

Dec 3rd 2003

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

The northerly winds have returned once again healing over the rocks at Mudlow but making it difficult to launch the boat at Double Island Point and making for a bumpy ride out to the dive site. I suppose you can't have your cake and eat it too!

Leopard sharks, leopard sharks and more leopard sharks - graceful inquisitive and friendly. We were surrounded by them on one dive much to the amazement of our student divers. Also bull rays, eagle rays and manta rays all making a spectacular appearance at the bommie under the lighthouse we call Round Rock.

Water temperature now 24 degrees and visibility 10 metres.

Kevin Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

Dec 9th 2003

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

A bit of a mixed bag with weather this week but ending with some calmer south-easterly winds and slowly abating swell.

Another documentary team were here over the past week to film the grey nurse sharks as part of series called Aussie Animal Rescue, part 2. We probably won't see it on television though until later next year some time.

Apart from that we have been seeing leopard sharks, leopard sharks and more leopard sharks - graceful inquisitive and friendly. We were surrounded by them on one dive much to the amazement of our student divers. Also bull rays, eagle rays and manta rays all making a spectacular appearance at the bommie under the lighthouse we call Round Rock.

Water temperature now 24 degrees and visibility and average of 10 metres.

Kevin Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

Dec 23rd 2003

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Once again, this year is ending with an unusually long period of northerly winds. With that comes a fairly constant ocean current from the northwest, in fact the strongest current we have experienced so far.

At one stage the wind was from the northeast at 15 knots and the current was holding the boat broadside to the waves. Even 30 metres underwater the current was so strong you found it hard to swim against. We had to lead the divers around the site using the deep gutters for cover moving like soldiers in trenches, looking up at all the marine life cramming themselves into the gaps between the pinnacles in order to feed in the current shoulder to shoulder. Standing room only!

In photo frame you could have bull rays, eagle rays, leopard sharks and giant groupers all in the one formation, yet in the lee of the rock it's something of a ghost town.

Visibility 20 metres and water temperature 24 degrees.

Kevin Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

Dec 30th 2003

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

On the nineteenth of December 2003, the grey nurse shark was officially listed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a critically endangered species. Subsequently Department of Primary Industry (DPI) - Fisheries have closed Wolf Rock to all extractive activities that include line fishing, crabbing, blue water hunting and marine aquarium collecting. The exclusion zone is a round area with a 1.2 km radius using the surface visible part of Wolf Rock as the centre point.

Fortunately for us the DPI and the EPA have allowed snorkelling and scuba diving to continue at Wolf Rock but with restrictions that will prevent us from expanding our operation in regards to numbers of divers.

When people dive at Wolf Rock they are generally here to see all the big animals. The grey nurse sharks average 3 metres long and the giant Queensland groper, sometimes the size of a compact car, tend to dominate the dive site. Leopard sharks coming in at 2 metres long are placid and actually enjoy a pat. Unfortunately the smaller inhabitants of Wolf Rock tend to become somewhat insignificant although there are plenty of them to see. Recently I found a clown fish the size of a small ant living in an anemone the size of a twenty-cent piece. Just as fascinating are the multicoloured, fluorescent nudibranchs that are basically small underwater snails without a shell. The colour combinations are just spectacular but the size of the animal makes them sometimes hard to spot.

Water temperature is now 25 degrees and the visibility 15 metres.

Happy New Year
Kev and Cheryl Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

December 2003

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Well finally the Southeasters are here. They have been a long time coming but we'll see how long they last. Southeast winds make for bigger ocean swell although launching the boat is easier in the protection of Double Island Point. In fact, Double Island Point is actually the second most easterly point of the Australian mainland with Cape Byron being the first.

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Water temperature is now 25 degrees and the visibility 15 metres.

