



- FEBRUARY 2012 - Edited by Ray Moulang -

Included in this issue are Dive Reports from :..
Ken and Shore Dive Wrap Mob, Mike Scotland,
Jason Coombs and Roxanne Fea.
Pictorials by Martin Mueller, Gary Perkins
And Ron Walsh

A BIG THANK YOU GOES TO THEM.







By Gary Perkins



By Gary Perkins

What's On - February - 2012 -

WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT	WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT
<u>Saturday</u> <u>4th</u>	<u>Carol Martin</u> <u>Memorial Dive</u>	<u>Natash Naude</u> <u>9799 9785</u>	Wednesday 15 th	Club Meeting Rowers 8pm	Jason Coombs 9345 4599
<u>Sunday</u> <u>5th</u>	<u>Deep Dive</u> <u>SS Tuggerah/ SS</u> <u>Undola</u>	<u>Michael</u> <u>McFadyen</u> <u>9545 5596</u>	Saturday 18 th	Boat Dive Wedding Cake and Sharks	<u>Natash Naude</u> <u>9799 9785</u>
<u>Friday</u> <u>10th to 12th</u>	<u>Girls Weekend</u> <u>Port Stephens</u>	<u>Kelly</u> <u>McFadyen</u> <u>9545 5596</u>	<u>Saturday</u> <u>18th</u>	Anniversary Dinner Jannali Mosksha Indian Restaurant	<u>Ida DiCamillo</u> <u>0403 239 020</u>
<u>Sunday</u> <u>12th</u>	<u>Shore Dive and BBQ</u> <u>Oak Park</u>	<u>Eddie Ivers</u> <u>9265 3106</u>	Sunday 26 th	Boat Dive&BBQ Frenchmans Bay	Mark Ridsdale 0419 243 717
<u>Wednesday</u> <u>15th</u>	<u>Tank Test</u> <u>Rowers On Cook Club</u>	<u>Heinz</u> <u>Bendinger</u> <u>0427 068 267</u>	M 27 th to F 2 nd Mar	Wooli Trip	John Prior 0419 285 643

What's On - MARCH - 2012 -

WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT	WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE	CONTACT
<u>FRIDAY</u> <u>2nd TO 4th</u>	<u>Boys Weekend</u> <u>SWR</u>	<u>Ken Ridley</u> <u>9520 5598</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u> <u>21st</u>	<u>CLUB MEETING</u> <u>8 PM</u> <u>ROWERS CLUB</u>	<u>Jason Coombs</u> <u>9345 4599</u>
<u>SATURDAY</u> <u>10th</u>	<u>Boat Dive</u> <u>Middle Ground</u>	<u>Dave Casburn</u> <u>0405 186 184</u>	<u>Friday</u> <u>23rd</u>	<u>Blue on Tour</u> <u>Film Festival</u> <u>UNSW</u>	<u>Jason Coombs</u> <u>9345 4599</u>
<u>SUNDAY</u> <u>11TH</u>	<u>Deep Dive</u> <u>SS Kelloe</u>	<u>Michael McFadyen</u> <u>9545 55 96</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u> <u>24TH</u>	<u>Boat Dive</u> <u>ByPass Reef</u>	<u>Ray Moulang</u> <u>0403 437 974</u>
<u>SATURDAY</u> <u>17TH</u>	<u>Shore Dive and</u> <u>Overnight Camp</u> <u>Bass Point</u>	<u>Michael McFadyen</u> <u>9545 55 96</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u> <u>25TH</u>	<u>Shore Dive & BBQ</u> <u>Shark Island</u>	<u>Rob Mapstone</u> <u>0414 636 927</u>
			<u>SATURDAY</u> <u>31st</u>	<u>Boat Dive</u> <u>Wattamolla</u>	<u>Dave Casburn</u> <u>0405 186 184</u>

- Recent Club Happenings -

St George Scuba Club
Shore Dive Wrap
28 November to 4 December 2011

I have decided to try a different format to keep the SDW more informative and stop putting so much information about viz, temperature and listing individual members who attended, To things seen and humorous happenings or really unusual critters. Viz, temp and conditions so changeable on a day to day basis, and by the time the SDW goes out that type of info is no longer useful. Facebook is a really good way to check out very recent viz and other conditions.

On that note kudos to Aengus and El Presidente Jason for their recent dive report innovation.
Posting an almost live report via video clip/phone from the site.



