

September 2017



# Nautilus SCUBA Club Newsletter

Cairns QLD Australia



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

Editor: Phil Woodhead

Cover photo: Phil Woodhead



## Local dive trips and get together information

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

September 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	

Club meeting

October 2017						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
30	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

Club meeting



### Guest Speaker Richard Fitzpatrick ACS

**Richard Fitzpatrick ACS is an Emmy winning cinematographer and qualified marine biologist specialising in sharks.**

He has shot more than 50 films for clients such as the BBC, National Geographic and Discovery Channel and is renowned for filming complex behavioural sequences underwater including high speed, time lapse, motion control many of which have never been seen before. Richard has shot many presenter led programs. Able to switch quickly between topside and underwater filming and with a huge collection of toys, he brings high production value on fast-paced shoots.

Extreme environments are no problem with Richard having filmed all over the world from the deserts of outback Australia to the jungles of the Amazon to snow-covered Alaska. In over 15,000 hours underwater he has filmed in the crystal clear coral gardens of the Great Barrier Reef, the murky waters of the Amazon, and everything in-between. In the process he has won numerous international awards. Richard started out as a marine biologist and has worked in public aquariums around the world, including:

- Oceanworld, Manly Australia
- Maui Ocean Centre, Hawaii
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authorities Reef HQ Aquarium in Townsville



For our October Trip we have provisionally reserved 12 places on Tusa 6 on Sunday 15th.

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).

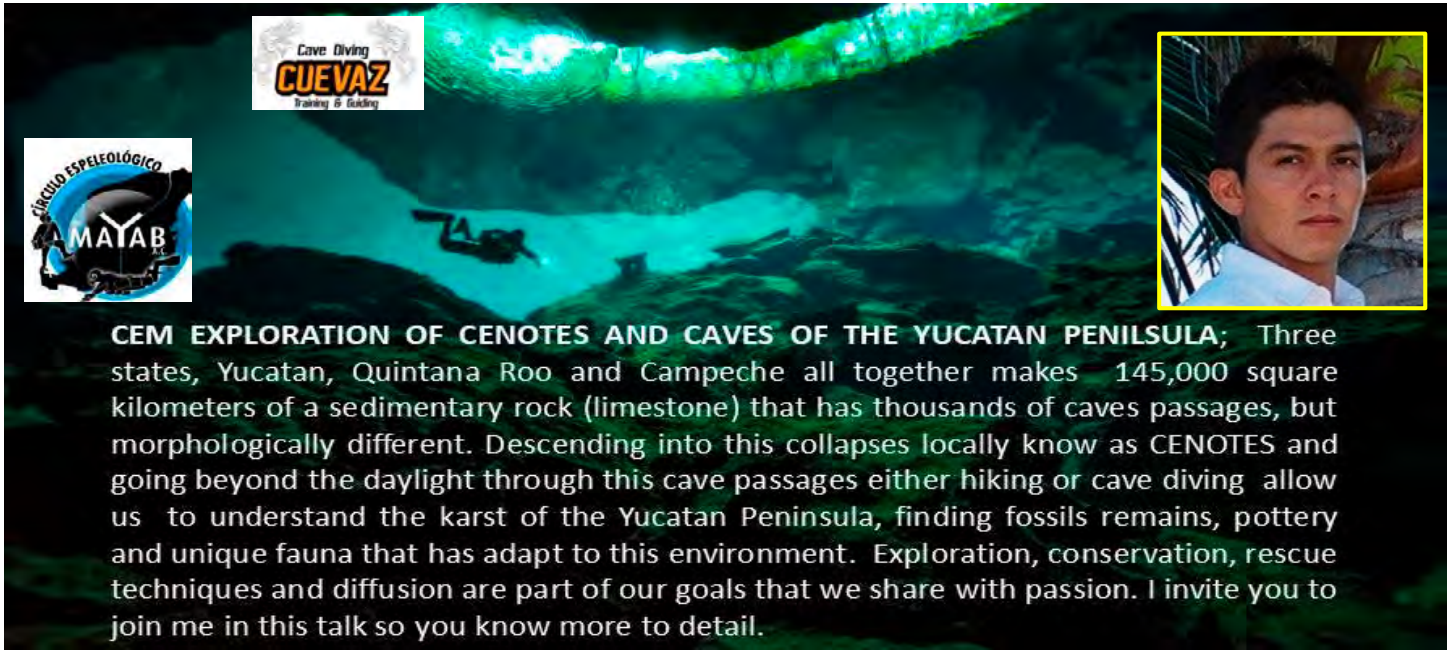
Social dinner at the Aquarium restaurant, Aqualuna

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.



