



Newsletter

December 2023

St George Scuba Club Newsletter - December 2023

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Vale Paul Pacey

Paul Pacey passed away on 5 January 2024 after a long illness. RIP Paul, a truly great member of the St George Scuba Club.

Paul was unanimously voted a Life Member of St George Scuba Club at our August 2023 AGM. Life membership is not bestowed lightly and reflects a long and wide commitment to a club or organisation.

Paul will be sadly missed by all members of our club.



Photo: Former President and Life Member, Michael McFadyen, presenting Paul (right) with the Life Member memento.

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Club Shore Dive The Steps, Kurnell - Sat 18 Nov 2023

Despite an iffy forecast 5 club members descended on Kurnell for a dive at The Steps, Kurnell. It turned out nice and sunny with a light NE wind, minimal swell (but a little bit of surge underwater) and visibility up to 7m with toasty warm 20C water temperature.



Ceratosoma amoenum



Courting Pygmy Leatherjackets

Once in the water the first thing found was a large lions mane jelly with a number of small resident fish in it's tentacles. We subsequently found 4 big belly seahorses, 2 pygmy pipehorses, 3 weedy seadragons, 2 upside down pipefish, more jellyfish, bullrays, cuttlefish, nurse shark and various nudibranchs. Coffee and cake and fun conversation finished off a nice diving morning.

Ron Walsh



Lion Mane Jellyfish



Gonobranthus hunterae



Hippocampus abdominalis (Big belly seahorse)



Hypselodoris bennetti



Red Idiotropiscis luminitzeri (Pygmy pipehorse)



Red Hippocampus abdominalis (Big belly seahorse)



Clingfish



Close up Cuttlefish.



Nudibranch



Weedy Sea Dragon

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Club Dive – The Inscription Point – Sat 16th Dec 2023

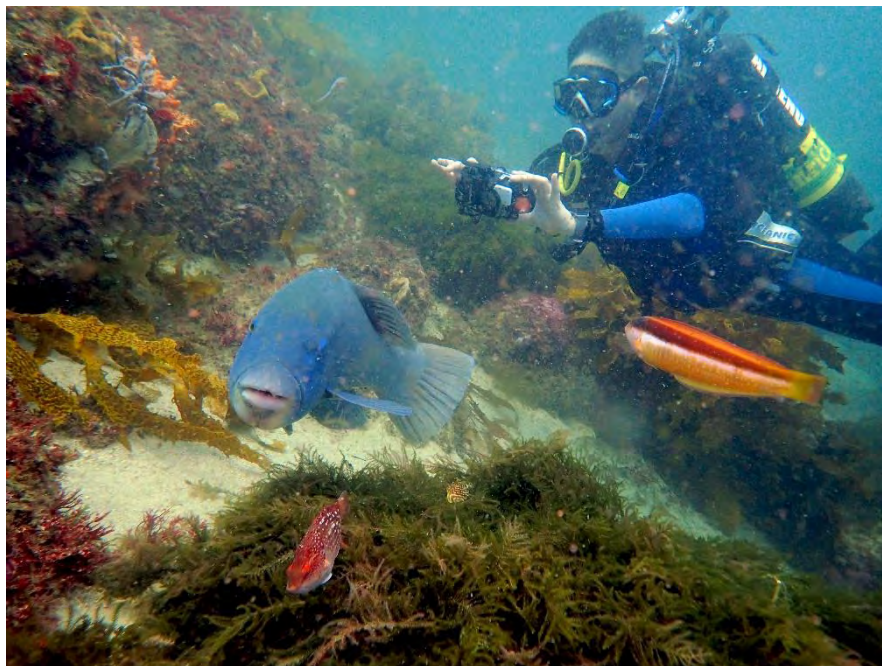
On Saturday the 16th of December nine members dived the middle of the incoming tide for a pleasant excursion (except for the clamber UP the steps at the end). Despite a fairly large tidal range it was an easy swim against the current and a gentle drift back.

Viz varied from around 5m to 9m and the temperature was around 20c on the surface dropping to 17c on the bottom.



As usual I spotted the big stuff – blue groppers, wobbegongs and large bull rays leaving the small stuff to Ron Walsh et al. Being lazy I just follow them around to see the nudi's, pygmies, etc.

There were a lot of nudi's and between 4 and 10 sea dragons depending on which path you followed. I saw a number of small rays continuously swimming through the kelp. One sea dragon was carrying a good load of crimson eggs.



