

Sea Braggin'



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

- AUGUST 2010 - Edited by Ray Moulang -

***INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE ARE DIVE REPORTS FROM :..
PAUL PACEY AND PETER FLOCKART***

PICTURE PRESENTATIONS FROM

RON WALSH AND GARY PERKINS

A BIG THANK YOU GOES TO THEM.



Mike Scotland etc Snorkleing
on The Titan recently.

By Martin

WHAT' S HAPPENING IN YOUR CLUB

– *AUGUST 2010* –

WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT	WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT
Saturday 7 th	Boat Dive Marley Point	Dave Casburn 0405 186 184	Friday 20 th to Sunday 22 nd	Weekend Trip Jervis Bay	Natasha Naude 9799 9785
Sunday 15 th	Deep Dive SS Tuggerah/ SS Undola	Gary Perkins 9533 6869	Friday 27 th	Ski Weekend Cancelled Accommodation Problems	
Wednesday 18 th	Club Meeting AGM & Tank Run Rowers Club 8pm	Jason Coombs President	Saturday 28 th	Shore Dive Bare Island	Paul Pacey 9527 2501

- SEPTEMBER 2010 -

WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT	WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT
Saturday 4th	Boat Dive Yellow Rock	Jason Coombs 9345 4599	Saturday 18th	Deep Dive Rose Bay	Peter Flockart 9371 0265
Saturday 12th	See Food and Sea Food Shiprock	Paul Pacey 9527 2501	Sunday 19th	Shore Dive and BBQ Shellharbour	Ron Walsh 9545 3979
Wednesday 15th	Club Meeting @ Rowers Club	Jason Coombs President	Sunday 26th	Boat Dive Rifle Range Malabar	Peter Flockart 9371 0265

See what else is on this Year.

The 2010 Club Scuba Calendar is on the web site.

Phil Rose and Family

Go to www.everydayhero.com.au/the_rose_family

City to Surf Event

The Cure Our Kids City2Surf Team 2010 have raised \$44,706.00 AUD

St. George Scuba Club Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the 18th August directly after the Club Meeting at the St.George Rowers Club. Elections will be held for:

President

Vice-President

Treasurer

Secretary

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Newsletter Editor

The club is only as successful and enjoyable as it is due to the voluntary contributions of members.

Any special resolutions need to be submitted to the Secretary Eddie Ivers 21 days prior to the AGM. Nibbles will be served at the meeting.

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.

A weekend in Jervis Bay in August!

Friday 20 – Sunday 22 August.

Double boat dives Saturday and Sunday (including one dive with the seals)

Note this is not *just* a seal diving trip – only one dive will be with the seals, conditions permitting!

The remainder will be boat dives to local dive sites.

Diving

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an hire both tanks

with 3 bathrooms

. BYO linen! Total

Who's coming? 9 confirmed so far: Natasha, Digby, Paul P, Mark R, Tricia, Debbie, Sarah, Carol and a non-diving friend. Please ensure your deposits are paid to secure your place! Room for 4 more divers plus 2 more non-divers.

Contact Natasha if you want to come along, and please remember to send Mark your deposit of \$50.

Email: natasha@bluecucumber.com **Phone:** 0410 074 677

A reminder that membership of St George Scuba Club expires on 30 June.

Attached is the renewal form.

[membershiprenewalform.pdf](#)

To renew, you will need to do one of the following:

Print out the form, complete and bring to next meeting and pay \$25 to Treasurer

- Print out the form, complete and mail to the Club at PO Box South Hurstville, 2221 and include a cheque for \$25
- Print out the form, complete and email to the Treasurer and transfer \$25 to the Club's account,
- BSB 062 028 A/c No. 0080 0455, mentioning your name in the transfer

Under the Club's constitution,

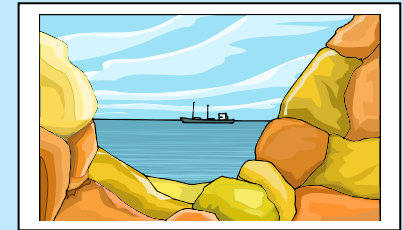
Membership must be renewed by 31 July to retain membership of the Club.

