



Sea Braggin'

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

- JANUARY 2010 - Edited by Ray Moulang -

*Included in this issue are Dive Reports from
Carol Martin, Bob Walker and Debbie Cook. A big thank you goes to them.*



From Pimpernel Rock

© Ron Walsh

WHATS HAPPENING **IN YOUR CLUB?** **WHATS COMING UP SOON?** **January 2010**

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT AND WHERE</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Saturday 9 th	Deep Dive from Yowie Bay SS Tuggerah / SS Undola	Michael McFadyen 9545 5596
Saturday 10 th	Club boat Dive from Yowie Bay Middle ground	Peter Flockart 9371 0265
Saturday 16 th	Club boat Dive from Yowie Bay Pizza Reef	Dave Casburn 0405 186184
Saturday 17 th	Club Shore Dive from Kurnell	Eddy Ivers 9526 5910
Wednesday 20 th	Club Meeting at Rowers Club	Jason Coombs 9345 4599
Tuesday 26 th	Australia Day Dive and BBQ Inscription Point BBQ at Kelly's	Kelly McFadyen 9545 5596
Friday 29 th to Sunday 31 st	Weekend Club Trip to Kiama	John Beddie 9820 4272

Hi All

T.A.F.E. will finish on this Thursday this week – the 17th GREAT !!!!! - So until the 25th of January I am Free to dive !!!!!

(Will not be going away) Diane is working most of the time - and **if** I can get a crew (4 min.) to do a double dive from Bayview - Rose Bay – Port Botany – Wollongong – Shell Harbour I am ready to go. (MOST DAYS)

Contact me if you are keen!

John B. - SEAJOHNS



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Australia Day Dive & BBQ – 26th January

The tide is outgoing, so the dive is planned for Inscription Point.

Meet at the steps at 8:30am to dive by 9:00am.

A BBQ lunch will be supplied by the Club,

starting at 12:00 pm at Michael and Kelly's place at Kirrawee. BYO drinks.

Please RSVP for catering purposes by email to
kelly@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info

Annual Ladies Week-end Away

The Ladies trip is on again this year for the week-end of Friday 26th February to Sunday 28th February.

High tide will be 7:52 am and 8:44 am for diving at Halifax Park, Fly Point or The Pipeline.



East's Holiday Park at Soldiers Point have come to the party again this year, with pool side Cabins and a late (3:30 pm) check-out.

Have a look at www.eastholidayparks.com.au for more information. Accommodation cost will be \$85 - \$100 for the week-end, depending on numbers.

The location of our Saturday night feast is yet to be determined, however there is some interest in going to the same Thai restaurant as last year.

All of our Ladies week-ends have been great trips away, with good diving and lots of laughs. So, to book your spot kindly deposit \$50 the St George Club account (BSB 062028 Acc 00800455) and contact Kelly on 0410 599 186 or kelly@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info

See what's on next Year.

The 2010 Club Scuba Calendar is now available from the web site.

Bass Point Dive and Camping Weekend

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 March

This is a bit different to the normal dive weekend in a number of ways. On the Saturday we will travel to Bass Point and do a shore dive. After morning tea, we will head up into the escarpment behind Shellharbour to Budderoo National Park. Here we will camp at a location that Kelly and I found last year.

After setting up camp, we will do another dive. Yes, another dive! There is a deep pool here that looks like it may go deeper than a few metres. The water was very clear on our last trip here, so we can have a dive using the rest of the air in our tank (and wash our gear at the same time).

After this, we can do some walks to the nearby lookouts and waterfalls. At night, a BBQ or roast around the campfire with a few drinks will round off a full day. On Sunday we will head home after a late breakfast.

You do not need a 4Wd to do this trip and even if you do not have camping gear, this can be arranged for you. If you are interested, contact Michael McFadyen by email.

Bare Island Shore Dive – Sunday 14 March

As most members know, this is my favourite dive site and it is starting to get over the damage caused by the dredging in Botany Bay. It is high tide just before we dive so we can do the Deep Wall. Meet at 8:30 am to beat the crowd. After the dive, a BBQ breakfast so bring some meat etc (BBQ supplied). If anyone is interested, we will do a second dive after eating. Let Michael McFadyen know by email if you are coming.

Michael McFadyen 0407 276 556

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Diving with a Christmas feel.



Palau Trip Organised by Dave Casburn.

