Rubba-Dub-Dub, 3 Dives in a Tub... By Paul Pacey

Well "Tub" is probably not a nice way to describe "Le Scat" but it didn't rhyme otherwise (apologies to Les and Michael, oh, and Kelly).

Sunday 8th July Kelly organised a trip to Baron's Hut. The entire crew consisted of Kelly, Sheila, Michael, Dave Burns, Peter Flockart and myself. The weather was overcast but a vast improvement on what we'd suffered the previous weeks.

Once we passed the entry to Gunnamatta Bay we found ourselves following Griffiti who we figured were heading to the Tuggerah as they cut across the large swell and headed between Jibbon Bombora and Jibbon.

We headed directly out to sea and watched Griffiti being hammered by huge seas.

It was agreed by all that making for Baron's Hut was going to be pretty uncomfortable and we headed to Pizza Reef instead. The conditions on the top were pretty good but further toward the cliffs it was pretty untidy.

Sheila, Kelly and Michael were in the first assault team whilst the B team settled down for a chin-wag and a 20 minute wait. Ten minutes later Sheila returned to the boat with a failed inflator valve. A few weeks out of the water and dive gear gets even with you (Michael's computer had evidently died the day before and Kelly's tank valve also expired).

Since we now had a dedicated boat minder, team B hit the water. Hey – good viz – maybe 10 metres!

We didn't do "the loop" but just spent time exploring the North West corner of the reef. All the usual suspects were there including a Blue Devilfish, lots of nervous one-spot pullers, and, of course, a few (un)shy Blue Groper.

Peter and Dave were playing with a Giant Cuttlefish out on the sand that they were convinced was friendly. They wouldn't have been doing that if they'd seen what happened to Rob Mapstone after his Cuttlefish encounter!!!

A very pleasant dive considering that, deep down, none of us thought we'd get past Jibbon Point because of the huge seas.



Fancy an overseas trip next year?

At the Wednesday 15th August meeting, Jerry Witkowski from Dive Adventures will be joining us for a presentation and talk on trips to PNG and the Solomons.

Some members are keen to travel to either destination in September 2008. Jerry's presentation is sure to entertain even if you can't make it on the trip.

This is your chance to see what's on offer and then start saving!

On **Wednesday 11th July** Le Scat again headed out into the blue. Conditions again were overcast.

We had Les, Michael, John Conolly, Eddie, Rob Mapstone and myself on board. Rob was proudly showing off the Cuttlefish attack scars in his wetsuit as we cruised along.

When we got past Gunnamatta Bay we found that the seas had actually got bigger since Sunday - Shuzbut!

As the crew were gasping at the huge waves crashing on Jibbon Point, Les and Michael were trying to work out where we could go. Middle Grounds got the vote and off we went. The further we went, the smaller Le Scat became. Eventually Six Fathom Reef became a much better idea and we anchored on the western side which was surprisingly calm (maybe "calm" is not the right word?).

Les decided to mind the boat whilst the rest of us played under the boat.

Michael and John Headed for the deeper water to the west whilst Eddie and I closely followed Rob as the viz was 8m at best. Rob set up a search pattern but whatever we were looking for we didn't find it.

Actually it's not a bad dive site but it's overshadowed by all the other fabulous dive sites not very far away. But this site still has lots of nooks and crannies and if you look hard enough there's always something interesting to find.

No gear failures today!

Club Away Subsidy

In the past the club trip (not incl. o/seas trips) away subsidy for financial members has been \$5.

Generally, this has been applied as either a discount on the trip cost or for the cost of a BBQ.

The Committee has agreed to increase this to \$10 to be applied at the discretion of the trip organiser.

On **Saturday 14th July** we had Les, Peter Flockart, Eddie and myself heading out on Le Scat. The weather was superb with a clear blue sky and no wind – looking good!

As we passed Gunnamatta Bay Les screamed "Wow" and looking across to Jibbon Point we could see the reason for the excitement – huge waves were again crashing onto Jibbon Point and the height of the spray flying off was awesome. Actually it was fearsome as we were headed out there!

