

ANU Scuba Club, NPA HarbourKeeper's clean-up Kioloa, 19-20 September, 2009



Report: Sharyn Wragg, 30/09/09



Nine members from the ANU Scuba club participated in the NPA HarbourKeeper's Clean-up weekend, held on 19-20 September 2009. Plans to dive Brush Island were thwarted due to poor launching conditions at Kioloa, so we dived Ulladulla's Lighthouse wall and Home bommie instead. Litter items around the Ulladulla Boat ramp were collected, and a clean-up dive commenced the Saturday afternoon at Bawley point. The water was a chilly 13 degrees, and the visibility was about 6m, tinted green with algae, but the diving was interesting, with a good turn-out of fish and invertebrates. Seven items of litter were recovered from that dive, most of which was fishing paraphernalia, but Jane Hunt scored a beer bottle and was presented with a mask-strap hair saver, curtesy of Zoe Palmer of NPA HarbourKeepers.

Bait-bags, cable ties and other rubbish was collected around the shore-line of Bawley Point, and Sharyn later undertook a beach-pick at the beach adjacent to the campsite, Pretty beach. In total 50 items of litter were removed from shore and underwater sites that weekend.

Globally, about six million tonnes of debris enter the oceans each year, of which about 80% is plastic. Most of this sinks, and takes hundreds of years to decompose into plastic dust. It's estimated that over a million sea birds are killed by litter, 100,000 marine mammals choke or become entangled, and 86% of turtles are affected by litter – so even removing small quantities of rubbish from the marine environment can have a significant effect. Thanks to all participants (L-R in photo): Wal Steyn, Cindy Wiryakusuma (Trip coordinator), Scott Hunt, Gail Vest, Sharyn Wragg (Environmental officer), Peter Christen, Jane Hunt, Vlad Vassiliev, and Daniel Heard.

Above: litter collected from Bawley Point (underwater), Pretty Beach, and Bawley Point and Ulladulla Boatramp. Below: other photographs taken on the clean-up weekend.

