

March 2nd 2004

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Extremely varied conditions this week have demonstrated the fickle nature of the waters around Double Island Point. With quite different forecasts of weather conditions reported for the south of Double Island Point as opposed to that north of Double Island Point as if there is an invisible wall at the light house. One day a howling current from the south to dead calm the next day. The diving has been fantastic as long as you're able to pull your self down the anchor line.

Manta rays and giant groupers were some of the highlights. Currently we are counting a three year peak in grey nurse shark numbers with 25 individual females, many with quite distinguishing marks and scars. With that many sharks around you all at once, it was not surprising when a visiting instructor from Bundaberg likened it to shark soup. After 500 dives he commented that Wolf Rock was the most exciting underwater experience he has had to date.

During day light hours the grey nurse sharks go into a sleep pattern where they swim round and round appearing quite docile until the giant grouper moves in to be a bully and upset the sharks. Nursery Reef also produced a surprise this week. We found a giant nudibranch approximately 30cm long, the biggest we've ever seen.

Water temperature holding at 26 degrees and visibility 15 metres.

Kev Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

March 2004

With near cyclonic conditions hammering the coast since early March we have only managed 3 days of diving so far this month.

Wolf Rock is covered with white powder from crushed shell and broken coral, evidence of the absolute pounding the huge waves have dished out.

Wide Bay has also sustained a lot of damage with Mudlo Rocks now heavily exposed, extending all the way to Middle Rock, the likes not seen for over 10 years.

Hopefully cyclone Grace will continue to head east and weaken so we can get in some more diving this weekend.

Water temperature 26 degrees and visibility 3 metres with some strong current and surge.

Kev Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

March 1st 2005

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Some great weather has provided us with some pleasant boating conditions over the last week. The diving has been just as good with plenty of action happening in and around the rock formations. **Huge schools of baitfish have been inundating Wolf Rock and smothering the other marine life making it hard to see.** The visibility has been quite good, so this combined with the myriads of fish has been fantastic visually. Any divers using cameras would have got some amazing footage.

The highlight for me this past week was a squadron of about 20 pygmy devil rays, (like a small manta ray), flying overhead as we were face to face with about 25 – 30 grey nurse sharks. We didn't know which way to look, up above or straight ahead. This is quite a common occurrence when diving at Wolf Rock, as with so much happening around you in the water you don't want to miss a thing.

The leopard sharks are still surrounding the formation at Round Rock and we also spotted a very large stingray swimming through the water with a rather large chunk of it's wing missing. It was in the distinctive shape of a shark bite, probably tiger by the looks of it as ray is definitely on their menu. A very narrow escape for the ray! If you ever get a close look at the head of a tiger shark you may see puncture wounds made by stingray barbs, delivered while the animal is defending itself against attack.

Water temperature was between 27 – 29 degrees, visibility is 20 metres.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

March 8th 2005

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

The shark numbers have diminished over the past week to about 12 individuals. We are still seeing the 2 girls, one with line through the gills and the other with the growth, which has now faded to a greyish colour blending in with her natural colouring.

A pleasant surprise this week was a four-metre manta ray feeding in a bit of current down at about 28 metres. As we had limited time at this depth we had to move on after about 10 minutes of watching it sweep around and up, at one point flying directly over our heads so close you could reach out and touch the underbelly. It wasn't at all perturbed about our presence and seemed to be putting on a show for us.

We also had a chance to dive Nursery Reef this week for the first time in a while and were very happy to see the weed that has been covering it for months has finally dissipated. We do notice though an absence of egg cowries which were previously quite abundant there. Hopefully they haven't been permanently wiped out and will return in time.

Water temperature was between 28 degrees, visibility is 15 metres.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

March 15th 2005

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

The weather has kept us shorebound for most of the last week but we did manage to get out before the high wind and swell arrived. This year has proved to be much the same as last March when nearly the entire month was written off with bad weather. Some of you may remember how the entire beach was just rock after the sand had been swept away in the gale force winds we had.

