

NOUEC Strand Social Day

In May a few folks from the club began thinking about diving the Townsville Strand.

We had many provisions left over from the Bunning's Sausage Sizzle earlier in the month, so we decided to combine a 'muck' dive with a social BBQ breakfast.

Ian, Robyn, and I did a little reconnaissance the week end before, and decided to enter the water off the beach on the southern end of the rock pool. Meanwhile Joanne and Jeremy began cooking up a storm on the council BBQs.

Unfortunately for our group of intrepid divers, the visibility was quite poor; at no more than a metre or two, and I ventured a bit too close to the rocks with my towed dive flag, resulting in some unexpected "water-to -land" fishing!

Our five divers then split up into two groups and we decided to head back to shore, using our compasses for some underwater navigation practice. A few of us also used the morning to test some new toys. Ian tried out his new twin cylinder

setup, I tested a new computer and compass, Robyn used a larger capacity cylinder, and we put the very first dive on the club's first brand-new aluminium hire cylinder.

Despite the visibility and my incursion into angler space, the weather was perfect for our social outing, and we fed 14 members of the club a scrumptious BBQ breakfast.

I have since heard from local dive operators that the Strand can make for a very interesting night dive, provided the prevailing wind is a westerly. I'm quite keen to dive here again, only next time we'll enter and exit from the northern end of the rock pool.

I'd like to thank Ian, and Robyn for helping me put this activity together, and thankyou Jeremy for lending us an oxygen cylinder. Thanks also Derek and Amanda for helping clean up, and well done Joanne for your cooking efforts, (with Irena supplying the coffee to keep the cook happy!)

Simon Penprase