



# Nautilus SCUBA Club Newsletter

Cairns QLD Australia

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

April 2017

Editor: Phil Woodhead

## Local dive trips and get together information

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

April 2017						
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 April Trip we have provisionally reserved 12 places on Tusa 6 on Sunday 9th.

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](mailto:markearney54@gmail.com) NB Tusa allows unguided diving, and they also have Nitrox tanks on board (subject to availability).

Club meeting

Photoshop/Lightroom workshop

May 2017						
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				



Calypso - Port Douglas

Club day dive trip

Contact:

[dive-coordinator@nautilus-scuba.net](mailto:dive-coordinator@nautilus-scuba.net)

Club meeting

Midnight deadline for Photo comp entries



[www.cairnsgr.info](http://www.cairnsgr.info)

Club charter to  
Holmes Reef in the  
Coral Sea

[dive-coordinator@nautilus-scuba.net](mailto: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.



# April Guest Speaker

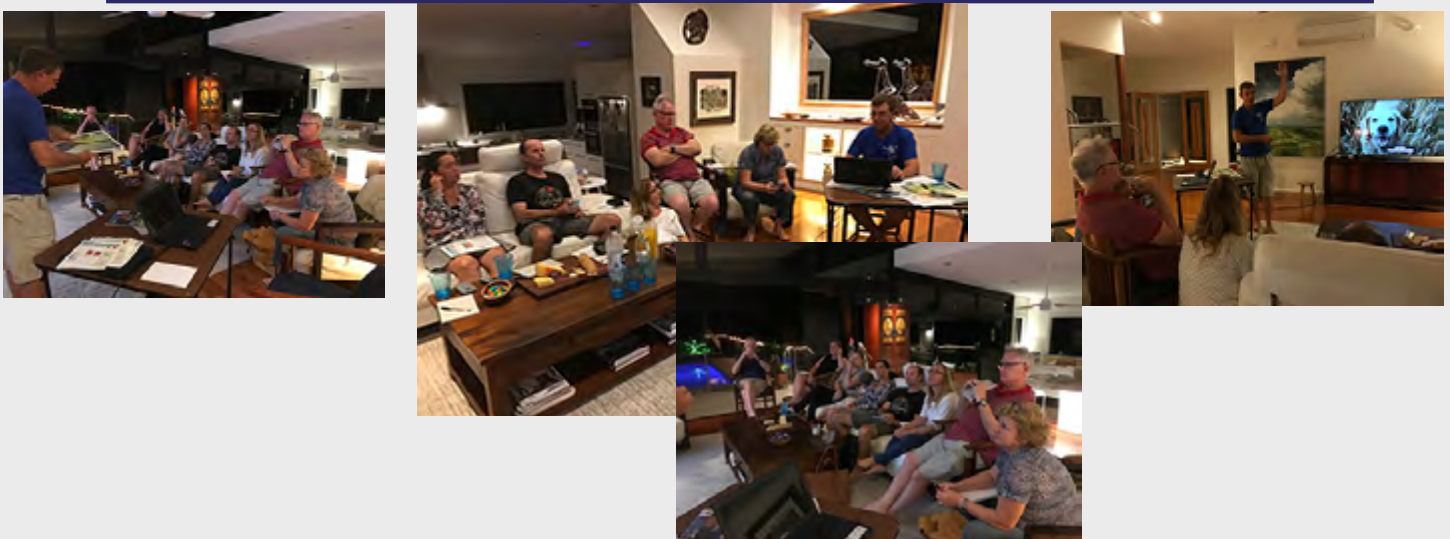
Ever wondered what it's like to be skipper/dive supervisor on a live aboard dive boat? Interested in hearing more about one of the world's premiere dive locations? Considering participating in the club trip to the Solomon Islands or already booked on the trip? If you answered yes to any of these, then this month's presentation (Wednesday 26th April) is for you. Klaus Aleschewski is the skipper of Taka, the Solomon Islands Dive Expeditions vessel that the club has chartered for a live aboard dive expedition in November. If you're interested in hearing about what would for many be a dream job, skippering a live aboard dive vessel, having the opportunity to dive some of the world's best dive sites and explore areas perhaps never dived before, be sure to come along to Wednesday's meeting. Klaus has created a couple of excellent videos that he will be showing and will also be very happy to answer any questions people may have about the forthcoming trip or life as skipper of a live aboard dive vessel.

