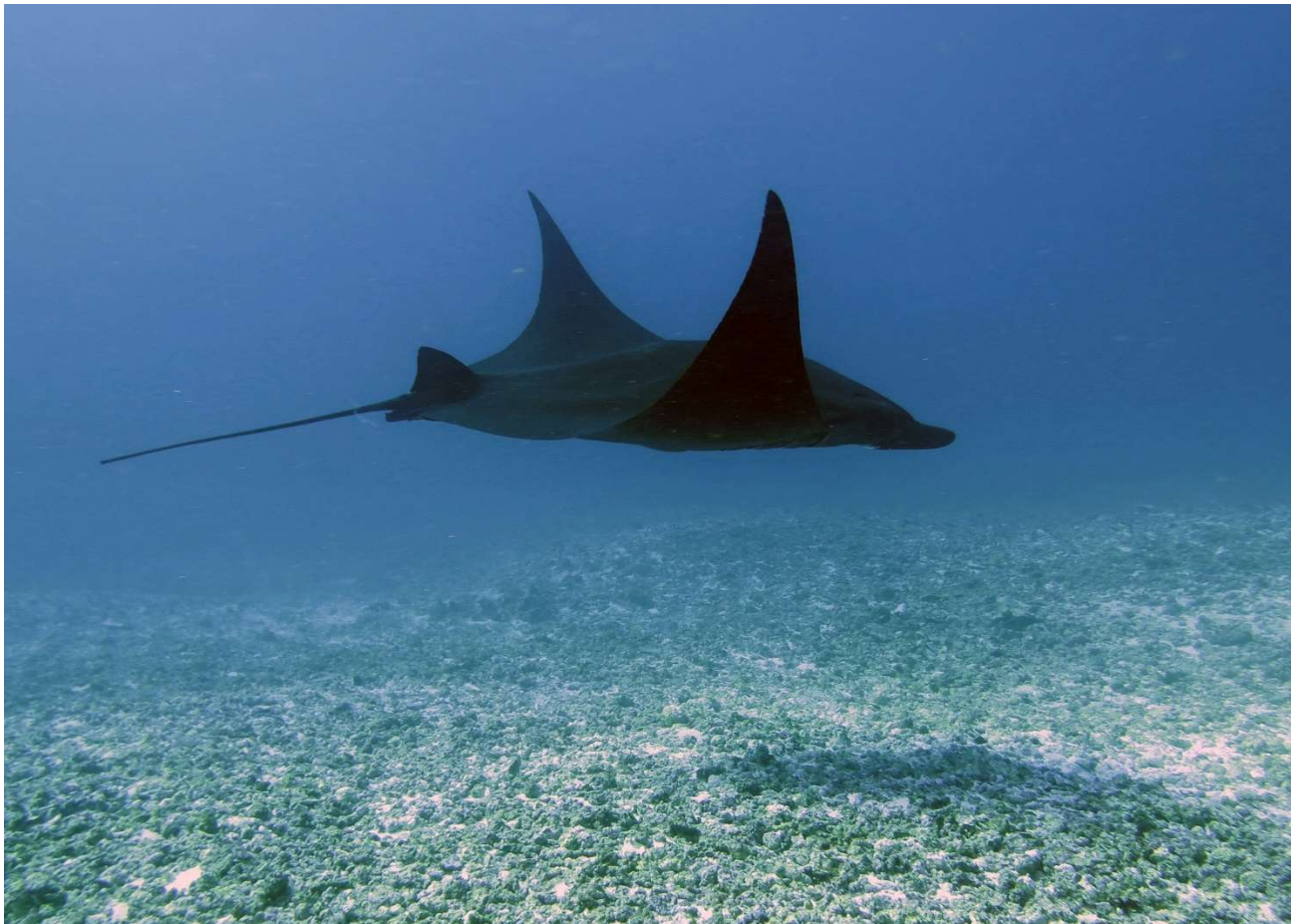




## September 2022 Newsletter



**Black Manta - Komodo trip**

**Articles and photos courtesy of Jason Coombs.**

In the newsletter

*Komodo dive trip  
Port Stephens Boys weekend  
Komoda Manta Ray with video link  
Tulumben, Bali  
Puerto Galera diving  
Presidents message  
For sale and book review  
Gallery*

