

Sea Braggin'



May 2016

St George Scuba Club Newsletter

The Ladies Weekend — Anna Bay/Port Stephens

26-28 February 2016

By Tordis & Victoria Bulger Photos by Donna Cassidy



We were excited to be part of the annual Ladies weekend again at Port Stephens. It was four years since last time we made the trek and had a great weekend.

Donna had arrived early and was there to greet us as we arrived. After some last minute changes to the accommodation, we found ourselves 5 minutes down the road at a house equally good looking. Once inside, the wow factor continued as we explored the house. Brand new, well designed and tastefully decorated.



Upstairs offered a large entertainment area with a huge balcony. We were quick to settle in with nibbles & sunset drinks, taking in the south easterly views of kilometres of beach and sand dunes, while some decided to explore the shrubby headlands and beach. As the sun set we knew we were in for a great, relaxing weekend. It was really nice to catch up again and meet new fellow club divers. Dinner



came from the local Thai with some very tasty dishes. Kelly told us about the last minute booking debacle, where the landlord decided the day prior to our arrival, she would rather give up the house to winner of the local school raffle, and cancelled our booking, despite payment & paperwork being in order. # 9 Ocean Avenue does not come recommended due to an unreliable landlord. <http://stayz.com.au/182915>



With high tide around the 11.30 mark, Saturday morning was a stress-free-get-ready-to-go-diving. Fly Point looked stunning, but disappointed with a rather poor viz in the max. 2 m range mark. Not knowing the site very well, my buddies & I found ourselves lost on the sand, and decided to head back to shore. Lots of fish and sponges spotted on the return. It was nice to have been in the water anyhow.

This is how Fly Point should have been: check out Kelly's video at the bottom of the web page http://www.michaelmcfadyenscuba.info/viewpage.php?page_id=164



Hungry after a dive, some of us headed for lunch at the Inner Lighthouse Tearooms. Situated on top of the hill where the original lighthouse stood, it is now a maritime museum and a little café with outdoor seating and splendid views. Their cakes & scones are worth the trip itself, totally delicious.

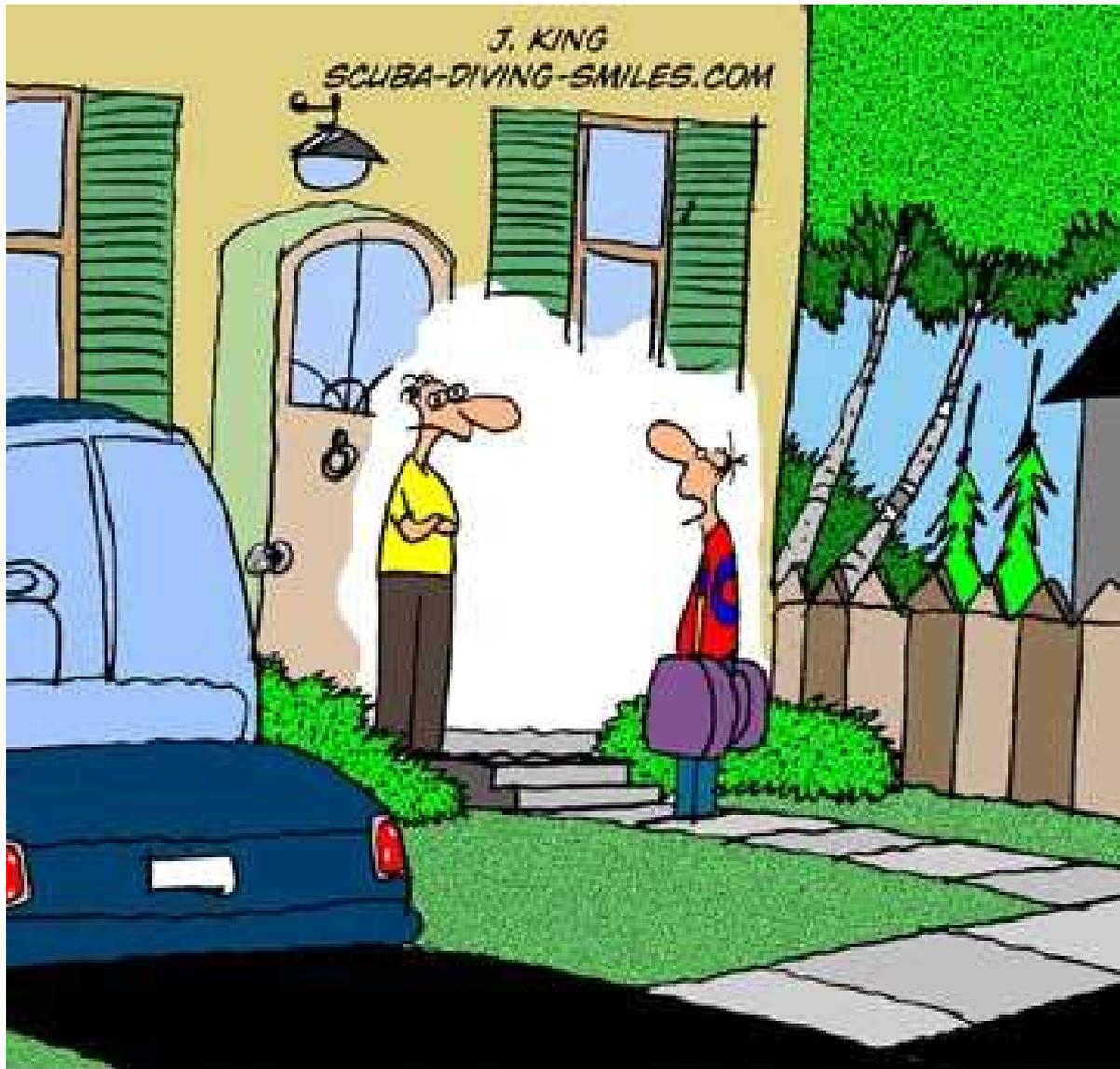
Saturday night brought us together again over a tasty BBQ and fabulous salads, and a few drinks and awesome dive stories from around the world.

