



March 2011

# Nautilus SCUBA Club Newsletter

Cairns QLD AUSTRALIA

<http://www.nautilus-scuba.net>



Email: [secretary@nautilus-scuba.net](mailto:secretary@nautilus-scuba.net)

Dive Trips  
Club Meetings  
Guest Speakers  
Trip Reports

TUSA Dive, Deep Sea Divers Den, Reef Magic Cruises, Mike Ball Dive Expeditions,  
Cairns SCUBA Air, Calypso Reef Cruises, Poseidon Cruises



Photo by Rob Beaman

# Club Meeting

Last Wednesday of every month (except December)

**Wed 30 March, 2011**

Cairns Marine Radio Club

MacNamara St, Cairns

7.15 pm start with a BBQ



Guest Speaker

Navy Clearance Diver

Petty Officer Diver Ashe Konig

- CLUB DIVES
- DISCOUNTED DIVING AND DIVE GEAR FROM OUR "FRIENDS OF THE CLUB"
- MEET NEW DIVE BUDDIES
- RECEIVE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER EMAILED TO YOU
- ANNUAL OVERSEAS TRIPS... AT CLUB PRICES !



Photo by Rob Beaman

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## Monthly Club Dive

Can vary... but often one of the first Sundays each month...

## Next Club Dive...

... a Weekend Away !



## Deep Sea Divers Den

Sat 9 - Sun 10 April, 2011

**Time:** 8.00 am

**Where:** Deep Sea Divers Den, 319 Draper St

**Cost:** \$307.50 per person. This includes all meals, equipment, torches for the night dive, tea, coffee and iced water. Plus \$30 reef tax. You can have up to 7 dives.

**Booking:** Book direct with Deep Sea Divers Den  
ph: 4046 7333 [www.diversden.com.au](http://www.diversden.com.au).

**Email:** Don't forget to email Chrys when you have booked ... [divecoordinator@nautilus-scuba.net](mailto:divecoordinator@nautilus-scuba.net)

**Cut-off date:** You need to book with the operator before 29-3-11. Limit of 16 divers



**Club Dive Report** First time diving with this company and it seemed I was the first one to arrive at the boat on the morning of Sun 6<sup>th</sup> March, along with Ken Krasta.

I always check out the dive decks lately and this one seemed like an easy point of boat entry. It also has a fairly spacious deck close to the tank benches. I imagine this one step sit and an elevator to lower you in but maybe that's a bit lazy. Next the Nautilus contingent arrived, Pam, Ken Crasta, Esthme, Ro Hill, John Biedenham, Foyea. Conditions were light rain and overcast. The dive guide told me the last few days had been variable with visibility 10 to 15 m. There was also some damage in places from Yasi and some very interesting site names Wildside and East Timor on Moore Reef. Wow !! Going to East Timor ! An early overseas trip !

It was overcast on the way out until about Green Is. when it became much more sunny. Members opted to go with the Dive Guide. Visibility was a bit low and some evidence of Yasi was seen on the Wildside site. There was lots of fish action and some nice coral formations. I began to run low on air so buddied with Esthme and headed back with a nice short surface swim. Later the others arrived and the Dive Guide had a story of a shark sighting on the way back. None of the others saw the shark so I'm not sure if it was someone's imagination or if it was the one that got away!!

Lunch was buffet cold meats and various salads. We travelled a short way to East Timor... that's funny, I thought Timor was further than that !! There was a lot of swell breaking on the reef and it was a bit more windy and overcast.

Vis was really low at the beginning of the second dive. We dived under the boat and continued against the current which was noticeable but not extreme. We followed a shallow wall until we reached a narrow swim through. I've always liked these but it was a bit of a squeeze !! Further along John spotted a Moray Eel so we stopped to observe and I took a few pics. Then a short way along John put a Nudibranch in his hand for us to see. Really amazing name and lots of nice colours.

