

# ST. GEORGE SCUBA CLUB 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## 23 February 2013

On Saturday 23 February 2013 the club celebrated its 40th Anniversary at the Georges River 16 ft Sailing Club at Dolls Point. More than 120 members, former members and friends attended for a 3 course dinner, great prizes, gifts, music and a couple of drinks!

The tables were decorated with balloons, glass pebbles, chocolate coins, tea lights, copies of old newsletters, special place mats with facts from 1973 and my favourite - wind up swimmers, sharks, dolphins, turtles, seals and whales.

We were fortunate to have all 7 of our life members there as well as 8 of our 9 boat owners, 5 (past and present) presidents of the club, and special guests Barry Andrewartha and Belinda Barnes from Sport Diving and Dive Log,



who sponsored a number of generous prizes. Barry and Belinda were lucky to make it after their taxi driver said he knew where he was going and proceeded to drive north across the harbour bridge in exactly the opposite direction. Ah... it just wouldn't be a night out in Sydney without another taxi driver story!

Our MC for the evening was Peter Fields. Peter has many friends in the club and he spoke at Michael and Kelly's wedding. He is a long time local diver and wreck hunter who among other things discovered the location of the wreck the Myola off Long Reef. If there was a prize for best dressed male it would have gone to Peter, who was decked out in a tuxedo complete with black bow tie. When we asked him about it he said he was hoping to be a "chick magnet". Rox and I ended up dropping him home so maybe that didn't go to plan.

Our female members were wearing some spectacular outfits and it was all captured "paparazzi" style by our photographer Andrew. It was very glamorous. Never mind that the "marine" background banner for the photos was actually a picture of a hurricane cloud formation (sorry Rox).

Michael McFadyen and Phil Rose gave presentations on the history of the club



and stories about what it was like diving in the "good old days". Phil even brought along some of his old gear, including an orange horse collar the precursor to BCDs. Throughout the evening there were old photos scrolling on the screens showing diving from days gone by, back when Le Scat was white...

The 3 courses of food went down very well as did more than a few drinks. The eating was finished off with the club anniversary cake -a chocolate mud cake.



# Prizes

We were fortunate to have many very generous prizes from a number of

sources. Barry and Belinda provided 10 subscriptions to the great magazine Sport Diving and 10 gear bags filled with Sport Diving / Dive Log dive accessories. They drew the prizes and the winners included Les Caterson, Mike Scotland, Simon Hoad, Murray Rose, Sharon Gowan, Debbie Cook and Ray Moulang.



• The Dive Imports donated Sherwood First Stage Regular was presented by Kelly McFadyen and won by Brian Byrnes.

• The Dive Imports donated Manifold was presented by Kelly McFadyen and won by Daryl Brett.

• The Scuba Warehouse Oceanic Travel Bag was presented by Jo Edney and won by Ken Ridley.

• The Terrigal Dive Centre Double Boat Dive for 2 on the wreck of the Adelaide was presented by Nancy Scoleri and won by Paul Pacey.

• The Wooli Dive Centre donated package of five days of diving and accommodation was presented by Ida Di Camillo and won by Jo Edney.

The South West Rocks Dive Centre package of a

weekend diving and accommodation for 2 was presented by Ken Ridley and won by Graham Lehman.

- The Dive Adventures voucher for \$500 was presented by Michael McFadyen and won by Robin Chenery.
- There were also two vouchers for complementary dinners from the Georges River 16 foot Sailing Club restaurant.

These were wonderful prizes and we sincerely thank all of the sponsors.

# **Boat Owners**

At the dinner we recognised two groups of members who have made a significant contribution to the club. The first group was the boat owners.

They make a great contribution and allow us to access many sites we wouldn't otherwise be able to dive. Over the years our boat owners have discovered many new sites not dived by charter boats and know where and when to dive to get the maximum enjoyment from our dives. Most of all they make our boat diving cheaper and safe.

Our boat owners are up earlier than the rest of us for dives and often still washing down their boats well after the rest of us have washed our gear and finished for the day.

While the number of boat owners has fluctuated over the years we are fortunate to have 9 boats at present. Of the 9 boat owners 8 were at the dinner.



