



P.O. Box 453 Hurstville South 2221 NSW

Visit our web page at

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

May 2005

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 Thursday night dives have produced some very good dives. On 14 April Michael, Kelly, Ian, Eddie, Jason and Rox met to dive the mainland at La Perouse. The plan was to enter the water on the eastern side of the bridge and swim west, exiting near La Perouse Point. While all divers started off on the right track, Eddie soon convinced Ian that they were going the wrong way and they back tracked under the bridge and dived the eastern side of Bare Island. Jason and Rox did something similar. Michael and Kelly were the only ones to complete the plan and they reported a very good dive. Lots of sea dragons, squid, octopus and leatherjackets were seen and the visibility was about 7 metres even though it was low tide.

On 21 April Michael, Kelly, Adam, Eddie and Ian dived Lilli Pilli baths. The water was warm (21C) and about 5 metres viz. Michael reported seeing 63 White's sea horses, the most any of them had ever seen there before. As well, lots of small leatherjackets were seen and one small blue-ringed octopus sighted. Afterwards, a great pizza was enjoyed at the South Caringbah pizza place. Other recent night dives have included Shiprock.

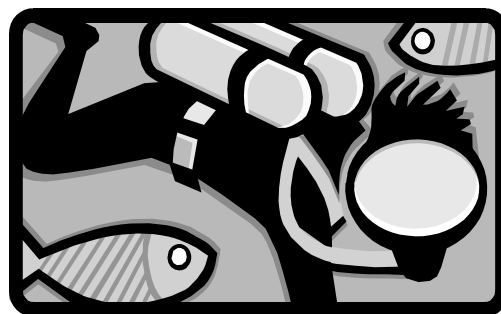
If you are not on the email list for night dives, send Michael McFadyen an email so he and Dave Burns can send you an email advising where the next dive will be held.

MAY

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].

Picnic Day at Frenchman's Bay Sunday 8th May



Meet at 8.30 am at Frenchman's Bay.
Boat Dives out to the Outer wall at Bare Island. BYO BBQ or Picnic Lunch
For any further information, please contact:
Carol Mapstone on 9531 1467
or Dave Vandervelden on 0414 240 992

SHELLHARBOUR WEEKEND

Friday 20 to Sunday 22 May 2005

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

JUNE

June Deep Dive

Saturday 4 June is the Club's next deep dive. The plan is to dive the wreck of the SS Kelloe off Little Bay. This wreck is a little deeper at 48 to 50 metres so it is only for the well equipped and experienced deep diver. Like all deep dives, it is up to Michael or Les make a call as to whether divers who want to dive this wreck are suitable. Contact Michael McFadyen on 9558 8181 or by email if you want to do the dive

Sunday 19th.

Boat Dive to Osborne Shoals

Contact Ian Gowan on 9525 5942

LAST MONTH

April Deep Dive

By Michael McFadyen

On Saturday 2 April Michael, Kelly, Eddie, Ian, Les and planned to dive the SS Tuggerah on Le Scat. However, on arriving at the wreck and anchoring, there was a raging current (with blue water of course) so the decision was made to travel further south to the SS Undola. Here there was no current. The visibility was about 12 metres as usual lots of fish on the wreck. All reported a very good dive.

Club Dive Sunday 10th April South Tabbagi

By Peter Flockart

On a warm and sunny Sunday, the scene at the Kyeemagh ramp was one of controlled chaos as 18 divers readied themselves and four boats (Le Scat, Ian's No Name, Seajohn and Dave v's) for a 8am departure.

The location of the dive was to be Minmi Trench. However as the boats made their way across Botany Bay it became apparent to those on board that the prevailing easterly swell would not make for a pleasant dive at the original site. Michael called a halt at the

mouth of the bay while conditions were assessed.

It was decided to head south to Kurnell and re-check the conditions there. After some more to-ing & froing and some yes / no decisions we finally dropped anchor in a rough square pattern south of Tabagi Gap in about 26m.

Those of us on Ian boat split into two groups. The first comprised Robyn Hewitt, Craig & Eddie Ivers. In they rolled but Eddie was having difficulty with his mask & Ian & myself thought we saw a shape on the surface some 30m behind the boat. If it had been Eddie we didn't want to be in the water & find we had to institute a missing diver search. As it was all three returned safely to the boat's shot line. Once we were certain of this we geared up & rolled over to be met by warm water (23 degrees) & 15m vis.