For those of us that chose to dive on Sunday, the Pipeline was the chosen site. We were quite excited, as we had heard really great reports on the site. With Donna & Kelly guiding us, we had a fantastic dive. The viz was much better, 4 -5 m, and we have never seen so many varieties of seahorses; orange, purple and yellow with purple spots. The most entertaining part of the dive was when Kelly rescued a pipe-



fish from the mouth of a numb ray. The ray was visibly annoyed having its dinner removed out of its jaws, the poor pipefish was rather shaken, but after a couple of jiggles it was quick to swim away. It was an awesome first dive at the Pipeline.

Thanks to everyone for making the weekend a success, and special thanks to Kelly for organising, and finding us alternative accommodation at such short notice.



"My wife was spending far too much time scuba diving. So, I gave her a choice: the scuba diving or me...can I sleep on your couch?"

Frenchman's Bay Boat Dive & BBQ Day

7 May 2016

By Ron Walsh

Photos by Michael McFadyen, Ron Walsh and Nancy Scholeri

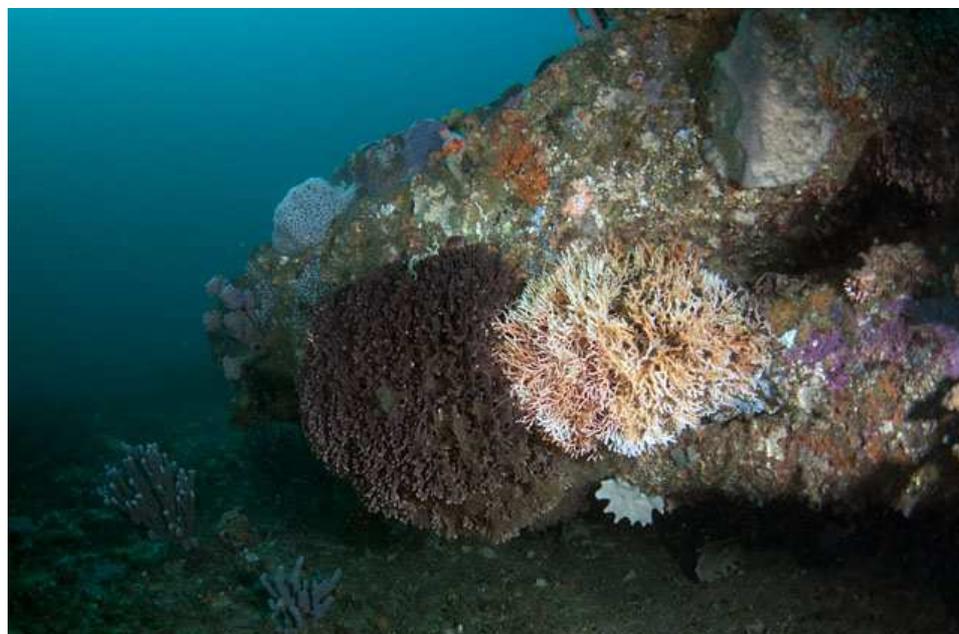
Each year the club runs a boat dive and BBQ day fully sponsored by the club. As in previous years it was held at Frenchman's Bay on 7 May 2016.

