

Nautilus SCUBA Club Newsletter

Cairns QLD Australia http://www.nautilus-scuba.net E: editor@nautilus-scuba.net

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

June Club Meeting Wednesday 29th From 7pm... Cairns Colonial Club 18-26 Cannon Street, Manunda In the Jardin Room Hosting the Nautilus Scuba Club Underwater Photo Competition 2016

All entrants images displayed, judges placings announced, prizes awarded, and the all important members choice to be decided



Local dive trips and get together information

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

June 2016										
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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.



Nautilus Club Minke Trip with DSDD 4 DAY 4 NIGHT and Up to 16 Dives. Departing Friday 1st July Returns Tuesday 5th July

July 2016									
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Club meeting AGM

As an extra in August the club is organising a wreck diving weekend to the Yongala, with Yongala Dive, Ayr.

Accommodation is being reserved for the nights of Friday 5th, and Saturday 6th August. Diving is on the morning boat on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th August.

To pay and book contact Yongala Dive directly on 4783 1519, and tell them you are with the Nautilus booking.

Accommodation and diving places will be held for Nautilus members until 29th July. After that, if we have not filled it up, it will be opened up to the general public.

Check your members emails for prices and further details.



For our June Trip we have provisionally reserved 12 places on Tusa 6 on Sunday 10th. 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).



Deep Cavern Diver Course

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 Wednesday 28th Sept (pm) -Sun 2nd October

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 mini mum of 20 hours, including at least 2 night dives and 5 dives deeper that 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.

garinda@tpgi.com.au Ph: 03 5565 8793 Mb: 0408 052 070

Gainda Dive Instruction PO Box 15, Kooit 3282. Victoria

Trip Report from Club dive June 12th on-board T6 departing from Cairns



Trip Report from Andy Ratter who went to Anilao in May this year along with a few other Nauti members

Dive photographers.

Don't you just bloody hate 'em?

You know the type, those guys that turn up at the Nautilus Photo Comp every year with the most gorgeous pictures of all manner of exotic creatures you've never even laid eyes on. Where the hell do they find these things?

Well I've got bad news for you.

The secret's out, and this year at least nine of the most snap-happy Nautili have been over to Anilao, Phil's favourite critter-spot in the Philippines, to take a thousand-odd shots to make your blood boil.

Seven of us even had the cheek to go all at the same time, and this is our story...



Now first let me point out that Anilao is not for everybody...

There are no caves here (sorry Terry..)

There are no great wrecks...

There are no Minke Whales, Mola Molas or Mantas, in fact it's rare to find anything as big as a mackerel.

But if you're into the little stuff, as us photographers annoyingly tend to be, the place is 5-star. And Club Ocellaris, where we'd chosen to stay, is specifically set up to attract the very best of them.



It's a fairly simple basic set-up but one that seems to work, and has been there long enough to have gained an international reputation among researchers and photographers, who are happy with no frills agenda with one caveat; as much bottom-time as possible.

As a result days tend to be long and pretty non-stop from brekky at 7.30 to dinner at 9pm or so, leaving precious little time for beer o'clock before your head hits the pillow. It's a tiny little place only catering for fifteen or so, who tend to arrive and depart over the days in ones and twos carrying gargantuan amounts of gear.



Trip Report from Andy Ratter who went to Anilao continued......





It also reveals one more interesting thing.

You might not like dive photographers much, but the very best like each other even less.

Other than the seven happy Nautili who bucked the trend by getting along, the others were in a state of semi-constant war over whose camera was best, who'd got the best shots, where we should go diving tomorrow and who could generally be the biggest loudest international prat on any given day, which meant we were treated to not only excellent diving (though not always excellent divers) but also a fascinating psychological study into the nature of Type A personalities and their many and various foibles. I had to pity the one other lovely quiet American couple who appeared to be just about at their wits end after a two week stay.





Once under the water, though things were generally much calmer, with easy shore-based dives and critters everywhere, and for those who like their nudis, octopi and mantis shrimps, not to mention the odd pigmy seahorse or two, the days were never long enough.

By the end of the trip all seven nautili were not only expert spotters but ones with the etiquette to know how to politely queue, avoid kicking up sediment and above all not kick the bejeesus out of either the coral or their fellow diver's faces, something one or two other guests may take a little longer to learn...

I'm sure the results of their endeavours will soon be hitting a Facebook page near you, or failing that be up in A3 prints at the Cairns Colonial Club this June for one and all to judge...

Who knows, perhaps one or two shots might even be good enough for you to begrudgingly start to like some of us...



Other things from Anilao by Phil Woodhead



While on a night dive with Shey, out guide William pointed out this strange critter.

I showed the picture to Mike Miller (nudibranc enthusiat) who could not identify the critter concerned.

He sent my image to Dr. Terry Gosliner who identified it as Parchment worm, well part of one anyway.

