



Dive Interval

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Volume 2 Issue 2

Local Diving and Non Diving News

It appears that my soapboxes of last week created a number of discussions. Good, now if only the media would act on it, although judging by the local papers over the last weekend I doubt it. On the same page we had a headline about the number of sharks off the beaches and at the bottom of the page was Man dies off local beach. It was not until you read further that you found that the visitor to our local waters unfortunately drowned and that neither story was related

For those who asked the question – recently ninems published a list of the top 10 deadliest animals and in no particular order they were Dogs, Hippos, lions, dart frogs, elephants, snakes, scorpion, crocodile, cape buffalo. Topping the list was – **mosquitoes**. There will be some who would claim to differ that this list is incorrect.

The local diving.

There were yet again many a diver around Bob, Ox and Mick have been doing their regular Wednesday and Thursday dives and are always receptive to others who wish to tag along. As well as Donna and Phil who are often seen sneaking out for a few hours of mid week solitude.

Donna lead a group of students on Saturday to finish off their open water ably assisted by Phil. Sunday Ron and a swarm of divers headed out for a day of fun and frivolity. Sunday also saw Donna, Phil and Pat head out for an early morning dive on twins and /or rebreathers. Sepi and Mrs Sepi and Maddie and Pete were also early risers on the day. Maybe we should not only reinstate the Dunny Divers* but the Dawn divers as well.

The water is anything from 16 to 21 but with February upon us the warmest water of the year should arrive within the next few weeks. Statistics show that the last week of Feb is generally the warmest.

There is lots of marine life around at the moment to visit with and plenty to see. Viz is as unfathomable as usual anything from 2 metres to well over 15/20metres

Carny Mike even found a Moorish idol on the dive on Thursday

Other news. There has been generalized discussions as to why the picnic tables have been removed from Bass Point and not been replaced. Word is that the tables were well and truly past their use by date. Nothing worse than splinters in the posterior region. The carpark at The Shallows has been beautifully sealed in tar for the local surfing community to use - not to mention those who park there to take their dogs for a promenade along the beach. A small bird tells us that letters of complaint/request is how this carpark was approved for sealing.

This has led to comments that perhaps we should lobby the powers that be for tables to be installed poste haste at both bushies and the Gutter. Rather than bombarding the authorities and getting them offside it may be best to email

your requests to us here. We can then in turn remit to the appropriate department Julie@leisurecoastdive.com.au mark the email Tables at Bass Point please.

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The Gutter Bass Point

Sitting here mid afternoon Friday (30th Jan) with Ron and Donna, all of us sweltering in the heat, I came up with the bright idea of going out for a dive after we closed up shop. After all Bass Point is open till 7.30, so that allows plenty of dive time. We agreed to meet out there at 5.30 that way Donna had opportunity to do wifely things - feed and organise Phil and pack him off to work for night shift before she headed out to play.



Driving across to the point and the conditions looked a lot better than the other week when I went diving with just Donna and Phil, at least there was a lot less white water on the northern side. A quick detour to the gutter for a site assessment. Where a couple of local policemen accosted us - ok so it was Marky in an unmarked car - he'd seen us head through town and decided to follow to see what we were up to. We adjourned to Bushies where Donna was waiting. There ensued a time delay while we all caught up with Mark and his partner but eventually the decision was made to head back to the Gutter for the dive. While being a little swelly it still looked to be ok although it did make for an interesting exit. While gearing up Ron stated of feelings of deja vu of the first time we had dived there fresh out of my. (That's a story to save for another edition). Gear on, down to the edge and into the water, in no length of time we dropped down and headed out to visit with the spiders, and more - conga eels, and a few big moray eels, a school of squid, lots of nudibranchs and starfish, we spent ages playing around with one of the spiders. Unfortunately the turtle was not at home, a couple of big male blue gropers and lots of females as well. Crimson Wrasse, mados, red rocky and even a couple of old wives. The water was great at least 15 metres viz and the temp alternated from 17 to 20.2

Congrats to



ELISE, JASON, STUART, EDUARDO, AND MARIO WHO ALL COMPLETED THEIR OPEN WATER WITH DONNA RECENTLY



***Dunny Divers** back in the days of yore, when the Illawarra Scuba Diving Club was still around, the diving community would bestow upon divers the title of Dunny Diver and appropriate merit certificates were awarded. There have been discussions amongst those of that era that perhaps we should bring back the Dunny Divers Certificate. For those who are only recently certified divers, and by recent if you were certified in the last 15 years you would have no knowledge of the Dunny Block Divers Award.

