



Marine Teachers Association of Queensland Inc.

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FINAL HARD COPY EDITION

NEWSLETTER No 65

SEPTEMBER 2004

WE GO ELECTRONIC

It's been nice knowing you all but now its time to go surfing. Unless someone wants to take over the role of typesetting, this form of newsletter has come to an end as the new electronic versions take over.

The AGM approved an office and the new branch reps unanimously voted for electronic communications - so if you are like a dinosaur like me, its time to grab you surfboard too.

Take a look on line at the new look news on

NOOSA STATE CONFERENCE

Over 70 attended our State Conference at Noosa this month. The venue and food were spectacular as was the chance to catch up with all our colleagues.

The opening was by Nambour Regional Director Rob McAlpine who described the importance of our association in engaging students from the middle school of education.

He passed on his best wishes to our association and congratulated it on its valuable role in networking teachers who rarely had the chance to engage in professional discussions on a State level.

Highlights of the conference were

- Pre-conference Vanuatu trip
- Final Junior Marine Workshop which endorsed all the work of the sub committee to be submitted to QSA for approval.
- The papers and this is how I do it sessions ranging from coral bleaching, reef guardians, lure making, underwater hockey, bar crossings
- Practical workshops in fishing
- Sea food lunch spectacular
- Conference dinner
- Underwater world excursion
- Australia Zoo
- Surfing workshops
- Walks in the National Park

The AGM elected Sheree Bell as our new President with Lloyd Jones becoming Treasurer. Tina stays on as Treasurer and Ward as Vice President.

We also took a huge step forward and approved a office on the Gold Coast to be run by book keeper and admin specialist Kelly Hoddle from We Love Admin.

Members can download the CME syllabus that we submitted to the QSA is in the newly designed members area.

Thanks to our sponsors Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland Yachting, Wet Paper Publications, Marine Safety Queensland, Sunshine Beach and Noosa District SHS's.



NEW MEMBERSHIP OFFICE

We now have employed a bookkeeper - Kelly Hoddle from *We Love Admin* at Southport to run the membership side of things.

Tina and Ward will still write the cheques but we are switching to MYOB so that we can issue invoices and sell memberships. Bob used to do all the invoicing but now someone has to take over and members funds have now been allocated to Kelly for this.



Kelly Hoddle -
Membership
Office

PALM ISLAND STUDENTS HOOKED ON MARINE STUDIES

Bwgcolman Youth Education Centre on Palm Island delivers a Certificate I in Seafood Industry to marine studies students.

This is an exciting certificate to deliver; most of our time is spent on both of the school's boats (4.6m and a 5.3m Cairns custom crafts, with 40hp and 135hp respectively).

The students are all Aboriginal Palm Islanders and show a keen interest to learn the finer details of fishing; trolling for pelagics using overhead combos, deck winches, handlines; bottom fishing for reef species; and casting popper lures across patches of reef for trevally and queenfish (as below).



Here's a pic of the school's other boat.



The jetty and boat ramp are only 50m away from the school boat shed. Now that's convenience!

The best thing about teaching Marine Studies on Palm Island are the school camps on neighbouring islands. Here's a few snippets of school camps – Palm Island style:

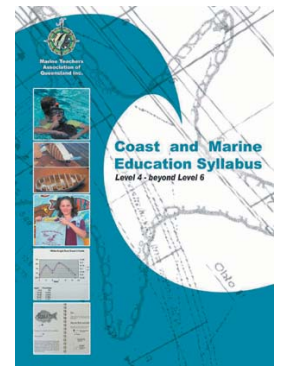
I will certainly miss teaching marine studies at Bwgcolman Youth Education Centre on Palm Island. I'm sure there is a lucky person out there who will score this job next year.

Cya

Daryl Pierce

Palm Island soon the be at Sunshine Beach SHS

JUNIOR MARINE CME SYLLABUS NEWS -



QSA accepts syllabus for accreditation

This month Sheree and Bob submitted to the accreditation panel from the QSA on our Coast and Marine Education Syllabus.

The submission was a half hour presentation and members can download the syllabus from the newly designed members area.

The QSA panel has now accepted the syllabus and asked for a few revisions - such as the legal section on page 38-39. They are then submitting it to the Science, SOSE and Health and PE Advisers Committees in November.

In December they will set up a special accreditation panel from our \$3000 to review the comments from the advisers committees.

If all goes well, they will recommend to the QSA board in February that it be accredited and we will get an special logo to put on the syllabus cover to show it can be used in Queensland schools.

During this time, Bob will work with Ed Qld, Cath Ed and the Independent Schools who wish to start teaching from the syllabus, to sign partnership agreements requiring schools who wish to teach from the syllabus to be financial members.

This will secure funds for MTAQ to reprint and update the syllabus forever.

Thanks to our initial sponsors Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland Yachting, Wet Paper Publications, Marine Safety Queensland and the Australian Maritime College for injecting \$10,000 into syllabus production and marketing.

Thanks also to the official trial schools Kirwan, Holy Spirit, Mercy College and Sunshine Beach SHS as well as the unofficial trial schools at Hervey Bay, Clontarf Beach, Benowa, Marymount, Southport and many more who continue to add marine studies to their Science programs.

You can download the Birth of the Syllabus August Report by clicking on the CME Aug Report.pdf file below.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

At the AGM, Bob and Paula were presented with three fantastic frames of surfing shots which will go straight to the pool room. Thanks for a wonderful 10 years at MTAQ and now its time for the young guns to take over. See ya. Bob



SNORKELLING EXAMINERS BOND

Got his email
congratulations Bill and
Karen

*Hi Everyone! Guess What!
Fantastic News. I have been
seeing this wonderful man
named Bill Fowles for about
5 months.*

*On Saturday (some months
ago now) - overlooking
Lamberts Beach on Dusk,
with a Gibbous moon then
rising over the ocean and a sailing ship in the
distance....*

*Yes - you guessed it. We proposed to each other and are
now engaged to be married around Easter 2005! All our
kids (and families) are really happy. I hope everyone
can also be excited and share our joy. Bill and his
kids live in Brisbane (Deception Bay) - so yes moving,
new job, etc. are all part of the plan. We will keep you
posted on exact dates when we have come down off
cloud 9 and done some planning!!*



EXEMPTION FROM COASTAL PFD'S FROM MSQ.

Vessels in 2C can gain exemption provided students are wearing Type 1 PFD's - make application in writing to local harbourmaster.

Also vessels in 2E can gain exemption provided students are wearing Type 2 PFD's, once again write to local harbourmaster stating -

-Name of applicant/master/owner

-Rego number

-State you are requesting exemption

-Reasons for exemption such as operating in daylight, all safety equipment on board and on water for a short time and in sight of land etc

For any further info contact me on
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(07) 3480 3748

Lloyd Jones

Southern Cross College Scarborough 4020

CONFERENCE T SHIRTS FOR SALE

Extra T shirts available from conference

Phone Paula on

(07) 5525 6122

PRICE

\$30 + \$7.50 pack and post

MTAQ PRECONFERENCE

VANUATU 21-27 SEPTEMBER 2004

The MTAQ ran a pre conference activity at Hideaway Island, Vanuatu. The purpose of the activity was to obtain dive qualifications, inspect the island which is now selling itself as a marine studies field trip destination and to network amongst our new and older members.

The members that attended this preconference activity were Mike Halpin, Sean Gibson and Susan (TSS), Lloyd Jones (Southern Cross), Tony Isaacson (Sunshine Grammar), Kelly Goodingham (Holy Spirit, Mackay), Anthony and Deb Everett (Marani SHS, Mackay). Our tour guide was Ladia Westland from Resort 2 Diving of Noosa.

Our "Air Vanuatu" flight departed Brisbane at 1930 and arrived at Port Vila at 2230, after transfers from the airport and 5 minute boat ride to Hideaway Island we fell asleep in our twin share rooms at midnight. We awoke in the morning to waves lapping on the beach 15 metres from our door. This resort could be described as a "dive junkies paradise" with great dive sites located 5-10 minutes boat ride from the dive store. Dives take place at 0830, 1030 and 1400, just join the queue and go on the dive of your choice. With dive sites known as Hideaway I, Gotham City, The Emperor's Gardens, Hangover Reef, The Clown Colony, Wreck of the Aloera and Wreck of the Bonzer - there is more than enough to see of brilliant coral, marine life, volcanic warmed underwater springs, cave and wreck dives.

During the six dive package we had at least 3 underwater digital cameras operating, after each dive we would download the mornings work onto a lap top computer for showing and editing in the afternoon. Of course we always had time to sail the resort catamaran, have a beach snorkel and marvel at the marine life, post letters in the underwater post office and then a marvellous lunch in the beach restaurant. We found time to visit Port Vila for currency exchange at "Goodies" and to have plate size steaks at the "Waterfront" restaurant. A must visit is the Cascade Falls behind the village of Mele and on our last no dive day we took the 4 hour drive around the island of Efate. Don't ever complain about Queensland roads again, 140 kms of road with only 10 kms of bitumen, the rest being eroded bedrock or dust.

The local village of Mele supplied the - divemasters (Luaky, Joka and Jerry) - these divemasters have had over 5000 dives each and don't need to breathe air, - the boat drivers (Russell, Carlos), - the restaurant staff (Shona, Cindy, Robert, Janette). On our visit to the local village we visited the houses, the church, chiefs council house and the local school (most students leave at grade 6 and there is a choice of English or French speaking school). We did find that they had a shortage of textbooks of any description - If your school (primary or secondary) is going to dump old textbooks, please don't, box them and send them to me and I will make sure they get to these underprivileged schools - just send them to

Lloyd Jones



NEW CONTACTS - IT'S ALL NOW ON THE WEB IN THE MEMBERS SECTION

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NEW MEMBERS AREA INFO

BRANCH REPS IT'S ALL NOW ON THE WEB IN THE MEMBERS SECTION

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