*Jason Coombs  
Ray Moulang / Ron Walsh  
Shelley and Greg  
Ron Walsh  
Carole Harris  
Michael McFadyen*

## **Mermaid 2 Liveaboard Bali – Komodo Club Trip Part 1**

**27 August 2022 – 3 September 2022**

**Text and Photos by Jason Coombs**

**Part II next month**

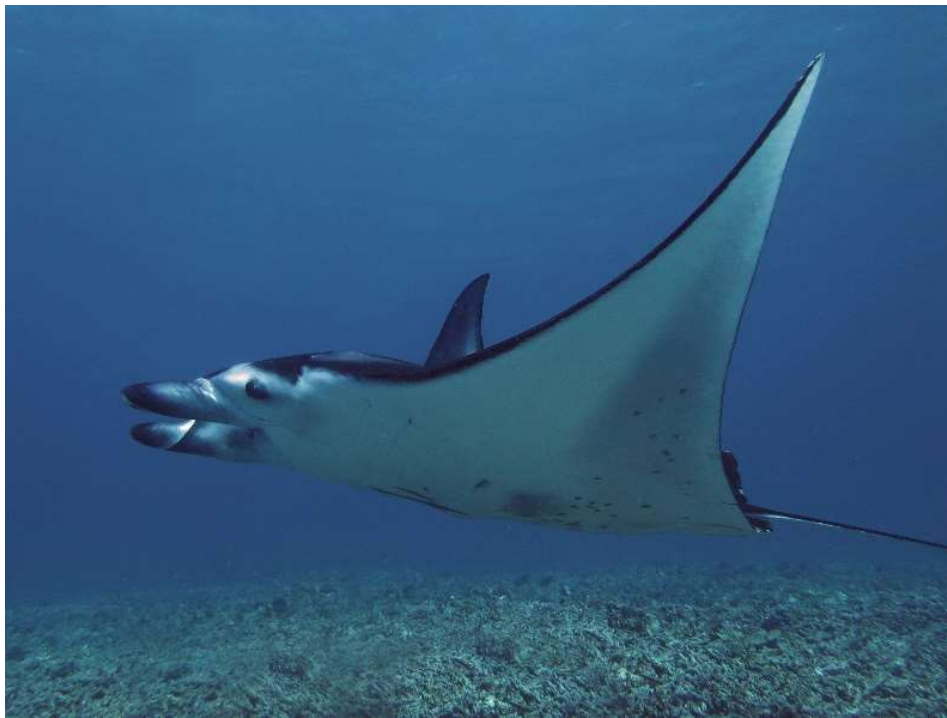
I joined the group for the second leg of the Indonesia trip departing Benoa Harbour with some others having spent a week in Tulamben. There were 14 club members onboard - Maxine, Michael, Greg, Shelley, Kelly, John, Colin, Glen, Andrew, Aidan, Aga, Ron, Donna and myself. A big thanks to Kelly for organising it all and getting a great post COVID deal for us.



It takes a couple of days of overnight motoring to get to Komodo National Park from Bali. Once there you have a range of different dive sites from walls to reefs to drifts and muck

night dives on sand. So much variety from little things to big things to see including a visit with the famous Komodo Dragons.

However on this trip one dive stood out over all the others. I have seen manta rays many times but not ever had an experience like this. Not only that but I had dived Takat Makasar before and only seen one manta momentarily, so I wasn't that excited to do it again. If you don't see mantas it's just a long shallow drift over coral rubble.



There seemed to be more boats in Komodo compared to last time we were here. A ripping current for a drift was perfect for some great manta action. We jumped in and after a few minutes saw our first group of 3 mantas.



Our dive guide followed the snorkel boats that were cruising overhead. They had spotters to find the mantas and when they did a whole group of snorkelers would jump in. It really worked and we saw mantas throughout the dive and ended up leaving them below us at the end of the dive.

We had 20 -25 manta rays in 10 metres of water during the dive including my favourite black manta which looks like a shadow. The hardest thing was to claw onto the coral rubble and dig your fins in, in the current to hold your position and try to get some photos.

