

Loloata diving News

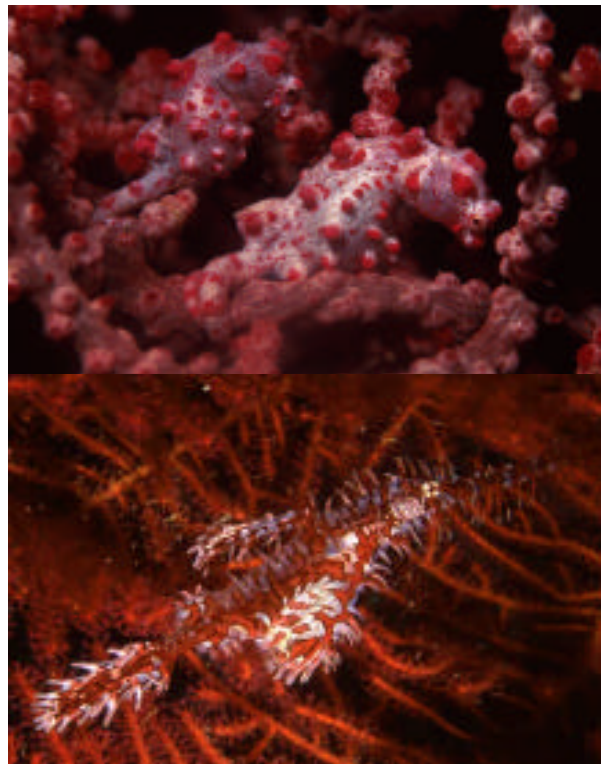
1st March 2003

The Weather

January and February on Loloata Island Resort has seen some fabulous weather the north westerly breeze minimal for this time of year allowing us access to all our more remote and exposed sites the calm has also contributed to good visibility although warm water at 30°c had resulted in a bit of an algal bloom for a week early February.

The Marine Life

The Lacy Scorpionfish (*Rhinopias*) have been out in force early January 4 individuals were regularly spotted an exquisite orange/pink was frequently sited at End Bommie. This one changes location frequently popping up on different parts of the reef. Also fairly mobile is an amazing yellow or golden specimen perched atop one of the pinnacles at the Pumpkin patch close by there is a large black/grey example hiding under a table coral and a juvenile green/grey was found by visiting photographer Doug Seifert early February. Back on end Bommie another black grey lacy Scorpionfish has taken up residence under a table coral tantalizing guests with its unusual form. Much in demand by visiting photographers we've been quite lucky to have a selection for the past few months.



Pygmy seahorses have been in residence on a number of fans in around 20m of water. These small cryptic wonders hard to spot often requiring a magnifying glass to get a good look at. At the moment we have the usual red /white example but also have a delicate pair of orange ones in an unusual fan.

Ghost pipefish of various shades have been sited at numerous sites the hard to photograph black one the most common but also a few red, orange and yellow examples were sited back in January. The Lion Island "Muck" dive has been performing well especially at night. The variety of commensal shrimps on sea-



cucumbers, sea stars and anemone's is astounding, bobtail squid are frequently seen, the elusive flamboyant Cuttlefish was sited as have the robust ghost pipefish and double headed pipefish. David Harasti found an unusual dragonet on End Bommie, perhaps a new one? If anyone has any ideas let us know. (adam@ adamaqua.com)

The People

We've had some distinguished guests staying with us at loloata over the past few months. Australian Characters Neville Coleman and Roger Steene were over collecting images for future publications. Japanese diving icon Photographer / Writer Akira Tateishi and his party were guests and have a considerable article in Travel Diver Magazine about Papua New Guinea featuring Loloata Island resort.



Diving legends Ron & Valerie Taylor and their party including Photographer /writer Doug Seifert stayed at Loloata Island Resort for a few days relaxing diving. Loloata Dive Instructor Franco received an excellent photographic gift from Doug for his good spotting work. David & Jenny Grey South African,

Photographers / writers loved the lion Island muck dives abundance of critters, Bobtail squid etc. Dive 2000's Kevin & Cherie Deacon won a week at Loloata Island Resort as winning prize in The Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition, hopefully Kevin got his picture of the pygmy seahorses Kevin & Cherie are planning another trip back in September with a group of photographers, regulars at Dive 2000, if you fancy joining up

contact Kevin info@dive2000.com.au. Loloata staff members Yoshi and Nienke joined Tubu-sereia Traditional Dancers over on Loloata for the regular Friday nights Dance this was loved by guests and dancers alike. Adam was thrilled to get third place in the Asian geographic Nikon Photography Competition Underwater Images section with a close up of a six-barred wrasse. Walo is well on the way with his Divemaster course and late last year Franco joined a handful of New Guineans qualifying as PADI diving instructor.

If you're a past friend of loloata or future guest we look forward to seeing you and showing you the delights of the reefs of Loloata.

Now we're off diving! See you soon

All the best

The loloata Dive team

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