



Sea Braggin'

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

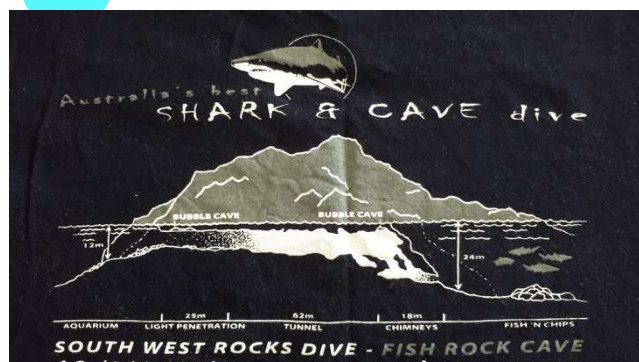
October / November 2018

TRIPS AWAY

South West Rocks

Story by Jill McKenzie

Photos by Roger Lee



Six Members came to South West Rocks, Geoff Ward, Roger Lee, Aidan Slevin, Aga Rekas, Daniel Tuka and myself. After a night on the town on Thursday and a six-and-a-half-hour drive on the Friday Geoff and I got to South West Rocks Dive centre in time to set up our gear eat our left overs from the night before and fall fast asleep. An exciting night. Everyone was there when we woke up ready for a 7am start and a sharing of kwells.

For those of you who have not been there, South west rocks gives access to Fish rock which usually has a large number of grey nurse sharks hanging in the gutters around 24m. There is also a cave which passes through the island from a 24m gutter up to about 10m at what is described as the aquarium.

Conditions on most days were a bit iffy with exciting boat rides on all 3 days but we managed to do our 2 dives a day. Day 1 we dived the cave and then the shark gutters. Day 2 we dived the shark gutters to fish soup and then the Pinnacle. Day 3 we did the cave and the Pinnacle again.

Even though it was rough on the surface and the currents were sometimes so strong we needed to pull ourselves along on the bottom, we had 30m visibility and temperatures around 19'.

The cave is always great fun with massive school of bulls eyes, a wobbly, a big black ray, black cod hiding up above and cray fish in the crevices where they come to shed their shells. I was searching for the decorator crab but no joy. Daniel investigated the bubble cave, going up the chimney is always exciting and coming out at the shallow end in the aquarium is so beautiful.



Watching the sharks in the gutters is very interesting. I think we were getting too close with our bright lights and so they were swimming very close and flicking their tails at us and one another. Having mistaken a great white for a grey nurse here a few years ago I've been trying to learn more about the grey nurse. Some exciting facts, they give birth to live babies, they can be identified by the spots on their side and if they swallow fish hooks, it kills them slowly.

Diving around the pinnacle was spectacular! The diving was exhilarating with a strongish current. We saw big schools of stripeys, kingfish,

pomfreys, yellow tails and a turtle. Fantastic diving.

Finding a good feed in the evenings however was initially a bit tricky as the local Indian restaurant took offence when we complained that the kebabby things were uncooked, they then tried to poison us with the free wine. My cast iron stomach didn't mind a bit but the more sensitive amongst us had immediate headaches and very queasy stomachs the next day. Maybe that was the 3 metre swell. Any way after 2hrs they finally fed us the most mediocre curries I have ever had. Should have read the reviews, lesson learnt! The Riverside Tavern was the complete opposite the food was on the table almost as soon as we sat down and was delicious

Overall, we had a great weekend. The accomodation at the dive shop is quite comfortable and very convenient. There was some footie final on which we watched. The dive shop is fantastic. They are there to help with all your needs and they worked really hard to get us in the water.



Many thanks to everyone at SWR Dive shop and to Geoff for organising it for us.

Tranquility Island, Vanuatu.

Story & photos by Craig Spillane

My wife, Leigh and I went to Tranquility Island Resort on Moso Island Vanuatu in September 2017, for a week to celebrate our 25th anniversary. We left the kids at home, to their dislike. But we loved the place that much, were decided to return this year with the kids for 18 days. We got the kids certified over there by Tommy, the local PADI instructor, he was

awesome with the kids, Jade 14 and Josh 12. So now, the whole family are up for underwater adventures!



