



April 2016

Nautilus SCUBA Club Newsletter

Cairns QLD Australia

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

E: secretary@nautilus-scuba.net

- Dive Trips
- Club Meetings
- Guest Speakers
- Trip Reports

Editor: Phil Woodhead



April Club Meeting Wednesday 27th From 7pm...

Junior Eisteddfod Hall 67 Greenslopes Street, Cairns

All the usual treats ,BBQ, Raffle,and the Nautilus pop up shop

See below for this months guest speakers

Public Information Session

Get the latest on the battle against crown-of-thorns starfish

Cairns' dive club - the Nautilus Association - is hosting a presentation on the latest in Crown of Thorns Starfish control. The invited speakers are leaders in this field and will be able to explain how the research and the control efforts are proceeding, they include:

Dr David Westcott (CSIRO) – Integrated Pest Management being applied to CoTS

Dr Morgan Pratchett (JCU) – CoTS ecology

Steve Moon (AMPTO) – CoTS Control Operations Manager

at the Cairns and District Junior Eisteddfod Hall
67-71 Greenslopes St Edge Hill Cairns

Wednesday 27th April 2016 7pm

A free BBQ dinner is available for members and visitors from 7pm onwards

For more information or to advise of you or your groups intention to attend

please contact: Anne Clarke on **0418772380** or the

guest speaker coordinator, John Hubbard, at john.hubbard@my.jcu.edu.au



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National Environmental Science Programme



Reef & Rainforest
RESEARCH CENTRE



Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators

Local dive trips and get together information

*Please note that the news letter does not publish prices on trips offered

April 2016						
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↑
Club meeting



Calypso - Port Douglas
Club day dive trip
Contact: Glen via:
divecoordinator@nautilus-scuba.net

May 2016						
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Club meeting

SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY 29TH JUNE

The Nautilus SCUBA Club underwater photo competition photo display, judging results and prize giving will take place at the Cairns Colonial Club, Jardine Room.

This event showcases the hard work of all the Nautilus underwater photographers, (and the standard of images submitted gets better every year) to quote the judges.

This venue and event replaces our normal club meeting and venue.

So come along, there is a bar, there will be food, and there will be a display of great underwater images.

Special dives will be organised in addition to the regular monthly day trips, these could be with Reel Cray-Zee, Rumrunner, and could be day trips or weekend trips to the reef or the Yongala. Better watch your emails for future announcements.

Minke Whale Trip in July 2016

Nautilus Club Minke Trip 4 DAY 4 NIGHT and Up to 16 Dives.

Departing Friday 1st July
Returns Tuesday 5th July

- Max 36 pax and ONLY Doubles and Twin cabins available
- Transfer vessel limited to 60 pax (normally 80)
- Payment due 45 days prior to departure. If trip is not filled by this time we would open it to other customers at normal rates.

***Please note that the news letter does not publish prices on trips offered**

With the help of our good friends at Deep Sea Divers Den(DSDD), we have organized a Minke whale trip this July to replace the Taka trip which was canceled.

John Brown at DSDD will be contacting everyone who was going on the Taka trip to ask if they still want to go on the new trip(details below, but very similar in dates and price to the Taka trip). If this applies to you, and you haven't heard from

him, give him a call.

The remaining spots are open to any club members.

To book, or if you have any questions, PLEASE CONTACT JOHN BROWN AT DSDD DIRECTLY on 07 4046 7333 and tell him you are a Nautilus Club member. Details below. If the club haven't filled the boat 45 days prior to departure, it will be opened up to the general public.

Itinerary

Day 1 (Friday)

You're journey starts here! Check-in at DSDD shop 319 Draper Street at 08:00 to board transfer vessel ReefQuest. We make our way to the Outer Barrier Reef where we will enjoy two dives on Norman Reef, before transferring to OceanQuest at approximately 14:30 and steaming overnight to the Ribbon Reefs.

Day 2 (Saturday)

Wake up to the sun rising over the Great Barrier Reef. We will enjoy four dives at various sites on the upper Ribbon Reefs, including the world famous Cod Hole. The Cod Hole is home to a family of large Potato Cod. Be surrounded by these intriguing and friendly creatures as you immerse yourself in

their underwater habitat for a truly unforgettable experience. Four dives are included in today's itinerary, including one night dive.

