



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 453 Hurstville South 2221 NSW

December 2007

More from the Undersea Explorer Trip October 2007 By Brian Byrnes

A coral reef is a special place. For years I've seen shows on TV or pictures in books. But I had never actually seen one - until the trip on Undersea Explorer.



Ron, Dave, Michael and Nick ready for the night dive

The most spectacular reef we visited was Steve's Bommie. I don't know who Steve was, but he has quite a memorial. This bommie rises impressively from the sea floor and is literally teeming with life.

And not just the corals - the dazzling schools of anthias darting around near the reef face, the countless colourful damsels, angels and butterflies swimming among the coral, the lion fish cruising nearby.

And if you could tear your eyes away from the reef, you looked out on to silver schools of trevally and barracuda. And that was just the day shift. That night some divers saw as many as four stone fish, including their curiously stone-like swimming style.

Prior to Steve's Bommie we had been way out in the coral Sea at Osprey Reef - a ring of reef sitting atop a sea mount. The drop-offs here go down a awfully long way in to the dark and deep where divers do not go. Or at least, do not return.

St George Inaugural Photo Competition Results



1st prize went to Ron Walsh for this Red Indian Fish shot, congratulations Ron!



2nd prize went to Dave Casburn for this shot of two nudibranchs.

Ron and Dave each received the coffee table book "Wildlife Photographer of the year".

Not surprisingly Ron has volunteered to organise next year's event. See the up and coming events section for details.

On one dive we had gone down in groups to wait on a ridge overlooking the abyss – watching for mantas. This spot, Raging Horn, was where they were known to swim by to get cleaned.



Carol shows brave she is when they're not swimming anymore – but which one is the shark?

And so we gazed out in to the dark and intensely blue water, and waited. When the mantas finally arrived they were behind us - effortlessly flying between the ridge and the reef. Another special moment.

We saw many wonderful this on this trip. There were the giant clams with their gorgeously decorated mantles. There were the photogenic clownfish, ducking and weaving in their anemones.

There were the reef sharks and the potato cod, the intricate corals and the huge red gorgonians.

And the contingent from St George - Michael and Kelly, Carol and Rob, Johns Conolly and Prior, Clint, Dave, Eddie, Ron and myself, along with friends John McPherson, Robyn and Fiona - had been there to see it all.

And all we had to do was get in the water four times a day and go swimming.

Thanks to Kelly and Carol for organising this great trip.

December Club Meeting

Our final club meeting of the year on Wednesday 19th Dec will include finger food and as well as a presentation of photos taking on some of the trips and dives during 2007.

VP Shagged by Pole Dancer at Ulladulla 27th – 28th October 2007

By Bram Harris

Seven club members headed off down South for a very pleasant weekend's diving on 27/28th October.

One of the locals took advantage of our new Vice President's high position, inspiring the headline for this article. It should have been obvious that the locals were prepared to take advantage of visitors to the deep South, as their calling cards were scattered all around a large pole near the wharf. Not to be put off, Peter boldly approached the pole, almost daring the locals to take an interest in him.

Well, the locals were certainly up to the task and showed what they thought of tourists, when one of the numerous shags lined up on top of the pole let loose with the last few days pre-processed leftovers, which landed squarely on Peter and his gear, much to the amusement of all onlookers, who then became up-lookers whenever in the vicinity of said pole.

On the diving side, the visibility ranged from less than 5m to 12m at best, and the reported temperature ranging from 12 deg to 17 deg (mostly around 14/15 deg), with a small amount of surge at most times. Those stats, however, did not do justice to the diving experience, as there was some very nice reef/drift/landscape diving to be had.

We dived Burrill Reef, Lighthouse Reef, Magic Reef and Home Bomi, with depths ranging from 28m to 10m. Steve, from Ulladulla Dive and Adventure was very accommodating, and explained the choices available, but ultimately left it up to us to choose where we wanted to dive.

There were very pretty reefs, with lots of growth (scientific name *growthus abundicatus*), not a huge amount of fish life, but a nice range none-the-less, including PJs, Groupers, lots of Maori Wrasse, 1 reported small whaler shark, plenty of Scorpion Cods, a moray, and a nice Bull Ray.

The last dive, heading North on Home Bomi, whilst having a very low amount of fishlife, was just a delightful dive through a very interesting landscape (or is that under-sea-scape) of boulders and rock ledges, with a lot of nice swim-throughs.

