



# NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 453 Hurstville South 2221 NSW

**May 2006**

## **Boat Dive - The Split (Barons Hut)**

**26<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

**By Eddie Ivers**

2 Boats Lescat & Ian Gowans boat - 9 divers, Les, Peter F, Bev Shiela & Eddie I, Ian Dave B, Peter T & Steve.

Entry time 8.33 am

Depth 26 metres

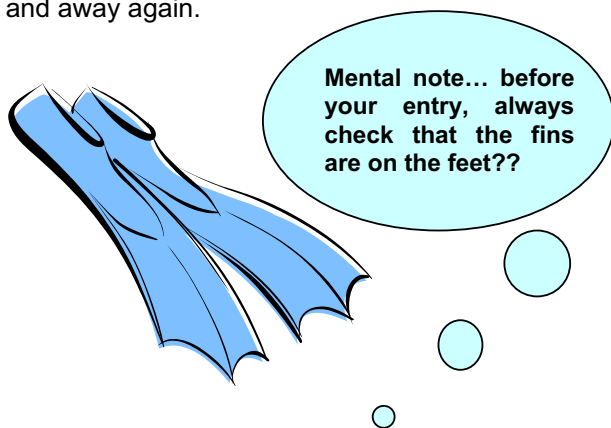
Total dive time 58 minutes

Water temperature 22 degrees

Whist this dive was initially planned to be at Fish AKA Pizza Reef because Sea Tamer was already there a quick change of plans and both boats were soon anchored at the Split or Barons Hut.

Les, and the girls quickly kitted up and jumped in and checked the anchor, Peter & I remained on board for another 20 minutes, by which time Les and the girls would be on the deco line.

After 20 mins Peter & I donned our gear I pass, Peter his camera, and I jump in also. As my feet hit the water I realise I've forgotten to put my fins on, fortunately no one sees me frantically scramble back up the ladder, on with the fins and away again.



**Mental note... before your entry, always check that the fins are on the feet??**

Mental note for the future, before your entry, always check that the fins are on the feet??

Les had dropped the anchor into The Split, which made navigation very easy. Peter & I cruised slowly along The Split. I swam onto the

cave encountering 2 schools of Tassies. At the exit of the cave I encounter a curious cuttlefish when Ian and Peter T swam past.

Returning to the Split I encountered a cloud of silt stirred up by 3 divers and both anchors. We quickly freed both of the anchors out of the split and commence our ascent, knowing we both have ticked up some decompression because the conditions were excellent.

After the dive both boats anchored at Jibbon where we shared our experiences and lots of food, and I drew the black cable tie and got the opportunity write this dive report & my version of my first finless entry.

Thanks Steve for organising this Trip and also to Les and Ian for providing their boats.

## **How did St George Area get its name?**

**by Michael McFadyen**

While at Jervis Bay on the recent Club trip, a few of us had a discussion about how the St George area got its name. None of us knew. A little research on the internet showed the following.

The Sydney basin area is officially the County of Cumberland. Within this area, the County is broken up into Parishes.

The sole use now of these terms is generally to describe land titles (eg Lot 12345, Parish of St George, County of Cumberland).

The area bounded by Cooks River, Botany Bay, Georges River and Salt Pan Creek was in named sometime prior to 1820 as the Parish of St George. Unlike most other areas in Sydney, the Parish name has stayed in common use to describe the whole area.

**Lilli Pilli Baths****9<sup>th</sup> April 2006****By Michael McFadyen**

On Sunday 9 April, Kelly and I joined Eddie Ivers to dive Lilli Pilli Baths using the remains of the air from the previous day's dive.

We had about 7 metre viz as we followed the netting. I counted 13 White's sea horses on the net.

Kelly and Eddie amused themselves with a gobbie which was living in a beer bottle. He kept coming out and right up to them. I even got a couple of good photos.



From the net we headed north and found heaps of luderick and a couple of large wobbegongs. There were also lots of bream and another gobbie. In the shallows on the way back to the exit we came across a huge school of mullet.

A very nice dive.

**Jervis Bay – Easter Trip – Le Scat Report  
13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> April 2006****By Roxanne Fea**

An unforgettable Easter excursion...

For Jase and I, the exodus to Jervis Bay at Easter is now becoming a regular event. The chance to explore one of the cultural and heritage 'pearls' of NSW, and a breathtaking national park to boot.

A memorable Easter excursion – elusive sharks, elusive wrecks and an erratic marine forecast proved for an unforgettable maritime adventure.