### Their names and their boats are:

- John Beddie from the boat Sea John
- Ray Moulang from the boat Triple D
- Ian Gowan from the "no name boat"
- Michael McFadyen from the boat LeScat
- David Casburn from the boat Down Under
- Daryl Brett from the boat Yes Dear (I don't think Rox has recovered from discovering this name)
- Wayne Hemming from the boat Yes Dear 2 (or this one)
- Peter Beaumont from the boat Toucans
- Unfortunately Phil Short from the boat Argonaut wasn't there but Andreas was able to accept the gift on his behalf.



In keeping with their "salty sea dog" reputations our boat owners received a bottle of port each and a not so sea dog like box of chocolates. Because Michael doesn't like chocolates he got liver treats for Veto. I'm sure she'll enjoy them!

A big thank you to all of our hardworking boat owners!

# Life Member Awards

The second group of members we recognised were our life members. While many of them maybe relatively unknown to newer members they are people who have made significant contributions to the club over a long period of time.

Our life members are:

• Geoff Sanders - Geoff has been in the club longer than anyone else. He joined in 1977 and was Treasurer from 1978 to 1992 – 14 years is a record unlikely to ever be broken. He's been a life member



so long there's no record of when he got it. Today Geoff still serves as returning officer at the AGM each year.

- Judy Morris Judy has been member has been a member since 1980 and became a life member in 1996. She served as assistant secretary for a long period and also as Vice-President. Judy is the 4th longest member of the club.
- Les Caterson Les has been a member since 1982 and life member since 1999. He was treasurer for 10 years. He was a long time co-owner of Le Scat which is a shortening of his name and play on the fact the boat is a catamaran.
- Elly Caterson Elly became a life member in 1999. She has served on the committee both as secretary and newsletter editor.
- Michael McFadyen Michael joined the club in 1992 and became a life member in 2002. He served as president from 1998 to 2002 and today is our webmaster and Thursday Night Dive Coordinator. Michael is also one of our boat owners.
- Phil Rose Phil joined the club in 1978 as a 16 year old. He has served in every committee position including as president from 1985 to 1987. In 2007 he was made a life member. He is the second longest member of the club.
- Steve Shaw Steve joined the club in 1980 and became a life member in 2010. He served as president from 2002 to 2006. Steve is the 3rd longest member of the club.

With a huge amount of gratitude from the club our life members received an award with the club logo on it and a bottle of Chandon each.





# **Organisation and Committee**

An event of this scale needs a lot of effort and organisation and we were very fortunate to have many volunteers on the night. Our committee was led by Kelly McFadyen and included Michael McFadyen, Nancy Scoleri, Daryl Brett, Bram Harris, Roxanne Fea and Ida Di Camillo.

The committee organised the venue, meals (though that was the yummy part), speakers, sponsors and prizes, presentations, decorations, gifts, music and on and on. I would also like to recognise the role of Ken Ridley and Jo Edney in securing and introducing their prizes and to Ray Edwards for organising the cake.

I think that what stands our club apart from others is the willingness of so many members to roll up their sleeves and get involved. And at an event like this we are at our best with so many contributing to make it a success.

We couldn't be better placed for the next 40 years!











### Beginners, Advanced, and Post-processing

Ross Gudgeon has offered to travel to Sydney from Potsville (near Byron Bay) to run some underwater photography courses for our club members. To have a look at Ross's work, check out his website: <u>http://www.gudgeon.id.au/index.html</u> and for more information: <u>http://www.sundive.com.au/dive-byron-bay/photo-courses/p/28</u>

#### **Beginners**:

2 Day course designed for those who are thinking about getting into or have just started UW photography. Hire cameras are available for those who want to try before they buy.

#### Saturday

Selecting an UW camera Assembly & maintenance Correcting exposure Getting sharp pictures Basic strobe use Composition for greater impact Pool session to practice skills Critique and Q&A session

#### Sunday

1 early morning shore dive to practice skills Workflow and basic post processing Critique and Q&A session

**Base Cost\*** (excluding diving): \$175 BYO camera

### Advanced:

2 Day course designed for those who have their own camera, have been shooting for while and are frustrated with not getting the results they want and/or want to learn new techniques to improve their UW photography.

