

Bass Point for the uninitiated

Firstly all the photos were actually taken at Bass Point

Bass Point is a great area for both shore and boat dives; with a number of dive sites to choose from. Being that Bass Point faces east west and thus the dives sites run north or south dare I say that on any given day if there is not an accessible dive to be had at Bass Point then there would not a dive to be had anywhere on the eastern Seaboard



Leisure Coast Dive

Anyone who regularly dives the local area knows that just after lunch the wind picks up and as such it makes for a more comfortable diving day if the first dive sees the divers in the water by around 9.15 if not earlier where possible.

A part of Bass Point is a GNS aggregation site and as such there are rules which are applicable whether the sharks are there or not

Firstly the shore dives, the main sites from shore would be:

The Gutter is a great dive for all levels of certification from open water to advanced divers who wish to attain anywhere up to 25 metres depth from the shore. We conduct about 95% of our open water courses as well as recreational dives at this site. Dependent

on the direction taken as what can be seen. Marine life such as weedy sea dragons; sea spiders; long snouted boar fish; the ever popular blue gropers; bleekers blue devilfish; King Wrasse, a myriad of sponge gardens with sea tulips and gorgonians (at a site the boys christened Pretty Corner below).



One will also find the resident big Black ray as well as roving Eagle Rays. At certain times of the year it is also the norm to see mating cuttlefish and squid. With winter approaching one would also say that our resident seal would be a visitor on most dives. April May and June means that whales are a regular sight on their Northerly migration, and the whale action is definitely at its best Sept thru to November when they are heading south with their calves.

The Gravel Loader Has a couple of easy entry points from either the east or western side. The eastern side access is from the old boat ramp is a bit more of a navigational exercise to be able to access the dive site itself.



maximum depth of the Gravel Loader is 11-12 metres which allows for longer bottom times and is a great site for a second dive of the day and is also a great site for underwater photography

The western access although a longer walk is an easier navigational exercise with the entry point being where the shore line and the breakwall meets on the corner. The pylons of the gravel loader offer a wealth of life from the standard type of macro species thru to wide angle stuff – bright colourful nudies and crustaceans to the larger cuttlefish; schooling groups of old wives. And not to omit the nursery area which at the correct time of the year is teeming with juvenile and adult species of tropical fish – banner fish, Moorish idols and the shy and retiring golden headed sleeper gobies, this year we even had the return of the ragged fin lion fish,. The



Bushrangers Bay In 1982 the local diving community with much assistance from Fisheries achieved that which they had been pushing for a number of years namely having Bushrangers Bay named as an Aquatic Reserve. Thus this much protected hourglass shaped bay has a lot to offer. Access to the bay is via a purpose built stairwell which leads onto a pebbled beach. This can be a spectacular dive with easy navigation due to the shape the inner bay is only 5-6 metres maximum following the channel into the outer bay dropping to 18-20metres maximum depth

with a huge diversity of fishlife. The temperate water reef system and rock which seems to have a congregation of marine life due to the protection which the bay has had for the last 26 years.

This covers the three most commonly dived shore dives but be aware there is more, and did I mention our resident turtle? He can be found somewhere between the Gravel Loader and the Gutter when he is at home



### THE LOCAL BOAT DIVES

Our 7.5metre Fibreglass sharkcart VENGEANCE is setup for 8 + 1 and our fee schedule depicting wholesale and retail is set out separate to this

Boat dives can be conducted as single, a double or for multiple groups on any given day. The dive sites are many and varied and we have listed them here shallowest to deepest



**Legends reef** 16metres a quite spectacular shallow reef system running from temperate reef onto sand most noted for its nudibranchs

**San Francisco Bay** on the South side of Bass Point is pretty little bay which has a reef/wall which runs north to south extends from 18 -24 metres.

**Bushrangers Reef** a pinnacle which arises off the ocean floor in the middle of nowhere minimum depth of 18 and max of 24 m heaps of growth and fishlife on the north/east and western side a spectacular dive in the right conditions

**The Arch and Cave** the arch is around 24 metres in depth and is a fun dive for a novice or experienced diver. The archway is a swim through of about 20metres and is approx 6-9 metres tall (depending on how much sand has washed in) it is not uncommon to meet up with a variety of big rays, port jacksons and very occasionally the odd visiting GNS around Christmas/January. The entrance and exit of the arch have a lot of growth. The Cave is located about 35 metres South of the Arch and is in approx 15metres of water. When the GNS are in residence this is their normal abode. The cave itself is about 20 metres deep and is a heart shape internally normally massive amounts of schooling bullseyes around the entrance and during the right time of year it is not uncommon to have anywhere up to 50 or 60 PJ Sharks during their breeding season.

**Spider reef** 24 metres – 28 metres named after the reef system with soft corals and home to a number of species of sea spiders.

**Slipper Reef** mooring is at 24 metres dive can attain a max depth of 30 metres large reef system which runs around on a near vertical wall. On this site one will find that the King Wrasse will visit to the point of harassment

**Lou's Rock** depth of 30 metres max Lou's Rock is a vertical wall which extrudes above the water line by 2-3 metres depending on the tide it runs down as a pyramid to a sand base is a spectacular dive – seals whales and or dolphins dependent on the time of year masses of fish well known for its nudibranchs temperate reef and huge diverse species of fish life. Did we mention the sunfish which have been spotted out here over the last few years

**Lou's reef** depth of 19 -21 metres at the top 32 -34 metres at the bottom. Again a huge myriad amount of fishlife; sea whips small cave system and a great dive conditions permitting.

**Deco reef** Starts at 45 metres and continues down past 57metres which is the maximum depth to date we have explored but it is obvious that this wall extends past 60 metres. Reef systems with sea whips a light coral reef which is extensive in nature for the depth it is in.

This is just a few of the many dives accessible from the boat in and around Bass Point other sites include The Humps; Hole in the Wall; The Canyons plus more'

Further afield is the 'wreck' of The Bombo – just outside Port Kembla Harbour 32 mtrs to the bottom. It is available as a training dive wreck – has extensive growth lots of fishlife and proves to be a great dive site. It does lay in the main shipping channel into Port Kembla Harbour and as such dives have to planned around the shipping movements



Hope this info helps and we look forward to showing you the local area

Julie Ron and the crew at Leisure Coast Dive

[www.leisurecoastdive.com.au](http://www.leisurecoastdive.com.au)