



# Sea Braggin'

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2008

## Kurnell Dive and BBQ

28<sup>th</sup> January 2008

By Kelly McFadyen

Monday dive starting at gentlemens hours!

After enjoying my sleep-in, we drove to Kurnell and at 11am the park was already full. We met at The Leap (well, most of us did) which was proving a popular location. We had 18 divers plus 4 non divers and STG Underwater Centre had a few divers too.

Amongst the hot glaring sun, dripping sweat and rubber comes a call "has anyone got a spare pair of fins?" Poor Bill we thought, he's going to miss a dive. Alas, it was Dave Burns to the rescue with a trusty pair of snorkelling slip-ons that he keeps stashed in his car for rainy days.

We head off down the goat track on the cliff face arriving soon after dripping with even more sweat. The swell was ok and one by one we take a giant leap into the abyss. Bobbing back up to the surface the first thing said was "aahhhh, that's cooler".



## Big Belly Sea horse by Ron Walsh

We descend and are greeted with our first (of many) weedy seadragons. We also see lots of purple draggons (some laying eggs), pygmy leatherjackets, green eels, catfish (ugly), 2

octopuses, schooling yellow tail, tiny baby blue nudi's (about 3 mm long) and broken weed from the previous storm.

For the entire dive we were swimming, swimming, swimming, swimming against a current (though the tides were incoming!). The swimming at least, made the 15 degree water bearable. We got out at the steps (well some of us did) with the first out helping the others come in (thanks guys). I headed straight up the hill wanting to get this last slog out of the way.



## Donna by Ron Walsh

Hungry, after all the swimming and walking we set off for our picnic and bbq. We by-passed the main section of the park and pulled in to a nice picnic ground closer to the obelisk. It was shady with nice grass, toilets close by and easy parking. All we needed now was Eddie!

Eddie had the food. Nibbles weren't enough to satisfy our grumbling stomachs, and panic started to set in as we thought Eddie might be doing a 2-hour dive with Mike Scotland! We turned the BBQ on, sending off BBQ signals and soon enough they arrived. A feast was had, washed down with a good yarn.

Thanks Eddie, for organising a great day out.



**Minmi Trench Boat Dive**  
**13<sup>th</sup> January 2008**  
**By Jason Coombs**

It was the first club outing for Michael Wright's new boat Seafoam and he had a heavy duty crew on board Kelly, Michael McFadyen, Steve Shaw and I - that's the president, two ex-presidents (including the webmaster) and the newsletter editor.

The other boats out were Ray's SCRAM and SeaJohn. The had Ray and Andrew Moulang, Dave Burns, Dave Casburn, John Beddie, Heinz, Mark Ridsdale, John Prior and Bob Trudgeon.



**Michael W, Steve Shaw and Jason Coombs on the water on Seafoam by Heinz Bendinger**

It was a leisurely trip out on Seafoam and we hooked in fairly quickly at the dive site. Steve, Michael W and I went first. We dropped down checked the anchor and then made our way along the reef.



**A green moray by Jason Coombs**

There was some good fishlife with morwong and leatherjackets on the reef and one spot pullers

above. I found a green moray out of his hole and the other two saw a blue devil fish. There were also some nice gorgonian fans on the reef.



**Gorgonian Fans by Jason Coombs**

We returned long the reef to the place the anchor had been but it was nowhere to be seen. So it had to be a blue water ascent. We surfaced to find Michael M circling us in the boat. As he said afterwards it was just as well he'd asked how to start the engines before we went in! After the dive we headed to Frenchman's for a BBQ.

In terms of Seafoam it makes for a nice comfortable trip to the dive site. We had 5 divers on board but could almost have accommodated twice that many. Michael has a gas cooker on board so we enjoyed soup and coffee.

The deck area has plenty of space for gearing up and the entry and exit is easy using a low board which sits just below the surface. All in all an excellent dive thank you once again to the boat owners for making themselves available.



