



Nautilus Scuba Club Newsletter

November 2024



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From the President

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Hopefully we will be getting this newsletter out on a regular basis from now and into 2025.

Firstly, I would like to welcome our new committee members, Tony Freeman, Tegan Proctor and Adam Huey, I want to thank those retiring committee members for all their hard work last year and wish them well for the future. Also, thanks to those committee members who have continued, your ongoing support and dedication to the job of running the club is greatly appreciated.

We are in a very sound financial position moving into next year with the opportunity to support and supplement diving opportunities for all our members. We have had a very successful 2024 diving program with our local monthly club dives and our overseas trips to the Philippines and Bali. Bali is the first trip we have run as a club ourselves, organised and coordinated by our overseas dive coordinator Danielle Reithmiller and it has received very positive feedback from the participants in a post trip survey. We continue to get strong support from our local dive operator partners with over 1600 trips by club members so far in 2024.

We introduced two new technology platforms which has made running the club significantly easier for our committee and treasurer. We introduced a new digital membership system and we are now looking at ways we can broaden the use of this system for other club activities. This year our Photo Competition had a new digital platform for the submission and judging of photos. This has made this process much more efficient and effective when submitting photos and for our judging panel.

Looking ahead we have the traditional Christmas Dive and function happening this year with Calypso out of Port Douglas. Keep an eye out for the release email and get in quick as this usually fills up fast.

Thank you for your support as members, we have a great program ahead for 2025 for speakers and

events at our monthly club meeting. I look forward to seeing you at the club meetings or on our club dives. Have a great Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. Enjoy your diving whenever you can.

Cheers, *Tim Roberts*



Communications Officer Update

Subsequent to the AGM, new and returning committee office bearers have been busy looking for ways to enhance the experience for Nautilus Scuba Dive Club members and the value of sponsorship for local diving businesses.

One initiative has been the introduction of a Communications Officer Role. Related to this, we are looking to improve member satisfaction and sponsor engagement by enhancing our communication touchpoints.

Any feedback in relation to this newsletter and the website would be well received.

In addition, I would encourage members to engage with and post on Facebook. Promoting our diving and social activities increases value for our sponsors and the opportunities for club members.

Website: <https://www.nautilus-scuba.net/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.nautilusclubcairns>

Cheers, *Tony Freeman*

Club Merchandise

I am pleased to advise that the Fishing Shirts have finally arrived and so far, the feedback has been positive. I do have some spares so if you feel jealous after seeing other members parading around in theirs and you now want one, you know where to find us.

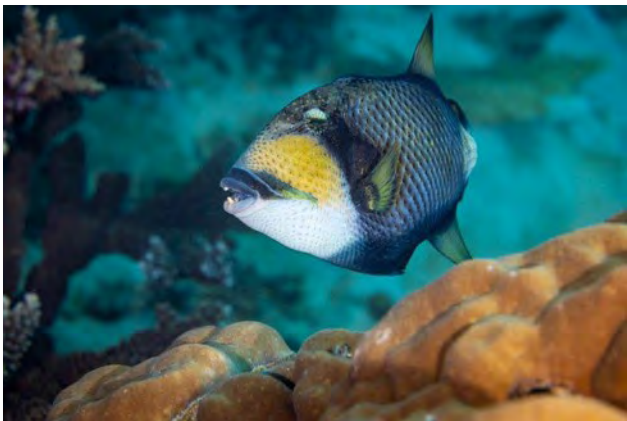
The 2025 Club Calendars are available for sale at our November Club meeting. It's time to start thinking about Christmas gifts for that special someone. Perhaps a Cap or Tee Shirt. I know exactly where you can find one. Drop by the Merch table and have a squiz, or even just a chat.

Sharyn

We are entering Triggerfish season...



The most feared fish in the sea



For the diary

(see your emails for details)

Next Club Meetings: - 27th November
- 29th January

Christmas Dive and Party – 7th December

Monthly Dives

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

23 November 2024 - Divers Den



07 December 2024 - Calypso
(Club Christmas Dive)



18 January 2025 - Passions of Paradise





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

Fun dives on Fitzroy Island can be booked by emailing dive@octopusdive.com.au

2024 fun dive dates / availability

- 👉 7th Nov
- 👉 11th Nov
- 👉 12th & 13th
- 👉 16th & 17th
- 👉 19th, 20th & 21st
- 👉 30th and
- 👉 1st Dec

There is much to see and do on Fitzroy Island; join us for a few fun dives and exploration.



We need 6 – 8 participants & Mike will run the Level 2 program in Cairns for us.