Chaetopterus or the parchment worm or parchment tube worm is a genus of marine polychaete worm that lives in a tube it constructs in sediments or attaches to a rocky or coral reef substrate.[The common name arises from the parchment-like appearance of the tubes that house





these worms.Parchment tube worms are filter feeders and spend their adult lives in their tubes, unless the tube is damaged or destroyed. They are planktonic in their juvenile forms, as is typical for polychaete annelids. Species include the recently discovered deep water Chaetopterus pugaporcinus and the well-studied Chaetopterus variopedatus.



Dwarf Veletfish Acanthospex leurynnis (Jordan & Seale 1905)

This is another image from Anilao. I thought it was a juvenile Cockatoo Waspfish......turns out I was wrong.

Dr. Gerry Allen showed me the error of my ways, it is in fact a member of the Velvetfishes family which are closely related to Scorpionfishes. Veletfhishes have blunt, knob like projections on their head not small sharp spines. They also lack normal scales, these being replaced by microscopic brissles that give the skin the texture of fine sandpaper.

Coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef

Coral reefs around the world, including the Great Barrier Reef, are experiencing an unprecedented level of coral bleaching as a result of heat stress. The stress has been triggered by a combination of climate change, a strong El Niño and local weather conditions.

As a result, the Reef this year recorded its highest sea surface temperatures for February, March and April since records began in 1900.

Overall, the world's oceans have warmed by about one degree over the past century, with the warmest years occurring in the past two decades.

What is coral bleaching?

Corals live in a symbiotic relationship with microscopic algae called zooxanthellae. The zooxanthellae, which live within the coral tissue, convert sunlight into food, providing corals with up to 90 per cent of their energy needs. Zooxanthellae also give corals much of their colour. Unusually hot conditions cause the symbiotic relationship to break down, resulting in the corals expelling their zooxanthellae. This leaves the coral tissue mostly transparent, revealing the coral's bright white skeleton through the animal's tissue. Without their zooxanthellae, the corals are effectively starving.

What is the extent and severity of bleaching on the Reef?

Overall, there continues to be severe bleaching from the tip of Cape York down to some reef areas offshore of Townsville.

Preliminary findings from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Australian Institute of Marine Science show approximately three quarters of coral on the Reef has survived the bleaching event to date.

Based on results so far, the overall coral mortality on the Reef is 22 per cent — and about 85 per cent of that die-off has occurred between the tip of Cape York and just north of Lizard Island, 250 kilometres north of Cairns.

In the Port Douglas and Cairns regions, mortality rates vary greatly, from low levels through to medium and high levels.

In the Whitsundays, there is mainly minor bleaching, with minimal mortality.

The southern part of the Marine Park, below Mackay, is the least affected, with minor bleaching and nobleaching related mortality.



For regular updates on survey findings, please visit www.gbrmpa.gov.au

Are bleached corals dead?

Bleached white corals do not necessarily die. If the heat stress does not persist for too long, the corals can recover and regain their zooxanthellae. If the heat stress persists for a month or more, the stressed corals will eventually die and be covered with a light green film of algae.

Will coral reefs recover?

On the most resilient reefs bleached corals can regain their colour within a period of weeks to months, once water temperatures return to normal.

However, corals experiencing chronic poor water quality and/or other stressors may be impeded in their recovery.

Even if a coral regains its colour, this does not necessarily mean it is in good health. Bleaching can deplete the corals' energy resource to the extent that corals do not reproduce for one or two years. Its weakened state means the coral is also more vulnerable to disease.

How can citizen scientists help with surveys?

Since the beginning of summer, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has conducted more than 2500 in-water surveys of more than 180 reefs. These surveys have been complemented by coral bleaching sightings and surveys submitted by citizen scientists through the agency's Eye on the Reef program.

Anyone who visits the Marine Park can take part by using monitoring tools under the Eye on the Reef program.

The simplest is the Sightings App which allows any Marine Park user to report their sightings.

Volunteers, but more often professionals, also use rapid monitoring surveys or reef health and impact surveys for detailed assessments of reef health.

What can I do to help with reef recovery?

We all have a role to play in helping to improve the Reef's health by creating the right environmental conditions.

This will give the Reef its best possible chance of bouncing back from this serious occurrence of bleaching.

Marine Park users are encouraged to take actions to reduce other stressors on the ecosystem — for example, following zoning rules, preventing and reducing marine debris, and taking care to anchor away from corals. On a wider front, it also means taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Divers and other Reef visitors are also well-placed to promote, educate and actively participate in Reef protection, and are encouraged to contribute surveys or sightings through the Eye on the Reef program.

For more information on the program, visit http://www. gbrmpa.gov.au/managing-the-reef/how-the-reefsmanaged/eye-on-the-reef.



THINGS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT NEED TO KNOW

All your club committee members are unpaid volunteers including the elected official positions of, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The AGM is a chance for you to put your hand up and take part in running your dive club.

Sport Diving magazine ceased publication this month. The plan is upgrade the Divelog......

Your newsletter needs input from you, trip reports, photo's, articles of interest, just tell us about yourself.



Look familiar?

Supporting the Nautilus Scuba Club



PARTING SHOT



Coleman's Melibe

Melibe colemani Gosliner & Pola. 2012