Michael McFadyen

Webmaster St George Scuba Club

[www.stgeorgescubaclub.org.au](#)

Yellow Rock Boat Dive – 4th September



Going out of Botany Bay to Yellow Rock (Northern headland at Long Bay).
We will leave some air in our tanks to drop in on the Sharks at Magic Point
for a second dive.

If you are interested please e-mail Jason (j.coombs@unsw.edu.au).

NEW ZEALAND TRUP

Friday 11th to Monday 21st MARCH 2011

Dive the **Poor Knights** Islands, the **HMNZS Tui** and **HMNZS Waikato** wrecks from **Tutukaka** for four days. Water temperature expected to be 19-22° in March.

Stay at either the Tutukaka Holiday Park in self-contained cabins or at the Oceans Resort, both a short walk from the Dive Shop, Marina and Restaurants.



The ex-HMNZS Tui and ex-HMNZS Waikato were sunk in 1999 and 2000 respectively.



23 kilometres off the north east coast of New Zealand, the Poor Knights Islands are washed by a warm current that sweeps down from the Coral Sea. Jacques Cousteau ranked the Poor Knights as one of the top ten dive

Maximum 12 divers

\$200 deposit to club to secure your place

Contact Shelley Breuseker for more details

shellsb@bigpond.net.au

Then travel north to dive the **HMNZS Canterbury** and the **Rainbow Warrior** in the **Bay of Islands** for three days.

Stay on a farm in a converted Cowshed with all meals included.



The HMNZS Canterbury, a 113 metre Leander Class frigate, was scuttled in 38m of water and is sitting perfectly upright.



Since the Rainbow Warrior was sunk in 1987, she has become a living reef, covered in Jewel Anemones. She's 42 metres long and sits on a white sandy bottom at 26 metres.

All diving, accommodation and some meals	\$AUD	1276
Car Hire	\$AUD	167
Air Fare - purchase your own	\$AUD	431
Optional -1 night Airport hotel	\$AUD	150
Total	\$AUD	2024

Tank Testing

Heinz will collect tanks for testing at the August meeting.
The cost of testing is \$18. Fills \$5. Please bring EXACT money

To get such a cheap price, there are some conditions:

1. Remove tank boots, mesh, valve caps, carrying handles, tank bands, sling rings and limpet mines.

2. Evacuate air from tank completely and close valve.

3. Write your name on the valve and on the tank and indicate with a YES if you require an air fill.

Use of masking tape or tags is good.

4. Come to the August meeting and bring your tank/s with you.

If you can't make it to the meeting,

find someone who will be attending to do it for you.

5. Tanks will be taken AFTER the meeting in the car park.

6. No deviation from the above will be entertained. If this does not suit your itinerary feel free to do it in your own time at greater expense.

Stockton Beach Dive and Drive.

A trip is planned for a Shore Dive at Swansea and a Four Wheel Drive and camp on Stockton Beach on Saturday and Sunday 20th and 21st November.

Come one come all and join the fun. Contact Ray for details.



-Recent Club Happenings-

Dive Trip report to North Haven. **Saturday 3rd July to Friday 8th July 2010.**

Attendees: Ray Moulang, Eddie Ivers, John Prior, Rob Trudgeon, Mike Scotland, Nancy Scoleri, Gary Perkins, Heinz Bendinger, Ron Walsh, Martin Mueller, Paul Pacey (scribe – with help from the troops).

Absent with leave: John Beddie

The plan was to dive 6 days with Peter Huettnner the affable owner of Scuba Haven at North Haven. We did 10 dives out of a possible 12 – not bad for a dive trip.

Martin was so impressed; he stayed for an extra day which probably would have been the best day too!

Peter at Scuba Haven runs a great dive operation and it's an easy place to dive.

Saturday 3rd July:

Everyone except McScotland arrived at North Haven in time to settle into their accommodation in two houses which were only a few minutes walk away from each other. We met for a bang-up dinner at the local bowling club to discuss the crummy weather forecast for our first day of diving tomorrow.

Sunday 4th July:

We awoke early to the sound of a howling wind which didn't sound very promising. Peter said if we wanted to go diving he would take us but we'd be restricted to sheltered sites closer to shore. It was our first day – "let's go".

Peter decided that our first dive would be to The Maze. The sea was green and our worst fears were confirmed when we hit the anchor in 5 metres of viz.