**Don't adjust your newsletter! This is a yellow-banded sea perch, rarely seen by divers, due to it's habit of living upside down on the roof of caves. By Jason Coombs**

**1st Night Dive of the Year**  
**10<sup>th</sup> January 2008**  
**By Michael McFadyen**

It was going to be an incoming tide so Bare Island Deep Wall Drift was picked as the inaugural dive. At 7:30 pm we had Kelly McFadyen, John Prior, Ron Walsh, Eddie Ivers, Ian Gowan, Bram Harris, Heinz Bendinger, Ron Walsh, Michael Wright and his friend Katie and myself at Bare Island ready to gear up. Kelly decides she is not going to dive as the knee she hurt back in October is sore (probably from a walk she did at lunch time).

Amazingly, Bram was first ready. This shocked us all as normally we end up in the water waiting for him. However, this time he tricked us by turning up in his wetsuit. Anyway, we were soon all on the back left corner of the island and in the water. It was nice and warm although the visibility was not the best, leading Heinz to yell ?I told you so? (which he had).

We descended and headed south and west to the Deep Wall. The visibility increased remarkably to at least 10 to 12 metres. The current was pushing us towards the wall and even when we dropped down to the sand and headed along the wall, it was a cross-current.

We followed the wall and the current turned to be behind us, pushing us quite quickly. I found a red Indianfish on the rock and soon after another. Shortly they were everywhere, we saw six all up on the deep wall. We also saw three sea dragons. Strangely, about here the current slowed and shortly after came at us from ahead. It should not be doing this as high tide is not till almost 11 pm. At least it is not too strong.



**Pygmy pipehorse by Ron Walsh**

There are lots of decorator crabs, hermit crabs and more. There are also a lot of fish out along the higher sections of wall. We see quite a few nudibranchs and all the normal night fish like red morwong, red rock cod and mado.

Once we leave the Deep Wall the visibility drops off a bit and when we get to the Sea Horse Cave it worsens again. However, it is still not too bad. We continue along the reef and see three more sea dragons. We also come across an indentation in the sand where a large angel shark or fiddler ray has been lying.

We get to PPHR (pygmy pipehorse rock) and I find one straight away. A minute later I see a second and then, someone (Bram?) sees the third one.

We continue on and see lots of marks in the sand where large flathead have been lying.


All too soon, the hour long dive is over and we exit at the bridge.

Afterwards, we go to Matraville and have pizza. An excellent start to the year's night dives.

## Gadget Corner

We all know that diving's not about fish or even getting wet. It's about toys, not just having as many as possible, but having toys of such dubious purpose and complexity that they are largely useless underwater – although entertaining!

Every month we will be profiling one such gadget.



This month it's the 5.1 megapixel camera integrated into a mask from Liquid image.

The little red button on the top right side of the mask has the shutter.

The camera is rated to 30 metres with a video mode and SD card interface. For more info check out their website: [www.liquidimageco.com](http://www.liquidimageco.com).

If you come across any equally bizarre diving gadgets send them in for the newsletter.



## REGULAR EVENTS

### Monthly Meetings

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at the St. George Rowing Club, 1 Levey Street Wooli Creek at 8.00 pm. Come along about 7 pm and enjoy a meal at the bistro.

### Thursday Night Dives

Night dives continue to be popular and during summer will include BBQ's after the dive.

If you do not currently get the email each week advising the location of the dive, please email michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info and advise that you would like to be added to the list.

Please make sure that you let Michael McFadyen know if you are coming in case the weather means we need to move or cancel the dive.

### Other Dives

Many other dives are advised in the news section of the Club's web site.

If you are interested in a dive, have a look at the news section a few days before a weekend and you may find others already planning a dive.

You can also place your own news item there (but remember it may time to appear as it needs to be authorised by a web site administrator).

## UP AND COMING EVENTS

### Ocean Trek Liveaboard

This is scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. It has been booked for 8 – 10 people. The cost of \$400 includes:

- 2 nights accommodation (linen supplied)
- 6 dives & Air Fills
- 2 x Breakfast
- 2 x Lunch
- 1 x Dinner (Saturday night) - BYO alcohol

Deposits of \$200 are required 6 weeks prior to the date of the trip (ie 31/12/07)

Places are limited so get in fast for what is always a good weekend of diving & socialising on beautiful Jervis Bay. Any queries please contact Peter Flockart Ph. 9371 0265.



Last year's entrants at Bare Island

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual St George Photo Competition

As previously advertised the 2nd annual St George photo competition will be held at Bare Island on 9 February 2008. High tide is at 10:36am so the water should be at its clearest.

