

# UNSW UNDERWATER CLUB JANUARY REEF TRIP 2007 NORTHWEST ISLAND 5-23 JAN 07

Your reef trip organisers are

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Grab your dive gear and sunscreen we're going on holidays!! We are off to a breath taking location where we can relax amidst the tranquillity of a tropical island.

This year we are heading to Northwest Island, which is part of the Capricornia Cays National Park. Northwest island is a 106 ha coral cay at the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef (the island can be walked in 60 minutes). It is within an 1192ha-surrounding reef. Located in over 75km northeast of Gladstone, you will have the opportunity to dive, snorkel etc etc in the crystal clear waters of sun soaked Queensland.

To make things run smoothly, before we go please read the following information carefully. It is important that you understand how the trip will run. If you have any questions or concerns please contact **Jenny** or **Woody** (contact info above).

## Dates and Times

The Island is booked from **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2007 to Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2007**. That is 17 days of fun and adventure in a tropical island. Check it out:



<http://www.queensland-holidays.com.au/pfm/sites/0002521/main.htm>

As there are a few things to organise and last minute things to buy, **EVERYONE** is required to be in Gladstone by **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** at the latest. This is so the group can meet up prior to the reef trip and allow you time to shop for last minute items you may want or need. On the **5<sup>th</sup> January** some people will need to do some last minute trip shopping and everyone will need to help with packing the barge.

We will be **leaving Gladstone Marina** in Queensland on the Rob Benn Cruises Barge (Prime Mover) very late on the **5<sup>th</sup>** and land on the Island about 6-8 hrs later which will be the morning of the **6<sup>th</sup> January**.

After 2 and bit weeks of diving and fun in the sun we will be sadly leaving Northwest Island on the **morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> January** and we will arrive at Gladstone Marina in the **evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> January**.

Before leaving Queensland equipment must be cleaned, returned to storage and rubbish dumped. People may begin leaving Gladstone as soon as we are finished. Therefore please make travel arrangements to leave Gladstone on either the **night of Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2007** or better still on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007** but not before (it is always better to have a good nights rest before driving back to Sydney and to take your time on the return journey).

## Finance

The total cost of the trip is \$800. *If we have enough funds we will also pay for accommodation in Gladstone but don't count on it, ensure you have sufficient funds to cover other possible accommodation.*

Club dive gear is available from the UNSW Underwater club gear loan officer Marcus Dwyer [Marcus@underwaterclub.org](mailto:Marcus@underwaterclub.org) At a cost of \$40 per BC, \$20 per tank and \$40 per reg it will be \$100 for a set. It will be **your responsibility to hire the gear from the club and transport it to Gladstone**. If you need other gear such as mask, snorkel, fins and wetsuit please contact SDA ([www.sydneydive.com.au](http://www.sydneydive.com.au)) he can help you out with gear at very reasonable prices.

For those unable to transport their dive gear to Gladstone, fuel money should be paid to those transporting your equipment for you.

## Transport

It is approximately 1500 km between Sydney and Gladstone. Please allow sufficient time to drive to Gladstone (approx. 20 hrs) and ensure you have enough people to share the driving. If you are driving it is advisable to leave at least by the morning of the **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2007**. You could leave earlier and have a small trip driving up the coast, provided that suits the car owners travel plans. Either way, make sure you play it safe and don't have an accident on the way up.

If you need to be picked up from the train/bus station or airport in Gladstone please let **Woody or Jenny** know what time you will be arriving.

Please note we will try and organise car transport with the available cars. But this is not a guaranteed mode of transport. The cost of fuel for car travel is estimated around \$100 - \$150 per person but will also have to include accommodation and food costs on the drive up. Car-pooling still will be the cheapest option.

Flying will get you to Gladstone the quickest and can cost from around \$580 - \$640 return per person (or cheaper if you get in there early). Please check flight details and costs with a travel agent or on the web.

Bus and Train are the next options of travel. Train can cost you nearly the price of a plane but if you are a student you get a 40% discount. Please book train travels plans with countrylink (Phone 132232). The train ride is about 24 hours.

Please indicate to reef trip organisers your preferred mode of transport. If you wish to car pool please send an email to **the trip list** and hopefully you'll get a ride with someone. If you have a car and can give lifts please send an email to the others on the list or answer the requests that come on the list. The purpose of the email list is so you can talk to each other and arrange this type of thing without us getting involved (we will, however be making a list of how everyone is getting there so please inform us of your intentions no matter what).

## **In Gladstone**

We are going to be staying at the **Mid City Motor Inn, 26 Goondoon St Gladstone QLD 4680 ((07) 4972 3000)**. The map attached will give you the general Idea of where things are.

A booking will be made under the name 'UNSW Underwater club'. The cost of accommodation is approx. \$28 per person per night. We will make a booking for the night **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>** and **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**. Please advise **Jenny** if you require any changes due to travel arrangements with regard to accommodation (i.e. if you will be there earlier or require additional dates)

On **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January**, we will need everyone's help to organise food and to get last minute supplies for a successful holiday. We will be loading the Barge on the **5<sup>th</sup> January 07**.

