



Nautilus SCUBA Club Newsletter

March 2016

Dive Trips • Club Meetings • Guest Speakers • Trip Reports

Cairns QLD Australia

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

E: secretary@nautilus-scuba.net

**March Club Meeting
Wednesday 30th
From 7pm...
Junior Eisteddfod Hall
67 Greenslopes Street
Cairns**

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

This months guest speakers will
be your very own club members
regaling us with tails and images
from their recent club trip to
Palau



Images of Palau courtesy of Roger Steene



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



CLUB OVERSEAS TRIP FOR 2026



To get your name on the standby list contact our Overseas Trip
Co-ordinator: overseastrips@nautilus-scuba.net

Local dive trips and get together information

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



See further on for an article about the March Club dive.



For our March 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 Glen know so he can keep track of who is going. (glen2two@yahoo.com) NB Tusa allows unguided diving, and they also have Nitrox tanks on board (subject to availability).

April 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	

Club meeting

Photoshop editing workshop details to be emailed out



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

Accommodation is being reserved for the nights of Friday 15th, and Saturday 16th April. Diving is on the morning boat on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th April.

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 15th March. 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.

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.

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

Minke Whale Trip in July 2016

With the help of our good friends at Deep Sea Divers Den(DSDD), we have organized a Minke whale trip this July to replace the Taka trip which was cancelled.

John Brown at DSDD will be contacting everyone who was going on the Taka trip to ask if they still want to go on the new trip(details below, but very similar in dates and price to the Taka trip). If this applies to you, and you haven't heard from

him, give him a call.

The remaining spots are open to any club members.

To book, or if you have any questions, PLEASE CONTACT JOHN BROWN AT DSDD DIRECTLY on 07 4046 7333 and tell him you are a Nautilus Club member. Details below. If the club haven't filled the boat 45 days prior to departure, it will be opened up to the general public.

Nautilus Club Minke Trip 4 DAY 4 NIGHT and Up to 16 Dives.

**Departing Friday 1st July
Returns Tuesday 5th July**

- Max 36 pax and ONLY Doubles and Twin cabins available
- Transfer vessel limited to 60 pax (normally 80)
- Payment due 45 days prior to departure. If trip is not filled by this time we would open it to other customers at normal rates.

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

Itinerary

Day 1 (Friday)

You're journey starts here! Check-in at DSDD shop 319 Draper Street at 08:00 to board transfer vessel ReefQuest. We make our way to the Outer Barrier Reef where we will enjoy two dives on Norman Reef, before transferring to OceanQuest at approximately 14:30 and steaming overnight to the Ribbon Reefs.

Day 2 (Saturday)

Wake up to the sun rising over the Great Barrier Reef. We will enjoy four dives at various sites on the upper Ribbon Reefs, including the world famous Cod Hole. The Cod Hole is home to a family of large Potato Cod. Be surrounded by these intriguing and friendly creatures as you immerse yourself in their underwater habitat for a truly unforgettable experience. Four dives are included in today's itinerary, including one night dive.

Day 3 (Sunday)

We kick the weekend off with more diving and snorkeling opportunities throughout the Ribbon Reefs. Today you will have the opportunity to explore some of the most untouched areas of the Great Barrier Reef. We will also take part in an exploration dive. Four dives are included in today's itinerary, including another night dive, when the reef will transform itself into a completely different setting with all new nocturnal marine life just waiting to meet you. This pristine and unique reef system, is an underwater playground teeming with marine life, a real natural wonder for you to explore and enjoy!

Day 4 (Monday)

Explore more of the Great Barrier Reef at various dive sites along the Ribbon Reefs over four incredible dives, including a dive at Steve's Bommie, one of the most pristine dive sites that the Ribbon Reefs have to offer.. The reef locations that we visit are home to many tropical fish species and offer magnificent viewing of bright mesmerising coral less frequented by any other boats. On completion of our final night dive we will steam south towards Cairns.

Day 5 (Tuesday)

Wake up to your last morning on OceanQuest. After breakfast, you will be transferred back to your Cairns city accommodation at approximately 07:30. Please note, itinerary may vary slightly depending on weather conditions. During Minke Whale season, the dive schedule may be altered to enable as much in-water interaction with the whales as possible.

This is filling up fast - don't miss out!



SOCIAL GET TOGETHER

AHOY Members!

Our next Social extravaganza is going to be held at Ellis Beach bar & Grill on Friday April 15th at 7.15pm.

Many people have had breakfast and lunch at Ellis but have you had their fantastic American BBQ for Dinner? Think slow cooked meats (lamb, pulled pork, beef brisket) and a delightful range of side dishes and sauces.

