

## Dive sites at Merimbula Divers Lodge:

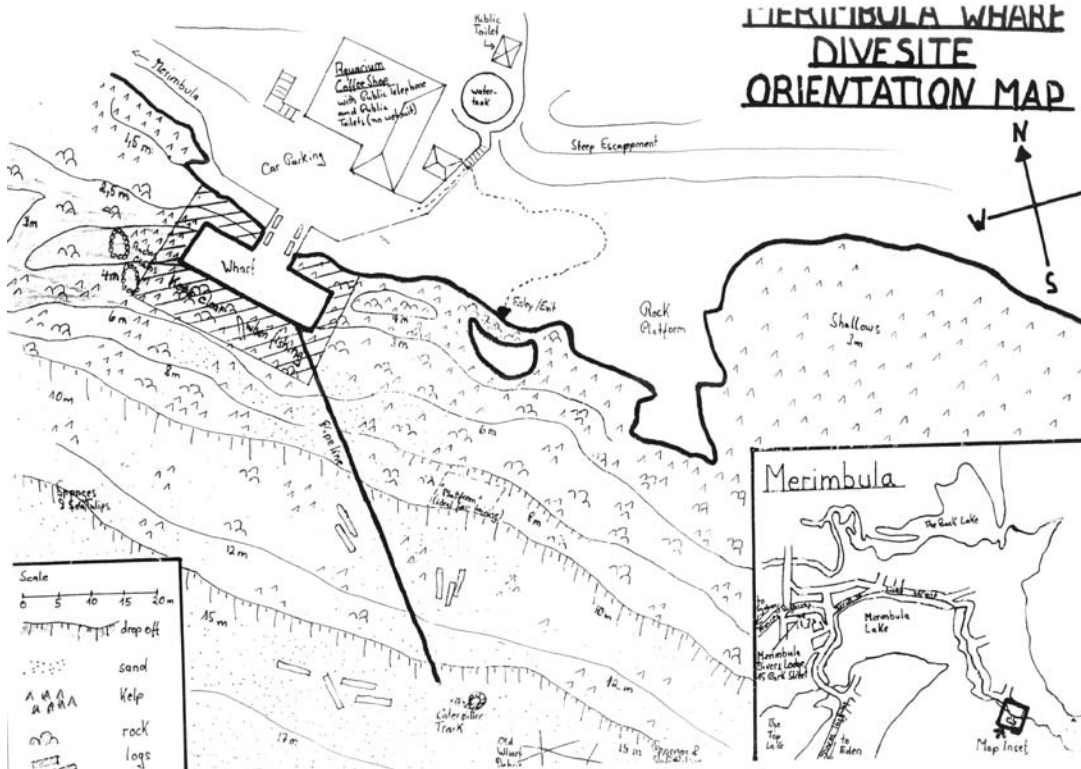
### SHORE DIVES

#### **Merimbula Wharf** (shore dive)

Cert. required – OW diver

Max depth – 14 metres

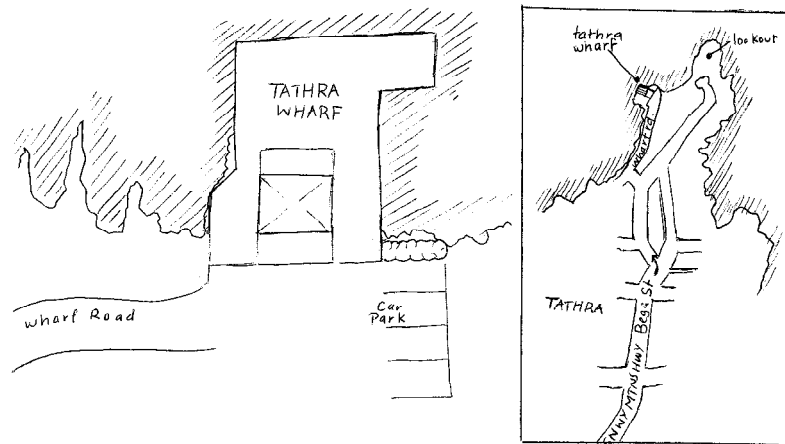
This an easy dive site for beginners. Great for some buoyancy skills before diving the wrecks in Eden and to practice navigation skills during advanced open water courses and/or to get used to new gear. Diving the wharf in Merimbula offers a diverse dive with a variety of different environments. It features a sand bottom with stingrays and baby sharks. The gradual rock wall is alive with sea urchins and fan worms and there is a little drop-off along which you can find octopus, sea horses and see discarded caterpillar tracks. The Wharf brings a wide range of fauna, especially in the Summer. Huge bull rays and copious juvenile rays, incredibly friendly blue groper, wobegongs, port Jackson sharks, angelsharks, weedy seadragons, eels, and on some lucky occasions shovelnose rays. Tiny exquisite nudibranchs, including Bennets nudibranch and the striking Blue Dragon nudibranch are also found here.



### Tathra Wharf (shore dive)

Cert. required – Open water diver  
Max depth – 10 metres

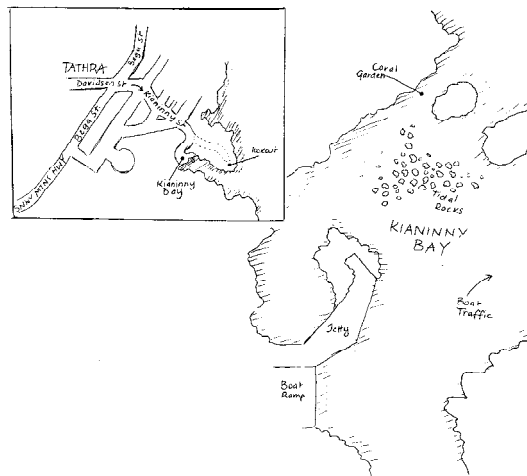
Dives can be conducted either under or to the east of the old wharf. To the east is the beautiful shallow dive where you can see soft corals, sponges, all sorts of juvenile fish and sea horses. Marine life here is abundant, with lots of morays. Butterfly fish are also common in the Summer, following the warm tropical currents. It is also possible to dive directly under the wharf to about ten metres, but watch out for fishing lines. Octopuses, large stingrays and gropers can be seen here. The ancient wharf itself appears surreal underwater, the barnacle encrusted pylons rising to the surface, and shards of light reaching though the gaps in the planks above to the sand and rock bottom.



