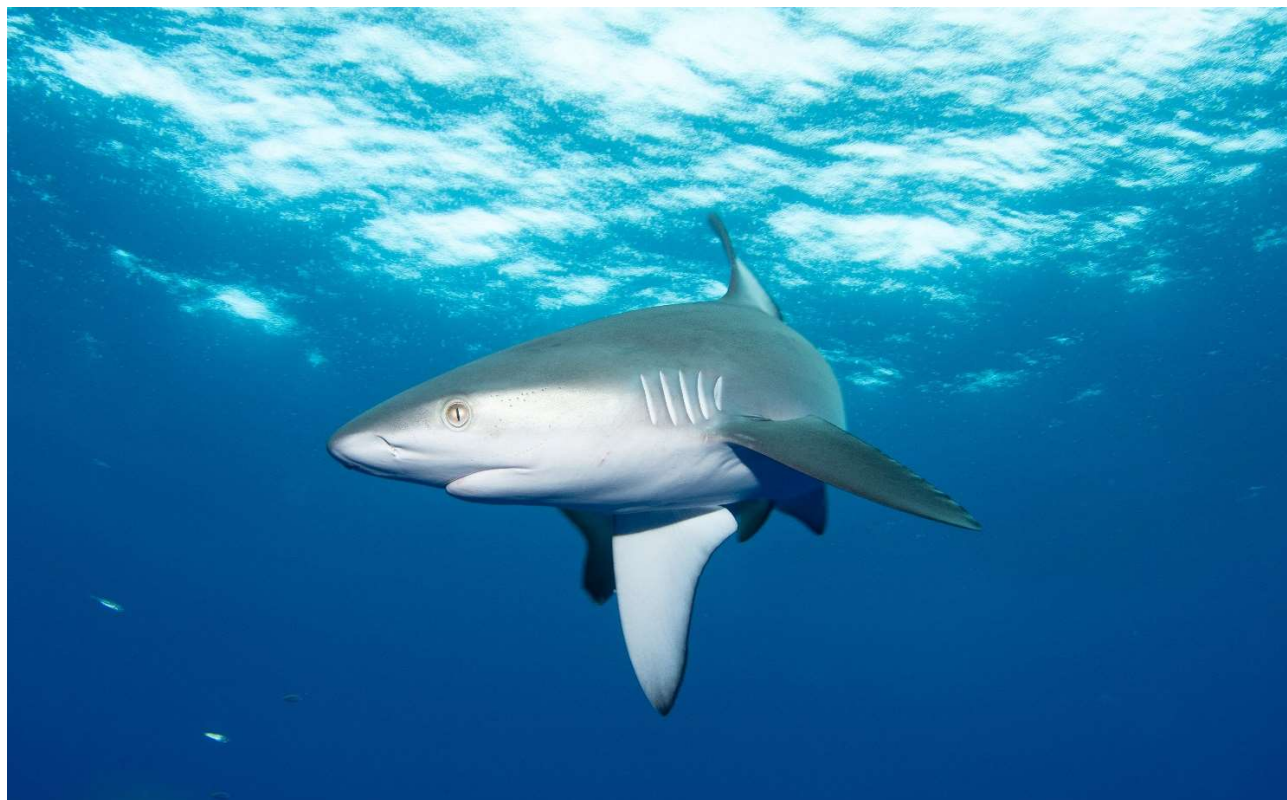




## St George Scuba Club Newsletter

December 2021 – January  
2022.



*Galapagos Whaler Shark. Lord Howe Island.*

*Photo: David Short.*

Each issue of the club newsletter will feature a different cover photo from one of our club members, representing our diverse interests in marine life. We have some outstanding photographers in the club so please share some your best photos with our members.

Please submit any articles and photos to me at [newsletter@StGeorgeScubaClub.org.au](mailto:newsletter@StGeorgeScubaClub.org.au)

Dive stories and photos are not restricted to organised club dives. Things like "I learned from that..." recent courses, equipment and general interest diving / diving photography articles are also welcome.