Divers included Ron Walsh, John Prior, Chris Ross, Ryan Chee (newer member), Robert Purdon, Enrique Di Tondo, Frank, Eric Fuentes and Paul Soares



Paul Soares - Dec 2023

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Bram's Avelo Experience

I took the plunge and became a certified Avelo diver today. I had been looking forward to this innovation in diving becoming a reality for a couple of years since I first saw info about it a couple of years ago. I saw it as having the potential to extend my diving career, by reducing the overall weight of equipment being managed. I saw the promised radical change in buoyancy management as a bonus. Despite some negative scepticism on the science involved from some members, the potential of significant overall weight reduction was significant enough for me to be prepared to reserve judgement until I could experience it for myself and test the claims. My overall impression after day 1 is that it delivers on all fronts.



WEIGHT:

The touted elimination of all lead weights applies in warm water, but with our cooler water and the required wetsuits, you do need to add some weight to overcome the buoyancy that comes from the wetsuit. There is a formula that you apply which considers your weight and the wetsuit thicknesses to estimate the amount of lead you need. Drysuit parameters still being developed (will need more weight, but significantly less than currently used, and you won't get the full neutral buoyancy benefits, as you are reintroducing air to be managed). In my case, accounting for my blubber and a 5mm wetsuit, it said I needed about 8lbs weight - that was on the money. That meant carrying 6lbs less lead (just over half my current weights), plus eliminating my heavy BCD (replaced by a Hollis backplate, no wing), and replacing my 15L anchor with a much lighter 10L, 300 bar carbon fibre-wrapped alloy tank (8L 300 bar tanks also available). I can easily pick up the new 10L 300 bar rig (with the 8lbs weights attached) with one hand - certainly could not practically do that with my current rig including integrated weights (as many have discovered when I forgot to take out my integrated weights when offloading the boat). I was able to walk down and up The Steps at Kurnell for the 2 dives, without stopping to catch my breath or reaching the top feeling ready for a good lie down for about 3 hours.

So, a big tick on the weight reduction goal, especially for moving the equipment around out of the water.

BOUYANCY CONTROL:

A lot was made in the promotions of being neutrally buoyant, regardless of your depth, without having to make adjust your buoyancy via your BCD (which you don't have) as you change depth. Well, I was able to move from 15m to 5m then back to 15m, without making any buoyancy compensation changes or feeling light as I moved up or working hard to push up by being negatively buoyant at the start of the transition. I call that a win. When I stop swimming up or down, I just hover. I was doing barrel rolls, moving up and over rocks, all without any sensation of being light/heavy or air moving around my body; I was just swimming through the water column.

This system literally turns how you think about buoyancy control upside down. Instead of adding air to INCREASE your buoyancy, you add weight (by stealing it from the water around you rather than stuffing a rock in your BCD) to DECREASE your buoyancy. The beauty of it is that you can just as easily eject that additional weight at any time; the reality is that you do not make continual adjustments to your buoyancy, so the only time you would normally REDUCE your additional weight is when you arrive at the surface at the end of your dive, when you purge the additional water you have taken onboard during the dive, resulting in you being positively buoyant on the surface.

EQUIPMENT FAILURE:

The system consists of the alloy/carbon fibre tank, with an internal bladder made of similar material to current rubber hoses (good for about 5,000 cycles), a pump which pumps sea-water in around the bladder inside the tank (your disposable weight), a battery to drive the pump, and a manually operated purge valve (to send the disposable weight back to where it came from) which is not operated by the pump or battery - just open/close a valve that will purge the water, even with no air left in the bladder. The pump is the equivalent of your low-pressure inflator, and even connects to the tank with the same sort of connection as used on an LPI; it just adds water instead of air. If any of the components fail (battery, pump (even if stuck on, equivalent to a stuck LPI), purge valve, bladder), this does not result in an emergency/high risk situation (unlike a free flow on your LPI). Without going into the details of the impact/management plan for each scenario, you should in theory abort the dive, but this can be done in a totally controlled way, with little impact on how you move through the water.



