



St George Scuba Club Newsletter February 2022



Bushrangers Bay.

Tammalee Butcher

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Gallery contributors. Tammalee Butcher, John Prior, Eddie Ivers, Zoran Vuckovic, Ron Walsh, Phil Short.

Carol Martin Memorial Dive

Text Natasha Naude - Photos Ron and Donna



On Sunday 6 February we gathered in honor of Carol Martin for the 11th memorial club event. Based on marine forecast I had decided to call time out on the planned dive and proceed instead with an earlier brunch, consisting of bacon, lettuce, avocado and tomato rolls or bacon and egg rolls and salads. There were some corn fritters to boot! The dive cancellation saw a few people elect not to come so in the end 17 of us managed to stay dry and not too windswept at Frenchman's Bay. We enjoyed some great food and each other's company. Having been absent from the club for some time, it was so lovely to catch up with old friends while we toasted our dear lost friend Carol.

At 11 we packed up and made our way over to the plaque on Bare island. June said a few words, we raised a glass and each spoke some silent prayers or wishes as we threw flowers out into the bay. Tears are still shed and laughs still shared. The irony is that Carol would love the event, but it wouldn't be in the calendar except for her passing. It is still a special and emotional day and we miss her.

My family are currently en route to Coffs Harbour, where will now be living. If you're up that way please drop in! Otherwise I'll always be at Carol's Memorial Day each year. Big thanks

to the volunteers who brought salads, bread, shelters and cooked. It's those actions that bring us together as a club.

Natasha.



South West Rocks

By Zoran and Konstantin Vuckovic

My son Konstantin and I just came back from SWR -7 day trip , where we did 3 days double dive with South West Rocks Dive Centre.

My son is new to diving , so it was great opportunity for him to see for the first time variety of marine life .

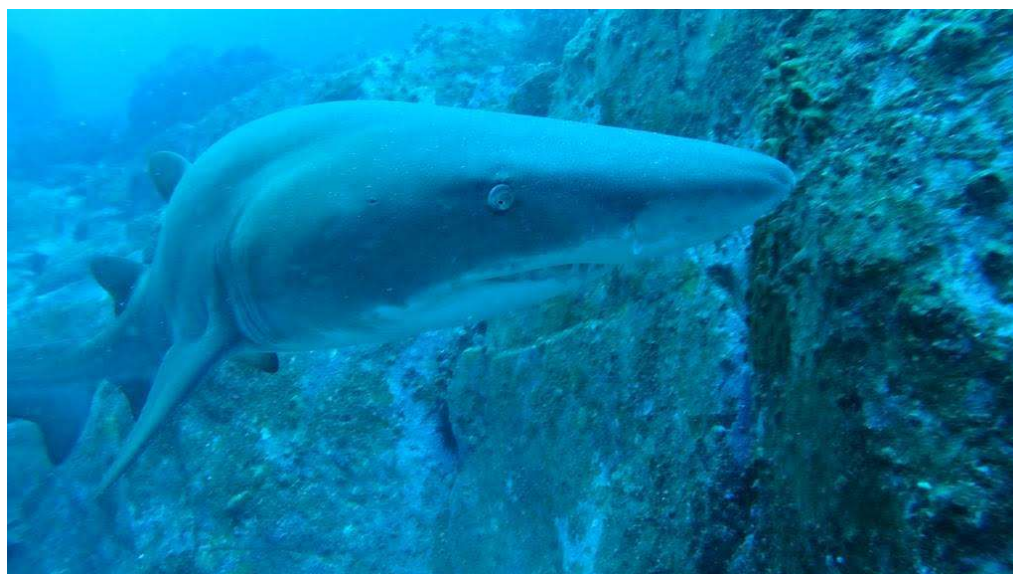
His wish to dive with Great Nurse sharks came true . He made his 29 metre record dive. All the dives with SWR Dive Centre are done with 32 Nitrox .

On the first day , visibility was excellent , and we saw 7 Grey Nurse , probably 20 Wobbegong , school of tuna , turtle , large ray , moray eels , sea stars , large bat fish , couple Blue Groper , and tons of fish .

The other 2 days were little bit less exciting .

