

May 4th 2004

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Well it doesn't get much better than the weather conditions we have experienced over the past week. Gentle southwesterers have calmed the seas and the area around Double Island Point has just been magical. Looking around you, you could swear you were in the middle of the Whitsunday Islands.

Diving has been a pleasure with us surrounded by the grey nurse sharks all up in relatively shallow waters at 10 metres. **We are noticing a few new additions to the regular pack we normally have here and there are at least two pregnant females that we are aware of.**

Although we talk about the bigger creatures we see out at Wolf Rock on a regular basis, we don't always mention the smaller animals that are just as fascinating. An example of one of these is the Spanish dancer, which is part of the nudibranch family. I guess the only way to describe one is like a big snail but with no shell and it has a number of antennae or feelers on their back. The normal size nudibranch is more the size of your garden-variety slug but a Spanish dancer is more the size of a videocassette. The colours of nudibranchs are quite spectacular, usually fluorescent and bright patterns, which are a warning to potential predators, as their flesh is quite often toxic. A Spanish dancer has a frill around the outside edge of the animal, which they unfurl when they are in mid water hence their name. Apart from that they creep along on the rock face just like a snail.

Currently at Wolf Rock we have approximately 15 metres visibility and water temperature 24 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

May 10th 2004

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Again some good diving this week at Wolf Rock with **manta rays** making several appearances and of all the underwater sea creatures we see I'd have to say they are my favourite. Divers can often wait years before seeing their first manta ray so when they do for the first time it's quite an occasion.

We are fortunate enough to see them here quite often in our sub-tropical waters. Within the ray family, manta rays are the biggest species and can grow up to 9 metres across their wingspan. Most commonly however you will see them at about the 2 – 4 metre size.

They feed on plankton and like to sit face on into the current to do so, extending their mandibles and opening their mouths wide much like the whale shark. In fact, the shark and ray family are closely related with their skeleton made of cartilage rather than bone. In the water they are very graceful and glide effortlessly through a current like a knife through butter. Often they will glide over closer to a diver so that they can be patted on their underbelly. In fact I've been told of an instance where a manta ray inverted itself between two divers specifically for this reason.

Visibility at Wolf Rock over the past week has averaged 10 metres and water temperature is now 23 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

May 18th 2004

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Winter diving is knocking at the door with temperatures starting to cool down over the past week and south westerly winds calming waters. This is when we have some of our best diving and with **our winter water temperatures only dropping to 19 degrees at its coldest** we start to see a lot of our customers making the trek north from New South Wales and Victoria. For them, our winter temperatures are what they are used to in the middle of their summers! With the calmer weather patterns we also tend to see some very good visibility.

A common misconception about scuba diving is that winter weather makes it too cold, but with the right wetsuit and accessories you will be warm as toast under the water. You see water conducts heat away from your body 20 times faster than when you are on the surface and most of that body heat is lost through your head and your feet. So with the addition of a hood and boots and for some people a vest you can be quite comfortable diving in this part of Australia.

Apart from the fact you want to be comfortable when diving you also need to consider the problems, which may result if you get too cold. If left unchecked, the loss of body heat can lead to hypothermia where your body has cooled so much that it can't function properly. This means poor coordination, loss of motor skills or reduced responsiveness. All functions important to safe diving.

Visibility at Wolf Rock over the past week has ranged between 10 and 5 metres and water temperature is 23 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

May 25th 2004

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Manta's manta's everywhere. Winter is the season for manta rays at Wolf Rock. Giant winged creatures that eat microscopic prey, gliding through the water column like alien space craft with their mouth's agape taking in water rich with plankton and filtering it out through their gills using their bow planes as aqua foils directing the flow. Each year when we see the rays out in force we know the humpback whales aren't far away as they both order from the same menu.

The grey nurse shark is still here in numbers with two or three of them looking pregnant. The grey nurse shark has two uteri and to start with, the mother shark may be carrying up to a dozen or more babies in each uterus but with inter-uterine cannibalism only the fittest one survives. When born the baby shark is approximately one metre long but not much is known about where they go to give birth. We have never seen any infant grey nurse at Wolf Rock.

This season remember to be aware of large animals feeding on the surface as running onto one at cruising speed may not only injure the creature but also do extensive damage to your vessel.