The word manta broadly means “blanket” in Spanish. Our Spanish trip director told me that in everyday use it refers to a fishing net that is designed like a blanket. All four of us on the dive got blanketed by a manta flying over the top of us at least once.

While waiting stationary on the reef our Indonesian dive guide Ardie got tapped on the head by a mantas wing tip as it passed by. He was soooooo happy he called it, “The manta blessing”.

Kelly had said before we started the trip that if we saw a manta we would know that our great friend Carol Martin, who we miss very much, was with us in spirit. In that case Carol was certainly with us on this dive.



This was one of my all time best dives, making memories! It's a great time to travel to Indonesia and enjoy the diving as well as their wonderful hospitality.



## Boys Weekend Port Stephens

**2 shore dives and boat dive to Broughton Island / North Rock**

**Text and photos Ray Moulang (organiser) and Ron Walsh**

From Ray.

On the weekend of the 16th to 19th of September, 2022 inclusive, 16 brave male members of the Scuba Club descended on two houses and a Resort at Fingal Bay to try the best that Port Stephens could offer. Some arrived with time to spare for a warm up dive on The Pipeline at 12:30 ish on Friday. A bit windy with the westerly blowing into the entry/exit point. This site was not quite up to its usual reputation as the sand was immense but some of the critters were there on and around the sponge gardens and small reefs. No Sea Horses to speak of but some nudies were about. A nice hour ish dive.

On Saturday we went on Lets Go Adventures dive boat as usual out to Broughton Island and Ron has a report hereabouts. Thanks Ron.

Following our feast and get together on Saturday night a few brave souls did Fly Point and all reported an ok dive.

Thanks go to the guys that attended and made it such a great and notable weekend.

From Ron.

On the Saturday of the Boys Weekend to Port Stephens we take the Lets Go Adventures dive boat out to dive with the Sharks at Broughton Island. There are two main dive sites that we visit here - The Looking Glass and North Rock. This trip our first dive was to The Looking Glass. A bit of surge in the gap in the island but nothing that couldn't be managed. Unfortunately there were no grey nurse sharks here this time but at the entrance there were numerous Port Jackson sharks piled up on each other in the small overhangs. At the cave down from the Looking Glass was a nice eastern blue devilfish hanging in mid water and was quite unfazed by the visitors.

Our second dive was to North Rock. Poor visibility here at only 4-5m and a slight swell surge made navigation challenging for some. Those that found the gutters were rewarded with up to 7 grey nurse sharks casually swimming up and down the gutter in amongst the usual large school of eastern pomfrets. Add in more Port Jackson sharks and it made for an enjoyable dive.





