



Sunshine Coast Scuba Diving Club QLD Incorporated

What a way to end the year!!

Club Xmas dive - HMAS Brisbane



The club Xmas dive was a huge success. Blue Water dive boat and crew were chartered for the day.

The weather was kind to us, and there was a great atmosphere on board as we left Mooloolaba for the dive site, with 17 clubbies and 3 partners on board.



After we moored up over the wreck we split up into small groups and had two excellent dives on the H.M.A.S. Brisbane. Everyone seemed to find or see something different from their last dives on it. The marine life seemed to be more abundant, lion fish, bat fish, the resident groupers to name but a few. A large octopus was spotted hiding in a pipe by some members and gave us an amazing display of rapid colour changes.

'After the dives were over and everything packed away, a few festive nibbles and cold ones were consumed.'



When we were all back on board, it was then a short ride over to Old Woman Island, for a fun dive for those with air left or a snorkel, again lots of marine life to look at.

When the dives were over and everything packed away, a few festive nibbles and cold ones were consumed while anchored off the island. Some just sunbaked on the upper deck, while others felt the need to throw themselves or bomb from it, not all with great success.



Then it was time to go back to Mooloolaba, where everyone helped the guys unload the boat. We then all went and sat in the shade, and relaxed with an esky full of beer, (for non drivers only of course) and snacks. The boats crew, Bill the skipper, Rob, Dwayne, and James stayed too, and shared some of their past experiences with us.

Thanks to the guys at Blue Water Dive for a great day.





The Wesley Hyperbaric Chamber 'Dive' - 21st Sept

The chamber 'dive' to 50m was both an experience and a laugh!



Air panel and operator

Blue water drove us down in their mini bus to the hyperbaric chamber at Wesley Hospital in Brisbane.

First we had a slide show on pressurised underwater habitats, both past and present, then a talk about how the chamber worked, what it was used, and safety procedures.



Slide show and talk

Then with our sexy paper socks on we trooped in and sat down. The pressure dropped quite quickly and the room soon started to heat up. One staff member was inside looking after us and talking to the staff outside who were monitoring the descent. Bill walked around the outside with camera in hand, taking mug shots of us.

Although we had been told not to talk on 'the way down' for safety reasons, Jo forgot and said something. That was it, it set the others off, because it sounded so stupid, Donald Duck voice, big time, then the laughter sounded stupid too, so it got worse.

For a while, and if you waved your hand around, the air felt 'thick' odd sensation. Then it was joke telling time, some good, some average, but the voice's made them all classics. We only stayed at that depth for a few minutes, then began the ascent. Some blew up rubber gloves so they could see the expansion on the surface. When we reached the depth of 50m, it became very misty

The first stop which was 3mins at 15m, 5mins at 12m, 6mins at 9m, 9mins at 6m and 33mins at 3m. At each ascent, the air grew colder and misty A long time to resurface!

For the last and longest stop, we moved through into the larger chamber, and all sat in comfy chairs drinking the soft drinks, and tucking into the pizzas that had been provided with more stories and jokes, then back out to collect our official '50m Bounce Dive' sheet, which recorded the time, depth, stops etc.,



'Donald duck voice, big time, then the laughter sounded stupid too, so it got worse.'



Ready for blow down

Advertisement - Blue Water Diving

Blue Water Dive us the Sunshine Coast's longest established PADI 5 Star Instructor Development Centre. With facilities in both Noosa and Mooloolaba we offer the most extensive range of PADI courses as well as dive charters on both the beautiful Noosa Reefs and on the wreck of the ex-HMAS Brisbane! We have the largest range of dive retail on the Coast, stocking all the major brands, as well as a unique clothing

range. Our hire equipment is state of the art and we offer equipment servicing, hydro testing, air and nitrox fills, local, interstate and international dive travel and fun club activities. Sunshine Coast DIVE CLUB members are entitled to a 10% discount on all charter activities AND special deals on gear purchases. Just call us anytime on 54471300 or pop in and see us in our new shop at Noosa Harbour Marine Village. SEE YOU THERE!