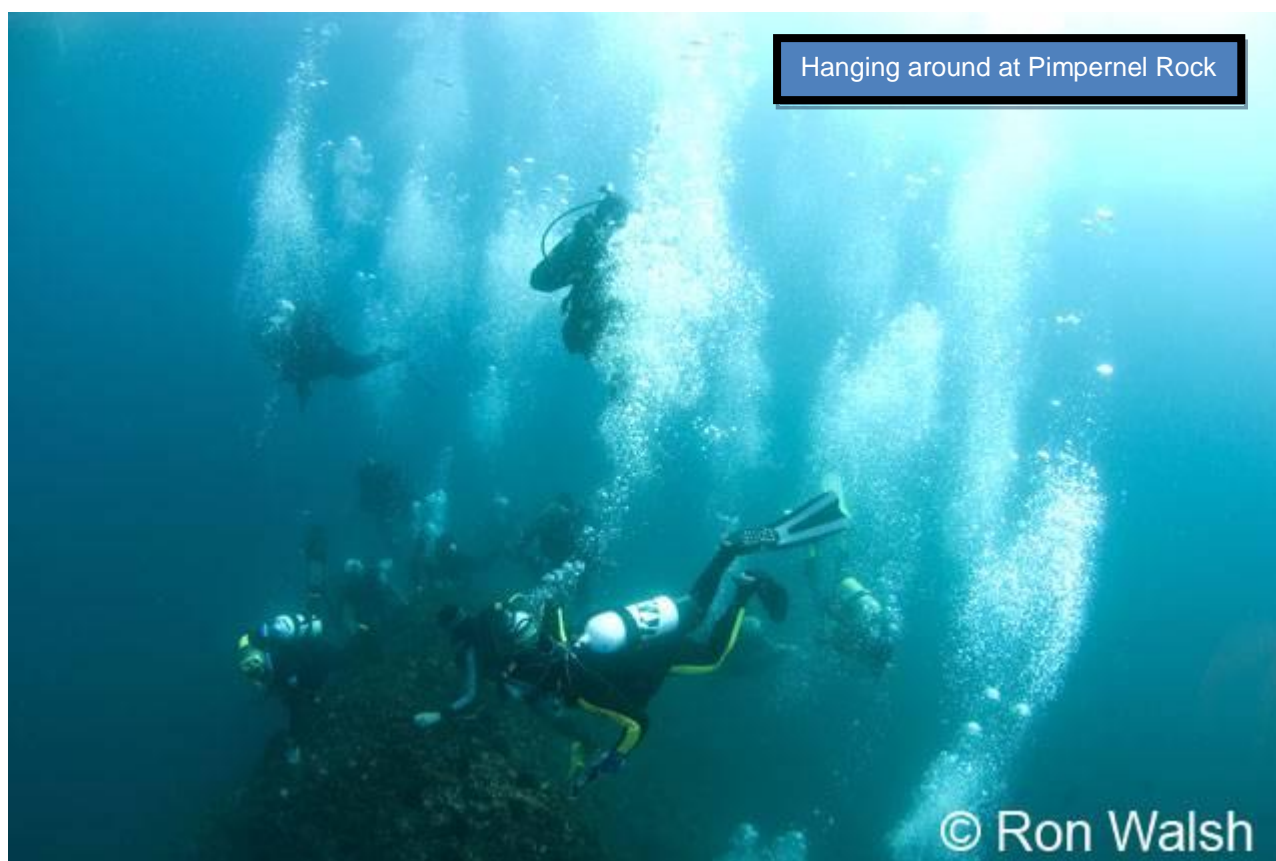
**15 Days /14 Nights Ex. Cairns \$2765 Ultimate Wreck & Reef
Diving Expedition 15 Days /14 Nights Ex. Cairns \$2765 Ultimate Wreck &
Reef - Diving Expedition - 21 October - 05 November 2010 –**

TOUR COST INCLUDES: .

Return flights Cairns to Palau - (flying with Continental Airlines) - Day Use of room at Ohana Bay View in Guam
. Return airport transfers in Guam
. 13 Nights Twin Share Acc. West Plaza Hotel - Palau
. 12 boat dives (6 days of 2 dives/ day) incl. tanks, weights, belts, dive guide services, lunch and refreshments on diving days - Nitrox for nitrox certified divers
. Snorkel Jellyfish Lake during diving surface interval
. Return Airport Transfers in Palau
. Day Use of room at Ohana Bay View in Guam
. Australian departure and applicable airline taxes (\$240.00 and subject to change)

Optional Upgrade - Extra 10 boat dives - \$685

See Dave for more info and to book.



Friday night May 14th to Sunday May 16th 2010.

The main attraction for divers at Merimbula is the easy access to dive the three tug wrecks – The Empire Gladstone, the Henry Bolte and the Tasman Hauler. Even if you are not a wreck diver I believe that these wrecks are covered in marine life and attract hoards of fish too. The Empire Gladstone and the Tasman Hauler were specially prepared as diving wrecks so it's safe to go inside them even if you're not a die-hard wreck freak.

