LMI 2012 prospectus

Overview
Lady Musgrave Island (LMI) is a Great Barrier Reef dive destination that the Club has ritually visited for over twenty years. It is a highlight of our diving year.

LMI is a coral atoll located off the Qld coast, about 60km east of the Town of 1770 or 100 km north-east of Bundaberg, that provides fabulous dive opportunities. This trip provides some of the best (and definitely cheapest) reef diving that you will experience anywhere in the world. There is unlimited diving, either just off the campground or a short boat ride away. The island consists of a small coral cay, covered with pisonia forest, and a large fringing reef and lagoon, several kilometres long. There are numerous excellent dive sites we've investigated and charted over the years. These include easy, shallow lagoon dives, the famous Manta Bomnie where in depths around 20m you can watch the manta rays soar past, kilometres of cliffs with overhangs and caves from the northern to southern sides (20-30 m), expeditions to the neighbouring Fairfax Island with its submerged stalactites, and the adrenalin pumping channel drift.

We take our two boats, two compressors, camping gear, food, fuel and fresh water for two weeks. The only facilities on the island are composting toilets. No fresh water, no showers, no mobile phone reception, no TV! It's paradise.

Whet your appetite with the photo collections from previous Club LMI trips, and the LMI Resource Page:

- July 2011
- June-July 2010
- June-July 2009
- August 2008
- July 2007
- September 2006
- June/July 2005
- September 2004
- July 2003
- September 2002
Between June and October there are very good chances to see Humpback whales playing just off the campsite or breaching next to your boat! Under water, fish life is abundant, you can spot turtles and sea snakes on almost every dive, manta rays and reef sharks are common encounters, not to speak of the variety of tropical reef fish, including bat fish, butterfly fish, angel fish, anemone fish, and so on. Water temperatures in July should be around 20-22 degrees. But there is more to it than just diving. We will have gourmet food every night, and you can enjoy Gin’n’Tonics or beers at sunset, go for a relaxed swim or snorkel in the lagoon, or spend the day just sleeping or reading a book in a hammock.

The club has booked 25 spaces on the island (the total number of people camping on the island is limited to 40). This is a group trip and requires participation and responsibility from everyone. This is your trip. We take several tons of gear, including our two boats, anchoring gear, our base VHF radio, compressors, a kitchen marquee and stoves, tools, wet ice fridges, fuel, fresh water and food for two weeks, plus all the personal diving and camping gear. While we buy most of the food locally, the 2 boats and all other gear must be transported from Canberra with 4 trailers. We charter a large barge that takes us to the island, and then at high tide we will be offloaded onto the beach. Going home is the reverse of the process.

**Trip Details**
The booking on the island is from July 6 to July 20. This aligns very well with the student mid-year break.

- People need to organise their own transport for them and all of their gear and drive, generally in convoy, to Gladstone - this is a trip of a day and a half.
- We will need to be in Gladstone by the early morning of Friday the 6th of July to finalise our group infrastructure, shopping, and to load all of our gear onto the barge.
- The barge leaves at 1pm, and we will arrive at LMI on the night of the 6th and unload when the high tide permits the barge to ‘land’ ~11:30pm.
- All the gear will need to be unloaded and a basic communal camp set-up before individual camp sites are "nabbed" and tents pitched.
- More assembly of our infrastructure will occur the next morning.
- You can dive as much or as little as you like!
- After two weeks of diving or doing nothing the reverse will occur, with the barge arriving at 8pm on Friday the 20th July.
- There'll be the weekend of the 21st/ 22nd July to drive back home in time for lectures or work on the Monday!

**What to do now**
The club booking for the island is limited to 25 participants, if you want to go you must secure your place with a $250 deposit as is detailed in the "Getting onto the LMI Expedition 2012" document. Beyond that you need to be capable of socializing and enjoying the company of others, and be eager to contribute to the running of the trip. The trip list opens at the Club AGM on Tuesday 6th March – at the North Oval Pavilion - and there has been keen interest his year, so make sure you come along if you don't want to miss out. You can help save time by downloading, completing the Participant Details part of the "Getting onto the LMI Expedition 2012" document and bringing along the form to the AGM with your deposit.

**Cost**
What you pay for the trip takes you to LMI from Gladstone, pays for your camping permit, provides your food and (non-alcoholic) drink on the island, provides the boats/ compressors/ kitchen infrastructure, gives you all of the diving you want, and brings you back to Gladstone. You will need to get
yourself to Gladstone and back (we'll try and match people to spare car seats), have a tent and basic camping gear, and your own Scuba gear. Full-time student members get free use of Club scuba gear for the trip. The cost of a share in this Expedition will be:

- $1,350 for ANUSC members is the basic cost, with the following modifications
- $100 less if you are a full-time student member of the ANUSC ($1,250)
- $200 extra for divers not members of the ANUSC ($1,550)
- $200 less for adult non-diving participants ($1,150).

Organization

It is important to realise that you are not paying for a commercially organised and fully catered trip. This should be considered as an Expedition where the success (or otherwise) depends on all of us doing our share to make it work. This means that members of the group are expected to help whenever and wherever they can - without this input these trips cannot function. If something needs to be done, you do it. Fortunately, over the last 20+ years the Club has built up great expertise in how to run trips like this, so there will be experienced hands to advise the inexperienced, and pass on their expertise. It is a great way to learn a lot about a large range of outdoor skills – not just the diving. Please note that the nominal coordinator is only that – do not expect them to organise the trip for you!

There will be a major trip planning meeting in May where we will talk about the nuts and bolts of getting our trip organized and allocate many of the responsibilities and functions that need to be undertaken. We will talk about life on the island, safe diving, using the boats, what to bring, cooking, and finalise lifts and cooking pairings. All participants will be expected to attend. There will also be a pre-LMI Working Bee and packing session the weekend prior to the trip.

Regards,

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I'm looking forward to a return to LMI and hope to see you there!