



# NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 453 Hurstville South 2221 NSW

July 2006

## Club Shore Dive – Bare Island

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2006

By Paul Pacey

Despite marginal weather, four intrepid club members met at Bare Island at 7:00pm on 22nd June. Whilst some members had driven through driving rain on the way it was actually clear at the dive site. Divers were Michael.M Mike.S Ron.B and Paul.P.

The first thing we noticed was the big tide and waves that were washing over the divers ramp on the western side of the bridge – no easy stroll into the water tonight. There was talk of exploring the new artificial reef that has been setup in the bay but that idea was dropped due to the big swell and, oh yeah, nobody knew where it was.

So into the water and head west. I had only gone 2 metres when I spotted a dumpling squid, I haven't seen one for ages. The other guys also remarked that they'd seen a few too. The viz was unexpectedly good at about 10m.

At one stage I thought I spied something interesting out on the sand then decided it was just a piece of sponge drifting on the current. Then Mike Scotland pointed out that it was actually a Red Indian fish! He was so cute and captured many minutes of our attention as he bounced, in a trance-like state, across the bottom seemingly oblivious to all the attention (and the light). He wasn't even spooked by the fact that Mike's torch was still working at this stage – most unusual.

Of course, hawkeyed McFadyen spotted one of his pet Sea Horses. Another unusual thing was clouds of tiny fish about 10mm long. If you held your torch still for a while they would almost blot out the beam. The Mado's were having a feast.

Other sightings were spider crabs, some beautiful cowries and a Blue Ringed Octopus that gave a very colourful display of anger when prompted.

After the dive we were joined by Kelly for Pizza – a perfect way to finish a fantastic nights diving.

## Six artificial reefs for Botany Bay

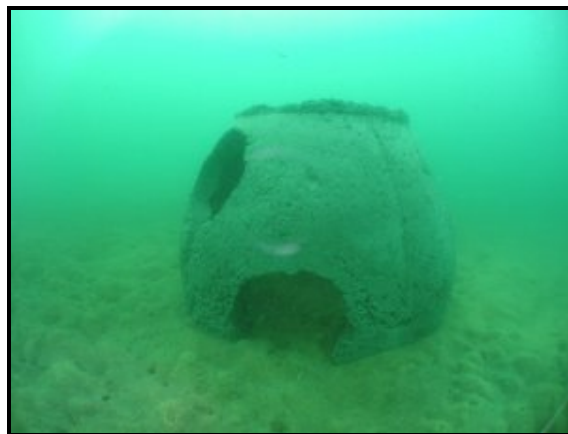
Recreational fishing **DIVING** in Botany Bay is set to get even better with the deployment today of six small artificial reefs. The reefs are part of a three-year \$369 000 pilot programme funded by the Recreational Fishing Trusts.

The reefs will create new fish habitats in this popular recreational fishing **DIVING** spot, attracting various species of fish.

The six reefs will be made up of 180 concrete reef ball modules, which can be easily moved, or removed completely, if necessary.

DPI staff are deploying the artificial structures in six locations this week - Yarra Bay (3 reefs), Astrolabe Cove (1 reef) and Congwong Bay (2 reefs), in depths ranging from 9.6 to 14.1 metres.

Prior to the deployment, scientific surveys of the sites and surrounding natural reefs were conducted so they could be compared with the artificial structures once deployed.



RB on the bottom at Galgabba Point, Lake Macquarie

Botany Bay is the second recreational fishing haven (RFH) in NSW to trial the artificial reefs, six similar artificial structures were deployed in Lake Macquarie in December 2005.

(Information & photograph from DPI Fisheries website <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries>)

**Club Boat Dive – The Tuggerah****24<sup>th</sup> June 2006****By Paul Pacey**

Two boats (Le Scat and Ian Gowan's) departed Yowie Bay at 8:00am (ish) headed for the Tuggerah. Le Scat divers were Kelly, Sheila, Michael, Mike, Eddie.I, and Gordon. Ian had Peter.F, Laurie, Phillip and myself.

The run down the coast was a bit lumpy which had Le Scat pulling away from us. Also ahead of us was another boat which we were hoping was heading for the Undola - but they weren't.