Figure 1..NUNZIO..NELSON BAY..FLY POINT



Figure 2.. NUNZIO..NELSON BAY..FLY POINT



Figure NUNZIO..NELSON BAY..FLY POINT



Figure 3 NUNZIO..NELSON BAY..FLY POINT



Figure 4 NUNZIO..NELSON BAY..FLY POINT



Figure 5.. NUNZIO..NELSON BAY..FLY POINT



Figure 6..Aengus..Bare Island



Figure 7 Aengus..Bare Island

Christmas Party, Kurnell... Lots of club members and a great day had by all despite the weather. About 30 divers, general consensus..viz 3 – 5m. See party pics on facebook.



Figure 8.. Club Christmas Party.. Kurnell..Ron Walsh



Figure 9.. Club Christmas Party..Kurnell..Ron Walsh

Information for new members re shore diving

Shore diving is organised on a number of fronts within the club.

The club annual event calendar (see club website for download) lists shore dives organised in advance by members. Usually the organisers of these dives will send a

reminder email a week before. I usually advertise them in the SDW as well. For those weeks where calendar dives are not organised, watch you facebook and emails.

A lot of the time individual members will organise shore dives on a week to week basis, sometimes there will be two or three organised by members and they will send a general invite.

Some by facebook and some by email (Not all club members are on Facebook). Generally if members have proposed shore dives, I will join one those dive and not propose one myself. If there are a number on email and Facebook, I will do a short summary of all upcoming dives and post on email and Facebook.

The other option is to send out the message that you are looking for a dive.

An easy was to send a general email to club members. An easy way to do this is open a general club email sent by someone and do a reply to all after having removed the original text and inserting your own.

If none of the above reply I will send an email and Facebook post late in the week proposing a dive based on predicted conditions.

Basically watch your emails and Facebook. If you are not on Facebook you may miss some of them if I haven't done a list of dives at the end of the week. For those weeks where calendar dives are not organised, watch you Facebook and emails.

UPDATE ON SHIPROCK..Don't plan any dives yet. Ken Ridley

Capricorn Bunker trip Jan 7 to 13. 2012 by Mike Scotland

This year three members of St George made the trek to troppo land to go diving on the Great Barrier Reef.

They were Fiona Hill, Avril Davey and Mike Scotland.

Sophi Scotland also went along. (My daughter)

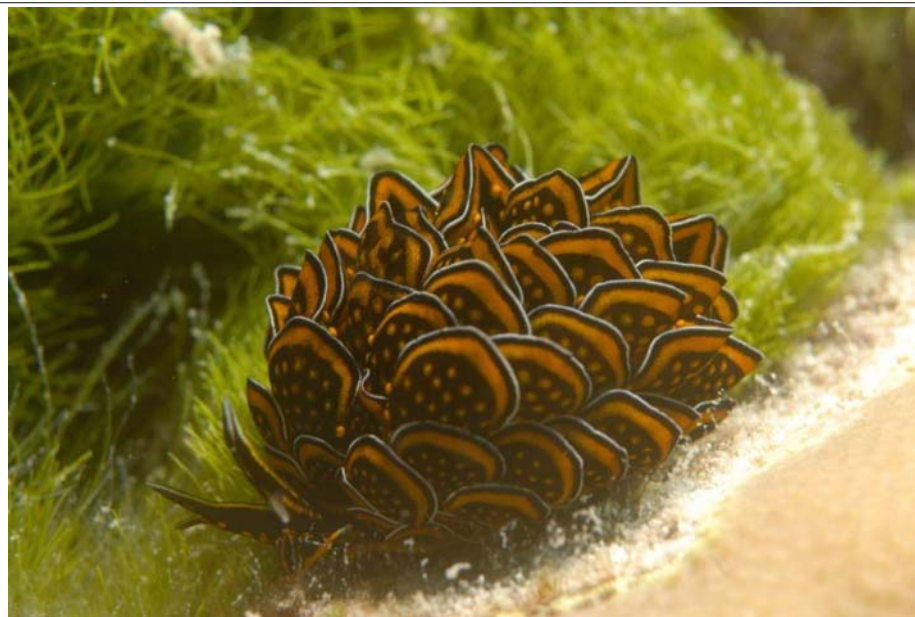
Overall this was an excellent trip. The main complaint we had was too many manta rays getting in the way of the turtles and angelfish. The weather was unusual in that we had a lot of Northerly wind but it never got above 20 knots and most days were quite calm.

We had 21 dives in all with 4 night dives.

This year there were some serious currents. Our very first dive was in a strong current.

The highlights of the trip were plenty of Manta Rays.





Sophi had six Manta Rays with her only a few feet away swimming in open water. One Manta Ray had two cobia, swimming beneath it. Fiona and Avril buddied together. Both are excellent divers.