There were 5 boats for the day – Katz 2, Argonaut, Sea John, Kraken and Griffitti. There were 34 divers and each boat made two runs. The majority of the boats dived By Pass Reef, with other sites being Henry Head.

Donna & I were rostered onto the first run of Kraken, ably skippered by Dave C and our chosen dive site was By Pass Reef. This is a beautiful reef system at a depth of 30m just out of the entrance to Botany Bay. Also on the boat were Michael R, Ray M and John P. The ocean was reasonably calm with a small rolling swell and minimal wind and current.



Donna, Michael and I were first into the water, and after descending and setting the anchor we proceeded to explore the reef system. The visibility was up to 12m and the water temperature a pleasant 20C. We had anchored near a small wall so we followed this towards the south, passing the usual sea tulips and southern gorgonians until we reached the main wall.



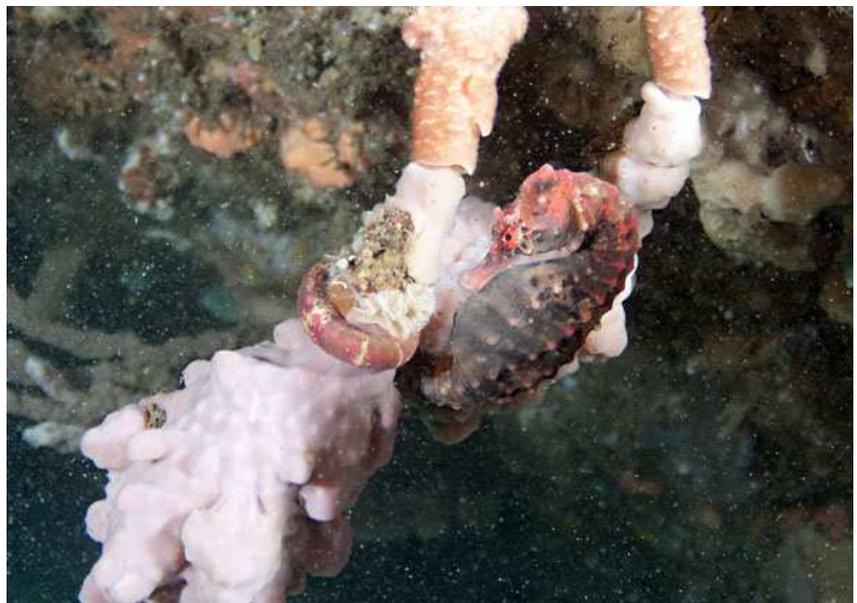
Sea John had anchored directly next to the main wall and as we approached Mike S and Mark R appeared down the anchor line. In the large under hang we found a healthy port Jackson shark, and just outside the resident big belly seahorse and a large friendly cuttlefish that took a liking to the lens on my camera dome port.

