



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

July 2017

# Nautilus SCUBA Club Newsletter

Cairns QLD Australia



## Local dive trips and get together information

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

July 2017						
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

Club meeting  
AGM

Minke Whale Trip 7th to 10th July  
with DSDD



For our July 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).

August 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			

Club meeting



Calypso - Port Douglas  
Club day dive trip

Contact:

[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.

## More Club Stuff

**This month's club meeting is at the normal venue of the Cairns Eisteddfod Club.**

**There will be pizza!**

It is the Nautilus Scuba Club AGM, which of course means that your hard working committee of the pass year resigns and a new committee is sworn in.

Here's your chance to join the committee and help keep the Nautilus Scuba Club the dynamic entity to which you have become accustomed.

There are social events to organize, club dive trips both monthly and special trips, overseas trips, photo contests, guest speakers, food for club meetings, news letters and the list goes on, so come and get involved.



**After the AGM.....**

**We have a guess speaker.**

**Max Benjamin from the Walindi Plantation Resort (Kimbe Bay PNG)**

Kimbe Bay is considered by many as one of the premiere dive destinations in PNG and Walindi Plantation were a major sponsor of our recent photo comp. Max's presentation should be of great interest to all members as Kimbe Bay offers a wide variety of diving to suit all interests and levels of experience.

**Keep an eye out for a special edition news letter all about last months photo comp night landing in your inbox in early August**

## Nautilus Club Minke trip on Deep Sea Divers Den Ocean Quest 7-11 July

Copy: Louise Bernstein Images: Alison Smith

20 intrepid Nautilus members checked in at the Deep Sea Divers Den shop on the Friday morning ready for the adventure ahead - Peter Hayes, Rosemary Hill, Cathryn Smith, Ian Smith, Imogen Randall, Ben Samson, Alison Smith, Aaron Smith, Andrew Watson, Luke Johnston, Joanne Johnston, Leanne Tullemans, Fiona Chandler, Melinda Moxham, David Meyer, Margit Hocheder, Cathy Meehan, Rick Evans, Paula Vianna and me. After paying the reef tax, we were promptly whisked away in their buses to the marina by the lovely French Dive instructor, Arthur to spend the day on SeaQuest. He enthralled us with his engagement story to Alice on Lighthouse bommie the previous week. We were fortunate as the only people aboard SeaQuest where the 20 of us and another 17 who were to spend the 4 days together. Everyone soon worked out that there were 35 divers and 2 free divers who were also from Cairns. After sweet & savoury muffins, washed down with

tea & coffee we were off to Norman Reef. We were lucky to have the only flat, sunny day for weeks.

As we have a few newer divers in the group, they were assigned guides for the first dive at Troppo's, which is a beautiful wall. After a hearty meat & salads lunch another dive at Caves, where my buddy Luke & I encountered a cuttlefish, it was time to be transferred to Ocean Quest with our luggage. Unfortunately, we had a few hiccups with Cathy leaving her wetsuit behind and Rick sure that his dive gear had made it onboard but sadly it never made it. On arrival, we enjoyed a

tasty chocolate cake, before settling into our cabins and exploring Oceanquest. It was a very comfortable vessel with a large dining area, expansive dive deck, comfy lounge with a well-stocked bar and 2 spacious outdoor decks, including one deck where you can walk around the vessel, which proved great for Minke spotting. All the cabins are large, comfy beds with en-suites and plenty of storage space. I was delighted that there was plenty of space for all 37 of us and sometimes I had trouble finding people on the 3 decks.

New crew seemed to appear every day but we learnt that there were 17 hard working crew aboard which meant everything ran smoothly. It was time to move Oceanquest to our afternoon and night dive position, Playground. This has a fascinating bommie directly underneath with cleaner shrimp, nudibranchs and lionfish. For the night dive I got to experience Deep Sea Divers Den 'Sharks in the Dark' on the safety stop.

We had a wonderful smooth night cruise to Ribbon reef no. 3, Steve's Bommie. I was lucky enough to spot the first Minke Whale and had to wear a shark hat that evening to celebrate – thanks to Suzanne & Gena our Minke Whale researchers from JCU. We were split into groups to dive this stunning submerged pinnacle with macro life galore. When we surfaced we enjoyed time floating on the line watching the Minke Whale, yes 1 whale but I'm sure there was another one lurking somewhere. After lunch, it was time





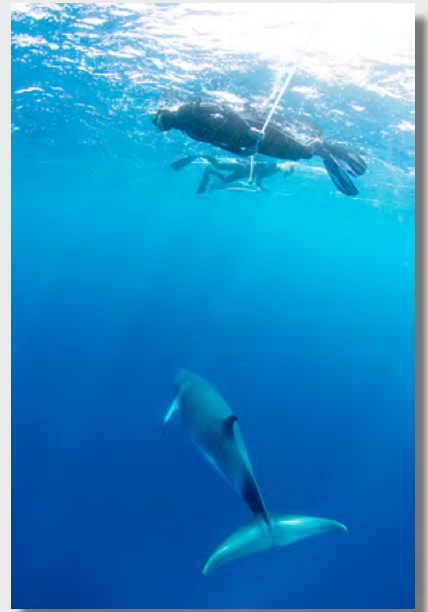
## Nautilus Club Minke trip on Deep Sea Divers Den Ocean Quest 7-11 July

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for another dive at Steve's Bommie and as the boat moved to our afternoon dive at Clam Gardens we were thrilled by a pod of dolphins bow riding.