We headed down to Pizza Reef again and the conditions were surprisingly calm. Les and Peter headed off in the first attack and Eddie and I followed 20 minutes later when we could see Les and Peter returning – passing them on the shot-line.

The viz was excellent at 10 - 12 metres and the water is still very pleasant, temperature wise. We headed east surrounded by schools of yellow tails as we went about our business of poking around the myriad gutters and overhangs that make this such a great dive site. There were some smaller cuttlefish around but no Man-Eaters, luckily for us.

I am always amazed at the fantastic gorgonian gardens at this site – worth diving for these alone. They are not big but they are really, really pretty. I also spotted a stingaree which didn't have a tail anymore. Is this the revenge of Steve Irwin?

We suffered a small geographical embarrassment on the way back to the anchor (sorry Eddie, next time, you navigate) and we thus had a bit of de-compression to do before we could again join the team on Le Scat.

As always, a pleasant time was had over morning tea at Dark Bay before returning to the ramp. A special mention to Captain Ivers who with a few hand signals from Les popped Le Scat onto the trailer effortlessly – not an easy thing to do, I think.

Gear failures – Eddie smuggled about a litre of water back from Pizza Reef. Unfortunately he smuggled it inside the battery case of his Alpha torch – ouch!

Many thanks to Les, Michael and Kelly for the use of their boat for all these dives.

Paul Pacey

South West Rocks trip July 2007 By Mike Scotland

John Beddy, Heinz and I had our first dive on the south gutters at Fish rock. There were plenty of large Grey Nurses, including one nine foot pregnant female. I found a gutter that had 3 kinds of Lionfish, (Pterois volitans, Dendrochirus zebra and a dwarf lion fish) two types of shrimp, the common pipe horse that lives in the tiny cracks and bags of Cowries. Viz was 15 metres, whales and Whale songs were plentiful. During the deco, I found a 12 inch baby banded Wobby and a male Jannsen's wrasse. Schools of Moorish idols swam by. I found one of the rarest Hawkfish, the brilliant red Splendid Hawkfish in six metres which was very special.

What a great way to get out of Sydney and start the trip off!



Mike, Ray, Andrew, John and Mike's wife?

The second dive was at Green Island. Talk about fish soup. We saw at least 22 grey nurses, thousands of Luderick, so thick that you could not see through them. This was a hypnotic dive so jam packed with fish, sharks and corals and even two types of turtle. During the few quieter moments, there were plenty of little tropicals including the stunning cut ribbon wrasses (Stethojoulis interruptus)

At the end of the day, we went back to our rental house. It was about the same standard as a five star hotel, except that it was ten times as roomy. The view down the valley of the Manning River and Mt Yarrahappeny is a classic.

Monday, the calm seas and relatively slow current allowed us to dive at the Land of the Giants and Colorado pass. The viz was down a bit. Ray and Andrew and I circumnavigated the

rock there. Fish life was prolific. Once again, plenty of Nurses were found on both dives.

The water was so calm; we decided to do the cave. There was some traffic congestion going up the chimney when a five foot wobby which was using our lane did not want to let us pass. It was a very polite wobby and made 4 or 5 attempts to overtake us and find a place to rest. There had to be well over a 100 painted crays. We needed Count Von Count (MMc) there to give us the stats but he had a better offer in Vanuatu at the time. I was pleased to see so many juveniles.

Along the wall, we saw four types if living Cowries (Arab, Milky spot, Green Cowry and square spot cowries. (Cypreae quadrimarginata,)

The weather blew up on day five which allowed us to dry out. On the last day, Ray, Andrew and I did the drift dive in the river. This is a dive I would recommend, as there is plenty of fish mainly bream and blackfish. The current especially at the start, at 12 m depth, makes you feel like you are flying. The vis was surprisingly good.

A big thank you to John for organising the trip. A great time was had by all.

Forster Diver trip 20th - 22nd July 2007 By Ron Walsh

Thursday night in Sydney - huge seas, strong winds. Forecast for the weekend was the same. Jason had talked to Ron Hunter at Fisherman's Wharf Dive Centre and was told that Forster was diveable! However confirmation would be on the Friday morning.