Regards. Phil

## Hammerheads at South West Rocks

**Text and photo by Rob Chenery**

Three years ago I booked a trip to dive Cocos Is out of Costa Rica. It's now been deferred 3 times and certainly won't happen until at least 2023. At the same time I have heard about the Hammerheads at SWR during Nov to January so I have pursued that also for the last 3 years. Last year on a club stay we missed it by one day. This year I got some incredible video shots. Many in the water that day didn't see them, others did but didn't get the shots. Another cheeky Irishman suggested I had some file footage.

So how was I so lucky. Well perseverance wasn't enough. On this dive we were with Albert and he stopped at the Aquarium looking into the deep water on the current line. I couldn't see anything even when he was pointing so we delayed and finally in the distance where there was waves of murky water followed by clean water I saw them and tried to get a decent shot, but no.

Then another group from St George swam in and for some minutes all I saw were their bubbles whipped along in the current before they swam away. Alberts group stayed another 5 minutes and the water cleared and the school of at least 50 Hammerheads swam overhead. We were in about 20 m so my guess was the distance was 15 m away. I asked one buddy with a GoPro how his shots came out. No good too far not enough definition so I didn't ask those with macro lenses on their camera. So what equipment was I using have given up on GoPro. Well it was my newish SeaLife Micro 3 with 16MP SONY 1/2.3 Image Sensor, 4K@120 fps Video All up we spent 20 minutes and the video I kept is 41 seconds That's it. I don't care now if I don't get to Cocos Is. mission accomplished.





## St George Scuba Club Christmas party and dive 5 December 2021

By Ron Walsh

Photos by Ron and Donna Walsh

The St George Christmas Party Dive and Luncheon was held at Kurnell on Sunday 5 December 2021. In all there were 17 divers who donned their dive gear and had an excellent dive from Inscription Point (The Whales) to The Monument. With a high tide at around 9:30am entry into the water was around 9am giving the best conditions for the dive. The skies were overcast, a very high tide made entry interesting (but not difficult), water temperature 20C and visibility was around the 5m mark. Highlights included a yellow white's seahorse, large cuttlefish hiding under the ledge, yellow finned and pygmy leatherjackets, magpie morwong, red scorpionfish, octopus, green morays, weedy seadragons and lots of different nudibranchs. Very enjoyable dive followed by coffee and then a superb buffet luncheon. Many thanks to Jane Scarsbrook and Dave Casburn as the chief organizers and to all the other members who assisted.









Above photos taken by Ron on the Christmas party day. Great detail as usual.

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Above: Bill on the Tuggerah wreck in November 2020

Left: Bill on Argonaut after what looks like another enjoyable dive.

The Bill Rowland Memorial Dive to the wreck of the Tuggerah was to be held on Sunday 14 November 2021, to remember and celebrate a good friend to many in the club. We had three boats and 12 divers ready to go, but typical of 2021, the weather gods did not play nice for the Sunday. The forecast was much better for the Monday so Makcat and Argonaut carried eight divers to the wreck for a pleasant dive. Afterwards we returned to Jibbon for morning tea and raised a beer to Bill. Bill was one of the most active members in the club, organising the Frenchmans Bay dive days, organised Sydney dives and trips away. The dive also raised some money for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter. The memorial dive and fund raiser for the Westpac chopper is now an annual event and listed in November 2022.



L to R. John Black, Aaron, Maxine, Ian, Michael and yours truly. Out of shot Peter & Marianne Tibbitts.



## Shore dive at The Steps, Kurnell

**Text and photos by Lynne Tuck.**

On December 7th there were about 6 club members that went for a dive at the steps kurnell. We found a huge catfish ball ( Lined catfish..... *Plotosus lineatus*) hanging on the edge of the sand line near our entry point. They were juveniles about 8cm. While taking photos I noticed them surround Mike so it was a good reference to how big the ball was. From seeing posts and talking to other divers I heard it hung around for a few days.

Watch out for them in the next DiveLog issue!



Mike Scotland  
with lined Catfish,  
at Kurnell.

