

OZ NEWS

Australia International Dive Expo Announces New Location for 2020

After another successful year, the Australia International Dive Expo (AIDE) has announced that their 2020 show will be in a different space within the Sydney International Boat Show (SIBS). After three years on the lower level floor, the dive section will relocate to level four at the exhibition centre and feature a brand new floor plan for the expanding expo.

With more than 60,000 visitors attending the event over the five days from 1-5 August 2019, organiser and director of AIDE, Ness Puvanes, said the dive show is not only steadily gaining the attention and support of key industry players and the diving community, but it has piqued the interest of newbies and the younger generations as well.

"We've welcomed many new exhibitors to our show this year and caught the attention of school leavers in marine studies," said Ness. "We've also received encouraging and positive feedback from our exhibitors about the high quality of visitors that are coming through, who are serious about



diving, learning and improving their skills, exploring new destinations, learning about new products, and of course networking with like-minded peers.

"This tells us we are heading in the right direction as we continue to grow the Australian dive community, and provide the industry with an inclusive and friendly platform to do just that."

Records show that the interest in learning to dive more than doubled this year as compared to 2018, with a string of newbies (families and individuals) jumping into the on-site pool to give the breathing underwater a go.

As with previous years, visitors met with a host of tourism bodies from new and popular dive destinations, dive tour operators and various suppliers of dive equipment who featured their latest in dive technology and trends.

The show also welcomed more than 350 high school children from around NSW doing marine studies, where they were introduced to the underwater world, heard from industry experts on getting into scuba diving, freediving, as well as learning about travel and career opportunities and marine conservation.

The key objective of this annual marine program is to equip the next generation with the necessary information to keep the oceans clean and to dive sustainably.

Apart from dive try-outs in the onsite pools, visitors also





enjoyed underwater drone and scooter demonstrations. For the first time also, visitors were treated to a live freediving demonstration by experts Lucas Handley and Sandra Dohring, where they showed the preparation and technique used to hold one's breath underwater.

Visitors also heard from an A-list line-up of international and local speakers passionate about the ocean, marine life and the preservation of the environment. Speakers included Brett and Sarah-Jo Lobwein, David Strike, Terry Cummins, PT Hirschfield, Lucas Handley, Damian Jones, Vanessa Mignon, Gaetano Gargiulo, Joni-Pini Fitzsimmons, Monica Chin, Kel Bradley, Simon Mustoe, Mike Scotland, Dr David Wilkinson, Michael Aw, Dominik Fretz, Fiona Merida, Witold Hoffman, Jahna Luke, and many more.

The Marine Rescue Forum and Freediving Forum received exceptional interest from visitors and will be repeated again in the 2020 Show.

AIDE2019 also saw with six lucky visitors taking home \$10,000 worth of prizes from the lucky draw. The winners and their prizes were:

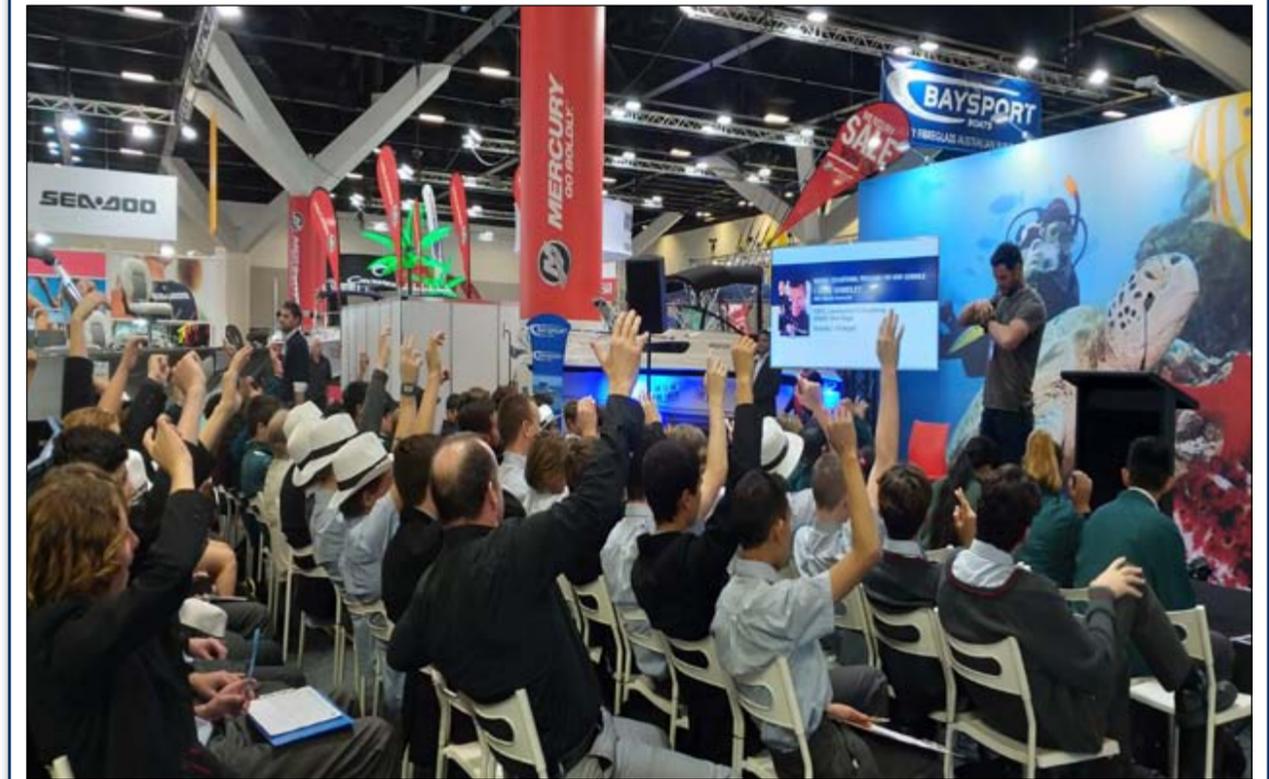
1. Marcus Lockley - \$2,500 Flight Centre voucher for two pax to Hervey Bay
2. Silke Stuckenbrock - Overnight for two pax at Lady Elliot Island
3. Agata Wypych - 2D/1N on board Diver Den's Ocean Quest liveaboard for two pax
4. Ian Harrison - a sailing day to the outer Great Barrier Reef aboard Passion of Paradise



5. Tiffany Kentwell - an SSI Open Water Course with Sea Rovers Dive Centre
6. Edward Hawkins - 6D dive package at Pemuteran Bay with Sea Rovers Dive Centre

With a brand new location, AIDE 2020 promises a better configuration, a more intimate layout, more high quality exhibitors to cater to the increasing number of underwater enthusiasts and more engaging speakers.

AIDE will once again be part of the SIBS 2020 show at the Exhibition Centre of the International Convention Centre in Darling Harbour from 30 July - 3 August 2020. Bookings for AIDE2020 will be open from 1st September 2019 to 31 May 2020. Please direct all booking inquiries to info@australiadiveexpo.com. 



Dive Schools / Operators / Organisers / Instructors

Do you have any interesting, newsworthy info to share with the dive industry? If so, we would like to invite you to send us your OZ News section for possible inclusion in the magazine (please note that inclusion is FREE of charge).

Here's what we need:

- Newsworthy stories (promotional material will not be accepted)
- Word limit: 100 words
- Text prepared in a Word document
- Accompanying high-resolution image(s) are welcome (please supply caption and image credit)

Please send to info@ozdiver.com.au 