Aqua Duck coming back in after a dive to the Cod Grounds.

The good news was that the water was warm at 20C. In spite of the poor viz the dive site looked very interesting and was very fishy. The Maze is an area of many large bommies forming a maze of canyons to explore. As we made our way through the maze we could look up and right above us were large schools of Pomfreds, Yellow Tail and small schools of Kingfish.

Due to the poor viz and our unfamiliarity with the site (and the name “The Maze”) a few reels were in use – it looked like a macramé exercise near the anchor!

This would be a great dive with good viz. After returning to the boat Peter fed us nice hot soup, tea/coffee and far too much cake. After the feast it was off to the second dive site called “Bonnie 12”. It was closer to the shore and surgy with poor viz – not a great dive on the day.

Dinner tonight was a curry night and the prize went to Martin for his totally awesome Japanese Curry. Martin could be our next Master Chef.

John Prior’s chicken tandoori was also excellent and Paul’s beef Rogan josh was edible. Actually, it’s lucky we got dinner at all as we nearly burned the house down! It seems that the switchboard could not handle every hotplate on the stove running at the same time – then John turned on the oven.

Our advanced technical team soon determined that the fuse holder was toast and the almost cooked dinner had to be finished on the BBQ and Paul’s camp stove.

Monday 5th July:

The conditions today looked much better. The wind had dropped to a 21 to 23 knot southerly with a wind chill factor of minus 5.

Each day, we had ninety minutes of deep freeze therapy on the surface interval in a 2 ½ metre swell.

Peter said a trip to the famous Cod Grounds was in order. Apart from the rough ride out, we were not going to be disappointed with this day.

The water was blue and descending the anchor line we could see the main pinnacle of the Cod Grounds just to the south of the anchor.



The viz was better than 25 metres – stunning! There are three pinnacles of which the centre pinnacle is the largest.

The pinnacles themselves are quite barren but there are sponges, sea whips and even some black coral in the gutters and crevices at the lower depths of the pinnacles.

Sponges with GNS in background - Ron.

As we approached the centre pinnacle we could see a Grey Nurse shark off to the left then another couple of GNS off to the right. Soon we were peering down into the gutters where many GNS were hanging out. Eddie and I followed Peter around to the south of the pinnacle and he pointed out a cute Estuary Cod hiding under a boulder. At about 30 metres, we quickly ran out of bottom time and reluctantly returned to the boat. On the first dive some of the guys said they had seen a huge Cod.

Everyone agreed that this was a brilliant dive site. During morning tea Peter mentioned that for the second dive we'd be going to Bonnie 12 again.

This almost started a mutiny until everyone realised that he was just jerking our chain!

We did the second dive at the same place, of course. The first thing that Eddie and I saw on the second dive was a large male GNS rolling around in the sand.

Hey, I'm not making this up.

The shark would swim down into a small gutter, which had shell grit in the bottom, then turn upside down and scratch his back in the shell grit.



My, what big teeth you have – by Nancy

He did this for quite a few minutes and it was fascinating to watch. We later found that this gutter was a treasure trove of GNS teeth.

I even found a small whaler tooth in there. We then went for a cruise around the south side of the pinnacle where we found Ray pointing excitedly out into the blue. At first I couldn't see anything, and then I saw a massive silhouette which must have been a Giant Queensland Grouper. Unfortunately it didn't come close enough to get a good look at and we were already into some serious deco so chasing after it wasn't an option for today.

After nearly destroying the house last night we decided to behave tonight and a BBQ was arranged for dinner.



Mike molesting one of the locals - Ron

Tuesday 6th July:

The weather was overcast but the wind had eased today. The first dive was to the Titan wreck. The Titan, in its time, was the largest floating crane in the southern hemisphere. In December 1992 it was being towed to Singapore for scrap metal.

However, during the night when the Titan was off Crowdy Head it kind of “fell over” and eventually sank, still upside down, about 3km out from the Camden Haven river mouth. The wreck is an easy 15 minute run out in Peter’s ORCA and Peter’s pre-dive brief was again “spot on”. The only thing that Peter didn’t make quite clear was just how big the Titan is. I imagined that we could scoot around the whole wreck and then have a bit of a look around inside before casually returning to the boat. Ummmm, this thing is BIG, like 60 metres long and the hull that’s still above the sand is probably 20 meters wide. It’s also nearly 40 metres deep on the sand where all the action is. The plan was to descend the mooring line then drop over the side to the bottom then swim underneath the deck.