## A Major Dive Event for FNQLD: "Diving the Yucatan"

Following the outstanding success of last year's program with Namibian cave diving expert: Don Shirley, the CDAA is pleased to announce cave diving maestro; **Michel Vazquez Robles** is now coming to Cairns. All the way from the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, Michel will



**CEM EXPLORATION OF CENOTES AND CAVES OF THE YUCATAN PENINSULA;** Three states, Yucatan, Quintana Roo and Campeche all together makes 145,000 square kilometers of a sedimentary rock (limestone) that has thousands of caves passages, but morphologically different. Descending into this collapses locally know as CENOTES and going beyond the daylight through this cave passages either hiking or cave diving allow us to understand the karst of the Yucatan Peninsula, finding fossils remains, pottery and unique fauna that has adapt to this environment. Exploration, conservation, rescue techniques and diffusion are part of our goals that we share with passion. I invite you to join me in this talk so you know more to detail.

deliver a unique and exciting presentation to divers, cavers, their families and friends.

**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2017.**

**Junior Eisteddfod Hall,**

**67 Greenslopes St, Edge Hill.**

The **Cairns Nautilus Scuba Club** will provide a **free Bar B Q** from **7:00 p.m.** so you can have a bite to eat and personally 'meet & greet' Michel. **The presentation starts at 7:45 p.m. *Sharp*** (Closing around 9:30 p.m.).

We are asking all attendees to contribute to the hall hire by giving a donation of \$5 on entry.

**Everyone** will be entered in the multiple **lucky door prize draws** and have the opportunity to support the evening by contributing to our super raffle with amazing prizes donated by our sponsors.

**Contact:** Terry Cummins, CDAA QLD Representative, on: 0439 945 123 or email him at: [terry@tc-ibc.com](mailto:terry@tc-ibc.com)

**RSVP is essential to reserve your seat and to assist catering (Note: last year this event booked out).**

**A big Cairns thank you to our CDAA Organising Committee, our Patron and wonderful sponsors.**



**Patron:** The CDAA is a 'non-profit organisation' dedicated to cave diving safety, education and training and has kindly met Michel's major expenses to make this happen for you in Cairns.

**Gold Sponsors**

**Silver Sponsors**

**Bronze Sponsors**



[www.tc-ibc.com](http://www.tc-ibc.com)

## What's new?



INCREDIBLY EASY. EASILY INCREDIBLE.

The next generation Galileo has arrived.  
Introducing the G2.

Intuitive, reliable and bulletproof, we've combined everything you love about the Galileo with everything you've dreamed of in a dive computer. It's everything you expect from SCUBAPRO in full color.

Easy to read. Easy to use. Easy to love.

Spend less time reading manuals, and more time enjoying the experience.

Easy to read.

- A brilliant, colorful screen with color indicators quickly draws your attention to what you need to know.

- The G2 leverages color as a tool to deliver the best readability and usability available. Choose from four different color options.

Easy to use.

- With the intuitive 3 button control, operating the G2 is a snap.

- With the G2 you can transmit your air pressure from up to 9 tanks. And the transmitter blinks green, yellow or red to indicate your air level.

Easy to understand.

- The G2 has the same incredibly intuitive menu structure and diver-friendly functions that earned the Galileo its reputation for being the hands-down easiest computer to use.

- Four dive screen templates allow you to see as little - or as much - data as you'd like.

- With the industry's leading digital compass - you'll always know where you are headed.

Easy to manage.

- Bluetooth compatible, the G2 easily syncs with your PC, Mac, Android or iPhone.

- The G2 Stores up to 1,000 hours of dive profiles.

- And its rechargeable battery lasts up to 50 dives.

Make it your own.

With innovative technology and a thoughtful, intuitive design, we created the next generation of the Galileo just for you.

- Customize your screen, colors, orientation, and

even the attachments to make the G2 truly your own. •Customized menu listings give you the ability to use as much or as little of the technology as you want-with easy activation of freediving, trimix, CCR and sidemount modes without downloading or upgrading required.

- The G2 is poised to quickly become the favorite computer for all divers of all skill levels and goes wherever your passion for diving takes you.

- Even your dive profile is one of a kind-based upon your real-time breathing rate, your skin temperature and your heart rate.



When it comes to thermal protection, nothing beats neoprene. And when it comes to delivering maximum stretch and comfort, once again, neoprene eclipses all other materials.

The new PYROFLEX 1.5MM STEAMER takes this to heart.

