

Sunshine Coast Skindivers

AUGUST 2023

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DIVE DEEP INTO THE DEPTHS WITH US



A WARM WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello fellow spearos,

As the proud president of the Sunshine Coast Skindivers, I am thrilled to welcome you to our monthly newsletter. Whether you're a seasoned spearo aiming to perfect your technique, or a novice curious about the silent dance beneath the waves, this is your go-to resource for all things spearfishing.

Our oceans are vast, mysterious and brimming with life. The art of spearfishing allows us not only to connect with this underwater realm but also to become stewards of its sustainability. Our club takes immense pride in promoting responsible and ethical spearfishing practices, ensuring that the aquatic world we love so much remains vibrant for generations to come.

Every month, this newsletter will dive into various topics – from tips and techniques to tales from our club members, equipment reviews, upcoming events, conservation news and so much more. It's a platform to share, learn, and connect. So strap on your fins, tighten your masks, and get ready to embark on a journey that promotes thrills, challenges and endless underwater adventures.

Welcome aboard, and may your aim always be true!

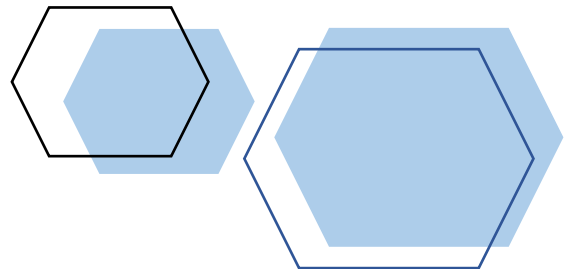
Warm regards,

Joseph White
President
Sunshine Coast Skindivers

2023/24 CLUB SPONSORS

THANK YOU TO THOSE THAT HAVE COME ONBOARD

**HUNT[®]
MASTER**



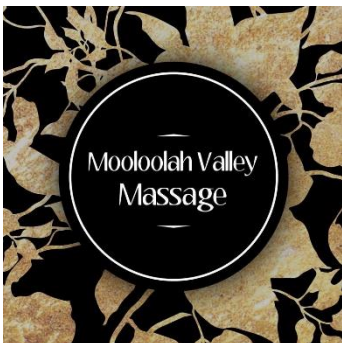
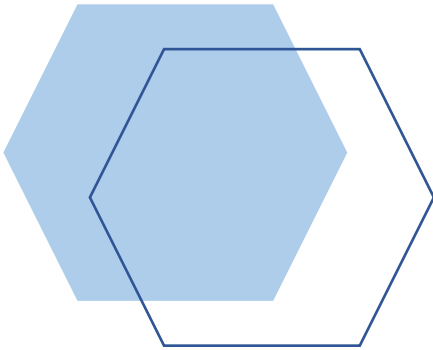


ABCO
COMMERCIAL DIVING



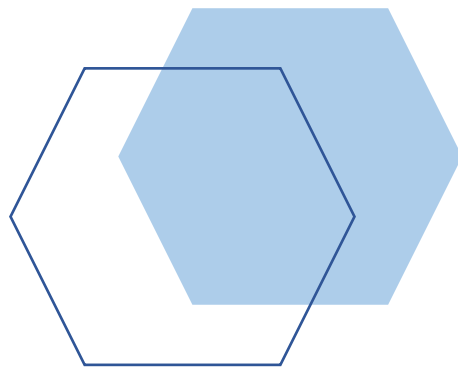
GYOTAKU
by **DERYCK**

UNDERSEE AUSTRALIA
SPEARFISHING GEAR



If you, or someone you know, would like to come onboard as a sponsor for this season, please reach out to the committee.

Presentation Night



KAWANA SURF LIFESAVING CLUB – 14TH JULY

The Sunshine Coast Skindivers Annual Presentation Night was held again at Kawana Surf Lifesaving Club with over 60 club members and their family attending. The night was a huge success, celebrating the achievements of all members and their continued contributions to the club's growth.

Well done to all award winners and thank you to everyone for your ongoing support!

INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

A GRADE

1. Joseph White
2. Ryan Springall
3. Bart Mackenzie

B GRADE

1. Lakesha Surmak
2. Samuel Renwick
3. Shane Fixter

C GRADE

1. Finn Mackenzie
2. Indigo Susmilch
3. Alex Day



JUNIORS

1. Finn Mackenzie
2. Same Mapledoram

WOMENS

1. Lakesha Sermak
2. Indigo Susmilch
3. Ash Dragon

PAIRS

1. Rhys Clay/Joseph White
2. Bart/Fin Mackenzie
3. Ben Thomson/Ryan Springall

TEAMS (tie)

Little Mermaids: M. Harvey, D. Keating, F. Mackenzie, B. Mackenzie

The Tail Manipulators:



MOST MERITORIOUS FISH

Finn Mackenzie
Giant Herring



BIG 10 CHAMPION

Clifford Harvey



CLUB CHAMPION

Bart Mackenzie



BIG 10 PRIZE DRAW

Thank you, once again to all our amazing sponsors who donated prizes for this event.



AUSSIE REELS

4x reels with line (2x Cuda Railgun reels, 1x belt reel and 1x Woodie reel)

BLUE TORTUGA

3x \$100 vouchers

CLAYS CONSERVATION

\$1000 voucher towards bush regeneration

DERYK GYOTAKU

1x Framed Gyotaku print

FATBOIS FABRICATION

\$300 voucher towards your choice of fabrication work

HUNTMASTER

2x spearguns (90cm aluminium open head and a 120cm carbon), 1x dive bag, 1x torpedo float, 1x 15m float line

ICEY TEK

2x fish bag (1x 150cm, 1x 100cm)

Jolly Roger Spearfishing

1x GoPro dive mask, 1x change towel

MOOLOOLAH VALLEY MASSAGE

3x 90 minute massage vouchers

SPEARO BROTHERS

Mangopare 115cm wooden gun w/reel

SUNSHINE AND SONS SPIRITS

Voucher for 700ml bottle from their core range, 2 glasses and a tour for up to 8 people including tasting and drinks