We saw a huge Stingray on one night dive, a Peacock sole and Mantis shrimp. Another night dive, we discovered reef octopus swimming with Wire Netting Cod.

We saw a massive Green Moray, a huge Rhynchobatid Shovel Nose Shark ray, 2.8 metres long. Lots of Zebralionfish, Stone Fish and Spot fin Lionfish. There were plenty of Angelfish, Parrotfish and coral trout.

We dived the blowhole at Lady Elliot Island as well as Hiro's cave.





We lost one dive because the current was too strong to dive in.

We could see 5 or 6 Manta Rays feeding just off the bow and stern of the boat.

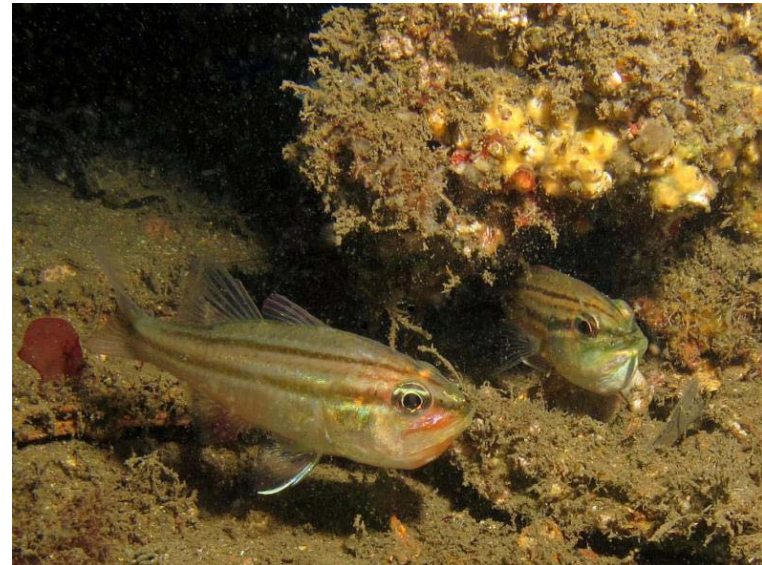
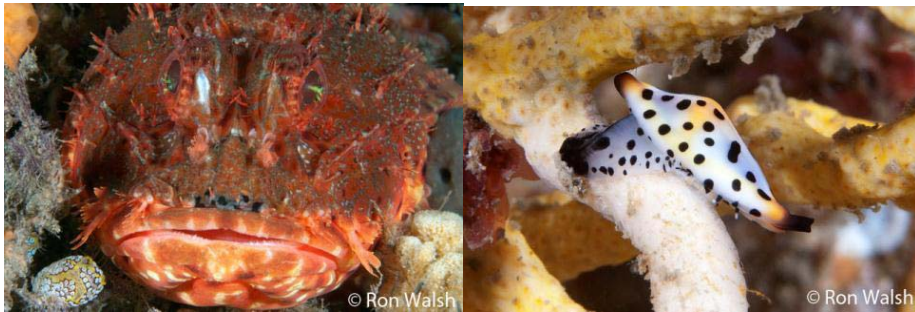
The boat was full with 34 people on board and everyone got on well.

The skipper was an old school mate of mine.





There are some pretty serious photographers in our club as can be seen by their week after week contributions to the SDW. Missing in action for some months has been Ron Walsh. Ron had some back surgery, He is now back in the water. Here is a collection of his photos from Nelson Bay. (I am sure the lovely Donna had some input into these pics, as Ron & Donna are a team.)



Thursday Night dive at Lilly Pilly



Figure 10 by Gary Dunnett



Figure 11..Matt Wildermuth



Figure 12..Matt Wildermuth



Figure 13..Roxy Fea

Friday..The Steps, Ken, Josh, John D.

Struck the jackpot perfect conditions and 3 to 10+ viz.

Saturday..Oak park, poor viz and bumpy entry & exit. Just a dive. Followed by a barbie.

Sunday..Clifton Gardens..Aengus Moran..
Clifton Garden's today, water temp about 18 degree's, viz poor at .5 mtr worst and 3 to 4 mtrs at best. Very green. A few big boats moving about in the middle so stayed safe under the wharf. Usual suspects about, Seahorses, Dwarf Lionfish, Morey etc.One sad thing was a baby PJ dead at the end of the wharf clearly having been used as bait, hook through the head and half a metre of line hanging off him.

Saturday night dive Inscription point.

Michael McFayden. So crap viz and big swell we did not dive. Had BBQ instead.

One thing for St George members always make the best of any situation .

