

Loloata diving News

1st June 2003

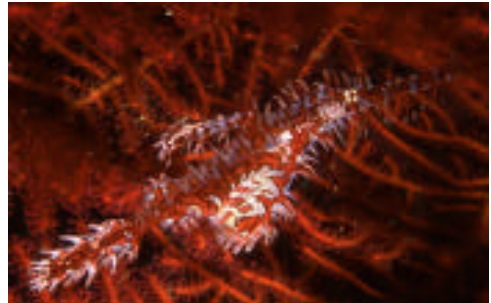
The Weather

March, April and May has seen some variable conditions, March was generally pretty calm with most sites accessible whereas in April and May we've had a few days restricted by some strong south easterly winds and moody weather but can usually get out to top dive sites End Bommie, Quayles reef and The Pacific Gas wreck in the morning all these are sheltered by the proposed marine reserve of Horse shoe reef out on the barrier reef closer to Loloata the Loin Island Muck site and new marine sites are always available, visibility has been pretty good with the clearest spells not surprisingly coinciding with the calmer weather, water temperature have been 27-28°C

The Marine Life

It's not true what people say at other resorts and Live Aboard in PNG that we have a pet Lacy Scorpionfish (*Rhinopias asphanes*) we just are lucky to see a few here, as usual the End Bommie dive site is the epicentre of activity with a Black grey Lacy Scorpionfish been consistently in a given area for the last few months with for the odd lucky divers an exquisite orange one appearing from time to time presumably a mate, others have been spotted around End Bommie and out on Quayle's reef but none have stacked a claim to a particular spot as far as we can see, but of course we're always on the lookout. The pygmy seahorses have been present at a few sites The Pinnacles, Pumpkin patch and particularly Quayle's reef where we consistently find the most, if anyone can shed any light on why the little aquatic equestrians move about I'd be interested to hear the theory, The Lion Island Muck site is still turning up a few gems, Bobtail Squid, flamboyant cuttlefish,

Ghost pipefish, fingered dragonets some of the stars of the show. We've still made it out to Suzie's Bommie on a regular basis, as many of you know Suzie's Bommie's in an exposed location and difficult to dive when weather makes it rough, Suzie's is a fantastic fish dive with schools of Sweetlips, Snapper and fusiliers making it a truly world class dive.



The People

We've had some distinguished guests staying with us at Loloata over the past few months. Australian marine icon Neville Coleman was here in April further expanding the Loloata area species list and turning up a few new ones that we'll be publishing in these pages later in the year once the appropriate taxonomy etc has been done, Neville will be back to do a bit more searching later in the year. Many of his Loloata finds can be found in his books including the fantastic 1001 Nudibranchs and his latest 2002 Seashells all available on Neville's web pages

www.nevillecoleman.com.au

Also up and coming photographer Yoshihiro Takezawa of Japan's Diving World has been with us collect material for a PNG article some of his superb images are posted on his web pages

<http://homepage2.nifty.com/underwaterphoto/> if you go to Work>> Underwater1 >> and click on PNG on the Map you'll find some impressive images from Loloata. His article on PNG has been published in the June issue with 10 spectacular pages about Loloata Island Resort.

Also Marine photographer and Artist Sayori Tanaka spent a month on Loloata collecting images for a future series of exhibitions to be held in France. I hope this information keeps you informed of the goings on at Loloata Island Resort or if you're a potential guest gives you an idea of the types of dives available and the critters we see, we look forward to seeing you in the future.

Now we're off diving! See you soon

All the best

The Loloata Dive team

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