Visibility at Wolf Rock over the past week has been 15 metres and water temperature is now 22 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

May 2004

Winter diving is knocking at the door with temperatures starting to cool down over the past week and south westerly winds calming waters. This is when we have some of our best diving and with our winter water temperatures only dropping to 19 degrees at its coldest we start to see a lot of our customers making the trek north from New South Wales and Victoria. For them, our winter temperatures are what they are used to in the middle of their summers! With the calmer weather patterns we also tend to see some very good visibility.

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They feed on plankton and like to sit face on into the current to do so, extending their mandibles and opening their mouths wide much like the whale shark. In fact, the shark and ray family are closely related with their skeleton made of cartilage rather than bone. In the water they are very graceful and glide effortlessly through a current like a knife through butter. Often they will glide over closer to a diver so that they can be patted on their underbelly. I've been told of an instance where a manta ray inverted itself in front of two divers specifically for this reason.

Visibility at Wolf Rock over the past month has averaged 15 metres and water temperature is now 22 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

May 3rd 2005

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Eagle rays, manta rays, giant Queensland groper and grey nurse sharks made this Labour Day long weekend one of the more pleasurable diving experiences anyone could hope for. Visiting divers from interstate and overseas returned home with stories to make all their friends jealous. Fingers crossed for more west southwesterly winds this coming winter.

Water temperature currently holding at 24 degrees and visibility ranging from 15 – 20 metres.

Kev Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

May 10th 2005

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

With the weather the way it has been we've not been able to leave the protection of the bay so diving and snorkelling on Nursery Reef has been a saving grace.

The visibility has been holding at 8 metres despite all the rain. The Nursery can be a pleasant contrast to Wolf Rock with the shallow water and calmer conditions lending itself to less stress and longer dive times.

There to see were hawksbill turtles, stingrays, moray eels and everyone's favourite character, the clown fish, made famous by the motion picture movie Finding Nemo. Living in the anemone and therefore called anemone fish or the more popular clown fish, they are immune to the venom of their host and use it as protection from other predators. They mate for life and live in communities. If it so happens that too many of one gender are taken by predators they have the ability to change sex in order to sustain the species. The anemone organism is a marine animal and is able to migrate (albeit very slowly) across the reef allowing the fish to travel along with it. Truly a miracle of nature.

Water temperature 24 degrees and visibility 8 metres.

Kev Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

May 31st 2005

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

While we have been seeing lots of **mantas** around the rock over the last month or so, during a dive this week at Wolf Rock **we were met by an extremely friendly one.** These animals can grow to massive proportions and yet are completely harmless. They fly through the water column silent and awesome in appearance not unlike an alien space ship.

We first noticed the ray from below, its white underbelly catching our attention. It was gliding around on the peak of a pinnacle feeding on plankton with its mouth wide open and using its aqua foils to help direct the flow of water into its gaping mouth and out through the gills. After we had sat on an even plane just observing for a while we noticed the animal coming closer and closer to us on each pass. It was then that we decided to get up and swim with the big female manta with arms outstretched in an attempt to imitate the ray. **She repeatedly touched our hands with her wingtips as if to shake hands.** Truly amazing stuff!

The mantas usually announce the arrival of the whales and sure enough we have just seen the first humpback whales of the season.

Water temperature is now 23 degrees and visibility at the close of the week was 20 metres.

Kev Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

May 2005

Offshore winds and clam seas have produced some glorious conditions in the lead up-to winter. Dozens of manta rays have been sighted passing Double Island Point and Wolf Rock following the rich rivers of plankton that move with the currents that stretch right up to the Bunker Group of islands. When you see manta rays moving *en masse* at this time of year it is always a precursor to the annual migration of the humpback whales because of course they eat the same food. Hence we have seen our first two whales of the season a few weeks back.

Kristy Drake of Canada and Rhian Parker of Wales first came to Rainbow beach for a couple of days and ended up staying for a couple of weeks, in that time completing their Open Water certification and their Advanced Open Water certification. Training can also include underwater photography, which is very popular amongst tourist divers. Both girls get to take home pictures of them with the grey nurse sharks at Wolf Rock. Seems only fair when you can get a photo of you cuddling a koala at Lone Pine or a great big snake at Australia Zoo.

Currently we have approximately 30 grey nurse sharks aggregating at Wolf Rock, which is about twice as many as we have seen in previous years. All of them are females and four or five of them obviously pregnant.

Over the past month we have had the pleasure of diving with the Commanding Officer of the NZ SAS, a keen diver that rates Wolf Rock as one of the best dive sites in the world.