**I think we may also have some feedback from the just returned club trip to Chuuk Lagoon**

### Nautilus Club social dinner at Odyssey Greek Restaurant



### Nautilus Club Photoshop/Bridge/Lightroom workshop





# The other un-official clubTrip on board TUSA

By Phil Woodhead

Easter Sunday saw me making my way aboard Tusa T6 where I met up with Colin, Eden and Tracey. The wind was blowing a steady 25 knots so the journey out to the reef was going to be a bit bumpy!

The boat pulled up at Hastings Reef and we were allowed to go unguided. Did I mention that the boat was full, having not been



out on a day trip for quite a while it was a bit of a shock to the system, (mine not theirs). It's a well choreographed operation catering to snorkelers, intro divers, certified divers and people recovering from seasickness.

Two sites, 3 dives, lunch and everything in between.

Couple of good things about the not quite howling South Easterly and the frequent rain showers is that the sea temperature has dropped

to 28 (or 27)

deg Centigrade depending on who's computer you are looking at.

There was lots of evidence of coral bleaching even down at 18 meters, fingers crossed that it can make some sort of comeback, according to the dive guides it was even worse in the shallows.

Visibility was around 8 meters (at best) and pretty stirred up.

Still it was good to get wet and the company was good.





# JOURNEY OF A RELUCTANT UW PHOTOGRAPHER.

By: Libby Sterling

Phil has asked me a couple of times now to write something for the newsletter, so I am combining all his requests into one.

I've been diving a long time, I obviously started when I was very young (that's my story and I'm sticking to it). So back in the day (living in Ulladulla, working as a DM / Instructor) I would do just about anything 'not to get stuck' guiding or diving with underwater photographers, (wash the boat, all the dive gear, fill tanks, and scrub the bottom of the boat). I could never understand why they would spend what seemed like hours, lining up every single shot. Of course "back in the day" they only had 24 – 36 shots on a dive and wouldn't know what they had until they got their slides back a week or two later.



So fast forward maybe twenty years (11 of which I lived and dived in Darwin Harbour – awesome diving but all low viz and not much good for photography) and I'm living in Coffs Harbour (fabulous diving, mixing zone of tropical and temperate species) although water is just a bit chilly. Anyway I buy my first UW camera (can't even remember what brand it was!). I didn't have a strobe or red filter and didn't know about Adobe Lightroom. So you can imagine what the quality of the photos was like! Let's face it, they were terrible.

I moved to Cairns about 10 years ago, got back into fun diving and dragged the camera out of mothballs and had another half-hearted attempt. Photos still terrible! Heard about the Nautilus Club, joined and was inspired by the amazing photography I was seeing.

After being attacked by a very aggressive Titan Trigger Fish (took a chunk out of the housing and scrapped its very large teeth down the front). I gave the camera away and purchased a Canon IXUS 110 compact camera with Ikelite housing.

Anyway, I loved the IXUS, it was very small, easy to use and I could 'swim all over the ocean' happily snapping away. I didn't put much effort into lining up my shots, the most I did was the rule of thirds

and change to macro setting for the nudibranch shots. I was happy, the photos were pretty average but that was ok.

I went to a club night where Phil introduced us to Adobe Photo-shop. I had Photoshop by then but no clue as to how to use it. I was inspired! I even put some photos into the photo competition and OMG won something (a second I think).



Now I am hooked, there is no other way to describe it. I sign up for a photography course with Stuart Ireland. I still have the IXUS so can't change any settings and still don't understand the whole aperture and f-stop (despite Stu's fabulous course and patience) but I learn to use Lightroom and my world changes. Hours and hours go by at the computer. Photos start to improve.



# JOURNEY OF A RELUCTANT UW PHOTOGRAPHER.

Next I upgrade to a Canon S100 so I can change the settings, shoot in RAW and I sign up for an UW photo course with Stuart. Loved the course, hated changing the settings all the time (by the time I worked out what settings I should be on, whatever it was I was trying to capture was long gone and probably had babies!). So I went back to the trusty program setting that worked it all out for me. Yes I am still swimming all over the ocean taking as many photos as possible, dragging whoever the unlucky person (buddied with me) all over the ocean as well. By now, I've met a few locals and become part of the Tusa family so have some great people to dive with.

