



St George Scuba Club Newsletter

Honeymoon Bay Diving and Camping Weekend

23—25 October 2015

By Paul Pacey

Photos by Donna Cassidy and Ron Walsh

The crew: Ron, Donna, Nancy, Eda and Ray Edwards, Chris Heath, Paul Pacey



The venue was to be Honeymoon Bay camping area which is located on the northern shores of Jervis Bay close to the town of Curra-rong. The plan was to camp for the weekend and do a bit of shore diving in Jervis Bay with an entry and exit at Honeymoon Bay. A walk or two was also mentioned.



As I was driving through Nowra it started to rain. How does the weather God always seem to know where I am?

For those that have never been to Honeymoon Bay it is a stunningly beautiful place and is actually located on the Becroft Weapons Range on the Becroft peninsular on the northern headland of Jervis Bay. You are only allowed to camp there on the weekends as Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm the Navy actually blast the daylight out of the place by shooting at it from warships somewhere out to sea. Honeymoon Bay is actually nowhere near where they shoot at but, just to be safe, they close the whole area during the week. Mortals are only allowed into the place from 1:00pm Friday until 8:00pm Sunday. This means a queue of



people at the entry gate by 1:00pm on Friday's waiting to get into the area and grab their favourite camping spot. It sounds like a pain but it's well worth the pain as the whole area is very beautiful and Honeymoon Bay is the jewel in the crown! The camping area is excellent and well maintained with Porta Loos (but BYO shower – or swim in the Bay).

I managed to get to the entry gate an hour early on the Friday and there were already two cars ahead of me. Ron had warned me that they often get large groups that gather at the gate and that the queue can stretch out onto the main



road. But no problems this weekend and the ranger let me book four camp sites that Ron had said would suit our group (you cannot book online – only when you get there).

After I had finished setting up my tent and it was time for a cuppa, who should arrive but Chris. We soon had the place looking like a Bedouin settlement and when we realised that it was beer o'clock. Later, Chris and I cooked our dinners and settled in for a fireside chat (no fires allowed though) whilst we waited for Ron and Donna to arrive later in the evening with their 5-star camper trailer setup (yeah, we're jealous).

On Saturday morning the sky was clear with a light breeze and we got off to a pretty lazy start to the day as Nancy, Eda and Ray were driving down that morning. So it was out with the eggs, bacon, and anything else you need for a bang-up brekky. The rest of the crew arrived just in time for morning tea! Actually it was lucky that there is mobile coverage in the area otherwise they wouldn't have found our campsites until lunchtime at the earliest (in their defence, the signage is not the best)...

After morning tea and a lot of "catching up" it was time to go diving so we geared up and headed for the water – a 50 metre walk!

It was low tide and there wasn't much water in the bay but it still looked beautiful as we waded out into the entrance channel before submerging. Chris got to 2 metres depth before his "haha, there's water in your camera housing" alarm went off. So the rest of us carried on while he tried to work out what went wrong. I'd like to tell you what a magnificent dive site it is but I'd be lying. However, the vis was about 8 metres, it wasn't too cold and the sun was shining so it was a pretty pleasant way to spend an hour. We managed to spot a Crested Horn shark, a couple of Morays, a school of really





cute baby Mado's, a few interesting Nudibranch's and lots and lots of kelp. The terrain is quite interesting with gutters, bommies and crevices to explore.

We returned to shore just in time for lunch after which a few of us went for a very pleasant walk through the forest to Target Beach on the shores of Jervis Bay. When we returned Chris found

that our campground supervisors (AKA Grey Kangaroos) had found the loaf of bread that he hadn't put away quite safely enough. The kangaroos were quite happy, but Chris not so happy.

Saturday evening saw our resident pastry chef, Ray, showing us that he has other talents by cooking up a storm on the BBQ. This was accompanied by a selection of salads and a great night was had by all as we sat under the camper trailer awning and chatted into the night (a couple of nice wines helped too).

Ron's camper setup impressed a few more people when the ice creams came out for dessert!

