

## **Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 2003**

### **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

Diving this week was at first met with some scepticism because of the algae and weed in the bay and all over the beach, deep enough to bog a 4WD. Although once out past Double Island Point you could see the blue line where we were blessed with some clean water.

Once below the surface our visiting divers from England and Spain were amazed by the size of the eagle rays circling one of the submerged pinnacles, and then dropping down through the atmospheres following the food chain and finally approaching the shark pit at 26 metres.

Suddenly there were six grey nurse sharks, two male and four female but only two of the girls are showing signs of mating scars, which are bite marks inflicted by the male during mating. The other two look like younger sharks that are probably not yet in season.

During surface interval our European visitors were very excited about the rare opportunity to get some photography of an endangered species. So after a detailed briefing on how to get good pictures without disturbing the animals and disrupting their swim pattern, it was over the side for another dive.

With more and more overseas divers coming to Rainbow Beach in order to dive Wolf Rock, we hear constantly that the Great Barrier Reef is beautiful but Wolf Rock is absolutely awesome and truly world class.

Water temperature 22 degrees and visibility 15 metres.

Kevin Phillips  
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

## **Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 2003**

### **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

Amongst the dives we conducted this week, one of them ended up being one the most exciting dives to date, and we were fortunate enough to get it on film.

As we have frequently mentioned, the grey nurse sharks are one of the big attractions to diving at Wolf Rock. This week we had a travelling diver with a small digital camera that also takes short pieces of video footage. After carefully positioning himself in a non-threatening spot to take some video, he was fortunate enough to capture two of the sharks mating.

Now, if you have never witnessed this before it is one of the most violent things you'll ever see, not to mention quite frightening when it's happening only metres away in front of you. In fact the diver was so disconcerted that the first few seconds of footage are mostly of rocks that he was clambering over to get out of their way.

When grey nurse sharks mate they use their teeth and jaws to 'hold on' as such, and then proceed to thrash around, cracking their tails and somersaulting through the water. The sound generated when they crack their tails is almost deafening. In this case, the

female shark was slowly moving through the shark pit when a male started nipping her tail from behind. He then swam away and turned to 'attack' her from the side, hitting her with a great deal of force as he latched on to her pectoral area.

**As far as we know, this could be the only footage around that records grey nurse sharks mating in the wild.**

Water temperature now 23 degrees and visibility 20 metres.

Kevin Phillips  
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

## **Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 2003**

### **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

The dive centre this week has become very busy with official visitors and VIPs.

The rangers from Marine Parks in Brisbane have been up in order to survey the sharks using video and still photography. Sign language became obsolete with the use of full-face masks and radio communications. Surface to diver and diver to diver comms make obtaining film footage so much easier as you don't have to take your eye off the subject in order to speak to the other divers. Visibility was lacking but we managed to ID eight sharks, three boys and five girls.

At the moment we are also very happy to be playing host to some European photojournalists from Austria who write articles for diving magazines internationally. Peter and Elisabeth Pflugl have won accolades world wide for their amazing underwater photography. Elisabeth and Peter are a married couple who have been diving together for fourteen years. Peter is the photographer with his camera worth over \$30,000 and Elisabeth is his expert underwater model. To watch these professionals at work is really a work of art. Both are very fit but Elisabeth has to swim twice the distance as Peter in order to get into position close to the subject and still not breath so hard as to frighten the animal away. When the timing is perfect Peter takes the shot. It is as if they can read each other's minds.

Of the many subjects they photographed one was the massive bull rays which hover above the formation using the ocean current for lift. **The bull ray is actually closely related to the shark, having most of its nerves concentrated on the hump between its eyes, which are located on top of its head. When diving with this animal it is safer to approach from below as one accidental touch on top of the ray in a sensitive place can force him to defend himself. Surprisingly they are able to flick their tail right over themselves like a scorpion, using the barb under the tail as a dangerous weapon.**

In all a great week of diving at Wolf Rock. Visibility 10 metres, water temperature 23 degrees.

Kevin Phillips  
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

## **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

### **November 2003**

November has proved to be a very busy month for us with loads of visiting divers coming from all over the world, putting Rainbow Beach on their list of destinations in order to dive Wolf Rock.