Happy New Year
Kev and Cheryl Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

Dec 14th 2004

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

This last week has not been a good one for the public profile of scuba diving with the death of a spearfisherman in North Queensland from a shark attack. Our condolences to the family and friends. The fact that the people involved were spear fishing – not scuba diving seems to get lost in the story. These are two very different sports. Just like when a fisherman burleighs the water, if you have a bunch of dead or struggling fish tied around your waist you are going to attract sharks. Spearfisherman will be the first to admit that their sport is a dangerous one and this is one of the risks they take.

The recent movie “Open Water” which was loosely based on the disappearance of the Lonergan’s from a North Queensland dive boat didn’t help either. Basically it was a film about incredible stupidity and incompetence. For instance, a dive supervisor that can’t count, a deck crew that can’t keep a tidy vessel and two tourist divers who think they know better than the Divemaster they have paid to lead them. An easily avoidable series of events that led to a couple of divers being inadvertently left at sea. At the end of the movie they are eaten by sharks in a feeding frenzy.

We have to remember that we are cheating Mother Nature with technology and therefore we are bound to adhere to our training standards which have all been based upon previous diving accidents. In just about 100% of diving accidents it has been because of diver error and a breach of standards.

We’re still waiting to hear more about a 50 year old scuba diver from New South Wales who while diving with friends went missing and was found dead.

The fact is that scuba diving is a very safe sport. When accidents happen and people get hurt, it is usually because they have ignored some basic safety rules.

Dec 21st 2004

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

The diving has been excellent this week with some above average visibility and friendly weather making it almost perfect diving.

The grey nurse sharks are building in numbers with a maximum of 15 sharks counted on our last dive. Their number should gradually increase over the next few months. **The males seem to have departed leaving the female aggregation a lot calmer and more relaxed in the water.**

A couple of **pygmy rays** having been hanging around Wolf Rock of late which is a little unusual as we don’t see them very often. **The giant groper and leopard sharks are out and about, very active around all formations.** We also managed a dive on Nursery Reef this week and were happy to see that the weed which has been

inundating the coastline of late doesn't seem to have done any immediate damage to the marine life. Let's hope this doesn't change over the next few months.

Visibility this week has been 20 metres with water temperature 25 degrees.

We take this opportunity to wish all our readers a safe and happy Christmas and our best wishes for 2005.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

Dec 28th 2004

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

This last week has been an extremely busy one with lots of divers out and about for the Christmas/New Year holidays and the weather has behaved itself very well.

The diving has been fantastic, with a strong northerly current bringing all the critters out to play. We have been inundated with grey nurse sharks, eagle rays, leopard sharks, bull rays, giant Queensland groper and manta rays. The eagle rays have been flying overhead in squadrons of about a dozen putting on some spectacular displays of acrobatics. **The grey nurse sharks have been hanging out in the current between 10 and 15 metres**, and as the divers are swept round the end of the formation it's a bit like star wars, ducking and weaving so you don't collide head first with a shark! There were lots of other animals seen but too many to mention.

We have had some very experienced recreational divers visit us from Austria and I don't think they will forget the diving they have experienced at Wolf Rock in a hurry.

Visibility averaged about 15 metres and the water temperature has been a consistent 25 degrees.

Happy New Year!

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

December 2004

Well, the month of December started a little slow but has finished pretty busy. The diving has been absolutely fantastic and we had some very happy customers over the past couple of weeks.

At the end of November, beginning of December the male grey nurse sharks moved on to greener pastures, we assume further south, and the female population of sharks has been a lot more relaxed. I guess that doesn't say much for the boy sharks! Anyway, the female numbers have been increasing and we're seeing easy about 20 sharks out there at the moment.

We've been experiencing some pretty strong currents at Wolf Rock this month and that's brought a lot of the animals out to play. It's been a bit like star wars, having to duck and weave as your swept around the end of the formation straight into the path of sharks which are all just hanging there head on into the current. The eagle rays have been flying over in squadrons of about a dozen and giving us some acrobatic displays that would give Cirque de Soleil a run for it's money. We also saw some southern eagle rays, which is a little unusual, we normally don't see them this far up the coast. The southern eagle ray is a smaller ray only growing to about 1 metre wide, with different colouring and they have more of a blunt nose.