Sunday morning was again a late start and, after breakfast was taken care of, most of the crew headed for the beach at Honeymoon Bay for a bit of sun absorption and a swim and snorkel. Morning tea was followed by packing up for most people ready to leave for home about



lunch time. Ron and Donna were leaving late and I was staying in the area so after we had Lunch Ron

and I went for another walk to Silica Beach which is just around the western headland (Long Nose Point) of Target Beach. I have been past this beach in dive boats so many times but never realised how pretty this small cove is. If



you're in the area it's well worth the pleasant walk to see it. We returned to the camp ground via Target Beach.



Many thanks to Ron Walsh and Donna for organising such a great weekend.

Thanks also to Nancy, Eda, Ray and Chris for their great company.



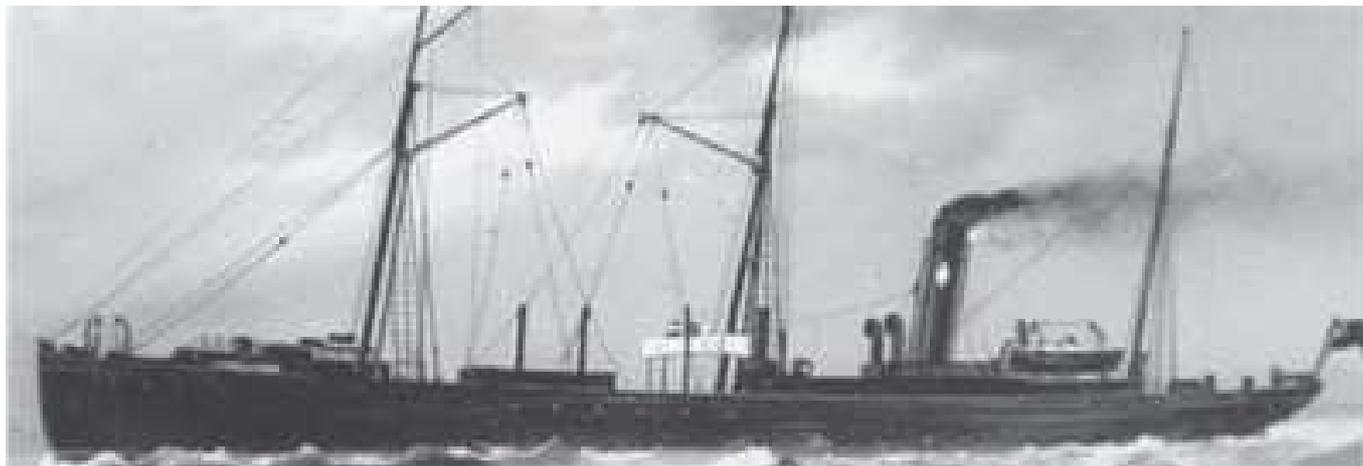
TSS Currajong, 28 November 2015

By Jane Scarsbrook and Bill Rowlands

Photos: Jane Scarsbrook

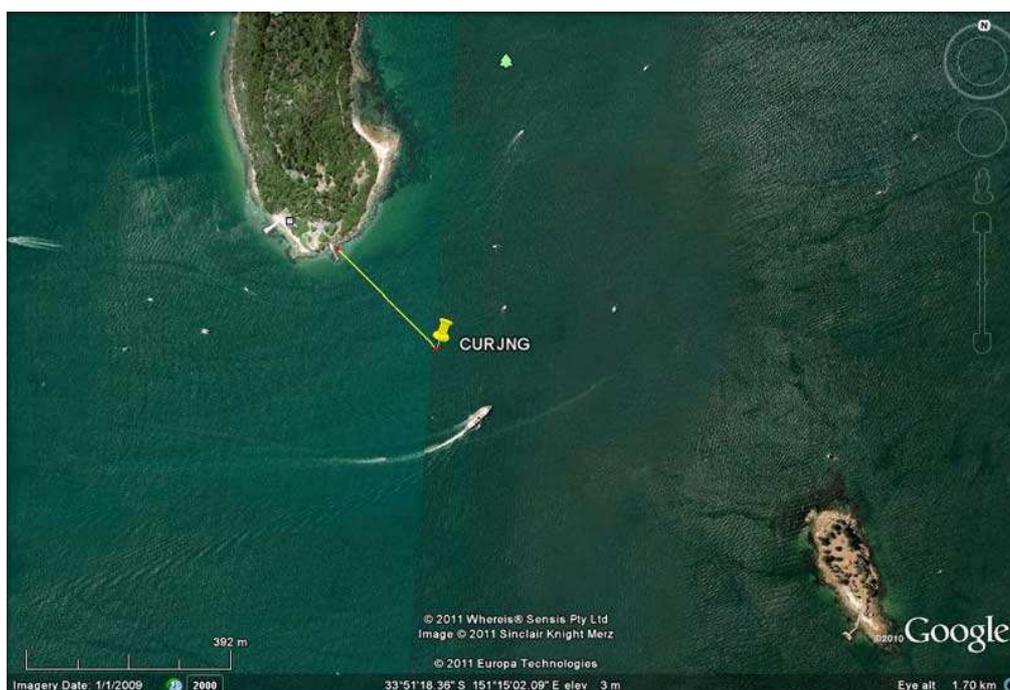
Google Earth Map: Michael McFadyen

Folklore indicates: It's very bad luck to change the name of ships!! This was clearly the case for the TSS



Currajong wreck, which lies upright in Sydney Harbour.

The wrecks 'unlucky' location in the harbour is directly within a busy Sydney Ferry waterway, which commuters (and drunks) use to travel to and from Manly Wharf to Circular Quay. Consequently, this ferry activity imposes safe times for divers to explore this vessel and these tend to be anti-social so-called 'witching hours'!! Only a few *lucky* divers are graced to explore the Currajong's charm after the



ferryes have stopped for the evening – maybe only a few stupid divers who are bold enough to dive into the black ink water of Sydney Harbour at 1.30am in the morning will be graced by its magic.

After loading Herb's boat at mid-night which is well equipped - even with a toilet! We departed Rose Bay Wharf and headed across Sydney Harbour away from

the drunks that lurked around the wharf.

The view was spectacular as we all were awed at the twinkling of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and crisply lit white Sydney Opera House. It was a splendid sight that calmed our nerves and created a still silence on the boat which prepared us for the imminent adventure that lay ahead.

Herb is experienced at locating this wreck and quickly found its position – we had to temporarily move away from our spot to allow one last ferry from Manly Wharf to Circular Quay to pass at 1.30am!! I gather we had all

