



The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Tasmanian Combined dive Clubs Weekend (CCW) was held over the weekend of 11-13<sup>th</sup> June, 2011, at the iconic east coast town of Bicheno. This year saw the Tasmanian University Dive Club (TUDC) host the event for the first time, with record numbers of close to 150 divers in attendance. The three day event attracted divers from all over the state, with eight clubs represented as well as members from Victoria's GetUnder Dive Club. In addition to providing an opportunity for some serious bubbling, the weekend included informative presentations, try-dives of the latest gear available from top dive brands, great food and socialising, high-octane events, and almost \$10,000 in prizes given away.

A large 4m swell rocked the Tasmanian east coast in the days leading up to the event which dramatically reduced the visibility. However, fine weather and calm conditions throughout the weekend saw the vis substantially increase over the three days resulting in some fantastic diving, particularly on the Monday. Divers hit a number of the top sites throughout the weekend including The Castle, Hairy Wall, Trap Reef, Canyon, Blue Waters, Split Rock, Muirs Reef, Bird Rock, The Steps and the Chimney.



*South-easterly swells hammered Governor Island in the days leading up to the event.*

While Saturday was best enjoyed with some leisurely dives in the shelter of Waub's bay, it also provided a great opportunity for trying out the Scubapro and Oceanic trial gear, with many club members making the most of the

drysuits, fins, cameras, BCDs, regulators and computers on offer. Sea & Sea's free introductory lessons to underwater photography were a hit with new/novice photographers, with participants learning some basics from instructor Jim Dyer and going into the draw to win a Sea & Sea DX-GE5 U/W camera and housing. Dave Waterhouse was the star of the show, taking home the camera with his colourful shot of a Nudibranch.



*Sea & Sea novice photocomp winner, Dave Waterhouse*

The great gnome hunt had a slow start, with weather

hindering early attempts at top-secret planting missions. But eventually 5 gnomes were hidden around popular



Bicheno dive sites with awesome prizes going to the lucky finder of each. The sunshine held, making the scuba Olympics a popular afternoon event, with clubs competing in the (on land) disciplines of navigation, shot put (using a dive weight), javelin (using a dive fin) and relay (featuring fins and a host of other dive gear). Spectators were delighted with a range of impressive efforts and spectacular failures.

Many took the opportunity of the shorter daylight hours to head in for an early night dive before heading to Bicheno community hall for the evening's festivities. We were treated to informative and entertaining talks ranging from an innovative reefball project, to deep sea life, handfish, Antarctic diving and photographic displays across the two nights. The traditional quiz pitched club against club in a fiercely contested battle to be crowned the most knowledgeable. The party continued on to the wee small hours in the biggest rave Bicheno has ever seen! DJ Dave ripped out the beats and TUDC danced the night away. Shame the other clubs couldn't stick around, but by all accounts they had parties of their own to attend to...





The traditional great golf ball hunt had a turnout of over 40 divers, with heaps of prizes up for grabs, including a semi-dry wetsuit donated by Anchor wetsuits. The evening brought about the highly anticipated Videography competition – world-first premieres of “the Royal Wedding”, SCUBA style! With 300% more entries than last year (do the maths), the standard was of course exceptionally high. But there could be only one winner, and ODP took out the coveted title of ‘best underwater brides’. Check out their winning video and other entries [on our Facebook site](#) [clicky the link] - well worth a watch for the planking alone!

This year’s underwater photography competition was hotly contested, with over 140 entries across four categories exhibiting the fantastic talent of local photographers. The competition was again judged by our resident pro photographer Jon Bryan, who commented that the standard of entries keeps increasing in leaps and bounds every year. Stop it Jon, you’re making us blush. With so many exceptional entries there were no landslide winners, and it was great to see the compact camera owners mixing it up with the dSLR-wielders. We here at CCW think you’re all amazing but unfortunately there could only be prizes for the top 3 in each category. But what prizes they were! Underwater cameras, torches, dive computers, photography books and much more were generously donated by our sponsors. The top honours were taken out by Eric Fillisch, James Parkinson, John Smith and D Mitchell.

The introduction of early entries for the People’s Choice category allowed for a public display of entries showcasing the outstanding life and colour of Tassie Diving. Local photographer John Smith was voted the overwhelming favourite with his colourful Nudibranch shot, and was awarded with a magnificent trophy for his efforts. If John is prepared to give up this coveted centrepiece it may return as a perpetual trophy, so keep honing your skills!



*John receiving (and treasuring) the People’s Choice Photocomp award.*



2011 Photocomp winners: 1. Wide angle "last 12 months" – J Parkinson; 2. Macro "last 12 months" – E Fillisch; 3. Wide angle "on the weekend" – J Smith; 4. People's Choice award – J Smith; 5. Macro "on the weekend" – D Mitchell.

Keeping in line with tradition, the perpetual “Tug Boat” prize was awarded to the club with the highest points accrued from the events of Scuba Olympics, Gnome Hunt, quiz and underwater Videography competition. The Tas Uni Dive Club took out the honours this year, followed closely by Sea Green Dive and Ocean Divers Plus. Bringing up the tail and collecting the “bucket” award was Club Go Dive. We wonder if perhaps the bucket may have been useful for some of their Saturday night shenanigans...

Club	Points
Tas Uni Dive Club	32
Sea Green Diver	25
Ocean Divers Plus	22
Leven Scuba Club	12
Tas Sub Aqua Club	12
Tas Scuba Diving Club	9
Go Dive	8

An enormous thankyou goes out to all our sponsors, without whom this event would not be possible. Be sure to show your appreciation by supporting these generous businesses and suppliers. We hope to maintain a great relationship with each and every one of them to continue to make Combined Clubs Weekend a fantastic FREE event packed with activities and prizes.

For those who didn't make it to Bicheno for CCW 2011, check out [GetUnder Dive Club's video footage of the weekend.](#)

See you all next year for CCW 2012 – bigger and better than ever!

- CCW 2011 Organising Committee





# Proudly Sponsored By



dive in.  
explore.  
discover.



Fourth Element



www.ccwtasmania.com