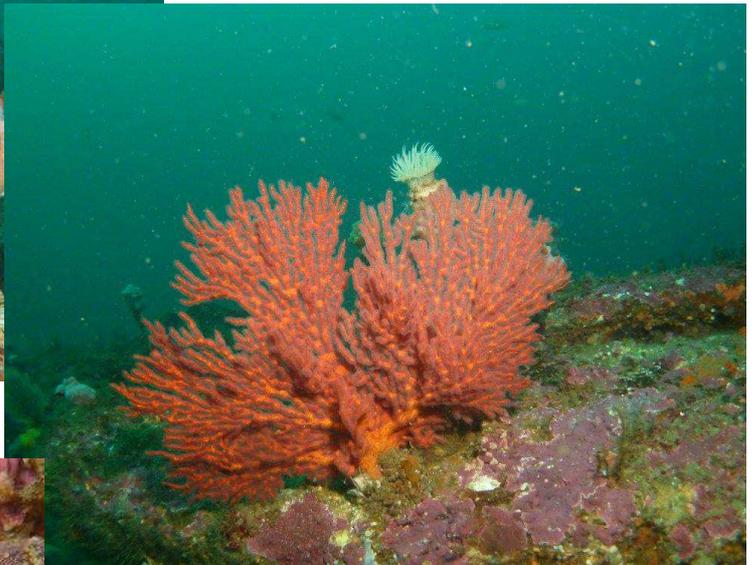
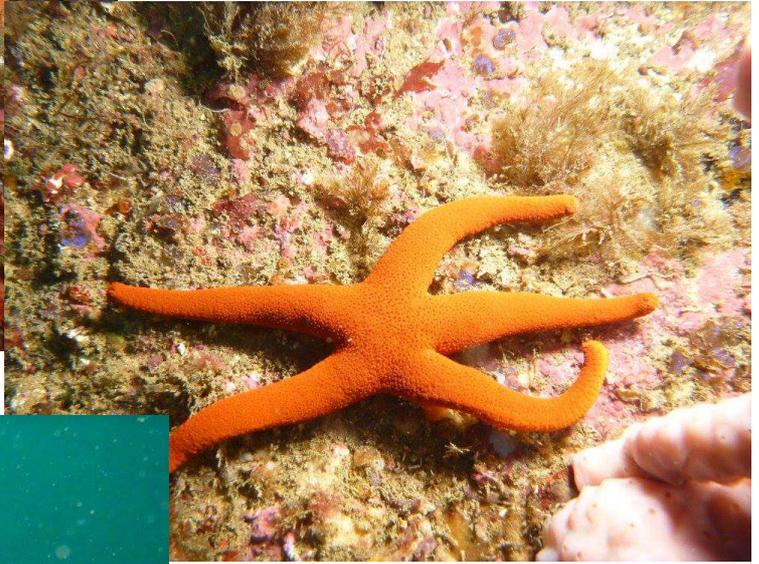
All too soon we had to return back to our anchor line as no deco limits approached.

Once all the divers were up we headed back to Frenchman's Bay where the next group of divers boarded and headed off.

The club had set up a couple of portable gazebos as well as commandeering one of the large tables and the onsite BBQs. Soon members were busy cooking BBQs and laying out lunch. Once all the boats were back members enjoyed BBQ kebabs and hamburgers, various salads, bread rolls, and numerous cakes and slices for dessert.

Many thanks to the organizers – Jason for the diving and Natasha for the BBQ - the boat owners for providing the boats, and the many helpers who assisted on the day.









Boat owners ask Divers to carry safety sausages on boat dives.

Just a friendly reminder from our boat owners that they would like all divers to carry a safety sausage on boat dives. A safety sausage makes it much easier for the boat owner to find divers that may not have made it back to the anchor and are drifting. It also makes it easier for other vessels to see you in the water. If you are diving without one please let the boat owner know. The use and deployment of a safety sausage should have been covered in your diving course.

Sailing Superstitions and Maritime Myths

By Bill Rowland

In the next few newsletters, I wanted to present a few boating beliefs for amusement and or education as applicable. Given that I am not even qualified to be a deckhand, I have relied on two impeccable information sources, which are certain to be free of hyperbole : Yes, Boat Captains, and the Internet...

Whistling

Whistling is frowned upon as it is believed that it will "Whistle up a storm". Apparently there is one crew member exempt from this rule : the cook. It is believed that if the cook is whistling then he is not stealing the food...

Flat feet

Flat footed people are believed to be unlucky on board a ship (or even for a sailor to meet prior to their departure)

Rangas

Redheads are also believed to bring bad luck to a ship and are to be avoided even before boarding. There apparently is a mitigation available for this, in that you have to speak to the redhead before they speak to you : then all is well.

Women !

This one is too good to re-write, so I'll quote it directly from the internet :

Women were said to bring bad luck on board because they distracted the sailors from their sea duties. This kind of behaviour angered the intemperate seas that would take their revenge out on the ship. Fun- nily enough, naked women on board were completely welcome. That's because naked women "calmed the sea". This is why ships' typically had a figure of a topless woman perched on the bow of the ship. Her bare breasts "shamed the stormy seas into calm" and her open eyes guided the seamen to safety

What I have yet to find is a scoring system for these various sins (is a flat footed whistling redheaded female allowed on board if she redeems herself by baring her breasts - to the sea, of course) ? Perhaps the Captain (or Poseidon) gets the final say in such matters.

