



August / September 2018

New Meeting Location

As previewed at the September meeting and advised in a recent email, the club will hold its future meetings at the Georges River Sailing Club, Sanoni Avenue, Sandringham (Dolls Point).

This decision was endorsed by all life members, all the committee and 100% of members who responded to the email seeking endorsement for the committee's recommendation to move to a new location due to problems with the Rowers on Cook Club which had affected our ability to hold meetings.

Meetings will still be held on the third Wednesday of the month, starting at 8 pm. This will take effect immediately, so see you at the GRSC on Wednesday 17 October 2018. Come along and have dinner beforehand, meet from 7 pm.

We will be providing all members who come to the first meeting with a complimentary drink.

See you there.

Michael McFadyen
President

CLUB TRIPS AWAY

Jervis Bay Deep Dive Trip

August 2018

Report by Bill Rowland

Photos courtesy of Mike Scotland and Michael McFadyen.

8 members and 1 former member headed down to Jervis Bay for a weekend of deep diving on August 24-26th. Ian Roffey, Michael & Kelly,

Mike Scotland, Ray Moulang, Geoff Ward, David Longman, myself, and Nic Winter. The roadworks have now been completed and it was a far easier trip than I remember from previous visits.

Friday night was a nice curry dinner at The Taj, and we then prepared for the boat departure at the extremely civilised time of 9am the next morning.

The accommodation that Ian had organised was fantastic. Even with 9 divers, and dive gear, there was still plenty of room to swing a cat (which, given the number of Ailurophiles in the club, I'd have to confirm would be done in an animal-friendly manner...)



We loaded the smaller, faster, boat of Dive Jervis Bay and aimed for Point Perpendicular and then headed North, to "The Crossroads". Jumping in, we came across a stack of resting PJs which could be viewed clearly in the 20m viz. Heading further, we enjoyed a pineapple fish and a gorgeous Eastern Blue Devil Fish. As we travelled along the wall, there were many parallel cracks, where you could reverse direction and explore each

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crevice before turning around and continuing along the wall.



Towards the end of the dive there were 6 or 7 divers all doing deco together. The “St George Starburst” dive plan had not been successfully executed... It was the first dive of the trip, so there was still time to perfect the technique. I’m pleased to report that by the 4th dive of the weekend, the starburst pattern was back in full effect.

The swell was substantial when re-boarding the boat, but everyone got back on intact.

Dive Jervis Bay were very thorough. They had dropped a shot line on the spot, but then added a bottle of O2 at 6 metres plus a diver in the water to assist if anyone had problems descending. There were also clear instructions on how to surface (SMB) and how they would react to different circumstances (eg if an SMB was launched at the shot line, that indicated a problem). Very professional.

Our surface interval included a whale appearing between two whale watching boats close to us, and a far-too-detailed discussion about just how much chicken was included in Powdered Chicken Soup (more than expected (none), but less than you’d want (don’t ask...))

The second dive was inside the bay at Lighthouse Reef / Pinnacle Cave. The viz had dropped to 10m, but there were some fantastic big swim throughs. We headed a bit shallower and enjoyed being immersed in a number of big schools of fish. Towards the end of the dive, Warren from Dive JB led us into a cave where we went in about 20m before turning and

exiting. It was fun looking up and seeing the waves break overhead in the cave. After exiting, we asked how far it went back? Warren said he used to snorkel in there and it goes about 70m back!

Returning to the dock, it was an efficient process of loading empty tanks onto the ute next to the boat, and heading back to the house. There were multiple undercover areas to hang dive gear, but the best feature was a heated tile floor for drying garments.

Crushing Rugby League and Bledisloe Cup results (viewed in front of a warming, comforting, and well made log fire) were overcome by an excellent BBQ and potato-bake (Thank you Ian and Kelly), and apparently some nice salad too. Michael brought some club-recipe chili sauce which complemented the meal nicely.

On Sunday morning we returned to the dock to find a ute full of charged tanks and prepared to launch for day 2.

The forecast had dropped, and it seemed an ideal chance to try for Stoney Creek. This is a deep offshore reef, which is rarely dived due to conditions. We took the more spacious, but slower boat, and headed out then south. Swell was minimal. Wind was minimal. A shot line was dropped and we jumped in to discover that the current was very much not minimal...! After retrieving divers, we tried again and got to the bottom.

The current was still strong, but the whips and sponges were extremely pretty, and I was very pleased we got there. I find deep reefs hard to relax and enjoy with a clock ticking ever-louder telling you to leave the bottom, but even with the Tell-Tale-Clock beating, it was beautiful.