The accommodation is not 5 star, and that's really great, as it's an eco-resort. The fares have thatched palm leaf roofs, coral collected from the beaches used as 'bricks' with mortar for the walls. Some with ensuite's, others shower and toilet 4 steps out the door, but private to your fare. Each fare has a private beach front. For eating, go on a 600 metre walk on sand paths to the beach house for amazing meals, on a set rotating menu. Fantastic and very laid back.

The diving is out of this world. Masses and masses of coral, abundant fish life, crazy nudibranchs.

We saw turtles on dives off the eastern coral gardens dive site. On one dive, Leigh saw 6 turtles, and I saw 3. Apparently, I was too deep again hahaha. (20m me, Leigh at 15m with vis of 30m+), to see 6 turtles, but still saw 3.



Amazing caves and swim throughs on the western side of Moso Island. Large groopers about 700mm long. There were 5 in one cave. See the pic of an amazing 50mm pure white

porcelain looking fish. Most likely a juvenile stone fish. It didn't move at all until I picked up a small piece of dead coral to see if he would budge. He did, only about 30mm from where he was, and then went dead still again.



I did one night dive to 20m and saw a 1.5m spotted ray at 15m, which swam directly to us and just cruised by, off to the 100-150m depths of Havanah Harbour.

We kept seeing a particular kind of puffer fish, called a seal faced puffer fish but I reckon it looked more like a dog face, very crazy looking! See pic. Sea horses are a bit rear around Moso Island but Leigh found one. It was really tiny and wearing algae for a coat.



The local staff are so welcoming and friendly. They look after you so much. So, if you want a chilled out break with fantastic diving, go off to Vanuatu, Moso Island, Tranquility Island Resort. See <http://tranquillitydive.com>. You will be blown away.

Truk Lagoon diving to 62.2 m

Article by Ian Roffey

Photos by Michael Morley

Truk lagoon has been on my bucket list for years, but somehow the logistics and timing haven't come together. Finally in September this year all things aligned and my much anticipated trip to Chuuk became a reality.

Truk lagoon (the lagoon in Chuuk state) is a mecca for wreck divers with average depths between 30-40 meters and deeper. So you really need to have some level of experience before going there. They cater for about 6,000 divers a year and it has not always been easy to get to. Recently Air Nuigini has been flying to the short airstrip from Sydney via Port Moresby, which is the route that I took. There is a challenge just getting there with all your dive gear. When you finally pick up your dive gear at Chuuk airport, you have passed the first major hurdle for the dive trip.

I was with a group of 17 divers and the first order of business was to divide up into groups of about 6 of the same experience for dive boats for the rest of the trip. I was with the Tec divers who were mostly diving with Twins. Deep Tec divers tended to do 2 deep dives (the first at 45+m) a day, while other groups not diving so deep would do up to 3 dives per day.



My first dive was a check out dive on the Shinkoko Maru. A fleet oil tanker. I was diving with a single air tank and a 50% nitrox deco mix. Taking it shallow, our divemaster, Angsou, took the group into the wheel house at around 18m. I was last in the group and could see everyone disappearing in a cloud of silt coming out of the entrance. Stuff that I thought. So, I left the group, turned around to explore the deck and then

headed over the starboard side. The ship is standing upright on the bottom, so her starboard side was a sheer wall from about 25m down to 40m. It was covered in the most amazing and colourful coral fans all the way down. Being a check out dive, I wasn't sure of the depth, so headed towards the stern to see what I could find. The water was 29 degrees and visibility absolutely perfect. At 500 ft long and 10,000 tons the Shinkoko Maru was a big ship. There was plenty of space for me to swim through the opening between the prop and her massive rudder around to her port side. Just above the prop on her port side the hull has been ripped open by the torpedo, which ultimately sank her. I peered into the engine room which is a massive space. As I looked up I could see openings and light above. I tentatively entered the engine room and slowly turned around to see the cavernous space and made my way up to the openings above which came out onto the deck at 22m. From there I made my way back across the deck to the mooring line and ascended to decompression depth to finish the dive.

