

Nautilus SCUBA Club Newsletter

Cairns QLD Australia

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

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September 2016

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

September Club Meeting Wednesday 28th From 7pm... Junior Eisteddfod Hall 67 Greenslopes Street, Cairns GUEST SPEAKER

This month's guest speaker is Elaine Strachan.

Elaine is a NAUI instructor with extensive experience working in the diving industry for 30 years. She has worked on live aboard and land based operations in the Caribbean Sea and both the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Elaine's presentation on buoyancy skills and advanced photo buoyancy is one that she used to deliver as resident photographer on live aboards in the Caribbean.

If you have any interest in dive travel or diving in exotic locations, it is worth having a chat with Elaine while you are enjoying the delicious club BBQ as the list of places she has dived over the years is amazing.



Local dive trips and get together information

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

Social get together at the Iyara Thai Restaurant.....
see emails for details.

September 2016						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
		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 September 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).



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

Accommodation is being reserved for the nights of 23rd, and Saturday 24th September. Diving is on the morning of Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th September.

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.

Club meeting



October 2016						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
31					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



Calypso - Port Douglas
Club day dive trip

Contact:

dive-coordinator@nautilus-scuba.net

Club meeting

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 September 11th on-board Tusa T6 departing from Cairns

This was a predominately family day out. The McManus family of Roxanne with daughters Alana and Caitlin were there, minus Bryan (currently sidelined wearing a "moon boot"), post an energetic game of Squash!). New member Lauren brought her Mum and niece. (Sure hope you will join the club too, mother Monica.) New members Jim and Teresa were accompanied by their certified diving youngsters Trent and Mia. Malcolm and Lyn graced us again with their presence, and singles Judy, Victoria and Michelle dived as a threesome. Victoria has rejoined the club after almost a decade away south, so she and Judy did a spot of reminiscing of dive trips in years gone by.

Skipper Louise took us to Milln Reef for the day, and chose well sheltered locations, which made for comfortable entry and exit for diving. First two dives were at site Oasis, and the third dive at Three Sisters. Weather was glorious although the there and back was rough, with many a white paper bag filled by tourists. The need to sit down and hold on limited the opportunities to mix and socialise on the journey. Visibility was great at both sites and fish life prevalent, both large and small. The great range of species made even me wish I had a camera to capture the wide variety, just to have the evidence. This was a very pleasant day out, in good company. Thanks also to the professional Tusa crew, who always make sure the whole day runs smoothly.



Trip report from Fiji by Shey Goddard



I found myself back in Fiji for another friend's wedding in July this year. I didn't have a lot of time off to dive this visit but I knew I just had to take a couple of days to do the shark feeding dive again at Pacific Harbour. Last time I went to Fiji I spent a week diving up the top of Viti Levu (Main Island) around the beautiful coral reef area, but I only got one day of shark diving at Pacific Harbour with Beqa Adventure Divers. I had a really enjoyable experience and wanted to go back and dive with them again; but I also wanted to try out the other dive company around that area – Aqua-Trek – which I had been told was also good. I was only able to book one day diving with each company as they were fully booked out. I initially wasn't able to get a spot on the Aqua-Trek boat but I persisted and emailed them ever month until I eventually got told that someone had pulled out and that there was a free spot. HOOORAAAAYYY!

My first shark diving day was with Aqua-trek (the company I hadn't been with before). The boat was pretty standard - fairly small with lots of dive gear packed into to every crevice. Everyone got on board and we took off with an excited gleam in our eyes. I checked my camera a few times. I remember from last time there was so much action that you really didn't want to be playing around with your camera trying to sort problems out when the feed is happening. We pull up at the site and start getting our gear on, they gave a small briefing and we got in the water. The site was around 18m

deep with a large rock wall about 30-40cm high in long line/slight semi circle. You lay behind it and have your camera up on the wall. I noticed straight away was how many tawny nurse sharks there were. I was amazed as I had seen none on the other shark dive I had previously done. There were also lemon sharks and your standard grey reef and white tip sharks, as well as some Queensland grouper and bass. Oh and I almost forgot to mention – the bull sharks that everyone comes to see, there were about 20 of them circling around in the feeding mass of sharks and fish.