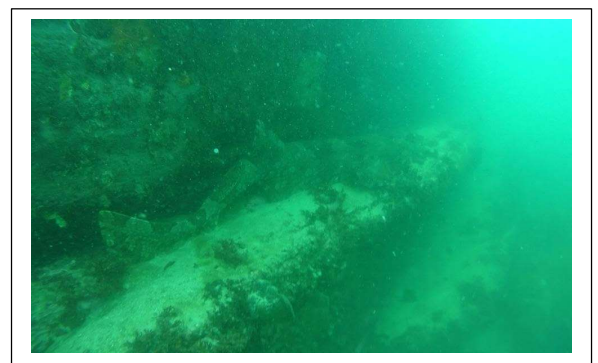


Konstantin's first encounter with a grey nurse





Prior to going on the SWR trip my son and I went for a trim dive and tune-up at Gordons Bay. On that dive we saw large Bull Ray , a 2.5 metre Wobbegong and moray eel ,lots of sting ray small and large and of course Blue Grooper. Visibility was about 10 metres for that dive.



Club boat dive 30 January 2022 - Barens Hut

Phil Short

The club dive was listed as Wattamolla and Argonaut was the only available boat. A late change of forecast predicted strong north east winds for the morning, which meant the longish journey to Wattamolla was not going to happen. On heading out the wind was well below forecast but in case the strong winds showed up I chose Barens Hut.

From the surface the water didn't look that good. Above 10 metres the water was 19 degrees and a bit gloomy but deeper the water opened up to 10 metres or so visibility and a chilly 14 degrees. There was a moderate surface current from the north. Greg, Shelley and Vishal went on the first dive and Jasmine and I went in second for a very enjoyable dive with the usual fish life for that site. Jasmine has patiently waited for the water to warm up to get back into diving and was greeted by a toasty 14 degree dive. It was like diving in winter.



The Tassie Trumpeters and red mowies at their usual spot at Barens.

St George Australia Day BBQ and Dive 26 January 2022

Photos Ron Walsh, Margaret Jennings and Mark Arrowsmith.

Txt Ron Walsh

This year's Australia Day Dive & BBQ was held at The Monument, Kurnell on, naturally, 26 January 2022. There were 11 divers with further members and family providing land support. A nice sunny day with minimal wind and only a small swell. Low tide being at 9:23am meant entry and exit were slightly challenging due to the low water level but all divers managed easily. The visibility was OK at around 5m and the water reasonably warm at 21C. We saw weedy seadragons, red fingered anglerfish, big belly seahorses, pygmy pipehorses, lots of different nudibranchs, beautiful sponges, and prolific fish life. A highlight was a tiny cowfish found by Donna. After the dive we enjoyed a nice coffee followed by sausage and bacon and egg rolls with various salads. An excellent way to spend the day. An interesting sideline was one of the divers misplaced (read lost) his go-pro camera on exiting at The Monument when swimming across the kelp beds (thinks it got caught in the kelp). Amazingly the camera was found by a freediver who posted on lost and found facebook sites and luckily our member was reunited with his camera. Also the organiser Maxine was involved in a car accident the day prior so many thanks to Michael M & others for the last minute scramble for the BBQ.







