

Flat Rock Club Dive 3 Jul 04

John Kelley

Attendees: Phil Marshall, Ash Thomas, Ted & Deb Aston, Graham Fisher, Hilton Webster (new member) & John Kelley.

Manly was the gathering point on a pretty reasonable day – fine, light cloud cover and little breeze although there was enough to wet those on the starboard side on the way out to Flat Rock. We negotiated a very calm bar around Amity Point – once again to my great relief and hit a small chop across to Flat Rock. We had almost made it to the Rock when a whale put on a display that left us wondering. He (or she) flicked its tail and half its body out of the water a number of times in rapid succession and crashed back into the sea. From where we were, some few hundred metres away, it looked as though it had its head stuck in something underwater and was madly flailing its tail and trunk in the one spot to get out. A dolphin surfaced next to the boat on the other side as a bit of a distraction. It was all happening.



Grey Nurse



Whale tail



Grey Nurse

We did make it to Flat Rock and, like a dog settling to sleep, we rustled around a little until we found the right spot to anchor over the shark gutters along with another two dive boats. A few Grey Nurse sharks were spotted and, as usual, they calmly “floated” by with their attendant sucker fish. It is painfully effortless the way they move through the water. I watched the video I took and swear that nothing on the shark is moving. When they want a little speed that tail begins to move.

The second dive saw us on the northern end of Flat Rock. This area has an abundance of life such as anemone fish, hawkfish, sea urchins, lionfish, nudibranchs, feather stars ambling about and pregnant spotted wobbegongs to name a few.



Feather star platter



Spotted Wobbegong



Anemone fish

On the return trip Moreton Bay was like glass and to finish off the day a dugong lazily surfaced as we went through the Rous Channel.