Cars can be locked away at the Marina until we get back. It will cost \$45 p/w for a covered spot or \$35 p/w for an uncovered spot, it may also be possible to store your car at the storage sheds where the gear is kept throughout the year, this is a much cheaper option.

**Arriving back in Gladstone** in the **Evening of Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2005**, we will unload everything and return all the necessary equipment to storage and reload for the trip back to Sydney. If all goes well, we should be finished by the **evening of the next day** and people will be free to leave after that.

The last night in Gladstone for some people will be **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January** if you decide to stay (a good idea if you are driving, so you are rested). Accommodation can be arranged with the motor inn prior to leaving for the Island or if we have enough info before the trip I'll book it in advance if I know enough details of who is planning to leave when.

## **On Northwest Island**

We are due to arrive on the Island on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2005** in the **morning**. The first thing we will do is unload all our gear and put it ashore. There is no jetty or wharf on the island to place gear on but the barge should be able to drive right up to the beach, you still, however, need to be prepared to get your feet wet. It is a good idea to have your booties or other shoes handy with you, not packed away, so as to avoid coral cuts. You should keep a daypack with shoes and any other essentials beforehand.

The first day will be a day of orientation and setting up. We will need to set up the food tents and arrange for easy access to food items but away from the less desirable island residents- *mice and birds!*

You will be given a run down on the use of the compressor and other procedures. Each person should fill tanks at least 5 times while on the island and plan on landing on the Island with full tanks. Just remember, the more dives you do the more time you spend at the compressor.

***No Personal gear is to be set up until all the group gear is ready***

There may be diving on the first day. If we get the communal gear set up quickly.

Please remember that this is going to be easier and faster if everyone helps without question and as we have the food and kitchen tents set up we can move the food straight into the kitchen. Remember we are a group effort, so please, play your part.

## **Food & Communal Living**

There will be plenty of food for everyone to enjoy. This will be ordered in Gladstone and transported with us.

Each individual will have to cook their own breakfast and lunch (self service but no room service .... ;-). In cooking dinner, a pair of chefs will be designated for each night on the trip. Every trip member is expected to be head chefs at least once on the trip and several will be twice. You will need to tell us what you are cooking and the ingredients for your culinary delight. Most meals will have to be vegetarian but if you do get to cook meat please keep in mind that there are some vegetarians, so you will need to cook something for them. Try to plan for two dishes accompanied by rice or pasta, plus dessert.

The head chefs will have the service of reef trip helpers. Each trip member is expected to help with the cooking for at least one other night, excluding your night as head chef. The head chefs for the next night will be helpers the night before the night they are head chefs. This will give the head chefs an idea where things are around the kitchen and thus can be better prepared. Those who will be cooking twice will get helpers from those who are only cooking once.

Helpers will be needed for cutting up ingredients and cleaning up the kitchen area. In order to keep the kitchen area clean and as germ free as possible, on the day that you are appointed head chef, you will also be on kitchen duty. This means that it is your responsibility to keep the kitchen area clean, wiping down the bench, keeping lids on containers and placing opened foods in the fridge. Also cleaning any pots and pans.

***This does not mean that everyone else can leave dirty plates and knives, opened containers and spills all over the kitchen. Please clean your dirty plates and cutlery once you have used them and put them away.***

Please clean any pots and pans used for lunch and breakfast before you eat so others don't have to wash it for their use and so we do not have too much washing for the evening meal.

For this trip to be a success it is important that everyone help out. Aside from cooking you will be required to do compressor duty at least 5 times, help refuel the boat and help refill water containers.

To make this successful trip each one of us should do their share of the work on the island. Please help us to make this a memorable trip for all.

***Remember many hands make light work - and more time to play***

## **Diving**

There might be diving on the first day **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January** depending on the work involved in setting up camp but it will only be in the arvo.

Your **Dive Officer** for the trip is **whoever volunteers when we get there!**

All boat dives, dive buddies, boat drivers and dive location will be organised the night before diving in consultation with the trip dive officer. Boat dives will only be taken out by designated boat drivers. The maximum boatload should be 9 divers for the Dij and 4 divers for the Tinny (This can be changed depending on weather conditions).



No shore dives will be formally organised, they are at your own convenience, but you must inform your dive officer (or someone remaining on shore) of your dive. We usually have a sign-out board also for this purpose.

Dive computers are **NOT** to be shared; they are 1 to 1. If you do not have a dive computer you are **NOT** to dive outside of the dive tables. As per PADI regulations please carry a **dive timer** with you at all times during the dive and note your total dive time and your maximum depth. Remember we are in a remote area with assistance several hours away.

If you are keen to dive as soon as allowed, then it is a good idea to have a full tank for arrival on the island. There is a dive shop in Gladstone where you can fill tanks before leaving.

## Social Stuff

This trips partynights will be **Arabian Night**, **Cocktail Party (reef formal)**, **ABBA night** and a good old **Island Night**. Alcohol will be provided on these glorious nights (hopefully we will have some drink and punch mixers among us) all you guys have to do is bring your party clothes!

It's a reef tradition to dress up on our partynights, so on the Island Party you can wear anything ranging from flower lei's to shell bikinis.



Island night Jan 2006



Reef trip Formal Cocktail Night.

Cocktail night is the legendary reef trip formal occasion where we all dress up in our best outfits. If you look at the picture from the July 06 trip you will all get the idea of what Reef Trip Formal is all about. Wardrobes can be revitalised with a quick visit to St.Vinnies in Gladstone, who has an awesome selection of beautiful dresses etc.... guaranteed to make you the Belle of the Ball! (Even if you are a bloke;-)On top of this there will be other nights of fun organised (ie mafia, twister.....)

Alcohol for party nights will be provided but if you want to drink more you will have to bring your own supply. Any alcohol purchased by the trip will be strictly consumed on these nights. If you require more please bring your own supply (sadly there is no bottle shop down the road at

North West). Also remember that the fridge is for food not alcohol; so don't bank on putting you beers in there. You can, though, hire a fridge for approx. \$300 for the duration of the trip.

If you have an idea for a team night of fun activity please share it with us and we will make arrangements for it to happen.

# Things To Bring

## Diving Gear

Dive gear is your responsibility. If you require a BCD, Reg and Tank contact the UNSW Underwater Club gear officer to collect your club gear for the trip.

Don't forget to book and pick up your dive gear from the gear officer. Gear will be available for pick up from the club gear room located on the ground floor of the Sam Cracknel, Make sure you bring your membership card. You will be responsible for getting it back.

This gear must be thoroughly washed in fresh water and demonstrated to be in good working order upon return.

If you require wetsuits, fins or whole kit please contact Brett

### Note:

Personal accident and evacuation is your own responsibility. An excellent idea is to contact DAN (Divers Alert Network) for membership. 03- 9886 9166 (Melbourne) or look it up on the web. <http://www.danseap.org/page13.html>





## Personal Items

### Camping Gear

|                                             |                           |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tent                                        | Pillow                    |
| Tarpaulin (to protect tent from bird shit!) | Chair                     |
| Air bed/ sleeping mat                       | Plate/knife/spoon/fork    |
| Sleeping bag/sheet                          | Torch and extra batteries |
| Mozzie net                                  | Hammock                   |

### Dive Gear

|                                                                                                                                                               |                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Dive tub/bag                                                                                                                                                  | Gloves- protects from coral cuts                    |
| Tank                                                                                                                                                          | Weight belt                                         |
| Regulator with functional occy                                                                                                                                | Safety sausage                                      |
| BCD                                                                                                                                                           | Dive knife                                          |
| Mask                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Dive timer/watch (don't ignore this item!!!)</b> |
| Snorkel                                                                                                                                                       | Dive tables and log book                            |
| Fins and booties                                                                                                                                              | Light sticks for night diving                       |
| Wetsuit (the water is warm, but wetsuits are good for protection against coral cuts and the longs stays under water. Recommended 3mm steamer or a 5mm 2piece) | Dive torch and Spare batteries – great night dives  |
| Repair kit- mask/fin/snorkel straps, O-rings etc                                                                                                              |                                                     |

### Clothes

|                                                                                     |                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Light clothing for day, eg. t-shirt, shorts, sarong                                 | Socks                                                                                  |
| Light jumper and long pants- in the evening sea breeze can be cold                  | Island Dress for Island night and your 70's stuff                                      |
| Swimmers                                                                            | Towels - 1 for the island, 1 for Gladstone                                             |
| Formal dress for cocktail night                                                     | Rain coat/spray jacket- it is the wet season                                           |
| Shoes (eg dunlop volleys) for reef walking and for walking on sand which can be hot | Undies- plenty as there is only saltwater for washing and wet swimmers give you a rash |

### Other stuff

|                                                        |                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Sunscreen – bring lots                                 | Broad rimmed hat and sunglasses               |
| Lip balm- -bring lots                                  | Insect repellent                              |
| Skin moisturiser                                       | Tissues, hankies                              |
| Disposable underwater/ normal camera and extra film    | Coat hangers -good for hanging up wetsuit, BC |
| Saltwater soap/hand cleaner - normal soap doesn't work |                                               |

### Optional

|                                                                           |                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun umbrella                                                              | Hammock - and rope to hang it up                                                             |
| Surf ski/board                                                            | Windsurfer                                                                                   |
| Fishing gear                                                              | Spear fishing gun                                                                            |
| Frisbee                                                                   | Books                                                                                        |
| Walkman and spare batteries                                               | Board games eg. Monopoly, pictionary                                                         |
| Candles                                                                   | Tarpaulin                                                                                    |
| Kite                                                                      | Any sort of ball                                                                             |
| Cards (plastic or non plastic)                                            | Personal 1st aid kit                                                                         |
| Alcohol – club provides alcohol for 70's, Island and cocktail nights only | Munchies -mice may be on the island so make sure extra food is stored in a sealed container. |