We did enjoy the dives we managed to get in with our customers saying it was the best dive they had done. The sharks are lower in numbers but this was made up for with some action with the giant Queensland gropers. **Another first though this month with a couple of dolphins playing in our bubbles overhead before one of them swam down and made a pass by us to see what we were up to.**

The water temperature was still around the 28 degree mark and visibility was 15 metres.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

March 22nd 2005

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

A deep ground swell and strong current rolling through from the southeast has produced some rather demanding conditions at Wolf Rock this week. However the current also brings with a lots of underwater action with the grey nurse sharks feeding on the lead up to the full moon and huge schools of scads attracting the apex predators. Giant Queensland gropers, eagle rays and manta rays surrounded visiting European divers, proving that Wolf Rock is truly a world class destination.

The forecast for the Easter break is looking surprisingly good, so fingers crossed for some good boating weather.

Water temperature 27 degrees and visibility 10 – 15 metres.

Kevin Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

March 29th 2005

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Well the last week has seen Easter come and go with thousands of holiday-makers descending on Rainbow Beach for a bit R & R. Divers were also out in force making it a busy week for us. Amazingly the weather behaved itself relatively well and we got in some very good diving.

We're still seeing a dozen or so grey nurse shark at Wolf Rock including one that looks to be a slightly different species, possibly what they call a sand tiger. Although very similar and closely related, they are lighter in colour and don't grow as large as the grey nurse. We've also had a large silver backed manta ray putting in several appearances to the delight of customers. The air temperature has been noticeably cooler over the last few days and this has been reflected in the water temperature, which has dropped a degree also.

Water temperature is now 26 degrees and visibility averaging 15 – 20 metres over the past week.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

March 2005

Luck has been with us weather wise with March this year being quite acceptable weather wise. Despite having a few blowups from the southeast, which made things difficult for a few days, we have been relatively lucky. Easter provided some of our best diving with all customers going home happy albeit a little tired.

The shark numbers have decreased to 14 in total as far as we can tell and they have been moving around the formation in varying depths. Just in the last days of the month we were surprised to see what appears to be a different species of grey nurse shark called the sand tiger. The sand tiger is what you commonly see in South Africa and is a lighter colour than the grey nurse and doesn't grow quite as big. The manta rays are becoming more active with sightings noted several times throughout the month.

Nursery Reef has been a pleasant surprise with some enjoyable dives there this month with our new students. The algae seems to have dissipated slightly and the reef appears to be recovering fairly well, but there is a distinct absence of egg cowries, which we have previously seen well distributed throughout the area.

We're stilling seeing the odd leopard shark traversing Wolf Rock but with the water temperature dropping slightly we assume that they will disappear fairly soon until next summer.

Water temperature started earlier in the month at 28 degrees but we have finished the month slightly cooler at 26 degrees. The visibility has been relatively good with an average of around 15 metres for the month.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

March 7th 2006

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

The cyclonic winds and massive seas have prevented us getting out diving over this week but things have now settled so it's business as usual. Mudlo rocks at Rainbow Beach are now fully exposed and millions of tons of sand is missing from Wide Bay. It's going to make our job a lot more difficult until the rocks heal up and we will be towing the boats through Freshwater Road until beach conditions improve.

Today's photos are of scorpion fish. There are loads of different species of scorpion fish and within the species they fall into another category they call families. The most well known scorpion fish is what is commonly referred to as the stonefish. The stonefish falls into the Scorpaenidae family along with another popular species of scorpion fish, which most people call a lionfish. Unlike the stonefish however, the lionfish is a lot prettier to look at.

As we have not been out, we don't have actual visibility and water temperature for Wolf Rock, but after talking to operators on the Sunshine Coast they are reporting 15 metres and 26 degrees, so I guess we can expect something similar.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

March 14th 2006

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

On one of our recent dive charters to Wolf Rock we had pleasure of the company of some other species of sharks. A school of small whalers were seen feeding on baitfish, which was an interesting display, as you don't often see sharks feeding as they normally do it at night. Then it was about half way through the dive when I noticed a larger shark of about 2.5 metres was shadowing us, and not one of our grey nurses.