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## Cairns Dive Centre

### Day Trip

Sun 6 Mar, 2011



## Club Dive Report cont.



With all the excitement my air was running low so the Dive Guide took me to surface after a deco stop at 5m and we headed back. There was a lot of swell breaking on reef as we were on the swim back to the boat. I ended up using what was left in my tank because the snorkel was not very effective in this swell. After a short distance the current started to help a bit and then the swell disappeared. I ended up with 10 bar ... a good lesson in keeping the 50 bar in reserve! In these sort of conditions I found swimming on my back was the best and I needed to keep my head and airway as high as possible.

On the way back into Cairns we had a lot of good conversation about how we all ended up in Cairns plus our various occupations and dive experiences. All in all it was a good experience with nice company and a good dive deck.

Thankyou Cairns Dive Centre

By Andrew Bristoe

Cairns Dive Centre

Day Trip

Sun 6 Mar, 2011



# LOUNGING ON LIZARD

By Phil Woodhead

Back in January of 2011 I spent two weeks at Lizard Island Research Station (LIRS) taking underwater photos for Russell Kelley. Now why would I be doing this, and who is Russell Kelley?

To answer this I have to go back a couple of years.

Russell Kelley is a Marine Biologist who is passionate about corals. This may have something to do with the fact that he started life as a geologist and one sort of limestone structure led to another, anyway he is now the Program Director Coral Identification Capacity Building Program.



Russell Kelly getting a closer look

When I met Russell (some two years ago) he was developing his underwater Coral Finder and needed good underwater photos of hard corals. We fell across each other because the underwater photographer he was going to use landed the assignment of a lifetime, and someone who knew someone suggested me and put us in touch.

That was my first trip to LIRS and a week of non-stop diving and photo sorting, followed by a trip

to the Palm Islands to yet more coral pictures.

From these pictures, and others, Russell developed the Coral Finder.



The Coral Finder is a water-proof aid to the identification of hard corals to a genus level.

Having developed this very user friendly underwater identification tool Russell now travels to various tropical locations, (Fiji, Solomon and, as I type this, Sabah), running workshops for the local

dive guides, marine parks officers and coral survey groups. Russell does this with grant money from a major foundation who believe as he does, which is that... how can you know what is dying or missing if you don't know what you have in the first place.



Acropora detail

Test surveys have shown that people who have attended the workshops get up to 80% of the

hard corals they find underwater correctly identified, which is a good result given the number of hard coral types there are and the myriad of shapes even the same species can adopt.

So, why was I on Lizard Island with Russell in January?

Russell has a new project which in broad terms is a waterproof, (i.e. printed plastic) guide to what the heck am I looking at! The idea is to cover marine invertebrates and use a visual reference of shape, texture and colour.

To this end I was there to take underwater photographs of anything and everything, as Russell pointed out.

Some of the stuff was odd, like this sea fan, (pictured below), which looks like a large brown algae.



It's not until you look closely that you see the soft coral polyps which gives its true identity away.



The other part of the concept is to show the whole animal, then a part of it, followed by a picture of close up detail where needed for identification purposes.

This made my life quite interesting as I was swimming around underwater with two housed cameras, one for wide angle and another for mid-range and macro shots.

Not so bad on neap tide days, but when the current started to run I just had to go with it or find a bommie to hide behind.

The days started at 7am with the loading of the boat and two or three one hour plus dives, surface intervals, (lunch) unloading the boat, washing gear and filling tanks, meant that we were not back on dry land much before 5.30pm most days.

Then there is the photo download and review, which with a dinner interval could go on until 10pm. From these reviews, lists of either a re-shoot or, now we need a such and such critter were made for the next day.

Russell was also on the lookout for good coral formations or gardens that I could photograph



so that he could then use them for teaching tools in his workshops

The underwater habitat around Lizard Is. is truly remarkable, there is just so much diversity, it's no wonder there is a thriving research station on the

island catering to a nonstop flow of Marine Biologists and their students from around the globe.

There were several groups from Germany on the island while I was there and one group in particular caught my attention when I discovered they were studying Nudibranch. They let me take a photo of one of their prize specimens, which is probably a new species, about the size of a pin head and belongs to the family Sagaminopteron. Luckily I had a 10X magnifier for my macro lense.

