

# Nautilus SCUBA Club Newsletter

February 2016

Dive Trips • Club Meetings • Guest Speakers • Trip Reports

Cairns QLD Australia

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

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



TUSA Dive, Deep Sea Divers Den, Reef Magic Cruises, Mike Ball Dive Expeditions,

Editor: Phil Woodhead

Cairns SCUBA Air, Calypso Reef Cruises, Poseidon Cruises

Cover photo Shey Goddard



# February Club Meeting Wednesday 24th From 7pm... Junior Eisteddfod Hall 67 Greenslopes Street Cairns

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

This months guest speaker is  
Jennie Gilbert from the  
Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre.  
Jennie will be speaking about the  
centre and the very worthwhile work  
and research that it performs



CLUB OVERSEAS TRIP FOR NEXT YEAR

# VANUATU

04 - 14 October 2016

## WRECK DIVING IN SANTO & PORT VILA

Special Group Departure

11 Days / 10 Nights ex Brisbane  
from AUD \$ 2,750 per Diver

**Price includes:** (Non Diver from AUD \$1850 per person)

- Return flights ex Brisbane to Santo & Port Vila flying with Air Vanuatu (luggage allowance 30kg per person)
- 6 Nights at **Coral Quays Fish & Dive Resort** – standard twin share garden bungalow with roundtrip airport transfers and breakfast
- 10 Shore Dives in Santo at **SS Presidial Lodge** and **Dona Point** – with hotel transfers, dive guide services, tanks & weights
- 4 Nights at **Hideaway Island Resort**, Port Vila – twin share room with airport transfers, daily breakfast & select resort activities (snorkelling, kayaking, etc)
- 3 Dive Days (3x 2 tank boat out) with **Big Blue** – includes pickup up, dive guide services, tanks & weights (all local bus fees applies)
- Australian departure taxes and Australian airline taxes (\$265 & subject to change)

**Price does not include:**

- Travel insurance (more than specified and personal spending money)
- Any excess luggage
- Airfares to and from Brisbane

**Booking conditions:** Prices subject to change at any time without notice due to currency fluctuations and supplier rate changes. Airfares are currently based on current rates. To allow the use of this airfare and group package rates, all passengers are required to travel. See other terms and conditions as posted on our adventures website: [www.diveadventures.com.au](http://www.diveadventures.com.au)

### **Booking requirements:**

To secure your place on this trip, you will need to complete an online Booking Form and return it together with a non-refundable deposit amount of \$500 per person. Final payment due date is 1 August 2016

Booking Ref: S-18495

16/11/2015

CONTACT: AKIKO Email: [overseastrips@nautilus-scuba.net](mailto:overseastrips@nautilus-scuba.net)

or

Nina ph:(07) 4055 8056 Email: [nina@diveadventures.com.au](mailto:nina@diveadventures.com.au)

**DIVE**  
ADVENTURES



## Local dive trips and get together information

February 2016						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29						

Club meeting



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

March 2016						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Club meeting



For our March Trip we have provisionally reserved 12 places on Tusa 6 on Sunday 13th.

Tusa does not reserve a spot until payment has been made in full.

To pay and book, or for more information, call Tusa directly on 4047 9120. You will need to be at E Finger of Cairns Marina at 7:40 for an 8:00 departure.

Remember to tell them you are a Nautilus member.

Once you have booked, please let Glen know so he can keep track of who is going. (glen2two@yahoo.com)

NB Tusa allows unguided diving, and they also have Nitrox tanks on board (subject to availability).

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.

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



# Minke Whale Trip in July 2016

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 cancelled.

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.

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

**Departing Friday 1st July  
Returns Tuesday 5th July**

- o Max 36 pax and ONLY Doubles and Twin cabins available
- o Transfer vessel limited to 60 pax (normally 80)
- o 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**

## Itinerary

### Day 1 (Friday)

Your 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 snorkelling 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.



# Deep Cavern Diver Course

Following a successful CDAA course which the ladies really enjoyed, Linda (Instructor), will be back to finish some training and possibly run another program depending on demand

## Cave Divers Association of Australia Deep Cavern Diver Course

### Cave Divers Association of Australia

The reasons for learning to Cave dive are many and varied but whatever your reason for undertaking a cave diving course you will be guaranteed of two things:

- a) Your diving skills and knowledge will be put to the challenge and
- b) You will get to dive in some of the most amazing fresh water sites anywhere in the world.

Places such as Piccaninnie Pond, the Shaft and Kilsby's Sinkhole will all come within your diving reach.

Your ticket to these and other cave diving sites rest in a Cave Divers Association of Australia sanctioned Deep Cavern course.

### Deep Cavern Course – Dates TBC (~24-29th Feb or 7-11 April)

This 4 ½ day, full or part time course aims to develop the skills and knowledge for cavern and sinkhole diving, including the planning and organization, the procedures, techniques and problem solving required in a variety of cavern and sinkhole diving situations.

