

Minutes of the Meeting of Free Flow Divers British Club 18 December 2006

WELCOME

Elenor Jones welcomed everyone.

PRESENTATIONS

GREAT BARRIER REEF – Angela Sausman

Angela spoke about Australia's Great Barrier Reef. She and Michael have had over 6 dive trips to the Reef. Her talk was accompanied by a power point show with statistics about the Reef.

She talked about the different types of dive holidays:

1. Day boat trips – ProDive/Tusa from Cairns, and Poseidon/Haba from Port Douglas.
 - a) Poseidon takes about 15 divers, 3 dives on the day trip, but mostly snorkellers.
2. Liveaboard – ProDive/Tusa from Cairns and UnderSea Explorer from Port Douglas.
3. Lake Diving – Atherton Tablelands – organized by Tech Dive Academy.

Cost for day trip – around S\$300 a day for divers, S\$160 for snorkellers (plus reef tax).

Angela and Michael have been on UnderSea Explorer and recommend it. It is a marine research vessel and takes about 20 divers. Details and costs on website.

Lots to do in Tropical Far North Queensland for a family holiday as well as diving holiday – Daintree Rainforest, Kuranda, Atherton Tablelands, crocodile farms, etc. Must wear stinger suits when swimming off the beach.

Can fly to Cairns on Qantas/BA/Jetstar via Darwin – around S\$700, or through Brisbane and Sydney.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND – Michael Sausman

Angela and Michael had just returned from a trip to Christmas Island. Normally there are two dive operators but now only one. 11 people max.

Beautiful, untouched hard and soft corals.

Went to see the migration of the red crabs, but it has been too dry so only about 5% of the crabs made the move from the rainforest to the sea.

They snorkelled with dolphins, saw big trevally/barracuda/hammerheads.

6 days diving – 4 dives a day from boats – unlimited shore night diving.

Temp around 28 C. High season is April to November.

Not geared up for tourists.

SIMILAN ISLANDS – Stephanie Haese

<p>Stephanie and Stefano had just had a 4-night liveaboard trip to the Similan Islands on 'The Really Wicked Witch'. Picked up north of Phuket. Highly recommended.</p> <p>HYPERBARIC CHAMBER – Tony Rebuck</p> <p>4 FFD members - Paul, Greta, Dale and Tony - took part in a hyperbaric course at Tan Tock Seng Hospital. After lectures, each member was put into the chamber and taken to a pressure of 4m and had to pretend to experience a particular situation (eg claustrophobia) while the others had to manage the emergency outside the chamber.</p> <p>Tony thought it was excellent. Cost of the course was S\$240.</p>	
<p>QUIZ</p> <p>Quiz was set by Angela and Michael Sausman – Nick Jackson won the tie-breaking question, but donated the prize back, and it was eventually won by Tony Rebuck.</p>	
<p>UPCOMING TRIPS</p> <p>Black Manta – 13-15 April (Marcel Eckhardt)</p> <p>A marine biology trip to Tioman – 6 guided dives, followed by lectures. 12 people committed – another 10 would reserve the boat for the club. Contact Marcel or Alison for more information. Details are on the website.</p> <p>Biak</p> <p>Fully booked with 6 people on the waiting list.</p> <p>Philippines 17 March (one week)</p> <p>Jane Meech is looking to organize a trip to Malapasqua to dive with the thresher sharks. US\$23 per dive. Fly to Cebu. Accommodation is either beach huts or a/c huts.</p> <p>Further details from Jane or on the website.</p>	
<p>THANKS</p> <p>Elenor thanked everyone involved for the great Christmas party.</p>	
<p>NEXT MEETING</p> <p>15 January is the date for the next meeting, which will be a social one. To be held at the Old Brown Shoe on Bukit Timah Road, near Culina/The Cellar Door.</p>	
<p><i>Prepared by Heather Jackson, Secretary 27 December 2006</i></p>	