



*St George
Scuba Club
Newsletter
June 2022*



Tiger Shark at Bega Lagoon, Fiji. Story and photos courtesy of Jason Coombs and Roxanne Fea

In the newsletter

Ladies Weekend Jervis Bay

Bega Lagoon Fiji

Club BBQ/ Dive day

Shiprock

INaturalist – Citizen Science website

Tordis Bulger

Jason Coombs & Roxane Fea

Ray Moulang

Ron Walsh

Lynne Tuck

Gallery.

Ron Walsh, Jason Coombs, Peter Flockart, Michael McFadyen.

LADIES WEEKEND JERVIS BAY 7 & 8 MAY 2022

Helen, Donna, Jill, Maxine & Tordis.

After several re-schedules due to horrendous weather, and trying to find a weekend that suited everyone, which turned out to be impossible, we got lucky and picked one with a good weather forecast. It's always exciting to turn up in Jervis Bay, with blue sky and sunshine and very little swell. You know you're in for a good one. Friday evening started off with a magnificent dinner at the pub, and with jewfish on the Specials menu, all were happy.



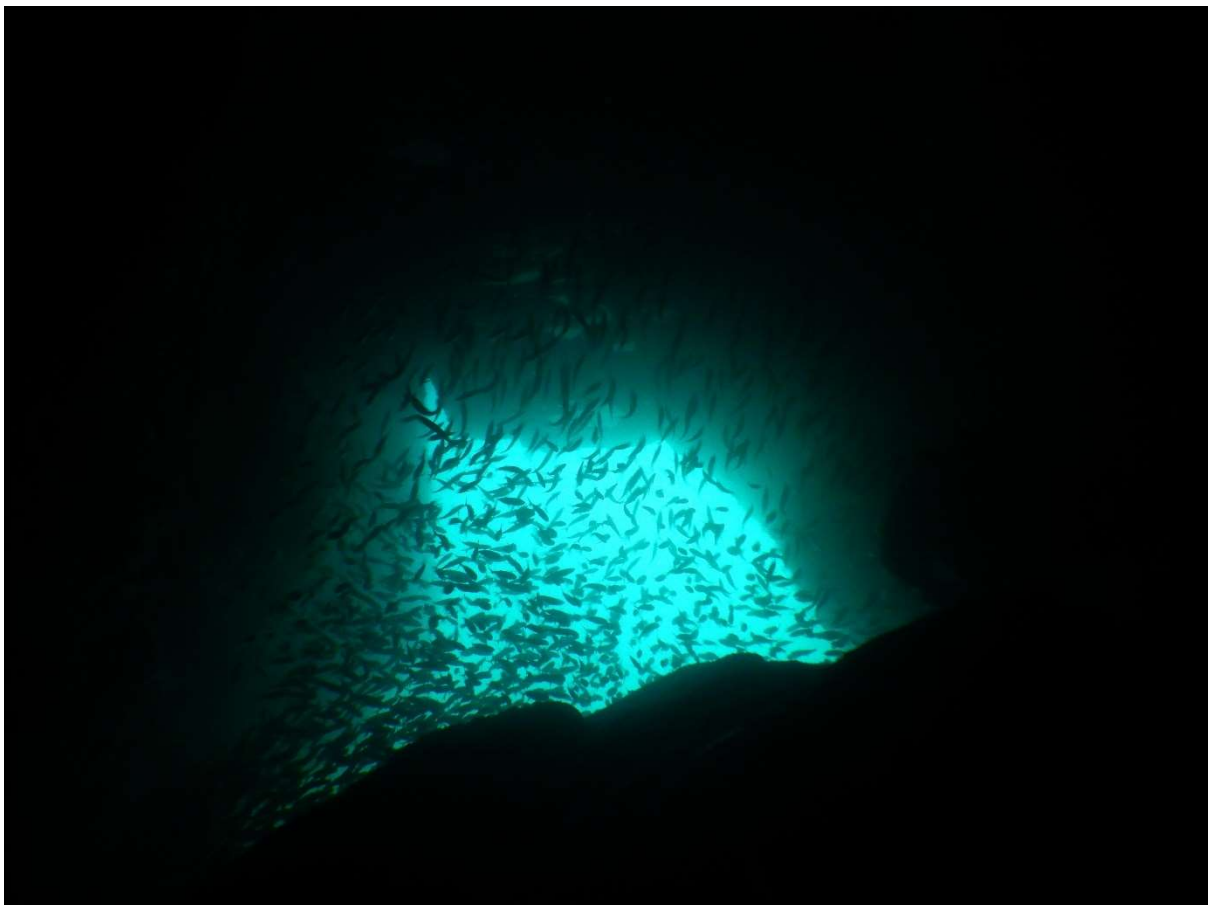
On a “fresh”, but stunning Saturday morning with low swell, the dive crew on the Gemini took us the outside of the bay to dive The Arch on the northern side. We were all very enthusiastic until we saw the water, but oh well, not often we get to dive The Arch ! And green it was with rather less than average viz, but not to worry as you couldn't get lost and miss our good old dive guide Wazza, easily spotted underwater with his devil horned hood 😊. We enjoyed big schools of fish and wobbegongs and beautiful sponge gardens.