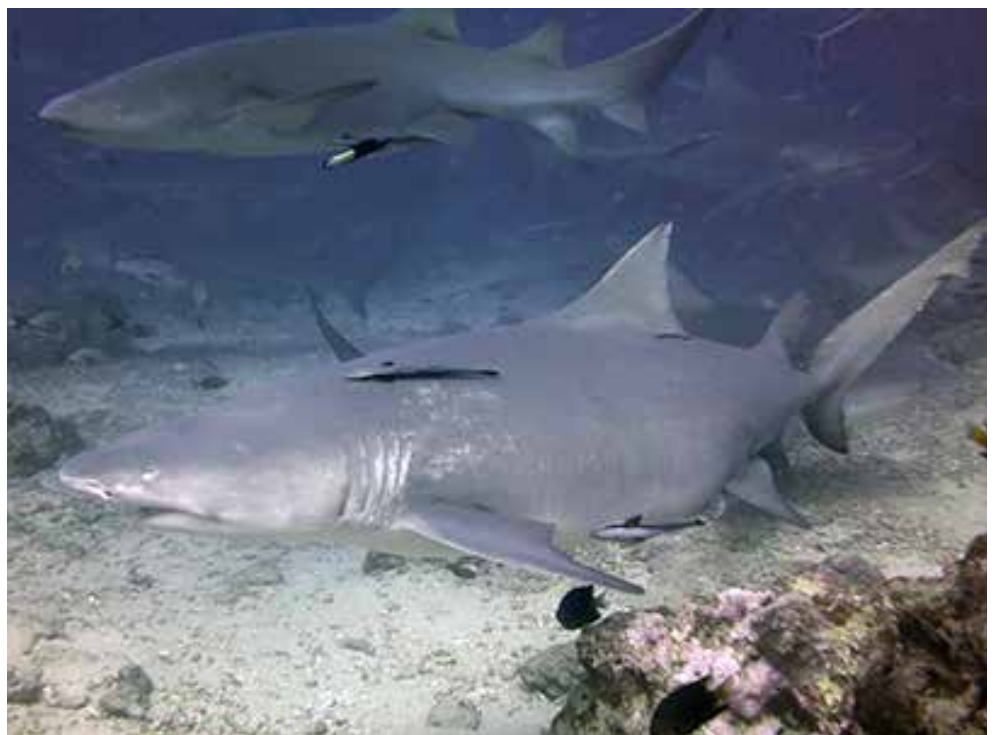
I got put in a bit of a weird spot in the far corner on the first dive and had a lady beside me with massive camera strobe arms stretched wide apart. So I really didn't get many decent pictures or a lot of action at the beginning. I wasn't stressed though because it was her first shark feeding dive so I just sat back, relaxed and tried to figure out how I was going to see more action even if I couldn't photograph it. I motioned to one of the bodyguards (divers with big shepherding sticks to keep the sharks in line) to see if he could bring the feeder down this way a bit so I could see some more action. He did just that and I got a closer look at some of the sharks. I still didn't really get any fantastic shots but at least I got to see more. After 30mins you start to work your way back up to the wreck that is behind you and have a look around until you come back up to the boat.

After the surface interval we got back in the water for round 2. Same spot, same depth. I quickly went down and put myself near the middle so I could get all the action..... shortly after I was motioned to move of to the other side; which is fine because they usually have an idea about what is happening and will try to put you in a good spot. Then I realised that they had moved the woman with the massive camera strobe arms beside me again.... in between me and the feeding. *hits forehead* Although it's not as bad as the other corner I got stuck in it was still a bit more challenging to try to get a shot without strobe arms in my picture – but what's diving without a challenge. Once again it was the same feeding mass of sharks and big fish. Loads of excitement regardless of whether I was getting any decent photos. There is something about diving with big sharks that really gets my adrenalin pumping. They are so powerful and graceful and mesmerizing. But it's time to leave the sharks once again and go back to the boat. BOOOOOOO! And that was the end of day one of diving with the sharks in Fiji.



all the sharks go back and forth chasing the bin and coming really close to where we were. So close that I actually got hit by at least 5 bull sharks. By hit I mean they came in right into my camera and then turned at the last minute and hit my camera with their bodies. I was holding on tight to my camera and just in absolute awe of their magnificence. I was surprised that the body guards were letting them get that close to me but I guess I didn't flinch or recoil at all when they came close so they just kept a close eye. After about 20mins they move everyone back to more shallow waters in the reef area to feed the reef sharks and then we head back up to the boat for our surface interval.