SUNSHINE COAST SPEARFISHING SUPPLIES

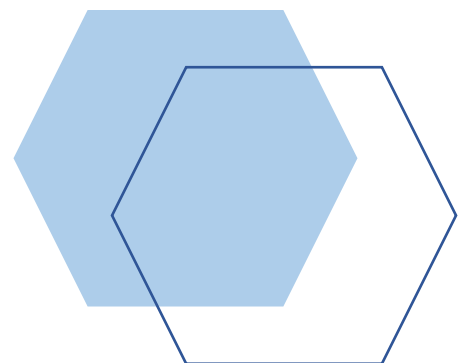
1x Large Wettie float with esky liner

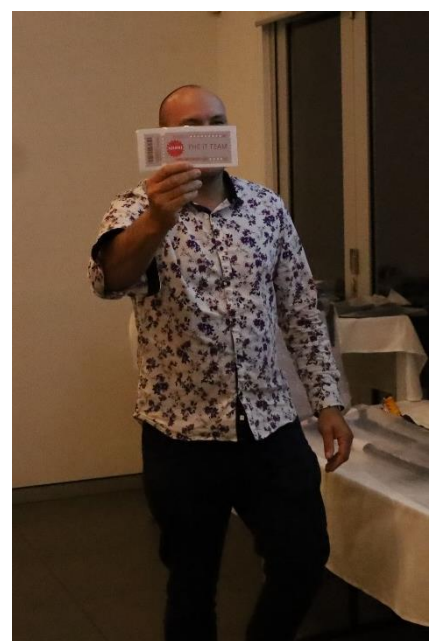
THE IT TEAM

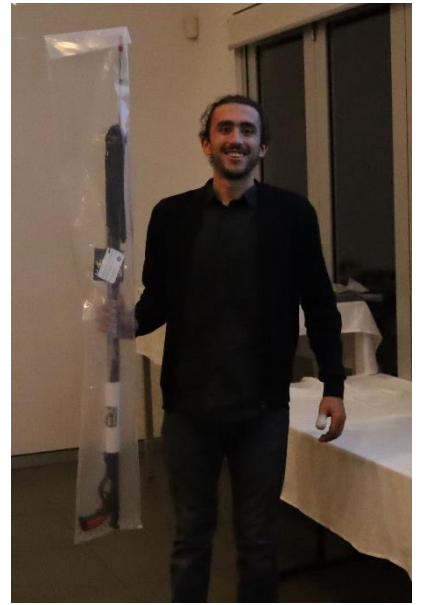
\$1000 voucher for website development

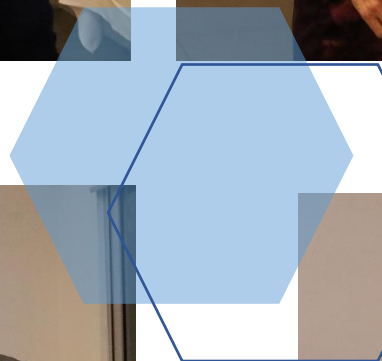
UNDERSEE

2x spearguns (1x 90cm Blue Tuna gun, 1x Ocean-X gun), 3x tshirts









COMPETITION REPORT

MG KAILIS LOBSTER DIVING PAIRS COMPETITION



The Sunshine Coast Skindivers MG Kailis Lobster Pairs Competition was a huge success big thank you to **MG Kailis Lobster Diving** for their generosity of sponsoring our Crayfish competition with \$500 worth of cash prizes.

1st

The winning pair was Lakeesh Sermak and Ash Dragon, with Lakeesha catching a monster cray that weighed in at 1.27kg!

2nd

Second place, went to Clifford Harvey and Adam Howard who bagged a 1.15kg cray.

3rd

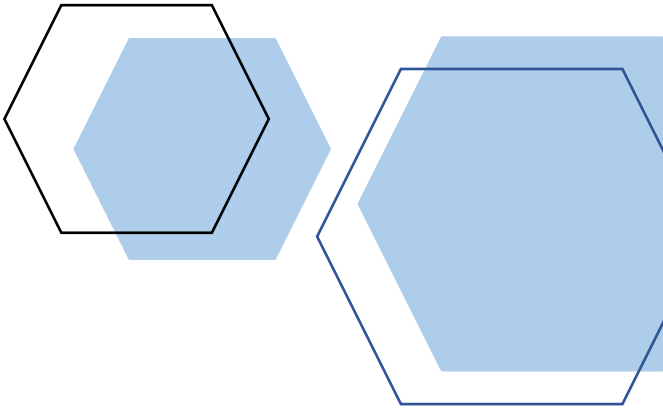
Ben Thomson and Matt Dragon ties with Phil and Tim Hall, with both teams weighing crays of 1.025kg.

Thanks must also go to **Sunshine Coast Spearfishing Supplies** who supplied 2x Wettle Cray loops for the lucky door prize, which was taken home by Aimee Opal and Blake Scott!

Well done to all who participated and a massive thank you to MG Kailis Lobster Diving for supporting the event for another year. As a commercial tropical lobster company based out of Cairns region, Peter Frazis and the team are always on the lookout for new crew to join them. If interested, or to support their hard work, please reach out to them directly.









The first competition for the season was a cracker with 17 divers turning up for the day and plenty of good fish being weighed in.

Massive congratulation to **Bart Mackenzie** for taking out individual first place, weighing in 5 species and to **Ben Thomson** and **Ryan Springall** for placing first in the pairs competition. Ben also secured a new QLD record for his lionfish.

Fin Mackenzie started the season off really well, taking out the junior competition and being moved up from C to B grade for future competitions.

Taking out the women's competition for the day, **Lakeesha Sermak** brought in some impressive fish and has been bumped to A grade for this season.

Indigo Sussmilch has also been moved up to B grade after taking out the first competition's C division.

Congratulations to all those that have moved up a grade for this season. If any member is unsure of what grade they are in for this season, please reach out to the committee.

Individual placings: (total points/species/percentage)

- Bart Mackenzie 599.65/ 5/ 100.00%
- Joseph White 562.3/ 4/ 93.77%
- Ben Thompson 480.35/ 4/ 80.11%
- Ryan Springall 470.8/ 4/ 78.51%
- Matthew Balazs 374.7/ 3/ 62.49%
- Lakeesha Sermak 356.65/ 3/ 59.48%
- Indigo Sussmilch 350.15/ 3/ 58.39%
- Rhys Clay 251/ 2/ 41.86%
- Dan Grieveson 244.9/ 2/ 40.84%
- Adam Lobegeier 223.15/ 2/ 37.21%
- Blake Jay Scott 124/ 1/ 20.68%
- Alex Gregory 109.9/ 1/ 18.33%
- Fin Mackenzie 108.15/ 1/ 18.04%
- Giacomo Marotta 105.7/ 1/ 17.63%
- Russell Miller 0/ 0/ 0.00%
- Opal 0/ 0/ 0.00%
- James Mapledoram 0/ 0/ 0.00%

Pairs placings:

- Ben Thomson/Ryan Springall 735.85/ 6/ 100%
- Bart Mackenzie/Fin Mackenzie 707.8/ 6/ 96.19%
- Indigo Sussmilch/Adam Lobegeier 573.3/ 5/ 77.91%
- Joseph White/Rhys Clay 562.3/ 4/ 76.42%
- Matthew Balazs/James Mapledoram 374.7/ 3/ 50.92%
- Lakeesha Sermak 356.65/ 3/ 48.47%
- Dan Grievson/Blake Jay Scott 244.9/ 2/ 33.28%
- Alex Gregory/Opal Aimee 109.9/ 1/ 14.94%
- Russell Miller/Giacomo Marotta 105.7/ 1/ 14.36%







The 2023/24 Season calendar has now been released! This season is packed full of social trips, competitions and training sessions with local Freediving and Underwater Hockey clubs.

Club meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at Kawana Surf Lifesaving Club and is a great chance to meet other club members and spearos in the community. Meetings are open to both members and non-members so feel free to bring family and friends who are interested.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

7th

Club meeting @Kawana Surf Lifesaving Club
6:30pm

22-24th

Tin Can Bay social weekend
Breeze Holiday park, Rainbow Beach

RSVP:

<https://forms.gle/nCjxQKFDnv72JKzY6>



OCTOBER



5th

Club meeting @Kawana Surf Lifesaving Club
6:30pm

6-8th

Cloughy Challenge
Mackay Downunder Skin Diving Club

<https://www.facebook.com/events/500118875408452>

14/15th

Club competition #2
details to be provided closer to the competition

28-29th

Spearfishing State Titles
Cairns

register interest below:

<https://forms.gle/dBeH3sWqzBBvwJrr5>

CLUB CALENDAR

<https://sunnycoastskindivers.com.au/club-calendar/>

JULY/AUGUST ROUND UP

FISH OF THE MONTH



Blake Jay Scott - Flathead



Adam Lobegeier – Graphic Tuskfish



Jamie Wagenknecht - Trout

TOP TIP

“Always salt your pasta water.”

Sam Renwick



If you would like to nominate someone for next month's Wong Award, or have any helpful hacks for either spearing, or life in general, please get in touch with the committee.

HELPFUL LINKS/INFO

Sunny Coast Skindivers:

<https://sunnycoastskindivers.com.au/>

Top 5 safety tips:

<https://youtu.be/k3TAd0L9yD8>

Basics of Spearfishing:

<https://youtu.be/qLZDnhWYWPpE>

How to rescue a blackout:

<https://youtu.be/2RinEp3l6LA>

How to blow bubble rings:

<https://youtu.be/a-l3o5li-pA>

How to load a gun:

<https://youtu.be/1dv0a8kEUdk>

Simple set up:

https://youtu.be/L82_o5HtwY

Make your own rubber:

<https://youtu.be/yDIGtVYL6MQ>

Tricks to stop your float line tangling:

<https://youtu.be/lxN7Qo6r2w8>

QLD fish underwater identification guide:

<https://youtu.be/Y76CSLD3acM>

AUF Queensland Spearfishing Records

<https://auf.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2023-Spearfishing-Records-combined.pdf>

AUF National Spearfishing Records

<https://auf.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Combined-AUF-NATIONAL-RECORDS-JAN-2023.pdf>

How to claim a record

<https://auf.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/How-to-claim-an-Australian-Spearfishing-Record-Version-December-2021-1.pdf>

<https://auf.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Application-Form-AUF-Record-Version-December-2021.pdf>