Others on the dive were all on twins using 30% nitrox. Their maximum depth was $(1.4/.3=4.6 \text{ ATM or } 36\text{m})$. They didn't get quite as deep, but were able to stay down much longer. Theoretical maximum depth on Air is $(1.4/.21=6.6 \text{ ATM or } 56\text{m})$.

After the dive it was back to the Blue Lagoon resort for a leisurely lunch, a quick nap and then out again for another dive. Our second dive was on to the Fujikawa Maru, used by the Japanese navy as an armed auxiliary transport. Her holds are full of military supplies including A5M Claude fighters dis-assembled for transport to the airfield on Eten Island. It is quite amazing swimming in the hold in amongst aircraft parts, tractors and other munitions of war. At 31m it is a relatively shallow dive by Truk Lagoon standards. The super structure of this ship is mostly gone, so the main interest is the cargo in her holds.

When thinking about the dives in Truk lagoon, it is hard to remember all the names at the end of the day. They are mostly whole ship wrecks that have become fascinating reefs and hold a huge amount of war munition, stacks of land mines, artillery shells and casings, gas masks, aircraft, torpedos, submarine periscopes, tanks, guns. Bottles of Sake are everywhere, some scattered and others creating interesting patterns still in their crates. And yes, a few human bones still

around. The dive guides took us into interesting penetrations of some of the wrecks, some were on their side, which was a bit dis-orientating. On a couple there are guide lines, but not all, so you have to keep up with your Divemaster or risk getting lost inside a wreck. Although I suspect they count the divers in and out of each wreck. The only scary dive was coming to a dead end inside a wreck and the following diver stirring up the silt and I turned around to see nothing but silt. I had to be very aware of individual features inside the wrecks to be able to navigate in and sometimes out as not all are continuous penetrations in one way and out another. There isn't enough time to lay down a line, you just have to follow your guide.

Each day follows a routine. Waking, eating at 6:30, diving, coming back for lunch, diving, back around 3:30, rinsing gear, drinking at the bar, eating dinner and finally sleeping. Often you cannot remember the names of the ships at the end of the day. They call this getting "Maru'd".



Day two, the depth is down to 41m on the Hoki Maru and then 32m on the Rei De Janeiro Maru. Day three is down to 45m on the Nippon Maru and then 32m on the Heian Maru. I have been diving on a single tank of air and the 50% deco mix. By day four, my residual nitrogen is starting to build up so I convert to twins to be able to stay down longer and compensate for the residual nitrogen cutting into my dive time. Also, the wrecks are getting deeper down to 55m, the theoretical maximum on the San Francisco Maru on Day 5 & 6, so a single cylinder just isn't enough. Still with the 50% nitrox mix, which I'm now getting topped up for the afternoon dive as well as overnight.

Our informal goal for the trip is to dive the Oite which is the deepest dive in Truk Lagoon. But the weather hasn't been kind with big tropical storms for days on end creating rough seas, although the

diving is still clear. Each evening around the dinner table talk turns to gas planning and what dives we are going to do the next day.

At the end of Day 5 we have one more day of diving left and if we are ever going to dive the Oite, it has to be the next day. Over dinner, Michael Moreley brings out the Multideco apps on his iPhone to discuss the best O2gas mixes and dive plan for the next day. Also, we're not sure of the actual bottom at that part of the lagoon. The rest of the Tec group have hired drop cylinders of 90% O2 which they hang over our dive boat at 6m. One of the issues with Multideco is that it doesn't have any residual nitrogen calculations. The dive planner on my Shearwater dive computer on the other hand is taking into consideration my residual nitrogen from days of decompression diving, but only one generalised air consumption. So which planning model works best? I elect to go with my dive computer and a conservative air consumption calculation for the whole dive using three gas mixes. Air, 50% deco stage and 90% hang tank. This will give me a 22 minute bottom time and plenty of reserve gas. Up to now we have had a hard bottom of 55m. However, that is meant to be the top of the deck for the Oite. We're not quite sure what would be the actual bottom on the sand. If we re-do our depth calculation with 1.6 PPO2 we get $(1.6/.21=7.62 \text{ ATM or } 66\text{m})$. A new maximum depth of 66m on Air. Good to know just in case.