Clubbies blowing down



Overseas trips

Two club members managed to get some diving in overseas, here's how they got on:



Aggie Grey

WESTERN SAMOA - SEP 2006

In Sep 2006 Di and I took a trip to Western Samoa and stayed at the Aggie Grey Lagoon Beach Resort & Spa. For anybody looking for a relaxing holiday and a cultural experience we would thoroughly recommend Samoa. The resort is only new and the service, food, accommodation is excellent. There is plenty to do with some awesome surfing, diving and very friendly and interesting people.

'There is plenty to do with some awesome surfing, diving and very friendly and interesting people.'



Doug

Naturally, I did some diving and was impressed with the warm water (28 deg) and great visibility. Some great swim-throughs, ledges and small caves provided a nice change after the bad weather we had last year. Apparently, the best diving is on the other side of the island; however I did not get an opportunity to dive there.

Overall, a great place for a holiday and plenty of potential for some great diving with warm water and impressive visibility.

Doug Alford



PHILIPPINES – Nov 06

I was lucky enough recently to get a diving trip to Sabang beach near Puerto Galera.



Underwater Sabang

I stayed at a place called 'Captain Greggs', home of the legendary 'Gin Juice' a small but friendly place run by an Aussie expat called Chuck. It's in a great spot on the waters edge, above the dive shop.

The accommodation was basic, diving holiday style, but the food and atmosphere was great, as was the diving.

I did two dives a day mostly on reef between 18m and 30m, in a small group with a local guide. There are plenty of dive sites, most of them within 5 - 10mins boat ride from the dive shop. For the adventurous or technical divers there was plenty of deeper diving to be had.

'The clear warm 28° water was full of amazing marine life, corals, reef fish big and small.'



Captain Greggs

The clear warm 28° water was full of amazing marine life, corals, reef fish big and small. I was also lucky enough to see the elusive frog fish, which was so well camouflaged that it had to be pointed out by the guide.

The Philippines is a great diving spot, plenty to do and see, real value for money.

Pete Baker



EVERYBODY SHOULD READ THIS!!

A REMINDER ABOUT THE CLUBS POLICY WITH REGARD TO DIVING EQUIPMENT



All divers on an **official** club dive must have serviceable and appropriate gear for the dive. This **must** include:

- A bottom timer or watch, depth gauge and dive tables **or** a dive computer.
- Anyone using a dive computer **must** be familiar with it's use.
- A BCD, contents gauge and octopus reg or air 2 type regulator on the BCD.
- A **serviceable** safety sausage (how long since you checked yours?) they have a hideous failure rate due to lack of proper maintenance, fill with water and see if it resembles a Swiss cheese !!
- A **functional** whistle or audible alert, i.e. a whistle that can be heard above the wind & waves, most whistles supplied with BCD's would be useless in adverse conditions.
- Also **desirable** in your BCD pocket is an old CD, they make fantastic reflectors and give a **very** strong radar reflection should you become separated from your dive boat.(See tests 'DiveLog' Feb 07 page 20.)
- Also **desirable** is an easily accessible dive knife.



It is strongly recommended you follow the above when conducting your own private dives.

Remember tanks **have** to be tested annually and its also **strongly** recommended regs are serviced annually.

If you have tanks being tested or regs being serviced we always have people willing to lend equipment.

As a club, we cannot afford to become slack or blasé about our equipment.

Any questions regarding gear contact me.

Chas Simpson – Dive Co-ordinator



Jew Shoal

Advertisement - Scuba World



Langkawi

P: (07) 5444 8595
 F: (07) 5444 8596
 E: info@scubaworld.com.au
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'...let your club members know that our retail manager (Brett) will do anything he can to get the best deal for them'



Party house

Club Xmas Bash at Maree's

The club Family Christmas Party was held at Kiara and Maree's house at Cootharaba. It was a lovely hot day which set the scene for a great BBQ, before many jumped into the pool for a much needed cool off. Some of the kids even had their first go at breathing underwater, under the watchful eye of their parents of course.