**North Rock**



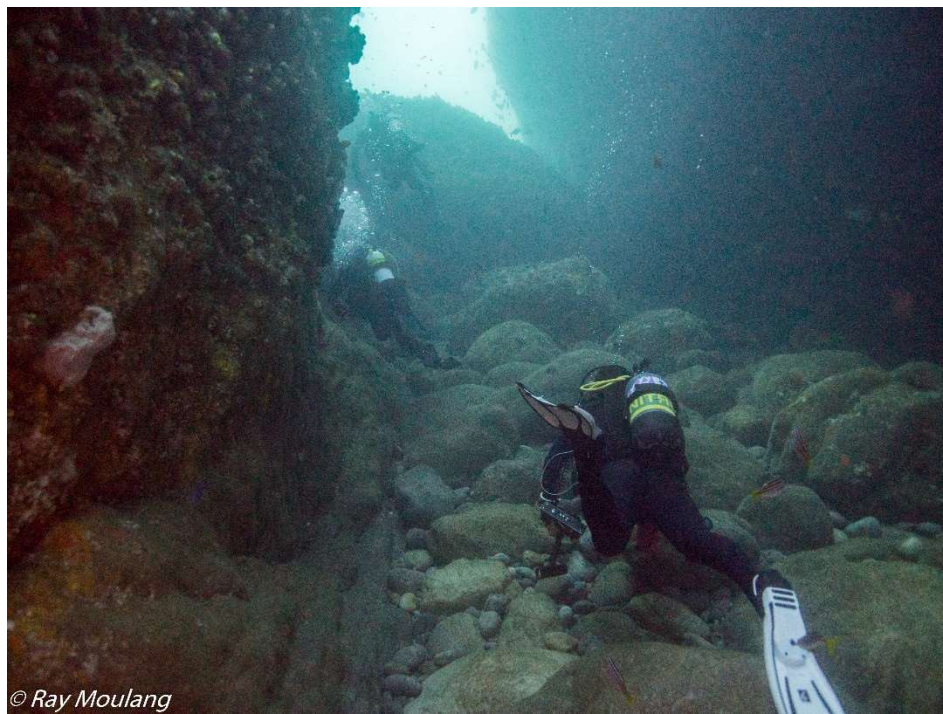
***Ian on Looking  
Glass dive***



***Joel on Looking  
Glass dive***



***Divers disappearing  
inside the Looking  
Glass.***





[More photos in Gallery](#)

## Manta Rays in Lintah Strait, Komodo

Text, photos and video link Shelley Breuseker and Greg Blackburne



On our recent trip to Komodo on the Mermaid II Liveaboard we were lucky to see Manta Rays on two dives. Both dive sites are in the Lintah Strait between Komodo Island and Rinca Island. Takat Makassar is circled in red on the above map. Mawan is circled in green.

The image below is of Takat Makassar looking towards Komodo. It is a series of sand banks and the currents flow strongly between them.

Here are links to a couple of videos:

**Takat Makassar** is a 5 minute video of a drift dive where we saw 11 individual Manta Rays.

<https://vimeo.com/749853647>

**Mawan** is a 3 minute video of one Manta Ray circling around in front of us.

<https://vimeo.com/752407177>



## Tulumben, Bali

Text and photos by Ron Walsh

Late August 10 members from the Club went on a tropical vacation to dive the wonders of Tulumben in Bali. Tulumben is located on the NE side of Bali and is renowned for the shipwreck of the USAT Liberty (from WW2). We managed to do 15 dives in the week we were there with amazing wide angle and macro sites. We stayed at Tauch Terminal Resort which is located right on the beach front at Tulumben and we managed at least 2 dives every day. Highlights included the early morning dives on the wreck and the amazing macro critters (pygmy seahorses, ghost pipefishes, nudibranchs, etc) at Seraya Secrets.



Donna on wall with gorgonias



Donna, Kelly and John.





[More photos in Gallery](#)

## Puerto Galera, Philippines

Text and photos Carole Harris

Being a “Nudi Nerd” on a recent holiday to Puerto Galera, Philippines, we noted at least 167 different species of Nudibranchs, of these, 21 of them were a first time to see ever... Most were just a few mm, except the last 2 pix.

Here is a selection of our faves...

- 1 Probably a Stiliger sp.
- 2 Probably a Tenellia/Trinchesia sp.
- 3 Tenellia/Trinchesia sp.
- 4 Tenellia/Trinchesia sp.
- 5 Eubranchus sp.
- 6 Verconia sp.
- 7 Thorunna purpureopedis



1. Probably a Stiliger sp



2 Probably a  
Tenellia/Trinchesia sp



3. Tenellia/Trinchesia sp.



4. Tenellia/Trinchesia sp



5. Eubranchius sp



6. *Verconia*  
sp.



7. *Thorunna*  
*purpureopedis*

## President's message

### AGM

As a result of the AGM held on 15 September, the new committee of the club is as follows:

President	Michael McFadyen
Vice President	Jill McKenzie
Treasurer	Bram Harris
Secretary	Greg Blackburne
Ass Sec/Treasurer	Tordis Bulger
Webmaster	Andrew McDermott



Thanks to the retiring members of the previous committee, Maxine, Phil, Ian and Paul and thanks to the new committee members for stepping up as we head towards celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next February.

Well, I am back as President for a third time. In the coming year I am sure that we can get the club to be more active. We need more of the newer members to come along to our events and also to get involved in organising dives. Without the support of all members, the club will never be able to achieve its full potential. As the largest scuba diving club in NSW, if not Australia, we should be leading the way in activities.

