

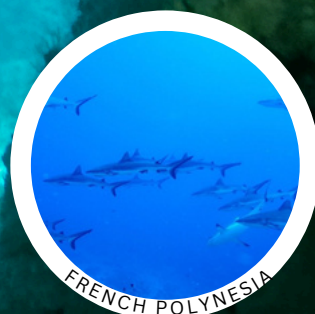


# Nautilus Scuba Club Newsletter

May 2025

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## From the President

Welcome to our latest newsletter. It has been a while since our last newsletter and we now have a new coordinator for this in Adam Huey so we will be getting this newsletter out on a more regular basis for the rest of 2025.

We have had a very productive year so far with a number of successful dive trips both locally and internationally and I want to thank all the members who participated in these trips. Our local monthly dives have been well attended and this is very important for our local operators and sponsors of the club. Our club members continue to be significant contributors to our local industry.

We will achieve around 400 financial members this year which is a great reflection of the standing of our club. With a wide member base both locally and across Queensland and Australia we can be very proud of our club and standing within the diving community. We have a very strong group of members who renew each year and combined with a steady growth of new members it creates a very committed member community.

Our 2025 Photo Competition has seen continued growth with 36 entrants, 525 photos and 8 videos. We are looking forward to a fantastic exhibition and an exciting awards night. Again, we have received outstanding support from our sponsors both locally and internationally and there are some incredible prizes on offer for the winners.

Our digital membership system has been a great success and has significantly reduced the amount of manual work that the committee had to undertake each year to process and manage our membership. We will be looking to expand the use of our membership system in the coming 12 months.

We recently ran our training subsidy program for Advanced Open Water and Rescue Diver and we have 6 participants who have completed the training and 4 who are booked to complete shortly. At the last club meeting we heard from Matilda and Tarryn about their experience completing the

training and the value they achieved. We will be hearing from other participants at the May club meeting.

I would like to thank all our committee members and volunteers for their hard work and dedication and time commitment to supporting the club operations. It is a significant commitment and I know as members you all appreciate the efforts they put in to make this a vibrant and well run club.

We are in a very sound financial position moving toward the end of the financial year. This will enable us to continue to run training and other programs in the coming 12 months. We will continue to look at opportunities to provide member benefits.

I hope you all get the opportunity to visit the 2025 photo competition exhibition and get to see some world class photography from our members. I know I am very excited to see this year's competition.

As we come towards the end of another Club year it's time to start thinking about the next committee. Being a committee member is a great way to get more involved in the diving community and help to keep the club thriving. You get to shape the direction of the club, plan events and you'll make lasting friendships. Don't be put off by thinking that you're not experienced enough or haven't been in the club for long, all are welcome.

We'll be asking for formal nominations in July. In the meantime, if you are thinking about nominating but are not sure, why not come along to a committee meeting between now and then to see if it's for you. Feel free to contact me if you'd like to join us.

Thank you for your support as members, we have had a great program of speakers and events at our monthly club meeting this year with plenty more to come. I look forward to seeing you at the club meetings or on our club dives. Enjoy your diving whenever you can.

Cheers, *Tim Roberts*



## Monthly Dives

Emails for the monthly dives will be released a few weeks prior to the dive trip with the booking reference details.

### POSTPONED 10 May 2025 – Octopus Dive (Fitzroy Island)



This was a much-anticipated weekend and a first for the Nautilus Club doing a dive weekend at Fitzroy Island supported by Octopus Dive. Unfortunately due to the rough weather being experienced around Cairns, Fitzroy Operations had to cancel all diving for the weekend for safety resulting in the Club postponing the weekend. Standby for further information of the new date for this weekend to be reprogrammed.

### 21 June 2025 - Passions of Paradise



The June monthly dive will be hosted by Passions of Paradise on the 21st June 25.

### 26 July 2025 - Divers Den



The July monthly dive will be hosted by Divers Den on the 26th July 25.