Top of the Arch, Saturday 7 May 2022. Photo by Tordis



Second dive at Cathedral Cave accompanied by a grey nurse, who did not enjoy our torches. It kept buzzing us and got a bit close. Cave entrance is at 23 meters, and you can surface inside the cave at 8 meters in the air pocket. We all gave that a miss. The water inside the cave was pretty clear.

Cathedral Cave entrance, Saturday 7 May. Photo by Tordis



Grey nurse inside Cathedral Cave, quite spooky having it buzzing around. Photo by Maxine.



Nice blue water and stunning fish life at Cave entrance. Photo by Tordis.



Outside the entrance to Cathedral Cave. Photo by Maxine.

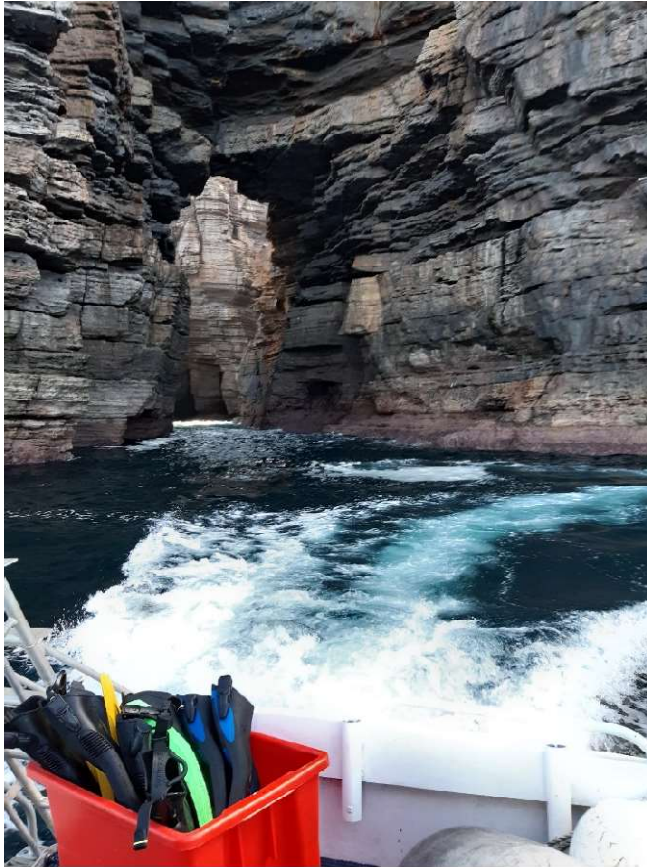


Wobbegong by Maxine.



On the Second day we dived Devils Cave, just north of Cathedral Cave, swimming through one arch and out another. The inside is almost like an amphitheatre with beautiful, curved walls. A bit surgy , so no photos. Nice school of Kingfish outside and a inquisitive seal.