DIVE COMPUTER CONSIDERATIONS:

The most disconcerting thing for me was that the pressure reading on your tank doesn't mean what it used to, and that we all relate to. A 50-bar reading used to mean 50 bar of air left (even though 50 bar in a 10L tank is quite a different amount of air to 50 bar in a 12L or 15L tank). But we know what that means. Also forget the fact that with temperature variations, especially on the surface, the same amount of air can show significantly different pressure readings. We are still comfortable with arriving at the surface with whatever pressure reading we aim for. With a variable amount of water being added to the pressure vessel (tank), the overall pressure reading is directly impacted by the water added. Adding 1 x 1 minute "pump" (the default pump time when you press the button, which you can cancel) adds the equivalent of about 2lb weight and a bit over 40 bar pressure when the tank is full (less impact as the air in your tank is consumed). I added 1 pump at the surface then one more at depth, then no further changes until safety stop time, when you have become more buoyant by using the air out of the tank during the dive. Your pressure reading includes the air AND the water in the tank. I did not feel that I knew how much air I had left. Not a comforting feeling. Scubapro and Shearwater have developed upgrades specifically for the Avelo System. I used an upgraded Scubapro G2, which is identical to my G2 plus some additional info, including your current Surface Air Consumption and % air left. I found the air % left much more relatable than the bar reading. If my tank was filled to 270-bar (could go to 300), 20% is 54 bar. This value is not affected by how much water you have added; it will always be the % of the original air fill left. The constantly updated SAC is very interesting info. If you start working too hard or breathing too hard, that shows in your SAC. By seeing that info, you can focus on calming things down and I quickly saw my SAC move down to 10-13 lpm, which reflected the more streamlined setup and neutral buoyancy aspect resulting in less air consumption. The computer upgrades are still in beta testing (all Avelo dives around the world are logged with Scubapro/Shearwater for feedback/refinement). It is expected that the computer upgrades will be available in about 3 months; in the meantime, you can use the beta computers from Abyss or just use your current computer and apply the "thirds" rule of thumb after your initial water add (a quick ref slate is provided to show your turnaround bar and target reserve bar based on your initial pressure reading after establishing neutral buoyancy). If using a beta computer, you are required to also have a second SPG/computer (I used my G2 and the equivalent readings exactly matched).



COSTLY?

Yep. The most expensive single skill course you can do. A bit over \$600 if you just include the 2 shore dives, just under \$1,000 to add 2 boat dives. I feel there is some early-adopter gouging going on aka recovering development costs. No costs revealed for purchase of the equipment, just a vague indication that it would be available for purchase mid-year and be equivalent to purchasing a good quality BCD/Tank/Computer (if you don't have an upgradable computer). Rental is \$80 (I think that included 2 tanks). You need to have the certification to rent the equipment. The tanks can be filled anywhere (if the dive shop is comfortable filling them - Abyss is in conversation with most; Wooli unlikely, SWR asking intelligent clarification questions). You need DIN regs (not yoke regs with an adapter).

CONCLUSION:

All sound a bit too good to be true? Yep, a bit. But this is all based on my direct experience after about 4 hours of course-work and 2 shore dives (with totally crap 3-5m vis) at low tide, crawling up onto a rock a shelf with taxing approach/departure path (The Steps). I am doing boat dives at Marley in a couple of weeks' time.

Bram Harris - Jan 2024

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Tiny Sea Dragon – Lynn Tuck

Lynn Tuck said “I was excited to see the smallest weedy sea dragon I've ever seen. Made a little you tube video of it.”

Here is a link to Lynns video. (For MS Word Hold down CTL the click the link).



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvojdzKr1jw&t=90s>

Cheers and beers
Lynne Tuck

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Kalinda Dive Trip Thursday Island – Trevor Clyde

Hi all, I will try and make this article short. Firstly, all of us who had booked for this trip were held in limbo for a week before leaving as the mighty Kalinda had broken down with gearbox trouble which would take some time to repair. Captain Dave rung around and found the MV Sea Esta, a dive boat from Townsville. He quickly steamed her up to Cairns where she was waiting for us when we arrived. "Thanks Dave".

