

## DIVE SECTION - Hamelin Bay



The inaugural Club trip to Hamelin Bay took place on the long weekend in March and provided a welcome relief from the city heat for five families. The very generous, shady campsites allowed for a variety of camping setups along with plenty of space for vehicles and boats. Conveniently located close to the beach, the campsites allowed for beach activities for the non-divers, easy interaction between campers and plenty of freedom for children to intermingle

and create their own activities.

Campers started arriving on Friday and Daz and Karrie won the prize for the most impressive setup – we actually thought they might be coming for a month. Bill and Pam arrived after dark along with Bill's two boys. The boys were quickly set to work to erect their own tent. Their approach was very impressive though they did need a little help.



Saturday was a balmy day, good beach weather though windy on the water. The campers went their separate ways with Chuck and Ron diving from Ron's boat, Fran and Mary to the beach, Daz, Karrie and Zoe fishing from their small Zodiac while Bill, Pam and family decided to go diving from the beach. Lesley, Fiona and family unfortunately arrived too late to put their boat in. Saturday night was a great social/ family night. It always amazes me how easily the various children intermingle and are so inventive in their play.



On Sunday, despite poor weather conditions, Lesley, Daz and Fiona braved the elements. Having travelled so far, they had to have a go. The rest of the crew kept themselves amused with a game of cricket on the beach though the fun really began when it was time to bring the boats in. By this time the water was very choppy with a strong surge and there was a large amount of kelp on the ramp. It took the full contingent and some tense moments to get both Lesley's and Ron's boats in. We all held our breath when Ron's boat crashed down and threatened to rob Bill of his manhood.



So what is the prognosis for further trips to Hamelin Bay? Given ideal weather, the scope for diving at Hamelin Bay is enormous with a host of near and far reef/island structures. On this weekend, prevailing winds meant that diving was restricted to the lee of the island. Despite local advice that crays were non-existent, there were many crays snared but left in place because of frequent tar spot and setose females. A series of large structures with large overhangs and ledges provided an enjoyable sightseeing experience. A few sightings of undersize dhufish and breaksea cod kept the

hunters of the party interested. Water clarity was similar to that experienced at Jurien the month before. Saturday diving was good enough to have two dives each. From a non-diver's perspective, it is a fabulous location with spacious campsites, plenty of shade and together with good company, an ideal spot for a relaxing, long weekend. Altogether, I think that everyone who attended had a good time and I won't mention anything about forgetting to put in the bungs.



Mary Cutten



You may have noticed some new pictures that have appeared in the function room area of the bar. These original works of art are produced by members of the Ocean View Art Group, a small group of local artists that meet every Wednesday morning at the ORSSC.

For obvious reasons we have decided to keep or display to a Nautical theme!

All the paintings displayed are for sale at very reasonable prices, and as a club member you will receive a further 10% discount! The paintings will be changed on a regular basis, so if you see something you like don't miss a great opportunity to purchase a unique piece of art, by a local artist. The name of the painting, artist name, and price of painting is displayed at the bottom right hand corner of each painting.

To purchase a painting or for further information please contact

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