

CLUB DIVE AT SECOND VALLEY
REEF WATCH MONITORING DIVE
17TH APRIL 2004

On that fine Saturday, Mark, Kev and I headed down to Second Valley with my boat, "Pressure Down". **This Reef Watch dive on Lasseter's Reef was done as part of our club's commitment to monitoring this reef, which our club has adopted.** After a just over an hour and a half casual drive down to Second Valley, we arrived at our destination and launched the boat at Sunset Cove boat marina and started to head out to Second Valley to pick up Martin from the jetty. This all went very easy as we just pulled up next to the jetty steps and without anything going wrong Martin was on board, so we drove under the jetty and headed off to the Reef. Soon after, with Martin's GPS marks and his good directions we were right over the centre of the reef. We moved to one side of the reef and dropped anchor causing no damage to the reef. After a brief on what we were doing and how the dive would go, we all geared up for what was going to be a great day's diving. We teamed as Martin and Kev together as neither of these guys had done this reef before, and as Mark and I were qualified Reef Watch divers, we teamed up so we could each do a Fish count for Reef Watch. The visibility was about 5 to 7 meters and the water temp was 19.1 so it was not too bad for the dive. I dived with twin tanks which was very different given the weight of both tanks was about 26kgs. We finished our Fish Count which took about 30 minutes, so for the next half hour Mark and I did the rest of our dive as a fun and photo dive. Some of the fish life we encountered on our fish count was a Weedy Sea Dragon, a Port Jackson Shark, Weedy Whiting, Sweep, Bulls Eyes, Moon Lighters, and many other types of fish. After we were all back on board the boat we had some well needed tea and coffee and a bite to eat. We then went for a cruise around the area of Second Valley to check out the Cave and the Old Boat Sheds. We stopped in a little bay just to the east of the Second Valley Jetty, where Martin did a snorkel and Mark dived again. This guy is not happy unless he has a tank on his back and a camera in his hand. Kev and I stayed on the boat having coffee and enjoying the sun. With Mark and Martin back on board we weighed anchor and headed back to the jetty to drop Martin off again. After a bit of maneuvering, we were ok to let Martin off. With Martin on the jetty, we said good buy and headed of the boat ramp to retrieve the boat and have a nice drive home. It makes the trip a lot quicker using the expressway starting at Marion. On weekends and public holidays you can use the expressway on the way down to Second Valley and on the way home after 1500 hours (3.00pm). Kev and Martin enjoyed their first dive on the reef and will do more in the future. **I hope every one in our club gets involved in looking after and monitoring this great reef that we have adopted.**

Report by Stephen