

Sea Braggin'



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

- SEPTEMBER 2011 - Edited by Ray Moulang -

Included in this issue are Dive Reports from ...

Ron Walsh, Jason Coombs, Digby, Michael McFadyen, Ken Ridley & Team

A BIG THANK YOU GOES TO THEM.

What's On - SEPTEMBER - 2011 -

WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT	WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT
SATURDAY 3rd	Deep Dive SS Tuggerah/ SS Undola	Michael McFadyen 9545 5596	SUNDAY 11 TH	Boat Dive The Colours Rose Bay	Ida DeCamillo 9560 6082
SUNDAY 3 rd to 16th	Overseas Trip Rabaul	PAUL PACEY 9527 2501	SUNDAY 18 TH	Boat Dive Henry Head and BBQ	Mark Ridsdale 9558 5196
SUNDAY 4th	Shore Dive The Leap	TO BE ADVISED	WEDNESDAY 21st	CLUB MEETING 8 PM ROWERS CLUB	Jason Coombs 9345 4599
SATURDAY 10 TH	Special Night Dive Inscription Point Kurnell 6pm	Gary Dunnett 9542 6481	SATURDAY 24 TH	Boat Dive Middle Ground Ramp To be Advised	GARY PERKINS 9533 6869
			FRIDAY 30 TH TO 3 RD OCT LONG WIEND	TERRIGAL EX HMAS ADELAIDE	NANCY SCOLERI 6533 6869

What's On - OCTOBER - 2011 -

WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT	WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT
<u>Sunday</u> <u>2 nd</u>	<u>Deep Dive</u> <u>SS: Kelloe</u>	<u>Michael</u> <u>McFadyen</u> <u>9545 5596</u>	<u>Sun 16th to</u> <u>Mon</u> <u>7 th Nov</u>	<u>Chuuk Lagoon</u> <u> Guam</u>	<u>Kelly</u> <u>McFadyen</u> <u>9545 5596</u>
<u>Monday</u> <u>3 rd</u>	<u>SHORE DIVE</u> <u>Bare Island</u>	<u>Jason Coombs</u> <u>9345 4599</u>	<u>Wednesday</u> <u>19th</u>	<u>Club Meeting</u> <u>Rowers Club</u> <u>8pm</u>	<u>Jason Coombs</u> <u>9345 4599</u>
<u>Saturday</u> <u>8 th</u>	<u>Deep Dive</u> <u>The Wanderers</u>	<u>Dave Casburn</u> <u>0405 186 184</u>	<u>Saturday</u> <u>29 th</u>	<u>SHORE DIVE</u> <u>The Leap</u>	<u>Natash Naude</u> <u>0410 074 677</u>
<u>Saturday</u> <u>15 th</u>	<u>Boat Dive</u> <u>Bondi Wall</u>	<u>Ian Roffe</u> <u>9528 9601</u>			

Diving the HMAS Adelaide

On the 13th of April, the Ex HMAS Adelaide was scuttled at last! So let's go and dive this newest NSW dive site.

WHEN: October long Week-end, from Friday 30th of September to Monday 3rd of October.

DIVING: Double boat dives Saturday, Sunday and Monday (two days on the HMAS Adelaide and one day on Froggy Cave and surrounding reefs). An additional dive per day can be organised if enough interest.



Terrigal Dive centre has 2 boats that can accommodate up to 7 divers each, so a maximum of 14 divers. Check <http://www.terrighaldiver.com.au/index.html> for more details.

Their retail rates for double dives are \$130 for the HMAS Adelaide (includes a Government fee) and \$110 for reef diving. These prices do not include any discount and will be a bit less depending on how many divers we got.

ACCOMODATION: Work in progress, I am looking at cabins in various holiday parks. Will get more details when I know how many people are coming.

If you are interested, please contact Nancy at nancyscoleri@yahoo.com.au.

- Recent Club Happenings -

The SS Kelloe – by Ron Walsh

The SS Kelloe was a collier which sunk (due to a collision with the SS Dunbar) on 13 May 1902. It is a deep dive, with a depth around 49m and is located around 1.25km off Little Bay.

On 7 July 2011 two boats headed out from Hole in the Wall boat ramp at Sylvania Waters to dive the wreck. On Le Scat were Michael and Kelly, Peter Flockart, Mike Scotland and myself. On Down Under were Dave Casburn, Phil Goodman, and Gary and Nancy.





It was a pleasant run out across Botany Bay and up to the wreck site.

Conditions were calm and the water looked blue and there was no current.

We anchored and set up the deco and crossover lines and deco oxygen regulators.

Kelly was having sinus problems and decided not to dive.