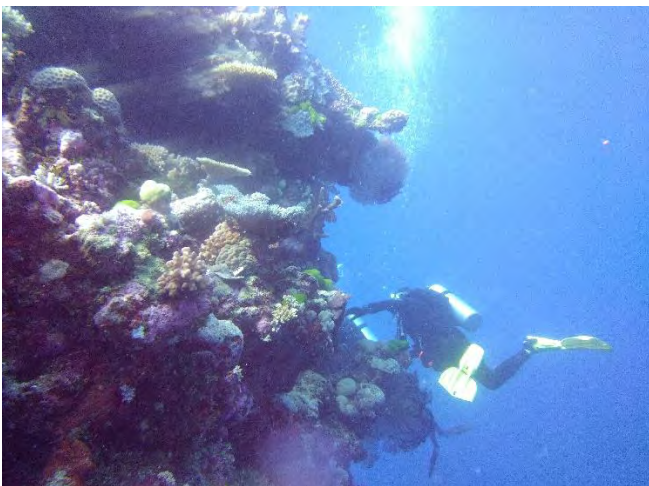


We left that evening on our big dive adventure to Thursday Island. Our first stop was Steve's Bommie the next morning. This location is on the Ribbon reefs and is quite a well known dive site. There is some great marine life here including White tip and Grey reef sharks, Sea snakes, Barracuda, hard to find Stone fish and lovely coral and tropical fish on top



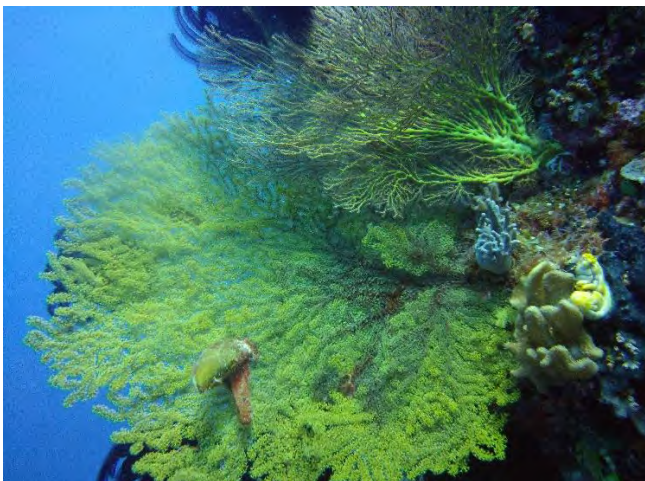
We then headed to a site called Scooter boat, off Cape Melville. The marine life here was unbelievable. Sharks of many kinds, Devil and Eagle rays, Tuna, large Cod, Bump head parrot fish and more. Black whaler was our next stop. This was a great wall dive with among other things sighted, Thresher shark, Great hammerhead, schooling Barracuda and much more. Another memorable dive was Tiju. A dramatic wall dive on the Continental shelf.

At last, after many nights steaming we arrived at our ultimate destination, The Great Detached Reef and world famous Rain Island. The diving here is always spectacular, very remote and long term Green zone, you could see anything here and often do.



I think I can speak for everyone and give a big thankyou to our Captain Dave, second mate Snoz , Kas, Kaitland and Jack . Also to Mike who always puts on great trip's, sorry Mike for not mentioning any of the small critters and slugs, but I just couldn't see them. Also thanks to Jill for being our Samsung tech head aboard, Jeff for manipulation that's often needed when the average age is 65. Good to see Aidan and Aigar who never hold back and say it how it is, always a good laugh, Rob our elder on the boat who was there to give advice, Chad who with Simon and Russ made taking the piss an artwork, Deb who was the sun goddess of the boat and best dressed. Ian my dive buddy who was the deep diver, thankyou for the Mt Gay and lovely red , lastly Tom who was there as our onboard instructor and did lend his skills while away. Alan was there to save people that might have had trouble getting back to the boat, yours truly had to grab his ankle from the reef as he grabbed the boat. " Thanks Al. Last up was me who was the diver that saw everything that was to be seen and if I didn't see it, it wasn't there. Hence my log books were called the books lies.

Just before heading home , one of our diving mate's on board had some terrible news that his wife had been killed in a car accident. We all send our sympathy and are here for you.



Happy diving.

Trevor Clyde

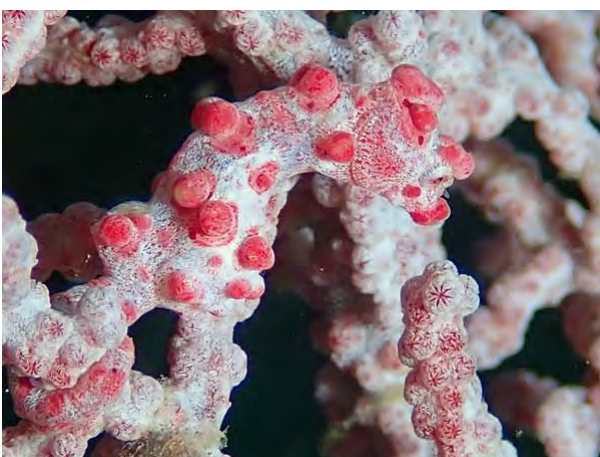
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Philippines Trip- August 2024 - Michael McFadyen

In late August John McPherson and I travelled to the Philippines for a diving trip. We had booked cheap Qantas flights in February knowing that it was the wet season and also possible that we could be impacted by a typhoon.