The bottom was sand interspersed by rock shelves and ledges. Not much in the way of fish life seen but at the 22m mark Ian sighted a small banjo ray in the kelp. On the sandy patches there lots of solitary purple sponges some having small red eastern cleaner cling fish on them. There were plenty of nudibranchs, sponges & encrusting algae's as we swam north to the wall. This feature runs east / west and is approx 2 ½ m in height.

After exploring the wall Ian reeled us back to the anchor. In doing so, we were overtaken by Dave V's anchor and chain. As we were resetting his anchor a large cuttlefish appeared to check out proceedings. The end of Ian's reel lay on the sand and I think the cuttle thought it was food & moved into check it out. I moved in with the torch and shooed him away. After 33mins on the bottom we ascended to deco after pulling the pick and flying south with the current.

On surfacing and sorting out the gear we headed back to Congwong Bay to meet the other boats for morning tea. All around us in the water and on the steps and rocks around Bare Island were divers. The good conditions certainly brought out the divers.

We mentioned our cuttlefish encounter & everyone mentioned that during their dives they too had seen some large ones. John Bedi remarked that it was the beginning of their mating season and during this time they become amorous / vicious & protective. The dive and area were then further discussed. After gorging ourselves we all headed back to the ramp which was a crazy scene to pull the boats out & proceed to our various commitments for the rest of the day.



Thanks to all the boat owners.

JERVIS BAY TRIP – EASTER

By Roxanne Fea and Jason Coombs

Finally after hearing so much about the great diving, we made our first trip to Jervis Bay. We beat the traffic by travelling at peak and arrived in good time to an eerily deserted lodge (as everyone was down at the local club).

The first day saw us head out on Le Scat with Michael, Kelly and Peter Trayhurn. 5 divers and 4 cameras anchored off the north end of Bowen Island, nothing was going to get past us undocumented.

We had been warned of long weekend's spent anchored off Bowen Island. Due to the conditions on the first day Sea John went fishing instead. There was a decent swell but we enjoyed 20+ metre vis on the 2 dives we did.

We had an interesting time with Peter when Le Scat started drifting while Michael and Kelly were underwater. Fortunately our extensive boating skills were not required.

On the second day Le Scat and Sea John ended up anchored off the northern end of Bowen Island (there is definitely a pattern emerging here). We saw an impressive 2+

metre wobbegong, apparently they grow to more than 3 metres but this was big enough for us.

The weather was pretty bad on this day so we called it quits after one dive. Sea John stayed around for a second dive. John B, Heinz, Ray, John Greig and Mike Scotland were onboard Sea John.

The two of us visited the Lady Denman Heritage Complex in Huskisson in the afternoon – named after the Sydney ferry now at rest there. They have a dive suit from the early 20th century that was used by 3 generations of the same family (imagine getting that kind of mileage out of a wetsuit!) as part of the oyster industry. No weight belt required the boots are made of lead.

On the 3rd day we headed out on Le Scat with Michael & Kelly and Dick and Eda. Leaving the charter boats behind at Bowen Island we headed around Point Perpendicular for a dive at the Arch.

Michael and Kelly went first. When we got down we pottered about on a narrow reef with lots of blue water around it. Then Michael and Kelly, on their ascent, helpfully pointed out that the dive is more interesting in the Arch right below us.

As we came back towards the anchor Dick and Eda had just descended wearing the same blank expressions that we did. We were able to point out with some authority that they were also right on top of the Arch.

Michael & Kelly were lucky enough to be visited by a seal on their safety stop. We, however, were greeted by a jellyfish - not quite the same somehow.

Le Scat shuttled Dave B, Phil and Jane Tuckerman (two of St George's oldest members who hadn't dived with the club since the early 90's) out to the Docks while we had a surface interval.

The second dive was at Point Perpendicular. Dave B joined us in place of Eda. Dick was concerned that his new buddy couldn't get them back to the anchor. To reassure him Dave took a line and reel. However he didn't

attach it to the anchor line so it must have been just for luck.

Dave Vandervelden had arrived by the 3rd day with his boat and he and Peter T got 2 dives in. Sea John did the Arch first and then went further north to the TSS Wandra for their second dive.