During the Christmas week we had some divers with us from Austria – Mum, Dad and the 2 daughters, all very experienced divers and they were on a diving holiday here in Australia for about four weeks. The 2 girls demonstrated a flair for underwater amusement when they started some hermit crab races! The hermit crab 'adopts' a vacant shell and keeps changing them as they grow. A lot of the time you don't even recognise them as they look like part of the rock formation as the shell gets more and more growth covering it.

The visibility over the month has been quite good with an average of 15 – 20 metres. Water temperature 25 degrees.

Best wishes to everyone for 2005. May it be safe, healthy and happy.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

Dec 13th 2005

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

We have had some excellent diving over the past week as we look forward to Christmas and the New Year. The shark numbers have increased and we are now seeing about 18 sharks out there accompanied by eagle rays and manta rays. **Manta rays can appear at any time out at Wolf Rock but this was the first time we had seen them in quite a while.** With the visibility being quite good on our last dive we were able to do our safety stop at 5 metres while still looking down on a manta ray as it circled the top of the formation mouth wide open and mandibles furling and unfurling as it manoeuvred through the water. A wonderful sight!

One thing we see on a regular basis is the hawksbill turtle. The hawksbill turtle is often found crunching on the hard corals that grow on the formation or just resting in a little crevice having a nap. As they are air-breathing animals you will always see them coming to the surface to replenish their air source before returning to the bottom. They don't mind if you give them a bit of pat on their shell and are quite unafraid of divers as long as you approach them slowly and from where they can see you.

Moray eels on the other hand will come out snapping their mouths at you when you come too close to their little home. There are a number of species of moray eels around the world and in our little area we see more commonly the white-eye moray eel as well as spotted and mosaic moray eels. Some of them have beautiful bright colours but the white-eyed eel we see is most commonly is an olive green/grey mottled colour.

Visibility has averaged 15 – 20 metres and water temperature is now 25 – 26 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

Dec 27th 2005

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Once again we are pleased to have the company of world class underwater photographers Peter and Elisabeth Pflugl from Austria. This is now their third visit in five years and for the past three years running Peter and Elisabeth have won first prize and gold medal awards for their underwater photography at Wolf Rock.

They have been asked over the past couple of years to present slide shows of their photos at the annual meeting for CMAS and UDI, which are the peak European certification agencies for recreational diving in Europe. Their photos are so good they are even challenged by other professionals as to their authenticity, however Peter always has the perfect answer as all their photos are taken using film and not digital cameras which is very popular these days with the advances in technology. It takes far more skill and knowledge to get good quality photos using film. Now entering our

peak season for grey nurse sharks and manta rays, Peter hopes to capture on film another gold medal shot.

Shark numbers have increased over the past week to 25 in total, with regular sightings of manta rays as well. This week amateur photographer Lindsie Eastman of the Sunshine Coast took these digital images of a manta ray at Wolf Rock.

Water temperature is now 25 degrees and visibility has averaged 15 metres.

Kevin Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

December 2005

This December has proved to one of our busiest ever with the weather providing us with some consistently good diving conditions. As they did this time last year the shark numbers have steadily increased to around 25 individuals, all female. It is looking more and more likely that the formation around Wolf Rock has some sort of significance in the life cycle of the grey nurse shark as no other site in either Queensland or New South Wales has this happen.

We also have been host to Peter and Elisabeth Pflugl from Austria once again this month here to take more of their spectacular photography. They promote diving at Wolf Rock and Rainbow Beach worldwide through their invitations to present slide shows of their pictures at meetings held by CMAS and UDI who are the peak certifying agencies in Europe for recreational divers. After already diving 5 days before Christmas they will be back again in mid January before they return to Austria at the end of the month.

The life at Wolf Rock never ceases to amaze us with Spanish dancers making a couple of appearances this month along with the first manta rays we have seen in a while. Squadrons of eagle rays and bull rays sometimes stacked 2 or three deep, a couple of fighting scorpion fish, stonefish, moray eels, schools of bat fish, octopus, turtles, groopers and potato cod. And something we've never seen at Wolf Rock before, a school of pearl perch.