This time Ray Moulang had booked us (Cherie, Ray and Andrew [rendered terrestrial due to a broken foot] Moulang, J and I, Michael and Kelly, Mike Scotland, Heinz and Paul

Watkinson) into a fab rental property at Erowal Bay complete with rear parking for boats and the essential BBQ area.

While a peaceful community, its lack of a club meant that we had to map our way to Sanctuary Point for the Thursday night get-together. (Heinz, Mike S and Paul were evidently very keen to take in the nocturnal sights of JB and detoured for a tour of the Husky RSL before meeting us at the right club).



*Perfect conditions on the first day.*

The first day (Good Friday) Michael and Kelly had Les Cat in the glassy water by 0830, and we descended to The Arch by 0910, for a reflective dive to 38m eerily lacking in fish.

It may have been due to the singular juvenile hammerheads and possible whaler sharks we spotted at the surface, but it did bring to the fore the amazing topography of this site.

The good conditions also allowed a northern sortie to The Wanderer, where we got down to 24m to examine parts of the wreck and meander along the reef.

The water was incredibly temperate, averaging at 20° for the weekend, warm enough for Mike Scotland to explore the shallows for over an hour.

Ray and Cherie had a 'his and hers' dive at Bowen Island while Andrew the dutiful son minded the boat. It was rare outing for "Top Cat" Ray's boat with the club.

I won't regale you with the now legendary "The Good Friday St. George Prawn Massacre" Jervis Bay Dive Club epiphany as Michael McFadyen

reports elsewhere in this issue (and also because I'm vegetarian...)

Saturday conditions brought strong winds and a slight swell, so we nipped around Bowen Island and dived Pyramid Rock, with "Heinz-approved" 20m+ viz.



*Heinz and Paul descending in perfect viz!*

Once again, pelagic and reef fish were scarce but we did see an imposing 2.5m wobbegong at 30m and an impressive (unless you are a hardy English diver such as Paul W) Willeys Halgerda nudibranch at 22m.



Hanging on the deco line we noticed that Les Cat seemed a bit frisky. When we emerged 3m+ southerly swells greeted us. The swell had built up from completely calm seas within 30 minutes!

We waited on the boat for Paul and Heinz watching rollers coming in. As Paul was coming up from his safety stop we saw a small 4-5 foot whaler shark on the surface about 25 metres behind the boat!

After an energetic egress we headed towards northern Bowen Island to "Little Egypt", so named by Michael and Kelly due to the number of "pyramidal" rock formations.

The dive site consists of labyrinths of boulders, caves and swim-throughs, which sheltered blue devilfish, wobbegongs, tiny pipefish and massive bullrays.

Following a fabulous BBQ on Saturday night (involving an impressive scotch fillet so I'm told).



Jase, Michael and Heinz reconnoitred JB to determine the swell, and with their OK Les Cat headed out into the harbour into choppy seas.

Heinz suggested that we whip round the corner and do Spider Cave but the 4m+ swells crashing at the southern end of Bowen Island drew gasps of amazement (and she's putting that politely. Ed.)

We anchored at north Bowen for the most efficient dive I've ever done. Mike S, Paul W and Mike M descended and I followed, only to be called back in after a record 15secs due to the impenetrable viz.

Suitably cooled down and appreciative of the seas, Michael steered Les Cat towards the Fairey Firefly VX381 (downed in 1956), located through Michael and Paul's exploratory dives.



With milky looking water and some surge Kelly Heinz and Jase decided to sit this one out. Paul, Michael, Mike and I decided to give it a go.

At 13m, the plane is largely intact; and the seat belts and seats visible were powerful reminders of the trauma the occupants must have suffered in landing the craft.

The wreck was tiny but bountiful; in 18 mins I sighted tiny pipefish, fighting estuary catfish, stripeys and a tiny and irritable Port Jackson shark juvenile spotted by Mike Scotland.

The ride back to the Murray's Beach jetty proved to be a real challenge. As the swell kicked up, we could hear other craft reporting difficulties as we headed south into the rolling swell.

Halfway into our return, Les Cat slowed and began to drag heavily; it seemed that the impact of the seas had affected the welds on the hull letting in water. After a few nervous moments we arrived safely back at the ramp.



*Watching the seas at the south end of Bowen Island – and dreaming what might have been!*

With Le Scat out of action and the huge seas building that was it for the diving. We enjoyed another round of scotch fillet on the barbeque on Sunday night before we all headed off back to Sydney on Monday morning.

