



- March 2010 - Edited by Ray Moulang -

*Included in this issue are Dive Reports from :...
Peter Flockart, Paul Pacey, Carol Martin and Ian Gowan
A big thank you goes to them.*



WHATS HAPPENING IN YOUR CLUB?

WHATS COMING UP SOON?

- March 2010 -

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT AND WHERE</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHAT AND WHERE</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
<u>Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th</u>	Shore Dive at Kiama and Inland Camping Overnight.	Michael McFadyen 9545 5596	<u>Wednesday 17th</u>	Club Meeting @ Rowers Club	Jason Coombs President
<u>Wed 11th to Wed 24th</u>	Overseas Trip to Philippines	Mark Ridsdale	<u>Saturday 20th</u>	Shore Dive to The Leap	Eddie Ivers 95265910
<u>Saturday 13th</u>	Deep Dive to SS Tuggerah or SS Undola	Gary Perkins 95336869	<u>Saturday 27th</u>	Restaurant Night Brazilian	Eda Dicamillo 95606082
<u>Sunday 14th</u>	Shore Dive Bare Island	Michael McFadyen 9545 5596			

See what else is on this Year.

The 2010 Club Scuba Calendar is on the web site.

Kiama Shore 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 Kiama 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

**The South West Rocks trip is now officially full as we have 16 divers.
This trip is full (waiting list being taken). Paul Pacey.**

Coming soon to a Coastline near you end of March,2010.

Be at Avoca Beach on 27 March to watch the dramatic sinking of ex-HMAS frigate, the Adelaide. The site promises to become one of the best dive sites along the NSW coast in future years.



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.

St. George Scuba Club weekend dive trip to Merimbula and Eden. 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 hordes 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)



June Long Weekend – Dive the HMAS Adelaide and Terrigal

The planned trip to Port Macquarie has been moved to the Central Coast to make the most of the sinking of the HMAS Adelaide - to get those all important before shots. The trip is from the 11th – 14th June 2010 and will involve :

2 dives on the HMAS Adelaide

2 reef dives at Terrigal (Foggy cave if possible)

1 Shore dive at the Skillion on the Monday (weather permitting)

We will be diving with Prodiver central coast \$90 for a double dive and \$10 a fill. The dive operators for the HMAS Adelaide and any additional cost for diving it haven't been confirmed yet. I will let you know when I hear.

The plan is to stay at Toowoona Bay Holiday Park: <http://www.toowoona bayhp.com.au/>

I expect accommodation to be about \$130 each for 3 nights.

We have 5 people already and can only take 12. A payment to the Treasurer confirms a spot.

Any questions please contact Jason 9345 4599.

Hello Divers, The Moreton Bay trip scheduled for June has been rescheduled to July as The Big Cat Reality now only does full liveaboard trips every third weekend. Sorry for any inconvenience, but the trip is now scheduled for 2nd to 4th July 2010.

Mike Scotland recently did a trip on this boat and had some good reports about the facilities available, and the quality of the dive sites.

Attached are the full details of the trip including costs and inclusions. Please indicate by return email if you are interested signing on for this charter as I need to finalise numbers and reservations with the company.

Please feel free to call me on 0414 701 292 if you need more information or have any questions.



We look forward to seeing some of you up North in July! Regards, Eric Brace 0414 701 292.

Live Aboard on Moreton Bay with 'Big Cat Reality' Organiser: Eric Brace 0414 701292
2nd, 3rd and 4th July 2010 (Depart Brisbane Monday 5th July)

Details

BIG CAT REALITY Includes:

- Up to 8 Dives
- Air fills
- All Meals
- 2 Nights Accommodation
- Linen
- Dive Master Services
- Tanks and Weights
- Arrange your own flights to arrive in Brisbane Friday 2nd July by 4.00pm
- Group bus transfer to BIG CAT REALITY from Brisbane Airport (aprox 1 hour)
- Boat departs 7.00pm Friday
- Boat returns Sunday afternoon
- Group bus transfer back to Brisbane accommodation
- Sunday night to off-gas and on-beer
- Arrange you own transport to Brisbane Airport (taxi) and return flights to Sydney Monday 7th June.

- Full use of all facilities on board

Costs (estimates only, but will be close)

Charter \$470.00 (\$403.00 if we have 7 divers,

Based on 6 paying 1 x free of charge)

Fuel Levy \$ inc Tanks & Weights \$20.00

Transfers (bus) \$40.00 (approx cost bus transfer Brisbane Airport to Big Cat to Sunday night accommodation)

Accommodation Monday Night \$ 50.00 (approx based on twin share)

Total: \$580.00 (\$517.00 if we get 7 divers)

What's not costed here? Your return flights to Brisbane, dinner on Sunday night, meals and other costs on Monday, taxi or other arrangement from accommodation back to Brisbane airport on Monday morning, soft drinks alcohol and chocolates etc on board the boat.