On our last day we were back at Bowen Island. “No!” we hear you say but its OK this time we were on the Eastern side at a site called Pyramid Rock. We can confirm that the 2 Deep Six boats and the live-board stayed at the Northern end of Bowen Island for all 4 days (and someone said there was a benefit to diving with a club?).

Le Scat received a few compliments over the weekend on the new paint and new engines. The guy from the liveboard must have been envious, because after complementing the new paint job he offered to come over and rub up a bit – “...just to give her that used look”. We didn’t think that Les would like that idea.

Sea John and Dave Vs’ boat were also at Pyramid Rock on the last day. So after one dive with more great visibility 15-20 metres we called it a day and everyone started organising their way back. Sea John stayed around for a second dive.

On the non-diving side a lot of good food was shared and we tried to convert the carnivores with Rox’s Olive Salad. With little success however as the bbq blazed away all weekend, largely due to the massive tree that Peter dragged back for fuel.

The compressor competed with the lawnmowers all weekend in the back shed (even when Heinz tried to lock us out). It certainly made going all the way to the dive shop for a fill seem like a waste of time and it’s cheaper too. So big thanks to Michael for that.

Dave V had to bare the brunt of Dave B and Peter T trying to bargain on everything – “I didn’t really stay here”, “Can’t I get a deal for more people” etc. – the boys attempting to get an angle on a discount.

And finally on the diving side Jervis Bay helped dispel two myths for us. Eastern Blue Devil Fish are rare and secondly you only see them in caves. No, in Jervis Bay you see them every dive and they live out on the sand – or so it was this weekend.

Needless to say on our first trip with St George we had a great time and got a taste of the many very good dive sites at Jervis Bay.

Saturday 23 April

By Michael McFadyen

After the failure to dive the wreck of the Tuggerah in the April deep dive, a return dive was planned on Le Scat. On this occasion, there was no current and no wind and the seas were flat. Michael, Kelly and Phil reported visibility of 10 metres, lots of very large wobbegongs and a few medium cuttlefish and one huge one. An excellent dive that Sheila missed out on as a certain dive shop had neglected to fill her tank a few days earlier. After this, Heinz, Sheila and Carol dived Barrens Hut. They also reported a very good dive.

Sunday 24 April

By Michael McFadyen

A last minute plan saw Carol, Kelly, Michael, Phil, Dave Burns and Steve Shaw diving Bare Island. Steve wanted to try out his new camera so the plan was to take him to see the sea horses. This proved successful and a total of four were seen. Other things seen included the largest flathead, a dwarf firefish and lots of yellowtail, silver sweep and seapike. Visibility in the shallows was not the best but below seven metres it was at least 12 metres. A nice dive.

Monday 25 April

By Michael McFadyen

On this day Le Scat headed out of Port Hacking with Michael, Kelly, Sheila, Eddie Ivers and Eddy Labour on board. The seas were again flat and it was originally decided to dive Pizza Reef but Michael failed to find

it and made an executive decision to dive The Split. Michael, Kelly and Eddy entered the water first, encountering two divers from Sea Tamer II on Le Scat's deco line! At the northern end of The Split Michael spotted a number of very large squid, unaware that Eddy had been attempting to tell him and Kelly that they had been following them for the whole dive. About five minutes later, Kelly spotted a number of very large squid and was unaware that Michael and Eddy had been attempting to tell her about them for all the dive. Eddie and Sheila also reported a very nice dive. Afterwards, morning tea was on Mark Ridsdale's yacht anchored at Jibbon Beach.



Ladies T-Shirts

Demand for a ladies style t-shirt is now being met with an order going through in the next two weeks. A choice of round collar (Bonds, sizes 8-18) or stretch V-neck (Target, sizes 8-14 n.b: the printing on the stretch style may not last as long) in either black or white, with a small St George Logo on the front.

See the photos. The T-shirts are only \$15.00 each. We would like to have all the shirts ready to print before Les comes back from his trip.

If you haven't already ordered, please contact Kelly with style, colour and size at kelly.jandik@thrifty.com.au or on 0410 599 186.



Found

Did anyone leave a bowl at Michael and Kelly's BBQ? See the attached photo. Ring Michael or Kelly on 9558 8181 if it is yours.



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.)

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 18th May 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.au. 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.