Water temperature is now 22 degrees and visibility ranging from 15-25 metres.

Kev Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive

NEWSLETTER MAY 2005

Hello to everyone, hope you are all well.

Winter is nearly here and the offshore winds have already begun. The preliminary entourage of manta rays are feeding at Wolf Rock announcing the imminent arrival of the humpback whales. The season has started well with clear blue skies and good beach conditions. Approximately 200 dolphins have been working the baitfish at Double Island Point and Wolf Rock is now teaming with life probably due to the “no fishing” zone around the site. Never have I seen parrotfish schooling in there hundreds, big mobs of snapper, yellow tail king fish and wall to wall trevally.

And just so you don't think we're biased, we just recently received an email from one of our regular overseas visitors. Although they dive all over the world this is what they had to say about Wolf Rock:

"we are sure that what wolf rock has to offer can not easily be beaten. It's different and nice to see other dive sites but in reality, once you know wolf rock at its best there is no better dive to get."

Steve Irwin and his family have been for a visit. While Terri, Bindi and little Bob relaxed on the beach, Steve and two of his staff came out for a dive with the girls (female GNS). The sharks are still here in good numbers and the pregnant girls are getting bigger every day until they pop in September. (Kev's description, not mine).

We now have divers accommodation available to us. Situated in a quiet street, it is fully self-contained including a barbecue, TV and video. It will sleep up to 10 people, as long as every one is friendly, as three of the beds are doubles. Within staggering distance to the Sports and Recreation Club and close to the new block of shops on the corner of Carlo and Rainbow Beach Road, it's proving pretty popular with the punters. Prices are \$50.00 for the first 2 people and then \$20 per head for each person after that.

Season specials in the retail shop are:

Cressi Big Eyes masks	\$70.00
82 metre caving reel	\$80.00
Princeton Tek mini wave	\$120.00
Wrist slates	\$20.00
Hook knives	\$10.00

Our new workboat has been getting plenty of work salvage jobs and group bookings are keeping us busy. With the two boats we are now more easily able to cater for larger groups.

We are currently working hard on the mooring contract for the ex HMAS Brisbane when she sinks in July.

It's all happening here at the moment. Water temperature still 24 degrees and visibility 20 metres.

See you soon
Kev and Cheryl

NOTE: IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER PLEASE
LET US KNOW BY RETURN EMAIL.

May 9th 2006

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

We've experienced some near perfect conditions for diving over the past week. Weather has been great pre winter creating calm water and visibility has improved after the bit of swell stirred things up.

We have seen up to about 30 sharks still at Wolf Rock which is a bit unusual for this time of year. There looks to be about 6 pregnant girls out there at the moment and quite a few have some distinguishing marks which assist with identification purposes.

A few eagle rays getting around and manta rays making their appearance to the delight of customers. We saw the first of the humpback whales travelling north not so long ago so we look forward to the coming whale season.

Nursery Reef in the bay was looking the best we had seen it in quite some time with clear water all the way to the bottom. Almost like looking into an aquarium. Our two little 3 year old friends Amber and Rachel had great fun feeding their new fish friends, mainly butter bream, their vegemite sandwiches which they'd brought along for lunch.

Water temperature is hovering between 23 and 24 degrees and visibility 15 metres.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

May 16th 2006

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Over the last week the grey nurse sharks have still been present in numbers of up to 30 – 35 surrounding the rock and thrilling the customers. The conditions have been quite good with still the odd eagle ray and groper hanging about and surprisingly for this time of year, a lone leopard shark. The leopard sharks normally disappear by this time of year as the water temperature has become too cold.

On Nursery Reef this week we were lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time to briefly swim with some dolphins. As we were entering the water a couple of dolphins swam straight towards and under the boat passing the divers along the way. The dolphins are notoriously hard to get close to in the water and when we have previously tried snorkelling with them they always keep about a 10 metre buffer between you and them.

And to finish the week off nicely we were surrounded by about a dozen or more manta rays at Round Rock. The mantas were obviously taking advantage of large

amounts of plankton that must have been being swept around Double Island Point in the current. To start with we got in and snorkelled with them and then put on the scuba to finish our days diving. Our customers couldn't believe their eyes!

