

# REEF TEACH TIMES

Welcome to the very first Reef Teach Times. We hope you will find the information contained in this newsletter useful as well as provide you with an insight into what is happening on the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) at this time of year. As the reef changes throughout the year and interesting events take place, we will endeavor to keep you up to date.

## WHALE SEASON IS HERE!!!

**Reef Teach** is very excited to announce that the Whale Season off Cairns and local northern waters is just around the corner!!! The GBR is home to 30 species of whales, dolphins and porpoises that are either permanent residents or annual visitors to GBR waters. The Dwarf Minke whale is one of those species that visit the reef every June and July. They are a baleen whale, which means they strain huge quantities of water into their mouth through their comb-like plates called "baleen" in order to capture their food, tiny plankton and krill. The Minkes sighted on the GBR are often spotted in the vicinity of snorkel & dive boats, and regularly approach close to boats and swimmers.

**Humpback whales** also pass through the GBR every year between May and Sept. They visit from the Antarctic after spending the summer fattening up on krill before their long migration north. They are the fifth largest animal in the world and are equal in size to 600 humans. Some of the females that are pregnant from the previous season's frolics move into the warmer waters of the GBR to give birth and others to mate. Other whale and dolphin species reported from the GBR include Spinner and Bottlenose dolphins, False killer whales, Killer whales, Short-finned pilot whales, Sperm whales, and various Beaked whales.

**At Reef Teach** there is so much more to learn about besides the amazing whales. We can tell you how to see fish and coral changing colour, how to find cleaning stations, sea turtles, Nemo and even dangerous sea creatures. Reef Teach is full of amazing facts, beautiful GBR images and coral displays. It will enthral, amaze and captivate you. You will leave this show raving about the funny stories and the weird and fascinating way the GBR works! We want your clients to have the greatest GBR experience possible and we can assure you that it is our pleasure to educate and inform them of this amazing journey they are about to take!!! It's said to be the best \$13.00 spent in Cairns and remember its commissionable as well!!!

**Until the next issue, take only pictures and leave only bubbles.**

**The Reef Teach Team.**

## HOT TIPS

**Six tips to make you clients reef trip a positive and safe experience:**

1. Take a good water proof sun block, even on an overcast day.
2. If prone to seasickness, take a tablet first thing in the morning.
3. Drink plenty of water throughout the day, especially if scuba diving.
4. Take a waterproof camera.
5. Be respectful of the reef, coral cuts are the #1 reef injury.
6. Attend the Reef Teach show the night before visiting the reef!

**"With learning comes appreciation."**



# REEF TEACH

Edition 1

June 2007

## WHALE SEASON

## HOT TIPS

## REEF TEACH SHOW

6.30 pm to 8.30 pm  
Monday to Saturday