© Ron Walsh

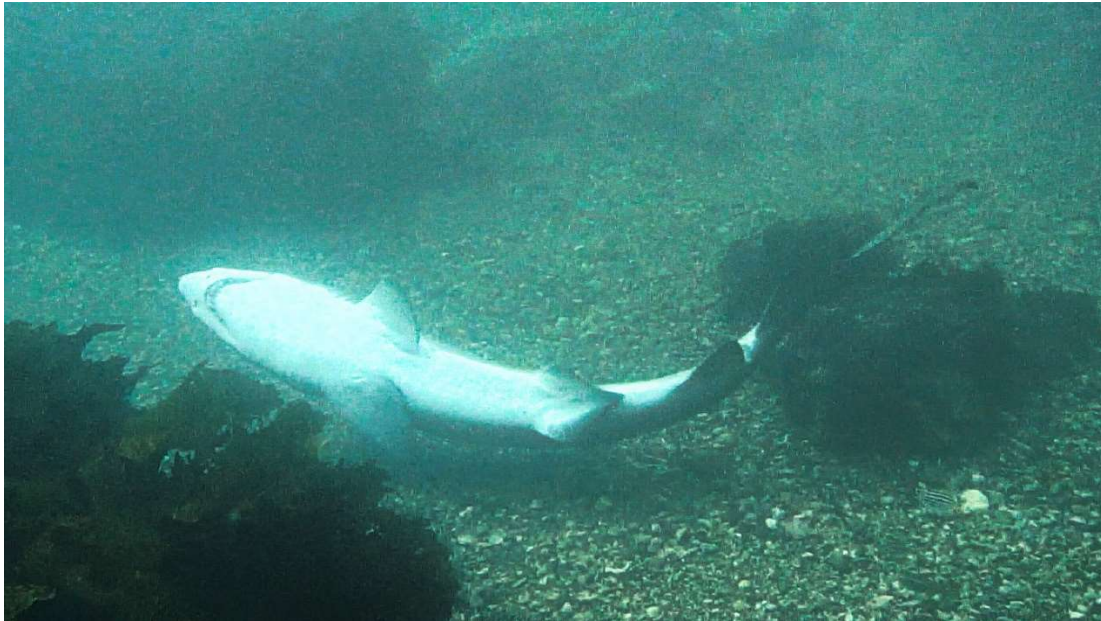


Grey Nurse Shark Grooming

Text and photos by Lynn Tuck

Ever seen a shark having a scratch or grooming on the sand? I have a favourite spot at Bushrangers where I will sit for half an hour, waiting for the sharks to groom. They like the sandy patches out past the gorgonian fan or near the engine block. So next time you are diving with nurses, sit back, stay out of the way and be patient.





More Bushrangers Bay

Photos by Tammalee Butcher

Some great photos by Tammalee Butcher taken at Bushrangers Bay with 15 metres viz and 24 degree water. Some more in the Gallery section.







Mural at Mollmook for 'Take 3' anti litter campaign

Found this thought provoking mural at the northern end of Mollymook Beach. The Take 3 campaign encourages everyone to collect three pieces of plastic each time you go to the beach (boat ramp, dive site.....or anywhere near a McDonalds).



Night Dive Bare Island 16 February 2022

Enrique Di Tondo

Three members, Enrique, Andrew Whitton and Kyle Hendry dived Bare Island on a night dive. Having regards to what happened earlier that day, braver men than me!

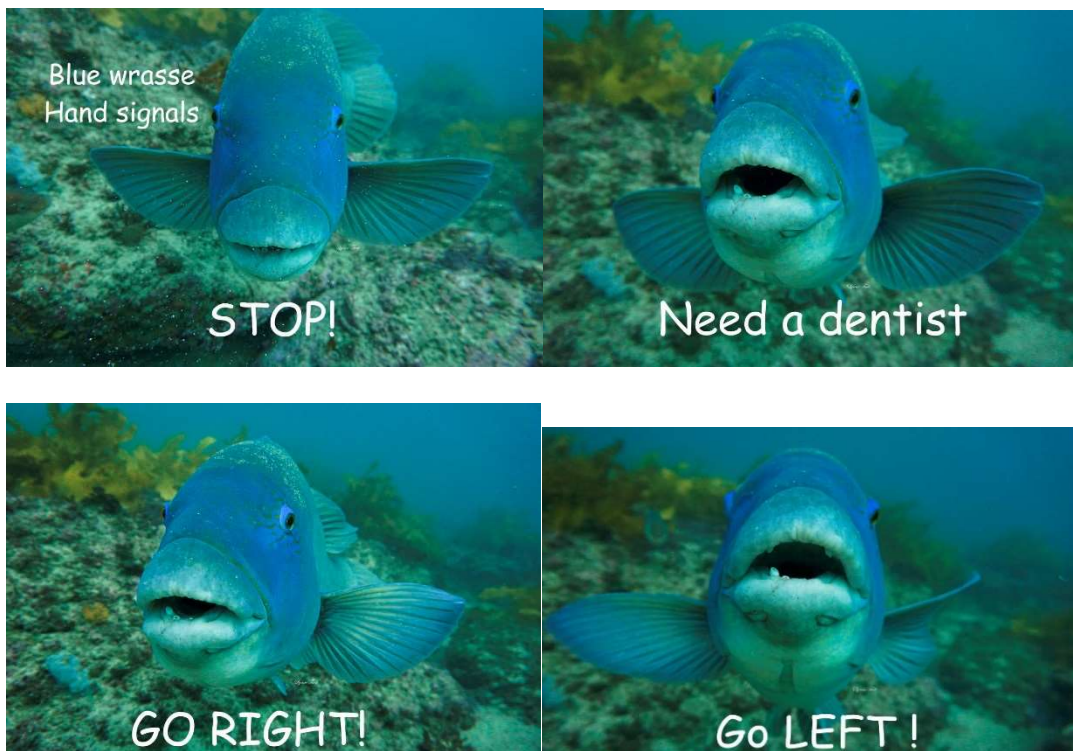
Short video on Vimeo. <https://vimeo.com/678981309>



Who says animals can't talk?