Day 3 (Sunday)

We kick the weekend off with more diving and snorkeling opportunities throughout the Ribbon Reefs. Today you will have the opportunity to explore some of the most untouched areas of the Great Barrier Reef. We will also take part in an exploration dive. Four dives are included in today's itinerary, including another night dive, when the reef will transform itself into a completely different setting with all new nocturnal marine life just waiting to meet you. This pristine and unique reef system, is an underwater playground teeming with marine life, a real natural wonder for you to explore and enjoy!

Day 4 (Monday)

Explore more of the Great Barrier Reef at various dive sites along the Ribbon Reefs over four incredible dives, including a dive at Steve's Bommie, one of the most pristine dive sites that the Ribbon Reefs have to offer. The reef locations that we visit are home to many tropical fish species and offer magnificent viewing of bright mesmerising coral less frequented by any other boats. On completion of our final night dive we will steam south towards Cairns.

Day 5 (Tuesday)

Wake up to your last morning on OceanQuest. After breakfast, you will be transferred back to your Cairns city accommodation at approximately 07:30. Please note, itinerary may vary slightly depending on weather conditions. During Minke Whale season, the dive schedule may be altered to enable as much in-water interaction with the whales as possible.

Looking forward to seeing you!



NAUTILUS SCUBA CLUB UNDERWATER PHOTO COMPETITION 2016

Time to start sorting your images getting some new ones.

As with previous years the photo competition is open to all Nautilus members and entries will close on 31st May 2016, judging of all images will be by independent non club members who have more than a passing interest in underwater photography.

Results will be announced, all images displayed and the all important club members choice will take place on Wednesday 29th June at the Cairns Colonial Club, (further details to follow).

Categories will be: Macro, Portrait and Wide Angle

These categories will be divided into two groups:

Compact Cameras, (these types of cameras do not have interchangeable lenses but do have external wet lenses available from various housing companies which further enhance their wide angle and macro capabilities).

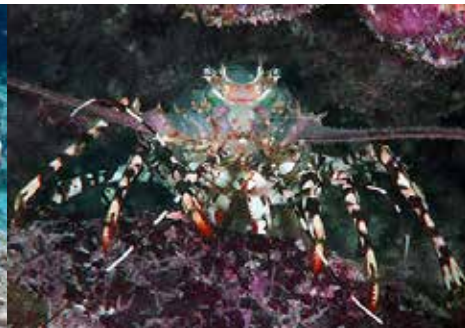
DSLR and Four thirds digital cameras: (these types of cameras have interchangeable lenses).

Entrants can enter 3 images per category, (so a total of 9 images per entrant), and only enter one or the other category. The cost of entry for one or nine images is \$20.00.

The above is just the bare bones to remind the underwater photographers out there to start getting serious about sorting images from the last two years.

The rules, (of course there are rules!), and entry form have been published and emailed out to members.

Previous photo comp entries for inspiration by:
Eden Gray- Spence
Libby Sterling
Colin Tonazzi
Aaron Smith
Alison Smith
Shey Goddard
Andy Ratter
Ann Coombs
Kevin Coombs
Rick Evans



Trip Report from Club dive April 10th on-board TUSA 6 departing from Cairns

By Michelle

Despite some less than encouraging weather predictions Albert, Dave, Roe, Bryan, Alex, Michelle, Aaron H, Tim and Sue were all out and keen for a dive on Sunday and soon left the early morning rain behind in Cairns for clear skies on the outer reef. After badgering Burkie about our destination we were pleased to find ourselves at Saxon Reef. The first two dives at Twin Peaks had better than expected visibility of approximately 10m as we made our way around the two bommies that were teeming with life. Water temperature has dropped slightly to

28c which will hopefully assist the coral to recover from the bleaching observed in the shallows. Albert enjoyed his dives at Twin Peaks, spotting a Signal Goby and a Yellow boxfish, and Aaron H saw a Grey reef shark on the first dive. Alex liked the Snappers while my own favorites were the Unicornfish and a small but curious Whitetip reef shark. Roe was lucky and saw a Green Turtle as well as Sweetlips and some large Barracuda near the boat. After lunch we moved on to Hastings Reef for a final dive at Encounter Bay (near the Fish Bowl).

