



# Reef Guru

## DIVER PROGRAM

### DIVE CENTRE INFORMATION DOCUMENT

#### BACKGROUND

Reef Guru was co-founded in 2015, by marine biologists & dive professionals Grace Phillips and Lucy Fisher, to facilitate conservation projects, restoration efforts and reef education amongst divers and dive resorts worldwide. Reef Guru's vision is:

*'Healthy resilient reefs that are invested in and protected by individuals, groups and businesses that rely on the ecosystem services of the reef.'*

#### PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Reef Guru Diver Program has been specifically innovated to enable dive facilities to set-up, maintain and most importantly to self-fund small-scale coral restoration projects globally whilst teaching recreational divers about the importance of coral reefs and restoration.

#### WHY DIVE CENTRES?

Dive centres are perfectly positioned to run coral restoration projects, with the essential required resources (boat & diving equipment) already in place, and with staff and clients who are enthusiastic about the marine environment. However, most dive centres are understandably unable to spare the time, staff, and financial resources required to run & maintain a successful restoration project. This is why we at Reef Guru innovated the Diver Program, as a means for dive centres to access the financial resources needed through certifying their diving clients in reef restoration.





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## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Operating the Reef Guru Diver Program at your dive facility has a multitude of benefits:

- Investing in the local reef - an ecosystem service that your business relies on for success (...who wants to dive a degraded reef?)
- Access the financial resources required to self-fund your coral restoration project
- Enhance the green image of your dive centre and show that it cares for the local environment
- Stand out from the crowd by offering an interesting, fun and unique certification
- Keep your instructors enthused and excited to teach with a fun, new course
- Carefully designed & fully comprehensive course structures, content and materials developed by dive professionals and marine biologists
- Remote support from marine biologists specialised in coral conservation and restoration
- Exposure & promotion of your facility through the Reef Guru website and social media outlets

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

There are a few easy steps to start offering the Reef Guru Diver Program at your dive centre. To ensure quality control, dive centres undergo a Program Set-Up whereby Reef Guru acts as a consultant and assists, in-house, with setting up your facility with the required infrastructure to operate a coral restoration project.

1. Pre Set-Up guidance in choosing artificial reef designs and a coral nursery appropriate for your local conditions
2. In-house Set-Up including assistance in building and/or installing your artificial reef and coral nursery and facility familiarisation with the Diver Program and operation logistics
3. Instructor training & certification: One or more of your enthusiastic dive professionals will be trained and certified as a Reef Guru Instructor allowing them to teach the two courses that comprise the Diver Program
4. Obtain the Diver Packs from Reef Guru, one for each diver, and sell the course to your dive clients at a price to cover the restoration project operational costs and ensure a profit
5. Access online support, digital course materials, and bonus educational information on the Reef Guru website through a log-in only available to Diver Program Facilities and Instructors

Already have a restoration project in place? Great! Reef Guru will sign off your current restoration infrastructure, ensuring it meets our Program standards.

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## THE COURSES

The Reef Guru Diver Program consists of 2 courses, designed to compliment each other and provide flexibility to the dive facility in their daily activities dependent on the needs of the restoration project.

Both courses involve on-land theory through digital presentations and individual diver booklets as well as practical in-water sessions to put the newly learnt restoration skills in to practice.

### Restoration Diver

A 2 day, 4 dive course, the Restoration Diver exposes the diver to the full array of restoration activities.

### THEORY

1. Coral Identification: Recognise the difference between hard & soft corals and identify hard corals down to Acropora and non-Acropora growth forms
2. Endangered Reefs: Learn about the local and global threats to the reef, and understand the steps a diver can take to minimise damage with a special focus on buoyancy, sunscreen & eco-friendly practices
3. Coral Restoration: Introduction to reef restoration methods, techniques and skills that will be utilised in the practical sessions.

### PRACTICAL

1. Coral Identification: Throughout the in-water sessions, coral identification is practiced independently and with the instructor
2. Endangered Reefs: Dive one focuses on various methods to improve diver buoyancy skills
3. Coral Restoration: Dives two, three and four involve utilising various restoration skills such as fragment collection, fragment attachment, data collection, nursery maintenance or out planting, depending on the current needs of your project.



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## THE COURSES

### Conservation Diver

A 1 day, 2 dive course, the Conservation Diver allows the diver to become involved in the restoration project with less expansive theory and a practical session focus on restoration maintenance skills. Perfect for the diver who is short on time or for when your project needs a little extra TLC.

### THEORY

1. Coral Identification: Recognise the difference between hard and soft coral and the general hard coral growth forms
2. Endangered Reefs: Learn about the local and global threats to the reef, and understand the steps a diver can take to minimise damage with a special focus on buoyancy, sunscreen & eco-friendly practices
3. Coral Reef Restoration: Introduction to the basic theory behind reef restoration methods, with a focus on the skills required to maintain a coral nursery and artificial reef

### PRACTICAL

1. Coral Identification: Throughout the in-water sessions, coral identification is practiced independently and with the instructor
2. Endangered Reefs: Dive one focuses on various methods to improve diver buoyancy skills
3. Coral Restoration: Dive Two focuses on utilising the skills learnt in restoration maintenance, including cleaning the coral nursery and artificial reef, collecting growth data, and removing coral predators from the nursery

## SO, HOW DO YOU GET STARTED?

Contact us at [info@reefguru.uk](mailto:info@reefguru.uk) to join us in building Reefs For The Future!