Eddie and I first started to follow the other divers which were heading towards the bow but, for some reason, the mud on the bottom had been stirred up???

So we then decided to head the other way past the base of the crane itself which is mostly buried in the sand.

We then passed a massive winch which I guess operated some part of the crane. There were some small entry points into the hull but nothing that looked interesting. The upside down deck is covered in small jewel anemones which are very pretty and Eddie found a couple of Verco’s Tambjas along the way. There are a lot of things to look at so it was fairly slow progress.

We eventually could not swim under the deck anymore as it was touching the sand so we swam along the side wondering if this thing was ever going to end. We then passed a large admiralty anchor hanging from the side of the hull then we arrived at the bow. We were now getting close to deco and were into deco by the time we arrived back at the mooring where we found the other divers ready to ascend.

So much for knocking this baby over in a single dive! I definitely want to go back and have a better look at this site. After a surface interval and more fruit cake we headed to the second dive site – Telegraph Rock. It's named after the PS Telegraph



which smacked into it and sank in 1867. The rock does not quite break the surface but always seems to have waves breaking over it. Peter anchored right on the eastern edge of the reef which was a bit spooky as the waves breaking over the reef were kind of big.

Travelling down the anchor rope was uninspiring as the surge was bad and the viz was poor.

However once on the edge of the reef we quickly became aware of why it's rated so highly as a dive site – the sponge gardens and growth on the wall near the sand line is stunningly beautiful.

It looked even better up in the gutters higher up but the surge was spooky enough just where we were down on the sand line.

A few of us headed north whilst staying close to the reef for shelter from the surge. Huge clouds of Yellow Tail, Pomfreds, and Sweep were surfing back and forward above us as we worked the wall.

I was in the lead as we approached the northern end of the reef and the surge became really bad and I was engulfed in a sandstorm. I turned around to find my so called buddies were already retreating! South of the anchor we found McScotland molesting a pair of Banjo Rays trying to hide out in a cave. We followed Mike for a while until another sandstorm hit us and Mike disappeared – we now abandoned Mike. He eventually returned to the boat after circumnavigating the whole rock –

heck knows how he did it in the conditions. The divers that did make it around to the south west side of the rock did find the scattered wreckage of the PS Telegraph. This would be a brilliant dive on a calm day.

Dinner tonight was a seafood extravaganza organised by Mike.



Wednesday 7th July:

Today was originally forecast to be the best dive day of the week – how wrong were they! No diving today. Some of us decided to go four wheel driving. We took Ron's Prado, Heinz's Hilux and Ray's new Rodeo.

We first headed towards Jolly Nose Hill in the National Park behind North Haven.

Ron was using his GPS and I had three paper maps which all showed the route to the top in different ways.

We went one of "my ways". Now, these guys wanted to go four wheel driving.

When I found them a really good four wheel drive track they complained it was too hard – sheeesh!

This experience can best be explained using four wheel drive trivia...

Q: What's a Hilux?

A: A four wheel drive vehicle owned by Heinz.

Q: What's a Trilux?

A: Heinz's Hilux leaning over far enough to lift a front wheel way off the ground!



Q: What's a Bilux?

A: The point where Rob and Paul panic and start running away!

Heinz was totally unfazed by this!

We eventually enjoyed the magnificent views from Jolly Nose and nearly froze to death in the howling icy gale. We then decided to retreat to a nice coffee shop for a deco-stop. We returned to North Haven, via some marginal tracks, stopping along the way to have a look at the Bird Tree” on Middle Brother Mountain which is a very impressive sight.

Mike and Eddie decided not to go four wheeling and drove about 10 km to Diamond Head and Kyli's Rest Area in the Crowdy Head NP where they made friends with the resident kangaroos that share the campsite and walked to the Gap where the NP are building a new lookout.

They also walked into Kyli's Hut where Mike used his iPhone to Google the author Kylie Tennant and confirmed that he knew her, and her son and daughter from his days at university, how small the world can be sometimes.



The Bird Tree - Nancy

That night was the State Of Origin so we decided to have dinner at the bowling club again so those NRL types could stay and watch the game. The food at the North Haven bowling club is good and they have a good variety of food too.