We flew into Manila on 21 August and stayed overnight at a nice hotel near the airport, easy walking distance. The next morning we were collected by our driver and driven south. Two and a bit hours later we transferred to a banca (traditional Filipino boat) and taken the short distance to our resort, Buceo Anilao. This is a very nice place, with large restaurant area, bar, dive shop and camera area. The rooms are on a hillside, luckily ours was not too far up the hill. We certainly became a lot fitter over the next week and a bit.

Diving is from the bancas and we were lucky to have one to ourselves for all our diving. The wind was up a bit, but until later in the week, it did not really impact our diving. The normal dive day was breakfast at 7 am, then to the dive shop at 8 am. We headed off for a two dive trip. In between, we were provided with teat/coffee etc as well as biscuits. Ample water was on board as well. The boat was easy to dive out of, you simply did a backward roll and getting back on was an easy climb up the ladder. The crew were excellent. We had the same guide for the trip, Romnick. He was a great critter spotter and led us to all the great spots on a dive.



1. Twin Rocks Pigmy



2. Aphols Harlequin

The diving is excellent. There are walls, bommies, sandy slopes, wrecks and all the usual bottom types. We did 10 boat dives (only two a day, some people were doing four). Unfortunately, on the Saturday a typhoon came close to north-eastern Philippines and the resultant incoming wind started to make the conditions very uncomfortable. In fact, on the Sunday, the coast guard banned all boats from going to sea, so we could not dive for two days. On the Tuesday, we could shore dive in front of the resort. Very good dives too!

Things we saw included lots of pygmy sea horses, four giant anglerfish and quite a few smaller ones. Of course, there were plenty of nudibranchs, shrimps (including a harlequin shrimp), moray eels, pipefish, crabs, gobies and all the normal tropical species. The reefs were also very colourful. The resort itself was great, with very good food. Our diving included nitrox fills.



3. Olympic Pipefish



4. Sun View Pygmy

We were supposed to transfer to Sabang (Puerto Galera) on the Wednesday but all but one passenger boat was banned from the ocean. We ended up going on the Thursday, arriving at Capt'n Gregg's at lunch time. We booked in and then were visited by Carole Harris and Leon Betts who have been here for almost two months (with a diversion to Thailand).



5. Kilima -Thresher



6. Buceo Angler

We started diving on the Friday and over the next 11 days we do 26 dives. We figured we needed to catch up on the six dives we lost. Most dive days were 8:30 am at the shop, out for a single dive and then back. Another dive before lunch and on the days, we did a third dive, it was about 3 pm. The boat leaves from straight in front of the shop and all we needed to do was carry our fins and camera to the boat. The diving here was quite varied, although I don't think it is as good as Anilao. We did most of the "must do" sites like The Canyons, Hole in the Wall and Kilima Steps. We saw a few pygmy sea horses, a couple of giant anglerfish, many nudibranchs, a few species of shrimp and heaps of clownfish. The highlight was seeing a thresher shark and some hump headed wrasse (I did not see those).

The windy conditions finally eased after a few days and then we had almost perfect weather. Once again, the dive operation was well run, with a good dive and boat crew. We paid extra for nitrox, but the price was reasonable. While here we also ran into Chris Heath and had lunch with him a few days and dinner with him and Madeline once. I also ran into a bloke I used to dive with at Fun Dive at Stanmore back in the late 1980s. Until earlier this year, I had not seen him for 30 years! We ate most nights at Capt'n Greggs, but ate out at Korean, Mediterranean and other restaurants. The food was good everywhere.

Over the three weeks we did 38 dives and spent over 38 hours underwater. The total cost of the trip, including airfares and all expenses, was about \$4400 for the three and a bit weeks. A very good holiday.