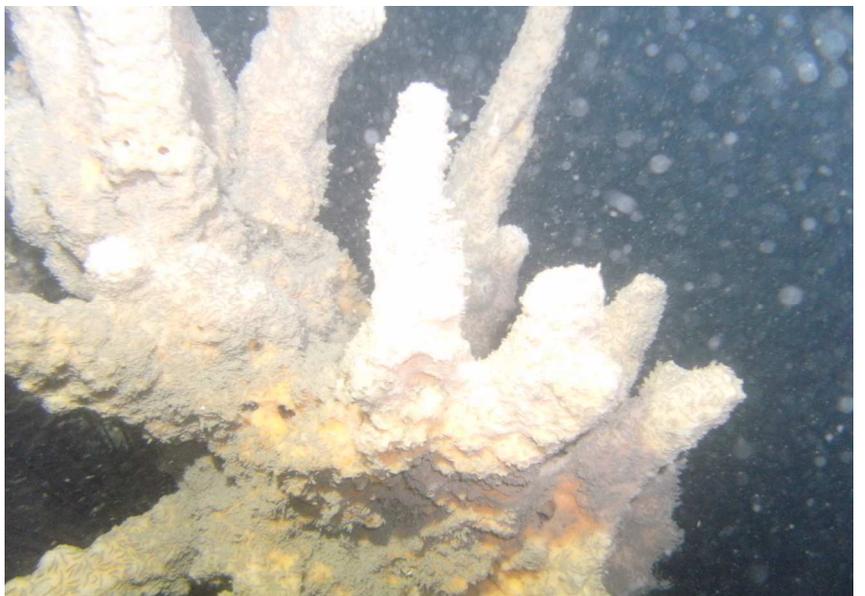


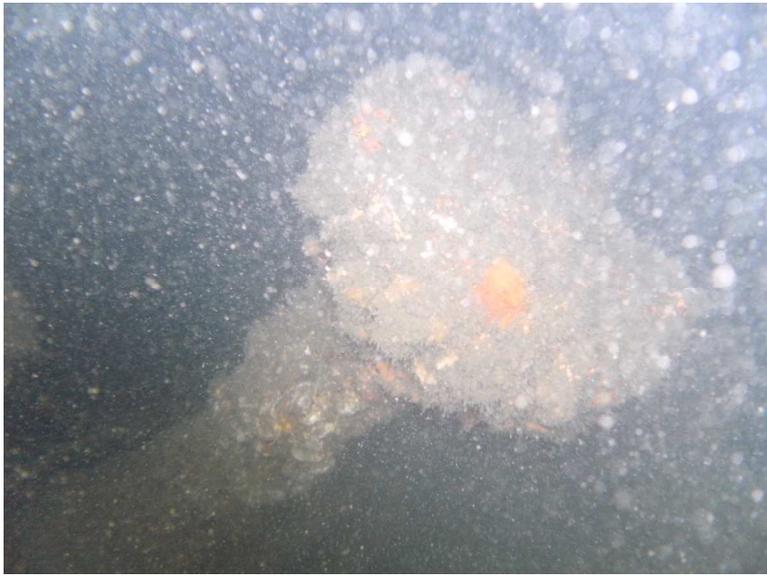
waited over a month to dive this, therefore, another 5 minutes would do no harm. Once the ferry passed it was 'systems go' Herb skilfully moved the boat and threw the pick in - on second attempt (right on top of the wreck) we were ready to enter!!

I was second in the water and immediately began my decent down the pick line. It was not getting darker (it could not) it was murky and with a contributing element of poor visibility - spooky!! It was quiet, still and the line seemed to keep going on and on.

As I reached the chain, I noticed distant torches above me but still sensed the adventure, which was overwhelming in the eeriness.

Once the wreck appeared, the pick was located at the bow of the TSS Currajong. It was apparent that this would be an interesting dive because the darkness made it disorientating delivering spookiness throughout the venture. Taking a deep breath and reality check we began making our way slowly to the stern along the port side of the vessel.





Peter Flockart is not scared of the dark and took great pleasure in pointing out numerous moray eels, crab, and nudies. Immediately, it was evident that the Currajong wreck is relatively intact and there is plenty to see. The deck was full of holes and crevices where critters resided.

As our nerves began to settle, we noticed easily identifiable features such as the donkey boiler, bollards that protruded from the deck, and the beautiful curved stern. This is certainly a dive that warrants a day shore exploration (if it can be done safely).

Upon return to the anchor we hovered above the starboard side and made our way to the bow where we passed the tall side of the ship that was still exposed from the sand. Exploring various nooks and crannies until we made our way to the perfectly V shaped bow. Due to the darkness and disorientation it was difficult to gather our bearings on this initial exploration.

There is so much to see and the Currajong is certainly worth another dive!!



TSS Currajong, 28 November 2015

By Peter Flockart

Photos: Alan Davies

After a cloudy day divers started arriving at the Rose Bay ramp from 10.30pm onwards. The night was looking to be a good one as 10 keen – mad- divers began gearing up for an early morning dive on the TSS Currajong which lies 230m off Bradleys Head in some 28m of water.