#### Saturday

Camera knowledge & settings Taking better UW photos Advanced Composition Advanced Lighting Wide Angle Photography Macro Photography Critique and Q&A session

#### Sunday

1 optional early morning shore dive to practice skills Post Processing Critique and Q&A session

**Base Cost**\* (excluding diving):

\$175 BYO camera

**Post Processing - additional day:** One day course dedicated to unravelling the mysteries of post processing and optimising UW digital images using Lightroom and Photoshop.

Importing files, storing, sorting and rating images RAW image conversion and processing using Lightroom and Adobe Camera Raw in Photoshop Noise reduction Sharpening Special techniques in Photoshop for removing backscatter, colour casts; and enhancing dark backgrounds, blue water & sunbursts Preparation and enhancement of images for printing and display Converting images to black and white Plugins for Lightroom and Photoshop

Base Cost\* \$95

Minimum numbers for either Beginners or Advanced courses: 6 people

Post-processing course can be added as additional third day (ie would require running the advanced course from Fri - Sun or Sat - Mon). **\*Base Cost covers course fee and lunch. Additional costs** to cover Ross's travel expenses will also be payable and divided equally amongst attendees (up to total course cost of \$225 per person). Training venue: Ashfield (TBC). Dates to be determined on request and availability.

### If interested please contact Natasha Naude: natasha@bluecucumber.com



# **BARRENS HUT**

### 16th February 2013

We had two boats for this dive - Le Scat and Argonaut, Phil Short's boat. On Le Scat we had Michael, Kelly, Gary, Nancy, Jason and from Melbourne John MacPherson, who was visiting for a week leading up to the Anniversary Dinner. On Argonaut Phil and his son were joined by Greg, Shelley and Tong.

Conditions were good, there was some wind and a bit of sloppy swell, but fortunately we avoided the showers. It wasn't clear what the current was doing as

the boat didn't turn with the wind after we picked in, but it wasn't strong once we got in the water.

Michael, Kelly and John went first and then Gary, Nancy and I jumped in after we saw their bubbles back under the boat. The water was a very respectable 20c but it was fairly cloudy and the vis was only 6 – 8 metres.

As we dropped down, the resident trumpeters (Tassie or Bastard I'm not sure there is agreement on which ones they are) were hanging in a crack in the reef. They are a good size and relatively unusual to see. It is very special as





they have been Early on Gau He had for Okenia Mellia are only four but not see generally at a or more. I h or 3 times. you find one several more Towards the found some

they have been here for some time. Early on Gary motioned me over. He had found a nice pair of Okenia Mellita nudibranchs. They are only found in Eastern Australia but not seen often as they live generally at a depth of 20 metres or more. I have only seen them 2 or 3 times. And of course once you find one or two... we then saw several more during the dive.

Towards the end of the dive I found some tiny sea fleas (which was great because I was missing

my 'Sea Fea' – Rox was in NZ for the weekend) crawling around a grey sponge. Even at full zoom with two macro lenses you could still hardly see them.

We came to the surface to find the wind had dropped off but the swell was probably increasing. We headed back into Port Hacking for morning tea at Dark Water Bay. Donuts seemed to be the food of choice but some chose a more healthy diet of salad and fruit. Another great dive at one of the best sites in Sydney. Thank you to Tash for organising in absentia and for Michael and Phil for making their boats available.

Jason Coombs



# St George Boys' Weekend 2013

# When: 4 - 5 May 2013

# Where: Port Stephens

# Diving

Double boat dives on Saturday and Sunday with "Let's Go Adventures" to Broughton Island via two boats – 27 places available

- Diving will be from \$104 for double per day (includes one air fill)
- •Nitrox available at discounted price of \$17 if required.
- •Shore diving if weather does not co-operate for boats.

# Accommodation

- •Accommodation in 8 units in Nelson Bay.
- •Cost \$82 per head for weekend, available for Thursday/Friday/ Saturday and Sunday nights at this price.

To book your spot, please pay \$50 deposit asap to St George scuba Club Account via eft BSB 062028 Acc No. 00800455 or directly to Kelly at a meeting.

When a payment is made, please email Kelly and myself to be added onto the list.

Any questions please contact me by email or at a dive or meetings.

# Contact Ray on 0403 437 974 or rayscases@aol.com



# SEAHARES OF THE BASIN, ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

The Basin is a sandy tidal creek that flows through a mangrove forest on the southern shore of Port Hacking, between the suburbs of Bonnie Vale and Maianbar. It is only a few hundred meters from the popular Shiprock diving site, but has a markedly different character, habitats and occupants. In the January newsletter I offered some images of one of the Basin's more distinctive occupants, the Southern Dumpling Squid. This month's species are another group that is particularly common at the Basin, Seahares.



