

January 2016



# Nautilus SCUBA Club

## Newsletter

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

E: [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

Editor: Phil Woodhead

Cover photo Aaron Smith

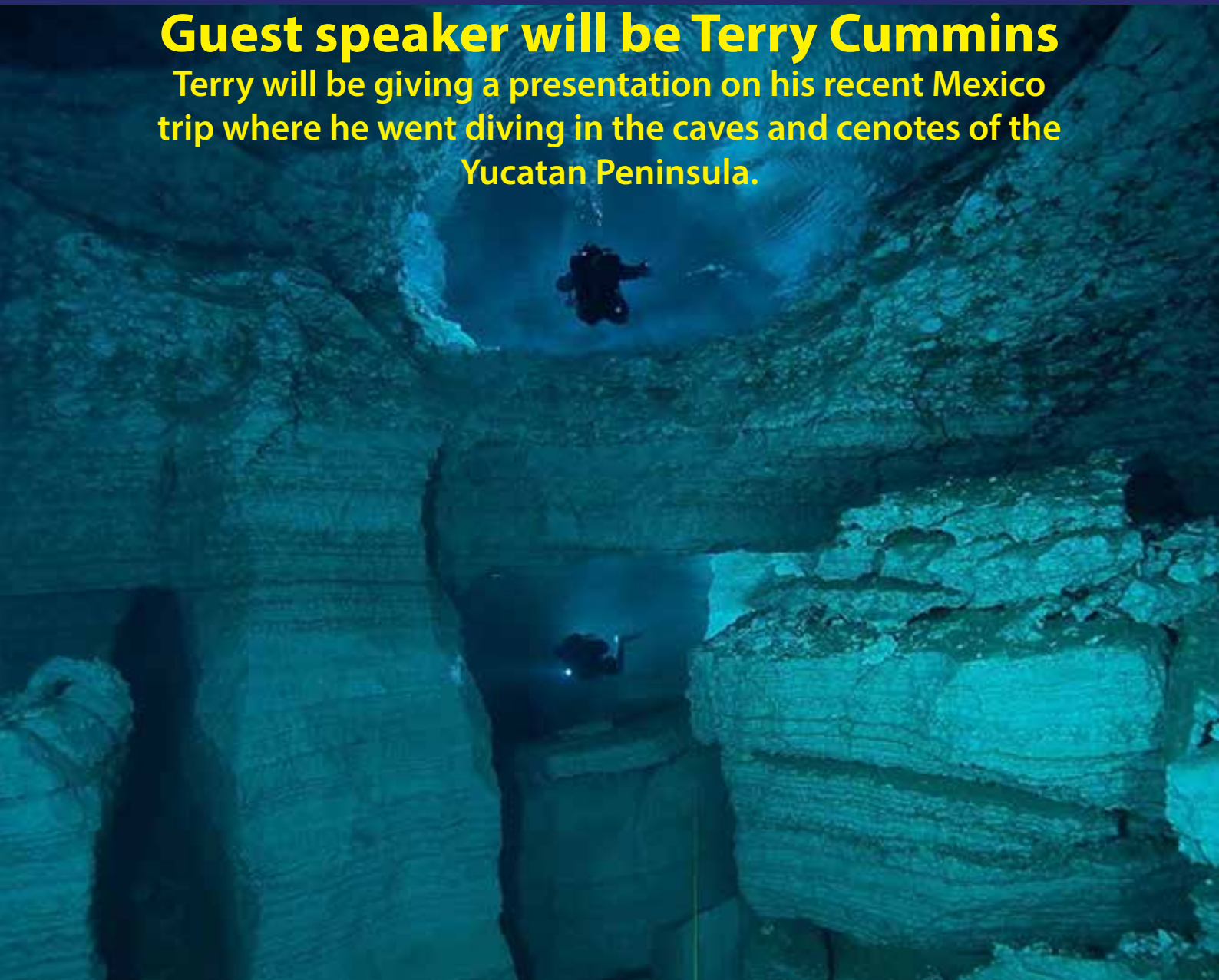


**January Club Meeting**  
**Wednesday 27th**  
**From 7pm...**  
**Junior Eisteddfod Hall**  
**67 Greenslopes Street**  
**Cairns**

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

**Guest speaker will be Terry Cummins**

Terry will be giving a presentation on his recent Mexico trip where he went diving in the caves and cenotes of the Yucatan Peninsula.







Order from the Nautilus Pop-up shop  
at the Club Meeting

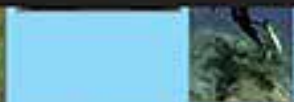
## The 2016 Nautilus Scuba Club Calendar is now available for pre - order

\$10 each or 5 for \$40

Featuring images from the entrants of the  
2015 underwater photo competition



### 2016 Calendar



Designed by Phil Woodhead



# Lake Eacham BBQ with optional diving

by Eden Grey-Spence

A beautiful sunny day was enjoyed by almost 30 Nautili and friends at Lake Eacham on Sunday 17th January, savouring the tasty delights prepared by Team McManus whilst engaging in a bit of social interaction and sipping on the odd cold beverage.



Bryan, Roxanne and the girls did a fantastic job cooking up scallops, pork belly, and various skewered meats, sausages and accompaniments, all nicely presented and individually plated up. The new Club BBQ got a good work out in a great catering event worthy of a TV cooking show.





About a dozen hardy folk, including the cooking team, went for a dive in the Lake and also participated in an underwater garden gnome hunt. Great fun was had by everyone and mercifully all the gnomes were recovered.

All in all a marvellous day!



## Feature Article - Trip to Lembeh

Club members Colin Tonazzi and Eden Gray-Spence went to North Sulawesi last September to dive for a week in the renowned macro diving spot, the Lembeh Straits.