Water temperature is still between 23 and 24 degrees and visibility 15 metres.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

May 30th 2006

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Winter is just around the corner and we're starting to feel a bit of a chill in the water. It doesn't seem to have worried the sharks though as there is still between 20 and 30 of them out at Wolf Rock. The manta rays are appearing more regularly and we hope they hang around for a few more weeks at least.

Lots of wobbegong sharks are being seen including one large one in particular. He's too big to fit into most of the crevices so we usually see him on the sandy bottom in relatively open areas. Wobbegong sharks lay in wait for their prey and with lightning fast reflexes capture their food as they swim past unsuspectingly. A common misconception is that they don't have teeth but in fact they have hundreds of tiny backward facing teeth and they are also the only species of shark that is flexible enough to turn and touch their own tail. Lots of moray eels out and about including a rather large mosaic moray which is not as common as the white eyed morays which we see on a regular basis. Strangely enough, still the odd the leopard shark hanging around also.

Water temperature now 22 degrees and visibility at the end of the week about 10 metres.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

May 2006

Offshore winds and clam seas have produced some glorious conditions in the lead up-to winter. Dozens of manta rays have been sighted passing Double Island Point and Wolf Rock following the rich rivers of plankton that move with the currents that stretch right up to the Bunker Group of islands. When you see manta rays moving *en masse* at this time of year it is always a precursor to the annual migration of the humpback whales because of course they eat the same food. Hence we have seen our first two whales of the season a few weeks back.

Kristy Drake of Canada and Rhian Parker of Wales first came to Rainbow beach for a couple of days and ended up staying for a couple of weeks, in that time completing their Open Water certification and their Advanced Open Water certification. Training can also include underwater photography, which is very popular amongst tourist divers. Both girls get to take home pictures of them with the grey nurse sharks at Wolf Rock. Seems only fair when you can get a photo of you cuddling a koala at Lone Pine or a great big snake at Australia Zoo.

Currently we have approximately 30 grey nurse sharks aggregating at Wolf Rock, which is about twice as many as we have seen in previous years. All of them are females and four or five of them obviously pregnant.

Over the past month we have had the pleasure of diving with the Commanding Officer of the NZ SAS, a keen diver that rates Wolf Rock as one of the best dive sites in the world.

Water temperature is now 22 degrees and visibility ranging from 15-25 metres.

Kev Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive

May 22nd 2007

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

As we usually do this time of year, we have experienced some excellent diving at Wolf Rock. Shark numbers are still very high with the maximum we have seen on any one dive at a total of 35. As you dive with them each day you come to recognise individual sharks by markings or deformities. For example, there is one shark out there who has scoliosis of the spine and she has now been with us since the start of the mating season back in October last year.

Up until the beginning of the week we were also still seeing about half a dozen leopard sharks enjoying the last of the warm water. When visibility is good which it has been up until the last few days, it's gives us the opportunity to cover a little more ground in the dive. Exploring further afield from the main formation shows you just how pristine the reef is and the amazing array of soft and hard corals that have been growing undisturbed for hundreds of years.

A couple of gropers are out and about but very shy when they see divers, not hanging round for long. This seems to be typical behaviour for this time of the year as during the summer months they are not as shy for some reason.

Today's photo is of a scorpion fish that we found perched on top of a plate coral. They are fairly common out at Wolf Rock and come in all sorts of different colours to blend in with the formation and are not normally as easy to see. Don't think this one has quite got the hang of it yet.

Water temperature is now sitting at about 23 degrees but we expect that will drop again fairly shortly and visibility started off at 25 metres but has dropped to about 10.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

May 29th 2007

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Up until Saturday, we had some great conditions with good visibility before the weather turned for the worse and brought an abrupt halt to diving. The sharks are still around in large numbers with the majority of them hanging out in country right off the main formation. What makes them do this we don't know, but a small group was still staying close in and they seem to be swimming between the two groups like a bit of a tag team.

One of the things we see out at Wolf Rock everywhere but usually take for granted is different species of starfish or more correctly the sea star. They are actually not a fish but an echinoderm, which is closely related to the sea urchin. There is over 2000 species of sea star worldwide and the five arm variety is most common. Some have up to 40 arms and they are famous for their ability to regenerate their arms and in

some cases grow entire new bodies. Their blood is actually filtered seawater. They have bony calcified skin that is their main protection from predators and have an average lifespan of about 35 years. The most famous of the sea stars is the crown of thorns that has been spreading throughout the Great Barrier Reef system since the early sixties.