There are at least three different species in the Basin, all quite different in appearance and habits. Seahares are named for the resemblance of at least one European species to a hare sitting on its haunches. I'm not convinced that the body form of the local species is particularly 'hare like', however their heads are topped by a pair of ear like flaps that are very much reminiscent of a hare or rabbit. Those heads are constantly moving from side to side in search of their next mouthful of the algae, making for the most expressive and least sluggish of all the sea slugs.

Seahares are exclusively herbivorous with a preference for algae and seagrasses. They have an internal shell that is cloaked by the rear 'wings' or parapodia. Some species swim by undulating their wings. All seahares are hermaphrodites. However, unlike many other molluscs the position of their male and female organs means that two seahares cannot fertilise each other at the same time. One of the consequences is that they are often seen in chains of several mating individuals, with those in the middle acting as both male and female, but the two at the ends only performing as one sex or the other.

Seahares have a number of defensive strategies to discourage predators. They exude toxic skin secretions, with a Western

Australian species frequently implicated in the death of dogs when they get washed ashore and eaten. They also share the trick of inking with the cephalopods, although in the case of Seahares the ink is a deep purple rather than black.

The most common Seahare in the Basin is Aplysia sydneyensis. This species is small, up to around 20cms, and is very active by day. Most are shades of grey and brown, although a few are brighter yellow and greens. Their flanks have a fine tracery of lines that helps to break up their profile. They are most often seen in the seagrass beds although they also clamber over kelp and mangrove roots. They often seem much confused when they reach the tip of the mangrove roots and stretch upwards before turning back.

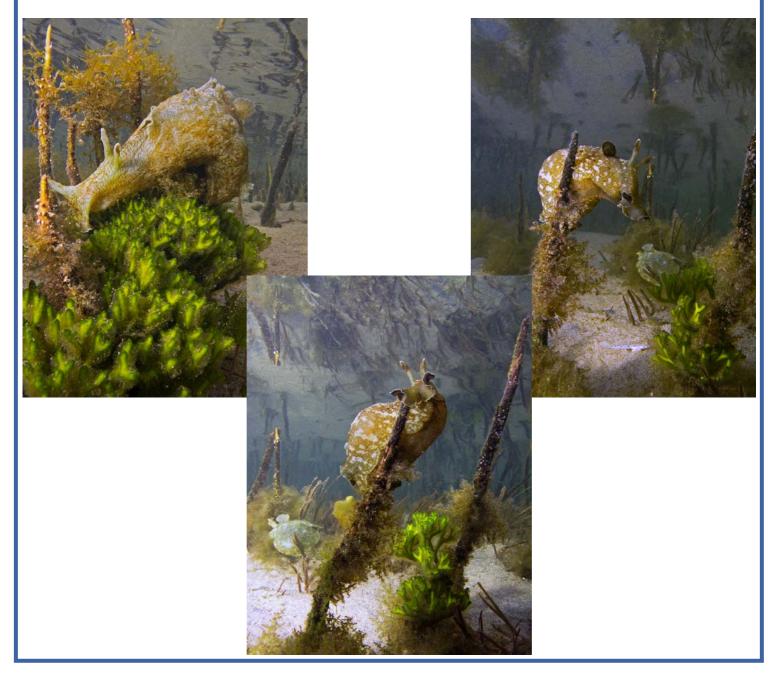




The other common species is the large Wedge Seahare, Dolabella auricularia. The common name refers to its distinctly triangular appearance. Unlike the smooth skin of the other Seahares the Wedge Seahare has a mottled and highly irregular surface, looking something like a hairy triangular brick. This species is quite cryptic during the day, hiding in crevices in the reef. At night it emerges to browse for microalgae over the sandflats and across reef. It grows to more than 30cms and is distributed through the tropical Indo Pacific region.

The third and least common Seahare, Aplysia extraordinaria, is also the largest at up to 40cms in length. This species is distributed along the east coast of Australia. It has very large parapodia and can be observed actively swimming in search of a fresh patch of algae.