On our boat the first group down was Phillip, Ian and myself. We elected Phillip as tour leader as he'd dived the wreck over 20 times before. The viz at the surface didn't look promising but, as we approached the wreck, I was stunned by the sight before me. The viz was probably 15m and, as we approached the wreck from the north east, the entire wreck site was visible. The stern of the ship towered over the remains of the forward section of the ship which is laid out flat on the bottom like a giant skeleton. It was a sight I will never forget.

We found the anchor tied to a piece of solid superstructure with a very tidy knot (thanks to Michael, we assume) and then set off following Phillip for an all too brief 15 minute tour of the wreck. First, down to the boiler, which has now been claimed as a dormitory by a monster Wobby. Across the engine room, over the stern and, I couldn't help myself, through the propeller. Whilst there were Wobby's everywhere you looked there were not as many Nannygai as when I first visited the wreck. In fact the first time I dived here the viz was about 1 metre and there were so many Nannygai that I was not convinced there was a wreck at all as I couldn't see it! BUT, I can now see why the Tuggerah is such a popular dive site.

Fifteen minutes seemed like 15 seconds and it was time to start our ascent and deco (I must remember to take a Rubik Cube next time). Phillip set up his tether line and looked like he was nodding off for a while there.

After we returned to the boat, Peter and Laurie geared up and disappeared down the shot line. We were surprised when Laurie returned much sooner than expected as his rebreather had a minor flood after he had been on the wreck for a while. Peter appeared after completing his deco

and we had an uneventful return to Port Hacking.

Since we were late back into Port we found that Le Scat had already decamped the usual morning tea spot so we proceeded to Chateau Gowan where morning tea was enjoyed on the front lawn overlooking the river. Everyone agreed, it doesn't get much better than this!

Many thanks to the boat owners for a fantastic day out. Tuggerah, I'll be back!

**Club Double Boat Dive – Wollongong****25<sup>th</sup> June 2006****By Roxanne Fea**

Arriving late we met up with Kellie Jandik, Brian Byrnes, Eddie Ivers, Phil Rose and Michael McFadyen for a double boat dive from Wollongong harbour.

Phil had organised an excellent deal with Leon from United Divers so we were under pressure to stick to the schedule. Under the watchful eye of Michael, Phil, Eddie et al we geared up in record time and set off for the first dive of the day.

It was a spectacular morning with a very gentle swell and flat seas, so after narrowly dodging a flock of small seabirds (some type of shearwater?) we arrived at the SS Bombo and thanks to Leon's expertise anchored right by the engine.

J & I hadn't been in the water for some weeks so energised we followed closely on Kels & Michael's bubbles and descended right on the hull of the wreck. The viz was a decent 10 – 12m, and a typical mid-winter 17°.



Photo by Brian Byrnes

The remains of the wreck were spread over a fair distance and seemed to have been tossed and turned from various storms of the past few years. (I'm not a wreckie so see [http://www.uniteddivers.com.au/bombo\\_history.htm](http://www.uniteddivers.com.au/bombo_history.htm) or <http://www.michaelmcfadyenscuba.info/articles/bombo.htm> for all the nuts & bolts, but I do note that 12 hands were lost at sea).

I can report that the Bombo harbours dense schools of yellow-tailed pike, sweeps, various juvenile nurseries, and at least three of the biggest Sepia apama or giant cuttlefish lurking amongst the wreckage. The nudibranchs Black-margin Glossodoris, Bennetts Hypselodoris and Variable Aphelodoris were also scattered over the wreck.

Creeping into deco after 20 mins, we headed up the anchor-line and back into the harbour as a bitter wind began to build.

We bravely enjoyed what Jase coined a 'Shackleton's Lunch' on the wharf as Leon took a group of student divers out into the bay, and decided that an excursion to the south end of Pig Island within the Five Islands Nature Resort would be the best bet given the conditions.

In the shallows of the north western side, the dive is made up of sloping barren reefs interspersed with huge boulders. Large schools of One-Spot Pullers formed winding processions hunting for zooplankton, and were followed by loads of Comb and Maori wrasse, and schools of Nannygai.

