

Sept 2nd 2003

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Spring has sprung and you can't half tell with all kinds of amorous activities taking place amongst the creatures at Wolf Rock.

The octopus are holding hands, the moray eels are pairing up in their little hidey holes and Lilly the loggerhead turtle has now been joined by Leonard. At the moment we have one male grey nurse shark that looks like he has found his true love. He follows her everywhere she goes, although his girlfriend has no bite marks as yet. And of course you may remember our report recently about the mating humpback whales in Wide Bay.

Apologies for missing last weeks report but time got the better of us and we missed the deadline.

Water temperature is now 21 degrees and we finished the week with visibility at 25 metres.

Kev Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

Sept 9th 2003

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Excellent conditions at Wolf Rock this week for boating and diving. Light winds and calm seas prevailed showing divers from England, Spain and Melbourne the beautiful blue water off our coastline. The clear waters also showed off the dramatic formation below the surface with 20 metres visibility giving our overseas visitors excellent opportunity for some very good underwater photography.

The scenery above the water is also very spectacular, with views from out on the water looking back over Double Island Point, the Coloured Sands and Carlo Sandblow and Fraser Island. Sometimes we forget how lucky we are to be living in this part of the world!

Water temperature has now climbed to 21 degrees and I've put my divers hood away for another year.

Kev Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

Sept 16th 2003

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

A quiet week with strong winds keeping us shore bound for a while. Even so, when we did venture out it was worth it. Our divers enjoyed some of the best conditions we've had in a while with the clarity of the water opening up, temperatures climbing and plenty of marine life to see. There were squadrons of eagle rays, hovering bull rays and great schools of batfish. Of course our resident grey nurse sharks never cease to amaze.

Just as seen on the hit movie Finding Nemo, some marine life really do have 'homes' and don't normally stray too far from them, particularly the little anemone fish like Nemo. We have gotten to know Wolf Rock very well as well as surrounding reefs and you actually do notice when particular fish or marine life are missing.

With water temperatures now on the rise a distinct thermo cline can be felt when passing the 20 metres mark. Water temperature 21 degrees and visibility 25 metres.

Kev Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

Sept 23rd 2003

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

The diving over the past week has been exceptional with visibility a constant 25 metres despite the algae and weed being blown in from the north. We've seen the first of the leopard sharks arrive for the season, which are always a joy to watch under the water. Leopard sharks are very docile creatures and love it when divers give them a bit of a scratch on the tummy. We're also starting to see more and more eagle and bull rays with the warmer water temperatures.

The whales are still giving us plenty of excitement on their trip south with their newborn calves, one of which gave us quite a display as he passed us at Double Island Point with 'Mum'. She had obviously been giving him a few pointers on breaching, and he couldn't help showing off his newfound skill as they swam past.

Water temperatures 22 degrees and visibility averaging 25 metres. Let's hope it lasts!

Kev Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Sept 2003

Excellent conditions at Wolf Rock for most of September with divers from all over the world enjoying the beautiful blue waters off our coastline. You know the water is clean when you can see the reef 30 metres below. The crystal clear conditions showed off the full profile of the main formation, which is best described as a sub-sea mountain range, providing some excellent opportunities for some very good underwater photography.

We've seen the first of the leopard sharks arrive for the season, which are always a joy to watch under the water. Leopard sharks are very docile creatures and love it when divers give them a bit of a scratch on the tummy. In addition, we're starting to see more and more eagle and bull rays with the warmer water temperatures.

The whales are still giving us plenty of excitement on their trip south with their newborn calves, one of which gave us quite a display as he passed us at Double Island Point with 'Mum'. She had obviously been giving him a few pointers on breaching, and he couldn't help showing off his newfound skill as they swam past.

All this as well as the spectacular scenery above the water, with views from out on the water looking back over Double Island Point, the Coloured Sands, Carlo Sandblow and Fraser Island. Sometimes we forget how lucky we are to be living in this part of the world!

Water temperature has now climbed to 22 degrees and we're getting our spring diving suits out of mothballs. Visibility averaging 20 metres.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive Centre

(no reports for 2004)

Sept 6th 2005 WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

For the past months we have been watching the grey nurse sharks very closely in order to identify the pregnant females, as they only breed every second year and even then only two pups are born because the pups cannibalize each other in the womb.

