

THE WARM WATERS OF PNG..KAVIENG & NUSA ISLAND

THE WARMTH & FRIENDLNESS OF THE LOCALS, PRISTINE REEFS, EXCITING WORLD WAR 11 WRECKS & SEAFOOD IN ABUNDANCE, MADE FOR A MEMORABLE HOLIDAY, WHEN EVIE FROM GLADSTONE DIVE CENTRE TOOK 2 GROUPS TO NUSA ISLAND NEAR KAVIENG, DURING NOVEMBER 2005.

NUSA ISLAND IS A BEAUTIFUL HIDEWAY, APPROX. 50ACRES IN AREA, AND ACCOMMODATES APPROX. 25 GUESTS. MOST TIMES YOU HAVE THE PLACE TO YOURSELVES, AS IT IS A DESTINATION FOR MAINLY DIVERS & SURFERS. ON PART OF THE ISLAND ARE SMALL VILLAGES WHERE THE LOCALS LIVE A DAY TO DAY EXISTANCE, FISHING, CRABBING OR CARVING & MAKING JEWELLERY FOR THE VISITING TOURISTS.

OUR GROUP DEPARTED FROM BRISBANE, AND AS THERE IS NO DIRECT FLIGHT, OVER-NIGHTED IN PORT MORESBY. THE FOLLOWING DAY WE BOARDED A FLIGHT, WHICH TOOK US FURTHER NORTH TO A SMALL ISLAND CALLED MANNUS, AND THEN ON TO KAVIENG. WE WERE GREETED BY WAYNE FROM NUSA ISLAND, & CARA & DORIAN –SCUBA VENTURES. NUSA ISLAND IS A COUPLE OF MINUTES BY BOAT ACROSS THE CHANNEL. ALL OUR GEAR WAS LOADED AND OFF WE SPED ACROSS THE TURQUOISE WATERS TO WHAT WAS OUR HOME FOR THE COMING WEEKS. YOU IMMEDIATELY FEEL YOURSELF RELAX, AS THE BAMBOO BUNGALOWS OVER THE WATER COME INTO SIGHT. THE BOAT PULLS INTO NUSA ISLAND, AND WE ARE MET BY SHAUN (THE OWNER OF THE RESORT), JEN & SOME OF THE LOCAL STAFF. AFTER SETTLING IN TO OUR BUNGALOWS, IT WAS OFF TO THE BAR FOR A RELAXING DRINK, & TO MEET OTHER DIVERS & SURFERS. WE WERE DIVING THE FOLLOWING DAY, WITH CARA & DORIAN FROM SCUBA VENTURES, & TO WHET OUR APPETITE, DORIAN DID A SLIDE PRESENTATION, OF WHAT WE COULD EXPECT TO SEE IN THE COMING DAYS. WE WERE NOT DISAPPOINTED. CARA & DORIAN HAVE BEEN OPERATING “SCUBA VENTURES” OUT OF KAVIENG FOR MANY YEARS, AND RUN A VERY PROFESSIONAL DIVE CHARTER. DORIAN IS A KEEN PHOTOGRAPHER, AND KNOWS THE DIVE SITES LIKE THE BACK OF HIS HAND, POINTING OUT EXQUISITE PINK SHRIMPS,(WITH HIS MAGNIFYING GLASS,) PYGMIE SEA HORSES, LEAF FISH,THE UNTRAINED EYE WOULD MISS THESE CAMOFLAGED CREATURES THE ALBATROSS PASSAGE WAS ONE OF OUR EXCITING DIVES, WITH MACKERAL, TREVALLY, BUMP HEAD PARROT, & BARRACUDA , ENJOYING THE CURRENTS AS THEY SWIRLED ABOVE US, AND THE SILVER TIP SHARKS CRUISING ALONG THE OUTER... NO DIVE WAS THE SAME, AND EACH TIME WE SURFACED, THE LOOK ON THE FACES OF OUR NOVICE DIVERS, AND “DID YOU SEE SO & SO”?, OR “WASN’T THAT JUST AWESOME”? IS WHAT DIVING IS ALL ABOUT. DIVING WORLD WAR 11 PLANE WRECKS WAS AN ERIE EXPERIENCE, AS THEY LAY IN THEIR RESTING PLACE, SOME IN AS LITTLE AS 12 METRES & 40 METRES , NOW HOME FOR AN ABUNDANCE OF MARINE LIFE & CORALS. CARA, DORIAN & THEIR LOCAL BOYS ROBERT & APOU CERTAINLY SPOILT US, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO DIVING WITH THEM IN THE NOT SO DISTANT FUTURE. ONE OF OUR DIVES WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED BY A YOUNG LADY IN OUR GROUP, KELLY NEVILLE. THE DIVE SITE WAS NUM NUM IN, ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL CORAL REEF. EVERYONE GEARED UP, KELLY PROCEEDING TO PUT HER GLOVES ON, BUT SOME HOW OR OTHER, GRANT HER BOYFRIEND CONVINCED HER NOT TO WORRY ABOUT WEARING GLOVES ON THIS PARTICULAR DIVE. A BIT ODD.. BUT KEL WENT ALONG WITH IT, GRANT KNOWS BEST!! WHAT GRANT HAD IN MIND, ABSOLUTELY FLOORED KEL; WHILST DOWN AT ABOUT 25MTRS, HE PROPOSED TO HER ON A SANDY PATCH... WITH INQUISITIVE BAT FISH AND BUMP HEAD PARROT ...LOOKING ON, GRANT PRODUCED THE MOST GORGEOUS DIAMOND RING, AND CAREFULLY SLID IT ON KEL’S FINGER. OF COURSE KEL WENT GAR! GAR! UNDER WATER, FINNING AROUND WITH HER FINGER SHOVED OUT IN FRONT. CARA THOUGHT SHE MUST HAVE BEEN BITTEN BY SOMETHING..NOT BITTEN, BUT SMITTEN BY HER ROMANTIC BOY.. CONGRATULATORY DRINKS WERE IN ORDER BACK AT NUSA ISLAND, ON THE VERANDAH OF THAT BEAUTIFUL BUNGALOW WE APTLY NAMED THE “SUNSET BAR”. OUR DAYS ON THIS IDYLIC ISLAND WERE SOON OVER, BUT

**WE ALL VOWED TO RETURN TO THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE WITH BEAUTIFUL
PEOPLE, & GLORIOUS SUNSETS.**

**EVIE HIGGINS
GLADSTONE DIVE CENTRE**

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY: GRANT SELLIN, DORIAN