Looks like this diver had a lucky escape from being swallowed by a whale shark's 1.5m mouth as he tried to take photos of it during a plankton feeding frenzy.

[Whale](#) sharks commonly grow to 40ft and are the sea's largest fish, while also being extremely docile.

The photographer, Mauricio Handler, narrowly escaped a 'wrong place at the wrong time' moment as he took snaps of a feeding frenzy in which 600 of the majestic animals gathered to feed on tuna spawn.



He travelled to Isla Mujeres in [Mexico](#) especially for the event, which happens once every year.

The father of two told the [Daily Mail](#): 'The picture of the diver staring into the gaping jaws of the shark was an incredible adrenaline rush.

'I led an expedition of photographers and when you're down there with the fish it is like another world.

'On our last day I was taking a photograph of a [whale](#) and it ended up swimming at my photographer friend.

'They don't have very good eyesight but the diver managed to get out of the way.

'If he had have been sucked into the massive mouth the shark would have just spat him out. 'The sharks return here each year to feed on the tuna who spawn billions of eggs. This year there were about 600 and it was amazing to see. 'They are beautiful animals and are incredibly docile.'

Mauricio, from Maine, added: 'We use very hi-tech equipment to capture a very raw moment on camera.

'I feel as if it is my job to show people what they have never

seen before. I'm there trying to get a unique angle so I put myself on the edge, right in the action.

'I want people to realise these animals are here but one day they will not be. We are treating the ocean like a supermarket and not allowing it to heal itself.'

The following shots from Ron Walsh

From Port Stephens Trip



© Ron Walsh



© Ron Walsh





Carol Martin Memorial Dive and BBQ – 4th February 2012 **Jason Coombs**

After a week of rain and with showers forecast it wasn't looking good for the 1st anniversary and unveiling of the plaque for Carol. We arrived to find overcast conditions which quickly improved to a brilliant sunny day.

Several members arrived early to assist with erecting the tarp. Perhaps too early as some of us, including yours truly had trouble getting our cars to fit into the newly painted car parks. Perhaps we're used to parking wherever we want to rather than adhering to painted white lines.

After discussions and arguments about who did or didn't use the right guide rope or pole, the tarp was up and it was time to get ready for the dive. With recent reports of vis not good most people opted for the left or ocean side of the island in the hope of getting the best conditions.



As I slowly made my way across the slippery reef platform to enter the water I copped a mouthful of abuse from the only fisherman that was there. He had obviously booked the spot for the day and didn't appreciate anyone disturbing him - even for a minute or two. My protests that we wouldn't have cameras if we scared all the fish away fell on deaf ears.



Once we got in and dropped down the vis was a better than expected; around 4-5 metres and a balmy 20 – 21c. Rox and I had a fairly uneventful dive. Focusing on the macro life we saw of number of the usual nudibranches, skeleton shrimp, squat lobsters and a couple of squid. Others reported good diving including several pygmy pipehorses.



The official count for catering was 58 members attending on the day. I'm sure the odd life member turned up without RSVP-ing increasing the total numbers! No names of course.

Lots of members wore red (Carol's favourite colour) and managed to stomach a little sparkling shiraz, before midday, one of Carol's favourite tipples.

Carol's good friend John McPherson came up from Melbourne especially for the memorial.

In doing so he left a part of Australia that is actually having a good summer to be with us.

John represents the Victorian chapter of St George Scuba Club and a number of us will see him later in the year on the Bali trip.

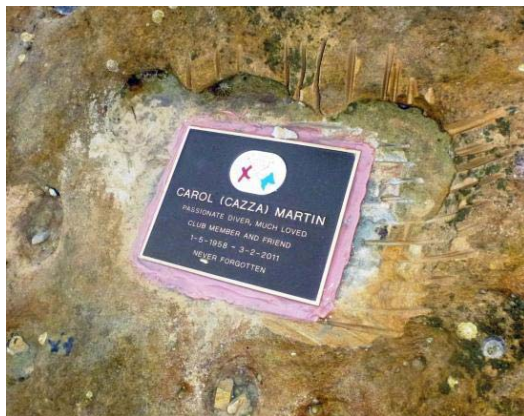
With the tide going out and the plaque now out of the water we all made our way down to the rock platform on the western side off the island for the unveiling. Kelly bought flowers and covered the plaque with them. Jo Edney said a few word in remembrance of Carol including acknowledging the people who were with Carol on the night she died, particularly Ron Walsh. This was accompanied by a couple toasts fuelled by... yes sparkling shiraz.

Then the plaque was gradually unveiled by members removing the flowers and dropping them into the sea while thinking of and remembering Carol.