The seas were pleasantly flat on Saturday, with a building Nor-Easter making things a little bumpier on Sunday, but not to any unpleasant degree. The rigid-hull inflatable used by UD&A worked quite well, accommodating up to 8 divers and 1 crew on the weekend, and capable of handling up to 10 divers. Only one tank was taken each time, coming back to the wharf to change tanks over.

A group of divers from Canberra who went out in between our dives on Sunday (and came back still shivering), referred to our group as a bunch of Old Salty Sea Dogs – I THINK that's good!?

After everyone had a Nanna-nap on Saturday afternoon and sharing various ringtones around the group, we did the walking tour of Ulladulla (ranging from sea-level to about 30m in a fast ascent) to check out the feeding stations, and settled on the Thai and Vietnamese Restaurant. The food was quite tasty, even though Steve informed us the next day that we had made the second-best choice.

The only drama at the restaurant was caused when the traditional Thai Ice Cream and Chocolate Topping came out – Phil felt that just because the brown smudge was "on top" of the Ice Cream, the volume did not qualify it to be called "topping", so after several pleas to the waitress (including "just bring the bottle out"), the desserts in question were spirited away back to the kitchen for a top up of the topping.

All up, a good weekend of diving and tall tales ie, a typical St George Scuba Club weekend away.

Wednesday Boat Dives

The Wednesday boat dives continue to be very popular with a full boat nearly every week. Recent dives have been to The Balcony where we had good visibility and lots of fishlife as well as Underwater Wilderness. This spot has fantastic bottom terrain with caves, canyons and swim-throughs. The water temperature on this dive was a bit cool, 14°C, but the fishlife made up for it.

Les has resumed running the dives after his recent holiday. If you want to come, email him before the weekend to make sure that you get a spot.

Deep Dives in 2008

Quarterly deep dives to the wrecks at long reef have been included in next year's calendar. The first is taking place on January 19th 2008.

Contact Peter Flockart and see the up and coming events section for more details.

South West Rock Dive Report October 2007

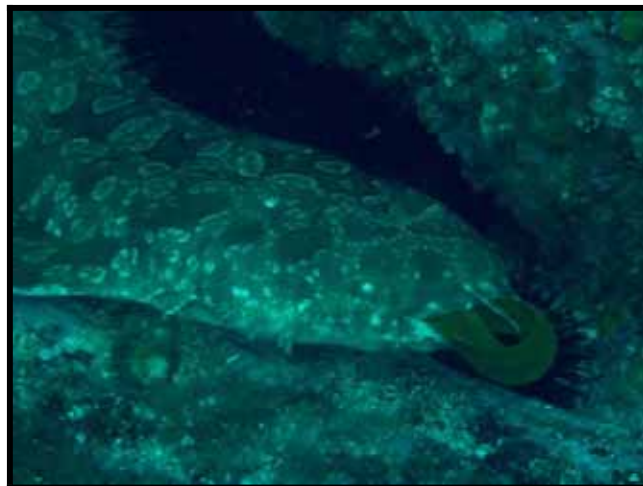
By Ray Moulang

Following our very successful dive expedition to the Solitaries some moved down to South West Rocks for a long weekend stop on the way back to home. The first dives were on the Saturday 29th September, 07. Nice early 7.30 start.

We met the guys from the dive shop at the creek wharf and after previously loading our gear onto the boat.

Kelly, Michael, Mark, Nick, Dave C and I were on our way out to the rock. A good ride out and we soon arrived to a barrage of spearos and fishermen.

We nosed in over close to the Pinnacle and all jumped in and went down the couple of metres to the top of the rocks. As we settled the Grey Nurses were all over the place. It was brilliant with about 10 sharks in view at any time. We traversed the pinnacle heading west and then south to find more and more sharks.



Wobbie with Moray Eel in it's mouth

One interesting find also was a Wobbie that had engulfed a moray eel and was waiting to swallow it. We had a great time and soon had to ascend. A great dive well worth it.

REGULAR EVENTS

Monthly Meetings

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

The December meeting will include finger food and a presentation of photos taken on club trips and dives throughout the year.

Thursday Night Dives

The schedule for upcoming night dives is:

6 Dec – Bare Island Deep Wall

13 Dec – The Monuments Drift

20 Dec – Oak Park

The last night dive before Christmas will be at Oak Park at South Cronulla. If you are not one of the regular's why not come along and see what it is all about. Meet at 7:30 pm at the end of Jibbon Street, South Cronulla.

Afterwards, a BBQ so bring some meat and drinks. Please make sure that you let Michael McFadyen know if you are coming in case the weather means we need to move or cancel the dive.