2023/24 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Joseph White

VICE PRESIDENT

Lakeesha Sermak

TREASURER

Rhys Clay

SECRETARY

Indigo Sussmilch

SAFETY OFFICER

Ben Thomson

RECORDS OFFICER

Samuel Renwick

SOCIAL MEDIA CO-ORDINATOR

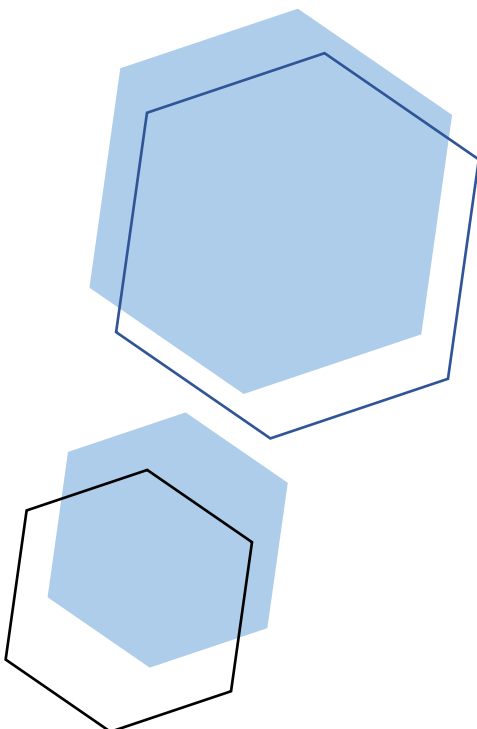
Jessica Griffiths

EVENT CO-ORDINATOR

Ash Dragon

SPONSORSHIP CO-ORDINATOR

Indigo Sussmilch



AGM REPORT

KAWANA WATERS HOTEL - 6th JULY 2023

Elections

Position	Nominated	Nominated by	Seconded by
President	Joseph White	Indigo Susasmilch	Rhys Clay
Vice President	Lakeesha Sermak	Ben Thomson	Indigo Susasmilch
Treasurer	Rhys Clay	Clifford Harvey	Adam Lobegeier
Safety Officer	Ben Thomson	Ash Dragon	Adam Lobegeier
Secretary	Indigo Susasmilch	Lakeesha Sermak	Rhys Clay
Social Media Officer	Jessica Griffiths	Indigo Susasmilch	Ben Thomson
Records Officer	Samuel Renwick	Ben Thomson	Adam Lobegeier
Event Coordinator	Ash Dragon	Indigo Susasmilch	Ben Thomson
Sponsorship Coordinator	Indigo Susasmilch	Sam Renwick	Ben Thomson

No position was contested

Office bearers will be: Indigo Susasmilch (Secretary) & Rhys Clay (Treasurer).

Geoff Gannon needs to be removed as signatory and administrator off all relevant accounts.

Alex Day advised after elections that he was happy to assist with sponsorship so there may be an opportunity for assistant/co-sponsorship coordinator role.

Adam Lobegeier advised after elections that if a small role came up or help was required, he would be able to.

Calendar

Talked about upcoming calendar for financial year

- Cray comp in June/July was highlighted as good time of year due to limited fish numebrs
- Neap tides were identified as necessary for future Woody Island trips (it was noted that neap tides for each month had been outlined on the calendar)
- Interclub comps would be held again
- A call out was made for any ideas for potential events/camping locations...members to reach out to the committee with suggestions
- See Ash for calendar...maybe finalise this next committee meeting
- The idea of new venues each month for club meetings was put to members. The majority was in agreeance with this and there was no contestation. Members were asked to submit their location ideas or venues in their area to Ash
- The idea of gear and boat maintenance nights, in leu of regular monthly meetings was proposed. These will most likely be held in summer months when it is lighter for longer and warmer outside in the evenings

Big 10 sponsorship

- Advised that there would be over \$7k worth of prizes this year
- Read over the sponsorship list

Scoresheet

- Suggested changes to the club scoresheet for the upcoming season:
School Mackie: 1kg
Grassy: 500g
Peacock coral cod: 500g
- The Crayfish measurement method was also asked to be reviewed for big 10. Ben will discuss this with Bart and will then be added to the Big 10 info pack for 23/24 season