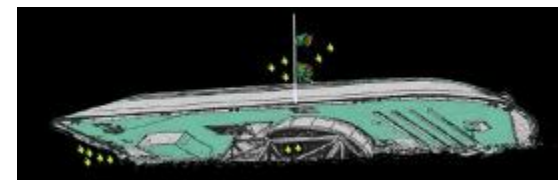
www.bigcatreality.com

NORTH HAVEN NEWS – (IT'S BACK ON THE CALENDAR)

HI ALL,

Due to an urgent knee operation to me in mid April I cannot make it to North Haven in early July 2010 for a week. (Yes - not happy - John)

Plan “B” - My crew are happy to dive with Peter from “SCUBAHAVEN” divers and he has given me a good price of **\$65 per day, per person** for a double dive (this also includes 2 air fills in the price) this super price is for diveable days only. We now have minimum of 5+ divers with a maximum of 10 divers (to fully book his boat a 7.5M aluminium hull “Orca” with twin 140hp outboards - so you can dive anywhere without any local (divers). Please see his **web site** for all information regards the local dive sites – The main ones are the - **COD GROUNDS** – The largest site off the N.S.W. coast for big grey nurse sharks (100 sharks have been seen here in a single dive about 7 km's from the river entrance and only 18M deep) and the wreck of the “**TITAN**” crane in 40M. Other sites include Perpendicular Point which is just south and the reefs north off Lake Cathie / Bonny Hills.



His boat has been booked for the Sunday the 4th to Friday the 9th a total of 6 days of diving total cost \$390 with air. Subject to that you can dive all 6 days (weather wise)

Accommodation will be with Ray and his crew in a 3-bedroom house - already booked.

He only has a spare bed for a 1 diving couple or a 1 single diver. **FIRST TO REPLY GETS THE SPARE SPOTS !!!!**

Dates – Arrive Saturday the 3rd 2 pm to Saturday the 10th of July 2010

Pay Mark \$65 deposit for (boat deposit \$65) ASAP (cheque for the first day's diving must be sent to Peter sooner than later to book the boat)

Diving Deposit – is \$65 for the first day diving and then the remaining money to the operator per day.

John B.

A TASTE OF BRAZIL

SATURDAY – 27 MARCH 2010 – 7.00 PM, Italian Forum, Shop 20, 23 Norton Street Leichhardt (Parramatta Road end)



Well our Brazilian night is on again. This time I thought we might try the other Brazilian Restaurant next door – (the one with the BRAZILLIAN DANCERS!) *“on Friday and Saturday nights, the room heats up a bit more with samba shows by scantily-clad dancers who know how to shake it like they're back in Brazil”*

Not sure if the food is as good but we can only go and check it out. Cost \$42.00 per head plus drinks.

This is traditional churrasco barbecued meat platters, which include practically anything with protein – rump cup, pork neck, turkey, sausage – you name it, it's on a skewer and it's sizzling hot.

Also included are an assortment of small salad dishes.

All of which are continually served until you can eat no more. It's a fun and interesting night.

If you would like to come please contact me on edas@iprimus.com.au or 0403 239 020 as soon as possible so I can confirm numbers with the restaurant.

Eda

-Recent Club Happenings-

Deep Dive

Saturday 13th February

The first deep dive I had organised for 2010 & I was nearly killed in the rush. I had 13 eager divers & a problem – not enough boats.

It was decided to split the dive into two.

The first would be a club boat leaving from Yowie Bay to dive either Tuggerah or Undola.

The second would be from Rose Bay using a commercial charter boat – MV Mindarie Diver - skippered by the “Frenchman” – Yves Moulard

Those going from Yowie Bay consisted of Michael & Kelly McFadyen, Gary Perkins & Nancy Scoleri & Jo Edney.

I contacted Michael on Monday 15th & enquired about their dive. He reported they had sloppy sea conditions on their run down to the Tuggerah but on anchoring found no current. Vis was around 15-20m & very cold on the bottom, with the temp being around 15 degrees. All had a good dive & also were lucky in not getting any significant rainfall which was in stark contrast to the Rose Bay crew.

Those diving from Rose Bay consisted of Peter Flockart, John Prior, John Connolly, Paul Pacey & Shaun Reynolds.



The Rose Bay crew met at the ramp at 6.00am for a 6.30am departure. We were also joined by 4 rebreather divers. After leaving Rose bay we motored across the harbour to Chowder Bay & collected 6 more divers from Plunge Dive, giving us a boat compliment of 15 divers.

After this we headed out towards the site of the Myola. After anchoring we let the rebreather divers go first as they were doing 30 min bottom time. Their total run time was 70 mins while doing accelerated deco.

When we rolled in we were greeted by vis of around 15m & a surface temp of 23 degrees. At 30m it became darker & the temp dropped to about 17 or 18 degrees depending on who you asked after the dive.