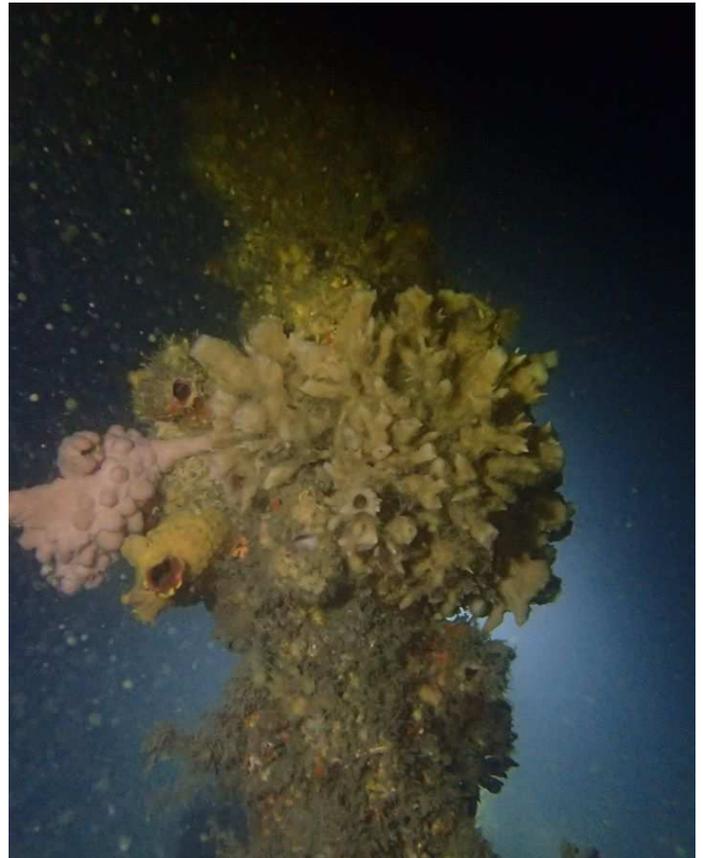
With everyone present & the boat loaded around midnight the heavens decided to open & give us all a pre-dive shower.

We left the wharf sometime after 12.30am for the short run over to Bradleys Head. We arrived & for the next 30 or so minutes floated around until the last ferry had returned from Manly.

Once it had passed us at around 1.15am Herb engaged the motors and drove over the wreck. He dropped the anchor and a large white buoy. The boat does not anchor rather he pulls away while divers gear up before moving near the buoy for divers to enter the water in small groups.

The night was clear with plenty of stars & the light from the city made it a surreal experience. It gives the diver a whole new perspective of the harbour as they sink beneath the dark water guided only by a thin beam of light.

The drop to the bottom seems to take a long time but before long the wreck appears, for some it comes too quickly as you crash into it. Getting ones's bearings from the anchor you swim aft to the



stern across a deck that is broken only by a series of hatch coamings and holes where the deck has rotted away.

In many of these holes live small moray eels. Hydroids cover much of the wreck & in these reside a variety of nudibranchs that eat the hydroids such as pink lined flabellina's and blue dragons.



Leatherjackets of varying sizes were seen swimming away from the diver's torches. Often disorientated they would swim into structures normally avoided during the day.

Divers who reached the stern or went over the side of the wreck reported seeing large numbers of large decorator crabs. In general vis was not great (varied between 0 & 5m) due to the run out tide. However I found it interesting to pause while reeling back to the anchor & watch the rush of sediment, small creatures & jellyfish towards the

ocean. This flow made the safety stop / deco at 4m interesting.

Water temp (according to my computer) was 25 degrees on the surface and between on the 19 to 17 degrees on the bottom.

With all dives back on board we made the short trip back to the Rose Bay ramp arriving around 2.45am.