Bass Point was home to a pair of rather horrendous brick leantoos which bore the entitlement of toilets really they were a series of glorified thunderboxes. These leantoos were absolutely disgusting and were one of the few things on this planet which made me oh so happy that I have no sense of smell. Directly off The Gutter from these "loos" was a dive site which the local wags christened dunny block reef, and any diver who was signed off as having completed a certain number of dives on this site was awarded an "I'm A Dunny Diver!" certificate. A few recent alcoholic beverages with a certain dive instructor of Ron's recently lead to discussions of days of yore and that we should bring back the Dunny Divers certificate.

Appreciation to

Karlis and Patricia who have both been busy conducting try dives for us both at Bushrangers Bay and at the pool. And a special mention of well done to Pat who, since semi retiring from the flower arranging industry, has been devoting her Saturdays and or Sundays as a volunteer with the Coast Guard at Port Kembla. Any of the boaties out there may oft hear her relay the weather updates, amongst other messages

I ask You If you came home from work and the better half welcomed you with 'Don't get mad but.....' you would just know that it was not going to be good news.

The rest of the sentence is I washed the dive gear and left your regs soaking for 8 hours with the dust cap off. The solution was simple according to our leader Ron. **DIVORCE** and a new set of regs, and I am not going to point the finger at who the culprit was



Last week Ron came home from his weekly round of truck trips to Victoria raving about a particular run from Benalla through to Mansfield and on to Alexandra. Absolutely gorgeous country we should organise a short stay for down there, he said. I'll take you down through to Yea and the Kinglake area that too is a pretty and scenic run. He spoke at length on what a great trip it had been and when we would and could go. That was Thursday night. He now speaks of the scenes he can see just driving down the Hume as you travel through to Melbourne this week, of houses lost and roads closed, he said you hear on the CB effect to just the truck drivers who do the round trip on weekly basis, and you hear it in his voice too. Now many of those places I wanted you to see are no more, he said.

With Bass Point closed over the weekend there was limited diving achieved. The boat went out on Saturday with a few visitors and others on board. Sundays planned boat dive was aborted when the seas blew up and made for a crappy day out the ocean. Saturday afternoon – evening was theory sessions for the Dive Con course with Odette, Peter and Nanna, with a few interruptions from the peanut gallery namely Grumpy and Mark.

With the predicted weekend weather it was only natural that the local rural fire services would call on Friday afternoon to say Bass Point would be closed. I know that it was an inconvenience that some of you could not dive for both Saturday and Sunday but in the greater scheme of things it is not a great drama if you miss a weekend of diving. And in view of what is happening in the southern sector of this country, those of you who voiced your animosity and ire at the inconvenience of having Bass Point closed for two days may like to send up a quiet apology.

I look at it from this point of view consider Bass Point on a weekend with temperatures in the mid 30s how many families picnicking, divers, fisherman spearos and snorkellers and just others would be out there? Now imagine an idiot flicking a cigarette butt into the bush out at Bass Point on their way through.

Whining and complaining to me or us is not going to alter that under extreme conditions Bass Point will be closed – it's just one less area that they need to worry about when at times the fire fighters resources are required elsewhere.

Believe it or not there are other sites one can dive if required, all you have to do is ask.



In case you had not noticed there is a distinct rosy tinge to this week's news that's because this Saturday is Valentines Day.

The trip to Rabaul is now full. Final names are Pete, Maddie, The Grahams - Bass and Chapple, Mark, Ron, Andrew, Lee, Tim, Ian, Odette and mineself. After 12 years and limited time off and no time off together we are going off on a holiday. Although I always swore that my idea of a holiday was nothing to do with divers. This one is to hard to say no to. Shop will remain open with a lot of help from many.