At 9am Jason phones. He had been talking to Ron Hunter, and Forster was diveable on the Friday, with the forecast for seas to lessen. Sydney was still big seas and strong winds. Botany Bay was a whitewash. Jason makes the executive decision – the trip is still on.

Dave Casburn and I drive up on the Friday night, and arrive in Forster at 11pm to pouring rain and no wind. We find the rest of the divers – Jason, Rox, Eddie, Paul P, Mark, Janine and Paul W in a very jovial mood drinking beer and red wine.

Saturday morning, we all rise, have breakfast, pack dive gear and drive the one minute to the dive shop ready for the day. We are met with "conditions are too rough, no diving today". We

ask about tomorrow and are told that the seas are easing and diving is at least a 50% chance for tomorrow. So we went and had coffee then looked at the beaches. We had been advised that the bay was diveable, and it was. Unfortunately the dive sites are outside the bay and definitely were not diveable!

So we bummed around the house for the rest of the morning, did some shopping, and had an excellent BBQ for lunch (courtesy of the club).



Ron, Paul W, Eddie, Dave, Paul P and Janine at Whoota Lookout

After lunch Jason and Rox went canoeing, Mark did computer work, and the rest of us went 4WDing. We explored some mud tracks, admired the view from a lookout, and visited the tallest tree in NSW (the Grandis). That night we went to the pub for dinner and watched the Rugby and the Soccer. Note to Paul P – that whiting just seemed to shrink on your plate and Eddies seemed to lengthen!



Ron, Dave and Mark heading for the water at Halifax Park

Next morning we were about to leave the house for the dive shop when the operator arrived. Seas were still big, only dive site available was a barge, normally dived at high tide, and it was low tide, so vis would be anything from 1m to 5m! We took a vote and decided not to take up the offer. Seven of us decided a better option was to head to Port Stephens to dive Halifax Park.



Turret fish at Halifax Park

After an excellent lunch overlooking the water of Little Bay we kitted up at Halifax and entered the water. Vis was 1m, 2m in the good spots! Dives lasted from 5mins (Mark) to 50mins (me). Torches were a necessity in order to see, and it was a real muck dive. Apparently dolphins cruised through while we were under with one apparently touching up Jason.



The landcruiser after running into the back of Paul Watkinson's Prado

Heading back to Sydney Jason, Rox and Paul W were involved in a minor car accident near the Berowra exit. The car in front of Jason stopped suddenly (I assume due to traffic, Jason stopped with about 1m to spare, but the landcruiser

behind Jason slammed into the back of them pushing them into the car in front concertina style. Rox had a bit of a sore back but otherwise no one was hurt. The traffic then started to pile up and became immense. After details were swapped, police statements given, all ended up home safely.

An interesting trip with lots of socialising and very little diving.

Christmas in July 28th July 2007 By Peter Trayhurn

The music got better and better as the night progressed. Someone cruelly observed this was due to the consumption of alcohol.



The Dinner Table

I got a great deal on 7 Chris Drummond CD's which may end up as terrific raffle prizes or birthday presents if you are lucky. Mark could not attend the evening but luckily for our hungry table his dinner did and it was equitably split amongst all.



Kelly, Shiela and John

Dick had Marks potato, I had his Pumpkin and Ellie T had a piece of pork. The rest of the table cleaned up the plate and when it came back only a few peas remained.



Geoff and Margaret dancing

A range of interesting quotes from the night as written on the night.

"Where's Mark, can I have his soup?" Withheld

"Oh I'm so excited" Withheld

"Can I have Marks bread roll" Dave Casburn

"Your lucky, your soup is hot" Withheld

"Can I have Marks dinner" MM

"I laughed when I heard you were going down" Withheld



Peter and Ellie dancing

"A good night, even John enjoyed the no dive talk, you guessed it he isn't a diver" Withheld

"The custard was a bit light on" Withheld

"XXX has been polishing his own himself" Withheld

"Where's Mark, can I have his main?" Withheld

"the rock and roll is a bit slow" Withheld

"don't delegate anything to me" by someone who did not want to help with the newsletter article

"I did 30 dives on my honeymoon" name and address withheld, no answer about depth and duration.