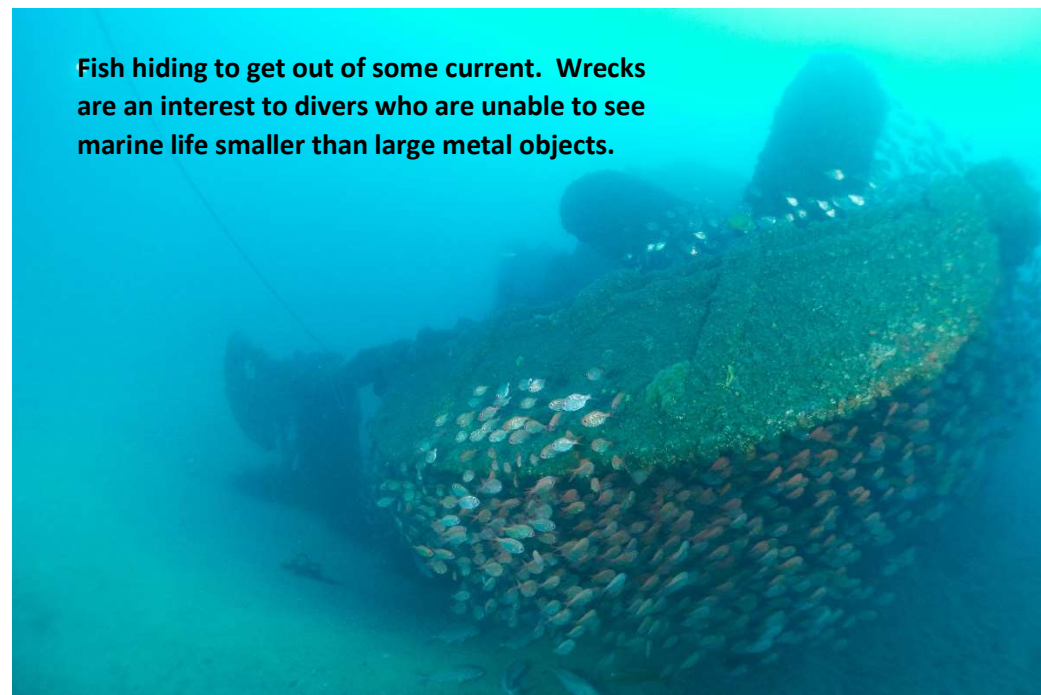
Photos by Lynne  
Tuck.

## Mid Week Wreck Dives

### Phil Short

2021 was a difficult year for diving and most other things with lockdowns, isolations and periods of bad weather. In 2021 Argonaut managed to get to the Tuggerah wreck 19 times and the Undola once. During December 2021 and January 2022, the weather gods were not kind and we only managed to get out twice to the Tuggerah in December.

The wreck dives remain popular and if you are qualified and experienced in deco diving to the 47m depth of the Tuggerah please keep a lookout for emails advertising spare spots for mid week dives.





## **RECENT BOAT DIVES**

**by Michael McFadyen**

Since the start of December, well, really since I came back from 3 months of travel in the Queensland and South Australian Outback in late September, the weather conditions for diving have been less than optimal. Since December it has been even worse, with many boat dives having to be cancelled. The following is a summary of the dives from MakCat since the start of December.

### **15 December 2021 - Middle Ground – Shelley, Kevin, Andrew M, Judy**

Club dive. Best seas for ages after third weekend in a row with strong winds and big seas. Flat but a little rolling swell, tiny bit of surge on bottom at times. Viz 10-12 m, 19.5C and slight current from N. Anchored on NE corner. Went around as normal. Lots of yellowtail and a few very large seapike. Two wobbegongs, one huge. Very nice dive, first time here for almost two months. Visibility good.

### **18 December 2021 - Henry Head – Shelley, Greg, Paul S, Kyle**

Wind from NE was up earlier than forecast and outside was very lumpy. Came back to here. Still a little bumpy, some swell and surge on bottom at 20+ m. Viz about 10 m, although some spots worse. No current, even after tide turned only very, very slight at surface. Colder than nearby Bare Island, only 19.2C. Went to S end and back past anchor and back to anchor. Only two sea dragons, both with eggs, and no sea spiders. Quite a few yellowtail and some seapike and small trevally. A large bunch of old wives too. A really nice dive. Visibility fair.

