



# SEA BRAGGIN'

## St George Scuba Club Newsletter

### Local Dives

*Barrens Hut - Shelley Brueseker*  
*Middle Ground - Michael McFadyen,*  
*Nancy Scoleri & Shelley Brueseker*  
*The Leap - Paul Pacey et al*  
*Shiprock - Peter Beaumont*

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### Trips

*Beqa Lagoon, Fiji - Jarrod Brazenall*  
*Taka Liveaboard, GBR - Josiah Firth & Aura*  
*Garcia*  
*Vanuatu - Phil Short*

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### Other

*DVD Launch Truk Lagoon - Max Gleeson*  
**AGM REMINDER**  
*Treasures from below - Maxine Hayden*

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## BARRENS HUT

20 July 2013

This scheduled boat dive to Marley Point was to be run by Digby, but as he and Natasha had the post processing course at their house that weekend, Digby sent out an appeal for someone else to take over. I offered to take over even though I hadn't intended to dive that weekend, but as the weather was looking pretty good, and reports of vis were better than they had been for a while, I changed my mind.

My call to the boat owners got 3 affirmative replies, Le scat, Argonaut and Yes Dear 2 and a subsequent call to divers got enough divers to fill them all, plus a few on the reserves list. A last minute cancellation got one diver off the reserves list and onto a boat, and I'd like to mention that if you are on the reserves list it always pays to be prepared to dive. When dealing with a group of people there is always the chance something will come up to stop one of them from diving.

The morning was calm and sunny, although Greg and I watched the temperature gauge in the car go from 12 degrees at our place to 7 degrees at the boat ramp where we had to gear up. The sea was smooth, a gentle 1 metre swell and no wind.

We dived at Barrens Hut as Michael and Kelly had something on later and didn't want to make it a long drive. Yes Dear 2 launched from Wally's wharf and we didn't see them, as they had gone past before we got there.





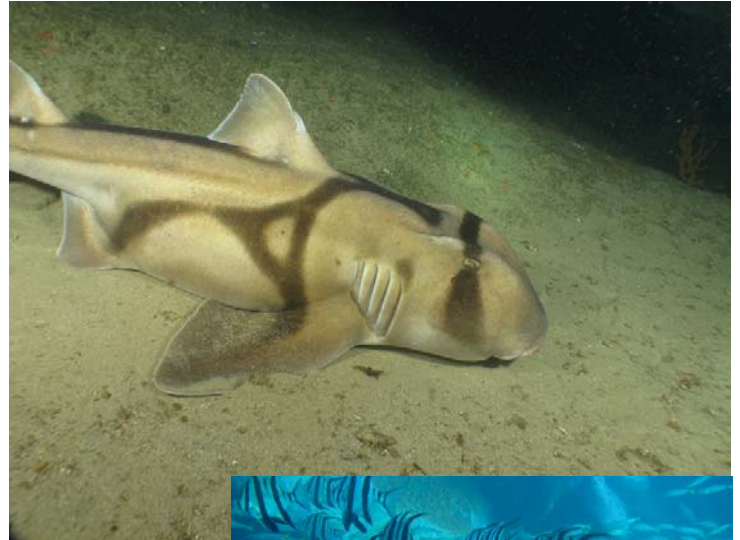
Greg and I dived first from Argonaut and were a bit disoriented with the location, coming from further south west than we'd been before. I started to get the feeling I knew where I was, but never quite nailed it. We approached the first part of the split from the outside and recognised the sea whips. Here we met up with Caroline, Les and Peter F underwater. Neither Caroline nor Peter had their cameras with them so we were good company for Les.

Greg and I were using our magnifying glasses to search for tiny critters and I found a whole bunch of red spiders on a maroon sponge. They were so small even with his magnifying glass Greg had difficulty seeing them.

Vis was 15 metres and water temp was 17. The breeze had picked up by the time we got back on board. We donned our spray jackets to keep out the wind and sat in the sun while we waited for Phil and Dave to return.

After the dive, as anchors were being retrieved, Yes Dear 2 appeared from the south and they noted our no show at Marley Point or in Rudy's words "We dived the plan".

We all rafted up at Gibbon Beach for morning tea, as Yes Dear was going out for a second dive. The day had warmed up but the wind picked up on the drive home and the temp dropped from 21 degrees to 16 and torrential rain, so we had the best of the day.



**Shelley Brueseker**

**Photos by Wayne Heming**

## MIDDLE GROUND

**Saturday 27 July**



Saturday 27 July saw us heading out to dive Middle Ground. We had four boats, Argonaut with Phil and Dave Short, Bill Rowland, Daniel Noble and Peter Flockart, Triple D with Ray Moulang, Greg Blackburne, Shelley Brueseker, Maxine Hayden and Tricia Henry, Le Scat with me, Kelly McFadyen, Hen Ridley, Gary Perkins, Nancy Scoleri and Sheila Baldock and finally Toucan with Peter Beaumont, David Qi and Phil Goodman.