### Travel:

They flew with the then just introduced direct SilkAir flights from Cairns to Singapore and then on to Manado. SilkAir is a budget subsidiary of Singapore Airlines and it is definitely a no frills airline! Also it was packed with fellow travellers and the seats were very firm, especially after 6.5 hours.

On the way over to Lembeh, there was a long time between flights as the flight from Cairns arrived in Singapore at 5:20 PM and the flight to Manado wasn't until 9:35AM the next day. So a night in a nice hotel (The Swissotel) was the answer. Unfortunately that day was one of the worst for air pollution in Singapore's history, caused by forest fires in neighbouring Indonesia. So no views from the high rise hotel windows! Next morning the flight left Singapore on time and arrived in Manado just after 1:00PM. A driver was waiting for the 3 hour drive across to the port of Bitung and then a quick boat ride to NAD-Lembeh Resort. The return trip was accomplished in one very long day!



### Accommodation:

The resort is 3 stars and caters almost exclusively for underwater photographers. The rooms are basic, but clean and roomy with ensuite bathroom and air-conditioned.

There is a row of ground level attached rooms along the waterfront close to the dining/reception area plus a number of stand-alone bungalows on the hillside with great views and steep stairs!

A waterside plunge pool was under construction at the time. The staff members were very friendly and the owners, Simon and Zee, along with Dive Manager Serge ate with the guests, which was a nice touch.

Colin and Eden were quite happy with their room which was closest to the reception area as well as the dining area and the bar fridge! Meals were very tasty and varied. The camera room was great with individual well lit work stations to set up cameras. Clean towels were provided.





### Diving:

NAD-Lembah provides a 2:1 guide to diver ratio which was fantastic and there were 3 dive boats which took 6 to 8 divers. The guides are allocated to each pair of divers for the duration. The boats were comfortable and the boat crew very competent. Hot and cold drinks were provided between dives along with snacks.

Dive routine was two dives before lunch and then an afternoon dive and a night dive.

This is a muck diving location so don't expect sweeping panoramas of colourful corals! It's sand and silt, but with an amazing array of fantastic creatures, lots of frogfish, shrimp, nudibranchs, octopus, pipefish and the like. Nothing big was seen, but lots of macro, so a close-up lens was essential.

### Verdict:

It was a good value for money trip and a number of creatures on the wish list were ticked off.





## Feature Article - Lady Bowen

In December several shift working Nautilus members who can never seem to make it to the weekend club dives met up for a midweek dive on the wreck of the Lady Bowen.

The dive was arranged through Mission Beach Dive and we met at their office on the beachfront, Mission Beach at 8:30am. After a quick ferry transfer on their vessel to Dunk Island, we boarded the Reef Goddess for the short trip out to the wreck.

The Reef Goddess normally takes groups of around 12 for dive trips but as Mission Beach Dive are trying to spread the word about their fantastic dive vessel the six of us had the whole boat to ourselves! Even with 12 divers it would be a very roomy dive deck.

We were met onboard by the Skipper Fozzi, (the crew Nigel and Kim had come across with us on the ferry) and fresh muffins and coffee. After a 45 minutes trip to the wreck we enjoyed two dives where we spotted numerous sea snakes, had a close encounter with a huge cow tail ray and spotted a couple more resting on the bottom. There was excellent fish life to be spotted wherever we looked.

During the surface interval we were served a fantastic BBQ lunch on board, cooked fresh while we were on our first dive.

We returned to the dive office by around 3pm for the drive back to Cairns. Thanks to Nance and the crew at Mission Beach Dive for a fantastic day on the Reef Goddess with a very friendly and knowledgeable crew. We are planning on returning for more diving, there is another wreck (the Black Pearl) to be dived and they have a wall dive on Taylor's reef which is reputed to be on par with the Cod Hole. I can highly recommend their dive operation for an enjoyable and personal day of diving. Check out their facebook page for more photos.

Thank you also to Karlie, Mel, Darren, Sarah and Jo for such a fun day!





## CLUB OVERSEAS TRIP FOR 2016



### Reef and muck diving in fabulous Milne Bay with MV Chertan/ Papua New Guinea



**Only 2 spaces left**

**\*Deluxe Cabin\***

**25% deposit secures**

**Please contact:**

**Overseas Trip Co-ordinator: Akiko**

**Nautilus Scuba Club - Cairns**

**[overseastrips@nautilus-scuba.net](mailto:overseastrips@nautilus-scuba.net)**



## Local dive trips and get together information

January 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

Australia Day

↑  
Club meeting

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

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



Calypso - Port Douglas  
Club day dive trip

We have reserved 12 spots on Calypso on Sunday 14th February to dive the Opal Reefs. Boarding 8:20am at Port Douglas Marina. To make your booking, contact Calypso on 4099 6999. Remember to tell them you are in Nautilus.

Calypso allow club members to dive unattended if experienced enough.

Spots will be held until 5 days prior to the date.

Once you booked, please let me know so I can keep track of who is going and help organise car pooling.

Remember your dive cert card and Nautilus Club Card.

Contact: Glen via:  
dive-coordinator@nautilus-scuba.net

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.



Tusa Dive  
Club day dive trip  
Contact: Glen via:  
dive-coordinator@nautilus-scuba.net



## THINGS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT NEED TO KNOW

- Thalassophobia -is an intense and persistent fear of the sea
- A Weddell seal can hold its breath underwater for seven hours
- Coconuts kill more people than sharks do. Approximately 150 people are killed each year by coconuts





## PARTING SHOT



Image by: Kevin Coombs  
Sharkdiving in Fiji