



SCUBA PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2: SEPTEMBER 2026

WELCOME ABOARD

Welcome to the second issue of our SCUBA Program newsletter!

Following the success of our first issue, we are excited to continue sharing the experiences, achievements, opportunities, and stories that make the Craigslea SHS SCUBA Program so special.

In this issue, we have plenty to share from across the program, including recent adventures, upcoming opportunities, and a look at what's happening beneath the surface.

We would also like to extend a special welcome to our eight newest soon-to-be divers! These students have signed up for our 2027 Vanuatu SCUBA & Cultural Tour and will soon complete their Open Water certification.

We hope you enjoy catching up on all things SCUBA and celebrating the continued growth of our diving community.



Figure 1: Isla during the 2026 Open Water Course



Figure 2: Sophie during 2025 Lady Elliot Island Trip

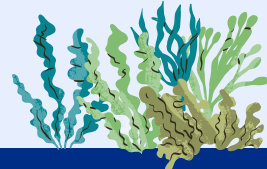
Leopard
Shark

AT THE HELM

Each year, Craigslea State High School holds an Extra-Curricular Photo Day to celebrate the many programs, clubs and teams that enrich our school community. This year was a special milestone, with the SCUBA Program being included for the first time.

The program has grown so much over recent years, and it was fantastic to have the opportunity to bring our divers together and celebrate everything they have achieved. Thank you to everyone who took the time to be part of the photo and help make this milestone a special one for the SCUBA Program. It is a photo our students and families can look back on for years to come.

Further information will be provided shortly on how families can purchase a copy of the 2026 Program Team Photo.





CURRENT CONDITIONS

During the Easter 2027 school holidays, the Craigslea SHS SCUBA Program will travel to Vanuatu for a 6 day International School Study Tour! From 29 March to 3 April 2027, students will explore Port Havannah and Moso Island, combining SCUBA diving, marine conservation and cultural experiences.

Applications to join this trip are now closed. We have a fantastic group of 17 students who have paid their deposits and are looking forward to this exciting adventure.

What happens next?

The trip coordinator, Mr James Baulch, will be in touch with participating families soon with further information regarding the next steps, including upcoming payments, travel arrangements and preparation for the tour.

If you have any questions regarding the trip, please contact Mr James Baulch at jbau111@eq.edu.au.



Figure 3: 2025 Open Water Course – Mr Baulch, Martial, Isla, David, Luke, Daniel, William, Matthew, Daniel, Peter, Miss Black, Manta Lodge SCUBA Instructors Nick & Matt.

REEF REPORT

A reminder to our student divers who are passionate about the ocean, marine science and conservation that Craigslea SHS will be launching its first Marine Science subject in 2027!

The subject will provide students with the opportunity to pursue their interests through a dedicated academic pathway, commencing in 2027 with a new QCAA General subject for Year 11. From 2028, Marine Science will be offered across both Year 11 and Year 12, allowing students to continue their studies through the full two year senior program.

Miss Black is excited to lead this new subject, providing students with opportunities to explore marine ecosystems, conservation and the challenges facing our oceans.



Figure 4: Jayda during 2025 Lady Elliot Island Trip

THE DIVE BRIEF

An Open Water certification is just the beginning! SSI offers a wide range of Specialty courses that allow divers to build their skills and explore areas such as Perfect Buoyancy, Navigation, Deep Diving and Marine Ecology.

Brand new for 2026 is SSI's Invasive Species Management Specialty, which focuses on understanding and managing invasive species while equipping divers with the skills to contribute to conservation efforts.

For students interested in pursuing a future career in marine industries, gaining additional SCUBA qualifications can be a valuable addition to a resume and provide practical skills and experience.

These courses are not currently offered through the Craigslea SHS SCUBA Program. However, if there is sufficient student interest, we would certainly consider incorporating some of these additional opportunities into future SCUBA Program camps and experiences.

BENEATH THE MASK

Cert Level: PADI RESCUE

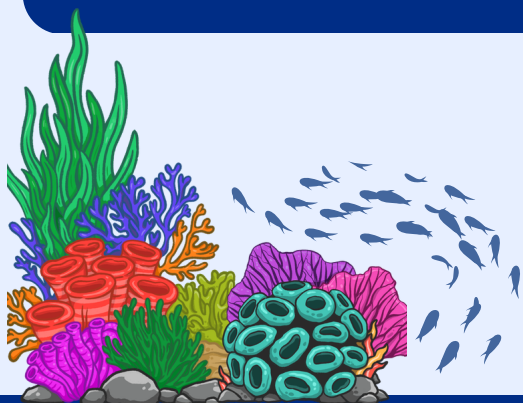
Favourite Marine Animal: Manta rays

Best Surface Interval Snack: Sour Gummies

Dream Dive: Sea Lions @ Tasmanian Kelp Forests

Bubble Ring Rating: -1 / 10

2026 Team Role: Program Coordinator



SAFETY STOP

A new "Dive Brief" folder is now available on the Craigslea SHS Student SharePoint. This folder contains important information that all students are required to read as part of their dive brief before participating in future SCUBA trips. Resources include the *Recreational diving, recreational technical diving and snorkelling—Code of Practice 2024*, information about dangerous marine organisms, and manta ray etiquette.

From 2027, this information will be incorporated into the Craigslea SHS Safe Diver Waiver. Students will be required to sign off to confirm that they have read and understood the information as part of their preparation for each dive trip.

Students are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the resources in advance so they are well prepared for future diving activities.



Figure 5: Xanthe, April, Miss Black, Jayda, Isla & Ajyanna during the 2026 Open Water Course

SURFACE INTERVAL

Our SCUBA staff recently had the opportunity to attend an industry event bringing together marine scientists, researchers, conservation professionals and local marine industry experts to share their knowledge, stories and insights into the Moreton Bay marine ecosystem, as well as the important work being undertaken to understand and protect it.

The session featured researchers and professionals including Dr Asia Haines, Dr Christine Dudgeon and Sea World Aquarium Supervisor Siobhan Houlihan. It provided a valuable opportunity for our staff to learn more about current marine research and conservation initiatives, while also connecting with scientists working directly in the field.

A key focus of the session was exploring how our students can become involved in citizen science and marine research programs. These opportunities provide an exciting way for students to contribute to real scientific research, collect meaningful data and develop a deeper understanding of the marine environments they are exploring through the SCUBA Program.

Craigslea SHS previously worked with Dr Asia Haines through our *Mantas of Minjerribah* project in 2024, proudly supported by the Queensland Government Engaging Science Grant. It was fantastic to hear about the progress of her research and the work that has continued since our involvement in the project. We are also particularly excited about the opportunity to support Dr Christine Dudgeon with her ongoing research into leopard sharks and guitar sharks through her citizen science project, Spot the Leopard Shark.

These connections are an important part of our vision for the Craigslea SHS SCUBA Program. We want our students not only to experience the underwater world, but to understand it, contribute to its protection and see the many pathways available to them in marine science, research and conservation.

Watch this space for opportunities for our students to get involved!

DIVE SHOP

Hair and SCUBA masks are not always the best combination! Whether it's long hair getting caught in your mask strap or a moustache breaking the seal. A few simple accessories and tips can make a big difference to comfort, prevent tangles and, most importantly, help prevent an annoying leaky mask.

Mask tamers help keep hair contained, preventing pulling and tangling around your mask strap, while SCUBA hair bands help keep loose hair away from your mask skirt and seal. While any mask tamer or hair bands will do the job, there are a couple of brands that have some seriously cool ocean inspired prints.

For divers with facial hair, particularly moustaches and beards, achieving a good mask seal can be a little trickier. Keeping facial hair neatly trimmed around the area of the mask skirt can help reduce leaks. A very small amount of silicone compatible mask seal lubricant may also help improve the seal around a moustache.

CREW FAVOURITES



DIVER MON ART NEOPRENE
MASK TAMER



SEABANDZ

NEXT PORT OF CALL

Date	Event	Location
7/12/2026 - 8/12/2026 (Term 4, Week 10)	Overnight Camp	North Stradbroke Island
12/03/2027 - 14/03/2027 (Term 1, Week 7)	Open Water Course	North Stradbroke Island
29/03/2027 - 03/04/2027 (Easter Holidays)	International Tour	Moso Island, Vanuatu

A reminder to all students participating in our upcoming international SCUBA trip to Vanuatu. Under the Queensland Government's Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2018, divers must complete a dive within every 12 month period. If you have not completed a dive within the 12 months prior to the Vanuatu trip, you will be required to complete a refresher course before participating in further diving activities.

The final planned diving opportunity through the CSHS SCUBA Program will be during Week 10 of Term 4, 2026. Students who do not participate in this trip will be responsible for arranging and covering the cost of their own dive prior to our Vanuatu tour.

If students already know they require a refresher, they must notify Miss Black as soon as possible.

Please ensure you meet the required diving currency before travelling to Vanuatu. Students who do not complete the required refresher or dive will be unable to participate in SCUBA activities during the trip.



UNTIL THE NEXT DIVE,

Hannah Black
SCUBA Program Coordinator