Some of the Night Dives in January will be a little further a field to take advantage of the expected less traffic and later starting time. Dives will be at places like Clifton Gardens, Shark Point and maybe even Balmoral.

If you do not currently get the email each week advising the location of the dive, please email michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info and advise that you would like to be added to the list.

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

Boat Dive - Wattamola 9th December 2007

The boats will leave from Yowie Bay.

If you are interested in this dive please contact Mark Ridsdale Ph. 0419 243 717.

Boat Dive – Osborne Shoals 23rd December 2007

The last Club boat dive of the year is to this favourite site off Cronulla.

If you are interested in diving, please contact Michael McFadyen by email (Michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info) or phone (9558 8181) to book your spot.

Shore Dive – The Leap 12th January 2008

If you are interested in this please contact Paul Pacey Ph. 9527 2501.

Boat Dive – Minmi Trench 13th January 2008

This will be leaving Frenchman's Bay followed by a BBQ.

If you're interested please contact Jason Coombs Ph. 9345 4599.

Deep Wreck Boat Dive – Annie Miller 13th January 2008

This will be leaving from Rose Bay for either the Annie Miller or one of the Long Reef Wrecks.

The dives are on Mendarie Diver run by Yves Moulard. It is booked for 8 to 10 divers & cost will be between \$ 50 & \$55 depending on the site.

So if you are keen on your deep wrecks (40 to 50m) why not come along & sample diving on the North side of Sydney. The wrecks are off Long Reef & form part of the artificial reef that was started back in the 1970's.

Taking names now so if you want to come get in quickly. If you have any queries please contact Peter Flockart Ph. 9371 0265.



(Photo: by Michael McFadyen)

2nd Annual St George Photo Competition

For all those member divers with a camera bent the second St George Scuba Club photo competition will be held on 9 February 2008 at Bare Island.

There will be three categories:- macro, wide angle and diver. Photographers will be able to submit up to 3 photos in each category. Manipulation of photos will be limited to cropping, despotting and colour balancing.

Photos are to be submitted by Friday 15 February 2008. The competition will be judged at the February Club meeting.

Further details of the day and the competition will be published in the January Newsletter and posted on the club website when finalised.

Ocean Trek Liveaboard

This is scheduled for February 8th – 10th. It has been booked for 8 – 10 people. The cost of \$400 includes:

- 2 nights accommodation (linen supplied)
- 6 dives & Air Fills
- 2 x Breakfast
- 2 x Lunch
- 1 x Dinner (Saturday night)
- BYO alcohol

Deposits of \$200 are required 6 weeks prior to the date of the trip (ie 31/12/07)

Places are limited so get in fast for what is always a good weekend of diving & socialising on beautiful Jervis Bay. Any queries please contact Peter Flockart Ph. 9371 0265.

Mullawav / Solitary Is. Trip

Mullawav is on again - this time it is Manta Season.

The last trip in October was fabulous with 40+ metres visibility - just beautiful blue water and stacks of fish. That will be hard to repeat however normal conditions are usually 20+ metres and hopefully the elusive mantas will be around to play with.

The cost is \$495.00 which includes accommodation, 8 boat dives, all air and brekky things to nibble on not to mention the gourmet lunch!?! Accommodation will once again be at the Cottages and at the dive centre. The Club BBQ to be held on the Monday night at the Cottages. Special requests are an option.

The following members have indicated that they are a starter; Mark Ridsdale, Heinz Bendinger,

Paul Pacey, Peter Trayhurn, Dave Burns, Peter Flockart, Shiela Baldock, Dave Casburn, Phil Rose and Les Caterson.

There are still spaces available but be quick. Please advise by return email if you would like to join this adventure.

\$50.00 will secure your spot. Contact Mark Ridsdale Ph. 0419 243717.

Easter Trip - Jervis Bay

Hurry as spots are filling fast. Book in now for 20th March, 2008 Easter Away Trip to Jervis Bay. The agenda weather permitting will be to do as many outside caves as possible.

Nine spots only with Sea John and Scram2 confirmed. Accommodation is \$100 for the four nights. A house next to the water at Sanctuary Point. To book pay \$50 deposit to Mark and notify Ray Moulang Ph. Ph. 4620 5210.

Palau Trip – Oct / Nov 2008

Dave Casburn is organizing this trip. Please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter for details.

OTHER NEWS

Web Site and Email Lists

The Club's web site has had some minor enhancements over the past month, including a new feature where recently posted photos appear on every page in the right column. A few things to remember, if you want to put an item on the site advertising a dive or a trip, or even selling some gear, use the Submit News link and make sure that you email webmaster@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au if you want it attended to urgently as it needs to be released by one of the web site administrators. For articles about dives or trips (after the event), use the Submit Articles link. If you would like to become an administrator, contact the webmaster using the email address above.