Day 2 – now I am with Beqa Adventure divers. The boat is much the same size however you have a little bit more storage for your personal items. We load all our gear and we are off! Yippee! Slightly different site to the last one – the first dive is at about 30m- same rock wall set up. This time I get a prime position on a slightly outward part. There are mostly bullsharks here like last time – about 30-40 of them – with a few reef sharks mixed in between. I noticed that they weren't actually feeding the sharks much on this dive; they were mostly dragging the feed bins back and forth across the top of the rock wall (about 5-10m above) which made



During the surface interval they usually tell you more about their conservation work and various studies that are being done around the area tracking bull shark movements etc. I guess this is another part that differentiates between the companies. Beqa A Divers usually give you a lot more information during their briefings and also more information during the surface interval. Before too long we were back in the water for dive 2. This time at a more shallow site – approx 16m. Once again we were surround by loads of bull sharks and reef sharks. It was a very enjoyable dive however for me the first dive overshadowed this dive by a country mile.

Overall I had 2 really enjoyable dive days and I would recommend both companies. I would suggest to anyone going to Fiji to try to get some shark feeding dives in, and if you can, make sure you go with numerous companies as each one will offer something slightly different. Although once again I didn't see the elusive tiger shark.... I still had a tremendous time and one day maybe I will see that tiger shark. I heard whispers that Beqa lagoon shark feeding dives see tigers more regularly so if I am ever back that way I will be trying that out as well as the other companies.



Feature Article meet a club member/underwater photographer

Text and images supplied by Aaron Smith

Profile Aaron Smith

For those whom may not be aware I met a smokin' hot chick in a bar in Caxton Street in Brisbane many moons ago now. Whilst our first encounter was certainly frustrating and fun in the first instance (both of us were plastered and certainly I couldn't remember too much about that fateful night). Both of us felt as though there might be something more and we should "Catch up" again. Well as it turns out in the end I decided to marry this particularly smoking hot Sheila, and she actually said "YES".

Let's backtrack to the dating years and I was destined to meet the parents in law, as we going for an all adventures holiday in Cairns where the Outlaws live. Well the Adventures were to include white water rafting, Daintree, Tinaroo and the Tablelands circuit, etc etc etc, and of course she would dive with the family. Not one for tagging along and going 'handheld' I decided I should learn before I met the Magistrates.



Bottom right is Aaron



Well this new world that I had discovered with my girlfriend was one of best adventures one could ask for. Soon enough we had a few courses done and dusted and we were hooked. We were diving all the time around SE QLD and going for visits to the great barrier reef/ribbons when one of the magistrates lent their old Nikonos iii and some lenses for one of our trips and my then girlfriend never looked back, underwater photographer for life. I couldn't come into this photography thingy I was still looking around everywhere swimming madly here and there pointing out things for her to shoot, I was having fun.

Feature Article meet a club member/underwater photographer continued.....

Text and images supplied by Aaron Smith

Then one day we were moseying around Llwellyn reef on board our favourite liveaboards Esperance Star and in my narked state of mind I had pre-arranged a sheet with the words "Alison I love you Will you marry me" and to my surprise she gurgled Yes! This was because were at about 15m at the time and I am certain that's how it sounded through her regulator.



After another few years of waiting around for that shot to be taken by my Buddy. I/we decided that in fact I might just slow down if in fact I tried this underwater photo thingy. I acquired a camera with this stunning new fandangled technology, called a digital camera, and soon I was seeing all the shots I was taking whilst still being underwater. How novel this was and I was starting to learn a little about how things worked and was not throwing as much money in the bin than the film camera was.



I started with this Olympus 5060, then slowly added all the strobes and wet lenses, which was a very versatile setup. I have progressed since then into the DSLR world where now I use my trusty D7100 in Nauticam housing and strobes etc. Alison and I are now spending every bit of spare time and money keeping ourselves underwater and 95% of the time with camera in hand waiting for the next cracking shot. For me I just love being underwater and enjoying the inhabitants going about their daily business.

THINGS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT NEED TO KNOW

The Nautilus Scuba Club 2017 Calendar
will be available to view at the September club meeting



"I understand taking your time when it comes to buying scuba gear, but he's been standing there for over 6 hours."

Supporting the Nautilus Scuba Club



LISSENUNG ISLAND RESORT
Kavieng • Papua New Guinea



DIGITAL DIVER
• take only pictures, leave only bubbles •



CALYPSO
snorkel and dive



TUSAT6
Dive

PRO DIVE
CAIRNS



PARTING SHOT

Mimicry



Dendrodoris nigra



Hancock's Flatworm



Pinnate Spadefish Juvenile