

Parting Shot 2

It's funny, as Australians you would have thought we would have at least dived our own backyard - the Great Barrier Reef, but no. Instead, for as long as we can remember we've scoured all four corners of the earth in search of incredible diving adventures.

International travel restrictions due to Covid now meant we were finally here on the largest living organism on the planet, and to be honest, we couldn't have been happier.

We've always loved night diving, normally we've got our noses in the muck somewhere searching for rare macro critters, but as we arrive at 'Gotham City' on the Great Barrier Reef's Ribbon Reefs, our cruise director tells us to leave our macro lens behind.

This is our first ever night dive on the Great Barrier Reef and we had no idea what to expect. As we descend onto an incredibly rich sloping reef with hard and soft coral, congregations of; hunting sharks, red bass and trevally shadow our every move - hunting aggressively using our torch light. One by one, an unsuspecting little fish is annihilated. We can't even begin to describe the sound.

Not really knowing where to look, we fire our strobes at random hoping to get that impressive hunting action shot. With so much light and huge numbers of fish darting across the reef we feel almost dizzy, and instantly know that we need to slow the action down. With a quick switch to our red lights, the scene instantly calms. Not only do we save a few little fish from becoming dinner, but we can now move somewhat unnoticed about the reef.

With the inability to see the red light underwater, it's not long until the hunting fish are drawn closer. It's amazing how effective the red lights were in calming the scene, and to be honest, we much prefer it to the bright disco of a night dive.



Nauticam Panasonic GH5 housing, Panasonic Lumix G X Vario Power Zoom 14-42mm f/3.5-5.6 + the Nauticam WWL - 1 Wet lens. 1/125, f:8, ISO 200

There's definitely something magical about moving about the reef peacefully in the dark, and it created the perfect mood to capture a portrait of this gorgeous hunting red bass.

**Anita Verde and
Peter Marshall**

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Do you have a shot which has a story within a story?

If so e mail it with up to 500 words of text and yours could be the next Parting Shot.

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