On day 6, we wake up to a sunny sky and flat seas, perfect weather to dive the Oite. We're one of the last boats to leave and the Oite is about a 40 min run from the dive shop, one of the furthest away. The Oite was a Kamikaze class destroyer. She was not in the anchorages where the majority of other ships were, but heading back in through the north passage after rescuing 523 survivors from the cruiser Agano. She was

caught in open water, one of the few naval vessels actually sunk in the lagoon and after a fierce battle she was split in two by a torpedo and sank with all 172 crew on board as well as the rescued survivors. Today she is a recognised war grave, so there is no penetration diving on the wreck.

When we got to the dive location, we were the fourth boat lined up to go diving, all connected in a line. Once over the side of our dive boat we swam just below the surface to the first boat. I used my new diving technique of a hard swim to the bottom to get to the deck in 2 minutes. We hit the stern deck where the mooring line is attached and it is 57m, so we blew our dive plan already. The water was a warm 30 degrees and visibility perfect. Where the mooring line is attached the deck is smashed on the port side and there is a gentle slope to the bottom. However, we head back up two meters and swim along the top of the deck which is gently sloping upwards. Being a destroyer, the deck is very interesting full of guns and torpedo tubes and interesting wreckage everywhere. Behind the aft gun turret is a makeshift shrine, with a small Buddha and two human skulls, one each side of the Buddha. Creepy, but out of habit I rub the Buddha's stomach. At this depth I figured I need all the luck I can get. I swam to the end of the stern section of the ship and can see the front half on it's side only about 20-30 m away. A few divers are over there so I decide to swim across the sand to the forward section of the hull. However, it's not that interesting lying on it's side, so don't waste too much time and head back to the stern section of the ship. As I head back to the mooring line I rub the Buddha's stomach again. I look over to the starboard side and Rory, one of my dive group who is floating above the sand in line with the deck and he is pointing down. I can see the bottom is not too far away, and it's only 20 mins into our dive time. 2 mins to go. I indicate to Rory to come over to the port side of the wreck where the mooring line is attached and decide that if we're going to touch bottom it's now or never. I make sure that Rory is watching me, with a camera, and head down the slope of wreckage watching my PPO2 on my dive computer. If it hits 1.6, that will be it. I end up on the sand and touch my wrist with my dive computer on the bottom. 62.2m, which is within the 1.6 PPO2 limit. I don't spend any time here, as I haven't done a dive plan for this depth, I just know I was conservative with my gas consumption planning and have a minute or two to spare on my dive time. I turn

around and head back to the starboard railing and then watch Rory and he heads down to touch bottom.

Back to the mooring line it's a slow ascent to 20m before switching to the 50% mix. The minutes tick away slowly for the deco stops. At 6m I have to swim underneath the dive boats, most with drop tanks hanging down, till I find our dive boat and then spend 15 mins at 6m breathing 90% Oxygen. Total dive run time was 58 minutes.

Truk Lagoon is an amazing wreck dive location. It certainly deserves its reputation. In a week I feel that I just scratched the surface and am already planning to go back next year. That is of course if Air Nuigini is still flying the route, having ditched one of their two 737's just short of the runway a few days after we left. There's a new wreck to explore!

LOCAL DIVING

The Steps, Kurnell

By Lynne Tuck

I'm fairly new to the club and have enjoyed meeting people and having more buddies to dive with. Thanks to Ken on Katz too and Michael and Kelly on MakCat for being so welcoming!