After huge seas on Wednesday it was good to see that the conditions were excellent as we approached the dive site. We anchored first go as did Ray, but Phil took a couple of goes to hook in as his anchor failed to grab on the very flat reef top. Peter did hook in, but as it turned out, he was off the main reef and anchored on sand to the south. The water looked very clean from the top and this turned out to how it was all the way to the bottom. Kelly, Sheila and I were first in the water off Le Scat. It was the first time I had dived with Sheila





for well over two years. When we got to the bottom at 28 metres, we found that our anchor was hooked into a ledge about 50 mm high. The problem with Middle Ground is that there are very few good spots for anchors to hook into on the top of the reef. After a lot of searching I found a reasonable spot and moved the anchor.

We dropped over the side of the reef to 31 metres and saw a nice eastern blue devilfish out in the open. This was seen by nearly everyone on the dive. As normal, I headed anti-clockwise around the reef. Other divers came down, we saw Greg and Shelley a few times as well as Daniel, Bill and Peter F. On the northern side there were a lot of fish and the north-western corner had more than a dozen Port Jackson sharks. All of them seemed to be pregnant, once particularly so. Along this section of reef Kelly found two pygmy pipehorses. Even though the sea was calm, there was a bit of surge even at this depth. It was not too bad, but sometimes it did make it uncomfortable as you needed to equalise your ears so often.

We headed back to the anchor and Sheila ascended (she had air and Kelly and I were on 32%). I could see Sheila clearly at five metres from the bottom. Soon Gary, Nancy and Ken came down so it was time for Kelly and I to ascend as well. Under the boat I could see the other divers on Argonaut and Triple D doing their safety stop. The visibility was probably about 20 metres on the bottom and perhaps a little better up higher.



After the dive we had a few humpback whales come towards the boats before they disappeared. Phil Goodman found his way from the sand to the reef but then could not find his anchor so he did an ascent up his SMB. We headed back into Darkes Bay for morning tea. For morning tea, Nancy pulled out some very special cupcakes she had made. These had letters on each one that read out HAPPY BDAY KELLY. Yes, it was Kelly's birthday and I had chocolate mud cake for her as well.

Thanks to Nancy for organising this great dive.

**Michael McFadyen**

Middle Ground is out of Port Hacking, a short boat ride from the headland. It is a circular reef at a depth of around 32m. The temperature of the water was 17°C and the visibility was a good 15 meters. Due to the depth and to avoid decompression, we did a 20 mins bottom time. As soon as we got to the bottom, we found an Eastern Blue Devilfish in one of the reef's gutters. It was friendly and out in the open but after I took a few photos it decided to hide under the ledge! We started swimming closer to the sand line for 10 mins and then came back on top of the reef to finish the dive. We saw an octopus, a basket star, a scorpionfish, a few sea stars and many common nudibranchs. Port Jackson sharks were also there and some of them looked very fat! After the dive, we stopped for a nice morning tea. The sun was out and help warming us up. As usual, the snacks were numerous and delicious: we had cupcakes and a chocolate mud-cake to celebrate Kelly's birthday, cheese and crackers, lamingtons, Tim Tams, apple and walnut loaf... What a great way to start the week-end!! ☺

**Nancy Scoleri**





This scheduled boat dive to Middle Ground was organised by Nancy. Air temp was 7 degrees at the car park, and the sea was smooth and windless.

On Triple D we slowed down as 3 male youths frantically signalled us from the sandbank. Turned out they wanted a lift across to Shiprock and it was highly likely they'd been drinking, judging by the empty beer bottles floating in the water near them. We left them to it and proceeded to Bundeena wharf to pick Maxine up.

As soon as I got in the water I knew it would be good as I could see the divers under the boats around us. The water was very clear but with what we call 'whale snot' suspended in it, so you could see quite far, maybe 20 metres.

The anchor was picked in nicely so we left it alone. Then we followed a split in the reef to the sand line. Here we found quite a few PJs dotted around and as we rounded a corner in the reef we found 20 or so of them piled 3 deep in places.

We didn't use our magnifying glasses on this dive, as the fish life was abundant with long finned pike doing a 'barracuda' (spiralling school). I also saw Squid eggs and an Eastern Blue Devil Fish.

We saw a school of Minke whales going past where we were back on the boat and Maxine and Tricia surfaced just in time to see them.

After struggling a bit with our anchor, which had picked in better with the wind change, we headed back to the river and had to stop to let another Minke whale pass across our bow. This one looked bigger than the others, with barnacles on it.

We had morning tea alone in Jibbon Beach as the other boats did not realise we had to drop Maxine off at Bundeena again. We missed the cute cup cakes Nancy had baked for Kelly's birthday.



