the 16th September has been arranged as a double boat dive (The Apartments and The Wall) using Yves Moullards charter boat Scubaroo. It's \$70 for the two dives (you need to supply both tanks) unless we get more than 10 in which case we'll get \$10 off. BYO morning tea / snacks. Yves provides soup / coffees between dives.

It will depart Rose Bay wharf at 7am.

If you haven't heard about this dive site read Michael's write up on his website:

http://www.michaelmcfadyenscuba.info/viewpag e.php?page id=339

I haven't had the opportunity to dive this site yet but everyone I have spoken to raves about it it's rated as one of the best in Sydney.

Please let Jason Coombs know as soon as possible so we can firm up numbers with Yves J.Coombs@unsw.edu.au.

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).

The South West Rocks leg of the trip is full.

Please advise asap if you have an interest. Ring Mark Ridsdale on 0419 243717.



ULLADULLA AWAY TRIP

ULLADULLA WEEKEND COMING UP 27TH & 28TH OCTOBER. DOUBLE DIVES BOTH DAYS AND 2 NIGHTS' ACCOMMODATION APPROX. \$170-\$180 PER PERSON (DEPENDING ON NUMBERS). MEMBERS CAN BOOK ANYTIME NOW. CONTACT PHILIP ROSE ON 9543 0748 OR 0423 771486 FOR MORE INFO.

OTHER NEWS

Membership Fees

Membership fees of \$25.00 were due on 30th June. To renew just complete a renewal form (available on the website) and get your money to our Treasurer.

Trip Booking reminder

Please be mindful to communicate with trip organisers when booking and making changes to trips. When paying your trip deposit, be sure to notify the trip organiser (as well as the treasurer) or your name might not get on the trip list. The trip organiser will also advise you of your options should you need to cancel your trip. Whilst people need to cancel for varying reasons from time to time, be mindful that regular last minute cancellations reflect badly on the club with dive operators.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday September 19th after the September General Meeting. The following two proposals have been received and will be voted on:

PROPOSAL No.1

I John Beddie do give notice of a motion in a change in membership requirements at the next A.G.M. of the St. George Scuba Club Inc. to be voted on the night.

The Motion -

Any person attending High / Secondary school, under the age of 18 1/2 years who is a qualified S.C.U.B.A. diver (open water minimum) and dives with either parent (who is a financial member of the St. George Scuba Club Inc.) be allowed to become a member of the St. George Scuba Club Inc. for \$0.00 within a family membership. This person is to have the same status of any member of the club – except for voting at the A.G.M.

The membership costs for a Family Membership to be determined by a vote of the members of St. George Scuba Club Inc.

Reason for Motion

We should encourage the growth of our sport / hobby within our membership (juniors) and not place a money value on their participation with us whilst they have no income.

John Beddie

PROPOSAL No.2

I propose a Family Membership be made available for members at a fee of \$40.00.

A family is described as a married couple and also children up to 18 years of age.

The family membership has equal individual rights (ie 2 members – 2 votes) as per

single membership but any additional members of the family do not have voting powers.

After some research the following was found from other Dive Clubs web sites.

DIVE CLUB

ANNUAL SINGLE CLUB FEES ANNUAL FAMILY CLUB FEES

RYDE UNDERWATER \$70 \$105

SOUTH PACIFIC \$50 \$75

DIVE 2000 \$95 \$165

TUG \$100 \$150

SYDNEY DIVE ACCADEMY \$60 \$90

ST.GEORGE (US) \$25 PROPOSED \$40

I feel our club should be encouraging and make available a Family Membership.

Ray Moulang



Here's photo from a recent deep dive on the Tuggerah with 30m+ vis – by Michael McFadyen



St George Papua New Guinea Trip 2008

Following Jerry's presentation at the August Club Meeting, a trip has been organised through Dive Adventures to visit Rabaul and Kavieng in September 2008.

The trip leaves Sydney on Monday 8th September and returns to Sydney on Friday 19th September and includes:

- Air Nugini Return International Air Fares Sydney to Rabaul via Port Morseby
- Air Nugini Domestic air fares
 Rabaul to Kavieng Kavieng to Port Moresby
- ➤ Kabaira Dive Guest House (Rabaul)

5 nights accommodation, twin/double with shared facilities, all meals included and airport transfers

- Kabaira Dive 6 Dives
 - Tanks, weights, belts and dive guide services
- Nusa Island Retreat (Kavieng)

6 nights Standard beach bungalow, fan cooled, twin/double with shared facilities and airport transfers

- > Scuba Ventures Kavieng 8 Dive package
 - Tank, weights, dive guide and light refreshments between dives
- > Australian Departure Taxes

Cost - \$2895.00 per person

Less, St George Group discount and FOC of \$100 to \$250 per person depending on final group numbers.

More information on Kavieng, Rabaul and Scuba Ventures can be found at these sites www.kabairadive.com.pg www.nusaislandretreat.com.pg www.scubakavieng.com DVD's can also be viewed (contact Kelly for a copy).

To book your spot, contact Kelly on 9558 8181 or kelly@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info

A Dive Adventures booking form (contact Kelly for a copy) is required to be completed along with a deposit of \$300.00 made payable to Dive Adventures (Do NOT pay St George Scuba Club).