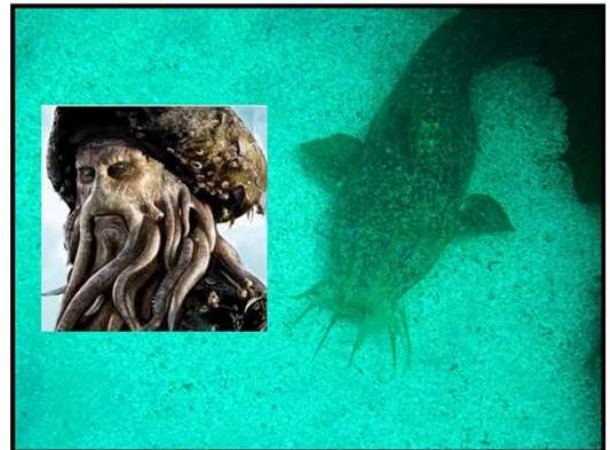
My teens did their SCUBA course last year. I love diving with my 'kids' and pointing out things for them to look at. We live down south so most of their diving has been at Bass Point.

Recently I dived with my daughter Kara. On her first dive at The Steps at Kurnell, I was hoping to find her first weedy sea dragon. We dived on the incoming tide and visibility was about 6 to 8 m. Temperature on my gauge said 15 degrees but it didn't feel that cold. On entering, we headed straight to the sand and followed the weed line towards the Leap, exploring the sponge gardens and taking photos.

Kara is my favourite dive buddy, we take photos of the same things, (we often get home to compare photos and find we have taken photos of the same things without realising it) We get cold at the same time and have similar air consumption. The perfect dive buddy!



The resident blue grouper hassled us for a while, being very pushy, obviously wanting an urchin. He had a little tantrum, it was as if he was saying "Well if you're not going to feed me, I'm going to rip up the garden!". I just wish I had been videoing at the time, he made quite a mess.



We found some Port Jackson sharks, a big mosaic leatherjacket, a school of lined catfish and a large estuarine catfish which reminded us of "Davy Jones" out of one of the Pirates of the Caribbean movies. 55 minutes into the dive and I still hadn't found her a weedy, but when we got back to the steps I thought I will just check out where the weed meets the sand again and we found one.

We spent the next 10 minutes watching it feed and taking photos. It was a great 75 minute dive and I got some lovely photos of Kara with the weedy.

I'm looking forward to summer, going back to my 3mm wetsuit and meeting more club members. See you in the water!

Barrens Hut

By Ian Hittmann

I did a dive on 23rd Oct '18 from Sea John with Maxine, Eddie and Mike, and John Beddie did a boat-sit and kept an eye on MakCat while Michael, Les and Jason dived together.

Conditions were good for the run down to Barren's Hut as there were stronger winds predicted for later, so we wanted to get a double dive in before that happened.

Viz was reasonable, and our crew headed down The Split towards the sandy area at the end, and there were many PJ's lying on the sand bottom waiting to be photographed. My interest is macro and I was after small stuff, so as soon as I reached the area where the blue ascidians are on the low ledge near open water, the second ascidian I looked at had a small sea horse wrapped around its stem. I was using a 60mm lens and had a super-macro converter if required, but for the first time I was using a viewfinder with a 45° angled eye piece. Even though this magnifies the subject, I struggled to get the camera angle right, after being so used to looking through a normal viewfinder and straight at my subject. Fiddling around at the same time with the viewfinder dioptr adjustment, getting my exposure correct and strobes pointed properly, gave the sea horse time to take evasive action and keep hiding behind stem of the ascidian. Anyway, it all came together eventually, but the new viewfinder will take some practice. The upside is that I can lay the camera on the bottom to get head shots of nudies etc, but not be lying on the bottom myself where I might damage something.



Soon, I saw torches flashing me as the others had found what we were looking for..... Donut Nembrotha nudibranchs. These seem to always be on the same blue ascidians, and this one spot is definitely the 'go-to' place to see quite a few of them at one time. I remember that after the great east coast low which did all the coastal damage a few years ago, when I dived Barren's Hut shortly after, there were none to be seen, even though the blue ascidians survived.