### **Gary Dunnett**





# **BARRENS HUT**

### 9 February 2013

With a number of the boat owners away or heading away the club dive planned to Wattamolla was limited to one boat - Argonaut.

We met at Yowie Bay boat ramp, loaded the boat and headed out. On the boat were Phil Short and his son Dave, Gary Perkins, Ian Roffey and myself. With a forecast of strong NE winds to come in mid morning it was decided that Barrens Hut would be as far south as we should venture.

We anchored on the second attempt up on the reef just south of the swim through. Conditions were fine with no wind and a small surface chop. First group in was Gary, Ian and myself.



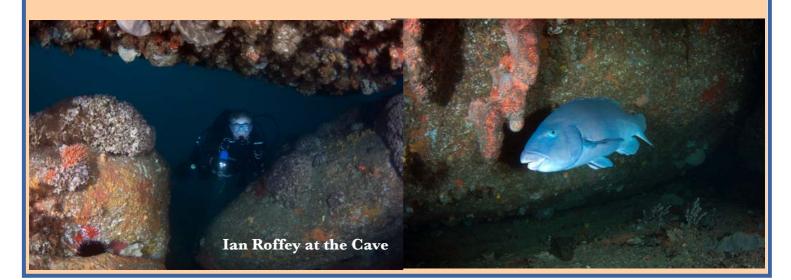
Visibility was not bad at around 10m plus. After setting the anchor we swam over to the wall and along to the swim-through. There was a lot of loose kelp but we were able to push it aside and swim through. Ian and I went through, Gary on the rebreather decided not to.

Regrouping, we headed further north and explored the cave and overhangs, sponges and sea whips that are profuse along the wall. Not a lot of fish life – just the usual red morwongs and red scorpionfish - though Gary did find an unidentified nudibranch on one of the small reefs.

We returned back to the anchor, explored a couple of the small overhangs, finding a friendly cuttlefish, before heading up to do our safety stop. Phil and Dave came down the anchor line as we were coming up and they had a good dive also.

Morning tea was had anchored at Bass and Flinders in the sunshine before we headed back to the boat ramp.

**Ron Walsh** 







# CLIFTON GARDENS 16 February 2013

The post appeared on Facebook on the Thursday – Natasha and Digby were planning an afternoon dive followed by a BBQ followed by a night dive at Clifton Gardens on the Saturday afternoon. Donna and I made a late call and decided to go.

We had an easy drive over from the Shire with not a lot of traffic. Clifton Gardens car park was quite empty – must have been due to the overcast and sometimes showery weather and coolish breeze – so parking was not an issue. It could also be due to the exorbitant parking fees - \$25 to park to go diving....

> There were a total of 8 divers and after kitting up we hit the water. Digby is still on extended shore leave so he babysat our picnic spot. Visibility was very average – at best around 2m. This made one really focus on all the little stuff!

Donna and I explored under the jetty, finding lots of seahorses, a black anglerfish, a large green moray, plus various bits of fishing gear

before we headed out to the mooring buoy. We went across the sand, found the chains, followed to the buoy, finding a nice denisons dendrodoris nudibranch, then followed the second chain line out towards the wrecks. The visibility did not get better, the water got colder, so we turned around just short of the wrecks. On the way back Donna found a nice tiger pipefish on the sand. Back under the jetty we revisited the seahorses and found a cute brown sabretooth blenny sticking his head out of a bottle.

**Photo: Ron Walsh** 







Reports from the other divers were similar with a brown striated anglerfish and a white anglerfish found – making a total of 3.