Shiela and Peter Flockart dancing

"Its not in yet honey" withheld

"Where's mark, can I have his dessert ?" Withheld

"The honeymooners left early, isn't love grand" Withheld

"Terrific turnup in the sticks for a great night" Les

"I would definitely come here again for only \$20, a great night" Les

"the Trayhurn's on time? where is Marky Mark? Great food, good company, lots of dancin" Les

Many thanks to Peter F and Les for organising a great night.



Dick

REGULAR EVENTS

Monthly Meetings

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 15th August 2007 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

After 6 cancellations in a row due to weather night dives have gone ahead for the last two weeks.

Details for all upcoming dives are on the calendar on the right side of the Club's web site. From February, the email advising about night dives will not contain the location of the dive but will refer members to the calendar. Full details will be available from this location about the proposed 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

Shore Dive / BBQ – Bass Point 5th August 2007

Please contact Phil Rose if you are interested Ph. 9543 0748.



Weekend of 25th - 26th Aug on Ocean Trek.

You board the boat a Huskisson Wharf at 9 pm on Friday 24th

Enjoy two days diving in the lovely (cold- it will be by then) waters of Jervis Bay. You can expect to do a max of 6 dives for the weekend.

Water temp in August is generally around 15 degrees so bring your dry suit or a warm wet suit.

Weekend includes two night's accommodation, Maximum of 6 dives, air fills & all meals on Saturday + breakfast & lunch on Sunday. The only thing you need to bring is your grog.

Price for all of this is \$400 which is great value.

Limited to eight divers be quick to book & secure yourself a space.

Contact Peter Flockart. On 9371 0265 Or at piflockart@speednet.com.au

Shore Dive / Photo Competition 26th August 2007

Please contact Peter Trayhurn if you are interested Ph. 9546 5112.

Norah Head Long Weekend 6th – 9th September 2007

In early September the APEC Conference will be held in Sydney and as a result, we are getting a public holiday (well, at least if you work in the Sydney metropolitan area). This will mean that Friday 7 September is a holiday.

We have booked dives out of Norah Head for Friday and Saturday with a shore dive planned for Sunday. Cost will be \$80 for a double dive with air fills at \$8 (need to provide your own tank or cost \$18). Maximum of 10 to 12 divers. Accommodation will be at the Norah Head Tourist Park. Two 6 berth cabins have been booked. Accommodation will be about \$25 per person per night. Therefore, for an all up cost of about \$250 vou will get three dives, accommodation, four boat airfills. barbecue dinner on Friday and Saturday nights and a great time away from Sydney.

These spots are sure to go quickly so to get your name down, you need to pay a \$50 deposit to the Club. If you have any questions, contact Michael McFadyen as soon as possible.

Solitary Islands and South West Rocks Trips

4 days diving (23rd - 28th September) at the Solitary Islands staying at Mullaway (\$495) followed by Labour Weekend 2 days diving (28th Sep – 1st Oct) at South West Rocks (\$280).

There are three spots left on the Mullaway Trip and two spots left on the SW Rocks trip.

These vacancies will not last, so please advise asap if you have an interest. Ring Mark Ridsdale on 0419 243717.



OTHER NEWS

Membership Fees

Membership fees of \$25.00 were due on 30th June. To renew just complete a renewal form (available on the website) and get your money to our Treasurer.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday September 19th after the September General Meeting. The following two proposals have been received and will be voted on:

PROPOSAL No.1

I John Beddie do give notice of a motion in a change in membership requirements at the next A.G.M. of the St. George Scuba Club Inc. to be voted on the night.

The Motion -

Any person attending High / Secondary school, under the age of 18 1/2 years who is a qualified S.C.U.B.A. diver (open water minimum) and dives with either parent (who is a financial member of the St. George Scuba Club Inc.) be

allowed to become a member of the St. George Scuba Club Inc. for \$0.00 within a family membership. This person is to have the same status of any member of the club – except for voting at the A.G.M.