Peter and Elisabeth Plfugl, award winning underwater photojournalists from Europe have been back to Rainbow for the second time in two years after European diving magazines requested more pictures and information on Wolf Rock. At a recent photographic expo in Austria, Peter and Elisabeth were approached by some cameramen who work for David Attenborough asking questions about Wolf Rock and a film crew for the Discovery Channel will be here in December.

**In November, Cheryl and I were invited to attend a meeting at the Premiers Department in regards to the grey nurse shark protection program. With the release of the recent Regulatory Impact Statement by Fisheries, there were some concerns that they may close Wolf Rock and other sites to divers. The EPA are so powerful we actually had to put our case forward as to why we should be able to continue diving at Wolf Rock after the proposed protection zone is put in place. We await the outcome to learn our fate before Christmas.**

On a more optimistic note, it looks like we have a world first. As far as we know, in Australia at least, the mating habits of the endangered grey nurse shark have only ever been caught on film in captivity by a static camera set up in the oceanarium at Underwater World. Two weeks ago a visiting British dive instructor and I were in the right place at the right time. If you have ever seen sharks mate, it's the most violent terrifying thing you'll ever witness. You see when sharks 'do it' they have to hang on with their teeth. The male hits the female like a rugby tackle biting her over her pectoral fin. She bites back out of self-defence and the struggle begins. The pounding and thumping you can hear and feel through the water is due to the sharks tails cracking like whips as they cavitate the water, actually breaking the sound barrier. To the untrained eye it could be mistaken as a cannibalistic feeding frenzy. With all of this taking place only four feet from our eyes I can't blame our British visitor for dropping his camera and going into retreat. After helping him gain his composure we continued filming. Incidentally, Mr Dawkins came back to Rainbow and came diving again yesterday and says he's still reeling over the experience.

What a month it's been at Wolf Rock! Water temperature 23 degrees and visibility 10 – 20 metres.

Kev Phillips  
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

## **Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 2005**

### **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

#### **(no report for 2004)**

The grey nurse sharks are now back in force with about 18 sharks now moving around the formation. **The mating season appears to have finished with only one boy sighted this week with the rest all being female. The mating scars on all sharks also appear to be healing with no fresh wounds visible. That means that the season has only lasted for about 8 weeks.**

We have had divers from all over the place this week with the phone running hot after the segment on A Current Affair. Customers have been coming from far and wide to see the sights of Wolf Rock and spend a bit of relaxing time in Rainbow Beach. We are also starting to see some of our friends from overseas back again with a diver from Germany this week returning here for holidays after diving with us 2 years ago. He couldn't wait to get back in the water for his first dive and he and his wife are spending the week in Rainbow Beach so he can dive with us again before they head off for their next destination. A recent article in a New Zealand dive magazine has also been attracting divers from across the Tasman. All have not been disappointed with the incredible variety and amount of marine life they see here.

Visibility has been a fairly consistent 10 – 15 metres and with a bit of a thermo cline developing water temperature between 23 and 24 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan  
Wolf Rock Dive

## **Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 2005**

### **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

Northerly winds have been giving us a good thrashing over the last couple of weeks making launching and loading the boat at Double Island Point a little tricky, not to mention the bumpy ride out to Wolf Rock.

Despite the surface conditions some very good diving pleasing everyone from Steve Irwin and the crew from A Current Affair to visiting overseas dive tourists alike.

The grey nurse sharks are now aggregating for their annual mating season, this year with a stronger presence of male sharks than previously recorded. Bull rays, eagle rays and giant Queensland gropers make for a very busy dive site. Also the first leopard sharks of the summer season were sighted at Wolf Rock this week.

This week we managed to get a photo of the little cuttlefish that has been sitting in a crevice up in about 10 metres.

Water temperature 24 degrees and visibility 15 metres.

Cheryl Maughan  
Wolf Rock Dive

## **Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> 2005**

### **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

Wolf Rock has been a very busy place over the last week with lots of underwater action. Divers are continually amazed at the variety of life we have here as well as the sheer size of some of the animals.

The grey nurse sharks, with an average size of about 3 metres, are increasing in number with the male sharks continually patrolling all around the formation with one of them in particular seeming to have a fascination with divers fins. Their behaviour is markedly different to the female sharks. **The male shark is quite bold swimming right up to divers to have a closer look while the female sharks are content to placidly move around in their own little area minding their own business.** Leopard sharks are starting to move in for the summer season and are generally found resting on the bottom. The bull rays have been out and about with some of them measuring about 2 metres across the body, quite intimidating when you have to swim through a group of about 6 or so.