Doing a blue water ascent, we were buzzed by a decent sized seal at 20m. It was curious and stayed for a while with us. I assume it was the same seal that had played with Michael and Kelly at 40m. Overall, the viz was pretty good at 15m or so, but there were lots of 'brown bits' were in the water (no, not from the seal...).

Our surface interval was near Steamers Beach, where there was a seal colony on the rocks. One youngster stepped down onto a ledge, and then another, and slipped into a somersault entrance into the water. Most divers did the 2nd dive, called Ellysa's Playground. While they were diving, Warren reversed the boat up to the rocks so we could study the colony. Some half-eaten squid were scattered across the rocks as well. The divers were buzzed by a number of seals. Morgan (Dive JB owner) saw a Sunfish.

We headed back to Huskisson, happy with two good days of diving.

My main memory of JB is "every time I go, I think I must spend more time here". This weekend, again, reinforced that feeling. Thanks to Ian for organising a great trip, and to all attendees for making it such a fun event. I look forward to next time.

South West Rocks

July 2018

Report and photos by Michael McFadyen



To coincide with a trip Kelly and I were doing to Fraser Island, I decided to organise a dive trip to South West Rocks for the trip up north. I advertised this trip and ended up with a few members interested in coming along. We ended up with Jason Coombs, Melbourne member Peter Beaumont and his non-diving wife, Judy and new member Daniel Vandervaere and his girlfriend Nicki.

Peter and Judy came up from Melbourne early and the rest of us drove there on Tuesday 24 July. We book into South West Rocks Dive Centre and later head into town to have dinner at the hotel. Not a bad meal, a few years since I had been there. The next morning, we had a leisurely start, we did not need to start loading the boat till 8:30 am! As well as our five divers, there were other people on the boat too. Conditions were not too bad on the run out and we saw plenty of humpback whales on the trip.

The first dive by the other group was through Fish Rock Cave and Peter, David and Nicki decided to do that as they had not dived here before. Jason and I decided to dive the main shark gutter and out to Fish and Chips. We saw about 8 to 10 grey nurse sharks on that part of the dive, but towards the end we ventured towards the Shallow Entrance where we saw plenty more. The others saw in excess of 30. Visibility was very good and water temperature about 17.8C. The second dive we did was to the

Shallow Entrance. Sure enough, there were dozens of sharks here. There was only a little current, so it was easy to get there.



That night we had a nice pizza dinner in the dive accommodation. The next day Jason and I again did a dive out to Fish and Chips. In between the dives, a southern right whale came very close to the boat. Fantastic! The second dive we did a drift from The Pinnacle which is on the northern end of Fish Rock along the western side. Jason and I first headed out to Colorado Pass but there were no sharks there, so we went around The Pinnacle and then drifted with the slight current south. There was so much on this dive, dozens of grey nurse sharks, kingfish attacking large schools of baitfish, five eagle rays, three very large Queensland groppers and even a seal! We saw this a couple of times swooping down from the surface. A brilliant dive.

On Friday it was just Jason and I diving as the others had left. For the first dive we did a very similar dive to the last one. Again, we saw lots of sharks and this time five Queensland groppers, one of which was huge. We also saw a large bullray and at least 100 wobbegongs. For our last dive we went out to Black Forest. This was the first time I had been there for 10 years. We again saw the turtle in the blind gutter and some more sharks in the main gutter.

Once again, South West Rocks has not disappointed as a dive location, with Fish Rock living up to its reputation as one of the best dives in Australia. Do yourself a favour and get on the next club trip there.

Forster – Wreck of the SS Satara

September 2018

Report by: Bill Rowland

Photos by: Gary Perkins (video screenshots)

They say a meteorologist is someone who can look at a girl and tell whether.

As much respect as I have for the individuals doing a difficult job in an imprecise and unpredictable world, they are not at the top of my list to get a Christmas Card this year.

Based on the success of diving the wreck of the Satara at Forster in 2017, I offered to organise a return trip in June 2018. Numbers were met, divers pulled out, replacements were found, and we were set. The forecast slowly but surely got worse and worse (30+ kt winds). On the Friday morning before the weekend, I pulled the pin. Better to bid a tactical retreat and reschedule with no money lost, than go and not dive.

As it turned out, the actuals didn't match the forecast (which also calmed over the weekend), and I got SMS love-letters with photos all weekend from the dive shop politely, but repeatedly, suggesting our decision was wrong. C'est la vie... (and no, I'd do the same again)

The trip was rescheduled to August, numbers were met, divers pulled out, replacements were found, and we were set. On this occasion the Dive Shop cancelled on the Tuesday before, based on the poor forecast.