As this amazing creature swam past at close visual range I recognised it as a tiger shark. Immediately I decided to test a theory that the hunter does not like to be hunted so we swam after the shark and began to follow it. Clearly the animal began to feel uneasy, each time it turned we turned to maintain the chase. The big predator then accelerated and disappeared not to be seen again. As it seems the theory works lets just hope that we don't have to put it into practise too often.

Water temperature 27 degrees and visibility 10 –1 5 metres.

Kevin Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive

March 21st 2006

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

With Cyclone Larry in the north there was no opportunity to go diving this past week so I will take this opportunity to talk a little about rays.

As you may already know, rays belong to the same family as sharks and their skeletons are not bone, but cartilage. There are around 600 species of rays worldwide. The most common rays found around this region are stingrays, skates, guitarfish, eagle rays, manta rays and bull rays. Most rays are bottom dwellers and bury themselves in the ocean floor. The pelagic rays have stronger pectoral fins for prolonged swimming, rays such as the eagle ray, manta ray or bull ray. The manta ray is the biggest of the family growing up to 6 metres across the wingspan and the smallest will sit on the palm of your hand.

They feed on crustaceans, molluscs and fish and are slow growing but long living. They have few natural predators and so are high on the food web. Their biggest threats are sharks and humans.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

March 2006

I'm sure you won't be surprised that there was not a lot of diving going on in the month of March. The cyclonic winds and massive seas have prevented us getting out and Mudlo rocks at Rainbow Beach are now fully exposed and millions of tons of sand is missing from Wide Bay. Looking back at previous years we had much the same weather in 2004 with Cyclone Grace playing havoc along the coast. The beach was also wiped out back then but healed up relatively quickly. Hopefully the same will happen this year.

On one of our dive charters to Wolf Rock we had pleasure of the company of some other species of sharks. A school of small whalers were seen feeding on baitfish, which was an interesting display, as you don't often see sharks feeding during the day as they normally do it at night. About half way through the dive I noticed a larger shark of about 2.5 metres was shadowing us, and not one of our grey nurses. As this amazing creature swam past at close visual range I recognised it as a tiger shark. Immediately I decided to test a theory that the hunter does not like to be hunted so we swam after the shark and began to follow it. Clearly the animal began to feel uneasy, each time it turned we turned to maintain the chase. The big predator then accelerated and disappeared not to be seen again. As it seems the theory works lets just hope that we don't have to put it into practise too often.

Water temperature 27 degrees and visibility when we did get out was 10 –15 metres.

Kev Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive

March 13th 2007

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Well, surprise, surprise, the weather has been unsettled over the past couple of weeks so absolutely no diving to report on. March is always the worst month for weather and we were expecting no less. The rocks on the beach are exposed and so much of the sand has been washed away near Double Island Point you can't even drive out of the Leisha track. A bit of a challenge if we want to go diving!

Looking at previous reports over the years it looks like it's worth the effort however as there seems to be plenty of action with manta rays, groopers, sharks and pygmy devil rays.

Today's photo is one taken of grey nurse sharks back in January and you can see quite a few remoras attached to sharks. This is fairly normal around mating season as the remoras or suckerfish help clean up the wounds inflicted on the sharks when they are mating.

Hopefully next week I can tell you about current diving conditions.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

March 20th 2007

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Finally we managed to get out for some diving over the past week. The grey nurse sharks are back in numbers along with quite a few eagle rays and a couple of groopers. A few loggerhead turtles have been keeping us company as well. One in particular was very friendly swimming along with the divers for about ten minutes on one of their dives.