Entry to Devils Cave, Sunday 8 May.



The westerly blew up on our way back in on Saturday and made for an uncomfortable, bumpy ride back.

Wobbegong outside Devils Cave on Sunday 8 May. Photo by Tordis.



It was nice and sunny on the Sunday and we enjoyed a nice morning tea up at Drum & Drumstick and checked out the seal colonies. Second dive on Sunday was back at Cathedral Cave. Another stunning dive.

Slipper Lobster inside Cathedral Cave, Sunday 8 May. Photo by Tordis.



Turned out to be a great weekend, Everyone was happy with the diving and water temperature at 18 – 19 degrees.

Accommodation

We stayed on the Vincentia side of Mona Mona Creek in a very nice, 4-bedroom house with 4 living areas, and some very exotic looking bedrooms 😊

Definitely a house to return to, booked through Jervis Bay Luxury stays. It is recommend that you book directly through them and not Stayz or Air BnB, as JBL will do not charge a booking fee.

Hope to see you all again next year and a few more.

Bega Lagoon, Fiji

Text and photos by Jason Coombs and Roxanne Fea

Every now and then a much-hyped experience exceeds your inflated expectations. Shark diving Bega Lagoon in Fiji last week was one of those rare occasions.

We did 4 shark dives kneeling behind a small wall at 20 metres supported by 8 courageous and experienced local dive guides. The dives were a blur of feeding frenzies, sometimes so close you had to dodge very large tail fins to avoid being hit.

On 3 of the 4 dives we had 5 – 6 tiger sharks including 2 very large 4 metre plus females. The tiger sharks don't always show up so we were extremely lucky. There were at least 10

– 12 bull sharks on every dive (impossible to say exactly how many) as well as lemon and tawny nurse sharks.

The visibility was also better than I expected allowing for great photography if you could avoid the clouds of fish photobombing your shots. Lifelong memories but not for the faint hearted.

Thank you Mick and Let's Go Adventures.





Club dive and BBQ day at Frenchmans Bay 4 June 2022.

Story by Ray Moulang. Dive Organiser.

On the 4th of June we finally got the Club free bbq and boat dive in. Over 20 members took their turn to dive from the two runs from each of the boats.. Thanks to Wayne, Michael and Ian for volunteering their craft for the days diving. Thanks also to the club for subsidising the day.







Shiprock 1 June 2022

Text, photos and critter ID by Ron Walsh

Shore dive at Shiprock on 1 June 2022 with Donna Walsh & Michael McFadyen. Classic winter diving conditions with brilliant sunshine but a cold westerly wind (some of us really need a beanie...). Visibility was average Shiprock at around 4m and the water temperature a toasty 17C. Did the usual explore to garbage gulch and around the bommies. Three pineapple fish, only one nudibranch - a black margined *Glossodoris Doriprismatica atomarginata*, several seastar shimps (*Periclimenes soror*) that Donna found, stars and stripes pufferfish, lots of leatherjackets, wobblygong sharks, tiger pipefish and schools of silver bream and yellowtail. Coffee and muffins after the dive in the sun was icing on the cake.



Seastar Shrimp
(*Periclimenes soror*)



Wobbegong



Hermit crab



Stars & Stripes
Puffer fish

© Ron Walsh

iNaturalist

Text and photos by Lynne Tuck

For those of you who take photos and want to use them for something positive, I have found iNaturalist to be a great platform.

As well as being a citizen science based program which reaches scientists all over the world, it is a great personnel record of all your favourite photos. Sometimes its hard to remember where and when you took a certain photo, I find it easy to look up my iNaturalist observations to pin point a date.

When you load observations iNaturalist will give you suggestions on what species it could be, this is great if you have no idea what you have found. If you think you have found something really rare you can research how many other people have found the same animal in the same area.

This platform is not only for marine animals , it's for plants and terrestrial animals too, even from your backyard.

