



Cairns QLD Australia
<http://www.nautilus-scuba.net>

Dive Trips
Club Meetings
Guest Speakers
Trip Reports

Nautilus SCUBA Club Newsletter

February 2017

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Editor: Phil Woodhead

Local dive trips and get together information

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

February 2017						
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					



Calypso - Port Douglas
Club day dive trip
Contact:
dive-coordinator@nautilus-scuba.net

Club meeting

GUEST SPEAKER

Travelling to exotic, often remote locations and interacting with other cultures while enjoying top class dive sites. For many of us it's one of the big attractions of diving. How do we do this though, while staying healthy and safe? This months speaker: club member, medical professional and PADI dive master, Dr Malcolm McDonald has lived, worked, traveled and dived extensively throughout South East Asia and the Pacific. With some great opportunities for remote overseas diving coming up throughout the year, Malcolm's presentation on travelling and diving safely in S.E. Asia and the Pacific, is one not to be missed.

March 2017						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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For our March Trip we have provisionally reserved 12 places on Tusa 6 on Sunday 8th.

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 Mark know so he can keep track of who is going. markearney54@gmail.com NB Tusa allows unguided diving, and they also have Nitrox tanks on board (subject to availability).

Club meeting

Social get together at the new Greek restaurant Odessey Kitchen

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.

January Club Trip on board Calypso

By Adam Mills
and Akiko Murakami

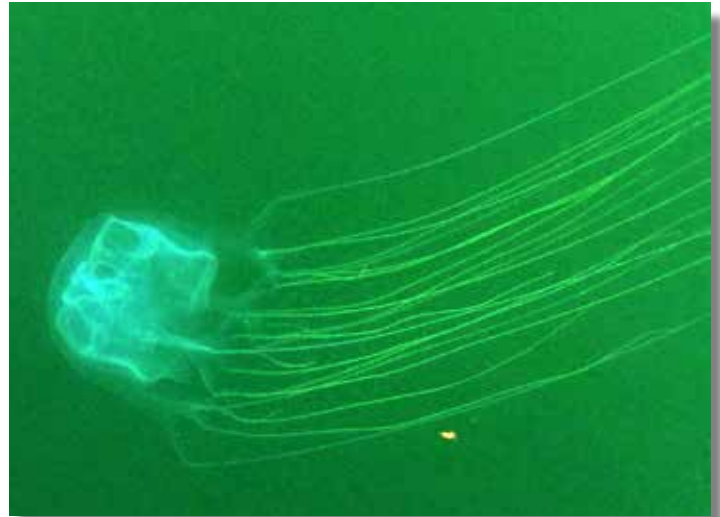
This was my first official dive with the club! I arrived early unsure of how long the drive to Port Douglas was, to find the staff of the Calypso taking photos of the water. My first ever Box Jellyfish sighting! I was amazed by the fact it was swimming, not just floating.

The boat started to fill and I caught sight of a club shirt worn by Judy and introduced myself and met the other 2 club divers on the trip; Judy's grandson Nathan and Akiko. There was also a couple, Danny and Amanda, who were doing their own thing.

After the far too early start, I fell asleep on the bow and was woken by the fully kitted up Akiko for our first dive.

Anybody's, Agincourt Reef

We dove (I've been living in the Caribbean for the last few years and Akiko informs me 'dove' is American English and 'dived' is the correct British/Australian English!) together as an awesome foursome. The highlights were two whitetips, some Maori wrasse and a Titan Triggerfish opening a shell for dinner. Judy and Nathan surfaced and Akiko and I explored the other side of the wall. Upon returning to the boat the surface was covered in a fluther of Moon jellyfish which was a little concerning initially after seeing my first Box Jelly only hours earlier.



Phil's Backside, Agincourt Reef

Judy and Nathan decided to snorkel as Nathan was suffering from sinus issues. Akiko and I were dropped by the tender out onto the bommie which had rumours of an Ornate Ghost Pipefish. We quickly found the pipefish on a fan at about 14M on the inside of the bommie. After some initial disagreement of the dive plan we started heading away from the boat along the wall. Highlights included blacktip and whitetip sharks and some Maori Wrasse. We deployed an SMB for pickup as we didn't make it back to the boat in time.