There are two sharks with hooks and line trailing. **One has a hook embedded on the right side of her mouth and we noticed she was also blind in that eye. The other has swallowed the hook and the line is trailing out from the inside of her stomach. Unfortunately this means that this shark will eventually die from septicaemia or other complications from the hook being embedded in her stomach.**

Large schools of baitfish have been swarming over the formation with lots of predatory fish chasing them for a feed. It's a strange feeling when you are swimming through the middle of them and suddenly the whole school moves like someone has just drawn aside a curtain. One moment you can't see for more than a metre or two in front of you, then suddenly you're staring at clear water.

Water temperature has climbed again to 26 degrees and visibility is currently at 10 metres.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

March 27th 2007

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Diving operations at Wolf Rock came to a sudden halt on Monday with wind speeds of up to 56 knots recorded at Double Island Point.

Before the high winds we noticed that the population of grey nurse sharks at Wolf had all changed depth congregating in a deep chasm at 35 metres. A phenomenon we have observed in the past before high winds. It seems that the animals can sense a change in barometric pressure even from under the water.

We have also received confirmation that a shark photographed at Wolf Rock in 2005 was photographed at Narooma, New South Wales this year.

Another star of the show is a loggerhead turtle that seems to enjoy our company posing for cameras so that everyone got a good picture and actually tilting her shell toward us so we could give her a bit of a back rub.

Water temperature has climbed again to 26 degrees and visibility is currently at 10 – 15 metres.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

March 2007

As with everyone else that makes their living on the water we have had limited opportunity particularly in the first half of month to get out there.

When we did though it was very enjoyable diving. The grey nurse sharks are back in numbers along with quite a few eagle rays and a couple of gropers. Loggerhead turtles have been keeping us company with one in particular very friendly swimming along with the divers for about ten minutes on one of their dives and another where it swam over to me and tilted it's back towards me so I could give her a rub on the shell.

There are two sharks with hooks and line trailing. One has a hook embedded on the right side of her mouth and we noticed she was also blind in that eye. The other has swallowed the hook and the line is trailing out from the inside of her stomach. Unfortunately this means that this shark will eventually die from septicaemia or other complications from the hook being embedded in her stomach.

Large schools of baitfish have been swarming over the formation with lots of predatory fish chasing them for a feed. It's a strange feeling when you are swimming through the middle of them and suddenly the whole school moves like someone has just drawn aside a curtain. One moment you can't see for more than a metre or two in front of you, then suddenly you're staring at clear water.

Water temperature has climbed again to 26 degrees and visibility has been averaging 10 – 15 metres.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

March 2008

It's been a long time coming but finally we have some good weather conditions and visibility. The month has finished with some great diving, which we were pretty pleased about as we had some guests from Sydney who had been trying to get to Wolf Rock for the past couple of years. Well they must have brought the good weather with them as we have had perfect surface conditions and particularly the last couple of days of March, beautiful blue skies. Paul, Florence and Stewart are keen divers who plan holidays away every year purely on where they would like to dive. They are members of Frog Dive, one of the biggest dive clubs in Sydney. They have enjoyed their stay here in Rainbow and will be telling all their fellow club members what a great trip they missed out on.

Now that visibility has cleared up and we can see a little distance under water, there were lots of grey nurse sharks hanging out in mainly between 5 – 10 metres. Our best estimate would be in the vicinity of about 40 sharks in total. There were a few with some defining features which makes them easy to identify – one has a tail that has been severed somehow right on the very end. This shark has been visiting Wolf Rock for at least 3 seasons that we know of. That means she has been here for every second year for the past 4 years. As far as we know the female grey nurse shark only reproduces every second year, so when she is not mating we don't see her. Another shark has a very distinctive circular patch of white skin on top of her head, from what cause we don't know, but it also makes it easier to identify her. We've seen this discoloration before on other sharks and eventually the white patches "fade" to their normal greyish colour.