Michael and Peter geared up and dived first, and since Kelly was on the boat Mike and I were able to gear up and follow.

Along the crossover line and down the anchor line to approx 40m the visibility was good, in excess of 15m. As we approached the bottom it became very dark, and the visibility closed in to 4m.

At the anchor there was no wreck but as luck would have it there was a line heading off into the gloom (thanks Michael) and following this soon had us at the wreck where the line was tied off. We met Michael at this point and agreed that we would remove the reel on our exit.

Mike and I slowly circumnavigated the boiler, examining the wreckage including winches and the tailshaft. Mike posed for several photos and all too soon it was time to head back. After undoing the line Mike reeled it in as we headed for the anchor. We met Gary and Nancy and pointed them to the wreck and gave them Michaels reel to use.

Then up the anchor line to lots of decompression. The plan was for a bottom time of 15mins, but with meeting Gary and Nancy it turned into 17mins, which increased decompression time significantly.





We finally hit the surface after clearing deco and adding a 5min safety margin to give a run time of 68 mins.

Both boats then headed back to Congwong Bay (on the east side of Bare island) and had a pleasant morning tea in the winter sunshine. We even had Jason and Rox waving hello to us from the shore as they prepared for their shore dive.

All in all a great dive. Many thanks to Mike for being a photogenic model, and Michael and Dave for organising.

- 2011 President's Report -

What would have otherwise been hailed as the most successful year in the club's history was overshadowed by the loss of our club member Carol Martin during a club dive. It is made harder to deal with when it is also the loss of a good friend to many of us and an active club member.

It is my understanding that it is the first time an incident such as this has happened in almost 40 years of the clubs history and I certainly hope it never happens again.

There will be a permanent memorial to Carol at Bare Island incorporating the club logo and we will organise a formal commemoration when it is established. I would like to thank Kelly, Michael and Eda for their generous contributions to making this happen.

The club did set a new record of 165 members up by 40 on last year which was the previous record. It is clear that the club has been transformed for the better by the additional members and appropriately we are adapting to these changes. It is also appropriate in a membership based organisation that the changes are being led by the new members themselves.

I would particularly like to mention Ken Ridley with his dive anyway shore dives and weekly shore dive wraps to keep us up to date on what is going on.

Also I would like to thank Aengus Moran for opening the club up to social media by establishing the facebook site which has become the go to resource for checking out dive conditions, recent sightings and organising last minute dives.

In addition I would like to acknowledge other more recent members who have been organising trips including Nancy, Natasha and Shelley. Thank you all for your contributions.

To manage the larger membership base and take some pressure off our Treasurer during the year the committee established the assistant secretary / treasurer as the membership officer. I would like to thank David Casburn for taking on this additional responsibility.

A lot has also been happening around the different NSW dive locations. The HMAS Adelaide was finally sunk providing a new dive location on the Central Coast. There has already been a day trip organised to dive the wreck and a trip is on the calendar for the October long weekend.

Overseas and interstate trips this year are going to great locations including the Philippines, New Zealand, Fiji, Chuuk Lagoon, Guam, Papua New Guinea and Brisbane.

We have also had an improvement in access at The Leap dive at Kurnell with new steps provided by National Parks. Additionally works and plans are underway for improvements at two of our favourite locations Shiprock and Bare Island. The club has been busy making a number of submissions to these and other consultations from Government.

We also saw protection including for the grey nurse shark improved at Fish Rock and the Solitary Islands and then removed by the new State Government. This is likely to continue to be a political football and I encourage members to make submissions to the various reviews as they come up.

I would also like to acknowledge members who haven't been well. John Beddie is recovering from a knee injury and expected back in the water soon and long term member Leo Bergagnin is also recovering from surgery. It is great to hear Peter Trayhurn is back diving after 7 months out the water due to serious illness.

I would like to thank the committee members - our hard working treasurer Mark Ridsdale, our secretary Eddie Ivers, our Vice-President Peter Flockart, our webmaster Michael McFadyen, our newsletter editor Ray Moulang and our assistant secretary / treasurer David Casburn.

Our diving activities continue to be supported by the generosity of the boatowners. A special thank you to; Michael McFadyen, Dave Casburn, Ian Gowan, John Beddie, Ray Moulang and Michael Wright.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has contributed during the year to making the club the great success it is. Ultimately the club's value is the sum of member's voluntary efforts. With so many actively contributing all members will continue to benefit.

Remember to keep safe and enjoy your diving.

