



P.O. Box 453 Hurstville South 2221 NSW

Visit our web page at

<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~diving/stgeorge/stgeorge.htm>

April 2005

Just a reminder to members that the club meeting start time is 8pm. It would be appreciated if people who intend to be at the meeting could be in the meeting room by this time.

Thanks

Steve Shaw

COMING UP

THURSDAY NIGHT DIVES

A reminder that the Club has a night dive every Thursday night. These dives continue to be very popular. Recent dives have been to Clifton Gardens (dirty but heaps of life, decorator crabs, sea spiders, sea horses and an anglerfish being highlights), Bare Island (clean with lots of decorator crabs and sea spiders), Shiprock (pineapplefish, decorator crabs, heaps of hermit crabs, blue swimmer crabs) and Camp Cove. Upcoming dives will include Shiprock on 21 April and 5 May as well as other spots.

If you are not on the email list for night dives, send Michael McFadyen an email so he and Dave Burns can send you an email advising where the next dive will be held.

APRIL

Divers wanted for Boat Diving (Port Botany, Rose Bay, down to Port Kemba, Pitt Water or Yowie Bay (Boat ramps) if required - for double dives if conditions allow - between Monday 11th April and Sunday 24th April – School / TAFE Holidays.

See John , phone me or e-mail me
seajohn@bigpond.com

Minmi Trench - Sunday 10 April

This dive will leave the Cooks River ramp (meet at 8 am) to this fantastic dive site on the southern side of Cape Banks, the northern headland of Botany Bay. We have three boats lined up for this dive. Most spots went at the March meeting but there are still three positions available. Contact Michael McFadyen on 9558 8181 [h] or by email to book.

CLUB WEEKEND AWAY IN APRIL 2005.

Diving Days are Saturday 23rd, Sunday 24th and Monday 25th.

Accommodation is staying at the SWR Dive centre lodge (above shop). Fare includes Three night Accommodation, three Days diving (Double diving with second tank provided) and breakfast on the mornings of diving.

Divers price \$370.00.

Deposit \$50.00 by February 28th payment to Les.

If there are at least SEVEN DIVERS we will have one of the boats to ourselves so we will be able to dive the out of the way places around Fish Rock, other than the cave, if you wish.

If you are interested or want any more info email me David.Burns@integral.com.au or phone me on 0407.219.100.

Lets Go diving.

Deep Dive - Saturday 7 May

The location of this dive has not yet been set but if you are interested, contact Michael McFadyen on 9558 8181 [h].

SHELLHARBOUR WEEKEND

Friday 20 to Sunday 22 May 2005

This trip is now full. More details for those who booked from Michael McFadyen..

LAST MONTH

SCAN Weekend at Nelson Bay 12th and 13th March

by Steve Shaw

Sue and I both suffer from an unfortunate affliction called work so we weren't able to leave Epping until 6pm on the Friday night. However the traffic was surprisingly light and we arrived at the Soldiers Point campground after an easy two hour drive. At the gate we were met by what appeared at first glance to be a homeless family living rough on the steps of the office. It turned out to be Peter T, Elly, Mellie and their friends who had been unable to open the boom gate with the access code they had been allocated. I drove straight in with mine and said I would check the number once I met up with the other people who were already here. About a dozen members were gathered in one of the cabins having just finished off a stack of pizzas which in turn had finished off the pizza shop business for the night, having run out of dough after this unexpected Friday night binge! Just then Peter called us to let us know that he had figured out how to get through the boom gate ... you have to park your vehicle in front of it first. Good one Pete!

We all settled in to our cabins, tents or whatever and had a good sleep-in the following morning. We were due to dive at Halifax Park where the high tide was about

10.40. We left Soldiers Point at 9.00 to make sure we could get parking and doubled up on cars where possible. The site was very crowded with probably around 50 divers hitting the water over a half hour period but once in the water I think we only came across two other divers so there is plenty of room. There is also plenty to see. The vis started at about 6m but became progressively better at depth so that at 26m we had 10-12m. There is a great variety of sponge and soft coral here along with large colonies of the unusual transparent blue ascidians. These have a yellow line running the full length of the creature which is clearly visible and is in fact a primitive spinal cord. The fish life is prolific with morays, small wobbies, Port Jackson sharks, groper and any number of magpie morwong. There were more talma (southern coral fish) at this site than I have seen anywhere else. I went mad with the camera and just missed going into deco. This was a terrific first dive with water temperature reported to be 23⁰!

