

Sea Braggin'



January 2016

St George Scuba Club Newsletter

The Christmas Party

6 December 2015

By Natasha Naude

Photos by Donna Cassidy



The annual Club and family Christmas party took place on Sunday 6 December, beautifully organised by Ida Di Camillo and Debbie Cook. The day was just lovely – perfectly warm and sunny weather, with enough breeze to make it very comfortable but not so scorching hot that we were melting. A great day for kicking back and spending time with friends.



Approximately 40 people attended the bacon and egg roll breakfast – most of these were the morning divers plus some of the volunteers who arrived early to claim space, set up shelters and help others carry food and gear to the picnic site. Ray and Ida got the breakfast catering spot on



– breakfast was all consumed and no one was left wanting. Yum!

There were 68 at lunch, and was well catered for, by a number of volunteers. Big thanks to the following people for bringing along gear such as extra eskies, car fridges, shelters and tables to make the day comfortable and achievable: Michael and Kelly, Chris, Tamalee, Aiden and family,

Greg and Shelley, Maxine, Paul P, Mark Weeks.

In addition to catering prepared by the organizers, Debbie and Ida, salads were provided by Jason, Phil





Rose, Xavier, and Mike, Ian Hittman brought along trays of desserts and sweet treats, and Digby and I brought along the ham, prawns and raffle prizes for the day.



As always, there were many hands on deck to help lay out, cook, serve and clean up on the day. There were so many I can't even begin to name names, because undoubtedly I will miss people. Huge thanks to the willing and generous people who brought stuff along or who pitched in on the day to make it so enjoyable. As well as many of the usual suspects, it was really great to have some of the newer members of the club attend and be involved in its success.



Digby and I didn't dive – what with 7 ½ hams, 18 bottles of wine, 6 hampers, a scuba tank, 6 kg of prawns and all the crap you need to carry with you when you have a toddler (including of course her inflatable pool!) there was no hope of fitting dive gear in. Dive reports were varied over breakfast, but I'll leave the report to someone who actually got wet on the day.



Raffle prizes were won as follows:

- ½ leg ham, ham bag plus bottle of sparkling wine: Nicolas, Danny Knock, Mark Weeks, Xavier Mon, Jane Scarsbrook, Michael McFayden. (Nicolas donated his to Debbie).
- Port and Pudding dessert hampers: Sue Shaw, Phil Rose, Erika Trudgeon, Gary Perkins, Maxine Hayden, Ian Hittman.
- Twin pack of Wine: Jason Coombs, Mike Scotland, Peter Flockart, Nancy Scoleri, Phil Rose, Steve Boyd.

- Free boat dive on Le Scat, donated by Michael and Kelly: Shelley B.
- Event Organiser draw (new 12L Steel tank): Bill Rowland.

Bill and Jasmine were actually both drawn as raffle winners for leg hams, but had already left for the day and so the executive decision was made to redraw (to prevent the hams being handled too many times and risking too much time out of adequate refrigeration). You should have stuck around, guys!

Luckily Bill was amply compensated by winning the event organiser draw of the new scuba which he collected from me the following week.

Jason, as usual, won a ham prize again (why is it that Jason, who is married to a vegetarian and who is never home over Christmas, always wins the pig??) but swapped it for one of the other prizes.

All in all it was a very pleasant day. Food and company were great and all went really well.

Congratulations and thanks to Ida and Deb on a winning joint venture. I am sure everyone enjoyed themselves a great deal!





The Christmas Party Dive

6 December 2015

By Jason Coombes

Photos by Jason Coombes

This year's Christmas Party was again at Kurnell and once again the dive was focused on the Monument. There was a small North Easterly swell running straight into the entry point. This necessitated a number of people making the long walk across the lawn to view the entry point followed by rubbing of chins and different opinions about whether or not to dive and if so where to enter.



In the end only a few decided to sit this one out. I dived with Ron, Donna and Xavier. The entry looked a bit daunting but in practice each of us was sucked out through the channel into the deeper water very quickly. Given the conditions we elected to head west and come around into the bay for a sheltered exit.

The visibility wasn't great on an outgoing tide and it was surgy but we had a good dive. The high-

lights included 2 white and red banded pygmy pipehorses, 2 juvenile yellow box fish, a rock flathead, a lined bubble and a free swimming green moray eel. I managed to get a few photos in focus despite the challenging conditions.

After an easy exit and the long walk back to our cars debate turned to the names of the local dive sites and the various headlands. The general consensus was that the prominent point between The Monument and The Steps is called Inscription Point. However there were different points of view. Fortunately Chris Heath grabbed a map from the National Parks office to resolve the debate.