I was diving on nitrox, but the others were on air, and after 35 minutes at that depth on the sand, it was time to head back to the anchor. The 15.6° water also helped.



We came back to Jibbon and had morning tea, before Sea John headed out and back down the coast for another dive. Only Mike and I backed up for a second, and there was not much macro for me, except for a small sponge about the size of the palm of your hand, which had six tiny nudies on the arms, along with several tiny crabs, so it was time for the super-macro to see what I could capture. The arms were moving back and forth in the surge, I had to anchor my legs around a rock, and I was still struggling with the new viewfinder, but I managed to get a few keepers. I didn't notice the tiny crabs until I downloaded to my computer at home.

The water was the same temperature, but I was freezing compared to the first dive.

Back on the boat we were joined by the Westpac helicopter at very low altitude above us, as they

searched for the body of someone who went missing in the Royal National Park.



A good day diving with nice people, and thanks to John for the boat ride.

Bare Island 13 Oct '18 **By Paul Pacey**

The weather during the week before this dive was pretty ordinary with lots of rain and strong winds but the water visibility at Kurnell had been very good. The tide Gods had also lined up the perfect tide for a Leap to The Steps dive.

Nonetheless the swell was forecast to be SE on the Saturday which is a bad call for jumping in at The Leap and a forecast strong NE wind wasn't going to make an exit at The Steps very pretty either. After surveying the conditions on the Thursday before I decided to move the dive to Bare Island as we could dive on the sheltered west side of the island.

About 5:00am Saturday morning I was woken by torrential rain - oh Yay! However, when we arrived at Bare Island the sun was out, the wind was zip, and the swell was slight. It was satisfying (for me) to look across to The Leap and see a lot of white water - good call Paul (occasionally I get something right).

So 5 divers geared up - Eddie Ivers, Ken Ridley, Bob Hill, Bill Rowland and myself. We hit the water on the western side where the water was a pleasant 18C. Unfortunately, the vis was only about 5M at the entry and a bit surgy. The vis improved to about 10M as we ventured around to the deep wall.

We figured that we should see some really neat stuff on the dive because not one of us had a camera - we were all counting on Eddie!

We found quite a few small Nudibranchs along the way, mostly Bennet's, which are not hard on the eyes. Then we found a pretty large wobby which was quickly upstaged when Bob found a large Eastern Blue Devilfish who was not spooked at all by our presence. He probably noticed that we didn't have cameras! Then, whilst searching for an Anglerfish, we managed to find two Red Indianfish.

After 40 minutes we were along the deep wall which is a very beautiful place to be, if you're a diver. Turning around we headed slowly back to the exit which we reached with a total dive time of 70 minutes.

Everyone agreed that it was a cruisy dive just as they all should be! Coffee on the deck of the museum overlooking the bay was a great finale.

Frenchman's Bay Annual BBQ / Dive Day

11 November '18

Story by Bill Rowland

Photos by Michael McFadyen & Jane Scarsbrook

The annual Frenchman's Bay (Summer edition) Dive and BBQ was held on November 11th and a fun day was had by all.



Six boats were able to come: *MakCat*, *Kraken*, *Argonaut*, *Aquanaut*, *Katz Too*, and *R2*. All 56 boat places were filled, and the weather gods smiled on us. Water conditions were so good I was tempted to skip the event and do Shark Point

or Voodoo shore dive, but I decided against that... Not only would it be poor form, I wouldn't have any buddies!!!

For the first dive everyone went to Bypass Reef, and divers surfaced brimming with enthusiasm about the dive. Those in the know followed Kelly, and this stalking was rewarded with two Pygmy Pipe Horses being spotted.

The boat minders were all very mellow from an hour on the water in nice tranquil conditions, too.