Going deeper J and I found patches of sponge gardens at 12 – 15ms amidst the kelp hiding Lizardfish, Cale (including several magnificent Rainbow Cale), a few Black Reef Leatherjackets and both Reaper & Mourning Cuttlefish. While the fish life was modest, the topography was outstanding.

On the way back we took the reconnected coastal road and stopped for a beer and chips at the near-derelict Headlands Hotel (est. 1920's), where we pondered the significance of bread & butter garnishes for every dish...

Many thanks to Phil for organising this excursion!

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Monthly Meetings

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2006 at the St. George Rowing Club, 1 Levey Street Wooli Creek at 8.00 pm. Come along about 7 pm and enjoy a meal at the bistro.

### Thursday Night Dives

These are still very popular, with up to 10 members attending each dive in recent months.

If you are interested in coming along, let Michael McFadyen know via email [Michael.McFadyen@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Michael.McFadyen@environment.nsw.gov.au) and he will add you to the night dive email list.

Night dives will run right through winter every Thursday night (weather permitting).

## UP AND COMING EVENTS

### Boat Dive – Barrens Hut 9<sup>th</sup> July 2006

A boat dive is planned for Barrens Hut on the 9<sup>th</sup> July.

Please contact Rob Mapstone if you are interested ph. 9398 5336.

### Shore Dive – The Leap 16<sup>th</sup> July 2006

A shore dive is planned for The Leap at Kurnell on the 16<sup>th</sup> July.

Please contact Paul Pacey if you are interested ph. 9527 2501.

### Social Event – Xmas in July 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2006

Xmas in July is taking place at the Catersons in Heathcote

Please contact Elly Caterson if you are interested ph. 9520 9421.

### Boat Dive - Deep Wreck 5<sup>th</sup> August 2006

This month's deep dive will be to the wreck of the hopper barge, Coolooli.

If you are interested, please contact Michael McFadyen on 9558 8181 [h]. Note that only suitable experienced and equipped divers will be taken on this dive.

## Boat Dive – Wedding Cake Island 6<sup>th</sup> August 2006

This is an opportunity to dive one of Sydney's most undived sections of coastline.

We will do a dive off the eastern or northern side of Wedding Cake Island and perhaps drop in on the grey nurse sharks on the way back to Botany Bay.

If you are interested, please contact Michael McFadyen on 9558 8181 [h].

## Skiing – Snowy Mountains Weekend 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2006

Here are the details to the weekend snow trip. Please let me know if your thinking about coming along. The trip is being organized through OZ Snow Adventures [www.ozsnowadventures.com.au](http://www.ozsnowadventures.com.au)

The cost starts at \$245.00 however you will be looking at approx \$500.00 including extra costs.

\$245.00 Includes:

2 x Nights accommodation at the Snowy Valley Resort, Jindabyne

All transport from Sydney to the Snowy Valley Resort in comfortable coaches.

Shuttle up and down the mountain each day

National Park fees

Complimentary 3-course dinner on Saturday night at the Lakeview Bistro

Party Night - Saturday is party night in Jindabyne!

2 x Hot breakfasts

Accommodation:

If there are 4 people per room the cost will remain \$245.00pp

If you prefer to share a double or twin room with one other the cost will be \$315.00pp

Buses depart Sydney, Central Station at 6pm Friday evening, returning late Sunday night.

Extra Costs

Equipment Hire:

Standard Skis, Stocks and Boots \$49.00 or

Standard Snowboard and Boots \$59.00

Parker and Pants \$29.00

Lift Passes:

Thredbo – 2 day lift pass (includes lessons)  
\$165.00

Perisher Blue – 2 day lift pass (includes lessons)  
\$229.00

Parker and Pants \$29.00

Please let me know if your thinking about coming along. David Vandervelden ph. 0414 240 992.

## Boat Diving – Labour Weekend 29<sup>th</sup> Sept – 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2006

Originally scheduled South West Rocks on the calendar for Labour weekend but unfortunately it's a small place and it's fully booked!

So the plan is to head up to Nelson Bay only 2 hours north of Sydney.