After the dive everyone went their individual ways for the afternoon and at 6pm started to gather in the BBQ area for the SCAN clubs get-together. All up there were about 45 people representing RUC, DOUTS, URG and of course St George. As usual we were the best represented, having I think 22 members and friends at the gathering. We were off to a good start with snags and steaks on the two BBQ plates and mountains of salad and bread. A number of people seemed to be involved with the cooking but Robbie M and Kelly J were certainly in there swinging the tongs. That was until both gas cylinders ran out in perfect synchronization leaving us with a truck-load of half cooked food! The meal was salvaged by people producing their own cylinders and fry pans along with a few electric ones from the cabins. By about 8pm the food was all gone, everyone was mixing well and the happy juice was flowing at a furious rate. By 10pm a number of people had drifted away for an

early night and by 11pm only a handful of desperate die-hards were left to finish off the dregs. Interestingly they were all from St George!

It was about this time that Peter F revealed an unusual talent. He is an expert foot masseuse and he very soon had a queue of bare-footed divers offering up their feet for the treatment. The massage quickly degenerated to include toe-sucking as well at which point the queue became even longer! Peter T was lying on his back on the BBQ deck partly under the table after his massage and the First Lady found that his stomach made a very convenient foot rest while she waited her turn for the toe-suck. I must have lived all my life under a stone because I thought such practices were confined to certain members of the quirky English royal family, but apparently not. Anyway, about midnight the party finally ended and we all dragged ourselves off to bed.

The following morning we had an even longer lie-in as high tide was not until 11.30. We had time to pack everything and leave the site before heading down to Fly Point for our second shore dive of the weekend. This is another popular dive spot and once again a large number of divers had gathered. A couple of people were missing from this assembly including Peter F. Someone rather unkindly suggested that he was probably still cleaning his teeth! As it turned out, he and Ray M had gone out on the RUC boat which had a couple of places left for the morning dive. The rest of us geared up and hit the water at Fly Point. The water was still warm but the vis wasn't as good as yesterday with about 5m being the best we had. We dived to about 13m where once again we were surrounded by very tame and friendly fish. There were large schools of bream and tarwhine and a similar collection of fixed life to that at Halifax yesterday along with quite a few species of nudibranchs. Some unusual species were sighted including a number of

maori cod and a yellow tailed angelfish, the first one I have seen I think.



We also found two groups of pineapple fish under some ledges. Each group had about six fish in it as far as we could make out. Once again I went mad with the camera taking 156 shots over the two dives but the amount of sediment in the water did not make for ideal conditions. This was another great dive which lasted almost an hour.

Back on land we dried off, changed and said our goodbyes. We had an easy trip home after a great weekend. The weather had been warm and sunny throughout, the company was great and as usual we had a lot of laughs. Thanks to Les and Elly for organizing the weekend and the catering and to everyone else who participated in the BBQ.

Le Scat

Well, *Le Scat* finally has two new engines. After the port one blew up on 9 February, Les and Michael bit the bullet and lashed out on two new 75 hp Mercury 2 strokes. The engines are much quieter than the 20+ years old ones and seem to have more "get up and go". While the boat has yet to have a full load, it has so far performed above expectations. More details next month.

COMMITTEE			
The committee of the Club for 2004 - 5 is:			
PRESIDENT:	Steve Shaw -	9868 4056	srcshaw@au1.ibm.com
VICE PRESIDENT:	Phil Rose -	9543 0748	pvrose@bigpond.com
SECRETARY:	Carol Mapstone -	9531 1467	cmartin@doh.health.nsw.gov.au
TREASURER:	Les Caterson	9520 9421	lescat@dot.net.au
ASSISTANT SECRETARY:/TREASURER:			
	David Vandervelden	0414 240 992	davidvan@tpg.com.au
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Russell Stoker -			
		0412 963 527	rstoker@optusnet.com.au

INFO OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

Many members are still enjoying “*Le Scat*” boat dives on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, with Wednesday being the most popular by far. Don’t forget that to book a boat dive aboard “*Le Scat*” it is only a matter of contacting Les by phone on 9520 9421 for Wednesday or Saturday dives or Michael by phone on 9558 8181 for Sunday dives. (Of course St.George Scuba Club members take preference.)

The March meeting raffle was won by Kelly Jandick with second prize to Carol Martin. Thanks to Peter Flockart for the donation of a bottle of "Red" for one of the raffle prizes.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 20th April 2005 at the St. George Rowing Club, Levy Street Arncliffe at 8.00 pm. Come along about 7 pm and enjoy a meal at the bistro.

NEWSLETTER

Please send items for the Newsletter to me by the 28th of the month rstoker@optusnet.com.auT.
Please note that if you want to send any digital photographs for the newsletter, they be resized to about 150 dpi and a size of about 75 mm wide or high. Change them to black and white and save as a jpg file. This will make the file much smaller and quicker for you to e-mail but still good enough to print.