



DIVE DIVE DIVE . . . underwater explorers Yvonne Kane and Simon Penprase at the Rock Pool

Photo: DARREN HILDER

Clean Up Australia takes a dive off Orpheus Island

CLEAN Up Australia Day has been taken to a whole new (sea) level by a group of devoted residents who will be scuba diving for rubbish near Orpheus Island.

North Queensland Underwater Explorers Club will once again scour the local reef for wayward litter which can seriously threaten local marine life.

Club president Yvonne Kane said the clean up, which will occur this weekend, had become an important event on the club's calendar.

"Taking part in Clean Up Australia Day is a way for our dive club to give something back to the marine environment which gives us so much fun and enjoyment," Ms Kane said.

"Everyone in the club loves diving among the amazing marine life that is part of the Great Barrier Reef and likes to do their bit to keep the area free of litter.

"We want to make sure the environment is looked after so future generations of divers can enjoy it as much as we have."

Club member Simon Penprase said although the clean up was somewhat belated it was better late than never.

"We had to change the date several times because we've had a bit of rough weather the past couple of weeks," Mr Penprase said.

"We encourage all 60 of our members to look after the reef and we observe practices such as not touching the reef or picking

anything up while diving and we always use prepared moorings so we don't break the coral while anchoring."

Mr Penprase said the club was the oldest of its kind in Queensland and had a proud tradition of promoting recreational diving.

"Our club members all share a common interest in finding affordable and interesting places to dive."

Anyone who would like to learn more about the club is welcome to attend their meetings which are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at the Motor Boat and Yacht Club.

Otherwise visit www.nquec.org.au

— EMILY MACDONALD