

Sunshine Coast Scuba Diving Club QLD Incorporated

The first 12 months!!

AT LAST... our first newsletter!!

I said it would happen, but it wouldn't happen over night, how right was that!!

Because this letter covers the last 11 months since our inception, it is a fair bit more than the three monthly newsletters you will be getting from now on, so don't expect this thick magazine every time.

From our humble beginnings at the Royal Mail, Tewantin with ½ Dozen people, to today's weekly meetings at the Sunshine Beach SLSC and Marcoola SLSC, lots of water has passed under the bridge and lots of divers have passed safely under the water.

After our initial sketchy club meetings our membership grew to 22 fully paid up committed divers, from "Newys" to "Old Farts" who have been blowing bubbles for 30 years plus. Some who haven't been in the water for 20 years, recertified and got a plastic ticket, compared with the parchment their original qualifications were printed on.

And then it got better! Some of the new members had their own boats!! Thanks must go to Darryl and Andrew who have willingly used or loaned their boats to us, allowing us access to some great wreck and reef dives. Our first shore dives were "interesting" for people who had never had to clamber over rocks to get to the water! But they're DIVERS and they learn fast about counting and watching swell (Don't they Regan?!).

One of the great benefits of the dive club is our interaction with and use of many of the dive charter operators locally and interstate through gear sales, trips, courses, boat charters and some have offered the services of instructors who have come to our meetings and talked on any subject we

chose (RELATED TO DIVING!!). We are extremely grateful to these operators who have given us great discounts on anything from gear, courses and information.

Over the last couple of months our secretary Kiara has put together a great website which tells you everything you might want to know about the club, thanks.

It has become obvious that we need our own boat as there are quite a few divers who work weekends and it is not viable to use a local operator if there are not enough divers to make it worth their while going out. (Anyone with experience of filling grant applications will be welcomed with open arms!)

I will be overseas for 6 weeks from the 8/9/06 so I will miss the chamber trip and two Wolf Rock trips! SH**T springs instantly to mind!!

Anyway enough of my blurb, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have put in both time and effort to make the club the success it is now and the HUGE success it will become.

Will be thinking of you when I am underwater in Crete and Malaysia (yeah right!). All the best to you all.

CHAS
Dive Coordinator



(Chas)



Andrew, Mark and Jason on the FIRST CLUB DIVE

20+
members
in the first
year

133 dives
so far

15+dive
trips



(Kiara)

'Having just completed my Open Water, this club has enabled me to experience more dives on a teenage wage.'

Refresher in the pool

For those members like me, who either hadn't been under the water for a while and were a bit 'rusty', or who just wanted to polish up some skills, a trip was arranged to the pool at Kawana. The club arranged it through a local dive shop and under the guidance of the instructor some basics were run through. Buoyancy, mask clearing, sharing air and rescue were just some. Arriving early and spending a couple of hours in the water, we all thoroughly enjoyed the session and left feeling lot more confident.



Jo, Mark and Bill, 'Refreshing'

The phone call

It just took a phone call from Chas telling us about the dive club that was starting up, to get us back under the water.

We'd both been diving for years back in the UK, but had gradually gone on to other pursuits, and our gear had either become worn out or was now classed as an antique.

We went along to a meeting, which renewed our enthusiasm (why had we left it so long?) and we were inspired to start again.

Pete was ok cos he still had his BSAC (British Sub Aqua Club) log book, but I couldn't find mine, so had no proof that I was qualified. I had to do the PADI course and get 'certified'.

Then there was the matter of equipment, we had to buy all new gear. When we started diving back in the 70's it was all pretty basic, just the tank on a back pack, reg., contents gauge, a depth gauge strapped on your wrist, and a weight belt, (if you were too light you just carried a few rocks).

All the new high tech, new fangled stuff looked a bit over the top, and took some getting used to, so much to check and read.

We haven't managed to get many dives in, due to the weather, but here's looking forward to a good summer.

Jo Baker
Treasurer



'we went along to a meeting, which renewed our enthusiasm, (why had we left it so long?)'



(Maree)

'My first trip with the club- great dives and great people.'

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!



Blue Water Dive boat
HMAS Brisbane

HMAS Brisbane

Tuesday night at Marcoola, the weekly dive club meeting. A phone call was made and the next thing, we were getting picked up at 6am the following morning for a double dive on the 'Brisbane'

From the club - Chas, Jo, Don, Smudge and Pete, first time for most of us. Trip out to the wreck, several whales were sighted, it kept our minds off the choppy seas and rolling of the boat. On the mooring, soon after, into the blue water, down the mooring line, and onto the wreck. Amazing! Viz about 15m.

Fish hiding in the wreck, eagle ray overhead cruising by and grouper fore and aft, whales singing. A great dive and a great day, thanks to all concerned.



(Pete)

'its good to be back in the water!'



Pete, Jo, Smudge and Don,
diving on
HMAS Brisbane

Bargara Weekend



'our huge pile of dive gear we stashed in the trailer.'



Kiara, Calen, Maree, Jo
Andrew, Chas, Skye and
Adrian, at Bargara Beach dive
shop

A dive trip had been planned for the weekend of the 17th June, and three cabins booked. Doug and Di, Maree, Kiara and Calen drove up in their cars. Andrew had kindly offered to take a few of us, Chas, Adrian, Skye and Jo, in his 'Bongo' van, our huge pile of dive gear we stashed in the trailer. We met Maree and co at a servo for a meal on the way up, only to be served by waitress from hell! We arrived with plenty of time for drinks and nibbles on the verandas. The next morning Andrew, Maree, Kiara and Skye did a morning shore dive, and copped lots of scratches and bruises for their efforts. Chas, Doug, Adrian and Jo did a double boat dive on several wrecks, saw loads of fish life, two huge grouper and turtles, excellent dive. The next day it was reversed. It was a brilliant dive and social weekend.



(Doug)



Turtle Bargara boat dive



Julian Rocks - Byron Bay



(smudge)

In August 2006 a small but determined group of club divers travelled to beautiful Byron Bay to dive the famous Julian Rocks site. The group included Chas Simpson, Andrew Mackenzie and Doug Alford. Apart from top diving, Byron Bay is worth the trip with top surf beaches, memorable scenery and a unique atmosphere.

Julian Rocks is awesome diving with the cod hole and regular sightings of grey nurse sharks being the highlights. On our first dive we saw two grey nurse sharks, large turtle, wobbegongs and lots of large and varied fish life. On the third dive we saw more grey nurse sharks (got top photos), school of manta-rays, moray eels, crayfish, turtles etc - awesome.

Not far to travel, top diving/surfing and an excellent place for a holiday.



Julian Rocks



Andrew & Doug



(Skye)

'this club has given me more opportunities to dive, learn and experience the deep blue with other fun divers'

Current Committee Members:

DON WIGHAM (President)

DOUG ALFORD (Vice President)

KIARA ROBERTSON (Secretary)

JO BAKER (Treasurer)

CHAS SIMPSON (Dive Coordinator)

SKYE McLEISH (Social Secretary)



Don, Doug, Jo & Chas



(Jo)

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 E: info@scubaworld.com.au
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South West Rocks - NSW



'A local'

In April 2006 a group of dedicated and enthusiastic club members dived at the famous South West Rocks location. The group included Chas Simpson, John Ellis, Adrian Mould, Bill Young, Regan Jenson, Doug Alford & wife Di (non-diver) and Lionel Dale from SCUBA World. It was an awesome trip with brilliant diving and lots of social interaction before, during and after dives.



Bill, Lionel, Doug, Chas & Jonno



Clubbies Q Dive Centre

The social highlight was a BBQ on Sunday with lots of liquid lubrication, top food, the usual diving exaggerations, lies, good/bad jokes (thanks to Chas & Lionel) etc. The diving included the famous fish rock cave (Australia's best ocean cave) with lots of fish, wobbegongs, crayfish etc and the thrill of diving a brilliant underwater cave. Other highlights included regular sightings of grey nurse sharks and prolific sea life. Do not miss the next trip.

(Adrian)

'South West Rocks ROCKED!'

Doug Alford - Vice President



A Flat rock resident

Flat Rock - Noosa

Just 30m off the National Park, between the car park and boiling pot. Flat Rock is a brilliant shore dive with access from the rocky shoreline

With a max depth of 5m, amazing marine life can be found. Turtles, Honeycomb Morays, Wobbegongs among some of the regulars, also countless other species of fish.



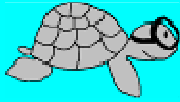
Jonno, Mark & Regan



Maree & Kiara

This is an excellent spot for a night dive, Brad and Pete did one back in July.

Vice Presidents Report



Sunshine Coast Scuba
Diving Club QLD
Incorporated

Phone:

Doug 07 54506452

Chas 0416 058605

Meetings:

1st & 3rd Tuesday
Sunshine Beach SLSC

2nd & 4th Tuesday
Marcoola Beach SLSC



Pete, Jo & Smudge on the
Brisbane

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.geocities.com/luvn2dive

How time flies when you are having fun (SCUBA fun naturally). It is hard to believe that it is nearly 12 months since the club had its inaugural meeting at the Royal Mail Hotel on the 27th Sep 05. From those humble beginnings the club has become viable and active with growing interest and an impressive smorgasbord of successful dive trips (considering the weather), completed locally and interstate. Not bad for the first 12 months - well done everybody.

Key objectives achieved during the past twelve months include:

- Registration and incorporation of the club by the QLD government
- Election of the committee and the development of the aims and objectives of the club
- Development and adoption of the draft rules for the club
- Development of members' application procedures and fee structure
- Construction of the club website
- Establishment of the club bank account
- Development of relationships with commercial dive shops, with substantial benefits to club members in the form of discounts, special promotions etc.

Diving highlights for me have been the trips away to SW Rocks NSW, Bargara and Julian Rocks at Byron Bay. It was a great opportunity to undertake some awesome diving and form a common bond of shared experiences in a club environment.

The club **AGM is on Tuesday the 7th Nov Sunshine Beach SLSC**. Please mark that date in your diary and make every effort to attend.

Lastly, a big thank you to all those members who gave their time and energy to growing the club, organizing dives, helping with the administration and attending dive trips etc. active members are the heart and soul of any club.

Doug Alford
Vice President

Memory to Christof

Our greatest thanks go to Christof Braun who did all the heavy paperwork involved with getting our club fully incorporated, a thankless job that no-one else wanted but in Christof's own inimitable style everything was "Just Done" due in no small part to his absolute love of diving and his passion for getting the club up and running. Tragically Christof passed away shortly after seeing his club incorporated. His quiet humour will be missed by all the early members who knew him.

A Plaque will be placed on the seabed by the club a year after his passing, on 23rd Feb 07