Water temperature 23 degrees and visibility 15 - 20 metres.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

May 2007

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Up until the first half of the month we were also still seeing about half a dozen leopard sharks enjoying the last of the warm water. When visibility is good which it has been throughout the month, it's gives us the opportunity to cover a little more ground in the dives. Exploring further afield from the main formation shows you just how pristine the reef is and the amazing array of soft and hard corals that have been growing undisturbed for hundreds of years.

A few groppers have been keeping us company from time to time but have been very shy when they see divers, not hanging round for long. This seems to be typical behaviour for this time of the year as during the summer months they are not as shy for some reason.

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Water temperature has dropped to 23 degrees and visibility has averaged 15 – 20 metres over the month.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

May 2008

Winter diving is almost here with temperatures starting to cool down over the past week and south westerly winds calming the waters. This is when we have some of our best diving and with our winter water temperatures only dropping to 19 degrees at its coldest we start to see a lot of our customers making the trek north from New South Wales and Victoria. For them, our winter temperatures are what they are used to in the middle of their summers! With the calmer weather patterns we also tend to see some very good visibility.

Manta rays have been keeping us entertained for most of this month with numerous sightings at Wolf Rock and Round Rock. One of the rays obviously had a close call with a shark as it was missing a semi-circular piece of its wing. Divers can often wait years before seeing their first manta ray so when they do for the first time it's quite an occasion. We are fortunate enough to see them here quite often in our sub-tropical waters.

Grey nurse sharks have been a little hit and miss which is unusual compared with the last couple of years. On some dives we have not been seeing any at all whilst at the beginning of the month we still were seeing in the vicinity of 20 or so sharks.

The big news at the end of this month was all about the 2 divers that went missing for 17 hours off the Whitsunday's. The divers are apparently taking no responsibility for their own actions and are saying the vessel left them behind. An article published by The Australian newspaper quotes one of the passengers as saying that the two divers were dismissive of the dive briefing given by the operators and with 22 people on board the boat looking for them with 4 pairs of binoculars he doubts very much that they did surface only 200 metres away as they have claimed. I've just finished reading a book called Diver Down, which describes a number of diving accidents involving fatalities or serious injury. In all cases the problems resulted from divers ignoring the basic safety rules of diving and/or not heeding the advice given by local experts, which appears to be what happened in this case. I for one think that the divers should pay the search and rescue bill unless it can be proved that they did everything by the book.

Visibility at Wolf Rock over the past month has averaged 15 metres and water temperature is now 22 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

May 2009

Well, disappointingly we again have been beaten by the weather for the month of May. A bit of a shame as we have probably missed the manta rays that we normally see around this time just before the whales start coming through.

Anyway, just so there is something to read for the month I thought I'd talk about the eel tail catfish. There are both saltwater and fresh water catfish but the ones that we see are called the striped catfish, which are obviously the salt water variety. As juveniles they're black with two white stripes and of course have tails like eels. When young they move together in tight little balls and as they grow bigger the numbers within the schools deplete until as adults you find them in very small groups or as solitary creatures. They grow to a maximum length of 35cm. We see them quite often while diving usually in shallower water and we have also seen them right onshore in only a metre of water, moving as one single object as they make their way along the shoreline.

They are extremely poisonous and have venomous spines around the dorsal and pectoral fins. Some divers make the mistake of running their hand through the ball of fish but certainly won't make the same mistake twice. First aid is the same for stonefish envenomation, hot water to try and relieve the pain.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

May 2010

Some great diving for the month of May with manta rays definitely the highlight on each and every dive. As they usually do around this time of year the manta's stop in at Wolf Rock on their migration north to warmer waters for the winter.

The grey nurse sharks have dwindled in numbers to around a dozen or so and it will be interesting to see what they do from now until the end of winter. Visibility on our last dive was 20 metres (yeh) and water temperature a little bit cooler at 23 degrees.

The good news is we have seen some big changes down the beach near Leisha Track with a lot of sand returning and covering the trees that have been blocking access to town for such a long time. The beach looks to be getting wider and wider and the lagoon has closed up only allowing access in and out by boat at high tide.