Sydney Tides September 2007

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High
Sat 1		4:32 AM EST / 0.28 m	10:49 AM EST / 1.65 m	5:04 PM EST / 0.35 m	11:09 PM EST / 1.50 m
Sun 2		5:16 AM EST / 0.37 m	11:40 AM EST / 1.65 m	6:09 PM EST / 0.41 m	
Mon 3	12:07 AM EST / 1.33 m	6:04 AM EST / 0.47 m	12:38 PM EST / 1.63 m	7:23 PM EST / 0.46 m	
Tue 4	1:16 AM EST / 1.18 m	7:00 AM EST / 0.55 m	1:44 PM EST / 1.59 m	8:48 PM EST / 0.47 m	
Wed 5	2:41 AM EST / 1.08 m	8:11 AM EST / 0.61 m	3:00 PM EST / 1.57 m	10:11 PM EST / 0.44 m	
Thu 6	4:08 AM EST / 1.07 m	9:31 AM EST / 0.61 m	4:13 PM EST / 1.59 m	11:17 PM EST / 0.39 m	
Fri 7	5:15 AM EST / 1.11 m	10:42 AM EST / 0.57 m	5:15 PM EST / 1.62 m		
Sat 8		12:09 AM EST / 0.35 m	6:06 AM EST / 1.18 m	11:40 AM EST / 0.50 m	6:07 PM EST / 1.65 m
Sun 9		12:51 AM EST / 0.32 m	6:48 AM EST / 1.26 m	12:29 PM EST / 0.44 m	6:52 PM EST / 1.66 m
Mon 10		1:26 AM EST / 0.30 m	7:24 AM EST / 1.34 m	1:12 PM EST / 0.40 m	7:30 PM EST / 1.66 m
Tue 11		1:57 AM EST / 0.30 m	7:59 AM EST / 1.42 m	1:52 PM EST / 0.39 m	8:05 PM EST / 1.64 m
Wed 12		2:26 AM EST / 0.32 m	8:31 AM EST / 1.48 m	2:29 PM EST / 0.40 m	8:39 PM EST / 1.60 m
Thu 13		2:53 AM EST / 0.34 m	9:04 AM EST / 1.53 m	3:06 PM EST / 0.43 m	9:11 PM EST / 1.55 m
Fri 14		3:21 AM EST / 0.38 m	9:37 AM EST / 1.55 m	3:44 PM EST / 0.47 m	9:45 PM EST / 1.47 m
Sat 15		3:50 AM EST / 0.44 m	10:11 AM EST / 1.54 m	4:24 PM EST / 0.51 m	10:22 PM EST / 1.38 m
Sun 16		4:20 AM EST / 0.50 m	10:46 AM EST / 1.52 m	5:09 PM EST / 0.56 m	11:01 PM EST / 1.28 m
Mon 17		4:52 AM EST / 0.57 m	11:24 AM EST / 1.47 m	6:00 PM EST / 0.60 m	11:47 PM EST / 1.17 m
Tue 18		5:28 AM EST / 0.63 m	12:09 PM EST / 1.42 m	7:00 PM EST / 0.63 m	
Wed 19	12:43 AM EST / 1.08 m	6:15 AM EST / 0.68 m	1:04 PM EST / 1.38 m	8:13 PM EST / 0.63 m	
Thu 20	1:58 AM EST / 1.02 m	7:18 AM EST / 0.71 m	2:15 PM EST / 1.37 m	9:29 PM EST / 0.59 m	
Fri 21	3:22 AM EST / 1.03 m	8:39 AM EST / 0.70 m	3:29 PM EST / 1.40 m	10:30 PM EST / 0.51 m	
Sat 22	4:26 AM EST / 1.08 m	9:53 AM EST / 0.63 m	4:29 PM EST / 1.48 m	11:19 PM EST / 0.42 m	
Sun 23	5:16 AM EST / 1.18 m	10:52 AM EST / 0.53 m	5:20 PM EST / 1.58 m		
Mon 24		12:01 AM EST / 0.33 m	6:00 AM EST / 1.29 m	11:44 AM EST / 0.43 m	6:08 PM EST / 1.67 m
Tue 25		12:41 AM EST / 0.25 m	6:43 AM EST / 1.42 m	12:34 PM EST / 0.33 m	6:54 PM EST / 1.74 m
Wed 26		1:20 AM EST / 0.19 m	7:25 AM EST / 1.55 m	1:23 PM EST / 0.25 m	7:39 PM EST / 1.75 m
Thu 27		1:58 AM EST / 0.17 m	8:07 AM EST / 1.66 m	2:13 PM EST / 0.20 m	8:25 PM EST / 1.72 m
Fri 28		2:37 AM EST / 0.19 m	8:50 AM EST / 1.75 m	3:04 PM EST / 0.18 m	9:13 PM EST / 1.63 m
Sat 29		3:17 AM EST / 0.24 m	9:35 AM EST / 1.79 m	3:59 PM EST / 0.21 m	10:04 PM EST / 1.50 m
Sun 30		3:59 AM EST / 0.33 m	10:23 AM EST / 1.78 m	4:59 PM EST / 0.25 m	11:00 PM EST / 1.35 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