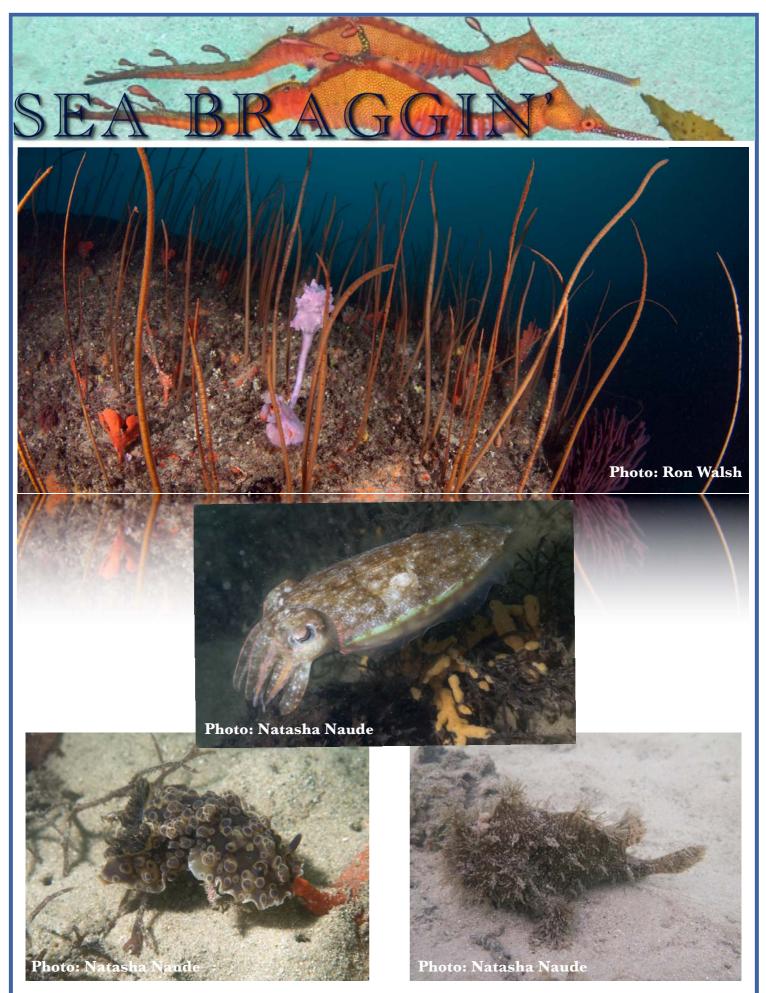
Due to the poor visibility it was decided to break out the beer and wine and nibbles early and enjoy the BBQ and forgo the second dive, making for a very pleasant evening.

Ron Walsh











# Pacific Jewel "Live Aboard" Cruise and Dive Trip Tuesday 9 July – Wednesday 18 July 2013 Cruise the Pacific and dive at each port!

The plan is for group of St George Scuba members to travel on the same Pacific cruise and to dive at all the ports along the way. With a minimum group of six divers we can pre-arrange the dive centres to pick us up directly from the wharf at each port, ensuring the maximum amount of dive time.

While in port, any non-diving partners will be able to arrange other activities either by themselves or together, making this trip ideal for members with non-diving partners!

As there is in effect no weight limit you can bring as much dive gear as you want, cameras and all. I have even taken my own lead on past trips (trim weights only)!



While many members may have dived in Vanuatu before, not many may have dived at Easo on Lifou. Lagoon Safaris is a

boutique operation, in a pristine location, run from a shipping container by expat Annabelle. Lifou is part of the Loyalty Islands group: http://www.lagoon-safaris.nc/

With return airfares costing about the same as the whole trip it is a rare opportunity to sample diving at the Isle of Pines: http://www.kunie-scuba.com

In Port Vila, Vanuatu we may possibly dive with the new dive operator, Devil's Point Dive: http://www.devilspointdive.com

While on cruises I have scuba dived many times overseas and there is a lot to be said for it. No luggage limits; no need for non-diving days when travelling at sea level; personal fibreglass lined shower for washing and drying your gear. Also, you arrive where you dive (the Ocean) so direct transfer is possible and you get to sample multiple locations.

Finally, you have limited guilt over non-diving fellow travellers!!

Pricing and itinerary on next page...

Contact Marc Werner Mob: 0407239080



# Pacific Jewel "Live Aboard" Cruise and Dive Trip Tuesday 9 July – Wednesday 18 July 2013

## Preliminary costing twin share

\$1200 non diver (cruise only twin share)

\$1550 diver (as above + 3 double boat dives) including tanks, weights and cruise ship transfers

### ltinerary

Tuesday	09JUL2013	Depart Sydney 1600hrs	Australia		
		at sea			
Saturday	13JUL2013	Vila	Vanuatu	ТВА	Double
Sunday	14JUL2013	Lifou	Loyalty Islands	Lagoon Safaris	Double
Monday	15JUL2013	Isle of Pines	New Caledonia	Kunie Scuba Center	Double
		at sea			
Wednesday	18JUL2013	Arrive Sydney 0700hrs	Australia		

Anyone with questions on this trip or diving while cruising contact Marc Werner.