Water temperature has been averaging 24 degrees and visibility 15 metres, although this can vary quite a lot around the formation.

Cheryl Maughan  
Wolf Rock Dive

## **Nov 29<sup>th</sup> 2005**

### **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

The week started with some strong currents coming from the north, which backed off towards the end of the week. With the current brings a lot more life but also makes it more of a challenge for the divers to get around. Fortunately Wolf Rock is quite a large formation allowing divers to hide in the lee of the rock and only exposing themselves to some hard finning when crossing around to the opposite side.

**The giant Queensland groppers having been 'ruling the roost' so to speak and seem to have unsettled the grey nurse sharks, which we are now finding some way out from the main formation.** A few potato cod having been spotted with one of them hanging out in a small cave at the bottom of the chasm, and as divers swim over him he peers up at us opening and closing his mouth, we suspect to allow cleaner shrimp access.

Over the last week we also **saw a pod of melon head or pilot whales** moving past the rock as well as a straggling lone humpback whale heading south.

Visibility has been a fairly consistent 10 – 15 metres varying with the run of the tides and water temperature hovering around the 24 degree mark.

Cheryl Maughan  
Wolf Rock Dive

## **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

### **Nov 2005**

Steve Irwin and Channel Nines A Current Affair have just recently been to Rainbow Beach in order to show the nation that Queensland is leading the country in the conservation of endangered marine creatures, making Wolf Rock a fine example in regard to the resident population of the critically endangered grey nurse shark. Steve's aim was to challenge the New South Wales government to get serious about the protection of grey nurse shark habitats. Currently in New South Wales, a protection zone of only 200 metres exists which is considered inadequate in comparison to the Queensland Government's 1.2 km protection zone implemented two years ago.

Our challenge at Wolf Rock Dive Centre was to take Amanda Patterson, television journalist and entry level diver, and prepare her for the dive of her life with Steve Irwin and a dozen sharks measuring up to 3.5 metres long.

After lengthy consultation and pre dive briefings, Amanda was ready to go, but not without some natural anxiety in the initial stages of the dive. Amanda soon settled in and found herself in awe of one of Australia's most healthy marine eco systems, surrounded by squadrons of eagle rays flying over head and giant Queensland gropers playing the part of an ocean troll protecting his patch, an ancient loggerhead turtle stopped to investigate, then the stars of the show - the grey nurse sharks, a dozen of them all buzzing with the excitement of mating season. This is where Amanda and Steve both sat wide eyed with amazement at these dangerous looking, yet harmless to human, ocean predators.

After the first dive Amanda and Steve couldn't get back in the water fast enough. Then with dive two completed and having experienced this amazing underwater world herself, Amanda was in complete agreement with Steve that the only good shark is not a dead shark.

The growing Asian demand for shark fin as well as the accidental ingestion of fishing tackle is killing one of our most valuable links in the ocean food chain. You can only de-fin a shark once. They don't grow back again and the animal will not survive without them. The grey nurse shark happens to have two dorsal fins of equal size making them twice as valuable on the black market. Yet by comparison, eco tourism can show these animals in their natural habitat over and over, year after year, for as long as they live. After all, life on earth came from the sea, so let's protect it for the future and our children's children.

Water temperature is currently 24 degrees and visibility 20 metres.

Kevin Phillips  
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

## **Nov 21<sup>st</sup> 2006**

### **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

We have had some excellent diving over the past few weeks with good conditions both on top and below the water. Leopard sharks are well and truly moving in for the summer and we're seeing quite a few free swimming through the water as well as resting on the bottom.

Another attraction we forget to mention is the number of soft and hard corals that can be found beneath the seas. Here at Wolf Rock we don't have the vast array of species and colours that you will find on the Barrier Reef but still enough to make it interesting. Within the corals you can find an amazing variety of fish such as starfish, sea urchins, crabs and various types of worms just to name a few. The coral family also includes your various species of jellyfish with their common trait being that they have tentacles that are equipped with microscopic stinging cells as a defence mechanism.

Visibility has been averaging 15 metres this week and water temperature is now 23 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan  
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

## **Nov 28<sup>th</sup> 2006**

### **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

Some excellent diving this week has left lasting impressions on visiting divers from Hervey Bay, Brisbane, England and as far away as Germany and the Czech Republic.