### 23 August 2025 - Yongala Dive

The SS Yongala dive in August hosted by Yongala Dive has been launched early again this year to allow people to book accommodation as this is a busy period. Located 12 nautical miles from Alva Beach the wreck lies on its starboard side, 14 metres deep on the top and 28 metres on the sand. It is the largest, most intact historic shipwreck in Australian Waters – 109 metres long and home to mega marine life.



In Collaboration with Fitzroy Island Resort, Mel from Octopus Dive is now offering Scuba Diving on Fitzroy Island 🤿

- 🐟 Boat Dives
- 🌞 Shore Dives
- 🐟 Introductory Dives
- 🧑‍🚀 Guided Dives

## TRIP REPORT

### Walindi Dive Resort, PNG

*Glenn Abbot*

I follow a few world class underwater photographers on Instagram and they rave about Kimbe Bay and Walindi in PNG, so it was on my bucket list for a dive destination. I was fortunate enough to win a 5 Night stay at Walindi Dive resort in the 2024 club photo competition for my compact portfolio.

In late November I departed for PNG from Cairns via a 1 hour flight to Port Moresby and another 1 hour flight domestically to Hoskins airport where I was met by my Walindi Driver to take me to the resort.



Arriving at the Resort I was transferred to my room, a bungalow overlooking Kimbe bay,

which is a fabulous way to wake up every morning. The room was cool, comfortable and very tidy. I had a comfortable queen size bed and a camera table to lay out and organize all my equipment.

Soon after settling in, I met the resorts dive team to organize our dives over the coming days.

The Dive team, guides and resort staff were all very friendly and run the resort very efficiently, everything was organized down to smallest of details with not a single hiccup.

I added an 2 extra nights to squeeze in an extra day and half of diving, which I am glad I did. I managed 17 dives over the week, 3 dives per day and 2 on the last day.

I experienced all types of diving, from macro, to wrecks and sea mounts with glass out condition's most days. Water temperature was about 30 degrees.

After the first day I could see why some of the photographers I follow rave about Walindi, the diving there is world class.

I enjoyed every moment of my stay at Walindi and would recommend it to any divers looking for an easy to get to location with a variety of dive sites. It's one I will return to in the future.

Thanks to Cheyne, the owner, and the Walindi Team for supporting the Nautilus Scuba club photo competition with this fabulous prize.









## TRIP REPORT

### French Polynesia (Tuamotu/Hiva Oa)

*Richard Banks*

French Polynesia consists of five archipelagos, the most popular destination for diving being Tuamotu, which has a number of popular atolls renowned for large pelagics. Diving is largely from shore-based operations, with trips on RIBs of between 45 and 90 minutes to specific locations. Liveboards are available (See Aqua Tiki II), but restrict their activities to North and South Fakarava. As an add on, I also visited the Marquisas, which is less visited because it's a two-hour flight from Tahiti, but has great potential and aside from diving, has spectacular mountainous scenery and a high exposure to traditional Polynesia culture, which include ancient temples.

Diving took place in three atolls of Tuamotu's atolls, Fakarava, Toau and Rangiroa; and Hiva Oa. Water September temperatures were 26 deg C in Tuamotu and 27 deg C in Hiva Oa.

Fakarava has three popular dive sites:



Tetamanu passage can be dived on the incoming and outgoing tides. It is the most

spectacular grey reef shark dive that I have ever experienced with 100s of grey reef sharks swimming against the current. You are also likely to see larger silver tips.

Warning though that to book this site you have to book well in advance or stay in Tetamanu, which is not attached to the main part of Fakarava atoll and has fairly basic accommodation. It is however dived by the two Fakarava based dive companies O2 Fakarava and Top Dive, and of course by the liveboard. My advice is that if you love diving and can sustain the more rudimentary accommodation, in order to do multiple dives here, and you will want to, you are better off roughing it for a few nights, or for those with the cash, opting for the liveboard.



Garuae passage consists of a sloping wall leading to a strong drift dive. The wall has many tropical fish species, but mantas, eagle rays and grey reef sharks are plentiful. The trip is about 45 minutes from the dive operations. For the meek and mild, Drift dives are well controlled, led by experienced dive guides.