7. Boulders Gorgonia



8. Olympic Shrimp



9. Ernies Puffer



10. Sambang Point Flatworm



11. Ernies Cave Nudi

Michael McFadyen 2023

[Michael McFadyen's Scuba Diving Web Site](#)

Bushrangers Bay Bass Point Plan of Management

Greg Blackburne has sent a reminder that submissions to the Bushrangers Bay Plan of Management close on 17th of January.

You may wish to comment on the lack of suitable parking at peak times (any time after 7.30 or 8.00 am). Also larger signs outlining that No Spearfishing is allowed and that possession of spearfishing equipment is not allowed in marine reserves.

Link to Submissions (If in MS Word – Hold down CTL while clicking on link)

<https://letschatshellharbour.com/planning-bass-point-conservation-management/public-exhibition?fbclid=IwAR2Dfv-4XnsKVbMGeSkb5kk0rIBioU7O2SdQ73tXFM2A8Ibk3zLRHxTGqK0>

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Coron Trip - Sangat Resort – May 2024

There may still be spots if anyone is interested. It'll be a terrific trip and very reasonably priced!

1 night Manila Airport hotel
9 nights Sangat Island Dive Resort
Full board
12 boat dives (with additional dives available to purchase directly)
Return economy airfares with Philippine Airlines

\$3754.00 per person!

Their website is very good with lots of information and good photos,

[Sangat Island Dive Resorts | Scuba Diving Resort Coron, Palawan](#)

If you would like anymore information about this trip please let me know.

Regards

Linda - lindabmorgan01@yahoo.com.au



Diveplanit Travel
Your personal dive travel agency

DIVE CORON PHILIPPINES

SANGAT DIVE RESORT
10 TO 20 MAY 2024

10-night fly/stay/dive package from \$3754 pp twin share

Explore Coron's amazing underwater world, vibrant coral reefs teeming with colourful reef fish, as well as pelagic species. Not to mention 11 WWII wrecks and stunning land-locked bodies of water such as the geothermal waters of Barracuda Lake.

Our package includes:

- 9 nights at Sangat Island Dive Resort
- 1 night transit accom at Manila Airport
- Full board and return airport transfers
- 12 boat dives inc. tanks weights & guide
- Return economy airfare with Philippine Airlines

10-night fly/stay/dive package:
Divers: from \$3754 pp twin share
Non-divers: from \$3000 pp twin share

ADD DUGONGS! Add 3 nights at Dugong Dive Center for \$570

Terms & Conditions. Airfare is based on instant purchase fare & cannot be guaranteed until paid in full. Deposit plus airfare will be required to confirm each guest on the trip. Exchange rate AUD 1 / PHP 55 has been used to calculate this trip. If this exchange rate fluctuates by more than 3% the quote will be revised.

Booking details:
Contact deborah@diveplanit.com
<https://bit.ly/StGphilippines>

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2023 Club Xmas Party - 3rd December - The Memorial

The St George Club Xmas party was held at the memorial on the 3rd of December in good weather and fine conditions.

Thank you to the Casburn family for again doing a great job of organising food and refreshments. Many other members brought along their specialty cuisine for us all to enjoy.

The inclusion of a food pergola seemed to thwart the ever-vigilant kookaburras and their habit of stealing any unguarded food.







Ron Walsh, Michael McFadyen and others assisted in organising the pre-feasting dive. While conditions were a bit murky with viz ranging from 3 to 5 metres at best and water temperature falling rapidly from 20c at the surface to 17c on the bottom most divers reported having a good time.



Paul Soares Dec 2023

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New “nudie” named in honour of Coffs Harbour Scientist

Imagine having a newly recorded cute, colourful critter named in your honour.

That’s what happened to DPI Fisheries scientist Dr Matt Nimbs recently.

Dr Nimbs found the previously unrecorded species while surveying sea slugs for fieldwork during his Honours in 2015.

Now called *Polycera nimbsi*, the species Dr Nimbs found is a type of nudibranch, a mollusc species that unlike most well-known molluscs, such as snails and oysters, lack a shell as an adult.



Dr Nimbs said he was chuffed to find out that the newly described nudibranch species now partially carries his name.

“I’m very happy that a colourful, albeit diminutive one [nudibranch] is named in my honour,” he said.

“I collected and photographed these animals nearly 10 years ago and they have only just now been used for a new species description. So, things in the taxonomic world can move slowly,” Dr Nimbs said.

Polycera nimbsi can be found in shallow waters between the Sunshine Coast, to around Port Stephens.

They have generally orange bodies, and black tips to the gills, rhinophores (head tentacles) and oral tentacles that resemble a curly moustache.

