



# NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 453 Hurstville South 2221 NSW

**January 2007**

## **More from SCAN DAY - 26 November by Steve Shaw**

Another big day was planned for a meeting of the clubs at Frenchman's Bay. The weather forecast however was not the best with the high winds and big seas throughout the previous week continuing into the weekend.

Some of the boats weren't able to make it for various reasons but despite all that, about seven clubs participated with St George as usual providing the largest number of members.

Sue and I turned up about 9.00 and I joined Heinz, Mike Scotland, Ray Moulang, Peter Flockhart and Graham Poole on a rock hop to the reef off the western end of Bare Island. The viz wasn't great at about 5 or 6m but even that was better than we had expected. After a bit of a swim we dropped to about 18m where we spent most of the dive.



### **Lion Fish – Photo by Steve Shaw**

There was certainly plenty to see. The sponge life here is prolific and very varied. Growing in the protection of the bay, some of the finger sponges were growing to a size normally only found in deeper water. Heinz found a tiny lion fish standing on its head in a hollow sponge.

I came across a ledge that was covered in fan worms which I was able to get close enough to that I was able to fire off a camera shot before

they all disappeared back down their respective tubes.



### **Fan Worm – Photo by Steve Shaw**

There were any number of nudibrancs around including the common little red-spotted species *Nudibrancus littlredspottedbuggerii* and the equally common but somewhat larger black and white species *Nudibrancus littlebitbiggerbuggerii*.



### **St George members out in force!**

Towards the end of the dive I found Peter in the gloom photographing the smallest sea dragon I have ever seen. It was only about 8cm long. No doubt they begin life much smaller than this but I have never seen one. I was searching for the red indian fish *Pataecus sittingbullbus* which I

knew had to be around somewhere but I was not successful.



### **Ian Gowen was missing his boat**

Anyway everyone was having such a good dive that air, or rather lack of it became a problem for some divers. Peter was out of air so I surfaced with him and we headed back.

I heard later that Ray had been using Mike's ocky to extend the dive a bit. Anyway after about 50 minutes we hauled ourselves out of the water after a very enjoyable dive. Someone said that the water temperature had been 180 and certainly no one complained about the cold.



### **South Pac had a strong showing too**

Back at the BBQ site the food had arrived and Dave Burns, the Galloping Gourmet of Gastronomic Excellence, was preparing to feed the throng. Dave is very proud of his ability to turn the humble sausage into a passable sausage sandwich with nothing more than the addition of a slice of bread ... amazing!

While lunch was happening divers were still coming and going on the available boats and everyone who wanted a dive that day would have had one I'm sure. A crowd had gathered around a particular piece of kit so I wandered over to see what it was all about. It looked to me my like someone had attached the air filter from an old Kingswood to the top of a tank. I found out later that this was a rebreather setup.



### **Dave's BBQ was a great success**

I've never been one for keeping up with the latest diving trends! After lunch, John Olson, the President of SCAN gave out some BBQ Excellence awards for which Dave was a well deserving recipient. Sue and I left the gathering about 3.30 after a very enjoyable day with good diving, good food and good company.

Thanks to all concerned with the organising of this event.

### **Club Xmas Picnic 2006 by Les Caterson**

Our club picnic this year was held at Kurnell on Sunday 3rd. of December.

The day was overcast with threatening rain when we arrived at 8.30am. to set up. Very quickly, with help from Heinz, Geoff and Michael, a couple of tarps were set up over one of the picnic tables.

At about 9.15am some 16 divers geared up and trooped down the hill for their dive, leaving Elly, Doris, Heinz and myself to start cutting up food for lunch and to greet the arriving members as they dribbled in. Mark in the meantime was busy folding up the xmas raffle tickets ready for the big draw at 1pm.





**Eddie Ivers and Mike Scotland gearing up**



**Everyone assembles for the dive**



**Taking the long walk**

The rain did not eventuate and finally a total of 58 members and friends enjoyed a sumptuous feast of chicken, ham and salads.

The raffle was drawn and the winners were announced, all of which happened to be present on the day. Congratulations Robert Mack, John Prior and Eda DiCamillo.



**Enjoying the food**

Later, a few of our hardier members ventured in for a second dive while the rest of us sat around and solved the problems of the world.

A great day, thanks to the organizer Elly and all those who helped her out.

### **Gold Coast Seaway by Michael McFadyen**

Kelly and I travelled to the Gold Coast on the second weekend in December to visit her Mum. We decided to do some dives while there after reading an article in DIVE Log earlier in the year.



**Gunther's Butterfly fish – Photo M. McFadyen**

The Gold Coast Seaway is the entrance from the open ocean to the Broadwater. We did three dives here, two at The Pipe which is a pipe that transports sand from one beach to another. This

is an excellent dive, with huge numbers of big eye trevally congregating near the pipe. There were also large numbers of bream, whiting and other species. They also get jewfish, eagle rays and more here. We also saw lots of tropical species, including cockatoo waspfish (like a small red Indianfish). It is a little like Swansea Bridge in some ways.