Text and Photos Lynn Tuck

This wrasse was trying very hard to make me feed him an urchin, which I refused to do! He is too fat and can get his own food! Happy for me to snap photos, at least he didnt bite me this time! A few weeks ago we were having the same conversation about urchins, I turned away to take a photo and he bit me on the back of the hand, felt like a hammer hit me. Only the one tooth hole in my hand.... lucky he hasnt seen a dentist in a while and he doesnt have many teeth. ha ha



Shiprock Dive 16th February 2022

Eddie Ivers, John Prior plus Paul Pacey for Coffee at D'lish on Port

High tide entry at 906am with the current running in towards Wallys Wharf, so we dropped down to Garbage Gulch and on the way disturbed a large Octopus eating a Blue swimmer crab for brecky

At 18m we found a sand Anemone lots of Hermit Crabs , and an Eastern Frogfish.

After the tide eased off we turned around we spotted another Blue Swimmer crab with a female

We also spotted a few Convict Gobies aka Secret Gobies , a very shy Pineapple fish and a few Daphnes Chromodoris

After the lower bubble cave we went out to the Peak Bommie and spotted the resident Horned Blennie and a few Blotched Hawkfish

At the ascent we encountered 2 decorator crabs near the exit encountered a large Flathead burrowed into the sand

Coffee and Banana Bread after at D lish with Paul completed a very enjoyable morning

Regards

Eddie





Gallery

Zoran and Konstantin climbing over one of the gutter walls at SWR against the current.



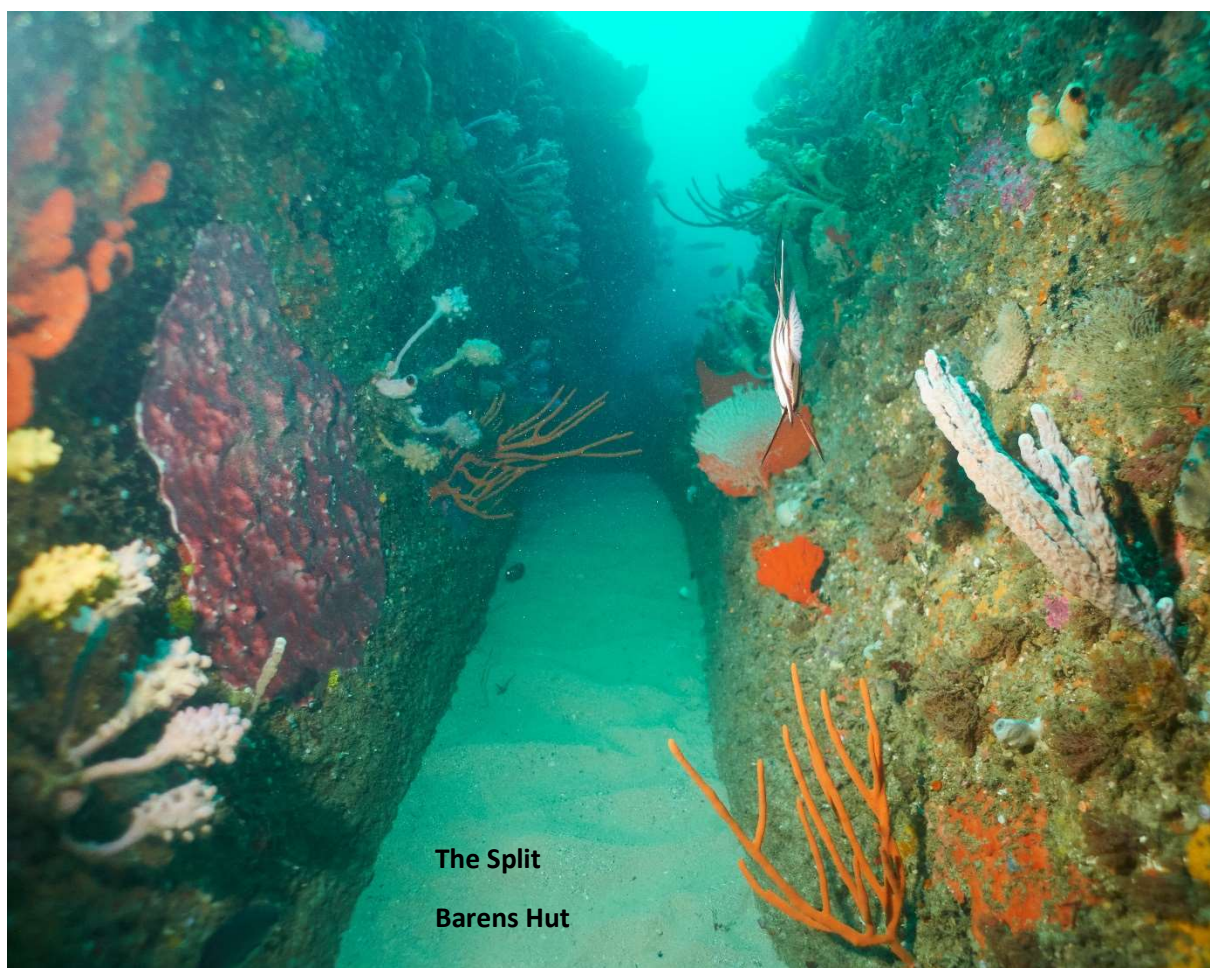
Tuggerah. Taken from 30m looking down to the bottom at 47m. Nice dive