### Kianinny Bay (shore dive)

Cert. required – OW diver  
Max depth – 18 metres

This is a dive to do at or near high tide. Keep left all the time to avoid boat traffic, the dive site is around the corner. The shallow bay soon opens out into a large pool and in about 16 meters you'll reach the sandy bottom. This dive site can be spectacular, with great scenery of large boulders, schools of fish (commonly garfish and yellowtail), nudibranchs and sea hares, stingrays, all kinds of puffer fish and leather jackets hiding amongst the seagrasses, and gurnards with their striking fin displays.



## BOAT DIVES

### The Cave (boat dive)

Cert. required – OW, cave diver  
Max depth – 20 metres

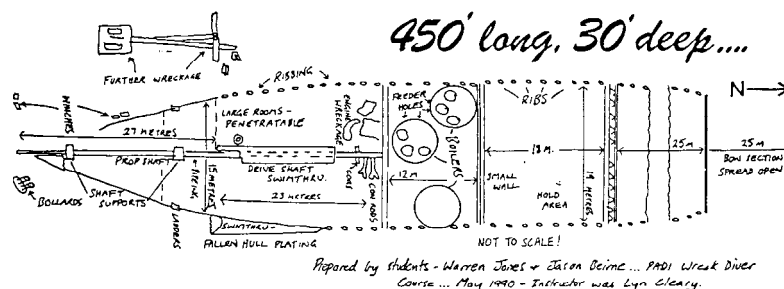
The cave features a dramatic entrance rich in fixed marine life and fish. At the front of the cave there are some small overhangs on either side. Under these you will see cuttlefish and eastern blue devilfish. On the sand and rocks on the side there are dozens of hermit crabs. After opening into a huge cavern the cave extends back and while quite wide (four metres), the height gradually gets less and less until it is only one or one and a half metres. The cave goes like this for 20 metres before opening up into a larger cavern. These rocks and the wall are an absolute delight. They are covered in brilliant sponges, sea squirts, gorgonians, and lace coral. Once out of the tunnel the walls also feature some excellent examples of life, including nudibranches, many octopus and the occasional cuttlefish. The visibility and striking colours of this dive site make it perfect for photography. And generally is a more personal experience as there is room for two in the cave at a time.



### SS Empire Gladstone Wreck (boat dive)

Cert. required – Open water diver  
Max depth – 12 metres

About 7km south of Merimbula, just south of Haystack Rock is the wreck of the SS Empire Gladstone, an ore carrier which struck the rocks and sunk here in 1950. It is a large wreck (~100m long) in only 10m of water and makes for a good dive in calm conditions. The really fantastic thing about the Empire Gladstone is the marine life and the amount of fish you are able to see. This is a perfect dive for Open water Level divers with some previous boat experience.



### Tasman Hauler Wreck (boat dive)

Cert. required – Advanced open water diver

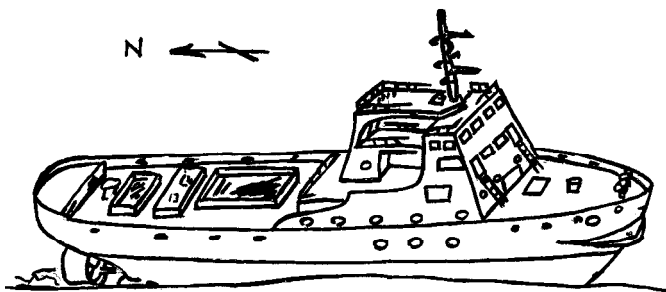
Open Water Divers can dive this site as part of a DEEP Adventure Dive with MDL Instructor

Max depth – 30 meters

The wreck itself, scuttled in 1988, was one of two sunk for prospective reef growth. This is one of the most popular dives in the Eden area, boasting endless opportunity for photographers. Jewel anemone colonies, fantastic in their abundance and colour, cover almost every section of the upper masts and railings in flourishing shades. Lace coral, sponges and soft corals also emit brilliant colours and an abundance of fishlife can be found on the wreck too. Below deck the cabins and engine room are available to explore, without any instability or chance of being trapped.

This is an ideal Wreck for: Wreck, Deep and Photography Courses

TASMAN HAULER (40M)  
MAX DEPTH 30M SAFETY STOP 5min/5mtrs.  
MOORING LINE AT WRECKS MAST.



### Henry Bolte Wreck (boat dive)

Cert. required – Advanced open water diver

Open Water Divers can dive this site as part of a DEEP Adventure Dive with MDL Instructor

Max depth – 30 meters

For the purpose of creating an artificial reef, the Henry Bolte was sunk in 1987. The main point of interest is the boat itself, as not much growth has developed on the wreck. Exploration of the giant propellers is a must, as well as the cabins, bridge, and the hull openings to below deck.

The wreck does host some great fish life however, is an excellent dive in piecing together the wreck as you work your way along it makes for a very interesting dive

HENRY BOLTE (40M)  
MAX DEPTH 26M SAFETY STOP 5min/5mtrs.  
MOORING LINE AT WRECKS BOW

