



# Sea Braggin'

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

June 2008

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. George Photo Comp. 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2008 by Ron Walsh

The second St George photo competition was held at Bare Island on 3 May 2008. It was a lovely sunny day, with 9 divers attending.

There were 5 photographers (Roxanne Fea, Bram Harris, Brian Byrnes, Michael McFadyen and Ron Walsh) and 4 spotter/models (Donna Cassidy, Ian Gowan, Jason Coombs and Richard Arnott)!

Water conditions were mixed, with a small swell rolling and visibility in the order of 6m.

The dive briefing was given – there were three categories – macro (closer than 300mm), wide angle (greater than 300mm) and diver (photo with a diver in it).

Each photographer was able to submit 3 photos in each category. Post processing was limited to cropping, de-spotting and colour balancing.



**Group Photo before the dive**

We had our group hug photo taken and then did a dive to the isolated reefs. On this dive the photography subjects varied from seahorses to cuttlefish to various varieties of fish.

Due to the visibility it was not a good dive for the wide angle or diver categories!

This was followed by morning tea on the grass in the sun, a quick tank change, and a second dive, some to the left side of the island looking for better/different subjects and others out past seahorse point.

Conditions for this dive were probably worse than the first dive as the tide was lower but everyone persevered.

There were 15 photographs submitted for the macro category, 4 for the wide angle category, and 5 for the diver category.

These were organized into a slideshow presentation and judging was carried out by the club members at the May meeting.

An encouragement award was also presented and this was determined by the committee to be for the photo that obtained the largest number of votes without winning a category.

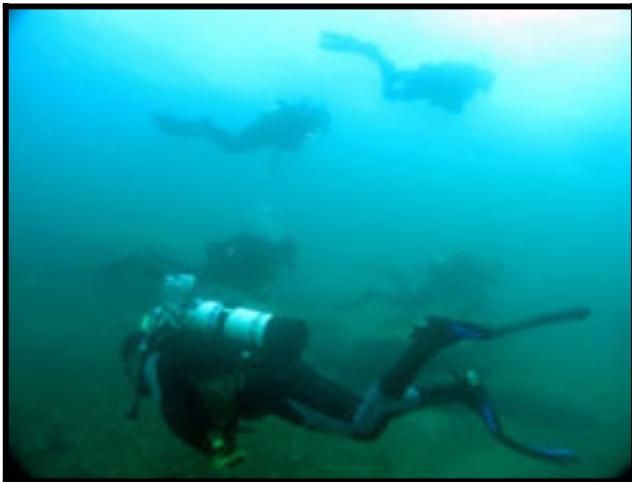
The winners were:



**Macro – Roxanne Fea with this fantastic shot of a pink/purple cowrie**



Wide angle – Bram Harris with this front on shot of a large cuttlefish



Diver – Roxanne Fea with this shot showing peak hour diver traffic.

Encouragement – Michael McFadyen with a shot of orange finger sponges.

Many thanks to all those who participated, to Ian Gowan for the slide show projector, and to all the members for acting as judges.

*(...and a special thanks to Ron Walsh himself for organising the competition!)*

**Undersea Explorer – Just 10 seconds made the trip!**

**15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

**By Ray Moulang**

As part of our underwater dive yearly schedule a group of 12 of us recently went on the live-a-board out to the Great Barrier Reef and especially to Osprey Reef.

Over the years you hear all about it from other dive club members and all this does is get you intrigued as to how good it really is. I went along on this trip specifically to see sharks; manta's and masses of coral.

Well of course words can hardly explain how great it was. Far beat my wildest expectations.

Funny but about 10 seconds on the East Wall just over half way into the trip really left us in awe.



**Hammers – by Ray Moulang**



**More Hammers – by Ray Moulang**

Here we were just slowly pottering along the wall into the current when all of a sudden we looked up and saw this huge school of Hammer

Head Sharks just appear out of nowhere going along down current.

To say this was fantastic is an understatement. I was lucky enough to have my camera on and just poked it out and blasted off three shots and on the third zoomed in a bit.



**More, More Hammers! – by Ray Moulang**

Somewhere hereabouts are the shots. The size of them seemed about 2 1/2 to 3 metres and the numbers varied from 20 to 50. Who knows, but I got thirteen in the best shot. I'm sure others will give there stories on what happened on the trip but this really made it great. If you get a chance to go - just do it. RayM.

**Boat Dive – The Hilda**

**3<sup>rd</sup> April 2008**

**by Clint Emmett**

On Saturday 17th, we set out from Port Botany in Sea John with John B, myself, Dick Fish, Heinz & John Prior on board to dive the Hilda.

