



Nautilus SCUBA Club Newsletter

October/November 2016



Cairns QLD Australia
<http://www.nautilus-scuba.net>
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Dive Trips
Club Meetings
Guest Speakers
Trip Reports

Editor: Phil Woodhead

November Club Meeting Wednesday 11th From 7pm... Junior Eisteddfod Hall 67 Greenslopes Street, Cairns GUEST SPEAKER

Terry Cummins of the Cave Diving Association Australia [CDA] has managed to get world renowned cave divers Donald and Andre Shirley to Cairns to give a presentation about the Dragons Breath Caves near Namibia's Kalahari Desert. The CDA is a non profit organisation.

This is one of the best cave dives on the planet. First discovered in 1986 the original pioneers to peer into this hole, near Namibia's Kalahari Desert, felt a warm rush of humid air to their faces" thus the name: "Dragons Breath Cave. Although this presentation will absolutely blow the socks off any cave diver, all divers, non-divers and cavers alike will be captured by an adventure into the worlds largest underground non-sub-glacial lake



SPECIAL EVENT

SPECIAL EVENT

Local dive trips and get together information

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

Special event club meeting

November 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				



For our November club Trip we have provisionally reserved 12 places on Tusa 6 on Sunday 11th.

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

By popular demand in November the club is organising a wreck diving weekend to the Yongala, with Yongala Dive, Ayr. Accommodation is being reserved for the nights of 18d, and Saturday 19th November. Diving is on the morning of Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th November.

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

Check your members emails for prices and further details.



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.

Trip Report from Club dive on October 9th on-board Calypso Dive, Port Douglas

Copy: Tracey Hale
Images: Eden Gray-Spence

A group of 9 divers made their way up to Port Douglas for the Club dive on Calypso on October 9th. On board Calypso were Jim, Teresa, Mia, Trent, Asa, Paul, Steve, Eden and myself. The ride out to the Agincourt Ribbon Reefs was a little choppy but the sun was shining and the wind had dropped considerably since the previous day. The first dive was at Nobodies and the visibility was better than expected (about 15-20 metres). We saw fire dartfish, butterflyfish, moorish idols, batfish and lots of schooling fish like fusiliers and trevally. Back on board it was time for refreshments before the second dive on Old Stonehenge. There were titan triggerfish, chinese footballer cod, batfish and nudibranchs. Before too long it was time to ascend for lunch.

After lunch, our last dive of the day was on a site called Advanced. Some of the marine life spotted by the Club divers at this site included trumpetfish, a green sea turtle, humbugs, a translucent shrimp on a soft coral, a blue spotted ray and a black tip reef shark (nice one Paul!). There was also a clownfish bommie at this site which was an area covered in anemones and home to different varieties of clownfish.

The trip back to Port Douglas was a chance to catch up as a group to share our experiences over a cold beer or two. Overall we all agreed that it was a great day out underwater. Thanks to Clive from the Calypso crew who made our day more comfortable. Special shout out also to Mia (12 years) and Trent (11 years) who were the youngest divers onboard. Can't wait to get back out there!





A select bunch of intrepid explorers made it on list for annual pilgrimage to the Yongala and included Alison & Aaron, Fiona, Cathy & Terry, John, Andrew Mc, Michelle, Deb, Cathy M, Valerie, Akiko. The weather outlook was pretty good for the weekend with nothing over 12 knots predicted. How awesome was that!

As anyone who has travelled down the coast for this trip would be aware of the distance and time it takes to get there. As with any decent highway around AUS you can expect from time to time some roadworks to occur. And our national highway between us and the Yongala, well "She" is called the Bruce, and yes, it is a she, and she is most certainly a bitch. I say this because she is being gently nurtured and tendered to at almost every 20ks over the entire 435.9km. It just has to be female. Couple this with a severe accident outside Tully one might say we had a slow journey this time.

Any way we finally rolled into Townsville on the way through to see our mate Fiona's new pad, have some dinner and jump in convoy for the final hurdle to Ayr. Travelling to Ayr at this time of year is like travelling through a hyperspace vortex, at warp speed mach 11. There are two schools of thought go the wipers small and often or not at all. Just be prepared that your vision will be limited to white and green smudged insect guts all over the windscreen of the car. For this night-time leg I chose to let Fiona take the lead and get most of the space invaders, Ladies first, right? ...

Well with the weekend off to a slow start thanks to the Bruce, I had one goal and that was to be setup on the couch in Ayr for the start of the Cowboys semi-final match. I made it, just, but alas my weekend did not start well as the Cowboys were thrashed by the Sharks - fortunately this omen was not a sign of things to come for our intrepid club members.