The plan for the day is as follows:

- Meet at Bare Island at 8:30am (to ensure reasonable parking)
- Dive to get that best shot(s)
- Morning tea break – not provided so bring something tasty!
- A second dive (so bring a second tank) to try and better the shots from the first dive....
- Rox and Jason have kindly made available the BBQ at their place if divers wish to have a BBQ, some drinks and talk cameras after the dive!

Those without cameras are more than welcome to come and play underwater model (or just have a dive) – you never know you might end up on the front cover of Dive Log or even more prestigiously the "Sea Braggin".

There will be three categories;- macro (less than 300mm distance), wide angle (greater than 300mm distance), and diver (photos with a diver in them). Additionally there will be a special encouragement award selected by members of the committee.

Photographers will be able to submit up to 3 photos in each category. Manipulation of photos will be limited to cropping, despotting and colour balancing. Photos are not to be watermarked to identify the photographer.

Photos are to be submitted by Friday 15 February, 2008. The competition will be judged at the February Club meeting. Each category will be shown as a slideshow, with members then filling in a voting slip to select their choice. The photo with the most votes in each category will be the winner. The club has kindly donated a prize for the winner in each category. Please advise Ron Walsh if you are planning to come.

**Shore Dive – Shark Point**  
**10<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

If you are interested in this please contact Dave Burns Ph. 9531 4403.

**"Seafood and Seafood dive"**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008**

The "Seafood and Seafood dive" is definitely happening on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

The dive is on the Club Program as a shore dive to "The Leap" but we're moving the dive to Shiprock - that's the Seafood part.

After the dive is the Seafood, which will be held at Paul Pacey's house (5 minutes drive from Shiprock).

The Seafood will cost \$10 per head and will be an assortment of seafood, most of which you get to cook yourself with guidance from Head Chef - Mike Scotland.

Salads will also be provided.

You just need to bring your own refreshments!

You **MUST** book with Paul **AT LEAST** one week in advance so we can cater. Paul - (H) 9527-2501 or (M) 0418-410245 or Paul.Pacey@inet.net.au

There is a cap on numbers so it's first in, best fed!

**Anniversary Dinner**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008**

See separate flyer for details of this event.

If you are interested in this please contact Dave Burns Ph. 9531 4403.

**Boat Dive – Middleground**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> March 2008**

If you are interested in this please contact Sheila Baldock Ph. 9525 0746.

**Mullaway / Solitary Is. Trip**

Mullaway is on again - this time it is Manta Season.

The last trip in October was fabulous with 40+ metres visibility - just beautiful blue water and stacks of fish. That will be hard to repeat however normal conditions are usually 20+ metres and hopefully the elusive mantas will be around to play with.

The cost is \$495.00 which includes accommodation, 8 boat dives, all air and brekky things to nibble on not to mention the gourmet lunch!?! . Accommodation will once again be at the Cottages and at the dive centre. The Club BBQ to be held on the Monday night at the Cottages. Special requests are an option.

There are still spaces available but be quick. Please advise by return email if you would like to join this adventure.

\$50.00 will secure your spot. Contact Mark Ridsdale Ph. 0419 243717.

**Trivia Night**  
**8<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

The trivia night is taking place at the St George Rowing Club.

If you are interested in this please contact Ray Moulang Ph. 4620 5210.

**Easter Trip - Jervis Bay**

Hurry as spots are filling fast. Book in now for 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 Easter Away Trip to Jervis Bay. The agenda weather permitting will be to do as many outside caves as possible.

Nine spots only with Sea John and Scram2 confirmed. Accommodation is \$100 for the four nights. A house next to the water at Sanctuary Point. To book pay \$50 deposit to Mark and notify Ray Moulang Ph. Ph. 4620 5210.

### St George Scuba Club Annual Ladies Week-end Away

The Ladies trip is on again this year, for the week-end of April 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. High tide will be 7:16 am and 8:02 am, which is perfect for shore diving at Port Stephens.

East's Holiday Park at Soldiers Point (same place as last year) have come to the party, with pool side Cabins



and a late (3:30 pm) check-out.