Weather was fine with strong winds forecast around midday. Seas were fairly flat as we motored out of the heads and through the construction zone of the De-sal outfall.

At the Hilda, John B & Heinz debated about the exact location of the wreck, one armed with land mark knowledge, the other with GPS.

In the end, the GPS won the argument & as it turned out, we anchored right above the wreck.

We were joined shortly after by Le Scat with Les, Sheila, Michael, Mark Ridsdale & Mark's Son.

Also Ian Gowan, Peter Flockart, Peter Trayhurn & Dave Casburn on Ian's boat.

Wreck was the operative word, with just the prop, engine & winch as recognizable parts.

Fish life was a bit scarce. There was a large cuttlefish holding it's ground, so I gave it the ultimate camouflage challenge by placing my yellow fin next to it.

Visibility was a reasonable 12 metres and water temp 18 deg.

After the dive all 3 boats adjourned to the shelter of Boat Harbour for a spectacular lunch. After about an hour at Boat Harbour, the N E wind had increased making the trip back to Botany Bay a bit on the wet side.

We found good shelter under Henry's Head and with very little current at low tide and anchored up for a second dive.

John Prior & myself enjoyed a 30 minute dive in one of the best sponge gardens I've seen. Clint Emmett.




**Membership Renewal**

Membership of the Club is due for renewal prior to 30th June 2008.

Please pay your fees of \$25.00 per member to the Treasurer (Mark Ridsdale) and complete a membership renewal form (available on the website).

Your renewal will entitle you to many benefits including trip and member subsidies.

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Monthly Meetings

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2008 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

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

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

### Other Dives

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

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

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

## UP AND COMING EVENTS

### Boat Dive – Pizza Reef

14<sup>th</sup> June 2008

If you are interested in coming, please contact Sheila Baldock Ph. 95250746.

### Terrigal Deep Diving Weekend - 20 to 22 June

This is a weekend trip to Terrigal to dive the deep wrecks SS Galava and SS Kiama. Both are over 40 metres, so the trip is only for suitably qualified, experienced and equipped divers.

We will be travelling up after work on Friday 20 June and staying Friday and Saturday Night at Avoca in apartments. Cost will be about \$80 for accommodation and \$80 for diving.

Contact Michael McFadyen Ph. 6545 5596 for more information and to discuss your suitability if you are not one of the Club's regular deep divers. A deposit of \$50 paid to the Treasurer secures your spot.

### Shore Dive – Ship Rock

21<sup>st</sup> June 2008

If you are interested in coming, please contact Paul Pacey Ph. 95250746.

### Boat Dive – Cape Banks

29<sup>th</sup> June 2008

If you are interested in coming, please contact Michael Wright Ph. 9453 5748.

### Shore Dive – Swansea Bridge

5<sup>th</sup> July 2008

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

### Shore Dive – Bare Island Deep Drift

6<sup>th</sup> July 2008

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

### Morton Bay Trip on Big Cat Reality

Unfortunately, Big Cat Reality is booked out for the week-end that we had planned (18-21 July). However, they have spots available on the week-end of 8th – 10th August.

The cost is \$600 which includes:

- 8 Dives
- Tanks and weights
- Accommodation and all meals aboard Big Cat Reality, Fri (night), Sat, Sun + breakfast Mon
- Transport to and from Brisbane Airport
- Dive Master Services (required in QLD)
- Fuel levy

More info about the boat and diving can be found at <http://www.bigcatreality.com/>

Flights to/from Brisbane to be booked individually in addition to the above cost.

Please contact Kelly if you are interested in this trip.

### Xmas in July

Will be held again this yr on the 26th July at – The Heathcote Citizens & Services Club. Everyone who attended last year thoroughly enjoyed themselves so come along & make a great night of it. Prices to be announced shortly. Please contact Peter Flockart Ph. 9371 0265 if you are interested.

**Port Stephens Away Trip**

Superb shore dives. Great boat dives. Warmer water. Yes, it has it all.

The trip is for the weekend of August 2nd & 3rd. The plan is an excellent shore dive each morning on the high tide, followed by a stunning boat dive with ProDive the afternoon.

The accommodation and boat dives will cost about \$220 each (depending on numbers).

To secure a spot contact Brian Byrnes (brian.byrnes@pobox.com, 41982 2243), and pay a \$50 deposit to Mark.