The trip was rescheduled to September. 3rd time's the charm, eh. Numbers were found. Forecast looked, ahhh, not prohibitive. Up we went. Phil & Mary Short, Peter & Marianne Tibbitts, Gary Perkins, Clint, Aidan & Aga, and Bill.

On Saturday morning we loaded Nick's boat at Forster Dive Centre. He motored down "1 to 1.5 hours", and we drove for 40 mins to Seal Rocks. After 2 hours the boat arrived, and we swam out. It had been a rough trip down. The Bay at Seal Rocks was calm and gorgeous. As we headed out and headed south, it turned grey, windy, and the swell rose. Gary was planning on the longest bottom time, and so he was keen to be geared up and in the water first. The

engine revs dropped... Are we at the site? No, we're dealing with a steep wave... Rinse and repeat.

It was agreed that if this was a normal club boat dive to the Tuggerah, it would have been cancelled. Here, with a bigger boat, a relatively short trip, and no guarantee of better forecast (let alone actual) conditions in the future, we decided to push on and cop some bumps. On the bright side - we were entertained by some very acrobatic whales constantly breaching well out of the water. It was spectacular to watch.



We anchored, Gary leapt in, and then we started gearing up. It was initially quite hard work starting the descent, but I must confess to a feeling of absolute euphoria when I got to the wreck. I'm not sure if it was narcosis, relief at not having to organise a 4th attempt for the same trip, or pleasure at seeing this beautiful wreck again. Perhaps all of the above.

We had anchored amidships and headed to the stern. Traversing a fantastic, fish-filled, swim through, we reached the stern. A ray and wobbie were spotted, hidden in places we had no idea how they would get out of. A Grey Nurse Shark was seen on the port side of the stern. Some PJs and a wobbie were seen on the starboard side. Crayfish and an Eastern Blue Devil Fish were also present.

Current on the bottom was minimal. Mid water current was mild, but the surface wind & swell rocking the boat was enough to rip ones arm out of the socket if the anchor line was held too tightly. Everyone got back aboard and continued to enjoy the whale-show. Back in the serenity of Sugarloaf Bay at Seal Rocks, we swam ashore and drove back to unload the boat and prepare for Sunday.

A volunteer had been sought to organise Saturday night's BBQ, and Phil was the first of several to volunteer. He was a great organiser and did everything that Mary told him to! A spectacular evening was had to the delight, and full-ness of everyone - there was even enough for a post dive lunch on Sunday. It was hastily resolved that Mary was highly encouraged to join the next away trip please (oh and Phil could come too, if he wanted). Thank you, Phil & Mary.



On Sunday morning the Willy Weather forecast was similar to Saturday (but our actual wind and swell from Saturday was higher than the forecast, so who knows...). Breakfast at Beach Bums Cafe by the main beach was enhanced by a pod of dolphins swimming past. We headed to Seal Rocks and the boat arrived much quicker than Saturday - fingers crossed that meant better conditions. There was still decent wind and swell but it was certainly less than Saturday. There was not a whale in sight for the whole day. The anchor was again dropped perfectly on the wreck and down we went. Visibility was less than Saturday - perhaps 5m at its worst point, but still fantastic fish life. Temperature on the bottom for both days was 17 degrees.

It's a great wreck, with plenty to see (both of the wreck, and also great marine life). Nick has a spacious boat and is a good, honest, operator. Best of all, it was a fun weekend with the esteemed members of the SGSC in what is a very nice part of the world. Thank you all for coming. Time for a bex and a lie down (and perhaps for a change we'll do the SS Catterthun next year... weather permitting, of course!)

MEMBERS BOATS

In this edition of 'Sea Braggin', I've included a new section to feature members boats.

The first one to feature is Wayne Hemings' boat, 'Yes Dear Too'



Owner: Wayne Heming
 Boat: Barcrusher 530C
 Motor: 90HP Evinrude Etec
 Name: Yes Dear Too (as in Yes Dear also, if I buy another one, it might be Yes Dear Again)
 Age: 13 years
 Safety: Auto Bilge Pump, EPIRB, Oxygen, 5 PFDs, Radio and all the standard must have items.
 Space: 4 Divers with 8 tanks in total.
 Diving: Double Boat dives out of Port Botany, Port Kembla and Port Hacking on Saturdays

First boat was a Mustang 4600 with 85HP Suzuki, named Yes Dear, sold to a work Colleague, who in turn sold it to a former club member, Daryl Brett, and then on sold it and last known to be in the Wagga area.