The anchor was in a rock crevice some 10m from the main boiler in a field of sea whips some of which were adorned with wandering anemones.

We swam across to the boilers - there are 2 on this site - before negotiating the stern then continuing over the hull plates which lie in a heap. There wasn't much in the way of fish life apart from a few scorpion cod & some small perch.

The boilers are largely intact & covered by a variety of small sea fans & gorgonians.

On 16 minutes we ascended to a bumpy but difficult (current changed direction 3 times) deco in warm surface water. Our total run time for the dive was 50 mins.

After recovering all divers we headed back against a rising southerly swell & intermittent rain squalls into the harbour before disembarking at Rose Bay at 10am. It had been good dive.

By Peter Flockart.

Note: For further information on the Myola please refer to Michael McFadyens' website.

Dive report - Shiprock 14th February 2010.

-Organiser and reporter: Paul Pacey

Well nothing gets a shore diver more motivated than the offer of a prawn feast after the dive. Thus we had 18 divers hit the water at Shiprock.

The tide was 1.68 metres at 9:24am - which is bad timing as all the dive shop dudes will also turn up at Shiprock if the conditions are bad elsewhere, and the conditions were bad elsewhere with big seas and poor viz.

I thought I'd be first by arriving about 8:00am, snagging a comfortable parking spot and studying the Herald for a while. However, quite a few people had also worked out the potential parking problem and there were half a dozen members already having a gab-fest when I arrived.

Andrew Moulang turned up in the Police Magnet. He'd remembered to pack all the doof-doof music but had not remembered to pack the wetsuit – D'oh! To add insult to injury, he'd thrown in a DIN tank - it's a shame his regs are open-face! Gary loaned him a DIN insert and, apart from the wetsuit bit, he was soon ready to rock and roll.

There were plenty of divers there and there weren't many times when you could look around and not see anyone apart from your buddy.

The viz wasn't great (about 8 metres) but one advantage of poor viz at Shiprock is that, like on a night dive, the Carijoa Octo-corals have all their polyp tentacles out during the day instead of hiding most of them - very pretty.

The water temp was a bit colder than I was expecting. I heard 18 degrees mentioned.

All the usual suspects were encountered plus a couple of wobbies.



The warm water has brought the Yellow Boxfish back to Shiprock again and I saw two in the crevices in the main wall.



After 30 minutes I was expecting Andrew to wave bye-bye as the cold finally got to him. But he stayed with us for the whole hour - he's tough! The problem is that he made me feel cold every time I looked at him.

We scouted the channel looking for pipe fish for a while with no sightings but Ron obviously found at least one as he put a photo of it on the club website. Some of the guys, including Ron, saw a yellow Angler fish on the wall near the point. I was able to steal his box fish photo off the club web-site - thanks Ron. While I was there I also stole his Angler Fish photo! Here it is...



In the gutters on the point I also noticed Ron harassing quite a large Frogfish with his strobes.

We didn't make it to the pineapple fish as the current swung on us so we turned around and cruised back along the upper wall. I managed to find one of the resident Estuary Cod trying to hide in a cavern but, by the time I got the other guys attention to take a look, he/she had done a swimmer.

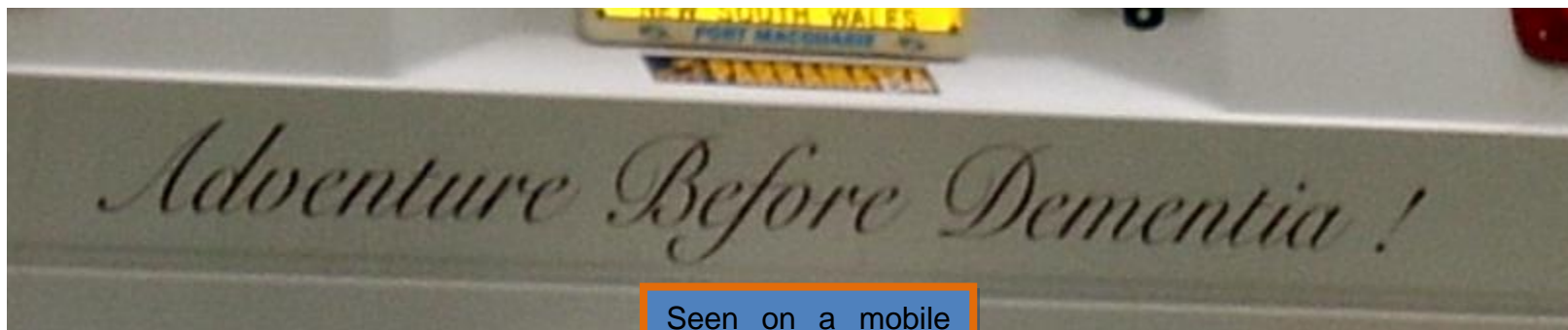
After the dive most of the team made it back to our house where we set upon 6KG of prawns - it was not a pretty sight! Note that the prawns were eaten purely for reasons of scientific research...