**FOSTER WEEKEND AWAY - SEPTEMBER - 19TH to 21ST - 2008**

Divers,

I have a booking for 8 Divers for this weekend, diving with Ron Hunter out of Fisherman's Wharf.

Its really great diving up there, I will arrange the Sitara wreck dive, usually on the Saturday if there are enough divers to go out.

Other spectacular dives include

THE PINNACLES

EDITH REEFS

SEAL ROCKS SHARKS

Please contact Dave Burns Ph. 9531 4403 if you are interested.

**Palau Trip – Oct / Nov 2008**

Dave Castle is organising this trip. Please contact him for details Ph. 0415 186 184.

**FULL**

**OTHER NEWS**

The Rose Family - Daniel Rose the (17 yo) eldest son of Phil & Vicki Rose is undergoing treatment in hospital and is currently very unwell. The most recent news on Daniel's condition is somewhat positive with reports that Daniel's tumours are not getting any bigger. Please continue with your positive thoughts and prayers for Daniel's speedy recovery.

**THAILAND MARCH 2009**

Feeling adventurous - the following is some prices for a trip to the Simian Islands leaving Phuket for 4 days (5 Nights) on a liveaboard. Total of 4 days diving = 16 dives. the average cost per dive after discount assuming 28 baht :\$Aud is about \$56.00.

I have dived with these guys before and now they have a new boat which looks great.

Obviously it would be great to stitch this excursion with an extended holiday. There are deals to be done or alternatively those that wish to stitch their own deal due to frequent flyers and timeshares can do so.

Indicative cost assuming Aud:28Baht and after 20% discount is detailed below.

The boat with all in cost is \$900 - \$1000 for the 16 dives.

Deals regularly offered is stay 8 nights, including airfares and transfers for about \$1300 - \$1400. Add some spending money (Guys add \$1.50, girls \$1500.00) and that would be about right. I guess a budget of \$3000 will see you sloshed, well feed and some tailor made gear to bring home.

Check out the website [www.diveasia.com](http://www.diveasia.com) the new boat comes on line in November 2008.

Thinking about the tripSM 28 - 14th - 18th March 09.

What I have done in the past is to arrive in Phuket in the AM of departure of the dive boat - check what I gear I don't want with the hotel I am booked to stay with when I get off the boat. Spend that day at the hotel (pool etc) and then get picked up and delivered back to the hotel - works well

For those that are serious a deposit will be required say 25% of the Dive boat cost (\$say \$250.00) to secure your spot. Let me know whether you want a Travel Deal or whether you want to do your own thing.

Will be confirming in about 60 days time with Dive Asia - so check out your holidays and \$\$\$cash availability.