A good time was had by all the members who attended and their families. I'm sure we all will look forward to more family social events throughout 2007.



What viz!

Standby Dives

After a call from Rob at Blue Water Dive offering 2 dives to Jew Shoal at standby rates, I did a quick ring round, however being the middle of the week, only Jo Baker and myself could take advantage of this sweet little deal. It turned out to be brilliant in every way, the weather and vis really turned it on for us.

After checking my log book, I hadn't dived the pinnacles for 15 months (that's criminal!!)

The Pinn was teeming with life including the biggest octopus I've seen on Jew Shoal, Yellow Tail Kingys and 23 deg, a great morning had by all. If you ever get the chance these standby dives are a great opportunity for 'off the cuff dives'

Christof's Plaque



Christof's Plaque will be placed on Clowns reef on the 23rd Feb 07. We have the use of Darryl's boat for the day. This dive will involve only a small working group and a club dive to the site will be organised soon after.

As this is a popular dive with the club it is expected there will be regular trips to this site.

Club Tee Shirts

It would be good if, as a club, we all had 'The Club T shirt'. A local shop has kindly offered us a discount if we place an order for 10 or more.

There are all sizes, and various styles and colours to choose from, the basic t-shirt with printed logo front and back is \$30, and the polo's are \$40, (normally \$35 and \$45).

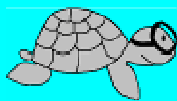
We are also looking into another source, which will hopefully work out a lot cheaper.

Please let me know if any of you are interested, and we can place an order.

Jo Baker – Treasurer



Vice Presidents Update – Jan 2007



**Sunshine Coast Scuba
Diving Club QLD
Incorporated**

Phone:

Doug 07 54506452

Chas 0416 058605

Meetings:

**1st & 3rd Tuesday
Sunshine Beach SLSC**



HMAS Brisbane

Well, 2006 was certainly an interesting year with the club growing and some awesome trips to a large variety of locations.

Some highlights since the last newsletter include:

- A very pleasing turn up for the AGM on 31 Oct 06 with 14 members attending, a new committee was appointed and a clear direction set for a smorgasbord of diving and social activities for 2007.
- The University of the Sunshine Coast has approached the club with a view to forming a partnership. This is very exciting with many potential benefits to both organisations. More to follow in early 2007.
- The audit of the club's financial accounts for the year ending 31 Dec 2006. A big thank you to Jo who has done an excellent job for this essential and largely unrecognised committee position.
- Development of the 2007 dive calendar. An exciting program that should allow no excuses for people to get wet often and join in the many and varied social activities.

Remember the new format for club meetings:

- The 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month starting at 7pm at the Sunshine Beach SLSC.
- The 3rd Tuesday meeting will be the main meeting and guest speakers, training events etc will be organised.
- The 1st Tuesday meeting will be more socially orientated and provide a forum to organise diving, socialise and talk about past and future trips etc.

A club overseas trip is being organised for the later half of 2007 - the cost will be under \$2000 plus personal expenses. This gives you plenty of time to save up and experience a diving and cultural extravaganza. More to follow.

2007 is shaping up as a smorgasbord of diving and partying so dust off the gear and "get down". Hope to catch up with you all soon at a meeting or dive.

**Doug Alford
Vice President**

Thanks

Thanks to Doug, who very kindly offered to be our club auditor. He applied to the QLD Dept of Fair Trading, and has been officially accepted in that role. Our finances for the year have now been submitted, (yes we have finances), and that's saved us a heap of money.

Also a big thank you to Chas, Jo and Doug (again!) for their time, contributions and photos that have gone into making this newsletter.

If anyone would like a copy of the photos email Chas or me.

Pete Baker – Club President

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.geocities.com/luvn2dive