Event details:

Where: Ellis Beach bar & Grill (at Ellis beach - located 20km north of Cairns on the Captain Cook Highway between Cairns and Port Douglas)

www.ellisbeachbarandgrill.com.au

When: Friday April 15th 7.15pm

How much: Total Cost is \$50 (club members only pay \$25)

How do I sign up for this delicious feed: Pay your \$25 in the nautilus bank account with your **NAME** and **ELLIS** in the reference, then email Shey.goddard@gmail.com and treasurer@nautilus-scuba.net.

Shey will finalise the menu and get it sent out to you all ASAP.



NAUTILUS SCUBA CLUB UNDERWATER PHOTO COMPETITION 2016

Time to start sorting your images getting some new ones.

As with previous years the photo competition is open to all Nautilus members and entries will close on 31st May 2016, judging of all images will be by independent non club members who have more than a passing interest in underwater photography.

Results will be announced, all images displayed and the all important club members choice will take place on Wednesday 29th June at the Cairns Colonial Club, (further details to follow).

Categories will be: Macro, Portrait and Wide Angle

These categories will be divided into two groups:

Compact Cameras, (these types of cameras do not have interchangeable lenses but do have external wet lenses available from various housing companies which further enhance their wide angle and macro capabilities).

DSLR and Four thirds digital cameras: (these types of cameras have interchangeable lenses).

Entrants can enter 3 images per category, (so a total of 9 images per entrant), and only enter one or the other category. The cost of entry for one or nine images is \$20.00.

The above is just the bare bones to remind the underwater photographers out there to start getting serious about sorting images from the last two years.

The rules, (of course there are rules!) ,along with the entry form will be coming out at the end of April 2016.

Trip Report from Club dive February 14th on-board Calypso Dive Charters departing from Port Douglas

By Jannemieke

Diving with the Calypso dive boat from Port Douglas always draws a lot of members.

In total we were with about 19- 20 members. Eden, Judith, Deb, Michelle, Cathy and Terry, Claire and Mick, Annette and Chris, Malcolm and Lyn, Andrew, Sally, Dave, Paul and Sherryl, and Rigo and me.

I have the feeling that I forgot someone, but I can't remember anymore. Valery? Ok, I should have written the report directly after the dive. I know. But hey, it was just one of those perfect days, where you totally immerse yourself (in this instance literally) and forget everything.

The sea was flat, 28-29C. We went to Argincourt Reef, dived Phila's Backside, Stonehenge and Advanced. None of the dives had much current.

Michelle saw cuttlefish and sharks. She is always the lucky one. Visibility was

They stayed cheerful throughout and everything went smooth without any drama's.

They complimented us with our efficient self organisation. They had found us easy to have on board, and said "we don't have to worry about you, just lovely", which was good to hear.

We all had a relaxed and lovely day,



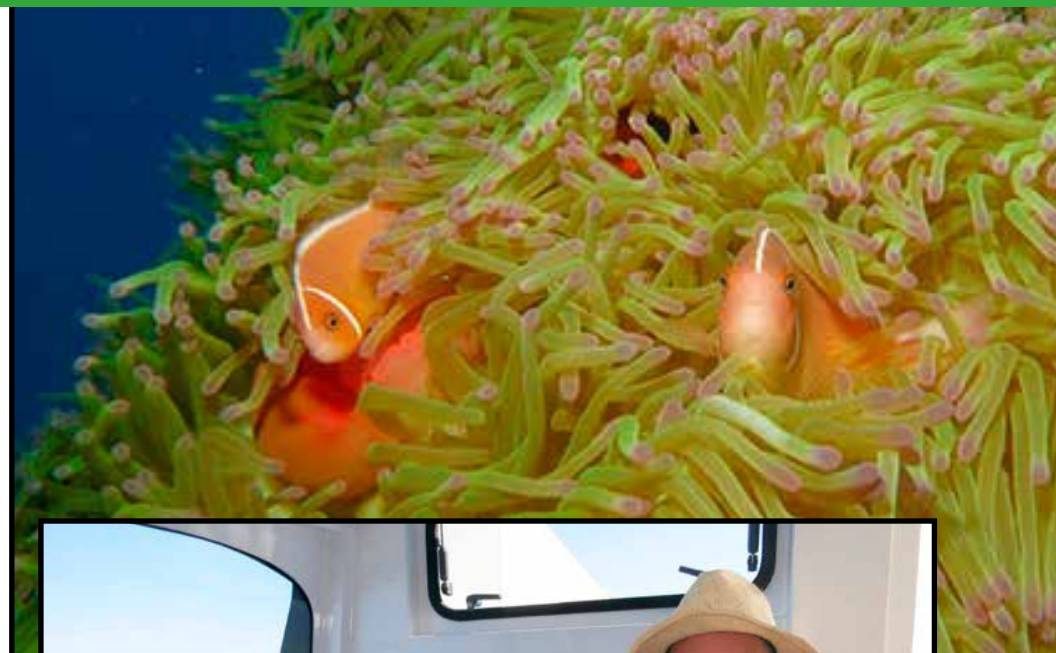
Malcolm, Chris and Terry goofing around and entertaining the others.