Another smooth overnight cruise to the Minke's favourite playground Lighthouse Bommie at Ribbon reef no. 10. After breakfast I was pacing the deck, hoping to spot the first Minke again as I wanted to wear the shark hat that evening. As this pinnacle is smaller than Steve's we were split into 3 groups. It is a spectacular dive with a resident sea snake, turtle and more nudibranchs. After the dive I went straight back in the water, to the best Minke experience ever, 7 whales entertaining us for over 8 hours. We



were delighted to see lots of behaviour including belly presentations, motor boating, spy hop, pirouetting and another Louise & I got to witness a gulp. Quite a few went in for more dives at Lighthouse, but I was content with a nap and more Minke time until it was time to move the boat to Challenger Bay for the night dive. I decided to try 'Fluoro Diving' and was excited to spot a stonefish. This is a must try experience as you see the coral like you've never seen it with amazing fluorescent underwater landscapes.





# Nautilus Club Minke trip on Deep Sea Divers Den Ocean Quest 7-11 July

Copy: Louise Bernstein Images: Alison Smith

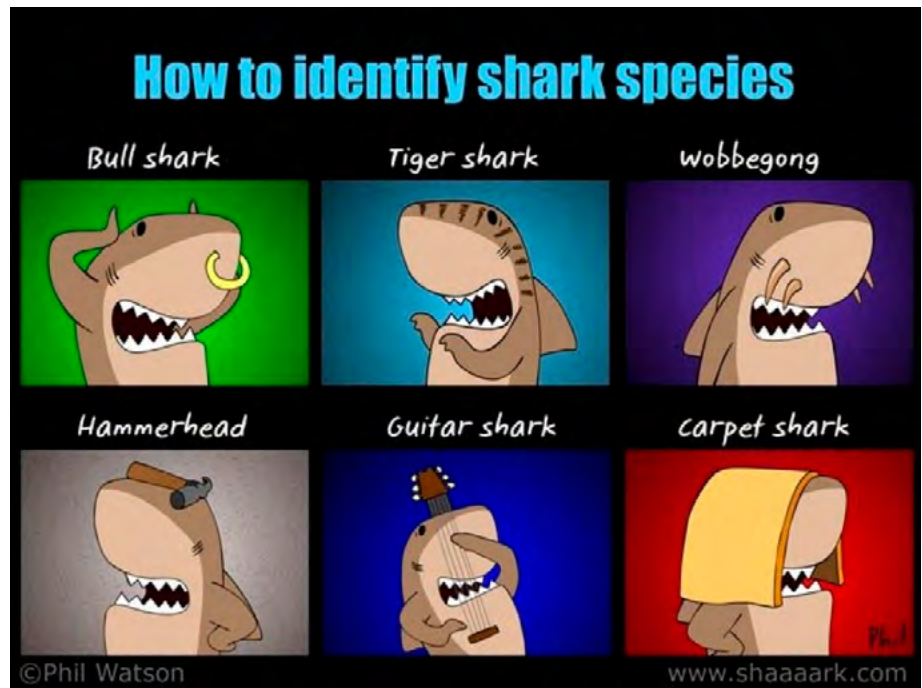
Sadly, the final day arrived at Crack-a-jack, Ribbon Reef no.5 which the Skipper Jack had discovered. This is also an impressive pinnacle with macro life. This time Aaron had spotted the whales, so we enjoyed swimming with 3 whales but they didn't seem as playful as the day before. Off for an afternoon dive at Blue Boy and time for some wine for me, whilst the 8 night divers were off enjoying the reef. It was a fantastic trip and I can't wait to do it all again next year. Thanks to Deep Sea Diver's Den and all the Ocean Quest crew. ■





# THINGS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT NEED TO KNOW

Nautilus no longer emails out membership forms its on our website, is filled in and submitted on the website.

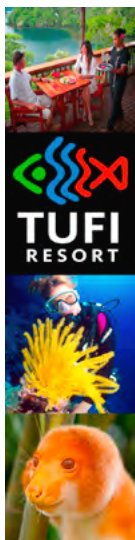


## Supporting the Nautilus Scuba Club



**Air Niugini**

**CALYPSO**  
snorkel and dive



**DIGITAL DIVER**  
• take only pictures, leave only bubbles •



**LISSENUNG ISLAND RESORT**  
Kavieng • Papua New Guinea



# PARTING SHOT



Image by Andrew Watson