Hope to see you at a dive soon.

Michael McFadyen  
President

### CONSTITUTION CHANGES

After there were five people nominated at the AGM for life membership, the meeting resolved that we could not consider these as there was no actual provision in the constitution for life members. All previous life members apart from one were elected under our first constitution which had provision for the committee to decide on classes of membership etc. When we had to redo the constitution as a result of new NSW legislation, the matter of life membership was overlooked.

The AGM also decided that a small working group would be set up to seek comments from members and then come up with a proposed set of changes to incorporate life membership into the constitution. This group composes Kelly McFadyen as the chair, Helen Price as general member representative, Bram Harris as committee representative and myself as a life member. Kelly has sent out an email on this matter and if you have not already commented, please do as we want as much input as possible from members. The email address to send to is [constitution@stgerogescubaclub.org.au](mailto:constitution@stgerogescubaclub.org.au).

At the same time, we will probably make some other small changes to clarify unclear things and also to reflect recent changes in legislation relating to incorporated groups. None of these will be radical at all.

Michael McFadyen  
President

### **50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

The working group set up to organise the dinner to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is now well underway under the leadership of former President, Jason Coombs. Jason was President for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary so is well aware of the things we need to cover to make the night as much a success as was the one 10 years ago. Also in the group are

### **MERCHANDISE ORDERS**

The club has recently placed an order for some club merchandise, some of which will specifically celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We have ordered 100 sublimation shirts (split evenly between long and short sleeves) with fantastic photos taken by club members. There will also be 50 caps and 100 beer coolers produced and in the coming year, we hope to be able to order some more beanies and other items to restock our depleted supplies.

The club committee has decided to sell these items to members at less than cost price. In addition, the shirts will be available for a short period at a discounted price, email advice on this will be (or has been) sent to all members together with how to order. I am sure that you will agree that all the items, especially the shirts, are brilliant designs and I encourage you to get in early with your order as numbers are limited, especially in all sizes.

Thanks to Ray Moulang and Phil Rose for running with this project and to all the photographers who submitted photographs.

### **DIVE CALENDAR PLANNING**

The annual dive calendar planning night will be held on Monday 7 November. More details about this in October. Start thinking about what dive or social event you could organise. Especially consider trips on weekends or weeks away or overseas trips. We already have a couple of trips booked to Wooli in March and June, so take that into account.

### **CLUB BOAT DIVE 17 SEPTEMBER** by Michael McFadyen

We had a club boat dive on Saturday 17 September, with only one boat available. Originally planned to Six Fathom Reef, the crew on MakCat decided to instead dive Barrens Hut/The Split as the water was a bit dirty closer to Port Hacking. As I was not diving due to a hurt ear, all the divers could go down together. They reported visibility of about 5 to 6 metres and good fishlife. They even saw a few donut nembrothas, the first we have seen in months. Afterwards morning tea at Jibbon Beach was also nice.

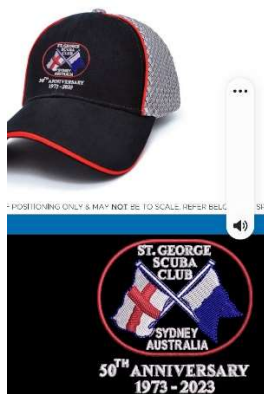
## St George Scuba Club September 2022 newsletter

Not much more diving to report on due to weather conditions, ear damage and too many buddies in Indonesia diving!

Michael McFadyen

Michael McFadyen's Scuba Diving

[www.michaelmcfadyenscuba.info](http://www.michaelmcfadyenscuba.info)



