



Sea Braggin'

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2008

Ship Rock Shore Dive

26th January 2008

By Bram Harris

On a lovely sunny Australia Day, Paul, Ray, Andrew, Peter F, Brian, Eddie, Bram and a newbie, Narelle, met at Shiprock. Narelle got her Open Water certification in Thailand two months ago in warm clear water, falling off a boat.

This was her introduction to a different type of diving experience – not so warm, just passable vis, and a challenging walk down to the water and back.

Despite this, she enjoyed the dive, and will no doubt be back for more (if anyone has some gear they want to sell ...), as evidenced by this picture (unless she was desperately saying “take me up!!”):



When we first entered the water, just after high tide, visibility could be best described as non-existent. Unless your only diving experience was in 28 degree water in Thailand, the water temp was actually quite pleasant at 21 degrees.



Malabar Heads with 3m+ swell on 1st March

What Summer?

What happened to summer, it was cancelled! And if you thought that Spring was going to be any better check out the 3metre swell that was pounding Malabar on the weekend.

In fact the weather expected to be wet and wild right through to May!

The La Nina Weather system may be good for filling up the dams but it's not good for filling up log books.

So it's time to take up the things to do while not diving challenge. And what are they:

- 1) Think about diving.
- 2) Talk about diving.
- 3) Plan future diving.
- 4) Write up previous diving.
- 5) Read about other people diving.
- 6) Buy new dive gear.

Once we dropped over the wall the visibility improved, but about 5m was probably as good as it got.

There was a constant stream of boats heading out, so there wasn't a lot of peace and quite during the dive, and surfacing early was definitely not a good option.

Every now and then everything would go dark as a large boat passed very close overhead. The leatherjackets were prolific, along with a reasonably large school of pike (I think) and some nudibranchs.

As usual, the sponge life was a highlight of the dive. The most exciting sight for me, however was:



This was no dwarf Lionfish, but the full deal. It was about 25cm long. I have never seen a Lionfish this size in Sydney before.

By the time we got to the end of the wall and turned around, the current had kicked in nicely, making for a pleasant drift back to the exit. The dive was followed by a very sociable sausage and steak feast at Paul's place.

New Home

Like good little hobbits Michael and Kelly are moving to the Shire!

From the 20th March their address will be 11 Anemone Place, Kirrawee, 2232 and phone 6545 5596.

Anemone Place isn't that cute:

Q: Where do you live?

A: I live in the Anemone Place.

Apparently Michael has waited 20 years for a house to come up in this street.

But the question is does this make them clowns (fish)?

The Leap Shore Dive 28th January 2008 By Paul Pacey

Well, if a successful dive can be measured by the number of attendees, this dive was a total blast! It was impossible to count the divers as they never stood still long enough the best count I could get was about 18.



Donna, Ron, Dave Casburn, Ian Gowan and Steve Shaw

Even Bill got a dive in spite of losing his fins between home and the dive site. He ended up getting his dive after the Dave Burns spare parts bin came to the rescue – onya Dave, a real Australia Day effort.



Taking the big Leap!

When we hit the water the first thing we noticed were the icebergs. After diving Shiprock in balmy water on Saturday we were a bit shocked to hit 15 degree water at the entry point. Another issue seemed to be poor viz but this proved to be only in the first few metres and when we

approached the sandline at 18 metres depth the viz was a very tidy 10 metres.

There was some surge but nothing too ugly and we soon were on our merry way peering under rocks, hassling all sorts of critters but mostly just enjoying a very relaxing dive.

Sighted during the dive were all the usual suspects – Andrew bouncing across the bottom (I think he's partly an underwater grass-hopper), Morays, a Grouper or two (have you got some food?), plenty of LST's, some divers going the other way(?), one scrappy weedy seadragon, etc. etc.

Unusual thing we sighted were a Cuttle Fish trying to emulate a flounder as it flattened itself on the sandy bottom, and a "thing" clinging on a sponge. I still don't know what "thing" was but it was really pretty (which is always a good place to start – right?) it was about 40mm in diameter dark purple in colour with tiny orange spiracles all over it.

It wasn't quite round and even though it didn't have distinct arms it did seem like some type of echinoderm. The things you see when you haven't got a camera and Mike is nowhere to be found!



Ray and Andrew exiting on the rocks

Whilst Eddie and I were investigating "thing" we managed to lose the rest of our group – ummm, I hope they didn't surface looking for us. This wasn't a problem for us but it caused a few problems for Ray and Andrew who tried to exit a little earlier than they should have and had a few "washing machine" moments getting out through the surf.

It wasn't that easy getting out at the correct exit either due to the waves. Getting Mike and his camera out caused a few anxious moments –

actually we didn't care too much about Mike, but the camera....

Once we'd got the dive out of the way and Eddie had figured we had over a 75% survival rate we headed for the BBQ lunch – the real aim of the exercise.