### **30 December 2021 - Shark Point - Andrew M, Joel, Bram**

Got too many divers for tomorrow's dive so decided to go out today. W winds so great run up to Clovelly. No current, little wind, viz 20 m. Could see the boat from 23 m. Went E a bit deeper and then N and back to anchor and S a little. Two wobbegongs, some cuttlefish, a few other fish. A nice dive, though no sea dragons. Other group saw a PPH! First place they were ever seen by Akos! A great dive. Visibility very good,

### **31 December 2021 - Truck Tyre Reef – Shelley, Greg, Paul S, Ian R**

A new site. Slight current and little N wind when we started. Decided to look around where Wayne was anchored yesterday, but a bit further out and NE. Reef 18 m deep till it drops to 23 m. Further out 25 m. Not as good viz as yesterday,. Anchored near a large tunnel. Went deeper and north then back to anchor. Great colourful walls and lots of tyres, mostly from trucks. Probably came from the council dump at Pistol Crack. A moray eel in a tyre, a fiddler-ray, some cuttlefish, a few nudibranchs. A really nice dive, fixed marine life the best thing. Lots of sponges, sea squirts etc. A great dive. Visibility very good.

### **8 January 2022 - Henry Head – Greg, Shelley, Andrew M, Vishal**

Club boat dive, two boats, 9 divers, was supposed to be Shark Pt but NE wind forecast and huge seas past few days put paid to that. Here little wind and no swell. Incoming tide but even that was not strong. Less than a metre viz on top, but 10 m on bottom but very cold, one computer said 14C! Went S as normal. Saw one sea dragon with eggs, lots of nudibranchs, not much else as I forgot my torch. A few black reef leatherjackets. Back to anchor and others went up as they were cold. I

stayed about 7 mins more. Saw another two sea dragons. A good but bloody cold dive. Visibility fair.

**11 January 2022 - Pizza Reef** - Greg, Shelley, Rob C, Kevin

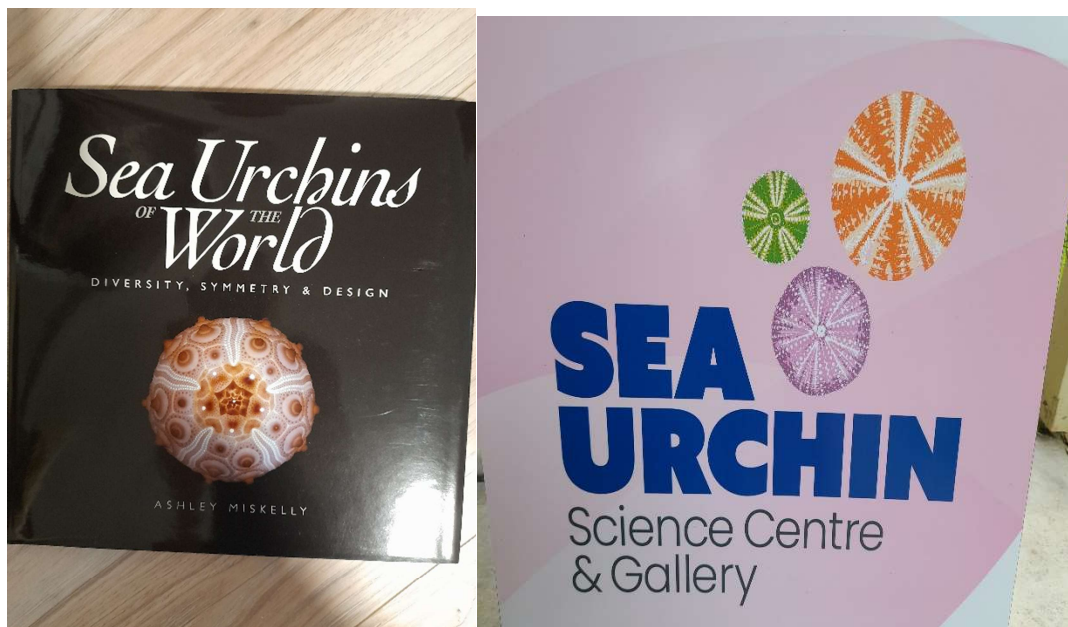
A bit sloppy as NE blew last night, little wind now and no swell. No current. Anchored on N middle section. Very dirty at about 10 m, then a little clearer but cold 15.7C. Some bastard trumpeters between anchor and Cave. No donut nembrothas anywhere. Went right around reef and down the middle. Some black reef leatherjackets, a lot of one-spot pullers on W side. Not the greatest dive. Visibility poor.