Please contact Mark Ridsdale if you are interested Ph. 0419 243717

## Sydney Tides June 2008

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High
Sun 1	5:28 AM EST / 1.36 m	11:28 AM EST / 0.34 m	5:59 PM EST / 1.75 m		
Mon 2		12:35 AM EST / 0.29 m	6:29 AM EST / 1.34 m	12:18 PM EST / 0.33 m	6:50 PM EST / 1.85 m
Tue 3		1:33 AM EST / 0.19 m	7:30 AM EST / 1.32 m	1:09 PM EST / 0.33 m	7:42 PM EST / 1.92 m
Wed 4		2:29 AM EST / 0.11 m	8:27 AM EST / 1.30 m	2:01 PM EST / 0.34 m	8:34 PM EST / 1.95 m
Thu 5		3:25 AM EST / 0.08 m	9:24 AM EST / 1.27 m	2:53 PM EST / 0.36 m	9:27 PM EST / 1.93 m
Fri 6		4:21 AM EST / 0.09 m	10:21 AM EST / 1.24 m	3:48 PM EST / 0.40 m	10:21 PM EST / 1.87 m
Sat 7		5:17 AM EST / 0.14 m	11:19 AM EST / 1.23 m	4:47 PM EST / 0.45 m	11:17 PM EST / 1.77 m
Sun 8		6:12 AM EST / 0.20 m	12:16 PM EST / 1.23 m	5:48 PM EST / 0.51 m	
Mon 9	12:12 AM EST / 1.66 m	7:04 AM EST / 0.28 m	1:13 PM EST / 1.25 m	6:52 PM EST / 0.57 m	
Tue 10	1:07 AM EST / 1.53 m	7:54 AM EST / 0.36 m	2:12 PM EST / 1.29 m	8:00 PM EST / 0.63 m	
Wed 11	2:04 AM EST / 1.41 m	8:41 AM EST / 0.43 m	3:10 PM EST / 1.35 m	9:11 PM EST / 0.65 m	
Thu 12	3:02 AM EST / 1.31 m	9:25 AM EST / 0.48 m	4:01 PM EST / 1.42 m	10:17 PM EST / 0.65 m	
Fri 13	3:58 AM EST / 1.23 m	10:06 AM EST / 0.51 m	4:47 PM EST / 1.50 m	11:15 PM EST / 0.61 m	
Sat 14	4:51 AM EST / 1.18 m	10:44 AM EST / 0.52 m	5:28 PM EST / 1.56 m		
Sun 15		12:05 AM EST / 0.56 m	5:40 AM EST / 1.16 m	11:23 AM EST / 0.52 m	6:07 PM EST / 1.62 m
Mon 16		12:50 AM EST / 0.50 m	6:27 AM EST / 1.16 m	12:03 PM EST / 0.51 m	6:45 PM EST / 1.66 m
Tue 17		1:31 AM EST / 0.44 m	7:12 AM EST / 1.17 m	12:44 PM EST / 0.50 m	7:24 PM EST / 1.68 m
Wed 18		2:10 AM EST / 0.38 m	7:56 AM EST / 1.18 m	1:25 PM EST / 0.49 m	8:02 PM EST / 1.70 m
Thu 19		2:48 AM EST / 0.34 m	8:38 AM EST / 1.19 m	2:05 PM EST / 0.49 m	8:40 PM EST / 1.70 m
Fri 20		3:27 AM EST / 0.32 m	9:19 AM EST / 1.20 m	2:45 PM EST / 0.50 m	9:18 PM EST / 1.68 m
Sat 21		4:06 AM EST / 0.31 m	10:00 AM EST / 1.20 m	3:24 PM EST / 0.51 m	9:56 PM EST / 1.66 m
Sun 22		4:45 AM EST / 0.32 m	10:42 AM EST / 1.20 m	4:04 PM EST / 0.54 m	10:34 PM EST / 1.63 m
Mon 23		5:24 AM EST / 0.33 m	11:25 AM EST / 1.21 m	4:47 PM EST / 0.58 m	11:13 PM EST / 1.60 m
Tue 24		6:03 AM EST / 0.35 m	12:09 PM EST / 1.24 m	5:36 PM EST / 0.61 m	11:55 PM EST / 1.54 m
Wed 25		6:42 AM EST / 0.37 m	12:56 PM EST / 1.29 m	6:33 PM EST / 0.63 m	
Thu 26	12:43 AM EST / 1.48 m	7:24 AM EST / 0.39 m	1:48 PM EST / 1.35 m	7:39 PM EST / 0.64 m	
Fri 27	1:39 AM EST / 1.39 m	8:12 AM EST / 0.41 m	2:46 PM EST / 1.44 m	8:56 PM EST / 0.61 m	
Sat 28	2:48 AM EST / 1.31 m	9:05 AM EST / 0.42 m	3:45 PM EST / 1.55 m	10:13 PM EST / 0.52 m	
Sun 29	4:02 AM EST / 1.26 m	10:02 AM EST / 0.42 m	4:43 PM EST / 1.67 m	11:24 PM EST / 0.41 m	
Mon 30	5:13 AM EST / 1.23 m	10:59 AM EST / 0.41 m	5:39 PM EST / 1.77 m		

### The Committee for 2007 – 2008 is:

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Kelly McFadyen	6545 5596	<a href="mailto:President@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au">President@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au</a>
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT:</b>	Peter Flockart	9371 0265	<a href="mailto:pjflockart@speednet.com.au">pjflockart@speednet.com.au</a>
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Shiela Baldock	9520 9421	<a href="mailto:Secretary@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au">Secretary@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au</a>
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**Please send items for the Newsletter to me by the 28th of the month**

# Kelly & Michael's Housewarming!

A party for 'Hobbits' and 'Clownfish' hosted at  
Anemone Place!



When: Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July 5pm

Where: 11 Anemone Place Kirrawee

BBQ provided

BYO drinks (home brew provided) & a dessert or nibbles

RSVP: by 12<sup>th</sup> July

(come as a 'Hobbit' or 'Clownfish')



Hobbits live in the Shire

Hobbit height ranges between two and four feet tall.

Hobbits have pointed ears.

Hobbits have oversized feet and never wear shoes.

Hobbits love to eat (six substantial meals a day) and brew ale  
Hobbits are also called "Little Folk," "Little People," or "Halflings."

They have curly hair