Upcoming Organised Club Dives and Activities

March

★ Girls Weekend - Jervis Bay - Meet Huskisson

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------|
| Date: | 04-03-2022 | Starts at: | 6:00 |
| Contact Tordis Bulger | | | |

★ Deep Wreck Dive - SS Tuggerah - Meet Yowie Bay/RMYC

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------|
| Date: | 05-03-2022 | Starts at: | 7:00 |
| Contact Russ Jones | | | |

★ Shore Dive - Swansea Bridge - Meet Swansea

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------|
| Date: | 06-03-2022 | Starts at: | 9:00 |
| Contact Michael Materazzo | | | |

★ Boat Dive - Xanadu - Meet Yowie Bay/RMYC

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------|
| Date: | 12-03-2022 | Starts at: | 7:00 |
| Contact Michael McFadyen | | | |

★ Club Meeting - GRSC - Meet Dolls Point

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|-------|
| Date: | 16-03-2022 | Starts at: | 20:00 |
| Contact Maxine Hayden | | | |

★ Weekend Away - Julian Rocks - Meet Byron Bay

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------|
| Date: | 18-03-2022 | Starts at: | 6:00 |
| Contact Michael Materazzo | | | |

★ Week Away - North Solitary Island - Meet Wooli

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------|
| Date: | 21-03-2022 | Starts at: | 6:00 |
| Contact Michael Materazzo | | | |

April

★ Boat Dive and BBQ - Frenchmans Bay - Meet La Perouse

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------|
| Date: | 03-04-2022 | Starts at: | 7:00 |
| Contact Ray Moulang/Eda di Camillo | | | |

★ Night Boat Dive - Barrens Hut - Meet Yowie Bay/RMYC

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------|
| Date: | 09-04-2022 | Starts at: | 7:00 |
| Contact Craig Spillane | | | |

★ Easter Weekend - North Haven - Meet North Haven

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------|
| Date: | 14-04-2022 | Starts at: | 6:00 |
| Contact Ray Moulang | | | |

★ Boat Dive - Whale Watching Platform - Meet Hole in the Wall/Port Botany

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------|
| Date: | 16-04-2022 | Starts at: | 7:00 |
| Contact Shelley Breuseker | | | |

★ Club Meeting - GRSC - Meet Dolls Point

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|-------|
| Date: | 20-04-2022 | Starts at: | 20:00 |
| Contact Maxine Hayden | | | |

★ Boat Dive - Barrens Hut - Meet Yowie Bay/RMYC

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| Date: | 23-04-2022 | Starts at: | 7:00 |
| Contact Jason Coombs | | | |

★ **Anzac Day Shore Dive/BBQ - Bare Island - Meet La Perouse**

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| Date: | 25-04-2022 | Starts at: | 9:00 |
| Contact Deb Cook | | | |

Some handy numbers of put in your phone in case you come across an injured wildlife friend.

Australian Seabird Rescue 02 6686 2852 or 0428 862852

WIRES Injured wildlife 1300 094737

ORCA Injured whales, dolphins and seals 02 9415 3333

Please submit any articles and photos to me by replying to my club emails which are sent out every month. The newsletter will be published every month or bi monthly depending on content received.

Our newer members are encouraged to submit photo's and stories on their dive.

Dive stories and photos are not restricted to organised club dives. Things like "I learned from that..." recent courses, equipment and general interest diving / diving photography articles are also welcome. If you have no time for words, just send me some of your best photo's for inclusion in the gallery section.

Many thanks to all of the contributors.

Regards. Phil