Boat Dives Saturday 14th Possible boat dives Sunday 15th

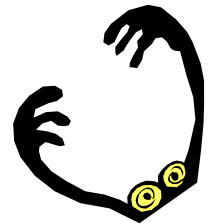
EDEN 20th Feb with dives at Green Cape to replace the shark station and dive other local sites.

Saturday 28th Feb, March 1st we are conducting a group try dive sessions, any DCs or assistance available would be appreciated. Julie and Ron

September its back to the Coolidge in Vanuatu see further details in this edition



Night Dives there has been lacking organisation for night dives so decision has been made for night dives the last Saturday of each month



This month's night dive will be February 28th

Specialty courses:

We always get requests for different specialty courses so here is the current list of courses which will be running over the next couple of months.

Nitrox; Deep, Navigation and Stress Rescue

Anyone who may be interested in joining in on one of these specialties please let us know.

It also works to your advantage if you sometimes combine a couple of specialties.

Deep and Wreck. or Boat and Nitrox; or Boat and deep

A description of each course below

BOAT DIVING Boats allow divers to explore dive sites not accessible from shore; sites which have the propensity for clearer water and more diverse marine life. This course will teach divers the fundamentals of boat diving. It covers personal, liveboard and day boats.

As part of your SSI Boat Diver Specialty course, you will be instructed in:

- Boat diving planning, organization procedures, techniques, problems and hazards
- Proper boat diving protocol, including equipment storage and conduct
- Common boat terminology
- Specific and local boat diving laws and ordinances
- Overview of emergency and safety equipment needed on private dive boats
- Motion sickness medications
- Gearing up procedures
- Proper entry and exit procedures
- Dive briefs and debriefs

<http://www.leisurecoastdive.com.au/html/specialties.html#BoatDiver>

WRECK DIVING Minimum age is 15 Wreck diving is a specialized area of scuba diving that offers a new outlet for adventure, and exploration. Wreck diving gives divers the opportunity to see into our past. Discover how enticing wreck research can be; learn how to choose the best wreck sites and equipment for your level of expertise. Wreck diving is all about experiencing different dives. Some people do wreck diving out of curiosity, others for the historical value. Wreck diving opens up an entirely new vista for the underwater photographer, and for others it is the marinelife which entices them. Completion of the SSI wreck specialty will enable you to learn more about wreck diving procedures and allow you to get more out of your next wreck dive.

<http://www.leisurecoastdive.com.au/html/specialties.html#WreckDiver>



DEEP DIVING MINIMUM AGE IS 15 You will learn skills that will make recreational deep diving safe and fun. You will learn how to stay within the deep diving limits. You will find that the SSI Deep Diver training opens the doors to new dive sites and new adventures. You will do a 40m dive under the guidance of an experienced instructor while you experience nitrogen narcosis first hand. You will see how depth effects colour, and the effects of pressure on a range of objects at depth.

You will learn

- the basics of making an effective deep dive plan
- Proper surface support
- Back up equipment and its uses
- Enhancing your scuba skills for deep diving
- Recognizing and handling hazards

<http://www.leisurecoastdive.com.au/html/specialties.html#DeepDiver>



NAVIGATION DIVING is a skill all divers should know. Diving is more satisfying if we know our location and how to get back to the exit/entry point. By using compass or natural navigation techniques you will learn the ability to navigate your way through the underwater environment. By completing the navigation course you can achieve self-reliance and not have to depend on someone else to navigate for you. This course will teach you the skills, knowledge, planning, organization, procedures, techniques, problems, hazards and enjoyment of underwater navigation.

You will learn: -

- Practices for planning, organizing underwater navigation & the associated problems and risks.
- Ways of estimating distances underwater
- Natural navigation
- Dive site relocation techniques
- Proper compass navigation techniques

<http://www.leisurecoastdive.com.au/html/specialties.html#NavigationDiver>

NITROX DIVING Nitrox can supply divers a number of advantages depending on the kind of diving they do.