**Cockatoo waspfish – Photo M. McFadyen**

The other site we did here was further inside and here there were more tropicals, including five harlequin ghost pipefish. Fantastic!

If you are ever up at the Gold Coast, try a dive or two at the Seaway, it really is one of the best dive sites I have ever done.

### **Recent Dives**

**By Michael McFadyen**

Over the Christmas to New Year period Le Scat went out diving nearly every day. A deep dive at the Wanderers was very dirty, but the next day Jolong just north of Botany Bay was quite clean.

The next day saw The Colours off South Head being dived and again, it was very dirty for the first in the water (not a single diver off a charter boat anchored next to us refound their anchor) but the latter divers on Le Scat had visibility that was not too bad.

The same day a dive was completed at Sow and Pigs inside the harbour and it was not too bad. The next day was the best in terms of seas but again, a bit dirty at 48 metres on the SS Myola.

On New Year's Eve, the seas were up again but the best water conditions were encountered, with 15 metre viz at North Head.

SeaJohn was also out at least once over this time and they reported a couple of good dives.

On Christmas Eve, about nine members turned up to dive Bare Island. It was a bit windy and wet but it cleared and a very good dive to the Isolated Reef and Left Side were done. Most stayed for the BBQ breakfast afterwards.

The night dives in December were a varied lot. One dive to Bare Island Left was excellent, with two tiny (10 mm) pygmy pipe horses found. Another at Bare Island Isolated Reefs was excellent but the dive from Oak Park to Bass and Flinders had to be cancelled due to very rough seas.

Five members dived the SS Tuggerah on 23 December on Le Scat. An excellent dive was reported.

## **REGULAR EVENTS**

### **Monthly Meetings**

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2007 at the St. George Rowing Club, 1 Levey Street Woolli Creek at 8.00 pm. Come along about 7 pm and enjoy a meal at the bistro.

### **Thursday Night Dives**

These continue to be very popular, with at least six divers every week.

If you are not on the email list for these dives, email Michael McFadyen and he will notify you every week about the week's dive location. The Club web site also has up to date information about the dive.

## **UP AND COMING EVENTS**

### **Shore Dive – The Leap 7<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

Meet at 9am at Kurnell on Sunday.

If you are interested in this dive please call Jason Coombs 9345 4599.

### **Boat Dive – Pizza Reef 20<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

This dive leaves from Yowie Bay.

If you are interested in this dive please call Les Caterson ph. 9520 9421.

**South West Rocks – Boat Diving  
22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

We have booked for a trip to South West Rocks where you can enjoy some fantastic diving including diving the World famous Fish Rock Cave which is rated in the top ten dive sites in Australia. If you haven't dived SWR before, you are in for a real treat. Plenty of Grey Nurse shark action too! In between dives the SWR area itself is really pretty and there's quite a lot of things to do.

Accommodation will be in the Divers lodge above Dive Shop from Sunday night

21st January 2007 until Thursday night 25th January (5 nights). This is very tidy diving - after breakfast, walk downstairs, throw your kit in the boat and they take you diving. Only a live-aboard is more convenient.

Diving on Monday (22nd), Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (25th) - all double

boat dives.

Cost will be \$485.

See [www.SouthWestRocksDive.com.au](http://www.SouthWestRocksDive.com.au) for more info.

Please let Paul Pacey know if you want to come along ASAP.

**Australia Day BBQ  
26<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

B.B.Q. to be held Australia day at 25 Rosebery Street Heathcote.

Just bring along your swimmers drinks and nibblies. The club will be providing a sausage sizzle with salads and bread rolls.

Contact Elly at 9520 9421 or e/mail me at [lescat2@bigpond.net.au](mailto:lescat2@bigpond.net.au)

I would like to know numbers by 24th.January for catering.

**Boat Dive – Tabbagai  
28<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

This dive leaves from Yowie Bay.

If you are interested in this dive please call Ian Gowan ph. 9525 5942.

**Shellharbour – Boat Diving  
2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

This weekend is full. Michael McFadyen will send out more information in late January to those attending. Two boats will also be diving on

Friday, probably out of Port Kembla. Anyone interested in a dive or two on the Friday, please contact Michael. Spots may also be available to people not on the weekend.

Contact Michael McFadyen  
([michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info](mailto:michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info)) if you are interested.

**Girls Weekend - Shore Diving  
16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

See flyer at the end of the newsletter.

This newsletter reconfirms its position as an equal opportunities publication and in no way condones separation of male and females on trips.

**OTHER NEWS****MARINE BIOLOGY FOR SCUBA DIVERS  
Mike Scotland**

We look at all of the main areas of invertebrate marine life. We cover about 2-3 life forms each dive including marine plants. So we focus seaweeds, flowering plants in the sea, sponges and corals on dive one for example.

What I do is to teach it 7 ways so that everyone gets a clear picture of the info.