Jason Coombs

President

Jervis Bay Seal Diving – Tash’s now annual Birthday get-away, 12-14 August

Report by Digby,

Natasha, Digby, Mark, Vera, Mike, Debbie, Bob W, Nunzio, Paul W and Kath, Ray, Andy and Maxine

The birthday long weekend started for Tash and I on Friday morning with Becky at our friend’s coffee shop, Sur Bourke in Darlinghurst (go there – it’s great). We then headed down the coast to meet Nunzio for a mid arvo shore dive arranged with Sue from Crest Diving. We got the house at around 1.30 pm unpacked and once Nunzio arrived we all piled into the Navara and headed down to Murrays Beach.

After the obligatory waiver signing and debrief we headed into the water. The weather was somewhat sunny-ish – a little windswept but not too bad. The plan was to go out to the right on Murray’s Beach boat ramp and go around the reef, to a max depth of around 8m.

When we got in I must admit to squealing like a little girl, as it was rather cold – about 15 degrees. We followed Sue, our trusty guide, who was doing a survey at the same time. Nunz had decided to use the camera he had not used in about 3 years so we tried to point out a few things for him to shoot. Viz was poor – 5m at most, but we had plenty to look at along the way and this would be a great dive in better conditions.



We spent around 70min in the water, saw a few PJ’s, some rays of various sizes, morays, a rather large nudie, and an octopus. The most interesting critter though was a goblin fish – completely bizarre! It looks like it has feathers rather than scales and sits like a fat quail on the sand amongst the kelp. It was great spotting by Digs. See photo. A google search later on led us to discover these ugly little fish on the Australian Venom Research site – highly venomous relation of the stonefish, with 17 highly venomous spines on its back. Nunzio took the attached pic.

We could not feel our feet for a while after the dive (about 2.5 hours!!) but Sue had a hot water shower set up at the back of her van, which we all used. We were meant not to tell Vera about the cold water, but forgetting that I posted on face book about how cold we were, only to be told by James Matthews to suck it up!!! Thanks heaps James! We headed back to Sue’s place and got the tanks filled for Saturday.

On the way back we got panicked calls from a certain Mark Ridsdale asking about what he had to bring, linen, towels etc. He obviously did not get the final, final, final email sent out by Tash.

As we got back to the house the rest of the group slowly started arriving. The spa had not been used the last time we were down and we said that we would use it this trip. Not sure if anyone did?????? We headed up to the Vincentia Golf club for dinner on the Friday night. Nunzio asked “Are we driving and I said, “Mate its 5 min walk up the road”. We headed up there and about 3 min into the trudge up the hill the courtesy Bus drove past... We waved for it to stop and the driver must have thought he recognized someone in the group cause he beeped his horn, waved and carried on driving up. B*stard.



A few beers were ordered and a number of us decided on the banquet, while others ordered separate things of the menu. We made the mistake of telling the waitress that we had 3 more people to add to the banquet, which must have caused confusion in some way. An hour later and we had only received an entrée. After complaining we finally got our food (probably with saliva in it) and headed back to the house where Nunzio managed to get the fire going in the kitchen. A couple of drinks, cameras were set up, and it was off to bed.

An early start for some of us this morning, making sure we got brekki and some kwells into the system. Tash did a great job of getting all of us to sign the waivers and stuff the night before so we were ready to rock. There was a little bit of stress for Tash as the dive shop had called her on Friday while were diving at Murrays to confirm if we were coming and Tash could not get hold of them to say YES we are. They had thought that due to the predicted weather we may not come down. Yeah right!!!!!!!

It was a very welcome look of relief on Tash's face on Saturday when the boat pulled up at 9.03 behind all our cars to load up the gear. We all seemed ready but wait - we were missing a Pom!!!!!! Where was Paul W? He had followed the instructions of the final, final email that the boat was picking us up at the boat ramp at 9.00 am sharp so he had walked all his gear down (*snigger*). The rest of us handed our gear up onto the boat and let them do all the hard work.

We boarded the boat and were pleased to hear even after a big sea forecast we were going to play with the seals at Drum and Drum Sticks. Arriving at Drum and Drum sticks, having passed the other non-official, DOUTS-run trip with El Presidente on board (sorry you missed a place on our boat Jason), and having to share our dive site with some Abyss divers, we entered the water and went looking for seals. Disappointingly we only saw a few seals on the first dive, with some members not seeing any at all (don't know where they were looking...) The viz was around 5 -8mts and was a little surgery. We kept bumping into the Abyss divers rather than finding seals. I believe Mike Scotland started the weekend with a plan to dive with Paul but as you guessed it the infamous star burst happened and we saw Mike again on Sunday arvo.