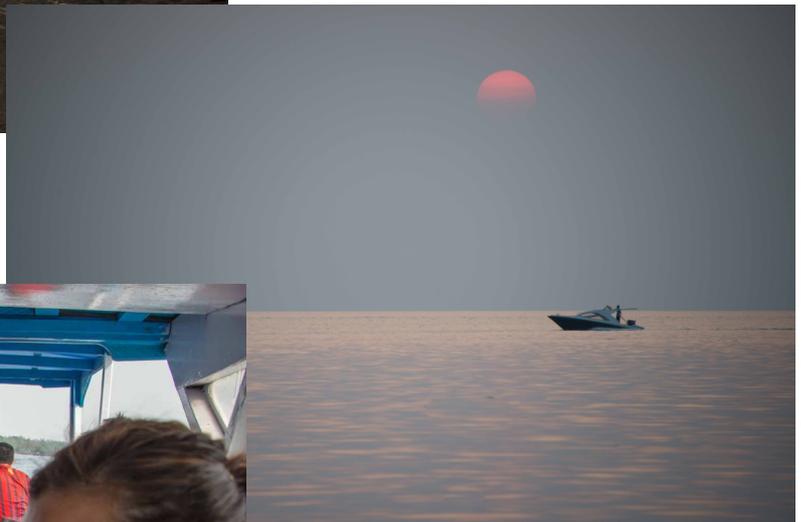
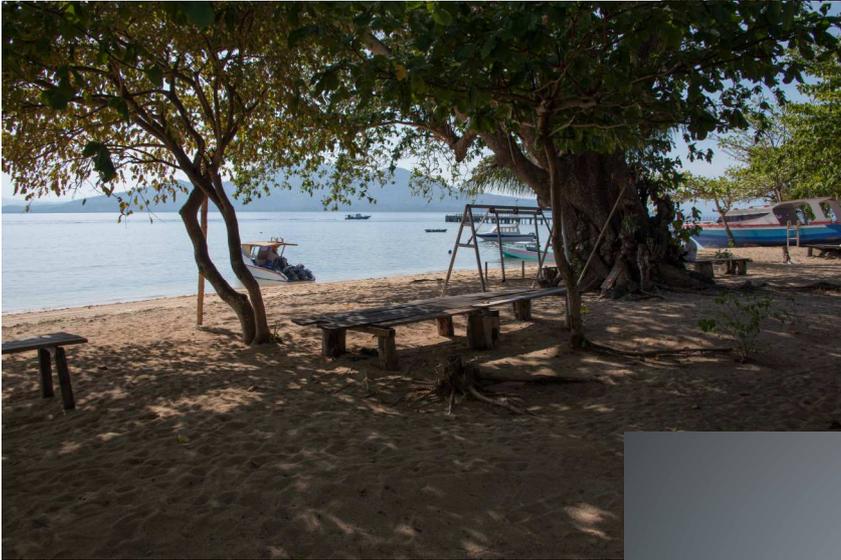
After disembarking, packing gear away all that was left was to return home and get to bed before the sun rose.

Thanks to Bill Rowland for organising the dive & Herb from Frog Dive for the boat. It was an experience and one I would like to do again when hopefully the vis will be better.



Divers who attended: Bill Rowland, Peter F, Ken Ridley, Keith Williams, Simon Hoad, Michael Wright, Alan Davies, Jane Scarsbrook, Corey O'Keefe, David Longman,

Photos from the Club Trip to Bunaken — Ian Hittman



Dive Club Calendar

December 2015

Date	Description	Location	Organiser
6 December	Christmas Party	Botany Bay National Park	Eda DiCamillo/Deb Cook
12 December	Boat Dive	Bypass Reef	Shelly Brueseker
16 December	Club Meeting	Rowers on Cook	Natasha Naude
19 December	Boat Dive	Marys Reef	Phil Short

January 2015

Date	Description	Location	Organiser
9 January	Boat Dive	Middle Ground	Peter Flockart
16 January	Boat Dive	Pizza Reef	Dave Casburn
20 January	Club Meeting	Rowers on Cook	Natasha Naude
23 January	Shore Dive	Shiprock	Eddie Ivers
23 January	Boat Night Dive	Barrens Hut/The Split	John Beddie
26 January	Australia Day – Shore Dive & BBQ	Kurnell	Natasha Naude
31 January	Boat Dive	HMAS Adelaide	Caroline Corcoran

Thursday Night Dives – every week – email sent out early in the week advising location and time

Regular Shore Dives – advice is via email or facebook



The tail of a weedy seadragon showing empty egg sacks just after it has given birth to it's young

Photo by Peter Flockart

Photo of a red indian fish from a recent night dive — Alan Davies

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