So after 2 very good days diving, a lot food and many laughs we brought to a close another Jervis Bay trip.

Thank to Ray for organising the trip and Michael for organising the boat.

## **Jervis Bay – Easter 2006 – Top Cat Report** **by Ray Moulang**

It happens that yearly when setting the dive calendar that Jervis Bay is nominated, normally Easter time is picked and this is the time of the year when it is still nice and warm in the sun and starting to get a bit cold overnight and in the mornings.

This year was no different and this allowed us to have outside BBQ's and good discussions around the table at tea time and nibbles before.

As for the diving, Michael was there with LeScat and Ray had Top Cat.

Ten keen divers had made there way down to arrive on Thursday 13th April and ready to dive although Andrew was on crutches with a broken ankle.

On Friday we were away early to the Murray's Beach boat ramp where LeScat journeyed up north and Cherie and I dived at North Bowen Island with Andrew being boat boy.

We anchored up in 19mt and jumped in and went down the anchor to have about 10mt viz. The water was 19 degrees and we went along against a slight current out east toward the front of the island. We went into all the swim thoughts we could see.



Some were 10mt plus in length. In under these the water was extremely clear. As we progressed along we saw plenty of Black Leatherjackets, Brown Morwong and Pike. After 50 minutes we slowly made our way back to the back on board.

On Sunday we went out again but unfortunately a large swell had come up making it uncomfortable on the water. We left the ramp

after LeScat and went and took up position at "The Nursery" inside Bowen Island. All of the charter boats out were close by also.

I dived here and went down a buoy line to the bottom at 16mt. The viz. was not good at about 5 / 10 mt. Water temp was 22 degrees.

As I went along the small rock shelves I spotted a Sea Dragon and at this I went back up to the boat to get my camera.



Back down again, the Sea Dragon was easily found again and it posed like had done this hundreds of times before for others for a few pictures.

While looking at him this big colourful wrasse came and pushed in front of me.



After about 40 minutes I went back up to the boat to await LeScats return to have a cuppa and some nibbles with them but that's another story.

## Jervis Bay Seafood Night

By Michael McFadyen

On the Club's Easter Weekend trip to Jervis Bay, we were invited to the annual Jervis Bay Divers' Club Seafood Feast. This was held at the home of Roscoe and Lynn Chittick who would be well known to a number of members.

Paul Watkinson, after many phone calls, organised for a maxi-taxi to collect us from Erowal Bay and take us miles and miles to Basin View. There were probably 40+ people already there when the 10 St George divers turned up.

Upon arriving Kelly Jandik was horrified to see that the oysters were already on the table. She managed to get a half dozen, far less that she had been hoping to get (by having my unwanted share for example).



Anyway, after that the food came thick and fast. Boiled prawns, battered prawns, garlic prawns, prawns with bacon were just some of the treats. Many different types and styles of fish as well as seafood pizza, seafood salad and calamari done numerous ways followed.

Just as we were about to leave, out came the Tasmanian scallops with bacon. In the end they were putting uncooked prawns back in the fridge, everyone was full.

During all the eating, St George members mingled with the JB members. We ran into some people we had not seen for many years, including Sue Josephson who used to dive on Les's charter boat Cat Dive back in the 1980s, Bob May and Peter Booth who a few of us used to dive with in the old days of South Pacific Divers' Club and more.

All in all, a great night. Many thanks to Jervis Bay Divers' Club for inviting us along and to Lynn and Roscoe for their hospitality.

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Monthly Meetings

At April's meeting the raffle prizes were won by Elly Caterson and Carol Martin.

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at the St. George Rowing Club, 1 Levey Street Woolli Creek at 8.00 pm. Come along about 7 pm and enjoy a meal at the bistro.

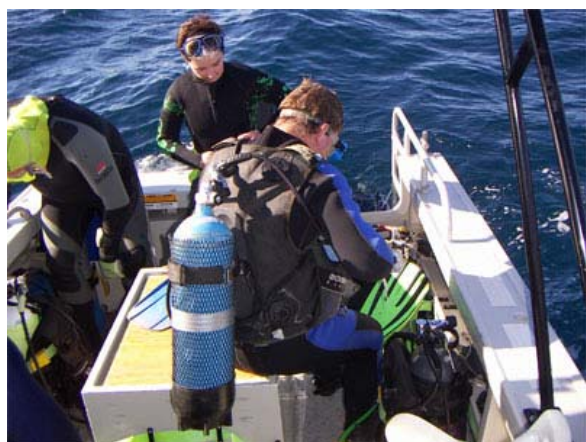
### Thursday Night Dives

These are still very popular, with up to 10 members attending each dive in recent months. On 20 April eight members had a great dive at Bare Island, seeing three pygmy pipe horses as well as having visibility of about 10 metres.