The text for the Plaque and location were agreed by Kelly and Jo. If you look carefully you'll see the two holes either side of the plaque look like Mickey Mouse ears.

The plaque has the St George Club logo on it and reads:

Carol (Cazza) Martin
Passionate diver, much loved
club member and friend
1-5-1958 – 3-2-2011
Never forgotten



The plaque is in the intertidal zone and is underwater at high tide. Authority for installing the plaque was granted by NSW Maritime.

After a period of reflection we all headed back up the hill for food and refreshments.

This was no bangers, onions and bread BBQ. The food included exotic cheeses, olives, gherkins, dips, beef skewers, chicken drumsticks, salads etc. There was also some rubbish like marinated tofu for the vegos like Rox. There were also generous helpings of Ken Ridley's now famous spanakopita.

A big thanks to Tash for organising the food and shelter. She is setting new standards for St George BBQs. Also a big thank you to our willing BBQ-ers and other food handlers and preparers. Disappointingly Digs didn't seem capable of even standing up let alone helping- what is up with that?!?!

The plaque and catering for the day were made possible by donations to the club made by Michael and Kelly selling the dive gear which they inherited from Carol. Donations were also received from Ida DiCamillo and Paul Pacey.

In addition we were able to save money through Simon Hoad's generous offer to install the plaque for the cost of materials only. As with the best things in activities of the club it was a true team effort – a big thank you everyone!

Carol seemed to enjoy being around larger groups of people and she was always on good form at club gatherings. The last time I saw her was Australia Day 2011 when had BBQ at the same spot at Bare Island and I recall talking and laughing with her throughout the afternoon. While it was a sombre occasion there was a lot of good humour, laughing and liquid refreshments – I think Carol would have approved.

Barrens Hut Dive 21st January 2012

Roxanne Fea

This was the first Sydney dive of 2012 for Jason and I after a 2 week holiday in Palau! We had an impressive flotilla of 5 boats leaving from Yowie Bay; Les Scat, Dave Casburn, Ray Moulang and John Beddie's boats and an impressive one-man dive operation; new member Peter, in an open aluminium RIB. The day was gloomy and the seas sloppy but still enticing. Jason and I hadn't been on Les Scat in months, and hadn't last dived this site in at least a year so we were looking forward to it.

We were some of the first to enter and dropped down quickly to 26m; right over an abandoned lobster pot and a dense school of one-spot pullers (*Chromis hypsilepis*) who were busy en masse depositing their eggs all over the rocky reef. The males had the custodial role and so occasionally charged at us – I hadn't seen pullers do this before.



The visibility cleared markedly at depth and was around 15m; enough to be able to see the wider site and its canyons, swim-throughs and elevated reefs.



Jase and Les pointed out some very sizeable Bastard Trumpeters (*Latridopsis forsteri*) easily recognised by its greenish-brown lateral lines; J remembered them from a year ago at the same site.

After having dived largely on Nitrox in Palau the last month I forgot just how quickly diving on air takes you into decompression diving - especially if you get distracted by the beautiful topography and fauna. As such we had a pleasant deco stop under Les Scat watching the herd of divers explore the site.



We all anchored up at Jibbon Beach before some of the divers went out for a second dive; this gave me the chance to do a 15 minute dive amongst the sea grass across the Bay. Not much to report beyond an impressive number of hinge-beak shrimp (*Rhynchosineta durbanensis*) unusually coloured green – blue all over the

concrete mooring block, and a wide range of polychaete worms across the sand. There were also impressive schools of beer bottles, wristwatches, sunglasses and clothing...

Thank you to Tash for organising the dive and as always to our boat owners!

For Sale

1. The camera setup is still for sale but at a revised price of \$800.00 all inclusive
2. The list of other items has been reduced after the last meeting to :
 - Safety Sausage Price: \$5 - Anti Fog Stick Price: \$2
 - Three mesh bags with drawstrings. Good for drying gloves or boots Price: \$0.50 each
 - Dive Flag (46 x 27cm) Good for a float Price: \$5
 - Black weight belt (never used) & plastic buckle. Price: \$5

If you are interested in any or all of the above email me at pjflockart@speednet.com.au or contact me on 0409 304 959

For Sale

Peter Trayhern needs to sell his share of our Bauer Junior compressor.

The compressor lives in its own shed at 36 Tulong place, Kirrawee most of the time. It sometimes goes for a holiday to Caringbah to Paul Pacey's place, usually over winter. The final price is yet to be ascertained but will be less than \$1000.

Contact Mike Scotland 95217720 or 0415158168 if you are interested.

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