Otogi Reef, Toau atoll. consists of a sloping wall leading to a drift dive. Like Tipatua, the wall has many tropical fish species, but mantas, eagle rays and grey reef sharks are plentiful. The trip is about 90 minutes from the dive operations. The atoll also comprises many beautiful islands.

Rangiria Tipatua Pass is home to a small pod of very friendly dolphins, with a high chance of encounters during the dive. The site is also frequented by a giant hammerhead. However, be warned, there is only one dive site, so you would only want 2-3 days diving there. So definitely worth going to for the wall and dolphins, but don't expect a variety in sites. Dive operators include 6 passengers and Top dive. Accessibility is via RIB.



The Marquisas comprises several islands, but two dive destinations. Hiva Oa and Nuku Hiva. The archipelago has been reasonably

well dived, but the liveaboard wasn't in operation when I visited. Dive access was by dive boat, with the most popular site around 15 minutes from the harbour. Expect lower visibility but very significantly large encounters with oceanic manta's, with a high chance of seeing great hammerheads. When travelling longer distances around Hiva Oa and Tahuata, visibility improved but there were few pelagic encounters.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QI5Je8ltk58>



## TRIP REPORT

### Fly Dive Coral Sea – Three days of Underwater Magic

By Libby Sterling

Thanks to a lucky win in the Cairns Nautilus Scuba Club 2024 Underwater Photography Competition (Beauty of the Great Barrier Reef category), I had the absolute pleasure of joining Mike Ball Dive Expeditions for their 4-night Fly Dive Coral Sea trip on Spoilspout – and what a trip it was!



Departing from Cairns, we steamed overnight to Bougainville Reef, where the diving began with stunning sites like Middle Earth Crystal Plateau, and the epic swim-throughs of Dungeons and Dragons.

From there, it was on to the remote and fabulous Osprey Reef – a true diver's paradise – where the visibility reached a spectacular 40 m at some sites with the water temp a toasty 30°C.

Osprey delivered in every way:

The famous North Horn Shark Feed was a jaw-dropping spectacle of grey reef, black tip and white tip reef sharks.



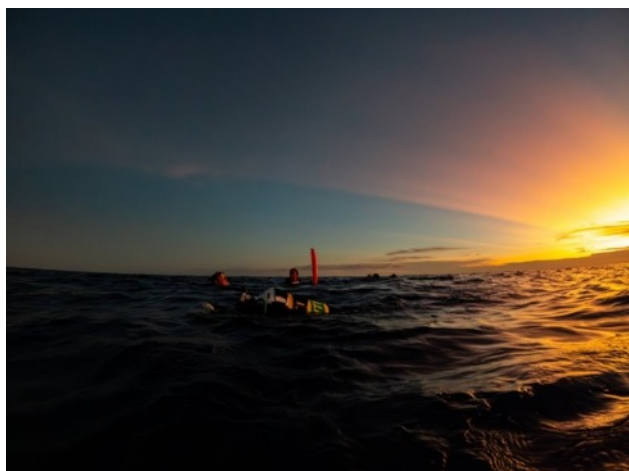
False Entrance, West Wall, and Admiralty Anchor showcased breathtaking drop-offs, vibrant coral, and pelagic encounters. I never get sick of the sites at Osprey reef, it always has something magical.



After two incredible days at Osprey, we made our way back to the Ribbon Reefs for the final day of diving.

Lighthouse Bommie was the standout, with a manta ray gliding past the cleaning station – a highlight of the trip. At Snake Pit, we were

lucky enough to spot manta rays again (I only caught a glimpse this time!), rounding out the trip with a touch of magic.