They also told me where to find some other types



Sagaminopteron sp.

of nudibranch which they had been studying. So, if we happened to be diving that particular area/site I kept an eye out



Chelidonura sandrana



Chelidonura sandrana

The last two examples are a little small to be of any use to Russell, but we did come across other creatures along the way.



Thysanozoon sp.



Pseudoceros scriptus

The weather was so good while I was on Lizard Is that we took the opportunity to venture out to "Snake Pit" (a well know dive site to Mike Ball) and it did not disappoint. However I don't think that Russell will be using shots of Manta Rays in his next project.



Something else... I saw this wire coral and my thought while I was taking the photograph was I wish I could adapt/change my name so that I could use it as a signature.



Other creatures were happened upon accidentally.



I was taking a picture of an anemone when an almost transparent shrimp walked into the picture.



This new project of Russell's is great because it includes everything except fish, which great and means I am looking forward to our next field trip.

For more information on the Coral Finder visit [www.byofuides.com](http://www.byofuides.com)

For more of Phil's photos visit [www.wetimage@smugmug.com](mailto:www.wetimage@smugmug.com)

# Underwater Camera FOR SALE

**Complete package all in Hard Samsonite case**  
**Replacement Cost \$1,510.00 (not including case)**  
**Sell \$800.00 or near offer (all inclusive)**



## Canon IXUS 400 camera

4.0 Megapixel CCD image sensor delivers 2272 x 1704 pixel resolution.

Fully retractable Canon 3x zoom lens (35mm equivalent 5: 36-108mm) f/2.8-4.9 with smooth 3.6x digital zoom.

2 x 256MB and 1 x 32 MB Compact Flash cards

## Canon WPDC800 Underwater housing

Housing can be used with Canon IXUS 400, IXUS 430 AND IXUS 500 (rated to 40m)

## INON UWL 105AD Wide Lens (complete with neoprene carry pouch)

The UWL 105AD supports a wide variety of wide shooting scenes, such as scenery shooting or side macro shooting underwater and on land.

## INON UCL 165AD macro Lens (complete with neoprene carry pouch)

The UCL 165AD can be stacked together for higher magnification. You can create image composition as you like depending on subject size or distance to subject.

## INON Optical D Cable

The optical cable is a key component to reliably trigger an external strobe in synch with built in flash light and each model is designed specifically to attach directly on to built in diffuser panel of genuine underwater housing or a mount base.

## INON Double Lens holder

The INON double lens holder provides a place to store your wet mountable 67mm mount lenses securely and conveniently when not in use.

## INON D180s Strobe Head

A very, very compact strobe head at just 100mm in length (rated to 100m)

## INON Grip Base II

The base upon which you can add further arm components to really give you control over your strobe's positioning.

## INON Mounting Base, INON Z Adaptor & Fisheye clamp & INON Lens Mount

All designed to attach the strobe to the main base plate.

## INON Strobe adaptor

Adaptor designed to attach the strobe to arm body.

**For more camera details and/or to make an offer....**

**Contact Jill Rashleigh**

**Mob: 0438 553 054 Email: [jr492657@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jr492657@bigpond.net.au)**



## 2011 Nautilus SCUBA Club Underwater Photo Competition

### Entry Details:

- 5 photos per photo category (Macro, Portrait and Wide Angle)...
- Total of 15 photos per entrant
- SLR and compact camera categories
- Photos should be taken between April 2010 and April 2011.

**Closing date:** Club Meeting **27 April 2011**

**Winners Announced:** Club Meeting Wed 25<sup>th</sup> May (all winning entries will be printed in the 2012 Nautilus Calendar)

Please read and download the [Conditions of Entry](#) and the [Entry Form](#) available on the club website.

If you have any questions ...

Contact [Phil Woodhead](#)

E: [wetimage@ledanet.com.au](mailto:wetimage@ledanet.com.au)

M: 0419 514 468

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