**The grey nurse sharks are currently at the height of their mating season with the mature females that are in season showing more and more mating scars as time progresses.** Out of the dozen sharks present at the moment only two males have earned their place. The remaining ten sharks are female, giving the boys a wide range of potential girlfriends. The female grey nurse shark only comes into season every second year so only about 5 of them are showing heavy scarring because they actually hold on with their teeth while they copulate.

You could probably compare it to the old school dance where only the most popular girls get asked to dance all the time and the wallflowers just sit on the side and wait till next year. **The alpha males that have secured their place at the dance by chasing off all the other competition even get jealous if divers accidentally swim too near their girls.** They make a point of swimming right up close, sometimes within inches, to have a look at the 'competition' so to speak. It's all very interesting and exciting not to mention entertaining and we have noted this cycle after 6 years of constant observation.

**Scientists from Queensland Parks and Wildlife, Marine Parks will be diving with us next month to make a survey of their own. My only advice to them is to leave your grey wetsuit and lipstick at home.**

Visibility 10 – 15 metres and water temperature 23 degrees.

Kev Phillips  
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

## **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

### **November 2006**

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It's all very interesting and exciting not to mention entertaining and we have noted a definite cycle after 6 years of constant observation. It seems that at different times of the year we can expect to experience a certain set of conditions in regard to current, visibility, marine life and water temperature.

Scientists from Queensland Parks and Wildlife, Marine Parks will be diving with us next month to make a survey of their own. My only advice to them is to leave your grey wetsuit and lipstick at home.

Water temperature is currently 23 degrees and visibility has been averaging 15 metres.

Kev Phillips  
Wolf Rock Dive Centre



## **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

### **November 2007**

November has been a busy month for us in the lead up to Christmas. Our biggest challenge continues to be getting to the dive site with the rocks out the front of town not in good condition and the fallen trees at the other end of the beach limiting access, timing is crucial. But as with most good dive sites they are usually harder to get to but worth the effort.

This month we have seen the first of the bull rays and leopard sharks arrive for the summer season. The odd eagle ray has been flying around and gropers becoming more of a fixed feature. The grey nurse sharks are well and truly into the mating season and this year we have larger numbers of boy sharks. Up to 9 of them were counted earlier on in the month with an average counted on each dive of 3-4. Total numbers of sharks have risen to around 20 and a few of them are quite distinctive because of size or markings. **One of the girls is just 1.5 metres long indicating she is a juvenile. When the grey nurse shark is born they are an average length of one metre so this means she's probably only 6-8 months old. As far as I can remember she is the smallest female we have ever seen at Wolf Rock, very unusual. When you see her along side one of the large 3.5 metre females she looks positively tiny.**

On one of our last dives of the month a group of divers got to see two of the grey nurse sharks in mating action. It's something they will probably never get to see again. The chance of being in the water at the same moment something like that happens is very rare and the whole process from start to finish is over within about 2 minutes.

Water temperature is currently 23 degrees and visibility has been averaging 15 metres.

We wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and all the best for 2008.

Cheryl Maughan  
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

## **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

### **November 2008**

Some exciting dives have been taking place out at Wolf Rock currently. As always this time of year is one of the best times to dive there with action left, right and centre. This year we seem to have an over-abundance of the larger sized grey nurse sharks. **I don't think we have seen a female shark under 3 metres and we have one of the biggest males we have ever seen at 3 metres also.** Mating season is well and truly under way and the boys are all a bit antsy.

While the females tend to be a little more relaxed the boy sharks are patrolling their territory and divers are a curiosity they don't know what to make of. Sitting on the sandy bottom while about a dozen or more sharks swim around you, some of the boys passing as close as two feet away or less is certainly what you call an adrenalin dive.

Loggerhead turtles have been quite prevalent as we are now in egg laying season. Gropers are also a feature, eagle rays and leopard sharks and the first group of bull-rays showed up only days ago. Of course, when I say leopard sharks, the correct name is zebra sharks as when they are born they in fact have stripes. As they grow and mature the stripes change to spots, hence why most people call them leopard sharks.

Visibility has been mostly 15 metres throughout the month but towards the end of November has dropped to about 10 metres. Water temperature has increased to 24 degrees and the bonus is my 3mm suit still fits.

We wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas and all the best for 2009.

