

THE FIRST AND LEADING PAN-ASIAN UNDERWATER MAGAZINE

30  
YEARS  
*Anniversary*  
CELEBRATION

# AsianDiver

VOLUME 161

COLLECTOR'S EDITION



30 INSPIRING  
DIVERS' EXPERIENCES  
OVER 30 YEARS

CELEBRATING  
THE OCEAN'S  
DIVERSITY AND  
SIGNIFICANCE

30TH YEARS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
DEDICATED TO THE BLUE WHALE

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## Anita Verde and Peter Marshall

AUSTRALIA  
Contributors, ADEX Speaker  
Professional Underwater Photographers

### Could you share one unforgettable diving experience from the last decade?

Probably the most unforgettable and memorable diving experience from this time would be Beqa Lagoon in Fiji and its incredible tiger and bull shark dive. Nothing quite prepares you for being in the midst of seven huge tiger sharks, more than 30 bull sharks, and hundreds of fish. We were new divers at the time but we found the experience to be totally mesmerising. It was one of the very things that made us fall in love with diving and with sharks, and we now seek out sharks every time we enter the ocean.

### What were your favourite dive sites in the last decade?

While there are so many to choose from, we'd have to say there are four dives that stand out for us. The incredible North Horn at Australia's Osprey Reef in the Coral Sea; For those that have been there, you'll know why. There are very few places in the world where healthy populations of reef sharks till exist, and soft coral walls plunge 2,000 metres deep into the blue. Cape Kri, in Raja Ampat, Indonesia: Every time we dive this site it is different, but always very fishy. There is one constant though, and that's the friendly giant school of sweetlips that hangs out at the boulders at around 40 metres. The local jetty at the Bajalang village in the Alor Archipelago, Indonesia: The jetty was only five years old when we first dived it and its pylons already had the most incredible coral growth, harbouring numerous varieties of nudibranchs, frogfish, ghost pipefish, shrimps, sea spiders, and crabs. The resident school of friendly batfish there is also a welcome sight for wide-angle photography. We are actually heading back there soon, so we can't wait to see how it has grown. Finally, Shotgun in Komodo, Indonesia: Apty named for the way you shoot the current through a narrow passage, greeted along the way by hovering manta rays scooping up the plankton, alongside schools of jackfish. What's not to like?

### What diving gear did you use in the last decade?

We undertook our PADI Advanced Open Water at an Italian owned dive resort in the Maldives which used Cressi equipment, so after being qualified we naturally gravitated to purchasing Cressi diving gear – wetsuits, fins, masks, and dive computers. We still love to wear and favour our old comfy Cressi wetsuits, but now also use Zeagle equipment, including their F8 regulator and Ranger BCDs. Hollis is definitely our favourite mask these days.

When it came to underwater photography, we first started out with the Olympus TG series cameras, which were great little cameras given our experience at the time. We now both shoot Panasonic Lumix GH5 cameras in Nauticam housings for both underwater macro and wide-angle photography, and also for topside shots. We prefer to use Sea&Sea strobes. 📷

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– Anita Verde and Peter Marshall

### ANITA VERDE AND PETER MARSHALL

Anita and Peter have a passion for the planet's wild places, and through their images and narratives hope to inspire better appreciation and protection of the natural world Based in Melbourne, Australia, they have professional backgrounds in tourism strategy, environmental sustainability, and government relations. When they are not underwater or on a mountaintop, they also work professionally as strategic consultants, advising governments and industry on sustainable destination planning and development, investment attraction, government relations, brand strategy and marketing. Read more about them at [www.summitstoseasphotography.com](http://www.summitstoseasphotography.com).



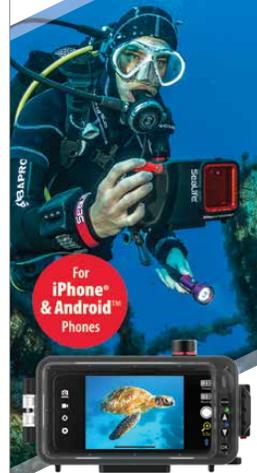
Diving with grey reef whalers, silvertip, and whitetip reef sharks at North Horn, Osprey Reef in Queensland, Australia



The giant school of sweetlips that hangs out at Cape Kri, Raja Ampat, Indonesia



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