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).

## MYSTERY DIVER?



*Which member of the club is this who recently did two dives in 3 days? (Hint: he's named after a star sign)*

## UP AND COMING EVENTS

### Voodoo - Boat Dive 20<sup>th</sup> May 2006

A club dive is planned for Voodoo, leaving Yowie Bay at 8 am.

Note this dive has changed from Sunday to Saturday so Kelly can have a hangover on Sunday ... *I'm sure that can't be the reason!*

Please contact Kelly on 9558 8181 or [kelly@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info](mailto:kelly@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info) to book your spot.

### Shore Dive – Bare Island 28<sup>th</sup> May 2006

A dive is being organised for Bare Island on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

Please contact Phil Rose on Ph. 9543 0748.

### Boat Dive - Deep Wreck 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2006

With Les away, Michael McFadyen will be organising this dive. This month's dive will be on the wreck of the SS Undola. These dives are limited to suitably experienced and equipped members and only those who have previously dived such wrecks can come.

Contact Michael by email [Michael.McFadyen@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Michael.McFadyen@environment.nsw.gov.au) or phone 9558 8181 if you are interested in coming. Spaces are limited.

### Boat Dive – The Balcony 4<sup>th</sup> June 2006

A dive is being organised for The Balcony on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

Please contact Carol Mapstone on Ph. 9398 5336.

### Queens Birthday Weekend – Forster Trip 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> June 2006

Diving out of Forster is straightforward, diver's load their gear on the boat which is moored right at the Dive Centre.

The "Pinnacle" one of the great dive sites of the World is available for advanced divers, the depth here is 24 metres on top and you always get 33 metres on the dive.

The second of the double dives is normally at one of the shallower sites, Spot A and Latitude Rock are two favourites.

Nearby Big Seal Rock and Little Seal Rock are famous for the aggregations of Grey Nurse Sharks that inhabit the gutters and caverns there, when the population of GNS peaks in summer - autumn there can be up to 200 sharks at the Big Seal Rock alone.

Accommodation is at Blue Water Divers' Lodge, a five bedroom house, share facilities right in the heart of Forster. There are three bunkrooms and two double rooms.

Weekend or two day packages which include four boat dives and two nights' accommodation are \$260. Three day packages which include six boat dives and three nights' accommodation are \$380.

All packages include linen, bedding and breakfasts at the accommodation. If you are interested in this trip please contact Dave Burns on Ph. 9531 4403.

## OTHER NEWS

### For Sale

2 out of test 88 aluminium tanks for \$120 each. Please contact Graham Poole on Ph. 9644 5286.

### Ryde Underwater Club's 25th Anniversary Dinner – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2006

Ryde is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year and on Saturday 20 May they are having a huge dinner. This will be at the Grand Pittwater Function Centre at the North Ryde RSL Community Club, North Ryde. There will be a three course meal and all wine, beer and soft drinks are included for the cost of \$60.

There is a lucky door prize of a trip on the Undersea Explorer. Master of Ceremonies will be David Strike and it should be a fun night. Kelly and Michael have already booked and members from all Clubs are welcome to come along. If you are interested, contact Garry

Bronatowski on [anniversary@ruc.org.au](mailto:anniversary@ruc.org.au) or 9686 3990.

### Dive Organisers

A reminder that members who have committed to organising a dive day or weekend need to organise members' boats/charters and provide information to the Newsletter Editor well before the event.

As an example, boat owners need to be contacted at least 6 weeks in advance to see if they are available. Information publicising the dive needs to be sent to Editor at least a week before the newsletter is published (that is by the end of 3rd week of the month). As the newsletter covers everything for the next month, this means that this needs to be done in some cases 5 or 6 weeks before the dive.