It turns out that the point in question is called Sutherland Point. Inscription Point is somewhere near to the Steps entry point. Despite its name it does not appear to refer to a headland at all. The point between the Steps and the Leap entry does not have a name. In terms of the different names a quick visit to Wikipedia tells me that:

“Inscription Point was named by the Australian Philosophical Society in 1822 when they secured a plaque to the cliff face to mark the point of the Endeavour’s crew first landing.” and;

“Sutherland Point is named in honour of a crew member, Scotsman Forby Sutherland, who died of tuberculosis during their eight days here and was buried on the shore.”

Mystery solved but a worthy debate to stimulate discussion at the Christmas Party. I assume the unfortunate Forby also lent his name to the Sutherland Shire for all of you hobbits.

Thank you to Eda and Deb for organising the Christmas Party and to all of their little helpers.



*“I know you want to take a bath, dear,
but your dad couldn’t wait to try
out his new scuba gear.”*

Magic Point and M & K Reef (the first boat dive of the year)

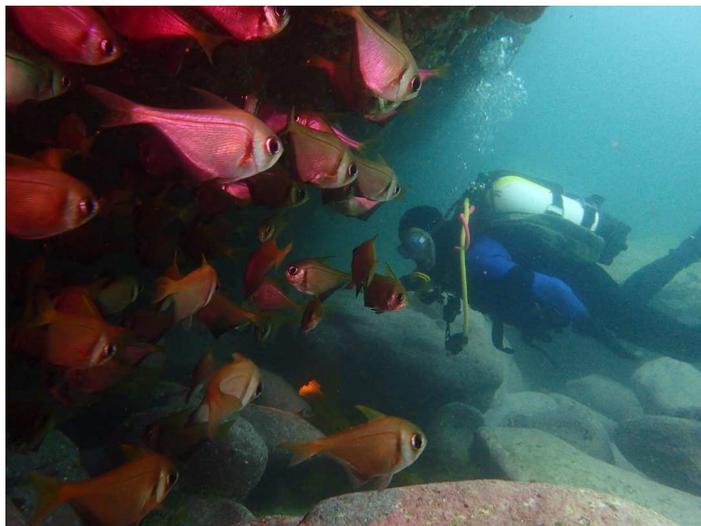
2 January 2016

By Alan Davies

Photos by Alan Davies

Port Botany was as busy as I have ever seen it with trailers, cars and boats all fighting for the limited spaces. Not to be deterred three boats, Yes Dear Too, Katz and Sea John all set off for blue waters. Wayne and company stopped in at By-Pass Reef whilst Ken and John's crew continued north to dive spots along the luxurious Eastern Suburbs coastline.

Magic point was our first dive site, unfortunately there were no Sharks to be seen apart from one Wobbegong which was lurking around the



terrain. The highlight would be the Weedy Seadragon and numerous Nudibranchs. No prizes for guessing who spotted the Weedy, yep the 'fish whisperer' again.

All up a most excellent boat dive with John, Shelley, Greg and Ahmad. Let's hope for some of those Grey Nurses next time :)

caves. That didn't stop us from exploring the numerous boulders, overhangs, crevices and ledges. There were however Giant Cuttlefish, Crested Morwongs, Old Wives, the occasional Moray Eel, as well as an Eastern Blue Devil fish and 'fish whisperer' John even conjured up a school of Bullseyes for us.

After a fabulous cake and coffee stop adjacent to Malabar we headed south to M&K Reef. Here we followed the reef wall again exploring the



Carol Martin Memorial Dive and BBQ

6 February 2016

On Saturday 6th February the club will be getting together to commemorate and celebrate the life of our dive buddy Carol Martin.

For newer members who are perhaps unaware, Carol was a long-time member of our club who passed away on 3 Feb 2011 on a club Thursday night dive. This is our fifth annual memorial dive day to celebrate our dearly missed friend. Carol's sister June and husband Bill will be coming out to Australia from Scotland again this year.



Although it is a memorial dive, don't feel you need to have known Carol to come along. In fact, Carol loved parties and socialising - she would say 'the more the merrier'. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this great dive site and (free) brunch. Only request is that you please wear something red!

Where: Bare Island

When: Meet 8am to get parking and to help set up. 8:30am dive (high tide 7:23 am). Brunch/lunch to follow, provided by the club.

Theme: RED! Carol's favourite colour and favourite drink (sparkling shiraz). **Prize awarded for the reddest attire.**

BYO: Cutlery, plates, drinks, chairs, shelter etc.

RSVP: ESSENTIAL BY EMAIL for catering purposes by Sun 31 January. If you have special dietary needs, please alert me to them.