And it was a big day for Judy as it was her 600th dive!! A nice round number. Congratulations Judy!



reasonable at the first and last site, about 15 -20 meters.

There were about 15 other (novice) divers apart from our group, which meant that the staff had a tough and busy day.



Deep Cavern Diver Course

Following a successful CDAA course which the ladies really enjoyed, Linda (Instructor), will be back to finish some training and possibly run another program depending on demand

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 TBC (7-11 April)

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 minimum of 20 hours, including at least 2 night dives and 5 dives deeper than 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 or Steve Bates (0416 068228 / steve@bates.net) locally.

Garinda Dive Instruction

PO Box 15
Koroit 3282
Victoria

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

Trip Report from Club dive March 13th on-board TUSA T6 departing from Cairns

By Andy Ratter

Mostly fine, chance of a shower, possible storms later.

It's what you say when you don't have a clue, covering all your bases. And as most Cairns residents know, it's one of only about 3 basic options the weather guys seem to randomly rotate. Belying the existence of satellites or advanced computer mapping, our forecasters still seem to rely on the examination of goats' entrails as their principal source. Personally I suspect it's just two very stoned guys locked in a room somewhere playing Rock, Paper, Scissors.

And it seems at least ten other brave Nautili agree with me, lining up bright and breezy on A-finger come Sunday morning keen to board Tusa6 despite the risk of a soaking. A similarly vague forecast the day before had already left me with mild sunburn and I berated myself for not yet purchasing a fine new Nautilus beanie to cover all eventualities.



Luckily we were soon aboard and sipping a nice coffee while filling in our paperwork. As well as Debbie and me, our little posse included Eden, Alex, Cath and Terry Cummins, Sally, Stuart, Chris and Annette, and we enjoyed a sunny and calm-ish crossing, the heavens finally opening just as we arrived at Caves on Hastings Reef, proof that even idiots can get it right sometimes. Provided, that is, that your name is not Donald J Trump.



As we all eagerly suited up ready for our first plunge, Terry calmly announced that he wasn't even going to bother with a camera on this first dive. Conditions weren't looking good, so he'd simply use it as a recce, suss out where all the good stuff was and snap em on the next dive second time round.

Wise man, I thought. The voice of experience.

I would have done the same, but for the persistent high-pitched gremlin at the back of my skull screaming 'No, you can't, you idiot! What if a manta swims by with a couple of mermaids on its back doing the Macarena? You'd be kicking yourself...!' So I was pleased to see Terry frantically finning back to the duckboard for his camera a few minutes later. "Much better than I thought," he pronounced. "Might be worth both dives after all."

And you know what, he was right. Despite a couple of iffy days and some heavy rainfall, the viz was surprisingly good.

Someone else had a camera with them today too. After years of dutifully following me round kicking her heels as I snapped away, Debbie had finally decided to join the swollen ranks of the Nautilus photographers, arming herself with a new housing. What worried me was that the camera inside was actually one of mine, so any accidental flooding was going to be bad news for both of us. Thankfully, on this first attempt all was well, and she took to it like a duck to water.



Trip Report from Club dive March 13th on-board TUSA T6 departing from Cairns



In summary a fine day was had by all, especially the underwater camera retailers of Cairns as several new rigs hit the water for the first time. Alex particularly excelled by sporting an already waterproof camera inside an underwater housing, an admirable belt and braces technique you can't really argue with. Perhaps come winter I'll upstage him by turning up with a wetsuit underneath my drysuit, and perhaps some sort of nappy for good measure too... Safety first, after all...

Still, his bullet-proof combo did turn up a damn fine octopus shot, while Terry scoped out a nice couple of pipe-fish and Eden even bagged a Mantis Shrimp (he must surely have

used up a good few of his special ex-President's Reef Privilege Points there). For my part, though, despite two hours plus staring forlornly down the viewfinder, I spotted no sign of Mantas or musical merfolk... better luck next time, perhaps.

Big Thanks to the excellent crew of Tusa6 for another great day out. Catch you all next time!



Diving the wreck of the SS.Yongala

By Phil Woodhead

You know it occurred to me that the Nautilus Scuba Club has many new members who may have heard some of us rave about diving the wreck of the Yongala but have no idea why.

Firstly, let's get a bit of history out of the way.



The SS Yongala hailed from the yard of Sir W.G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co. Ltd. at Newcastle-on-Tyne and was built in the style of late orient steamers, she was 3664 gross/1957 net tonnage, length 363 feet, breadth 46 feet 3 inches and a depth 30 feet. She was lost in March 1911 in Bowling Green Bay due to a cyclone and all 121 people on-board perished.