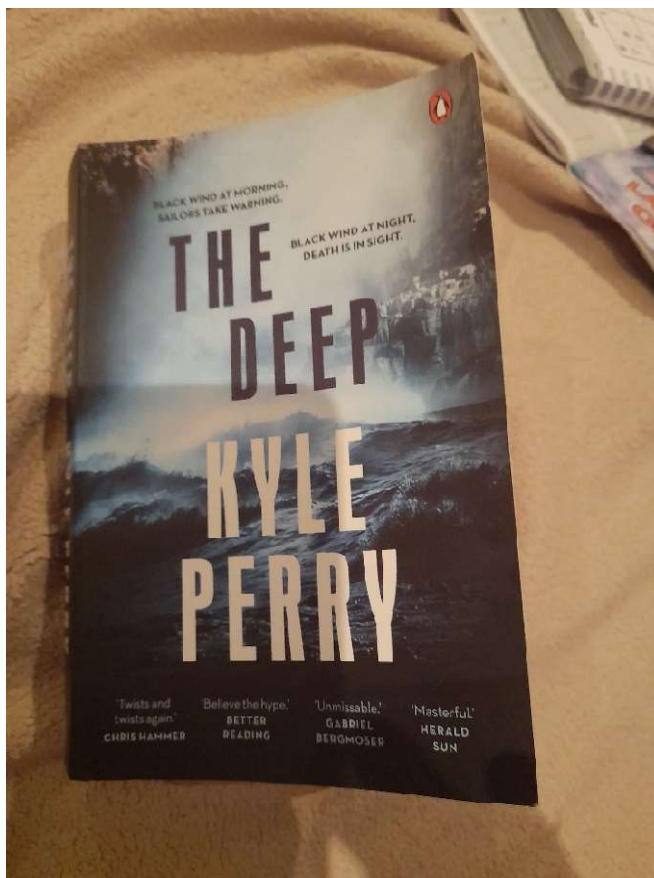
## Book Review

Lynne Tuck

I like reading novels, always looking out for ones that have descriptions of scuba diving. Most authors get something wrong and you can pick if they are into diving or not!

I recently read a book THE DEEP by KYLE PERRY. Set on the Tasmanian coast, great storyline thought some scuba members might enjoy it. Would love for people to suggest some good novels with scuba diving, no diving for me for a few weeks with a broken wrist!

Thanks Lynne



## For sale

For sale by Debbie O'Brien, [debbieobrien09@y7mail.com](mailto:debbieobrien09@y7mail.com)  
0420940200.

Ladies Avatar tri laminate suit, size 12 -16 and there's a separate Woolie onesie. The dry suit has been worn 3 times only. Seals are not stretched or cut. Internal suspenders for telescopic movement. Front zip. I simply prefer a wet suit. Paid \$2900 - wanting \$1500.



## Gallery

*Some more photos and critter ID from Tulemben by Ron Walsh*



Donna and  
barrel  
sponge



John and  
Gorgonia



Pygmy  
Seahorse

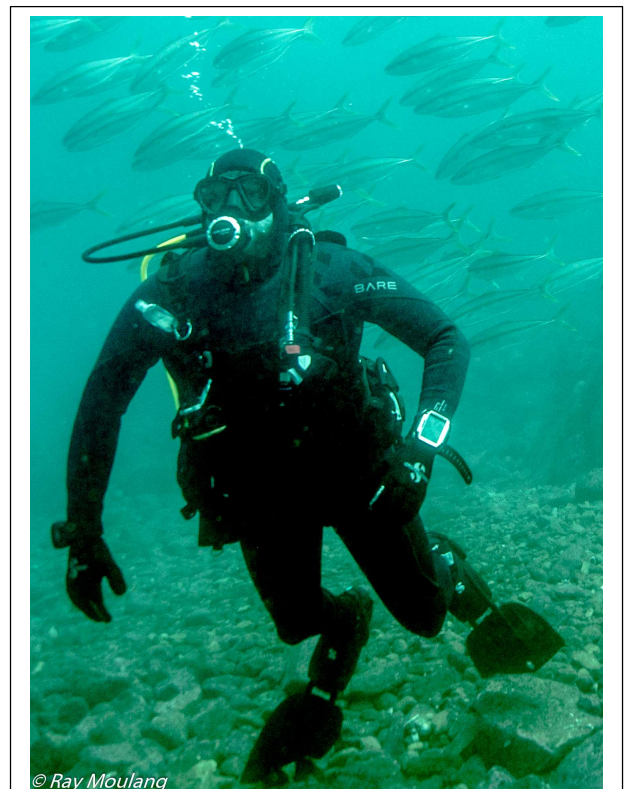
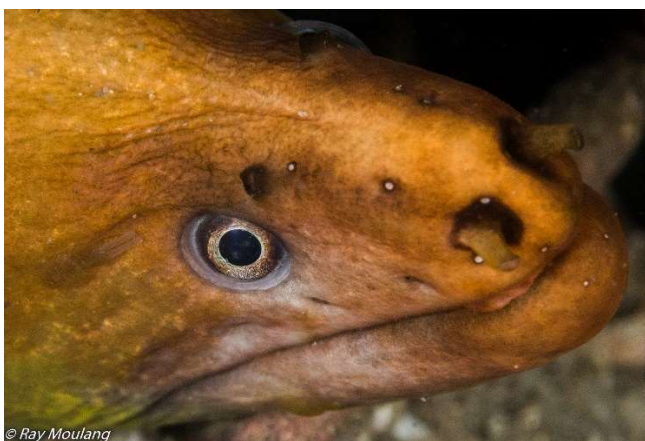