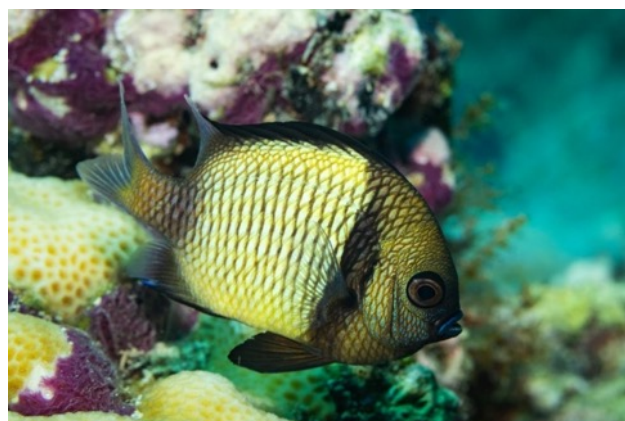
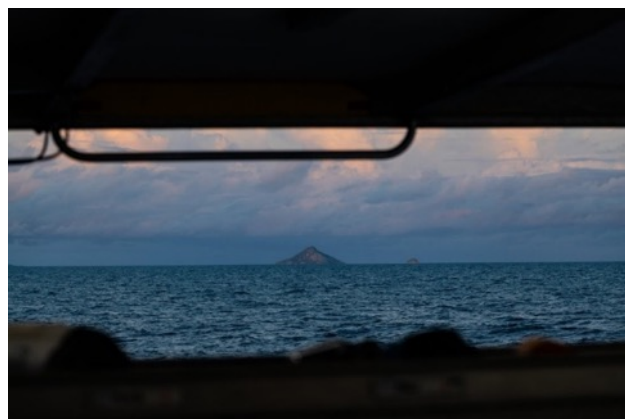
The expedition wrapped up with a scenic flight back to Cairns from Lizard Island, giving us one last look at the reef from above, a fitting end to an unforgettable adventure.



With fabulous food, an awesome crew, perfect weather, and a great bunch of fellow divers, the entire trip was seamless from start to finish. I've come home with 100's of images, new friendships & fabulous memories.

If you've ever thought about doing this trip – don't hesitate. It's absolutely world-class.

A huge thank you to Craig for sponsoring the Cairns Nautilus Scuba Club uw photo comp and being such a fabulous and long-term sponsor overall.



Mike Ball trip report video here:  
<https://vimeo.com/1047733610>



# Underwater Photography Competition

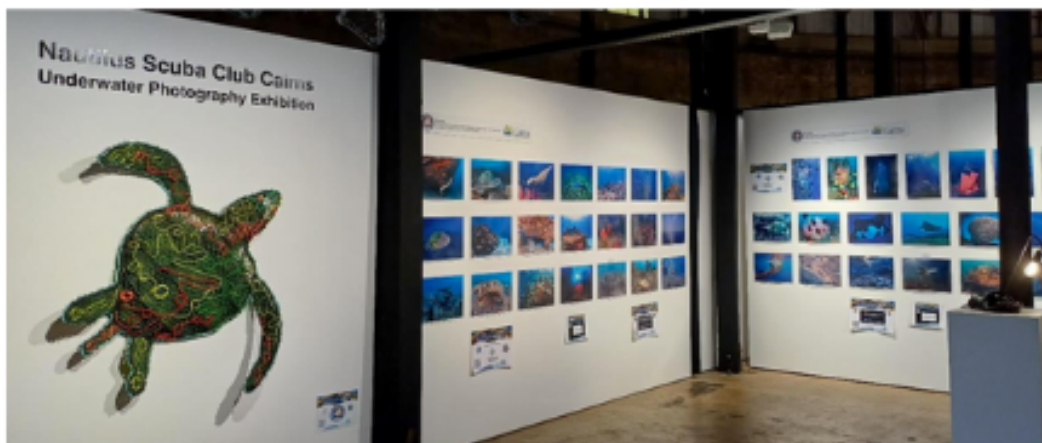
## EXHIBITION

**SETUP** 16/17<sup>th</sup> July

**OPENS** 19<sup>th</sup> July

**AWARDS** 2<sup>nd</sup> August

**CLOSES** 10<sup>th</sup> August



We need VOLUNTEERS for setup  
please contact Dave George  
[secretary@nautilus-scuba.net](mailto:secretary@nautilus-scuba.net)



## Supporting the Nautilus Scuba Club in 2025