Call for volunteers: I'm looking for some volunteers to make salads, make desserts, buy bread rolls, bring trestle tables and BBQ's, a non diver to mind the stuff while we dive, etc..... please flood me with your offers to help.

Kelly McFadyen



Australia Day Dive & BBQ

26 January 2016

The club will be holding a dive and BBQ at Kurnell National Park on Australia Day (Tuesday 26 Jan, for those of you who forget!)

Meet 8.30 for 9am in the water. High tide is 8.38am (1.84m). Will advise if dive time is amended.

The club will provide a BBQ lunch after the dive.

For catering purposes, please let me know if you are coming along and whether you have any dietary requirements. If you can assist with catering please let me know.

Many thanks,
Natasha
0410 074 677

Club Anniversary Dinner

20 February 2016

The St George Scuba Club Anniversary dinner is fast approaching. This is always a fun night with fine food and great company. This year Rock Salt Italian restaurant at Jannali has been booked for the dinner.

The restaurant has a set menu, however you can have an A la cart version as well for not much extra. There is a good range of Italian meals available and it is BYO. The menu is available on the restaurant facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/RocksaltItalian/>

Time is proposed to be 7:15 for 7:30.

Can you please let me know if you would like to attend and how many so that we can get an idea of numbers.

Thanks,
Ian Roffey

Micronesia Truk Lagoon Dive Trip — October 2016

Organiser: Dave Casburn

If you are interested in going please discuss details with Dave



Micronesia Truk Lagoon

Ultimate Wreck Diving Expedition

Special Group Departure

21 - 30 October 2016
10 Days / 9 nights Ex. Brisbane
from AUD \$ 4750

Trip Inclusions

- Return flights Ex Brisbane to Truk - with **Nauru Airlines** (conditions apply - flight with 6 stops in the Pacific)
- 9 nights twin share accommodation at **Blue Lagoon Resort** in Truk Lagoon including return airport transfers
- 14 + 1 extra (bonus) boat dives in Truk including tanks, weights & dive guide services
- Use of dive locker and use of Kayak
- Complimentary lunch on the last day of diving - Truk Lagoon
- Australian Departure Taxes and fuel levies (approx \$175 and is subject to change without notice)

Price Does Not Include:

- Truk Departure Tax USD20 (payable upon departure in Truk)
- Travel Insurance, items of a personal nature, excess luggage charges, Meals other than specified
- Truk Lagoon Dive Permit (USD 50) - payable directly in Truk

Note: Prices are subject to change without notice due to fluctuation in exchange rate. Based on 1 AUD = .71 USD

To secure your place on this trip, you need to complete a booking form and return it together with a non refundable deposit of \$500 per person. Conditions apply.

Ref: 17759 JW

09/11/25015

FOR BOOKINGS AND MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

DIVE 
ADVENTURES

YOUR DIVING HOLIDAY SPECIALIST

DIVE 
ADVENTURES
 YOUR DIVING HOLIDAY SPECIALIST

Dive Club Calendar

January 2016

Date	Description	Location	Organiser
9 January	Boat Dive	Middle Ground	Peter Flockart
16 January	Boat Dive	Pizza Reef	Dave Casburn
20 January	Club Meeting	Rowers on Cook	Natasha Naude
23 January	Shore Dive	Shiprock	Eddie Ivers
23 January	Boat Night Dive	Barrens Hut/The Split	John Beddie
26 January	Australia Day – Shore Dive &	Kurnell	Natasha Naude
31 January	Boat Dive	HMAS Adelaide	Caroline Corcoran

February 2016

Date	Description	Location	Organiser
6 February	Carol Martin Memorial Dive	Bare Island	Kelly McFadyen
11 February to 25 February	Overseas Trip	The Philippines	Mark Ridsdale
13 February	Deep Wreck Dive	TBA	Peter Flockart
14 February	Boat Dive	Osborne Shoals	Maxine Hayden
17 February	Club Meeting	Rowers on Cook	Natasha Naude
20 February	Anniversary Dinner	Rock Salt Italian Restaurant, Jannali	Ian Roffey
24 February	Photographers Get Together	Rowers on Cook	Maxine Hayden
26 to 28 February	Girls Weekend	Port Stephens	Kelly McFadyen
27 February	Boat Dive	Whale Watch Platform	Bill Rowland
28 February	Shore Dive	Bare Island	Paul Pacey

Thursday Night Dives – every week – email sent out early in the week advising location and time

Regular Shore Dives – advice is via email or facebook

Photo of a blue groper eye with clingfish — Gary Dunnett

Your Committee

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