Built from 100 percent pure Everflex neoprene made from an exclusive formula called X-Foam, the PYROFLEX 1.5MM STEAMER is light in weight, very durable, and most importantly, it is a highly efficient insulator for better heat retention.

Backing up this quality neoprene is an inner layer made from a combination of high tech fleece and plush.

These exterior and interior materials work together to deliver outstanding thermal protection, plus they are super comfortable and dry quickly. The result is the ultimate in thermal protection for tropical diving, snorkeling, or pool training.

Remember, neoprene provides divers and snorkelers with genuine thermal protection, while garments made from other fabrics or material blends simply do not.

The PYROFLEX 1.5MM STEAMER doesn't just provide protection from scrapes and stings, it provides bona fide thermal protection. And that's the most important type of protection a diver or snorkeler can have when spending long periods of time in the water.

Technical Information

- Quality exterior Everflex is an X-Foam neoprene formulation, which is lightweight, durable and a highly efficient insulator for heat retention.

- High-tech plush and fleece interior linings reduce water flow and provide extra warmth.

- Water blocking design features reduce convection.

- Provides insulation under water as well as at the surface.

- A slightly higher neck collar delivers maximum comfort from BC chafing.

- Thumb loops and heel stirrups avoid ride-up when the steamer is used as an under layer.

- Premium YKK front zipper makes easy work of donning and doffing.

- Available in 6 mens and 5 womens sizes.

Available Sizes:

Men: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL.

Women: XS, S, M, L, XL.





## Oceanquest sneaky weekend out - by the Smiths

A couple of weekends ago now Alison and I went out overnight on Oceanquest as we have not been diving in what seems like forever. It is a well-known fact if I or Al go without an 'underwater bushwalk' for longer than a couple of weeks or heaven forbid a month I turn into a big cranky git. So, the decision was made. We headed out with our beloved twin 7s (7Ltr Steel tanks) to blow out some cobwebs and tame the beast within.

One of the whispers through the industry for that particular weekend was that boat would be quiet and not many passengers on board, so we would be pretty much left alone to do our thing. The forecast was for lovely sunny weather with 15-20 knots which is by no means ordinary on boat the size of Oceanquest behind the reef tucked in nicely. As I often make foolish decisions, I decided to pack my bags with a spring outlook which includes pulling out the old 3mm from the shed box where it was packed away for winter. If you can imagine a 3mm which is now more like a stiff 1.5 with three of the 5 zips working holes in the shoulders and knees etc. She'll be right I tell myself. I used to dive in Brisbane around this temp in boardies, I'll be fine.

Now onto the diving as that's what I am sure you'd like to hear about, we had awesome underwater conditions with 20 – 25m plus vis on nearly all dives. We chose to limit camera luggage as we took our tanks and stuck with macro for the weekend as was our plan. So with our macro lens on we saw Giant Grouper, Wally, Barramundi cod, diagonal lined Sweetlip, Batfish, schooling Trevallies, stingrays in the sand, turtles flying, a school of around 30 no less Big bumphead Parrotfish who were so uninterested in us that we were accepted as one their own. I was told after one of the dives I had a shark come and sniff at my fins as my head was stuck in a hole trying to photograph something so infinitely small Phil Woodhead would've been proud. So we did have great dives even though we both had the wrong lens on to capture that sort of action, mental head slaps aside.

However, both Alison and I feel that by limiting yourself to a lens for a dive or a trip pulls or locks you into focus (ha pun intended) for some real photography and the chance to just try different things on subjects you always see. We saw and shot pipehorses and nudibranchs, we captured many species of different little fishes from the minute red eyed goby (Al's favourite) to twin spot gobies, multitudes of different wrasse species, coral trout being cleaned, whip coral shrimp, loads and loads of stuff.

As I mentioned before the start of spring and the increase in air temp should spark the change to less neoprene requirement. Well I think I have gone soft because combined with the fact that I mis-calculated the freezing nature of aircon on a half full boat and long dive times my core temperature dropped to something inhumane, insert mental head slap 2 here. To be fair the water was 24 and lovely but I just spent way too long with an old rather leaky suit. So due to shivering nature of my now shaking body I turned to the minister of war and finance and suggested it might be time to go shopping. I heard some veiled mutterings of I told you so when you packed numbnuts. In the end I think permission was granted for a new suit this year.