Thursday 8th July:

The weather this morning was not good but it was heaps better than the day before. Peter was happy to give it a shot and so did eight of our divers. We headed for the Cod Grounds again. The ride out was pretty rough and Peter stopped to boat a few times to have a “do we keep going” vote. We kept going. Once we anchored we were fine. Once again the viz is over 25 metres – brilliant. As we approached the pinnacle, Peter headed around the eastern side and I decided to go to the eastern side. I was expecting Peter to appear from behind the pinnacle but was surprised to see the biggest fish I have ever seen underwater. It was a Giant Queensland Groper and it



was massive. See the rest of Ron's photo's if you don't believe me.

The Groper slowly swam around the gutters giving the gob-smacked divers laying on the wall a fantastic view. The Grey Nurses sharks immediately departed when the Groper approached – he was bigger than the sharks.

A Giant Queensland Groper - Ron

After parading around for a few minutes and lots of photo's he (she?) casually sauntered off into the blue with the aloofness of royalty.

The whole trip was worthwhile for this single amazing experience. Guess what the talk was all about when we returned to the boat. The second dive was again the Cod Grounds but we didn't have the same luck as the first dive. Eddie and I went tooth hunting and found quite a few nice specimens. I also found a huge fishing hook and nylon trace about 4mm diameter that didn't look very old – hey fisher people, this is a marine sanctuary, keep out of it!!!

Friday 9th July:

Good sea conditions today (only 19 to 21 knots and a two metre swell).

So the call is unanimous – “Cod Grounds”. Disappointingly, we were struggling to find a GNS on the first dive and no big fish were seen either.

A bit disappointing after yesterday. The second dive was only 200 metres to the north of the Cod Grounds.

The dive site is a rocky broken reef.



Spiny Pipehorse - Mike

There were no sharks but the reef is really pretty being covered in sponges, sea whips, and heaps of Sigillina Cyanea's (I think that's what they were). There were also tiger anemones. Mike found a large Spiny Pipehorse and got some great photos. Many divers found Eastern Blue Devilfish. There was a large clump of Red Morwong gathered in one gutter. This site is also deep at 30 metres and the end of the dive found everyone doing some serious deco time.

Quotes of the week:

Heinz: "I may be the world's greatest cynic..."

Paul: "I'm moving to the other side of the track" - After seeing a Hilux up on two wheels.

Thanks to John Beddie for originally organising this trip and it was sad that he missed it due to being in recovery mode from his recent operation. Thanks also to Ray and Gary for picking up the ball. Even though the weather could have been better we all had a good time and "we'll be back".

As I've already said, Peter Huettner runs a great dive operation and we highly recommend diving with him and diving in the North Haven area is very good.