Remember, if you want to come out for a dive, reply (quickly) to my emails. You also can always ask in advance if I am going out on a certain day and put your name down before I even send an email. Good diving.

## SEA URCHIN SCIENCE CENTRE AND GALLERY

### Photos and Text by Lynne Tuck

Last year I bought a beautiful book "SEA URCHINS OF THE WORLD" by Ashley Miskelly. (A stunning collection of photos and curious information about urchins, a book I keep going back to time and again) At the time of purchase, I found out that the author has a SEA URCHIN SCIENCE CENTRE AND GALLERY at Kurragong near the base of the blue mountains.

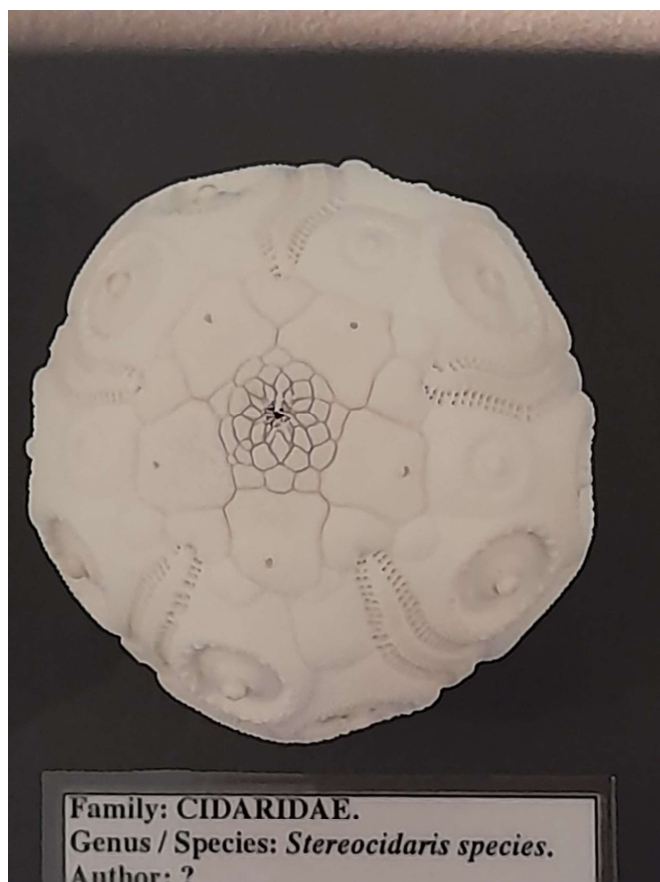
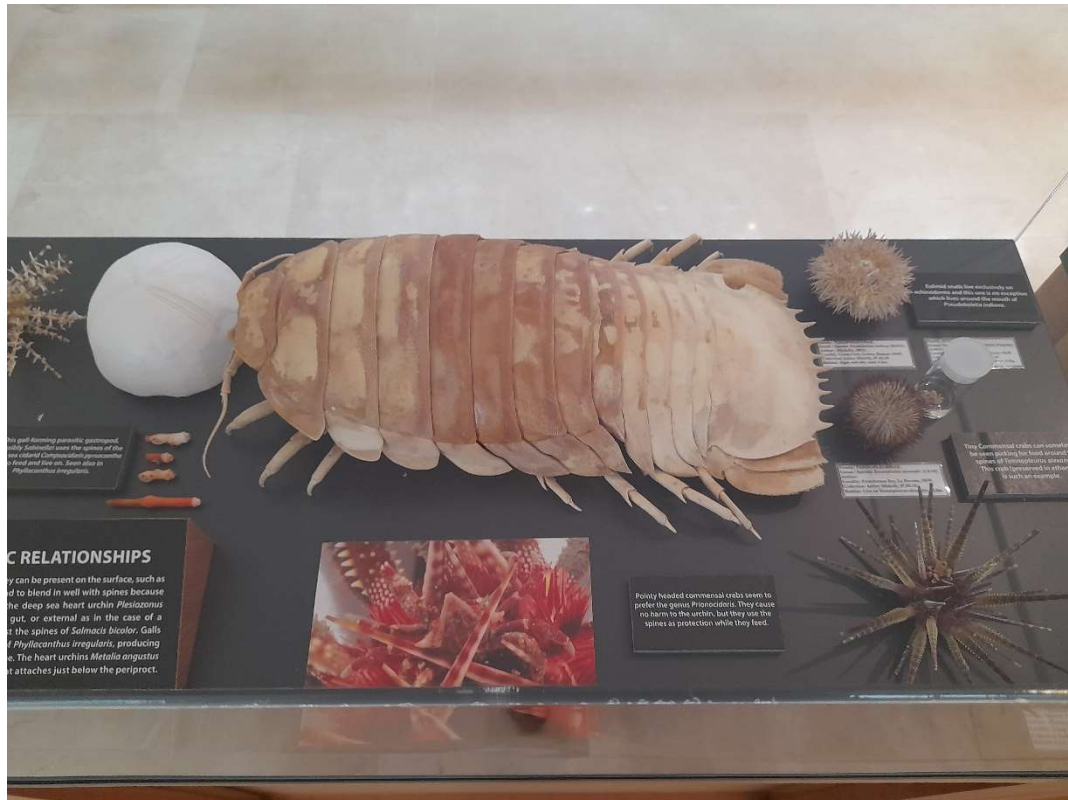