So folks keep diving year round, keep your skills and practice, just



*Pyllodesmium longicirrium*



*Pontonides ankeri*



Harlequin Tuskfish

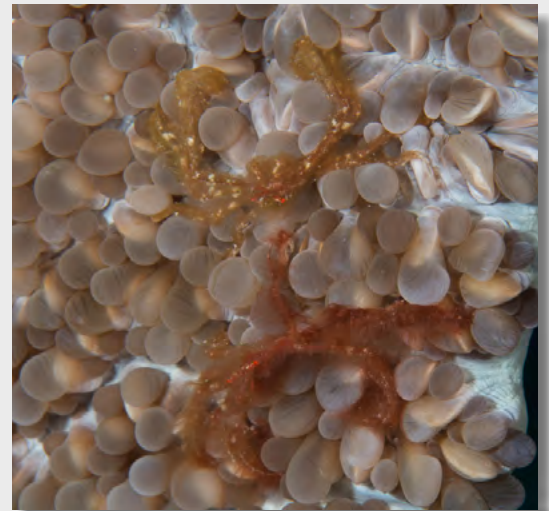


Bluestreak Goby





Morgan's coral hermit crab, *Paguritta morgani*



Orangutan Crab, *Oncinopus* sp1



Princess damsel, *Pomacentrus vaiuli*



Schultz's pipefish, *Corythoichthys schultzi*



*Chromodoris fidelis*



*Chromodoris kuniei*



*Flabellina rubrolineata*



Bicolor parrotfish, *Cetosacarus bicolor* juvenile



Bird wrasse, *Gomphosus varius*

remember to pack appropriately and we can all keep that big cranky alter-ego back in the closet!

Keep bubbling

Aaron Smith



## Two blokes go diving in Milne Bay

Copy Peter Hays and images Phil Woodhead

The much anticipated trip to PNG to dive Milne Bay on the Chertan got off to a poor start when my long time dive buddy, Jo, had to pull out the day before as a result of injuries suffered in a dog attack.

However, Phil Woodhead and I set off on Saturday morning on the 06:30 flight and arrived in Alotau late morning where we were met by Rob, the owner, and escorted back to the boat. There were 4 other divers on board, all male, so the trip was secret men's business only.

After settling into our cabins Phil convinced me there was a wonderful dive just under the boat in the harbour. Possibly was too, if only we could have seen something. Vis was about half a metre. Regardless, we spent 50 minutes paddling around to find the water temperature was a balmy 27 degrees and, to be fair, it is an interesting dive. To be tried again in better vis.

MV Chertan was built in 1994 and given a refit in 2014. Owner Rob van der Loos maintains Chertan to a very high standard and is a gracious host. The cabins are comfortable and the facilities very good. The crew are fabulous and the meals were excellent. With only 6 divers the trip was a personal one and we had an interesting mix of nationalities with a Swede, a Ukrainian, a Kiwi and a New Yorker.

Rob also has 35 years of experience in the Milne Bay area so has a intimate knowledge of the dive sites and diving conditions. The 2 dive guides, Junior and Jacob, are experts and can find just about anything.

We were not lucky with the weather and could not go to the reef areas as much as we would have liked but Rob ensured we always had a great dive site to investigate and we did get to do several dives on the reefs. Enough to whet the appetite for a return visit.

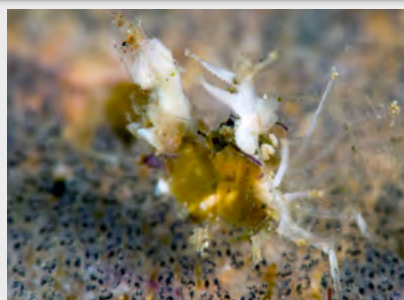
Highlights:

**Samarai Jetty** is an incredible dive for little critters set against a spectacular backdrop of jetty pylons. Great vis and in only 8 – 10m a long bottom time.



MV Chertan

Samari Island





## Two blokes go diving in Milne Bay

Copy Peter Hays and images Phil Woodhead

**Manta Station.** It has to be said there were no Mantas on the Manta station for the first dive, However a second dive adjacent to the Manta station was a brilliant muck dive. The critters were getting even smaller....

On the way back to the boat we found the Mantas and had a great Manta experience at the end of the dive.



**Cobbs Reef.** We did 2 dives on Cobbs and it is a vibrant, alive reef with brilliant fish life. The corals were in pristine condition as well.

Mandarin fish dive at Tawali.

Special sightings: Dugong and Dwarf Minke Whale.  
Donald duck shrimp (thanks Phil).

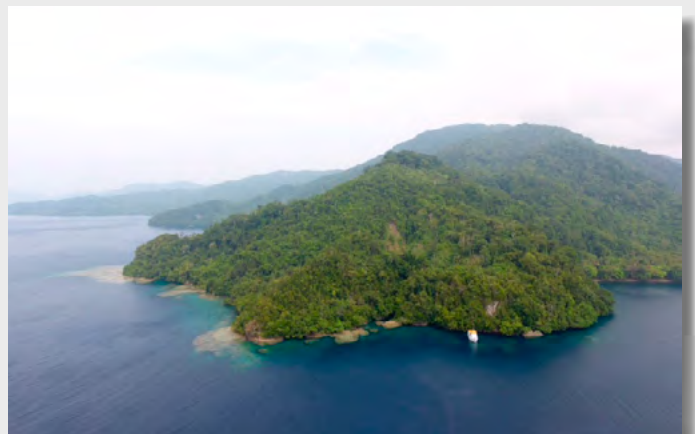
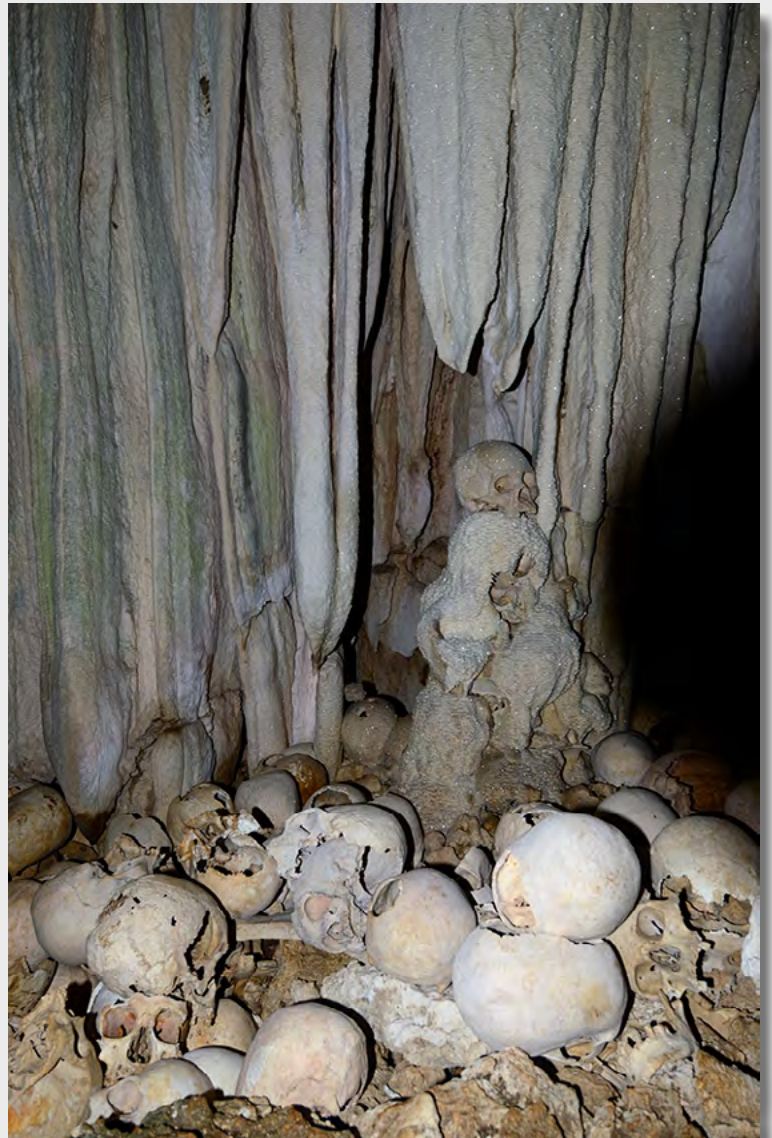




## Two blokes go diving in Milne Bay

Copy Peter Hays and images Phil Woodhead

**Skull Cave.** Eerie experience. The skulls of long departed enemies are preserved in a cave. Bit weird but special. Leonid (our Ukrainian friend) brought along a drone which was a huge hit with the Local village kids. All in all, a great trip which I thoroughly enjoyed despite the crappy weather. I am looking forward to going back when Jo has recovered. ■





# THINGS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT NEED TO KNOW

**Good tip.**

**Take a photo with your phone of your certification and your Nautilus Membership card, you may forget them, but I doubt if you'll forget your phone.**

**The 2018 Nautilus calendar will be available at the next club meeting Sept 27th**



## Supporting the Nautilus Scuba Club



**Air Niugini**



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



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





# PARTING SHOT



Larval stage moray eel, Milne Bay 2107 by Phil Woodhead