Water temperature is currently 25 degrees and visibility varied between 5 and 20 metres.

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and we wish everyone the best for 2006.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

Dec 5th 2006

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Some more good diving over the weekend especially for staff from another dive shop that rarely get the chance to dive without responsibility for other divers. An extremely strong current gave everyone a good workout but it was worth it however to see all the action it brings in. Groper have been out in force swimming around in amongst the sharks with some of them so big that in the distance it's hard to tell whether they are groper or shark.

On another dive this week one of our customers brought his video camera and got some excellent footage over his two dives. The rock really 'turned it on' for him and we saw everything from the sharks down to the littlest mosaic moray only about 8cm long. Mum wasn't too far away though and she was the biggest mosaic moray I had seen! A very large green sea turtle came over to investigate the divers towards the end of the dive and to finish off we got some close ups of the leopard sharks.

Visibility has averaged 15 metres and water temperature 24 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

Dec 19th 2006

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

The grey nurse shark protection zone at Wolf Rock had it's third birthday on Tuesday. The Department of Primary Industries and Environmental Protection Agency designated Wolf Rock a no take zone for a 1.2km radius around the formation increasing this with an additional 300 metre buffer zone this year when it was declared a part of the Great Sandy Marine Park. Within the 300m buffer zone, there is an allowance for trolling but with restrictions on the number of lines used.

We are happy to say that the closure appears to be working with less and less sightings of grey nurse sharks with hooks protruding from their mouths. Unfortunately this is not the case in New South Wales where they regularly see this sort of thing.

The diving over the last week has been very exciting with plenty of sharks to see. Carley Bansemer from Queensland Parks and Wildlife joined us to undertake some more research. One of the problems with working under water is being able to accurately judge length and size, as everything through your mask looks 25% bigger. Carley has been able to build a device that uses laser technology which is attached to a video camera. The laser aims 2 dots set to 50cm apart, which you can then use to accurately measure the lengths of grey nurse sharks.

This helps to identify individual sharks, which she is then able to track and see how far they are travelling and in what time frames.

Visibility has averaged 15 metres and water temperature 24 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

Dec 26th 2006

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Just before Christmas we got out for the last few dives before the break. Conditions were kind to us and we had some nice diving. A tidal current brought out some of the bigger animals and we got up close and personal with some big groopers, eagle rays and of course the grey nurse sharks. Numerous nudibranchs, including a spanish dancer, turtles, octopus and a few wobbegong sharks found lazing about. The leopard sharks are prolific either found resting on the sandy bottom or swimming around checking out the action.

On our return after Boxing Day, the weather has beaten us once again, but looks like it's not going to hang around long so we'll be out and about in the next day or two.

Today's photo is not from last week but taken at Wolf Rock a few months ago. The photographer, Bart den Ouden, found this aggregation of rays at the bottom of the formation in about 30 odd metres of water. An amazing sight!

Well we trust everyone had safe and happy Christmas as we look forward to the New Year. Have a good one.

Visibility on our last trip was about 15 metres and water temperature 24 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

December 2006

The month of December at Wolf Rock has been exceptional diving with loads of action and plenty of divers around to see it. For a few weeks running we were seeing large numbers of giant Queensland groper sometimes outnumbering the amount of grey nurse sharks which are usually the stars of the show. We have had a fairly constant current running, which brings out a lot of the larger marine animals. Towards the end of the month massive amounts of fingerlings have appeared which attracts all the larger species of fish and it's hard to know which way to look first. No matter where you are there seems to be something interesting to see. Leopard sharks have also been out in force, particularly over the last week or so with some of them measuring a good 2.5 metres in length.