Have you considered how your personal actions and inactions, awareness, decisions and relationships (i.e. human factors) could impact your ability to dive safely? Or impact the safety of others? While it is important to learn how to dive technically in a safe manner, in the world of diving the influence of 'human factors' is far too often underestimated.

The programme offers insight from novice divers to highly experienced and everyone in between. It is widely accepted that most accidents and adverse events in diving are not down to undetected technical failures! They are due to a breakdown in communication, poor decision-making or a lack of situational awareness. Or more likely a chain of events which are based around these human factors

"Every diver novice or experienced diver needs to hear this!".

Until the human diver arrived, **no one** was offering training which took a more holistic approach to diving and how these 'little' factors can lead to situations which can mean the difference between life and death.

The Human Diver offers courses, training and support for those who want to be the new pioneers in diving excellence. There are a range of courses to choose from;

- 3-hour Online webinar
- Level 1 Webinar series
- Level 2 Face to Face

If you are interested in participating in a level 2 face-to-face workshop in Cairns, please contact Mike: mike.mason@thehumandiver.com.

<https://www.thehumandiver.com/>

TRIP REPORT

Rowley Shoals Western Australia

MV Odyssey expedition 1-8 October 2024

Report and photos by Richard Banks



MV Odyssey

Boarding 10 am and steam 165 nautical miles to Clerke Reef. Arriving 5 am



Dives begin between 6.30 to 7.30. The first 11-12 dives (including 1 optional night dive) on Clerke Reef. All dives restricted to 50 mins.

1st dive at Aquarium, heavy and healthy staghorn coral and surrounding bommies.



Other 10 dives including sloping coral reefs to around 25-30 m. Heavy hard and soft coral growth with an abundance of mauri wrasse, leopard sharks, schooling trevallies, dogtooth tunas, white tip sharks, chevron barracudas, batfish and occasional sightings of other tunas (yellowfin, mackerel tunas), turtles and grey reef sharks. No mantas, hammerheads or other sharks sighted. All sites were incredibly pretty and visibility was around 30 m. 1 dive on an Indonesian wreck was low vis, with little to see and not recommended. The top of all reef had an abundance of smaller tropical marine fish and corals. Almost all dives were drift dives. All dives were tender dives.





Clerke Reef is under GoWA jurisdiction with a sand bar island and bird sanctuary. An island Visit is part of the itinerary, and the crew can arrange fishing trips for those inclined.

Day 4 transit 20 nautical miles NW to Mermaid Reef, which falls under Commonwealth jurisdiction. Generally wall dives – Mermaid Reef dropping to 600 m, but vis was poor. Higher vis might be more successful for larger pelagics. Again dogtooth, barracudas. Some wall dives had inlets worth exploring but at risk of missing passing school fish along the wall. Visibility on outgoing tides was up to 50 m. One drift dive – ‘Channel dive’ was incredibly colourful, especially the bommies at the end, with an abundance of marine life including octopus and cuttlefish.

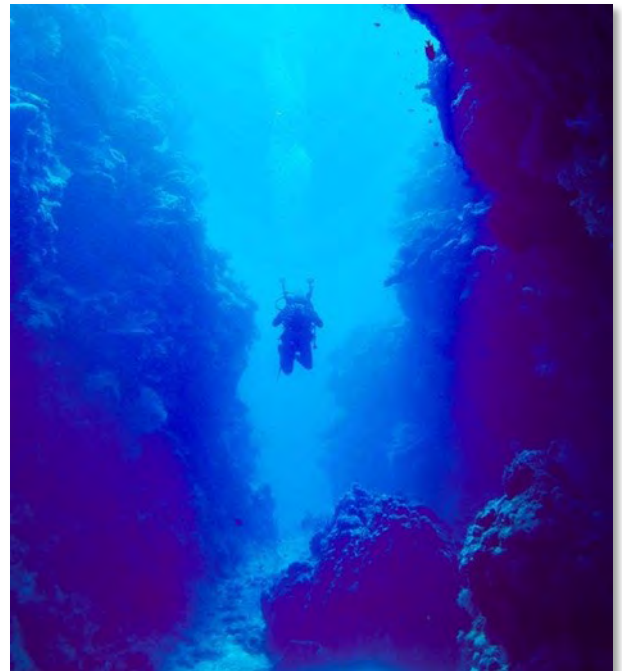
All dives were live drop. Water temperature throughout was 27 degrees.

Odyssey was well equipped. The crew were very familiar with the dive sites, and pick-ups, using safety sausages, were very well managed.

Food was excellent, with good catering for vegans. Soft drinks were complementary. Each cabin had a desk for charging cameras

Arrived back in Broome at 6 am, but this is weather dependent.

Richard Banks, Nautilus Scuba Club.



TRIP REPORT



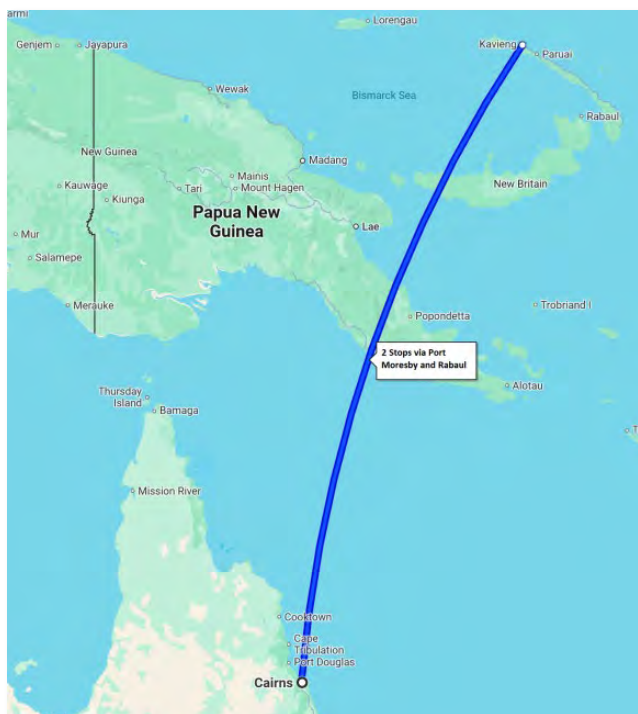
Lissenung Island Resort

8 days of Peace in Paradise!

Report and photos by Ross Thomas

So, I had some good fortune at the 2024 club photo competition and one of the prizes was accommodation and diving at Lissenung Island Resort.

Lissenung is located approximately 1600km North-North-East of Cairns. Flight options are via Port Moresby to clear into PNG, then domestic flights via Rabaul to Kavieng, or Manus Island to Kavieng.



Resort Staff pick you up at Kavieng Airport and then drive you to the wharf where the next mode of transport is the ever-trusty Yamaha 40 HP outboard

powered Fibreglass Banana Boat. They are the “Toyota Hilux” of the New Ireland Province Islands.

About 30 minutes later you arrive at Lissenung Island. No Traffic Lights, no cars, no police sirens, no stress, just peace and quiet, friendly staff and a manicured island environment.



I was greeted by Dietmar, the owner of the Resort, whom guided me down the path through the island vegetation to my Bungalow. Dinner is at 7pm says Dietmar, the staff will ring the bell to let you know.

A friendly caution was issued to keep your shoes inside so his dogs didn’t repurpose them! Luckily, shoes are no longer required. Dress code is “Remote Island Relaxed”.



The Bungalow is neat and tidy.

Ensuite bathroom has hot and cold running water. (rainwater tank on each block).

240 volt powerpoints.

Temperature control is via Ceiling fan and flyscreens to let those maritime breezes through.

Yes, it is warm, but it is not hot. The entire island is well shaded with vegetation.

Access to the ocean is only a few steps away.

Facilities

- Dive Shop and Resort Office. Well considered storage for everyone's dive gear with separate rinsing tubs for dive gear and cameras.
- "Haus Win" - The main dining room, lounge and kitchen. This is the main hub of Lissenung Island.
- Bungalows – 4x2 with direct access to the beach.
- Generators – The island has stable 240 volt power. I could not hear the generators from my bungalow.
- Dive Boats – One smaller flat bottom boat (zings along with the 140 horse outboard) and one larger twin motor twin hull vessel for the longer trips.



Each day runs like this.

- 7am – Brekky. The kitchen staff prepare your cooked brekky as requested.
- 8am – Prepare dive equipment at the dive shop
- 8:30am – depart on the dive boat for 2 morning dives with a 60 minute surface interval in between.
- Midday-ish – return to Lissenung for Lunch. Dive gear returned to the shop and then freshen up in your bungalow whilst awaiting the lunchtime bell.
- After Lunch – Unguided dives on the house reef are available. Or.....If the conditions are right, experienced surfers can take advantage of some impressive surf.

- 7pm Dinner

Then sleep and repeat !!!

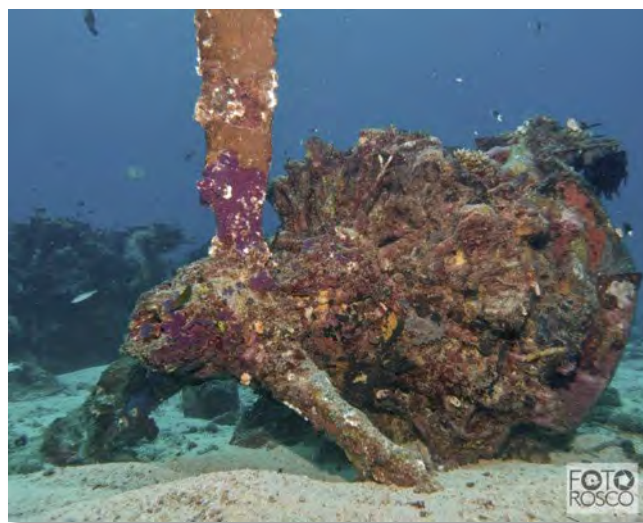
So, I hear you asking, is the diving

1st class?

YES IT IS !

I would summarise the dives into two camps.

1. Dive sites to the north - Pacific Ocean side. Shipwrecks, aircraft wrecks, small caves and canyons, sea grass beds feature.



2. Dive sites to the south - Bismarck Sea side. This area is Hard Coral Heaven! Deep walls, big bommies and healthy coral plateaus. With Fishes.....many Fishes.....

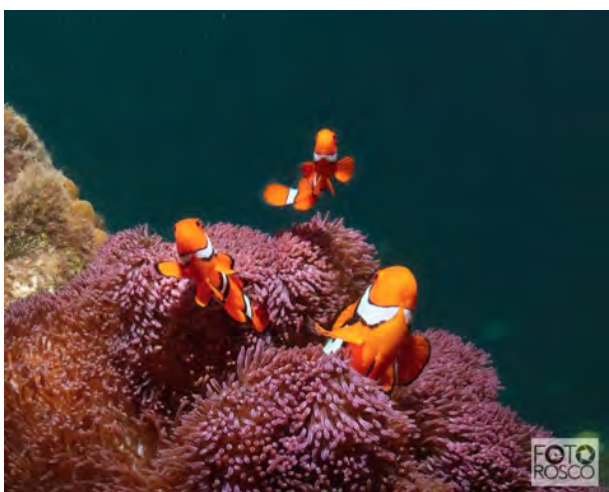


The Dive Team.

As with any diving, mother nature has a big influence. Luckily the Dive Guides and Boat Drivers are all locals and know the New Ireland Province waters better than we know the aisles in the local mega hardware store. Choosing which dive sites to visit is their special skill and they didn't fail me during my stay.



All manner of Anemone Fishes. Dietmar tells me he has 8 different species on the house reef.



Schooling fishes of all kinds – Spade/Batfish, Barracuda, Oceanic Triggerfish, many different types of trevally, fusiliers etc. etc. etc.

No shortage of white tip reef sharks on the hard coral walls.

All the colourful butterfly fishes, anthias, angel fishes, wrasses, parrot fishes, coral trout / spotted groupers, sweetlips.

Juvenile black tip reef sharks on the house reef !

The list goes on and I would just be regurgitating the entire tropical fish guide if I were to continue.

Pygmy Seahorse



Banded Gobies



In summary

The island scenery and waterways are amazing. Take time during the boat rides to and from dive sites to enjoy the views.

At low tide, walk around the island. It doesn't take long ! The vegetation and interface between sea and island is really interesting.

Don't forget to dive the house reef. For a shallow island reef, it is incredible how many of the tropical fishes from the catalogue are resident. The damsel fish can't wait to greet you and encourage you on your way!

Decorated Dartfish



Hairy Shrimp



Adult Blue Tang / Palette Surgeon fish (big ones)



The island is staffed by local PNG islanders. They are amazingly friendly and cannot do enough to help you during your stay. The owner of the Resort, Dietmar has many tales to tell about dive adventures and is an expert in sea shells.

The change of pace from big city life to remote island dive resort takes a few days to settle into, but eventually it 'clicks'. You have that ah-hah moment when you finally understand what Lissenung is all about. Returning to the big smoke has you missing the simplicity of a relaxed pace dive holiday. It was sad to leave.

Many thanks to Dietmar and Ange, for supporting the Nautilus Scuba Club Photo Competition with this marvelous prize.

If you need to de-stress from big city life, whilst enjoying some 1st class diving and fantastic PNG Islander hospitality, Lissenung Island Resort is for you.

Ross Thomas | FotoRosco

1st Place Members Choice | Nautilus Photo Comp

Contact Lissenung for more information

<https://www.lissenung.com/>

Supporting the Nautilus Scuba Club in 2024