Eddie and I arrived at the Monument car park (why do they call it a car park when there's nowhere to park?) and triple parked whilst we unloaded the supplies.

Once we'd unloaded we discovered that the forward scouts had already established a BBQ camp in another suburb. Reloads car, buys petrol, reprograms GPS.....



Seahorse by Ron Walsh

The "other" BBQ area was a great call as it had plenty of shade, nice grass and water views if you had very high heels. A sumptuous BBQ spread was organised by Eddie and Kelly (Kelly wiped out half the NSW onion crop just for our lunch).

A relaxing dive, great food, pleasant company – ahhhhhh, it just doesn't get any better than this.

Thanks Eddie and team, Paul

Also, thanks to Cherie and Ray Moulang and Ron Walsh for supplying the photo's.

Gadget Corner

If you thought the integrated mask and camera was bizarre check out this months must have gadget.



Developed by a Swiss company and inspired by James Bond, it can go down 10 metres and has little jet engines in front of the doors.



And if you think I am just winding you up check it out for yourself:

http://driving.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/driving/news/article3368448.ece

Imagine the faces when you turn up at the boat ramp, wait in line with no boat and then drive straight in!

REGULAR EVENTS

Monthly Meetings

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 19th March 2008 at the St. George Rowing Club, 1 Levey Street Woolli Creek at 8.00 pm. Come along about 7 pm and enjoy a meal at the bistro.

Thursday Night Dives

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.

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.

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

Ulladulla Away Trip 14th – 16th March 2008

This is the annual SCAN weekend away. If you are interested in coming, please contact Eddie Ivers Ph.9526 5910 for more information and to book.

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.

Ship Rock Shore Dive 22nd March 2008

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

Barrens Hut Boat Dive 29th March 2008

If you are interested in coming, please contact Sheila Baldock Ph.9525 0746.

Double Shore Dive - Shellharbour 30th March 2008

If you are interested in coming, please contact Ron Walsh Ph. 0409 225 683.

St George Scuba Club Annual Ladies Week-end Away

The Ladies trip is on again this year, for the week-end of April 4th to 6th. High tide will be 7:16 am and 8:02 am, which is perfect for shore diving at Port Stephens.

Easts Holiday Park at Soldiers Point (same place as last year) have come to the party, with pool side Cabins and a late (3:30 pm) check-out.



Have a look at www.eastholidayparks.com.au for more information. Easts are also next to the Bowling Club, which will be the location for our Saturday night feast.

Accommodation cost will be \$90 for the week-end, possibly less depending on numbers. Diving will be at Halifax Park, Fly Point or The Pipeline, at high tide plus a possible drift or night dive.

All of our Ladies week-ends have been great trips away, with



good diving and lots of laughs.

Halifax Park Dive Site

So, to book your spot kindly deposit \$50 the St George Club account (BSB 062028 Acc 00800455) and contact me on 0410 599 186 or kelly@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info

The Skillion (Terrigal) Shore Dive 5th April 2008

If you are interested in coming, please contact Dave Burns Ph.9531 4403.

Henry's Head Boat Dive 6th April 2008

If you are interested in coming, please contact Michael Wright Ph.9453 5748.

Undersea Explorer Away Trip

Robbie Mapstone is organising another trip to the Great Barrier Reef and Osprey Reef on the liveaboard *Undersea Explorer*. There is an article on this web site and are lots of photos from previous trips in the Photo Gallery if you would like to see what the diving is like.

The dive trip starts on Saturday 10 May 2008 at Port Douglas and goes for 6 days, coming back to Port Douglas on Thursday 16 May. You will get the chance to do about 22 dives. You will need to stay in Port Douglas till at least the Friday afternoon before flying home.

The cost will about \$1728 (depends on numbers and discount) plus some costs on board (fuel levy, marine parks fee and any drinks you buy). This includes all food and dives.

You will need to organise your own flights to and from Cairns (there are Qantas and Virgin Blue flights about 10:30 am from Sydney) and should be able to get for about \$160 each way.

Six people are already confirmed for the trip.

If you are interested, contact Robbie Mapstone now by phoning him.

If you want to see more about the diving and previous trips, go to [Michael McFadyen's Scuba Diving Web Site](#) and look up the Queensland section of the Australian pages.

Palau Trip – Oct / Nov 2008

Dave Casburn is organising this trip. Please contact him for details ph. 0405 186 184.