This trip will be a two day trip including two nights accommodation (Friday and Saturday night) and 2 double boat dives on Saturday and Sunday (4 dives total).

Note that the club program shows that this trip is scheduled for 21st – 23rd May. We had to move the trip forward one week because somebody else grabbed our proposed weekend first.

We will be diving and staying with Merimbula Divers Lodge (MDL). Here is a link to their website...

<http://www.merimbuladiverslodge.com.au/index.html>

There are a few other dive sites in the area as well – check out the MDL website for more information.

The accommodation is at the dive shop and they have three apartments each of which can accommodate eight divers.

The cost is \$260 per diver for accommodation, all air fills and 4 boat dives. If we get 8 divers then we get a “free of charge” which then brings the cost down to \$227.50 per diver. This is almost cheaper than staying home and cutting the grass.

If you want Goofy Gas (up to 40% EAN available) then that will cost you an extra \$6 per fill. The tugs are in no more than 30 metres of water.

The water should still be warm-ish in May.

I have tentatively booked 8 spots – please get your deposits into Mark ASAP. Please email me when you decide that you are coming and also when you have paid your deposit..

I'll work out dining arrangements after I make a visit to MDL early next year to eyeball their cooking and dining facilities.

Please note that you need to bring your own linen AND pillows.

Paul Pacey

(Home: 9527-2501)

(Mob: 0431 691173) **** NOTE MY NEW MOBILE NUMBER ****

(Email: Paul.Pacey@iinet.net.au)

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Philippines -- Manta Rays - Whale Sharks - and a Volcano



12 days leaving about mid March 2010.

17 Dives + 2 days of snorkelling with the whale sharks (this is high season with a 98% strike rate), all accommodation and breakfast and dinners for 6 nights whilst on Ticao Island, transfers from airports ----- \$1400.00!!!! - How cheap + wait for it -- yes a full day trek up an active volcano -- just to let off a little steam..

Airfares look to be around \$1200 return.

NEED to confirm numbers to lock in the deal.

Expect to pay say \$500.00 - \$700.00 deposit using frequent flyers for airfares or about \$1300.00 deposit for all inclusive.

Deposits etc will be payable in August - September.

Limited spots -- Cheers - Mark Ridsdale.

Melbourne Commonwealth Ships Graveyard Trip.

13 May 2010 to 17 May 2010

Anyone interested in a rusty trip to Victoria to explore a few wrecks in May 2010? "The Commonwealth Ships Graveyard #3 is located 7km east of Torquay through to Pt. Lonsdale. Many of these vessels were stripped down and scuttled by an explosive charge or an opened valve cock, and many remain fairly intact to this day. These vessels were decommissioned from the early 1900's through to 1999 and range in depth from 30m to 82m. However not all were scuttled, instead overtaken by the adverse conditions that Bass Strait is infamous for.

Penetration can be had on some wrecks, and there is little tidal current or shipping to be concerned with so wrecks can be dived at any time of the day.

The main constraints are wind strength and the size of the swell.

There are 39 Wrecks to choose from and consist of tugs, dredges, barges, lighters, coastal freighters, subs, a paddle steamer plus a patrol boat."

<http://www.scuttlebuttscuba.com.au/wrecksitestable.html>

Group – max 8 (for comfort).



Accommodation: Torquay Caravan Park. Two per cabin – standard (\$180) or

deluxe cabin (\$240) each for four nights.

We will be diving with Scuttlebutt Scuba Charters who are based in Jan Juc and launch their boat from Fishermans Beach Torquay.

Max depth of dives. Certified depth. Twins or 63+ sling required beyond 42m.

They like you to carry a reel and surface marker for free floating deco.

Diving 14.05-16.05.2010. Two dives per day. \$60 per dive (includes one tank/fill and weights (usually \$55 reef – \$65 for wrecks depending on distance not including weights and tank).

Jeff & Bev can provide air, nitrox and heliox blends with O2 @ 3 cents a litre.

Gear available: <http://www.scuttlebuttscuba.com.au/hire.html>

I will be driving down earlier and with a little sweet-talking carry some gear (tanks) down.

Flights \$49-109 one way flying Jet Star to Avalon – depends on how early you want to get up. Should you choose to fly – I will pick up and drop off.

Total cost for 6 dives and accommodation ~ \$540 - 600.

Deposit of \$50 as per usual to secure your spot.

Jessica McInnes Ph: 0405730031 Email: jessemac@internode.on.net

Oh and do I need to dangle this carrot?

http://www.hmascanberra.com.au/assets/downloads/hmas_canberra_dive_site_map.pdf



Recent Club Happenings

Winners of the Club Christmas Raffle.