**Shelley Brueseker**

Photos by Nancy Scoleri

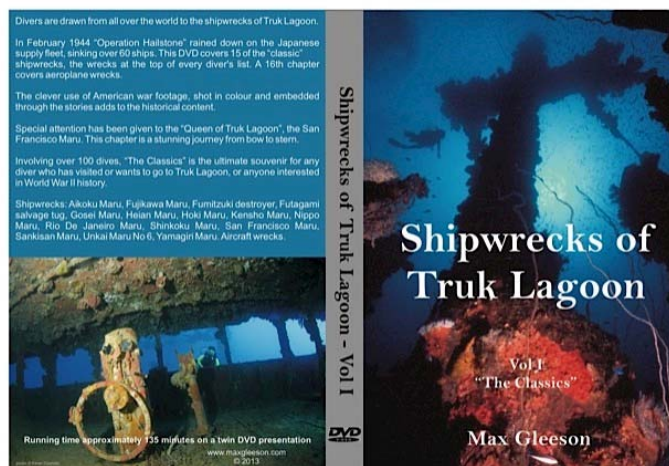




DVD Launch - St George Rowers

Monday 16 September, 7.30PM

## TRUK LAGOON DVD



Max Gleeson's new DVD "Shipwrecks of Truk Lagoon" will be launched at the St George Rowers Club (near Sydney Airport) on **Monday 16th of September 2013**.

Max will be speaking about the making of the DVD as well as presenting a chapter on one of the lagoon's finest, the Nippo Maru.

A preview of the DVD can be seen on Max's website [www.maxgleeson.com](http://www.maxgleeson.com) under 'DVD Previews.'

The DVD will be for sale on the night. Orders for the DVD and Max's books can also be made via Max's website.

Liam Allen, winner of 'Tech Diver of the Year' will be showing video of the Swedish war fleet flagship "Mars" which sank in 1564.

Meeting at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start or get there earlier for a meal in the bistro.

St George Rowers Club: 1 Levey St Wollongong NSW 2205.





## Narooma/Montague Island Seals Long Weekend Fri 4 – Sun 7 October

### **Diving:**

Narooma Charters <http://www.naroomacharters.com.au/>

The boat takes 22 people and if we get a full 22 people the cost will be \$80 per double dive! (It's normally \$100 per double).

They also take our tanks back to the shop each night, fill them and bring them back to the boat the next morning so no need to go back to the dive shop at all if you don't want to.

This year the Narooma Blues Festival is on over the October long weekend with artists such as Chris Cain, Ash Grunwald and The Holmes Brothers featured (<http://www.bluesfestival.tv/lineup/>). It's also the peak of the whale watching season so all-in-all it's a very busy weekend and accommodation is already almost completely booked out.

### **Accommodation:**

I can potentially get a booking at the YHA Hostel at a cost of approximately \$30 per person, per night (3 night minimum, so approx. \$90 in total) in the dorm style rooms (from 4 person share to 7 person share) or approx. \$42 per person per night (again 3 night minimum) in the double or twin share rooms. All rooms are en-suite and have tea/coffee making facilities and a small fridge. The owners have always been really good to us and allow us to use their back yard to wash our dive gear and also have clothes lines and a drying room for us to use. All linen is supplied and there's a big kitchen and dining room (<http://www3.yha.com.au/hostels/nsw/south-coast/narooma/>).

Given that the accommodation in the town is already almost booked out, unfortunately I would need a deposit of \$50 from you along with your booking. This can be paid into the club bank account as usual.

Narooma is such a beautiful place and diving with the seals is just the most incredible rush, I can't recommend it enough, so go on get in quick!

**Contact Caroline Corcoran**  
**[carolinecorcoran@yahoo.com](mailto:carolinecorcoran@yahoo.com) or 0450 140 795**

# SEA BRAGGIN'

## BEQA SHARK DIVES, FIJI

July 2013

After reading reports and seeing video of the Beqa shark dives it has been on my bucket list for a number of years. I finally had the opportunity to experience the shark dives first hand on a recent trip to Fiji. I had



a brief encounter with a Bull Shark at Byron bay a few years ago, so I was looking forward to getting up close to some of these shy and elusive animals.

In my mind I had pictured something similar to the shark feed at Osprey reef, only this time with some bigger sharks.

While this made up part of the experience, there was another element that I had not expected, which was how curious these sharks are, and how close they are willing to come to divers. Though not every dive was like this. Only one out of three days diving with them did I discover my comfort level in the proximity of an adult Bull Shark decreases dramatically as the business end comes within range. This occurred on a sliding scale with one meter raising slight concern at one end of the spectrum, through to being frozen solid with white knuckles on the camera grip at anything less than 10cm!