Have a look at [www.eastholidayparks.com.au](http://www.eastholidayparks.com.au) for more information. East's are also next to the Bowling Club, which will be the location for our Saturday night feast.

Accommodation cost will be \$90 for the week-end, possibly less depending on numbers. Diving will be at Halifax Park, Fly Point or The Pipeline, at high tide plus a possible drift or night dive.

All of our Ladies week-ends have been great trips away, with good diving and lots of laughs.



Halifax Park Dive Site

So, to book your spot kindly deposit \$50 the St George Club account (BSB 062028 Acc 00800455) and contact me on 0410 599 186 or [kelly@michaelfadyenscuba.info](mailto:kelly@michaelfadyenscuba.info)

## Undersea Explorer Away Trip

Robbie Mapstone is organising another trip to the Great Barrier Reef and Osprey Reef on the liveaboard *Undersea Explorer*. There is an article on this web site and are lots of photos from previous trips in the Photo Gallery if you would like to see what the diving is like.

The dive trip starts on Saturday 10 May 2008 at Port Douglas and goes for 6 days, coming back to Port Douglas on Thursday 16 May. You will get the chance to do about 22 dives. You will need to stay in Port Douglas till at least the Friday afternoon before flying home.

The cost will about \$1728 (depends on numbers and discount) plus some costs on board (fuel levy, marine parks fee and any drinks you buy). This includes all food and dives.

You will need to organise your own flights to and from Cairns (there are Qantas and Virgin Blue flights about 10:30 am from Sydney) and should be able to get for about \$160 each way.

Six people are already confirmed for the trip.

If you are interested, contact Robbie Mapstone now by phoning him.

If you want to see more about the diving and previous trips, go to [Michael McFadyen's Scuba Diving Web Site](#) and look up the Queensland section of the Australian pages.

## Palau Trip – Oct / Nov 2008

Dave Casburn is organising this trip. Please contact him for details ph. 0405 186 184.

## OTHER NEWS

### Tank Testing in February

After discussions with the hydrostatic testing station they charge by the hour eg, if they take 2 hours to do 10 tanks or if they take 2 hours to do 20 tanks we still pay for 2 hours -- you do the maths.

It is expected that the cost of the tank test will be \$15 as per last time, although it could be a little more. Airfills will be available for \$5.

In order to avail ourselves of the cheapest price we are required to comply with the following:-

1. Remove tank boots, mesh, valve caps, carrying handles, tank bands, sling rings and limpet mines.
2. Evacuate air from tank completely and close valve.
3. Write your name on the valve and on the tank and indicate with a YES if you require an air fill. Use of masking tape or tags is good.
4. Come to the February meeting and bring your tank/s with you. If you can't make it to the meeting, find someone (other than me) who will be attending to do it for you.
5. Tanks will be taken AFTER the meeting in the car park.
6. No deviation from the above will be entertained. If this does not suit your itinerary feel free to do it in your own time at greater expense.

