

Spoilsport

Cairns to
Lizard Island



To make NQUEC's 30th Birthday all the merrier, Dave Turner did a marvellous job of ferreting up a swag of door prizes. The best one, happily won by me, was a Mike Ball dive trip aboard Spoilsport. It is a fantastic vessel as some of you may remember from when it sailed out of Townsville regularly visiting the Yongala. Our weekend (Bill thought it wise to accompany me – surprisingly little arm-twisting required!) out of Cairns was delightful.



Let me begin by remarking on: 1) the vessel – superbly maintained, comfortable and in top working order; 2) the staff – all professional, enthusiastic and ever-helpful; 3) the gear – first rate equipment in excellent working condition; and 4) the food – so good I was seeking recipes from the inventive chef. The 17 guests were served by a crew of 12. Many of the divers were photographers including a crew shooting for a US Public TV show.



Heavy seas prevented us from visiting Osprey Reef, but the variety displayed at the eight Ribbon Reef sites provided outstanding dives and an exciting Minke Whale encounter! The adventure's finishing touch was the flight from Lizard Island back to Cairns, revealing the Great Barrier Reef's breadth, form and structure from 700 feet.

It was a great weekend and highly recommended. Thanks Dave!

13 Dives at 8 Sites

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| Steve's Bommie | Clam Beds |
| Lighthouse Bommie | Two Towers |
| Pixie Pinnacle | Pixie Wall |
| Stepping Stone | Cod Hole |

Photo Credits

- 1 *Jonathan Bird's Blue World*
 2 3 5 6 David Pincus - david@pincus.org
 4 Shamelessly stolen from the web