The grey nurse shark protection zone at Wolf Rock had it's third birthday this month and we're happy to say that the closure appears to be working with less and less sightings of grey nurse sharks with hooks protruding from their mouths. Carley Bansemer from Queensland Parks and Wildlife joined us a couple of times over the month to undertake some more research. One of the problems with working under water is being able to accurately judge length and size, as everything through your mask looks 25% bigger. Carley has been able to build a device that uses laser technology, which is attached to a video camera. The laser aims 2 dots set to 50cm apart, which you can then use to accurately measure the lengths of grey nurse sharks. This helps to identify individual sharks, which she is then able to track and see how far they are travelling and in what time frames.

Weather conditions have been kind and visibility has been a fairly consistent 15 metres with water temperature still hovering around 24 degrees, a little lower than we would normally expect this time of year.

We trust everyone had safe and happy Christmas and we wish you all the best for 2007.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

Dec 2nd 2007

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

After six years of diving Wolf Rock on a full time basis we still enjoy the diving and never get bored diving the same spot every day. This says a lot about the kind of dive Wolf Rock is and our divers just can't get enough. Over the past couple of weeks we have had several people come back again for a second day out with us.

Over the past couple of weeks though we have been seeing only small numbers of grey nurse sharks which is very unusual for this time of year. We notice that the water temperature is still only reaching 23-24 degrees so we wonder whether that is having an effect of the normal migration of sharks to Wolf Rock after the mating season.

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Well we trust everyone had safe and happy Christmas as we look forward to the New Year. Have a good one.

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Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

December 2007

Once again December has been a very busy month of the year with perfect weather conditions for most of the month. As I write this however it looks like we have strong southeasters coming in for the rest of the week. Looks like we'll get a longer break than anticipated.

Shark numbers continue to be strong and we still have male sharks at the rock however there is no evidence of fresh mating scars for the past week so mating season is probably finished. Big tides have been giving us some good current at Wolf Rock as we normally expect at this time of year. We look forward to it as it brings out all the bigger animals looking for food. The leopard sharks have been around in force and eagle rays, bull rays, the odd manta ray and giant Queensland groper have been keeping us company.

We had a dive on **Nursery Reef** this past week and found it to be a bit quiet. This is not always the case as we have experienced some very memorable dives on this shallow reef. It's a great place to take beginners and there are still a lot of smaller critters to see. **We did note however that the anemone fish (Nemo's) seem to have all but disappeared from there. We hope this won't be a permanent situation which has been the case with the egg cowries.** When we first starting diving this reef we would see egg cowries everywhere across the reef. For the past 5 years we haven't seen a single one and suspect that they have been collected for aquariums. **At Wolf Rock I've also noticed that the pineapple fish that used to reside in a particular spot have also disappeared. Wolf Rock is a large site so maybe they have found a better "house" to live in. I hope so.**

Water temperature has just touched on 25 degrees at the end of this month and visibility has been quite good averaging 15 – 20 metres throughout December.

We trust everyone had safe and happy Christmas and we wish you all the best for 2008.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

December 2008

Once again December has been a very busy month of the year with perfect weather conditions for most of the month. Let's hope it continues unlike last year!

Shark numbers continue to be strong but the male sharks seem to have moved on just prior to Christmas and there is no evidence of fresh mating scars so mating season has probably finished. Big tides have been giving us some good current at Wolf Rock as we normally expect at this time of year. We look forward to it as it brings out all the bigger animals looking for food. The leopard sharks have been around in force and eagle rays, bull rays, the odd manta ray and giant Queensland groper have been keeping us company.

Some unusual looking grey nurse sharks have been spotted this season. One of the girls seems to have a deformity of the jaw as she has her teeth permanently displayed in the aggressive "I'm about to eat" look. See our picture, as I can't really describe it. We have nicknamed her "**Smiley**". It doesn't seem to have worried the males as she has plenty of mating scars. When grey nurse shark mate they actually use their teeth to "hang on" to each other. Anyway, won't say anymore about that, as it is a family newspaper.

Some **pygmy eagle rays** have been keeping us company out there. They are actually very like a manta ray except much smaller. When you do see them they are usually in tight little groups of 6 or more and moving through the water quite fast. They don't seem to like company like their bigger cousins.