At this stage it looks like the girls alternate their pregnancies amongst themselves. Over the past years we have recorded resident grey nurse sharks all year round with a solid 7-8 sharks through winter and peaking in summer with 25-30 animals, with a very interesting break in September when they pup. Sure enough in August we had 12 individuals, 10 girls and 2 boys with 4 of the girls heavily pregnant and **just like clock work on the 2nd Sept the females had vanished leaving just two love sick boys. We expect to see the girls back at Wolf Rock again next month. Won't it be interesting if we see them back on the 2nd of October, right on time to start the mating season in November. Just like clockwork.**

Visibility 20 metres and water temperature 20 degrees.

Kev Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive

Sept 20th 2005 WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

It has been a very sad time for us here at Wolf Rock Dive and the diving industry as a whole with the accidental death of our friend Steve Irwin. If I were able to talk to him and ask if there was anything I could do, he'd probably say why don't you write a story about stingrays. So here goes.....

Our oceans rays are actually closely related to sharks. Just like sharks they have no real skeleton they are made up almost entirely of cartilage and have denticles instead of flat scales like other fish. Of the 600 species of rays in the world, 120 of them are found in Australian waters from as shallow as only 1 metre or down as deep as 2000 metres. The largest two species of stingray are the smooth ray and the cow tailed ray, sometimes referred to as bull rays. They can grow up to 2 metres wide, 4.5 metres long and weigh up to 400kg. Their pectoral fins are attached directly to their head giving their whole body a disc like appearance with their mouth and gills situated on

the underside and their eyes and electro sensors situated on the top. The tail grows as long as what the ray is wide with one or sometimes two bone like spines attached between half way and the tip of the tail. The spine itself can be up to 30cm or more in length, is very sharp and has backward facing barbs down each side.

While the species do not inject venom as such, a slime that contains a protein based poison and acts as a lubricant lives in the grooves and is covered by a thin skin like sheath. The poison itself is not deadly but it does cause excruciating pain and swelling with the barbs inflicting massive underlying tissue damage.

Stingrays do not roam the ocean looking for people to stab with these spines, but accidents can happen. Usually when the animal is resting or feeding on the bottom. Stingrays rest on and extract food from the sea floor, such as crabs, worms and shellfish. In doing so they may bury themselves in the sandy bottom for camouflage and anchorage.

The most common cause of stingray injuries to humans occurs when they are accidentally stood on in shallow water or inadvertently swum onto by divers who do not see the animal buried in the sand. Tiger sharks and hammerhead sharks love to eat rays. It is not unusual to see rays with chunks missing from their disk like fins or sharks with barb injuries to their heads.

The worst time for a human to come in contact with a stingray would be if it had just been hunted by one of these predators. The ray may not differentiate between a swimmer and a shark. Death is extremely rare and may only occur due to allergic reaction to the poison or if the spine was able to penetrate a vital organ or sever a major artery. As far as we are aware there has only been 3 recorded deaths in Australia, Steve Irwin included. It is far more dangerous to drive your car on the highway than to go diving with stingrays.

The first aid treatments for any fish spine injury including sting ray is to immerse the affected area in hot water, 45 – 50 degrees Celsius, as hot water is able to break down any protein based poisons. Breathe 100% oxygen if it is available and of course see a doctor as soon as possible.

On a final note, remember that there are risks involved in all occupations. Assess the situation, and manage it accordingly. The reward and enjoyment should far outweigh the risk and at the end of the day you should feel happy with what you have achieved.

Kev Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive

Sept 27th 2005

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Writing a report for the weekly paper and making it sound like your not writing about the same things each week can sometimes be quite challenging, so at the risk of repeating myself, we are still seeing grey nurse sharks out at Wolf Rock. **For some inspiration I looked back through some of our old reports for this month and was surprised to see that a lot of the things that are happening in September have been the same for last few years. I.e. the appearance of the bull rays and leopard sharks and the increase in numbers of eagle rays.** Apart from water temperature what is it that brings these animals back at the same time each year like clockwork? They say that we know more about the life on other planets than what we do about life in the ocean and this doesn't surprise me.

Lots of barracudas and schools of giant trevally continue to excite the divers. The whales are starting to head back south again now even though we were still seeing quite a few still heading north only last week. Today we had a pod just a few hundred metres off Wolf Rock that were communicating so loudly we expected to run head on into them just around the end of the formation. The sound was almost deafening and can only be described as grunting, we assume by the male of the pod.

Visibilty this week has been between 10 and 20 metres and water temperature 21 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Sept 2005

Well our biggest surprise this month has been the continuing presence of the grey nurse sharks. **In previous years this has been the month where the whole aggregation of sharks have disappeared as far as we know to have their babies. Not this year! We have continued to see numbers of up to at least a dozen including 6 male sharks.** This is very unusual so we are waiting to see whether they are still going to be here in October.

We are now starting to see some of the warmer water creatures such as the bull rays and leopard sharks, which will be prolific throughout the summer. Lots of gropers have been a highlight throughout the month especially when there is a bit of a current running. Also a few more eagle rays starting to come in including a southern eagle ray which is a little more rare around these parts.

Lots of barracudas and schools of giant trevally continue to excite the divers. The whales are starting to head back south again now even though we were still seeing quite a few still heading north only last week. Today we had a pod just a few hundred metres off Wolf Rock that were communicating so loudly we expected to run head on into them just around the end of the formation. The sound was almost deafening and can only be described as grunting, we assume by the male of the pod.

The last week of September we have had the phone ringing off the hook so we anticipate a busy October.

One of the most common questions we are asked by divers is what is the visibility out at Wolf Rock. Well, you never can tell until you get there as it can change quite dramatically one day to the next. Over the month of September we had visibility varying between 8 metres and 20 metres and water temperature has now climbed to 21 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

Sept 19th 2006

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Things have been a little quiet out at Wolf Rock over the past week. **The grey nurse sharks look as though they may have moved off to have their pups, as we haven't been able to find them. This follows a pattern we have observed over the past 5 years or so except for last year when we had large numbers of sharks right throughout the month. We now wonder whether there may be another cycle to their behaviour that only occurs every so many years.**

The rest of the wildlife has been a little sporadic, with sightings of the odd large groper and eagle ray and a couple of big wobbegong sharks have been found waiting in gutters for their unsuspecting prey. Some quite large jewfish have been seen schooling up perhaps knowing that the area is fairly safe at the moment without the usual numbers of grey nurse. Jewfish are one of the shark's favourite meals and you can tell if the grey nurse are not around or not feeding by the absence of their teeth found on the bottom, which they lose when hunting their prey.

Water temperature is on the move again at 21 degrees and visibility on our last dive was sitting at 10 metres.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

Sept 26th 2006

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

A definite change for the better with diving at Wolf Rock over the past week with a noticeable difference in the amount of marine life being seen around the rock. The grey nurse sharks have also returned to settle in for the next season. Six male sharks and one lone female have been sighted every day since the weekend. A current that has been running for most of the week has attracted numbers of eagle rays and groper and the first group of bull rays took up their usual spot on the formation on our last dive before this report.

With summer just around the corner, spring is one of the best seasons for water sports. The chill of winter is now behind us and there are still a few months before we start to get our usual hot summer weather. If you're thinking of learning to dive we have our next Open Water Course starting in early October.

Water temperature hovering around 21 degrees and visibility has been good averaging 15 metres over the week.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Sept 2006

We would like to dedicate this months dive report to the memory of our friend Steve Irwin.

The first time Steve came diving with us we didn't know what to expect. What kind of diver would he be? What will he be like? Well, the guy we met was polite and professional with please and thankyou's, and always with the best "Aussie" sense of humour. Steve and his crew came to Wolf Rock to film a documentary on the grey nurse sharks. When Steve asked if he could wear his khakis on the dive I said yes, just don't scrape yourself on the rock. The dives went off well and Steve showed himself to be an accomplished diver.

When he would bring his friends for a social dive of course he would wear his wetsuit and picnic on the beach with his family just like you and I. As Wolf Rock became one of Steve's favourite dive sites we came to know him pretty well.

Steve's tragic death on September 4 after being attacked by a stingray in north Queensland has been international headline news. We would like to mention that stingrays do not roam the ocean looking for people to stab with their spines. We swim with large stingrays regularly at Wolf Rock, always giving them a wide birth, passing them from the side or from below. When rays go to ground they can hide by burying themselves in sand to camouflage themselves in order to hide from predators such as tiger sharks that love to eat rays. They remain poised and spring loaded in case their enemies discover them. Therefore if a diver or snorkeller accidentally happen across an angry ray it could spring up off the bottom and strike not knowing the difference between a shark and a diver.