Sydney Tides March 2008

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High
SAT 1	3:32 AM EST / 1.32 m	10:42 AM EST / 0.59 m	4:26 PM EST / 0.97 m	9:46 PM EST / 0.65 m	
Sun 2	4:44 AM EST / 1.33 m	11:48 AM EST / 0.52 m	5:37 PM EST / 1.00 m	11:02 PM EST / 0.61 m	
Mon 3	5:46 AM EST / 1.39 m	12:39 PM EST / 0.44 m	6:32 PM EST / 1.06 m		
Tue 4		12:03 AM EST / 0.54 m	6:37 AM EST / 1.47 m	1:23 PM EST / 0.36 m	7:16 PM EST / 1.15 m
Wed 5		12:54 AM EST / 0.45 m	7:23 AM EST / 1.56 m	2:01 PM EST / 0.28 m	7:57 PM EST / 1.25 m
Thu 6		1:41 AM EST / 0.37 m	8:05 AM EST / 1.63 m	2:37 PM EST / 0.22 m	8:36 PM EST / 1.36 m
Fri 7		2:25 AM EST / 0.30 m	8:45 AM EST / 1.68 m	3:12 PM EST / 0.17 m	9:15 PM EST / 1.46 m
Sat 8		3:09 AM EST / 0.25 m	9:26 AM EST / 1.69 m	3:46 PM EST / 0.16 m	9:53 PM EST / 1.55 m
Sun 9		3:54 AM EST / 0.22 m	10:07 AM EST / 1.65 m	4:22 PM EST / 0.18 m	10:34 PM EST / 1.61 m
Mon 10		4:42 AM EST / 0.23 m	10:52 AM EST / 1.57 m	5:00 PM EST / 0.23 m	11:17 PM EST / 1.65 m
Tue 11		5:35 AM EST / 0.25 m	11:40 AM EST / 1.45 m	5:41 PM EST / 0.31 m	
Wed 12	12:04 AM EST / 1.65 m	6:34 AM EST / 0.30 m	12:34 PM EST / 1.31 m	6:26 PM EST / 0.39 m	
Thu 13	12:57 AM EST / 1.62 m	7:41 AM EST / 0.35 m	1:36 PM EST / 1.16 m	7:18 PM EST / 0.48 m	
Fri 14	1:58 AM EST / 1.57 m	8:58 AM EST / 0.38 m	2:54 PM EST / 1.06 m	8:24 PM EST / 0.55 m	
Sat 15	3:11 AM EST / 1.52 m	10:22 AM EST / 0.38 m	4:24 PM EST / 1.03 m	9:48 PM EST / 0.58 m	
Sun 16	4:30 AM EST / 1.51 m	11:37 AM EST / 0.34 m	5:41 PM EST / 1.07 m	11:09 PM EST / 0.55 m	
Mon 17	5:41 AM EST / 1.53 m	12:36 PM EST / 0.30 m	6:39 PM EST / 1.15 m		
Tue 18		12:16 AM EST / 0.47 m	6:40 AM EST / 1.57 m	1:24 PM EST / 0.27 m	7:26 PM EST / 1.25 m
Wed 19		1:11 AM EST / 0.40 m	7:30 AM EST / 1.59 m	2:03 PM EST / 0.25 m	8:07 PM EST / 1.35 m
Thu 20		2:00 AM EST / 0.35 m	8:13 AM EST / 1.59 m	2:37 PM EST / 0.25 m	8:43 PM EST / 1.44 m
Fri 21		2:43 AM EST / 0.32 m	8:52 AM EST / 1.57 m	3:08 PM EST / 0.26 m	9:18 PM EST / 1.52 m
Sat 22		3:22 AM EST / 0.32 m	9:28 AM EST / 1.53 m	3:37 PM EST / 0.29 m	9:51 PM EST / 1.57 m
Sun 23		4:01 AM EST / 0.34 m	10:02 AM EST / 1.48 m	4:05 PM EST / 0.33 m	10:24 PM EST / 1.59 m
Mon 24		4:39 AM EST / 0.37 m	10:37 AM EST / 1.40 m	4:34 PM EST / 0.38 m	10:57 PM EST / 1.59 m
Tue 25		5:19 AM EST / 0.41 m	11:14 AM EST / 1.32 m	5:04 PM EST / 0.45 m	11:31 PM EST / 1.56 m
Wed 26		6:02 AM EST / 0.45 m	11:54 AM EST / 1.24 m	5:36 PM EST / 0.51 m	
Thu 27	12:08 AM EST / 1.51 m	6:48 AM EST / 0.49 m	12:38 PM EST / 1.15 m	6:12 PM EST / 0.58 m	
Fri 28	12:50 AM EST / 1.44 m	7:41 AM EST / 0.53 m	1:29 PM EST / 1.07 m	6:56 PM EST / 0.63 m	
Sat 29	1:39 AM EST / 1.38 m	8:43 AM EST / 0.56 m	2:33 PM EST / 1.01 m	7:52 PM EST / 0.67 m	
Sun 30	2:41 AM EST / 1.34 m	9:54 AM EST / 0.55 m	3:51 PM EST / 1.00 m	9:06 PM EST / 0.68 m	
Mon 31	3:54 AM EST / 1.34 m	10:59 AM EST / 0.51 m	5:00 PM EST / 1.05 m	10:24 PM EST / 0.65 m	

The Committee for 2007 – 2008 is:

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