Another first for me this month was the sighting of a giant mottled eagle ray. We have only ever seen one of these rays before at Wolf Rock and that was some years ago. They have a very distinctive and bold pattern on their backs which looks a lot like the stripes of a tiger shark. The white spotted eagle ray looks very much the same but is a lot smaller and of course no stripes. We have always believed they are a cold water animal and one of our customers confirmed that the best place to see them is The Poor Knights in New Zealand where there are schools of them in around May/June of each year. Worth a trip if you can stand the cold water temperature!!

Under the water the visibility varied over the last week, some days starting with nice clean water before clouding up but our last day out for the month was terrific with about 15 metres. We think the last of the bad weather is behind us.

Water temperature is currently sitting at 24-25 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

March 2009

I'm sure you won't be surprised that there was not a lot of diving going on in the month of March. Cyclone Hamish brought the bad conditions and we don't seem to have really got past that point with other weather systems bringing big swell which makes it difficult to get out.

Earlier on in the month we did do some diving and were rewarded with a huge silver backed manta ray, about 4 metres across the wing span. When a lot of novice divers see eagle rays they tend to assume they are manta rays, not knowing how rare it is to see manta rays (unless it is a known site for them). If you look at a picture of each ray side by side you can see the obvious differences.

The sharks were also back to keep us company and not just the grey nurse. A bull whaler about 2.5 metres was seen several times chasing the baitfish around the rock. Very entertaining! When it did get a bit curious about us it wasn't for long and tended to swim away when it saw all the divers. Not a good idea to hang around and see if it comes back so we usually move on to another area of the rock. Some species of bull sharks don't mind living in brackish waters in zero visibility, such as canals or rivers. In Africa they call it the Zambezi shark because it's commonly found in the Zambezi River. The bull shark or bull whaler is the only shark that can live in fresh water.

Water temperature has dropped to around 25 degrees and visibility when we did get out was 10 –15 metres.

Kev Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

March 2010

Unfortunately we have no diving report for March due to the usual bad weather that hits us at this time of year although we are hoping to get out by the end of this week as the swell settles down.

In the meantime First Aid courses have been keeping us busy. Senior First Aid, CPR updates, Oxygen Provider courses and Marine Radio Examinations are all available. As we are flexible as to when we can provide these courses, most people are able to avoid taking a day off work as well as a long drive out of town. If you work on the water this is an ideal time to update certifications and ensure that your qualifications are current.

Today's picture is of a sea pen, apparently an unusual one as it has a circular stem, whereas ordinary sea pens have a flattened stem. They are normally anchored in soft sediment where they hide during the day and emerge at night when they stand upright. As you can see in the photo this one is laying over on its side and it was anchored to a rocky formation surrounded by broken mollusc shell up in about 10 metres of water. It was probably dislodged during big swells and reattached itself where we found it temporarily. This is the first and probably the only time I will see one of these animals.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

March 2011

Visibility is slowly improving since the flooding rains. Currently 10M, however the wild life is teeming with up to 50 grey nurse sharks, squadrons of eagle rays and wall to wall kingfish and snapper.

Despite the weakest holiday season on record we are optimistic because bookings for this winter are looking good.

Peter and Elisabeth, our friends from Austria have sent us some of the photos taken during their last visit to Wolf Rock. We say some of their best work yet. A picture surely tells a thousand words.

Water temperature still very warm at 27 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT MARCH 2012

Before getting away on holidays we did a couple of trips in the first week of March out to Wolf Rock where customers enjoyed some great diving with the sharks. Since returning the weather has not been co-operative so we are crossing our fingers for a good Easter weekend.

This year we were lucky to have had the opportunity to holiday in Hawaii. The island of Oahu (Honolulu) was our destination and I have to say it was well worth the visit. Although we didn't do any scuba diving we did have the opportunity to snorkel in the beautiful waters of Hanauma Bay.