Finding myself with 3 days off and terrible diving conditions, I decided to book in a tour. There are two tours available, \$95 for 3 hrs, I paid \$115.00 for the phenomenal tour, what was meant to be a 3.5 hour tour.....I spent an information packed nearly 6 hours with Ashley and his urchins, he also has a world class shell collection and old bottles. And the giant isopods freaked me out, I didn't realise how big



they could get, these were about a foot long! Initially it may seem expensive but the amount of time and information Ashley gave me was well worth it, his urchin specimens are stunning and from all over the world. This is a world class collection with attention to detail! He has a scientific background and a photographic memory, and is happy for you to take photos, great day out and he even fed me apple pie and ice cream!!!







## Gallery



Club Xmas party. Great to see Les and Elly were there.



Newest club member  
Ryan



**Mike Scotland, Kurnell**

**Photo: Lynne Tuck**



**Grey nurse on the Tuggerah wreck**









## Botanical Gardens marine based exhibition

Photos. Marianne Tibbitts.



## Upcoming Dives

(For dive organiser contact details see club calender)

**Saturday, 12 February 2022**

**Carol Martin Memorial Dive/BBQ Bare Island La Perouse**

Kelly McFadyen

**Sunday, 13 February 2022**

**Boat Dive Bypass Reef Hole in the Wall/Port Botany**

Shelley Breuseker

**Wednesday, 16 February 2022**

**Club Meeting GRSC Dolls Point**

Maxine Hayden

**Saturday, 19 February 2022**

**Boat Dive and BBQ Frenchmans Bay La Perouse**

Ray Moulang/Eda di Camillo

**Monday, 21 February 2022 Thursday, 24 February 2022**

**Week Away Ulladulla**

Geoff Ward

**Saturday, 26 February 2022 Anniversary Dinner**

**Royal Motor Yacht Club Burraneer**

Michael McFadyen

**Friday, 4 March 2022 Sunday, 6 March 2022 Girls Weekend**

**Jervis Bay Huskisson**

Tordis Bulger 0401 955 857 t-bulger@bigpond.com

**Saturday, 5 March 2022 Deep Wreck Dive**

**SS Tuggerah Yowie Bay/RMYC**

Russ Jones

**Sunday, 6 March 2022 Shore Dive Swansea Bridge Swansea**

Michael Materazzo.

**Saturday, 12 March 2022 Boat Dive Xanadu**

**Yowie Bay/RMYC**

Michael McFadyen

**Wednesday, 16 March 2022 Club Meeting GRSC Dolls Point**

Maxine Hayden

**Friday, 18 March 2022 Sunday, 20 March 2022 Weekend Away Julian Rocks Byron Bay**



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Michael Materazzo

**Monday, 21 March 2022 Saturday, 26 March 2022 Week Away North Solitary Island Wooli**

Michael Materazzo