

Loloata diving News

1st September 2003

The Weather

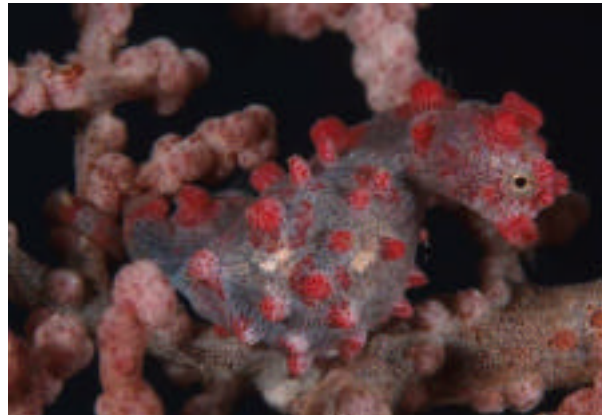
June, July and August as expected is Usually a breezy time over on Loloata Island Resort with the south east trade winds in action at this time, the usual pattern is for it to be relatively calm in the morning allowing us out to dives on the barrier reef especially out at horseshoe reef location of End Bommie our Lacy Scorpionfish metrologies. (Rhinopias asphanes). The afternoons usually see the winds pick up and we have been diving the splendid muck diving sites and wrecks of Lion Island. Water temperatures have been hovering around the cool 24-25 degrees and are now starting to warm up coming into September. Visibility on the whole has been good through out this time upwards of 20 meters out on the Barrier reef and less at our Muck sites

The Marine Life

As Usual many of our Guests have been delighted by the loloata special the Lacy Scorpionfish (Rhinopias asphanes) which we find in greatest abundance around the Coral Pinnacle of The End Bommie, In-fact many of the photographers we have visiting us at Loloata both professional and amateur make the pilgrimage over to Papua new Guinea with this rare fish topping their list of things to see, the last few months we have been lucky to see a dazzling array of colour variations from the more well know green /yellow , we have also had Orange , Golden, and most amazing Purple individual.

Pygmy seahorses are still to be found consistently on the *Muricella Sea* fans at Quayles reef in what is relatively shallow water for these critters of only 18 meters and have also been found at End Bommie, Pumpkin Patch and The Pinnacles.

Previous guests will be delighted to know that Suzie's bommie is still as "fishy" as ever with the school of Sweetlip and snapper still resident on the peak of the pinnacle. Over on the "muck" on Lion Island as usual the commensal shrimps in Anemones and on sea stars and Cucumbers have been flourishing and fish wise flying gurnards and fingered dragonets have been about and Double ended pipefish are still hiding away in the sea grass, and on the night dives Bobtail squid, Hunting Harp shells and feeding squillid mantis shrimp have been showing off.



The People

As usual a distinguished list of Photographers have been over on Loloata Island Resort over the last few months, back in June French Photographer Laurent Ballesta and Girlfriend Carolla joined us earning their stay at Loloata as winner of the prestigious Portfolio section at The Antibes Festival, which is sponsored by Loloata Island Resort Laurent made some amazing images while at Loloata, which hopefully will see him take up another victory at Antibes. Another Talented Photographic Competition winner to join us was Mirko Zanni from Switzerland, Mirko had won the best of show at the Oceanz festival again sponsored by Loloata, Mirko should have some great shots of the Purple Rhinopias Yawning.

Kevin and Cherrie Deacon of Dive 2000 Sydney info@dive2000.com.au joined us again this time bringing a lively group from Australia for a week at Loloata before heading to the Island aboard a live-aboard. 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
Nienke , Yoshi , Franco, Walo and Adam
adam@adamaqua.com



Pictures above clockwise from above, Laurent and Carolla , Lee Blake of Dive 2000 Group with Traditional Dancers during a culture night every Friday on Loloata Island Resort , Dive Loloata Staff Nienke , Yoshi and Adam with Kevin & Cherrie Deacon.