The 1st group of divers were returned to shore and the second group departed for a combination of Henry Head and Bypass Reef. On Kraken, Mike Scotland, Dick Fish, Jasmine, and I dived Henry Head as a drift dive on an incoming tide. There was lots to see: Red Indian Fish, several octopus, a cuttle with perfectly matching texture and colour of the surrounding plantlife, multiple weedies, and some decent schools of fish too.

It was only Jasmine's 2nd dive of the season, and her underwater, organic, recycled, liquid, heating system (patent pending) ran out mid-dive. The poor thing dropped from 100 bar to 50 bar in minutes, so a turgid SMB was deployed and Kraken came to collect us.



Returning to shore, the real magic then happened, starting with a fabulous serving of bacon and egg rolls for brunch. The main course was a balanced mix of steak, sausages, and some veggie / salad stuff. Ray Edwards was hard at work all morning and he and Eda are to be commended for doing such a good job, thank you. He was ably supported by many helpers,

including those who prepared all the salads and Potato-bake, thank you.

The original land-based organiser had to pull out and Eda kindly stepped up to take on the role. Well done.

In total some 70 people attended. The catering was judged to perfection with no real surplus, nor anyone going without. 5 dozen eggs, 40 bacon slices, 85 sausages, 80 breadrolls about 65 yearling steaks, and 2 bags of onions. Many, delicious, home-cooked desserts and sweets were also temptingly offered and enthusiastically accepted.



Gorgeous weather. Great diving. Fun people. A bountiful spread. Many, many club members contributing in a wide variety of ways, and everyone had a good time. A great club event. Thank you all.

MEMBER PROFILES

A new addition to this edition of Sea Braggin' is "Member Profiles" where we get to 'meet' various club members & learn a bit about them.

First profile to be featured is:

MIKE FOUNTANDEZ

- How long have you been a member of SGSC?
5 years

- What inspired you to get into scuba Diving?

I've always been an ocean lover. While living in California, I had an up-close-and-personal underwater meeting with a sea lion while snorkelling and decided then and there that I needed to go get certified. When we stared eye to eye

under a kelp patch in San Diego, it was a fantastic moment (maybe for both of us).

- When did you first get certified?
Immediately after the above story, in November 2009
- How many dives have you logged?
Logged? About 150. Estimated, about 300
- Level of certification?
AOW/Rescue
- Favourite type of diving?
Kelp forest, exploration and light recovery/salvage.
- Favourite dive sites?
Shark Point, Channel Islands (CA), Monterey (CA).
- Favourite critters to see?
Nudibranchs, sharks, cuttlefish, lobsters.
- Have you been on any dive holidays?
Mostly not just for diving, but always as part of a balanced adventure. Mexico, Belize, California liveaboards, GBR/Yongala, England (never again)
- Oh shit!! Moments?
Exploring the Currajong and having my compass affected by the steel wreck, having my dive buddy accidentally knee a 1.5m electric torpedo ray during a night dive and having it flatten against his chest,
- Things you've learnt?
Don't fear the unknown, just be prepared for it. The world has so much more that's different than is the same; explore to find as much as possible! And never forget that there's always more under the surface.
- Has diving changed your life?
Yes. It opens up so much more of this world to exploration and adventure.
- Does anyone else in your family dive?
Nope, I'm the only one. Trying to get the family to learn though!

Next up is:

TAMMALEE BUTCHER



- How long have you been a member of SGSC?
3 years
- What inspired you to get into scuba Diving?
I love the water
- When did you first get certified?
2005
- How many dives have you logged?
I haven't logged since about 100 dives. But, I've dived over 250 times.
- Level of certification?
AOW
- Favourite type of diving?
Photography
- Favourite dive sites?
Bass Point, Shellharbour. The Leap & Steps, Kurnel. Philippines
- Favourite critters to see?
Cuttle Fish, Nudi's & Weedy's
- Have you been on any dive holidays?
Yes
- Oh shit!! Moments?
Can't find the boat anchor and I'm on my own in a strong current
- Things you've learnt?
Breathing slowly.
- Has diving changed your life?
Yes. It has chilled me and I met my partner through diving.
- Does anyone else in your family dive?
No
- Anything else you'd like to add?
No