I was fortunate enough to be offered a position off to the side of the main group of divers for every shark dive. This gave me the opportunity to get great photos

as the sharks came in to feed. While it did leave me more exposed, the staff at Aqua Trek were always in position and were able to control the movement of the sharks. At times though it was nerve wracking, with 3m sharks coming in to investigate my camera gear, often bumping into my dome, before moving on.

The sharks that frequent the feed are Tawny Nurse sharks, Bull sharks, Silver tips and the occasional Tiger, Grey reef or White tip. Over 20 Bulls were present at some of the feeds, of which only the largest sharks come in to be hand fed. It was an amazing spectacle and a great experience to watch these awesome creatures up close.

One day was also spent diving the reefs of Beqa lagoon. The dives included a purpose sunk wreck which had some nice features such as nudi's, soft

corals, fans, octopus and pipefish. The reef itself had some great swim-throughs with lots of fans sea whips and soft corals in the current-swept gutters, and mainly hard corals on the reef flats. Of course there was an amazing variety of reef fish which made the dives very enjoyable.

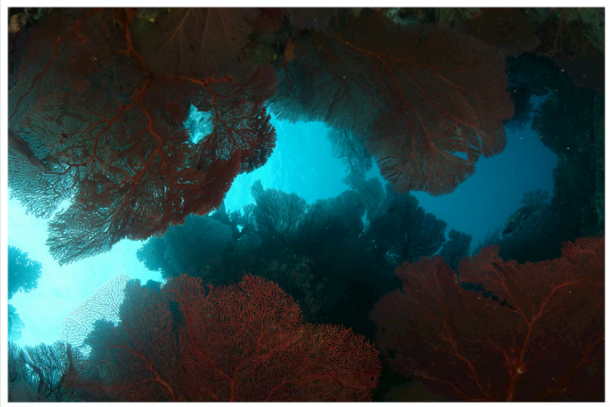


Some video footage of Bull sharks checking out my camera can be found here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVeLDJEotLs&feature=youtu.be>

Jarrod Brazenall







# SEA BRAGGIN'

## GREAT BARRIER REEF

### Taka liveaboard

The decision to spend a few days in warm and sunny Cairns and its surrounds between busy semesters proved to be an easy one, and as we all know, no trip to that part of the world would be complete without a few days out exploring the coral and the creatures that inhabit the reef.

We didn't have a great deal of time and the budget was relatively tight too, so we elected to dive with Deep Sea Divers Den on their boat 'Taka' for three nights as it plodded back and forth between the twenty odd sites on Norman and Saxon reef they are permitted to use. The crowded day boat Sea Quest



that takes all the snorkelers and day divers out to the reef was a little stifling at times, but we did manage two dives with a spot of lunch on the way out to meet 'Taka'. After mooring up beside each other we were efficiently transferred to the boat that was to be our home for the next few days, and after a quick introduction to the boat and room check-in it was straight into the briefing for the next dive. Although the back deck could be a little hectic as thirty odd people geared up, the amount of space and systems in place ensured that getting in and out of the water was always easy.

It is wonderful to get into nice tropical water for the first few times when all you have been used to of late is the cool winter temperature of Sydney. We were told our timing was good, as they had not been having

the best visibility over the preceding months in the area. On most of our dives we experienced gin-clear water and with the sun out most of the time this made for some fairly special diving. After wake-up at 6:50am and a solid



breakfast, a quick briefing saw us heading straight for a bit of depth for the first couple of dives looking for slumbering sharks, as no reverse profiling was allowed. Back towards the reef we most often drifted along tumbling coral walls, ascending to the shallows where bright colours and abundant fish life made for endless

entertainment. A break followed by a hearty lunch after the second dive always hit the spot, during which time the Taka would head to the next site. Back in the water again we spent the afternoon dives in the shallows following turtles around, stroking the large Maori Wrasse we frequently found and having as much fun with the GoPro as possible. In between the third and







fourth dives of the day we were always met by the day boat and some fellow divers would leave and others would arrive. Most people seemingly only spent one night on board, I was very glad to be staying for more.



The Taka spends weeks at a time out on the reef and one sure-fire convenience about this is that you can make your stay as long or short as you like.

In the afternoon the Taka moves to the spot in which it will anchor for the night and we were back in the water again. The afternoon dives were always relaxed and fun as the sun dipped lower in the sky and the blues and darker hues signalled that the end of the day was drawing near. Shallows in the sun and many swim-throughs up to the top of the reef made for easy fun and drifting amongst the coral. A highlight was being met head on by a school (or a herd as I felt may have been more appropriate) of enormous Bumpheaded Parrotfish. Such unusual fish, it felt like something out of Jurassic Park. On board again the smell of a delicious evening meal greets you and after a bit of time relaxing everyone sits down to another generous feast. Last briefing of the day follows and on heading back out on deck it is amusing to watch the day's new arrivals look off the back of the boat into the floodlit water to see hundreds of large fish and grey reef sharks teeming about the surface



feeding in the light, knowing full-well they'll be in the water with them fifteen minutes later.