This month we were also proud to present the Surf Life Saving Club with a picture display of the Natone, a vessel that sank at the front of town there back in 1959. If you haven't already seen it you'll have to make a point of dropping in to the Surf Club to have a look at it. There are some great old pictures of her when she was still operating and they take you back in time to another era of our maritime history. For those of you who have not heard of the Natone she has quite a story including being used as the very first ship the Australian Government used for our Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE). Formerly called the Wyatt Earp we hope everyone enjoys finding out a little bit more about her.

We're looking forward to diving on her again this winter and see how the remains are faring.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

May 2011

A very disappointing May this year with weather not being particularly kind for diving.

The one time we did manage to get out wasn't a bad dive. Strangely, visibility on the first dive was only about 2 metres however one hour later for the second dive it had increased to around 8 metres, a big change in such a short time frame. I have seen this happen before when we had atrocious green coloured water with limited visibility to start with but you could actually see a blue line of clean water getting closer and closer. The next dive was like being at a totally new site, crystal clear blue water with about 20 metres visibility.

This month I would like to say a big thankyou to Peter and Elisabeth Pfluegl for their contribution to the Community News last month with their article on Wolf Rock and their kind words. Congratulations are also in order for Peter and Elisabeth's third Gold Medal win in the world's largest photo competition, The Trierenberg Super Curcuit. This competition was previously sponsored by Hasselblad where Peter won his first gold medal in 2004 with a photo of a grey nurse shark at Wolf Rock which he called "Off Limits". This year, 2011, he won with another photo taken at Wolf Rock called "Harmony" which is this month's photo. Funnily enough Peter and Elisabeth won their second gold medal in this competition in 2005 when they entered a different category called Fun and Humour with a photo on land that was also taken in Australia! This competition is judged not only for content of the photo but also for the technical expertise used to capture that perfect shot.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

May 2012

Over the past month we have had some great diving out at Wolf with photographers making the most of all the action both big and small.

Pelagic species such as kingfish, mackerel, trevally, mullet and plenty more have been into the baitfish and we also got to see some bull sharks in action on the surface as well. Other highlights have been loads of olive sea snakes, moray eels, turtles and of course the grey nurse sharks. Gropers have been a bit scarce but we got a close look at one the other day that got a bit out of sorts when we were swimming through his "territory". The gropers are not usually aggressive but I have seen this before once or twice before.

Although visibility is still struggling a bit, we have averaging around 5 – 10 metres, we are hoping that this will improve as we get into our winter season. We have heard that the first whales have been seen off Mooloolaba so anticipate seeing some here before too long.

This month's photos have been supplied by Chris Fry who dived with us at the end of April.

Water temperature is currently 22 – 23 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

May 2013

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This month's photos have been supplied by Chris Fry who dived with us at the end of April. These photos are what you call macro photography as you can see so much detail on such a small object.

Water temperature is currently 22 – 23 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

May 2015 (2014 missing)

Many highlights over the past month make it difficult to include them all but manta rays have definitely been the stand out. We have been seeing loads of the wonderful creatures on just about every dive. The sharks are still here but have been a bit hit and miss with some dives where we saw up to 30 and 40 girls with others where saw none.

A giant mottled eagle ray was a big welcome surprise for Kev down at 30 metres distracting him from his task of checking our mooring. We have only seen these rays at Wolf Rock a handful of times over 15 years and to date have not been able to get a photo. We live in hope!

Other highlights have been the loads of schooling fish, turtles, sea snakes, morays, eagle rays, nudibranchs and giant Queensland gropers.

Now we look forward to humpback whale season and anticipate we will be seeing the first of them coming through soon. Can't wait!

Water temperature is still quite warm at 23 – 24 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

May 2016

Sharks, turtles, golden trevally, manta rays, groopers, nudibranchs, moray eels are just a few of the many, many different animals we have seen over the past month at Wolf Rock.

These animals either live permanently at Wolf Rock or like the manta rays are just passing through on their annual migration. The names of each of these species also cover the many different variations we see such as moray eels.

By far the most common moray eel found at Wolf Rock is the white-eyed moray which we see all the time and it's not unusual to see them in groups of 2 or 3. But we occasionally we come across a white mouthed moray or a honeycomb moray which is a little more exciting. Unfortunately, they are pretty shy creatures and unless you are lucky enough to catch them out and about you will only ever see the head poking up out of hole ready to defend themselves.

This past month we also had the pleasure of taking Dr Chris Brown from The Living Room for a couple of dives. We look forward to seeing this air later in the year.

Visibility this month has been around 10 – 15 metres and water temperature 23-24 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre