

# UNIDIVE'S WOBBEGOSSIP



March 2022

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 18 – Hervey Bay wknd trip  
Mar 20 – MEAM survey dives  
Mar 24 – Pool night + swim style  
Mar 26 – MEAM survey dives  
Mar 26 – Cook Island OW dives  
Mar 29 – MEAM project Zoom  
Apr 2 – MEAM survey dives  
Apr 7 – Pool night + try  
underwater hockey

**Register for upcoming  
events here:**

<https://www.unidive.org/events/>

## THE LATEST

Unfortunately, the weather has not been cooperating this year, with 13 events cancelled in 2022 already ☹️. The floods in February flooded the club shed and has put a pause on many of our activities while we assess damage and wait for UQ to clean up. Big shout out to Mark, Mel, and Chris for moving a lot of our gear from the shed to higher/dryer ground before it was too late. Hopefully UQ will have the shed approved for activities ASAP, but until then we will make do with organizing what we can and catching up over dinners/Zoom.

We were lucky that our first pool night and refresher workshop happened the week before the flooding. We had 12 awesome divers hop in the water to refresh some skills – and many more members hopping in to swim! Thanks to our training officer, Mel, we'll be able to continue our pool nights once a month at the Ironside State School pool until UQ pool is open again. We're looking forward to the upcoming swim style improvement (March) and underwater hockey (April) nights.

Although the year didn't start the way anyone expected, we've still been lucky to have some great dives. We hope the rest of the year we are able to make up for all our missed dives and continue to progress the MEAM project. Too all the wonderful members who joined us for UQ market day and the welcome BBQ – thank you! We can't wait to be diving with you soon. Keep an eye on the website's event calendar for upcoming trips and rescheduling of past trips!

## Trip highlights!

Missed the trips earlier this year? This is what a few members had to say about their experiences:



*Excitement at the welcome BBQ.  
(Photo: Melanie Oey)*



*Smiling surveyors after the MEAM dives. (Photo: Rachel McVeigh)*



*Fun during the refresher workshop. (Photo: Melanie Oey)*

## **MEAM survey trip – Saturday February 19, 2022**

After five consecutively cancelled survey trips in 2022 (damn you, weather!), it was finally meant to happen: The first MEAM survey of the year! Reports on visibility in the area were not very encouraging, predicting a handful of meters visibility (at best!) and unfavourable increases in wind speeds in the arvo. But, that was a better forecast than we've ever had in 2022, so we went for it! After a splendidly calm and uncomplicated organisational prelude, we all met up at the (very busy!) Mooloolaba boat ramp for a timely departure to the outer Gneering. Specifically, we wanted to give a site called 'Shellacey' a go. The site, located about halfway out on the outer Gneering, is known by local operators for its exquisite nudibranch abundance and diversity as well as interesting reef structure and rich coral cover. And, given the poor predictions, conditions were likely to be best further out rather than around Mudjimba Island. However, this also meant that we had to a survey at 16-17m depth, almost twice as deep as the usual transects! We, therefore, decided to do one transect in two lots, a wise decision as it turned out that we were indeed hitting close to the limits of our gas consumption and no-deco times. Conditions were

surprisingly good with little swell, 5-7m vis and only a moderate amount of current towards the end of the survey with plenty of sunshine. The team worked like a well-oiled machine and we found ourselves back at the shed, with everything cleaned and packed away at 4.30pm, what an amazing operation!

We had a hell of a good time with a great & relaxed atmosphere, lots of smiles and laughter and everybody being visibly excited about being out and about in the ocean again! Karen was dearly missed and Shannon was awfully pale and quiet during the surface interval ( ; ) ). Thanks to everybody for a fantastic trip, this is what we're doing it for! May the next trip be just around the corner! -Cedric

## **Byron Bay camping & diving trip – February 18-20, 2021**

Looking back to less crazy days (weather-wise), we got to spend a mostly sunny weekend (18th-20th of Feb) along the beautiful coastline of Byron Bay. Setting up camp on Friday we went for an early night of slumber as we needed to be at the dive shop down the road bright and early at 8am the next day. It was a cruisy morning of getting ready to head off on a short bus ride to the beach, where the boat was launched and we got on to cruise past many surfers and on to Julian rocks just 5 minutes further along. The conditions were great with little swell and very nice visibility, and straight away we could see leopard sharks cruising by below us! It was awesome under the water with multiple close leopard shark encounters, as well as a really funky camouflaged octopus, moray eels, various crabs, and more. We ended up having a big lunch break after our first dive back at the campsite and then headed back out for our second dive. To our turtle-lover's delight we got to see a huge one that decided to swim past us after we had admired it just sitting in a crevice. That left us some time in the arvo to relax a bit before going to explore Byron's night life (with some of us basically dancing rather than walking about;). On Sunday we finally got a nice sleep-in, packed up our camp, and enjoyed the beach with a good barbie there for lunch. -Sara



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*(Photos from the Byron Bay dives by Sara Waak)*

## MEMBER POLL: WHAT DIVE SKILLS WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPROVE?

Wanting to learn more about certain aspects of diving or sharpen skills in a certain area? Pool nights and workshops are a great way to hone those parts of your diving you may have been neglecting. Fill out this poll to share your ideas: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7HSYX6G>



(Photo: Shannon Davis)

Results from our last newsletter poll are in! Diving Cook Island and the exHMAS were amongst the top responses – so come around to the shed and see who else is keen to get a group together to go dive those spots!

### CONTACT US

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### Newsletter suggestions?

Reach out to our social officer to share ideas for things you'd like to see appear in our newsletters or events the club should put on