Water temperature has increased to 25 degrees and visibility has been quite good averaging about 15 metres throughout December.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

December 2009

Some consistently good weather throughout December gave us plenty of opportunity to get out diving this month and this time of year is when we start to experience strong current which makes diving out at Wolf Rock quite challenging. On one particular day however the current was so strong it was impossible to dive in it which is something we have not encountered before.

Diving in current can be a bit daunting for some people especially if they are a little inexperienced but like any sport however, once you learn the right techniques it can be a really enjoyable experience. The effort is generally worth it as the number of animals we see out there tends to increase with current probably because it actually makes it easier for them to breath. The sharks will position themselves nose into the current and hold themselves in place so that the water flows straight through their gills. The same with the bull rays. If you see a bull ray on the sandy bottom they are usually working hard to move the water through their spiracles (like valves opening and closing). If they are riding a current they don't have to work as hard, a bit like a hang-glider using the thermal currents, they don't have to work as hard to stay in the air.

We also tend to see a lot more nudibranchs. Part of this family is the Spanish Dancer which I have tried to describe in other reports. This month I finally have a couple of photos thanks to one of our customers Josh Passenger. Josh actually got this on video but kindly got a few stills from his footage for me. The first picture you will see how it looks when it is moving over the rock formation. The second two pictures are when it unfurls it's skirt, hence the name Spanish Dancer.

Water temperature has increased to 26 degrees and visibility has been averaging about 10 - 15 metres for the month.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

December 2010

A big Happy New Year to everyone, we trust you celebrated appropriately to welcome in 2011.

A great month of diving this December which unfortunately came to a grinding halt just before Christmas due to weather. Not to worry, looks like we have good weather on its way and I'm sure we'll be out on the water again soon.

We were lucky to have Peter and Elisabeth Pflügl from Austria back diving with us again this December with Peter's new digital camera setup. He got some fantastic photos and we can't wait to see them on the big screen. We also welcomed back Paul and Florence Krattiger from Sydney, also keen photographers who got some photos of our favourite shark "Smiley". Smiley only turned up a couple of years ago for the mating season and is back again this year as per the female sharks mating habits which are only every 2 years. Poor Smiley has a deformity of the jaw which doesn't allow her to close her mouth like other sharks. It doesn't seem to bother her however but does make her look a little more intimidating. I have attached a photo we got of her last time she was here but look forward to seeing Paul's when he gets them ready.

Throughout the month we were diving with bull rays, eagle rays and groopers on a regular basis and manta rays paid a brief visit at the beginning of the month. Leopard sharks are moving in and we saw one of the biggest loggerhead turtles we have ever seen – he would easily have been 100 years old. Nudibranchs seem to be multiplying which is a good sign for a very healthy reef.

Water temperature has increased to 26 degrees and visibility was averaging about 15 - 20 metres for the month.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

December 2011

HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone ☺ Hope you all celebrated in the appropriate manner and are looking forward to an exciting and happy 2012.

A great month of diving was experienced this past December which unfortunately came to a grinding halt just before Christmas due to weather. A little bit of “de ja vu” from this time last year?? As long as we don't experience the same floods and cyclones we'll be happy.

Throughout the month we were diving with bull rays, eagle rays and groopers, schools of queen fish and barracuda as well as the grey nurse shark of course. **We got to experience another aggregation of giant Queensland groopers which was pretty exciting.** When you are surrounded by about 30 or so fish the size of your dining table it is an experience you won't forget. Leopard sharks are moving in for the duration and quite a few turtles around as well.

Strong currents have kept us on our toes (fins) throughout the month which is a good thing as this is what brings out all the exciting marine life. Water temperature is a mild 24 degrees, unusual for this time of year and visibility was averaging about 10 - 15 metres for the month.

To see more photos check us out on Facebook
www.facebook.com.au/wolfrockdive

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

December 2012

Happy New Year - hope you all celebrated in style and are looking forward to 2013, how the time flies!