The night dives were great, although with good reason the fish have mainly found a place to hide for the night. I say with good reason because for the entire dive any small fish that is illuminated by torchlight is promptly placed on the menu of the many extremely impressive Giant Trevally that have learnt to follow the night divers around. The initial feeling of these speedy, large predators zooming in and around you hunting their prey in the dark is one of awe. A shallow reef exploration was always followed by cruising back up the mooring line to about eight meters and hanging in the gloom under the boat just outside the great pool of light watching the sharks cruise about angling for their next morsel.



Back on board, dessert is served and some hardier souls stay up and chat or have a beer. Five dives a day makes for a solid day though and I found myself tucked up in our small, spartan room going over the day's footage and photos before being gently rocked to a slumber by the sea, ready to start all over again the next day.

All in all I thought the operators were great. Five dives a day is a lot, but with shallow afternoon dives and good sized surface intervals I was happy with having done





17 dives over four days. The boat is well equipped and tidy, accommodations are either twin style bunk rooms (small but perfectly functional) or double rooms with ensuites. The food was delicious and was served generously. Next time I will try a different destination just to go somewhere else, but the convenience of making your trip as long or short as you like is pretty good. Four days (17 dives) was \$815 per person.

Josiah Firth and Aura Garcia



REMINDER: CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Wednesday 18 September 2013



## TREASURES FROM BELOW

In my many years of diving I have found all manner of things. My best treasure however is a gold bangle that I found at Bare Island when I was 14. I was snorkeling at the time and noticed a circle of weed on the bottom. When I duck dived down I realized the weed was growing on some sort of round ring. I brought it up to the surface and when I showed my Dad, he said “throw it away, love, it’s probably just a brass ring”. Well curiosity got the better of me so I took it home and cleaned it gently with my brother’s toothbrush. My hard work revealed a 24kt gold, plaited bangle which I still have today. At the time of the find I was saving for my first dream car, a Mini. My Mum suggested I go and get the bangle valued, which I did. The jeweler valued it at just over \$400, which was a fortune to me back then and enough to help me buy my dream car when I was old enough.

By the time I got my licence the price of gold had gone up and it was now worth double according to my second valuation. When I announced to Mum that I was going to sell it and buy a Mini she talked me out of it saying “what if you want to give it to your children one day?” (why do Mums say that?) So I kept the bangle which is possibly worth close to \$1,000 now but had I bought a Mini Cooper, the car would be worth around \$50,000 today in good nick.

In the early 80’s I was diving with my then boyfriend at Clovelly when we found what looked to be a large silver bullet. We pocketed it then about 20 minutes later we found a second one. After we got them home and cleaned them we realized they were a salt and pepper set. Adding to my collection of “bullets”, I found a .22 shell at Bare Island about 4 years ago.

Other items I have found include a mobile phone at Gunyah, a green toy ute at Camp Cove, a Barbie doll at Jibbon which I have also seen on later dives, two fishing rods this year, a Caltex hard hat and a Ports Authority hard hat, both at The Leap on separate dives, a flick knife at Harold Holt Reef and an LP record at Manly nets whilst looking for seahorses. So I guess you could say I hold the record!



Maxine Hayden







## VANUATU – DIVING WITH A DUGONG

### June 2013

During June 2013, three club members, Peter and Marianne Tibbitts and Phil Short, travelled to Vanuatu to swim in the Vanuatu ocean swim series and also dive at Port Vila and Santo to dive the Coolidge.

Our first day of diving at Port Vila was with Nautilus Dive. They are a PADI (no-deco mantra) diving shop and I probably would not use them again. We dived the wreck of the Federsen but our group had to move off the wreck to a reef after only ten minutes to avoid deco. As it turned out it was a good move. The reef was mostly dead and not that much sea life. Then we heard a metallic banging from one of the dive masters who was bringing up the rear. A dugong had swum down to him in about 12 metres of water and bumped into him, giving him a fairly big scare (he used more colourful words). The dugong wanted to have his back scratched. So we took it in turns to pat him. He would surface get some air and then come back down and find a diver for a pat. He didn't care which one so long as he got his back scratched. The dive guides on our trip had never experienced a dugong coming in for a pat before and wanted copies of our photos.

The attached photos were taken by Marianne Tibbitts. My GoPro was going flat but I managed to get about 30 seconds of video and about half a dozen stills before it died. I downloaded them to my laptop and deleted them from my camera card, and then the laptop died. I'm still trying to get the footage.

We did two organized ocean swims during the trip. One in Port Vila around Irriki Island, which was about 3.4km, and one in Santo from Luganville to Aore Island, which was about 2.6km. The water was 29 degrees and beautiful to swim in. It was a great social event as there were 24 people at the swim from the Sutherland shire, many from the surf club and local swimming clubs.