Cheryl Maughan  
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

## **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

### **November 2009**

Yes, another amazing month of diving. **Record numbers of grey nurse sharks, in fact, we counted about 35 sharks on one of our dives with the average about 20 – 25 seen on most dives. Usually we would be seeing about a dozen this time of year. What makes this year different we have no idea.** We also had giant Queensland gropers as big as sharks, loads of eagle rays, bull rays, leopard sharks, turtles, fish everywhere, good visibility and warm water.

Along with the warm water we have also had some strong currents coming in from the north. Whilst this makes you work harder under the water it's worth the effort because current is what brings all the animals out. The trick to swimming in current is using the right technique. Some people make the mistake of trying to swim in mid water however if you hug the formation this is where you will find the least resistance and you also find little spots along the way where you can use the protection of the formation to give you a rest and catch your breath before moving on.

Congratulations to Hannah from Alaska who completed her Advanced Course with us this month. This month's photo is one that Hannah took while doing her photography dive.

Visibility has averaged about 15 metres and water temperature is now 24 degrees.

We wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas and all the best for 2010.

Cheryl Maughan  
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

## **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

### **November 2010**

Well I wish I could say that this month has been a good one but unfortunately the weather has proven to be our biggest problem yet again. When we have gotten out to Wolf Rock the diving has been good with plenty of action in the water.

We're now seeing leopard sharks and bull rays who have joined the masses of eagle rays and giant Queensland groper are starting to become more regular sights. Sharks are in full swing for mating season although not as many seen as last year so far.

Water temperature is starting to warm up and 3mm suits are out of mothballs but strangely they have shrunk since last summer. Along with the warm water we have also had some strong currents coming in from the north. Whilst this makes you work harder under the water it's worth the effort because current is what brings all the animals out.

Visibility on our last dive was around 10 – 15 metres water temperature 24 degrees.

Picture this month is a close up front on shot of a grey nurse shark. We wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas and all the best for 2011.

Cheryl Maughan  
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

## WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

### November 2011

Everyone has been making the best of the fantastic weather we have been experiencing over the last 4 weeks. Under the water has been just as good leaving us and customers with no doubt that we are seeing something special.

Grey nurse sharks full of mating scars, some very severe and painful looking but seemingly not bothering the sharks. Giant Queensland gropers have taken up residence, as have the bull rays, eagle rays and the leopard sharks. **On our last dive we were looking at numbers of around 30 or more sharks.**

The weekend of the 19 and 20 brought us beautiful clear blue water with visibility up around 25 – 30 metres and the photographers had a ball. If anyone would like to see some of the photos or video that has been posted you can see them on our Facebook page - [www.facebook.com.au/wolfrockdive](http://www.facebook.com.au/wolfrockdive)

The nice visibility has continued averaging around 15 metres or more and water temperature is 23 degrees. Great diving conditions!

The past year has flown by yet again and December is now upon us so we wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to 2012.

Cheryl Maughan  
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

## **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

### **November 2012**

Well the whale season is over but shark mating season is now in full swing. Being that female grey nurse sharks only come into season every second year you can certainly tell which ones they are because as the season progresses the eligible females accumulate a heavy cover of teeth marks from being bitten by the boys.

In November we were joined by a good collection of overseas, interstate and local divers that have been enjoying not just the GNS but also the annual groper aggregation, squadrons of eagle rays and the leopard sharks and bull rays that move in for every summer. The leopard sharks make for great photography because they sit still a lot of the time and if you don't startle them by moving too quickly they'll let you get as close as you like. Actually leopard sharks are really supposed to be called zebra sharks. When born they have stripes on their bodies but as they mature the stripes turn into spots, hence everyone calls them leopard sharks. Their skin looks velvety soft but in fact it feels like sandpaper. Water temperature 23 degrees and visibility 10metres.

If you're looking for some gift ideas we have the usual mask and snorkel sets, but don't forget our watchbands which are ideal for divers, surfers or tradies. They have a double strap so even if you break one pin you will not lose the watch. The strap is made from webbing material with no velcro making them more comfortable to wear in hot weather conditions. Prices start at \$22 for bronze and \$35 for stainless steel fittings.

As this is our last report before Xmas we wish everyone a safe and happy time with family and friends.

Cheryl Maughan  
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

## **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

### **November 2013**

I can't believe it's November! Where has the year gone?

**We are experiencing similar conditions to what we normally expect each November with nature's timetable pretty much on time. Grey nurse sharks mating, bull rays, groper, turtles etc. etc.** Visibility has been a little limited at between 5 & 10 metres but diving has been enjoyable none the less.

Storms have been creating havoc in the Cooloola area over the last couple of days and on Saturday just gone we all had to duck for cover when a hail storm hit mid afternoon. Luckily we had just finished washing dive gear when it started to rain and then it was a mad panic getting vehicles under cover before too much damage occurred.

In true Aussie style we then all cracked a can of beer and enjoyed Mother Nature's show!!

Pictures this month are of the dive group enjoying the sites of Rainbow Beach at the Cherry Venture prop and ducking for cover when the hail hit!

Cheryl Maughan  
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

## **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

### **November 2014**

I always enjoy the diving in November. This is the time of year when I think Wolf Rock really comes to life, not that it's quiet the rest of the year but there is just something more magical as we head into summer.

We are still seeing the same animals, just more of them. Bull rays in particular just love Wolf Rock in summer, must be the warmer water. There was one particular day a few weeks ago when I was lucky enough to observe some interaction between two very large mature rays and a pack of seven juveniles that were swarming on and around one of the mature rays in particular. I'm still not certain what the behaviour was for sure but my best guess is that it was mating. I got some very good video footage of it which I have posted to our Facebook page so I recommend you have a look at it.

Since then I have been very curious and have done a bit of research. Firstly, they are probably more accurately known as blotched fantail rays but a lot of divers commonly call them bull rays. The fully grown ray will measure up to between 2 and 3 metres across and in length and they will have anything up to 7 pups. The pups are only 30cm when they are born and the male reaches maturity once they grow to around 1 metre. Other than that there doesn't seem to be a lot more known about them.

Yesterday we had a group of 3 manta rays moving and grooving over the ledges in about 10 metres of water. One of the rays was a massive 4 metre wing span, but would you believe that they grow to up 6 metres.

Lastly, would like to say how thrilled we were to win the Gympie Chamber of Commerce Tourism Award last month. We were proud to be recognised for our contribution to tourism in this region and would also like to congratulate all our fellow nominees who also do such a great job.

A big thank you to Gympie Chamber of Commerce who organise the annual Business Awards, Gympie Times who gifted us with a half page advert, The Valley Rattler who sponsored the Tourism Award and Murray Views for your gift of stubby coolers to commemorate our win.

A very Merry Christmas to everyone, stay safe and we'll see you in 2015.

Cheryl Maughan  
Wolf Rock Dive Centre



## **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

### **November 2015**

We've had some spectacular diving at Wolf Rock for the month of November.

Whilst grey nurse shark numbers have been below average the rays and other animals have made up for it. The strong currents we have been experiencing are what the bull rays love and they have been making the most of it! We are seeing up to around 10 of them gathered on a regular basis and the average size is about 2 metres across the body.

**Eagle rays are also growing in numbers hovering in the current amongst the bull rays. On our last dive we saw a squadron of around 30 of them swim past just above our heads.**

Giant Queensland groopers have been seen regularly and even though we have not seen more than about 8 sharks they are all really big – mature sharks around 3 – 3.5 metres in length. Leopard sharks have been prevalent as well and schools of barracuda.

Water temperature is 23 degrees and we have been enjoying some fantastic visibility at around 25 metres.

As this will be our last report for 2015 we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and safe and Happy New Year.

Cheryl Maughan  
Wolf Rock Dive

## **WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT**

### **November 2016**

We've had some spectacular diving at Wolf Rock for the month of November.

Whilst grey nurse shark numbers are at about 6 – 8 so far we expect to see more of them very soon. The strong summer currents are starting to make themselves felt and the bull rays are making the most of it with around a dozen of them being seen on just about every dive.

**Eagle rays are also growing in numbers hovering in the current amongst the bull rays and giant Queensland gropers are gathering for what we call their annual convention (probably a mating aggregation).**

Water temperature has varied between 20 and 23 degrees with quite a few thermoclines around the rock. Strangely **we always find the grey nurse sharks in the warmer water pockets which they seem to prefer over the cooler pockets.** The other thing I notice is a distinct "shimmer" which can be seen in the water much the same as you can see on land (mirages) in high heat areas.

As this is our last report prior to Christmas we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to a bigger and better 2017!

Cheryl Maughan  
Wolf Rock Dive