As the Hawaiian Islands are in the middle of the Pacific Ocean they are surrounded by gorgeous unpolluted blue water and white sandy beaches. Depending on what side of the Island you are, you can enjoy the famous surf beaches such as Pipeline or relax in the calmer waters of Waikiki Beach. Hanauma Bay is a protected little bay in the south of Oahu about a 30 minute drive from Waikiki, which is very popular with swimmers, snorkelers and scuba divers. It has become so popular over the years that it is now a National Park and you have to pay to enter the beach area. Now paying to swim on a beach was a first for me and I don't know quite what I expected but I must say I was impressed with not just the snorkelling but the way the park was managed. On entrance to the beach access it is compulsory to view a short film about the bay's marine life and the importance of protecting the reefs. Everyone is instructed not to touch or stand on the reefs and they also enforce a strict no smoking rule. The centre also has interactive touch screens where you can identify what sort of corals and marine life you will see in the water.

On the beach itself there are three separate life guard towers, rest room facilities and a business that offers mask, snorkel & fin hire which is doing a roaring trade. We snorkelled in the water for a good hour and only got out as we were getting a little cold. During this time we were constantly viewing all manner of tropical fish including a few pelagic species and a couple of rather large green sea turtles. Despite being surrounded by hundreds of swimmers and snorkelers the marine life did

not seem perturbed at all. Unfortunately we didn't have our underwater camera with us but we did get a couple of shots of the bay itself.

Entrance to the park and lookout areas is free so you can still enjoy the fantastic views and picnic in the well maintained grassed areas where you will see roosters and chickens roaming free!

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

March 2013

There is such an array of life under the water, so vast that we tend to forget about the ones that are maybe not so exciting to look at as they don't actually move around like rays, fish and sharks or they may be harder to see as they might be hiding in crevices or under rocks or even in the sandy bed. For example, you have all the hard and soft corals, anemones, sponges, sea urchins, worms, shrimps, sea cucumbers.....just to name a few. This month's report is on sea stars.

Sea stars or "starfish" as most people call them come in a multitude of sizes, colours and shapes. Most have five arms but some come with six or seven, or even up to eleven arms. They might look soft and spongy but are actually very hard as they consist of a tough skeleton made up of a network of plates and spines with papillae which protrude through the skeleton on the upper surface and are used as gills for breathing. Underneath they have suckered tube feet which are used for movement. They can range in size between a few centimetres to as big as about one metre and their food sources consist of seaweeds, corals, worms and sea urchins amongst other things. They reproduce two ways either by splitting in two and regrowing lost arms or organs, or they can mass spawn eggs.

Probably the most famous is the destructive crown of thorns sea star that is found on the Great Barrier Reef. Fortunately we rarely see this one in our waters. See photos attached of some that we do have here.

As of the 18 March, due to ongoing unsuitable weather conditions we have not been diving at Wolf Rock so far this month. We do hope to get out over Easter however at the end of this month.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

March 2014

There's been a lot in the news of late to do with the shark cull in Western Australia. Controversy over whether this is the right or the wrong thing to do has sparked widespread protests and outrage by ocean lovers and organisations against this indiscriminate killing. Who is right and who is wrong?

Well, as a business owner I can see how dive shops in Western Australia would be suffering with the lack of customers and of course for them perhaps a cull will help to placate any worried customers who are thinking of entering the water. One thing that scuba divers need to bear in mind is the fact that most if not all of these shark attacks have been on the surface where a surfer has been mistaken for a seal or turtle or alternatively the victim has been a spear fisherman who is killing fish, which naturally attracts other predators.

At the end of the day we have to bear responsibility for our own actions. When anyone enters the water, be it a surfer, diver or swimmer that is risk that you take. You are entering their domain.

If we continue to destroy the life in our oceans, life on land will suffer too. Not only do we depend on the oceans for 50% of our oxygen but we

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

March 2014 (2)

Environmentalists, governments and various stakeholders have been clashing over a number of controversial issues of late all of which have a direct impact on our oceans and the marine life within them.

- Shark culling in Western Australia.
- The dumping of dredge spoil in the Great Barrier Reef.
- Sea Shepherd leading the fight against the slaughter of humpback whales in Australian and New Zealand Antarctic waters.