I continue to enter in the Nautilus photo completions and have been very lucky to get some 2<sup>nd</sup> places, highly commended and one elusive 1<sup>st</sup> place. I'm amazed at the ever improving quality of the photos every year! My photography obsession (and yes it is an obsession by now), continues to grow, as does the amount of photography equipment I am beginning to accumulate. By now though, I start diving 'solo' (using my commercial ticket initially until completing the recreational version and getting a pony bottle to make it official).

I'm starting to look at other people's photos and wondering what else I can do to improve mine, because they still aren't that great. So you guessed it, time to buy a new camera.



Late last year I upgrade to the Canon G7X mk II, and wow, I love this camera. I wanted to stay with a compact camera so I can swap between macro and wide angle. I know the quality of the SLR is better and one day I might convert but for now I'm sticking with compact. The G7X mk II is great, really only one downside and that is waiting for the camera strobe to re-charge (doesn't have a hot shoe). I've graduated to 2 strobes now and, a larger camera bag to lug it all around.

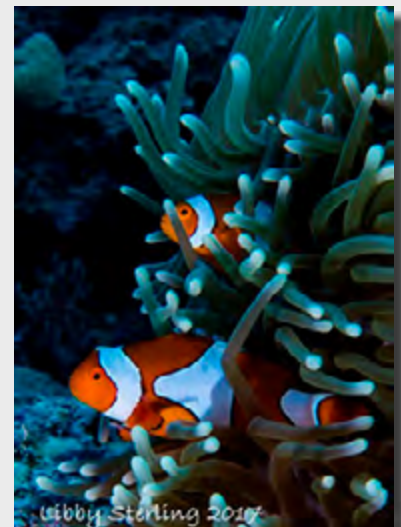
I dive mostly solo these days, which is both good and bad. When diving alone, I might spend 10 minutes lining up that elusive photo of the clown fish or the fan, changing the lights, positioning myself, the camera, never quite being happy with something, (eg the focus, or the lighting), taking photos of people whether they like it or not

and, oh no! I've turned into one of those UW photographers that I used to so actively avoid diving with 'back in the day'.

I've just graduated to using the camera in manual mode and I really cannot understand why I stayed using the program setting for so long but I finally get it.

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all the photographers that have put up with my 101 questions, 'what setting did you use for that one', can you please explain again about the settings, what does the aperture do again, why is the background in focus but the pipe fish (that I just took 45 photos of, out of focus in all of them!) and on it goes. I've had the best teachers and mentors on my journey to reluctant and now obsessed UW photographer and I will be forever grateful for your patience and inspiration.

And for anyone just starting out, do a peak performance buoyancy workshop, go to the Photoshop night with Phil, enter in the competition, post your pics on Facebook or Instagram and share your journey with us!





# JOURNEY OF A RELUCTANT UW PHOTOGRAPHER.



Picking up a camera was one of the best things I ever did and I would not dive as much as I do, if I hadn't taken up UW photography. It's addictive and challenging and I love diving even more now, than I did when I started over 30 years ago (yes I know, I was very, very young).

So that's my story, and I apologise in advance if I swim up out of the blue and start taking photos of you on a club dive or am hogging the clown anemone fish or nudibranch. Just tap me lightly on the shoulder and let me know it's your turn! I am willing to share! Happy diving and looking forward to seeing you out there.

Libby Sterling



# Creature Feature

**Boxer crabs acquire anemones by stealing from each other, and splitting them into clones**

Date: January 31, 2017 Source: PeerJ



Mosaic Boxer Crab *Lybia tessellata*

Researchers have described a little known yet fascinating aspect of the behavior of *Lybia* crabs, a species which holds sea anemones in each of its claws (behavior which has earned it the nickname 'boxer' or 'pom -pom' crab). In a series of experiments, they showed that when crabs will split their anemone into two, creating identical clones these crabs need an anemone, they will fight to steal one from another crab and then both ones. crabs will split their anemone into two, creating identical clones.

*Lybia* crabs were first described in the 19th century, with only a handful of scientific publications since then, mostly dealing with morphology and occurrence, and less with their curious 'anemone wielding' behavior. Although quite common in the aquarium trade, the lack of attention given to them by the scientific community is presumably due to their small size and cryptic behavior.

In a new study, published today in the open access journal PeerJ, Yisrael Schnytzer and Yaniv Giman, both graduate students working under the supervision of professor Yair Achituv at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, and professor Ilan Karplus at the Volcani center, investigated various aspects of the crab-anemone association. Their study focused on trying to resolve a long-standing mystery- how the crabs acquire their sea anemones.