The diving is with Pro-Dive Nelson Bay who have a very good reputation (see their website <http://www.prodivenelsonbay.com/>). The boat departs straight from their shop in the centre of Nelson Bay so no lugging gear, waiting at boat ramps or surf entries.

There are a wide range of boat dive sites including:

-Broughton Island – Grey Nurse shark (critical habitat) gutters and caves

-Fingal Island – pinnacle dive rising from 35metres to 5metres

-Wrecks – Oakland Collier (27m) Macleay (42m)

-Cabbage Tree Island – Sponge gardens, a couple of small shallow wrecks and home to one of the rarest nudibranchs the Donut nembrotha is commonly found here.



**DONUT NEMBROTHA**

The diving is with Pro-Dive Nelson Bay who have a very good reputation (see their website <http://www.prodivenelsonbay.com/>). The boat departs straight from their shop in the centre of Nelson Bay so no lugging gear, waiting at boat ramps or surf entries.

Alternatively if the seas are up we can shore dive at the famous Fly Point or Halifax park. These sites are high tide dives which will be at 1:24pm on Saturday, 2:39pm on Sunday and 3:53pm on Monday over Labour Weekend.

Accommodation will be at Pro dive – backpacker style opposite the RSL and right in the centre of Nelson Bay for convenience. We can structure it for 2 or 3 days boat diving.

The cost for 6 boat dives and accommodation is expected to be about \$300 - \$350 depending on how many people we get and the dive sites we go to. Also if we can get more than 8 we will have the comfort of the big boat (with toilet facilities) & be able to decide which sites we do.

I would appreciate initial interest from members at this point so that I can confirm approximate numbers and firm up the price and booking details. Please contact Jason Ph. 9345 0488 or J.Coombs@unsw.edu.au.

## OTHER NEWS

### Message from your Treasurer

Membership renewal fees of \$25 are due from the end of June.

Please check your details on the attached list and fill in only any changes on the renewal form also attached and hand in to the acting treasurer (David Vandevelden) or post to our PO. Box. Make all cheques payable to the St. George Scuba Club.

## 2006 - An Ocean Odyssey Friday 17 November 2006

After an absence of a few years, DIVE Log and Sportdiving are putting on another night of noted underwater adventurers.

The night will be held at the Clancy Auditorium, University of NSW, on Friday 17 November 2006.

Guest speakers will include Jean-Michel Cousteau, Phil Nuytten, Ron and Valerie Taylor and Bob Halstead.

From experience, all of these speakers are quite interesting and worth hearing. Cost of tickets is \$16.50.

As well, there are some trips to PNG to be won as door prizes.

Michael McFadyen is putting together a group of St George Scuba Club members to attend.

If you are interested, please email Michael and give him your money at the next opportunity so he can purchase sufficient tickets. Michael can be emailed at michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info.