December is always a great time to dive at Wolf Rock. There is so much happening in the water through summer with different species that arrive with the warmer weather such as leopard sharks and bull rays, but you also see a lot of the **little “hatchlings”** as I call them, or new baby tropical fish getting around. We’ve also been seeing huge schools of various trevally and that have been surrounding us on just about every dive.

It looks to me like the mating season for the grey nurse sharks could be almost at an end for the year. The sharks are looking quite normal with not much in the way of scarring on their torsos.

On our last dive before this report we had a great dive with a couple of locals Maree and Nic. It’s so great to be able to show them around Wolf Rock and they both loved the dives. Maree as a former instructor, who has dived extensively, thinks there’s not much point in going anywhere else when we have such great diving here! Maree and Nic got to see just how diverse the marine life is when they were able to see grey nurse sharks, leopard sharks, eagle rays, giant Qld groper, octopus, nudibranchs and wobbegong sharks just to name a few. On the surface we saw manta rays and turtles.

Visibility has been a little disappointing of late after we started the month with about 15 metres, now more around 5 – 10 metres but showing signs of improving. Water temperature 23 – 24 degrees.

To see more about Wolf Rock and some great underwater photos check us out on Facebook - www.facebook.com.au/wolfrockdive

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

December 2013

Well another year has come to a close. As we look back on 2013 we have had one of the busiest years since we started here. The diving just seems to keep getting better and better.

As we always see at this time of year the grey nurse shark numbers are building, presently at about 20 or so and on our last dive we came across loads of bull rays or giant mottled rays as some people call them depending on where you're from. These rays love the current and are usually found hovering mid water. We've also been seeing lots of turtles, nudibranchs, and schools of trevally, kingfish and barracuda.

Visibility has not been great however it seems to have been the same up and down the coast. Water temperature is 22 degrees which is a little low for this time of year as normally we would be starting experience 23 – 24 degrees temperatures by now.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

December 2014

HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone and we hope you all celebrated in style and are now looking forward to an exciting and happy 2015.

As I write this report we have had some great diving so far for December. **The current has been running pretty hard** which all the animals just love as it brings them food but it does make for a more demanding dive for our customers. Unfortunately we never know until we get to Wolf Rock what we are going to experience but it is all part of diving.

Throughout the month we were diving with bull rays, eagle rays and groopers, schools of barracuda, batfish and mullet as well as the grey nurse shark of course. We got to experience another aggregation of giant Queensland groopers which was pretty exciting. When you are surrounded by about 20 or so fish the size of your dining table it is an experience you won't forget. Leopard sharks are moving in for the duration and quite a few turtles around as well and just recently saw a couple of leatherback turtles mating on the surface. The leather back turtle is rarely seen these days as they are rated as critically endangered or similar.

Water temperature is currently 24 degrees, but we expect that to rise to 26 degrees by January. The visibility has been great averaging about 10 - 15 metres with quite a few days where we had more like 15 – 20 metres.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

December 2016

Happy 2016!! Wow, where has the time gone?? **I can't believe we have been writing these reports for 15 years now**, however I guess Tony Stewart from Rainbow Beach Fishing Charters would definitely outdo us in years there!

December weather has been so hot to date, on the water has been a great place to be enjoying our spectacular Queensland sunshine and lifestyle. Under the water is even better as you get to cool down even if only temporarily.

Everyone knows about the sharks, gropers, rays and turtles we see but you know Wolf Rock has so much more we just forget about the everyday fish we see. Some of them are beautifully coloured tropical species such as butterfly fish, angelfish and wrasse or some of the not so colourful like cardinalfish, rock cod, scads and so on. The thing to remember is that each and every one of these fish, sharks, rays play an important role in keeping our oceans and reefs clean and healthy. To even take one of these species out the food chain has repercussions that we still don't fully understand. Australia is blessed with some of the best oceans in world, let's try and keep it that way!

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive