

Roberts Shoal - Feb 05

John Kelley

To the East of the northern tip of Moreton Is lies the Roberts shoal. It rarely seems to get a mention in the diving circles and in my six years with the Club I had not dived there until now. Wright's book, "Diving Southern Queensland" gives Roberts and the nearby Brennans Shoals a good write up especially for Roberts' interesting, "magnificent", terrain of "jagged and twisted rocks like the ruins of ancient natural cathedrals".



Chris and Sea star

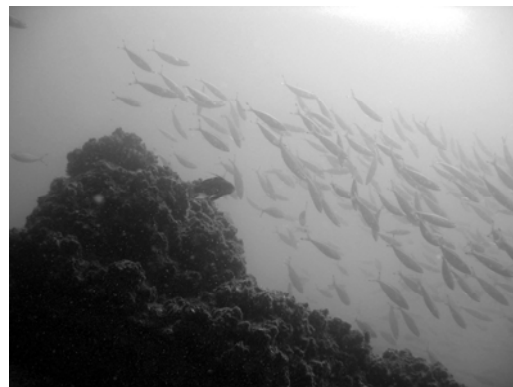


Coiled coral

I definitely found the Roberts shoal in the worth-another-look category. The anchor was slung over a jagged rock at a depth of about 13 metres. The bottom had jagged, rocky formations as though we had landed on an old wreck. The substrate was pretty much covered with marine life although not of the colourful variety. The bottom dropped off to ledges and overhangs down to around 25 metres. It looked like there was a number of interesting habitats for all manner of marine life. I had been initially startled by an octopus as I first descended and later by a small Moray.



Moray



School of Fusiliers

There was a variety of fish swimming around us and a lonely nudibranch. White anemones clung like little molars on whip-like coral and twisted, cork-screw coral sprung out of nowhere. We had entered the water about 1pm shortly after low tide and there was barely a current. It was an easy dive. However, I had little time to investigate a number of hideaway habitats – perhaps next time.