Yes Dear Too, was purchased in Harvey Bay, 2nd hand in 2008. 3 years old at the time.



Thank you, Wayne, for the idea for this feature & providing the info on 'Yes Dear Too'.

If any other boat owners would like to have their boat featured in the next newsletter, please let me know via email.

MEMBERS PHOTOS & VIDEOS

I know that there are quite a few keen photographers in the club so, get on board and send me some of your photos or links to video clips to be featured here!

This edition features the awesome video skills by a fairly new member, Lynne Tuck. Do yourself a favour & check out her YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwRMkHplz2w>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3DGOSHSEJk>

Another awesome video is one made by Lynne's daughter, Kara. It is the story of how Kara & her brother, Lachie, found a Port Jackson shark egg washed up on the beach. They rescued it & nursed it right through to birth & later released it back into the ocean. Awesome effort guys!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19QgGuaoPHk>

Long time member, Mike Scotland, has a website that is full of amazing images from all over the world. He has also got lots of photography tips on how to achieve 'that shot'.

Mike is a regular contributor to Dive Log magazine showcasing his photographic and journalistic skills.

So, do yourself a favour and check his website out!

www.mikescotland.com.au

REGULAR EVENTS

Monthly Meetings

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on Wednesday **17 October 2018** at Georges River Sailing Club, **Sanoni Avenue, Sandringham** at 8.00 pm. Come along about 7 pm and enjoy a meal at the bistro.

At the November meeting on **21 November 2018** we will have a guest speaker, David Strike, OzTek founder, former Royal Navy diver, instructor and one of the first five Nitrox certified divers in Australia.

He will give a talk entitled “The World's Deepest Dive” – the background to and subsequent story of the Royal Navy's George Wookey who, in 1956, set a world depth record that has never been equalled. The talk will also include an account of the search for the sunken submarine, HMS *Affray* as well as the story of “Buster” Crabb: a WWII Royal Navy diving legend who, in 1956, disappeared while on a spying mission on a Russian cruiser visiting the UK on a “goodwill” mission at the height of the Cold war.

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

Family Picnic & Dive Day - Sunday 21st October 2018 Clifton Gardens

Come along with your family for a social BBQ / picnic day.

If you are interested in coming, please contact Natasha Naude – natasha@bluecucumber.com

BBQ & Boat Dive Day

Frenchmans Bay, La Perouse.

Sunday 11th November 2018

A great day of diving and socialising. This is a free day hosted by the club.

A great chance to meet other members and enjoy a BBQ breakfast & lunch.

For details, contact: Bill Rowland (bill@rowland88.com) for the diving and Eda di Camillo (edadicamillo@bigpond.com) for the BBQ.

Volunteers needed to help out on the day.

Calendar Planning Night

Tuesday 13th November 2018

Georges River Sailing Club. Sanoni Avenue, Sandringham

This is your chance to be more involved with the club activities & help plan some dives for the coming New Year.

Christmas Party / BBQ

2 December 2018 at 7.30pm Botany Bay National Park, Kurnell.

Our annual Christmas BBQ day.
Another free day hosted by the Club.
So, bring your family & enjoy a great social day.
For details contact either:
edadicamillo@bigpond.com or
kelly@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info

CALENDAR DIVES

Saturday 13th October 2108

Shore Dive

Bare Island or Kurnell

Contact: Eddie Ivers –

eddieivers@iprimus.com.au

Saturday 20th October 2018

Boat Dive

Wattamolla

Contact: Ian Roffey – ianroffey@gmail.com

Saturday 27th October

Boat Dive

Pizza Reef

Contact: Bob Hill – rrahill1@optusnet.com.au

Saturday 3rd November 2018

Boat Dive

Xanadu

Contact: Caroline Corcoran-Stojanovic –

ccorcorandiving@gmail.com

Saturday 10th November 2018

Shore Dive

Bare Island or Kurnell

Contact: Paul Pacey – paul.pacey@iinet.net.au

Saturday 17th November 2018

Deep Boat Dive

SS Tuggerah or SS Undola.

Contact Bill Rowland – bill@rowland88.com

Saturday 24th November 2018

Shore Dive

Bare Island or Kurnell

Contact: Eddie Ivers –

eddieivers@iprimus.com.au

The Committee for 2018/19 is:

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Please send items for the Newsletter to me