“I think the oral tentacles are very ‘Daliesque’ and lend it a distinguishing appearance,” Dr Nimbs added.

However, according to Dr Nimbs, they’re not the average species snorkellers, or divers would come across.

“They are found under rocks in shallow water and occasionally deeper, where they probably eat bryozoans, so I wouldn’t expect them to be found by many people unless they specifically look for it.”

It’s the vibrant colours and fine details that draw Dr Nimbs to nudibranchs.

“Sea slugs, including nudibranchs, are the easter eggs of the sea. In the otherwise rather dull colours of the ocean floor, they seem to pop like they are covered in coloured foil,” he said.

“When you get photos of them on a computer screen you can see the fine detail of their appearance. In that way, they can be astounding. They never cease to amaze me.”

Dr Matt Nimbs is an invertebrate taxonomist and marine molecular biologist looking at the changes among marine species genomes driven by the effects of climate change as part of our Climate change research project (<https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/statewide-projects/climate-change/climate-change-research>).

He has written many works on sea slugs, including a well-referenced inventory of the NSW and Lord Howe Island sea slug fauna, (<https://www.publish.csiro.au/RS/RS16011>) complete with photographs, which everybody can access as a free PDF - for NSW or Lord Howe Island.

Link to full article:

<https://webmail.optusnet.com.au/index.php/mail/viewmessage/getattachment/folder/INBOX.Diving.ST%2BGeorge%2BNewsletter/uniqueId/13/filenameOriginal/f4da092b71ec1f3983777cb9a671d326/attachmentId/5>

Source: NSW Marine Estate.

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Okinawa – Traps for New Players

In September and October 2023 my wife and I road tripped Kyushu, the southern island of Japan. While not a diving trip we took our masks and snorkels plus a dive computer as we had included a week in Okinawa toward the end of our trip.



Break wall – Yakushima



Private beach in Okinawa

We had a few days in a luxury resort on an island just off the coast of Kyushu called Yakushima. We took ourselves snorkelling at a small beach on Yakushima - there was a break wall about 150m offshore with a wide range of fish both large and small – quite pleasant snorkel.

We then boarded our plane to Okinawa. Okinawa apparently has some great diving and very warm water. We were staying in the middle of the main city but the beaches are only an easy hours drive away. On the second day we decided to go to a small private beach to do a bit of snorkelling. The operation was fairly basic, but the lady hired us a set of fins and off we went. You were only allowed to swim in a fairly restricted area, fenced off by net about 200m long by 80 wide. Try to escape the enclosure and a large Japanese chap with a loud whistle was on your case fairly quickly. All the other ‘swimmers’ could barely stay afloat, so I did understand his concern. The coral was fairly poor but there was a good range of wrasses and other tropical fish – we were only there for a chill out and sunbake day, so this wasn’t a problem.

We then tried to visit some of the more renowned diving locations. On the third day we planned to snorkel and dive the outer gutter and Blue Cave at Maeda Cape. This is where the problems started.

I was equipped with a very recent medical, a newish dive computer with a couple of hundred dives on it, an electronic logbook with considerably more dives, PADI and SSI rescue diver and Tech diver qualifications. How old are you sir? Sixty-six years. Sorry sir No One over 60 years can dive sir! Show all my qualifications. Sorry sir – No one over sixty years dives. They want to check your passport if you are a bit loose with the truth. Same situation at every dive shop.

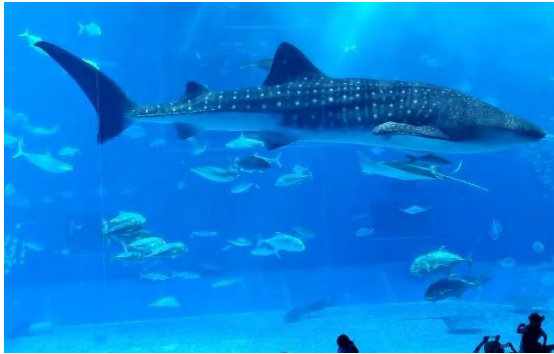
We then thought, at least we can snorkel. Sorry sir we don’t hire snorkel gear to sixty-five years or over. You must be kidding. I can buy gear but hardly likely for one snorkel and no room in suitcase to

bring it home. I then watched as several tourists whom I observed could barely swim being given a 4-minute introductory scuba briefing before they were taken off to the open waters of Cape Maeda. The briefing I observed was basically – this is your gear and don't hold your breath.