It was slow going getting ready on Saturday as we waited for Akiko to wash and blow dry her hair and generally make herself respectable for the days diving activities. The usual briefings and gear setup and nitrox testing, wrong tides, someone forgot their band aids and every other saga meant we did not get out to the wreck till after 11am. This meant we arrived just after Adrenalin, not quite the fastest way to get wrecked as it suggests on the T-shirt. I blame it on 'The Bruce'. Things were to go much better on Sunday, getting there by 10am with our group being the only divers on the wreck.

In recent times there has been a new faction of the nautilus club form we call The LEGs (Lake Eacham Girls) (Cathy, Deb, Michelle, Valerie). With their cave courses and other specialty courses under their weight belts they splashed in at the Yongala for a salty change to their usual freshwater lake dives. For this trip they adopted honorary member Akiko as it was discovered that she could be used as a redundant air source (for there was not a side mount or twin set to be seen). I formulated a theory as to Akiko's excellent air consumption may just be attributed to the lack of chatting she is able to do underwater, just my theory. Oh that's right I'm meant to give a report on the diving.

Well what can I say the Yongala never fails to turn it on, with an absolute abundance of fishlife and of course my favourite the wreck itself. We had over 15m vis temp was around 25 surface was real pleasant especially for Yongala. I know I had two awesome dives, with people coming up saying they saw Lots of Maori Wrasse, GTs, Snakes, Red Emperor, stingray, a Turtle who stopped in at Princess Fiona's back scratching salon for a treatment. The LEG's saw Eagle Ray, Cow tail ray, Marble Ray, Tawny Nurse Shark (Val & John, Deb was too slow). Terry and Cathy saw a "huge" white tipped shark, and on hearing the description from Terry a \$1000 wager was made by the staff that it was a Silvertip. Apparently there have been a few seen hanging around recently.

One a side note I didn't notice much evidence of any coral bleaching, phew, the Great Barrier Reef hasn't died yet! The Wreck is however showing more signs of collapsing after the damage suffered from Cyclone Yasi, with the forward section buckling a little more everytime I see her. So if haven't yet dived her, go.

After we were back and everyone was showered and awaiting the bus for the usual RSL dinner the group was terrorised by the dulcet tones of Aaron singing and trying play guitar. Alison was noticeably absent (having a rest with earplugs in!). Akiko with hair washed and Emergency shoes deployed to ensure everyone got into the Razzle, where we enjoyed some enormous meals and Andrew kept us entertained with stories of his travels through Cape York.

We had too much fun on the previous day and so we had to do it all again on the Sunday. Speaking of Terrorists, Terry's computer was "terrorized" after the first dive on



Sunday (according to Cathy C) and did its best dolphin imitation, flashing up a sensor error. Luckily the LEGs had backups of backups and Val was able to lend a computer with the same dive profile. Concern was felt by some that this computer would also be "terrorised" luckily it survived the last dive unharmed.

John Hubbard was seen undertaking testing of his two computers with surprising results. Apparently his 20 plus year old computer must have assumed he was young, strong and in the Navy because it gave him 45 more minutes at depth than its modern counterpart. Alison and I on the way home along the Bruce theorised his new computer was so advanced it had WIFI/blue toothed in to his body and was able to factor his actual physiology into its calculations .

All agreed that the diving was fantastic and I say it was well worthwhile facing the Bruce.

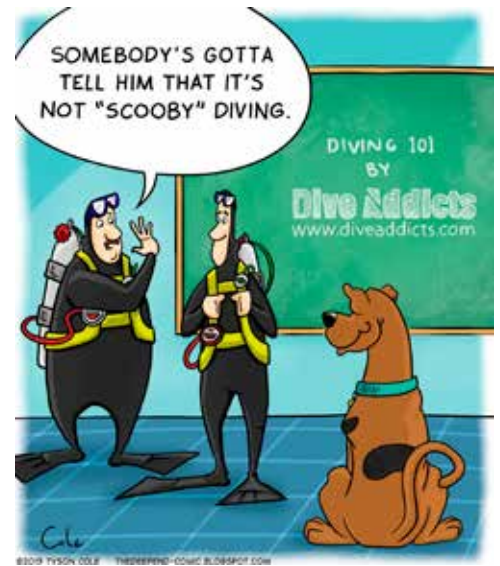
Cheers and Happy Bubbles

Aaron



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



LISSENUMG ISLAND RESORT
Kavieng • Papua New Guinea



DIGITAL DIVER
• take only pictures, leave only bubbles •



PARTING SHOT

Fish are my friends!