MEMBERS BOATS

“MakCat”



Owner: Michael & Kelly McFadyen
 Boat: Sailfish 5500 catamaran
 Size: 6.2m overall, 2.4m wide
 Can carry 5 divers with a
 Max. speed of over 30 kn.
 Motor: Twin 75hp Mercury 4 strokes.
 Name: *MakCat*
 (as in **Michael And Kelly's Catamaran**)
 Age: 23 years
 Equipment: Depth sounder, chart plotter,
 GPS, AIS, VHF radio, oxygen reviver, dive
 ladder, deco line & cross-over line, oxygen for
 deep dives, dedicated dive gear bin, storage for
 dry clothes etc, two anchors, mermaid, many
 spare diving equipment & parts. Lots more.

The boat was built in 1995 near Lismore. It seems to have had one owner till about 1995 and spent most of its time being used for fishing at Jervis Bay. The owner we bought it from, changed the engines from 2-stroke to 4-stroke but realised it was too big for him to launch & retrieve on his own.

In early 2016, Kelly & I decided it was time to replace our dive boat, *Le Scat*. This boat was a Marlin Broadbill originally purchased by Les Caterson in 1992 & in 1999 I bought a half share. In 2011, Kelly & I purchased the boat outright. By 2016, *Le Scat* was very tired & was beyond repair. After searching for a long time, we found another Broadbill which we attempted to buy, but were unsuccessful. In the end we purchased a boat that was to become *MakCat*.



Thank you, Michael, for this providing the info on 'MakCat'.

If any other boat owners would like to have their boat featured in the next newsletter, please let me know via email.

MEMBERS PHOTOS & VIDEOS

I know that there are quite a few keen photographers in the club so, get on board and send me some of your photos or links to video clips to be featured here!

REGULAR EVENTS

Monthly Meetings

The next 2 meetings of the St George Scuba Club will be held on Wednesday 19th December 2018 and Wednesday 16th January 2019 at St. George 16ft Sailing Club, Sanoni Ave, Dolls Point at 8.00 pm. Come along about 7 pm and enjoy a meal at the bistro.

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

Night Wreck Dive - Saturday 15th December 2018 Sydney Harbour

Saturday night is the night we are diving on the SS Currajong. This dive can only be done after all shipping within the harbour has finished.

So, it is going to go ahead at 1:00am.

Should be quite exciting!

Australia Day Shore Dive / BBQ The Monument Flat, Kurnell. Saturday 26th January 2019

What better way to celebrate Australia Day than with a BBQ and a dive at Captain Cooks landing place!

A great chance to meet other members and enjoy a BBQ.

For details, contact: Mark Arrowsmith
(mra67@live.com).

Volunteers would be appreciated to help out on the day.

CALENDAR DIVES

Saturday 22nd December 2108

Shore Dive

Oak Park or Shiprock

Contact: Eddie Ivers –

eddieivers@iprimus.com.au

Saturday 5th January 2019

Boat Dive

The Balcony

Meet at Yowie Bay/ RMYC

Contact: Phil Short

phsasso@optusnet.com.au

Saturday 12th January 2019

Shore Dive Voodoo / Kurnell

Contact: Bob Hill – rrahill1@optusnet.com.au

Saturday 19th January 2019

Deep Wreck Dive

SS Tuggerah

Meet at Yowie Bay RMYC

Contact: Ian Roffey

ianroffey@gmail.com

Sunday 27th January 2019

Boat Dive

Pistol Crack

Contact: Ida DiCamillo

edadicamillo@bigpond.com

The Committee for 2018/19 is:

PRESIDENT:	Michael McFadyen	0407 276 556	President@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
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SECRETARY:	Ian Roffey		Secretary@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
TREASURER:	Aidan Slevin		Treasurer@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
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Please send items for the Newsletter to me