There's much more to be seen in this area. See www.ScubaHaven.com.au

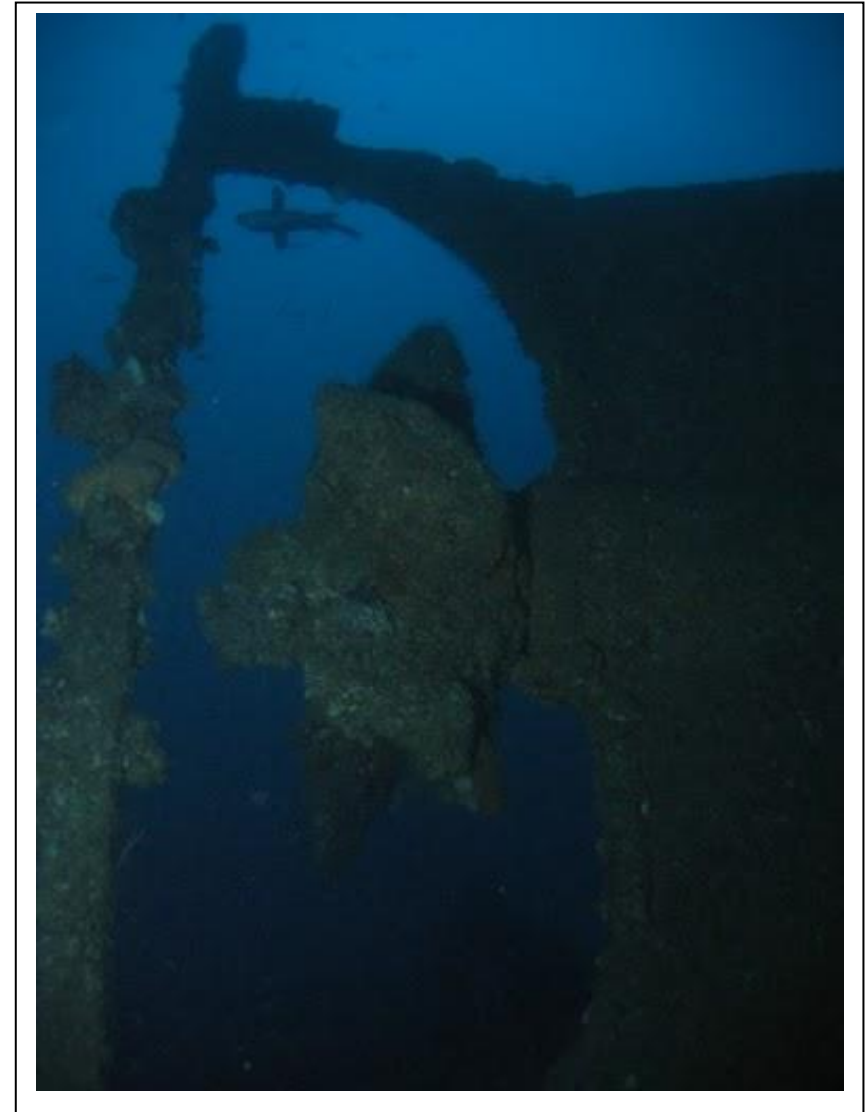
Thanks also to Nancy, Eddie, Mike, Ray and Ron for their photos.

Paul Pacey

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Myola Pictures from Gary Perkins



Mvola Pictures from Gary Perkins

Deep Dive Saturday 19th June

This dive in contrast to others wasn't oversubscribed. It's now winter & although it's the best time to dive, the divers have disappeared.

On this morning 5 hardy souls began kitting up at the ramp "Hole in the Wall" at Sylvania at 7.30am.

Leaving the ramp we braved the stiff westerly wind that was blowing across Botany Bay, sided stepped the whales & headed up to the Kelloe. We anchored successfully on the second attempted before myself & Les geared up & rolled into the 18 deg water & began our descent to the bottom some 50m below.

On reaching the bottom we found we were not on the wreck. Les swam west while I connected my reel to the anchor before setting off after him. The wreck was only 15m from the anchor. I secured my reel to the wreck & began exploring. On 12 minutes? Les signalled he was ascending while I stayed a few more minutes as the vis was around 20m. We were between the boiler & the bow. The latter is easy to find due to the classic style of anchor being very prominent on the wreck. At 18 mins I swam to our anchor, leaving my reel so the second group could easily locate the wreck site (they retrieved the reel on their return)

Ascent was on 20 mins giving me a long deco in reasonably clear water of 45 mins

Group two had a good dive with Michael leading the way for Bram & Jo. For the latter it was their first time on this wreck & it was a good experience given the conditions.

After surfacing we were informed that about 5 more whales had swum past us.

With wind picking up we up anchored & headed for Conwong Bay & where morning tea & a hot cuppa was enjoyed. The run back to the ramp was colder as the wind had picked up a bit more.

Thanks to Michael & Les for their boat.

By Peter Flockart.



Pleasant surprise to find
Whales just outside Port Botany
on return aboard Scram2.
RayM.

A couple of photos from a dive at The Leap
With Mike Scotland, Eddie Ivers and myself
on 18 July 2010. Ron.



The Committee is:

PRESIDENT:	Jason Coombs	9345 4599	President@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Peter Flockart	9371 0265	pjflockart@speednet.com.au
SECRETARY:	Eddie Ivers	0403 014 241	Secretary@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
TREASURER:	Mark Ridsdale	0419 243717	Treasurer@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
ASST SEC / TRES:	David Casburn	0405 186 184	dcasburn@iinet.net.au
WEBMASTER:	Michael McFadyen	9545 5596	Webmaster@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au
EDITOR:	Ray Moulang	04034 37974	Newsletter@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au

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