We had our surface interval and morning tea in a small cove around from Drum and Drum Sticks. This gave the ladies on board and our dry suit diver Mark the chance to use the facilities (ie clamber onto the rocks and get your gear off). In the sheltered cove there was a large mum seal and her baby who both entered the water for a swim. As we had not seen that many seals on the first dive Tash, Andy and Maxine jumped in for a play. Not to be out done and armed with his fancy new HD camera, Mark jumped in and managed to get some awesome footage of the seal action. Speaking of seal action we were very lucky to see a new species of seal whilst on surface interval. The very rare Tash seal (See Pic).



After an hour or so long interval, we were pleased that the sun had come out a little. We did have hand warmers and a hot water bottle on board for Vera and whoever else wanted some warmth. Paul decided that it would be great to do the second dive using Tash's hot water bottle, which proved quite effective.

After a small motor round the corner to the wall behind Drum and Drum Sticks we were greeted by loads of seals. Yes - this is what we came here for! In we went. Tash and I were buzzed on several occasions and managed to have a good play with the seals. The Viz was a good 8-10 I would say and we were in the water for around 50 min. At one point Paul and hot water bottle swam past us with a sign, "has anyone seen Mike"?

After these 2 dives we headed back to Murrays beach and off loaded the boats, leaving all tanks onboard so they could be filled by Ulladulla dive and brought back for us the next morning. We headed back to the house via the fish and chip shop. We were meant to be meeting up with the other club members on the DOUTS trip at the Husky pub but were advised by Ian Roffey that it was closed for renovations, and we had got back too late.

We stopped in at the fish and chip shop and grabbed the salads and stuff for the club-subsidized dinner of steak for some and Mark's signature Atlantic salmon dish. Thanks to all the cooks for their efforts. We all sat down to a great meal prepared by a lot of different members. Big thanks also to the clean up team.

Sunday was a bit grey and cloudy as we headed out to Spider cave. Mike knew of a site past the cave that no one else had dived before so we headed 10min further south only to be greeted by a strong surface current. Back to Spider cave. The water was amazing and blue and we had I would say 10-15 mts Viz. Most of us went into the cave, had a look around came out and just cruised around for 45 min or so. Lots to see – some PJs and a rather large wobbegong (photo by Mark), as well as another that went swimming past us – nice to see one moving for a change!



We headed back to Murrays for the surface interval where Vera and Paul left the boat. After some soup and biscuits we headed back to the Spider cave area, heading 20m or south past the cave for an exploratory dive. The guys on the boat then started a bidding war for the hot water bottle – I think we got to \$130, but we've not seen the cash yet. Mike was the winning bidder.

Tash and I were told about a weedy seadragons on a kelp bed at a depth of around 30m so we headed that way. Tash decided not to take the camera on the Sunday and we wish we had. We had great blue water and came across an amazing weedy and spent about 3 min or so looking at him. Tash admitted we would have gone into Deco had we had the camera, so it's probably for the best. After the weedy sighting Tash led us back to the wall and we went into the cave again, swam around the rocks, followed Ray and Andy and came across a massive bull ray lying on the bottom (photo from Deb) and saw a few PJs and other critters. Some of the divers explored another crack in the wall of the cliff and found some good nooks and crannies to look through. Mark and others saw a couple of Eastern Blue Devil fish who were very obliging photo subjects (photo by Mark). A great dive.

Headed back to the boat where while waiting for the other dives, namely Mike, we saw a small pod of dolphins. Then amazingly as we were all on the boat chatting about 50m away we heard and saw a massive splash. A whale had breached right beside the boat and no one had seen it except for the huge splash. We saw him dive a few minutes later. That just topped what was a great weekend of diving. Headed back to Murrays off loaded the boat and Bob and Debbie did a fish and chip run.

Back at the house we were greeted with a wonderful surprise of freshly baked scones jam and cream thanks to the great chef Kath. They went down a treat. We had our fish and chips and watched Andy eat 3 plates of potato bake left over from the night before.



Everyone helped clean the place up, run rubbish down, and we finally headed back to Sydney around 4.30-ish. It was a great trip – great company, comfortable house and some great diving.



Thanks to Tash for arranging yet another successful dive trip.

See you on the next one.

Ps Jason if you get ye deposit in now you should be right.!!!

Visit to Northern NSW Branch of St George Scuba Club

by Michael McFadyen

Members will recall that Shaun Reynolds and Sharon Donoghue moved north about a year ago. Kelly and I finally got a chance to go up and see them recently. Of course, the plan was also to fit in some diving at Byron Bay. We flew up on the afternoon of Thursday 26 August and were soon at their house at Lennox Head. Once Sharon got home we had few drinks to talk over old times.