The membership costs for a Family Membership to be determined by a vote of the members of St. George Scuba Club Inc.

Reason for Motion

We should encourage the growth of our sport / hobby within our membership (juniors) and not place a money value on their participation with us whilst they have no income.

John Beddie

PROPOSAL No.2

I propose a Family Membership be made available for members at a fee of \$40.00.

A family is described as a married couple and also children up to 18 years of age.

The family membership has equal individual rights (ie 2 members – 2 votes) as per

single membership but any additional members of the family do not have voting powers.

After some research the following was found from other Dive Clubs web sites.

DIVE CLUB

ANNUAL SINGLE CLUB FEES ANNUAL FAMILY CLUB FEES

RYDE UNDERWATER \$70 \$105

SOUTH PACIFIC \$50 \$75

DIVE 2000 \$95 \$165

TUG \$100 \$150

SYDNEY DIVE ACCADEMY \$60 \$90

ST.GEORGE (US) \$25 PROPOSED \$40

I feel our club should be encouraging and make available a Family Membership.

Ray Moulang

Tank Test Run

We are organising another tank testing run. This will be with the same people who did our last lot and the price should be about \$20 each. If you want an airfill, the total cost will be about \$25. The airfill is optional.

You can either drop off your tank to Michael and Kelly at 46 Gannon Street Tempe or give to them if you are diving with them. You can also give to Heinz Bendinger or bring to the next meeting on 15 August 2007. All tanks must be with Michael or Heinz by 15 August.

Payment needs to be made when collecting or by a transfer to the Club account once we know the exact price.

Gear Order

The fifth order of dive gear will be made after 15 August. If you want to purchase some cheap and good gear, this is your opportunity. So far the quality has been great, even more so when you consider the pricing.

You can look at the gear that is available on Dive Imports Web Site www.diveimports.com.au.

A list of the commonly purchased items and their price is on our web site as a download. If the price of an item you are interested is not there, email Michael McFadyen and he will send you the price. Note that the prices in the list may not be 100% accurate but they will certainly be close. Michael also has some catalogues that can be borrowed that have all items and prices.

Freight will be apportioned according to the value of your order.

Send an email to Michael with your order. Make sure that you are certain of your size (for things that need sizes). If you want to know who has purchased an item you are interested in, contact Michael and he will let you know who might have purchased it.

Remember, you must let Michael have your order by the night of the next meeting, Wednesday 15 August 2007. Money will be due once the order is placed and freight is known. Michael will advise you of what you owe.

Preferably, email Michael at his home email.