### Tide Times for July 2006 (Fort Denison)

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High
Sat 1		6:12 AM EST / 0.41 m	12:20PM EST / 1.21	5:50 PM EST / 0.67 m	
Sun 2	12:05 AM EST / 1.47	6:49 AM EST / 0.45 m	1:06 PM EST / 1.24	6:43 PM EST / 0.71 m	
Mon 3	12:47 AM EST / 1.39	7:28 AM EST / 0.49 m	1:56 PM EST / 1.28	7:43 PM EST / 0.75 m	
Tue 4	1:35 AM EST / 1.31 m	8:08 AM EST / 0.53 m	2:48 PM EST / 1.33	8:53 PM EST / 0.74 m	
Wed 5	2:33 AM EST / 1.23 m	8:52 AM EST / 0.55 m	3:40 PM EST / 1.40	10:03 PM EST / 0.70	
Thu 6	3:38 AM EST / 1.18 m	9:40 AM EST / 0.56 m	4:29 PM EST / 1.48	11:06 PM EST / 0.62	
Fri 7	4:42 AM EST / 1.15 m	10:28 AM EST / 0.55	5:16 PM EST / 1.56		
Sat 8		12:02 AM EST / 0.51	5:42 AM EST / 1.15	11:18 AM EST / 0.52	6:02 PM EST / 1.65 m
Sun 9		12:53 AM EST / 0.40	6:37 AM EST / 1.16	12:08 PM EST / 0.47	6:50 PM EST / 1.72 m
Mon 10		1:40 AM EST / 0.30 m	7:29 AM EST / 1.19	12:58 PM EST / 0.43	7:37 PM EST / 1.80 m
Tue 11		2:26 AM EST / 0.21 m	8:19 AM EST / 1.23	1:48 PM EST / 0.39 m	8:23 PM EST / 1.85 m
Wed 12		3:12 AM EST / 0.16 m	9:07 AM EST / 1.26	2:37 PM EST / 0.36 m	9:11 PM EST / 1.87 m
Thu 13		3:58 AM EST / 0.13 m	9:56 AM EST / 1.30	3:28 PM EST / 0.36 m	9:59 PM EST / 1.86 m
Fri 14		4:46 AM EST / 0.14 m	10:46AM EST / 1.34	4:21 PM EST / 0.38 m	10:49 PM EST / 1.81 m
Sat 15		5:33 AM EST / 0.18 m	11:38AM EST / 1.38	5:20 PM EST / 0.43 m	11:40 PM EST / 1.71 m
Sun 16		6:20 AM EST / 0.24 m	12:32PM EST / 1.42	6:24 PM EST / 0.49 m	
Mon 17	12:35 AM EST / 1.57	7:08 AM EST / 0.32 m	1:28 PM EST / 1.47	7:34 PM EST / 0.54 m	
Tue 18	1:35 AM EST / 1.41 m	7:57 AM EST / 0.40 m	2:29 PM EST / 1.53	8:54 PM EST / 0.56 m	
Wed 19	2:44 AM EST / 1.27 m	8:50 AM EST / 0.47 m	3:32 PM EST / 1.59	10:14 PM EST / 0.53	
Thu 20	3:58 AM EST / 1.17 m	9:46 AM EST / 0.52 m	4:31 PM EST / 1.64	11:25 PM EST / 0.47	
Fri 21	5:08 AM EST / 1.12 m	10:41 AM EST / 0.53	5:26 PM EST / 1.69		
Sat 22		12:25 AM EST / 0.41	6:09 AM EST / 1.11	11:35 AM EST / 0.53	6:16 PM EST / 1.72 m
Sun 23		1:15 AM EST / 0.36 m	7:01 AM EST / 1.13	12:25 PM EST / 0.51	7:03 PM EST / 1.73 m
Mon 24		1:57 AM EST / 0.32 m	7:45 AM EST / 1.16	1:12 PM EST / 0.48 m	7:45 PM EST / 1.73 m
Tue 25		2:33 AM EST / 0.31 m	8:24 AM EST / 1.20	1:54 PM EST / 0.46 m	8:24 PM EST / 1.72 m
Wed 26		3:07 AM EST / 0.30 m	9:01 AM EST / 1.23	2:34 PM EST / 0.46 m	9:01 PM EST / 1.70 m
Thu 27		3:41 AM EST / 0.31 m	9:38 AM EST / 1.27	3:12 PM EST / 0.48 m	9:37 PM EST / 1.67 m
Fri 28		4:14 AM EST / 0.33 m	10:15AM EST / 1.29	3:51 PM EST / 0.52 m	10:12 PM EST / 1.63 m
Sat 29		4:48 AM EST / 0.37 m	10:53AM EST / 1.31	4:31 PM EST / 0.57 m	10:47 PM EST / 1.56 m
Sun 30		5:21 AM EST / 0.41 m	11:32AM EST / 1.33	5:15 PM EST / 0.63 m	11:23 PM EST / 1.48 m
Mon 31		5:53 AM EST / 0.46 m	12:12PM EST / 1.34	6:03 PM EST / 0.68 m	

#### The Committee for 2005 – 2006 is:

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Steve Shaw	9868 4056	<a href="mailto:srcshaw@au1.ibm.com">srcshaw@au1.ibm.com</a>
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT:</b>	Phil Rose	9543 0748	<a href="mailto:pvrose5@bigpond.net.au">pvrose5@bigpond.net.au</a>
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Please send items for the Newsletter to me by the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month [J.Coombs@unsw.edu.au](mailto:J.Coombs@unsw.edu.au).