Staying shallower this time we saw more bleached coral as well as pure white anemones that made a stark background for the resident Clownfish, and the abundant giant clams were spectacular. A Barramundi Cod was spied lurking within the coral and I was amused by the very unhappy Bluestriped Fangblenny with a clear case of small fish syndrome. Thanks to Alex for the photos and the Nautilus gang for a great days diving, and of course a big shout out to the ever fabulous crew on Tusa 6.



Trip Report from Club dive trip to Palau

By: Assa, Paul & Brian

Good day all,
A great trip was had by all on our recent live aboard trip to dive the spectacular waters of Palau. It started off as a rather protracted journey via Japan and the United States to Palau. For all intents and purposes Guam is considered part of the US. We were met at the airport on Sunday night by Connor one of the dive masters from Rock Island Aggressor and transported through the city to board the good vessel. It was a full complement as we 12 Aussies joined 3 Americans, 2 Spaniards and a Swiss.



We were greeted onboard by the friendly crew and were quickly gathered together for an induction to the vessel. We also started getting ready for our first dive the next morning. Early to bed as



The vessel left port early on the Monday morning and our first dive was on a Japanese WWII wreck called the Helmet Maru inside Malakal Harbour. This wreck wasn't found until the 80s and has remains of its service still onboard, including a pile of helmets hence the name. Visibility was at about 7mts and the wreck began at the stern at about 15 metres and continued down to around 30. It was a pleasant introduction dive to Palau.



Our second dive was to another WWII wreck the Iro standing upright in 40 m of water. The deck began at around 26 m. The ship was a Japanese fleet oiler and supply ship and was sunk by a torpedo and bombs in 1944. We dived first to the bow which still has the remains of a gun quite visible. We follow the deck along past the bridge midships and onto the stern. The ship has hatches and pipes and two crane structures still in place. Tomato anemone fish surround one of the masts. Visibility was good and numerous other fish were seen around the vessel. Another gun remains on the stern. RIA moved during lunch to Ulong Island and our third dive was at Sandy Paradise. This dive was on a sloping coral garden with octopus, a leaf scorpion fish and many reef fish to be seen. Last dive of the day was at Ulong

Channel and begun our search for the elusive Palauan Manta Ray. Breakfast, lunch and dinner each day was varied and flavoursome. Don't expect to lose weight on this dive trip. Each evening the crew gave us a briefing for tomorrow's diving while we enjoyed a relaxing time in the saloon.

Day two began with a dive on Siaes Tunnel. It is a large cavern with the entrance at around 26m and the exit at around 30m. Lots of corals and schools of bigeye trevally. Also an introduction to the walls of Palau.



Our next dive was on Siaes Corner, my first hook in. Sharks and mid-size schools and a large devil ray went past. Our first "better get used to this current" dive. A great and interesting dive.



Dive 3 was at Ferns wall. Don't leave anything on the boat. A leopard shark was spotted and again a massive variety of fish. Dive 4 was at German Channel to again await the elusive Palauan Manta Ray. And wait and wait. Dive 5 was a night dive to Big Drop Off

Continued.....

.Day 3 began with RIA heading to the island of Peleliu, the scene of a major battle during WWII. Our first dive was to Peleliu Cut on a strong current with a short hook in. Sharks again.

The Aussies skipped dive two and went on a tour of the battle field on Peleliu Island. Jeff our guide was informative and had a great sense of humour. The Americans planned for a short 3 day battle that lasted for 75 days. There were very few Japanese survivors though some soldiers remained in hiding until the after the war ended. We managed our quota of exercise with having to push start the bus on a couple of occasions. Fascinating.

Our next dive was on West Wall. A pleasant drift dive with sharks and turtles and schools of dogtooth tuna.