The next morning Sharon had to work so Shaun, Kelly and I headed to Byron Bay. Meeting us here was the sole member of the Brisbane Branch of the Club, Eric Brace. We were diving with Sundive and Gaic, the owner, made us very welcome. It was a much more relaxing experience than our last trip to Byron when we used the other shop. There was a full boat as we headed out and the weather which had been terrible all week came good. The water was dirty as we left the beach but near Julian Rocks it became blue. Our first dive was from The Nursery to the Cod Hole and back. A bit of a current was running from the south but it was not too strong. Visibility was 15 to 20 metres, 20°C water and amazing fishlife. We saw at least seven grey nurse sharks, including the biggest female I have ever seen which was pregnant.

There were also large numbers of huge kingfish, jewfish and snapper, a few turtles and lots of wobbegongs. We saw a few eagle rays, as well as one school of about 20 that “flew” over up high. A brilliant dive.

After a surface interval back at the shop, we headed out again. Our second dive was The Needles to Hugos Trench. Visibility was not as good, the fishlife a little less, but we saw so many turtles, including a couple of very large ones. Another good dive.

After lunch looking over the beach, we all headed back to Shaun’s place. Later Renee arrived from Brisbane with their kids Ethan and Mollie. Dinner at the local bowling club was nice.

Saturday morning saw all sizing of us on the way to Byron for another day of diving. After yesterday’s beautiful weather, it was a shock to have a cold and raining day. The first dive was from The Nursery to the Cod Hole and then around the northern end of Julian Rocks and back along the eastern side to Hugos Trench. This dive we saw more grey nurse sharks, but not as many of the larger fish. The viz was down a bit on yesterday as well. On the eastern side we saw a lot of fish and Shaun and I even saw a tiny seal pup that was up in the shallows.

Sharon and Renee headed back after the first dive to take the kids out shopping while we did our second dive. We did basically the same dive as our first one yesterday. Viz was a bit better and there was less surge so it was more comfortable in the shallower water. More turtles, lots of nudibranchs, heaps of pufferfish and more made it another good dive.

Saturday night saw Eric cook up a great meal and then we watched the Wallabies beat the All Blacks, a great end to a good day. A few more drinks (well a lot) saw a late night and late start to Sunday.

Renee and Eric headed home Sunday after breakfast and the rest of us went for a walk at Lennox Head. Kelly and I flew home late in the afternoon after a very good weekend away.

Thanks to Shaun and Sharon for the great hospitality and arranging the diving. As mentioned, the service from Sundive was excellent and I would recommend them if diving at Byron Bay.

Michael McFadyen

St George Scuba Club
Shore Dive Wrap
August 29th to September, 4th

Post Script to last weeks sdw.

Belated farewell to Shiprock....Dave Cas.



Also Gary D



Lots of shore diving last week, with lots of posts on facebook.....and generally conditions seem to be on the improve. Great to see so many people getting in the water.

Wednesday 31/8/2011...Jason & Rob M. Fantastic conditions wed afternoon flat warm and clear. Fantastic dive today my 1st at shark island, stacks of wild life, stacks of boat wreckage a fantastic dive heaps to see thanks so much for the tour Rob I really enjoyed it will be putting this dive on the regular list.



Thursday....Stephen Parker myself + 2 more ,7.00am in the water 7.30am tomorrow shark point clovelly! feel free to join in!....No report.
Friday 2/9/2011 From Matt, Roxanne, James and myself dived Bare Island Friday , Rough sea and large swell during the dive but viz 6m plus and heaps of Nudis again. Nice dive even if we could only entry/exit at the boat ramp due to the swell.



Pic by Matt.

Friday 2/9/2011...Monica Willats.... Lilli pilli with my dad (ray moulang)



Friday...2/9/2011...James Matthews...Just did Leap to Steps. 17 degrees, 15m vis. Really nice dive

Sunday 4/9/2011..The leap... [Michael McFadyen](#)...Another great club dive today at the Leap. 20 m viz, sea horses, sea dragons and lots of interesting nudis.

As always apologies if I missed your report.

See you in the water

Ken Ridley

The Committee is:			
PRESIDENT:	Jason Coombs	9345 4599	President@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Peter Flockart	9371 0265	pjflockart@speednet.com.au
SECRETARY:	Eddie Ivers	0403 014 241	Secretary@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
TREASURER:	Mark Ridsdale	0419 243717	Treasurer@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
ASST SEC / TRES:	David Casburn	0405 186 184	dcasburn@iinet.net.au
WEBMASTER:	Michael McFadyen	9545 5596	Webmaster@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
EDITOR:	Ray Moulang	04034 37974	Newsletter@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au

Please send items for the Newsletter to me *as you do them during the month.*