On that fateful morning, there were numerous rays lying in the shallows near Batt Reef. Some you could see, some you could not. Steve didn't see his attacker until it was too late. The police and the coroner have seen the video footage taken at the time of the attack and both agree that Steve did not intentionally provoke the animal. A freak accident that took place while doing a dangerous job. I feel honoured that Steve's management made sure there was a place for me at Steve's memorial at Australia Zoo. We will certainly miss Steve and our hearts go out to his family.

So what's happening at Wolf Rock? The pupping females have not yet returned although the gallivanting males have arrived in force waiting for

the next mating season to begin. One female is now showing some scarring. A steady current has been present for the last week or so bringing out the big bull rays, eagle rays and giant groopers.

In last month's edition of Community News we showed a picture of a diver swimming over the top of a manta ray. We would like to clarify that manta rays are a harmless creature that does not possess a spine or barb, so swimming along with them is quite safe. The animals seem to enjoy the interaction, sometimes seeking out divers to play with.

Water temperature has now reached 21 degrees and visibility on our last dive was 20 metres with an average throughout the month of 15 metres.

Kevin Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Sept 2007

After starting fairly slow the month of September finished with a busy week which gives us an indication of what to expect over the next few months. As we normally see this time of year the first of the bull rays have arrived and the giant Queensland groper are patrolling the rock. Large numbers of male grey nurse have arrived for the mating season and quite a few females are also here. **We've noticed that this "batch" of sharks seems to be different to last year, largely because of the size of the sharks.** Quite a few of the females are measuring in length around 3.5 metres and the male sharks also seem to be significantly bigger with the majority of them 2.5 metres and one as big as 3 metres. **There is also one very small female about 1.5 – 2 metres in length. As the female sharks only come into season every second year we assume that the females from last year have ventured further afield somewhere.**

Loads of whales have been seen on their return journey south keeping customers amused with their antics of tail slapping, spy hopping and full on breaching. On our last dive of the month a mother and calf continuously swam up and down one side of the formation passing divers by only about 20 metres. Unfortunately with the visibility at only about 10 metres they weren't able to see them.

Water temperature is hovering around the 21 degree mark but we expect that will increase over the next few weeks. Visibility not the best for most of the month but has now improved to around 10 metres and getting better.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Sept 2008

This month rather than talk about our general diving I thought for a change I would pass on an excerpt of an article I read recently on cowrie shells. We often see cowrie shells at Wolf Rock when diving, but usually they are empty which is apparently the result of predation by cone shells. (Another commonly found shell at Wolf Rock). Since I found this article quite interesting I thought everyone else would as well. The author is Erika Antoniazzo and I have taken the liberty of abbreviating article for the purposes of reprinting.

Cowrie shells are a favourite of shell collectors because a very deep coating of enamel on the outer surface gives the shell a brilliantly polished appearance. While cowries are abundant in the tropics, some species are now quite rare and get a very high price from collectors. The reason why these shells maintain such a nice colourful gloss is that two lobes of the cowries mantle (fleshy material that covers the shell) extend out and over the dorsal surface of the shell, meeting at midline, and they continually deposit enamel thus secreting the shell from the top down while protecting the shell from abrasion, whereas most other shells are secreted from the inside-out, hence the glossy interior of many shells. Cowries usually remain hidden during the day in holes, crevices, and rubble or under rocks and corals so there is a much better chance of seeing them at night when they emerge to feed.

When a female cowrie shell lays a cluster of small eggs she will sit on them until they hatch. So if you're lucky enough to find a cowrie with a bunch of eggs, don't disturb it otherwise it may not come back to its eggs. Larvae hatch and float around as plankton before settling. Juvenile shells are very thin and brittle. They look a bit like olive shells and continue coiling as they grow. The outer lip curves inwards and the shell thickens and forms a new colour pattern. Although the shell seems to be bilaterally symmetrical, the newest whorl completely covers the previous whorl. Teeth are formed on the outer lip, on both sides of the lengthwise aperture slit. The opposite side of the aperture is smooth and there is no operculum.

To create more space inside when needed the shell thickens and the interior is dissolved. Young cowries stop coiling at random resulting in a broad size range in adults. There are two main feeding divisions within the family, one group feeding on sponges while the other group are herbivores, though some groups feed on both.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Sept 2009

Some exciting days on the water throughout the month of September. Whales are being seen on just about every trip out to Wolf Rock with some days that busy we'll need traffic lights out there soon. Under the water has been just as busy with up to around 20 grey nurse sharks. There must be at least a dozen male sharks out there with more than a couple in the 3 metre range. Several times we have mistaken them for being a female until we get close enough to tell the difference. Normally you can pick a male just by its length and bulk. A few suspicious looking scrapes and wounds on a couple of them too so mating may have already started.

Also being seen on a regular basis are giant Queensland gropers, loads of eagle rays and the first of the bull rays. On one of our last charters before the end of the month we also bumped into a nice size manta ray and quite a few nudibranchs were spotted clinging to the rock, one of which was unusually large and of a variety I have not seen there before. The formation has been teeming with pelagic's such as kingfish, giant trevally, barracuda and a good size school of jewfish.

At the start of the month we were experiencing some good visibility at around 15 – 20 metres and the last week of the month it closed in to about 6-8 metres. But if you can still see the animals then that's the main thing.

Water temperature crept up to 22 degrees but with south westerly winds blowing the last few days water temperature dropped back a tad to 20 and 21 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Sept 2010

Plenty of action to keep everyone excited this month. From a constant stream of large animals such as humpback whales, manta rays, huge squadrons of eagle rays, grey nurse sharks and giant Queensland gropers, down to the smallest such as nudibranchs and newly hatched species of tropical fish. In particular, the baby wrasse tend to group together and chase each other around like they are playing some sort of game.

One manta ray was very friendly swimming up and back across the top of a large bommie off the end of the formation, with divers taking it in turns swimming alongside it and getting close enough you could practically reach out and touch it. It was totally unperturbed by 5 or 6 divers ogling it for half an hour. Lots of turtles about as well with several loggerheads calling Wolf Rock home at the moment. It never ceases to amaze us when you think about how old some of these turtles could be, some of the bigger ones may have been around for close on 100 years. Sometimes I feel like I'm in the movie "Finding Nemo".

This month's photos are of Annina Jormakka from Finland who did her photography dive with us and took this shot of a bullray. Annina was quite astonished when Kev sang Incy Wincy Spider to her in Finnish and he swears she had a tear in her eye at the end of the song. Whether it was from homesickness or Kev's singing I'm not quite sure but probably the last thing she expected to hear so far from home.

At the start of the month we were experiencing some good visibility at around 15 – 20 metres and the last week of the month it closed in to about 6-8 metres. Water temperature still 19 – 20 degrees but we expect that to increase quite soon.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Sept 2011

There seems to be lots of shark action out there at the moment with sightings off Teewah Beach, out front of Rainbow and up on the island. We haven't seen any potential man eaters at Wolf Rock, just our placid grey nurse sharks however we have no doubt that the dangerous ones are out there too.

During the past few weeks Dr Jonathan Werry of Ocean and Coast Research has been working along the east coast actively tagging the more aggressive species of sharks with acoustic identification devices that transmit a signal unique to each individual shark tagged. We in turn have attached the receiver to our mooring creating a listening station at Wolf Rock. This will tell the Scientists more about the movement of these sharks along our coast line. **The sharks currently tagged include bull and pig eyed whalers, tigers and a great white.**

As far as I am aware there are two main types of shark tagging programs used here in Australia - acoustic tags or satellite tags. Satellite tags pop off and float to the surface then transmit a signal received via satellite which also allows them to be located and retrieved, whereas acoustic tags have a more limited range only recorded by the receivers if the animal swims within 1500 metres of the listening station. See picture of a pop up tag attached to a grey nurse shark.

Visibility has been up and down but around 15 metres at the end of the month. Water temperature is still just 20 degrees but should start to warm up very soon.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Sept 2012

With the whale season in full swing there's no shortage of action at Wolf Rock. A **pod of four humpbacks swam past our boat directly under our divers** during the last week of September. Usually an in water close encounter with whales has them viewed from below as they swim over the top of us, so this was really something special.

Another special moment was when a green sea turtle made a beeline for our divers up out of the depths to come and check them out at around 12 metres. The turtle seemed to be fascinated by them, making a point of swimming around them for about 10 minutes and insisting on a back rub before going eye ball to eye ball and even rubbing its beak up against their faces before deciding to swim away.