I recently videoed a flatworm taking a journey across a bigbelly seahorse, it started on the shoulder, made its way up over the seahorses gills, across its eyes and down the belly, poor thing was blinded and gagged! Link below to <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/117560900>

This has led to Mark McGrouther writing a journal post on the observation.....link below <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/australasian-fishes/journal/66222-stuck-on-you>

I have also started loading videos onto you tube channel "Australasian Fishes"
Which is part of iNaturalist, my seahorse footage has had over 400 views in 3 weeks,
link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8QxVmUkrSc&t=22s>

So if you want to get involved and do something positive with all those great photos
you take, join iNaturalist.

Lynne Tuck

iNaturalist is a social network of naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists built on the concept
of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity across the globe. iNaturalist may be
accessed via its website or from its mobile applications.





Gallery

Following photos by Ron Walsh



Green Moray



Tiger
pipefish



Cuttlefish

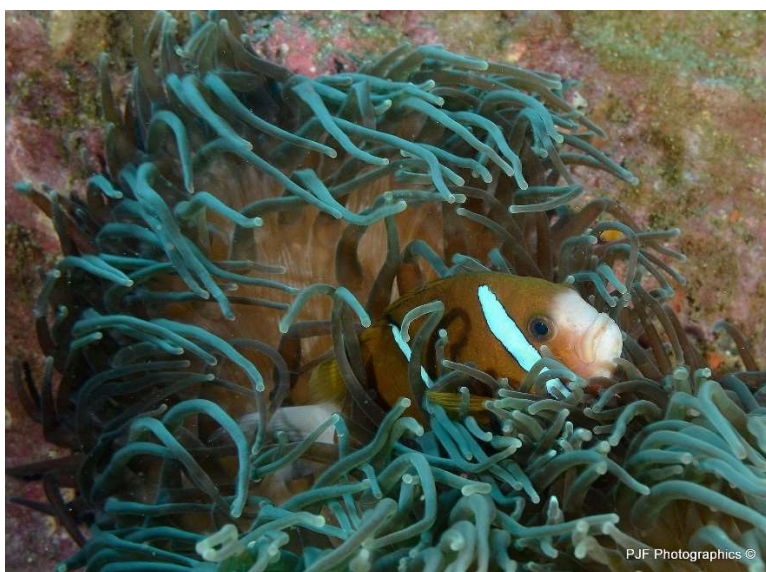
Bull shark, Fiji by Jason Coombs.