We did 10 dives on the Coolidge, which included the usual dives: cargo hold, medical supplies, lady, engine room and stern. They have all been written about many times and dived by most members. My favourite was diving inside the ship from the stern to the chain locker at the bow over a couple of dives. We got some memorable video footage.

If you enjoy swimming I'd recommend joining the diving holiday with a couple of the ocean swims, which are held in June of each year.



Phil Short



## SEA BRAGGIN' NORTH SOLITARY ISLANDS Sun 24 – Fri 29 November 2013

This time of year is usually pretty good for the 24 degree, blue water.

If you haven't dived here before YOU ARE MISSING OUT. This some of the most diversified and spectacular diving in NSW.

Huge anemone beds nestled in Anemone Bay and all down the western side of North Solitary. Shark Gutters and of course FISH SOUP - an unbelievable site with schools upon schools of fish.

Pimpernel Rock is also a magnificent dive that we will be hoping to do.

The plan is to arrive at Wooli (about an 8 hour drive) on Sunday 24th November and dive 4 days (Monday to Thursday) with Friday being optional as well as a safety net should a day be blown out.

We will be staying at the Wooli Dive Centre which is a very large and well appointed home.

All up cost is \$130.00 per day per diver (\$30.00 for a non-diver/ accompanying partner) – which includes accommodation, double boat dive and air fills. No nitrox available.

Maximum 14 divers - **only 3 spots left!**

To ensure your spot please deposit \$50.00 into the club's bank account  
St George Scuba Club BSB 062 028 A/C 000800455

Be quick as this is a MUST DO dive location.

Please email Kelly and myself when you pay the deposit.

**Contact Mark Ridsdale [msrconsulting@aol.com](mailto:msrconsulting@aol.com)  
0419 243 717**





# SEA BRAGGIN'

## SHORE DIVING AT THE LEAP

**Saturday 13 July**

The forecast for the dive conditions on this day were good – but when we got there it was even better than we expected. Ronna and Donna were a bit late as they had to see if Ron could fix Donna's regs before the dive and David Qi was late due to car issues (Eddie waited for him so he would not miss out on his dive – what a guy!). Eventually the ladies and Eddie dived together. As we had 16 divers – it was kinda crowded on the Leaping rock – but we entered in style, after which every thing returned to normal. Peter Flockart could not dive due to his wonky hand but he came along and organised the BBQ brunch for us – nice work, thanks Pete!

I set off with Kim Dinh and Bob Trudgeon. I should point out that Bob tried everything to get out of doing this dive – see his report later. The viz was 15 metres when we hit the water and the current was "Goldilocks" (just right). We headed a bit east at the start so we would travel the full length of the deep wall – this idea nearly worked and we travelled along about 75% of the wall (thus missing the fishing net – see James' report later). We found a few PJ's, four Weedy Seadragons and all the usual suspects BUT I could not find any seahorses (again). A great dive with a run time of about an hour.

Many thanks to Ken and Ron for some sensational photos taken on this dive.

**Paul Pacey**



© Ron Walsh

Gaetano, Caroline and I swam to the right of the Leap, following the shelf at 10m until dropping over the ledge and down to 20m. Visibility this side was around 15m.

After removing some netting from the wall we turned and passed the Leap at about 35 minutes into the dive. We then continued around to the Steps, getting out around 70 minutes. A few wobbegongs, PJs, and small rays, but not much current.

**James Dean**



© Ron Walsh

Paul Pacey is well known as "Mr Fix It". He certainly lived up to that reputation on this dive at the Leap.

### 1st rescue by Mr Fix It

In endeavouring to turn my air on, the black knob on the tank turned but not the actual internal valve spindle. Paul removed his BC, unlocked his car, located screw driver and pliers, removed the damaged black knob and turned on the valve spindle using pliers.

### 2nd rescue by Mr Fix It

Due to the anxiety with the tank valve (that is my excuse and I am sticking to it), I over looked connecting the dry suit inflator hose. Ten metres down I push the inflator valve to have a sudden burst of cold water hit my chest. Grabbed Paul by his fin. Remarkably, he was able to decipher my hand signals and connected the hose.



© Ron Walsh



### 3rd rescue by Mr Fix It

Of course, if there is difficulty turning air on, there is also going to be difficulty turning air off. Problem solved by raiding Paul's car to find his pliers.

It was not only a good dive, it was an exceptional dive - normally it would not have eventuated due to the equipment issues. Thanks Paul!

**Bob Trudgeon**



A one hour+ dive buddied with Eddie and Ron at The Leap makes me feel like I am an experienced diver already. However, carrying a newly owned 18L tank (yes folks, that's a 150 cubic foot tank - it weighs about the same as an army tank!) out of water reminds me that I still have a long way to go to catch up with them.

**David Qi**

Ahhhhh, as good as it gets, perfect tide, great day weatherwise, flat as, 10 - 15m viz and a tropical 17 degrees. We saw: Juvenile weedies x 2, cuttlefish, PJ's/CHS's, nudies, Whites sea horses x 2.

A St George first ... a co-ordinated entry, but then the dive reverted to standard protocol with a perfectly executed star burst. The dive had everything, a couple of surface swims by good buddies after a drysuit malfunction. One separated diver surfacing. James also had a drysuit malfunction with an ingress of water but no-one could agree whether it originated externally or internally. Two separate dives by Ronna and Donna, Eddie and David Qi. It was good to see them at the BBQ and Ronna was very popular when he produced a bottle of BBQ sauce (which seemed to be absent from Mr Pacey's goodie bag). Maxine was looking to impress everyone with her ugg boot stubby holder, but was totally blown out of the water by Glen with his portable butane gas powered coffee machine, complete with pressure gauge, dials and all manner of plumbing pipes (mind you it did take about 35 minutes to actually produce one small cup of coffee!).

Thanks to Paul for organising and also Peter Flockart who turned up, didn't dive but had the Barbie fired up and food cooked for the divers (What a guy, just like Ace Rimmer (Red Dwarf)). Special mention to non-diving attendee Ray Moulang.



**Ken Ridley**

Even though we were a little late for the dive - due to regulator issues - the current was still sufficiently strong to make it a fantastic drift in. During the dive I was searching the rock that normally has the seahorses on it when Donna beeped her beeper at the next rock, having found the three big belly seahorses - the buggers had moved house! We found another 3 later in the dive.





We had just completed our safety stop and had risen to 3m when a large giant cuttlefish appeared from nowhere and was happily free swimming in open water - and here was me with my macro lens on! Oh well. Suppose I could have taken a photo of his eye or something.

Ron Walsh

Photos by Ron Walsh and Ken Ridley







# SEA BRAGGIN'

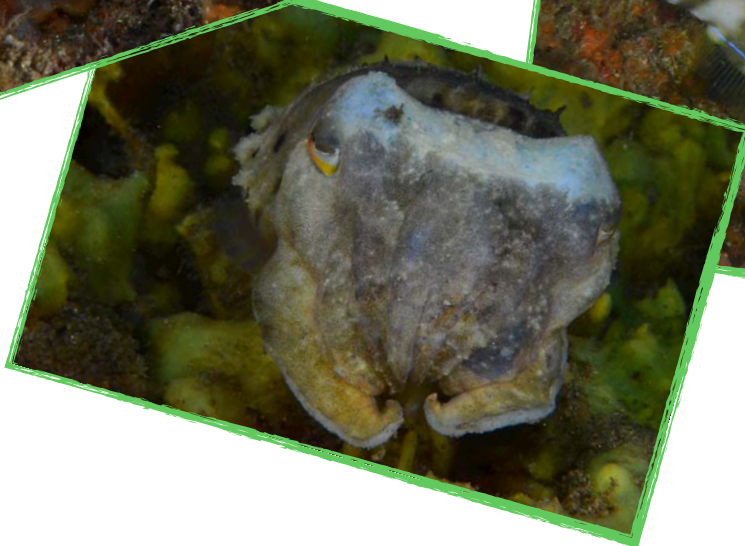
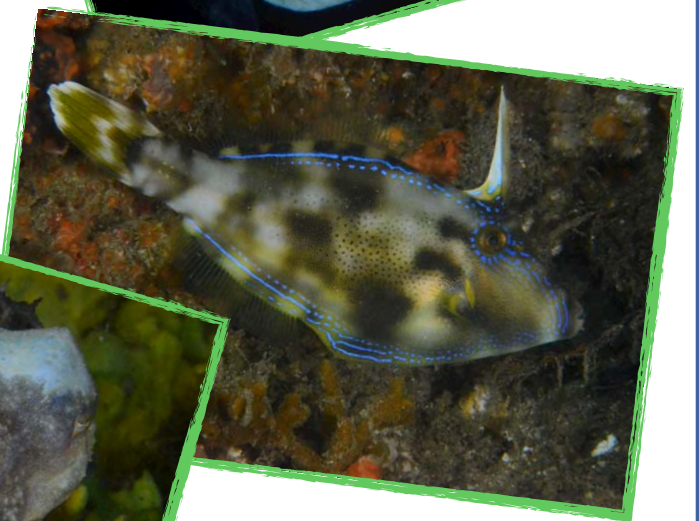
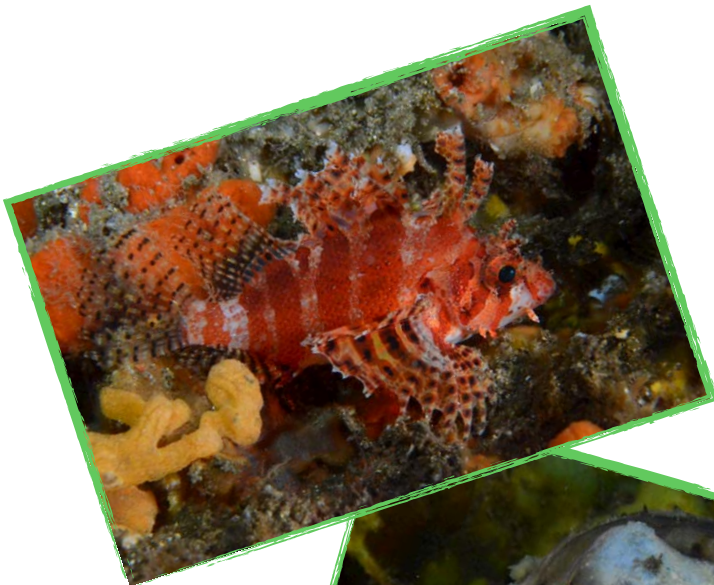
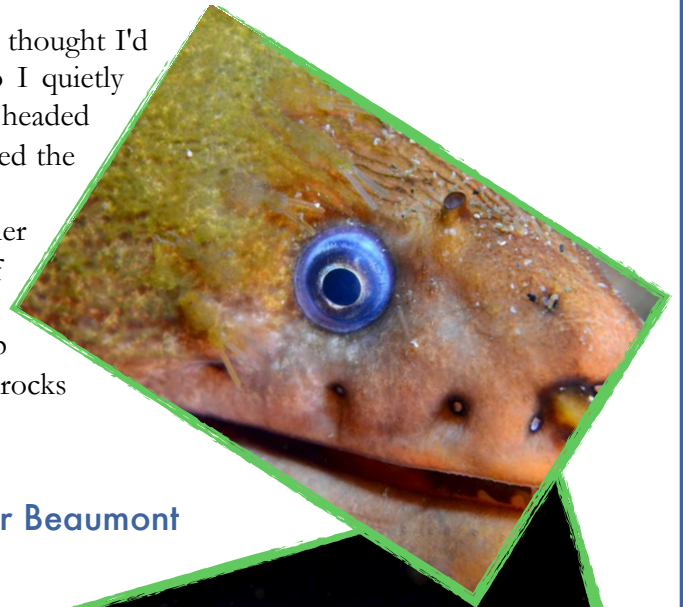
## SHIPROCK