Towards the end of the month strong currents have made the diving a bit challenging not to mention trying to find our mooring buoy. **The current was that strong it was holding the buoy under by about 2 metres.** This has happened before when we found our buoy 6 metres below the surface. Currents like this do make the dive a bit more challenging but with the right techniques and good training, divers can learn to manage these conditions.

The mating season for the Grey Nurse Sharks is about to begin with approximately 30 out of 40 sharks being male, all waiting for the go ahead from Mother Nature.

New watchbands are now in stock at our shop. These watchbands are ideal for divers, surfers or tradies as they have a double strap, so even if you break one pin you will not lose the watch. The strap is made from webbing material with no velcro making them more comfortable to wear in hot weather conditions. Prices start at \$22 for bronze and \$35 for stainless steel fittings.

Visibility 15 – 20 metres and water temperature 21 degrees.

Kevin Phillips
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Sept 2013

The diving at Wolf Rock this month has left some very happy divers already planning their next trips to Rainbow Beach for more diving this summer. We have had some spectacular visibility with **water so blue and clear we could see for 30 metres**. When this happens you can see the whole formation which is an amazing sight under the water.

The grey nurse sharks have been a bit reclusive as the annual cycle comes to an end. September is one of the quieter months of the year as the pregnant females that may still be here will disappear to give birth. Next month the breeding females will arrive for mating and the whole cycle will start again. The female grey nurse shark only breeds every 2 years so the females that turn up this year will not have been to Wolf Rock for at least 2 years or more.

In searching for the sharks this month we have been venturing further afield from the main pinnacles out over what we call the “boulder country”. Always wonderful to swim out this way when we can as the hard and soft corals that grow there are quite spectacular growing larger in size and with little or no human impact. There also seems to be more variety of sub-tropical fish around that area and some huge sea stars that we don't come across on the main formation as such.

We saw the first of the leopard sharks last week which means the water is warming up and on earlier dives we had frequent visits by manta rays. Visibility varied throughout the month but averaged 15 – 30 metres and water temperature is now starting to touch on 21 degrees.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Sept 2014

It's been "mooring month" at Wolf Rock Dive this September. With Maritime Safety now issuing all renewals to be paid by 15 October we have been busy inspecting moorings for most of the month including the Department of Transport's string of moorings in Snapper Creek at Tin Can Bay.

Although most people are responsible and take these inspections seriously there will always be a percentage of mooring holders that take a "she'll be right" attitude. Unfortunately that can backfire on them once the cyclone season starts or once we start getting some of our nasty summer storms. Over the years we have found plenty of examples where moorings have not been attended to for some time and the state of components have been downright dangerous. See pictures.

Since the severe floods we experienced a few years ago insurance companies are now becoming much more reluctant to insure vessels unless they have a secure mooring which is being inspected on an annual basis by professional mooring contractors. As we specialise in this area as ADAS qualified professional divers we are able to provide you with an inspection report to present to your insurer when renewing your insurance.

We also carry a range of shackles, buoys, ropes and chain specifically for use in moorings. If anyone needs a mooring inspected or repaired don't hesitate to call.

Next month (October) is the start of the mating season for the Grey Nurse Sharks and also the time where we start to see more and more animals congregating at Wolf Rock so it's a great time for a dive.

As I write this report water temperature has been 19 degrees and visibility 8 metres.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive

WOLF ROCK DIVE REPORT

Sept 2016

(no 2015 report)

Whales, whales and more whales! Every year we seem to be seeing more and more of these gentle giants.

Customers always get a special thrill when they see them breaching, tail slapping, spy hopping or waiving their massive pectoral fins around. Then we're further entertained under the water with their whale song. But actually seeing them while diving is another thing. It's a bit like that elusive hole in one shot when you're playing golf or running the length of the field to score a try.

Imagine our excitement this month and when we happened to bump into one under the water!! And I mean literally bump into one – we were swimming towards a part of the formation that rises up which hid both us and the whale from seeing each other. From the opposite direction I had seen a grey nurse shark swim behind the formation and was getting ready to get a photo as we crested the top of the rock when to my surprise a humpback whale appeared right in front of me.

I excitedly tried to get the other divers attention before snapping off a photo and with one casual movement of its tail fin it was gone. The whale and I probably only got to spend about 5 seconds looking at each other before it was out of visible range.

Water temperature is 19 degrees and visibility has been varying between 5 and 10 metres. Looking forward to a busy spring this year with the warmer weather already here.

Cheryl Maughan
Wolf Rock Dive