



SCUBA PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1: JUNE 2026

WELCOME ABOARD

We are excited to launch the very first edition of our SCUBA Program newsletter, with a new issue to be published each term. Through this newsletter, we aim to celebrate the growth of our SCUBA community and keep students, families, and supporters connected to the experiences, opportunities, and impact of the Craigslea SHS SCUBA program.

Throughout the year, you may see a range of recurring sections appear in each issue. While not every heading will feature every term, these categories will help guide the stories, updates, and opportunities shared:

- Current Conditions (Important updates, notices, and reminders)
- At the Helm (Messages from program coordinators and student leaders)
- From the Logbook (Stories and reflections from recent dive trips)
- The Dive Brief (Industry news)
- Beneath the Mask (Diver spotlights)
- Reef Report (Marine science and conservation initiatives/opportunities)
- Surface Interval (Community projects, partnerships, and outreach)
- Safety Stop (Diving tips, safety reminders, and best practices)
- Dive Shop (Gear recommendations and equipment insights)
- Next Port of Call (Upcoming trips, courses and events)

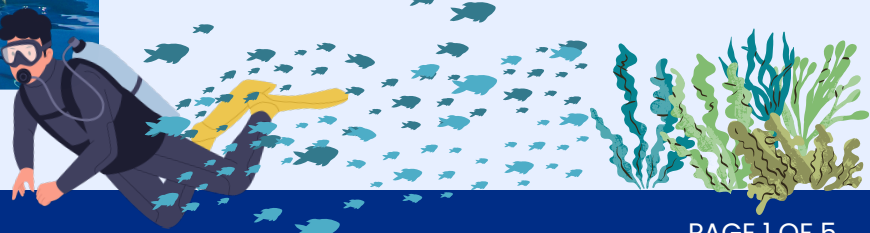
We hope this newsletter gives you a glimpse beneath the surface of the incredible experiences, opportunities, and impact created through our SCUBA Program community.



CURRENT CONDITIONS

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the Great Barrier Reef trip that was planned for the September school holidays in 2026 due to insufficient student numbers.

Full refunds are available through the Cashier, Mrs Leonie Bygraves. If you have not yet submitted your refund, please contact Leonie via email at lbygr4@eq.edu.au.





AT THE HELM

Congratulations to our newest open water divers! Welcome to the Craigslea SCUBA community.

A quick reminder that all photos and videos captured on staff cameras from both previous and future trips will now be uploaded to the student SharePoint. To access them, head to [SharePoint > Student Resources > Student Files > SCUBA Program > Photos](#).

Ebony Lawrence
CSHS SCUBA Captain



FROM THE LOGBOOK

Over the Easter school holidays, 14 students completed their SSI Open Water SCUBA Licence at Manta Lodge and SCUBA Centre.

This year saw a huge turnout, with the majority of students beginning their underwater journey earlier in the year through our Try SCUBA session in the Craigslea SHS pool. This introductory experience proved to be an awesome opportunity for students to dip their toes into diving and build confidence before progressing to full certification.

With incredible weather to match an outstanding group, the course was a huge success. Across the program, students developed a range of essential skills including mask removal and replacement underwater, emergency out of air simulations, and underwater compass navigation. Students also had the chance to explore some incredible marine life, including octopus, guitar sharks, bull rays, turtles and leopard sharks.

Congratulations to our newest crew members: Ajjanna, Anja, April, Ben, Caitlin, Catalina, Eliza, Harper, Isla, Jayda, Luke, Mia, Olivia, and Xanthe.





THE DIVE BRIEF

Recently, SCUBA diving has been making local and international headlines, serving as a reminder of both the beauty and unpredictability of the ocean.

News of the missing local divers deeply impacted our school SCUBA community. Through our ongoing partnership with Manta Lodge & Scuba Centre, we have come to know Daniel Fitzgerald across a number of our trips, where he has supported our students as a boat skipper and in his role as manager.

We are incredibly relieved to hear of his successful rescue and recovery. This positive outcome reflects the professionalism, experience, and strong safety culture demonstrated by the team at Manta Lodge, as well as the importance of training, preparation, and remaining calm in challenging situations in the diving environment.



REEF REPORT

Learning about the marine environment and marine conservation is a passion shared by many of our student divers and staff. To help students extend this interest into a full academic pathway, Miss Black is excited to announce that Craigslea will launch its first Marine Science program in 2027.

The program will include an introductory Year 10 course and a new QCAA General subject for Year 11, before expanding into Year 12 in 2028. Miss Black looks forward to leading this exciting new initiative and supporting students as they explore the science of our oceans and the challenges facing marine environments.

The course will cover topics including:

<p>Unit 1: Oceanography</p> <p>Topics Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oceanography • Ocean Currents • Coastlines • Coastal Impacts • Coastal Conservation & Monitoring Impacts 	<p>Unit 2: Marine Biology</p> <p>Topics Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Biotic & Abiotic Components of Marine Ecosystems • Adaptations • Marine Conservation • Resources & Sustainable Use 	<p>Unit 3: Marine Systems</p> <p>Topics Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coral Reef Distribution & Development • Reef, Habitats & Connectivity • Anthropogenic Change • Ocean Equilibria • Implications For Marine Systems 	<p>Unit 4: Ocean Issues & Resource Management</p> <p>Topics Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management & Conservation • Future Scenarios • Fisheries & Population Dynamics • Australian Fisheries Management • Aquaculture
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BENEATH THE MASK

Cert Level: PADI RESCUE

Favourite Marine Animal: Green Sea Turtle

Best Surface Interval Snack: Cookies

Dream Dive: Whale Sharks in the Galápagos Islands

Bubble Ring Rating: 7 / 10

2026 Team Role: International Trip Coordinator



SAFETY STOP

As part of our risk management practices at Craigslea SHS, students are encouraged to consider holding membership and/or insurance with Divers Alert Network (DAN).

DAN is the world's most recognised and respected dive safety organisation, committed to diver health and well-being for over 40 years.

Its research, medical services, and global response programs provide an extensive support network, including injury prevention, safety education, and emergency evacuation assistance.

For further information, please see the DAN website: <https://dan.org/>



SURFACE INTERVAL

Miss Black has recently received an update from Melemaat School, regarding our laptop donation, following the 2025 international trip to Vanuatu.

During our visit last year, staff and students had the opportunity to speak with the school community about what resources would most benefit their students and learning programs. Following these discussions, Craigslea State High School donated 10 laptops that were originally scheduled for recycling. Funds raised through the 2025 Swimming Carnival BBQ were then used by the SCUBA Program to cover the costs of packaging and postage to send the laptops to Vanuatu.

The laptops are now being actively used within the school, including to support a Year 10 IT class. Students have been extremely excited to access new technology and incorporate it into their learning experiences.

A sincere thank you to all students involved in this initiative. It has been wonderful to see so many of you supporting our Pacific neighbours and demonstrating genuine global citizenship. This is exactly what the SCUBA Program represents, and we look forward to continuing to strengthen these international connections into the future.



DIVE SHOP

A well fitting mask can make a huge difference to your comfort and confidence underwater. When choosing a mask, make sure it seals comfortably around your face without needing the strap pulled too tight. A quick way to test the fit is to gently place the mask on your face and inhale slightly through your nose. If the mask stays in place without using the strap, you have likely found a good fit.

One of the most common issues for divers is mask fogging. Brand new masks often have a thin silicone residue left over from manufacturing, which can cause lenses to fog underwater. A simple trick is to gently clean the inside of the lenses with a small amount of plain white toothpaste. Rub it in carefully with your fingers, rinse thoroughly, and repeat a few times before your first dive.

For an easy homemade anti fog spray, mix baby shampoo with water (1:5) in a small spray bottle. A quick spray and rinse before diving can help keep your mask clear and your focus on the incredible underwater world around you.

CREW FAVOURITES



Beuchat Maxlux Small Mask



Oceanic Mini Shadow Mask

NEXT PORT OF CALL

Date	Event	Location
7/12/2026 - 8/12/2026 (Term 4, Week 10)	Overnight Camp	North Stradbroke Island
2027 (Term 1)	Open Water Course	North Stradbroke Island

Planning is underway for our next international trip. Easter 2027, we are heading to Vanuatu again! The Craigslea SCUBA Program has scouted a new dive location off the northwest coast of the main island, Efate. We are excited at the prospect of partnering with Abyss Scuba Diving, a family owned, Sydney based operator with 25-year experience in the industry.

The team at Abyss are developing a brand new dive resort in Vanuatu including custom built dive boats to access the amazing reefs and wrecks along that coast. They have a strong focus on cultural immersion with local village communities and marine conservation initiatives.

This trip will be offered to licenced divers in Years 10-12. Further details and projected pricing coming soon!

James Baulch
International Trip Coordinator



UNTIL THE NEXT DIVE,

Hannah Black
SCUBA Program Coordinator