Undescribed *Lybia* sp.

Over the course of several years more than 100 *Lybia* crabs were observed or collected from the shallow waters of the Red Sea on the south shore of Israel in Eilat. These crabs are no more than a couple of centimeters across and have a similar color to the boulders under which they live--hence even finding them was a task in itself. Throughout the entire study, every single crab was found holding a pair of sea anemones which were identified as belonging to the genus *Alicia*, probably a newly recorded species.

Remarkably, despite extensive searching the team was unable to find any 'free living' *Alicia*. Thus, a series of laboratory experiments was employed, to gain an insight into how the crabs might come by their sea anemones in the wild.



# Creature Feature

A first experiment showed that when a sea anemone is taken from a crab, leaving it with just one, it will split the other into two fragments which then regenerate over the course of several days into two new clones. In the second part of the study a series of trials were conducted whereby a crab with sea anemones was placed in an aquarium together with one which had its anemones removed. The crabs would then proceed to wrestle the crab without anemones would move to restrain one of the opponent's claws, and then remove part, or all, of a sea anemone. Most such encounters ended in a successful theft, and with no apparent damage incurred to either of the crabs. The crabs would then proceed to split their anemones, so that once again each held a pair! Finally, the laboratory experiments were complemented with a molecular fingerprinting study of anemone pairs taken from wild caught crabs. Each crab was found to be holding identical clones, suggesting that the lab observed behaviors are presumably frequently used as a means to obtain their precious sea anemones in the wild.

The researchers report that this appears to be a unique example of one animal inducing the asexual reproduction of another, consequently also affecting its genetic diversity.

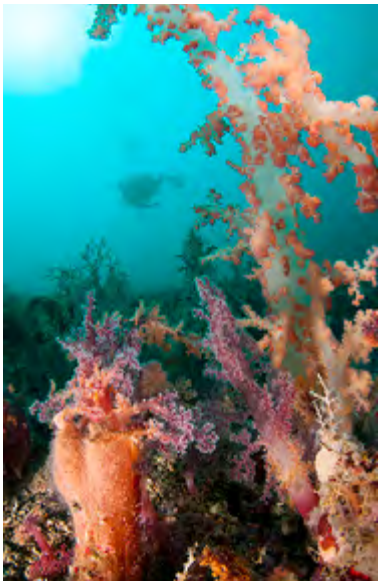
This study extends on a previous one investigating the costs and benefits of the association to each of the partner organisms, where it was shown that the crabs limit the anemones food intake and keep them at a small size ('Bonsai anemones'; J Exp Mar Biol Ecol 2013: 248-270).

Materials provided by PeerJ. Note: Content may be edited for style and length.



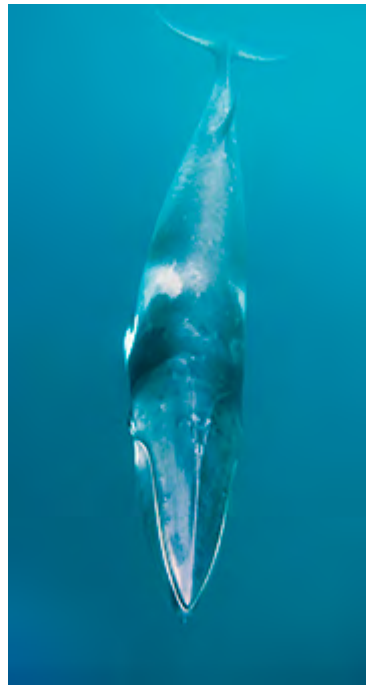
Mosaic Boxer Crab *Lybia tessellata*

# THINGS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT NEED TO KNOW



There is a Coral Sea trip to Holmes Reef planned for May, if you have never dived in the Coral Sea and experienced 30 metre visibility then now is your chance.

**CALYPSO**  
snorkel and dive



The Minke Whale trip is fast approaching, if you thinking of joining the trip don't leave it too late as it is filling fast

## Photo comp news

I will be sending a flyer via members email reminding all the club photographers to give it a go, I will also be detailing prizes, you may be surprised, this year (I'm the 10th by my reckoning) is better than ever.



## Supporting the Nautilus Scuba Club



[www.cairnsgbr.info](http://www.cairnsgbr.info)





## PARTING SHOT



Leopard anemone shrimp - *Izucaris masudai*