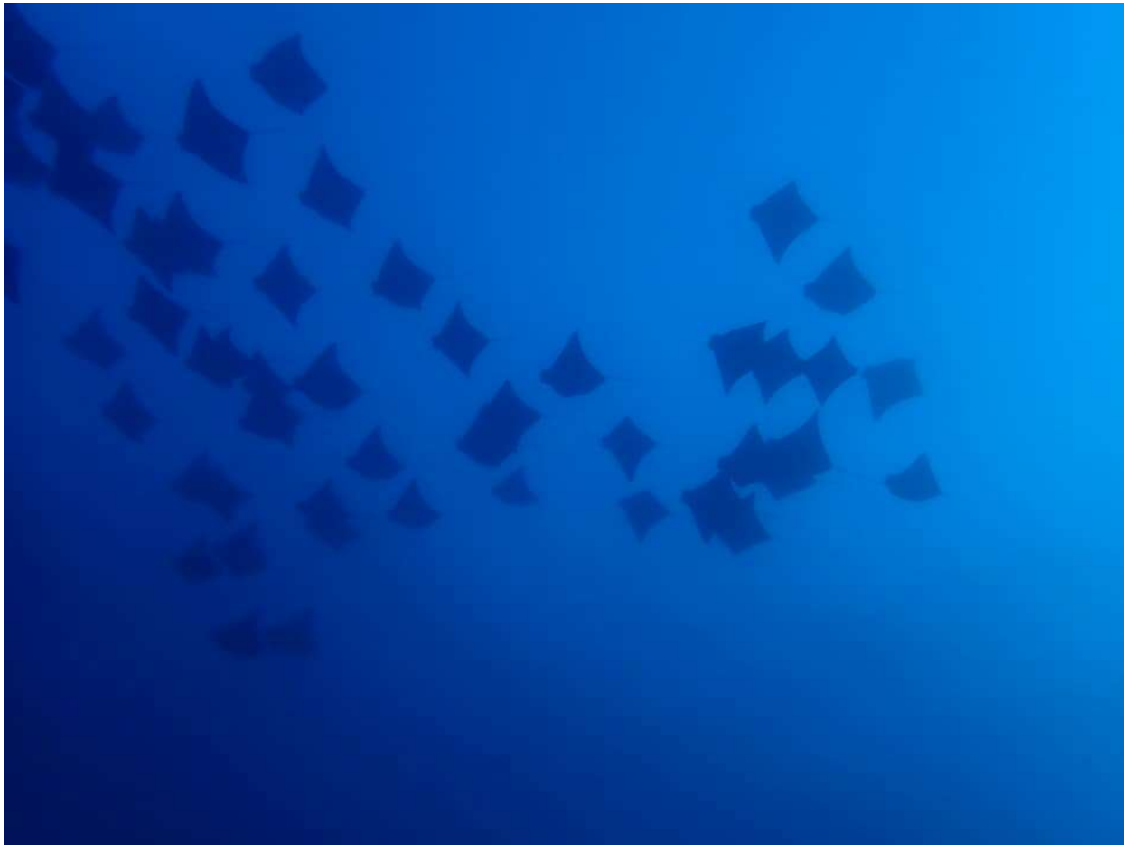
Following photos taken by Peter Flockhart on recent trip to Wooli







Following photos taken by Michael McFadyen on recent dive to Barens Hut





Upcoming Calendar Events

July 2022

★ **Boat Dive - Mahon Pool - Meet Hole in the Wall/Port Botany**

Date:	03-07-2022	Starts at:	7:00
Contact Michael McFadyen			

★ **Deep Wreck Dive - SS Annie M Miller - Meet Rose Bay**

Date:	09-07-2022	Starts at:	7:00
Contact Craig Spillane			

★ **Boat Dive - Marys Reef - Meet Yowie Bay/RMYC**

Date:	16-07-2022	Starts at:	7:00
Contact Craig Spillane			

★ **Club Meeting - GRSC - Meet Dolls Point**

Date:	20-07-2022	Starts at:	20:00
Contact Maxine Hayden			

★ **Boat Dive - North Head - Meet Rose Bay**

Date:	23-07-2022	Starts at:	7:00
Contact Michael McFadyen			

★ **MV Kalinda Live Aboard 6 days - Yongala Trip - Meet Townsville QLD**

Date:	23-07-2022	Starts at:	6:00
Contact Mike Scotland			

August 2022

★ **Boat Dive - The Balcony - Meet Yowie Bay/RMYC**

Date:	06-08-2022	Starts at:	7:00
Contact Shelley Breuseker			

★ **Deep Dive Weekend - Jervis Bay - Meet Huskisson**

Date:	06-08-2022	Starts at:	6:00
Contact Ian Roffey			

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

Date:	14-08-2022	Starts at:	7:00
Contact Ray Moulang/Paul Pacey			

★ **Club Meeting - AGM - GRSC - Meet Dolls Point**

Date:	17-08-2022	Starts at:	20:00
Contact Maxine Hayden			

★ **Boat Dive - The Colours - Meet Rose Bay**

Date:	20-08-2022	Starts at:	7:00
Contact Craig Spillane			

★ **Boat Dive - North Head - Meet Rose Bay**

Date:	28-08-2022	Starts at:	7:00
Contact Lachlan Wright			

Please submit any articles and photos for inclusion in the newsletter 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.

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 don't have no time to write anything, just send me photos for inclusion in the gallery section.

Many thanks to all of the contributors.

Cheers. Phil