Theory sessions shall cover such topic as CDAA history, buoyancy and anti silting, reel and guideline use and equipment considerations.

Practical sessions shall include 4 training dives in Cavern rated site(s) and 3 supervised site dives.

Pre-requisites.

Before commencement of a CDAA Deep Cavern diver training program the candidate must:

1. Hold an entry level recreational SCUBA diver award for a minimum of 12 months
2. Hold Advanced Open Water certification or have evidence of equivalent dives
3. Have logged at least 25 dives totalling a minimum of 20 hours, including at least 2 night dives and 5 dives deeper than 25m
4. Be a minimum of 18 years of age.
5. Submit a current (issued less than 12 months ago) medical statement signed by a registered medical practitioner stating the candidate is fit to dive.

### Equipment

1. Suitable exposure suit
2. Mask and fins
3. Small sharp line cutting device
4. Watch, bottom timer or dive computer
5. Depth gauge with maximum depth indicator or dive computer
6. Twin cylinders\*, minimum capacity 2200 litres
7. Buoyancy Control Device (must be in addition to the exposure suit)
8. One primary and two back up lights – minimum duration 60mins.
9. Pencil and underwater slate
10. 2 passport sized photos

\*If you have never dived with twins before or do not have a twin cylinder set-up please contact us prior to the course commencing for more information. These can be supplied for you if necessary.

### Course costs:

Your course fee of \$995 includes...

- Use of a variety of reels
- All class materials
- CDAA members manual
- Student notes in folder form
- Pool costs – if applicable
- All permit fees to sites
- Joining fee with the CDAA
- Card handling fee with the CDAA
- Membership fee with the CDAA

A deposit of \$250 is necessary to confirm your place on the course.

Please note that whenever possible a welcome and orientation session will commence on the evening before the program formally commences.

For further information please contact Linda Claridge of Garinda Dive Instruction or Steve Bates (0416 068228 / [steve@bates.net](mailto:steve@bates.net)) locally.

Garinda Dive Instruction

PO Box 15  
Koroit 3282  
Victoria

[garinda@tpgi.com.au](mailto:garinda@tpgi.com.au)  
Ph. 03 5565 8793  
Mobile 0408 052 070



Trip Report from Club dive February 14th onboard Calypso Dive Charters departing from Port Douglas





# The not so secret trip report for Sunday 14th February

Sunday morning 7am saw Alison, Aaron, and me (Phil), meeting Kevin and Ann at the Sugar Terminal boat ramp for a trip out to dive a couple of wrecks. (Yes there are wrecks in the waters around Cairns).

A beautiful day, flat seas, and a breeze from Kevin and Ann's boat "True Blue" cruising at a steady 24 knots.

Our first port of call was the "Toledo", a small trawler a few miles off Fitzroy Island sitting upright on the seabed in 33 metres.

Now for those of you that know me I know that you will find this hard to believe, but I did the first dive on this wreck without my camera!

However I was armed with a very large, sharp serrated knife.

This wreck is a popular fishing spot and has been decorated over the years with quite a few anchors with their attendant chains and rope. The rope tends to float so looks like strands of floating spaghetti, ruining our best efforts of capturing the mood in an image. I might also add that Aaron, Ann and Kevin where similarly armed whilst Alison was to record our efforts for prosperity. I have dived



this wreck before, but the viz was so bad I couldn't see more than a metre, this time around the god of small things was feeling friendly and every thing was clear-ish. The clean up commenced, several anchors, chains, and rope where removed, a lost net was removed along with quite a bit of fishing

line and a few kilos of lead weights liberated.

Back to the boat for a long surface interval then back in again for a real dive, (I mean I had my camera).

A pretty little wreck, all of us saw a large Queensland Grouper who was quite camera shy, otherwise there are not many large fish around.



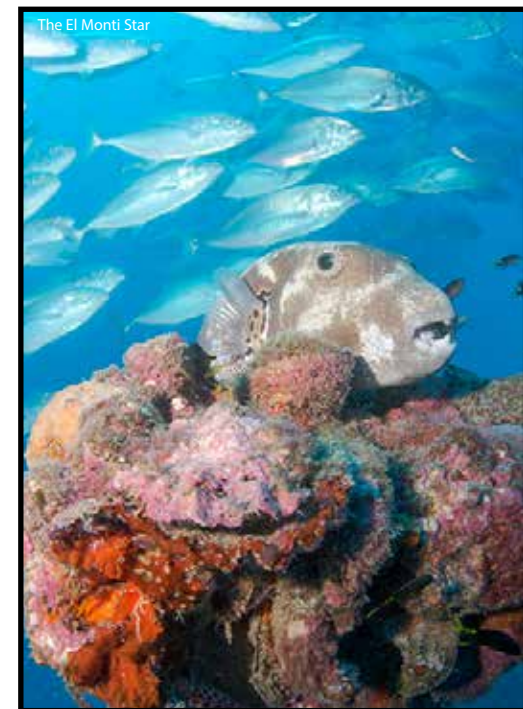
After the second dive on the "Toledo" it was time to up anchor and move to another wreck, again a trawler know as the "El Monte Star." This is a pretty wreck sitting more or less upright in around 37 metres.