As you will see on the web site, we have a photo gallery where members can post photographs. If you do not already have access to this (that is, you cannot see a link called Upload Photos to Gallery), then again email the webmaster.

We have two email lists. One is for night dives and this is used to advertise the week's upcoming dive. If you do not receive these emails and would like to, please email webmaster@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au and ask to be added.

If you have some urgent Club related email, you can use the email address stgeorgescubaclub@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au. However, note that this email has to be released by one of the lists administrators and email not considered appropriate will be rejected. It also may take a day for it to be released. Things that it could be used for are seeking divers for a dive (whether it is a Club event or not), advertising last minute vacancies on Club events or similar. If you think that you might use on a regular basis, consideration could be given to adding you to the administrator list so that your emails are automatically released.

Sydney Tides December 2007

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High
Sat 1	2:42 AM EST / 1.12 m	8:16 AM EST / 0.59 m	2:34 PM EST / 1.41 m	9:26 PM EST / 0.38 m	
Sun 2	3:44 AM EST / 1.16 m	9:27 AM EST / 0.63 m	3:33 PM EST / 1.31 m	10:14 PM EST / 0.43 m	
Mon 3	4:40 AM EST / 1.23 m	10:37 AM EST / 0.63 m	4:31 PM EST / 1.24 m	10:57 PM EST / 0.46 m	
Tue 4	5:28 AM EST / 1.32 m	11:38 AM EST / 0.61 m	5:24 PM EST / 1.20 m	11:35 PM EST / 0.47 m	
Wed 5	6:09 AM EST / 1.41 m	12:31 PM EST / 0.56 m	6:12 PM EST / 1.18 m		
Thu 6		12:11 AM EST / 0.46 m	6:47 AM EST / 1.49 m	1:18 PM EST / 0.50 m	6:59 PM EST / 1.17 m
Fri 7		12:47 AM EST / 0.45 m	7:24 AM EST / 1.55 m	2:01 PM EST / 0.43 m	7:44 PM EST / 1.16 m
Sat 8		1:25 AM EST / 0.44 m	8:01 AM EST / 1.60 m	2:42 PM EST / 0.36 m	8:28 PM EST / 1.17 m
Sun 9		2:03 AM EST / 0.43 m	8:38 AM EST / 1.63 m	3:21 PM EST / 0.31 m	9:10 PM EST / 1.16 m
Mon 10		2:42 AM EST / 0.43 m	9:16 AM EST / 1.64 m	4:00 PM EST / 0.28 m	9:52 PM EST / 1.15 m
Tue 11		3:21 AM EST / 0.43 m	9:53 AM EST / 1.63 m	4:39 PM EST / 0.26 m	10:33 PM EST / 1.14 m
Wed 12		3:59 AM EST / 0.44 m	10:31 AM EST / 1.61 m	5:20 PM EST / 0.26 m	11:15 PM EST / 1.13 m
Thu 13		4:38 AM EST / 0.46 m	11:11 AM EST / 1.59 m	6:02 PM EST / 0.27 m	11:59 PM EST / 1.12 m
Fri 14		5:20 AM EST / 0.48 m	11:51 AM EST / 1.56 m	6:44 PM EST / 0.28 m	
Sat 15	12:44 AM EST / 1.12 m	6:07 AM EST / 0.51 m	12:35 PM EST / 1.52 m	7:28 PM EST / 0.29 m	
Sun 16	1:33 AM EST / 1.15 m	7:01 AM EST / 0.54 m	1:23 PM EST / 1.48 m	8:13 PM EST / 0.31 m	
Mon 17	2:27 AM EST / 1.20 m	8:04 AM EST / 0.56 m	2:18 PM EST / 1.41 m	9:02 PM EST / 0.32 m	
Tue 18	3:25 AM EST / 1.28 m	9:18 AM EST / 0.55 m	3:22 PM EST / 1.34 m	9:55 PM EST / 0.33 m	
Wed 19	4:25 AM EST / 1.39 m	10:37 AM EST / 0.49 m	4:34 PM EST / 1.28 m	10:49 PM EST / 0.33 m	
Thu 20	5:23 AM EST / 1.52 m	11:51 AM EST / 0.39 m	5:44 PM EST / 1.24 m	11:42 PM EST / 0.33 m	
Fri 21	6:18 AM EST / 1.65 m	12:58 PM EST / 0.27 m	6:51 PM EST / 1.22 m		
Sat 22		12:36 AM EST / 0.32 m	7:12 AM EST / 1.75 m	1:59 PM EST / 0.16 m	7:54 PM EST / 1.20 m
Sun 23		1:30 AM EST / 0.31 m	8:05 AM EST / 1.83 m	2:55 PM EST / 0.08 m	8:52 PM EST / 1.20 m
Mon 24		2:23 AM EST / 0.29 m	8:57 AM EST / 1.87 m	3:48 PM EST / 0.04 m	9:45 PM EST / 1.19 m
Tue 25		3:15 AM EST / 0.29 m	9:47 AM EST / 1.86 m	4:38 PM EST / 0.04 m	10:36 PM EST / 1.19 m
Wed 26		4:06 AM EST / 0.31 m	10:37 AM EST / 1.81 m	5:28 PM EST / 0.08 m	11:26 PM EST / 1.19 m
Thu 27		4:56 AM EST / 0.34 m	11:26 AM EST / 1.72 m	6:15 PM EST / 0.15 m	
Fri 28	12:15 AM EST / 1.18 m	5:48 AM EST / 0.41 m	12:14 PM EST / 1.61 m	7:00 PM EST / 0.23 m	
Sat 29	1:04 AM EST / 1.19 m	6:42 AM EST / 0.48 m	1:00 PM EST / 1.49 m	7:42 PM EST / 0.32 m	
Sun 30	1:53 AM EST / 1.20 m	7:38 AM EST / 0.56 m	1:46 PM EST / 1.36 m	8:23 PM EST / 0.39 m	
Mon 31	2:45 AM EST / 1.23 m	8:39 AM EST / 0.63 m	2:33 PM EST / 1.24 m	9:03 PM EST / 0.46 m	