Sydney Tides August 2007

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High
Wed 1		3:48 AM EST / 0.19 m	9:47 AM EST / 1.38 m	3:27 PM EST / 0.36 m	9:51 PM EST / 1.79 m
Thu 2		4:28 AM EST / 0.20 m	10:32 AM EST / 1.43 m	4:16 PM EST / 0.39 m	10:36 PM EST / 1.72 m
Fri 3		5:09 AM EST / 0.24 m	11:19 AM EST / 1.48 m	5:12 PM EST / 0.44 m	11:24 PM EST / 1.61 m
Sat 4		5:51 AM EST / 0.31 m	12:09 PM EST / 1.52 m	6:14 PM EST / 0.49 m	
Sun 5	12:17 AM EST / 1.46 m	6:36 AM EST / 0.39 m	1:04 PM EST / 1.55 m	7:25 PM EST / 0.53 m	
Mon 6	1:18 AM EST / 1.31 m	7:27 AM EST / 0.46 m	2:06 PM EST / 1.57 m	8:48 PM EST / 0.53 m	
Tue 7	2:36 AM EST / 1.18 m	8:27 AM EST / 0.53 m	3:15 PM EST / 1.60 m	10:12 PM EST / 0.48 m	
Wed 8	4:00 AM EST / 1.11 m	9:35 AM EST / 0.55 m	4:23 PM EST / 1.65 m	11:25 PM EST / 0.40 m	
Thu 9	5:15 AM EST / 1.10 m	10:42 AM EST / 0.53 m	5:24 PM EST / 1.70 m		
Fri 10		12:24 AM EST / 0.33 m	6:16 AM EST / 1.14 m	11:43 AM EST / 0.49 m	6:20 PM EST / 1.74 m
Sat 11		1:14 AM EST / 0.28 m	7:06 AM EST / 1.19 m	12:37 PM EST / 0.44 m	7:09 PM EST / 1.77 m
Sun 12		1:56 AM EST / 0.25 m	7:49 AM EST / 1.25 m	1:25 PM EST / 0.40 m	7:53 PM EST / 1.77 m
Mon 13		2:33 AM EST / 0.25 m	8:28 AM EST / 1.31 m	2:08 PM EST / 0.39 m	8:32 PM EST / 1.75 m
Tue 14		3:07 AM EST / 0.27 m	9:05 AM EST / 1.36 m	2:49 PM EST / 0.40 m	9:09 PM EST / 1.70 m
Wed 15		3:39 AM EST / 0.30 m	9:41 AM EST / 1.40 m	3:29 PM EST / 0.44 m	9:44 PM EST / 1.64 m
Thu 16		4:10 AM EST / 0.35 m	10:18 AM EST / 1.42 m	4:09 PM EST / 0.50 m	10:19 PM EST / 1.56 m
Fri 17		4:41 AM EST / 0.40 m	10:55 AM EST / 1.44 m	4:52 PM EST / 0.57 m	10:55 PM EST / 1.46 m
Sat 18		5:12 AM EST / 0.47 m	11:33 AM EST / 1.43 m	5:38 PM EST / 0.63 m	11:33 PM EST / 1.35 m
Sun 19		5:44 AM EST / 0.54 m	12:14 PM EST / 1.42 m	6:31 PM EST / 0.68 m	
Mon 20	12:16 AM EST / 1.24 m	6:20 AM EST / 0.60 m	1:00 PM EST / 1.40 m	7:35 PM EST / 0.71 m	
Tue 21	1:10 AM EST / 1.13 m	7:03 AM EST / 0.65 m	1:58 PM EST / 1.39 m	8:53 PM EST / 0.70 m	
Wed 22	2:25 AM EST / 1.06 m	8:02 AM EST / 0.69 m	3:05 PM EST / 1.39 m	10:09 PM EST / 0.64 m	
Thu 23	3:48 AM EST / 1.04 m	9:15 AM EST / 0.68 m	4:10 PM EST / 1.44 m	11:09 PM EST / 0.55 m	
Fri 24	4:54 AM EST / 1.07 m	10:21 AM EST / 0.62 m	5:05 PM EST / 1.52 m	11:58 PM EST / 0.45 m	
Sat 25	5:46 AM EST / 1.13 m	11:17 AM EST / 0.54 m	5:54 PM EST / 1.61 m		
Sun 26		12:40 AM EST / 0.36 m	6:32 AM EST / 1.21 m	12:07 PM EST / 0.45 m	6:39 PM EST / 1.70 m
Mon 27		1:20 AM EST / 0.27 m	7:14 AM EST / 1.30 m	12:54 PM EST / 0.37 m	7:22 PM EST / 1.78 m
Tue 28		1:58 AM EST / 0.21 m	7:55 AM EST / 1.40 m	1:40 PM EST / 0.31 m	8:04 PM EST / 1.82 m
Wed 29		2:35 AM EST / 0.17 m	8:36 AM EST / 1.49 m	2:26 PM EST / 0.27 m	8:47 PM EST / 1.82 m
Thu 30		3:13 AM EST / 0.17 m	9:18 AM EST / 1.57 m	3:14 PM EST / 0.27 m	9:31 PM EST / 1.76 m
Fri 31		3:52 AM EST / 0.21 m	10:02 AM EST / 1.62 m	4:06 PM EST / 0.30 m	10:18 PM EST / 1.65 m

The Committee for 2006 – 2007 is:							
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Please send items for the Newsletter to me by the 28th of the month