Over the next few days, I phoned several dive operators. The story was the same at all of them. On the second last day, when I was unable to do any diving due to flying early the next day, I found one operator who would have taken me diving but it was too late.

So, a word of warning – if you are over 60 years old and wish to dive Okinawa be sure to line up a dive operator before you go and before you hand over any hard earned cash. I gather that many places in Japan are similar and any diving below 40m is a 'no go'.

On the second last day we visited their world-famous aquarium where I was able to take a few photos of the marine life despite being over 65 years old. They do have a whale shark on display which is quite sad considering that this animal usually ranges over thousands of kilometres of ocean.



Fish in the Okinawa aquarium

Paul Soares 2023

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Dive Calendar Screen Shot – Up to April 5 2024

Date	End Date	Description	Site/Venue	Meeting Place	Organiser
Saturday, 6 January 2024		Boat Dive	Magic Point	Sylvania/Port Botany	Peter Flockart
Saturday, 13 January 2024		Boat Dive	Pistol Point	Sylvania/Port Botany	Peter Flockart
Saturday, 13 January 2024		Shore Dive	The Leap	Kurnell	Ron Walsh
Tuesday, 18 January 2024		Club Meeting	Ramsgate RSL	Ramsgate	Ron Walsh
Saturday, 20 January 2024		Deep Wreck Dive	SS Tuggerah	Yowie Bay/RMYC	Peter Flockart
Saturday, 20 January 2024		Shore Dive	Inscription Point	Kurnell	Enrique di Tondo
Friday, 26 January 2024		Australia Day - Shore Dive/BBQ	The Monument Flat	Kurnell	Linda Morgan
Saturday, 27 January 2024		Boat Dive	Whale Watching Platform	Sylvania/Port Botany	Marian Shaw
Saturday, 3 February 2024		Carol Martin Memorial Dive/BBQ	Bare Island	La Perouse	Craig Spillane
Saturday, 10 February 2024		Boat Dive	Osborne Shoals	Yowie Bay/RMYC	Kelly McFadyen
Saturday, 17 February 2024		Boat Dive	Middle Ground	Yowie Bay/RMYC	Maxine Hayden
Saturday, 17 February 2024		Scooter Dive	Shellharbour	Shellharbour	Peter Flockart
Tuesday, 20 February 2024		Club Meeting	Ramsgate RSL	Ramsgate	Maxine Hayden
Saturday, 24 February 2024		Anniversary Dinner	Royal Motor Yacht Club	Burraneer Bay	Ron Walsh
Sunday, 25 February 2024		Shore Dive	Inscription Point	Kurnell	Michael McFadyen
Saturday, 2 March 2024		Boat Dive	Marley Point	Yowie Bay/RMYC	John Boulter
Sunday, 3 March 2024	Friday, 8 March 2024	Week Away	North Solitary Island	Wooli	Craig Spillane
Saturday, 9 March 2024		Frenchmans Bay Dive and BBQ	Frenchmans Bay	La Perouse	Ian Roffey
Friday, 15 March 2024	Sunday, 17 March 2024	Girls Weekend	Jervis Bay	Huskisson	Alison McGurk
Saturday, 16 March 2024		Shore Dive	Inscription Point	Kurnell	Dylan Montford-Sinclair
Monday, 18 March 2024	Saturday, 23 March 2024	Week Away	North Solitary Island	Wooli	Maxine Hayden
Tuesday, 19 March 2024		Club Meeting	Ramsgate RSL	Ramsgate	Enrique di Tondo
Friday, 22 March 2024	Monday, 25 March 2024	Weekend Away	Julian Rocks	Byron Bay	Michael Materazzo
Saturday, 23 March 2024		Shore Dive	Inscription Point	Kurnell	John Boulter
Saturday, 23 March 2024		Frenchmans Bay Dive and BBQ	Frenchmans Bay	La Perouse	RESERVE DAY ONLY See 9/3/24
Saturday, 30 March 2024		Boat Dive	Voodoo	Yowie Bay/RMYC	Peter Flockart
Monday, 1 April 2024		Deep Wreck Dive	SS Tuggerah	Yowie Bay/RMYC	Craig Spillane
Friday, 5 April 2024	Sunday, 7 April 2024	Weekend Away	Montague Island	Narooma	Mike Scotland

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