

# The BRISBANE wreck – Comparisons in a Short Time

John Kelley

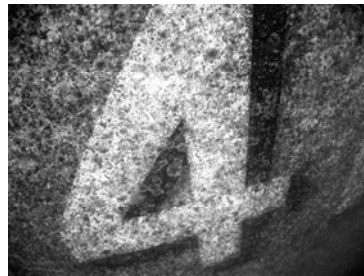
The Club dive on 26/27 Nov 05 on the BRISBANE apparently went well. I could only spare time for one dive on 26 Nov but enough to get a few pictures and to realise how fast the marine life is colonising the ship. The ship was sunk on 31 Jul 05. I've dived the BRISBANE on three occasions – 7 Sep 05, 15 Oct 05 and 26 Nov 05 – ie about a month and a half between each occasion. The photos below show the growth.

The ship's number "41" was so clear on the first dive and now it is disappearing due to the growth of algae, barnacles and other marine life. The gun is also getting a "beard" of algae.

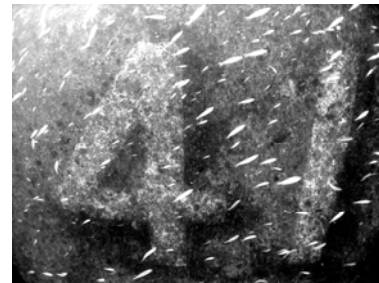
## The Number



Sep



Oct



Nov

## The Gun



Sep



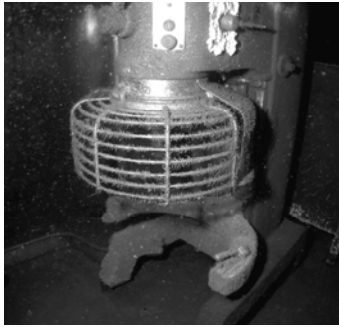
Nov

On the Nov 05 dive solitary sea squirts (ascidians) and cock's comb oysters were spotted. Bryozoans (Lace Coral) looking like a coral flower but a higher order than the corals also have colonised. The bait fish (possibly pilchards) have multiplied enormously and schools engulf divers. A few yellow-tail kingfish prowled through these schools while leatherjackets, rabbit fish (happy moments), Barrier Reef Chromis (yellow top and black slanted stripe) and smooth flutemouths hung around the decks. A huge Lionfish fluffed out its fins in fine display on the deck. Where has such a large fish of this variety come from in such a short time? You hardly see them cruising the open seas! Large red nudibranchs (a variety that I've not seen before) have also appeared.

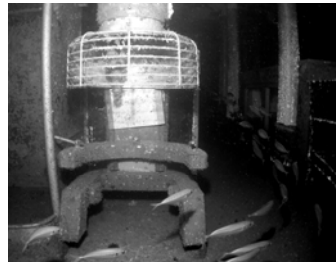
Tufts of algae (possibly a red algae) blanket the ship. Your normal average barnacle has taken up residence everywhere and I would not like to have to sit on some of the toilet seats at present – it would be worse than being keel-hauled.

The "Bread Mixer" has collected a mass of marine organisms especially in the last month. The anchor chain and its hole are also attracting an infestation of organisms.

### The "Bread Mixer"



Sep



Oct



Nov

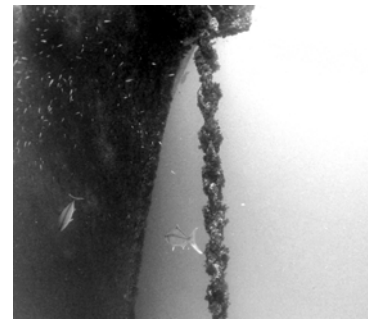
### The Bow



Sep

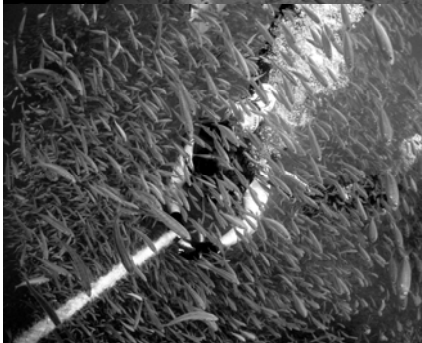


Oct



Nov

The crisp clean lines of the ship are rapidly fading but this covering is the essential element for the potential development of an interesting ecosystem and masses of fish. The schools of bait fish already were so dense on this dive that it was difficult to take any photos without them clouding the issue.

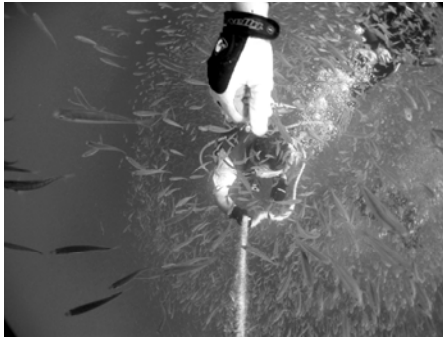


Bait-fish bow



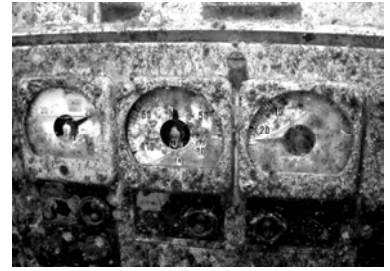
Guy and bait fish

Peter Harrison at bow



A helping hand for Pete

Pete ascending through bait fish



Disappearing instruments