Actually we had 20 people for the après-dive prawnathon. Mike Scotland slept in and missed the dive but courageously turned up for prawns. I think he probably saved Andrew from cholesterol poisoning.

Deb Cook made some salads which Maggie Beer would have been proud of. The best bit was that there were some of Deb's salads left over, so Julie and I feasted on scrumptious salads for the next two days. Thanks Deb - very tidy!



Cheers, Paul



Seen on a mobile
home in Kiama.

Anniversary Dinner 2010

On Saturday 20th February, 30 fellow members joined together to celebrate the 37th anniversary of the St George Scuba Club. We met at the Café Naked (all fully clothed – thankfully) where they had organised the one large table set out for us.

As it is only a small venue, they use the extra pavement space beside the adjoining businesses so we were in fact camped outside the pharmacy albeit in a covered area in case it rained.

Thankfully it didn't and we had a wonderful night. We enjoyed a sumptuous two course meal followed by gelato cake from Ninas chocolate shop.

In case any of you have not been there, this wonderful place which is just across the road from the café is somewhere you may want to check out. Hand made chocolates.....mmm.



Anyway, back to the night in question. Great meal, even better company and the wine flowed – some of it onto the table as you can tell by the photos but most of it managed to get in the right place and hit the spot. A few stragglers came back to chez carols for a caffeine hit and to polish off some more wine before heading home.

Big thank you to Jamie our chef and all the staff of café Naked - especially our waiter Tim who had to put up with us. Of course as always thanks to everyone who turned up on the night to help with the celebrations. Carol



We passed the cameras along for everyone to snap someone else.

Some are shown below.





Osborne Shoals Feb 20th

Weather conditions were close to perfect for the club dive to Osborne Shoals. The big seas that were running during the week abated and all indications were that it was going to be a great dive as we prepared to leave in the morning. Three boats and sixteen divers prepared for the dive. LeScat with Michael, Kelly, Digby, Natasha, Carol and Trish and Seaspray with Ian, Bob, Shaun, Sharon, Gary and Nancy left Yowie Bay at 8am. Scram2 with Ray, Andrew, Greg and Shelley left from Port Botany. There was some discussion at the ramp that the dive may need to be relocated to deeper water to avoid the surge that may still be present due to the large seas during the week. We decided to wait till we got out to the heads to review the conditions. Upon reaching the heads conditions looked pretty good with relatively flat and calm seas so the decision was made to continue with the original plan to dive Osborne Shoals. As we neared the shoals the seas became a little sloppy and it appeared the conditions may have prevented Scram2 from getting around from Port Botany. Later Ray told us that due to the sloppy conditions when they exited Botany Bay they decided to head back and dive Minmi Trench in relatively calm conditions. Ray reported the visibility was very poor in the trench but when back up on top of the reef conditions improved and they had a good dive.

Back out at Osborne we headed for the northern edge of the reef and prepared for the dive. LeScat anchored on top of the reef and Seaspray missed the reef by the time the anchor had set. Shaun and Sharon entered the water first and reeled across to the reef. Bob and Ian followed shortly after and met up with them on the reef. We also ran into divers off LeScat. While conditions were pretty good on top of the water on the bottom there was still some surge from the week of big seas and the visibility was only about 5m due to a lot of sand being stirred up. We headed west for about 20mins exploring the edge of the reef. A giant cuttle fish was sighted along with the usual reef fish species. Upon returning to where we left the reel we explored the top of the reef and spent some time feeding a large blue groper than kept following us around. While conditions weren't perfect it was an enjoyable dive in warm water. We left the reel on the reef for Gary and Nancy and we headed back to the boat. Back on board surface conditions improved and an enjoyable time was had as both boats sat there in ideal weather conditions waiting for the last of the divers to exit the water. Once the dive was completed we made our way back up river to our usual spot for morning tea. While conditions were not perfect underwater the company of fellow club members made the dive a very enjoyable experience. Ian.

Thought for the week: Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts.

Gear for Sale

- 1 x Moray Wetsuit jacket. Suit person size 5 to 6 Slim' In good condition with elbow pads. Colour - Pale blue / silver - Price \$30.
- X Moray hood. Size 4 - Colour - Dark blue / black - Price \$10
- 1 BC (Dacor Outback) - Setup for twins (will take up to 12L tanks) Bands included, Softpack design with integrated weights. Size XL. Price \$275. If interested in any of these items please contact Peter Flockart either ph (0409 304 959) or email (pjflockart@speednet.com.au)

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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:

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Please send items for the Newsletter to me *as you do them during the month.*