Seeing the weather forecast wasn't that great for boat diving I thought I'd try a night/day dive at Shiprock. High tide was at 6.09am so I quietly geared up, locked the car (without setting off the car alarm) and headed

down to the entry point. It was approx 5.50am when I entered the water and a startled occy flew past (I think I almost trod on it).

I had a look around at the top of the wall then headed further down to the pineapple fish followed by a slow look around of the 1st/2nd bommie, and the crevices in the reef wall around the bubble cave. At the 75 minute mark I headed back to the top of the reef and spent the next 15 minutes looking around the rocks (and getting the most out of my air fill). All up it was an interesting dive.

Peter Beaumont







## WHAT'S COMING UP?

WHEN	WHAT/ WHERE	CONTACT	WHEN	WHAT/ WHERE	CONTACT
Sat 17 Aug	Boat Dive SS Hilda	Gary Perkins <a href="mailto:perkinsdive@gmail.com">perkinsdive@gmail.com</a>	Wed 21 Aug	Club Meeting Rowers on Cook Club	Jason Coombs <a href="mailto:j.coombs@unsw.edu.au">j.coombs@unsw.edu.au</a>
Fri 23 - Sun 25 Aug	Seal Dive Weekend Jervis Bay	Natasha Naude <a href="mailto:natasha@bluecucumber.com">natasha@bluecucumber.com</a>	Sat 31 Aug	Boat Dive Rifle Range/ Sharks	Shelley Brueseker <a href="mailto:shellsb@bigpond.net.au">shellsb@bigpond.net.au</a>
Sat 7 Sept	Deep Dive SS Tuggerah/ SS Undola	Gary Perkins <a href="mailto:perkinsdive@gmail.com">perkinsdive@gmail.com</a>	Sun 8 Sept	See food and Seafood Shiprock	Paul Pacey <a href="mailto:paul.pacey@iinet.net.au">paul.pacey@iinet.net.au</a>
Sat 14 Sept	Boat Dive Xanadu	Natasha Naude <a href="mailto:natasha@bluecucumber.com">natasha@bluecucumber.com</a>	Sun 15 Sept	Dbl Boat Dive HMAS Adelaide	Nancy Scoleri <a href="mailto:nancyscoleri@yahoo.com.au">nancyscoleri@yahoo.com.au</a>

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