Easter Montague Island — 25 to 28 March 2016

Photos by Lucy Smiechura and Roger Lee



Upcoming Events

Deep Dive Weekend

Jervis Bay Sat 10, Sun 11th September 2016

Organiser: Ian Roffey

Jervis bay has it's best diving during the winter months, when the seas are flatter and the water clearer with the predominantly westerly winds. The best diving this time of the year are the deep walls out side the bay. The Arch, Cross Roads or Fern Gully for a first dive generally down to 38m. It's breeding season for the Port Jackson sharks and you often find 100's of them at the base of these cliffs. Second dive usually to one of the cliff caves which can only be dived when the seas are flat. And yes, we'll probably end up dropping in on the seals at least once.

As the focus on this weekend is diving the deep walls, this is for experienced divers only, dry suit highly recommended, unless you are comfortable in cold water in your winter wetty. Decompression is not mandatory, but you will get the best out of the weekend if you bring twins and/or a separate deco cylinder. Or a yellow/blue box of death.

I have organised a charter vessel for 10 divers, at \$1,000 per day. So that's \$100 per diver per day, or \$200 for the weekend. Accommodation is currently available at \$750.00 for the weekend staying at Husskison, just behind the main street so everything is within walking distance.

If you want to come along, please email me directly and let me know you are interested.

ianroffey@gmail.com

I hope you can make it as this is going to be the best winter diving of the year.

Dive Club Calendar

May 2016

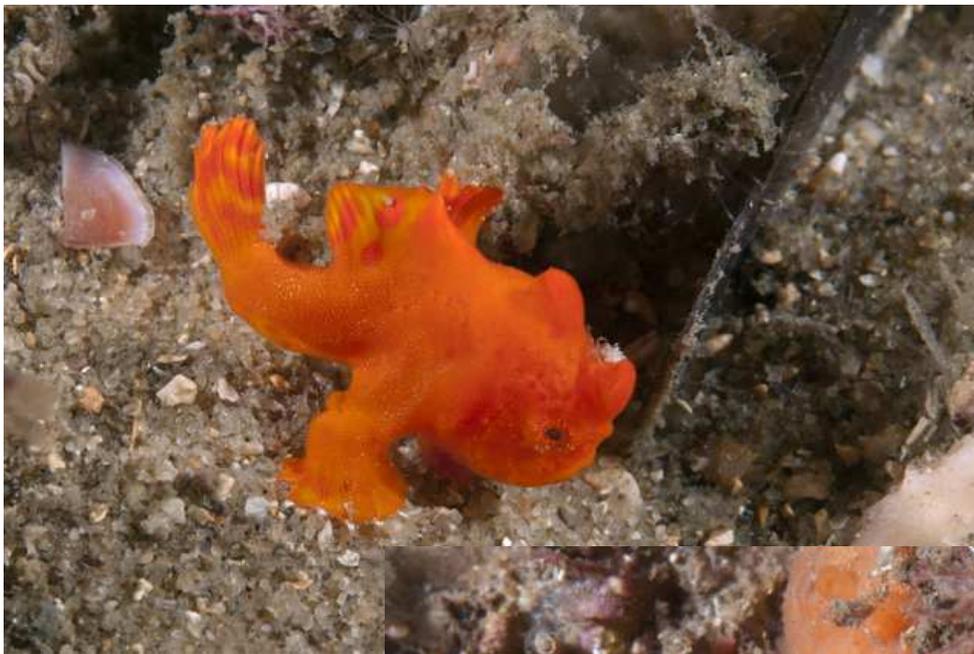
Date	Description	Location	Organiser
1 May	Shore Dive/BBQ Evening	Clifton Gardens	Natasha Naude
7 May	Boat Dive	M&K Reef	Nancy Scoleri
7 May	Restaurant Night	TBA	Ray Moulang
14 May	Boat Dive	Wedding Cake Island	Bill Rowland
15 May	Shore Dive	Shark Point	Caroline Corcoran
18 May	Club Meeting	Rowers on Cook	Natasha Naude
20-22 May	Boys Weekend	Port Stephens	Ray Moulang
28 May	Deep Dive	The Wanderers	Dave Casburn
29 May	Shore Dive	The Leap	Paul Pacey

June 2016

Date	Description	Location	Organiser
4 June	Boat Double Dive	Wollongong	Natasha Naude
10 - 13 June	Long Weekend Away	South West Rocks	Dave Burns
11 June	Deep Wreck Dive	TBD	Peter Flockart
15 June	Club Meeting	Rowers on Cook	Natasha Naude
18 June	Boat Dive	SS Hilda	Eda Di Camillo
25 June	Shore Dive	The Leap	Paul Pacey
25 June	Boat Dive	Middle Ground	Bram Harris
26 June	Shore Dive	Shelly Beach, Manly	Jason Coombs

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



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