The viz was again good, although as with the earlier dives there where a lot of Jellyfish and other things that go bump in the blue floating around.

This wreck is in a green zone so the fish life is pretty good in fact the schools of glass fish almost get in the way of seeing whats around.

The wreck has a couple of resident Map Pufferfish, as well a quite a large Wobbegong, which I found on the back deck behind the sorting tray.

A great day out, good company, good conditions, and good diving, what else is there to say.







Things that go bump in the blue





## Creature Feature Dottybacks

"Dottybacks" is the common name given to the fish that comprise the family Pseudochromidae. Four sub-families, 16 genera, and over 100 species make up this family.

All dottybacks are hermaphrodites (Debelius & Baensch, 1994). Unlike clownfish (another hermaphroditic group), the larger of the two dottybacks will be the male.



Midnight Dottyback

The exception to the rule, the Midnight Dottyback - *Pseudochromis paranox* lives in elephant trunk sponge and mimics the Black Pygmy Angelfish - *Centropyge nox*.



Black Pygmy Angelfish

Mating, the male performs his mating dance outside his cave trying to excite the female. The female will enter the male's cave, once it accepts the male's dance. Depending on species, up to 1000 or more eggs are first laid by the female, and then fertilized by the male. The egg sack is negatively buoyant and is adhered to the inside of the males cave. The male then guards the eggs, not allowing the female near them. He will fan the eggs to provide oxygen, and may even pick up and move the eggs to a new location if he feels they are in harm's way. There have even been occasional reports of the male mouth brooding. After 3 - 6 days the transparent fry hatch from their eggs at roughly ½ the size of a newborn clownfish and are larval for up to 30 days.

Seven days after laying eggs the female is ready once again, and the cycle is repeated.

All dottybacks feed primarily on small crustaceans and zooplankton, though some may consume polychaetes and small fish.

Most Dottybacks despite their small size and delightful colouring are pugnacious characters and will readily defend their rock cave or other dwelling against all comers. In fact many hobbyists with home aquariums have found this out when adding a Dottyback to an established tank without doing any research.



Purpletop Dottyback - *Pseudochromis diadema*



Sailfin Dottyback - *Ogibyina velifera*



Blackstripe Dottyback - *Pseudochromis perspicillatus*



Oblique-lined Dottyback - *Cypho purpurascens*



Royal Dottyback - *Pseudochromis paccagnellae*



Two-lined Dottyback - *Pseudochromis bitaeniatus*



Yellowtail Dottyback - *Pseudochromis flammicauda*

Capturing images of Dottybacks relies on their pugnacious nature. If you study their cave dwelling and wait quietly they will eventually come and face off with you, a perfect time to press the shutter.

This article is comprised of extracts from Fish Tales By Henry C. Shultz 3rd. Photos: Phil Woodhead



## THINGS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT NEED TO KNOW

The Nautilus Scuba Club underwater photo competition is coming.....so you need to start sorting out your best shots and putting them to one side.

Details will be announced next month, categories, entry form, rules, and closing date.

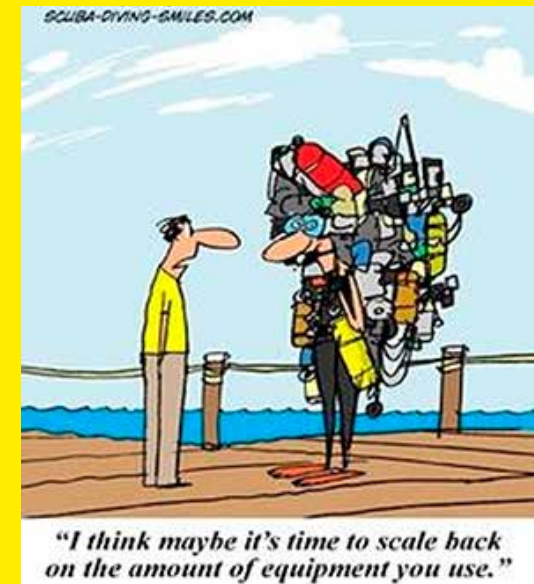
The other thing you need to know is that you spend a great deal of time, effort and money on dive gear, camera gear and just getting underwater, so you should really spend some time and money on getting good software and learning how to use it, so that you can get the best out of your images.

A bag of potato chips costs 200 times more than the same weight of potatoes.

The Sperm Whale's intestines are over 137 m long.

The oldest fish in captivity lived to 88 years of age.

Members should watch their emails for special offers made only available to Nautilus Club Members from the TUSA shop, Mike Ball Dive Expeditions and other dive businesses that support our club.



## PARTING SHOT



Image by: Phil Woodhead  
Snapping shrimp in Feather Starfish