The Committee for 2007 – 2008 is:

PRESIDENT:	Kelly Jandik	9558 8181	President@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Peter Flockart	9371 0265	pjfflockart@speednet.com.au
SECRETARY:	Shiela Baldock	9520 9421	Secretary@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
TREASURER:	Mark Ridsdale	9523 8166	Treasurer@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
ASST SEC / TRES	David Casburn	9526 5910	dcasburn@iinet.net.au
WEBMASTER:	Michael McFadyen	9558 8181	Webmaster@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
EDITOR:	Jason Coombs	9345 4599	Newsletter@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au

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

Dive Palau

14 Days /13 Nights Ex. Cairns \$2695

Snorkel Jellyfish Lake



Kevin Davidson



Kevin Davidson

Dive Chandelier Cave



Kevin Davidson



Kevin Davidson

24 October— 06 November 2008

TOUR COSTS INCLUDES:

- Return flights ex Cairns to Palau flying with **Continental Airlines**
- Return airport transfers in Guam
- Twin share day room use at Ohana Bayview Guam
- Return airport transfers in Palau
- 13 nights at **West Plaza Hotel** Palau in a twin share room
- 12 boat dives (6 days of 2 dives a day) with **Sam's Tours Palau**
- Snorkel **Jellyfish Lake** during surface interval
- Free nitrox for Nitrox Certified Divers
- Complimentary use of Reef Hooks
- Daily lunch & refreshments during tours with Sam's Tours Palau
- Twin share day room use at Ohana Bayview Guam

Optional Upgrade - Extra 10 boat dives (5 days of 2 tank dives) - \$495

NOT INCLUDED: * Travel Insurance * Palau Dive permit USD 35 (to be paid direct in Palau) * Jellyfish Lake entry permit USD 20 * Palau Departure Tax USD 20 (payable upon departure in Palau)

Conditions apply / Prices Subject to change without notice.

To secure a booking \$300 deposit is required.

Limited number of spots available—book early!

Palau - Imagine 365+ islands spread out over a 37 km long lagoon. The islands are rarely visited by people and are only accessible by boat while other areas are only accessible by kayak. Palau is the junction of three major merging ocean currents that carry an abundant food supply to support the enormous variety of tropical fish and vibrant coral reefs. Palau's warm tropical waters are legendary with divers. It is known for it's dramatic sheer walls rising from the depths to within inches of the surface and capped with thriving coral reefs. Palau is home to over 1,300 species of fish and more than 700 species of coral. Enjoy dives at Chandelier Cave, German Channel with the Manta Rays, the historic Iro Maru, Jake's Seaplane, dive through the Blue Holes and the famous Blue Corner where you can dive with your reef hooks.

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**FOR BOOKINGS AND MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT**

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