Advanced Bommie, Agincourt Reef
Judy joined us for the last dive, however ear trouble prevented her from descending. This dive done as a series of continuous ascending spirals around the bommie. We saw more sharks and a number of large nudibranchs. The dive ended when one of the staff snorkelling saw us attempting to sneak in a third loop with only minutes to spare on the allocated 45minute dive time :) A great first dive trip with the club.



I recently had the opportunity to go on a Mike Ball Coral Sea Expedition - it was planned to leave on Thursday 26th January returning to Cairns on 2nd February. Most of the guests met at Mondo on the esplanade for dinner before boarding Spoilsport as there is no dinner provided on the boat on the first night. Once on-board we received briefings on safety procedures and what we could expect over the next 7 days. Our first destination was to be Holmes Reef - a place where I had not had the opportunity to do any diving before so I was really looking forward to it.

Our first dive at Holmes Reef was at a sight called Cathedral visibility was very good however there appeared to be a lack of large pelagic species and other large creatures for the wide angle photographers. There were lots of alleyways and bommies to explore. The second site was called Nonki Bommie - more suited to macro than wide angle. Our third site was called Amazing, which had many tunnels and swim throughs Libby would love this site. We also did a night dive at this site - my first night dive for a few years. Not as much fish life seen on the night dive as we normally see inside the Barrier Reef. After dinner we sailed for Bougainville Reef.

At Bougainville we dived three sites - Dungeons and Dragons, Western Front and Middle Earth finishing with a night dive back at Dungeons and Dragons. My favourite site was Western Front - a long wall dive with a relatively large flat sandy bench between the wall and the very steep drop off into the Pacific. Here we found our pelagic species (schools of barracuda), Potato Cod, Smooth Flutemouths with even a few sightings of turtles and cuttlefish and an abundance of smaller colourful fish.



On the night dive back at Dungeons and Dragons I managed to get a short video of a crayfish with my new GoPro. After dinner we sailed for Osprey Reef.

At Osprey our first dive was at a site called False Entrance where there were schools of bigeye trevally plus anemonefish colourful soft corals and fans. Our second dive site was North Horn for the shark feed - we were graced with around 30 - 40 sharks at this dive site who came up close to all and gave a great show.

On this dive we had a Danish lady who had

a fear of sharks but after the dive her fear changed to respect for them. After the shark feeding I was shown where a couple of Leaf Scorpionfish were - even though I had my wide angle lens on I did manage to get a couple of nice photos. Our third dive site was called Halfway before getting ready for the farewell party for those leaving us at Lizard Island the next day.





On Lizard Island four of us staying on Spoilport did a quick hike on the Island where we visited Watsons Bay before returning to the boat.

With the new divers on-board we headed for the Cod Hole where the friendly Potato Cod lived up to friendly nature. We then headed for Lighthouse Bommie where I did not find our placid large male turtle - must have gone on leave. At the bommie we did find octopus, sea snakes schools of snapper and many other colourful fish.

We moved overnight to our

next dive site at Goggle Gardens where we encountered Bumphead parrotfish. From there we moved to Pixie Pinnacle then onto Pixie Maze. At both sites we encountered a mild to medium current however both sites were good for macro photographers.



Our final site for the day was at Coral Kingdom where a couple of cuttlefish put on a great display of changing colours and shape - they hung around for a good half hour - one of the highlights of the trip.

The next day we dived at a site that I had never been to called Cracker Jack it really lived up to its name, as it was a cracker of a site - fantastic for both Wide angle and macro photography. We then did two dives at Steve's Bommie and finished at Flare Point where I spotted a large Wahoo it would be over 1.5 metres however it did not appreciate my being there as it changed colours / patterns and would not allow me to get close enough

for a photo. No night dive on the last night as we had our farewell party before sailing overnight back to Cairns.

All in all a great trip on a very comfortable boat with great staff.





Red Striped Shrimp Goby - *Stonogobiops yasha*

This was a special fish for Alex to get such a good image of, they are not that common.

Alex photographed this specimen in Bali and was found in around 26m a great addition to his ever increasing fish list.

THINGS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT NEED TO KNOW

The Nautilus Scuba Club 2017 Calendar
now available to order at the club meetings



Supporting the Nautilus Scuba Club



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PARTING SHOT



Berry's Bobtail Squid - *Euprymna berryi*