Regards Heinz

## Sydney Tides February 2008

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High
<b>FRI 1</b>	4:28 AM EST / 1.34 m	11:25 AM EST / 0.60 m	4:58 PM EST / 0.97 m	10:31 PM EST / 0.60 m	
<b>Sat 2</b>	5:29 AM EST / 1.38 m	12:26 PM EST / 0.52 m	6:06 PM EST / 0.99 m	11:34 PM EST / 0.57 m	
<b>Sun 3</b>	6:22 AM EST / 1.43 m	1:16 PM EST / 0.43 m	7:01 PM EST / 1.03 m		
<b>Mon 4</b>		12:30 AM EST / 0.51 m	7:10 AM EST / 1.50 m	1:59 PM EST / 0.34 m	7:48 PM EST / 1.09 m
<b>Tue 5</b>		1:20 AM EST / 0.44 m	7:54 AM EST / 1.57 m	2:37 PM EST / 0.27 m	8:29 PM EST / 1.16 m
<b>Wed 6</b>		2:04 AM EST / 0.37 m	8:35 AM EST / 1.64 m	3:13 PM EST / 0.20 m	9:07 PM EST / 1.23 m
<b>Thu 7</b>		2:46 AM EST / 0.32 m	9:13 AM EST / 1.68 m	3:48 PM EST / 0.16 m	9:45 PM EST / 1.30 m
<b>Fri 8</b>		3:26 AM EST / 0.29 m	9:50 AM EST / 1.70 m	4:22 PM EST / 0.15 m	10:23 PM EST / 1.36 m
<b>Sat 9</b>		4:08 AM EST / 0.28 m	10:28 AM EST / 1.69 m	4:57 PM EST / 0.15 m	11:02 PM EST / 1.41 m
<b>Sun 10</b>		4:52 AM EST / 0.30 m	11:09 AM EST / 1.63 m	5:34 PM EST / 0.19 m	11:44 PM EST / 1.46 m
<b>Mon 11</b>		5:41 AM EST / 0.33 m	11:52 AM EST / 1.54 m	6:12 PM EST / 0.24 m	
<b>Tue 12</b>	12:29 AM EST / 1.49 m	6:36 AM EST / 0.37 m	12:40 PM EST / 1.40 m	6:53 PM EST / 0.32 m	
<b>Wed 13</b>	1:19 AM EST / 1.50 m	7:40 AM EST / 0.42 m	1:36 PM EST / 1.25 m	7:40 PM EST / 0.40 m	
<b>Thu 14</b>	2:16 AM EST / 1.50 m	8:57 AM EST / 0.45 m	2:47 PM EST / 1.11 m	8:37 PM EST / 0.47 m	
<b>Fri 15</b>	3:25 AM EST / 1.50 m	10:25 AM EST / 0.43 m	4:16 PM EST / 1.03 m	9:51 PM EST / 0.52 m	
<b>Sat 16</b>	4:42 AM EST / 1.52 m	11:47 AM EST / 0.36 m	5:42 PM EST / 1.02 m	11:10 PM EST / 0.50 m	
<b>Sun 17</b>	5:52 AM EST / 1.57 m	12:53 PM EST / 0.27 m	6:50 PM EST / 1.08 m		
<b>Mon 18</b>		12:19 AM EST / 0.45 m	6:54 AM EST / 1.64 m	1:48 PM EST / 0.20 m	7:44 PM EST / 1.15 m
<b>Tue 19</b>		1:19 AM EST / 0.37 m	7:48 AM EST / 1.69 m	2:33 PM EST / 0.16 m	8:30 PM EST / 1.24 m
<b>Wed 20</b>		2:11 AM EST / 0.31 m	8:35 AM EST / 1.71 m	3:12 PM EST / 0.14 m	9:11 PM EST / 1.32 m
<b>Thu 21</b>		2:57 AM EST / 0.27 m	9:17 AM EST / 1.70 m	3:47 PM EST / 0.16 m	9:49 PM EST / 1.38 m
<b>Fri 22</b>		3:40 AM EST / 0.27 m	9:56 AM EST / 1.66 m	4:20 PM EST / 0.19 m	10:25 PM EST / 1.44 m
<b>Sat 23</b>		4:21 AM EST / 0.30 m	10:33 AM EST / 1.59 m	4:51 PM EST / 0.25 m	11:01 PM EST / 1.47 m
<b>Sun 24</b>		5:02 AM EST / 0.36 m	11:08 AM EST / 1.50 m	5:21 PM EST / 0.31 m	11:37 PM EST / 1.48 m
<b>Mon 25</b>		5:43 AM EST / 0.42 m	11:44 AM EST / 1.40 m	5:50 PM EST / 0.38 m	
<b>Tue 26</b>	12:13 AM EST / 1.46 m	6:28 AM EST / 0.49 m	12:21 PM EST / 1.29 m	6:21 PM EST / 0.46 m	
<b>Wed 27</b>	12:51 AM EST / 1.43 m	7:16 AM EST / 0.55 m	1:02 PM EST / 1.17 m	6:55 PM EST / 0.53 m	
<b>Thu 28</b>	1:33 AM EST / 1.39 m	8:12 AM EST / 0.59 m	1:51 PM EST / 1.07 m	7:35 PM EST / 0.59 m	
<b>Fri 29</b>	2:25 AM EST / 1.35 m	9:23 AM EST / 0.61 m	2:59 PM EST / 0.99 m	8:30 PM EST / 0.64 m	

### The Committee for 2007 – 2008 is:

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Please send items for the Newsletter to me by the 28th of the month