

Tweed - 29 Apr 06 - Club Dive

John Kelley

It's difficult not to say anything about the Club dive on the long weekend. It was unusual to say the least. The Tweed presented a beautiful bar in the morning and Cook Is looked great. Unfortunately the visibility was shocking and the surge was annoying. It became worse as the day progressed. After the first dive in these conditions we zipped around to the other side of Cook Is only to find the same conditions. We decided to give diving a miss and returned to the Tweed through a more aggressive bar.

As we entered the Tweed, Linton talked of the various wrecks in the area and, yes, you guessed it, we decided to look for them. Usually this means a lot of time spent motoring around, looking at markers, looking at depth gauges and culminating in a dive on sand, sans wreck. We were smarter than that and deployed a group to snorkel in the Tweed searching for dark spots and metal bits in the general vicinity of the remembered markers. We hit the jackpot and dropped anchor on the wreck of a barge in about 7 metres of water. While the tide was still running in it was good enough visibility but the tide turned while we were down and very quickly visibility turned foul. On the wreck, however, in all the little holes, the Horned Blennies, with their funny little top knots and spotted faces, were an amusing feature. How they zip out for a quick snack and then scoot head first back into their tiny holes and turn around in an instant is hard to believe.



The wreck of the Self-propelled Barge

We ventured further up the Tweed and cruised close to the western shore and watched for dark patches. There were a few and mostly due to sea grass. One, however, prompted us to

send Ted in to do a reconnaissance snorkel. He landed on the bollards of a wreck in about 1 – 3 metres of water. We all snorkelled and photographed the wreck for an ID with some members doing very model-like poses.

Up from the wreck near a marine marker (with two large black spheres on top) was a wall that dropped to 14 metres. Due to the markers it became known as the Two-ball Wall and we snorkelled this for a distance until we went around the corner and into the Terranora Inlet. Alan Dodd, as the DIVER 1 skipper, kindly kept tabs on this strung-out group and picked us up in the boat. What seemed to be somewhat of a disastrous day turned out to be a different and interesting one.



The wreck near Two-ball Wall