The wreck of the Yongala has been underwater for more than a hundred years and although still obviously the wreck of a ship I would not call it a wreck dive per-Se. So why would you dive it?

The Yongala sits in just about 30m of water in the middle of nowhere surrounded by sand and is a magnet

for marine life of shapes, varieties and sizes.



As well the usual schools of Snappers, Nanagi, Batfish, Baracuda, Sweetlip and Trevally there are Queensland Groupers, Gold Spot Grouper, Coral Trout, Morays, Marbled Stingrays, Eagle Rays the occasional Manta Ray and Whale Shark, resident Bull Sharks, also Turtles and Sea Snakes. You never know what might turn up!

The wreck of the SS Yongala is a declared grave site and a no-go fishing zone regularly visited by divers who look but don't touch, which means that the marine life just ignores you and gets on doing what they do, so they and you get close, sometimes real close.



Above: the wreck of the Yongala

Right top: Marble Ray

Middle: Eagle rays

Bottom: Humpback Whale



Diving the wreck of the SS.Yongala

Okay some much for the sizzle.

There are a few things the diver who is visiting the wreck of the SS. Yongala for the first time should be aware of, (not least of which is the four or five hour drive depending on which operator you are diving with).

As mentioned previously the Yongala is in the middle of nowhere, a big sandy bay which means that you will encounter current on the surface and underwater.

These currents can range from just enough to keep the fish life hanging in one place to making the dive interesting to say the least.

Doesn't matter who you dive the wreck with all operators attach a line from their vessel to the wreck. The first part of this line is on the surface from dive vessel to surface buoy, the next part from the surface buoy to a submerged buoy then onto the wreck.

All the operators will stress that you hold and follow these lines, easy, I hear you say.

I have dived this wreck numerous times in nil current, flat calm conditions and the latter with a current that you cannot swim against, sometimes with surface chop as well, followed the operators advice and held onto the line, all the down and

all the way back, (when coming up).

The divers I have seen get into difficulties have not followed good advice. This has normally stemmed from not being ready when they fell off the dive vessel into the water (mask must be on, regulator in mouth, air turned on, fins on feet... you get the picture) and not holding the rope provided.

If like me you have a camera then make sure you can attach it securely to yourself and leave your hands free, much easier to pull yourself along a rope with both hands helped along with your fins, than one handed kicking like hell in between a single hand hold as you try and pull yourself along.

The other thing I have noticed is that divers use their snorkels, (as they were taught to). If the surface conditions are not great then I would suggest that it's far better to breathe from your reg, keep your face in the water, and just go along the rope at an easy pace, the 10 bar that is sacrificed to doing this is much better than the stress of spitting out mouth fulls of saltwater through a snorkel then trying to change to a reg while holding a rope in a choppy sea. Time for a picture, or I might lose my audience!



The other major consideration for a first time Yongala diver is air. This can catch even the best of divers out. We (the divers) are used to diving on reefs where there is the opportunity to head into shallow water and still have plenty to see and make our air last longer.



The top of the Yongala is 14 metres which is still a good depth to be at the end of a dive, especially if you happen to be swimming along the top of the wreck into a light current, which you didn't notice going the other way.

A normal air reserve does not last as long as you think it should at 14 metres, especially when you must get back to the rope which hopefully you followed down.

The other thing that can contribute to air gauge amnesia is that there is just so much to see!

There will always be a cylinder and regs hung on the ascent line, if you are a bit low on air don't be afraid to

Diving the wreck of the SS.Yongala

use it to complete your safety stops and save some air for the trip back along the surface rope to the dive vessel.

Getting back on the dive vessel, my advice, keep your mask on and your reg in your mouth until you are stood on the deck, doing so ensures that should you fall/get knocked off the ladder you will be able to breath and see. Hopefully this will not be a clear view of the diver behind you who did not wait until the ladder was clear.



To sum up, make sure you are fully prepared before you throw yourself off the dive boat and into the water. Hold the rope provided all the way to the wreck, and when you come up all the way back to the dive vessel. If the surface conditions are choppy breath from your regulator not your snorkel. Keep an eye on your air. Air reserves are a personal thing only you will know how much you should have left in the tank for a half way return point. Keep your mask on and your reg in until you are stood on the deck of the diving vessel.

All this said, if you haven't dived the wreck of the Yongala, why not? It is one of the ten top rated dive sites in the world and it is on our doorstep, (relatively speaking).

THINGS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT NEED TO KNOW

An Octopus has three hearts and the colour of its blood is blue.

Turtles live on every continent except Antarctica.

At 188 decibels, the calls of Blue Whales is loudest sound made by any animal on the planet

Members should watch their emails for special offers made only available to Nautilus Club Members from the TUSA shop, Mike Ball Dive Expeditions and other dive businesses that support our club.



PARTING SHOT



Image by: Phil Woodhead
Lemon Coral Goby