Drawn at Party.

Full Hams

Michael McFadyen
Shiela Baldock
Maureen Mulquiney

Half Hams + bottle of red

Sally Danzey
Eddie Ivers
Donna Cassidy
Sonja c/- Ray Moulang
Dick Fish

Congratulations to the winners

Have a great day - Mark -

Oak Park Dive: Sunday 13th December By Carol Martin.

The day after the night before.....

A lovely sunny Sunday morning saw 12 members turn up for the club dive and BBQ at Oak Park.



Planned to meet at 9am but most people got there early to secure a parking spot. Abyss dive club also had a planned club Xmas party that day at Oak Park but in true dive shop tradition they didn't get there till later as we were finishing our dive.

Bit of a swell and it was high tide so entry was on the south side of the pool. Two slackos didn't dive - well one slacko and one whose husband forgot to pack her mask –oops....but they secured the shady spot under the tree and beat off any abyss interlopers. Eddie didn't get too far into the dive before he blew an O ring on his swivel gauge (think that's right) but joined the other 2 slackos in the pool for a swim.

After about 45-60 mins, the divers returned and we set up the BBQ. By all accounts the diving was good, clean water and lots of nudis.

Good variety of food on the hot plate which was expertly cooked and no burnt offerings for anyone. Great morning had by all and thanks to everyone for coming along and making it happen – especially those who had had a late one the night before, good effort!! Special thanks to Ron for bringing along the BBQ plate.



A great picture below from David Eason "The Steps" on our Club Party Day Dive.





Pictures from Brian Byrnes from the Club Party Day Dive.

Pygmy Pair





Club Boat Dive to Wattamolla 28th Nov.

Bob Walker and Debbie Cook

Ok Deb's report on Wattamolla 28th Nov a beautiful sunny morning flat seas just like back at Wooli. On entering the water this is when I lost my vision, body temperature and thought to myself what on earth are we doing here so I'll turn you over to my dive buddy Bob for the dive report.

Thanks Deb, just rewinding a bit, the plan was to meet at Yowie Bay launching ramp for an early start, unfortunately one of the divers was a little late, due to other earlier commitments so the departure was a little later than scheduled. Four boats with 20 divers on board made their way to an area wide of Wattamolla. While many of the group had recently returned from the Wooli trip no one on board was expecting the viz or the water temperature to be as good as Wooli. We were right. On entering the water two things immediately struck me. The viz was less than 5 metres and the temp was around 19 deg C. As I made my way down the anchor line the viz seemed to get worse and the temperature wasn't getting any warmer. When I finally found Deb we made our about way 50 metres or so along a spilt in the rocky bottom which opened onto sand, swimming further in the same direction brought us to another small reef which we navigated around for about 20 minutes, we spotted a number of nudie's along the way and a shy octopus plus the odd moray eel. Making our way back to the anchor we spotted the usual variety of fish found in this area. Deb found another Octopus who had amassed an impressive collection of shells around its Den. Deb removed one shell and the Oci came out of its hole and took the shell back, carefully positioning it where Deb had taken it from. Following a bit more fossicking around this area and playing with a friendly Moray we made our way back to the surface and onto our boat. When all divers were onboard we made our way to Wattamolla where we had a very relaxing morning tea. Over to you Deb.

I couldn't wait to get back on board where it was warm and sunny, anchored in Wattamolla Bay what a pretty spot. Tied up the boats and out came morning tea we had our coffee and our vegemite swirl as our normal and then all the other choices came from the other boats we have little hot dogs 'Bob said they where Eddies little hotdogs" must put them on the list . Then Michael and Kelly had meatballs, fresh bread rolls and there's more Fruit cake. Well 1st prize goes to the little hot dogs, fresh rolls and fruit cake. I passed on the meatballs I didn't want to be a total piglet I'll save that for next time. I could say the dive was not rated as one of my best 10 but sometime this does happen. There is one thing I can say I always have a good time and what a fantastic crew it makes it all worth wild. Thank you St George Scuba.

Dive Report - Bob Walker and Morning Tea Report - Debbie Cook

Regular Events

THURSDAY NIGHT DIVES

We have had some record turnouts for the night dives.
Most of the dives have been very good, with nice visibility and good fish life.
Contact Michael if interested.

Other Dives

Many other dives are advised in the news section of the Club's web site.
If you are interested in a dive, have a look at the news section a few days before a weekend and you may find others already planning a dive.
You can also place your own news item there (but remember it may take time to appear as it needs to be authorised by a web site administrator).

The Committee is:

PRESIDENT:	Jason Coombs	9345 4599	President@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
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Please send items for the Newsletter to me *as you do them during the month.*