What I have found is that most people forget most of the stuff most of the time\*. However, by the time they get to see it 7 different ways, it will start to make sense. Divers will get skills in identifying sea creatures and see how it all fits together. For example, we use underwater slates to id critters as we find them. We collect stuff for microscope study after the dive.

There is a Padi certification awarded called Padi Research Diver. The charge is \$145 per head, which includes Padi C card and insurance costs.

The course would run over 2 weekends, including a total of five dives. Two shore dives sat or sun, one night dive and two shore dives the next sat. It is limited to 8 divers. In addition, there will be two nights of theory and slides held at my place in Kirrawee, unless someone has a better location.

Each diver will get 60 to 70 pages of detailed notes that make up a complete manual of marine biology. Bring along a folder to keep them in. This course is designed to be fun, interactive and informative. Hopefully, each diver keep on benefiting from the course for months to



come. The course also applies to tropical marine life.

I have run this course for lots of shops such as Dive 2000, Frog Dive, SWR Marine Centre, Palm beach dive (gold coast), Dive Trek.

Course dates:

First lecture: Tues 6th Feb 2007

2nd lecture Tues 13th Feb

First day diving Sat 10th Feb

2nd day diving Sat 24th Feb

Contact: Mike Scotland B. Sc (Zoology) to book 0415 158 168 or 9521 7720 to book in.

mikescotland@optusnet.com.au or  
scubamagic@hotmail.com

Disclaimer: This course is not being run by the club and is run independently at the request of members by Mike Scotland's Scuba diving school PADI 100040.

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

The Ladies trip is on again this year, for the week-end of February 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. High tide will be 8:45 am and 9:30 am, which is perfect for shore diving at Port Stephens.

East's Holiday Park at Soldiers Point (not our regular lodgings) have come to the party, with pool side Cabins and a late (3:30 pm) check-out.



Have a look at <http://www.eastholidayparks.com.au/index.html> for more information. Easts are also next to the Bowling Club, which will be the location for our Saturday night feed.

Accommodation cost will be \$85 for the week-end, possibly less depending on numbers. St George Scuba Club members will receive a \$5 club subsidy off the accommodation cost.

Diving will be at Halifax Park, Fly Point or The Pipeline, at high tide.



Halifax Park Dive Site

A deposit of \$50 is required to book your spot. All of our Ladies week-ends have been great trips away, with good diving and lots of laughs. So, contact me to book on 9558 8181 or 0410 599 186 or [kelly@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info](mailto:kelly@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info)

## TIDES: JANUARY 2007

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
31-Dec	1-Jan	2-Jan	3-Jan	4-Jan	5-Jan	6-Jan
H 0613	L 0028	L 0120	L 0210	L 0258	L 0343	L 0425
L 1259	H 0706	H 0756	H 0845	H 0930	H 1012	H 1053
H 1849	L 1359	L 1451	L 1536	L 1618	L 1658	L 1736
L	H 1950	H 2043	H 2130	H 2213	H 2254	H 2335
7-Jan	8-Jan	9-Jan	10-Jan	11-Jan	12-Jan	13-Jan
L 0508	H 0016	H 0057	H 0140	H 0226	H 0318	H 0414
H 1132	L 0551	L 0637	L 0726	L 0823	L 0932	L 1048
L 1813	H 1210	H 1248	H 1327	H 1413	H 1510	H 1620
H	L 1849	L 1923	L 1958	L 2037	L 2122	L 2215
14-Jan	15-Jan	16-Jan	17-Jan	18-Jan	19-Jan	20-Jan
H 0510	H 0601	L 0005	L 00057	L 0146	L 0233	L 0319
L 1155	L 1253	H 0650	H 0737	H 0822	H 0906	H 0949
H 1731	H 1833	L 1342	L 1427	L 1509	L 1549	L 1631
L 2311	L	H 1928	H 2016	H 2101	H 2144	H 2227
21-Jan	22-Jan	23-Jan	24-Jan	25-Jan	26-Jan	27-Jan
L 0405	L 0453	L 0545	H 0048	H 0140	H 0238	H 0344
H 1032	H 1117	H 1205	L 0643	L 0748	L 0903	L 1030
L 1712	L 1755	L 1838	H 1254	H 1350	H 1456	H 1617
H 2312	H 2359	H	L 1922	L 2009	L 2102	L 2204
28-Jan	29-Jan	30-Jan	31-Jan	1-Feb	2-Feb	3-Feb
H 0452	H 0557	L 0015	L 0113	L 0203	L 0248	L 0328
L 1152	L 1301	H 0655	H 0748	H 0833	H 0914	H 0951
H 1740	H 1850	L 1356	L 1441	L 1519	L 1553	L 1625
L 2311	L	H 1947	H 2033	H 2112	H 2149	H 2224

## The Committee for 2006 – 2007 is:

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Kelly Jandik	9558 8181	<a href="mailto:kelly@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info">kelly@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info</a>
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Please send items for the Newsletter to me by the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month [J.Coombs@unsw.edu.au](mailto:J.Coombs@unsw.edu.au).