Cleaner  
shrimp on  
black spotted  
moray



This is called  
pissing Sydney  
divers off

**Photos Ray Moulang from Boys Weekend**





© Ray Moulang

**Critter photos by Ron Walsh at Pipeline and Fly Point dive sites, Boys Weekend**



© Ron Walsh

Tiger Cowrie



Platypus  
Cowrie

© Ron Walsh



Red  
Spindle  
Cowrie

© Ron Walsh

## Upcoming Calendar Events

### October 2022

★	<b>Boat Dive - Marley Point - Meet Yowie Bay/RMYC</b>		
Date:	01-10-2022	Starts at:	7:00 CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER
Contact Shelley Breuseker			
★	<b>Shore Dive and BBQ - The Monuments - Meet Kurnell</b>		
Date:	01-10-2022	Starts at:	9:00 CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER
Contact Paul Pacey			
★	<b>Deep Wreck Dive - SS Tuggerah - Meet Yowie Bay/RMYC</b>		
Date:	09-10-2022	Starts at:	7:00
Contact Ian Roffey			
★	<b>Shore Dive and BBQ - The Leap - Meet Kurnell</b>		
Date:	15-10-2022	Starts at:	9:00
Contact Phil Short			
★	<b>Boat Dive - Yellow Rock - Meet Hole in the Wall/Port Botany</b>		
Date:	16-10-2022	Starts at:	7:00
Contact Michael McFadyen			
★	<b>Club Meeting - GRSC - Meet Dolls Point</b>		
Date:	20-10-2022	Starts at:	20:00
Contact Michael McFadyen			

### November 2022

★	<b>Bill Rowland Memorial Dive - SS Tuggerah - Meet Yowie Bay/RMYC</b>		
Date:	05-11-2022	Starts at:	8:00
Contact Phil Short			
★	<b>Calendar Planning Night - GRSC - Meet Dolls Point</b>		
Date:	07-11-2022	Starts at:	19:00
Contact Michael McFadyen			
★	<b>Boat Dive and BBQ - Frenchmans Bay - Meet La Perouse</b>		
Date:	12-11-2022	Starts at:	7:00
Contact Ray Moulang/Jason Combs			
★	<b>Club Meeting - GRSC - Meet Dolls Point</b>		
Date:	17-11-2022	Starts at:	20:00
Contact Maxine Hayden			
★	<b>Boat Dive - Bypass Reef - Meet Hole in the Wall/Port Botany</b>		
Date:	19-11-2022	Starts at:	7:00
Contact Bob Hill			
★	<b>Week Away - North Solitary Island - Meet Wooli</b>		
Date:	20-11-2022	Starts at:	6:00
Contact Phil Rose			
★	<b>Shore Dive - Bare Island - Meet La Perouse</b>		
Date:	26-11-2022	Starts at:	9:00

Contact Paul Pacey
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★ **Boat Dive - Henry Head - Meet Hole in the Wall/Port Botany**

Date:	<b>27-11-2022</b>	Starts at:	<b>7:00</b>
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Contact Jason Coombs
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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 time to write anything, just send me photos with where and when details.

Many thanks to all of the contributors.

Cheers. Phil