Dive four that day was to Barracks Point, another coral garden with lots of turtles and some giant clams. Dive 5 was my first night dive to Ngemilis wall. Connor our guide has the knack of finding the most interesting macro life. The night divers are greeted on their return to the vessel with the tippie of choice awaiting their return.

Thursday's first dive was to Blue Corner. This is probably the most popular dive sight in the islands. A short drift along the drop off and then a hook in on the point. Once in place let the show begin. Sharks, more sharks, more sharks, schools of big eye trevally and barracuda. A constant string of fish going by. And more sharks.

Dive 2 was just along the wall at Blue Holes. We descend down one of 4 holes in the reef top into a large cavern at about 25m. Disco clams and pygmy seahorses for those who can find them. This dive

finishes with a short drift back to Blue Corner.

Dive 3 was at New Drop Off and the famous Palauan current. Not my favourite dive.

Dive 4 was again to German Channel and the wait for the elusive Palauan Manta, and wait. Best part of this dive was a fast drift over a magnificent coral garden as we made the slow ascent to the surface.



Dive 5 at night was again at German Channel and a great macro dive.

Friday began at Blue Corner with a light current and in different conditions to the day before. After a brief hook up we then drifted across the reef. Again sharks, barracuda and an individual dog tooth tuna.



Dive 2 was at Virgin Blue Hole which began with a very shallow swim over the reef to a fairly small opening to the hole. A narrow descent it begins to open up at around 15m into a good size cavern and an exit at around 30m.

Dive 3 was at Turtle cove with some great soft corals and a gentle drift across the reef.

Dive 4 was to Barnum's. Another wall dive with some great overhangs and a finish through an arch.

Continued.....

Our last full day onboard began with our trip to Jelly Fish Lake. After a short but steep walk over a ridge we arrived at the lake. Snorkling only and we begin our swim into the lake. First you pass a solitary jellyfish, then they appear in pairs. Some very small ones as well and then you are in the midst of an estimated 13 million jelly fish. Really amazing to be a part of it. The jellyfish follow the sun across the lake each day.

This trip was followed by a skiff ride through the Rock Isles. Spectacular scenery a view of the famous archway. Also some Japanese war sights.

Our last dive was to Chandelier Caves. There are four chambers each with an airpocket which we all surfaced in. Torches off for the swim to the faint light source at the entrance. Outside the cave we saw the spectacularly coloured Mandarin fish and a scorpion

The afternoon was spent breaking down and washing our gear. A great dinner was had at the Drop Off restaurant near the wharf where RIA was moored.

On Sunday morning we said our good byes and so began the long journey home.



Creature Feature

Skeleton Shrimp - Caprella spp.



Female with young hatchlings



Female with eggs



Female with young



Female with young hatching

Text extract from:
Reef Creature Identification
Tropical Pacific
By: Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach



Male Skeleton Shrimp

Size: 1 to 3 cm.

Skeleton shrimp are not true shrimp. These thin, thread-like crustaceans are actually amphipods in family Caprellidae.

Many of the numerous species inhabiting the tropical Pacific are difficult to identify, however the majority belong to genus *Caprella*.

These active, entertaining animals, which seldom reach more than two to three centimeters, (males are considerably larger than females), typically live in groups which can number from dozens to a thousands and can be found on a variety of organisms including sponges, hydroids, gorgonians, mooring lines and algae.

The long thin jointed bodies bear two sets of antennae, large grasping claws with sack like gills below. Instead of legs, backward facing hooks for clinging extend from the last three body segments allowing them to move much like an inchworm.

The grasping claws are used to grab planktonic food.

Females have brooding pouches on their abdomens and bear live young which cling to their mothers for several weeks.

THINGS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT NEED TO KNOW

Boxfish do not have a conventional bony skeleton like most vertebrate. They literally have a bone box that only the eyes, mouth and fins stick out of.



Many bony fish have more than just one set of nostrils. The nostrils of fish also do not open into the back of the mouth like those of mammals, and are not, therefore, for breathing.

They lead into organs of smell, which are very sensitive in order for fish to detect the presence of food in the water at considerable distances. More nostrils = more smelling!



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Dive

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PARTING SHOT



Edward's sponge crab - *Dromidiopsis edwardsi*
Burning rubber !