

SPUMS

South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society



*Diver health and ocean health amid the storm clouds of climate change.
A shared vision for underwater medicine and marine science.*

52nd Annual Scientific Meeting Cairns, Australia

4th to 9th June 2023

Information package

Conference social program and extra events



Welcome Cocktails at Cairns Aquarium

(Included for full registrants + guest A and B registrations)



Surrounded by creatures from the reef and rainforest, enjoy canapes and a few drinks while exploring Cairns Aquarium at twilight. Drinks will be served with the Deep Reef Tank, Australia's deepest aquarium enclosure, providing a stunning background, with the additional option to take a tour of the Turtle Hospital the aquarium supports.

Dreamtime Journey to the Great Barrier Reef

(Included for full registrants + Guest B registration only)



Youtube link: [Reef Magic Pontoon](#)

Join us for a day of discovery on the Reef Magic Pontoon, where you will learn about the various marine conservation programs managed by GBR Biology and listen to Dreamtime stories of the Reef told by local indigenous rangers. The day includes snorkelling sessions, transfers from your hotel, and are fully catered: morning and afternoon teas, and generous buffet lunch. Certified scuba diving is also available for an additional charge.*

Located at Moore Reef, the Reef Magic pontoon caters for all activity levels. Snorkel in the sheltered coral lagoon, join a marine biologist on a Guided Snorkel Safari, go for a dive* or try Sea Trek Helmet Diving and visit the floating laboratory.

* Scuba Diving can be purchased by delegates and guests: 1st dive \$89, 2nd dive \$59; Diving must be pre-booked with Diveplanit.

Gala Dinner (Included for full registrants + Guest registrations A or B)

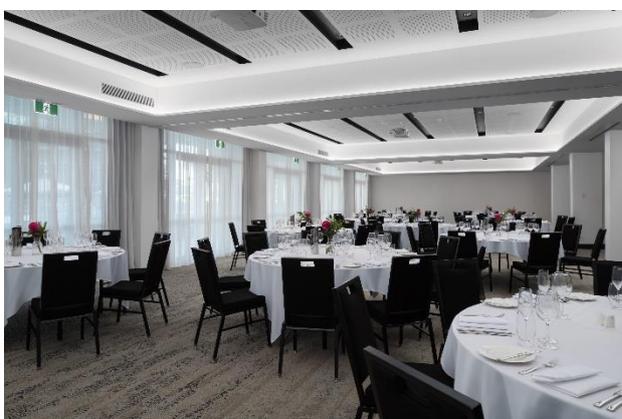
The Gala Dinner will be held at Riley in a private function room. Expect 5-star service and a three course gourmet meal will be served, accompanied by a selection of fine wine, beer and soft drinks.

In keeping with the theme of the conference and the impact of climate change on coral reef systems throughout the world, all of the menu items at Riley are marked with Climate Calories, so you'll be able to immediately see whether the ingredients in your dish are:

- Locally sourced within a three-hour drive, sustainably grown or caught
- Are culturally considered, using native ingredients and working with indigenous producers
- Consciously reduce waste, using the whole ingredient
- Supplied to the restaurant in eco-friendly packaging

Our guest speaker for the evening will be Richard Fitzpatrick ACS, internationally recognised cinematographer and research fellow

The photos below show the patio near the pool for pre-dinner drinks and a basic conference dinner set up. It is our plan to decorate in the theme of the conference



Accommodation Options

Crystal Brook Riley

The official conference hotel, Crystal Brook Riley is a 5-Star Cairns resort, located in the centre of Cairns city. The resort is located on Cairns Esplanade, close to other attractions including Cairns Art Gallery, Cairns Aquarium and a wide range of waterfront dining options.

The hotel has a range of fine dining options, including Paper Crane and Rocco. Paper Crane serves a selection of Asian fusion cuisine, with indoor and al fresco seating on the waterfront and poolside. Rooftop bar and restaurant Rocco has panoramic views of Cairns and serves an innovative tapas menu.

Riley's centrepiece is its pool complex, 1000 square metres of pools, with a large lagoon pool featuring a man-made beach and a lap pool. The resort also has a spa and a 24 hour gym. Bicycles are available at reception, a great way to explore Cairns cycleways.

Urban Room:

Price: \$325.00 per room night

Beds: one king or two singles

Room Size: 32 sq metres

Amenities

Choice of king bed or two king singles

Fast and free Wi-Fi, Apple iPad Control Centre, 55" HD Smart TV, Staycast by Google Chromecast for video streaming, Complimentary movies

Air-con and blackout blinds, Nespresso machine with complimentary pods, rainforest shower, hairdryer, iron and ironing board, safe.



Cairns Plaza Hotel

Also located on the Esplanade, directly across the road from Riley, the Cairns Plaza Hotel is a convenient cost-conscious option.

The Plaza is an independently-owned hotel, with friendly and helpful staff, and is a short walk to Cairns dining and shopping precincts and attractions such as the Aquarium, Art Gallery and Cairns Marina. There are three room types, and all rooms are extremely spacious.

Suites: \$230.00 per room night

Spacious and light filled, waterview suites offer stunning views over Trinity Bay. The units feature a separate lounge with kitchenette (microwave cooking only), two spacious balconies, plus a queen-size bedroom with ensuite bathroom. Sleeps 2.

Standard Room: \$190.00 per room night

A spacious room with a balcony and city, mountain or partial water views. Includes a double and a single bed, an ensuite bathroom, as well as tea and coffee making facilities. Sleeps 2.

Studios: \$210.00 per room night

Suits a family or group of dive buddies – a larger-style room containing either one double bed and two single beds or four single beds. All studio rooms feature an ensuite bathroom and kitchenette (microwave cooking only).



Full Day In-Water Scientific Sessions

Two unique full-day scientific expedition and practical in-water workshops are on offer on Wednesday and Friday. Both options are offered to certified divers and snorkelers, and include two dives, or snorkelling sessions, transfers from your hotel, and are fully catered: morning and afternoon teas, and generous buffet lunch.

The Passions of Paradise option has a fixed capacity - we encourage those who want this unique experience to book early.

Note that the Divers Den Option will visit different reefs on each day to provide different in-water experiences.

Passions of Paradise Practical Day



Join one of the Great Barrier Reef's most sustainable and multi-award-winning tour operators for a snorkel or double dive and learn about the Coral Nurture Program and enjoy a hot and cold buffet lunch, morning and afternoon tea.

Passions of Paradise has licences to visit over 24 reef systems - more than any other operator - including magnificent sites. Aboard, confident snorkelers and certified divers can join a Master Reef Guide and become a Marine Biologist for a Day, participating in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Eye on the Reef Rapid Monitoring program.

Certified divers join a Master Reef Guide or marine biologist for two scuba dives to observe coral planting either on the reef or at an underwater nursery undertaken through the University of Technology Sydney's Coral Nurture Program.

Snorkelers	\$205
Divers (2 dives)	\$300

Marine Biologist for a Day	
Snorkelers	\$350
Divers	\$450

Youtube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tp-KfC81VL4>

Divers Den Practical Day – Reef Quest



Board Reef Quest for a day-trip to the outer reef for a snorkel or double dive on Norman, Hastings or Saxon reefs.

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AquaQuest is a purpose-built dive vessel, with a spacious dive deck and state of the art diving equipment. While on board, enjoy large sun decks and air conditioned indoor spaces. Fuel up between dives with delicious food and beverage options, including a tasty and filling tropical buffet lunch.

Snorkelers	\$205
Divers (2 dives)	\$275



Diveplanit Travel

Your personal dive travel agency

Pre & Post Trips

Due to the serendipitous timing of the SPUMS Conference, we have made the Minke Whales interaction trips a focus for the Pre and Post trips for 2023.

Expeditions are open to both snorkelers and divers, with whale interactions strictly controlled. Dwarf Minke whales grow up to 8 metres (26 feet) long, and a closeup encounter with these majestic 6-tonne creatures is an experience you will never forget.

Minkes often approach snorkelers, divers and boats, so there is every chance to see them up close. Our success rate for close sightings during a Minke whale dive over the peak season is over 90%, and your interaction with the whales could last two hours or more!

After your encounter, participate in vital citizen science research to help understand and protect these gentle sea giants. Researchers from the Minke Whale Project will be on board all expeditions and will provide daily talks.

PADI Minke Whale Awareness Specialty

If you are interested in learning more about minke whales you can do a PADI Minke Whale Awareness Specialty on your trip. You'll learn all about their biology, how to identify them by their markings, and how they behave. You'll gain insight into the pressures and threats to their populations worldwide, and what conservation efforts are being made to protect them.



Please note that prices quoted for live-aboard trips may have an additional fuel levy added should current fuel prices continue to be elevated or rise further.

This is beyond the control of the travel provider

Preconference trip 1:

Pro Dive 3-Day Minke Whale Trip



3-Day Ribbon Reefs and Minke Whales aboard ScubaPro III

Dates: 30 May to 01 June 2023

Up to 11 dives

Price: Snorkeler \$1585
Diver \$1685

This 3-day/3-night trip is Cairns to Cairns, departing Cairns Marina early morning and steaming up to Agincourt Reef, then overnight to Ribbon Reef 10 where you'll wake up on Lighthouse Bommie ready to jump in and swim with minke whales.

30 May	2 dives on Agincourt Reef including a night dive.
31 May	Wake up at Lighthouse Bommie on Ribbon Reef 10 for an early morning swim with minke whales. A possible 4 dives today, including a night dive at Challenger Bay.
01 June	5 possible dives at Ribbon Reef 3 including Steve's Bommie and Flare Point.

Post conference trip 1:

Spirit of Freedom SPUMS Exclusive 4-Day Minke Whale Trip



4-Days Coral Sea, Ribbon Reefs and Minke Whales

Dates: 11 to 15 June 2023

7-8 am weight restriction 20kg

Up to 15 dives

Price:

OV Deluxe Cabin (Dbl Share)	\$3,522.52
OV Std Cabin (Dbl Share)	\$3,139.35
Stateroom (Dbl Share)	\$3,139.35
Dbl Twin Cabin (Twin share)	\$2,756.19
QuadCabin (Quad share)	\$2,373.02

This SPUMS exclusive 4-day trip starts with a scenic flight to Lizard Island and includes two days swimming with minke whales and diving Ribbon Reefs 9 and 10, a day diving Osprey Reef and a day diving Ribbon Reefs 3 and 5.

Enjoy a low-level scenic flight over the Great Barrier Reef to Lizard Island (Jiigurru) where you'll board luxury liveaboard Spirit of Freedom for four days diving the Coral Sea and Ribbon Reefs.

- 11 June 2 dives. Potential swim with minke whales at Lighthouse Bommie on Ribbon Reef 10, then dives at sites such as Lighthouse, CrackaJack, Gotham & Challenger Bay.
- 12 June 4 dives. Wake up in the Coral Sea for a dive on the Osprey Reef, at sites such as North Horn's exciting Shark Dive and False Entrance.
- 13 June 5 dives. Back to Ribbon Reef 10 to swim with minkes and dive Lighthouse Bommie, Crackerjack, Gotham and a night dive at Challenger Bay.
- 14 June 4 dives. Wake up at Ribbon Reef 3 to dive Steve's Bommie, Pixie Pinnacle and Flare Point.

Post conference trip 2:

Ocean Quest 4 Day Minke Whale Trip



4-Day Ribbon Reefs and Minke Whales

Dates: 9 to 13 June 2023

Possible 16 dives

Price:

Diver Double Cabin	\$2,053.90
Diver Twin Cabin	\$1,938.00
Snorkeler Double Cabin	\$1,958.90
Snorkeler Twin Cabin	\$1,843.00
Gear hire:	\$160.00

This 4-night expedition diving the Ribbon Reefs is from Cairns to Cairns and continues on from the last conference day excursion, and includes the cost of the conference day trip. After a day diving Saxon, Norman or Hastings reefs, explore the Ribbon Reefs from Ribbon Reef 3 to Ribbon Reef 10.

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- 09 June Embark AquaQuest for a day diving Saxon, Norman or Hastings Reef, before transferring to OceanQuest. You'll enjoy one more afternoon dive and one night dive before steaming to the Ribbon Reefs overnight.
- 10 June Wake up at Steve's Bommie on Ribbon Reef 3. You will enjoy four dives today, two at Steve's Bommie and two others (including one night dive) at various other sites on the upper Ribbon Reefs.
- 11 June Four dives are included in today's itinerary. Your two morning dives will be at Lighthouse Bommie on Ribbon Reef 10, where most interactions with minke whales take place.
- 12 June Explore more of the Great Barrier Reef at various dive sites along the Ribbon Reefs over four incredible dives – two in the morning, one in the afternoon & one night dive.
- 13 June Wake up to your last morning on OceanQuest. After breakfast, you will be transferred back to your Cairns city accommodation at approximately 9am.

Dive sites visited include Steve's Bommie, Lighthouse Bommie, Pixie's Pinnacle, Clam Garden, Challenger Bay and more (depending on conditions).

Diveplanit Day Trip Options

Back Country Bliss Rainforest Snorkel

This is a guided float/snorkel down Mossman River. The owner/guide Jason is incredibly knowledgeable and passionate about rainforest flora and fauna. The water is crystal clear and the rainforest canopy is beautiful.

Price \$120 pp plus transfers.

Rodgers Rides charge \$500 for 10 pax

Backcountry Bliss Full day Rainforest Snorkel and Dreamtime Mossman Gorge Tour

Begin the day at a secret location on the Mossman River for our one-of-a-kind River Drift Snorkelling tours, searching for turtles, water dragons and the elusive platypus.

After a well earned lunch, enjoy a traditional Kuku Yalanji smoking ceremony at the Mossman Gorge where you'll be cleansed of bad spirits and have traditional rainforest body paint applied.

Exploring the Daintree National Park at an easy pace, this interpretive 1.5 hour walk, will leave you with a deeper understanding of this breath-taking rainforest.

Tour Prices

Adult: \$245 | Child: \$210 | Family \$860

Frankland Islands Tour

This unique tour starts on Mulgrave River spotting crocs, before heading to Normanby Island which has one of the most impressive fringing reefs of all the islands closer to the coast. Some beautiful anemones (including a bright blue one!) and in May, mantas are often spotted at a nearby cleaning station

Price: \$219 pp

Daintree Rainforest & Cape Tribulation Tour

Enjoy interpretive rainforest walks, gourmet lunch at heritage lodge, estuarine crocodile and wildlife spotting on Cooper Creek and friendly and knowledgeable local guides with Daintree Tours.

Price \$220 pp

Fitzroy Island Full Day Tour

Fitzroy Island lets you experience the rainforest, the reef and a tropical island all in one day from Cairns Australia.

Price \$89 pp

Other Things to do in Cairns + see brochure Cairns Offsite Venues

Rusty's Market eat your way around the world walking tour

Brewery and Distillery Tour

Cycle to Botanic Gardens