# Contact Marc Werner Mob: 0407239080



# EAST TIMOR **Ultimate Dive Expedition**

# 19 - 31 August 2013



#### Price Includes: (Non Diver - \$995)

- Return flights ex. Darwin to Dili flying with Air North
- Return airport transfers in Dili
- 12 nights twin share bunk room air conditioned guest house accommodation at The Dive Guest House (shared kitchen and bathroom) - Dili, Sat TV, Internet Connection, swimming pool
- Breakfast daily at the Castaway Bar
- Half Day Dili city tour
- 22 Dives (6 shore local dives, 10 shore Dili surround dives and 4 boat dives and 2 complimentary night dives) Includes: tanks, weights, dive guide services, & transfers
- Australian Departure taxes (Value: \$240.00 subject to change

#### Cost Does Not Include:

- Travel Insurance & Personal spending monies and Excess Luggage Surcharges
- East Timor Entry visa USD 30.00 (subject to change)
- East Timor departure tax USD10.00

#### Room Up

Upgrade to Twin Share (1 x Queen + 1 x Single) - additional \$92 per person for 12 night stay

#### **Conditions Apply:**

Prices are subject to change without notice due to fluctuations in exchange rates.

#### king Requirements:

To secure your place on this expedition, you will need to complete a booking form and return it together with a non refundable deposit amount of \$300.00 per person.

Booking Reference # S12695

Date : 06/11/12



SYDNEY 4

**Contact: Paul Pacev** Mobile: 0431 691 173

www.diveadventures.com.au



# **Timor Dive Trip Weekend**

We will be diving with Dive Timor Lorosae (DTL). Check out their website at: www.DiveTimor.com

We will be staying in the guesthouse, which is located alongside the dive shop right on the beachfront in Dili. Above the accommodation is the Castaway bar and restaurant. The complex has its own pool. It is located in Dili itself so it's a short walk to other restaurants, shops, markets, etc.

The four boat dives will be to Atauro Island - see the DTL website for details.

We have also arranged with DTL that we can have an optional third dive per day, which will be at Pertamina Pier. This is one of the best muck dives in East Timor. If we choose to do a third dive, the dive operator will supply a driver to take us to the Pertamina Pier (a 5 minute drive) and wait for us to do our dive before transporting us back to our accommodation. These additional dives are \$25 per diver.

The trip is limited to 8 divers and as at 13/11/2012 we have 4 spots available.

Contact Paul Pacey for more information or to book.

Contact Paul Pacey Paul.Pacey@iinet.net.au or 0431-691173



# WHAT'S COMING UP?

WHEN	WHAT/ WHERE	CONTACT	WHEN	WHAT/ WHERE	CONTACT
Sat 9 Mar - Sun 10 Mar	Dive & Camp Shellharbour & Robertson	Michael McFadyen <u>michael@michaelmcfady</u> <u>enscuba.info</u>	Sun 10 Mar	Shore Dive Shiprock	Paul Pacey paul.pacey@iinet.ne <u>t.au</u>
Sat 16 Mar	Shore Dive & BBQ Kurnell	Paul Pacey paul.pacey@iinet.net.au	Wed 20 Mar	Club Meeting Rowers on Cook	Jason Coombs <u>j.coombs@unsw.edu</u> <u>.au</u>
Sat 23 Mar	Boat Dive Osborne Shoals	Shelley Breuseker <u>shellsb@bigpond.net.au</u>	Thurs 28 Mar - Mon 1 Apr	Easter Weekend Jervis Bay	Ray Moulang <u>rayscases@aol.com</u>
Sat 30 Mar	Shore Dive Parsley Bay	Peter Flockart pflockart@speednet.com. <u>au</u>	Sat 30 Mar	Night Dive Kurnell	Gary Dunnett garydunnett@exem ail.com.au

# CLUB COMMITTEE

President	Jason Coombs	9345 4599	President@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au	
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Newsletter Editor	Natasha Naude	0410 074 677	newsletter@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au	

Please send items for the newsletter to me as you do them during the month.

Please send any photographs as separate .jpg files rather than inserted into the article.

If you don't mind, please don't insert a copyright symbol and your name into the image files.