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

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High
Mon 1		5:00 AM EST / 0.28 m	10:56 AM EST /	4:19 PM EST / 0.53 m	10:55 PM EST / 1.68 m
Tue 2		5:55 AM EST / 0.35 m	11:51 AM EST /	5:07 PM EST / 0.61 m	11:45 PM EST / 1.57 m
Wed 3		6:50 AM EST / 0.42 m	12:49 PM EST /	6:02 PM EST / 0.67 m	
Thu 4	12:38 AM EST / 1.47	7:47 AM EST / 0.47 m	1:52 PM EST / 1.04	7:05 PM EST / 0.71 m	
Fri 5	1:36 AM EST / 1.39 m	8:44 AM EST / 0.49 m	2:58 PM EST / 1.07	8:17 PM EST / 0.73 m	
Sat 6	2:39 AM EST / 1.35 m	9:36 AM EST / 0.50 m	3:55 PM EST / 1.14	9:27 PM EST / 0.71 m	
Sun 7	3:38 AM EST / 1.34 m	10:20 AM EST / 0.49	4:40 PM EST / 1.23	10:26 PM EST / 0.66	
Mon 8	4:30 AM EST / 1.35 m	10:58 AM EST / 0.46	5:20 PM EST / 1.33	11:17 PM EST / 0.61	
Tue 9	5:16 AM EST / 1.36 m	11:33 AM EST / 0.44	5:57 PM EST / 1.43		
Wed 10		12:04 AM EST / 0.54	5:59 AM EST / 1.37	12:07 PM EST / 0.42	6:32 PM EST / 1.53 m
Thu 11		12:49 AM EST / 0.48	6:42 AM EST / 1.36	12:41 PM EST / 0.42	7:07 PM EST / 1.61 m
Fri 12		1:32 AM EST / 0.42 m	7:24 AM EST / 1.34	1:14 PM EST / 0.42 m	7:43 PM EST / 1.67 m
Sat 13		2:13 AM EST / 0.37 m	8:06 AM EST / 1.31	1:49 PM EST / 0.43 m	8:19 PM EST / 1.71 m
Sun 14		2:56 AM EST / 0.33 m	8:49 AM EST / 1.27	2:24 PM EST / 0.45 m	8:56 PM EST / 1.72 m
Mon 15		3:40 AM EST / 0.31 m	9:34 AM EST / 1.23	3:02 PM EST / 0.47 m	9:36 PM EST / 1.71 m
Tue 16		4:28 AM EST / 0.29 m	10:23 AM EST /	3:45 PM EST / 0.50 m	10:22 PM EST / 1.68 m
Wed 17		5:20 AM EST / 0.29 m	11:17 AM EST /	4:34 PM EST / 0.54 m	11:12 PM EST / 1.65 m
Thu 18		6:15 AM EST / 0.29 m	12:15 PM EST /	5:33 PM EST / 0.57 m	
Fri 19	12:09 AM EST / 1.61	7:13 AM EST / 0.30 m	1:18 PM EST / 1.14	6:39 PM EST / 0.59 m	
Sat 20	1:10 AM EST / 1.57 m	8:12 AM EST / 0.30 m	2:25 PM EST / 1.19	7:54 PM EST / 0.59 m	
Sun 21	2:17 AM EST / 1.54 m	9:11 AM EST / 0.30 m	3:28 PM EST / 1.29	9:12 PM EST / 0.56 m	
Mon 22	3:26 AM EST / 1.51 m	10:04 AM EST / 0.29	4:24 PM EST / 1.42	10:24 PM EST / 0.49	
Tue 23	4:29 AM EST / 1.48 m	10:52 AM EST / 0.29	5:15 PM EST / 1.56	11:29 PM EST / 0.41	
Wed 24	5:29 AM EST / 1.44 m	11:37 AM EST / 0.31	6:03 PM EST / 1.69		
Thu 25		12:29 AM EST / 0.33	6:25 AM EST / 1.39	12:21 PM EST / 0.33	6:49 PM EST / 1.79 m
Fri 26		1:25 AM EST / 0.27 m	7:19 AM EST / 1.34	1:03 PM EST / 0.36 m	7:34 PM EST / 1.85 m
Sat 27		2:17 AM EST / 0.23 m	8:10 AM EST / 1.28	1:46 PM EST / 0.40 m	8:18 PM EST / 1.86 m
Sun 28		3:06 AM EST / 0.23 m	8:59 AM EST / 1.23	2:27 PM EST / 0.44 m	9:01 PM EST / 1.82 m
Mon 29		3:54 AM EST / 0.25 m	9:48 AM EST / 1.18	3:10 PM EST / 0.49 m	9:45 PM EST / 1.76 m
Tue 30		4:42 AM EST / 0.29 m	10:37 AM EST /	3:54 PM EST / 0.55 m	10:30 PM EST / 1.67 m
Wed 31		5:29 AM EST / 0.34 m	11:26 AM EST /	4:42 PM EST / 0.60 m	11:16 PM EST / 1.59 m

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

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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).