These issues have sparked widespread protests and outrage by ocean lovers and organisations that are passionate about looking after our marine environment. On the other side you have governments that are under increasing pressure to create more jobs, more wealth, safer and healthier environments and private enterprise wanting to maximise sales and profits.

Where do we draw the line and say “it is no longer acceptable to sacrifice our environment for the opportunity to make a quick dollar”? More and more people are becoming aware of how important the connection is with our oceans and the overall environment. Kev has always maintained that all life on earth crawled out of the ocean, so if you destroy all life in the ocean life on earth will also end. Dust to dust, and dust you shall become.

One of our Divemasters is currently volunteering on the Steve Irwin with Sea Shepherd and has been in the Antarctic for the past 4 months sacrificing her time to help stop the illegal whaling in our exclusive economic zone. We will be welcoming her back home in Rainbow very shortly but not before Sea Shepherd plan to tackle the WA government over the indiscriminate shark culling activities they have recently implemented.

Kev and I are currently in Perth and will be meeting with dive operators both commercial and recreational to get their views on the shark cull. Meanwhile we have already attended the last day of the nippers training at Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club where you could be forgiven for thinking you were attending a national competition. There must have been around 500 children training at various levels for surf life saving from 5 years old through to teenagers, with parents taking part in all aspects of training and activities in and out of the water. No-one that we spoke to was concerned about their children being in any danger of attack by sharks.

There is a very fine line between balancing our economic and environmental values but if you take money out the equation this helps to make the decision clearer.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

March 2015

Bad weather has put paid to a lot of charters over the last few weeks so we have only been out a couple of days.

On those days however we had some extremely good dives. Huge schools of bait fish have been swarming all over Wolf Rock attracting the kingfish, trevally and mackerel and the associated action has been keeping us well entertained. The grey nurse sharks have settled down into some deeper water and we were still seeing lots of leopard sharks, groper, turtles, eagle rays and a few shovel nosed rays.

I've also just been advised some interesting news in regards to the naming of Wolf Rock. The author of a new e-book on the history of Double Island Point contacted me a few months back with regards to the origin of the naming of Wolf Rock and I sent him a few photos of the Wolf Rock for the book.

As far as we could ever ascertain it was commonly believed it was named by Captain Cook or Mathew Flinders however we have just been advised that the name Wolf Rock first appeared on charts after the original UK hydrographical survey which was undertaken in 1868 by Lieutenant E.P. Bedwell and assisted by Lieutenant E. H. S. Bray.

Not as exciting as Cook or Flinders but now we know for sure!

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

March 2016

March is always a bit hit and miss weatherwise and this year has been no different unfortunately. Even though the sun is shining and it doesn't seem that windy here in Rainbow Beach, it's when you get to Wolf Rock past the protection of Double Island Point that you experience the full force of the wind. No doubt the fishing charters have been having the same problem. Anyone that works on the water can testify to this. No matter, after 15 years we are used to this and this is when we take a bit of a holiday ourselves.

What is disappointing however is when a prospective customer tells us that when he enquired at the local Tourist Information this is what he was told:

"I spoke with the Tourist Information office in Rainbow Beach and they had informed me of the site being quite advanced. She gave me positive feedback on the dive site from what she had heard, however informed me that the site was tricky and that she personally wouldn't dive it."

As professional divers and owners of the local dive shop we have been diving Wolf Rock for 15 years. There is NO-ONE who knows this site better than us and therefore NO-ONE who knows how to lead dives at Wolf Rock more safely than us. There is nothing tricky about it, it is all about knowledge. We are skilled divers who have perfected the dive to the point where entry level or inexperienced divers can dive Wolf Rock easily under our supervision.

Surely if you don't know what you are talking about you would refer them to the business that does? Wake up Rainbow Beach business owners, don't you think it's time we all worked together. Just food for thought....

Looking forward to a return to better weather in April and the manta ray season!

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive