

Contents

Author	7
Introduction	9
Facts about Australia	12
Facts about the Great Barrier Reef & Coral Sea	15
History	17
Climate	22
Diving the Great Barrier Reef & Coral Sea	27
Snorkeling	28
Live-aboards	28
Rating System for Dives & Divers	29
Certification	30
Activities & Attractions	33
Diving Conservation & Awareness	42
Marine Reserves & Regulations	42
Government Organisations	43
Regional Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service Offices	43
Responsible Diving	44
Marine Environmental Organisations	45
Diving Health & Safety	49
General Overview	49
Pre-trip Preparation	49
Before You Snorkel	50
Tips for Evaluating a Queensland Dive Operator	51
Medical Facilities	52
Diving Emergencies	52
DAN	52

Great Barrier Reef Dive Sites

55

Capricorn & Bunker Groups

Dive Sites	55
Lady Elliot Island – Blow Hole	56
Lady Musgrave –	
Entrance Bommie	59
Heron Island Bommie	61
Heron Island –	
The Gorgonia Hole	62
Keppel Islands – Outer Rock	64

Swain Reefs Dive Sites

67	
East Cay	68

Pompey Complex Dive Sites

71	
Cockatoo Reef –	
The Southern Wall	72
Cockatoo Reef – Blue Hole	72

Great Barrier Reef Dive Sites

Whitsunday Islands &

Nearby Reefs Dive Sites	75
Border Island – Cataran Bay	76
Hook Island – Manta Ray Bay	77
Hayman Island – Blue Pearl Bay ...	78
Bait Reef – Stepping Stones	78
Svane’s Reef (Reef 19-138) – Hell Drift	81
Little Black Reef – Lagoon	82
Hardy Reef – Fantasea Drift	83
Knuckle Reef – Walking Stick	84
Reef 19-119 – Just Magic	84

Townsville & Magnetic Island

Dive Sites	86
Yongala	88
Wheeler reef	89
Magnetic island	90
Helix Reef – High Voltage	92
John Brewer Reef	93
Pelorus Island	93
Flinders Reef – China Wall	95

Cairns & Nearby Reefs

Dive Sites	97
Moore Reef	98
Thetford Reef	99
Milln Reef – Three Sisters	100
Flynn Reef – Coral Gardens	102
Michaelmas Reef	103
Holmes Reef – Amazing	103
Hastings Reef – The Fish Bowl ...	105
Saxon Reef	106
Norman Reef – Troppo Lounge	106

Port Douglas Dive Sites	109
Tongue Reef – Turtle Bay	110
Opal Reef – Barracuda Pass	110
Agincourt Reef – Castle Rock	113

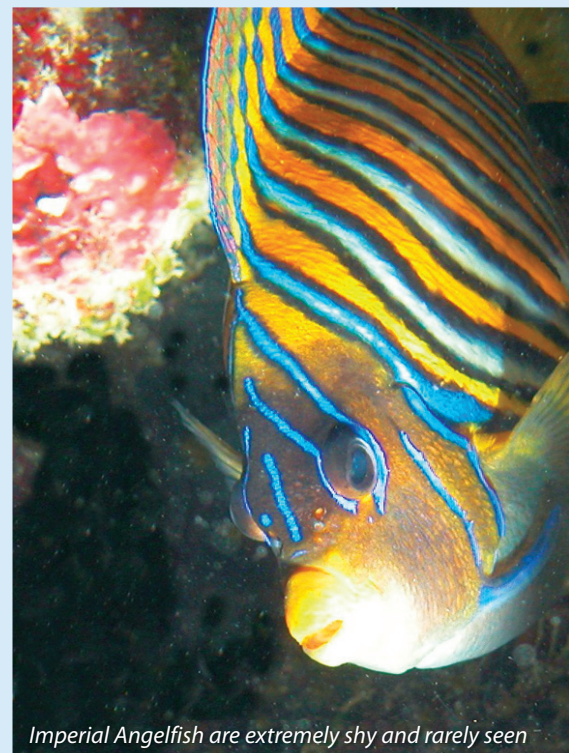
The Zoo – Bouganville Reef	114
Mackay Reef	115
Pixie’s Pinnacle	116
Ribbon Reef No 10 – The Cod Hole	117
Lizard Island – Cobia Hole	118
Osprey Reef – North Horn	119

Far Northern Reef

Dive Sites	121
Tijou Reef – Mr Walker’s Caves ...	123
Bligh Boat Entrance	123
Mantis Reef	124
Great Detached Reef	124
Pandora Wreck	126

Torres Strait Dive Sites

.....	129
RMS Quetta	130
Ashmore Reef – Western Edge ..	132
Bramble Cay	132



Imperial Angelfish are extremely shy and rarely seen

Marine Life	135
Hazardous Marine Life	143
Travel Facts	147
Listings	154
Index	158