Enriched Air Nitrox allows you to extend your bottom time; it also allows longer repetitive dive times, shorter surface intervals and safer dive profiles. The Enriched Air Diver Course is intended to teach you the procedures for no decompression diving using Enriched Air.

This course will teach you about gas mixing for Nitrox and the preparation and planning. You will learn how to ascertain your no decompression limit and your oxygen exposure limit while using enriched air.

http://www.leisurecoastdive.com.au/html/specialties_2.html#EAN

STRESS RESCUE At Leisure Coast Dive, diving safety is our #1 concern, and we back that with perfect record of safety. The Stress and Rescue course is open to anyone who has completed the Open Water Course. Stress is a major contributor to diving rescue situations or accidents. The Stress and Rescue course will improve your diving confidence and enjoyment by learning to recognize situations that can lead to problems. The SSI Stress Rescue Course focuses on accident prevention in order to reduce the necessity of accident management.

During your Stress Rescue course you will learn the causes and prevention of stress; detecting and dealing with diving related stress in you and your buddy; accident management procedures; rescue skills that assist the victim while protecting yourself; effective search patterns; dealing with situations which can complicate rescues.

I already have a number of names on the list for each course. Starting with **navigation** top of the list is Grumpy as a little bird tells me he cant navigate for %*&\$. Odette, Dean and Merrin are another three on the Nav list.

Although it only came up last week there are already 5 who have paid deposits for The September trip to Santo and a flurry of diving on the Coolidge trip details are as below. We are currently adding a 2nd week to the trip as there are already more than 12 names on the list



Dive Espiritu Santo

7 Days / 6 Nights ex. Sydney from **\$2099**

Deco Stop Lodge 07 - 13 September 2009

Includes:

- Flights Ex. Sydney (via Port Vila) - Santo - Sydney - flying with Air Vanuatu (special fares, conditions apply)
- Return airport transfers in Santo
- 6 nights twin share accomm. at the Deco Stop Lodge - Santo
- Continental bfast. daily at Deco Stop Lodge
- 8 Dives including Tanks, Weights, Belts & Dive Guide Services (Diving with Aquamarine)
- Free reef night dive on WWII pier (from Aquamarine pier)
- Complimentary camera downloads and CD/DVD burning services
- Complimentary group happy hour with Aquamarines home brew beer and group slide show with a copy of the DVD slide show for you to take home
- Australian & Vanuatu departure taxes (\$34/1 00 & subject to change)

NOT INCLUDED: * Meals (unless specified) * Travel Insurance * Spending Monies

NOTE: Upgrade to full breakfast for 6 days - \$85

Conditions apply Prices Subject to change without notice
\$450 Deposit required to secure a spot!



The open water promo dvd which we have been compiling has reached its completion so if any of you would like a copy to show your friends who may interested in learning to dive just let us know, or even if you just want to show the family some of the local diving it is quite useful



USE your dive gear while you pay it off

How does this program work? It's very simple really. Thanks to Ezi-Buy, you can collect your new Scuba equipment NOW and spread the payments out over 12 months, with NO INTEREST

How much can I borrow? You can borrow up to \$4,000.00

How much deposit do I need? No deposit is required.

How much interest do I pay? There is no interest ever, although there is a nominal application fee of \$26.00

What can I buy? Your Oceanic Scuba Package comprising Regulator, Occy Reg, Buoyancy Compensator and Dive Computer is possibly your starting point, but you can also include your Wetsuit, Boots, Mask, Snorkel and Fins and in fact you can even include your Openwater or Advanced Diver course.

Why should I buy my own Equipment? When you own your own Scuba equipment, like anything, you at once become more familiar with the positioning and the working of that gear, and you can adjust straps, Occy Reg and Computer positioning etc. Also when you buy your accessories such as Retainer Clips and Retractors, they can stay permanently attached to your gear. It really does make a lot of sense.

As always bookings are essential for any of our courses and dives

www.grumpysimages.com

www.leisurecoastdive.com.au

www.divessi.com

www.scubaonline.com.au

www.seabreeze.com.au

<http://www.youtube.com/leisurecoastdive>

More next week JULIE.